



Australian Government

**Australian Institute of
Health and Welfare**

*Authoritative information and statistics
to promote better health and wellbeing*

AIHW data and rural/remote research

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Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

AIHW: who we are

- Commonwealth statutory authority
- Established through *AIHW Act 1987*
- Welfare added 1992
- Privacy obligations
 - *s. 29 AIHW Act 1987*
 - *Privacy Act 1988*



AIHW: what we do

- Main function is to collect, analyse and disseminate health-related and welfare-related information and statistics
- 150+ publications every year
- Flagship publications, legislated
 - Australia's health (2014)
 - Australia's welfare (2013)
- Data requests and data linkage



Data held at AIHW

Examples of AIHW data with geographical information

- Health: **mortality, cancer incidence & screening, diabetes register**
- Continuing and Specialised Care: **aged care, juvenile justice, disability & mental health services**
- Hospitals and Performance: **hospital morbidity, ED visits**
- Housing, Homelessness and Drugs data collections
- Information and Statistics: **expenditure & workforce data**
- Social and Indigenous Group: **child health checks, Indigenous primary health care data**

How to access AIHW data

- Online data request tool: datarequest.aihw.gov.au
- We review every request (unit record level data and aggregate reports)
- Privacy and confidentiality restrictions apply
- AIHW Ethics Committee approval required for some data requests (e.g. data linkage)
- Let us know how we can help you use our data to make a difference

How we use rural health & welfare data

For governments: e.g. **Indigenous Health Check data tool**



How we use rural health & welfare data

For researchers: e.g. **Mortality inequalities bulletin**

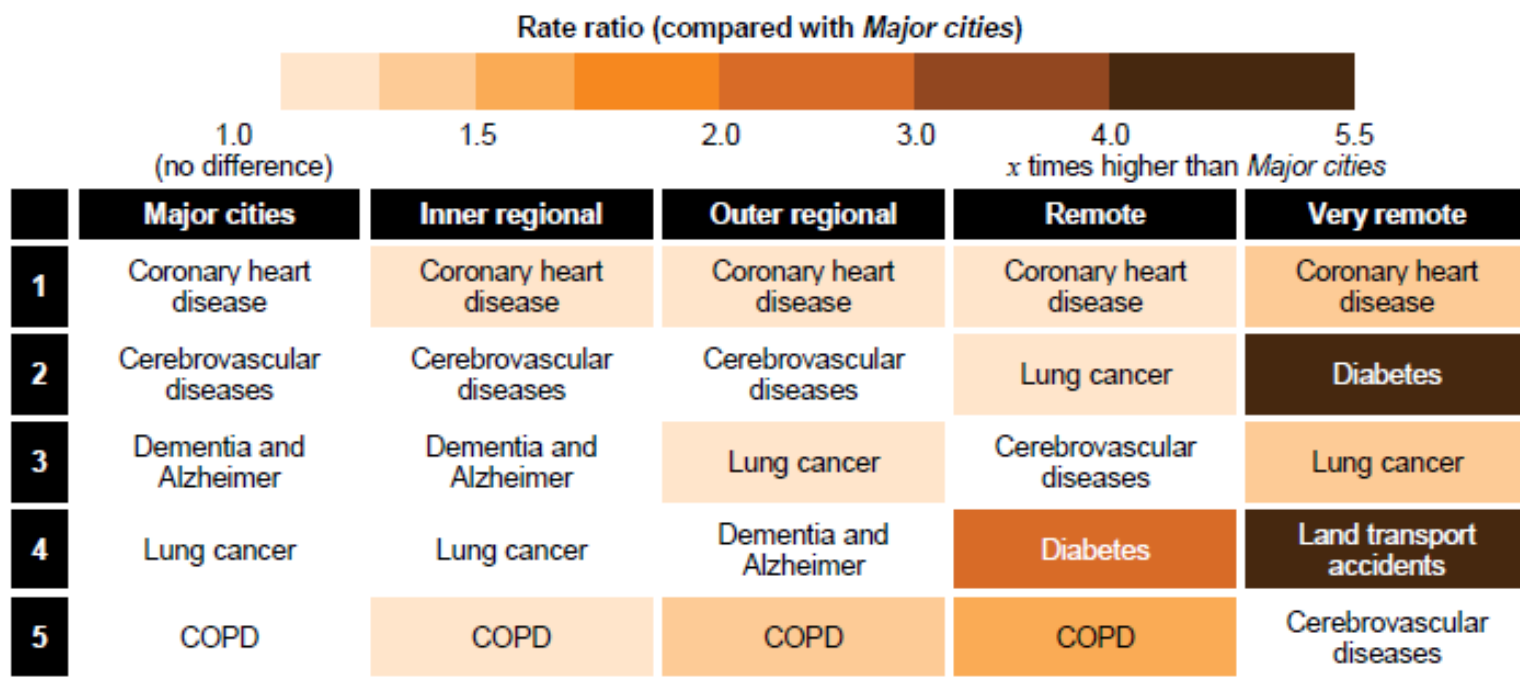


Figure 3.3 Leading causes of death by remoteness area, with comparison of mortality rates with Major cities, 2009–2011



The power of influence

- Challenge to present research answering questions useful to decision makers
- Competition for time and opinion
- Understanding what matters to them and how they best receive information
- Using data and information to objectively present a case for “Why this matters”