

BEAC



BEACH

Bettering the Evaluation And Care of  
Health

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Victoria Legislative Council References Committee,  
Inquiry into Primary Health and Aged Care Services Measures



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
SYDNEY



# What is **BEACH**?

- A continuous national study of general practice activity
- Operated by Family Medicine Research Centre, University of Sydney (self-funded, not-for-profit)
- Began April 1998, in its 14th year
- ~12,950 participating GPs to date (~8,500 individuals)
- Data now available - about 1.3 million encounters
- Data are used by governments, industry, health planners, researchers, students
- Continuity allows measures of change



# BEACH methods

- Paper based data collection
- National GP random sample (drawn by DoHA)
- 1,000 GPs per year (about 220-230 p.a. Victoria)
- 20 per week x 50 weeks a year - ever changing
- 100 consecutive encounters per GP
- All types of encounters included
- National data 100,000 encounter records p.a.  
(about 20,000-23,000 p.a. in Victoria)



# Variables collected

- the GP - age, sex, practice location etc
- the patient - age, sex, postcode, HCC, ATSI etc
- the encounter - date, how paid, Medicare Item
- reasons for the visit - up to 3 per visit
- problems managed - up to 4 per visit (average 1.5)
- managements provided for each problem



# Variables collected

- managements include ...
  - **medications** – up to 4 per problem (16 per encounter)
    - name, form, strength, dose, frequency (for PDD)
  - **other treatments** – clinical and procedural
  - **referrals** – to specialists, allied health, hospital etc
  - **tests ordered** - pathology and imaging

**\*ALL linked to the problem being managed**



# BEACH pharmaceutical data

- Drug name
- Strength →
- Dose →PDD
- Frequency →
- Number of repeats
- Prescribed/ advised/ supplied
- New V's continued



# Accessing data ...

Data are available in the forms of: -

- Standard reports – problem, drug, group
- Tailored requests / analyses
- Annual reports
- Interactive web-server
- SAND sub-studies



# Standard reports (examples see - [www.fmrc.org.au](http://www.fmrc.org.au))

## Problem based report

- group (diabetes - all, arthritis - all)
- more specific group (osteoarthritis)
- ICPC-2 level (IDDM)
- ICPC-2 PLUS (osteoarthritis of shoulder)

*Covers:* GPs, patients, RFEs, other morbidity managed, medications, other treatments, referrals, investigations/tests





# Tailored requests / analyses

- Specialised problem based analysis – eg multimorbidity in patients 60+ years
- Group analyses e.g encounters with males aged 45+ years; children <5 years etc
- Specific interest topics applicable to cross-sectional data... by GP characteristics, by patient characteristics etc, or by change over time.
- **Delivery** – within one week for a one-day analysis



# Steps for best use of data

- Annual report – has it already been analysed and published?
- Interactive web-server?
- Standard report – Victoria, specific morbidity, specific age group etc.?
- Request tailored analysis?



# Or become a participating organisation-the benefits

- **Data:**
  - Quarterly line data (stripped) & summary report on Web
  - Annual weighted data set (line data stripped)
  - Access to the interactive webserver (Victors specific?)
- **Services:**
  - Up to 20 standard reports / 20 days senior analyst) time p.a.  
available to external purchasers for \$22,000 each  
(combined value \$440,000)
  - Access to all SAND reports



# The interactive web-server

- Data available to you - access to contracted data periods purchased
- Queries - problem based, medication based, pathology & imaging based
- limited selected analyses available
- only accessible to participating organisations
- only accessible using SecurID



# As a participating organisation-the benefits

- Representative on the BEACH Advisory Board
- **Cost: \$165,000** (\$150,000 + GST)
- Excellent value ... if you use us!!

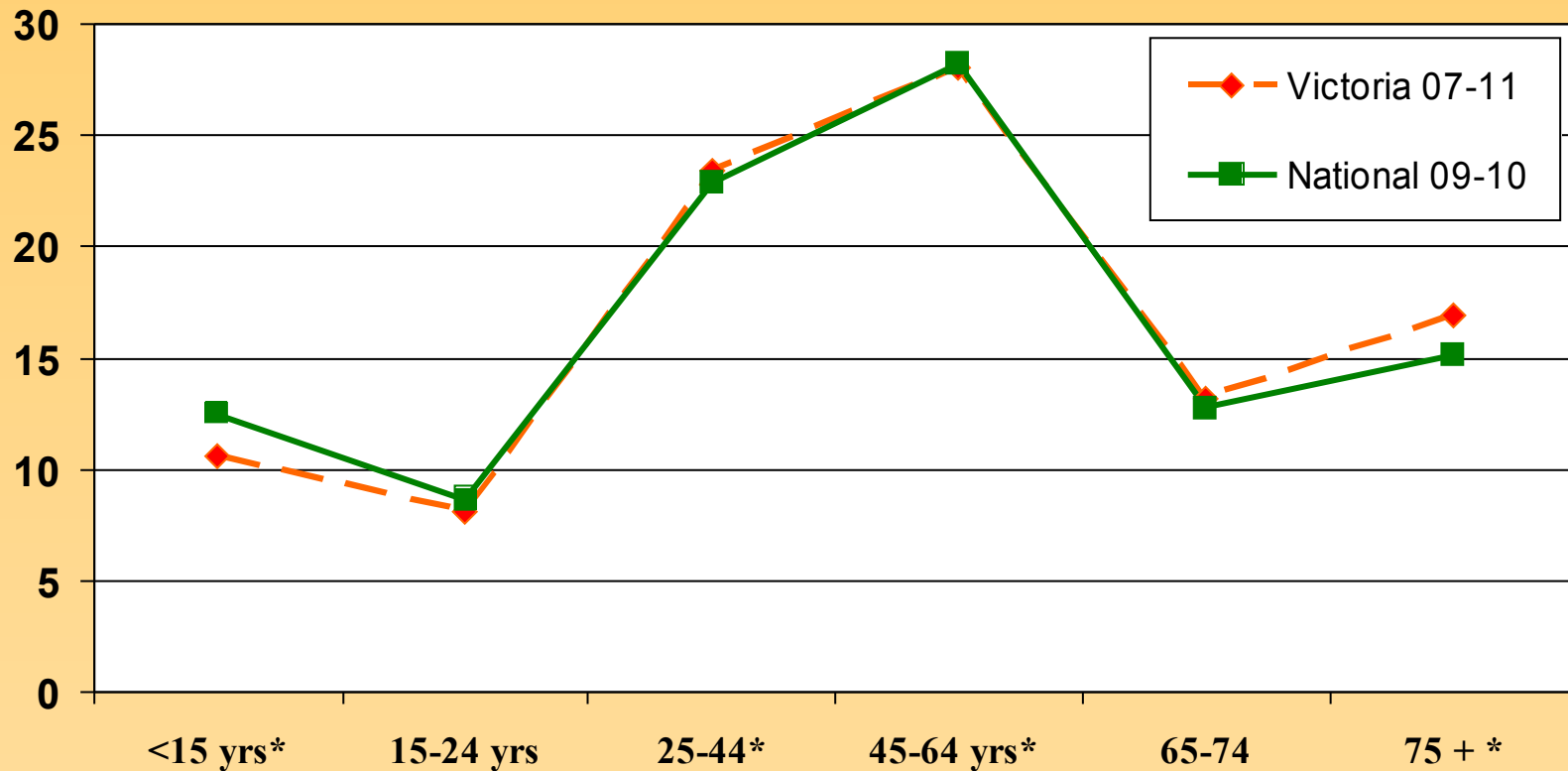


# Advantages of **BEACH**

- Quality – rigorous, ethically approved research methods
- Reliability (sample size and small cluster)
- Representativeness
- Reflecting regional change (not one group of GPs)
- Fixed known total cost
- Easy access to output for simple questions (webserver)
- Our expertise to analyse your complex questions
- Speedy turnaround of output.



# Age of patients at encounter Victoria c.f. Australia (% of GP workload) (about 23,000 encounter p.a. in **Victoria**)



# Most common problems managed Victoria 2007-11 (n=144,725 – average 36,181 p.a.)

\*\* = high – more investigation needed

	Rate/100 encs	95%CI's
Hypertension	9.9	(9.5 -10.5)
URTI	5.5	(5.2 - 5.9)
Immunisation/vacc	5.3	(4.9 - 5.8)
Depression (**)	5.0	(4.7- 5.2)
Diabetes	3.9	(3.7 - 4.1)
Lipid Disorder	3.8	(3.6 - 4.1)
Back complaint	2.9	(2.7 - 3.1)
Osteoarthritis(**)	3.6	(3.4 - 3.8)



GSK logo



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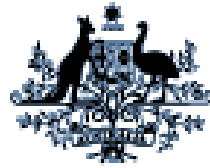


**BEACH 2010-11**



**Australian Government**

**Australian Institute of  
Health and Welfare**



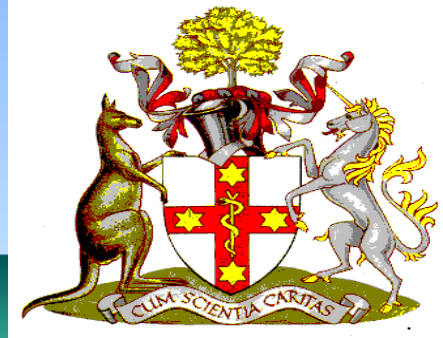
**Australian Government**

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*and endorsed by*



**AMA**



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