

Scoping and pilot study for a Victorian survey of child health, development, wellbeing and service utilisation



Description

Victoria is the only state that does not have a data collection system for population monitoring of health status or prevalence estimates of health concerns for children.

The Victorian Survey of Child Health and Wellbeing aims to

1. Document the health, development and wellbeing of children aged 0-12 years
2. Systematically elicit concerns held by parents about their young children
3. Estimate prevalence of specific health conditions and their relationships to health, wellbeing, and health care need
4. Estimate the prevalence of special health care needs, and the service burdens and requirements that flow from this
5. Document utilisation of services.
6. Document social and, if possible, geographical patterns (small area analysis)

In order to determine the major research and policy questions that a statewide survey should address, academic experts and stakeholders in the area of child health were interviewed. They identified several domains of child health, including physical activity, diet, oral health, quality of life, health service utilisation, and neighbourhood. A survey has recently been developed to measure these domains. A pilot study is currently being conducted to develop, test and establish the preferred methodology, and accurately cost the preferred design and sample size. This pilot study is being conducted in 3 local government areas. This study is being conducted with researchers from the Centre for Community Child Health including A/Prof Elizabeth Waters, Dr. Elise Maher, Dr Joanne Williams, Dr Sharon Goldfeld, A/Prof Melissa Wake, Prof Frank Oberklaid and Ozlem Mehmet-Radji.

Methodology – Research

Qualitative interviews

Date

Start: April 2003

Finish: June 2004

Funding

Commonwealth Govt Dept
VicHealth

Publication/s

Maher,E., Waters,E., Wake,M., Goldfeld,S., Williams,J., & Oberklaid,F. (2003). A review of epidemiological studies on children's health and wellbeing. *Australasian Epidemiologist*, 10(2), 4-8.

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