

# Concurrent papers 30

## Health ageing 2

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# Home visits and GPs who perform them

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## Background

- Increasing proportion of Australians aged 65 years and over
- People aged 65 years and over have:
  - Greater chance of having multimorbidity
  - Increased clinical demand
  - Less mobility
- GP home visits are one way to provide health care to these high need patients



## Objectives

- Investigate whether there was a change in the rate of home visits between 1998 and 2010
- To determine the characteristics of the patients who received home visits by GPs
- To compare the content of home visits with that of all BEACH encounters
- To determine the characteristics of GPs who performed home visits



## Methods

- *BEACH* – Bettering the Evaluation And Care of Health
- Paper based, cross-sectional data collection
- National GP random sample (drawn by DoHA)
- 1,000 GPs per year
- 20 per week x 50 weeks a year
- 100 consecutive encounters per GP
- All types of encounters included
- National data for 100,000 encounter records p.a.



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# BEACH recording form

**BEACH (Bettering the Evaluation And Care of Health) - Morbidity and Treatment Survey - National** © 2004/05 The University of Sydney

Encounter Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of encounter: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Sex: M  F  Patient Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

START Time: \_\_\_\_\_ AM / PM (please circle)

Patient Reasons for Encounter: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

DOC ID: \_\_\_\_\_

PATIENT SEEN BY GP  
 PATIENT NOT SEEN BY GP  
 Medicare (if applicable) Item Nos: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Workers comp paid  
 State Gov/Other paid  
 No charge

Diagnosis/ Problem ①:		Problem Status							Diagnosis/ Problem ②:		Problem Status						
Drug Name AND Form for this problem		Strength of product	Dose	Frequency	No. of Rpts	OTC	GP Supply	Drug status New / Cont.	Drug Name AND Form for this problem		Strength of product	Dose	Frequency	No. of Rpts	OTC	GP Supply	Drug status New / Cont.
1.									1.								
2.									2.								
3.									3.								
4.									4.								

Procedures, other treatments, counselling this consult for this problem

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Prac Nurse?  2. \_\_\_\_\_ Prac Nurse?

Diagnosis/ Problem ③:		Problem Status							Diagnosis/ Problem ④:		Problem Status						
Drug Name AND Form for this problem		Strength of product	Dose	Frequency	No. of Rpts	OTC	GP Supply	Drug status New / Cont.	Drug Name AND Form for this problem		Strength of product	Dose	Frequency	No. of Rpts	OTC	GP Supply	Drug status New / Cont.
1.									1.								
2.									2.								
3.									3.								
4.									4.								

Procedures, other treatments, counselling this consult for this problem

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Prac Nurse?  2. \_\_\_\_\_ Prac Nurse?

NEW REFERRALS, ADMISSIONS		IMAGING/Other tests		PATHOLOGY		PATHOLOGY (cont)	
Problem(s)		Body site		Problem(s)		Problem(s)	
1. _____	1 2 3 4	1. _____	_____	1	2 3 4	1. _____	1 2 3 4
2. _____	1 2 3 4	2. _____	_____	1	2 3 4	2. _____	1 2 3 4
3. _____	1 2 3 4	3. _____	_____	1	2 3 4	3. _____	1 2 3 4

Patient reported Height: \_\_\_\_\_ cm Weight: \_\_\_\_\_ kg  
 To the patient if 18+: Which best describes your smoking status?  
 Smoke daily  Smoke occasionally  Previous smoker  Never smoked

To the patient if 18+: How often do you have a drink containing alcohol?  
 Never  Monthly or less  Once a week/fortnight  2-3 times a week  4+ times a week

How many 'standard' drinks do you have on a typical day when you are drinking? \_\_\_\_\_  
 How often do you have 6 or more standard drinks on one occasion?  
 Never  Less than monthly  Monthly  Weekly  Daily or almost daily

FINISH Time: \_\_\_\_\_ AM / PM (please circle)



## Methods

- Home visits were identified as item numbers 4, 24, 37, 47, 58, 59, 60, 65, 5003, 5023, 5043, 5063, 5220, 5223, 5227, 5228
- Rates and proportions calculated using surveymeans procedures accounting for the cluster design of the study
- Stepwise logistic-regression analysis was used to determine significant GP characteristics of those who perform at least one home visit in their 100 encounters



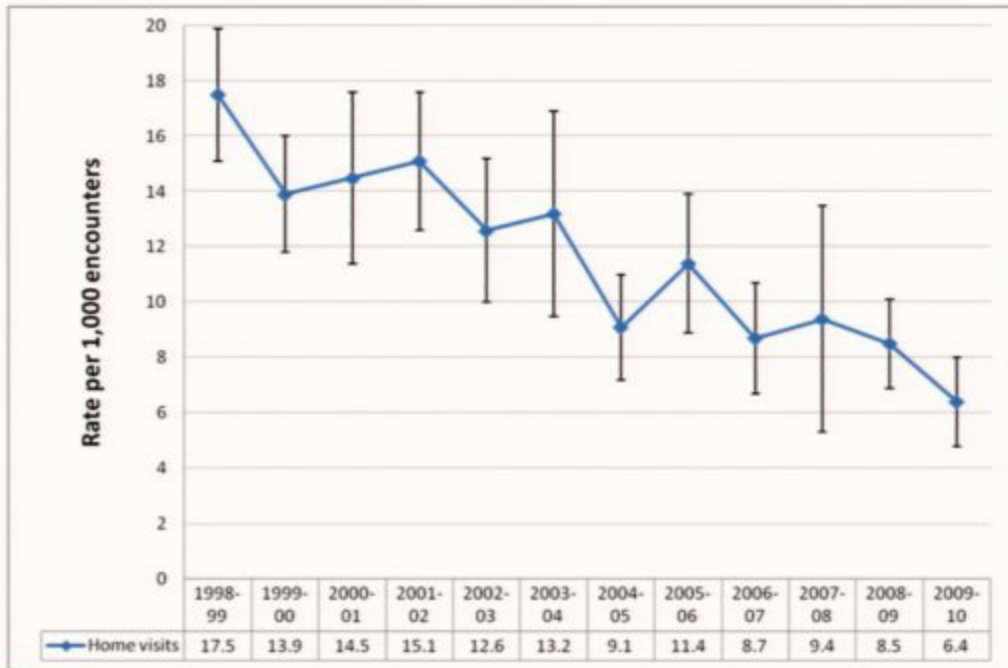
## Results

Between April 1998 and March 2010

- 11,873 GPs took part in BEACH recording
- 1,187,300 encounters with patients
- 1,099,862 encounters with a Medicare item number recorded (87,438 missing)
- 14,669 (1.3%) of these encounters had a home visit item number recorded



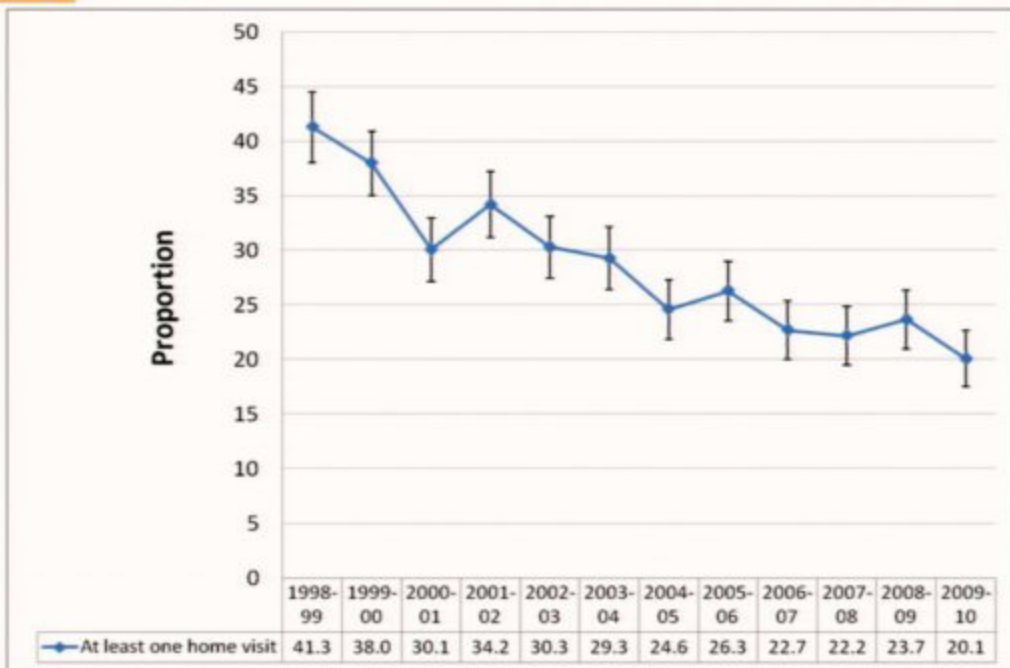
# Rate of home visits per 1,000 encounters between 1998-2010



BEACH years



# Proportion of GPs that did at least one home visit in their 100 encounters

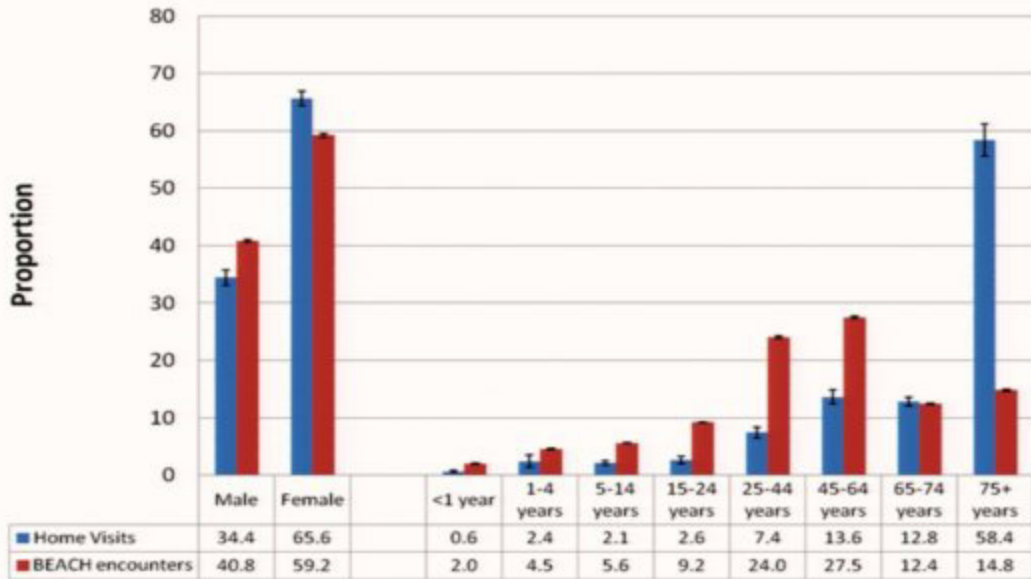


BEACH years



# Patients at Home Visits

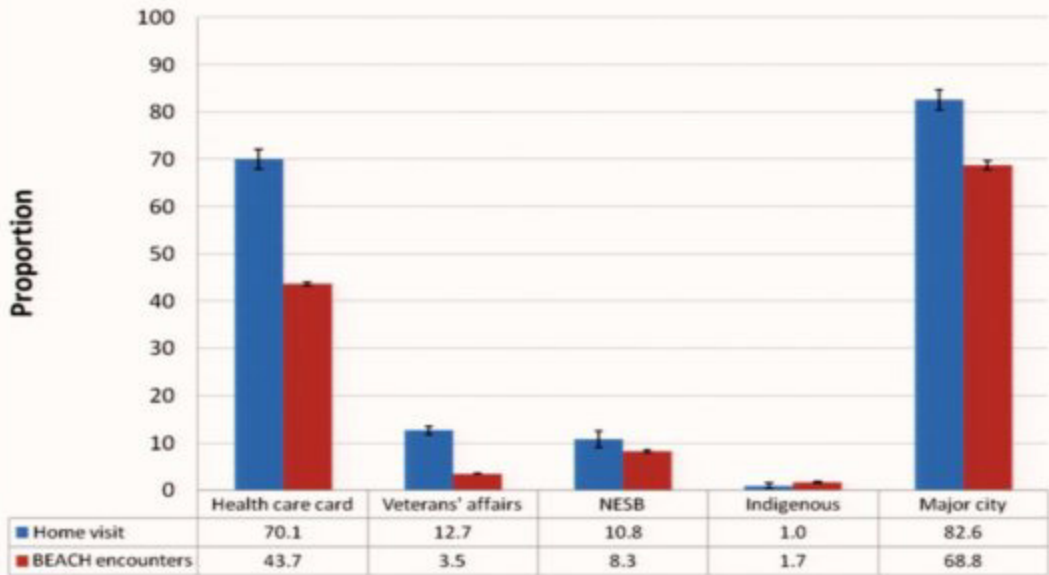
Distribution of patient characteristics at home visits and all BEACH encounters April 2000-March 2010





# Patients at Home Visits

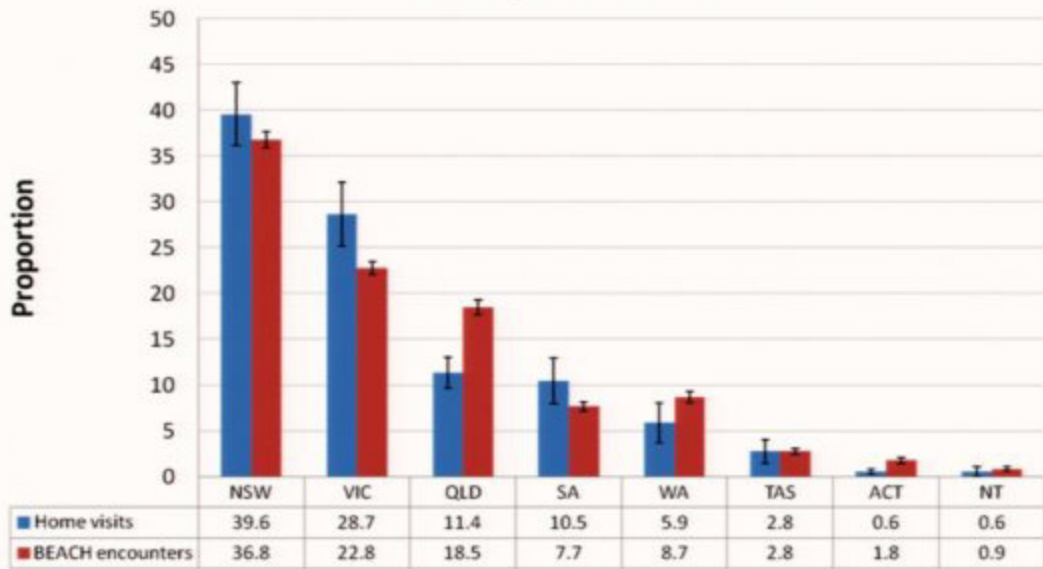
Distribution of patient characteristics at home visits and all BEACH encounters April 2000-March 2010





# Patients at Home Visits

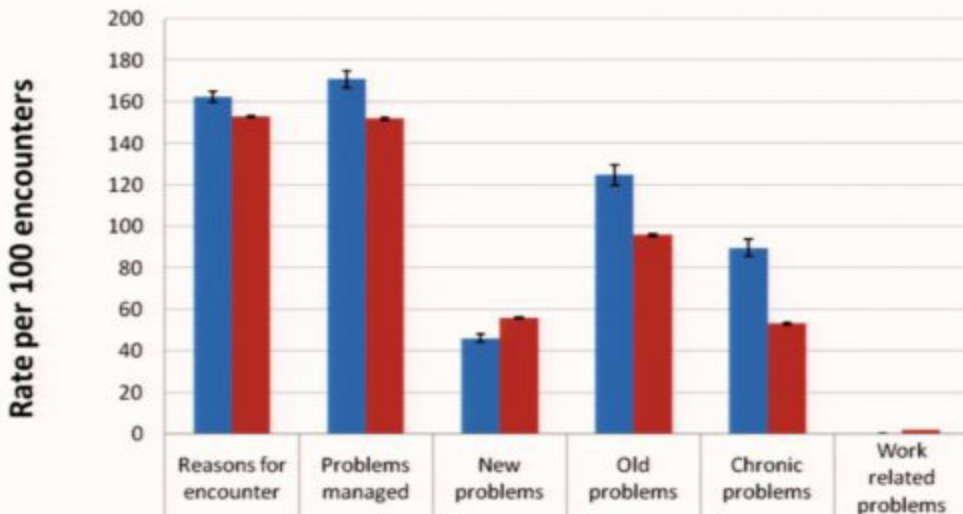
Distribution of patient characteristics at home visits and all BEACH encounters April 2000-March 2010





# Rate of RFEs and problems managed

Content of home visit encounters - April 2000-March 2010

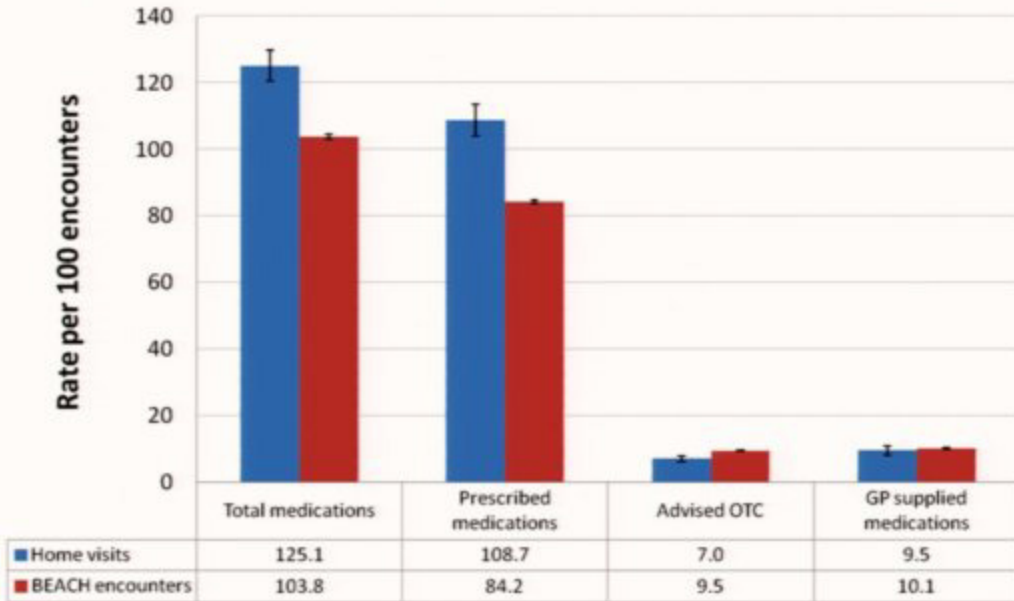


■ Home visits	162.6	171.0	46.2	124.8	89.8	0.1
■ BEACH encounters	152.9	152.0	56.0	96.0	53.2	2.0



# Rate of medications recorded

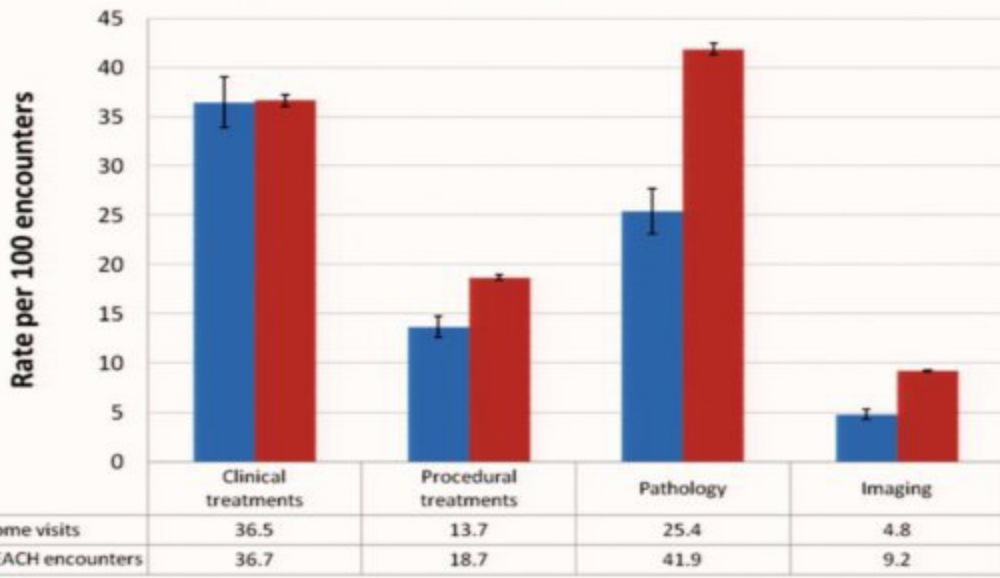
Rate of medications per 100 encounters April 2000-March 2010





## Non-pharmacological treatments and tests

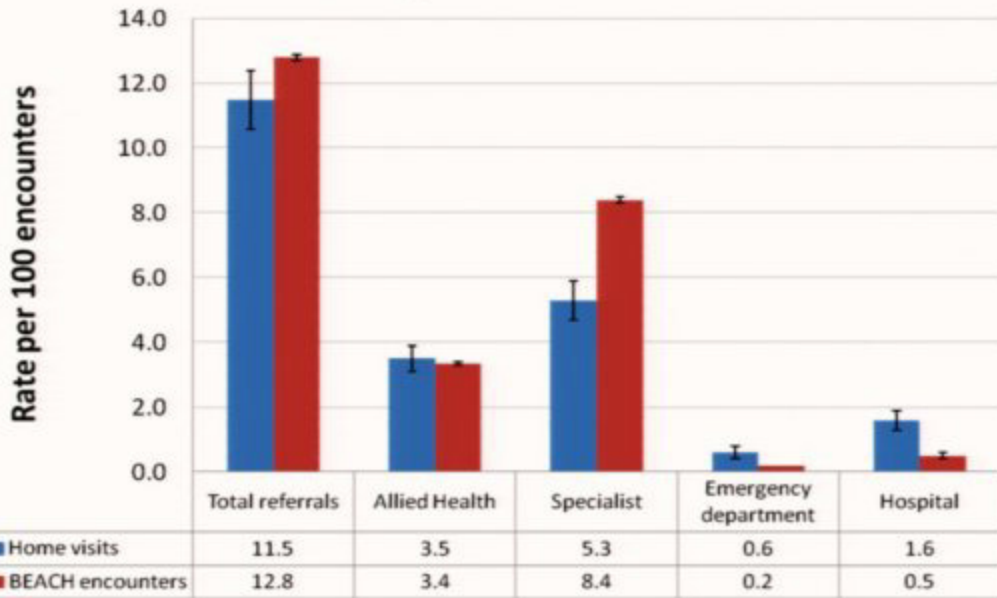
Rate of non-pharmacological treatments, pathology and imaging tests ordered per 100 encounters





# Referrals

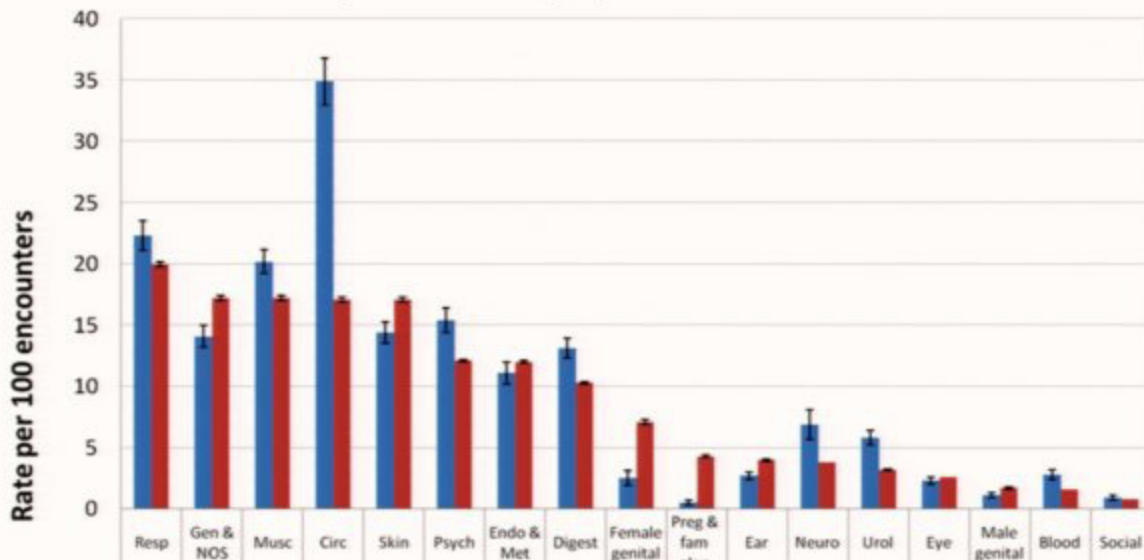
Referrals per 100 encounters





# Type of problems managed

Rate of problems managed per 100 encounters

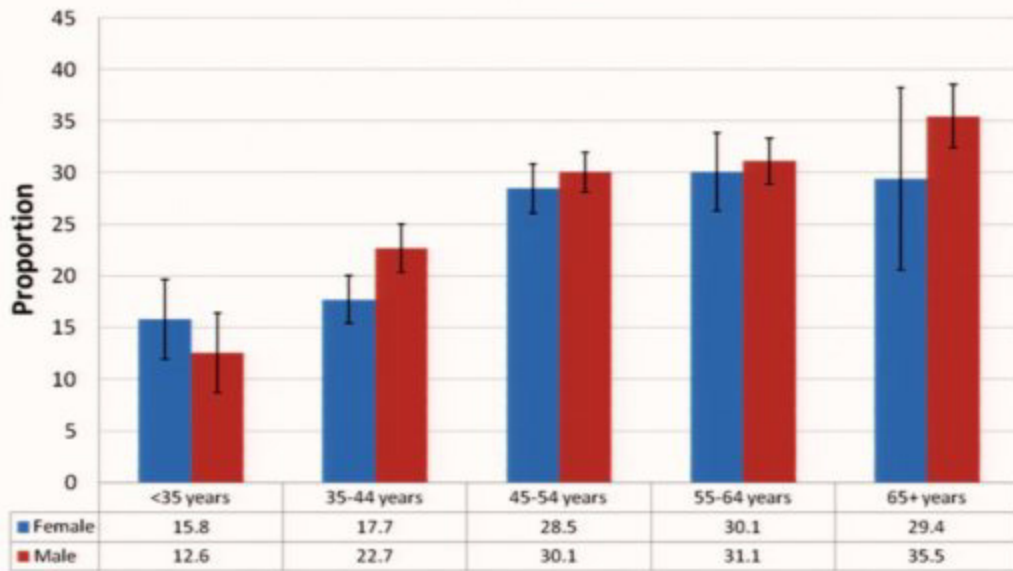


■ Home visits	22.3	14.1	20.2	34.9	14.4	15.4	11.1	13.1	2.5	0.5	2.7	6.9	5.8	2.3	1.1	2.8	0.9
■ BEACH encounters	20.0	17.2	17.2	17.1	17.1	12.1	12.0	10.3	7.1	4.3	4.0	3.8	3.2	2.6	1.7	1.6	0.8



# GPs who did 1+ home visits

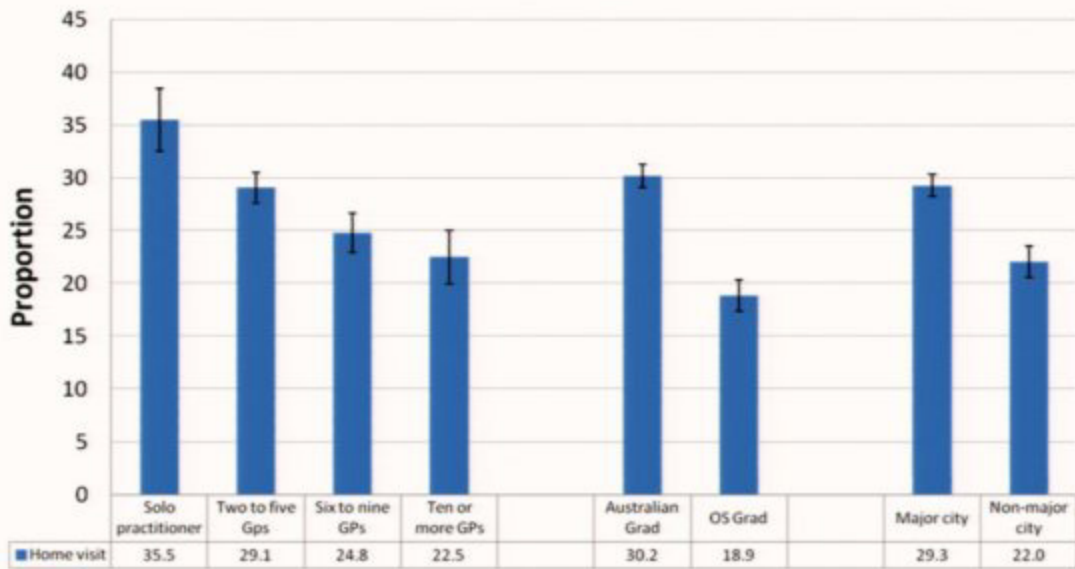
Proportion of GPs who did at least one home visit in their 100 encounters





# GPs who did 1+ home visits

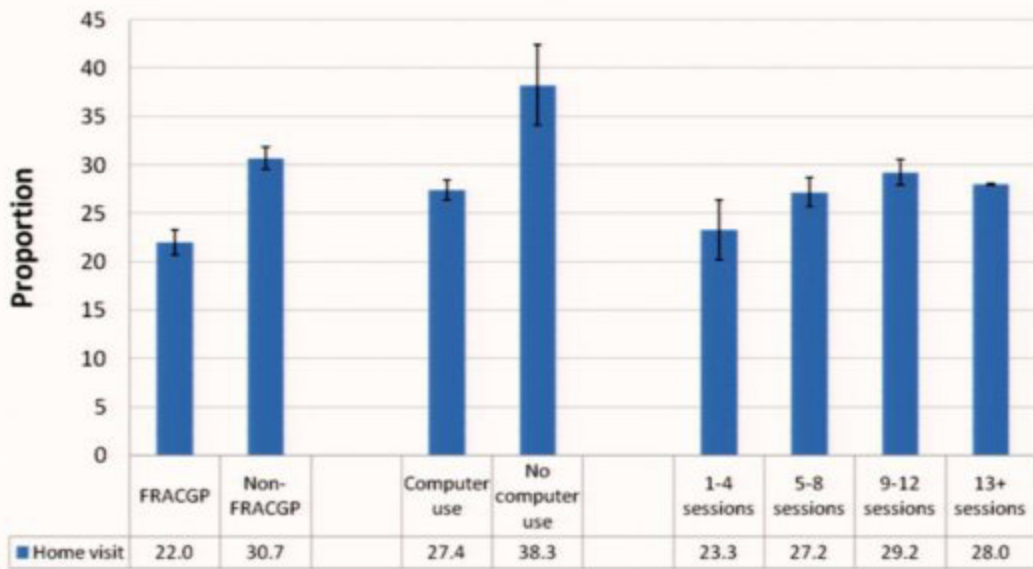
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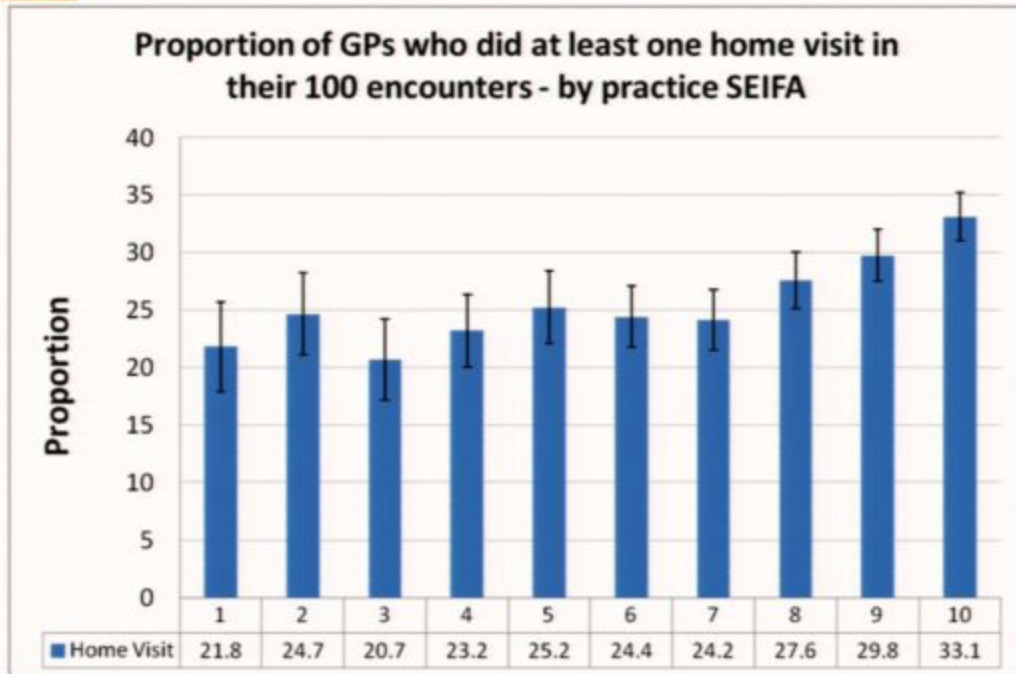
## GPs who did 1+ home visits

Proportion of GPs who did at least one home visit in their 100 encounters





# GPs who did 1+ home visits



Most disadvantaged

Most advantaged



## Step-wise Logistic regression

- After step-wise logistic regression analysis of all significant GP variables, all variables with the exception of FRACGP status remained significant
  - Older
  - Male
  - Small practice
  - Australian graduate
  - Major city
  - Non-major city
  - More sessions
  - Higher SEIFA



## Conclusions

- There has been a significant decrease in both the rate of home visits and the proportion of GPs who perform home visits between 1998 and 2010
- Patients at home visits were more likely to be: older; female; hold a health care or veterans' affairs card; from a Non-English speaking background; and live in a major city
- Home visit encounters had significantly more: problems managed (especially chronic conditions); medications prescribed; referrals to hospital and emergency departments



## Conclusions

- Home visit encounters had significantly less: procedural treatments; pathology and imaging tests ordered; and referrals to specialists
- GPs who performed home visits were more likely to be: male; older; a solo practitioner; an Australian graduate; practice in a major city; a non-computer user; working many sessions a week; practice in “advantaged” areas
- Policies encouraging GPs to perform home visits should be considered, especially in rural and disadvantaged areas, so as to maintain these important services for vulnerable patients.



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Thank you, GPs!!

# General practice activity in Australia

2010–11

Family Medicine Research Centre

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