
**Abstract**

The community of Busselton in Western Australia has participated in repeated cross-sectional health surveys and other health interventions since 1966. Health surveys of adults were conducted every three years from 1966 to 1981. Health interventions, including programs for high blood pressure, smoking, high blood cholesterol levels and obesity, were implemented in the community. Mortality rates for the Busselton area are compared with rates for the remainder of the southwest region of Western Australia in an attempt to determine if the surveys and associated interventions have had any impact on survival. Statistical comparisons via Poisson regression analysis showed that mortality rates for males over the period 1965 to 1989 in Busselton declined at a similar rate to the southwest. However, for females, especially those aged 45 to 74 years, mortality rates declined significantly faster in Busselton than in the southwest, suggesting a beneficial impact on survival of the surveys and associated interventions.