

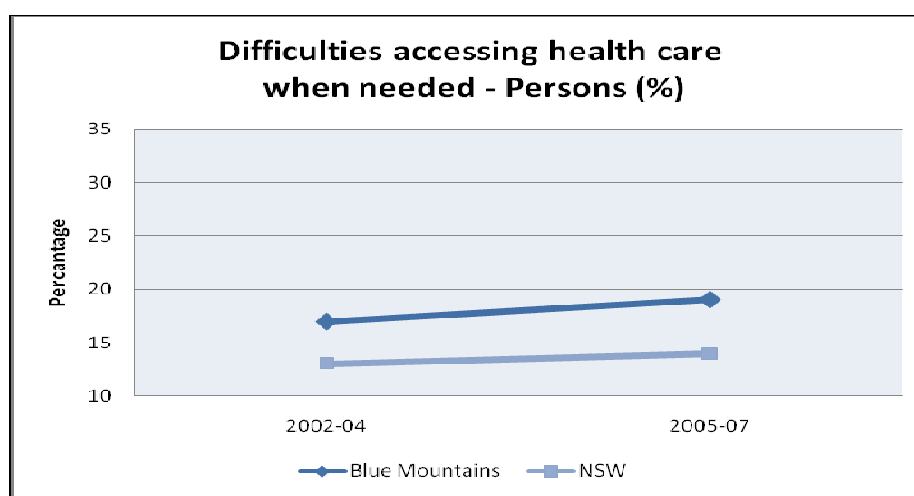
## Population - health

### What are we monitoring?

**Number of residents reporting difficulties accessing health care when needed**

### What is the trend?

The trend shows a small increase in people experiencing difficulties accessing health care when needed between 2002/04 to 2005/07. Also, Blue Mountains residents experience higher rates of difficulties accessing health care than people generally in the state.



| DIFFICULTIES ACCESSING HEALTH CARE WHEN NEEDED |                |          |           |        |          |           |
|--|----------------|----------|-----------|--------|----------|-----------|
| Year   | BLUE MOUNTAINS |          |           | NSW    |          |           |
|  | Male %         | Female % | Persons % | Male % | Female % | Persons % |
| 2002-04  | 14             | 21       | 17        | 12     | 15       | 13        |
| 2005-07  | 17             | 22       | 19        | 13     | 16       | 14        |

This data refers to those who had difficulties getting health care when they needed it. It excludes those who said they do not need health care. The question used was: *Do you have any difficulties getting health care when you need it?*

### Why is monitoring this trend important?

Equal access to health services is a human right, and it is important that people are able to obtain the health services they need when sick or injured. A population experiencing difficulties accessing health care suggests that there is a need for improved service levels and possibly assisted access to health services located outside the Local Government Area.

**Source:** NSW Health (2009). New South Wales Population Health Survey. 2005-2007 Report on adult health. Blue Mountains Division of General Practice.