

The Introduction of Daylight Saving in Western Australia: Analytical Approaches using Surveillance Data

Daylight saving was unexpectedly introduced into Western Australia on December 1, 2006. A variety of potential impacts were envisaged, including a positive impact on health through the anticipated increase in physical activity. A module of questions related to time and place of physical activity was added to the WA Health and Wellbeing Surveillance System (HWSS) in December 2006. These questions were the same as a set of questions that had been collected in October in another point in time survey before daylight saving began. In addition the HWSS has been collecting information on physical activity continually since 2002. In addition to purely descriptive analytical approaches, two potentially appropriate inferential methods to the analysis of these data were considered, time series analysis and log linear modeling. Preliminary results suggest that there has been some impact. Results concerning the significance and magnitude of the impact will be reported.

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