

Section 2

Demographics

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There were 20 people that took part in this study, 19 were diagnosed with Hidradenitis suppurativa, and one was a carer to someone diagnosed with Hidradenitis suppurativa. Participants were aged from 25 to 65 years of age, most were aged 44 years or younger (n=13, 65.00%), 18 participants were females (90.00%)

Participants were most commonly from New South Wales (n=6, 30.00%), and Queensland (n=5, 25.00%). Most participants were from major cities (n=14, 70.00%), and they lived in all levels of advantage, defined by Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) (www.abs.gov.au) with 2 participants (10.00%) from an area with a high SEIFA score of 7 to 10 (more advantage), and 18 participants (90.00%) from an area of mid to low SEIFA scores of 1 to 6 (less advantaged).

There were 7 participants (35.00%) that had completed university to at least an associate degree. There were 10 participants who were employed either full time (50.00%), or part time (n=3, 15.00%). Less than half of the participants were carers to family members or spouses (n=8, 40.00%), most commonly carers to children (n=7, 35.00%).

Baseline health

The Short Form Health Survey 36 (SF36) measures baseline health, or the general health of an individual. The SF36 comprises nine scales: physical functioning, role functioning/physical, role functioning/emotional, energy and fatigue, emotional well-being, social function, pain, general health, and health change from one year ago. The scale ranges from 0 to 100, a higher score denotes better health or function.

SF36 **Physical functioning** scale measures health limitations in physical activities such as walking, bending, climbing stairs, exercise, and housework. On average, physical activities were moderately limited for participants in this study.

SF36 **Role functioning/physical** scale measures how physical health interferes with work or other activities. On average, physical health often interfered with work or other activities for participants in this study.

SF36 **Role functioning/emotional** scale measures how emotional problems interfere with work or other activities. On average, emotional problems seldom interfered with work or other activities for participants in this study.

SF36 **Energy/fatigue** scale measures the proportion of energy or fatigue experienced. On average, participants were almost always fatigued.

The **SF36 Emotional well-being** scale measures how a person feels, for example happy, calm, depressed or anxious. On average, participants had fair emotional well-being.

The SF36 **Social functioning** scale measures limitations on social activities due to physical or emotional problems. On average, social activities were limited for participants in this study.

The **SF36 Pain** scale measures how much pain, and how pain interferes with work and other activities. On average, participants had quite a bit of pain.

The **SF36 General health** scale measures perception of health. On average, participants reported poor health.

The **SF36 Health change** scale measures health compared to a year ago. On average, participants reported that their health is about the same as a year ago.

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There were 7 participants (35.00%) that had completed university to at least an associate degree. There were 10 participants who were employed either full time (50.00%), or part time (n=3, 15.00%).

Less than half of the participants were carers to family members or spouses (n=8, 40.00%), most commonly carers to children (n=7, 35.00%). The demographics of participants are listed in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1: Demographics

Demographic	Definition	Number (n=20)	Percent
Gender	Female	18	90.00
	Male	2	10.00
Age	25 – 34	8	40.00
	35 – 44	5	25.00
	45 – 54	4	20.00
	55 – 64	3	15.00
Location	Major Cities of Australia	14	70.00
	Inner Regional Australia	4	20.00
	Outer Regional Australia	2	10.00
	Remote Australia		
State	New South Wales	6	30.00
	Queensland	5	25.00
	South Australia	1	5.00
	Victoria	4	20.00
	Western Australia	4	20.00
Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA)	1	2	10.00
	2	3	15.00
	3	3	15.00
	4	2	10.00
	5	4	20.00
	6	4	20.00
	7	1	5.00
	8	1	5.00
	9	0	0.00
	10	0	0.00
Race/ethnicity	Caucasian/White	17	85.00
	Other	3	15.00
Education	Less than high school degree	3	15.00
	High school degree or equivalent	2	10.00
	Some college but no degree	4	20.00
	Trade	4	20.00
	Associate degree	1	5.00
	Bachelor degree	3	15.00
	Graduate degree	3	15.00
Employment	Currently receiving Centrelink support	4	20.00
	Disabled not able to work	3	15.00
	Employed working full time	10	50.00
	Employed working part time	3	15.00
	Full/part time carer	1	5.00
	Full/part time study	1	5.00
	Not Employed looking for work	1	5.00
	Retired	1	5.00
Carer status	I am not a carer	12	60.00
	Children	7	35.00
	Parents	1	5.00

Baseline health

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Summary statistics for the entire cohort are displayed alongside the possible range of each scale in Table 2.2, for scales with a normal distribution, the mean and SD should be used as a central measure, and median and IQR for scales that do not have a normal distribution.

The overall scores for the cohort were in the second highest quintile for SF36 Role functioning/emotional (median=66.67, IQR=83.33), indicating good emotional role functioning.

The overall scores for the cohort were in the middle quintile for SF36 Physical functioning (mean=49.74, SD=29.74), SF36 Emotional well-being (mean=50.11, SD=23.45), SF36 Health change (median=50.00, IQR=0.00), indicating moderate physical functioning, moderate emotional well-being, about the same as a year ago

The overall scores for the cohort were in the second lowest quintile for SF36 Role functioning/physical (median=25.00, IQR=25.00), SF36 Social functioning (median=37.50, IQR=31.25), SF36 Pain (mean=34.21, SD=26.77), SF36 General health (mean=30.26, SD=19.89), indicating poor physical role functioning, poor social functioning, quite a bit of pain, poor general health.

The overall scores for the cohort were in the lowest quintile for, SF36 Energy/Fatigue (median=15.00, IQR=20.00), indicating very poor energy.

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Table 2.2: SF36 summary statistics

SF36 scale (n=20)	Mean	SD	Median	IQR	Possible range	Quintile
Physical functioning*	49.74	29.74	50.00	50.00	0 to 100	3
Role functioning/physical	27.63	37.17	25.00	25.00	0 to 100	2
Role functioning/emotional	45.61	43.33	66.67	83.33	0 to 100	4
Energy/Fatigue	22.89	19.81	15.00	20.00	0 to 100	1
Emotional well-being*	50.11	23.45	48.00	36.00	0 to 100	3
Social functioning	42.76	30.99	37.50	31.25	0 to 100	2
Pain*	34.21	26.77	22.50	40.00	0 to 100	2
General health*	30.26	19.89	30.00	25.00	0 to 100	2
Health change	47.37	16.45	50.00	0.00	0 to 100	3

*Normal distribution, use mean and SD as central measure. Possible range 0-100

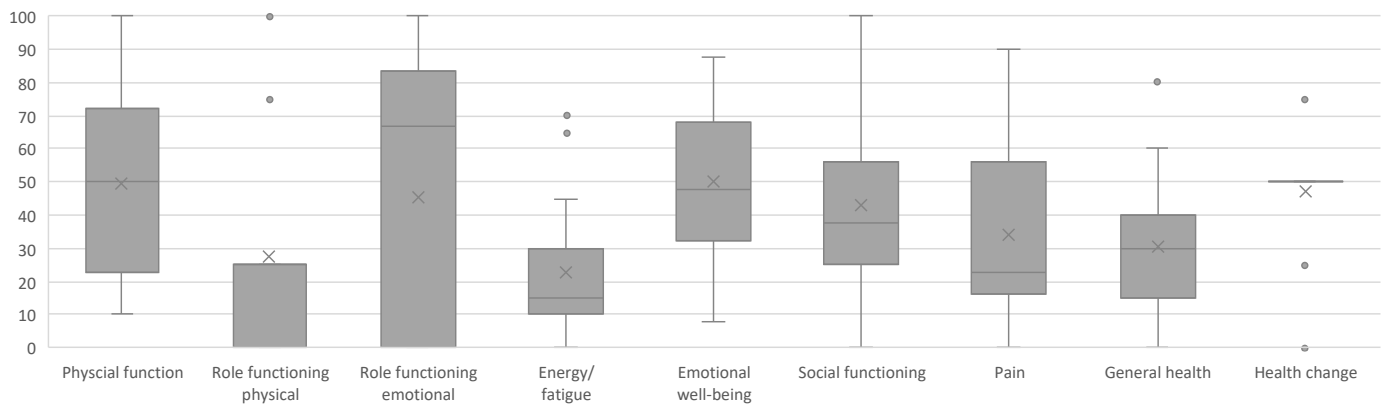


Figure 2.1: Baseline health boxplots