



The Australian Prevention Partnership Centre
Systems and solutions for better health

Liveability indicators

What it is

Liveability indicators map social and environmental factors in a community which may affect the liveability and health of people in that community.

How we applied it

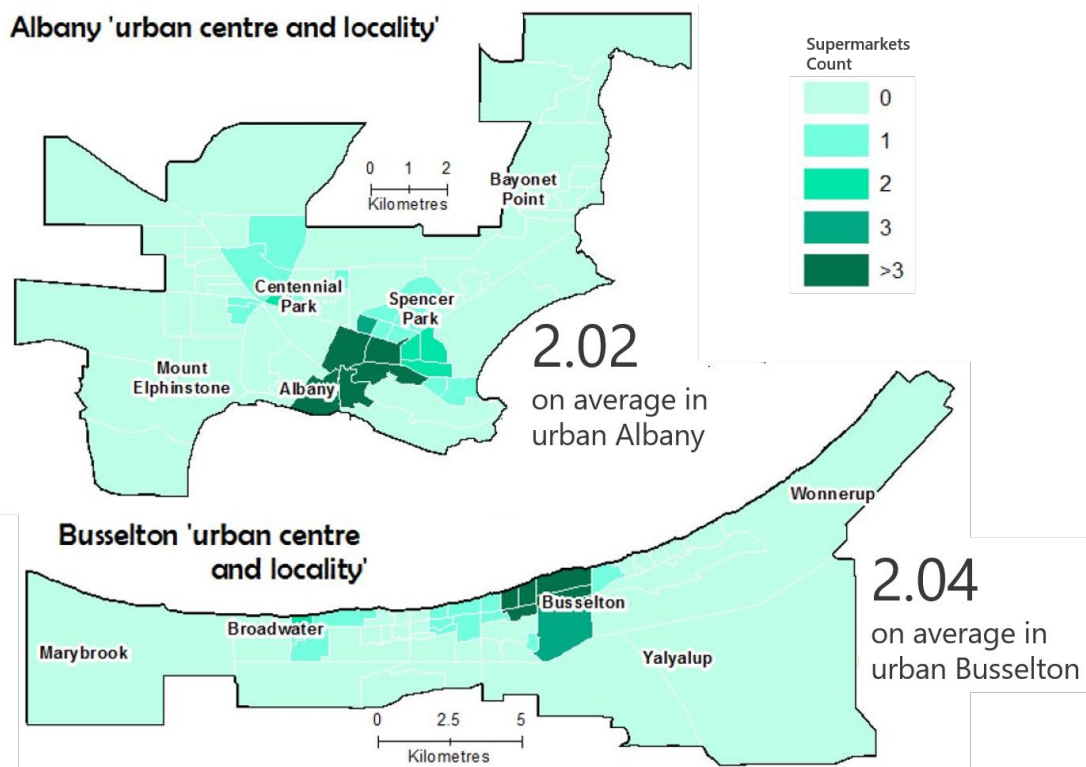
Our research partners at the University of Wollongong selected a range of liveability indicators for three of the four Prevention Tracker communities. In addition, a comparator community was chosen that would provide useful information and insights for the Prevention Tracker communities. Types of liveability indicators selected included the number of supermarkets and green grocers; percentage of green space (parklands); and population with no car within the local area. The data were then mapped geographically, to provide a visual representation of the indicator's distribution.

Data for the maps was obtained from a range of sources, for example the Australian Bureau of Statistics and business directories. Most of the population-based data were sourced from the Australian Census.

Map of Albany and comparator Busselton

Liveability indicator: Count of supermarkets/ green grocers within 1600m

Supermarkets and green grocers tended to be most accessible within central urban areas of Albany and Busselton. Most areas outside of the urban centre of each LGA had lower levels of accessibility.



What we learnt about how to use this method

Using the liveability indicators provided a new perspective on existing data for the communities, especially when we compared the data to that in the comparator community. In some cases, the comparator community, which had been selected on the basis of similarity, turned out to be quite different from the Prevention Tracker community and in other cases the similarities between the communities was reinforced.

The selection of measures is important. Some measures, when observed in mapped form and combined, show clear patterns in social and economic make-up of the communities. Some measures proved to be more or less relevant in each community.

What we learnt about the system from using this method

The indicators provide data which can be added to or compared with other local data sets to provide a more complete picture of the local system. Comparing these indicators to another community (the comparator) provides another layer of detail. It demonstrates how the community is performing on these indicators compared to the other community. This can help uncover further questions. For example, which differences are likely to be the result of local factors, in the control of the community, and so useful for identifying action.

Viewing the information in mapped form allows patterns of socio environmental and economic factors to emerge, such as areas of social disadvantage where clusters of low rankings on the liveability scale can be observed.

Where to go if you need more information

Population Wellbeing and Environment Research Lab (PowerLab), University of Wollongong. Website: <https://socialsciences.uow.edu.au/powerlab/index.html>

Visit our website to access a series of factsheets on the Prevention Tracker project covering topics such as group model building, key informant interviews, social network analysis, system action learning. Click on the Resources tab at: <https://preventioncentre.org.au/our-work/research-projects/learning-from-local-communities-prevention-tracker-expands/>



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