

The Australian Deployment Health Surveillance Program in action

Treloar SA, McClintock C, D'Este C, Waller M, McGuire A, Barton C, McFarlane AC, Dobson A.

The aim of the Australian Deployment Health Surveillance Program (DHSP) is to examine the physical, emotional and environmental effects of deployment in order to identify, prevent and manage health care needs of current and former Australian Defence Force (ADF) members.

In recent years ADF personnel have deployed to areas in Australia's near north (East Timor, Bougainville and the Solomon Islands) and to the Middle East (Iraq and Afghanistan). Operations have involved differing locations, potential exposures and numbers of deployments. Operations have varied in nature from peace-monitoring to 'warlike'.

Multiple data sources are used in the DHSP, including self-report questionnaire, Defence owned medical records, psychology records, mortality and cancer incidence, and exposure reports on occupational and environmental hazards.

We report on progress in recent projects, in which around 15,000 individuals form a cohort for future study of longer term health.