



Did you live in MORWELL during the Hazelwood mine fire?

Have you completed the Adult Survey yet?
You can collect an Adult Survey Pack here today or ask your
health provider about the Survey.



1800 985 899 www.hazelwoodhealthstudy.org.au

Adult Survey

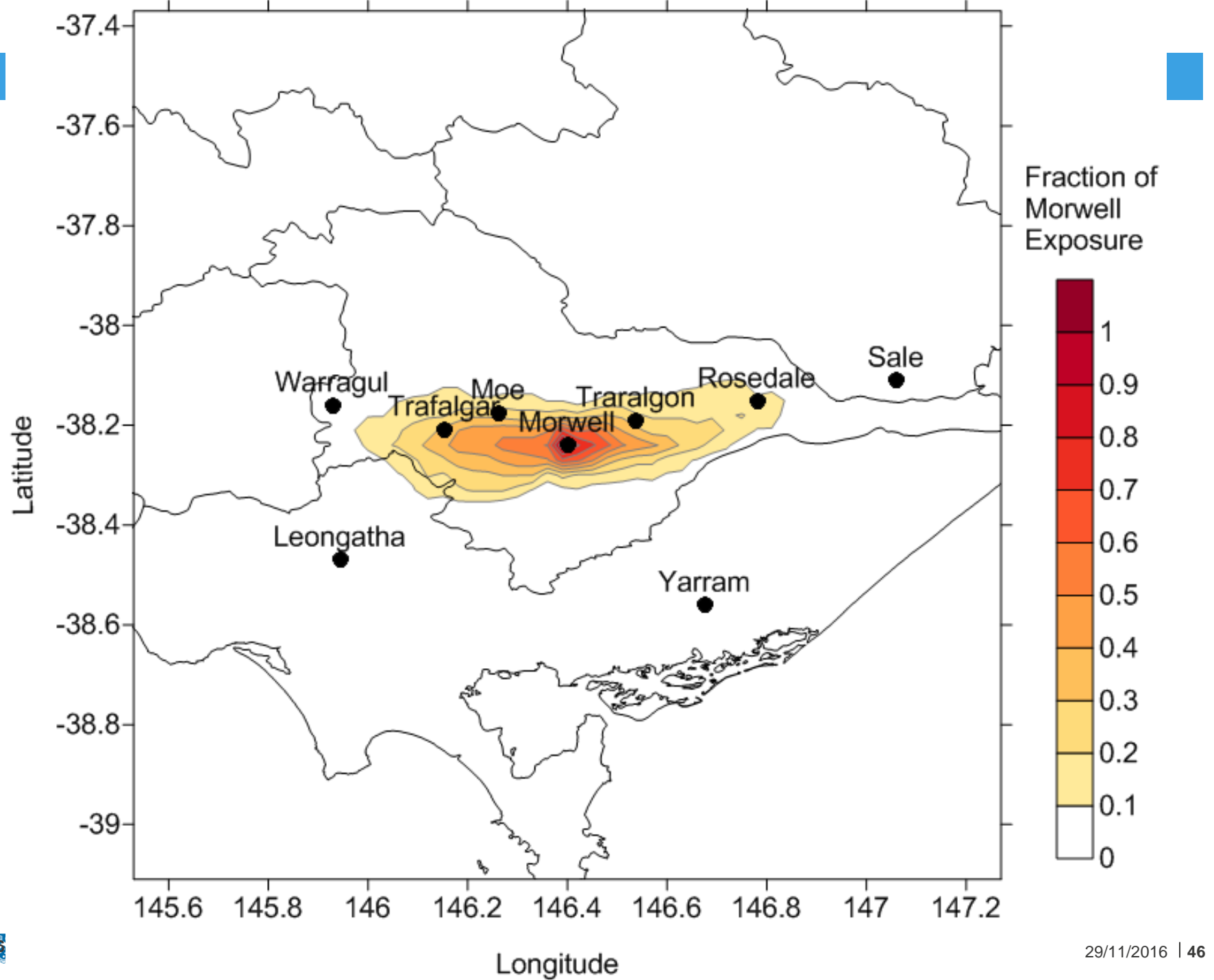
Aims to determine whether exposure to smoke from the Hazelwood coal mine fire has affected the health of local adults relative to a comparison community which was minimally exposed.

Includes adults residing in Morwell or selected areas of Sale in February 2014

Participation involves:

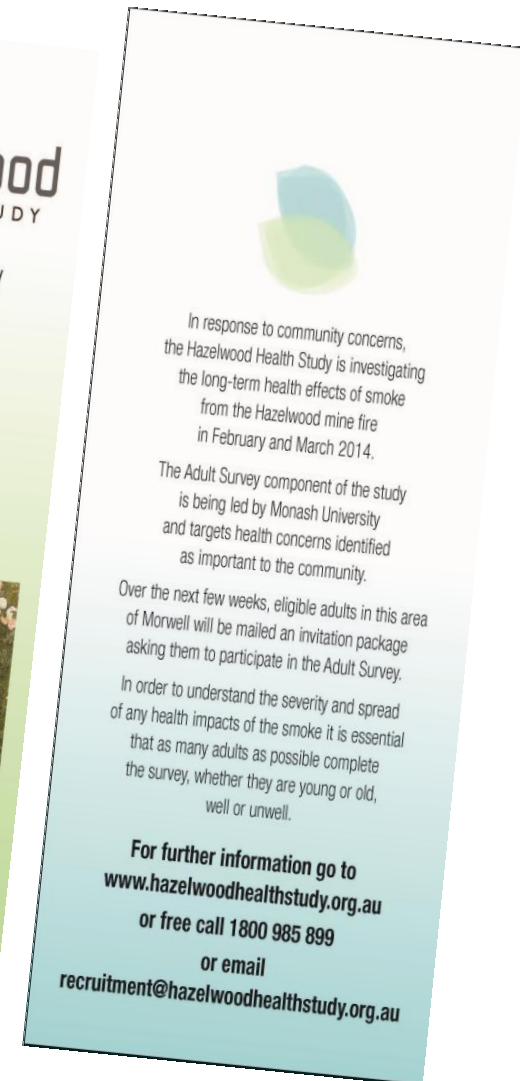
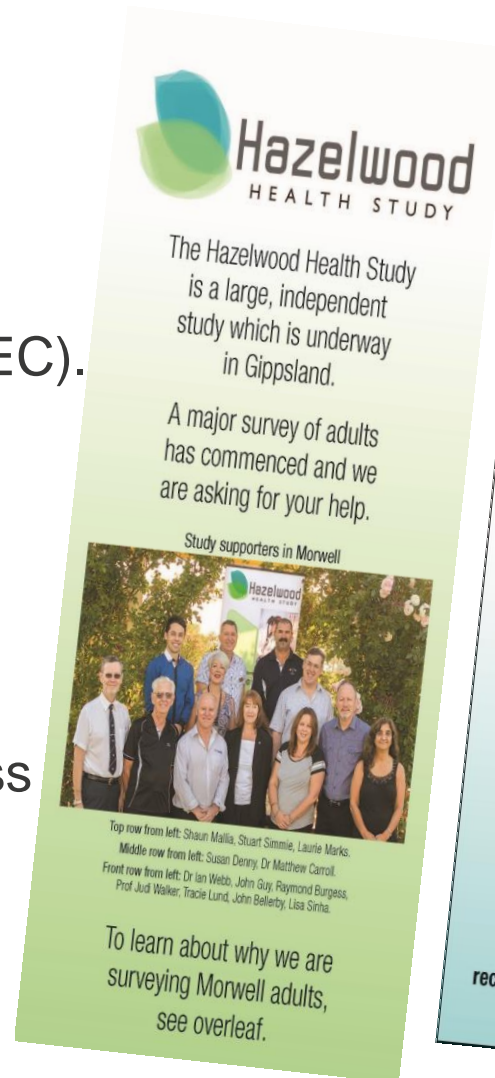
- Completing a questionnaire about respiratory, cardiovascular and psychological health, proximity to the mine fire, type of residence and health-related risk factors.
- Consenting to linkage with ambulance, hospital, cancer and death records.





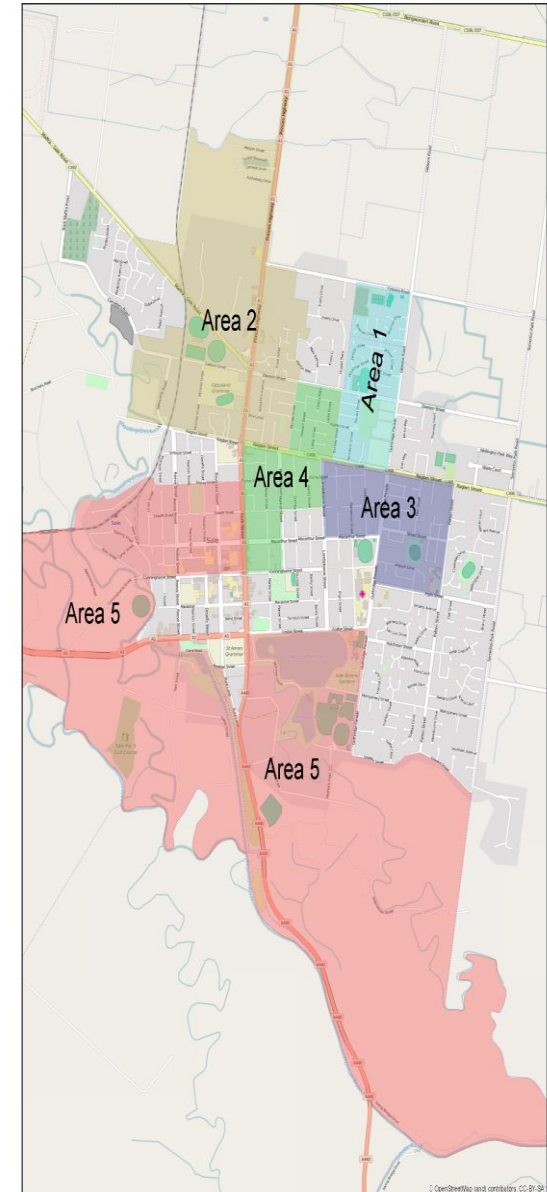
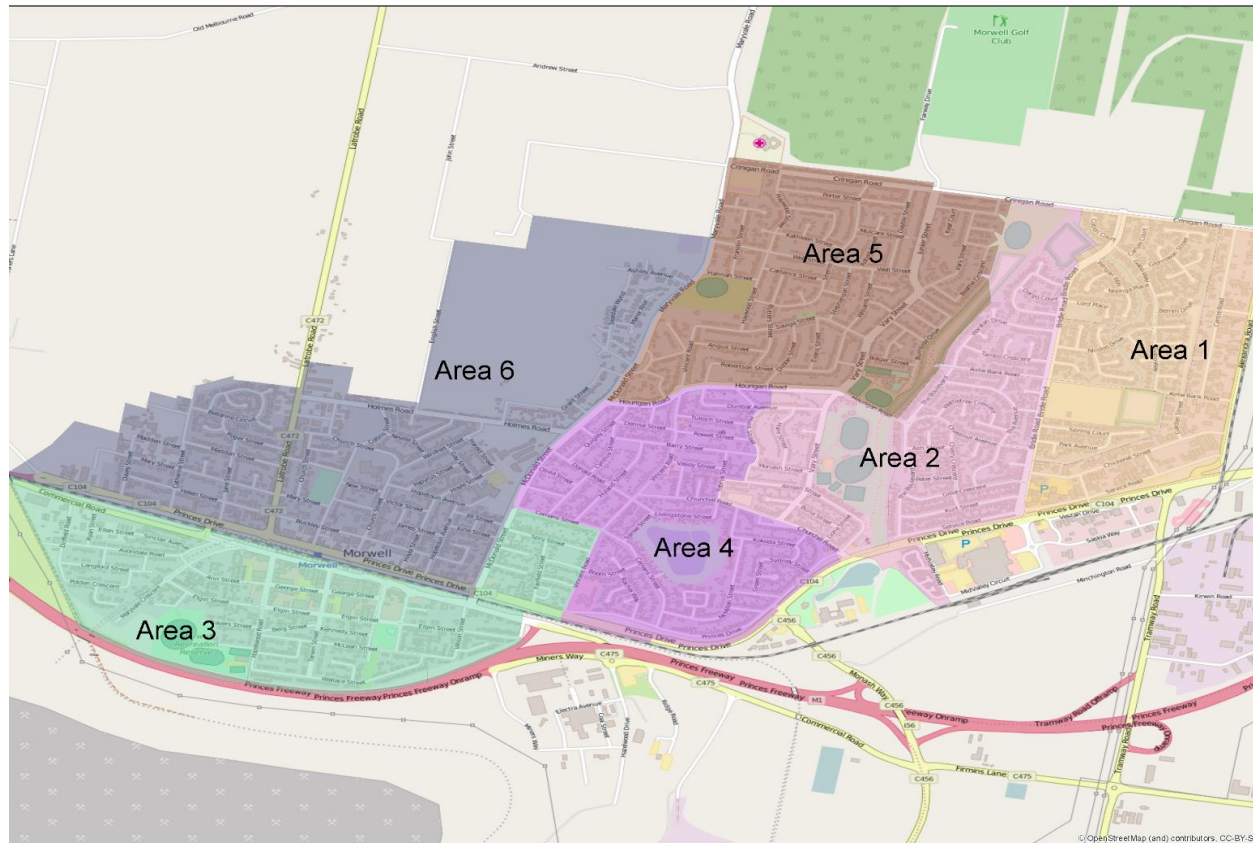
Contact and recruitment

- Contact details for **9,457** adults in Morwell and **4,444** adults in Sale have been obtained from the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC).
- In the lead up to recruitment, a fridge magnet/flyer was dropped in the letter boxes of eligible residential addresses across Morwell and Sale.



Contact and recruitment cont'd

- In a staged mailout, personalised invitation packs have been mailed to adults at their *current* VEC address.



Contact and recruitment cont'd

Initially, participation has been invited by phone interview or online questionnaire.

- Phone interview is the most time efficient for participants and usually provides the most complete data for the researchers;
- Online questionnaires are convenient for participants who wish to complete the survey whenever it suits them (as long as they have internet access and skills)



Contact and recruitment cont'd

- Reminder Postcards, followed by Reminder Packs with paper questionnaires, have subsequently been mailed to non-responders.
- Community packs, containing paper questionnaires, have been delivered to numerous public locations.



Responding to barriers to participation

We have constantly monitored community feedback to identify, **and respond to**, barriers to participation, problems and common areas of misunderstanding about the Adult Survey.

Common misconceptions include:

“I wasn’t effected, I’m fine, so my participation is of no value”

“I left town for a couple of weeks, so my participation is of no value”

“I don’t want to share personal information held by my doctor”

“I’m unable to sit on the phone for long periods”

“I can’t use the internet”

“The online survey link doesn’t work”

“I haven’t received my gift card”

“The questions are too personal”

Responding to barriers to participation



Frequently asked questions about the Adult Survey & Health Record Linkage Study

Who is included in the Adult Survey?

All adults who were registered on the Victorian Electoral Roll as living in Morwell, or selected regions of Sale, at the time of the Hazelwood mine fire.

Should I participate if I wasn't affected by the smoke?

Yes. In addition to adults who were impacted by the smoke, it is critical that the study includes adults with little or no exposure to the smoke, and adults who were exposed to the smoke but whose health was not affected. In this way the study can evaluate the true extent of the impact of the mine fire event and determine what factors protected some members of the community whilst others remained vulnerable.

What's in it for me and my community?

As reimbursement for your time, all adults who complete the questionnaire receive a \$20 voucher that can only be used in Latrobe Valley or Sale businesses. This directly supports the local economy. In addition, this study will provide direct evidence of the impact of the mine fire event, which will inform health service delivery across Gippsland now and for future generations.

What does the questionnaire include?

The Adult Survey questionnaire includes questions about your health and wellbeing, where you were during the fire and the type of house you lived in.

What does Health Record Linkage include?

Health records that we might obtain with your consent include dates of hospital admission or ambulance use, and categories of diagnosis (eg. 'cardiac failure' or 'stroke'). We will **not** have access to personal notes that a doctor may have written about you or your test results.

For further information call 1800 985 899 or go to hazelwoodhealthstudy.org.au/research-areas/adult-survey

SEE OVER PAGE FOR INSTRUCTIONS FOR ADULT SURVEY PARTICIPATION



Adult Survey participants, who lived in Morwell at the time of the Hazelwood mine fire and who complete the questionnaire, will be eligible to collect a \$20 Shop Latrobe City gift card from a central location in Morwell. The card can then be used at more than 80 businesses across the Latrobe Valley.

Free Event for Parents & Grandparents*
by registration only

Explore! Fun! Wow!

Complete the survey while the kids play & eat for FREE!

Limited to 4 children per family*

Sunday 18th Sept 1130-230

*To be eligible you must have lived in Morwell during the mine fires and have been over 18 years old

where? TRIBES
EAT PLAY LAUGH
107-111 Crinigan Rd
MORWELL
get your gift card on the day!

To register phone 1800 985 899 or e: recruitment@hazelwoodhealthstudy.org.au

Have you received an invitation, but not completed the Adult Survey yet?

You are invited to chat to the researchers and complete the survey while you enjoy a free tea / coffee and muffin

Where:
Mid Valley Shopping Centre
(opposite Muffin Break, Centre Court)

When:
10am-2pm,
Saturday 10th September and
Thursday 13th October

All eligible adults who complete the survey also receive a \$20 Shop Latrobe City gift card

LATROBE VALLEY
Express

More participants needed for health study



1 Aug 2016, midnight

Participation: Long-time Morwell resident and taxi driver Ross Anderson completed the Adult Survey. He hoped as many other Morwell adults as possible would support the study. Photograph by Bryan Petts.

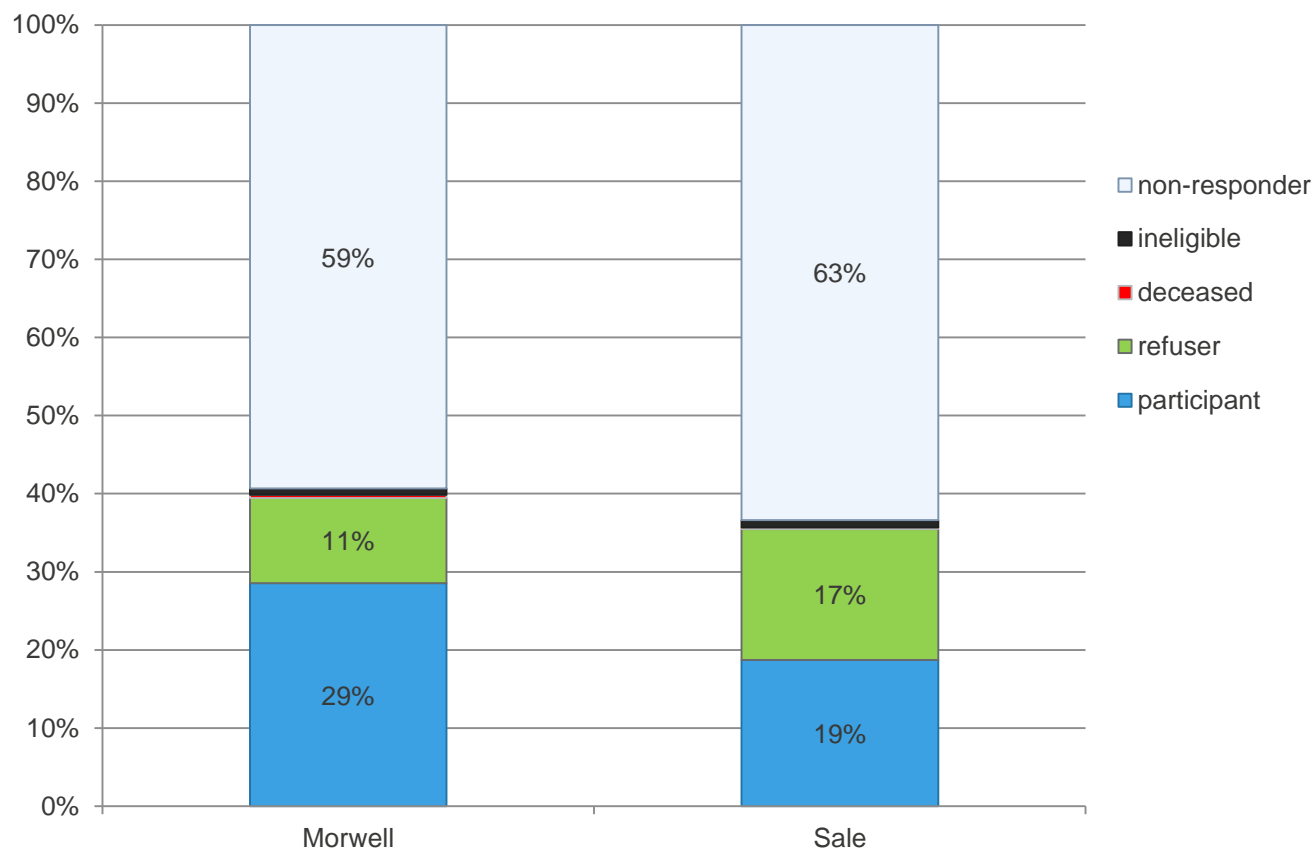
Only 25 per cent of Morwell residents so far targeted by the Hazelwood Health study have agreed to

Hazelwood
HEALTH STUDY

HAVE YOU COMPLETED THE ADULT SURVEY YET?



Recruitment



Adult Survey recruitment rates by town; 9 November 2016

Next steps

- The Community Engagement and Recruitment Coordinator continues to attend public venues to promote the Survey, and respond to 1800 calls and emails
- Recruitment closes 31 January 2017
- Data auditing and cleaning
- Geocoding daily residential, work and relocation addresses so that exposure levels can be estimated for all participants
- Statistical analysis
- Reporting and disseminating findings