

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to determine the prevalence of self-reported foot problems in a rural region of South-East Queensland and establish the type of treatment sought by respondents.

In December 1995, the West Moreton Regional Health Authority commissioned a health needs assessment of the semi-rural and rural land occupants in the region (n=600). Participants were asked questions relating to their general health, health practices and health service use. A series of questions about foot health were included in the survey.

One quarter (25.7%) of respondents reported that they had foot related problems which had affected them within the past twelve months. The most frequently reported foot problem was arthritis and general practitioners were the most common provider of treatment. Seventy seven percent of respondents reporting foot problems reported that the problem was still present at the time of interview. Factors found to be associated with the presence of foot problems were increasing age, gender, body mass index, the presence of other illnesses, occupation and education level.

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