

# Health Snapshot Goldfields

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## This snapshot aims to start the conversation on health in your region.

- Do you think this is a fair representation of the region?
- What surprises you about the information presented?
- What is helping to support people to stay well in the region?
- What could be improved to keep people healthy in the region?
- Every community is unique. This Health Snapshot is just an overview of the region and does not show the detail of each community. What contribution can you make to completing the story behind these headline facts and figures?

Country WA Primary Health Network invites you to answer these questions and more online through Primary Health Exchange or call **1300 855 702** to speak to your regional team.

Detailed data can be found in WA Country Health Service Regional Health Profiles: <http://www.wacountry.health.wa.gov.au/index.php?id=445>

And on the Australian Government Department of Health Primary Health Network website: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/PHN-Home>



### Acknowledgement

Country WA PHN acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the country on which we work and live and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and community.

We pay our respect to them and their cultures and to Elders both past and present.

[www.wapha.org.au](http://www.wapha.org.au)

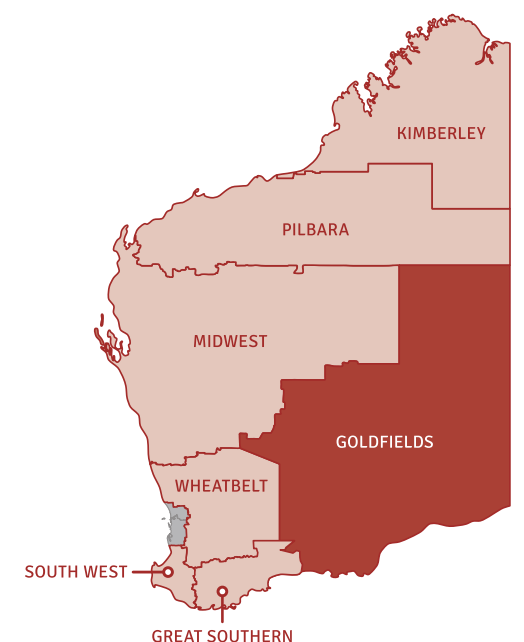
**Data sources:** Public Health Information Development Unit, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Curtin University, Drug and Alcohol Office, National Health Performance Agency and National Diabetes Services, WA Country Health Service (2015).

**Information correct at time of publishing (August 2016)**

**Note:** The term Aboriginal refers to both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people



The Country WA Primary Health Network exists to bridge the gap of health inequity and access by building a collaborative and responsive health care system.



## 1. What does the Goldfields look like?

area  
**770,488 km<sup>2</sup>** 31% of country WA PHN  
Largest of the seven country regions in land mass

61,333 residents (2014), 2.4% of the State population and 11.2% of Country WA population

Population set to increase to 80,000 by 2025

12.3% of the population are Aboriginal, expected to reach 9,300 people by 2025

age	0-9	10-19	20-39	40-54	55-74	75+
	9,032	7,806	19,977	13,370	9,244	1,904
%	14.7%	12.7%	32.6%	21.8%	15.1%	3.1%

## 2. What are the health risks?

ALMOST 1 IN 2  
MALES OVERWEIGHT

ALMOST 1 IN 3  
FEMALES OVERWEIGHT

1 IN 3  
MALES OBESE

ALMOST 1 IN 3  
FEMALES OBESE

97.0%  
Fully immunised  
at 1 year old  
State rate: 92.6%

91.3% Fully immunised  
at 2 years old  
above State rate: 89.6%

93.0% Fully immunised  
at 3 years old  
above State rate: 91.3%

1 in 4  
Adult males  
smoke

1 in 5  
Adult females  
smoke

Large amount of mothers smoking while pregnant:  
almost 1 in 2 Aboriginal mothers and  
1 in 6 non-Aboriginal mothers

YOUTH  
SUICIDE

was the second leading cause of death  
in 15 to 24 year olds  
between 2002 and 2011

## 3. Why are residents going to hospital?

Significantly higher  
hospitalisation rates related to  
**alcohol and tobacco**  
consumption compared with  
the State overall

For 2003-2012, the rate of alcohol-caused and tobacco-caused hospitalisations for Aboriginal people were both significantly higher than for non-Aboriginal people (7.9 times for alcohol-caused and 4.5 times for tobacco-caused)

Potentially preventable hospitalisations rates  
**1.6 times higher** than the national rate

Kidney and urinary tract  
infections accounted for  
potentially preventable  
hospitalisations above the  
average for Country WA

8.3%  
of adults consuming  
alcohol at levels considered  
to be a high risk to health

- Higher rate of deaths from cancer than other Country WA PHN regions
- 15.4% of residents rated their health as fair or poor, higher than State rate

## 4. What health services are residents using?

1 in 3 people report having used a hospital based health care service, significantly higher than the State rate

Almost half of people report having used an allied health care service

Half of people report having used a dental based health care service

68%

of Emergency Department attendances  
in 2013/14 were classified as semi or non-urgent

## 5. What gaps in health services have been identified?

People living in the region suggest there is a need for more:

Residential/Social support services for alcohol and other drug detox and rehabilitation services

Specifically in the Northern Goldfields/Lands region

Stepped care between the primary and tertiary sector particularly for assessment of moderate to high risk as well as hospital to home transitions

Child safety awareness programs

Clinical support and/or services for diabetes and otitis media (inflammation of the inner ear that can lead to hearing loss and developmental delay in children)

Bulk Billing by General Practitioners

Preventative services, current programs are spread thinly over such a wide, disparate and diverse area

## 6. What is being prescribed?

High rate for dispensing of opioid medicines

## 7. What are the priorities for PHNs?

Keeping people well in the community

Coordinating care for people with multiple long term conditions, especially co-occurring mental and physical health conditions

Services designed to meet the health needs of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people, including those of Aboriginal heritage

Systems improved to provide more coordinated and integrated healthcare, helping people get the right care at the right time in the right place

Enhancing workforce capacity to achieve desired improvements

## Country WA Primary Health Network wants you to be involved

Share your experience, knowledge and opinion online at [phexchange.wapha.org.au](http://phexchange.wapha.org.au)  
Follow us on twitter @WAPHA\_PHNs and Facebook [facebook.com/waphaphns](https://facebook.com/waphaphns)

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