

Health Snapshot Wheatbelt

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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](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.

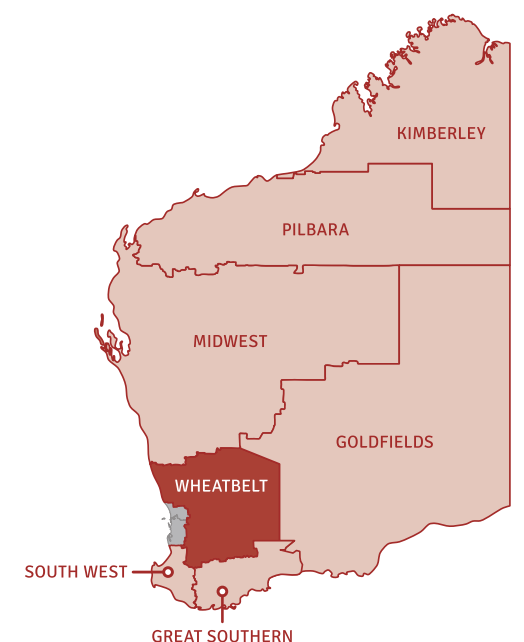
www.wapha.org.au

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 Wheatbelt look like?

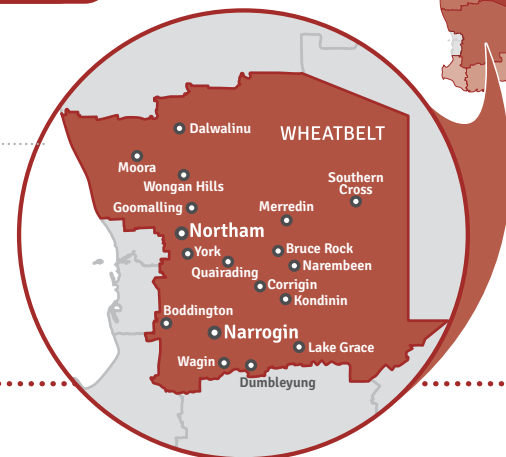
area
158,560 km² 6% of country WA PHN
Largest of the seven country regions in land mass

77,317 residents (2014), 3% of the State population and 14.1% of Country WA population

Population set to increase to 88,000 by 2025

5.6% of the population are Aboriginal, expected to reach almost 6,000 people by 2025

age	0-9	10-19	20-39	40-54	55-74	75+
	10,239	8,938	16,821	16,617	19,291	5,410
%	13.2%	11.6%	21.8%	21.5%	25%	7%

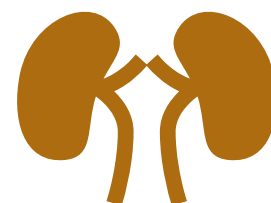


3. Why are residents going to hospital?

High rate of potentially preventable hospitalisations for 15-64 year olds, significantly higher than State rate

Diabetes complications were the leading cause of potentially preventable hospitalisation, **1.2 times** the State rate

Renal dialysis accounted for the highest number of hospitalisations for Aboriginal people



7.4% of adults consuming alcohol at levels considered to be a high risk to health

- Significant number of deaths due to road accidents
- More than 17% of residents self-rate their health as fair or poor, a greater proportion than state and Country WA PHN averages

2. What are the health risks?

ALMOST 1 IN 2
MALES OVERWEIGHT

ALMOST 1 IN 3
FEMALES OVERWEIGHT

ALMOST 1 IN 3
MALES OBESE

ALMOST 1 IN 3
FEMALES OBESE

96.0% Fully immunised at 1 year old
State rate: 92.6%

93.0% Fully immunised at 2 years old
above State rate: 89.6%

98.5% Fully immunised at 3 years old
above State rate: 91.3%

Almost **1 in 4** Adult males smoke

Around **1 in 5** Adult females smoke

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

SUICIDE

Above state average rate of death due to suicide and self-inflicted injuries

4. What health services are residents using?

9 in 10 people report having used a primary health care service

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

Around 1 in 3 people report having used a hospital based health care service

67%



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:

After hours primary health care



Social and emotional wellbeing support for children and young people. Also a need for enhanced child development services, audiology and paediatric services

Specific mental health beds



Aged care facilities that support people to 'age in place'

Visiting specialist services such as ear screening and treatment services and antenatal and postnatal services



Patient transport between sites, particularly for older people and people with young children

6. What is being prescribed?

Higher than State average for dispensing of opioids, for persistent pain and for medications for the management of mental ill health

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
Follow us on Twitter @WAPHA_PHNs and Facebook [facebook.com/waphaphns](https://www.facebook.com/waphaphns)

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