

# Aboriginal Health Snapshot of the Midwest

COLOUR  
LEGEND

MIDWEST

GASCOYNE

COUNTRY  
WA PHN



## 1. Aboriginal population by age

The Aboriginal Health Snapshot of the Midwest region uses Indigenous Areas (IAREs) to allow for more detailed information of the health of Aboriginal people in the region.



age	0-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65+
	2142	1116	1535	1219	369
%	34%	18%	24%	19%	6%

## 2. What is affecting health in the region?

**53%** of Aboriginal families in the Midwest are single parent families.

**51%** of Aboriginal children under 15 years live in a jobless family.

Fewer Aboriginal adolescents attend secondary school compared to all other adolescents (including non-Aboriginal) in country WA.



**39%** of Aboriginal households do not have access to the internet.



## 3. What are the health risks?

**51%** of Aboriginal women smoke during pregnancy.



### CHILD IMMUNISATION RATES

1 year 80%   2 years 80%   5 years 88%

### MEDIAN AGE AT DEATH

	FEMALES	MALES
Aboriginal population	63 58 58	53 57 52

## 4. Why are people going to hospital?



Potentially preventable hospitalisations for Aboriginal people are **higher than expected for cellulitis, convulsions and epilepsy, and diabetes complications** across the region.



Carnegie South - Mount Magnet has high hospital admission rates for **injuries, poisonings** and other external causes.

+ Geraldton has the highest rate of potentially preventable hospitalisations for **chronic conditions**.

+ Carnegie South and Mount Magnet have the highest rate of potentially preventable hospitalisations for **chronic obstructive pulmonary disease**.

+ Carnarvon - Mungullah have the highest rate of potentially preventable hospitalisations for **diabetes complications**.

+ Carnarvon has high hospital admission rates for **mental health conditions**.

## 5. What health services are people using?



Aboriginal people are visiting the emergency department for non-urgent presentations at twice the rate of non-Aboriginal people, in both the Midwest and the Gascoyne.

In 2016-17, 46% of Aboriginal people living in the Midwest received a GP health assessment, compared with 15% of Aboriginal people living in the Gascoyne.



## 6. What are the health service gaps?



Shortage of Aboriginal health workers in the Gascoyne.

## 7. What is WAPHA prioritising in the Midwest region?

Aboriginal specific **mental health, and alcohol and other drug workers** in the Gascoyne and Murchison district.



Care coordination for Aboriginal people with chronic conditions through our **Integrated Team Care program**.



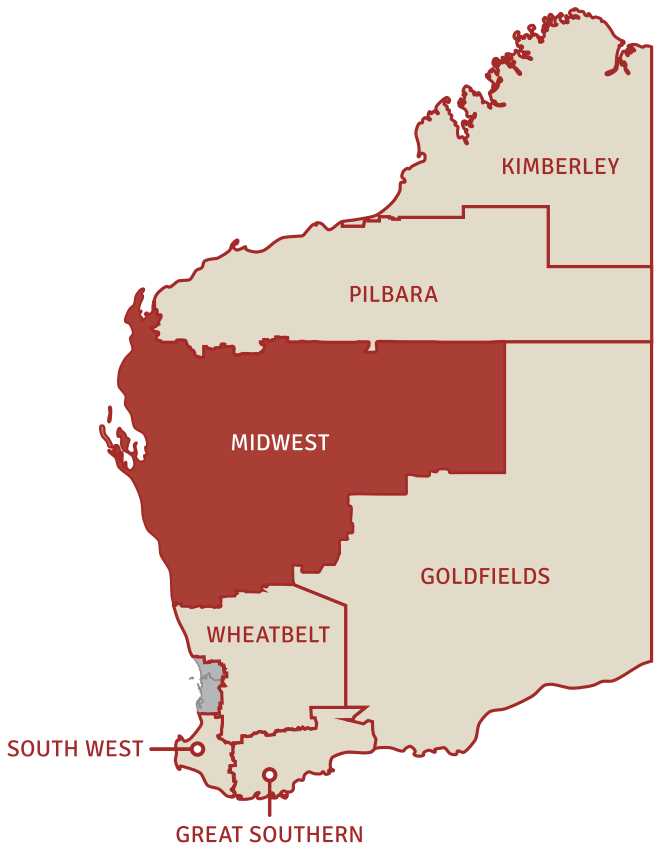
# Health Snapshot Midwest

WA Primary Health Alliance is the peak commissioning body for primary healthcare services in Western Australia.

We work to improve health equity and access by building a collaborative and responsive healthcare system.

Everything we do is underpinned by Population Health Needs Assessments, which ensure an evidence-based approach to planning and commissioning primary healthcare services.

This health snapshot of the Midwest region provides an overview of current patterns and trends in health demand, service supply and health service priorities.



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



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## 1. What does the region look like?

Area of more than  
**600,000 km<sup>2</sup>**

**64,884** residents (2018), 2% of the state population and 12% of country WA population.

**10%** of the population are Aboriginal.

By 2025, the population aged 65 years and over is expected to double in the Gascoyne region.

age	0-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65+
	11,144	6,491	13,882	15,264	8,346
	2,048	985	2,803	2,677	1,244
	20%	21%	12%	10%	25%
					29%
				28%	27%
				15%	13%

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### Acknowledgement

WA Primary Health Alliance 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.

**Data sources:** Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS); Public Health Information Development Unit (PHIDU); Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW); Australian Government, Department of Health. Data was sourced from the most recently available, based on the 2016 census, and is current as at April 2018.

**Note:** The Midwest region incorporates the Midwest and Gascoyne statistical areas.

## 2. What is affecting health in the region?

**1 in 4** families in the Midwest are single parent families.

**15%** of Midwest children under 15 years live in a **jobless family**.

**20%** of Midwest households do not have access to the internet.

**73%** of 16 year-olds in the Midwest region **attend school full-time**. This is lower than the state-wide rate of **82%** and close to the country WA rate of **74%**.

More teenagers **leave school at year 10 or below** compared to the WA average.

## 3. What are the health risks?

More Midwest people smoke compared to the state average.

**13%** of mothers in the Midwest region smoke during pregnancy compared to the state average of **9%**.

### CANCER SCREENING RATES

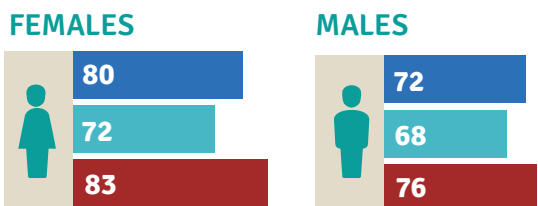


### CHILD IMMUNISATION RATES



Midwest region rates of **asthma** are significantly higher than state-wide and country WA rates.

### MEDIAN AGE AT DEATH



## 4. Why are people going to hospital?

The Midwest has the **second highest** admission rates in country WA for **cardiovascular disease**.



The Midwest region has **higher rates** of potentially **preventable hospitalisations** compared to country WA, state and national rates.



GASCOYNE

**1**  
Highest admission rates in country WA for gastro-intestinal conditions.

**2**  
Second highest potentially preventable hospitalisation rate for acute conditions.

**3**  
Third highest potentially preventable hospitalisation rate for chronic diseases.

## 5. What health services are people using?

The use of mental health services in the Midwest region is lower than the rest of country WA.

Gascoyne residents are going to the emergency department for non-urgent presentations nearly three times as often as Midwest residents.



Midwest residents use GP chronic disease services nearly twice as often as other Western Australians.

## 6. What are the health service gaps?



Shortage of community mental health professionals, especially psychiatrists.

Shortage of aged care beds, particularly in the Gascoyne.



Shortage of respiratory nurses.

## 7. What is WAPHA prioritising in the Midwest region?



Building capacity of the primary healthcare workforce to respond to mental health, and alcohol and other drug related presentations.



Supporting local GPs to keep people well in the community.



Supporting safer prescribing practices and appropriate use of medications.



Mental health services for people with severe and persistent mental illness.



Social, emotional and wellbeing counselling services in Meekatharra and Carnarvon.