

## Health needs analysis

### Potential Priorities:

- Reduce risk factors for chronic disease.
- Improve the management of chronic conditions.
- Reduce avoidable deaths.

### Characteristics of specific populations and conditions:

- Country WA PHN has a high Aboriginal population who experience poor health outcomes.
- Country WA PHN has high rates of avoidable deaths, increased lifestyle factors for chronic disease, and a higher prevalence of chronic disease.

### Patterns of overall health Status:

- Country WA PHN has poorer health outcomes.

## Service needs analysis

### Priority Locations:

- Pilbara, Midwest, Wheatbelt, and the Goldfields.

### Characteristics of Locations:

- Within Country WA PHN the Pilbara, Midwest, Wheatbelt, and the Goldfields have the lowest workforce and service supply.
- Stakeholders have indicated staff retention and the cost of travelling vast distances to provide clinical services as barriers to the provision of primary care in rural and regional WA.

### Patterns of workforce and service distribution:

- Country WA PHN has a lower supply of health workforce and service distribution.
- Country WA PHN is the largest PHN in Australia covering a vast and sparsely populated geographical area of 2.5 Square Kilometers.

## Triangulation & Priorities

### Triangulation

Health Need	Service Need	Triangulation Result
High rates of chronic disease and avoidable deaths.	Limited access to services.	Increase access to services managing chronic conditions.
Increased risk factors for chronic disease.	Limited access to screening.	Increase access to primary care services.
Aboriginal people have poor health outcomes.	Limited access to services in regions with large Aboriginal communities.	Increase access to health services for Aboriginal people.

### Priorities

- Increase access to culturally appropriate services for Aboriginal populations.
- Investigate innovative approaches to improving access to health workforce and services in rural and regional WA.