



Potentially preventable hospitalisations 2015-16

Web report | Last updated: 14 Jul 2017 | Topic: [Primary health care](#)

About

This web update provides the latest rates of potentially preventable hospitalisations for Australia's 31 Primary Health Network areas and more than 300 smaller local areas. It updates information for 22 conditions where hospitalisation may have been prevented by timely and appropriate provision of primary or community-based health care. Results are highlighted for five conditions that contribute most to the number of days spent in hospital for potentially preventable hospitalisations: chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, diabetes complications, congestive heart failure, cellulitis, and kidney and urinary tract infections.

This report was first published on the MyHealthyCommunities website.

Cat. no: HPF 37

- [Infographic](#)
- [Data](#)

Findings from this report:

- Around 6% of all hospitalisations were potentially preventable
- Nationally, potentially preventable hospitalisations accounted for nearly 2.7 million bed days
- Rates of potentially preventable hospitalisations varied greatly across local areas
- The age-standardised rate of national potentially preventable hospitalisations was 2,643 per 100,000 people

Summary

This latest update provides information on 22 conditions for which hospitalisation is considered to be potentially preventable. The term potentially preventable hospitalisation does not mean that a patient admitted for that condition did not need to be hospitalised at the time of admission. Rather, the hospitalisation may have been prevented by timely and appropriate provision of primary or community-based health care. Reducing hospitalisations might involve vaccination, early diagnosis and treatment, and/or good ongoing management of risk factors and conditions in community settings.

Age-standardised rates and other contextual information are provided for all 22 conditions, focusing on five conditions that together contribute most to the number of days spent in hospital for potentially preventable hospitalisations nationally. These conditions are chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, diabetes complications, congestive heart failure, cellulitis, and kidney and urinary tract infections.

The [data](#) are presented for Australia's 31 Primary Health Network (PHN) areas and for more than 300 smaller local areas, known as Statistical Areas Level 3 (SA3s). All information relates to where a person lived, not where they went to hospital.

This local-level information can be used as an indicator of patients' access to primary health care services and the appropriateness or effectiveness of care, as well as preventive health interventions. It is intended to assist local health professionals to develop strategies for change where needed, in the context of their local area.

The data show that in 2015-16:

- Nationally there were nearly 680,000 hospitalisations for the 22 conditions for which hospitalisation is considered potentially preventable. This represented 6% of all hospital admissions to a public or private hospital in Australia that year
- Potentially preventable hospitalisations accounted for nearly 2.7 million bed days nationally - equivalent to 9% of all public and private hospital bed days
- Nationally, the age-standardised rate of potentially preventable hospitalisation was 2,643 per 100,000 people. Across PHN areas, rates were almost three times as high in some areas compared with others, ranging from 1,956 potentially preventable hospitalisations per 100,000 people in Northern Sydney to 5,457 per 100,000 in Northern Territory
- Across more than 300 local areas (SA3s) there was even greater variation. The age-standardised rate of potentially preventable hospitalisation were more than five times as high in some areas compared with others, ranging from 1,584 per 100,000 people in South East Coast (Tas) to 8,964 hospitalisations per 100,000 in Alice Springs (NT).

This web update is accompanied by [data visualisations](#) allowing users to explore the data in depth for their area and compare with other local communities. All data can be downloaded in an [Excel workbook](#) and some [resources summarising results](#) - including for the five focal conditions - by PHN area are also available.

Note: Caution should be used comparing PPH over time due to changes that have occurred in classifications and coding standards. See the [Technical Note](#) for further information.

Technical note

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Notes

This report was first published on the MyHealthyCommunities website.

For a full list of AIHW products that include data and results by small areas (for example, by Primary Health Network areas) see [AIHW data by geography](#).

Caution should be used comparing PPH over time due to changes that have occurred in classifications and coding standards. See the [Technical note](#) for further information.



Data



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