

# Health Profile 2021

The Western NSW Primary Health Network (WNSW PHN) is one of 31 PHNs in Australia that work to support and strengthen primary health care and improve health outcomes for the community.

## Area Profile



433,379 Km<sup>2</sup>



We cover the largest area of any PHN in NSW



27 Local Government Areas



2 Local Health Districts



401 GPs



113 General Practices (including Aboriginal Medical Services)

## Demographics



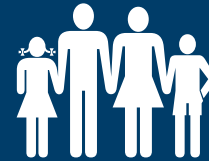
The population is predicted to increase by around 4% by 2036 to

329,470

Over **316,600** people live in our region

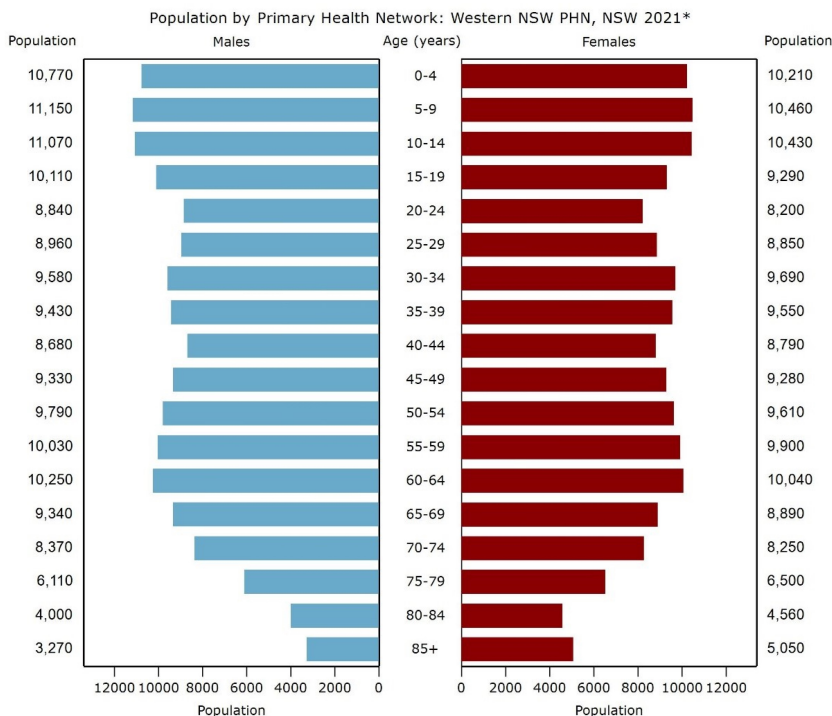
### THE BIGGEST GROWTH

is predicted in **Bathurst** (18.9%), **Cabonne** (16.7%), **Orange** (11.8%) and **Dubbo** (7.3%) while the largest declines in the Lachlan (-16.4%), Walgett (-14.8%), Weddin (-12.5%) and Cobar (-11.5%) LGAs.



Compared to the NSW population we have a **greater proportion of people under 20 years and 65 years or older**

## Population by Age and Sex, Western NSW PHN, 2021



12.8%

Our PHN has the **third highest proportion of the total population** identifying as Aboriginal behind the Northern Territory and Western Queensland PHNs

of people in our region identify as **Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander** Compared to 3.3% Nationally



Please see the **WNSW PHN Aboriginal Health Profile** for more information.

## Drivers of health



One third of the region's LGAs are classified amongst the **most disadvantaged nationally**



Second highest rate of **single parent families** with children aged younger than 15 years nationally: 27.2% (PHN); 20.4% (Australia)



Higher rates of **low education levels**. (left school at Year 10 or below) 42.9 per 100 people (PHN); 30.4 per 100 people (Australia)



Higher rates of **young people receiving unemployment benefits** (16-24 years): 6.1% (PHN); 3.4% (Australia)



Lowest levels of **home internet access** nationally: 73% (PHN); 83.2% (Australia)



44% of the region's LGAs are **classified as remote or very remote**

## Vulnerable groups

### Aboriginal People

Poorer health outcomes with rates of preventable hospitalisations more than

**2.4**

times that of non-Aboriginal people



- Highest rate of teen pregnancies of any NSW PHN: 4.4% compared to 1.7% (NSW 2019)
- Highest rate of low birth weight babies of any NSW PHN: 5.5% (PHN) v 4.8% (NSW 2019)
- Highest rate of smoking during pregnancy of any NSW PHN: 20.7% v 8.8% (NSW 2019)

### Mothers & Babies

### Early Childhood



11.3% of children in their first year of school considered developmentally vulnerable on two or more domains by the Australian Early Development Census Indicators 2018 (9.6% NSW)

### Disability



Higher proportion of the region's population living with a profound or severe disability: 5.2% (PHN); 4.7% (Australia)

### Older People



20.3% of the population aged 65 years and predicted to rise to 25.1% by 2036.

## Health status

73% of surveyed residents reported having **good or excellent health and wellbeing**

## Health Risk Factors



**16.8%**

of people over 16 years smoke, compared with 15.5% for NSW (2019)



**69.5%**

of people over 16 years are overweight or obese compared to 55.2% in NSW (2019)



36.1% of people over 16 years consume alcohol at levels posing long-term risk, compared with 32.8% for NSW (2019)

## Mental health



**25% lower rate** of mental disorder (all) hospitalisations than NSW 1,325.5 (PHN) v 1,779.1 (NSW) per 100,000 (5 year average, 2014-15 to 2018-19)

The rate of intentional self-harm hospitalisations in **females aged 15-24 years was double that in males**: 406.1 v 198.7 per 100,000, respectively (5 years average 2014-15 to 2018-19).

**5-year average suicide rate**

**26.0%**

**higher than NSW (2014-2018)**

**31% increase**

in the rate of Emergency presentations for mental health problems. 1,587.4 (2015-16) to 2,079.4 (2018-19) per 100,000

## Drug & alcohol



Alcohol-related Emergency Department presentations fell by 8% from 2015-16 to 2017-18 (354.5 to 325.7 per 100,000)

**45% decrease**

in illicit substance-related Emergency presentations from 2015-16 to 2017-18 (377.5 to 206.0 per 100,000)



**85%**

of illicit substance-related Emergency presentations were **caused by opioids** between July 2015 and June 2018



**9% higher**

**9% higher rate of methamphetamine-related hospitalisations** of people aged 16+ than NSW: 135.7 (PHN) v 124.3 (NSW) per 100,000 (5 years average 2014-15 to 2018-19).

Trauma, including inter-generational trauma, due to **domestic violence** and **disconnection from family and community** were highlighted as significant contributors for people with drug and alcohol issues and mental illness during consultations

## Chronic Disease



More adults reported having a **long-term health condition**: 60% (PHN); 50% (Australia) in 2016-17



**Highest rate of potentially avoidable deaths** of persons under 75 years of any NSW PHN in 2017-2018 150.6 (PHN) v 99.4 (NSW) per 100,000

**15% higher rate of potentially preventable chronic disease hospitalisations** than in NSW: 1,025.5 (PHN) v 894.8 (NSW) per 100,000 (2018-19)

**OVER 21,000**

people are registered with the National Diabetes Service Scheme

Highest rate of deaths from circulatory disease, chronic kidney disease and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease of any NSW PHN in 2017-2018

## Cancer



**Cancer was the leading cause of death in 2018.**

**8% higher than NSW**

cancer mortality rate than NSW: 165.0 (PHN) v 152.5 (NSW) per 100,000 (2013-2017)  
Lung cancer was the most common cause of cancer deaths during this period (20%).

Most common cancers diagnosed for the 5-year period 2013-2017 were **Prostate Cancer (16.9%)**, **Breast Cancer (11.8%)**, **Skin Melanoma (10%)**, **Lung Cancer (10%)** and **Colon Cancers (7.7%)**.

## Cancer screening



**57.0%**

**Breast cancer screening** participation rate for women aged 50 to 74 years, **higher** than the national rate of 54.8% (2018-19)

**40.1%**

**Cervical cancer screening** participation rate for women aged 20 to 69 years, **lower** than the national rate of 46.3% (2018-19)

**39.7%**

**Bowel cancer screening** participation rate for people aged 50 to 74 years, **lower** than the national rate of 43.8% (2018-19)

## Immunisation



**97.8%**

WNSW PHN leads the state in the rate of **children aged 5 years fully immunised**. The NSW rate is 94.7% (2019)



**Lowest in NSW**

Lowest proportion of persons aged 65 years and over immunised against influenza of any NSW PHN in 2018-2019; 72.0% (PHN) v 76.2% (NSW).

## Using GP services



**Lowest after-hours GP attendance**

(non-urgent and urgent) of any PHN nationally: 0.18 (PHN) compared to 0.49 (Australia) per person in 2016-2017.



**Ageing GP workforce and lower GP full-time equivalent** compared to the NSW average (2017); 7.4 (PHN) v 8.1 (NSW)

## Emergency Department Presentations



Highest in-hours AND after-hours ED attendances of any PHN nationally (2018-19): 192.2 (in-hours) and 152.0 (after-hours) per 1,000 people.

**192.2 per 1,000 people**

**33.3%**

of all low acuity (triage 4 & 5) emergency presentations occur on weekends

## Hospitalisations

**Dialysis and Digestive System diseases** were the leading causes of hospitalisations in 2018-2019.



**Second highest rate** of potentially preventable (all) hospitalisations among NSW PHNs in 2018-2019; 2,545.5 (PHN) v 2,141.6 (NSW) per 100,000.

## Top 5 Community Health Concerns



Alcohol and Drug Use



Mental Health Problems



Cancer



Obesity



Diabetes

## Top 5 Community Service Gaps

Medical Specialists Services



GP Services



Hospital Services



Transport to Medical Services



Mental Health Services

## Top 5 Specialist Service Gaps



Oncology



Cardiology



Orthopaedics



Paediatrics



Ophthalmology

## Key needs highlighted from WNSW PHN consultation workshops



Improved access to mental health services



Co-design of services, that is community-led and centred, to improve access to mental health services



Localised drug and alcohol detox and rehabilitation services

Improved service referral pathways

Preventative strategies promoting healthy lifestyles across all life stages

**phn**  
WESTERN NSW

An Australian Government Initiative

Call 1300 699 167

[wnswphn.org.au](http://wnswphn.org.au)

Dubbo

Broken Hill

Bathurst

Orange

Bourke

(Head Office)

# Health Profile 2021 Data Sources

## AREA PROFILE

1. Australian Government Department of Health (2015), *Western NSW PHN Fact Sheet*
2. Area of Land "NSW Local Government Area ASGS NonABS Structures Edition 2014", article no: 1270.0.55.003
3. Australian Government Department of Health (2017) <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/PHN-Concordances>
4. NSW Rural Doctors Network 08.03.2021
5. Health Workforce Australia (2014) Health Workforce Data

## DEMOGRAPHICS

### Total Population

1. Based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics estimated resident populations. Population projections based on data from the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (SAPHaRI). Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence, NSW Ministry of Health Available at: [www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au](http://www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au)

### Aboriginal population

2. Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, February 2021. Available at: <http://www.phidu.torrens.edu.au/social-health-atlases/data>

## DRIVERS OF HEALTH OUTCOMES

### Socio-economic disadvantage

1. SEIFA ABS Census 2016 Available at: <http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/censushome.nsf/home/seifa>
2. Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, October 2018. Available at: <http://www.phidu.torrens.edu.au/social-health-atlases/data>
3. Australian Population and Migration Research Centre, University of Adelaide ARIA 2011 and Accessibility Available at: [http://www.spatialonline.com.au/ARIA\\_2011/default.aspx](http://www.spatialonline.com.au/ARIA_2011/default.aspx) Accessed: 09/05/2017

## VULNERABLE GROUPS

### Aboriginal people

1. NSW Combined Admitted Patient Epidemiology Data and ABS population estimates (SAPHaRI). Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence, NSW Ministry of Health. Available at: <http://www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au>

### Mothers and babies

2. NSW Perinatal Data Collection (SAPHaRI). Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence, NSW Ministry of Health. Available at: <http://www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au>

### Early childhood

3. Compiled by PHIDU based on data from the 2018 Australian Early Development Census Available at: <http://www.phidu.torrens.edu.au/social-health-atlases/data>

### Disability

4. Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, October 2018. Available at: <http://www.phidu.torrens.edu.au/social-health-atlases/data>

### Older people

3. Based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics estimated resident populations. Population projections based on data from the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (SAPHaRI). Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence, NSW Ministry of Health Available at: [www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au](http://www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au)

## HEALTH STATUS

1. Community Health Survey for Western NSW Primary Health Network, August 2018

## HEALTH RISK FACTORS

1. NSW Population Health Survey (SAPHaRI). Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence, NSW Ministry of Health. Available at: <http://www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au>

## HEALTH OUTCOMES

### Mental health

1. NSW Combined Admitted Patient Epidemiology Data and ABS population estimates (SAPHaRI). Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence, NSW Ministry of Health. Available at: <http://www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au>
2. Death Unit Record File; the data for the most 2 recent years are preliminary (SAPHaRI, Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence, NSW Ministry of Health) Available at: <http://www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au>

## DRUG AND ALCOHOL

1. NSW Combined Admitted Patient Epidemiology Data and ABS population estimates (SAPHaRI). Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence, NSW Ministry of Health. Available at: <http://www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au>

## CANCER

1. Death Unit Record File; the data for the most 2 recent years are preliminary (SAPHaRI, Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence, NSW Ministry of Health) Available at: <http://www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au>

## CHRONIC DISEASE

1. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare analysis of Australian Bureau of Statistics, Patient Experience Survey 2015-16.
2. Death Unit Record File; the data for the most 2 recent years are preliminary (SAPHaRI, Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence, NSW Ministry of Health) Available at: <http://www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au>
3. NSW Combined Admitted Patient Epidemiology Data and ABS population estimates (SAPHaRI). Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence, NSW Ministry of Health. Available at: <http://www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au>
4. The National Diabetes Service Scheme (NDSS) December 2017: Australian Diabetes Map Available <http://www.diabetesmap.com.au/#/>
5. Death Unit Record File; the data for the most 2 recent years are preliminary (SAPHaRI, Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence, NSW Ministry of Health) Available at: <http://www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au>

## PREVENTION

### Cancer

1. Cancer Statistics NSW, Cancer Institute NSW December 2020. Available at: <https://www.cancer.nsw.gov.au>

### Cancer screening

1. Cancer Statistics NSW, Cancer Institute NSW December 2020. Available at: <https://www.cancer.nsw.gov.au>
2. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare analysis of National Cancer Screening Register data and National Bowel Cancer Screening Program Register data. Available at: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/>

### Immunisation

1. Based on data from the Australian Immunisation Register. Health Protection NSW. Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence, NSW Ministry of Health. Available at: [www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au](http://www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au)

## GP SERVICES

1. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare analysis of Department of Health, MBS claims data; and ABS, ERP. Available at: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/>
2. State of General Practice in Western NSW PHN, 2017

## EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT PRESENTATIONS

1. National non-admitted patient emergency department care database 2018-19, and Australian Bureau of Statistics Estimated Resident Population 30 June 2018. Available at: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/primary-health-care/use-of-ed-for-lower-urgency-care-2018-19/data>
2. HIU Analysis of NSW Health HIE Health Information Exchange date of extraction 17/11/20

### Hospitalisations

1. NSW Combined Admitted Patient Epidemiology Data and ABS population estimates (SAPHaRI). Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence, NSW Ministry of Health. Available at: <http://www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au>

## TOP 5 COMMUNITY HEALTH CONCERNS AND SERVICE GAPS

1. Community Health Survey for Western NSW Primary Health Network, August 2018

## KEY NEEDS HIGHLIGHTED FROM WNSW PHN CONSULTATION WORKSHOPS

1. Western NSW Needs Assessment Consultations Workshops Final Report, 2018



An Australian Government Initiative