

# Exploring the health of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) populations in Queensland: 2016–17 to 2019–20

## Fact sheet 2: Overview of potentially preventable hospitalisations: vaccine-preventable conditions.

**Purpose of this factsheet:** To provide a summary of key findings of vaccine-preventable conditions.

This fact sheet is part of the Queensland Health CALD Data Report release. For more information, see the full report on the [Queensland Health website](#).



### Background



The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) defines the CALD population mainly by country of birth, language spoken at home, English proficiency, or other characteristics (including year of arrival in Australia), parents' country of birth and religious affiliation.

Potentially preventable hospitalisations (PPH) are hospital admissions that potentially could have been prevented by timely and adequate access to health care in primary care and community-based care settings.

These include vaccine-preventable, chronic and acute health conditions.



A vaccine-preventable condition is a condition for which a vaccine exists.

Worldwide, vaccination is a successful and cost-effective population health intervention. It is a safe and effective way to protect individuals and communities against infectious diseases.

Australia's national immunisation program is one of the most comprehensive in the world. However, key demographic groups including some CALD populations have low immunisation rates due to various factors.



The [National Preventive Health Strategy 2021–2030](#) has identified CALD communities as one of the priority populations in Australia who experience a disproportionate burden of disease, leading to differences in health outcomes due to many factors including cultural and social determinants of health.

For more information about each of the vaccine-preventable conditions (including causes, symptoms and management), see the [Healthdirect Australia website](#).



**Please note:** This report was developed to inform evidence-based health service planning and delivery. It should not be interpreted as performance indicators for the communities mentioned. The findings present an opportunity for further discussion and exploration to unpack underlying issues at community and system levels.



## About the report

- The report explored PPH due to vaccine-preventable conditions and compared the rates between overseas born and Australian-born populations in Queensland.
- Vaccine-preventable conditions were classified into those related to vaccine-preventable influenza and pneumonia and those related to [other vaccine-preventable conditions](#) such as whooping cough, acute poliomyelitis, varicella (chicken pox), measles, tetanus, mumps and rubella.
- Disparities in health outcomes were particularly visible when data were disaggregated by region and country of birth, compared to analysis by broad population categories.

### Key findings: Analysis at the level of region of birth



People from most regions with non-English speaking backgrounds (NESB) populations had higher rates of vaccine-preventable conditions than the Australian-born population.



When compared to the Australian-born population, Queensland residents from the following regions had significantly higher rates of PPH due to vaccine-preventable conditions:

- Other Oceania and Antarctica
- North African
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- South-East Asia
- North-East Asia
- Middle East
- New Zealand

The naming of these regions is aligned with ABS classification.

### Key findings: Analysis at the level of country of birth



When compared to the Australian-born population, Queensland residents from many countries had significantly higher rates of PPH due to vaccine-preventable conditions.

Highest rates were seen in people from:



Somalia **11.30 × higher**



Sudan **8.85 × higher**



Tonga **6.96 × higher**



Samoa **6.92 × higher**



Eritrea **6.43 × higher**



Cook Islands **6.36 × higher**

**Note:** Vaccination attitudes among CALD populations is more influenced by socio-cultural values rather than country of birth. Targeted community engagement, health promotion and education as well as further studies based on social determinants of health may provide additional insights.

NESB – Non-English Speaking Background   MESB – Mainly English Speaking Background   CALD – Culturally and Linguistically Diverse

For more information email: [multicultural@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:multicultural@health.qld.gov.au)



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