Children in Queensland
status, trends and disparities

Children need to have a healthy start to life. Maternal and paternal health and wellbeing from pre-conception to pregnancy and through infancy have a major influence on long-term outcomes.

Childhood sets the foundation for a healthy lifestyle with lifelong benefits. It is a sensitive developmental stage when social and cognitive skills, habits, coping strategies, attitudes and values are acquired and strongly influence future health.

The family and home environment are central to good health and wellbeing. Neighbourhood environments need to be family friendly and encourage activity throughout life.

School environments remain important for physical activity. The food and drink supply needs to favour the consumption of healthier food choices.

Most common health conditions

- 11% allergies
- 10% sight problems
- 10% asthma
- 8% hay fever and allergic rhinitis
- 7% anxiety-related disorders

Starting school

- 94% were fully immunised at five years of age (2017)
- 16,200 children (26%) were developmentally vulnerable in one or more AEDC domains at their first year of school (2015)

AEDC: Australian Early Development Census

Adopting healthy habits

- 11 hours average physical activity each week (5–17 years)
- 41% in free time
- 16% at club sport
- 33% at school
- 10% in active transport

Data in this factsheet refers to Queenslanders aged 0–14 years, unless otherwise noted.
Children in Queensland

Health service utilisation

145,000 hospitalisations (2015–16)
11% of children were admitted in the previous year
21% of all admissions for respiratory conditions
14% for injuries

Average GP visits per year
- 4.8 visits 0–4 years
- 2.5 visits 5–14 years

Hospitalisations for dental decay (0–9 years) over 10 years
- 32% increase for Indigenous
- 19% decrease for non-Indigenous

Contributors to lifetime health and wellbeing

Initiate and maintain breastfeeding
Young mothers aged under 20 years were less likely to breastfeed

Healthy eating and good oral hygiene will improve oral health outcomes

Reduce the 1 in 2 children aged 5–17 years who consume unhealthy snacks every day

Avoid children’s exposure to tobacco smoke and role models who smoke
Sustained action is needed to maintain the focus on healthy eating at home and school.

Adequate sun protection

Daily physical activity
75,000 living with disability
1 in 13 children

Children depend on activity in free time and at school to achieve their overall level of physical activity.

More information, access to interactive data visualisations and detail on definitions and methods is available from the main report and the website: www.health.qld.gov.au/cho_report
For further information: Population_Epidemiology@health.qld.gov.au