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

## Fact sheet 4: Overview of potentially preventable hospitalisations: acute conditions.

**Purpose of this factsheet:** To provide a summary of key findings of acute 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 health care in primary care and community-based care settings.

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

An acute condition is a health condition that develops suddenly and lasts for a limited time. Hospitalisation can be prevented with timely and adequate care (usually non-hospital).

**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 current Queensland Health study explored PPH due to acute conditions and compared the rates between overseas born and Australian-born populations in Queensland.
- Analysis was done for total (all) acute conditions as well as selected acute conditions: Urinary tract infections (UTI), gangrene, pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), perforated/bleeding ulcer, convulsions, dental conditions, ear, nose and throat (ENT) infections, cellulitis.
- 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 of total (all) acute conditions at the level of region of birth

No region had significantly higher rates of acute conditions than the Australian-born population.

The naming of these regions is aligned with ABS classification.

## Key findings: Analysis of total (all) acute conditions at the level of country of birth

When compared to the Australian-born population, Queensland residents born in several countries had significantly higher rates of PPH due to acute conditions.

**Highest rates were seen in people from:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Sudan | **1.95** × higher |
| Syria | **1.89** × higher |
| Somalia | **1.41** × higher |
| Samoa | **1.36** × higher |
| Afghanistan | **1.27** × higher |
| Cook Islands | **1.25** × higher |

## Key findings: Analysis for each acute condition

| Condition *(click hyperlink for more info about the condition including definition, symptoms and management)* | Definition | Regions of birth with significantly higher rates than Australian-born | Countries of birth with significantly higher rates than Australian-born |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Cellulitis* | Skin infection | No region had significantly higher rates of cellulitis | Cook Islands, Samoa and Tonga |
| *Convulsions and epilepsy* | Brain condition that causes episodes of body seizures | Males from North African | Sudan and Somalia |
| *Dental conditions* | Conditions that affect oral health including cavities, bleeding gums etc | No region had significantlyhigher rates of dental conditions | Syria and Iraq |
| *Ear, nose and throat (ENT) infections* | Caused by a bacterial or viral infection of the upper respiratory tract, which results in inflammation of the ear and surrounding tissue, the sinus passages and the throat | Females from North African | Sudan, Afghanistan, Eritrea, Somalia, Iraq, and Samoa |
| *Gangrene* | Death of body tissue due to a lack of blood flow or a severe bacterial infection | No region had significantly higher rates of gangrene | Serbia |
| *Pelvic inflammatory disease (PID)* *(female only condition)* | Infection and inflammation of an organ(s) in a woman's pelvic area, such as the cervix, endometrium (lining of the uterus), fallopian tubes or ovaries | North African and New Zealand | Sudan and New Zealand |
| *Perforated/bleeding ulcer* | Open, inflamed sores in the lining of the digestive tract | Other Oceania and Antarctica<br>Males from South-East Asia<br>Females from Southern and Central Asia | Samoa, Vietnam and Ireland |
| *Urinary tract infections (UTIs)* | Infection of the urinary tract (includes the kidneys, the ureters and the bladder) | No region had significantly higher rates of UTIs | People born in several countries had significantly higher rates with the top five countries being Syria, Somalia, Afghanistan, Sudan and Turkey |

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

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