

# How Queensland Compares

## Interstate Rankings on Selected Health Indicators, Australia, 2013

### Definitions

#### Age-specific death rate

Age-specific death rates are the number of deaths (occurred or registered) during the reference year at a specified age per 100,000 of the estimated resident population of the same age, at the mid-point of the year (30 June). Pro rata adjustment is made in respect of deaths for which the age of the deceased is not given.

*Reference: Deaths, Australia (cat. no. 3302.0).*

#### Arthritis

Based on people reporting arthritis as a current long-term condition (lasting or expecting to last six months or more), including osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, and/or other arthritis. This refers to those who consider they currently have arthritis (whether or not they had been told by a doctor or nurse that they had the condition).

*Reference: Australian Health Survey: Users' Guide, 2011-13 (cat. no. 4363.0.55.001).*

#### Asthma

Based on people reporting having asthma. To be current, the respondent must have been told by a doctor or nurse that they have asthma, and have had symptoms or taken treatment for asthma in the 12 months prior to interview.

*Reference: Australian Health Survey: Users' Guide, 2011-13 (cat. no. 4363.0.55.001).*

#### Available public hospital beds (per 1,000 people)

An 'available bed' is one that is immediately available for exclusive or predominate use by admitted patients. A bed is immediately available for use if it is located in a suitable place for care, with nursing and auxiliary staff available within a reasonable period. Both occupied and unoccupied beds are included. Surgical tables, recovery trolleys, delivery beds, cots for normal neonates, emergency stretchers/beds not normally authorised or funded, and beds designated for same day non-admitted patient care are excluded. Beds in wards that were closed for any reason (except weekend closures for beds/wards staffed and available on weekends only) are also excluded (National Health Data Dictionary, Version 14).

*Reference: SCRGSP (Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision) 2015, Report on Government Services 2015, vol. E, Health, Productivity Commission, Canberra.*

#### Breast cancer deaths

Deaths where malignant neoplasm of the breast is identified as the underlying cause (International Classification of Diseases 10th Revision, code C50).

*Reference: Causes of Death, Australia, 2013 (cat. no. 3303.0).*

#### Cancer

Based on people reporting a malignant neoplasm (cancer). This refers primarily to those ever told by a doctor or nurse they have cancer, who consider they currently have cancer (including cancer in remission). Cancer was assumed to be a long-term condition (lasting or expected to last six months or more).

*Reference: Australian Health Survey: Users' Guide, 2011-13 (cat. no. 4363.0.55.001).*

#### Cancer deaths

Deaths where malignant neoplasms are identified as the underlying cause (International Classification of Diseases 10th Revision, codes C00-C97).

*Reference: Causes of Death, Australia, 2013 (cat. no. 3303.0).*

#### Causes of death

Underlying causes of death are classified to the International Classification of Diseases 10th Revision.

*Reference: Causes of Death, Australia, 2013 (cat. no. 3303.0).*

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#### Current smokers

Persons aged 18 years and over who reported being current smokers (includes current daily smokers and other current smokers). Smoking included manufactured (packet) cigarettes, roll-your-own cigarettes, cigars or pipes. Smoking excludes chewing tobacco and smoking of non-tobacco products.

Reference: *Australian Health Survey: Users' Guide, 2011-13* (cat. no. 4363.0.55.001).

#### Deaths

Death is the permanent disappearance of all evidence of life after birth has taken place. The definition excludes deaths prior to live birth. For the purposes of the Deaths and Causes of Death collections conducted by the ABS, a death refers to any death which occurs in, or en route to Australia and is registered with a state or territory Registry of Births, Deaths or Marriages.

Reference: *Deaths, Australia* (cat. no. 3302.0).

#### Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease

Deaths where dementia or Alzheimer's disease was identified as the underlying cause (International Classification of Disease 10th Revision, codes F01, F03, G30).

Reference: *Causes of Death, Australia, 2013* (cat. no. 3303.0).

#### Diabetes mellitus

Based on people reporting diabetes mellitus as current condition. This refers primarily to those ever told by a doctor or nurse they have diabetes mellitus or high sugar levels in their blood or urine, and who consider they currently have this condition.

Reference: *Australian Health Survey: Users' Guide, 2011-13* (cat. no. 4363.0.55.001).

#### Diabetes mellitus deaths

Deaths where diabetes mellitus was identified as the underlying cause (International Classification of Diseases 10th Revision, codes E10-E14).

Reference: *Causes of Death, Australia, 2013* (cat. no. 3303.0).

#### Drug induced deaths

Any death directly caused by an acute episode of poisoning or toxicity to drugs, including deaths from accidental overdoses, suicide and assault, and any death from an acute condition caused by habitual drug use. The term 'drug' refers to substances classified as drugs that may be used for medicinal or therapeutic purposes and those that produce a psychoactive effect excluding alcohol, tobacco and volatile solvents (e.g. petrol). Drug induced causes exclude accidents, homicides and other causes indirectly related to drug use. Also excluded are newborn deaths associated with mother's drug use. See Appendix 2: Tabulation of selected causes of death in *Causes of Death, Australia, 2013* (cat. no. 3303.0) for the International Classification of Diseases 10th Revision codes.

Reference: *Causes of Death, Australia, 2013* (cat.no. 3303.0).

#### Full time equivalent doctors per 100,000 people

FTE rate (FTE per 100,000 people) is based on a standard full-time working week of 40 hours. Includes medical practitioners who are employed in medicine. Excludes medical practitioners on extended leave.

Reference: *SCRGSP (Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision) 2015, Report on Government Services 2015, vol. E, Health, Productivity Commission, Canberra.*

#### Full time equivalent nurses per 100,000 people

FTE rate (FTE per 100 000 people) is based on standard full-time working week of 38 hours. Includes registered and enrolled nurses who are employed in nursing.

Reference: *SCRGSP (Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision) 2015, Report on Government Services 2015, vol. E, Health, Productivity Commission, Canberra.*

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#### Fully immunised at 60 months

A child who has, by the age of 5 years, received the necessary doses of diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, polio, and measles, mumps and rubella vaccines – four or five doses (depending on the type of vaccine used) of diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis vaccine, four doses of polio vaccine, three doses of Hepatitis B vaccine, three or four doses (depending on the type of vaccine used) of Haemophilus influenzae type B and two doses of measles, mumps and rubella vaccine.

*Reference: SCRGSP (Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision) 2015, Report on Government Services 2015, vol. E, Health, Productivity Commission.*

#### Hospital separations (per 1,000 people)

The total number of separations in all hospitals (public and private) providing acute care services per 1,000 estimated resident population at 30 June of the year in question. A separation is an episode of care which can be a total hospital stay (from admission to discharge, transfer or death) or a portion of a hospital stay ending in a change of status (for example from acute care to rehabilitation). Hospitals providing acute care services are those in which the treatments typically require short durations of stay.

*Reference: Health Services Series, Number 60: Admitted patient care, 2013-14: Australian Hospital Statistics (AIHW cat. no. HSE 156).*

#### Hypertension

Based on people reporting hypertension (high blood pressure) as a long-term condition (lasting or expecting to last six months or more), whether or not controlled by medication.

*Reference: Australian Health Survey: Users' Guide, 2011-13 (cat. no. 4363.0.55.001).*

#### Infant mortality rate

The number of deaths of children under one year of age in one calendar year per 1,000 live births in the same calendar year.

*Reference: Deaths, Australia (cat. no. 3302.0).*

#### Ischaemic heart disease

Based on people reporting ischaemic heart disease as a long-term condition (lasting or expecting to last six months or more), including heart attack, angina and other heart disease, whether or not controlled by medication.

*Reference: Australian Health Survey: Users' Guide, 2011-13 (cat. no. 4363.0.55.001).*

#### Ischaemic heart disease deaths

Deaths where coronary heart diseases, including heart attack (acute myocardial infarction, coronary occlusion) and angina (angina pectoris), are identified as the underlying cause (International Classification of Diseases 10th Revision, codes I20-I25).

*Reference: Causes of Death, Australia, 2013 (cat. no. 3303.0).*

#### Life expectancy

Refers to the average number of additional years a person of a given age and sex might expect to live if the age-specific death rates of the given period continue throughout his/her life time. Life expectancies are calculated from life tables which are statistical models of levels of mortality in a population of different ages. Life tables for the total population are based on three years ending in the reference year of the table.

*Reference: Deaths, Australia (cat. no. 3302.0); Life Tables for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2010-2012 (cat. no. 3302.0.55.003).*

#### Live birth

The birth of a child, who, after delivery, breathes or shows any other evidence of life such as a heartbeat.

*Reference: Deaths, Australia (cat. no. 3302.0).*

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#### **Low usual intake of fruit and vegetables**

Refers to the usual intake of less than two serves of fruit or less than five serves of vegetables per day for people aged 18 years and over, or the usual intake of less than three serves of fruit or less than four serves of vegetables per day for people aged 15–17 years. Fruit and vegetables includes fresh, dried, frozen and tinned and excludes drinks and beverages. A serve of fruit is approximately 150 grams of fresh fruit or 50 grams of dried fruit. A serve of vegetables is approximately half a cup of cooked vegetables or one cup of salad vegetables – equivalent to approximately 75 grams. Based on the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) guidelines for Australians.

*Reference: Australian Health Survey: Users' Guide, 2011-13 (cat. no. 4363.0.55.001).*

#### **Lung cancer deaths**

Deaths where malignant neoplasm of the bronchus and lung are identified as the underlying cause (International Classification of Diseases 10th Revision, code C34).

*Reference: Causes of Death, Australia, 2013 (cat. no. 3303.0).*

#### **Morbidity**

Refers to ill health in an individual and to levels of ill health in a population or group.

*Reference: Australia's Health 2014 (AIHW cat. no. AUS 178).*

#### **Motor vehicle traffic accident deaths**

Deaths where motor traffic accidents are identified as the underlying cause (International Classification of Diseases 10th Revision, codes V01-V89, Y850).

*Reference: Causes of Death, Australia, 2013 (cat. no. 3303.0).*

#### **Overweight or obese adults**

Overweight is defined by a body mass index (BMI) greater than or equal to 25 and less than 30, while obesity is defined by a BMI greater than or equal to 30. BMI is body weight in kilograms divided by the square of height in metres. Calculations are based on self-reported height and weight and excludes persons for whom height and/or weight are unknown.

*Reference: Australian Health Survey: Users' Guide, 2011-13 (cat. no. 4363.0.55.001).*

#### **Prostate cancer deaths**

Deaths where malignant neoplasm of the prostate gland is identified as the underlying cause (International Classification of Diseases 10th Revision, code C61).

*Reference: Causes of Death, Australia, 2013 (cat. no. 3303.0).*

#### **Psychological distress**

Derived from the Kessler 10 Scale (K10). This is a scale of non-specific psychological distress based on 10 questions about negative emotional states in the four weeks prior to interview. The K10 is scored from 10 to 50, with high scores indicating a high level of distress, and low scores indicating a low level of distress. Scores are grouped as follows:

- Low (10-15)
- Moderate (16-21)
- High (22-29)
- Very High (30-50).

*Reference: Australian Health Survey: Users' Guide, 2011-13 (cat. no. 4363.0.55.001).*

#### **Residential aged care places (per 1,000 people aged 70 years and over)**

The number of beds which are provided for long-term nursing care to chronically ill, frail or disabled people, and beds provided for people who are unable to live wholly independently but do not require nursing care, per 1,000 of the population aged 70 years and over.

*Reference: Aged Care Statistics Series, Number 36: Residential Aged Care in Australia 2010-11: A statistical overview (AIHW cat. no. AGE 68).*

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#### **Risky/high-risk drinkers**

Persons aged 18 years and over who reported drinking more than the 2009 guidelines set by the National Health and Medical Research Council.

*Reference: Australian Health Survey: Users' Guide, 2011-13 (cat. no. 4363.0.55.001).*

#### **Sedentary or low exercise level**

Based on frequency, intensity and duration of exercise for fitness, recreation or sport in the week prior to the interview.

*Reference: Australian Health Survey: Users' Guide, 2011-13 (cat. no. 4363.0.55.001).*

#### **Skin cancer deaths**

Deaths where malignant neoplasm of the skin, including both melanoma and non-melanocytic skin cancer is identified as the underlying cause (International Classification of Diseases 10th Revision, codes C43-C44).

*Reference: Causes of Death, Australia, 2013 (cat. no. 3303.0).*

#### **Standardised rates**

These enable the comparison of rates between populations with differing age structures by relating them to a standard population. These rates are the overall rates that would have prevailed in the standard population if it had experienced at each age the rates of the population being studied. The standard population used is the estimated resident population for Australia (persons) at 30 June 2001. Age standardised rates may vary from those published previously because of different standard populations used and different age groups used for standardisation.

*Reference: Deaths, Australia (cat. no. 3302.0) and Australian Health Survey: First Results, 2011-12 (cat. no. 4364.0.55.001).*

#### **Stroke deaths**

Deaths where cerebrovascular disease (causing a blockage (embolism) or rupture (haemorrhage) of blood vessels within or leading to the brain) is identified as the underlying cause (International Classification of Diseases 10th Revision, codes I60-I69).

*Reference: Causes of Death, Australia, 2013 (cat. no. 3303.0).*

#### **Suicide deaths**

Deaths where suicide is identified as the underlying cause (International Classification of Diseases 10th Revision, codes X60-X84, Y870).

*Reference: Causes of Death, Australia, 2013 (cat. no. 3303.0).*

#### **Underlying cause of death**

An underlying cause of death is the disease or injury that initiated the train of morbid events leading directly to death. Accidental and violent deaths are classified according to the external cause, that is, to the circumstances of the accident or violence that produced the fatal injury, rather than to the nature of the injury.

*Reference: Causes of Death, Australia, 2013 (cat. no. 3303.0).*

Note: Prepared by Health Statistics Branch, Queensland Health from various publications and data custodians.