



Death and hospitalisation rates by country of birth in Queensland #3: avoidable deaths

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Key Findings

- Rates of total avoidable mortality among Mainly English Speaking Background (MESB) and Non-English Speaking Background (NESB) populations were about 15% and 20% lower than rates in the Australian born population in Queensland over the 5 year period 2003-2007, respectively.
- All regions had similar or lower total avoidable mortality rates than the Australian born population, except females born in Oceania and Antarctica with rates about 25% higher.
- Preventable and health care amenable avoidable mortality rates were between 10% and 30% lower in the overseas born groups (NESB and MESB) compared to the Australian born population, and country of birth regions were similar to or lower than the Australian born rate for both sexes.

This is the third in a series of reports analysing death and hospitalisations rates in Queensland by country of birth and compares rates of avoidable deaths. Data sources, definitions and analytical methods were described in the first report in this series¹.

Avoidable deaths

Avoidable deaths are defined as those where death is thought to have been preventable or avoidable with the provision of timely and adequate health care², and are described in other Queensland Health reports.^{3,4} The rate of avoidable death is a performance indicator in the National Healthcare Agreement⁵. Total avoidable deaths were analysed in addition to the two sub-categories; deaths due to preventable and health care amenable conditions.

Total avoidable deaths

Over the five year period 2003 to 2007, the rates of avoidable death among both MESB and NESB populations were about 15% and 20% lower than the rate for Australian born Queenslanders respectively (Figure 1). This pattern was similar for both males and females. Considering region of birth, the rate of avoidable death for females born in the Other Oceania and Antarctica region (excluding Australia and external territories, and New Zealand) was about 25% higher than the Australian born rate (Figure 2). Rates in all other regions were either similar to or lower than the Australian born rate for both sexes.

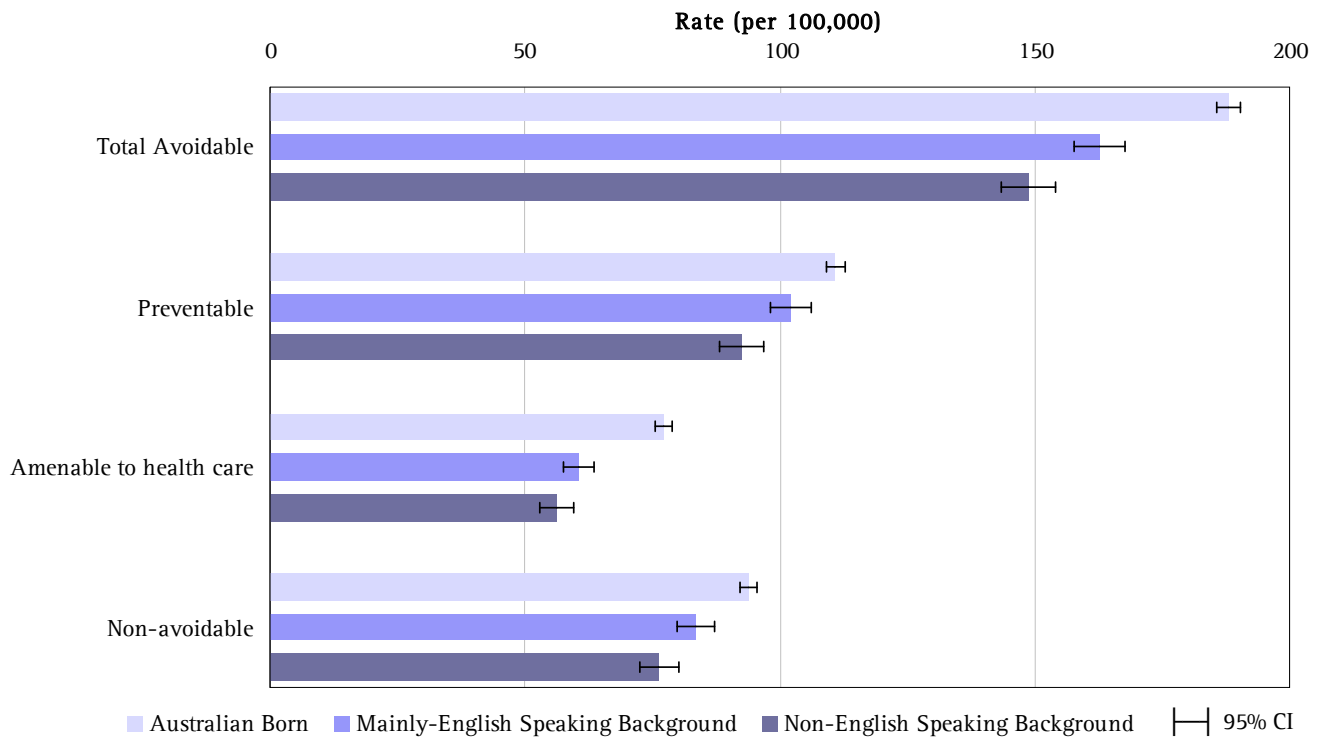
Avoidable deaths – preventable conditions

Over the five year period 2003 to 2007, the rate of avoidable death due to preventable conditions among the MESB population was about 10% lower than the rate in the Australian born population, and the NESB rate was 20% lower than the Australian born rate (Figure 1). This pattern was similar for both males and females. Based on region of birth, all overseas born regions were either similar or lower compared to the Australian born population in Queensland (Figure 3a).

Avoidable deaths – health care amenable conditions

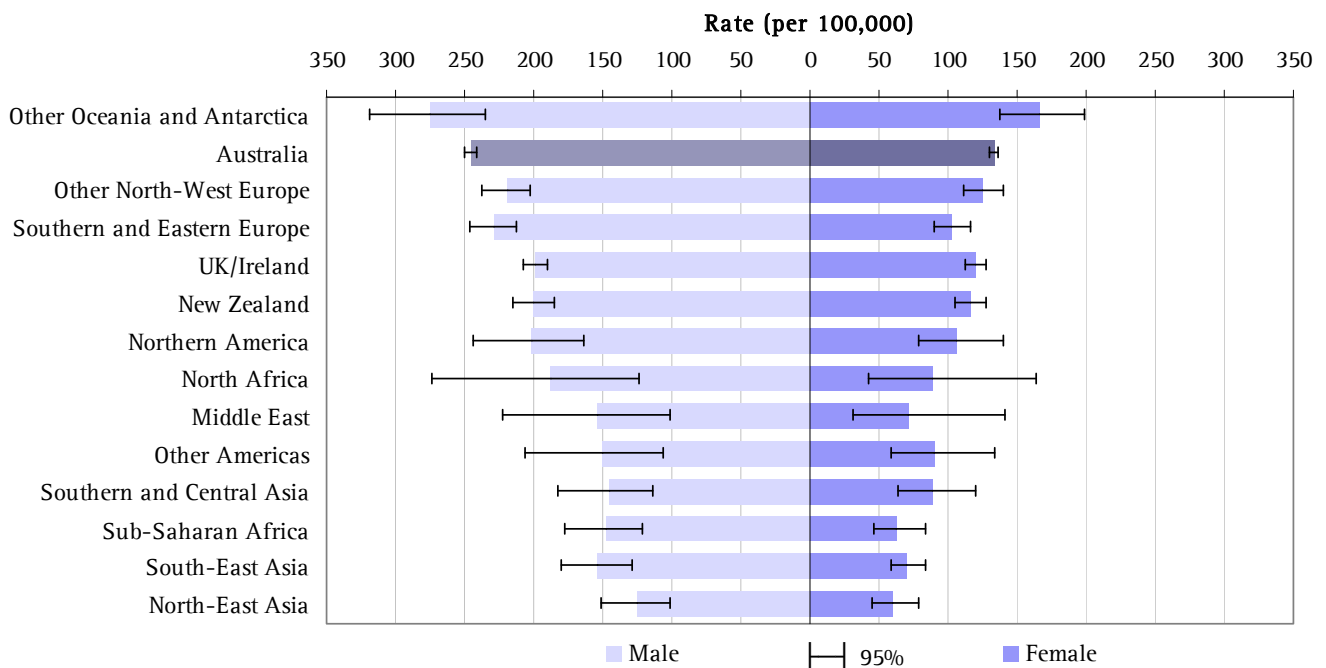
Over the five year period 2003 to 2007, the rate of avoidable death due to health care amenable conditions among the MESB population was about 20% lower than the rate in the Australian born population, and the NESB rate was 30% lower than the Australian born rate (Figure 1). This pattern was evident for females while in males the MESB and NESB rate was 30% lower compared to the Australian born population. Based on region of birth, all overseas born regions were either similar or lower compared to the Australian born population in Queensland (Figure 3b).

Figure 1. Age-standardised rates of avoidable death by broad country of birth category, Queensland, 2003-2007



Source: Causes of Death, Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) (extracted 16/11/2010)

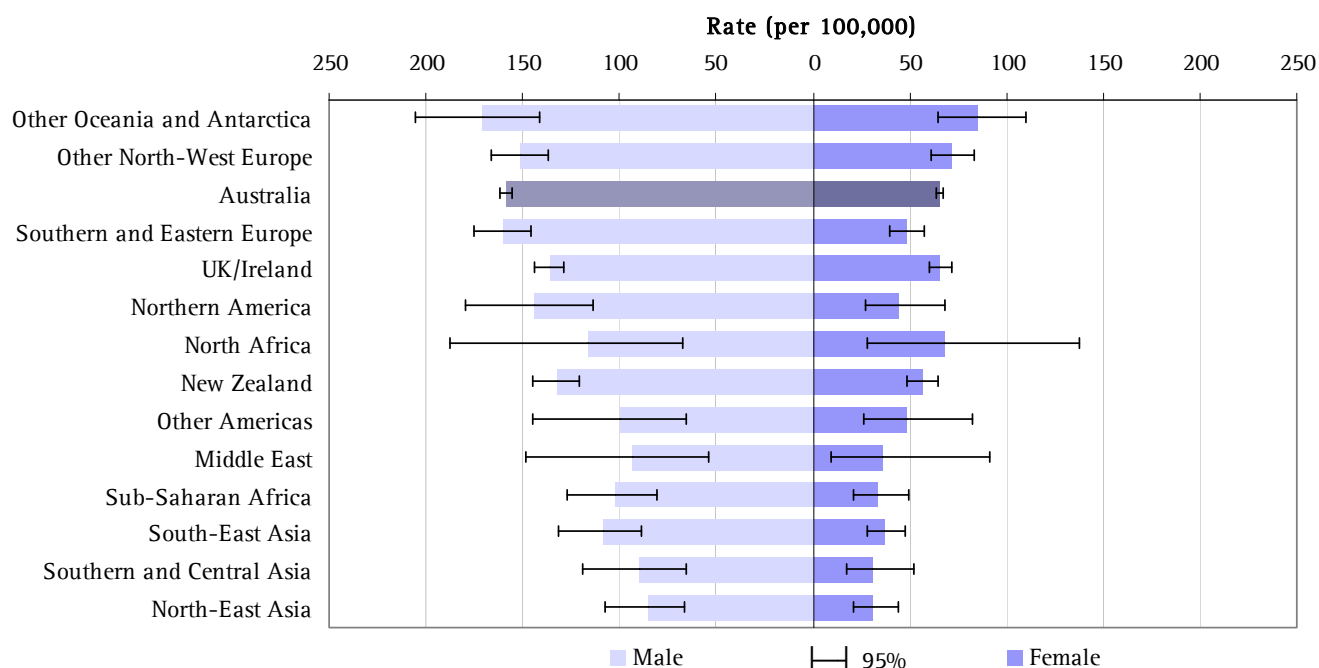
Figure 2. Age-standardised rates of total avoidable death by region of birth and sex, Queensland, 2003-2007



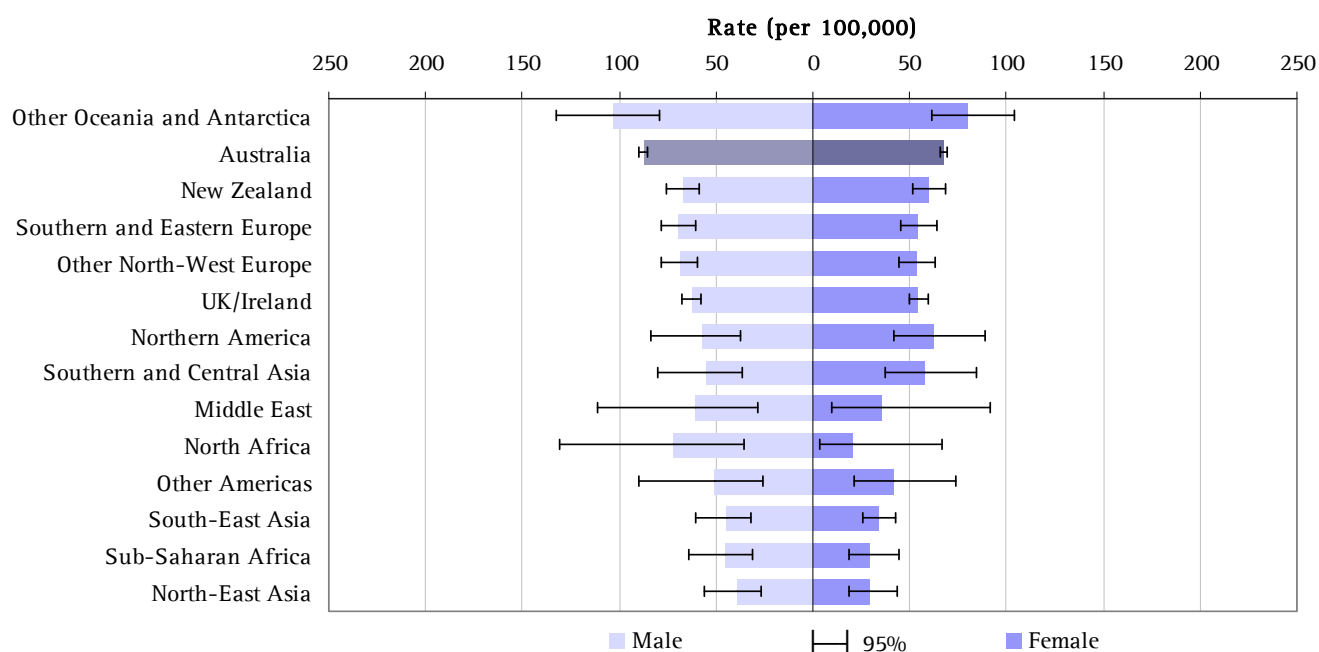
Source: Causes of Death, Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) (extracted 16/11/2010)

Figure 3. Age-standardised rates of avoidable death by region of birth, sex and preventability, Queensland, 2003-2007

a. Preventable conditions



b. Health care amenable conditions



Source: Causes of Death, Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) (extracted 16/11/2010)

References

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