

Asthma and COPD in Australia

One in Nine
(2.7 million)

Australians live with asthma, including over 237,000 in Western Australia. Over 46,000 people have COPD.¹



In our vulnerable Indigenous community **this figure is almost twice as high**

MORTALITY RATES IN 2019

436

Australians died from asthma⁵



Asthma mortality rates are higher for:

- people living in remote areas
- people living in areas of low socio-economic status
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples⁵

7,491 Australians died from COPD⁵



COPD

is a chronic lung disease that effects 14% (one in seven) people aged 40 or over³

This figure increases to

29% of Australians aged 75 or over

QUALITY OF LIFE

Whilst not everyone with asthma is hospitalised, poor management contributes to a

decreased

quality of life, poor sleep quality, fatigue, and depression¹

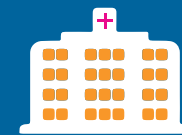


People with COPD are

more likely

to experience greater bodily pain than those without the condition⁴

HOSPITALISATIONS



80%

of hospital admissions due to asthma are potentially avoidable²

Every year approximately

40,000

Australians are hospitalised due to their asthma²

and

76,600

people aged 45 years and over are hospitalised due to their COPD⁴



71.6%

of people with asthma

do not have an Asthma Action Plan⁶

52%

of young people with asthma are at risk of mental illness



The average person with asthma has

2

more days off work than a someone without the condition and in children it is the leading reason for school absenteeism



1. Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2018; National Health Survey: First Results, 2017-18. ABS Cat no. 4364.0.55.001. Canberra: ABS

2. AIHW 2019, Separation statistics by principal diagnosis (ICD-10-AM 10th edition), Australia 2017-18. Canberra: AIHW

3. Toelle B, Xuan W, Bird T, Abramson M, Atkinson D, Burton D, James A, Jenkins C, Johns D, Maguire G, Musk A, Walters E, Wood-Baker R, Hunter M, Graham B, Southwell P, Vollmer W, Buist A, Marks G, 2013; Respiratory symptoms and illness in older Australians: The Burden of Obstructive Lung Disease (BOLD) study. Med J Aust: 198:144-148

4. AIHW 2020, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Web Report. AIHW Car no. ACM 35. Canberra: AIHW

5. Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2020; Causes of Death, Australia 2019. Canberra: ABS

6. Australian Government Productivity Commission 2018. Report on Government Services