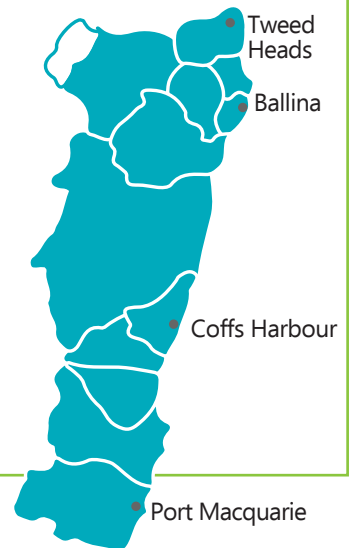


A key role of North Coast Primary Health Network (NCPHN) is to identify local health needs and service gaps and, based on this evidence, prioritise activity to address those needs. As a part of this objective, NCPHN has recently published health needs assessment reports which include an extensive and detailed summary of the most current and relevant health and service data available relating to General Population health; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health; Primary mental health; and Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment.

In addition to national and state health data, the reports include findings from the 2018 local health needs assessment community survey that was held in June 2018 and completed by 3,372 North Coast locals from Port Macquarie to Tweed Heads.

Based on information presented in the reports, NCPHN will be launching the 2019 factsheet series over the coming months, in which health data is presented in a concise and visual way organised by LGAs and 11 health or priority group topics.

This article highlights some of the regional findings relating to health data of the North Coast footprint as an introduction to the Local Government Areas (LGAs) factsheets.



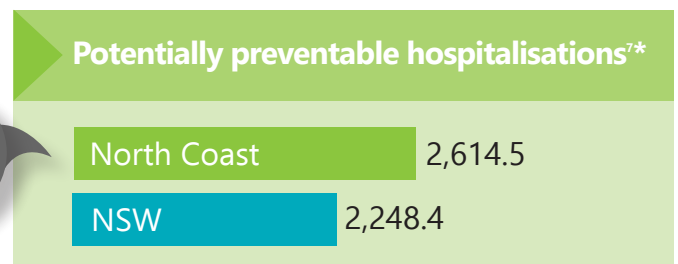
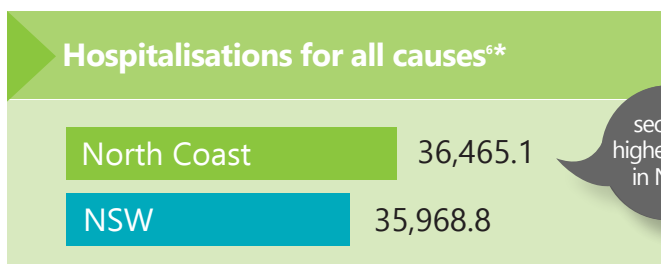
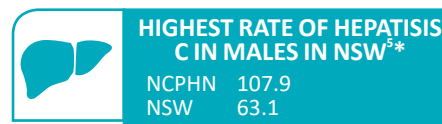
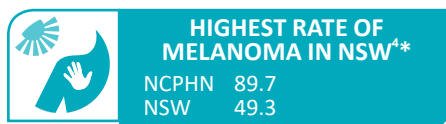
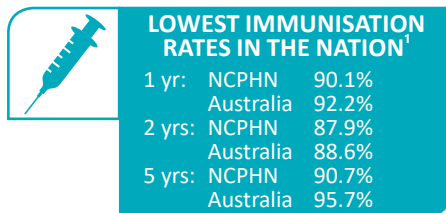
To view these reports and find detailed LGA specific data, check:

<https://ncphn.org.au/needs-assessment>.

To stay up to date with new factsheet announcements, subscribe to one of NCPHN's newsletters at:

<https://ncphn.org.au/subscribe-to-our-newsletter>.

Concerning health statistics



- Top 5 causes in North Coast**
1. Dialysis
 2. Digestive system diseases
 3. Nervous & sense disorders
 4. Symptoms & abnormal findings
 5. Injury & poisoning

- Top 5 causes in North Coast**
1. Cellulitis
 2. Urinary tract infections, including pyelonephritis
 3. COPD
 4. Iron deficiency anaemia
 5. Dental conditions

* Per 100,000 population

2018 Local Health Needs Community Survey

PARTICIPANTS

3,372



6.5%

of respondents identified as of ABORIGINAL or TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER origin

9.5%

of respondents identified as LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL or QUEER

28.7%

of respondents said they wouldn't be able to get \$2,000 for something important within a WEEK

40.9%

of respondents had PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE

15.3%

of respondents were BORN OVERSEAS

8.0%

of respondents were AGED between 15-24 YEARS

22.3%

of respondents were AGED 65 YEARS or older

26.2%

of respondents WORKED 35 or more HOURS a week

27.7%

of respondents were AGED over 65 YEARS

22.0%

of respondents didn't have a regular DOCTOR (GP)

Top 3 personal health challenges

25.7%

#1 Weight



24.4%

#2 Mental health



23.6%

#3 Arthritis/Osteoporosis



Top 3 serious community health concerns

1



Drug and alcohol misuse

47.7%

2



Mental health issues

47.6%

3



Ageing issues

47.0%

Factors that decreased the likelihood of reporting good health

DECREASED LIKELIHOOD

Requires assistance for health care



Has a mental health challenge



Can't access \$2,000



65 years and over

65+ years

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander



11.7% of survey respondents said they always (2.3%) or sometimes (9.4%) need help with self-care everyday activities such as eating, showering, dressing or toileting

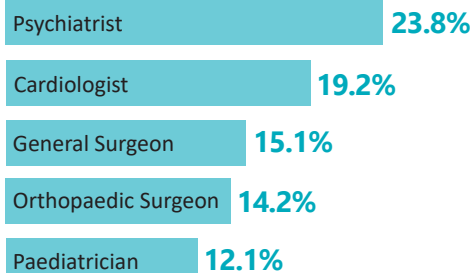
2018 Local Health Needs Community Survey

Accessing services

28.3% of respondents said it was difficult to access a Doctor (GP)



46.7% of respondents said it was difficult to access a Specialists

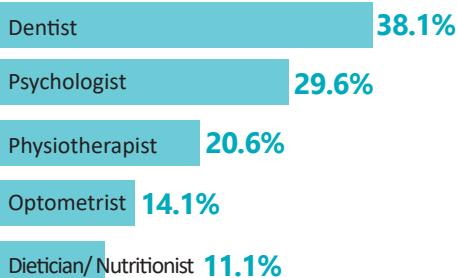


Top 3 Challenges

- Long wait - 57.8%
- Cost - 56.4%
- Distance of travel - 44.1%

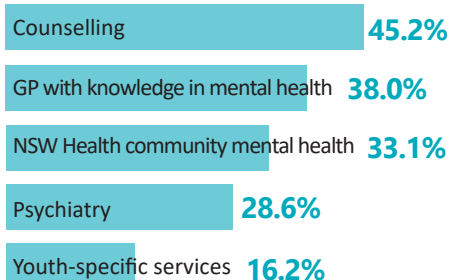
26.4% of respondents said it was difficult to access Allied Health Professionals

54.9% of respondents said it was difficult to access Mental Health Services



Top 3 Challenges

- Cost - 60.3%
- Not covered enough by Medicare - 46.2%
- Long wait - 37.3%

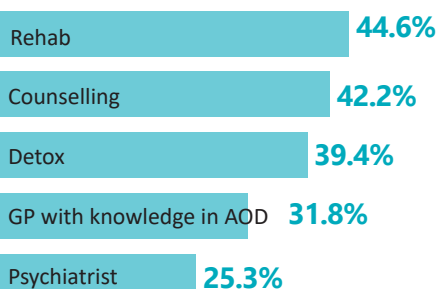


Top 3 Challenges

- Cost - 46.0%
- Lack of services - 43.2%
- Poor experience in the past - 29.1%

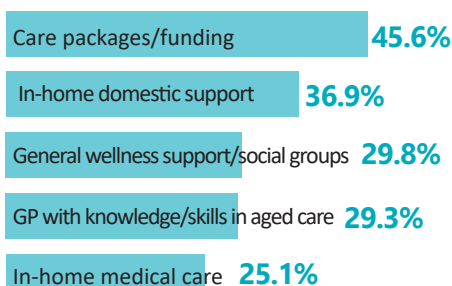
58.0% of respondents said it was difficult to access Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) services

50.5% of respondents said it was difficult to access Aged Care Services



Top 3 Challenges

- Lack of services - 48.1%
- Cost - 41.0%
- Stigma/ Shame - 35.0%



Top 3 Challenges

- Cost - 49.9%
- Difficult to organise - 43.2%
- Lack of services - 38.5%

References

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- 2 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2017. National drug strategy household survey 2016: Detailed findings. Supplementary data tables: Chapter 7 State and Territory. Table 7.37: Tobacco Use, Alcohol Risk and Recent(a) Illicit Drug Use, People Aged 14 Years or Older, by Primary Health Networks, 2016 (Per Cent). [Online] Available at: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/illicit-use-of-drugs/ndshs-2016-detailed/data> [Accessed October 2018].
- 3 Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence, 2018. Health Statistics New South Wales: Hospitalisations for Dialysis by Aboriginality, by PHN, NSW 2016-17. [Online] Available at: http://www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au/Indicator/bod_hos_cat/atsi_hos_phn_cat_comparison [Accessed April 2019].
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- 5 Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence, 2017. Health Statistics New South Wales: Hepatitis C notifications, by PHN, NSW 2017. [Online] Available at: http://www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au/Indicator/com_hepcnot/com_hepcnot_phn_snap [Accessed April 2019].
- 6 Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence, 2019. HealthStats NSW: Hospitalisations for all causes by Local Government Area, NSW 2016-17. [Online] Available at: http://www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au/Indicator/bod_projhos/bod_hos_lgamap [Accessed April 2019].
- 7 Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence, 2019. HealthStats NSW: Potentially preventable hospitalisations by Local Government Area, NSW 2015-16 to 2016-17. [Online] Available at: http://www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au/Indicator/bod_acshos/bod_acshos_lgamap [Accessed April 2019].