

Time series analysis of Medicare subsidised GP services in the Healthy North Coast region 2013–19

Key points:

Figure 1 – Number of GP services

- The number of GP services in the Healthy North Coast region increased during 2013–19.
 - The number of GP services showed a strong positive trend during the period, increasing by around 10 percentage points in trend terms.

Figure 2 – GP services per 100 people

- GP services per 100 people in the Healthy North Coast region showed a similar upward trend over the 6-year period.
 - Between 2013–19, GP attendances per 100 people increased by around 5 percentage points in trend terms.

Figure 1: Number of GP services in the Healthy North Coast region, 2013–19

Source: Department of Health, Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) claims data, 2013 to 2019.

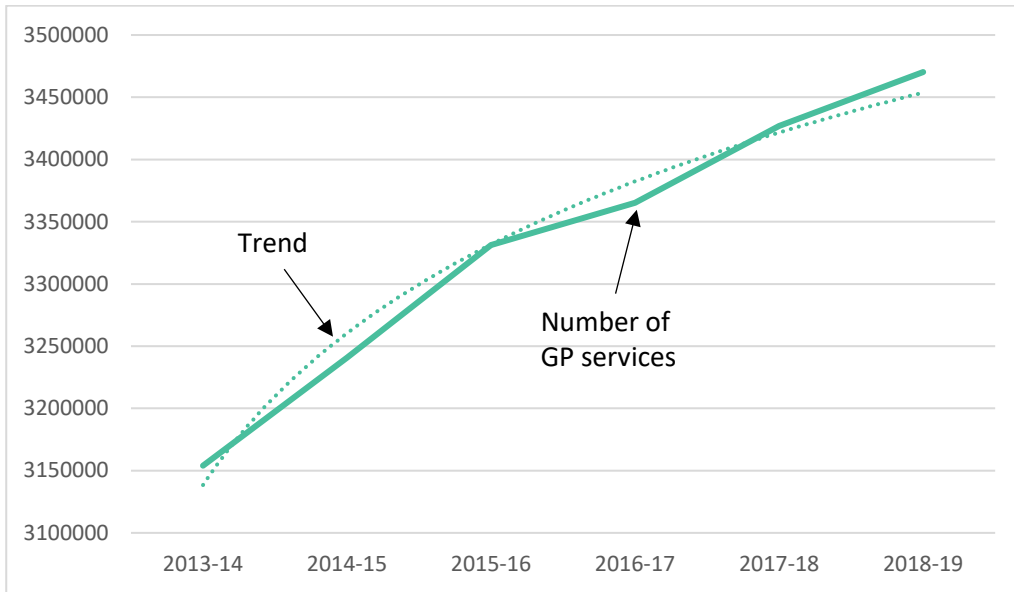
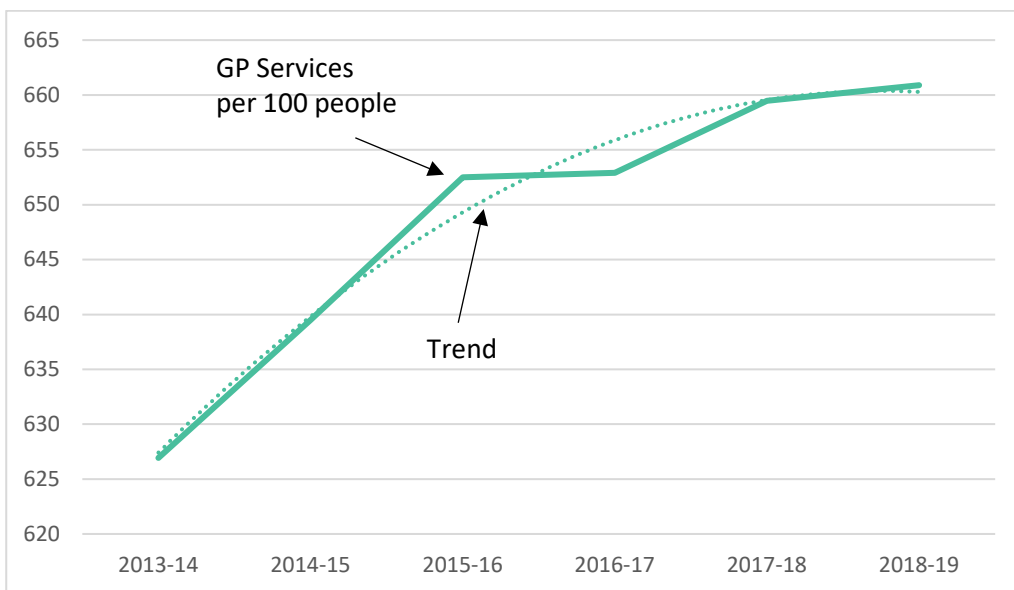


Figure 2: Services per 100 people in the Healthy North Coast region, 2013–19

Source: Department of Health, Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) claims data, 2013 to 2019.



Figures 3 and 4 – GP services by age of patient

- In general, people use GP services more frequently as they grow older.
 - In 2018–19, persons aged 65 years and over accounted for around 43% of total GP services in the Healthy North Coast region.
 - Persons aged 65 years and over were 1.6 times more likely to attend a GP than middle-aged adults (45–64 years), 2.7 times more likely than people aged 25–44 years, and 2.8 times more likely than children and young people.
 - Persons aged 80 years and over are the most frequent users of GP services on a per capita basis.

Figure 3: Number of GP services in the Healthy North Coast region by age of patient, 2018–19

Source: Department of Health, Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) claims data, 2013 to 2019.

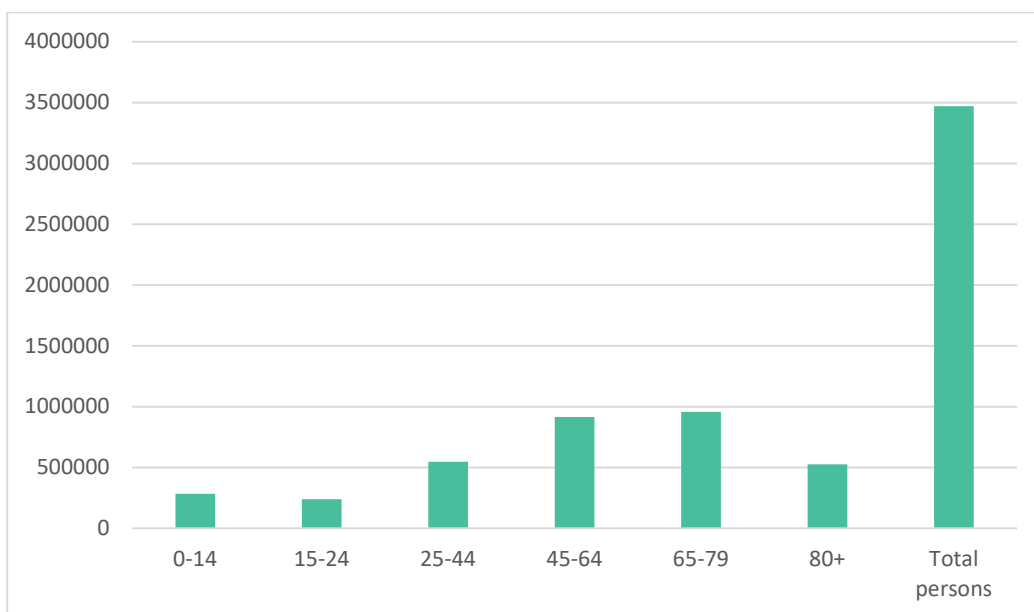


Figure 4: GP services per 100 people in the Healthy North Coast region by age of patient, 2018–19

Source: Department of Health, Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) claims data, 2013 to 2019.

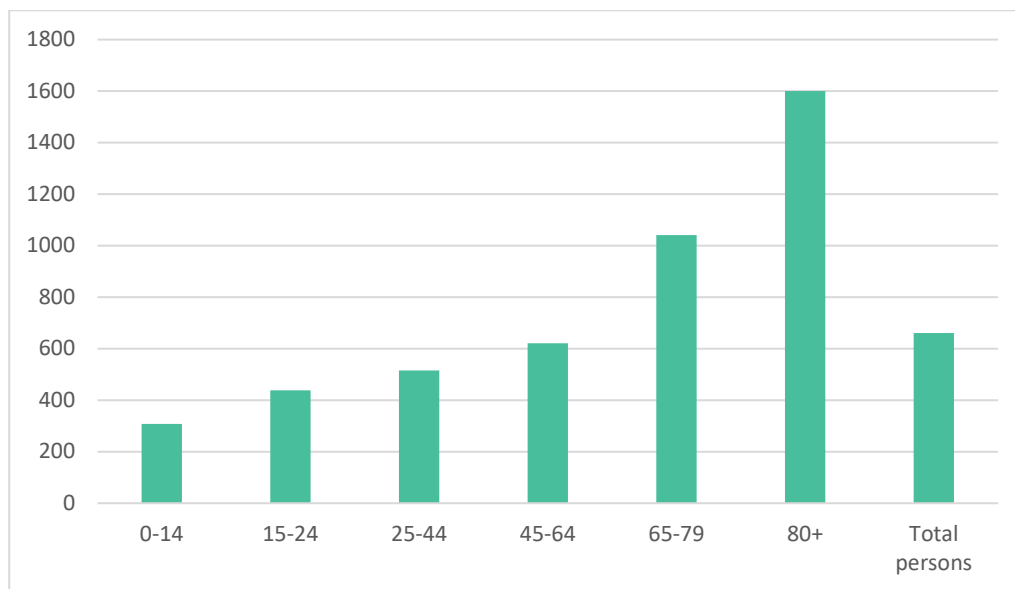


Figure 5 – Growth in GP attendances

- In 2014–19, the population growth rate in the Healthy North Coast region hovered around one percent per annum.
 - During this period, the growth rate for the number of GP services for the Healthy North Coast region exceeded the population growth rate for the region.
 - For most of this period, the growth rate for the number of patients seeing a GP also exceeded the population growth rate for the region.

Figure 5 : Annual growth rate in GP services in the Healthy North Coast region, 2014–19

Source: Department of Health, Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) claims data, 2013 to 2019.

