Murrumbidgee Local Health District

Health Atlas 2019

Compiled by Epidemiology, Public Health, MLHD – March 2019

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Web: www.mlhd.health.nsw.gov.au/about-us/population-data-and-health-statistics



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About this atlas:

Maps page 3 to 5

 Maps were produced by Epidemiology section of MLHD Public Health Unit from Australian Bureau of Statistics data.

Map page 6 to 50

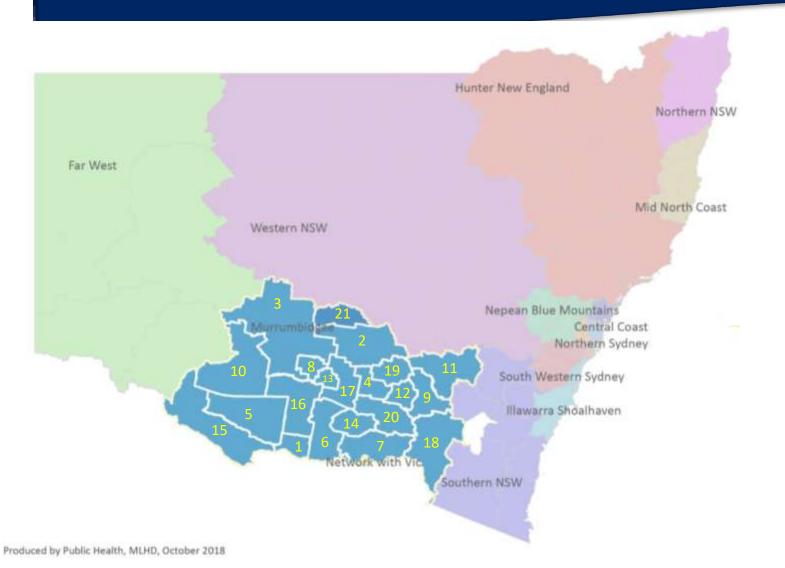
- Maps were sourced from <u>Health</u>
 <u>Stats NSW</u> and were current as of

 November 2018.
- The year of the data is stated in the map title.
 - All data are age and sex standardised and spatially adjusted for comparison purposes see the methods section of a specific indicator in Health Stats NSW for details.

Maps 52 54 reference maps

Copies of this document can be found at www.mlhd.health.nsw.gov.au/about-us/population-data-and-health-statistics

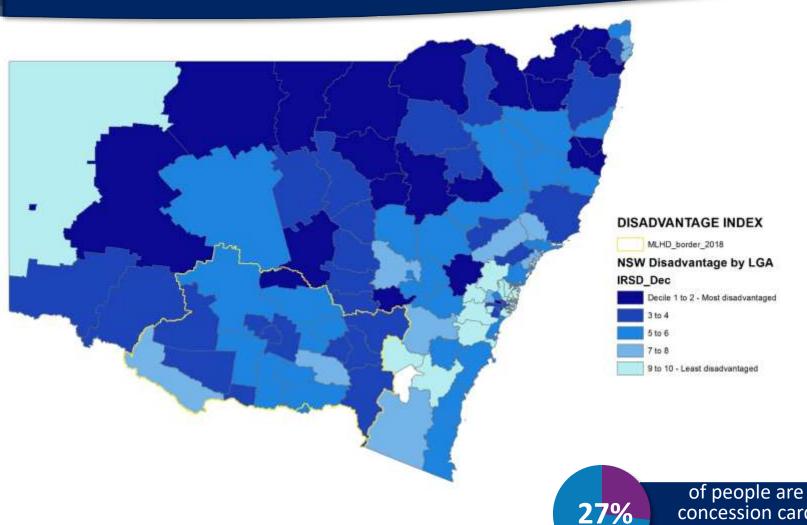
Murrumbidgee LHD



Murrumbidgee LHD covers 125,243 km², has 20 constituent LGAs and 1 partial LGA:

- 1. Berrigan
- 2. Bland
- 3. Carrathool
- 4. Coolamon
- 5. Edward River
- 6. Federation
- 7. Greater Hume
- 8. Griffith
- 9. Gundagai
- 10. Hay
- 11. Hilltops
- 12. Junee
- 13. Leeton
- 14. Lockhart
- 15. Murray River
- 16. Murrumbidgee
- 17. Narrandera
- 18. Snowy Valleys
- 19. Temora
- 20. Wagga Wagga
- 21. Lake Cargelligo Part of Lachlan Shire Albury LGA is listed as Network with Vic

Socioeconomic disadvantage LGA



Socioeconomic Indexes For Areas (SEIFA) Disadvantage

scores indicate areas with a higher number of disadvantaged households. At LGA level scores are averaged across the whole LGA. (ABS 2016)

Most disadvantaged areas in **MLHD:**

Lake Cargelligo, Hilltops, Gundagai, Snowy Valleys, Hay, Edward River, Tocumwal, Griffith, Leeton and Narrandera.

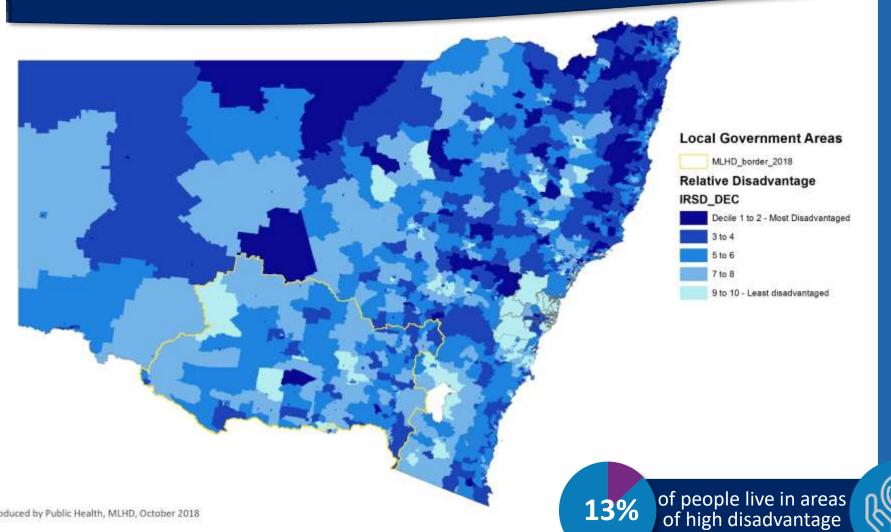
Least disadvantaged:

Wagga Wagga and Murray River.

concession card holders (24% in NSW)

Produced by Public Health, MLHD, October 2018

Socioeconomic disadvantage small area



Socioeconomic Indexes For Areas (SEIFA) Disadvantage

scores indicate areas with a higher number of disadvantaged households. Looking at disadvantage for small areas highlights pockets of disadvantage through the MLHD (ABS 2016).

Most disadvantaged areas in MLHD:

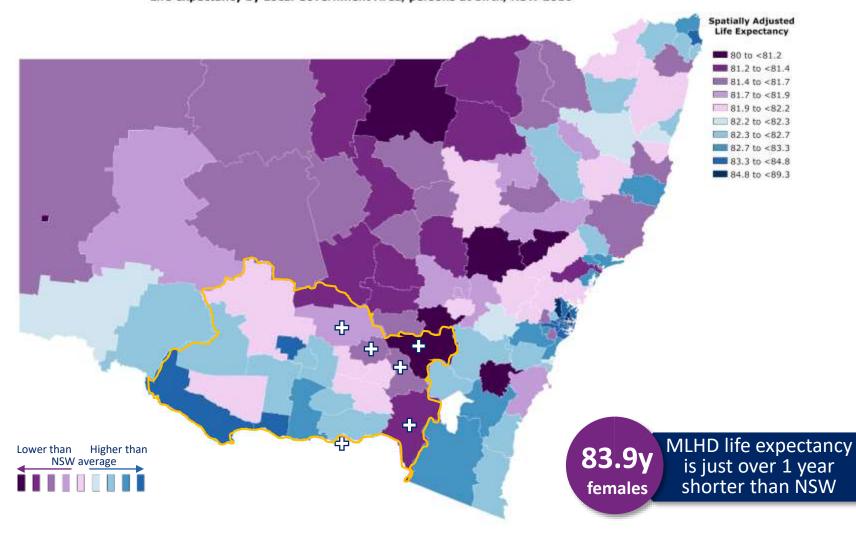
indicated in dark blue are north of Urana, some suburbs of Wagga Wagga, Lake Cargelligo, Griffith, Leeton, Narrandera.

Least disadvantaged:

Some suburbs of Wagga Wagga, as well as parts of Jerilderie, Coolamon and Greater Hume LGAs.

Life Expectancy





Life expectancy at birth is an estimate of the average length of time (in years) that a person can expect to live, assuming that the current rates of death for each age group will remain the same for the lifespan of that person.

Highest Life Expectancy:

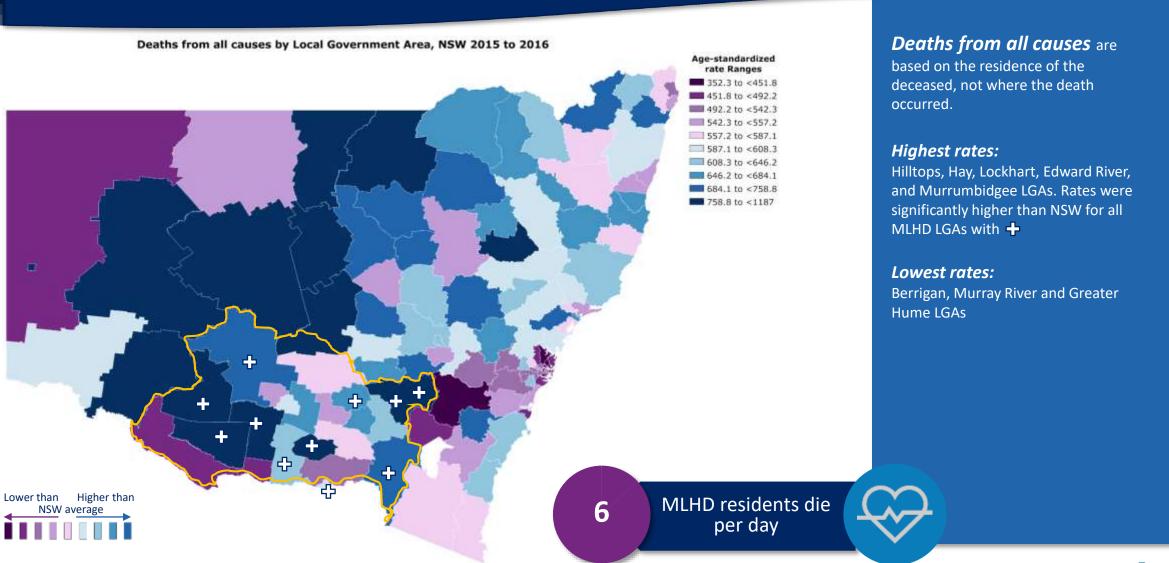
Griffith, Murrumbidgee and Berrigan LGAs. Estimates were not significantly higher than NSW.

Lowest Life Expectancy:

Hilltops, Snowy Valleys, Gundagai, Temora, Bland and Albury LGAs all had significantly lower life expectancy than NSW on map

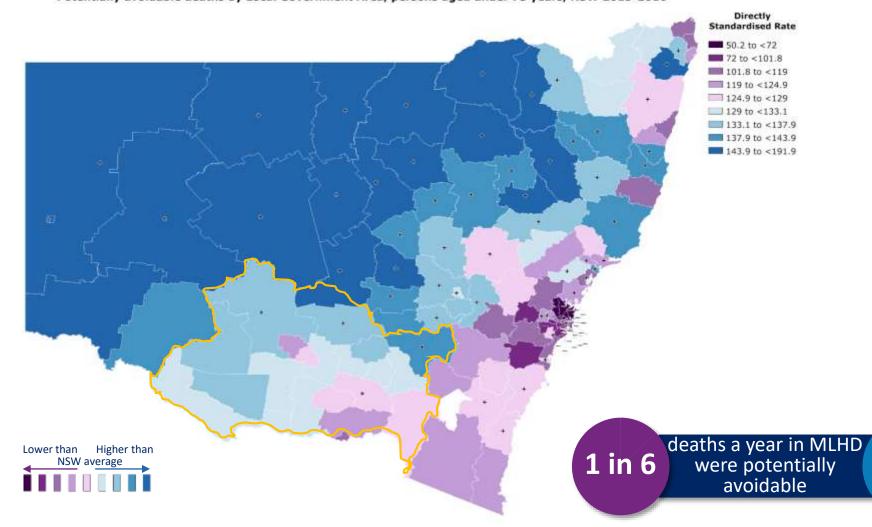
79.5y males

Deaths



Avoidable deaths





Potentially avoidable deaths

refer to premature deaths (persons aged less than 75 years) that theoretically could have been avoided given current understanding of causation and available disease prevention and health care.

Highest rates:

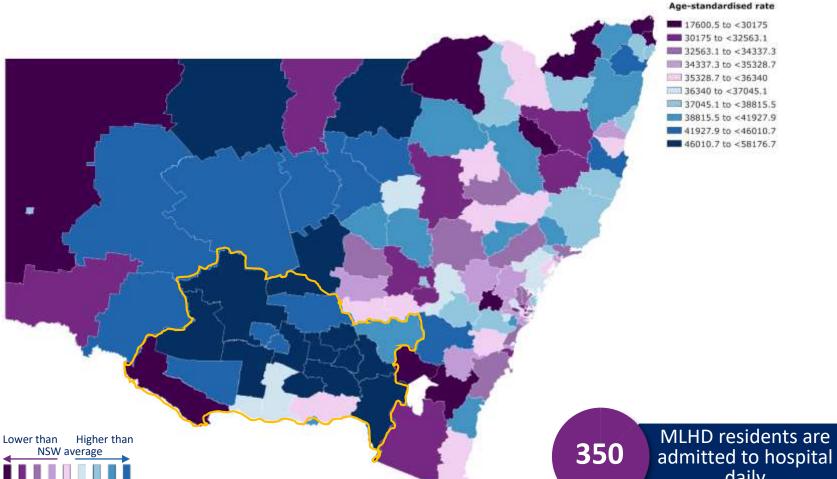
Hilltops, Bland and Carrathool LGAs. Rates were significantly higher than NSW for these LGAs and also for Wagga Wagga.

Lowest rates:

Albury, Griffith and Greater Hume LGAs.

Hospitalisation

Hospitalisations for all causes by Local Government Area, NSW 2016-17



Hospitalisations for all

causes are based on a count of all episodes of hospital care for residents of an LGA, not counts of individual patients.

Highest rates:

Snowy Valleys, Carrathool, Junee, Murrumbidgee, Wagga Wagga, Lockhart, Narrandera, Gundagai, Hay, Temora and Coolamon. Rates were significantly higher than NSW. LGAs of Albury, Hilltops, Leeton, Edward River, Griffith and Bland also had significantly high rates.

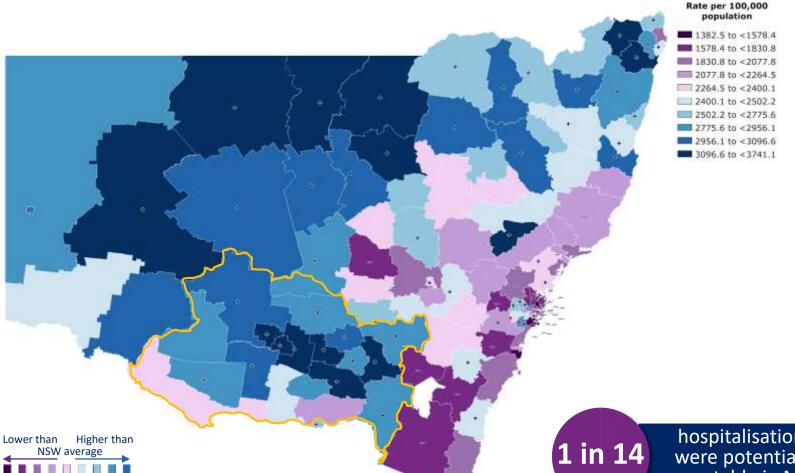
Lowest rates:

Murray River LGA was significantly lower than NSW rate

daily

Preventable hospitalisation





Potentially preventable
hospitalisations are those that
potentially could have been avoided
through preventive care and early
disease management, usually delivered
in an primary care setting such as
general practitioners or community
health services.

Highest rates:

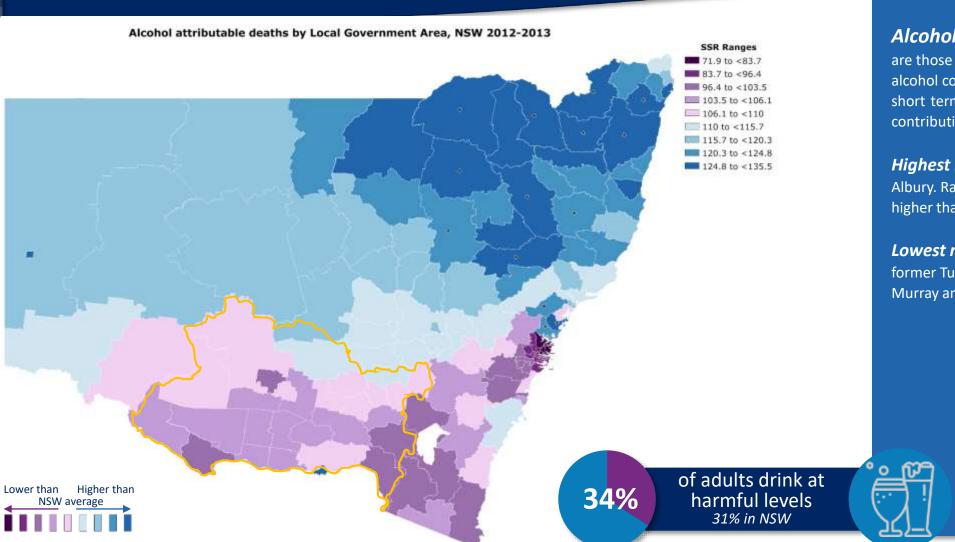
Wagga Wagga, Gundagai, Coolamon, Narrandera, Leeton, Griffith LGAs. Rates were significantly higher than NSW. Rates were also higher in Carrathool, Murrumbidgee, Temora, Hilltops, Snowy Valleys, Bland, Edward River and Albury LGAs.

Lowest rates:

Greater Hume and Murray River and Berrigan LGAs

hospitalisations were potentially preventable in MLHD

Alcohol deaths



Alcohol attributable deaths

are those deaths from causes where alcohol consumption (either long or short term) could have been a contributing factor.

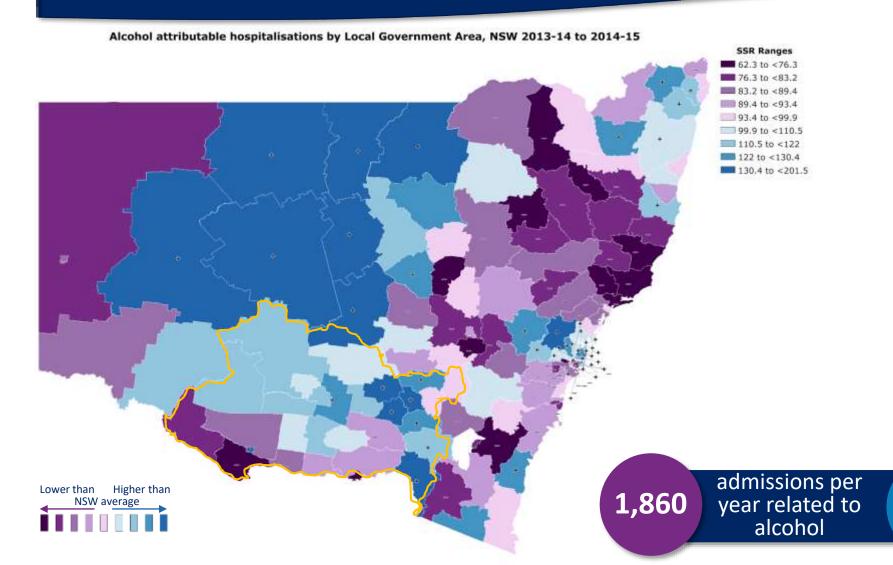
Highest rates:

Albury. Rates were not significantly higher than NSW.

Lowest rates:

former Tumbarumba, Tumut, Boorowa, Murray and Griffith LGAs.

Alcohol hospitalisation



Alcohol attributable
hospitalisations are those
hospitalisations where alcohol
consumption (either long or short term)
could have been a contributing cause.

Highest rates:

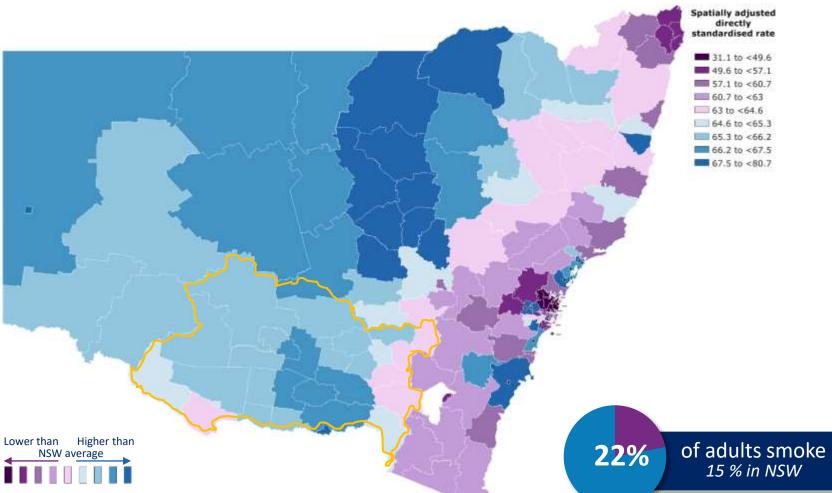
Temora, Junee and former Gundagai, Tumbarumba and Deniliquin LGAs. Rates were significantly higher than NSW.

Lowest rates:

Albury and former Murray LGAs

Smoking deaths





Smoking attributable deaths

are those deaths where smoking tobacco (either long or short term) could have been a contributing cause.

Highest rates:

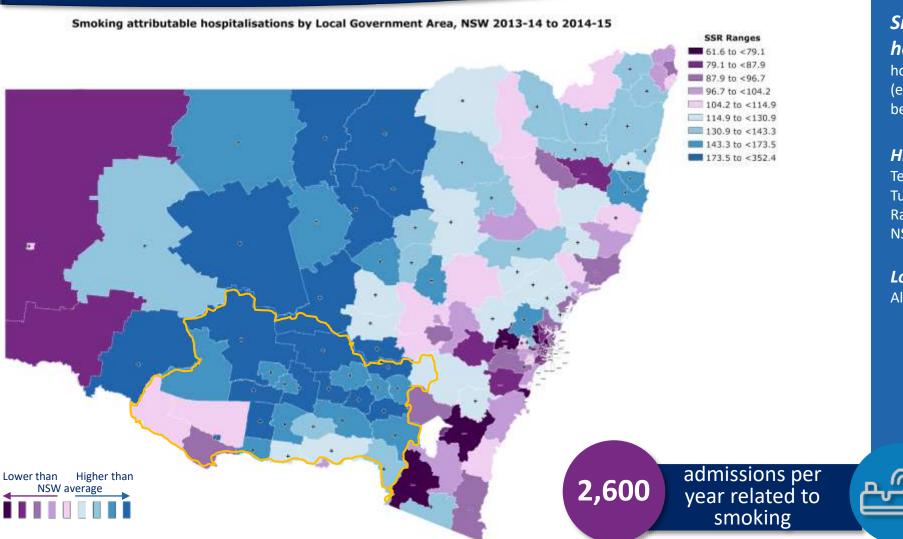
Albury, Greater Hume, Wagga Wagga, former Urana, Narrandera and Leeton LGAs. Rates were significantly higher than NSW.

Lowest rates:

former Murray LGA.

smoke vsw

Smoking hospitalisation



Smoking attributable hospitalisations are those hospitalisations where smoking tobacco (sither long or short term) sould have

(either long or short term) could have been a contributing cause.

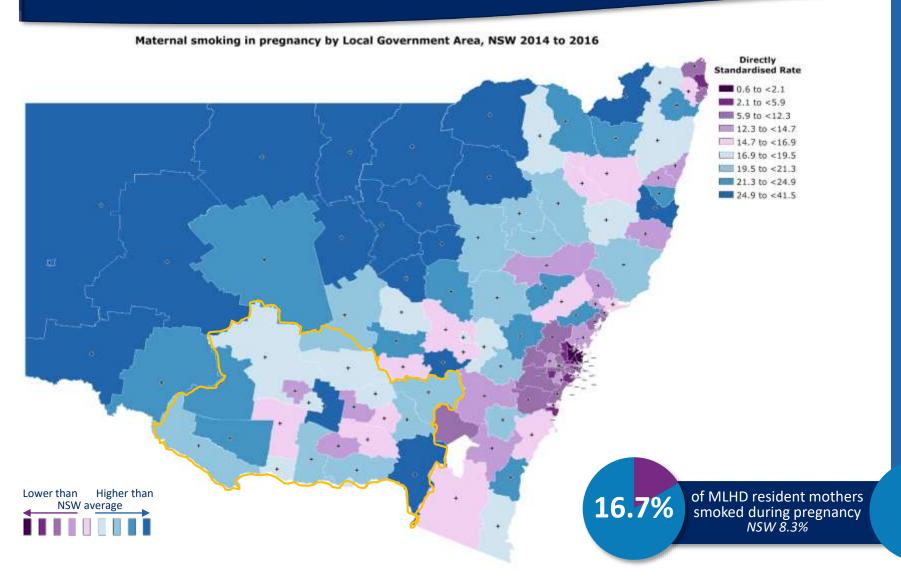
Highest rates:

Temora, Junee and former Gundagai, Tumbarumba and Deniliquin LGAs. Rates were significantly higher than NSW.

Lowest rates:

Albury and Murray LGAs

Maternal smoking



Maternal smoking in

pregnancy is sourced from those mothers residing in NSW giving birth in NSW based facilities only, therefore it may be incomplete for LGAs along the borders with Victoria and ACT.

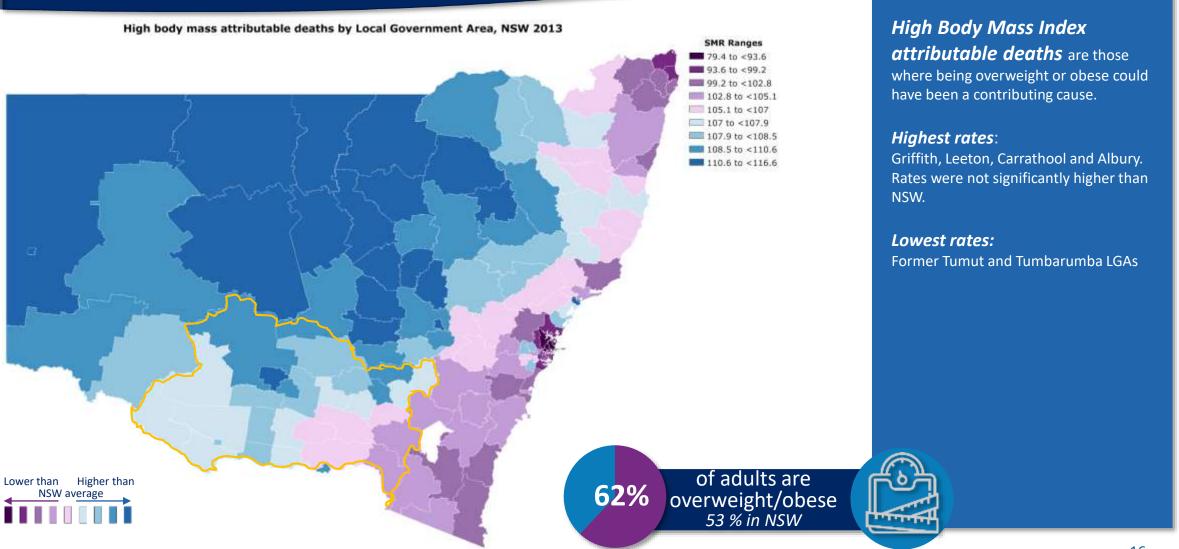
Highest rates: Snowy Valleys, Narrandera and Edward River all have <u>rates significantly higher than NSW.</u>

All LGA rates were significantly higher than the State average of 8.3%

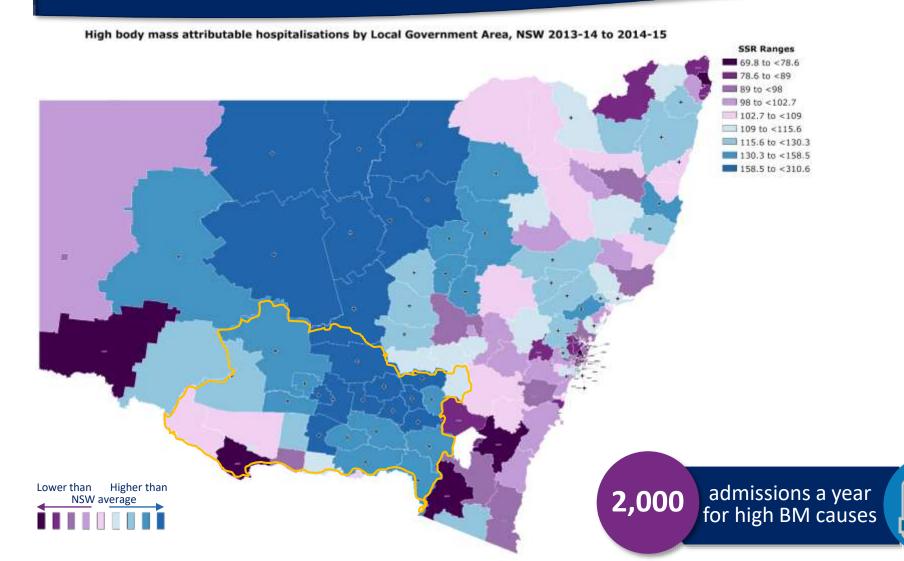
Lowest rates: Griffith, Coolamon and Wagga Wagga



Obesity deaths



Obesity hospitalisation



High Body Mass Index attributable hospitalisations

are those hospitalisations where being overweight or obese could have been a contributing cause.

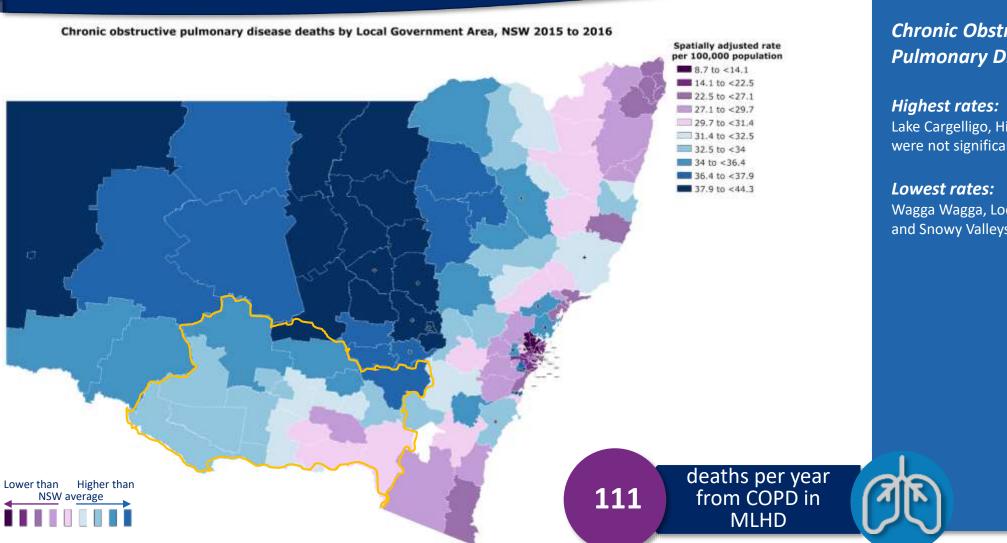
Highest rates:

Bland, Leeton, Narrandera, Coolamon, Temora, Junee, former Gundagai, Cootamundra, Urana and Young LGAs. Rates were significantly higher than NSW. Rates were significantly high also in Carrathool, Griffith, former Murrumbidgee, Lockhart, Wagga Wagga, Greater Hume, former Tumut and Tumbarumba LGAs.

Lowest rates:

former Murray LGA and Berrigan LGA.

COPD death



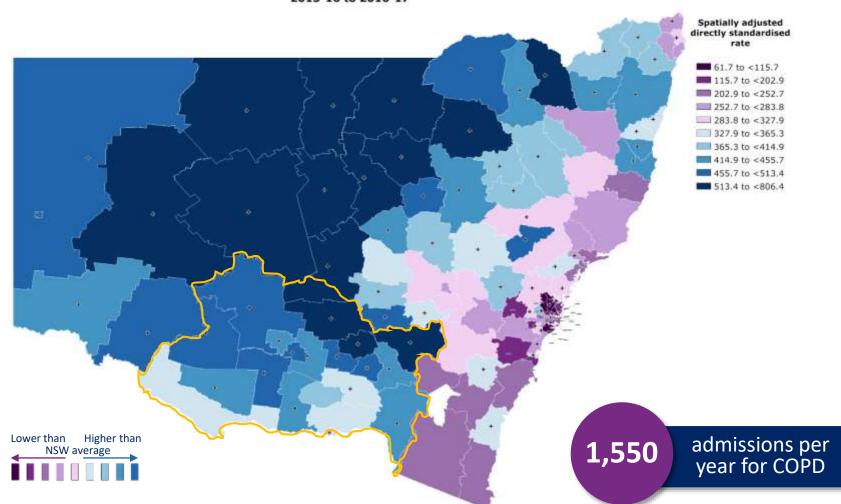
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease deaths

Lake Cargelligo, Hilltops LGAs. Rates were not significantly higher than NSW.

Wagga Wagga, Lockhart, Greater Hume, and Snowy Valleys LGAs.

COPD hospitalisation

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease hospitalisations by Local Government Area, persons of all ages, NSW 2015-16 to 2016-17



Chronic Obstructive
Pulmonary Disease
hospitalisation rates are made
up primarily of chronic bronchitis and
emphysema.

Highest rates:

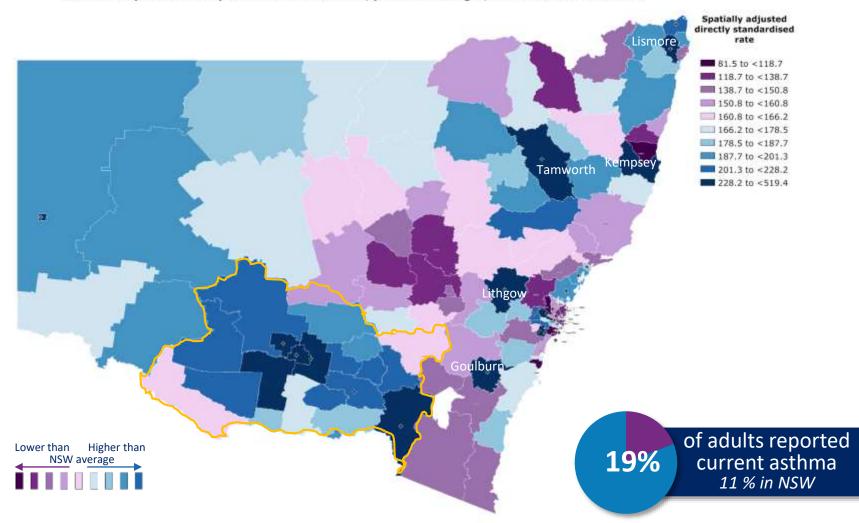
Temora, Bland and Hilltops LGAs. Rates were significantly higher than NSW. Rates were also significantly higher in all other LGAs except Murray River, Berrigan and Greater Hume.

Lowest rates:

Albury, Murray River, Berrigan and Greater Hume LGAs.

Asthma





Asthma hospitalisations

Highest rates:

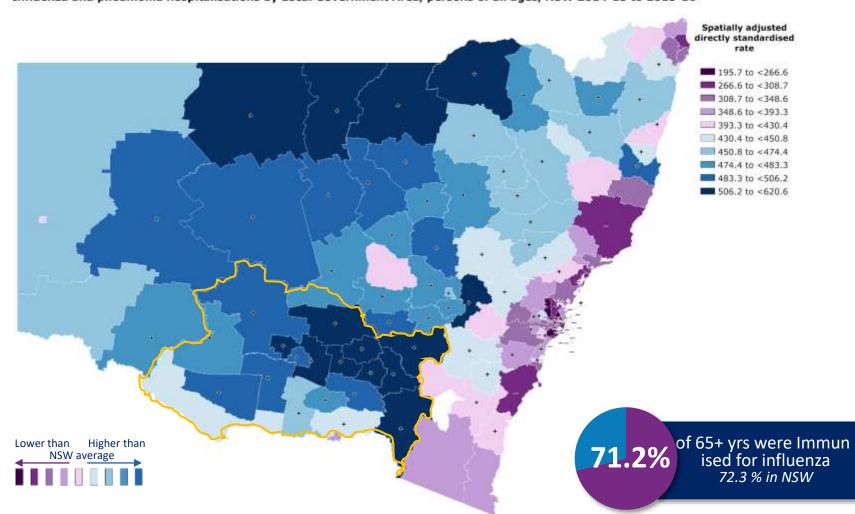
Griffith, Leeton, Narrandera, Snowy Valleys and Wagga Wagga all had significantly higher rates than NSW. Murrumbidgee LGA rate was high, but not significantly due to small numbers.

Lowest rates:

Murray River LGAs and Lake Cargelligo.

Influenza and pneumonia

Influenza and pneumonia hospitalisations by Local Government Area, persons of all ages, NSW 2014-15 to 2015-16



Influenza and pneumonia hospitalisations.

Highest rates: Narrandera, Griffith, Bland, Coolamon, Temora, Junee, Gundagai, Hilltops and Snowy Valleys. Rates were significantly higher than NSW. Rates were also higher in Wagga Wagga, Lockhart, Leeton, Carrathool, Murrumbidgee, Edward River, Federation and Greater Hume.

Lowest rates: Albury and Murray River LGAs

Injury and poisoning deaths by Local Government Area, NSW 2014 to 2016 Spatially adjusted rate per 100,000 population ■ 19.6 to <23.2 23.2 to <30.3 30.3 to <40.7 40.7 to <45.2 45.2 to <47.5 47.5 to <48.6 48.6 to <50 50 to <50.7 50.7 to <52 52 to <59.7 Lower than Higher than deaths a year from 117 injury in MLHD

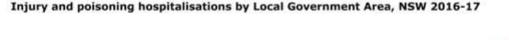
Injury death

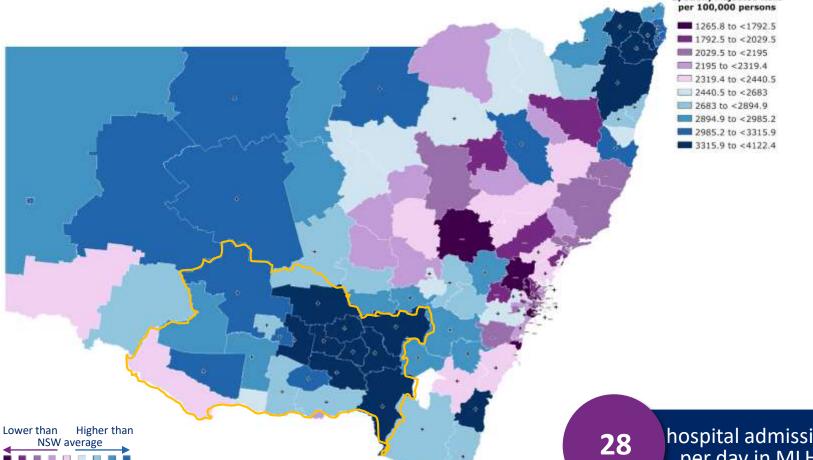
Injury death. The leading causes of injury death (2011 2015) varied for males and females with suicide making up 25 per cent of male injury deaths followed by motor vehicle transport deaths (23%) and falls (9.7%); for women falls accounted for 27 per cent of injury deaths, motor vehicle transport 21.5 per cent and "exposure to unspecified factor" 19 per cent (studies have shown these are predominantly in the older age groups and are due to death certificates lacking sufficient information to code from).

Highest rates: Federation, Edward River and Hilltops LGAs. Rates were significantly higher than NSW for all LGAs in MLHD except for Griffith, Leeton and Murray River.

Lowest rates: Griffith, Leeton and Murray River LGAs.

Injury hospitalisation





Injury and poisoning was

recorded as the principal diagnosis in a total of 10,391 episodes of care in 2016 17 for MLHD residents (data for acute hospital transfer and "statistical discharge" were excluded). MLHD had the highest rate of hospitalisation for injury among all NSW LHDs at 4,009 per 100,000 population, significantly higher than the NSW rate of 2,598 per 100,000 as well as all other LHDs in NSW. .

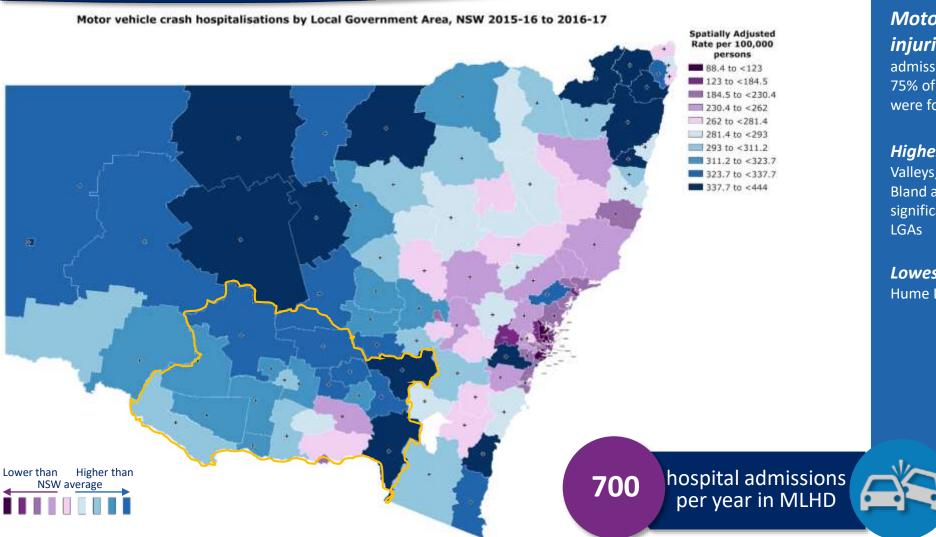
Highest rates: Bland, Coolamon, Temora, Junee, Gundagai, Wagga Wagga, Hilltops and Snowy Valleys. Rates were significantly higher than NSW. Rates were also higher in most other LGAs.

Lowest rates: Murray River and Berrigan LGAs.

hospital admissions per day in MLHD

Spatially Adjusted Rate

Motor Vehicle Accidents



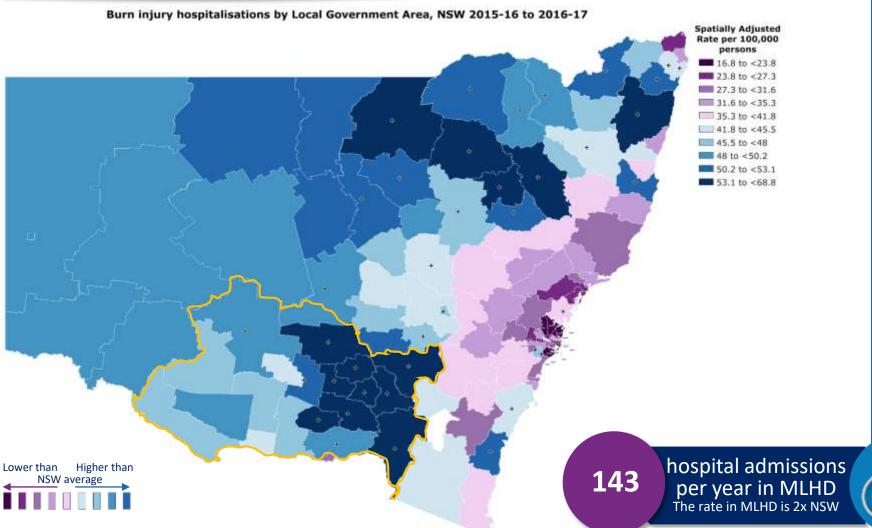
Motor Vehicle crash related

injuries made up 7 % of all injury admissions in MLHD (2015 16) and 75% of all admissions in this category were for males.

Highest rates: Hilltops and Snowy Valleys, Gundagai, Temora, Coolamon, Bland and Carrathool. Rates were significantly higher than NSW in most LGAs

Lowest rates: Albury and Greater Hume LGAs

Burn injury

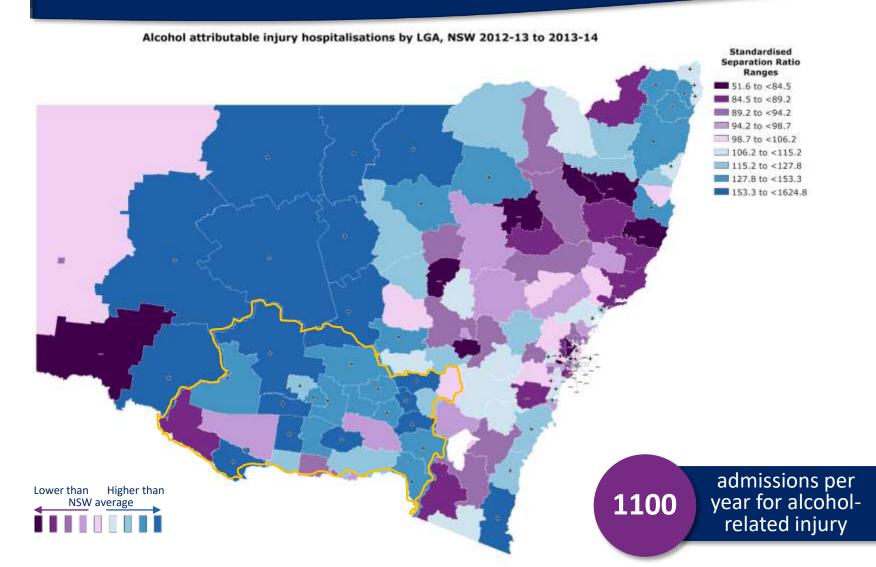


Burn injuries make up a small fraction (1%) of all injury hospitalisation in Australia, but are often the most serious (AIHW 2016).

Highest rates: Bland, Coolamon, Temora, Junee, Gundagai, Wagga Wagga, Lockhart, Hilltops and Snowy Valleys. Rates were significantly higher than NSW. Rates were also higher in Greater Hume, Narrandera and Carrathool.

Lowest rates: Albury LGA.

Alcohol related injury



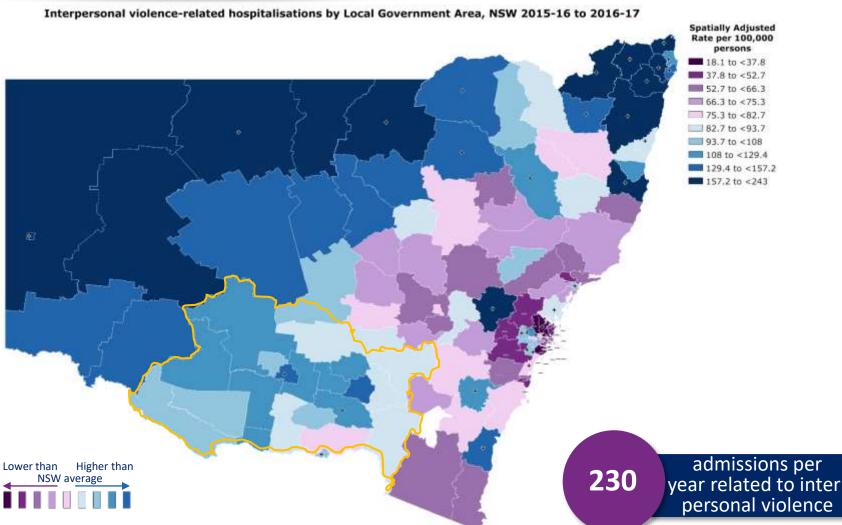
Alcohol attributable injury hospitalisations are those

hospitalisations for injury where alcohol consumption could have been a contributing cause. Harm from alcohol related accident or injury is experienced disproportionately by younger people; over half of all serious alcohol related road injuries occur among 15 24 year olds. However, harm from alcohol related disease is more marked among older people (HealthStats NSW).

Highest rates: Carrathool, former Murrumbidgee, Jerilderie, Gundagai Cootamundra and Lockhart LGAs, and former Tumbarumba, Deniliquin and Murray LGAs. Rates were significantly higher than NSW.

Lowest rates: Albury, former Murray and Corowa LGAs

Interpersonal violence



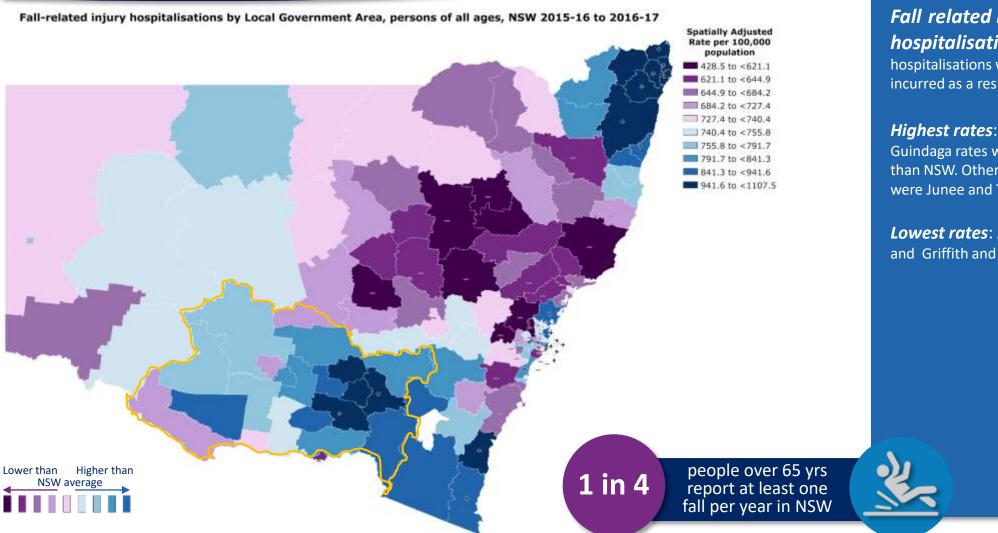
Interpersonal violence related hospitalisations are injury related hospitalisations where interpersonal violence is listed as the cause. Hospitalisation rates for males were double those of females.

Highest rates: Leeton, Wagga Wagga and Albury LGAs. Rates were significantly higher than NSW.

Lowest rates: Greater Hume LGAs

admissions per personal violence

Fall-related injury

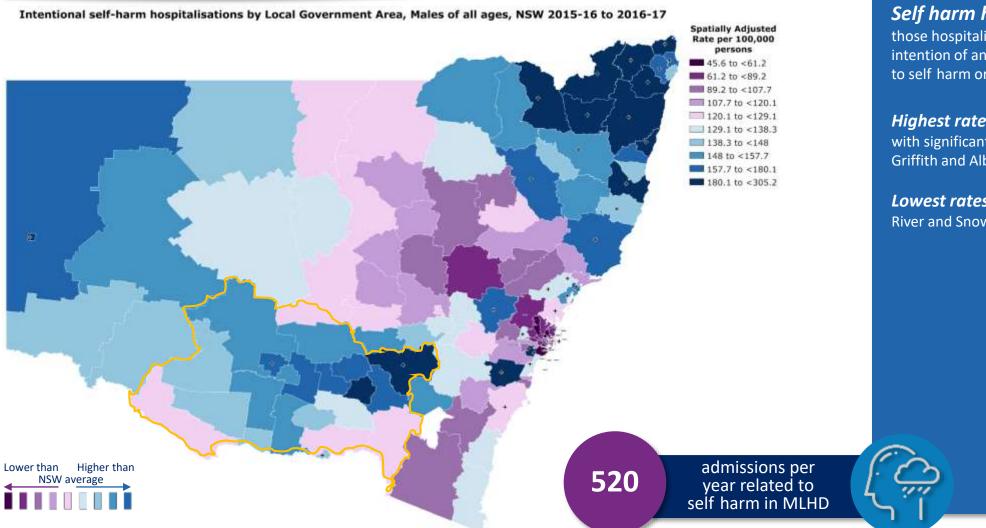


Fall related injury
hospitalisations are those
hospitalisations where an injury was
incurred as a result of a fall.

Highest rates: Wagga Wagga and Guindaga rates were significantly higher than NSW. Other areas with high rates were Junee and Temora.

Lowest rates: Albury, Murray River and Griffith and Berrigan LGAs.

Self-harm



Self harm hospitalisations are those hospitalisations where the

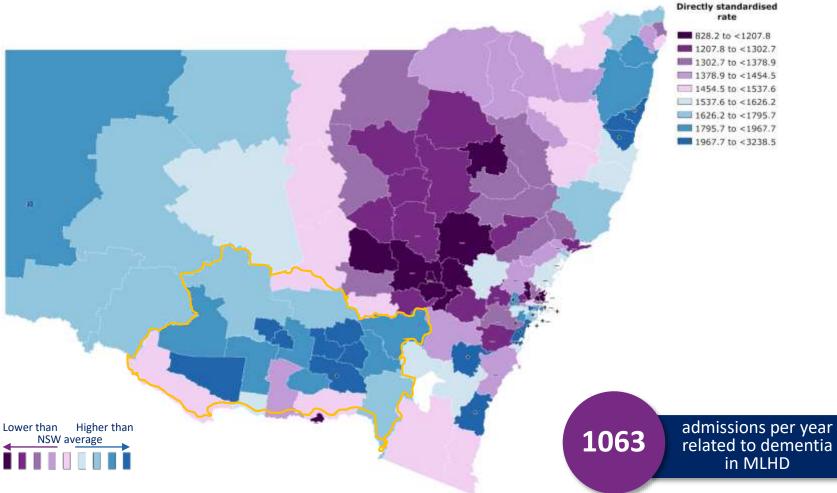
intention of an injury or poisoning was to self harm or attempt suicide.

Highest rates: Hilltops and Junee with significantly high rates also in Griffith and Albury.

Lowest rates: Greater Hume, Murray River and Snowy Valleys LGAs.

Dementia

Dementia as a principal diagnosis or as a comorbidity, hospitalisations by Local Government Area, persons aged 65 and over, NSW 2015-16 to 2016-17



Dementia hospitalisations are those where dementia was coded in the first diagnosis field; it was a comorbidity when it was coded in the 2nd 50th diagnosis fields and was not the principal diagnosis. Only those aged 65

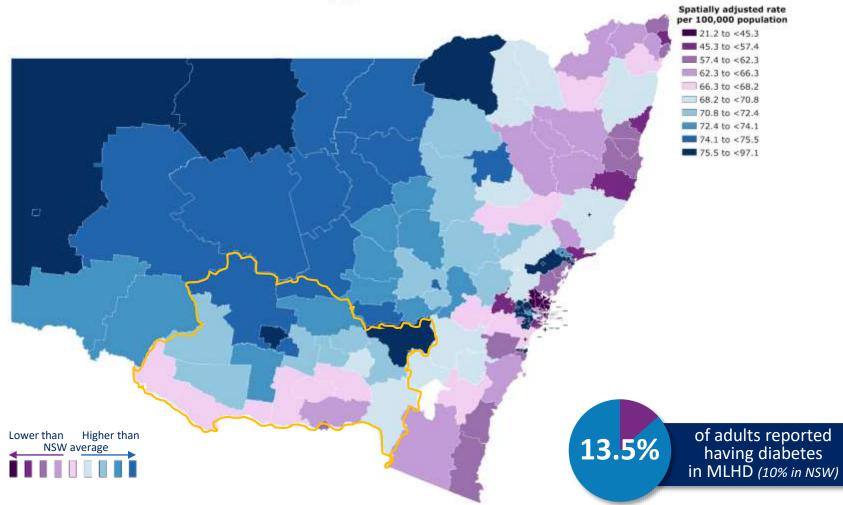
Highest rates: Edward River, Wagga Wagga, Junee, Temora, Coolamon, Griffith. The rates were significantly higher than NSW in Wagga Wagga.

years or over are included.

Lowest rates: Albury and Federation LGAs.

Diabetes death





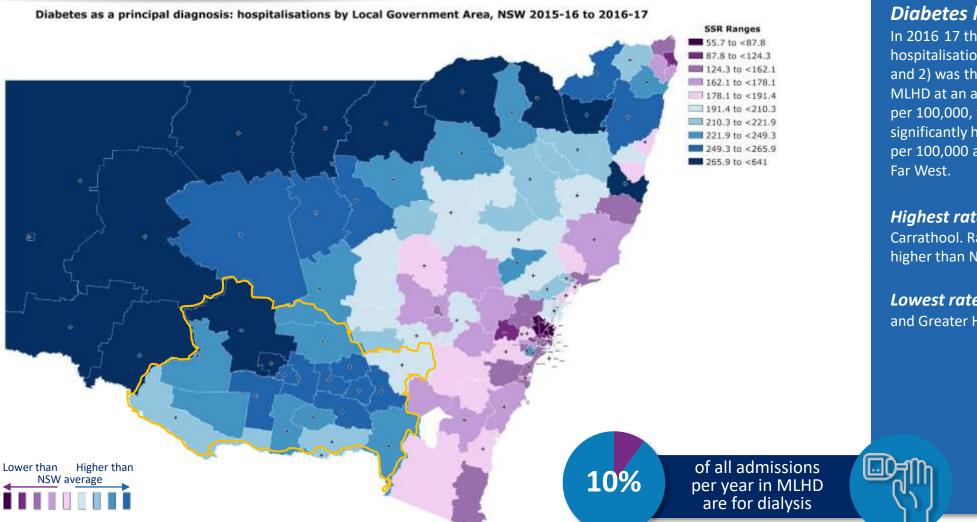
Diabetes deaths

There were 62 deaths in MLHD in 2015 where diabetes was the principal cause, but a total of 218 where diabetes was an underlying or associated cause making up 9 per cent of all deaths in 2015.

Highest rates: Griffith and Hilltops. Rates were not significantly higher than NSW.

Lowest rates: Albury and Greater Hume LGAs

Diabetes hospitalisation



Diabetes hospitalisations

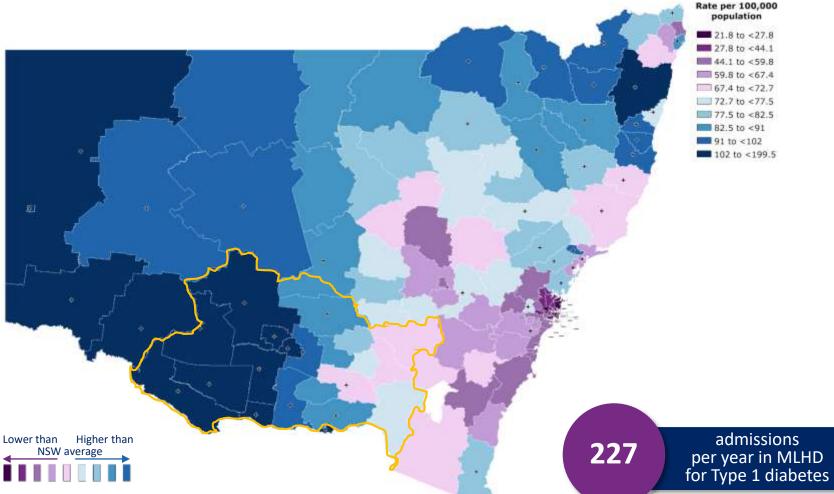
In 2016 17 there were 710 hospitalisations where diabetes (types 1 and 2) was the principal diagnosis in MLHD at an age adjusted rate of 255.7 per 100,000, the MLHD rate was significantly higher than NSW at 151.8 per 100,000 and all other LHDs except Far West.

Highest rates: Griffith and Carrathool. Rates were significantly higher than NSW in most LGAs.

Lowest rates: Murray River, Albury and Greater Hume LGAs

Type 1 diabetes





Type 1 Diabetes hospitalisations

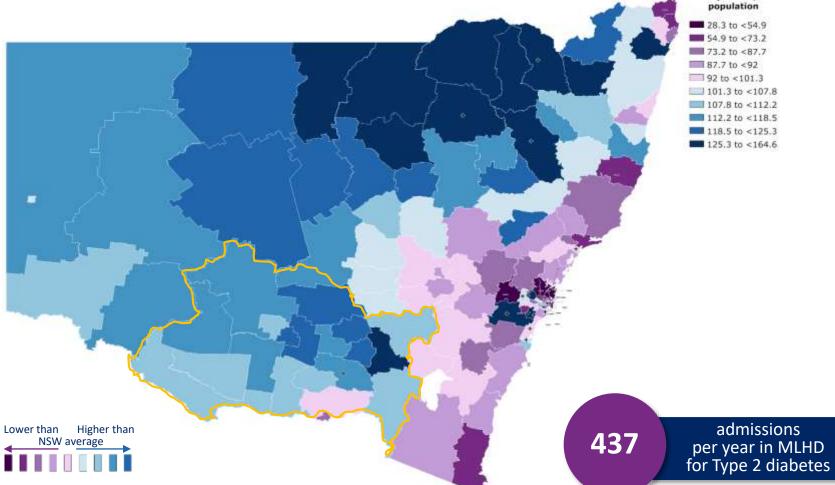
Type 1 diabetes is estimated to be present in 10 15% of people with diabetes and is caused by a combination of genetic and environmental factors, but there are no known modifiable risk factors for this form of diabetes. Type 1 diabetes accounted for around 31% of hospitalisations and gestational diabetes for around 5%.

Highest rates: All the western LGAs of MLHD. Rates were significantly higher than NSW in these western LGAs.

Lowest rates: Hilltops and Gundagai **LGAs**

Type 2 diabetes





Type 2 Diabetes hospitalisations

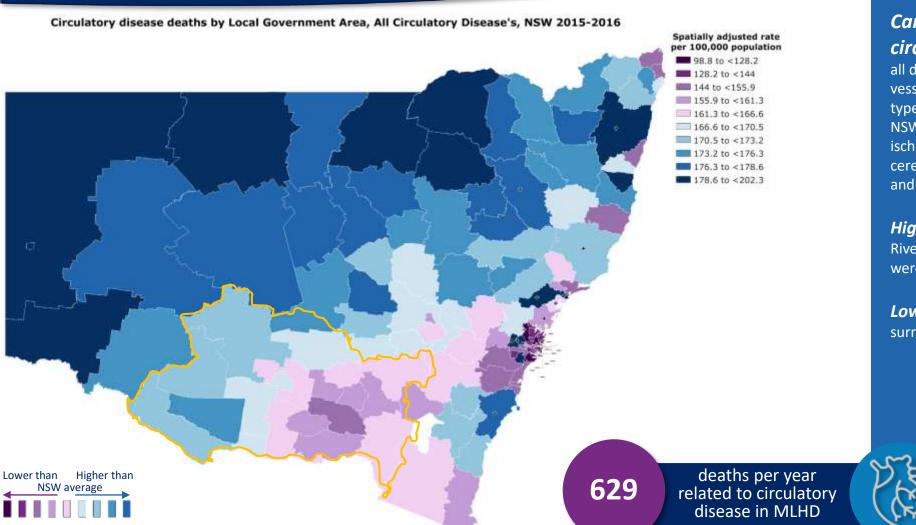
While Type 2 diabetes accounts for up to 90% of all diabetes cases in the NSW community, it accounted for around 63% of all hospitalisations for diabetes in 2016 17.

Highest rates: Gundagai where the rate was not significantly higher due to small numbers, however the rate in Wagga Wagga was significantly higher than NSW.

Lowest rates: Albury and Greater **Hume LGAs**

Rate per 100,000

Circulatory disease death

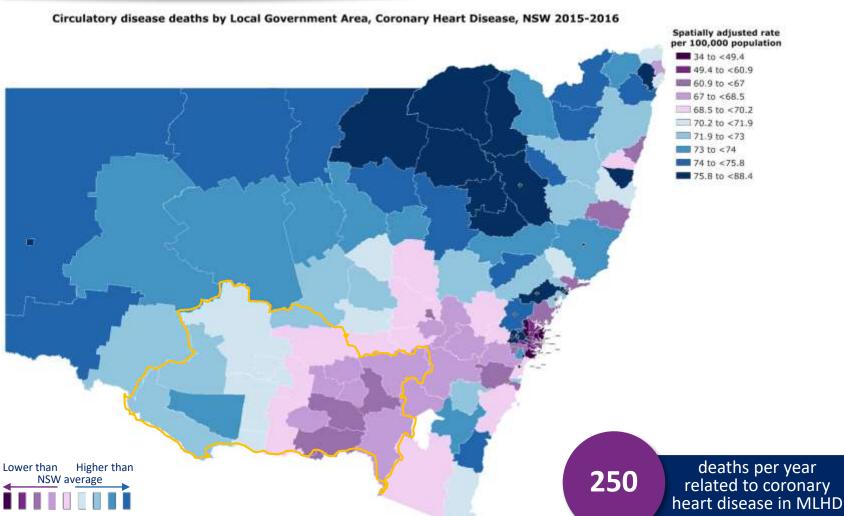


Cardiovascular (or circulatory) diseases comprise all diseases of the heart and blood vessels. Among these diseases, the four types responsible for the most deaths in NSW are: coronary heart disease (or ischaemic heart disease), stroke (or cerebrovascular disease), heart failure, and peripheral vascular disease.

Highest rates: Edward River, Murray River, Hay and Carrathool LGAs. Rates were not significantly higher than NSW.

Lowest rates: Wagga Wagga and surrounding LGAs.

Coronary heart disease death

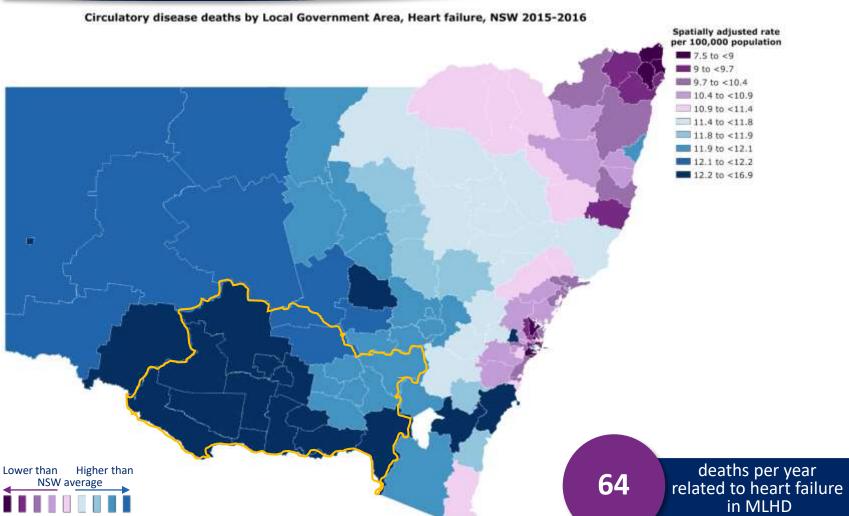


Coronary heart disease The rate of circulatory disease deaths has been decreasing steadily since the early 2000's and still dropped significantly from 2009 10 to 2012 13 and again in 2014 15. The majority of deaths were due to coronary heart disease (38%) followed by stroke (16%), heart failure (10%) and peripheral vascular disease (4%); ("other circulatory diseases" made up 32% of circulatory disease deaths). Rates of death for all causes have been decreasing since 2000 except for "other circulatory diseases".

Highest rates: Edward River, Murray River, Hay and Carrathool LGAs. Rates were not significantly higher than NSW.

Lowest rates: Wagga Wagga and surrounding LGAs.

Heart Failure death

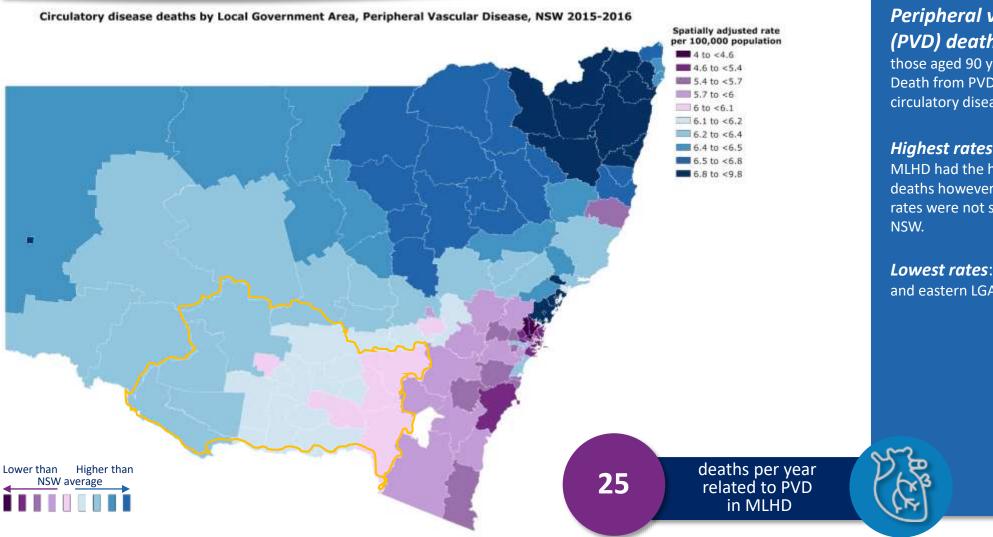


Heart failure deaths primarily occurred in those aged 85 years and over in NSW. Heart failure made up 10% of all circulatory disease deaths.

Highest rates: The south western LGAs of MLHD had some of the highest rates of heart failure deaths in NSW however due to small numbers rates were not significantly higher than NSW.

Lowest rates: Wagga Wagga and north eastern LGAs.

Peripheral vascular disease death

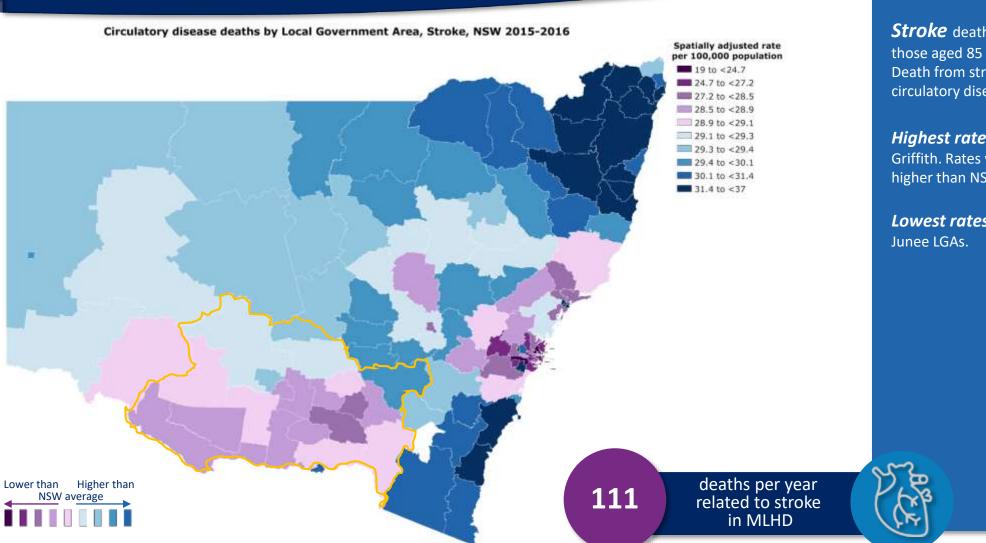


Peripheral vascular disease (PVD) deaths primarily occurred in those aged 90 years and over in NSW. Death from PVD made up 4% of all circulatory disease deaths.

Highest rates: The western LGAs of MLHD had the highest rates of PVD deaths however due to small numbers rates were not significantly higher than NSW.

Lowest rates: Griffith, Wagga Wagga and eastern LGAs had the lowest rates.

Stroke death



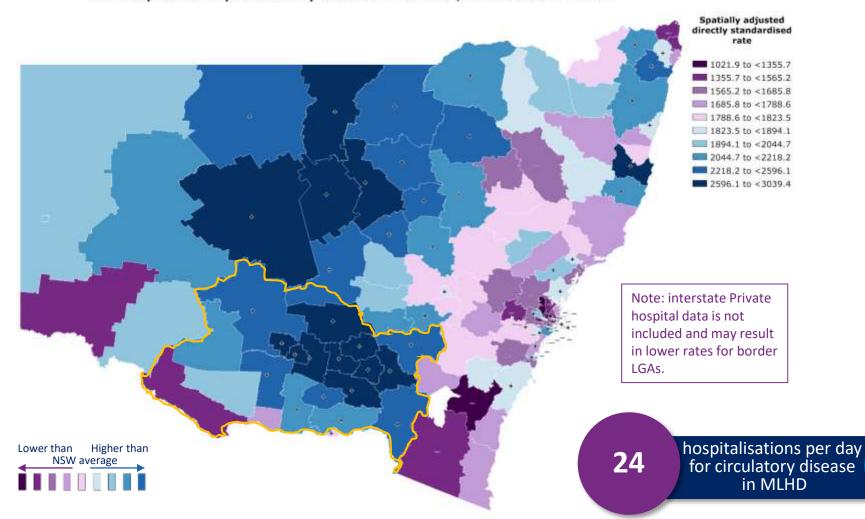
Stroke deaths primarily occurred in those aged 85 years and over in NSW. Death from stroke made up 16% of all circulatory disease deaths.

Highest rates: Albury, Hilltops and Griffith. Rates were not significantly higher than NSW.

Lowest rates: Wagga Wagga and Junee LGAs.

Circulatory disease hospitalisation





Circulatory disease

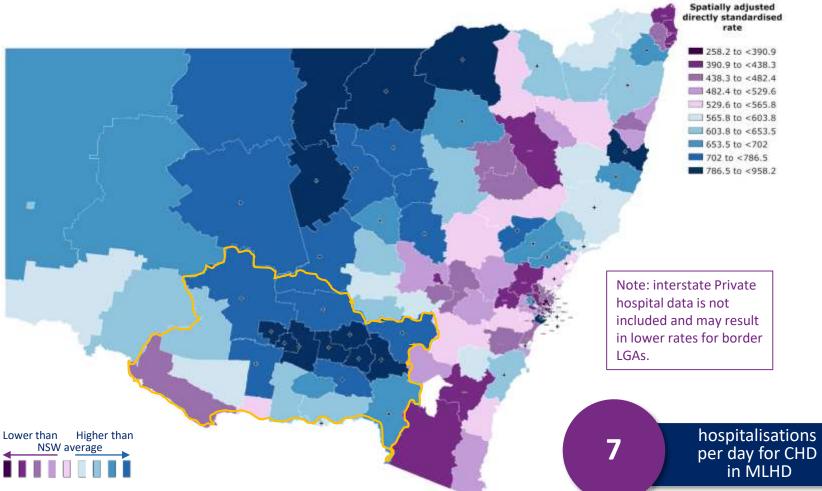
hospitalisation In 2016 17 there were 8,722 hospitalisations in total for circulatory disease, The age adjusted rate of hospitalisation for circulatory disease in MLHD in 2016 17 of 2,568 per 100,000 was significantly higher than NSW at 1,765 per 100,000. Overall Murrumbidgee LHD had the highest rates of most categories of circulatory disease hospitalisation compared to other LHDs in NSW and in fact was statistically significantly higher for almost all categories from all LHDs with the exception of tachycardia, varicose veins and TIA.

Highest rates: All central MLHD LGAs. Rates were significantly higher than NSW in all LGAs except Hay, Edward River, Murray River and Berrigan.

> **Lowest rates**: Murray River and Berrigan LGAs

CHD hospitalisation

Coronary heart disease hospitalisations by Local Government Area, persons of all age, NSW 2015-16 to 2016-17

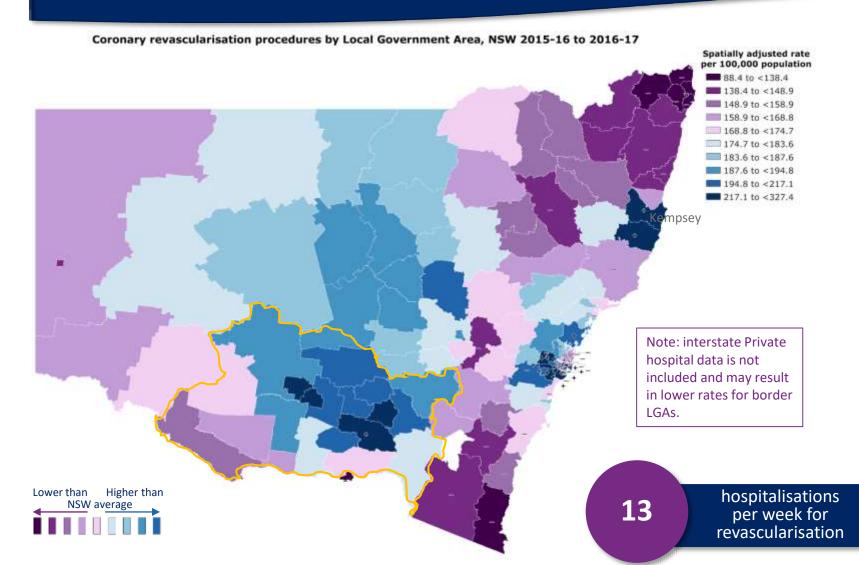


Coronary Heart disease hospitalisation made up 27% of circulatory disease hospitalisations. Murrumbidgee LHD had significantly higher hospitalisation rates of CHD compared to all other LHDs in NSW.

Highest rates: Temora, Junee, Gundagai, Coolamon, Narrandera, Griffith and Leeton LGAs. Rates were significantly higher than NSW in these and the following LGAs: Hilltops, Bland, Carrathool, Murrumbidgee, Wagga Wagga, Tumbarumba and Albury.

Lowest rates: Murray River and Berrigan LGAs.

Coronary revascularisation



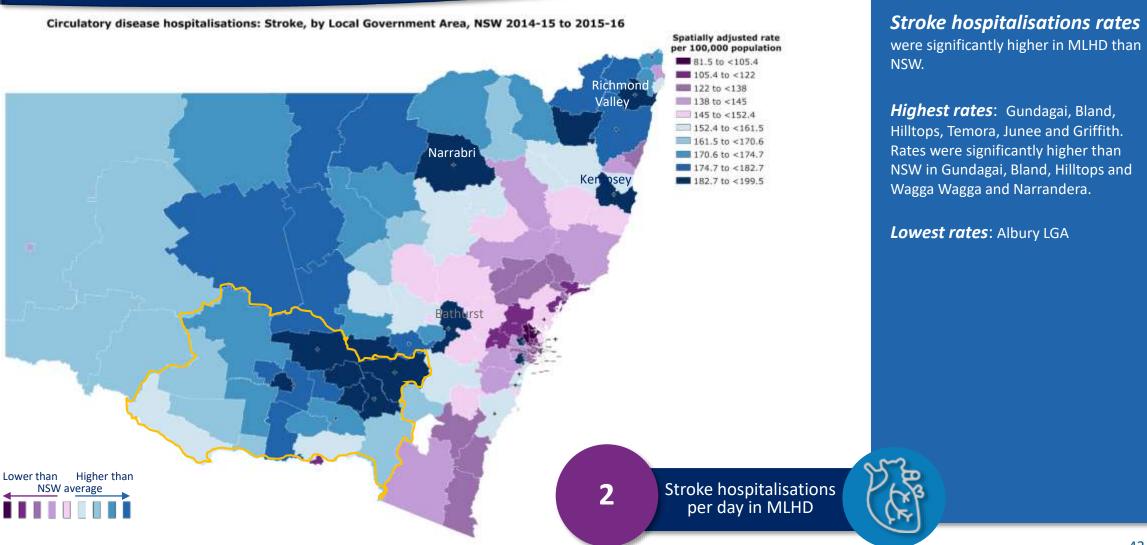
Cardiovascular procedures

used to restore adequate blood flow to blocked arteries were highest for residents of the South Eastern Sydney LHD and lowest in the Northern NSW LHD. Murrumbidgee LHD residents had a CVD procedure rate of 206 per 100,000 (2016 17) which was significantly higher than NSW at 186 per 100,000. The combined procedure rate had been increasing steadily since the early 1990's due to increases in angioplasty and stent surgery. Males have significantly higher rates of these procedures than females.

Highest rates: Wagga Wagga, Junee, Griffith and Leeton. Rates were significantly higher than NSW in Wagga Wagga.

Lowest rates: Albury and Murray LGAs

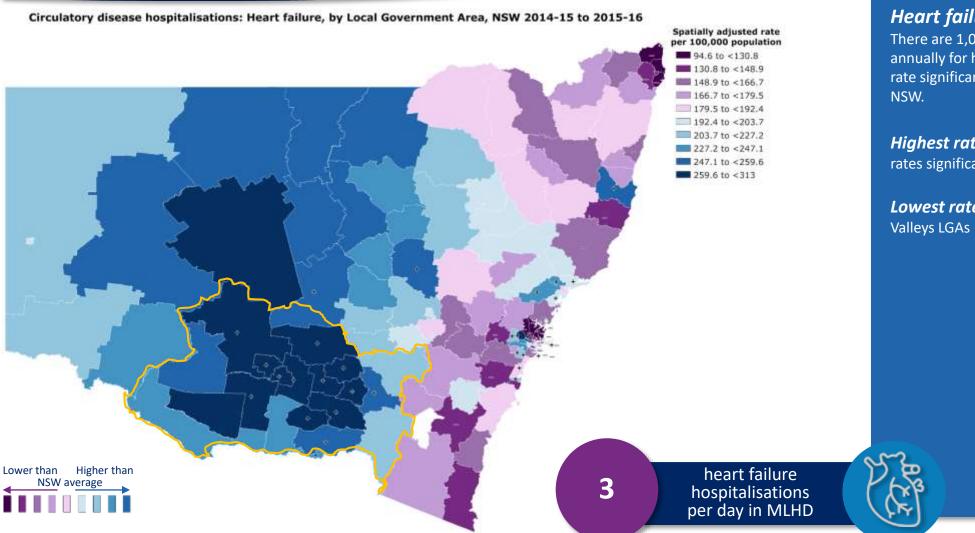
Stroke hospitalisation



Highest rates: Gundagai, Bland, Hilltops, Temora, Junee and Griffith. Rates were significantly higher than NSW in Gundagai, Bland, Hilltops and Wagga Wagga and Narrandera.

Lowest rates: Albury LGA

Heart failure hospitalisation



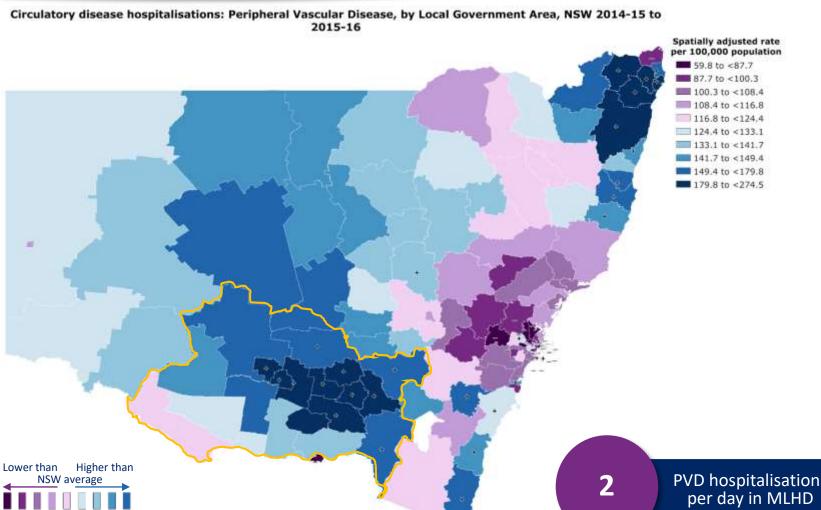
Heart failure hospitalisation

There are 1,000 hospitalisations annually for heart failure in MLHD, at a rate significantly higher rate than that of NSW

Highest rates: All central LGAs had rates significantly higher than NSW.

Lowest rates: Hilltops and Snowy Valleys LGAs

Peripheral vascular disease hospitalisation Murrumbidgee Health Atlas



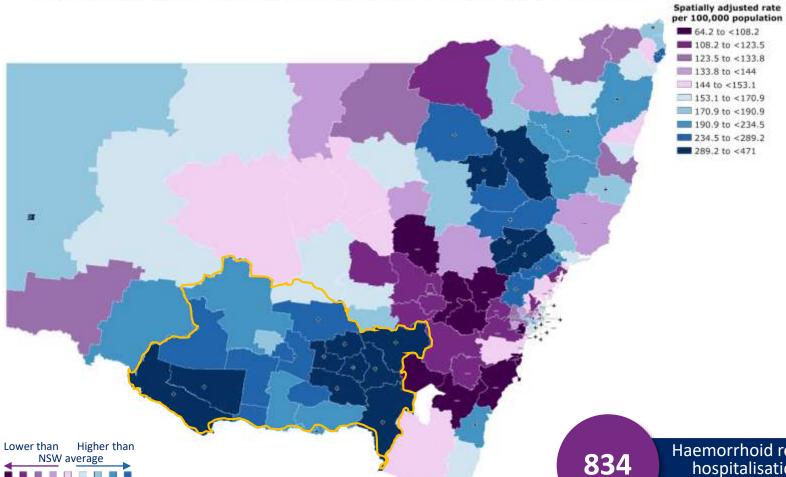
Peripheral vascular disease **hospitalisation**. There were 680 PVD hospitalisations in 2016 17 in MLHD, at a rate significantly higher than NSW rates.

Highest rates: Wagga Wagga, Temora, Junee, Gundagai, Coolamon, Narrandera, Leeton and Griffith LGAs. Rates were significantly higher than NSW. Rates were higher in Bland, Hilltops and Snowy Valleys LGAs also.

Lowest rates: Albury and Murray **LGAs**

PVD hospitalisations

Circulatory disease hospitalisations: Haemorrhoids, by Local Government Area, NSW 2014-15 to 2015-16



Haemorrhoids

Haemorrhoid

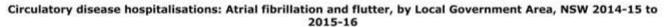
hospitalisations make up 10% of all circulatory disease hospitalisations in MLHD and occur at a significantly higher rate than NSW.

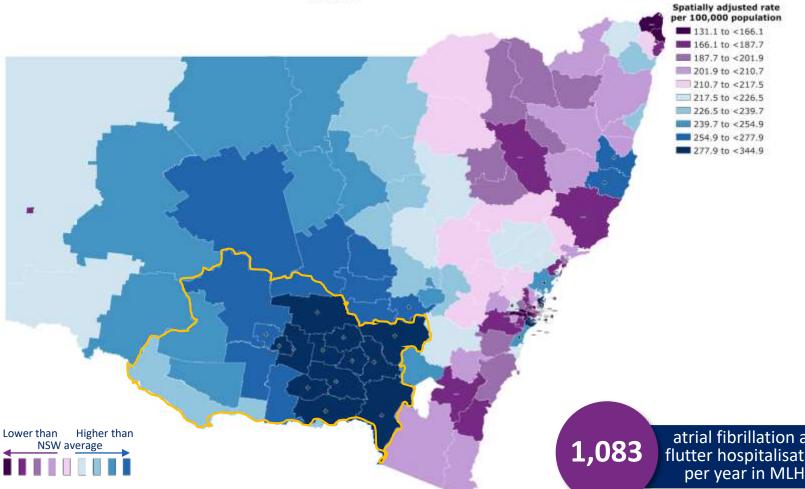
Highest rates: Wagga Wagga, Temora, Junee, Gundagai, Coolamon, Snowy Valleys, Murray River and Edward River LGAs. Rates were significantly higher than NSW.

Lowest rates: Griffith LGA

Haemorrhoid related hospitalisations per year in MLHD

Atrial fibrillation and flutter





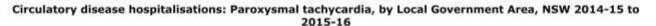
Atrial fibrillation and flutter hospitalisations.

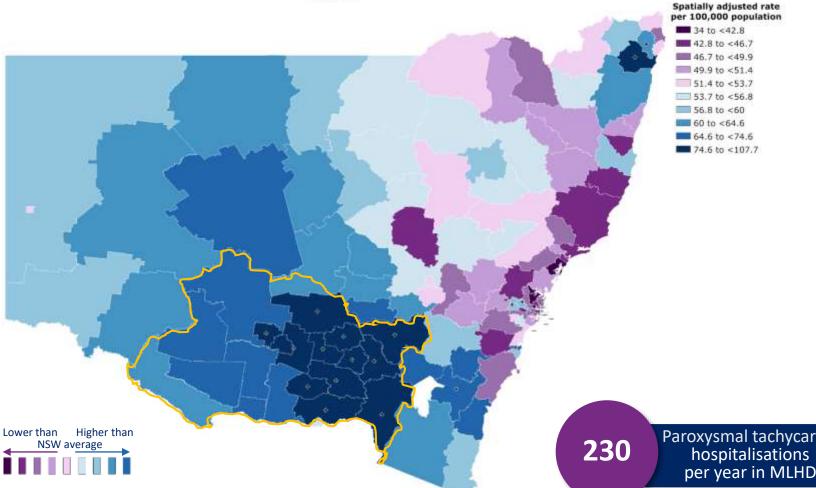
Highest rates: All eastern LGAs of MLHD had significantly higher rates than NSW.

Lowest rates: Albury and Murray **LGAs**

atrial fibrillation and flutter hospitalisations per year in MLHD

Paroxysmal tachycardia





Paroxysmal tachycardia

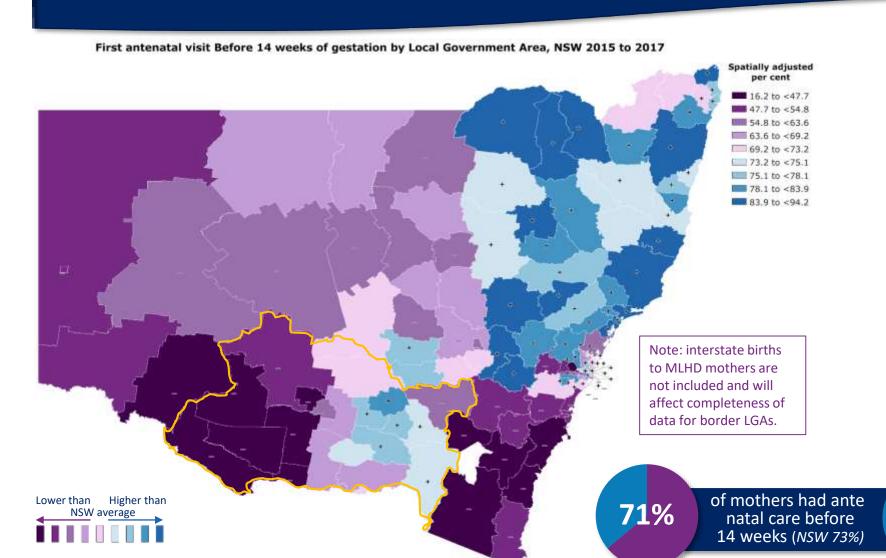
hospitalisations. Paroxysmal atrial tachycardia is a type of arrhythmia, or irregular heartbeat. Paroxysmal means that the episode of arrhythmia begins and ends abruptly. Tachycardia means that the heart is beating abnormally fast.

Highest rates: All eastern LGAs of MLHD had significantly higher rates of hospital admission than NSW.

Lowest rates: Murray River LGA

Paroxysmal tachycardia hospitalisations per year in MLHD

Antenatal care before 14 weeks



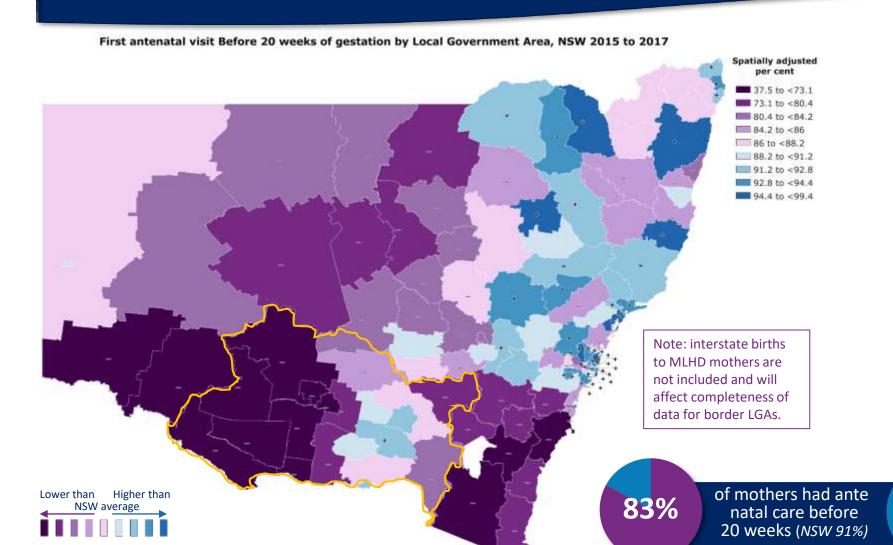
Antenatal care (or pre natal care) should commence as early as possible in pregnancy to ensure the best outcomes for the mother and the baby.

Highest rates: Temora, Wagga Wagga, Junee, Coolamon and Snowy Valleys LGAs. Rates were significantly higher than NSW.

Lowest rates: Griffith, Hay, Edward River, Murray River, Murrumbidgee and Berrigan LGAs. Western LGAs all had significantly lower rates than NSW of early antenatal care.



Antenatal care before 20 weeks



Antenatal care (or pre natal care) should commence as early as possible in pregnancy to ensure the best outcomes for the mother and the baby.

Highest rates: Wagga Wagga. Rates were significantly higher than NSW.

Lowest rates: All Western LGAs. Western LGAs all had significantly lower rates than NSW of early antenatal care at 20 weeks.



Discussion

Spatial patterns of Disease:

In MLHD deaths from circulatory disease (of which coronary heart disease, peripheral vascular disease, heart failure and stroke are components) did not occur at higher rates by LGA than NSW. The exception to this was heart failure which was highest in the south western LGAs of MLHD. Generally heart failure deaths occur in those aged 85 years or over and are not included in the preventable deaths categories.

In contrast to low rates of death however, rates of hospitalisation for most subgroups of circulatory disease occurred at significantly higher rates by LGA in MLHD than NSW, generally clustering around the central Riverina area of Wagga Wagga and LGAs just to the north particularly Coolamon, Junee and Gundagai.

MLHD LGAs in general have lower than average stroke death rates but higher than average stroke hospitalisation rates potentially indicating that stroke victims in MLHD are getting the appropriate hospital care in a timely and effective manner (Maps 39 and 43).

Some populations in MLHD had high rates of hospitalisation across many health indicators (Table 1) of these Narrandera and Hilltops had at least 1 in 5 people in the LGA living in highly disadvantaged communities and Gundagai 1 in 6. Murray River and Greater Hume LGAs on the other hand had proportionally fewer disadvantaged households and consistently had lower rates of hospitalisation across many indicators. Avoidable deaths and Preventable Hospitalisations were significantly higher than NSW rates in Hilltops, Bland, Carrathool and Wagga Wagga LGAs.

The major issues of concern across MLHD LGAs are:

SMOKING SMOKING DURING PREGNANCY OBESITY

INJURY DIABETES HEART DISEASE

Many factors may influence the spatial patterns of hospitalisations such as availability of service, remoteness, admission policies and coding practices as well as the level of ill-health in the community. Due to relatively small numbers of deaths at LGA level there may be large fluctuations in rates from year to year.

Many factors may influence
the spatial patterns of
hospitalisations such as
availability of service,
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policies and coding practices
as well as the level of ill
health and health risk
behaviours in the community.

Table 1: Worst ranked LGAs for included indicators	Best ranked LGAs for included indicators
Hilltops	Greater Hume
Gundagai	Berrigan
Bland	Murray River
Narrandera	Hay
Snowy Valleys	Albury

