AUSTRALIA’S ADULT HEALTH TRACKER

A brief report card on preventable chronic diseases, conditions and their risk factors
Tracking progress for a healthier Australia by 2025
This report card looks at the health of Australians in relation to chronic diseases and their risk factors. Australia’s Adult Health Tracker will be issued regularly and will track progress towards the targets for a healthier Australia by 2025.

1 in 2 Australians have a chronic disease.

Chronic diseases, like cardiovascular disease, cancer and diabetes are the leading cause of illness, disability and death in Australia.

Almost one third could be prevented by removing exposure to risk factors such as smoking, high body mass, alcohol use, physical inactivity and high blood pressure.

Despite the need... only 1.5% of spending* is dedicated to prevention.

*As a proportion of total health expenditure.

Obesity continues to increase and Australia ranks as one of the worst amongst high-income countries.

On average Australians consume 62% over the recommended salt intake level.

High levels of LDL cholesterol is a risk factor for coronary heart disease.

The number of people with high blood pressure is increasing. Almost three-quarters of people with high blood pressure do not know they have it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Obesiy</th>
<th>Salt</th>
<th>Cholesterol</th>
<th>Blood Pressure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Latest Data</td>
<td>TARGET 2025</td>
<td>Latest Data</td>
<td>TARGET 2025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.9%</td>
<td>24.6%</td>
<td>32.8%</td>
<td>24.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.1g</td>
<td>5.7g</td>
<td>32.8%</td>
<td>24.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor progress against target. Limited progress towards target. Good progress. Maintain efforts to reach target. Insufficient data to report on progress.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Approximately half of all Australians have a chronic disease and around 20% have at least two. Much of this disease burden is preventable through changes to policy, health funding and services. Importantly we all need healthier places to live our lives - schools, workplaces and transport.

The 2025 targets have been developed through the collective effort and guidance of Australia’s leading public health experts.

This work drew on the agenda set by the World Health Organization to tackle chronic diseases across the globe.

We have joined together to hold governments and others to account. We must stop the rise in chronic diseases to reduce their impact on our nation.

See over the page for signatories who support chronic diseases prevention in Australia.

### SMOKING
Smoking rates are reducing but it remains a key cause of preventable death in Australia.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LATEST DATA</th>
<th>TARGET 2025</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
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</table>

### PHYSICAL INACTIVITY
Physical inactivity increases risks for ischaemic heart disease, type 2 diabetes and stroke.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LATEST DATA</th>
<th>TARGET 2025</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>44.5%</td>
<td>40%</td>
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### BOWEL CANCER
Screening can help with early detection and prevention. More than one in three participate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LATEST DATA</th>
<th>TARGET 2020</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>36%</td>
<td>41%</td>
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</table>

### SUICIDE
Suicide is the leading cause of death for 15-44 year olds and is more common among men, Indigenous people and people living outside of cities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LATEST DATA</th>
<th>TARGET 2020</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 PER 100,000</td>
<td>9.8 PER 100,000</td>
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</table>

### ALCOHOL
Overall, the progress towards the target is promising. Males are twice as likely as females to drink in a long-term risky manner.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LATEST DATA</th>
<th>TARGET 2025</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18.2%</td>
<td>18%</td>
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### DIABETES
1.2 million Australians are living with diabetes and the number is growing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LATEST DATA</th>
<th>TARGET 2025</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
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</table>

### BREAST CANCER
Screening can help with early detection and prevention. Almost 1.5 million women participated in 2013/14.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LATEST DATA</th>
<th>TARGET 2020</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>53.7%</td>
<td>54%</td>
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</table>

### EARLY DEATHS FROM MAJOR CHRONIC DISEASES
The death rate from cardiovascular diseases, common cancers, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes for people aged 30-70 has significantly decreased.

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<tr>
<th>LATEST DATA</th>
<th>TARGET 2025</th>
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<tr>
<td>207 PER 100,000</td>
<td>166 PER 100,000</td>
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Note - 2020 targets were sometimes chosen in order to align with complementary Australian targets.
Chronic diseases prevention for Australia: Statement of commitment

We call for, and are active contributors towards, a systemic and sustained approach to the prevention and management of chronic diseases in Australia.

Core principles

Action is required urgently to reduce the incidence and impact of chronic diseases, and must address the underlying risk factors and determinants. There is a critical need for a national prevention agenda.

We support a set of core principles that provide a common platform for interventions to prevent chronic diseases:

1. A systemic approach—focussing on common risk factors and determinants.
2. Evidence-based action—acting now, using best available evidence, and continuing to build evidence.
3. Tackling health inequity and health disparity—working to improve and redress inequities and disparities in access to programs, services and inequities in outcomes.
4. A national agenda with local action—building commitment and innovation with local and community-level actions.
5. A life course approach—intervening early and exploiting prevention opportunities at all ages and across generations.
6. Shared responsibility—encouraging complementary actions by all groups.
7. Responsible partnerships—avoiding ceding policy influence to vested interests.

The benefits of reducing the incidence and impact of chronic diseases are nationally significant. They extend beyond the impact on the health of individuals to our children’s future, the wellbeing of the communities in which we live, and the economic prosperity of our society.

 Australians deserve a healthier future. We can, and we must, do better.

For further details, please see the accompanying report cards and technical document available on the AHPC website.

Signatories and supporters for chronic diseases prevention for Australia

Arthritis and Osteoporosis Victoria
Australia and New Zealand Obesity Society
Australian Centre for Health Research
Australian Dental Association
Australian Disease Management Association
Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations
Australian Health Care Reform Alliance
Australian Health Promotion Association
Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association
Australian Psychological Society
Australian Women’s Health Network
Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute
Better Health Plan for the West
Brimbank City Council
 Cabrini Institute
Cancer Council Australia
Catholic Health Australia
Charles Perkins Centre, University of Sydney
Chronic Illness Alliance
CLAN
Cohealth
CRANAplus
Deakin University
Diabetes Australia
Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education
George Institute for Global Health
Health West Partnership
Inner North West Primary Care Partnership
Kidney Health Australia
Lowitja Institute
Mental Health Australia
National Alliance for Action on Alcohol
National Heart Foundation
National Rural Health Alliance
National Stroke Foundation
NCD FREE
Network of Alcohol and other Drugs Agencies
Networking Health Victoria
Obesity Australia
Overcoming Multiple Sclerosis
People’s Health Movement OZ
Public Health Association of Australia
Royal Flying Doctor Service
School of Medicine, University of Notre Dame
School of Psychology and Public Health, La Trobe University
Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health
Social Determinants of Health Alliance
South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute
The Telethon Kids Institute
Victoria University
Victorian Health Promotion Foundation
YMCA

If you are concerned about your risks for chronic disease, talk to your General Practitioner. If you’d like to help prevent chronic diseases for all Australians, contact any of the organisations above.