



Respiratory diseases among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children



1/5 had long-term respiratory conditions 2012-2013

2x more likely to be hospitalised than non-Indigenous children 2014-15

Conditions of concern



Acute

- acute respiratory infections
- influenza and bronchiolitis

Chronic

- asthma
- bronchiectasis

Respiratory conditions that contribute most to the total burden of disease



Upper and lower respiratory tract conditions



Asthma

Risk factors



exposure to tobacco smoke



social and environmental factors (overcrowding and pollution)



low birthweight



low socioeconomic status



poor nutrition

Prevention strategies



Focus on children's lung and general health



Prevent smoking



Recommended vaccines



Reduce environmental exposures



Healthy diet



Educate and empower parents/carers



Improve infant health

1. Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council. (2017). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2017 report. Canberra: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

2. Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision. (2016). Overcoming Indigenous disadvantage: key indicators 2016 report. Canberra: Productivity Commission.

3. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2016). Australian Burden of Disease Study: impact and causes of illness and death in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 2011. Canberra: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

4. O'Grady, K. F., Hall, K., Bell, A., Chang, A. B., & Potter, C. (2018). Review of respiratory diseases among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. *Australian Indigenous HealthBulletin*, 18(2).