



# MALE MORTALITY IN AUSTRALIA



AUSTRALIAN MEN'S HEALTH FORUM FACT SHEET.  
MALE MORTALITY IN AUSTRALIA VERSION 1, FEBRUARY 2023.

## MEDIAN AGE OF DEATH

This fact sheet provides a summary of data on male mortality in Australia using the median age of death as the key indicator. This is the median age at which members of a population die in a specific year or time period. It is an indicator of mortality that enables us to compare the health of different populations and identify populations with poorer health than others.

In this fact sheet we draw comparisons between male and female populations as well as different populations of men (e.g., Indigenous and non-Indigenous males). This fact sheet does not provide information on the different causes of death.

## KEY FACTS

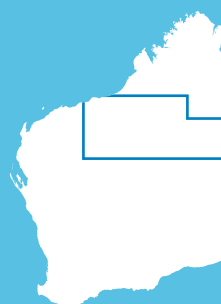
  
AUSTRALIAN MEN DIE  
**5.4 YEARS  
YOUNGER**  
THAN AUSTRALIAN WOMEN

THE MEDIAN AGE OF DEATH

 **79.4 MEN**  
 **84.9 WOMEN**

THE POOREST 20% OF MEN  
**DIE 10 YEARS  
YOUNGER**  
THAN THE RICHEST  
20% OF WOMEN

  
INDIGENOUS MALES DIE  
**22 YEARS  
YOUNGER**  
THAN NON-INDIGENOUS MALES  

THE LGA WITH THE LOWEST  
MEDIAN AGE OF DEATH IS  
**EAST PILBARA**  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
**38.4 YEARS**



## COUNTRY OF BIRTH


- 1 Men born in Australia die nearly 7 years younger than women born in Australia on average. In 2021, the median age of death for people who are born and die in Australia was 77.8 years for males and 84.5 years for females, a gap of 6.7 years. (ABS 2022)
- 2 When we look at the whole population including those born overseas, men in Australia die more than 5 years younger than women on average. In 2021, the median age of death was 79.4 years for males and 84.8 years for females, a gap of 5.4 years. (ABS 2022)
- 3 Men living in Australia who were born overseas, live nearly 4 years longer than men born in Australia on average (81.7 years compared to 77.8 years). However, there are significant variations in the median age of death for men born overseas, ranging from just 40 years for men born in Nepal to 87.1 years for Italian-born men, according to 2021 data. (ABS 2022)
- 4 Looking at men born overseas region by region, men living in Australia who were born in South-East Asia die youngest on average (75.2 years), followed by the Americas and the Sub-Saharan Africa (76.1), Southern and Central Asia (76.5 years), North Africa and the Middle East (78.9 years), North West Europe (82.3 years), North East Asia (80.9 years) and Southern and Eastern Europe (85.1 years), according to 2021 data. (ABS 2022)

## SOCIAL DETERMINANTS

- 5 Within Australia, there are significant differences in the median age of death based on socioeconomic background. For example, in 2020 the poorest 20% of men in Australia died 4 years younger than the richest 20% of men (77.2 years vs. 81.2 years) and nearly 10 years younger than the richest 20% of women (77.2 years vs. 86.6 years). In contrast, the poorest 20% of women live 2 years longer than the richest 20% of men (83 years vs. 81.2 years). (AIHW 2022)
- 6 There are notable variations in the median age of death between urban and rural areas. There are 5 categories of increasing geographic remoteness used by statisticians in Australia: major cities, inner regional areas, outer regional area, remote areas and very remote areas. Men living in very remote areas die 14 years younger than men in major cities on average (65.7 years vs. 79.6 years), according to data from 2020. Compared with men in very remote areas, women in major cities live nearly 20 years longer on average (65.7 years vs. 85.2 years). (AIHW 2022a)
- 7 Across 4 of the 5 geographic areas, men die more than 5 years younger than women on average according to data for 2020. These areas are major cities (79.6 years vs. 85.2 years), inner regional areas (78.7 years vs. 84.3 years), outer regional areas (76.8 years vs. 82.7 years) and remote areas (73.1 years vs. 78.3 years). The gap between men and women in very remote areas is just half a year (65.7 years vs. 66.2 years). (AIHW 2022a)
- 8 There are significant gaps in mortality based on Indigenous status. For the period 2013 to 2017, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males died 3 years younger than Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males (58 years vs 61 years), 22 years younger than non-Indigenous males (56 years vs. 78 years) and 29 years younger than non-Indigenous females (56 years vs. 85 years). (PHIDU 2022)



## STATES + TERRITORIES

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- 9** The median age of death varies between different states and territories. For example, the gap in median age of death between men in the Northern Territory and men in South Australia was over 11 years (68.2 years vs. 79.8 years), according to data from 2020. In the same period, the gap between men in the Northern Territory and women in South Australia was over 17 years (68.2 years vs. 85.4 years). (AIHW 2022b)
  - 10** The States and territories with the highest median age of death for men in 2022 were South Australia (79.8 years) and Victoria (79.8 years), followed by New South Wales (79.3 years), the Australian Capital Territory (79.0 years), Queensland (77.9 years) and Tasmania (77.9 years), Western Australia (77.4 years) and the Northern Territory (68.2 years). (AIHW 2022b)
  - 11** The States and territories with the highest gender gaps in median age of death in 2022 were Western Australia with a 6.9 year gap (77.4 years v 84.3 years), Tasmania with a 6.3 year gap (77.9 years v 84.2 years), New South Wales (79.3 years v 84.9 years), Queensland (77.9 years v 83.5 years) and South Australia (79.8 years v 85.4 years), all with gaps of 5.6 years, and Victoria (79.8 years v 85.3 years) and Australian Capital Territory (79.0 years v 84.5 years), with 5.5 year gaps. The exception is the Northern Territory where men live 1.9 years longer than women on average (68.2 years v 66.3 years). (AIHW 2022b)

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

- 12** The median age of death can vary significantly when comparing Local Government Areas (LGAs). These differences can be influenced by the demographic make-up of different areas. For example, areas that are popular with retirees where the median age of the population is higher than average may also have a higher median age of death than average. (AIHW 2022c)
- 13** In 2020, the LGA with the lowest median age of death for men was East Pilbara in Western Australia (38.4 years). In contrast, the LGA with the highest median age of death for men was Cambridge in the inner western suburbs of Perth (86.4 years). The LGA with the highest median age of death for women was Cottesloe, a western suburb of Perth (92.4 years). (AIHW 2022c)
- 14** In 95% of LGAs there is a male gender gap in the median age of death with men dying younger than women. The LGA with the largest gender gap in median age of death is Junee in New South Wales where men die 21.5 years younger than women (68.8 years vs 90.2 years). (AIHW 2022c)
- 15** The LGAs with the largest gender gap in the median age of death in other states and territories include: Denmark in Western Australia with a gap of 17.2 years (72.3 years vs 89.5 years), Central Desert in the Northern Territory with a gap of 15.9 years (52.3 years vs 68.1 years); Break O' Day in Tasmania with a gap of 14.5 years (74.5 years vs 89.0 years), Adelaide Plains in South Australia with a gap of 13.5 years (68.0 years vs 81.5 years), Towong in Victoria with a gap of 12.2 years (75.5 years vs 87.7 years), and Livingstone in Queensland with a gap of 10.5 years (75.0 years vs 85.5 years). (AIHW 2022c)

## REFERENCES

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3. AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) 2022a. Mortality Over Regions and Time (MORT) books, Remoteness area 2016-2020. Canberra: AIHW.
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This fact sheet is published by the Australian Men's Health Forum in line with our commitment to provide accurate and up-to-date statistics on a broad range of men's health and social issues to the media, politicians and policymakers, health professionals, men's health advocates and the general public.