



Australian Government

Australian Institute of
Health and Welfare

Cardiovascular disease fact sheet: Prevalence of stroke in Western Australia

Stroke in Western Australia

Stroke is a serious chronic condition that occurs when an artery supplying blood to the brain either suddenly becomes blocked (ischaemic stroke) or ruptures and begins to bleed (haemorrhagic stroke). Either might result in part of the brain dying and lead to sudden impairment, including paralysis of 1 or more parts of the body, or difficulties with swallowing, speech, vision and cognition. In many but not all cases, stroke is preventable, as many of its risk factors are modifiable (AIHW 2014b).

What is in this fact sheet?

This fact sheet presents the prevalence of stroke in Western Australia in 2010—that is, the number of people who had at least 1 hospital admission for stroke in the previous 10 years and were still alive on 30 June 2010.

Linked hospitalisation and mortality data from Western Australia were used to calculate the prevalence of stroke. Use of this linked data allows individuals to be followed over time, giving a more accurate estimate of prevalence, as individuals with multiple hospitalisations are only counted once and people who have died are excluded. This measure of prevalence has the advantage of being based on clinical diagnoses rather than self-reported information, but it might miss less severe cases that do not result in hospitalisation.

While the data presented here for Western Australia only may not be nationally representative, it may inform how stroke could be monitored in other jurisdictions using linked data.

Who has strokes?

Between 2000 and 2010, an estimated 14,900 people had had a stroke in Western Australia and were still alive in 2010.

Mostly older people

The majority (68%) of prevalent stroke cases were aged 65 and over, including nearly half (47%) of those aged 75 and over. Only 17% of stroke cases were aged under 55.

Fast facts

14,900 people in Western Australia had a stroke between 2000 and 2010 and were still alive in 2010 (0.6% of the population).

2 in 3 strokes occurred in those aged **65 and over**.



55% of strokes occurred in **males**.



The stroke prevalence rates were highest in people aged 85 and over (8.2%)—more than 4 times as high as for those aged 65–74 (2.0%), and more than 8 times as high as for those aged 55–64 (0.9%) (Table 1).

Mostly men except in the very old

The prevalence of stroke was more common in males than females (8,200 compared with 6,700). But for those aged 85 and over, this was reversed, with 1,600 women having had a stroke compared with 1,100 men, reflecting the longer life span of women.

Stroke prevalence was 1.2 times as high for males (0.7%) compared with females (0.6%), with the greatest gap in the 65–74 age group where the male rate (2.6%) was 1.7 times as high as the female rate (1.5%). But this gap narrowed in the 85 and over age group with the male rate (9.4%) 1.2 times as high as the female rate (7.6%) (Figure 1).

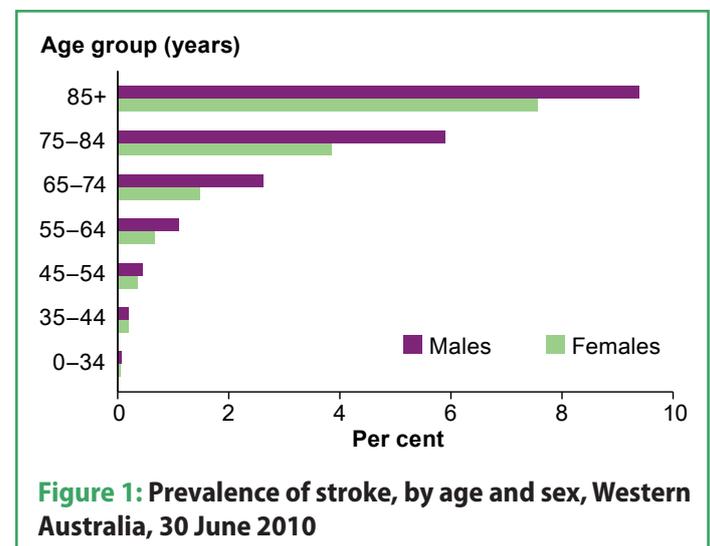


Figure 1: Prevalence of stroke, by age and sex, Western Australia, 30 June 2010

Table 1: Prevalence of stroke, by age and sex, Western Australia, 30 June 2010

| Age group (years) | Males | | Females | | Persons | |
|-------------------|--------------|----------|--------------|----------|---------------|----------|
| | Number | Per cent | Number | Per cent | Number | Per cent |
| 0–4 | 34 | 0.0 | 20 | 0.0 | 54 | 0.0 |
| 5–9 | 48 | 0.1 | 38 | 0.1 | 86 | 0.1 |
| 10–14 | 61 | 0.1 | 26 | 0.0 | 87 | 0.1 |
| 15–19 | 24 | 0.0 | 23 | 0.0 | 47 | 0.0 |
| 20–24 | 47 | 0.1 | 35 | 0.0 | 82 | 0.0 |
| 25–29 | 73 | 0.1 | 59 | 0.1 | 132 | 0.1 |
| 30–34 | 63 | 0.1 | 82 | 0.1 | 145 | 0.1 |
| 35–39 | 126 | 0.1 | 144 | 0.2 | 270 | 0.2 |
| 40–44 | 207 | 0.2 | 174 | 0.2 | 381 | 0.2 |
| 45–49 | 281 | 0.3 | 245 | 0.3 | 526 | 0.3 |
| 50–54 | 426 | 0.6 | 310 | 0.4 | 736 | 0.5 |
| 55–59 | 603 | 0.9 | 369 | 0.5 | 972 | 0.7 |
| 60–64 | 810 | 1.3 | 474 | 0.8 | 1,284 | 1.1 |
| 65–69 | 955 | 2.2 | 499 | 1.2 | 1,454 | 1.7 |
| 70–74 | 1,049 | 3.2 | 648 | 1.9 | 1,697 | 2.5 |
| 75–79 | 1,184 | 5.1 | 830 | 3.1 | 2,014 | 4.0 |
| 80–84 | 1,150 | 7.0 | 1,057 | 4.8 | 2,207 | 5.8 |
| 85+ | 1,054 | 9.4 | 1,640 | 7.6 | 2,694 | 8.2 |
| Total | 8,195 | | 6,673 | | 14,868 | |

Notes:

1. Prevalence is defined as the number of people who had at least 1 hospital admission for stroke in the previous 10 years and were still alive on 30 June 2010.
2. Prevalence of stroke is estimated using linked hospitalisation and mortality data (International Classification of Diseases 10th Revision—ICD-10 and ICD-10-AM codes I60–I64, I69) from Western Australia. Refer to AIHW 2014a for a detailed explanation on the method used to link the data.
3. This measure of prevalence might miss less severe cases of stroke that did not result in hospitalisation.

Source: AIHW analysis of Western Australia linked hospitalisation and deaths data sets.

References

AIHW 2014a. Acute coronary syndrome: validation of the method used to monitor incidence in Australia. Cat. no. CVD 68. Canberra: AIHW.

AIHW 2014b. Cardiovascular disease, diabetes and chronic kidney disease: Australian facts: prevalence and incidence. Cardiovascular, diabetes and chronic kidney disease series no. 2. Cat. no. CDK 2. Canberra: AIHW.

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Where can I find out more?

For more information, go to: <www.aihw.gov.au/cardiovascular-disease/>.

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