Aboriginal Childhood Immunisation Coverage
South Eastern Sydney Local Health District, Annual Report 2021

1. Introduction

This annual report provides an overview of the latest childhood immunisation coverage for Aboriginal children living within the boundaries of South Eastern Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD), based on immunisation encounters for Aboriginal children reported by providers to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR).

It summarises the percentage of children reported as 'fully immunised' for age in the three age cohorts routinely used to monitor childhood vaccinations across the Australian population: 12 to less than 15 months of age; 24 to less than 27 months of age; and 60 to less than 63 months of age. Information is provided for South Eastern Sydney residents by age group and local government area (LGA). Vaccinations are provided according to the Aboriginal National Immunisation Program (NIP) schedule.

The data in this report comes from the AIR, a national register administered by Australian Department of Human Services that records vaccinations given to people of all ages in Australia. For children who identify as being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander to be included in this report, the vaccination provider must be made aware and then they can update a child's Indigenous status on AIR. In 2021 there was a range of 169 – 217 Aboriginal children in the age cohorts measured. This is likely to be only a portion of the Aboriginal children of those ages living in SESLHD, highlighting the importance of all health providers asking the question and correctly identifying Aboriginal clients.

It is important to note that coverage data reported by the AIR may also underestimate immunisation rates.[1] This is because it relies on reports from immunisation providers, and this data may not be recorded or transmitted correctly, or on time, for various reasons.

In addition, annual cohorts at LHD level vary in size from approximately 120 to 240 children, so that random effects in small populations may lead to fluctuations in calculated coverage rates from one year to the next. This impact is more marked when considering coverage rates by local government area. These factors should be taken into account when interpreting the information in this report, especially in relation to short term trends.

Summary:

Amongst Aboriginal children In SESLHD in 2021, vaccination coverage:

- Improved to 93.4% fully vaccinated at 12 months
- Declined to 92.3% at 2 years
- Improved to 97.4% at 5 years

Decreases in childhood immunisation coverage rates have been noted recently across a number of cohorts in states and territories nationally, thought to be related to disruptions related to the pandemic.

1. Law C, McGuire R, Ferson MJ, et al on behalf of the NSW Public Health Network AIR Study Group. Children overdue for immunisation: a question of coverage or reporting? An audit of the Australian Immunisation Register. Aust NZ J Public Health 2019; Online; doi:10.1111/1753-6405.12891

2. Aboriginal immunisation coverage at one year (12 to less than 15 months of age)

In 2021 on average 93.4% of Aboriginal children in this age cohort were considered fully vaccinated. The coverage among children of this age group is higher than last year (91.5%). Coverage rates in South Eastern Sydney are lower than the NSW coverage level in this age group (93.7%).

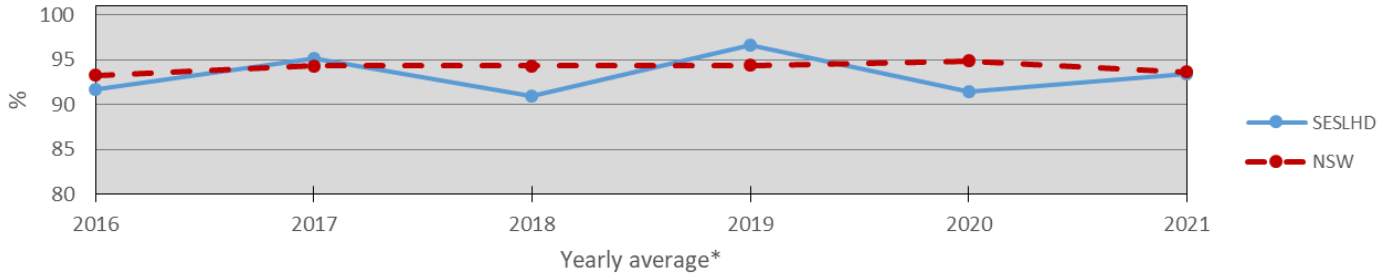
In 2021, the lowest coverage was reported in Botany Bay LGA, with 87.5% of children who identify as being Aboriginal recorded as having received all recommended vaccines. However only 21 children identified as Aboriginal were reported in Botany Bay in 2021. The highest coverage was reported in Hurstville, Kogarah, Waverley and Woollahra LGA's, all reporting 100% of children who identify as being Aboriginal having received all recommended vaccinations.

AIR based coverage for Aboriginal children aged 12 to less than 15 months, by LGA, SESLHD

Local Government Area (LGA)	Yearly Coverage (%) 2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2021 Population
Botany Bay[2]	95.2	100	88	90.9	100	85.7	***21***
Hurstville[3]	90.9	100	85	93.8	92	100	***17***
Kogarah[3]	100	100	92	100	100	100	***8***
Randwick	89.7	93	96	95.6	86	89.4	***47***
Rockdale[2]	90	83	87	100	94	95	***20***
Sutherland Shire	89.1	95	88	98.1	97	94.4	***72***
Sydney[1]	79.7	97	95	100	92	95.7	***23***
Waverley	100	89	100	100	71	100	***5***
Woollahra	50	100	0	0	100	100	***4***
SESLHD*	*91.7*	*95.2*	*91.0*	*96.7*	*91.5*	***93.4***	***217***
NSW*	*93.3*	*94.3*	*94.3*	*94.4*	*94.9*	***93.7***	***7332***

[1]Sydney LGA is split between South Eastern Sydney LHD and Sydney LHD 33% and 67% respectively; [2]Botany Bay and Rockdale councils merged in 2016 and are now known as Bayside Council; [3]Hurstville and Kogarah councils merged in 2016 and are now known as Georges River Council. *The average is presented as the average of the quarterly percent coverage for NSW and SESLHD for the year

AIR based coverage at 12 to less than 15 months of age, SESLHD compared to NSW, 2016 – 2021



*The average is presented as the average of the quarterly percent coverage for NSW and SESLHD for the year

3. Aboriginal immunisation coverage at two years (24 to less than 27 months of age)

In 2021 on average 92.3% of the district residents in this age cohort were considered fully vaccinated. The coverage among children of this age group is lower than last year (93.8%). Coverage rates in South Eastern Sydney are lower than the NSW coverage level in this age group (93%).

In 2021, the lowest coverage was reported in Waverley LGA, with 83.3% of children who identify as being Aboriginal recorded as having received all recommended vaccines. However only 6 children identified as Aboriginal were reported in Waverley in 2021. The highest coverage was reported in Rockdale and Woollahra LGA's reporting 100% of children who identify as being Aboriginal having received all recommended vaccinations.

AIR based coverage for Aboriginal children aged 24 to less than 27 months, by LGA, SESLHD

Local Government Area (LGA)	Yearly Coverage (%) 2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2021 Population
Botany Bay[2]	100	86.7	100	84.2	95.5	95	***20***
Hurstville[3]	75	100	86	100	89.5	90.9	***11***
Kogarah[3]	100	100	100	100	100	90	***10***
Randwick	84	79.5	90	81.6	93.2	92.7	***55***
Rockdale[2]	77	85.7	92	90.9	87.5	100	***15***
Sutherland Shire	93	90	90	91.1	96.3	93	***43***
Sydney[1]	89	91.9	86	87.5	94.4	95.8	***24***
Waverley	60	100	100	100	100	83.3	***6***
Woollahra	100	100	0	0	50	100	***2***
SESLHD*	*86.6*	*89.3*	*92.5*	*90.0*	*93.8*	***92.3***	***186***
NSW*	*90.9*	*90.8*	*91.0*	*91.8*	*92.6*	***93.0***	***7158***

[1]Sydney LGA is split between South Eastern Sydney LHD and Sydney LHD 33% and 67% respectively; [2]Botany Bay and Rockdale councils merged in 2016 and are now known as Bayside Council; [3]Hurstville and Kogarah councils merged in 2016 and are now known as Georges River Council. *The average is presented as the average of the quarterly percent coverage for NSW and SESLHD for the year

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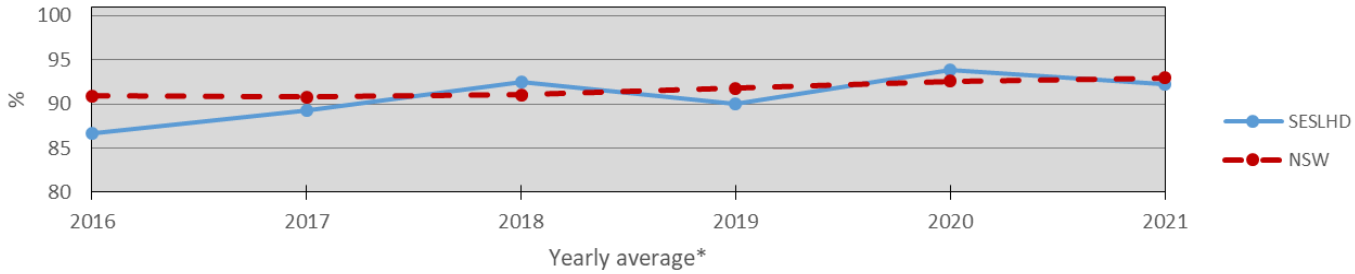


*The average is presented as the average of the quarterly percent coverage for NSW and SESLHD for the year.

4. Aboriginal immunisation coverage at four years (60 to less than 63 months of age)

In 2021 on average 97.4% of the district residents in this age cohort were considered fully vaccinated. The coverage among children of this age group is higher than last year (96.5%). Coverage rates in South Eastern Sydney are similar to the NSW coverage level in this age group (97.5%).

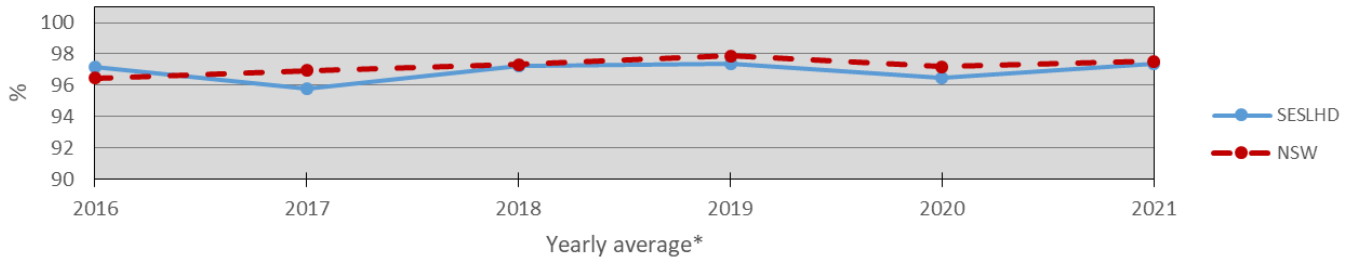
In 2021, the lowest coverage was reported in Kogarah LGA, with 75% of children who identify as being Aboriginal recorded as having received all recommended vaccines. However only 8 children identified as Aboriginal were reported in Kogarah in 2021. The highest coverage was reported in Botany Bay, Hurstville, Rockdale, Sutherland Shire and Woollahra LGA's all reporting 100% of children who identify as being Aboriginal having received all recommended vaccinations.

AIR based coverage for Aboriginal children aged 60 to less than 63 months, by LGA, SESLHD

Local Government Area (LGA)	Yearly Coverage (%) 2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2021 Population
Botany Bay[2]	100	92.9	100	91.7	100	100	***18***
Hurstville[3]	100	100	100	100	100	100	***8***
Kogarah[3]	100	100	100	100	100	75	***8***
Randwick	96	100	94	100	91	97.8	***46***
Rockdale[2]	100	100	100	100	100	100	***12***
Sutherland Shire	100	94.4	100	97.6	97	100	***52***
Sydney[1]	97	92.4	100	97.4	100	100	***17***
Waverley	0	100	100	66.7	100	85.7	***7***
Woollahra	100	100	0	0	100	100	***1***
SESLHD*	*97.2*	*95.8*	*97.3*	*97.4*	*96.5*	***97.4***	***169***
NSW*	*96.5*	*97.0*	*97.3*	*97.9*	*97.2*	***97.5***	***6628***

[1]Sydney LGA is split between South Eastern Sydney LHD and Sydney LHD 33% and 67% respectively; [2]Botany Bay and Rockdale councils merged in 2016 and are now known as Bayside Council; [3]Hurstville and Kogarah councils merged in 2016 and are now known as Georges River Council *The average is presented as the average of the quarterly percent coverage for NSW and SESLHD for the year

AIR based coverage at 60 to less than 63 months of age, SESLHD compared to NSW, 2016 – 2021



*The average is presented as the average of the quarterly percent coverage for NSW and SESLHD for the year.

For more information:

Trends for individual NSW LHDs: https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/coverage-by-lhd.aspx.

National coverage by Primary Health Network: https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports-data/indicators/healthy-community-indicators

Information about free childhood vaccinations for Aboriginal children: https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2021/10/national-immunisation-program-schedule-for-all-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-people_0.pdf