



Central Australia has the
highest incidence rate of lower
limb amputation for any region
in Australia

BUSH STEPS

Laura Stuart, Lara Kimmel and Andrew Jolly completed a demographic study on Amputation in Central Australia...



> [Aust Health Rev.](#) 2021 Jun;45(3):361-367. doi: 10.1071/AH20182.

Incidence of lower limb amputation in Central Australia

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Affiliations + expand

PMID: 33647229 DOI: [10.1071/AH20182](#)

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The study showed the greatest incidence was:

Aboriginal Australians,
being female and being on
renal dialysis.

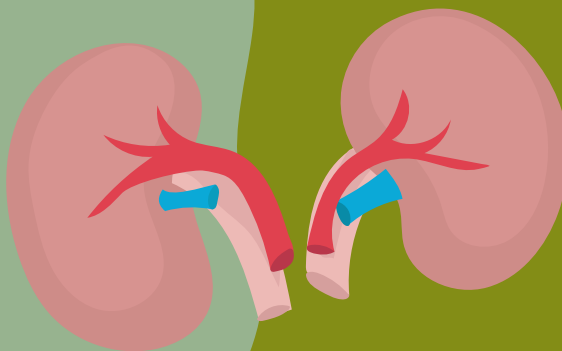
The study also showed that those with a lower limb amputation in **Central Australia** were:

On average,
13 years
younger

More likely
to have
type 2
diabetes



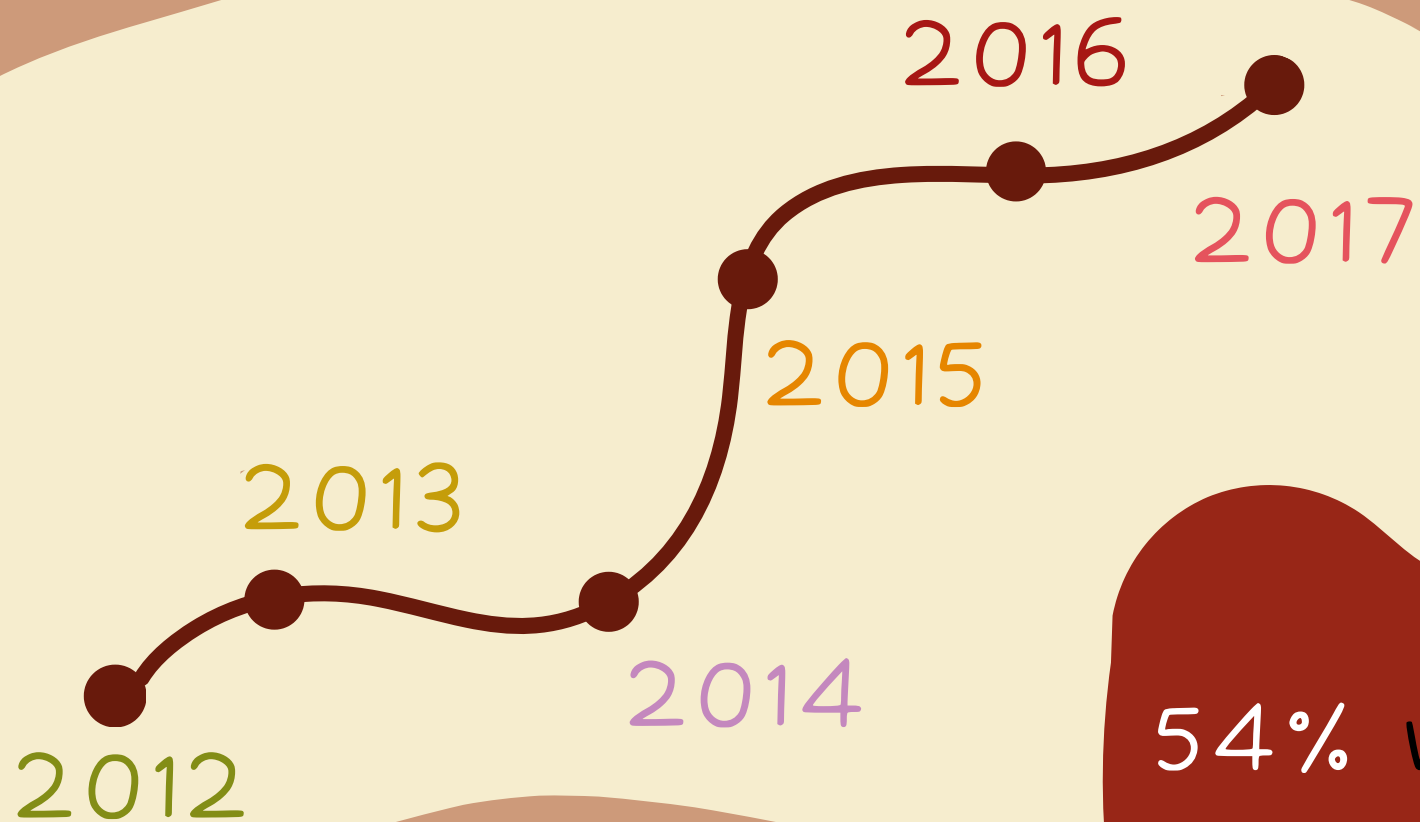
Require
renal
dialysis



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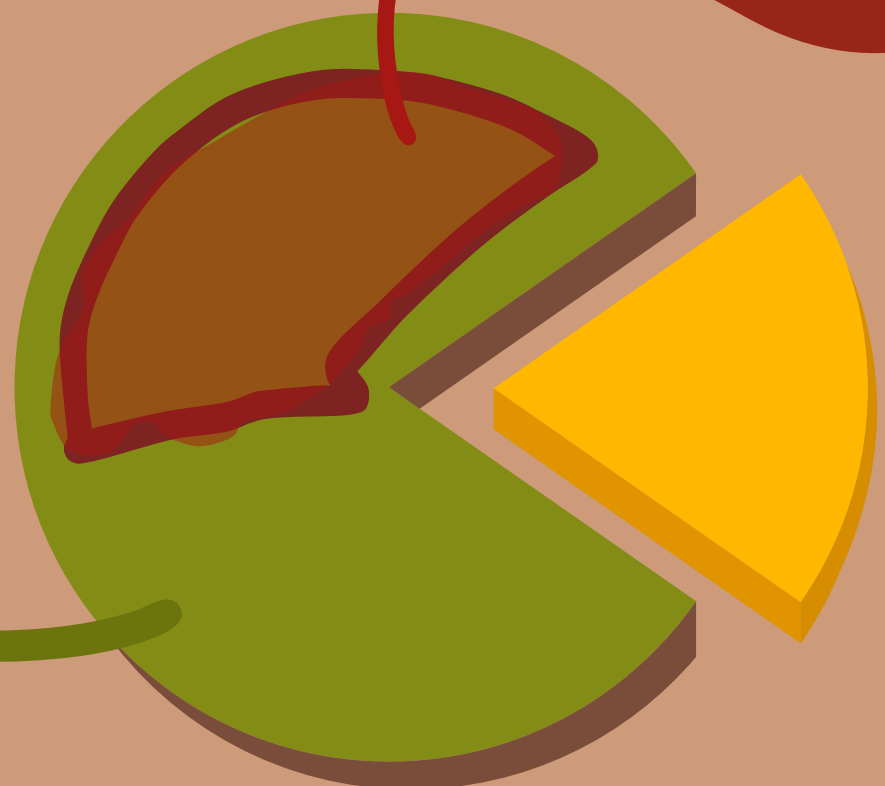
The study determined

Over 5 years, 166 people underwent 291 amputations



54% were female

84% identified as Aboriginal Australians



The study also determined:

Of the Aboriginal
Australian's with
lower limb
amputation, 82%
lived very remotely



What is really remote? And where is Central Australia?

Central Australia is the arid interior of Australia, covering 1 million square Kilometres of the NT, as well as nearby communities.

Central Australia NT has a population of around 41,545 people (2024) and a population density of 0.08 persons per square Kilometre.

For context: Singapore has around 8,300 people for the same area.



Where is Central Australia?



Central Australia includes the central town of Alice Springs, remote communities, Indigenous Protected Areas and pastoral stations.

So what does this actually mean?

There is a geographical variance in the incidence of lower limb amputation in Australia; the Northern Territory is overrepresented, with rates 2-3x higher than that of the national average.

This is one of the most challenging geographical areas to service.

