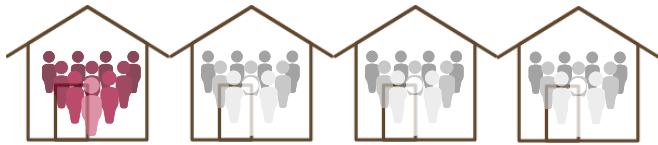


Acute rheumatic fever (ARF) and rheumatic heart disease (RHD) still exist in **South Australia**

Rheumatic Heart Disease is
PREVENTABLE



25%⁽¹⁾ of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and over were living in **overcrowded housing** - a big driver for ARF

5-24 YEARS

the age when **ARF** is most common



Strep A throat infections and **skin sores** in people from high risk groups need to be treated with antibiotics ASAP.

MORE THAN **500**
PEOPLE



ARE ON THE SA
ARF/RHD REGISTER

88% identify as **Aboriginal**, living in urban, rural and remote settings

62% are **under the age of 35**

63% are **female**. Pregnancy can be dangerous for women with RHD

75%

of people have **joint pain** or swelling as one of the symptoms of **ACUTE RHEUMATIC FEVER**



Health Professionals play an important role in the prevention, diagnosis and management of ARF and RHD. In 2019, only 25% of health professionals surveyed had a good understanding of these conditions.

Further information

- ARF and RHD are notifiable conditions in South Australia
- SA RHD register info and resources at www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/rhd
- For more information and resources, go to www.rhdaustralia.org.au

(1) ABS 4704.0 - The health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, Oct 2010

(2) Australian guidelines for prevention, diagnosis and management of acute rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease (3rd edition)