

Summary of VPHS, VH Indicators and CIV surveys.



Survey name: The Victorian Health Promotion Foundation, VicHealth Indicators.

Contact details

The Victorian Health Promotion Foundation

Email: indicators@vichealth.vic.gov.au

Website: vichealth.vic.gov.au/indicators

Survey overview

The VicHealth Indicators Survey is a Victorian-focused population level survey. The survey was first undertaken in 2007 and was known as Community Indicators Victoria, and was repeated in 2011 using a new title VicHealth Indicators.

The focus of the survey is on the social determinants of health, rather than health outcomes. The aim of the survey is to provide information at a Local Government Area (LGA) level to assist with the development of Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plans.

Data is collected on:

- Wellbeing
- Alcohol expenditure
- Smoking policy
- Work, life and time
- Healthy eating and sedentary behaviour
- Green space use and perceptions of safety
- Community engagement
- Social attitudes that influence health
- Arts and new media

Survey methodology

Data was collected via telephone interviews. The survey was conducted in each of Victoria's 79 Local Government Areas (LGAs), with a total sample of 25,075 participants aged 18 years and over.

Data has been weighted by age and gender within each local government area to ensure data is representative at the LGA level.

Crude (also known as non-standardised) rates have been presented to help inform localised planning, as crude rates provide an indication of the actual situation. However, crude rates are not appropriate for comparisons between geographic localities (for example, between individual LGAs), as estimates have not been age-standardised and differences may be due, in part, to differing age profiles.

Confidence intervals have been calculated and presented for all estimates. The relative standard error (RSE), which provides another way to assess the reliability of an indicator value, has also been

calculated, and estimates with higher RSE's are either flagged as needing to be interpreted with caution (RSE 25-50%), or not reported (RSE of >50% are considered too unreliable for general use).

Resources available

- **The VicHealth Indicators Survey 2011: Selected findings:** A detailed report available on the survey findings, the information is provided under the topic areas that describe each indicator.
- **LGA Profiles:** Two page fact sheets that provide the major findings on all the indicators in comparison to the state data. The profile provides a short description of the VH Indicators survey methodology, a description of the LGA and dot point descriptions of the key findings for the LGA. The profile also contains a spine chart, which is a graphical representation comparing the LGA results for each of the indicators to the rest of the State.
- **Indicator Overview Sheets:** Fact sheets that provide a justification for the inclusion of each of the 16 indicators (or topic area) in the survey. It explains the background of each indicator, how it is a determinant of health, and provides a list of references and additional resources.
- **Instant Atlas:** An interactive website that provides maps that contain high level information about VicHealth Indicators. This visual tool enables the user to look at indicator estimates for any given LGA, and compare the estimates to those of other LGAs in the region or state. *Note- this product will be available for viewing and downloading age-standardised data, subject to signing a license agreement.*
- **Questions, response options and derived variables in the VicHealth Indicators Survey 2011:** This document contains information about the survey questions and analysis for each of the indicators in survey.

Other VicHealth Products to assist Local Government municipal wellbeing planning

Local government guides

Ten guides have been developed outlining a range of evidence-informed strategies that Councils may consider when determining the needs and capacities within their communities for Municipal Public Health Plans and other strategies. The proposed health promoting actions are consistent with National prevention frameworks, *The Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2011–2015* and the VicHealth Nutrition and Food Systems Strategic Framework.

- 1 Supporting healthy eating
- 2 Tackling health inequalities
- 3 Preventing skin cancer
- 4 Reducing harm from alcohol
- 5 Increasing participation in physical activity
- 6 Increasing social connection
- 7 Reducing tobacco use
- 8 Reducing race-based discrimination
- 9 Preventing violence against women
- 10 Improving aboriginal health and well being

Survey name: Victorian Population Health Survey Program (VPHS)

Contact details

Website: <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/healthstatus/survey/vphs.htm>

Health Intelligence Unit

Prevention and Population Health

Wellbeing, Integrated Care and Ageing

Department of Health

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Survey overview

The Victorian Population Health Survey (VPHS) collects information at the State, regional and local government area (LGA) levels about the health, lifestyle and wellbeing of adult Victorians aged 18 years and over.

It has been conducted annually since 2001.

The aim of the survey is to provide quality, timely indicators of population health that directly apply to evidence-based policy development and strategic planning across the department and the wider community.

Data are collected on:

- self-rated health status
- level of psychological distress
- body mass index (to determine levels of overweight and obesity)
- the presence of selected chronic diseases
- intake of fruit and vegetables
- eye health
- physical activity
- smoking and alcohol consumption
- participation in screening for bowel cancer, cervical cancer, breast cancer, high blood pressure, cholesterol and high blood sugar
- community participation
- levels of social support and connections with others.

Survey Methodology

The VPHS data are collected via computer-assisted telephone interviews. The survey method has been developed over many years and the survey is administered on a representative sample of adults aged 18 years and over who reside in private dwellings in Victoria. Interviews are conducted in English and eight other languages.

The annual VPHS is conducted at the state wide level, however, in 2008, the sample size was expanded from 7,500 people to approximately 34,000 people, so information could be presented at the local government area level.

The data are weighted to reflect the age/sex/geographic distribution of the population and the size of the household.

The percentages presented in the VPHS reports have been standardized or adjusted for age. They are based on the direct method of standardization which adjusts for effects of differences in the age

composition of different local government areas and allows for comparison between these populations.

Crude rates as percentages are presented in the reports wherever estimates have been broken down by age-group (age-specific rates).

Confidence intervals have been calculated and presented for all estimates. The only trends and patterns in the data that are discussed in the reports are statistically significant trends and patterns. With the exception of time trends, significant differences between estimates are deemed to exist where confidence intervals for percentages do not overlap.

The relative standard error (RSE) provides another way to assess the reliability of an estimate. The percentages presented in the tables and graphs of the reports have RSEs less than 25 per cent, unless otherwise stated. Higher RSEs are either flagged using an asterisk and need to be interpreted with caution (RSE 25-50%), or not reported (RSEs of >50% are considered too unreliable for general use).

Resources available

- **Victorian Population Health Survey: Selected Findings:** Reports that provide a summary of findings on each indicator.
- **LGA & regional fact sheets:** Two page fact sheets on local government and regional areas that provide the major findings on the indicators that relate to smoking, obesity, nutrition, physical activity, alcohol consumption and psychological distress.

Data Portal: Community Indicators Victoria

Contact details

Website: <http://www.communityindicators.net.au/>

Community Indicators Victoria

The McCaughey Centre: VicHealth Centre for the Promotion of Mental Health and Community Wellbeing

School of Population Health

University of Melbourne

Email: civ-info@unimelb.edu.au

Data Overview

Community Indicators Victoria (CIV) is guided by a framework of community wellbeing and includes indicators on social economic, environmental, cultural and democratic domains. The indicators included in CIV have been compiled from a range of sources including the VicHealth Indicators Survey 2011, Victorian Population Health Survey 2008, Australian Bureau of Statistics Census 2006 & 2011, CIV Survey 2007, and numerous Victorian Governments Departments.

CIV provides data to promote engaged communities and integrated, evidence-based policy and planning.

Resources available

The CIV website provides a comprehensive suite of community wellbeing indicators for all 79 LGAs across Victoria. Community Wellbeing Reports for all Victorian LGAs are available including:

- **LGA profiles:** Community Wellbeing Reports that contain a select number of community wellbeing indicators which are used to highlight important trends and issues in the community. These reports provide a snapshot of the wellbeing of individual municipalities with comparisons to regional and statewide results.
- **Customised Live Reports:** Live Reports that are customised presentations of CIV wellbeing data. Each Live Report shows data for a selection of locations and indicators.
- **Instant Atlas:** An interactive mapping and analysis tool to enable visual communication of wellbeing indicators for the state of Victoria. The Wellbeing Map provides a visualisation tool using Instant Atlas to present wellbeing information in a geographical context revealing spatial variations and patterns across Victoria.

Data are available at the level of LGA, State Government Region and Victorian state average. CIV has also recently included Victorian Primary Care Partnership boundaries as a data reporting output.

Training and Capacity Building Resources Available

Consultancy services: CIV also provides a range of consultancy services on a fee for service basis. These include the following: 1) expertise and assistance in the development of Community Wellbeing frameworks with a focus on Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Planning; 2) the preparation of location based community profile research reports; 3) training for organisations seeking to use community indicators for outcome based planning; and 4) support in the use of Geographic Information Systems for social and community planning.