

How to use the LGA Profiles

VicHealth Indicators Survey 2011 Results

LGA Profiles provide a snapshot of wellbeing indicators for each local government area (LGA) in Victoria. All indicators are taken from the VicHealth Indicators Survey 2011. The profiles have been created by VicHealth to assist local government in developing their Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plans.

Front page

Each profile consists of two pages. The front page contains:

- a description of selected data highlights for the LGA – note that not all significant results in the spine chart have been reported as highlights
- a brief introduction to the LGA
- a summary of how the data for the VicHealth Indicators Survey was obtained.

Back page

The back page contains a spine chart displaying information about each indicator. Using Alpine LGA as an example, an illustration on how to interpret the data is provided below.



Victorian Health Promotion Foundation

PO Box 154
 Carlton South, VIC 3053 Australia
 T +61 3 9667 1333
 F +61 3 9667 1375
 vichealth@vichealth.vic.gov.au
 www.vichealth.vic.gov.au

October 2012
 Publication number: K-041-KN
 ISBN number: 978-1-922133-79-3

© Copyright Victorian Health Promotion Foundation 2012

Indicator	% LGA	LGA estimate confidence interval	% Victoria	Victoria least favourable	Victoria Range	Victoria most favourable
Alcohol						
Purchased alcohol in the last 7 days	34.6	[28.2, 41.6]	36.3	54.4		20.7

Column 1 – Indicator: contains the name of each indicator (e.g. Purchased alcohol in the last 7 days), grouped by topic area (e.g. Alcohol)

Column 2 – % LGA: contains the average response for that indicator for all survey participants within the LGA, typically presented as a percentage.*

Column 3 – LGA estimate confidence interval: contains the 95% confidence interval for the LGA value, with the lower and upper values listed in brackets.**

The remaining columns display data for the whole of Victoria. This allows readers to gauge how LGA results for each indicator compare to the rest of the state.

Column 4 – % Victoria: contains the average response for that indicator for all survey participants within Victoria, typically presented as a percentage.*

Columns 5 and 7 – Victoria least favourable and Victoria most favourable: contain the worst and best LGA values in Victoria for that indicator, respectively. Note that this is not necessarily the same as the lowest and highest LGA values for any given indicator. Sometimes a higher value is considered less favourable (for example, for alcohol expenditure).

*With the exception of the **Wellbeing** indicator (where a score out of 100 is given) and the two alcohol expenditure indicators (where \$ spend is given).

**Note - see over page.

Column 6 – Victoria range: is the graphical section of the chart and displays four pieces of information.

1. The range of LGA average percentages across Victoria is indicated by the length of the grey bar. Note that the bars have been scaled to fit within the chart.
2. The red vertical line on the grey bar indicates where the Victorian average is located within the range of LGA values (matching the value in the **% Victoria** column).
3. The position of the coloured circle indicates the location of the LGA value within the range of values for all 79 LGAs.
4. Whether the LGA value was significantly different to the Victorian average is shown by the colour of the circle. Statistical significance provides an indication of how likely it is that a result, such as the difference between two values, is due to chance. For example, if an LGA indicator value is higher than the Victorian indicator value, but the difference is not statistically significant, it can't be ruled out that the difference is only due to chance.

- LGA value significantly more favourable than Victorian average
- LGA value significantly less favourable than Victorian average
- LGA value not significantly different from Victorian average
- Sampling variability high, use with caution (relative standard error 25–50%)

A note about the data

Data presented in the LGA Profiles is taken from the VicHealth Indicators Survey 2011. Survey data has been weighted by age and gender within each local government area to ensure it is representative at the LGA level.

Crude rates (also known as non-standardised rates) are shown in the LGA Profiles to help inform localised planning. 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. For this reason, we do not recommend comparing the age profiles of different LGAs produced in this series. Age-standardised data is more appropriate for this purpose and is available from VicHealth on request.[†]

Note that significant differences between an individual LGA and the Victorian average, as described in the LGA Profiles, may be partly due to differences between the age profiles of the LGA and the Victorian population as a whole.

The relative standard error (RSE) is another way to assess the reliability of an indicator value. The RSE is calculated as follows: the standard error of a survey estimate, expressed as a fraction of the estimate. An RSE below 25% is considered reliable for general use, while an RSE of 25–50% (shown in the chart as a grey circle) is considered less reliable and caution should be used when interpreting the results. Indicator values with an RSE of more than 50% are considered too unreliable for general use and are not reported.

**The confidence interval is the range of values that is likely to contain the true value in a population, to a stated level of probability (e.g. 95%). Confidence intervals of 95% have been calculated for each indicator value presented in the LGA Profiles. Like most population health surveys, this survey was completed by a random sample of the population, rather than the whole population. Therefore, it is not known how close the sample percentage is to the 'true' population percentage. The confidence interval helps readers interpret the indicator value by:

- showing how reliable the indicator value is – a wider confidence interval means a less reliable estimate
- indicating when a 'true' difference in values exists – for example, when surveys taken at different time points report different wellbeing scores, comparing the values as well as the confidence intervals can help establish and validate whether a true difference exists.

[†] For more information about age-standardised data, contact indicators@vichealth.vic.gov.au.