

Data Sources and Data Information

Department of Human Services



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Data Sources and Data Information Public Version

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This publication contains a list of data sources and data information that are available to external stakeholders of DHS and the wider community. As such this document is deemed suitable for distribution to any contacts within or outside of the Department of Human Services.

Each resource listed includes a brief description of the data, the source and year/s available, process for accessing, and contact information for queries, where available.

Contents

Aboriginal Profiles	1
Alcohol and Drugs.....	1
Ambulatory Care Sensitive Conditions (ACSC)	1
Australian Bureau of Statistics.....	2
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)	2
Australian Social Trends (ABS)	3
Best Start Atlas	3
Better Health Channel	4
Beyond Five Million	4
Burden of Disease (BoD)	5
Cancer Council Victoria.....	5
Community Health.....	6
Community Indicators Victoria.....	6
Crime Statistics (DOJ)	7
Diabetes.....	7
Dropping off the Edge	7
Funded Agency Channel (FAC)	8
Getting to Know Your Community	8
Health Insite	9
Health Translations Directory	9
Infectious Diseases	9
Infoxchange Service Seeker (ISS)	10
Interactive Maps.....	10
Koori Health Counts!	10
Life Expectancy	11
Mapping	11
Medicare.....	11
Population Ageing.....	12
Population Diversity in Local Councils in Victoria	12
Public Health Topics	12
Regional Matters – An Atlas of Regional Victoria	13
Towns in Time.....	14
VicHealth.....	14
Victoria in Future (Population Projections).....	14
Victorian Perinatal Data Unit	14
Victorian Population Health Surveys	15
Victorian Admitted Episodes Database (VAED).....	15
Victorian Emergency Minimum Database (VEMD).....	16
Womens Health and Wellbeing	16
Websites	17
Disclaimer:	18
Prepared by:	18

Aboriginal Profiles

- The Aboriginal profiles document provides a two page statistical overview of the five most aboriginal populous LGA's in the Loddon Mallee Region.
- The statistics covered include:
 - Aboriginal populations including a time series graph,
 - General LGA measures, SEIFA, ARIA etc
 - Social and Health characteristics
 - Household composition
 - Highest year of schooling
 - Universal and Maternal Child Health Program
 - Top 10 Clinical specialties
- The document has been developed by the Strategic Support Branch, Loddon Mallee Region, Department of Human Services and is currently in draft mode with a first version release scheduled for late 2009.
- To obtain a copy of the draft document please contact the Strategic Support Branch on 5434 5610
- Source: Strategic Support Branch, Loddon Mallee Region, Department of Human Services.

Alcohol and Drugs

- The *drug related services in Victoria* website contains information on the drug related services system within the State of Victoria and documents a range of assessment, treatment and support services to adults and young people who have alcohol and/or drug use problems and their families and carers.
- The website contains an extensive range of publications, of interest to analysts is the Victorian drug statistics handbook which aims to describe the major patterns of drug use and associated harm experienced in Victoria. This is achieved by collating information from an extensive range of existing data sources and condensing it into an easily readable format.
- Link: <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/drugservices/pubs/drugstats.htm>
- For more information visit the Drug Related Services Victoria webpage <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/drugservices/index.htm>
- The webpage is managed and authorised by the Mental Health & Drugs Policy Unit, <http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/mhd/index.htm>
- Source: DHS, Victorian Government, <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/>

Ambulatory Care Sensitive Conditions (ACSC)

- ACSCs are those for which hospitalisation is thought to be avoidable with the application of public health interventions and early disease management, usually delivered in ambulatory setting such as primary care. High rates of hospital admissions for ACSCs may provide indirect evidence of problems with patient access to primary healthcare, inadequate skills and resources, or disconnection with specialist services.
- Victorian health information surveillance system (VHISS) has an online interactive data builder that allows you to compile custom queries for ACSC data using a variety

of controls from drop-down menus. Data can be compiled by selected area, down to LGA level and trend analysis with rate ratios over time is also available amongst many other controls. Access the resource from the following link <http://tinyurl.com/mgabup>

- For background information and Regional and Primary Care Partnership (PCP) data profiles, view the document 'The Victorian Ambulatory Care Sensitive Conditions Study 2004-2005 update' report. The documents for Victoria and Regions are available for download from: <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/healthstatus/acsc/update0405.htm>
- In addition, the ACSC internet site includes access to a Victorian Diabetes Complications report (2001/02)
- Available from the following internet site:
www.health.vic.gov.au/healthstatus/acsc/index.htm
- Source: Victorian Government Health Information, Health Status of Victorians
<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/healthstatus/index.htm>

Australian Bureau of Statistics

- This Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) website involves access to many ABS publications, data sheets, interactive data cubes, CDATA Online, surveys, information papers, and directories of definitions and statistical information. ABS also offers Data-packs, consultancy services and a notification service of the latest releases via email and RSS.
- The website presents information in a variety of formats. Popular sections include Statistics, Key National Indicators, Census Data, MapStats, A variety of Community Profiles including Indigenous profiles and maps.
- The ABS website covers a broad range of subjects that are continually being updated. Some of the popular statistic topics are: Income, Alcohol Consumption, Employment & Unemployment, Indigenous, Obesity, and Crime.
- The CDATA Online resource is a powerful tool that allows you to compile and save your own custom tables using census 2006 data. Once you have constructed tables you can view and compare results in a variety of ways including graphs and maps. CDATA Online allows you to export the data in a variety of formats including excel. Access CDATA Online and other ABS resources through the ABS home page <http://www.abs.gov.au>
- Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), <http://www.abs.gov.au/>

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)

- The Australian Government's Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) claims to be Australia's national agency for health and welfare statistics.
- The website contains online interactive data on alcohol and other drug treatments, cancer, chronic disease, disability, health expenditure, general practice, mental health admitted patients, national hospital morbidity, risk factors, indigenous, and labour force.
- The AIHW also contains METeOR, a Metadata Online Registry. METeOR replaces the Knowledgebase as Australia's central repository for health, community services and housing assistance metadata. Metadata is often called 'data about data'. More precisely, it is the underlying definition or structured description of the content, quality, condition or other characteristics of data. Through METeOR you can find, view and download over 2,600 data standards. Using these standards will help you to: avoid wasting resources creating similar

standards; base your information systems on nationally endorsed standards; and obtain data that is comparable across many different data collections.

- The website address for the AIHW online data page is www.aihw.gov.au/dataonline.cfm
- Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)

Australian Social Trends (ABS)

- *Australian Social Trends 2009* is the 16th edition of what was an annual series that presents information on contemporary social issues and areas of public policy concern. The publication is now being released in four issues for 2009 with the first 'March' issue available now featuring articles about Australia's ageing population, including future population trends, retirement and superannuation.

By drawing primarily on a wide range of ABS statistics, and statistics from other official sources, *Australian Social Trends* describes aspects of Australian society, and how these are changing over time. It is designed to assist and encourage informed decision-making, and to be of value to a wide audience including those engaged in research, journalism, marketing, teaching and social policy, as well as anyone interested in how we live today and how we've changed over recent decades.

- The main topics covered are Population, Family and Community, Health, Education and Training, Work, Economic resources, Housing, and other areas of social concern.
- Link: <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/mf/4102.0?OpenDocument>

Best Start Atlas

- Best Start aims to improve the health, development, learning and well-being of all children across Victoria from pregnancy through transition to school (taken to be children 0-8 years of age). Best Start has developed an Atlas, which is a compilation and analysis of a range of characteristics about Victorian children up to eight years of age.
- The Best Start Atlas has established a benchmark that allows for subsequent changes over time to be measured. The atlas can be used as a basis for informed policy interventions, program innovations and measuring the effectiveness of changes to service provision in improving outcomes for young children.
- The atlas contains a series of maps illustrating a suite of indicators that are determinants of early childhood health, development, learning and wellbeing outcomes, based on data extracted from the 2001 Census of Population and Housing and non-Australian Bureau of Statistics data sources. A commentary accompanying each map briefly summarises the characteristics of each indicator and highlights the main features.
- Characteristics have been identified jointly by the Victorian Department of Human Services and the Australian Bureau of Statistics, with consideration given to a number of factors, including relevance to the project, reliability of the data and the identification of data that were not previously available in the public domain.
- A Statewide Evaluation of Best Start – Final Report – September 2006 documents the project as a considerable success.
- To download the Best Start Atlas, and Final report log onto <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/ecsmangement/beststart/what.htm>

- Sources: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and Victorian Government Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD)

Better Health Channel

- The Better Health Channel was established in May 1999 by the Victorian Government. Its role is to provide the community with access to online health related information, which is quality assured, reliable, up-to-date and locally relevant. Consumer health information on the Better Health Channel is constantly expanded and regularly reviewed.
- Under the *Fact sheets by category* heading you can find articles on a whole range of health related topics. You can use the *fact sheets A to Z* for a detailed list of fact sheet topics.
- The other main categories on the site are:
 - Healthy eating - here you will find a list of food facts articles and a growing database of healthy and tasty recipes.
 - Ask the experts - an opportunity to ask questions of six panel experts. You can also look at answers provided in the past on a whole range of issues.
 - Service directory - here you will find a growing database of local services and health practitioners. You can search for the service you need. You can also send in a suggestion for a service to be added.
 - Events calendar - this is a online calendar of health related events and activities. Here you can also submit an application for an event to be added.
 - Quizzes - Find out how much you really know about health, nutrition, physical activity and your body.
 - Calculators – Use these interactive tools to calculate your body mass index, look up kilojoules for different foods and calculate the cost of smoking.
 - Medical dictionary and medicines guide – Search for the meaning of medical terms and abbreviations.
 - Image Library - an extensive interactive image library with over 70 animated pictures of the body.
 - Subscribe – Subscribe to a monthly newsletter and read previous newsletters.
- To log onto the Better Health Channel, go to www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au.
- Source: Victorian Government Department of Human Services (DHS)

Beyond Five Million

- Beyond Five Million: The Victorian Government's Population Policy, explains the Victorian Government's vision for growing our population in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner. But as importantly, it identifies strategies to plan for and manage population change. The Population Policy provides a framework for policies designed to increase migration, encourage family formation, increase regional population growth and respond to the challenges of demographic change.
- Population growth is not an end in itself - Victoria needs growth that is consistent with its social, economic and environmental objectives. It must lead to higher

living standards for Victorians. In Beyond Five Million, the goals are outlined for how this can be achieved through a broadly based population strategy.

- To download or view the Beyond Five Million policy paper, follow this link www.tinyurl.com/32up6f
- Source: Victorian Government Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC)

Burden of Disease (BoD)

- Burden of Disease (BoD) provides a comprehensive assessment of the amount of ill health in the Victoria population. Information on the BoD in Victoria includes mortality and morbidity reports based on BoD data, and Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) worksheets for calculations presented in the Victorian morbidity study.
- Comprehensive information is available at a local government level on the health problems of communities and the underlying risk factors contributing to the BoD. This information includes the most important causes of death as well as estimates of the number of people affected by the 50 most important diseases and injuries.
- The Years of Life Lost (YLL) is an estimate of the number of years lost through premature death due to that condition. The Years of Life Lived with a Disability (YLD) is an estimate of the number of years due to non-fatal new cases of the condition.
- The Disability Adjusted Life Year (DALY) is a measure of the disease burden in a population combining the loss of years of life (YLL) due to premature mortality with the loss of healthy years of life due to disease or injury (YLD). DALYs are the sum of years of life lost to premature death (YLL) and years lived with disability (YLD) adjusted for severity ($DALY = YLL + YLD$). One DALY can be thought of as one lost year of healthy life.
- BoD information and data is available for Victoria (http://www.health.vic.gov.au/healthstatus/bod/bod_vic.htm) and for Regions and LGAs (http://www.health.vic.gov.au/healthstatus/bod/bod_reg.htm).
- Available BoD data is based on the 1996 and 2001 Census. The 1996 data is available at the Regional and Local Government Area (LGA) level. The 2001 data was released in November 2005, and is available at the statewide and LGA level except for the *ranking* measures. The 2001 BoD report is available at: http://www.health.vic.gov.au/healthstatus/bodvic/bod_current.htm
- Source: Health Status of Victorians, Department of Human Services (DHS)

Cancer Council Victoria

- This website allows users to obtain summary statistics about cancer incidence and mortality in Victoria in a variety of table and graph formats. The data that are available include cancer incidence and mortality for Victoria by type of cancer, age group, sex, year of diagnosis, international region of birth and region of residence within Victoria.
- The interactive reports module produces professional looking graphs and data tables and allows you to view data in a number of ways such as; Time trends by sex, counts by age group, leading cancers, regional statistics, cancer in migrants. <http://tinyurl.com/mqzljw>
- Cancer statistics are also available in detailed pre compiled reports such as the Canstat reports which cover the main types of cancers in detail amongst general overview reports.

- The data is available is from 1982 to 2006.
- Many other resources are available on the website for health professionals as well as patients, family and friends.
- Source: Cancer Council Victoria, <http://www.cancervic.org.au>

Community Health

- The Community Health Data Sets (CHPDS) are intended to support Primary Care Partnerships (PCPs) in developing their Community Health Plans. The Data Sets provide a common starting point for each Partnership to identify their community's health and well being needs.
- The data sets include Estimated Resident Population by age and sex by Local Government Area; Socio-Economic Data including language spoken, family type, pensions and benefits, unemployment rates, Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage; and Health and Service Data, including Burden of Disease data, GP data, oral health, alcohol and drug service utilisation and Victorian Population Health, hospital admission, school health status, maternal and child health data, community health and community mental health service data.
- Link: <https://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/communityhealth/chpds/index.htm>
- Authorisation is required to access the data sets and can be arranged through:

Senior Data Analyst and Business Support Officer
Strategy and Performance Unit
Primary Health Branch
Department of Human Services
Level 12/50 Lonsdale Street
Tel: (03) 9096 7619

- Source: Rural & Regional Health and Aged Care Services Division, Victorian Government Department of Human Services (DHS)

Community Indicators Victoria

- CIV is a collaborative project hosted by the McCaughey Centre, School of Population Health, University of Melbourne.
- This site uses local community wellbeing indicators to improve citizen engagement, community planning and policy making.
- These indicators refer to a broad range of measures designed to identify and communicate economic, social, environmental, democratic and cultural trends and outcomes. The aim of Community Indicators Victoria is to build healthy, just and sustainable communities
- New to the CIV website is an online Geographic Information System (GIS) which is an interactive mapping and analysis tool to enable visual communication of wellbeing indicators. The Wellbeing Map uses Instant Atlas to present wellbeing information in a geographical context, revealing spatial variations and patterns across Victoria.
- Community Indicators Victoria is a collaborative project, funded by VicHealth and hosted by the McCaughey Centre, School of Population Health, at the University of Melbourne. The McCaughey Centre works in partnership with a wide range of government, community, and academic organisations to ensure that Community Indicators Victoria remains in touch with the needs of its users.
- The website is linked here <http://www.communityindicators.net.au/>

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

Crime Statistics (DOJ)

- The Department of Justice encompasses police; courts; prisons; emergency services; regulation of gaming, racing, liquor licensing and trade measurement; and victims' services. The department's activities also cover the drafting of legislation and the administration of various tribunals and programs to protect citizens' rights.
- The website contains statistics and research documents in the various sections of the website. Of interest is the Victorian Family Violence Database: Seven Year Report located under the *Crime – Research and Statistics* section of the website. This report outlines the findings from the analysis of family violence incidents reported in Victoria between 1999 and 2006.
- Other sections of interest which include a *Research and statistics* section are:
 - Courts
 - Sentencing
 - Prisons
 - Gambling & Racing
- Link:
<http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/DOJ+Internet/Home/Crime/Research+and+Statistics/>
- Source: Victorian Government Department of Justice (DOJ)
<http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/>

Diabetes

- The information on this site was developed for the Public Health Diabetes Prevention and Management Initiative, a program of the Public Health Branch of the Department of Human Services Victoria.
- The website contains information on the Diabetes prevention and management strategic framework for 2007 – 2010.
- Other information on the website includes information on Diabetes and caring for people with Diabetes along with workforce development needs and analysis.
- To access the resource follow this link <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/diabetes/>
- Source: State Government of Victoria, Department of Human Services (DHS)

Dropping off the Edge

- This web site has been established by Jesuit Social Services and Catholic Social Services Australia to facilitate the distribution of information and statistical data related to the report: *Dropping off the edge*.
- That report, under the authorship of Professor Tony Vinson, is a major report which maps the distribution of social disadvantage throughout Australia.
- Each State and Territory has detailed information on more than twenty different variables that are relevant to the measurement of social disadvantage. This information has been combined with data more readily available from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

- Copies of the report are available through the order form on the web page. Interactive maps and statistical data is available online. <http://www.australiandisadvantage.org.au/>
- Source: Jesuit Social Services and Catholic Social Services Australia

Funded Agency Channel (FAC)

- The Funded Agency Channel (FAC) is the Department of Human Services (DHS) primary information, communication and business tool for use with funded agencies.
- FAC was launched in January 2002 to focus on improving the relationship between the Department and funded agencies. FAC aims to: provide easy access to information and resources to support funded agency business; provide agency specific information, transactions and interactive features, within a secure environment; and support collaboration, discussion and networking throughout the human services sector.
- There are two ways to access FAC – as a public user or a registered user. All members of the public can access FAC as a public user. It provides limited access to FAC (does not permit access to the Collaboration Centre) and displays generic agency information. Registration is open to funded agency and DHS staff. This option permits access to all areas of FAC and provides agency specific information. To become a registered user you must sign up. <https://www.fac.dhs.vic.gov.au/>
- To get help you can: access FACs frequently asked questions, email fac@dhs.vic.gov.au, or phone the FAC Helpdesk on (03) 9616 2742.

Getting to Know Your Community

- The Victorian Government's social policy statement, A Fairer Victoria, focuses on better tailoring services and facilities to the particular needs of a local area or community. For this to happen, information needs to be gathered about specific local needs and community diversity. The Getting to Know Your Community Guide is a resource for gathering local data. This guide and the companion document on obtaining and using qualitative data, are designed to make getting and using that information easier.
- Local and international evidence shows that supporting residents to access and use data about their locality is a key component of successful community building programs. The Guide seeks to equip individuals and community groups with tools to identify and use local data to support their understanding and communication of local issues.
- Part A of the Guide examines the geographic units used for data collection and analysis and explains how to create a community profile. Part B of the Guide is a practical resource for community builders that provide details and links to more than 70 datasets that you can use to support your activity. Data comes from the ABS, state and commonwealth government departments and many other sources and is grouped to make it easy to find the data you want.
- To access the Getting To Know Your Community guide, follow this link <http://tinyurl.com/374qub>
- Source: Victorian Government Department for Victorian Communities (DVC)

Health Insite

- The Health Insite contains a wide range of up-to-date and quality assessed information on important health topics such as diabetes, cancer, mental health and asthma.
- To log onto the Health Insite, go to www.healthinsite.gov.au.
- Source: Department of Health and Ageing, Australian Government

Health Translations Directory

- This directory links to online multilingual health resources from government departments, peak health bodies, hospitals, community health centres and welfare agencies. The directory currently contains over 10,000 multilingual resources.
- Health practitioners who work with culturally and linguistically diverse communities can use this directory to find reliable translated health information.
- Search by topic, by language, or both. Your search results will include an English summary of the information, a link to a complete English language version and a link to information in the language you requested.
- The directory is online at <http://www.healthtranslations.vic.gov.au/>
- Source: State Government of Victoria, Department of Human Services (DHS)

Infectious Diseases

- Regulations require that medical practitioners and pathology laboratories notify the Department when they diagnose certain communicable diseases. The Communicable Diseases Section, DHS conducts surveillance for infectious diseases under the Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001.
- Surveillance data is provided in: Daily Surveillance Reports, Annual Reports and the Victorian Infectious Disease Bulletin. Daily Surveillance Reports provide up-to-date data on notifications (newly diagnosed diseases). While these reports are updated on a daily basis there may be a lag between receipt and recording of notification for some diseases. Annual Reports provide a summary for each year.
- The Victorian Infectious Diseases Bulletin is published quarterly and provides summaries of infectious diseases surveillance data, local news, outbreak investigations, infection control procedures, clinical cases of general interest and brief reports on original clinical or laboratory based research. The bulletin is distributed free of charge to persons with an interest in the control and treatment of infectious diseases in Victoria.
- For subscriptions, email your name, postal address and a daytime telephone number to vidb@dhs.vic.gov.au or telephone (03) 9096 5741. For contributions to the Bulletin, email the Editor at vidb@dhs.vic.gov.au or telephone (03) 9096 5872
- Victorian Notifiable Infectious Diseases data can be accessed at www.health.vic.gov.au/ideas/surveillance/index.htm
- Source: Disease Control & Research Branch, Victorian Government Department of Human Services (DHS)

Infoxchange Service Seeker (ISS)

- The Infoxchange Service Seeker (ISS) is Australia's most extensive electronic health and welfare directory.
- ISS provides 239,985 records of agencies and services that are efficiently returned through a number of intuitive search methods. 121,821 of those records reside in Victoria.
- Infoxchange Australia established the first searchable electronic directory of community services in Australia in 1990 and has since developed and managed electronic health and welfare directories in every state and territory. The online directory and its technological support have been regularly upgraded to keep pace with development and to maintain security of data.
- Link: <http://www.serviceseeker.com.au/>
- Infoxchange Australia provides many other information and communication technology (ICT) services to foster social justice in Australian communities. More information about these services is available on the infoxchange website below.
- Source: <http://www.infoxchange.net.au/>

Interactive Maps

- The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) website has interactive maps, which allow you to zoom-in and zoom-out, pan around the map, identify features in the map, query databases, link to other sites, and print out maps based on specific themes of interest (also known as map views).
- The interactive maps currently available include: Biodiversity Interactive Map, Catchment Information Mapper, Fire plan, Forest Explorer Online, Marine Map - Victoria, Minerals and Petroleum Resources, and Victorian Water Resources.
- Link: www.dse.vic.gov.au
- Source: Victorian Government Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) and MapShare

Koori Health Counts!

- Koori Health Counts! is produced as part of the Improving Care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Patients (ICAP) program. The publication provides health information on Aboriginal people from Victoria. The information is presented in a way that is accessible to both the Aboriginal community and mainstream health providers.
- Data in the publication is gathered both from Aboriginal Hospital Liaison Officers and from mainstream hospital systems: the Victorian Admitted Episodes Dataset (VAED) and the Perinatal Morbidity Statistics System (PMSS).
- Koori Health Counts! was first published in 1993. Electronic copies are available from 2000 to 2006/07 on the Koori Health website <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/koori/koori-health-counts-reports>
- Also of interest on the Koori Health website is the Aboriginal Services Plan Key Indicators documents that report on the implementation and progress of the Aboriginal Services Plan.
- For more information contact the Koori Human Services Unit on 03 9096 6981
- Source: Koori Human Services Unit, Portfolio Services & Strategic Projects Division of the Victorian State Government, Department of Human Services

Life Expectancy

- Life expectancy at birth for all Victorians continues to rise. Whether measured for Victoria as a whole, or the smallest Victorian Local Government Area, each geographical area has experienced improvement. The rate of improvement, however, varies between men and women, between rural and metropolitan areas, and between well-off areas and less well-off areas.
- For details of the spread in life expectancy across the state, including maps, charts and tables for 2002 to 2006, log onto <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/healthstatus/le-01-06.htm>
- Source: Health Intelligence Unit, Office of Chief Health Officer, Public Health Branch, Rural & Regional Health & Aged Care Services Division of the Victorian State Government, Department of Human Services.

Mapping

- The Region has access to specialist mapping services and products developed by the Strategic Support Branch, Loddon Mallee Region, DHS. The service is capable of producing a variety of maps including custom created maps that can display program data spatially.
- Maps can be provided as computer graphic files in a variety of formats or as printed maps up to the size of A0 (.84m x 1.1m).
- Many census statistics are able to be mapped thematically down to the Collection District (CD) level, including population etc.
- Some of the types of maps that have been developed and are available include:
 - Loddon Mallee Region, including LGA Boundaries, roads and towns
 - State-wide maps, CFA boundaries, Police boundaries
 - SEIFA thematically represented at CD level
 - Asset locations including hospitals, schools, aged care facilities
 - Public housing properties
 - Aboriginal service delivery areas
- For more information or to make a request for maps including the creation of custom maps please contact the Strategic Support Branch on 5434 5610
- Source: Strategic Support Branch, Loddon Mallee Region, Department of Human Services.

Medicare

- Statistics are available on the Medicare Australia website and are based on the items and groups in the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS). These statistics can be broken down by patient gender and age group. Services and benefits can be reported as count, percentage or per capita statistics. Individual MBS item statistics can be displayed as charts. Access the link here <http://tinyurl.com/lg2c8v>
- The Department of Health and Aging website also has some statistics that are compiled by quarter and contain a variety of information pertaining to claims made under Medicare. Information includes bulk billing data, number of services by *broad type of service* and *per capita information*. Follow the link <http://tinyurl.com/p2k8xc> to access the site.

- Source: Medicare Australia, <http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/>
Department of Health and Aging, <http://www.health.gov.au/>

Population Ageing

- The Office of Senior Victorians has a website (www.seniors.vic.gov.au) containing useful information on policies, festivals, publications, professional development, and media releases.
- Recent publications include – ‘Go for your life’ – A physical activity guide for senior Victorians and ‘Living safely’ A guide to safety information for senior Victorians
- Seniors statistics have been compiled into an Ageing theme on the Australian Bureau of Statistics website. There are many releases on the ABS website including statistical profiles and feature articles on many ageing subjects.
- ABS Ageing theme <http://tinyurl.com/kqcol3>
- Other ABS Themes that may be of interest <http://tinyurl.com/knwdqo>
- Source: Office of Senior Victorians, Victorian Government Department of Planning and Community Development. Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Population Diversity in Local Councils in Victoria

- *The people of Victoria: Statistics from the 2006 Census* is published by the Victorian Multicultural Commission and provides data on birthplace, language, ancestry, and religion at the Local Government level. It is an invaluable guide for local government planners, community organisations, researchers and those in the broader community concerned with designing and delivering services that are accessible and equitable
- The publication is broken up into nine pdf documents and covers Metro and Regional LGA's in detail. An overview of Victoria is provided covering topics such as, top 30 birth places, Language groups, Migrant population and time series comparisons.
- The Multicultural website has a number of other publications including community fact sheets, migration strategies, population policies, census data tables and reports.
- Access the documents from the Victorian Multiculturalism Website here <http://www.multicultural.vic.gov.au/> under the ‘population and migration’ and ‘Publications’ headings.
- State Government of Victoria, Victorian Multiculturalism Commission

Public Health Topics

- For information on public health topics, log onto the departments webpage www.health.vic.gov.au/phtopics/index.htm The site has an A-Z index which you can browse for all public health related information or choose topics from a quick links panel.
- Amongst the large array of topics in the quick panel are:
 - Biotechnology
 - Cemeteries & Crematoria
 - Environmental Health

- Food Safety
 - Head Lice
 - Health Status
 - Infectious Disease
 - Pandemic Influenza
 - Public Health Research
-
- Sources: Metropolitan Health & Aged Care Services Division and Rural & Regional Health & Aged Care Services Division, Victorian Government Department of Human Services (DHS)

Regional Matters – An Atlas of Regional Victoria

- Regional Matters: An Atlas of Regional Victoria (the Atlas) aims to highlight issues of concern to those interested in the impact of change on regional areas. It is intended to enhance our understanding of these changes as well as generate debate, both within regional and metropolitan communities.
- The Atlas comprises demographic, social, economic and environmental information under the themes of: population; jobs and industry; housing; road and rail transport; health services; education, and water resources. These themes are not intended to cover all regional issues, rather, they are illustrative and intended to generate understanding and debate.
- The Atlas has been developed through an inter-agency group comprising representatives from each Victorian State Government department. It therefore takes an all-of-government approach and highlights the linkages between regional trends such as population change, economic adjustment and service provision. It is both an information resource and a directory for other information sources, particularly government websites.
- This product is an example of how inter-departmental cooperation can lead to a broader understanding of issues. For example, agriculture is as much about economic restructuring, community cohesion and environmental sustainability as it is about crops and animal husbandry. Regional economic development is not just about industries and employment - it is also about communities, lifestyles and the services needed to attract skilled workers.
- Data used in this Atlas comes from a range of sources including Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), State government departments and from private information providers. All data is the latest available at the time of production of the Atlas.
- For access to the Atlas, log onto <http://tinyurl.com/5fydh>
- For further information, contact:
Spatial Analysis and Research Branch
Department of Planning and Community Development
Phone (03) 9208 3000
spatialanalysis.research@dpcd.vic.gov.au
- Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD)

Towns in Time

- Towns in Time is a compendium of Census statistics covering 25 years from 1981 to 2006, enabling analysis of data over time. The 2006 version covers 406 towns in Victoria, 47 "rural balance" Local Government Areas (LGAs)(1996-2006).
- Data in Towns in Time is presented in a number of ways. Detailed data is available for towns with more than 500 persons (in 2006) and rural balances. This includes total population, age structure, income, household size, dwellings, labour force, industry of employment, birthplace and language spoken. Summary data, covering the key demographic variables, are available for the smaller towns of between 200 and 500 persons, while basic population figures are presented for "tiny towns", ie those with less than 200 persons.
- The publications are produced by Department of Planning and Community Development and can be accessed here <http://tinyurl.com/nykez7>
- Source: Department of Planning and Community Development, <http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>

VicHealth

- The VicHealth website (www.vichealth.vic.gov.au) contains some statistics on health promotion, smoking, sun protection, physical activity, obesity and overweight, active transport, and mental health.
- To access these statistics, go to the VicHealth website, click on Resource Centre, and then Facts and Statistics.
- VicHealth has many other fact sheets, reports and resources on their website under the publications and resources heading. Areas of interest include Mental health and wellbeing, Healthy eating, Health inequalities and Physical activity amongst others.
- Source: VicHealth (Victorian Health Promotion Foundation)

Victoria in Future (Population Projections)

- Victoria in Future 2008 is the current population and household projections for the Victorian State Government. Victoria in Future 2008 covers: the period of 2006 to 2056 for total Victoria, regional Victoria and the Melbourne Statistical Division; the period 2006 to 2036 for the Statistical Divisions in regional Victoria; the period from 2006 to 2026 for the 79 Local Government Areas (LGAs) that make up Victoria.
- follow this link <http://tinyurl.com/2lejvq>
- The release is available as downloadable excel files and also available are summaries, reports and presentations to support the release.
- Source: Victorian Government Department of Planning and Community Development

Victorian Perinatal Data Unit

- The Victorian Perinatal Data Collection Unit (VPDCU) can provide perinatal and birth defect data. The Consultative Council on Obstetric and Paediatric Mortality and Morbidity (CCOPMM) oversees all data requests. The data request form can be downloaded from the perinatal website below.

- The CCOPMM was established in 1962 under the Health Act 1958, and is also the advisory body to the Minister for Health on maternal, perinatal and paediatric deaths.
- The main database is the Birth Defects Register (BDR), which was established in 1984 and collects information on all infants born since January 1, 1982. The maintenance of this register is an ongoing function of the VPDCU.
- General statistics, reports and publications are available from the website that contain comprehensive information on births in Victoria.
- Access the VPDCU and the BDR at <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/perinatal/>
- Source: VPDCU, Rural and Regional Health and Aged Care Branch, Victorian Government Department of Human Services (DHS)

Victorian Population Health Surveys

- The Victorian Population Health Survey program was established in 1998 to provide State and regional information about the health of Victorians and determinants of that health. The survey followed an established method to collect relevant, timely and valid health information to be applied to policy development and strategic planning.
- Information in each report is presented on health and lifestyle, including physical activity, smoking, alcohol consumption, intake of fruit and vegetables, selected health screening, adult obesity, asthma and diabetes prevalence, psychological distress and social networks.
- Reports are available from 2001 to 2007 and the latest report (2007) can be downloaded from http://www.health.vic.gov.au/healthstatus/vphs_current.htm
- In addition to the full report, regional fact sheets are available that present the major findings from the Victorian Population Health Survey in a brief two page document by region.
- Source: Health Surveillance and Evaluation Section, Victorian Government Department of Human Services (DHS)

Victorian Admitted Episodes Database (VAED)

- The Department of Human Services collects morbidity data on all admitted patients from Victorian public and private acute hospitals including rehabilitation centres, extended care facilities and day procedure centres. This data forms the Victorian Admitted Episodes Dataset (VAED, formerly Victorian Inpatient Minimum Dataset - VIMD). Among other things, VAED data are used for; health services planning, policy formulation, casemix funding and epidemiological research.
- There are many variables entered for every single hospital visit. Some of the variables include: age, sex, indigenous status, postcode as place of residence, diagnosis (International Classification of Diseases – ICD; Diagnostic Related Groupings – DRGs; Major Diagnostic Categories – MDC), length of stay (number of bed days), private or public patient, hospital accessed, mode of separation (including referral, left against advice, death, etc), and WIES (Weighted Inlier Equivalent Separation) used for calculating funding. Queries can be undertaken on a particular hospital or group of hospitals, or a particular geographical area as place of residence (postcode, SLA, LGA, Region, State).

- VAED inpatient data can be analysed using SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) or VHIRS (Victorian Health Information Reporting System). For VAED data requests, contact the Strategic Support Branch on 5434 5533.
- Source: Victorian Government Department of Human Services (DHS)

Victorian Emergency Minimum Database (VEMD)

- The Department of Human Services collects morbidity data on all emergency outpatients from Victorian public and private acute hospitals.
- There are many variables entered for emergency outpatient visits. Some of the variables include: age, sex, indigenous status, postcode as place of residence, diagnosis, waiting time, cause of injury if applicable, intentionality of injury if self harm, place where injured if applicable, arrival time, departure time and referral if applicable.
- VEMD outpatient data can be analysed using SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) or Victorian Health Information Reporting System (VHIRS). For VEMD data requests, contact the Strategic Support Branch on 5434 5533.
- Source: Victorian Government Department of Human Services (DHS)

Womens Health and Wellbeing

- The Index is an online gateway to evidence-based health and wellbeing data on Victorian women and girls across a wide variety of indicators relevant to a social model of health. By facilitating the use of gendered data, The Index assists those working in policy development, planning, research and service provision to consider women and gender, resulting in a more detailed picture of Victorian women's lives and better health outcomes for all Victorians. Access the site here: <http://www.theindex.org.au/>
- The Index incorporates over 70 indicators of health and wellbeing relevant to a social model of health. The indicators have been grouped into twelve categories covering health, demographics, education and living arrangements.
- The Index draws heavily on data resources and includes an 'advanced search' feature that allows you to search for data sources by key word and category.
- Source: The Index <http://www.theindex.org.au/>, and Womens Health Victoria www.whv.org.au

Websites

Other useful websites include:

- Australian Government - www.australia.gov.au
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare – www.aihw.gov.au - contains data on alcohol and other drug treatments, cancer, cardiovascular disease and diabetes, disability, expenditure, general practice, mental health, national hospital, and risk factors.
- Australian Government Directory - www.agd.com.au - contains information on organisations and businesses in the public and private sector throughout Australia. The various categories include: government, education, corporate services, research and development, indigenous services, organisations and associations, business, tourism and Information Technology and Telecommunications.
- Department of Education & Early Childhood Development – <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/>
- Department of Human Services – www.dhs.vic.gov.au
- Department of Justice - www.justice.vic.gov.au
- Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development – www.diird.vic.gov.au
- Department of Premier and Cabinet – www.dpc.vic.gov.au
- Department of Primary Industries – www.dpi.vic.gov.au
- Department of Sustainability and Environment – www.dse.vic.gov.au
- Department of Treasury and Finance – www.dtf.vic.gov.au
- Department of Transport – www.transport.vic.gov.au
- Department of Planning and Community Development - www.dpccd.vic.gov.au
- Mental Health - www.health.vic.gov.au/mentalhealth
- Victorian Government Ministers - <http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/minsec.html>
- Victorian Local Government Councils - <http://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/> - contact details & access to websites for Victorian Local Government Councils

Disclaimer:

The information in this resource was correct, to the best of our abilities, at the time of the last update. Provided that there is staff available at the time, this resource will be updated every six months.

If there is incorrect information, or if you think this resource would benefit from additional information, please contact the Strategic Support Branch – details below.

This resource is deemed suitable for distribution to external stakeholders. DHS staff may contact the Strategic Support Branch for access to an internal version.

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