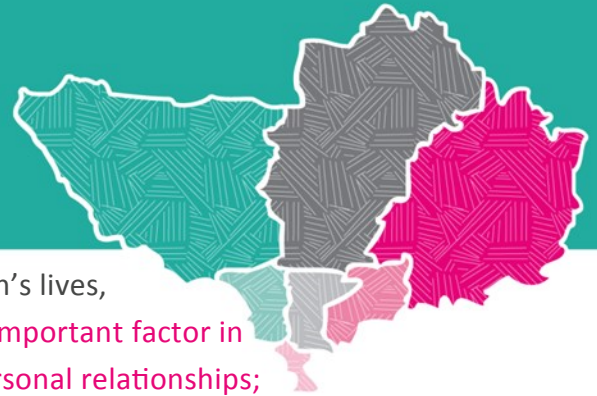




Whittlesea

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SNAPSHOT 2016



Sexual and reproductive health has a defining impact on women's lives, beginning at puberty and continuing past menopause. 'It is an important factor in shaping how women develop and maintain meaningful interpersonal relationships; appreciate their bodies; interact with others; express affection, love, and intimacy; and by choice, bear children'¹. This snapshot illustrates the sexual and reproductive health outcomes experienced by the 78,087² women living in the local government area of Whittlesea.

Birth rates

3,149

babies were born to Whittlesea residents in 2014³.



This was a rate of **2.05 births per 1,000 women**.

The Victorian rate was lower at 1.80 per 1,000.



In 2012, **9.1 per 1,000 15-19 year old women gave birth** in Whittlesea⁴.

The average Melbourne metro rate was 7.5. The Victorian rate was 10.4 per 1,000.

Teenage pregnancy can have long term health, social, educational and financial implications⁵.

Fertility management 70.8%⁶ of Australian women use a form of contraception, with the combined oral contraceptive pill being the most frequently prescribed method. Women need to be educated about and have access to long acting reversible contraception (LARC) and termination services in the northern region⁷.

51% of Australian women experience an unplanned pregnancy⁸.

Chlamydia is the most commonly diagnosed sexually transmitted infection. It is often asymptomatic and when left untreated can result in infertility⁹. 481 cases of chlamydia were diagnosed in Whittlesea in 2014¹⁰, 97 more than in 2013¹¹. This is a rate of 288.1 per 100,000 women in comparison to 226.2 per 100,000 men. The Victorian rate was 348.4.

Whittlesea Chlamydia Diagnoses 2010-14



55% of Whittlesea diagnoses in 2014 were aged less than 25 years old.

Hepatitis B There is a high prevalence of chronic hepatitis B in the northern metropolitan region (NMR). The notification rate for chronic hepatitis B between 1998-2012 in Victoria was 33 per 100,000. The Whittlesea rate was a higher 39 per 100,000¹². In 2011 1.2% of the population in Whittlesea was living with chronic hepatitis B¹³.



Hepatitis B causes inflammation of the liver and can lead to liver cirrhosis and cancer¹⁴.

Pap Screening It is recommended that women have a Pap test every two years.

55.3% of Whittlesea women had Pap tests between 2012-2013¹⁵.

This is lower than the NMR average of 61.5% and the Victorian rate of 60.4%.

90%
of women who
develop cervical
cancer did not have
regular Pap tests¹⁶.



HPV (human papilloma virus) Immunisation

In 2013 **74.5%** of 15 year old girls in Whittlesea received complete HPV Immunisation. This is lower than the Victorian coverage rate of 75.2% and the NMR average of 76.2%¹⁷. Complete HPV immunisation provides protection against cancers including cervical, penile and anal; as well as genital warts.

Sexual Offences include sexting, pornography and child pornography, as well as rape and indecent assault.

In Whittlesea **four sexual offences were recorded by police every week** on average in 2014-15¹⁸.

86% of victims were female and 91% of alleged offenders were male.

50% of female victims were aged less than 25.

Female Genital Cutting (FGC)

The NMR is home to a significant population of women who are from communities where FGC is traditionally practiced. In the NMR, 20% of women from affected communities live in Whittlesea¹⁹.



FGC is a harmful traditional practice which has no health benefits. Refer to WHIN's [FGC factsheet](#) for more info.

WHIN advocates for a northern metropolitan region where:

- Women and service providers are educated about and have a developed understanding of women's sexual and reproductive health.
- Sexual and reproductive health services are appropriate and accessible.
- Women are free to express their sexuality without experiencing ill-health, discrimination or abuse.

1. Women's Health Victoria. (2009). Sexual and Reproductive Health. Retrieved October, 2013, from <http://whv.org.au/what-we-do/sexual-reproductive-health>
2. Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2011). Database: 2011 Census Age by Sex – Age in 5 year groups – AGE5P. Retrieved October, 2013, from <http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/censushome.nsf/home/tablebuilder?opendocument&navpos=240>
3. Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2015). Australian Birth Data 2014. Retrieved December, 2014, from <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/3301.02014?OpenDocument>
4. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. (2015). VCAMS Indicator 14.1 Teenage Fertility Rate. Retrieved January, 2015, from <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/research/Pages/vcamsindicator.aspx>
5. Family Planning Victoria, Royal Women's Hospital & the Centre for Adolescent Health. (2004). The Sexual and Reproductive Health of Young Victorians. Melbourne, Victoria.
6. Richters, J., Grulich, AE., de Visser, RO., Smith, AM & Rissel, CE. (2003). Sex in Australia: contraceptive practices among a representative sample of women. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, 27(2), 210-216.
7. Women's Health In the North. (2014). Going South in the North: A Snapshot of the sexual and reproductive health status of women living in Melbourne's Northern Metropolitan Region. Thornbury, Victoria: Women's Health In the North.
8. Marie Stopes International. (2008). Real Choices: Women, contraception and unplanned pregnancy. Melbourne, Victoria.
9. Australian Women's Health Network. (2012). Sexual and Reproductive Health Position Paper. Drysdale, Victoria.
10. Victorian Department of Health Communicable Disease Epidemiology and Surveillance. (2015). Requested data: the number of chlamydia, gonorrhoea, syphilis, HIV and HBV
11. Victorian Department of Health Communicable Disease Epidemiology and Surveillance. (2014). Requested data: the number of chlamydia, gonorrhoea, syphilis, HIV and HBV
12. Australasian Society for HIV Medicine. (2015). Hepatitis B Mapping Project: Estimates of chronic hepatitis B diagnosis, monitoring and treatment by Medicare Local, 2013/13 – National Report. New South Wales, Australia.
13. Australasian Society for HIV Medicine and Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory. (2013). Hepatitis B Mapping Project – Estimates of chronic hepatitis B.
14. Melbourne Sexual Health Service. (2012). Hepatitis B Factsheet. Retrieved January, 2015 from <http://www.mshc.org.au/SexualHealthInformation/SexualHealthFactSheets/HepatitisB/tabid/265/Default.aspx#.VqlfPI96Uk>
15. Victorian Cervical Cytology Registry. (2013). 2013 Statistical Report. Melbourne, Australia.
16. Pap Screen Victoria. (2014). Cervical cancer and Pap test statistics. Retrieved January, 2016 from http://www.vccr.org/site/VCCR/filesystem/documents/dataandresearch/StatisticalReports/VCS_StatisticsReport_2013_Web_SinglePages_Final.pdf
17. National HPV Vaccination Program Register. (2016). Requested Data: Population Based Coverage—Females Aged 15, Dose Number and Specified LGA. Melbourne, Victoria.
18. Purchased data extracted from Crime Statistics Agency LEAP on 21 July 2015 and subject to variation. Produced by Crime Statistics Agency, Victoria Police, September 2015.
19. Family Planning Victoria. (2013). Female Genital Mutilation LGA Profiles – Banyule, Darebin, Hume, Moreland, Nillumbik, Whittlesea and Yarra Community Profiles 2011. Retrieved October, 2013, from <http://www.fpv.org.au/advocacy-projects-research/projects/female-genital-mutilation-cutting/>