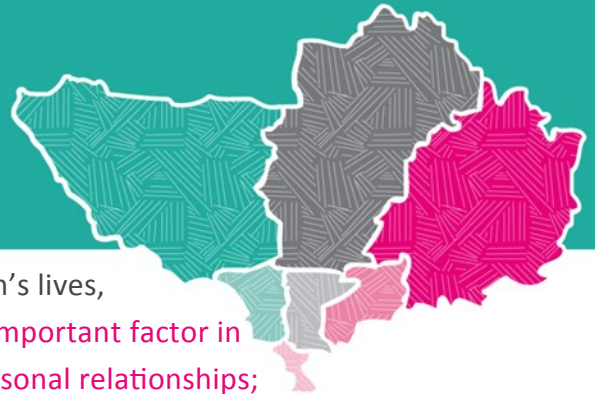




Yarra

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 37,939² women living in the local government area of Yarra.

Birth rates

1,077

babies were born to Yarra residents in 2014³.



This was a rate of **1.21 births per 1,000 women.**

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

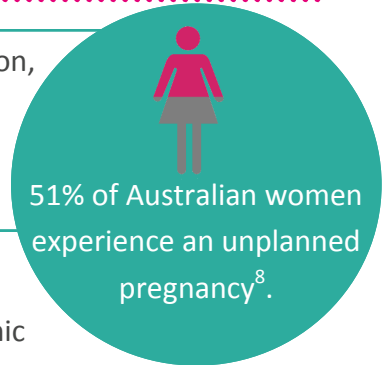


In 2011, **9.6 per 1,000 15-19 year old women gave birth** in Yarra⁴.

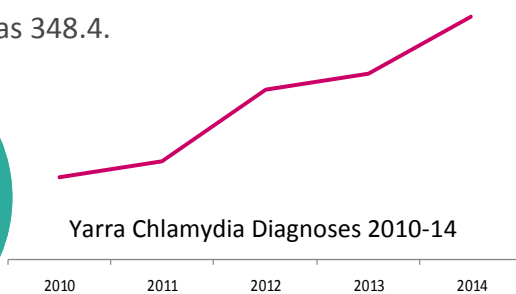
The average Melbourne metro rate was 7.3. The Victorian rate was 10.6 per 1,000.

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.



Chlamydia is the most commonly diagnosed sexually transmitted infection. It is often asymptomatic and when left untreated can result in infertility⁹. 574 cases of chlamydia were diagnosed in Yarra in 2014¹⁰, 41 more than in 2013¹¹. This is a rate of 574.4 per 100,000 women in comparison to 756.7 per 100,000 men. The Victorian rate was 348.4.



32% of Yarra diagnoses in 2014 were aged less than 25years 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 Yarra rate was a higher 74.7 per 100,000¹². In 2011 1.28% of the population in Yarra 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.

66.2% of Yarra women had Pap tests between 2012-2013¹⁵.

This is higher 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 **69.5%** of 15 year old girls in Yarra 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 Yarra **four sexual offences were recorded by police every week** on average in 2014-15¹⁸.

77% of victims were female and 100% of alleged offenders were male.

46% 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, 16% of women from affected communities live in Yarra¹⁹.



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.

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