

GenWest

<https://genwest.org.au/>

Populations

Populations include aspects of a person's identity such as age, sex and gender diversity, ethnicity, language, religion, disability and family status. These factors can interact with other factors such as socioeconomics and discrimination to create overlapping disadvantage, and influence health and wellbeing. This is known as intersectionality. Priority populations for health promotion in Victoria include First Nations women, women with a disability, migrant and refugee women, LGBTIQ+ community, older women, young women and girls, women living in rural, regional and remote areas, and women in contact with the justice system.

P

**Fact
Sheet**

<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Measures</i>
Population	Number of persons
Age Distribution	% 0-14 years % 15-24 years % 25-44 years % 45-64 years % 65+ years
Born In Australia	2021% 2016% 2011%
English Proficiency	% Low English proficiency % Speak English only
Indigenous Status	2021% 2016% 2011%
Lone Parent Status	2021% 2016% 2011% Number of families
Need For Assistance With Core Activity	2021% 2016% 2011%
Persons 75+ Years And Living Alone	2021% 2016% 2011%

Population

The 2021 Census recorded 6.5 million people (6,503,491) as usual residents of Victoria, up from 5.9 million in 2016. By sex, there were 3,302,528 females (50.8%) and 3,200,963 males (48.2%). In 2021, nearly four out of five people in Victoria lived in the capital city area of Greater Melbourne (4.9 million).

Gender Analysis

Before the COVID pandemic Victoria was the fastest growing state in Australia, growing by an average of more than 2.0 per cent per annum, driven by strong inward migration flows from interstate and overseas. Victoria's population peaked at almost 6.694 million people in June 2020, then decreased during the pandemic period. There were a range of flow-on effects within the state, such as a fall in population in some metropolitan areas and a rise of people living in regional areas. On Census night (Tuesday 10 August 2021) many parts of Victoria were in lockdown or subject to border restrictions. More families and households were together on Census night, and this is reflected in the 2021 Census data.

Population - Number of persons

Time Period	Melbourne		Metro West Region Estimate		Victoria State Estimate		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2021	75195	74423	79,765.1	79,319.4	41,749.0	40,446.5	41,097.7
2016	69825	66140	70,011.4	68,642.4	38,163.6	36,749.6	37,456.6
2011	46850	46775	58,156.6	57,577.0	34,398.4	33,258.9	33,828.7

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

Count of population per LGA from the 2021 Census of Population and Housing. Note: Statewide and region estimates are calculated by Atlas programming based on LGA values for female/male only, and may differ to Victorian estimates published elsewhere.

Source/s:

ABS Census 2021. DataPacks. General Community Profile by Local Government Area (LGA): Victoria. Table G01.

Currency: 2021

Link: <https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/datapacks>

Age Distribution

The 2021 Census recorded the age distribution of the Victorian female population as: 0 to 14 years (568,807); 15 to 24 years (376,523); 25 to 44 years (958,534); 45 to 64 years (809,880); and 65+ years (588,918). Like most developed countries, Australia's population is ageing as a result of sustained low fertility and increasing life expectancy. This has resulted in proportionally fewer children (under 15 years of age) in the population and a proportionally larger increase in those aged 65 and over. Over the next several decades, population ageing is projected to have implications for Australia, including population health, size of the working-age population, housing and demand for skilled labour.

Gender Analysis

The experience of ageing in Australia is highly gendered. Young women experience higher rates of mental distress and are particularly vulnerable to violence in the context of intimate relationships. Young women are also affected by pressure relating to body image, to an extent not experienced by young men. Reproductive aged women face managing fertility, menstruation, reproductive choices, gynaecological health and the demands of pregnancy and parenting. For women over 50, lower superannuation balances relative to men and longer life expectancy contributes to older women becoming the fastest growing group of homeless people. Older women are likely to be living with one or more chronic diseases, including cancer, heart disease, dementia, osteoporosis or arthritis, and, between ages 45 to 75, are likely to have greater unpaid caring responsibilities than at any other age.

Age Distribution - % 0-14 years

Time Period	Melbourne		Metro West Region Estimate		Victoria State Estimate		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2021	6.60%	6.90%	17.1%	18.3%	16.3%	17.6%	17.0%
2016	6.20%	6.70%	17.4%	18.5%	16.9%	18.3%	17.6%
2011	6.90%	7.30%	17.6%	18.5%	17.8%	19.3%	18.5%

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The percentage equals the number of persons per age bracket, divided by the total persons of the corresponding sex of that LGA, as at August 2021. Note: Statewide and region estimates are calculated by Atlas programming based on LGA values for female/male only, and may differ to Victorian estimates published elsewhere.

Source/s:

ABS Census 2021. DataPacks. General Community Profile by Local Government Area (LGA): Victoria. Table G01.

Currency: 2021

Link: <https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/datapacks>

Age Distribution - % 15-24 years

Time Period	Melbourne		Metro West Region Estimate		Victoria State Estimate		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2021	22.50%	19.60%	12.7%	13.1%	10.2%	11.2%	10.7%
2016	31.90%	27.30%	14.9%	15.2%	11.1%	12.1%	11.6%
2011	29.40%	25.90%	15.2%	15.5%	11.6%	12.7%	12.2%

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The percentage equals the number of persons per age bracket, divided by the total persons of the corresponding sex of that LGA, as at August 2021. Note: Statewide and region estimates are calculated by Atlas programming based on LGA values for female/male only, and may differ to Victorian estimates published elsewhere.

Source/s:

ABS Census 2021. DataPacks. General Community Profile by Local Government Area (LGA): Victoria. Table G01.

Currency: 2021

Link: <https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/datapacks>

Age Distribution - % 25-44 years

Time Period	Melbourne		Metro West Region Estimate		Victoria State Estimate		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2021	49.50%	52.30%	35.3%	35.9%	25.0%	24.9%	25.0%
2016	42.50%	46.60%	34.3%	35.0%	24.7%	24.5%	24.6%
2011	41.60%	45.20%	34.4%	34.9%	25.6%	25.1%	25.3%

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The percentage equals the number of persons per age bracket, divided by the total persons of the corresponding sex of that LGA, as at August 2021. Note: Statewide and region estimates are calculated by Atlas programming based on LGA values for female/male only, and may differ to Victorian estimates published elsewhere.

Source/s:

ABS Census 2021. DataPacks. General Community Profile by Local Government Area (LGA): Victoria. Table G01.

Currency: 2021

Link: <https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/datapacks>

Age Distribution - % 45-64 years

Time Period	Melbourne		Metro West Region Estimate		Victoria State Estimate		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2021	13.90%	14.10%	21.9%	21.5%	26.5%	25.8%	26.2%
2016	12.80%	13.10%	21.7%	21.2%	27.2%	26.8%	27.0%
2011	15.20%	15.30%	21.8%	21.7%	27.1%	27.2%	27.2%

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The percentage equals the number of persons per age bracket, divided by the total persons of the corresponding sex of that LGA, as at August 2021. Note: Statewide and region estimates are calculated by Atlas programming based on LGA values for female/male only, and may differ to Victorian estimates published elsewhere.

Source/s:

ABS Census 2021. DataPacks. General Community Profile by Local Government Area (LGA): Victoria. Table G01.

Currency: 2021

Link: <https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/datapacks>

Age Distribution - % 65+ years

Time Period	Melbourne		Metro West Region Estimate		Victoria State Estimate		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2021	7.60%	7.00%	12.9%	11.2%	21.9%	20.4%	21.2%
2016	6.60%	6.40%	11.7%	10.1%	20.1%	18.4%	19.3%
2011	6.80%	6.30%	11.0%	9.3%	17.8%	15.8%	16.8%

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The percentage equals the number of persons per age bracket, divided by the total persons of the corresponding sex of that LGA, as at August 2021. Note: Statewide and region estimates are calculated by Atlas programming based on LGA values for female/male only, and may differ to Victorian estimates published elsewhere.

Source/s:

ABS Census 2021. DataPacks. General Community Profile by Local Government Area (LGA): Victoria. Table G01.

Currency: 2021

Link: <https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/datapacks>

Born In Australia

According to the 2021 Census, 4,228,658 Victorians (65%) were born in Australia (2,138,525 females and 2,090,158 males.) The proportion of Victorians who were born overseas increased to 30% in 2021 (up from 28.3% in 2016). The remaining 5% of Victorians did not state their country of birth. In 2021, the top five countries of birth for Victorians born overseas were: India (4.0%), England (2.7%), China (2.6%), New Zealand (1.5%), and Vietnam (1.4%).

Gender Analysis

For many migrant and refugee women, access to health services is limited by language, cultural and/or information barriers. Migrant and refugee women experience poorer overall maternal and child health outcomes and higher rates of mental health issues than the general population of women. One in three migrant and refugee women have experienced some form of domestic and family violence, with nearly a quarter reporting this increased in severity during COVID-19 lockdowns. Women on temporary visas, including international students, cannot access Medicare benefits, and are more vulnerable to exploitation in housing and employment markets.

Help/support for migrant and refugee women:

- Multicultural Centre for Women's Health: (Web: mcwh.com.au)

Born In Australia -

Time Period	Melbourne		Metro West Region Estimate		Victoria State Estimate		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2021	36.20%	39.80%	53.8%	55.1%	73.6%	74.1%	73.8%
2016	31.10%	34.30%	53.2%	54.1%	73.2%	73.7%	73.4%
2011	40.30%	41.90%	57.0%	57.0%	77.1%	76.9%	77.0%

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The percentage equals the number of persons born in Australia, divided by the total persons of the corresponding sex of that LGA, as at August 2021. Note: Statewide and region estimates are calculated by Atlas programming based on LGA values for female/male only, and may differ to Victorian estimates published elsewhere.

Source/s:

ABS Census 2021. DataPacks. General Community Profile by Local Government Area (LGA): Victoria. Table G01.

Currency: 2021

Link: <https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/datapacks>

English Proficiency

In the 2021 Census, a total of 285,873 Victorians who spoke a language other than English at home reported difficulty speaking English (162,057 females and 123,816 males). This represents an increase of almost 20,000 people compared with the 2016 Census (150,855 females and 115,223 males). By sex, the percentage of self-reported low English proficiency was 2.76% for females, compared with 2.21% for males (average of Victorian local government areas), very similar to the 2016 Census. The gender gap in low English proficiency is most pronounced in older age groups (70 years and above).

Gender Analysis

People with low English proficiency may experience social isolation and face particular challenges in accessing information and services, including healthcare. For example, language barriers and lack of female interpreters restrict women's ability to discuss sensitive reproductive health and other issues. Low English proficiency is a significant predictor of psychological distress among women from refugee and migrant communities, and is the most significant barrier to women undertaking vocational skills training and finding employment. English language classes are insufficiently tailored to migrant and refugee women's needs and their life circumstances. Communication problems may restrict women's ability to form intercultural connections outside the home, and inhibit full participation in society.

English Proficiency - % Low English proficiency

Time Period	Melbourne		Metro West Region Estimate		Victoria State Estimate		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2021	5.80%	4.60%	7.4%	5.5%	2.8%	2.2%	2.5%
2016	7.50%	6.20%	7.9%	6.0%	2.8%	2.2%	2.5%
2011	5.50%	4.10%	7.5%	5.5%	2.5%	1.9%	2.2%

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The percentage equals the number of persons who reported having 'low English' language proficiency ('not well', 'not at all') divided by the total persons of the corresponding sex of that LGA. Note: Statewide and region estimates are calculated by Atlas programming based on LGA values for female/male only, and may differ to Victorian estimates published elsewhere.

Source/s:

ABS Census 2021. Census Table: Language spoken at home by proficiency in Spoken English Language by Sex by LGA, Population: Persons.

Currency: 2021

Link: <http://www.abs.gov.au>

English Proficiency - % Speak English only

Time Period	Melbourne		Metro West Region Estimate		Victoria State Estimate		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2021	43.80%	48.90%	52.5%	54.3%	78.1%	78.3%	78.2%
2016	38.60%	42.50%	52.5%	53.7%	78.3%	78.3%	78.3%
2011	49.70%	51.60%	57.0%	57.3%	82.4%	82.1%	82.2%

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The percentage equals the number of persons who speak 'English only' divided by the total persons of the corresponding sex of that LGA. Note: Statewide and region estimates are calculated by Atlas programming based on LGA values for female/male only, and may differ to Victorian estimates published elsewhere.

Source/s:

ABS Census 2021. Census Table: Language spoken at home by proficiency in Spoken English Language by Sex by LGA, Population: Persons. Note: Self-assessed English proficiency is subjective and is an indicator rather than a definitive measure of a person's ability to speak English.

Currency: 2021

Link: <http://www.abs.gov.au>

Indigenous Status

In the 2021 Census, 65,639 Victorians identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people. This total comprises 32,769 females (49.9%) and 32,861 males (50.1%). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people represent 1.0% of Victoria's population in 2021. This is up from 47,498 people (0.8% of Victoria's population) in 2016. Of the Victorians who identify as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin, 94.2% identify as Aboriginal, 3.2% identify as Torres Strait Islander, and 2.6% identify as both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

Gender Analysis

Connection to land, culture, spirituality and ancestry is the foundation of physical and mental health for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The injustices and intergenerational trauma of colonization, forced removal of children, racism and socioeconomic disadvantage have profoundly disrupted these connections. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women continue to experience poorer health outcomes compared to non-Aboriginal women. Examples include: lower life expectancy by almost 8 years, chronic conditions at younger ages, 32 times more likely to be hospitalised due to family violence, 11 times more likely to die due to assault, higher prevalence of disability (47% compared with 17.8%), and 21.2 times more likely to be incarcerated. There is a need for Aboriginal-led, gender-responsive health systems and services to better meet the needs of First Nations women and girls.

Help/support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples:

- Yarning SafeNStrong: (Phone: 1800 959 563 – 24 hours)

Indigenous Status -

Time Period	Melbourne		Metro West Region Estimate		Victoria State Estimate		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2021	0.50%	0.60%	0.7%	0.7%	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%
2016	0.30%	0.40%	0.6%	0.6%	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%
2011	0.20%	0.30%	0.4%	0.5%	1.0%	0.9%	1.0%

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The percentage equals the number of people who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, divided by the total persons of the corresponding sex of that LGA, as at August 2021. Note: Statewide and region estimates are calculated by Atlas programming based on LGA values for female/male only, and may differ to Victorian estimates published elsewhere.

Source/s:

ABS Census 2021. DataPacks. General Community Profile by Local Government Area (LGA): Victoria. Table G01.

Currency: 2021

Link: <https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/datapacks>

Lone Parent Status

A lone parent is a person who has no spouse or partner usually resident in the household, but who forms a parent-child relationship with at least one child usually resident in the household. The child may be either dependent or non-dependent. In 2021, female lone parents outnumbered male lone parents in Victoria by a ratio of 4 to 1. The 2021 Census recorded 262,032 lone parent households in Victoria, comprising 212,011 headed by females and 50,021 headed by males. The number of female lone parents increased by 9.9% (up from 192,926 in 2016) and the number of male lone parents increased by 20% (up from 41,672 in 2016). The proportion of lone parents by sex in 2021 was 79.3% female and 20.7% male (average of Victorian local government areas). The proportions changed slightly compared to the 2016 Census (81.0% female and 19.0% male).

Gender Analysis

There are roughly 1 million single-parents in Australia, and four out of five are women. Australian welfare policies over 20 years have failed to adequately support single parent families. Single parent families in Australia have on average 47% less disposable income than coupled families. Single mothers are twice as likely to be in financial hardship compared with partnered mothers, and an estimated one third (34%) of single mothers are living in poverty. An estimated 25% to 40% of all single mothers have experienced family violence. Moving house and finding new neighbourhood supports is rated as one of the most stressful life events for single mothers. Stigma and discrimination directed at single mothers is commonly reported.

Lone Parent Status -

Time Period	Melbourne		Metro West Region Estimate		Victoria State Estimate		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2021	81.20%	18.80%	81.9%	18.1%	79.3%	20.7%	50.0%
2016	84.20%	15.80%	83.1%	16.9%	81.0%	19.0%	50.0%
2011	83.20%	16.80%	83.6%	16.4%	81.6%	18.4%	50.0%

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The percentage of lone parent families in each LGA that are female-headed or male-headed. Each LGA will total 100%, therefore the state average will equal 50%. Note: Statewide and region estimates are calculated by Atlas programming based on LGA values for female/male only, and may differ to Victorian estimates published elsewhere.

Source/s:

ABS Census 2021. Census Table: Lone parent status by Sex by LGA, Population: Persons.

Currency: 2021

Link: <http://www.abs.gov.au>

Lone Parent Status - Number of families

Time Period	Melbourne		Metro West Region Estimate		Victoria State Estimate		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2021	2492	577	5,194.1	1,121.6	2,683.6	633.1	1,658.4
2016	2067	387	4,595.3	934.7	2,441.7	527.8	1,484.8
2011	1597	322	4,108.9	797.1	2,293.5	477.7	1,385.6

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

For each LGA, the number of lone parent families that are either female-headed or male-headed. Note: Statewide and region estimates are calculated by Atlas programming based on LGA values for female/male only, and may differ to Victorian estimates published elsewhere.

Source/s:

ABS Census 2021. Census Table: Lone parent status by Sex by LGA, Population: Persons.

Currency: 2021

Link: <http://www.abs.gov.au>

Need For Assistance With Core Activity

The Census measures the number of people with a profound or severe disability, using the definition 'people needing help or assistance in one or more of the three core activity areas (self-care, mobility and communication), because of a long-term health condition (lasting six months or more), a disability (lasting six months or more), or old age'. The 2021 Census recorded 382,070 Victorians needing assistance with daily activities (comprising 208,730 females and 173,340 males). The number of females needing assistance increased by 25.0% (up from 166,947 in 2016) and the number of males needing assistance increased by 25.6% (up from 137,988 in 2016).

Gender Analysis

Women with disabilities experience multiple, intersecting layers of disadvantage such as social exclusion, economic insecurity and high levels of violence and discrimination. Women with disabilities have reduced access to health information, screening, prevention, and care services. Women may often be excluded from decisions that affect their health care and treatment. This impacts mental and physical health and leads to greater unmet health needs than women without a disability. Women with disabilities experience all types of violence at higher rates, with increased severity and for longer than other women.

Help/support in Victoria for women with disabilities:

- Women With Disabilities Victoria (Website: www.wdv.org.au)

Need For Assistance With Core Activity -

Time Period	Melbourne		Metro West Region Estimate		Victoria State Estimate		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2021	2.60%	2.10%	5.8%	4.8%	6.7%	5.9%	6.3%
2016	1.90%	1.60%	5.0%	4.2%	5.8%	5.2%	5.5%
2011	2.60%	1.80%	5.1%	4.2%	5.8%	5.2%	5.5%

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The percentage equals the number of persons who have need for assistance with core activities divided by the total persons of the corresponding sex of that LGA. Note: Statewide and region estimates are calculated by Atlas programming based on LGA values for female/male only, and may differ to Victorian estimates published elsewhere.

Source/s:

ABS Census 2021. Census Table: Need for assistance with core activity by Sex by LGA, Population: Persons.

Currency: 2021

Link: <http://www.abs.gov.au>

Persons 75+ Years And Living Alone

In Victoria, females aged 75+ and living alone outnumber males by a ratio of 2.5 to 1. The 2021 Census recorded 133,061 Victorians aged 75+ and living alone (comprising 94,634 females and 38,427 males). The number of females aged 75+ and living alone increased by 16.5% (up from 81,230 in 2016), and the number of males increased by 24.0% (up from 30,984 in 2016). By sex, 3.6% of the female population in 2021 were aged 75+ years and living alone, compared with 1.7% of the male population (average of Victorian local government areas). The percentages increased for both sexes compared with 2016 (3.4% of the female population and 1.5% of the male population).

Gender Analysis

The gradually ageing population, combined with women's higher life expectancy, means the number of women aged 75+ and living alone will continue to grow. Living alone is a key risk factor for mental ill health, with 10% of people over 60 in Victoria experiencing chronic loneliness. Rising living costs, inability to access support services, loss of mobility and digital exclusion limit the ability of many older women to maintain independence in the community, driving them to move into residential care or to live with family members. Older women are more vulnerable than men to elder abuse, especially if they are care dependent, have cognitive impairment or another disability, are socially isolated, or have a prior history of traumatic life events. Social support and healthy relationships with family members are key protective factors for older people at risk of abuse or neglect.

Persons 75+ Years And Living Alone -

Time Period	Melbourne		Metro West Region Estimate		Victoria State Estimate		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2021	1.10%	0.60%	1.9%	0.8%	3.6%	1.7%	2.6%
2016	0.80%	0.50%	1.7%	0.7%	3.4%	1.5%	2.4%
2011	1.10%	0.60%	1.9%	0.7%	3.5%	1.4%	2.5%

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The percentage equals the number of persons who are aged 75+ who are living alone, divided by the total persons of the corresponding sex of that LGA. Note: Statewide and region estimates are calculated by Atlas programming based on LGA values for female/male only, and may differ to Victorian estimates published elsewhere.

Source/s:

ABS Census 2021. Census Table: Relationship in Household by Age by Sex by LGA, Population: Persons in occupied private dwellings.

Currency: 2021

Link: <http://www.abs.gov.au>