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Darebin Health and Wellbeing Profile

May 2025

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People

Darebin City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land and waters we now call Darebin and affirms that Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people have lived on this land for millennia, practising their customs and ceremonies of celebration, initiation, and renewal. Council acknowledges that Elders past, present and emerging are central to the cohesion, intergenerational wellbeing, and ongoing self-determination of Aboriginal communities. They have played and continue to play a pivotal role in maintaining and transmitting culture, history, and language.

Council respects and recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities' values, living culture and practices, including their continuing spiritual connection to the land and waters and their right to self-determination. Council also recognises the diversity within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities have had and continue to play a unique role in the life of the Darebin municipality. Council recognises and values this ongoing contribution and its significant value for our City and Australian society more broadly.

Extract from Darebin City Council's Statement of Commitment to Traditional Owners and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 2019.

For more information, please contact equityandclimate@darebin.vic.gov.au or our Multilingual Telephone Line (03) 8470 8470 to be connected to a Language Aide or an interpreter.

Executive Summary

Darebin City Council (Council) is committed to reducing health inequalities and enhancing equity, inclusion, and human rights within the Darebin community. The Darebin Health and Wellbeing Profile Report (the report) examines health data and determinants to provide deeper insights into health inequalities within the municipality.

The report is informed by the legislative context within which Council plans for the health and wellbeing of its residents as outlined in the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* and *Climate Change Act 2017*. Data was derived from a range of sources including the 2023 Victorian population health data, as well as publications from .id consulting and Women's Health Victoria.

Darebin rated better than the Victorian average in several health and wellbeing areas. In particular, Darebin had lower proportion of people who were overweight and obese, had alcohol-related disease or injury, consumed sugary drinks, smoked tobacco, as well as lower rates of people who had low life satisfaction and self-rated their health as poor. Additionally, Darebin residents demonstrated stronger support for cultural diversity.

However, there are areas where Darebin faces ongoing challenges. Compared to the State average, the community experiences higher levels of sedentary behaviour, vaping, sunburn, loneliness and mental health issues, including anxiety, depression, psychological distress, and self-harm. Rates of sexually transmissible infections such as chlamydia, gonorrhoea, hepatitis B, and syphilis remain a concern, as do issues related to food insecurity, alcohol-related harm, racism and discrimination, homelessness, gambling, and both family and gender-based violence. Addressing these challenges remains crucial to improving overall community health and wellbeing.

Certain communities in Darebin experience unique health challenges that require targeted support and action. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people face higher rates of mental health conditions, diabetes, kidney disease, and arthritis. Many migrants in the community also experience chronic conditions such as arthritis, heart disease, diabetes, asthma, and mental health concerns. Meanwhile, members of the LGBTIQ+ community are more likely to experience psychological distress, anxiety, depression, and family violence, as well as higher rates of tobacco smoking and asthma.

Racism and discrimination continue to be a major driver of poorer health outcomes and a barrier to accessing safe and supportive healthcare for many within these communities. Council recognises that addressing these disparities require culturally safe, inclusive, and responsive health initiatives that prioritise equity and wellbeing for all.

This report provides the evidence base for setting priorities of the 2025-2029 Darebin Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan. By prioritising health equity and wellbeing, Darebin aims to create a healthier, more inclusive community for all residents.

Disclaimer: Every effort has been made to use the latest available data to inform this report. Where available, sex-disaggregated data has been provided.

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Content Warning

This report makes reference to intentional self-harm, suicide and harmful use of alcohol and other drugs. It also refers to gender-based violence, sexual assault and threatening behaviours.

If the report raises feelings of distress and you need support, you can contact the below services.

- Crisis support, suicide prevention and mental health support services: Lifeline: 13 11 14
- For LGBTIQ+ support: Switchboard 1800 729 367
- Crisis support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander: 13YARN (13 92 76)
- For Family Violence: 1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732)
- Suicide callback service: 1300 659 467
- Family Drug and Gambling Help: 1300 660 068
- Kids Help Line (5-25 years): 1800 55 1800

A note on binary language used in this document:

Council recognises that a person's gender identity may not align with the biological sex they were assigned at birth, and gender is not binary. This document uses the term 'women' to include cisgender women, transgender women, and gender diverse individuals who can become pregnant, notwithstanding limitations due to the data collection itself.

While binary language is used throughout this report, Council recognises the limitations of such terminology. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) does not currently collect data on gender identity, non-binary or gender diverse individuals, or people with intersex variations, highlighting the need for more inclusive data to better reflect and support the community. Council also acknowledges the scarcity of data available on the health experiences (notably experiences of gender-based violence) of transgender, gender diverse and non-binary people or the experiences of people with intersex variations.

Introduction

Policy and Legislative Context

Victorian local governments have a legislated responsibility to protect, promote and improve public health and wellbeing of local communities. Under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*, local governments are required to undertake an examination of data about health status and health determinants in the municipal district.

This report provides the evidence base for setting priorities of the 2025-2029 Darebin municipal public health and wellbeing plan. By prioritising health equity and wellbeing, Darebin aims to create a healthier, more inclusive community for all residents.

Darebin people

Darebin City is one of the most diverse local government areas in Melbourne. Table 1 below summarises Darebin diversity.

Table 1: Snapshot: Darebin’s diverse community as of 2021

Estimated Resident Population	The City of Darebin Estimated Resident Population for 2021 is 155,683, with a population density of 2,913 persons per square km.
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Census population of the City of Darebin in 2021 was 1,444, living in 862 dwellings. This is one of the highest proportions in metropolitan Melbourne. 48.3% Males 51.7% Females 93.5% Aboriginal 3.3% Torres Strait Islander 3.2% both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Gender	51.4% of residents identify as ‘female’ and 48.6% identify as ‘male’*. (NB: Not all residents identify as either male or female*)
Age structure	Babies and pre-schoolers (0 to 4) 5.3% Primary schoolers (5 to 11) 6.9% Secondary schoolers (12 to 17) 5.5% Tertiary education and independence (18 to 24) 8.2% Young workforce (25 to 34) 19.2% Parents and homebuilders (35 to 49) 23.0% Older workers and pre-retirees (50 to 59) 12.4% Empty nesters and retirees (60 to 69) 8.6% Seniors (70 to 84) 8.2% Elderly aged (85 and over) 2.7%
People with disability	6.6% (9,855 people) report needing help in their day-to-day lives due to disability. This is known to be an under-estimation of the number of people with disability.

Place of Birth	<p>64.4% of residents were born in Australia and 31.4% were born overseas, 4.2% not stated.</p> <p>Of the total born overseas, 48.6% were 'male' and 51.4% 'female'*</p> <p>There were 81 holders of Illegal Maritime Arrival Bridging Visa E or IMA BVE (asylum-seekers) by June 2024**</p> <p>International students - (unknown)</p>
Multilingual	<p>32.3% of people spoke a language other than English at home.</p> <p>The top ten languages spoken (other than English) include Greek (5.7%), Italian (5.3%), Mandarin (3.1%), Arabic (2.4%), Vietnamese (2.1%), Macedonian (1.3%), Cantonese (1.1%), Spanish (1.0%), Nepali (0.7%) and Hindi (0.7%).</p>
LGBTIQ+ status	(unknown) This data is not collected by the ABS census
Faiths and beliefs	<p>In 2021, the largest religious group was Western (Roman) Catholic (20.9%), followed by Greek Orthodox (7.7%), Islam (4.1%), Anglican (2.8%), Buddhism (2.6%) and Hinduism (2.5%).</p> <p>45.2% of people had no religion and 5.4% did not answer the question on religion</p>
Highest qualification achieved	<p>39.6% Bachelor or Higher degree</p> <p>8.8% Advanced Diploma or Diploma</p> <p>11.6% Vocational</p> <p>33.1% No qualification</p> <p>6.9% Not stated</p>
Household type	<p>26.1% couples with children</p> <p>23.2% couples without children</p> <p>9.1% one parent families</p> <p>1.5% other families</p> <p>6.8% group household</p> <p>29.4% lone person</p> <p>3% other not classifiable household</p> <p>0.7% visitor only households</p>

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Census of Population and Housing](#) 2021. Compiled and presented by [.id](#) (informed decisions) (accessed 16 October 2024)

* language from ABS data collection

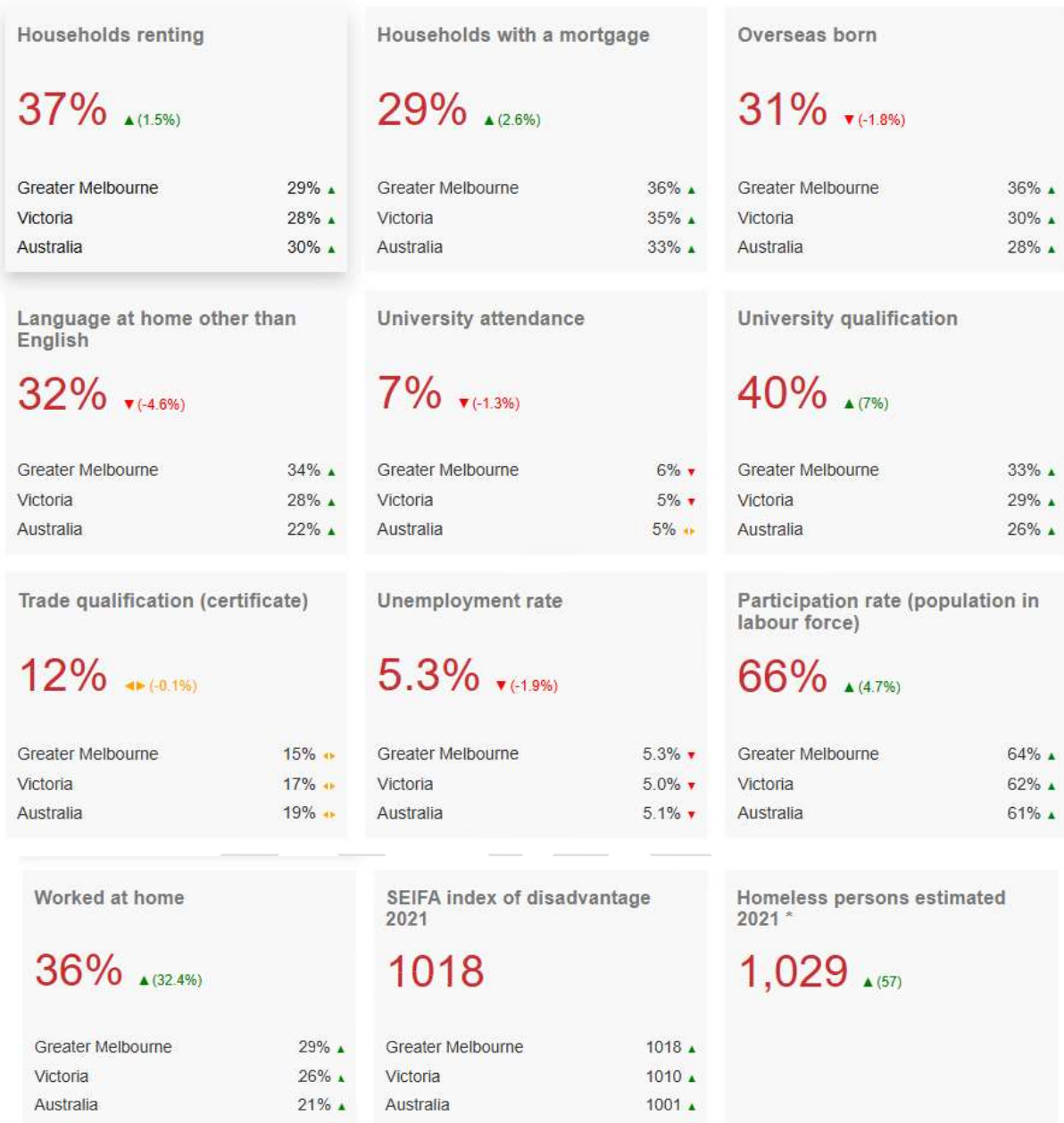
** Source: Department of Immigration and Border Protection, compiled by City of Greater Dandenong

Population highlights¹

↔ No significant change since previous Census (less than +/-0.5%) ▲ Increased since previous Census ▼ Decreased since previous Census

<p>Median age</p> <p>37 ▲(1)</p> <p>Greater Melbourne 37 ▲ Victoria 38 ▲ Australia 38 ↔</p>	<p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population</p> <p>1.0% ↔(0.2%)</p> <p>Greater Melbourne 0.7% ↔ Victoria 1.0% ↔ Australia 3.2% ↔</p>	<p>Couples with children</p> <p>26% ▼(-1%)</p> <p>Greater Melbourne 33% ↔ Victoria 31% ▼ Australia 30% ▼</p>
<p>Older couples without children</p> <p>6% ↔(-0.1%)</p> <p>Greater Melbourne 9% ▲ Victoria 10% ▲ Australia 10% ▲</p>	<p>Lone person households</p> <p>29% ▲(3.2%)</p> <p>Greater Melbourne 24% ▲ Victoria 25% ▲ Australia 24% ▲</p>	<p>Medium and high density Housing</p> <p>45% ▲(3.3%)</p> <p>Greater Melbourne 34% ▲ Victoria 28% ▲ Australia 28% ▲</p>
<p>Median weekly household income</p> <p>\$1,850 ▲(\$427)</p> <p>Greater Melbourne \$1,866 ▲ Victoria \$1,802 ▲ Australia \$1,740 ▲</p>	<p>Median weekly mortgage repayment</p> <p>\$480 ▲(\$30)</p> <p>Greater Melbourne \$461 ▲ Victoria \$428 ▲ Australia \$432 ▲</p>	<p>Median weekly rent</p> <p>\$381 ▲(\$42)</p> <p>Greater Melbourne \$390 ▲ Victoria \$370 ▲ Australia \$380 ▲</p>

¹ Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Census of Population and Housing](#) 2021. Compiled and presented by [.id](#) (informed decisions) (accessed 14 April 2025)



* Source: ABS, 2049.0 Estimating Homelessness, 2016

What the data is telling us

Health areas where Darebin is rated better than the Victorian average

Darebin is doing well in several areas of health and wellbeing compared to the Victorian average. Fewer people in Darebin are overweight or obese, at risk of alcohol related disease or injury, and consume sugary drinks. Most people report feeling satisfied with their lives and rate their health better than fair or poor (see Table 2 below).

Over 79% of the community believe that cultural diversity and multiculturalism make life better in Darebin, which is higher than the Victorian average of 66.5%. One of the biggest successes for Darebin's health and wellbeing is the drop in daily tobacco smoking. In 2017, 13.4% of people smoked every day, but by 2023, this number had fallen significantly to 9.4%. Whether this decrease in daily smoking is linked to the gentrification of the municipality/increase in socio-economic status shown by the increase in the SEIFA indexes (as it is nationally documented that people in disadvantaged areas are more likely to smoke than people in wealthier areas, who tend to vape more) or to public health interventions is uncertain.

This success is also qualified by the number of people who smoke (other than daily), of whom Darebin has a higher proportion than the Victorian average (see Table 3 below).

Table 2: Indicators where Darebin rated better compared to Victorian average

	Darebin 2017	Victoria 2017	Darebin 2023	Victoria 2023
Proportion (%) of people who are overweight but not obese	-	-	30.8%	31.4%
Proportion (%) of people who are obese	16.7%	19.3%	15.7%	23.0%
Proportion (%) of people by consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages (daily or several times per week)	-	-	30.6%	34.4%
Proportion (%) of people who smoked tobacco daily	13.4%	19.8%	9.4%	10.0%
Proportion (%) of people who rate their health status (self-reported) as fair or poor	24.2%	20.3%	18.5%	20.9%
Proportion (%) of people with low or medium level of life satisfaction	22.9%	20.5%	21.2%	22.0%
Proportion (%) of people who believes that multiculturalism makes life in their area better.	-	-	79.8%	66.5%

Source: 2023 Victorian Population Health Survey (VPHS); (-) means "data unavailable"

Health areas where Darebin rated worse compared to the Victorian average

Darebin faces some challenges in certain areas of health and wellbeing compared to the Victorian average. Compared to Victoria, Darebin has more people who have a sedentary behaviour, have had a sunburn (which national data suggest is a particularly high risk for young people aged 15-24), vape, and experience loneliness, food insecurity or financial insecurity. In terms of vaping, national data highlight how rates of vaping have significantly increased among young people (under 30) and young women particularly (18-34) between 2018-19 and 2022-23. This is likely to be similar for Darebin.

Darebin also has a higher proportion of people who experience racism and discrimination, seek support for mental health problems (can also be construed to some extent as a positive if demonstrating access to care and lessening of the stigma attached to mental health issues), experience psychological distress, have poor dental health, and are at risk of harm from alcohol-related disease or injury (see Table 3 below).

Table 3: Indicators where Darebin rated worse compared to Victorian average

	Darebin 2017	Victoria 2017	Darebin 2023	Victoria 2023
Proportion (%) of adults who usually spend eight or more hours sitting on average weekday (sedentary behaviour ²)	-	-	34.1%	27.9%
Proportion (%) of people who vaped weekly or monthly	-	-	4.6%	1.9%
Proportion (%) of people who smoke tobacco or vape	-	-	22.3%	18.5%
Proportion (%) of people who had a red and tender sunburn that lasted a day or more.	-	-	31.2%	26.1%
Proportion (%) of adults experiencing loneliness	-	-	24.0%	23.3%
The proportion (%) of adults in Victoria who sought professional help for a mental health problem in the last 12 months	-	-	26.3%	20.1%
Proportion (%) of people with high or very high level of psychological distress	19.8%	15.4%	20.6%	19.1%
Proportion (%) of people who experienced food insecurity in the 12 months	-	-	9.5%	8.0%
Proportion (%) of people who were “worried” or “sometimes worried” about running out of money to buy food in last 12 months (yes definitely)	-	-	25.7%	25.1%

² Sedentary is defined as sitting for seven hours or more during on an average weekday.

Proportion (%) of people at increased risk of harm from alcohol-related disease or injury	-	-	15.9%	13.1%
Proportion (%) of adults who experienced racism in the last 12 months	-	-	8.1%	6.9%
Proportion (%) of adults who experienced discrimination in the last 12 months	-	-	18.5%	15.8%
Proportion (%) of people who self-reported dental health as fair or poor	27.7%	24.4%	25.3%	22.5%

Source: 2023 Victorian Population Health Survey (VPHS); (-) means "data unavailable"

Additional health and wellbeing issues

In addition to the health areas above where Darebin is rating worse than the Victorian average, additional health and wellbeing issues require attention.

Mental health conditions

As of 2021, the crude self-reported population rate (not age-standardised) for living with a diagnosed mental health condition in Darebin was higher in women (noted as 'female' in VPHS data - 1352.83) compared to men (noted as 'male' - 840.75). Overall, the Darebin proportion of adults experiencing a mental health condition was slightly higher compared to Victorian averages (see Table 4 below).

Table 4: Mental Health Conditions – Rate (per 10,000) ever diagnosed

Time Period	Darebin		Metro North Region Estimate		Victoria State Estimate		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2021	1352.83	840.75	1,147.7	721.1	1,142.2	756.6	949.4

Source: Victorian Population Health Survey. Compiled and presented by Women's Health Victoria [Victorian Women's Health Atlas \(victorianwomenshealthatlas.net.au\)](http://victorianwomenshealthatlas.net.au) (Accessed 03 September 2024)

Similarly, the number of people ever diagnosed with a mental health condition lasting six months or more in Darebin was higher in women ('female' - 10337) compared to men ('male' - 6067). Overall, the Darebin proportion of persons ever diagnosed with mental health conditions was significantly higher compared to both the metro north region and Victorian averages (see Table 5 below).

Table 5: Mental Health Conditions – Persons ever diagnosed

Time Period	Darebin		Metro North Region Estimate		Victoria State Estimate		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2021	10337	6067	8,610.1	5,177.3	4,450.0	2,758.0	3,604.0

Source: Victorian Population Health Survey. Compiled and presented by Women's Health Victoria . Accessed 03 September 2024. victorianwomenshealthatlas.net.au

Based on self-reporting in the 2017 Victorian Population Health (VPHS) data, the estimated proportion of adults (18 years plus) who have ever been diagnosed with depression or anxiety by a doctor was higher in women ('female' - 38.8%) compared to men ('male' - 18.9%). Overall, the Darebin proportion of adults ever diagnosed with anxiety or depression was higher compared to both the metro north region and Victorian averages (see Table 6 below).

Table 6: Anxiety or Depression - % Ever diagnosed

Time Period	Darebin		Metro North Region Estimate		Victoria State Estimate		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2017	38.8% (95% CI: 31.9% - 46.3%)	18.9% (95% CI: 13.7% - 25.5%)	36.2% (95% CI: 33.3% - 39.3%)	21.6% (95% CI: 19.0% - 24.4%)	33.6% (95% CI: 32.4% - 34.8%)	21.0% (95% CI: 20.0% - 22.0%)	27.4% (95% CI: 26.6% - 28.2%)

Source: Victorian Population Health Survey. Compiled and presented by Women's Health Victoria . Accessed 03 September 2024. victorianwomenshealthatlas.net.au

Based on self-reporting in the 2017 Victorian Population Health (VPHS) data, the estimated proportion adults (18 years plus) with high or very high levels of psychological distress were higher in women ('female' - 38.8%) compared to men ('male' - 18.9%). Overall, the Darebin proportion of adults with high or very high levels of psychological distress was higher compared to both the metro north region and Victorian averages (see Table 7 below).

Table 7: Psychological Distress

Time Period	Darebin		Metro North Region Estimate		Victoria State Estimate		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2017	26.3% (95% CI: 19.8% - 34.1%)	12.3% (95% CI: 8.0% - 18.3%)	21.0% (95% CI: 18.4% - 23.6%)	11.7% (95% CI: 9.8% - 14.0%)	18.0% (95% CI: 17.0% - 19.1%)	12.8% (95% CI: 11.9% - 13.7%)	15.4% (95% CI: 14.8% - 16.1%)

Source: Victorian Population Health Survey. Compiled and presented by Women's Health Victoria . Accessed 03 September 2024. victorianwomenshealthatlas.net.au

The number of hospital admissions where the hospital coders determined the injury or poisoning was purposely self-inflicted, per 1,000 persons has increased since 2017, and has always been higher for both women ('female') and men ('male'). As of 2021, the number of hospital admissions where the hospital coders determined the injury or poisoning was purposely self-inflicted was higher in women (147) compared with men (68). Overall, the Darebin proportion of adults hospitalised where the hospital coders determined the injury or poisoning was purposely self-inflicted was higher compared to both the metro north region and Victorian averages (see Table 8 below).

Table 8: Self-Harm- Number of hospital admissions

Time Period	Darebin		Metro North Region Estimate		Victoria State Estimate		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2021	147	68	116.9	46.9	59.2	25.9	42.6
2020	107	42	96.6	51.1	53.8	26.5	40.1
2019	94	59	104.6	46.9	51.5	27.5	39.5
2018	105	50	95.3	46.6	54.1	27.0	40.5
2017	75	62	96.9	49.1	54.2	26.1	40.2

Source: Victorian Population Health Survey. Compiled and presented by Women’s Health Victoria . Accessed 03 September 2024. victorianwomenshealthatlas.net.au

Sexually transmitted Infections

Darebin continues to see higher rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) compared to the Victorian average.

In 2023, chlamydia remained the most common STI, with 399 cases in men and 247 in women (see Table 9). Gonorrhoea was also significantly more common among men, with 310 cases compared to 56 in women (see Table 10). Syphilis showed a similar trend, with 60 cases in men and just 9 in women (see Table 11). Hepatitis B cases were also higher in men (22 cases) than in women (11) (see Table 12). These figures highlight the need for continued focus on sexual health awareness, accessible testing, and gender-responsive prevention programs to support the Darebin community

Table 9: Chlamydia – Number of notifications

Time Period	Darebin		Metro North Region Estimate		Victoria State Estimate		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2023	247	399	245.3	493.0	147.2	186.0	166.6
2022	206	337	209.4	399.9	125.4	157.9	141.6
2021	194	250	165.3	273.0	97.7	117.8	107.8
2020	229	280	206.9	265.4	120.9	120.1	120.5
2019	286	378	260.4	326.4	144.3	145.6	145.0

Source³: Victorian Population Health Survey. Compiled and presented by Women’s Health Victoria . Accessed 03 September 2024. victorianwomenshealthatlas.net.au

Table 10: Gonorrhoea – Number of notifications

Time Period	Darebin		Metro North Region Estimate		Victoria State Estimate		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2023	56	310	63.9	322.7	27.6	97.5	62.6
2022	58	242	51.3	284.0	23.5	89.6	56.6
2021	40	183	42.9	194.0	19.7	66.7	43.2
2020	41	168	35.6	149.4	18.3	56.9	37.6
2019	46	176	39.9	178.9	21.7	66.6	44.1

Source⁴: Victorian Population Health Survey. Compiled and presented by Women’s Health Victoria . Accessed 03 September 2024. victorianwomenshealthatlas.net.au

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

Table 11: Syphilis – Number of notifications

Time Period	Darebin		Metro North Region Estimate		Victoria State Estimate		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2023	9	60	12.9	71.3	6.5	27.6	17.0
2022	9	61	7.6	65.6	4.3	25.9	15.1
2021	9	40	7.8	47.7	4.3	21.5	12.9
2020	12	58	8.9	43.7	4.4	21.1	12.7
2019	10	56	7.9	56.0	4.4	22.8	13.6

Source⁵: Victorian Population Health Survey. Compiled and presented by Women’s Health Victoria . Accessed 03 September 2024. victorianwomenshealthatlas.net.au

Table 12: Hepatitis B – Number of notifications

Time Period	Darebin		Metro North Region Estimate		Victoria State Estimate		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2023	11	22	10.1	13.9	8.1	9.5	8.8
2022	11	20	10.6	12.6	8.1	9.3	8.7
2021	11	18	8.9	14.6	7.8	8.4	8.1
2020	13	17	9.9	14.1	7.3	8.9	8.1
2019	23	33	17.2	21.1	9.7	11.7	10.7

Source⁶: Victorian Population Health Survey. Compiled and presented by Women’s Health Victoria . Accessed 03 September 2024. victorianwomenshealthatlas.net.au

Reproductive health

In Darebin, more women accessed medication abortion services in 2022 compared to both the Metro North region and the Victorian average (see Table 13). A total of 206 women in Darebin used PBS-listed medication abortion (Mifepristone and Misoprostol), highlighting the ongoing need for accessible reproductive healthcare. Ensuring that people can make informed choices about their reproductive health without barriers is essential for gender equality and overall wellbeing.

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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.

Table 13: Medical Abortions (PBS 10211K) – Number of services by patient location

Time Period	Darebin		Metro North Region Estimate		Victoria State Estimate		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2022	206	N/A	238.7	N/A	118.7	N/A	118.7
2021	152	N/A	194.9	N/A	101.3	N/A	101.3
2020	178	N/A	195.7	N/A	93.3	N/A	93.3
2019	144	N/A	165.1	N/A	80.4	N/A	80.4
2018	134	N/A	154.3	N/A	70.1	N/A	70.1

Source⁷: Victorian Population Health Survey. Compiled and presented by Women’s Health Victoria . Accessed 03 September 2024. victorianwomenshealthatlas.net.au

Other determinants of health

Advantage and disadvantage across suburbs

In 2021, Darebin recorded an overall SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-Economic Advantage and Disadvantage (IRSAD) ⁸ score of 1,044.2, indicating moderate advantage across the municipality. Northcote had the highest level of advantage with a SEIFA score of 1,124.4, followed closely by Alphington (1,122.0), Northcote Activity Area (1,117.9), Northcote (1,117.2), and Northcote (East) (1,112.3). In contrast, areas with the lowest levels of advantage included the Northland Activity Area (925.5), Reservoir (Merrilands) (965.1), Kingsbury (971.9), Reservoir (Oakhill) (978.6), and Reservoir (Cheddar) (983.7) (see Table 14 below).

This variation highlights the socio-economic diversity within Darebin and underscores the need for tailored community support and resources to address local disparities.

Table 14: Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage

Area	2021 index	Percentile
Northcote (West)	1,124.4	98
Alphington	1,122.0	98
Northcote Activity Area	1,117.9	97
Northcote	1,117.2	97

⁷ 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.

⁸ Index of Relative Socio-Economic Advantage and Disadvantage (IRSAD) contains indicators of disadvantage ((e.g. unemployment, low incomes or education levels, single parent families, low skilled occupations, poor English proficiency) as well as additional indicators of advantage (e.g. professional occupations, high income, higher education levels, high rent, large dwellings)

Northcote (East)	1,112.3	97
Fairfield - Alphington	1,106.6	96
Fairfield	1,098.2	95
Thornbury (West)	1,092.4	95
Thornbury	1,082.8	93
Thornbury (East)	1,076.4	92
Bundoora - Macleod	1,065.0	89
Preston (West)	1,056.6	86
City of Darebin	1,044.2	82
Preston	1,039.7	79
Preston Activity Area	1,035.3	77
Kingsbury - Bundoora	1,032.7	76
Greater Melbourne	1,028.0	74
Preston (East)	1,024.7	72
Northern Region	1,020.0	69
Reservoir (Edwardes Lake)	1,016.5	68
Victoria	1,011.0	65
Australia	1,002.6	60
Reservoir	988.0	51
Reservoir Activity Area	986.3	50
Reservoir (Cheddar)	983.7	49
Reservoir (Oakhill)	978.6	46
Kingsbury	971.9	42
Reservoir (Merrilands)	965.1	38
Northland Activity Area	925.5	20

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Census of Population and Housing 2021](#). Compiled and presented in profile.id by [.id](#) (informed decisions). Accessed 16 October 2024. <https://profile.id.com.au/darebin/>

Housing tenure

In the 2021 Census, home ownership in Darebin was slightly lower than the state average. Of the 61,810 households in the area, 28.5% were fully owned, compared to 31% across Victoria. Similarly, 28.6% of households were mortgaged, whereas the state average was 34.6%.

However, home ownership and mortgage rates in Darebin did show an increase between 2016 and 2021, with the number of fully owned homes rising by 854 and mortgaged homes increasing by 2,495.

Additionally, Darebin had a higher proportion of people living in social housing, at 4.1%, compared to the Victorian average of 2.5%. This highlights key housing trends in Darebin and the ongoing need to address housing affordability and availability in the region (see Table 15).

Table 15: Housing tenure

Tenure type	2021			2016			Change
	Number	%	Victoria %	Number	%	Victoria %	2016 to 2021
Fully owned	17,587	28.5	31.0	16,733	28.6	30.7	+854
Mortgage	17,655	28.6	34.6	15,160	26.0	33.5	+2,495
Renting - Total	22,890	37.0	27.5	20,732	35.5	26.7	+2,158
Renting - Social housing	2,534	4.1	2.5	2,472	4.2	2.8	+62
Renting - Private	20,255	32.8	24.9	18,143	31.1	23.7	+2,112
Renting - Not stated	101	0.2	0.1	117	0.2	0.2	-16
Other tenure type	854	1.4	1.7	825	1.4	1.7	+29
Not stated	2,824	4.6	5.2	4,970	8.5	7.5	-2,146
Total households	61,810	100.0	100.0	58,420	100.0	100.0	+3,390

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Census of Population and Housing](#) 2021. Compiled and presented in profile.id by .id (informed decisions). Accessed 16 October 2024. <https://profile.id.com.au/darebin/>

Household type

Between 2016 and 2021, there were some changes in the types of households in Darebin. The number of couples with children went down slightly, while couples without children increased. One-parent families stayed about the same.

The biggest change in types of households in Darebin was lone-person households, which grew by 2,884 and now make up 29.4% of all households, higher than the state average of 24.7%. Group households also grew, including the number of people living in boarding houses and temporary lodgings (see Table 16 below).

Table 16: Household type

Households by type	2021			2016			Change
	Number	%	Victoria %	Number	%	Victoria %	2016 to 2021
Couples with children	16,120	26.1	30.9	15,839	27.1	31.4	+281
Couples without children	14,359	23.2	24.6	12,807	21.9	24.0	+1,552
One parent families	5,649	9.1	10.2	5,340	9.1	10.1	+309
Other families	950	1.5	1.2	1,003	1.7	1.2	-53
Group household	4,215	6.8	3.8	4,422	7.6	4.3	-207
Lone person	18,208	29.4	24.7	15,324	26.2	23.3	+2,884
Other not classifiable household	1,877	3.0	3.7	3,191	5.5	4.7	-1,314
Visitor only households	450	0.7	1.0	491	0.8	1.1	-41
Total households	61,828	100.0	100.0	58,417	100.0	100.0	+3,411

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Census of Population and Housing](#) 2021. Compiled and presented in profile.id by .id (informed decisions). Accessed 16 October 2024. <https://profile.id.com.au/darebin/>

Homelessness

As of 2021, the number of people experiencing homelessness in Darebin is 1029, compared to 966 in the 2016 Census data. Across Victorian LGAs, Darebin ranked 9th highest where people are experiencing homelessness (see Table 18 below).

Table 18: Homelessness Rates (per 10,000 persons) by LGA, 10 Highest Rates, Vic

LGA Name	Homelessness Rate (per 10,000 persons)	Homeless Persons (n)
Greater Dandenong	148	2,366
Swan Hill	109	234
Port Phillip	103	1,067
Maribymong	95	821
Monash	88	1,696
Brimbank	78	1,528
Melbourne	76	1,166
Whitehorse	72	1,225
Darebin	68	1,029
Yarra	62	571

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Census of Population and Housing](#) 2021. Compiled and presented in profile.id by .id (informed decisions). Accessed 16 October 2024. <https://profile.id.com.au/darebin/>

There is a marked increase in the number of people sleeping rough in Darebin. The number of rough sleepers jumped from 6 in 2016 to 91 in 2021, representing a 15-fold increase. As of 2021, Darebin ranked 4th highest LGA in Victoria where people are experiencing rough sleeping (see Table 19 below). While people sleeping rough account for a small percentage of people experiencing homelessness, they are disproportionately impacted by exposure to weather conditions and the social, economic and health consequences of climate change.

Table 19: Rough Sleeping Rates (per 10,000 persons) by LGA, 10 Highest Rates, Vic

LGA Name	Rough Sleeping Rate (per 10,000 persons)	Rough Sleepers (n)
Swan Hill	20	42
Melbourne	8	130
Buloke	8	5
Darebin	6	91
Greater Shepparton	5	37
Moreland	5	91
Hepburn	5	8
Wangaratta	5	14
Yarra	4	39
Colac Otway	4	9

Source: Centre for Social Impact⁹

As of 2021 Darebin ranked 2nd highest LGA in Melbourne where people are experiencing rough sleeping (see Table 20 below).

Table 20: Rough Sleeping Rates (per 10,000 persons) by LGA, 5 Highest Rates, Melbourne

LGA Name	Rough Sleeping Rate (per 10,000 persons)	Rough Sleepers (n)
Melbourne	8	130
Darebin	6	91
Moreland	5	91
Yarra	4	39
Port Phillip	3	33

Source: Centre for Social Impact

⁹ Centre for Social Impact. 2023. The Australian Homelessness Atlas 2021 Census. Accessed 22 April 2025. <https://www.csi.edu.au/>

Employment and volunteerism

As of 2021, there was a slightly lower proportion of Darebin residents in employment compared with state average (94.7 vs 95.0%). Nonetheless, the rate of unemployment in Darebin decreased from 7.2% in 2016 to 5.3% in 2021¹⁰ (see Table 21 below).

Table 21: Employment status

Employment status	2021			2016			Change
	Number	%	Victoria %	Number	%	Victoria %	2016 to 2021
Employed	79,088	94.7	95.0	70,306	92.8	93.4	+8,782
Employed full-time	46,659	55.9	56.2	42,424	56.0	57.0	+4,235
Employed part-time	27,147	32.5	32.3	24,427	32.3	31.4	+2,720
Employed, away from work	5,282	6.3	6.5	3,455	4.6	4.9	+1,827
Unemployed (Unemployment rate)	4,438	5.3	5.0	5,433	7.2	6.6	-995
Looking for full-time work	2,233	2.7	2.6	2,759	3.6	3.5	-526
Looking for part-time work	2,205	2.6	2.4	2,674	3.5	3.1	-469
Total labour force	83,526	100.0	100.0	75,739	100.0	100.0	+7,787

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Census of Population and Housing](#) 2016 and 2021. Compiled and presented by [.id](#) (informed decisions) (viewed 16 October 2024)

Over 12% of the population reported doing some form of voluntary work; a smaller proportion than Victoria (13.3%) and a decrease of 4,723 volunteers since 2016 (see Table 22 below).

Table 22: Volunteer work

City of Darebin - Persons aged 15+ (Usual residence)	2021			2016			Change
	Number	%	Victoria %	Number	%	Victoria %	2016 to 2021
Volunteer	15,855	12.6	13.3	20,578	16.7	19.2	-4,723
Not a volunteer	103,826	82.3	80.8	92,411	75.0	73.0	+11,415
Volunteer work not stated	6,535	5.2	5.9	10,299	8.4	7.8	-3,764
Total persons aged 15+	126,216	100.0	100.0	123,288	100.0	100.0	+2,928

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Census of Population and Housing](#) 2016 and 2021. Compiled and presented by [.id](#) (informed decisions).

¹⁰ due to the COVID pandemic and lockdowns in many areas, there was an increase of proportion of people who were employed but away from work in the week before the 2021 Census. There is no information on whether these people were normally employed full or part time.

Education

As of 2021, 68.4% of people aged over 15 years in Darebin had completed Year 12 schooling (or equivalent); a slight increase from 2016 (62.7%) and higher than Victorian average (59.5%). The proportion of people who did not go to school remained relative the same between 2016 (1.9%) and 2021 ((1.9%); although slightly higher than Victorian average (1.3%) (see Table 23below).

Table 23: Highest level of secondary schooling completed

Level of schooling	2021			2016			Change
	Number	%	Victoria %	Number	%	Victoria %	2016 to 2021
Year 8 or below	8,061	6.4	4.7	9,661	7.8	5.6	-1,600
Year 9 or equivalent	4,497	3.6	5.3	4,691	3.8	5.8	-194
Year 10 or equivalent	9,209	7.3	12.3	9,460	7.7	13.2	-251
Year 11 or equivalent	9,027	7.2	10.9	8,954	7.3	11.6	+73
Year 12 or equivalent	86,323	68.4	59.5	77,273	62.7	54.4	+9,050
Did not go to school	2,350	1.9	1.3	2,401	1.9	1.1	-51
Not stated	6,757	5.4	6.0	10,837	8.8	8.2	-4,080
Total persons aged 15+	126,224	100.0	100.0	123,277	100.0	100.0	+2,947

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Census of Population and Housing](#) 2016 and 2021. Compiled and presented by [.id](#) (informed decisions).

Compared to Victoria, Darebin had a higher proportion of people holding formal qualifications (Bachelor or higher degree, 39.6% vs 29.2%); this represents an increase of 9,756 people since 2016. Also compared to Victoria, Darebin had a lower proportion of people with Advanced Diploma or Diploma (8.8% vs 9.8%) a vocational qualification (11.6% vs 16.7%) and people with no formal qualifications (33.1% vs 36.5%) (see Table 24below).

Table 24: Highest qualification achieved

Qualification level	2021			2016			Change
	Number	%	Victoria %	Number	%	Victoria %	2016 to 2021
Bachelor or Higher degree	50,038	39.6	29.2	40,282	32.7	24.3	+9,756
Advanced Diploma or Diploma	11,098	8.8	9.8	10,395	8.4	9.2	+703
Vocational	14,586	11.6	16.7	14,341	11.6	16.9	+245
No qualification	41,821	33.1	36.5	45,729	37.1	39.6	-3,908

Not stated	8,673	6.9	7.9	12,529	10.2	10.0	-3,856
Total persons aged 15+	126,216	100.0	100.0	123,276	100.0	100.0	+2,940

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Census of Population and Housing](#) 2016 and 2021. Compiled and presented by [.id](#) (informed decisions).

Perceptions of safety

According to the 2024 Darebin Annual Community Survey Summary Report ¹¹, perception of safety in the public areas of the City of Darebin increased measurably both during the day (up 3% = 8.6 out of 10) and at night (up 5% = 7.1 out of 10). The perception of safety in and around residents' local activity centre was also very high at 8.1 out of 10.

Nonetheless, there was notable and measurable locational variation in the perception of safety in the public areas of the City of Darebin at night observed across the municipality. Respondents from Preston West (by 5%) and Northcote felt measurably (by 4%) safer than the municipal average, whilst respondents from Reservoir East (by 3%) and Preston East (by 5%) felt measurably less safe than average.

Whilst respondents from all age groups, gender, and language spoken at home reported very high perception of safety in public areas during the day scores, there was some measurable variation observed as follows:

- **Age structure** – young adults (aged 18 to 34 years) felt measurably safer than average.
- **Gender** – men (male respondents) felt measurably (by 3%) safer than women (female respondents).
- **Language spoken at home** – there was no meaningful variation in this result observed by language spoken at home.

There was also some measurable variation in the perception of safety in the public areas of the City of Darebin at night observed by respondent profile, as follows:

- **Age structure** – senior citizens (aged 75 years and over) felt measurably safer than average, whilst middle-aged adults (aged 45 to 59 years) felt the least safe (2% lower than average).
- **Gender** – men (male respondents) felt measurably and significantly (by 10%) safer than women (female respondents).
- **Language spoken at home** – there was no meaningful variation in this result observed by language spoken at home.

Gambling

Gambling is a documented public health issue. In Darebin, gambling through Electronic Gaming Machines (EGMs) continues to be directly associated with the greatest harms to individuals, their families and the general community with over \$85M lost every year. Between 23 March 2020 and 10 November 2020—a period when pokies venues were closed

¹¹ 2024 Darebin Annual Community Survey Summary Report. Viewed 27 March 2025. Available www.darebin.vic.gov.au

on due to COVID-19—Darebin community saved approximately \$51 million from being spent on poker machines.¹² This is in comparison to 2023, where there Darebin community spends \$235,170 on electronic gambling per day. Table 25 below shows how much money community members lost to pokies between July 2018 and June 2023.

Table 25: Loss of money to poker machine operators by venue in Darebin

Venue Name	#EGM	Loss of money (\$)					2023/2024
		2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	
Albion Charles Hotel	50	5,619,528	3,868,270	3,478,011	4,142,633	5,318,588	4,263,030
Cramers Hotel	79	10,009,547	7,230,246	5,853,625	7,734,281	11,370,077	11,172,315
Croxton Park Hotel	54	5,173,157	3,842,207	3,395,922	3,919,381	5,162,326	4,707,755
Darebin RSL	65	4,705,966	3,546,285	2,275,731	3,207,857	4,767,216	4,983,163
Edwardes Lake Hotel	100	13,251,226	9,050,771	7,135,590	11,202,586	15,215,438	14,434,114
Furlan Club	30	682,342	403,627	141,474	338,165	443,213	274,724
Junction Hotel	46	6,158,223	4,337,937	3,049,884	3,510,937	4,253,111	4,809,801
Olympic Hotel	80	1,0435,326	7,375,183	5,040,447	7,356,596	10,397,992	10,735,158
Preston Hotel	40	4,456,562	2,835,839	2,584,599	3,739,158	4,398,668	4,076,534
Reservoir RSL	68	465,582	2962675	2,260,209	2,996,676	4,360,788	4,301,221
Rose Shamrock & Thistle Hotel	44	5,192,480	3,492,567	2,687,538	3,311,663	4,497,852	3,953,473
Summerhill Hotel	88	11,426,171	7,996,689	8,897,905	12,056,268	15,651,839	16,840,940

Source: Victoria Gambling and Casino Control Commission.¹³

Family violence and gender-based violence

The majority of violence is perpetrated by men, against women and also against other men. This is notably linked to adherence to rigid gender norms and stereotypical models of masculinity. Family violence and gender-based violence are preventable public health issues.

In 2023, 97 women (noted ‘females’ in the Crime Statistics Agency data) and 17 men (noted ‘males’) in Darebin reported experiencing sexual violence. This was slightly lower than metro north region (123.4) and Victorian state estimates(99.9). There was a reduction of sexual

¹² This figure is based on modelling done by the Alliance for Gambling Reform (AGR)

¹³ Victoria Gambling and Casino Control Commission. 2022. Gambling expenditure by local area. Accessed 17 October 2024. <https://www.vgccc.vic.gov.au/resources/information-and-data/expenditure-data>

violence reported incidences in females between 2019 and 2022, but this increased slightly in 2023 (see Table 26 below).

Table 26 Sexual Violence – Reported incidents

Time Period	Darebin		Metro North Region Estimate		Victoria State Estimate		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2023	97	17	123.4	24.0	99.9	19.0	59.4
2022	93	17	125.6	19.1	100.3	17.0	58.6
2021	136	9	150.3	20.5	101.0	14.8	57.9
2020	131	24	154.3	25.6	92.9	15.7	54.3
2019	151	25	151.0	27.9	93.9	16.8	55.3

Source¹⁴: Crime Statistics Agency Victoria. Data compiled and presented by Women’s Health Victoria. Accessed 16 October 2024 victorianwomenshealthatlas.net.au

In 2023, almost double the number of women (‘female’ - 112) compared with men (‘male’ - 62) reported incidents of stalking, harassment and threatening behaviour. Reported incidents in women (‘female’) were lower than metro north region estimates (113.7) but higher compared with Victorian average (61). Between 2022 and 2023, reported incidents increased in women (‘female’ - 102 to 112) but reduced in men (‘male’ - 74 to 62) (see Table 27 below).

¹⁴ 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.

Table 27: Stalking, Harassment and Threatening Behaviours – Reported incidents

Time Period	Darebin		Metro North Region Estimate		Victoria State Estimate		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2023	112	62	113.7	65.7	61.0	31.5	46.2
2022	102	74	125.9	71.1	62.7	31.6	47.2
2021	119	67	134.0	66.9	62.4	32.8	47.6
2020	128	72	131.7	79.4	65.4	34.3	49.9
2019	116	53	133.6	71.1	62.2	31.0	46.6

Source¹⁵: Crime Statistics Agency Victoria. Data compiled and presented by Women’s Health Victoria. Accessed 16 October 2024 victorianwomenshealthatlas.net.au

Family violence is the most pervasive and common form of men’s violence against women. In 2023, almost three times more women (‘female’ - 1275) compared with men (‘male’ - 432) reported experiencing family violence. This was a slight increase from the previous year for both women (‘female’ - 1261) and men (‘male’ - 428). In 2023, the number of reported family violence incidents in women and men was lower compared with Metro North Region estimate (1,334 and 439.9 respectively) but higher than Victorian State estimate (885.1 and 302.8 respectively) (see Table 28 below).

Table 28: Family Violence – Reported incidents

Time Period	Darebin		Metro North Region Estimate		Victoria State Estimate		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2023	1275	432	1,332.0	439.9	885.1	302.8	593.9
2022	1261	428	1,414.1	462.4	870.8	294.0	582.4
2021	1214	431	1,417.4	489.6	859.3	290.6	574.9
2020	1499	477	1,546.6	551.3	870.5	296.7	583.6
2019	1340	396	1,484.0	513.9	801.9	265.3	533.6

Source¹⁶: Crime Statistics Agency Victoria. Data compiled and presented by Women’s Health Victoria. Accessed 16 October 2024 victorianwomenshealthatlas.net.au

¹⁵ 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.

¹⁶ 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.

For each year, between 2019 and 2023, Darebin intimate partner¹⁷ violence incidents were slightly lower than Metro North Region estimate but higher than Victorian State estimate. In 2023, women ('female' - 821) recorded over 4 times more intimate partner violence incidents than men ('male' - 196) (see Table 29 below).

Table 29: Intimate Partner Violence – Reported incidents

Time Period	Darebin		Metro North Region Estimate		Victoria State Estimate		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2023	821	196	895.3	201.4	583.1	145.9	364.5
2022	816	226	940.4	219.3	578.4	144.0	361.2
2021	825	217	957.0	233.7	574.9	142.5	358.7
2020	1006	241	1,016.4	261.4	579.6	144.7	362.1
2019	889	211	979.0	240.1	538.6	129.1	333.8

Source¹⁸: Crime Statistics Agency Victoria. Data compiled and presented by Women's Health Victoria. Accessed 16 October 2024 victorianwomenshealthatlas.net.au

In 2023, family violence incidents reported among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Darebin remained high, particularly in women ('female' - 174) compared with both Metro North Region estimate (78.9) and Victorian State estimate (63.8) (see Table 30 below).

These higher levels of reported incidents of family violence are not about Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander cultures. As highlighted by Respect Victoria¹⁹, "the ongoing impacts of colonisation and systemic racism (including dispossession, child removal, intergenerational trauma, and structural disadvantage) intersect with the gendered drivers of violence, increasing the severity and disproportionate impact of family violence on First Nations peoples."

¹⁷ An Intimate partner includes married, de facto, dating, separated, broken up, divorced

¹⁸ 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.

¹⁹ Respect Victoria. 2024. Violence against First Nations women and the ongoing impacts of colonisation. Accessed 24 April 2025. <https://www.respectvictoria.vic.gov.au/news/violence-against-first-nations-women-ongoing-impacts-colonisation>

Table 30: Family Violence, First Nations AFM – Reported incidents

Time Period	Darebin		Metro North Region Estimate		Victoria State Estimate		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2023	174	45	78.9	21.2	63.8	21.3	44.6
2022	125	33	77.3	19.3	55.5	21.1	41.1
2021	119	38	72.6	22.3	61.3	21.3	43.9

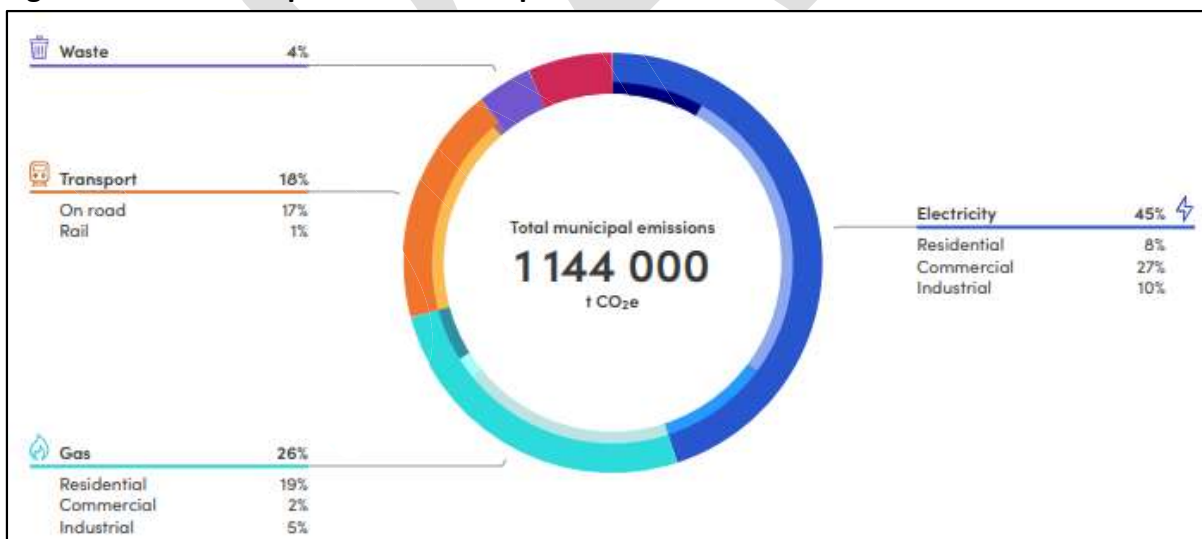
Source²⁰: Crime Statistics Agency Victoria. Data compiled and presented by Women’s Health Victoria. Accessed 16 October 2024 victorianwomenshealthatlas.net.au

Impact of climate change on health

Climate change is already impacting health in Darebin, with rising temperatures, increased air pollution, and extreme weather events posing risks to physical and mental wellbeing.

In 2021, Darebin’s total emissions reached **1,144,000 tonnes of CO₂** (see Figure 4 below), with nearly half coming from electricity use; mostly from commercial consumption. Reducing reliance on fossil fuels and transitioning to renewable energy is essential for improving air quality and preventing climate-related illnesses

Figure 4: 2021 municipal emissions snapshot



Source: Snapshot climate <https://snapshotclimate.com.au/> (accessed 21 Oct 2024)

While car ownership in Darebin is lower than the Victorian average (see Table 31 below), it has still increased since 2016, contributing to emissions and air pollution.

²⁰ 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.

Table 31: Car Ownership

Number of cars	2021			2016			Change
	Number	%	Victoria %	Number	%	Victoria %	2016 to 2021
No motor vehicles	7,366	11.9	7.3	7,167	12.3	7.6	+199
1 motor vehicle	27,575	44.6	34.6	23,970	41.0	32.6	+3,605
2 motor vehicles	17,619	28.5	35.3	16,281	27.9	34.8	+1,338
3 or more motor vehicles	6,480	10.5	17.6	5,730	9.8	16.8	+750
Not stated	2,775	4.5	5.1	5,266	9.0	8.1	-2,491
Total households	61,815	100.0	100.0	58,414	100.0	100.0	+3,401

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Census of Population and Housing](#) 2016 and 2021. Compiled and presented by [.id](#) (informed decisions).

Food Security and Emergency Relief

An area of health and wellbeing particularly likely to be impacted further by climate change is food security, which is already rated below state average in Darebin.

In Darebin, 9.5% of people experienced food insecurity in the past 12 months, which is higher than the state average of 8.0%. Additionally, 25.7% of Darebin residents reported being "worried" or "sometimes worried" about running out of money to buy food during the last 12 months, slightly higher than the Victorian average of 25.1%.

These statistics align with the demand for emergency food relief, which is growing in Darebin. The Darebin Information, Volunteer & Resource Service (DIVRS) is a community organisation supported by Council to provide emergency relief to the Darebin community. DIVRS supports between 30 and 50 households per day seeking emergency relief. The 2023 DIVRS survey²¹ of community members reported 64% of people experienced food insecurity; 8% more than in 2022. 38% were worried there was not enough to eat and 31% were unable to eat healthy, balanced food. After paying regular fixed expenses (rent/mortgage, bills, rates, medication, transport) 69% had less than a \$100 per fortnight to spend on food, 18% more than in 2022.

Sub-population health data

For a number of systemic reasons, some communities in Darebin experience particular health challenges that need to be addressed via targeted interventions.

²¹ DIVRS 2023. Annual Report. Accessed 19 September 2024. <https://www.divrs.org.au/>

Health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

As of 2021, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Darebin had a higher proportion of asthma, diabetes, heart disease, kidney disease, lung conditions, mental health conditions, stroke and other long-term health conditions compared to Victorian average of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (see Table 32 below).

These statistics show significant health disparities, highlighting the need for targeted support and services to address these challenges, especially considering racism and discrimination contribute to poorer health (notably, but not solely mental health) in addition to creating additional barriers to accessing healthcare and support services, making it harder for the community to achieve better health outcomes.

Table 32: Longer term health conditions- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons in Darebin

Long-term health conditions	Number	Darebin %	Victoria %
Arthritis	93	6.5	7.3
Asthma	243	16.9	16.2
Cancer (including remission)	19	1.3	1.9
Dementia (including Alzheimer's)	0	-	0.4
Diabetes	99	6.9	4.9
Heart disease	60	4.2	3.6
Kidney disease	28	1.9	1.2
Lung condition	39	2.7	2.5
Mental health condition	323	22.5	18.3
Stroke	22	1.5	1.1
Other long-term health condition	146	10.2	10.5

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Census of Population and Housing 2021](#). Compiled and presented by [.id](#) (informed decisions) (-) means "data unavailable". Accessed 30 October 2024. <https://profile.id.com.au/darebin/>

Health and wellbeing of Migrants

Table 33 below²² shows the most common health conditions among migrants in Darebin. Arthritis is the most common long-term health condition among those born between 1946 and 1965, affecting more than one in five people. Among those born between 1946 and 1955, 22.9% experience arthritis, while for the following decade, between 1956 and 1965, the rate is slightly lower at 21.5%.

²² Data in this section is delivered from a report prepared by id consulting for Darebin Council. informed decision (id) consulting 2024. Sociodemographic profiles of Darebin's migrant community by era of settlement.

Heart disease and diabetes are also prominent in these older groups. Diabetes affects 11.4% of migrants born between 1946 and 1955, increasing slightly to 12.0% for those born between 1956 and 1965.

Mental health conditions are also a growing concern, particularly among younger and more recent migrants, with rates increasing from 5.5% in the oldest cohort to 8.2% in those born between 1986 and 1995. Additionally, asthma is more common in younger migrants, peaking at 6.1% in those born between 1976 and 1985.

The data suggests that while older migrants face higher rates of chronic physical health conditions, younger migrants are experiencing greater rates of mental health concerns, highlighting the need for targeted health support across different age groups, taking into account additional factors for some, such as language barriers, limited English proficiency, economic disadvantage, lower health literacy, etc.

Table 33: health conditions of migrants as of 2021

Year of birth	Most common health conditions
1946 - 1955	arthritis (22.9%), heart disease (12.2%), diabetes (11.4%), other long-term condition/s (9.2%) and mental health conditions (5.5%).
1956 - 1965	arthritis (21.5%), diabetes (12.0%), heart disease (10.5%), other long-term condition/s (9.8%) and mental health conditions (6.2%).
1966 - 1975	arthritis (16.9%), diabetes (11.0%), other long-term condition/s (10.0%), heart disease (incl. heart attack or angina) (7.7%) and mental health conditions (6.7%).
1976 - 1985	Other long-term health condition/s (11.2%) arthritis (10.6%), diabetes (8.5%), mental health conditions (7.9%) and asthma (6.1%).
1986 - 1995	other long-term health condition/s (9.9%), mental health conditions (8.2%), diabetes (7.8%) and arthritis (7.2%).
1996 - 2005	mental health condition (8.0%), other long-term health condition/s (7.7%), asthma (6.0%) and diabetes (4.9%).
2006 - 2015	mental health condition (6.1%), other long-term health condition/s (5.2%), asthma (4.9%) and diabetes (2.1%).
2016 - 2021	mental health condition (2.8%), other long-term health condition/s (2.6%), asthma (2.6%) and diabetes (1.2%).

Source: informed decision (.id consulting - Sociodemographic profiles of Darebin's migrant community by era of settlement 2024

Health and wellbeing of the LGBTIQ+ community

National data highlights how, due to continuing discrimination and stigma, LGBTIQ+ people experience significantly poorer health outcomes than the general population, with notably higher rates of suicide distress and attempts.

In Darebin, as of 2020²³ a higher proportion of LGBTIQ+ adults (compared to non- LGBTIQ+) had mental health conditions, had experienced family violence, were smokers and had two or more chronic diseases (see Table 3 below).

Table 34: Comparison of wellbeing between LGBTIQ+ adults and Non-LGBTIQ+ adults

	LGBTIQ+ adults	Non-LGBTIQ+ adults
Proportion of adults with high or very high levels of psychological distress	24.4%	14.5%
Proportion of adults who had ever been diagnosed with anxiety or depression by a doctor	44.8%	26.7%
Proportion of adults who had experienced family violence in the past 2 years	13.4%	5.1%).
Proportion of adults who are daily smokers	17.8%	12.3%
Proportion of adults diagnosed with two or more chronic diseases	36.1%	25.1%

Source: Victorian Agency for Health Information

Discussion and Conclusion

This report highlights that while the Darebin community rates better (compared to Victoria) for a range of health and wellbeing indicators, there remains significant challenges that need addressing.

On the one hand, compared to Victoria, Darebin has a lower proportion of people who are overweight and obese, are at risk of alcohol related disease or injury, consume sugary drinks or smoke tobacco daily. Most people report life satisfaction and few rate their health as fair or poor. Darebin also has a higher proportion of people who believe that multiculturalism makes life in their area better compared to Victoria.

²³ Victorian Agency for Health Information 2020. The health and wellbeing of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer population in Victoria. Accessed 28 October 2024. <https://vahi.vic.gov.au/>

Council's health and wellbeing initiatives should continue addressing the health risks underlying this data as well as capitalising on factors of resilience in order to sustain these outcomes and work to continue improving these health indicators in the future.

On the other hand, there are a number of health and wellbeing issues where Darebin is rated lower compared to Victoria: sedentary behaviour, vaping, loneliness, mental health problems (anxiety or depression, psychological distress and self-harm), sexually transmissible infections (chlamydia, gonorrhoea, hepatitis B and syphilis), food insecurity, risk of harm from alcohol-related disease or injury, racism and discrimination, homelessness, gambling, and family violence and gender-based violence.

Renewed and increased focus should be given to these health risks to seek to improve Darebin's health indicators. Initiatives should also consider the specific health and wellbeing needs of community groups including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, migrants, and LGBTIQ+ people.

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