











Health Issue Fact Sheet

Cancer

In Gippsland it's estimated that:

	Gippsland	Victoria/Australia
 Bowel cancer screening (50-74 year olds) ¹	48.6%	41.9%
 Breast cancer screening (women 50-74 years) ¹	56.3%	53.8%
 Cervical cancer screening (women 20-69 years) ¹	56.9%	56.6%
 New cancer diagnoses (incidence) ^{# 2}	499	498
	per 100,000 people	
 Cancer mortality - females ^{# 2}	142	134
	per 100,000 people	
 Cancer mortality - males ^{# 2}	234	209
	per 100,000 people	
 Bowel cancer deaths ^{# 2}	14	16
	per 100,000 people	
 Lung cancer mortality ^{# 2}	37	32
	per 100,000 people	
 Prostate cancer mortality (men) ^{# 2}	23	21
	per 100,000 people	
 Breast cancer mortality (women) ^{# 2}	32	27
	per 100,000 people	

Comparison to Australia ■ Positive among highest or lowest 25% of regions in Victoria ■ Negative among highest or lowest 25% of regions in Victoria

Strengths

- Optimal Care Pathways for cancer provides national guidelines for clinical practice ³
- Funders and service providers working together to improve how services work ⁴
- Health Pathways to assist clinicians navigate patients through the health care system ⁵
- Involving consumers and carers to address barriers to cancer screening ⁵

Needs

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have lower cancer screening rates ⁶
- People experiencing social and economic disadvantage have lower cancer screening rates ⁶
- People born outside Australia with English not as a first language have lower cancer screening rates ⁶
- Screening rates for bowel cancer are lower for males ⁷
- Screening rates for breast cancer vary by age group and location ⁸
- Cancer diagnostics usage rates vary across Gippsland (colonoscopy, prostate biopsy etc) ⁹
- Community concern about local access to affordable cancer diagnosis and treatment ¹⁰
- "... a fear of results being bad." ⁵

References

1. Cancer screening in Australia by small geographic areas, AIHW, 2015-16
2. Cancer incidence and mortality in Australia by small geographic areas, AIHW, 2011-15
3. Cancer Council; <http://www.cancerpathways.org.au/>
4. Gippsland Regional Integrated Cancer Services (GRICS); <https://grics.com.au/about/>
5. Gippsland PHN; <https://www.gphn.org.au/>
6. Under-screened program, Victorian DHHS
7. National Bowel Cancer Screening Program: monitoring report 2018, AIHW
8. Breast Screen Victoria, 2014-15
9. Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation, 2013-14, Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare
10. Gippsland PHN, Community and Stakeholder engagement 2016-18