








Health Issue Fact Sheet

Reproductive / Sexual Health

In Gippsland it's estimated that:

| | Gippsland | Victoria |
|---|--------------------|----------|
|  Smoking during pregnancy ¹ | 23.4% | 15.0% |
|  Cervical cancer screening (women 20-69 years) ² | 56.9% | 56.6% |
|  Average number of births per woman ³ | 2.2 | 1.7 |
|  Births per 1,000 girls aged 18 years or younger ⁴ | 14.0 | 9.5 |
|  Low birth weight babies (<2,500 grams at birth) ¹ | 6.8% | 6.3% |
|  Chlamydia notifications ⁵ | 201 | 322 |
| | per 100,000 people | |
|  Hysterectomy and endometrial ablation ⁶ | 373-687* | 276 |
| | per 100,000 people | |

*Range for Gippsland local government areas

■ Among highest or lowest 25% of regions in Victoria

Strengths

- The Gippsland Sexual and Reproductive Health Alliance is working to improve health; an Annual Forum is held⁷
- There are condom vending machines across Gippsland to improve access⁷
- Information about contraception, pregnancy options and sexual health are available at 1800myoptions¹¹
- Relationships and sexual health grants to support comprehensive sexuality education⁷
- Health Pathways development to help clinicians provide relevant referrals and care⁸
- Doctors in schools and youth clinics are improving access to services for young people⁸
- Young people in Gippsland rate sexual health as an important health issue⁹
- "Well women's clinic is really good."⁹

Needs

- Chlamydia notifications are high for young people, especially females⁵
- The fertility rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women is higher¹⁰
- Termination of pregnancy services are a service gap⁷
- Accessible, affordable and confidential sexual health clinics are a service gap⁹
- Low birth weight babies are more than twice as likely from Aboriginal mothers¹⁰
- "GP was uncomfortable discussing sexual health / family planning..."⁹
- Training for GPs and pharmacists in medical termination of pregnancy⁷
- Raise awareness about safe consensual sexual practices and reproductive choice⁷

References

1. Social Health Atlas of Australia, PHIDU 2018
2. Cancer screening in Australia by small geographic areas, AIHW, 2015-16
3. Victorian Local Government Profiles, 2015, DHHS
4. Victorian Women's Health Atlas, <http://victorianwomenshealthatlas.net.au/>
5. Infectious Disease Surveillance Unit, Victorian DHHS

6. Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation, 2013-14, Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare
7. Gippsland Women's Health; <http://www.gwhealth.asn.au/>
8. Gippsland PHN; <https://www.gphn.org.au/>
9. Gippsland PHN, Community and Stakeholder engagement 2016
10. National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Social Survey, results for Victoria 2014-15
11. 1800myoptions; www.1800myoptions.org.au/