

# SOUTHERN METROPOLITAN REGION

# SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SNAPSHOT 2020



This Snapshot provides insight into the most recently available demographic, fertility, contraception and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) data for the Southern Metropolitan Region (SMR). There are 689, 859 (51%) women and 671, 289 (ABS 2017) (49%) men in the SMR.

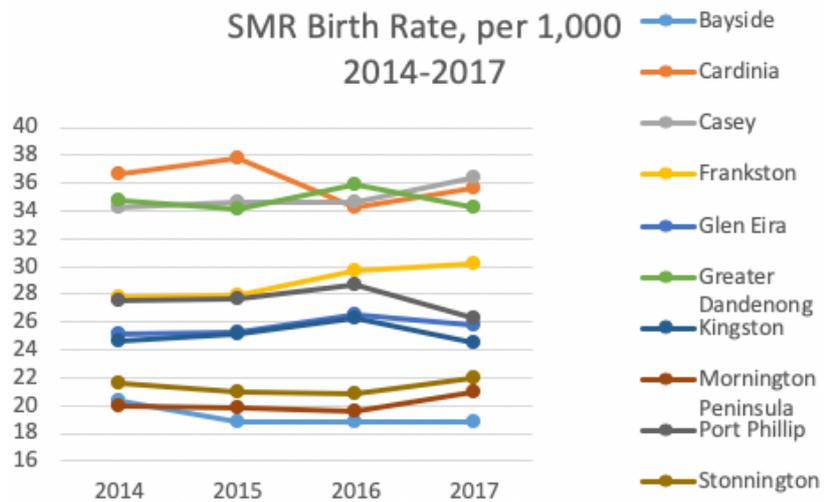


## BIRTH RATES

# 23,805

Babies were born to SMR residents in 2017 (Women's Health Atlas, 2020)

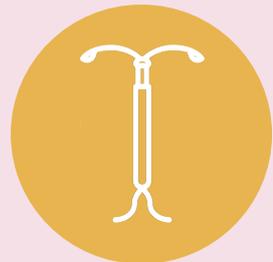
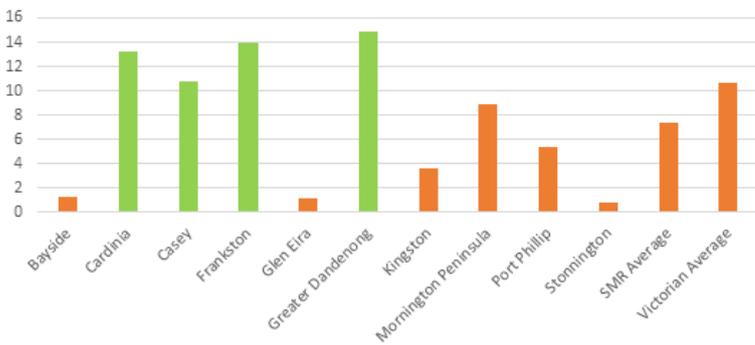
SMR Birth Rate, per 1,000 2014-2017



## TEENAGE PREGNANCY

Teenage parenting is not always a result of an unplanned pregnancy. Teenage pregnancies can be planned and wanted, and result in a positive experience for all involved. However, teenage mothers are more likely to experience negative outcomes including poverty, substance abuse and reduced engagement with education (Marino et al. 2016).

Young Women (13-19) Live Births per 1,000, 2017



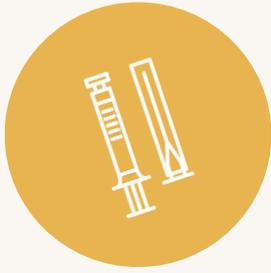
## FERTILITY MANAGEMENT

Oral contraceptives continue to be the most popular form of contraception in Australia; 48% of women using a form of contraception use oral contraceptives, compared with only 5% who use an IUD and 5% who use an Implanon (Garett et al. 2015).

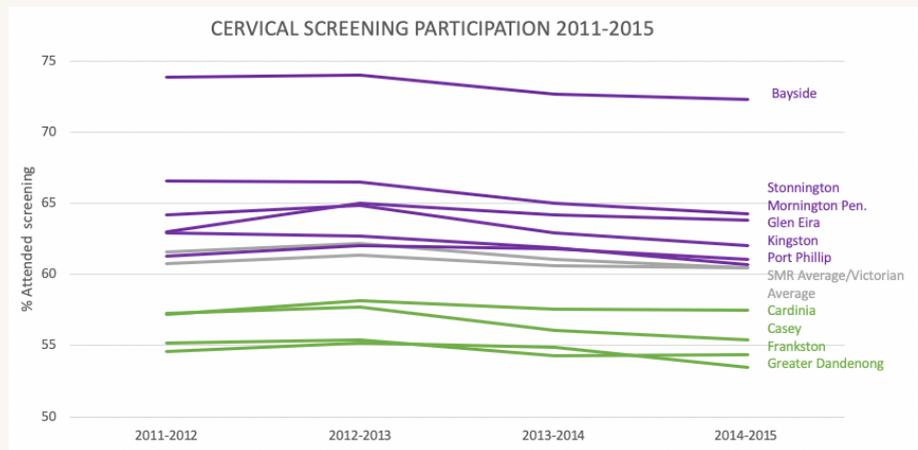
Within the SMR, there continues to be a low uptake of Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC), despite being proven to be the most effective form of contraception.

In 2018, the SMR average for Contraceptive implant use was 7.9 per 1,000 women; for IUD, the SMR average was only 5 per 1,000 women.





## CERVICAL SCREENING



In December 2017, a five-yearly Cervical Screening Test replaced the two-yearly Pap test (Department of Health n.d). Four LGAs have cervical screen coverage rates that are lower than the Victorian average (Victorian Cervical Cytology Registry 2015).

The introduction of the National HPV Vaccination Program in 2007 has led to a significant reduction in the number of cervical cancer diagnoses and deaths.

**Recent data suggests that Australia is on target to eliminate cervical cancer as a health risk for women (Lyons, 2018)**

## SEXUAL OFFENCES

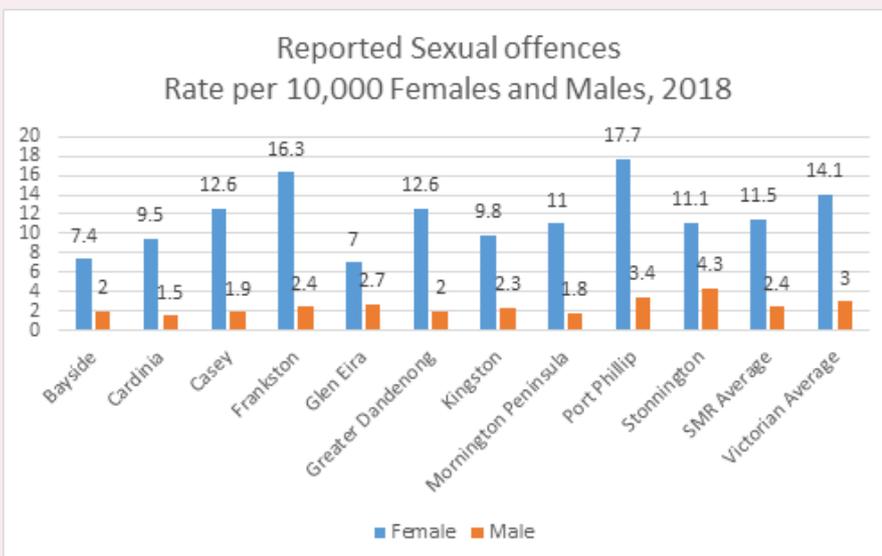


### 1 IN 5 WOMEN

have experienced sexual violence since the age of 15

Sexual offences are acts, or intent of acts, of a sexual nature against another person, which are non-consensual. This includes rape, indecent assault, sexual offences against children, and other sexual offences.

Frankston, and Port Phillip have sexual offence rates for females higher than the Victorian average of 14.1 per 10,000 females (Women's Health Victoria 2020). Casey and Greater Dandenong also have relatively high rates of sexual offences amongst females (Women's Health Atlas 2020).



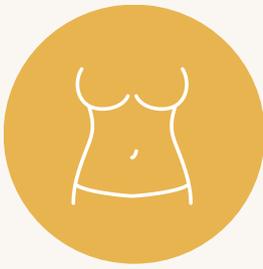
## HEPATITIS B

Hepatitis B is a virus that can cause inflammation of the liver (Melbourne Sexual Health Centre 2017).

In 2018, four LGAs have a higher number of diagnosed hepatitis B cases than the Victorian average of 1 per 10,000 Females and 1 per 10,000 males.

## DISABILITY & SEXUALITY

To date little data exists around people with disability and their sexual needs. There is also little data about people with disability and sexual orientation. Yet individuals with disability have the right to lead a fulfilling sexual life.



## OLDER WOMEN & SEXUALITY

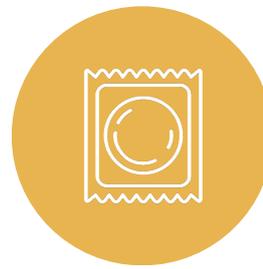
Sexual health has more commonly been associated with younger women or women of reproductive age. Yet, older women very often remain or, at the very least would like to continue to be sexually active beyond menopause.

A rise in STI's amongst older women, in conjunction with the rise of dating for those over the age of 60, has highlighted the importance of addressing the gap in sexual health education for women particularly those who may not have received such information previously (Lyons et al, 2017).



## PLEASURE

While "pleasure is a significant component of sexuality, many sexual and reproductive health (SRH) care providers and educators focus on sexuality topics such as sexually transmitted infections and unintended pregnancy, without acknowledging pleasure" (Planned Parenthood). But, "establishing sexual pleasure as a starting point can provide a broader and positive focus on sexuality and sexual health, helping people to make informed decisions about sexual relationships and avoid risks" (Castellanos Usigli, 2020).



## YOUNG PEOPLE & SAFE SEX

Most common forms of contraception used by year 10, 11 and 12 students (Fisher et al, 2019)

53.5%

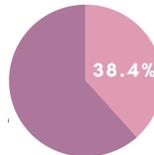
CONDOMS

41%

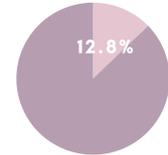
CONTRACEPTIVE PILL

19.6%

WITHDRAWAL METHOD



Percentage of sexually active students from year 10, 11 and 12 who practice safe sex by **ALWAYS** using a condom (Fisher et al, 2019)



Percentage of sexually active students from year 10, 11 and 12 who **NEVER** use a condom (Fisher et al, 2019)



## NEGOTIATING CONSENT

While the concept of negotiating consent has not always been recognised as a central part of sexual health within the broader spectrum of SRH services, consent remains an important part of people's experiences - particularly sexual experiences.

As one study suggests:

"the ability to negotiate sexual practice is central to people's experiences of feeling safer or less safe ... An ability - and willingness - to negotiate consent is central to confident negotiation of safe sex practices" (Albury et al, 2019)

To this end, the notion of an 'Enthusiastic yes' or 'enthusiastic consent' has become an important process where permission to proceed is given, sought and prioritised.

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