



# City of Whitehorse

# COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS

## FACTSHEET 12: COMMUNITY SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

This fact sheet provides information about Community Safety in the City of Whitehorse.

### SAFETY

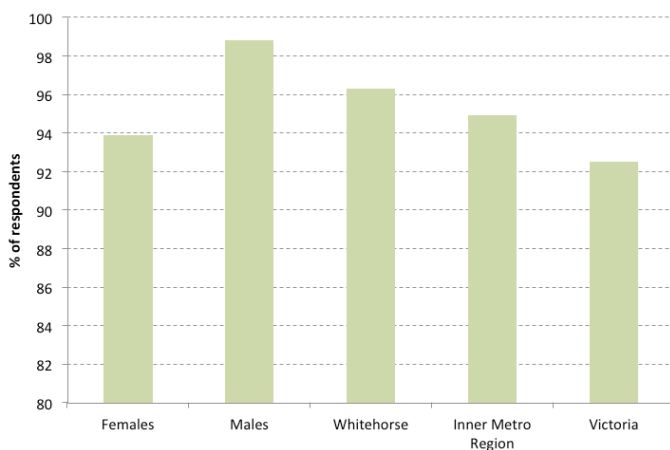
Perceptions of Safety were measured in the 2015 VicHealth Indicators Survey. Respondents were asked to rate how safe they felt when walking alone in their local area during the day and at night.

When walking alone during the day in their local area, 96.3 per cent of persons living in Whitehorse felt safe or very safe, compared to 94.9 per cent in the Inner Metropolitan Region and the Victorian State average of 92.5 per cent. Males in Whitehorse were more likely to feel safe than females (98.8 per cent vs. 93.9 per cent).

When walking alone at night 56.8 per cent of persons in Whitehorse felt safe or very safe, compared to 64.8 per cent in the Inner Metro Region and the Victorian State average of 55.1 per cent. Males in Whitehorse were much more likely to feel safe than females (79.5 per cent vs. 36.1 per cent).

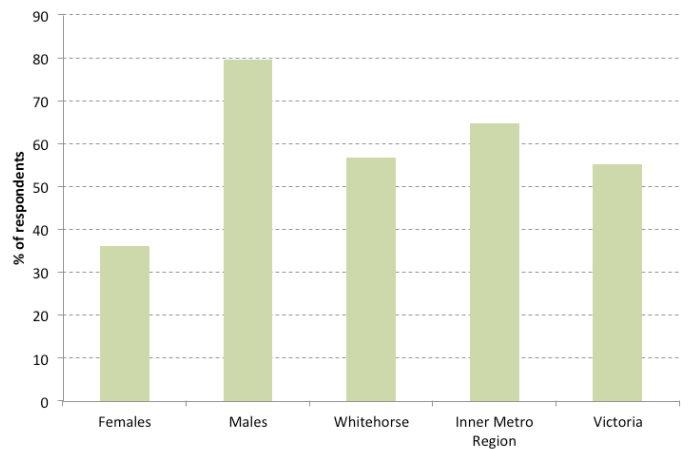
Respondents who stated that they were never alone in the particular situation were not asked to give their perception of how safe they felt and were excluded from the calculation of proportions.

Figure 1: Percentage of people who feel safe or very safe when walking along during the day, 2015



Source: VicHealth (2016), VicHealth Indicators Survey 2015 Results, Whitehorse LGA Profile

Figure 2: Percentage of people who feel safe or very safe when walking alone at night, 2015



Source: VicHealth (2016), VicHealth Indicators Survey 2015 Results, Whitehorse LGA Profile

### CRIME

Crime statistics are produced annually by the Crime Statistics Agency on behalf of Victoria Police. Summaries of offences are reported per 100,000 of the population to enable comparisons across different areas. Offences against the person and against property in Whitehorse are lower than the Eastern Metropolitan and State averages<sup>2</sup>.

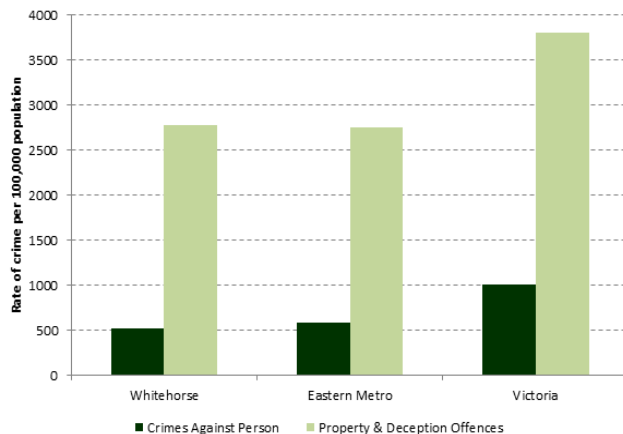
In Whitehorse there were 516 recorded crimes against the person per 100,000 population in 2017, compared to 580 in the Eastern Metropolitan Region and the Victorian State average of 1,006.

In Whitehorse, there were 2,773 recorded crimes against property per 100,000 population in 2017, compared to 2,750 in the Eastern Metropolitan Region and the Victorian State average of 3,803.

<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise stated, this factsheet is based on data from the Department of Health and Human Services (2016), Victorian Population Health - Survey 2014 Survey Findings

<sup>2</sup> Crime Statistics Agency (2017), Recorded Offences by LGA 2017, viewed January 2018

Figure 3: Crime rate, 2017



Source: Crime Statistics Agency (2017), Recorded Offences by LGA 2017, viewed December 2017

## FAMILY VIOLENCE

Family violence is a significant social, economic and health problem. Family violence is predominantly perpetrated by men against women; however, it affects people throughout the community regardless of gender, age, sexuality, cultural background and socioeconomic class. Violence against women is the leading contributor to death, disability and illness in Victorian women aged 15-44 years, contributing 9 per cent to the total disease burden<sup>3</sup>.

On average 26.3 incidents of family violence in Whitehorse were reported to police every week throughout 2016. The rate of family violence incidents in Whitehorse per 100,000 of the population was half the Victorian State average in 2016/17, at 617.3 and 1,242.4 respectively.

Table 1: Family violence statistics, Eastern Metropolitan Region 2012-13 to 2016-17

Family incident rate per 100,000 population (July – June)						
Local Government Area	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	% change
						2012/13 – 2016/17
Boroondara	343.3	373.2	366.4	473.6	453.9	29.3%
Knox	1,028.0	950.5	1,046.4	1,124.5	1,029.9	7.5%
Manningham	487.2	552.0	592.4	648.6	583.1	9.5%
Maroondah	803.0	882.3	889.3	1,047.9	957.9	17.8%
Monash	624.2	637.4	666.6	706.0	722.5	5.9%
Whitehorse	510.6	554.9	620.9	638.9	617.3	2.9%
Yarra Ranges	731.0	912.4	911.6	1,071.9	984.4	17.6%
Victoria	1,056.0	1,116.4	1,192.3	1,285.2	1,242.4	7.8%

<sup>2</sup> VicHealth (2004), *The Health Costs of Violence: Measuring the burden of disease caused by intimate partner violence*, Melbourne

## ACCESS TO PACKAGED LIQUOR

Table 2 presents the per capita rate of packaged liquor outlets (per 100,000 of the population) in the Eastern Metropolitan Region between 2001 and 2016. The per capita rate of packaged liquor outlets in the City of Whitehorse has fluctuated over the years, resulting in an overall 10.5 per cent increase. This is the third highest rate increase in the Eastern Region, behind Knox and Manningham which experienced sharp increases in the raw number of outlets in the context of steadily increasing populations (50.3 per cent and 31.7 per cent respectively).

Table 2: Outlets per 100,000 residents 2001-2016, Eastern Metropolitan Region

Local Government Area	2001	2006	2011	2016	Change in rate
Boroondara	29.3	36.5	33.7	29.8	1.7%
Knox	17.6	25.4	26.5	27.0	53.0%
Manningham	18.4	24.7	24.9	24.3	31.7%
Maroondah	23.9	30.7	25.3	25.8	7.9%
Monash	23.3	26.7	25.6	24.6	5.4%
Whitehorse	25.2	23.1	24.8	27.8	10.5%
Yarra Ranges	31.6	37.1	33.7	34.5	9.3%

Source: Centre for Alcohol Policy Research (2017), School of Psychology and Public Health, *Packaged Liquor in Victoria: 2001 to 2016*

## ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION

The *Australian Guidelines to Reduce Health Risks from Drinking Alcohol* specify the risks of alcohol related harm by level of alcohol consumption. Lifetime risk of alcohol-related harm was measured in the 2014 Victorian Population Health Survey. Lifetime risk attempts to measure the risks associated with developing an illness such as cirrhosis of the liver, cognitive problems, various cancers and alcohol dependence.

Table 3: Proportion of the adult population at risk of alcohol-related injury

Local Government Area	Increased lifetime risk	Increased risk either yearly or monthly or weekly
Boroondara	68.4	48.8
Knox	56.8	37.4
Manningham	59.0	36.1
Maroondah	67.0	48.7
Monash	48.1	36.7
Whitehorse	64.5	43.5
Yarra Ranges	62.3	44.8
Eastern Metro	60.4	42.0
Victoria	59.2	42.5

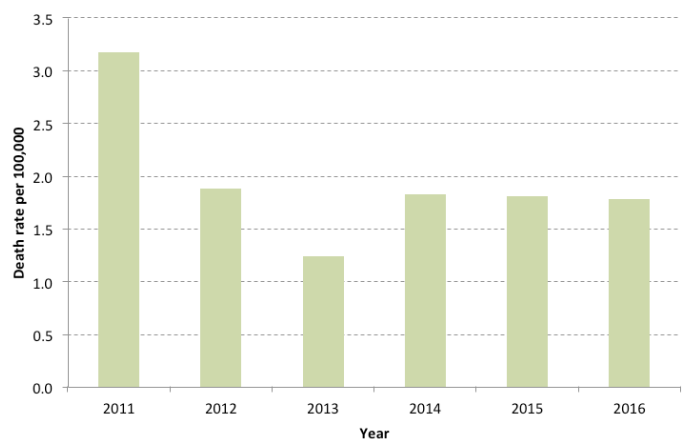
Source: Department of Health and Human Services (2016), Victorian Population Health Survey 2014

Whitehorse has a slightly higher proportion of adults at risk of alcohol-related injury on a single occasion (43.5 per cent) than the Victorian (42.5 per cent) and Eastern Metropolitan Region (42.0 per cent) averages. Whitehorse also recorded a greater percentage of adults with an increased lifetime risk of alcohol-related harm (64.5), compared to the Victorian (59.2) and Eastern Metropolitan Region (60.4).

## CAR CRASH STATISTICS

Data from VicRoads shows that between 2011 and 2015, there were 1,343 crashes where at least one person was killed or injured in Whitehorse. Of the 1,343 crashes, 16 people were killed, 368 people were seriously injured and 959 people sustained minor injuries. The overall death rate has remained steady at 1.8 since 2014.

Figure 4: Death rate due to road traffic crashes, 2011-2016



Source: VicRoads, Crashstats database, updated July 2016

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## MORE INFORMATION

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For more information about **COMMUNITY SAFETY** refer to:

VicHealth: [www.vichealth.vic.gov.au](http://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au)

Women's Health East: [www.whe.org.au](http://www.whe.org.au)

Crime Statistics Agency: [www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au](http://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au)

Social Statistics: [www.socialstatistics.com.au](http://www.socialstatistics.com.au)

You can also contact the **Social Policy Officer**, Whitehorse City Council on **9262 6333**.

Updated April 2018.

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## CONTACTING COUNCIL

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### POSTAL ADDRESS:

Whitehorse City Council  
Locked Bag 2  
Nunawading Delivery Centre 3110

**Telephone:** 9262 6333

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**TTY:** 9262 6325

(Service for the deaf or hearing impaired people)

**TIS:** 131540

(Telephone Interpreter Service. Call and ask to be connected to Whitehorse City Council)

**Email:** [customer.service@whitehorse.vic.gov.au](mailto:customer.service@whitehorse.vic.gov.au)

**Website:** [www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au](http://www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au)

### SERVICE CENTRES

#### Whitehorse Civic Centre

(main Service Centre)  
379-397 Whitehorse Road  
Nunawading 3131

#### Box Hill Service Centre

Box Hill Town Hall  
1022 Whitehorse Road  
Box Hill 3128

#### Forest Hill Service Centre

Shop 130,  
Forest Hill Chase Shopping Centre  
Canterbury Road  
Forest Hill 3131