

GREATER BENDIGO DATA PROFILE

2024



Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit

Greater Bendigo Data Profile

This document has been prepared to provide a data profile on the health and wellbeing of the local government area of Greater Bendigo. It contains publicly available data that has been collated and summarised to inform local government, health services, advocacy and community groups.

All effort has been made to report data accurately and represent data available at time of publishing. These estimates may differ from those seen elsewhere due to differences in calculation methodologies and/or source data used.

Produced by Bendigo Health,
Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit
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We acknowledge the First Peoples of Australia who are the Traditional Custodians of the land and water where we live, work and play. We celebrate that this is the oldest living and continuous culture in the world. We are proud to be sharing the land that we work on and recognise that sovereignty was never ceded.



We welcome all cultures, nationalities and religions. Being inclusive and providing equitable healthcare is our commitment.

Data snapshot

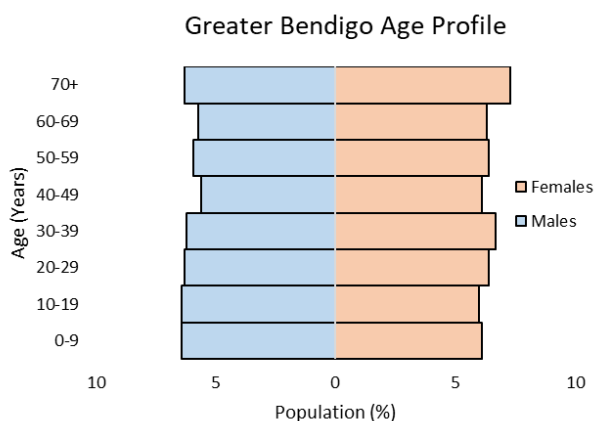
The City of Greater Bendigo is a local government area located in the central part of Victoria, covering an area of 3,000 square kilometres. It is a major regional centre servicing the towns and rural areas of the Loddon region. It includes the communities of Bendigo, Heathcote, Elmore, Goornong, Marong, Redesdale and Axedale.

While still significant, traditional reliance on manufacturing has diminished in recent years, with the development of a strong health, education and retail sector in the city. Commerce, finance and government administration are also important activities.

The 2021 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census says there are 121,470 people in Greater Bendigo with a median age of 40 years. There is 2.3% of the population that indicated they were Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, which is more than double the state average. At least 84.6% of the population said they were born in Australia and other top responses for country of birth were England 1.7%, India 1%, New Zealand 0.7%, Myanmar 0.6% and the Thailand 0.6%.

Greater Bendigo, like much of regional Victoria, has an aging population and therefore a higher burden of chronic disease (including arthritis, mental illness, asthma, heart disease, diabetes, cancer, and lung conditions) than the state average. There is a higher than state average of alcohol consumption, persons who consume more than two standard drinks per day on average is 20.1% versus 14.4% of Victorians. In addition to this, obesity and smoking rates are higher than Victoria. The median income for individuals, families and households are all below that of the state.

Data shows 97.6% of Greater Bendigo's land mass is rated as bushfire prone.



Median household income:
 Greater Bendigo \$1,448
 Victoria \$1,746

Rental affordability 2023:
 Greater Bendigo 19.8%
 Victoria 26.9%

Percentage of people with at least one long term health condition

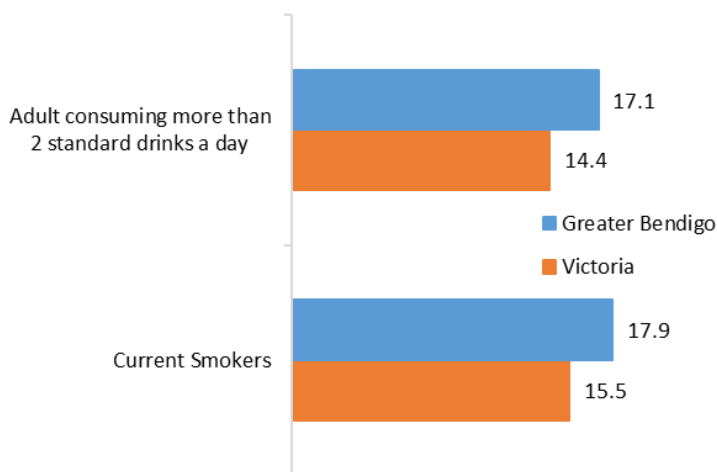
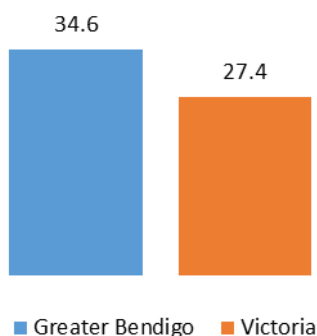


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Local Government Area (LGA) summary – Greater Bendigo



The City of Greater Bendigo is located in central Victoria, approximately 150 km north of Melbourne. With a population of 121,470 (2021), it is one of the largest regional cities in the state. Bendigo serves as a major service and economic hub for surrounding rural areas, with its economy driven by sectors such as healthcare, education, manufacturing, retail, and tourism. The city's rich history, particularly its gold mining past, remains a key tourist draw, alongside its art galleries, heritage buildings, and cultural events.

Employment in Greater Bendigo is diverse, with many working in healthcare, education, public administration, and construction. The region is also experiencing growth in renewable energy, advanced manufacturing, and agriculture.

Land use is a mix of urban, industrial, and rural zones. Bendigo's city center is a focal point for commercial activity, while its surrounding areas feature farmland, conservation reserves, and residential developments.

Under the Modified Monash Model, Greater Bendigo is classified as MMM 2 and MM%, reflecting its regional status with access to services and surrounding smaller rural towns.

The traditional owners of the lands in the region are the Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung people, who have a deep cultural and spiritual connection to the land and its natural resources, particularly the waterways and forests.

Source: [Home | City of Greater Bendigo](#), [Modified Monash Model | Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care](#)
[2021 Greater Bendigo, Census All persons Quick Stats | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](#)

1. Population

1.1 General population

Greater Bendigo's population profile, based on Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data obtained from the 2021 Census reveals a slightly older demographic compared to Victoria. The median age of 40 years is slightly higher than the state median of 38 years. The percentage of people aged 70 and above is also higher in Greater Bendigo compared to the state average. The male-female ratio is slightly skewed towards females.

	Greater Bendigo	Victoria
Median age	40	38

	Greater Bendigo		% Greater Bendigo		% Victoria	
Age Groups	Male	Female	% Male	% Female	% Male	% Female
0-9 years	7,733	7,451	6.4	6.1	6.1	5.8
10-19 years	7,710	7,249	6.4	6.0	6.0	5.6
20-29 years	7,619	7,760	6.3	6.4	6.9	6.9
30-39 years	7,512	8,080	6.2	6.7	7.4	7.8
40-49 years	6,816	7,431	5.6	6.1	6.4	6.6
50-59 years	7,147	7,723	5.9	6.4	5.9	5.9
60-69 years	6,884	7,599	5.7	6.3	5.0	5.5
70+ years	7,657	8,901	6.3	7.3	5.4	6.5
Total	59,078	62,194	48.7	51.3	49.2	50.6

Source: [2021 Greater Bendigo, Census All persons Quick Stats](#) | [Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](#)

1.2 Indigenous status

Greater Bendigo has a higher Indigenous population (2.3%) compared to the Victorian proportion (1%). The median age of Greater Bendigo's Indigenous population is younger at 22 years, compared to the state median of 24 years. The Indigenous median age is considerably younger than the average of the total region's population (40 years).

Indigenous status	Greater Bendigo	% Greater Bendigo	Victoria	% Victoria
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	2,743	2.3	65,646	1
Non-Indigenous	112,430	92.6	6,148,188	94.5
Indigenous status not stated	6,266	5.2	289,665	4.5
Median age of Indigenous population	22		24	

Source: [2021 Greater Bendigo, Census All persons Quick Stats](#) | [Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](#)

1.3 Cultural Diversity

A majority of Greater Bendigo's residents, accounting for 90.1% of the total population, are Australian citizens with 84.6% being born in Australia. Only 4.8% of the population consists of people who are not Australian citizens. Language use patterns reveal that a vast majority (87.8%) of residents speak English only. However, a small percentage (1.3%) speak other languages and do not use English well or at all which is less than the Victorian proportion (4.4%).

Australian Citizenship	Greater Bendigo	% Greater Bendigo	Victoria	% Victoria
Australian Citizen	109,478	90.1	5,389,821	82.9
Not an Australian Citizen	5,784	4.8	810,344	12.5
Not stated	6,204	5.1	303,333	4.7
Speaks English only	106,692	87.8	4,369,804	67.2
Uses other language and speaks English: Not well	1,059	0.9	216,541	3.3
Uses other language and speaks English: Not at all	433	0.4	69,334	1.1
Total Pop	121,470		6,503,491	

Source: [Census of Population and Housing, 2021, TableBuilder](#)

Country of birth, top responses (all people)	Greater Bendigo	% Greater Bendigo	Victoria	% Victoria
Australia	102,810	84.6	4,228,667	65.0
<i>Other top responses:</i>				
England	2,095	1.7	174,552	2.7
India	1,239	1	258,193	4
New Zealand	868	0.7	99,344	1.5
Myanmar	787	0.6	14,216	0.2
Thailand	776	0.6	21,059	0.3

Source: [2021 Greater Bendigo, Census All persons Quick Stats | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](#)

Language used at home, top responses, other than English (all people)	Greater Bendigo	% Greater Bendigo	Victoria	% Victoria
Karen	1,597	1.31	6,946	0.1
Mandarin	570	0.5	221,798	3.4
Malayalam	495	0.4	25,342	0.4
Punjabi	464	0.4	104,949	1.6
Tagalog	240	0.2	29,044	0.4
English only used at home	106,692	87.8	436,9804	67.2
Households where a non-English language is used	3,310	7.1	722,004	30.2

Source: [2021 Greater Bendigo, Census All persons Quick Stats | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](#)

1.4 LGBTIQ+ population

Unfortunately, there is a lack of local data on LGBTIQ+ population including population size and health and wellbeing data. There is data at a state and national level that can be used as an indicator. The Victorian Population Health Survey 2017 estimates 5.7% of Victorian adults identify as LGBTIQ+, however some rural areas have attracted significant higher proportion of LGBTIQ+ people to their communities.

State and national data indicate poorer mental and physical health for LGBTIQ+ community members with significantly higher rates of drug use, alcohol, smoking, chronic disease, homelessness, and disability along with higher rates of anxiety and depression, psychological stress and low satisfaction with life.

Sources and for more information: [Pride in our future: Victoria's LGBTIQ+ strategy 2022–32 | vic.gov.au \(www.vic.gov.au\)](#)
[The health and wellbeing of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer population in Victoria - Findings from the Victorian Population Health Survey 2017 | Victorian Agency for Health Information \(vahi.vic.gov.au\)](#)

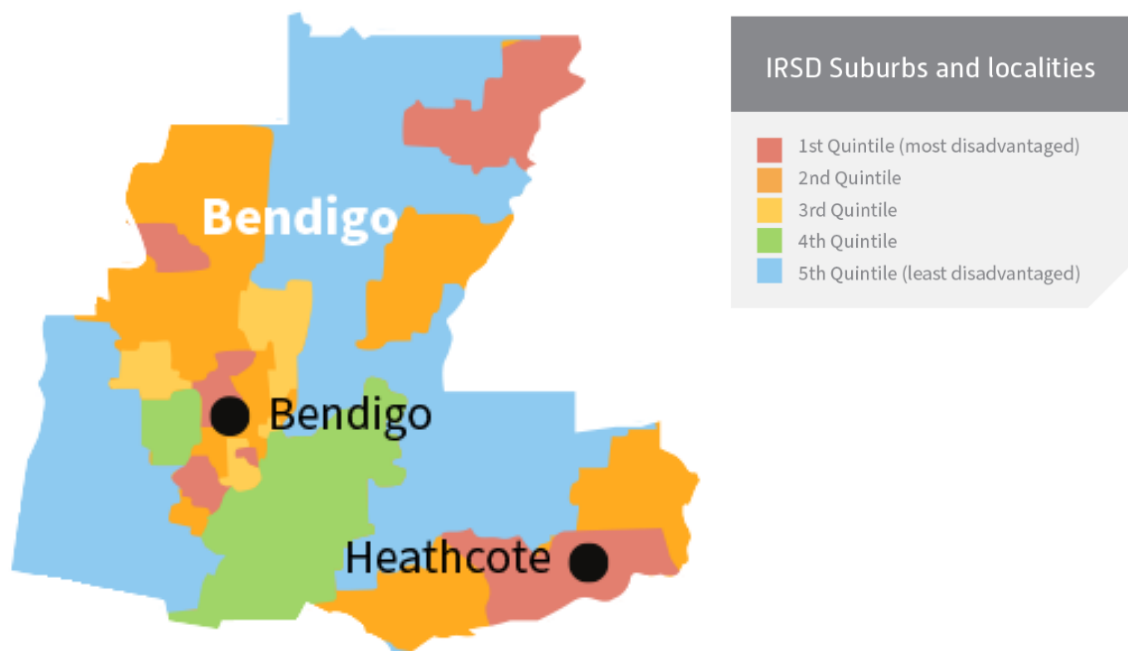
1.5 Areas of Disadvantage

The Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage (IRSD) is a general socio-economic index that summarises a range of information about the economic and social conditions of people and households within an area.

A low score indicates relatively greater disadvantage. For example, an area could have a low score if there are: many households with low income, or many people without qualifications, and many people in low skilled occupations.

A high score indicates a relative lack of disadvantage. For example, an area may have a high score if there are: few households with low incomes, few people without qualifications, few people in low skilled occupations.

Within Greater Bendigo there is a spread of areas that are least disadvantage to areas of disadvantage, with areas of most disadvantage around the city of Bendigo and Heathcote. The average IRSD score for Greater Bendigo is 985 (2021), which ranks Greater Bendigo 27th local government area (LGA) in Victoria.



Source: [ABS: Census of population and Housing: Socio-Economic Indexes from areas \(SEIFA\), 2021](#)
Rank 1 = most disadvantage, rank 79 = least disadvantage

2. Prevention and Determinants

2.1 Prevalence of selected health risk factors for adults

In 2017-18, 14 per 100 Greater Bendigo residents aged 18 years and over reported experiencing high or very high psychological distress, which is slightly higher compared to the state rate of 13.3 per 100. The region has higher rates of high blood pressure, current smokers, people consuming more than two standard alcoholic drinks per day on average and lower fruit intake. Obesity in Greater Bendigo (37.7 per 100) is higher compared to Victoria (31.3 per 100). These higher rates of smoking, alcohol consumption and inadequate diets in Greater Bendigo may impact long term health measures.

Indicators [^] (ASR/100, modelled estimates), 18 years and over, 2017 - 2018	Greater Bendigo	Victoria
High or very high psychological distress	14	13.3
High blood pressure	23.6	22.7
Overweight (but not obese)	35.3	36.4
Obese	37.7	31.3
Current smokers	17.9	15.5
Consumed more than two standard alcoholic drinks per day on average	17.1	14.4
Consumed adequate fruit intake	46.3	51.5
Undertook low, very low or no exercise in the previous week	65.7	65.7

Source: Source: [Social Health Atlas of Australia: Victoria](#)

[^]ASR per 100. Age Standardise Rate (ASR) is used to remove the effect of the differing age distributions that we can make conclusions about the relative decreases or increases in mortality over time.

2.2 Alcohol and other drugs

The alcohol and other drug statistics for Greater Bendigo, highlight certain trends and patterns in the region's substance use landscape.

In general, it appears Greater Bendigo experiences considerably higher rates of alcohol-related incidents, including deaths and ambulance attendances but lower hospital admissions when compared to Victoria. On the other hand, Victoria has higher rates of deaths and hospital admissions for illicit drug-related issues.

Alcohol and other drug (per 100,000 population)	Greater Bendigo	Victoria
Deaths for alcohol-related events, 2021	213.6	142.8
Deaths for illicit drug (any)-related events in, 2021	N/A	0.6
Ambulance attendances for Alcohol Intoxication (w/wo Other Substance), FY-2021/22	497.2	390.4
Ambulance attendances for Alcohol Only (Intoxication), FY-2021/22	407.4	314.6
Ambulance attendances for Illicit Drugs (Any), FY-2021/22	198.7	199.4
Hospital admissions for Alcohol, FY-2021	443.0	577.9
Hospital admissions for Illicit Drugs (Any), FY-2021	222.7	242.9

Source: [Alcohol and other drug statistics in Victoria - AODstats](#)

These statistics are presented per 100,000 population

2.3 Life Expectancy

The median age at death in Greater Bendigo remains the same from 2016 to 2021. This data shows that, on average, individuals are experiencing a similar life expectancy as their counterparts in the broader state.

Examining premature mortality (deaths occurring before the age of 75), Greater Bendigo demonstrated positive trends. For males, there was a substantial reduction from an average annual Age Standardise Rate (ASR) of 418.7 to 337.4, indicating a percentage decrease of 24.1%. Similarly, for females, the average annual ASR decreased from 272.8 to 211.7, reflecting a percentage decrease of 28.9%. These figures signify progress in reducing premature deaths in Greater Bendigo, outperforming the state's progress.

Avoidable mortality (deaths that could have been prevented) also showed improvement in Greater Bendigo. For males, there was a decline from an average annual ASR of 222.4 to 180.2, representing a percentage reduction of 24.1%. For females, the average annual ASR decreased from 134.6 to 100.5, indicating a percentage reduction of 33.9%.

	Report - 2016 to 2020				Report - 2017 to 2021				% Difference between reports			
	Greater Bendigo		Victoria		Greater Bendigo		Victoria		Greater Bendigo (%)		Victoria (%)	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Median age at death	78	84	79.0	85.0	78	84	79.0	85.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Premature Mortality, 0 to 74 years of age ^	418.7	272.8	269.5	171.2	337.4	211.7	273.4	172.9	-24.1	-28.9	1.4	1.0
Avoidable Mortality, 0 to 74 years of age ^	222.4	134.6	138.3	80.5	180.2	100.5	139.5	80.0	-23.4	-33.9	0.9	-0.6

Source: [Social Health Atlas of Australia: Victoria](#)

^Average annual ASR per 100,000. Age Standardise Rate (ASR) is used to remove the effect of the differing age distributions that we can make conclusions about the relative decreases or increases in mortality over time.

2.4 Sexual and Reproductive Health

Greater Bendigo consistently shows higher birth rates compared to the Victorian average. The fertility rate Bendigo is comparable to the Victorian rate. The adolescent birth rate has decreased from 2019 to 2020 from 16.8 per 1,000 to 13.9 per 1,000 respectively but remains higher than the Victorian rate.

Indicators	2022		2021	
	Greater Bendigo	Victoria	Greater Bendigo	Victoria
Female Birth - Rate (per 1,000) ¹	21.8	20.5	23.3	20.7
Female Total Fertility Rate - Rate (lifetime) ²	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.7

Indicators	2020		2019	
	Greater Bendigo	Victoria	Greater Bendigo	Victoria
Female Adolescent Birth - Aggregate 2 year rate (per 1,000) ³	13.9	8.2	16.8	9.1

Source: [Victorian Women's Health Atlas \(victorianwomenshealthatlas.net.au\)](http://victorianwomenshealthatlas.net.au)

¹The rate equals the number of live births in 2020, per 1,000 women of the corresponding LGA. Note: Care should be taken when interpreting changes in fertility rates for Victoria from 2015 to 2018 due to registry system changes and processing of backlogs which may have inflated the birth counts for 2016 and 2017.

²The average number of children that a woman in a particular LGA could expect to bear during her reproductive lifetime if current fertility rates in that LGA continue. Note: Care should be taken when interpreting changes in fertility rates for Victoria from 2015 to 2018 due to registry system changes and processing of backlogs which may have inflated the birth counts for 2016 and 2017.

³The rate equals the number of live births to women younger than 20 years in the two-year period Jan 2019-Dec 2020, by LGA, per 1,000 women aged 13-19 residing in that LGA.

2.5 Sexually transmitted diseases

Greater Bendigo has lower rates of chlamydia in females compared to Victoria and has increased from 2022 (16.7 per 10,000) to 2023 (17.2 per 10,000). Gonorrhoea is lower compared to Victoria and hepatitis is relatively comparable to Victorian rates.

Sexually transmitted diseases	2023				2022			
	Greater Bendigo		Victoria		Greater Bendigo		Victoria	
Indicators (per 10,000)	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
Chlamydia ¹	17.2	12.0	16.3	18.7	16.7	11.4	14.4	15.7
Gonorrhoea ²	1.7	1.2	2.5	8.6	3.4	2.2	3.5	8.0
Hepatitis B ³	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.5	1.0	0.7	0.9
Syphilis ⁴	^	^	0.7	2.7	^	0.9	0.5	2.5

Source: [Victorian Women's Health Atlas \(victorianwomenshealthatlas.net.au\)](http://victorianwomenshealthatlas.net.au)

¹Where less than five cases are reported in the year the case rate will not be included.

²The rate equals the number of gonorrhoea cases notified in the year period 2021, by LGA, per 10,000 persons of the corresponding LGA. Notes: (1) Rates based on counts of <5 are assigned an arbitrary count value of 2.5 to enable rate calculation.

³The rate equals the number of hepatitis B cases (total of both newly acquired and unspecified) notified in the year period 2021, by LGA, per 10,000 persons of the corresponding LGA. Notes: (1) Rates based on counts of <5 are assigned an arbitrary count value of 2.5 to enable rate calculation. (2) State and region total and averages shown in the Atlas are automatically generated based on LGA location data for female/male sex only and may differ to Victorian totals published elsewhere.

⁴The rate equals the number of syphilis cases (total of both newly acquired and unspecified) notified in the year period 2021, by LGA, per 10,000 persons of the corresponding LGA. Notes: (1) Rates based on counts of <5 are assigned an arbitrary count value of 2.5 to enable rate calculation. (2) State and region total and averages shown in the Atlas are automatically generated based on LGA location data for female/male sex only and may differ to Victorian totals published elsewhere.

2.6 Selected long-term health condition

Mental health conditions and arthritis are prevalent in the community, with 12.6% and 11.7% of the population reporting these conditions respectively. Both conditions show higher prevalence rates in Greater Bendigo compared to the state of Victoria.

Greater Bendigo has a higher proportion of asthma, diabetes, heart disease, cancer, lung conditions, stroke, kidney disease and dementia compared to Victoria.

The proportion of residents having one or more long-term health condition (34.6%) is higher than the state average (27.4%). Heart health data shows the rates of heart-related hospitalisations (50.6 per 10,000 population) and coronary heart disease mortality (68/100,000 pop) are both higher than the Victorian average (40.6 per 10,000 population and 60.2/100,000 pop respectively).

Type of long-term health condition, 2021	Greater Bendigo	% Greater Bendigo [^]	Victoria	% Victoria [^]
Mental health condition (including depression or anxiety)	15,295	12.6	571,150	8.8
Arthritis	14,231	11.7	518,633	8
Asthma	12,865	10.6	543,047	8.4
Diabetes (excluding gestational diabetes)	6,045	5.0	303,371	4.7
Heart disease (including heart attack or angina)	5,668	4.7	243,130	3.7
Cancer (including remission)	4,256	3.5	179,326	2.8
Lung condition (including COPD or emphysema)	2,571	2.1	97,270	1.5
Kidney disease	1,346	1.1	57,437	0.9
Stroke	1,365	1.1	59,844	0.9
Dementia (including Alzheimer's)	941	0.8	45,946	0.7
Any other long-term health condition(s)	11,135	9.2	519,110	8
No long-term health condition(s)	64,181	52.8	3,969,506	61
Not stated	10,350	8.5	492,709	7.6

Source: [2021 Greater Bendigo, Census All persons QuickStats | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](https://abs.gov.au/2021/Greater-Bendigo-Census-All-persons-QuickStats)

[^]Calculated percentages represent a proportion of the number of people in the area (including those who did not answer the long-term health conditions question).

Count of selected long-term health conditions [*]	Greater Bendigo	Victoria	% Greater Bendigo	% Victoria
All people				
None of the selected conditions	69,094	4,228,219	56.9	65.0
One condition	27,256	1,224,496	22.4	18.8
Two conditions	9,566	371,819	7.9	5.7
Three or more conditions	5,206	186,237	4.3	2.9
Not stated	10,350	492,709	8.5	7.6

^{*} Selected long-term health conditions include arthritis, asthma, cancer (including remission), dementia (including Alzheimer's), diabetes (excluding gestational diabetes), heart disease (including heart attack or angina), kidney disease, lung condition (including COPD or emphysema), mental health condition (including depression or anxiety) and stroke. Other long-term health conditions are not included in this count.

Source: [2021 Greater Bendigo, Census All persons QuickStats | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](https://abs.gov.au/2021/Greater-Bendigo-Census-All-persons-QuickStats)

Heart health indicators	Greater Bendigo	Victoria
Heart related hospital admissions (2021-2016)	50.6	40.6
ASR (per 10,000 persons)		
Coronary heart disease mortality (2012-2020)	68.0	60.2
ASR (per 100,000 persons)		

Source: [Heart Foundation – Australian Heart Maps](#)

2.7 Avoidable deaths by cause

Avoidable deaths are deaths from conditions that are potentially preventable through individualised care and/or treatable through existing primary or hospital care. Greater Bendigo has higher rates of avoidable deaths (0 to 74 years) compared to Victoria from all circulatory system disease, cancer, ischaemic heart disease, external causes, respiratory system disease, cerebrovascular, diabetes and lung transport accidents.

Avoidable deaths by cause [^] (ASR per 100,00, 0-74 yrs), 2017 -2021	Greater Bendigo	Victoria
Circulatory system disease	39.7	32.7
Cancer	36.1	27.8
Ischaemic heart disease	23.7	20.6
Breast cancer	18.9	15.6
External causes (falls, burns, suicide and self-inflicted injuries etc.)	18.7	13.5
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	14.9	10.6
Respiratory system disease	14	9.0
Colorectal cancer	12.8	10.1
Obstructive pulmonary disease	12.8	8.3
Cerebrovascular disease	8.7	7.6
Diabetes	4.6	5.2
Transport accidents	4.2	4.0

Source: [Social Health Atlas of Australia: Victoria](#)

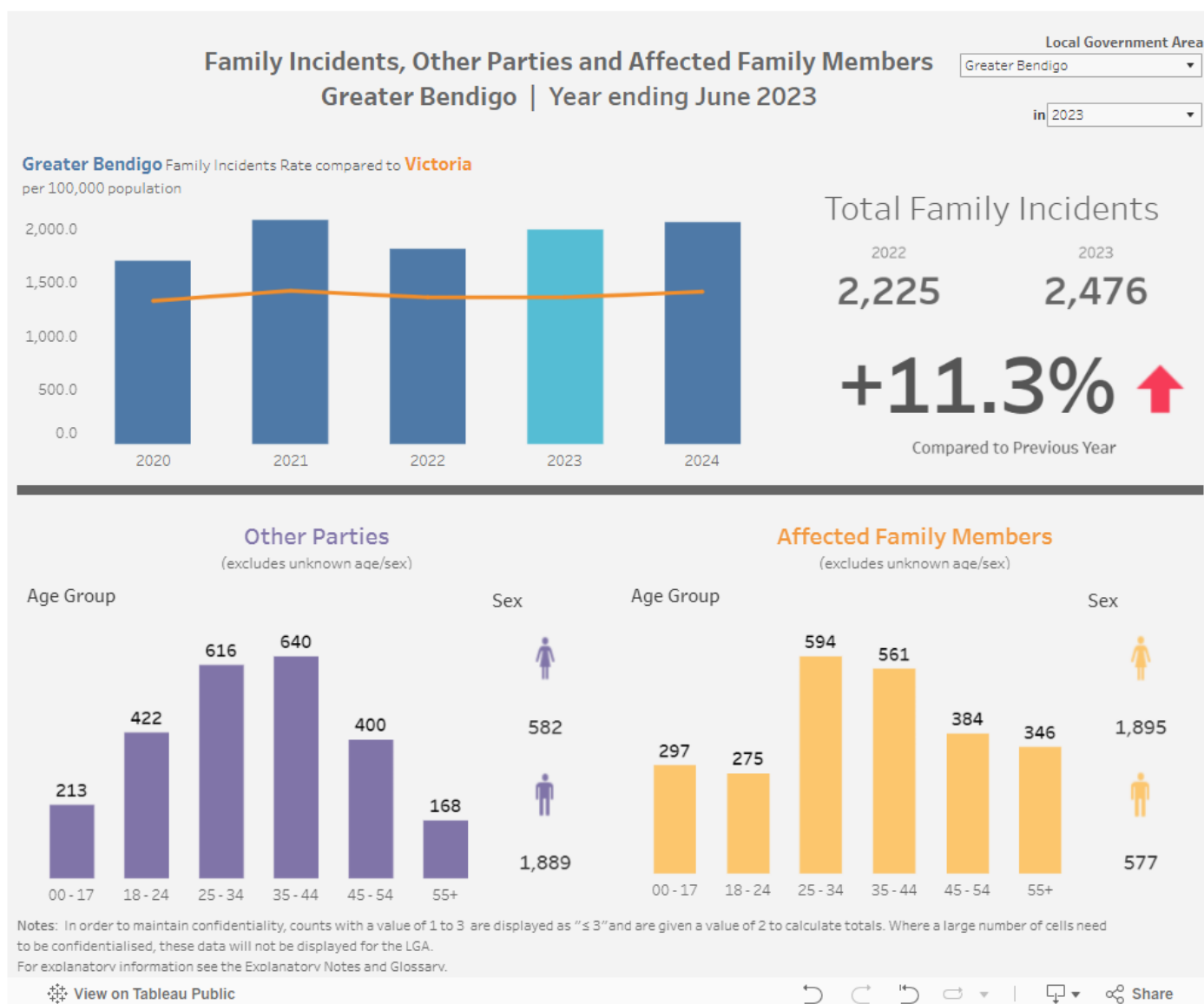
[^] For all indicators, the data presented are the average annual indirectly age-standardised rates per 100,000 total population (aged 0 to 74 years); and/or indirectly age-standardised ratios, based on the Australian standard. The exception is for 'Deaths from breast cancer (females)', where the rates are limited to the female population.

3. Family violence

According to the Crimes Statistic Agency, Greater Bendigo had 1,994 per 100,000 family violence incidents (2022/23) which is higher than the Victorian rate (1,366.2 per 100,000).

A family incident is an incident attended by Victoria Police and a police report has been completed. Greater Bendigo reported family violence incidents are consistently higher than the state rate. An 'affected family member' is the individual who is deemed to be affected by events occurring during a family incident. The majority of the 'affected family' in Greater Bendigo is women. The highest affected family age group is 25 to 34 years.

The other individual involved in a family incident is referred to as the 'other party'. The other party could be a current partner, former partner or a family member. The majority of the 'other party' in Greater Bendigo is men. The highest age group for other parties and affected family is 35-44 years.



Source: Latest crime data by area | Crime Statistics Agency Victoria

4. Family and Income

4.1 Family composition

Couple families without children constitutes the largest proportion in Greater Bendigo, accounting for 40.7% of all families, which is higher than the state average of 37.6%. Couple/families with children make up 39.7% of all families in Greater Bendigo, which is lower than the state average of 45.5%.

One-parent families represent 18% of all families in Greater Bendigo, which is higher than the state average of 15.2%.

Other families, which may include non-traditional family structures, account for a small percentage (1.6%) in Greater Bendigo, slightly lower to the state average of 1.7%.

All families	Greater Bendigo	% Greater Bendigo	Victoria	% Victoria
Couple family without children	13,134	40.7	645,543	37.6
Couple family with children	12,826	39.7	782,321	45.5
One parent family	5,796	18	262,040	15.2
Other family	521	1.6	28,875	1.7

Source: [2021 Greater Bendigo, Census All persons QuickStats | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](#)

4.2 Single (or lone) parents

The data indicates the majority of single (or lone) parents in Greater Bendigo are female, constituting a substantial 81.8% of the total single parent population. This percentage is slightly higher than the female proportion in Victoria, which is 80.9%.

Proportion of the total single (or lone) parent population	% Greater Bendigo	% Victoria
Male	18.2	19.1
Female	81.8	80.9

Source: [2021 Greater Bendigo, Census All persons QuickStats | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](#)

4.3 Employment status of couple families

In Greater Bendigo, the two most common employment statuses for couple families are one employed full-time, one part-time (24.6%) and both not working (22.7%), both are higher than the Victorian proportion. The high prevalence of parents both not working could indicate parents are retired, a lack of employment opportunities but may also be due to caregiving responsibilities, study or other reasons.

Couple families where parents or partners were aged 15 years and over	Greater Bendigo	% Greater Bendigo	Victoria	% Victoria
Both employed, worked full-time	5,020	19.3	323,693	22.7
Both employed, worked part-time	1,343	5.2	70,928	5
One employed full-time, one part-time	6,383	24.6	322,757	22.6
One employed full-time, other not working	2,791	10.8	189,173	13.2
One employed part-time, other not working	1,595	6.1	90,569	6.3
Both not working	5,902	22.7	283,160	19.8
Other	1,899	7.3	97,725	6.8
Labour force status not stated	1,023	3.9	49,854	3.5

Source: [2021 Greater Bendigo, Census All persons QuickStats | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/2021-Greater-Bendigo-Census-All-persons-QuickStats)

4.4 Early child development

The Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) is a nationwide census of early child development that shows how young children have developed as they start their first year of full-time school. Figures indicate a higher proportion of vulnerable children in all the indicators; physical, social, emotional and language communication indicators compared to the Victorian proportions. There is also a higher proportion of children in Greater Bendigo who have one or more developmental vulnerable domains (23.9%) compared to Victoria (19.9%).

Vulnerable (n=1,355, 2021)				
Indicator	Indicator description	Greater Bendigo	% Greater Bendigo	% Victoria
Physical	Child is healthy; independent; excellent gross and fine motor skills	132	10.3	8.1
Social	Gets along with others; shares; self-confident	141	11	9.0
Emotional	Able to concentrate; help others; patient, not angry or aggressive	131	10.3	7.7
Language	Interested in reading or writing; can count; recognises numbers and shapes	133	10.4	7.2
Communication	Can tell a story; communicate with adults and children; articulate themselves	120	9.4	7.4
Vulnerability 1	Developmentally vulnerable in one or more domains	304	23.9	19.9
Vulnerability 2	Developmentally vulnerable in two or more domains	171	13.3	10.2

Source: <https://www.aedc.gov.au/data-explorer/>

4.5 Household income

The provided data on household income for the Greater Bendigo region, gives insights into the income distribution within the community. The median weekly incomes for people aged over 15 years, families and households in Greater Bendigo are all below the state medians. The percentage of occupied private dwellings in Greater Bendigo with a weekly income of less than \$650 is 19% and above is \$3000 is 16.2% compared with a state average of 16.4% and 24.2% respectively.

Occupied private dwellings (excl. visitor only and other non-classifiable households)^	% Greater Bendigo	% Victoria
Less than \$650 total household weekly income	19.0	16.4
More than \$3,000 total household weekly income	16.2	24.2

Source: [2021 Greater Bendigo, Census All persons QuickStats | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](https://abs.gov.au/2021/Greater-Bendigo-Census-All-persons-QuickStats)

^ Percentages exclude dwellings with 'Partial income stated' of 'All incomes not stated.'

Median weekly incomes ^ (people aged 15 yrs and over)	Greater Bendigo	Victoria
Personal	\$739	\$805
Family	\$1,865	\$2,120
Household	\$1,448	\$1,746

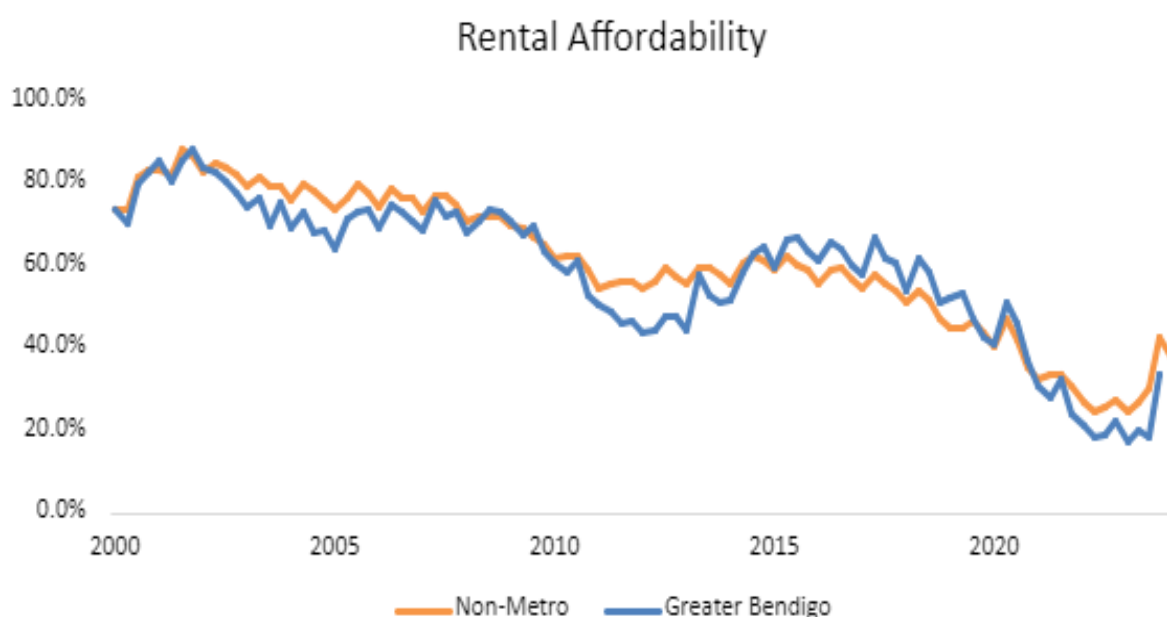
Source: [2021 Greater Bendigo, Census All persons QuickStats | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](https://abs.gov.au/2021/Greater-Bendigo-Census-All-persons-QuickStats)

^ Incomes are collected in ranges and exclude people, families and households where at least one member aged 15 years and over did not state their income.

4.6 Rental affordability

Median rental prices are continuing to increase and becoming less affordable. The graph below represents affordability of rental homes for lower income households.

Greater Bendigo has experienced a decline in rental affordability that is closely related to non-metro areas. Greater Bendigo rental affordability in June 2023 was 19.8% which is lower than Victorian non metro area (26.9%) in 2023.



Source: [Rental Report - Quarterly: Affordable Lettings by LGA - Dataset - Victorian Government Data Directory](https://data.vic.gov.au/dataset/rental-report-quarterly-affordable-lettings-by-lga-dataset)

The affordability benchmark used is that no more than 30% of gross income is spent on rent.

^ Lower income households are defined as those receiving Centrelink incomes.

4.7 Homelessness

Access to safe, adequate housing is central to the health and wellbeing of individuals and families. Secure and affordable housing is the basis for social connectedness and a contributor to the social determinants of health and wellbeing. This data includes:

- living in improvised dwellings, tents or sleeping out
- living in supported accommodation for the homeless
- staying temporarily with other households
- living in boarding houses
- living in 'severely' crowded dwellings

In Greater Bendigo, 48.3 per 10,000 people are homeless while there are 46.9 per 10,000 across Victoria. This indicates the estimated rate of homelessness standardised to the age distribution of the population is higher in Greater Bendigo compared to the broader state of Victoria. The specific challenges and characteristics of homelessness may vary between regions.

	Number	ASR [^] per 10,000	
	Greater Bendigo	Greater Bendigo	Victoria
People experiencing homelessness, 2021	571	48.3	46.9

Source: [Social Health Atlas of Australia: Victoria](#)

[^]Average annual ASR per 10,000. Age Standardise Rate (ASR) is used to remove the effect of the differing age distributions that we can make conclusions about the relative decreases or increases in mortality over time.

5. Education

5.1 Type of educational institution attending

Greater Bendigo has higher percentage of the population attending preschool, primary, secondary education and vocational education compared to the state average. However, the region has a lower percentage of people attending university or other higher education compared to the state-wide average, with Greater Bendigo at 10.8% and Victoria at 16.6%.

People attending an educational institution	Greater Bendigo	% Greater Bendigo	Victoria	% Victoria
Preschool	2,576	7.3	139,502	7.1
Primary total	10,102	28.7	520,258	26.5
Secondary total	7,751	22	412,219	21
Tertiary - Vocational education (including TAFE and private training providers)	2,890	8.2	155,358	7.9
Tertiary - University or other higher education	3,808	10.8	325,961	16.6
Tertiary total	6,715	19.1	482,005	24.5

Source: [2021 Greater Bendigo, Census All persons QuickStats | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](https://abs.gov.au/2021/Greater-Bendigo-Census-All-persons-QuickStats)

5.2 Level of highest educational attainment

The data on the highest educational attainment in Greater Bendigo for people aged 15 years and over reveals a diverse educational landscape, which is comparable to the Victorian educational distribution. Greater Bendigo shows lower percentages of individuals with higher education qualifications (Diploma and above) and higher proportion in Certificate level III and IV. The region has lower attainment of year 12 (12.6%) compared to Victoria (14.9%).

People aged 15 years and over	Greater Bendigo	% Greater Bendigo	Victoria	% Victoria
Bachelor Degree level and above	19,494	19.7	1,557,447	29.2
Advanced Diploma and Diploma level	9,005	9.1	521,291	9.8
Certificate level IV	4,650	4.7	179,000	3.4
Certificate level III	15,069	15.3	580,494	10.9
Year 12	12,429	12.6	797,281	14.9
Year 11	7,031	7.1	304,927	5.7
Year 10	10,094	10.2	389,680	7.3
Certificate level II	114	0.1	3,250	0.1
Certificate level I	19	0	647	0
Year 9 or below	9,699	9.8	422,139	7.9
Inadequately described	1,877	1.9	111,674	2.1
No educational attainment	617	0.6	59,722	1.1
Not stated	8,621	8.7	406,049	7.6

Source: [2021 Greater Bendigo, Census All persons QuickStats | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](https://abs.gov.au/2021/Greater-Bendigo-Census-All-persons-QuickStats)

6. Disability

The provided data on disability shows that the proportion of people with a profound or severe disability in Greater Bendigo, whether they live in long-term accommodation or in households, are higher than Victorian proportions. This data indicates the majority of people with a profound or severe disability aged 0 to 64 years are living and being cared for in households (4.7%) rather than long-term accommodation. This is slightly higher than the Victorian proportion (3.2%).

In Greater Bendigo there are 4,249 people participating in the National Disability Scheme (3.5 ASR/100 pop) in 2022, higher compared to the Victorian rate (2.2 ASR/100 pop).

Indicator	Greater Bendigo	Greater Bendigo	Victoria
People with a profound or severe disability, includes people in long-term accommodation (all ages), 2021	8,558	7.4%	6.1%
People with a profound or severe disability and living in households (all ages), 2021	7,566	6.6%	5.4%
People with a profound or severe disability, includes people in long-term accommodation (0 to 64 years)	4,406	4.8%	3.3%
People with a profound or severe disability and living in households (0 to 64 years), 2021	4,338	4.7%	3.2%
Estimated number of total persons, living in households, with moderate or mild core activity limitation (modelled estimates), 2018	12,604	10.4 ASR [^]	n.p.
National Disability Insurance Scheme participants, 2022	4,249	3.5 ASR [^]	2.2 ASR [^]

Source: [Social Health Atlas of Australia: Victoria](#)

[^]Average annual ASR per 100. Age Standardise Rate (ASR) is used to remove the effect of the differing age distributions that we can make conclusions about the relative decreases or increases in mortality over time.

7. Environment

7.1 Municipal emissions snapshot

Greater Bendigo is a city that is moderate in size relative to the state average and has a moderate urban density. It's major emissions source is electricity consumption with the majority of this coming from industrial electricity consumption.

In 2020/21, there was 1,396,000 (t CO₂e) total emissions for Greater Bendigo, this decreased to 1,383,000 (t CO₂e) in 2021/22 - a reduction of 0.9%.

Source (2021/22)		Greater Bendigo		Victoria	
	Sector	Emissions (t CO ₂ e)	% Emissions (t CO ₂ e)	Emissions (t CO ₂ e)	% Emissions (t CO ₂ e)
Electricity	Residential	227,000	16	13,049,000	15
	Commercial	215,000	16	12,037,000	13
	Industrial	279,000	20	10,798,000	12
Gas	Residential	58,000	4	6,128,000	7
	Commercial	12,000	1	1,192,000	1
	Industrial	46,000	3	4,174,000	5
Transport	On road	300,000	21	17,313,000	19
	Rail	3,000	1	229,000	0
	Aviation			1,171,000	1
Waste		44,000	3	2,683,000	3
IPPU		94,000	7	6,370,000	7
Fugitive		11,000	1	2,911,000	3
Agriculture		94,000	7	11,523,000	13
Land Use		1,000	0	230,000	0
Total municipal emissions		1,383,000	100	89,578,000	

Source: [Greater Bendigo VIC.: Snapshot \(snapshotclimate.com.au\)](https://snapshotclimate.com.au)

7.2 Average temperature from a 30-year climate period

Temperatures in the Loddon Mallee region differ significantly from north to south. Greater Bendigo experiences an average maximum in summer of 28.2°C, while the winter average maximum temperature is 13.1°C. The northern part of the region sees hot summers with an average maximum temperature of 30°C. Meanwhile winters are mild and the temperature stays around 10°C on average. Conversely, the southern part of the region experiences cool and rainy winters and warm and arid summers. In the elevated southern regions, the average maximum temperature is below 25°C. Frosty weather is frequent in the whole region.

LGA (1961-1990)	Summer (Ave °C)		Winter (Ave °C)	
	Max	Min	Max	Min
Swan Hill Rural City	31.2	15	15.6	4.6
Mildura Rural City	31	14.8	15.9	5.2
Gannawarra Shire	30.5	14.7	14.8	4.5
Buloke Shire	30	14	14.6	4.4
Loddon Shire	29.4	13.9	13.9	4.2
Campaspe Shire	29.3	14.1	13.9	3.9
City of Greater Bendigo	28.2	13.4	13.1	3.9
Mount Alexander Shire	27	12	12	3.1
Macedon Ranges Shire	24.1	11.2	10.3	3.2
LMR Average	28.9	13.5	13.7	4.1

Source: [Loddon Mallee Environmental Scan](#) | [Emergency Management Victoria \(emv.vic.gov.au\)](#)

7.3 Bushfire prone areas

There are numerous areas with high bushfire hazards in the Loddon Mallee region, many of which intersect with settlements and areas that are experiencing growth in rural residential and tourism. Some of the settlements identified for targeted expansion are also situated in areas that are at risk of bushfires such as Bendigo, Castlemaine, Kyneton, and Gisborne.

The Fire Danger Period (FDP) in Victoria has become lengthier, indicating a trend towards extended fire seasons. The seasonal fire restriction dates are determined by the municipality and are dependent on factors such as amounts of rain, grassland curing, and other local conditions.

Smoke from fires, including planned burns, can also pose a hazard within the Loddon Mallee region. The individuals most at risk from smoke exposure include young children, adults over 65 years of age, people with asthma or existing heart or lung conditions, pregnant women, outdoor workers, and smokers. Bushfire-prone areas are either subject to or likely to be subject to bushfires, and are subject to specific bushfire construction standards. Nearly all of the land in the region is designated as a bushfire area.

LGA	% Area Bushfire Prone	Bushfire Prone Area* (km ²)	Total Area^ (km ²)
Loddon Shire	100	6,694	6,696
Mount Alexander Shire	99.8	1,527	1,530
Gannawarra Shire	98.7	3,701	3,750
Macedon Ranges Shire	98.6	1,723	1,748
Mildura Rural City	98.3	21,710	22,083
Campaspe Shire	97.7	4,415	4,519
Buloke Shire	97.6	7,807	8,000
City of Greater Bendigo	97.6	2,930	3,000
Swan Hill Rural City	92.0	5,625	6,115
LMR Total or Average	97.8	57,662	58,960

Source: [Loddon Mallee Environmental Scan](#) | [Emergency Management Victoria \(emv.vic.gov.au\)](#)

7.4 Areas potentially impacted by flooding inundation

The Loddon Mallee has a significant number of urban settlements exposed to flood risk. Floods have caused significant damage to farms through inundation, isolation, and flash floods following heavy rainfall. Flooding provides important inflows to wetlands and lake systems but may also impact towns and infrastructure.

The flood warning service coverage is shown in the figure below with both the Flood Watch and Flood Warning catchment shown. The table below shows the effected main localities. This is not an extensive list and there are smaller localities that may be impacted. The flood risk and area impacted by flooding varies around the region. Table (below) shows the percentage of each LGA which is impacted by flooding at the 1:100-year average recurrence interval (ARI). There is a one percent chance (1% annual exceedance probability (AEP)) of these areas experiencing flooding of this level in any given year based on flood modelling results from flood studies. The localities listed have some defined built-up area in or near the flood impact area defined by the 1:100-year ARI.

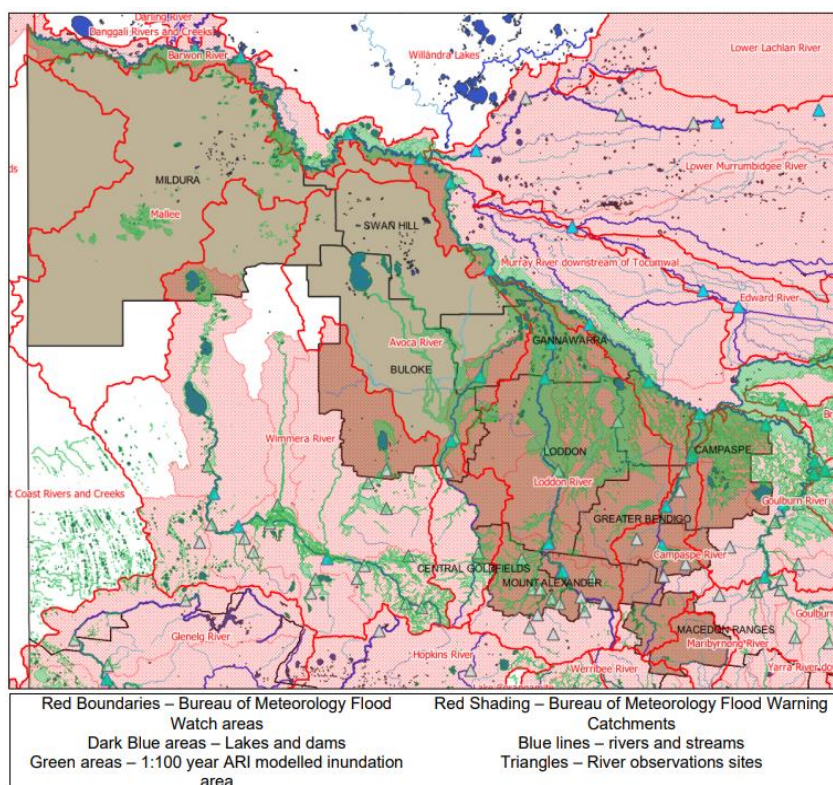


Figure 1: Flood warning and 1:100-year ARI inundation.

LGA	%Included in 1:100 Ari Area^	Main Localities with Affected Built Up Areas
Buloke	11.2	Charlton, Donald
Campaspe	31.7	Echuca, Kyabram, Moama (NSW), Rochester, Tongala, Wharparilla
Gannawarra	40.4	Barham (NSW), Cohuna , Kerang ,Koondrook , Quambatook
Greater Bendigo	5.9	Ascot (Bendigo), Bendigo, Eaglehawk, East, Bendigo, Elmore, Epsom, Flora Hill, Golden Square, Heathcote, Huntly, Kangaroo Flat, Kennington, Long Gully, Maiden Gully, North Bendigo, Quarry Hill, Spring Gully, Strathdale, Strathfieldsaye, White Hills
Loddon	29.1	Boort, Pyramid Hill
Macedon Ranges	2.0	Gisborne, Kyneton , Riddells Creek , Romsey , Woodend
Mildura	6.7	Mildura , Nichols Point
Mount Alexander	2.4	Campbells Creek, Castlemaine, Moonlight Flat
Swan Hill	10.2	Murray Downs (NSW), Nyah, Pental Island, Robinvale, Swan Hill

Source: [Loddon Mallee Environmental Scan | Emergency Management Victoria \(emv.vic.gov.au\)](#)

^Percentage of each LGA which is impacted by flooding at the 1:100-year average recurrence interval (ARI).

Abbreviations

Abbreviation Table	
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AEP	Annual Exceedance Probability
ARI	Age Recurrence Interval
ASR	Age Standardise Rate
COPD	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
FDP	Fire Danger Period
FY	Financial Year
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IPPU	Industrial processes and product use
IRSD	Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage
LGA	Local Government Area
NDIS	National Disability Insurance Scheme
TAFE	Technical and Further Education

Resources

LMPHU	Bendigo Health Website - Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit
PHIDU	https://phidu.torrens.edu.au/
Women's Health Atlas	https://victorianwomenshealthatlas.net.au/#/
ABS Quick stats	https://abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/SAL21682

Feedback

Any feedback on this profile is welcome and should be provided to the Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit via email: lmphu@bendigohealth.org.au