



Loddon Community Profile

2026

This document has been prepared to provide a data profile on the health and wellbeing of the local government areas of Loddon Mallee. 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.







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.



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Data snapshot

The Loddon local government area (LGA) covers approximately 6,700 square kilometres in north-west Victoria. Predominantly rural, the area is characterised by rich agricultural landscapes and a strong goldfields heritage, alongside forests, rolling hills, rocky outcrops, rivers and lakes.

The 2021 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census recorded a population of 7,759 people, living across small townships and farming communities. The median age of 52 is notably higher than the Victorian median. Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples make up 2.2% of the population. At least 79.7% of residents were born in Australia, with the most common countries of birth outside Australia being England (2.4%), the Philippines (1.4%) and New Zealand (1%). Notably, there are significantly fewer people in Loddon who thought multiculturalism makes life better when compared with Victoria.

Loddon Shire experiences relatively high levels of socio-economic disadvantage, with a Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) score of 948, ranking it as the 11th most disadvantaged local government area in Victoria. Median weekly household income and high school completion rates are also below the state proportion. However, the area benefits from comparatively greater rental affordability, which supports housing access for some residents.

Like many parts of regional Victoria, Loddon has an ageing population and health risk factors such as obesity and high exposure to ultraviolet radiation contribute to chronic disease burden. The region records elevated rates of respiratory and mental health conditions as well as avoidable deaths linked to cardiac disease and transport incidents. Despite these challenges, Loddon shows some positive health indicators, including higher rates of skin cancer checks by a doctor and lower rates of dementia compared with state averages.

Loddon also faces significant natural hazard risks with 100% of the shire's land area bushfire-prone, and 29.1% susceptible to flooding.

This snapshot highlights the indicators where the Loddon LGA is statistically different to expected levels* or in the absence of statistical analysis, ranks in the top ten of Victoria's 79 LGAs.

- Areas of strength compared to Australian or Victorian measures
- Areas of concern compared to Australian or Victorian measures

Low income households	
Rental affordability	
Health risk factors	
Low income households	
Tolerance of diversity	
Racism	
Obesity	
Sunburn	
Skin checks	
Health conditions	
Asthma	
Arthritis	
Dementia	
Lung conditions	
Mental health	
Health screening	
Breast screening	
Avoidable deaths	
Circulatory system disease	
Ischaemic heart disease	
Transport accidents	

*Comparison may be with Victorian or Australian data based on primary data source

Local government area (LGA) summary: Loddon

Loddon Shire is located in Central Victoria, about 175 km northwest of Melbourne. The region is rural and largely agricultural, with key towns including Wedderburn, Inglewood, and Boort. The shire had a population of 7,759 residents (2021) ^[1], spread across small communities and farming areas.

Agriculture drives Loddon's economy with livestock farming, particularly sheep and cattle, and grain production being predominant. In recent years, the region has seen growth in renewable energy projects, particularly wind and solar farms. Employment is primarily in agriculture, with significant contributions from health services, education, and retail.

Land use in the Loddon Shire is dominated by farming, with extensive areas for cropping and grazing. The fertile soils and access to irrigation support a productive agricultural sector. Natural environments, including wetlands and parks, contribute to conservation and tourism. ^[2] The top industries of employment in Loddon were grain sheep/grain-beef cattle farming (8%), sheep farming (specialised) (5.9%) and other grain growing (4.9%). ^[1]

Under the Modified Monash Model (MMM), Loddon Shire was classified as predominately MM5, indicating it is a rural setting, but was classified as MM2 around the southeast area that borders City of Greater Bendigo (regional centre). ^[3]

The traditional owners are the Dja Dja Wurrung people, who have a deep connection to the land, particularly its waterways and natural landscapes, which hold cultural and spiritual significance.



[1] Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021

[2] Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Land use and management, 2023

[3] Modified Monash Model | Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care

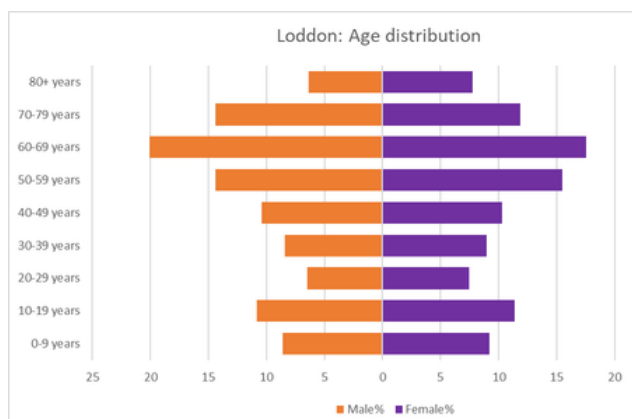
1. Population

Loddon's population profile, based on ABS data obtained from the census revealed an older demographic. The median age of 52 years was considerably higher than the state median of 38 years. The percentage of people aged 70 years and above was also higher in Loddon (20%) compared with Victoria (11.9%). The male-female ratio was very slightly skewed towards males.

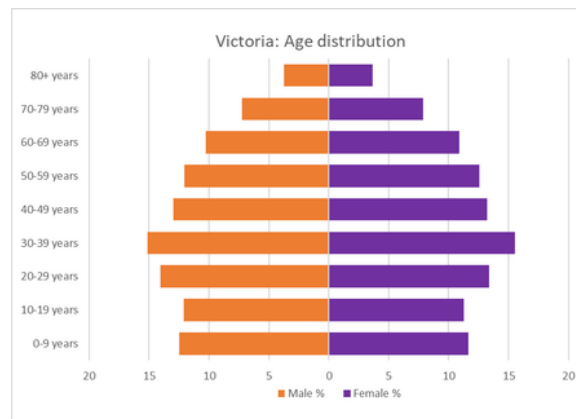


7,759 people reside in Loddon, in 2021

52yrs is the median age in Loddon (Victoria 38yrs), in 2021



Source: [Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021](#)



Source: [Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021](#)

Age groups	Loddon (n)		Loddon (%)		Victoria (%)	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0-9 years	339	352	8.6	9.2	12.5	11.6
10-19 years	426	435	10.8	11.4	12.1	11.3
20-29 years	254	285	6.5	7.4	14.1	13.4
30-39 years	331	344	8.4	9.0	15.1	15.5
40-49 years	408	395	10.4	10.3	13.0	13.2
50-59 years	566	592	14.4	15.5	12.0	12.5
60-69 years	789	672	20.1	17.6	10.2	10.9
70-80 years	565	454	14.4	11.9	7.2	7.9
80+ years	250	297	6.4	7.8	3.7	3.7
Total	3,923	3,826	100	100	100	100

Source: [Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021](#)

2. Priority groups

2.1 Indigenous status

Loddon had a higher Indigenous population (2.2%) compared with the Victorian proportion (1%). The median age of Loddon's Indigenous population was 25 years, comparable to the state median of 24 years. In Loddon, the median age of the Indigenous population (25 years) was younger than the median of the total Loddon population (52 years).

Indigenous status	Loddon (n)	Loddon (%)	Victoria (n)	Victoria (%)
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	170	2.2	65,646	1.0
Non-Indigenous	6,765	87.2	6,148,188	94.5
Indigenous status not stated	823	10.6	289,665	4.5
Median age of Indigenous Population (years)	25		24	

Source: [Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021](#)

Murray Primary Health Network's First Nations Health and Healing report provides an overview of the current state of First Nations health drawing on data and consultation with First Nations Peoples.



2.2 Multicultural communities

A substantial majority of Loddon's residents, accounting for 79.7% of the total population, were born in Australia. The three top countries that Loddon residents were born excluding Australia were England (45.5%), Philippines (1.5%) and New Zealand (1.2%).

In Loddon, 3.7% of the population households use a language other than English (113 households). Language use patterns revealed a vast majority (86.2%) of Loddon's residents speak English only. However, a small percentage (0.4%) speak other languages and don't speak English well or not at all.



Filipino is the top non-English language spoken at home in Loddon Shire

Country of birth, top responses	Loddon (n)	Loddon (%)	Victoria (%)
Australia	6,187	79.7	65.0
England	185	2.4	2.7
Philippines	107	1.4	1.1
New Zealand	74	1.0	1.5
Netherlands	34	0.4	0.3
Germany	27	0.3	0.4

Source: [Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021](#)



Language used at home other than English, top responses (all people)	Loddon (n)	Loddon (%)	Victoria (%)
Filipino	49	0.6	0.4
Tagalog	36	0.5	0.4
Malayalam	16	0.2	0.4
Bisaya	16	0.2	0.0
Italian	13	0.2	1.4
English only used at home	6,692	86.2	67.2
Households where a non-English language is used	113	3.7	30.2
Uses other languages and speaks English not well/not at all	29	0.4	4.4

Of those who do not speak English well/not at all, the top native language is Mandarin (n=10)

Source: [Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021](#)

2.3 LGBTIQ+ population

Unfortunately, there is a lack of local data on LGBTIQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer, asexual and other sexually or gender diverse people) 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 significantly higher proportion of LGBTIQ+ people to their communities.

State and national data indicate poorer mental and physical health for LGBTIQ+ community members. There is also 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 \(vahi.vic.gov.au\)](#)

2.4 People with disabilities

Data on people with a disability show that 8.2% of people in Loddon had a profound or severe disability in Loddon, higher than the Victorian proportion of 6.1%. Most people with profound or severe disability were living in households rather than long-term accommodation. In Loddon there were 150 people participating in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (2.2/100 population) in 2022, comparable to the Victorian Rate (2.2/100 population).

Disability indicators	Loddon (n)	Loddon	Victoria
People with a profound or severe disability, includes people in long-term accommodation (all ages), 2021	578	8.2%	6.1%
People with a profound or severe disability and living in households (all ages), 2021	517	7.4%	5.4%
People with a profound or severe disability, includes people in long-term accommodation (0 to 64 years), 2021	256	5.2%	3.3%
People with a profound or severe disability and living in households (0 to 64 years), 2021	256	5.2%	3.2%
Estimated number of total persons, living in households, with moderate or mild core activity limitation (modelled estimates, 2018)	1,153	10.8 ASR [^]	na
National Disability Insurance Scheme participants, 2023	172	2.5 ASR [^]	2.5 ASR [^]

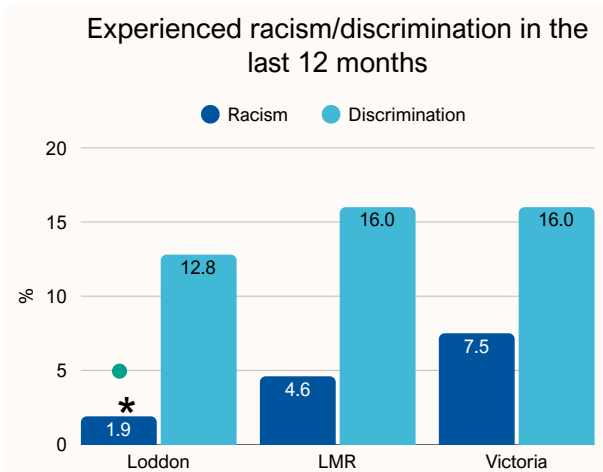
Source: [Social Health Atlas of Australia: Victoria](#)

[^]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.

2.5 Racism and discrimination

On an individual level, racism refers to the beliefs and attitudes members of certain groups have of their superiority in relation to other groups who are regarded as inferior based on race, ethnicity or cultural background.

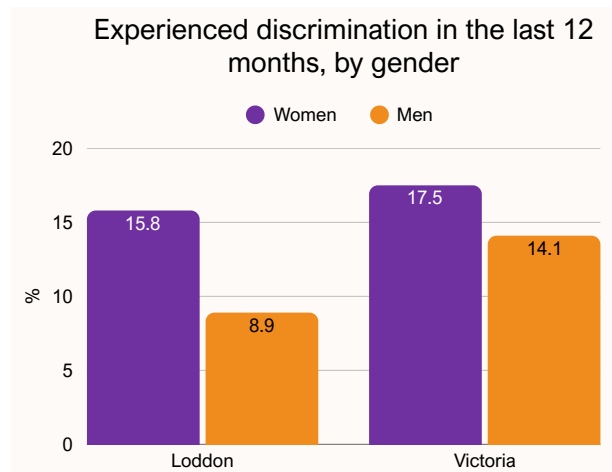
Racism was defined as experiences of discrimination due to First People’s status, skin colour, nationality, race, ethnic group or language spoken at home. Discrimination was defined as experiences of discrimination due to gender identity, sexual orientation or intersex status.



Source: [Victorian Population Health Survey 2023](#), age adjusted.

*high relative standard error so interpret with caution

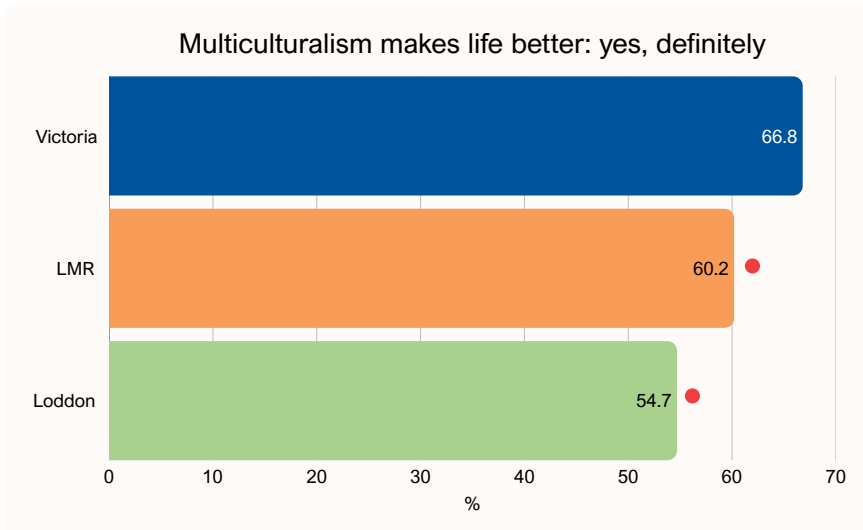
● statistically significantly lower than Victorian proportion



Source: [Victorian Population Health Survey 2023](#), age adjusted.

Loddon had a lower proportion of racism and discrimination experienced in the last 12 months, compared to Victoria. This may reflect the relatively racially homogenous nature of the Loddon population, with more than 83% of residents born in Australia or another English-speaking countries. A higher proportion of women (15.8%) have experienced discrimination in the last 12 months compared to men (8.9%) in Loddon.

To measure tolerance of diversity, adults were asked if multiculturalism makes life better. In Loddon there was statistically significantly fewer people who felt that multiculturalism makes life better (54.7%), when compared with Victoria (66.8%).



Source: Victorian Population Health Survey 2023, age adjusted.

● Statistically significantly lower than Victorian proportion

3. Determinants of health

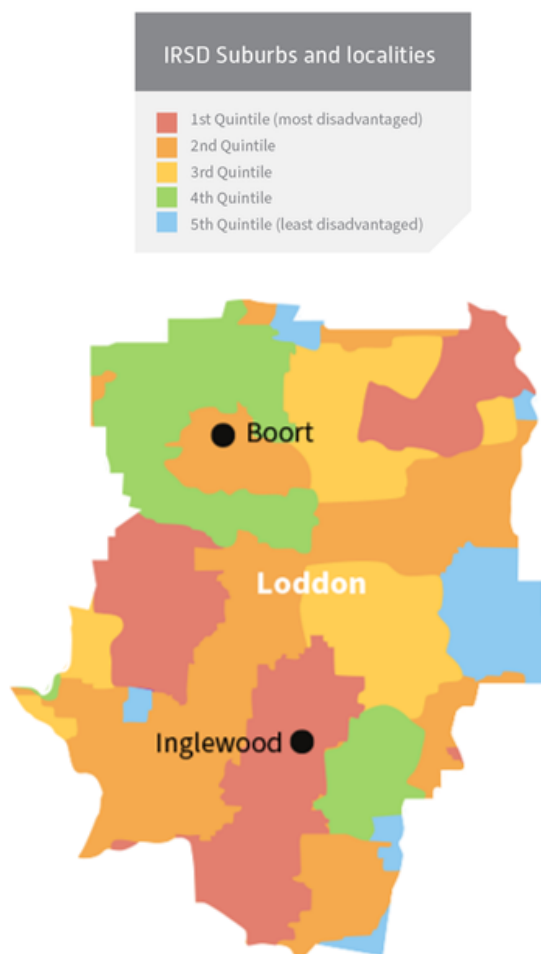
3.1 Areas of disadvantage

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 and few people in low skilled occupations.

Within the Loddon Shire, there were five Australian quintile areas of disadvantage (see map). The areas of the most disadvantage included the townships of Pyramid Hill, Inglewood and Wedderburn. The average IRSAD score for Loddon Shire was 948 (2021), which ranked Loddon Shire 11th most disadvantage local government area in Victoria.

Australia



Source: [Socio-Economic Index for Areas, ABS, 2021](#)

LGA, 2021	IRSD Score	Victorian LGA ranking^
Mildura	940	5
Swan Hill	941	7
Loddon	948	11
Gannawarra	952	14
Campaspe	965	19
Buloke	972	24
Greater Bendigo	985	27
Mount Alexander	1007	47
Macedon Ranges	1063	73

Source: [Socio-Economic Index for Areas, ABS, 2021](#)

^ rank 1 =most disadvantage; rank 79 = least disadvantage

3.2 Level of educational attainment

The Loddon Shire had a slightly lower proportion of the population attending preschool, primary and secondary education compared to the state percentage. However, there was a considerably lower percentage of people attending tertiary education, with Loddon at 9.6% and Victoria at 24.5%. This may reflect a lack of local accessibility to tertiary education facilities.



In Loddon, 10.6% completed bachelor degree and above (Vic. 29.2%)

People attending an educational institution	Loddon (n)	Loddon (%)	Victoria (%)
Preschool total	106	4.9	7.1
Primary total	520	24.0	26.5
Secondary total	445	20.5	21
Tertiary: Vocational education (including TAFE and private training providers)	103	4.8	7.9
Tertiary - University or other higher education	104	4.8	16.6
Tertiary total	208	9.6	24.5

Source: [Australian Bureau of Statistics](#), 2021

Level of highest education attainment

The data on the highest educational attainment in Loddon Shire for people aged 15 years and over revealed a diverse educational landscape. Loddon Shire showed lower percentages of individuals with higher education qualifications (bachelor's degree and above) and advanced diplomas/diplomas, while having higher percentages in certificate IV and III qualifications and Year 11 and below, indicating a diverse educational profile. This could potentially reflect accessibility to different forms of higher education compared to metropolitan areas. The percentage of individuals in Loddon Shire with a bachelor's degree or higher was notably lower than Victoria, accounting for 10.6% in Loddon compared to 29.2% in Victoria. The combined percentage of individuals with Year 11 or below education in Loddon and Victoria were 35.4% and 21% respectively.

Level of highest educational attainment	Loddon (n)	Loddon (%)	Victoria (%)
Bachelor degree level and above	701	10.6	29.2
Advanced diploma and diploma level	482	7.3	9.8
Certificate level IV	244	3.7	3.4
Certificate level III	991	15.0	10.9
Year 12	672	10.2	14.9
Year 11	583	8.8	5.7
Year 10	851	12.9	7.3
Certificate level 11	9	0.1	0.1
Certificate level 1	0	0.0	0
Year 9 or below	899	13.6	7.9
Inadequately described	137	2.1	2.1
No educational attainment	13	0.2	1.1
Not stated	1,014	15.4	7.6

Source: [Australian Bureau of Statistics](#), 2021, People aged 15yrs and over, 2021

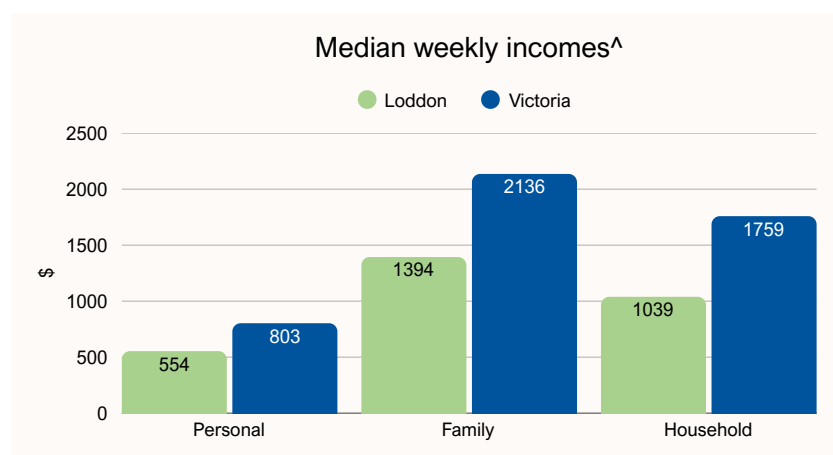
3.3 Household income

Data on household income for the Loddon Shire, compared to Victoria, gives insights into the income distribution within the community. The median weekly incomes for people aged over 15 years, families and households in Loddon Shire were all below the state median. The percentage of occupied private dwellings with a weekly income of less than \$650 was 27.8% and above \$3000 was 8% compared with Victoria of 16.4% and 24.2% respectively. This indicates that the Loddon Shire had a considerable number of households with low income when compared with Victoria.

From 2006 to 2021, the median weekly household income for Loddon was continuously lower than the Victorian median and the pay gap appears to be widening.

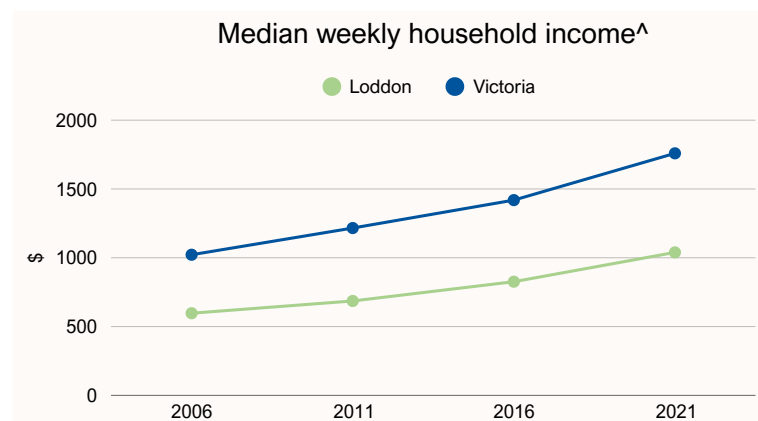
Occupied private dwellings (excl. visitor only and other non-classified households)	Loddon (%)	Victoria (%)
Less than \$650 total household weekly income	27.8	16.4
More than \$3,000 total household weekly income	8.0	24.2

Source: [Australian Bureau of Statistics](#), 2021, Percentages exclude dwellings with 'Partial income stated' and 'All incomes not stated.'



Source: [Australian Bureau of Statistics](#), 2021

^ 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.



Source: [Australian Bureau of Statistics](#), 2021

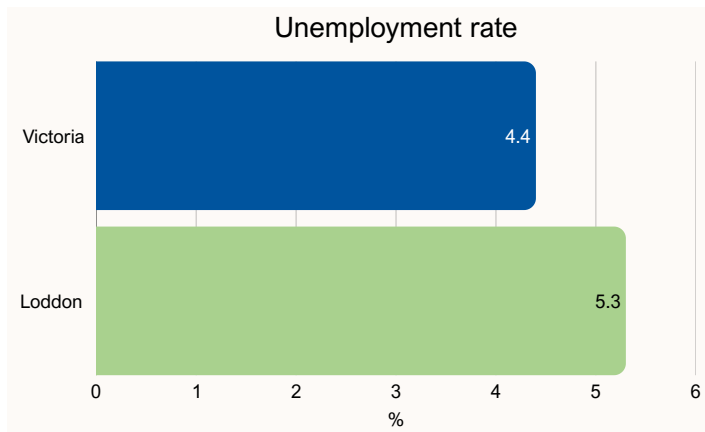
^ Incomes are collected in ranges and exclude people, families and households where at least one member aged 15 years and over did not state their income.

In Loddon, 61.7% of households had low income (in the bottom 40% of income distribution). This compares to 39.5% of households in Victoria. Loddon **ranked 2nd highest LGA** in Victoria, of low income households. ^[1]

[1] [Social Health Atlas of Australia](#): Victoria, 2021

3.4 Unemployment

The psychosocial stress caused by unemployment has a strong impact on physical and mental health and wellbeing. Employment in quality work helps to protect health, instilling self-esteem and a positive sense of identity, while providing the opportunity for social interaction and personal development.



The data represent people aged 18 years and over who are seeking employment and yet to find it.

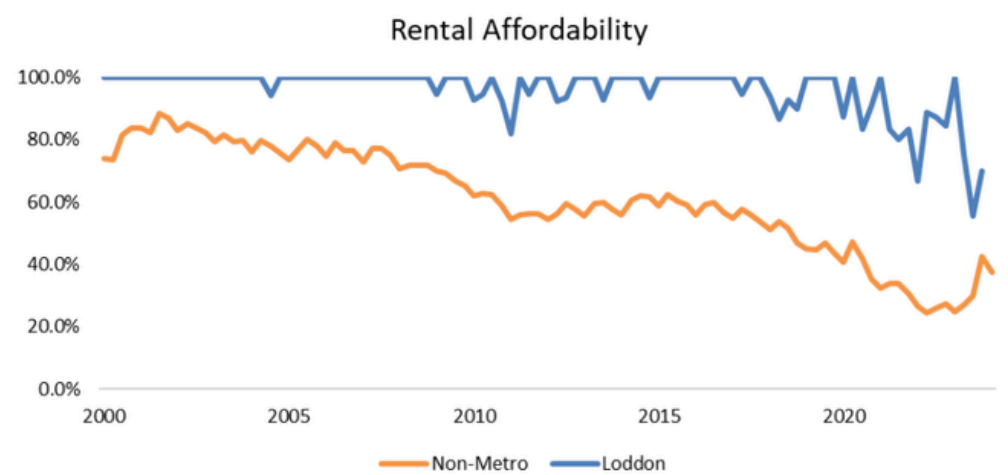
Loddon’s unemployment rate was 5.3%, which is higher than Victoria (4.4%).

Source: [Social Health Atlas of Australia](#): June 2025

3.5 Rental affordability

Overall, median rental prices are continuing to increase and are becoming less affordable. The graph below represents affordability of rental homes for lower income households. Loddon Shire has experienced consistent rental affordability, with affordability only dropping from 100% to 75% from 2021 to 2023. Rental affordability was consistently higher than the Victorian non-metro figures, however it appears to be trending down to less affordability.

In Loddon, the proportion of low income households under financial stress from mortgage or rent was considerably lower (7.9%, ranked 3rd lowest LGA in Victoria), compared with Victoria (27.8%).^[1]



Source: [Rental Report - Quarterly: Affordable Lettings by LGA - Dataset - Victorian Government Data Directory](#). 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

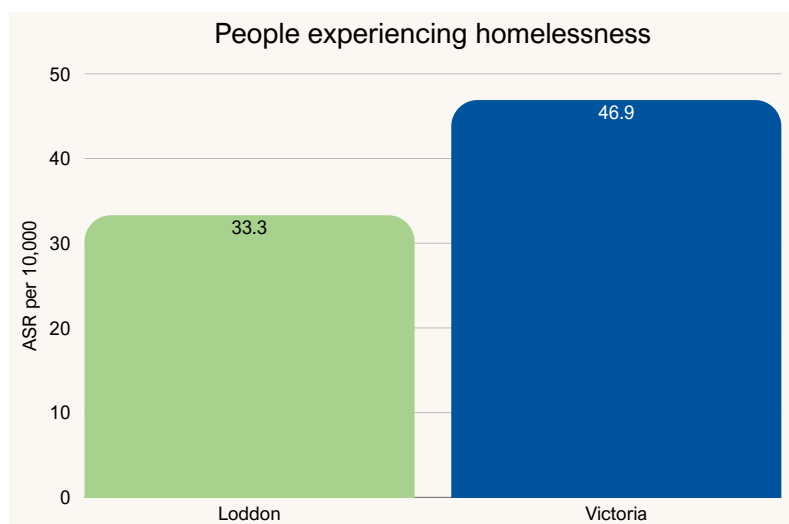
[1] [Social Health Atlas of Australia](#): Victoria, 2021

3.6 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. These data include:

- 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.

The rate of homelessness in Loddon was 33.3/10,000 population (n=22) while the rate in Victoria was 46.9/10,000 population. This indicates the estimated rate of homelessness standardised to the age distribution of the population is lower in Loddon compared to the broader state of Victoria. While the overall rate is different between Loddon and Victoria, the specific challenges and characteristics of homelessness may vary between regions.



Source: [Social Health Atlas](#), 2021

3.7 Family composition

Couple families without children constituted the largest proportion in Loddon Shire, accounting for 51.8% of all families, which was considerably higher than Victoria (37.6%). Couple families with children made up 34% of all families in the area, which was lower than the state (45.5%). This indicated a smaller proportion of families in Loddon Shire have children compared to the broader state.

One-parent families represented 12.6% of all families in Loddon Shire, which was lower than the state (15.2%). This suggests single-parent households were less prevalent compared to the state as a whole. Other families, which may include non-traditional family structures, accounted for a small percentage (1.4%), slightly lower than Victoria (1.7%).

All families	Loddon (n)	Loddon (%)	Victoria (%)
Couple family without children	1,023	51.8	37.6
Couple family with children	671	34	45.5
One parent family	249	12.6	15.2
Other family	27	1.4	1.7

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021

Single (or lone parents)

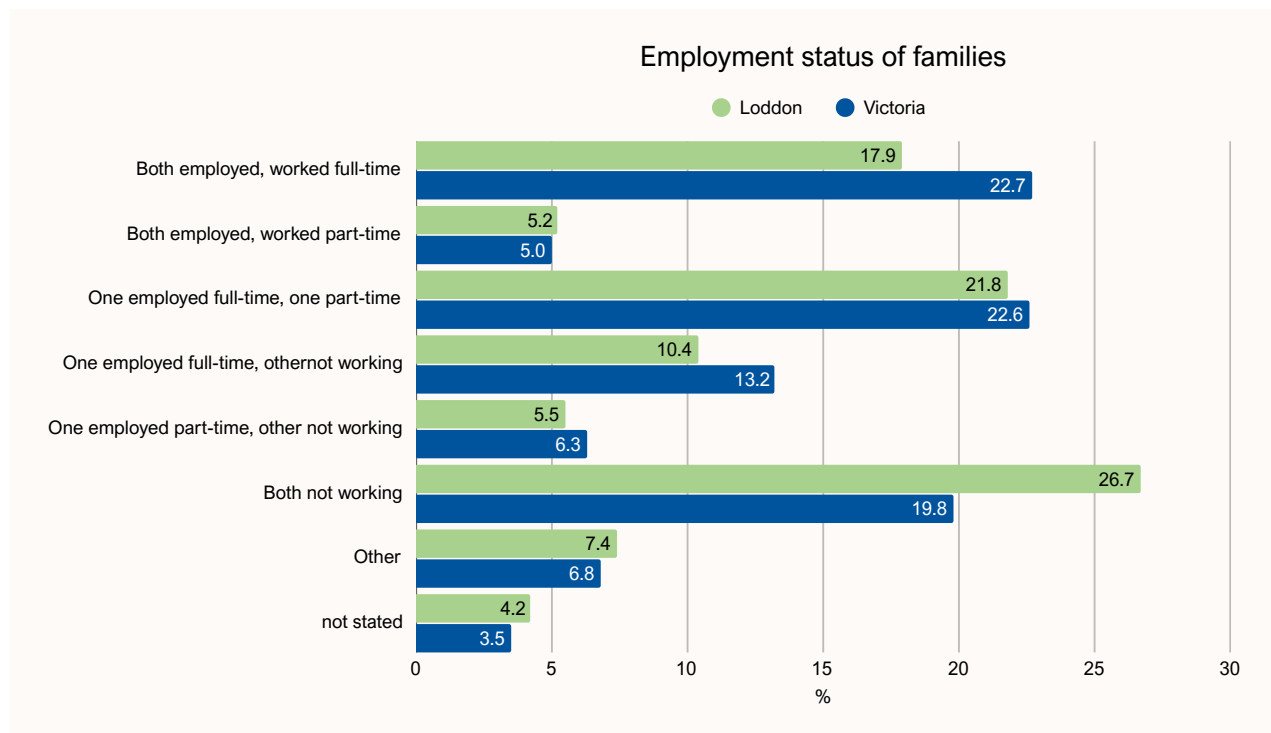
The data indicated the majority of single (or lone) parents in the Loddon Shire were female, constituting a substantial 76.3% of the total single parent population. This percentage was slightly lower than the female proportion in Victoria, which was 80.9%.

Proportion of the total single (or lone) parents	Loddon (%)	Victoria (%)
Male	26.1	19.1
Female	76.3	80.9

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021

Employment status of couple families

In Loddon Shire, the most common employment statuses for couple families were both not working (26.7%) and adult employed full-time, one part-time (21.8%). The proportion of both adults not working is higher than the state proportion (19.8%). This could indicate an older population of which parents are retired, lack of employment opportunities but may also be due to caregiving responsibilities, study or other reasons.



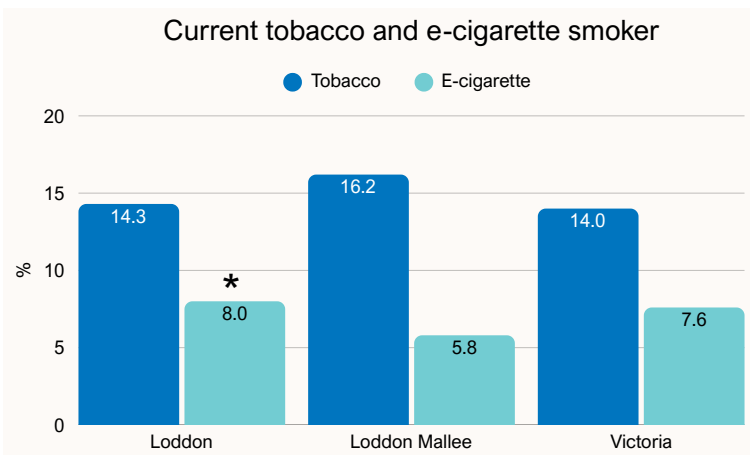
Source: [Australian Bureau of Statistics](#), 2021

4. Health risk factors

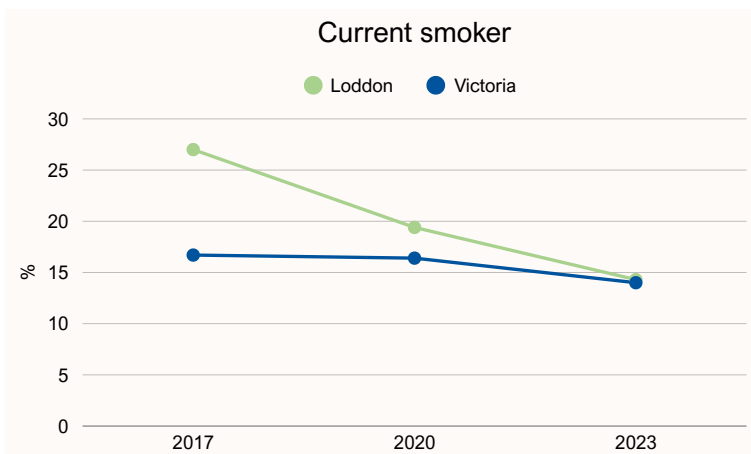
4.1 Smoking and vaping

Smoking increases the risk of chronic diseases such as heart disease, diabetes, kidney disease, eye disease, stroke, dementia, certain cancers (for example, oral cancer), gum disease and respiratory diseases such as asthma, emphysema and bronchitis. Vapes are relatively new compared to cigarettes, so we are yet to see all the long-term effects they may have on the body. What we know now is vaping can damage many parts of the body, including the cardiovascular system, lungs and airways, and the brain and nervous system.^[1]

The proportion of adults who were smoking tobacco in Loddon was similar to the Victorian average, with 14.3% of adults reporting they ‘currently smoke’ compared with 14% across Victoria. Adults smoking tobacco has declined significantly since 2017 to 2023 and was comparable to the Victorian proportion in 2023. The percentage of adults smoking e-cigarettes in Loddon is also comparable with Victoria.



Source: [Victorian Population Health Survey 2023](#), age adjusted.
*high relative standard error so interpret with caution



Source: [Victorian Population Health Survey, 2023](#), age adjusted.
[Victorian Population Health Survey, 2020](#), age adjusted
[Victorian Population Health Survey, 2017](#), age adjusted

[1] [Quit, effects of vaping on the body](#)

4.2 Alcohol and other drugs

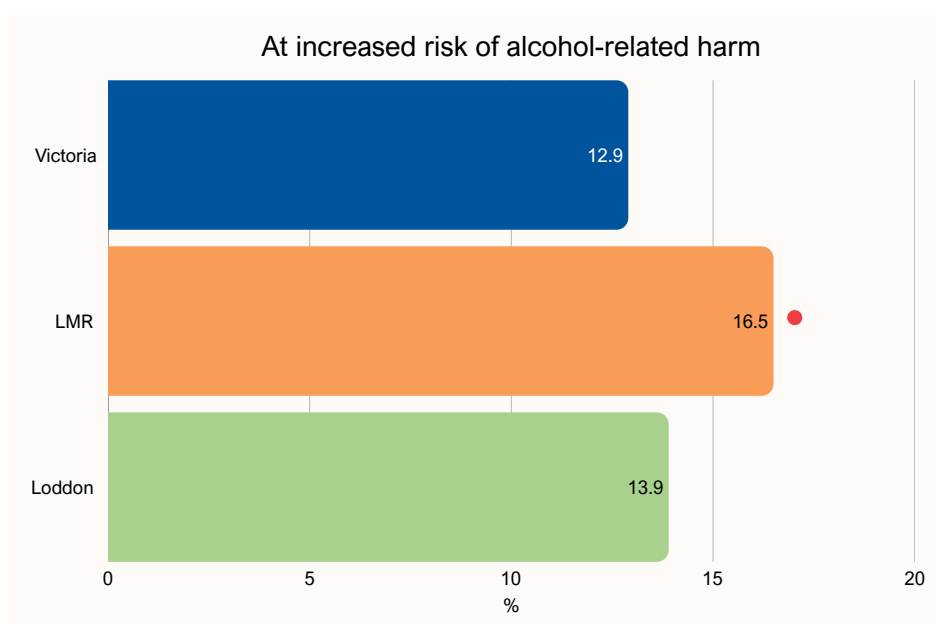
While the impacts of drug use on health and wellbeing can vary, related harms can impact physical health through increased risk of chronic disease, exposure to infectious diseases, and mental health and wellbeing impacts.

Adults in Loddon Mallee region drink alcohol at higher rates than Victoria, with 16.5% drinking at levels that increase their risk of alcohol-related harm. However, Loddon (13.9%) was lower than Loddon Mallee but still slightly higher than Victoria (12.9%). Increased risk of alcohol-related harm is defined as greater than 10 standard drinks a week and more than four standard drinks in one day.

In 2021, there were higher rates of deaths for alcohol related events (220.7/100,000 population) compared with Victoria (141.9/100,000/population).

Indicators /100,000 population	Loddon	Victoria
Deaths for alcohol-related events, 2021	220.7	141.9
Deaths for illicit drug (any)-related events in, 2021	0	0.6
Ambulance attendances for Alcohol Intoxication (w/wo Other Substance), 2022/23	387.2	393.5
Ambulance attendances for Alcohol Only (Intoxication), 2022/23	296.9	319.7
Ambulance attendances for Illicit Drugs (Any), FY-2022/23	90.4	204.6
Hospital admissions for Alcohol, 2021/22	363.6	570
Hospital admissions for Illicit Drugs (Any), 2021/22	246.8	241.3

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

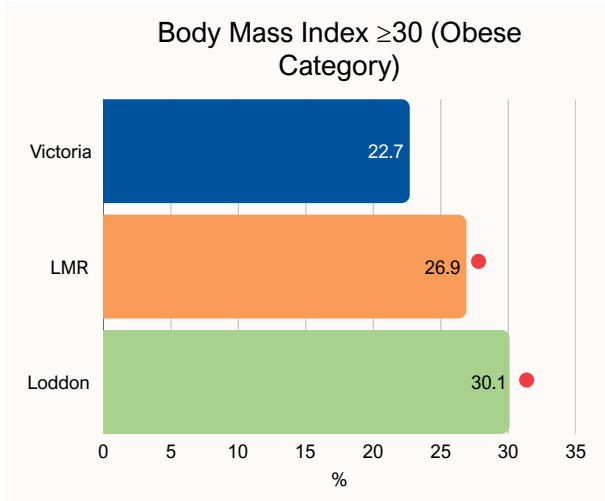


Source: [Victorian Population Health Survey 2023](#), age adjusted.

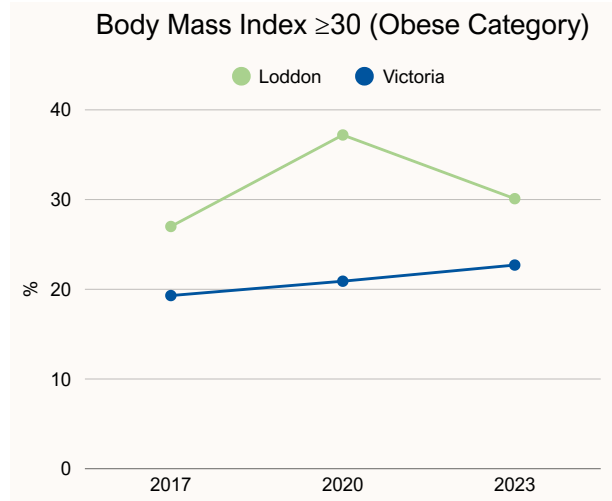
● Statistically significantly higher than Victoria

4.3 Obesity

Obesity contributes to cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, musculoskeletal disorders and some cancers. Data series shows the prevalence of obesity spiked in Loddon in 2020. In Loddon, 33.1% of adults had a BMI ≥ 30 , statistically significantly higher than the Victorian proportion of 22.7%.



Source: Victorian Population Health Survey, 2023, age adjusted
 ● Statistically significantly higher than Victoria



Source: Victorian Population Health Survey, 2023, age adjusted.
 Victorian Population Health Survey, 2020, age adjusted
 Victorian Population Health Survey, 2017, age adjusted

4.4 Healthy eating and active living

Poor diet and lack of exercise contribute to being overweight and obese, which are leading contributors to chronic disease and premature death in Victoria [1]. Loddon had a higher compliance with fruit consumption guidelines (36.9%) compared with Victoria (34.9%). Loddon also had a higher proportion of people consuming sugar-sweetened beverages daily (22.9%) compared with Victoria (19.3%).



Recommended daily intake of fruit 2 serves: a serve is one medium piece or two small pieces of fruit or one cup of diced fruit.



Recommended daily intake of vegetables is 5-6 serves for adults: a serve is half a cup of cooked vegetables or one cup of salad leaves.

LGA	Compliance with fruit consumption guidelines (%)	Compliance with vegetable consumption guidelines (%)	Daily consumption of sugar sweetened beverage (%)	Moderate to vigorous physical exercise greater than 150mins/day (%)
Victoria	34.9	5.5	19.3	34.9
LMR	31.3	5.3	24.6	34.2
Loddon	36.9	4.6*	22.9	34.2

Source: Victorian Population Health Survey, 2023, age adjusted
 *high relative standard error so interpret with caution

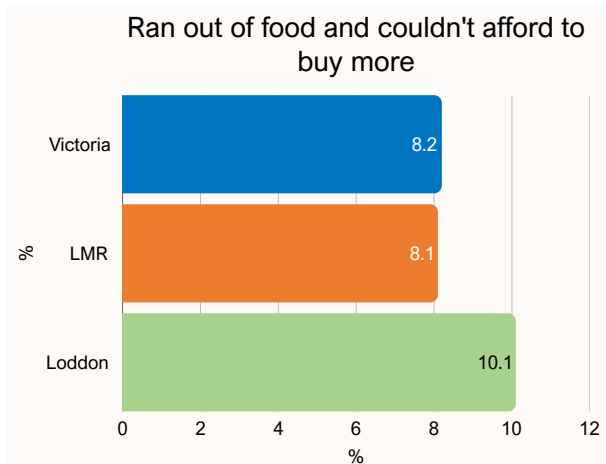
[1] Victorian Population Health and Wellbeing Plan 2023-27

4.5 Food insecurity

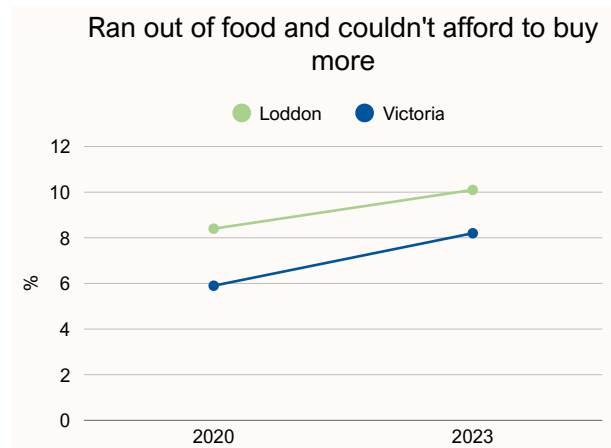
Food security is defined as access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life and includes at a minimum:

- the ready availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods
- the assured ability to acquire food in socially acceptable ways.^[1]

Loddon's (10.1%) food insecurity was slightly higher than Victoria (8.2%) in 2023 but has increased from 2020 (8.4%).



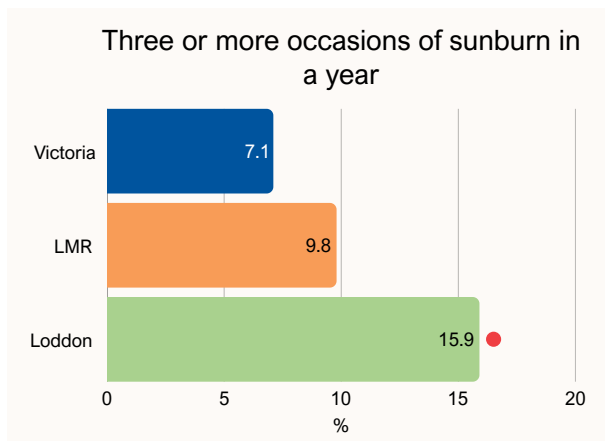
Source: Victorian Population Health Survey, 2023, age adjusted



Source: Victorian Population Health Survey, age adjusted
Victorian Population Health Survey, 2020, age adjusted

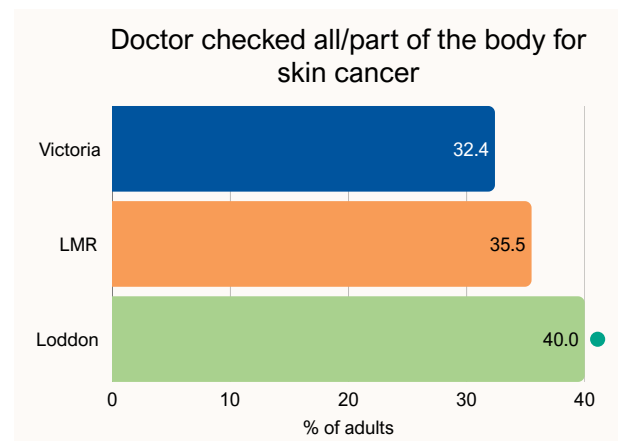
4.6 Sun exposure

Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world. Skin cancer occurs when skin cells are damaged, for example by overexposure to ultraviolet radiation from the sun.^[2] Loddon has a statistically significantly higher proportion with 15.9% of people reporting three or more occasions of sunburn in a year, compared with Victoria (7.1%). It is also the highest in the Loddon Mallee region. It is therefore encouraging that Loddon had a significantly higher proportion of people seeking skin checks by a doctor for skin cancer.



Source: Victorian Population Health Survey, 2023, age adjusted

● Statistically significantly higher than Victoria



Source: Victorian Population Health Survey, 2023, age adjusted

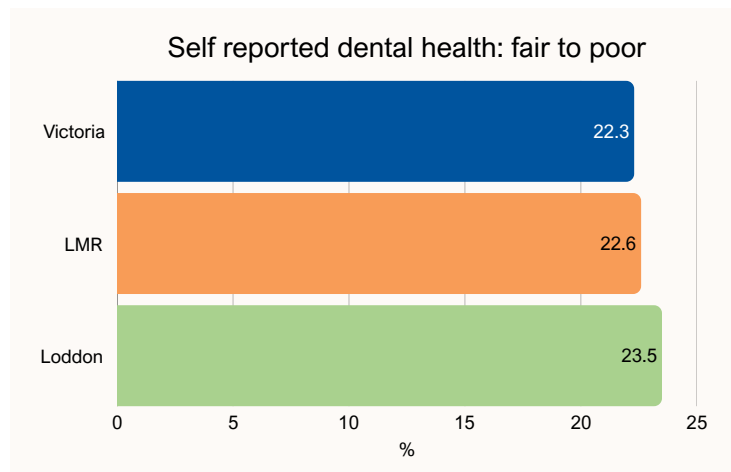
● Statistically significantly higher than Victoria

[1] Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

[2] Cancer Council

4.7 Dental health

Oral disease can destroy the tissues in the mouth, leading to lasting physical and psychological disability. Tooth loss can make chewing and swallowing more challenging, which can then compromise nutrition. Poor oral health is also associated with a number of chronic diseases including stroke and cardiovascular disease. Dental disease can also impair a person's appearance and speech, impacting their self-esteem, which can lead to restricted participation at school, the workplace and other social settings.



The proportion of adults in the Loddon Mallee region (22.6%) reporting fair to poor dental health was comparable to the whole of Victoria (22.3%). However, Loddon (23.5%) was higher compared with Victoria.

Source: Victorian Population Health Survey, 2023, age adjusted

4.8 Childhood development

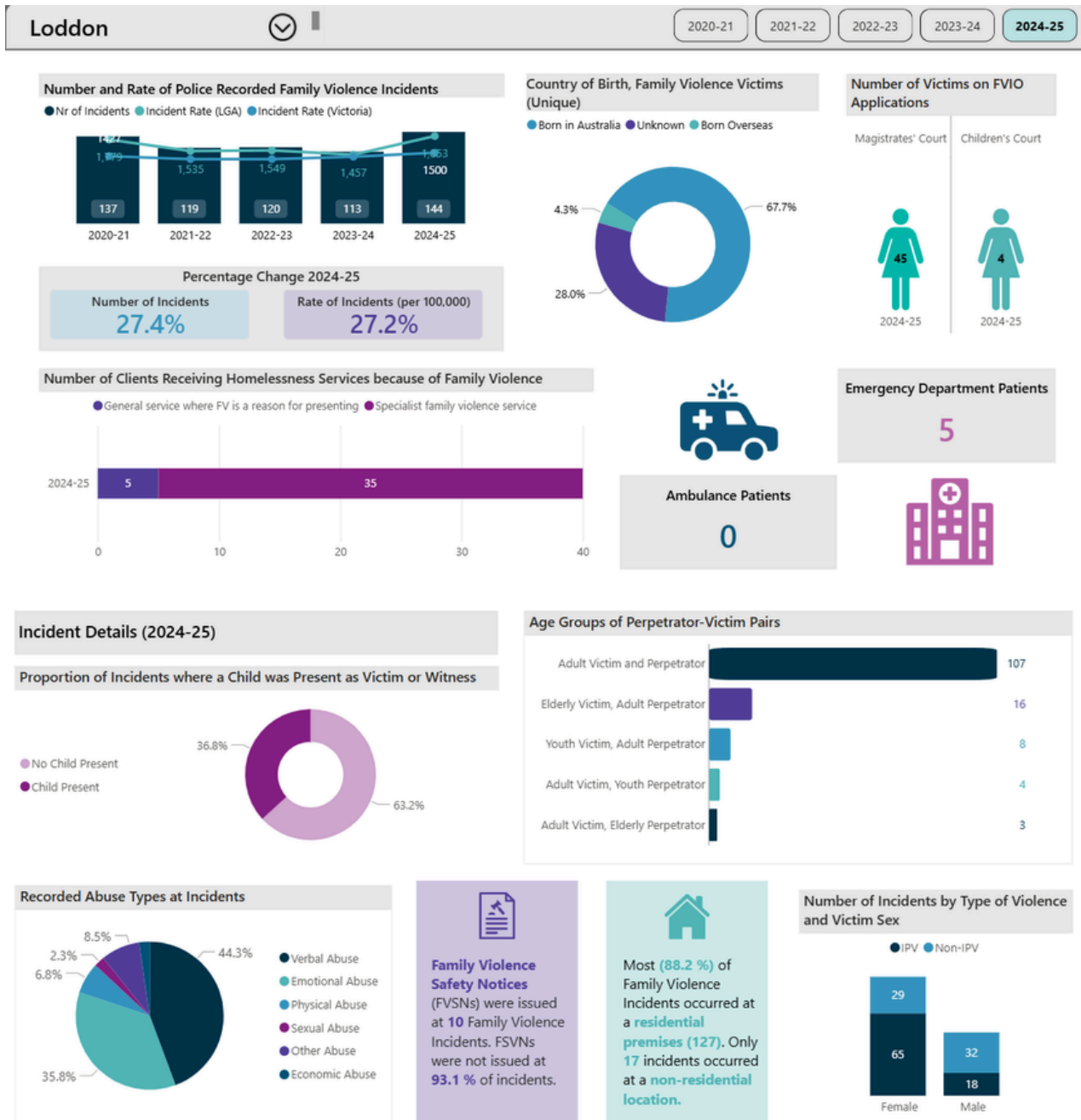
The Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) is a nationwide census of early child development that shows how young children have developed as they start their first year of full-time schooling. There are five domains, which are physical, social, emotional, language and communication. In 2024, 75 children in Loddon underwent a developmental assessment. Overall, 25% of children in Loddon were vulnerable on one or more domains, compared with 22.3% across Victoria.

Indicator	Indicator description	Vulnerable (75 children assessed)		
		Loddon (n)	Loddon (%)	Victoria (%)
Physical	Child is healthy; independent; excellent gross and fine motor skills	7	10.3	8.5
Social	Gets along with others; shares; self-confident	9	13.2	10.6
Emotional	Able to concentrate; help others; patient, not angry or aggressive	5	7.4	9.9
Language	Interested in reading or writing; can count; recognises numbers and shapes	4	5.9	7.3
Communication	Can tell a story; communicate with adults and children; articulate themselves	8	11.8	8.2
Vulnerability 1	Developmentally vulnerable in one or more domains	17	25	22.3
Vulnerability 2	Developmentally vulnerable in two or more domains	9	13.2	11.8

Source: Australian Early Development Census, 2024,

4.9 Family violence

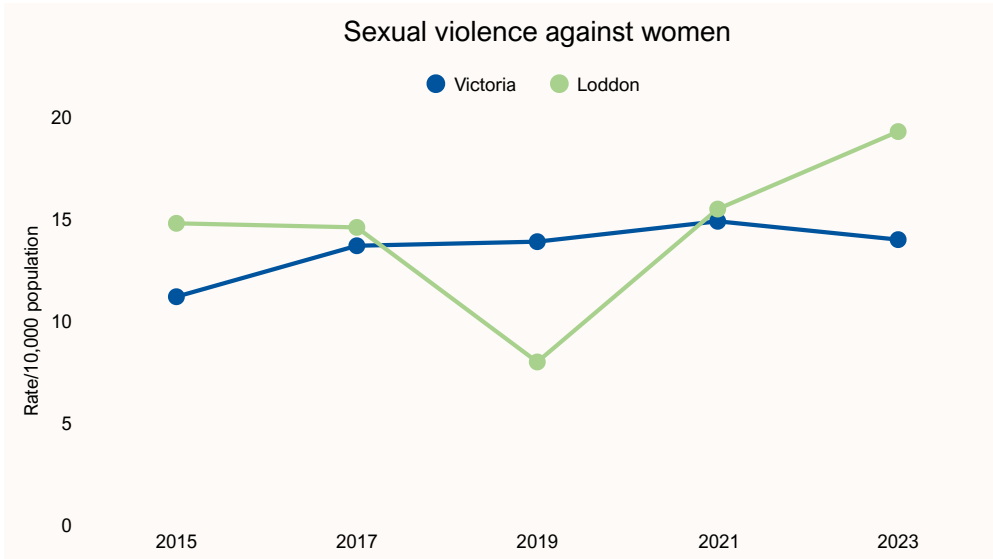
A family violence incident is an incident attended by Victoria Police and a police report has been completed. Loddon recorded a family violence incident rate of 1,852.9/100,000 population, higher than the Victorian rate of 1,500. In over one-third of reported family violence incidents in Loddon (36.8%), a child was present either as a victim or a witness. Of the recorded abuse types in Loddon, verbal abuse was most common (44.3%), followed by emotional abuse (35.8%) and physical abuse (6.8%).



Source: [Crime Statistics Agency, 2024/25](#)

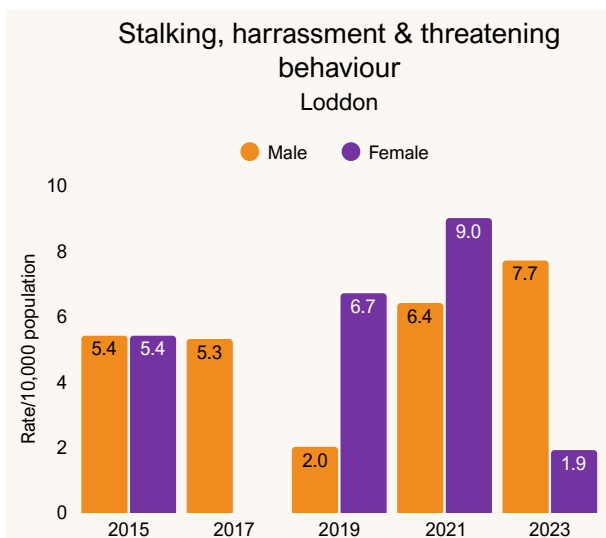
4.10 Sexual assault

According to Victoria Police, sexual offences occur when someone does not or cannot consent to a sexual behaviour, act or acts. These sexual behaviours can include: rape, sexual or inappropriate touching, sexual assault, child sexual abuse, elder sexual abuse, sexual exposure of genitalia, image-based sexual offending, stealthing (non-consensual condom removal), stalking and grooming. Loddon's rates have been increasing steadily from 2019 (8/10,000 population) to 2023 (19.3/10,000 population).

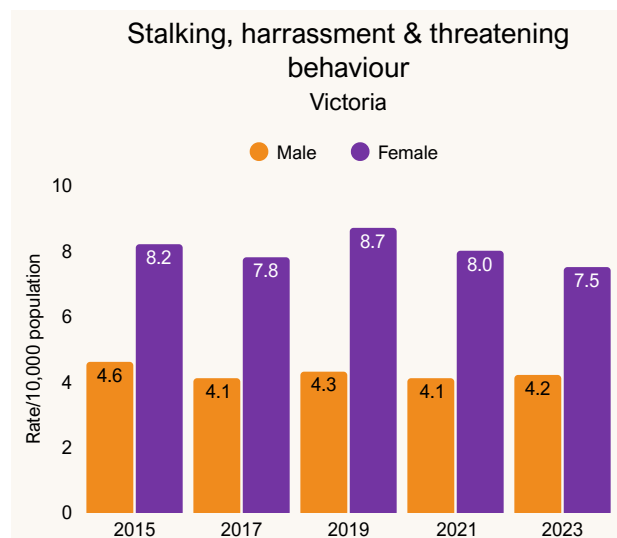


Source: [Womens Health Atlas](#), victim reports received where the woman is the victim

The Victorian Crime Statistics Agency reports on stalking, harassment, and threatening behaviours as a group. This category includes repeated acts of unreasonable conduct intended to: cause physical or mental harm; arouse apprehension or fear; threaten or invade privacy; create nuisance or offend someone based on personal characteristics. In Loddon, the gender of people reporting stalking, harassment and threatening behaviour is variable. However, in Victoria, female victim reports of stalking, harassment and threatening behaviour outnumber male victim reports by a ratio of almost 2 to 1.



Source: [Womens Health Atlas](#), victim reports received by police

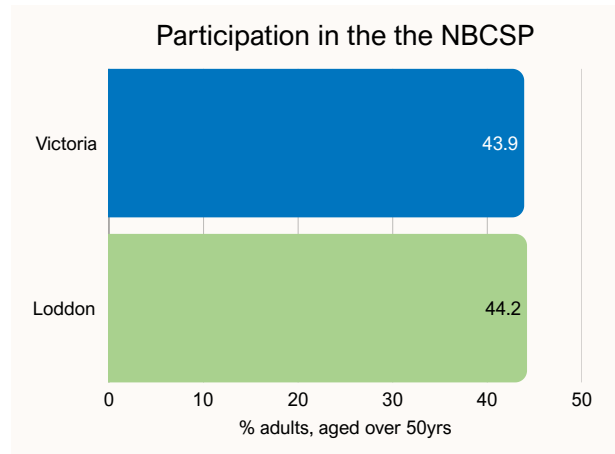


Source: [Womens Health Atlas](#), victim reports received by police

5. Health screening

5.1 Bowel screening

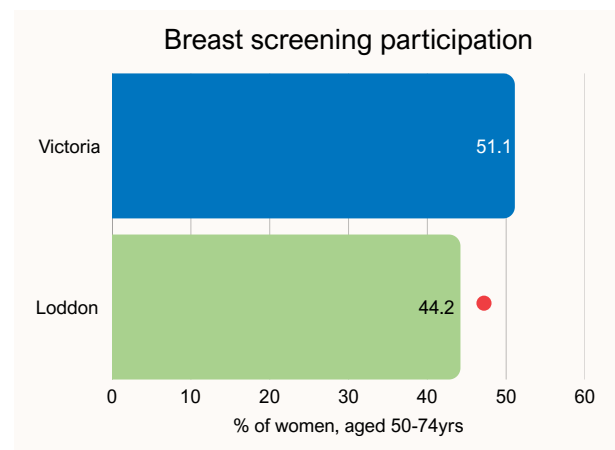
Bowel cancer, is the third most common type of newly diagnosed cancer in Australia. The National Bowel Cancer Screening Program (NBCSP) aims to reduce deaths from bowel cancer by detecting early signs of the disease. If found early, more than 90% of cases can be successfully treated. The percentage of people participating in the NBCSP in Loddon (44.2%) is comparable with Victoria (43.9).



Source: Social Health Atlas, 2020-21, age adjusted

5.2 Breast screening

Research has shown that screening mammography is currently the most effective tool for the early detection of breast cancer in asymptomatic women in the target age group of women aged 50 to 74 years; and, that having a screening mammogram every two years, reduces the chance of dying from breast cancer by up to 40%. Loddon was ranked the 2nd lowest LGA in Victoria to participate in the breast screening program.

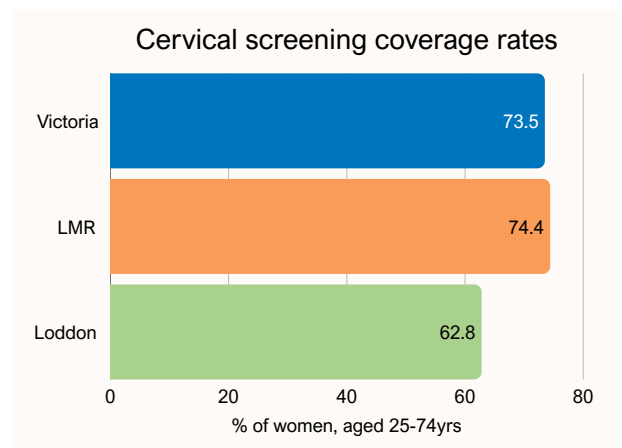


Source: Social Health Atlas, 2021-22

● Ranked second lowest LGA in Victoria

5.3 Cervical screening

The National Cervical Screening Program reduces illness and death from cervical cancer. Women and people with a cervix aged 25 to 74 years are invited to have a cervical screening test every 5 years through their healthcare provider. Loddon had a lower coverage of cervical screening (62.8%) compared to LMR (74.4%) and Victoria (73.5%).



Source: National Cervical Screening Program, 2020 -2024

6. Health conditions

6.1 Life expectancy

The median age at death for females in Loddon has reduced, while males remain stable from 2016 to 2022, showing no percentage difference compared with Victoria.

Examining premature mortality (deaths occurring before the age of 75 years), shows that for males, in Loddon there was a substantial rate reduction from 510.5/100,000 population to 440.7/100,000 population, indicating a percentage decrease of 13.7%. For females, the rate increased from 179.1/100,000 population to 181.6/100,000 population, reflecting a slight percentage increase of 1.4%.

Avoidable mortality (deaths that could have been prevented) also showed improvement in Loddon. For males, there was a decline in rate from 303.6/100,000 population to 253.1/100,000 population, representing a percentage reduction of 16.6%. For females, the rate decreased from 117.8/100,000 population to 100.7/100,000 population, indicating a percentage reduction of 14.5%. Overall, Loddon's premature and avoidable mortality rates were higher compared with Victoria but were showing better progress.

	2018 - 2022				2016-2020				% Difference between reports			
	Loddon		Victoria		Loddon		Victoria		Loddon		Victoria	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Median age at death (yrs)	77	84	79	85	77	85	79	85	0	-1	0	0
Premature mortality, 0-74yrs of age [^]	440.7	181.6	281.8	176.8	510.5	179.1	269.5	171.2	-13.7	1.4	4.6	3.3
Avoidable mortality, 0 to 74yrs of age [^]	253.1	100.7	142.1	80.8	303.6	117.8	138.3	80.5	-16.6	-14.5	3.0	0.4

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.

6.2 Avoidable deaths

Avoidable deaths are deaths from conditions that are potentially preventable through individualised care and/or treatable through existing primary or hospital care.

Between 2018 and 2022, Loddon had statistically significantly higher than expected (based on Australian data) rates of avoidable deaths from circulatory system disease and ischemic heart disease, and these rates have increased since 2017–2021. Transport-related deaths were also statistically significantly higher for 2018–2022. Notably, avoidable deaths from colorectal cancer has decreased by 75%, a trend not observed at the state level.

Avoidable deaths by cause	2018-2022		2017-2021		%Difference between the reports	
	Loddon	Victoria	Loddon	Victoria	Loddon	Victoria
Circulatory system	62.7	33.3	48.2	32.7	30.1	1.8
Ischaemic heart disease	46.2 ●	21	39	20.6	18.5	1.9
Cancer	33.6 ●	27.5	32	27.8	5	-1.8
Transport accidents	20.3	4.1	20.4	4	-0.5	2.5
Respiratory system disease	13.9 ●	9.1	15.8	9	-12	1.1
Obstructive pulmonary disease	12	8.5	13.8	8.3	-13	2.4
Cerebrovascular disease	^	7.7	^	7.6	^	1.3
Breast cancer	^	15.2	^	15.6	^	-2.5
Diabetes	^	5.5	^	5.2	^	5.8
Colorectal Cancer	4.6	10.7	18.8	10.1	-75	5.9
External causes (falls, burns, suicide, self-inflicted injuries etc)	19	14	16.5	13.5	15.2	3.7
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	14.9	10.9	^	10.6	^	2.8

Source: [Social Health Atlas](#), 0-74 years, ASR/100,000 population

● Statistically significantly higher than expected (based on Australian data)

6.3 Physical health conditions

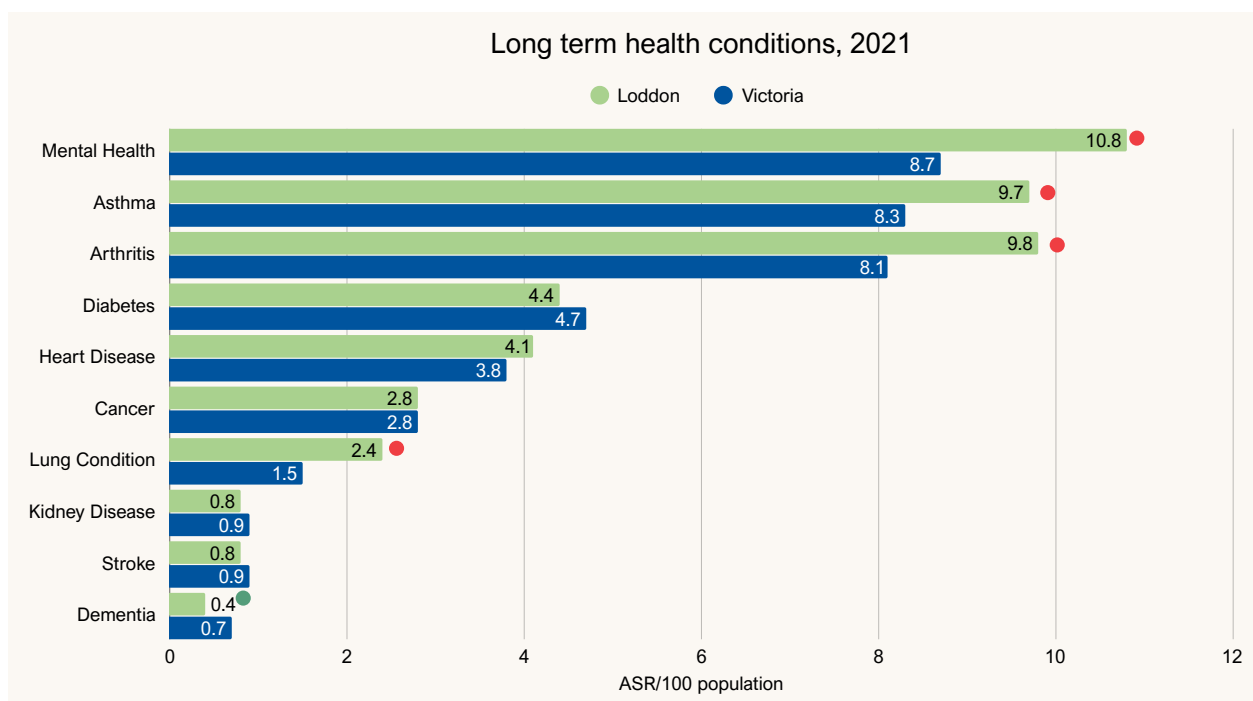
In the census, people were asked to select long-term conditions (six months or more) diagnosed by a doctor or nurse. Selected long-term health conditions include arthritis, asthma, cancer (including remission), dementia (including Alzheimer's), diabetes (excluding gestational diabetes), heart disease (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.

In Loddon, 5.6% reported having three or more long-term conditions, compared with 2.9% across Victoria. High levels of multiple long-term health conditions place significant strain on individuals, communities and health systems, reducing quality of life, increasing service demand and widening health inequities.

Long-term health conditions	Loddon (n)	Loddon (%)	Victoria (%)
None of the selected long term conditions (all people)	3,967	51.1	65
One condition	1,674	21.6	18.8
Two conditions	688	8.9	5.7
Three or more conditions	433	5.6	2.9

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021

In Loddon, self-reported mental health (10.8/100 population), arthritis (9.8/100 population), asthma (9.7/100 population) and lung conditions were statistically significantly higher than expected (based on Australian data) and notably higher than the Victorian rate. However, dementia was lower compared with the Victorian rate.



Source: Social Health Atlas, 2021, all people

- Statistically significantly higher than expected (based on Australian data)
- Statistically significantly lower than expected (based on Australian data)

More recent data, using a different collection methodology and smaller cohort showed the proportion of adults reporting asthma (26.8%) in Loddon was statistically significantly higher than the Victorian proportion (20.1%). Similarly, the prevalence of the chronic conditions listed below were all higher in Loddon compared with Victoria.

LGA	COPD*	Asthma	Osteoarthritis	Diabetes (type 2)	Heart disease	Cancer
Victoria (%)	3.6	20.1	13.8	6.2	8.3	8.3
LMR (%)	4.6	23.5	15.5	6.2	8.6	11.3
Loddon (%)	4.2	26.8 ●	17.2	8.1	8.9	10.3

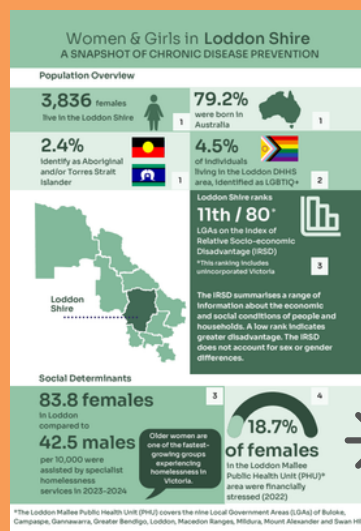
Source: [Victorian Population Health Survey, 2023](#), age adjusted

*COPD: Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

● Statistically significantly higher than Victoria

Women’s Health Loddon Mallee has developed a series of chronic disease infographic data snapshots for each LGA in the Loddon Mallee region using local sex-disaggregated data, where available.

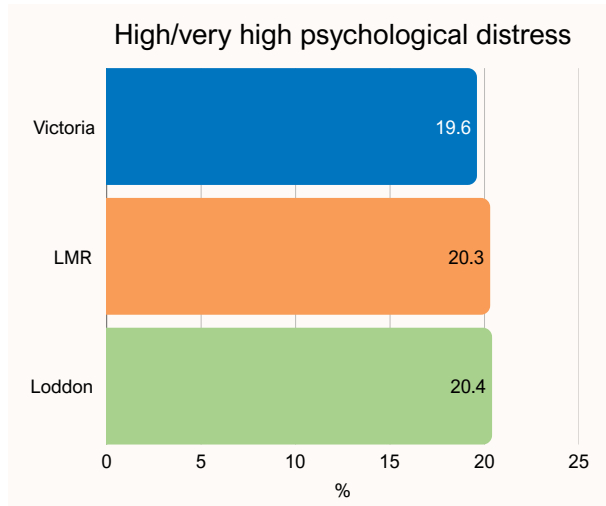
These infographics highlight conditions more common among women and girls in the Loddon Mallee, such as osteoporosis and dementia, and snapshots of the individual, economic, social and structural factors which interact to influence the development and management of chronic conditions.



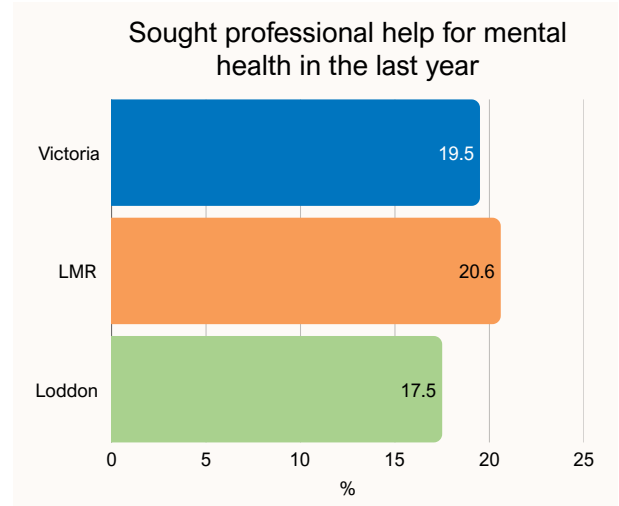
Source: [Women’s Health Loddon Mallee, 2025](#)

6.4 Mental wellbeing

By prioritising good mental health and wellbeing, we reduce stigma, increase social connection, improve physical health, promote productivity and create safer environments. Our mental health and our physical health are linked. In Loddon, 20.4% reported experiencing high/very high psychological distress compared with the Victorian proportion of 19.6%. Loddon had a lower proportion of people seeking professional help for mental health.



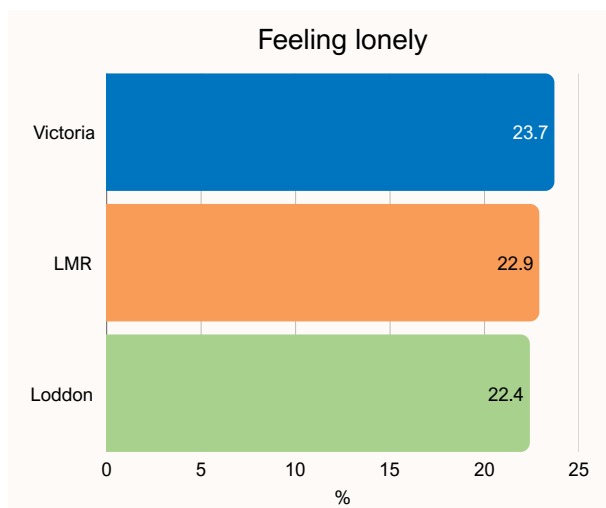
Source: Victorian Population Health Survey, 2023, age adjusted



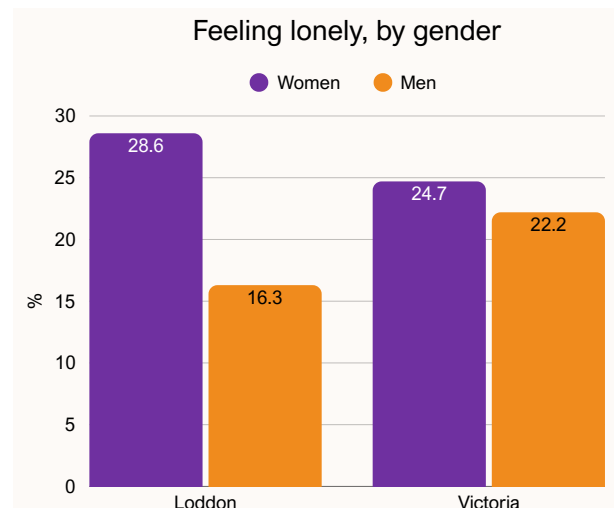
Source: Victorian Population Health Survey, 2023, age adjusted

Social connection is essential for our health and wellbeing. **Loneliness** is a subjective measure of low social connection and is defined as an ‘unpleasant or distressing feeling of a lack of connection to other people, along with a desire for more, or satisfying, social relationships’ (Badcock et al, 2022). Loneliness was measured in the Victorian Population Health Survey using the 3-item UCLA Loneliness Scale.

There was a slightly lower proportion of people in Loddon feeling lonely (22.4%) compared with Victoria (23.7%). In Loddon, more women (28.6%) reported feeling lonely compared with men (16.3%).



Source: Victorian Population Health Survey, 2023, age adjusted

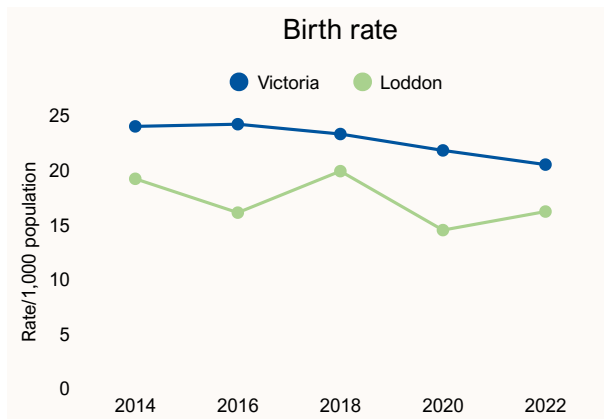


Source: Victorian Population Health Survey, 2023, age adjusted.

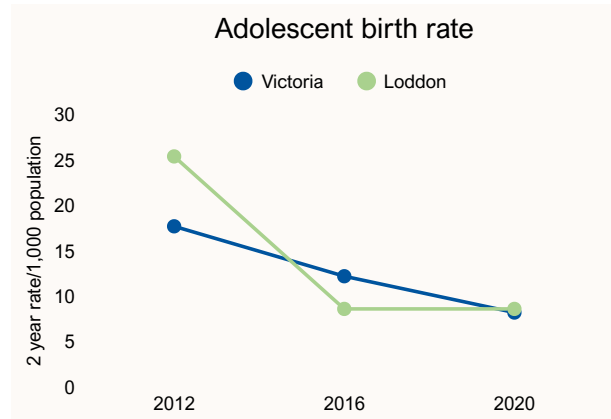
6.5 Sexual and reproductive health

Loddon's birth rate increased slightly from 2020 (14.5/1,000 population) to 2022 (16.2/1,000 population) but remains lower than the Victorian rate. In 2022, total fertility rate (average number of babies born to a women in her lifetime) was higher in Loddon (1.91) compared with Victoria (1.7).

Adolescent birth rates (younger than 20 years of age) in Loddon have decreased significantly, from 2011/12 (25.4/1,000 population) to 2015/16 (8.6/1,000 population). In 2019/20, Loddon's rate (8.6/1,000 population) was comparable with the Victorian rate (8.2/1,000 population).



Source: [Womens Health Atlas](#)



Source: [Womens Health Atlas](#)

Sexually transmitted infection rates were lower in Loddon compared with Victoria, where data is available for publication.

Newly acquired	Chlamydia [^]		Gonorrhoea [^]		Hepatitis B [^]		Infectious Syphilis [^]	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Victoria	324.5	412.3	60.5	281.1	^^	0.24	7.43	36.7
Loddon	316.7	176.8	^^	126.2	^^	^^	^^	^^

Source: Victorian sexual and reproductive health and viral hepatitis strategy 2022-30: Monitoring indicators [dashboard](#).

[^]Rate/100,000 population, 2024

^^ less than five cases

Women & Girls in the Loddon Shire
A SNAPSHOT OF SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IN THE REGION

WHLM's Vision
All women and gender-diverse people across the Loddon Mallee Region have access to evidence-based, supportive, and culturally responsive sexual and reproductive health services, provided free of judgement and discrimination. Comprehensive support and positive practice approaches to sexuality and its expression, enabling and empowering women to enjoy safe, respectful and pleasurable relationships and to have their voices heard.

For more information about how WHLM enhances the sexual and reproductive health of women and gender-diverse people in the Loddon Mallee region and supports their voices, experiences and stories, visit our [Health Matters Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy 2022-2026](#).

137 women utilize a range of WHLM services (English of November 2021)

76th out of **79** on the Mallee Index Rank

11th out of **79** on the Mallee Index Rank

11% of women in the region reported five English proficiency

11% of women in the region reported five English proficiency

Womens Health Loddon Mallee (WHLM) have developed a snapshot of sexual and reproductive health in Loddon - click on image to view the snapshot.

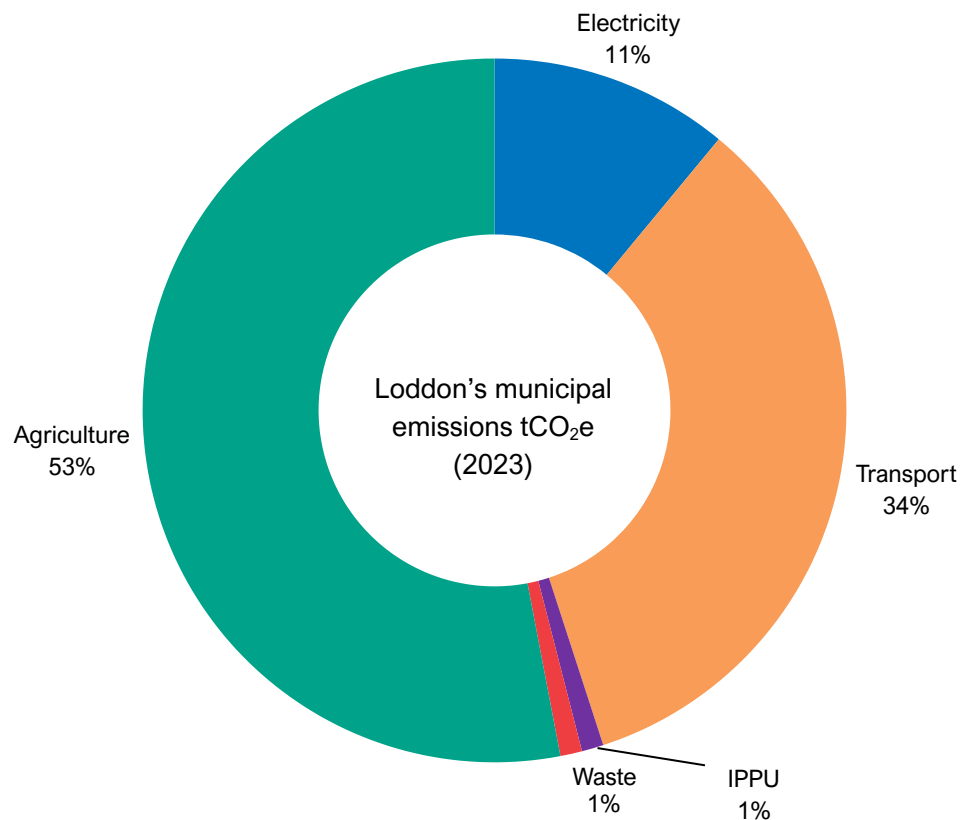
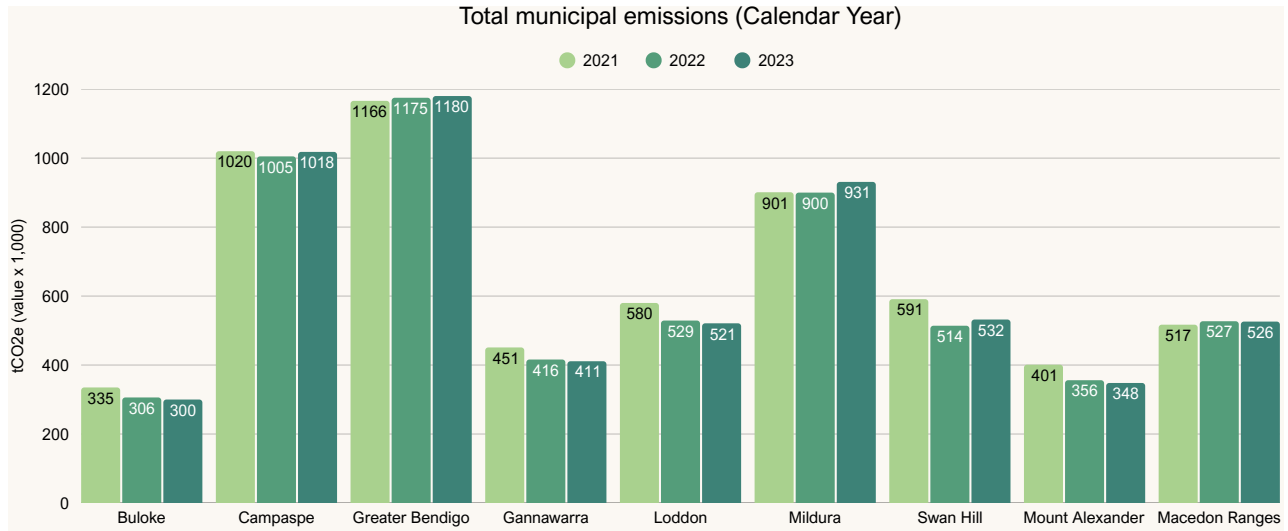
WHLM have also compiled a comprehensive list of sexual and reproductive health [services](#) in the Loddon Mallee region

Source: [Womens Health Loddon Mallee](#)

7. Environment

7.1 Municipal emissions

The LMPHU’s climate change and health work is guided by the Loddon Mallee Climate Change and Health Framework. Some of the considerations in comparing carbon emissions across local government areas are population, industry mix, geographical area, transport patterns and land use. Loddon’s total carbon emissions are decreasing and in 2023 was measured at 521,000 tCO₂e. The top causes of emissions in Loddon were agriculture (53%) and transport (34%).



Source: Snapshot Climate - Australian Emissions Profiles
 tCO₂e: Tonnes of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent
 ^Industrial Processes and product use

7.2 Average temperature

Temperatures in the Loddon Mallee region differ significantly from north to south. The northern part of the region sees hotter summers while winters are mild. Loddon experiences an average maximum temperature of 29.4°C. 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 oC)		Winter (Ave oC)	
	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum
LMR	28.9	13.5	13.7	4.1
Swan Hill	31.2	15	15.6	4.6
Mildura	31	14.8	15.9	5.2
Gannawarra	30.5	14.7	14.8	4.5
Buloke	30	14	14.6	4.4
Loddon	29.4	13.9	13.9	4.2
Campaspe	29.3	14.1	13.9	3.9
Greater Bendigo	28.2	13.4	13.1	3.9
Mount Alexander	27	12	12	3.1
Macedon Ranges	24.1	11.2	10.3	3.2

Source: [Loddon Mallee Environmental Scan](#) | Emergency Management Victoria, 1961-1990

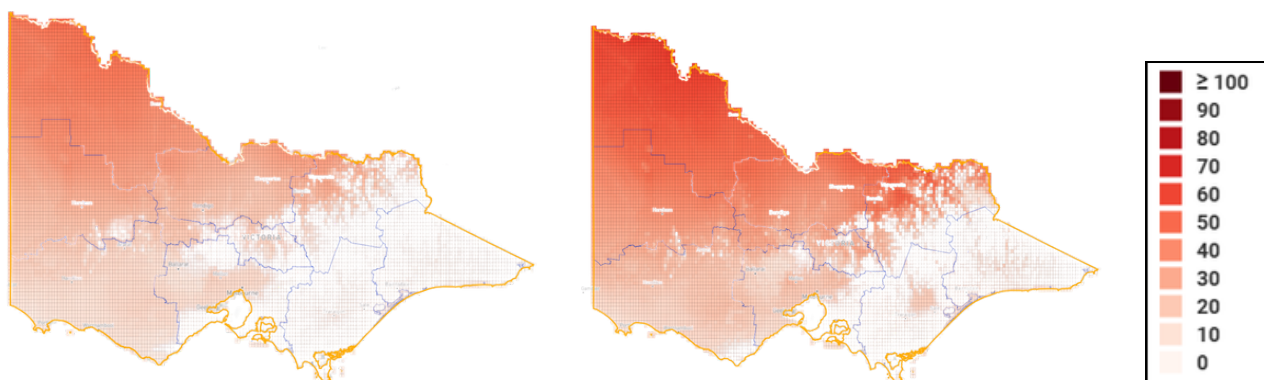
Projected number of days above 35°C in 2030s and 2090s by Bureau of Meteorology Forecast Districts.

These data demonstrate that the Mallee and Murray areas are projected to experience increasing days above 35°C, which will impact health and wellbeing. Heat kills more Australians than any other natural disaster.

Heat can cause serious and potentially fatal health problems such as heat exhaustion and heatstroke, trigger sudden events like heart attack or stroke, or worsen existing medical conditions like kidney or lung disease. ^[1]

2030s (2015-2044)

2090s (2075-2104)



Source: Victorian Government, Energy, Environment and Climate Action

[1] [Better Health Channel](#), Extreme Heat, Victorian Department of Health

7.4 Bushfire prone areas

Most of the Loddon Mallee region is classified as a bushfire prone area (97.8%). This means high bushfire hazards in the Loddon Mallee region, many of which intersect with settlements and areas that are experiencing growth in rural residential areas and tourism. Loddon has 100% of its area classified as bushfire prone.

The fire danger period 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 (grass dies, dormant or dry out), and other local conditions.

Smoke from fires, including planned burns, can also pose a hazard within the LMR. 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 require specific bushfire construction standards.

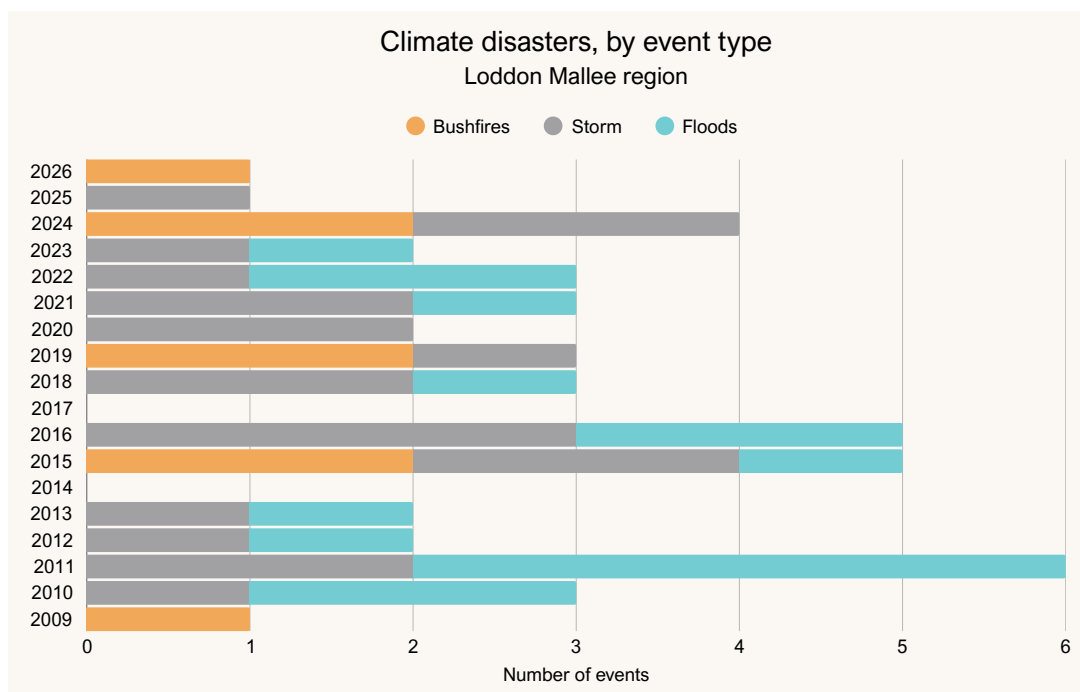
	Bushfire prone area (%)	Bushfire prone area (km2)	Total area (km2)
Buloke	97.6	7,807	8,000
Campaspe	97.7	4,415	4,519
Gannawarra	98.7	3,701	3,750
Greater Bendigo	97.6	2,930	3,000
Loddon	100	6,694	6,696
Macedon Ranges	98.6	1,723	1,748
Mildura	98.3	21,710	22,083
Mount Alexander	99.8	1,527	1,530
Swan Hill	92.0	5,625	6,115
Victoria	97.8	5,625	6,115

Source: [Loddon Mallee Environmental Scan](#) | [Emergency Management Victoria](#)

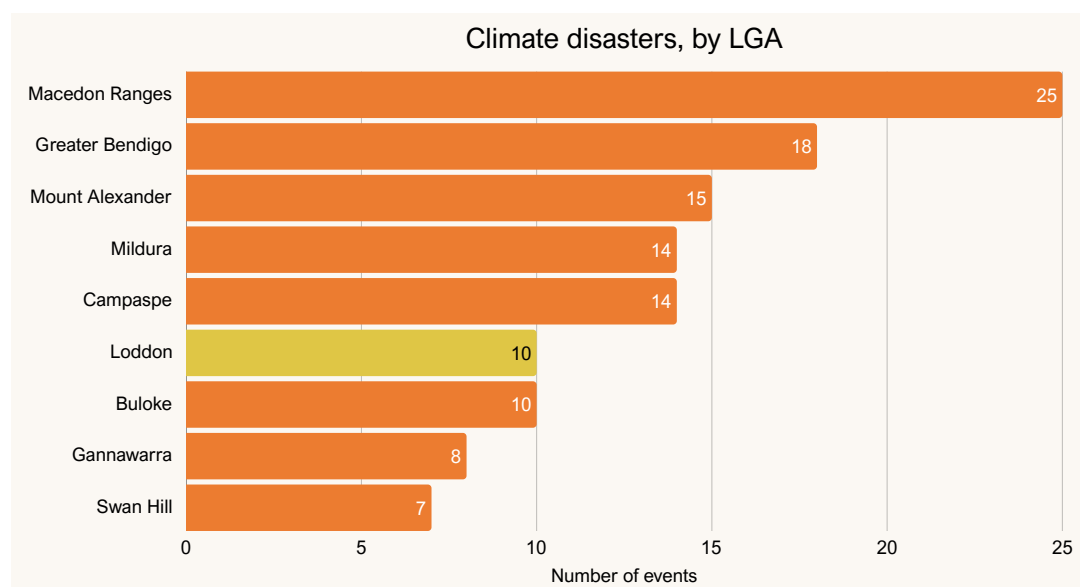
7.5 Climate emergencies

Climate change is increasingly affecting the frequency, intensity, and duration of extreme weather events in our region. Rising temperatures, shifting rainfall patterns, and more severe storm systems are contributing to a greater incidence of natural hazards such as bushfires, floods, and heatwaves. Acting as a risk multiplier, climate change not only amplifies the severity of these disasters, threatening lives, livelihoods, health and property, but also places significant pressure on disaster management systems.

The Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) provide a framework for joint federal and state cost-sharing of disaster relief and recovery measures. These arrangements are triggered by state government when a natural disaster requires a coordinated multi-agency response and exceeds the small disaster financial threshold. Between 2019 and February 2026, 35 climate-related disaster events (storms, floods, bushfires) in the Loddon Mallee region have activated the DRFA, with multiple climate disaster events most years. There were 10 climate disaster events that activated the DRFA in Loddon (2019-2026).



Source: [Australian Government Department of Home Affairs, Disaster assist, 2009 -2026](#)



Source: [Australian Government Department of Home Affairs, Disaster assist, 2009 -2026](#)

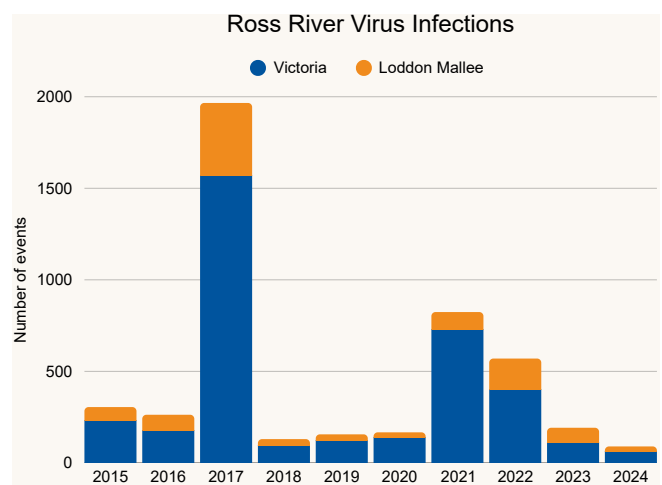
7.6 Mosquito borne disease

In 2024, there have been five mosquito-borne viruses identified across Victoria that pose public health risk in Victoria with the potential for local transmission. These were Japanese encephalitis virus, Murray Valley encephalitis virus, Ross River virus, Barmah Forest virus and West Nile virus Kunjin strain (otherwise known as Kunjin virus).^[1]

Mosquito surveillance is conducted throughout the Victorian mosquito breeding season by the Department of Health each year. In inland areas, the mosquito season typically starts from early November through to late April the following year, while in coastal areas it typically starts earlier and ends later. The mosquito trapping sites within the Loddon Mallee region includes Campaspe, Gannawarra, Mildura and Swan Hill.

Ross River virus

Ross River virus is a mosquito transmitted disease that occurs throughout most regions of Australia including regional Victoria, particularly around inland waterways and coastal regions. All 9 LGAs within the Loddon Mallee are considered endemic. Epidemics occur from time to time and are related to environmental conditions that encourage mosquito breeding such as heavy rainfall, floods, high tides and temperature. The number of notifications of Ross River Virus from Loddon Mallee ranges from 25 to 397 in a year. In 2023 43.2% of all Victorian notifications were from the Loddon Mallee.



Source: Victorian Department of Health, surveillance summary report

[1] Victorian Department of Health, [Mosquito surveillance report](#)

8. Data resources

LMPHU	https://www.bendigohealth.org.au/LMPHU/
ABS Quick Stats	https://abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/POA3523
AECD	https://www.aedc.gov.au/data-explorer/
AIHW	https://www.aihw.gov.au/about-our-data/aihw-data-by-geography
Crimes Statistics Agency	https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/
PHN Exchange	https://www.phnexchange.com.au/
Social Health Atlas	https://phidu.torrens.edu.au/social-health-atlases
Victorian Population Health Survey	https://vahi.vic.gov.au/reports/victorian-population-health-survey-2023
Womens Health Atlas	https://victorianwomenshealthatlas.net.au/#/

9. Notes on statistical significance

Public Health Information Development Unit/Social Health Atlas

Statistical significance was assessed using indirect age standardisation and standardised ratios (SRs). Expected numbers were calculated by applying age-specific Australian standard rates to the local population age structure. Observed numbers were compared with expected numbers and statistical significance was evaluated using a Z-score calculation, with 95% confidence intervals around the SR to indicate reliability. More information on this calculation is available at the [Public Health Information Development Unit](#).

Victorian Population Health Survey

Statistical significance differences between estimates were deemed to exist where the 95% confidence intervals for percentages did not overlap. More information is available in the Methodology section of the [Victorian Population Health Survey](#).

10. Abbreviations

Abbreviation table	
AEDC	Australian Early Development Census
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welbeing
ARI	Average recurrence interval
COPD	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
Greater Bendigo	City of Greater Bendigo
IRSD	Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage
LGA	Local government area
LMPHU	Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit
LMR	Loddon Mallee region
LGBTIQA+	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer, asexual and other sexually or gender diverse people
MMM	Modified Monash Model
NBCSP	National Bowel Cancer Screening Program
NDIS	National Disability Insurance Scheme
PHN	Primary Health Network
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection



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