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**WHAT IS MELBOURNE VITAL SIGNS?**

*Melbourne Vital Signs 2014* is a comprehensive community report on key indicators assessing the quality of life, health and wellbeing of residents in our city which is defined according to the boundaries of metropolitan Melbourne. First developed in Canada by the Toronto Community Foundation in 2001, Lord Mayor’s Charitable Foundation commissioned Community Indicators Victoria (University of Melbourne) to provide the research for Melbourne’s first edition of Vital Signs.

Melbourne is Australia’s second largest city behind Sydney and since July 2012 has the largest growth of all the cities in Australia and is predicted to grow to 7.8 million people by 2051.

Melbourne has a population of 4.35 million people in an area of approximately 10,000 square kilometers covering 31 Local Government Areas (LGAs) which reaches as far as Wyndham, Melton, Hume, Whittlesea, Nillumbik, Yarra Ranges, Cardinia and Mornington Peninsula.

The metropolitan area of Melbourne houses approximately 75% of the population of Victoria.

Melbourne is ranked number one on the Economist Intelligence Unit’s (EIU) 2013 Global Liveability Survey for the third year in a row.

Melbourne is represented by people with backgrounds from over 200 nations, with up to 230 languages spoken.

Melbourne supports more than 4000 arts organisations, and is home to numerous arts, cultural and food festivals.

Melbourne has world class sporting facilities that play host to rugby, soccer, tennis, cricket, Australian Rules Football, swimming and rowing, in addition to hosting spectator sports such as the Australian Grand Prix and the Spring Racing Carnival.

6 Plan Melbourne, Metropolitan Planning Strategy, pg 3
THE GAP BETWEEN RICH AND POOR

Income Inequality: P80/P20 Equivalised household income ratio

The P80/P20 ratio compares the income level at the upper end of the income distribution (the 80th percentile or P80) with the lower end of the income distribution (the 20th percentile or P20). The P80/P20 is a measure of the spread of household income where a lower ratio suggests that lower income earners have a greater share of the overall household income. The ratio gives the magnitude of the spread for which the majority of incomes fall and is used as a measure of inequality. The P80/P20 equivalised household income ratio for metropolitan Melbourne remains stable between the Census years of 2006 and 2011 at 3.6. The P80/P20 ratios remain stable in other states of Australia with incomes at these percentiles rising at similar rates. In 2010, the P80/P20 ratio for all OECD countries was 5.5, compared to 5.7 in Australia, 7.9 in the USA, and 3.7 in Norway (OECD, 2014). (Data Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2011)

Household Income: Median equivalised gross household income

Equivalised household income is an indicator of the economic resources available to a household adjusted for household composition and size. The median equivalised gross household income for the Melbourne metropolitan area has increased from $647 per week in 2006 to $802 in 2011. (Data Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2011)

Financial Stress: Percentage of people who could raise $2000 in two days

In 2008, 85.5% of people in metropolitan Melbourne said they could raise $2000 in two days in an emergency, compared to 68.9% in 2006. (Data Source: Victorian Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure, Indicators of Community Strength, 2008)

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Access to Services for Older People
The Indicator for Access to Services for Older People includes a count of services including Public Transport, Hospitals, Supermarkets, GP Clinics, Libraries and University of the Third age. The Melbourne metropolitan area is well covered for these services. Many areas of Melbourne provide adequate levels of these services but notable gaps exist in the outer north-east, parts of inner Melbourne, and the outer-west, and these services could also be improved throughout the south-eastern suburbs to better cater for an ageing population. (Data Source: Community Indicators Victoria, 2012)

Internet Access
In 2011, 88% of people reported that they had some form of internet access at home. This figure is similar for both males (89%) and females (87%). More than 90% of 18 to 54 year olds have internet access and 69% of people aged 55 years or older have internet access at home. (Data Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2011)

Self-Reported Health: People reporting their health as excellent or very good
In 2011, 47% of people across metropolitan Melbourne reported their health as excellent or very good. This is a lower proportion than the national average of 55% who reported excellent or very good health in the Australian Health Survey 2011-12 conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Self-reported health typically declines with age. In 2008 44% of people aged over 55 years reported excellent or very good health compared to 60% of people aged 18-34 years. (Data Source: Victorian Population Health Survey, 2011)
Subjective Wellbeing

Subjective Wellbeing is a measure of people’s satisfaction with their lives and has been measured by the Personal Wellbeing Index in Australia since 2011. The Personal Wellbeing Index for people in metropolitan Melbourne is 76.9 out of a possible score of 100 and is marginally higher than the Australian average of 75.5. Subjective Wellbeing is lowest during middle age and increases steadily with age from 55 years of age.
(Data Source: VicHealth Indicators Survey, 2011)

Community Connection

Victorians rate their connection to community as reasonably high with a score of 70.9 out of a possible 100 points but is lower than the Australian average of 72.6 in 2013. Females in metropolitan Melbourne rate their community connection higher at 72.3 compared to males at 69.4. Older people feel most connected to their communities with a score of 72.9 compared to 68.9 in young people aged 18-24 years.
(Data Source: VicHealth Indicators Survey, 2011)
HOMELESSNESS AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Housing Affordability: Households with housing costs greater than 30% of gross income

In 2011, over 1 in 5 households spent more than 30% or their gross income on housing costs placing them at risk of housing stress. This figure has increased by 3% from 18.8% in 2006. (Data Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2011)

Median House Price

At the end of 2013, the median house price for metropolitan Melbourne was $520,000 and $440,000 for the median unit/apartment price. House prices increased 7% and unit prices increased 6% across the previous 12 month period driven by the demand for inner Melbourne properties. (Data Source: Land Victoria, Department of Sustainability and Environment, 2014)

Median Rental Prices

The median rent per week for a two bedroom apartment at December 2013 was $360 per week for the Melbourne metropolitan area with an annual increase of 2.4%. (Data Source: Department of Human Services, 2014)

Occupied Private Dwellings: Government-owned rental dwellings

Government Public Housing has increased over the last 5 years. The proportion of occupied private dwellings which are government owned rental dwellings has increased from 2.9% in 2006 to 3.1% in 2011. (Data Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2011)

Homelessness

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) defines homelessness as individuals living in dwellings that are inadequate, have no tenure or have tenure that is short and non-extendable, or individuals that live in housing that does not allow them to have control of or access to the space for social relations. Homelessness is very difficult to accurately measure and is increasing. In 2011, the Australian Bureau of Statistics estimated that 18,555 people were homeless in metropolitan Melbourne. (Data Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2011)

Family Violence

Following the upward trend since 2011-12, there has been a 16% increase in the reported incidences of family violence between the years of 2011 and 2012. During this time there were 965 incidences of family violence reported per 100,000 people. (Data Source: Victorian Police, 2012-2013)
YOUTH

Youth Unemployment

In 2011, the youth unemployment rate was estimated at 12.3% for 15-24 year olds. This figure is similar for both males (12.8%) and females (11.8%) and unemployment is highest for youth compared to all other age categories and is only 4% for people aged 35-44 years. The unemployment rate is defined as the number of people seeking employment as a proportion of the total labor force. (Data Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2011)

Destination of School Leavers: People not engaged at all in work or study

Choices made by young people when they leave school can have a long-term influence on their future career paths. A school leaver’s range of options can include work, university or vocational training and many combinations of work and education. In 2011, 13.4% of youth aged 15-19 were not engaged at all in work or study. Slightly higher percentages of males aged 15-19 were not engaged in work or study than females (14.4% versus 12.4%). (Data Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2011)

Education and School Retention: People aged 20-24 years with year 12 or higher qualifications

In 2011, 88.7% of people aged 20-24 years had qualifications of year 12 or higher. Females are most likely to complete their education with 91% of females and 87% of males obtaining year 12 or higher education. This is a slight improvement from 2006 when 90% of females and 85% of males obtained year 12 or higher education. (Data Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2011)

Vocational and TAFE Enrolments

Vocational educational qualification attainment has increased for youth between 2006 and 2011.

The percentage of people aged 15-24 years with highest qualification level between Certificate III and Advanced Diploma has increased to 17% in 2011 from 13.5% in 2006. In 2011, 4% of people aged 25-29 years attended TAFE institutions. Attendance at Vocational Training was slightly higher for males (5% compared to females 4%) in 2011. (Data Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2011)

Literacy and Numeracy

The National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests reading, writing, spelling and numeracy. Results for students in Years 7 and 9 remain relatively stable and in 2011 over 95% of students met national minimum standards in numeracy and 94% met national minimum standards in literacy. Year 7 numeracy has declined slightly between 2009 and 2012 while literacy has improved in both Year 7 and Year 9 students across this same period. (Data Source: Department of Education and Early Child Development, 2014)
FOOD SECURITY

People who ran out of food in the last 12 months and could not afford to buy more

In 2011, 4% of people in metropolitan Melbourne ran out of food and could not afford to buy more. A higher proportion of females (4.6%) compared to males (3.9%) reported experiencing food security issues. (Data Source: Victorian Population Health Survey, 2011)

Did you know?

4% of people who ran out of food in the last 12 months could not afford to buy more

SECONDBITE delivered

1,895,000 kgs

of food to 610 community food program partners in greater Melbourne

FARESHARE produced

1,316,697 meals

for community food partners and rescued 446 tonnes of food

FOOD BANK

In 2013 foodbank Victoria distributed 3,814,987 kilograms of food throughout Melbourne
HEALTH

Subjective Wellbeing (SWB)
The Subjective Wellbeing of the Australian population has remained at approximately 75 on a 0-100 scale for many years. In 2011, the Personal Wellbeing Index for the Victorian population was slightly higher than the national average at 76.9, with females reporting higher wellbeing than males (77.4 versus 76.4). The Subjective Wellbeing of Victorians is highest for those aged 18-34 years, drops across middle age between 35-54 years and increases again after 55 years. This pattern is consistent with other national and international research findings. (Data Source: Victorian Population Health Survey, 2011)

Adequate Physical Exercise
In 2011, 59.7% of people in metropolitan Melbourne engaged in adequate physical activity, with a slightly higher proportion of females (60.6%) compared to males (58.7%) exercising at moderate to vigorous levels regularly. (Data Source: Victorian Population Health Survey, 2011)

Risky Alcohol Consumption
In 2011, 9% of people living in metropolitan Melbourne were regularly drinking alcohol at levels that placed them at risk of short-term alcohol-related harm. (Data Source: Victorian Population Health Survey, 2011)

Licensed Venue
People living in metropolitan Melbourne have access to a large number of easily accessed licensed venues serving alcohol. On average, there are 8 venues per 1000 people in possession of a restaurant-café alcohol license, 3 venues per 1000 people with a packaged alcohol license and approximately 4 venues per 1000 people with an ‘on premise’ alcohol license. (Data Source: Victorian Commission on Gambling and Liquor Regulation, 2013)

Smoking Status
In 2011, 15.2% of people in metropolitan Melbourne reported that they regularly smoke cigarettes. This is lower than the national average of 16% in 2013, and is highest in males with almost 1 in 5 (18%) being regular smokers compared to 12% of females. (Data Source: Victorian Population Health Survey, 2011)

Vegetable Consumption
In 2011 only 6.7% of people from metropolitan Melbourne ate the recommended 5 serves of vegetables per day. More than twice as many females (9.1%) as males (4.1%) consumed five or more serves of vegetables per day. (Data Source: Victorian Population Health Survey, 2011)

Obesity
In 2011, 16.5% of people from metropolitan Melbourne were considered obese with a BMI of 30 or greater compared to the Victorian average of 17.5%. (Data Source: Victorian Population Health Survey, 2011)
Collecting Waste Water: Households
In 2011, 42.4% of people collected waste water, with 38.8% of males and 46% of females collecting waste water. A higher proportion of people aged 18-34 (48.8%) collect waste water with only 38.2% of 35 to 54 year olds and 41.9% of 55 plus years olds collecting waste water. (Data Source: VicHealth Indicators Survey, 2011)

Household Rubbish Production: Non-recyclable garbage
Despite a general downward trend in household rubbish production since 2003-04, there has been a small jump from 2009-2010 increasing from 478kgs per household to 492kgs per household in 2010-2011. (Data Source: Sustainability Victoria, 2010-2011)

Recyclables and green organics: Recycled and diverted from landfills
Melburnians are good recyclers and use their green bins. In 2010-11, the percentage of recyclables and green organics diverted from landfills was 45% and this has been following a general upward trend in recycling since 2003-04. (Data Source: Sustainability Victoria, 2010-2011)

Non-organic Recyclable: Waste generated by households
290 kilograms of recyclable waste was generated by Melbourne households in 2010-11. However the recyclable waste generated by households has stabilized from 2008 to 2011 and decreased from 303 kilograms per household in 2007. (Data Source: Sustainability Victoria, 2010-2011)

Public Open Space
Melbourne is renowned for its parks, gardens and public open spaces. In the inner urban areas, there are 0.5-1.1 parks or public open spaces per 1000 population. In practical terms this means that most people have access to at least one park. The numbers of parks or open spaces available per 1000 population increases as you move out from the inner city areas of Melbourne with the outer areas having access to between 2.3 and 5.0 parks or open spaces per 1000 population. (Data Source: Victorian Environmental Assessment Council, 2011)
Vegetation Coverage (NDVI)

Vegetation coverage can be measured using the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) using data from satellite imagery or aerial photography to determine the proportion of vegetation that exists in using spectral reflectance of light. The NDVI is an index ranging from -1.0 to +1.0 where -1= hard surfaces and +1=covered in vegetation. The NDVI for metropolitan Melbourne is 0.545, indicating a fair coverage of vegetation in conjunction with the built environment. The map indicates that the ‘greenest’ areas are located in the outer metro areas, whereas the inner city areas have much lower levels of the NDVI ranging from 0.22-0.29 and 0.3-0.38. These results have important implication for urban design, access to public open space and heat island effects. (Data Source: Australian Research Centre for Urban Ecology)
ARTS

Participation
In 2007, 46% of people had participated in arts and cultural activities in the last month. 49% of females and 43% of males participated in arts and cultural activities. 54% of people aged 18-34 participated in arts and cultural activities compared to lower percentages of 44% for people aged 35-54 and 41% for people aged over 55 years. (Data Source: CIV Survey, 2007)

Opportunities
73% of people had the opportunity to participate in arts and related activities in the last month. 74% of females compared to 73% of males had the opportunity to participate in arts and related activities. The percentage of people with opportunities to participate in arts and related activities increases across age groups and is highest for those aged 55 years with 84% reporting opportunities for involvement. (Data Source: CIV Survey, 2007)
BELONGING & SOCIAL INCLUSION

Social Support: People who can get help from family and friends, or neighbours when needed

Getting help from family or friends provides a measure of extended social support networks. In 2008, 90.9% of people in Melbourne reported being able to get help from friends or family when needed, which is a slight decline from 92.4% in 2006.
(Data Source: Victorian Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure, Indicators of Community Strength, 2008)

Volunteering

In 2008, 28.7% (or 3 out of 10) people volunteered in metropolitan Melbourne compared to 40.8% across Victoria. Volunteering was significantly lower in metropolitan Melbourne (28.7%) than in country Victoria (48.2%). Volunteering had declined to 15.8% for metropolitan Melbourne in the 2011 Census.
(Data Source: Victorian Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure, Indicators of Community Strength, 2008)

English Language Proficiency

The majority of people living in Melbourne speak English well and only 5% of individuals report not speaking English well or at all. Melbourne is also a place of cultural diversity and 29.1% of people speak a language other than English.
(Data Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2011)

Work Life Balance: Work and family life often interfere with each other

In 2011, 45% of employed people reported difficulties with work and family life conflict. Work-life conflict was highest in males (47%) compared to females (43%), lowest in those aged 18-34 years (38%), and highest in those of middle age or between 35-54 years of age (53%).
(Data Source: VicHealth Indicators Survey, 2011)

Parental Participation in Schools

School-based volunteering is a measure of community engagement and social connectedness. As well as the economic value of the services volunteers provide, volunteering builds social networks and other community benefits. The percentage of parents involved in activities at their children's school fell from 64.8% in 2006 to 51.9% in 2008.
(Data Source: Victorian Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure, Indicators of Community Strength, 2008)

Citizen Engagement: Involvement in citizen engagement activities over the last 12 months

In 2011, approximately half of the adult population (48%) had been active as a citizen and involved in one of the following activities: attended a town meeting, public hearing or public affairs discussion group; met with, called or sent a letter to a local politician; joined a protest or demonstration; or signed a petition. Adults aged between 35 to 54 years were most frequently engaged in these activities (51%).
(Data Source: VicHealth Indicators Survey, 2011)
GETTING AROUND

Transport Limitations

Transport limitations are increasing across metropolitan Melbourne. In 2011, 23% of people had experienced transport limitations in the last 12 months compared to 21% in 2007. (Data Source: VicHealth Indicators Survey, 2011)

Access to Public Transport

14.8% of metropolitan Melbourne is within 400 meters of a bus or tram stop or within 800 meters of a train station. Inner Local Government Areas have the best proximity to public transport while outer areas of Melbourne are limited, particularly the outer west and east. (Data Source: Victorian Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure, 2012)
Average distance to nearest public transport stop including tram, bus and train stops

The average distance to the nearest public transport stop including tram, bus and train stops is 0.5 kilometres for metropolitan Melbourne. The inner areas of Melbourne are best serviced with public transport stops within 200-300 metres while outer-eastern and south-eastern areas are within 1.4-2.5 kilometres of public transport stops.
(Data Source: Victorian Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure, 2012)

Distance to train stations

The average distance to the nearest train stop for across metropolitan Melbourne is 30.1 kilometers. The inner city areas are best serviced and are within 0.9-1.4 kilometers of a train stop. Outer Local Government Areas including Mornington Peninsula, Yarra Ranges, Cardinia and growth areas including Casey, Hume, Whittlesea and Wyndham are less well serviced.
(Data Source: Victorian Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure, 2012)
Inspiring Philanthropy
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Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation
GPO Box 1851 Melbourne 3001
Phone: (03) 9633 0033
Fax: (03) 9650 9142
info@lmcf.org.au
www.lmcf.org.au
ABN: 63 635 798 473

Community Indicators Victoria
www.communityindicators.net.au

Dr Melanie Davern
Director, Community Indicators Victoria and Research Fellow
McCaughey VicHealth Centre for Community Wellbeing
Academic Centre for Health Equity
Melbourne School of Population and Global Health
Level 5, 207 Bouverie Street,
The University of Melbourne, Victoria 3010
Phone: +61 3 8344 3184
Fax: +61 3 9348 2832
mdavern@unimelb.edu.au