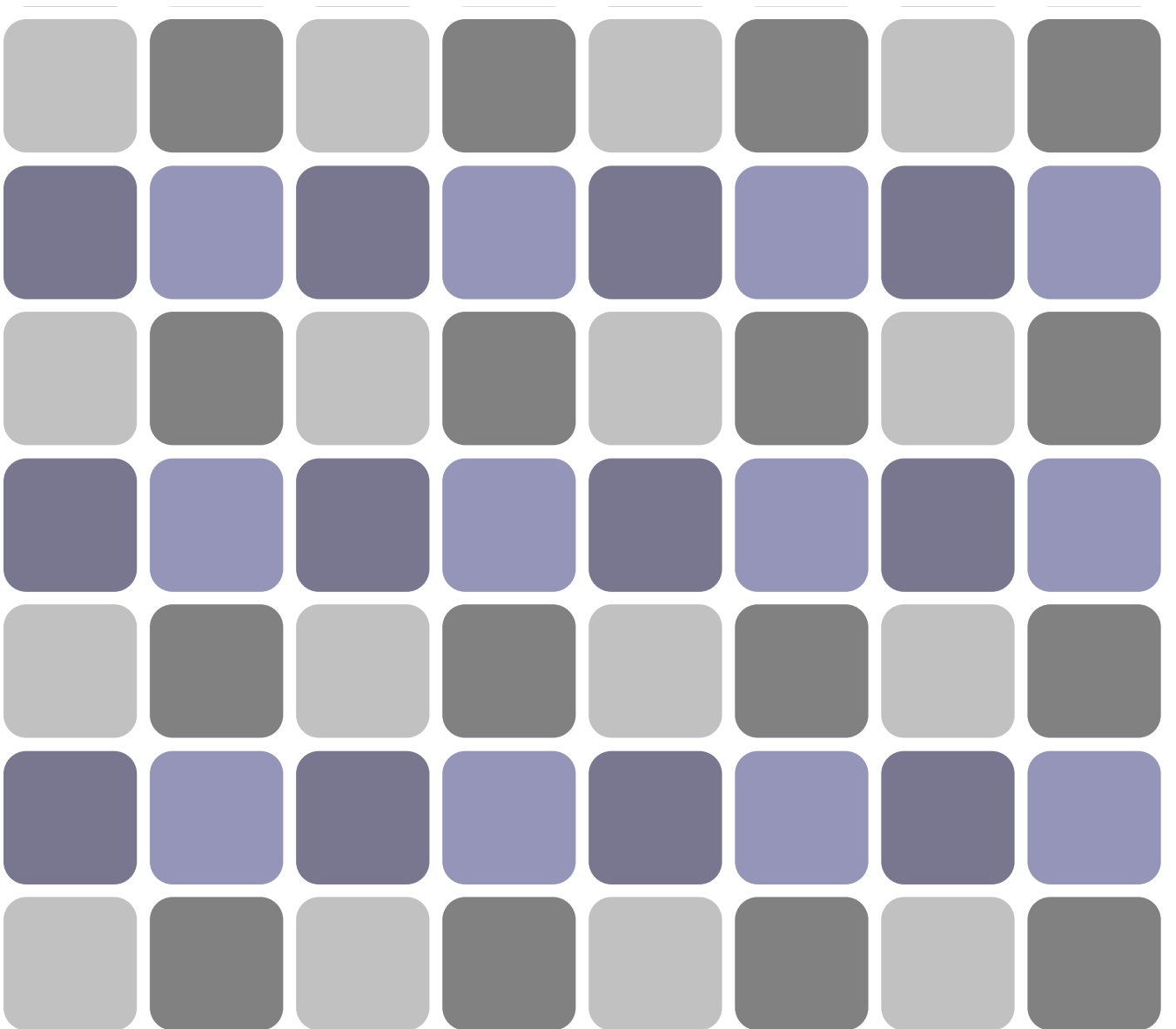


Top fifteen data sources for describing community wellbeing in Victoria



Prepared by

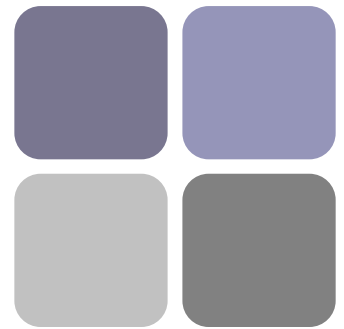
Jeanette Pope, Policy and Strategy, Department of Planning and Community Development. jeanette.pope@dpcd.vic.gov.au (03) 92083849

April 2011

Copyright & Disclaimer

The materials presented in this report are for information purposes only. The information is provided solely on the basis that readers will be responsible for making their own assessments of the matters discussed and are advised to verify all relevant representations, statements and information and obtain independent advice before acting on any information contained in or in connection with this report.

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate, the Department of Planning and Community Development will not accept any liability for any loss or damage which may be incurred by any person acting in reliance upon the information.



Introduction






We have selected the top fifteen data sources that can help you describe community wellbeing in Victoria. They cover a broad range of topics from population, social and multicultural features, services and facilities, children and families, health, disadvantage, participation, amenity, economy, industry and transport.

For each resource you will find:

- a list of topics or subject areas the resource contains;
- a key telling you the geographic area the data describes (see below); and
- a link to the data source.

The geographic key is described below. Maps of these geographic boundaries, and others, can be found at the Victorian Government's website Maps Online (Department of Sustainability and Environment). <http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/land/lcnic2.nsf/alltitle/Maps+and+Images>

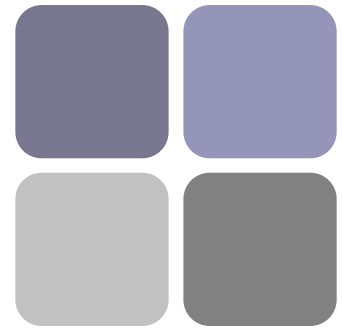
Key to geographic levels described by the following data sources

National: Australia	
State: Victoria	
Government region: Hume, Gippsland, Barwon South West, Grampians, Loddon Mallee, North West Metro, Eastern Metro, Southern Metro	
LGA: Local Government Areas	
Neighbourhood: Smaller than LGA level, ie postcode, suburb/town, collector district (approx 200 houses in Census data)	

The following data sets are not described in any particular order.

1

Census (Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS))



Every five years the ABS conducts a Census of Population and Housing. Data can be obtained for small areas. Topics include:

- population demographics
- education
- employment and income
- dwellings, home ownership and housing costs
- family characteristics
- migration
- internet connections and motor vehicles

2006 also included questions on caring, housework, and disability.



National



State



Regional



LGA



Neighbourhood

Find at: www.abs.gov.au under 'Census Data'

2

Towns in Time and Suburbs in Time (Department of Planning and Community Development)

Time trends in ABS census data are described from 1981 through to 2006. Topics include population, age structure, dwellings and labour force characteristics.

Find at: <http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/home/publications-and-research/urban-and-regional-research> '

3

Victoria in Future (population projections) (Department of Planning and Community Development)

Victoria in Future provides population projections for Victoria, Melbourne and regional Victoria through to 2051 and for each of the State's Local Government Areas through to 2031 based on current social and demographic trends.



State



Regional



LGA

Find at: <http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/home/publications-and-research/urban-and-regional-research>

4

Department of Health Victorian Statistical Profiles (Department of Health (DH))

Every year the DH compiles data from a wide range of sources for LGAs and towns/suburbs. A wide range of topics are included under the following subject headings:

- geography
- population
- social and multicultural features
- aged and disability characteristics
- services and facilities
- child and family characteristics
- health.



State



Regional



LGA



Neighbourhood

The LGA profiles are available on their website www.health.vic.gov.au/modelling/planning.htm

5

Public Health Information Development Unit website (PHIDU)

Not just about health, PHIDU collates data from a wide range of sources on their Social Health Atlas website. The site allows you to map or download the data. Topics include:

- population, projections
- fertility rate
- birthplace
- education
- labour force, learning or earning age 15 – 19
- income support recipients
- families
- housing and transport
- internet
- disadvantage
- child care, mothers and babies
- community strength
- health
- residential and community care



State



Regional



LGA/SLA

Find at: <http://www.publichealth.gov.au/>

6

Disadvantage (DPCD)**Disadvantage maps – all Victorian LGAs (DPCD)**

DPCD has created LGA maps that highlight small areas of disadvantage based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage (IRSD) 2006. This index combines census variables relating to income, education, occupation, wealth and living conditions and ranks localities on a continuum of advantage to disadvantage.

Find at: <http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/home/publications-and-research/urban-and-regional-research/demographic-research/socio-economic-indices-for-areas-seifa-maps>

Change and disadvantage in regional Victoria (Department of Planning and Community Development)

Five reports provide maps of disadvantage for regional Victorian suburbs and towns (by LGA). The maps are also based on the ABS IRSD (see above). Accompanying each map is a table that describes the population make up of the most disadvantaged suburbs/towns.

Find at: <http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/home/publications-and-research/urban-and-regional-research/regional-analysis>



LGA



Neighbourhood

7

Indicators of Community Strength (Department of Planning and Community Development)

The Indicators of Community Strength have been collected at the LGA level in 2008 and will be repeated in 2011. Topics include:

- ability to get help when needed
- community participation
- community attitudes
- perceptions of local area amenity



State



Regional



LGA

Find at: <http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/home/publications-and-research/indicators-of-community-strength>

8

The Department of Health Victorian Population Health Survey (Department of Health (DH))

The Victorian Population Health Survey has been run by DH at the LGA level in 2008 and will be repeated in 2011. Topics include:

- health care use
- self reported health
- weight and height
- nutrition
- alcohol
- smoking
- physical activity
- psychological distress
- select health conditions
- social capital/networks (the indicators of Community Strength are part of this survey).



State



Regional



LGA

Find at: www.health.vic.gov.au/healthstatus/vphs/

9

Community Indicators Victoria (Melbourne University)

Community Indicators Victoria compiles data from a range of sources including a survey it ran in 2007 and it is hoping to repeat in 2011.

Topics are included under five themes:

- healthy, safe and inclusive communities
- dynamic, resilient local economies
- sustainable built and natural environments
- culturally rich and vibrant communities
- democratic and engaged communities.



State



Regional



LGA

Find at: www.communityindicators.net.au

National Regional Profiles 2005-2009 (Australian Bureau of Statistics)

The National Regional Profile provides data collated from a range of sources for geographies below the state level (LGA/ SLA/Statistical Subdivision and Statistical Division SD). Data for individual regions can be viewed as web pages, or downloaded as Excel spreadsheets. Topics include:

- Economy: unemployment; pensions and allowances; taxation; income; wage and salary earners; household wealth; counts of businesses; entries and exits
- Population/people: Estimated Resident Population; Indigenous Estimated Resident Population; population density; census 2006; births; deaths
- Industry: building approvals; motor vehicles; tourist accommodation establishments; agricultural commodities; value of agricultural production
- Environment/energy: land area; water use on farms; crimes.



State



Regional



LGA



Neighbourhood

Find at: <http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/nrmaps.nsf/>

The Melbourne Atlas and Regional Matters – An Atlas of Regional Victoria (DPCD)

A wide range of social, environmental and economic indicators are compiled from across Victorian Government in two atlases – one for metropolitan Melbourne and the other for regional Victorian. The indicators are described over time, at various geographic levels and by topics including population, land, water, housing, work, community, environment, skills, industry services, etc. While the data in these resources is now dated, it is still an excellent resource for establishing what data is available across government and who to contact to access it.



State



Regional



LGA

Find at: <http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/home/publications-and-research/urban-and-regional-research>

12

Victorian Transport Statistics Portal (Department of Transport (DOT))

DOTs public portal combines data from a range of sources about transport trends at LGA/SLA and suburb level. Topics include:

- residents
- motor vehicles
- method of travel to work
- industry and occupation of employment
- key characteristics of the working population
- property sales data
- crash stats
- survey of travel attitudes and behaviours
- Victorian Integrated Survey of Travel and Activity (VISTA)



State



Regional



LGA



Neighbourhood

Find at: <http://www1.transport.vic.gov.au/VTSP/homepage.html>

13

Crime Statistics (Victoria Police)

Victoria Police provide a range of administrative data on reported crimes by region, LGA and postcode.



State



Regional



LGA



Neighbourhood

Find at: www.police.vic.gov.au under 'About Victorian Police – Statistics'

14

Centrelink data (Centrelink)

Statistics are available on the number of recipients of Centrelink benefits and the types of benefits for each postcode in Australia. Types of benefits include: Age Pension, Disability Support, Newstart, Rent Assistance. Information is available by order only and may attract a fee.



State



Regional



LGA



Neighbourhood

Find at: www.centrelink.gov.au under 'About Us – Facts and Figures'

15

VCAMS - Victorian Child and Adolescent Monitoring System (DEECD)

DEECD has an extensive internal information system that collates data from a range of sources on the safety, health, development, learning and wellbeing of children and young people in Victoria. In 2011 it will make 150 of its indicators publically available through its VCAMS website. The data will also be made available in LGA reports (some is already available for Best Start Sites). Topics can be seen in its two public reports: The State of Victoria's Children and The State of Victoria's Young People.



State



Regional



LGA

Find at: www.office-for-children.vic.gov.au/statewide-outcomes/