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| **Outcomes for Victorian children at school entry**  Findings from the School Entrant Health Questionnaire 2014 | | | | | |
| **Summary data for Ballarat (C)** | | | | | |
| This summary sheet has been developed to support use of the key measures from the SEHQ in local planning.  The SEHQ is an integral part of the Primary School Nursing Program and also provides valuable information about outcomes for children at state and local levels. It is completed by the child's parent or carer, and therefore the following analysis reflects parental responses and concerns. It does not report medical diagnoses or opinions of health professionals.  SEHQ data are reported based on the child's residential postcode with allocation to Local Government Areas (LGA).  Further information on the SEHQ is available [here](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/research/Pages/reportdatahealth.aspx). | | | | | |
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| In the LGA of Ballarat (C), there were 1,209 children (1.9 % of the state total of 63,391) involved in the 2014 SEHQ data collection\*. Below are the number and percentage of responses from these parents about their children and aspects of their health and wellbeing as reported in the 2014 SEHQ. | | | | | |
| **Child and family demographics** | | **Ballarat (C)** | | **Non Metro** | **VIC** |
|  |  | *Number* | *%* | *%* | *%* |
| • | Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children | 32 | 2.6 | 3.4 | 1.6 |
| • | Children living in an area with the most socio-economic disadvantage\*\* | 344 | 28.5 | 31.8 | 20.8 |
| • | Children living in an area with the least socio-economic disadvantage\*\* | 50 | 4.2 | 4.6 | 21.5 |
| • | Children who were not born in Australia | 49 | 4.1 | 3.5 | 8.3 |
| • | Children who speak a language other than English at home | 24 | 2.0 | 2.1 | 9.3 |
| • | Children who live with one parent (mother only or father only) | 198 | 16.4 | 15.3 | 12.0 |
| • | Children reported to have an intellectual disability, developmental delay or learning disability | 50 | 4.1 | 4.4 | 3.6 |
| **General Health** | | | | | |
|  |  | *Number* | *%* | *%* | *%* |
| • | Children reported to be in excellent or very good health | 1,139 | 94.2 | 91.2 | 88.4 |
| • | Children reported to be overweight | 21 | 1.7 | 2.2 | 2.2 |
| • | Children reported to have allergies | 125 | 10.4 | 9.0 | 10.5 |
| • | *of the children above, those with an allergy action plan at school* | 31 | 24.7 | 25.9 | 31.9 |
| • | Children reported to have been told by a doctor they have asthma | 195 | 16.1 | 15.6 | 13.8 |
| • | *of the children above, those with an asthma action plan at school* | 102 | 52.3 | 50.5 | 52.0 |

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| **Summary data for Ballarat (C)** | | | | | |
| **Oral Health** | | **Ballarat (C)** | | **Non Metro** | **VIC** |
|  |  | *Number* | *%* | *%* | *%* |
| • | Parents concerned about their child's oral health (eg, teeth, gums etc) | 180 | 14.9 | 14.7 | 14.5 |
| **Speech/Language** | | | | | |
|  |  | *Number* | *%* | *%* | *%* |
| • | Children reported to have difficulties with speech and/or language | 205 | 16.9 | 17.6 | 14.2 |
| • | *of the children above, those who are seeing a speech pathologist* | 69 | 33.7 | 33.9 | 31.1 |
| **Service Use** | | | | | |
|  |  | *Number* | *%* | *%* | *%* |
| • | Children reported to have attended a Maternal and Child Health Centre for their 3 ½ year old check | 1,003 | 83.0 | 79.8 | 75.0 |
| • | *of the children above, those who had a vision test conducted* | NDP | NDP | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| • | Children reported to have been seen by an optometrist in the past year | 260 | 21.5 | 19.1 | 18.1 |
| • | Children reported to have been seen by a GP in the past year | 986 | 81.6 | 77.2 | 78.9 |
| • | Children reported to have been seen by a paediatrician in the past year | 134 | 11.1 | 12.3 | 10.8 |
| • | Children reported to have been seen by a dentist in the past year | 669 | 55.3 | 54.9 | 50.3 |
| • | Children reported to have been seen by an audiologist/hearing specialist in the past year | 139 | 11.5 | 10.1 | 10.0 |
| • | Children reported to have participated in a kindergarten program led by a qualified early education teacher | 1,112 | 92.0 | 90.7 | 89.9 |
| **Behaviour and emotional wellbeing** | | | | | |
|  |  | *Number* | *%* | *%* | *%* |
| • | Parents concerned about the behaviour of their child | 197 | 16.3 | 15.8 | 13.5 |
| **Children at risk of developmental and behavioural problems** | | | | | |
| The ***Parents Evaluation of Developmental Status (PEDS)*** is embedded within the SEHQ and comprises a number of questions that elicit responses about specific domains of learning, development and behaviour. Certain groupings of concerns have been found to be significant predictors of developmental or behavioural problems. | | | | | |
|  |  | *Number* | *%* | *%* | *%* |
| • | Children at high risk of developmental or behavioural problems | 180 | 14.9 | 14.5 | 14.7 |
| • | Children at moderate risk of developmental or behavioural problems | 343 | 28.4 | 27.2 | 27.1 |

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| **Summary data for Ballarat (C)** | | | | | |
| **Children at high risk of behavioural and emotional problems** | | | | | |
| The ***Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)*** is embedded within the SEHQ and is used to assess different aspects of child behaviours at the beginning of primary school, including prosocial behaviour, hyperactivity, emotional symptoms, peer problems and conduct problems (Goodman 2001). The ***emotional*** scale measures a range of negative emotions, such as sadness, fear and worries. The ***conduct problem*** scale measures tendencies to display negative behaviours when interacting with others. The ***hyperactivity*** scale measures a range of behaviours, including restlessness, impulsiveness and concentration. The ***peer problems*** scale measures peer relationships, including not having friends, being picked on, playing by themselves or not being liked by other children. The ***prosocial behaviour*** scale measures positive social behaviours. | | | | | |
|  | | **Ballarat (C)** | | **Non Metro** | **VIC** |
|  |  | *Number* | *%* | *%* | *%* |
| • | Emotional symptoms | 84 | 6.9 | 6.9 | 5.7 |
| • | Conduct problems | 111 | 9.2 | 8.1 | 6.5 |
| • | Hyperactivity | 105 | 8.6 | 9.1 | 7.2 |
| • | Peer problems | 110 | 9.1 | 8.8 | 8.2 |
| • | Pro social | 30 | 2.5 | 2.6 | 2.9 |
| • | Total difficulties (score in the 'high risk' range) | 84 | 6.9 | 6.3 | 4.6 |
| **Family Stress** | | | | | |
|  |  | *Number* | *%* | *%* | *%* |
| • | Families experiencing high or very high stress during the month prior to the survey | 140 | 11.6 | 12.3 | 11.0 |
| *The following shows the results reported by parents when asked whether their child had experienced any of the following stressors:* | | | | | |
|  |  | *Number* | *%* | *%* | *%* |
| • | alcohol or drug related problem in family | 63 | 5.2 | 5.1 | 3.6 |
| • | history of abuse to parent | 53 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 3.3 |
| • | history of abuse to child(ren) | 21 | 1.8 | 1.7 | 1.2 |
| • | parent witness to violence | 55 | 4.6 | 3.9 | 3.1 |
| • | child witness to violence | 55 | 4.5 | 4.3 | 3.1 |
| • | gambling problem in family | 16 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 1.0 |
| • | history of mental illness of parent | 127 | 10.5 | 9.8 | 6.9 |
| \*The number of SEHQ children with a valid postcode for concordance to a LGA.  \*\*Children have been allocated to quintiles of disadvantage based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics Socioeconomic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA).  NDP: data not published where the number of children is less than 5. | | | | | |
| Data Source: 2014 School Entrant Health Questionnaire  Published by Performance and Evaluation Division; Department of Education and Training | | | | | |