State findings from the School   
Entrant Health Questionnaire 2021

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# Introduction

The School Entrant Health Questionnaire (SEHQ) is an annual survey that records parents’ concerns and observations about their child’s health and wellbeing during their child’s first year at school. The questionnaire is completed by parents and guardians of Prep children in Victorian primary schools through the Victorian Primary School Nursing Program across the year. The information collected in the SEHQ is a starting point for nurses to carry out further assessment of the child and family and determine appropriate intervention and/or referral as required. Analysis of the SEHQ data is also used to inform planning and service delivery.

This report provides data from the 2021 SEHQ, as well as results from the 2020 and 2019 surveys. Due to ongoing COVID-19 related events, there was significant disruption to the distribution of the SEHQ in both 2020 and 2021, reducing family participation compared to most previous years. For these years a priority service or targeted service was employed where required, according to assessment of school disadvantage and need, where schools were encouraged to refer vulnerable students and families. Therefore, survey results may not be directly comparable across years.

## Key findings

* Participation in the 2021 SEHQ (75%) was higher than in 2020 (66%) but was still low compared to other years since 2015 (between 78.2% and 83.3%).
* Most parents reported that their child was in excellent or very good health in 2021 (84.5%). As in previous years, parents were slightly more likely to report female children (90.8%) as having excellent or very good health than male children (88.8%).
* The proportion of all children reported to have speech and language difficulties increased slightly from 2019 (15%) to 2021 (16.4%), a trend that was also apparent for most of the population groups outlined in **Table 2**. Speech not being clear to others was the most frequently reported difficulty (12.2% of all children).
* Fewer children had attended health services in the past 12 months in 2021 than in 2020 or 2019, with the biggest drop being in accessing dental services (43.6% in 2021 compared to 52.1% in 2019). Children in rural/regional areas were more likely to have seen a dentist (49.0%) compared with those in metropolitan areas (41.6%).
* Fewer parents reported concerns about their child’s eyesight in 2021 (7.7%) than in 2020 (8.4%).
* Allergies have increased slightly over the last 3 years (8.3% in 2019 to 9.0% in 2021) and are more prevalent in males, and children living in the least disadvantaged areas.
* The proportions of children identified as being at high (24.9%) or moderate (30.7%) risk of developmental issues by their parents were higher in 2021 than in 2020 (23.8% high and 28.2% moderate).
* The proportions of children identified as being at high risk of significant clinical problems due to behaviour and emotional wellbeing were slightly lower in 2021 (7.4%) than in 2020 (7.1%).
* Fewer parents reported experiencing high/highest levels of stress in their family in 2021 (8.8%) than in 2020 (10%).
* Parents of Aboriginal children and children from one-parent families were more likely to report concerns related to health (asthma and oral health), development and wellbeing, as well as high/highest levels of stress in their family.

The following tables provide more detailed information regarding the health, development and wellbeing of Prep aged children in 2021.

# SEHQ participation and demographic profile

## Table 1: Number of survey respondents and proportion of eligible Prep enrolments[[1]](#footnote-2)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Survey year | Number of respondents | Respondents as a proportion of eligible Prep enrolments (%) |
| 2019 | 67,286 | 83.2% |
| 2020 | 53,967 | 66.0% |
| 2021 | 60,256 | 75.0% |

## Table 2: Demographic profile of children beginning school

| Population group | 2019  *%* | 2020  *%* | 2021 | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *%* | *N* |
| 5 years of age (at April 30 of survey year) | 75.2 | 76.0 | 75.8 | 45,671 |
| 6 Years (at April 30 of survey year) | 15.4 | 16.2 | 16.6 | 10,013 |
| Male | 47.5 | 48.1 | 47.8 | 28,798 |
| Female | 45.0 | 45.8 | 45.9 | 27,677 |
| Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander | 1.8 | 2.0 | 1.9 | 1,147 |
| Language background other than English | 20.9 | 22.4 | 20.7 | 12,488 |
| Born outside Australia | 9.6 | 9.8 | 8.1 | 4,910 |
| One-parent family | 10.9 | 11.2 | 10.5 | 6,337 |
| Living in areas of most disadvantage (IRSD1)[[2]](#footnote-3) | 19.5 | 21.1 | 19.5 | 11,729 |
| Living in areas of least disadvantage (IRSD5) | 20.8 | 18.5 | 19.4 | 11,709 |
| Rural/Regional areas | 25.4 | 28.2 | 27.2 | 16,365 |
| Metropolitan areas | 74.5 | 71.7 | 72.8 | 43,891 |

*Note: categories will not sum to ‘all children’ due to missing or invalid data*

## Table 3: Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage (IRSD)

| Population Group | IRSD quintile 1  (most disadvantage) | IRSD quintile 2 | IRSD quintile 3 | IRSD quintile 4 | IRSD quintile 5  (least disadvantage) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *%* | *%* | *%* | *%* | *%* |
| All Children | **19.5** | 19.8 | 21.0 | 20.0 | **19.4** |
| Male | **20.1** | 19.8 | 21.0 | 19.8 | **19.0** |
| Female | **19.3** | 20.0 | 21.4 | 20.0 | **19.1** |
| Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander | **35.7** | 25.5 | 16.8 | 14.2 | **7.7** |
| Language background other than English | **24.7** | 18.5 | 24.6 | 15.6 | **16.0** |
| One-parent family | **29.1** | 22.9 | 19.9 | 16.0 | **12.0** |
| Rural/Regional areas | **27.6** | 28.9 | 16.1 | 19.4 | **7.6** |
| Metropolitan areas | **16.4** | 16.4 | 22.8 | 20.2 | **23.8** |

# Health

## Table 4: Parent perceptions of their child’s health

| Population group | Excellent/Very Good | | | | Good | | | | Fair/Poor | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | |
| % | % | % | N | % | % | % | N | % | % | % | N |
| All Children | 83.6 | 85.5 | 84.3 | 50,784 | 6.9 | 6.3 | 7.4 | 4,470 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 481 |
| Male | 89 | 89.7 | 88.6 | 25,509 | 8.2 | 7.5 | 8.7 | 2,516 | 1.2 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 270 |
| Female | 91.3 | 91.5 | 90.6 | 25,075 | 6.5 | 5.9 | 7.0 | 1,927 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 207 |
| Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander | 87.4 | 86.6 | 86.2 | 989 | 9.0 | 9.4 | 10.7 | 123 | 1.4 | 1.7 | 1.0 | 12 |
| Language background other than English | 85.2 | 87.0 | 85.2 | 10,638 | 12.2 | 10.8 | 12.2 | 1,528 | 1.4 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 159 |
| One-parent family | 87.9 | 88.5 | 86.4 | 5,476 | 9.3 | 8.9 | 10.6 | 670 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 1.4 | 89 |
| Living in areas of most disadvantage (IRSD1) | 82.9 | 84.3 | 82.8 | 9,717 | 8.9 | 8.1 | 8.9 | 1,049 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 114 |
| Living in areas of least disadvantage (IRSD5) | 82.7 | 85.5 | 84.6 | 9,906 | 5.1 | 4.9 | 6.0 | 700 | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 64 |
| Rural/Regional areas | 85.4 | 85.2 | 85.2 | 13,944 | 5.6 | 5.0 | 6.2 | 1,015 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 117 |
| Metropolitan areas | 83.0 | 85.4 | 83.9 | 36,840 | 7.3 | 6.9 | 7.9 | 3,455 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 364 |

*Note: categories will not sum to ‘all children’ due to missing or invalid data*

## Table 5: Children diagnosed with asthma

| Population group | 2019  *%* | 2020  *%* | 2021 | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *%* | *N* |
| All Children | 10.6 | 10.2 | 9.6 | 5,788 |
| Male | 13.8 | 13.0 | 12.2 | 3,521 |
| Female | 8.9 | 8.6 | 8.1 | 2,244 |
| Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander | 18.7 | 17.5 | 18.3 | 210 |
| Language background other than English | 7.6 | 7.2 | 6.5 | 811 |
| One-parent family | 14.5 | 14.1 | 13.6 | 862 |
| Living in areas of most disadvantage (IRSD1) | 11.3 | 10.8 | 10.6 | 1,245 |
| Living in areas of least disadvantage (IRSD5) | 9.1 | 8.6 | 8.2 | 956 |
| Rural/Regional areas | 12.4 | 11.7 | 11.8 | 1,937 |
| Metropolitan areas | 10.0 | 9.6 | 8.8 | 3,851 |

*Note: categories will not sum to ‘all children’ due to missing or invalid data*

## Table 6: Children diagnosed with a known allergy

| Population group | 2019  *%* | 2020  *%* | 2021 | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *%* | *N* |
| All Children | 8.3 | 8.6 | 9.0 | 5,404 |
| Male | 10.0 | 10.3 | 10.7 | 3,075 |
| Female | 7.9 | 7.9 | 8.3 | 2,308 |
| Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander | 8.6 | 9.4 | 9.4 | 108 |
| Language background other than English | 7.9 | 8.1 | 8.5 | 1,057 |
| One-parent family | 9.3 | 9.5 | 9.0 | 573 |
| Living in areas of most disadvantage (IRSD1) | 7.8 | 7.8 | 8.5 | 994 |
| Living in areas of least disadvantage (IRSD5) | 8.3 | 9.3 | 9.6 | 1,121 |
| Rural/Regional areas | 8.1 | 8.4 | 8.8 | 1,440 |
| Metropolitan areas | 8.4 | 8.6 | 9.0 | 3,964 |

*Note: categories will not sum to ‘all children’ due to missing or invalid data*

## Table 7: Children diagnosed with a known allergy that may result in anaphylaxis

| Population group | 2019  *%* | 2020  *%* | 2021 | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *%* | *N* |
| All Children | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.8 | 1,059 |
| Male | 2.0 | 2.1 | 2.3 | 666 |
| Female | 1.4 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 389 |
| Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander | 1.2 | 0.9 | 1.6 | 18 |
| Language background other than English | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.7 | 210 |
| One-parent family | 1.6 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 96 |
| Living in areas of most disadvantage (IRSD1) | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 181 |
| Living in areas of least disadvantage (IRSD5) | 1.8 | 2.0 | 2.3 | 271 |
| Rural/Regional areas | 1.5 | 1.6 | 1.7 | 274 |
| Metropolitan areas | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.8 | 785 |

*Note: categories will not sum to ‘all children’ due to missing or invalid data*

## Table 8: Parents concerned about their child’s eyesight

| Population group | 2019  *%* | 2020  *%* | 2021 | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *%* | *N* |
| All Children | 8.0 | 8.4 | 7.7 | 4,616 |
| Male | 8.6 | 9.1 | 8.1 | 2,327 |
| Female | 8.5 | 8.7 | 8.2 | 2,279 |
| Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander | 10.5 | 12.1 | 8.5 | 98 |
| Language background other than English | 9.8 | 10.1 | 9.2 | 1,144 |
| One-parent family | 9.6 | 10.0 | 9.2 | 583 |
| Living in areas of most disadvantage (IRSD1) | 7.9 | 8.2 | 7.5 | 883 |
| Living in areas of least disadvantage (IRSD5) | 7.3 | 9.0 | 7.4 | 869 |
| Rural/Regional areas | 7.8 | 7.7 | 7.1 | 1,159 |
| Metropolitan areas | 8.0 | 8.7 | 7.9 | 3,457 |

*Note: categories will not sum to ‘all children’ due to missing or invalid data*

## Table 9: Parents concerned about their child’s oral health

| Population group | 2019  *%* | 2020  *%* | 2021 | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *%* | *N* |
| All Children | 15.3 | 16.2 | 15.9 | 9,587 |
| Male | 16.2 | 17.2 | 17.0 | 4,894 |
| Female | 16.8 | 17.2 | 16.8 | 4,646 |
| Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander | 21.9 | 21.9 | 23.0 | 264 |
| Language background other than English | 20.8 | 20.3 | 19.9 | 2,480 |
| One-parent family | 19.4 | 19.5 | 19.9 | 1,262 |
| Living in areas of most disadvantage (IRSD1) | 17.1 | 17.8 | 17.4 | 2,039 |
| Living in areas of least disadvantage (IRSD5) | 13.8 | 15.0 | 14.3 | 1,678 |
| Rural/Regional areas | 14.5 | 14.8 | 15.4 | 2,524 |
| Metropolitan areas | 15.6 | 16.8 | 16.1 | 7,063 |

*Note: categories will not sum to ‘all children’ due to missing or invalid data*

# Service use

## Table 10: Children reported to have attended a health service in the previous 12 months

| Service type | 2019  *%* | 2020  *%* | 2021 | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *%* | *N* |
| Paediatrician | 12.6 | 12.3 | 10.6 | 6,395 |
| Optometrist/eye doctor | 16.9 | 16.2 | 14.3 | 8,617 |
| Audiologist/hearing specialist | 7.7 | 7.6 | 6.2 | 3,710 |
| Speech Pathologist/Speech Therapist | 11.6 | 11.2 | 10.1 | 6,108 |
| Early Childhood Intervention Services (ECIS) Therapist or Practitioner | 5.0 | 5.2 | 5.0 | 3,023 |
| Dentist (including orthodontist, periodontist etc) | 52.1 | 49.9 | 43.6 | 26,262 |

*Note: categories will not sum to ‘all children’ due to missing or invalid data*

## Table 11: Children who have seen a dentist in the past 12 months

| Population group | 2019  *%* | 2020  *%* | 2021 | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *%* | *N* |
| All Children | 52.1 | 49.9 | 43.6 | 26,262 |
| Male | 55.5 | 51.8 | 45.1 | 12,990 |
| Female | 56.9 | 54.3 | 47.6 | 13,174 |
| Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander | 49.6 | 51.5 | 40.2 | 461 |
| Language background other than English | 44.6 | 43.0 | 36.4 | 4,550 |
| One-parent family | 52.7 | 50.9 | 43.6 | 2,762 |
| Living in areas of most disadvantage (IRSD1) | 48.1 | 47.4 | 39.1 | 4,588 |
| Living in areas of least disadvantage (IRSD5) | 55.4 | 53.0 | 48.2 | 5,644 |
| Rural/Regional areas | 57.0 | 54.3 | 49.0 | 8,013 |
| Metropolitan areas | 50.4 | 48.2 | 41.6 | 18,249 |

*Note: categories will not sum to ‘all children’ due to missing or invalid data*

## Table 12: Children reported to have attended a Maternal and Child Health (MCH) centre for their 3.5 year-old check

| Population group | 2019  *%* | 2020  *%* | 2021 | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *%* | *N* |
| All Children | 71.6 | 70.5 | 69.9 | 42,133 |
| Male | 77.1 | 75.0 | 74.8 | 21,531 |
| Female | 77.3 | 74.8 | 73.9 | 20,442 |
| Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander | 77.9 | 76.0 | 74.0 | 849 |
| Language background other than English | 67.8 | 67.6 | 68.5 | 8,553 |
| One-parent family | 77.6 | 76.2 | 74.1 | 4,694 |
| Living in areas of most disadvantage (IRSD1) | 71.7 | 71.6 | 70.1 | 8,221 |
| Living in areas of least disadvantage (IRSD5) | 69.7 | 68.3 | 69.4 | 8,125 |
| Rural/Regional areas | 76.2 | 73.3 | 72.7 | 11,899 |
| Metropolitan areas | 70.0 | 69.5 | 68.9 | 30,234 |

*Note: categories will not sum to ‘all children’ due to missing or invalid data*

## Table 13: Children reported to have attended a preschool or kindergarten program

| Population group | 2019  *%* | 2020  *%* | 2021 | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *%* | *N* |
| All Children | 85.4 | 86.7 | 86.5 | 52,125 |
| Male | 92.2 | 92.0 | 92.0 | 26,491 |
| Female | 92.0 | 92.1 | 91.9 | 25,433 |
| Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander | 86.5 | 87.0 | 89.5 | 1,026 |
| Language background other than English | 90.7 | 91.9 | 90.7 | 11,329 |
| One-parent family | 90.1 | 90.4 | 90.0 | 5,705 |
| Living in areas of most disadvantage (IRSD1) | 85.4 | 86.0 | 85.2 | 9,994 |
| Living in areas of least disadvantage (IRSD5) | 83.7 | 86.4 | 86.3 | 10,109 |
| Rural/Regional areas | 86.2 | 85.5 | 86.4 | 14,139 |
| Metropolitan areas | 85.2 | 87.2 | 86.5 | 37,986 |

*Note: categories will not sum to ‘all children’ due to missing or invalid data*

# Speech and language

## Table 14: Children reported to have difficulties with speech and language

| Population group | 2019  *%* | 2020  *%* | 2021 | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *%* | *N* |
| All Children | 15.0 | 16.0 | 16.4 | 9,904 |
| Male | 20.3 | 21.5 | 22.0 | 6,339 |
| Female | 11.9 | 12.3 | 12.7 | 3,512 |
| Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander | 28.7 | 28.4 | 30.3 | 348 |
| Language background other than English | 11.2 | 11.5 | 12.2 | 1,529 |
| One-parent family | 21.4 | 22.7 | 22.6 | 1,434 |
| Living in areas of most disadvantage (IRSD1) | 17.4 | 18.7 | 18.6 | 2,184 |
| Living in areas of least disadvantage (IRSD5) | 12.1 | 13.0 | 13.8 | 1,621 |
| Rural/Regional areas | 18.3 | 19.4 | 19.6 | 3,200 |
| Metropolitan areas | 13.9 | 14.7 | 15.3 | 6,704 |

*Note: categories will not sum to ‘all children’ due to missing or invalid data*

## Table 15: Type of speech and language difficulty[[3]](#footnote-4)

| Type of speech and language difficulty | 2019  *%* | 2020  *%* | 2021 | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *%* | *N* |
| Speech not clear to others | 11.3 | 12.0 | 12.2 | 7,340 |
| Difficulty putting words together | 5.4 | 6.1 | 5.8 | 3,519 |
| Voice sounds unusual | 2.2 | 2.4 | 2.2 | 1,336 |
| Stutters or stammers | 3.6 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 2,543 |

*Note: categories will not sum to ‘all children’ due to missing or invalid data*

# Development, behaviour, and emotional wellbeing

## Table 16: Parental Evaluation of Developmental Status (PEDS)[[4]](#footnote-5): children at risk of developmental and behavioural problems

| Population group | PEDS Pathway A   (high risk) | | | PEDS Pathway B  (moderate risk) | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2020 | 2021 | | 2020 | 2021 | |
| % | *%* | *N* | *%* | *%* | *N* |
| All Children | 23.8 | 24.9 | 15,003 | 28.2 | 30.7 | 18,498 |
| Male | 29.7 | 30.7 | 8,843 | 29.4 | 32.0 | 9,206 |
| Female | 20.7 | 22.0 | 6,095 | 30.4 | 33.3 | 9,223 |
| Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander | 33.4 | 37.1 | 426 | 28.6 | 28.2 | 323 |
| Language background other than English | 25.6 | 26.3 | 3,280 | 28.5 | 31.9 | 3,983 |
| One-parent family | 31.1 | 32.8 | 2,076 | 28.2 | 30.4 | 1,925 |
| Living in areas of most disadvantage (IRSD1) | 25.9 | 26.1 | 3,062 | 27.3 | 29.7 | 3,485 |
| Living in areas of least disadvantage (IRSD5) | 21.6 | 22.9 | 2,683 | 28.9 | 31.7 | 3,709 |
| Rural/Regional areas | 22.9 | 24.7 | 4,042 | 27.3 | 30.0 | 4,905 |
| Metropolitan areas | 24.2 | 25.0 | 10,961 | 28.5 | 31.0 | 13,593 |

*Note: categories will not sum to ‘all children’ due to missing or invalid data*

## Table 17: Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)[[5]](#footnote-6): children at risk of significant clinical problems related to behaviour and emotional wellbeing

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Population group | High risk | | | | Moderate risk | | | |
| **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | |
| **%** | **%** | **%** | **N** | **%** | **%** | **%** | **N** |
| All Children | 6.7 | 7.4 | 7.1 | 4,308 | 5.5 | 5.8 | 5.7 | 3,436 |
| Male | 8.7 | 9.7 | 9.2 | 2,659 | 6.7 | 7.2 | 7.0 | 2,002 |
| Female | 5.6 | 5.9 | 5.9 | 1,629 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 5.1 | 1,415 |
| Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander | 18.5 | 19.7 | 21.5 | 247 | 10.3 | 8.4 | 10.5 | 121 |
| Language background other than English | 5.1 | 4.6 | 4.5 | 560 | 6.0 | 5.7 | 5.6 | 698 |
| One-parent family | 14.4 | 15.5 | 15.4 | 979 | 8.3 | 9.4 | 9.1 | 574 |
| Living in areas of most disadvantage (IRSD1) | 8.7 | 9.3 | 9.3 | 1,086 | 6.8 | 6.9 | 6.6 | 769 |
| Living in areas of least disadvantage (IRSD5) | 4.3 | 4.7 | 4.3 | 507 | 4.2 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 553 |
| Rural/Regional areas | 9.4 | 9.8 | 9.8 | 1,599 | 6.1 | 6.3 | 6.3 | 1,027 |
| Metropolitan areas | 5.8 | 6.4 | 6.2 | 2,709 | 5.3 | 5.6 | 5.5 | 2,409 |

*Note: categories will not sum to ‘all children’ due to missing or invalid data*

## Table 18: Children at risk of clinically significant problems across SDQ sub*-*scales

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SDQ sub-scales |  | High/moderate risk |  |  |
| **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | |
| **%** | **%** | **%** | **N** |
| Conduct problems | 21.6 | 22.2 | 21.6 | 13,013 |
| Emotional Symptoms | 13.0 | 13.2 | 12.9 | 7,779 |
| Hyperactivity | 13.2 | 14.7 | 14.4 | 8,656 |
| Peer Problems | 16.9 | 18.2 | 17.2 | 10,389 |
| Prosocial[[6]](#footnote-7) | 7.7 | 7.7 | 7.7 | 4,668 |

# Family issues and stressors

## Table 19: Families reporting high levels of stress

| Population group | High stress | | | Highest stress | | | High/highest stress combined | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | |
| % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | n |
| All Children | 7.9 | 8.8 | 7.6 | 1.1 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 9.0 | 10.0 | 8.8 | 5,289 |
| Male | 8.5 | 9.7 | 8.3 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.3 | 9.8 | 11.1 | 9.6 | 2,778 |
| Female | 8.5 | 8.9 | 7.9 | 1.1 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 9.6 | 10.2 | 9.0 | 2,485 |
| Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander | 14.6 | 12.9 | 12.5 | 2.6 | 2.2 | 3.0 | 17.2 | 15.0 | 15.4 | 177 |
| Language background other than English | 4.6 | 4.5 | 3.8 | 1.2 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 5.7 | 5.5 | 4.7 | 589 |
| One-parent family | 15.4 | 15.2 | 14.6 | 3.7 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 19.1 | 18.5 | 18.0 | 1,143 |
| Living in areas of most disadvantage (IRSD1) | 7.6 | 8.2 | 7.6 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.4 | 9.1 | 9.8 | 9.0 | 1,056 |
| Living in areas of least disadvantage (IRSD5) | 7.8 | 9.5 | 8.0 | 0.8 | 1.2 | 1.0 | 8.6 | 10.7 | 9.0 | 1,050 |
| Rural/Regional areas | 9.9 | 10.4 | 9.0 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 11.2 | 11.8 | 10.4 | 1,706 |
| Metropolitan areas | 7.2 | 8.1 | 7.1 | 1.1 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 8.2 | 9.4 | 8.2 | 3,583 |

*Note: categories will not sum to ‘all children’ due to missing or invalid data*

## Table 20: Children affected by stressful events during the past 12 months

| Population group | Death of a relative/friend | Divorce/separation of parents | Move to new home | New baby in home | Parent change of job | Parent loss of job | Remarriage of parent | Serious illness of parent | Serious illness of sibling |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| All Children | 6.5 | 4.0 | 6.1 | 3.8 | 4.2 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 2.6 | 0.9 |
| Male | 6.6 | 4.4 | 6.6 | 3.9 | 4.5 | 1.7 | 1.6 | 2.7 | 0.9 |
| Female | 7.3 | 4.1 | 6.3 | 4.1 | 4.4 | 1.7 | 1.3 | 2.7 | 1.0 |
| Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander | 12.4 | 12.2 | 12.6 | 6.5 | 6.2 | 3.0 | 4.3 | 6.5 | 2.2 |
| Language background other than English | 3.2 | 1.8 | 4.3 | 4.4 | 2.8 | 1.6 | 0.4 | 1.4 | 0.5 |
| One-parent family | 8.7 | 25.8 | 14.6 | 3.1 | 6.1 | 2.5 | 7.7 | 5.3 | 1.4 |
| Living in areas of most disadvantage (IRSD1) | 6.5 | 5.0 | 5.7 | 3.9 | 4.0 | 1.9 | 1.5 | 3.1 | 1.1 |
| Living in areas of least disadvantage (IRSD5) | 5.8 | 3.0 | 6.7 | 3.4 | 4.1 | 1.6 | 0.9 | 2.1 | 0.6 |
| Rural/Regional areas | 8.8 | 5.9 | 8.0 | 4.0 | 5.7 | 1.6 | 2.2 | 3.4 | 1.3 |
| Metropolitan areas | 5.7 | 3.3 | 5.3 | 3.7 | 3.6 | 1.6 | 1.1 | 2.2 | 0.7 |

## Table 21: Children with reported family issues

| Population group | History of abuse to child | History of abuse to parent | History of alcohol or drug relat4d problems in family | History of child witnessing violence | History of gambling problem in the family | History of mental illness of parent |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| % | % | % | % | % | % |
| All Children | 1.9 | 5.2 | 3.5 | 3.2 | 0.6 | 9.3 |
| Male | 2.1 | 5.5 | 3.8 | 3.4 | 0.6 | 10.0 |
| Female | 1.9 | 5.5 | 3.6 | 3.5 | 0.6 | 9.6 |
| Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander | 10.9 | 22.7 | 19.5 | 18.3 | 2.1 | 27.2 |
| Language background other than English | 0.7 | 2.0 | 0.9 | 1.5 | 0.3 | 2.2 |
| One-parent family | 9.5 | 29.6 | 16.9 | 17.4 | 2.6 | 20.1 |
| Living in areas of most disadvantage (IRSD1) | 2.8 | 7.3 | 4.9 | 4.7 | 0.8 | 10.8 |
| Living in areas of least disadvantage (IRSD5) | 1.2 | 3.3 | 2.1 | 1.8 | 0.5 | 7.2 |
| Rural/Regional areas | 3.0 | 8.1 | 5.6 | 5.1 | 0.7 | 13.8 |
| Metropolitan areas | 1.5 | 4.1 | 2.7 | 2.5 | 0.6 | 7.6 |

1. Proportion of Prep enrolments is calculated using the number of full-time equivalent children enrolled in Prep each calendar year, excluding enrolments in Specialist and Language schools which do not participate in the Victorian Primary School Nursing Program. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. The Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage (IRSD) is a general socio-economic index summarising a range of information about the economic and social conditions of people and households within an area. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Speech and language service use is asked twice in the SEHQ; this figure does not include the proportion of children reported to have seen a speech pathologist in the past twelve months, just those children whose parents reported ‘yes’ that their child is currently seeing a speech pathologist. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. The SEHQ identifies children at risk of developmental and behavioural problems through the Parents’ Evaluation of Developmental Status (PEDS). The PEDS, used for children from birth to eight years of age, requires parents to complete a 10-item questionnaire and can be used as a developmental screening test or an informal means to elicit and respond to parent concerns. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) is a brief behavioural screening questionnaire for ages 4 to 17 developed in the United Kingdom. The SDQ has been amended for use in Australia and exists in several versions that can be completed by children, adolescents, parents and teachers. All versions of the SDQ include questions on 25 psychological attributes which are divided between five scales: emotional symptoms; conduct problems; hyperactivity; peer problems; and prosocial. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. The prosocial behaviour SDQ sub-scale measures positive social behaviours. Children identified as being high/moderate risk on this scale are those who do not demonstrate these positive social behaviours. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)