School Entrant Health Questionnaire 2022

Statewide results

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# The School Entrant Health Questionnaire

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 2022 SEHQ, as well as results from the 2021 and 2020 surveys. Due to COVID-19 related events, there was significant disruption to the distribution of the SEHQ in 2020 and 2021, reducing family participation compared to previous years. During this time a targeted service was sometimes employed, 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 2022 SEHQ (76.8%) was higher than in 2021 (75.0%) and 2020 (66.0%) but was lower than other years since 2015 (which ranged between 78.2% and 83.3% participation).

* Most parents reported that their child was in excellent or very good health in 2022 (81.6%), although this proportion had declined from 85.5% in 2020. The proportion of parents reporting specific health concerns related to asthma, allergies, eyesight, and oral health was stable compared to recent years.
* In 2022, a lower proportion of children were reported to have attended the dentist in the past 12 months (45.1%), or to have attended their 3.5-year-old Maternal and Child health check (62.7%) as compared to 2020 (49.9% and 70.5% respectively). This is likely an effect of COVID-19 related restrictions in place in 2021.
* The proportion of children reported to have attended a preschool or kindergarten program in the year before school was similar in 2022 (85.6%) to 2021 (86.5%) and 2020 (86.7%).
* The proportion of all children reported to have speech and language difficulties in 2022 (16.3%) remained similar to 2021 (16.4%) and 2020 (16.0%), with speech not being clear to others being the most frequently reported difficulty (12.3% of all children). Children living in areas of most disadvantage (19.1%), or in rural/regional areas (19.9%), were more likely to have reported speech and language difficulties than those living in areas of least disadvantage (12.9%) or in metropolitan areas (15.0%).
* The proportion of children identified as being at high risk of behavioural and emotional problems was 7.9% in 2022, similar to results in 2021 (7.1%) and 2020 (7.4%). Conduct problems were the most frequently reported category of problem (23.0% of all children).[[1]](#footnote-2)
* The proportion of parents reporting high/highest levels of stress in their family in 2022 (9.5%) was similar to 2021 (8.8%) and 2020 (10.0%).
* Parents of Aboriginal children and one-parent families were more likely to report concerns related to their child’s health (asthma and oral health), speech and language, or development and wellbeing. They were also more likely to report experiencing the high/highest levels of stress in their family.

The tables below provide more detailed information regarding the health, development and wellbeing of Prep aged children in 2022.

# SEHQ participation and demographic profile

## Table 1: Number of survey respondents and proportion of eligible Prep enrolments[[2]](#footnote-3)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Survey year** | Number of respondents | Respondents as a proportion of eligible Prep enrolments (%) |
| 2020 | 53,967 | 66.0 |
| 2021 | 60,256 | 75.0 |
| 2022 | 60,858 | 76.8 |

## Table 2: Demographic profile of children in the SEHQ dataset

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Population group** | **2020****%** | **2021****%** | **2022** |
| % | N |
| 5 years of age (at April 30 of survey year) | 76.0 | 75.8 | 73.7 | 44,874 |
| 6 years (at April 30 of survey year) | 16.2 | 16.6 | 17.2 | 10,495 |
| Male | 48.1 | 47.8 | 47.6 | 28,974 |
| Female | 45.8 | 45.9 | 44.9 | 27,315 |
| Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander | 2.0 | 1.9 | 2.3 | 1,378 |
| Born outside Australia | 9.8 | 8.1 | 7.5 | 4,582 |
| One-parent family | 11.2 | 10.5 | 8.8 | 5,382 |
| Living in areas of most disadvantage (IRSD1)[[3]](#footnote-4) | 21.1 | 19.5 | 19.0 | 11,592 |
| Living in areas of least disadvantage (IRSD5) | 18.5 | 19.4 | 20.2 | 12,316 |
| Rural/Regional areas | 28.2 | 27.2 | 25.3 | 15,426 |
| Metropolitan areas | 71.7 | 72.8 | 74.5 | 45,364 |

*Results for demographic categories will not sum to results for all children due to missing or invalid data.*

## Table 3: Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage (IRSD) of children in the SEHQ dataset

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Population Group | IRSD quintile 1(most disadvantage) | IRSD quintile 2 | IRSD quintile 3 | IRSD quintile 4 | IRSD quintile 5(least disadvantage) |
| % | % | % | % | % |
| All Children | 19.0 | 19.7 | 20.7 | 20.0 | 20.2 |
| Male | 19.5 | 19.6 | 20.8 | 19.9 | 19.8 |
| Female | 19.4 | 19.7 | 21.3 | 19.7 | 19.5 |
| Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander | 29.8 | 23.4 | 19.4 | 16.3 | 11.0 |
| One-parent family | 28.1 | 22.8 | 19.5 | 15.9 | 13.4 |
| Rural/Regional areas | 27.6 | 29.3 | 13.9 | 20.8 | 8.0 |
| Metropolitan areas | 16.2 | 16.4 | 23.1 | 19.6 | 24.4 |

*Results for demographic categories will not sum to results for all children due to missing or invalid data.*

# Health

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Population group** | **Excellent/Very Good** | **Good** | **Fair/Poor** |
| 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
| % | % | % | N | % | % | % | N | % | % | % | N |
| All Children | 85.5 | 84.3 | 81.6 | 49,670 | 6.3 | 7.4 | 8.2 | 5,018 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 535 |
| Male | 89.7 | 88.6 | 87.0 | 25,211 | 7.5 | 8.7 | 9.6 | 2,781 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.1 | 309 |
| Female | 91.5 | 90.6 | 88.9 | 24,279 | 5.9 | 7.0 | 8.1 | 2,221 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 223 |
| Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander | 86.6 | 86.2 | 85.5 | 1,178 | 9.4 | 10.7 | 10.4 | 144 | 1.7 | 1.0 | 2.0 | 28 |
| One-parent family | 88.5 | 86.4 | 85.3 | 4,590 | 8.9 | 10.6 | 11.1 | 595 | 1.2 | 1.4 | 1.9 | 101 |
| Living in areas of most disadvantage (IRSD1) | 84.3 | 82.8 | 80.6 | 9,343 | 8.1 | 8.9 | 9.8 | 1,133 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 1.2 | 142 |
| Living in areas of least disadvantage (IRSD5) | 85.5 | 84.6 | 81.6 | 10,050 | 4.9 | 6.0 | 6.5 | 796 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 73 |
| Rural/Regional areas | 85.2 | 85.2 | 82.5 | 12,725 | 5.0 | 6.2 | 7.0 | 1,074 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 125 |
| Metropolitan areas | 85.4 | 83.9 | 81.3 | 36,891 | 6.9 | 7.9 | 8.7 | 3,937 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 409 |

*Results for demographic categories will not sum to results for all children due to missing or invalid data.*

## Table 5: Children diagnosed with asthma

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Population group | 2020% | 2021% | 2022 |
| **%** | **N** |
| All Children | 10.2 | 9.6 | 10.1 | 6,125 |
| Male | 13.0 | 12.2 | 12.7 | 3,682 |
| Female | 8.6 | 8.1 | 8.9 | 2,423 |
| Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander | 17.5 | 18.3 | 16.9 | 233 |
| One-parent family | 14.1 | 13.6 | 14.9 | 801 |
| Living in areas of most disadvantage (IRSD1) | 10.8 | 10.6 | 10.4 | 1,208 |
| Living in areas of least disadvantage (IRSD5) | 8.6 | 8.2 | 8.9 | 1,094 |
| Rural/Regional areas | 11.7 | 11.8 | 11.8 | 1,824 |
| Metropolitan areas | 9.6 | 8.8 | 9.5 | 4,294 |

*Results for demographic categories will not sum to results for all children due to missing or invalid data.*

## Table 6: Children diagnosed with a known allergy

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Population group | 2020% | 2021% | 2022 |
| **%** | **N** |
| All Children | 8.6 | 9.0 | 9.6 | 5,816 |
| Male | 10.3 | 10.7 | 11.5 | 3,337 |
| Female | 7.9 | 8.3 | 9.0 | 2,455 |
| Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander | 9.4 | 9.4 | 10.2 | 140 |
| One-parent family | 9.5 | 9.0 | 10.5 | 567 |
| Living in areas of most disadvantage (IRSD1) | 7.8 | 8.5 | 9.0 | 1,043 |
| Living in areas of least disadvantage (IRSD5) | 9.3 | 9.6 | 9.9 | 1,217 |
| Rural/Regional areas | 8.4 | 8.8 | 9.2 | 1,421 |
| Metropolitan areas | 8.6 | 9.0 | 9.7 | 4,388 |

*Results for demographic categories will not sum to results for all children due to missing or invalid data.*

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Population group** | **2020****%** | **2021****%** | **2021** |
| % | N |
| All Children | 1.6 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1,125 |
| Male | 2.1 | 2.3 | 2.4 | 688 |
| Female | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.6 | 432 |
| Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander | 0.9 | 1.6 | 1.1 | 15 |
| One-parent family | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.4 | 76 |
| Living in areas of most disadvantage (IRSD1) | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 177 |
| Living in areas of least disadvantage (IRSD5) | 2.0 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 281 |
| Rural/Regional areas | 1.6 | 1.7 | 1.6 | 248 |
| Metropolitan areas | 1.6 | 1.8 | 1.9 | 877 |

*Results for demographic categories will not sum to results for all children due to missing or invalid data.*

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Population group | 2020% | 2021% | 2022 |
| **%** | **N** |
| All Children | 8.4 | 7.7 | 7.5 | 4,570 |
| Male | 9.1 | 8.1 | 8.1 | 2,337 |
| Female | 8.7 | 8.2 | 8.1 | 2,211 |
| Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander | 12.1 | 8.5 | 9.4 | 130 |
| One-parent family | 10.0 | 9.2 | 9.8 | 528 |
| Living in areas of most disadvantage (IRSD1) | 8.2 | 7.5 | 7.9 | 916 |
| Living in areas of least disadvantage (IRSD5) | 9.0 | 7.4 | 7.1 | 879 |
| Rural/Regional areas | 7.7 | 7.1 | 7.2 | 1,118 |
| Metropolitan areas | 8.7 | 7.9 | 7.6 | 3,447 |

*Results for demographic categories will not sum to results for all children due to missing or invalid data.*

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Population group** | **2020****%** | **2021****%** | **2022** |
| % | N |
| All Children | 16.2 | 15.9 | 16.5 | 10,022 |
| Male | 17.2 | 17.0 | 17.6 | 5,106 |
| Female | 17.2 | 16.8 | 17.8 | 4,872 |
| Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander | 21.9 | 23.0 | 19.8 | 273 |
| One-parent family | 19.5 | 19.9 | 22.6 | 1,214 |
| Living in areas of most disadvantage (IRSD1) | 17.8 | 17.4 | 18.6 | 2,153 |
| Living in areas of least disadvantage (IRSD5) | 15.0 | 14.3 | 15.1 | 1,864 |
| Rural/Regional areas | 14.8 | 15.4 | 15.9 | 2,450 |
| Metropolitan areas | 16.8 | 16.1 | 16.7 | 7,560 |

*Results for demographic categories will not sum to results for 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** | **2020****%** | **2021****%** | **2022** |
| % | N |
| Paediatrician | 12.3 | 10.6 | 12.4 | 7,544 |
| Optometrist/eye doctor | 16.2 | 14.3 | 15.3 | 9,292 |
| Audiologist/hearing specialist | 7.6 | 6.2  | 6.7 | 4,079 |
| Speech Pathologist/Speech Therapist | 11.2 | 10.1 | 11.0 | 6,719 |
| Early Childhood Intervention Services (ECIS) Therapist or Practitioner | 5.2 | 5.0 | 6.5 | 3,959 |
| Dentist (including orthodontist, periodontist etc) | 49.9 | 43.6 | 45.1 | 27,453 |

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Population group | 2020% | 2021% | 2022 |
| **%** | **N** |
| All Children | 49.9 | 43.6 | 45.1 | 27,453 |
| Male | 51.8 | 45.1 | 47.4 | 13,736 |
| Female | 54.3 | 47.6 | 49.9 | 13,621 |
| Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander | 51.5 | 40.2 | 46.4 | 640 |
| One-parent family | 50.9 | 43.6 | 45.8 | 2,463 |
| Living in areas of most disadvantage (IRSD1) | 47.4 | 39.1 | 41.3 | 4,786 |
| Living in areas of least disadvantage (IRSD5) | 53.0 | 48.2 | 49.6 | 6,103 |
| Rural/Regional areas | 54.3 | 49.0 | 49.5 | 7,638 |
| Metropolitan areas | 48.2 | 41.6 | 43.6 | 19,791 |

*Results for demographic categories will not sum to results for 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** | **2020****%** | **2021****%** | **2022** |
| % | N |
| All Children | 70.5 | 69.9 | 62.7 | 38,155 |
| Male | 75.0 | 74.8 | 67.8 | 19,635 |
| Female | 74.8 | 73.9 | 67.4 | 18,404 |
| Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander | 76.0 | 74.0 | 67.5 | 930 |
| One-parent family | 76.2 | 74.1 | 69.4 | 3,734 |
| Living in areas of most disadvantage (IRSD1) | 71.6 | 70.1 | 65.4 | 7,586 |
| Living in areas of least disadvantage (IRSD5) | 68.3 | 69.4 | 60.5 | 7,455 |
| Rural/Regional areas | 73.3 | 72.7 | 68.2 | 10,514 |
| Metropolitan areas | 69.5 | 68.9 | 60.8 | 27,601 |

*Results for demographic categories will not sum to results for all children due to missing or invalid data.*

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Population group | 2020% | 2021% | 2022 |
| **%** | **N** |
| All Children | 86.7 | 86.5 | 85.6 | 52,097 |
| Male | 92.0 | 92.0 | 92.3 | 26,744 |
| Female | 92.1 | 91.9 | 92.2 | 25,177 |
| Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander | 87.0 | 89.5 | 90.4 | 1,246 |
| Language background other than English | 91.9 | 90.7 | 88.9 | 1,180 |
| One-parent family | 90.4 | 90.0 | 89.8 | 4,835 |
| Living in areas of most disadvantage (IRSD1) | 86.0 | 85.2 | 85.9 | 9,963 |
| Living in areas of least disadvantage (IRSD5) | 86.4 | 86.3 | 84.5 | 10,408 |
| Rural/Regional areas | 85.5 | 86.4 | 85.9 | 13,252 |
| Metropolitan areas | 87.2 | 86.5 | 85.5 | 38,786 |

*Results for demographic categories will not sum to results for all children due to missing or invalid data.*

# Speech and language

## Table 14: Children reported to have difficulties with speech and language[[4]](#footnote-5)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Population group** | **2020****%** | **2021****%** | **2022** |
| % | N |
| All Children | 16.0 | 16.4 | 16.3 | 9,902 |
| Male | 21.5 | 22.0 | 21.8 | 6,309 |
| Female | 12.3 | 12.7 | 13.0 | 3,548 |
| Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander | 28.4 | 30.3 | 26.8 | 369 |
| One-parent family | 22.7 | 22.6 | 23.6 | 1,269 |
| Living in areas of most disadvantage (IRSD1) | 18.7 | 18.6 | 19.1 | 2,209 |
| Living in areas of least disadvantage (IRSD5) | 13.0 | 13.8 | 12.9 | 1,594 |
| Rural/Regional areas | 19.4 | 19.6 | 19.9 | 3,070 |
| Metropolitan areas | 14.7 | 15.3 | 15.0 | 6,825 |

*Results for demographic categories will not sum to results for all children due to missing or invalid data.*

## Table 15: Type of speech and language difficulty

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Type of speech and language difficulty** | **2020****%** | **2021****%** | **2022** |
| % | N |
| Speech not clear to others | 12.0 | 12.2 | 12.3 | 7,506 |
| Difficulty putting words together | 6.1 | 5.8 | 5.7 | 3,498 |
| Voice sounds unusual | 2.4 | 2.2 | 2.5 | 1,507 |
| Stutters or stammers | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.4 | 2,669 |

# Development, behaviour, and emotional wellbeing

## Table 16: 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 |
| **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** |
| **%** | **%** | **%** | **N** | **%** | **%** | **%** | **N** |
| All Children | 7.4 | 7.1 | 7.9 | 3,916 | 5.8 | 5.7 | 6.1 | 3,007 |
| Male | 9.7 | 9.2 | 10.3 | 2,435 | 7.2 | 7.0 | 7.4 | 1,749 |
| Female | 5.9 | 5.9 | 6.5 | 1,461 | 5.2 | 5.1 | 5.6 | 1,249 |
| Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander | 19.7 | 21.5 | 22.9 | 211 | 8.4 | 10.5 | 11.4 | 105 |
| One-parent family | 15.5 | 15.4 | 17.6 | 853 | 9.4 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 446 |
| Living in areas of most disadvantage (IRSD1) | 9.3 | 9.3 | 9.9 | 957 | 6.9 | 6.6 | 6.7 | 649 |
| Living in areas of least disadvantage (IRSD5) | 4.7 | 4.3 | 5.2 | 480 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 5.1 | 464 |
| Rural/Regional areas | 9.8 | 9.8 | 11.2 | 1,259 | 6.3 | 6.3 | 7.2 | 807 |
| Metropolitan areas | 6.4 | 6.2 | 7.0 | 2,655 | 5.6 | 5.5 | 5.8 | 2,199 |

*Results for demographic categories will not sum to results for all children due to missing or invalid data.*

## Table 17: Children at risk of clinically significant problems across SDQ sub*-*scales[[6]](#footnote-7)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SDQ sub-scales |  | High/moderate risk |  |  |
| **2020** | **2021** | **2022** |
| **%** | **%** | **%** | **N** |
| Conduct problems  | 22.2 | 21.6 | 23.0 | 11,364  |
| Emotional Symptoms  | 13.2 | 12.9 | 13.5 | 6,667  |
| Hyperactivity  | 14.7 | 14.4 | 15.5 | 7,657  |
| Peer Problems  | 18.2 | 17.2 | 18.4 | 9,069 |
| Prosocial Behaviour[[7]](#footnote-8)  | 7.7 | 7.7 | 8.1 | 4,004  |

#

# Family issues and stressors

## Table 18: Families reporting high levels of stress in the month prior to the survey

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Population group** | **High stress** | **Highest stress** | **High/highest stress combined** |
| 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
| % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | N |
| All Children | 8.8 | 7.6 | 8.0 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 1.4 | 10.0 | 8.8 | 9.5 | 5,753 |
| Male | 9.7 | 8.3 | 8.8 | 1.4 | 1.3 | 1.5 | 11.1 | 9.6 | 10.3 | 2,979 |
| Female | 8.9 | 7.9 | 8.5 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 1.6 | 10.2 | 9.0 | 10.1 | 2,751 |
| Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander | 12.9 | 12.5 | 13.5 | 2.2 | 3.0 | 3.3 | 15.0 | 15.4 | 16.8 | 231 |
| One-parent family | 15.2 | 14.6 | 15.5 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 4.1 | 18.5 | 18.0 | 19.6 | 1,056 |
| Living in areas of most disadvantage (IRSD1) | 8.2 | 7.6 | 8.0 | 1.5 | 1.4 | 1.6 | 9.8 | 9.0 | 9.6 | 1,115 |
| Living in areas of least disadvantage (IRSD5) | 9.5 | 8.0 | 8.3 | 1.2 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 10.7 | 9.0 | 9.4 | 1,161 |
| Rural/Regional areas | 10.4 | 9.0 | 10.3 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.6 | 11.8 | 10.4 | 11.9 | 1,837 |
| Metropolitan areas | 8.1 | 7.1 | 7.3 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 1.4 | 9.4 | 8.2 | 8.6 | 3,914 |

## Table 19: 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 | 6.7 | 3.8 | 6.7 | 4.0 | 4.7 | 1.2 | 1.4 | 2.5 | 1.1 |
| Male | 6.7 | 4.1 | 7.2 | 4.2 | 4.8 | 1.2 | 1.6 | 2.7 | 1.1 |
| Female | 7.7 | 4.1 | 7.3 | 4.5 | 5.2 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 2.8 | 1.2 |
| Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander | 12.5 | 10.5 | 12.2 | 4.9 | 6.9 | 2.0 | 4.9 | 5.1 | 1.7 |
| One-parent family | 9.8 | 25.8 | 15.1 | 3.7 | 7.4 | 2.5 | 8.4 | 6.1 | 1.4 |
| Living in areas of most disadvantage (IRSD1) | 7.0 | 5.0 | 6.7 | 4.2 | 4.7 | 1.2 | 1.6 | 3.0 | 1.3 |
| Living in areas of least disadvantage (IRSD5) | 6.0 | 2.9 | 7.1 | 3.7 | 4.2 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 1.9 | 0.8 |
| Rural/Regional areas | 9.5 | 5.5 | 8.7 | 4.2 | 6.6 | 1.3 | 2.1 | 3.4 | 1.5 |
| Metropolitan areas | 5.8 | 3.2 | 6.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 2.2 | 1.0 |

*Results for demographic categories will not sum to results for all children due to missing or invalid data.*

## Table 20: Children with reported family issues

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Population group** | **History of abuse to child** | **History of abuse to parent** | **History of alcohol or drug relat**ed **problems in family** | **History of child witnessing violence** | **History of gambling problem in the family** | **History of mental illness of parent** |
| % | % | % | % | % | % |
| All Children | 1.8 | 5.0 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 0.6 | 10.4 |
| Male | 2.0 | 5.3 | 3.5 | 3.4 | 0.7 | 11.3 |
| Female | 1.8 | 5.4 | 3.4 | 3.3 | 0.6 | 11.0 |
| Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander | 7.9 | 17.8 | 15.2 | 13.7 | 1.7 | 24.4 |
| One-parent family | 10.0 | 30.6 | 16.2 | 18.6 | 3.3 | 22.5 |
| Living in areas of most disadvantage (IRSD1) | 2.6 | 7.2 | 4.8 | 4.9 | 0.8 | 11.7 |
| Living in areas of least disadvantage (IRSD5) | 1.0 | 3.1 | 1.9 | 1.7 | 0.5 | 8.4 |
| Rural/Regional areas | 2.9 | 7.7 | 5.4 | 5.1 | 0.8 | 16.2 |
| Metropolitan areas | 1.4 | 4.0 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 0.6 | 8.4 |

*Results for demographic categories will not sum to results for all children due to missing or invalid data.*

1. Behavioural and emotional problems are here defined using the Total Difficulties score from the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ). Children may be identified as being at risk of clinically significant problems on individual SDQ sub-scales, such as Conduct problems, without necessarily reaching the threshold for being assessed as high risk on Total Difficulties. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Proportion of eligible 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. Non-government schools may opt not to participate in the SEHQ, and therefore some parents of eligible children will not have had the opportunity to complete the questionnaire.

The Victorian Budget 2024-25 Department Performance Statement uses a different calculation to report the percentage of prep aged students whose parent or caregiver completes a health assessment. This measure only includes the children of families who received a questionnaire and not all eligible children. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. 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. Quintiles are calculated from responses to the Australian Census of population and housing, therefore, there may be more or less than 20% of SEHQ respondents in each quintile. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. 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-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 behaviour. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. Children may be identified as being at risk of clinically significant problems on individual SDQ sub-scales without necessarily reaching the threshold for being assessed as high risk on Total Difficulties. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. 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-8)