



Adolescent Community Profiles

Summary sheet for the City of Ballarat

Note: LGA data has been presented where available. Otherwise broader DEECD regional level data has been substituted. This resource is intended to compliment the Adolescent Community Profiles. Please refer to the relevant pages in the profile for explanation of terms used and data caveats.

Population and projections

- At 30 June 2009, there was an estimated 10,266 adolescents aged 10 to 17 residing in Ballarat, representing 10.9 per cent of the area's total population.
- Based on DPCD projections, the population aged 10 to 17 years in Ballarat is expected to increase by 18.5 per cent from 10,280 in 2006 to 12,185 by 2026.

Physical health and wellbeing

- In 2009, 19.6 per cent of adolescents in Ballarat reported eating the minimum recommended serves of fruit and vegetables each day. This was higher than the proportion reported across Victoria (19.0 per cent).
- During 2009 - 2010, the top three causes of hospitalisations for adolescents in Ballarat were: 'Other and unspecified abdominal pain' (rate of 282.5 per 100,000 adolescents), 'Impacted teeth' (rate of 272.7 per 100,000 adolescents) and 'Mucopolysaccharidosis type II' (rate of 457.8 per 100,000 adolescents).
- In 2009, 10.7 per cent of adolescents surveyed in Ballarat did the recommended amount of physical activity every day. This was lower than, but not significantly different to the proportion reported across Victoria (12.3 per cent).
- In 2009, 62.1 per cent of adolescents surveyed in Ballarat used electronic media for more than two hours per day. This was higher than, but not significantly different to the proportion reported across Victoria (58.7 per cent).

Behaviour and mental health

- In 2009, 49.0 per cent of adolescents in Ballarat reported being recently bullied. This was higher than, but not significantly different to the proportion reported across Victoria (44.6 per cent).
- During 2008 - 2009, the hospitalisation rate for intentional self harm was 0.5 per 1,000 adolescents in Ballarat. This was similar to the rate in Victoria (0.6 per 1,000 adolescents).
- During 2009 - 2010, there were 4.4 psychiatric hospitalisations per 1,000 adolescents in Ballarat. This was lower than the rate in Victoria (6.7 per 1,000 adolescents).
- In 2009, 12.9 per cent of adolescents in Ballarat reported very high levels of psychological distress. This was lower than, but not significantly different to the proportion reported across Victoria (13.0 per cent).
- In 2009, 54.5 per cent of adolescents surveyed in Ballarat had positive psychological development. This was lower than, but not significantly different to the proportion reported across Victoria (61.1 per cent).



Learning

- In Ballarat, 88.9 per cent of Year 5 students, 94.6 per cent of Year 7 students and 89.6 per cent of Year 9 students achieved the national minimum standard in reading in the 2010 NAPLAN.
- 90.3 per cent of Year 5 students, 88.9 per cent of Year 7 students and 86.9 per cent of Year 9 students in Ballarat achieved the national minimum standard in writing in the 2010 NAPLAN.
- In Ballarat, 92.4 per cent of Year 5 students, 94.5 per cent of Year 7 students and 91.7 per cent of Year 9 students achieved the national minimum standard in numeracy in the 2010 NAPLAN.
- In 2010, the Year 10 - 12 apparent retention rates of full-time equivalent students in the Grampians region was 73.6 per cent. This was lower than the apparent retention rate across Victoria (82.4 per cent).
- In 2009, 66.8 per cent of young people aged 19 years in Ballarat had attained Year 12 or its equivalent. This was lower than the proportion across Victoria (79.8 per cent).
- Based on the 2010 On Track cohort, 17.6 per cent of early school leavers in Ballarat were looking for work six months later. This was higher than the percentage across Victoria (16.6 per cent).

Safety

- In 2009 - 2010, 28.1 per 1000 adolescents in Ballarat were victims of a reported crime. This was higher than the rate across Victoria (17.5 per 1000 adolescents).
- In 2009 - 2010, 124.0 per 1000 adolescents in Ballarat were alleged offenders of crime. Of the 1273 alleged offences committed by an adolescent in Ballarat, 15.5 per cent were crimes against the person and 73.3 per cent were crimes against property.
- During 2009 - 2010, 5.4 per 1000 adolescents in Ballarat were placed on community based orders. This was more than triple that of the rate across Victoria (1.5 per 1000 adolescents).

Teenage lifestyle

- In 2008, the rate of babies born to teenage women in Ballarat was 14.2 per 1000 women aged 15 to 19 years. This was higher than the rate in Victoria (10.6 per 1000 teenage women).
- In 2009, 55.2 per cent of adolescents aged 12 to 14 surveyed in Ballarat had ever consumed alcohol, while 28.2 per cent had consumed alcohol in the past 30 days. Among older adolescents aged 15 to 17 years, the proportions were significantly higher, with 84.0 per cent having ever consumed alcohol and 58.0 per cent having done so in the last 30 days.
- In 2009, 16.9 per cent of adolescents aged 12 to 14 years in Ballarat and 30.5 per cent of older adolescents (aged 15 to 17 years), reported that they had smoked cigarettes.
- In 2009, 3.1 per cent of adolescents aged 12 to 14 years in Ballarat had tried marijuana, 8.0 per cent had sniffed glue or chromed and 1.7 per cent had tried another form of illegal drugs. Among older adolescents aged 15 to 17 years in Ballarat, 10.9 per cent had tried marijuana, 5.2 per cent had sniffed glue or chromed and 5.2 per cent had tried another form of illegal drugs.
- In 2009, 10.7 per cent of 12-14 year old students and 25.8 per cent of 15-17 year old students in Ballarat reported that they have had sexual intercourse. The mean age of initiation of sexual intercourse for adolescents in Victoria was 15 years old.



Teenage lifestyle ... continued

- In 2009, 51.0 per cent of sexually active adolescents surveyed in Ballarat reported that they practiced safe sex by using a condom. This was lower than, but not significantly different to that reported across Victoria (58.1 per cent).
- In 2009, 65.6 per cent of sexually active adolescent females in Ballarat have used contraception to avoid pregnancy. This was lower than, but not significantly different to that reported across Victoria (78.9 per cent).
- In 2009, 63.8 per cent of adolescents surveyed in Ballarat had a trusted adult in their life. This proportion was lower than, but not significantly different to that reported across Victoria (70.8 per cent).

Promoting adolescent wellbeing

- In 2009 - 2010, the rate of child protection substantiations in Ballarat was 4.7 per 1000 adolescents. This was higher than the rate across Victoria (4.4 per 1000 adolescents).

Financial hardship and family functioning

- In Ballarat, there were 63 public housing allocations to household with adolescents during 2008 - 2009. Of these, 85.7 per cent remained in that public housing allocation 12 months after the initial allocation.
- In 2009, 83.4 per cent of adolescents surveyed in Ballarat were living in families with healthy family functioning. This was higher than, but not significantly different to the proportion across Victoria (83.1 per cent).

Physical and social environment

- In 2009, 76.6 per cent of adolescents surveyed in Ballarat said they had someone to turn to for advice. This was significantly lower than that reported across Victoria (86.1 per cent).
- In 2009, 72.6 per cent of adolescents surveyed in Ballarat were satisfied with the quality of their life. This was lower than, but not significantly different to that reported across Victoria (77.1 per cent).
- In Ballarat, 62.3 per cent of adolescents reported that they help make decisions at school, while 62.0 per cent reported that they helped make decisions at home.

Neighbourhood facilities and safety

- In 2009, 9.1 per cent of adolescents in Ballarat felt that lack of access to transport impacted on their ability to work, study, see a doctor or socialise. This was lower than, but not significantly different to the proportion reported across Victoria (9.3 per cent).
- In 2009, 74.1 per cent of adolescents in Ballarat reported feeling safe in their neighbourhood. This was significantly lower than that reported across Victoria (82.4 per cent).
- In 2009 - 2010, there were 9,520 reported crimes in Ballarat, representing a rate of 101.2 per 1000 population. This was higher than the crime rate in Victoria during this period.



Children attend and enjoy school

- On average, adolescent students attending government schools in Ballarat were absent 17.9 days during the 2009 school year. In 2009, the average number of absence days was highest for Year 10 students (23.7 average absence days), and lowest for Year 5 students (12.4 average absence days).
- In 2010, the highest mean school connectedness results for adolescent students in Ballarat was observed for Year 6 students (mean school connectedness score of 4.33) and the lowest mean score observed for Year 9 students (mean school connectedness score of 3.26).

Adequate supports for vulnerable teenagers

- In 2009, 74.0 per cent of adolescents in Ballarat felt that they could access physical health services if needed. This was lower than, but not significantly different to the proportion reported across Victoria (79.4 per cent).
- In 2009, 66.0 per cent of adolescents in Ballarat felt that they could access mental health services if needed. This was lower than, but not significantly different to the proportion reported across Victoria (70.4 per cent).
- In 2009, 79.8 per cent of adolescents in Ballarat felt that they could access dental health services if needed. This was higher than, but not significantly different to the proportion reported across Victoria (78.3 per cent).