Reproductive / Sexual Health

In Gippsland it’s estimated that:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Indicator</th>
<th>Gippsland</th>
<th>Victoria</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Smoking during pregnancy</td>
<td>23.4%</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cervical cancer screening (women 20-69 years)</td>
<td>56.9%</td>
<td>56.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average number of births per woman</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>1.7</td>
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<td>Births per 1,000 girls aged 18 years or younger</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>9.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Low birth weight babies (&lt;2,500 grams at birth)</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chlamydia notifications</td>
<td>201 per 100,000 people</td>
<td>322 per 100,000 people</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hysterectomy and endometrial ablation</td>
<td>373-687* per 100,000 people</td>
<td>276 per 100,000 people</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Range for Gippsland local government areas  
Among highest or lowest 25% of regions in Victoria

Strengths

- The Gippsland Sexual and Reproductive Health Alliance is working to improve health; an Annual Forum is held
- There are condom vending machines across Gippsland to improve access
- Information about contraception, pregnancy options and sexual health are available at 1800myoptions
- Relationships and sexual health grants to support comprehensive sexuality education
- Health Pathways development to help clinicians provide relevant referrals and care
- Doctors in schools and youth clinics are improving access to services for young people
- Young people in Gippsland rate sexual health as an important health issue
- “Well women’s clinic is really good.”

Needs

- Chlamydia notifications are high for young people, especially females
- The fertility rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women is higher
- Termination of pregnancy services are a service gap
- Accessible, affordable and confidential sexual health clinics are a service gap
- Low birth weight babies are more than twice as likely from Aboriginal mothers
- “GP was uncomfortable discussing sexual health / family planning…”
- Training for GPs and pharmacists in medical termination of pregnancy
- Raise awareness about safe consensual sexual practices and reproductive choice

References

1. Social Health Atlas of Australia, PHIDU 2018
2. Cancer screening in Australia by small geographic areas, AIHW, 2015-16
3. Victorian Local Government Profiles, 2015, DHHS
5. Infectious Disease Surveillance Unit, Victorian DHHS
9. Gippsland PHN, Community and Stakeholder engagement 2016
10. National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Social Survey, results for Victoria 2014-15