

SUBSTANCE ABUSE & GAMBLING

The World Health Organisation defines 'substance abuse' as the harmful use of psychoactive substances, including alcohol, illicit drugs and tobacco¹. Regular and long-term substance use is often not just the symptom of a user's condition but also the cause, creating a cycle of difficulties. Similarly, the effects of substance abuse are not isolated, and research indicates that heavy consumption of alcohol, drugs and tobacco are closely related to a range of short and long term health issues. Like other addictions, gambling addiction negatively affects the person, their family and friends, as well as the wider community.

This profile compares local levels of substance use, smoking status and gambling to levels across Greater Melbourne and Victoria.

The profile shows that, whilst Wyndham records substance abuse rates that are similar to or lower than the state average in a number of elements, it is not immune to the wider social problems associated with illicit drugs and gambling. Wyndham adults ranked high in the state for gaming machine losses per adult and venue.

All data refers to adults aged 18+ years unless otherwise stated.



Just over half the adult population of **Wyndham (52%)** face an increased risk of alcohol-related harm due to drinking behaviour. This is lower than the North and West Metro area and Victoria in general.



Since 2008, the **number of smokers in Wyndham has decreased at a greater rate** than in the North West Metro area and Victoria. In 2014, **around 13% of adults in Wyndham and Victoria wide smoke.**

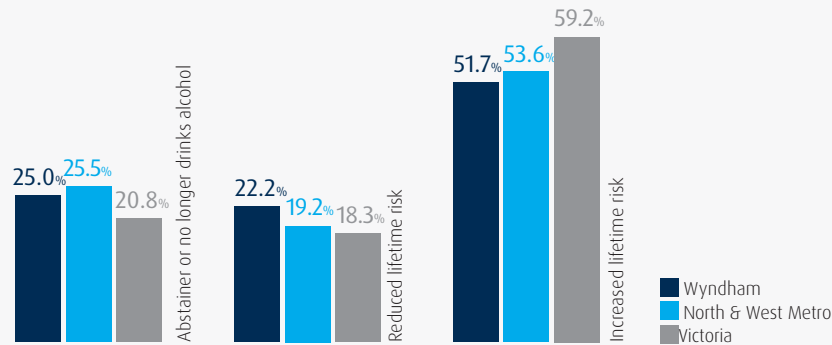


Emergency department presentations for illicit drug related incidents **in Wyndham are high** in relation to other Victorian Local Government Areas.



Not only are **Electronic Gaming Machine losses** per adult **higher in Wyndham** than in Victoria, they are also **increasing at a faster rate.**

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Lifetime Risk of Alcohol-Related Harm, 2014²

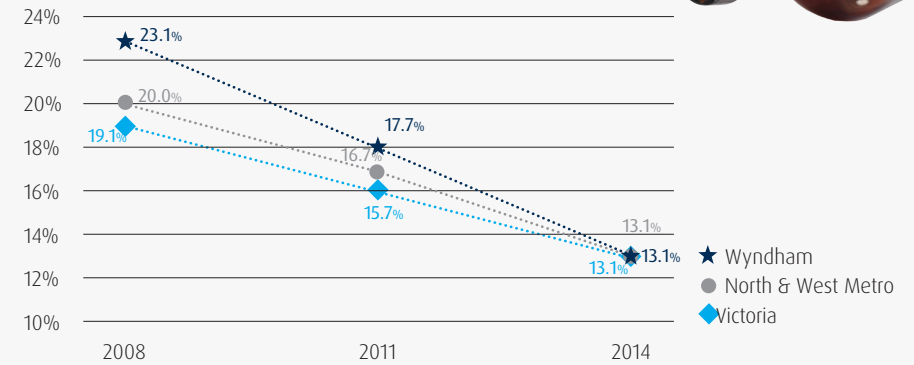
Regular, excessive alcohol consumption can, over time, lead to chronic disease such as cancer, cardiac disease and mental illness.

In Wyndham, more than half the adult population (51.7%) drinks enough alcohol per day to put them at an increased risk of alcohol-related harm. Despite this, there are proportionally fewer adults who drink excessively in Wyndham compared to the North West and Metro area (53.6%) and Victoria (59.2%).

	Wyndham	Victoria
EGM Gambling Losses 2015/2016	\$97m	\$2,617m
EGM Gambling Losses per day	\$266,078	\$7,169,051
Losses per Adult 2015/2016	\$621	\$526
% Change in Losses in year 2015/2016	4.6%	1.7%
% Change in Losses - adjusted for Inflation	3.1%	0.3%

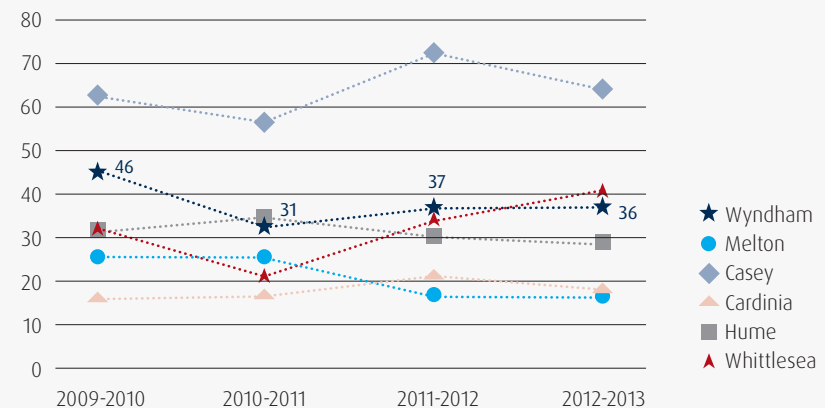
Electronic Gaming Machines, 2015-16³

- Wyndham is ranked 8th out of 70 LGAs for gaming machine losses in Victoria (2015/16).
- Wyndham had an 18% greater gambling loss per adult (\$621) than Victoria (\$526) in 2015/16.
- Gambling losses in Wyndham are increasing at faster rate than Victoria in general.
- 2.5% of Victoria's Electronic Gaming Machine (EGM) venues are located in Wyndham.
- 4% of all gambling losses Victoria-wide occur in Wyndham EGMs.



Current Smokers, 2008, 2011 and 2014⁴

Between 2008 and 2014, there was a significant decrease in the proportion of adult Victorians who smoke. The largest decline occurred in Wyndham, where the proportion of smokers decreased by 10% in 6 years. As of 2014, there were equal proportions of smokers in Wyndham, the North and West Metro area and Victoria.



Emergency Department Presentations - Illicit Substance Use, 2009/10 to 2012/13⁵

The number of emergency department presentations for illicit substance use in Wyndham fluctuated between 31 and 46 per year from 2009 to 2013. In the 2012/13 period, 36 Wyndham residents presented at the emergency department of a hospital experiencing the effects of illicit substances. Compared to other growth areas in Victoria, Wyndham had the third highest number of hospital presentations due to illicit drug use in 2012/13, behind Casey, which recorded over 60 people and Whittlesea, 40. The fewest illicit drug emergencies that year occurred in Cardinia and Melton (19 and 17 respectively).

¹ World Health Organisation. (2017). Substance Abuse

² Department of Health. (2014). Victorian Population Health Survey 2014 - Modifiable risk factors contributing to chronic disease in Victoria

³ Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation. (2015-16). Pokies in your local government area

⁴ Department of Health. (2008, 2011-12 & 2014). Victorian Population Health Survey

⁵ Department of Health and Human Services. (2009 to 2013). Emergency department presentations for illicit substance use