

# SUBSTANCE ABUSE & GAMBLING

The World Health Organisation defines 'substance abuse' as the harmful use of psychoactive substances, including alcohol, illicit drugs and tobacco<sup>1</sup>. 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. Similarly, like substance use addictions, gambling addiction negatively affects the person, their family and friends, as well as the wider community.

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

The profile shows that, substance abuse rates in Wyndham are similar to or lower than the state average on a number of elements. However, Wyndham is not immune to the wider social problems associated with illicit drug use and gambling.

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.



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 smoke.**



The number of hospitalisations for **illicit substance use** per 10,000 population in **Wyndham is on the rise**, despite a small decrease between 2012/13 and 2013/14.

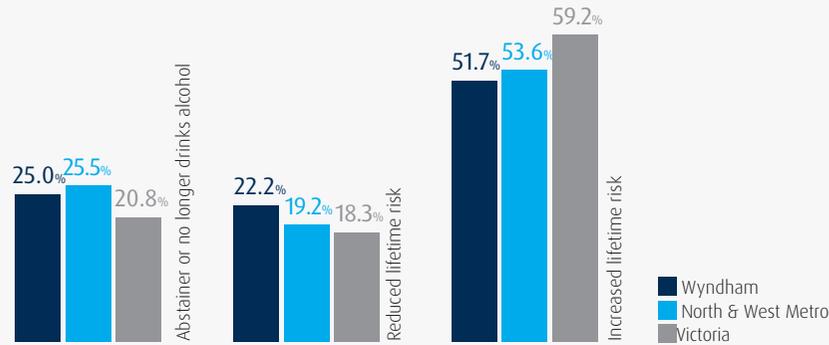


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## Lifetime Risk of Alcohol-Related Harm, 2014<sup>2</sup>



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

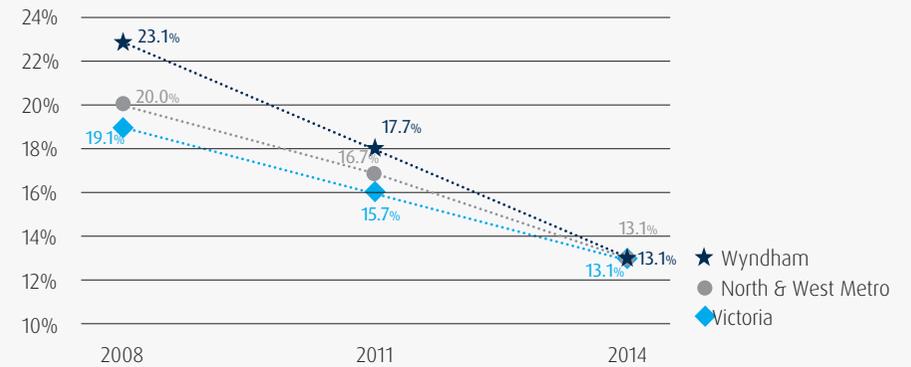
In Wyndham, more than half the adult population (51.7%) drinks enough alcohol per day to put them at an increased risk of alcohol-related harm. Despite this, there are proportionally fewer adults who drink excessively in Wyndham compared to the North West and Metro area (53.6%) and Victoria (59.2%).

## Electronic Gaming Machines, 2017/18<sup>3,4</sup>

	Wyndham	Victoria
EGM Gambling Losses 2017/2018	\$105m	\$2,695m
EGM Gambling Losses per day	\$288,927	\$7,384,340
Losses per Adult 2017/2018	\$623	\$550
% Change in Losses in year 2017/2018 %	7.9%	3.3%
Change in Losses - adjusted for Inflation	5.8%	1.2%

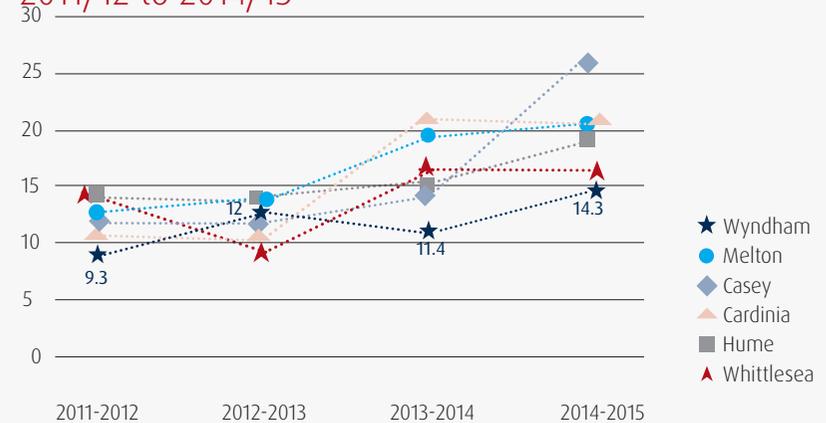
- Wyndham is ranked 8th out of 70 LGAs for gaming machine losses in Victoria (2017/18).
- Wyndham had an 13% greater gambling loss per adult (\$623) than Victoria (\$550) in 2017/18.
- Gambling losses in Wyndham are increasing at a faster rate than Victoria.
- 2.6% of Victoria's Electronic Gaming Machine (EGM) venues are located in Wyndham.
- 3.9% of all gambling losses Victoria-wide occur in Wyndham EGMs.

## Current Smokers, 2008, 2011 and 2014<sup>5</sup>



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.

## Hospitalisation Rate per 10,000 population - Illicit Substance Use, 2011/12 to 2014/15<sup>6</sup>



The hospitalisations for illicit substance use in Wyndham is on the rise, despite a small decline between 2012/13 and 2013/14. Compared to other growth areas across Greater Melbourne, there are fewer hospitalisations per 10,000 population in Wyndham for illicit substance use. For example, in 2014/15 there were around 14 hospitalisations per 10,000 population in Wyndham, compared to 26 in Casey, and around 20 in Melton, Hume and Cardinia.

<sup>1</sup> World Health Organisation. (2017). Substance Abuse

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

<sup>3</sup> Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation. (2016-17). Pokies in your local government area

<sup>4</sup> Victoria in Future 2016. (2018)/ VIF2016 LGAs VIFSA's ERP 201-2031

<sup>5</sup> Department of Health. (2008, 2011-12 & 2014). Victorian Population Health Survey

<sup>6</sup> Turning Point. (2014/15). AODstats