



Women's Health Victoria

# **Current Sexual & Reproductive Health Data**

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## Glossary of terms

**ATSI** is an acronym for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

**Autologous** refers to that which derives from the self. In the context of this paper it refers to the use of an embryo that was initially removed from a woman and subsequently used in a fertility procedure for that woman.

**CALD** is an acronym for culturally and linguistically diverse

**Crude birth rate** (also 'birth rate') measures the number of live births registered during the calendar year, per 1,000 estimated resident population<sup>i</sup>.

**Embryo** is generally defined as an organism in the early stages of development, for humans it is usually from the time of fertilisation to two months growth.

**Fertility** usually refers to the ability to produce offspring. For the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), fertility is used to describe the actual number of children born alive and the effectiveness or performance of the population to replace itself through reproduction. ABS measures of fertility are based on live births<sup>ii</sup>

**Fertility rate** refers to the total number of children ever born per woman<sup>iii</sup>.

**GBD** is an acronym for global burden of disease used by the World Health Organisation (WHO). 'The WHO global burden of disease (GBD) measures burden of disease using the disability-adjusted life year (DALY). This time-based measure combines years of life lost due to premature mortality and years of life lost due to time lived in states of less than full health'<sup>iv</sup>.

**Infertility** is generally defined as the inability to conceive to have offspring. Many infertility treatment centres use a more specific definition that refers to the inability to conceive after a year of regular intercourse without contraception.

**Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI)** are any infection or disease that is transmitted by sexual or genital contact. This may include vaginal secretions, semen, blood or contact with infected skin around the genital area.

**Subfertility** is defined as a state of reduced fertility but not infertility.

**Termination of Pregnancy (TOP)** or abortion refers to a procedure designed to end a pregnancy prior to full term.

**YLD** is an acronym for to years of lost due to disability.

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<sup>i</sup> Sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) (2008) Statistics - Tasmania, 2008. Cat No. 1384.6. Located at: <http://www.abs.gov.au/Ausstats/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/ABFDB4249FC72CB2CA2573C5000DA3D1?opendocument> Accessed 13 January 2009.

<sup>ii</sup> Sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) (2007) Births, Australia, 2007. Cat No. 3301.0. Located at: <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/3301.0Appendix32007?opendocument&tabname=Notes&prodno=3301.0&issue=2007&num=&view=> Accessed 13 January 2009.

<sup>iii</sup> Sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) (2008) Year Book Australia. Cat No. 1301.0. Located at: <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/ABS@.nsf/7d12b0f6763c78caca257061001cc588/21b3a6d10ca1b6fcca2573d20010ffc8!OpenDocument> Accessed 13 January 2009.

<sup>iv</sup> See World Health Organization: Global Burden of Disease at: [http://www.who.int/topics/global\\_burden\\_of\\_disease/en/](http://www.who.int/topics/global_burden_of_disease/en/) Accessed 28 January 2009.

## Introduction

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Current Australian data on sexual and reproductive health indicators is limited (with the exception of data on sexually transmitted infections (STIs)). Data is even scarcer for states and territories. The purpose of this document is to identify relevant data sources for eight areas relating to women's sexual and reproductive health (S&RH) and to illuminate gaps in the data as they pertain to Victoria.

The eight areas of data this document investigates are: termination of pregnancy; contraceptive use; contraceptive failure; teenage fertility; fertility; infertility; risk-taking behaviours (which include illicit drug use, tobacco smoking and alcohol use); and violence.

Each area of data relating to sexual and reproductive health is explored under a separate heading with a corresponding table of information.

### **Method**

The majority of data for the eight topic areas was sourced from the holdings of '*The Index: a gateway to Victorian women's health and wellbeing data*'. *The Index* is a 'live' electronic resource produced by Women's Health Victoria. It is a database of relevant topical reports that contain quantified information relating to women's health and is updated regularly with new resources.

For the compilation of this document, *The Index* category of Sexual and Reproductive Health was searched under the indicators 'Abortion', 'Contraception', and 'Fertility and Infertility'.

Resources used via *The Index* were all electronic. In some instances hardcopy duplicates located in Women's Health Victoria's Clearinghouse were also referred to. Additional resources not located in *The Index* were sought online from websites that included Medicare and Family Planning Australia.

Additional resources were located using a specific topic related internet search.

### **Detail**

This paper provides information collected from eight topic areas: termination of pregnancy; contraceptive use; contraceptive failure; teenage fertility; fertility; infertility; risk-taking behaviours; and violence. Each category includes a table of collated information, a breakdown of relevant information and a summary of identified gaps.

Each table documents the source of information or 'Study Title' and various demographic categories related to that title. These include: the year of study; the age groups considered in the study in relation to the category; whether the resource provides national, state and/or rural data; and whether it includes data for diverse population groups, which refers to information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) people, people with disabilities, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds (CALD), and people of sexual diversity.

The tables indicate whether the data related to both women and men, or women or men only. The section on termination of pregnancy (TOP) has no sexed disaggregated data column as TOP refers to women only. The tables also record points of relevant information contained within each report or data source.

While this paper is not exhaustive and does not claim to represent every available data source, it does offer an overview of the more prominent reports relating to these specific aspects of women's sexual and reproductive health, and it does provide a snapshot of gaps identified in this information.

# 1. Termination of pregnancy

**Table 1** Sample of termination of pregnancy (TOP) data

	Study Title	Year of study	Age Group/s	National Data	Victorian State Data	Victorian Rural Data	Diversity Data	Relevant Information
1	The Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health <sup>1</sup>	1996	18-23	Yes	No	No	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of women who had had a TOP</li> <li>Number of TOPs had by each woman, between 1-4 &amp; over 5</li> </ul>
2	The Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health <sup>2</sup>	2000	22-27	Yes	No	No	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of TOPs had by each woman, between 1-4 &amp; over 5</li> </ul>
3	Victorian Burden of Disease Study: Mortality and Morbidity in 2001 <sup>3</sup>	2001	0-14 15-34 35-54 54-74 75+	Yes	Yes	No	Disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incidence in Victoria for 2001</li> <li>Estimated years of life lost due to TOP by age group based on hospital data</li> <li>Years lived with disability with TOP the cause</li> <li>Disability adjusted life years</li> </ul>
4	The Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health <sup>4</sup>	2003	25-30	Yes	No	No	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of TOPs between 1-4 &amp; over 5</li> <li>Total and large rural/small rural, capital city/metropolitan percentages</li> </ul>
5	Australia's Mothers and Babies 2004 <sup>5</sup>	2004	<15 15-19 20-24 25-29 30-34 35-39 40-44 45+	Yes	Yes	No	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Estimated number of TOPs nationally</li> <li>Estimated number of TOPs per state</li> <li>Estimated number of TOPs adjusted for those who do not claim Medicare</li> <li>Rate per 1000 women</li> <li>Estimated number of TOPs performed for women outside state of residence</li> <li>Estimated number of induced TOPs for cities/inner regional/outer regional/remote and very remote locations</li> <li>Estimated number of TOPs by age groups</li> </ul>
6	Sex in Australia: Reproductive Experiences and Reproductive Health Among a Representative Sample of Women <sup>6</sup>	2003	16-19 20-29 30-39 40-49 50-59	Yes	No	No	Sexual Identity, language other than English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of women who had had TOP</li> <li>Number of TOPs</li> <li>Socio-demographic characteristics of women who had had TOP</li> <li>Association between pregnancy outcome and socio-demographic characteristics</li> </ul>

	Study Title	Year of study	Age Group/s	National Data	Victorian State Data	Victorian Rural Data	Diversity Data	Relevant Information
7	The Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health <sup>7</sup>	2006	28-33	Yes	No	No	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of TOPs had by each woman, between 1-4 &amp; over 5 for Medical Reasons</li> <li>• Total percentage and percentage for large rural/ small rural, capital city/ metropolitan for Medical Reasons</li> <li>• Number of TOPs between 1-4 &amp; over 5 for Other Reasons</li> <li>• Percentages for large rural/ small rural, capital city/ metropolitan for Other Reasons</li> </ul>
8	Australia's Health 2006 <sup>8</sup>	2006	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literature review using Medicare and AIHW: National Perinatal Statistics Unit data for medical abortion</li> </ul>
9	Consultative Council on Obstetric & Paediatric Mortality & Morbidity (CCOPMM) – Annual Report <sup>9</sup>	2006	No	No	Yes	No	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TOPs ≥20 weeks</li> <li>• TOPs ≥20 weeks for congenital abnormality (CA)</li> <li>• TOPs ≥20 weeks, psychosocial (PS) reasons</li> <li>• Trends of TOPs by PS &amp; CA, place of residence, public/private hospital</li> </ul>
10	Australian Hospital Statistics 2006-2007 <sup>10</sup>	2006-2007	5-14 15-24 25-34 45-54 55-64	Yes	Yes	No	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National number of 'separations' under code O04</li> <li>• National number of public patient 'separations' for code O04</li> <li>• By highest number of same day 'separations' for private hospitals</li> <li>• By highest number 'separations' for free-standing private day hospitals</li> <li>• By highest number of 'separations' for private hospitals across states and territories</li> <li>• Average stay in private hospitals x states/territories</li> <li>• By age group for all hospitals Australia wide</li> <li>• Public hospital abortions with operating room (WOR) procedure</li> <li>• Same-day private hospital abortions WOR procedure</li> <li>• Private free-standing day hospital abortions WOR procedure</li> <li>• Public hospital abortions WOR procedure x states/territories</li> <li>• For private hospital abortions WOR procedure x states/territories</li> </ul>

	Study Title	Year of study	Age Group/s	National Data	Victorian State Data	Victorian Rural Data	Diversity Data	Relevant Information
	Cont'd: Australian Hospital Statistics 2006-2007	2006-2007	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Average length of stay in public hospital across states and territories abortions WOR procedure</li> <li>• Average length of stay in private hospital across states and territories abortions WOR procedure</li> <li>• By age group for all hospitals Australia wide WOR procedure</li> </ul>
11	Medicare Australia <sup>11</sup>	2008	0-19 20-24 25-34 >=35	Yes	Yes	No	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service provision details for item numbers 35643 &amp; 16525 which include termination of pregnancy</li> <li>• Timeline of service use</li> </ul>
12	Understanding Women's Experiences of Unplanned Pregnancy and Abortion <sup>12</sup>	2009	<18 18-29 30-39 40+	Interstate and Rural/Regional and Overseas combined	Yes	Yes	ATSI, language other than English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demographic and psychosocial characteristics of women contacting the Women's Pregnancy Advisory Service</li> <li>• Primary reason for considering termination of pregnancy</li> <li>• Circumstances of unplanned pregnancy – gestational age, has children, previous TOP, partner awareness and support, access problems</li> </ul>
13	Victorian Admitted Episodes Data Set <sup>13</sup>	2009	5 year age groups	No	Yes	Yes	ATSI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Details of TOP procedures in Victorian public and private hospitals</li> </ul>

## 1.1 Termination of pregnancy: detail

### **Age**

All but one of the resources included provided age related data for women who had had a termination of pregnancy.

### **States**

Eight of the thirteen resources provided state/territory based data for termination of pregnancy. Where state/territory data is given, it is often only provided as a breakdown of national figures and not for other categories e.g. age, rate, public/private hospital, rural/remote etc.

### **Diversity**

No study or resource provided data on termination of pregnancy for women with disabilities, and few provided data for culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) populations or women of sexual diversity. Two studies gave data for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

### **Medicare**

Medicare provides age group, national and state data under two services numbers that include termination of pregnancy: 35643 and 16525. A monthly timeline is also given to determine peak periods where services under these numbers are provided.

Medicare does not provide a breakdown of the range of services provided under these two numbers so it is difficult to ascertain which are related to termination of pregnancy and not other abortive services, such as those carried out as a result of miscarriage or foetal death<sup>v</sup>.

Medicare data also excludes those women who for various reasons (privacy or safety for example) do make a Medicare claim.

Medicare does not provide rural or regional service provision details or population breakdown statistics, such as those for women with disabilities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds (CALD), and women of sexual diversity.

### **Hospital Data**

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) collects some data on 'abortions' performed in Australian hospitals, in the National Hospital Morbidity Database under 'separation code' O04. The advantage of the hospital data, compared to the Medicare data, is that spontaneous and induced abortions - miscarriages and pregnancy terminations—are recorded separately. Changing data coverage over the years may cause trends over time to be unreliable. The literature also states that not all hospitals are covered in the data. This is stated to be similar for data presented by the Victorian Consultative Council on Obstetric & Paediatric Mortality & Morbidity (CCOPMM) in their annual reports: not all terminations of pregnancy in Victoria are part of these reports.

The Victorian Admitted Episodes Data Set (VAED) states that it collects morbidity data on all patients admitted to Victorian public and private hospitals, and that data relating to terminations of pregnancy procedures can be extracted by age and region.

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<sup>v</sup> For an in-depth discussion about the limitations of Medicare and hospital data see: Pratt, A. Biggs, A. and L. Buckmaster (2005) How many abortions are there in Australia? A discussion of abortion statistics, their limitations, and options for improved statistical collection. Department of Parliamentary Services, Parliament of Australia. Located at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/library/pubs/rb/2004-05/05rb09.htm#data>. Accessed 2 December 2008.

## **1.2 Termination of pregnancy: summary of gaps**

- Limited data on diverse population groups, for women who have had a termination of pregnancy e.g. women with disabilities, women from CALD backgrounds, or women of sexual diversity.
- Two reports included Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in their data
- Medicare does not list the range of services provided under service numbers 35643 and 16525, which include termination of pregnancy
  - Reasons for termination of pregnancy are not provided
  - Medicare does not provide rural or regional area data
  - Medicare does not provide data on diverse population groups for these service numbers
- Coverage of hospital data has changed over time making data of trends over time unreliable

## 2. Contraceptive use

**Table 2** Sample of contraceptive use data

	Study Title	Year of study	Age Group/s	National Data	Victorian State Data	Victorian Rural Data	Diversity Data	Sexed Data	Relevant Information
1	The Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health <sup>1</sup>	1996	18-23	Yes	No	No	No	Women only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Type of contraception used</li> <li>• Number of years using oral pill</li> <li>• Current use status</li> </ul>
2	The Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health <sup>2</sup>	2000	22-27	Yes	No	No	No	Women only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Type of contraception used</li> <li>• Number of years using oral pill</li> <li>• Current use status</li> </ul>
3	National Health Survey: Summary of Results <sup>14</sup>	2001	18–49	Yes	No	No	No	Women only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Type of contraception used</li> <li>• Reproductive status e.g. menopause/sterile/infertile</li> <li>• Sexual activity status e.g. not active</li> </ul>
4	Secondary Students and Sexual Health <sup>15</sup>	2002	15-17 Median age	Yes	No	No	Sexual Identity	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Type of contraception used</li> <li>• Source of information</li> <li>• Beliefs about contraception</li> <li>• Decisions relating to contraception</li> </ul>
5	The Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health <sup>4</sup>	2003	25-30	Yes	No	No	No	Women only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Type of contraception in use now</li> <li>• Reasons for no use</li> <li>• Number of years using oral pill</li> <li>• Use of condoms for STI prevention</li> </ul>
6	Sex in Australia: Contraceptive Practices Among a Representative Sample of Women <sup>16</sup>	2003	16-19 20-29 30-39 40-49 50-59	Yes	No	No	No	Women only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main reason for not using contraception</li> <li>• Socio-demographic category for women exposed to risk of pregnancy eg age; language spoken at home; education; regional/remote area; income; occupation; partner status</li> <li>• Contraceptive method used</li> <li>• Contraceptive method used by socio-demographic category</li> </ul>

	Study Title	Year of study	Age Group/s	National Data	Victorian State Data	Victorian Rural Data	Diversity Data	Sexed Data	Relevant Information
7	Sex in Australia: Safer Sex and Condom Use Among a Representative Sample of Adults <sup>17</sup>	2003	16-19 20-29 30-39 40-49 50-59	Yes	No	No	Sexual Identity	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Socio-demographic category x condom use in heterosexual activity</li> <li>• Condom use for vaginal intercourse in past six months x partner type</li> <li>• Condom use for homosexual anal intercourse x partner type</li> <li>• Socio-demographic category x condom use for vaginal intercourse in past six months with casual partners</li> <li>• Condom use for most sexual encounters</li> <li>• Socio-demographic category x condom use in most recent vaginal intercourse</li> </ul>
8	Writing Themselves In Again: 6 Years On <sup>18</sup>	2005	15-18	Yes	No	No	Sexual Identity	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Condom use</li> </ul>
9	HILDA: Contraceptive Practice and Reproductive Life Course <sup>19</sup>	2005	18-19 20-24 25-29 30-34 35-39 40-44	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contraceptive used x age</li> <li>• Contraceptive method x all women and women who used contraception</li> <li>• Main contraceptive method x socio-demographic category e.g. age; number of children ever had; education; relationship status; regional location.</li> </ul>
10	The Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health <sup>7</sup>	2006	28-33	Yes	No	No	No	Women only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Type of contraception in use now</li> <li>• Reasons for no use</li> <li>• Number of years using oral pill</li> </ul>
11	Australia's Health 2006 <sup>8</sup>	2006	No	Yes	No	No	Sexual Identity	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Type of contraception used</li> <li>• Reproductive status e.g. menopause/sterile/infertile</li> </ul>

## 2.1 Contraceptive use: detail

### **Age**

No research looked at contraceptive use in young people below the age of fifteen years. Four of eleven reports provided data for young people in the 15-18 year age group, all of which are over four years old. One of these focussed on prevalence of condom use only.

### **States**

There is no routine national data collection on contraceptive use in Australia<sup>vi</sup>. Eleven major Australian studies conducted within the last twelve years were examined for their inclusion of contraceptive use information. All studies provided varying amounts of national data on contraceptive use in their reports. There was no rural data for Victoria.

### **Diversity**

No study provided data on contraceptive use for diverse populations other than for sexual diversity. Four reports gave limited data about contraceptive use by people of sexual diversity, all of which are between four and six years old.

### **Gender**

Five of the eleven studies provided male contraceptive use data.

## 2.2 Contraceptive use: summary of gaps

- No major research had state specific data on contraceptive use
- None of the eleven studies had data for regional or rural areas of Victoria
- No study had data relating to contraceptive use among people with disabilities, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- There was no data for young people under 15 years

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<sup>vi</sup> Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2003) Reproductive health indicators, Australia 2002. *AIHW National Perinatal Statistics Unit*. AIHW Cat.No. PER20.

### 3. Contraceptive failure

**Table 3** Sample of data collection for contraceptive failure

	Study Title	Year of study	Age Group/s	National Data	Victorian State Data	Victorian Rural Data	Diversity Data	Sexed Data	Relevant Information
1	Sex in Australia: Experience of Condom Failure Among a Representative Sample of Men <sup>20</sup>	2003	16-19 20-29 30-39 40-49 50-59	Yes	No	No	Sexual Identity	Men only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lifetime experience of condom breakage</li> <li>• Condom breakage in last year</li> <li>• Condom slippage in last year</li> <li>• Lubricant use in last year</li> <li>• Condom breakage in last year x socio-demographic category e.g. age; sexual identity; education; regional/remote area; income; occupation etc</li> <li>• Condom slippage in last year x socio-demographic category</li> <li>• Oil based lubricants or soap use x socio-demographic category</li> </ul>
2	Real Choices: Women, Contraception and Unplanned Pregnancy <sup>21</sup>	2008	18-24 25-29 30-34 35-39 ≥40	Yes	No	No	No	Women only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percentage of unplanned pregnancy</li> <li>• Percentage using contraception at time of unplanned pregnancy</li> <li>• Contraceptive method used</li> <li>• Percentage of women not using contraception and not planning to have sex at time of unplanned pregnancy</li> <li>• Percentage of women who did not use contraception and who believed they were infertile or would not become pregnant</li> <li>• Percentage of multiple contraceptive use at time of unplanned pregnancy</li> <li>• Percentage of women who did not seek emergency contraception</li> <li>• Percentage of women aged 24 years and younger who had unplanned pregnancy</li> <li>• Percentage of women wanting improved access to a range of contraceptive methods</li> </ul>

### **3.1 Contraceptive failure: detail**

#### ***Age***

The two studies relating to contraceptive failure used a broad range of age categories. The second study 'Real Choices' only provided age data for women younger than 24 years.

#### ***States***

Neither of the two studies provided state/territory data.

#### ***Diversity***

The first study 'Sex in Australia' provided sexual identity data. However, neither study gave contraceptive failure data for other diverse populations.

#### ***Gender***

The first study gave male only data for contraceptive failure, while the second study gave female data only.

### **3.2 Contraceptive failure: summary of gaps**

- There is no state/territory data available in this research for contraceptive failure
- Male-based data is six years old
- Data on diverse populations is not available, other than male sexual identity data
- There is limited age related data for women who have experienced contraceptive failure

## 4. Teenage fertility

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**Table 4** Sample of data collection for teenage fertility

	Study Title	Year of study	Age Group/s	National Data	Victorian State Data	Victorian Rural Data	Diversity Data	Sexed Data	Relevant Information
1	Reproductive Health Indicators 2002 <sup>22</sup>	2003	15-49	Yes	Yes	No	No	Female teenagers only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teenage fertility rates</li> <li>• Crude birth rate</li> <li>• Family planning: methods used to regulate fertility through contraception</li> </ul>
2	Births Australia 2007 <sup>23</sup>	2007	15-19 20-24 25-29 30-34 35-39 40-44 45-49	Yes	Yes	Yes	ATSI	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fertility rates x women, age &amp; year: 1975 – 2007</li> <li>• Fertility rates x age &amp; state divisions - Melbourne city and 8 Victorian metro/regional areas</li> <li>• Fertility rate x State &amp; age of women</li> <li>• Birth rate x State &amp; age of women &amp; men</li> <li>• Fertility rate x local Government area &amp; year</li> <li>• No. of births x month &amp; year (1997-2007)</li> <li>• Fertility rate x age &amp; country of birth</li> <li>• Number of Indigenous births and fertility rate by age</li> </ul>

## **4.1 Teenage fertility: detail**

### ***Age***

Teenage fertility rates are provided for persons over 15 only. There is no data available for births to girls below the age of 15 years.

### ***States***

The data collected and collated by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) does include information for individual states and territories including Victoria. This information relates to fertility rates and birth rates by various factors such as age and sex. Rural data provided by one of the two reports.

### ***Diversity***

The ABS provided limited diverse population groups data for the number of births and fertility rate by age for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and men. Fertility data for other diverse groups such as teenage women from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds or young women with disabilities was not available.

### ***Gender***

The AIHW provided teenage fertility data for young women only. The provided ABS supplied data for young women and men in various categories.

## **4.2 Teenage fertility: summary of gaps**

- The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) were the only data sources available on teenage fertility
- Limited diverse population data
- No data for adolescents aged under 15 years
- Rural data provided by AIHW only and that report is 7 years old

## 5. Fertility

**Table 5** Sample of data on fertility

	Study Title	Year of study	Age Group/s	National Data	Victorian State Data	Victorian Rural Data	Diversity Data	Sexed Data	Relevant Information
1	Reproductive Health Indicators 2002 <sup>22</sup>	2003	15-49	Yes	No	No	No	Female teenagers only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crude birth rate</li> <li>• Family planning: methods used to regulate fertility through contraception</li> </ul>
2	Sex in Australia: Reproductive Experiences and Reproductive Health Among a Representative Sample of Women <sup>24</sup>	2003	16-19 20-29 30-39 40-49 50-59	Yes	No	No	Sexual Identity	Women only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fertility x socio-demographic category e.g. education, income, occupation, sexual identity, age</li> <li>• Socio-demographic category x pregnancy outcome e.g. live birth; miscarriage; stillbirth; termination</li> </ul>
3	Report on the Fertility Decision Making Project <sup>25</sup>	2004	20-24 25-29 30-34 35-39 40-44 45 & over	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of children ever born</li> <li>• Ideal number of children x age &amp; gender and by childless or with child</li> <li>• Desire for another child</li> <li>• Ideal family size</li> <li>• Views about having children now compared with 20 years prior</li> <li>• Ideal age to start a family</li> <li>• Also uses various factors such as education, employment status and age</li> </ul>
4	Demography Victoria 2004 <sup>26</sup>	2006	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Women only (for fertility)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of births and fertility rates for metropolitan Melbourne and regional areas of Victoria</li> </ul>
5	National Fertility Study 2006 <sup>27</sup>	2006	18-19 20-29 30-39 40-49 50-59	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desire for children</li> <li>• Age and percentage with children</li> <li>• Number who took more than 12 months to conceive</li> </ul>

	Study Title	Year of study	Age Group/s	National Data	Victorian State Data	Victorian Rural Data	Diversity Data	Sexed Data	Relevant Information
	Cont'd: National Fertility Study 2006		60+						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percentage who had unplanned first child and treatment for STIs</li> <li>• Prerequisites for having a child</li> <li>• Lack of understanding about effect of age on women and men's fertility</li> <li>• Lack of knowledge of lifestyle effects on fertility : smoking, alcohol, overweight</li> <li>• Percentage of concern about fertility</li> </ul>
6	The Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health <sup>7</sup>	2006	28-33	Yes	No	No	No	Women only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percentage of women who are currently pregnant/recently had a child</li> <li>• Percentages for number of live births; live premature births; stillbirths; miscarriage; termination; ectopic pregnancies.</li> <li>• Percentages for number of children from none to eight</li> </ul>
7	Births Australia 2007 <sup>28</sup>	2007	15-19 20-24 25-29 30-34 35-39 40-44 45-49	Yes	Yes	Yes	ATSI	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fertility rates x women, age &amp; year (1975 – 2007)</li> <li>• Fertility rates x age &amp; state divisions - Melbourne city and 8 Victorian metro/regional areas</li> <li>• Fertility rate x State &amp; age of women</li> <li>• Birth rate x State &amp; age of women &amp; men</li> <li>• Fertility rate x local Government area &amp; year</li> <li>• No. of births x month &amp; year (1997-2007)</li> <li>• Fertility rate x age &amp; country of birth</li> <li>• Number of Indigenous births and fertility rate x age</li> </ul>
8	Australian Social Trends: How Many Children Have Women in Australia Had? <sup>29</sup>	2008	Various but mainly 40-44	Yes	No	No	CALD & ATSI	Women only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Timeline for average number of children ever born from 1981-2006</li> <li>• Timeline for average number of children ever born from 1981-2006 for women aged 40-44 years</li> <li>• Women having a first birth x age group</li> <li>• Fertility rates for women aged 40-44 x selected characteristics including education, employment, country of birth</li> </ul>

									• Highest number of children ever born x highest
	Study Title	Year of study	Age Group/s	National Data	Victorian State Data	Victorian Rural Data	Diversity Data	Sexed Data	Relevant Information
	Cont'd: Australian Social Trends: How Many Children Have Women in Australia Had?								<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• non-school education and income for women aged 40-44 years</li> <li>• Average number of children ever born x selected countries for women aged 40-44 years</li> <li>• Average number of children ever born x Indigenous &amp; non-Indigenous women aged 20-24 and 40-44 years</li> <li>• Average number of children ever born x religious affiliation for women aged 40-44 years</li> <li>• Average number of children ever born x remote and Indigenous for women aged 40-44 years</li> </ul>
9	Families, Incomes and Jobs Volume 3 <sup>30</sup>	2008	18-24 25-29 30-34 35-44 45-54 55-64 65+	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fertility intentions – number of children wanted to have; gender balance and gender sequence</li> <li>• Factors that determine desire for having children</li> <li>• Preferred gender of next child</li> <li>• Time frame for next child</li> </ul>

## **5.1 Fertility: detail**

### **Age**

As reported in the section on teenage fertility, there was no data available for birth rates or fertility rates for young persons aged less than 15 years.

### **States**

Two of the nine reports provided data for states and territories. This was also the case with rural/remote data collection. Two reports provided rural breakdowns and the remaining reports did not.

### **Diversity**

There is limited data available for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) people and those from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds.

### **Gender**

Four of the nine reports provided data for both women and men. In some of the ABS data sources men were included in birth rate figures and factors relating to views and opinions regarding childbirth. Four reports focussed on women only and one report referred to female teenagers only.

## **5.2 Fertility: summary of gaps**

- Two of nine fertility reports provide data for Victoria
- Two of nine reports provide data for rural Victorian areas
- Two of nine reports had data for diverse populations – limited to ATSI and CALD
- No data for women with disabilities and women of sexual diversity, although one report recorded data on sexual identity
- No fertility data was available for those aged 15 years and under

## 6. Infertility

**Table 6** Sample of data on infertility

	Study Title	Year of study	Age Group/s	National Data	Victorian State Data	Victorian Rural Data	Diversity Data	Sexed Data	Relevant Information
1	Victorian Burden of Disease Study: Mortality & Morbidity 2001 <sup>3</sup>	2001	15-34 35-54	No	Yes but extrapolated	No	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NOTE: infertility estimates were extrapolated from Perth and Adelaide data for this report</li> <li>Infertility for particular disorders x age &amp; incidence</li> <li>Number of years lived with disability (YLD)</li> <li>Chlamydia related infertility x disability weight (GBD)</li> <li>'Other' STIs related to infertility (GBD)</li> </ul>
2	Reproductive Health Indicators 2002 <sup>22</sup>	2003	15-49	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prevalence of infertility in women</li> <li>Prevalence of infertility in men</li> <li>Subfertility: degree of reduced fertility in population.</li> <li>Age-specific data x state for sterilized infertility (includes vasectomy, tubal ligation)</li> </ul>
3	Assisted Reproduction Technology in Australia and New Zealand 2005 <sup>31</sup>	2005	≤38 ≥38	Yes & NZ	No	No	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of cycles that caused a live delivery x female/male x cause of infertility</li> <li>Success of autologous fresh cycles x women's age</li> <li>Success of autologous thaw cycles for women and men x cause of infertility</li> <li>Trends in the outcomes of assisted reproduction technology (ART) treatment</li> </ul>
4	The Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health <sup>7</sup>	2006	28-33	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ever had problems with fertility e.g. Difficulty getting pregnant in past 12 months</li> <li>Percentage of hysterectomies</li> <li>Percentage of tubal ligations</li> <li>Percentage of male partner vasectomies</li> <li>Percentage using In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF)</li> <li>Percentage using fertility hormones</li> <li>Percentage with knowledge that they or partner cannot have children</li> </ul>

	Study Title	Year of study	Age Group/s	National Data	Victorian State Data	Victorian Rural Data	Diversity Data	Sexed Data	Relevant Information
5	Assisted Reproduction Technology in Australia and New Zealand 2006 <sup>32</sup>	2006	≤24 25-29 30-34 35-37 38-40 41-42 43-44 ≥45	Yes & NZ	No	No	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trends in ART use treatment for 2002-2006</li> <li>• Number of embryos transferred per cycle for 2002-2006</li> <li>• Number of embryos transferred per cycle x outcome for 2002-2006</li> <li>• Age x live delivery from 2002-2006</li> <li>• Trends in ART outcomes 1997-2006</li> <li>• Number of treatment cycles x delivery of more than one life birth from 1997-2006</li> </ul>

## **6.1 Infertility: detail**

### ***Age***

The age categories of the three reports cover a variety of age groups from 15 years and over, up to 59 years.

### ***States***

Two of the five reports provide data for states and territories, including Victoria. However, one was extrapolated from other data. There was no infertility data available for rural regions of Victoria.

### ***Diversity***

None of the reports have information relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women or other diverse groups.

### ***Gender***

Each report provides infertility related data for both women and men.

## **6.2 Infertility: summary of gaps**

- General data about infertility appears to be quite limited
- None of the five reports provide diverse population group data
- The last significant report listed is from 2005 and is therefore three years old.
  - This report is also New Zealand based and focuses on assisted reproductive technology
- The study before that was conducted six years ago and the one prior used data collected from 1998, extrapolated for Victoria from Perth and Adelaide based data.

## 7. Sexual behaviours

**Table 7** Sample of data on sexual behaviours

	Study Title	Year of study	Age Group/s	National Data	Victorian State Data	Victorian Rural Data	Diversity Data	Sexed Data	Relevant Information
1	Sex in Australia: Selected Characteristics of Regular Sexual Relationships <sup>33</sup>	2003	16-19 20-29 30-39 40-49 50-59	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sexual identity and partnership status</li> <li>• Characteristics of heterosexual relationships e.g. relationship and partner details, contraception use, frequency of sex</li> <li>• Expectations, belief and occurrence of sex outside heterosexual relationship and associated socio-economic correlates</li> <li>• Characteristics of homosexual relationships – number of regular partners and living with regular partner</li> </ul>
2	Sex in Australia: First Experiences of Vaginal Intercourse and Oral Sex Among a Representative Sample of Adults <sup>34</sup>	2003	16-19 20-29 30-39 40-49 50-59	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proportion who had had vaginal intercourse</li> <li>• Age of first vaginal intercourse</li> <li>• Trends over time – vaginal intercourse before age 16, median age of first vaginal intercourse and oral sex, contraception use at first vaginal intercourse</li> <li>• Age of first oral sex</li> <li>• Context of first vaginal intercourse – age of and relationship to partner, prior duration of relationship, contraception use</li> <li>• Socio-demographic correlates of first vaginal intercourse before 16 years</li> <li>• Sexual and relationship correlates of first vaginal intercourse before and after 16 years</li> </ul>

	Study Title	Year of study	Age Group/s	National Data	Victorian State Data	Victorian Rural Data	Diversity Data	Sexed Data	Relevant Information
3	Sex in Australia: Sexual Identity, Sexual Attraction and Sexual Experience Among a Representative Sample of Adults <sup>35</sup>	2003	16-19 20-29 30-39 40-49 50-59	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevalence of various sexual identities, sexual attractions and sexual experiences</li> <li>• Relationship between lifetime sexual attraction and lifetime sexual experience</li> <li>• Socio-demographic correlates of disjunction between lifetime sexual attraction and lifetime sexual experience – inc. psychosocial distress, sexual identity</li> </ul>
4	Sex in Australia: Heterosexual Experience and Recent Heterosexual Encounters Among a Representative Sample of Adults <sup>36</sup>	2003	16-19 20-29 30-39 40-49 50-59	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of opposite-sex partners – lifetime, last 5 years, last year x sexual identity</li> <li>• Correlates of multiple opposite-sex partners in last year</li> <li>• Lifetime experience of heterosexual behaviours</li> <li>• Characteristics of most recent heterosexual encounter – relationship to partner, contraception use, type of sexual activity</li> </ul>
5	Sex in Australia: Homosexual Experience and Recent Homosexual Encounters <sup>37</sup>	2003	16-19 20-29 30-39 40-49 50-59	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of same-sex partners – lifetime, last 5 years, last year x sexual identity</li> <li>• Age at first homosexual experience</li> <li>• Characteristics of first homosexual experience</li> <li>• Characteristics of most recent homosexual encounter– relationship to partner, type of sexual activity</li> </ul>

	Study Title	Year of study	Age Group/s	National Data	Victorian State Data	Victorian Rural Data	Victorian Rural Data	Sexed Data	Relevant Information
6	Secondary Students and Sexual Health <sup>38</sup>	2002	Median age 15 and 17	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sexual activities</li> <li>• Ever had sexual intercourse</li> <li>• Sexual attraction</li> <li>• Number of sexual partners in previous year</li> <li>• Number of oral sex partners in previous year</li> <li>• Number of oral sex (but not intercourse) partners in previous year</li> <li>• Condom use</li> <li>• Sex resulting in pregnancy</li> <li>• Unwanted sex and reasons</li> <li>• Relationship to most recent sexual partner</li> <li>• Age and gender of most recent partner</li> <li>• Last sexual encounter - discussion of sex issues; condom availability, use, and reasons for non-use; wanted sex; feelings after sex; location; type of contraception used</li> <li>• Confidence in talking to boyfriend / girlfriend / new partner about using a condom</li> <li>• Confidence to say no to unwanted sex</li> <li>• Confidence in talking to parents about HIV and STIs; contraception; and sex</li> </ul>

## 7.1 Sexual behaviours: detail

### **Age**

There is no data reported in any of the studies for people under 15 years old or over 59 years.

### **States**

The reports did not break down data according to state or region.

### **Diversity**

Sexual diversity was included in all studies. Language spoken at home is listed in the *Sex in Australia* studies, but other culturally and linguistically diverse questions or information is not included. There is no information in any of the studies about disability, and very limited data regarding the experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

### **Gender**

The reports recorded data for women and men.

## 7.2 Sexual behaviours: summary of gaps

- Data from the reports is quite comprehensive, although the *Sex in Australia* report is now five years old.
- It is understood that results from a new *Secondary Students and Sexual Health* survey will soon be released
- Data on sexual behaviour for girls under the age of 15 is not included in the studies. There is also no specific information on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, and no information on the sexual behaviour of women with disabilities.

## 8. Risk-taking behaviours

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**Table 8** Sample of alcohol and illicit drug use data related to sexual and reproductive health

	Study Title	Year of study	Age Group/s	National Data	Victorian State Data	Victorian Rural Data	Diversity Data	Sexed Data	Relevant Information
1	Sex in Australia: Injecting and Sexual Risk Behaviour <sup>39</sup>	2003	16-59	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of women who had injected drugs x socio-demographic category, rate of sexually transmitted infection, identification as homosexual or bisexual</li> </ul>
2	Secondary Students and Sexual Health <sup>40</sup>	2002	15 and 17	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of young women who had experienced unwanted sex because they were under the influence of alcohol or illicit drugs</li> </ul>

## **8.1 Risk-taking behaviours: detail**

### ***Age***

Both reports gave age specific data for risk-taking behaviours related to drug use and alcohol.

### ***States***

The reports did not break down data according to state or region.

### ***Diversity***

The reports recorded some information related to sexual diversity regarding specific questions that were asked of participants. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identification was not recorded.

### ***Gender***

The reports recorded data for women and men.

## **8.2 Risk-taking behaviours: summary of gaps**

- Limited risk-taking data available relating to sexual and reproductive health in the categories searched: illicit drug use and alcohol use.
- Limited data available in all other demographic categories including diverse population groups and age.
- Limited data regarding the link between alcohol, illicit drug use and the impact on sexual and reproductive health.

## 9. Violence

**Table 9** Sample of data on violence related to sexual and reproductive health

	Study Title	Year of study	Age Group/s	National Data	Victorian State Data	Victorian Rural Data	Diversity Data	Sexed Data	Relevant Information
1	The Australian Longitudinal Study of Women's Health: Health and Experiences of Violence Among Young Women <sup>41</sup>	2003	18-23	Yes	No	No	No	Women only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of pregnancies for women subjected to partner violence in 1996 and 2000</li> <li>Percentage of pregnancies for women with no or non-partner violence in 1996 and 2000</li> <li>Ratio of miscarriage, birth and miscarriage, birth, miscarriage and termination, and miscarriage and termination for women subjected to violence</li> <li>Ratio of vaginal discharge; Herpes; Hepatitis C; Papilloma Virus for women subjected to violence and those not</li> </ul>
2	Personal Safety Survey Australia <sup>42</sup>	2005	No	Yes	No	No	No	Women only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of women who were subjected to partner violence while pregnant</li> <li>Percentage of women who were subjected to partner violence for the first time when pregnant</li> <li>Percentage for violence not occurring during pregnancy</li> </ul>
3	Understanding Women's Experiences of Unplanned Pregnancy and Abortion <sup>12</sup>	2009	No	No	No	No	No	Women only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number and percent of women who have contacted the Women's Pregnancy Advisory Service and who have experienced violence</li> </ul>
4	Sex in Australia: Experiences of Sexual Coercion <sup>43</sup>	2003	16-19 20-29 30-39 40-49 50-59	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of women who have been sexually coerced by a range of factors, including likelihood of having had an STI or to report excessive alcohol consumption.</li> </ul>

## **9.1 Violence: detail**

### ***Age***

Two studies recorded age related data, although one was restricted to women aged 18-23 years

### ***States***

No state/territory data was located, and data in the third report was restricted to one particular service; namely the Women's Pregnancy Advisory Service.

### ***Diversity***

None of the three reports contained data about women from diverse population groups who have experienced violence that impacted on or related to their sexual and reproductive health.

### ***Gender***

Data reported related to women.

## **9.2 Violence: summary of gaps**

- There is limited data available the sexual and reproductive health of women who have or are experiencing violence (specifically intimate partner violence).
- There is no state/territory data, no rural/remote data and limited diverse population group data (one study referred to the sexual identification of partners)
- Two studies recorded age related data, although one was restricted to women aged 18-23 years
- There are no large-scale Australian studies recording the link between rape or sexual violence and unintended pregnancy, although one American study in 1996 has examined the rate of rape-related pregnancy and pregnancy outcomes in the Unites States.<sup>44</sup> This was a three year longitudinal study of 4008 adult American women.

## Discussion

Based on this paper it appears that data collection for the nine categories investigated relating to women's sexual and reproductive health is somewhat limited. Many reports are outdated and few cover all demographic areas such as age, location, diversity and sex. Data across these categories in relation to Victoria is lacking.

Few reports provide data that show trends over time, and those that do are limited in their scope. The array of age categories used by individual reports means that more evidence is provided on some age groups in comparison to others, some have little representation and others are absent altogether, such as those under 15 years of age. There was also very limited data regarding the link between alcohol, illicit drug use and sexual and reproductive health.

Diverse groups are generally absent in the data. There is a limited number that report on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, but that is generally specific to an individual characteristic, such as number of births per woman for a particular region. Few reports provide sexual diversity data, and then generally for young people only. CALD populations are underrepresented in the data, as are women with disabilities.

This compilation of reports highlights the need for an improved sexual and reproductive health data collection framework. The role of data is to support policy development, the allocation of program funding and service delivery. This is not possible where data is unavailable or outdated. The aim of this paper has been to highlight the necessity for a unified Victorian focus on sexual and reproductive health data and research to address the gaps that have been identified in this paper. This will assist in enhancing policy and program development and improving health outcomes for women.

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