

Sexual and reproductive health in Australia: Key indicators

In seeking to ensure that reliable, up-to-date evidence is used in the discourse around sexual and reproductive health in Australia, we have compiled the following list of data for key sexual and reproductive health indicators:

SRH indicator	Figure	State	Month / year	Data source / reference
Demographic data				
Number of women of reproductive age (15-49 years)	6,041,306 women of reproductive age	National	Sept 2020	https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/national-state-and-territory-population/sep-2020/31010do002_202009.xls (Table 7)
Fertility rates				
Total fertility rate	For all Australian women, the total fertility rate was 1.66 births per woman	National	2019	https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/births-australia/latest-release
Total fertility rate (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander)	For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, the total fertility rate was 2.32 births per woman	National	2019	https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/births-australia/latest-release
Fertility rate (15-19 years)	8.7 babies per 1,000 women aged 15-19 years	National	2019	https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/births-australia/latest-release
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander fertility rate (15-19 years)	45.1 babies per 1,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women aged 15-19 years	National	2019	https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/births-australia/latest-release

Fertility rate (20-24 years)	39.7 birth per 1,000 women 20-24 years	National	2019	https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/births-australia/latest-release
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander fertility rate (20-24 years)	126.9 birth per 1,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women 20-24 years	National	2019	https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/births-australia/latest-release
Fertility rate (30-34 years)	114.9 babies per 1,000 women aged 30-34 years	National	2019	https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/births-australia/latest-release
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander fertility rate (30-34 years)	98.1 babies per 1,000 women aged 30-34 years	National	2019	https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/births-australia/latest-release
Health workforce				
Number of medical practitioners specialising in general practice	34,654 general practitioners (GPs)	National	June 2022	https://www.medicalboard.gov.au/News/Statistics.aspx
Number of community pharmacists	16,174 community pharmacists	National	2018	Jackson JK, Liang J, Page AT. Analysis of the demographics and characteristics of the Australian pharmacist workforce 2013-2018: decreasing supply points to the need for a workforce strategy. Int J Pharm Pract. 2021 Mar 17;29(2):178-185
Number of nurses working in general practice	Approximately 13,000 nurses work in general practice (principal work setting)	National	2019	https://hwd.health.gov.au/assets/ALL%20NRMW%202019.pdf
Proportion of primary care	Two-thirds of primary health care nurses reported working in	National	Dec 2019	https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/primary-health-care/a-profile-of-primary-care-nurses/contents/primary-health-care-nurses

nurses working in general practice	general practice settings in 2019 (68%)			
Unintended pregnancy				
Proportion of unintended pregnancies	One in four (26%) women had an unintended pregnancy in past 10 years	National	May 2015	Taft et al (2018). Unintended and unwanted pregnancy in Australia: a cross-sectional, national random telephone survey of prevalence and outcomes. Med J Aust, 209 (9): 407-408.
	Of those ever pregnant or partner in pregnancy, 40% had experienced an unintended pregnancy.	National	2013	Rowe et al. (2015). Prevalence and distribution of unintended pregnancy: the Understanding Fertility Management in Australia National Survey. ANZJPH, 40(2):104-9.
Proportion of unintended pregnancies among rural/remote women	Among women, unintended pregnancy was significantly associated with living in a rural location (Yes 32.9%/No 23.4%; AOR, 95%CI=Women 1.403, 1.056–1.864) Among men, being a partner in an unintended pregnancy was significantly associated with rural location (Yes 25.2%/No 18.4%).	National	2013	Rowe et al. (2015). Prevalence and distribution of unintended pregnancy: the Understanding Fertility Management in Australia National Survey. ANZJPH, 40(2):104-9.
Proportion of unintended pregnancies	In the young age range (18–32 years), 40.8% reported an unintended first pregnancy. The most	National	2013	Rowe et al. (2015). Prevalence and distribution of unintended pregnancy: the Understanding Fertility Management in Australia National Survey. ANZJPH, 40(2):104-9.

among young people	commonly endorsed reasons for unintended first pregnancies were inconsistent contraceptive use, contraceptive failure, withdrawal or no contraception.			
Abortion				
Proportion of unintended pregnancies ending in abortion	One-third (30.4%) of women with an unintended pregnancy had an abortion in past 10 years	National	May 2015	Taft et al (2018). Unintended and unwanted pregnancy in Australia: a cross-sectional, national random telephone survey of prevalence and outcomes. Med J Aust, 209 (9): 407-408.
Reproductive outcomes (including abortion)	Of those who had ever been pregnant, 91.3% had ever had a live birth, 34.3% a miscarriage, 22.8% an abortion and 2.3% a stillbirth; 0.9% had relinquished a child for adoption.	National	2012-13	Richters et al (2021). Reproductive experiences and outcomes among a representative sample of women: the Second Australian Study of Health and Relationships. ANZPH.
Total number of abortions	The total number of abortions during 2017–18 was 88 287 (17.3 abortions per 1000 women aged 15–44 years)	National	2017-18	Keogh et al. (2021). Estimating the abortion rate in Australia from National Hospital Morbidity and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme data. MJA.
Surgical abortion rate	The surgical abortion rate has declined by 5.1% per	National	2014–18	Keogh et al. (2021). Estimating the abortion rate in Australia from National Hospital Morbidity and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme data. MJA.

	year since the PBS listing of combination mifepristone/misoprostol			
Proportion of terminations conducted in metropolitan public hospitals (South Australia)	95.5% of all terminations were provided in metropolitan public hospitals in South Australia	SA	2018	https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/1eabbbad-5f05-4bb8-a6de-d17788c0c435/South+Australian+Abortion+Reporting+Committee+Report+2018.pdf?MOD=AJPERES
Number and proportion of country residents in South Australia travelling for a termination (South Australia)	669 (82.1%) of women residing in country South Australia travelled to a metropolitan area for their termination	SA	2018	https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/1eabbbad-5f05-4bb8-a6de-d17788c0c435/South+Australian+Abortion+Reporting+Committee+Report+2018.pdf?MOD=AJPERES
Medical abortion: prescribing and dispensing				
Number of registered prescribers of MS-2 Step	3,441 registered prescribers	National	July 2022	https://www.mshealth.com.au/wp-content/uploads/06072022-MS-Health-July-2022-Update-1.pdf
Number of registered dispensers of MS-2 Step	4,865 registered dispensers	National	July 2022	https://www.mshealth.com.au/wp-content/uploads/06072022-MS-Health-July-2022-Update-1.pdf
Number of PBS claims for MS-2 Step (10211K)-2016	15,092 claims	National	Jan-Dec 2016	http://medicarestatistics.humanservices.gov.au/statistics/pbs_item.jsp

Number of PBS claims for MS-2 Step (10211K)-2017	19,236 claims	National	Jan-Dec 2017	http://medicarestatistics.humanservices.gov.au/statistics/pbs_item.jsp
Number of PBS claims for MS-2 Step (10211K)-2018	18,735 claims	National	Jan-Dec 2018	http://medicarestatistics.humanservices.gov.au/statistics/pbs_item.jsp
Number of PBS claims for MS-2 Step (10211K)-2019	29,207 claims	National	Jan-Dec 2019	http://medicarestatistics.humanservices.gov.au/statistics/pbs_item.jsp
Number of PBS claims for MS-2 Step (10211K)-2020	27,239 claims	National	Jan-Dec 2020	http://medicarestatistics.humanservices.gov.au/statistics/pbs_item.jsp
Long acting reversible contraception				
Uptake of hormonal LARC (etonorgestrel implant and levonorgestrel IUS)	10.8% of women aged 15–44 years were using a LARC in 2018	National	2018	Grzeskowiak et al (2021). Changes in use of hormonal long-acting reversible contraceptive methods in Australia between 2006 and 2018: A population-based study. ANZJOG, 61 (1): 128-134.
	4.5% of women aged 15–44 years had implant in 2018	National	2018	Grzeskowiak et al (2021). Changes in use of hormonal long-acting reversible contraceptive methods in Australia between 2006 and 2018: A population-based study. ANZJOG, 61 (1): 128-134
	6.3% of women aged 15–44 years had hormonal IUD in 2018	National	2018	Grzeskowiak et al (2021). Changes in use of hormonal long-acting reversible contraceptive methods in Australia between 2006 and 2018: A population-based study. ANZJOG, 61 (1): 128-134
Number of PBS claims for the contraceptive injection (3118D)	122,448 claims	National	Jan-Dec 2020	http://medicarestatistics.humanservices.gov.au/statistics/pbs_item.jsp

Number of PBS claims for the contraceptive implant (8487Q)	118,870 claims	National	Jan-Dec 2020	http://medicarestatistics.humanservices.gov.au/statistics/pbs_item.jsp
Number of PBS claims for the hormonal IUD (8633J)	148,076 claims	National	Jan-Dec 2020	http://medicarestatistics.humanservices.gov.au/statistics/pbs_item.jsp