

Priority area



Harm from tobacco, alcohol, drugs and gambling

Addiction to tobacco, alcohol, drugs and gambling can have a harmful impact on individuals, their families and the broader community. Harms can include burdens on a person's health, relationships, job security, social isolation and community safety.

What we know for Cardinia Shire

Adult tobacco use

- 18% of adults are current smokers, compared to 13% of Victorians.
- 17% of adults who smoke are daily smokers, compared to 10% of Victorians.
- 20% of expectant mothers' smoke during their pregnancy, compared to 11.5% of Victorians.
- Cardinia has the third highest rate of Lung Cancer in the South East region.

Adult alcohol and drug use

- The percentage of drug and alcohol clients per 1,000 population is 10.4%, significantly higher than the Victorian measure of 5.8%.
- The percentage of parents who reported an alcohol or drug related problem in the family is 5.2% compared to the Melbourne metropolitan average of 3.1%.
- Contact with hospitals, ambulance or treatment provider occurs on average six times a day for drug or alcohol misuse across the municipality.
- 10% of adults living in rural areas of Cardinia Shire report that drug use negatively impacts them or their household, compared to 6% living in growth areas.
- Overall Cardinia Shire has a higher rate compared to Victoria for:
 - Illicit drug and pharmaceutical drug related emergency department presentations.
 - Illicit drug and Amphetamine related episodes of care with treatment providers.
- Cardinia Shire has the third highest rate in the South East Melbourne region of prescriptions dispensed for opioid medications.
- The proportion of the adult population with an increased lifetime risk of alcohol related harm is 62%, higher than the Victorian measure of 59%.
- The proportion of the adult population at increased risk of alcohol-related injury on a single occasion is 43% comparable to the Victorian measure of 42.5%.
- 7% of adults living in rural areas of Cardinia Shire report that alcohol use negatively impacts them or their household compared to 5% living in Growth area.

Youth tobacco use

- The percentage of 15-17 year olds who smoked in the past 30 days is 19%, higher than the Victorian measure of 13%.
- Lifetime cigarette use in Year 10 is high (21% of students), progressively increasing from Year 6 (3% of students).

Youth alcohol and drug use

- 56.5 per cent of 15-17 year olds in Cardinia Shire reported drinking in the past 30 days, almost double the Victorian average of 24.7%.
- More recent research identified that alcohol consumption among youth is high across different year levels with parents being the main suppliers:
 - 22% of Year 6 students.
 - 36% of Year 8 students.
 - 52% of Year 10 students.
 - Almost one fifth (19%) of Year 10 students identify they binge drink.
- 14% of Year 10 students report having used marijuana compared to the Victorian average of 11%.
- 5% of Year 10 students report having recently used marijuana (past 30 days).
- 7% of 15-17 year olds have used illicit drugs compared to the Victorian average of 3%.
- For illicit drug use, youth aged 15 to 24 represented half the numbers of residents from Cardinia Shire presenting at emergency departments and requiring ambulance attendance, 53% and 52% respectively.
- Rates of presentation to emergency departments for harm caused by illicit drug use amongst young people aged 15 to 24 was double that of the Victorian average.

Cardinia Shire Liveability Plan 2017-29

Cardinia Shire's Liveability Plan 2017-2029 identifies seven health and social priorities impacting the wellbeing of Cardinia Shire residents. These are identified as the long term goals within the plan.

Contact us

For more information contact Social and Community Planning on **1300 787 624** or email mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au.

Year prepared: 2017 For a list of data sources or a copy of this information please contact Social and Community Planning