



2022 Women's Report Card

An indicator report of Western Australian women's progress



Priority area: Health and wellbeing



Goal: Women are healthy, active and lead fulfilled lives.

Introduction and scope

This briefing note reports on aspects of women's health and wellbeing in Western Australia, a key priority area identified in the Western Australian Government's 'Stronger Together. WA's Plan for Gender Equality' report which is a coordinated approach to addressing gender inequality in WA over the long term.ⁱ

In providing an indication of the overall health and wellbeing of women in Western Australia, this note examines a range of indicators including lifestyle and risk factors, sexual, reproductive and maternal health,

illness and access to services, mental health and wellbeing and community involvement. Women have particular health and wellbeing needs, and can experience obstacles and opportunities that impact their health and wellbeing at different life stages. Some of these factors relate to biological sex, while other factors are social determinants such as family and domestic violence, family caring responsibilities and lack of financial resources.ⁱⁱ

This note should be read in conjunction with the WA Women's Data Insights Platform, which provides a detailed set of metrics for the various indicators over time.

ⁱ Government of Western Australia, Department of Communities. (2021). *Stronger Together: WA's Plan for Gender Equality*. Government of Western Australia. <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/stronger-together-was-plan-gender-equality>

ⁱⁱ Government of Western Australia, Department of Communities. (2021). *Stronger Together: WA's Plan for Gender Equality*. Government of Western Australia. <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/stronger-together-was-plan-gender-equality>



Outcomes

Desired outcomes in the area of women's health and wellbeing include:

- WA women are healthy and have a positive sense of wellbeing
- WA women have access to health services (including sexual and reproductive health services) that reflect their needs according to their life stage, race, social, cultural, psychological and economic circumstances
- The gap in life expectancy and health outcomes between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women is closed
- WA women lead healthy lifestyles and are not exposed to injury, illnesses and diseases.

Indicators

The indicators in this section contribute to understanding how WA is progressing towards achieving these outcomes:

- Lifestyle and risk factors
- Sexual, reproductive and maternal health
- Illness, injury and access to services
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Community involvement.

Lifestyle and risk factors

Key insight	Description	Change over time																				
<p>The estimated life expectancy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in WA is 71.8 years - 13 years lower than that for non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women (84.9 years).ⁱⁱⁱ</p>	<p>These estimates relate to the life expectancy at birth for those born 2015-17, the latest period for which data for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are available. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women's life expectancy is up 1.6 years from that reported for 2010-12 (70.2). The estimated life expectancy for non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men was 80.3 years for the same period, and 66.9 years for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men.</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Median life expectancy (years)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Aboriginal women</th> <th>All women</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td>70.2</td> <td>84.8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017</td> <td>71.8</td> <td>84.9</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Aboriginal women	All women	2012	70.2	84.8	2017	71.8	84.9											
Year	Aboriginal women	All women																				
2012	70.2	84.8																				
2017	71.8	84.9																				
<p>The median age of death of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women was 60.4 years in 2020. This remains well below that of non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women (84.6 years).^{iv}</p>	<p>The median age of death for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women has increased by 3.5 years since 2010. The median age of death of non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women (84.6 years) has remained stable in recent years, and is over six years higher than that of non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men (78.4 years).</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Median age at death (years)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Aboriginal women</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2004</td><td>57.5</td></tr> <tr><td>2006</td><td>59.5</td></tr> <tr><td>2008</td><td>58.0</td></tr> <tr><td>2010</td><td>56.5</td></tr> <tr><td>2012</td><td>58.0</td></tr> <tr><td>2014</td><td>59.5</td></tr> <tr><td>2016</td><td>58.5</td></tr> <tr><td>2018</td><td>58.0</td></tr> <tr><td>2020</td><td>60.4</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Aboriginal women	2004	57.5	2006	59.5	2008	58.0	2010	56.5	2012	58.0	2014	59.5	2016	58.5	2018	58.0	2020	60.4
Year	Aboriginal women																					
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2014	59.5																					
2016	58.5																					
2018	58.0																					
2020	60.4																					
<p>The proportion of women self-reporting their health status as excellent or very good increased from 55 per cent in 2019 to 58 per cent in 2020.^v</p>	<p>This upward trend was observed for women across different age cohorts, and is the highest share observed since 2017 (59.2%). However, over the longer term, the proportion of women reporting their health status as excellent or very good has declined, and is some 4ppts below the rates reported in 2007 (62%).</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Share of women (%) reporting excellent or very good health status</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Share of women (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2008</td><td>58.0</td></tr> <tr><td>2010</td><td>61.0</td></tr> <tr><td>2012</td><td>59.0</td></tr> <tr><td>2014</td><td>61.0</td></tr> <tr><td>2016</td><td>60.0</td></tr> <tr><td>2018</td><td>55.0</td></tr> <tr><td>2020</td><td>58.0</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Share of women (%)	2008	58.0	2010	61.0	2012	59.0	2014	61.0	2016	60.0	2018	55.0	2020	58.0				
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iii Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2022). Life Tables, 2015-2017 <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/life-tables/latest-release>

iv Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2022). Deaths - ABS.stat Data Explorer; Deaths, Year of registration, Indigenous status, Summary data, Sex, States, Territories and Australia. <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/deaths-australia/latest-release#data-download>

v Government of Western Australia, Department of Health. (2021). *The Health and Wellbeing of Adults in Western Australia, 2013 to 2020*. Government of Western Australia. <https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Reports-and-publications/Population-surveys>



Lifestyle and risk factors (continued)

Key insight	Description	Change over time																
Two thirds of women (75% of men) were classified as being either overweight or obese in 2020. ^{vi}	This compares to 55 per cent of women in 2002 (68.3% of men). Between 2017 and 2020, the share of overweight women increased from 29.4 per cent to 32.5 per cent, and the share of obese women increased from 31.9 per cent to 33.5 per cent.	<table border="1"> <caption>Overweight or obese (%)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Percentage (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2002</td><td>55</td></tr> <tr><td>2005</td><td>57</td></tr> <tr><td>2008</td><td>58</td></tr> <tr><td>2011</td><td>60</td></tr> <tr><td>2014</td><td>61</td></tr> <tr><td>2017</td><td>58</td></tr> <tr><td>2020</td><td>66.5</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Percentage (%)	2002	55	2005	57	2008	58	2011	60	2014	61	2017	58	2020	66.5
Year	Percentage (%)																	
2002	55																	
2005	57																	
2008	58																	
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2020	66.5																	
In 2020, the prevalence of women drinking alcohol at levels associated with long-term health risks was 18.7 per cent (32.4% of men) in WA. ^{vii}	The share of women reporting alcohol consumption at levels associated with long-term health risks decreased slightly from 19.3 per cent in 2017 to 18.7 per cent in 2020. There has been a slight increase in the prevalence of women drinking alcohol at levels associated with short-term health risks, rising from 4.9 per cent in 2017 to 5.7 per cent in 2020.	<table border="1"> <caption>Long-term alcohol risk (%)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Percentage (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2002</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>2005</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>2008</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>2011</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>2014</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>2017</td><td>19.3</td></tr> <tr><td>2020</td><td>18.7</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Percentage (%)	2002	23	2005	22	2008	25	2011	25	2014	18	2017	19.3	2020	18.7
Year	Percentage (%)																	
2002	23																	
2005	22																	
2008	25																	
2011	25																	
2014	18																	
2017	19.3																	
2020	18.7																	
Smoking continues to be a health risk factor for 9.2 per cent of women (11.5% of men) in WA. ^{viii}	The share of women reporting smoking at levels that pose health risks remained reasonably consistent between 2017 and 2022. Over the same period, the share of men reporting smoking at levels that pose health risks declined from 14.8 per cent to 11.5 per cent.	<table border="1"> <caption>Smoking risk (%)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Percentage (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2002</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>2005</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>2008</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>2011</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>2014</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>2017</td><td>9.2</td></tr> <tr><td>2020</td><td>9.2</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Percentage (%)	2002	18	2005	17	2008	15	2011	12	2014	10	2017	9.2	2020	9.2
Year	Percentage (%)																	
2002	18																	
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Notes: Based on most recent data available as of July 2022. Please refer to <http://www.womensreportcard.communities.wa.gov.au/> for the most current data available on various metrics relating to this indicator.
Source: Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre | Based on various data sources.

vi Government of Western Australia, Department of Health. (2021). *The Health and Wellbeing of Adults in Western Australia, 2002, 2007 and 2020*. Government of Western Australia. <https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Reports-and-publications/Population-surveys>
vii Government of Western Australia, Department of Health. (2021). *The Health and Wellbeing of Adults in Western Australia, 2002, 2017 and 2020*. Government of Western Australia. <https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Reports-and-publications/Population-surveys>
viii Government of Western Australia, Department of Health. (2021). *The Health and Wellbeing of Adults in Western Australia, 2002, 2017 and 2020*. Government of Western Australia. <https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Reports-and-publications/Population-surveys>

Sexual, reproductive and maternal health

Key insight	Description	Change over time																					
Fertility rates for WA's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women sat at 2.55 per woman in 2020. This compares to 1.70 for non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. ^{ix}	<p>Fertility rates continued to fall for non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women between 2017 and 2020 both in WA and nationally. The former fell from 1.83 to 1.70 per woman, and the latter from 1.74 to 1.58 per woman.</p> <p>Fertility rates for WA's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population remained relatively stable between 2017 and 2020, but is down from the recent peak observed in 2015.</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Fertility rate (per woman)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Non-Aboriginal</th> <th>Aboriginal</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2005</td><td>1.83</td><td>2.00</td></tr> <tr><td>2008</td><td>1.83</td><td>2.60</td></tr> <tr><td>2011</td><td>1.83</td><td>2.40</td></tr> <tr><td>2014</td><td>1.83</td><td>2.80</td></tr> <tr><td>2017</td><td>1.74</td><td>2.55</td></tr> <tr><td>2020</td><td>1.58</td><td>2.55</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Non-Aboriginal	Aboriginal	2005	1.83	2.00	2008	1.83	2.60	2011	1.83	2.40	2014	1.83	2.80	2017	1.74	2.55	2020	1.58	2.55
Year	Non-Aboriginal	Aboriginal																					
2005	1.83	2.00																					
2008	1.83	2.60																					
2011	1.83	2.40																					
2014	1.83	2.80																					
2017	1.74	2.55																					
2020	1.58	2.55																					
Teenage birth rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have declined from 135.4 in 1997 to 59.6 births per 1,000 teenage women in 2016. ^x	<p>Teenage birth rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women fell by 14 per cent between 2014 and 2015, but increased by 2 per cent in the year to 2016 (the latest year for which data is currently available).</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Teenage birth rate (per 1,000 teenage women)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Aboriginal</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1996</td><td>135.4</td></tr> <tr><td>2000</td><td>110.0</td></tr> <tr><td>2004</td><td>100.0</td></tr> <tr><td>2008</td><td>90.0</td></tr> <tr><td>2012</td><td>80.0</td></tr> <tr><td>2016</td><td>59.6</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Aboriginal	1996	135.4	2000	110.0	2004	100.0	2008	90.0	2012	80.0	2016	59.6							
Year	Aboriginal																						
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2008	90.0																						
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Women aged 35 years and over now comprised 25 per cent of women giving birth in WA in 2020. ^{xi}	<p>The number of teenage women giving birth in WA has fallen by 26.6 per cent between 2016 and 2020.</p> <p>Births from women aged 20 to 34 fell by 11.6 per cent between 2016 and 2020.</p> <p>Meanwhile, births from women aged 34 and above have risen by 5.5 per cent between 2016 and 2020.</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Women aged 35yrs+ giving birth (No.)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Women aged 35yrs+</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2004</td><td>4,500</td></tr> <tr><td>2008</td><td>6,500</td></tr> <tr><td>2012</td><td>6,800</td></tr> <tr><td>2016</td><td>7,500</td></tr> <tr><td>2020</td><td>8,000</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Women aged 35yrs+	2004	4,500	2008	6,500	2012	6,800	2016	7,500	2020	8,000									
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2004	4,500																						
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The share of births delivered by caesarean section sat at 39.4 per cent as of 2021. This compares to 15.6 per cent in 1986. ^{xii}	<p>Marginally more elective caesareans were conducted in 2016 (the latest year for which data is available) compared to 2015, from 17.7 per cent of births to 18.2 per cent of births.</p> <p>The share of births by emergency caesareans also increased from 17.2 per cent of births in 2015 to 18.1 per cent of births in 2016. Such rates coincide with an increase in the age of women giving birth.</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Caesarean births (%)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Caesarean births (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1986</td><td>15.6</td></tr> <tr><td>1991</td><td>17.0</td></tr> <tr><td>1996</td><td>18.0</td></tr> <tr><td>2001</td><td>20.0</td></tr> <tr><td>2006</td><td>22.0</td></tr> <tr><td>2011</td><td>23.0</td></tr> <tr><td>2016</td><td>25.0</td></tr> <tr><td>2021</td><td>39.4</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Caesarean births (%)	1986	15.6	1991	17.0	1996	18.0	2001	20.0	2006	22.0	2011	23.0	2016	25.0	2021	39.4			
Year	Caesarean births (%)																						
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Notes: Based on most recent data available as of July 2022. Please refer to <http://www.womensreportcard.communities.wa.gov.au/> for the most current data available on various metrics relating to this indicator.
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ix Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2022). *Births - ABS .stat Data Explorer Data; Fertility, by age, by state of usual residence*. <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/births-australia/latest-release#data-download>

x Government of Western Australia, Department of Health. (2021). *Western Australia's Mothers and Babies, 1986 to 2016*. Government of Western Australia. <https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Reports-and-publications/Western-Australias-Mothers-and-Babies>

xi Government of Western Australia, Department of Health. (2021). *Western Australia's Mothers and Babies, 1986 to 2016*. Government of Western Australia. <https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Reports-and-publications/Western-Australias-Mothers-and-Babies>

xii Government of Western Australia, Department of Health. (2021). *Western Australia's Mothers and Babies, 1986 to 2016*. Government of Western Australia. <https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Reports-and-publications/Western-Australias-Mothers-and-Babies>



Illness, injury and access to services

Key insight	Description	Change over time																																																
<p>Cancer (malignant neoplasms) is by far the leading cause of death for women in WA.^{xiii}</p>	<p>Between 2017 and 2020, the age-standardised death rate due to malignant neoplasms has fallen however, from 119.4 per 100,000 persons to 111.4 per 100,000 persons. Death rates for malignant neoplasms on digestive organs have also declined for women, from 32.0 per 100,000 persons in 2017 to 29.0 per 100,000 persons in 2020.</p> <p>Death rates for other major causes have also fallen since 2017, including ischaemic heart diseases, which went from 38.0 per 100,000 persons in 2017 to 30.8 per 100,000 persons in 2020.</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Cancer death rate (per 100,000 persons)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Rate</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2008</td><td>135</td></tr> <tr><td>2009</td><td>140</td></tr> <tr><td>2010</td><td>125</td></tr> <tr><td>2011</td><td>122</td></tr> <tr><td>2012</td><td>128</td></tr> <tr><td>2013</td><td>128</td></tr> <tr><td>2014</td><td>122</td></tr> <tr><td>2015</td><td>120</td></tr> <tr><td>2016</td><td>125</td></tr> <tr><td>2017</td><td>119.4</td></tr> <tr><td>2018</td><td>118</td></tr> <tr><td>2019</td><td>110</td></tr> <tr><td>2020</td><td>111.4</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Rate	2008	135	2009	140	2010	125	2011	122	2012	128	2013	128	2014	122	2015	120	2016	125	2017	119.4	2018	118	2019	110	2020	111.4																				
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<p>Between 2017 and 2020, the prevalence of chronic health conditions pertaining to arthritis (27.0% to 25.0%), injury (23.7% to 13.6%), and diabetes (7.3% to 7.2%) have gone down for women in WA.^{xiv}</p>	<p>However, chronic health condition rates for asthma (15.6% to 20.3%) and heart disease (5% to 6.4%) have risen between 2017 and 2020.</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Prevalence of chronic health conditions (%)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Arthritis</th> <th>Diabetes</th> <th>Injury</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2010</td><td>27.0</td><td>7.3</td><td>23.7</td></tr> <tr><td>2011</td><td>27.0</td><td>7.3</td><td>23.7</td></tr> <tr><td>2012</td><td>27.0</td><td>7.3</td><td>23.7</td></tr> <tr><td>2013</td><td>27.0</td><td>7.3</td><td>23.7</td></tr> <tr><td>2014</td><td>27.0</td><td>7.3</td><td>23.7</td></tr> <tr><td>2015</td><td>27.0</td><td>7.3</td><td>23.7</td></tr> <tr><td>2016</td><td>27.0</td><td>7.3</td><td>23.7</td></tr> <tr><td>2017</td><td>27.0</td><td>7.3</td><td>23.7</td></tr> <tr><td>2018</td><td>25.0</td><td>7.2</td><td>13.6</td></tr> <tr><td>2019</td><td>25.0</td><td>7.2</td><td>13.6</td></tr> <tr><td>2020</td><td>25.0</td><td>7.2</td><td>13.6</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Arthritis	Diabetes	Injury	2010	27.0	7.3	23.7	2011	27.0	7.3	23.7	2012	27.0	7.3	23.7	2013	27.0	7.3	23.7	2014	27.0	7.3	23.7	2015	27.0	7.3	23.7	2016	27.0	7.3	23.7	2017	27.0	7.3	23.7	2018	25.0	7.2	13.6	2019	25.0	7.2	13.6	2020	25.0	7.2	13.6
Year	Arthritis	Diabetes	Injury																																															
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^{xiii} Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2022). *Causes of Death, Australia*. <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/health/causes-death/causes-death-australia/2020>

^{xiv} Government of Western Australia, Department of Health. (2021). *The Health and Wellbeing of Adults in Western Australia, 2013 to 2020*. Government of Western Australia. <https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Reports-and-publications/Population-surveys>

Illness, injury and access to services (continued)

Key insight	Description	Change over time																		
<p>Between 2018-19 and 2020-21, breast cancer screening rates for women aged 50 to 69 in WA fell by 5.1 ppts to 48.6 per cent (46.5% nationally).^{xv}</p>	<p>This is the lowest participation rate observed over the period since 1998-99 for women aged 50 to 69. An even larger decline of 7.4ppts was observed nationally. The sharp fall between 2018 and 2020 may be attributed to pandemic measures limiting the access to safe cancer screening appointments for women.</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Participation age 50-59 (%)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Participation (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2005-06</td><td>57.0</td></tr> <tr><td>2007-08</td><td>55.5</td></tr> <tr><td>2009-10</td><td>57.5</td></tr> <tr><td>2011-12</td><td>57.5</td></tr> <tr><td>2013-14</td><td>54.5</td></tr> <tr><td>2015-16</td><td>56.5</td></tr> <tr><td>2017-18</td><td>55.0</td></tr> <tr><td>2019-20</td><td>48.6</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Participation (%)	2005-06	57.0	2007-08	55.5	2009-10	57.5	2011-12	57.5	2013-14	54.5	2015-16	56.5	2017-18	55.0	2019-20	48.6
Year	Participation (%)																			
2005-06	57.0																			
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2013-14	54.5																			
2015-16	56.5																			
2017-18	55.0																			
2019-20	48.6																			
<p>In 2020, females represented 40 per cent of General Practitioners (GPs) as a proportion of all FTE GPs, the highest share recorded in WA.^{xvi}</p>	<p>On a headcount basis, 47.7 per cent of GPs available in WA were female. There were 85.2 female GPs per 100,000 female population in WA in 2020, again the highest recorded. However, this is below the national average of 91.9 female GPs per 100,000 female population. And, in comparison to males, there were 129.9 male GPs per 100,000 male population in WA in 2020, and 137.5 male GPs per 100,000 male population nationally.</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Women GPs (%)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Women GPs (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2014</td><td>34.0</td></tr> <tr><td>2015</td><td>35.0</td></tr> <tr><td>2016</td><td>36.0</td></tr> <tr><td>2017</td><td>37.0</td></tr> <tr><td>2018</td><td>38.0</td></tr> <tr><td>2019</td><td>39.0</td></tr> <tr><td>2020</td><td>40.0</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Women GPs (%)	2014	34.0	2015	35.0	2016	36.0	2017	37.0	2018	38.0	2019	39.0	2020	40.0		
Year	Women GPs (%)																			
2014	34.0																			
2015	35.0																			
2016	36.0																			
2017	37.0																			
2018	38.0																			
2019	39.0																			
2020	40.0																			

Notes: Based on most recent data available as of July 2022. Please refer to <http://www.womensreportcard.communities.wa.gov.au/> for the most current data available on various metrics relating to this indicator. Source: Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre | Based on various data sources.

xv Government of Australia, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2021). *BreastScreen Australia monitoring report, 2021*. Government of Australia. <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/cancer-screening/breastscreen-australia-monitoring-report-2021/summary>
 xvi Government of Australia, Productivity Commission. (2022). *Report on Government Services*. Government of Australia. <https://www.pc.gov.au/research/ongoing/report-on-government-services>



Mental health and wellbeing

Key insight	Description	Change over time																																
<p>Between 2017 and 2020, there was a small drop in the percentage of women with a mental health condition, falling from 22.1 per cent to 20.6 per cent (15.5% of men).^{xvii}</p>	<p>The rate remained stable between 2019 and 2020, the first full year of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Between 2006 and 2015, the proportion of women with a mental health condition fluctuated between 15 and 17 per cent. Since 2016 these rates have remained above 20 per cent.</p> <p>The proportion of the overall population with a current mental health condition increased from 17.1 per cent in 2017 to 18.1 per cent in 2020.</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Percentage of women with a mental health condition (2006-2020)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Percentage (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2006</td><td>15.5</td></tr> <tr><td>2007</td><td>16.5</td></tr> <tr><td>2008</td><td>17.0</td></tr> <tr><td>2009</td><td>16.5</td></tr> <tr><td>2010</td><td>17.5</td></tr> <tr><td>2011</td><td>17.0</td></tr> <tr><td>2012</td><td>16.5</td></tr> <tr><td>2013</td><td>17.5</td></tr> <tr><td>2014</td><td>16.5</td></tr> <tr><td>2015</td><td>17.0</td></tr> <tr><td>2016</td><td>18.0</td></tr> <tr><td>2017</td><td>22.1</td></tr> <tr><td>2018</td><td>21.5</td></tr> <tr><td>2019</td><td>21.0</td></tr> <tr><td>2020</td><td>20.6</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Percentage (%)	2006	15.5	2007	16.5	2008	17.0	2009	16.5	2010	17.5	2011	17.0	2012	16.5	2013	17.5	2014	16.5	2015	17.0	2016	18.0	2017	22.1	2018	21.5	2019	21.0	2020	20.6
Year	Percentage (%)																																	
2006	15.5																																	
2007	16.5																																	
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2018	21.5																																	
2019	21.0																																	
2020	20.6																																	
<p>The prevalence of all three main common mental health conditions (anxiety, stress and depression) have fallen for women between 2017 and 2020.^{xviii}</p>	<p>However, current rates remain high relative to rates over the longer term.</p> <p>Rates of depression for women fell from 12.6 per cent in 2017 to 9.5 per cent in 2019, but increased again to 10.6 per cent during 2020, likely due to pandemic factors and the mental health effects of lockdowns.</p> <p>Stress related problems saw the lowest level of decline between 2017 and 2020; falling from 12.5 per cent to 12.1 per cent.</p> <p>Anxiety problems fell from 12.1 per cent in 2017 to 11.6 per cent in 2020.</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Percentage of women with anxiety, depression, and stress (2017-2020)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Anxiety (%)</th> <th>Depression (%)</th> <th>Stress (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2017</td><td>12.1</td><td>12.6</td><td>12.5</td></tr> <tr><td>2018</td><td>11.8</td><td>11.0</td><td>12.2</td></tr> <tr><td>2019</td><td>11.6</td><td>9.5</td><td>12.1</td></tr> <tr><td>2020</td><td>11.6</td><td>10.6</td><td>12.1</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Anxiety (%)	Depression (%)	Stress (%)	2017	12.1	12.6	12.5	2018	11.8	11.0	12.2	2019	11.6	9.5	12.1	2020	11.6	10.6	12.1												
Year	Anxiety (%)	Depression (%)	Stress (%)																															
2017	12.1	12.6	12.5																															
2018	11.8	11.0	12.2																															
2019	11.6	9.5	12.1																															
2020	11.6	10.6	12.1																															

xvii Government of Western Australia, Department of Health. (2021). *The Health and Wellbeing of Adults in Western Australia, 2013 to 2020*. Government of Western Australia. <https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Reports-and-publications/Population-surveys>

xviii Government of Western Australia, Department of Health. (2021). *The Health and Wellbeing of Adults in Western Australia, 2013 to 2020*. Government of Western Australia. <https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Reports-and-publications/Population-surveys>

Mental health and wellbeing (continued)

Key insight	Description	Change over time																
<p>Between 2017 and 2020, women between the ages of 16 and 44 years reported lower rates of anxiety (15.9% to 15%), depression (16.2% to 12.9%), and stress related problems (14.7% to 14%). But such rates remain above those observed in 2014.^{xix}</p>	<p>Between 2017 and 2020, women between the ages of 45 and 64 years saw rates of anxiety rise (8.9% to 10.5%), as well as rates of stress-related issues (12.1% to 13.4%). But, rates of depression remained relatively stable (10.9% to 10.7%).</p> <p>Over the same period, for women aged 65 and above, rates of anxiety fell (6.7% to 5%), alongside rates of depression (5.2% to 4.9%) and rates of stress-related problems (6.6% to 5.1%).</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Women 16-44 (%)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Anxiety</th> <th>Depression</th> <th>Stress</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2014</td> <td>8.9%</td> <td>10.9%</td> <td>12.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017</td> <td>10.5%</td> <td>10.7%</td> <td>13.4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020</td> <td>10.5%</td> <td>10.7%</td> <td>13.4%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Anxiety	Depression	Stress	2014	8.9%	10.9%	12.1%	2017	10.5%	10.7%	13.4%	2020	10.5%	10.7%	13.4%
Year	Anxiety	Depression	Stress															
2014	8.9%	10.9%	12.1%															
2017	10.5%	10.7%	13.4%															
2020	10.5%	10.7%	13.4%															
<p>There was a decline in the share of women receiving treatment for a mental health condition between 2018 (when rates peaked at 13.4%) and 2019. However, these rates rose by 1.7ppts in 2020 and now sit at 12.5%.^{xx}</p>	<p>Over time, the share of women receiving treatment for a mental health condition displays an upward trend. Meanwhile, the share of men receiving treatment for a mental health condition dropped from 8.1 per cent in 2019 to 6.4 per cent in 2020.</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Women (%)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2008</td> <td>10.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td>8.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016</td> <td>11.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020</td> <td>12.5%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Percentage	2008	10.5%	2012	8.5%	2016	11.5%	2020	12.5%						
Year	Percentage																	
2008	10.5%																	
2012	8.5%																	
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 Source: Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre | Based on various data sources.

xix Government of Western Australia, Department of Health. (2021). *The Health and Wellbeing of Adults in Western Australia, 2013 to 2020*. Government of Western Australia. <https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Reports-and-publications/Population-surveys>

xx Government of Western Australia, Department of Health. (2021). *The Health and Wellbeing of Adults in Western Australia, 2013 to 2020*. Government of Western Australia. <https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Reports-and-publications/Population-surveys>



Community involvement

Key insight	Description	Change over time						
<p>Women aged 15-24 saw a fall in volunteering from 30.1 per cent in 2019 to 18.5 per cent in 2020, the largest decrease amongst all age groups.</p>	<p>From 2019 to 2020, the proportion of women who volunteered in the community fell from 28.5 per cent to 26.3 per cent.</p> <p>The share of women aged 70 years and over volunteering in the community went up from 25.6 per cent in 2019 to 27.4 per cent in 2022. There was also an increase in volunteering rates for women aged 25 to 39 from 23.7 per cent to 24.6 per cent.</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Volunteering (% women)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Volunteering (% women)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2019</td> <td>30.1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020</td> <td>18.5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Volunteering (% women)	2019	30.1	2020	18.5
Year	Volunteering (% women)							
2019	30.1							
2020	18.5							
<p>Between 2019 and 2020, the proportion of women participating in social groups fell from 50.2 per cent to 45.3 per cent</p>	<p>Once again, women aged 15-24 saw a significant decrease in social group participation, down from 57 per cent in 2019 to 43.6 per cent in 2020.</p> <p>Women aged 70 years and over were the only age group to report an increase in social group participation between 2019 and 2020, rising from 52.1 per cent to 59.6 per cent.</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Social groups (% women)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Social groups (% women)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2019</td> <td>50.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020</td> <td>45.3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Social groups (% women)	2019	50.2	2020	45.3
Year	Social groups (% women)							
2019	50.2							
2020	45.3							
<p>The proportion of women participating in community support groups declined from 26.9 per cent to 22.5 per cent between 2019 and 2020.</p>	<p>Women aged 40-54 saw the largest decrease in participation in community support groups in 2020, falling from 31.9 per cent participation in 2019 to 22 per cent in 2020, the second lowest across all age groups.</p> <p>Women aged 15-24 report the lowest share of social group participation, down from 19 per cent in 2019 to 13.1 per cent in 2020.</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Support groups (% women)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Support groups (% women)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2019</td> <td>26.9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020</td> <td>22.5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Support groups (% women)	2019	26.9	2020	22.5
Year	Support groups (% women)							
2019	26.9							
2020	22.5							
<p>Women's participation in civic and political groups fell from 8.2 per cent in 2019 to 6.9 per cent in 2020, part of which may be explained by election cycle timelines.</p>	<p>All age groups recorded a fall in participation in civic and political groups, except for women aged 40-54, who recorded a marginal 0.1 per cent increase to 10.3 per cent participation, the highest amongst all age groups.</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Civic & political groups (% women)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Civic & political groups (% women)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2019</td> <td>8.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020</td> <td>6.9</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Civic & political groups (% women)	2019	8.2	2020	6.9
Year	Civic & political groups (% women)							
2019	8.2							
2020	6.9							

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Department of Communities

5 Newman Court, Fremantle WA 6160

Postal address: Locked Bag 5000, Fremantle WA 6959

Telephone: 08 6217 6888

Country callers: 1800 176 888

Email: enquiries@communities.wa.gov.au

Website: www.communities.wa.gov.au

Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) – Telephone: 13 14 50

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Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre

Level 4, Building 408, Curtin University

Kent Street, Bentley 6102

Postal Address: GPO Box U1987, Perth WA 6845

Telephone: +61 8 9266 2873

Email: bcec@curtin.edu.au

Web: bcec.edu.au

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