

Health of Victorian women with an intellectual disability

Fact sheet issued October 2011

Women with an intellectual disability have less cervical cancer screening

According to the *Victorian Population Health Survey of People with an Intellectual Disability 2009* (VPHS-ID 2009), only 14.8 per cent of women with an intellectual disability aged 20–69 years were reported to have had a Pap smear to screen for cervical cancer in the past two years, much lower than women in the general Victorian population (71.1 per cent).

Women with an intellectual disability have less breast cancer screening

Only 55.2 per cent of women with an intellectual disability were reported to have had a mammogram to screen for breast cancer in the past two years, much lower than women from the general Victorian population (75.9 per cent).

Women with an intellectual disability are less likely to report excellent health status

The health status of women with an intellectual disability was less likely to be reported as excellent (8.0 per cent) and more likely to be reported as fair (23.4 per cent) compared with women in the general Victorian population (12.0 per cent and 13.9 per cent respectively).

Women with an intellectual disability have more heart disease

Women with an intellectual disability were more likely to have heart disease (11.3 per cent) than women in the general Victorian population (5.2 per cent).

Women with an intellectual disability are more likely to be overweight or obese

Women with an intellectual disability were more likely to be overweight or obese (55.3 per cent) compared with women from the general Victorian population (40.3 per cent).

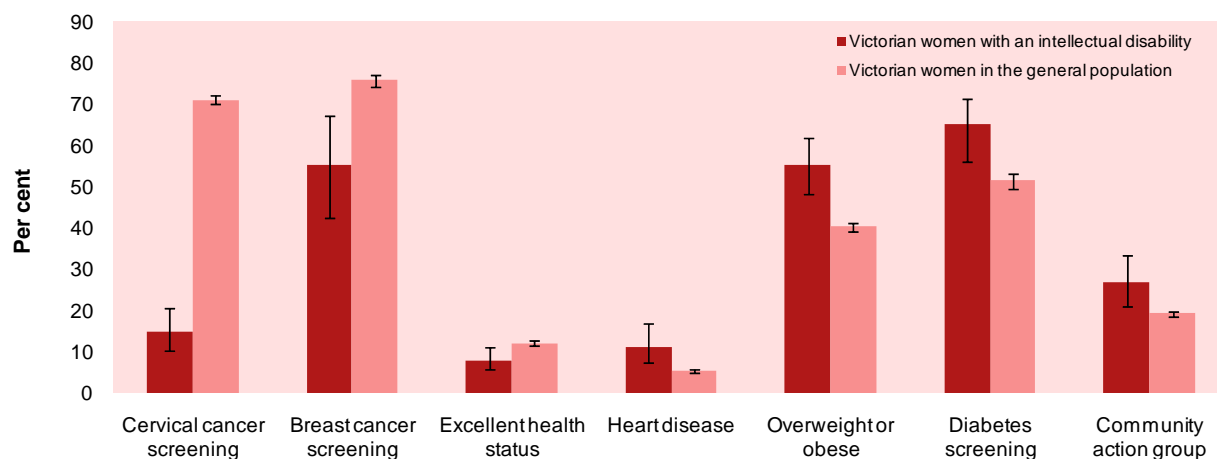
Women with an intellectual disability have more diabetes screening

Women with an intellectual disability were more likely to report blood glucose screening for diabetes (65.4 per cent) compared with women from the general Victorian population (51.4 per cent).

Women with an intellectual disability are more likely to belong to a community action group

The proportion of women with an intellectual disability who were members of a community action group (26.8 per cent) was higher than women in the general Victorian population (19.2 per cent). (A community action group is a group is defined as a group other than a church or sports group but not a work based group. For example a community environment group.)

Figure: Women with an intellectual disability living in Victoria



The black bars in the graph indicate 95% confidence interval

For further information

The VPHS-ID 2009 is a statewide survey the Department of Health undertook to collect information on the health and wellbeing of people with an intellectual disability in Victoria. This is the first time the survey has been carried out in Victoria.

The full report of the VPHS-ID 2009 is available at:
<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/healthstatus/>.

Useful websites

- Breast Screen Victoria at: <http://www.breastscreen.org.au/>
- Heart Foundation at <http://www.heartfoundation.org.au/Pages/default.aspx>
- Diabetes Australia Victoria at <http://www.diabetesvic.org.au/>
- Goforyourlife at <http://www.goforyourlife.vic.gov.au/>
- Being a healthy woman at http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/pubs/2010/being_healthy_woman.html<http://www.mav.asn.au/CA256C2B000B597A/HomePage?ReadForm&1=Home~&2=~&3=~>.
- Pap screen Victoria at <http://www.papscreen.org.au/>

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