

Series overview: Geographies of human wellbeing

Women's Health Atlas Education Resource

These education resources link the wealth of content available in the **Victorian Women's Health Atlas** with the **Victorian Curriculum: Geography Level 9-10: Geographies of human wellbeing**. The series has been developed by Women's Health Victoria (WHV) in partnership with the Geography Teachers' Association of Victoria (GTAV).

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1. Navigating the Victorian Women's Health Atlas
2. How can community connections improve wellbeing?
3. How do perceptions of safety vary across Victoria between women and men?

Real world local data

The Victorian Women's Health Atlas presents more than 60 health and socioeconomic indicators on a single, easy-to-use platform. The Atlas maps sex-specific data for each local government area (LGA), supported by a gender analysis. Powerful in-built features enable users to explore and highlight spatial patterns, gender inequalities, geographic differences, trends over time and benchmark data between local areas, regions and the state. Maps and fact sheets can be downloaded from the site.

The Atlas is freely available at: victorianwomenshealthatlas.net.au

The Atlas provides a rich source of data for teaching and learning, including many datasets that are not publicly available elsewhere. With strong and clear connections to the Geography curriculum, these classroom exercises are designed to enable teachers and students anywhere in Victoria to draw on real-world local data to investigate issues, identify spatial variations, and interpret health and gender impacts.

Suggested citation

Barlow S (2020) Geography Level 9-10: Geographies of human wellbeing. Women's Health Victoria and Geography Teachers' Association of Victoria, Melbourne. – (*Women's Health Atlas Education Resource*).

Curriculum links

Learning objectives	Inquiry		
	1	2	3
Identify, analyse and explain significant spatial distributions and patterns and identify and evaluate their implications, over time and at different scales (VCGGC128)	✓	✓	✓
Identify, analyse and explain significant interconnections within places and between places over time and at different scales, and evaluate the resulting changes and further consequences (VCGGC129)	✓		✓
Analyse and evaluate data, maps and other geographical information using digital and spatial technologies and Geographical Information Systems as appropriate, to develop identifications, descriptions, explanations and conclusions that use geographical terminology (VCGGC132)	✓	✓	✓
Reasons and consequences for spatial variations in human wellbeing ... on a local scale in Australia (VCGGK151)	✓	✓	✓
Different ways of measuring and mapping human wellbeing and development, and how these can be applied to measure differences between places (VCGGK152)	✓	✓	✓
Role of initiatives by international and national government and non-government organisations to improve human wellbeing in Australia and other countries (VCGGK154)		✓	✓

Teacher feedback survey

Feedback is vital to ensure the resource meets teaching and learning requirements in Geography.

After using any of the resources with students, teachers are invited to complete this feedback survey:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WomensHealthAtlas_GeographyResource

The results will be shared with the resource project partners to inform ongoing updates:

- Women's Health Victoria (WHV)
- Geography Teachers' Association of Victoria (GTAV)

Evidence of uptake and engagement

The project partners are interested to obtain photos, videos, etc. of students actively engaging with these resources (where possible). This is to assist with evaluation, promotion and ongoing development.

Participating schools with material of potential interest are encouraged to contact Women's Health Victoria to discuss the necessary permissions and terms of release.

Email: atlas@whv.org.au

Readiness checklist

Atlas content , features, and tools for schools

	Read article about the Geography curriculum resources project: Harnessing the power of the Victorian Women's Health Atlas for spatial learning and gender equality awareness
	Watch the instructional video on the Atlas homepage Go to: https://victorianwomenshealthatlas.net.au .
	Work your way through Inquiry 1 – Navigating the Victorian Women's Health Atlas

Sensitive content

This series uses real world data including on sensitive topics such as sexual assault and other forms of violence against women, adolescent birth and mental health. Prior to engaging with sensitive data, schools must ensure they have adequate processes, referral mechanisms and social support in place for students who require further support in these areas. This includes:

	The school has a process in place on how to appropriately respond and refer students who disclose experiences of violence.
	Students are briefed and understand that sensitive topics will be discussed, and classroom guidelines are established to ensure students feel safe (i.e. know who to go to if they wish to discuss any of the topics further, or disclose an experience of violence).
	A teacher is present during sensitive sessions who is trained on how to respond and refer students who disclose experiences of violence.
	Students are introduced to the health and wellbeing staff member prior to the session and students know where to seek help if they wish to discuss an experience of violence.
	The school has links to specialist local organisations that support women and children who have experienced violence.
	Women's Health Victoria's 'Safe and Supported' training could be considered for staff wanting to understand more on how to respond to disclosures of experiences of violence https://whv.org.au/training/safe-and-supported
	Checking the availability of helpline information within the Atlas text for particular topics.

Linkage with respectful relationships education

This series complements Victoria's whole of school approach to respectful relationships education. RRE promotes gender equity across the school to support the prevention of violence against women. By embedding discussions of gender equality within a mainstream subject (Geography) outside of the RRE core curriculum, these resources support the integration of gender equality messaging across the school.

These resources are recommended to be used by schools that have both:

- teachers with gender equality training / understanding, and
- adequate support and referral systems to support students who disclose experiences of violence (refer to sensitive content checklist).

Schools engaged in the respectful relationships education program should have adequate support in place, therefore these resources are particularly suited to RRE lead and partner schools.

Publisher contact

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