





## Outcomes

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

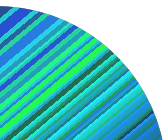
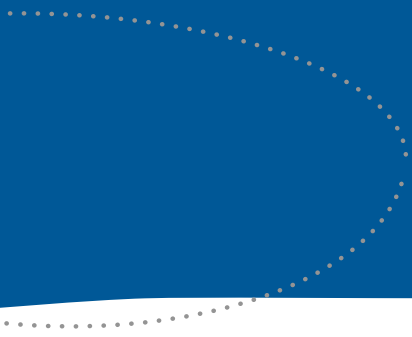
- WA women are healthy and have a positive sense of wellbeing
- WA women have access to health services (including sexual and reproductive health services) that reflect their needs according to their life stage, race, social, cultural, psychological and economic circumstances
- The gap in life expectancy 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.

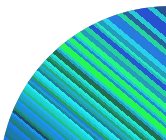
## Indicators

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.









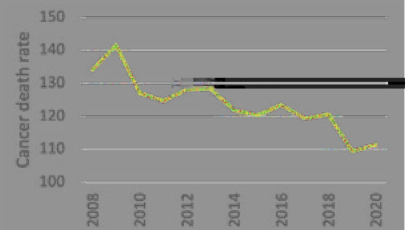
## Illness, injury and access to services

Cancer (malignant neoplasms) is by far the leading cause of death for women in WA.<sup>xiii</sup>

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.

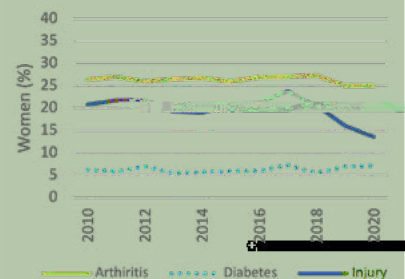
Death rates for malignant neoplasms on digestive organs have also declined for women, from 32.0 per 100,000 persons in 2017 to 29.0 per 100,000 persons in 2020.

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.



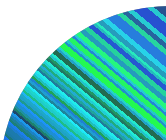
Between 2017 and 2020, the prevalence of chronic health conditions pertaining to arthritis (27.0% to 25.0%), injury (23.7% to 13.6%), and diabetes (7.3% to 7.2%) have gone down for women in WA.<sup>xiv</sup>

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.



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>





## Mental health and wellbeing

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).<sup>xvii</sup>

The rate remained stable between 2019 and 2020, the first full year of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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.

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.



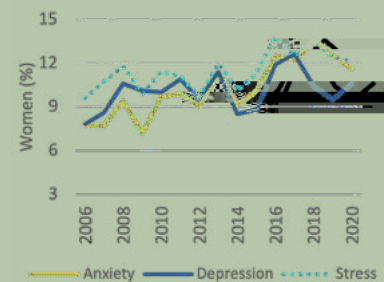
The prevalence of all three main common mental health conditions (anxiety, stress and depression) have fallen for women between 2017 and 2020.<sup>xviii</sup>

However, current rates remain high relative to rates over the longer term.

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.

Stress related problems saw the lowest level of decline between 2017 and 2020; falling from 12.5 per cent to 12.1 per cent.

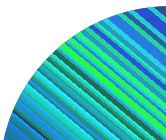
Anxiety problems fell from 12.1 per cent in 2017 to 11.6 per cent in 2020.



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>





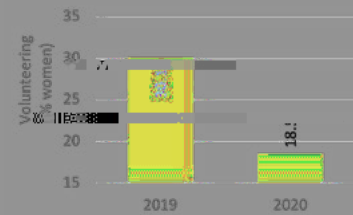


## Community involvement

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.

From 2019 to 2020, the proportion of women who volunteered in the community fell from 28.5 per cent to 26.3 per cent.

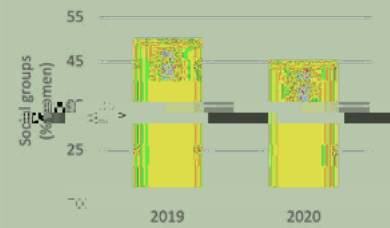
The share of women aged 70 years and over volunteering in the community went up from 25.6 per cent in 2019 to 27.4 per cent in 2022. There was also an increase in volunteering rates for women aged 25 to 39 from 23.7 per cent to 24.6 per cent.



Between 2019 and 2020, the proportion of women participating in social groups fell from 50.2 per cent to 45.3 per cent

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.

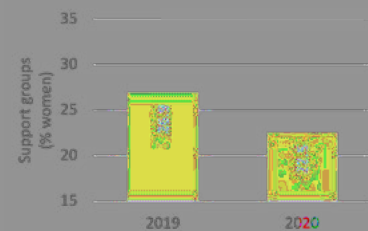
Women aged 70 years and over were the only age group to report an increase in social group participation between 2019 and 2020, rising from 52.1 per cent to 59.6 per cent.



The proportion of women participating in community support groups declined from 26.9 per cent to 22.5 per cent between 2019 and 2020.

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.

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.



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.

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.



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.



