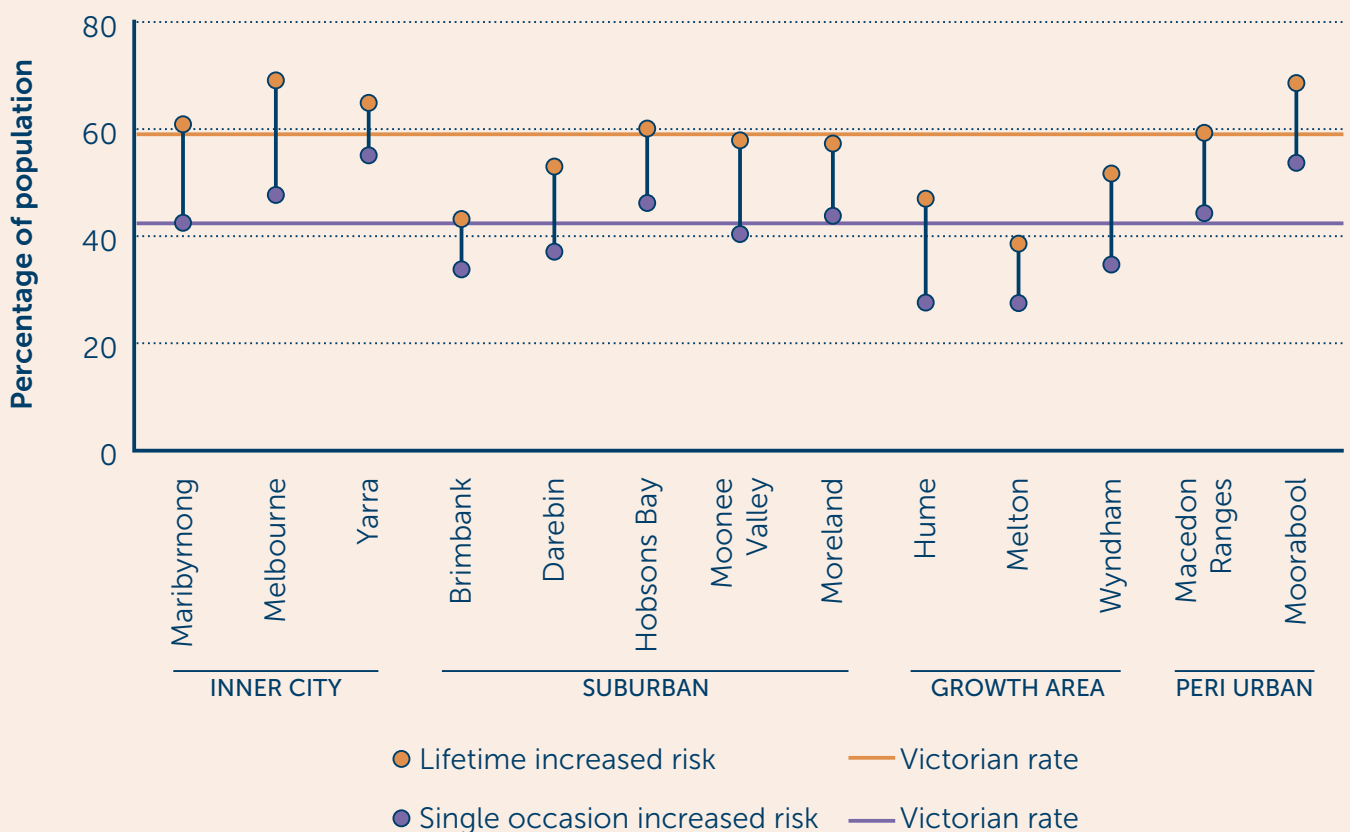


In 2014,
an estimated
54%
of adults within our
region were at increased
lifetime risk of alcohol-
related harm

Alcohol and other drug misuse has serious repercussions on people's health, including poorer overall health, greater family and social dysfunction, elevated domestic and public violence and increased crime. At a public health system level, alcohol and other drug use exists within a complex interaction between mental health, suicide risk, chronic disease, blood borne virus transmission and other health issues. It must be considered in conjunction with these and other factors.

The north western Melbourne region contains many of Greater Melbourne's entertainment precincts with thriving night time economies. Associated with the increased availability of alcohol through licensed venues, there are elevated rates of risky lifetime and single occasion alcohol use, and alcohol related ambulance attendances within the inner city Local Government Areas of Melbourne, Maribyrnong and Yarra.

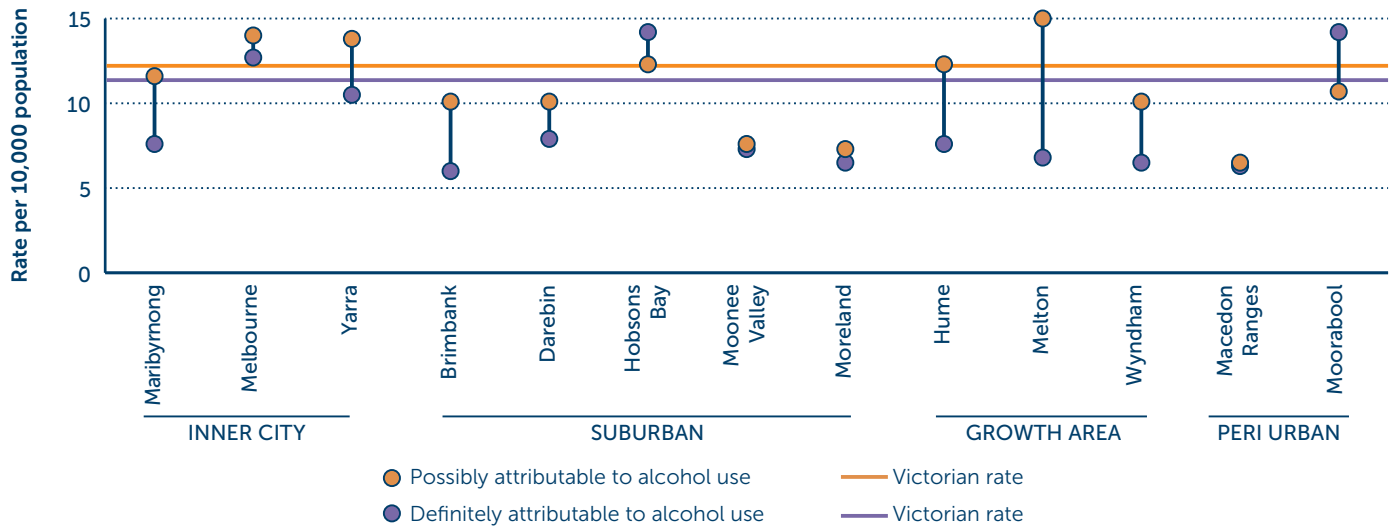
Figure 1: Percentage rate of population at increased risk from alcohol use, by Local Government Area



Source: Turning Point.

Societal harms from alcohol are also prevalent at higher rates within our region, with Yarra, Melbourne and Hume exhibiting very high rates for assault. Family violence has recently been driven into focus at all levels of government. Very high rates of incidents attributable to alcohol are reported in Hobsons Bay, Moorabool, Yarra and Melbourne, while Melton, Melbourne, Hume and Yarra possess very high rates of family violence possibly attributable to alcohol.

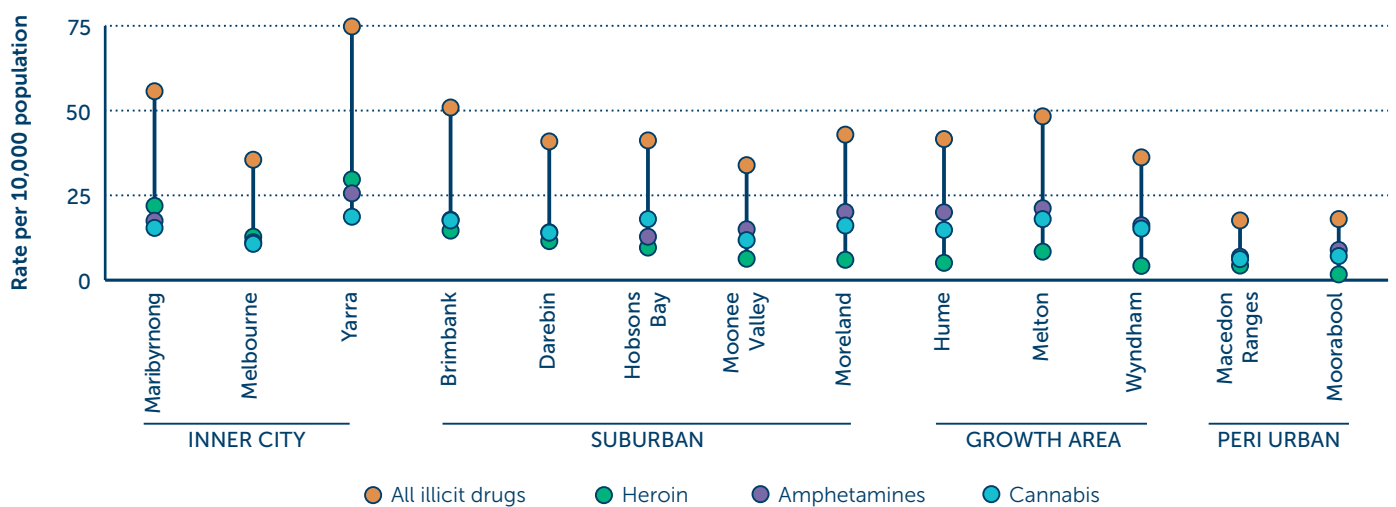
Figure 2: Family violence incidents attributable to alcohol use



Source: Turning Point.

Demand for services to treat illicit drug use is high to very high throughout our catchment except for the peri-urban areas of Moorabool and Macedon Ranges. Inner city Maribyrnong and Yarra have rates of treatment referrals in the highest two deciles for most sub-categories of illicit substances – heroin, amphetamines, pharmaceuticals and opioids. Outside of the inner city, demand for treatment for heroin use is very high in Brimbank, Darebin, Hobsons Bay and Melton. In Moreland and Hume, amphetamines are the primary drugs of concern.

Figure 3: Alcohol and drug information service (ADIS) referrals for illicit drug treatment



Source: Turning Point.

More information on alcohol and other drugs can be found at nwmpn.org.au/priority-area-topic/alcohol-and-other-drugs/