

Women and Girls in Tasmania – Fact Sheet 7

DEMOGRAPHICS

Demographic information helps us to understand the general characteristics of women and girls in Tasmania and the communities in which they live.



Population

Population size

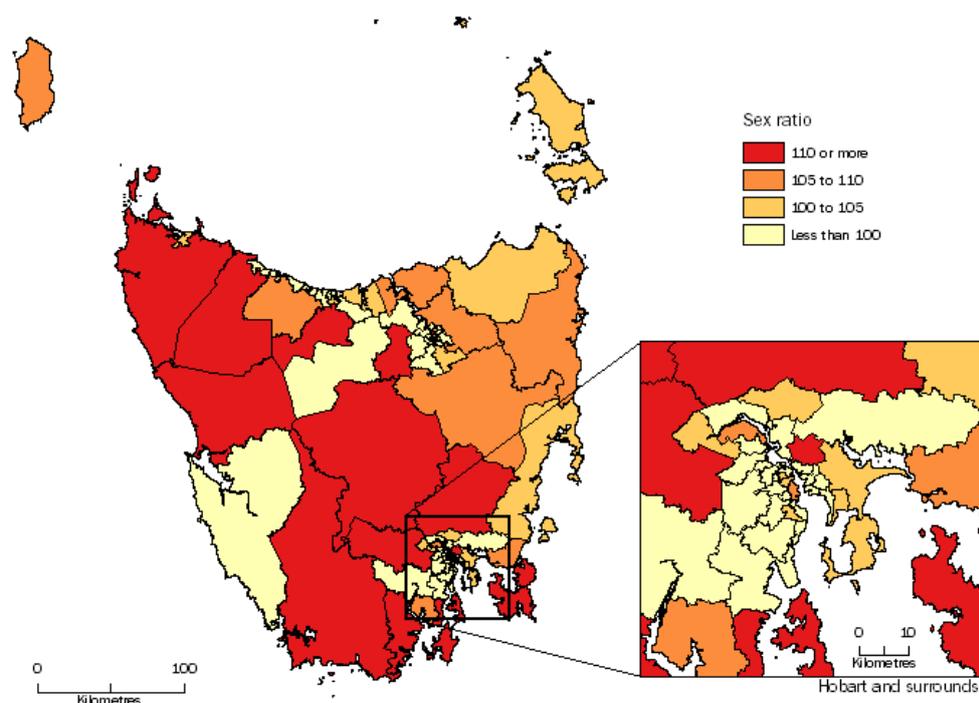
In June 2015, the total resident population of Tasmania was 516 600.¹

In June 2014, there were slightly more female than male residents of Tasmania, with 100 females to every 99.3 males, or 50.2 per cent of the population. This is down from 50.4 per cent in 2009.

Risdon Vale, one of Hobart's suburbs, had the lowest percentage of females (41.7) due in part to the male population of Risdon Prison. The next lowest percentage was in Waratah (45.8) in the north-west of the state, and the West Coast (45.9).²

The highest percentages of females were in the Launceston suburbs of Ravenswood (53.4) and Newstead (53.0) and Camdale (53.3), west of Burnie.

Figure 1. Ratio of males per 100 females by region, Tasmania, June 2014



Data source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2014, *Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia*, Catalogue 3235.0, ABS, Canberra.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

In 2011, 19 625 people in Tasmania identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, representing four per cent of Tasmania's total population.

¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2015, *Australian Demographic statistics, June 2015*, Catalogue 3101.0, ABS, Canberra.

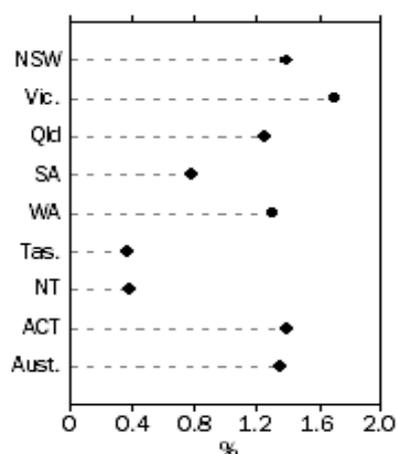
² Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2014, *Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia (Tasmania)*, Catalogue 3235.0, ABS, Canberra.

Of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, there were **9 996 females (50.9 per cent)** and approximately **4 per cent** of Tasmania's total female population of **252 679**, and **9 629 males (49.1 per cent)** of the state's total male population). The median age for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Tasmania was **22 years**.³

Population growth

During the 2014-15 financial year, Tasmania's population growth was **0.4 per cent**.⁴ Tasmania's population growth rate remains, along with that of the Northern Territory, the lowest of Australian states and territories. This is compared with a national growth rate of **1.4 per cent**, and **1.7 per cent** in Victoria, the country's fastest growing state in terms of population.

Figure 2. Growth rates by state and territory for the year ending June 2015



Data source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Australian Demographic statistics, June 2015*, Catalogue 3101.0, ABS, Canberra.

Population age

Tasmania experienced the largest increase in median age (the age at which half the population is older and half is younger) over the last 20 years, increasing by **8 years**, from **34 years** in 1995 to **42 years** in 2015. Interstate migration of younger adults from Tasmania to the Australian mainland has contributed to this accelerated ageing.⁵

As of June 2014, Tasmania had the oldest population of all states and territories, with a median age of **40.6** for males and **42.4** for females.⁶

Life expectancy

In 2011, the age-standardised mortality rate in Tasmania was **6.5 deaths per 1 000**, down from **7.6** in 2001. This is higher than the national rate of **5.6**, and the second highest after the

³ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011, *Census of Population and Housing, 2011 Census Quickstats*, ABS, Canberra.

⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2014, *Australian Demographic Statistics, June 2014*, Catalogue 3101.0, ABS, Canberra.

⁵ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2014, *Australian Demographic Statistics, June 2014*, Catalogue 3101.0, ABS, Canberra.

⁶ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2014, *Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia*, Catalogue 3235.0, ABS, Canberra.

Northern Territory (7.3). It is the same rate as that of all outer-regional areas, as defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics remoteness classification.⁷

In 2011, women in Tasmania had a higher life expectancy at birth than males: **82.5 years** compared to **78.3 years**. The gap in life expectancy for women in Tasmanian compared with the whole of Australia has widened from **1.2 years** in 2005 to **1.7** in 2011.

Cultural and linguistic diversity

In 2011, approximately **83.8 per cent** of Tasmania's female residents were born in Australia, with **11.6 per cent** born outside Australia (**4.6 per cent** not stated).

The top five countries of birth for Tasmanian women born outside Australia were the United Kingdom, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Germany and China.⁸ However, Tasmania had overseas migrants from all international regions.

Family types

In 2011, there were approximately **134 196** families in Tasmania. Of these, **53 219 (39.7 per cent)** were coupled families with children, **56 435 (42 per cent)** were coupled families without children, **22 824 (17 per cent)** were single parent families, and **1 718 (1.3 per cent)** were classified as other families.⁹

Since 2006, the number of coupled families without children in Tasmania had grown by **8.2 per cent** and the number of coupled families with children had decreased very slightly (by **0.1 per cent**). The number of single parent families also increased between 2006 and 2011, with a **6.3 per cent** rise.¹⁰

When compared to 2006 and to national data, Figure 3 below shows that in 2011, Tasmania had higher percentages of single parent families and coupled families without children.



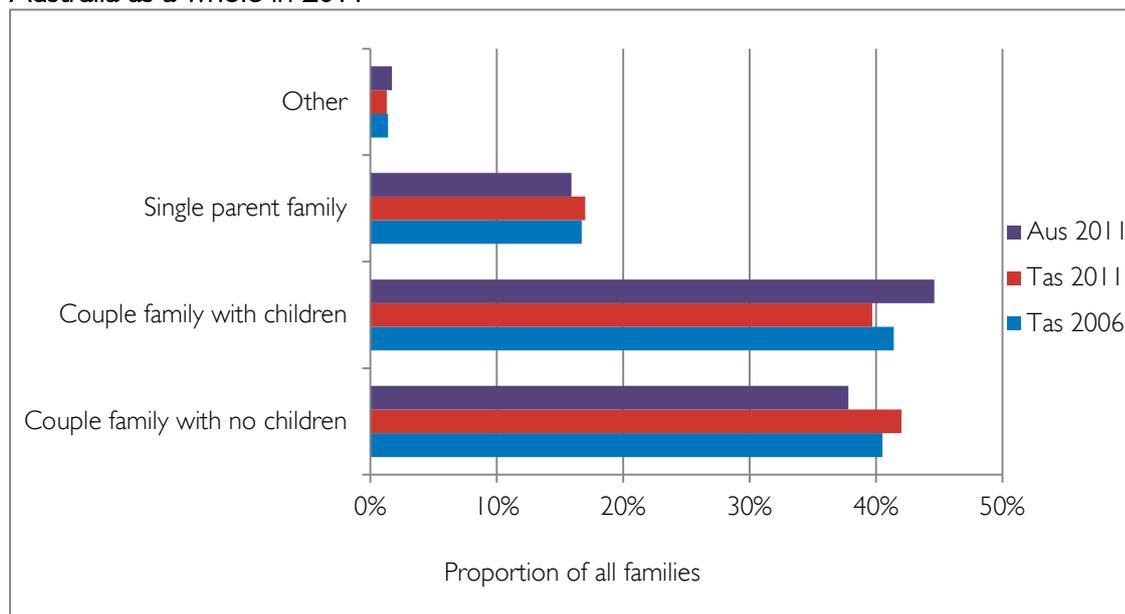
⁷ Department of Health and Human Services, 2013, *State of Public Health*, Hobart.

⁸ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011, *Census of Population and Housing, Basic Community Profile (Tasmania)*, Catalogue 2001.6, Table B09, ABS, Canberra.

⁹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011, *Census of Population and Housing, Basic Community Profile (Tasmania)*, Catalogue 2001.6, Table B25, ABS, Canberra. Note: "Other family" is defined as a group of related individuals residing in the same household, who cannot be categorised as belonging to a couple or one parent family.

¹⁰ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011, *Census of Population and Housing, Time Series Profile (Tasmania)*, Catalogue 2003.6, Table T29, ABS, Canberra.

Figure 3. Proportion of family types in Tasmania in 2011 compared to Tasmania in 2006 and Australia as a whole in 2011



Data source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006-2011, *Census of Population and Housing, Basic Community Profile (Tasmania and Australia)*, Catalogue 2001.0 and 2001.6, Table B25, ABS, Canberra.

Family households

In Tasmania in 2011, females were more likely to be living alone, and less likely than males to remain living with one or more parents once they had become non-dependent. In 2011, **81.5 per cent** of sole parents in Tasmania were female, which is **0.9 per cent lower** than the national average.¹¹

In Tasmania in 2010, government pensions and allowances were the main source of income for **49.6 per cent** of single parents with dependent children, compared to **10.3 per cent** of couples with dependent children.¹²



¹¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006-2011, *Census of Population and Housing, Basic Community Profile (Tasmania and Australia)*, Catalogue 2001.0 and 2001.6, Table B23, ABS, Canberra.

¹² Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2012, *Australian Social Trends, December 2012*, Catalogue 4102.0, ABS, Canberra.

Table 1. Relationship in household by sex in Tasmania, 2011

Relationship in household	Female	Male	Female (%)
Registered marriage	86 673	85 365	50.4
De facto marriage	21 110	20 584	50.6
Lone parent	18 600	4 224	81.5
Child under 15 years	43 226	45 491	48.7
Dependent student	10 063	10 013	50.1
Non-dependent child	8 588	15 251	36.0
Other related individual	3 640	3 328	52.2
Group household member	6 239	7 330	46.0
Lone person	29 789	24 248	55.1
Unrelated individual living in family household	1 359	2 046	40.0
Visitor (from within Australia)	6 405	6 327	50.3

Data source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011, *Census of Population and Housing, Basic Community Profile (Tasmania)*, Catalogue 2001.6, Table B23, ABS, Canberra

Lone person households

In 2011, the sex ratio of lone person households in Tasmania varied significantly according to age.

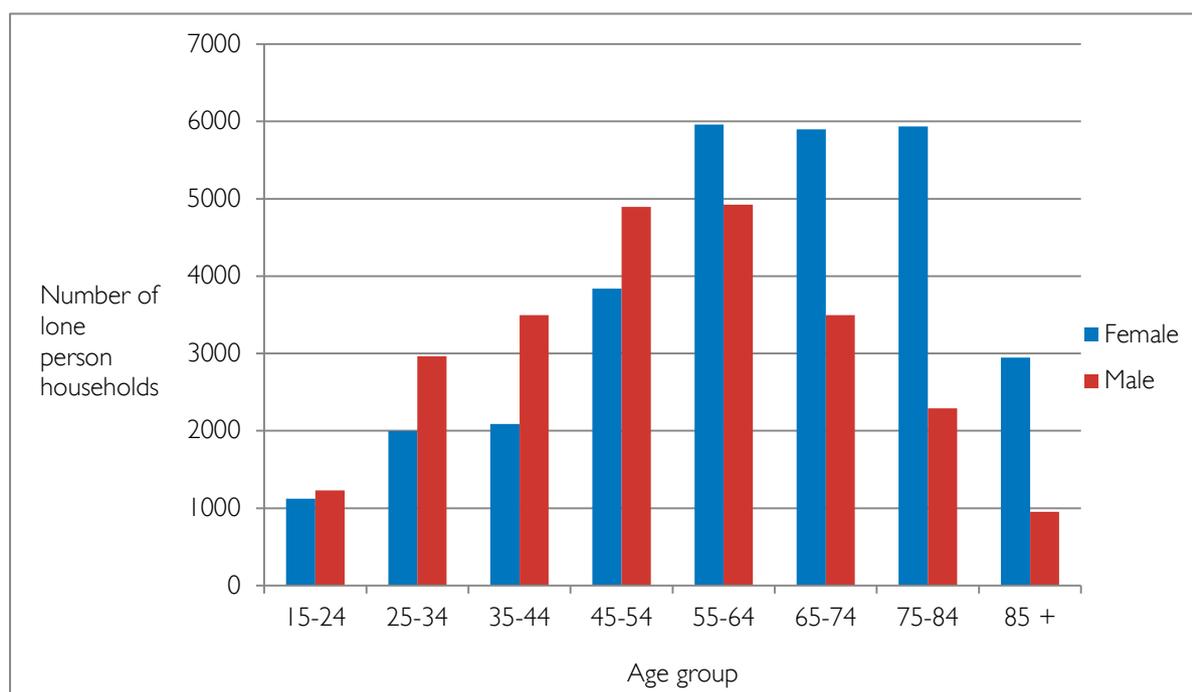
Between the ages of **25 and 54 years**, men were more likely to be living on their own. From the age of **55 years** there were significant increases in the percentage of women living on their own, and from that point onward women outnumber men in lone person households.

Women represent a much higher percentage of those living alone in the **85 and over** age bracket (**75.6 per cent**).

Of those people aged **65 and over** living alone in Tasmania in 2010, **78.9 per cent** relied on government pensions and allowances as their main source of income.¹³

¹³ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2010, *Australian Social Trends, December 2012*, Catalogue 4102.0, Table 2.6, ABS, Canberra.

Figure 4. Number of lone person households by sex and age group, Tasmania, 2011



Data source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006-2011, *Census of Population and Housing, Basic Community Profile (Tasmania)*, Catalogue 2001.6, Table B23, ABS, Canberra.

Aged care

As at June 2013, there were 4 333 people living in residential aged care facilities in Tasmania. Of these, 2 989 (68.9 per cent) are female.¹⁴

Marriages

In 2011, 172 038 (48 per cent) of people aged 15 years and over were in a registered marriage and 41 695 (11.6 per cent) were in a de facto marriage, which includes same-sex couples.¹⁵

In 2014, there were a total of 2 526 marriages in Tasmania. The median age at first marriage was 30.3 years for females and 32.3 years for males.¹⁶



¹⁴ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2013, *Residential aged care and aged care packages in the community 2012-13*, Supplementary Data, Table S2.11, ABS, Canberra.

¹⁵ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011, *Census of Population and Housing, Basic Community Profile (Tasmania)*, Catalogue 2001.6, Table B06, ABS, Canberra.

¹⁶ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2014, *Marriages and Divorces 2014*, Catalogue 3310.0, ABS, Canberra.

Divorce

In 2014, there were **1 009** divorces granted in Tasmania. Of these, **393** applications for divorce were made by women, **298** were made by men and **318** applications were jointly made.

The median age at divorce was **43.4 years** for females and **45.9 years** for males. The median length of marriage was **13 years** and **51.8 per cent** of divorces involved children.¹⁷

Births

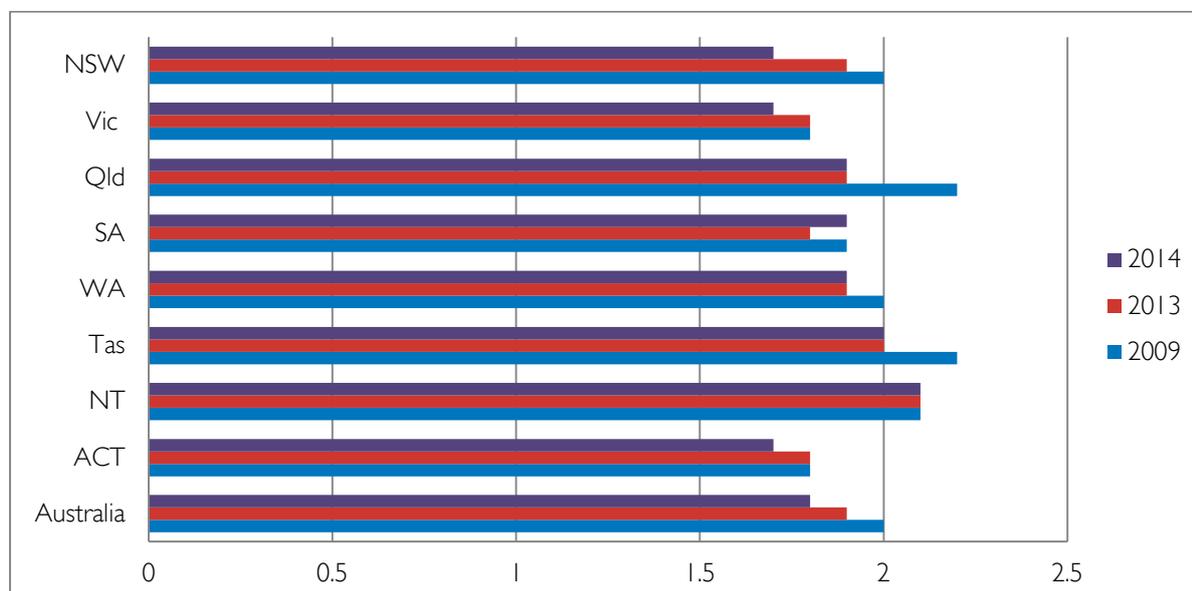
In 2014, there were **5 935** registered births in Tasmania. This compares with **6 049** for the previous year.

Tasmanian residents bear children at a comparatively young age. The median age for mothers in Tasmania in 2014 was **29.6 years**, and **31.7 years** for fathers. This is the second lowest of all states and territories, after the Northern Territory. The national average is **30.9** for mothers and **33.0** for fathers in the same year.¹⁸

Fertility rates in all states and territories in 2014 were highest for women aged **30-34 years**, except for Tasmania, where women aged **25-29 years** recorded a slightly higher fertility rate.

Total fertility rate (TFR) is defined as the average number of babies born to a woman throughout her reproductive life. In 2014, Tasmania's TFR was **2.0**, compared to the Australian rate of **1.8** in the same year. This was the second highest of all states and territories after the Northern Territory at **2.1**. Figure 5 compares TFR by states and territories for the years 2009, 2013 and 2014. South Australia saw the only increase from 2013 to 2014.¹⁹

Figure 5. Total Fertility Rate (TFR) by state and territory, 2009-14



Data source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2014, *Births, Australia, 2014*, Catalogue 3301.1, ABS, Canberra.

¹⁷ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2014, *Marriages and Divorces 2014*, Catalogue 3310.0, ABS, Canberra.

¹⁸ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2014, *Births, Australia, 2014*, Catalogue 3301.1, ABS, Canberra.

¹⁹ Ibid.

Deaths and hospitalisations

In 2013, there were **4 444** deaths in Tasmania, **49.2 per cent** of these were women and **50.8 per cent** were men.

The primary cause of death for Tasmanian women and men in 2013 was due to neoplasms, or cancer, with **602** female deaths and **717** male deaths.²⁰

In summary

- In 2014, **50.2 per cent** of the Tasmanian population were female.
- Of Tasmania's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples **50.9 per cent** were women.
- In 2011, **16.2 per cent** of Tasmania's female population were born outside Australia.
- In 2011, Tasmanian women accounted for **81.5 per cent** of single parents, were less likely to be living with parents after becoming non-dependent, and were more likely to be living alone once over the age of **55**.
- The median age of women in Tasmania in 2014 was **42.2**, the highest of all Australian states and territories.
- Women in Tasmania in 2014 were more likely to singularly file for divorce.
- In 2014, fertility in Tasmania was the second highest of Australian states and territories, and the median age of mothers was also the **second highest**.

²⁰ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2015 *Causes of Death, Australia, 2013*, Cat No 3303.0, Table 7.1, ABS, Canberra

Women and Girls In Tasmania – Fact Sheet 7: Demographics

Special thanks goes to the Gender Policy and Strategy Group at the University of Tasmania who provided input into the development of the Fact Sheet series.

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