

Improve safety

Neighbourhoods which are perceived as safe foster community participation, encourage physical activity, community connectedness and add to the health and wellbeing of residents and visitors.

Ensuring safety for all regardless of age, gender or background is important for creating a more liveable Cardinia Shire.

Key statistics



Personal or family experiences of crime or safety issues were **lower in 2023**. (19%)



Since 2009, there have been **23 significant natural incidents**, including bushfires, grassfires, floods, storms and heatwaves.



There were **5,909 criminal incidents in 2024**, or 16 per day. (2) (A 25% increase on the number of incidents in 2023)



In 2023 there were **4 fatalities, 143 serious and 270 other injuries** on our roads. (4)



54% of all crime was **property and deception offences** in 2024, up 51% from 2023. (2)



In 2022 a **total of 1,892 shire residents** were admitted to hospital due to unintentional injury. (3) (A rate of 1,536.9/100,000 population)

Health considerations in priority populations

- Males are over-represented in road trauma, while females are over-represented in experiences of stalking, harassment and threatening behaviour. (2,4)
- Those who have done nothing to prepare for extreme weather events include 35-49 year olds (25%), people who speak a language other than English (29%), renters (36%), and single parents (47%).
- For residents living in the 'hills' area, bushfires are the main natural threat compared to flooding in the

Impact of climate change on safety

- The health impacts from extreme heat events is higher than natural disasters.
- Awareness and practicing heat-health safety is crucial to avoid health problems.
- Hazards including extreme heat, falling objects, poor air quality from bushfire-related pollution and dust storms impact the ability to access the outdoor environment.
- Power outages can result in adverse health consequences for vulnerable residents (e.g. elderly, children, those with chronic health conditions or reliant on electricity for medical devices).

References

1. Cardinia Shire Council. Social Research (Rural, Township, Growth Areas). 2016.
2. Crime Statistics Agency. Offence Classification. 2024
3. Victorian Injury Surveillance Unit. Injury Atlas. 2020
4. VicRoads. Interactive Crashstats 2023, accessed 2025.
5. Cardinia Shire Council. Household Liveability Survey 2019, and 2023.
6. Icons: Giorgi Gogitidze