

# Community report

## Colac-Otway (S)

Prepared from Community Explorer topic selections for briefing, planning and reporting use.

AREA

**Colac-Otway (S)**

COMPARISON

**Regional Vic.**

POPULATION

**Persons**

GENERATED

**31 March 2026**

### Included sections

1 selected topic will be included in this report.

**01** Need for assistance

### Sources and method

- Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2021 and, where available, 2016 comparison data.
- Percentages are calculated from the denominator supplied for each topic. Change (pp) is the 2021 percentage minus the 2016 percentage when the topic is comparable across years.
- Usual residence topics describe where people usually live, rather than where they were counted on Census night.

# Need for assistance

Colac–Otway (S) | Regional Vic. comparison | Persons

Community report section 1 of 1

## Key takeaway

In 2021, 85+ year olds was the most common age group among residents who needed assistance with core activities in Colac–Otway (S), accounting for 49% (319 people). This share was higher than Regional Vic. (46.4%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in 75–84 year olds, which increased by 81 people and 2.6 percentage points.

## About this topic

Need for assistance measures people who report needing help with self-care, body movement, or communication because of a disability, a long-term health condition, or older age. It is a high-needs indicator rather than a general measure of disability.

This topic is useful for planning accessible facilities, care services, respite, and support for carers. The measure is based on self-report in the Census, so it should be interpreted with care and read alongside unpaid care and other disability-related indicators.

## Interpretation notes

- The measure is self-reported and records need for help with core activities, so it is not a complete measure of disability prevalence.
- It applies to all persons and is strongest as an indicator of higher support need when read with unpaid care and ageing data.

## Need for assistance with core activities by age

Colac-Otway (S) – Persons (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	pp
0-4	8	0.7%	1.5%	15	1.3%	1.2%	-7	-0.6
5-14	120	4.6%	5.5%	90	3.6%	3.9%	+30	+1.0
15-19	47	3.9%	4.6%	41	3.4%	3.4%	+6	+0.5
20-24	21	2.0%	3.7%	29	2.7%	2.9%	-8	-0.7
25-34	86	3.3%	2.8%	57	2.6%	2.4%	+29	+0.7
35-44	83	3.4%	3.1%	87	3.8%	3.0%	-4	-0.4
45-54	144	5.1%	4.3%	153	5.4%	4.2%	-9	-0.3
55-64	182	5.6%	6.0%	221	7.0%	5.8%	-39	-1.4
65-74	233	7.6%	8.8%	177	6.9%	8.1%	+56	+0.7
75-84	293	17.7%	18.7%	212	15.1%	17.0%	+81	+2.6
85+	319	49.0%	46.4%	253	43.2%	42.3%	+66	+5.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,531</b>	<b>6.8%</b>	<b>6.9%</b>	<b>1,333</b>	<b>6.4%</b>	<b>6.0%</b>	<b>+198</b>	<b>+0.4</b>

Data basis: usual residence.