

Bosnia-Herzegovina was a republic within the former Yugoslav federation, but became independent in 1992. The population is diverse, comprising of Serbs, Croats and Bosnians, which is reflected in their culture, language and religion. The Bosnia-Herzegovina-born were enumerated as a separate birthplace group only at the 1996 Census. Prior to the mid-1960s, very few Bosnians migrated to Australia. Significant numbers have arrived in Australia since 1991 due to conflicts in the former Yugoslavia.

At the 2006 Census, there were 8,905 Bosnia and Herzegovina-born persons in Victoria (36.2% of Australia's total), increasing by 4.1% from 8,556 persons in 2001. Two-thirds (66.3%) of the community in Victoria had arrived in Australia between 1991 and 2000, mainly as refugees.

Although the Bosnia and Herzegovina-born community were distributed throughout metropolitan Melbourne, there were distinct concentrations in suburbs where other former Yugoslavs settled: Greater Dandenong (23.0%), Brimbank (17.7%) and Casey (10.7%).

There were 6,831 persons who identified with Bosnian ancestry, which was less than the Bosnia-Herzegovina population. This is attributed to the fact that the Bosnia-Herzegovina-born community also originated from other linguistic or cultural groups within the former Yugoslavia.

The Bosnia-Herzegovina-born showed a young to maturing age profile: 32.2% were aged 26-44 years; 32.3% were aged 45-64 years. The median age was 42 years, compared to 37 years for the total Victorian population. The sex ratio was 97 males to 100 females. Just under half (47.4%) spoke Bosnian at home; 27.5% spoke Serbian; and 14.4% spoke Croatian. Over a quarter (27.6%) assessed themselves as speaking English not well or not at all. The Bosnia and Herzegovina-born followed a variety of religions: 33.7% were Muslim; 21.2% were Serbian Orthodox; and 17.9% were Western Catholic. Most (93.3%) held Australian Citizenship, compared to 67.5% for the total overseas-born population in Victoria.

**Demographic Background: 2006 Census**

1 Persons born in Bosnia & Herz. in Victoria and Australia: 2006, 2001 and 1996 Census								
	2006 Census		2001 Census		1996 Census		2001-2006 % change	1996-2001 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%		
Melbourne	8,272	33.6	7,895	33.1	4,341	31.9	4.8	81.9
Rest of Victoria <sup>1</sup>	633	2.6	661	2.8	419	3.1	-4.2	57.8
<b>Total Victoria</b>	<b>8,905</b>	<b>36.2</b>	<b>8,556</b>	<b>35.9</b>	<b>4,760</b>	<b>35.0</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>79.7</b>
<b>Total Australia</b>	<b>24,628</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>23,850</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>13,610</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>75.2</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes "No Usual Address, Victoria"

2. Distribution of Bosnia & Herz.-born, Top 5 Local Govt Areas: 2006, 2001 Census					
Local Government Area	2006 Census		2001 Census		Rank in 2001
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Greater Dandenong (C)	2,045	23.0	2,088	24.4	1
Brimbank (C)	1,580	17.7	1,516	17.7	2
Casey (C)	950	10.7	627	7.3	3
Greater Geelong (C)	471	5.3	448	5.2	4
Whittlesea (C)	413	4.6	297	3.5	8
Rest of LGAs in Metro Melb	3,272	36.7	3,378	39.4	
Rest of LGAs in Reg. Vic	174	2.0	218	2.5	
<b>Total Victoria</b>	<b>8,905</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>8,572</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

3 Persons Identifying with Bosnian Ancestry, Total Responses, 2006, 2001			
	2006 Census	2001 Census	2001-2006 % change
Bosnian ancestry			
<b>Total First &amp; Second Responses<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>6,831</b>	<b>6,428</b>	<b>6.3</b>
<b>Total Bosnia &amp; Herz.-born, persons</b>	<b>8,905</b>	<b>8,556</b>	<b>4.1</b>

<sup>1</sup> Respondents had the option of nominating several ancestries, but only the first two responses were processed in the Census.

Fig 1: Distribution of Bosnia & Herz.-Born in Melbourne, 2006



