

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<br>% change | 1996-2001<br>% 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>           |

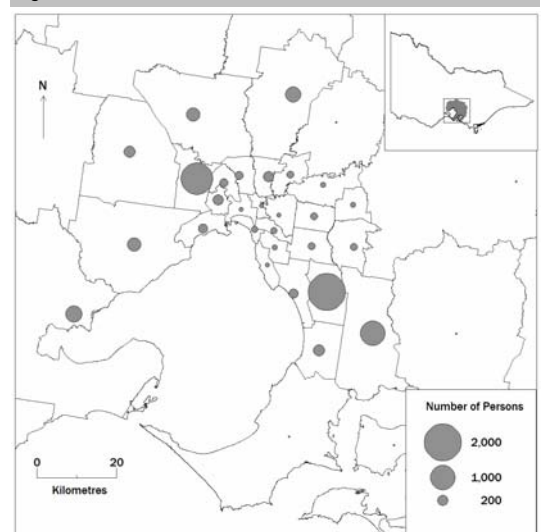
<sup>1</sup> Includes "No Usual Address, Victoria"

| 2. Distribution of Bosnia & Herz.-born, Top 5 Local Govt Areas: 2006, 2001 Census |              |              |              |              |                 |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Local Government Area   | 2006 Census  |              | 2001 Census  |              | Rank in<br>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<br>% change |
| Bosnian ancestry   |             |             |                       |
| Total First & Second Responses <sup>1</sup>                              | 6,831       | 6,428       | 6.3                   |
| Total Bosnia & Herz.-born, persons                                       | 8,905       | 8,556       | 4.1                   |

<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



#### 4 Age and Gender Distribution of Bosnia & Herz.-born: 2006, 2001

| Age group (years) | 2006 Census  |              | 2001 Census                  |              | 2001-2006 % change |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|
|                   | Persons      | %            | Persons                      | %            |                    |
| 0-4               | 14           | 0.2          | 52                           | 0.6          | -73.1              |
| 5-11              | 156          | 1.8          | 581                          | 6.8          | -73.1              |
| 12-18             | 929          | 10.4         | 1,153                        | 13.5         | -19.4              |
| 19-25             | 1,092        | 12.3         | 763                          | 8.9          | 43.1               |
| 26-44             | 2,869        | 32.2         | 3,203                        | 37.4         | -10.4              |
| 45-64             | 2,880        | 32.3         | 2,204                        | 25.8         | 30.7               |
| 65-74             | 754          | 8.5          | 464                          | 5.4          | 62.5               |
| 75+               | 209          | 2.3          | 138                          | 1.6          | 51.4               |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>8,903</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>8,558</b>                 | <b>100.0</b> | <b>4.0</b>         |
| <i>Sex Ratio</i>  | 97           |              | <i>males per 100 females</i> |              |                    |

#### 5 Top 5 Languages Spoken at Home by Bosnia & Herz.-born: 2006, 2001

| Language                     | 2006 Census  |              | 2001 Census  |              | 2001-2006 % change |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|
|                              | Persons      | %            | Persons      | %            |                    |
| Bosnian                      | 4,216        | 47.4         | 4,455        | 52.0         | -5.4               |
| Serbian                      | 2,447        | 27.5         | 1,871        | 21.9         | 30.8               |
| Croatian                     | 1,282        | 14.4         | 1,410        | 16.5         | -9.1               |
| Serbo-Croat etc.             | 274          | 3.1          | N/A          | -            | N/A                |
| Ukrainian                    | 124          | 1.4          | 98           | 1.1          | 26.5               |
| English only                 | 366          | 4.1          | 253          | 3.0          | 44.7               |
| Other languages <sup>1</sup> | 148          | 1.7          | 443          | 5.2          | -66.6              |
| Not stated                   | 45           | 0.5          | 32           | 0.4          | 40.6               |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>8,902</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>8,562</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>4.0</b>         |

<sup>1</sup> Includes 'Inadequately described' and 'Non-verbal so described'.

#### 7 Top 5 Religions of Bosnia & Herz.-born: 2006, 2001

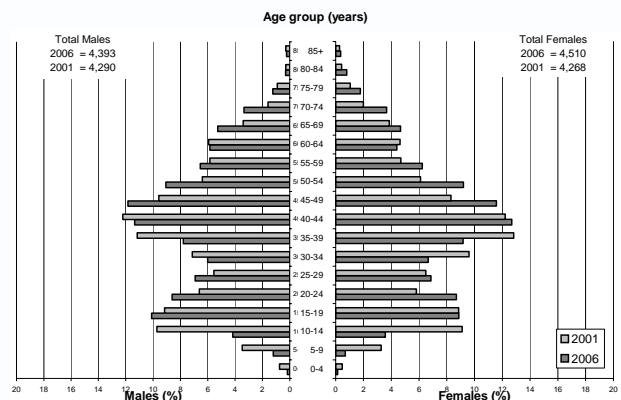
| Religion                | 2006 Census  |              | 2001 Census  |              | 2001-2006 % change |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|
|                         | Persons      | %            | Persons      | %            |                    |
| Islam                   | 2,999        | 33.7         | 3,837        | 44.8         | -21.8              |
| Serbian O'dox           | 1,890        | 21.2         | 1,686        | 19.7         | 12.1               |
| Western Catholic        | 1,590        | 17.9         | 1,680        | 19.6         | -5.4               |
| Eastern O'dox nfd       | 534          | 6.0          | 170          | 2.0          | 214.1              |
| Greek Orthodox          | 134          | 1.5          | 64           | 0.7          | 109.4              |
| Other religions         | 182          | 2.0          | 187          | 2.2          | -2.7               |
| No religion             | 1,150        | 12.9         | 713          | 8.3          | 61.3               |
| Not stated <sup>1</sup> | 420          | 4.7          | 220          | 2.6          | 90.9               |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>8,899</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>8,557</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>4.0</b>         |

<sup>1</sup> Includes 'Religious Belief, nfd and 'Not Defined'.

Source of data: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006 Population and Housing Census, Persons counted at Place of Usual Residence.

Some country background information is sourced from Jupp, J ed. (2001) *The Australian People*, Cambridge University Press, UK; and the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, *Country Information Summary* series, 2004.

Fig 2: Age and Gender Distribution of Bosnia & Herz.-Born, 2006



#### 6 Proficiency in English of Bosnia & Herz.-born: 2006, 2001

| Proficiency in English                          | 2006 Census  |              | 2001 Census  |              | 2001-2006 % change |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|
|   | Persons      | %            | Persons      | %            |                    |
| Speaks English only                             | 372          | 4.2          | 240          | 2.8          | 55.0               |
| <i>Speaks other language and speaks English</i> |              |              |              |              |                    |
| Very well                                       | 3,404        | 38.2         | 2,939        | 34.1         | 15.8               |
| Well  | 2,558        | 28.7         | 2,665        | 30.9         | -4.0               |
| Not well  | 1,986        | 22.3         | 2,110        | 24.5         | -5.9               |
| Not at all                                      | 473          | 5.3          | 587          | 6.8          | -19.4              |
| Not stated <sup>1</sup>                         | 115          | 1.3          | 75           | 0.9          | 53.3               |
| <b>Total</b>                                    | <b>8,908</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>8,616</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>3.4</b>         |

<sup>1</sup> Includes those who did not state a language or proficiency in English.

#### 8 Bosnia & Herz.-born with Australian Citizenship by Age, 2006, 2001

| Age group (years) | 2006 Census  |              | 2001 Census  |              | 2001-2006 % change |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|
|                   | Persons      | %            | Persons      | %            |                    |
| 0-4               | 4            | 0.0          | 20           | 0.3          | -80.0              |
| 5-11              | 145          | 1.7          | 391          | 5.8          | -62.9              |
| 12-18             | 857          | 10.3         | 844          | 12.6         | 1.5                |
| 19-25             | 1,000        | 12.0         | 554          | 8.3          | 80.5               |
| 26-44             | 2,634        | 31.7         | 2,485        | 37.1         | 6.0                |
| 45-64             | 2,754        | 33.2         | 1,873        | 28.0         | 47.0               |
| 65-74             | 714          | 8.6          | 420          | 6.3          | 70.0               |
| 75+               | 199          | 2.4          | 105          | 1.6          | 89.5               |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>8,307</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>6,692</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>24.1</b>        |

For more detailed tables on a wider range of demographic and socio-economic variables from the 2006 Census, refer to *Community Profiles Series: 2006 Census* available on the Victorian Multicultural Commission website: [www.multicultural.vic.gov.au](http://www.multicultural.vic.gov.au)