

Women's Health In the North

<http://www.whin.org.au/>

Violence Against Women

Violence against women is experienced by a significant number of women in Australia despite it being preventable. For Victorian women aged between 15 and 44 years, intimate partner violence is the leading contributor to preventable death, disability and illness. The impact of violence against women is widespread and long-standing, generating profound personal, social and economic costs to individuals, the community and our nation. Specific groups of women are particularly at risk of violence due to the interplay of a number of complex factors, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, women with a disability and culturally and linguistically diverse women. Having the confidence, knowledge and ability to seek support and access appropriate services is also difficult for many women.

VAW

Fact
Sheet

<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Measures</i>
Perceptions Of Safety	% People who feel safe when walking alone at night
Sexual Offences	Rate (per 10,000) Jan-June Reported Incidents Reported Incidents
Sexual Offences Relationship To Victim	Aggregate 2 year % known to victim
Stalking, Harassment And Threatening Behaviours	Rate (per 10,000) Jan-June Reported Incidents Reported Incidents
Family Violence	Rate (per 10,000) Jan-June Reported Incidents Reported Incidents
Intimate Partner Violence	Rate (per 10,000) Jan-June Reported Incidents Reported Incidents
Family Violence, Child Present	Rate (per 10,000) Reported incidents

Perceptions Of Safety

Sourced from VicHealth Indicators, this represents the percentage of women and men respondents who feel 'Very safe' or 'Safe' when walking alone in the local area at night. In 2015, the perception of safety average for women was only 44.0% compared with 78.8% for men. In the four years since the previous 2011 survey, Victorian women and men were less likely to report feeling safe.

Gender Analysis

Safe neighbourhoods foster community participation, encourage physical activity, community connectedness and add to the health and well-being of local residents and visitors. The built environment, neighbourhood design, and transport options are critical to ensuring public safety, particularly for women. Fear of male violence and street harassment significantly limits the participation of women and girls in community life. This contributes to health outcome disparities, social exclusion and poor perceptions of safety for women.

Perceptions Of Safety - % People who feel safe when walking alone at night

Time Period	Hume		Metro North Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2015	19.4%	63.6%	34.9%	72.2%	44.0%	78.8%	61.4%
2011	32.5%	73.6%	52.2%	84.7%	63.1%	87.5%	75.3%

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

When asked 'How safe do you feel walking alone in your local area after dark?' in the VicHealth Indicators 2015 Survey, the number of people who answered 'Very safe' or 'Safe' divided by the number of survey participants* of the corresponding sex, by LGA. (*EXCLUDES: those who said 'Don't know', or who did not answer). The 2015 and 2011 Perceptions of Safety data is not directly comparable - due to different methodology used in the two surveys.

Source/s:

2015 VicHealth Community Indicators Survey: Perceptions of Safety indicator.

Currency: 2015

Link: <https://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/programs-and-projects/vichealth-indicators-survey-2015>

Sexual Offences

Sexual offences include rape, indecent assault, and other acts of a sexual nature against another person, which are non-consensual or where the person is deemed incapable of giving consent because of youth or temporary / permanent incapacity. In Victoria, sexual violence is overwhelmingly perpetrated by men against women, and female victims of sexual offences outnumber male victims by a ratio of 5.6 to 1. In 2020 there were 8,747 reports of sexual offences logged by Victoria Police comprising 7,360 female victims, and 1,309 male victims. Compared with 2019, the number of sexual offence victim reports decreased by 1.1% for females (from 7,439) and decreased by 4.8% for males (from 1,375). The 2020 sexual offences population rate is 14.5 per 10,000 persons for female victims, compared with 2.5 per 10,000 persons for male victims (average of Victorian local government areas).

Gender Analysis

The stigma surrounding sexual assault makes it harder for victims to disclose their experience. In Victoria about one third of reported sexual offences are related to family violence. About a quarter relate to historical sexual assaults that are more than 10 years old. Less than one quarter of reported sexual offences progress to court, and even fewer result in a conviction. Women victims may experience discrimination from the justice system itself (in terms of being believed, or in the nature or level of questioning they receive). Sexual assault has profound effects on the wellbeing of victim/survivors, including emotional, psychological, legal, health, spiritual, and socioeconomic impacts.

Help/support in Victoria for victim-survivors of past or recent sexual assault:

- Centres Against Sexual Assault (CASA): (Website: casa.org.au)
- Victorian Sexual Assault Crisis Line: (Phone: 1800 806 292 - after hours)
- 1800RESPECT (Phone: 1800 737 732 - 24 hours / Website: 1800respect.org.au)

Sexual Offences - Rate (per 10,000)

Time Period	Hume		Metro North Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2020	16.67	2.38	10.7	1.9	14.5	2.4	8.5
2019	16.16	3.24	10.6	2.0	13.9	2.8	8.4
2018	15.71	2.33	10.8	2.0	14.1	3.0	8.5
2017	12.1	2.4	9.8	2.0	13.7	3.6	8.7
2016	11.7	2.3	8.8	1.6	12.2	3.4	7.8

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The rate equals the number of victim reports received in the year period 2020, per LGA, per 10,000 total persons of the corresponding LGA.

Source/s:

(1) Crime Statistics Agency Victoria, *Victim reports for selected offences by region, LGA and sex of victim - January to December 2020*. Category: A30 Sexual offences. Data extracted from LEAP on 18 January 2021; (2) ABS Census 2016.

Currency: 2020

Link: <http://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/>

Sexual Offences - Jan-June Reported Incidents

Time Period	Hume		Metro North Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2021	169	29	77.9	10.9	51.5	7.5	29.5

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The number of victim(1) reports received in the half-year period January to June 2021. Half year data will be superseded by 2021 full calendar year data, when available. Notes: (1) Victim includes females and males of all ages. (2) Counts of 1, 2, or 3 are reported as 3. (3) Zero is reported as 0.

Source/s:

Crime Statistics Agency Victoria, Victim reports for selected offences by police region, LGA and sex of victim - January 2021 to June 2021. Category: A30 Sexual Offences. Data extracted from LEAP on 18 July 2021.

Currency: 2021 Jan-Jun

Link: <http://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/>

Sexual Offences - Reported Incidents

Time Period	Hume		Metro North Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2020	329	47	154.3	25.6	92.9	15.9	54.4
2019	319	64	151.0	27.9	93.9	17.1	55.5
2018	310	46	155.9	27.3	93.1	17.6	55.3
2017	239	48	140.4	28.4	88.4	20.3	54.4
2016	231	46	122.9	23.3	78.5	18.4	48.5

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The number of victim(1) reports received in the year period 2020. Note: (1) Victim includes females and males of all ages.

Source/s:

Crime Statistics Agency Victoria, Victim reports for selected offences by region, LGA and sex of victim - January to December 2020. Category: A30 Sexual offences. Data extracted from LEAP on 18 January 2021.

Currency: 2020

Link: <http://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/>

Sexual Offences Relationship To Victim

In Victoria, sexual violence is overwhelmingly perpetrated by men against women, with female victims of sexual offences outnumbering male victims by a ratio of 5.6 to 1. More than 7 in 10 sexual offences are committed by someone known to the victim, whether the victim is female or male. Based on offences reported to Victoria Police in the 2-year period 2019 to 2020, the proportion of sexual offenders known to victims (of any age) is 76.5% for female victims and 74.3% for male victims (average by local government area).

Gender Analysis

Inaccurate myths often portray sex offenders as 'deviant men unknown to their victims', when in fact most men who perpetrate sexual violence are connected to their victims as family members, partners, friends or co-workers. Sexual violence often goes unreported due to the majority of sex offenders being known to their victims. Women are more likely to report sexual assault by a stranger than to report sexual assault from a current partner.

Help/support in Victoria for victim-survivors of past or recent sexual assault:

- Centres Against Sexual Assault (CASA): (Website: casa.org.au)
- Victorian Sexual Assault Crisis Line: (Phone: 1800 806 292 - after hours)
- 1800RESPECT (Phone: 1800 737 732 - 24 hours / Website: 1800respect.org.au)

Sexual Offences Relationship To Victim - Aggregate 2 year % known to victim

Time Period	Hume		Metro North Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2020	74.7%	69.4%	70.4%	59.5%	76.5%	74.3%	75.4%
2019	73.6%	60.0%	65.5%	61.4%	75.5%	72.2%	73.8%
2018	72.4%	58.5%	63.3%	61.9%	74.0%	71.7%	72.8%
2017	76.0%	74.2%	66.9%	63.6%	74.8%	74.7%	74.8%
2016	75.7%	75.3%	68.5%	67.7%	75.9%	76.6%	76.2%

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The number of victim(1) reports where the alleged sexual offender was 'known to the victim'(2), by LGA, in the 2-year period January 2019 to December 2020 divided by the total sexual offence victim reports of the corresponding sex of that LGA. Notes: (1) Victim includes females and males of any age. (2) The relationship of the victim to the alleged offender is recorded as current partner, former partner, family member or non-family member.

Sources:

Crime Statistics Agency Victoria, Victim reports where the principal offence was A30 sexual offences by police region, LGA, sex and relationship of victim to alleged offender - January 2019 to December 2020. Data extracted from LEAP on 18 January 2021.

Currency: Jan 2019-Dec 2020

Link: <http://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/>

Stalking, Harassment And Threatening Behaviours

This category includes repeated acts of unreasonable conduct intended to: cause physical or mental harm; arouse apprehension or fear; threaten or invade privacy; or create nuisance. In Victoria, female victim reports of stalking, harassment and threatening behaviour (SHTB) outnumber male victim reports by a ratio of 1.9 to 1. In 2020 there were 7,968 SHTB incidents logged by Victoria Police comprising 5,197 female victims, and 2,732 male victims. Compared with 2019, the number of SHTB victim reports increased by 5.4% for females (from 4,932) and increased by 10.9% for males (from 2,463). The 2020 population rate for SHTB incidents is 9.3 per 10,000 persons for female victims, compared with 4.7 per 10,000 persons for male victims (average of Victorian local government areas).

Gender Analysis

Due to under-reporting, the true incidence of stalking, harassment and threatening behaviour may be much higher. Stalking and harassment are highly gendered experiences with women overwhelmingly as the victims and men as the perpetrators. Many women suffer harassment when going about their daily lives. For example, women may be physically approached, watched, or followed. They may receive unwanted communications, unwanted gifts, or threats against themselves or loved ones. Cyber stalking and cyber harassment have become prevalent due to technological advancements and the ease of online anonymity.

Help/support for victims of stalking, harassment or threatening behaviours:
Victoria Police and/or the Victims of Crime Helpline (Phone: 1800 819 817)

Stalking, Harassment And Threatening Behaviours - Rate (per 10,000)

Time Period	Hume		Metro North Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2020	14.14	9.22	8.5	5.2	9.3	4.7	7.0
2019	15.45	7.19	8.8	4.7	8.7	4.3	6.5
2018	11.45	5.27	8.4	4.6	8.0	4.3	6.1
2017	11.9	6.1	7.5	4.3	7.8	4.1	6.0
2016	12.6	7.4	8.5	4.5	8.2	4.0	6.1

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The rate equals the number of victim reports received in the year period 2020, per LGA, per 10,000 total persons of the corresponding LGA.

Source/s:

(1) Crime Statistics Agency Victoria, *Victim reports for selected offences by region, LGA and sex of victim - January to December 2020*. Category: A70 Stalking, harassment and threatening behaviour. Data extracted from LEAP on 18 January 2021; (2) ABS Census 2016.

Currency: 2020

Link: <http://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/>

Stalking, Harassment And Threatening Behaviours - Jan-June Reported Incidents

Time Period	Hume		Metro North Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2021	156	78	69.1	33.2	32.4	16.4	24.4

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The number of victim(1) reports received in the half-year period January to June 2021. Half year data will be superseded by 2021 full calendar year data, when available. Notes: (1) Victim includes females and males of all ages. (2) Counts of 1, 2, or 3 are reported as 3. (3) Zero is reported as 0.

Source/s:

Crime Statistics Agency Victoria, Victim reports for selected offences by police region, LGA and sex of victim - January 2021 to June 2021. Category: A70 Stalking, harassment and threatening behaviour. Data extracted from LEAP on 18 July 2021.

Currency: 2021 Jan-Jun

Link: <http://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/>

Stalking, Harassment And Threatening Behaviours - Reported Incidents

Time Period	Hume		Metro North Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2020	279	182	131.7	79.4	65.6	34.5	50.0
2019	305	142	133.6	71.1	62.2	31.2	46.7
2018	226	104	126.3	66.7	59.3	29.9	44.6
2017	235	121	113.6	61.6	57.0	28.5	42.7
2016	249	147	128.3	68.6	60.7	29.3	45.0

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The number of victim(1) reports received in the year period 2020. Note: (1) Victim includes females and males of all ages.

Source/s:

Crime Statistics Agency Victoria, Victim reports for selected offences by region, LGA and sex of victim - January to December 2020. Category: A70 Stalking, harassment and threatening behaviour. Data extracted from LEAP on 18 January 2021.

Currency: 2020

Link: <http://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/>

Family Violence

Family violence includes violent or threatening behaviour, or any other form of behaviour that coerces or controls a family member or causes that family member to be fearful. In Victoria, female victim reports of family violence outnumber male victim reports by a ratio of 2.9 to 1. In 2020 there were 92,528 family incidents logged by Victoria Police comprising 68,972 female victims, and 23,457 male victims. Compared with 2019, the number of family incident victim reports increased by 8.7% for females (from 63,465) and increased by 11.9% for males (from 20,969). The 2020 population rate for family incidents is 123 per 10,000 persons for female victims, compared with 42.5 per 10,000 persons for male victims (average of Victorian local government areas). According to Crime Statistics Agency research, the COVID-19 pandemic had a flow-on effect on family violence in 2020. There were higher than forecasted average monthly numbers of family incidents reported to police, and higher than forecasted numbers of current partner and parent/child relationships in family incidents reported. Calls to 1800RESPECT from Victoria were 51% higher than the rest of Australia in the second quarter of 2020 (coinciding with the onset of COVID lockdown).

Gender Analysis

Family violence is the most pervasive and common form of men's violence against women in Victoria. It is the leading cause of death and disability in women aged 15-45 years and is the biggest contributor to women's ill-health including poor mental health. Family violence is the single largest driver of homelessness for women, a common factor in child protection notifications, and results in a police call-out on average once every two minutes across Australia. In 2016, the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence made 227 recommendations to transform Victoria's response to family violence - all of which are being implemented by the Victorian Government.

Help/support in Victoria for victim-survivors of family violence:

- Safe Steps (Phone: 1800 015 188 – 24 hours)
- 1800RESPECT (Phone: 1800 737 732 - 24 hours / Website: 1800respect.org.au)

Family Violence - Rate (per 10,000)

Time Period	Hume		Metro North Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2020	160.35	55.78	103.2	37.2	123.2	42.5	82.9
2019	151.64	51.42	98.7	34.3	115.6	38.1	76.9
2018	138.62	44.43	91.8	33.1	108.3	36.7	72.5
2017	116.3	39.6	85.9	30.8	102.5	35.2	68.9
2016	120.3	39.4	88.1	29.7	109.3	36.4	72.9

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The rate equals the number of victim(1) reports in 2020, where incidents were attended by Victoria Police and a Victoria Police Risk Assessment and Risk Management Report (also known as an L17 form) was completed, per LGA, per 10,000 total persons of the corresponding LGA. Note: (1) Victim includes females and males of all ages. A family incident can involve one or more affected family members and/or one or more other parties. For statistical purposes, these are counted as one incident but may appear multiple times in demographic counts.

Source/s:

(1) Crime Statistics Agency Victoria, *Affected family members recorded by police region, LGA and sex - January to December 2020*. Data extracted from LEAP on 18 January 2021; (2) ABS Census 2016; (3) Crime Statistics Agency Victoria, *Police-recorded crime trends in Victoria during the COVID-19 pandemic: update to end of December 2020*. Currency: 2020

Link: <http://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/>

Family Violence - Jan-June Reported Incidents

Time Period	Hume		Metro North Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2021	1558	534	737.6	257.1	436.5	147.2	291.8

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The number of victim(1) reports in the half-year period January to June 2021, where incidents were attended by Victoria Police and a Victoria Police Risk Assessment and Risk Management Report (also known as an L17 form) was completed. Half year data will be superseded by 2021 full calendar year data, when available. Notes: (1) Victim includes females and males of all ages. (2) Counts of 1, 2, or 3 are reported as 3. (3) Zero is reported as 0.

Source/s:

Crime Statistics Agency Victoria, Number of affected family members by police region, LGA and sex - January 2021 to June 2021. Data extracted from LEAP on 18 July 2021.

Currency: 2021 Jan-Jun

Link: <http://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/>

Family Violence - Reported Incidents

Time Period	Hume		Metro North Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2020	3165	1101	1,546.6	551.3	870.5	296.7	583.6
2019	2993	1015	1,484.0	513.9	801.9	265.3	533.6
2018	2736	877	1,404.4	496.1	754.2	248.5	501.4
2017	2295	781	1,288.6	459.3	708.7	238.2	473.4
2016	2374	777	1,314.7	437.3	745.1	245.6	495.4

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The number of victim(1) reports in the year period 2020, where incidents were attended by Victoria Police and a Victoria Police Risk Assessment and Risk Management Report (also known as an L17 form) was completed. Note: (1) Victim includes females and males of all ages. A family incident can involve one or more affected family members and/or one or more other parties. For statistical purposes, these are counted as one incident but may appear multiple times in demographic counts

Source/s:

(1) Crime Statistics Agency Victoria, Affected family members recorded by police region, LGA and sex - January to December 2020. Data extracted from LEAP on 18 January 2021. (2) Crime Statistics Agency Victoria, Police-recorded crime trends in Victoria during the COVID-19 pandemic: update to end of December 2020.

Currency: 2020

Link: <http://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/>

Intimate Partner Violence

Family violence carried out against a current or former partner is known as intimate partner violence (IPV). In Victoria, female victim reports of IPV outnumber male victim reports by a ratio of 4 to 1. In 2020 there were 57,439 IPV incidents logged by Victoria Police comprising 45,964 female victims, and 11,433 male victims. Compared with 2019, the number of IPV victim reports increased by 7.8% for female victims (from 42,642) and increased by 12% for male victims (from 10,205). The 2020 population rate for intimate partner violence is 81.6 per 10,000 for female victims, compared with 20.9 per 10,000 for male victims (average of Victorian local government areas).

Gender Analysis

Due to under-reporting, the true incidence of IPV is likely to be much higher. Men's violence against female partners is more likely to inflict severe injury and to result from attempts to control, coerce, intimidate and dominate than women's violence against male partners which is more likely to be in self-defense. Female victims are also more likely than male victims to live in fear before, during and after separation from a violent partner.

Help/support in Victoria for women victim-survivors of family violence:

- Safe Steps (Phone: 1800 015 188 – 24 hours)
- 1800RESPECT (Phone: 1800 737 732 - 24 hours / Website: 1800respect.org.au)

Intimate Partner Violence - Rate (per 10,000)

Time Period	Hume		Metro North Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2020	102.85	22.24	67.3	18.3	81.6	20.9	51.3
2019	98.49	19.40	65.1	16.7	77.0	18.5	47.8
2018	86.59	16.77	59.3	14.9	71.9	17.9	44.9
2017	73.9	14.3	54.2	13.0	68.9	16.9	42.9
2016	82.0	14.6	59.8	12.9	74.3	17.1	45.7

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The rate equals the number of affected family members where an intimate partner relationship was recorded, by LGA, in the year 2020, per 10,000 total persons of the corresponding LGA.

Source/s:

- (1) Crime Statistics Agency Victoria, Number of affected family members where an intimate partner relationship was recorded by police region, LGA and sex - January to December 2020. Data extracted from LEAP on 18 January 2021;
- (2) ABS Census 2016.

Currency: 2020

Link: <http://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/>

Intimate Partner Violence - Jan-June Reported Incidents

Time Period	Hume		Metro North Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2021	998	223	487.4	120.4	292.5	73.3	182.9

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The number of victim(1) reports in the half-year period January to June 2021, where incidents were attended by Victoria Police and a Victoria Police Risk Assessment and Risk Management Report (also known as an L17 form) was completed. Half year data will be superseded by 2021 full calendar year data, when available. Notes: (1) Victim includes females and males of all ages. (2) Counts of 1, 2, or 3 are reported as 3. (3) Zero is reported as 0.

Source/s:

Crime Statistics Agency Victoria, Number of affected family members where an intimate partner relationship was recorded by police region, LGA and sex - January 2021 to June 2021. Data extracted from LEAP on 18 July 2021.

Currency: 2021 Jan-Jun

Link: <http://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/>

Intimate Partner Violence - Reported Incidents

Time Period	Hume		Metro North Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2020	2030	439	1,016.4	261.4	579.6	144.7	362.1
2019	1944	383	979.0	240.1	538.6	129.1	333.8
2018	1709	331	905.4	217.1	506.7	119.1	312.9
2017	1459	282	819.3	191.1	476.0	111.5	293.7
2016	1618	289	891.7	187.6	507.4	113.4	310.4

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

Number of affected family members where an intimate partner relationship was recorded, by LGA, in the year 2020. Intimate partner includes: current or former spouse, defacto, boyfriend/girlfriend, gay or lesbian domestic partner.

Source/s:

Crime Statistics Agency Victoria, Number of affected family members where an intimate partner relationship was recorded by police region, LGA and sex - January to December 2020. Data extracted from LEAP on 18 January 2021. Currency: 2020

Link: <http://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/>

Family Violence, Child Present

The 'child present' flag indicates whether one or more children were identified as having been present at the time of a family incident logged by Victoria Police. Of the total 92,520 family incidents recorded in 2020, there were 34,144 (36.9%) with a 'child present' flag. This includes where a child under 18 is the victim or incidents where at least one child could have witnessed or heard the incident. Incidents with a child present increased by 5,208 (18%) compared with 2019 (28,935 incidents), however this should be interpreted with caution due to statewide rollout of a new Victoria Police data collection form during 2019. In 2020, there were 26,411 incidents with a female victim and a child present, compared with 7,701 incidents with a male victim and a child present. The 2020 population rate for a child/children present at a family incident is 48.6 per 10,000 for incidents with female victims, compared with 14.5 per 10,000 for incidents with male victims (average of Victorian local government areas).

Gender Analysis

According to Crime Statistics Agency research, 1 in 50 Victorian children witnessed or were exposed to family violence in the year ending June 2019. Most incidents witnessed by children occurred between intimate partners and involved male aggressors and female victim-survivors. Family violence impacts negatively on children's physical and mental wellbeing, language development and schooling, and is the leading cause of children's homelessness in Australia. Children exposed to family violence are twice as likely to witness subsequent family violence incidents and be referred to child protection services. Exposure also increases the risk of: psychiatric disorders, suicidal ideation, future contact with the justice system, and reduced social participation in adulthood.

Help/support for family violence in Victoria:

Safe Steps (Phone: 1800 015 188 – 24 hours)

Kids Helpline (Phone: 1800 55 1800 – 24 hours)

Family Violence, Child Present - Rate (per 10,000)

Time Period	Hume		Metro North Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2020	68.09	18.49	35.4	10.1	48.6	14.5	31.5
2019	57.05	14.90	31.4	9.0	42.1	11.6	26.9
2018	48.13	11.75	27.4	7.5	36.5	9.9	23.2

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The rate equals the number of family incidents logged by Victoria Police in the year 2018 with 'child present' flagged in the L17 form, by sex of the affected family member, by LGA, per 10,000 persons of the corresponding LGA. Notes: (1) Child present indicates whether one or more children (under 18) were identified as having been present at the time of the incident (could have witnessed or heard it). 'Child present' also applies to incidents where a child is the affected family member (the victim). (2) Counts of 3 are assigned an arbitrary count value of 1.5 to enable rate calculation. (3) A new L17 form was rolled out statewide in mid-2019, which may have affected how 'Child present' data is recorded. Therefore direct comparison of 2019 or later data with 2018 or earlier data is not recommended.

Source/s:

(1) *Crime Statistics Agency Victoria, Number of Family incidents by child present flag, affected family member sex, police region and LGA - January 2018 to December 2018. Data extracted from LEAP on 18 January 2021;* (2) *ABS Census 2016.*

Currency: 2020

Link: <http://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/>

Family Violence, Child Present - Reported incidents

Time Period	Hume		Metro North Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2020	1344	365	558.3	156.1	334.1	97.5	215.8
2019	1126	294	490.4	138.9	286.5	79.2	182.8
2018	950	232	433.0	114.9	244.1	64.5	154.3

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The number of family incidents logged by Victoria Police in the year 2020 with 'child present' flagged in the L17 form, by sex of the affected family member, by LGA. Notes: (1) Child present indicates whether one or more children (under 18) were identified as having been present at the time of the incident (could have witnessed or heard the incident). (2) Counts of 1, 2, or 3 are recorded as 3. (3) A new L17 form was rolled out statewide in mid-2019, which may have affected how 'Child present' data is recorded. Therefore direct comparison of 2019 or later data with 2018 or earlier data is not recommended.

Source/s:

Crime Statistics Agency Victoria, Number of Family incidents by child present flag, affected family member sex, police region and LGA - January 2020 to December 2020. Data extracted from LEAP on 18 January 2021.

Currency: 2020

Link: <http://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/>

