

Women's Health In the North

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

Violence Against Women

Violence against women is a widespread problem in Australia. Women often experience multiple incidents of violence across their lifetime. Women are much more likely to experience violence by someone they know than by a stranger. One in three women has experienced physical or sexual violence, or both, perpetrated by a man they know. Compared to men, women are at greater risk of physical and sexual violence by a partner. Intimate partner violence is the greatest health risk factor (greater than smoking, alcohol and obesity) for women in their reproductive years. On average one woman a week in Australia is killed by an intimate partner. Domestic and family violence is a factor in many child protection cases. Violence against women and their children results in major personal, government, and business costs. Having the confidence, knowledge and ability to seek support and access appropriate services is also difficult for many women. Key source: ANROWS (2018) Violence against women: accurate use of key statistics.

VAW

Fact
Sheet

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| Family Violence, First Nations AFM | Rate (per 10,000) Reported Incidents |
| Family Violence, Child Present | Rate (per 10,000) Reported incidents |
| Low Gender Equality In Relationships | % |

Perceptions Of Safety

The VicHealth Indicators Survey 2015 measured respondents' perceptions of safety when walking alone in their local area during the day and at night. The majority of Victorians (92.5%) reported feeling safe walking alone during the day. By comparison, only half of Victorians (55.1%) felt safe walking alone at night. Males were more likely to report feeling safe, compared with females, particularly for walking alone after dark. The percentage of respondents who felt 'Very safe' or 'Safe' when walking alone in the local area at night in 2015 was 44% for female respondents, compared with 78.8% for male respondents (average of Victorian local government areas). Older Victorians generally felt less safe, compared with all Victorians.

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. There is a spectrum of sexual assault and harassment that a wide diversity of women and girls experience every day in their journeys to, on board and from public transport to home. These journeys can generate fear and anxiety that mean many women change their behaviours, the routes they take and the level of vigilance they enact. (TramLab 2020). 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.

Refs: TramLab (2020) Improving the safety of women and girls on public transport. Judith Lumley Centre, LaTrobe University.

CAUTION: Some people may find parts of this content confronting or distressing. Help/support services in Victoria include:

- Report unwanted sexual and anti-social behaviour on public transport: (SMS STOPIT to 0499 455 455 / Website: www.police.vic.gov.au/stopit)

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

| Time Period | Hume | | Metro North Region Estimate | | Victoria State Estimate | | |
|-------------|--------|-------|-----------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------|-------|
| | 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). Notes: (1) The 2015 and 2011 Perceptions of Safety data is not directly comparable - due to different methodology used in the two surveys. (2) Statewide and region estimates are calculated by Atlas programming based on LGA values for female/male only, and may differ to Victorian estimates published elsewhere.

Source/s:

2015 VicHealth Community Indicators Survey: Perceptions of Safety indicator.

Currency: 2015

Link: https://www.mav.asn.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/32495/VicHealth-Indicators-2015-report.pdf

Sexual Violence

According to Victoria Police, sexual offences occur when someone does not or cannot consent to a sexual behaviour, act or acts. These sexual behaviours can include: rape, sexual or inappropriate touching, sexual assault, child sexual abuse, elder sexual abuse, sexual exposure of genitalia, image-based sexual offending, stealthing (non-consensual condom removal), stalking and grooming. 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 to 1. In 2023, Victoria Police logged 9,535 reports of sexual offences, comprising 7,913 female victims and 1,545 male victims. Compared with 2022, sexual offences victim reports increased overall by 1.4% (up by 128 from 9,407). Compared with 2022, sexual offences reports decreased by 0.4% for female victims (down 28 from 7,941) and increased by 12.2% for male victims (up 168 from 1,377). The 2023 population rate for sexual offences was 14.0 per 10,000 persons for female victims, compared with 2.6 per 10,000 persons for male victims (average of Victorian local government areas).

CAUTION: Some people may find parts of this content confronting or distressing.

Help/support services in Victoria include:

- Sexual Assault Services Victoria (SASVic): (Website: www.sasvic.org.au/)
- Victorian Sexual Assault Crisis Line: (Phone: 1800 806 292 - after hours)
- 1800RESPECT (Phone: 1800 737 732 - 24 hours / Website: 1800respect.org.au)

Gender Analysis

Women and children are overwhelmingly the victims of sexual violence and related harm. Other groups at higher risk include: homeless people, people with disability, First Nations people, migrants and refugees, students, people with severe mental illness, people in the justice system, people with intersex variations, and people identifying as nonbinary, trans, or gender-diverse. Victim survivors can experience immediate, ongoing and severe impacts, including poorer mental, physical and sexual health and impacts to interpersonal relationships and community life. In Australian longitudinal surveys, women who have experienced sexual violence are between 23% and 84% more likely to report higher levels of bodily pain, a recent STI, recent diagnosis of and/or treatment for anxiety or depression, current smoking, and recent use of illicit drugs (Townsend et al. 2022). Many victim-survivors face barriers to disclosing their experience, seeking and receiving support, and in accessing the justice system. In Victoria about one third of reported sexual offences are perpetrated by a family member. Less than 25% of reported sexual offences in Victoria progress to court, and even fewer result in a conviction. (CSA 2021).

Refs: Townsend et al. (2022) A life course approach to determining the prevalence and impact of sexual violence in Australia. ANROWS; CSA (2021) Attrition of sexual offence incidents through the Victorian criminal justice system: 2021 update. Crime Statistics Agency.

Sexual Violence - Rate (per 10,000)

| Time Period | Hume | | Metro North Region Estimate | | Victoria State Estimate | | |
|-------------|--------|------|-----------------------------|------|-------------------------|------|-----|
| | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | All |
| 2023 | 9.64 | 1.76 | 8.0 | 1.6 | 14.0 | 2.6 | 8.3 |
| 2022 | 10.37 | 1.52 | 8.1 | 1.3 | 13.6 | 2.3 | 7.9 |
| 2021 | 11.19 | 2.13 | 9.8 | 1.3 | 14.9 | 2.1 | 8.5 |
| 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 |

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 received in the year 2023, per LGA, per 10,000 total persons of the corresponding LGA. Notes: (1) Victim includes females and males of all ages. (2) Multiple victim reports can arise for a single individual (eg: in the case of child exploitation material, where each image is considered an offence). (3) Counts of 3 are assigned an arbitrary value of 1.5 to enable rate calculation. (4) Statewide and region estimates are calculated by Atlas programming based on LGA values for female/male only, and may differ to Victorian estimates published elsewhere.

Source/s:

(1) Crime Statistics Agency Victoria, Victim reports for selected offences by region, LGA and sex of victim - January to December 2023. Category: A30 Sexual offences. Custom request. Data extracted from LEAP on 18 January 2024 and is subject to change; (2) ABS Census 2021.

Currency: 2023

Link: <https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/crime-statistics>

Sexual Violence - Reported Incidents

| Time Period | Hume | | Metro North Region Estimate | | Victoria State Estimate | | |
|-------------|--------|------|-----------------------------|------|-------------------------|------|------|
| | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | All |
| 2023 | 235 | 43 | 123.4 | 24.0 | 99.9 | 19.0 | 59.4 |
| 2022 | 253 | 37 | 125.6 | 19.1 | 100.3 | 17.0 | 58.6 |
| 2021 | 273 | 52 | 150.3 | 20.5 | 101.0 | 14.8 | 57.9 |
| 2020 | 329 | 47 | 154.3 | 25.6 | 92.9 | 15.7 | 54.3 |
| 2019 | 319 | 64 | 151.0 | 27.9 | 93.9 | 16.8 | 55.3 |

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 victim(1) reports received in the year 2023. Notes: (1) Victim includes females and males of all ages. (2) Multiple victim reports can arise for a single individual (eg: in the case of child exploitation material, where each image is considered an offence). (3) Counts of 1, 2, or 3 are reported as 3. Zero is reported as 0. (4) Statewide and region estimates are calculated by Atlas programming based on LGA values for female/male only, and may differ to Victorian estimates published elsewhere.

Source/s:

Crime Statistics Agency Victoria, Victim reports for selected offences by region, LGA and sex of victim - January to December 2023. Category: A30 Sexual offences. Custom request. Data extracted from LEAP on 18 January 2024 and is subject to change.

Currency: 2023

Link: <https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/crime-statistics>

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 to 1. The majority of 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 2022 to 2023, the proportion of sexual offenders known to female victims (of any age) was 74.0% compared to 75.6% in the 2-year period 2021-22, and the proportion known to male victims (of any age) was 58.9% compared to 62.5% in the 2-year period 2021-22 (average by local government area).

CAUTION: Some people may find parts of this content confronting or distressing. Help/support services in Victoria include:

- Sexual Assault Services Victoria (SASVic): (Website: www.sasvic.org.au/)
- Victorian Sexual Assault Crisis Line: (Tel: 1800 806 292 / after hours)

Gender Analysis

Inaccurate myths often portray sex offenders as 'deviant men unknown to their victims', when in fact most sexual violence perpetrators 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. The likelihood of the offender being known to the victim of a sexual assault is much higher overall in rural areas compared with metropolitan areas.

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

| Time Period | Hume | | Metro North Region Estimate | | Victoria State Estimate | | |
|-------------|--------|-------|-----------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------|-------|
| | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | All |
| 2023 | 71.7% | 55.0% | 62.0% | 43.7% | 74.0% | 58.9% | 66.5% |
| 2022 | 73.1% | 55.1% | 66.4% | 52.2% | 75.6% | 62.5% | 69.1% |
| 2021 | 71.9% | 58.6% | 70.1% | 61.8% | 76.4% | 71.5% | 74.0% |
| 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% |

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 years January 2022 to December 2023 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. (3) Statewide and region estimates are calculated by Atlas programming based on LGA values for female/male only, and may differ to Victorian estimates published elsewhere.

Source/s:

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 2022 to December 2023. Custom request. Data extracted from LEAP on 18 January 2024 and is subject to change.

Currency: Jan 2022 - Dec 2023

Link: <https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/crime-statistics>

Stalking, Harassment And Threatening Behaviours

The Victorian Crime Statistics Agency (CSA) reports on stalking, harassment, and threatening behaviours as a group. This category includes repeated acts of unreasonable conduct intended to: cause physical or mental harm; arouse apprehension or fear; threaten or invade privacy; create nuisance or offend someone based on personal characteristics. In Victoria, female victim reports of stalking, harassment and threatening behaviour (SHTB) outnumber male victim reports by a ratio of almost 2 to 1. In 2023 there were 7,380 SHTB incidents logged by Victoria Police comprising 4,833 female victims, and 2,504 male victims. Compared with 2022, SHTB victim reports decreased overall by 1.3% (down by 100 from 7,480). Compared with 2022, SHTB victim reports decreased by 2.6% for female victims (down 131 from 4,964) and decreased by 0.5% for males (down 12 from 2,516). The 2023 population rate for SHTB incidents was 7.6 per 10,000 persons for female victims, compared with 4.2 per 10,000 persons for male victims (average of Victorian local government areas).

CAUTION: Some people may find parts of this content confronting or distressing.

Help/support services in Victoria include:

- Victoria Police and/or the Victims of Crime Helpline (Phone: 1800 819 817)
- eSafety Commissioner (Website: <https://www.esafety.gov.au/report>)

Gender Analysis

While anyone can experience stalking, it is a crime disproportionately perpetrated by cisgender men against women, other men, and gender diverse people (VLRC 2021). Among women, the prevalence of stalking victimisation is higher for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, women with disability or long-term health conditions, and migrant women (VLRC 2021). Due to advances in technology, many types of stalking and harassment behaviour can be carried out remotely, with the identity of the perpetrator hidden from the victim. Examples of cyberstalking include: surveillance technologies, GPS tracking devices, listening devices, keystroke logging technology, social and dating apps stalking. Many victims experience barriers to reporting, receiving justice for, and recovery from stalking and harassment. Ref: VLRC (2021) Stalking: Interim report. Victorian Law Reform Commission.

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

| Time Period | Hume | | Metro North Region Estimate | | Victoria State Estimate | | |
|-------------|--------|------|-----------------------------|------|-------------------------|------|-----|
| | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | All |
| 2023 | 8.45 | 4.80 | 6.8 | 4.0 | 7.5 | 4.2 | 5.8 |
| 2022 | 10.33 | 5.90 | 7.5 | 4.2 | 7.4 | 3.9 | 5.7 |
| 2021 | 11.73 | 5.29 | 8.0 | 4.1 | 8.0 | 4.1 | 6.1 |
| 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 |

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 2023, per LGA, per 10,000 total persons of the corresponding LGA. Notes: (1) Victim includes females and males of all ages. (2) Multiple victim reports can arise for the same individual (eg: each text or email may be considered an offence). (3) Counts of 3 are assigned an arbitrary value of 1.5 to enable rate calculation. (4) Statewide and region estimates are calculated by Atlas programming based on LGA values for female/male only, and may differ to Victorian estimates published elsewhere.

Source/s:

(1) Crime Statistics Agency Victoria, Victim reports for selected offences by region, LGA and sex of victim - January to December 2023. Category: A70 Stalking, harassment and threatening behaviour. Custom request. Data extracted from LEAP on 18 January 2024 and is subject to change; (2) ABS Census 2021.

Currency: 2023

Link: <https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/crime-statistics>

Stalking, Harassment And Threatening Behaviours - Reported Incidents

| Time Period | Hume | | Metro North Region Estimate | | Victoria State Estimate | | |
|-------------|--------|------|-----------------------------|------|-------------------------|------|------|
| | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | All |
| 2023 | 206 | 117 | 113.7 | 65.7 | 61.0 | 31.5 | 46.2 |
| 2022 | 252 | 144 | 125.9 | 71.1 | 62.7 | 31.6 | 47.2 |
| 2021 | 286 | 129 | 134.0 | 66.9 | 62.4 | 32.8 | 47.6 |
| 2020 | 279 | 182 | 131.7 | 79.4 | 65.4 | 34.3 | 49.9 |
| 2019 | 305 | 142 | 133.6 | 71.1 | 62.2 | 31.0 | 46.6 |

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 2023. Notes: (1) Victim includes females and males of all ages. (2) Multiple victim reports can arise for the same individual (eg: each text or email may be considered an offence). (3) Counts of 1, 2, or 3 are reported as 3. Zero is reported as 0. (4) Statewide and region estimates are calculated by Atlas programming based on LGA values for female/male only, and may differ to Victorian estimates published elsewhere.

Source/s:

Crime Statistics Agency Victoria, Victim reports for selected offences by region, LGA and sex of victim - January to December 2023. Category: A70 Stalking, harassment and threatening behaviour. Custom request. Data extracted from LEAP on 18 January 2024 and is subject to change.

Currency: 2023

Link: <https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/crime-statistics>

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 fear for their own or another person's safety or wellbeing (Family Violence Protection Act (Vic.) 2008. Section 5). For family incidents reported to Victoria Police, reports of female affected family members (AFMs) outnumber reports of male affected family members by a ratio of almost 3 to 1. In 2023 there were 94,174 family incident reports logged by Victoria Police comprising 70,105 reports of female affected family members (AFMs), and 23,944 reports of male AFMs. Compared with 2022, the number of family incident reports increased overall by 2.0% (up 1,874 from 92,300). Reported Incidents increased by 1.7% for female affected family members (AFMs) (up 1159 from 68,946) and increased by 3.0% for male AFMs (up 707 from 23,237). The population rate (5-year average) for family incidents has continued to rise in Victoria. The 5-year average rate per 10,000 for female AFMs was 118.0 in 2023 (up from 115.8 in 2022) and the 5-year average rate per 10,000 for male AFMs was 40.1 in 2023 (up from 39.3 in 2022) (average of Victorian local government areas).

CAUTION: Some people may find parts of this content confronting or distressing.

Help/support services in Victoria include:

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

Gender Analysis

Family violence is the most pervasive and common form of men's violence against women in Victoria. Family violence directly affects one in five Victorian women over the course of their lifetime. It is the leading contributor to preventable death, disability and illness in Victorian women aged 15 to 44 years (DFFH 2018). Family violence causes significant physical, emotional, psychological and financial harm to those who experience it. Family violence is the single largest driver of homelessness for women in Victoria and is a common factor in child protection notifications. Intersecting forms of oppression and inequality can result in some groups of women experiencing higher rates and/or more severe forms of violence, or facing barriers to support and safety that other women do not experience. Groups at higher risk include: First Nations women, migrant and refugee women, young women, pregnant women, women with disabilities, women experiencing financial hardships, and people who experienced abuse or witnessed domestic violence as children (both women and men). Family violence used by an adolescent within the home (adolescent family violence) may be more commonly directed at mothers or siblings than at fathers.

Ref: DFFH (2018) What is family violence [Webpage] Victoria. Department of Families, Fairness and Housing.

Family Violence - Rate (per 10,000)

| Time Period | Hume | | Metro North Region Estimate | | Victoria State Estimate | | |
|-------------|--------|-------|-----------------------------|------|-------------------------|------|------|
| | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | All |
| 2023 | 108.49 | 37.23 | 81.3 | 27.1 | 119.0 | 40.5 | 79.8 |
| 2022 | 118.61 | 36.90 | 85.7 | 28.8 | 113.8 | 39.1 | 76.5 |
| 2021 | 120.87 | 40.30 | 85.2 | 30.7 | 114.0 | 38.6 | 76.3 |
| 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 |

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 (AFMs) in the year 2023, 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. Notes: (1) A family incident can involve one or more AFM and/or one or more other parties. A separate L17 form is completed for each dyad (unique AFM and perpetrator). (2) AFM includes females and males of all ages. (3) Counts of 3 are assigned an arbitrary value of 1.5 to enable rate calculation. (4) Statewide and region estimates are calculated by Atlas programming based on LGA values for female/male only, and may differ to Victorian estimates published elsewhere.

Source/s:

(1) Crime Statistics Agency Victoria, *Affected family members recorded by police region, LGA and sex - January to December 2023*. Custom request. Data extracted from LEAP on 18 January 2024 and is subject to change; (2) ABS Census 2021.

Currency: 2023

Link: [https://files.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/2024-](https://files.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/2024-03/Data_Tables_LGA_Family_Incidents_Year_Ending_December_2023.xlsx)

[03/Data_Tables_LGA_Family_Incidents_Year_Ending_December_2023.xlsx](https://files.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/2024-03/Data_Tables_LGA_Family_Incidents_Year_Ending_December_2023.xlsx)

Family Violence - Reported Incidents

| Time Period | Hume | | Metro North Region Estimate | | Victoria State Estimate | | |
|-------------|--------|------|-----------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------|-------|
| | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | All |
| 2023 | 2646 | 908 | 1,332.0 | 439.9 | 885.1 | 302.8 | 593.9 |
| 2022 | 2893 | 900 | 1,414.1 | 462.4 | 870.8 | 294.0 | 582.4 |
| 2021 | 2948 | 983 | 1,417.4 | 489.6 | 859.3 | 290.6 | 574.9 |
| 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 |

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 affected family members (AFMs) in the year 2023, 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. Notes: (1) A family incident can involve one or more AFM and/or one or more other parties. A separate L17 form is completed for each dyad (unique AFM and perpetrator). (2) AFM includes females and males of all ages. (3) Counts of 1, 2, or 3 are reported as 3. Zero is reported as 0. (4) Statewide and region estimates are calculated by Atlas programming based on LGA values for female/male only, and may differ to Victorian estimates published elsewhere.

Source/s:

(1) Crime Statistics Agency Victoria, Affected family members recorded by police region, LGA and sex - January to December 2023. Custom request. Data extracted from LEAP on 18 January 2024 and is subject to change.

Currency: 2023

Link: [https://files.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/2024-](https://files.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/2024-03/Data_Tables_LGA_Family_Incidents_Year_Ending_December_2023.xlsx)

03/Data_Tables_LGA_Family_Incidents_Year_Ending_December_2023.xlsx

Intimate Partner Violence

Family violence carried out against a current or former partner is known as intimate partner violence (IPV). For IPV incidents attended by Victoria Police, female affected family members (AFMs) outnumber male AFMs by a ratio of 4 to 1. In 2023 there were 57,820 IPV affected family members logged by Victoria Police comprising 46,222 female AFMs and 11,531 male AFMs. Compared with 2022, the reports of intimate partner violence AFMs increased overall by 1.0% (up 566 from 57,254). Reports of IPV affected family members increased by 0.9% for female AFMs (up 399 from 45,823) and increased by 1.3% for male AFMs (up 145 from 11,386). The population rate (5-year average) for intimate partner violence has continued to rise in Victoria. The 5-year average rate per 10,000 for IPV female affected family members was 77.9 in 2023 (up from 76.8 in 2022) and the 5-year average rate per 10,000 for IPV male AFMs was 19.5 in 2023 (up from 19.2 in 2022) (average of Victorian local government areas). The split of female AFMs compared with male AFMs for IPV incidents in Victoria has remained relatively stable over the past 5 years.

CAUTION: Some people may find parts of this content confronting or distressing. Help/support services in Victoria include:

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

Gender Analysis

In Australia, approximately one woman per week is killed by an intimate partner or former partner. In 2018, intimate partner violence (IPV) contributed to an estimated 1.4% of the total disease burden in Australian women. IPV contributed 46% of homicide & violence total burden in females, 19% of suicide & self-inflicted injuries burden in females, 15% of depressive disorders burden in females, 17% of early pregnancy loss burden, 11% of anxiety disorders burden in females and 4% of alcohol use burden in females. Total disease burden attributable to intimate partner violence was 2.5 times greater in the lowest (most disadvantaged) socioeconomic group compared with the highest (least disadvantaged) group. (AIHW 2021). 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 (Bagshaw & Chung 2000). Female victims are also more likely than male victims to live in fear before, during and after separation from a violent partner. Refs: AIHW (2021) Australian Burden of Disease Study 2018: Interactive data on risk factor burden: intimate partner violence; Bagshaw D, Chung D (2000) Women, men and domestic violence. Partnerships Against Domestic Violence. Canberra.

Intimate Partner Violence - Rate (per 10,000)

| Time Period | Hume | | Metro North Region Estimate | | Victoria State Estimate | | |
|-------------|--------|-------|-----------------------------|------|-------------------------|------|------|
| | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | All |
| 2023 | 70.77 | 13.94 | 54.5 | 12.9 | 77.4 | 19.0 | 48.2 |
| 2022 | 78.68 | 15.42 | 57.3 | 13.9 | 74.8 | 19.0 | 46.9 |
| 2021 | 78.56 | 16.65 | 57.5 | 15.2 | 75.8 | 18.9 | 47.3 |
| 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 |

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 2023, per 10,000 total persons of the corresponding LGA. Notes: (1) Counts of 3 are assigned an arbitrary value of 1.5 to enable rate calculation. (4) Statewide and region estimates are calculated by Atlas programming based on LGA values for female/male only, and may differ to Victorian estimates published elsewhere.

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 2023. Custom request. Data extracted from LEAP on 18 January 2024 and is subject to change;* (2) *ABS Census 2021.*

Currency: 2023

Link: <https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/crime-statistics>

Intimate Partner Violence - Reported Incidents

| Time Period | Hume | | Metro North Region Estimate | | Victoria State Estimate | | |
|-------------|--------|------|-----------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------|-------|
| | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | All |
| 2023 | 1726 | 340 | 895.3 | 201.4 | 583.1 | 145.9 | 364.5 |
| 2022 | 1919 | 376 | 940.4 | 219.3 | 578.4 | 144.0 | 361.2 |
| 2021 | 1916 | 406 | 957.0 | 233.7 | 574.9 | 142.5 | 358.7 |
| 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 |

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 2023. Intimate partner includes: married, defacto, dating, separated, broken up, divorced. Notes: (1) A family incident can involve one or more AFM and/or one or more other parties. A separate L17 form is completed for each dyad (unique AFM and perpetrator). (2) AFM includes females and males of all ages. (3) Counts of 1, 2, or 3 are reported as 3. Zero is reported as 0. (4) Statewide and region estimates are calculated by Atlas programming based on LGA values for female/male only, and may differ to Victorian estimates published elsewhere.

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 2023. Custom request. Data extracted from LEAP on 18 January 2024 and is subject to change.

Currency: 2023

Link: <https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/crime-statistics>

Family Violence, First Nations AFM

First Nations status of all parties is recorded at the time of a family incident logged by Victoria Police. Of the total 94,174 family incidents recorded in 2023, there were 5,620 (6.0%) with a First Nations affected family member (AFM). Total family incidents with a First Nations affected family member increased by 603 (12.0%) compared with 2022 (5,017 incidents). In 2023, there were 4,404 incidents with a female First Nations AFM compared with 1,216 incidents with a male First Nations AFM. The Victorian 2023 population rate for family incidents with a First Nations affected family member was 447.9 per 10,000 First Nations total population (average of Victorian local government areas). By sex, the 2023 population rate for family incidents with female First Nations AFMs (641.4 per 10,000) was 3 times higher than the rate for male First Nations AFMs (213.7 per 10,000).

CAUTION: Some people may find parts of this content confronting or distressing.

Help/support services in Victoria include:

- Safe Steps (Phone: 1800 015 188 – 24 hours)
- Djirra Aboriginal Family Violence Response and Support Service (Phone: 1800 105 302 – Mon to Fri 9am to 9pm);
- Kids Helpline (Phone: 1800 55 1800 – 24 hours)

Gender Analysis

Family violence against First Nations people includes violence occurring within families, intimate relationships, kinship networks and communities. First Nations people – especially women and children – experience significantly higher rates of, and impacts from, family violence relative to the general population. Family violence against First Nations people is perpetrated by both non-First Nations and First Nations people. Family violence is not, and never has been, part of First Nations cultures. The ongoing impacts of colonisation and systemic racism (including dispossession, child removal, intergenerational trauma, and structural disadvantage) intersect with the gendered drivers of violence, increasing the severity and disproportionate impact of family violence on First Nations peoples (Respect Victoria, 2023). Dhelk Dja: Safe Our Way 2018-2028 is Victoria's Aboriginal-led strategy towards Aboriginal people, families and communities living free from family violence. Ref: Respect Victoria (2023) Aboriginal family violence prevention evidence review [Webpage]. Respect Victoria. Melbourne.

Family Violence, First Nations AFM - Rate (per 10,000)

| Time Period | Hume | | Metro North Region Estimate | | Victoria State Estimate | | |
|-------------|--------|--------|-----------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------|-------|
| | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | All |
| 2023 | 395.72 | 74.87 | 752.9 | 201.6 | 641.3 | 213.6 | 447.9 |
| 2022 | 368.98 | 48.13 | 764.1 | 185.8 | 553.1 | 201.5 | 406.1 |
| 2021 | 433.16 | 176.47 | 663.3 | 172.2 | 578.0 | 195.9 | 412.3 |

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 rate equals the number of First Nations affected family members (AFMs) in the year 2023, 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 First Nations persons of the corresponding LGA. Notes: (1) To assign Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander status, CSA uses the most frequent counting rule. For more information visit: <https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/about-the-data/explanatory-notes>. (2) A family incident can involve one or more AFM and/or one or more other parties. A separate L17 form is completed for each dyad (unique AFM and perpetrator). (3) AFM includes females and males of all ages. (4) No data is available for LGAs where reported incidents by sex are less than 4 (including zero). (5) Statewide and region estimates are calculated by Atlas programming based on LGA values for female/male only, and may differ to Victorian estimates published elsewhere.

Source/s:

(1) *Crime Statistics Agency Victoria (2024) Indigenous Data Tables LGA Family Incidents AFMs Visualisation Year Ending December 2023. Table 4. Data downloaded 28 March 2024;* (2) *ABS Census 2021.*

Currency: 2023

Link: <https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/crime-statistics/download-crime-data/download-data-15>

Family Violence, First Nations AFM - Reported Incidents

| Time Period | Hume | | Metro North Region Estimate | | Victoria State Estimate | | |
|-------------|--------|------|-----------------------------|------|-------------------------|------|------|
| | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | All |
| 2023 | 74 | 14 | 78.9 | 21.2 | 63.8 | 21.3 | 44.6 |
| 2022 | 69 | 9 | 77.3 | 19.3 | 55.5 | 21.1 | 41.1 |
| 2021 | 81 | 33 | 72.6 | 22.3 | 61.3 | 21.3 | 43.9 |

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 First Nations affected family members (AFMs) in the year 2023, 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. Notes: (1) To assign Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander status, CSA uses the most frequent counting rule. For more information visit: <https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/about-the-data/explanatory-notes>. (2) A family incident can involve one or more AFM and/or one or more other parties. A separate L17 form is completed for each dyad (unique AFM and perpetrator). (3) AFM includes females and males of all ages. (4) No data is available for LGAs where reported incidents by sex are less than 4 (including zero). (5) Statewide and region estimates are calculated by Atlas programming based on LGA values for female/male only, and may differ to Victorian estimates published elsewhere.

Source/s:

Crime Statistics Agency Victoria (2024) Indigenous Data Tables LGA Family Incidents AFMs Visualisation Year Ending December 2023. Table 4. Data downloaded 28 March 2024.

Currency: 2023

Link: <https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/crime-statistics/download-crime-data/download-data-15>

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. This includes where a child could have witnessed or heard the incident, and incidents where a child is the affected family member (AFM). Of the total 94,174 family incidents recorded in 2023, there were 34,015 (36.0%) with a 'child present' flag. Incidents with a child present increased by 776 (2.3%) compared with 2022 (33,239 incidents). In 2023, there were 26,218 incidents with a female affected family member (AFM) and a child present, compared with 7,769 incidents with a male AFM and a child present. The 2023 population rate for presence of a child/children at a family incident is 45.9 per 10,000 for incidents with female AFMs, compared with 13.6 per 10,000 for incidents with male AFMs (average of Victorian local government areas).

CAUTION: Some people may find parts of this content confronting or distressing. Help/support services in Victoria include:

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

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

Gender Analysis

According to Crime Statistics Agency research, 1 in 50 Victorian children witnessed or were exposed to family violence in the year 2018-19. Most incidents witnessed by children occurred between intimate partners and involved violence perpetrated by a male aggressor and a female intimate partner. Nearly two-thirds of child witnesses were 9 years of age or younger. The rate of incidents with a child present was 1.8 times higher in regional and remote areas than in major cities (Phillips & McGuinness 2021). Family violence perpetrators use a range of strategies to control women, which may undermine their parenting capacity and relationships with children. This can include controlling resources and decision-making, limiting interactions with their children, and the use of violence directed towards, and/or perpetrated in front of, children. (AIHW 2024). 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 be referred to child protection services. Child exposure also increases the risk of long-term health effects and the risk of being violent in future relationships.

Refs: Phillips & McGuinness (2021) Child witnesses of family violence: an examination of Victoria Police family violence data. Crime Statistics Agency; AIHW (2024) Family, domestic and sexual violence: Mothers and their children.

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

| Time Period | Hume | | Metro North Region Estimate | | Victoria State Estimate | | |
|-------------|--------|-------|-----------------------------|------|-------------------------|------|------|
| | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | All |
| 2023 | 45.71 | 12.14 | 26.7 | 7.4 | 45.8 | 13.5 | 29.7 |
| 2022 | 48.75 | 12.50 | 28.0 | 7.2 | 42.8 | 12.8 | 27.8 |
| 2021 | 51.87 | 13.04 | 28.7 | 8.3 | 42.9 | 12.7 | 27.8 |
| 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 |

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 2023 with 'child present' flagged in the L17 form, by sex of the affected family member (AFM), 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 the incident, or a child is the AFM). (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. (4) Statewide and region estimates are calculated by Atlas programming based on LGA values for female/male only, and may differ to Victorian estimates published elsewhere.

Source/s:

(1) Crime Statistics Agency Victoria, Number of Family incidents by child present flag, affected family member sex, police region and LGA - January to December 2023. Custom request. Data extracted from LEAP on 18 January 2024 and is subject to change; (2) ABS Census 2021.

Currency: 2023

Link: <https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/crime-statistics>

Family Violence, Child Present - Reported incidents

| Time Period | Hume | | Metro North Region Estimate | | Victoria State Estimate | | |
|-------------|--------|------|-----------------------------|-------|-------------------------|------|-------|
| | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | All |
| 2023 | 1115 | 296 | 468.4 | 125.3 | 331.4 | 98.3 | 214.9 |
| 2022 | 1189 | 305 | 488.9 | 122.3 | 325.9 | 94.0 | 210.0 |
| 2021 | 1265 | 318 | 510.0 | 140.4 | 326.0 | 95.1 | 210.5 |
| 2020 | 1344 | 365 | 558.3 | 156.1 | 334.0 | 97.4 | 215.7 |
| 2019 | 1126 | 294 | 490.4 | 138.9 | 286.5 | 79.1 | 182.8 |

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 family incidents logged by Victoria Police in the year 2023 with 'child present' flagged in the L17 form, by sex of the affected family member (AFM), 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, or a child is the AFM). (2) Counts of 1, 2, or 3 are recorded as 3. Zero is recorded as 0. (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. (4) Statewide and region estimates are calculated by Atlas programming based on LGA values for female/male only, and may differ to Victorian estimates published elsewhere.

Source/s:

Crime Statistics Agency Victoria, Number of Family incidents by child present flag, affected family member sex, police region and LGA - January to December 2023. Custom request. Data extracted from LEAP on 18 January 2024 and is subject to change.

Currency: 2023

Link: <https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/crime-statistics>

Low Gender Equality In Relationships

According to the VicHealth Indicators Survey 2015, approximately one-third (35.7%) of Victorians hold low levels of support for equal relationships between women and men (a measure of attitude represented by a 'low gender equality in relationships score'). More than 4 in 10 men (44.4%) reported a low gender equality in relationships score, compared with less than 3 in 10 women (27.3%) (average of Victorian local government areas). Low levels of support for equal relationships between women and men are most prevalent among young men aged 18-24 (52.9%) and men aged 25-34 (50%).

Gender Analysis

Gender inequality is a social condition characterised by unequal value afforded to men and women, attitudes and norms supportive of this, and an unequal distribution of power, resources and opportunity between them. Men's control of decision-making and limits to women's independence are recognised as gendered drivers of family violence and other forms of violence against women and girls. There is a need to implement primary prevention strategies that are designed to dismantle harmful attitudes towards women, promote gender equality and encourage respectful relationships.

Low Gender Equality In Relationships - %

| Time Period | Hume | | Metro North Region Estimate | | Victoria State Estimate | | |
|-------------|--------|-------|-----------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------|-------|
| | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | All |
| 2015 | 31.4% | 49.5% | 23.8% | 40.6% | 25.6% | 41.5% | 33.6% |

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:

This attitudinal indicator is published by the VicHealth Indicators Survey 2015. It measures the number of women and men respondents with low support for gender equality in relationships, divided by the number of respondents of the corresponding sex in each LGA. Low support is calculated based on level of agreement with the following two statements: 1. "Men should take control in relationships and be the head of the household." and 2. "Women prefer a man to be in charge of the relationship." Note: Statewide and region estimates are calculated by Atlas programming based on LGA values for female/male only, and may differ to Victorian estimates published elsewhere.

Source/s:

2015 VicHealth Community Indicators Survey: Low Gender Equality In Relationships Indicator.

Currency: 2015

Link: https://www.mav.asn.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/32495/VicHealth-Indicators-2015-report.pdf