

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

<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Measures</i>
Perceptions Of Safety	% People who feel safe when walking alone at night
Sexual Offences	Rate (per 10,000) Reported Incidents
Sexual Offences Relationship To Victim	Aggregate 2 year % known to victim
Stalking, Harassment And Threatening Behaviours	Rate (per 10,000) Reported Incidents
Family Violence	Rate (per 10,000) Reported Incidents
Intimate Partner Violence	Rate (per 10,000) Reported Incidents
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.	Whittlesea		Metro North Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2015	24.0%	70.6%	34.9%	72.2%	44.0%	78.8%	61.4%
2011	48.7%	84.0%	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.mav.asn.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/32495/VicHealth-Indicators-2015-report.pdf

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 almost 6 to 1. In 2022 there were 9,407 reports of sexual offences logged by Victoria Police comprising 7,941 female victims, and 1,377 male victims. Compared with 2021, the number of sexual offence victim reports decreased by 0.7% for females (down 52 from 7,993) and increased by 12.7% for males (up 155 from 1,222). The 2022 population rate for sexual offences is 13.63 per 10,000 persons for female victims, compared with 2.3 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

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. (CSA 2021). 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.

Ref: CSA (2021) Attrition of sexual offence incidents through the Victorian criminal justice system: 2021 update. Crime Statistics Agency.

Sexual Offences - Rate (per 10,000)

Time Period.	Whittlesea		Metro North Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2022	6.76	0.57	8.1	1.3	13.6	2.3	7.9
2021	6.97	0.70	9.8	1.3	14.9	2.1	8.5
2020	8.86	1.32	10.7	1.9	14.5	2.4	8.5
2019	6.79	0.96	10.6	2.0	13.9	2.8	8.4
2018	7.90	1.16	10.8	2.0	14.1	3.0	8.5

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(1) reports received in the year period 2021, 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).

Source/s:

(1) *Crime Statistics Agency Victoria, Victim reports for selected offences by region, LGA and sex of victim - January to December 2022. Category: A30 Sexual offences. Custom request. Data extracted from LEAP on 18 January 2023 and is subject to change;* (2) *ABS Census 2021.*

Currency: 2022

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

Sexual Offences - Reported Incidents

Time Period.	Whittlesea		Metro North Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2022	155	13	125.6	19.3	100.3	17.3	58.8
2021	160	16	150.3	20.7	101.0	15.2	58.1
2020	175	26	154.3	25.6	92.9	15.9	54.4
2019	134	19	151.0	27.9	93.9	17.1	55.5
2018	156	23	155.9	27.3	93.1	17.6	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 period 2022. 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).

Source/s:

Crime Statistics Agency Victoria, Victim reports for selected offences by region, LGA and sex of victim - January to December 2022. Category: A30 Sexual offences. Custom request. Data extracted from LEAP on 18 January 2023 and is subject to change.

Currency: 2022

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 6 to 1. More than 6 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 2021 to 2022, the proportion of sexual offenders known to female victims (of any age) was 75.6% compared to 76.3% in the 2-year period 2020-21, and the proportion known to male victims (of any age) was 62.5% compared to the 71.6% in the 2-year period 2020-21 (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.

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

Time Period.	Whittlesea		Metro North Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2022	69.3%	75.0%	66.4%	52.2%	75.6%	62.5%	69.1%
2021	72.5%	78.6%	70.1%	61.8%	76.4%	71.5%	74.0%
2020	74.8%	75.6%	70.4%	59.5%	76.5%	74.3%	75.4%
2019	68.6%	65.9%	65.5%	61.4%	75.5%	72.2%	73.8%
2018	67.3%	61.1%	63.3%	61.9%	74.0%	71.7%	72.8%

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-year period January 2021 to December 2022 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.

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 2021 to December 2022. Custom request. Data extracted from LEAP on 18 January 2023 and is subject to change.

Currency: Jan 2021-Dec 2022

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

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; create nuisance, or offend someone on the basis of personal characteristics. In Victoria, female victim reports of stalking, harassment and threatening behaviour (SHTB) outnumber male victim reports by a ratio of 2 to 1. In 2022 there were 7,526 SHTB incidents logged by Victoria Police comprising 4,964 female victims, and 2,516 male victims. Compared with 2021, the number of SHTB victim reports increased by 0.2% for females (up 12 from 4,952) and decreased by 3.4% for males (down 89 from 2,605). The 2022 population rate for SHTB incidents is 7.4 per 10,000 persons for female victims, compared with 3.9 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.	Whittlesea		Metro North Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2022	9.20	4.27	7.5	4.2	7.4	3.9	5.7
2021	10.42	4.71	8.0	4.1	8.0	4.1	6.1
2020	11.14	6.53	8.5	5.2	9.3	4.7	7.0
2019	10.13	6.68	8.8	4.7	8.7	4.3	6.5
2018	10.73	5.62	8.4	4.6	8.0	4.3	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 2022, 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).

Source/s:

(1) Crime Statistics Agency Victoria, *Victim reports for selected offences by region, LGA and sex of victim - January to December 2022*. Category: A70 Stalking, harassment and threatening behaviour. Custom request. Data extracted from LEAP on 18 January 2023 and is subject to change; (2) ABS Census 2021.

Currency: 2022

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

Stalking, Harassment And Threatening Behaviours - Reported Incidents

Time Period.	Whittlesea		Metro North Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2022	211	98	125.9	71.1	62.8	31.8	47.3
2021	239	108	134.0	66.9	62.5	32.9	47.7
2020	220	129	131.7	79.4	65.6	34.5	50.0
2019	200	132	133.6	71.1	62.2	31.2	46.7
2018	212	111	126.3	66.7	59.3	29.9	44.6

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 period 2022. 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).

Source/s:

Crime Statistics Agency Victoria, Victim reports for selected offences by region, LGA and sex of victim - January to December 2022. Category: A70 Stalking, harassment and threatening behaviour. Custom request. Data extracted from LEAP on 18 January 2023 and is subject to change.

Currency: 2022

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 attended by Victoria Police, reports of female affected family members (AFMs) outnumber reports of male affected family members by a ratio of 3 to 1. In 2022 there were 92,300 family incident reports logged by Victoria Police comprising 68,946 reports of female affected family members (AFMs), and 23,237 reports of male AFMs. Compared with 2021, the number of family incident reports increased by 1.3%. Incidents increased by 1.3% for female affected family members (AFMs) (up 906 from 68,040) and increased by 1.1% for male AFMs (up 260 from 22,977). 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 115.82 in 2022 (up from 112.7 in 2021) and the 5-year average rate per 10,000 for male AFMs was 39.3 in 2022 (up from 38.2 in 2021) (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, is a common factor in child protection notifications, and results in a police call-out on average once every two minutes across Australia. Primary prevention activity seeks to stop family violence before it starts by addressing the underlying drivers of violence at the population level. Respect Victoria leads the statewide primary prevention of all forms of family violence and violence against women. Family Safety Victoria coordinates the delivery of response and support services by bringing organisations together to create new and better ways to respond to family violence.

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

Family Violence - Rate (per 10,000)

Time Period.	Whittlesea		Metro North Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2022	95.91	26.90	85.7	28.8	113.8	39.1	76.5
2021	102.88	31.47	85.2	30.7	114.0	38.6	76.3
2020	122.59	44.61	103.2	37.2	123.2	42.5	82.9
2019	123.70	42.74	98.7	34.3	115.6	38.1	76.9
2018	119.95	43.60	91.8	33.1	108.3	36.7	72.5

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 affected family members (AFMs) in the year 2022, 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.

Source/s:

(1) Crime Statistics Agency Victoria, Affected family members recorded by police region, LGA and sex - January to December 2022. Custom request. Data extracted from LEAP on 18 January 2023 and is subject to change; (2) ABS Census 2021.

Currency: 2022

Link: [https://files.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/2023-](https://files.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/2023-03/Data_Tables_LGA_Family_Incidents_Year_Ending_December_2022.xlsx)

[03/Data_Tables_LGA_Family_Incidents_Year_Ending_December_2022.xlsx](https://files.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/2023-03/Data_Tables_LGA_Family_Incidents_Year_Ending_December_2022.xlsx)

Family Violence - Reported Incidents

Time Period.	Whittlesea		Metro North Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2022	2200	617	1,414.1	462.4	870.8	294.0	582.4
2021	2360	722	1,417.4	489.6	859.3	290.6	574.9
2020	2421	881	1,546.6	551.3	870.5	296.7	583.6
2019	2443	844	1,484.0	513.9	801.9	265.3	533.6
2018	2369	861	1,404.4	496.1	754.2	248.5	501.4

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 affected family members (AFMs) in the year 2022, 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.

Source/s:

(1) Crime Statistics Agency Victoria, Affected family members recorded by police region, LGA and sex - January to December 2022. Custom request. Data extracted from LEAP on 18 January 2023 and is subject to change.

Currency: 2022

Link: [https://files.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/2023-](https://files.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/2023-03/Data_Tables_LGA_Family_Incidents_Year_Ending_December_2022.xlsx)

[03/Data_Tables_LGA_Family_Incidents_Year_Ending_December_2022.xlsx](https://files.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/2023-03/Data_Tables_LGA_Family_Incidents_Year_Ending_December_2022.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 2022 there were 57,254 IPV affected family members logged by Victoria Police comprising 45,823 female AFMs and 11,386 male AFMs. Compared with 2021, the number of IPV affected family members increased by 0.6% for female AFMs (up 268 from 45,555) and increased by 1.1% for male AFMs (up 127 from 11,259). 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 76.8 in 2022 (up from 75.0 in 2021) and the 5-year average rate per 10,000 for IPV male AFMs was 19.2 in 2022 (up from 18.6 in 2021) (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 2018, intimate partner violence (IPV) contributed to 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 (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.	Whittlesea		Metro North Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2022	64.65	12.16	57.3	13.9	74.8	19.0	46.9
2021	71.36	14.17	57.5	15.2	75.8	18.9	47.3
2020	82.89	20.30	67.3	18.3	81.6	20.9	51.3
2019	82.94	18.84	65.1	16.7	77.0	18.5	47.8
2018	77.32	16.86	59.3	14.9	71.9	17.9	44.9

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 where an intimate partner relationship was recorded, by LGA, in the year 2022, 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 2022. Custom request. Data extracted from LEAP on 18 January 2023 and is subject to change;* (2) *ABS Census 2021.*

Currency: 2022

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

Intimate Partner Violence - Reported Incidents

Time Period.	Whittlesea		Metro North Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2022	1483	279	940.4	219.3	578.4	144.1	361.2
2021	1637	325	957.0	233.7	574.9	142.5	358.7
2020	1637	401	1,016.4	261.4	579.6	144.7	362.1
2019	1638	372	979.0	240.1	538.6	129.1	333.8
2018	1527	333	905.4	217.1	506.7	119.1	312.9

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:

Number of affected family members where an intimate partner relationship was recorded, by LGA, in the year 2022. Intimate partner includes: married, defacto, dating, separated, broken up, divorced.

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

Currency: 2022

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 92,300 family incidents recorded in 2022, there were 5,017 (5.4%) with a First Nations affected family member (AFM). Total family incidents with a First Nations affected family member increased by 53 (1.2%) compared with 2021 (4,964 incidents). In 2022, there were 3,939 incidents with a female First Nations AFM compared with 1,078 incidents with a male First Nations AFM. The Victorian 2022 population rate for family incidents with a First Nations affected family member was 406 per 10,000 First Nations total population (average of Victorian local government areas). By sex, the 2022 population rate for family incidents with female First Nations AFMs (553.1 per 10,000) was 2.7 times higher than the rate for male First Nations AFMs (201.5 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.	Whittlesea		Metro North Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2022	427.69	79.37	764.1	185.8	553.1	201.5	406.1
2021	410.05	123.46	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 2022, 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).

Source/s:

(1) *Crime Statistics Agency Victoria (2023) Indigenous Data Tables LGA Family Incidents AFMs Visualisation Year Ending December 2022. Table 4. Data downloaded 4 September 2023;* (2) *ABS Census 2021.*

Currency: 2022

Link: <https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/crime-statistics/download-crime-data/download-data-10>

Family Violence, First Nations AFM - Reported Incidents

Time Period.	Whittlesea		Metro North Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2022	97	18	77.3	19.3	55.5	21.1	41.1
2021	93	28	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 2022, 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).

Source/s:

Crime Statistics Agency Victoria (2023) Indigenous Data Tables LGA Family Incidents AFMs Visualisation Year Ending December 2022. Table 4. Data downloaded 4 September 2023.

Currency: 2022

Link: <https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/crime-statistics/download-crime-data/download-data-10>

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 92,300 family incidents recorded in 2022, there were 33,239 (36.0%) with a 'child present' flag. Incidents with a child present decreased by 100 (0.3%) compared with 2021 (33,339 incidents). In 2022, there were 25,776 incidents with a female affected family member (AFM) and a child present, compared with 7,429 incidents with a male AFM and a child present. The 2021 population rate for presence of a child/children at a family incident is 44 per 10,000 for incidents with female AFMs, compared with 13.2 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 ending June 2019. Most incidents witnessed by children occurred between intimate partners and involved male perpetrators and female affected family members. 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.

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

Time Period.	Whittlesea		Metro North Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2022	37.97	8.50	28.0	7.2	42.8	12.8	27.8
2021	42.90	11.20	28.7	8.3	42.9	12.7	27.8
2020	51.50	15.24	35.4	10.1	48.6	14.5	31.5
2019	44.76	12.91	31.4	9.0	42.1	11.6	26.9
2018	42.03	10.43	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 2022 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.

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 2022. Custom request. Data extracted from LEAP on 18 January 2023 and is subject to change; (2) ABS Census 2021.

Currency: 2022

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

Family Violence, Child Present - Reported incidents

Time Period.	Whittlesea		Metro North Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2022	871	195	488.9	122.3	326.0	94.0	210.0
2021	984	257	510.0	140.4	326.0	95.1	210.6
2020	1017	301	558.3	156.1	334.1	97.5	215.8
2019	884	255	490.4	138.9	286.5	79.2	182.8
2018	830	206	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 2022 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. (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 to December 2022. Custom request. Data extracted from LEAP on 18 January 2023 and is subject to change.

Currency: 2022

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.	Whittlesea		Metro North Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2015	29.2%	49.0%	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."

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