

## Explanatory Notes - IRIS Database

The Family Violence Database (FVDB) presents statistics about the characteristics of cases and clients recorded in the Integrated Reports and Information System (IRIS) database concerning programs funded by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The following explanatory notes are designed to provide additional information about the data received from DHHS, how it is processed and how to interpret the summary statistics.

### Data source

The family violence measures produced for the FVDB are derived from administrative information recorded by agencies that are funded by DHHS to provide Women and Children's Family Violence Services and Men's Behaviour Change Programs. The information is input by the agencies that are providing the services, and de-identified data is extracted from the IRIS database by DHHS and provided to the Crime Statistics Agency for input into the FVDB.

As the IRIS database is a live operational data system and updated regularly, the data presented reflects only the information in the database at the date and time of extraction. This means that as additional annual years of data are released by the CSA, the data relating to previous periods may change as data are updated in IRIS, and as cases progress and are completed by agencies.

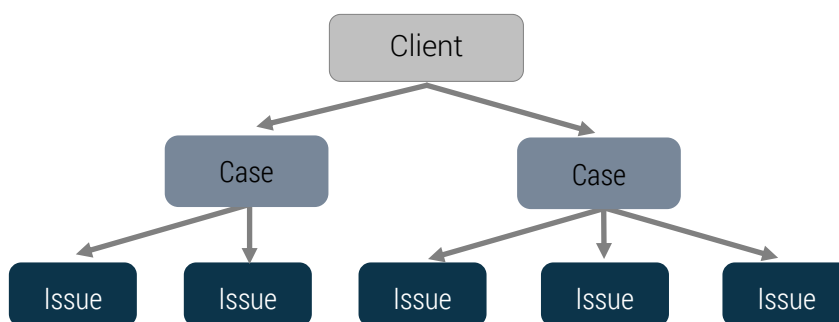
### Scope and coverage

The scope of the data presented in the data tables and visualisation cover all cases and related clients accessing either a Men's Family Violence Service or Women and Children's Family Violence Service. For the purpose of these outputs, clients who have come through the Men's Referral Service have been excluded.

The data presented is not representative of all family violence intervention efforts undertaken by DHHS as there are other services provided that are not currently within the scope of the FVDB.

**Note:** The most recent financial year (2017-18) shows a marked decrease in Men's Family Violence Services. At the time the data was extracted and provided for inclusion in the FVDB, not all records had been received by DHHS from reporting agencies for the financial year 2017-18. Therefore, the numbers reported for 2017-18 do not include all Men's Family Violence Service cases which were initiated in that year.

## Counting methodology



1.1 Hierarchy of record types in IRIS database

## Cases recorded

Cases are a record of an agency having received a referral for a client to participate in a Men's Family Violence Service (MFVS) or receive service under the Women and Children's Family Violence services (W&CFVS). Each record is therefore a count of a unique referral for service received by an agency concerning a client.

Previous reporting completed for the Royal Commission into Family Violence used a different counting method when describing MFVS and W&CFVS cases. In the report for the Royal Commission, cases were only counted if they had a recorded family violence related issue. In the current report, all cases are counted as family violence related regardless of recorded issues. In addition, all cases assigned to the 'Men's Referral Service' have been excluded in this report, as this service is not related to the MFVS and W&CFVS. As a result, numbers in the current report will not be comparable to data published in the Royal Commission report.

### Date of referral

Case records are compiled on the basis of the date that the matter was referred to an agency for service. Date of referral is used to derive the financial year in which the matter was referred, and only cases which fall into the relevant reference period are used.

### Program type

Each case is broadly classified as either 'Men's Family Violence Service (MFVS) or 'Women and Children's Family Violence Services' (WCFVS). As program type is not recorded in the IRIS database, program type is derived using the client's recorded age and sex at the date of referral. Cases with adult male clients are classified in the MFVS and cases with women or children clients are classified as WCFVS. Where age or sex information is insufficient to determine program type, cases may additionally be classified based on the recorded funding source (eg. 'DHS – Men's Behaviour Change Program' or 'DHS – Women and Children's Family Violence Services'). Where cases are unable to be determined based on these variables, program type is listed as unknown.

It should be noted that the present method of deriving program type is vulnerable to some instances of misclassification. For example, if a client's date of birth is incorrectly recorded, a young male child may have a case classified as a MFVS. Additionally, this system does not account for situations where discretion may have been exercised by a service provider. For example if a 17 year old male was referred to an agency to attend a MFVS, because of his age at referral his case will be classified under the WCFVS program.

## Unique clients

A unique client is defined as an individual who has had one or more cases recorded in the IRIS database within the relevant reference period. One unique client may have more than one case during the reference period, but will have a count of 1 in the data presented concerning unique clients.

Unique individuals are identified using a unique identifier ('STATSLINKAGE') which is automatically generated based on a client's recorded name, sex and birth date upon the creation of a client record in the IRIS database. The Family Violence Database does not receive identifiable information concerning clients of these services, however the STATSLINKAGE variable can be used to recognize clients who have received service at multiple agencies for cases under IRIS reporting.

### Date of referral

Unique clients are compiled on the basis of the date that their first case was referred to an agency in the IRIS database within the reference period. The date may not be the actual first date of service for a client, as records only extend as far back as the reference period.

### Program type

As unique individuals may have several cases across the IRIS database, program type is derived by summarizing the cases that a client has had over the reference period. Many clients are found to have cases associated with only one program type, so this is listed as their program type. Some individuals may be associated with both programs however it should be noted that due to limitations discussed above with deriving program type, some of these individuals may have been classified in both programs by error. If a client has a case with a named program and a case where the program is unknown, the client is listed as program type unknown.

## Definitions

### **Men's Family Violence Service (MFVS)**

Men's family violence services refers to a range of perpetrator responses captured in IRIS including Men's behaviour change programs, Enhanced Service Intake, Perpetrator Case Management and other new interventions. Please note that prior iterations of the Victorian Family Violence Database referred to Men's Family Violence Services as 'Men's behaviour change program'.

### **Women and Children's Family Violence Services (WCFVS)**

DHHS funded services available for women and children impacted by family violence, including counselling and support groups.

### **Agency**

An organisation who offers one of the above DHHS funded programs or services. An agency is responsible for creating the records contained in the IRIS database.

### **Integrated Reports and Information System (IRIS)**

IRIS is a database used to record and describe all clients and cases referred to an agency for the MBCP or a WCFVS. Records are recorded and stored locally within an agency, and de-identified information is extracted to DHHS on a quarterly basis.

### **Case**

Represents a referral made for a client to receive service from an agency under the MBCP or WCFVS. A client may have several cases over the reference period at multiple agencies.

**Client**

Represents an individual attached to a case. Statistics concerning clients may refer to characteristics of the clients attached to all of the cases recorded in the IRIS database, or it may refer only to unique clients who appear over the reference period.

**Issue**

Represents all noted concerns relevant to a case that an agency is hoping to address over the course of the case. Examples of issues include family violence issues, financial issues, and substance abuse issues. Recorded issues are used to flag which cases are related to family violence.

## Appendix 1. Local Government Areas in Victoria by DHHS Regions

Note. The concordance for LGA to DHHS regions has been updated for the 2016-17 release of the database to match the new official DHHS regions.

Regions used for statistical outputs	Official DHHS regions	Local government area
Eastern Metro Melbourne	Inner Eastern Melbourne	Boroondara
		Manningham
		Monash
		Whitehorse
	Outer Eastern Melbourne	Knox
		Maroondah
Yarra Ranges		
Gippsland	Inner Gippsland	Bass Coast
		Baw Baw
		Latrobe
		South Gippsland
	Outer Gippsland	East Gippsland
		Wellington
Greater Western Region	Barwon	Colac-Otway
		Greater Geelong
		Queenscliffe
		Surf Coast
	Central Highlands	Ararat
		Ballarat
		Golden Plains
		Hepburn
		Moorabool
		Pyrenees
	Western District	Corangamite
		Glenelg
		Hindmarsh
		Horsham
		Moyne
		Northern Grampians
		Southern Grampians
		Warrnambool
		West Wimmera
Yarriambiack		

Loddon Mallee	Loddon	Campaspe	
		Central Goldfields	
		Greater Bendigo	
		Loddon	
		Macedon Ranges	
		Mount Alexander	
	Mallee	Buloke	
		Gannawarra	
Mildura			
Swan Hill			
North East Region	Goulburn	Greater Shepparton	
		Mitchell	
		Moira	
		Murrindindi	
		Strathbogie	
	Ovens Murray	Alpine	
		Benalla	
		Indigo	
		Mansfield	
		Towong	
		Wangaratta	
		Wodonga	
	Northern Metro Melbourne	Hume Moreland	Hume
			Moreland
North Eastern Melbourne		Banyule	
		Darebin	
		Nilumbik	
		Whittlesea	
		Yarra	
Southern Metro Melbourne		Bayside Peninsula	Bayside
	Frankston		
	Glen Eira		
	Kingston		
	Mornington Peninsula		
	Port Phillip		
	Stonnington		
	Southern Melbourne	Cardinia	
		Casey	
		Greater Dandenong	

Western Metro Melbourne	Brimbank Melton	Brimbank
		Melton
	Western Melbourne	Hobsons Bay
		Maribyrnong
		Melbourne
		Moonee Valley
		Wyndham