Explanatory notes — Victoria Police

Data source

The Victoria Police data included in the Family Violence Database (the Database) was extracted from the Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP) on 18 July 2018. LEAP is a live database, and the data included in the Database is subject to change over time. The primary source of family violence data from Victoria Police is the information collected on the L17 Risk Assessment and Risk Management Report.

Victoria Police are required to complete the L17 report after they have attended a family incident. It includes information on the incident itself, the affected family member (AFM) and other party (OTH), hazards/risk factors present at the time of the incident and any actions taken by Victoria Police following the incident. The quantity and accuracy of the data collected by Victoria Police on family violence is dependent upon the recording of information by police members at the time of the incident.

Reference period

The data extracted from LEAP covers all family incidents and related offences recorded in the database from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2018. The date used to derive this reference period is the 'create date', a system generated date field that is set the first time a record is entered in LEAP.

Geographical classifications

For each family incident and related offence, the local government area (LGA) and related Police region of the incident/offence is recorded in LEAP. There are four Police regions; North West Metro, Southern Metro, Eastern and Western. All Victorian LGAs are grouped into these four regions based on the mapping outlined in the table under section 'Police region to local government area concordance'.

Calculating rates per 100,000 population

The rate of family incidents per 100,000 population is calculated using the count of family incidents recorded in a local government area and the estimated resident population (ERP) of that LGA. The rate is calculated using the following formula:

Family incident rate = (Number of Family incidents/ERP count) x 100,000

ERP figures for the local government areas are based on populations provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The data is extracted from the release titled Regional Population Group (3218.0).

For more information about the ABS estimated resident population, please refer to the ABS website.

Using Victoria Police LEAP data for analysis

A family incident is an incident attended by Victoria Police where a Victoria Police Risk Assessment and Risk Management Report (also known as an L17 form) was completed.

A family incident can involve one or more affected family members and/or one or more other parties. For statistical purposes, these are counted as one incident but may appear multiple times in demographic counts.

The increase in the number of recorded family incidents in recent years has in part been due to improved recording of incidents. Since 2011, initiatives such as the Family Violence Code of Practice have been put in place by Victoria Police to improve the recording of family incidents, the individuals involved and the offences committed.

Demographic characteristics of affected family members and other parties

An 'affected family member' is the individual who is deemed to be affected by events occurring during the family incident. The other individual involved in a family incident is referred to as the 'other party'. The other party could be a current partner, former partner or a family member.

Where more than one affected family member has been affected one other party within a family incident, they will be counted for each involvement. For example, where a family incident involves three affected family members and one other party, each affected family member will be counted separately, making a count of three.

Where the other party is involved with multiple affected family members, they will be counted for each involvement. For example, where a family incident involves one affected family member and two other parties, each other party will be counted separately, making a count of two.

Where an individual is involved in multiple family incidents within the reference period they will be counted for each incident that they are involved in.

Relationship between affected family members and other parties

The relationship between the AFM and other party is from the perspective of the AFM. For example, in an incident where the AFM is the mother of the OTH, the relationship would be reported as 'Family'.

Changes in this release

Victoria Police are currently undertaking a trial of a new L17 Risk Assessment and Risk Management Report in two police divisions. This means the recording of certain risk factors has changed and therefore, the CSA cannot produce data on these data items that were reported on in the previous release.

Terminology and abbreviations

Family incident
An incident attended by Victoria Police where a Risk Assessment and Risk Management Report (also known as an L17 form) was completed.

L17 form

An L17 form refers to the Victoria Police Risk Assessment and Management Report that Victoria Police are required to complete after they have attended a family incident. The report is completed when family incidents, interfamilial-related sexual offences, and child abuse are reported to police.

Affected family member (AFM)

An 'affected family member' is the individual who is deemed to be affected by events occurring during the family incident. Where an affected family member has been affected by more than one other party within a family incident, they will be counted for each involvement.

Other party (OTH)

The other individual involved in a family incident is referred to as the 'other party'. The other party could be a current partner, former partner or a family member. Where the other party is involved with multiple affected family members, they will be counted for each involvement.

Offences related to a family incident

Offences relating to a family incident refer to those offences that have been linked to a family incident by Victoria Police.

Family Violence Safety Notice

Victoria Police can issue a Family Violence Safety Notice in order to immediately protect the affected family members before an intervention order is able to be heard in court.

Family Violence Intervention Order

Victoria Police can apply for a Family Violence Intervention Order for a person who is experiencing family violence.

Child present flag

A record which indicates whether one or more children were identified as having been present at the time of the incident.

Hazards/Risk Factors

The risk factors identified on the Risk Assessment and Risk Management Report are the evidence-based risk and vulnerability factors outlined in the Victoria Police Code of Practice for the Investigation of Family Violence. There are three types of hazards, those relating to the AFM, those relating to the other party and those present in the relationship.

Alcohol use flag

Alcohol use flags refer to whether alcohol use was recorded as possible or definite for the AFM or other party during a family incident.

Drug use flag

Drug use flags refer to whether drug use was recorded as possible or definite for the AFM or other party during a family incident.

Recent separation

If the family incident involved current or former partners, this records whether the couple recently separated.

Escalation in severity

This measure records whether incidents between the parties have escalated over time.

Police region to local government area concordance

Eastern region	Western region	North West Metro region	Southern Metro region
Boroondara	Greater Geelong	Melbourne	Port Phillip
Manningham	Queenscliffe	Yarra	Stonnington
Monash	Surf Coast	Hobsons Bay	Bayside
Whitehorse	Colac-Otway	Maribyrnong	Glen Eira
Knox	Glenelg	Wyndham	Kingston
Maroondah	Southern Grampians	Brimbank	Cardinia
Yarra Ranges	Corangamite	Melton	Casey
Benalla	Moyne	Hume	Greater Dandenong
Mansfield	Warrnambool	Moonee Valley	Frankston
Murrindindi	Ballarat	Moreland	Mornington Peninsula
Mitchell	Pyrenees	Banyule	
Strathbogie	Golden Plains	Darebin	
Greater Shepparton	Hepburn	Nillumbik	
Alpine	Moorabool	Whittlesea	
Moira	Hindmarsh		
Wangaratta	Horsham		
Indigo	West Wimmera		
Towong	Ararat		
Wodonga	Northern Grampians		
Bass Coast	Yarriambiack		
South Gippsland	Greater Bendigo		
Baw Baw	Campaspe		
Latrobe	Central Goldfields		
East Gippsland	Loddon		
Wellington	Macedon Ranges		
	Mount Alexander		
	Mildura		
	Buloke		
	Gannawarra		
	Swan Hill		