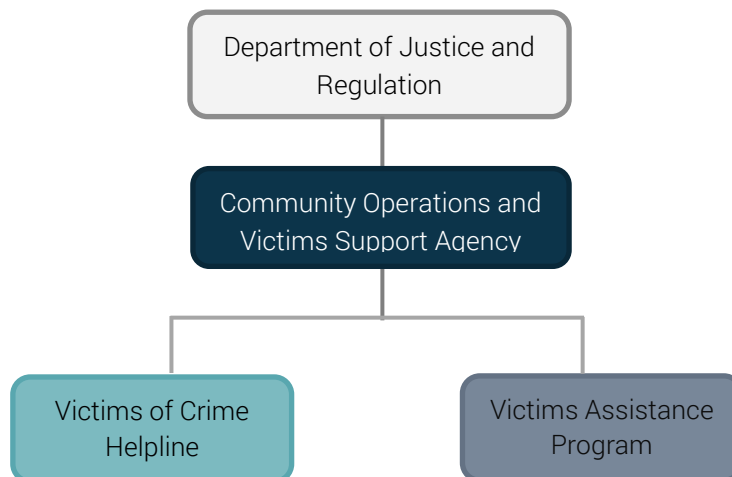


Explanatory Notes - Victims Assistance Program

The Family Violence Database (FVDB) presents statistics about the characteristics of cases recorded by the Victims Assistance Program (VAP) in their records management system. The following explanatory notes are designed to provide additional information about the data received from the Department of Justice and Regulation (DJR) regarding the VAP, including how it is processed and how to interpret the summary statistics.

Data source

The family violence measures produced from the FVDB are derived from administrative by-product information collected by the community based Victims Assistance Program which is funded by the Community Operations and Victims Support Agency (COVSA) within the Department of Justice and Regulation.



1.1 Organisational structure of services delivered to victims by COVSA¹

As the Victims Assistance Program data is stored in a live operational data system and is updated frequently, the data presented reflects only the information in the database at the date and time of extraction. This means that as additional iterations of the FVDB are released by the CSA, the data relating to previous periods may change as data is updated.

Scope and coverage

The community based Victims Assistance Program (VAP) provides practical support, assistance with criminal justice tasks including victim impact statements, and a range of therapeutic interventions for eligible victims of crime against the person. The VAP service model is funded by DJR to support victims of crime against the person throughout their criminal justice journey. The program procures many of these services on fixed term

¹ Please note this does not represent the full suite of services delivered by COVSA.

agreements with non-government agencies.

The VAP data within the FVDB includes information pertaining to cases and services initiated for new clients who have received at least one VAP service within the relevant reference period.

However, the scope and coverage of the data, is not representative of all individuals in Victoria who have sought assistance in response to family violence. For example, clients are typically required to be victims of a crime against the person² in order to be eligible for services offered through VAP.

Counting methodology

Number of services

Each record represents a service provided to a new client within the reference period. Therefore, each record within a financial year is a count of the number of services initiated in the reference period to a new VAP client.

Financial year

Records are compiled on the basis of the date that a client was first recorded seeking a service. Therefore, financial year refers to the financial year in which a client first sought access to a service from the VAP.

Family violence indicator

In the VAP record management system case workers can flag a case with a family violence indicator to denote that a client is seeking supports in response to family violence. This indicator is used to identify clients who were victims of family violence.

Definitions

Victims Assistance Program:

The state wide Victims Assistance Program provides practical support and a range of therapeutic interventions for eligible victims of crime via a flexible case management model. The VAP service model is funded by DJR to support victims of crime against the person. DJR procures these services on fixed term agreements with non-government agencies.

Crimes against person

Includes offences and related offences of homicide, assault/s, aggravated burglary, sexual offences, abduction, robbery and armed robbery, blackmail, stalking/harassment, culpable driving offences and dangerous/negligent driving offences causing serious injury.

Family violence case

A case that has been flagged with an indicator to denote whether a client is seeking assistance in response to a family violence matter.

² Includes offences and related offences of homicide, assault/s, sexual offences, abduction, robbery/armed robbery, blackmail, stalking/harassment, culpable driving and dangerous/negligent driving causing serious injury.