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**MEDIA RELEASE**

Embargo: 8:15AM Thursday 20 June 2019

**Highest offender rates and lowest victim report rates since July 2004**

The Crime Statistics Agency has today released the Victorian recorded crime statistics for the year ending 31 March 2019.

In the last 12 months the number of criminal incidents recorded increased by 2.0% or 7,761 incidents to 387,157 incidents. While the rate remained stable at 5,869.9 per 100,000 population, it is the lowest criminal incident rate since the year ending March 2015.

The number of recorded offences increased by 2.6% or 12,825 offences to 515,682 in the last 12 months. The rate per 100,000 population also increased slightly (0.5%) to 7,818.6 per 100,000 population.

Alleged offender incidents recorded by Victoria Police continued to increase in the last 12 months up by 6.9% (11,517 alleged offender incidents) to 178,731. This is a 45.2% increase in the last 10 years and is the highest number in CSA data holdings which go back to July 2004.

In the year ending March 2019 the number of victim reports recorded increased by 0.4% to 299,948. The rate decreased by 1.6% in the last 12 months to 4,547.7 victim reports per 100,000 Victorians, the lowest in CSA data holdings which go back to July 2004.

Family related incidents increased 8.0% in the last 12 months to 81,252 incidents. The family incident rate increased by 5.8% to 1,231.9 incidents per 100,000 population.

Crime Statistics Agency Chief Statistician Fiona Dowsley said that “alleged offender numbers have continued to increase in the last decade and are the highest in CSA data holdings, since July 2004.”

Further information can be found in the latest crime statistics quarterly release, available from the CSA website: <http://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/crime-statistics/latest-crime-data/>

**For further information please contact:**   
Crime Statistics Agency  
Phone: 8684 1808  
Email: [info@crimestatistics.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@crimestatistics.vic.gov.au)

**CSA FACT SHEET: RECORDED CRIME STATISTICS – YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2019**

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**Statewide figures – Year ending 31 March 2019**

* The number of criminal incidents recorded by Victoria Police in the year to 31 March 2019 was 387,157. This is up 2.0% from 379,396 incidents recorded in the same period last year.
* The number of offences recorded by Victoria Police in the year to 31 March 2019 was 515,682. This is an increase of 2.6% from 502,587 offences recorded in the same period last year.
* Alleged offender incidents increased 6.9% to 178,731 in the year to March 2019, up from 167,214.
* Victim reports increased in the year to 31 March 2019 by 0.4% (1,224) to 299,948 victim reports.
* Family incidents increased in the year to 31 March 2019, up 8.0% from 75,257 to 81,252.

**Local Government Area level figures**

**Criminal Incidents – Year ending March 2019**

**The five Local Government Areas with the highest criminal incident rates in the year ending March 2019 were:**

1. Melbourne (14,767.7 incidents per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 6.7%)
2. Latrobe (13,193.5 incidents per 100,000 estimated resident population, up 5.8%)
3. Yarra (11,066.9 incidents per 100,000 estimated resident population, up 2.8%)
4. Mildura (9,865.1 incidents per 100,000 estimated resident population, up 13.5%)
5. Greater Shepparton (9,376.5 incidents per 100,000 estimated resident population, up 3.4%)

**Recorded Offences –Year ending March 2019**

**The five Local Government Areas with the highest recorded offence rates in the year ending March 2019 were:**

1. Melbourne (19,696.9 offences per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 9.0%)
2. Latrobe (19,372.9 offences per 100,000 estimated resident population, up 8.8%)
3. Horsham (14,382.8 offences per 100,000 estimated resident population, up 16.0%)
4. Greater Shepparton (13,448.0 offences per 100,000 estimated resident population, up 9.0%)
5. Yarra (13,292.6 offences per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 2.1%)

**CSA FACT SHEET: RECORDED CRIME STATISTICS – YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2019**

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**Crime category trends**

**For the year ending March 2019, the offence subdivisions that showed significant upward trends in the last 24 months were:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Criminal Incidents**   * Assault and related offences (up 3.6% in the last 12 months, from 39,025 to 40,428) * Robbery (up 6.4% in the last 12 months, from 2,511 to 2,671) * Stalking, harassment and threatening behaviour (up 10.0% in the last 12 months, from 6,777 to 7,456) * Theft (up 4.5% in the last 12 months, from 131,037 to 136,910) * Deception (up 12.0% in the last 12 months, from 20,229 to 22,653) * Drug use and possession (up 11.3% in the last 12 months, from 10,873 to 12,097) * Weapons and explosives offences (up 9.5% in the last 12 months, from 8,810 to 9,645) * Breaches of orders (up 7.7% in the last 12 months, from 38,260 to 41,223) | **Recorded Offences**   * **Assault and related offences (up 3.3% in the last 12 months, from 43,327 to 44,772)** * **Stalking, harassment and threatening behaviour (up 5.8% in the last 12 months, from 11,689 to 12,366)** * **Drug use and possession (up 12.9% in the last 12 months, from 23,066 to 26,051)** * **Weapons and explosives offences (up 8.5% in the last 12 months, from 14,695 to 15,937)** * **Breaches of orders (up 11.7% in the last 12 months, from 57,246 to 63,943)** |

All other major offence categories did not show a significant upward trend over the last 24 months.

**For the year ending March 2019, the offence subdivisions that showed a significant downward trend in the last 24 months were:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Criminal Incidents**   * Burglary/Break and enter  (down 13.8% in the last 12 months, from 42,754 to 36,869) | **Recorded Offences**   * **Burglary/Break and enter (down 13.5% in the last 12 months, from 45,128 to 39,019)** * **Other government regulatory offences (down 9.2% in the last 12 months, from 836 to 759)** |

All other major offence categories did not show a significant downward trend over the last 24 months.

**For explanatory information and definitions for the latest release, see the** [Explanatory Notes](https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/about-the-data/explanatory-notes) **and** [Glossary](http://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/about-the-data/glossary-and-data-dictionary/).