17 June 2021 02/2021

**MEDIA RELEASE**

Embargo: 9:00AM Thursday 17 June 2021

**1 in 5 criminal offences in Victoria were family violence-related in the year ending 31 March 2021**

The Crime Statistics Agency (CSA) released the Victorian recorded crime statistics for the year ending 31 March 2021 today.

The recorded offences rate decreased 1.8% to 7,950.6 per 100,000 Victorians in the last 12 months, as did the number of offences, down 1.8% to 532,271. One in 5 offences recorded were family violence-related (21.1%). Despite overall decreases in criminal offences recorded, family violence-related offences increased 11.3% to 112,432 offences in the year ending 31 March 2021. The increase was particularly driven by breaches of family violence orders (up 18.4% to 53,285 offences) and family violence-related common assaults (up 5.9% to 16,264 offences).

In the 12 months to 31 March 2021 the criminal incident rate decreased 5.0% to 5,792.5 per 100,000 Victorians as did the number of incidents, down 5.1% or 20,630 incidents to 387,793. Of these, 64,402 incidents were family violence-related, up 6.1% from the last year.

Alleged offender incidents increased by 30.6% (48,856 incidents) to 208,294 in the last 12 months, the rate increasing by 30.5% to 3,539.4 per 100,000 Victorians. There were 37,031 alleged offender incidents related to public health (the vast majority were for breaches of CHO directions).

Victim reports decreased by 18.4% to 265,773, the lowest since 2011, as did the victimisation rate, down 15.5% to 2,982.2 reports per 100,000 Victorians. Victims experiencing property and deception-related offences as their most serious offence declined by the greatest number. Conversely, the number of victims of crime experiencing family violence-related offending was the highest ever recorded, driven predominantly by increases in family violence common assault.

Family incidents increased 8.2% in the last 12 months to the highest on record at 92,999 incidents, as did the rate of family incidents, also up by 8.3% to 1,389.1 incidents per 100,000 Victorians. The number of family incidents that resulted in at least one criminal offence increased 6.3% to 46,782 incidents in the last 12 months.

CSA Chief Statistician Fiona Dowsley said that “Victoria has recorded the highest ever number of family incidents and family violence-related criminal offences during this period. The number of family violence-related victim reports has continued to increase, while other types of victim reports decreased over the past 12 months. This increase in family violence-related victimisation has been seen for the last three years, reflecting more than pandemic-related impacts.”

More detailed information is available on the [latest crime data](https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/crime-statistics/latest-victorian-crime-data/) **webpage.**

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

**CSA FACT SHEET: RECORDED CRIME STATISTICS – YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2021**

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**Statewide figures**

1. The number of criminal incidents recorded by Victoria Police in the year to 31 March 2021 was 387,793, down 5.1% from 408,423 incidents recorded in the same period last year.
2. The number of offences recorded by Victoria Police in the year 31 March 2021 was 532,271. This is down 1.8% from 542,138 offences recorded in the same period last year.
3. Alleged offender incidents increased 30.6% to 208,294 in the year to 31 March 2021, up from 159,438.
4. Victim reports decreased in the year to 31 March 2021 down 18.4% (59,955) to 265,773 victim reports.
5. Family incidents increased in the year to 31 March 2021, up 8.2% from 85,915 to 92,999.
6. Alleged offender incidents with an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status increased 16.6% to 14,941 in the year to March 2021.
7. In the year to March 2021 the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status of those involved in Family incident increased for Affected family members (up 6.9% to 4,716) while Other parties increased (up 10.1% to 5,873).

**Local Government Area level figures**

**Criminal Incidents**

**The highest criminal incident rates in Local Government Areas in the year ending March 2021 were:**

1. Melbourne (15,199.4 incidents per 100,000 estimated resident population, up 3.9%)
2. Latrobe (11,994.3 incidents per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 10.0%)
3. Yarra (10,719.2 incidents per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 3.3%)
4. Swan Hill (9,133.6 incidents per 100,000 estimated resident population, up 6.0%)
5. Ararat (9,104.3 incidents per 100,000 estimated resident population, up 21.8%).

**Recorded Offences**

**The highest recorded offence rates in Local Government Areas in the year ending March 2021 were:**

1. Melbourne (20,859.7 offences per 100,000 estimated resident population, up 5.5%)
2. Latrobe (17,147.3 offences per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 6.2%)
3. Greater Shepparton (13,952.0 offences per 100,000 estimated resident population, up 7.4%)
4. Yarra (13,566.6 offences per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 0.3%)
5. Ararat (13,464.7 offences per 100,000 estimated resident population, up 28.9%).

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**Crime category trends**

**For the year ending March 2021, the offence subdivisions that showed significant upward trends in the last 24 months were:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Criminal Incidents**   * Assault and related offences * Stalking, harassment & threatening behaviour * Dangerous and negligent acts * Cultivate or manufacture drugs * Miscellaneous offences | **Recorded Offences**   * Assault and related offences * Stalking, harassment & threatening behaviour * Cultivate or manufacture drugs * Miscellaneous offences |

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

**For the year ending March 2021, the offence subdivisions that showed a significant downward trend in the last 24 months were:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Criminal Incidents**   * Robbery * Burglary/Break and enter * Theft * Disorderly and offensive conduct | **Recorded Offences**   * Robbery * Burglary/Break and enter * Theft * Disorderly and offensive conduct |

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

**For a detailed breakdown of the data go to the** [latest crime data](https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/crime-statistics/latest-victorian-crime-data/) **webpage and for explanatory information and definitions, 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/).