17 December 2020 04/2020

**MEDIA RELEASE**

Embargo: 9:00AM Thursday 17 December 2020

**The introduction of COVID-19 related offences has driven key crime measures up**

The Crime Statistics Agency (CSA) released the Victorian recorded crime statistics for the year ending 30 September 2020 today.

In the year ending September 2020 six new COVID-19-related breach of Chief Health Officer Directions offence codes were introduced. There were 32,713 of these offences recorded, driving the increase in Public health and safety offences. These COVID-19-related offences have increased the number of alleged offenders processed by Victoria Police recorded and the number of police recorded Criminal incidents and Recorded offences. For more information about COVID-19 impacts on crime can be found in the CSA paper [*Police-recorded crime trends in Victoria during the COVID-19 pandemic: update to the end of September*](https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/research-and-evaluation/publications/police-recorded-crime-trends-in-victoria-during-the-covid-19-0)*.*

In the 12 months to 30 September 2020 the number of criminal incidents increased by 4.2% or 16,652 incidents to 413,042.

The number of recorded offences increased by 4.4% or 23,229 offences to 551,710 in the year ending September 2020. In the last 12 months 1 in 17 offences were related to COVID-19 Breach of Chief Health Officer Directions.

Alleged offender incidents increased by 24.5% (40,109 incidents) to 204,068 in the last 12 months, while the alleged offender incident rate increased by 22.3% to 3,469.9 per 100,000 population.

In the last 12 months, victim reports decreased by 4.6% to 295,323, business/organisation victim reports decreased by 7.0% to 78,417, as did person victim reports, a decrease of 3.7% to 216,906. The victimisation rate also decreased by 5.3% to 3,234.5 reports per 100,000 Victorians.

Family related incidents increased 7.5% in the last 12 months to the highest on record, 90,056 incidents. The rate of family incidents recorded increased by 5.7% to 1,342.9 incidents per 100,000 population.

CSA Chief Statistician Fiona Dowsley said that “the COVID-19 public health response created the criminalisation of new behaviours in Victoria with over 32,000 offences recorded by Victoria Police. This has resulted in record numbers of Criminal incidents, Recorded offences and Alleged offenders incidents.”

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 30 SEPTEMBER 2020**

Embargo: 9:00AM Thursday 1 December 2020

**State wide figures**

1. The number of criminal incidents recorded by Victoria Police in the year to 30 September 2020 was 413,042, up 4.2% from 396,390 incidents recorded in the same period last year.
2. The number of offences recorded by Victoria Police in the year to 30 September 2020 was 551,710. This is up 4.4% from 528,481 offences recorded in the same period last year.
3. Alleged offender incidents increased 24.5% to 204,068 in the year to 30 September 2020, up from 163,959.
4. Victim reports decreased in the year to 30 September 2020 down 4.6% (14,242) to 295,323 victim reports.
5. Family incidents increased in the year to 30 September 2020, up 7.5% from 83,773 to 90,056.
6. Alleged offender incidents with an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status increased 13.3% to 14,668 in the year ending September 2020, up from 12,949.
7. In the year ending September 2020 the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status of those involved in Family incident decreased for Affected family members (down 2.4% to 4,435) while Other parties increased (up 2.4% to 5,496).

**Local Government Area level figures**

**Criminal Incidents**

**The highest criminal incident rates in Local Government Areas in the year ending September 2020 were:**

1. Melbourne (14,617.1 incidents per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 2.4%)
2. Latrobe (13,086.5 incidents per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 1.5%)
3. Yarra (11,070.7 incidents per 100,000 estimated resident population, up 2.6 %)
4. Greater Shepparton (9,125.0 incidents per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 6.7%)
5. Mildura (9,013.1 incidents per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 10.7%).

**Recorded Offences**

**The highest recorded offence rates in Local Government Areas in the year ending September 2020 were:**

1. Melbourne (19,328.5 offences per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 2.9%)
2. Latrobe (17,935.6 offences per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 3.6%)
3. Yarra (13,709.7 offences per 100,000 estimated resident population, up 5.1%)
4. Greater Shepparton (13,472.2 offences per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 1.9%)
5. Horsham (12,689.0 offences per 100,000 estimated resident population, up 23.2%).

**CSA FACT SHEET: RECORDED CRIME STATISTICS – YEAR ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2020**

Embargo: 9:00AM Thursday 17 December 2020

**Crime category trends**

**For the year ending September 2020, the offence subdivisions that showed significant upward trends in the last 24 months were:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Criminal Incidents**   * Drug dealing and trafficking * Cultivate or manufacture drugs * Drug use and possession * Justice procedures * Miscellaneous offences | **Recorded Offences**   * Cultivate or manufacture drugs * Drug use and possession * Breaches of orders * Miscellaneous offences |

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

**For the year ending September 2020, the offence subdivisions that showed a significant downward trend in the last 24 months were:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Criminal Incidents**   * Arson * Disorderly and offensive conduct | **Recorded Offences**   * Arson * 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/).