Crime Statistics Victoria

Year ending 30 September 2019

CRIME STATISTICS AGENCY

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For further information or additional copies, please contact:
Crime Statistics Agency

121 Exhibition Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000

Tel 03 8684 1808

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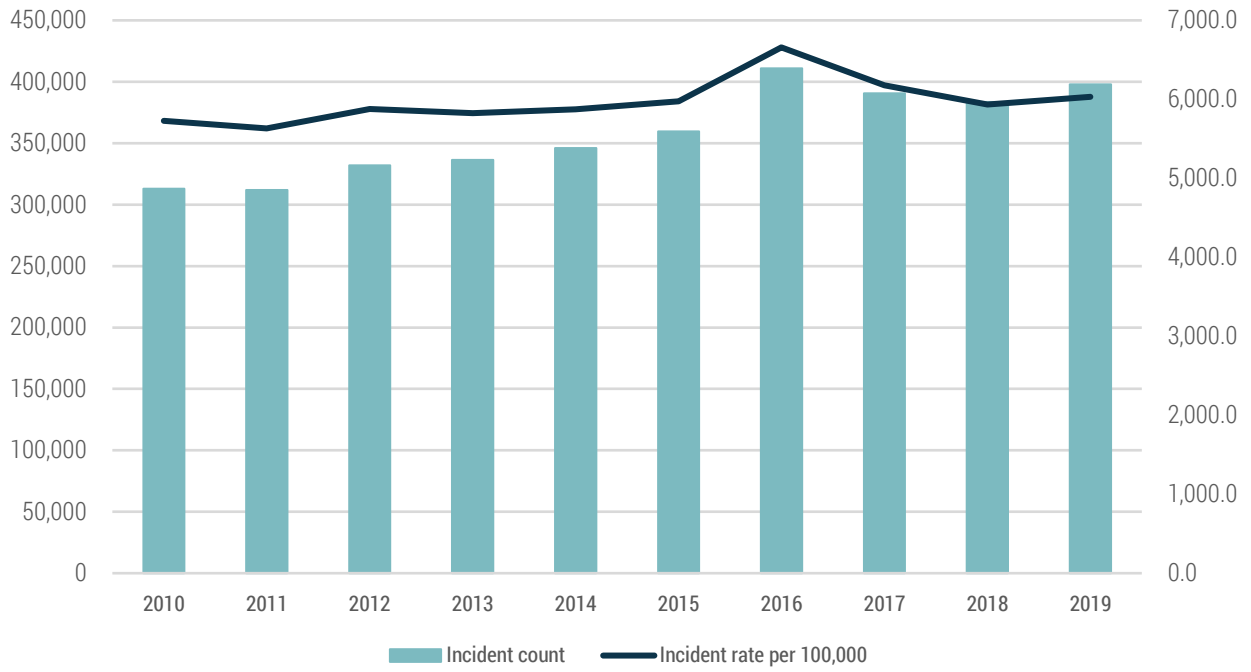
1. Recorded criminal incidents

The information outlined in this section represents all criminal incidents recorded in the Police Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP) database, where Victoria Police have recorded a crime prohibited by criminal law. These include crimes that have been reported to police as well as those identified by police. For more information about counting rules, please refer to the Explanatory Notes.

1.1 Key movements in the number and rate of criminal incidents

Victorian criminal incidents and rate per 100,000 population, 10 year trend



	Criminal Incidents - year ending September										
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	1 yr % change
Number	312,860	311,865	332,055	336,320	346,118	359,726	410,970	390,518	383,482	397,849	3.7%
Rate	5,728.9	5,631.6	5,875.9	5,826.1	5,871.5	5,973.2	6,657.4	6,177.5	5,935.6	6,032.1	1.6%

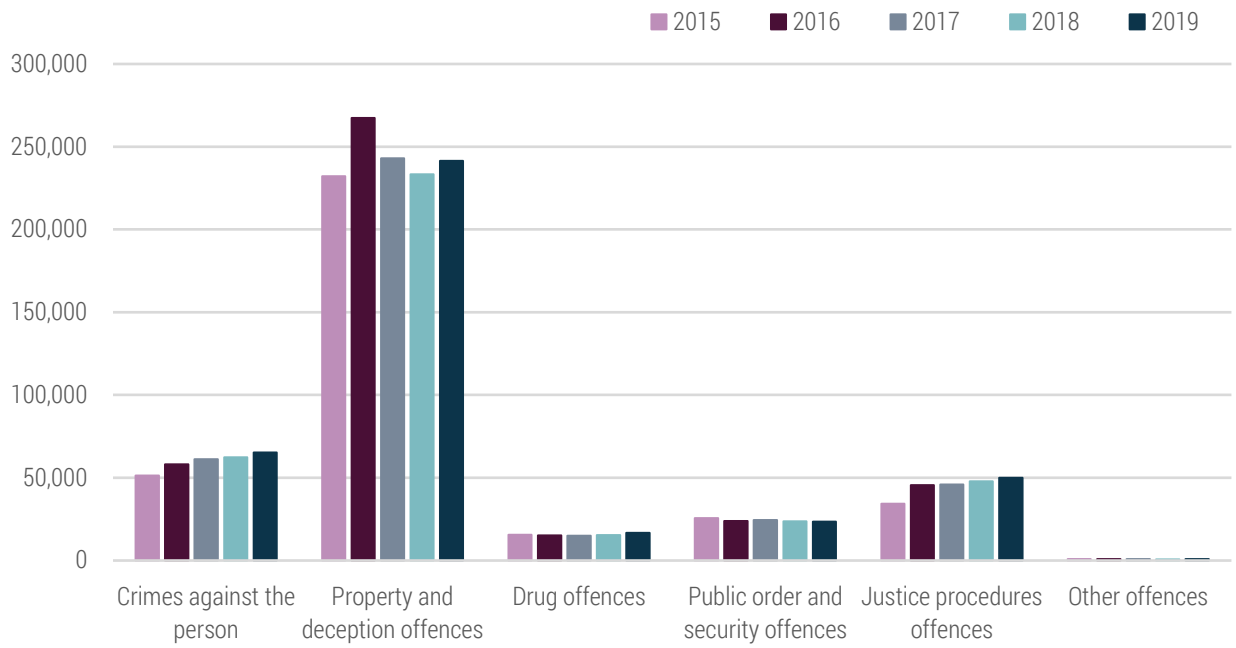
1.2 Number of criminal incidents by principal offence category

To best represent the type of offence associated with a criminal incident involving multiple offences, the most serious offence within an incident is determined and this becomes the principal offence to represent the incident. For criminal incidents the most serious charge laid is selected and, if no charges were laid, the most serious offence recorded will be selected. Further information on the derivation of a principal offence for a criminal incident can be found in the CSA paper *Offence Types – Differences between Recorded Offences and Criminal Incidents, Year ending 31 March 2018*.

Notable movements – criminal incidents

In the last 12 months the number of criminal incidents increased in all offence divisions except for *Public order and security offences*. In the five years to September 2019 the number of criminal incidents increased by 10.6% (38,123 incidents).

Victorian criminal incidents recorded by principal offence category, 5 year trend



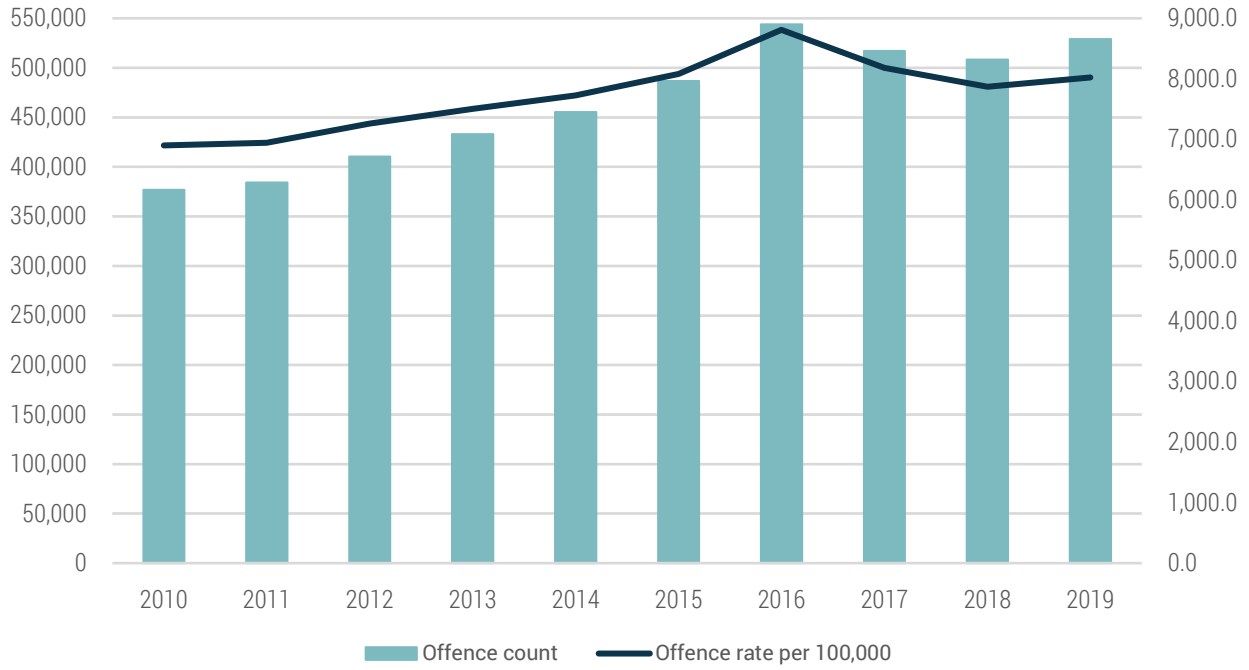
Please note that movements in recorded crime data may be impacted by changes in legislation and operational police practice. Information is available about notable changes in the Explanatory Notes, refer to this information when comparing data over time.

2. Recorded offences

The information outlined in this section represents all offences recorded in the Police Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP) database, where Victoria Police have recorded a crime prohibited by criminal law. These include crimes that have been reported to police as well as those identified by police.

2.1 Key movements in the number and rate of offences

Victorian recorded offences and rate per 100,000 population, 10 year trend



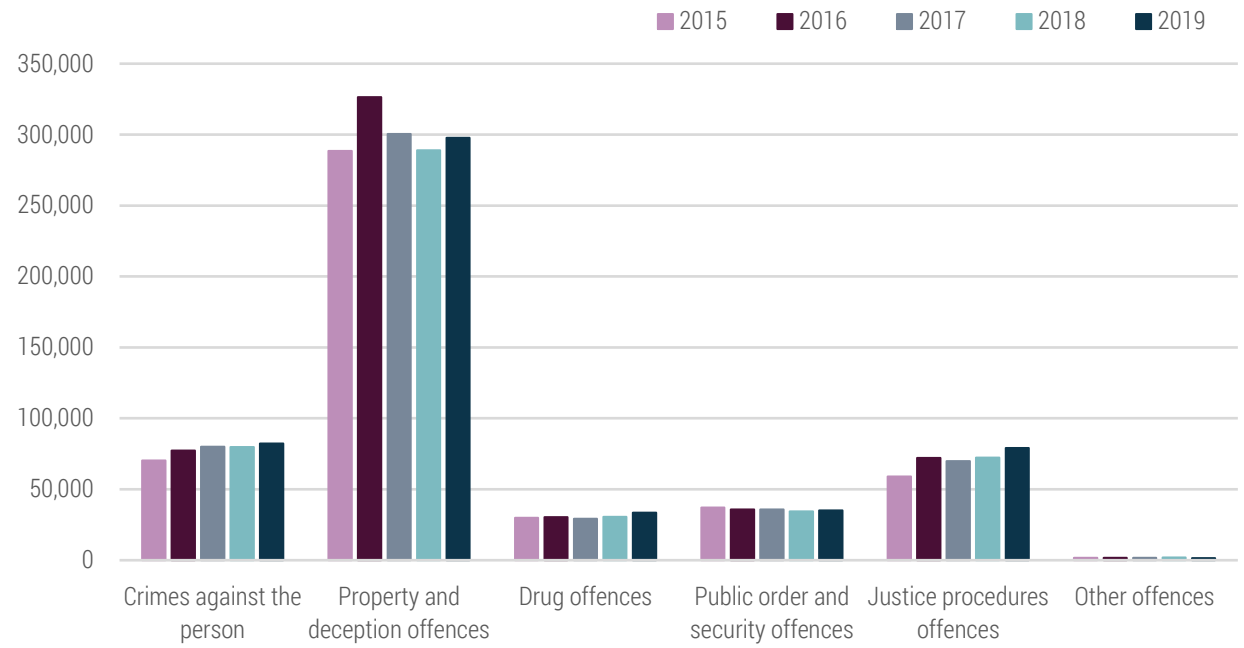
	Recorded Offences - year ending September										
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	1 yr % change
Number	376,845	384,412	410,367	433,188	455,440	486,594	543,838	517,060	508,446	529,230	4.1%
Rate	6,900.5	6,941.6	7,261.7	7,504.1	7,726.0	8,079.8	8,809.7	8,179.3	7,869.9	8,024.0	2.0%

2.2 Number of recorded offences by type of offence

Notable movements – recorded offences

In the last 12 months the number of recorded offences increased in the all offence divisions except *Other offences*. In the five years to September 2019 the number of recorded offences increased by 8.8% (42,636 offences).

Victorian offences recorded by offence category, 5 year trend



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2.3 Police Assistance Line (PAL) and Online Reporting (OLR)

Victoria Police introduced the Police Assistance Line (PAL) and Online Reporting (OLR) service for non-urgent crimes state-wide on 1 July 2019 (a trial took place in a limited areas from 28 February 2019). This method of contacting police has been introduced to capture non urgent crimes. The table below captures the number of offences recorded in LEAP via this new reporting method.

For further information about the Police Assistance Line and online reporting is available in the Explanatory Notes.

Offences recorded via Police Assistance Line and Online Reporting[1] by offence type by month.

Offence Division	Offence Subdivision	Offence Group	Recorded Offences – February to September 2019								
			Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total
Crimes against the person	A50 Robbery	A51 Aggravated robbery	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	**2**
Property and deception	B10 Arson	B11 Cause damage by fire	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	1	**6**
	B20 Property damage	B21 Criminal damage	2	132	116	325	490	686	681	649	**3,081**
		B22 Graffiti	0	12	15	41	80	146	148	126	**568**
		B23 Other property damage	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	3	**6**
	B30 Burglary/ break and enter	B31 Aggravated burglary	0	7	3	5	5	6	4	5	**35**
		B32 Non-aggravated burglary	1	300	285	701	1,182	1,549	1,589	1,555	**7,162**
	B40 Theft	B41 Motor vehicle theft	0	168	168	387	618	743	767	783	**3,634**
		B42 Steal from a motor vehicle	1	458	435	1,202	2,071	2,863	2,853	2,747	**12,630**
		B43 Steal from a retail store	0	18	1	8	4	6	10	10	**57**
		B44 Theft of a bicycle	1	57	60	200	274	304	289	343	**1,528**
		B45 Receiving or handling stolen goods	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	**1**
		B49 Other theft	0	243	183	577	824	1,245	1,210	1,206	**5,488**
	B50 Deception	B53 Obtain benefit by deception	0	0	0	1	1	4	1	4	**11**
Public order and security	D30 Public nuisance offences	D35 Improper movement on public or private space	0	1	0	2	5	14	8	6	**36**
Total			***5***	***1,397***	***1,266***	***3,451***	***5,555***	***7,568***	***7,564***	***7,439***	***34,245***

[1] Data reflects the offence type recorded after Victoria Police action and may not reflect the initial non-urgent offence types reported via Police Assistance Line and Online Reporting.

3. Alleged offender incidents

An alleged offender incident is an incident involving one or more offences where an individual, business or organisation has been recorded as an alleged offender. An alleged offender incident represents one alleged offender but may involve multiple victims and offences. One incident may involve offences that occur over a period of time but if processed by Victoria Police as one incident, it will have a count of one in the data presented in this section.

There may be multiple incidents within the reference period that involve the same individual, business or organisation as an offender, where this occurs they will be counted for each incident. If there are multiple alleged offenders related to a criminal event, each will have their alleged offender incident counted once in the figures.

Where there were multiple offences recorded within the one incident, the incident is assigned an offence category of the most serious offence in the incident, referred to as the principal offence.

3.1 Key movements in the number and rate of alleged offender incidents

Victorian alleged offender incidents and rate per 100,000 population, 10 year trend

	Alleged Offender Incidents - year ending September										
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	1 yr % change
Number	129,071	127,391	136,162	148,711	154,188	157,798	169,869	171,371	167,787	180,676	7.7%
Rate	2,696.7	2,624.9	2,752.5	2,946.4	2,993.8	3,001.3	3,154.7	3,104.5	2,969.9	3,130.0	5.4%

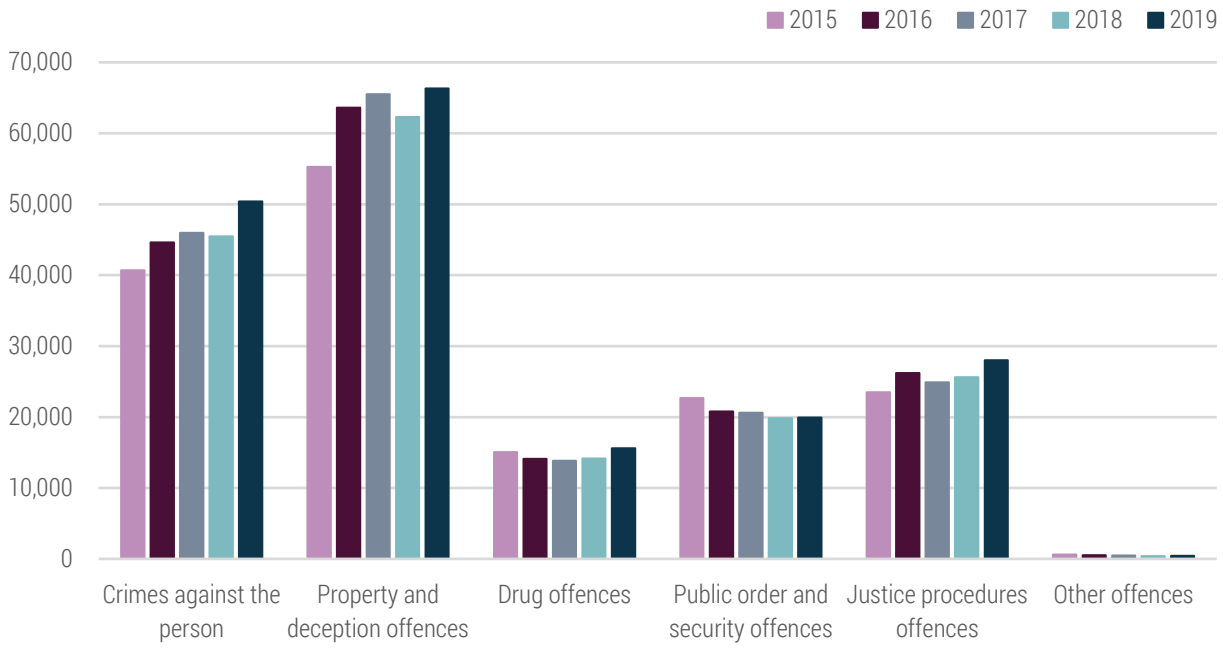
3.2 Number of alleged offender incidents by principal offence category

To best represent the type of offence associated with an incident involving multiple offences, the most serious offence within the incident is determined and this becomes the principal offence to represent the incident.

Notable movements – alleged offender incidents

In the last 12 months the number of alleged offender incidents increased across all principal offence categories. In the last five years *Public order and security offences* (down 12.2% or 2,766 incidents) and *Other offences* (down 30.6% or 187 incidents) were the only offence categories to decrease.

Alleged offender incidents by principal offence, 5 year trend



Please note that movements in recorded crime data may be impacted by changes in legislation and operational police practice. Information is available about notable changes in the Explanatory Notes, refer to this information when comparing data over time.

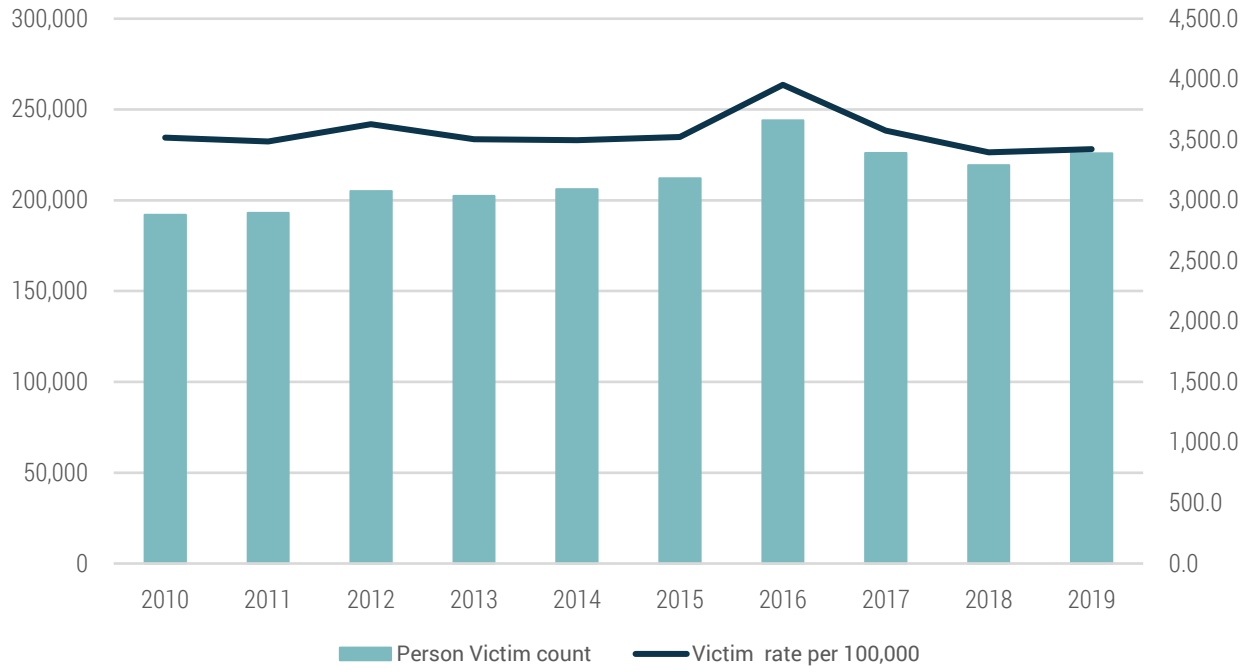
4. Victim reports

A victim report is counted when an individual, business or organisation is recorded on LEAP as being a victim of one or more criminal offences. A victim report involves only one victim but can involve multiple offences and alleged offenders. One report may involve offences that occur over a period of time but if processed by Victoria Police as one report it will have a count of one in the data presented in this section.

Where there were multiple offences recorded within the one victim report, the report is represented by an assigned offence category of the most serious offence, this is referred to as the principal offence.

4.1 Key movements in the number and rate of victim reports

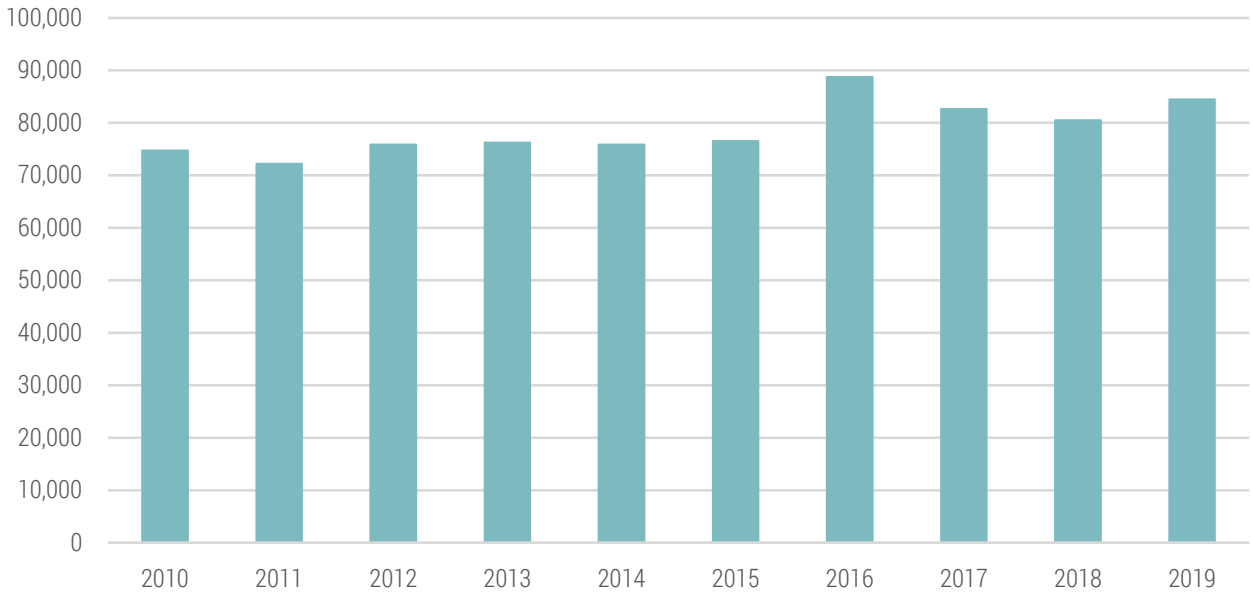
Victorian people victim reports and rate per 100,000 population, 10 year trend



Victorian victim reports, 10 year trend

	Victim Reports - year ending September										
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	1 yr % change
People	192,089	193,007	205,025	202,356	206,085	212,176	244,092	225,979	219,429	225,798	2.9%
Organisations	74,732	72,235	75,840	76,211	75,893	76,537	88,755	82,632	80,514	84,493	4.9%
Total victims	**266,821**	**265,242**	**280,865**	**278,567**	**281,978**	**288,713**	**332,847**	**308,611**	**299,943**	**310,291**	**3.4%**
Person rate	3,517.4	3,485.3	3,628.1	3,505.4	3,496.0	3,523.2	3,954.1	3,574.7	3,396.4	3,423.5	0.8%

Victorian organisation victim reports, 10 year trend



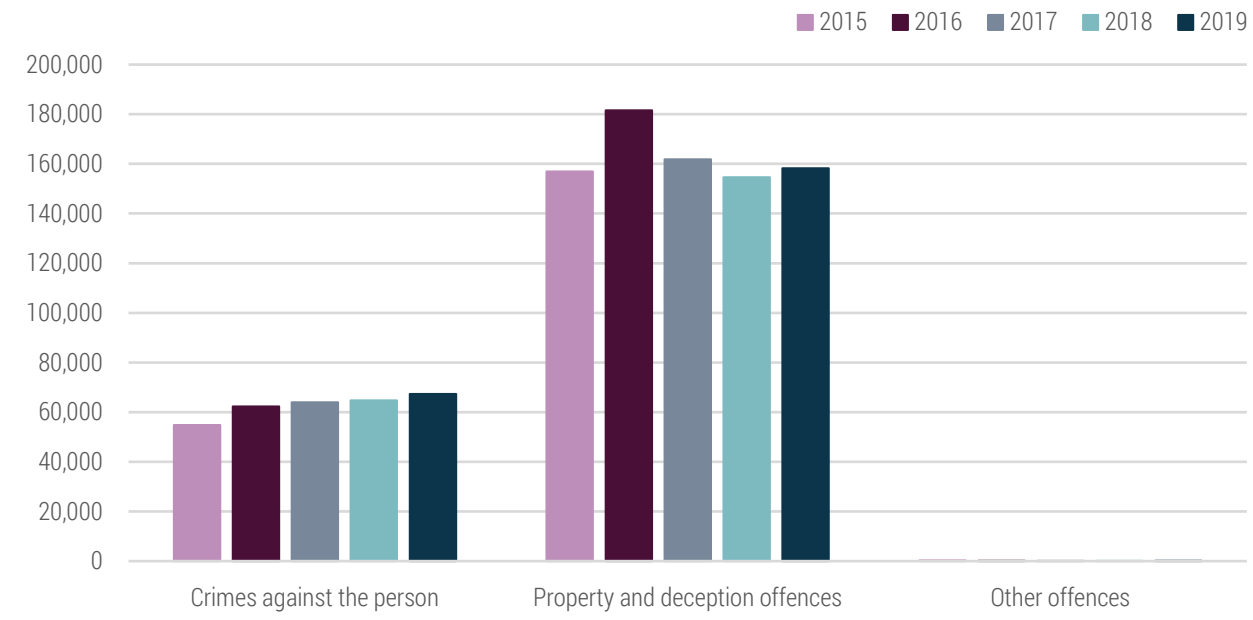
4.2 Number of victim reports by principal offence category

In order to assign an offence type to a victim report with multiple offences, the most serious offence within a report is determined and this becomes the principal offence for the victim report.

Notable movements – victim reports

Of the 225,798 person victim reports in the last 12 months, 158,219 (70.1%) had a principal offence of *Property and deception offences*, 67,388 reports (29.8%) were *Crimes against the person* and the remaining 191 victim reports were *Other offences*. The proportion of victim reports with a principal offence of *Crimes against the person* has increased in the last five years from 25.8% in the year ending September 2015.

Person victim reports by principal offence, 5 year trend



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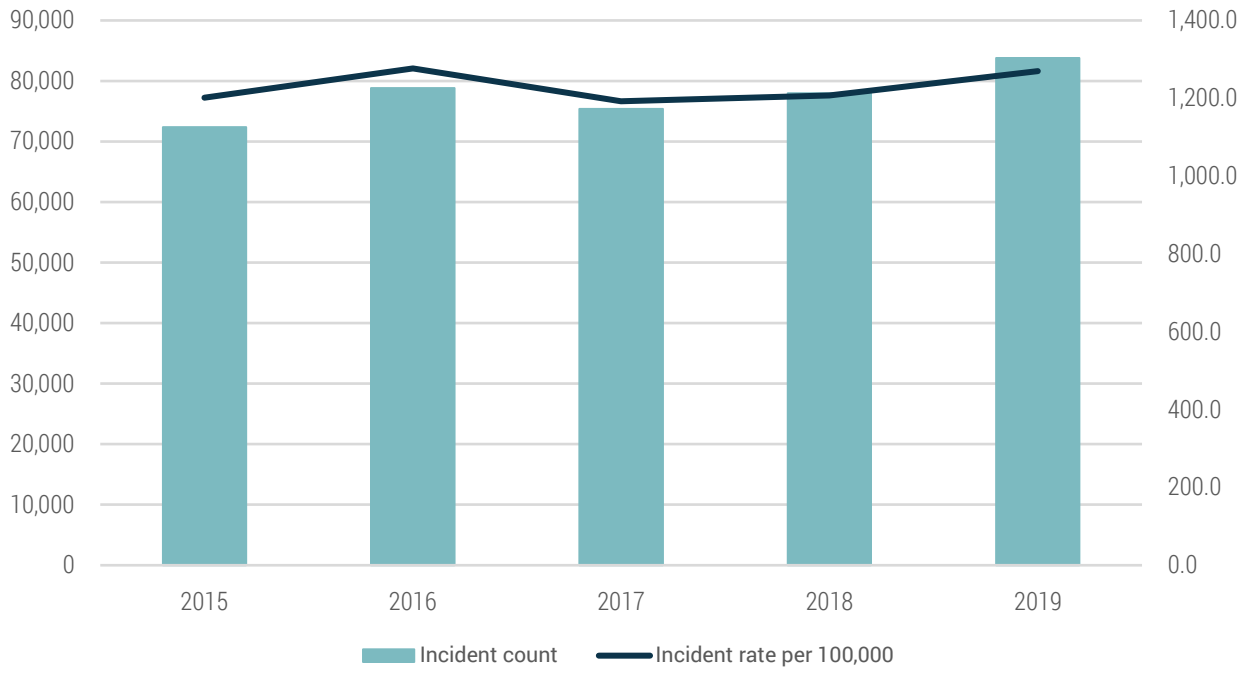
5. Family incidents

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 and recorded on LEAP.

5.1 Key movements in the number and rate of family incidents



	Family Incidents - year ending September					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	1 yr % change
Number	72,374	78,813	75,371	77,996	83,775	7.4%
Rate	1,201.8	1,276.7	1,192.3	1,207.2	1,270.2	5.2%

Demographic characteristics of affected family members

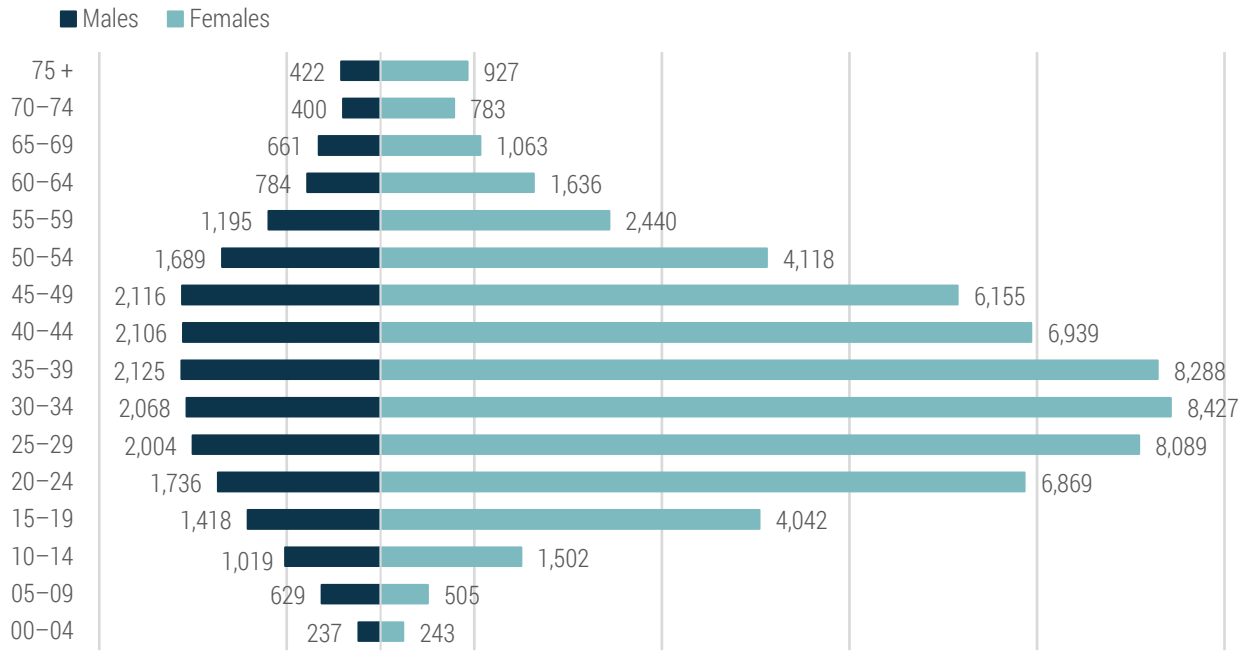
An 'affected family member' is the individual who is deemed to be affected by events occurring during a family incident. Where an individual is involved in multiple family incidents within the reference period they will be counted for each incident that they are involved in.

Where more than one affected family member has been affected by 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 an affected family member has been affected by more than one other party within a family incident, they will be counted for each involvement. For example if there is one affected family member and two other parties the affected family member will be counted twice, once for each involvement.

In the last 12 months, 74.9% (62,780) of the 83,777 affected family members were female, while 24.9% (20,863) were male. The number of male affected family members increased 7.8% (1,501) in the last 12 months and 17.4% (3,096) since the year ending September 2015. Similarly female affected family members increased 7.3% (4,257) in the last 12 months and 15.2% (8,263) since the year ending September 2015.

Affected family members by age and sex, year ending September 2019

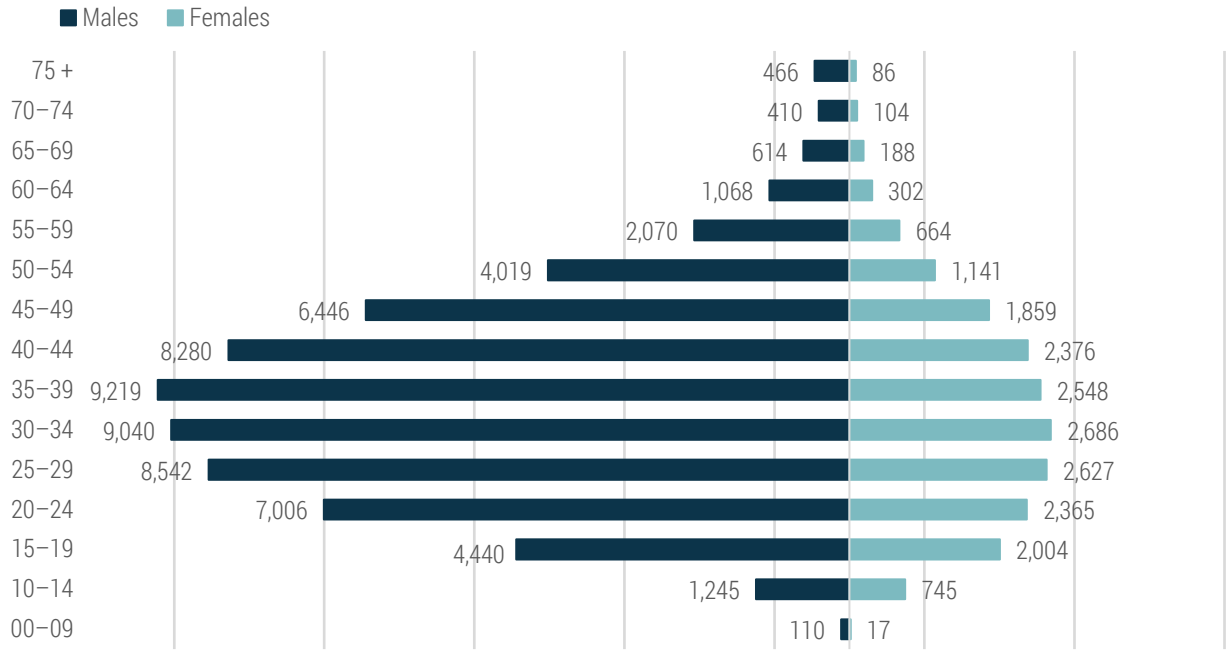


Demographic characteristics of other parties

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. For example, where a family incident involves three affected family members and one other party, the other party will be counted separately for each affected family member, making a count of three.

Where more than one other party is involved with one affected family member, 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.

In the last 12 months there were 83,775 other parties recorded, of which 75.8% (63,532) were male and 23.8% (19,979) were female. The number of female other parties increased 9.2% (1,690) in the last 12 months and 21.7% (3,568) since the year ending September 2015. Similarly the number of male other parties increased 6.9% (4,102) in the last 12 months and 13.9% (7,745) since the year ending September 2015.

Other parties by age and sex, year ending September 2019