

# Crime Statistics Victoria

Year ending 30 September 2020







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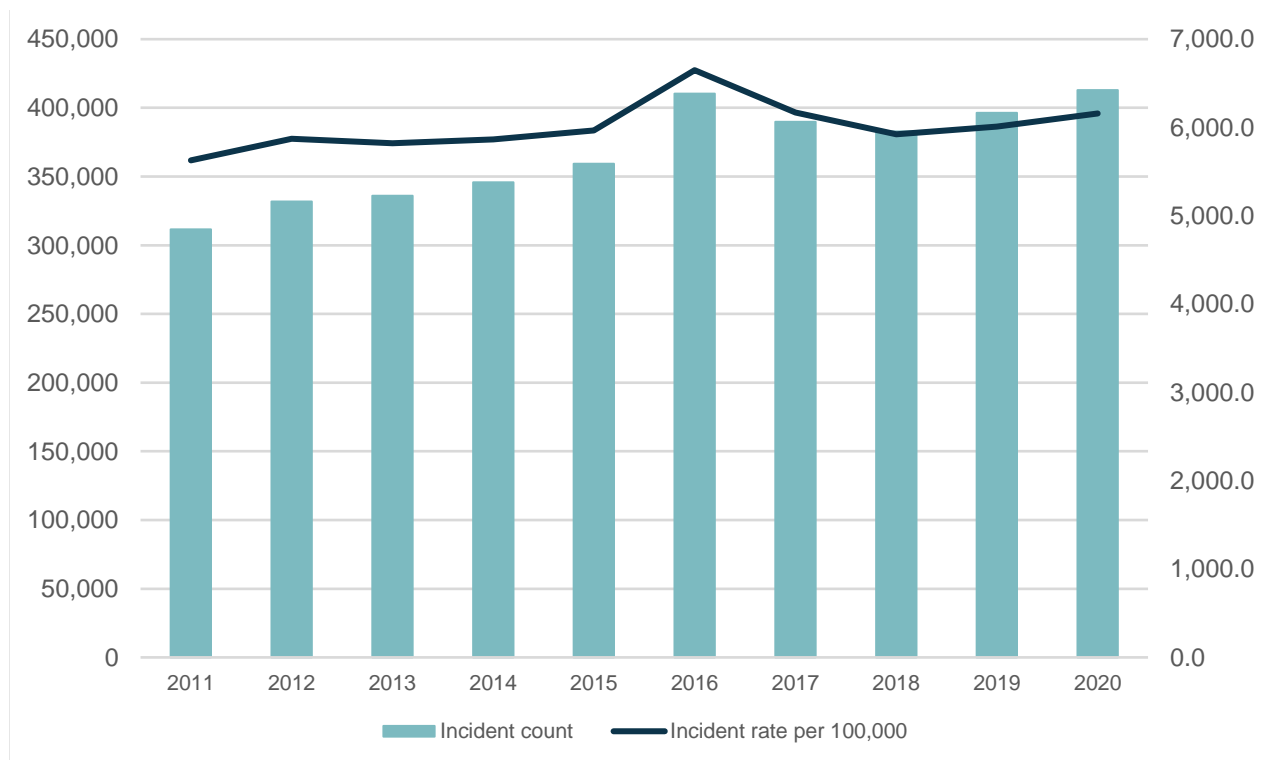
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# 1. Recorded criminal incidents

A recorded criminal incident is a criminal event that may include multiple offences, alleged offenders and/or victims that is recorded on the LEAP database on a single date and at one location. 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										
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	1 yr % change
Number	311,672	331,847	336,029	345,793	359,359	410,446	389,927	382,824	396,390	413,042	4.2%
Rate	5,628.1	5,872.3	5,821.0	5,866.0	5,967.1	6,648.9	6,168.2	5,924.2	6,009.5	6,159.2	2.5%

Since early 2020 Victoria has been responding to the global COVID-19 pandemic through the use of public health and social responses. In Victoria, these responses have resulted in periods with varying levels of restrictions on people's movements; including working from home wherever possible, remote learning for students, the introduction of curfews, temporary closures of some businesses, restrictions on activities deemed non-essential, limits to social gatherings, and new hygiene sanitation practices, including the introduction of mask-wearing in public. The Victorian Government public health response to COVID-19 has been supported by the introduction of six new COVID-19-related offences codes relating to breaches of Chief Health Officer Directions. There were 32,713 breach of Chief Health Officer Directions offences recorded, driving the significant increase in Public health and safety offences.

## 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 [Police-recorded crime trends in Victoria during the COVID-19 pandemic: update to the end of September](#).

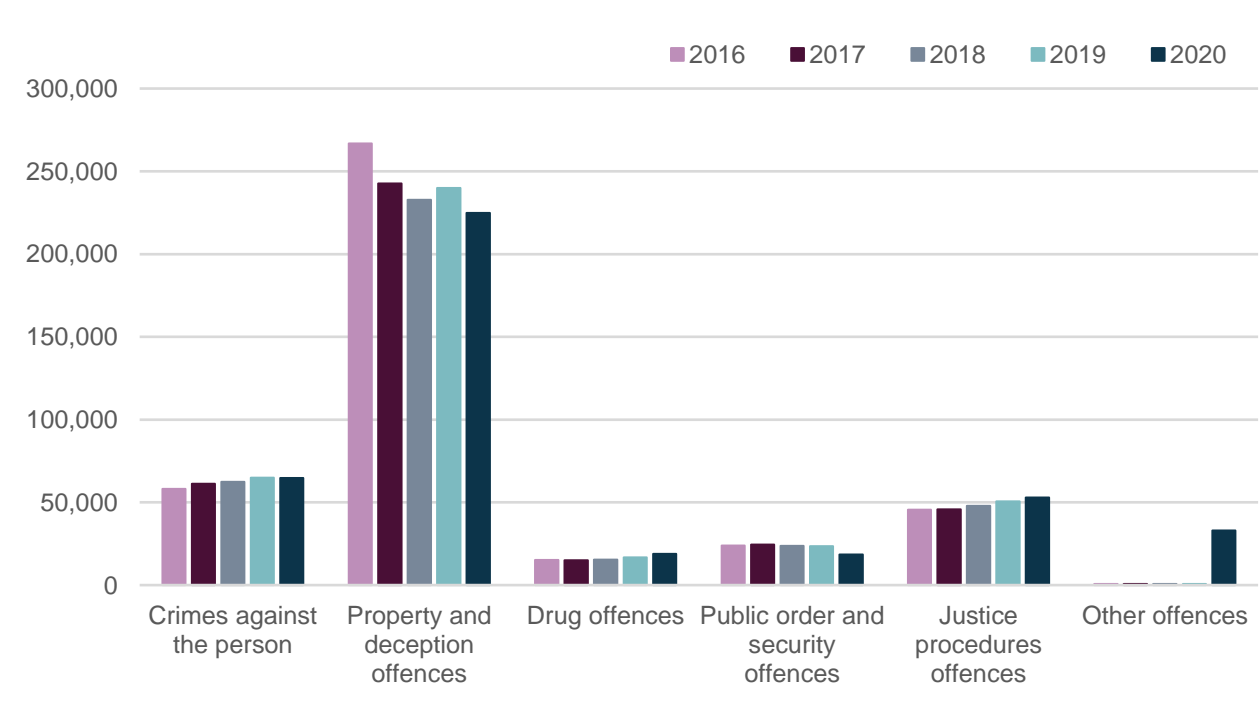
### Notable movements – criminal incidents

In the last 12 months, the number of criminal incidents recorded increased for *Other* offences (up 4,263.2% or 32,315 incidents), *Drug offences* (up 13.6% or 2,272 incidents) and *Justice procedures offences* (up 4.4% or 2,229 incidents). In contrast decreases were observed for *Property and deception offences* (down 6.3% or 15,083 incidents) and *Public order and security offences* (down 21.4% or 5,037 incidents).

The offence types that have contributed to the increase in Criminal incidents include Public health and safety offences up 31,773.5% or 32,409 to 32,511 incidents, Breach family violence order up 10.8% or 2,284 to 23,355 incidents and Drug possession up 13.8% or 1,668 to 13,751 incidents. In the year ending September 2020 data six new COVID-19-related Breach of Chief Health Officer Directions offences codes were introduced and are included in the Public health and safety offences., driving the large increase in this category. For more information about the impacts of COVID-19 on crime to end of September 2020 please see the CSA paper [Police-recorded crime trends in Victoria during the COVID-19 pandemic: update to the end of September](#).

In the five years to September 2020, the number of criminal incidents with a principal offence of Property and deception offences decreased by 15.8% (42,056 incidents) while increases were noted for Justice procedures offences (up 16.2% or 7,360 incidents) and Crimes against the person (up 11.5% or 6,665 incidents).

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



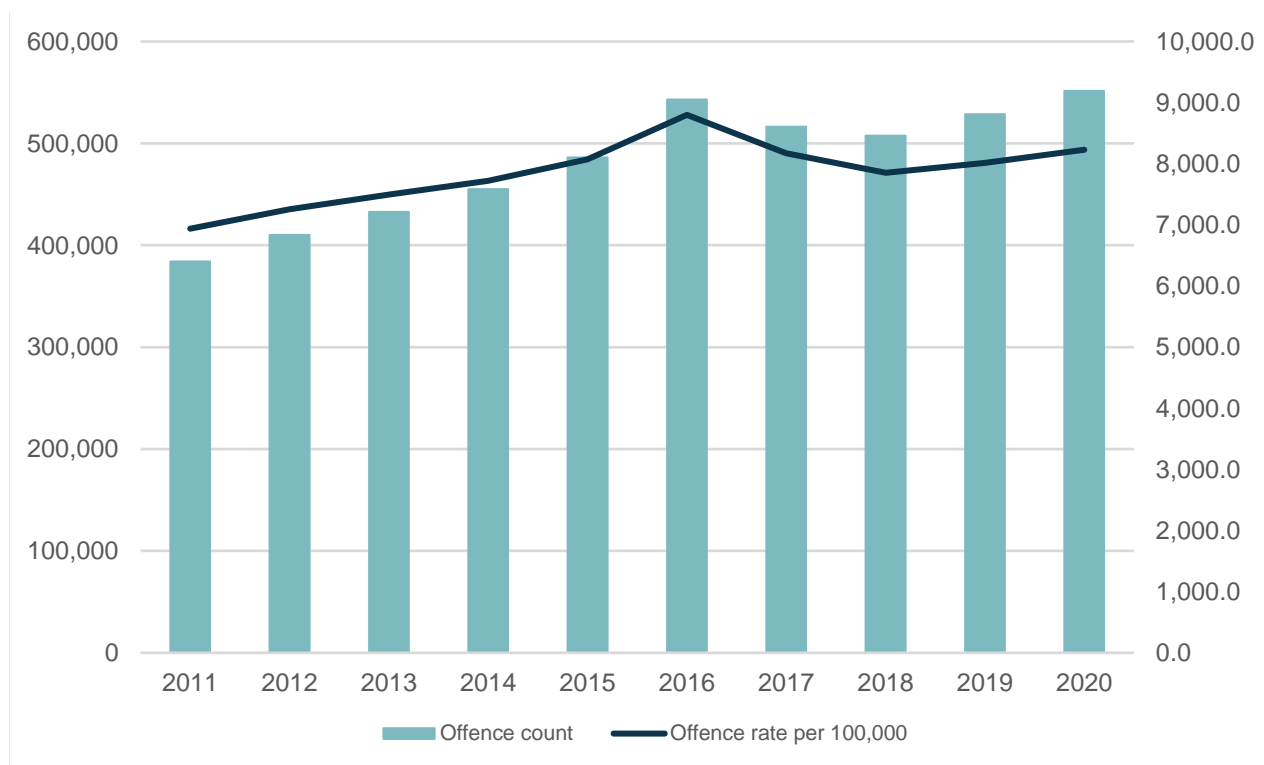
Please note that movements in recorded crime data may be impacted by changes in legislation and operational police practice. Information is available about notable changes in the [Explanatory Notes](#), refer to this information when comparing data over time.

## 2. Recorded offences

Recorded offences include any criminal act or omission by a person or organisation for which a penalty could be imposed by the Victorian legal system. For more information about counting rules, please refer to the [Explanatory Notes](#).

### 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										
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	1 yr % change
<b>Number</b>	384,199	410,139	432,827	455,088	486,163	543,214	516,436	507,541	528,481	551,710	4.4%
<b>Rate</b>	6,937.7	7,257.7	7,497.9	7,720.0	8,072.7	8,799.6	8,169.4	7,854.2	8,012.1	8,227.0	2.7%

Since early 2020 Victoria has been responding to the global COVID-19 pandemic through the use of public health and social responses. In Victoria, these responses have resulted in periods with varying levels of restrictions on people's movements; including working from home wherever possible, remote learning for students, the introduction of curfews, temporary closures of some businesses, restrictions on activities deemed non-essential, limits to social gatherings, and new hygiene sanitation practices, including the introduction of mask-wearing in public. The Victorian Government public health response to COVID-19 has been supported by the introduction of six new COVID-19-related offences codes relating to breaches of Chief Health Officer Directions. There were 32,713 breach of Chief Health Officer Directions offences recorded, driving the significant increase in Public health and safety offences. The number of recorded offences increased by 4.4% or 23,229 offences to 551,710 in the year ending September 2020.

## 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 for *Other* offences (up 2,426.4% or 32,684 offences), *Drug* offences (up 16.9% or 5,682 offences) and *Justice procedures* offences (up 5.3% or 4,145 offences). In contrast decreases were observed for *Property and deception* offences (down 5.1% or 15,045 offences) and *Public order and security* offences (down 14.7% or 5,171 offences).

The offence types that have contributed to the increase in Recorded offences include Public health and safety offences up 27,907.7% or 32,652 to 32,769 offences, Breach family violence order up 11.7% or 5,284 to 50,462 offences and Drug possession up 19.9% or 5,219 to 31,483 offences.

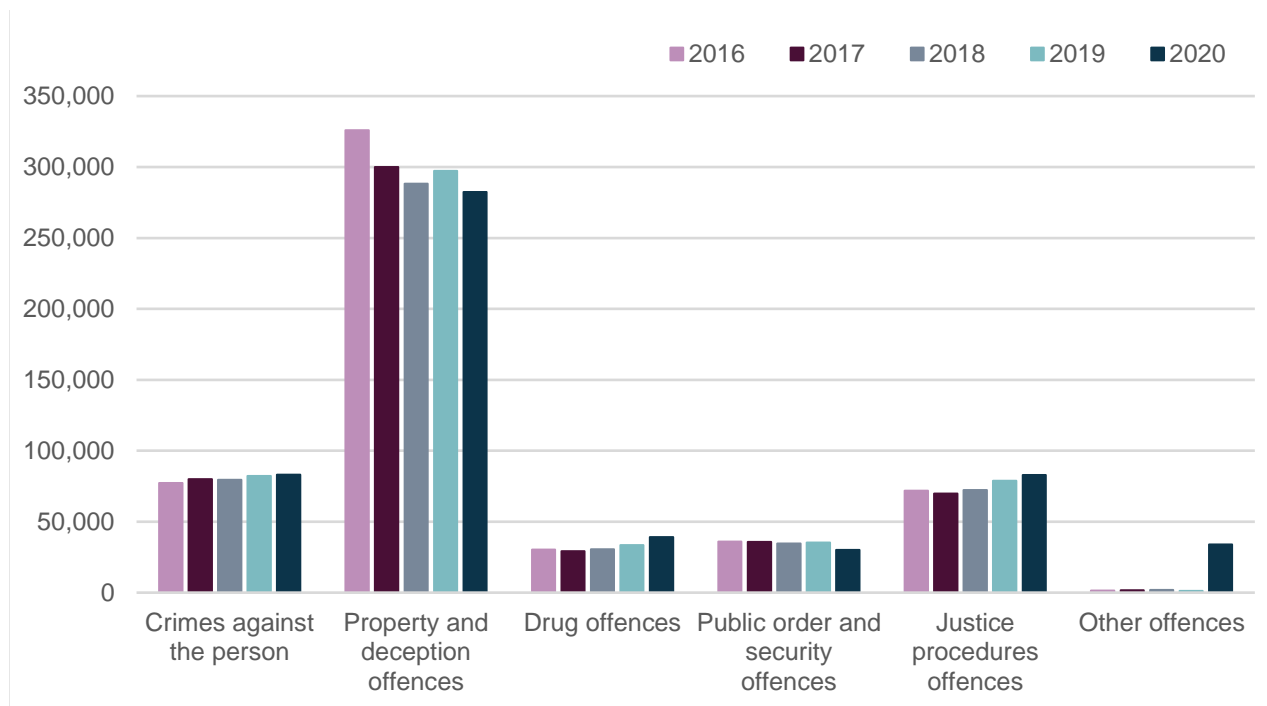
In the year ending September 2020 data six new COVID-19-related Breach of Chief Health Officer's Direction offence codes were introduced. There were 32,713 of these offences recorded in Public health and safety offences, here is a breakdown by offence code:

- 837AP REFUS/FAIL COMPLY DIR/REQ AUTH OFF (IND) – 29,223 offences
- 837AQ REFUS/FAIL COMPLY DIR/REQ AUTH OFF (B/C) – 66 offences
- 837AR - REF/FAIL COMPLY DIR/REQ WEAR FACE COVER – 3,337 offences
- 837AT - REF/FAIL COMPLY REQ SELF-ISO/QUARANTINE – 34 offences
- 837AV - LEAVE RESTRICTED AREA W/O VALID REAS/EXC ) – 49 offences
- 837AW - REF/FAIL COMPLY REQ-PRIV/PUB GATHERINGS – 4 offences

For more information about the impacts of COVID-19 on crime to end of September 2020 please see the CSA paper [Police-recorded crime trends in Victoria during the COVID-19 pandemic: update to the end of September](#).

In the five years to September 2020, the number of recorded offences for *Property and deception* offences decreased by 13.4% (43,706 offences) while *Justice procedures* offences increased by 15.3% (10,989 offences).

### Victorian offences recorded by offence category, 5 year trend



Please note, movements in recorded crime data may be impacted by changes in legislation and operational policing. Information about notable changes is in the [Explanatory Notes](#), refer to this when comparing data over time.



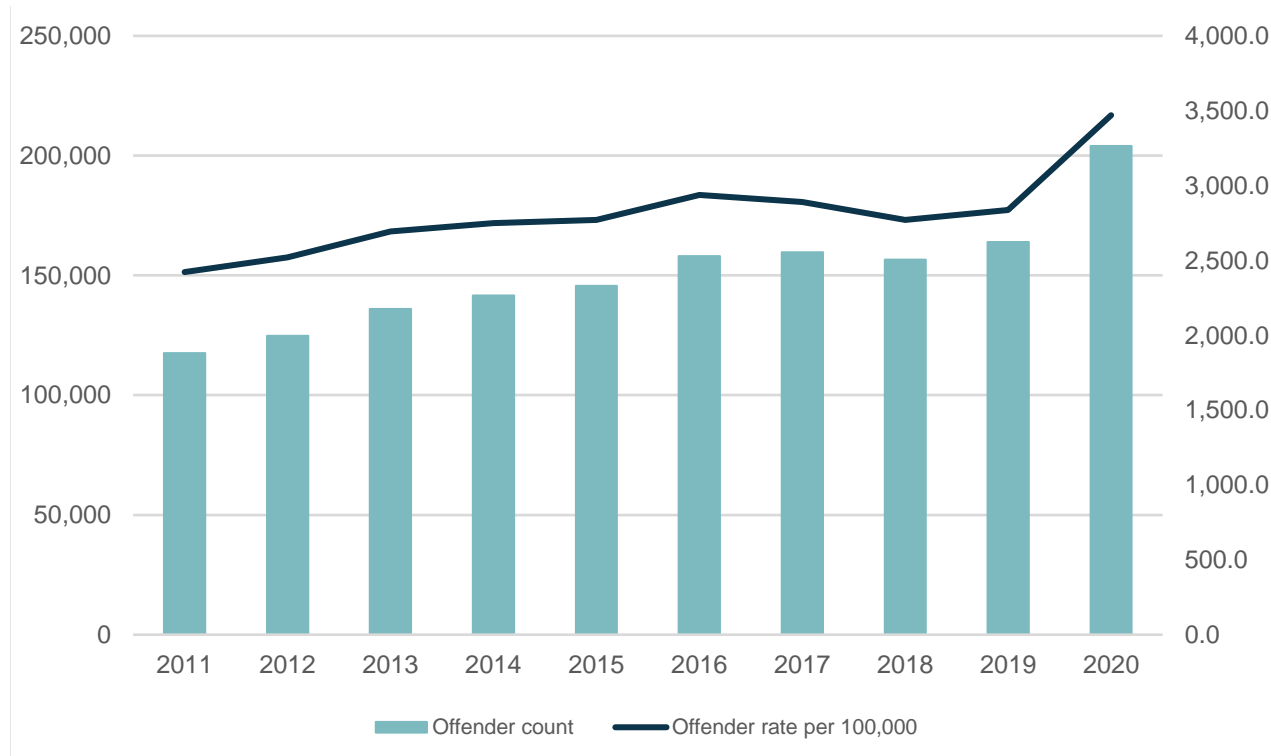


### 3. Alleged offender incidents

An alleged offender incident is an incident involving one or more offences where a person, business or organisation has been linked as an alleged offender. For more information about counting rules, please refer to the [Explanatory Notes](#).

#### 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										
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	1 yr % change
Number	117,559	124,733	135,988	141,587	145,656	158,131	159,606	156,540	163,959	204,068	24.5%
Rate	2,422.3	2,521.5	2,694.3	2,749.2	2,770.4	2,936.7	2,891.4	2,770.0	2,836.7	3,469.9	22.3%

Since early 2020 Victoria has been responding to the global COVID-19 pandemic through the use of public health and social responses. In Victoria, these responses have resulted in periods with varying levels of restrictions on people's movements; including working from home wherever possible, remote learning for students, the introduction of curfews, temporary closures of some businesses, restrictions on activities deemed non-essential, limits to social gatherings, and new hygiene sanitation practices, including the introduction of mask-wearing in public. The Victorian Government public health response to COVID-19 has been supported by the introduction of six new COVID-19-related offences codes relating to breaches of Chief Health Officer Directions. There were 32,713 breach of Chief Health Officer Directions offences recorded, driving the significant increase in Public health and safety offences.

## 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. For more information about counting rules, please refer to the [Explanatory Notes](#).

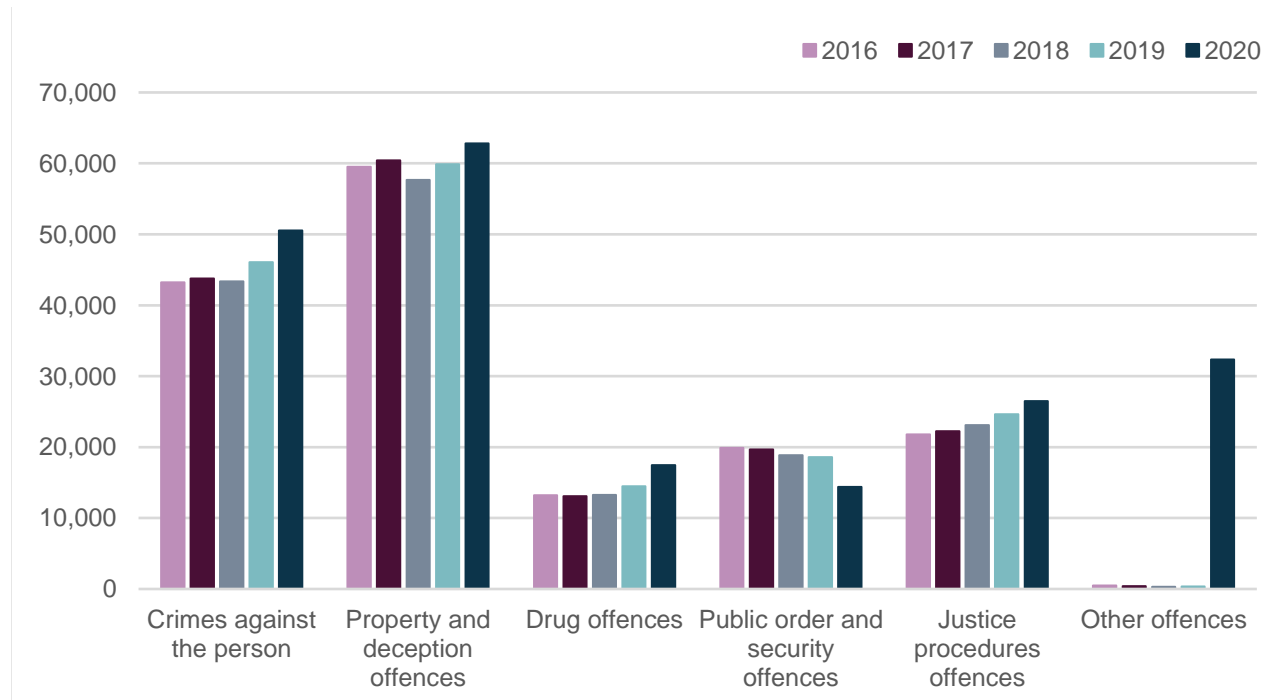
### Notable movements – alleged offender incidents

In the last 12 months, the number of alleged offender incidents increased across all principal offence categories, except for *Public order and security offences*. In the 12 months to September 2020, the number of alleged offender incidents with a principal offence of *Other offences* increased by 9,528.0% (32,014 incidents), *Crimes against the person* increased by 9.7% (4,480 incidents), *Drug offences* increased by 20.7% (3,002 incidents), *Property and deception offences* increased by 4.9% (2,958 incidents) and *Justice procedure offences* increased by 7.5% (1,854 incidents).

In the year ending September 2020 data six new COVID-19-related offences codes were introduced and are included in the Public health and safety offences. For more information about the impacts of COVID-19 on crime to end of September 2020 please see [Recorded offences](#) or the CSA paper [Police-recorded crime trends in Victoria during the COVID-19 pandemic: update to the end of September](#).

In the last five years, the number of alleged offender incidents with a principal offence of *Crimes against the person* increased by 16.9% (7,297 incidents), *Justice procedure offences* increased by 21.6% (4,697 incidents), *Drug offences* increased by 32.3% (4,266 incidents) and *Property and deception offences* increased by 5.5% (3,294 incidents) while *Public order and security offences* decreased by 27.6% (5,493 incidents).

### Alleged offender incidents by principal offence, 5 year trend



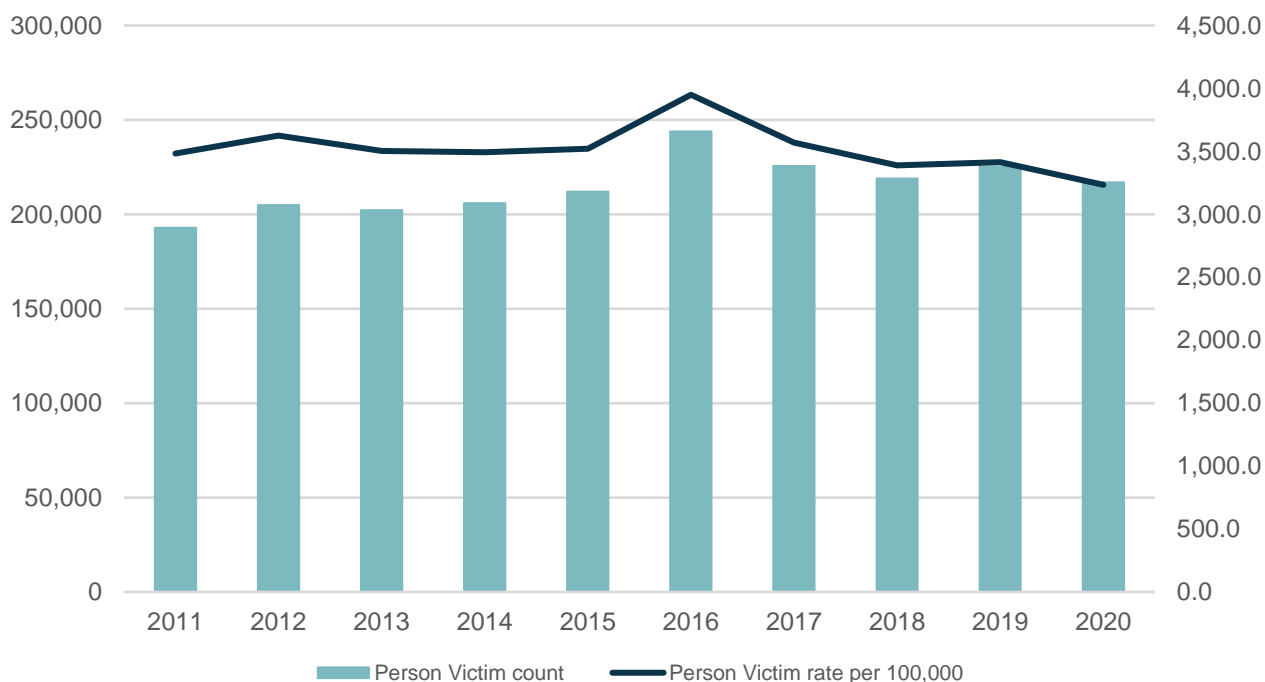
Please note that movements in recorded crime data may be impacted by changes in legislation and operational police practice. Information is available about notable changes in the [Explanatory Notes](#), refer to this information when comparing data over time.

## 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. For more information about counting rules, please refer to the [Explanatory Notes](#).

### 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**



	Victim Reports - year ending September										
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	1 yr % change
People	192,886	204,932	202,188	205,933	212,012	243,824	225,639	219,038	225,202	216,906	-3.7%
Organisations	72,169	75,743	76,095	75,741	76,356	88,535	82,398	80,315	84,363	78,417	-7.0%
Total victims	265,055	280,675	278,283	281,674	288,368	332,359	308,037	299,353	309,565	295,323	-4.6%
Person rate	3,483.1	3,626.4	3,502.5	3,493.4	3,520.4	3,949.7	3,569.3	3,389.6	3,414.2	3,234.5	-5.3%

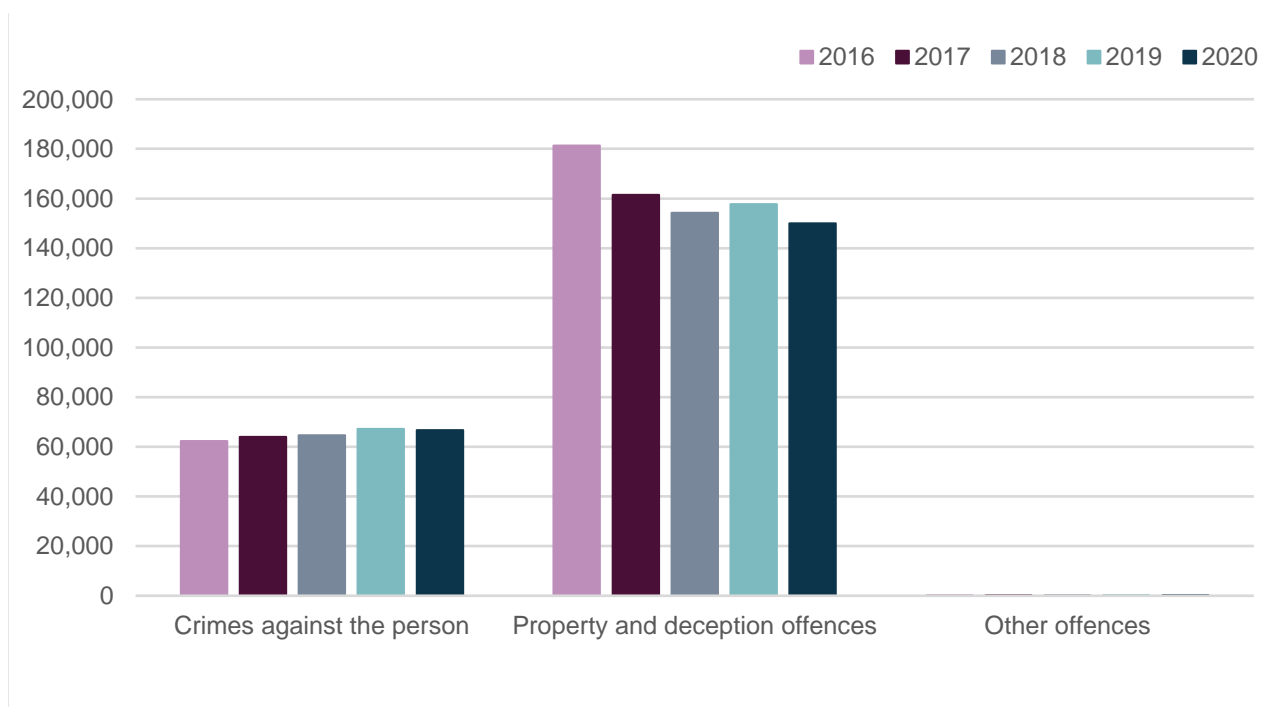
## 4.2 Number of victim reports by principal offence category

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 216,906 person victim reports recorded in the last 12 months, 149,986 (69.1%) had a principal offence of *Property and deception offences*, 66,755 reports (30.8%) were *Crimes against the person* and the remaining 165 victim reports were *Other offences*. The number of victim reports with a principal offence of *Crimes against the person* increased 7.1% (4,446 victims) in the five years from the year ending September 2016 but decreased 0.8% (529 victims) in the last 12 months. The number of victim reports with a principal offence of *Property and deception offences* decreased 4.9% (7,745 victims) in the last 12 months and in the five years from the year ending September 2016 there was a decrease of 17.3% (31,312 victims).

### Person victim reports by principal offence, 5 year trend

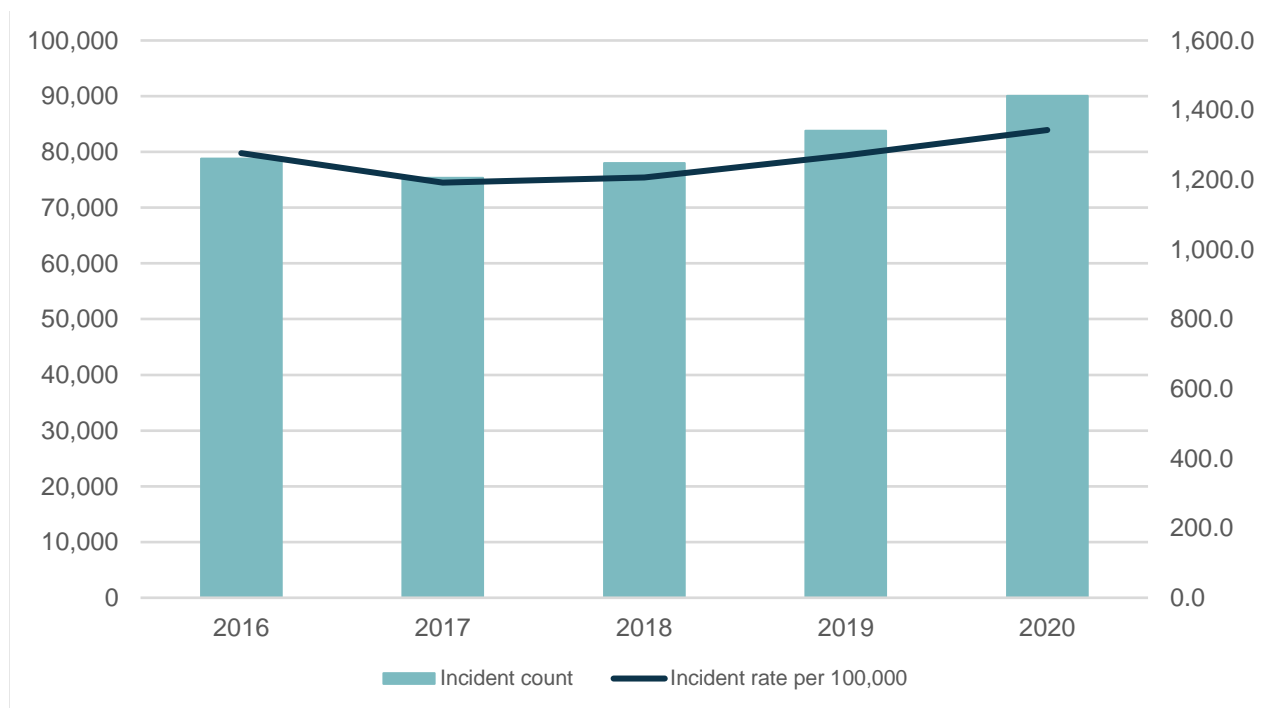


Please note that movements in recorded crime data may be impacted by changes in legislation and operational police practice. Information is available about notable changes in the [Explanatory Notes](#), refer to this information when comparing data over time.

## 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. For more information about counting rules, please refer to the [Explanatory Notes](#).

### 5.1 Key movements in the number and rate of family incidents



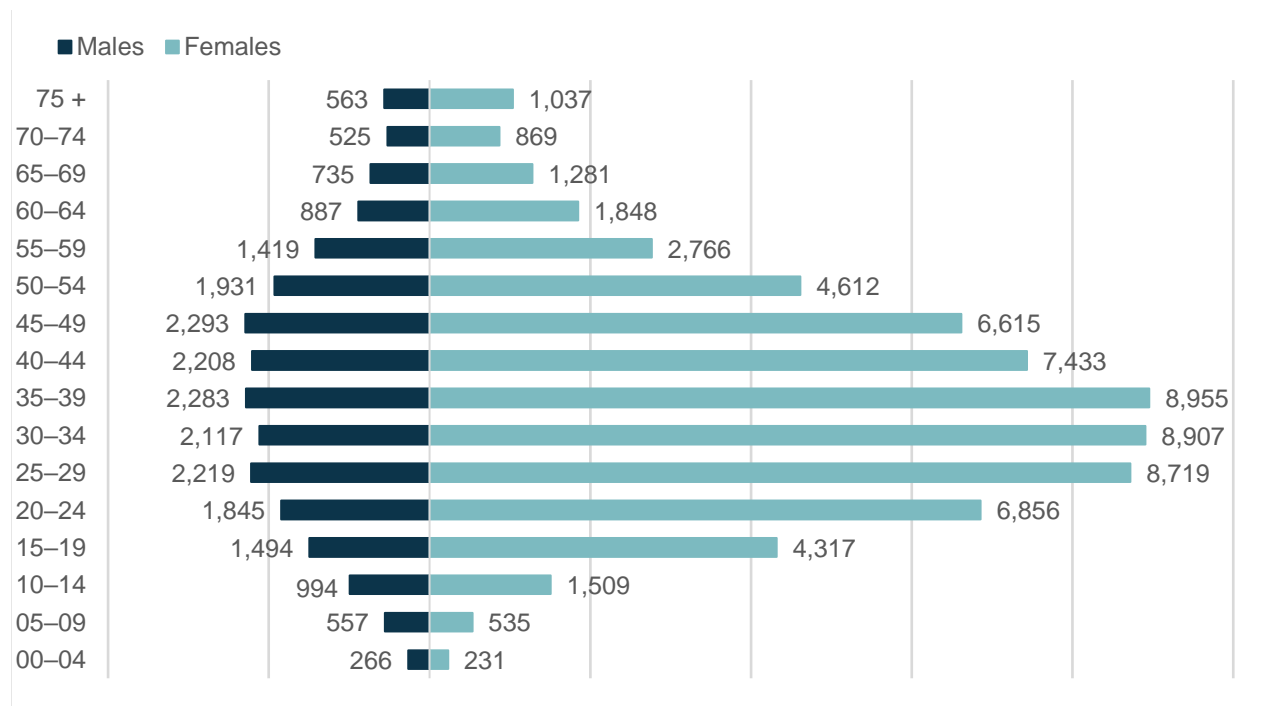
	Family Incidents - year ending September					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	1 yr % change
Number	78,798	75,346	77,986	83,773	90,056	7.5%
Rate	1,276.5	1,191.9	1,206.8	1,270.1	1,342.9	5.7%

## 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. For more information about counting rules, please refer to the [Explanatory Notes](#).

In the last 12 months, 74.8% (67,351) of the 90,063 affected family members were female, while 25.1% (22,619) were male. The number of male affected family members increased 8.5% (1,767) in the last 12 months and 15.3% (2,998) since the year ending September 2016. Similarly, female affected family members increased 7.2% (4,539) in the last 12 months and 14.0% (8,264) since the year ending September 2016.

### Affected family members by age and sex, year ending September 2020



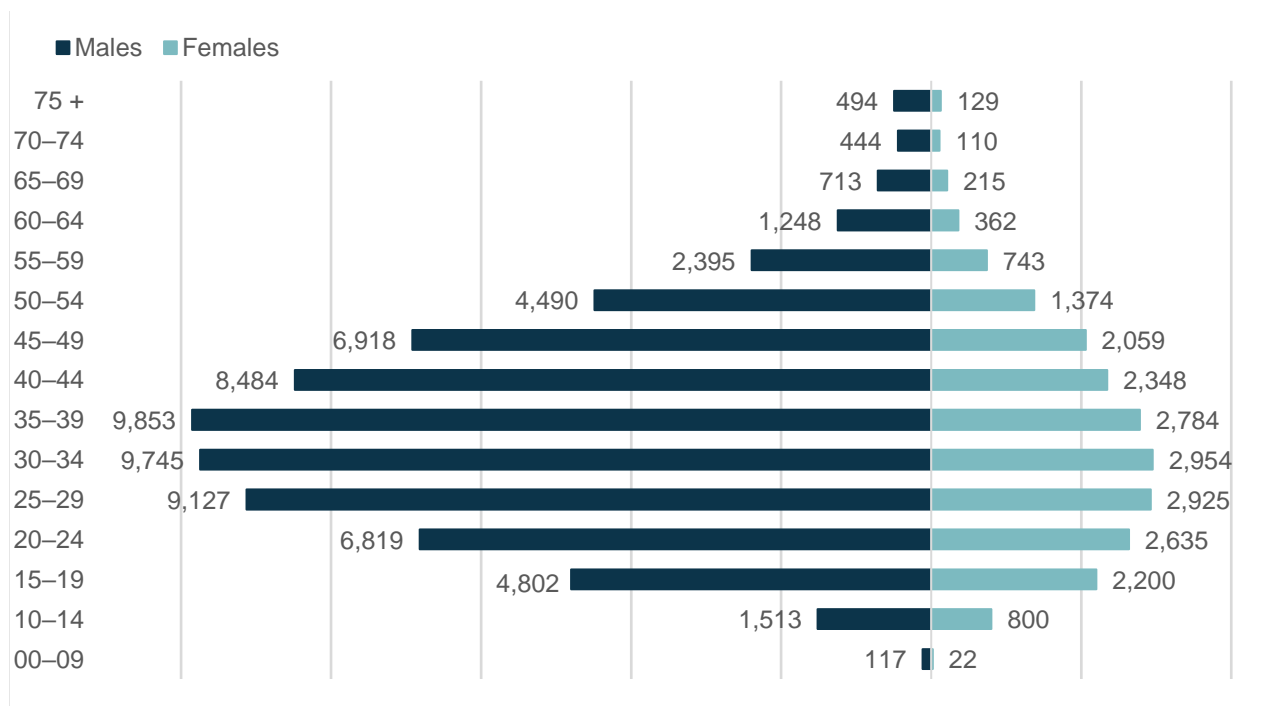
In response to COVID-19 Victoria Police commenced Operation Ribbon on 13 April 2020. Operation Ribbon focused specifically on active engagement with victim-survivors and known perpetrators of family violence and involved specialist detectives from the Family Violence Investigation Units across the state reaching out to Victorians who are at greater risk due to the COVID-19 lockdown. The recording of data related to specific police operations are often not easily identifiable in the LEAP databases. For more information about the impacts of COVID-19 on crime to end of September 2020 please see [Recorded offences](#) or the [Police-recorded crime trends in Victoria during the COVID-19 pandemic: update to the end of September](#).

## 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. For more information about counting rules, please refer to the [Explanatory Notes](#).

In the last 12 months, there were 90,064 other parties recorded, of which 75.4% (67,888) were male and 24.4% (21,974) were female. The number of male other parties increased 6.8% (4,346) in the last 12 months and 12.5% (7,533) since the year ending September 2016. Similarly, the number of female other parties increased 10.0% (1,990) in the last 12 months and 20.9% (3,806) since the year ending September 2016.

### Other parties by age and sex, year ending September 2020



In response to COVID-19 Victoria Police commenced Operation Ribbon on 13 April 2020. Operation Ribbon focused specifically on active engagement with victim-survivors and known perpetrators of family violence. Operation Ribbon involved specialist detectives from the Family Violence Investigation Units across the state reaching out to Victorians perceived to be at greater risk of family violence due to the impacts of COVID-19 and associated public health measures, including restricted movement. Offences relating to specific operations that are recorded in the LEAP database are often not easily identifiable. For more information about the impacts of COVID-19 on crime to end of September 2020 please see [Recorded offences](#) or the CSA paper [Police-recorded crime trends in Victoria during the COVID-19 pandemic: update to the end of September](#).



## 6. Alleged offender incidents by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status

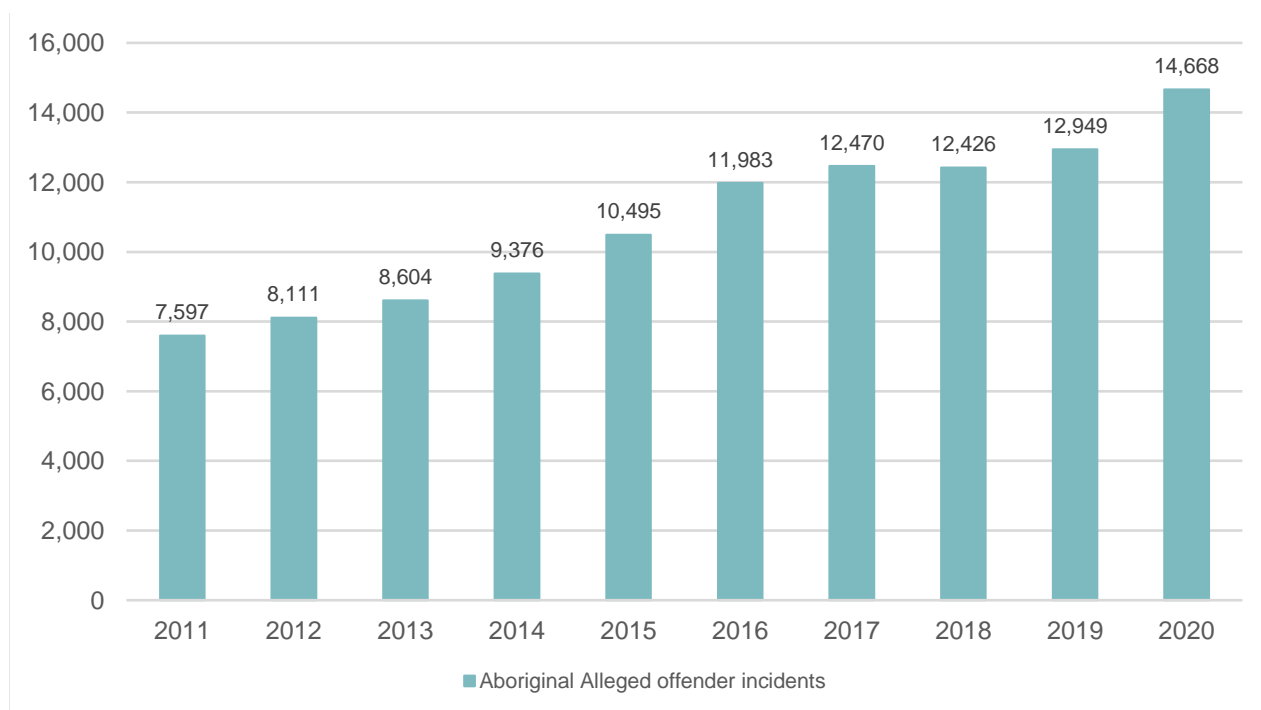
An alleged offender incident is an incident involving one or more offences where an individual, business or organisation has been recorded as an alleged offender. For more information about counting rules, please refer to the [Explanatory Notes](#).

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander status for alleged offender incidents are based on the most frequent recording of the Indigenous status for each offender. Under this counting rule, a person has either a yes or no response to the Standard Indigenous Question (SIQ) on their record, then the most frequent recorded response is taken as correct. If the person only has one meaningful response, then that response stands across all records. If a person appears in the dataset two different times with a 'yes' and a 'no' in the records, a 'yes' response is taken over a 'no' response. For more information on how this counting rule operates see the [Explanatory Notes](#).

For the purposes of the presentation of these data the term Aboriginal refers to the most frequent response a person has provided to Victoria Police when the SIQ was asked (Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander status).

### 6.1 Key movements in the number and rate of alleged offender incidents by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status

#### Victorian alleged offender incidents by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders status, 10 year trend



	Alleged Offender Incidents by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status - year ending September										
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	1 yr % change
Aboriginal	7,597	8,111	8,604	9,376	10,495	11,983	12,470	12,426	12,949	14,668	13.3%
Non-Indigenous	106,871	113,483	124,177	129,157	132,450	143,455	144,205	141,078	148,236	184,344	24.4%
Total Person	117,492	124,690	135,957	141,570	145,630	158,123	159,591	156,527	163,946	204,037	24.5%

Since early 2020 Victoria has been responding to the global COVID-19 pandemic through the use of public health and social responses. In Victoria, these responses have resulted in periods with varying levels of restrictions on people's movements; including working from home wherever possible, remote learning for students, the introduction of curfews, temporary closures of some businesses, restrictions on activities deemed non-essential, limits to social gatherings, and new hygiene sanitation practices, including the introduction of mask-wearing in public. The Victorian Government public health response to COVID-19 has been supported by the introduction of six new COVID-19-related offences codes relating to breaches of Chief Health Officer Directions. There were 32,713 breach of Chief Health Officer Directions offences recorded, driving the significant increase in Public health and safety offences.

## 6.2 Number of alleged offender incidents by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status 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.

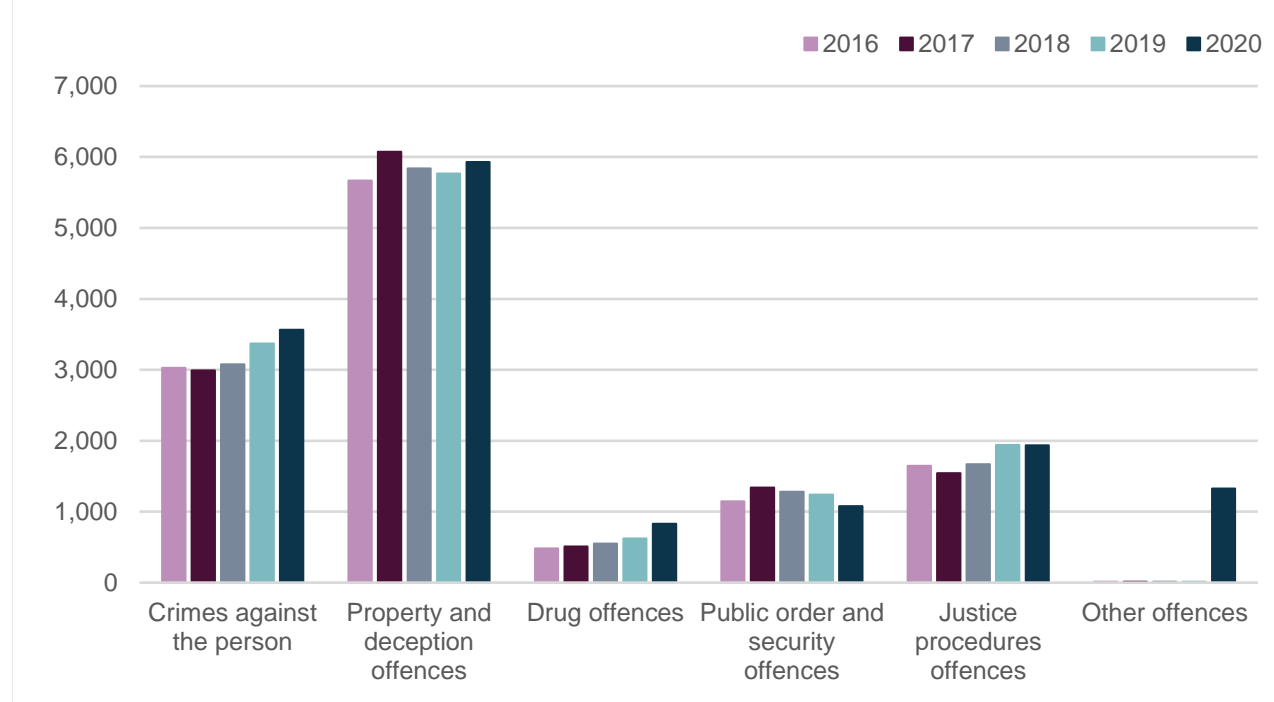
### Notable movements – alleged offender incidents by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status

In the last 12 months, the number of Aboriginal alleged offender incidents increased across all principal offence categories, except for *Public order and security offences* and *Justice procedure offences*. In the 12 months to September 2020, the number of alleged offender incidents with a principal offence of *Other offences* increased by 10,966.7% (1,316 incidents), *Drug offences* increased by 34.0% (211 incidents), *Crimes against the person* increased by 5.8% (194 incidents) and *Property and deception offences* increased by 2.8% (164 incidents).

In the year ending September 2020 data six new COVID-19-related Breach of Chief Health Officer Directions offences codes were introduced and are included in the Public health and safety offences. For more information about the impacts of COVID-19 on crime to end of September 2020 please see [Recorded offences](#) or the [Police-recorded crime trends in Victoria during the COVID-19 pandemic: update to the end of September](#).

In the last five years, the number of Aboriginal alleged offender incidents with a principal offence of *Crimes against the person* increased by 17.7% (535 incidents), *Drug offences* increased by 72.3% (349 incidents) and *Justice procedures offences* increased by 17.6% (289 incidents).

**Alleged offender incidents by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Status 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.

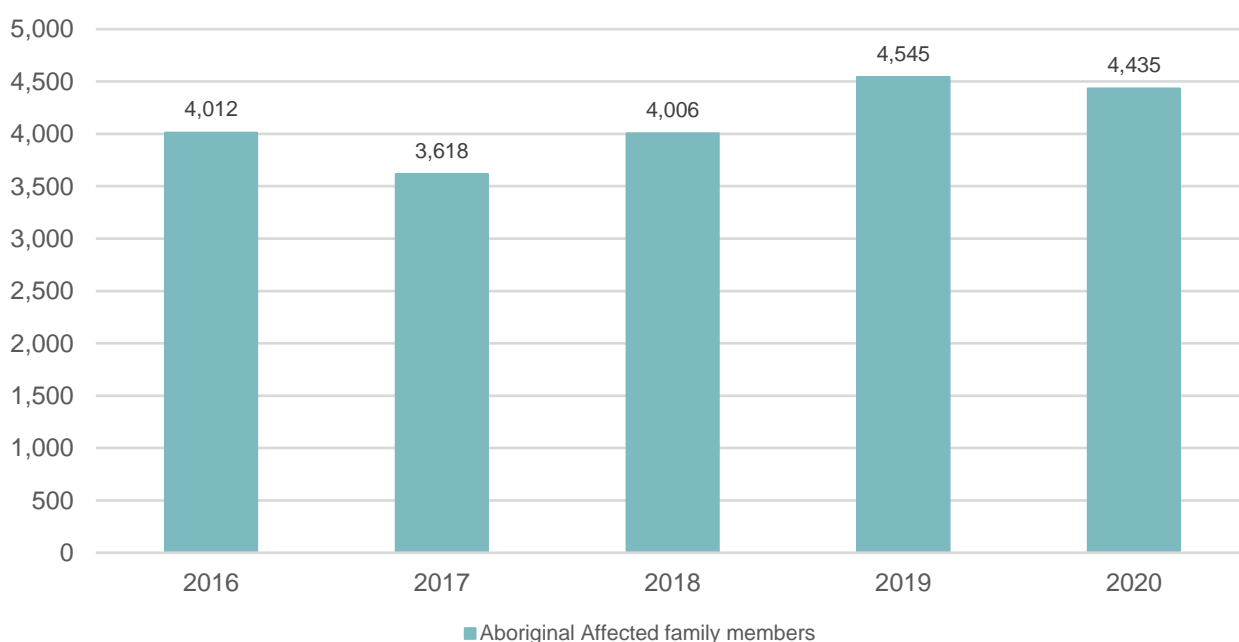
## 7. Family incidents by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status

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. For more information about counting rules, please refer to the [Explanatory Notes](#).

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander status for affected family members and other parties are based on the most frequent recording of the Indigenous status for each offender. Under this counting rule, a person has either a yes or no response to the Standard Indigenous Question (SIQ) on their record, then the most frequent recorded response is taken as correct. If the person only has one meaningful response, then that response stands across all records. If a person appears in the dataset two different times with a 'yes' and a 'no' in the records, a 'yes' response is taken over a 'no' response. For more information on how this counting rule operates see the [Explanatory Notes](#).

For the purposes of the presentation of these data the term Aboriginal refers to the most frequent response a person has provided to Victoria Police when the SIQ was asked (Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander status).

### 7.1 Key movements in Affected Family Members by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status



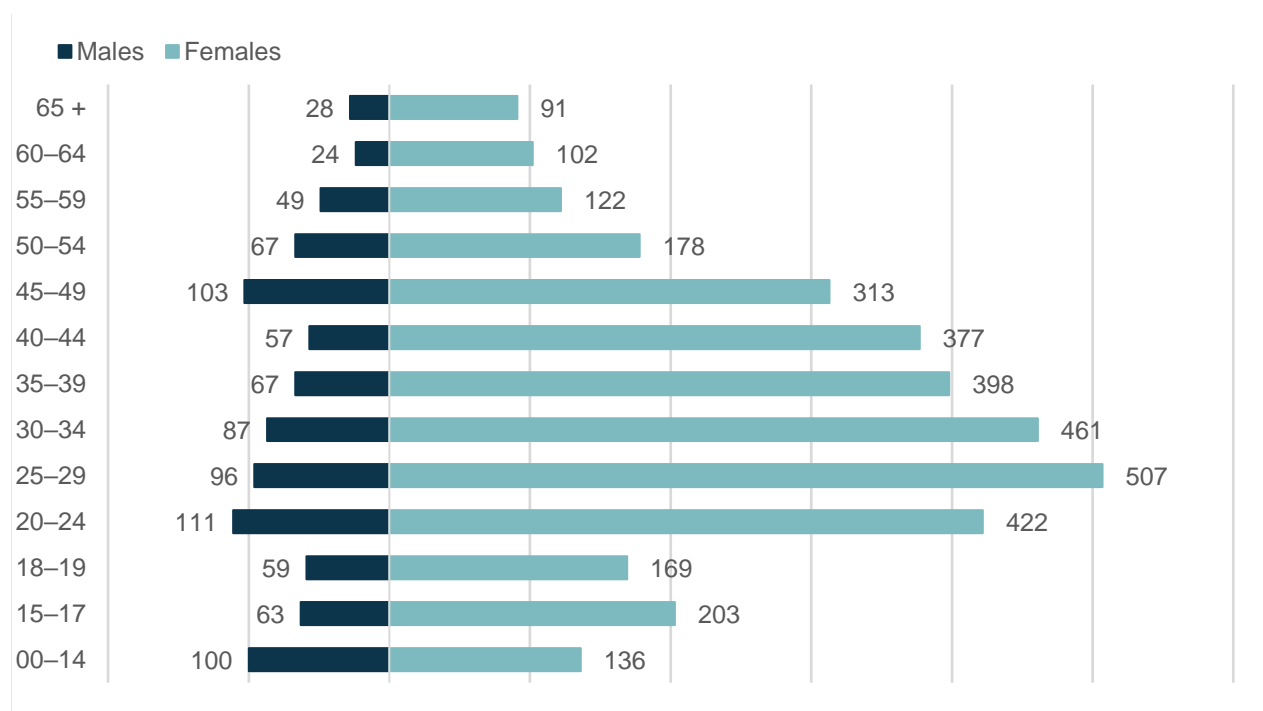
	Family Incidents by Aboriginal status - year ending September					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	1 yr % change
Aboriginal Affected Family Members	4,012	3,618	4,006	4,545	4,435	-2.4%
Non-Indigenous Affected Family Members	68,655	64,419	66,082	72,325	79,713	10.2%
Total Affected Family Members	78,799	75,347	77,986	83,773	90,063	7.5%

## Demographic characteristics of affected family members by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status

An 'affected family member' is the individual who is deemed to be affected by events occurring during a family incident. For more information about counting rules, please refer to the [Explanatory Notes](#).

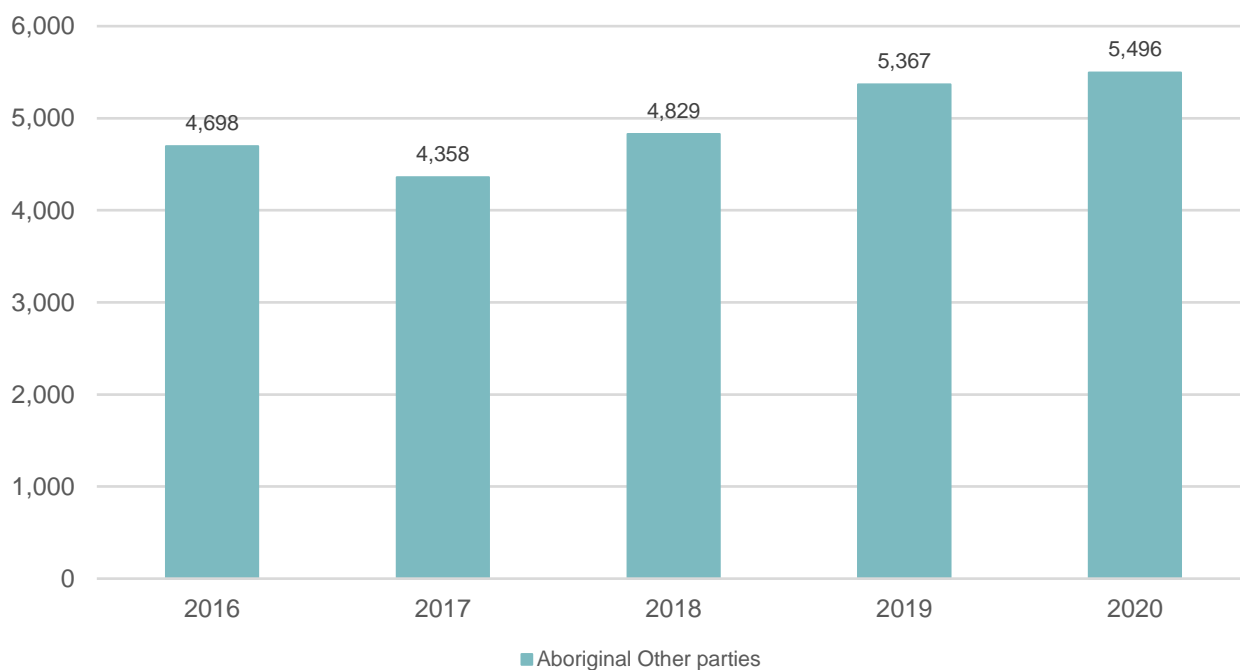
In the last 12 months, 79.3% (3,518) of the 4,435 Aboriginal affected family members were female, while 20.6% (915) were male. The number of male affected family members decreased 5.7% (55) in the last 12 months but increased 2.5% (22) since the year ending September 2016. Female affected family members decreased 1.5% (53) in the last 12 months but increased 12.8% (399) since the year ending September 2016.

### Affected family members by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status by age and sex, year ending September 2020



In response to COVID-19 Victoria Police commenced Operation Ribbon on 13 April 2020. Operation Ribbon focused specifically on active engagement with victim-survivors and known perpetrators of family violence. Operation Ribbon involved specialist detectives from the Family Violence Investigation Units across the state reaching out to Victorians perceived to be at greater risk of family violence due to the impacts of COVID-19 and associated public health measures, including restricted movement. Offences relating to specific operations that are recorded in the LEAP database are often not easily identifiable. For more information about the impacts of COVID-19 on crime to end of September 2020 please see [Recorded offences](#) or the CSA paper [Police-recorded crime trends in Victoria during the COVID-19 pandemic: update to the end of September](#).

## 7.2 Key movements in Other parties by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status



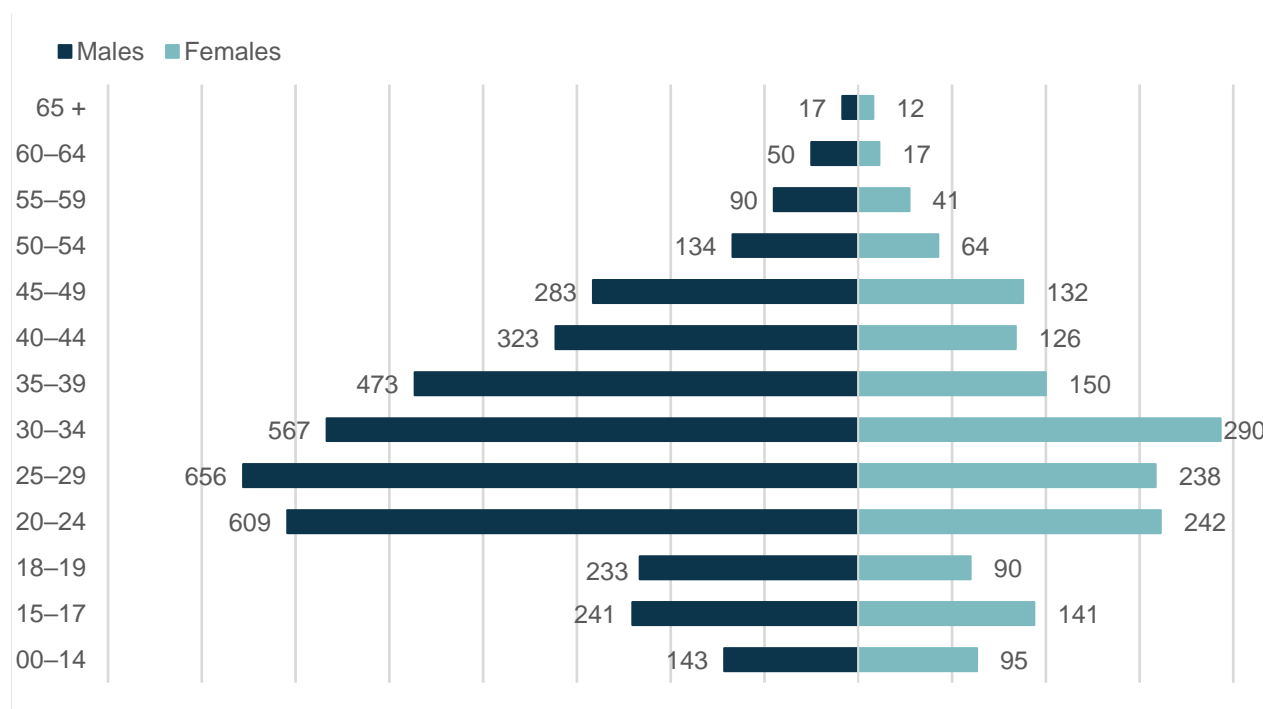
	Family Incidents by Aboriginal status - year ending September					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	1 yr % change
Aboriginal Other parties	4,698	4,358	4,829	5,367	5,496	2.4%
Non-Indigenous Other parties	70,820	67,341	69,240	74,786	80,997	8.3%
Total Other parties	78,797	75,347	77,986	83,772	90,063	7.5%

## Demographic characteristics of other parties by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status

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. For more information about counting rules, please refer to the [Explanatory Notes](#).

In the last 12 months, there were 5,496 Aboriginal other parties recorded, of which 69.8% (3,837) were male and 30.2% (1,659) were female. The number of male other parties decreased 1.3% (50) in the last 12 months but increased 11.7% (402) since the year ending September 2016. The number of female other parties increased 12.2% (180) in the last 12 months and 31.5% (397) since the year ending September 2016.

### Other parties by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status by age and sex, year ending September 2020



In response to COVID-19 Victoria Police commenced Operation Ribbon on 13 April 2020. Operation Ribbon focused specifically on active engagement with victim-survivors and known perpetrators of family violence. Operation Ribbon involved specialist detectives from the Family Violence Investigation Units across the state reaching out to Victorians perceived to be at greater risk of family violence due to the impacts of COVID-19 and associated public health measures, including restricted movement. Offences relating to specific operations that are recorded in the LEAP database are often not easily identifiable. For more information about the impacts of COVID-19 on crime to end of September 2020 please see [Recorded offences](#) or the CSA paper [Police-recorded crime trends in Victoria during the COVID-19 pandemic: update to the end of September](#).

