Unique victims and alleged offenders in Victoria

Year ending 30 June 2019



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# Introduction

This annual Crime Statistics Agency (CSA) publication presents data on unique victims and unique alleged offenders that have come into contact with Victoria Police (for more information see the [Explanatory Notes](https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/about-the-data/explanatory-notes)).

Data are recorded about the characteristics of people who come into contact with police, irrespective of the number of offences they commit, or the number of incidents they are involved in as either a victim or an alleged offender. Looking at recorded crime data from this perspective provides a profile of individuals who come into contact with police, their demographic characteristics, and how they compare to the Victorian population.

Data presented in this publication was extracted from the Victoria Police Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP) database on the 18th day of the month after the reference period. This annual publication presents an overview of:

* Unique alleged offenders
* Unique victims.

The CSA would like to acknowledge the Victoria Police staff and officers who assisted in the provision of data and information.

# 1. Unique alleged offenders in Victoria

In the year ending 30 June 2019, there were 84,989 unique alleged offenders recorded by Victoria Police, up 6.3% (5,048 unique alleged offenders) compared to the same period last year. This is the highest number of unique alleged offenders recorded in CSA data holdings, which go back to July 2004.

The offender rate increased 4.1% to 1,472.1 per 100,000 population in the past 12 months, equating to approximately 1.5 unique alleged offenders for every 100 people across the state.

**Unique alleged offenders, 10 year trend**

## 1.1 Sex and age of unique alleged offenders

In the year ending 30 June 2019, of the 84,965 alleged offenders where a sex was recorded, 65,092 (76.6%) were male and 19,873 (23.4%) were female. The number of male alleged offenders have increased 5.4% (3,331 alleged offenders) in the last 12 months. In the past five years there has been a 5.0% increase unique alleged offenders, up 3,109 alleged offenders from 61,983 in the year ending 30 June 2015. The number of female alleged offenders have increased 9.4% (1,708 alleged offenders) in the last 12 months, while the five year increase is 15.9% (2,728 alleged offenders) up from 17,145.

**Proportion of unique alleged offenders by sex, July 2014 to June 2019**

In the last 12 months the average age for alleged offenders where sex was recorded has increased to 33.9 years, this is the highest in CSA data holdings, which go back to July 2004. The average age for male alleged offenders was 34.2 years and the average age for females was 33.2 years. This is the highest average age for both males and females in CSA data holdings.

**Unique alleged offenders by sex and age, July 2018 to June 2019**

The age group with the highest number of alleged offenders in the current year was 25–29 years. This age group accounted for 12,243 unique alleged offenders (14.4%). There has been a trend over the last five years of a decreasing proportion of alleged offenders under the age of 25 years (from 33.8% to 28.1%) and an increase in the proportion of offenders aged 25 years or older (65.3% to 70.9%).

**Proportion of unique alleged offenders by age group, July 2014 to June 2019**

## 1.2 Family violence related unique alleged offenders

Of the 84,973 unique alleged offenders who were people, almost one third (26,850 or 31.6%) were involved as either an affected family member or other party in a family incident at least once in the 12 months to 30 June 2019. Male unique alleged offenders had a higher proportion of family related incidents within the reference period at 33.3% (21,677), whereas female alleged offenders who were involved in at least one family incident comprised 26.0% (5,172) of all female unique alleged offenders.

**Proportion of unique alleged offenders involved in a family incident by sex, July 2014 to June 2019**

## 1.3 Unique alleged offenders under 25 years of age

In the year ending June 2019, there were 7,422 unique alleged offenders aged under 18 years, up 1.4% compared to the same period last year. Of these alleged offenders under 18 years, 69.6% (5,163) were male and 30.4% (2,256) were female. Two thirds of alleged offenders under 18 years were aged between 15 and 17 years (69.6%).

Unique alleged offenders aged 18 to 24 comprised 19.4% (16,488) of all alleged offenders, and increased 2.5% (403 alleged offenders) compared to the same period last year. Unique alleged offenders 25 years of age and over comprised approximately two thirds of all unique alleged offenders in the year ending June 2019, and have been increasing steadily as a proportion over the past five years (65.3% to 70.9%).

**Proportion of unique alleged offenders by age groups, year ending June 2019**

## 1.4 Repeat offending

Repeat offending is defined as when people have been linked to more than one criminal incident within a 12 month financial year reference period. People who have been alleged offenders across financial year reference periods will only be counted in each of the relevant reference periods.

Of the 84,973 unique alleged offenders recorded in the year ending June 2019, 66.5% (56,499) were only involved in one incident during the reference period. Males were more likely to have been involved in multiple incidents, with 34.4% of male alleged offenders linked to more than one incident, compared to 30.6% of females.

**Unique alleged offenders, number of repeat offender incidents by age group, year ending June 2019**

The age group with the highest proportion of repeat alleged offenders in the year ending June 2019 was males between 30–34 years (38.7%), who had an average of 2.2 incidents within the last 12 months. Male alleged offenders aged 35–39 had the next highest proportion of repeat alleged offenders (38.5%) with an average of 2.1 incidents.

# 2. Unique victims of crime in Victoria

In the year ending June 2019 there were 226,167 unique victims of crime recorded by Victoria Police. The number of victims of crime has decreased 0.8% or 1,826 unique victims compared to the same period last year. This number is the lowest since the year ending June 2015. Of this number, 186,812 (82.6%) of victims were people, and 39,355 (17.4%) were organisations. The proportion of organisations as victims has remain stable over the last 5 years.

In the last 12 months there was a decrease in the victimisation rate per 100,000 population (down 2.9% to 2,832.4 from 2,915.7), the lowest rate in the last 5 years. Approximately 3 in every 100 people in Victoria were victims of crime in the year to June 2019.

**Unique victims, 10 year trend**

## 2.1 Sex and age of unique victims

In the year ending 30 June 2019, of the 186,603 unique person victims where a sex was recorded, 104,820 (56.2%) were male and 81,783 (43.8%) were female. These numbers have decreased in the last 12 months, down 1.0% (1,081 victims) for males and 0.3% for females (273 victims).

**Unique victims (excluding organisations), proportion of victims by sex, 5 year trend**

The proportional split between male and female victims has remained stable over time, however since the year ending June 2015 the numbers have increased for both males (3.3%, 3,315 victims) and females (3.7%, 2,941 victims).

**Unique victims by sex and age, year ending June 2019**

The average age of person victims where sex was recorded was 39.2 years, and the age group with the highest number of victims was 25–29 years (23,811 victims). For male victims the average age was 39.7 years and the average age for females was 38.6 years. There were more male victims than females in every age group except for the 10–14 age group where there were a higher number of female victims.

## 2.2 Unique victims involved in family violence

Of the 186,812 unique victims recorded in the year ending June 2019, 27,768 were involved in a family incident at least once within the reference period as either an ‘affected family member’ or ‘other party’. Males had a lower proportion of family related incidents at 7.3%, whereas female victims who were involved in at least one family incident comprised 24.6% of all female unique victims.

The number of unique victims involved in a family incident increased for both males (1.6% or 118 victims) and females (5.2% or 990 victims) in the last 12 months. Since the year ending June 2015 the number of unique victims involved in a family incident has increased for both males (14.3% or 953 victims) and females (19.4% or 3,265 victims) in the last 12 months.

**Unique victims involved in a family incident by sex, 5 year trend**

## 2.3 Youth victims

In the year ending June 2019, there were 10,588 unique victims aged under 18 years, down 3.3% (356 victims) compared to the same period last year. This was driven by a 5.2% (287 victims) decrease in female victims. Male victims also decreased 1.3% (71 victims) in the last 12 months. Youth victims comprised 5.7% of all unique victims, with 50.2% (5,319) being male and 49.7% (5,267) female. Almost half of youth victims were aged between 15 and 17 years in the last 12 months (47.0%).

**Unique youth victims by sex, July 2014 to June 2019**

## 2.4 Repeat victimisation

Repeat victimisation is counted when people have had more than one victim report recorded within a 12 month period. People who have been victimised across more than one reference period will be counted in each of the reference periods that they reported being a victim.

Of the 186,812 person victims recorded in the year to June 2019, 91.8% (171,474) of victims only had one report recorded by police within the reference period, and there was very little variation between males and females. Of the remaining victims 15,338 (8.2%) had more than one victim report within the reference period. There were also 2,841 victims with three or more incidents of victimisation recorded in the last 12 months.

**Proportion of multiple victim reports recorded within the reference period, July 2014 to June 2019**

Those who were most likely to experience repeat victimisation were females between 10–14 years. Of the 1,896 female victims aged 10–14 years, 11.0% (209 victims) had more than one victim report recorded in the reference period.

Organisations had higher proportions of repeat victimisation. There were 39,355 victims recorded that were identified as organisations, of which 10,818 (27.5%) reported being a victim on more than one occasion. There were also 2,686 organisation victims with five or more victim reports, comprising 6.8% of all organisation victims in the last 12 months.