19 March 2015

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MEDIA RELEASE
Embargo: 9:00AM Thursday 19 March 2015

Crime Statistics Agency releases its first set of crime statistics

The Crime Statistics Agency has today released its first set of crime statistics for Victoria for the year ending 31 December 2014.

Recorded crime statistics show that there were 456,381 offences recorded by Victoria Police in 2014, up 4.3% compared to 2013.

The 2014 crime rate was 7,808.6 offences per 100,000 people, an increase of 2.5%.

Family related incidents continued to rise, up 8.2% to 68,134 in 2014.

Offender incidents increased 5.5% from 152,911 in 2013 to 161,249 in 2014

Victim reports made to police have decreased by 0.6% compared to the same period last year, making the victimisation rate 4,773.5 per 100,000 population.

Crime Statistics Agency Chief Statistician Fiona Dowsley said she was pleased to release the Agency's first quarterly report.

`The Crime Statistics Agency's goal is to make crime statistics available to the Victorian community in a clear and accessible way, and today's release is the first step in doing this,' Ms Dowsley said.

`I would like to thank Victoria Police for their support and assistance in ensuring a smooth transition of crime reporting functions to the Crime Statistics Agency.'

The Crime Statistics Agency commenced operations on 1 January 2015. The Agency is responsible for processing, analysing and releasing rolling 12-month Victoria Police crime statistics every three months.

Further information, including Local Government Area data, can be found in the latest crime statistics quarterly release, available to download from the CSA website:
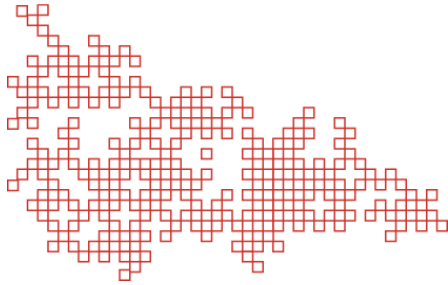
http://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/home/crime+statistics/latest+crime+data/

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CSA FACT SHEET: RECORDED CRIME STATISTICS – YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2014
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State wide figures

- The number of offences recorded by police in the year to 31 December 2014 was 456,381, a rate of 7808.6 per 100,000 population. This is up 4.3% from 437,409 offences in 2013.
- Family incidents increased in 2014, up 8.2% from 62,988 in 2013 to 68,134 in 2014.
- There were 161,249 offender incidents recorded in 2014, up 5.5% from 152,911 in 2013.
- Victim reports decreased slightly by 0.6% in 2014 to 278,991 victim reports.

Offence trends

Between 2013 and 2014, the major offence categories that showed a significant upward trend were:

- Sexual assault and related offences (up 9.5% from 9,806 to 10,738)
- Stalking, harassment and threatening behaviour (up 10.8% from 10,573 to 11,719)
- Dangerous or negligent acts endangering people (up 14.4% from 3,776 to 4,320)
- Breaches of orders (up 56.9% from 29,497 to 46,295)
- Regulatory driving offences (up 95.8% from 24 to 47)
- Miscellaneous offences - including cruelty to animals, environmental, public health and safety and dangerous substance offences (up 26% from 373 to 470)

The major offence categories that showed a significant downward trend were:

- Robbery (down 11.1% from 2,723 to 2,421)

All other offence categories were stable.

Local Government Area level figures

The five Local Government Areas with the highest offence rates were:

1. Melbourne (26,246.9 offences per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 6.3%)
2. Latrobe (15,721.5 offences per 100,000 estimated resident population, up 13%)
3. Yarra (14,864.9 offences per 100,000 estimated resident population, up 11.2%)
4. Horsham (12,050.6 offences per 100,000 estimated resident population, up 29.6%)
5. Wangaratta (11,617.7 offences per 100,000 estimated resident population, up 29.9%)

For a detailed breakdown of the data, click to view the crime statistics quarterly release

For a breakdown of offences at the LGA level, click to access the CSA crime by location tool

For explanatory information and definitions for the latest release, see the explanatory notes and glossary