17 March 2022 01/2022

**MEDIA RELEASE**

Embargo: 9:00AM Thursday 17 March 2022

**Key crime measures decrease, victimisation rates are the lowest ever reported by CSA**

The Crime Statistics Agency (CSA) released the Victorian recorded crime statistics for the year ending 31 December 2021 today.

The rate of recorded offences decreased 12.6% to 7,157.2 per 100,000 Victorians in the last 12 months, as did the number of offences, down 12.8% to 477,999. This decrease was driven by Breach of Chief Health Officer (CHO) directions1 related to the COVID-19 pandemic, Property and deception related offences and Drug offences.

The victimisation rate decreased by 3.3% to 3,000.2 reports per 100,000 Victorians and is the lowest ever reported by the CSA. The number of person-related victim reports also decreased (down 3.6% to 200,371), to its lowest level since 2011, as did the number of organisation reports (down 9.6% to 65,194). This is the lowest number of organisations as victims of crime the CSA has reported. These decreases for person-related victim reports were driven by acquisitive crime types, all property and deception offence types decreased in the last 12 months.

In the 12 months to 31 December 2021 the criminal incident rate decreased 13.0% to 5,232.4 per 100,000 Victorians as did the number of incidents, down 13.2% to 349,452 incidents.

Alleged offender incidents decreased 18.9% to 162,435 in the last 12 months, as did the rate down 18.8% to 2,767.6 per 100,000. This decrease was driven by fewer Breach of CHO directions offences[[1]](#footnote-2), Drug offences and acquisitive crime types. On the other hand, E21 Breach family violence order increased (up 6.3%), as did A23 Common assault and B21 Criminal damage.

Family incidents decreased 1.5% in the last 12 months to 91,144 incidents, this is the first decrease since 2017. The rate of family incidents also decreased in the last 12 months, down 1.2% to 1,364.7 incidents per 100,000 Victorians, also the first decrease since 2017.

CSA Chief Statistician Fiona Dowsley said that “decreases in acquisitive crime such as thefts and burglaries have driven the Victimisation rate down in the last 12 months to the lowest levels ever reported by the CSA.”

”As COVID-19-related health responses and restrictions have evolved there have continued to be fewer Breaches CHO directions offences recorded in the past 12 months” Ms Dowsley said.

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 31 DECEMBER 2021**

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**Statewide figures**

1. The number of criminal incidents recorded by Victoria Police in the year to 31 December 2021 was 349,452, down 13.2% from 402,754 incidents recorded in the same period last year.
2. The number of offences recorded by Victoria Police in the year 31 December 2021 was 477,999. This is down 12.8% from 548,086 offences recorded in the same period last year.
3. Alleged offender incidents decreased 18.9% to 162,435 in the year to 31 December 2021, down from 200,225.
4. Victim reports decreased in the year to 31 December 2021, down 5.2% (14,424) to 265,565 victim reports.
5. Family incidents decreased in the year to 31 December 2021, down 1.5% from 92,513 to 91,144.
6. Alleged offender incidents with an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status decreased 10.2% to 13,126 in the year to 31 December 2021.
7. In the year to December 2021 the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status of those involved in Family incident increased for Affected family members (up 4.5% to 4,936) while Other parties increased (up 2.5% to 6,037).

**Local Government Area level figures**

**Criminal Incidents**

**The highest criminal incident rates in Local Government Areas in the year ending** December **2021 were:**

1. Melbourne (14,717.3 incidents per 100,000 estimated resident population, up 0.9%)
2. Latrobe (10,489.5 incidents per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 17.2%)
3. Yarra (9,194.6 incidents per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 16.6%)
4. Greater Shepparton (8,790.6 incidents per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 2.0%)
5. Swan Hill (8,537.2 incidents per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 1.3%).

**Recorded Offences**

**The highest recorded offence rates in Local Government Areas in the year ending** December **2021 were:**

1. Melbourne (20,060.8 offences per 100,000 estimated resident population, up 1.0%)
2. Latrobe (14,874.6 offences per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 17.2%)
3. Greater Shepparton (13,512.1 offences per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 1.1%)
4. Ararat (13,353.6 offences per 100,000 estimated resident population, up 2.0%)
5. Swan Hill (12,182.7 offences per 100,000 estimated resident population, up 0.3%).

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**Crime category trends**

**For the year ending 31** December **2021, the offence subdivisions that showed significant upward trends in the last 24 months were:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Criminal Incidents**   * Stalking, harassment & threatening behaviour | **Recorded Offences** |

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

**For the year ending 31** December **2021, the offence subdivisions that showed a significant downward trend in the last 24 months were:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Criminal Incidents**   * Deception * Drug dealing and trafficking * Drug use and possession * Breaches of orders | **Recorded Offences**   * Theft * Drug dealing and trafficking * Drug use and possession |

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/).

1. To represent Breach of CHO offences in Alleged offender incidents F92 Public health and safety offences is used as a proxy as the majority of the offences recorded in this group are Breach of CHO offences (99.8%). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)