

AJI Interactive Visualisation Guide for Use

Introduction

The Crime Statistics Agency (CSA) has designed the Aboriginal Justice Indicators (AJI), a set of interactive visualisations to help provide important data to the Department of Justice and Community Safety relating to Aboriginal people and their contact with the criminal justice system in Victoria.

A large part of the visualisations are related directly to specific indicators that key stakeholders within the Department of Justice and Community Safety have identified as important to measure. However, they also present other Aboriginal-related measures relating to their contact with the criminal justice system, which expands their usefulness. They are designed to be flexible and will be updated when new data is received by the CSA. Additionally, further measures can be added if demand exists.

At present, the visualisations relate to Victoria Police data. This draws on their Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP).

The remainder of this guide will outline key points in navigating through the visualisations and how to filter the data to focus on areas of special interest.

A note on terminology in the visualisations

The Koori Caucus of the Aboriginal Justice Forum has previously stated that the term 'Koori' is the preferred term in justice-related initiatives to describe the indigenous inhabitants of Victoria. However, it should be noted that not all Aboriginal people are necessarily of Koori background. The nationally endorsed question to determine Aboriginal status (known as the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Standard Indigenous Question), collects information on whether people are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. For the purposes of this visualisation, the term Aboriginal is used, which refers to people who identify as both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

Using the interactive visualisations

The visualisations have a navigation panel along the top. This allows you to explore each of the components by clicking on the box that you are interested in. At present, there are two general overview topics which provide an introduction, before more specific slides are presented which relate more directly to the Aboriginal Justice Indicators.



The first visualisation includes information about the data used as well as key definitions of the terms used in each of the subsequent visualisations.



This visualisation is designed to provide important data relating to Aboriginal people and their contact with Victoria Police. Statistics presented here were extracted from LEAP (Law Enforcement Assistance Program). The data are subject to change over time.

Reference period

The reporting period for the data presented here is from 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2017. Data is presented by calendar year.

Indicator progress tab

A range of key indicators are summarised in the 'Key AJI Progress' tab. These have been identified by key stakeholders within the Department of Justice and Regulation as key measures of Aboriginal people and their contact with the justice system. All of these indicators are presented in greater detail throughout the dashboard.

Change from previous visualisation

The CSA has implemented a new methodology for various indicators throughout this visualisation. In previous versions the main counting unit was the criminal incident, which is an occurrence of criminal activity. The new method better reflects the volume of overall criminal conduct, including where multiple offences were committed within the same incident.

Offence classification

Offences have been identified as per CSA's Offence Classification. Further information on the classification process is available at <https://crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/about-the-data/classifications-and-victorian-map-boundaries/offence-classification>.

Key terms and definitions

Aboriginal: For the purposes of this dashboard, Aboriginal is defined as anyone who identified as either Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Not Aboriginal: Anyone who identified as Non-Aboriginal and cases where Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander status was unknown.

Family Incident: An incident attended by Victoria Police where a Risk Assessment and Risk Management Report (also known as an L17 form) was completed. The report is completed when family violence incidents, interfamily-related sexual offences, and child abuse are reported to police.

Incident: As defined by Victoria Police, an incident relates to a unique event where there is an allegation of one or more crimes being committed.

Rates: Rates are calculated per 1,000 people in Victoria using the most recent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population projections data and Estimated Resident Population (ERP) data provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. It should be noted these estimates are not official statistics and as a result should be treated with caution. CSA is awaiting the publication of ERP data by sex, age, and LGA (scheduled for 30 August 2017) before it can derive sub-state population estimates. As a result, rates are unavailable for selected indicators throughout the visualisation. These will be added once the required data are available.

Regional Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee (RAJAC): The nine RAJACs bring together key Koori community members and justice agencies in each region.

'Unknown' Aboriginal Status: Please note that these data are affected by individuals who have an 'Unknown' Aboriginal status recorded. This varies depending on the population. The percentage who were recorded with this status is provided throughout, depending on the relevant population. The data throughout the visualisation should be interpreted with caution.

Abbreviations

AFM - Affected Family Member

AJI - Aboriginal Justice Indicators

LEAP - Law Enforcement Assistance Program

OTH - Other Party

RAJAC - Regional Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee



Filtering the visualisations


Each visualisation contains filters that allow you to focus on areas of interest. The main filters included are:

- Sex
- Aboriginal Status
- Calendar year
- Age group

The screenshot shows a filtering interface with the following elements:

- Year of incidents:** A text input field containing '2012' and a horizontal slider with left and right arrow buttons.
- Offence division:** A dropdown menu currently showing 'All Crimes'.
- Age group:** Three radio button options: '10-17' (selected), '18-24', and '25+'.
- Sex:** A text input field containing 'Females' and a horizontal slider with left and right arrow buttons.

Handy hints

On some of the visualisations you will see this symbol: . This denotes there is a hint or tip that relates to that specific measure. Hover your mouse over the symbol and the tip will pop up.

Data quality

The data in these visualisations are affected by individuals who do not have an Aboriginal status recorded (they are instead recorded as 'Unknown'). Throughout the visualisations, anyone with an 'Unknown' Aboriginal status has been included alongside non-Aboriginal people in the 'Not Aboriginal' category. This means that people who are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander but have not provided that information to Victoria Police will be included in the 'Not Aboriginal' category.

The proportion which are recorded as 'Unknown' depends on the nature of each individual's contact with Victoria Police. The visualisations cover alleged offenders, victims of crime, and parties (both Affected Family Members and Other Parties) involved in family violence incidents. The table below shows the approximate percentage of each population which had an 'Unknown' Aboriginal status.

As a result, the data presented should be interpreted with caution.

Victoria Police population group	Approximate percentage unknown
Alleged offenders	5.5%
Victims	33.3%
Affected Family Members in family violence incident	12.2%
Other Party in a family violence incident	7.9%