

Explanatory notes - IRIS Database

The Family Violence Database (FVDB) presents statistics about the characteristics of cases and clients recorded in the Integrated Reports and Information System (IRIS) database concerning programs funded by the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH). The following explanatory notes are designed to provide additional information about the data received from DFFH, how it is processed and how to interpret the summary statistics.

Data source

The family violence measures produced for the FVDB are derived from administrative information recorded by agencies that are funded by DFFH to provide Women and Children's Family Violence Services (W&C FVS) and Family Violence Perpetrator Interventions (FVPI). The information is input by the agencies that are providing the services, and de-identified data is extracted from the IRIS database by DFFH and provided to the Crime Statistics Agency for input into the FVDB.

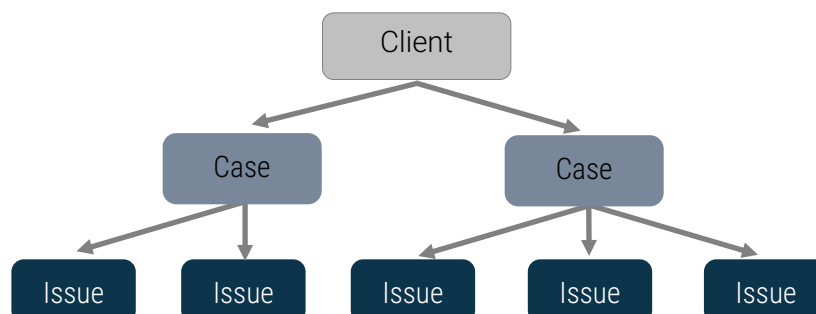
As the IRIS database is a live operational data system and updated regularly, the data presented reflects only the information in the database at the date and time of extraction. This means that as additional annual years of data are released by the CSA, the data relating to previous periods may change as data are updated in IRIS, and as cases progress and are completed by agencies.

Scope and coverage

The scope of the data presented in the data tables and visualisations cover all cases and related clients accessing either FVPI services or W&C FVS. For the purpose of these outputs, clients who have come through FVPI have been excluded.

The data presented is not representative of all family violence intervention efforts undertaken by DFFH as there are other services provided that are not currently within the scope of the FVDB.

Counting methodology



1.1 Hierarchy of record types in IRIS database

Cases recorded

Cases are a record of an agency having received a referral for a client to participate in FVPI or receive a service under W&C FVS. Each record is therefore a count of a unique case which have recorded active service hours within a financial year.

Previous reporting completed for the FVDB used a different counting method when describing FVPI and W&C FVS cases. In prior years cases were counted based on incoming referrals within a financial year, rather than by dates in which a case recorded service activity. Numbers in this version of publication will therefore not be consistent with numbers published in the past.

Financial year

Case records are compiled on the basis of the financial years in which a case records activity. Thus, a case may be counted over several years in the data where it recorded activity over a number of financial years.

Program type

Each case is broadly classified as either FVPI or W&C FVS. As program type is not recorded in the IRIS database, program type is derived using the client's recorded age and sex at the date of referral. Cases with adult male clients are classified in FVPI and cases with women or children clients are classified as W&C FVS. Where age or sex information is insufficient to determine program type, cases may additionally be classified based on the recorded funding source (e.g. 'DHS – Men's Behaviour Change Program' or 'DHS – Women and Children's Family Violence Services'). Where cases are unable to be determined based on these variables, program type is listed as unknown.

It should be noted that the present method of deriving program type is vulnerable to some instances of misclassification. For example, if a client's date of birth is incorrectly recorded, a young male child may have a case classified as FVPI. Additionally, this system does not account for situations where discretion may have been exercised by a service provider. For example if a 17 year old male was referred to an agency to attend FVPI, because of his age at referral his case will be classified under W&C FVS.

Unique clients

A unique client is defined as an individual who has had one or more cases recorded in the IRIS database within the relevant reference period. One unique client may have more than one case during the reference period, but will have a count of 1 in the data presented concerning unique clients.

Unique individuals are identified using a unique identifier ('STATSLINKAGE') which is automatically generated based on a client's recorded name, sex and birth date upon the creation of a client record in the IRIS database. The FVDB does not receive identifiable information concerning clients of these services, however the STATSLINKAGE variable can be used to recognize clients who have received service at multiple agencies for cases under IRIS reporting.

Date of referral

Unique clients are compiled on the basis of the date that their first case was referred to an agency in the IRIS database within the reference period. The date may not be the actual first date of service for a client, as records only extend as far back as the reference period.

Program type

As unique individuals may have several cases across the IRIS database, program type is derived by summarizing the cases that a client has had over the reference period. Many clients are found to have cases associated with only one program type, so this is listed as their program type. Some individuals may be associated with both programs however it should be noted that due to limitations discussed above with deriving program type, some of these individuals may have been classified in both programs by error. If a client has a case with a named program and a case where the program is unknown, the client is listed as program type unknown.

Definitions

Family Violence Perpetrator Interventions (FVPI)

A range of perpetrator responses captured in IRIS including men's behaviour change programs, perpetrator case management and other new interventions. Please note that prior iterations of the Victorian FVDB referred to FVPI as 'Men's Behaviour Change Program'.

Women and Children's Family Violence Services (W&C FVS)

DFFH funded services available for women and children impacted by family violence, including counselling and support groups.

Agency

An organisation who offers one of the above DFFH funded programs or services. An agency is responsible for creating the records contained in the IRIS database.

Integrated Reports and Information System (IRIS)

IRIS is a database used to record and describe all clients and cases referred to an agency for the FVPI or a W&C FVS. Records are recorded and stored locally within an agency, and de-identified information is extracted to DFFH on a quarterly basis.

Case

Represents a referral made for a client to receive service from an agency under the FVPI or W&C FVS. A client may have several cases over the reference period at multiple agencies.

Client

Represents an individual attached to a case. Statistics concerning clients may refer to characteristics of the clients attached to all of the cases recorded in the IRIS database, or it may refer only to unique clients who appear over the reference period.

Issue

Represents all noted concerns relevant to a case that an agency is hoping to address over the course of the case. Examples of issues include family violence issues, financial issues, and substance abuse issues. Recorded issues are used to flag which cases are related to family violence.

Appendix 1. Local Government Areas in Victoria by DHHS Regions

Regions used for statistical outputs	Official DHHS regions	Local government area
Eastern Metro Melbourne	Inner Eastern Melbourne	Boroondara
		Manningham
		Monash
		Whitehorse
	Outer Eastern Melbourne	Knox
		Maroondah
		Yarra Ranges
Gippsland	Inner Gippsland	Bass Coast
		Baw Baw
		Latrobe
		South Gippsland
	Outer Gippsland	East Gippsland
		Wellington
Greater Western Region	Barwon	Colac-Otway
		Greater Geelong
		Queenscliffe
		Surf Coast
	Central Highlands	Ararat
		Ballarat
		Golden Plains
		Hepburn
		Moorabool
		Pyrenees
	Western District	Corangamite
		Glenelg
		Hindmarsh
		Horsham
		Moyne
		Northern Grampians
		Southern Grampians
		Warrnambool
		West Wimmera
		Yarriambiack

Loddon Mallee	Loddon	Campaspe
		Central Goldfields
		Greater Bendigo
		Loddon
		Macedon Ranges
		Mount Alexander
	Mallee	Buloke
		Gannawarra
		Mildura
		Swan Hill
North East Region	Goulburn	Greater Shepparton
		Mitchell
		Moir
		Murrindindi
		Strathbogie
	Ovens Murray	Alpine
		Benalla
		Indigo
		Mansfield
		Towong
		Wangaratta
		Wodonga
Northern Metro Melbourne	Hume Moreland	Hume
		Moreland
	North Eastern Melbourne	Banyule
		Darebin
		Nillumbik
		Whittlesea
		Yarra
Southern Metro Melbourne	Bayside Peninsula	Bayside
		Frankston
		Glen Eira
		Kingston
		Mornington Peninsula
		Port Phillip
		Stonnington
	Southern Melbourne	Cardinia
		Casey
		Greater Dandenong

Western Metro Melbourne	Brimbank Melton	Brimbank
		Melton
	Western Melbourne	Hobsons Bay
		Maribyrnong
		Melbourne
		Moonee Valley
		Wyndham