

FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN THE BARWON REGION, 2013 - 2018

Compiled for the Barwon Area Integrated Family Violence
Committee (BAIFVC)



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ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AFM	Affected family member
ANROWS	Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety
DHHS	Department of Health and Human Services
FVDB	Family Violence Database
FVIO	Family Violence Intervention Order
IRIS	Integrated Reports and Information System
LEAP	Law Enforcement Assistance Program
LGA	Local Government Area
NCAS	National Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women Survey
OTH	other party
PSS	Personal Safety Survey
VEMD	Victoria Emergency Minimum Dataset

A note on language

Throughout the report the term family violence is preferred however some information sources refer to domestic violence and violence against women. These terms have been retained in order to maintain fidelity to the information source.

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INTRODUCTION

This brief report presents a summary of available statistics related to family violence and sexual violence in the Barwon region in recent years. At the time of writing, there was little information at the Local Government Area (LGA)-level or health region level, particularly information related to demographic breakdown of family and sexual violence, so the report contains information at the state-wide level where LGA or health region-level information is not available.

The primary information source is the Crime Statistics Victoria Family Violence Data Portal¹, set up in 2016 following the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence (Royal Commission). The portal contains information from various sources: Victoria Police, Victoria Legal Aid, Magistrate's Court, Children's Court, Integrated Reports and Information System (IRIS), Victorian Emergency Minimum Dataset, Community Operations and Victims Support Agency, Coroner's Court and Ambulance Victoria.

In addition to information obtained from the Family Violence Data Portal, this report contains brief summaries of recent Australia-wide surveys: the 2017 National Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women Survey (NCAS) conducted by Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS), the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) 2016 Personal Safety Survey (PSS) and the 2016 ANROWS report Examination of the burden of disease of intimate partner violence against women in 2011.

BARWON DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

The Barwon region is comprised of four Local Government Areas (LGAs): Colac-Otway, Greater Geelong, Queenscliffe and Surf Coast. There is a lot of variation between the four LGAs, for example Queenscliffe is the smallest LGA in the state and also one of the oldest. Greater Geelong comprises the majority of the population in the region (81.4%)

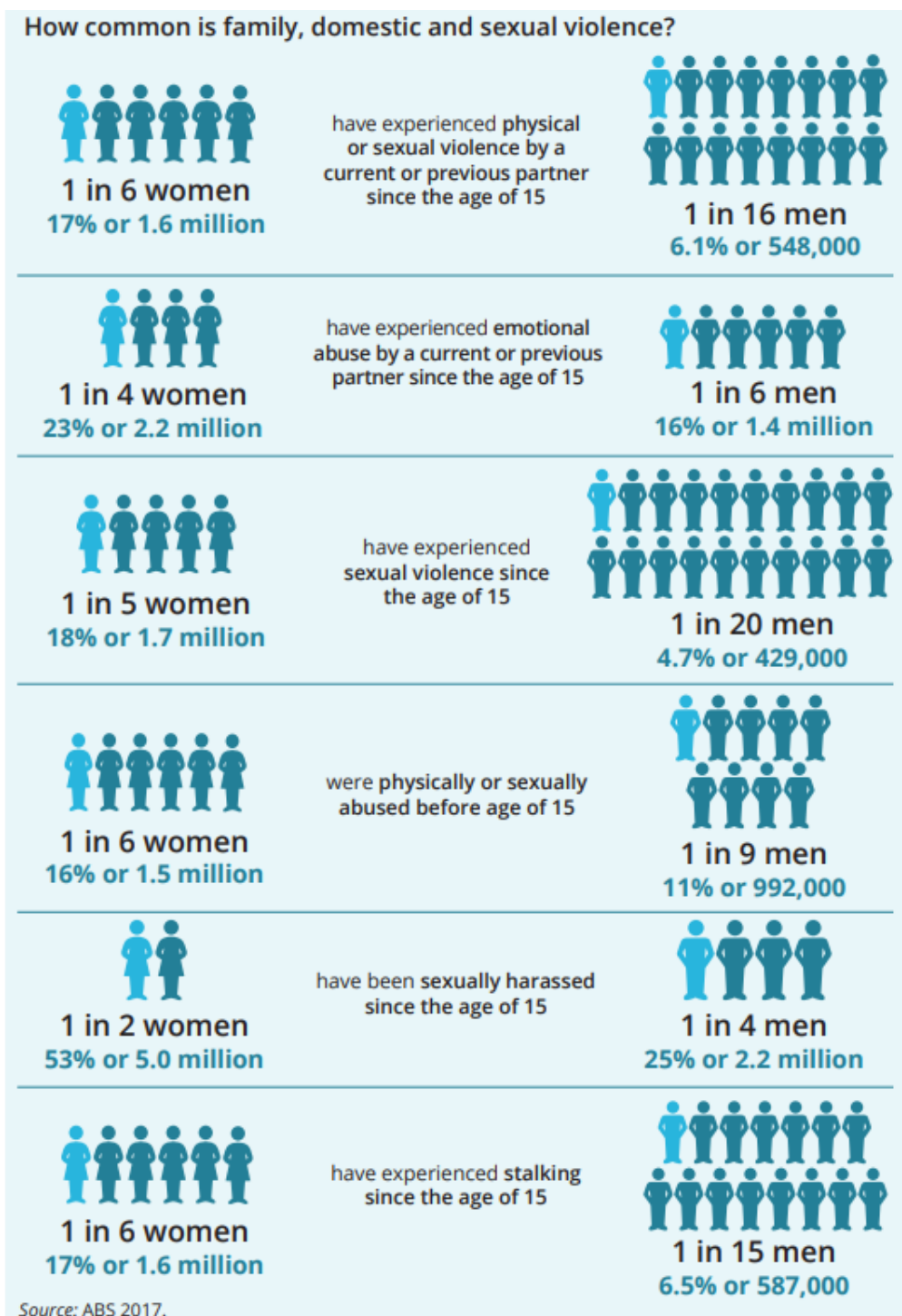
The total **population** for the region at the time of the 2016 census was 286,658.

	N	%
Colac-Otway (S)	20,971	7.3%
Greater Geelong (C)	233,426	81.4%
Queenscliffe (B)	2,854	1.0%
Surf Coast (S)	29,402	10.3%
Total	286,658	100.0%
Source: ABS Census 2016		

¹ <https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/family-violence-data-portal>





- Greater Geelong has the lowest **median age** in the region at 39 years, (above the Victorian average of 36 years). The median age for Surf Coast is 41, Colac-Otway is 44 and Queenscliffe is 59 years.
- Amongst the working age population of the Barwon region, 58.3% are **employed** and 3.7% are **unemployed**. A further 38% are not in the labour force. Employment rates are lowest in Queenscliffe (44.8%) and highest in Surf Coast (64%).
- The median **personal income** bracket is highest in Queenscliffe and Surf Coast (both with a median reported income of \$500-\$649 (\$26,000-\$33,799 per annum). Colac-Otway and Greater Geelong both have a median reported income of \$400-\$499 (\$20,800-\$25,999).
- Residents identifying as **Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander** comprise 1.1% of the Barwon population. This is higher in Colac-Otway (1.3%) followed by Greater Geelong (1.1%), Surf Coast (0.7%) and lowest in Queenscliffe (0.3%).
- Greater Geelong has the highest proportion of residents **born outside Australia** (17.4%), followed by Surf Coast (12.2%), Queenscliffe (11.6%) and Colac-Otway (9.4%).
- Greater Geelong has the highest proportion of residents speaking a **language other than English at home** (11.3%), followed by Colac-Otway (4.6%), Surf Coast (4.2%) and Queenscliffe (3.1%).
- 5.8% of the population in Barwon have a **need for assistance with core activities**.
- Across the region, 4.3% of residents are **lone parents**.






FAMILY, DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN AUSTRALIA

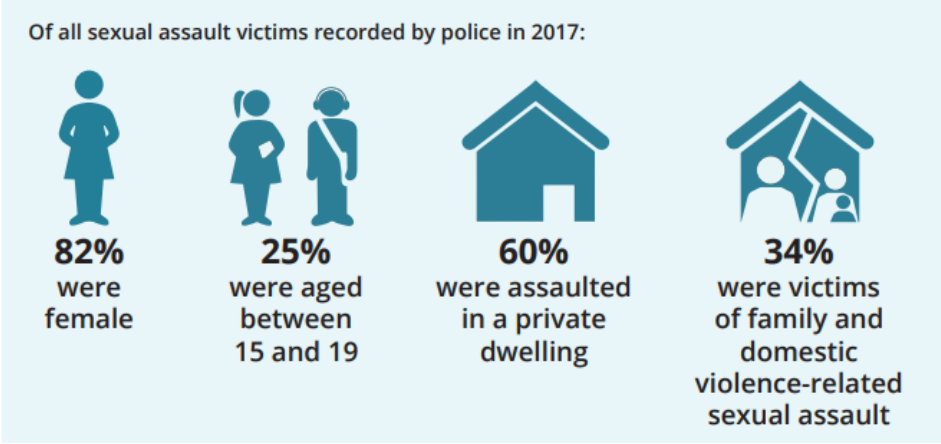


Source: ABS 2017.

Infographic source: Family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia: continuing the national story 2019 (AIHW 2019)









Vulnerable group	Key statistics
 <p>Children</p>	In 2017-18, 22% (26,500) clients seeking specialist homelessness services as a result of family or domestic violence were aged 0-9.
 <p>Young women</p>	In 2017, young women aged 15-34 accounted for more than half (53%, or 11,000) of all police-recorded female sexual assault victims.
 <p>Older people</p>	In 2017-18, more than 10,900 calls were made to elder abuse helplines across Australia.
 <p>People with disability</p>	People with disability were 1.8 times as likely to have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from a partner in the previous year, compared with people without disability.

Vulnerable group	Key statistics
 <p>People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds</p>	Between March 2013 and June 2016, the Australian Federal Police received 116 case referrals for forced marriage involving young females.
 <p>LGBTIQ+ people</p>	In the last 5 years, workplace sexual harassment was higher among those identifying with diverse sexual orientation (52%) than among those identifying as straight or heterosexual (31%).
 <p>People in rural and remote Australia</p>	People in <i>Remote</i> and <i>Very remote</i> Australia are more than 24 times as likely to be hospitalised for domestic violence as are people in <i>Major cities</i> .
 <p>People from socioeconomically disadvantaged areas</p>	People living in the most disadvantaged areas of Australia are 1.5 times as likely to experience partner violence as those living in areas of least disadvantage.
 <p>Indigenous Australians</p>	Indigenous adults are 32 times as likely to be hospitalised for family violence as non-Indigenous adults.



Infographic source: AIHW (2019)

Of the 121,000 clients assisted by SHS agencies who have experienced family or domestic violence in 2017-18:

	Characteristic	Number	%
	Female	94,100	78%
	Male	27,000	22%
	Single parents	46,500	38%*
	Homeless at the time of seeking assistance	47,200	39%
	New clients	58,000	48%
	Returning clients	63,200	52%
	Indigenous	26,300	22%
	Needed specific assistance with family and domestic violence	91,500	76%

* Note that family type was unknown for 19% of clients who had experienced family or domestic violence. When calculated as a proportion of clients where family type was known, 47% were single parents.

Figure 4.1: Burden of disease due to partner violence, women aged 15 and over, 2015

If no women had experienced partner violence, then in 2015 the disease burden would have been reduced by:



- 41% less homicide and violence
- 18% less early pregnancy loss
- 19% less suicide and self-inflicted injuries
- 19% less depressive disorders
- 12% less anxiety disorders
- 4% less alcohol use disorders

Source: AIHW forthcoming 2019.

PREVALENCE AND HEALTH IMPACTS OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE IN AUSTRALIAN WOMEN

Intimate partner violence, including violence in both cohabiting and non-cohabiting relationships and emotional abuse:

- is prevalent—affecting one in three women since the age of 15. One in four women have experienced violence or abuse from a cohabiting partner. If we only consider physical and sexual violence, then one in six women have experienced at least one incident of violence by a cohabiting partner;
- has serious impacts for women's health—contributing to a range of negative health outcomes, including poor mental health, problems during pregnancy and birth, alcohol and illicit drug use, suicide, injuries and homicide;
- contributes an estimated 5.1 percent to the disease burden in Australian women aged 18-44 years and 2.2% of the burden in women of all ages;
- contributes more to the burden than any other risk factor in women aged 18-44 years, more than well known risk factors like tobacco use, high cholesterol or use of illicit drugs;
- is estimated to contribute five times more to the burden of disease among Indigenous than non-Indigenous women;¹
- is estimated to make a larger contribution than any other risk factor to the gap in the burden between Indigenous and non-Indigenous women aged 18-44 years;² and
- has serious consequences for the development and wellbeing of children living with violence.

There has been no decrease in the prevalence or health burden of intimate partner violence since both were last measured in Australia.

Intimate partner violence and its health impacts are preventable. The health burden of intimate partner violence can be reduced by:

- supporting women and children's long-term recovery in the aftermath of violence;
- responding to violence to stop it occurring again;
- intervening when there are early warning signs of violence; and
- preventing violence from occurring in the first place by addressing known root causes.

There is a particular need for a focus on reducing violence affecting Indigenous women, and other groups of women experiencing more prevalent, severe or frequent violence.

¹ Based on age-standardised rates.

²The estimates for Indigenous women did not include the burden of emotional abuse, since data on emotional abuse is not available for Indigenous women.

Source: Examination of the burden of disease of intimate partner violence against women in 2011 (Webster 2016), p7.

ATTITUDES TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

ENCOURAGING RESULTS

- Most Australians have accurate knowledge of violence against women and do not endorse this violence (p 41).
- Most Australians support gender equality and are more likely to support gender equality in 2017 than they were in 2013 and 2009 (p 63).
- Australians are more likely to understand that violence against women involves more than just physical violence in 2017 than they were in 2013 and 2009 (p 46).
- Australians are less likely to hold attitudes supportive of violence against women in 2017 than they were in 2013 and 2009 (p 46).
- There has been improvement in knowledge and attitudes related to 27 of the 36 questions asked in 2013 and again in 2017 (p 6).
- There has been improvement in knowledge and attitudes related to all but two of the 11 questions asked in the 1995 NCAS and again in 2017 (p 6).
- If confronted by a male friend verbally abusing his female partner, most respondents say they would be bothered (98%), would act (70%) and would feel they would have the support of all or most of their friends if they did act (69%) (p 120).

CONCERNING RESULTS

- There continues to be a decline in the number of Australians who understand that men are more likely than women to perpetrate domestic violence (p 55).
- A concerning proportion of Australians believe that gender inequality is exaggerated or no longer a problem. Two in five men (40%) agree that 'many women exaggerate how unequally women are treated in Australia' and half (50%) that 'many women mistakenly interpret innocent remarks or acts as being sexist' (p 71).
- Among attitudes condoning violence against women, the highest level of agreement was with the idea that women use claims of violence to gain tactical advantage in their relationships with men (p 86).
- 1 in 5 Australians would not be bothered if a male friend told a sexist joke about women (p 119).

PREDICTORS

The strongest predictors of attitudes supportive of violence against women are people having a low level of support for gender equality and a low level of understanding of the behaviours constituting violence against women (relative to other respondents) (p 148).

Source: National Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women Survey (Webster et al 2017)

EXPERIENCES OF PARTNER VIOLENCE AND ABUSE IN AUSTRALIA

PARTNER VIOLENCE

- Women were nearly three times more likely to have experienced partner violence than men, with approximately one in six women (17% or 1.6 million) and one in sixteen men (6.1% or 547,600) having experienced partner violence since the age of 15.
- One in six women (16% or 1.5 million) and one in seventeen men (5.9% or 528,800) experienced physical violence by a partner.
- Women were eight times more likely to experience sexual violence by a partner than men (5.1% or 480,200 women compared to 0.6% or *53,000 men).

CHANGES IN PARTNER VIOLENCE PREVALENCE RATES OVER TIME

- The proportion of women who experienced partner violence in the previous 12 months has remained relatively stable over the last decade. In 2005, approximately 1.5% of women aged 18 years and over experienced partner violence in the previous 12 months, whilst in 2016 the figure was 1.7%.
- The proportion of men who experienced partner violence in the previous 12 months increased between 2005 and 2016. In 2005, approximately 0.4% of men aged 18 years and over experienced partner violence in the previous 12 months, whilst in 2016 the figure was 0.8%. However since the survey was last conducted in 2012, there was no significant change in the proportion of men who experienced partner violence (0.6%).

PARTNER EMOTIONAL ABUSE

- One in four women (23% or 2.2 million) and one in six men (16% or 1.4 million) reported experiencing emotional abuse by a current and/or previous partner since the age of 15.

Source: ABS 4906.0 - Personal Safety, Australia, 2016
<https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4906.0>

* Estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution.

Additional information as well as infographics produced by the ABS can be found at
<https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/by%20Subject/4906.0~2016~Main%20Features~Key%20Findings~1>

FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACROSS VICTORIA

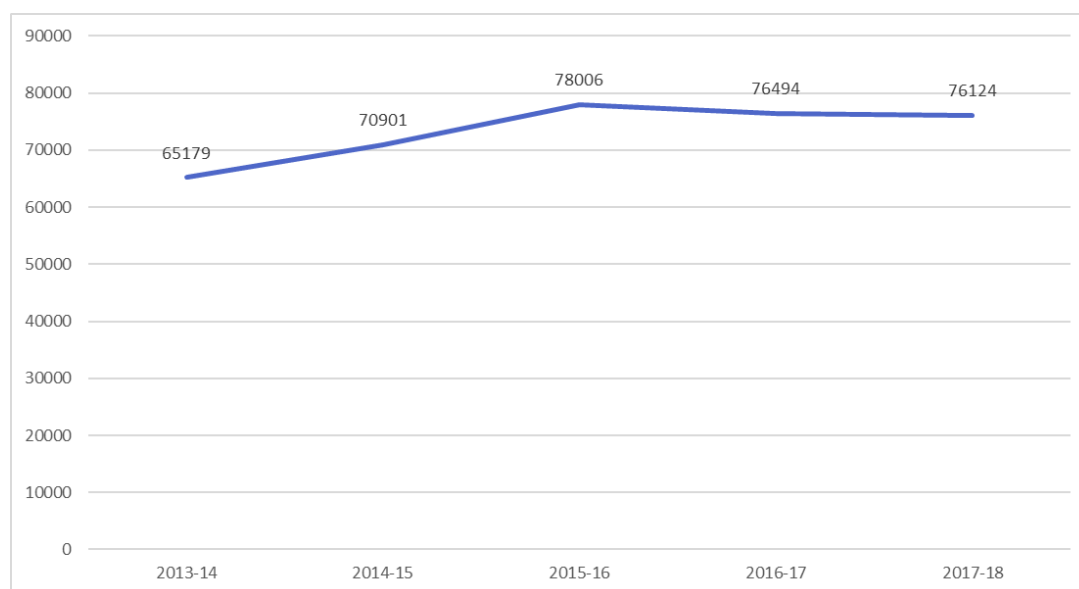
As LGA-level statistics related to the demographic information of family violence is not currently available for the Barwon region, this section contains Victoria-wide information. Caution should be used when interpreting this information as the results may not translate well to the Barwon region. In addition, the results come from different sources and have very different numbers so cannot be directly compared. Unless noted, the results relate to the most recent annual data, 2017-18.

FAMILY VIOLENCE INCIDENTS IN VICTORIA

The primary source of family violence data from Victoria Police is the information collected on the L17 Risk Assessment and Risk Management Report. Victoria Police are required to complete the L17 report after they have attended a family incident. It includes information on the incident itself, the affected family member (AFM) and other party (OTH), hazards/risk factors present at the time of the incident and any actions taken by Victoria Police following the incident².

Across Victoria, the number of recorded family incidents rose between 2013-14 and 2015-16 then remained stable until 2017-18 (Figure 1).

Figure 1 Number of family violence incidents recorded by Victoria Police across Victoria, 2013-14 to 2017-18



Source: Family Violence Data Portal LEAP extract, (Crime Statistics Agency, 2019)

The rate per 100,000 population of family violence incidents across Victoria echoes the number, with a rise between 2013-14 and 2015-16, a period of stability between 2015-16 and 2016-17 then a slight drop between 2016-17 and 2017-18 (Table 1).

² The quantity and accuracy of the data collected by Victoria Police on family violence is dependent upon the recording of information by police members at the time of the incident.

Table 1 Number and rate per 100,000 population of family violence incidents recorded by Victoria Police across Victoria, 2013-14 to 2017-18

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Number of family incidents	65179	70901	78006	76494	76124
Victorian rate per 100,000 population	1104.4	1175.2	1262.4	1209.7	1176.7
Source: Source: Family Violence Data Portal LEAP extract, (Crime Statistics Agency, 2019)					

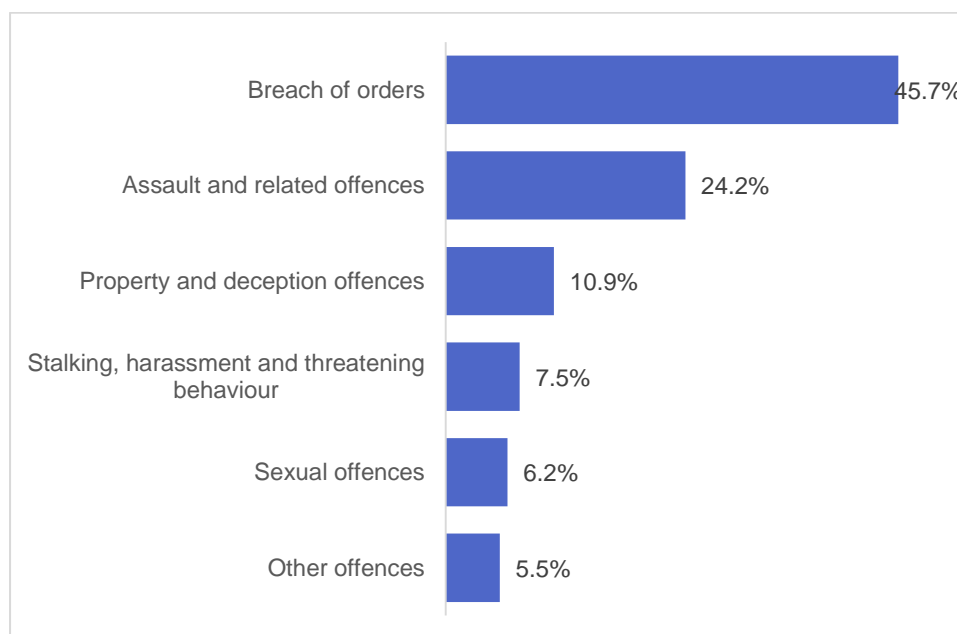
Amongst all family incidents that the police responded to in 2017-18 (Table 2), one in six (15.6%) resulted in a Family Violence Intervention Order (FVIO) being sought by the police, and the same proportion (15.0%) resulted in a Family Violence Safety Notice being issued.

Table 2 Family Violence Intervention Orders and Safety Notices sought/issued by Victoria Police amongst family incident-related offences recorded by Victoria Police, 2017-18

	Number of incidents	% of incidents
Incidents where Family Violence Intervention Orders sought by Victoria Police	11889	15.6%
Incidents where Family Violence Safety Notice issued by Victoria Police	11424	15.0%
Other incidents	52811	69.4%
Total family incidents	76124	100.0%
Source: Family Violence Data Portal LEAP extract (Crime Statistics Agency, 2019)		

The most common offence type for family incidents is for breach of orders (45.7% of all offences), followed by assault and related offences (24.2%) (Figure 2 and Table 3).

Figure 2 Offence type amongst family incident-related offences recorded by Victoria Police, 2017-18



Source: Family Violence Data Portal LEAP extract (Crime Statistics Agency, 2019)

Table 3 Offence type amongst family incident-related offences recorded by Victoria Police, 2017-18

	Number of offences	% of offences
--	--------------------	---------------

Breach of orders	41085	45.7%
Assault and related offences	21755	24.2%
Property and deception offences	9833	10.9%
Stalking, harassment and threatening behaviour	6721	7.5%
Sexual offences	5618	6.2%
Other offences	4923	5.5%
Total	89935	100.0%
Source: Source: Family Violence Data Portal LEAP extract (Crime Statistics Agency, 2019)		

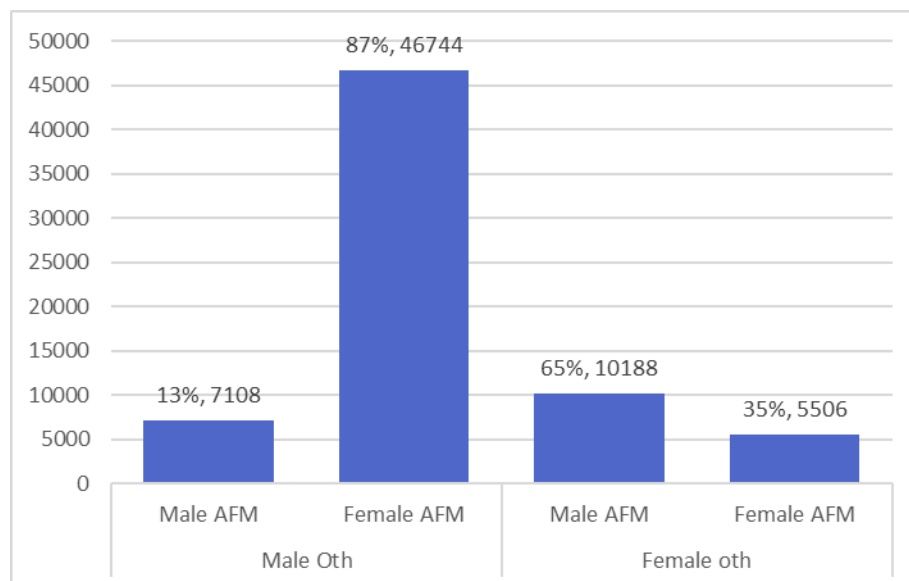
The following charts and related tables show the affected family member in family incident offences. The results are broken down by the sex of the other party. An 'affected family member' is the individual who is deemed to be affected by events occurring during the family incident. The other individual involved in a family incident is referred to as the 'other party'. The other party could be a current partner, former partner or a family member.

A total of 53,852 family incidents recorded by police involved an 'other party' that was male³, 86.8% of these incidents involved female affected family members. Female other parties were recorded for 15,694 incidents and within these, 64.9% involved a male affected family member (Figure 3 and Table 4).

³ An 'affected family member' is the individual who is deemed to be affected by events occurring during the family incident. The other individual involved in a family incident is referred to as the 'other party'. The other party could be a current partner, former partner or a family member. Where more than one affected family member has been affected one other party within a family incident, they will be counted for each involvement. For example, where a family incident involves three affected family members and one other party, each affected family member will be counted separately, making a count of three.

Where the other party is involved with multiple affected family members, they will be counted for each involvement. For example, where a family incident involves one affected family member and two other parties, each other party will be counted separately, making a count of two.

Figure 3 Sex of adult (18 years and over) affected family member by sex of the other party in family incident-related offences recorded by Victoria Police, 2017-18



Source: Family Violence Data Portal LEAP extract (Crime Statistics Agency, 2019)

Table 4 Offence type amongst family incident-related offences recorded by Victoria Police, 2017-18

	Male other party		Female other party	
	N	%	N	%
Male AFM	7108	13.2%	10188	64.9%
Female AFM	46744	86.8%	5506	35.1%
Total	53852	100.0%	15694	100.0%

Source: Source: Family Violence Data Portal LEAP extract (Crime Statistics Agency, 2019)

Both affected family members, and other family members are similar ages, with around half of all incidents involving people aged between 20 and 45 years (Table 5).

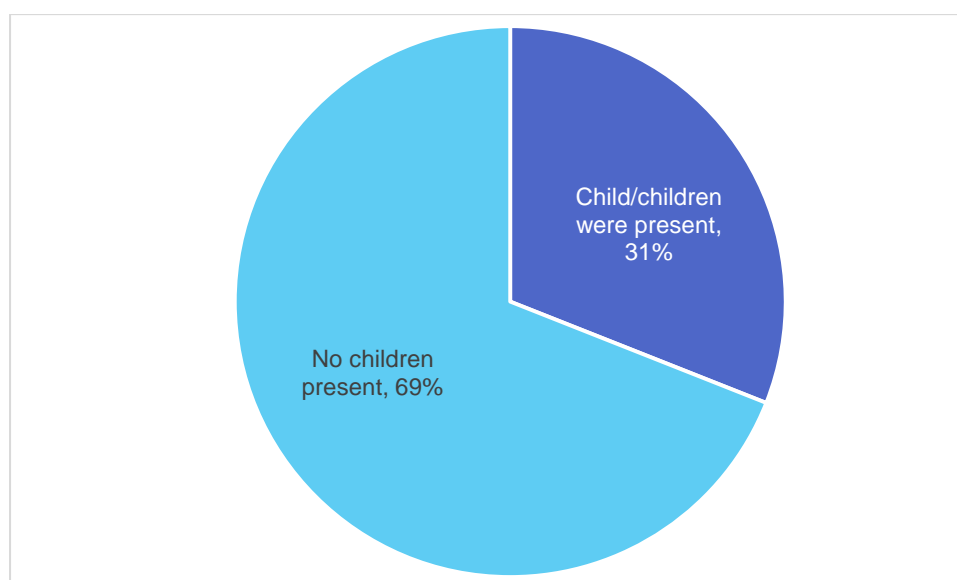
Table 5 Sex and age amongst affected family members in family incident-related offences recorded by Victoria Police, 2017-18

Age group	Affected family members				Other family members			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 - 4 years	283	270	1.5%	0.5%	9	2	0.0%	0.0%
5 - 9 years	752	585	4.0%	1.0%	81	27	0.1%	0.2%
10 - 14 years	1006	1455	5.3%	2.5%	1178	644	2.0%	3.6%
15 - 19 years	1375	3793	7.3%	6.6%	4269	1846	7.4%	10.4%
20 - 24 years	1707	6477	9.0%	11.3%	6485	2172	11.2%	12.2%
25 - 29 years	1786	7324	9.4%	12.8%	7891	2450	13.6%	13.8%
30 - 34 years	1788	7761	9.5%	13.6%	8277	2343	14.3%	13.2%
35 - 39 years	1771	7434	9.4%	13.0%	8352	2282	14.4%	12.8%
40 - 44 years	1789	6295	9.5%	11.0%	7329	2057	12.6%	11.6%
45 - 49 years	1904	5518	10.1%	9.7%	6045	1665	10.4%	9.4%
50 - 54 years	1449	3481	7.7%	6.1%	3561	1000	6.1%	5.6%
55 - 59 years	1037	2162	5.5%	3.8%	1796	443	3.1%	2.5%
60 - 64 years	745	1346	3.9%	2.4%	935	275	1.6%	1.5%
65 years and older	1300	2297	6.9%	4.0%	1287	311	2.2%	1.7%
Total	18917	57067	100.0%	100.0%	58029	17773	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Family Violence Data Portal LEAP extract (Crime Statistics Agency, 2019)
 Note: Total includes affected family members with an unknown age. Table includes all affected family members within a family incident. Where a family incident involves multiple affected family members, this will be represented in the data multiple times.

Children were present in around one third of all family incidents in 2017-18 (Figure 4).

Figure 4 Presence of children in family incident-related offences recorded by Victoria Police, 2017-18



Source: Family Violence Data Portal LEAP extract (Crime Statistics Agency, 2019)

Amongst affected family members, depression/mental illness was recorded in 15.6% of incidents, and drug and/or alcohol use was recorded in 21.5% of incidents (Table 6).

For other family members, alcohol and drug use was recorded for 29.1% and 29.2% respectively of incidents⁴ (Table 6).

Table 6 Proportion of hazards recorded on L17 Risk Assessment and Risk Management Report in family incident-related offences recorded by Victoria Police, 2017-18

Hazard	%
AFM - Depression / mental illness	15.6%
AFM - Possible or definite alcohol or illicit drug use	21.5%
OTH - History of violent behaviour	18.4%
OTH- Alcohol use possible or definite	29.1%
OTH - Drug use possible or definite	29.2%
Other factors - Recent separation	16.2%
Other factors - Financial difficulties	11.0%
Other factors - Pregnancy/new birth	5.1%
Source: Family Violence Data Portal LEAP extract (Crime Statistics Agency, 2019)	

FAMILY VIOLENCE SERVICE CASES ACROSS VICTORIA

The following data tables include information on the issues, cases and clients recorded in the Integrated Reports and Information System (IRIS) for Men's Family Violence Services and Women and Children's Family Violence Services.

Iris data contains information related to family violence service cases. It will not be directly comparable to the police data provided above, however it does contain additional demographic information not recorded by police⁵.

In the following tables men's family violence services refers to a range of perpetrator responses captured in IRIS including Men's behaviour change programs, Enhanced Service Intake, Perpetrator Case Management and other new interventions. Please note that earlier iterations of the Victorian Family Violence Database referred to Men's Family Violence Services as 'Men's behaviour change program'.

Women and Children's Family Violence Services refers to DHHS funded services available for women and children impacted by family violence, including counselling and support groups.

Each case is broadly classified as either 'Men's Family Violence Service' (MFVS) or 'Women and Children's Family Violence Services' (WCFVS). 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 as MFVS and cases with women or children clients are classified as WCFVS. Where age or sex information is insufficient to determine program type, cases may

⁴ The data does not provide specific breakdowns by age and LGA so we do not have the ability to examine young people as respondents for example.

⁵ Please note that prior iterations of the Victorian Family Violence Database referred to Men's Family Violence Services as 'Men's behaviour change program'. Men's family violence services refers to a range of perpetrator responses captured in IRIS including Men's behaviour change programs, Enhanced Service Intake, Perpetrator Case Management and other new interventions.

additionally be classified based on the recorded funding source ('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.

Amongst men's family violence services, 8% of cases related to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander men. Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander women and children comprised 8.6% of Women and Children's family violence services cases (Table 7).

Table 7 IRIS Family Violence Services cases by client Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status and program type, 2017-18

Program or service type	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status	N	%
Men's family violence services	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	946	7.9%
	Non-Indigenous	6337	52.7%
	Did not meet client - could not ascertain	4663	38.7%
	Total ¹	12035	100.0%
Women and Children's Family Violence Services	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	674	8.6%
	Non-Indigenous	6218	79.7%
	Did not meet client - could not ascertain	595	7.6%
	Total ¹	7801	100.0%
Total ²		19892	
Source: Family Violence Data Portal IRIS extract (Crime Statistics Agency, 2019)			
1 Includes cases where Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander status was unknown/not stated			
2 Includes cases where program type is unknown			
Note: The most recent financial year (2017-18) shows a marked decrease in cases for Men's family violence services. At the time the data was extracted and provided for inclusion in the Database, not all records had been received by DHHS from reporting agencies for the financial year 2017-18. Therefore, the numbers reported for 2017-18 do not include all Men's family violence services cases which were initiated in that year.			

A language other than English was spoken at home for 4.3% of men's family violence service cases and 6.1% of women and children's family violence service cases (Table 8).

Table 8 IRIS Family Violence Services cases by client language spoken at home and program type, 2017-18

Program or service type	Language spoken at home	N	%
Men's family violence services	Language other than English	512	4.3%
	English	6964	57.9%
	Did not meet client - could not ascertain	4559	37.9%
	Total	12035	100.0%
Women and Children's Family Violence Services	Language other than English	477	6.1%
	English	7119	91.3%
	Did not meet client - could not ascertain	205	2.6%
	Total	7801	100.0%
Total ¹		19892	
Source: Family Violence Data Portal IRIS extract (Crime Statistics Agency, 2019)			
1 1 Includes cases where program type is unknown			
Note: The most recent financial year (2017-18) shows a marked decrease in cases for Men's family violence services. At the time the data was extracted and provided for inclusion in the Database, not all			

records had been received by DHHS from reporting agencies for the financial year 2017-18. Therefore, the numbers reported for 2017-18 do not include all Men's family violence services cases which were initiated in that year.

Where risk level was able to be determined in family violence services cases, low risk cases were most common for both men, and women and children's services (Table 9).

Table 9 IRIS Family Violence Services cases by risk assessment level and program type, 2017-18

Program or service type	Risk assessment level	N	%
Men's family violence services	Level of risk - low	994	8.3%
	Level of risk - medium	296	2.5%
	Level of risk - high	516	4.3%
	Unable to be determined	8156	67.8%
	Unknown	2073	17.2%
	Total	12035	100.0%
Women and Children's Family Violence Services	Level of risk - low	1690	21.7%
	Level of risk - medium	1058	13.6%
	Level of risk - high	597	7.7%
	Unable to be determined	2095	26.9%
	Unknown	2361	30.3%
	Total	7801	100.0%
Total¹		19892	
Source: Family Violence Data Portal IRIS extract (Crime Statistics Agency, 2019)			
1 Includes cases where program type is unknown			
Note: The most recent financial year (2017-18) shows a marked decrease in cases for Men's family violence services. At the time the data was extracted and provided for inclusion in the Database, not all records had been received by DHHS from reporting agencies for the financial year 2017-18. Therefore, the numbers reported for 2017-18 do not include all Men's family violence services cases which were initiated in that year.			

A disability was reported in 1.9% of men's family violence services cases, and 5.4% of women and children's family violence services cases. The most common disability reported in both men and women and children's cases was psychiatric (Table 10).

Table 10 IRIS Family Violence Services cases by client disability type and program type, 2017-18

Program or service type	Disability type	N	%	
Men's family violence services	Disability	Acquired brain injury	43	0.4%
		Autism (including Asperger's Syndrome)	13	0.1%
		Hearing/Speech/Vision impairment	12	0.1%
		Intellectual/developmental	36	0.3%
		Neurological (including epilepsy & Alzheimer's disease)	4	0.0%
		Physical	28	0.2%
		Psychiatric	70	0.6%
		Specific learning/ADD (other than intellectual)	19	0.2%
		FV cause/contributed ¹	≤3	
		Total	227	1.9%
	No disability	9635	80.1%	

	Unknown or not stated		2174	18.1%
Total			12036	100.0%
Women and children's family violence services	Disability	Acquired brain injury	36	0.5%
		Autism (including Asperger's Syndrome)	50	0.6%
		Hearing/Speech/Vision impairment	17	0.2%
		Intellectual/developmental	75	1.0%
		Neurological (including epilepsy & Alzheimer's disease)	10	0.1%
		Physical	64	0.8%
		Psychiatric	125	1.6%
		Specific learning/ADD (other than intellectual)	36	0.5%
		FV cause/contributed ¹	8	0.1%
		Total	421	5.4%
	No disability		5093	65.3%
	Unknown or not stated		2287	29.3%
Total			7801	100.0%
Source: Family Violence Data Portal IRIS extract (Crime Statistics Agency, 2019)				
1 Includes cases where program type is unknown				
Note: The most recent financial year (2017-18) shows a marked decrease in cases for Men's family violence services. At the time the data was extracted and provided for inclusion in the Database, not all records had been received by DHHS from reporting agencies for the financial year 2017-18. Therefore, the numbers reported for 2017-18 do not include all Men's family violence services cases which were initiated in that year.				

RESEARCH NOTE

A 2018 study of the relationship between brain injury and family violence found the following findings:

- 40% of victims of family violence attending Victorian hospitals over a ten-year period sustained a brain injury
- 31% of victims of family violence attending Victorian hospitals over a ten-year period were children under the age of 15, and 25% of these children sustained a brain injury.
- Perpetrators of intimate partner violence are twice as likely to have sustained a brain injury as matched community samples.
- 1,800 hospital presentations each year are the 'tip of the iceberg', as 26,000 cases are referred to specialist family violence services and 37,000 intervention orders are sought in the Magistrates' and Children's Courts.
- Brain injury exacerbates the impacts and avoidable costs of family violence, estimated at \$5.3bn for Victoria in 2015–16.

Source: The prevalence of acquired brain injury among victims and perpetrators of family violence (Brain Injury Australia 2018)

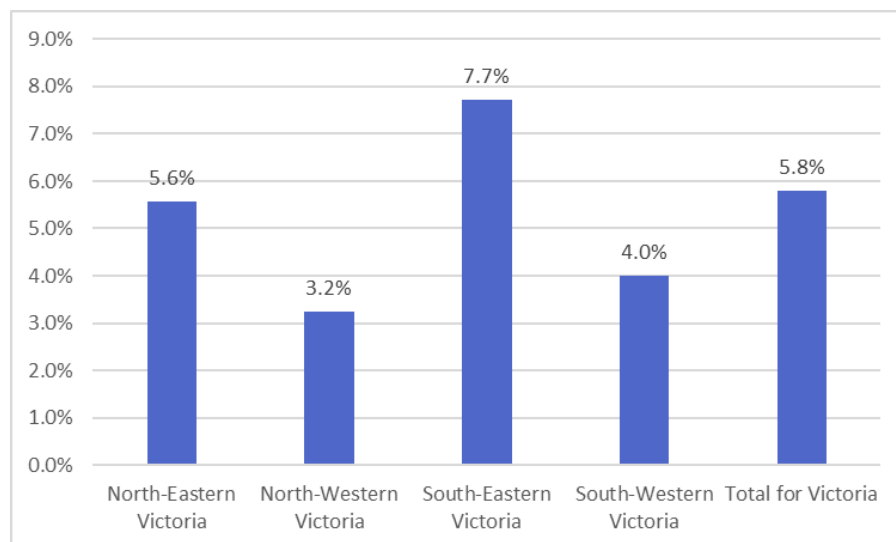
MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH NURSE COUNSELLING IN VICTORIA

Across Victoria in 2016-17, family violence represents an average of 5.8% of the reasons for counselling referral amongst maternal and child health nurse cases

referred for counselling (Figure 6). A total of 335 cases across Victoria were referred in 2018 for family violence, with a total of 97 in South-Eastern Victoria. This total is lower in South-Western Victoria (4.0%).

Amongst Barwon LGAs in this time period, there were 44 referrals relating to family violence in Colac-Otway, 9 cases in Greater Geelong, 6 cases in Surf Coast and 0 cases in Queenscliffe.

Figure 5 Proportion of family violence-related counselling referrals amongst maternal and child health nurse counselling cases, 2016-17



Source: Maternal & Child Health Services Annual Report 2016-2017

Table 11 Referral type amongst maternal and child health nurse counselling cases, 2018

Region	Emotional N	Physical N	Social Interaction N	Emotional N	Physical N	Total N
North-Eastern Victoria	4781	3581	745	557	332	9996
North-Western Victoria	7180	5195	1704	492	598	15169
South-Eastern Victoria	13282	11872	2427	2500	2312	32393
South-Western Victoria	6001	4086	758	466	360	11671
Total for Victoria	31244	24734	5634	4015	3602	69229
	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
North-Eastern Victoria	47.8%	35.8%	7.5%	5.6%	3.3%	100.0%
North-Western Victoria	47.3%	34.2%	11.2%	3.2%	3.9%	100.0%
South-Eastern Victoria	41.0%	36.6%	7.5%	7.7%	7.1%	100.0%
South-Western Victoria	51.4%	35.0%	6.5%	4.0%	3.1%	100.0%
Total for Victoria	45.1%	35.7%	8.1%	5.8%	5.2%	100.0%

Source: Maternal & Child Health Services Annual Report 2016-2017

Note: A referral implies that counselling has also occurred at the time of the referral consultation.

A referral is a more formal process, where a written letter, a phone call to the referral agency is made. This table refers to 'instances' of referrals, for example, a parent may have more than one referral during a consultation.

FAMILY VIOLENCE-RELATED HOMICIDES IN VICTORIA

The following data table includes information on homicide data included in the Victorian Homicide Registry. The tables count the number of incidents, deceased and offenders involved in family violence homicides.

The Victorian Homicide Registry is a live database and historical records may be updated over time. Data used in this report was extracted on 7 August 2018 and is subject to change.

Across Victoria, the number of family violence related homicides dropped to a five-year low in 2017-18 with a total of 18 deaths following a high in 2015-16 of 34 deaths (Table 12).

No additional gender or age disaggregation is available for family violence-related homicides.

Table 12 Number of homicide incidents¹ by year, July 2013 to June 2018

Number of incidents	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Family violence related ²	25	19	34	22	18
Not family violence related	30	32	36	25	31
Unknown	3	5	5	8	14

Source: Family Violence Data Portal Coroner's Court Victorian Homicide Register database extract (Crime Statistics Agency, 2019)

1 Homicide incidents are an incident of violence from which single or multiple deaths may have resulted. The date of the homicide incident may be different to the date of a death in circumstances where injuries were inflicted upon a person during a homicide incident, but the death occurred as a result of those injuries at a later date.

2 Family Violence related homicides are homicides which occurred in circumstances where there was a familial relationship between the homicide offender and the homicide victim, as defined by the Family Violence Protection Act 2008 (Vic), whether or not there was an identified history of family violence prior to the homicide. This may include current or former intimate partners.

SEXUAL OFFENCES IN VICTORIA

Statistics released in 2016 by the Crime Statistics Agency show that there has been an upward trend in sexual offences that have been recorded across Victoria in the past five years.

In the year ending 31 December 2016, Victoria Police recorded 12,956 sexual offences across the state, with an offence rate of 214.0 offences per 100,000 people in Victoria. In five years the number of sexual offences has increased by 45.0 per cent, up from 8,936 offences in the year ending 31 December 2012.

Of the 12,956 recorded sexual offences, 16.2% (2,095) remained unsolved as at 18 January 2017 when the data was extracted. There were 21.3% (2,754) of offences that resulted in an arrest and 24.3% (3,146) of offences resulted in a summons being issued.

Of the 7,788 victim reports, 79.7% (6,204) involved a female victim while 18.8% (1,467) involved a male victim. The remaining victim reports involved a victim with an unknown sex.

In the year ending 31 December 2016, there were 12,956 sexual offences recorded. Indecent assault comprised 48.9 per cent of all sexual offences, followed by Rape with 34.1 per cent of all sexual offences. Sexual offences against children made up 10.1 per cent of offences, followed by Incest and Other sexual offences (3.7 per cent and 3.3 per cent respectively). The increase in the past 12 months was driven primarily by an 11.1 per cent increase in Indecent assault and 12.3 per cent increase in Rape. The only offence group to decrease was Sexual offences against children, decreasing by 15.9 per cent in the last 12 months (n=246).

There were 3,859 alleged offender incidents with a sexual offence as the principal offence, an increase of 17.6 per cent (n=578) from the year ending 31 December 2015. The alleged offender incident rate per 100,000 people is 63.7, a 15.4 per cent increase compared to the same period last year.

Over the past five years, the number of sexual offences has continued to increase. The year ending 31 December 2014 saw the highest increase of 14.5 per cent (n=1,429). Offence groups A31 Rape, A32 Indecent assault and A39 Other sexual offences have all increased each year from 2012. Offence group A33 Incest has fluctuated over the past five years, and offence group Sexual offences against children experienced a 15.9 per cent decrease in the current reference period (n=246).

The increase in A39 Other sexual offences over the past two years is in part a result of the introduction of offences relating to threaten to or intentionally distribute intimate image of another person. These two offences made up 59.6 per cent (n=255) of this offence group in the year ending 2016.

Sexual offence incidents may comprise a high number of offences recorded for the one incident, as demonstrated in the spike in offence group A34 Sexual offences against children in 2015 which was the result of specific incidents with high offence counts.

(Crime Statistics Agency, 2019).

Table 13 Prevalence of sexual offences across Victoria, Jan 2012 to Dec 2016

	Jan – Dec 2012	Jan – Dec 2013	Jan – Dec 2014	Jan – Dec 2015	Jan – Dec 2016
Number of sexual offences	8,936	9,889	11,318	11,869	12,956
Offence rate per 100,000 population	158.7	172.5	193.9	199.9	214
Alleged offender incidents	2,828	3,034	3,237	3,281	3,859
Offender incident rate per 100,000 population	50.2	52.9	55.4	55.3	63.7
Source: Spotlight: Sexual Offences year ending 31 December 2016 (Crime Statistics Agency 2019)					

FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN THE BARWON REGION

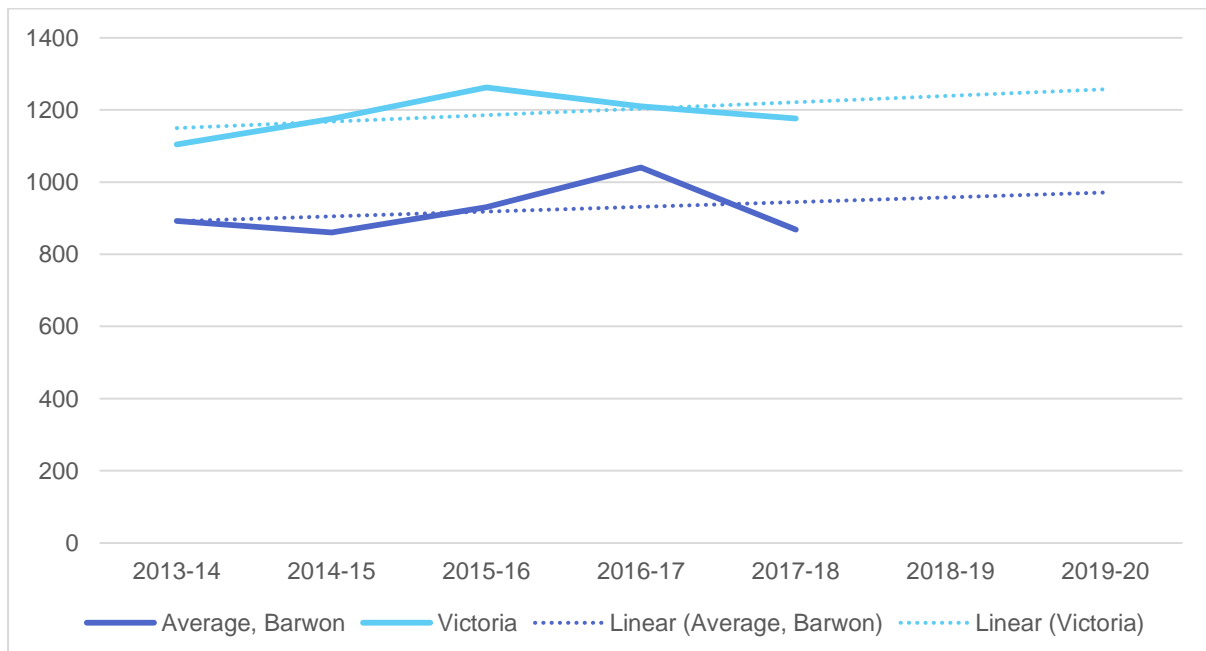
FAMILY VIOLENCE INCIDENTS IN BARWON

This section provides Victoria Police statistics related specifically to the Barwon region. The primary source of family violence data from Victoria Police is the information collected on the L17 Risk Assessment and Risk Management Report. Victoria Police are required to complete the L17 report after they have attended a family incident. It includes information on the incident itself, the affected family member (AFM) and other party (OTH), hazards/risk factors present at the time of the incident and any actions taken by Victoria Police following the incident. The quantity and accuracy of the data collected by Victoria Police on family violence is dependent upon the recording of information by police members at the time of the incident.

In general, the Barwon region has a lower rate of reported family violence incidents compared to Victoria as a whole (Figure 6).

A linear rate projecting incidents across the next two years (superimposed on Figure 6 below) indicates that there will continue to be a slight rise in the rate of reported family incidents, however if the downward trend that commenced in 2015/16 (Victoria) and 2016/17 (Barwon) continues, the rate of reporting should be expected to drop.

Figure 6 Rate per 100,000 population of Victoria Police family incidents with two-year projection, Barwon and Victorian average, July 2013 to June 2018

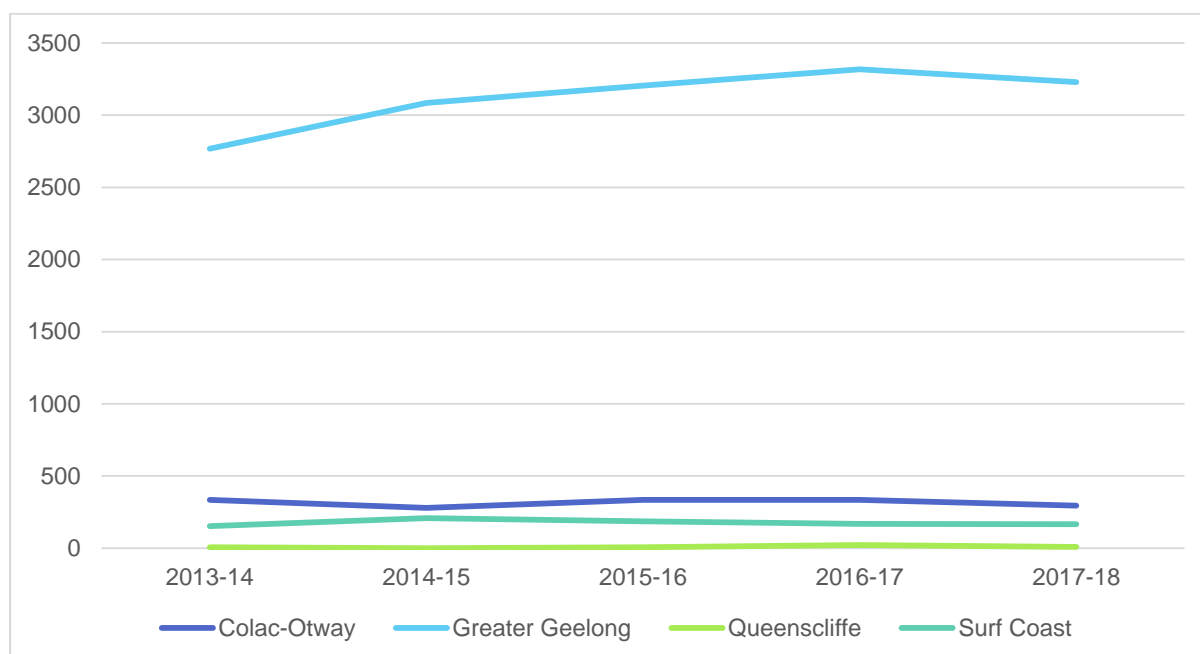


Source: Family Violence Data Portal LEAP extract (Crime Statistics Agency, 2019)

When disaggregated into separate LGAs (Figure 7, Table 14), there is an obvious difference in that both the rate per 100,000 population in Greater Geelong and Colac-Otway is substantially higher than the Victorian average, whereas the rate of

reported incidents in Surf Coast and Queenscliffe is substantially lower. Given the very small population of Queenscliffe, the rate for this area is often disproportionately affected which needs to be considered when interpreting these results.

Figure 7 Number of Victoria Police family incidents in Barwon LGAs, July 2013 to June 2018



Source: Family Violence Data Portal LEAP extract (Crime Statistics Agency, 2019)

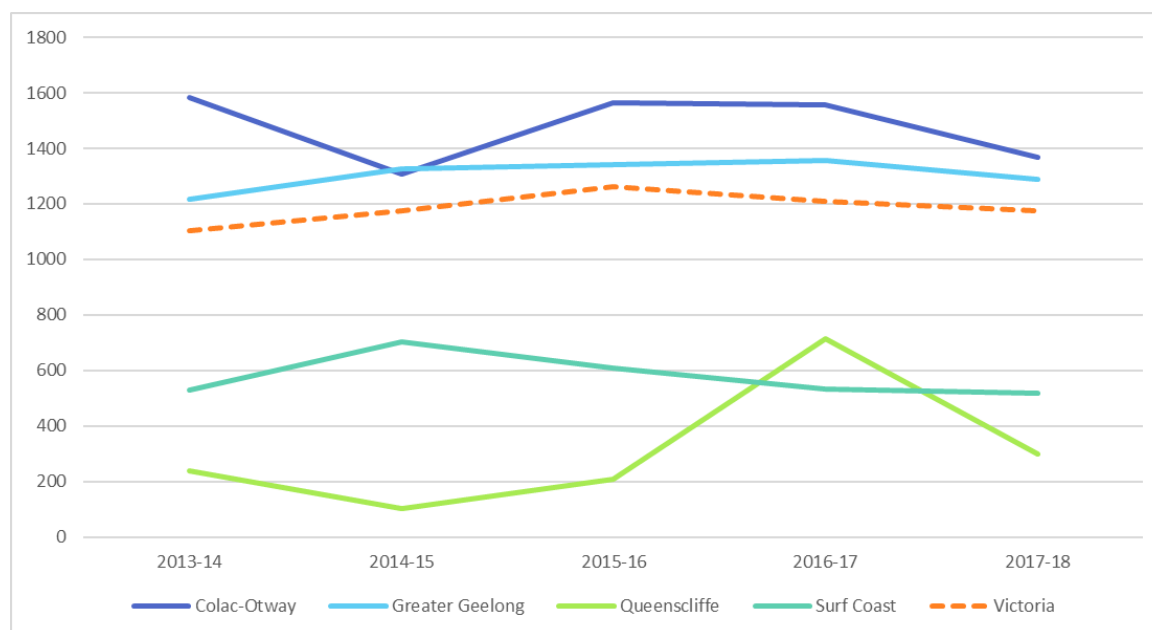
Table 14 Number of Victoria Police family incidents in Barwon LGAs and across Victoria, July 2013 to June 2018

Local government area	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Colac-Otway	335	278	334	334	294
Greater Geelong	2769	3085	3205	3319	3230
Queenscliffe	7	≤3	6	21	9
Surf Coast	153	208	185	167	166
Total, Barwon	3264	3571	3730	3841	3699
Victoria	65179	70900	78006	76494	76124

Source: Family Violence Data Portal LEAP extract (Crime Statistics Agency, 2019)

Both Barwon and Victoria as a whole experienced a rise in reported family violence incidents until 2015 and 2016, after which the rate of reporting has been falling. On average, across the five-year period, the rate is still associated with a slow increase, as it is still too early to determine whether the recent fall will continue (Figure 8, Table 15).

Figure 8 Victoria Police family incidents amongst Barwon LGAs, rate per 100,000 population, July 2013 to June 2018



Source: Family Violence Data Portal LEAP extract (Crime Statistics Agency, 2019)

Table 15 Victoria Police family incidents amongst Barwon LGAs, rate per 100,000 population, July 2013 to June 2018

Local government area	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Colac-Otway	1584.5	1308.4	1563.7	1558.1	1368.9
Greater Geelong	1218.1	1327.4	1343.2	1355.8	1287.6
Queenscliffe	236.7	102.9	206.6	715.7	299.8
Surf Coast	529.8	701.8	607.7	533.1	516.2
Average, Barwon	892.3	860.1	930.3	1040.7	868.1
Average, Barwon excl. Queenscliffe	1110.8	1112.5	1171.5	1149.0	1057.6
Victoria	1104.4	1175.2	1262.4	1209.7	1176.7

Source: Source: Family Violence Data Portal LEAP extract (Crime Statistics Agency, 2019)

Comparing the Barwon LGAs to other LGAs in Victoria can be achieved through ranking all 79 LGAs from highest to lowest (starting with 1 representing the LGA with the highest rate or number and ending with 79 which represents the LGA with the lowest rank and number of reported incidents). The actual number of reported family violence incidents is highest in Greater Geelong compared to the other three LGAs in the Barwon region, with Greater Geelong ranking third in the state in 2017-18 for the number of incidents (Table 16).

Table 16 Victoria Police family incidents, ranking of number and rate of incidents amongst Barwon LGAs, July 2017 to June 2018

	Number of incidents 2017-18		Incident rate per 100,000, 2017-18	
	Number	Rank amongst Victorian LGAs (1 to 79)	Rate	Rank amongst Victorian LGAs (1 to 79)
Greater Geelong	3230	3	1287.6	36
Colac-Otway	294	55	1368.9	31
Surf Coast	166	63	516.2	77
Queenscliffe	9	79	299.8	79

Source: Source: Family Violence Data Portal LEAP extract (Crime Statistics Agency, 2019). A higher rank represents a higher number or rate amongst Victorian LGAs.

FAMILY, DOMESTIC OR SEXUAL VIOLENCE EVENTS ATTENDED BY PARAMEDICS IN BARWON

In June 2016 Ambulance Victoria began capturing information about family, domestic or sexual violence as part of the administrative data collected by paramedics who have attended an event⁶. The data received from Ambulance Victoria for use in the FVDB concerns all records where family, domestic or sexual violence was identified and recorded by attending paramedics.

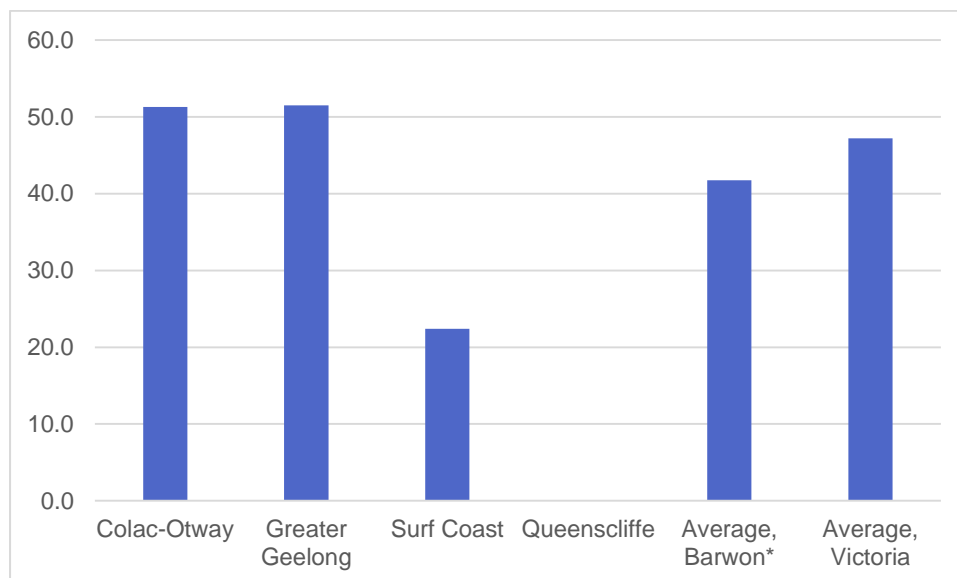
At present victims and perpetrators of family, domestic and sexual violence cannot be easily distinguished in Ambulance Victoria records. As such, data pertaining to patients (including demographic information) should not be used to form analysis concerning victims of family, domestic and sexual violence, as patients may also include perpetrators.

During data collection, paramedics have an option to flag a record as 'family, domestic or sexual violence' if this has been identified. At present, family, domestic and sexual violence cannot be easily disaggregated, and it should therefore be noted that Ambulance Victoria data used in the FVDB includes records of sexual violence perpetrated by individuals who do not meet the definition of a family member as it is defined under the Family Violence Protection Act.

Events attended by paramedics in the Barwon region between 2016 and 2018 showed a similar profile to the police data, in that both Greater Geelong and Colac-Otway had a higher rate compared to the state average, and Surf Coast had a substantially lower rate compared to the state average. No rate was reported for Queenscliffe (Figure 9).

⁶ An event is an incident in which the paramedics have attended. No other information is provided about the definition of events in the available data.

Figure 9 Events attended by paramedics amongst Barwon LGAs, rate per 100,000 population, June 2016 to June 2018



Source: Ambulance Victoria data extract (Crime Statistics Agency, 2019)

Table 17 Events attended by paramedics amongst Barwon LGAs, rate per 100,000 population, June 2016 to June 2018

LGA of event	Rate per 100,000
Colac-Otway	51.3
Greater Geelong	51.5
Surf Coast	22.4
Queenscliffe	NA
Average, Barwon*	41.7
Average, Victoria	47.2
Source: Source: Ambulance Victoria data extract (Crime Statistics Agency, 2019)	

EMERGENCY PRESENTATIONS IN BARWON

The following tables contain data from the Victorian Emergency Minimum Dataset, which holds information detailing presentations at Victorian public hospitals with designated Emergency Departments.

For the financial years from July 2013 to June 2016, patients presenting for family violence reasons were identified with the human intent injuries of 'Maltreatment, assault by domestic partner' or 'Child neglect/maltreatment by parent or guardian'.

Beginning with the financial year 2016-2017, the human intent data item changed, and patients presenting for family violence reasons from this year onwards are identified using the following categories: sexual assault by current or former intimate partner; sexual assault by other family member (excluding intimate partner); neglect, maltreatment, assault by current or former intimate partner or; neglect, maltreatment, assault by other family member (excluding intimate partner).

When interpreting this data, these changes should be taken into consideration.

In order to maintain confidentiality, person-based counts with a value of 3 or less are displayed as " ≤ 3 " and are given a value of 2 to calculate totals.

The Barwon region experienced a small but increasing number of emergency presentations between 2013 and 2018, from 19 to 35 patients (Table 18). The majority of patients were women.

Table 18 Number of emergency patients by Department of Health and Human Services region and sex, July 2013 to June 2018

DHHS Region	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Barwon, Male	6	5	≤ 3	11	7
Barwon, Female	13	9	10	21	28
Barwon, Total	19	14	12	32	35
Victoria, Male	179	206	183	502	504
Victoria, Female	362	395	476	826	825
Victoria, Total	541	601	659	1328	1329
Source: Victorian Emergency Minimum Dataset (Crime Statistics Agency, 2019)					

Due to the small numbers, the rate of emergency presentations changes dramatically over time within LGAs, but all LGAs in the region experienced a lower rate per 100,000 population compared to the Victorian average between 2013 and 2018 (Table 19).

Table 19 Rate per 100,000 population of emergency patients by LGA, July 2013 to June 2018

DHHS Region	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Colac-Otway	0	0	9.4	9.3	9.3
Greater Geelong	8.4	6	4.6	11.8	13.2
Queenscliffe	0	0	0	68.2	0
Surf Coast	0	0	6.6	0	6.2
Barwon Average	2.1	1.5	5.15	22.3	7.2
Victoria Average	9.8	12.8	12.1	23.1	22.6
Source: Victorian Emergency Minimum Dataset (Crime Statistics Agency, 2019)					

FINALISED FAMILY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION ORDER APPLICATIONS IN BARWON

MAGISTRATE'S COURT

The figures in the following tables are based on finalised Family Violence Intervention Order (FVIO) applications heard in the Magistrates' Court between July 2013 to June 2018.

Demographic information of applicants/AFMs and respondents are of those on original applications. This is to avoid double counting individuals.

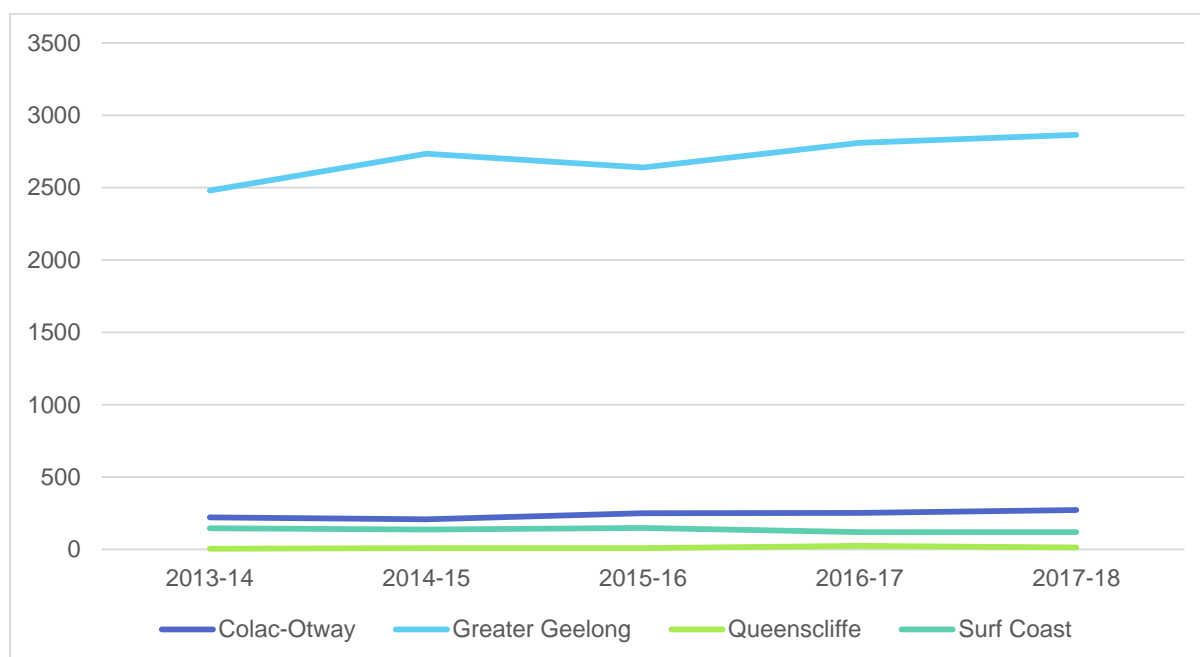
The Magistrate's Court data closely echoes the trend for the police data. Greater Geelong has consistently shown the highest number of FVIO applications heard in the Magistrate's Court, with the number increasing over time to a high of 2866 in 2017-18 (Table 20 and Figure 10).

Table 20 Number of affected family members (AFMs) in finalised family Violence intervention orders (FVIO) applications heard in the Magistrate’s Court, July 2013 to June 2018

Local government area	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Colac-Otway	221	207	250	253	272
Greater Geelong	2480	2734	2639	2810	2866
Queenscliffe	5	9	8	25	13
Surf Coast	145	138	148	120	120
Total, Barwon	2851	3088	3045	3208	3271
Total, Victoria	52712	56909	58164	58202	56154

Source: Victorian Magistrate’s Court finalised Family Violence Intervention Order applications (Crime Statistics Agency, 2019)

Figure 10 Number of affected family members (AFMs) in finalised family Violence intervention orders (FVIO) applications heard in the Magistrate’s Court, July 2013 to June 2018



Source: Victorian Magistrate’s Court finalised Family Violence Intervention Order applications (Crime Statistics Agency, 2019)

The low numbers in Queenscliffe compared to the population led to a jump in the rate in 2016-17 that is not reflective of an overall trend (Table 21 and Figure 11).

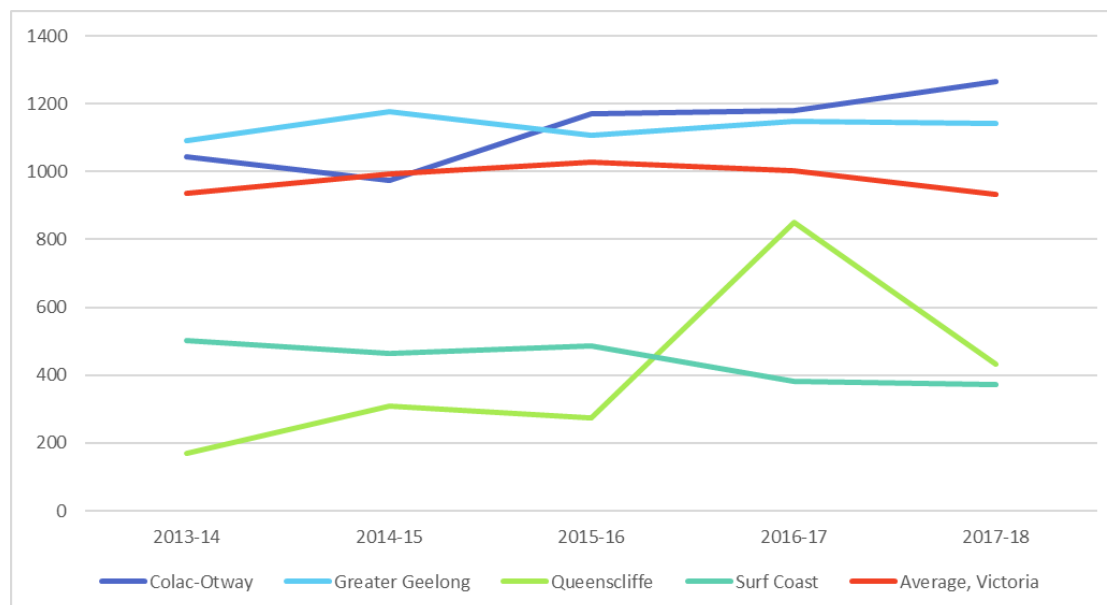
The rate per 100,000 population in both Greater Geelong and Colac-Otway is higher than the state average, with minor fluctuations over time.

Table 21 Rate per 100,000 population of affected family members (AFMs) in finalised family Violence intervention orders (FVIO) applications heard in the Magistrate’s Court, July 2013 to June 2018

Local government area	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Colac-Otway	1045.3	974.2	1170.5	1180.3	1266.5
Greater Geelong	1090.9	1176.4	1106	1147.9	1142.5
Queenscliffe	169.1	308.6	275.5	852.1	433.1
Surf Coast	502.1	465.6	486.1	383.1	373.1
Average, Barwon	701.9	731.2	759.5	890.9	803.8
Average, Victoria	936.7	994.2	1028.7	1002.8	933.9

Source: Source: Victorian Magistrate’s Court Courtlink data (Crime Statistics Agency, 2019)

Figure 11 Rate per 100,000 population of affected family members (AFMs) in finalised family Violence intervention orders (FVIO) applications heard in the Magistrate’s Court, July 2013 to June 2018



Source: Victorian Magistrate’s Court Courtlink data (Crime Statistics Agency, 2019)

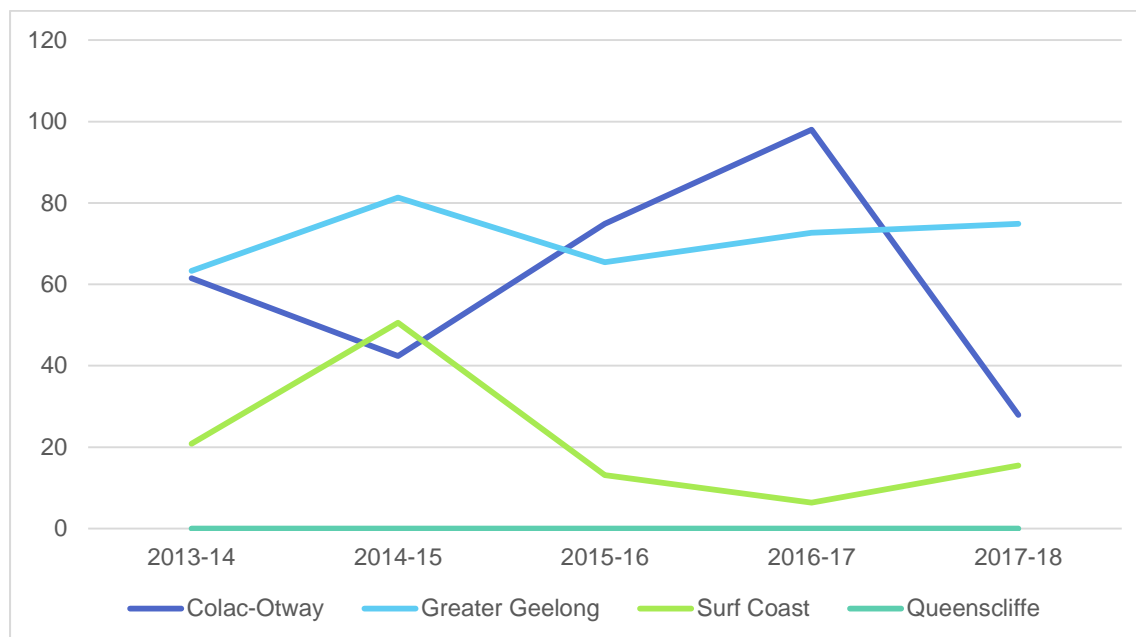
CHILDREN’S COURT

The figures and the tables below are based on finalised Family Violence Intervention Order (FVIO) applications heard in the Children’s Court between July 2013 to June 2018.

Demographic information of applicants/affected family members/AFMs and respondents are of those on original applications. This is to avoid double counting individuals.

Amongst the four LGAs in Barwon, only Greater Geelong shows a higher than state average rate of FVIO applications heard in the Children’s Court, with the rate reasonably consistent over time. The rate for Colac-Otway dropped dramatically between 2016-17 and 2017-18.

Figure 12 Rate per 100,000 population of affected family members (AFMs) in finalised family Violence intervention orders (FVIO) applications heard in the Children’s Court, July 2013 to June 2018



Source: Victorian Children’s Court Courtlink data (Crime Statistics Agency, 2019)

The actual number of applications is not available but assumed to be low, so it is unclear whether the high variation in rates across time is due to low numbers or another reason.

Table 22 Rate per 100,000 population of affected family members (AFMs) in finalised family Violence intervention orders (FVIO) applications heard in the Children’s Court, July 2013 to June 2018

Local government area	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Colac-Otway	61.5	42.4	74.9	98	27.9
Greater Geelong	63.3	81.3	65.4	72.7	74.9
Surf Coast	20.8	50.6	13.1	6.4	15.5
Queenscliffe	0	0	0	0	0
Average, Barwon*	48.5	58.1	51.1	59.0	39.4
Average, Victoria	53.5	47.1	48.8	47.9	43.6

Source: Source: Victorian Children’s Court Courtlink data (Crime Statistics Agency, 2019)

FAMILY VIOLENCE SERVICES CASES IN BARWON

The following data tables include information on the issues, cases and clients recorded in the Integrated Reports and Information System for Men’s Family Violence Services and Women and Children’s Family Violence Services.

Please note that prior iterations of the Victorian Family Violence Database referred to Men’s Family Violence Services as ‘Men’s behaviour change program’. Men’s family violence services refers to a range of perpetrator responses captured in IRIS including Men’s behaviour change programs, Enhanced Service Intake, Perpetrator Case Management and other new interventions.

A total of 1606 Men's family violence cases and 518 women's family violence cases were recorded during 2017-18 in the Barwon region, representing a rise over time in the period 2013 to 2018 (Table 23 and Table 24).

Table 23 Women and children's family violence service cases in Barwon by client sex, July 2013 to June 2018

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Client region of residence - Barwon					
Male	49	91	88	114	86
Female	214	271	425	380	431
Total, Barwon	263	362	513	494	518
Victoria total	3,956	1,067	3,862	4,929	1,318
Agency region - Barwon					
Male	48	92	91	114	94
Female	218	272	440	389	449
Total, Barwon	266	364	531	503	544
Victoria total	3,955	4,929	6,440	7,361	7,802
Source: Family Violence Data Portal IRIS extract (Crime Statistics Agency, 2019)					

Table 24 Men's family violence service cases in Barwon, July 2013 to June 2018

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Client region of residence - Barwon					
	806	1287	1276	1416	1606
Victoria total	14,256	19,023	19,257	17,170	12,035
Agency region - Barwon					
	834	1357	1344	1455	1620
Victoria total	14,256	19,023	19,257	17,170	12,035
Source: Family Violence Data Portal IRIS extract (Crime Statistics Agency, 2019)					
Note: The most recent financial year (2017-18) shows a marked decrease in cases for Men's family violence services [at the state level]. At the time the data was extracted and provided for inclusion in the Database, not all records had been received by DHHS from reporting agencies for the financial year 2017-18. Therefore, the numbers reported for 2017-18 do not include all Men's family violence services cases which were initiated in that year.					

SEXUAL OFFENCES IN BARWON

The information outlined in this section represents all offences recorded in the Police Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP) database, where Victoria Police have recorded a crime prohibited by criminal law. These include crimes that have been reported to police as well as those identified by police.

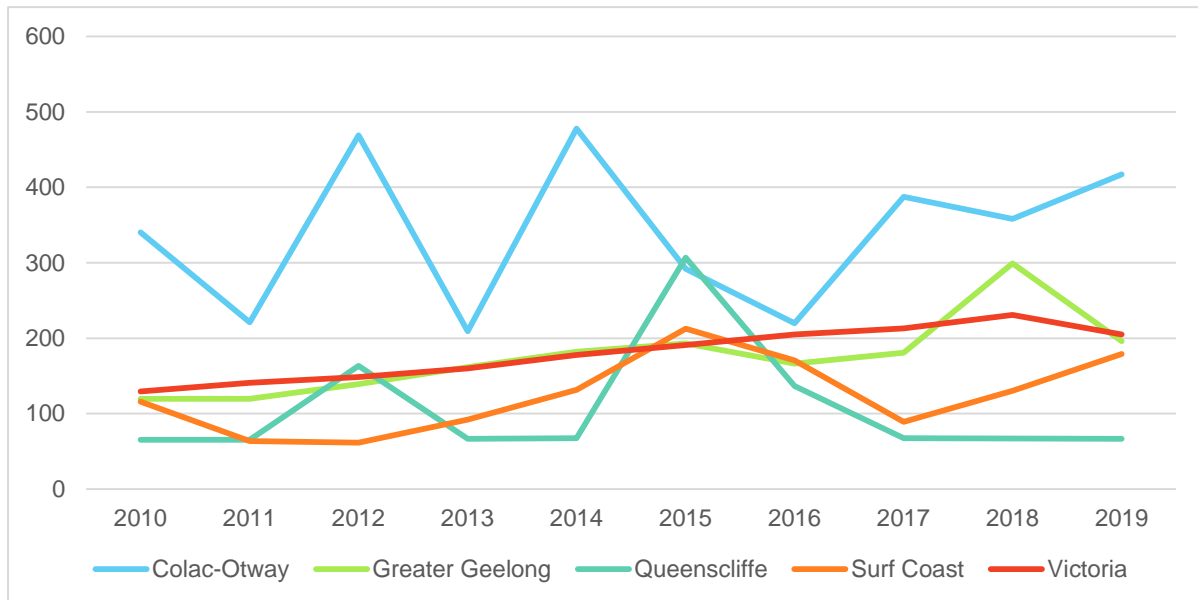
Unlike the data in the rest of this report which ends in 2017-18, the sexual offence data presented below contains information from 2018-19.

Criminal offences have been used in this report instead of incidents in order to capture a more representative view of sexual violence in the region. The criminal incident count is representative of one or more offences recorded on a single date and at the same location, so the count of overall recorded offences will be greater

than the count of overall recorded criminal incidents. Generally, overall crime trends should show similar patterns of movement using either criminal incidents or offences.

The rate of offences per 100,000 population shows a lot of variation over the six-year period. Colac-Otway has the highest rate of sexual offences in the region, however the actual numbers are comparatively low compared to Greater Geelong (Figure 13).

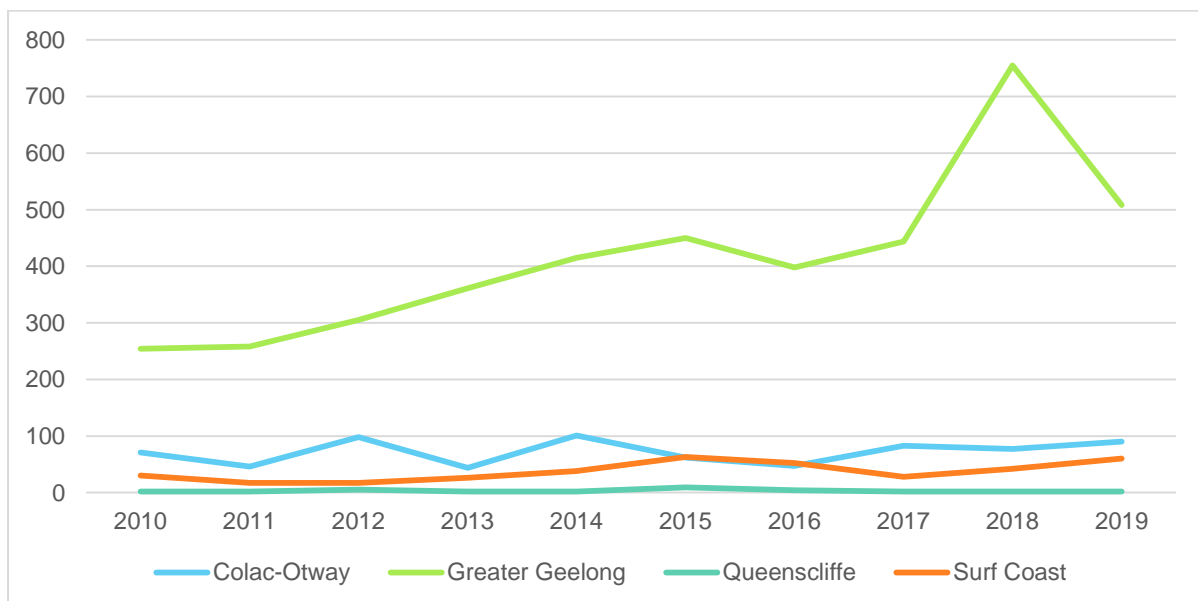
Figure 13 Rate per 100,000 population of sexual offences recorded by Victoria Police, July 2013 to June 2019



Source: Victoria Police Criminal Incidents data extract (Crime Statistics Agency, 2019)

The overall number of sexual offences in the Barwon region was substantially higher in Greater Geelong compared to the other three LGAs in the region, with 508 offences recorded in Greater Geelong in 2018-19 (Figure 14).

Figure 14 Count of sexual offences recorded by Victoria Police, July 2013 to June 2019



Source: Victoria Police Criminal Incidents data extract (Crime Statistics Agency, 2019)

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