

# COMMUNITY SAFETY

The personal safety of residents is a vital part of wider community wellbeing. Data regarding feeling safe includes safety on public transport, on the roads and within the home.

This profile addresses the community's perception of safety, and actual incidences of crime. It provides information on how safe the community feels, the number of traffic incidents recorded, rate of criminal behaviour and family violence incidents.

The perception of public safety in Wyndham is more positive now than in recent years despite a marginal decrease in the last 12 months. Whether this trend continues could be strongly influenced by crime rates, which are generally lower than the state and declining at a faster rate.

Over the past 5 years, the number of family violence incidents recorded in Wyndham has almost doubled. Between 2016 and 2017 however, Wyndham recorded a small decline in the number of family violence incidents, despite continued population growth. It is important to note that despite the decline, the rate of recorded incidents in Wyndham is amongst some of the highest Victoria wide.



Wyndham residents' **feelings of safety in public areas has declined** since 2015, and remains significantly lower than the Metro Melbourne average.



Across Wyndham and Victoria in general, **property and deception offences** had the highest number of reports.



The **crime rate in Wyndham is lower** and decreasing at a greater rate than the North and West Metro area and Victoria.



Between 2016 and 2017, the number of crimes against the person increased by **9.6%**, compared to **7.5%** across Victoria.



The number of 'serious injury crashes' declined **by 45 accidents (42%)**, between 2015 and 2016.



'Serious injury and fatalities' **decreased for all road user types in 2016**. The greatest decline was for drivers, with **92 reported** incidents in 2015, down to **59 in 2016**.



Between 2016 and 2017, there was a **2.4% decrease in the number of recorded family violence incidents in Wyndham**, compared to a 1.6% increase Victoria wide.



Between 2012-13 and 2015-16, the rate of recorded family violence incidents in **Wyndham, the North and West Metro area and Victoria increased, before declining marginally in 2016-17**.

# COMMUNITY SAFETY



## Safety in Public Areas, 2016<sup>1</sup>



Annual Community Satisfaction Survey rated residents' perception of safety in the public areas of Wyndham relatively positively. Despite the positive result, the scores are significantly lower than the Metro Melbourne average. Comparing safety in public areas to previous years, Wyndham saw small declines across all areas (all figures out of 10):

- In public areas of Wyndham during the day (7.95 down from 8.37 in 2015)
- In public areas of Wyndham at night (5.83 down from 6.94 in 2015)
- Travelling on trains (6.79 down from 7.38 in 2015)
- In and around local shopping district (7.70 down from 7.95 in 2015)

Almost one-third (30.8%) of respondents who felt unsafe in public areas of Wyndham identified issues related to crime, including theft, robbery, and violence.

## Recorded Offences, 2016-17<sup>2</sup>

Despite significant population growth, the number of recorded crimes committed in Wyndham is decreasing, while in the North West Metro Area and Victoria, the number of recorded incidents is on the rise.

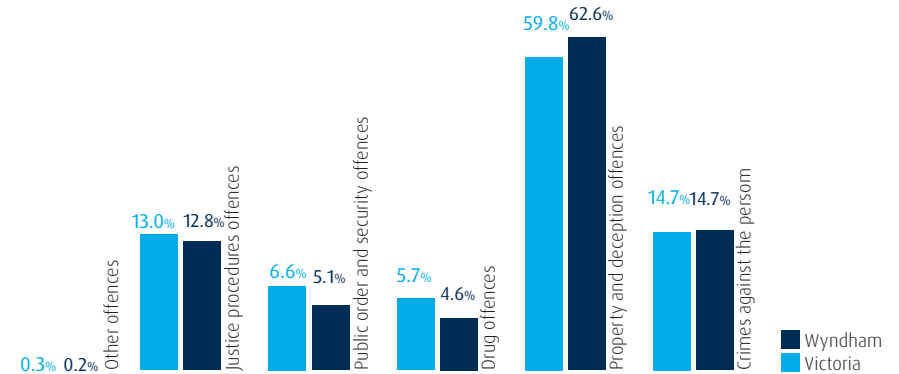
Between April 2016 and March 2017, there were 14,830 recorded crimes committed in Wyndham, an annual decrease of 3.3%. Across the North and West Metro area there was an 1.7% increase in recorded crime, and a 4.0% increase across Victoria.

## Recorded Offences per 100,000, 2016-17<sup>3</sup>

Offence rates per 100,000 population are calculated using the offence count for the reference period and the most recent Estimated Resident Population (ERP).

Wyndham recorded fewer offences per 100,000 population (6,445), compared to the North and West Metro area (9,884) and Victoria (8,825). Furthermore, the annual crime rate in Wyndham decreased (-6.3%) by a greater percentage than that recorded in the North and West Metro area (-0.6%). Across Victoria the crime rate increased (2.5%).

Area	Recorded offences per 100,000	% change 2015-16
Wyndham	6,445	-6.3%
North West Metro Area	9,884	-0.6%
Victoria	8,825	2.5%



## Percentage of Reported Offences by Type, 2016-17<sup>4</sup>

Property and deception offences were the most reported offence in both Wyndham (9,285 recorded offences) and Victoria. Wyndham City is the largest growing municipality in Victoria, with large volumes of new dwellings being built, which are more susceptible to theft and damage when vacant.

### Number of Reported Offences - Wyndham

- Property and deception offences - 9,285
- Crimes against the person - 2,173
- Justice procedures offences - 1,904
- Public order and security offences - 757
- Drug offences - 679
- Other offences - 32

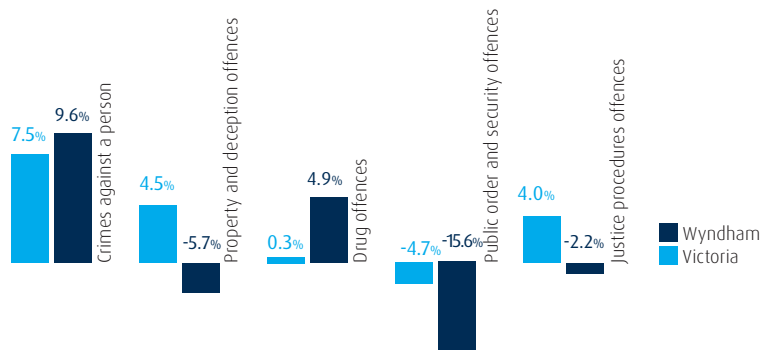
<sup>1</sup> Wyndham City Council (2015 and 2016). Annual Community Satisfaction Survey

<sup>2</sup> Crime Statistics Agency. (2016). Recorded Offences

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

<sup>4</sup> Crime Statistics Agency. (2016). Crime by Location

# COMMUNITY SAFETY



## Annual Change in Reported Offences, 2016 to 2017<sup>5</sup>

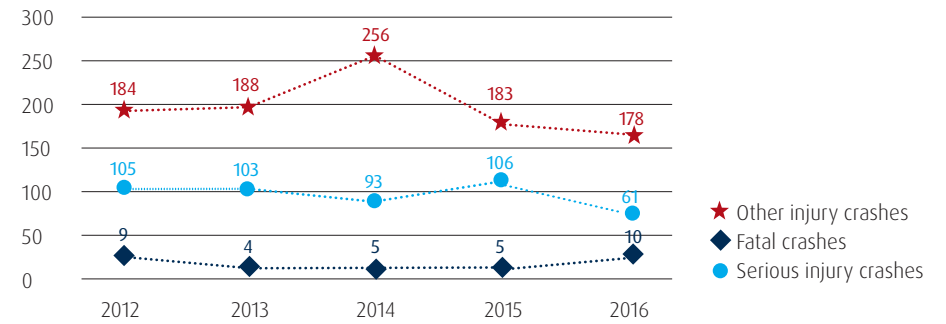
In Wyndham between 2016 and 2017:

- Justice procedure offences decreased by 2.2%, compared to a 4.0% increase across Victoria. Offences include breaches of orders (family violence, intervention and bail orders), hindering court, and custody and prison procedures.
- In the last year, there was nearly a 10% increase in crimes against the person (9.6%)
- The largest percentage decrease in crimes were public order and security offences, which decreased by over 15% in 12 months.

	Male	Female
10-14	124	28
15-19	639	128
20-24	638	128
25-29	711	217
30-34	529	139
35-39	472	97
40-44	364	71
45-49	234	42
50-54	107	13
55 years and over	107	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,954</b>	<b>897</b>

## Age and Gender of Alleged Offender, 2016<sup>6</sup>

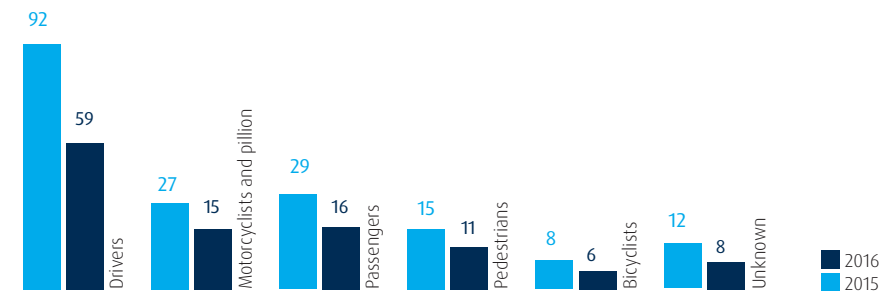
In Wyndham, in 2016, the majority of male and female offenders were aged 25-29 years. Overall, significantly more crimes were committed by males across all age groups.



## Wyndham Traffic Accident Summary, 2012 to 2016<sup>7</sup>

The number of 'other injury crashes' (non-fatal and non-serious crashes) decreased by 78 accidents between 2014 and 2016.

The number of fatal crashes doubled between 2015 and 2016, and those involving serious injury decreased by 45 accidents.



## Number of Serious Injury & Fatal Crashes by Road User Type, 2015 and 2016<sup>8</sup>

The number of serious injury and fatal road incidents involving all road users decreased between 2015 and 2016. Those involving car drivers decreased by 36% (33 crashes).

<sup>5</sup> Crime Statistics Agency. (2016). Crime by location

<sup>6</sup> Crime Statistics Agency. (2016). Recorded offences

<sup>7</sup> VicRoads. (2011 to 2016). Crash Statistics - Wyndham

<sup>8</sup> Ibid

# COMMUNITY SAFETY



Rank by Number of Incidents	LGA	Apr 2016 - Mar 2017	% change 2016-2017	Five Year % Change 2012-2017
1	Casey	4,640	9.9%	35.7%
2	Hume	3,080	1.7%	24.3%
3	Whittlesea	3,028	3.8%	50.1%
4	Wyndham	2,875	-2.4%	48.5%
5	Cardinia	1,314	-11.5%	14.8%
-	North Western Metro Area	24,079	-1.3%	32.6%
-	Victoria	77,721	1.6%	31.8%

## Family Violence Incidents, 2012 to 2017<sup>9</sup>

Family violence can affect anyone in the community. While it can be perpetrated by any member of a family against another, it is more likely to be perpetrated by men against women and children<sup>10</sup>. Family violence is more damaging to the health of Victorian women aged 15-44 years than any other well-known risk factors, including high blood pressure, obesity and smoking<sup>11,12</sup>. Family violence incidents make up a significant proportion of reported crime in Victoria and is considered a major health and wellbeing issue by all levels of government.

In 2017, Wyndham had the fifth highest number of family violence incidents of all Victorian municipalities despite the 2.4% decrease in recorded incidents from the previous year<sup>13</sup>. In comparison, other growth areas across Greater Melbourne such as Casey recorded up to a 10% increase in 2016-17.

Between 2012 and 2017, the number of family violence incidents in Wyndham has almost doubled (48.5%). Compared to Victoria (32%) and the North West Metro area (33%), the percentage increase in recorded incidents is much higher in Wyndham (49%).

<sup>9</sup> Crime Statistics Agency. (2015 and 2016). Family incidents

<sup>10</sup> VicHealth. (2011). Violence against women in Australia: Research summary

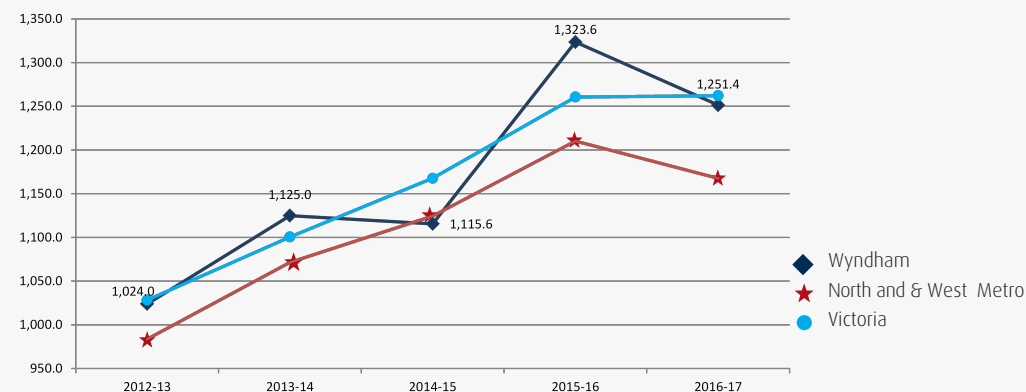
<sup>11</sup> Ibid

<sup>12</sup> VicHealth. (2012). Preventing violence against women

<sup>13</sup> A family incident is an incident attended by Victoria Police where a Victoria Police Risk Assessment and Risk Management Report (also known as an L17 form) was completed and recorded

<sup>14</sup> Crime Statistics Agency. (2015 and 2016). Family incidents

## Family Incident Rate Per 100,000 People, 2012-13 to 2016-17<sup>14</sup>



The family incident rate provides a means to compare family incidents across areas that is not influenced by population size or growth. The rate of reported family violence incidents increased in Wyndham from 2012-13 to 2015-16 before declining in 2016-17. In 2016-17, the family violence rate is slightly lower in Wyndham compared to Victoria.

