

COMMUNITY SAFETY

The personal safety of residents is a vital part of wider community wellbeing. Data regarding feeling safe includes safety on public transport, at the local shopping centre and in other public areas of Wyndham during the day and night.

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 past 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 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 **9.9% decrease in the number of recorded family violence incidents in Wyndham**, compared to a 1.9% decrease 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**.

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Safety in Public Areas, 2016¹



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, 2016-17²

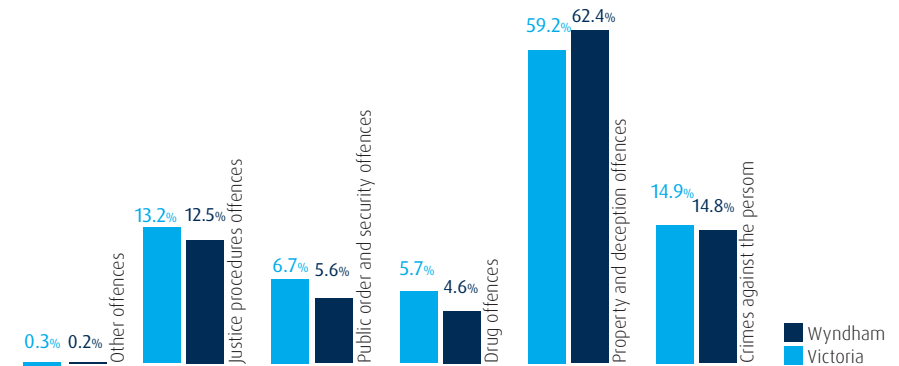
Despite significant population growth, the number of recorded crimes committed in Wyndham is decreasing. Between July 2016 and June 2017, there were 14,719 recorded crimes committed in Wyndham, an annual decrease of 6.53%. Across the North and West Metro area there was a 3.3% decrease in recorded crime, and a 0.6% decrease across Victoria. In other growth areas across Greater Melbourne, only Whittlesea and Casey were experiencing an increase in the number of recorded crimes.

Recorded Offences per 100,000, 2016-17³

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 (6,407), compared to the North and West Metro area (9,668) and Victoria (8,659). Furthermore, the annual crime rate in Wyndham (-9.4%) decreased by a greater percentage than that recorded in the North and West Metro area (-5.6%) and Victoria (-2.0%).

Area	Recorded offences per 100,000	% change 2015-16
Wyndham	6,407	-9.4%
North West Metro Area	9,668	-5.6%
Victoria	8,659	-2.0%



Percentage of Reported Offences by Type, 2016-17⁴

Property and deception offences were the most reported offence in both Wyndham (9,183 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 - 9,183
- Crimes against the person - 2,172
- Justice procedures offences - 1,838
- Public order and security offences - 817
- Drug offences - 675
- Other offences - 34

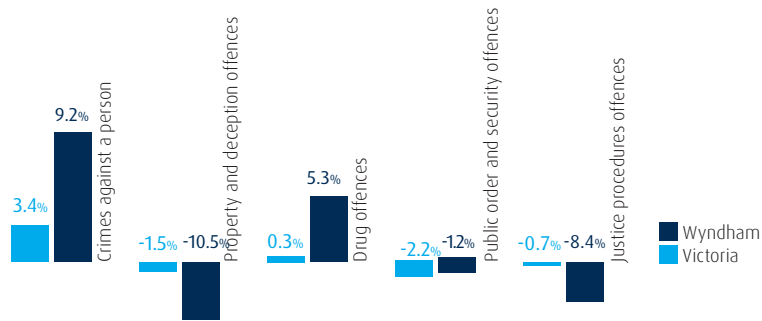
¹ Wyndham City Council (2015 and 2016). Annual Community Satisfaction Survey

² Crime Statistics Agency. (2016). Recorded Offences

³ Ibid

⁴ Crime Statistics Agency. (2016). Crime by Location

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Annual Change in Reported Offences, 2016 to 2017⁵

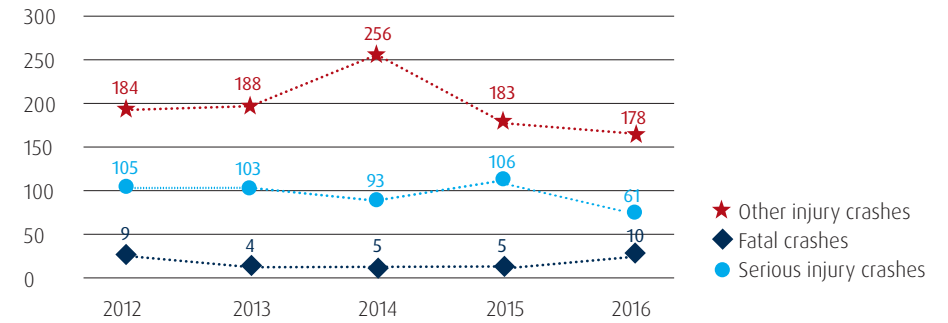
In Wyndham between 2016 and 2017:

- Justice procedure offences decreased by 8.4%, compared to a 0.7% decrease across Victoria. Offences include failure to appear in court, breaches of orders (family violence, intervention and bail orders), and escaping custody.
- In the last year, there was a 9.2% increase in crimes against the person
- The largest percentage decrease in crimes were property and deception offences, which decreased by over 10% in 12 months.

	Male	Female
10-14	125	32
15-19	630	140
20-24	631	117
25-29	649	201
30-34	554	139
35-39	449	90
40-44	356	67
45-49	221	47
50-54	119	16
55 years and over	120	30
Total	3,954	897

Age and Gender of Alleged Offender, 2016-17⁶

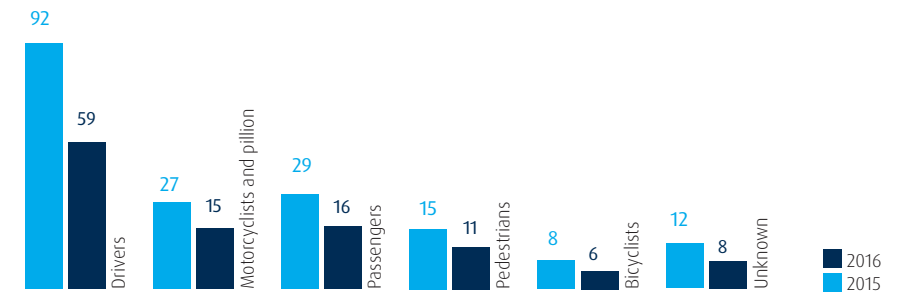
In Wyndham, in 2016-17, the majority of male and female offenders were aged 25-29 years. Overall, significantly more crimes were committed by males across all age groups.



Wyndham Traffic Accident Summary, 2012 to 2016⁷

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 2016⁸

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).

⁵ Crime Statistics Agency. (2016). Crime by location

⁶ Crime Statistics Agency. (2016). Recorded offences

⁷ VicRoads. (2011 to 2016). Crash Statistics - Wyndham

⁸ Ibid

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Rank by Number of Incidents	LGA	Jul 2016 - June 2017	% change 2016-2017	Five Year % Change 2012-2017
1	Casey	4,730	7.8%	37.2%
2	Hume	3,040	-1.8%	19.4%
3	Whittlesea	3,057	6.6%	45.5%
4	Wyndham	2,717	-9.9%	36.2%
5	Cardinia	1,251	-12.8%	5.8%
-	North Western Metro Area	23,657	-4.0%	26.5%
-	Victoria	76,500	-1.9%	26.4%

Family Violence Incidents, 2012 to 2017⁹

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 children¹⁰. 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^{11,12}. 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 sixth highest number of family violence incidents of all Victorian municipalities despite the 9.9% decrease in recorded incidents from the previous year¹³. In comparison, other growth areas across Greater Melbourne such as Casey recorded up to a 7.8% increase in 2016-17.

Between 2012 and 2017, the number of family violence incidents in Wyndham has increased by 36.2%. Compared to Victoria (26.4%) and the North West Metro area (26.5%), the percentage increase in recorded incidents is higher in Wyndham.

⁹ Crime Statistics Agency. (2015 and 2016). Family incidents

¹⁰ VicHealth. (2011). Violence against women in Australia: Research summary

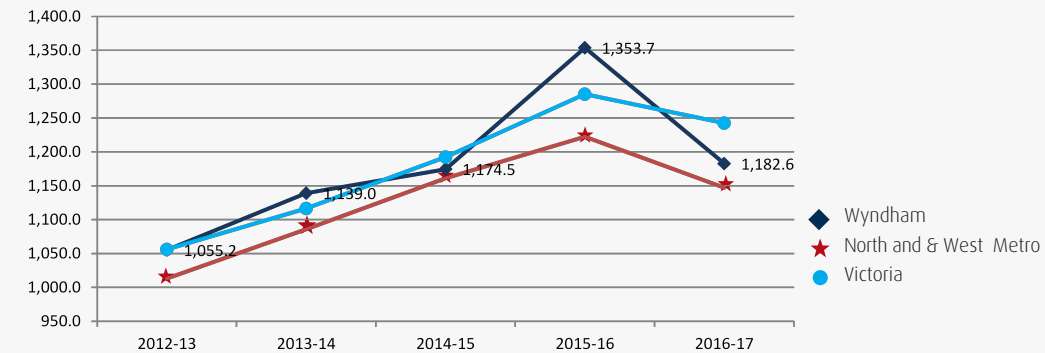
¹¹ Ibid

¹² VicHealth. (2012). Preventing violence against women

¹³ 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

¹⁴ Crime Statistics Agency. (2012 to 2017). Family incidents

Family Incident Rate Per 100,000 People, 2012-13 to 2016-17¹⁴



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.

