

# 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 positive, despite resident's feelings of safety in public on average lower than those across Melbourne. Whether this trend continues could be strongly influenced by crime rates, which are generally lower than the state and declining at a faster rate.

Between 2012-13 and 2015-16, the number of family violence incidents recorded in Wyndham steadily increased before declining in 2016-17 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.



Feelings of safety in public areas of Wyndham are positive, despite rating significantly lower than the Melbourne Metro 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 9.4%, compared to 3.4% across Victoria.



The number of 'serious injury crashes' declined by 28 accidents (-26%), between 2015 and 2016.



'Serious injury and fatalities' decreased or remained steady for all road user types in 2016. The greatest decline was for motorcyclists, with 27 reported incidents in 2015, down to 17 in 2016.



Between 2016 and 2017, there was a 11.0% decrease in the number of recorded family violence incidents in Wyndham, compared to a 4.4% 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, 2017<sup>1</sup>



Annual Community Satisfaction Survey rated residents' perception of safety as on average safe. Despite the positive result, the scores are significantly lower than the Metro Melbourne average. Compared to 2016 scores, feelings of safety during the day and around shopping districts has declined (all figures out of 10):

- In public areas of Wyndham during the day (7.94 down from 7.95 in 2016)
- In public areas of Wyndham at night (6.01 up from 5.83 in 2016)
- Travelling on trains (6.98 up from 6.79 in 2016)
- In and around local shopping districts (7.52 down from 7.70 in 2016)

The most common reasons for respondents feeling unsafe in Wyndham were issues with youth and gangs (26.6%) and crime related issues such as theft, violence and break-ins (18.2%).

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

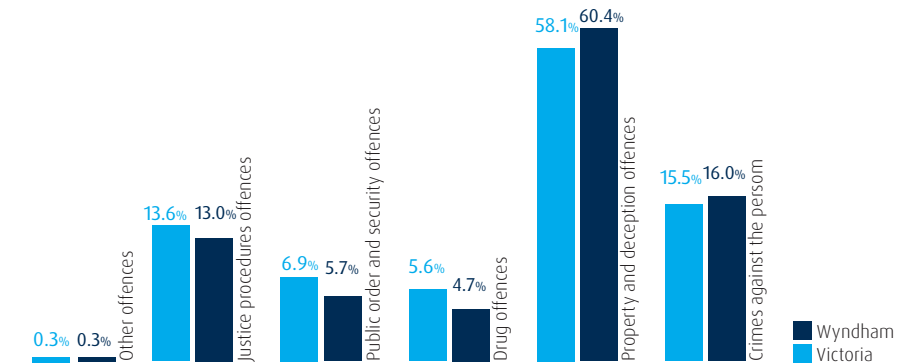
Despite significant population growth, the number of recorded crimes committed in Wyndham is decreasing. Between October 2016 and September 2017, there were 14,021 recorded crimes committed in Wyndham, an annual decrease of 11.0%. Across the North and West Metro area there was a 7.6% decrease in recorded crime, and a 4.9% decrease across Victoria. All other growth areas across Greater Melbourne were experiencing a reduction in the number of recorded crimes, including Cardinia, who recorded a 16.9% decrease.

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

Area	Recorded offences per 100,000	% change 2015-16
Wyndham	6,103	-13.7%
North West Metro Area	9,340	-9.8%
Victoria	8,398	-6.3%

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 (6,103), compared to the North and West Metro area (7,463) and Victoria (9,340). Furthermore, the annual crime rate in Wyndham (-13.7%) decreased by a greater percentage than that recorded in the North and West Metro area (-9.8%) and Victoria (6.3%)

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



Property and deception offences were the most reported offence in both Wyndham (8,470 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 - 8,470
- Crimes against the person - 2,248
- Justice procedures offences - 1,816
- Public order and security offences - 793
- Drug offences - 653
- Other offences - 41

<sup>1</sup> Wyndham City Council (2016 and 2017). Annual Community Satisfaction Survey

<sup>2</sup> Crime Statistics Agency. (2016/17). Recorded Offences

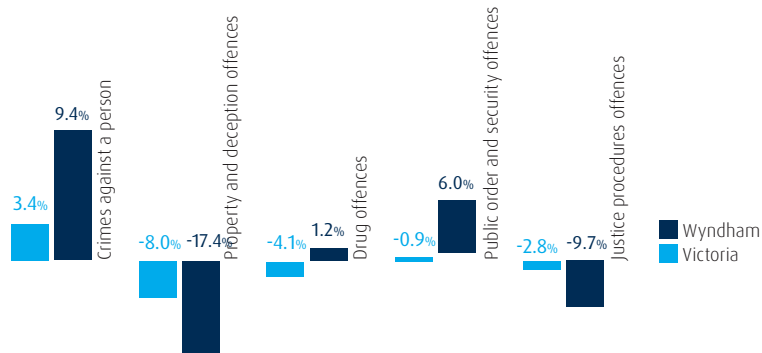
<sup>3</sup> Ibid

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

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



In Wyndham between 2016 and 2017:

- Justice procedure offences decreased by 9.7%, compared to a 2.8% decrease across Victoria. Offences include failure to appear in court, breaches of orders (family violence, intervention and bail orders), and escaping custody.
- In the past year, there was a 9.4% increase in crimes against the person
- The largest percentage decrease in crimes were property and deception offences, which decreased by over 17% in 12 months.

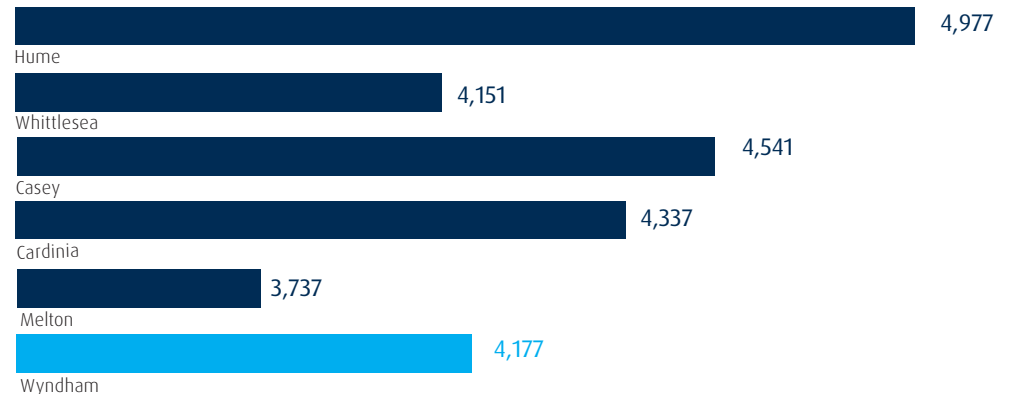
	Male	Female
10-14	111	31
15-19	644	153
20-24	617	108
25-29	605	167
30-34	543	142
35-39	457	93
40-44	353	56
45-49	234	51
50-54	131	20
55 years and over	112	34
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,842</b>	<b>863</b>

## Age and Gender of Alleged Offender, 2016-17<sup>6</sup>

In Wyndham, in 2016-17, the majority of male offenders were aged 15-19 years, while female offenders were more likely to be aged 25-29 years. Overall, significantly more crimes were committed by males across all age groups.

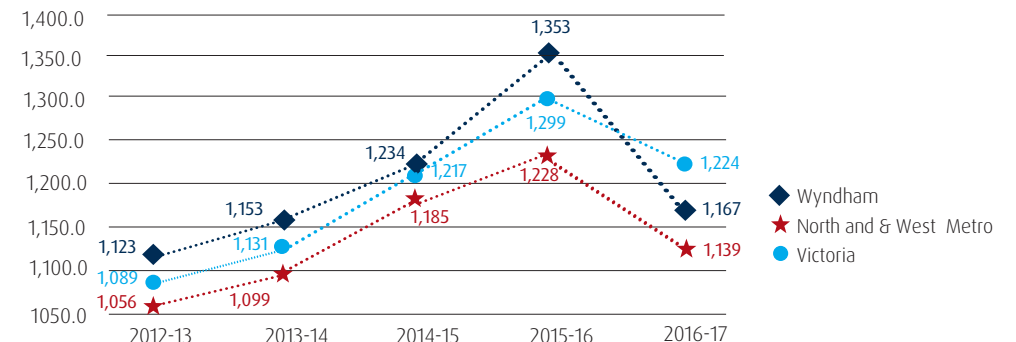
<sup>5</sup> Crime Statistics Agency. (2016-17). Offence Type  
<sup>6</sup> Crime Statistics Agency. (2016-17). Recorded offences - Age gender. Direct request  
<sup>7</sup> Crime Statistics Agency. (2016-17). Offences by age. Direct Request  
<sup>8</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics (2016). Estimated Resident Population  
<sup>9</sup> Crime Statistics Agency. (2015 and 2016). Family incidents

## Youth Crime Rate per 100,000 population, Ages 10 to 25 years, 2016-17<sup>7,8</sup>



Wyndham has one of the lowest youth crime rates across Growth Councils in Greater Melbourne. In the 2016-17 year, the rate was 4,177 per 100,000 10 to 25 year olds. The highest rate was observed in Hume, where there are nearly 5,000 incidents per 100,000 young people.

## Family Incident Rate Per 100,000 People, 2012-13 to 2016-17<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 is considered a major health and wellbeing issue by all levels of government. 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.

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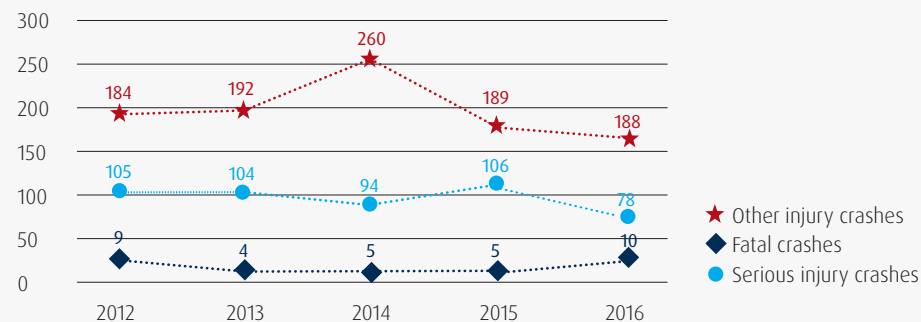


## Family Violence Incidents, 2012 to 2017<sup>13</sup>

Rank by Number of Incidents	LGA	Oct 2016 - Sept 2017	% change 2016-2017	Five Year % Change 2012-2017
1	Casey	4,638	2.0%	29.9%
2	Hume	3,096	0.3%	14.3%
3	Whittlesea	3,005	3.1%	37.3%
4	Wyndham	2,680	-11.0%	26.2%
5	Cardinia	1,176	-17.6%	-3.5%
-	North Western Metro Area	23,483	-5.1%	23.0%
-	Victoria	75,374	-4.4%	20.7%

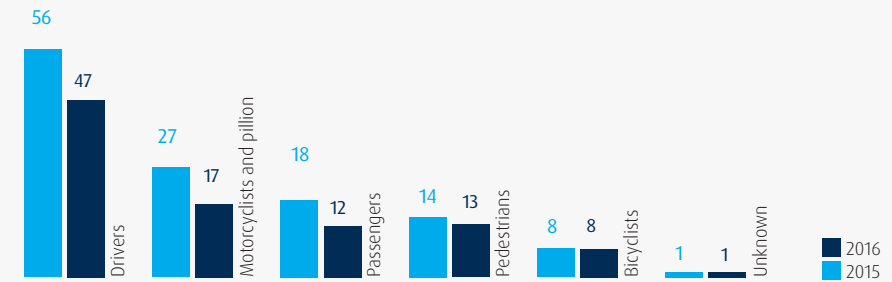
In 2017, Wyndham had the fifth highest number of family violence incidents of all Victorian municipalities despite the 11% decrease in recorded incidents from the previous year. In comparison, other growth areas across Greater Melbourne such as Whittlesea recorded up to a 3.1% increase in 2016-17. Between 2012 and 2017, the number of family violence incidents in Wyndham has increased by 26.2%. Compared to Victoria (20.7%) and the North West Metro area (23.0%), the percentage increase in recorded incidents is higher in Wyndham.

## Wyndham Traffic Accident Summary, 2012 to 2016<sup>15</sup>



The number of 'other injury crashes' (non-fatal and non-serious crashes) decreased by 72 accidents between 2014 and 2016. The number of fatal crashes doubled between 2015 and 2016, and those involving serious injury decreased by 28 accidents.

## Number of Serious Injury & Fatal Crashes by Road User Type, 2015 and 2016<sup>14</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 47% (9 crashes).

<sup>10</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>11</sup> VicHealth. (2011). Violence against women in Australia: Research summary  
<sup>12</sup> VicHealth. (2012). Preventing violence against women  
<sup>13</sup> Crime Statistics Agency. (2015 and 2016). Family incidents  
<sup>14</sup> VicRoads. (2011 to 2016). Crash Statistics - Wyndham  
<sup>15</sup> Ibid

