

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE IN VICTORIA

The issue of domestic, family, and sexual violence is continually growing throughout Victoria with evidence of its existence in differing suburbs made evident by Ambulance Victoria reports from 2018 to 2023.

The reports published most recently in 2023, aim to outline trends of events attended by paramedics, grouped into suburbs and specific locations where these types of crimes have occurred.

The graph above is an interpretation of the locations in which Ambulance Victoria paramedics have attended an event of sexual, family, or domestic violence by the number of victims collected from each place.

The seven locations mentioned in the graph are the most common that paramedics have been called out to across the state, with private residences, mainly consisting of individual's homes, being the most common across all the seven years this data was collected.

This data demonstrates the majority of these acts of violence are happening behind closed doors, with the number of victims only decreasing the more public the locations become. This is an indication of the present issue with domestic, sexual, and family violence, that its occurrence in private locations creates a greater possibility for greater injury to occur, thus the number of ambulance calls.

Another evident trend reflected in the data is the rise in ambulance calls in 2020 (shown in both the pink and yellow columns) in call-outs to ambulance services. 2020 displays the highest number of calls to ambulance services skyrocketed, with private residents, public places, police stations, and aged care facilities all reaching their peak in 2020.

An accurate interpretation of this data can be seen as attitudes toward life due to the outbreak of COVID-19 and the introduction of lockdowns were a prevailing topic in 2020. This confinement to homes with family members for months on end led to a building of tensions, as well as a lack of escape for individuals trapped in dangerous home environments.

This graph is a representation of ambulance callouts for incidents of sexual, family, and domestic violence by Victorian Local Government Areas (LGAs) from the years 2018 to 2023. The numbers depicted are about the percentage of events per 100,000 call-outs.

This graph can be interpreted in various ways, such as the connection between areas with larger rates of police reporting, and areas with high percentages of family, sexual, and domestic violence disputes. Areas that display a higher rate of callouts to

Ambulance Victoria coincide with the lower numbers of police reporting, thus creating a trend. This trend can result in more prevailing crime of all types, but crimes occurring inside private residences are more likely to be repetitive behaviour.

There is a clear correlation between LGAs and the rate of ambulance visits, evident in areas that cover more municipalities and a greater contribution of individual suburbs, as the LGAs such as Murrindindi, span across 3879 square kilometres, making a possibility to skew the results. This is also seen opposingly in LGAs such as Boroondara which is a more densely populated area, therefore, events of family, sexual, and domestic violence result in a lower percentage.