



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
LEGAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

Inquiry: Inquiry into Victoria's criminal justice system

Hearing Date: 21 September 2021

Question[s] taken on notice

Directed to: Fiona Dowsley, Crime Statistics Agency

1. Ms MAXWELL Page no. 5

Question asked.

...it is CCOs that I specifically want to talk about here. How can the system be improved to mitigate this offending? Because looking at the number of programs that were sent in within your submission, there is an enormous amount of programs. We continually hear about programs; we often do not see the evaluations. We hear that there are continued breaches of CCOs. How do we mitigate that, and is it documented how many breaches an offender may have prior to being put in front of whether it be a senior case manager or the courts?

Response:

I am not in a position to offer an opinion.

2. Ms MAXWELL Page no. 8

Question asked.

...we do not have any data on anybody who has been under a CCO and an IMP. What is the data of their recidivism rates after that?

Response:

The Crime Statistics Agency does not report on these data. The Committee may wish to put this request to the Department of Justice and Community Safety.

3. Dr BACH Page no. 6

Question asked.

Would you mind talking us through why it is you think we are seeing a higher rate of recidivism— notwithstanding that that particular measure is blunt, and I note your comments about that—for those on shorter sentences initially?

Response:

I am not in a position to offer an opinion.



4. Dr BACH Page no. 6

Question asked.

I am really interested in the gap between actual crime and reported crime, and of course, reams have been written about this, the so-called dark figure. Based on your experience—it is fantastic to have you here before the committee—it is so hard to quantify, obviously, but what is the magnitude of the dark figure in Victoria?

Response:

A good indication of the dark figure of crime – the gap between experience and report to the justice system – can be obtained from crime victimisation surveys. Crime victimisation surveys do not cover all crimes, but provide indications of this gap for major crime categories that can affect private individuals and households. The annual ABS Crime Victimisation, Australia data series is a good reliable source. See <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/crime-and-justice/crime-victimisation-australia/latest-release>.

In the latest release, reporting statistics for Victoria, ABS stated:

“In the 12 months prior to interview, during the 2018-20 reference period:

- 2.1% of persons (112,300) experienced physical assault, of which 49% reported the most recent incident to the police
- 2.6% of persons (136,300) experienced face-to-face threatened assault, of which 32% reported the most recent incident to the police
- 0.9% of persons (47,800) experienced non face-to-face threatened assault
- 0.3% of persons (13,800) experienced robbery, of which 48% reported the most recent incident to the police

All victimisation and police reporting rates were similar to those in the 2016-18 reference period.”

And in relation to property offences experienced by Victorian households, ABS further stated:

“In the 12 months prior to interview, during the 2018-20 reference period:

- 2.3% of households (56,800) experienced a break-in, of which 75% reported the most recent incident to the police
- 1.6% of households (39,600) experienced an attempted break-in, of which 41% reported the most recent incident to the police
- 0.6% of households (15,000) experienced motor vehicle theft, of which 93% reported the most recent incident to the police
- 3.0% of households (75,200) experienced theft from a motor vehicle, of which 56% reported the most recent incident to the police



- 4.7% of households (118,000) experienced malicious property damage, of which 50% reported the most recent incident to the police
- 2.1% of households (52,500) experienced other theft, of which 44% reported the most recent incident to the police

All police reporting rates were similar to those in the 2016-18 reference period, however there were changes in the following victimisation rates:

- attempted break-in which decreased from 2.1%
- theft from a motor vehicle which decreased from 3.8%
- malicious property damage which decreased from 5.6%
- other theft which decreased from 2.8%.”

Source: <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/crime-and-justice/crime-victimisation-australia/latest-release#state-and-territory-statistics>. Data released 18 February 2021 for the 2019-20 reference period. Accessed 5 October 2021.

Other specialised victimisation surveys can provide insights into reporting rates for specific types of offences, such as the ABS Personal Safety Survey or the ABS Personal Fraud Survey.

5. THE CHAIR Page no. 7

Question asked.

When you look at the statistics about those chronic offenders, or those 10 plus, they are not breach of bail, steal from retail, non-aggravated burglary; they are kind of at that almost opportunistic level of offences. I just have a question around serious assault and assault. Do we know how many of the offenders know the victim or the perpetrators know who they have assaulted?

Response:

The table below shows the latest statistics published by the Crime Statistics Agency for victim reports by relationship of victim to offender or the 12 months ending 30 June 2021. For the category 'Assault and related offences', nearly two thirds of victims (65%) were recorded as knowing their alleged offenders in their victim report. 19% of victim reports related to a current partner, 9.4% to a former partner, 20.7% with another familial relationship and 15.7% relating to a known person who was not a family member.

Person victim reports by principal offence and relationship of victim to offender

		Year ending June 2021						
Offence Division	Offence Subdivision	Current partner	Former partner	Family	Non family member	Not related/ associated	Cannot be determined	Total
A Crimes against the person	A10 Homicide and related offences	12	≤ 3	31	41	65	28	180
	A20 Assault and related offences	8,405	4,150	9,118	6,926	10,396	5,073	44,138
	A30 Sexual offences	906	919	1,747	2,948	1,575	1,037	9,138
	A40 Abduction and related offences	111	111	44	85	62	86	499
	A50 Robbery	5	21	17	287	1,041	1,012	2,385
	A60 Blackmail and extortion	≤ 3	9	16	36	43	47	175
	A70 Stalking, harassment and threatening behaviour	1,010	1,829	1,541	1,684	1,039	797	8,226
	A80 Dangerous and negligent acts endangering people	306	174	249	296	884	1,384	3,309
	Total	10,757	7,215	12,763	12,303	15,105	9,464	68,050
B Property and deception offences	B10 Arson	6	≤ 3	6	≤ 3	10	41	1,002
	B20 Property damage	1,441	1,369	2,416	2,116	3,153	11,601	23,086
	B30 Burglary/Break and enter	54	289	190	626	2,927	15,601	20,011
	B40 Theft	128	331	475	1,935	9,826	63,993	78,999
	B50 Deception	20	108	131	333	3,413	4,939	9,732
	Total	1,649	2,099	3,218	5,012	19,329	96,175	132,830
C Other offences	Total	5	9	≤ 3	10	38	51	199
Grand Total		12,411	9,323	15,983	17,325	34,472	105,690	201,079

Cells marked with ≤ 3 contain a small number of observations and have been suppressed to preserve confidentiality.

Source: Crime Statistics Agency 'Victim report statistics for the year ending 30 June 2021'. <https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/crime-statistics/latest-victorian-crime-data/victim-reports-2>. Date released: 30 September 2021. Date accessed: 5 October 2021.

The CSA publishes victim report data by relationship of the victim to offender. There are six main relationship types: Current partner, Former partner, Family member, Non-family member, Not related/associated and Cannot be determined. Each of these types contains a number of relationship types.

See the table below for a listing of each relationship as recorded by Victoria Police.

Current partner	Former partner	Family member	Non-family member	Not related/associated	Cannot be determined
Spouse	Former spouse/defacto	Child	Acquaintance	No relationship	Unknown
Defacto	Former boyfriend/girlfriend	Parent	Co-resident	Other law enforcement	
Gay or lesbian domestic partner	Former intimate relationship	Parent/child	Employer/employee	Police on duty	
Boyfriend/girlfriend		Step parent/child	Neighbour	Police off-duty	
		Step child	Other known person		
		Step parent	Business associate/colleague		
		Sibling			
		Other lineal relationship			
		Other familial relationship			