

Frequently Asked Questions

Where do the outcomes and indicators on the Data Platform come from?

Outcomes and indicators on the Data Platform are aligned with the prevention outcomes and indicators articulated in the Victorian Government's Free from Violence Outcomes Framework, which has been adopted in the prevention-focused domain of the Family Violence Outcomes Framework.

[Free from Violence](#) is Victoria's first primary prevention strategy to stop family violence and all forms of violence against women before it starts by changing the culture that allows this violence to happen. The Free from Violence Outcomes Framework and the prevention-focused domain of the Family Violence Outcomes Framework lay out a series of high-level outcomes (the changes we are working towards) and associated indicators designed to measure progress towards these outcomes.

How is this different to the Crime Statistics Agency's other Family Violence Data Portal?

The Data Platform is a companion piece to the Crime Statistics Agency's Family Violence Data Portal, which is focused on incidence, reporting, justice, and service response once violence has occurred. The main difference between the Data Platform and the Family Violence Data Portal is that the Data Platform focusses on the prevention and prevalence of family violence and violence against women, whereas the Family Violence Data Portal is a repository of family violence incidence and service use data.

What is the difference between the three sections on the Data Platform home page?

The three sections on the home page allow you to search and explore the Prevention of Family Violence Data Platform in different ways.

- **Explore data & discussion** enables you to view data used to measure the outcomes and indicators from the Victorian Government's [Free from Violence](#) Outcomes Framework.
- **Search the data** enables you to search by outcomes, indicators or keyword
- **About the data** provides an overview of data inclusion criteria, with the option to search by name of survey or report (data source).

What surveys/reports are included on the Data Platform? Where does the data come from?

Data on the Data Platform is drawn from a wide range of surveys, administrative data collections, longitudinal studies and published research reports. The **About the Data Report** (which can be downloaded on the **About the data** page) provides details of each data source in the Data Platform including the year(s) the data was collected/published, data custodian (e.g. Australian Bureau of Statistics), frequency of data collection (e.g. every four years), sample size, and geography of the sample (i.e. Victoria or National).

What is the time-period for the data on the Data Platform?

The first release of the Data Platform contains data sources collected between 2009 and 2020, with additional years of data expected to be added in future updates to the Data Platform.

When will the existing data be updated? Can new data sets be added?

The Data Platform will be updated regularly as more data becomes available. As updates are made to the Data Platform, information about the most recent changes will be documented under the **Updates log** on the **Introduction** page. While every attempt has been made to include the most recent data, there may be a delay between when new data is released and when it can be published on this Data Platform.

Is change over time measured and how?

Yes, change over time is measured where multiple years of data are available. While some indicators are more likely to demonstrate change sooner than others, this initial release of the Data Platform may not show marked positive change in the drivers and prevalence of family violence and violence against women in Victoria. This is because systemic attitudinal and behavioural change at a societal level can take many years to achieve. Significant and sustained reductions in the prevalence of this violence requires long-term, sustained policy investment and effective, evidence-based prevention efforts, as well as continued investment in intervention and response.

Is the data from Victoria only?

Yes, wherever possible, Victorian data is presented on the Data Platform. In cases where Victorian data is unavailable, but research has been conducted at the national (Australia) level, the national results have been included.

Are data from surveys with small sample sizes included?

Survey data was included on the Data Platform where the sample size was large enough to generate a low degree of sampling error. Some sub-population group disaggregations (e.g. age or gender) have been excluded where they are subject to a high degree of sampling error.

Information about survey sample sizes is included on the Data Platform. Details can be found in the **About the Data Report** and under **Select a data source** in the **About the data** page.

Can I search by the name of the survey or report?

Currently, the database design allows you to search by the acronym of the survey, but not the full name of the survey or publisher report.

- Click on **Search data by keyword** and type your keyword of interest (e.g. 'AHRC', the acronym for the Australian Human Rights Commission or 'PSS', the acronym for the Personal Safety Survey) into the search bar. Hit 'Enter' or click the Search icon.
- Relevant indicators, measures, years and values (e.g. percentages) will be displayed.

*Note: If you would like to see the graph and read more about the data you have selected, you must navigate back to the specific indicator by returning to **Indicators and data** page along the top menu bar. You can determine the indicator number by looking at the Indicator_ID.*

Can I search by population groups (e.g. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people with a disability)?

Yes, it is possible to search by population group.

- Click on **Search the data** from the home page or **Search** at the top of each page.
- Select **Search data by keyword** and type your population group of interest (e.g. 'disability') into the search bar. Hit 'Enter' or click the Search icon.
- Relevant indicators, measures, years and values (e.g. percentages) will be displayed.

*Note: If you would like to see the graph and read more about the data you have selected, you must navigate back to the specific indicator by returning to **Indicators and data** page along the top menu bar. You can determine the indicator number by looking at the Indicator_ID.*

How is the data collected and processed?

Data on the Data Platform is drawn from a wide range of surveys, administrative data collections, longitudinal studies and published research reports from a range of research institutions and government organisations. Each organisation collects, processes and analyses their data according to their own research protocols. Respect Victoria and the Crime Statistics Agency obtain this data by requesting it from the relevant organisation or extracting it from the relevant publicly accessible database or report.

Can I download the raw data file to undertake my own analysis?

No, the raw data files are not kept on the Data Platform and therefore cannot be downloaded for analysis. Raw data files are instead kept by the original data custodians. Many of the data custodians have published their data which is available publicly. In some instances, data that has not been published was made available for publication on the Data Platform.

Where data files are available publicly, they can be downloaded from the data custodians' websites e.g. Australian Bureau of Statistics publishes downloadable data cubes. In instances where the data is not publicly available, the data custodians for each survey/report would need to be contacted. Links to the sources of all data are provided on the Data Platform under the **Links and Resources** tab of each **Indicator** page.

Can I download the data tables?

Currently the data on the Data Platform cannot be downloaded. If you require a specific data download, please contact research@respectvictoria.vic.gov.au. Links to the organisations that publish each data source are also provided on the Data Platform under the **Links and Resources** tab of each **Indicator** page.

Does the Data Platform enable self-service data analysis e.g., simple cross tabulations? How do I request specific data analysis?

The Data Platform does not enable self-service data analysis. To request specific data services, please contact the respective data custodian of the survey or report you are interested in.

To enable us to identify research needs and gaps in data analysis, please contact research@respectvictoria.vic.gov.au to indicate the type of data analysis you are looking for.

Is the data deidentified?

Yes, all data has been deidentified by the original data custodians (e.g. the Australian Bureau of Statistics) and published in aggregate form.

Can the Data Platform help inform primary prevention practice?

Yes, the Data Platform can be used as one of many tools used to inform primary prevention practice. The Data Platform highlights where further work needs to occur, for example, the proportion of the Victorian population who hold problematic attitudes relating to the drivers of violence against women. This knowledge may help guide practitioners when tailoring program focus areas.

Who is this Data Platform designed for?

The Data Platform can be used by:

- *Victorian Government decision-makers* – for primary prevention monitoring, reporting, policy and program planning, strategic investment planning, and data investment planning.
- *The primary prevention sector* – to help inform primary prevention program development.
- *Researchers and data custodians* – to help identify and address gaps in the primary prevention evidence base.
- *The public, the media and others* – to explore data on the prevention of family violence and violence against women in Victoria.

Who do I contact if I have questions about the Data Platform?

For enquiries about the Data Platform please contact research@respectvictoria.vic.gov.au.