

# SACStat User Guide

## Sentencing Advisory Council Statistics



### What is SACStat?

SACStat is a comprehensive database of statistics showing sentencing outcomes for adult offenders in Victoria.

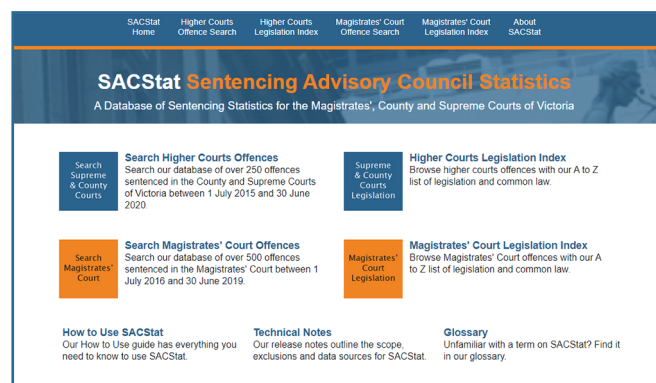
SACStat includes three years of anonymised data for over 500 offences sentenced in the Magistrates' Court of Victoria, and five years of anonymised data for over 250 offences sentenced in the higher courts (the County Court of Victoria and the Supreme Court of Victoria). These statistics are updated periodically.

### Accessing SACStat

SACStat is accessed through the Sentencing Advisory Council website at:

<https://www.sentencingcouncil.vic.gov.au/sacstat/home.html>

All of SACStat's key features and user guides are available from its home page.



### Finding an Offence

You can locate an offence by using either the legislation index or the offence search.

The legislation index lists Acts alphabetically, with each offence displayed under the name of the Act that defines it. Common law offences are listed under 'C' for 'common law'.

In the offence search, enter all or part of the name of an offence to return a list of matching offences.

The search requires correct spelling but does not require the entire name of the offence to be entered.

Data for some offences (e.g. indictable offences triable summarily) can be found in both the Magistrates' Court and the higher courts. Click on the name of the offence to open its statistics.

### What Statistics Are Available?

SACStat includes data for:

- the number of charges sentenced
- the number of cases sentenced.

It also includes both numbers and percentages for:

- the sentence types imposed
- the sentence lengths/fine amounts imposed
- the age profile of offenders
- the gender ratio of offenders.

Data is also available for total effective sentences of imprisonment and non-parole periods. Magistrates' Court data shows separate aggregate and non-aggregate sentences.

### Summaries and Tables

Clicking 'Offence Summary' just below the offence name opens a new page displaying key statistics and graphs for that offence. This feature is available for all offences sentenced in the Magistrates' Court, and for higher court offences with 10 or more cases receiving imprisonment.

SACStat data can also be displayed as tables by clicking on the 'Data Tables' button. This allows you to copy and paste data into your own spreadsheet.

### Printing

Both 'Offence Summary' and individual SACStat pages can be printed to hard copy or saved as a PDF using your web browser's printer settings.

## Counting Rules and Limitations

SACStat's counting rules and limitations are summarised in the table below. A complete description of counting rules is also available under [Technical Notes](#) on the SACStat home page.

**Limitations in the counting rules for SACStat's Magistrates' Court statistics make its data for sentencing by case much less reliable than its data for sentencing by charge.**

### Summary of Counting Rules and Limitations

Court	Higher courts	Magistrates' Court
Reference period	5 years to 30 June 2020	3 years to 30 June 2019
Outcomes for charges of an offence	Yes	Yes
Outcomes for cases that include a charge of an offence	Yes, based on principal proven offence	Yes, based on a charge of the offence being 'anywhere in the case'
Aggregate sentence lengths	No	Yes
Appeals against sentence or conviction	Yes	No
Minimum number of charges/cases for inclusion in SACStat	10 charges and/or cases over the 5 years	40 charges over the 3 years
Offence summary	Yes, for offences with 10 or more cases with imprisonment	Yes, for all offences
Excluded offences	None	Commonwealth and local government offences

## Queries and Problems

If you have a query or problem with SACStat, try our [How to Use SACStat](#) page, [Technical Notes](#) or [Glossary](#). If you're unable to resolve your query, please contact us.

## Education and Training

The Sentencing Advisory Council runs training sessions on finding and using sentencing statistics. We also provide introductory 'You be the Judge' adult educational sessions on sentencing law and practice for general and specialist audiences. Please contact us for more details.

## Contact Us

To report technical problems with SACStat or to make an enquiry, please use the [Contact Us](#) form on our website. You can also email us at [contact@sentencingcouncil.vic.gov.au](mailto:contact@sentencingcouncil.vic.gov.au) or phone us on 1300 363 196.



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