

1. Domestic and Family Violence

Key Facts and Definitions

Violence against women is now recognised to be a serious and widespread problem in Australia with enormous individual and community impacts and social costs.

The following basic statistics help demonstrate the prevalence and severity of violence against women.

- On average, one woman a week is murdered by her current or former partner, according to the most recent analysis of homicide statistics in Australia. (1).
- One in three Australian women has experienced physical violence, since the age of 15. (2).
- One in four Australian women has experienced physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner. (3).
- Women are at least three times more likely than men to experience violence from an intimate partner. (4).
- Women are five times more likely than men to require medical attention or hospitalisation as a result of intimate partner violence, and five times more likely to report fearing for their lives. (5).
- Of those women who experience violence, more than half have children in their care. (6).
- Violence against women is not limited to the home or intimate relationships. Every year in Australia, over 300,000 women experience violence – often sexual violence – from someone other than a partner. (7).
- Between March 2013 and June 2016, the Australian Federal Police received 116 case referrals for forced marriage involving young females. These commonly involved Australian citizens under the age of 18, (IDC ICoHTaS 2016). (8).
- Young women (18–24 years) experience significantly higher rates of physical and sexual violence than women in older age groups. (9).
- There is growing evidence that women with disabilities are more likely to experience violence. (10).
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women experience violence at higher rates than non-indigenous women. (11).
- Intimate partner violence contributes to more death, disability and illness in women aged 15 to 44 than any other preventable risk factor. (13).
- Domestic or family violence against women is the single largest driver of homelessness for women, (14). a common factor in child protection notifications, (15). and results in a police call-out on average once every two minutes across the country. (16).
- When compared with people without disability, people with disability were 1.8 times as likely to have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from a partner in the previous year, and 1.7 times as likely to have experienced sexual violence (including assault and threats) since the age of 15 (ABS 2018a).
- People identifying with diverse sexual orientation were 1.7 times as likely to have experienced workplace sexual harassment in the 5 years before the survey as people identifying as heterosexual (AHRC 2018).



DFV Work Aware



By your side



References.

1. Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) 2017. The 2017 National Homicide Monitoring Program report by the AIC showed that over a 2-year period from 2012/13 to 2013/14, there were 99 female victims of intimate partner homicide. Women continue to be over-represented as victims of intimate partner homicide, accounting for 79% of all intimate partner homicides.
 2. Cox, P. (2015) Violence against women: Additional analysis of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Personal Safety Survey 2012, Horizons Research Report, Issue 1, Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS), Sydney; and Woodlock, D., Healey, L., Howe, K., McGuire, M., Geddes, V. and Granek, S. (2014).
 3. Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), 2012.
 4. In 2012, 17% of all women and 5% of men had experienced violence by a partner since the age of 15. Australian Bureau of Statistics (2013), Australian Bureau of Statistics (2013) Personal Safety, Australia 2012, Cat. No. 4906.0, Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), Canberra.
 5. Mouzos, J. (1999) Femicide: An overview of major findings, No. 124, Australian Institute of Criminology, Canberra, pp. 1-6.
 6. National Crime Prevention (2001) Young people and domestic violence: National research on young people's attitudes and experiences of domestic violence, Crime Prevention Branch, Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department, Canberra; and Cox (2015), see note 2.
 7. ABS (2013), see note 4. Survey extrapolated to population figures on the basis of 3.8% of all women surveyed reporting having experienced physical or sexual violence from a non-partner in the past 12 months (and approximately 9 million women over the age of 18 in Australia).
 8. Johnson, M. and Bennett, E. (2015) Everyday sexism: Australian women's experiences of street harassment, The Australia Institute, Canberra.
 9. ABS (2013) see note 4. In the 2012 Personal Safety Survey, 13% of women in this age group reported having experienced violence by a man in the last 12 months. This was the highest proportion of any age group.
 10. Cox, P. (2015), see note 2; and Woodlock, D., Healey, L., Howe, K., McGuire, M., Geddes, V. and Granek, S. (2014), see note 2.
 11. structures, this was 32 times the rate for non-Indigenous females.
- There is no single data source that provides a direct comparison for all forms of violence. However various data sources consistently show Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women experiencing higher (and often much higher) rates of violence than non-Indigenous women, with the size of the difference varying according to the type of violence, data source and jurisdiction. In 2014-15, hospitalisation rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family violence-related assaults were 530 females per 100 000 female population. After adjusting for differences in population age Source: Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision (2016) Overcoming Indigenous disadvantage: Key indicators 2016, Productivity Commission, Canberra, p.4.98, and table (table 4A.12.13).
13. Based on Victorian figures from VicHealth (2004) The health costs of violence: Measuring the burden of disease caused by intimate partner violence, Victorian Health Promotion Foundation, Melbourne. A comparable national study is pending.
 14. 55% of women with children presenting to specialist homelessness services nominated escaping violence as their main reason for seeking help. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2012) Specialist homeless services data collection 2011-12, Cat. No. HOU 267, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Canberra.
 15. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2015) Child Protection Australia 2013-14, Child Welfare Series No. 61, Cat. No. CWS 52, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Canberra. Children exposed to family violence are classified as experiencing 'emotional abuse', which, while a broader category, is the most commonly substantiated type of harm (39%) in child protection notifications across Australia.
 16. Police across Australia dealt with 239,846 domestic violence incidents in 2015, an estimated 657 domestic violence matters on average every day of the year (or one every two minutes) – calculated for police data sourced across all states and territories, collated at ABC News.
 17. IDC ICoHTaS (Interdepartmental Committee on Human Trafficking and Slavery) 2016. Tracking in persons: the Australian Government response (1 July 2015 – 30 June 2016). Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia.