

# Family, domestic and sexual violence data in Australia

Web report | Last updated: 09 Nov 2022 | [Media release](#)

## About

Family, domestic and sexual violence is a major health, welfare and social issue. It affects people of all ages and from all backgrounds, but mainly women and children. This release was last updated 09/11/2022 and brings together a range of sources to report a core set of data in an interactive format, and summarise changes in measures of family, domestic and sexual violence over time. For new and updated data, see the [Family, domestic and sexual violence](#) website.

Cat. no: FDV 6

- [Interactive dashboards](#)
- [Data](#)

### Findings from this report:

- [2.2 million Australians have experienced physical or sexual violence from a current or previous partner](#)
- [Over 2 million Australian adults have experienced sexual violence at least once since the age of 15](#)

What influences family, domestic and sexual violence?

- [People who are intolerant of violence against women](#)
- [People with highest understanding of non-physical forms of violence](#)

Who is at risk of family, domestic and sexual violence?

- [Children exposed to their parent or carer's experience of domestic violence](#)

How is family, domestic and sexual violence experienced?

- [Physical and/or sexual family and domestic violence](#)
- [Emotional abuse by a partner](#)
- [Sexual violence](#)

What services or supports do those who have experienced family, domestic and sexual violence use?

- [Help sought after family and domestic violence](#)
- [Help sought after sexual assault](#)
- [Family and domestic assault reported to police](#)
- [Sexual assault reported to police](#)
- [Crime rates for family and domestic violence](#)
- [Crime rates for sexual assault](#)
- [Specialist homelessness services clients who have experienced family and domestic violence](#)
- [Substantiated notifications of abuse and/or neglect](#)
- [Hospitalisations for family and domestic violence](#)
- [Family and domestic violence Crisis Payments](#)
- [1800RESPECT contacts](#)

What are the consequences of family, domestic and sexual violence?

- [Family and domestic violence homicide](#)

## Summary

Family, domestic and sexual violence data in Australia allows users to explore data for a core set of family, domestic and sexual violence measures over time and for different population groups. It is structured according to a framework developed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) (ABS 2009; ABS 2013a; ABS 2013b). This framework uses six elements as central organising principles for information relating to family, domestic and sexual violence, and shows the key relationships that exist between the elements (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Overview of the framework



Source: adapted from ABS 2013a.

The framework was developed to support the Council of Australian Governments National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children, 2010-2022 (National Plan), priority area 'Building the Evidence Base'. It provides the foundations for improved data and reporting of family, domestic and sexual violence across the Commonwealth, states and territories and the non-government sectors.

### Elements, measures and data challenges

The measures in this release are grouped together based on five of the elements, allowing users to explore: the **context** in which family, domestic and sexual violence exists in Australian society; the **risk** of family, domestic and sexual violence, people's **experience** of family, domestic and sexual violence; **responses** to family, domestic and sexual violence by individuals, families, the community and formal systems, and the **impacts** and outcomes of family, domestic and sexual violence. For each of these five elements there are a range of challenges which impact the availability of data, and some examples are provided below.

#### Context

##### What influences family, domestic and sexual violence?

Family, domestic and sexual violence context measures explore the environmental and psychosocial factors that influence community and individual attitudes, and otherwise provide context for the occurrence and experience of family, domestic and sexual violence. Knowledge and awareness of what constitutes violence, both physical and non-physical, can also influence attitudes and behaviour.

This release includes the following context measures:

- [People who are intolerant of violence against women](#)
- [People with highest understanding of non-physical forms of violence](#)

##### Data challenges for measuring context

- Differences in relevant legislation, policy and practice across jurisdictions
- Lack of precise geographical data



#### Risk

##### Who is at risk of family, domestic and sexual violence?

Family, domestic and sexual violence risk measures explore the actual and perceived risk factors that can increase or decrease the likelihood of experiencing or using family, domestic or sexual violence.

This release includes the following risk measure:

- [Children exposed to their parent or carer's experience of domestic violence](#)

##### Data challenges for measuring risk

- Limited data on different population groups



## Incident/Experience

### How is family, domestic and sexual violence experienced?

Family, domestic and sexual violence incident/experience measures explore the characteristics of family, domestic and sexual violence incidents and the experiences of victims and people who use violence (perpetrators).

This release includes the following incident/experience measures:

- [Physical and/or sexual family and domestic violence](#)
- [Emotional abuse by a partner](#)
- [Sexual violence](#)

#### Data challenges for measuring incident/experience

- Different definitions used across data sources
- Lack of data on complex forms of violence
- Limited data on technology-facilitated abuse
- Limited data on location of event
- Limited data on offence history of perpetrator
- Limited data on relationship between victim and perpetrator



## Responses

### What services or supports do those who have experienced family, domestic and sexual violence use?

Family, domestic and sexual violence response measures explore the actions that are taken after violence. Responses may be formal or informal, and may be taken by victims, people who use violence, family and friends of the victim, witnesses, service providers, and the civil or criminal justice system.

This release includes the following response measures:

- [Help sought after family and domestic violence](#)
- [Help sought after sexual assault](#)
- [Family and domestic assault reported to police](#)
- [Sexual assault reported to police](#)
- [Crime rates for family and domestic violence](#)
- [Crime rates for sexual assault](#)
- [Specialist homelessness services clients who have experienced family and domestic violence](#)
- [Substantiated notifications of abuse and/or neglect](#)
- [Hospitalisations for family and domestic violence](#)
- [Family and domestic violence Crisis Payments](#)
- [1800RESPECT contacts](#)

#### Data challenges for measuring responses

- Limited service response data, including specialist family, domestic and sexual violence services, emergency department and primary health care
- Inconsistent identification, capturing and counting procedures



## Impacts and Outcomes

### What are the consequences of family, domestic and sexual violence?

Family, domestic and sexual violence impact and outcome measures explore the wide ranging consequences of family, domestic and sexual violence for victims, people who use violence, families, workplaces, the community and the economy.

This release includes the following impacts and outcomes measure:

- [Family and domestic violence homicide](#)

## Data challenges for measuring impacts and outcomes

- Lack of data on long-term health and welfare outcomes
- Lack of data on effectiveness of services, for example perpetrator intervention programs
- Lack of data on pathways for victims and perpetrators



### Programs, research and evaluation

The development of family, domestic and sexual violence education and prevention programs is informed by data relating to incident/experience, responses, and impacts & outcomes. Research and evaluation of interventions help to build an evidence-base to inform further research, policies and programming.

## References

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ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) (2009) *Conceptual Framework for Family and Domestic Violence*, ABS website.

ABS (2013a) *Bridging the data gaps for family, domestic and sexual violence*, ABS website.

ABS (2013b) *Defining the Data Challenge for Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence*, ABS website.

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## What influences family, domestic and sexual violence?

- People who are intolerant of violence against women
  - People with highest understanding of non-physical forms of violence
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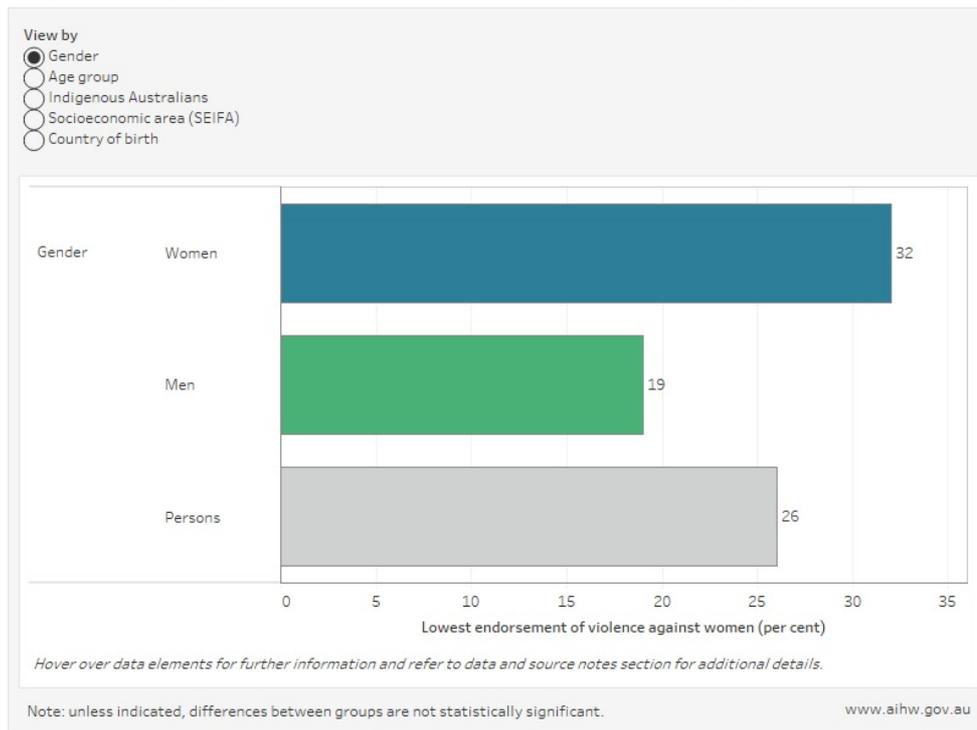


## What influences family, domestic and sexual violence?

Community levels of intolerance of violence against women provide context for the prevalence rates of violence against women in Australia, with higher levels of intolerance associated with lower levels of prevalence. Here 'intolerance' is measured by examining the proportion of people whose score falls into the lowest endorsement of attitudes supportive of violence category based on the Community Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women Scale (CASVAWS).

The visualisation below allows users to explore the relative differences in levels of intolerance of violence against women for select population groups. In 2017, a greater proportion of women than men were categorised as having the highest level of 'intolerance'. Compared with all other age groups, a lower proportion of people aged 75 and over were categorised as having the highest level of 'intolerance'.

### Proportion of people with lowest endorsement of attitudes supportive of violence, by population groups, 2017



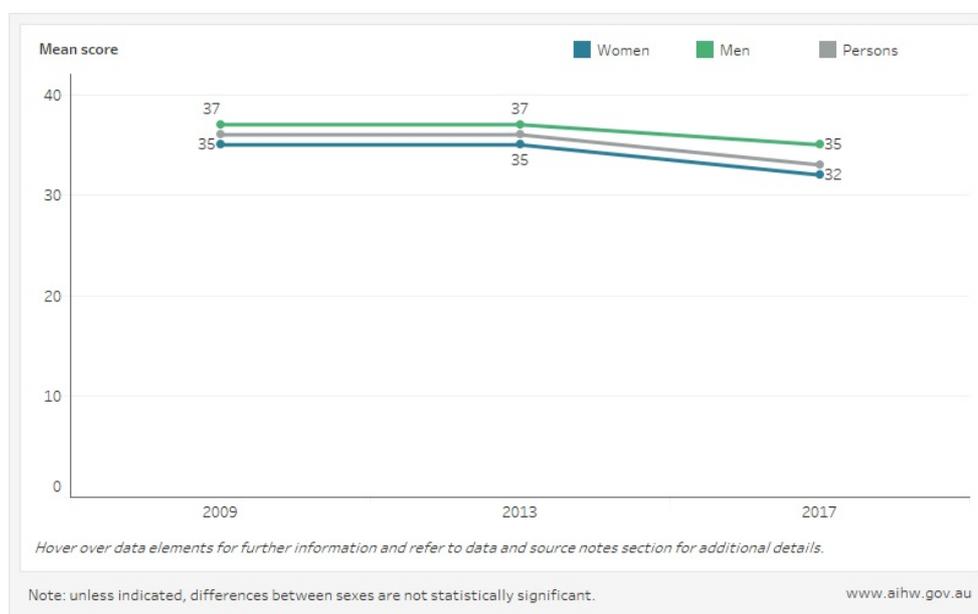
Source data: [People who are intolerant of violence against women tables \(50KB XLSX\)](#)

### Time series

Exploring levels of intolerance of violence against women over time can help to identify shifts in community attitudes and evaluate primary prevention policy and programs. A lower mean score on the CASVAWS indicates a higher level of intolerance of violence against women and is seen as desirable.

The visualisation below shows a reduced mean score between 2009 and 2017 indicating a positive shift in attitudes, for women and men.

### Mean score on the Community Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women Scale (CASVAWS), by gender, 2009, 2013 and 2017



Source data: [People who are intolerant of violence against women tables \(50KB XLSX\)](#)

## Data and source notes

### Notes

1. The Community Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women Scale (CASVAWS) is one of several composite measures included in the [National Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women Survey \(NCAS\)](#). The CASVAWS measures the overall concept of 'condoning violence against women' and includes 32 questions across four themes: Excuse the perpetrator and hold women responsible; Minimise violence against women; Mistrust women's reports of violence; Disregard the need to gain consent.
2. The NCAS collects information from Australians aged 16 years and over.
3. The data outlined in the first visualisation provides a comparison of the proportion of a particular population who fell into the quartile with the lowest endorsement of violence against women. Approximate quartiles were used in the reporting of the NCAS for the purpose of comparing different groups at a single point in time. The quartiles were calculated by taking the sample as a whole and dividing it into quartiles based on participant scores. The first quartile represents the lower scores, equating to lowest levels of endorsement observed and the fourth quartile represents the highest scores, equating to highest levels of endorsement observed. The second and third quartiles were combined and labelled as a medium level of endorsement. After dividing the scores of the entire sample into quartiles, comparisons of particular populations can then be made by comparing what proportion of each population group sits in each quartile.
4. The scores are relative and indicate whether one group has a relatively lower endorsement than another group. However, the scores do not indicate the overall level of endorsement of any group in an absolute sense, for example, it cannot be said that a group has a "good" or "bad" level of endorsement.
5. Non-main English speaking country includes respondents born overseas in a non-main English speaking country, that is, a country where the main language is not English.
6. Mean scores on the CASVAWS are reported here for the purposes of exploring changes to attitudes over time. These data cannot be compared to the proportion of people with the lowest level of endorsement. Mean scores range from 0-100, with lower scores indicative of higher levels of intolerance of violence against women.
7. To determine whether differences in CASVAWS scores between demographic groups in the sample represent genuine differences in the population, tests of statistical significance were conducted. Significance was tested at the 99 per cent confidence level ( $p \leq .01$ ). As the NCAS sample size is large, it is possible for a result to be statistically significant but too small to be of any practical importance. Thus, only results that are likely to have practical importance are noted as statistically significant, based on a Cohen's effect size of  $> 0.2$  (and  $p \leq .01$ ).
8. For more information see [Methods](#), [Glossary](#) and [Data sources](#).

### Sources

[The National Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women Survey \(NCAS\) 2017](#)

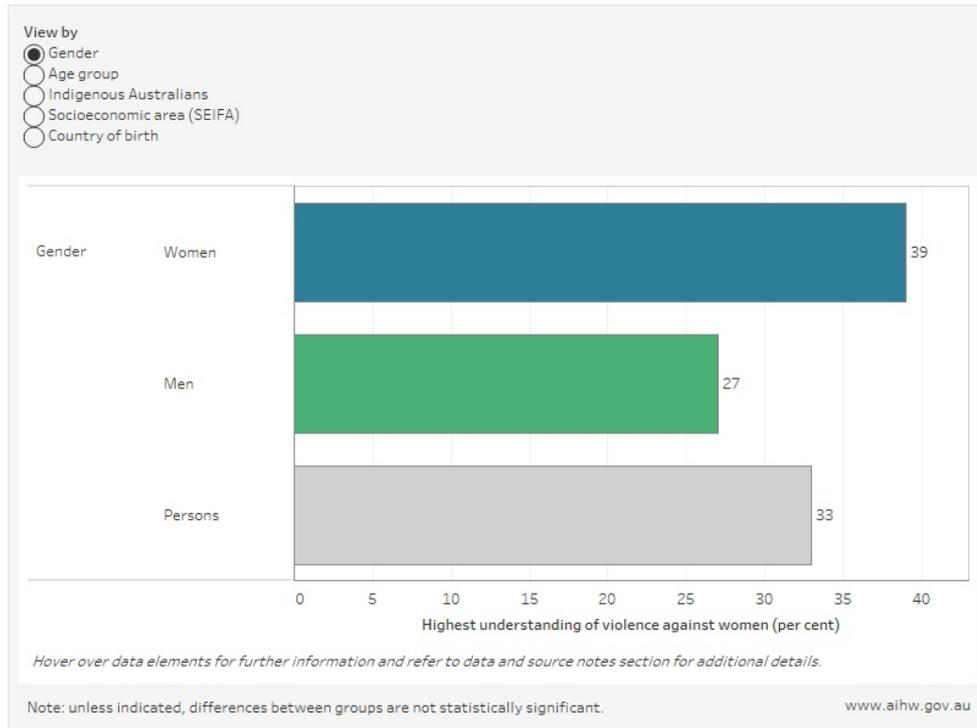
Next expected: 2021

## What influences family, domestic and sexual violence?

A high understanding that certain non-physical behaviours are a form of violence against women is one of many factors that can contribute to lower support for attitudes supportive of violence. Here 'highest understanding' is measured by examining the proportion of people whose score falls into the highest category on the Understanding Violence Against Women Scale (UVAWS).

The visualisation below allows users to explore the relative differences in understanding of non-physical violence against women population groups. It shows that in 2017 a greater proportion of women than men were categorised as having the highest understanding of non-physical violence against women. Compared with all other age groups, a lower proportion of people aged 16-24 and 75 and over were categorised as having the highest understanding.

### Proportion of people with highest understanding of non-physical violence against women, by population groups, 2017



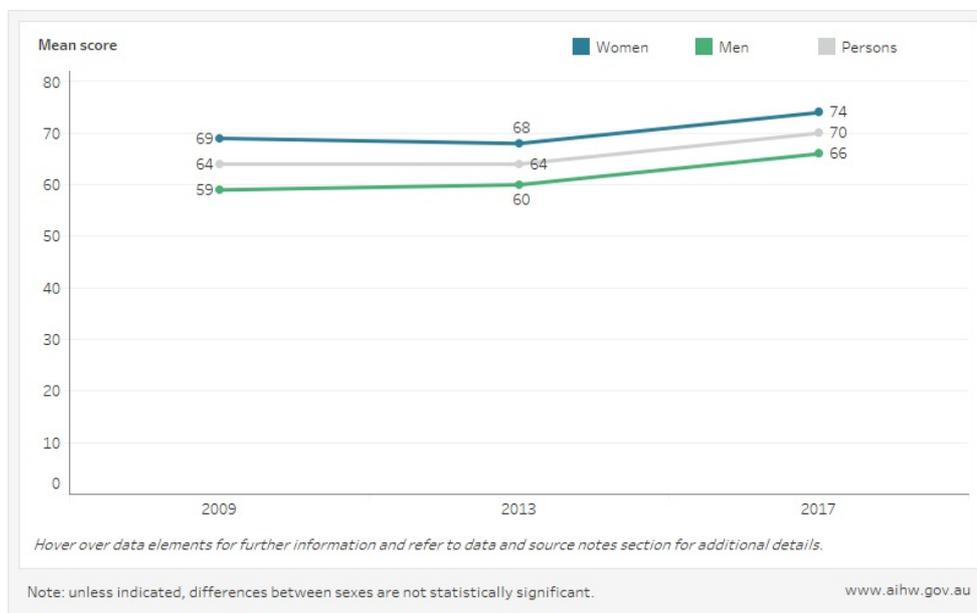
Source data: [XLS](#) [XLS](#) [People with highest understanding of non-physical forms of violence tables \(52KB XLSX\)](#)

### Time series

Exploring changes in level of understanding of non-physical forms of violence over time can help to identify shifts in knowledge, and evaluate relevant primary prevention policies and programs. A higher mean score on the UVAWS indicates a higher level of understanding of violence against women and is desirable.

The visualisation below shows that between 2009 and 2017 there was a positive shift in understanding, for women and men.

### Mean score on the Understanding Violence Against Women Scale (UVAWS), by gender, 2009, 2013 and 2017



Source data: [People with highest understanding of non-physical forms of violence tables \(52KB XLSX\)](#)

## Data and source notes

### Notes

1. The Understanding of Violence Against Women Scale (UVAWS) is one of several composite measures included in the [National Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women Survey \(NCAS\)](#). The UVAWS is comprised of 6 items that ask participants whether they understand certain forms of non-physical violence, such as social, emotional, psychological and economic forms of control, abuse and exploitation, to be a form domestic violence or violence against women.
2. The NCAS collects information from Australians aged 16 years and over.
3. The data outlined in the first visualisation provides a comparison of the proportion of a particular population who fell into the quartile with the highest understanding of violence. Approximate quartiles were used in the reporting of the NCAS for the purpose of comparing different groups at a single point in time. The quartiles were calculated by taking the sample as a whole and dividing it into quartiles based on participant scores. The first quartile represents the lower scores, equating to lowest levels of understanding observed and the fourth quartile represents the highest scores, equating to highest levels of knowledge observed. The second and third quartiles were combined and labelled as a medium level of knowledge. After dividing the scores of the entire sample into quartiles, comparisons of particular populations can then be made by comparing what proportion of each population group sits in each quartile.
4. The scores are relative and indicate whether one group has a relatively higher understanding than another group. However, the scores do not indicate the overall level of understanding of any group in an absolute sense, for example, it cannot be said that a group has a “good” or “bad” understanding.
5. Non-main English speaking country includes respondents born overseas in a non-main English speaking country, that is, a country where the main language is not English.
6. Mean scores on the UVAWS are reported here for the purposes of exploring changes to understanding over time. These data cannot be compared to the proportion of people with the highest level of understanding. Mean scores range from 0-100, with higher scores indicative of higher levels of understanding of violence against women.
7. To determine whether differences in UVAWS scores between demographic groups within the sample represent genuine differences in the population, tests of statistical significance were conducted. Significance was tested at the 99 per cent confidence level ( $p \leq .01$ ). As the NCAS sample size is large, it is possible for a result to be statistically significant but too small to be of any practical importance. Thus, only results that are likely to have practical importance are noted as statistically significant, based on a Cohen’s effect size of  $> 0.2$  (and  $p \leq .01$ ).
8. For more information see [Methods](#), [Glossary](#) and [Data sources](#).

### Sources

[The National Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women Survey \(NCAS\) 2017](#)

Next expected: 2021



## Who is at risk of family, domestic and sexual violence?

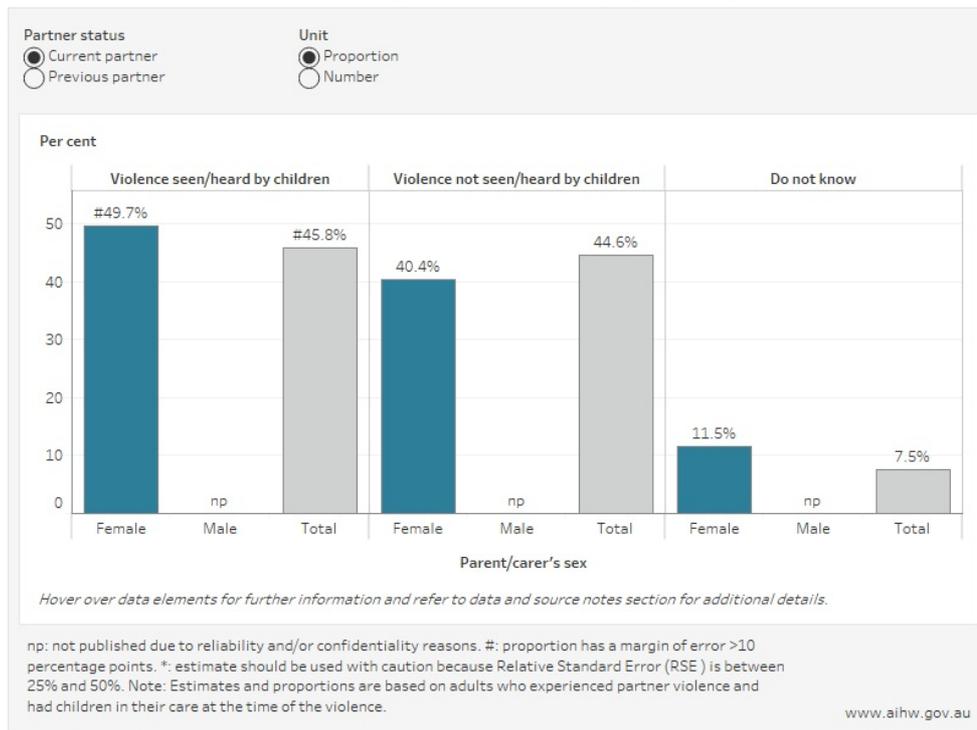
- Children exposed to their parent or carer's experience of domestic violence
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## Who is at risk of family, domestic and sexual violence?

Children can be exposed to family violence within their home or in the community. Childhood exposure to violence can have a range of physical, emotional and social consequences, which may be long-lasting and may also increase the risk of the child experiencing or using family, domestic, or sexual violence in the future. Data on children exposed to their parent or carer's experience of partner violence is available from the [ABS Personal Safety Survey \(PSS\)](#). This data is collected through parent or carer reports of a child hearing or seeing the violence.

The visualisation below shows the estimate and proportion of people, aged 18 and over, whose violence by a partner, since age 15, was ever heard or seen by children in their care. Around 2 in 3 women who had children in their care when they experienced previous partner violence, reported that the children had seen or heard the violence.

### Partner violence seen or heard by children in care, by sex of parent/carer, 2016



Source data: [Children exposed to their parent or carer's experience of domestic violence \(42KB XLSX\)](#)

### Data and source notes

#### Notes

1. Data are based on adults who experienced partner violence and had children in their care at the time of the violence.
2. The PSS defines a current partner as a person who, at the time of the survey, was living with the respondent in a marriage or de-facto relationship, and a previous partner as a person who lived with the respondent at some point in a marriage or de facto relationship, but who was no longer living with the respondent at the time of the survey.
3. The PSS collects information from women and men aged 18 years and over.
4. Survey data, obtained from a sample of the population, is subject to sampling error. Where estimates are subject to a level of sampling error too high for general use, they are not included in visualisations, but are included in data tables, with caveats.
5. The observed value of a rate may vary due to chance even where there is no variation in the underlying value of the rate. The margin of error is the largest possible difference (due to sampling error) that could exist between the estimate and what would have been produced had all persons been included in the survey. Confidence intervals - constructed by taking the estimate plus or minus the MoE - can be used to provide an approximate indication of the true differences between rates. If the confidence intervals do not overlap, the difference can be said to be statistically significant. However, statistically significant differences are not necessarily the same as differences considered to be of practical importance. Small differences that have practical importance may be found to be not statistically significant as they are below the threshold the significance test can reliably detect.
6. For more information see [Methods](#), [Glossary](#) and [Data sources](#).

#### Sources





## How is family, domestic and sexual violence experienced?

- Physical and/or sexual family and domestic violence
  - Emotional abuse by a partner
  - Sexual violence
- 

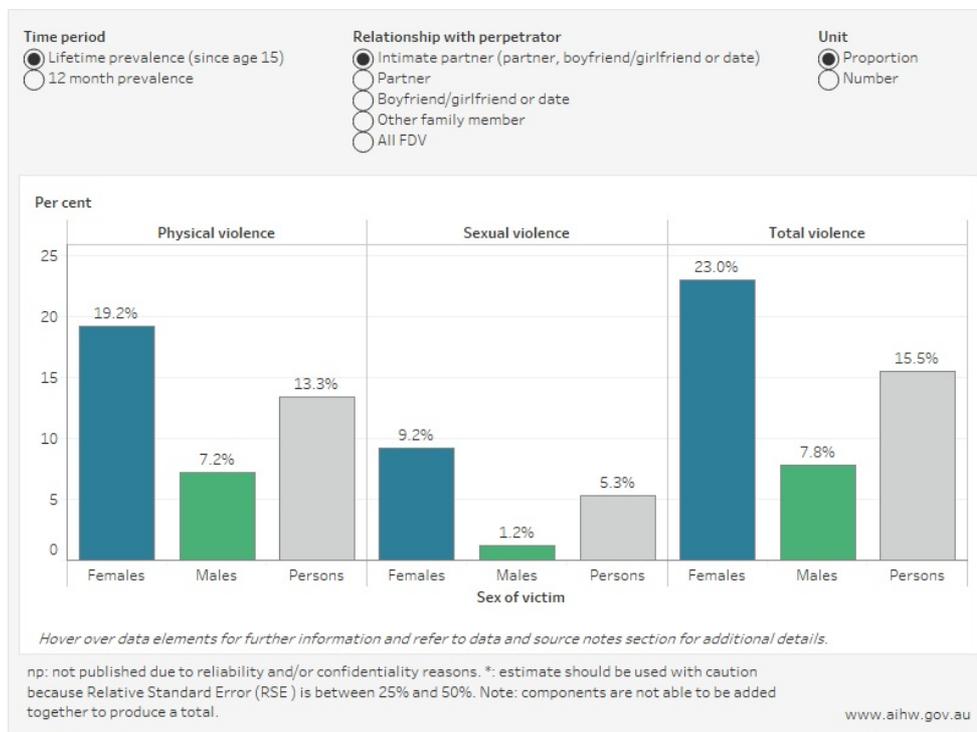


## How is family, domestic and sexual violence experienced?

Understanding the nature and prevalence of family and domestic violence can inform the development and evaluation of policies, programs and services to prevent and better respond to the issue. While every experience is very personal and different, it is most common for this type of violence to be perpetrated against women, by men. Data on the prevalence of physical and/or sexual family and domestic violence in Australia is available from the [ABS Personal Safety Survey \(PSS\)](#), which collects information on the experiences of violence for women and men in Australia.

The visualisation below allows users to explore the estimate and proportion of Australians aged 18 and over who have experienced physical and/or sexual family and/or domestic violence at least once since the age of 15 (lifetime prevalence), and at least once in the last 12 months (12 month prevalence), by sex of victim, and relationship with perpetrator. Across all family and domestic relationship types in 2016, a higher proportion of women than men experienced physical and/or sexual violence at least once in their lifetime. Almost 1 in 4 (23% or 2.2 million) women and 1 in 13 (7.8% or 704,000) men experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner at least once since the age of 15. An estimated 2.3% (or 212,000) of women and 1.3% (or 114,000) of men experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence at least once in the last 12 months.

### Prevalence of physical and/or sexual family and domestic violence, by sex, 2016



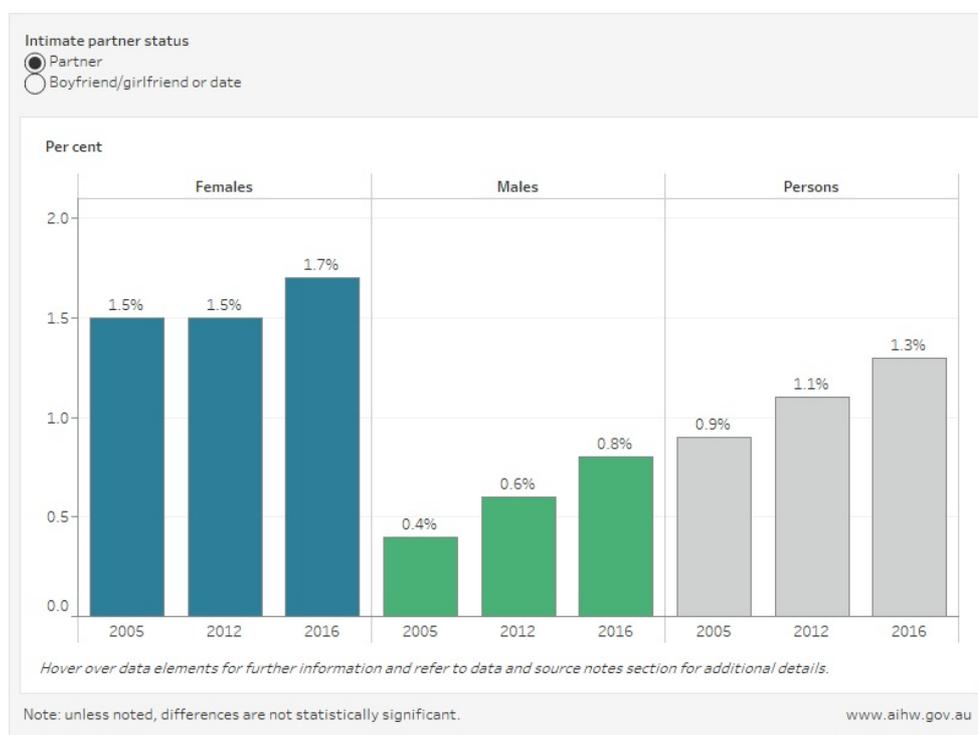
Source data:  [Physical and/or sexual family and domestic violence tables \(114KB XLSX\)](#)

### Time series

The most common instances of family violence occur in intimate partner relationships. Examining the prevalence of intimate partner violence over time can help to identify patterns in violence and evaluate the possible impact of changes in policy and programs.

The visualisation below shows the proportion of Australians aged 18 and over, who have experienced violence by an intimate partner in the 12 months prior to the survey, by sex and type of intimate partner at three time points. There was no statistically significant change over time, for either sex and/or partner type.

### Proportion of people who have experienced intimate partner violence in the last 12 months, by sex, 2005, 2012 and 2016



Source data: [Physical and/or sexual family and domestic violence tables \(114KB XLSX\)](#)

## Population groups

Examining the prevalence of family and domestic violence across different population groups can help to identify those groups at higher risk. This information can be used to inform the development of more targeted programs and services for victims and perpetrators of family and domestic violence. Of particular interest, are the differences between population groups for violence between partners.

The visualisation below shows the estimated number and proportion of people aged 18 and over, by sex, in different population groups who have experienced different types of violence by a current or previous partner in the 12 months prior to the survey. It shows that in 2016:

- people aged 25-34 were more likely to experience physical and/or sexual partner violence in the previous 12 months compared to the all ages total.
- people with disability were more likely to experience physical and/or sexual partner violence in the last 12 months than those without disability.

### 12 month prevalence of partner violence, by population group and sex, 2016

Visualisation not available for printing

Source data: [Physical and/or sexual family and domestic violence tables \(114KB XLSX\)](#)

## Data and source notes

### Notes

1. Family and domestic violence is defined as any violence that occurs where the relationship of respondent to perpetrator in the PSS is: Current or Previous partner; Father or Mother; Son or Daughter; Brother or Sister; Other relative or in-law; Boyfriend, Girlfriend or date; Ex-boyfriend or Ex-girlfriend.
2. The PSS defines partner as a person the respondent lives with, or lived with at some point in a married or de facto relationship. A current partner is a person who, at the time of the survey, was living with the respondent in a marriage or de-facto relationship, and a previous partner is a person who lived with the respondent at some point in a marriage or de facto relationship, but who was no longer living with the respondent at the time of the survey.
3. The PSS defines an intimate partner as a person who is either the Current or Previous partner; Boyfriend, Girlfriend or date; or Ex-boyfriend or Ex-girlfriend of the respondent.
4. Physical violence includes both physical assault and physical threat as defined by the PSS.
5. The PSS defines physical assault as an act that involved the use of physical force with the intent to harm or frighten a person. Behaviours can include slaps, hits, punches, being pushed down stairs or across a room, choking and burns, as well as the use of knives, firearms and other weapons.
6. The PSS defines physical threat as the threat of acts of a physical nature that were made face-to-face where the person believed it was able to and likely to be carried out.
7. Sexual violence includes both sexual assault and sexual threat as defined by the PSS.
8. The PSS defines sexual assault as an act of a sexual nature carried out against a person's will through the use of physical force, intimidation or coercion, including any attempts to do this. This includes rape, attempted rape, aggravated sexual assault (assault with a weapon), indecent assault, penetration by objects, forced sexual activity that did not end in penetration and attempts to force a person into sexual activity. Incidents so defined would be an offence under State and Territory criminal law.
9. The PSS defines sexual threat as the threat of acts of a sexual nature that were made face-to-face where the person believed it was able to and likely to be carried out.
10. Separate sexual and physical violence counts are not able to be added together to produce a total. Where a person has experienced both sexual and physical violence, they are counted separately for each type of violence they experienced but are counted only once in the aggregated total.
11. The PSS states that a disability or restrictive long-term health condition exists if a limitation, restriction, impairment, disease or disorder has lasted, or is expected to last for six months or more, which restricts everyday activities.
12. The PSS collects information from women and men aged 18 years and over.
13. Survey data, obtained from a sample of the population, is subject to sampling error. Where estimates are subject to a level of sampling error too high for general use, they are not included in visualisations, but are included in data tables, with caveats.
14. The observed value of a rate may vary due to chance even where there is no variation in the underlying value of the rate. The margin of error is the largest possible difference (due to sampling error) that could exist between the estimate and what would have been produced had all persons been included in the survey. Confidence intervals—constructed by taking the estimate plus or minus the MoE – can be used to provide an approximate indication of the true differences between rates. If the confidence intervals do not overlap, the difference can be said to be statistically significant. However, statistically significant differences are not necessarily the same as differences considered to be of practical importance. Small differences that have practical importance may be found to be not statistically significant as they are below the threshold the significance test can reliably detect.
15. Changes over time may indicate a change in the underlying rate of violence, a change in the propensity to report this violence, or both.
16. For more information see [Methods, Glossary and Data sources](#).

## Sources

[ABS 2016 Personal Safety Survey](#)

Next expected: 2022

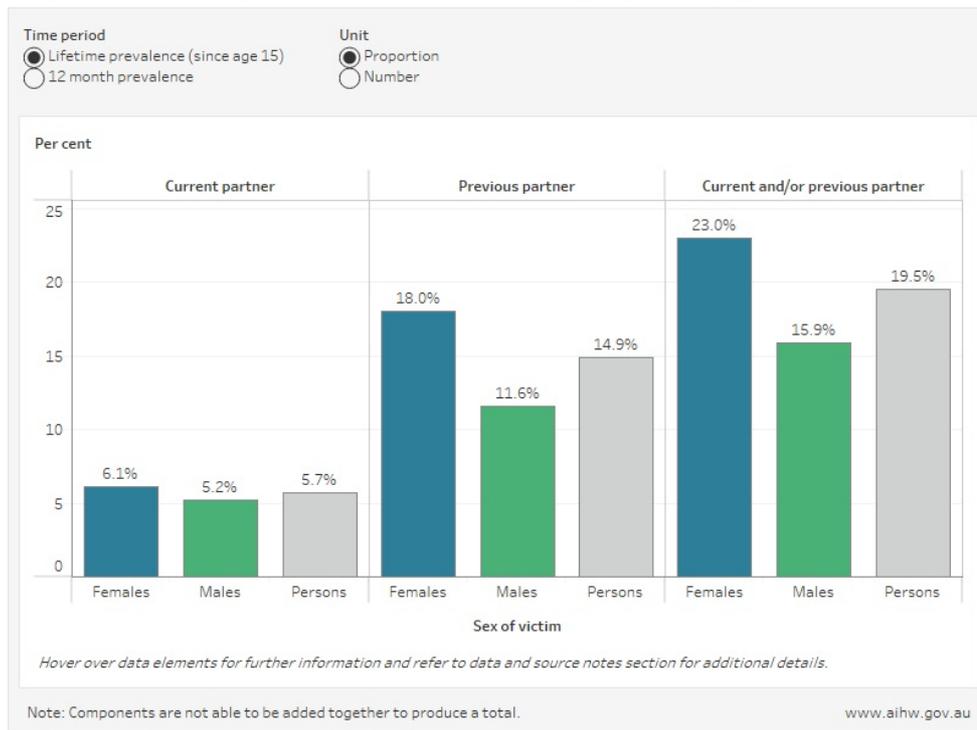


## How is family, domestic and sexual violence experienced?

Emotional abuse includes a broad range of behaviours or actions that are aimed at preventing or controlling the victim's behaviour, causing them emotional harm or fear. Understanding the nature and prevalence of emotional abuse by a partner can help inform the development and evaluation of policies, programs and services. Data on the prevalence of emotional abuse in Australia is available from the [ABS Personal Safety Survey \(PSS\)](#) which collects information on the experiences of violence for women and men in Australia.

The visualisation below shows the estimated number and proportion of Australians aged 18 and over who have experienced emotional abuse by a current or previous partner at least once since the age of 15 (lifetime prevalence), and at least once in the 12 months prior to the survey (12 month prevalence), by sex. Almost 1 in 4 females (23% or 2.2 million) and 1 in 6 males (16% or 1.4 million) had experienced partner emotional abuse since the age of 15.

### People who have experienced emotional abuse by a partner, by sex, 2016



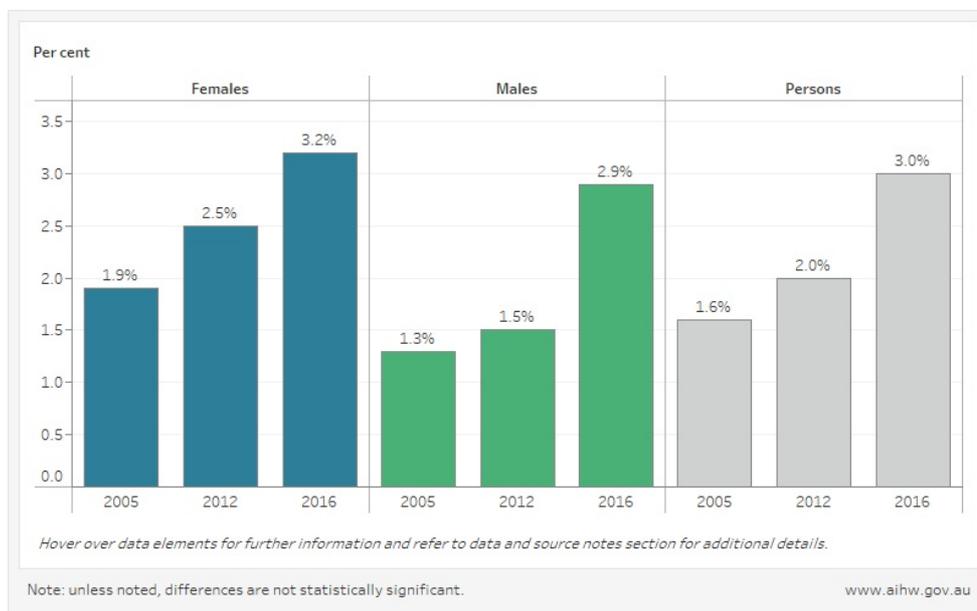
Source data: [Emotional abuse by a partner tables \(71KB XLSX\)](#)

### Time series

Examining the prevalence of emotional abuse over time can help identify shifts in behaviour, and evaluate the impact of relevant policies and programs.

The visualisation below shows the proportion of people aged 18 and over who experienced emotional abuse by a current partner in the 12 months prior to the survey, by sex and at 3 time points. It shows that emotional abuse by a current partner increased between 2012 and 2016 for women and men. This may reflect a real-world change and/or a change in the propensity to report, for example due to increased awareness and/or recognition of emotional abuse behaviours.

### Proportion of people who have experienced emotional abuse by a current partner in the last 12 months, by sex, 2005, 2012 and 2016



Source data: [Emotional abuse by a partner tables \(71KB XLSX\)](#)

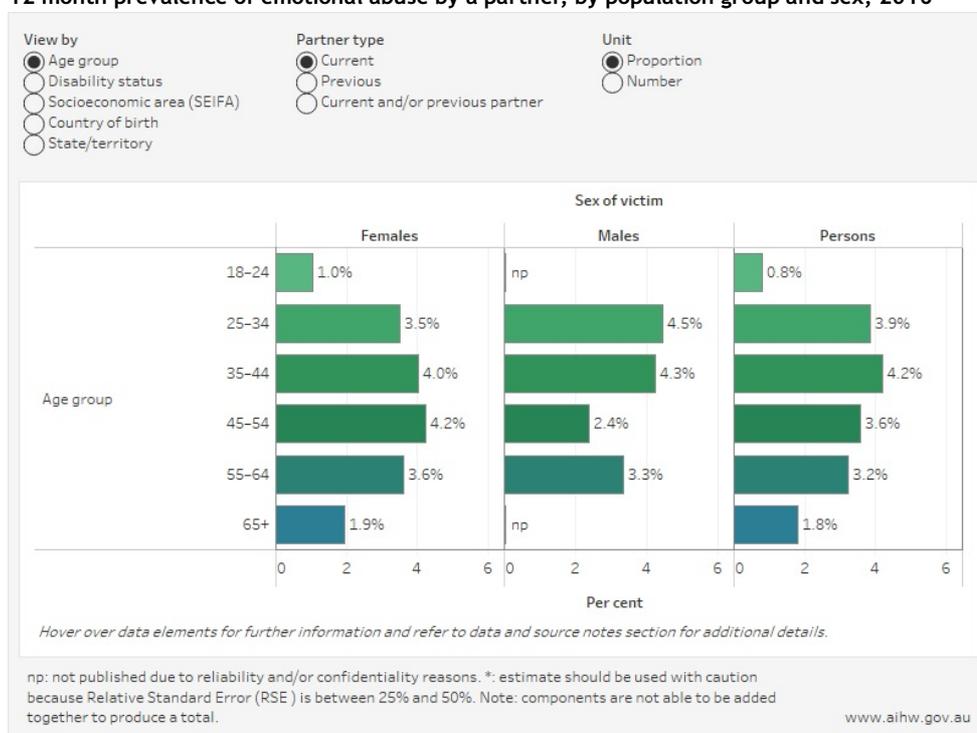
## Population groups

Examining the prevalence of emotional abuse across different population groups can help to identify those groups that are at higher risk. This information can be used to inform the development of more targeted programs and services for victims and perpetrators of emotional abuse.

The visualisation below shows the estimated number and proportion of people aged 18 and over who have experienced emotional abuse by a partner at least once in the last 12 months for various population groups. It shows that, in 2016:

- a lower proportion of people aged 18-24 and those aged 65 years or older had experienced emotional abuse by a current and/or previous partner in the last 12 months when compared to other age groups.
- people with disability were more likely to experience emotional abuse by a current and/or previous partner in the last 12 months than those without disability.

## 12 month prevalence of emotional abuse by a partner, by population group and sex, 2016



Source data: [Emotional abuse by a partner tables \(71KB XLSX\)](#)

## Data and source notes

## Notes

1. Emotional abuse occurs when a person is subjected to certain behaviours or actions that are aimed at preventing or controlling their behaviour, causing them emotional harm or fear. These behaviours are characterised in nature by their intent to manipulate, control, isolate or intimidate the person they are aimed at. They are generally repeated behaviours and include psychological, social, economic and verbal abuse. Behaviours included under Emotional abuse has expanded over time to allow for addition of some new content or concepts (for example additional technologically focused behaviours were added), resulting in the list of included behaviours varying between surveys. For this reason, care should be taken when interpreting the results over time. An increase may be reflective of a real-world change or a change in the survey questionnaire.
2. Proportions are based on all adults and are not limited to those who have/had a current or previous partner.
3. Separate current partner and previous partner counts are not able to be added together to produce a current and/or previous partner total. Where a person has experienced both emotional abuse by a current partner and by a previous violence, they are counted separately for each type of violence they experienced but are counted only once in the aggregated total.
4. The PSS defines partner as a person the respondent lives with, or lived with at some point in a married or de facto relationship. A current partner is a person who, at the time of the survey, was living with the respondent in a marriage or de-facto relationship, and a previous partner as a person who lived with the respondent at some point in a marriage or de facto relationship, but who was no longer living with the respondent at the time of the survey.
5. The PSS collects information from women and men aged 18 years and over.
6. Survey data, obtained from a sample of the population, is subject to sampling error. Where estimates are subject to a level of sampling error too high for general use, they are not included in visualisations, but are included in data tables, with caveats.
7. The observed value of a rate may vary due to chance even where there is no variation in the underlying value of the rate. The margin of error is the largest possible difference (due to sampling error) that could exist between the estimate and what would have been produced had all persons been included in the survey. Confidence intervals—constructed by taking the estimate plus or minus the MoE — can be used to provide an approximate indication of the true differences between rates. If the confidence intervals do not overlap, the difference can be said to be statistically significant. However, statistically significant differences are not necessarily the same as differences considered to be of practical importance. Small differences that have practical importance may be found to be not statistically significant as they are below the threshold the significance test can reliably detect.
8. Changes over time may indicate a change in the underlying rate of violence, a change in the propensity to report this violence, or both.
9. For more information see [Methods, Glossary and Data sources](#).

## Sources

[ABS 2016 Personal Safety Survey](#)

Next expected: 2022



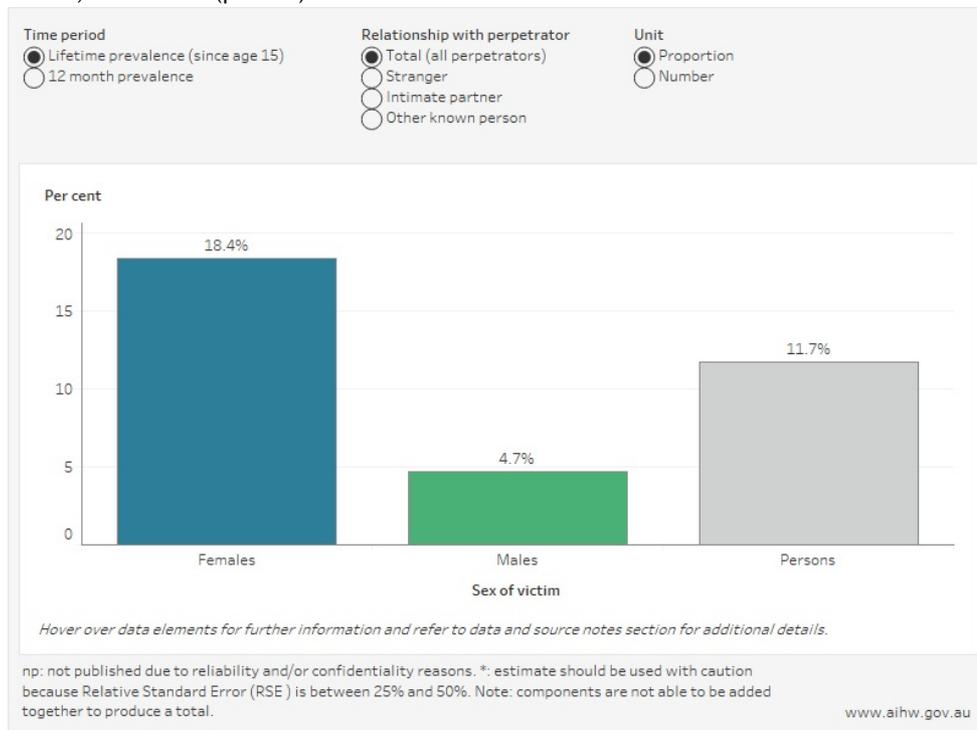
## How is family, domestic and sexual violence experienced?

Sexual violence occurs across all age and sociodemographic groups, however women are overwhelmingly the victims. Understanding the nature and prevalence of sexual violence can inform the development and evaluation of policies, programs and services. Data on the prevalence of sexual violence in Australia is available from the [ABS Personal Safety Survey \(PSS\)](#) which collects information on the experiences of violence for women and men in Australia. This measure relates to sexual violence perpetrated by anyone, including strangers.

The visualisation below allows users to explore the estimate and proportion of Australians aged 18 and over who have experienced sexual violence at least once since the age of 15 (lifetime prevalence) and at least once in the last 12 months (12 month prevalence), by sex, and relationship with perpetrator. In 2016, almost 1 in 5 women (18% or 1.7 million) and almost 1 in 20 men (4.7% or 429,000) had experienced sexual violence at least once since the age of 15. Women were more likely to experience sexual violence by an intimate partner (9.2%) or other people they know (10%) than by a stranger (4.6%).

### Prevalence of sexual violence, by sex , 2016

Column chart visualisation shows estimates of the prevalence of sexual assault over lifetime (age 15+), and in the last 12 months, for female, male and all (persons) victims.



Source data: [Sexual violence tables \(41KB XLSX\)](#)

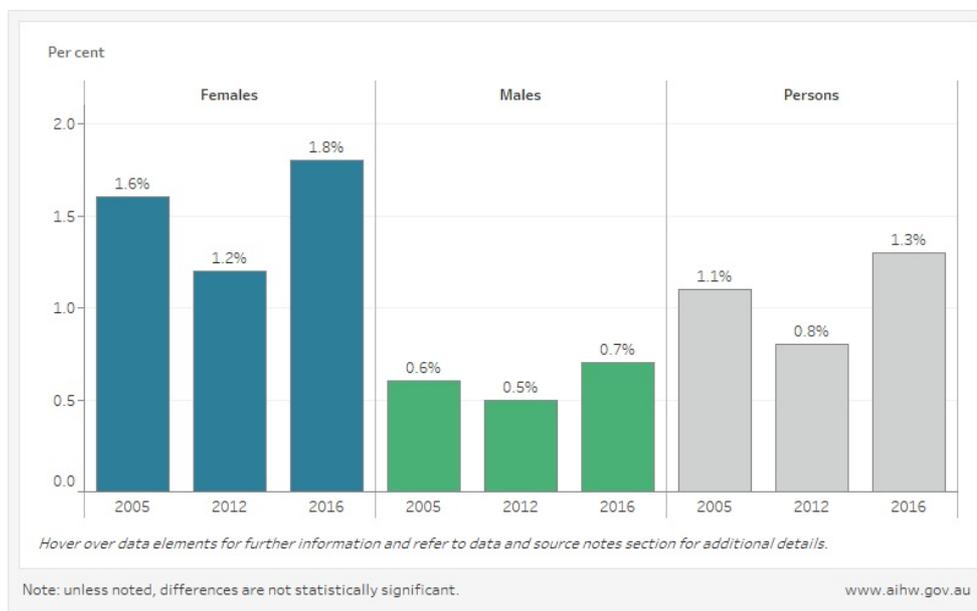
### Time series

Examining the prevalence of sexual violence over time can help to identify patterns in incidents, and evaluate the impact of relevant policies and programs.

The visualisation below shows the proportion of Australians aged 18 and over who have experienced sexual violence at least once in the last 12 months, by sex, and over time. It shows that sexual violence increased between 2012 and 2016 for women.

### Proportion of people who have experienced sexual violence, by sex, 2005, 2012 and 2016

Column chart visualisation shows estimates of the prevalence of sexual assault over lifetime (age 15+), and in the last 12 months, for female, male and all (persons) victims.



Source data: [Sexual violence tables \(41KB XLSX\)](#)

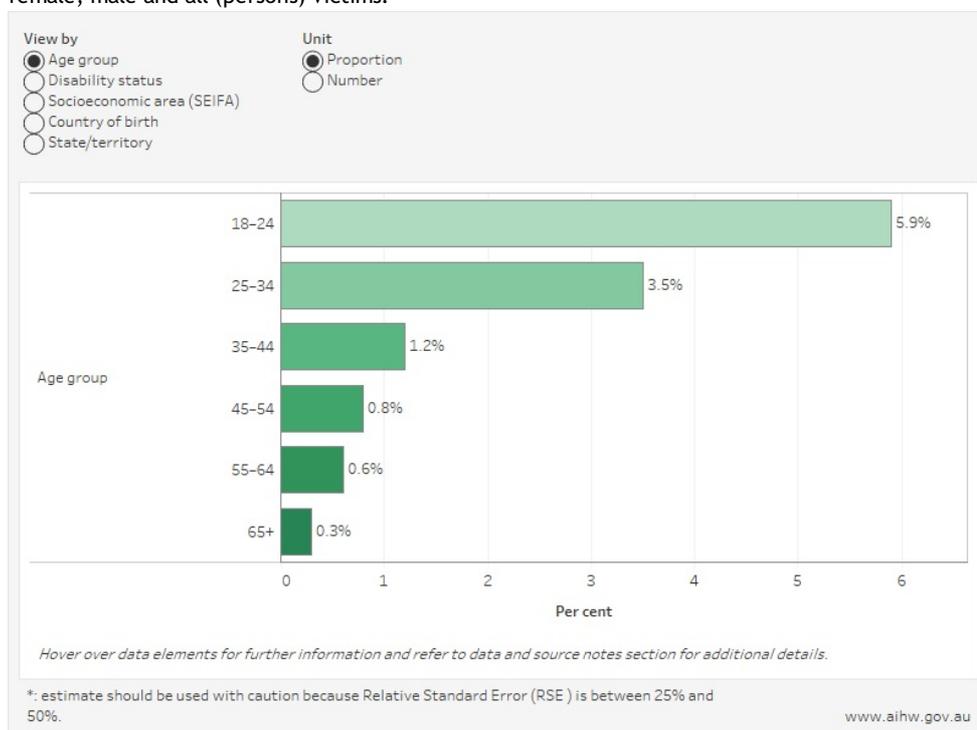
## Population groups

Examining the prevalence of sexual violence across different population groups can help to identify those groups that are at higher risk. This information can be used to inform the development of more targeted programs and services for victims and perpetrators of sexual violence.

The visualisation below shows the estimated number and proportion of women aged 18 and over who have experienced sexual violence at least once in the last 12 months for various population groups. In 2016, younger women aged 18-24 and 25-34 were more likely than other age groups to experience sexual violence in the last 12 months.

### 12 month prevalence of sexual violence against women, by population group, 2016

Column chart visualisation shows estimates of the prevalence of sexual assault over lifetime (age 15+), and in the last 12 months, for female, male and all (persons) victims.



Source data: [Sexual violence tables \(41KB XLSX\)](#)

## Data and source notes

### Notes

1. Sexual violence includes both sexual assault and sexual threat as defined by the PSS.
2. The PSS defines sexual assault as an act of a sexual nature carried out against a person's will through the use of physical force, intimidation or coercion, including any attempts to do this. This includes rape, attempted rape, aggravated sexual assault (assault with a weapon), indecent assault, penetration by objects, forced sexual activity that did not end in penetration and attempts to force a person into sexual activity. Incidents so defined would be an offence under State and Territory criminal law.
3. The PSS defines sexual threat as the threat of acts of a sexual nature that were made face-to-face where the person believed it was able to and likely to be carried out.
4. If a victim has experienced both assault or threat, or experienced violence by multiple perpetrators they will be counted once in the total only.
5. Prevalence of sexual violence reported by the PSS excludes incidents of sexual violence that occurred before the age of 15 - these are defined as sexual abuse. It also excludes sexual harassment, or broader and complex forms of sexual violence, such as technology-facilitated or image based abuse.
6. The PSS defines partner as a person the respondent lives with, or lived with at some point in a married or de facto relationship.
7. The PSS defines an intimate partner as a person who is either the Partner (current or previous); Boyfriend, Girlfriend or date; or Ex-boyfriend or Ex-girlfriend of the respondent.
8. For the purpose of this reporting, "other known person" is any perpetrator known to the victim (not a stranger) who is not an intimate partner. PSS relationships included here are: Father/Mother, Son/Daughter, Brother/Sister, Other relative or in-law, Friend or housemate, Acquaintance or neighbour, Employer/manager/supervisor, Co-worker, Teacher/tutor, Client/patient/customer, medical practitioner, Priest/Minister/Rabbi or other spiritual advisor, non-family carer, and other known person.
9. The PSS states that a disability or restrictive long-term health condition exists if a limitation, restriction, impairment, disease or disorder has lasted, or is expected to last for six months or more, which restricts everyday activities.
10. The PSS collects information from women and men aged 18 years and over.
11. Survey data, obtained from a sample of the population, is subject to sampling error. Where estimates are subject to a level of sampling error too high for general use, they are not included in visualisations, but are included in data tables, with caveats.
12. The observed value of a rate may vary due to chance even where there is no variation in the underlying value of the rate. The margin of error is the largest possible difference (due to sampling error) that could exist between the estimate and what would have been produced had all persons been included in the survey. Confidence intervals—constructed by taking the estimate plus or minus the MoE – can be used to provide an approximate indication of the true differences between rates. If the confidence intervals do not overlap, the difference can be said to be statistically significant. However, statistically significant differences are not necessarily the same as differences considered to be of practical importance. Small differences that have practical importance may be found to be not statistically significant as they are below the threshold the significance test can reliably detect.
13. Changes over time may indicate a change in the underlying rate of violence, a change in the propensity to report this violence, or both.
14. For more information see [Methods, Glossary and Data sources](#).

## Sources

[ABS Personal Safety Survey 2016](#)

Next expected: 2022



## What services or supports do those who have experienced family, domestic and sexual violence use?

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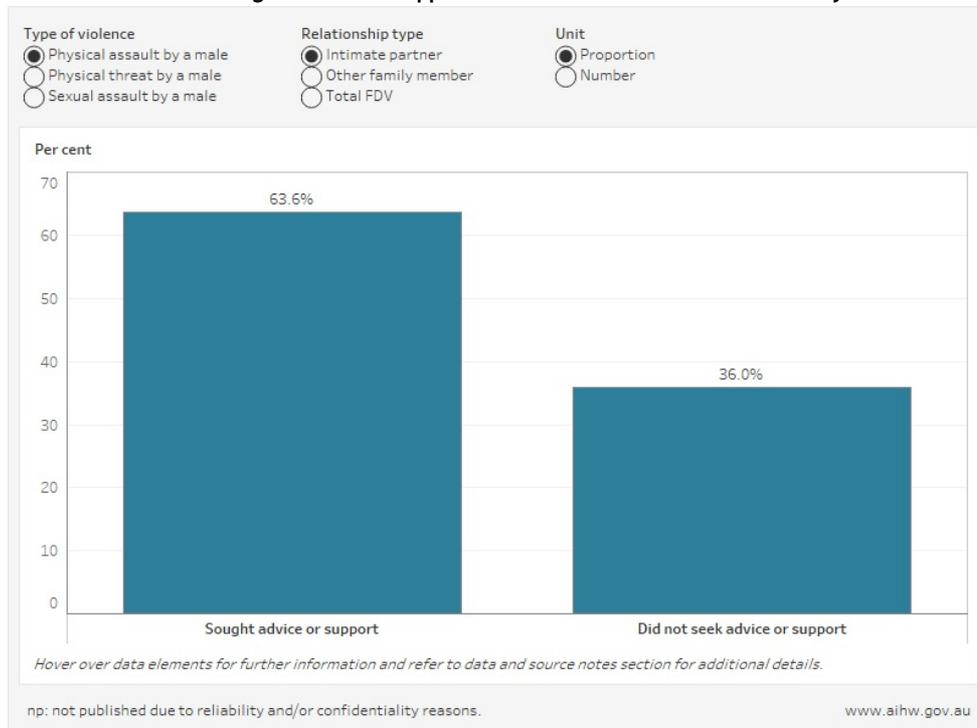


## What services or supports do those who have experienced family, domestic and sexual violence use?

There are many formal and informal supports which may be used by people who experience family and domestic violence, including family and friends, health professionals and helplines. Information on how victims seek help can assist understanding and improvement of response strategies and provide information on the extent of under-reporting of family and domestic violence incidents in data collected as a by-product of service delivery. Data on advice or support (help) sought and received after the most recent experience of family and domestic violence is available from the [ABS Personal Safety Survey \(PSS\)](#) which collects information on the experiences of violence for women and men in Australia.

The visualisation below shows the proportion and number of females who sought advice or support after their most recent incident of physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner or other family member in the last 10 years. Women were more likely to have sought help after family and domestic physical assault by a male than after family and domestic sexual assault by a male (64% compared with 50%). Data are not available for male victims and some violence types due to data quality issues.

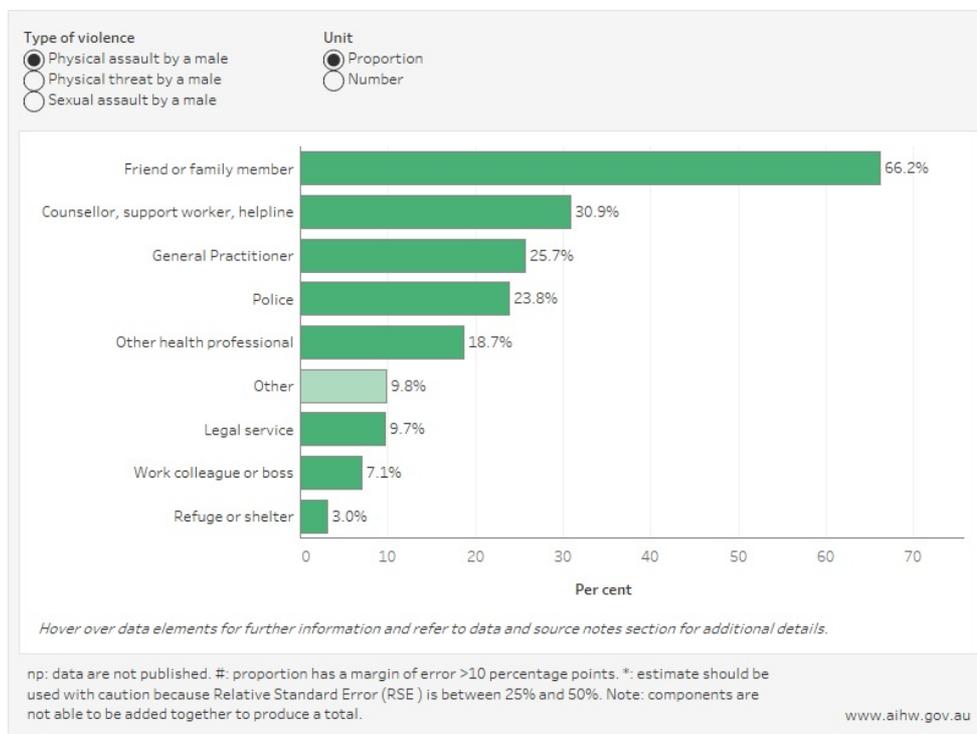
### Female victims who sought advice or support after most recent incident of family and domestic violence, 2016



Source data: [Help sought after family and domestic violence tables \(172KB XLSX\)](#)

The visualisation below shows the different sources of help received by female victims after the most recent incident of physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner or other family member in the last 10 years. Friends or family members were the most common source of help for women following their most recent incident of family and domestic violence (regardless of type of violence).

### Sources of advice or support received by female victims after the most recent incident of family and domestic violence, 2016



Source data: [Help sought after family and domestic violence tables \(172KB XLSX\)](#)

## Data and source notes

### Notes

1. Family and domestic violence is defined as any violence that occurs where the Personal Safety Survey (PSS) relationship of respondent to perpetrator is: Current or Previous partner; Father or Mother; Son or Daughter; Brother or Sister; Other relative or in-law; Boyfriend, Girlfriend or date; Ex-boyfriend or Ex-girlfriend.
2. The PSS defines an intimate partner as a person who is either the Current or Previous partner; Boyfriend, Girlfriend or date; or Ex-boyfriend or Ex-girlfriend of the respondent.
3. The PSS defines partner as a person the respondent lives with, or lived with at some point in a married or de facto relationship. A current partner is a person who, at the time of the survey, was living with the respondent in a marriage or de-facto relationship, and a previous partner is a person who lived with the respondent at some point in a marriage or de facto relationship, but who was no longer living with the respondent at the time of the survey.
4. The PSS collects details on the most recent incident of eight different violence types (Sexual assault by a male perpetrator; Sexual assault by a female perpetrator; Sexual threat by a male perpetrator; Sexual threat by a female perpetrator; Physical assault by a male perpetrator; Physical assault by a female perpetrator; Physical threat by a male perpetrator; Physical threat by a female perpetrator). Data are not available for all violence types due to data quality issues. Details are collected separately for each violence type and are unable to be added together to produce a total.
5. The PSS defines physical assault as an act that involved the use of physical force with the intent to harm or frighten a person. Behaviours can include slaps, hits, punches, being pushed down stairs or across a room, choking and burns, as well as the use of knives, firearms and other weapons.
6. The PSS defines physical threat as the threat of acts of a physical nature that were made face-to-face where the person believed it was able to and likely to be carried out.
7. The PSS defines sexual assault as an act of a sexual nature carried out against a person's will through the use of physical force, intimidation or coercion, including any attempts to do this. This includes rape, attempted rape, aggravated sexual assault (assault with a weapon), indecent assault, penetration by objects, forced sexual activity that did not end in penetration and attempts to force a person into sexual activity. Incidents so defined would be an offence under State and Territory criminal law.
8. The PSS defines sexual threat as the threat of acts of a sexual nature that were made face-to-face where the person believed it was able to and likely to be carried out.
9. The PSS defines seeking advice or support as any instance where the respondent felt that they sought and consequently received advice or support for an incident. This may occur either at the time of the incident or at any time after. Advice or support means listening to the respondent, being understanding, making suggestions, giving information, referring the respondent to appropriate services, or offering further help of any kind. Excludes anyone who was told or found out about the incident, but from whom the respondent did not actively seek advice or support, and care sought for injuries which did not involve the respondent seeking advice or support.
10. Most recent incident is limited to the last 10 years only.
11. For the visualisation on sources of advice or support, the proportion is based on victims who sought advice or support after most recent incident, not all victims. For example, 16.9% of female victims who sought help after their most recent incident, felt that they received advice or support from police.
12. Components for sources of advice or support sought after most recent incident are not able to be added together to produce a total. Where a person has sought advice or support from more than one source, they are counted separately for each source but are counted only once in the aggregated total.
13. Other sources of help, includes support from financial service, government housing and community services, and priest/minister/rabbi/other spiritual advisor.
14. The PSS collects information from women and men aged 18 years and over
15. Survey data, obtained from a sample of the population, is subject to sampling error. Where estimates are subject to a level of sampling error too high for general use, they are not included in visualisations, but are included in data tables, with caveats.
16. The observed value of a rate may vary due to chance even where there is no variation in the underlying value of the rate. The margin of error is the largest possible difference (due to sampling error) that could exist between the estimate and what would have been produced had all persons been included in the survey. Confidence intervals—constructed by taking the estimate plus or minus the MoE — can be used to provide an approximate indication of the true differences between rates. If the confidence intervals do not overlap, the difference can be said to be statistically significant. However, statistically significant differences are not necessarily the same as differences considered to be of practical importance. Small differences that have practical importance may be found to be not statistically significant as they are below the threshold the significance test can reliably detect.
17. For more information see [Methods, Glossary and Data sources](#).

## Sources

[ABS 2016 Personal Safety Survey](#)

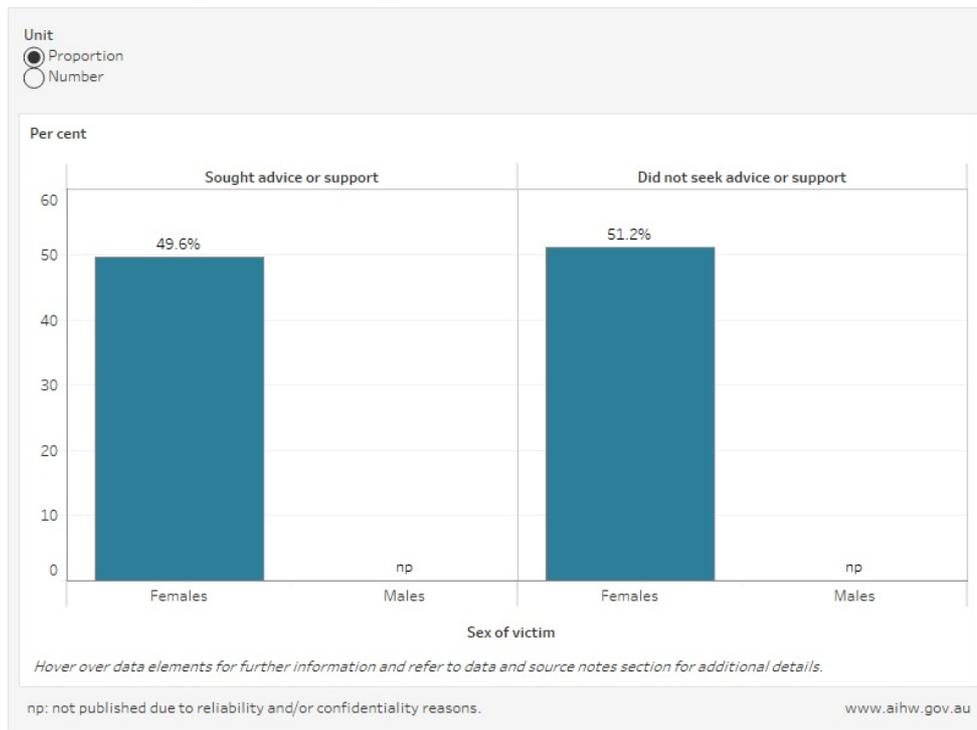
Next expected: 2022

## What services or supports do those who have experienced family, domestic and sexual violence use?

There are many formal and informal supports which may be used by people who experience sexual assault, including family and friends, health professionals and helplines. Information on how victims seek help can assist understanding and improvement of response strategies and provide information on the extent of under-reporting of sexual assault incidents in data collected as a by-product of service delivery. Data on advice or support (help) sought and received, after the most recent experience of sexual assault is available from the [ABS Personal Safety Survey \(PSS\)](#) which collects information on the experiences of violence for women and men in Australia.

The visualisation below shows the proportion and number of adults who sought advice or support after their most recent incident of sexual assault by a male perpetrator in the last 10 years. It shows that just over half of women (51% or 327,00) did not seek advice or support after their most recent incident of sexual assault by a male.

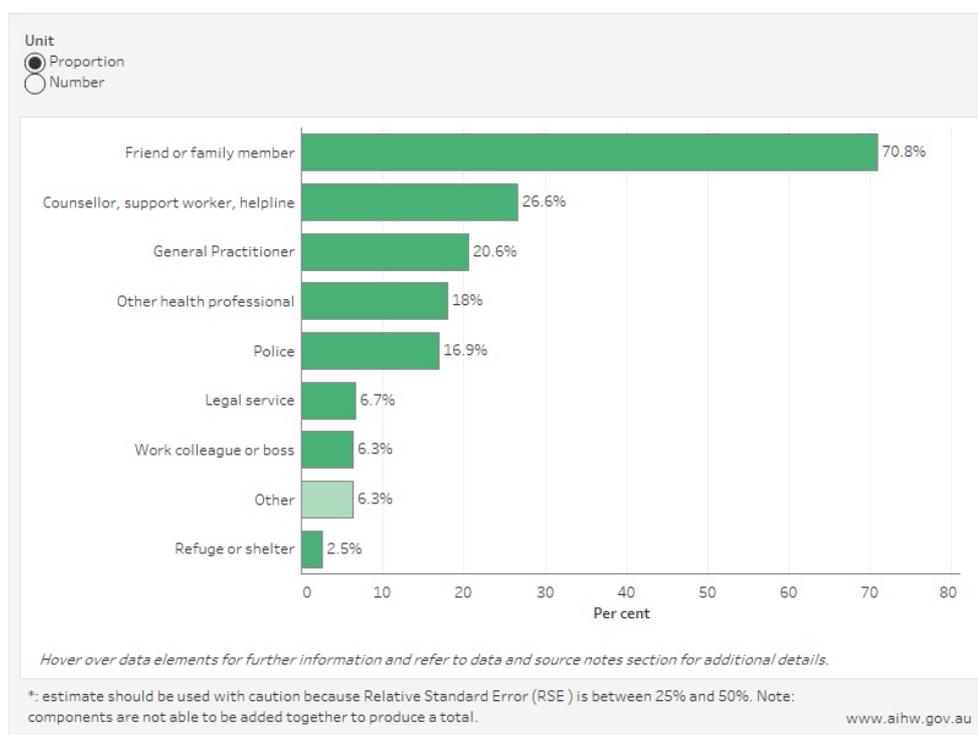
### Victims who sought advice or support after most recent incident of sexual assault by a male perpetrator, by sex, 2016



Source data: [Help sought after sexual assault tables \(172KB XLSX\)](#)

The visualisation below shows the different sources of help received by females after the most recent incident of sexual assault by a male perpetrator in the last 10 years. Friends or family members were the most common source of help (71%) in 2016. Data for male victims are not available due to data quality issues.

### Sources of advice or support received by females after the most recent incident of sexual assault by a male perpetrator, 2016



Source data: [Help sought after sexual assault tables \(172KB XLSX\)](#)

## Data and source notes

### Notes

- The PSS defines sexual assault as an act of a sexual nature carried out against a person's will through the use of physical force, intimidation or coercion, including any attempts to do this. This includes rape, attempted rape, aggravated sexual assault (assault with a weapon), indecent assault, penetration by objects, forced sexual activity that did not end in penetration and attempts to force a person into sexual activity. Incidents so defined would be an offence under State and Territory criminal law.
- The PSS defines seeking advice or support as any instance where the respondent felt that they sought and consequently received advice or support for an incident. This may occur either at the time of the incident or at any time after. Advice or support means listening to the respondent, being understanding, making suggestions, giving information, referring the respondent to appropriate services, or offering further help of any kind. Excludes anyone who was told or found out about the incident, but from whom the respondent did not actively seek advice or support, and care sought for injuries which did not involve the respondent seeking advice or support.
- Most recent incident is limited to the last 10 years only.
- For the visualisation on sources of advice or support, the proportion is based on female victims who sought advice or support after most recent incident, not all victims. For example, 16.9% of female victims who sought help after their most recent incident, felt that they received advice or support from police.
- Components for sources of advice or support sought after most recent incident are not able to be added together to produce a total. Where a person has sought advice or support from more than one source, they are counted separately for each source but are counted only once in the aggregated total.
- Other sources of help, includes support from financial service, government housing and community services, and priest/minister/rabbi/other spiritual advisor.
- The PSS collects information from women and men aged 18 years and over.
- Survey data, obtained from a sample of the population, is subject to sampling error. Where estimates are subject to a level of sampling error too high for general use, they are not included in visualisations, but are included in data tables, with caveats.
- The observed value of a rate may vary due to chance even where there is no variation in the underlying value of the rate. The margin of error is the largest possible difference (due to sampling error) that could exist between the estimate and what would have been produced had all persons been included in the survey. Confidence intervals—constructed by taking the estimate plus or minus the MoE—can be used to provide an approximate indication of the true differences between rates. If the confidence intervals do not overlap, the difference can be said to be statistically significant. However, statistically significant differences are not necessarily the same as differences considered to be of practical importance. Small differences that have practical importance may be found to be not statistically significant as they are below the threshold the significance test can reliably detect.
- For more information see [Methods, Glossary and Data sources](#).

### Sources

[ABS 2016 Personal Safety Survey](#)

Next expected: 2022

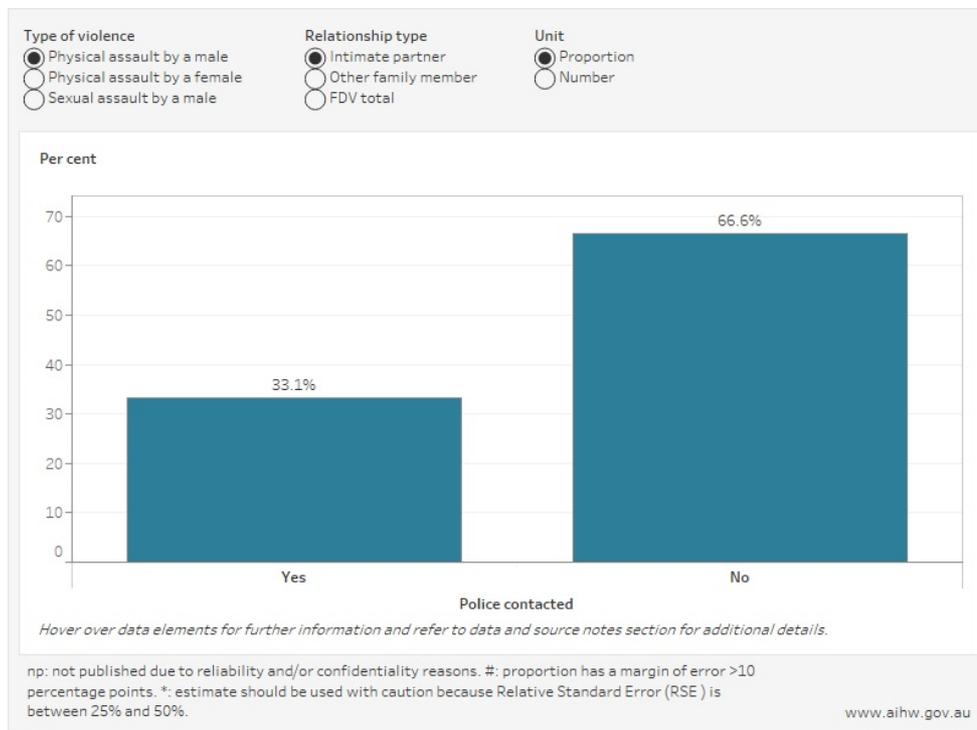


## What services or supports do those who have experienced family, domestic and sexual violence use?

Physical and sexual assault, including incidents within family or domestic relationships, may be reported to, and recorded by police. Examining whether police are contacted following family and domestic assault can provide an indication of reporting levels and utilisation of police services. Data on whether police were contacted (by the victim or another person) after an experience of family and domestic assault, as well as reasons for not contacting, are available from the [ABS Personal Safety Survey \(PSS\)](#). The PSS collects information on the experiences of violence for women and men in Australia.

The visualisation below shows whether the most recent incident of physical and/or sexual assault by a family member or intimate partner in the last 10 years was reported to police, for female victims. It shows police were contacted in relation to around 1 in 3 (or 32%) female family and domestic physical assaults by a male, 1 in 6 (17%) female family and domestic physical assaults by a female and 1 in 7 (14%) female family and domestic sexual assaults by a male. Data for victims of sexual assault by a female, and male victims of sexual assault by a male are not available due to data quality issues.

### Police contacted after most recent incident of family and domestic assault, females, 2016

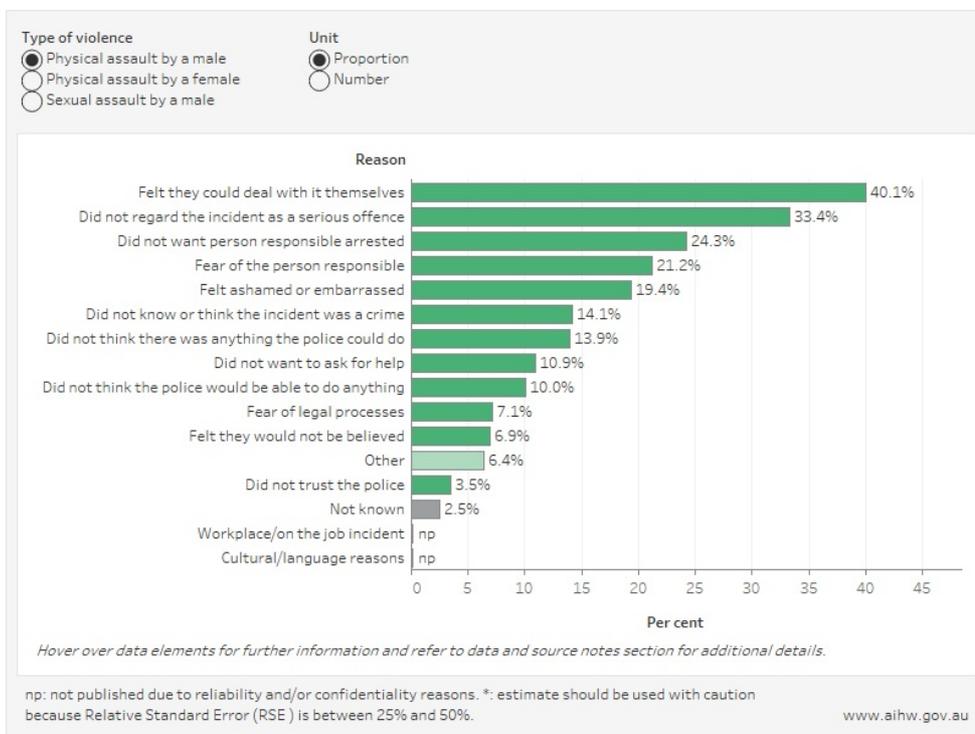


Source data: [Family and domestic assault reported to police tables \(58KB XLSX\)](#)

Examining reasons why people choose not to contact police after family and domestic assault can provide insight into how victims can be better supported and encouraged to seek help.

The visualisation below shows the reasons why female victims did not contact police following their most recent incident of family and domestic assault in the last 10 years. For female family and domestic physical assault and sexual assault by a male, the two most common reasons police were not contacted were, 'Felt like they could deal with it themselves' and 'Did not regard the incident as a serious offence'. Data for males and some violence types are not available due to data quality issues.

### Reasons police not contacted after most recent incident of family and domestic assault, females, 2016



Source data: [Family and domestic assault reported to police tables \(58KB XLSX\)](#)

## Data and source notes

### Notes

1. Family and domestic violence (including assault) is defined as any violence that occurs where the Personal Safety Survey (PSS) relationship of respondent with perpetrator is: Current or Previous partner; Father or Mother; Son or Daughter; Brother or Sister; Other relative or in-law; Boyfriend, Girlfriend or date; Ex-boyfriend or Ex-girlfriend.
2. The PSS defines an intimate partner as a person who is either the Current or Previous partner; Boyfriend, Girlfriend or date; or Ex-boyfriend or Ex-girlfriend of the respondent.
3. Other family member is defined as a relationship where the PSS relationship of respondent with perpetrator is: Father or Mother; Son or Daughter; Brother or Sister; Other relative or in-law.
4. The PSS defines physical assault as any incident that involved the use of physical force with the intent to harm or frighten a person. Assaults may have occurred in conjunction with a robbery and includes incidents that occurred on the job, where a person was assaulted in their line of work (e.g. assaulted while working as a security guard), at school or overseas. Physical assault excludes incidents that occurred during the course of play on a sporting field and excludes incidents of violence that occurred before the age of 15 (which are defined as physical abuse). If a person experienced sexual assault and physical assault in the same incident, this was counted once only as a sexual assault.
5. The PSS defines sexual assault as an act of a sexual nature carried out against a person's will through the use of physical force, intimidation or coercion, including any attempts to do this. This includes rape, attempted rape, aggravated sexual assault (assault with a weapon), indecent assault, penetration by objects, forced sexual activity that did not end in penetration and attempts to force a person into sexual activity. Incidents so defined would be an offence under State and Territory criminal law.
6. Whether police were contacted was open to the respondent's interpretation, and may include both contact that did and did not amount to a formal report.
7. If a respondent did not contact the police, but the police 'happened to attend', this was recorded as someone else contacting the police. If the incident occurred in a public place such as a shopping centre, and security was contacted, this was recorded as the police not being contacted. However, if security subsequently contacted the police then it was recorded as someone else contacting the police.
8. Most recent incident is limited to the last 10 years only.
9. The PSS collects information from women and men aged 18 years and over about violence experienced since the age of 15.
10. Survey data, obtained from a sample of the population, is subject to sampling error. Where estimates are subject to a level of sampling error too high for general use, they are not included in visualisations, but are included in data tables, with caveats.
11. The observed value of a rate may vary due to chance even where there is no variation in the underlying value of the rate. The margin of error is the largest possible difference (due to sampling error) that could exist between the estimate and what would have been produced had all persons been included in the survey. Confidence intervals—constructed by taking the estimate plus or minus the MoE—can be used to provide an approximate indication of the true differences between rates. If the confidence intervals do not overlap, the difference can be said to be statistically significant. However, statistically significant differences are not necessarily the same as differences considered to be of practical importance. Small differences that have practical importance may be found to be not statistically significant as they are below the threshold the significance test can reliably detect.
12. For more information see [Methods, Glossary and Data sources](#).

## Sources

[ABS 2016 Personal Safety Survey](#)

Next expected: 2022

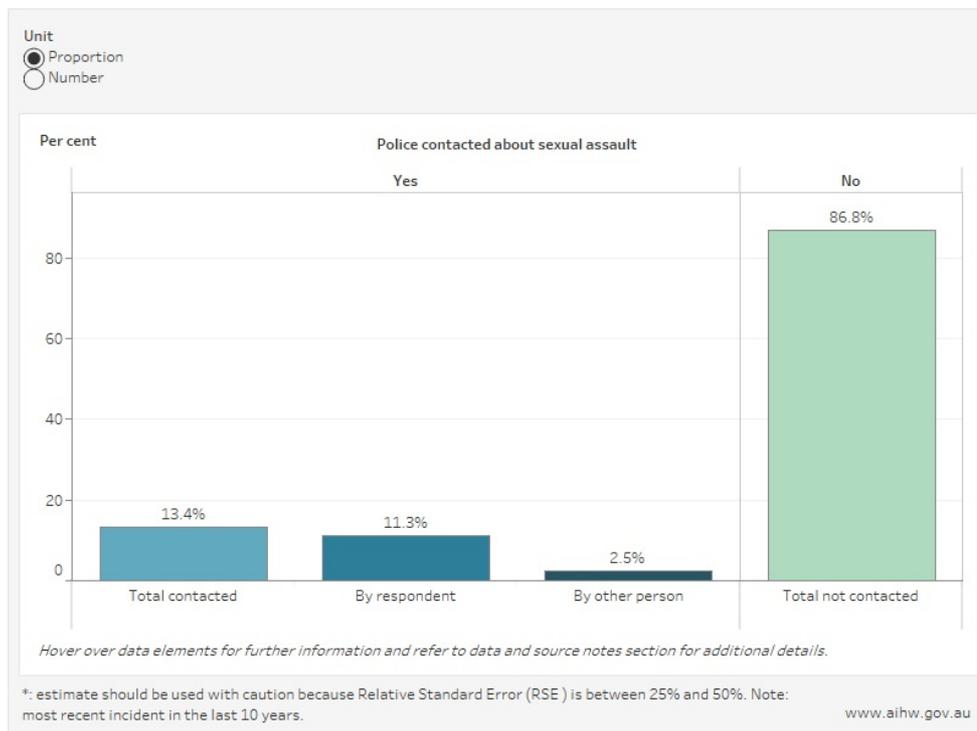


## What services or supports do those who have experienced family, domestic and sexual violence use?

Sexual assault may be reported to police. Examining whether police are contacted following sexual assault can provide an indication of reporting levels and utilisation of police services. Data on whether police were contacted (by the victim or another person) after sexual assault, as well as reasons for not contacting, are available from the [ABS Personal Safety Survey \(PSS\)](#). The PSS collects information on the experiences of violence for women and men in Australia.

The visualisation below shows whether a female respondent's most recent incident of sexual assault by a male in the last 10 years was reported to police. In 2016, the police were not contacted in around 7 in 8 (or 87%) of these incidents. Data for male victims are not available due to data quality issues.

### Police contacted after most recent sexual assault by a male perpetrator, females, 2016



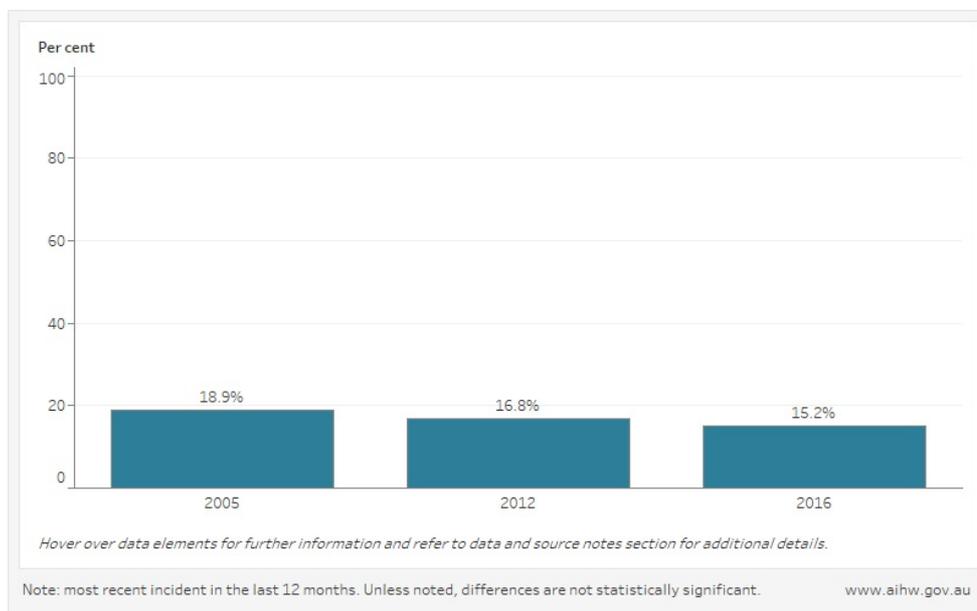
Source data: [Sexual assault reported to police tables \(58KB XLSX\)](#)

### Time Series

Examining reporting to police over time can provide insight into whether the reporting of sexual assaults is changing.

The visualisation below shows whether female respondent's most recent incident of sexual assault by a male in the last 12 months was reported to police, over time. Between 2005 and 2016, the proportion of incidents the police were contacted about remained relatively stable.

### Police contacted after most recent incident of sexual assault by a male perpetrator in the last 12 months, females, 2005, 2012 and 2016



Source data: [Sexual assault reported to police tables \(58KB XLSX\)](#)

Examining reasons why people choose not to contact police after a sexual assault can provide insight into how victims can be better supported and encouraged to seek help.

The visualisation below shows the reasons why women did not contact police following their most recent incident of sexual assault by a male in the last 10 years. The two most common reasons police were not contacted were because victims 'Felt like they could deal with it themselves' and/or they 'Did not regard the incident as a serious offence'. Data for male victims are not available due to data quality issues.

**Reasons police not contacted after most recent incident of sexual assault by a male perpetrator, females, 2016**

Visualisation not available for printing

Source data: [Sexual assault reported to police tables \(58KB XLSX\)](#)

## Data and source notes

### Notes

1. The PSS defines sexual assault as an act of a sexual nature carried out against a person's will through the use of physical force, intimidation or coercion, including any attempts to do this. This includes rape, attempted rape, aggravated sexual assault (assault with a weapon), indecent assault, penetration by objects, forced sexual activity that did not end in penetration and attempts to force a person into sexual activity. Incidents so defined would be an offence under State and Territory criminal law.
2. Whether police were contacted was open to the respondent's interpretation, and may include both contact that did and did not amount to a formal report.
3. If a respondent did not contact the police, but the police 'happened to attend', this was recorded as someone else contacting the police. If the incident occurred in a public place such as a shopping centre, and security was contacted, this was recorded as the police not being contacted. However, if security subsequently contacted the police then it was recorded as someone else contacting the police.
4. Unless otherwise stated, most recent incident is limited to the last 10 years only.
5. Annual estimates and proportion of persons aged 15 years and over who reported their most recent incident of sexual assault to police are included in [ABS Crime Victimisation, Australia](#) (see table 5a-5d).
6. The PSS collects information from women and men aged 18 years and over.
7. The observed value of a rate may vary due to chance even where there is no variation in the underlying value of the rate. The margin of error is the largest possible difference (due to sampling error) that could exist between the estimate and what would have been produced had all persons been included in the survey. Confidence intervals—constructed by taking the estimate plus or minus the MoE—can be used to provide an approximate indication of the true differences between rates. If the confidence intervals do not overlap, the difference can be said to be statistically significant. However, statistically significant differences are not necessarily the same as differences considered to be of practical importance. Small differences that have practical importance may be found to be not statistically significant as they are below the threshold the significance test can reliably detect.
8. For more information see [Methods, Glossary and Data sources](#).

### Sources

[ABS 2016 Personal Safety Survey](#)

Next expected: 2022

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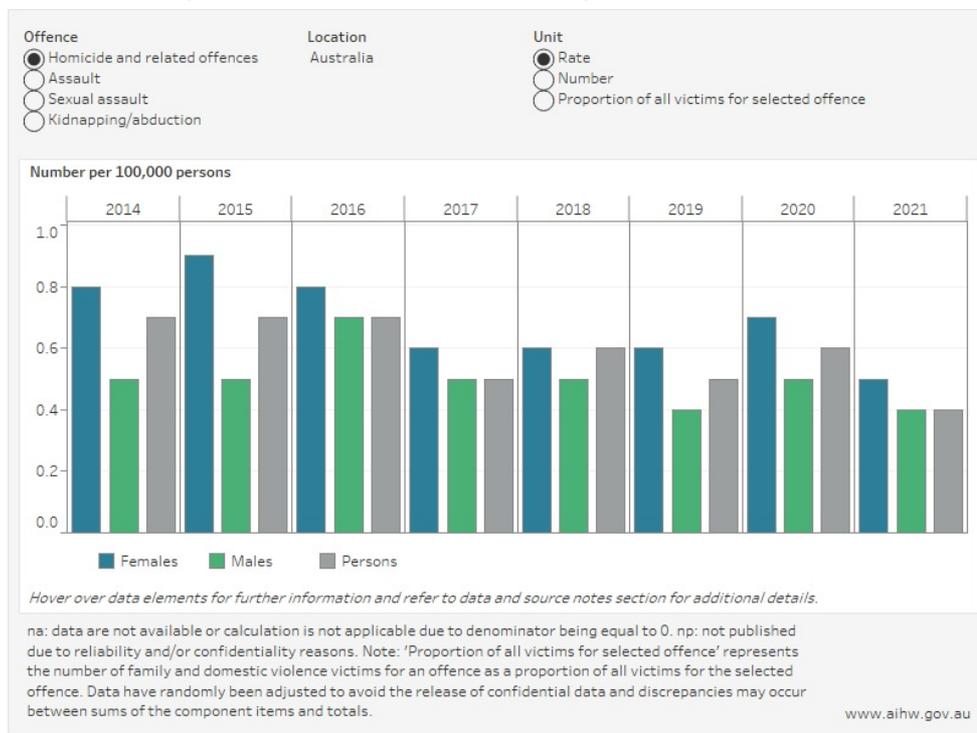


## What services or supports do those who have experienced family, domestic and sexual violence use?

Incidents of family or domestic violence can be reported to police. Examining crime rates for family and domestic violence makes it possible to compare how often police are engaged in response to incidents of family and domestic violence over time and across different population groups in the Australian community. Data on crime rates for family and domestic violence in Australia are drawn from the [ABS Recorded Crime - Victims collection](#), which is based on crimes reported to police in each state and territory.

The visualisation below allows users to explore crime rates for selected family and domestic violence offences recorded by police per 100,000 people, by sex over time. In Australia, between 2014-2021, the rate of family and domestic violence sexual assault offences increased, with victimisation rates consistently higher for females compared with males. Rates for homicide and related offences fluctuated over time, with the number of offences ranging between 105 and 173 each year. Changes in crime rates may be due to changes in reporting behaviour, increased awareness about forms of violence, changes to police practices, and/or an increase in incidents.

### Victims of family and domestic violence crimes, by sex, 2014 to 2021

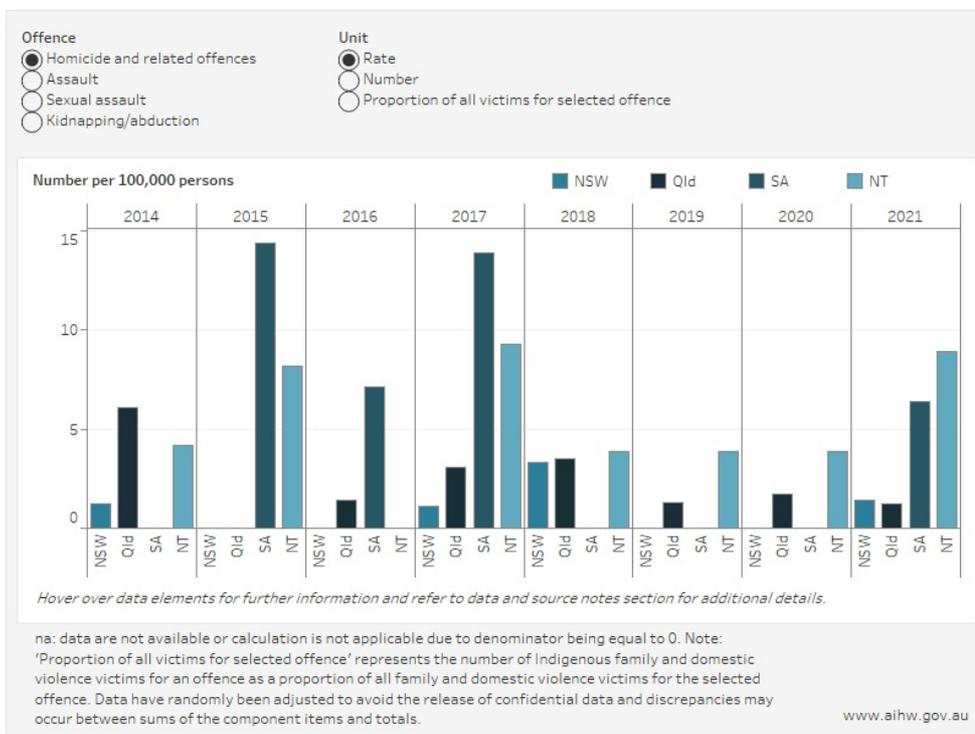


Source data: [Crime rates for family and domestic violence tables \(124KB XLSX\)](#)

### Indigenous family and domestic violence

The visualisation below allows users to explore the number and rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victims of select family and domestic violence offences recorded by police per 100,000 Indigenous Australians, over time for states and territories where data is available. Between 2014-2021, the rate of Indigenous victims of family and domestic violence offences differed across states and territories and by offence type, with rates fluctuating for each jurisdiction over time. Of available data, rates of assault were consistently higher for each jurisdiction than for other offence types examined. For each year examined, over 4 in 5 assault offences were perpetrated by a family member in the Northern Territory, compared with around 1 in 5 in South Australia and 1 in 10 in New South Wales.

### Indigenous victims of family and domestic violence crimes, by states and territories, 2014 to 2021



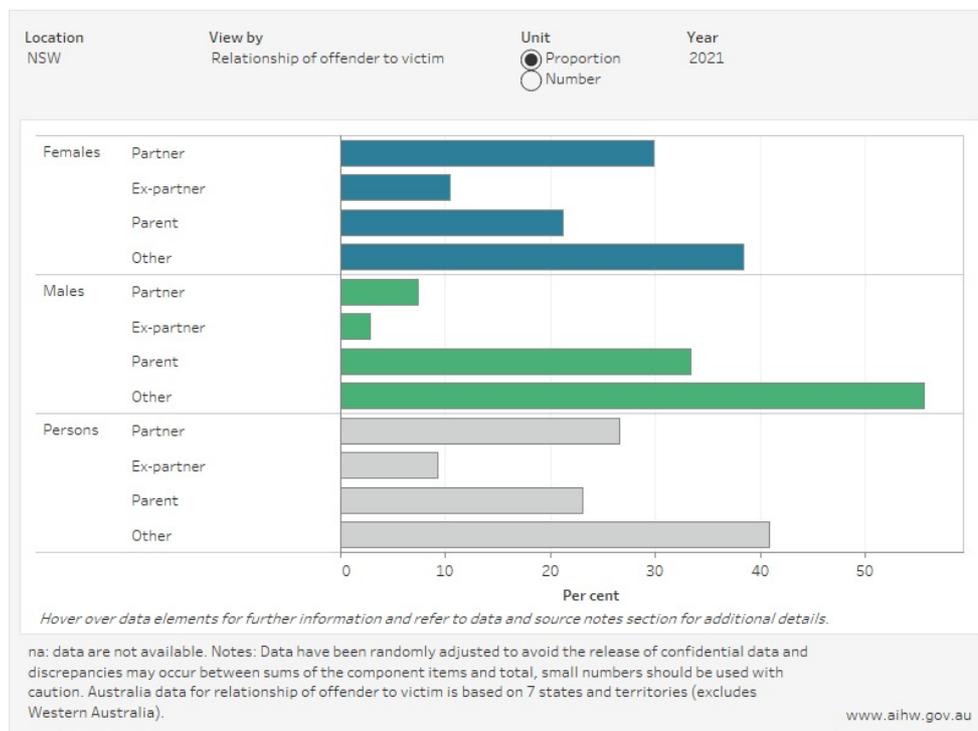
Source data: [Crime rates for family and domestic violence tables \(124KB XLSX\)](#)

## Family and domestic violence sexual assault

The visualisation below allows users to explore the number and proportion of sexual assaults recorded by police, by several characteristics (sex of victim, state and territory in which the incident was reported, age at incident, time to report and relationship of offender to victim). In 2021:

- Around 1 in 4 (25%) offenders of family and domestic sexual assault were current partners. The proportion of female victims of sexual assaults perpetrated by a current partner (28%) is more than 3 times higher than for male FDV sexual assault (8%).
- 2 in 3 (66% or 7,500) reported sexual assaults were amongst victims aged less than 18 years of age, with the most common age at incident younger for males (57% aged 0-9 at time of incident) than for females (37% aged 10-17 at time of incident).
- Just over half of all sexual assaults were reported within the first year and around a quarter were not reported for five or more years.

## Characteristics of family and domestic violence sexual assaults, 2020 and 2021



Source data: [Crime rates for family and domestic violence tables \(124KB XLSX\)](#)

## Family and domestic assault

The visualisation below allows users to explore the number and proportion of family and domestic assaults recorded by police in 2020 and 2021, by several characteristics (sex of victim, state and territory in which the incident was reported, age at report, setting where crime occurred and relationship of offender to victim). Of those states and territories where data are available, victims aged 25-34 at the time of report accounted for the highest proportion of all victims for most jurisdictions. With the exception of the Northern Territory, the majority of family and domestic assaults occurred in a residential setting. In the Northern Territory, family and domestic assaults were also common in community settings.

### Characteristics of family and domestic assaults, 2020 and 2021

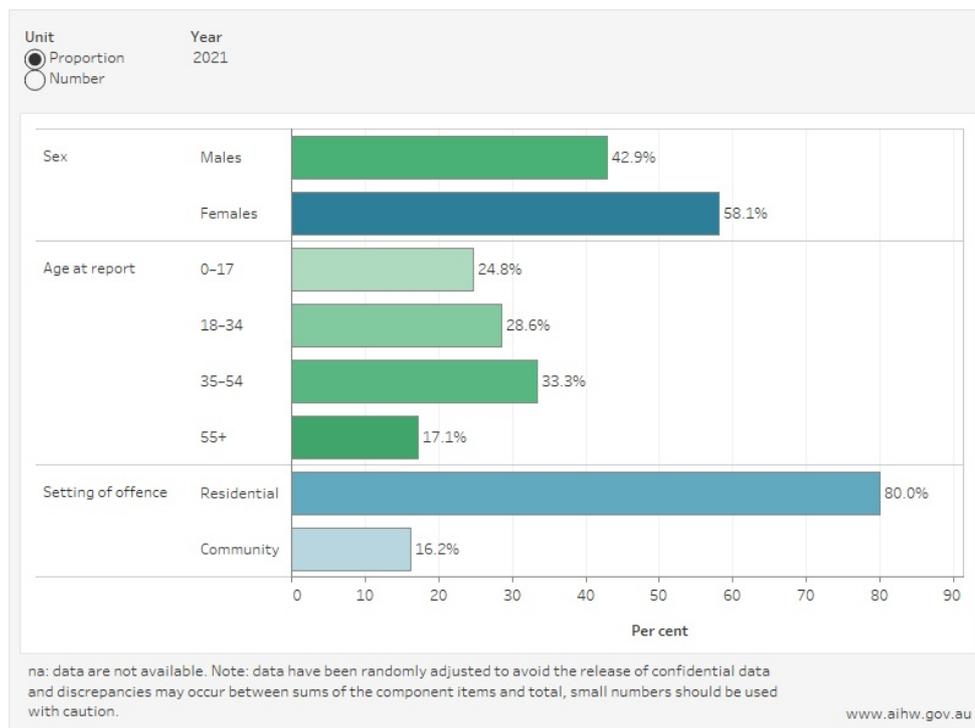
Visualisation not available for printing

Source data: [Crime rates for family and domestic violence tables \(124KB XLSX\)](#)

### Family and domestic homicide

The visualisation below allows users to explore the number and proportion of family and domestic homicides recorded by police, by several characteristics (sex of victim, age at report and setting where crime occurred). It shows that there were more female than male family and domestic homicide victims and these homicides were more likely to happen at a residential address than elsewhere in the community.

### Characteristics of family and domestic homicide, 2020 and 2021



Source data: [Crime rates for family and domestic violence tables \(124KB XLSX\)](#)

### Data and source notes

### Notes

1. Victims data does not reflect unique people. If a person is the victim of multiple incidents recorded by police throughout the reference period, each unique incident is counted. Where incidents include multiple offences that fall under different ANZSOC offence categories, each different offence category is counted once per incident.
2. Crimes are included in the family and domestic violence-related data in the ABS Recorded Crime - Victims, Australia collection when:
  - the relationship of offender to victim, as stored on police recording systems, falls within a specified family or domestic relationship (spouse or domestic partner, parent, child, sibling, boyfriend/girlfriend or other family member to the offender) and/or
  - a family domestic violence flag has been recorded, following a police investigation.
3. Family and domestic violence victims data in Western Australia is based on the family and domestic violence flag only as relationship of offender to victim information are not recorded. Therefore, some victims of family and domestic violence offences in this jurisdiction may not be included.
4. Homicide and related offences includes murder, attempted murder and manslaughter, but excludes driving causing death and conspiracy to murder.
5. Assault refers to the direct infliction of force, injury, or violence upon a person or persons, or the direct threat of force, injury, or violence where there is an apprehension that the threat could be enacted. Includes serious assault resulting in injury, serious assault not resulting in injury, and common assault.
6. Assault data is not available for Victoria and Queensland, and therefore Australia.
7. Sexual assault refers to any physical contact, or intent of contact, of a sexual nature directed toward another person where that person does not give consent, gives consent as a result of intimidation or deception, or consent is unable to be given because of youth, temporary/permanent (mental) incapacity or familial relationship. Sexual assault includes aggravated sexual assault and non-aggravated sexual assault.
8. Kidnapping/abduction refers to the unlawful confinement of a person against that person's will, or against the will of any parent, guardian or other person having lawful custody or care of that person. Due to small numbers, these data are not explored separately.
9. Total for age-specific visualisations includes victims for whom age was not specified.
10. The reported 'proportion of all victims for selected offence' represents the number of family and domestic victims for an offence as a proportion of all victims for the selected offence.
11. Based on an ABS data quality assessment, Indigenous status data from the Recorded Crime - Victims collection is available for national reporting across 4 states and territories (New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and the Northern Territory). However, the proportion of victims with an Indigenous status of 'not stated' varies by jurisdiction and offence. For more information, see the ABS' [Recorded Crime - Victims methodology](#).
12. Partner includes de facto, spouse, boyfriend and girlfriend.
13. Ex-partner includes separated partner, ex-spouse, ex-boyfriend and ex-girlfriend.
14. Other includes child, sibling, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, cousins, grandparents and other family member not elsewhere classified, as well as victims which were flagged by police as FDV-related, but with no other relationship details. May include carer or kinship relationships.
15. Community settings includes educational, health, religious, justice, open space and community location not elsewhere classified.
16. A small proportion of family and domestic assaults did not occur in a residential or community setting. These are not reported here.
17. For more information see [Methods, Glossary and Data sources](#).

## Source

[Annual ABS Recorded Crimes - Victims](#)

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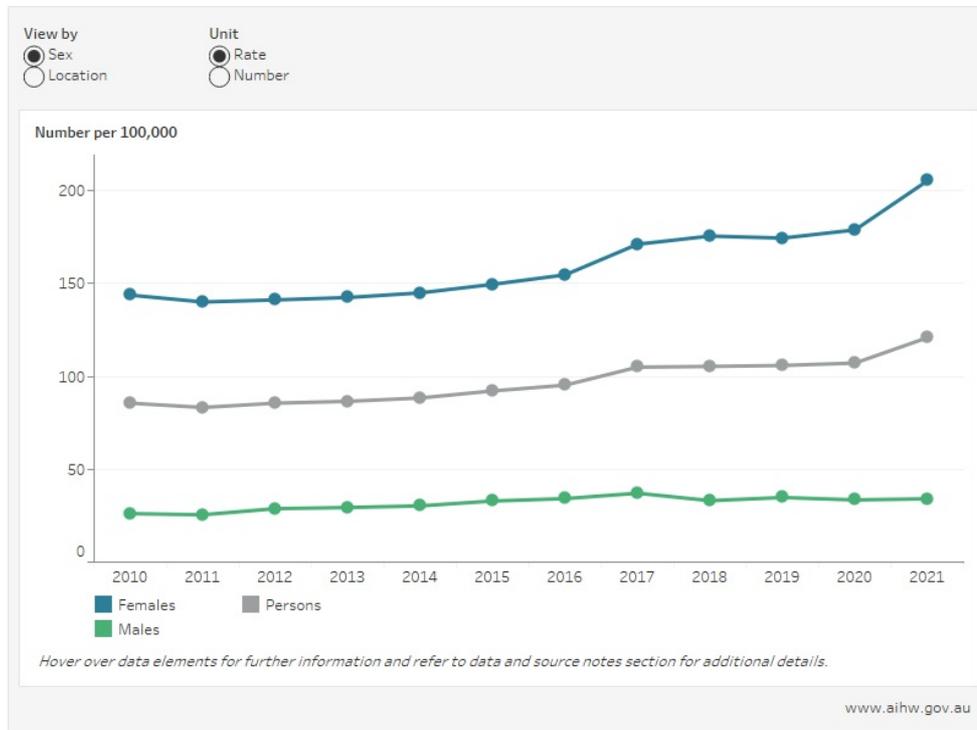


## What services or supports do those who have experienced family, domestic and sexual violence use?

Incidents of sexual assault may be reported to police. Examining crime rates for sexual assault makes it possible to compare how often police are engaged in response to incidents of sexual assault over time and across different population groups in the Australian community. Data on crime rates for sexual assault in Australia are drawn from the [ABS Recorded Crime - Victims collection](#), which is based on crimes reported to police in each state and territory.

The visualisation below allows users to explore the number and rate of sexual assaults recorded by police per 100,000 people since 2010, by sex of victim and the state and territory the sexual assault was recorded, over time. Between 2010 and 2021, sexual assault victimisation rates were consistently higher for females compared to males. During this time the victimisation rate for sexual assault for females increased by 43% from 143.8 to 205.4 per 100,000 females with a 15% increase between 2020 and 2021. Rates also increased by 31% for males between 2010 and 2021 from 26.1 to 34.1 per 100,000. This increase is generally consistent across jurisdictions, although the rate and pattern of increase varied. Changes in crime rates may be due to changes in reporting behaviour, increased awareness about forms of violence, changes to police practices, and/or an increase in incidents.

### Victims of sexual assault, by sex and location, 2010 to 2021

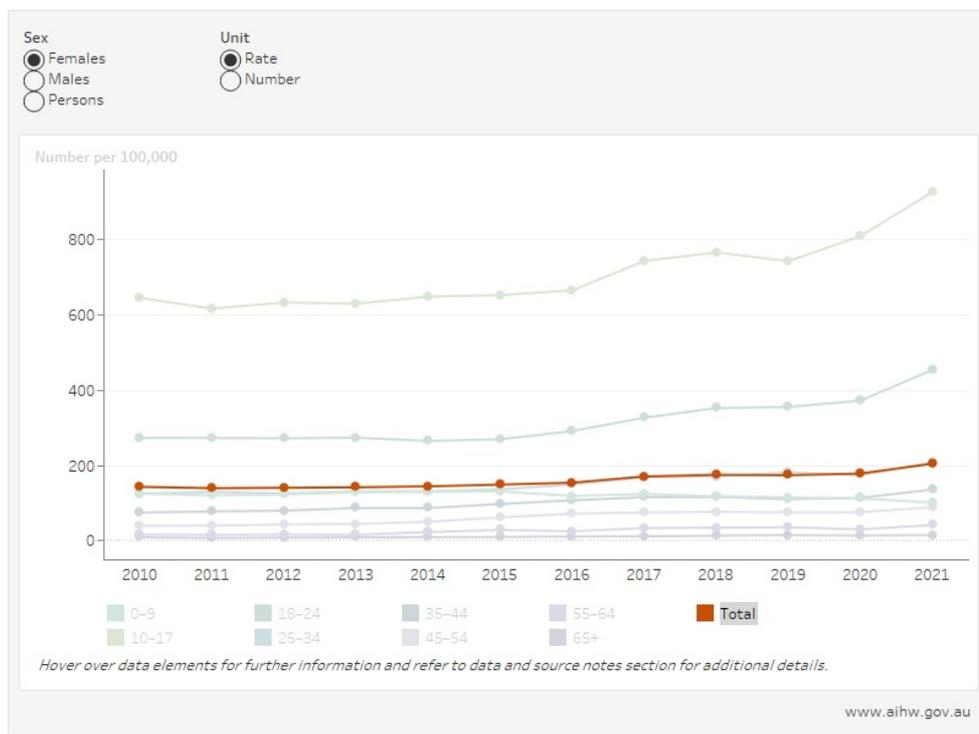


Source data: [Crime rates for sexual assault tables \(87KB XLSX\)](#)

Examining the age profile of victims of sexual assault provides insight into which groups are most affected by sexual assault.

The visualisation below allows users to explore the number and rate of sexual assaults recorded by police per 100,000 Australians since 2010, by sex of victim and age group, over time. Between 2010-2021, the victimisation rate for sexual assault increased across all age groups, except 0-9 years. Between 2020 and 2021, there was an almost 13% increase amongst those aged 10-17 and over 21% increase amongst those aged 18-24.

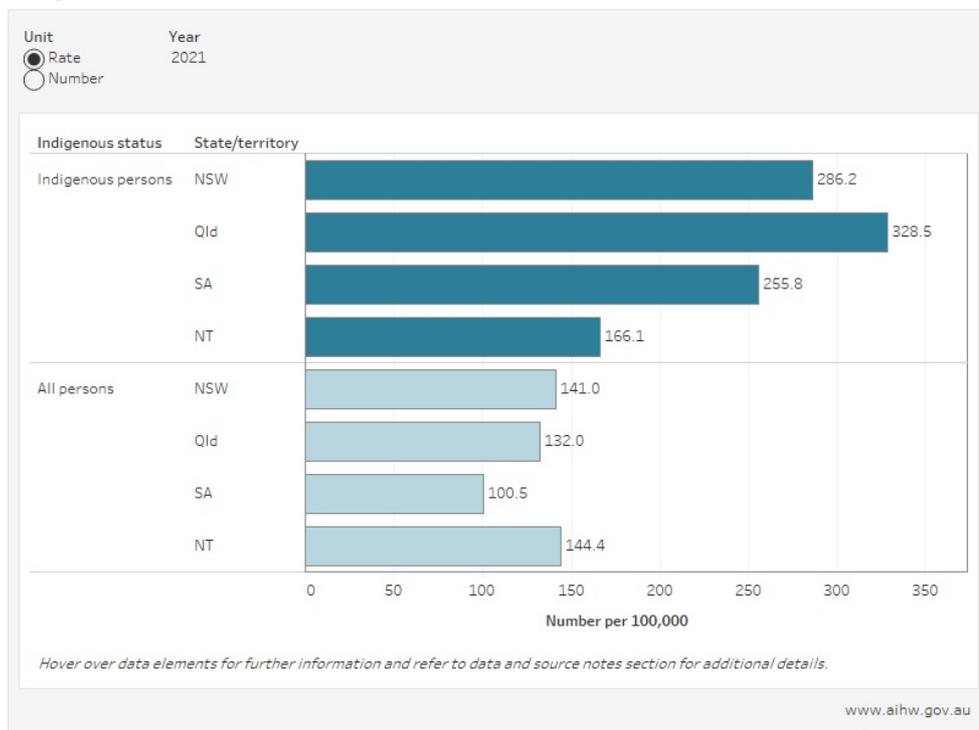
### Victims of sexual assault, by age at report, 2010 to 2021



Source data: [Crime rates for sexual assault tables \(87KB XLSX\)](#)

The visualisation below shows the number and rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victims of sexual assault per 100,000 Indigenous Australians, over time, for states and territories with available data. Between 2010 and 2021, Indigenous victimisation rates for sexual assault varied between states and territories and over time. Since 2018, Indigenous rates for sexual assault were lowest for the Northern Territory, compared with New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia.

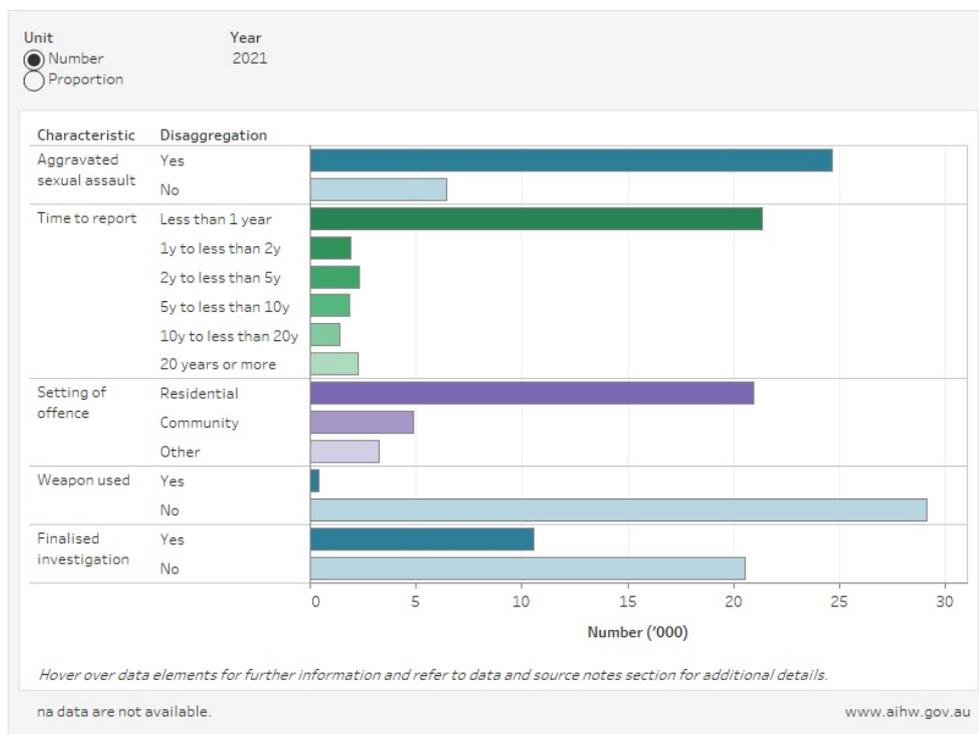
### Indigenous victims of sexual assault for select state and territories, 2010 to 2021



Source data: [Crime rates for sexual assault tables \(87KB XLSX\)](#)

The visualisation below allows users to explore the number and proportion of sexual assault victims, by type of assault, time to report, setting where crime occurred, use of weapon, and outcome of investigation. Consistently over time, most sexual assaults were aggravated sexual assaults, and most did not involve the use of a weapon. Sexual assaults in a residential setting were consistently more common than in the community.

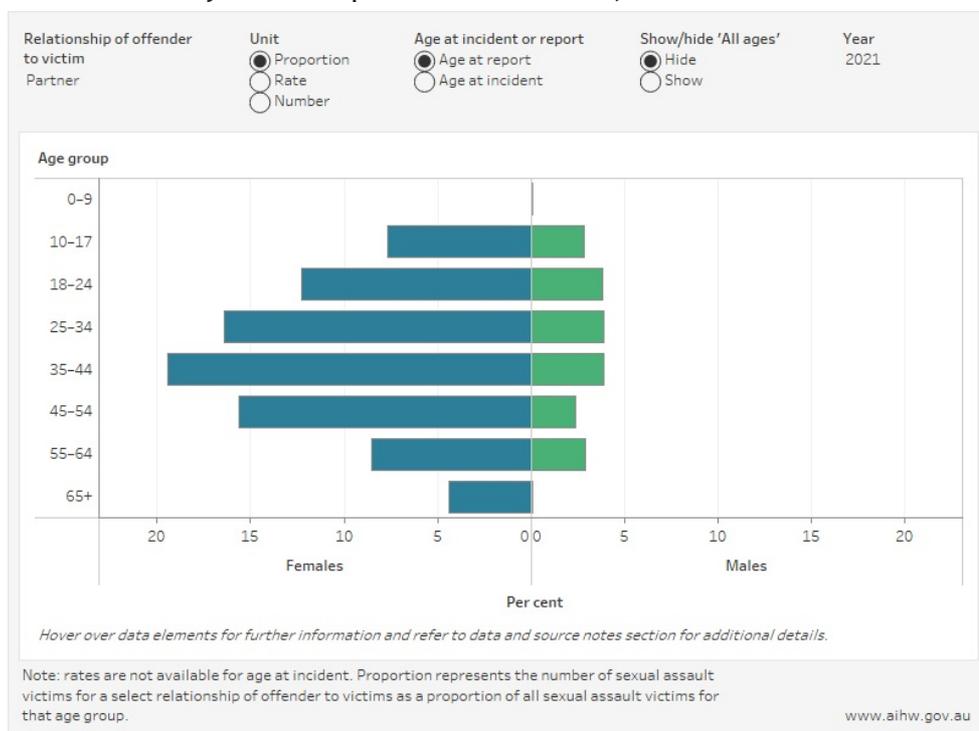
### Characteristics of sexual assault, 2010 to 2021



Source data: [Crime rates for sexual assault tables \(87KB XLSX\)](#)

The visualisation below allows users to explore the number and proportion of sexual assaults recorded by police, by sex of victim, relationship to offender, and across age groups (at report or incident). In 2021, the sexual assault offender was most commonly a family member for males and females aged 0-9 at the time of the incident. For all other male age groups at incident, the offender was most commonly a known person who was not a family member. For other female age groups, the offender was most commonly a family member for those in the middle age groups (25-34 to 45-54) and a known person who was not a family member for the remaining age groups.

### Sexual assaults by relationship of offender to victim, 2020 and 2021



Source data: [Crime rates for sexual assault tables \(87KB XLSX\)](#)

### Data and source notes

### Notes

1. Victims data does not reflect unique people. If a person is the victim of multiple incidents recorded by police throughout the reference period, each unique incident is counted. Where incidents include multiple offences that fall under different ANZSOC offence categories, each different offence category is counted once per incident.
2. Sexual assault refers to any physical contact, or intent of contact, of a sexual nature directed toward another person where that person does not give consent, gives consent as a result of intimidation or deception, or consent is unable to be given because of youth, temporary/permanent (mental) incapacity or familial relationship. Sexual assault includes aggravated sexual assault and non-aggravated sexual assault.
3. Total for age-specific visualisations includes victims for whom age was not specified.
4. Based on an ABS data quality assessment, Indigenous status data from the Recorded Crime - Victims collection is available for national reporting across 4 states and territories (New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and the Northern Territory). However, the proportion of victims with an Indigenous status of 'not stated' varies by jurisdiction and offence. For more information, see the ABS' [Recorded Crime - Victims methodology](#).
5. Aggravated sexual assault includes: Incest, rape, intent/attempt to commit rape, administering of drugs with intent to rape, unlawful sexual intercourse, unlawful fellatio/cunnilingus, carnal knowledge and assault with the intent to commit a sexual act. Non-aggravated sexual assault includes: threat of sexual assault and indecent assault not including aggravating circumstances.
6. A weapon is defined as any object that can be used to cause injury or fear of injury in the commission of a crime. It also includes imitation weapons and implied weapons (e.g. where a weapon is not seen by the victim but the offender claims to possess one). Parts of the body such as fists and feet are not included as a weapon.
7. An investigation is finalised when the case is no longer considered open and an offender has been proceeded against through court action or non-court action, or an offender was not proceeded against as a result of either the circumstances of the alleged offender, or because the offence could not be verified. Cases where the investigation has not been finalised and no offender has been proceeded against at the time of recording the outcome includes cases where the investigation is ongoing or pending/suspended.
8. Relationship data is not available for Western Australia. Data presented by relationship is based on data from all other states and territories.
9. Family member total includes partner, ex-partner, other family member and other family member not further defined.
10. Partner includes de-facto, spouse, boyfriend and girlfriend.
11. Ex-partner includes separated partner, ex-spouse, ex-boyfriend and ex-girlfriend.
12. Other family member includes parent, child, sibling, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, cousins, grandparents and other family member not elsewhere classified.
13. Non-family member total includes all persons known to the victim who were not included in the family total, e.g., friend, teacher, etc
14. A weapon is defined as any object that can be used to cause injury or fear of injury in the commission of a crime. It also includes imitation weapons and implied weapons (e.g. where a weapon is not seen by the victim but the offender claims to possess one). Parts of the body such as fists and feet are not included as a weapon.
15. An investigation is finalised when the case is no longer considered open and an offender has been proceeded against through court action or non-court action, or an offender was not proceeded against as a result of either the circumstances of the alleged offender, or because the offence could not be verified. Cases where the investigation has not been finalised and no offender has been proceeded against at the time of recording the outcome includes cases where the investigation is ongoing or pending/suspended.
16. For more information see [Methods, Glossary and Data sources](#).

## Source

[Annual ABS Recorded Crimes - Victim](#)

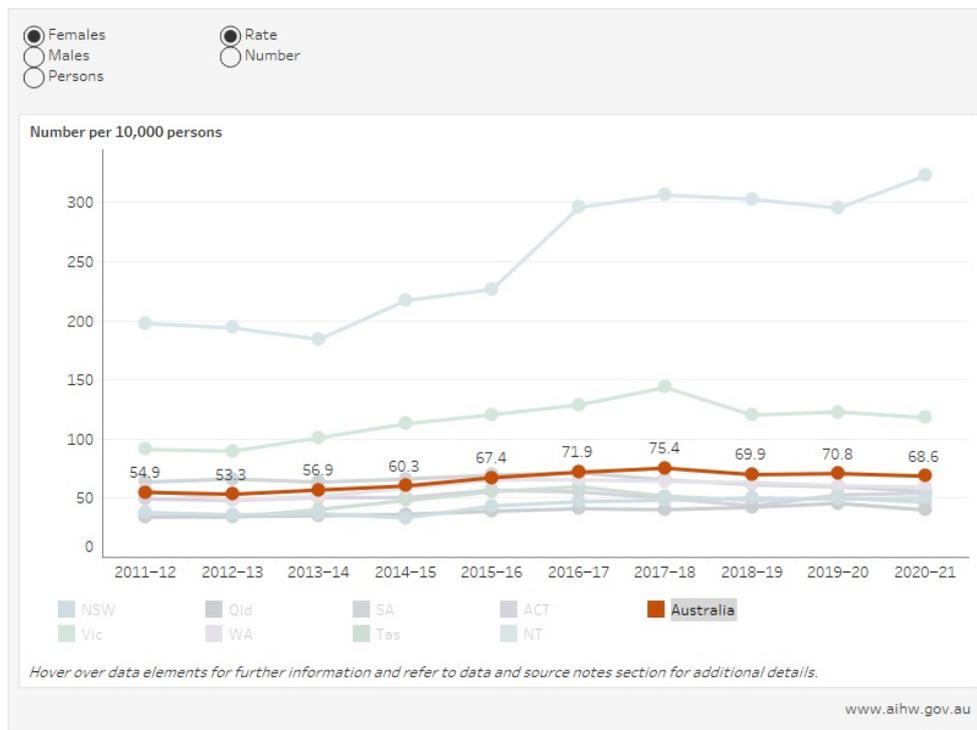
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## What services or supports do those who have experienced family, domestic and sexual violence use?

Specialist homelessness services (SHS) can provide assistance to people who are experiencing homelessness, or who are at risk of homelessness, including clients who have experienced family and domestic violence. Examining the number of SHS clients who have experienced family and domestic violence provides an indication of the level of service response. Data on people seeking support from SHS agencies are drawn from the AIHW Specialist Homelessness Services Collection. The AIHW Specialist homelessness services annual report includes additional details on Clients who have experienced family and domestic violence.

The visualisation below allows users to explore the number of SHS clients who have experienced family and domestic violence, by sex and state and territory, over time. In Australia, between 2011-12 and 2020-21, the rate of specialist homelessness services clients who have experienced family and domestic violence increased across all states and territories except South Australia for females, and Western Australia, South Australia and Australian Capital Territory for males.

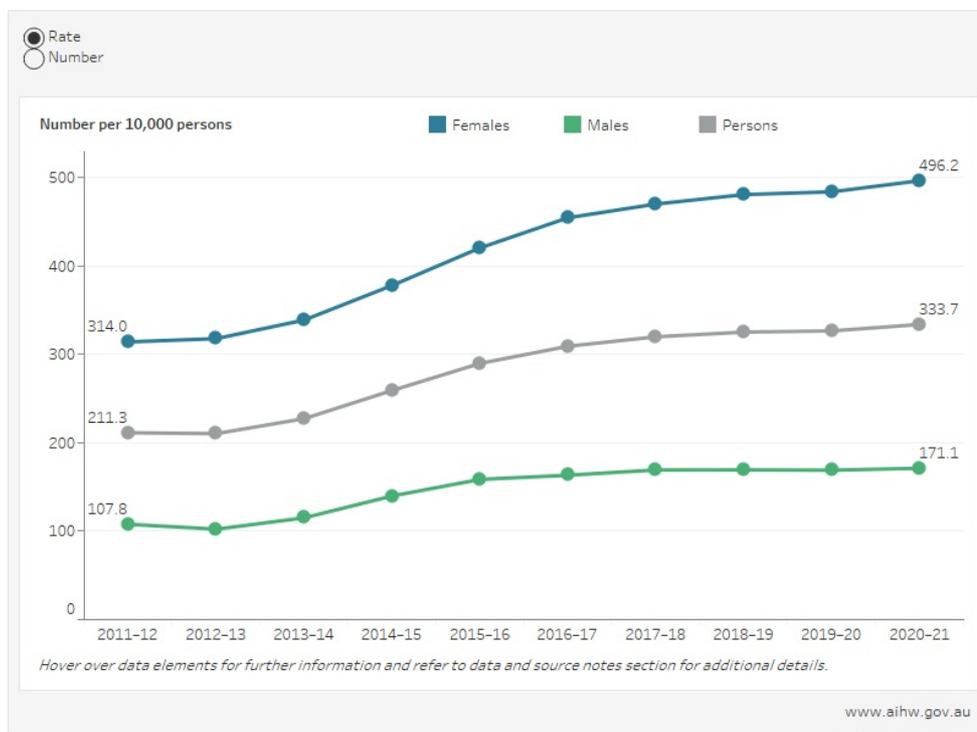
### Specialist homelessness services clients who have experienced family and domestic violence, by sex and state and territory, 2011-12 to 2020-21



Source data: [Specialist homelessness services clients who have experienced family and domestic violence tables \(105KB XLSX\)](#)

The visualisation below allows users to explore the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander SHS clients who have experienced family and domestic violence, by sex, over time. Between 2011-12 and 2020-21, the rate of Indigenous specialist homelessness services clients who have experienced family and domestic violence was highest for females and increased over time for both females (58.0% increase) and males (58.7% increase).

### Indigenous Specialist homelessness services clients who have experienced family and domestic violence, by sex, 2011-12 to 2020-21



Source data: [Specialist homelessness services clients who have experienced family and domestic violence tables \(105KB XLSX\)](#)

### Population groups

Some population groups may be at higher risk of homelessness due to family and domestic violence. Understanding which groups are at higher risk, can be used to inform the development of more targeted programs and services for these clients.

The visualisation below allows users to explore the number of SHS clients who have experienced family and domestic violence, by various population groups. It shows that in 2020-21, rates were highest for all females aged 25-34 and all Indigenous females aged 25-34. For both males and females, the Northern Territory had the highest rate of all states and territories.

### Specialist homelessness services clients who have experienced family and domestic violence, for select population groups, 2020-21

Visualisation not available for printing

Source data: [Specialist homelessness services clients who have experienced family and domestic violence tables \(105KB XLSX\)](#)

### Other characteristics

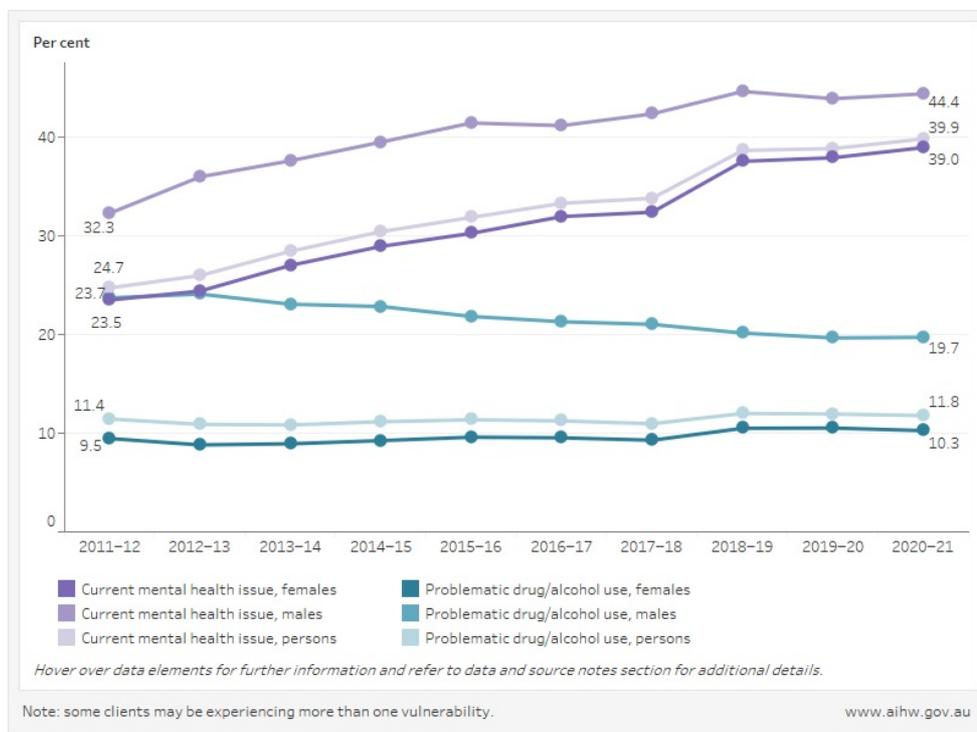
#### Selected vulnerabilities

People who experience family and domestic violence may experience other vulnerabilities to experiencing homelessness, such as mental health issues and problematic drug or alcohol use.

The visualisation below allows users to explore the proportion of SHS clients who have experienced family and domestic violence and who also experience current mental health issues or problematic drug and/or alcohol use, by sex, over time. In 2020-21, of those aged 10 and over, 4 in 10 (40%) also had a current mental health issue and over 1 in 10 (12% or 10,700) had problematic drug and/or alcohol use.

Between 2011-12 and 2020-21, the proportion of specialist homelessness services clients who have experienced family and domestic violence and had a current mental health issue increased for females and males. Over the same period, the proportion of specialist homelessness services clients who have experienced family and domestic violence and problematic drug/alcohol use increased slightly for females and decreased for males.

### Specialist homelessness services clients aged 10 and over who have experienced family and domestic violence, by select vulnerabilities, 2011-12 to 2020-21



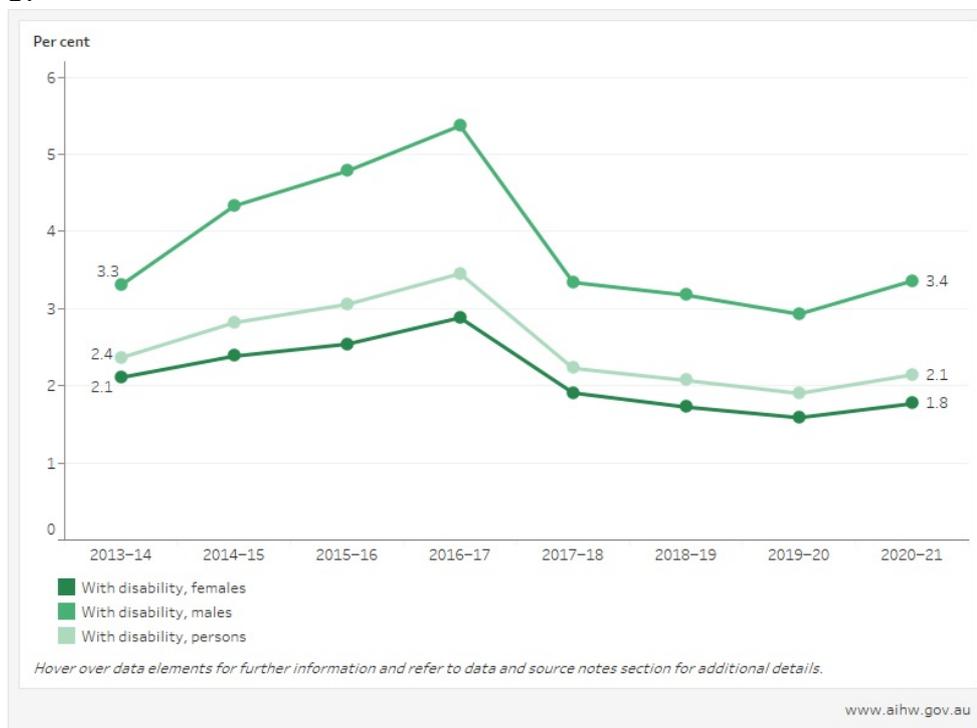
Source data: [Specialist homelessness services clients who have experienced family and domestic violence tables \(105KB XLSX\)](#)

### Disability

SHS clients who experience family and domestic violence may also be living with disability.

The visualisation below allows users to explore the proportion of SHS clients who have experienced family and domestic violence and are living with disability, by sex over time. In 2020-21, 1 in 50 (2.1%) SHS clients were living with disability. Between 2013-14 and 2020-21, males had a higher rate than females for all time points.

### Specialist homelessness services clients who have experienced family and domestic violence, with disability, by sex, 2013-14 to 2020-21



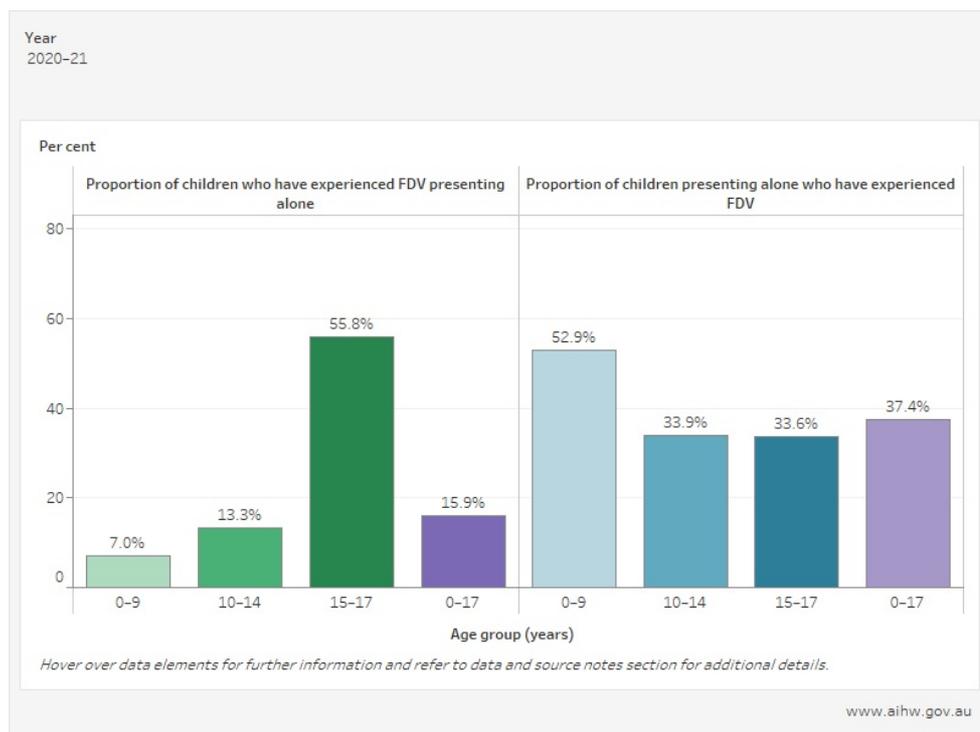
Source data: [Specialist homelessness services clients who have experienced family and domestic violence tables \(105KB XLSX\)](#)

### Children

Given the impact of childhood experiences on future development and wellbeing, children accessing specialist homelessness services who have experienced family and domestic violence are a particularly vulnerable group.

The visualisation below allows users to explore SHS clients aged under 18 years who have experienced family and domestic violence who present alone at the beginning of their support, by age group, over time. In 2020-21, the proportion of children who have experienced FDV presenting alone was lower for children aged 0-14 compared with those aged 15-17. Conversely, the proportion of those presenting alone who have experienced FDV was higher among the younger age groups. This pattern was consistent across years.

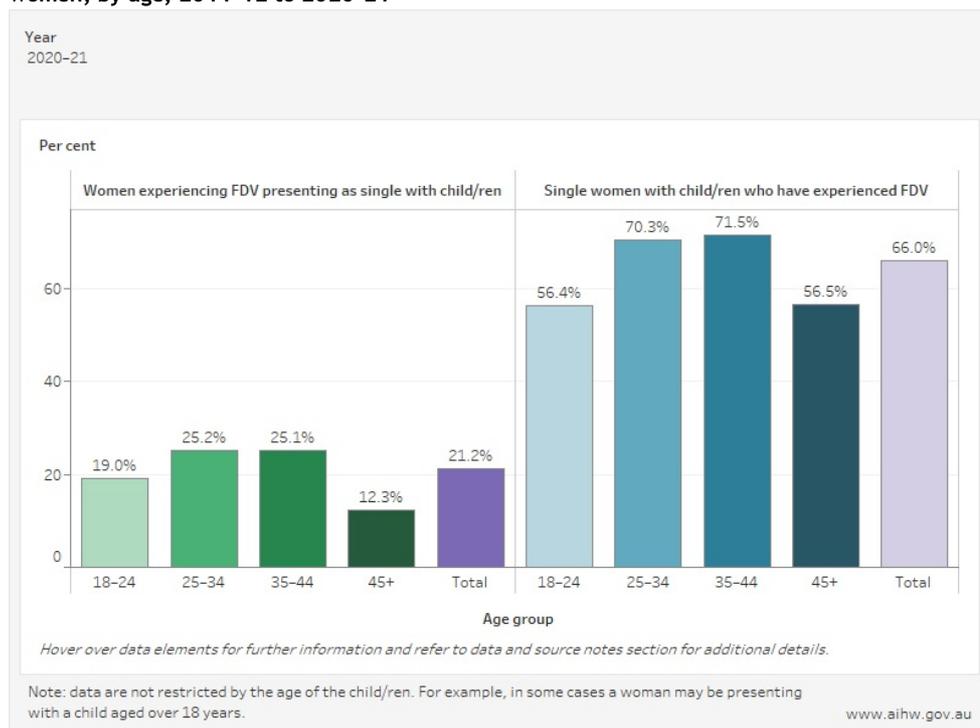
**Specialist homelessness services clients who have experienced family and domestic violence and are presenting alone, by age, 2011-12 to 2020-21**



Source data: [Specialist homelessness services clients who have experienced family and domestic violence tables \(105KB XLSX\)](#)

The visualisation below allows users to explore SHS females aged 18 years and over who have experienced family and domestic violence, and present with a child/ren only at the beginning of their support, by age group, over time. In 2020-21, around 2 in 3 (66%) women presenting as single with a child/ren were experiencing family and domestic violence. Proportions were higher for those aged 25-44 compared to younger and older women. Of women who experienced FDV, around 1 in 5 (21%) presented as single with child/ren.

**Specialist homelessness services clients who have experienced family and domestic violence and are presenting with a child/ren only, women, by age, 2011-12 to 2020-21**



Source data: [Specialist homelessness services clients who have experienced family and domestic violence tables \(105KB XLSX\)](#)

**Data and source notes**

## Notes

1. A Specialist Homelessness Services Collection (SHSC) client is identified as experiencing family and domestic violence if in any support period during the reporting period the client was formally referred from a non-SHS family and domestic violence agency to an SHS agency, 'family and domestic violence' was reported as a reason they sought assistance, or during any support period they required family or domestic violence assistance. The SHSC reports on clients experiencing family and domestic violence of any age, including both victims and a smaller number perpetrators who may be assisted by SHS agencies. Current data do not allow for victims and perpetrators to be reported separately.
2. Data for 2011-12 to 2016-17 have been adjusted for non-response. Due to improvements in the rates of agency participation and SLK validity, 2017-18 data are not weighted. The removal of weighting does not constitute a break in time series and weighted data from 2011-12 to 2016-17 are comparable with unweighted data for 2017-18 onwards.
3. Support period counts may differ from previous publications due to an improvement in methodology, which has resulted in a small decrease in the number of support periods.
4. Data have been extracted from the SHSC data cubes which have undergone confidentialisation. Due to this process, figures may differ from those published in annual SHSC reports.
5. From 2017-18 to 2018-19, there was a three per cent decrease in the total number of Victorian homelessness clients and a 10 percent decrease in family violence clients following years of steady increases in these numbers. The decrease was primarily due to a practice correction in how some family violence agencies were recording clients. In addition, during 2018-19, a phased process to shift family violence intake to non-SHS services began, which may result in an overall decrease in the number of SHS family violence clients over the coming years. Caution should be used when comparing Victorian client numbers over recent years.
6. Main language spoken at home total excludes clients who only had a support period(s) starting before 1 July 2019, when the main language data item was introduced.
7. Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) clients are identified as having a current mental health issue if they are aged 10 years or older and have provided any of the following information:
  - They indicated that at the beginning of support they were receiving services or assistance for their mental health issues or had in the last 12 months.
  - Their formal referral source to the SHS was a mental health service.
  - They reported 'mental health issues' as a reason for seeking assistance.
  - Their dwelling type either a week before presenting to an agency, or when presenting to an agency, was a psychiatric hospital or unit.
  - They had been in a psychiatric hospital or unit in the last 12 months.
  - At some stage during their support period, a need was identified for psychological services, psychiatric services or mental health services.
8. The identification of clients with problematic drug and/or alcohol use may be current or recent; referring to issues at presentation, just prior to receiving support or at least once in the 12 months prior to support. SHS clients aged 10 and over are reported in the SHSC with problematic drug and/or alcohol use if, at the beginning of or during support, the client provided any of the following information:
  - recorded their dwelling type as rehabilitation facility
  - required drug or alcohol counselling
  - were formally referred to the SHS service from an alcohol and drug treatment service
  - had been in a rehabilitation facility or institution during the past 12 months
  - reported problematic drug, substance or alcohol use as a reason for seeking assistance or the main reason for seeking assistance.
9. SHSC clients living with a disability reported that they have a limitation in core activities (self care, mobility and communication) and always or sometimes needed assistance with one or more of these core activities. These clients are described as having severe or profound core activity limitation, or as living with disability.
10. The proportion of clients living with disability is calculated for all clients who experienced family and domestic violence, including those with "not stated" responses to disability questions.
11. People presenting alone are defined as any client whose presenting unit type is recorded as 'lone person' by a SHS agency in their first support period in the financial year. Data for presenting unit type may not be comparable across age groups due to differences in interpretation of presenting units and how they are recorded. This issue mainly concerns young children and presenting unit type 'lone person'. Presenting unit type is not necessarily the same as living arrangement.
12. States and territories have varying policies on SHS agencies directly supporting children presenting alone, which may affect the data shown here.
13. Data for women who presented as single with child/ren are not restricted by the age of the child/ren. For example, in some cases a woman may be presenting with a child aged over 18 years.
14. For more information see [Methods](#), [Glossary](#) and [Data sources](#).

## Source

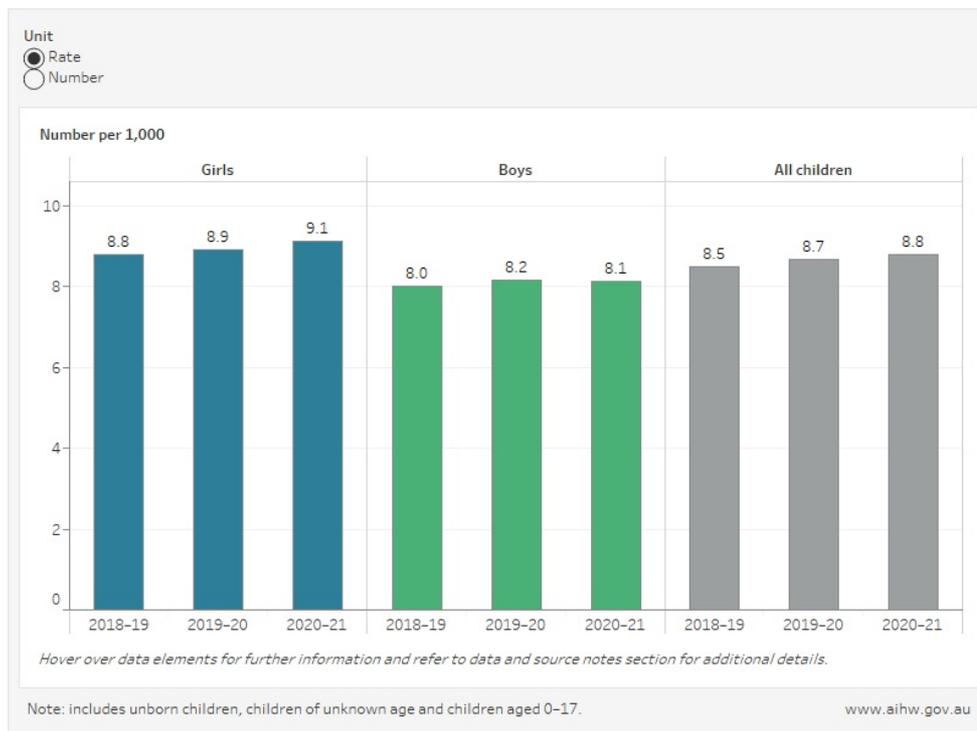
[AIHW Specialist Homelessness Services Collection data cubes 2011-12 to 2020-21](#)

## What services or supports do those who have experienced family, domestic and sexual violence use?

Children aged under 18 who experience abuse and/or neglect may have contact with the child protection system. The substantiation of a child protection notification is the conclusion (following an investigation) that there was reasonable cause to believe a child had been, was being, or was likely to be abused, neglected, or otherwise harmed. Data on substantiated notifications (substantiations) of abuse and/or neglect, including those perpetrated by family members, are drawn from the [AIHW Child Protection National Minimum Data Set \(CP NMDS\)](#).

The visualisation below shows the number and rate (number per 1,000) of children who were the subject of substantiations of abuse and/or neglect from 2018-19 to 2020-21 by sex. The number of substantiations increased from 47,500 in 2018-19 to 49,700 in 2020-21 (a 4.6% increase).

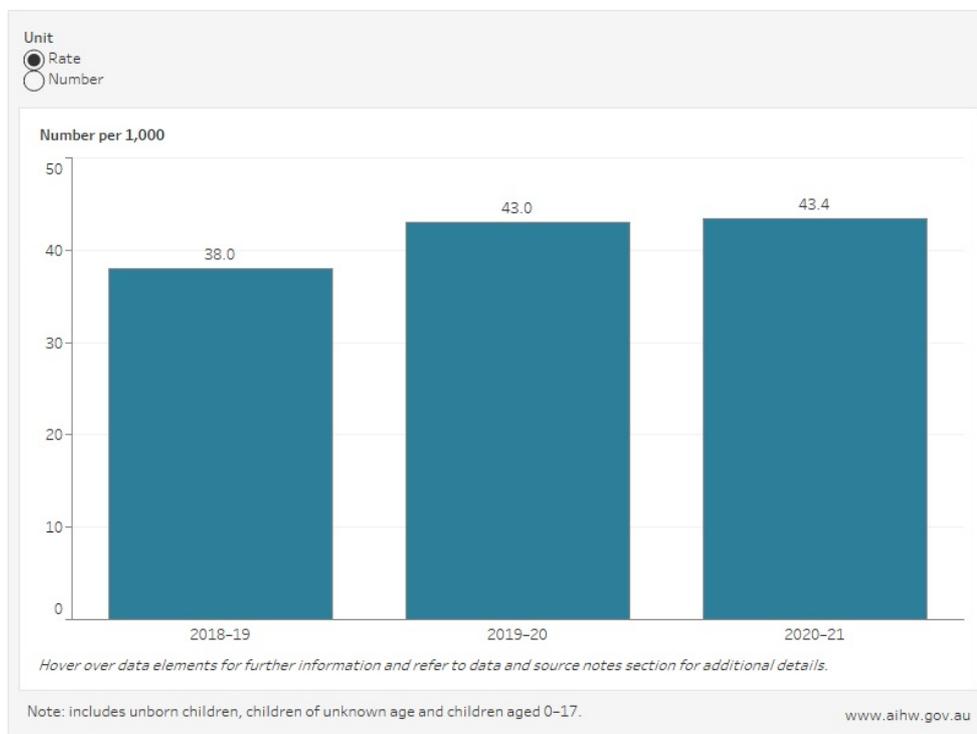
### Children who were the subject of substantiations, by sex, 2018-19 to 2020-21



Source data: [Substantiated notifications of abuse and/or neglect tables \(60KB XLSX\)](#)

The visualisation below shows the number and rate (number per 1,000) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who were the subject of substantiations of abuse and/or neglect from 2018-19 to 2020-21. Between 2018-19 and 2020-21, the number of Indigenous children who were the subject of substantiations increased from 12,600 to 14,600, an increase of 16.0%.

### Indigenous children who were the subject of substantiations, 2018-19 to 2020-21



Source data: [Substantiated notifications of abuse and/or neglect tables \(60KB XLSX\)](#)

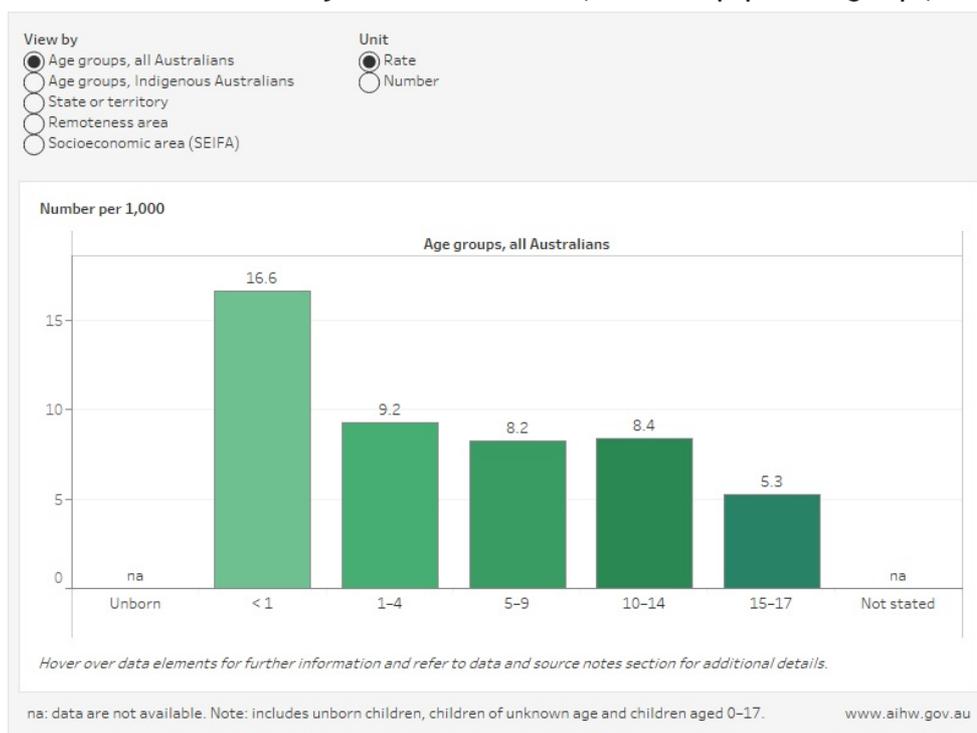
## Population groups

Examining population groups with higher proportions of substantiated notifications of abuse and/or neglect can help to identify those groups that may benefit from more targeted programs and services.

The following visualisation allows users to view the number and rate (number per 1,000 children) of children who were the subject of substantiations of abuse and/or neglect by select population groups. In 2020-21, rates of substantiation were:

- highest for children aged less than one, compared to all other age groups.
- almost four times as high for Indigenous children aged less than one, compared to Indigenous children aged 15-17.
- highest for those living in the Northern Territory.
- highest for those living in very remote areas.

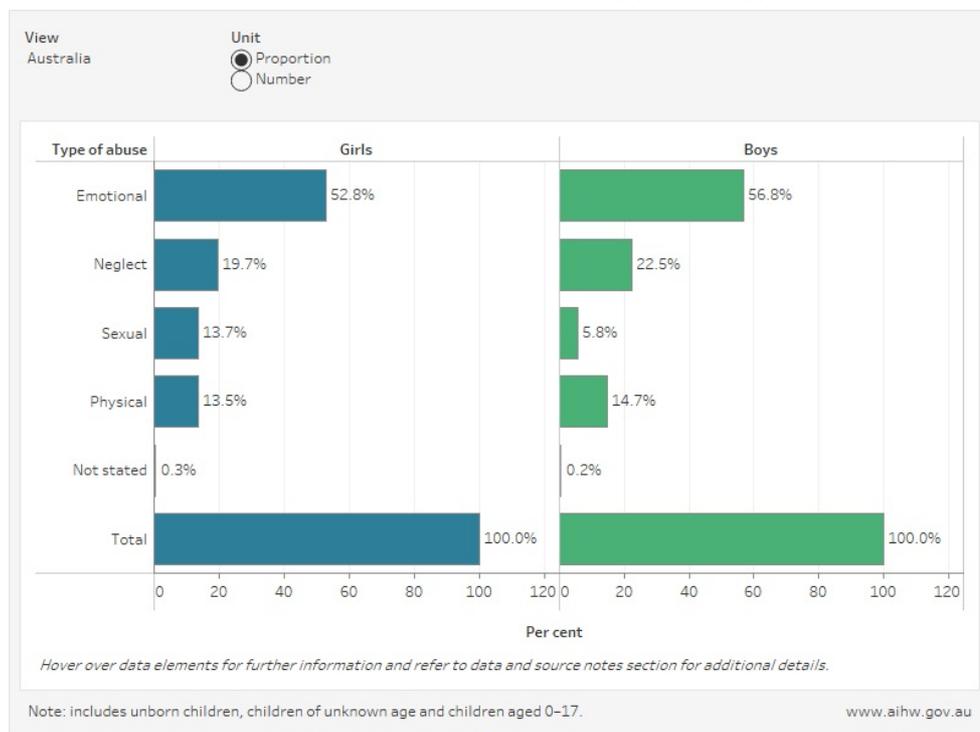
## Children who were the subject of substantiations, for select population groups, 2020-21



Source data: [Substantiated notifications of abuse and/or neglect tables \(60KB XLSX\)](#)

The following visualisation shows the number and proportion of children who were the subject of substantiations of abuse and/or neglect by primary type of abuse. In Australia in 2020-21, emotional abuse was the most common type of primary abuse for both girls and boys.

## Children who were the subject of substantiations, by primary type of abuse and neglect, by sex, 2020-21



Source data: [Substantiated notifications of abuse and/or neglect tables \(60KB XLSX\)](#)

### Data and source notes

#### Notes

1. Substantiations refer to cases that were notified to relevant authorities during the reference year (for example, 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021) and investigated (with the investigation finalised by 31 August 2021).
2. Children may be the subject of more than one substantiation throughout the year. Children rather than substantiations are the reporting unit here.
3. Time series data for substantiations are limited due changes in state and territory legislation, policy/practice, and information management systems which reduce the ability to accurately compare data over long periods.
4. Data for children who were the subject of substantiations are not comparable across jurisdictions due to differences in the way jurisdictions collect and report data on substantiations, including data on abuse type.
5. 'All children' includes children whose sex was unknown.
6. Unborn children may be covered under child protection legislation and, along with children of unknown age, are included in all totals and relevant population group counts and rates. However, they are excluded from age-specific (including 'less than one' category) counts and rate calculations.
7. Population data are not available for creating rates for unborn children and children of unknown age.
8. Remoteness area reporting excludes 1,441 records due either to missing location data, or because they were unable to be mapped to Remoteness Areas.
9. SEIFA reporting excludes 1,487 records due either to missing location data, or because they were unable to be mapped to geographical areas to calculate the index.
10. If a child was the subject of more than one type of abuse or neglect as part of the same notification, the type of abuse or neglect reported is the one considered by the child protection workers to cause the most harm to the child. Where a child is the subject of more than one substantiation during the year, the type of abuse or neglect reported is the one associated with the first substantiation decision relating to the earliest notification during the year. As such, only the abuse type for the first substantiation in the year that is most likely to place the child at risk, or be most severe in the short term, is reported.
11. Some data may not match those published in previous Child protection Australia publications due to retrospective updates to data.

#### Sources

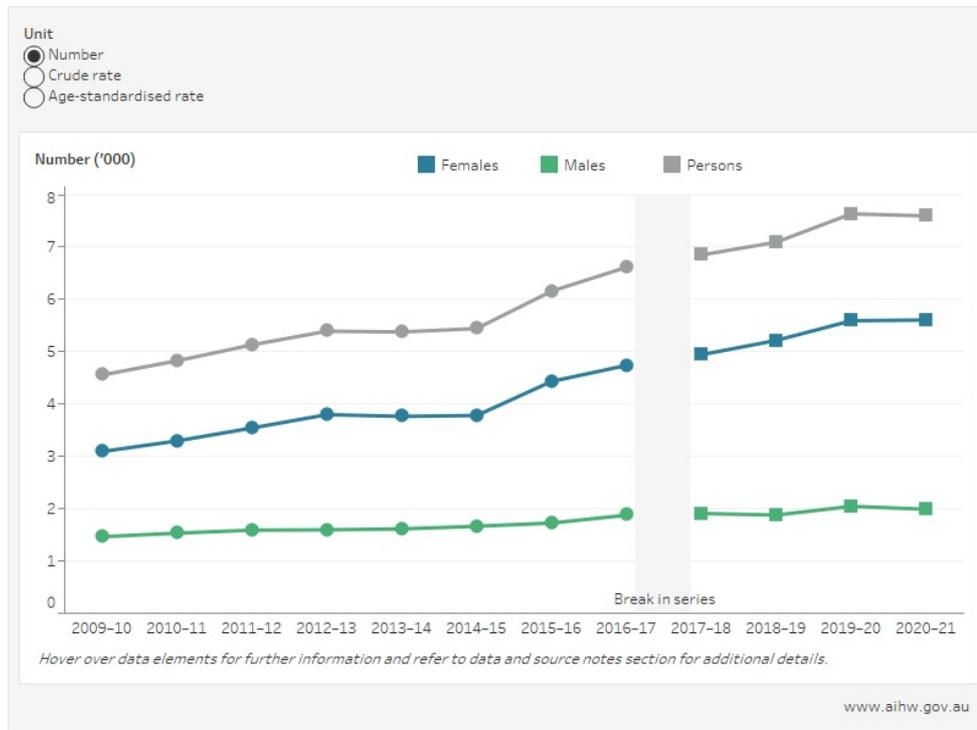
[AIHW Child protection Australia 2020-21](#)

## What services or supports do those who have experienced family, domestic and sexual violence use?

Some people who experience family and domestic violence require care from a health professional, and in some cases are admitted to hospital. The number of hospitalisations for injuries related to family and domestic violence provides an indication of the demand for these services. However, these data do not include presentations to emergency departments and will relate to more severe (and mostly physical) experiences of family and domestic violence. In addition, some people who are hospitalised may choose not to disclose their experience of family and domestic violence, or the information may not be fully recorded so their hospitalisations may not be counted here. Data are drawn from the [AIHW National Hospital Morbidity Database](#).

The visualisation below allows users to explore the rate of family and domestic violence hospitalisations, by sex over time. For each year examined, the age-standardised rate of family and domestic violence hospitalisations was over two times as high for females compared with males. Between 2017-18 and 2020-21 the age-standardised rate for females increased by 9.6% and the rate for males remained relatively stable. Changes in hospitalisation rates may be due to changes in disclosure rates, changes in identification of family and domestic violence by health professionals, and/or changes in the number of family and domestic violence events requiring hospitalisation.

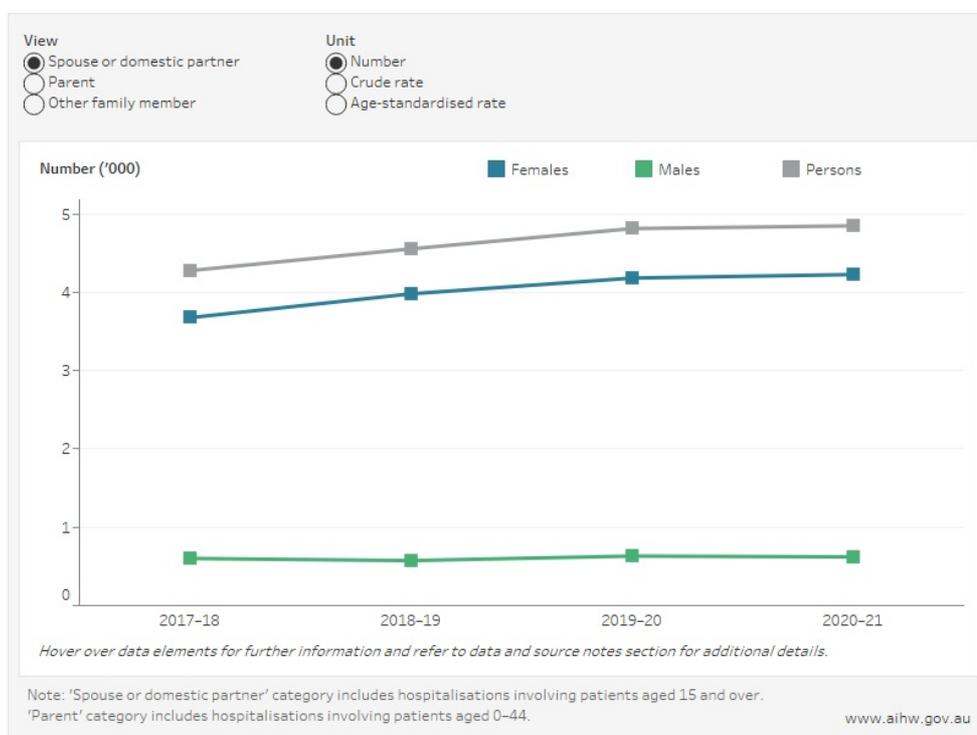
### Family and domestic violence hospitalisations, by sex, 2009-10 to 2020-21



Source data: [Hospitalisations for family and domestic violence \(70KB XLSX\)](#)

The visualisation below allows users to explore the rate of family and domestic violence hospitalisations by relationship to perpetrator and sex, over time. Rates of hospitalisation where the perpetrator was a spouse or domestic partner were consistently around 6 times higher for females aged 15 years and over than for males. Hospitalisation patterns by sex were mixed for other perpetrator types (parent or other family member).

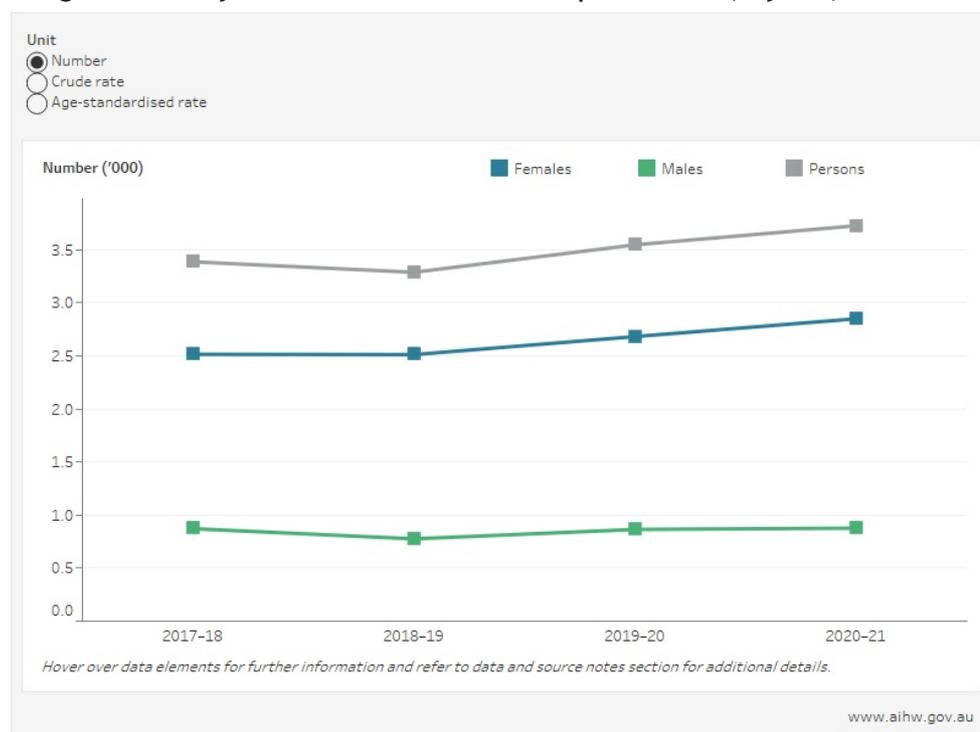
### Family and domestic violence hospitalisations, by relationship to perpetrator, 2017-18 to 2020-21



Source data: [Hospitalisations for family and domestic violence \(70KB XLSX\)](#)

The visualisation below allows users to explore the rate of Indigenous family and domestic violence hospitalisations by relationship to perpetrator and sex, across age groups. It shows that between 2017-18 and 2020-21, age-standardised rates for Indigenous females were between 2.7 and 3.1 times as high as for Indigenous males.

### Indigenous family and domestic violence hospitalisations, by sex, 2017 -18 to 2020-21

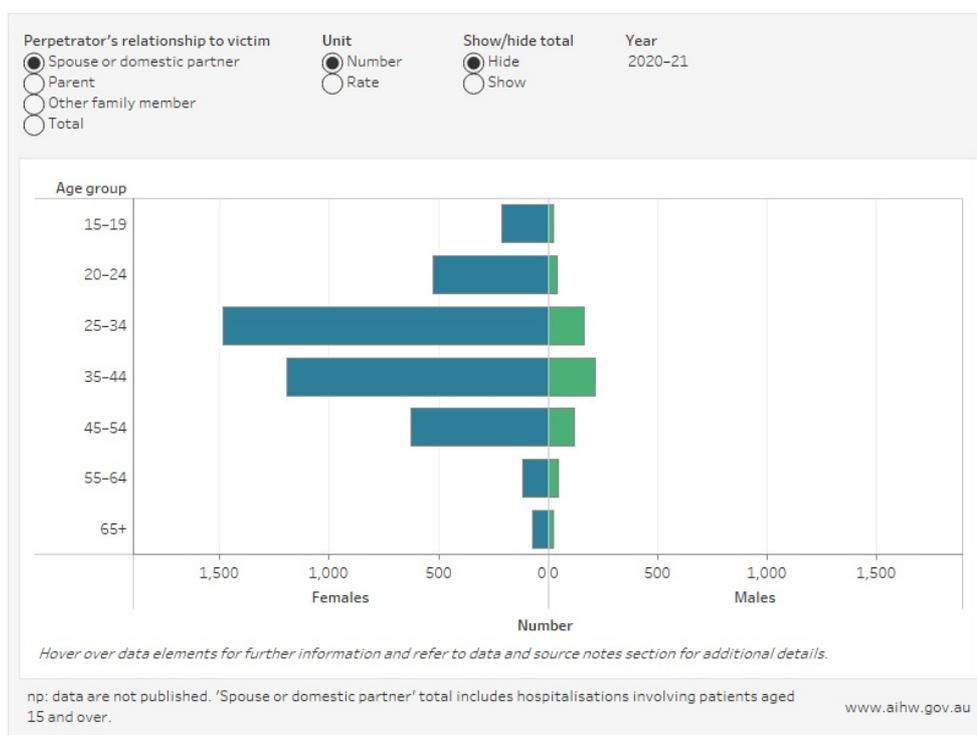


Source data: [Hospitalisations for family and domestic violence \(70KB XLSX\)](#)

The visualisation below allows users to explore the rate of family and domestic violence hospitalisations by relationship to perpetrator and sex, across age groups. In 2020-21, the number and rate of family and domestic hospitalisation were greater for females than males across all age groups. For females, the rate was highest for those aged 25-34, while for males the rate was highest for those aged 35-44.

Of hospitalisations due to intentional injury from a spouse or domestic partner, 87% involved a female, with rates for females consistently higher than males for all age groups. Patterns by sex and age were relatively similar for hospitalisation involving injuries by a parent or other family member.

### Family and domestic violence hospitalisations by relationship to perpetrator, 2019-20 and 2020-21



Source data: [Hospitalisations for family and domestic violence \(70KB XLSX\)](#)

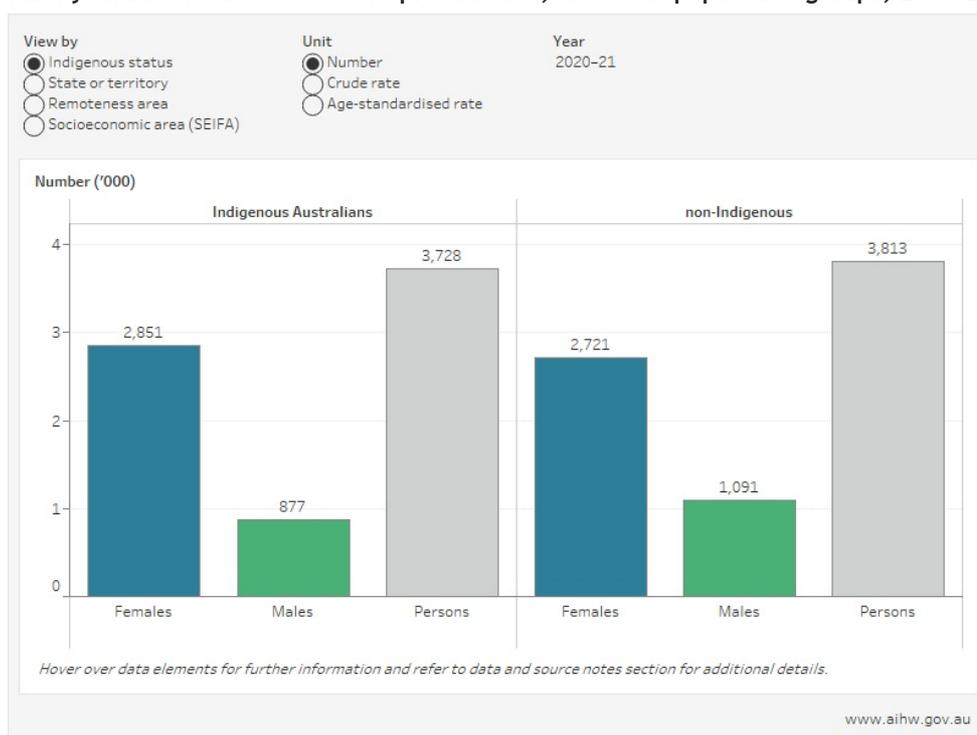
## Population groups

This information can be used to inform the development of more targeted programs and services for select population groups.

The visualisation below allows users to explore the rate of family and domestic violence hospitalisations, by various population groups. In 2020-21, age-standardised rates of family and domestic violence hospitalisations:

- were 31 times as high for Indigenous Australians than non-Indigenous Australians, with a larger difference for females (33 times higher than other Australian females) than males (27 times higher than other Australian males)
- were highest for those living in the Northern Territory
- increased with remoteness
- were highest for those in the most disadvantaged socioeconomic areas compared to all other socioeconomic areas.

## Family and domestic violence hospitalisations, for select population groups, 2019-20 and 2020-21



Source data: [Hospitalisations for family and domestic violence \(70KB XLSX\)](#)

## Data and source notes

## Notes

1. A hospitalisation is an episode of admitted patient care where:
  - mode of admission has any value except the one indicating that a transfer from another acute-care hospital has occurred
  - the diagnosis field does not contain the International Classification of Diseases-10-Australian Modification (ICD-10-AM) code Z50 (care involving the use of rehabilitation procedure)
  - type of care has any value except the one indicating newborn with unqualified days.
2. Family and domestic violence hospitalisations have:
  - an injury principal diagnosis in the ICD-10-AM code range S00-T75, T79.
  - a first recorded *External causes of morbidity and mortality* ICD-10-AM code in the range X85 - Y09 (Assault), and a perpetrator coded as Spouse or domestic partner, Parent, or Other family member (5<sup>th</sup> character codes of 0,1,2 respectively). An 'external cause' is the term used in disease classification to refer to an event or circumstance in a person's external environment that is regarded as a cause of injury or poisoning.
3. A change in New South Wales' emergency department admission policy resulted in a significant decrease (3.7%) in public hospital admissions between 2016-17 and 2017-18. As this decrease disproportionately affected hospitalisations for injury and poisoning, and the size of the contribution of NSW data to the national total, data from 2017-18 onwards should not be compared with those of previous years (break in [series](#)).
4. Interpretation of changes over time should take into account changes in the proportion of all hospitalisations for assault where perpetrator information was not specified: from 54% in 2009-10 to 33% in 2019-20.
5. Age is age at admission.
6. Totals include records where age, remoteness area and/or socioeconomic area were unavailable, therefore the sum of these group counts may not [equal](#) the total.
7. Data exclude hospitalisations in Western Australia (WA) with a contracted patient status of 'Inter-hospital contracted patient to private sector hospital', to adjust for separations recorded on both sides of contractual care arrangements. Data from 2012-13 onwards has been updated to remove the contracted duplicates. As a result, national counts in these tables will not match previously published data.
8. For more information see [Methods, Glossary and Data sources](#).

## Sources

[AIHW National Hospital Morbidity Database \(NHMD\)](#)

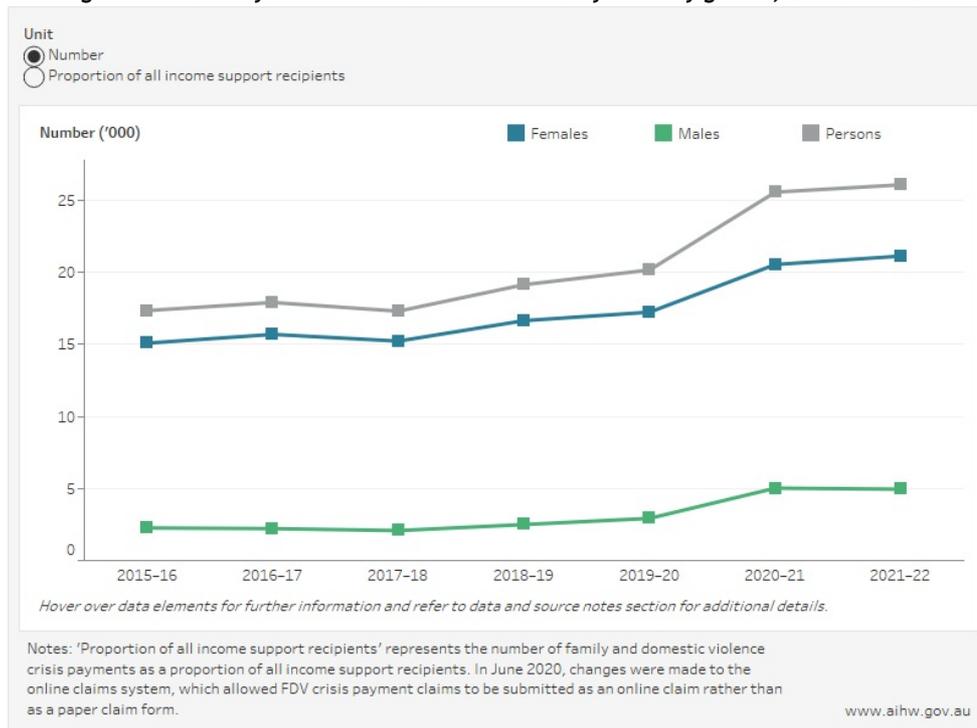
[Hospitalisations for family and domestic violence \(70KB XLSX\)](#)

## What services or supports do those who have experienced family, domestic and sexual violence use?

People who are in severe financial hardship and have experienced changes in their living arrangements due to family and/or domestic violence, and are receiving, or are eligible to receive, an income support payment or ABSTUDY Living Allowance, may receive a one-off Crisis Payment. This payment is paid in addition to a person's income support payment. Data are drawn from Services Australia Data.

The visualisation below shows the number of family and domestic violence Crisis Payment claims granted per year and as a proportion of all income support recipients. Between 2015-16 and 2021-22, the number of claims granted increased by 50% (17,400 to 26,100). The proportion of income support recipients who received at least one family and domestic violence Crisis Payment each year increased slightly from 0.34% to 0.51%.

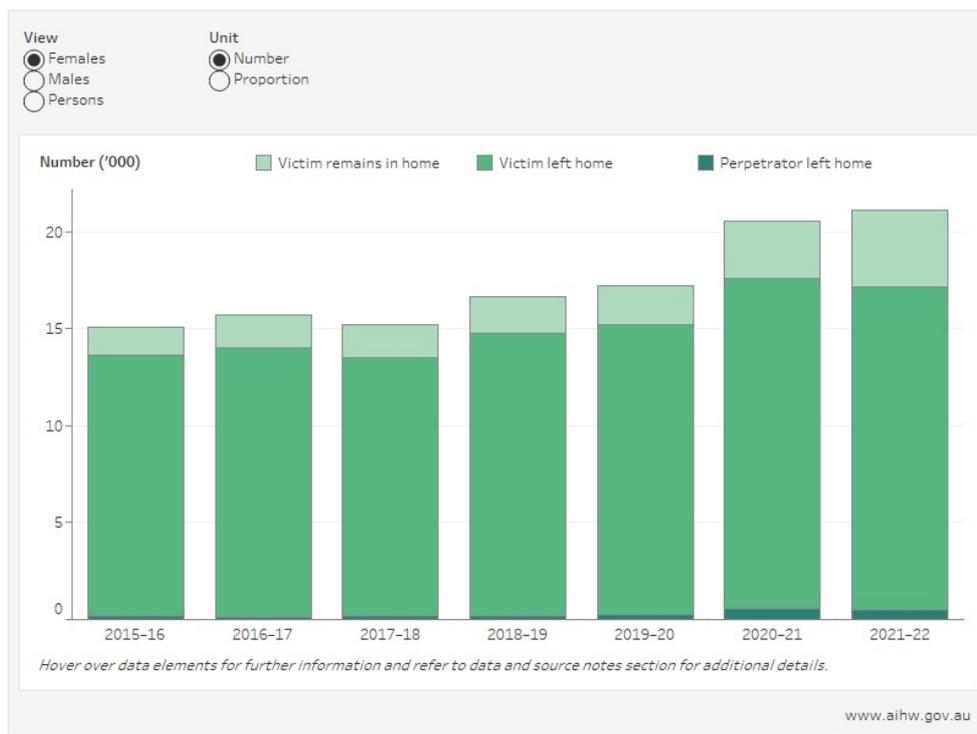
### Claims granted for family and domestic violence Crisis Payments by gender, 2015-16 to 2021-22



Source data: [Family and domestic violence Crisis Payments tables \(63KB XLSX\)](#)

The visualisation below shows the number of family and domestic violence Crisis Payment claims granted per year by gender and sub-category of Crisis Payment. Between 2015-16 and 2021-22, the most common sub-category of family and domestic violence Crisis Payment each year was Victim left home, regardless of gender.

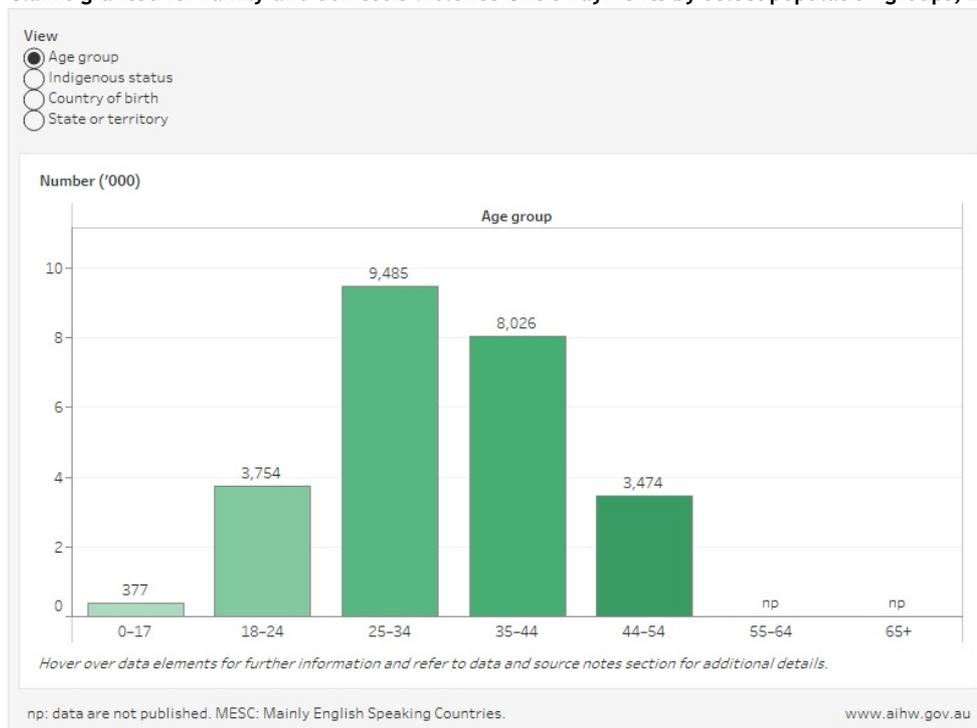
### Claims granted for family and domestic violence Crisis Payments by gender and sub-category, 2015-16 to 2021-22



Source data: [Family and domestic violence Crisis Payments tables \(63KB XLSX\)](#)

The visualisation below allows users to explore the number of granted family and domestic violence Crisis Payment claims for different population groups. With the exception of Queensland, which had more claims than New South Wales and Victoria, the number of claims generally followed a pattern consistent with population size. Over a third (9,500 or 38%) of all granted claims were for people aged 25-34 years.

#### Claims granted for family and domestic violence Crisis Payments by select population groups, 2021-22



Source data: [Family and domestic violence Crisis Payments tables \(63KB XLSX\)](#)

The visualisation below allows users to explore the number of granted family and domestic violence Crisis Payment claims by other payment types received. It shows that in 2021-22, 2 in 5 (41% or 10,800) family and domestic claims were granted to people who were receiving Family Tax Benefit (FTB) at the end of the 2021-22 financial year, meaning they had dependent children in their care. It also shows that around 1 in 7 (15% or 3,900) people who received a family and domestic violence crisis payment in 2021-22 were receiving Disability Support Pension (DSP) at the time the Crisis Payment was granted.

Visualisation not available for printing

Source data: [Family and domestic violence Crisis Payments tables \(63KB XLSX\)](#)

## Data and Source notes

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### Notes

1. A person claiming Crisis Payment for Extreme Circumstances of Family and Domestic Violence must:
  - be qualified (and payable) for income support;
  - be in severe financial hardship;
  - have left their home permanently and be unable to return home because of family and domestic violence, and have established or intend to establish a new home, or have remained in their home following family and domestic violence and the family member responsible has left or been removed from the home; and
  - must have submitted their claim within 7 days after the extreme circumstance related to family and domestic violence occurred. In recognition that a claimant who has left their home due to family or domestic violence may be suffering from trauma, the 7-day claim period does not commence until they decide they cannot return to their home.
2. A person can be granted a Crisis Payment due to being unable to return home and/or remaining in their home following removal of the family member up to four times in a 12-month period. As a result, count of payments may include multiple payments made to the same person.
3. The main income support payments are:
  - Age Pension
  - Youth Allowance Student and Apprentice, ABSTUDY (Living Allowance), Austudy
  - JobSeeker Payment (from 20 March 2020), Newstart Allowance (closed 20 March 2020)
  - Parenting Payment Single and Parenting Payment Partnered
  - Disability Support Pension and Carer Payment
  - Other small payments: Special Benefit and payments that have now ceased (including Partner and Widow Allowance to January 2022, Wife Pension to March 2020, and Sickness Allowance to September 2020).
4. Changes to eligibility for income support payments over time will affect the number of claims for Crisis Payments that are made.
5. Changes to the claims process, including implementation and enhancements of an online claim system and changes to the referral process, may impact interpretation of time series data. In June 2020, changes were made to the online claims system which allowed FDV crisis payment claims to be submitted as an online claim rather than as a paper claim form.
6. 'Other Australians' includes people who identified as non-Indigenous as well as 1,200 people who did not provide information relating to Indigenous status.
7. Disability support payments were being received at the time family and domestic violence crisis payment was granted.
8. Details relating to FTB for family and domestic violence crisis payment recipients is current at the time of data extraction (in this case at the end of the relevant financial year) and is not necessarily reflective of FTB status at the time a family and domestic violence crisis payment was granted. As FTB is not classified as an income support payment, people receiving or eligible for FTB only would not qualify for a crisis payment.

### Sources

Services Australia Data (unpublished)

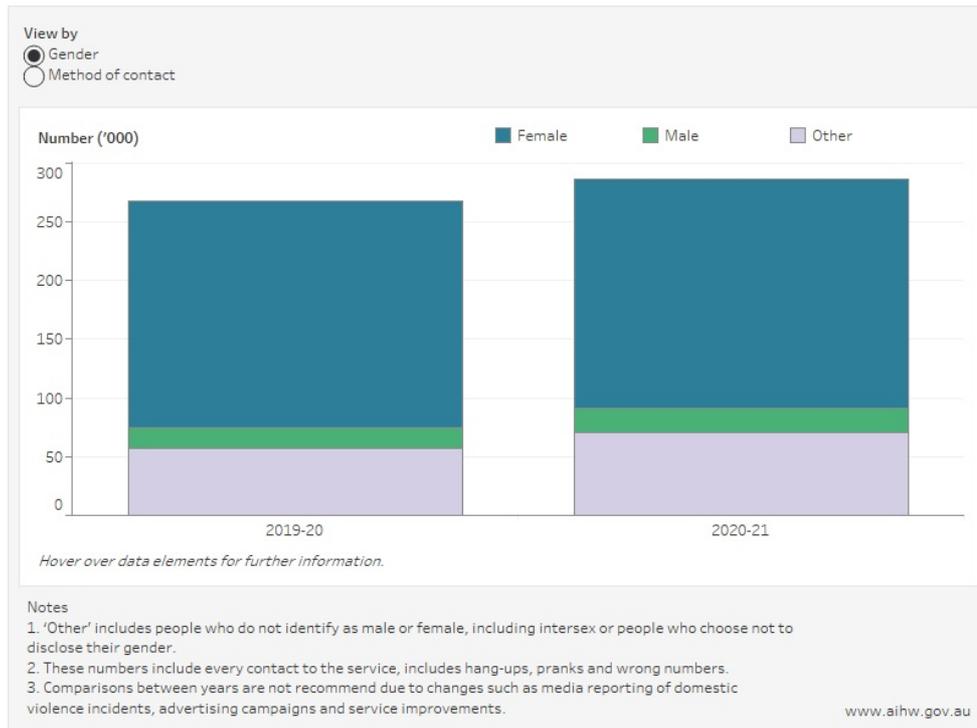
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## What services or supports do those who have experienced family, domestic and sexual violence use?

1800RESPECT is Australia’s national telephone and online counselling and support service for people affected or at risk of family, domestic and sexual violence, their family and friends and frontline workers.

The visualisation below shows the number of contacts per year (telephone and web chats) answered by 1800RESPECT by gender and contact type.

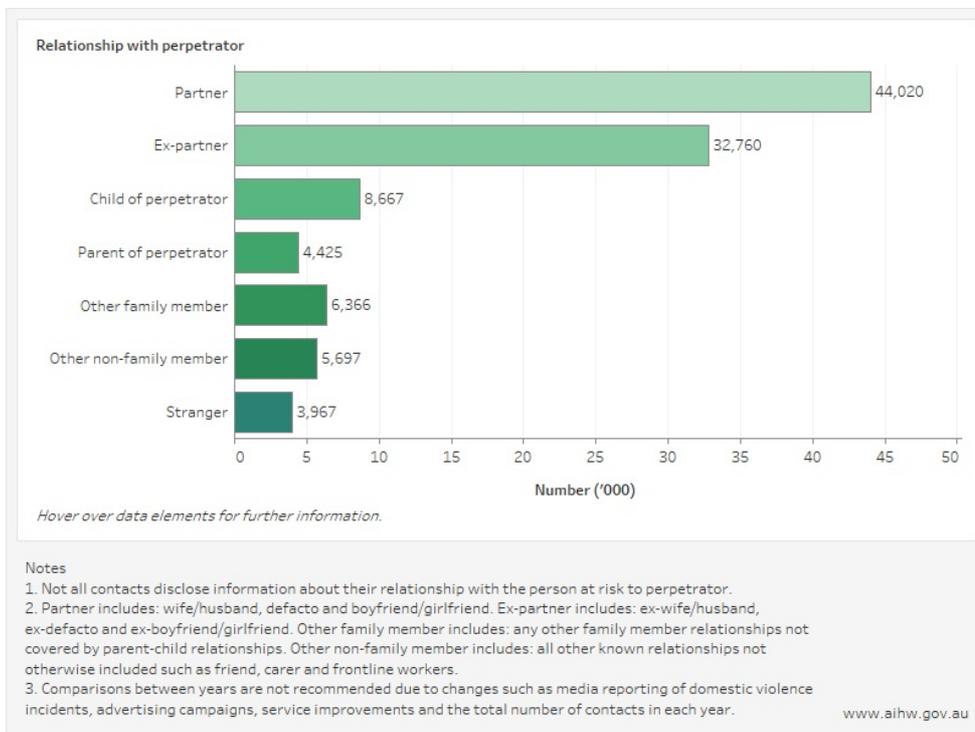
### 1800RESPECT answered contacts by gender and type of contact, 2019-20 and 2020-21



Source data: [1800RESPECT contacts tables \(51KB XLSX\)](#)

The visualisation below shows the number of contacts (telephone and web chats) answered by 1800RESPECT by relationship with perpetrator.

### 1800RESPECT answered contacts by relationship with perpetrator, 2020-21



Source data: [1800RESPECT contacts tables \(51KB XLSX\)](#)

## Data and source notes

### Notes

1. For more information see [Data sources](#).

### Source

Australian Government Department of Social Services 2021 (unpublished data).



## What are the consequences of family, domestic and sexual violence?

- [Family and domestic violence homicide](#)
- 

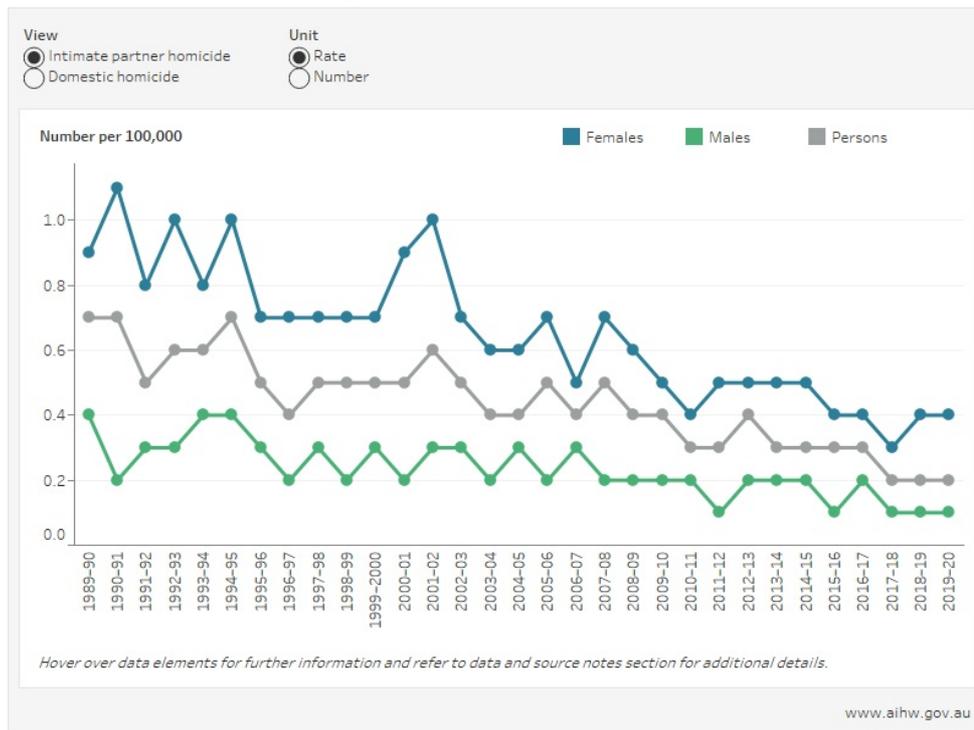


## What are the consequences of family, domestic and sexual violence?

Some family and domestic violence incidents are fatal. The unlawful killing of an intimate partner or family member is considered domestic homicide. Data on domestic homicides is available from the [Australian Institute of Criminology \(AIC\) National Homicide Monitoring Program](#), which is based on information on homicides from police records and coronial records.

Examining domestic homicide incidents over time can help to identify patterns in homicide and evaluate the possible impact of changes in policy and programs. The visualisation below shows the number and rate of domestic homicide incidents and intimate partner homicides over time. Between 1989-90 and 2019-20, intimate partner homicides made up between 45-70% of domestic homicides each year, with the number and rate consistently higher for females than males. Over this period, the rate of intimate partner homicide and domestic homicide decreased, in general, for women and men, with some fluctuations year on year.

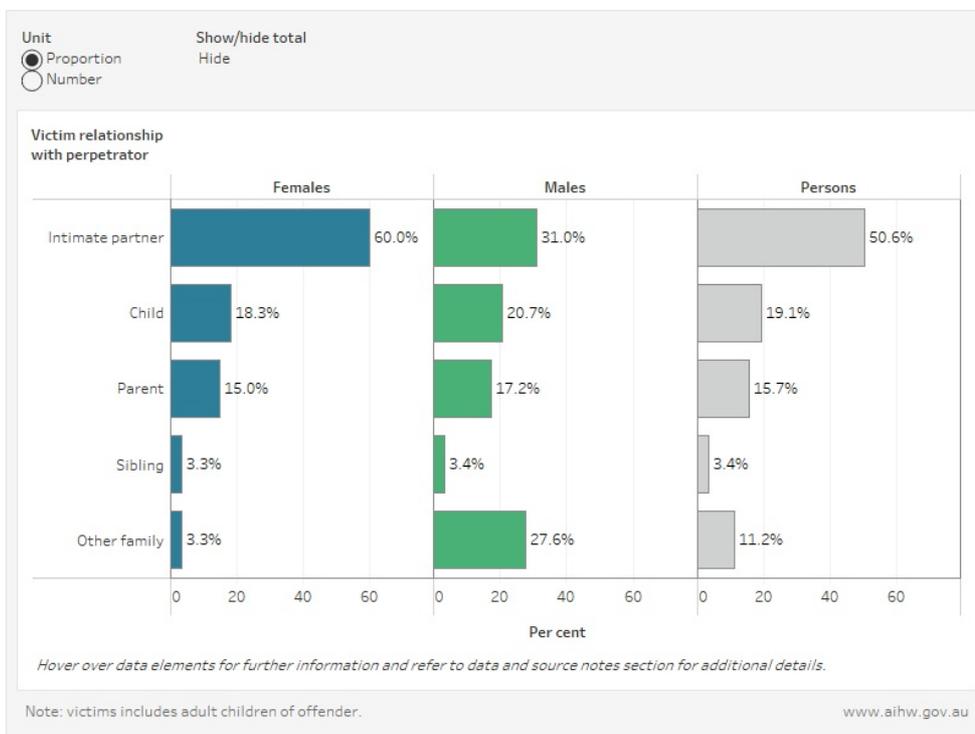
### Domestic homicide victims, by sex, 1989-90 to 2019-20



Source data: [Family and domestic violence homicide tables \(54KB XLSX\)](#)

Examining the relationships between victims and offenders in domestic homicides can help to identify people at higher risk. The visualisation below shows the proportion and number of domestic homicides by victim relationship with the offender. In 2019-20, there were four times as many female deaths caused by an intimate partner, as there were male deaths caused by an intimate partner.

### Domestic homicide victims, by relationship with offender and sex, 2019-20



Source data: [Family and domestic violence homicide tables \(54KB XLSX\)](#)

## Data and source notes

### Notes

1. Domestic homicide classification is based on the closest relationship between the victim and primary offender.
2. Domestic homicide includes five sub-classifications of homicide based on relationship categories: intimate partner homicide refers to homicide where victim and offender are current or former partners; Filicide refers to homicide where the victim is the child of the offender; Parricide refers to homicide where the victim is the parent of the offender; Siblingicide refers to homicide where the victim and offender are siblings; Other family homicide refers to homicide where any other family relationship exists between victim and offender, including nephew/niece, uncle/aunty, cousins, grandparents and kinship groups.
3. Family relationships include biological, adoptive, foster and kinship care, and step relatives.
4. Domestic homicide excludes culpable driving causing death.
5. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.
6. 'Persons' may include victims for whom sex was 'not stated/unknown'.

### Source

[Annual AIC Homicide in Australia report](#)



## Dashboards

- [Sexual violence dashboard](#)
- 



# Dashboards

To understand a topic in more detail, it is useful to draw upon a range of data. This dashboard draws together data on sexual violence prevalence, police-recorded sexual assaults and characteristics of most recent sexual assault. Future releases of Family, domestic and sexual violence data in Australia will include additional dashboards.

**1 in 5 women**



18% or 1.7 million

**1 in 21 men**

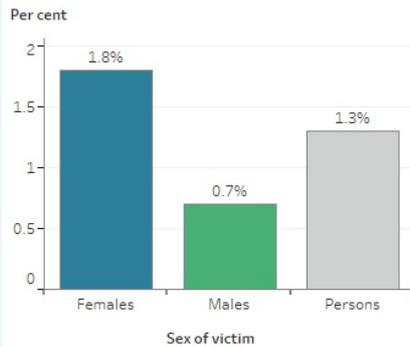


4.7% or 429,000

experienced sexual violence at least once since the age of 15

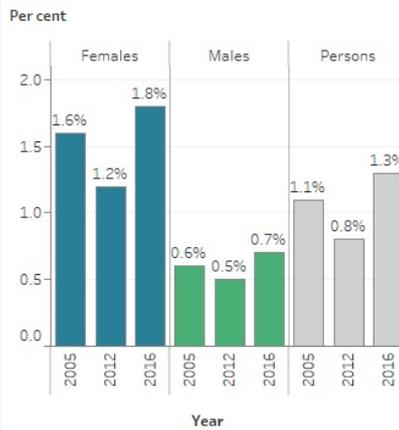
### More women than men are victims of sexual violence

- 12 month prevalence
- Lifetime prevalence (since age 15)



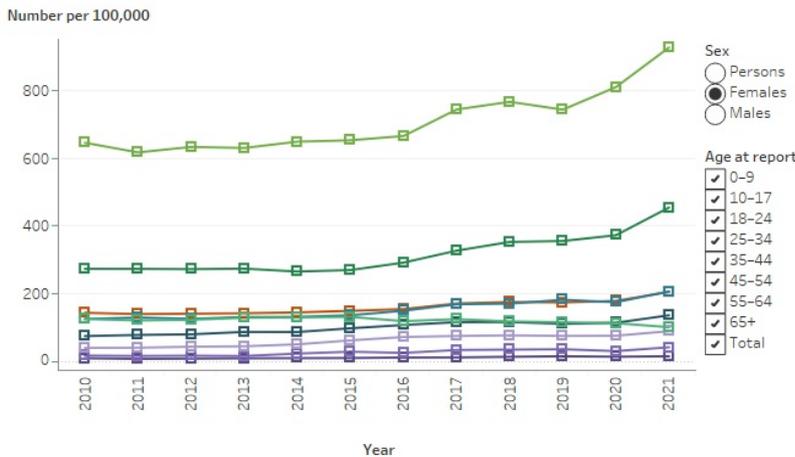
Note: some data have Relative Standard Error (RSE) between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution. Components are not able to be added together to produce a total. Unless noted, differences are not statistically significant.

### Self-reported sexual violence increased between 2012 and 2016



Note: sexual violence experienced at least once in the last 12 months. Unless noted, differences are not statistically significant.

### Police-recorded sexual assault increased between 2010 and 2021, particularly for younger females

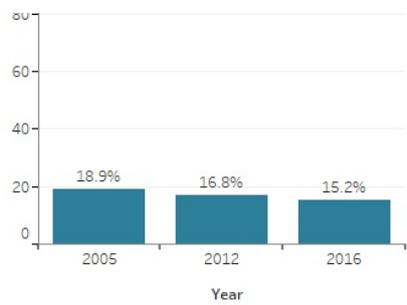


### Police-recorded crime is an underestimate; female's contact with police after a sexual assault remained relatively stable between 2005 and 2016

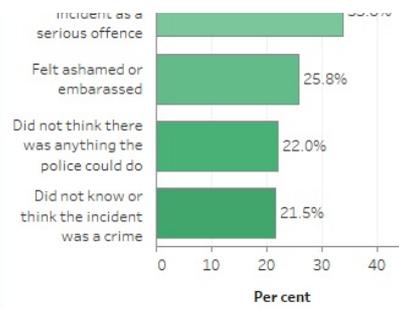


### The top 5 reasons women did not contact police after their most recent incident of sexual assault





Note: after a sexual assault by a male in the last 12 months. Unless noted, differences are not statistically significant.



Note: most recent incident in the last 10 years. Components are not able to be added together to produce a total.





## Technical notes

- [Methods](#)
  - [Glossary](#)
  - [Data sources](#)
- 



## Technical notes

### Crude rates

A crude rate is defined as the number of events over a specified period (for example, a year) divided by the total population at risk of the event.

Unless otherwise stated, crude rates are used throughout the publication.

### Age-standardised rates

Age-standardised rates enable comparisons to be made between populations that have different age structures, and over time as the age structure of the population of interest may change. Direct standardisation was used in this release, in which the age-specific rates (e.g. for 5 and 10 year age groups) are multiplied by a standard population. This effectively removes the influence of the age structure on the summary rate. Where age-standardised rates have been used, this is stated throughout the release.

All age-standardised rates in this release have used the June 2001 Australian total estimated resident population as the standard population.

### Margin of Error

The observed value of a rate may vary due to chance even where there is no variation in the underlying value of the rate. Therefore, where measures based on survey data include a comparison between time periods, geographical locations, socioeconomic groups, country of birth or disability status, the margin of error (MoE) at the 95% confidence level has been calculated for proportion estimates. The margin of error is the largest possible difference (due to sampling error) that could exist between the estimate and what would have been produced had all persons been included in the survey.

Confidence intervals—constructed by taking the estimate plus or minus the MoE—are used to provide an approximate indication of the true differences between rates. If the confidence intervals do not overlap, the difference can be said to be statistically significant. Where alternative statistical tests were used to provide information about statistical significance, these are stated separately. The visualisation tool tip for each estimate includes the MoE at the 95% confidence level and/or a note where differences are found to be statistically significant.

However, statistically significant differences are not necessarily the same as differences considered to be of practical importance. It is possible for small differences that have practical importance to be found to be not statistically significant as they are below the threshold the significance test can reliably detect.

### Rounding

Percentages in the release are generally rounded to whole numbers except for those less than 10% which are rounded to 1 decimal place.

Numbers between 1,000 and 100,000 are rounded to the nearest hundred. Numbers over 100,000 are rounded to the nearest 1,000.

As a result of rounding, entries in columns and rows of tables as well as figures may not add to the totals shown. Unless otherwise stated, derived values are calculated using unrounded numbers.

### Presentation of data

Some data are not published (n.p.) due to reliability and/or confidentiality reasons.

Survey data, obtained from a sample of the population, is subject to sampling error. Where estimates are subject to a level of sampling error too high for general use, they are not included in visualisations, but are included in data tables, with caveats.

Number estimates subject to a high level of sampling error—Relative Standard Error (RSE) between 25% and 50%—are annotated with an \* in visualisations and data tables and should be used with caution.

Some data are not available for publication (n.a.). This can be due to several reasons, for example, the data are not collected and/or available, and/or denominator data is not available to calculate a rate.

### Population data

The ABS estimated resident population (ERP) data were used to calculate most of the rates presented in this release for administrative data collections. Exceptions are where the denominator was available from within the data source.

Rates were calculated using the ERP of the reference year as at 30 June for calendar year data (1 January to 30 December) and 31 December for financial year data (1 July to 30 June). The denominator for rates by socioeconomic disadvantage and remoteness area were calculated by applying an ABS concordance between statistical areas (SA2) and socioeconomic disadvantage and between statistical areas and remoteness area, to the relevant ERP by SA2 counts.

### Socioeconomic and remoteness area data

Data by socioeconomic area uses the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) the Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage (IRSD). The IRSD is a general socio-economic index that summarises a range of information about the economic and social conditions of people and households within an area, including their access to material and social resources, and their ability to participate in society. A low score indicates relatively greater disadvantage in general. Data on socioeconomic area are presented by quintiles, with the 1st quintile representing the most disadvantaged group.

Data by remoteness are aligned to the 2016 Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Remoteness Area Structure, and based on the person's usual residence. The 2016 ASGS Remoteness Structure categorises geographic areas in Australia into 5 classes of remoteness areas based on their relative access to services using the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia which is derived by measuring the road distance of a location from the nearest urban centre. The 5 classes are: *Major cities*, *Inner regional*, *Outer regional*, *Remote*, and *Very remote*.

### **Sex, gender, variations of sex characteristics and sexual orientation**

In 2021, the ABS released the [Standard for Sex, Gender, Variations of Sex Characteristics and Sexual Orientation Variables, 2020](#). This standard was designed to support consistent collection of each of these four core variables, consequently allowing for more comprehensive and representative reporting in the future. However, data sources currently used for national reporting on family, domestic and sexual violence in this report do not collect data on sexual orientation or variations of sex characteristics. For this reason, only sex and gender are discussed here.

The mechanisms for collecting data on sex and/or gender vary across the data collections used in this report. When presenting statistics, the AIHW has used the terms most appropriate for the data source. In most cases, 'male' and 'female' are used, however it is not always known whether the data refer to sex characteristics (at birth or other point in time) or to gender. It should also be noted that some participants may not use and/or identify with these terms. Specific information about how sex and/or gender is collected in each data source, is included in Data Sources, where available. At times, the terms 'men' and 'women', and 'boys' and 'girls' are also used in high-level text to improve readability. Again, it should be noted that some participants may not use and/or identify with these terms.

The term 'persons' is used throughout to refer to all/total people.



## Technical notes

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander:** A person of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent who identifies as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. See also **Indigenous**.

**assault:** The direct infliction of force, injury, or violence upon a person or persons, or the direct threat of force, injury, or violence where there is an apprehension that the threat could be enacted. Includes serious assault resulting in injury, serious assault not resulting in injury, and common assault.

**current partner:** A person the respondent currently (at the time of the Personal Safety Survey) lives with in a married or de facto relationship.

**domestic violence:** Set of violent or intimidating behaviours between current or former intimate partners, where a partner aims to exert power and control over the other, through fear. Domestic violence can include **physical violence**, **sexual violence**, **emotional abuse** and **psychological abuse**. See also **family violence**.

**environmental factors:** Aspects of the social and physical environment that can affect people in different ways. Environmental factors may include cultural background, sex, socioeconomic status, social connectedness and geographical location.

**emotional abuse:** Behaviours or actions that are perpetrated with the intent to manipulate, control, isolate or intimidate, and which cause emotional harm or fear.

**family and domestic violence:** See **family violence** and **domestic violence**.

**family and domestic violence related offence:** An offence involving at least two persons who were in a specified family or domestic relationship at the time of the offence; or where the offence was determined by a police officer to be family and/or domestic violence related as part of their investigation.

**family violence:** Violence between family members as well as current or former intimate partners. Can include acts of violence between a parent and a child. The preferred term used to identify experiences of violence for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as it encompasses the broad range of extended family and kinship relationships in which violence may occur.

**formal responses:** Responses to an incident of family, domestic and sexual violence that involves reporting to, or engaging services of formal systems. Formal systems may include police, government services, or other targeted services.

**homicide and related offences:** Offences including murder, attempted murder and manslaughter, but excluding driving causing death and conspiracy to murder.

**Indigenous:** Person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent who identifies as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. See also **Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander**.

**Indigenous status:** Whether a person identifies as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin.

**informal responses:** Responses to an incident of family, domestic and sexual violence that do not involve reporting to a formal system. Informal responses may include disclosure to a friend, family member, colleague, or religious advisor.

**intimate partner:** A person who is either a current or previous partner, boyfriend, girlfriend or date, or ex-boyfriend or ex-girlfriend.

**intimate partner violence:** Violent or intimidating behaviours perpetrated by current or former intimate partners. See also **partner violence** and **domestic violence**.

**partner:** Depending on the data source used, partner can be a current or previous de facto, spouse, boyfriend, girlfriend or date. See also **partner violence**; **intimate partner violence**; **current partner**; **previous partner**.

**partner violence:** Violent or intimidating behaviours perpetrated by a partner (current or previous). See also **domestic violence** and **intimate partner violence**.

**physical violence:** Behaviours that can include slaps, hits, punches, being pushed down stairs or across a room, choking and burns, as well as the use of knives, firearms and other weapons, or threats of such acts.

**previous partner:** A person with whom the respondent lived at some point in a married or de-facto relationship and from whom the respondent is now separated, divorced or widowed.

**psychological abuse:** Behaviours that include limiting access to finances, preventing the victim from contacting family and friends, demeaning and humiliating the victim, and any threats of injury or death directed at the victim or their children.

**psychosocial factors:** Personal and biological factors that can influence individual experiences. There are many different types of psychosocial factors, some examples are perceptions of risk/safety, expectations, networks, childhood exposure, and self-esteem.

**remoteness:** Each state and territory is divided into regions based on their relative accessibility to goods and services (such as general practitioners, hospitals and specialist care), measured by road distance. These regions are based on the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia and defined as Remoteness Areas by either the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (before 2011) or the Australian Statistical Geographical Standard (from 2011 onwards) in each Census year.

**sexual assault:** Physical contact, or intent of contact, of a sexual nature directed toward another person where that person does not give consent, gives consent as a result of intimidation or deception, or consent is proscribed (i.e. the person is legally deemed incapable of giving consent because of youth, temporary/permanent (mental) incapacity or there is a familial relationship).

**sexual threat:** The threat of acts of a sexual nature that were made face-to-face where the person believed it was able to and likely to be carried out.

**sexual violence:** The occurrence, attempt or threat of sexual assault. Sexual violence can be perpetrated by partners in a domestic relationship, previous partners, other people known to the victim, or strangers.

**specialist homelessness service:** Assistance provided specifically to people who are experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of homelessness.

## Technical notes

### ABS Personal Safety Survey (PSS)

First year: 2005

Latest year: 2016

Frequency: Every 4 years

Year in this publication: 2016

Methodology: Survey

Geographical coverage: National

#### Description

The [PSS](#) collects information from women and men aged 18 and over about the nature and extent of violence experienced since the age of 15. Over 5,000 men and 15,000 women were included in the 2016 survey. The scope of the 2016 survey was persons aged 18 and over in private dwellings across Australia (excluding very remote areas). Interviews were conducted with one randomly selected person aged 18 or over. In this collection, data relating to sex is based on a survey where respondents were asked to identify household members as 'male' or 'female'. If someone identified as a transgender or intersex person, the interviewer was instructed to ask the respondent to identify which sex the household member most closely identified as. If this could not be provided, the interviewer selected either male or female (alternating between them as they occurred).

### ABS Recorded Crime - Victims

First year: 1993

Latest year: 2020

Frequency: Yearly

Years in this publication: 2010-2020

Methodology: Administrative data set

Geographical coverage: National, state/territory

#### Description

[ABS Recorded Crime—Victims](#) presents statistics about victims of selected offences that came to the attention of, and were recorded by police during a 12-month reference period. Selected characteristics about the victim (including sex and age) or incident (including weapon use and location) are also presented, as well as the outcome of the police investigation at 30 days from the time of report. Information about the relationship of the offender to the victim and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status of the victim is also presented for selected states and territories.

In this collection, data relating to sex is based on the details recorded by police for operational purposes and is not always recorded. Where the victim is a person, sex is recorded as 'male', 'female' or 'Not stated/inadequately described'.

### AIHW Child Protection National Minimum Data Set (CP NMDS)

First year: 2012-13

Latest year: 2020-21

Frequency: Annually

Year in this publication: 2018-19 to 2020-21

Methodology: Administrative data set

Geographical coverage: National

#### Description

The [CP NMDS](#) is an annual collection of information on child protection in Australia. It contains data on children who come into contact with State and Territory departments responsible for child protection. Information on child protection and family support services, including the characteristics of children who receive these services are available.

In this data collection, sex is recorded as 'Male', 'Female', 'Intersex or indeterminate' or 'Not stated/inadequately described'. However, for reporting purposes, the terms 'Boys' and 'Girls' are used.

### **AIHW National Hospital Morbidity Database (NHMD)**

**First year:** 1993-94

**Latest year:** 2019-20

**Frequency:** Yearly

**Years in this publication:** 2009-10 to 2019-20

**Methodology:** Administrative data set

**Geographical coverage:** National

#### **Description**

The **NHMD** is a collection of episode-level records from admitted patient morbidity data collection systems in Australian hospitals. It is a comprehensive data set that has records for all episodes of admitted patient care from essentially all public and private hospitals in Australia.

A record is included for each separation, not for each patient, so patients who separated more than once in the year have more than one record in the NHMD.

In this collection, data relating to sex is based on hospital admissions records. Patients' sex was recorded as 'male', 'female' or 'other'.

### **AIHW Specialist Homelessness Services collection (SHSC)**

**First year:** 2011-12 (annual reporting)

**Latest year:** 2020-21 (annual reporting)

**Frequency:** annual and quarterly reporting

**Year in this publication:** 2010-21 (annual reporting)

**Methodology:** Administrative data set

**Geographical coverage:** National

#### **Description**

The **SHSC** obtains information about adults and children who seek assistance from specialist homelessness agencies. A person is classified as a 'client' once they receive services, and a 'support period' is the period a client receives assistance from a SHS agency. Data are collected on an ongoing basis and submitted to the AIHW on a monthly basis. Monthly data is publicly available for July 2017 onwards.

In this data collection, sex is recorded as 'Male', 'Female', or 'Other'. The 'Other' response option was introduced on 1 July 2019.

### **Australian Institute of Criminology National Homicide Monitoring Program**

**First year:** 1989-90

**Latest year:** 2019-20

**Frequency:** Yearly

**Years in this publication:** 1989-90 to 2019-20

**Methodology:** Administrative data set

**Geographical coverage:** National, state/territory

#### **Description**

The **National Homicide Monitoring Program** (NHMP) collates national data on homicide incidents, victims and offenders drawing on state and territory police service offence records and the National Coronial Information System. The NHMP data are also cross-referenced and supplemented with additional material from court documents and media reports. The NHMP presents statistics on domestic homicides (homicides involving intimate partners and family) by a range of characteristics including relationship sub-classification, motive, preceding crime, victim and/or offender alcohol or drug use and victim cause of death.

In this collection data relating to sex is based on the detail in police and coronial records and is not always recorded. Sex is recorded as 'male', 'female' and 'not stated or unknown'. Data presented refer to an individual's sex characteristics rather than gender.

### **Department of Social Services - 1800RESPECT**

**First year:** 2010

**Latest year:** 2021

**Frequency:** ongoing

**Year in this publication:** 2020

**Methodology:** Administrative data set

**Geographical coverage:** National

#### **Description**

The Department of Social Services collects data on 1800RESPECT including number of contacts, type of contact (telephone and web chats) and user demographic information. Contact data includes every contact to the service, including hang-ups, pranks and wrong numbers. With regards to gender, 'Other' includes people who do not identify as male or female, including intersex or people who choose not to disclose their gender. Not all contacts choose to disclose information.

### **National Community Attitudes towards violence against Women Survey (NCAS)**

**First year:** 1995

**Latest year:** 2017

**Frequency:** Every 4 years

**Years in this publication:** 2009-2017

**Methodology:** Survey

**Geographical coverage:** National

#### **Description**

The **NCAS** is a survey of over 17,500 Australians aged 16 years and over about their:

- knowledge of violence against women;
- attitudes towards gender equality;
- attitudes towards violence against women; and
- intentions should they witness (or be bystanders to) abuse or disrespect towards women.

The questionnaire was initially developed on behalf of the Australian Government in 1995. The NCAS has been repeated every four years since 2009. The NCAS sample were randomly selected from across Australia.

In this collection, data relating to gender is based on a survey where respondents were asked what gender they identify with and responses were recorded as either 'male', 'female', 'other', or 'chose not to answer'.

### **Services Australia customer data - Crisis payments**

**First year:** 2015-16

**Latest year:** 2021-22

**Frequency:** ongoing

**Year in this publication:** 2015-16 to 2021-22

**Methodology:** Administrative data set

**Geographical coverage:** National

#### **Description**

Services Australia collects data on Crisis Payments for people who are receiving, or eligible to receive, an income support or ABSTUDY Living Allowance, who have experienced changes to their living circumstances due to family and domestic violence and are in severe financial hardship. Data are collected on the number of claims granted and rejected, home situation (victim left home, victim remains in home, perpetrator left home), and the demographic details of the claimant.

In this collection, gender is recorded as 'male' or 'female'.



## Notes

### Amendments

23 Jan 2023 - Minor data revisions have been applied to Table 4 of [Hospitalisations for family and domestic violence](#) excel table and associated visualisation.

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# Data

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## Related material

### Resources

#### Latest related reports

- Sexual assault in Australia |  
**Publication** | 28 Aug 2020
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