

Summary

Family, domestic and sexual violence is a major national health and welfare issue that can have lifelong impacts for victims and perpetrators. It affects people of all ages and from all backgrounds, but predominantly affects women and children. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2016 Personal Safety Survey (PSS) estimated that 2.2 million adults have been victims of physical and/or sexual violence from a partner since the age of 15 (ABS 2017c).

How common is family, domestic and sexual violence?



1 in 6 women
17% or 1.6 million

have experienced physical or sexual violence by a current or previous partner since the age of 15



1 in 16 men
6.1% or 548,000



1 in 4 women
23% or 2.2 million

have experienced emotional abuse by a current or previous partner since the age of 15



1 in 6 men
16% or 1.4 million



1 in 5 women
18% or 1.7 million

have experienced sexual violence since the age of 15

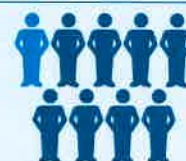


1 in 20 men
4.7% or 429,000



1 in 6 women
16% or 1.5 million

were physically or sexually abused before age of 15



1 in 9 men
11% or 992,000



1 in 2 women
53% or 5.0 million

have been sexually harassed since the age of 15



1 in 4 men
25% or 2.2 million



1 in 6 women
17% or 1.6 million

have experienced stalking since the age of 15

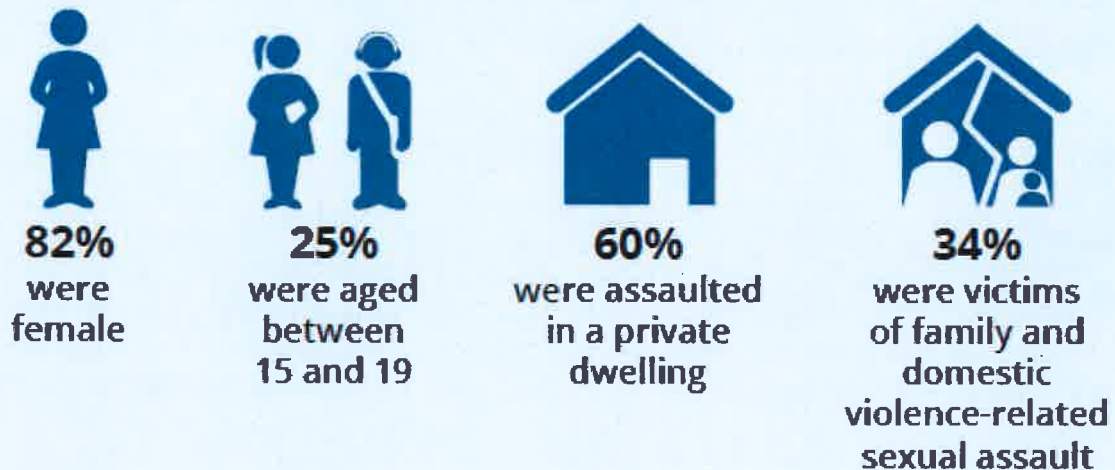


1 in 15 men
6.5% or 587,000

The number of sexual assault victims recorded by police continues to rise

The 2016 PSS data showed that the proportion of Australians experiencing sexual violence has remained steady over time. In contrast, the number of sexual assault victims recorded by police has risen by 8% across Australia, from 23,000 victims in 2016 to 25,000 victims in 2017. The victimisation rate also rose from 86 victims per 100,000 people in 2010 to 102 victims per 100,000 in 2017.

Of all sexual assault victims recorded by police in 2017:



The number of sexual assaults by any perpetrator, not just family members or intimate partners, is the highest recorded since the beginning of the time series in 2010. This is the sixth consecutive year the number of sexual assault victims has risen (Figure 3.2). From 2010 to 2017, the victimisation rate for females rose from 144 to 166 victims per 100,000, and the victimisation rate for males rose from 26 to 36 victims per 100,000. In comparison, the number of victims for most other offences fell nationally between 2010 and 2017, including:

- homicide and related offences (down 10%, to 414 victims)
- robbery (down 34%, to 9,600 victims)
- burglary (down 15%, to 176,200 victims) (ABS 2018b).