



STATISTICS

Domestic Violence


- This can refer to violence that occurs in the context of marriage or co-habitation between heterosexual partners, between siblings, between parent and child, and in gay and lesbian cohabiting relationships. It can also be used to cover non-domestic relationships, such as dating relationships and post-domestic relationships, as in the case of ex-partners who are no longer living together (Mooney, 2000).

It includes...

- physical abuse – assaults, destruction
- sexual abuse – forced, no consent
- emotional abuse – blame, undermine self-esteem, silence
- verbal abuse – put downs, humiliation
- social abuse – isolating from friends, family
- economic abuse – control of money, not allowing access
- spiritual abuse – deny access, forcing

Family violence

§ Family violence describes more accurately the different forms of conflict and abuse that occur in the Indigenous context. It is seen as an issue that affects all aspects of community and family life (National Crime Prevention, 1999; Blagg, 2000) and needs to be understood within the context of colonisation and be addressed holistically (Briskman, 2007).



To me it is about context...it is not just about saying take responsibility for violence and that is it...without the context of the rest of his life I don't think work is going to be very successful...men resist that...so I don't think we can work with Aboriginal men around violence without looking at issues of grief and loss, loss of culture, loss of identity, losses in family – that compounding stuff needs to be recognised around working with violence – not just violence in isolation...I think acknowledging men's experiences enables connection and men not feeling we are against them (Aboriginal Worker).

Multi-country study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence Against Women (WHO)


- § More than a quarter of women surveyed (except Japanese site) had been physically or sexually assaulted at least once since the age of 15 years, with rates as high as 50% in some countries.
- § In the vast majority of cases the violence was perpetrated by a male intimate partner, and
- § In most sites between 20 and 33% of women reported having been abused by their partner in the previous twelve months.

The Personal Safety Survey (2006) ABS


- § in the 12 months prior to the survey around 5.8% (443,800) of women and 11% (808,300) had experience violence.
- § All respondents were three times more likely to experience violence by a man than by a woman
- § Since the age of 15 - 39.9% of women and 50.1% of men had experienced some form of violence.

DV higher for women...

- § Of the 4.7% of women who were physically assaulted in the 12 months prior to the survey, 31% were assaulted by their current or previous partner
- § Of the 10% of men who were physically assaulted in the 12 months prior to the survey, 4.4% were assaulted by their current or previous partner.
- § 59% of women who experienced violence by a previous partner were pregnant at some time during the relationship – for 36% of these women the violence occurred during pregnancy. 17% of them experienced violence for the first time while they were pregnant.



Findings from the Australian component of the International
Violence Against Women Survey 2004 (AIC)

- § 57% of women surveyed reported experiencing at least one incident of physical or sexual violence over their lifetime.
 - § 34% of women who had ever had an intimate partner reported experiencing at least one form of violence during their lifetime from a partner – physical or sexual.
 - § The levels of violence experienced from a former partner were much higher than from a current partner.
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Higher risk...

- § Younger women reported higher levels of violence than older women
- § Indigenous women also reported higher levels of violence
- § Women from NESB reported lower levels of physical violence but similar levels of sexual violence and also reported lower levels of violence of their lifetimes.
- § Women who had just separated from their partner reported the highest levels of violence.
- § Married women reported the lowest levels of physical violence
- § Women with a current boyfriend reported the highest overall levels of violence, that is, phy and sexual.
- § Pregnancy.

Children

- § A new report published by UNICEF examines 20 countries and estimates that 133 to 275 million children around the globe are exposed to domestic violence.
- § The report estimates that between 75,000 to 640,000 Australian children are exposed to domestic violence.

Personal Safety Survey - children

- § 49% of people (111,700) who experienced violence from their current partner had children in the care, of whom 27% (60,700) said the children had witnessed the violence.
- § Of the 61% who had children in the care during previous incidents of violence, 36% said the children had witnessed the violence.

Children

§ The Australian component of the International Violence Against Women Survey 2004 indicated that 36% of women who had experienced violence and who had children, reported that their children had witnessed the violence.