

ANROWS

AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL RESEARCH
ORGANISATION FOR WOMEN'S SAFETY

to Reduce Violence against Women & their Children

Compass

Research to policy and practice

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Violence against women in Australia: Additional analysis of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Personal Safety Survey, 2012: *Key findings and future directions*

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ANROWS Compass (Research to policy and practice papers) are concise papers that summarise key findings of research on violence against women and their children, including research produced under ANROWS's research program, and provide advice on the implications for policy and practice.

This report addresses work covered in ANROWS research project 1.1 "Violence against women in Australia: Additional analysis of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Personal Safety Survey, 2012". Please consult the ANROWS website for more information on this project. In addition to this paper, an ANROWS Horizons is available as part of this project.

ANROWS acknowledgement

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Acknowledgement of Country

ANROWS acknowledges the traditional owners of the land across Australia on which we work and live. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander elders past, present and future; and we value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and knowledge.

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Design

Erin Snelgrove, GOOD MATTERS.

Introduction

The PSS is the most comprehensive quantitative study of interpersonal violence in Australia. The survey is administered by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services. Over 17,000 women and men completed the 2012 survey.

This ANROWS project provides substantial additional analysis of the data produced through the Australian Personal Safety Survey (PSS). The PSS is currently a largely untapped resource - even the publicly available PSS data has yet to be fully explored and applied to the most obviously relevant research and policy contexts.

The ANROWS PSS analysis provides several hundred new statistical items related to violence against women. Almost all the data is new – not only has this information not been readily available to the public before, but the data tables themselves have not been generated previously.

Limitations

The PSS is a complex tool for looking at a complex social problem. The PSS data is layered in a way that can make sub-population analysis difficult. Data becomes more fragile as more limitations are placed on it. Therefore, examination of sub-populations can be difficult because the estimates quickly become too unreliable for general use. Cross-referencing multiple contextual factors can also be difficult for the same reason, so that while extensive detail is available about incidents of violence, the ability to build an understanding of how these factors interact can be more limited.

A key limitation of the survey is that the ABS has difficulty in accessing and surveying a statistically valid sample of people from communities of interest, including women with a disability and women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

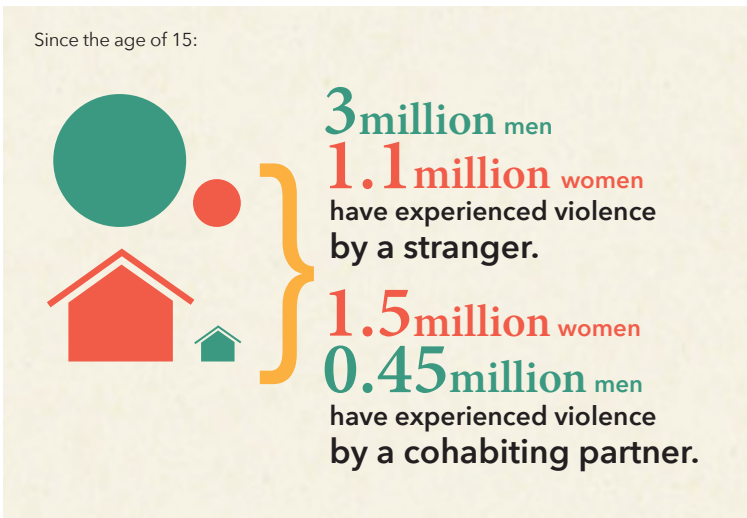
Violence experienced by women and men

Violence is extremely common in Australia.

Men were more likely to be victims of physical violence while women were more likely to be victims of sexual violence.



The violence experienced by men and women has some different characteristics.



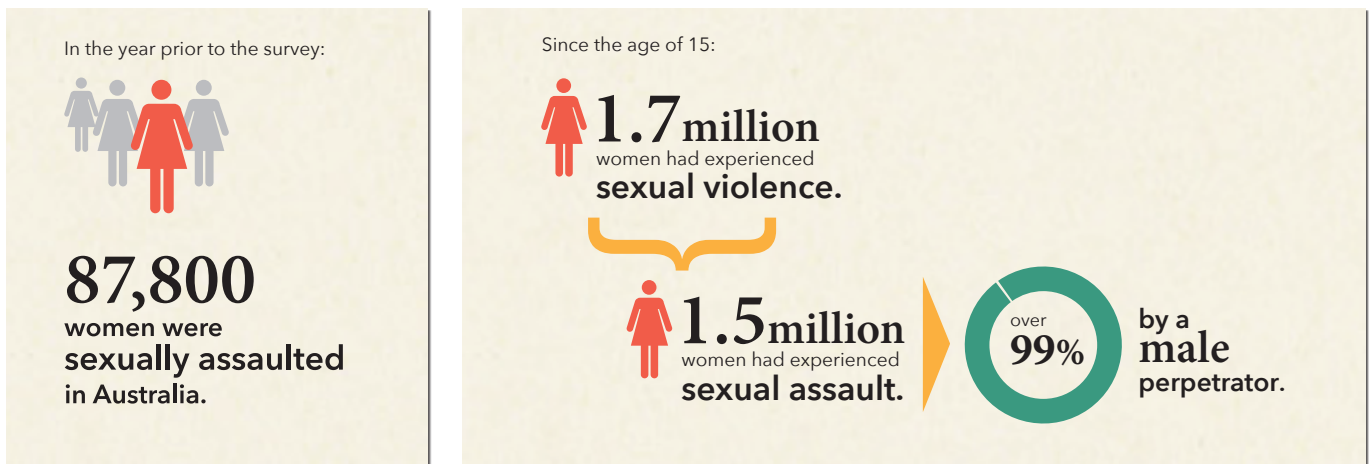
But it also has some similarities.



Sexual assault

Many women in Australia are affected by sexual assault.

Almost all assaults are perpetrated by men.



Women are most likely to be sexually assaulted by a man known to them.



Certain characteristics are common to sexual assault incidents.



Partner violence

Intimate partner violence is experienced by a quarter of women in Australia:

Since the age of 15:


1 in 4 women have experienced violence by an intimate partner they may or may not have been living with.

 **1 in 6** women had experienced violence by a partner they were living with.

 **1 in 9** women had experienced violence by a boyfriend, girlfriend or date.

Of the 2.2 million women who have experienced male intimate partner violence:

Since the age of 15:

 **1.8 million** women experienced physical violence by a male intimate partner.

0.9 million women experienced sexual violence by a male intimate partner.

Almost all violence between cohabiting partners happens in the home:

Of women's most recent experience of cohabiting partner violence:



At least **9 in 10** incidents happened in the home.

Cohabiting partner violence does not just affect the victim.

Since the age of 15:

 Over **half a million** women reported their children had seen or heard partner violence.

 Over **400,000** women experienced partner violence during pregnancy.

It can be difficult to leave a violent relationship.



81,900 women have wanted to leave their violent current partner but never have.

N.B. For partner at time of survey only.

Since the age of 15:



1 in 4 employed women took time off work as a result of their most recent incident of physical assault by a male cohabiting partner.

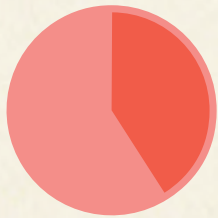


Over **half a million** women left property or assets behind when they moved away after their violent relationship ended.

Multiple victimisation

Many women experience violence multiple times in their life.

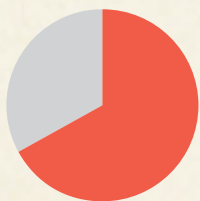
Some women experience violence both as a child and as an adult.



0.78 million women had experienced multiple incidents of childhood sexual abuse.

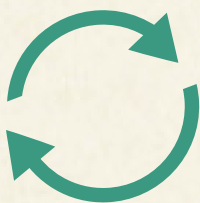
Of these, **0.32 million** women had also experienced at least one sexual assault as an adult.

Experiencing both physical and sexual violence as an adult is a form of multiple victimisation.



67.3% of women who had experienced sexual violence have also experienced a separate incident of physical violence.

Repeated violence by the same man is also a form of multiple victimisation.



Nearly **1 million** women had experienced multiple incidents of physical violence by the same man.

Multiple victimisation affects some groups of women more than others.



In the 12 months prior to the survey:

Women with a disability were **more likely** to experience multiple incidents of violence by a male perpetrator.

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