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# Family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia: continuing the national story

## 2019

### In brief





# **Family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia: continuing the national story**

**2019**

In brief



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Working together to end men's family violence



# Introduction

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 2017).

This publication presents key findings from AIHW's *Family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia: continuing the national story 2019* report. It highlights new information on vulnerable groups, such as children and young women, examines elder abuse in the context of family, domestic and sexual violence, and includes new data on telephone and web-based support services. It also includes the latest data on homicides, child protection, hospitals and specialist homelessness services, and new data on community attitudes, sexual harassment and stalking.

The full report is available to download free at [www.aihw.gov.au/reports/domestic-violence/family-domestic-sexual-violence-in-australia-2019](http://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/domestic-violence/family-domestic-sexual-violence-in-australia-2019).

## What is family, domestic and sexual violence?

Violence can be described in many ways, and definitions vary according to the legislation in each Australian state and territory (COAG 2011). Family, domestic and sexual violence sits in the broader context of all violence, and can encompass a range of behaviours. Family, domestic and sexual violence can take many forms, including physical violence, emotional abuse, or attempts to control another person's behaviour.

Box 1.1 provides details of the definitions used in this publication and provides examples of acts and behaviours associated with family, domestic and sexual violence.

### **Box 1.1: Family, domestic and sexual violence definitions and examples**

**Family violence** refers to violence between family members, typically where the perpetrator exercises power and control over another person. Family violence is the preferred term for violence between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, as it covers the extended family and kinship relationships in which violence may occur (COAG 2011).

For this report, **domestic violence** is considered a subset of family violence and typically refers to violent behaviour between current or previous intimate partners. In some data collections, domestic violence is used more broadly and can include violence between any family members. **Sexual violence** refers to behaviours of a sexual nature carried out against a person's will. It can be perpetrated by a current or previous partner, other known people, or strangers.

Acts and behaviours associated with family, domestic and sexual violence vary in type, duration, intensity and frequency and are further described below:

**Physical violence** 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.

**Sexual violence** can include rape; sexual abuse; unwanted sexual advances or harassment and intimidation at work and elsewhere; being forced to watch or engage in pornography; sexual coercion; having sexual intercourse because you are afraid of what your partner might do; forced prostitution; and trafficking.

**Psychological and emotional abuse** can include intimidation, belittling, humiliation, coercive control and the effects of financial, social and other non-physical forms of abuse.

The types of violence described here are not an exhaustive list of all possible acts and behaviours that can be classified under the umbrella term of 'family, domestic and sexual violence'. The term 'violence' also includes the attempt or threat of violence. Further details of the different types of violence are included in the Glossary.

*Sources:* COAG 2011; VicHealth 2017; WHO et al. 2013.

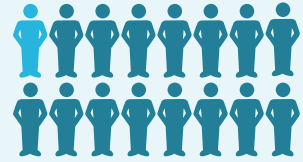


## How common is family, domestic and sexual violence?



**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**






Source: ABS 2017.

# Groups more vulnerable to family, domestic and sexual violence

This publication presents available data on the prevalence and impact of family, domestic and sexual violence in several vulnerable groups. Generally, there are limited data for these groups, so various literature and data sources are used to help build the evidence.

Vulnerable group	Key statistics
 <p>Children</p>	In 2017–18, 22% (26,500) clients seeking specialist homelessness services as a result of family or domestic violence were aged 0–9.
 <p>Young women</p>	In 2017, young women aged 15–34 accounted for more than half (53%, or 11,000) of all police-recorded female sexual assault victims.
 <p>Older people</p>	In 2017–18, more than 10,900 calls were made to elder abuse helplines across Australia.
 <p>People with disability</p>	People with disability were 1.8 times as likely to have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from a partner in the previous year, compared with people without disability.

*continued*

Vulnerable group	Key statistics
 <p data-bbox="185 369 354 521"><b>People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds</b></p>	<p data-bbox="405 350 1161 437">Between March 2013 and June 2016, the Australian Federal Police received 116 case referrals for forced marriage involving young females.</p>
 <p data-bbox="172 632 370 662"><b>LGBTIQ+ people</b></p>	<p data-bbox="405 571 1161 658">In the last 5 years, workplace sexual harassment was higher among those identifying with diverse sexual orientation (52%) than among those identifying as straight or heterosexual (31%).</p>
 <p data-bbox="180 799 362 887"><b>People in rural and remote Australia</b></p>	<p data-bbox="405 753 1134 841">People in <i>Remote</i> and <i>Very remote</i> Australia are more than 24 times as likely to be hospitalised for domestic violence as are people in <i>Major cities</i>.</p>
 <p data-bbox="158 1028 387 1150"><b>People from socioeconomically disadvantaged areas</b></p>	<p data-bbox="405 993 1161 1081">People living in the most disadvantaged areas of Australia are 1.5 times as likely to experience partner violence as those living in areas of least disadvantage.</p>
 <p data-bbox="198 1256 341 1313"><b>Indigenous Australians</b></p>	<p data-bbox="405 1222 1134 1279">Indigenous adults are 32 times as likely to be hospitalised for family violence as non-Indigenous adults.</p>

## Children

The impacts of family, domestic and sexual violence on children can be serious and long-lasting (Campo 2015). However, there are no comprehensive data on children's experiences of these forms of violence.

According to the 2016 PSS, around 418,000 women and 92,200 men who had experienced violence from a previous partner said the children in their care had witnessed this violence. Many adults (1.5 million women and 992,000 men) reported physical and/or sexual abuse before the age of 15. Parents were the most common perpetrators of physical abuse, and the most common perpetrator of sexual abuse of children was a known person (not a family member) (ABS 2017).

Between 2000–01 and 2011–12, police recorded 238 incidents of filicide (killing of a child or children by a parent or parent-equivalent), in which 284 victims were killed, with 274 of the victims aged under 18 (Brown et al. 2019).

In 2016–17, there were 288 hospitalisations of children for abuse injuries perpetrated by a parent (217) or other family member (71) (AIHW analysis of National Hospital Morbidity Database).

In 2017–18, more than 1 in 5 clients seeking specialist homelessness services as a result of family or domestic violence were aged 0–9 (22%, or 26,500) (AIHW 2019d).

In 2017–18, 1 in 35 (3%, or 159,000) children received child protection services—105,000 as the subject of an investigation, 67,200 under a care and protection order and 55,300 in out-of-home care. The rate of children receiving child protection services has risen from 26 per 1,000 children in 2012–13 to 29 per 1,000 in 2017–18 (AIHW 2017, 2019b).

## Young women

Younger women are more likely to experience intimate partner violence and sexual violence than older women. The 2016 PSS reported experiences of physical and sexual violence in women in the 12 months before the survey. When compared with women aged 35 and over, women aged 18–34 were:

- almost 3 times as likely to have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner—4.0% (117,000) women aged 18–34, compared with 1.5% (96,000) women aged 35
- 6 times as likely to have experienced sexual violence—4.3% (125,000) women aged 18–34, compared with 0.7% (45,000) women aged 35 and over (ABS 2018a).

In 2017, police recorded more than 11,000 female sexual assault victims aged 15–34, compared with 3,800 female sexual assault victims aged 35 and over (ABS 2018b).

Younger women are more likely to be hospitalised for assault by a partner (AIHW analysis of the National Hospital Morbidity Database) and more likely to experience sexual harassment, compared with the general adult population (ABS 2018b).

## Older people

‘Older people’ are generally defined as those aged 65 and over but there is some flexibility with this definition. ‘Elder abuse’ is a serious public health problem that can cause a range of physical, psychological and financial harms to older people. It often occurs within the context of family and domestic violence, and is frequently under-reported (WHO 2018).

The prevalence of elder abuse among Australians is unknown. Worldwide, an estimated 1 in 6 (16%) of adults aged 60 and over have been the victim of elder abuse in the past year (WHO 2018).

In 2017–18, more than 10,900 calls were made to elder abuse helplines across Australia (excluding the Northern Territory). Most perpetrators were an adult child, grandchild, sibling, spouse or partner. Female victims disproportionately outnumbered male victims in each state, ranging from 66% to 74%, and the proportion of victims rose with age. Emotional and financial abuse were the most common types of elder abuse reported.

## People with disability

Based on the 2016 PSS, when compared with people without a disability or long-term health condition, people with disability were:

- 1.8 times as likely to have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from a partner in the 12 months before the survey—2.5% (72,300) women and 1.1% (32,200) men with disability, compared with 1.3% (83,700) women and 0.6% (39,700) men without
- 1.5 times as likely to have experienced emotional abuse from a partner since the age of 15—1 in 3 (32%, or 929,000) women and 1 in 5 (20%, or 558,000) men with disability, compared with 1 in 5 (19%, or 1.2 million) women and 1 in 7 (14%, or 877,000) men without
- 1.7 times as likely to have experienced sexual violence since the age of 15—1 in 4 (25%, or 748,000) women and 1 in 20 (6.5%, or 184,000) men with disability, compared with 15% (980,000) women and 3.9% (240,000) men without (ABS 2018a).

People with disability commonly experienced emotional abuse in the form of financial abuse, deprivation of basic needs such as food, shelter, sleep or assistive aids and/or insults intended to cause shame or humiliation (ABS 2018a).

## People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds

There are no comprehensive data on the experiences of family, domestic and sexual violence among people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. However, selected research exists on specific types of violence experienced by certain cultural groups.

In 2017, researchers studied 300 case files from women seeking support after incidents of family violence in migrant and refugee communities. Of these women, 117 had been threatened by their partners with deportation and 132 threatened that their visa application would be withdrawn (Segrave 2017).

From March 2013 to June 2016, the Australian Federal Police received 116 case referrals for forced marriage—when a person is married without freely and fully consenting—all involving young females (IDC ICoHTaS 2016).

Using basic modelled calculations, the AIHW estimated that 53,000 women and girls born overseas but now living in Australia may have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting (AIHW 2019c).

## **LGBTIQ+ people**

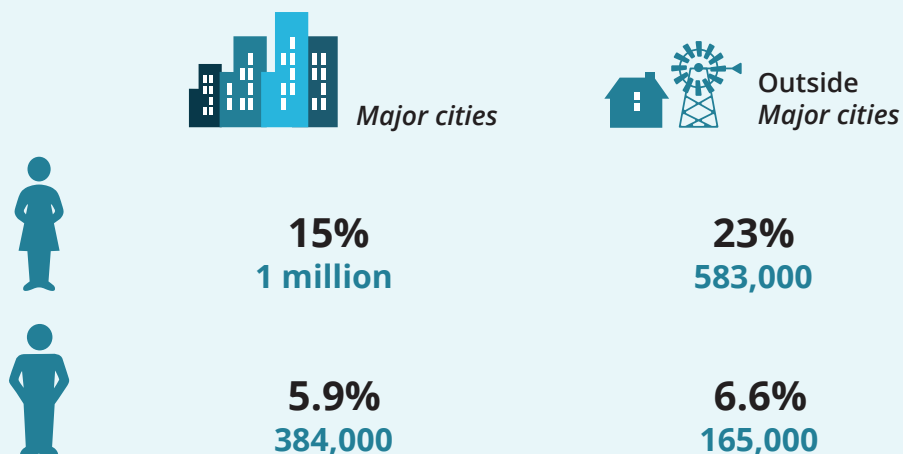
The LGBTIQ+ community includes individuals who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and gender diverse, people with intersex variations, or people who are otherwise diverse in gender, sex or sexuality.

Analysis of the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health shows that women who identified as lesbian, bisexual, and mainly heterosexual were twice as likely to report physical abuse by a partner as women who identified as exclusively heterosexual (24%, 29%, and 22%, versus 12%, respectively). Of the women who had experienced intimate partner violence, those who identified as bisexual or mainly heterosexual were more likely than exclusively heterosexual women to experience poor mental health (Szalacha et al. 2017).

## **People in regional and remote Australia**

People living in regional and remote Australia (outside *Major cities*) may be more vulnerable to family, domestic or sexual violence, partly due to the increased presence of risk factors (such as higher rates of risky alcohol use and gun ownership). Living in regional and remote areas also restricts a victim's ability to leave a violent relationship and their ability to access both informal support (from friends and family) and formal support (police, health and domestic violence support services) (AIHW 2019a; Campo and Tayton 2015a; Noonan et al. 2017).

## Proportion of people who have experienced partner violence since the age of 15:



Source: ABS 2018a.

In 2016–17, the rate of hospitalisation for assault by a spouse or domestic partner was:

- 386 per 100,000 people living in *Very remote* areas
- 145 per 100,000 people living in *Remote* areas
- 12 per 100,000 people living in *Major cities, Inner regional, or Outer regional* areas (AIHW analysis of National Hospital Morbidity Database).

### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Family violence within Indigenous communities needs to be understood as both a cause and an effect of social disadvantage and intergenerational trauma. It occurs at higher rates than in the general population and Indigenous Australians are more likely to be hospitalised due to family violence; more likely to be murdered by a family member; and more likely to have their children removed, compared with non-Indigenous people (AIHW 2018a).

In 2016–17, Indigenous people were 32 times as likely to be hospitalised for family violence as non-Indigenous people. Indigenous women accounted for more than 1 in 3 (35%) of all hospitalisations for family violence, and most commonly specified a spouse or domestic partner as the perpetrator (62%) in 2016–17 (AIHW analysis of National Hospital Morbidity Database).

In 2017–18, 65,200 Indigenous clients sought assistance from specialist homelessness services and 25% of these cited family violence as their main reason for seeking assistance.



Indigenous children are 8 times as likely to receive child protection services as non-Indigenous children. In 2017–18, 16% (48,000) Indigenous children received child protection services. Infants aged under 12 months were most likely (192 per 1,000) to receive child protection services, and adolescents aged 15 to 17 least likely (113 per 1,000) (AIHW 2019b).

## Responses to family, domestic and sexual violence

Responses to family, domestic and sexual violence can be provided informally in the community, and/or formally through health and welfare services. However, many people do not seek advice or support after incidents of family, domestic and sexual violence.

**For those who had experienced physical and/or sexual violence from a current cohabiting partner:**



**1 in 2** (46%, or 127,000) women never sought advice or support.



**7 in 10** (68%, or 102,000) men never sought advice or support.

Due to relatively small numbers of male respondents seeking support after partner violence, estimates should be interpreted with caution.

For those who did seek support following violence from a previous partner, 65% (560,000) women and 54% (87,500) men sought advice or support from a friend or other family member (ABS 2017).

Most people did not contact the police following violence from a partner—8 in 10 (82% or 226,000) women and 9 in 10 (97% or 146,000) men who experienced physical and/or sexual violence from a current partner never contacted the police (ABS 2017).

## **Stable rates of partner violence contrast with falling rates of overall violence**

While national population surveys show that rates of partner violence and sexual violence have remained stable since 2005, total violence from any person has declined significantly over this period. Despite these relatively stable population survey rates, the number of people accessing services due to family, domestic and sexual violence continues to rise: such as police, hospital, child protection and homeless services.

## **The number of sexual assault victims continues to rise**

There were 25,000 victims of sexual assault recorded by police in 2017—8% more than the 23,000 victims in 2016—the highest number of victims since the data series began in 2010 (ABS 2018b). In 2017, 8 in 10 (82%) of victims were female. This includes victims of family and domestic and non-family and domestic assaults.

## **More women are being hospitalised due to family and domestic violence**

In 2016–17, there were 6,300 hospitalisations of adults aged 15 and over for assault injuries due to family and domestic violence. There were more than twice as many hospitalisations due to family and domestic violence for women (4,600) than men (1,700). Women hospitalised for assault by a spouse or domestic partner were most commonly assaulted in the home (86%), with bodily force (67%), and treated for head and/or neck injuries (63%) (AIHW analysis of National Hospital Morbidity Database).

## **More people are accessing specialist homelessness services due to family and domestic violence**

In 2017–18, more than 121,000 people assisted by specialist homelessness services had experienced family and domestic violence. Of these, 3 in 4 (78%, or 94,100) were female.

In 2017–18, the rate of people seeking assistance due to family and domestic violence was:

- 76 per 10,000 females—32% more than in 2013–14 (57 per 10,000 females)
- 22 per 10,000 males—40% more than in 2013–14 (16 per 10,000 males) (AIHW 2018b, 2019d).

## **Impacts of family, domestic and sexual violence**

Family, domestic and sexual violence can be serious and long-lasting, affecting an individual's health, wellbeing, education, relationships and housing outcomes.

### **Mental illness contributes the most to disease burden due to domestic violence**

For women aged 15 and over, mental health conditions made the largest contribution to the disease burden (the impact of illness, disability and premature death) due to domestic violence in 2015—with depressive disorders making up the greatest proportion (43%), followed by anxiety disorders (30%) and suicide and self-inflicted injuries (19%).

Anxiety disorders made the largest contribution to the burden due to child abuse and neglect (39%), followed by suicide and self-inflicted injuries (34%) and depressive disorders (27%) (AIHW forthcoming 2019).

### **1 woman is killed every 9 days and 1 man is killed every 29 days by a partner**

From July 2014 to June 2016, the Australian Institute of Criminology's (AIC) National Homicide Monitoring Program recorded 218 domestic homicide victims from 198 domestic homicide incidents. Over half (59%, or 129) victims were female and 64% (82) of these female victims were killed by an intimate partner. There were also 89 male domestic homicide victims, with over 1 in 4 (28%, or 25) killed by an intimate partner (AIC unpublished).

## **Attitudes and behaviours relating to family, domestic and sexual violence**

### **More people are recognising non-physical behaviours as violence**

Most Australians have an accurate knowledge of what constitutes violence against women and do not endorse this violence. More Australians are recognising non-physical behaviours as violence; in 2017, 81% of Australians agreed that controlling or denying a partner money was a form of violence/partner violence—up from 70% in 2013. Despite this, some Australians hold attitudes that excuse perpetrators of violence (Webster et al. 2018).

## **1 in 3 people are sexually harassed at work, but few report it**

One in 3 people (33%) have experienced sexual harassment at work in the last 5 years—almost 2 in 5 women (39%) and 1 in 4 men (26%). Fewer than 1 in 5 (17%) of people who were sexually harassed lodged a formal report or complaint. Of those who did not report the harassment, 49% said they thought people would think they were overreacting (AHRC 2018).

## **Women are 3 times as likely as men to be the victim of stalking**

About 1 in 6 (17%, or 1.6 million) women and about 1 in 16 (6.5%, or 587,000) men aged 18 and over have experienced stalking since the age of 15. Of women who were stalked, the vast majority (94%) were stalked by a male; men were equally likely to have been stalked by a male or by a female (ABS 2017).

## **Key data gaps and data development activities**

There are notable information gaps on various aspects of family, domestic and sexual violence. The AIHW is working with data providers to improve the identification and collection of data about family, domestic and sexual violence, in a range of data collections for which it is the national data custodian. These include the National Non-Admitted Patient Emergency Department Care National Minimum Dataset, the Specialist Homelessness Services Collection, the National Perinatal Data Collection, and the Child Protection National Minimum Data Set.

The AIHW is also working with stakeholders to help fill key data gaps, including reporting on national outcome standards for perpetrator interventions, and improving the capture, collation and reporting of data about family, domestic and sexual violence services.

## **Data sources and supporting materials**

The *Family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia 2019* report brings together multiple data sources. Further details about the data sources used can be found in the main report and online at [www.aihw.gov.au/reports/domestic-violence/family-domestic-sexual-violence-in-australia-2019/contents/data-sources-for-monitoring-family-domestic-and-sexual-violence](http://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/domestic-violence/family-domestic-sexual-violence-in-australia-2019/contents/data-sources-for-monitoring-family-domestic-and-sexual-violence).

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## Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AIC	Australian Institute of Criminology
AHRC	Australian Human Rights Commission
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
ANROWS	Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety
LGBTIQ+	lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and/or intersex
NCAS	National Community Attitudes towards Violence Against Women Survey
PSS	Personal Safety Survey
WHO	World Health Organization

## Glossary

**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**.

**Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS):** A common framework defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics for collecting and disseminating geographically classified statistics.

**disability:** A limitation, restriction, impairment, disease or disorder that has lasted, or is expected to last, for 6 months or more, and which restricts everyday activities.

**domestic violence:** A set of violent or intimidating behaviours usually perpetrated by 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**.

**domestic homicide:** A homicide where a person kills a family member or other person in a domestic relationship. See also **intimate partner homicide, filicide, parricide, siblicide**.

**elder abuse:** Physical, psychological and financial harm to older people.

**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 violence:** Violent or intimidating behaviours against a person, perpetrated by a family member including a current or previous spouse or domestic partner. 'Family violence' is the preferred term used to identify experiences of violence for Indigenous Australians, as it encompasses the broad range of extended family and kinship relationships in which violence may occur.

**female genital mutilation/cutting:** All procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs, for non-medical reasons.

**forced marriage:** Marriage without the free and full consent of one or both parties to the marriage.

**filicide:** A homicide where a parent or step-parent kills a child.

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

**intimate partner violence:** Violent or intimidating behaviours perpetrated by a current or cohabiting partner, boyfriend, girlfriend or date. See also **domestic violence**.

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

**physical abuse:** Any deliberate physical injury inflicted upon another person. In the PSS, physical abuse refers only to incidents that occurred before the age of 15.

**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.

**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 abuse:** A sexual act carried out against a person's will through the use of physical force, intimidation or coercion. In the PSS sexual abuse involves a child under the age of 15, in sexual activity beyond their understanding or contrary to accepted community standards.

**sexual assault:** A sexual act carried out against a person's will through the use of physical force, intimidation or coercion. 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. These acts are an offence under state and territory criminal law.

**sexual harassment:** Behaviours a person experienced that made them feel uncomfortable, and were offensive, due to their sexual nature. This includes an indecent text, email or post; indecent exposure; inappropriate comments; and unwanted sexual touching.

**sexual violence:** The occurrence, attempt or threat of sexual assault experienced by a person since the age of 15. Sexual violence can be perpetrated by partners in a domestic relationship, previous partners, other people known to the victim, or strangers.



**socioeconomic disadvantage:** When a person has, compared with others, poorer access to material and social resources, and a reduced ability to participate in society.

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

**stalking:** Persistent unwanted behaviours, such as following or making unwanted contact, that cause fear or distress.

**vulnerable groups:** Population groups that are more likely to experience (or to have experienced) family, domestic and sexual violence, or that face additional barriers in coping with and recovering from family, domestic and sexual violence.

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Family, domestic and sexual violence is a major national health and welfare issue that can have lifelong impacts for victims and perpetrators. This publication is a companion report to *Family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia: continuing the national story, 2019* and presents new information on the experiences and impacts of family, domestic and sexual violence among vulnerable groups.

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