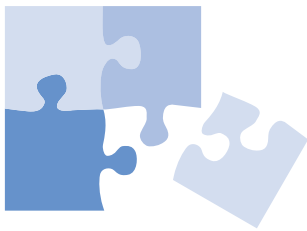


# Understanding Violence Against Women



In Victoria, intimate partner violence is **the leading contributor to death, disability and illness for women aged 15-44 years**<sup>1</sup>.



## Violence against women includes...

economic, psychological, emotional, physical and sexual abuse<sup>2</sup>.

**Intimate partner violence** is often used to describe violence against a current or previous partner<sup>3</sup>.

**Family violence and domestic violence** are broader terms that refer to violence between family members as well as violence between intimate partners<sup>4</sup>.

## How common is violence against women?

Rates of violence against men and women since the age of 15:



**1 in 5**

Australian women had experienced **sexual violence**



**1 in 22**

Australian men had experienced **sexual violence**



**1 in 6**

Australian women had experienced **physical or sexual violence** from a current or former partner



**1 in 19**

Australian men had experienced **physical or sexual violence** from a current or former partner



**1 in 4**

Australian women had experienced **emotional abuse** from a current or former partner



**1 in 7**

Australian men had experienced **emotional abuse** from a current or former partner



**1 in 3**

Australian women had experienced **physical violence**

the vast majority of which is perpetrated by men they know.



**1 in 2**

Australian men had experienced **physical violence**

the vast majority of which is perpetrated by another man who they do not know.

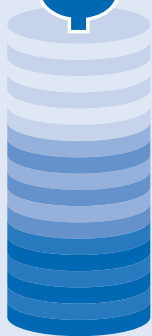
Information has been sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Our Watch and the Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety.

Women of all ages, cultures, backgrounds and economic situations in Australia can experience violence. **Every week in Australia a woman is murdered by her partner or ex-partner**<sup>7</sup>.



## Violence against women and their children cost the Australian economy \$14.7 billion in 2013.

Without appropriate action, the cost of violence against women and their children to the Australian economy in 2021-22 is estimated to be \$15.6 billion<sup>6</sup>.



# Who commits violence against women?



Research shows that most violence against women is perpetrated by a man who is known to them, such as a current or former intimate partner, an acquaintance or a relative<sup>2</sup>.

In comparison, men were more likely to be assaulted by a stranger (70% of assaults<sup>11</sup>) and in the majority of cases by a male perpetrator. Intimate partner violence is most often confined to the home, 'unseen' by others and the community, and can include multiple forms of assault, abuse and threats that can escalate in severity over time<sup>5</sup>.

## What causes violence against women?

Violence against women exists due to:

▲ **Inequalities between men and women across all levels of society** (e.g relationships, workplaces, media, sport)

▲ **Rigid expectations and attitudes (stereotypes)** about what it means to be a 'man' or a 'woman'<sup>8</sup>



--- Alcohol, other drugs and mental health issues are not the underlying causes of violence against women, but contribute to the frequency or severity of violence<sup>9</sup>. The use of violence against women is a choice that men make. Men always have a choice<sup>9</sup>.

Whilst most men do not use violence against women, all men can play a part in preventing it. There are many men working in partnership with women to make a difference.



## What can men do to prevent violence against women?

- ✓ **Men**, we can declare that violence against women is never acceptable<sup>9</sup>.
- ✓ **Men**, we need to be having the private conversations, with our mates, our sons, our families. Women and girls need respect and need to be treated as equals. We also need to be having the public conversations, using our influence where we can<sup>9</sup>.
- ✓ **Men** need to help other men understand that violence against women is fuelled by attitudes and beliefs that women are worth less than men, or are the property of men<sup>10</sup>.
- ✓ **Men** need to work alongside women in ending violence against women.

### If you are in need of urgent police assistance call '000'.

For further support or assistance contact the Women's Domestic Violence Crisis Service on **9322 3555 / 1800 015 188** or the Eastern Domestic Violence Service, **9259 4200**, 9am-5pm, Monday-Friday.

This fact sheet was developed by the City of Monash and MonashLink's 'Men's Action group' in partnership with the Generating Equality and Respect program team as part of White Ribbon activities for 2013. White Ribbon is the world's largest movement of men and boys to end violence against women and girls, promote gender equity, healthy relationships and a new vision of masculinity. <http://www.whiteribbon.org.au/>

The full reference list can be supplied upon request by contacting [mail@monash.vic.gov.au](mailto:mail@monash.vic.gov.au)

For more information on the **Generating Equality and Respect Program**, please visit [www.monash.vic.gov.au/community/equality-respect.htm](http://www.monash.vic.gov.au/community/equality-respect.htm) or contact the Program Manager, City of Monash:  
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