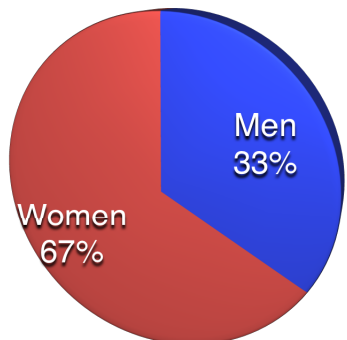
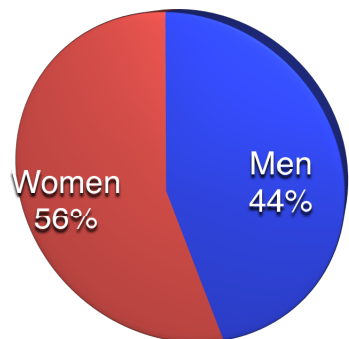


VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BY GENDER*



AUSTRALIA^{4*}



USA³

* Official Australian figures state 1 in 3 DV victims are male but various issues such as a lack of robust Australian data, bias with the way the questions were asked, & divergence from international data, all suggest that the real number is higher than this, perhaps as high as 1 in 2. Better local research is required.



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I THINK I MAY BE IN AN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIP

Many men who experience domestic and family violence feel a sense of shame about the abuse that they are experiencing. It is important to remember that it is never your fault and that men, like everyone else, are entitled to the full protection of the law when it comes to domestic violence. Unfortunately the support and services that are available to you are extremely limited. However, of the few services that are available to men, the most well regarded are listed below.

PARENTAL ALIENATION OR THE THREAT OF IT IS A FORM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

HOW DO I GET HELP?

MENSLINE AUSTRALIA

Ph: 1300 78 99 78 (24 hours/7 days)

Web: www.menslineaus.org.au

1800 RESPECT

Ph: 1800 737 732

1 IN 3 CAMPAIGN

Web: www.oneinthree.com.au

REFERENCES

1. www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=6442467990
2. <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/4906.0Chapter2002012>
3. www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs_report2010-a.pdf (Tables 4.1 & 4.2)
4. <http://www.oneinthree.com.au>
5. www.domesticviolence.nsw.gov.au/what_is_domestic_and_family_violence
6. www.domesticviolence.nsw.gov.au/what_is_domestic_and_family_violence/signs_you_could_be_in_an_abusive_relationship
7. <http://domesticviolenceresearch.org>

All references are available at :
www.Mensrightssydney.com/DV

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE THE FACTS

WHAT EVERY MAN NEEDS TO KNOW



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MYTHS

Myth: Domestic Violence is the leading cause of death and disability in women under 45.

Reality: According to the latest available data (2003), the top 5 causes of death & disability for women 15-44 are¹:

1. Anxiety & Depression
2. Migraine
3. Type 2 diabetes
4. Asthma
5. Schizophrenia.

Myth: DV in Australia has reached epidemic proportions.

Reality: The prevalence of DV remained almost level between 2001 and 2010. In fact, it actually fell slightly in regional areas. Far from increasing, DV rates are actually remarkably stable. However, community surveys have found that more people are reporting DV with male reporting rising much faster than female reporting (a 394% rise compared to a 151% rise between 2005 and 2012 in current partner violence experienced during the last 12 months.)².

The number of domestic homicides has also fallen considerably and has reached an historic low in recent years². You will often hear people say that one Australian woman is killed every week by family violence and, while this is true, what they fail to mention is that one man dies the same way every 10 days⁴.

Even so, although every death is a tragedy, these are very small numbers. To put this into perspective, about three times as many people die falling out of bed each year than die from domestic homicide.

Myth: Women are the overwhelming majority of DV victims and men are victims only very rarely.

Reality: The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey³ (NISVS) 2010 found that, in the US, almost half (44%) of DV victims are male. Similar results have been found in a number of studies conducted in other western countries such as the UK and Australia^{4,7}.

Myth: Women's fear of falling victim to violence (of any-

Reality: Men are almost twice as likely as women to experience violence (8.7% of men compared to 5.3% of women had experienced violence in 2012)²

WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?^{5,6}

A person experiencing domestic or family violence may experience one or more of the following types of abuse.

VERBAL

This includes, but is not limited to, swearing and continual humiliation, either in private or public and any attacks following clear themes that focus on intelligence, sexuality, body image or capacity as a parent and spouse.

EMOTIONAL

This includes, but is not limited to, blaming the victim for all problems in the relationship, constantly comparing the victim with others to undermine self-esteem and self-worth, sporadic sulking, withdrawing all interest and engagement (for example weeks of silence), emotional blackmail, and suicidal threats.

SOCIAL

This includes, but is not limited to, trying to limit or control your access to your own friends or family, instigating and controlling a move to a location where the victim has no established social circle or employment opportunities, restricting use of the car or telephone and/or forbidding, or physically preventing, the victim from going out and meeting people.

FINANCIAL

This includes, but is not limited to, complete control of all money through forbidding access to bank accounts, providing only an inadequate 'allowance', not allowing the victim to seek or hold employment, coercing the victim to sign documents or make false declarations, unnecessarily spending all money earned by the victim, controlling the victim's pension and/or denying that the victim has an entitlement to joint property.

PSYCHOLOGICAL

This includes, but is not limited to, driving dangerously, destruction of property abuse of pets in front of family members, making threats regarding custody of any children, asserting that the police and justice system will not assist support or believe the victim or threatening to 'out' the person

PHYSICAL

This can include, but is not limited to: direct assault on the body (strangulation or choking, shaking, eye injuries, biting, slapping, pushing, spitting, punching, or kicking), the use of weapons, including objects, assault of children, locking the victim in or out of the house, forcing the victim to take drugs, withholding medication, food, or medical care, and sleep deprivation.

HARASSMENT & STALKING

This can include, but is not limited to: following and watching, telephone and online harassment, being intimidating, constantly checking up on what you are doing or where you are going.

DV IS NOT A GENDER ISSUE

Domestic Violence can be perpetrated by a partner, family member, carer, wife, husband, boyfriend or girlfriend. Neither victims or perpetrators belong to any colour or any religion, any gender.

MEN ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR PROTECTING WOMEN FROM VIOLENCE

Violent situations are inherently unpredictable and intervening in one could be potentially life threatening. It is not a man's responsibility to put his life at risk in order to protect others.

If you do witness violence against anyone, regardless of gender, you should certainly alert the police and other bystanders, and present yourself as a witness, but you should not feel obligated to intervene in any way that could put your safety at risk.