

Stats and Facts

on violence against women



WOMEN'S HEALTH
GOULBURN NORTH EAST
Challenging inequity, embracing diversity.

Violence against women is now widely recognised as a global problem and one of the most widespread violations of human rights. VicHealth 2008

Although both women and men can be perpetrators or victims of domestic violence and sexualised assault, research shows that the overwhelming majority of violence is perpetrated against women by men. ABS 2006

Family violence:

- is not an act of anger
- is a specific choice to exert **power and control** over another person/s.
- is often calculated and unseen by the public
- is based on unequal power that can be maintained economically, physically, emotionally and psychologically and has its basis in **fear**
- can be ongoing or a one-off action

Violence is gendered

Men are more likely to be killed or assaulted by other males unknown to them. ABS 2006

Women are more likely to be killed or assaulted by men known to them. ABS 2006

Women use violence in self-defence. VicHealth 2011

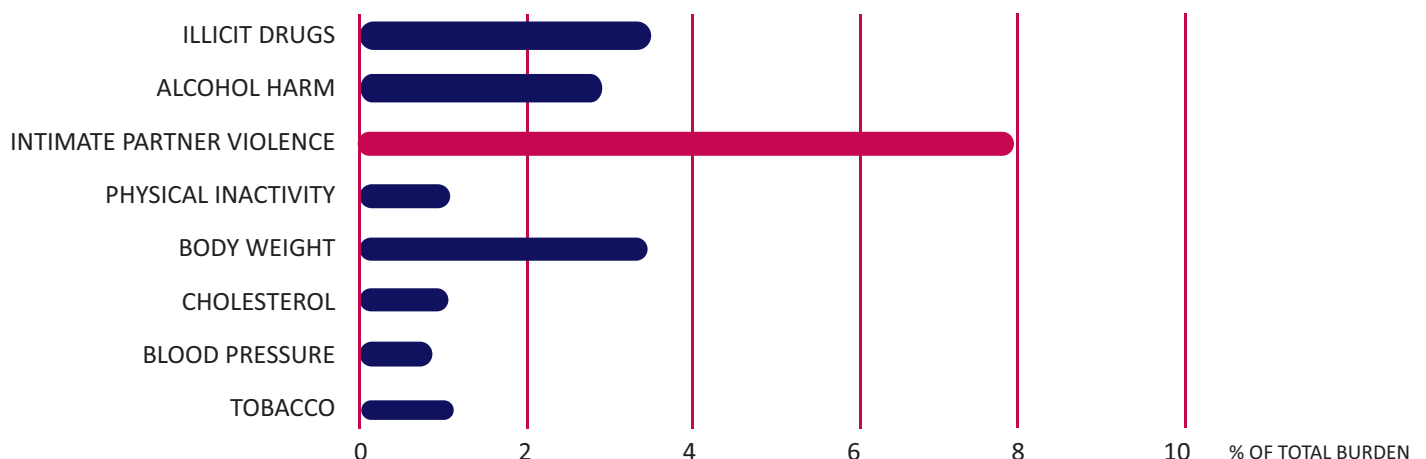
Men use violence, as a self-perceived 'right' or 'entitlement' as the male household leader over other family members. VicHealth 2011

Women suffer more severe forms of violence over time than men such as abuse, terrorisation and increasingly possessive and controlling behaviour. VicHealth 2011

Women are more likely to fear for their lives than men. VicHealth 2011

Violence is prevalence VicHealth 2008

Top eight risk factors contributing to the disease burden in women aged 15-44 years, Victoria, Australia, 2001



The United Nations (1993) define violence against women as:

'Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women.'

Domestic violence

'is an abuse of power within a relationship or after a separation when one partner in an intimate relationship attempts by physical or psychological means to dominate and control the other.'

VicHealth 2003

'Psychological and emotional abuse can include a range of controlling behaviours such as control of finances, isolation from family and friends, continual humiliation, threats against children or being threatened with injury or death.'

National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children.

In Australia since the age of 15:



one in five women have experienced sexual violence.



over **one in three women** have experienced physical violence

Over a third of women report at least one form of violence during their lifetime from a boyfriend or husband.

Violence is severe

“every week a woman is murdered by her partner or ex-partner”

Chief Commissioner Ken D. Lay APM

Women who have been exposed to violence:

- have poorer health; VicHealth 2008
- are more likely to engage in practices that harm their health; VicHealth 2008
- experience higher levels of anxiety and depression. VicHealth 2008

Up to 80% of women in the **mental health system** and up to 70% of women with **drug and alcohol issues**, have experienced sexual violence at some time in their past. QSAS 2010

Violence costs WHV, 211 & NCRVAWC, 2009

Australian women bear a large proportion of the cost. The estimated cost to the Australian economy was \$13.6 billion (in 2008-2009) and Australian business lose via staff turnover costs and sick leave.



**AUSTRALIAN
BUSINESSES**
*losing at least
\$500 million per year*

Violence is preventable Vic Health, 2007

The causes of domestic violence stem from deeply held beliefs about masculinity.

The most significant risk factors of violence against women are:

- belief in rigid gender roles;
- masculine orientation or sense of entitlement;
- male dominance and control of wealth in relationships.

To prevent violence against women before it occurs, actions need to:

- promote equal and respectful relationships between men and women;
- foster non-violent social norms and reduce the effects of prior exposure to violence; (especially on children)
- improve access to resources and systems of support .

“...men aren’t having hard conversations with each other.

So, guys: take a stand. Examine your own behaviour and attitudes. Re-calibrate whatever weird sense of manhood might tell you that the casual molestation of women is okay. This is your issue just as much as anybody else’s.”

Chief Commissioner Ken D. Lay APM

References

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Women’s health association of Victoria (WHV), 2011 *Proposal for the Inclusion of Violence Against Women as a State wide Health Promotion Priority*

Victoria Department of Health, (DH) Better Health Channel, *Domestic violence– why men abuse women.*

Queensland sexual assault services (QSAS), 2010, *The right to choose: enhancing best practice in responding to sexual assault in Queensland*

National Council to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children, (NCRVAWC) 2009 *The cost of violence against women and their children*

‘intimate partner violence’

‘family violence’

‘domestic violence’

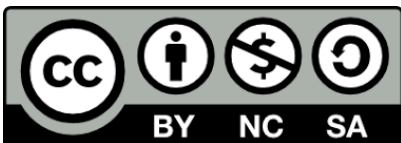
‘violence against women’

‘gender-based violence’

‘abuse’

are all interchangeable terms

– If you or anyone you know is experiencing violence please call 1800 015 188



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Women's Health Goulburn North East
Phone: (03) 5722 3009
Email: whealth@whealth.com.au
www.whealth.com.au

