



# Submission to the Inquiry into the relationship between domestic, family and sexual violence and suicide



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**“While we remain silent on this issue, men continue to be hurt, to be ignored. It's important we say no to all violence.”**

Maggie Hamilton - Author

**“We believe our society has the capacity to support all victims of family violence, whether male or female, young or old, gay or straight, rich or poor, wherever they live”**

One in Three Campaign



## Introduction

Imagine you're an Australian male (man or boy) and you're experiencing domestic or family violence – abuse, assault, coercive control – from your girlfriend, boyfriend, partner, or from a family member – maybe your mother or father, maybe a sibling, maybe even one of your children. You feel alone – that maybe there's something wrong with you – because every time you've heard about domestic violence, you've been told it's something that men do to women and children: that males can't be victims. The Government has a *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children* that doesn't include you. There are few services you can find that will help you (because you're male), and those who say they help males keep treating you with suspicion as a perpetrator or referring you to anger management courses. Maybe you're a separated dad being controlled and coerced by your ex-partner and you haven't seen your kids for months or years. Because you feel there's no-one you can ask for help, or if you do ask for help you won't be believed or taken seriously, you've never told anyone about the violence and abuse. You feel abused, controlled, trapped, alone, powerless, unable to escape. Do you think you might be at heightened risk of taking your own life?

Our submission will provide evidence that the hypothetical situation above is probably quite real, common, even typical. It will show that:

- Half of those Australians who take their own lives and are victims of domestic and family violence are male
- A significant proportion of all victims of domestic and family violence are male
- Coercive control affects males too
- Many males never report their victimisation nor seek help
- There is a lack of support services available for male victims and their children, and many support services have policies that treat male victims as perpetrators
- Government-funded research organisations actively exclude data showing significant levels of male victimisation from their reports, publish errors of fact to conceal it, then refuse to correct the errors when they are pointed out.

## About the One in Three Campaign

One in Three is a diverse community group made up of male and female professionals – academics, researchers, social workers, psychologists, counsellors, lawyers, health promotion workers, trainers and survivor/advocates. The Campaign aims to raise public awareness of the existence and needs of male victims of family violence and abuse; to work with government and non-government services alike to provide assistance to everyone affected by family violence; and to reduce the incidence and impacts of family violence on Australian men, women and children. We believe our society has the capacity to support all victims of family violence, whether male or female, young or old, gay or straight, rich or poor, wherever they live.

One in Three is primarily a lobbying and advocacy organisation. While we would love to do more, and there is a desperate need for additional services, we lack the resources to provide our own services or work extensively with other NGOs to provide services.

The main resource we provide is our website [oneinthree.com.au](http://oneinthree.com.au). It provides:

- information about the experiences of male victims of family violence and the barriers they often face to disclosing;
- research and statistics about male victims;
- opportunities for men to tell their own personal story and read more than 300 accounts from other men;



- news from around the globe; and
- a comprehensive list of national and international resources to assist males in crisis.

We have produced some powerful videos<sup>1</sup> of men telling their personal experiences of family violence and abuse. We regularly give conference presentations, provide research assistance to students and give talks at high schools. We have produced a series of seven free digital poster designs<sup>2</sup> aimed at educating boys and young men about respectful and healthy relationships. Unless we give men and boys the courage and support to disclose their experience as victims of family violence, they will continue to suffer in silence.

We have collaborated with various NGOs to establish better services for male victims, most notably working with *Victims & Witnesses of Crime Court Support* (VWCCS), *NSW Police* and *Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service* to develop the *Insight* trial court support scheme for male victims of violence at the Downing Centre and Parramatta Courthouses in inner and western Sydney.

Some other examples of collaborative work with NGOs include:

- assisting the *Men's Advocacy Network* in WA in developing the groundbreaking 2010 *Intimate Partner Abuse of Men*<sup>3</sup> report conducted by researchers from the School of Psychology and Social Science at Edith Cowan University
- collaborating with the *Western Sydney Men's and Relationship Services Network* to produce a poster<sup>4</sup> listing domestic and family violence services available to male victims, which was distributed widely amongst service providers in Western Sydney.

**One in Three regularly lodges submissions, attends consultations and appears before government inquiries and royal commissions into family violence. As a result, many recent state and federal inquiries have acknowledged the existence and needs of male victims of family violence and have recommended that better support services be provided for them.**

For example:

- The 2012 NSW Legislative Council's Inquiry into *Domestic Violence Trends and Issues in NSW*<sup>5</sup> found that:
  - "There was a broad recognition among inquiry participants that women offenders and male victims do exist". "Of [reported] victims of domestic assault in 2010, 69.2% were female, while 30.8% were male."
  - "Male victims have been much less visible and able to access supports than should be the case"
  - "The experience of [males]... is equally as bad as that of other victims"
  - "We recognise the gap in services for male victims and encourage the government to examine how services can most appropriately be provided to male victims of domestic violence"

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h\\_VhEXei2s8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h_VhEXei2s8)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.oneinthree.com.au/posters>

<sup>3</sup> Tilbrook, E., Allan, A. & Dear, G. (2010), *Intimate Partner Abuse of Men*. East Perth: Men's Advisory Network, May 26, 2010.

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.oneinthree.com.au/s/Domestic\\_Violence\\_Services\\_for\\_Male\\_Victims\\_2015.pdf](http://www.oneinthree.com.au/s/Domestic_Violence_Services_for_Male_Victims_2015.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> New South Wales Parliament (2012), Legislative Council, Standing Committee on Social Issues, *Domestic Violence Trends and Issues in NSW* (Report ; no. 46), p.xxxii.



- “Male victims... were identified during the inquiry as in need of special consideration with regard to domestic violence” along with “older people; young people; Aboriginal people; GLBTI people; people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds; and people with a disability.”
- The 2015 Victorian *Royal Commission Into Family Violence*<sup>6</sup> recommended that:
  - The Victorian Government publicise and promote the Victims Support Agency in any information campaign relating to family violence as the primary source of assistance for male victims. The agency should also provide appropriate online resources for male victims [within 12 months].
  - The Victims Support Agency continue to receive all police referrals (L17 forms) relating to male victims, including after the establishment of the Support and Safety Hubs. The agency and all other relevant support services should develop joint arrangements to ensure that male victims of family violence are supported in obtaining the help they need [within two years].
- The 2015 Federal Parliamentary Inquiry into *Domestic Violence in Australia*<sup>7</sup> recommended that:
  - “The Commonwealth Government recognise the need to provide appropriate services to male victims of domestic and family violence.”
- The 2021 Federal *Inquiry into Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence*<sup>8</sup> recommended that:
  - “...the next National Plan be inclusive of the diversity of victim-survivors. In particular, the next plan should recognise the rights and needs of women; children in their own right; men; older Australians; LGBTQI people; and people living with a disability.”
  - “...the Australian Government commission research into the prevalence of family, domestic and sexual violence against men, and its impact on male victim-survivors....”
  - “...the Department of Social Services review the adequacy of advice and referral services for men as victim-survivors of family, domestic and sexual violence.”

One in Three receives no funding and operates on an entirely voluntary basis.

## Half of those who take their own lives and are victims of DFV are male

In 2017 the NSW Domestic Violence Death Review Team presented the first stage findings of the DVDRT Secretariat’s review of all completed suicides in NSW in the 6-month period July to December 2013<sup>9</sup> with a view to reporting preliminary prevalence and demographic data, histories of police reported domestic violence and suicides where domestic violence perpetration or victimisation or separation was identifiable as a triggering or proximal event.

Their report made the following findings (page 145):

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<sup>6</sup> State of Victoria (2016), [Royal Commission into Family Violence: Summary and recommendations](#), Parl Paper No 132 (2014–16), p93.

<sup>7</sup> The Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee (2015), [Domestic violence in Australia](#), August 2015, p109.

<sup>8</sup> House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs (2021). [Inquiry into family, domestic and sexual violence](#). Canberra: Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia.

<sup>9</sup> Domestic Violence Death Review Team, [NSW Domestic Violence Death Review Team Report 2015-2017](#). Camperdown: Domestic Violence Death Review Team.



While there is a gender disparity between males and females who suicided, with males accounting for 74% of all suicides and females accounting for 26% of all suicides, an almost equal proportion of males and females who suicided were known to police for domestic violence (39% of females; 38% of males).

When considering the number of cases where the person who suicided is either known to police for violence, or the report of death indicates relationship conflict, a history of violence or relationship breakdown, this figure increases to around half (49% of all females who suicided; 52% of males who suicided). This figure appears high, but it must be born in mind that this does not necessarily highlight that the violence was causal: in some of these cases the violence was historical and may have had no bearing on the person’s decision to end their life.

**Domestic and Family Violence as a Characteristic of Completed Suicides in NSW, 1 July to 31 December 2013**

	Males	Females	Persons
Victim of Intimate Partner Violence	5	16	21
Victim of Family Violence	17	9	26
Victim of Intimate Partner & Family Violence	2	6	8
<b>Totals</b>	24	31	55
<b>%</b>	43.6%	56.4%	100.0%

Source: NSW Domestic Violence Death Review Team Report 2015-2017

In 2024 the Coroners Court of Victoria prepared a data summary in response to a request from Prof Anne Summers AO, to assist the Expert Panel conducting the rapid review of evidence-based approaches to prevent gender-based violence. This data summary provides an overview of Victorian Suicide Register (VSR) data the Court holds regarding the experience of family violence among people who suicided in Victoria.

Their report made the following finding (page 8):

### 3.4. Suicide among family violence victims

Among the 575 deceased who were family violence victims, differences in proportion of suicides by sex and perpetrator identity were pronounced.

**Table 4:** Number and proportion of suicides among family violence victims, by who perpetrated the violence, Victoria 2009-2016.

People who perpetrated the violence against the deceased	Male		Female		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Partners only	69	23.7	125	44.0	194	33.7
Other family members only	203	69.8	101	35.6	304	52.9
Both partners and other family members	19	6.5	58	20.4	77	13.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>100.0</b>

In a similar pattern to the older NSW data, males made up half (50.6%) of all family violence victims who took their own lives.



## Males make up a significant proportion of all victims of DFV

Last year a report from *The Australian Longitudinal Study on Male Health* found that almost one in three men reported having experienced Intimate Partner Violence (emotional, physical and/or sexual abuse). *The use of intimate partner violence among Australian men (2025)*<sup>10</sup> found that a full 30.9% of men surveyed in 2022 reported experiencing intimate partner violence in their lifetimes. Unfortunately the data is buried in the fine print of the report (Table S4 on page 87 of the Supplementary Materials).

Another 2025 large-scale study published in the *Medical Journal of Australia* surveyed 8503 people aged 16 years or older, of whom 7022 had been in intimate relationships. *The prevalence of intimate partner violence in Australia - a national survey (2025)*<sup>11</sup>, had the aim of estimating the prevalence in Australia of intimate partner violence, each intimate partner violence type, and multi-type intimate partner violence, overall and by gender, age group, and sexual orientation.

When it looked at the lifetime experience of any intimate partner violence among the 6934 women and men respondents with intimate partners at any time since age 16 years, it found that 45.5% of people who had experienced violence were male. That's almost half - much higher than the one in three figure consistently found in the ABS Personal Safety Survey for many years now.

When it came to physical intimate partner violence, men made up 44% of the men and women who had experienced it. Similar figures were found for psychological violence, with 44.8% being men. Men made up a smaller percentage (18%) of those men and women who had experienced sexual violence, but in the 16-24 year age group, one quarter (24.8%) were men.

Men were about as likely as women to be victims of many types of intimate partner violence. For example:

- Hit you with a fist or object, or kick or bite you (50.4% of persons who had experienced this were men)
- Harass you by phone, text, email or social media (44.8% of persons who had experienced this were men)
- Try to convince your family, children or friends that you were crazy, or try to turn them against you (44.6% of persons who had experienced this were men)
- Keep you from seeing or talking to your family or friends (43.7% of persons who had experienced this were men)
- Use or threaten to use a knife, gun or other weapon to harm you (42.6% of persons who had experienced this were men)
- Tell you that you were crazy, stupid or not good enough (42.4% of persons who had experienced this were men).

The study also looked at whether respondents had experienced just one type of intimate partner violence, or more than one type. When it came to multi-type intimate partner violence, men made up 40.2% of those men and women who had experienced it. They made up 49.6% of those who had experienced two types of intimate partner violence. When it came to those men and women who had experienced all three types of violence (physical, sexual and psychological), men made up a smaller proportion overall (17.6%), however once again in the 16-24 year age group, over a quarter (26.2%) were male.

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<sup>10</sup> O'Donnell, K., Woldegiorgis, M., Gasser, C., Scurrah, K., Andersson, C., McKay, H., Hegarty, K., Seidler, Z., & Martin, S. (2025). [The use of intimate partner violence among Australian men](#). Insights #3, Chapter 1. Melbourne: Australian Institute of Family Studies.

<sup>11</sup> Mathews, B., Hegarty, K.L., MacMillan, H.L., Madzoska, M., Erskine, H.E., Pacella, R., Scott, J.G., Thomas, H., Meinck, F., Higgins, D., Lawrence, D.M., Haslam, D., Roetman, S., Malacova, E. & Cubitt, T. (2025). [The prevalence of intimate partner violence in Australia: A national survey](#). *The Medical Journal of Australia*, pp. 1-9.



The Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Recorded Crime - Victims* report regularly finds that a significant proportion of victims of FDV-related homicide are male:

- In 2022<sup>12</sup>, almost one in two victims (47% or 64 victims) were male
- In 2021<sup>13</sup>, almost one in two victims (42% - 44 victims) were male
- In 2017<sup>14</sup>, almost one in two victims (43% - 54 victims) were male.

The NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, *NSW Crime Tool (2023)*<sup>15</sup> found that one in three victims (33%) of Domestic Assault from January 2021 to December 2022 were male. There were 11,881 male and 24,070 female victims.

The ANROWS Research Report, *Adolescent family violence in Australia (2022)*<sup>16</sup> found that a larger proportion of adolescent females than males reported using violence in the home. Specifically, 23 per cent (n=762) of females had used violence, compared to 14 per cent (n=234) of males. This difference was statistically significant. Adolescent females were statistically more likely to report that they had perpetrated both physical/sexual violence and non-physical forms of abuse against their family members compared to males (38% vs. 29%). Female young people were statistically more likely to use violence against multiple family members than males (46% vs. 38%). While mothers were more likely targets of this violence (including adopted mothers; 51%) than fathers (including adopted fathers; 37%), much of the violence was retaliatory in nature, with 68 per cent of respondents whose mothers had been violent towards them saying they had used violence against them.

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's Examination of hospital stays due to family and domestic violence 2010-11 to 2018-19 (2021)<sup>17</sup> found that around 29,000 people had at least one FDV hospital stay from 2010–11 to 2017–18. Of these, 1 in 3 were male (32%).

The Australian Bureau of Statistics 4906.0 - Personal Safety, Australia, 2016 (2017)<sup>18</sup> was the largest and most recent survey of violence in Australia (the ABS did carry out the survey in 2021-22, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic the survey was much smaller in scope and failed to produce much useable data on male victims due to the large relative standard errors involved). The 2016 report found that:

DURING THE LAST 12 MONTHS<sup>19</sup>

- Over 1 in 3 persons who experienced violence from an intimate partner were male (35.3%)
- Almost 1 in 3 persons who experienced violence from a cohabiting partner were male (32.7%)

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<sup>12</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics (2023). [Recorded Crime - Victims, 2022](#). Canberra: ABS.

<sup>13</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics (2022). [Recorded Crime - Victims, Australia, 2021](#). Canberra: Australian Bureau of Statistics.

<sup>14</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics (2018). [4510.0 - Recorded Crime - Victims, Australia, 2017](#). Canberra: Australian Bureau of Statistics.

<sup>15</sup> NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (2023). [NSW Crime Tool: Incidents of Assault \(Domestic assault\)](#) from January 2021 to December 2022. BOCSAR, Sydney.

<sup>16</sup> Fitz-Gibbon, K., Meyer, S., Maher, J., & Roberts, S. (2022). [Adolescent family violence in Australia: A national study of prevalence, history of childhood victimisation and impacts](#) (Research report, 15/2022). ANROWS, Sydney.

<sup>17</sup> Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2021). [Examination of hospital stays due to family and domestic violence 2010-11 to 2018-19](#). Cat. no. FDV 9. Canberra: AIHW.

<sup>18</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics (2017). [Personal Safety Survey, Australia, 2016](#) (Cat. No. 4906.0). Canberra: Australian Bureau of Statistics.

<sup>19</sup> Some of these estimates have Relative Standard Errors (RSEs) of greater than 25% and should be used with caution due to the relatively small number of males surveyed by the ABS.



- Almost 2 in 5 persons who experienced violence from a current partner were male (39.9%)
- Over 1 in 3 persons who experienced violence from a boyfriend/girlfriend or date were male (34.3%)
- Almost 1 in 5 persons who experienced violence from a previous partner were male (18.8%)
- Almost half the persons who experienced violence from a known person were male (45.5%)
- Almost half the persons who experienced emotional abuse by a partner were male (45.8%) (47.7% of persons who experienced it by a current partner and 43.4% by a previous partner)
- Almost half of these males experienced anxiety or fear due to the emotional abuse (41.4% of males who experienced current partner abuse and 43.1% of males who experienced previous partner abuse)
- 13.8% of men that experienced emotional abuse by a current partner had their partner deprive them of basic needs such as food, shelter, sleep, or assistive aids, compared to 6.4% of women.
- 8.9% of men that experienced emotional abuse by a current partner had their partner threaten to take their child/ren away from them, compared to 4.6% of women.
- 38.5% of men that experienced emotional abuse by a previous partner had their partner lie to their child/ren with the intent of turning them against them, compared to 25.1% of women.
- 7.3% of men that experienced emotional abuse by a current partner had their partner lie to other family members or friends with the intent of turning them against them, compared to 6.6% of women.
- 10.1% of men that experienced current partner emotional abuse had their current partner keep track of where they were and who they were with, compared to 9.9% of women.
- Over 1 in 3 persons who experienced sexual harassment were male (34.0%). Most males who experienced sexual harassment were harassed by a female perpetrator (72.2% were harassed by a female while 48.2% were harassed by a male).
- The largest category of increase in sexual harassment between 2012 and 2016 was in males harassed by a female perpetrator, which rose by a massive 67.5%. Females harassed by a male perpetrator rose by 15% during the same period.
- Over 1 in 3 persons who experienced stalking were male (35.0%). Most males who experienced stalking were stalked by a male perpetrator (68.9% were stalked by a male while 36.3% were stalked by a female).
- Almost 1 in 3 persons who experienced sexual assault were male (28.4%). Most males who experienced sexual violence were assaulted or threatened by a female perpetrator (82.9%).
- 6 per cent of all males experienced violence compared to 4.7% of all females.
- The majority of men that experienced intimate partner violence experienced it by a female perpetrator (93.6%). The remainder were in same-sex relationships with male perpetrators.

#### SINCE THE AGE OF 15

- Men were 2 to 3 times more likely than women to have never told anybody about experiencing partner violence, around 50% more likely than women to have never sought advice or support about experiencing partner violence, almost 20% more likely than women to have not contacted police about experiencing partner violence, and less than half as likely as women to have had a restraining order issued against the perpetrator of previous partner violence.



#### AFTER FINAL SEPARATION FROM VIOLENT PREVIOUS PARTNER

- Male victims were more than twice as likely to report 'sleeping rough' (e.g. on the street, in a car, in a tent, squatting in an abandoned building) after finally separating from their violent previous partner compared with female victims (4.7% vs 1.9%) and less than half as likely to report having stayed in a refuge or shelter (2.4% vs 5.1%).

We have attached a more in-depth, externally verified analysis of recent data from the 2016 ABS *Personal Safety Survey* and the Australian Institute of Criminology's *National Homicide Monitoring Program* as **Appendix A** to this submission.

The above figures demonstrate that males make up a significant proportion of persons who experience family and domestic violence, and who take their own lives after experiencing it.

### Coercive control affects males too

Some claim that coercive control – a pattern of abuse that degrades, humiliates and isolates victims, and takes away their freedom and autonomy – is predominantly or almost exclusively perpetrated by men towards women and children.

Research from the UK challenges this assertion. In 2014 Elizabeth Bates from the University of Cumbria, along with Nicola Graham-Kevan and John Archer from the University of Central Lancashire published their study titled *Testing predictions from the male control theory of men's partner violence*<sup>20</sup>:

The aim of this study was to test predictions from the male control theory of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and Johnson's (1995) typology. A student sample (N = 1104) reported on their use of physical aggression and controlling behaviour, to partners and to same-sex non-intimates. Contrary to the male control theory, women were found to be more physically aggressive to their partners than men were, and the reverse pattern was found for aggression to same-sex non-intimates. Furthermore, there were no substantial sex differences in controlling behaviour, which significantly predicted physical aggression in both sexes. IPV was found to be associated with physical aggression to same-sex non-intimates, thereby demonstrating a link with aggression outside the family. Using Johnson's (1995) typology, women were more likely than men to be classed as "intimate terrorists", which was counter to earlier findings. Overall, these results do not support the male control theory of IPV. Instead, they fit the view that IPV does not have a special aetiology, and is better studied within the context of other forms of aggression.

The recent Australian Bureau of Statistics *Personal Safety Survey* (2016)<sup>21</sup> measured several types of emotional abuse by current and previous partners which are commonly cited as components of coercive controlling behaviour. For example, abusive behaviours such as the following were experienced by significant numbers of Australian males:

- Controlled or tried to control them from contacting family, friends or community
- Kept track of where they were and who they were with (e.g. constant phone calls, GPS tracking, monitoring through social media)
- Controlled or tried to control their income or assets
- Deprived them of basic needs such as food, shelter, sleep or assistive aids
- Damaged, destroyed or stole any of their property
- Constantly insulted them to make them feel ashamed, belittled or humiliated (e.g. put downs)
- Shouted, yelled or verbally abused them to intimidate them
- Lied to their child/ren with the intent of turning them against them

<sup>20</sup> Bates, E. A., Graham-Kevan, N. and Archer, J. (2014), [Testing predictions from the male control theory of men's partner violence](#). *Aggr. Behav.*, 40: 42–55. doi:10.1002/ab.21499.

<sup>21</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics (2017). [Personal Safety Survey, Australia, 2016](#) (Cat. No. 4906.0). Canberra: Australian Bureau of Statistics.



- Lied to other family members or friends with the intent of turning them against them
- Threatened to take their child/ren away from them.



## Australian Bureau of Statistics

### 49060DO0004\_2016 Personal Safety, Australia, 2016

Released at 11.30am (Canberra time) 8 November 2017

**Table 28.1 TYPES OF EMOTIONAL ABUSE BEHAVIOURS EXPERIENCED BY PARTNER, By sex of respondent and part**

	FEMALES	MALES	FEMALES	MALES
	CURRENT PARTNER(a) EMOTIONAL ABUSE		PREVIOUS PARTNER(b) EMOTIONAL ABUSE	
	ESTIMATE ('000)			
<b>Types of emotional abuse behaviours experienced by a partner(c)</b>				
Controlled or tried to control them from contacting family, friends or community	131.3	97.1	838.5	435.1
Controlled or tried to control them from using the telephone, internet or family car	69.8	*39.0	494.0	177.8
Controlled or tried to control where they went or who they saw	112.2	91.1	783.0	330.5
Kept track of where they were and who they were with (e.g. constant phone calls, GPS tracking, monitoring through social media)	56.7	*47.9	455.1	172.6
Controlled or tried to control them from knowing about, having access to or making decisions about household money	122.6	82.2	635.0	233.6
Controlled or tried to control them from working or earning money	58.1	*25.5	372.7	116.2
Controlled or tried to control their income or assets	52.3	*35.3	449.6	231.7
Controlled or tried to control them from studying	*19.9	**8.4	235.1	*38.0
Deprived them of basic needs such as food, shelter, sleep or assistive aids	36.8	*65.5	218.3	77.9
Damaged, destroyed or stole any of their property	63.4	*29.2	541.8	283.4
Constantly insulted them to make them feel ashamed, belittled or humiliated (e.g. put downs)	181.8	105.6	1,004.2	373.3
Shouted, yelled or verbally abused them to intimidate them	334.6	177.1	1,071.7	484.2
Lied to their child/ren with the intent of turning them against them	31.4	*21.3	425.0	403.1
Lied to other family members or friends with the intent of turning them against	38.1	*34.8	552.4	394.3
Threatened to take their child/ren away from them	26.4	*42.0	406.4	287.5
Threatened to harm their child/ren	*7.8	0.0	158.7	*44.8
Threatened to harm their other family members or friends	*9.6	**3.1	230.8	*40.0
Threatened to harm any of their pets	*8.0	0.0	141.6	*33.6
Harmed any of their pets	*4.0	0.0	90.7	**15.0
Threatened or tried to commit suicide	59.9	*49.7	414.6	169.7
<b>Total persons who experienced emotional abuse</b>	<b>575.4</b>	<b>473.6</b>	<b>1,690.3</b>	<b>1,048.0</b>

\* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

\*\* estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

Cells in this table have been randomly adjusted to avoid the release of confidential data. Discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

(a) A partner the person currently lives with in a married or de facto relationship.

(b) A person that the respondent lived with at some point in a married or de facto relationship from whom the respondent is now separated, divorced or widowed from.

(c) Components are not able to be added together to produce a total. Where a person has experienced more than one type of emotional abuse behaviour, they are counted separately for each type of behaviour but are counted only once in the aggregated total.

The Australian Institute of Family Studies' *Experiences of Separated Parents Study (Evaluation of the 2012 Family Violence Amendments)*<sup>22</sup> is based upon interviews with a nationally representative sample of 6,079 parents who had separated between 1 July 2012 and 31 December 2013.

Fathers were statistically significantly more likely than mothers to report having often felt controlled or coerced after experiencing physical violence or emotional abuse since separation. When it came to severity, fathers were also more likely than mothers to report experiencing the highest level of fear, control and coercion (10 on a 10-point scale) that they felt

<sup>22</sup> Kaspiew, R., Carson, R., Dunstan, J., De Maio, J., Moore, S., Moloney, L. et al. (2015). [Experiences of Separated Parents Study \(Evaluation of the 2012 Family Violence Amendments\)](#). Melbourne: Australian Institute of Family Studies.



arising from the focus parent's behaviour since separation. Experiences of control and coercion were statistically significantly higher for fathers than mothers.

Researchers at Deakin University investigating Alcohol/Drug-Involved Family Violence in Australia<sup>23</sup> surveyed a representative sample of 5,118 Australians and found that males accounted for between 11% and 37% of victims in incidents attended by police, and 24% of intimate partner violence victims and 34% of family violence victims in a panel survey. It also found that “there were no significant differences in the proportion of male and female respondents classified as engaging in no, low, and high Coercive Controlling Behaviours ( $p > 0.05$ ).”

## Many males never report their victimisation nor seek help

Male victims of family violence and abuse – like women – often face many barriers to disclosing their abuse. However, male victims face a set of unique barriers which make them much less likely to report being a victim of family violence.

Men are 2 to 3 times more likely than women to have *never* told *anybody* about experiencing partner violence<sup>24</sup>. 54.1% of males who have experienced current partner violence have *never* told anybody about it, along with 20.9% of males who have experienced previous partner violence.

Men are also around 50% more likely than women to have *never* sought advice or support about experiencing partner violence<sup>25</sup>. 68.1% of males who have experienced current partner violence have *never* sought advice or support, along with 59.2% of males who have experienced previous partner violence.

Many barriers to male victims disclosing their abuse are created or amplified by the lack of public acknowledgement that males can also be victims of family violence, the lack of appropriate services for male victims and their children, and the lack of appropriate help available for male victims from existing services. Such barriers include:

- not knowing where to seek help
- not knowing how to seek help
- feeling there is nowhere to escape to
- feeling they won't be believed or understood as victims
- feeling that their experiences would be minimised or they would be falsely blamed for the violence and/or abuse
- feeling that services would be unable or unwilling to offer them appropriate help
- fear that they would be falsely arrested because of their gender and that their children would be left unprotected from the perpetrator.

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<sup>23</sup> Miller, P, et al (2016), [Alcohol/Drug-Involved Family Violence in Australia \(ADIVA\) Final Report](#), Deakin University.

<sup>24</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics (2013), [Personal Safety Survey, Australia, 2012](#), cat no 4906.0, ABS, Canberra. Table 23 EXPERIENCE OF PARTNER VIOLENCE SINCE THE AGE OF 15, Whether ever told anyone about partner violence. 54.1% of males and 25.6% of females have never told anyone about violence by their current partner since the age of 15. 20.9% of males and 6.7% of females have never told anyone about violence by their previous partner since the age of 15.

<sup>25</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics (2017). [Personal Safety Survey, Australia, 2016](#) (Cat. No. 4906.0). Canberra: Australian Bureau of Statistics. Table 17.1 EXPERIENCE OF CURRENT PARTNER VIOLENCE SINCE AGE 15, By sex of respondent, Estimate. 102,400 males in 2016 did not seek advice or support after incident of violence by a current partner, while 150,300 males had experienced violence by a current partner since the age of 15. 126,900 females in 2016 did not seek advice or support after incident of violence by a current partner, while 275,000 females had experienced violence by a current partner since the age of 15. Table 18.1 EXPERIENCE OF PREVIOUS PARTNER VIOLENCE SINCE AGE 15, By sex of respondent, Estimate. 235,300 males in 2016 did not seek advice or support after incident of violence by a previous partner, while 397,300 males had experienced violence by a previous partner since the age of 15. 506,800 females in 2016 did not seek advice or support after incident of violence by a previous partner, while 1,372,900 females had experienced violence by a previous partner since the age of 15.



Many male victims face barriers to disclosing their abuse because of the challenges such disclosure brings to their sense of manhood. Such barriers include:

- shame, embarrassment and/or social stigma
- shame at feeling unable to protect themselves and/or feeling less independent
- fear of being laughed at or ridiculed
- fear of being called 'weak' or 'wimpy'
- disbelief, denial, and making excuses for their partner's violence and abuse.

Some people may raise the question, "Have male victims who don't seek advice or support done so because the violence they experienced was so minor or trivial?" There doesn't appear to be evidence to support this theory. The only Australian study we are aware of to have explored this question is the large-scale South Australian *Interpersonal Violence and Abuse Survey*<sup>26</sup> which found that "females (22.0%) were more likely to report the [domestic violence] incident(s) to the police than males (7.5%)". Respondents who did not leave their partner as the result of the violence were asked their reasons for staying in the abusive relationship. 28 per cent of males and 20.8 per cent of females answered "violence not serious enough" – slightly higher for males but not significantly so. Respondents who had left or stayed apart because of the violence and abuse were asked their reasons for leaving. 50 per cent of males and 64.1 per cent of females answered "continuation of violence/abuse" – once again slightly higher for females but not significantly so.

Internationally, Watson & Parsons' *Domestic Abuse of Women and Men in Ireland: Report on the National Study of Domestic Abuse*<sup>27</sup> (a large-scale community survey) found that "women are more likely than men to report [severe abuse] to the Gardaí [Irish Police]. Over a quarter of women reported their experience to the Gardaí compared to about one man in 20" (a statistically significant difference).

## Government agencies dominated by gender ideology

The data cited above demonstrating that a significant proportion of family violence victims are male may come as a surprise to some. This is to be expected because many government agencies actively suppress and cherry-pick data to support an ideology that claims that the overwhelming majority of victims of family violence are female and the overwhelming majority of perpetrators are male (the end result of this being that male victims and female perpetrators are ignored).

A relevant contemporary case study that demonstrates this problem involves the Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS). In 2023, the AIFS was commissioned by the Australian Attorney-General's Department to identify, summarise, analyse and synthesise the existing Australian academic research and evaluations on coercive control. Note that *no* gendered focus was specified by the Department (such as to only focus upon research and evaluations involving female victims).

Ignoring the Department's request, the AIFS adopted an approach that followed some Australian and international researchers who conceptualise coercive control as "a gendered phenomenon that occurs in a broader context of gender inequalities and norms amongst other intersectional inequalities<sup>28</sup>." For this reason, it did not focus on men's experiences.

Instead of identifying, summarising, analysing and synthesising the existing Australian academic research and evaluations on coercive control in an open and unbiased manner, then (if warranted) concluding that coercive control was a gendered phenomenon, the AIFS decided that coercive control was a gendered phenomenon then actively excluded all data that

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<sup>26</sup> Dal Grande et al. (1999). [Interpersonal Violence and Abuse Survey](#). Adelaide: South Australian Department of Human Services.

<sup>27</sup> Watson, D., & Parsons, S. (2005). [Domestic Abuse of Women and Men in Ireland: Report on the National Study of Domestic Abuse](#). Dublin: National Crime Council.

<sup>28</sup> Correspondence between the One in Three Campaign and the Australian Institute of Family Studies, May 2024. <https://oneinthree.com.au/s/Correspondence-between-1IN3-and-AIFS.pdf>



challenged this orthodoxy. They put the cart before the horse. This is antithetical to the scientific method. If an undergraduate student adopted this approach at any university, they would be failed.

Some of the data actively excluded by the AIFS included the following:

### The Emotional Abuse component of the ABS Personal Safety Survey 2016<sup>29</sup>

Approximately 23% of women (2.3 million) have experienced emotional abuse by a cohabiting partner since the age of 15, including:

- 4.3% (431,000) by their current partner
- 20% (1.9 million) by a previous partner, including 269,200 who have experienced emotional abuse by more than one previous partner

Approximately 14% of men (1.3 million) have experienced emotional abuse by a cohabiting partner, including:

- 2.9% (281,200) by their current partner
- 11% (1.1 million) by a previous partner

Of the 431,000 women who experienced emotional abuse by their current partner:

- 85% experienced threatening or degrading behaviours
- 37% experienced controlling social behaviours
- 33% experienced controlling economic behaviours

Of the 1.9 million women who experienced emotional abuse by a previous partner:

- 90% experienced threatening or degrading behaviours
- 63% experienced controlling social behaviours
- 59% experienced controlling economic behaviours

Of the 1.1 million men who experienced emotional abuse by a previous partner:

- 87% experienced threatening or degrading behaviours
- 56% experienced controlling social behaviours
- 51% experienced controlling economic behaviours

<sup>29</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2021-22). Partner violence. ABS.

<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/crime-and-justice/partner-violence/latest-release>.



### The Economic Abuse component of the ABS Personal Safety Survey 2016<sup>30</sup>

Approximately 16% of women (1.6 million) have experienced economic abuse by a cohabiting partner since the age of 15, including:

- 1.8% (173,900) by a current partner
- 15% (1.5 million) by a previous partner

An estimated 7.8% of men (745,000) have experienced economic abuse by a cohabiting partner since the age of 15, including:

- \*1.7% (\*159,700) by a current partner
- 6.7% (636,000) by a previous partner

Of the 173,900 women who experienced economic abuse by their current partner:

- 75% experienced economic restriction behaviours
- 34% experienced economic sabotage behaviours
- 23% experienced economic exploitation behaviours

Of the 1.5 million women who experienced economic abuse by a previous partner:

- 78% experienced economic sabotage behaviours
- 69% experienced economic restriction behaviours
- 42% experienced economic exploitation behaviours

Of the 636,000 men who experienced economic abuse by a previous partner:

- 69% experienced economic sabotage behaviours
- 61% experienced economic restriction behaviours
- 51% experienced economic exploitation behaviours

### The AIFS's own "Experiences of Separated Parents Study" 2012<sup>31</sup>

As part of their evaluation of the 2012 family violence amendments, the AIFS found that there were statistically significant differences between mothers and fathers who reported feeling fearful, coerced, or controlled and who experienced physical violence or emotional abuse. Many of these differences demonstrated greater victimisation levels for mothers, but some showed greater victimisation levels for fathers. Mothers were consistently more likely to report experiencing safety concerns than participants who were fathers. However fathers' reports that the focus child was "often" exposed to the focus parent's fearful, coercive or controlling behaviour were about twice as high as those of mothers in the post-separation period.

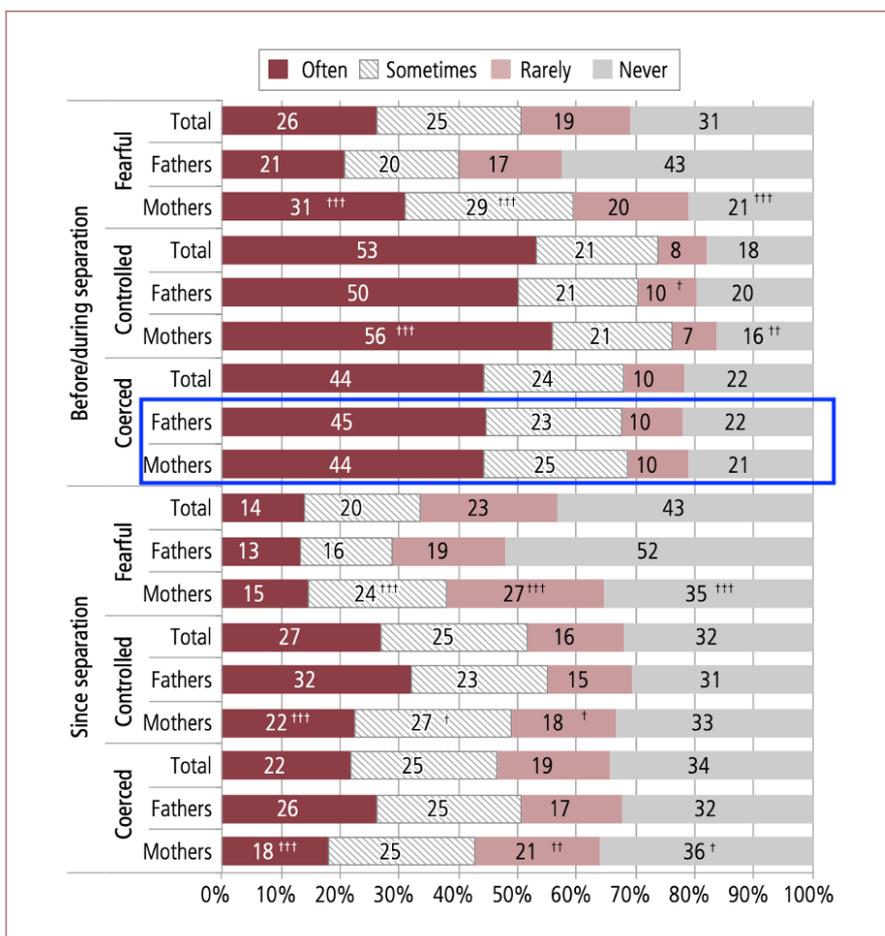
<sup>30</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2021-22). Partner violence. ABS.

<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/crime-and-justice/partner-violence/latest-release>.

<sup>31</sup> 25 Kaspiew, R., Carson, R., Dunstan, J., De Maio, J., Moore, S., Moloney, L. et al. (2015). Experiences of Separated Parents Study (Evaluation of the 2012 Family Violence Amendments). Melbourne: Australian Institute of Family Studies.. Retrieved April 29th, 2018, from <https://aifs.gov.au/research/research-reports/experiences-separated-parents-study>



The data showed that mothers were more likely than fathers to report feelings of control before or during separation. However mothers and fathers were equally likely to report feelings of coercion:

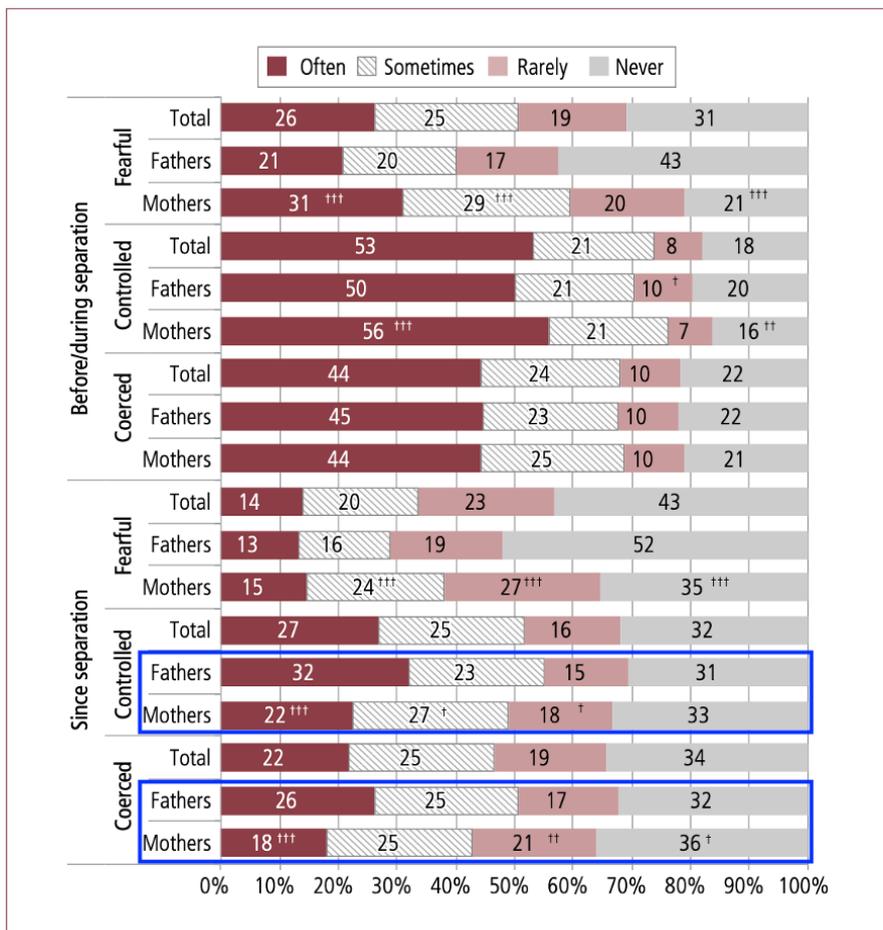


Notes: Data have been weighted. Parents who reported experiencing family violence before/during separation were asked: "How often did <focus parent>'s behaviour before or during separation make you feel: fearful; controlled; coerced?". Parents who reported experiencing family violence since separation were asked: "How often did <focus parent>'s behaviour since separation make you feel: fearful; controlled; coerced?" Percentages may not total 100.0% due to rounding. Statistically significant differences between mothers and fathers within a given population (fearful, controlled, coerced) are noted: <sup>†</sup> p < .05; <sup>\*\*</sup> p < .01; <sup>\*\*\*</sup> p < .001.

**Figure 3.14: Frequency of focus parent's behaviour making participant feel fearful, controlled or coerced before/during and since separation, by parent gender, 2014**



Fathers experienced statistically significantly higher frequencies of control and coercion since separation than did mothers:

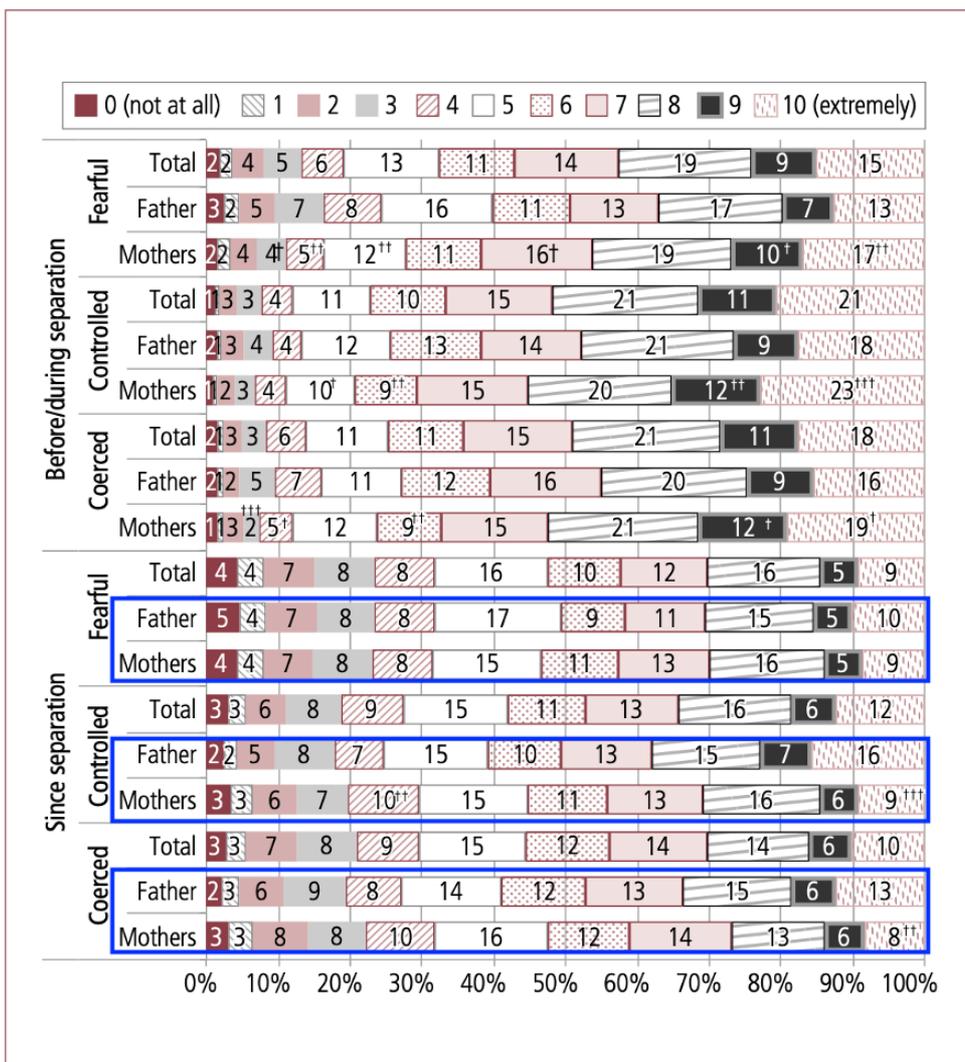


Notes: Data have been weighted. Parents who reported experiencing family violence before/during separation were asked: "How often did <focus parent>'s behaviour before or during separation make you feel: fearful; controlled; coerced?". Parents who reported experiencing family violence since separation were asked: "How often did <focus parent>'s behaviour since separation make you feel: fearful; controlled; coerced?" Percentages may not total 100.0% due to rounding. Statistically significant differences between mothers and fathers within a given population (fearful, controlled, coerced) are noted: <sup>†</sup>  $p < .05$ ; <sup>\*\*</sup>  $p < .01$ ; <sup>\*\*\*</sup>  $p < .001$ .

**Figure 3.14: Frequency of focus parent's behaviour making participant feel fearful, controlled or coerced before/during and since separation, by parent gender, 2014**



Fathers experienced equal (fear) or statistically significantly higher (control and coercion) ratings of severity since separation than did mothers:



Notes: Data have been weighted. Parents who reported feeling fearful, controlled or coerced due to focus parent's behaviour before or during separation were asked: "On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is not at all and 10 is extremely, how fearful (controlled; coerced) has <focus parent>'s behaviour before or during separation made you feel?" Percentages may not total 100.0% due to rounding. Statistically significant differences between mothers and fathers within a given population (fearful, controlled, coerced) are noted: †  $p < .05$ ; ††  $p < .01$ ; †††  $p < .001$ .

**Figure 3.16: Ratings of feeling fearful, controlled or coerced because of focus parent's behavior before/during and since separation, by parent gender, 2014**

The AIFS not only excluded this data showing significant levels of male victimisation from their report, they published errors of fact to conceal it, then refused to correct the errors when they were pointed out<sup>32</sup>.

By omitting data about the experiences of male victims when they exist, and by making false claims about the research data when they demonstrate higher levels of male than female victimisation, the reader and the governments of the day could be misled into mistakenly believing that males do not experience behaviours typically associated with coercive control.

<sup>32</sup> Correspondence between the One in Three Campaign and the Australian Institute of Family Studies, May 2024. <https://oneinthree.com.au/s/Correspondence-between-1IN3-and-AIFS.pdf>



Male victims are rendered invisible, increasing the likelihood that they will be unable to access appropriate services and support because of their sex.

The AIFS report will likely be frequently cited over the coming years as governments around Australia wrestle with the thorny issue of how best to deal with coercive control. All will likely be misled into believing that coercive control is an issue that only affects females.

This case study exemplifies a paradigm that has existed ever since family violence became a public issue in the 1970s<sup>33</sup>. Rather than seeing family violence as a human issue with multiple complex causes that can affect anyone, it has been seen as a gendered issue of male power over women, and any evidence that contradicts this belief has been actively suppressed. This hasn't increased support for female victims. All it has done is stop male victims getting the help they need.

In fact, evidence has just come to light<sup>34</sup> demonstrating that *Our Watch's* framework to end gendered violence was based on research that was incomplete and modified for political reasons. Evidence about the role of alcohol and the socioeconomic factors in men's violence were suppressed. *Change the story* conceptualised the drivers of violence against women as entirely "gendered".

We urge the Committee not to follow this biased and unscientific approach of putting gender ideology before evidence. We trust it will instead conduct its inquiries with an open mind unburdened by ideology of any kind, focusing upon evidence rather than hearsay, opinion or dogma.

## Lack of support services for male victims and their children

Many domestic and family violence services exclude males on the basis of their sex (e.g. many counselling and support services, accommodation services, helplines and crisis response, community education and prevention programmes, court services and legal advice such as "safe rooms" at courthouses, support groups and health service screening tools).

Some generic (i.e. not male-specific or male-friendly) support is certainly available but such services are often unaware of the unique issues faced by male victims of family violence or have been set up using a paradigm designed to support women, and are therefore unable to offer effective and appropriate help. Some generic – and even specialist male – services do not believe male victims, minimise their experiences or even blame them for the violence and abuse. While individual workers within generic services might be aware of the issues facing male victims, they can often face workplace cultures and systems that aren't supportive. This is reinforced by the lack of available specialist training for workers in the family violence sector in how best to work with men. The current paradigm teaches workers that male victims barely exist so no special skills are needed to work with them.

The Australian *Intimate Partner Abuse of Men* study found that service providers "rated themselves and their agencies as only moderately effective in (1) overcoming the barriers to men disclosing and (2) harnessing the factors that facilitate disclosure... there is a lot of work needed in terms of training and service design if agencies are to be effective in assisting men to disclose abuse."<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> Straus, M. (2007). [Processes Explaining the Concealment and Distortion of Evidence on Gender Symmetry in Partner Violence](#). European Journal on Criminal Policy and Research Vol. 13 pp 227-232.

<sup>34</sup> Ziwick, K (2024). [Exclusive: Health authority suppressed gendered violence research](#). The Saturday Paper, July 27 – August 2, 2024, No. 510.

<sup>35</sup> Tilbrook, E, Allan, A, and Dear, G (2010). [Intimate Partner Abuse of Men](#). East Perth: Men's Advisory Network, May 26, 2010.



Government-funded services are often suspicious of “male perpetrators claiming to be victims” (but not “female perpetrators claiming to be victims”). The MARAM Framework<sup>36</sup>, which provides guidance to national telephone support lines such as 1800-RESPECT and MensLine Australia states:

“A smaller number of heterosexual, cisgender men do experience violence from cisgender female intimate partners. Professionals should exercise caution when responding to family violence where this relationship dynamic is reported. There may be potential for perpetrators and victim survivors to be misidentified where male perpetrators report or present as a victim survivor, adopting a victim stance. Male perpetrators may adopt a victim stance generally, or in relation to their experience of violent resistance from a victim survivor. Men who experience violent resistance from victim survivors (violence that responds to their own ongoing use of family violence risk behaviours, such as coercive and controlling behaviours) are not victim survivors.”

The Judicial College of Victoria’s *Family Violence Bench Book*<sup>37</sup> similarly advises members of the judiciary that,

“The research evidence and experience of family violence professionals unambiguously demonstrates that relatively few men in heterosexual relationships are solely victims of intimate partner violence. The majority of women who use some form of violence towards their partner have been subjected to (worse) violence by that man before, or on the same occasion. Often, men who are genuinely victims of family violence experience the violence from a same sex partner, carer or a male relative. Men who are the principle users of family violence often try to present as a victim or the victim of violence. Sometimes they succeed in convincing themselves, police and others.”

These policies fail to support male victims of family violence and fail to challenge female perpetrators who claim to be victims.

While it is undeniable that the range of family violence services currently provided across Australia are inadequate to meet all the needs of female victims, male victims are denied access to the vast majority of such services that are available to women. Despite males making up a significant proportion of victims of family violence overall in the Australian community, there are far fewer support services available to male victims and their children compared to female victims.

Thankfully, family violence legislation is gender-neutral. However only men are discriminated against in policy and service provision.

This is an appalling, unjust state of affairs that denies basic human rights to half of Australia’s citizens on the basis of their gender.

For those who argue this discrimination is appropriate because the majority of victims of family violence are women, our response would be that we do not discriminate in this way on any other issue.

We don’t deny services to suicidal women because more men kill themselves, or deny workplace health and safety programs to women because more men die in the workplace.

We have the capacity to support all victims of family violence, whether male or female, young or old, gay or straight, rich or poor, whatever their religion or cultural background, and wherever they live.

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<sup>36</sup> State of Victoria, Australia, Family Safety Victoria (2021). [MARAM PRACTICE GUIDES. FOUNDATION KNOWLEDGE GUIDE](#). Melbourne: Victorian Government.

<sup>37</sup> Judicial College of Victoria (2014). [Family Violence Bench Book](#). Melbourne: Judicial College of Victoria.



## Conclusion

Until governments, academia and the mainstream media acknowledge the reality that men and boys experience domestic and family violence and coercive control in significant numbers and this violence affects males just as it does females...

Until support services are made available that believe male victims, take them seriously, offer them appropriate support and stop treating them as perpetrators...

Until government-funded research agencies stop actively concealing evidence of male victimisation because it conflicts with their ideological agendas...

Until we send out the message to the Australian community that domestic and family violence can affect anyone – that experiencing it doesn't make you any less of a man, and that disclosing your experiences is both courageous and masculine...

...male victims of domestic and family violence will continue to take their own lives.

We will end this submission with the recommendations of the 2010 *Intimate Partner Abuse of Men*<sup>38</sup> study by researchers at Edith Cowan University in Western Australia, which are still as pertinent now as they were 16 years ago:

### Recommendations

1. That government funded public awareness campaigns be conducted to raise awareness of intimate partner violence against men. Such campaigns need to be very carefully designed so as to complement campaigns about family violence against women and children and not to damage the effectiveness of those campaigns.
2. Consideration should be given to providing publicly-funded services specifically for male victims of DFV.
3. Consideration should be given to how services for male victims of DFV can be integrated with services for female victims and general services for victims of family violence in all its forms. It is likely that some types of service can be effectively integrated while others will need to be gender specific.
4. Workers in the broader health and welfare fields should be provided with training to assist them to respond effectively to male victims of DFV. In particular, these workers need training in how to dismantle the barriers (identified in our research) to men disclosing their abuse and strengthening the factors that facilitate men's disclosure of their abuse.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into this inquiry.

Greg Andresen  
Senior Researcher

30th January 2026

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<sup>38</sup> Tilbrook, E., Allan, A., & Dear, G. (2010). [Intimate Partner Abuse of Men](#). Men's Advisory Network, Perth.



## Appendix A – Infographic of Recent Data from the ABS and AIC



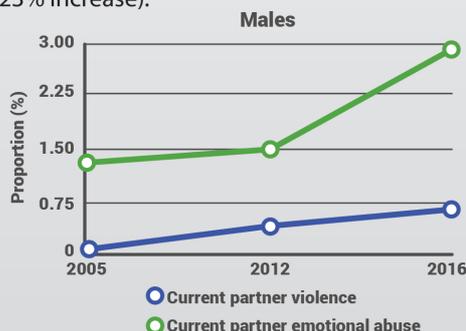
Research from the 2016 ABS Personal Safety Survey and Australian Institute of Criminology shows that both men and women in Australia experience substantial levels of violence.

Males make up a significant proportion of victims of family and sexual violence, yet are excluded from government anti-violence programs.

32 males were killed in domestic homicide incidents between 2018-2019.  
**This equates to one death every 11 days.**

### EXPERIENCE OF FAMILY VIOLENCE BY GENDER

The proportion of men experiencing **current partner violence** in the last 12 months between the 2005 and 2016 ABS Personal Safety Surveys rose **more than five-fold** (a 552% increase), while the proportion of men experiencing **emotional abuse** from a current partner in the last 12 months **more than doubled** (a 223% increase).



The majority of men that experienced intimate partner violence experienced it by a female perpetrator (93.6%). The remainder were in same-sex relationships with male perpetrators\*.

### DURING THE PERIOD 2018-2019:

More than 1 in 3 victims of domestic homicide were male (38.1%)



More than 1 in 4 victims of intimate partner homicide were male (27.1%)



\* Some men may have experienced violence by both a male and female intimate partner.



For more information and research about male victims of family violence, or for media comment visit [www.oneinthree.com.au](http://www.oneinthree.com.au)

If you are experiencing family violence, seek support, call MensLine Australia on 1300 78 99 78

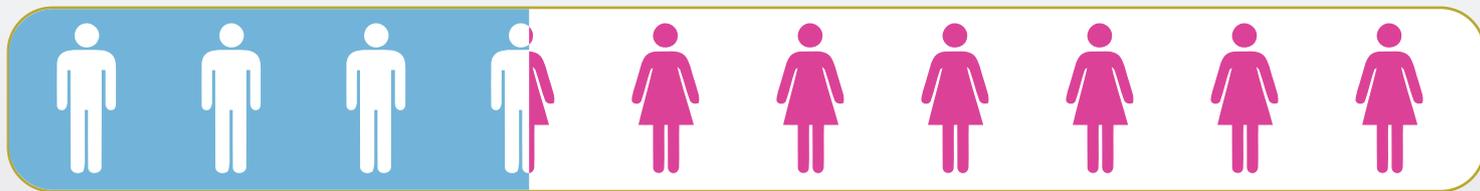
Information has been sourced from the ABS and the AIC. Produced by the One in Three Campaign ([oneinthree.com.au/infographicrefs](http://oneinthree.com.au/infographicrefs))

# MALE VICTIMS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE: KEY STATISTICS

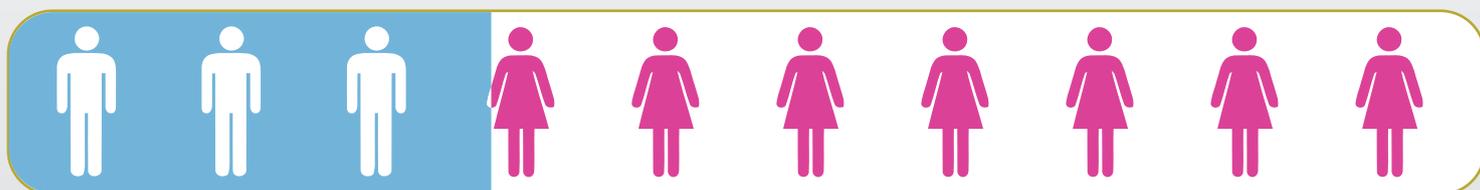
## EXPERIENCE OF FAMILY VIOLENCE BY GENDER

### DURING THE LAST 12 MONTHS\*:

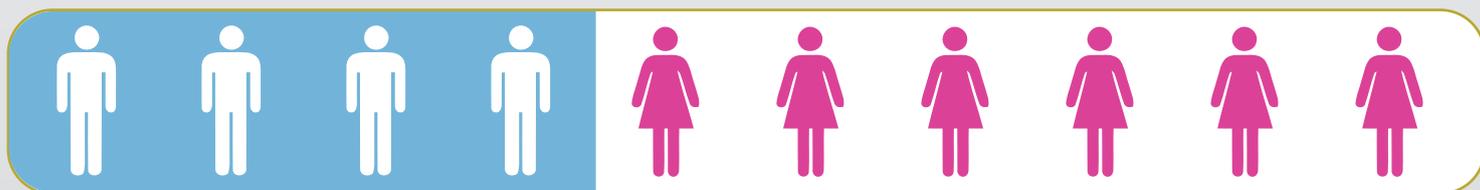
Over 1 in 3 persons who experienced violence from an **intimate partner** were male (35.3%)



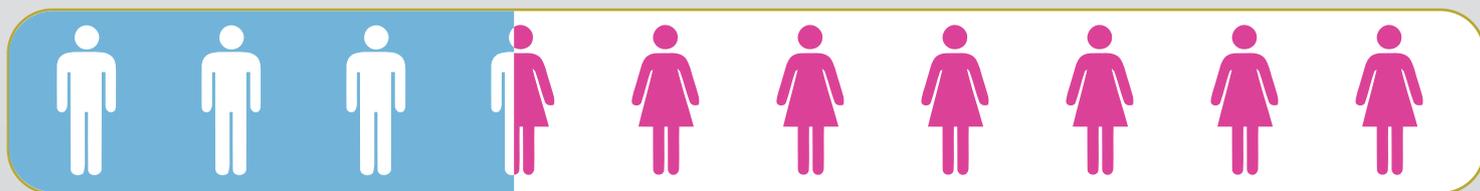
Almost 1 in 3 persons who experienced violence from a **cohabiting partner** were male (32.7%)



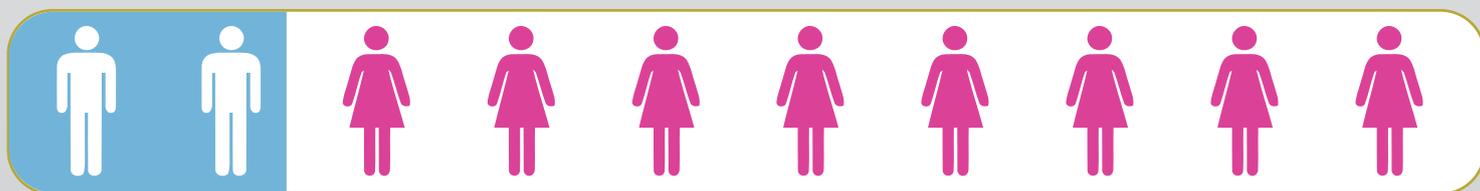
Almost 2 in 5 persons who experienced violence from a **current partner** were male (39.9%)\*\*



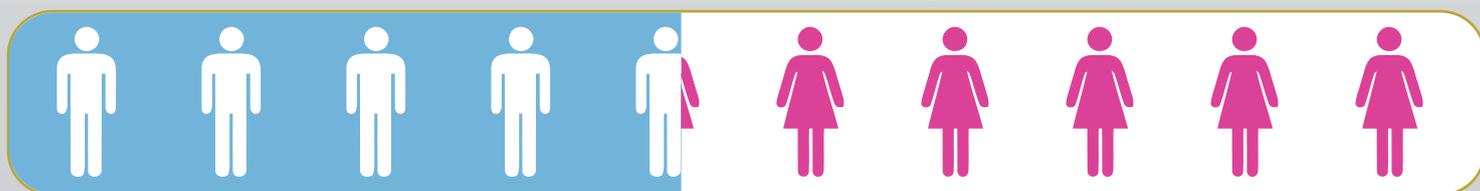
Over 1 in 3 persons who experienced violence from a **boyfriend/girlfriend or date** were male (34.3%\*\*\*)



Almost 1 in 5 persons who experienced violence from a **previous partner** were male (18.8%\*\*\*\*)



Almost half the persons who experienced violence from a **known person** were male (45.5%)



\* Last 12 month data are better measures of current rates of violence than are lifetime data ("since the age of 15"), as lifetime data include incidents that happened many years ago.

\*\* Estimate has a Relative Standard Error (RSE) of 25.5% and should be used with caution due to the relatively small number of males surveyed by the ABS (34.8% of persons since the age of 15 were male with no RSE warning)

\*\*\* Estimate has a Relative Standard Error (RSE) of 40.1% and should be used with caution due to the relatively small number of males surveyed by the ABS (20.0% of persons since the age of 15 were male with no RSE warning)

\*\*\*\* Estimate has a Relative Standard Error (RSE) of 26.7% and should be used with caution due to the relatively small number of males surveyed by the ABS (22.5% of persons since the age of 15 were male with no RSE warning)



For more information and research about male victims of family violence,  
or for media comment visit [www.oneinthree.com.au](http://www.oneinthree.com.au)

If you are experiencing family violence, seek support, call MensLine Australia on 1300 78 99 78

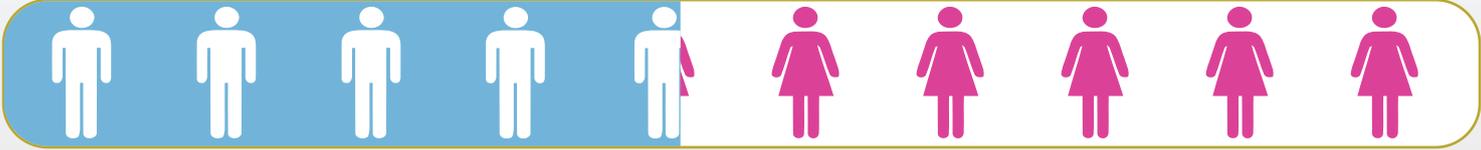
Information has been sourced from the ABS and the AIC. Produced by the One in Three Campaign ([oneinthree.com.au/infographicrefs](http://oneinthree.com.au/infographicrefs))

# MALE VICTIMS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE: KEY STATISTICS

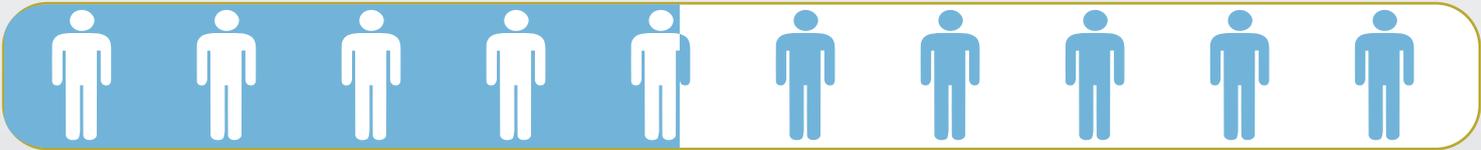
## EXPERIENCE OF FAMILY VIOLENCE BY GENDER

### DURING THE LAST 12 MONTHS\*:

**Almost half** the persons who experienced emotional abuse by a **partner** were male (45.8%) (47.7% of persons who experienced it by a **current partner** and 43.4% by a **previous partner**)



**Almost half of these males** experienced **anxiety or fear** due to the emotional abuse (41.4% of males who experienced current partner abuse and 43.1% of males who experienced previous partner abuse)



13.8% of men that experienced emotional abuse by a current partner had their partner **deprive them of basic needs** such as food, shelter, sleep, or assistive aids, compared to 6.4% of women.



8.9% of men that experienced emotional abuse by a current partner had their partner **threaten to take their child/ren away from them**, compared to 4.6% of women.



38.5% of men that experienced emotional abuse by a previous partner had their partner **lie to their child/ren** with the intent of turning them against them, compared to 25.1% of women.



7.3% of men that experienced emotional abuse by a current partner had their partner **lie to other family members or friends** with the intent of turning them against them, compared to 6.6% of women.



10.1% of men that experienced current partner emotional abuse had their current partner **keep track of where they were and who they were with**, compared to 9.9% of women.



\* Last 12 month data are better measures of current rates of violence than are lifetime data ("since the age of 15), as lifetime data include incidents that happened many years ago.



For more information and research about male victims of family violence, or for media comment visit [www.oneinthree.com.au](http://www.oneinthree.com.au)

If you are experiencing family violence, seek support, call MensLine Australia on 1300 78 99 78

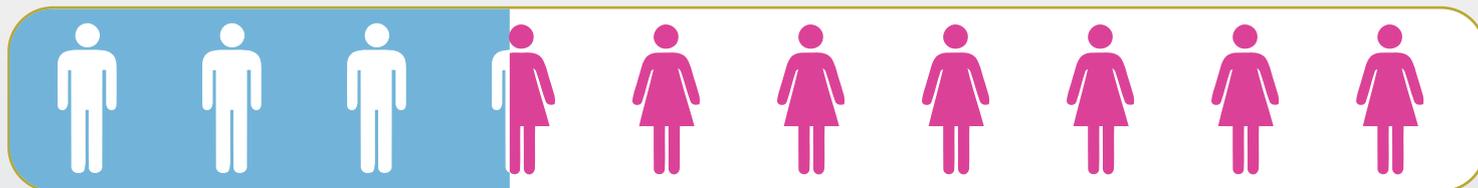
Information has been sourced from the ABS and the AIC. Produced by the One in Three Campaign ([oneinthree.com.au/infographicrefs](http://oneinthree.com.au/infographicrefs))

# MALE VICTIMS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE: KEY STATISTICS

## EXPERIENCE OF FAMILY VIOLENCE BY GENDER

### DURING THE LAST 12 MONTHS\*:

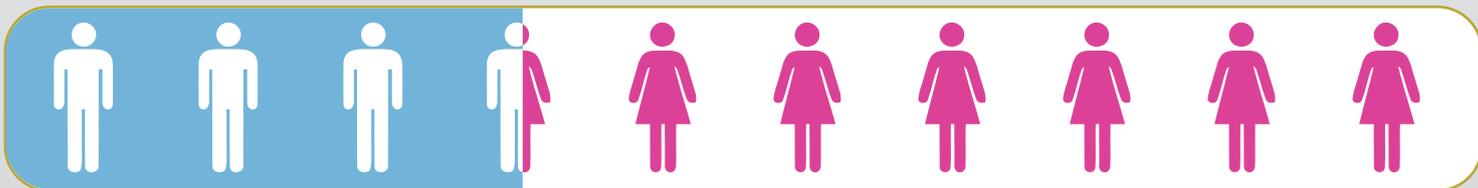
**Over 1 in 3** persons who experienced **sexual harassment** were male (34.0%). Most males who experienced sexual harassment were harassed by a female perpetrator (72.2% were harassed by a female while 48.2% were harassed by a male\*\*).



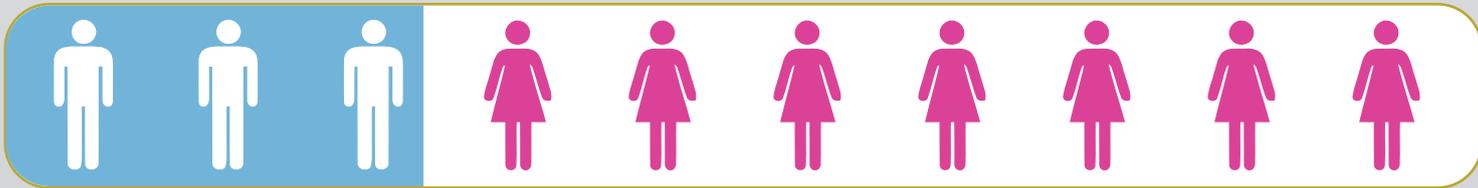
**The largest category** of increase in sexual harassment between 2012 and 2016 was in **males harassed by a female perpetrator**, which rose by a massive 67.5%. Females harassed by a male perpetrator rose by 15% during the same period.



**Over 1 in 3** persons who experienced **stalking** were male (35.0%). Most males who experienced stalking were stalked by a male perpetrator (68.9% were stalked by a male while 36.3% were stalked by a female\*\*\*).



**Almost 1 in 3** persons who experienced **sexual assault** were male (28.4%). Most males who experienced sexual violence were assaulted or threatened by a female perpetrator (82.9%\*\*\*\*).



**6 per cent** of all males experienced **violence** compared to 4.7% of all females.



\* Last 12 month data are better measures of current rates of violence than are lifetime data ("since the age of 15"), as lifetime data include incidents that happened many years ago.

\*\* Proportions don't add up to 100% because some respondents may have been sexually harassed by both a male and a female perpetrator.

\*\*\* Proportions don't add up to 100% because some respondents may have been stalked by both a male and a female perpetrator.

\*\*\*\* Estimate has a Relative Standard Error (RSE) of 25.0% and should be used with caution due to the relatively small number of males surveyed by the ABS (55.2% of males experienced sexual violence from a female since the age of 15 with no RSE warning).



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# MALE VICTIMS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE: KEY STATISTICS

## EXPERIENCE OF FAMILY VIOLENCE BY GENDER

### MEN WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED PARTNER VIOLENCE ARE:

**2 to 3 times** more likely than women to have **never told anybody\*** about experiencing

• Current partner violence



• Previous partner violence



**Around 50% more likely** than women to have **never sought advice or support** about experiencing

• Current partner violence



• Previous partner violence



**Almost 20% more likely** than women to have **not contacted police** about experiencing

• Current partner violence



• Previous partner violence



**Less than half as likely as women** to have had a **restraining order** issued against the perpetrator of

• Previous partner violence



\* This data is taken from the 2012 ABS PSS, as it was not published in the 2016 ABS PSS.

\*\* Estimate has a Relative Standard Error (RSE) of 25.2% and should be used with caution due to the relatively small number of males surveyed by the ABS



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# MALE VICTIMS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE: KEY STATISTICS

## EXPERIENCE OF FAMILY VIOLENCE BY GENDER

### BEFORE THE AGE OF 15:

**2 in 5** persons who experienced **physical and/or sexual** abuse were male (40.1%)



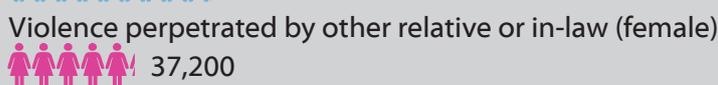
Around 1 in 20 persons (4.5%) witnessed **violence towards their father** by a partner and more than 1 in 10 persons (11.3%) witnessed **violence towards their mother** by a partner.



### SINCE THE AGE OF 15\*:

While a greater percentage of males experienced violence from an intimate partner or family member of the same sex than did females, the majority of males experienced family violence **perpetrated by a female**. The **perpetrators of family violence** against males by gender, ranked in order of prevalence, were as follows:

#### Violence since the age of 15. Violence by relationship to and sex of perpetrator, estimate, males (n)



\* Lifetime data (since the age of 15) is used here because the ABS didn't publish data from the last 12 months.



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