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# PERSONAL SAFETY SURVEY AUSTRALIA

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## INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Soula Macfarlane on Melbourne (03) 9615 7374.

# NOTES

## REVISIONS

This release corrects textual information in the Summary of Findings in order to support interpretation of a small number of the statistics presented. Tables 6 and 8 have been amended to correct a small number of cells where figures had been transposed or were incorrect. Footnotes have been added to several other tables to aid users in the interpretation of the data.



## ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ASCCSS	Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics
CAI	computer assisted interviewing
GSS	General Social Survey
LFS	Labour Force Survey
MPS	Monthly Population Survey
NCSS	National Crime and Safety Survey
OfW	Australian Government Office for Women
PSS	Personal Safety Survey
RSE	relative standard error
SE	standard error
SMS	short message service
WSS	Women's Safety Survey

Susan Linacre  
Acting Australian Statistician

## PREFACE

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This publication presents results from the national Personal Safety Survey (PSS) conducted during August to December 2005. It forms part of the commitment by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to present a comprehensive view of crime and the criminal justice system in Australia.

Funding for the women's component of the 2005 Personal Safety survey is provided through the *National Initiative to Combat Sexual Assault* and *Partnerships Against Domestic Violence* - Australian Government initiatives administered by the Office for Women (OfW). The male component was funded by the ABS.

The statistics presented in this publication are indicative of the extensive range of data available from the survey and demonstrate the analytical potential of the survey results.

The publication also provides information to assist users in interpreting and using the results of the survey, including descriptions of the survey design and methodology, and notes on the quality of estimates and their comparability with other ABS data. For detailed information about the survey, refer to the *Personal Safety Survey, Australia: User Guide* (cat.no. 4906.0.55.003).

The survey provides information on people's safety at home and in the community and, in particular, on the nature and extent of violence against people in Australia. Information was collected through personal interview with approximately 16,400 people in all States and Territories.

A Survey Advisory Group, comprising experts in the field of crime and violence, provided the ABS with advice on the information to be collected and on some aspects of survey methodology. Members of the group included representatives from State and Commonwealth departments, crime research agencies, services providers, health research organisations, academics and OfW.

The ABS would like to thank the people who completed the survey. Their participation has ensured the production of results which will be valuable for informing public debate about violence and the further development of policies and programs aimed at prevention.

As estimates have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

Dennis Trewin  
Australian Statistician

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

Information presented in this publication is about men's and women's experience of physical or sexual assault or threat by male and female perpetrators. PSS respondents were asked about their experiences of the different types of violence, since the age of 15, by different types of male and female perpetrators (including current partner, previous partner, boyfriend/girlfriend or date, other known man or woman, and stranger). More detailed information, such as where the incident occurred and what action was taken, was then collected for most recent incident of each of the different types of violence by a male and female perpetrator. Additional information was also collected about respondents experience of current and previous partner violence such as frequency and fears of violence, incidents of stalking and other forms of harassment and general feelings of safety.

Details regarding the interpretation of these results and comparison with other sources can be found in the Explanatory Notes and Appendix 2: Comparability between PSS and other sources.

### MEASURING VIOLENCE

Measuring violence in the community through household surveys is a complex task. It tests people's memories by asking about events that occurred in the past, which may have been traumatic and which may have involved people closely related to them. The accuracy of the statistics can be affected if respondents feel threatened by the act of providing information or if they are concerned that the information might be used against the perpetrator.

Through consultation with experts in the field and testing, the ABS gave attention to the type of information collected and the manner in which it was collected. Special steps were taken to improve the quality of the survey results including detailed and precise questioning and the use of personal interviews. Respondents were informed that the survey was not compulsory and a specific requirement was that interviews were conducted in private, thus ensuring confidentiality of any information disclosed. The use of specially trained interviewers ensured that rapport could be established with respondents and that the relevant concepts and definitions could be explained as necessary.

The ABS publishes data relating to crime from different sources. Different methodologies can affect estimates. For example, incidents recorded by police are different from those reported in household surveys because not all incidents are reported to the police. Also, responses in surveys may be affected by the ways in which questions are asked. Some of these measurement issues are discussed in: *Information Paper: Measuring Crime Victimization, Australia - The Impact of Different Collection Methodologies, 2002* (cat. no. 4522.0.55.00 1). Appendix 2 provides information about the comparability of the PSS with other data sources.

There are no generally agreed or accepted standards for defining what constitutes violence. In developing the concepts and definitions used in the survey, the ABS was assisted by a Survey Advisory Group, which included members with legal and crime research backgrounds. The definitions used were based on actions which would be considered as offences under State and Territory criminal law.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

**DEFINITION OF VIOLENCE** Violence is any incident involving the occurrence, attempt or threat of either physical or sexual assault. Physical assault involves the use of physical force with the intent to harm or frighten. An attempt or threat to inflict physical harm is included only if a person believes it is likely to be carried out. Sexual assault includes acts of a sexual nature carried out against a person's will through the use of physical force, intimidation or coercion, or any attempts to do this. Unwanted sexual touching is excluded from sexual assault. Sexual threat involves the threat of an act of a sexual nature which the person believes is likely to be carried out. Refer to the Glossary for more detailed definitions.

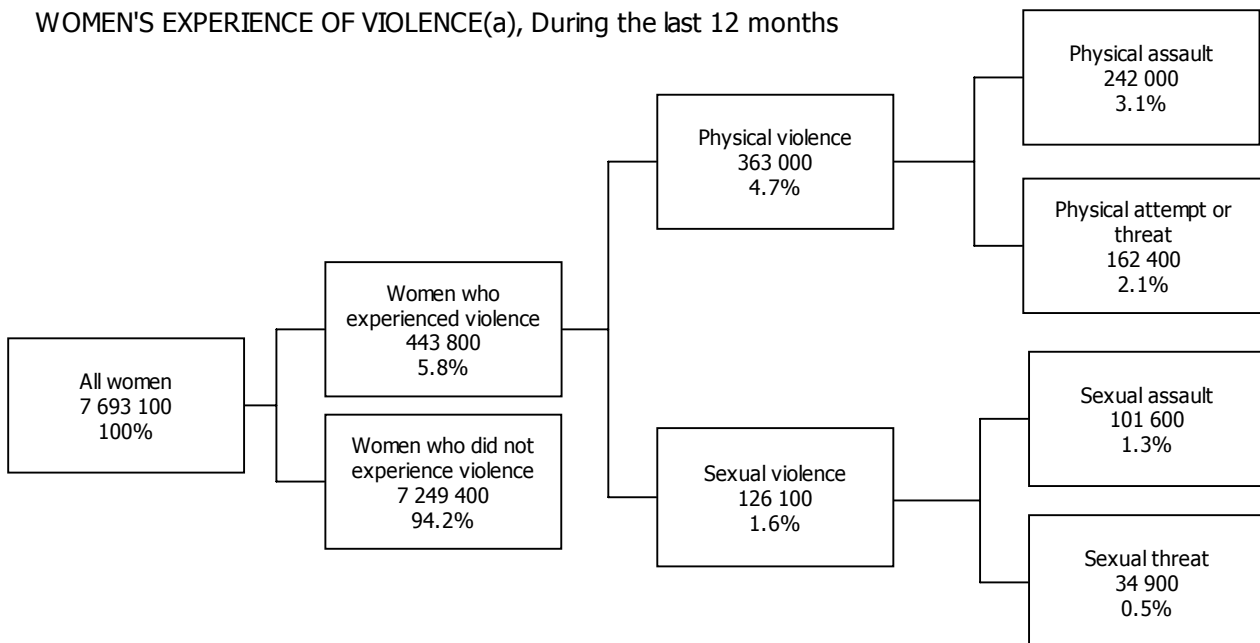
**COMPARISON OVER TIME** This publication includes comparisons with the 1996 Women's Safety Survey (WSS), where relevant. This survey collected information from approximately 6,300 women over the period February to April 1996. It covered the same broad range of topics as the PSS.

Estimates of physical threat appear to have dropped significantly from 1996 to 2005. Care should be taken when comparing estimates of physical threat between the two surveys. The 2005 PSS specifically instructed respondents to exclude incidents of threat that resulted in assault. For the WSS this was not as clearly defined in the question wording and respondents may have reported the same incident under both the physical threat and physical assault questions. This has not impacted on the estimates of physical violence (or total violence) as both physical threat and physical assault were counted only once in the total for physical violence in both the 2005 PSS and the 1996 WSS.

**EXPERIENCE OF VIOLENCE** Violence includes any incident involving the occurrence, attempt or threat of either physical or sexual assault.

The following two charts show the experiences of violence for women and men in the 12 months prior to the survey.

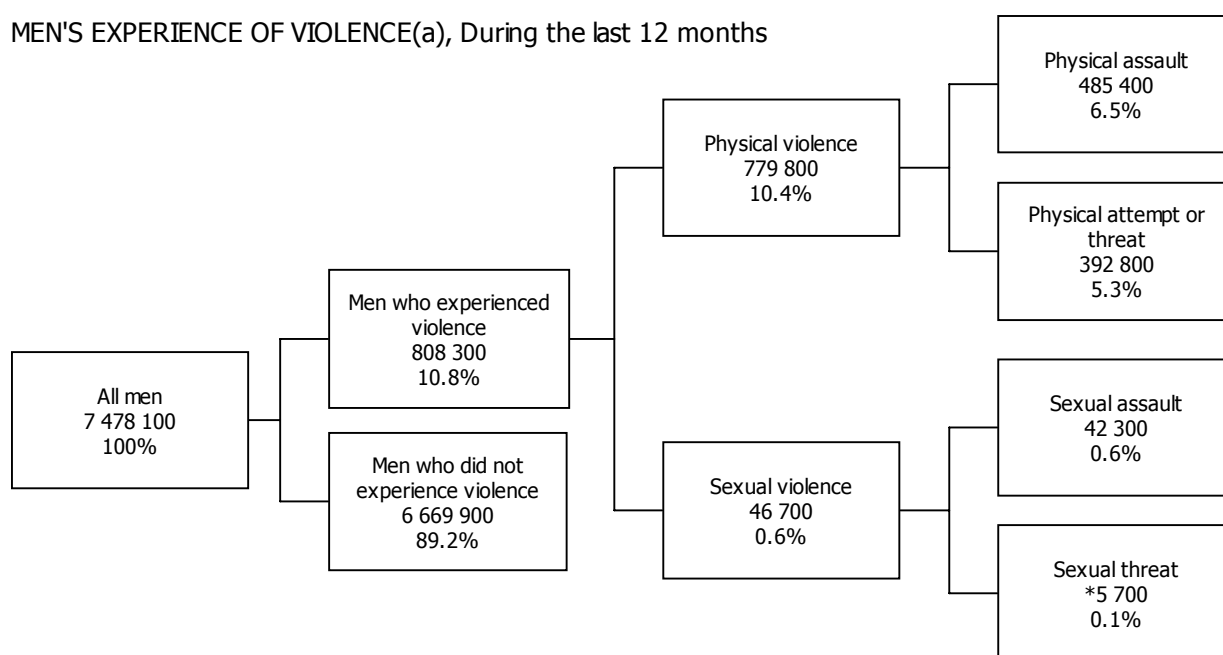
**WOMEN'S EXPERIENCE OF VIOLENCE(a), During the last 12 months**



(a) Women who experienced violence during the last 12 months could have experienced violence more than once. The components when added may therefore be larger than the total.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

### MEN'S EXPERIENCE OF VIOLENCE(a), During the last 12 months



(a) Men who experienced violence during the last 12 months could have experienced violence more than once. The components when added may therefore be larger than the total.

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

### EXPERIENCE OF VIOLENCE *continued*

In the 12 months prior to the survey, there were an estimated 443,800 (5.8%) women who experienced an incident of violence compared to 808,300 (11%) men. People were three times more likely to experience violence by a man than by a woman.

A larger proportion of men and women experienced physical violence compared to those who experienced sexual violence in the 12 months prior to the survey.

- 4.7% (363,000) of women experienced physical violence compared to 1.6% (126,100) who experienced sexual violence
- 10% (779,800) of men experienced physical violence compared to 0.6% (46,700) who experienced sexual violence

In the 12 months prior to the survey, younger women and men experienced violence at higher rates than older women and men.

- 12% (117,000) of women aged 18–24 years experienced at least one incident of violence, compared to 6.5% (97,900) of women aged 35–44 years and 1.7% (42,100) of women aged 55 years and over
- 31% (304,300) of men aged 18–24 years experienced at least one incident of violence, compared to 9.4% (138,700) of men aged 35–44 years and 2.8% (62,500) of men aged 55 years and over

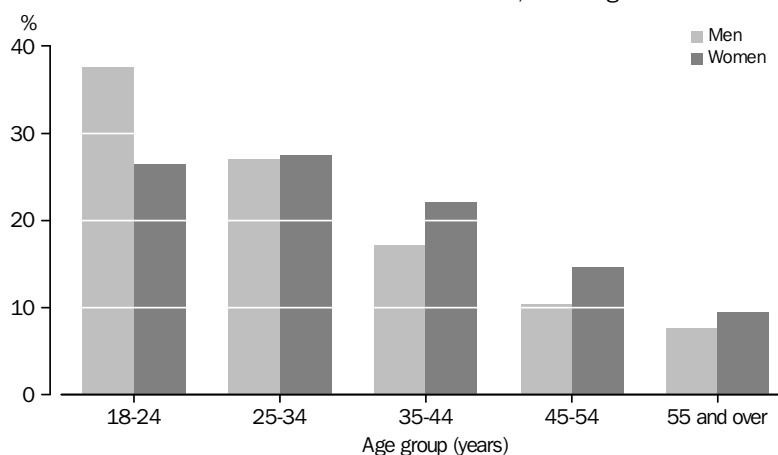
In the 12 months prior to the survey, a higher proportion of women aged 25 years or more experienced violence, compared to the proportion of men in that age group who experienced violence.

- Of the 808,300 men who experienced violence, 62% (504,100) were aged over 25 years
- Of the 443,800 women who experienced violence, 74% (326,700) were aged over 25 years

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

### EXPERIENCE OF VIOLENCE *continued*

### PERSONS WHO EXPERIENCED VIOLENCE, During the last 12 months



Since the age of 15, there were an estimated 3,065,800 (39.9%) women who experienced violence compared with 3,744,900 (50.1%) men.

- 29% (2,243,600) of women experienced physical assault compared to 41% (3,031,800) of men
- 11% (833,200) of women experienced physical threat compared to 22% (1,675,300) of men
- 17% (1,293,100) of women experienced sexual assault compared to 4.8% (362,400) of men
- 4.6% (353,700) of women experienced sexual threat compared to 0.9% (69,500) of men

### *Changes over time*

A smaller proportion of women reported violence in the 12 months prior to the survey in 2005 than in 1996.

- 5.8% (443,800) of women experienced violence in 2005 compared to 7.1% (490,400) in 1996
- 4.7% (363,000) of women experienced physical violence in 2005, compared with 5.9% (404,400) in 1996
- The proportion of women who experienced physical assault in 2005 was 3.1% (242,000) compared to 5.0% (346,900) in 1996

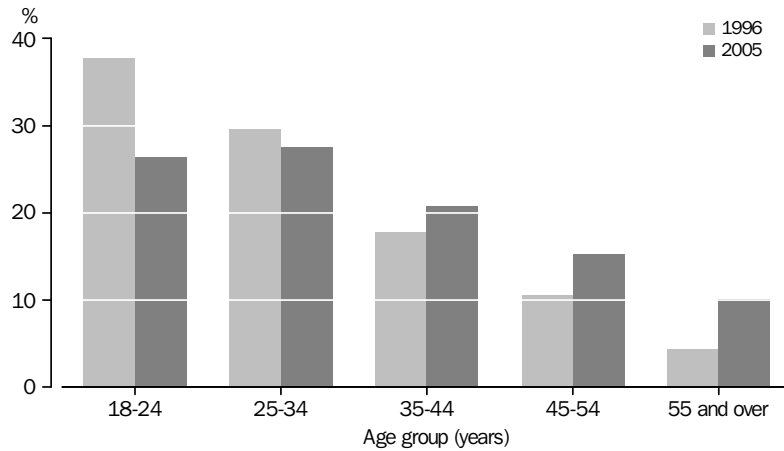
For those women aged less than 35 years, the proportion who experienced physical violence in the 12 months prior to the survey has decreased, while for those aged over 35 years the proportion increased.

- For women aged 18–24 years the proportion decreased to 26% (95,500) in 2005 from 38% (152,500) in 1996
- For women aged 45 years and over the proportion increased in 2005 to 25% (92,100) from 15% (60,500) in 1996

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

*Changes over time  
continued*

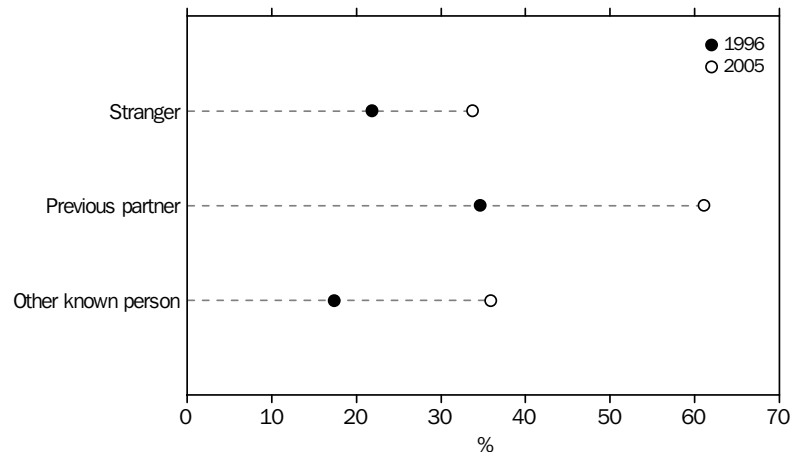
WOMEN'S EXPERIENCE OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE, During the last 12 months—1996 and 2005



There has been a change in the incidence of violence reported to the police in the 12 months prior to the two survey periods.

- 36% (70,400) of women who experienced physical assault by a male perpetrator reported it to the police in 2005 compared to 19% (54,400) in 1996
- 19% (19,100) of women who experienced sexual assault by a male perpetrator reported it to the police in 2005 compared to 15% (14,700) in 1996

WOMEN'S EXPERIENCE OF PHYSICAL ASSAULT BY A MALE PERPETRATOR, Police told, During the last 12 months—1996 and 2005



### FEELINGS OF SAFETY

Feelings of safety refer to a respondent's feelings of safety in selected situations when they are alone.

Over the last 10 years, women's feelings of safety in selected situations have increased.

- 15% (1,165,400) of women in 2005 felt safe using public transport alone after dark compared to 11% (721,600) in 1996
- Of those who did not use public transport alone after dark in 2005, 25% (1,477,000) did not use it because they felt unsafe compared to 30% (1,737,500) in 1996

### HARASSMENT

Harassment includes incidents such as obscene phone calls, indecent exposure, inappropriate comments about body or sex life and unwanted sexual touching.



## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

### HARASSMENT *continued*

- In the 12 months prior to the survey, 12% (864,300) of men experienced some form of harassment compared to 19% (1,459,500) of women
- Since the age of 15, 42% (6,333,400) of persons experienced harassment
- Since the age of 15, 33% (2,499,100) of women experienced inappropriate comments about their body or sex life compared to 12% (871,000) of men
- Since the age of 15, 25% (1,931,100) of women experienced unwanted sexual touching compared to 9.9% (737,000) of men

### STALKING

Stalking involves various activities, such as loitering and following, which the respondent believed were being undertaken with the intent to harm or frighten. To be classified as stalking more than one type of activity had to occur, or the same type of activity had to occur on more than one occasion.

Younger people were more likely to be stalked than older people.

- In the 12 months prior to the survey, 28% (31,000) of men and 31% (61,300) of women who experienced stalking were aged 18–24 compared to 11% (12,500) of men and 8.8% (17,200) of women aged 55 years or older
- Since the age of 15, 9.1% (681,700) of men have been stalked (this includes incidents that occurred more than 20 years ago) compared to 19% (1,472,300) of women

### PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

Physical violence includes any incident involving the occurrence, attempt or threat of physical assault. Physical assault involves the use of physical force with the intent to harm or frighten. An attempt or threat to inflict physical harm is included only if a person believes it is likely to be carried out.

In the 12 months prior to the survey period, 10% (779,800) of men and 4.7% (363,000) of women experienced physical violence.

An estimated 35% (5,275,400) of men and women have experienced physical assault since the age of 15.

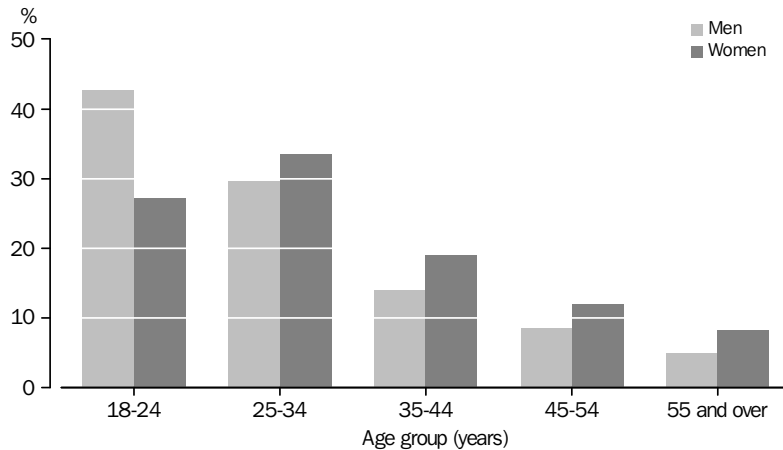
The overall experiences of physical assault for men and women, in the 12 month period prior to the survey were different.

- Of those men who were physically assaulted, 65% (316,700) were physically assaulted by a male stranger compared to 15% (35,500) of women who were physically assaulted by a male stranger
- Of those women who were physically assaulted, 31% (73,800) were physically assaulted by a current and/or previous partner compared to 4.4% (21,200) of men who were physically assaulted by a current and/or previous partner
- 43% (207,100) of men who were physically assaulted were aged 18–24 years compared to 27% (65,800) of women

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

### PHYSICAL VIOLENCE *continued*

### EXPERIENCE OF PHYSICAL ASSAULT, During the last 12 months



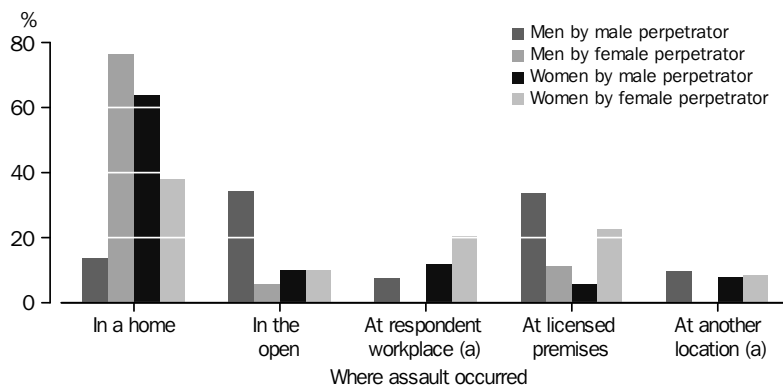
Men were more likely to be physically assaulted by a stranger in the most recent incident since the age of 15, whereas women were more often assaulted by a current and/or previous partner.

- Of those men who were physically assaulted, 65% (1,507,400) were assaulted by a stranger
- Of those women who were physically assaulted, 46% (780,500) were assaulted by a current and/or previous partner

The location of assaults varied between women and men during the 12 months prior to the survey

- Of the 195,300 women who experienced physical assault by a male perpetrator, 64% (125,100) of incidents occurred in a home
- Of the 79,500 men who experienced physical assault by a female perpetrator, 77% (60,900) of incidents occurred in a home
- Of those women who experienced physical assault by a female perpetrator, 38% (25,300) were assaulted in a home and 22.7% (15,100) at licensed premises
- 35% (148,900) of men experienced physical assault by a male perpetrator in the open, and 34% (145,300) at licensed premises

### LOCATION OF PHYSICAL ASSAULT, Most recent incident, during the last 12 months



(a) Men's experience of physical assault by a female perpetrator is not available for publication due to the unreliability of these estimates.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

### SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Sexual violence includes sexual assault and sexual threat. Sexual assault is defined as an act of a sexual nature carried out against a person's will. Sexual threats are threats of sexual assault which a person believed were likely to be carried out.

During the 12 months prior to the survey 1.6% (126,100) of women and 0.6% (46,700) of men experienced an incident of sexual violence.

- Of the women who experienced sexual violence 81% (101,600) experienced an incident of sexual assault and 28% (34,900) experienced a threat of sexual assault
- 22% (22,100) of women had experienced sexual assault by a stranger in the most recent incident, 21% (21,500) by a previous partner, 39% (39,700) by a family member or friend and 32% (32,500) by an other known person

In the 12 months prior to the survey, 0.6% (42,300) of men reported experiencing sexual assault.

- 44% (18,500) had experienced sexual assault by a family member or friend in the most recent incident, 35% (14,900) by an other known person, and 33% (13,900) by a stranger

Since the age of 15, 5.5% (408,100) of men reported experiencing sexual violence compared to 19% (1,469,500) of women.

### VIOLENCE BY CURRENT PARTNERS

People who experienced violence from their current partner were more likely to experience physical, rather than sexual, violence.

- Since the age of 15, 0.9% (68,100) of men and 2.1% (160,100) of women experienced current partner violence
- 10% (16,100) of women who had experienced violence by their current partner had a violence order issued against their current partner as a result of the violence. Of those women who had violence orders issued, 20% (3,200) reported that violence still occurred

Violence which occurs between partners in a home may affect the children who also live in the home.

- 49% (111,700) of men and women who experienced violence by a current partner reported that they had children in their care at some time during the relationship. An estimated 27% (60,700) said that these children had witnessed the violence

### VIOLENCE BY PREVIOUS PARTNERS

Since the age of 15, people were more likely to have experienced violence from a previous partner than from a current partner.

- 4.9% (367,300) of men experienced violence from a previous partner compared to 15% (1,135,500) of women
- 32% (368,300) of women and 40% (146,500) of men who had ever experienced violence by their previous partner said there had only been one incident
- 59% (667,900) of women who experienced violence by a previous partner were pregnant at some time during the relationship; of these, 36% (239,800) reported that violence occurred during a pregnancy and 17% (112,000) experienced violence for the first time when they were pregnant
- 61% (822,500) of persons who experienced violence by a previous partner reported that they had children in their care at some time during the relationship and 36% (489,400) said that these children had witnessed the violence

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS** *continued*

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CHILD PHYSICAL AND  
SEXUAL ABUSE

Child physical abuse includes any deliberate physical injury (including bruises) inflicted on a child, before the age of 15, by an adult. Child sexual abuse is any act, by an adult, involving a child under the age of 15 years in sexual activity.

- The proportion of women and men who experienced physical abuse before the age of 15 was 10% (779,500) and 9.4% (702,400) respectively
- Women were more likely to have been sexually abused than men. Before the age of 15, 12% (956,600) of women had been sexually abused compared to 4.5% (337,400) of men

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EXPERIENCE OF HARASSMENT, STALKING OR VIOLENCE, During the last 12 months

	VIOLENCE								
	Harassment	Stalking	Physical assault	Physical threat	Sexual assault	Sexual threat	Current partner	Previous partner	Total population
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
.....									
Sex									
Male	864.3	110.7	485.4	392.8	42.3	*5.7	*8.4	*19.5	7 478.1
Female	1 459.5	195.4	242.0	162.4	101.6	34.9	43.8	70.8	7 693.1
Age group (years)									
18-24	582.1	92.3	272.9	188.3	42.5	*16.2	*5.1	12.1	1 928.3
25-34	592.6	76.7	225.3	120.5	44.0	*9.7	*10.5	31.6	2 803.3
35-44	531.0	64.1	114.1	117.3	35.0	*12.4	*13.3	27.9	2 968.1
45-54	347.7	43.3	70.8	74.3	*14.1	np	*13.9	10.2	2 771.3
55 and over	270.4	29.7	44.3	54.9	*8.4	np	*9.5	8.5	4 700.2
Country of birth									
Australia	1 819.2	235.9	613.6	466.1	111.6	32.0	36.8	79.4	11 143.9
Overseas									
Main English speaking countries(a)	188.7	26.9	56.6	43.0	*11.8	np	**3.9	3.2	1 568.8
Other countries(b)	315.9	43.3	57.2	46.1	*20.5	np	*11.5	7.7	2 458.6
Labour force status									
Employed									
Working full-time	1 131.0	125.0	394.1	336.9	48.9	*10.9	*16.0	29.4	6 876.0
Working part-time	567.1	85.1	164.6	89.4	34.9	*15.9	*17.8	19.0	2 937.7
Unemployed	124.8	*22.3	46.9	38.5	*12.4	**3.0	*5.4	4.9	414.9
Not in the labour force	500.8	73.6	121.7	90.5	47.7	*10.8	*13.1	37.0	4 942.6
Area of usual residence									
Capital city	1 552.1	204.4	508.0	348.9	96.9	28.8	36.3	49.4	9 777.4
Balance of State or Territory	771.7	101.7	219.4	206.4	47.0	*11.8	*16.0	40.9	5 393.9
<b>Total persons who experienced harassment, stalking or violence</b>	<b>2 323.8</b>	<b>306.1</b>	<b>727.4</b>	<b>555.2</b>	<b>143.9</b>	<b>40.6</b>	<b>52.3</b>	<b>90.3</b>	—
<b>Total persons who did not experience harassment, stalking or violence</b>	<b>12 847.5</b>	<b>14 865.2</b>	<b>14 443.9</b>	<b>14 616.1</b>	<b>15 027.4</b>	<b>15 130.7</b>	<b>15 119.0</b>	<b>15 081.0</b>	—
<b>Total persons</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	<b>15 171.3</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

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Based on the Australian Standard Classification of Counties for Social Statistic (ASCCSS).

(b) Includes inadequately described.

## EXPERIENCE OF HARASSMENT, STALKING OR VIOLENCE, Since the age of 15

	VIOLENCE								Total population
	Harassment	Stalking(a)	Physical assault	Physical threat	Sexual assault	Sexual threat	Current partner	Previous partner	
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Sex									
Male	2 019.3	681.7	3 031.8	1 675.3	362.4	69.5	68.1	367.3	7 478.1
Female	4 314.1	1 472.3	2 243.6	833.2	1 293.1	353.7	160.1	1 135.5	7 693.1
Age group (years)									
18–24	809.1	313.4	724.6	343.9	174.0	46.6	*7.3	77.7	1 928.3
25–34	1 303.5	510.0	1 193.4	478.7	343.2	92.8	37.5	270.0	2 803.3
35–44	1 388.1	493.6	1 261.3	603.6	395.5	111.5	55.2	402.8	2 968.1
45–54	1 269.2	443.6	1 057.3	514.9	373.1	88.4	68.1	368.5	2 771.3
55 and over	1 563.5	393.5	1 039.0	567.4	369.6	84.0	60.1	383.8	4 700.2
Country of birth									
Australia	4 918.5	1 703.9	4 155.1	1 988.0	1 306.9	337.1	165.7	1 192.7	11 143.9
Born overseas									
Main English speaking countries(b)	678.5	248.6	587.6	277.0	197.6	39.0	*21.7	200.8	1 568.8
Other countries(c)	736.4	201.4	532.7	243.5	151.0	47.1	40.9	109.3	2 458.6
Labour force status									
Employed									
Working full-time	2 769.7	979.8	2 796.0	1 395.2	623.8	165.9	100.5	608.4	6 876.0
Working part-time	1 488.8	534.4	1 026.5	401.6	408.2	101.1	55.2	341.8	2 937.7
Unemployed	228.1	92.8	219.5	103.6	84.2	19.6	*8.1	63.5	414.9
Not in the labour force	1 846.8	546.9	1 233.4	608.1	539.3	136.6	64.5	489.1	4 942.6
Area of usual residence									
Capital city	4 186.4	1 379.2	3 363.2	1 580.9	1 067.4	271.5	153.9	877.1	9 777.4
Balance of State or Territory	2 147.0	774.8	1 912.2	927.6	588.1	151.7	74.3	625.7	5 393.9
<b>Total persons who experienced harassment, stalking or violence</b>	<b>6 333.4</b>	<b>2 153.9</b>	<b>5 275.4</b>	<b>2 508.5</b>	<b>1 655.5</b>	<b>423.2</b>	<b>228.3</b>	<b>1 502.8</b>	—
<b>Total persons who did not experience harassment, stalking or violence</b>	<b>8 837.9</b>	<b>13 017.4</b>	<b>9 895.9</b>	<b>12 662.8</b>	<b>13 515.8</b>	<b>14 748.1</b>	<b>14 943.0</b>	<b>13 668.5</b>	—
<b>Total persons</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	<b>15 171.3</b>

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

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Includes incidents that occurred more than 20 years ago.

(b) Based on the Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics (ASCCSS).

(c) Includes inadequately described.



# 3

## EXPERIENCE OF VIOLENCE, Since the age of 15—When most recent incident occurred

	MALES		FEMALES		PERSONS	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
<b>Never experienced</b>	3 733.2	49.9	4 627.3	60.1	8 360.5	55.1
<b>Physical violence(a)</b>						
Less than 12 months ago	779.8	10.4	363.0	4.7	1 142.7	7.5
1 year to less than 5 years	960.5	12.8	692.1	9.0	1 652.6	10.9
5 years to less than 20 years	1 155.5	15.5	966.9	12.6	2 122.4	14.0
20 years ago or more	767.1	10.3	539.6	7.0	1 306.7	8.6
<b>Total</b>	3 662.9	49.0	2 561.5	33.3	6 224.4	41.0
<b>Sexual violence(b)</b>						
Less than 12 months ago	46.7	0.6	126.1	1.6	172.8	1.1
1 year to less than 5 years	63.8	0.9	268.0	3.5	331.8	2.2
5 years to less than 20 years	124.7	1.7	547.9	7.1	672.6	4.4
20 years ago or more	172.9	2.3	527.5	6.9	700.4	4.6
<b>Total</b>	408.1	5.5	1 469.5	19.1	1 877.6	12.4
<b>Total violence(c)</b>						
Less than 12 months ago	808.3	10.8	443.8	5.8	1 252.0	8.3
1 year to less than 5 years	965.2	12.9	799.8	10.4	1 765.0	11.6
5 years to less than 20 years	1 172.8	15.7	1 114.0	14.5	2 286.8	15.1
20 years ago or more	798.6	10.7	708.3	9.2	1 506.9	9.9
<b>Total persons who experienced violence</b>	<b>3 744.9</b>	<b>50.1</b>	<b>3 065.8</b>	<b>39.9</b>	<b>6 810.7</b>	<b>44.9</b>
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>7 478.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>7 693.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>15 171.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Includes physical assault and physical threat.  
 (b) Includes sexual assault and sexual threat.

(c) Components may not add to total as a person may have experienced both physical and sexual violence.

# EXPERIENCE OF VIOLENCE, During the last 12 months—State or Territory of residence of victim

	MALES		FEMALES		PERSONS	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
NEVER EXPERIENCED VIOLENCE						
New South Wales	2 247.5	89.6	2 465.3	95.5	4 712.8	92.6
Victoria	1 608.9	89.1	1 820.5	93.5	3 429.4	91.4
Queensland	1 322.4	87.6	1 369.6	93.3	2 692.0	90.4
South Australia	474.8	92.8	555.8	93.9	1 030.7	93.4
Western Australia	684.4	88.8	703.6	94.7	1 388.0	91.7
Australia(a)	6 669.9	89.2	7 249.4	94.2	13 919.2	91.7
PHYSICAL VIOLENCE (b)						
New South Wales	256.1	10.2	99.8	3.9	356.0	7.0
Victoria	188.1	10.4	102.6	5.3	290.7	7.7
Queensland	180.2	11.9	79.9	5.4	260.1	8.7
South Australia	34.4	*6.7	30.5	5.2	65.0	5.9
Western Australia	79.0	10.3	32.0	4.3	111.0	7.3
Australia(a)	779.8	10.4	363.0	4.7	1 142.7	7.5
SEXUAL VIOLENCE (c)						
New South Wales	**6.8	**0.3	25.7	1.0	32.5	0.6
Victoria	*17.2	*1.0	40.9	2.1	58.1	1.5
Queensland	*7.5	*0.5	28.2	1.9	35.7	1.2
South Australia	2.2	**0.4	9.7	1.6	11.9	1.1
Western Australia	*12.6	*1.6	12.3	1.7	24.9	1.6
Australia(a)	46.7	0.6	126.1	1.6	172.8	1.1
TOTAL VIOLENCE (d)						
New South Wales	260.4	10.4	117.3	4.5	377.7	7.4
Victoria	196.5	10.9	127.1	6.5	323.6	8.6
Queensland	186.4	12.4	98.9	6.7	285.3	9.6
South Australia	*36.6	*7.2	36.0	6.1	72.6	6.6
Western Australia	86.1	11.2	39.2	5.3	125.2	8.3
Australia(a)	808.3	10.8	443.8	5.8	1 252.0	8.3
TOTAL PERSONS						
New South Wales	2 507.9	100.0	2 582.6	100.0	5 090.5	100.0
Victoria	1 805.4	100.0	1 947.6	100.0	3 753.1	100.0
Queensland	1 508.8	100.0	1 468.5	100.0	2 977.3	100.0
South Australia	511.4	100.0	591.8	100.0	1 103.2	100.0
Western Australia	770.5	100.0	742.7	100.0	1 513.2	100.0
Australia(a)	7 478.1	100.0	7 693.1	100.0	15 171.3	100.0

\* 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

(a) Includes Tasmania, Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes physical assault and physical threat.

(c) Includes sexual assault and sexual threat.

(d) Components may not add to total as a person may have experienced both physical and sexual violence.

	MALES		FEMALES			
	2005		1996(a)		2005(b)	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
DURING THE LAST 12 MONTHS						
Did not experience violence	6 669.9	89.2	6 390.1	92.9	7 249.4	94.2
Experienced physical violence						
Assault	485.4	6.5	346.9	5.0	242.0	3.1
Threat(b)	392.8	5.3	284.0	4.1	162.4	2.1
Total(c)	779.8	10.4	404.4	5.9	363.0	4.7
Experienced sexual violence						
Assault	42.3	0.6	100.0	1.5	101.6	1.3
Threat	**5.7	**0.1	44.8	0.7	34.9	0.5
Total(c)	46.7	0.6	133.1	1.9	126.1	1.6
Total persons who experienced violence(d)	808.3	10.8	490.4	7.1	443.8	5.8
Total persons	7 478.1	100.0	6 880.5	100.0	7 693.1	100.0
SINCE THE AGE OF 15						
Did not experience violence	3 733.2	49.9	4 240.9	61.6	4 627.3	60.1
Experienced physical violence						
Assault	3 031.8	40.5	2 014.7	29.3	2 243.6	29.2
Threat(b)	1 675.3	22.4	1 688.1	24.5	833.2	10.8
Total(c)	3 662.9	49.0	2 239.9	32.6	2 561.5	33.3
Experienced sexual violence						
Assault	362.4	4.8	1 064.9	15.5	1 293.1	16.8
Threat	69.5	0.9	338.6	4.9	353.7	4.6
Total(c)	408.1	5.5	1 228.4	17.9	1 469.5	19.1
Total persons who experienced violence(d)	3 744.9	50.1	2 639.7	38.4	3 065.8	39.9
Total persons	7 478.1	100.0	6 880.5	100.0	7 693.1	100.0

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

(a) Results presented are from the 1996 Women's Safety Survey.

(b) Estimates for 2005 exclude incidents of physical threat that result in assault. In 1996 estimates, women may have reported the same incident under threat and assault.

(c) Persons who experienced more than one type of violence are counted once in the total.

(d) Components may not add to the total as person may have experienced both physical and sexual violence.

EXPERIENCE OF VIOLENCE, During the last 12 months, Type of violence in most recent incident by age—1996 and 2005

	MALES		FEMALES			
	2005		1996(a)		2005	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
NEVER EXPERIENCED VIOLENCE						
18-24	678.3	10.2	na	na	828.7	11.4
25-34	1 180.0	17.7	na	na	1 282.7	17.7
35-44	1 331.9	20.0	na	na	1 399.7	19.3
45-54	1 288.8	19.3	na	na	1 333.7	18.4
55 and over	2 190.9	32.8	na	na	2 404.7	33.2
Total	6 669.9	100.0	6 390.1	100.0	7 249.4	100.0
PHYSICAL VIOLENCE (b)						
18-24	295.4	37.9	152.5	37.7	95.5	26.3
25-34	212.5	27.3	119.6	29.6	100.0	27.5
35-44	130.5	16.7	71.9	17.8	75.3	20.8
45-54	81.2	10.4	42.5	10.5	55.4	15.3
55 and over	60.2	7.7	18.0	4.4	36.7	10.1
Total	779.8	100.0	404.4	100.0	363.0	100.0
SEXUAL VIOLENCE (c)						
18-24	13.8	29.5	43.6	32.8	38.8	30.7
25-34	14.4	30.7	42.1	31.6	37.6	29.8
35-44	13.5	29.0	31.5	23.6	31.0	24.6
45 and over	2.8	5.9	15.9	12.0	18.8	14.9
Total	46.7	100.0	133.1	100.0	126.1	100.0
TOTAL VIOLENCE (d)						
18-24	304.3	37.6	178.5	36.4	117.0	26.4
25-34	218.9	27.1	144.2	29.4	121.8	27.5
35-44	138.7	17.2	94.2	19.2	97.9	22.1
45-54	84.0	10.4	50.1	10.2	64.9	14.6
55 and over	62.5	7.7	23.4	4.8	42.1	9.5
Total	808.3	100.0	490.4	100.0	443.8	100.0
TOTAL PERSONS						
18-24	982.6	13.1	945.2	13.7	945.7	12.3
25-34	1 398.8	18.7	1 440.2	20.9	1 404.5	18.3
35-44	1 470.5	19.7	1 376.3	20.0	1 497.6	19.5
45-54	1 372.7	18.4	1 166.6	17.0	1 398.6	18.2
55 and over	2 253.4	30.1	1 952.2	28.4	2 446.8	31.8
Total	7 478.1	100.0	6 880.5	100.0	7 693.1	100.0

- (a) Results presented are from the 1996 Women's Safety Survey.
- (b) Includes physical assault and physical threat.
- (c) Includes sexual assault and sexual threat.
- (d) Components may not add to total as a person may have experienced both physical and sexual violence.

EXPERIENCE OF VIOLENCE, Type of assault in most recent incident by whether police told—1996 and 2006

	MALES				FEMALES							
	2005		1996(a)		2005		1996(a)		2005		1996(a)	
	Police told	Police not told	Police told	Police not told	Police told	Police not told	Police told	Police not told	Police told	Police not told	Police told	Police not told
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
<b>MALE PERPETRATOR (b)</b>												
<b>During the last 12 months</b>												
Physical assault												
Stranger	113.3	36.7	195.1	63.3	*9.8	*21.9	34.9	78.1	10.9	33.7	21.5	66.3
Boyfriend or girlfriend or date	—	—	—	—	np	np	np	np	8.4	24.4	26.1	75.6
Current partner	—	—	—	—	np	np	np	np	5.2	17.1	25.3	82.9
Previous partner	—	—	—	—	24.6	34.6	46.6	65.4	26.0	61.1	16.6	38.9
Other known person	35.1	28.9	86.4	71.1	*11.3	*17.4	53.8	82.6	19.8	35.9	35.4	64.1
Total	148.4	34.5	281.5	65.5	54.4	18.5	239.1	81.5	70.4	36.0	124.9	64.0
Sexual assault												
Stranger	np	np	np	np	**4.0	**23.5	*13.0	*76.5	**3.9	**27.9	*10.1	*72.1
Boyfriend or girlfriend or date	np	np	np	np	np	np	np	np	**3.9	**29.9	*9.1	*70.1
Current partner	np	np	np	np	np	np	np	np	—	—	*7.8	100.0
Previous partner	np	np	np	np	**3.8	**25.3	*11.2	*74.7	*4.1	20.5	*15.8	79.5
Other known person	np	np	np	np	**4.3	**12.3	30.6	87.7	*7.2	15.6	39.2	84.4
Total	np	np	np	np	*14.7	*14.9	83.8	85.1	*19.1	18.9	82.0	81.1
<b>Since the age of 15(c)</b>												
Physical assault												
Stranger	502.5	35.9	896.0	64.1	49.9	39.2	77.5	60.8	90.4	46.3	104.7	53.7
Boyfriend or girlfriend or date	np	np	np	np	*11.7	*8.8	120.7	91.2	63.5	22.1	223.4	77.9
Current partner	—	—	—	—	*7.2	*4.4	155.0	95.6	18.9	18.2	84.8	81.8
Previous partner	np	np	np	np	139.3	23.0	466.4	77.0	224.4	35.7	404.9	64.3
Other known person	175.3	25.4	515.5	74.6	39.8	22.8	134.8	77.2	80.5	25.5	234.8	74.5
Total	680.8	32.2	1 430.3	67.8	247.8	20.6	954.4	79.4	477.7	31.2	1 052.6	68.8
Sexual assault												
Stranger	4.0	13.6	25.4	86.4	*17.0	*24.8	51.5	75.2	49.7	37.7	82.0	62.3
Boyfriend or girlfriend or date	np	np	np	np	*5.1	*2.6	188.8	97.4	np	np	np	np
Current partner	—	—	—	—	—	—	*27.4	*100.0	np	np	np	np
Previous partner	np	np	np	np	*25.6	*15.9	135.9	84.1	34.8	21.1	130.4	78.9
Other known person	9.8	25.4	28.8	74.6	*13.3	*5.9	211.2	94.1	28.5	10.0	257.3	90.0
Total	13.8	17.9	63.2	82.1	60.9	9.0	614.9	91.0	128.5	15.9	677.7	84.1
<b>FEMALE PERPETRATOR (b)</b>												
<b>During the last 12 months</b>												
Physical assault	*19.1	*24.1	60.4	75.9	na	na	na	na	17.1	25.7	49.5	74.3
Sexual assault	np	np	np	np	na	na	na	na	—	—	*6.1	100.0
<b>Since the age of 15(c)</b>												
Physical assault	135.6	21.2	505.4	78.8	na	na	na	na	115.7	29.7	273.6	70.3
Sexual assault	**6.0	**4.4	130.2	95.6	na	na	na	na	np	np	np	np

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)  
na not available  
np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated  
(a) Results presented are from the 1996 Women's Safety Survey.

(b) Persons may have experienced incidents of assault by both a male and a female perpetrator, therefore components can not be added together.  
(c) Excludes person whose most recent incident occurred more than 20 years ago.

	MALES		FEMALES			
	2005		1996(a)		2005	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
<b>Used public transport alone after dark</b>						
Used alone						
Felt safe	2 145.6	28.7	721.6	10.5	1 165.4	15.1
Felt unsafe	404.6	5.4	384.8	5.6	544.8	7.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 550.2</b>	<b>34.1</b>	<b>1 106.3</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>1 710.2</b>	<b>22.2</b>
Did not use alone						
Felt unsafe	333.3	4.5	1 737.5	25.3	1 477.0	19.2
Other reasons(b)	4 594.6	61.4	4 036.7	58.7	4 505.9	58.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 928.0</b>	<b>65.9</b>	<b>5 774.2</b>	<b>83.9</b>	<b>5 982.9</b>	<b>77.8</b>
<b>Waiting for public transport alone after dark</b>						
Waited alone						
Felt safe	2 020.6	27.0	535.9	7.8	935.5	12.2
Felt unsafe	529.5	7.1	570.4	8.3	774.7	10.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 550.2</b>	<b>34.1</b>	<b>1 106.3</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>1 710.2</b>	<b>22.2</b>
<b>Did not wait alone</b>	<b>4 928.0</b>	<b>65.9</b>	<b>5 774.2</b>	<b>83.9</b>	<b>5 982.9</b>	<b>77.8</b>
<b>Walking in local area alone after dark</b>						
Walked alone						
Felt safe	4 580.8	61.3	1 532.9	22.3	2 256.6	29.3
Felt unsafe	514.5	6.9	777.6	11.3	736.0	9.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>5 095.3</b>	<b>68.1</b>	<b>2 310.5</b>	<b>33.6</b>	<b>2 992.6</b>	<b>38.9</b>
Did not walk alone						
Felt unsafe	392.5	5.2	2 628.4	38.2	2 358.8	30.7
Other reasons(c)	1 990.3	26.6	1 941.6	28.2	2 341.7	30.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 382.8</b>	<b>31.9</b>	<b>4 570.0</b>	<b>66.4</b>	<b>4 700.5</b>	<b>61.1</b>
<b>At home alone in the evening or night</b>						
At home alone						
Felt safe	7 094.3	94.9	5 125.4	74.5	6 355.3	82.6
Felt unsafe	281.9	3.8	1 471.5	21.4	1 029.4	13.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>7 376.2</b>	<b>98.6</b>	<b>6 596.9</b>	<b>95.9</b>	<b>7 384.7</b>	<b>96.0</b>
Not at home alone						
Felt unsafe	—	—	30.5	0.4	23.6	0.3
Other reasons(d)	101.9	1.4	253.1	3.7	284.8	3.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>101.9</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>283.6</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>308.4</b>	<b>4.0</b>
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>7 478.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>6 880.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>7 693.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Results presented are from the 1996 Women's Safety Survey.

(b) Includes persons who used own car for transport or received lifts from others.

(c) Includes those that never walked alone or never walked as they had a car.

(d) Includes those that were never home alone in the evening or night.

## EXPERIENCE OF HARASSMENT(a), During the last 12 months—Selected demographics

	MALES		FEMALES		PERSONS	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
<b>Age group (years)</b>						
18–24	212.6	24.6	369.5	25.3	582.1	25.0
25–34	216.8	25.1	375.7	25.7	592.6	25.5
35–44	196.7	22.8	334.3	22.9	531.0	22.9
45–54	128.3	14.8	219.5	15.0	347.7	15.0
55 and over	109.9	12.7	160.5	11.0	270.4	11.6
<b>Country of birth</b>						
Australia	665.9	77.0	1 153.3	79.0	1 819.2	78.3
Overseas						
Main English speaking countries(b)	64.6	7.5	124.1	8.5	188.7	8.1
Other countries(c)	133.8	15.5	182.1	12.5	315.8	13.6
<b>Highest non-school qualification</b>						
Degree/diploma or higher qualification	256.5	29.7	472.9	32.4	729.4	31.4
Other qualification	224.8	26.0	292.0	20.0	516.8	22.2
No non-school qualifications(d)	383.0	44.3	694.6	47.6	1 077.6	46.4
<b>Labour force status</b>						
Employed						
Working full-time	532.6	61.6	598.4	41.0	1 131.0	48.7
Working part-time	143.9	16.7	423.2	29.0	567.1	24.4
Unemployed	62.3	7.2	62.6	4.3	124.8	5.4
Not in the labour force	125.5	14.5	375.3	25.7	500.8	21.6
<b>Main source of household income</b>						
Employee cash income	526.7	60.9	834.9	57.2	1 361.6	58.6
Unincorporated business cash income	42.9	5.0	52.1	3.6	95.0	4.1
Government cash pensions and allowances	82.0	9.5	186.5	12.8	268.5	11.6
Other cash income(d)	212.7	24.6	386.0	26.4	598.6	25.8
<b>Area of usual residence</b>						
Capital city	575.8	66.6	976.2	66.9	1 552.1	66.8
Balance of State/Territory	288.5	33.4	483.2	33.1	771.7	33.2
<b>Total persons who experienced harassment</b>	<b>864.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1 459.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2 323.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Harassment includes incidents such as obscene phone calls, indecent exposure, inappropriate comments about body or sex life and unwanted sexual touching.

(b) Based on the Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics (ASCCSS).

(c) Includes inadequately described.

(d) Includes not applicable, not determined, don't know and refused to answer.

## EXPERIENCE OF SELECTED TYPES OF HARASSMENT(a)(b)

	MALES		FEMALES		PERSONS	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
DURING THE LAST 12 MONTHS						
<b>Did not experience harassment</b>	6 613.8	88.4	6 233.6	81.0	12 847.5	84.7
<b>Experienced harassment</b>						
Obscene phone call						
Experienced	538.8	7.2	902.5	11.7	1 441.2	9.5
Did not experience	325.5	4.4	557.0	7.2	882.5	5.8
Indecent exposure						
Experienced	291.1	3.9	606.5	7.9	897.6	5.9
Did not experience	573.2	7.7	853.0	11.1	1 426.2	9.4
Inappropriate comments						
Experienced	416.4	5.6	1 154.6	15.0	1 570.9	10.4
Did not experience	447.9	6.0	304.9	4.0	752.8	5.0
Unwanted sexual touching						
Experienced unwanted sexual touching	267.6	3.6	736.2	9.6	1 003.9	6.6
Did not experience unwanted sexual touching	596.7	8.0	723.2	9.4	1 319.9	8.7
<b>Total persons who experienced harassment(c)</b>	<b>864.3</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>1 459.5</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>2 323.8</b>	<b>15.3</b>
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>7 478.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>7 693.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>15 171.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>
SINCE THE AGE OF 15						
<b>Did not experience harassment</b>	5 458.8	73.0	3 379.1	43.9	8 837.9	58.3
<b>Experienced harassment</b>						
Obscene phone call						
Experienced	1 023.4	13.7	2 423.7	31.5	3 447.1	22.7
Did not experience	995.9	13.3	1 890.4	24.6	2 886.3	19.0
Indecent exposure						
Experienced	644.1	8.6	1 816.0	23.6	2 460.1	16.2
Did not experience	1 375.2	18.4	2 498.1	32.5	3 873.3	25.5
Inappropriate comments						
Experienced	871.8	11.7	2 499.1	32.5	3 370.9	22.2
Did not experience	1 147.5	15.3	1 815.0	23.6	2 962.5	19.5
Unwanted sexual touching						
Experienced unwanted sexual touching	737.0	9.9	1 931.1	25.1	2 668.0	17.6
Did not experience unwanted sexual touching	1 282.4	17.1	2 383.0	31.0	3 665.4	24.2
<b>Total persons who experienced harassment(c)</b>	<b>2 019.3</b>	<b>27.0</b>	<b>4 314.1</b>	<b>56.1</b>	<b>6 333.4</b>	<b>41.7</b>
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>7 478.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>7 693.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>15 171.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>
(a) Harassment includes incidents such as obscene phone calls, indecent exposure, inappropriate comments about body or sex life and unwanted sexual touching.			(b) Includes harassment by a male or female.			
			(c) Persons who experienced more than one type of harassment are counted once in the total.			



	MALES		FEMALES		PERSONS	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
<b>Age group (years)</b>						
18–24	*31.0	*28.0	61.3	31.4	92.3	30.2
25–34	*23.4	*21.1	53.3	27.3	76.7	25.1
35–44	*25.2	*22.7	39.0	19.9	64.1	20.9
45–54	*18.6	*16.8	24.6	12.6	43.3	14.1
55 and over	*12.5	*11.3	17.2	8.8	29.7	9.7
<b>Country of birth</b>						
Australia	78.3	70.7	157.5	80.6	235.9	77.1
Overseas						
Main English speaking countries(b)	*15.0	*13.6	*11.9	*6.1	26.9	8.8
Other countries(c)	*17.4	*15.7	25.9	13.3	43.3	14.1
<b>Highest non-school qualification</b>						
Degree/diploma or higher qualification	*37.2	*33.6	52.4	26.8	89.7	29.3
Other qualification	*16.0	*14.4	46.2	23.7	62.2	20.3
No non-school qualification(d)	57.5	52.0	96.7	49.5	154.3	50.4
<b>Labour force status</b>						
Employed						
Working full-time	50.5	45.6	74.5	38.1	125.0	40.9
Working part-time	*23.1	*20.8	62.1	31.8	85.1	27.8
Unemployed	*11.8	*10.7	*10.5	*5.4	*22.3	*7.3
Not in the labour force	*25.3	*22.9	48.3	24.7	73.6	24.0
<b>Main source of household income</b>						
Employee cash income	55.5	50.2	100.4	51.4	156.0	51.0
Unincorporated business cash income	—	—	*6.3	*3.2	*6.3	*2.0
Government cash pensions and allowances	**5.4	**4.9	20.2	10.4	25.7	8.4
Other cash income	49.8	44.9	68.4	35.0	118.2	38.6
<b>Area of usual residence</b>						
Capital city	66.4	60.0	138.0	70.6	204.4	66.8
Balance of State/Territory	44.3	40.0	57.4	29.4	101.7	33.2
<b>Total persons who experienced stalking</b>	<b>110.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>195.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>306.1</b>	<b>100.0</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

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Stalking includes various activities such as loitering and following, which the respondent believed were being undertaken with the intent to harm or frighten.

(b) Based on the Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics (ASCCSS).

(c) Includes inadequately described.

(d) Includes not applicable, not determined, don't know and refused to answer.

EXPERIENCE OF STALKING(a), Relationship to perpetrator in most recent incident(b)

	MALES		FEMALES		PERSONS	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
DURING THE LAST 12 MONTHS						
Stranger	43.0	38.9	77.4	39.6	120.4	39.3
Boyfriend or girlfriend or date	*9.2	*8.3	16.0	8.2	25.3	8.3
Previous partner	**5.8	**5.2	27.6	14.1	33.4	10.9
Family or friends	48.3	43.7	65.0	33.3	113.4	37.0
Other known persons(c)	*7.6	*6.9	20.3	10.4	27.9	9.1
<b>Total persons who experienced stalking(d)</b>	<b>110.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>195.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>306.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>

DURING THEIR LIFETIME (e)(f)						
Stranger	205.3	30.1	496.8	33.7	702.1	32.6
Boyfriend or girlfriend or date	84.9	12.4	173.6	11.8	258.5	12.0
Previous partner	75.5	11.1	295.3	20.1	370.8	17.2
Family or friends	266.0	39.0	421.5	28.6	687.4	31.9
Other known persons(c)	69.5	10.2	123.3	8.4	192.8	8.9
<b>Total persons who experienced stalking(d)</b>	<b>681.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1 472.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2 153.9</b>	<b>100.0</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
- (a) Stalking involves various activities such as loitering and following, which the respondent believed were being undertaken with the intent to harm or frighten.
- (b) Includes male and female perpetrators.
- (c) Includes acquaintance, neighbour, counsellor or psychologist or psychiatrist, ex-boyfriend or girlfriend, doctor, teacher, minister, priest or clergy and prison officer.
- (d) Components may not add to the total as a person may have experienced stalking by more than one perpetrator type.
- (e) Includes incidents that occurred more than 20 years ago.
- (f) Questions asked about stalking refer to a person's experience over their whole lifetime.

	MALE PERPETRATOR(b)						FEMALE PERPETRATOR(b)					
	Males		Females		Persons		Males		Females		Persons	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
DURING THE LAST 12 MONTHS												
<b>Whether police told</b>												
Police told	38.5	45.7	55.7	32.6	94.3	36.9	*5.5	*13.1	*13.1	*40.0	*18.6	*24.9
Police not told	45.8	54.3	115.4	67.4	161.2	63.1	36.5	86.9	*19.6	*60.0	56.2	75.1
<b>Whether stalking perceived as a crime</b>												
Stalking perceived as a crime	47.5	56.3	76.5	44.7	123.9	48.5	*6.1	*14.6	*15.1	*46.3	*21.3	*28.5
Stalking not perceived as a crime	36.9	43.7	94.7	55.3	131.5	51.5	35.9	85.4	*17.6	*53.7	53.5	71.5
<b>Whether stalking has stopped</b>												
Stalking has not stopped	*16.7	*19.8	37.4	21.8	54.1	21.2	*6.7	*15.9	*8.3	*25.3	*15.0	*20.0
Stalking has stopped	51.2	60.8	115.0	67.2	166.2	65.1	27.6	65.6	22.9	69.9	50.5	67.5
Don't know if stalking has stopped	*16.4	*19.5	*18.8	*11.0	35.2	13.8	*7.8	*18.5	**1.6	**4.8	*9.3	*12.5
<b>Length of time stalked</b>												
Less than 1 month	28.5	33.7	40.2	23.5	68.7	26.9	*5.0	*12.0	*4.8	*14.8	*9.9	*13.2
1 month to less than 6 months	*15.8	*18.7	62.9	36.7	78.6	30.8	*20.4	*48.4	*9.7	*29.6	30.0	40.2
6 months or more	40.1	47.6	68.1	39.8	108.2	42.3	*16.6	*39.6	*18.2	*55.7	34.9	46.6
<b>Total persons who experienced stalking</b>	84.3	100.0	171.1	100.0	255.5	100.0	42.0	100.0	32.7	100.0	74.8	100.0

## DURING THEIR LIFETIME(c)

<b>Whether police told</b>												
Police told	190.9	50.5	459.5	41.3	650.4	43.6	61.1	22.2	65.6	45.2	126.7	30.2
Police not told	187.0	49.5	653.2	58.7	840.2	56.4	213.6	77.8	79.3	54.8	292.9	69.8
<b>Whether stalking perceived as a crime</b>												
Stalking perceived as a crime	210.7	55.8	532.8	47.9	743.5	49.9	61.1	22.3	67.0	46.2	128.1	30.5
Stalking not perceived as a crime	167.2	44.2	579.8	52.1	747.0	50.1	213.5	77.7	77.9	53.8	291.5	69.5
<b>Whether stalking has stopped</b>												
Stalking has not stopped	62.5	16.5	125.7	11.3	188.1	12.6	26.6	9.7	*20.2	*13.9	46.8	11.1
Stalking has stopped	293.3	77.6	945.5	85.0	1 238.8	83.1	238.1	86.7	118.8	82.0	356.9	85.1
Don't know if stalking has stopped	*22.2	*5.9	41.4	3.7	63.6	4.3	*10.0	*3.6	*5.9	*4.1	*15.9	*3.8
<b>Length of time stalked</b>												
Less than 1 month	97.9	25.9	213.8	19.2	311.7	20.9	38.5	14.0	*18.6	*12.8	57.1	13.6
1 month to less than 6 months	98.6	26.1	365.5	32.9	464.2	31.1	125.0	45.5	46.4	32.0	171.4	40.9
6 months or more	181.4	48.0	533.3	47.9	714.7	47.9	111.1	40.5	79.9	55.2	191.1	45.5
<b>Total persons who experienced stalking</b>	377.9	100.0	1 112.6	100.0	1 490.6	100.0	274.7	100.0	144.9	100.0	419.6	100.0

\* 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

- (a) Stalking includes various activities such as loitering and following, which the respondent believed were being undertaken with the intent to harm or frighten.  
 (b) Persons may have experienced incidents of stalking by a male and a female perpetrator, therefore components can not be added together.  
 (c) Excludes incidents that occurred more than 20 years ago.

	MALES		FEMALES		PERSONS	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
<b>Age group (years)</b>						
18–24	207.1	42.7	65.8	27.2	272.9	37.5
25–34	144.2	29.7	81.0	33.5	225.3	31.0
35–44	68.1	14.0	46.0	19.0	114.1	15.7
45–54	41.7	8.6	29.1	12.0	70.8	9.7
55 and over	*24.2	*5.0	20.1	8.3	44.3	6.1
<b>Country of birth</b>						
Australia	410.9	84.7	202.7	83.8	613.6	84.4
Overseas						
Main English speaking countries(a)	*34.4	*7.1	22.2	9.2	56.6	7.8
Other countries(b)	40.0	8.2	17.1	7.1	57.1	7.9
<b>Highest non-school qualification</b>						
Degree/diploma or higher qualification	131.8	27.2	64.5	26.6	196.3	27.0
Other qualification	114.3	23.6	44.5	18.4	158.9	21.8
No non-school qualifications(c)	239.2	49.3	133.0	54.9	372.2	51.2
<b>Labour force status</b>						
Employed						
Working full-time	313.3	64.5	80.9	33.4	394.1	54.2
Working part-time	87.3	18.0	77.3	31.9	164.6	22.6
Unemployed	*28.8	*5.9	18.1	7.5	46.9	6.4
Not in the labour force	56.0	11.5	65.7	27.2	121.7	16.7
<b>Main source of household income</b>						
Employee cash income	318.2	65.6	129.1	53.3	447.2	61.5
Unincorporated business cash income	*24.1	*5.0	*8.8	*3.6	32.9	4.5
Government cash pensions and allowances	*37.5	*7.7	31.8	13.1	69.3	9.5
Other cash income(c)	105.7	21.8	72.3	29.9	178.0	24.5
<b>Area of usual residence</b>						
Capital city	350.1	72.1	157.9	65.2	508.0	69.8
Balance of State or Territory	135.3	27.9	84.1	34.8	219.4	30.2
<b>Total persons who experienced physical assault</b>	<b>485.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>242.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>727.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

(a) Based on the Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics (ASCCSS).

(b) Includes inadequately described.

(c) Includes not applicable, not determined, don't know and refused to answer.

	MALE PERPETRATOR(a)						FEMALE PERPETRATOR(a)					
	Males		Females		Persons		Males		Females		Persons	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
DURING THE LAST 12 MONTHS												
<b>Whether police told</b>												
Police told	148.4	34.5	70.4	36.0	218.8	35.0	*19.1	*24.1	17.1	25.7	36.2	24.8
Police not told	281.5	65.5	124.9	64.0	406.4	65.0	60.4	75.9	49.5	74.3	109.8	75.2
<b>Whether perceived as a crime</b>												
Perceived as a crime	139.1	32.4	92.8	47.5	231.9	37.1	*18.5	*23.3	17.9	26.9	36.4	25.0
Not perceived as a crime(b)	290.8	67.6	102.5	52.5	393.3	62.9	60.9	76.7	48.6	73.1	109.6	75.0
<b>Whether alcohol or drugs contributed</b>												
Alcohol or drugs contributed	323.8	75.3	94.7	48.5	418.5	66.9	39.6	49.8	33.6	50.6	73.2	50.2
Alcohol or drugs did not contribute(b)	106.1	24.7	100.5	51.5	206.7	33.1	39.9	50.2	32.9	49.4	72.8	49.8
<b>Location of incident</b>												
In a home	60.0	13.9	125.1	64.1	185.1	29.6	60.9	76.6	25.3	38.1	86.2	59.1
In the open	148.9	34.6	19.6	10.0	168.5	27.0	**4.8	**6.0	*6.6	*10.0	*11.4	*7.8
At respondent's workplace	*33.5	*7.8	23.4	12.0	56.9	9.1	np	np	*13.7	*20.6	np	np
At licensed premises	145.3	33.8	*11.4	*5.8	156.7	25.1	*8.9	*11.2	15.1	22.7	24.0	16.4
At an other location(c)	42.3	9.8	15.7	8.0	58.0	9.3	np	np	*5.8	*8.6	np	np
<b>Whether physically injured</b>												
Physically injured	202.8	47.2	106.8	54.7	309.7	49.5	*31.7	*39.9	30.5	45.9	62.2	42.6
Not physically injured	227.1	52.8	88.4	45.3	315.5	50.5	47.8	60.1	36.0	54.1	83.7	57.4
<b>Total persons who experienced physical assault</b>	<b>429.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>195.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>625.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>79.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>66.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>146.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
SINCE THE AGE OF 15 (d)												
<b>Whether police told</b>												
Police told	680.8	32.2	477.7	31.2	1 158.5	31.8	135.6	21.2	115.7	29.7	251.3	24.4
Police not told	1 430.3	67.8	1 052.6	68.8	2 482.9	68.2	505.4	78.8	273.6	70.3	779.0	75.6
<b>Whether perceived as a crime</b>												
Perceived as a crime	824.5	39.1	691.5	45.2	1 516.1	41.6	137.4	21.4	132.5	34.0	269.9	26.2
Not perceived as a crime(b)	1 286.5	60.9	838.8	54.8	2 125.3	58.4	503.7	78.6	256.7	66.0	760.4	73.8
<b>Whether alcohol or drugs contributed</b>												
Alcohol or drugs contributed	1 431.0	67.8	739.1	48.3	2 170.1	59.6	298.1	46.5	183.2	47.1	481.3	46.7
Alcohol or drugs did not contribute(b)	680.0	32.2	791.2	51.7	1 471.3	40.4	342.9	53.5	206.1	52.9	549.0	53.3
<b>Location of incident</b>												
In a home	271.1	12.8	1 146.4	74.9	1 417.4	38.9	453.1	70.7	152.4	39.2	605.5	58.8
In the open	738.7	35.0	144.5	9.4	883.3	24.3	62.1	9.7	62.3	16.0	124.4	12.1
At respondent's workplace	179.7	8.5	85.6	5.6	265.3	7.3	*24.9	*3.9	34.8	9.0	59.7	5.8
At licensed premises	663.0	31.4	55.8	3.6	718.8	19.7	67.1	10.5	79.9	20.5	147.0	14.3
At an other location(c)	258.6	12.2	98.0	6.4	356.6	9.8	*33.9	*5.3	59.8	15.4	93.7	9.1
<b>Whether physically injured</b>												
Physically injured	1 152.3	54.6	904.2	59.1	2 056.5	56.5	231.7	36.1	195.6	50.3	427.3	41.5
Not physically injured	958.7	45.4	626.2	40.9	1 584.9	43.5	409.4	63.9	193.7	49.7	603.1	58.5
<b>Total persons who experienced physical assault</b>	<b>2 111.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1 530.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3 641.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>641.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>389.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1 030.3</b>	<b>100.0</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

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Persons may have experienced incidents of assault by both a male and a female perpetrator, therefore components can not be added together.

(b) Includes do not know, could not remember or refused to answer.

(c) Includes in a private vehicle, using public transport, in an institution, at a sporting venue and other locations.

(d) Excludes persons whose most recent incident occurred more than 20 years ago.

	MALES		FEMALES		PERSONS	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
DURING THE LAST 12 MONTHS						
<b>Male perpetrator</b>						
Stranger	316.7	73.7	35.5	18.2	352.2	56.3
Current partner	—	—	30.7	15.7	30.7	4.9
Previous partner	—	—	43.3	22.2	43.3	6.9
<i>Total partner(a)</i>	—	—	73.8	37.8	73.8	11.8
Family or friends	48.4	11.2	67.1	34.4	115.5	18.5
Other known persons(b)	93.7	21.8	29.3	15.0	123.0	19.7
<i>Total persons who experienced physical assault by a male perpetrator(c)</i>	429.9	100.0	195.3	100.0	625.2	100.0
<b>Female perpetrator</b>						
Stranger	*13.0	*16.3	21.9	32.9	34.8	23.9
Current partner	**5.0	**6.3	—	—	**5.0	**3.4
Previous partner	*16.2	*20.4	—	—	*16.2	*11.1
<i>Total partner(a)</i>	*21.2	*26.7	—	—	*21.2	*14.5
Family or friends	*36.0	*45.3	21.9	33.0	57.9	39.7
Other known persons(b)	*9.3	*11.7	25.0	37.5	34.2	23.5
<i>Total persons who experienced physical assault by a female perpetrator(c)</i>	79.5	100.0	66.5	100.0	146.0	100.0
<b>All perpetrators(d)</b>						
Stranger	319.1	65.7	52.9	21.9	372.0	51.1
Current partner	**5.0	**1.0	30.7	12.7	35.7	4.9
Previous partner	*16.2	*3.3	43.3	17.9	59.5	8.2
<i>Total partner(a)</i>	*21.2	*4.4	73.8	30.5	95.1	13.1
Family or friends	84.4	17.4	89.1	36.8	173.4	23.8
Other known persons(b)	103.0	21.2	49.7	20.5	152.7	21.0
<i>Total persons who experienced physical assault</i>	485.4	100.0	242.0	100.0	727.4	100.0

## SINCE THE AGE OF 15 (e)

<b>Male perpetrator</b>						
Stranger	1 488.3	70.5	227.4	14.9	1 715.8	47.1
Current partner	—	—	105.6	6.9	105.6	2.9
Previous partner	*25.3	*1.2	674.7	44.1	700.1	19.2
<i>Total partner(a)</i>	*25.3	*1.2	775.6	50.7	801.0	22.0
Family or friends	233.8	11.1	498.6	32.6	732.5	20.1
Other known persons(b)	565.1	26.8	176.2	11.5	741.3	20.4
<i>Total persons who experienced physical assault by a male perpetrator(c)</i>	2 111.1	100.0	1 530.3	100.0	3 641.4	100.0
<b>Female perpetrator</b>						
Stranger	129.5	20.2	119.5	30.7	249.0	24.2
Current partner	46.2	7.2	—	—	46.2	4.5
Previous partner	259.3	40.5	*4.9	*1.3	264.2	25.6
<i>Total partner(a)</i>	301.4	47.0	*4.9	*1.3	306.3	29.7
Family or friends	201.0	31.4	149.5	38.4	350.5	34.0
Other known persons(b)	55.4	8.6	131.0	33.7	186.4	18.1
<i>Total persons who experienced physical assault by a female perpetrator(c)</i>	641.1	100.0	389.3	100.0	1 030.3	100.0
<b>All perpetrators(d)</b>						
Stranger	1 507.4	65.0	328.5	19.3	1 835.9	45.6
Current partner	46.2	2.0	105.6	6.2	151.7	3.8
Previous partner	283.6	12.2	679.6	39.9	963.2	23.9
<i>Total partner(a)</i>	325.7	14.0	780.5	45.8	1 106.2	27.5
Family or friends	427.0	18.4	621.7	36.5	1 048.7	26.1
Other known persons(b)	597.5	25.8	288.3	16.9	885.7	22.0
<i>Total persons who experienced physical assault</i>	2 319.7	100.0	1 702.4	100.0	4 022.1	100.0

\* 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

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Where a person experienced assault by both a current and a previous partner they are counted once for total partner in this table.

(b) Includes acquaintance or neighbour, counsellor or psychologist or psychiatrist, ex-boyfriend or girlfriend, doctor, teacher, minister or priest or clergy, prison officer and other known person.

(c) Components may not add to the total as a person may have experienced more than one incident of assault by different male or female perpetrator types.

(d) Where a person experienced assault by both a male and a female perpetrator type, they are counted once in the perpetrators components in this table.

(e) Excludes persons whose most recent incident occurred more than 20 years ago.

	MALES		FEMALES		PERSONS	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
<b>Age group (years)</b>						
18–24 years	139.2	35.4	49.1	30.2	188.3	33.9
25–34 years	91.2	23.2	29.3	18.0	120.5	21.7
35–44 years	80.5	20.5	36.8	22.7	117.3	21.1
45–54 years	44.9	11.4	29.4	18.1	74.3	13.4
55 and over	*37.0	*9.4	17.9	11.0	54.9	9.9
<b>Country of birth</b>						
Australia	330.0	84.0	136.1	83.8	466.1	84.0
Overseas						
Main English speaking countries(a)	*32.3	*8.2	*10.7	*6.6	43.0	7.8
Other countries(b)	*30.5	*7.8	15.5	9.6	46.1	8.3
<b>Highest non-school qualification</b>						
Degree/diploma or higher qualification	105.2	26.8	50.6	31.2	155.9	28.1
Other qualification	268.6	68.4	96.0	59.1	364.6	65.7
No non-school qualification(c)	*19.0	*4.8	15.8	9.7	34.8	6.3
<b>Labour force status</b>						
Employed						
Working full-time	278.7	70.9	58.2	35.8	336.9	60.7
Working part-time	43.5	11.1	45.9	28.3	89.4	16.1
Unemployed	*24.7	*6.3	*13.8	*8.5	38.5	6.9
Not in the labour force	46.0	11.7	44.5	27.4	90.5	16.3
<b>Main source of household income</b>						
Employee cash income	272.6	69.4	87.8	54.0	360.4	64.9
Unincorporated business cash income	*12.4	*3.2	*4.8	*3.0	*17.2	*3.1
Government cash pensions and allowances	*27.9	*7.1	25.2	15.5	53.1	9.6
Other cash income(c)	79.9	20.3	44.6	27.5	124.5	22.4
<b>Area of usual residence</b>						
Capital city	241.7	61.5	107.1	66.0	348.9	62.8
Balance of State or Territory	151.1	38.5	55.3	34.0	206.4	37.2
<b>Total persons who experienced physical threat</b>						
	<b>392.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>162.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>555.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

(a) Based on the Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics (ASCCSS).

(b) Includes inadequately described.

(c) Includes not applicable, not determined, don't know and refused to answer.

	MALES		FEMALES		PERSONS	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
<b>Age group (years)</b>						
18–24	*13.8	*32.6	28.7	28.2	42.5	29.5
25–34	*14.4	*33.9	29.6	29.2	44.0	30.6
35–44	*9.1	*21.6	25.8	25.4	35.0	24.3
45 and over	*5.0	*11.9	*17.4	*17.2	22.5	15.6
<b>Country of birth</b>						
Australia	29.0	68.5	82.6	81.3	111.6	77.5
Overseas(a)	*13.3	*31.5	*19.0	*18.7	32.3	22.5
<b>Highest non-school qualification</b>						
Degree/diploma or higher qualification	*21.3	*50.4	22.7	22.3	44.0	30.6
Other or no non-school qualification(b)	*21.0	*49.6	78.9	77.7	99.9	69.4
<b>Labour force status</b>						
Employed	27.7	65.5	56.1	55.2	83.8	58.2
Unemployed or not in the labour force	*14.6	*34.5	45.5	44.8	60.1	41.8
<b>Area of usual residence</b>						
Capital city	26.6	62.8	70.4	69.2	96.9	67.3
Balance of State or Territory	*15.8	*37.2	31.3	30.8	47.0	32.7
<b>Total persons who experienced sexual assault</b>	<b>42.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>101.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>143.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

(a) Includes inadequately described.

(b) Includes not applicable, level not determined, don't know and refused to answer.



EXPERIENCE OF SEXUAL ASSAULT, Relationship to perpetrator in most recent incident(a)

	MALES		FEMALES		PERSONS	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
DURING THE LAST 12 MONTHS						
Stranger	*13.9	*32.9	22.1	21.8	36.0	25.0
Current partner	—	—	*7.8	*7.7	*7.8	*5.4
Previous partner	np	np	21.5	21.1	np	np
Family or friends	*18.5	*43.7	39.7	39.0	58.2	40.4
Other known persons(b)	*14.9	*35.1	32.5	32.0	47.4	32.9
<b>Total(c)</b>	<b>42.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>101.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>143.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>

SINCE THE AGE OF 15						
Stranger	124.0	34.2	285.9	22.1	409.9	24.8
Current partner	—	—	27.4	2.1	27.4	1.7
Previous partner	*20.7	*5.7	272.3	21.1	293.0	17.7
Family or friends	110.3	30.4	643.0	49.7	753.3	45.5
Other known persons(b)	161.9	44.7	356.0	27.5	518.0	31.3
<b>Total(c)</b>	<b>362.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1 293.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1 655.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Includes both male and female perpetrators.

(b) Includes acquaintance, neighbour, counsellor or psychologist or psychiatrist, ex-boyfriend or girlfriend, doctor, teacher, minister, priest or clergy and prison officer.

(c) Components may not add to total as a person may have experienced sexual assault by more than one perpetrator type.

	MALES		FEMALES		PERSONS	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
<b>Age group (years)</b>						
18–34	*11.2	*16.5	33.6	21.0	44.8	19.6
35–44	*16.9	*24.7	38.3	23.9	55.2	24.2
45–54	*22.2	*32.5	46.0	28.7	68.1	29.9
55 and over	*17.9	*26.3	42.2	26.4	60.1	26.3
<b>Country of birth</b>						
Australia	44.6	65.4	121.2	75.7	165.7	72.6
Overseas						
Main English speaking countries(a)	*7.0	*10.2	*14.7	*9.2	*21.7	*9.5
Other countries(b)	*16.6	*24.4	24.2	15.1	40.8	17.9
<b>Highest non-school qualification</b>						
Degree/diploma or higher qualification	*25.4	*37.2	47.6	29.7	73.0	32.0
Other qualification	*23.8	*34.9	30.7	19.2	54.5	23.9
No non-school qualifications(c)	*19.0	*27.9	81.8	51.1	100.8	44.2
<b>Labour force status</b>						
Employed	55.0	80.6	100.8	62.9	155.7	68.2
Unemployed	—	—	*8.1	*5.0	*8.1	*3.5
Not in the labour force	*13.2	*19.4	51.3	32.0	64.5	28.2
<b>Area of usual residence</b>						
Capital city	47.9	70.3	106.1	66.2	153.9	67.4
Balance of State or Territory	*20.3	*29.7	54.1	33.8	74.3	32.6
<b>Total persons who experienced violence by a current partner</b>						
	<b>68.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>160.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>228.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Based on the Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics (ASCCSS).

(b) Includes inadequately described.

(c) Includes not applicable, level not determined, don't know and refused to answer.

	MALES		FEMALES		PERSONS	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
<b>Age group (years)</b>						
18–24	*15.9	*4.3	61.8	5.4	77.7	5.2
25–34	66.3	18.0	203.7	17.9	270.0	18.0
35–44	114.9	31.3	287.9	25.4	402.8	26.8
45–54	94.7	25.8	273.7	24.1	368.5	24.5
55 and over	75.5	20.6	308.3	27.2	383.8	25.5
<b>Country of birth</b>						
Australia	294.3	80.1	898.4	79.1	1 192.7	79.4
Overseas						
Main English speaking countries(b)	53.7	14.6	147.1	13.0	200.8	13.4
Other countries(c)	*19.3	*5.3	90.0	7.9	109.3	7.3
<b>Highest non-school qualification</b>						
Degree/diploma or higher qualification	103.7	28.2	278.8	24.6	382.5	25.5
Other qualification	123.2	33.5	250.5	22.1	373.7	24.9
No non-school qualification(d)	140.4	38.2	606.1	53.4	746.6	49.7
<b>Labour force status</b>						
Employed						
Working full-time	248.9	67.8	359.5	31.7	608.4	40.5
Working part-time	44.5	12.1	297.3	26.2	341.8	22.7
Unemployed	*12.6	*3.4	50.9	4.5	63.5	4.2
Not in the labour force	61.3	16.7	427.7	37.7	489.1	32.5
<b>Main source of household income</b>						
Employee cash income	176.2	48.0	457.4	40.3	633.6	42.2
Unincorporated business cash income	*15.1	*4.1	37.8	3.3	53.0	3.5
Government cash pensions and allowances	*32.1	*8.7	199.4	17.6	231.5	15.4
Other cash income(d)	143.8	39.2	440.9	38.8	584.8	38.9
<b>Area of usual residence</b>						
Capital city	227.5	61.9	649.6	57.2	877.1	58.4
Balance of State or Territory	139.8	38.1	485.9	42.8	625.7	41.6
<b>Total persons who experienced violence by a previous partner</b>						
	<b>367.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1 135.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1 502.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

(a) Most recently violent previous partner.  
 (b) Based on the Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics (ASCCSS).

(c) Includes inadequately described.

(d) Includes not applicable, not determined, don't know and refused to answer.

EXPERIENCE OF PARTNER VIOLENCE, Since the age of 15—Type of violence in most recent incident by current and/or previous partner(s)(a)

	CURRENT PARTNER						PREVIOUS PARTNER					
	Males		Females		Persons		Males		Females		Persons	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
<b>Physical violence</b>												
Assault	59.8	87.7	134.2	83.8	194.0	85.0	338.8	92.3	951.5	83.8	1 290.3	85.9
Threat	*10.0	*14.6	16.9	10.5	26.8	11.7	51.1	13.9	202.2	17.8	253.3	16.9
Total(b)	68.1	100.0	144.0	89.9	212.1	92.9	359.4	97.9	1 021.8	90.0	1 381.2	91.9
<b>Sexual violence</b>												
Assault	—	—	27.4	17.1	27.4	12.0	*20.7	*5.6	272.3	24.0	293.0	19.5
Threat	—	—	*5.8	*3.6	*5.8	*2.5	**1.6	**0.4	63.7	5.6	65.3	4.3
Total(b)	—	—	30.8	19.2	30.8	13.5	*22.3	*6.1	318.9	28.1	341.2	22.7
<b>Total</b>												
Assault	59.8	87.7	150.9	94.2	210.7	92.3	345.1	94.0	1 059.6	93.3	1 404.7	93.5
Threat	*10.0	*14.6	20.6	12.9	30.5	13.4	52.8	14.4	251.6	22.2	304.4	20.3
Total(b)	68.1	100.0	160.1	100.0	228.3	100.0	367.3	100.0	1 135.5	100.0	1 502.8	100.0

\* 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

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Most recently violent previous partner.

(b) Persons who experienced more than one type of violence are counted once in the total.

	<u>Males</u> .....		<u>Females</u> .....		<u>Persons</u> .....	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
<b>CURRENT PARTNER VIOLENCE</b>						
<b>Frequency of violence</b>						
One incident of violence	50.6	74.3	86.7	54.2	137.4	60.2
More than one incident of violence	*17.5	*25.7	73.4	45.8	90.9	39.8
<b>Whether violence order ever issued</b>						
Violence order not issued	np	np	144.0	90.0	np	np
Violence order issued						
Violence experienced after violence order issued	np	np	*3.2	*2.0	np	np
Violence not experienced after violence order issued	np	np	*12.9	*8.0	np	np
Total	np	np	*16.1	*10.0	np	np
<b>How often anxiety or fear experienced during the last 12 months</b>						
Anxiety or fear not experienced	62.4	91.6	128.6	80.3	191.0	83.7
Anxiety or fear experienced						
Anxiety or fear experienced every day	—	—	*13.0	*8.1	*13.0	*5.7
Anxiety or fear experienced less often	*5.7	*8.4	*18.5	*11.6	24.3	10.6
Total anxiety or fear experienced	*5.7	*8.4	31.5	19.7	37.2	16.3
<b>Total persons who experienced partner violence</b>	<b>68.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>160.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>228.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<b>PREVIOUS PARTNER VIOLENCE (b)</b>						
<b>Frequency of violence</b>						
One incident of violence	146.5	39.9	368.3	32.4	514.8	34.3
More than one incident of violence	220.8	60.1	767.2	67.6	988.0	65.7
<b>Whether violence order ever issued</b>						
Violence order not issued	345.4	94.1	848.7	74.7	1 194.1	79.5
Violence order issued						
Violence experienced after violence order issued	*6.1	*1.7	120.9	10.6	127.0	8.5
Violence not experienced after violence order issued	*15.8	*4.3	165.9	14.6	181.7	12.1
Total	*21.8	*5.9	286.8	25.3	308.7	20.5
<b>How often anxiety or fear experienced during the last 12 months</b>						
Anxiety or fear not experienced	347.1	94.5	928.0	81.7	1 275.1	84.9
Anxiety or fear experienced						
Anxiety or fear experienced every day	np	np	63.4	5.6	np	np
Anxiety or fear experienced less often	np	np	144.1	12.7	np	np
Total anxiety or fear experienced	*20.2	*5.5	207.5	18.3	227.6	15.1
<b>Total persons who experienced partner violence</b>	<b>367.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1 135.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1 502.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution (a) A person could be in a current relationship and have had a previous partner.

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells) (b) Most recent experience with violent previous partner.

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

	NOT EXPERIENCED ANY VIOLENCE		PHYSICAL VIOLENCE BY A PARTNER(a)		SEXUAL VIOLENCE BY A PARTNER(b)		TOTAL VIOLENCE BY A PARTNER(c)		TOTAL PERSONS	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
<b>MALES</b>										
<b>Child physical abuse</b>										
Experienced	175.1	4.7	75.0	17.8	**6.0	**26.7	75.6	17.6	702.4	9.4
Not experienced	3 558.1	95.3	347.0	82.2	*16.4	*73.3	354.3	82.4	6 775.7	90.6
<b>Child sexual abuse</b>										
Experienced	75.1	2.0	43.9	10.4	**2.2	**9.9	44.6	10.4	337.4	4.5
Not experienced	3 658.1	98.0	378.2	89.6	*20.1	*90.1	385.3	89.6	7 140.7	95.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 733.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>422.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>*22.3</b>	<b>*100.0</b>	<b>429.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>7 478.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>FEMALES</b>										
<b>Child physical abuse</b>										
Experienced	185.6	4.0	253.1	21.9	96.1	27.7	283.7	22.2	779.5	10.1
Not experienced	4 441.8	96.0	900.3	78.1	251.5	72.3	996.3	77.8	6 913.6	89.9
<b>Child sexual abuse</b>										
Experienced	261.3	5.6	306.0	26.5	123.7	35.6	344.7	26.9	956.6	12.4
Not experienced	4 366.0	94.4	847.4	73.5	223.9	64.4	935.4	73.1	6 736.5	87.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 627.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1 153.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>347.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1 280.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>7 693.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>PERSONS</b>										
<b>Child physical abuse</b>										
Experienced	360.6	4.3	328.1	20.8	102.1	27.6	359.3	21.0	1 481.9	9.8
Not experienced	7 999.9	95.7	1 247.4	79.2	267.9	72.4	1 350.6	79.0	13 689.4	90.2
<b>Child sexual abuse</b>										
Experienced	336.5	4.0	349.9	22.2	125.9	34.0	389.2	22.8	1 294.0	8.5
Not experienced	8 024.1	96.0	1 225.6	77.8	244.1	66.0	1 320.7	77.2	13 877.2	91.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>8 360.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1 575.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>370.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1 710.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>15 171.3</b>	<b>100.0</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

(a) Physical violence includes physical threat and physical assault.  
 (b) Sexual violence includes sexual threat and sexual assault.  
 (c) Components may not add to total as a person may have experienced both physical and sexual violence.

# 25

## EXPERIENCE OF CURRENT PARTNER VIOLENCE, Since the age of 15—Separation during relationship(a)

	MALES		FEMALES		PERSONS	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
Have separated and returned	*21.4	*31.3	59.4	37.1	80.8	35.4
Have not separated						
Did not want to leave current partner	*31.7	*46.5	39.6	24.7	71.3	31.2
Wanted to leave current partner	*15.1	*22.2	61.1	38.2	76.2	33.4
<i>Total</i>	46.8	68.7	100.7	62.9	147.5	64.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>68.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>160.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>228.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution  
 (a) Separation refers to those occasions when a person left their partner and then returned. (It does not refer to the final separation).

# 26

## WOMEN'S EXPERIENCE OF PARTNER VIOLENCE(a), Since the age of 15—Violence during pregnancy

	CURRENT PARTNER		PREVIOUS PARTNER(b)	
	'000	%	'000	%
Violence did not occur during pregnancy	107.2	85.4	428.1	64.1
Violence occurred during pregnancy				
Did not occur for the first time	*9.5	*7.6	122.1	18.3
Did occur for the first time	*8.8	*7.0	112.0	16.8
<i>Total(c)</i>	*18.3	*14.6	239.8	35.9
<b>Total women who were pregnant during relationship with violent partner</b>	<b>125.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>667.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution  
 (a) A person could be in a current relationship and have had a previous partner.  
 (b) Most recently violent previous partner.  
 (c) Includes women who did not know if violence occurred for the first time during pregnancy.

	MALES		FEMALES		PERSONS	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
CURRENT PARTNER VIOLENCE						
No children in their care during the relationship	48.4	71.0	68.2	42.6	116.6	51.1
Had children in their care						
Violence witnessed by children	**6.2	**9.1	54.4	34.0	60.7	26.6
Violence not witnessed by children	np	np	33.7	21.0	np	np
Do not know if witnessed by children	np	np	*3.8	*2.4	np	np
<i>Total in care</i>	*19.7	*29.0	91.9	57.4	111.7	48.9
<i>Total persons who experienced partner violence</i>	68.1	100.0	160.1	100.0	228.3	100.0
PREVIOUS PARTNER VIOLENCE (a)						
No children in their care during the relationship	144.3	44.9	389.4	37.6	533.7	39.4
Had children in their care						
Violence witnessed by children	80.3	25.0	409.2	39.5	489.4	36.1
Violence not witnessed by children	83.2	25.9	207.8	20.1	291.0	21.5
Do not know if witnessed by children	*13.5	*4.2	28.6	2.8	42.0	3.1
<i>Total in care</i>	176.9	55.1	645.5	62.4	822.5	60.6
<i>Total persons who experienced partner violence</i>	321.2	100.0	1 035.0	100.0	1 356.2	100.0

\* 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  
 np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated  
 (a) Excludes persons who were not living with their most recent violent previous partner at the time of the incident.



	MALES		FEMALES		PERSONS	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
<b>Age when abuse first occurred</b>						
0–2	*14.2	*2.0	30.3	3.9	44.4	3.0
3–4	66.1	9.4	106.8	13.7	172.9	11.7
5–6	167.1	23.8	148.5	19.1	315.6	21.3
7–8	136.7	19.5	172.5	22.1	309.2	20.9
9–10	127.2	18.1	113.7	14.6	241.0	16.3
11–14	191.1	27.2	207.6	26.6	398.8	26.9
<b>Relationship to perpetrator(a)</b>						
Father/step father	411.9	58.6	411.6	52.8	823.5	55.6
Mother/step mother	116.8	16.6	267.1	34.3	383.9	25.9
Other male relative	*24.8	*3.5	49.1	6.3	73.9	5.0
Other female relative	np	np	17.9	2.3	*21.0	*1.4
Family friend	**6.0	**0.9	19.8	2.5	25.8	1.7
Acquaintance/neighbour	*21.4	*3.0	*14.2	*1.8	35.5	2.4
Stranger	*23.2	*3.3	18.0	2.3	41.2	2.8
Other known person	142.9	20.3	60.9	7.8	203.8	13.7
<b>Country of birth</b>						
Australia	486.6	69.3	604.7	77.6	1 091.3	73.6
Overseas						
Main English speaking countries(b)	105.5	15.0	82.1	10.5	187.6	12.7
Other countries(c)	110.3	15.7	92.8	11.9	203.0	13.7
<b>Highest non-school qualification</b>						
Degree/diploma or higher qualification	228.2	32.5	234.5	30.1	462.7	31.2
Other qualification	175.1	24.9	143.8	18.5	319.0	21.5
No non-school qualification(d)	299.1	42.6	401.2	51.5	700.2	47.3
<b>Total persons who experienced physical abuse</b>						
	<b>702.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>779.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1 481.9</b>	<b>100.0</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

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Components may not add to the total as more than one perpetrator may have been involved.

(b) Based on the Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics (ASCCSS).

(c) Includes inadequately described.

(d) Includes not applicable, not determined, don't know and refused to answer.

	MALES		FEMALES		PERSONS	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
<b>Age when abuse first occurred</b>						
0–2	—	—	*9.5	*1.0	*9.5	*0.7
3–4	*22.6	*6.7	91.6	9.6	114.2	8.8
5–6	66.3	19.7	178.2	18.6	244.5	18.9
7–8	90.8	26.9	211.4	22.1	302.1	23.3
9–10	47.0	13.9	156.9	16.4	203.9	15.8
11–14	110.8	32.8	309.1	32.3	419.9	32.4
<b>Relationship to perpetrator(a)</b>						
Father/step father	*17.0	*5.0	158.1	16.5	175.1	13.5
Mother/step mother	**4.8	**1.4	*6.1	*0.6	*10.9	*0.8
Other male relative	55.2	16.4	335.5	35.1	390.7	30.2
Other female relative	np	np	*9.5	*1.0	*11.1	*0.9
Family friend	52.7	15.6	157.7	16.5	210.4	16.3
Acquaintance/neighbour	54.7	16.2	147.0	15.4	201.8	15.6
Stranger	61.9	18.3	81.9	8.6	143.8	11.1
Other known person	92.0	27.3	105.3	11.0	197.4	15.3
<b>Country of birth</b>						
Australia	245.7	72.8	756.5	79.1	1 002.2	77.4
Overseas						
Main English speaking countries(b)	53.7	15.9	124.6	13.0	178.3	13.8
Other countries(c)	*38.0	*11.3	75.5	7.9	113.5	8.8
<b>Highest non-school qualification</b>						
Degree/diploma or higher qualification	107.2	31.8	247.6	25.9	354.8	27.4
Other qualification	83.6	24.8	213.0	22.3	296.6	22.9
No non-school qualification(d)	146.7	43.5	496.0	51.8	642.6	49.7
<b>Total persons who experienced sexual abuse</b>						
	<b>337.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>956.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1 294.0</b>	<b>100.0</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

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Components may not add to the total as more than one perpetrator may have been involved.

(b) Based on the Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics (ASCCSS).

(c) Includes inadequately described.

(d) Includes not applicable, not determined, don't know and refused to answer.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### INTRODUCTION

**1** This publication presents the results of the 2005 Personal Safety Survey (PSS) which was conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) throughout Australia from August to December 2005.

**2** Information was collected from persons aged 18 years and over about their safety at home and in the community. In particular, information was collected about experiences of physical and sexual violence, the nature and extent of the violence against women and men, actions taken after experiencing violence and the effect on their lives. Additional information was collected about incidents of abuse, stalking and other forms of harassment.

### SCOPE OF THE SURVEY

**3** Personal face to face interviews were conducted with one randomly selected person aged 18 years or over who was a usual resident of the selected household. Both urban and rural areas in all states and territories were included, but very remote areas of Australia were excluded. The following groups were also excluded from the survey:

- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from the Population Census and estimated population figures
- overseas residents in Australia
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependents) stationed in Australia
- residents of non-private dwellings, such as hospitals, retirement villages, refuges etc.

### SURVEY DESIGN

**4** Dwellings were selected at random using a multistage area sample of private dwellings. The initial sample selected for the survey consisted of approximately 27,000 dwellings. This was reduced to a sample of approximately 22,000 after sample loss (e.g. households selected in the survey which had no residents in scope of the survey, vacant or derelict buildings, buildings under construction). Of those remaining dwellings 76.2% were fully or adequately responding, yielding a total sample for the survey of 11,800 females and 4,500 males.

**5** The PSS was conducted in both urban and rural areas in all states and territories, but excluded approximately 120,000 persons living in very remote areas of Australia who would otherwise have been within the scope of the survey. The exclusion of these persons would have only a minor impact on any aggregate estimates that are produced for individual states and territories, except for the Northern Territory where such persons account for around 23% of the population.

**6** The PSS survey design required special procedures for sample selection in order to achieve the targeted numbers of females and males. Also, in the non-metropolitan areas, the sample design incorporated selection of dwellings close to interviewers with a higher probability. Further details of these design elements may be found in *Personal Safety Survey, Australia: User Guide* (cat. no. 4906.0.55.003).

### WEIGHTING, BENCH MARKING AND ESTIMATION

**7** Weighting is a process of adjusting results from a sample survey to infer results for the total population. To do this, a weight is allocated to each sample unit. The weight is a value which indicates how many population units are represented by the sample unit.

**8** The first step in calculating weights for each person was to determine an initial household weight, equal to the inverse of the probability of the household being selected in the survey. For example, if the probability of a household being selected in the survey was 1 in 600, then the household would have an initial weight of 600 (that is, they represent 600 others). An adjustment was then made to the household weights for household composition. Initial person weights were derived from the adjusted household weights according to the number of in-scope males or females in the household.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

### WEIGHTING, BENCH MARKING AND ESTIMATION *continued*

**9** The person weights were then calibrated to align with independent estimates of the population of interest, referred to as 'benchmarks', in designated categories of sex by age by area of usual residence categories. Weights calibrated against population benchmarks help to compensate for over or under-enumeration of particular categories of persons and ensure that the survey estimates conform to the independently estimated distribution of the population by age, sex and area of usual residence, rather than to the distribution within the sample itself.

**10** Estimates obtained from the survey were derived using a complex ratio estimation procedure. This procedure ensures that survey estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of the total population by age and area (rather than to the age-area distribution within the sample itself). The survey was conducted during August to December 2005, and estimates were made to conform to the population distribution during that period.

### SURVEY METHODOLOGY

**11** In addition to standard ABS training in the content and procedures for the survey the interviewers received sensitivity and awareness training to increase their understanding of and ability to deal with issues related to violence against women and men.

**12** A specific requirement of the survey was that all interviews had to be conducted alone. This ensured the complete confidentiality of any information collected and the security of both the respondent and the interviewer where the respondent may have been living in the same household as the perpetrator. If preferred by the respondent, the interview could be conducted over the telephone.

**13** Respondents were given the opportunity to have the interview conducted by a male interviewer. However, all interviews were conducted by female interviewers.

**14** More detailed information about the methods used to conduct the survey are found in *Personal Safety Survey, Australia: User Guide* (cat. no. 4906.0.55.003).

### RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

**15** The estimates provided in this publication are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors.

**16** Sampling error is the difference between the published estimates and the corresponding figures that would have been obtained from a collection based on the whole population, using the same questionnaires and procedures. A measure of the sampling error for a given estimate is provided by the standard error expressed as a percentage of the estimate (relative standard error). For more information refer to the Technical Notes (paragraphs 1-4). In this publication, estimates with a high relative standard error of 25% to 50% are preceded by an asterisk (e.g. \*3.4) to indicate the estimate should be used with caution. Estimates with a relative standard over 50% are indicated by a double asterisk (\*\*0.6) and are considered too unreliable for most purposes.

**17** Non-sampling errors can occur whether the estimates are derived from a sample or from a census. The major sources of non-sampling errors are:

- inability to obtain comprehensive data from some women and men in the sample. These errors arise because of differences which exist between the characteristics of respondents and non-respondents
- errors in reporting by either the respondent or the interviewer, arising from inappropriate wording of questions, misunderstanding of the information required, inability or unwillingness to provide accurate information and mistakes in answers to questions
- errors arising during processing of the survey data, such as mistakes in coding and data recording.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

### RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

*continued*

**18** Non-sampling errors are difficult to measure in any collection. However, every effort was made to minimise these errors. In particular, the effect of the reporting and processing errors described above were minimised by careful questionnaire design, extensive training of interviewers and extensive editing and quality control checking at all stages of data processing.

**19** More detailed information about issues to consider when interpreting the survey results are contained in *2005, Personal Safety Survey, Australia: User Guide* (cat. no. 4906.0.55.003).

### SIGNIFICANCE TESTING

**20** The difference in results from the 1996 WSS and the 2005 PSS have been subject to testing to determine whether the changes are statistically significant – that is, to determine whether the differences we observe in sample estimates over time indicate real differences. In tables 5, 6, 7 and 8, and text that compare the two surveys, all data has been significance tested and all changes over time presented are significant. For other comparisons between data from the 1996 WSS and the 2005 PSS, it is recommended that significance testing is undertaken to determine whether there is a real difference between the corresponding population characteristics. Refer to the Technical Note (paragraph 12) for details on significance testing.

### RELATED PUBLICATIONS

**21** Other ABS publications on related topics which may be of interest include:  
*Crime and Safety, Australia, 2005*, cat. no. 4509.0  
*General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia, 2002*, cat. no. 4159.0  
*Information Paper: Measuring Crime Victimisation, Australia: The impact of different collection methodologies, 2002*, cat. no. 4522.0.55.001  
*Information paper: National Information Development Plan for Crime and Justice Statistics, 2005*, cat. no. 4520.0  
*Recorded Crime—Victims, Australia, 2004*, cat. no. 4510.0  
*Sexual Assault in Australia: A Statistical Overview, 2004*, cat. no. 4523.0  
*Women's Safety, Australia, 1996*, cat. no. 4128.0

**22** All current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (cat. no. 1101.0). The ABS also issues a *Release Advice* (cat. no. 1105.0) which lists products released by all ABS offices on the day of the issue of the Release Advice and those expected to be released on the following four working days. Copies are available free of charge on Tuesdays and Fridays over the counter from ABS bookshops or by subscription. A daily Release Advice is also available from the ABS statsite on the Internet <[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)>. The Catalogue and Release Advice are available from any ABS office.

**23** Results from other surveys which may also be of interest include: *International Crime Victims Survey (ICVS)*, *International Violence Against Women Survey (IVAWS) conducted by the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC)*.

### UNPUBLISHED STATISTICS

**24** This publication does not include all the information available from the survey. Additional tables, providing more detail, or data items not included in this publication are available on request. The Glossary provides definitions of data items and terms used in the PSS. *Personal Safety Survey, Australia: User Guide* (cat. no. 4906.0.55.003), provides a comprehensive list of data items available from the survey. Users should be aware that as the level of disaggregation increases, the number of respondents contributing to data cells decreases, and so sample error increases. Further information about the survey and associated products can be obtained from the the contact officer listed on the front of this publication.

## APPENDIX 1 SELECTED POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

	MALES		FEMALES		PERSONS	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
<b>Age group (years)</b>						
18–24	982.6	13.1	945.7	12.3	1 928.3	12.7
25–34	1 398.8	18.7	1 404.5	18.3	2 803.3	18.5
35–44	1 470.5	19.7	1 497.6	19.5	2 968.1	19.6
45–54	1 372.7	18.4	1 398.6	18.2	2 771.3	18.3
55 and over	2 253.4	30.1	2 446.8	31.8	4 700.2	31.0
<b>Country of birth</b>						
Australia	5 492.2	73.4	5 651.7	73.5	11 143.9	73.5
Overseas						
Main English speaking countries(a)	784.3	10.5	784.5	10.2	1 568.8	10.3
Other countries(b)	1 176.0	15.7	1 225.4	15.9	2 401.4	15.8
<b>Highest non-school qualification</b>						
Degree/diploma or higher qualification	2 131.7	28.5	2 260.7	29.4	4 392.4	29.0
Other qualification	2 002.6	26.8	1 324.8	17.2	3 327.4	21.9
No non-school qualification(c)	3 343.9	44.7	4 107.6	53.4	7 451.5	49.1
<b>Labour force status</b>						
Employed						
Working full-time	4 532.1	60.6	2 343.9	30.5	6 876.0	45.3
Working part-time	866.8	11.6	2 070.9	26.9	2 937.7	19.4
Unemployed	212.7	2.8	202.2	2.6	414.9	2.7
Not in the labour force	1 866.5	25.0	3 076.1	40.0	4 942.6	32.6
<b>Main source of household income</b>						
Employee cash income	4 093.3	54.7	3 937.6	51.2	8 030.9	52.9
Unincorporated business cash income	464.6	6.2	387.8	5.0	852.4	5.6
Government cash pensions and allowances	927.7	12.4	1 140.9	14.8	2 068.6	13.6
Other cash income	417.6	5.6	427.5	5.6	845.1	5.6
<b>Social marital status</b>						
Married in a registered marriage	4 006.9	53.6	3 789.7	49.3	7 796.6	51.4
Married in a defacto marriage	49.9	0.7	21.4	0.3	71.3	0.5
Not married	3 421.3	45.8	3 882.1	50.5	7 303.4	48.1
<b>Area of usual residence</b>						
Capital city	4 800.0	64.2	4 977.4	64.7	9 777.4	64.4
Balance of State or Territory	2 678.2	35.8	2 715.7	35.3	5 393.9	35.6
<b>States and Territories</b>						
New South Wales	2 507.9	33.5	2 582.6	33.6	5 090.5	33.6
Victoria	1 805.4	24.1	1 947.6	25.3	3 753.1	24.7
Queensland	1 508.8	20.2	1 468.5	19.1	2 977.3	19.6
South Australia	511.4	6.8	591.8	7.7	1 103.2	7.3
Western Australia	770.5	10.3	742.7	9.7	1 513.2	9.8
Tasmania	205.0	2.7	199.7	2.6	404.8	2.7
Northern Territory	*36.1	*0.5	50.5	0.7	86.6	0.6
Australian Capital Territory	132.9	1.8	109.7	1.4	242.6	1.6
<b>Australia</b>	<b>7 478.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>7 693.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>15 171.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Other totals</b>						
Experienced violence since the age 15	3 744.9	50.1	3 065.8	39.9	6 810.7	44.9
Experienced physical assault by male perpetrator	2 111.1	28.2	1 530.3	19.9	3 641.4	24.0
Experienced physical assault by female perpetrator	641.1	8.6	389.3	5.1	1 030.3	6.8
Experienced violence by current partner	68.1	0.9	160.1	2.1	228.3	1.5
Experienced violence by previous partner	367.3	4.9	1 135.5	14.8	1 502.8	9.9
Women who were pregnant during relationship with violent current partner	—	—	125.5	1.6	—	—
Women who were pregnant during relationship with violent previous partner	—	—	667.9	8.7	—	—

\* estimate is subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Based on the Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics (ASCCSS).

(b) Includes inadequately described.

(c) Includes not applicable, level not determined, don't know and refused to answer.

## APPENDIX 2 COMPARABILITY BETWEEN PSS AND OTHER SOURCES

### COMPARABILITY BETWEEN SOURCES

The 2005 PSS expands on the 1996 WSS by broadening the scope of the survey to include men. It enables analysis of the relative changes in women's personal safety over time, based on the comprehensive national benchmark provided by the WSS.

The ABS publishes data relating to crime and safety from different sources. Comparisons of PSS data with data from other sources cannot be readily made because of differences in data collection methods and the concepts and definitions used to measure violence.

Other main differences which may affect the comparability of data presented in this publication are outlined below. For further information about comparability between the PSS and WSS see the 2005, *Personal Safety Survey, Australia: User Guide* (cat. no. 4906.0.55.003) available on the ABS web site.

In addition to the 2005 PSS, crime victimisation indicators have recently been collected by the ABS through the 2005 National Crime and Safety Survey (NCSS) and the 2002 General Safety Survey (GSS). All three are household surveys using different methodologies and procedures resulting in different measures of crime victimisation. The following table summarises assault prevalence from these three surveys.

### ASSAULT PREVALENCE RATES, PERSONS 18 YEARS AND OVER, During the last 12 months

	PHYSICAL ASSAULT			PHYSICAL VIOLENCE		
	2005 PSS	2005 NCSS	2002 GSS	2005 PSS	2005 NCSS	2002 GSS
	'000					
Males	485.4	128.8	na	779.8	363.6	783.8
Females	242.0	115.0	na	363.0	309.8	528.5
Persons	727.4	243.8	na	1 142.7	673.4	1 312.3
	%					
Males	6.5	1.7	na	10.4	4.9	10.9
Females	3.1	1.5	na	4.7	4.0	7.2
Persons	4.8	1.6	na	7.5	4.4	9.0

The above table indicates that prevalence of assault and violence victimisation ranges from 4.4% in the 2005 NCSS to 9.0% in the 2002 GSS. Quantifying the reasons for these differences is not possible. However, much of the differences are attributable to methodological and procedural factors, context effects (preceding questions influence responses to subsequent questions) and question wording. For example, the 2005 PSS asked about the most recent incident of sexual assault and sexual threat and then respondents were instructed to exclude any incidents they had already reported when reporting any incidents of physical assault and physical threat, whereas the GSS only asked about physical assaults and threats. It is possible an incident that may have been reported as sexual assault in the PSS would have been included as a physical assault in the GSS.

The PSS is a purpose built survey designed to collect potentially sensitive information on feelings of safety and assault victimisation. The survey involved face to face personal interviews using Computer Assisted Interviewing (CAI) incorporating special procedures that:

- built a rapport with respondents and encouraged them to provide answers to often difficult and very personal questions
- emphasised the need for a safe environment in which to conduct the interview, and
- enabled concepts and definitions to be explained to the respondent as necessary.

## APPENDIX 2 COMPARABILITY BETWEEN PSS AND OTHER SOURCES *continued*

### COMPARABILITY BETWEEN SOURCES *continued*

The NCSS is conducted as a supplement to the ABS Labour Force Survey (LFS) and uses a self-administered questionnaire. The survey collects information from household members 15 years and over on a range of personal and property related crimes, such as household break-in, attempted break-ins and motor vehicle theft, and person robberies, assaults and sexual assaults (for persons aged 18 years and over) in the 12 months prior to the survey. The survey measures the incidence of force and violence and the respondent is required to make judgements about the definition of these terms.

The GSS involved a face to face personal interview using CAI. Being a general survey of social issues the collection of crime and safety data was only one part of the survey.

Further information on crime data measurement issues is available in the following:  
*Information paper: Measuring Crime Victimization, Australia - The Impact of Different Collection Methodologies, 2002* (cat no 4522.0.55.001).



## TECHNICAL NOTE DATA QUALITY

### RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

**1** Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of households, they are subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from those that would have been produced if all persons had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error (SE), which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of persons was included. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one SE from the number that would have been obtained if all persons had been included, and about 19 chances in 20 that the difference will be less than two SEs. Another measure of the likely difference is the relative standard error (RSE), which is obtained by expressing the SE as a percentage of the estimate.

**2** Space does not allow for the separate indication of the SEs of all estimates in this publication. A table of SEs and RSEs for estimates of numbers of persons appears at the end of these Technical Notes. These figures will not give a precise measure of the SE for a particular estimate but will provide an indication of its magnitude.

**3** The size of the SE increases with the level of the estimate, so that the larger the estimate the larger is the SE. However, the larger the sample estimate, the smaller the SE will be in percentage years (that is the RSE). This means larger estimates will be relatively more reliable than smaller estimates. In the tables in this publication, only estimates with RSEs of 25% or less, and percentages based on these estimates, are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes. Estimates with RSEs of 25% to 50% are preceded by an asterisk (e.g. \*2.4) to indicate they are subject to high SEs and should be used with caution. Estimates with RSEs greater than 50% are preceded with a double asterisk (e.g. \*\*0.1); these estimates are considered too unreliable for general use.

**4** The imprecision due to sampling variability, which is measured by the SE, should not be confused with inaccuracies that may occur because of imperfections in reporting by respondents and recording by interviewers, and errors made in coding and processing data. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as non-sampling error, and they may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or a sample. Every effort is made to reduce non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and efficient operating procedures.

### CALCULATION OF STANDARD ERRORS

*Standard errors of an estimate*

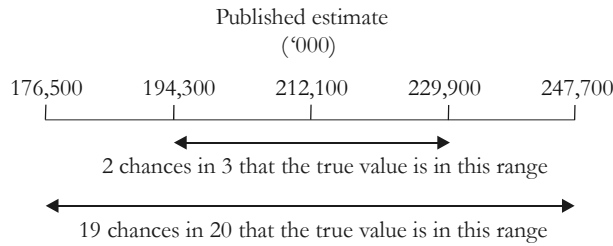
**5** An example of the calculation and the use of SEs in relation to estimates of persons is as follows:

**6** From table 22 the estimate of the number of persons who experienced physical violence by their current partner since the age of 15 is 212,100. Since this estimate is between 200,000 and 300,000 in the SE table for person estimates, the SE for Australia will be between 17,350 and 20,950 and can be approximated by interpolation using the following general formula:

$$\begin{aligned} & SE \text{ of estimate} \\ &= \text{lower SE} + \left( \left( \frac{\text{size of estimate} - \text{lower estimate}}{\text{upper estimate} - \text{lower estimate}} \right) \times (\text{upper SE} - \text{lower SE}) \right) \\ &= 17,350 + \left( \left( \frac{212,100 - 200,000}{300,000 - 200,000} \right) \times (20,950 - 17,350) \right) \\ &= 17,789 \\ &= 17,800 \text{ (rounded to the nearest 100)} \end{aligned}$$

**7** Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the value that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey falls in the range of 194,300 to 229,900 and about nineteen chances in twenty that the value will fall within the range of 176,500 to 247,700.

Standard errors of an estimate *continued*



**8** The smaller the estimate the higher is the relative standard error. Very small estimates are thus subject to such high standard errors (relative to the size of the estimate) as to detract seriously from their value for most reasonable uses.

Standard error of a proportion

**9** Proportions and percentages formed from the ratio of two estimates are also subject to sampling errors. The size of the error depends on the accuracy of both the numerator and the denominator. A formula to approximate the relative standard error (RSE) of a proportion is given below.

$$RSE\left(\frac{x}{y}\right) = \sqrt{[RSE(x)]^2 + [RSE(y)]^2}$$

Standard error of a difference

**10** The difference between two survey estimates is itself an estimate and is therefore subject to sampling variability. The standard error of the difference of two survey estimates depends on the standard errors of the original estimates and on the relationship (correlation) between the two original estimates. An approximate standard error (SE) of the difference between two estimated (x-y) may be calculated by the following formula.

$$SE(x-y) = \sqrt{[SE(x)]^2 + [SE(y)]^2}$$

**11** While this formula will only be exact for differences between separate and uncorrelated (unrelated) characteristics or sub-populations, it is expected to provide a good approximation for all differences likely to be of interest.

SIGNIFICANCE TESTING

**12** Statistical significance testing has been undertaken for the comparison of estimates from the 1996 Women's Safety Survey and the 2005 PSS. The statistical significance test for these comparisons was performed to determine whether it is likely that there is a difference between the corresponding population characteristics. The standard error of the difference between two corresponding estimates (x and y) can be calculated using the formula in the paragraph above. This standard error is used to calculate the following test statistic:

$$\frac{[x-y]}{SE(x-y)}$$

**13** If the value of the test statistic is greater than 1.96 then we may say there is good evidence of a real difference in the two populations with respect to that characteristic. Otherwise, it cannot be stated with confidence that there is a real difference between the populations. Users should take account of RSEs when comparing estimates for different populations.

## TECHNICAL NOTE DATA QUALITY *continued*

### STANDARD ERRORS ON PERSON ESTIMATES

Size of estimate	STANDARD ERROR								AUSTRALIA	
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Standard error	Relative standard error
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	%
100	220	190	170	80	120	90	150	110	140	140.0
200	350	310	280	160	200	160	220	180	250	125.0
300	460	400	380	230	270	220	280	240	340	113.3
500	640	570	540	350	400	320	380	330	490	98.0
700	780	710	670	460	520	420	470	420	620	88.6
1,000	980	890	850	610	670	550	580	530	800	80.0
1,500	1 250	1 150	1 100	830	890	740	740	700	1 050	70.0
2,000	1 480	1 380	1 320	1 030	1 090	910	880	850	1 270	63.5
2,500	1 700	1 600	1 500	1 200	1 250	1 050	1 000	1 000	1 450	58.0
3,000	1 900	1 750	1 700	1 400	1 450	1 200	1 150	1 100	1 650	55.0
3,500	2 050	1 950	1 850	1 550	1 600	1 350	1 250	1 250	1 850	52.9
4,000	2 250	2 100	2 000	1 700	1 750	1 450	1 350	1 350	2 000	50.0
5,000	2 550	2 400	2 300	1 950	2 000	1 700	1 550	1 550	2 300	46.0
7,000	3 100	2 900	2 800	2 450	2 500	2 150	1 950	1 950	2 850	40.7
10,000	3 750	3 600	3 450	3 100	3 100	2 750	2 400	2 500	3 500	35.0
15,000	4 700	4 500	4 350	4 000	3 950	3 550	3 100	3 300	4 450	29.7
20,000	5 500	5 300	5 100	4 750	4 700	4 250	3 750	4 000	5 250	26.3
30,000	6 850	6 600	6 400	5 950	5 950	5 450	4 900	5 250	6 600	22.0
40,000	8 000	7 750	7 450	7 000	7 000	6 500	5 900	6 350	7 700	19.3
50,000	9 000	8 700	8 350	7 850	7 900	7 400	6 800	7 350	8 700	17.4
100,000	12 850	12 450	11 900	11 150	11 450	11 050	10 750	11 750	12 400	12.4
150,000	15 800	15 250	14 500	13 500	14 050	13 850	14 100	15 400	15 150	10.1
200,000	18 200	17 600	16 600	15 350	16 200	16 200	17 100	18 700	17 350	8.7
300,000	22 200	21 400	20 100	18 200	19 650	20 100	..	24 550	20 950	7.0
500,000	28 350	27 200	25 250	22 250	24 850	26 100	..	..	26 300	5.3
1,000,000	39 100	37 250	34 050	28 400	33 550	..	..	..	35 150	3.5
2,000,000	53 350	50 300	45 150	35 200	44 350	..	..	..	46 050	2.3
5,000,000	79 100	73 350	63 900	..	..	..	..	..	63 900	1.3
10,000,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	79 900	0.8

.. not applicable

### PERSON ESTIMATES WITH RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS OF 25% AND 50%

Size of estimate	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
Estimate with 25% RSE	24 795	22 776	21 096	17 419	17 218	12 800	9 081	9 963	22 362
Estimate with 50% RSE	5 181	4 501	4 117	2 242	2 599	1 403	1 454	1 194	3 971

## TECHNICAL NOTE DATA QUALITY *continued*

### STANDARD ERRORS ON MALE ESTIMATES

Size of estimate	STANDARD ERROR								AUSTRALIA	
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Standard error	Relative standard error
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	%
100	340	470	290	80	200	70	170	80	130	130.0
200	500	620	430	150	330	150	260	150	230	115.0
300	620	750	550	220	440	220	330	220	330	110.0
500	820	940	740	360	630	360	450	360	500	100.0
700	990	1 090	900	480	790	490	570	480	660	94.3
1,000	1 200	1 290	1 100	660	1 010	680	720	670	870	87.0
1,500	1 500	1 570	1 400	950	1 330	990	950	960	1 180	78.7
2,000	1 750	1 810	1 660	1 210	1 610	1 280	1 160	1 230	1 450	72.5
2,500	2 000	2 050	1 900	1 450	1 850	1 550	1 350	1 500	1 700	68.0
3,000	2 200	2 200	2 100	1 700	2 100	1 800	1 550	1 750	1 950	65.0
3,500	2 400	2 400	2 300	1 950	2 350	2 100	1 750	2 000	2 150	61.4
4,000	2 550	2 550	2 500	2 150	2 550	2 350	1 900	2 200	2 350	58.8
5,000	2 900	2 900	2 850	2 600	3 000	2 800	2 250	2 650	2 750	55.0
7,000	3 500	3 450	3 450	3 400	3 700	3 750	2 900	3 500	3 450	49.3
10,000	4 250	4 150	4 300	4 550	4 700	5 000	3 800	4 700	4 350	43.5
15,000	5 350	5 200	5 450	6 200	6 100	6 950	5 200	6 450	5 600	37.3
20,000	6 250	6 100	6 450	7 700	7 350	8 700	6 550	8 050	6 650	33.3
30,000	7 850	7 700	8 200	10 450	9 550	11 900	9 050	10 950	8 400	28.0
40,000	9 250	9 050	9 700	12 900	11 500	14 800	11 450	13 550	9 900	24.8
50,000	10 450	10 350	11 050	15 100	13 250	17 500	13 800	15 950	11 150	22.3
100,000	15 450	15 600	16 700	24 500	20 500	28 850	24 800	26 050	16 000	16.0
150,000	19 400	20 000	21 250	32 200	26 400	38 250	35 250	34 450	19 500	13.0
200,000	22 850	23 900	25 200	38 850	31 500	46 550	45 450	41 750	22 300	11.2
300,000	28 750	30 900	32 050	50 450	40 450	60 950	65 350	54 500	26 750	8.9
500,000	38 400	42 900	43 450	69 250	55 150	84 650	104 300	..	33 200	6.6
1,000,000	57 000	67 800	65 650	104 600	83 600	..	..	..	43 400	4.3
2,000,000	84 800	108 600	99 250	154 700	125 950	..	..	..	55 200	2.8
5,000,000	143 650	206 700	171 700	..	..	..	..	..	72 700	1.5
10,000,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	86 650	0.9

.. not applicable

### MALE ESTIMATES WITH RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS OF 25% AND 50%

	NSW	Vic.	Qld.	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
Size of estimate	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
Estimate with 25% RSE	33 371	31 803	37 134	93 788	58 631	159 944	94 073	114 460	38 932
Estimate with 50% RSE	6 991	6 781	6 838	6 216	8 358	10 190	3 380	7 192	6 726

## TECHNICAL NOTE DATA QUALITY *continued*

### STANDARD ERRORS ON FEMALE ESTIMATES

Size of estimate	STANDARD ERROR								AUSTRALIA	
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Standard error	Relative standard error
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	%
100	150	120	120	100	110	100	180	110	150	150.0
200	260	220	220	180	200	170	250	180	250	125.0
300	360	310	300	250	270	230	300	230	330	110.0
500	520	450	440	370	390	330	390	320	470	94.0
700	650	580	570	480	500	410	460	400	590	84.3
1,000	840	760	740	620	640	520	550	490	740	74.0
1,500	1 100	1 000	980	810	840	670	680	620	960	64.0
2,000	1 320	1 220	1 190	980	1 000	790	790	730	1 140	57.0
2,500	1 500	1 400	1 350	1 150	1 150	900	900	800	1 300	52.0
3,000	1 700	1 600	1 550	1 250	1 300	1 000	1 000	900	1 450	48.3
3,500	1 900	1 750	1 700	1 400	1 400	1 100	1 050	1 000	1 600	45.7
4,000	2 050	1 900	1 850	1 500	1 500	1 150	1 150	1 050	1 750	43.8
5,000	2 350	2 200	2 100	1 700	1 700	1 300	1 300	1 200	2 000	40.0
7,000	2 850	2 650	2 550	2 050	2 050	1 550	1 600	1 400	2 400	34.3
10,000	3 500	3 300	3 100	2 450	2 500	1 850	1 950	1 650	2 950	29.5
15,000	4 350	4 100	3 850	2 950	3 050	2 200	2 450	1 950	3 750	25.0
20,000	5 050	4 750	4 450	3 350	3 450	2 500	2 900	2 250	4 350	21.8
30,000	6 250	5 850	5 350	3 950	4 150	2 950	3 700	2 650	5 450	18.2
40,000	7 200	6 700	6 100	4 350	4 650	3 300	4 400	2 950	6 300	15.8
50,000	8 000	7 400	6 750	4 750	5 100	3 600	5 050	3 200	7 100	14.2
100,000	11 000	10 000	8 850	5 850	6 550	4 550	7 750	4 050	10 050	10.1
150,000	13 100	11 750	10 250	6 500	7 450	5 150	10 050	4 650	12 250	8.2
200,000	14 750	13 100	11 250	6 950	8 150	5 600	12 100	5 050	14 050	7.0
300,000	17 350	15 100	12 750	7 500	9 100	6 250	15 800	5 650	16 900	5.6
500,000	20 950	17 800	14 650	8 150	10 250	7 000	22 200	..	21 300	4.3
1,000,000	26 550	21 650	17 150	8 700	11 700	..	..	..	28 650	2.9
2,000,000	32 800	25 500	19 400	8 900	12 950	..	..	..	37 950	1.9
5,000,000	41 750	30 150	21 600	..	..	..	..	..	53 750	1.1
10,000,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	68 650	0.7

.. not applicable

### FEMALE ESTIMATES WITH RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS OF 25% AND 50%

Size of estimate	NSW	Vic.	Qld.	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
Estimate with 25% RSE	20 539	18 023	15 738	9 435	9 915	5 475	5 540	4 439	14 795
Estimate with 50% RSE	4 192	3 517	3 206	1 902	2 023	1 113	1 231	960	2 827

## GLOSSARY

<b>Abuse before the age of 15</b>	<p>Abuse experienced by a person before the age of 15 years from any adult (male or female), including the person's parents. Emotional abuse is excluded.</p> <p><i>Physical abuse.</i> Any deliberate physical injury (including bruises) inflicted upon a child (before the age of 15 years) by an adult. Discipline that accidentally resulted in an injury is excluded.</p> <p><i>Sexual abuse.</i> Any act by an adult involving a child (before the age of 15 years) in sexual activity beyond their understanding or contrary to currently accepted community standards.</p>
<b>Age</b>	<p>Of the person at the time of the survey.</p> <p>Of the respondent when they experienced abuse for the first time.</p>
<b>Anxiety or fear</b>	<p>If a person had experienced any incident of sexual assault, threatened sexual assault, physical assault and/or threatened or attempted physical assault they were asked if they had experienced anxiety or fear in the 12 months after the incident and during the last 12 months. If a person had experienced any incident of violence by a previous partner they were also asked if they had experienced anxiety or fear when they lived with their previous partner. Anxiety or fear for personal safety was also collected in relation to the most recent incident of stalking.</p> <p><i>Anxiety for personal safety.</i> Distress or uneasiness of mind resulting from apprehension of danger or misfortune. The anxiety or worry may be accompanied by restlessness or feeling 'on edge', difficulty concentrating or mind going blank, irritability, muscle tension or sleep disturbance.</p> <p><i>Fear for personal safety.</i> Includes fear of reprisals or the recurrence of a similar incident by either the perpetrator or another person. It excludes fear for the person's children.</p> <p><i>Experienced anxiety or fear when living with previous partner.</i> A broader concept than anxiety or fear for personal safety, incorporating the generalised fear which a person may have experienced as a result of living with the perpetrator of the violence. Includes fear of leaving the house, fear of men and/or women in general and fear for their children's safety.</p>
<b>Assault</b>	<p>An incident, other than a robbery, where the respondent was threatened with force or violence or physically attacked. See Physical assault and Sexual assault.</p>
<b>Children witnessed violence</b>	<p>People who had children in their long-term care reported whether or not these children saw or heard the violence by a current and/or previous partner. The children may have been the person's or their partner's, own children, step-children, adopted or foster children. Children of relatives, friends or neighbours who were visiting and saw or heard the violence were excluded.</p>
<b>Country of birth</b>	<p>Classified according to the Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics (ASCCSS). Main English speaking countries include Canada, Republic of Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, United Kingdom and United States of America.</p>
<b>Doctor consulted</b>	<p>Includes qualified medical practitioners working in private practice, health centres, hospitals, emergency services who the person visited to treat the injuries sustained in the most recent incident of either physical assault and/or sexual assault. Excludes ambulance officers and nurses.</p>
<b>Drunk</b>	<p>There is no consistent or agreed definition of being 'drunk' or 'intoxicated'. These terms are usually taken to refer to an elevated concentration of alcohol in the blood, such that a person cannot function within their normal range of physical and/or cognitive abilities. Responses were based on the person's perception of the term 'drunk'.</p>
<b>During the relationship</b>	<p>Refers to the time that a person lived with their current or previous partner.</p>
<b>During their lifetime</b>	<p>For those who were ever stalked in their lifetime, it is what happened to them in the most recent incident, NOT what has happened to them for every stalking incident.</p>

## GLOSSARY *continued*

<b>Effects on life</b>	<p>The effects on a person's life as a result of the most recent incident of sexual assault, threatened sexual assault, physical assault, threatened or attempted physical assault and/or stalking during the 12 months after the incident.</p> <p><i>Whether took time off work.</i> Time off from paid work or work without pay in a family business. This includes time off work to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ appear in court</li><li>■ meet with the police or a lawyer</li><li>■ to visit the doctor or a counsellor</li><li>■ or because respondent was unable to work because of either physical injuries or emotional distress.</li></ul> <p><i>Change in day-to-day activities.</i> Includes a change in the usual way of carrying out unpaid work such as shopping, household tasks, child care, voluntary or community work and social activities because of the injuries they received or as a result of experiencing anxiety or fear for their personal safety. The change may have been either a reduction or an increase in the amount that the person did, or a change in the way activities were carried out because of injuries or their emotional condition. For example, they were unable to complete any of their normal household duties and arranged for a relative to do them or they were unable to attend their regular leisure activities because the perpetrator would be there.</p> <p><i>Social or leisure activities.</i> Includes formal and informal social activities e.g. having friends over for dinner, or playing organised sport.</p> <p><i>Work.</i> Includes paid work, regardless of hours worked. Includes changing hours of work, duties performed, or taking leave. Excludes voluntary work.</p> <p><i>Child care.</i> Caring for children in own home or another person's home. Excludes employment as a child care worker which is recorded as work.</p> <p><i>Home security.</i> Includes installing and/or upgrading door or window locks, installation of a security system, improving external lighting (e.g. adding additional external lighting or installing sensor lights), removing bushes or shrubs close to the house to improve visibility, getting a dog and/or having another person move in.</p>
<b>Emotional abuse</b>	<p><i>Manipulation, isolation or intimidation by a current partner.</i> Includes persistent behaviour that seeks to control the respondent's behaviour and contact with others.</p> <p><i>Tried to prevent contact with family or friends.</i> Long-term prevention of contact with family, relatives or friends, including those overseas.</p> <p><i>Tried to prevent use of the telephone or family car.</i> Excludes the occasional situation where a person has not been able to use the car because their partner needs it or not being able to use the telephone because the last bill was too large.</p> <p><i>Tried to prevent knowledge about or access to family money.</i> The partner controls the household income or assets and does not let the person know about them. For example, the person is only given a certain amount of money each week and does not know how much money comes into the family. Excludes money belonging to the partner's parents or their other family members.</p> <p><i>Insulted with the intent to shame, belittle or humiliate.</i> Intentional putting down of the person. Insults that are said in jest or fun were excluded.</p> <p><i>Damaged or destroyed property.</i> Includes if the person's partner stole their property and then sold it.</p>
<b>Employed</b>	<p>People who worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job or business, or on a farm. Includes people who were employees, employers or self employed. People who usually worked 35 hours or more in their main job were classified as working full time.</p>

## GLOSSARY *continued*

- Frequency of violence** Relates to violence by a current and/or previous partner. If the frequency of violence changed, for example, depending on the time of the year, then the person was asked to determine how often the assaults occurred overall. If a person reported violence by more than one previous partner this relates to the partner who was violent to them in the most recent incident (i.e. the most recently violent previous partner).
- General safety** Relates to people's feelings of safety in selected situations when they are alone. If a person had only a young child with them they were treated as being alone.
- Using and waiting for public transport alone after dark.* Includes using and waiting for buses, trains, trams, taxis and ferries.
- Walking alone in the local area after dark.* Includes the person's neighbourhood or suburb. A person who was walking their dog was considered to be alone, unless they were accompanied by another person.
- Harassment** Relates to a range of disturbing situations that a person may have experienced.
- Obscene phone call.* Refers to a telephone call that the receiver felt was indecent or improper due to the sexual content of the message. Includes phone calls in which profanity was used or any other type of obscene message. Includes phone calls involving racial vilification. Excludes SMS or text messages which are regarded as stalking.
- Indecent exposure.* The act of exposing genitals, where the person believed the purpose was to distress, shock, humiliate and/or generate fear.
- Inappropriate comments about body/sex life.* Includes inappropriate comments in a group situation or when alone with a person. Includes comments that related to a person's race, such as implying that people of a particular cultural group have certain sexual characteristics.
- Unwanted sexual touching.* Any intentional touching, grabbing, kissing or fondling which is carried out without a person's consent. It is momentary or brief touching which did not lead to sexual assault. It includes groping or brushing against a person's breast or bottom.
- Incident** An occurrence/reoccurrence or event of violence, abuse or assault that an individual has encountered in their life.
- People were asked about the most recent incident for the various types of violence (sexual assault, threatened sexual assault, physical assault, threatened or attempted physical assault). Where a person was a victim of continuous acts of violence by the same perpetrator (e.g. in a domestic violence situation), they may have considered the continuous acts of violence to be a single incident. In these cases, the person was instructed to think about the most recent act of violence by that perpetrator when answering the questions.
- Income** Sources of income includes;
- Wages or salary.* From all jobs, whether full-time or part-time. Also wages, salaries or fees paid to the owner of a limited liability company.
- Profit or loss.* From own unincorporated business or share in a partnership.
- Any Government pension, benefit or allowance.* Payments made by overseas governments as well as the Australian government.
- Any other regular source.* 'Regular income' is defined as at least one payment a year.
- Income ranges.* Respondent's or partner's gross income, that is, the amount they receive before tax and other expenses are taken out.
- Main source of income.* The person in the household that provides the largest income.
- Household income.* This is a total income from all sources for all members of their household aged 15 years or over (e.g. independent children, other relatives or unrelated people living in the household).



## GLOSSARY *continued*

<b>Injured</b>	<p>As a result of the most recent incident of physical assault and/or sexual assault. A 'physical injury' includes any type of injury ranging from general stiffness and soreness to bruises, marks of any kind (i.e. cuts, scrapes, fractures, miscarriage, internal injuries or any other kind of injury, such as a chipped tooth, etc.).</p> <p><i>Scratches.</i> May have been caused by fingernails, bushes, or as a result of falling on, or being dragged on, a rough surface such as cement. Includes scrapes and abrasions.</p> <p><i>Bruises.</i> They are external and visible and can range in severity from mild to severe. Includes black eyes, contusions and haematomas.</p> <p><i>Cuts.</i> Include any kind of a cut which is more severe than a scratch, but not as severe as a penetrative injury such as a stab or gun shot wound.</p> <p><i>Fractured or broken bones.</i> Range from hairline fractures to a complete break. Includes cracked ribs and broken noses.</p> <p><i>Broken teeth.</i> Range from a chip to a complete break or loss of teeth.</p> <p><i>Penetrative injury/stab/gun shot.</i> Usually deeper wounds than cuts. Can be due to a bullet or any other sharp instrument (e.g. a knife or stick) which penetrated into deeper tissues.</p> <p><i>Miscarriage.</i> Cases in which a female respondent lost a baby, miscarried, or had a spontaneous abortion as a result of the incident.</p> <p><i>Other injuries.</i> Includes burns, bites, loss of fingers, toes, limbs, eyes or hearing, internal injuries, sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV and hepatitis, and loss of consciousness.</p>
<b>Involvement of alcohol or another substance</b>	<p>In the most recent incident of sexual assault, threatened sexual assault, physical assault and/or threatened or attempted physical assault. Alcohol or another substance was involved if the person or the perpetrator were under the influence of alcohol or another substance at the time of the incident or if the person believed alcohol or another substance contributed to the incident, for example, when the perpetrator was recovering from a hangover or the person believed that their drink had been spiked.</p> <p><i>Another substance.</i> Includes any mood altering substances, whether legal or not, e.g. marijuana, cocaine, rohypnol or amphetamines.</p>
<b>Left property or assets</b>	<p>When separating from their current or previous partner. Includes furniture, household goods, clothing, car, jewellery, pets, the house (if owned by the person), money (in the bank or cash left in the home), shares, securities, land or share in a business.</p>
<b>Length of relationship before (first) incident by partner</b>	<p>The length of time the person had been in the relationship with their current partner and/or previous partner before the (first) incident. Includes the time that a person lived with a current partner and/or previous partner in a de facto relationship, as well as the period while they were married. If the person had left the relationship and then returned, the sum of the time before and after the separation was included.</p>
<b>Level of highest non-school qualification</b>	<p>The highest level of qualification completed.</p>
<b>Location</b>	<p>Where the most recent incident of sexual assault, threatened sexual assault, physical assault and/or threatened or attempted physical assault occurred. If the incident occurred in a number of places, where the incident initially took place was recorded.</p> <p><i>In a home.</i> If the incident occurred at the respondent's home and this was the same as the perpetrator's home, it was recorded as occurring at the respondent's home. Includes incidents which occurred just outside of the home (e.g. in the front or backyard).</p> <p><i>At licensed premises.</i> Includes hotels, bars, taverns and licensed restaurants and the areas surrounding these premises such as on the footpath, in a beer garden or carpark of a pub or hotel.</p>

## GLOSSARY *continued*

<b>Location <i>continued</i></b>	<p><i>Using public transport.</i> Includes waiting for, or using any vehicle where a fare is charged such as, buses, trains, trams, coaches, taxis, ships and aircraft.</p> <p><i>Outside.</i> Includes university campuses, streets, sidewalks or footpaths, parks, forests or bushland, rural areas etc.</p> <p><i>In an institution.</i> Includes gaols (jails), mental institutions, nursing homes, hospitals, boarding schools/colleges and orphanages.</p> <p><i>At a sporting venue.</i> Includes playing fields, stadiums, sporting grounds etc.</p>
<b>Main reason police not told</b>	<p>If the person did not tell police about the most recent incident of sexual assault, threatened sexual assault, physical assault, threatened or attempted physical assault and/or stalking, and neither did anyone else, they were asked why they decided not to contact the police.</p> <p><i>Shame or embarrassment.</i> Includes reasons such as did not want to make trouble, that the person considered it to be a family problem, that they were asked not to by someone in the family or that they did not want anybody to know about the incident.</p> <p><i>Cultural reasons.</i> Includes fear of police because of experiences in their country of origin; thinks that police believe violence against women or men is accepted as part of other cultures; belief that the police are racist; not being able to talk to anyone other than their husband or wife; violence is an accepted part of other cultures; and religious reasons.</p> <p><i>Language reasons.</i> Includes could not communicate well enough in English to make complaint known.</p>
<b>Main reason unable to leave current partner</b>	<p><i>Cultural reasons.</i> Includes unacceptable in person's culture; not being able to talk to anyone other than their husband or wife; violence is an accepted part of their culture; and religious reasons.</p>
<b>Main reason for wanting to leave</b>	<p>Includes partner's abuse of, or threats to respondent or respondent's children.</p>
<b>Marital status</b>	<p>As reported by the person at the time of the survey.</p> <p><i>Married.</i> Includes people who are married or in a de facto relationship.</p>
<b>Money for something important</b>	<p>The phrase 'something important' was left for the person to interpret. Examples might include to pay for an emergency operation or unexpected bills.</p>
<b>Most recent incident of violence</b>	<p>If the incident occurred 20 years ago or more, information was only collected about relationship to perpetrator. This was the same for stalking which began 20 years ago or more, and had stopped 20 years ago or more.</p>
<b>Most recent incident of violence by previous partner</b>	<p>The previous partner of the person who was responsible for the most recent incident of sexual assault, threatened sexual assault, physical assault and/or threatened or attempted physical assault if the person had experienced violence by different previous partners. This was based on the most recent assault by a previous partner (regardless of whether a threat by a previous partner had occurred since then), unless the person had only experienced threat by a previous partner.</p>
<b>Number of days off work</b>	<p>Refers to the amount of time the respondent needed to take off from paid work, or work without pay in a family business, which was due to the incident.</p>
<b>Other incidents</b>	<p>Other incidents of sexual assault, threatened sexual assault, physical assault and/or threatened or attempted physical assault if the person has experienced multiple incidents. Excludes other perpetrators involved in the most recent incident.</p>
<b>Partner violence</b>	<p>Any incident of sexual assault, threatened sexual assault, physical assault or threatened or attempted physical assault by a current and/or previous partner.</p>
<b>Perpetrator went to court</b>	<p>As a result of being charged over the most recent incident. Includes family and magistrates court and cases that were still pending.</p>

## GLOSSARY *continued*

<b>Physical abuse</b>	Any deliberate physical injury (including bruises) inflicted upon a child (before the age of 15 years) by an adult. Discipline that accidentally resulted in an injury is excluded.
<b>Physical assault</b>	<p>The use of physical force with the intent to harm or frighten a person. The assault may have occurred in conjunction with a robbery. It includes incidents where a person was assaulted in their line of work (e.g. assaulted while working as a Security Guard). It excludes incidents of sexual assault or threatened sexual assault which also involved physical assault, those which occurred before the age of 15 and those which occurred during the course of play on a sporting field. If a physical assault was preceded by a threat of the same type in the same incident, only the physical assault was recorded. Various types of physical assault were identified, including:</p> <p><i>Pushed, grabbed or shoved.</i> Includes being pushed off a balcony, down stairs, or across the room.</p> <p><i>Slapped.</i> Includes a hit with an open hand. Excludes slaps with a belt or bat, etc..</p> <p><i>Kicked, bitten or hit with a fist.</i> Excludes being hit with an open hand.</p> <p><i>Hit you with something else that could hurt you.</i> Includes being hit with a bat, hammer, belt, pot, ruler, etc. Excludes being punched.</p> <p><i>Beaten.</i> Includes punching, hitting or slapping in a repetitive manner.</p> <p><i>Choked.</i> Includes being choked by hands, a rope, a scarf, a tie or any other item.</p> <p><i>Stabbed.</i> With a knife.</p> <p><i>Shot.</i> With a gun.</p> <p><i>Any other type of physical assault.</i> Includes burns, scalds, being dragged by the hair, being deliberately hit by a vehicle.</p>
<b>Physical threat, threatened physical assault</b>	<p>Verbal and/or physical intent or suggestion of intent to inflict physical harm, which the person believed was able and likely to be carried out.</p> <p>The threats must have been made face-to-face. It includes incidents where a person was assaulted in their line of work (e.g. assaulted while working as a Security Guard). It excludes any act of violence which was actually carried out, incidents of sexual assault, threatened sexual assault or physical assault which also involved threatened or attempted physical assault, those which occurred before the age of 15, and those which occurred during the course of play on a sporting field.</p> <p>Various types of physical attempt or threat were identified, including:</p> <p><i>Threaten or attempt to hit with a fist or anything else that could hurt.</i> Includes threats or attempts to slap, punch, spank or hit in any way with a fist or weapon such as a bat, hammer or pot. It excludes where the person was threatened with a knife or gun.</p> <p><i>Threaten or attempt to shoot with a gun.</i> The gun may or may not have been aimed at the person. Includes situations where a gun was left in an obvious place or if the person knew that the perpetrator had access to a gun. Includes toy guns, starter pistols etc. if the person believed they were real.</p>
<b>Physical violence</b>	Any incident of physical assault, attempt or threat (as defined above). Incidents so defined would be an offence under State and Territory criminal law.
<b>Police action taken</b>	The outcomes for the perpetrator as a result of an incident being reported to police, that is, whether the perpetrator was charged and went to court.
<b>Population</b>	Females and males aged 18 years and over.
<b>Pregnancy during relationship with partner</b>	Includes only women who were assaulted whilst they were pregnant and living with her current/previous male partner, even though he was not the biological father. Also, if she was pregnant while living with her current/previous female partner.

## GLOSSARY *continued*

<b>Professional help</b>	<p>Advice or support sought from a doctor, counsellor, minister or priest after the most recent incident of sexual assault, threatened sexual assault, physical assault and/or threatened or attempted physical assault. The support may have been in the form of listening to the problem, being understanding, making suggestions, giving information about other appropriate services, and offering further help.</p> <p><i>Doctor.</i> Includes qualified medical practitioners in private practice, health centres, hospitals, emergency services who the person visited for advice or support. Doctors who were visited for the sole purpose of treatment of an injury were excluded. Excludes ambulance officers and nurses.</p> <p><i>Minister or priest.</i> Includes any member of the clergy such as Christian brothers, monks, elders, deacons or rabbi, nuns or any other person who operates in a religious capacity who the person sought advice or support from.</p>
<b>Proficiency in English</b>	<p>This is a non-English speaking background respondent's perception of how well they speak English at home.</p>
<b>Reasons for returning to current partner</b>	<p><i>Other.</i> Includes love or commitment.</p>
<b>Reasons services not used</b>	<p>People who did not use or seek help from a particular support provider (crisis, legal, financial or any other support service including a telephone help line) were asked for all the reasons why they did not use it. For example, if a person did not report using crisis help they were asked for their reasons for not using any crisis help.</p> <p><i>Shame or embarrassment.</i> Includes not wanting to cause any trouble, didn't want anyone to know about it, may cause family/business conflict.</p> <p><i>Cultural reasons.</i> Includes not being able to talk to anyone other than their husband or wife, violence is an accepted part of other cultures and religious reasons.</p> <p><i>Language reasons.</i> Includes the inability to communicate well enough in English to use services.</p>
<b>Relationship to perpetrator</b>	<p>The person's relationship to the perpetrator at the time of the incident. If there were multiple perpetrators involved, the person was asked to focus on the person they considered to have been mainly responsible for the incident.</p> <p><i>Stranger.</i> Someone the person did not know, or someone they only knew by hearsay.</p> <p><i>Boyfriend/girlfriend or date.</i> This relationship may have different levels of commitment and involvement. For example, one date only, regular dating with no sexual involvement, or a serious sexual or emotional relationship. Excludes de facto relationships, and those living together.</p> <p><i>Current partner.</i> Includes both married and de facto relationships. If the incident occurred while the person was dating a person who they later married, the perpetrator of the incident would have been described as boyfriend/girlfriend or date.</p> <p><i>Previous partner.</i> Includes both married and de facto relationships. Includes partners at the time of the incident from whom a person is now separated and partners a person was no longer living with at the time of the incident.</p> <p><i>Friend.</i> Is someone one knows, likes and trusts.</p> <p><i>Neighbour/acquaintance.</i> Person who lives or is located near another, and occasionally has a brief conversation.</p> <p><i>Ex-boyfriend/ex-girlfriend.</i> See Other known man/woman.</p> <p><i>Prison Officer.</i> See Other known man/woman.</p> <p><i>Other known man/woman.</i> Any man/woman who does not fit into any of the above categories, for example, family members, doctors or teachers. Includes 'ex-partner of partner' and carers.</p>

## GLOSSARY *continued*

<b>Separated from partner</b>	Whether the person stopped then started their relationship with their current or previous partner. The separation must have been for at least one night. Excludes nights spent apart due to holidays or business trips and the final separation from a previous partner.
<b>Services used</b>	<p>Includes services contacted or visited after the most recent incident of sexual assault, threatened sexual assault, physical assault and/or threatened or attempted physical assault. If a person used more than one source of help offered by an individual service then each relevant category was answered. Excludes doctors, counsellors, ministers or priests.</p> <p><i>Crisis help.</i> Includes shelters, refuges providing accommodation, telephone crisis lines, rape crisis service, etc.</p> <p><i>Legal help.</i> Includes legal aid commissions, community legal centres, Clerks of Court, private solicitors or legal centres which provide specialised services for Indigenous people, women or migrants.</p> <p><i>Financial help.</i> Includes Centrelink and church or community groups that offer financial help, or financial counselling.</p> <p><i>Any other support service including a telephone help line.</i> Captures any other sources of help the person used and covers any non-crisis type help sought. This would, more than likely, be help sought after an incident (as opposed to help sought to cope at the time of the incident). Some examples include Victim Support Service, Victim Support Program, Domestic Violence Helpline and Lifeline.</p>
<b>Sexual abuse</b>	Any act by an adult involving a child (before the age of 15 years) in sexual activity beyond their understanding or contrary to currently accepted community standards.
<b>Sexual assault</b>	An act of a sexual nature carried out against a person's will, through the use of physical force, intimidation or coercion. It includes attempts to force a person into sexual activity. However, attempts are not separately identified. It includes rape, attempted rape, aggravated sexual assault (assault with a weapon), indecent assault, penetration by objects and forced sexual activity that did not end in penetration. It excludes unwanted sexual touching and incidents which occurred before the age of 15. Incidents so defined would be an offence under State and Territory criminal law.
<b>Sexual threat, threatened sexual assault</b>	The threat of acts of a sexual nature which are carried out against a person's will, through the use of physical force, intimidation or coercion. The person must have believed that the threats were able, and likely, to be carried out. It only includes threats that were made face-to-face and includes verbal threats, threats with a weapon and threats to harm children. It excludes if threats were made and then a sexual assault was carried out and incidents that occurred before the age of 15.
<b>Sexual violence</b>	Any incident of sexual assault or threat (as defined above).
<b>Short of money</b>	If in the last 12 months the respondent had been short with money (at least once) where they needed to obtain money from another source, such as, drawing money from their savings, or getting a loan from a financial institution or family/friends. Refers to situations where any of the listed things happened when the household as a whole was short of money. Excludes being short of money because the person wasn't able to get to the bank or forgot.
<b>Since the age of 15</b>	Threat or assault experienced by a person since the age of 15 years, by any adult (male or female).
<b>Stalking</b>	The definition of stalking is based on State and Territory legislation. It is defined by a range of activities which the person believed were undertaken with the intent to harm or frighten. Activities include: loitering outside a person's home, workplace or place of leisure or social activities; following or watching a person; interfering with their property; giving or leaving offensive material and telephoning; and sending mail or contacting electronically. In order to be classified as stalking more than one type of

## GLOSSARY *continued*

<b>Stalking</b> <i>continued</i>	stalking behaviour had to occur, or the same type of behaviour had to occur on more than one occasion. People who had been stalked by more than one person during their lifetime provided details about the most recent incident of stalking. Includes stalking by partners.  <i>Given or left offensive material.</i> Includes pornographic material, destroyed photographs, articles about murders, dead animals (if not person's own).  <i>Telephoned, sent mail or contacted electronically.</i> Includes by short message service (SMS) messages, emails, or information about the person being placed on a web site.
<b>Talked to others</b>	Includes family members, friends or neighbours, work colleagues or anybody else. Excludes talking to professionals (e.g. doctor, counsellor, minister or priest) or contacting services (e.g. crisis, legal, financial, any other support service including a telephone help line).
<b>Threatened or physically assaulted anyone else outside the household</b>	The act or threat of physical violence against other people. For example, the person's partner might have threatened or assaulted a work colleague, someone at a party or pub, or another person due to road rage. Excludes threatened or physical assault against members of the household.
<b>Took time off work</b>	Respondent took time off from paid work or work without pay in a family business due to physical injuries or emotional distress. This also includes time off work to appear in court, meet with police or a lawyer, visit a doctor or a counsellor.
<b>Unemployed</b>	A person who was not employed during the reference week, who had actively looked for work during the previous four weeks and who was available to start work.
<b>Unwanted sexual touching</b>	See Harassment.
<b>Violence</b>	Includes physical and sexual violence (as defined above).
<b>Violence or restraining order</b>	Such orders typically prohibit an individual (the defendant) from being violent, or threatening violence, towards another individual (the protected person). Different states have different names for violence orders e.g. apprehended violence order (AVO), domestic violence order (DVO), intervention order, etc. Includes orders which have been issued by the court and interim orders.
<b>Violence increased</b>	Includes an increase in the number or severity of violent incidents by a current or previous partner during pregnancy, separation or after the relationship ended.
<b>Whether police told</b>	Whether the police were contacted about the most recent incident of sexual assault, threatened sexual assault, physical assault, threatened or attempted physical assault and/or stalking. The contact with police may have been by the person or another person. Includes contacting the police by phone or in person.



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