

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN INFORMATION SOURCES

NSW Department of Community Services

The Department of Community Services assists in the empowerment of families, individuals and disadvantaged communities under stress, who require assistance, guidance or protection to enable them to participate in the community. The Department will send out information on child abuse, domestic violence and related issues to high school students. In addition, departmental policies and procedures are available to university students.

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Website: <http://www.community.nsw.gov.au/>

Regional Violence Prevention Specialists

A key element of the NSW Government's Strategy to Reduce Violence against Women has been the employment of 17 regional violence prevention specialists. They are located throughout NSW in regional offices of the Department of Community Services, NSW Health or the NSW Police Service. The role of the specialists is to:

- Enhance linkages within and between Government and non-Government agencies.
- Conduct community education and training, and
- Develop prevention programs to reduce violence against women.

For information on initiatives in your own area check your local newspapers, neighbourhood centres, community health centres or police.

Compilation of Violence Statistics

<http://www.spirit.com.au/gerry/vstats.html>

This site contains a compilation of violence statistics on a number of topics. These range from domestic violence, sexual harassment, women's safety, homophobic harassment and hate crimes and intimate homicides. They are predominantly American statistics, but there are a number of Australian statistics available.

Domestic Violence and Incest Resource Centre (DVIRC)

<http://www.vicnet.net.au/~dvirc/>

The Domestic Violence and Incest Resource Centre provides counselling, information and referral to survivors of Domestic Violence, child sexual Abuse and incest, and to the families, friends and workers who support them. The website provides information on domestic violence, child sexual abuse and incest. Statistics and theories in regard to domestic violence are also available. There are also links to Australian and overseas domestic violence resources.

Reclaim the Night

<http://www.isis.aust.com/rtn/>

This site provides information for anyone wishing to know how to participate in Reclaim the Night or how to start their own collective. The site also provides links. Of particular use here is the link to Australian government initiatives in regard to domestic violence. Find out what it is that your state is doing.

Sanctuary 7 Women's Refuge

<http://www.TAGnet.org/sanctuary7/>

This site provides an example of a women's domestic violence refuge. Sanctuary 7 women's refuge is an independent, Christian, voluntary organisation located on the Gold Coast. The site provides Sanctuary 7's history, philosophy and aims and provides statistics specific to Sanctuary 7. It also provides links to a number of diverse resources including a history of women's refuges and an online copy of Prone to Violence written by Erin Pizzy.

National Campaign Against Violence and Crime

<http://www.ncavac.gov.au>

This site provides information on the campaign as well as an overview of the report findings from-Working with Adolescents to Prevent Domestic Violence. Useful links are also provided.

Family Violence Prevention Fund

<http://www.igc.org/fund/>

This US based website provides information on topics such as Domestic Violence-the facts, men and domestic violence, global responses to Domestic Violence, improving the Health Care response, creating a workplace response and survivors and child witnesses. There are also links here to personal stories from survivors, child witnesses and women involved in the fight against domestic violence.

Safety Net Domestic Violence Resources

<http://www.cybergrrl.com/dv/>

This site provides general statistics on Domestic Violence, Domestic Violence and pregnancy, Domestic Violence and children, Abuse in teen relationships, Elder Abuse, health issues, women who are killed by intimates, women who killed in self defence and the criminal justice response to Domestic Violence. There are also links to Domestic Violence Resources and bibliographies. This site is predominantly US-based.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE – DEFINITION AND FACTS

Domestic Violence is first and foremost a crime, punishable by law. Domestic Violence occurs when one partner, in a past or present relationship, uses violent or intimidating behaviour to control or intimidate the other¹. Domestic violence does not discriminate it can be found across all social classes, age groups, cultures and communities and within all kinds of relationships. Types of domestic violence include physical abuse, sexual abuse, psychological and emotional abuse, social abuse, financial abuse, harassment and stalking.

The following statistics, apart from those identified otherwise, are all taken from the 1996 Australian Bureau of Statistics report Women's Safety Australia.

- 7.1% of the adult female population (or 490, 400 women) experienced violence. 6.2% of women experienced violence perpetrated by a male, and 1.6% experienced violence perpetrated by a female.
- 2.6% of women who were married or in a defacto relationship (or 111, 000) had experienced violence perpetrated by their current partner
- 4.8% of unmarried women had experienced violence by their previous in the last 12 months
- Of women who had been physically assaulted in the 12 month period 58% spoke to a friend or neighbour, 53% spoke to a family member, 12% spoke to a counsellor, 4.5% spoke to a crisis service, 19% reported the incident to the police and 18% didn't tell anyone.
- 2.6 million women (or 38% of the adult female population) had experienced one or more incidents of physical or sexual violence since the age of 15
- 8% of women (345, 400) currently in a marital or defacto relationship had experienced an incident of physical or sexual violence perpetrated by their partner at some time during their relationship.
- Of women who had been in a previous relationships, 42% (1.1 million women) had experienced an incidence of physical violence by their previous partner.
- Younger women were more at risk of violence than older women, 19% of women aged 18-24 had experienced an incidence of violence in the previous 12 month period, compared to 6.8% of women aged 35-44 and 1.2% of women aged 55 and over.
- 23% of women who have ever been married or in a de facto relationship, experienced violence from their partner at some time during the relationship

¹ Women's Refuge Movement *Women's Refuge Information Kit*

- Of women who experienced violence by a partner in a previous relationship where they were pregnant at some time during the relationship, 42% (292 100) reported that violence occurred during pregnancy
- 20% said they experienced violence for the first time during pregnancy
- 68% (682 200) of women experienced violence from a previous partner had children in their care at some time during the relationship
- 46% (461 200) said the children had witnessed the violence
(Australian Bureau of Statistics 1996 Women's Safety Survey Canberra Catalogue Number: 4128.0)
- The New South Wales *Costs of Domestic Violence* Survey estimated that in NSW each year, 100 000 women are subjected to domestic violence.
- Between July 1992 and June 1993 there were 326 homicides in Australia. 25.6% of these occurred between sexual intimates.
(Australian Institute of Criminology 1995, Homicides in Australia 1992-93, no 51)

Good Places to look for Statistics and Information on Domestic Violence

NSW Department of Community Services
Level 3, 164-174 Liverpool Rd
Locked Bag 28
Ashfield NSW 2131
Ph: 02 9716 2716
Fax: 02 9716 2290

ABS 1996 Women's Safety Australia (No.4128.0)

ABS Recorded Crime, Australia (No.4510.0)

Compilation of Violence Statistics
<http://www.spirit.com.au/gerry/vstats.html>

Cybergrrl, Domestic Violence Statistics
<http://home.cybergrrl.com/dv/stats.html>

Domestic Violence and Incest Resource Centre
<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~dvirc/index.html>

Domestic Violence - Bibliography

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