

Places and perpetrators of violence against people with disability in Australia

In Australia people with disability are more likely to experience violence* by someone they know than by a stranger.

This fact sheet is part of a series on violence against people with disability in Australia and is based on current data for men and women aged 18-64 years. Data are sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016 Personal Safety Survey. Data are based on reporting of individual's most recent incident of violence. We recognise that not all people with disability are represented in this survey and that experiences of violence are under-reported.

EXPERIENCE OF VIOLENCE

MOST RECENT INCIDENT

People with disability are more likely to experience violence by someone they know than people without disability.

KNOWN PERSON



STRANGER



EXPERIENCE OF VIOLENCE BY GENDER

MOST RECENT INCIDENT BY GENDER

KNOWN PERSON



STRANGER



* Violence refers to the most recent incident of physical or sexual violence experienced in the last 10 years, it includes physical assault, physical threat, sexual assault and sexual threat.

RELATIONSHIP TO KNOWN PERPETRATOR

MOST RECENT INCIDENT

People with disability are most likely to experience violence by a current or former intimate partner or other known person.

CURRENT OR FORMER INTIMATE PARTNER



OTHER FAMILY MEMBER



OTHER KNOWN PERSON*



* Includes friends, housemate, neighbour, acquaintance, co-worker, employer, client, customer, and other known people

RELATIONSHIP TO KNOWN PERPETRATOR

MOST RECENT INCIDENT BY GENDER

CURRENT OR FORMER INTIMATE PARTNER



Women with disability are most likely to experience violence from a current or former intimate partner.

OTHER KNOWN PERSON



Men with disability are most likely to experience violence from other known people.

LOCATION OF VIOLENCE

MOST RECENT INCIDENT

People with disability experience more violence at home and in public places than people without disability.

AT HOME

8%
People
without
disability



17%
People
with
disability

IN PUBLIC

12%
People
without
disability



16%
People
with
disability

MOST RECENT INCIDENT BY GENDER

AT HOME

Men with disability

11%

Men without disability

6%

Women with disability

22%

Women without disability

11%

Women with disability are most likely to experience violence in their own home.

IN PUBLIC

Men with disability

20%

Men without disability

18%

Women with disability

12%

Women without disability

6%

Men with disability are most likely to experience violence in public places.

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DATA ON DISABILITY AND VIOLENCE

Violence against people with disability is a significant human rights violation. We acknowledge the strength and resilience of people with disability who have survived violence. We thank those who have disclosed their experiences for making this work possible.

The Personal Safety Survey does not provide support for people who need assistance to complete the survey and therefore does not represent the experiences of all people with disability.

Most recent incident data does not provide information about patterns of violence; it only provides information about the most recent incident. We acknowledge that violence is often experienced as an ongoing pattern of abusive behaviors not as a single event.

While gender is non binary, the data sources we refer to define people as men or women and we have reflected that in our findings.

Estimates are directly age-adjusted to the June 2018 Australian population.

In the data, violence refers to an occurrence, or threat and includes violence perpetrated by persons both known (current or former partner or family member) and unknown.

*Violence includes physical or sexual violence, emotional abuse, intimate partner violence, stalking and/or harassment.

**Intimate Partner Violence refers to a current or previous partner with whom the respondent lived, or current or former boyfriend, girlfriend, or dating partner with whom the respondent did not live.

For more information on how disability is collected in the survey, see: <https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/bs@.nsf/Lookup/4906.0.55.003main+features122016>

FURTHER INFORMATION

This fact sheet was produced by the team at the Centre of Research Excellence in Disability and Health (CRE-DH) and funded by the Melbourne Disability Institute.

Source: ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2017. Microdata: Personal Safety, Australia, 2016. ABS cat. No. 4906.0.55.001. Canberra: ABS. CRE-DH analysis of DataLab. Note: Figures are rounded.

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