

BRISBANE
YOUTH
SERVICE

NEW FUTURES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



Young People and Family and Intimate Partner Violence

A 7-Year Demographic Trend Analysis 2015-2022

CATHERINE MANN & DR REBECCA DUELL
BRISBANE YOUTH SERVICE

PUBLISHED FEBRUARY 2024

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & ABOUT

Acknowledgements

Brisbane Youth Service (BYS) respectfully acknowledges the Turrbal and Jagera people as the Traditional Custodians of the lands where BYSS operates. We pay respect to their Elders past and present, lores, customs and creation spirits. BYSS acknowledges and celebrates the important role Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people play within BYSS and the community.

We would like to thank the young people who consented to their data being collected and analysed. Their willingness to share has been invaluable in building the dataset used in this report and the insights that have been possible in the analysis.

We would also like to thank the BYSS workers who collected the data. Without your efforts and commitment to quality data collection this report would not have been possible.

About Brisbane Youth Service

Since 1977, Brisbane Youth Service has worked to create new futures for young people and young families at risk or experiencing homelessness. We provide free, confidential services including crisis and transitional housing, emergency relief, physical and mental health services, alcohol and drug interventions, domestic and family violence support, and specialist programs for young women and young families.

BYSS has a long history of developing innovative services to respond to the identified needs of young people and young families. We hope that by making this report publicly available, we can increase understanding and awareness of the challenges faced by vulnerable young people. We also hope that the insights offered in this report will contribute to further research and innovation by other organisations seeking to improve the wellbeing of young people.

© 2024 Brisbane Youth Service Inc.

This report may be cited as: Mann, C., and Duell, R. (2024). Young People and Family and Intimate Partner Violence: A 7-Year Demographic Trend Analysis of Young People Accessing a Specialist Homelessness Service 2015-2022. Brisbane Youth Service: Brisbane, QLD.

Content Warning

This report contains content about young people's experience of violence. If you or someone close to you is in immediate danger, please call emergency services on 000. For free and confidential counselling, support services and information, please contact the most appropriate services below for your situation.

- **1800 Respect** is Australia's national DFV and sexual assault hotline. They can be contacted at 1800 737 732 or www.1800respect.org.au
- **Kids Helpline** provides phone counselling for children and young people aged 5 to 25 and can be contacted at 1800 551 800 or www.kidshelpline.com.au
- **MensLine Australia** offers counselling support for men with concerns about mental health, anger management, family violence (using and experiencing), addiction, relationship, stress and wellbeing, and can be contacted at 1300 78 99 78 or mensline.org.au
- **Rainbow Door** support LGBTIQAP+ folks through peer support and can be contacted at 1800 729 367 or www.rainbowdoor.org.au/getsupport
- **13YARN** supports mob who are having difficulty coping or are feeling overwhelmed. They can be contacted on 13 92 76 or www.13yarn.org.au
- **Full Stop Australia** is the national recovery and counselling service for all ages and genders experiencing DFV and sexual violence. They can be contacted on 1800 943 539 or www.fullstop.org.au

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements & About	2
List of Tables & Figures	4
Executive Summary	5
Statistically Significant Relationships & Effect Size	6
Young People’s Experience of Violence in Australia	7
Explanatory Notes	9
Experience of Violence Data at BYS	10
Experience of Violence Across the 7 Years	11
Past Family Violence	11
Current Family Violence	11
Past Intimate Partner Violence	11
Current Intimate Partner Violence	11
1. EXPERIENCE OF VIOLENCE AND AGE	12
1A. Age and Family Violence	12
1B. Age and Intimate Partner Violence	13
2. EXPERIENCE OF VIOLENCE AND CULTURE	14
2A. Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Young People and Family Violence	14
2B. Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Young People and Intimate Partner Violence	15
2C. Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Young People and Family Violence	16
2D. Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Young People and Intimate Partner Violence	17
3. EXPERIENCE OF VIOLENCE AND GENDER	18
3A. Gender and Family Violence	18
3B. Gender and Intimate Partner Violence	19
4. EXPERIENCE OF VIOLENCE AND SEXUALITY	20
4A. Sexuality and Family Violence	20
4B. Sexuality and Intimate Partner Violence	21
5. EXPERIENCE OF VIOLENCE AND DISABILITY	22
5A. Disability and Family Violence	22
5B. Disability and Intimate Partner Violence	23
6. EXPERIENCE OF VIOLENCE AND YOUNG PARENTS	24
6A. Young Parents and Family Violence	24
6B. Young Parents and Intimate Partner Violence	25
7. OVERALL PATTERNS OF EXPERIENCE OF VIOLENCE	26
7A. Overall Patterns for Family Violence	26
7B. Overall Patterns of Intimate Partner Violence	27
Conclusion and Implications for Practice and Policy	28
References	29
Appendix A – Effect Size Interpretation	31

LIST OF TABLES & FIGURES

Table 1.	Statistically Significant Relationships & Effect Size	6
Table 2.	Number and Percentage of Young People in Each Financial Year	10
Table 3.	Demographic Characteristics of Data Set	10
Table 4.	7-year FV Rate by Age-Range	12
Table 5.	7-year IPV Rate by Age-Range	13
Table 6.	7-year FV Rate by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Identity	14
Table 7.	7-year IPV Rate by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Identity	15
Table 8.	7-year FV Rate by CALD Identity	16
Table 9.	7-year IPV Rate by CALD Identity	17
Table 10.	7-year FV Rate by Gender Identity	18
Table 11.	7-year IPV Rate by Gender Identity	19
Table 12.	7-year FV Rate by Sexuality	20
Table 13.	7-year IPV Rate by Sexuality	21
Table 14.	7-year FV Rate by Disability	22
Table 15.	7-year IPV Rate by Disability	23
Table 16.	7-year FV Rate by Parenthood	24
Table 17.	7-year IPV Rate by Parenthood	25
Table 18.	Effect Size Interpretation for Cramér's V (v) and Squared Cramer's Phi Coefficient (Φ^2)	31
Figure 1.	Young People's Experience of Violence 2015-2022	11
Figure 2.	Past FV Experiences by Age 2015-2022	12
Figure 3.	Current FV Experiences by Age 2015-2022	12
Figure 4.	Past IPV Experiences by Age 2015-2022	13
Figure 5.	Current IPV Experiences by Age 2015-2022	13
Figure 6.	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Young People with Past FV Experiences 2015-2022	14
Figure 7.	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Young People with Current FV Experiences 2015-2022	14
Figure 8.	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Young People with Past IPV Experiences 2015-2022	15
Figure 9.	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Young People with Current IPV Experiences 2015-2022	15
Figure 10.	CALD Young People with Past FV Experiences 2015-2022	16
Figure 11.	CALD Young People with Current FV Experiences 2015-2022	16
Figure 12.	CALD Young People with Past IPV Experiences 2015-2022	17
Figure 13.	CALD Young People with Current IPV Experiences 2015-2022	17
Figure 14.	Young People with Past FV Experiences by Gender 2015-2022	18
Figure 15.	Young People with Current FV Experiences by Gender 2015-2022	18
Figure 16.	Young People with Past IPV Experiences by Gender 2015-2022	19
Figure 17.	Young People with Current IPV Experiences by Gender 2015-2022	19
Figure 18.	Sexuality Diverse Young People with Past FV Experiences 2015-2022	20
Figure 19.	Sexuality Diverse Young People with Current FV Experiences 2015-2022	20
Figure 20.	Sexuality Diverse Young People with Past IPV Experiences 2015-2022	21
Figure 21.	Sexuality Diverse Young People with Current IPV Experiences 2015-2022	21
Figure 22.	Young People with Disability and Past FV Experiences 2015-2022	22
Figure 23.	Young People with Disability and Current FV Experiences 2015-2022	22
Figure 24.	Young People with Disability and Past IPV Experiences 2015-2022	23
Figure 25.	Young People with Disability and Current IPV Experiences 2015-2022	23
Figure 26.	Young Parents with Past FV Experiences 2015-2022	24
Figure 27.	Young Parents with Current FV Experiences 2015-2022	24
Figure 28.	Young Parents with Past IPV Experiences 2015-2022	25
Figure 29.	Young Parents with Current IPV Experiences 2015-2022	25
Figure 30.	Experience of Past FV by Demographics	26
Figure 31.	Experience of Current FV by Demographics	26
Figure 32.	Experience of Past IPV by Demographics	27
Figure 33.	Experience of Current IPV by Demographics	27

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Brisbane Youth Service (BYS) has completed comprehensive intake assessments with all young people accessing the service for ongoing planned support since 2015.

This report summarises the findings from an analysis of assessment data on young people's experience of family violence (FV) and intimate partner violence (IPV) on intake, which compared key demographic factors such as age, gender, cultural identities, sexuality, experience of disability, and parenthood. The overall aim of the report was to determine which, if any, demographic factors were related to experiences of FV and IPV.

The report focuses on data collected in the seven financial years between 2015-16 and 2021-22 inclusive. A total of 2,940 young people provided past FV data, 2,892 provided current FV data, 2,893 provided past IPV data and 2,873 provided current IPV data. Analysis focused on demographic comparisons to determine which, if any, groups of young people experienced higher rates of FV and/or IPV in comparison to others. Analysis included year-by-year comparisons, and investigated if there were any notable fluctuations during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic years.

Findings indicated that young people's experience of violence has remained high over the report period with little fluctuation noted over the COVID-19 pandemic years.

There was very little variation among all demographic groups for **past FV** experiences. Despite almost all demographic factors having statistically significant differences, the effect sizes were all small or very small. This indicates that only a very small proportion of the differences between groups were explained by the particular demographic factor.

Similar patterns were noted for **current FV** except that there was a small-moderate effect size for age where 12–15-year-olds were most likely to identify current FV. This is unsurprising given this age group were also most likely to live with family. Some gender differences were noted, with gender diverse young people statistically significantly more likely to identify current FV. Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) young people were also statistically significantly more likely to identify current FV compared to non-CALD young people.

Three demographic characteristics had a higher rate of past and current experiences of IPV:

- Young parents were statistically significantly more likely to report having past IPV experiences (63%) compared to young people who were not parents (33%).
- Older young people (22-25 years) were also statistically significantly more likely to report having past IPV experiences (54%) compared to younger young people (12-15 years, 24%).
- Gender diverse young people (14%) and young women (14%) were statistically significantly more likely to have current IPV experiences compared to young men (9%).

Addressing young people's experience of violence requires supports and solutions that focus not only on immediate safety and security but also prevention and early intervention. Data analysed for this report has indicated that some young people experience higher rates of current FV and/or IPV than others. While targeted youth-specific supports and interventions are needed for these groups, also required is a strong understanding of how demographic factors intersect to further increase a young person's risk of experiencing domestic and family violence (DFV). Investigating this intersectionality will be the focus of future analyses.

Note: Throughout this report we use the term **domestic and family violence (DFV)** to simplify the complex issue that includes family violence, adolescent-to-parent violence, intimate partner violence, dating violence, sexual violence, and relationship violence outside of a home environment. In this report **family violence (FV)** refers to violence used against or witnessed by a young person by a family member, whether that be a parent, sibling, carer, extended family and in the family home. **Intimate partner violence (IPV)** refers to violence used against a young person by their intimate partner, boyfriend/girlfriend and in co-parenting situations. IPV is used instead of domestic violence to acknowledge that in the context of young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, this violence often does not occur in a domestic setting.

STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT RELATIONSHIPS & EFFECT SIZE



	PAST FV		CURRENT FV		PAST IPV		CURRENT IPV	
12-15 Years	★	Small effect size	★	Small effect size	★	Moderate effect size	-	
16-18 Years	★	Small effect size	★	Small effect size	★	Moderate effect size	-	
19-21 Years	★	Small effect size	★	Small effect size	★	Moderate effect size	-	
22-25 Years	★	Small effect size	★	Small effect size	★	Moderate effect size	-	
Male	★	Small effect size	★	Small effect size	★	Small effect size	★	Small effect size
Female	★	Small effect size	★	Small effect size	★	Small effect size	★	Small effect size
Gender Diverse	★	Small effect size	★	Small effect size	★	Small effect size	★	Small effect size
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	-		-		-		-	
Culturally and Linguistically Diverse	-		★	Small effect size	-		-	
Young Parents	★	Small effect size	★	Small effect size	★	Moderate effect size	★	Small effect size
Young People with Disability	★	Small effect size	-		-		-	
Sexuality Diverse	★	Small effect size	-		-		-	

Table 1. Statistically Significant Relationships & Effect Size

★ identifies statistically significant relationships between variables.

“-“ identifies no significant relationship between variables.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S EXPERIENCE OF VIOLENCE IN AUSTRALIA

Nationally, intimate partner violence (IPV) is prevalent with 21% of Australians identifying IPV experiences since the age of 15 (Australian Bureau of Statistics [ABS], 2023). One in six (17%) women and 6% of men have experienced physical or sexual violence from an intimate partner since the age of 15 (AIHW, 2019). Emotional abuse is even more prevalent, with 23% of women and 16% of men having experienced this from an intimate partner since the age of 15 (AIHW, 2019).

Family violence (FV) is also prevalent in Australia. Since the age of 15, 6% of men and 8% of women experienced violence from a family member other than an intimate partner (7% of all persons; ABS, 2023). Likewise, 7% of people had experienced physical abuse by a family member before the age of 15 and 3% had experienced sexual abuse (ABS, 2023). Exposure to domestic and family violence (DFV) is prevalent among 16-24 year-olds with 44% of this age group identifying witnessing DFV as a child (Haslam et al., 2023). One in four young people in this age group had experienced three to five forms of child maltreatment including physical, emotional, sexual abuse; neglect; and exposure to DFV (Haslam et al., 2023). It is clear that young people experience unacceptable rates of DFV.

People's experiences of violence are often gendered. Women are more likely than men to experience IPV from a cohabitating partner (ABS, 2023). Younger women are especially vulnerable when it comes to DFV and are three times more likely to experience FV or IPV related homicide compared to older women (aged 55 and over; ABS, 2022).

There is limited research describing the prevalence of young people's (12-25 years old) experiences of IPV and FV. Two recent studies explored young people aged 18-19 in Australia with 29% identifying IPV experiences in the past 12-months (Hobbs, 2022; O'Donnel et al., 2023). Most young people identified experiencing psychological violence (25%) and physical violence (12%) from an intimate partner (Hobbs, 2022). When this was broken down by binary gender, 30% of young women identified IPV in the past 12-months and 27% of young men identified IPV experiences (Hobbs, 2022; O'Donnel et al., 2023). The absence of protective factors such as supportive friendships and trust and communication with parents were identified as increasing the risk of experiencing IPV for this cohort (O'Donnel et al., 2023). A strong connection with a trusted parent is also often absent for the young people BYS works with.

There is also limited literature available examining the prevalence of DFV among diverse groups especially those from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD), Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, same-sex couples, parents with disabilities and adoptive parent communities (Kaspiew et al., 2017; Dedeigbo & Cocodia, 2016). For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, under-reporting of experiences of violence is widespread making it difficult to estimate the extent of DFV for young Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people (Prentice, Blair & O'Mullan, 2016). Despite this, it is estimated that three in five Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander women have experienced physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner since the age of 15 (Webster, 2016). Rate of DFV experience is estimated to be two to five times higher for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people compared to non-Indigenous populations (Bryant & Willis, 2008; Wundersitz, 2010).



Additionally, limited prevalence data has been published for sexuality and/or gender diverse people. The gendered lens of the DFV sector focuses on heterosexual men and women, resulting in the exclusion of gender and/or sexuality diverse people from support services. Some have argued that the gendered lens oversimplifies the role of gender in DFV (Yates, 2018). One study that did focus on gender and sexuality diverse people found that two in five female-identifying survey respondents reported having experienced IPV with just 28% of male-identifying respondents experiencing IPV in their past relationships (Pitts, Smith, Mitchell & Patel, 2006). Lesbian women were more likely than gay men to identify IPV in same-sex relationships (41% and 28% respectively; Leonard et al., 2008). For sexuality and/or gender diverse young people (aged 14-21 years), 24% identified experiencing FV (Hillier et al., 2010).



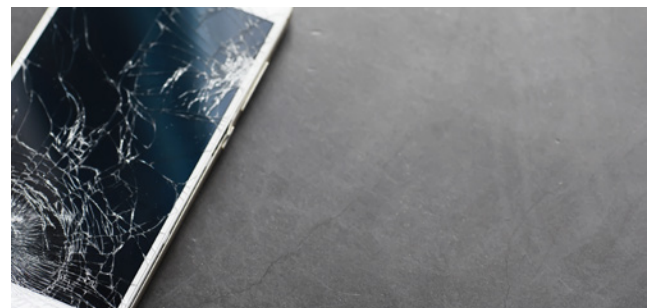
A more recent study found that two in five sexuality and/or gender diverse people aged 16 years and older reported verbal abuse from their current partner (LGBTIQ Domestic and Family Violence Interagency, 2014). One in four identified emotional abuse and just over one in five identified experiencing physical aggression by their current partner (LGBTIQ Domestic and Family Violence Interagency, 2014).

One demographic with more published literature is that of children and young people with disability, although this is still limited (Robinson et al., 2023). Adults with disability experienced partner violence at almost double the rate of those without disability (AIHW, 2021a). Children with disability are twice as likely to be exposed to DFV (Robinson et al., 2022). This difference increases further for children with disability who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Children and young people with disability make up 29% of all hospitalisations with DFV flags, and the same proportion of police DFV responses flagged children with disability (Octoman et al., 2022). Children and young people with disability also make up about one third of children involved in child protection and one third of those who enter out-of-home care.

Young parents not only experience violence within their family and/or relationship, but also from the broader community (Owens, 2022). Nearly half of all parents who completed the Personal Safety Survey identified that partner violence was heard or seen by their children with their current partner and two thirds had heard or seen violence from a previous partner (66%; AIHW, 2021b). This experience and witnessing of violence can lead to children being removed from their parent's care (Barker, Harris & Brittle, 2022). Children in families with persistent DFV have poorer health and social outcomes compared to families with no parental conflict (Kaspiew et al., 2017).

The COVID-19 pandemic and associated lockdowns and restrictions impacted experiences of violence and abuse for women in Australia. At the beginning of the pandemic, two thirds of women surveyed who had experienced physical or sexual violence by a former or current cohabiting partner experienced an escalation of the violence in the first 3 months of the pandemic (to May 2020; Boxall, Morgan & Brown, 2020). For children and young people, lockdowns meant they no longer attended school, which many identified as one of the only places they felt safe (Donagh, 2020). This meant that they not only lost an escape from FV and IPV at home but also lost opportunities to disclose what had been happening at home (Donagh, 2020).

For many young people, experiencing violence in their relationships, families and communities has been normalised (Hobbs, 2022). Australian cultural norms that attach status to or glorify use of violence increase the risk of young people entering into violent intimate relationships. Indicative of this normalisation of violence, almost one in three young people think women going through custody battles make up or exaggerate claims of DFV to improve their case (Coumarelos et al., 2023). Violence and abuse are normalised when violent and abusive behaviours are glorified, dismissed, enabled, condoned, or ignored, exacerbating the isolation of young people experiencing violence. On top of this, 36% of young people who completed the National Community Attitudes towards Violence Against Women Survey (NCAS) said they would not know where to get outside help for a FV or IPV issue (Coumarelos et al., 2023).



Raising awareness about DFV, especially the ways in which young people experience violence differently to adults, and making youth-friendly DFV supports available to young people are essential to addressing the high rates of DFV across Australia. Ending FV and IPV is more complex than putting support systems in place, broader societal attitudes and values must change.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. In this report, the data analysis by year includes all young people who had their first contact with BYS in that year and who completed an intake assessment in that year. Because of this, the highest numbers of young people were in the first year when the client intake and assessment data set was introduced, and all current and new clients completed the assessment.
2. The reported client numbers each year, and all associated percentages, reflect the number of new intakes only, and do not include the many ongoing clients who continued to be supported over several years.
3. For each domain covered in this report, results are presented as a percentage of the total number of young people who completed that question in the intake assessment. For this reason, the total numbers differ for each domain (e.g., disability, parenting, age) since not all young people complete all questions in the assessment. For the purposes of data integrity, the numbers and percentages reported here exclude any young person who completed less than 40% of the total intake assessment questions.
4. There are times when young people have multiple periods of support over several years. While their presenting concerns may have changed from one episode to the next (e.g., experience of violence), in order to not duplicate their demographic data (e.g., culture), only their first occasion of intake is included in this analysis.
5. The COVID-19 pandemic is mentioned throughout the report and is considered to have started halfway through the 2019-20 financial year. This means that all data for that year includes the six months prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and the first six months of lockdowns, social and service restrictions. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is best viewed as a combined trend across the 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22 years.
6. The statistical significance cut-off value in this report is $p=0.05$. Effect size cut-offs are described in Appendix A.

IMAGINE YOURSELF AT THE AGE OF 17.
YOU AND YOUR FIVE MONTH OLD SON HAVE
FLED FROM AN UNHEALTHY RELATIONSHIP,
YOU HAVE NO SOCIAL OR FAMILY
SUPPORT TO HELP YOU, AND ARE LEFT
WITH NO HOME. **THIS WAS THE START
OF MY JOURNEY.**

— Young Person



EXPERIENCE OF VIOLENCE DATA AT BYS

BYS collects experience of violence information from all young people completing an intake assessment. This is collected in the form of four questions:

- A Have you experienced FV in the past?**
- B Are you currently experiencing FV?**
- C Have you experienced IPV in the past?**
- D Are you currently experiencing IPV?**

This report presents findings from analysis of new intake data each financial year for 7 years, from 1st July 2015 to 30th June 2022. Over that period:

- 2,940 young people provided information on their experience of past FV.
- 2,892 young people provided information on their experience of current FV.
- 2,893 young people provided information on their experience of past IPV.
- 2,873 young people provided information on their experience of current IPV.

This report examines and compares both past and current FV and IPV for 10 groups of young people accessing support at BYB. These are those who are or identify as:

- 12-15 years old
- 16-18 years old
- 19-21 years old
- 22-25 years old
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- CALD
- Male, female and gender diverse
- Sexuality diverse
- Have a disability
- Young parents

Data was collected by BYB workers in the first three contacts with a young person accessing ongoing planned support through interview-style survey collection. Data was extracted from the client record management system, was cleaned, and coded, and analysed in Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). The *p* value for statistical significance was set at 0.05. Effect size cut-offs are outlined in Appendix A.

Variable	n	%
2015-16	684	21%
2016-17	491	15%
2017-18	446	14%
2018-19	397	12%
2019-20	388	12%
2020-21	419	13%
2021-22	429	13%

Table 2. Number and Percentage of Young People in Each Financial Year

Variable	n	%
12-15 years	209	6%
16-18 years	1,118	34%
19-21 years	1,050	32%
22-25 years	870	27%
Aboriginal	728	23%
Torres Strait Islander	31	1%
Both Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	48	2%
Non-Indigenous	2,433	75%
CALD	383	12%
Not CALD	2,872	88%
Female	1,688	56%
Male	1,222	40%
Gender Diverse	114	4%
Sexuality Diverse	513	21%
Straight	1,954	79%
Disability	517	18%
No Disability	2,315	82%
Parent	754	23%
Not Parent	2,474	77%

Table 3. Demographic Characteristics of Data Set

EXPERIENCE OF VIOLENCE ACROSS THE 7 YEARS

Past Family Violence

On average, 68% of young people had experienced FV in the past at intake. The proportion of young people reporting past FV experiences was relatively steady across the 7 years, with a drop in 2018-19 before returning to previous proportions (Figure 1).

Current Family Violence

The proportion of young people identifying current experiences of FV decreased by 60% over the 7-year period. On average, 14% of young people identified experiencing FV currently at intake (Figure 1).

Past Intimate Partner Violence

On average, 40% of young people identified experiencing IPV in the past at intake. Over the 7-year period, the proportion remained relatively steady with a slight drop in 2019-20 (Figure 1).

Current Intimate Partner Violence

Like with current FV, there was a decrease in the proportion of young people identifying current IPV experiences over the 7-year period (36% decrease; Figure 1). On average, 12% of young people identified experiencing IPV currently at intake.

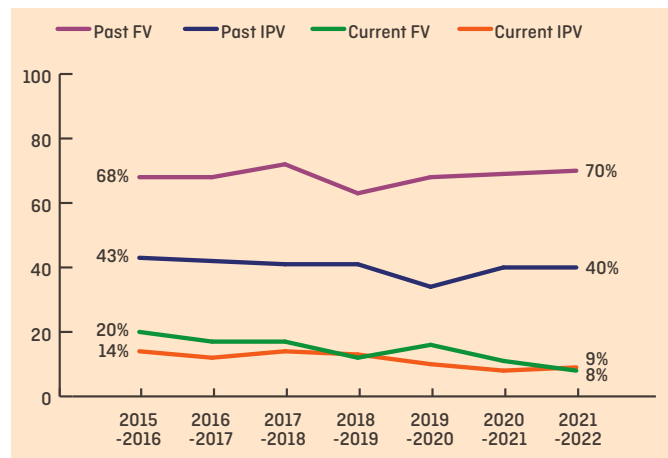
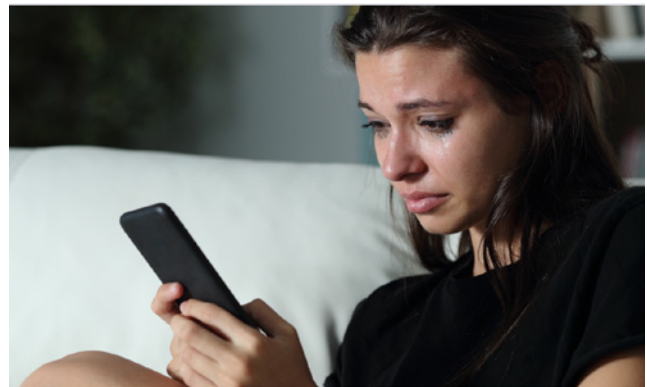


Figure 1. Young People's Experience of Violence 2015-2022



1 / EXPERIENCE OF VIOLENCE AND AGE

BYS supports young people between the ages of 12 years and 25 years old. Over the 7 years, the majority (67%) of young people supported were between the ages of 16 years and 21 years.

1A. AGE AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

Overall, there was a statistically significant relationship between young people’s age and experience of past FV at first presentation for support, however the effect size was small indicating a weak association.¹

Unsurprisingly, there was a statistically significant relationship between young people’s age and experience of current FV at first presentation for support with a small effect size indicating a weak association.²

	12-15 years	16-18 years	19-21 years	22-25 years
% with Past FV	76% (n=199)	71% (n=1,034)	69% (n=955)	62% (n=744)
% with Current FV	39% (n=192)	24% (n=1,019)	19% (n=939)	16% (n=735)

Table 4. 7-year FV Rate by Age-Range

For those who completed intake between the ages of 12 and 15 years old, 76% had past experiences of FV. This decreased as young people got older with 71% of 16-18-year-olds, 69% of 19-21-year-olds and 62% of 22-25-year-olds identifying past experiences of FV.

The change in rate of past FV experiences for all age ranges across the 7 years remained relatively steady, with some variability year-on-year, including during the COVID-19 pandemic years (Figure 2).

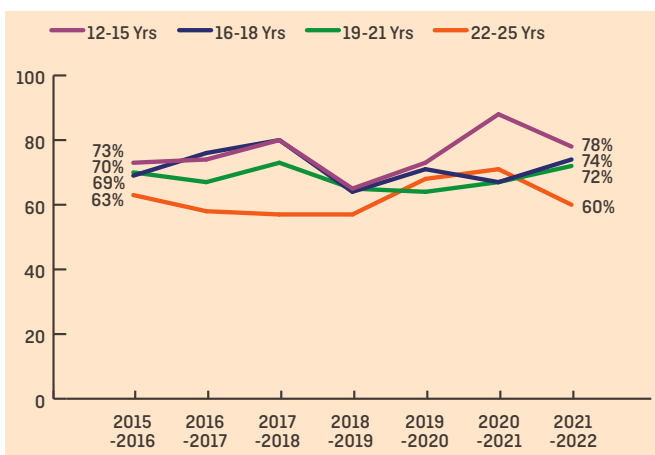


Figure 2. Past FV Experiences by Age 2015-2022

For those who completed intake between the ages of 12 and 15 years old, 39% were currently experiencing FV. This decreased substantially as young people got older with 24% of 16-18-year-olds, 19% of 19-21-year-olds and 16% of 22-25-year-olds identifying current experiences of FV (Table 4).

For most age groups, the peak in disclosures of current FV was in 2019-20. The exception to this was 19-21-year-olds, which peaked in 2017-18. At the end of the report period, current experience of FV in 2021-22 returned to similar rates as 2015-16.

This does not necessarily mean that less young people were experiencing FV when they presented for support, rather they may not have disclosed this information to staff members at that first point of meeting.

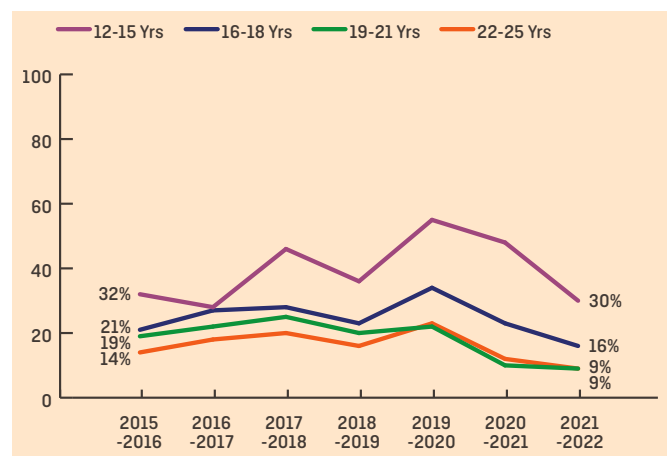


Figure 3. Current FV Experiences by Age 2015-2022

1B. AGE AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Overall, and unsurprisingly, there was a statistically significant relationship between young people’s age and experience of past IPV at first presentation for support with a moderate effect size indicating a moderate association.³ More than half of young people (54%) aged 22-25 years identified experiencing IPV in the past at intake. Almost half of young people (44%) aged 19-21 years identified past IPV experiences. This decreased to just under one in three 16-18-year-olds and one in four 12-15-year-olds identifying past IPV.

Overall, the association between young people’s age and experience of current IPV at first presentation for support was not statistically significant.⁴

Across the age ranges, between one in seven and one in ten young people identified current IPV at intake (see Table 5).

	12-15 years	16-18 years	19-21 years	22-25 years
% with Past IPV	24% (n=188)	30% (n=1,001)	44% (n=945)	54% (n=751)
% with Current IPV	12% (n=185)	10% (n=993)	12% (n=943)	14% (n=744)

Table 5. 7-year IPV Rate by Age-Range

The change in rate of past IPV experiences by all age ranges across the 7 years remained relatively steady, with some variability year-on-year, including during the COVID-19 pandemic years (Figure 4).

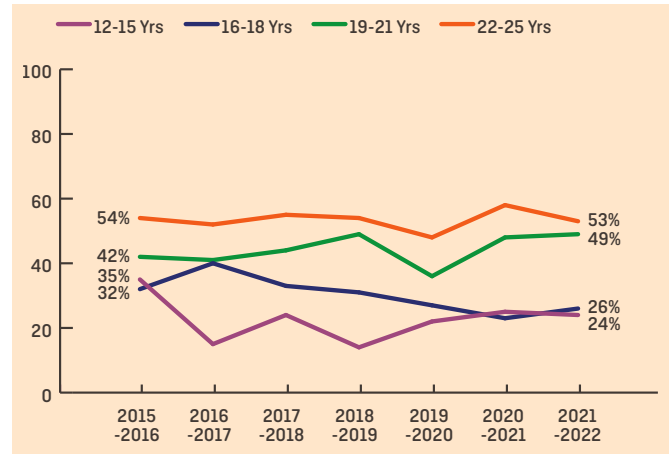


Figure 4. Past IPV Experiences by Age 2015-2022

The change in rate of current IPV experiences by all age ranges across the 7 years fluctuated across most years, including during the COVID-19 pandemic years (Figure 5). Note, the total number of young people in the 12-15-year-old sample fluctuated between 17 and 38 across the years. No 12-15-year-olds reported experiencing IPV in 2016-17.

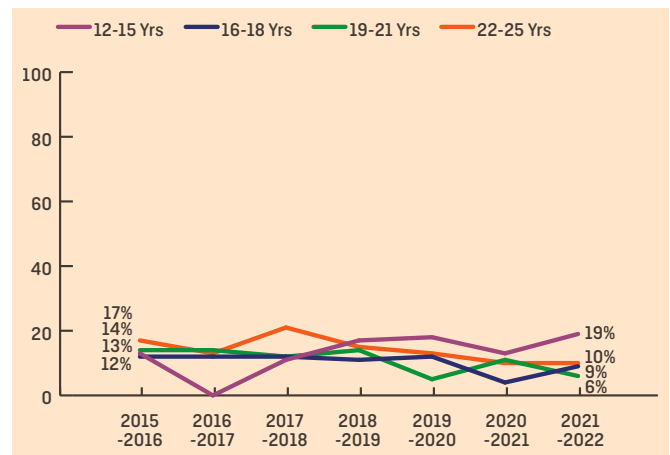


Figure 5. Current IPV Experiences by Age 2015-2022

³X² (3, N=2,885) = 121.33, p<0.001, v=0.21. ⁴X² (3, N=2,865) = 6.55, p=0.09.

2 / EXPERIENCE OF VIOLENCE AND CULTURE

Over the 7 years, one in four (25%) young people supported by BYS identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) young people made up 12% of all young people supported.

2A. ABORIGINAL AND/OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

The relationship between Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander identity and past experiences of FV was not statistically significant.⁵ More than two thirds (69%) of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander young people reported past FV experiences, a similar proportion to the 68% of non-Indigenous young people (Table 6).

The relationship between Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander identity and current experiences of FV was not statistically significant.⁶ Less than one in five (19%) young Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people reported current FV experiences, compared to 22% of non-Indigenous young people.

	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Non-Indigenous
% with Past FV	69% (n=504)	68% (n=1,493)
% with Current FV	19% (n=135)	22% (n=474)

Table 6. 7-year FV Rate by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Identity

Over the 7 years, there was some fluctuation across each year in terms of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander young people accessing support with past FV experiences, peaking in 2017-18 at 80% before returning to prior levels across the next four financial years (Figure 6).

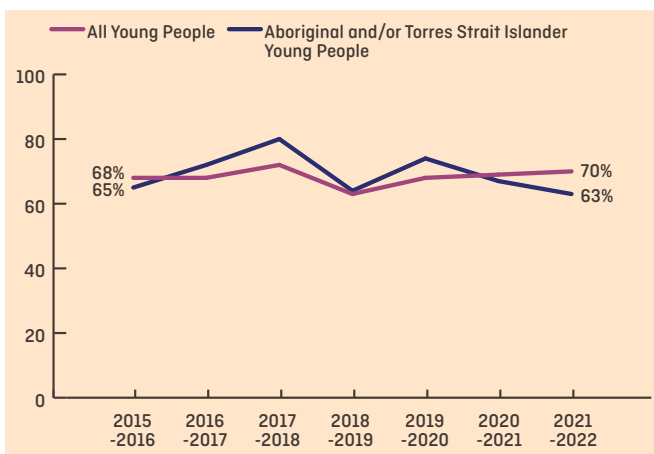


Figure 6. Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Young People with Past FV Experiences 2015-2022

The proportion of young Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people identifying current FV remained steady over the first five financial years, before decreasing by 68% between 2019-20 to 2021-22 where it dropped to just 7% (Figure 7). This was consistent with the drop in identifying current FV for all young people between 2019-20 and 2021-22 (57% decrease).

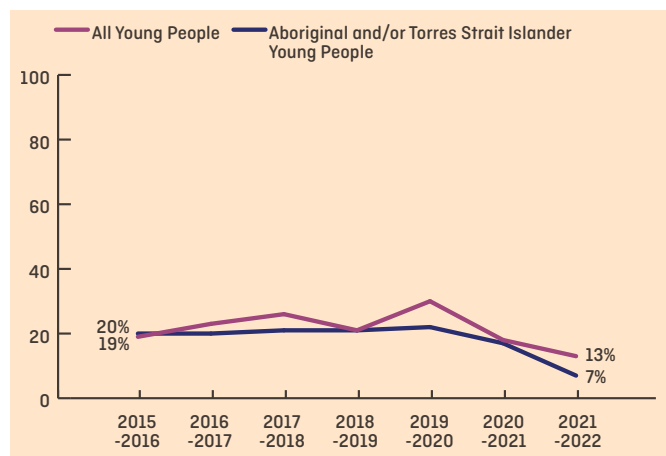


Figure 7. Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Young People with Current FV Experiences 2015-2022

Although there were no significant differences in the rates of violence experienced by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander young people in this analysis, the DFV violence literature has highlighted that Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people do experience high rates of violence. However, there is a gap in the literature around prevalence of FV and IPV among Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander young people, making it difficult to understand the pervasiveness of experience of violence for these young people. Future research arising from this report could explore the prevalence rates of FV and IPV among Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander young people as well as the barriers to disclosing past or current experience of violence to services. A lack of trust in services and past systems abuse are two probable reasons why Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander young people are reluctant to disclose experiences of violence on intake. Any further investigation should be led by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander researchers and organisations to ensure culturally safe and meaningful research activities and outputs.

2B. ABORIGINAL AND/OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER YOUNG PEOPLE AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

The relationship between Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander identity and past IPV was not statistically significant.⁷ More than two in five (43%) young Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people reported past IPV experiences, a slightly greater proportion than the 40% of non-Indigenous young people (Table 7).

The relationship between Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander identity and current IPV was not statistically significant.⁸ One in ten (11%) young Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people reported current IPV, similar to the proportion of non-Indigenous young people (12%).

	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Non-Indigenous
% with Past IPV	43% (n=313)	40% (n=851)
% with Current IPV	11% (n=82)	12% (n=254)

Table 7. 7-year IPV Rate by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Identity

Over the 7 years, there was some fluctuation across each year in terms of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander young people accessing support with past IPV experiences, remaining between a low of 38% in 2018-19 and peaking in 2016-17 at 49% (Figure 8). Overall, the proportion remained within six percentage points of the trend for all young people.

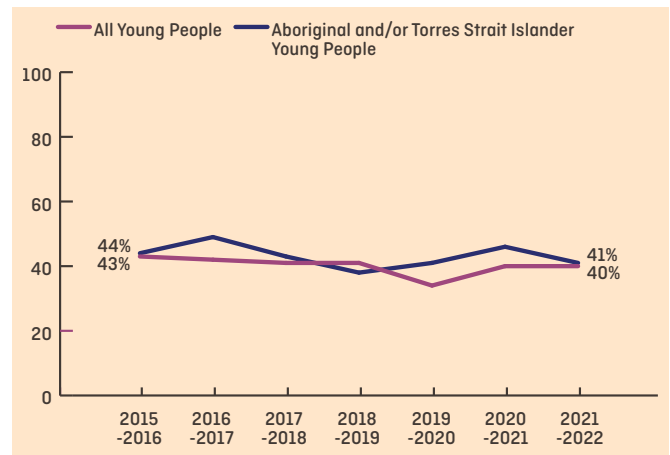


Figure 8. Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Young People with Past IPV Experiences 2015-2022

The proportion of young Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people identifying current IPV remained steady over the report period fluctuating between 8% and 14% (Figure 9). The proportion of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander young people with current IPV experiences remained within six percentage points of the trend for all young people.

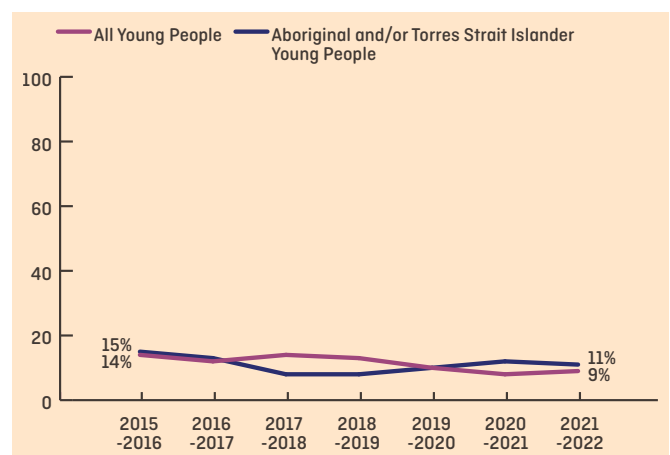


Figure 9. Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Young People with Current IPV Experiences 2015-2022

⁷X² (1, N=2,879) = 3.41, p=0.07. ⁸X² (1, N=2,859) = 0.11, p=0.74.

2 / EXPERIENCE OF VIOLENCE AND CULTURE

2C. CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

The relationship between CALD identity and experience of past FV was not statistically significant.⁹ The proportion of young people identifying past FV was the same for both CALD (68%) and not CALD (68%) young people (Table 8).

There was, however, a statistically significant relationship between CALD identity and current experience of FV at first presentation for support with a very small effect size indicating a small association.¹⁰

	CALD	Not CALD
% with Past FV	68% (n=231)	68% (n=1,777)
% with Current FV	28% (n=93)	20% (n=520)

Table 8. 7-year FV Rate by CALD Identity

Over the 7 years, the rate of CALD young people identifying past FV experiences remained relatively steady with a slight drop in 2017-18 (53%) before returning to previous proportions in 2018-19 (71%, Figure 10).

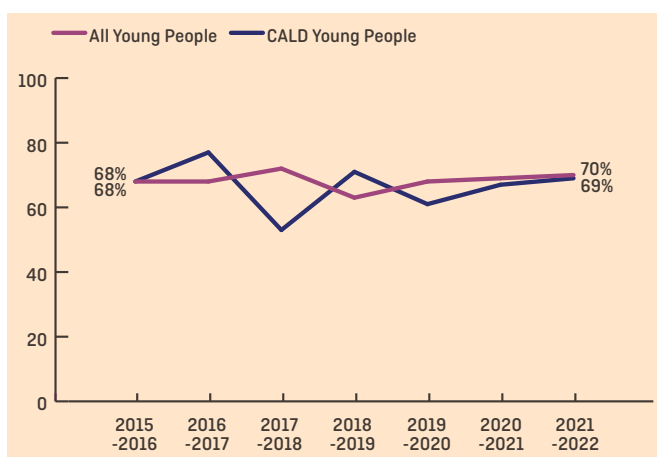


Figure 10. CALD Young People with Past FV Experiences 2015-2022

The proportion of CALD young people identifying current FV experiences increased starkly between 2015-16 and 2016-17 but then remained steady for the rest of the report period. With the exception of 2019-20, there were a greater proportion of CALD young people identifying current FV each year compared to non-CALD young people (Figure 11).

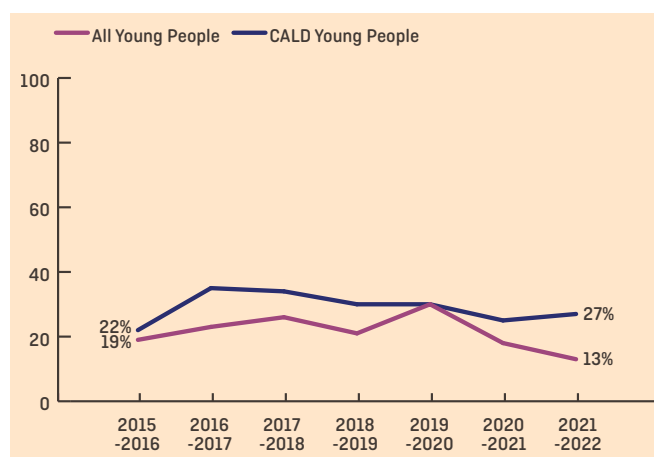


Figure 11. CALD Young People with Current FV Experiences 2015-2022

2D. CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE YOUNG PEOPLE AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

The relationship between CALD identity and experience of past IPV was not statistically significant.¹¹ The proportion of young people identifying past IPV was the similar for both CALD (39%) and not CALD (41%) young people (Table 9).

This was also the case for current IPV experiences: the relationship between CALD identity and current IPV was not statistically significant.¹² Again, the proportion of young people identifying as CALD and with current IPV experiences (11%) was similar to not CALD young people (12%, Table 9).

	CALD	Not CALD
% with Past IPV	39% (n=131)	41% (n=1,038)
% with Current IPV	11% (n=36)	12% (n=302)

Table 9. 7-year IPV Rate by CALD Identity

The proportion of CALD young people with past IPV experiences was similar to the proportion of all young people in 2015-16 and 2016-17 before rising notably higher in 2017-18 and 2018-19. Between 2018-19 and 2021-22, the proportion of CALD young people identifying past IPV experiences decreased by 46% (Figure 12).

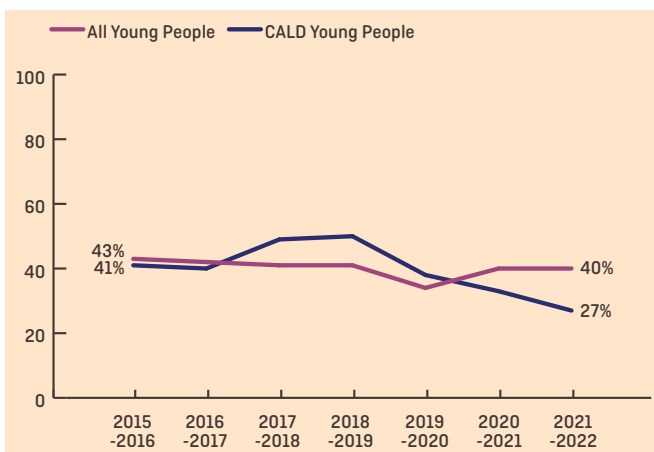


Figure 12. CALD Young People with Past IPV Experiences 2015-2022

¹¹X² (1, N=2,893) = 0.18, p=0.67 ¹²X² (1, N=2,873) = 0.29, p=0.59.

The first three financial years saw a 73% increase in the proportion of CALD young people identifying current IPV. This decreased by 68% over the remaining financial years to just 6% of CALD young people in 2021-22 (Figure 13). The proportion of CALD young people with current IPV experiences remained within six percentage points of the trend for all young people.

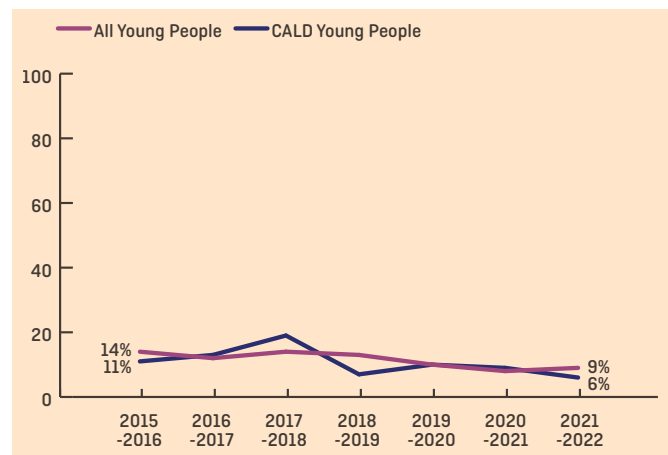


Figure 13. CALD Young People with Current IPV Experiences 2015-2022

3 / EXPERIENCE OF VIOLENCE AND GENDER

Over the 7 years, the majority of young people supported identified as female (56%) and two in five (40%) identified as male. Just 4% of all young people supported identified as gender diverse.¹³

3A. GENDER AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

Gender was statistically significantly associated with experiences of past FV; however, the effect size was small.¹⁴ Gender diverse young people were the most likely to identify past FV (78%). Young women (71%) were more likely to identify past FV compared to young men (64%; Table 10).

Gender was also statistically significantly associated with current FV, and again, the effect size was small.¹⁵ Gender diverse young people were the most likely to identify current FV (29%). Young women (23%) were more likely to identify current FV compared to young men (17%; Table 10).

	Female	Male	Gender Diverse
% with Past FV	71% (n=1,101)	64% (n=717)	78% (n=83)
% with Current FV	23% (n=359)	17% (n=191)	29% (n=31)

Table 10. 7-year FV Rate by Gender Identity

Over the 7-year period, the proportion of young men and young women identifying past FV remained relatively steady (Figure 14). There was greater variability for gender diverse young people. After increasing by 20% between 2015-16 and 2016-17, the proportion of gender diverse young people identifying past FV was 80% or more for all years except 2018-19 where it dropped to 53%. This could be due to the very small number of young people identifying as gender diverse in that year (15 young people).

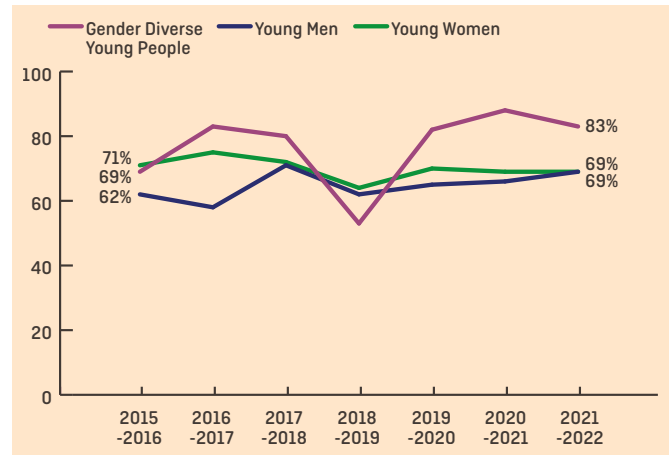


Figure 14. Young People with Past FV Experiences by Gender 2015-2022

Interestingly, there was a decrease in the proportion of young people, regardless of gender, identifying current experiences of FV in 2020-21 and 2021-22 compared to previous years (Figure 15). Between 2019-20 and 2021-22, the rate for all young people identifying current FV decreased by 57%. During this same period, the proportion of young men identifying current FV decreased by 64%, decreased by 63% for gender diverse young people and decreased by 51% for young women. This deviates from the increases in violence experienced by women and young people during the initial COVID-19 pandemic years documented in the literature (Boxall et al., 2020; Donagh, 2020).

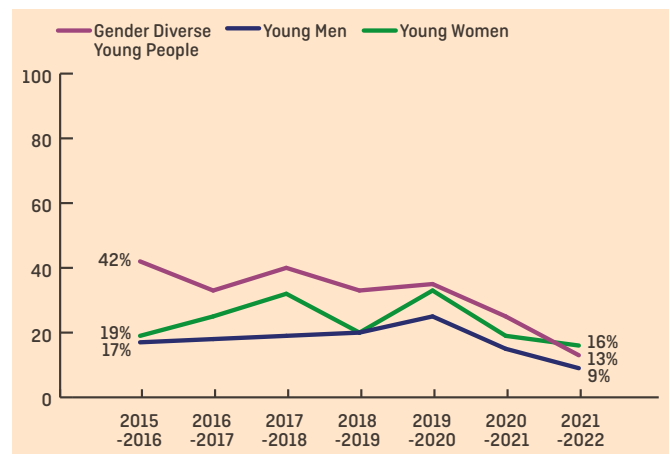


Figure 15. Young People with Current FV Experiences by Gender 2015-2022

¹³Due to small sample sizes for specific gender identities (i.e., non-binary, gender non-conforming), young people who do not exclusively identify as female or male were consolidated into the Gender Diverse variable.

¹⁴ $\chi^2 (2, N=2,788) = 16.87, p < 0.001, v = 0.08.$ ¹⁵ $\chi^2 (2, N=2,748) = 17.83, p < 0.001, v = 0.08.$

3B. GENDER AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Gender was statistically significantly associated with experiences of past IPV with a small effect size.¹⁶ Young women were the most likely to identify past IPV (48%). Gender diverse young people (38%) were more likely to identify past IPV compared to young men (28%; Table 11).

Gender was also statistically significantly associated with current IPV, and again, the effect size was small.¹⁷ Gender diverse young people (14%) and young women (14%) were the most likely to identify current IPV. Young men were less likely to identify current IPV (9%) compared to young women and gender diverse young people (Table 11).

	Female	Male	Gender Diverse
% with Past IPV	48% (n=746)	28% (n=311)	38% (n=41)
% with Current IPV	14% (n=210)	9% (n=92)	14% (n=15)

Table 11. 7-year IPV Rate by Gender Identity

Over the 7-year period, the proportion of young men identifying past IPV remained relatively steady with a slight drop in 2019-20 and 2020-21 before returning to previous proportions in 2021-22 (Figure 16). Similarly, the proportion of young women identifying past IPV remained relatively steady, dropping slightly in 2019-20. There was greater variability for gender diverse young people. Between 2015-16 and 2021-22, the proportion of gender diverse young people identifying past IPV increased by 220%, more than tripling over the report period. Similar to past FV, there was a dip in 2018-19 for gender diverse young people identifying past IPV. This could be due to the very small number of young people identifying as gender diverse in that year (15 young people).

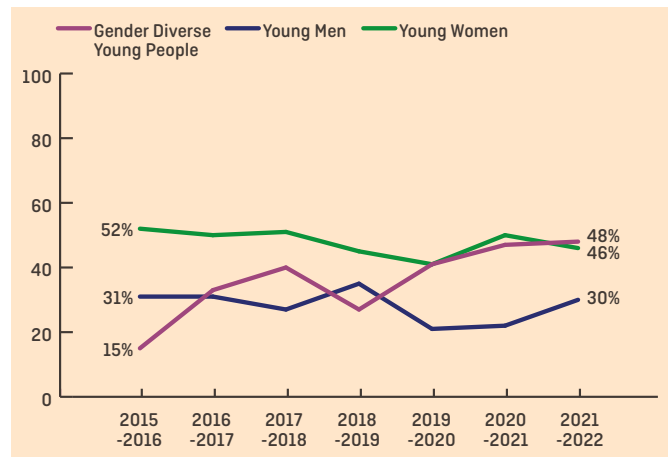


Figure 16. Young People with Past IPV Experiences By Gender 2015-2022

There was a steady decrease in the proportion of young women identifying current experiences of IPV across the report period (decrease of 53%; Figure 17). The proportion of young men who identified current IPV increased by 50% in the first four years before decreasing by 87% between 2018-19 and 2019-20. The proportion of young men identifying current IPV remained low for the final three years. There was no clear pattern in the proportion of gender diverse young people identifying current IPV across the 7 years with proportions ranging from 0% to 24%. The population size for each of the 7 years ranged from 10 to 25 people identifying as gender diverse, so conclusions drawn should be treated with caution.

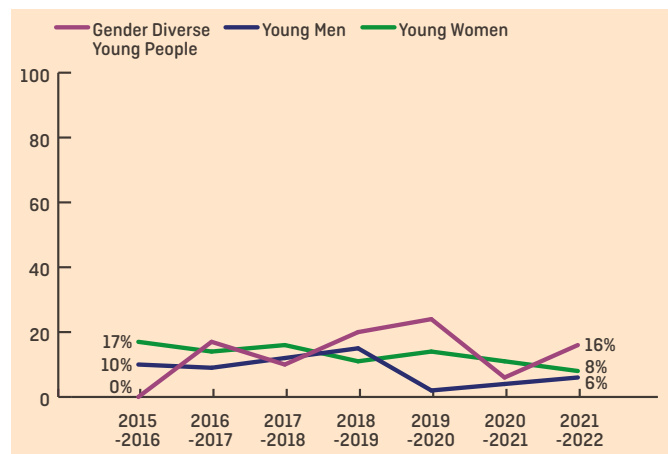


Figure 17. Young People with Current IPV Experiences By Gender 2015-2022

¹⁶X² (2, N=2,748) = 106.16, p<0.001, v=0.20. ¹⁷X² (2, N=2,731) = 16.84, p<0.001, v=0.10.

4 / EXPERIENCE OF VIOLENCE AND SEXUALITY

Over the 7 years, over one in five (21%) young people supported by BYS identified as a diverse sexuality (not heterosexual).

4A. SEXUALITY AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

Sexuality was statistically significantly associated with experiences of past FV; however, the effect size was small.¹⁸ Sexuality diverse young people were more likely to identify past FV (77%) compared to heterosexual young people (66%; Table 12).

Sexuality was not statistically significantly associated with current FV.¹⁹ Sexuality diverse young people were more likely to identify current FV (22%) compared to heterosexual young people (20%; Table 12).

	Sexuality Diverse	Heterosexual
% with Past FV	77% (n=376)	66% (n=1,223)
% with Current FV	22% (n=107)	20% (n=366)

Table 12. 7-year FV Rate by Sexuality

Over the 7-year period, the proportion of sexuality diverse young people identifying past FV experiences remained consistently higher than all young people with past FV experiences (Figure 18). The proportion of sexuality diverse young people identifying past FV remained consistent.

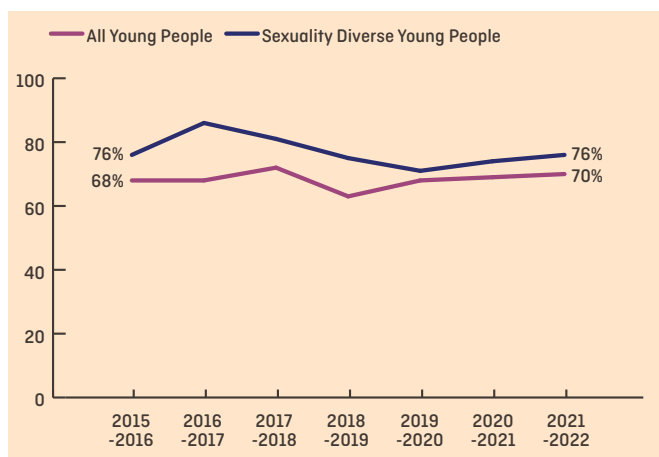


Figure 18. Sexuality Diverse Young People with Past FV Experiences 2015-2022

The 7-year trend for sexuality diverse young people with current FV experiences matched that of all young people with current FV experiences with the exception of 2018-19, where sexuality diverse young people had a higher rate than all young people (Figure 19).

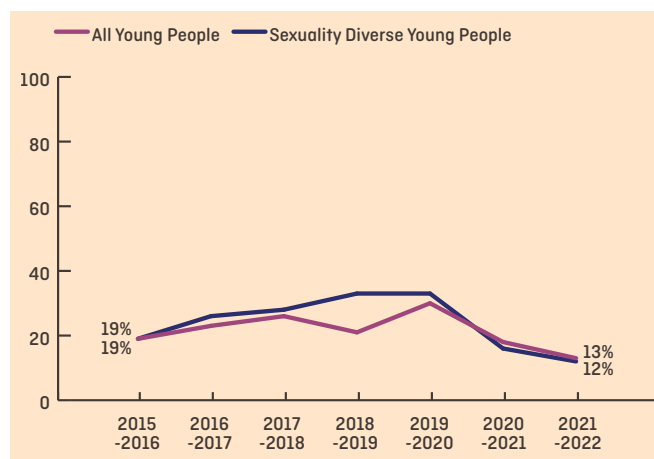


Figure 19. Sexuality Diverse Young People with Current FV Experiences 2015-2022

4B. SEXUALITY AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Sexuality was not statistically significantly associated with experiences of past IPV.²⁰ There was very minor variation in the proportion of sexuality diverse (41%) and heterosexual (40%) young people with past IPV experiences (Table 13).

Sexuality was not statistically significantly associated with current IPV.²¹ There was very minor variation in the proportion of sexuality diverse (11%) and heterosexual (12%) young people with current IPV experiences (Table 13).

	Sexuality Diverse	Heterosexual
% with Past IPV	41% (n=197)	40% (n=726)
% with Current IPV	11% (n=54)	12% (n=212)

Table 13. 7-year IPV Rate by Sexuality

Over the 7 years, there was some fluctuation across each year in terms of sexuality diverse young people accessing support with past IPV experiences, peaking in 2018-19 at 46% and then decreasing to a low of 36% in 2021-22 (Figure 20). Overall, the proportion remained within six percentage points of the trend for all young people.

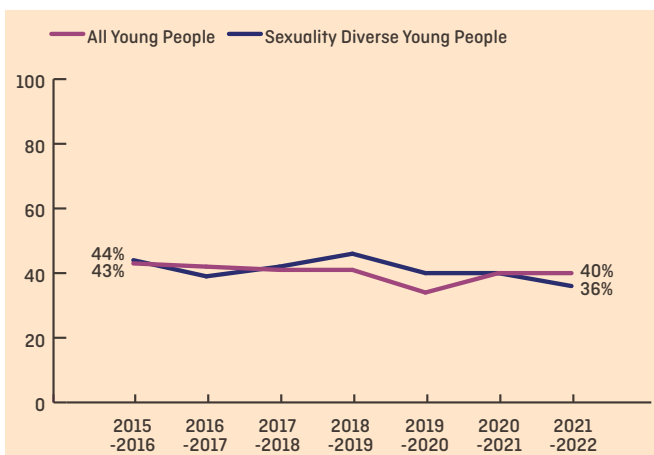


Figure 20. Sexuality Diverse Young People with Past IPV Experiences 2015-2022

A similar trend was seen for current IPV experiences for sexuality diverse young people, with the proportion remaining within five percentage points of the trend for all young people each year (Figure 21).

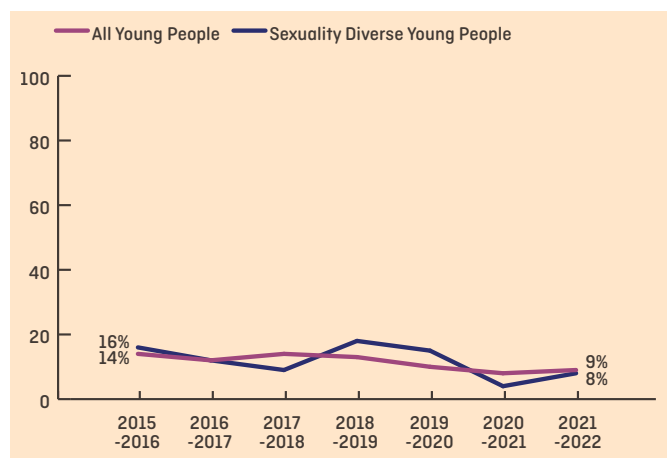


Figure 21. Sexuality Diverse Young People with Current IPV Experiences 2015-2022

²⁰X² (1, N=2,326) = 0.19, p=0.67. ²¹X² (1, N=2,307) = 0.06, p=0.82.

5 / EXPERIENCE OF VIOLENCE AND DISABILITY

Over the 7 years, 18% of young people identified living with disability when seeking BYS support. While there has been minor fluctuation in proportions over time, consistently the most common disabilities are Learning/Behavioural (e.g., Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder), followed by Intellectual/Developmental.

5A. DISABILITY AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

Disability was statistically significantly associated with experiences of past FV; however, the effect size was very small.²² Young people with disability were more likely to identify past FV (72%) compared to young people without disability (67%; Table 14).

Disability was not statistically significantly associated with current FV.²³ Young people with and without disability were equally likely to identify current FV (both 21%; Table 14).

	Disability	No Disability
% with Past FV	72% (n=341)	67% (n=1,443)
% with Current FV	21% (n=97)	21% (n=455)

Table 14. 7-year FV Rate by Disability

Over the 7-year period, there was minimal variation in the rate of young people with disability identifying past FV experiences compared to all young people (Figure 22).

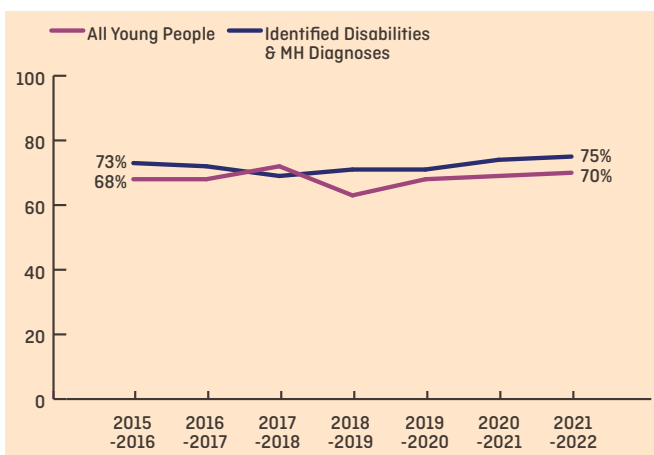


Figure 22. Young People with Disability and Past FV Experiences 2015-2022

There was also limited variation in the rate of young people with disability identifying current FV experiences compared to all young people (Figure 23).

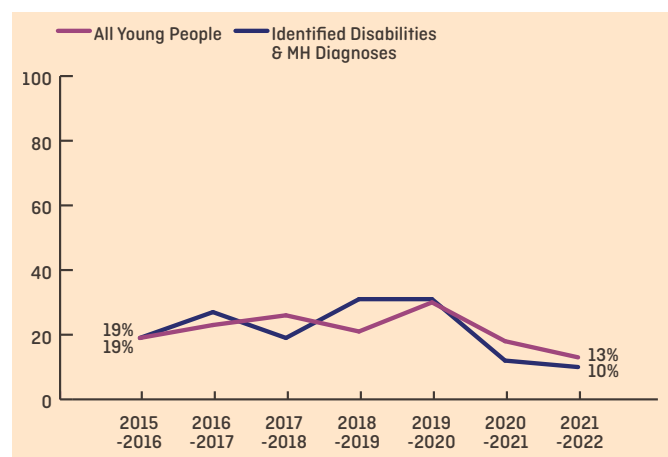


Figure 23. Young People with Disability and Current FV Experiences 2015-2022

²² $\chi^2(1, N=2,627) = 4.96, p=0.03, \Phi_c^2=0.002.$ ²³ $\chi^2(1, N=2,595) = 0.06, p=0.81.$

5B. DISABILITY AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Disability was not statistically significantly associated with experiences of past IPV²⁴ although young people with disability were more likely to identify past IPV (43%) compared to young people without disability (39%; Table 15).

Disability was not statistically significantly associated with current IPV.²⁵ Young people with and without disability were equally likely to identify current IPV (both 11%; Table 15).

	Disability	No Disability
% with Past IPV	43% (n=200)	39% (n=822)
% with Current IPV	11% (n=50)	11% (n=241)

Table 15. 7-year IPV Rate by Disability

Over the 7-year period, there was minimal variation in the rate of young people with disability identifying past IPV experiences compared to all young people (Figure 24).

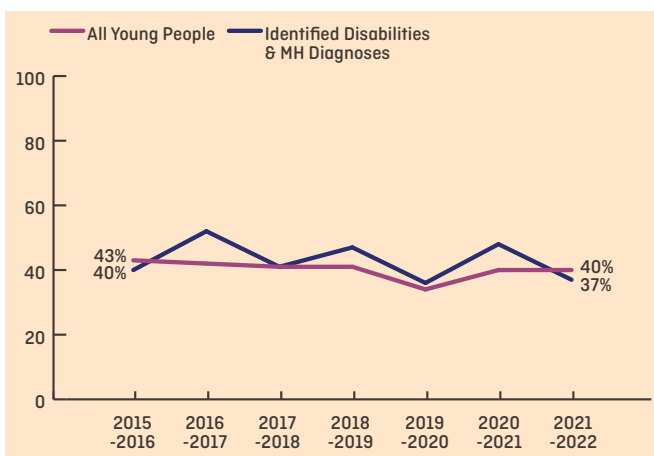


Figure 24. Young People with Disability and Past IPV Experiences 2015-2022

Other than a spike in 2018-19, there was minimal variation in the rate of young people with disability identifying current IPV compared to all young people (Figure 25).

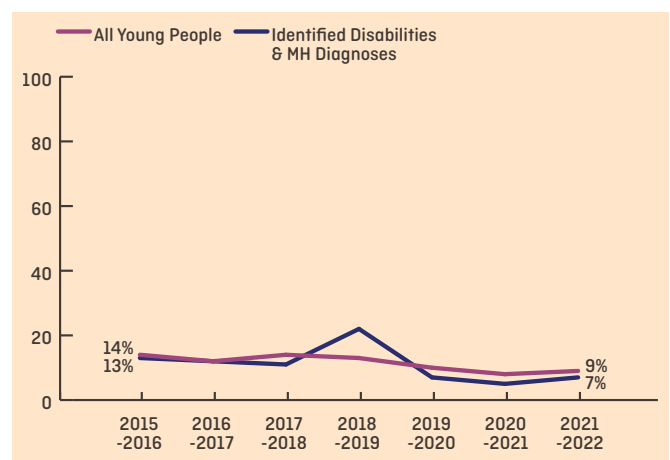


Figure 25. Young People with Disability and Current IPV Experiences 2015-2022

²⁴X² (1, N=2,594) = 3.25, p=0.07. ²⁵X² (1, N=2,581) = 0.07, p=0.79.

Over the 7 years, 23% of young people presenting to BYS were young parents. The majority of young parents' children were in their care (75%) with 12% in relative/kin care and 8% in foster care.

6A. YOUNG PARENTS AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

Parenthood was statistically significantly associated with experiences of past FV; however, the effect size was small.²⁶ Young parents were less likely to identify past FV (65%) compared to young people who were not parents (69%; Table 16).

Parenthood was also statistically significantly associated with current FV; however, the effect size was small.²⁷ Young parents were less likely to identify current FV (16%) compared to young people who were not parents (23%; Table 16).

	Parent	Not Parent
% with Past FV	65% (n=428)	69% (n=1,564)
% with Current FV	16% (n=102)	23% (n=505)

Table 16. 7-year FV Rate by Parenthood

Over the 7-year period, there was minimal variation in the rate of young parents identifying past FV experiences compared to all young people with the exception of 2021-22 (Figure 26). There was a 23% decrease in the proportion of young parents identifying past FV between 2020-21 and 2021-22.

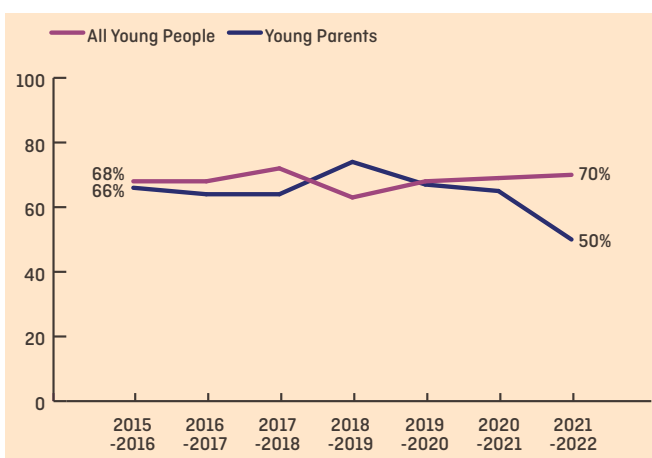


Figure 26. Young Parents with Past FV Experiences 2015-2022

Young parents had consistently lower rates of current FV experiences compared to young people who were not parents across the 7-year period (Figure 27).

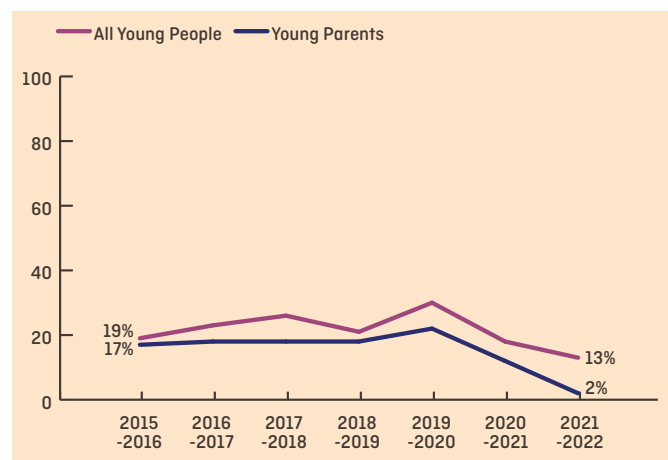


Figure 27. Young Parents with Current FV Experiences 2015-2022

6B. YOUNG PARENTS AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Parenthood was statistically significantly associated with experiences of past IPV with a moderate effect size.²⁸ Young parents were almost twice as likely to identify past IPV (63%) compared to young people who were not parents (33%; Table 17).

Parenthood was also statistically significantly associated with current IPV; however, the effect size was small.²⁹ Young parents were more likely to identify current FV (18%) compared to young people who were not parents (10%; Table 17).

	Parent	Not Parent
% with Past IPV	63% (n=424)	33% (n=737)
% with Current IPV	18% (n=118)	10% (n=219)

Table 17. 7-year IPV Rate by Parenthood

Over the 7-year period, there was minimal variation in the rate of young parents identifying past IPV experiences with the exception of 2021-22 (Figure 28). There was a 20% decrease in the proportion of young parents identifying past IPV between 2020-21 and 2021-22.

Young parents aged 22-25 years were more likely to experience past IPV (68%) compared to young parents aged 19-21 years (60%).

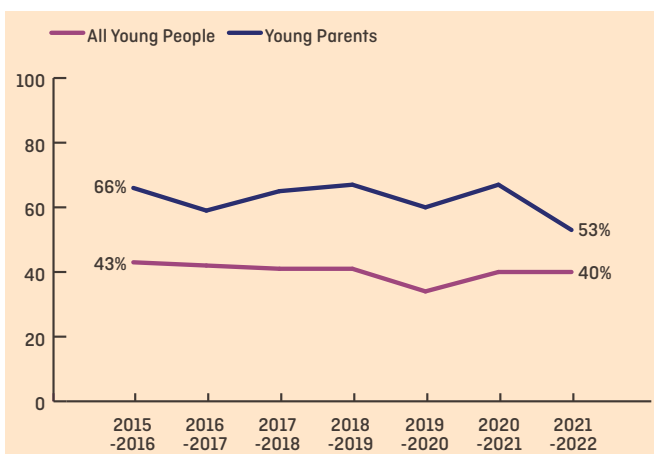


Figure 28. Young Parents with Past IPV Experiences 2015-2022

Young parents had consistently higher rates of current IPV experiences compared to young people who were not parents across the 7-year period (Figure 29).

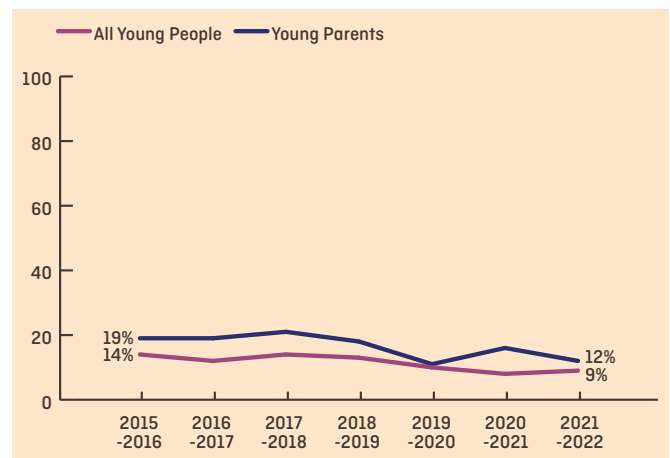


Figure 29. Young Parents with Current IPV Experiences 2015-2022

²⁸X² (1, N=2,876) = 188.15, p<0.001, Φ²_c=0.07. ²⁹X² (1, N=2,858) = 29.32, p<0.001, Φ²_c=0.01.

7A. OVERALL PATTERNS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE

For most groups of young people seeking support at BYS (Figure 30), the likelihood of experiencing FV in the past was substantially greater than for the general population of adults (7% of adults; ABS, 2023). Comparisons for current experience of FV were not available in the literature, however, the rate of young people identifying current FV experiences was double the rate of the general population identifying past FV (ABS, 2023; Figure 31).

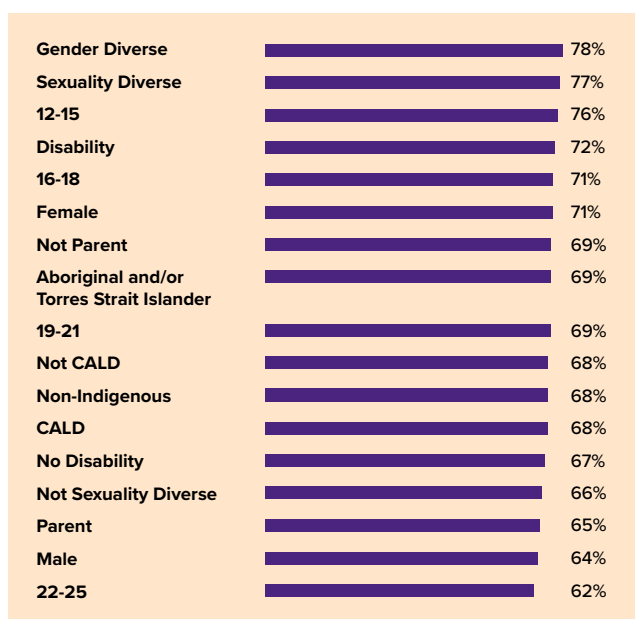


Figure 30. Experience of Past FV by Demographics

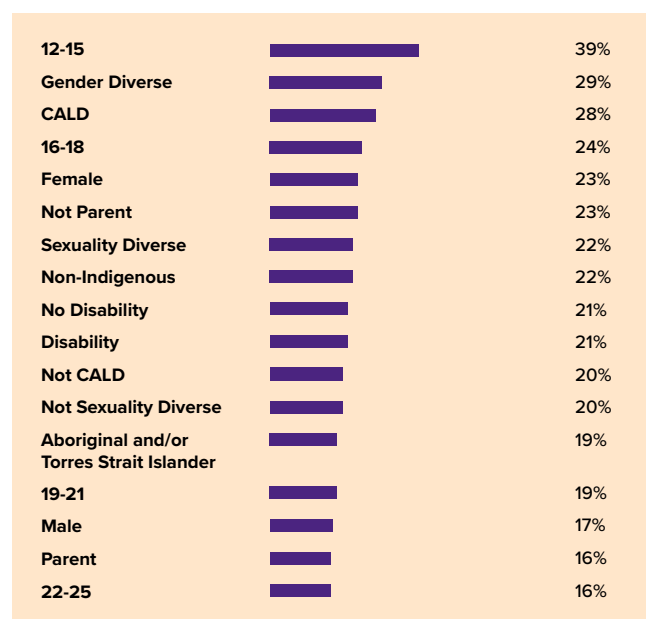


Figure 31. Experience of Current FV by Demographics

The key findings from FV data were:

- There was limited variation in the proportion of each demographic group of young people and their identified experience of past FV with proportions ranging from 62% to 78%.
- Young people who were gender and/or sexuality diverse were most likely to identify past FV closely followed by young people aged 12-15 years.
- Young people aged 12-15 years were most likely to identify current FV. Experience of current FV decreased with age which was unsurprising given that most young people move out of their family living situations as they age and grow their independence.
- Gender diverse and CALD young people were the second and third most likely to identify current FV experiences.

Over the 7 years, rates of both past and current FV remained steady, even during the COVID-19 pandemic. This highlights that the problem of FV has not reduced despite increased societal awareness and interventions. Young people are still experiencing FV at an alarming rate.

7B. OVERALL PATTERNS OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

When looking at the demographic groups of young people seeking BYS support, young people's likelihood of experiencing past IPV across all demographic groups (Figure 32) was considerably higher than the general adult population (21% of adults; ABS, 2023). Much like current FV, comparison figures for current IPV were not readily available in the literature; however, the rate of current IPV experiences for young people was 12% (Figure 33). A recent survey conducted with young people across Australia found the third most identified personal challenge faced by young people was relationship challenges including death, abuse, challenging relationships with family, friends or significant others (Leung et al., 2022).

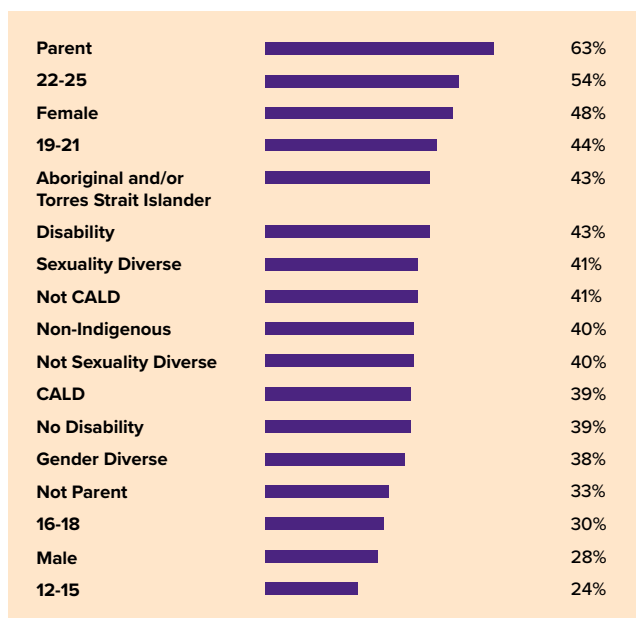


Figure 32. Experience of Past IPV by Demographics

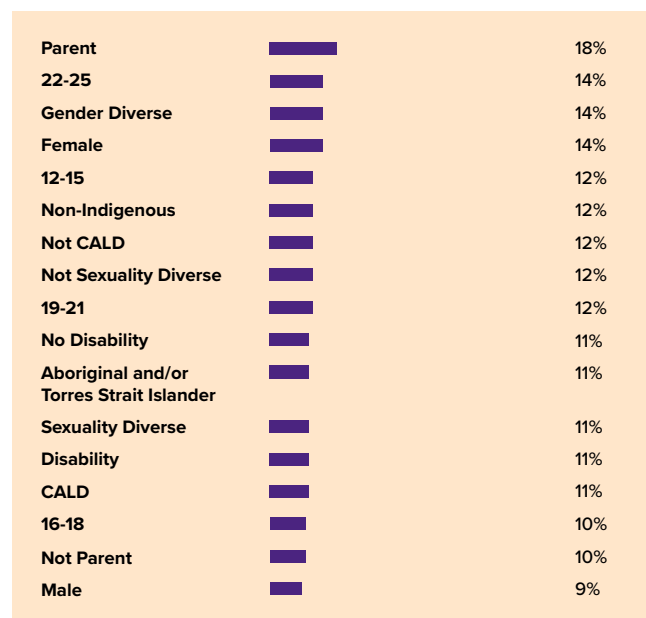


Figure 33. Experience of Current IPV by Demographics

The key findings from IPV analysis were:

- Young parents were the most likely to identify both past and current IPV experiences. The likelihood of identifying past IPV experiences increased with age.
 - > 68% of young female parents have experienced past IPV compared to 46% of young male parents
 - > 68% of young parents aged 22-25 years have experienced past IPV compared to 60% of young parents aged 19-21 years.
- Young people aged 22-25 years were the second most likely to experience both past and current IPV.
- Young women were the third most likely to identify past IPV experiences, and gender diverse young people and young women were both third most likely to identify current IPV.
- Young men identified past IPV at a much higher rate [28%] than the general adult population, with 6% of men in Australia identifying physical violence and 16% identifying emotional violence since the age of 15 [AIHW 2019].

CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE AND POLICY

This 7-year analysis clearly demonstrates that young people supported by BYS have experienced violence from family and intimate partners at alarming rates compared to the general adult population.

In response, BYS will continue to provide and further develop targeted, innovative responses to support young people to heal and feel safe again. This data also highlights the important work BYS has underway to develop a practice framework for working with young people who have experienced violence and present to BYS for support. Once complete, this work will be shared with the youth and DFV sectors.

Youth services like BYS support young people experiencing DFV every day. Youth services are best placed to provide youth specific DFV support because they are trusted by young people and understand the complexity inherent in their experiences of violence and homelessness. Many youth services are already working in the DFV space out of necessity; taking it upon themselves to upskill their workforce and develop evidence-informed DFV interventions for young people. This work presents an excellent opportunity for national and state governments to boost efforts to reduce DFV by providing targeted long-term funding to youth services to provide youth-specific DFV interventions to young people as users of violence and as victim survivors in their own right.

Young parents make up just 23% of those accessing BYS, yet 63% of young parents have experienced past IPV. This vulnerable cohort have limited access to developmentally appropriate, trauma-informed support and often experience child protection system involvement due to their experience of IPV (Barker et al., 2022). Young parents who have experienced or are experiencing IPV need stable housing while they build their understanding and capacity to navigate IPV and engage in safe and healthy relationships. Healing and recovery-based interventions, such as dyadic therapeutic attachment work between mother/protective parent and child are also needed, given that attachment is significantly impacted where there is DFV. These therapeutic interventions can reduce the cyclical nature of DFV victimisation and involvement by the child protection system by increasing important protective factors such as a strong connection with a trusted parent.

This report has highlighted that gender diverse young people were more likely than young women and young men to experience most forms of violence, with the exception of past IPV.

Conversely, young women were more likely than gender diverse young people to experience past IPV. Young people report that they rarely feel comfortable accessing adult specialist domestic violence services. Gender diverse young people in particular can face challenges when seeking support from mainstream DFV services, which often view DFV through a heteronormative lens. The findings in this report act as an important reminder that youth services like BYS, who work with a wide range of young people, should ensure any FV or IPV frameworks, interventions and services are inclusive of and accessible to gender diverse young people.

Unsurprisingly, young people aged 12-15 were the most likely age group to identify current and past FV. This group of young people were also most likely to be currently living with family when they first presented to BYS. BYS and the broader sector have a responsibility to keep young people safe from harm, especially when that harm is perpetrated in their living environments.

Currently there is very little prevalence data reported publicly on experience of violence and use of violence from young people. A national data set needs to be built and made publicly available that provides prevalence data on young people's experience and use of violence, broken down by age, gender and other demographic factors to better understand the problem of DFV experienced by young people and to inform evidence-based and targeted interventions.

Future research could explore the interacting factors that may influence or relate to experiences of violence. Factors for further exploration could include parenthood and child safety involvement, substance use, mental health factors and homelessness. BYS aims to partner with child protection researchers and young parenthood researchers in considering these factors further.

Key limitations from this report and analysis include:

- Only the first presentation to BYS was included in the analysis. This does not account for later disclosures of current and/or past FV and IPV that occur during support.
- Young people may be reluctant or not feel safe to share that they are currently experiencing violence.
- Many young people do not know what violence in relationships is or may not identify some behaviours as IPV, especially if they have grown-up in violent households where their experiences of violence are the norm, and they have a high tolerance and expectation of violence.
- The tool used has not been culturally validated by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities or CALD communities. It has also not been tested for reliability and validity.

REFERENCES

- Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2022). *Recorded Crime – Victims*. Australian Bureau of Statistics: Canberra, Australia. Retrieved from: <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/crime-and-justice/recorded-crime-victims/latest-release#victims-of-family-and-domestic-violence-related-offences>
- Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2023). *Personal Safety, Australia*. Australian Bureau of Statistics: Canberra, Australia. Retrieved from: <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/crime-and-justice/personal-safety-australia/latest-release#cohabiting-partner-violence-emotional-abuse-and-economic-abuse>
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2019). *Family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia: Continuing the national story*. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare: Canberra, Australia. Retrieved from: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/getmedia/b0037b2d-a651-4abf-9f7b-00a85e3de528/aihw-fdv3-FDSV-in-Australia-2019.pdf.aspx?inline=true>
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2021a). *Family, domestic and sexual violence data in Australia: Physical and/or sexual family and domestic violence*. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare: Canberra, Australia. Retrieved from: https://www.aihw.gov.au/getmedia/d1b041b7-2ba0-451d-8846-8caaedfcee78/FDSV6-data-in-Australia_Physical-and-or-sexual-family-and-domestic-violence.xlsx.aspx
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2021b). *Family, domestic and sexual violence data in Australia: Children exposed to their parent or carer's experience of domestic violence*. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare: Canberra, Australia. Retrieved from: https://www.aihw.gov.au/getmedia/7f4124f4-a5f4-4701-af8d-c52616fee71c/FDSV6-data-in-Australia_Children-exposed-to-parent-or-carer-domestic-violence.xlsx.aspx
- Barker, B., Harris, D., & Brittle, S. (2022). *Showing the Light: Young Parents with Experience of the Care System*. ARACY: Canberra, Australia. Retrieved from: https://www.aracy.org.au/publications-resources/command/download_file/id/465/filename/ARACY_Showing_the_Light_FINAL_20220302.pdf
- Boxall, H., Morgan, A., & Brown, R. (2020). The prevalence of domestic violence among women during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Australasian Policing*, 12(3), 38-46. Retrieved from: <https://apo.org.au/sites/default/files/resource-files/2020-07/apo-nid306836.pdf>
- Bryant, C., & Willis, M. (2008). *Risk factors in Indigenous violent victimisation*. Canberra, Australia: Australian Institute of Criminology. Retrieved from: <https://www.aic.gov.au/publications/tbp/tbp30>
- Coumarelos, C., Roberts, N., Weeks, N., & Rasmussen, V. (2023). *Attitudes Matter: The 2021 National Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women Survey (NCAS) Findings for young Australians*. ANROWS: Sydney, Australia. Retrieved from: <https://www.ncas.au/ncas-2021-findings-for-young-australians>
- Dedeigbo, O., Cocodia, E. (2016). Domestic violence in Australia's CALD communities: Association between demographics of frontline workers and selected therapeutic approaches. *3rd Asia Pacific Conference on Advanced Research*. Retrieved from: https://researchonline.nd.edu.au/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1071&context=arts_conference
- Donagh, B. (2020). From unnoticed to invisible: The impact of COVID-19 on children and young people experiencing domestic violence and abuse. *Child Abuse Review*, 29, 387-391. doi: 10.1002/car.2649
- Haslam, D., Mathews, B., Pacella, R., Scott, J.G., Finkelhor, D., Higgins, D.J., Meinck, F., Erskine, H.E., Thomas, H.J., Lawrence, D., Malacova, E. (2023). *The prevalence and impact of child maltreatment in Australia: Findings from the Australian Child Maltreatment Study: Brief Report*. Australian Child Maltreatment Study. Queensland University of Technology: Brisbane, Australia. doi: <http://doi.org/10.5204/rep.eprints.239397>
- Hillier, L., Jones, T., Monagle, M., Overton, N., Gahan, L., Blackman, J., & Mitchell, A. (2010). *Writing Themselves in 3: The third national study on the sexual health and wellbeing of same sex attracted and gender questioning young people*. Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society. La Trobe University: Melbourne, Australia. Retrieved from: <https://www.acon.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Writing-Themselves-In-3-2010.pdf>
- Hobbs, C. (2022). *Young, in love and in danger: Teen domestic violence and abuse in Tasmania*. Social Action and Research Centre: Hobart, Tasmania. Retrieved from: <https://apo.org.au/sites/default/files/resource-files/2022-11/apo-nid320915.pdf>
- Kaspiw, R., Horsfall, B., Qu, L., Nicholson, J.M., Humphreys, C., Diemer, K., ... Dunstan, J. (2017). *Domestic and family violence and parenting: Mixed method insights into impact and support needs: Final report*. Australian National Research Organisation for Women's Safety: Sydney, Australia. Retrieved from: https://anrowsdev.wpenginpowered.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Parenting_Horizons_FINAL-1.pdf
- Leonard, W., Mitchell, A., Pitts, M. & Patel, S. (2008). *Coming forward: The underreporting of heterosexist violence and same sex partner abuse in Victoria*. Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society. La Trobe University: Melbourne, Australia. Retrieved from: <https://apo.org.au/sites/default/files/resource-files/2008-12/apo-nid3251.pdf>
- Leung, S., Brennan, N., Freeburn, T., Waugh, W., & Christie, R. (2022). *Youth Survey Report 2022*. Mission Australia: Sydney, Australia. Retrieved from: <https://www.missionaustralia.com.au/what-we-do/research-impact-policy-advocacy/youth-survey>
- LGBTIQ Domestic and Family Violence Interagency, & Centre for Social Research in Health. (2014). *Calling it what it really is: A Report into Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Gender Diverse, Intersex, Queer Experiences of Domestic and Family Violence*. University of New South Wales: Sydney, Australia. Retrieved from: https://www.prideinhealth.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Calling_It_What_It_Really_Is_LGBTIQ_DFV_report_2015.pdf
- Octoman, O., Hawkes, M., Lima, F., O'Donnell, M., Orr, C., Arney, F., Moore, T., Robinson, S., Valentine, K., Marshall, A., Burton, J., & Brebner, C. (2022). *The nature and extent of domestic and family violence exposure for children and young people with disability* (Research report, 16/2022). ANROWS: Sydney, Australia. Retrieved from: <https://www.anrows.org.au/publication/the-nature-and-extent-of-domestic-and-family-violence-exposure-for-children-and-young-people-with-disability/>

REFERENCES

- O'Donnel, K., Rioseco, P., Vittiglia, A., Rowland, B., & Mundy, L. (2023). *Intimate partner violence among Australian 18–19 year olds, Growing Up in Australia Snapshot Series – Issue 11*. Australian Institute of Family Studies: Melbourne, Australia. Retrieved from: <https://aifs.gov.au/research/commissioned-reports/intimate-partner-violence-among-australian-18-19-year-olds>
- Owens, R. (2022). 'It's the way they look at you': Why discrimination towards young parents is a policy and practice issue. *Children & Society*, 36, 1280-1295. doi: 10.1111/chso.12575
- Pitts, M., Smith, A., Mitchell, A., & Patel, S. (2006). *Private Lives: A report on the health and wellbeing of LGBTI Australians*. The Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society. La Trobe University: Melbourne, Australia.
- Prentice, K., Blair, B., & O'Mullan, C. (2016). Sexual and family violence: Overcoming barriers to service access for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients. *Australian Social Work*, 70(2), 241-252. doi: 10.1080/0312407X.2016.1187184
- Robinson, S., Foley, K., Moore, T., Valentine, K., Burton, J., Marshall, A., O'Donnel, M., & Brebner, C. (2023). Prioritising children and young people with disability in research about domestic and family violence: Methodological, ethical and pragmatic reflections. *Journal of Family Violence*, (2023). doi: 10.1007/s10896-023-00496-9
- Robinson, S., Valentine, K., Marshall, A., Burton, J., Moore, T., Brebner, C., O'Donnell, M., & Smyth, C. (2022). Connecting the dots: *Understanding the domestic and family violence experiences of children and young people with disability within and across sectors: Final report* (Research report, 17/2022). ANROWS: Sydney, Australia. Retrieved from: <https://www.anrows.org.au/project/connecting-the-dots-understanding-the-dfv-experiences-of-children-and-young-people-with-disability-within-and-across-sectors/>
- Webster, K. (2016). *A preventable burden: Measuring and addressing the prevalence and health impacts of intimate partner violence in Australian women: Key findings and future directions*. Sydney, Australia: ANROWS. Retrieved from: <https://anrowsdev.wpenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/28-10-16-BOD-Compass.pdf>
- Wundersitz, J. (2010). *Indigenous perpetrators of violence: Prevalence and risk factors for offending*. Canberra, Australia: Australian Institute of Criminology. Retrieved from: <https://www.aic.gov.au/publications/rpp/rpp105>
- Yates, S. (2018). Power, process, plumbing: Big G and small g gender in Victoria's family violence policy subsystem. *Australian Journal of Public Administration*, 77(4), 568-582. doi: 10.1111/1467-8500.12265

APPENDIX A

EFFECT SIZE INTERPRETATION

Interpretation	Cut-off for v (IBM, 2023)	Guideline for Φ_c^2 (Cohen, 1988)
Small Effect Size	≤ 0.2	0.01
Medium Effect Size	>0.2 to ≤ 0.6	0.09
Large Effect Size	>0.6	0.25

Table 18. Effect Size Interpretation for Cramér's V (v) and Squared Cramer's Phi Coefficient (Φ_c^2)

BRISBANE
YOUTH SERVICE

P 07 3620 2400 **E** research@brisyouth.org

W brisyouth.org **ABN** 83 967 756 338

A 42 McLachlan Street, Fortitude Valley



brisyouth.org/research



[@brisyouth](https://www.facebook.com/brisyouth)



[@brisyouth](https://www.instagram.com/brisyouth)



[@brisbane-youth-service](https://www.linkedin.com/company/brisbane-youth-service)



[@brisythservice](https://www.twitter.com/brisythservice)