

Young people, gender, and family and intimate partner violence

7 year analysis, 2015-2022

Brisbane Youth Service (BYS) assists vulnerable young people to find and maintain appropriate housing, address physical and mental health issues, and establish successful relationships and support networks.

Domestic and family violence (DFV) includes family violence (FV) and intimate partner violence (IPV). BYS has collected self-reported experience of FV and IPV data from everyone accessing ongoing planned support since 2015. We've analysed this data to compare demographic factors such as age, gender, cultural identities, sexuality, experience of disability, and parenthood.

Over, 2,700 young people provided information about their **gender and experience of FV and IPV** at intake. This factsheet summarises the FV and IPV data for young people broken down by gender identity.

CALL TO ACTION

- Youth services like BYS support young people experiencing DFV every day. They are best placed to provide DFV support to young people because they are trusted by young people and understand the complexity inherent in their experiences of violence and homelessness.
- National and state governments should seize the opportunity to fund youth services to provide youth-specific DFV interventions to young people as victim-survivors in their own right.

Domestic and family violence & young people:

FV and IPV are leading causes of homelessness for young people in Australia.¹ There is limited research and data focusing on young people's experience of DFV.

What we do know is that in 2022, 29% of young people aged 18-19 in Australia reported having recently experienced IPV and that most of these young people identified experiencing psychological violence and physical violence from an intimate partner.² 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.

Adult women are more likely than men to experience IPV from a cohabitating partner. 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).³

Past experiences of FV are common in the adult population. For the population over the age of 15, 7% of people have experienced physical violence and 3% have experienced sexual abuse within their family.⁴

Domestic and family violence & gender diverse people:

Often, 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.⁵

For LGBTIQAP+ people, at least two in five have experienced IPV from their current partner⁶ and one in five young LGBTIQAP+ people (aged 14-21) identify experiencing FV.⁷

¹AiHW, 2021. Australia's youth: Homelessness and overcrowding: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/children-youth/homelessness-and-overcrowding>

²Hobbs, 2022. Young, in love and in danger: Teen domestic violence and abuse in Tasmania. Social Action and Research Centre: Hobart, Tasmania

³Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), 2022. Recorded Crime – Victims. <https://www.abs.gov.au/>

⁴Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), 2023. Personal Safety, Australia. <https://www.abs.gov.au/>

⁵Yates, 2018. Power, process, plumbing: Big G and small g gender in Victoria's family violence policy subsystem. Australian Journal of Public Administration

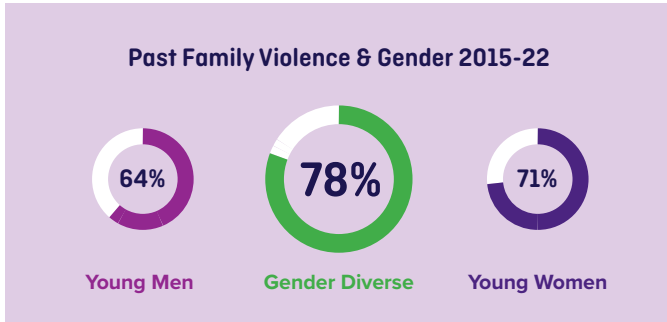
⁶LGBTIQ Domestic and Family Violence Interagency, 2014

⁷Hillier et al 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

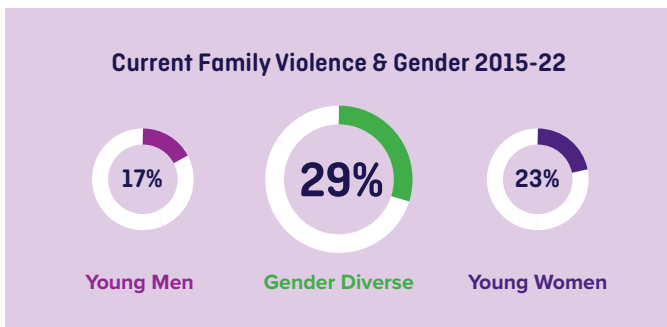
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Our data on family violence - 2015-2022:

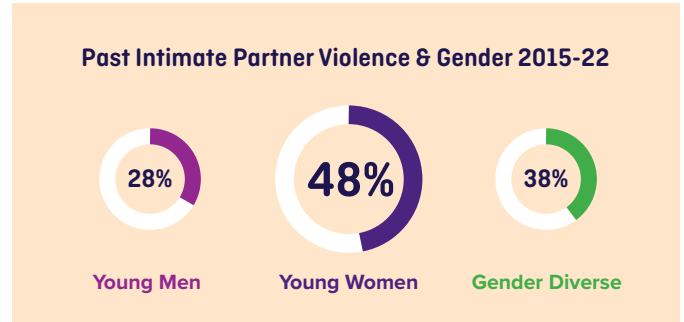


At intake, we found that gender diverse young people were **more likely** to report past family violence (78%) compared to those who identified as exclusively female (71%) or male (64%).

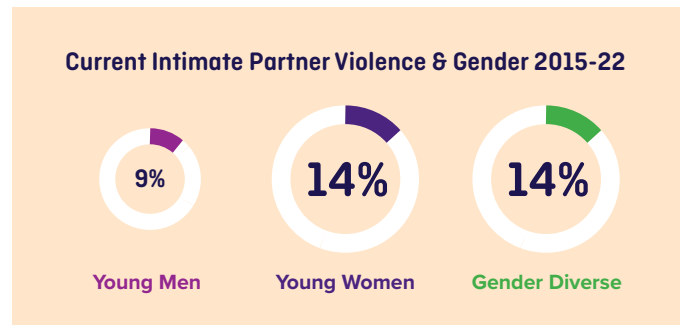


We found that gender diverse young people were also **more likely** to report current family violence at intake (29%) compared to those who identified as exclusively female (23%) or male (17%).

Our data on intimate partner violence - 2015-2022:



We found that young women were **much more likely** to report past intimate partner violence at intake (48%) compared to those who identified as gender diverse (38%) or male (28%). Rates of past IPV for all gender identities seeking support from BYS were much higher than the general population.



We found that young women and gender diverse young people (both 14%) were **more likely** to report current intimate partner violence at intake compared to young men (9%). Current experience of IPV is likely underreported.

SUPPORT FOR DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

To access information, support and counselling services, you can contact:

1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732, www.1800respect.org.au)

Full Stop Australia (1800 385 578, www.fullstop.org.au)

MensLine (1300 78 99 78, mensline.org.au)

13 YARN (13 92 76, www.13yarn.org.au)

Rainbow Door (1800 729 367, www.rainbowdoor.org.au)