



## Young parents 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 2,800 young people provided information about their parenting status and experience of FV and IPV at intake. This factsheet summarises the **FV and IPV data for young parents**. Over the 7 years, 23% of young people supported by BYS were young parents at intake.

### 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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> 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).<sup>3</sup>

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.<sup>4</sup>

### Domestic and family violence & young parents:

Young parents not only experience violence within their family and/or relationship, but also from the broader community.<sup>5</sup> Nearly half of all parents who completed the Australian 2021-22 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%).<sup>6</sup>

This experience and witnessing of violence can lead to children being removed from their parents' care.<sup>7</sup> Children in families with persistent DFV have poorer health and social outcomes compared to families with no parental conflict.<sup>8</sup>

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

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

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

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

<sup>5</sup>Owens, 2022. 'It's the way they look at you': *Why discrimination towards young parents is a policy and practice issue*. *Children & Society*.

<sup>6</sup>AiHW, 2021b. *Family, domestic and sexual violence data in Australia: Children exposed to their parent or carer's experience of domestic violence*.

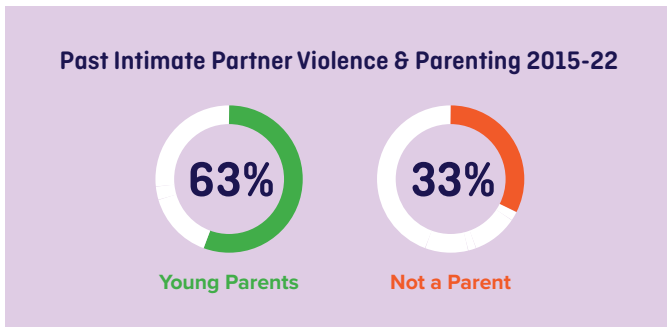
<sup>7</sup>Barker et al., 2022. *Showing the Light: Young Parents with Experience of the Care System*. ARACY: Canberra, Australia.

<sup>8</sup>Kaspiew et al., 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

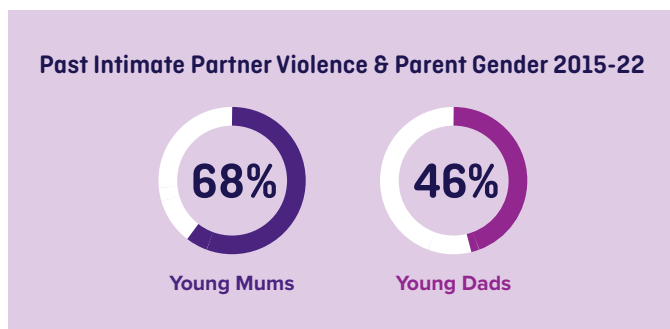
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## Our data on past intimate partner violence - 2015-2022:

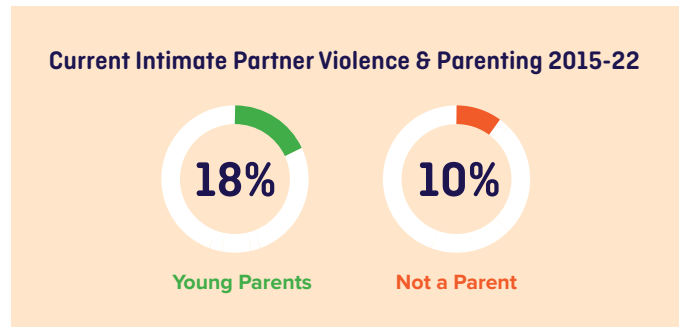


We found that young parents were **much more likely** to report past intimate partner violence at intake (63%) compared to those who were not parents (33%). Young parents aged 22-25 years were **more likely** to experience past IPV (68%) compared to young parents aged 19-21 years (60%).

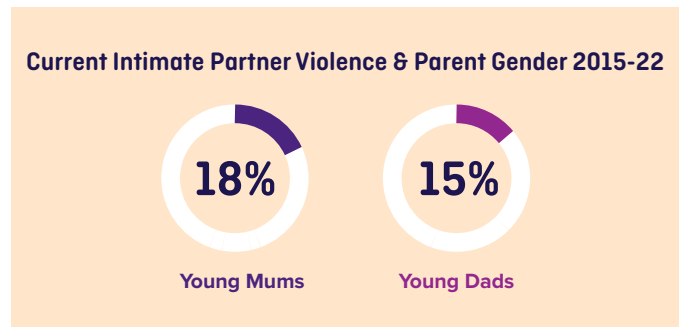


Young mums were **much more likely** to report past intimate partner violence at intake (68%) compared to young dads (46%).

## Our data on current intimate partner violence - 2015-2022:



We found that young parents were **more likely** to report current intimate partner violence at intake (18%) compared to those who were not parents (10%). Current experience of IPV is likely underreported.



Young mums were **slightly more likely** to report current intimate partner violence at intake (18%) compared to young dads (15%), however, statistical analysis found this difference was not significant.

## 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](http://www.1800respect.org.au))

**Full Stop Australia** (1800 385 578, [www.fullstop.org.au](http://www.fullstop.org.au))

**MensLine** (1300 78 99 78, [mensline.org.au](http://mensline.org.au))

**13 YARN** (13 92 76, [www.13yarn.org.au](http://www.13yarn.org.au))

**Rainbow Door** (1800 729 367, [www.rainbowdoor.org.au](http://www.rainbowdoor.org.au))

