

Young people and domestic and family 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 experience of domestic and family violence at intake. This factsheet summarises the **FV and IPV data for young people.**

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

I WAS VERY BLESSED TO HAVE NOTICED AT A YOUNG AGE THAT I WAS LIVING IN A DYSFUNCTIONAL HOME. THE VERBAL, EMOTIONAL, AND MENTAL ABUSE I WAS DEALING WITH WAS TOO MUCH FOR ME. AT ONLY 16 YEARS OLD I LEFT HOME FOR MY OWN WELL-BEING.

— Young Person

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

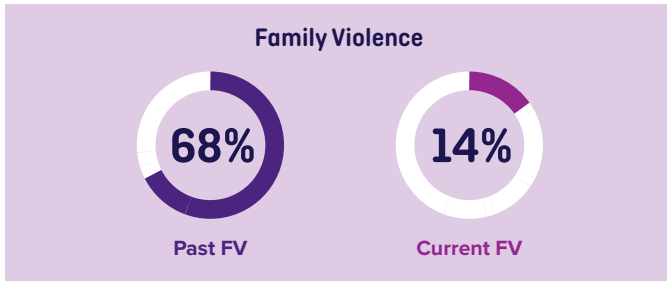
³Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), 2022. Recorded Crime – Victims. <https://www.abs.gov.au/>

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

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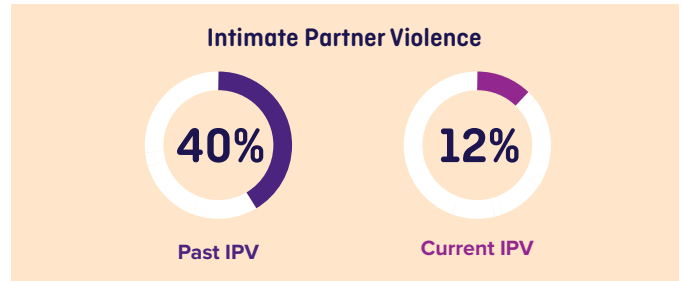
7 year analysis, 2015-2022

Our data on family violence - 2015-2022:

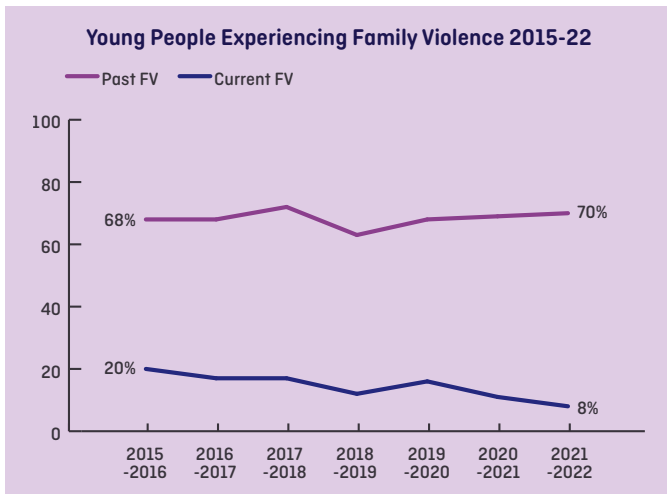


On average, 68% of young people had experienced FV when they presented for support at BYS. More than **one in ten** young people were currently experiencing FV at intake (14%).

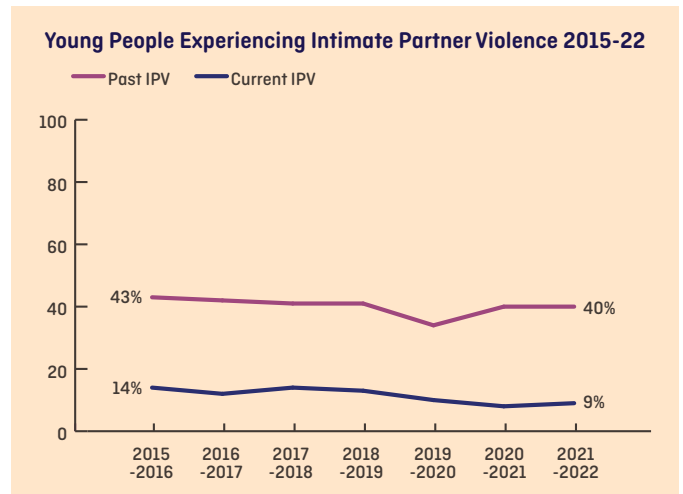
Our data on intimate partner violence - 2015-2022:



On average, 40% of young people had experienced IPV when they presented for support at BYS. More than **one in ten** young people were currently experiencing IPV at intake (12%).



The proportion of young people reporting past FV was stable across the 7 years, with a **slight drop in 2018-19** before returning to previous proportions. Self-reported rates of FV decreased across the 7 years, likely due to the increase in age of young people accessing support.



The proportion of young people reporting past IPV was stable across the 7 years, with a **slight drop in 2019-20** before returning to previous proportions. Rates of current IPV decreased across the 7 years.

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)