

The Rest

Relationship Statistics

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PERSONAL SAFETY SURVEY

- The ABS defines violence as “any incident involving the occurrence, attempt or threat of either physical or sexual assault ... an attempt or threat to inflict physical harm is included only if the person believes it is likely to be carried out”.
- In the 12 months prior to the survey undertaken in 2005, an estimated 11% of men and 5.8% of women experienced an incident of violence.
- This compares to an estimated 7.1% of women who experienced violence in the preceding 12 months according to the 1996 ABS survey.
- However, the incidence of reporting of violence increased, with 36% of women who experienced physical assault by a male perpetrator reporting it to the police in 2005 compared to only 19% in 1996.
- Younger people – both men and women – were far more likely to have experienced violence. For instance, 31% of men aged 18-24 experienced violence in the 12 months prior to the survey compared to 9.4% of men aged 35-44 and 2.8% of men aged 55 years and over.
- There were an estimated 50.1% of men and 39.9% of women who experienced one or more incidents of violence since the age of 15 years.
- In respect of the most recent incident of physical violence since the age of 15, 71% of men were assaulted by a male stranger whereas for women the recent act of violence was most likely to have been committed by a male previous partner (44% of those experiencing physical violence).
- There were an estimated 0.9% of men and 2.1% of women who experienced violence by a current partner since the age of 15 years.
- There were an estimated 4.9% of men and 15% of women who experienced violence from a previous partner since the age of 15 years.
- In the 12 months prior to the survey, 0.6% of men and 1.6% of women experienced sexual violence (including a sexual threat where the victim believed it was likely to occur). Since the age of 15 years, 5.5% of men and 19% of women reported experiencing sexual violence.
- 9.4% of men and 10% of women experienced physical abuse before the age of 15 years.
- 4.5% of men and 12% of women were sexually abused before the age of 15 years.
- In respect of respondents' feelings of personal safety in selected situations, only 15% of women felt safe using public transport alone after dark in 2005, but this compares to only 11% in the 1996 survey.

SOURCES:

Australian Bureau of Statistics (2006). Personal Safety Survey, Australia. ABS Catalogue No.4906.0. Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia.