

## Sexual Violence Prevention

# Sexual violence in Queensland and Australia – key facts

## General statistics on sexual violence

### In Australia:

- 1 in 5 women have been sexually assaulted or threatened since the age of 15.
- 1 in 2 women aged 15 and over have experienced sexual harassment since the age of 15.
- 1 in 20 men have been sexually assaulted or threatened since the age of 15.
- 1 in 4 men aged 18 and over have experienced sexual harassment since the age of 15.
- 98% of women who have been sexually assaulted said that the perpetrator was a male.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Personal Safety Survey 2016*.

### In Queensland in 2019:

- There were 4,859 victims of sexual assault recorded in 2019 - increasing for the eighth year in a row.
- 70% of recorded sexual assaults took place in a residential location (e.g. a home).

As at 12 October 2020.

- 73% of victims knew the offender – and of those, just over half were non-family members (e.g. friends, ex-partners, teachers, acquaintances, colleagues).
- It is estimated that 75% of sexual assaults are never reported – so these statistics are likely to be much higher.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Recorded Crime – Victims, Australia, 2019*.

## Experiences of specific groups of people

### Women and girls:

- In 2019, women and girls made up 84.6% of victims of recorded sexual assaults in Queensland.
- Almost a quarter (23%) of those women and girls were aged between 15 and 19 years of age.
- In Australia, 1 in 6 women report that they have been physically and/or sexually abused before the age of 15.

Sources: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Personal Safety Survey 2016* & *Recorded Crime – Victims, Australia, 2019*.

### Men and boys:

- In 2019, men and boys made up 15.4% of victims of recorded sexual assaults in Queensland.
- Of those men and boys, just over half were under the age of 14.
- 1 in 9 men report that they have been physically and/or sexually abused before the age of 15.
- In 2018-19 in Queensland, 97% of recorded sexual offences were committed by men.
- Males aged 15 to 19 committed the largest amount of offences compared to all other age groups.

Sources: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Personal Safety Survey 2016 & Recorded Crime – Victims, Australia, 2019*; Queensland Police Service, *Annual Statistical Review 2016-17*.

### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are 3 times more likely to experience sexual assault than non-Indigenous Australians.
- 12% of victims of recorded sexual assault in Queensland are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, despite making up only 4% of the population.

Sources: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Personal Safety Survey 2016 & Recorded Crime – Victims, Australia, 2019*.

### People with disability:

- A 2007 study found that over a quarter of victims of sexual assault had a psychiatric or intellectual disability, despite making up just 3% of the population.
- A higher proportion of women aged 18 and over with disability or a long-term health condition experience sexual assault (1.9%) than those without disability or a long-term health condition (1.4%).

Sources: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Personal Safety Survey 2016* & Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *Family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia, 2018*.

### Women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds:

- While statistics are not readily available, services estimate the vast majority of women from a refugee background have experienced sexual assault.

Source: Australian Institute of Family Studies, *Supporting women from CALD backgrounds who are victim/survivors of sexual violence*.


### LGBTIQ people:

- While statistics are not readily available, while there is more research to be done, one study found that 25% experienced sexual assault within a same-sex relationship, despite representing around 11% of the population.

## Community attitudes

Although attitudes are improving, our society still has some concerning views about relationships and sexual violence:

- Up to 15% of people think it's justified for a man to force a woman to have sex if she kisses him first.
- 1 in 10 people think that if a woman falls asleep during sex, it's understandable if a man keeps having sex with her anyway.
- Nearly 1 in 3 people believe that if a woman sends a nude image to her partner, she is partially responsible if he shares it without permission.
- Nearly half of Australians think it is common for sexual assault accusations



to be used as a way of getting back at men.

Source: Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety, *National Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women Survey 2017*.