



Priority area

3 Women's safety

Feelings of safety

Females and males in Queensland largely did not experience physical assault, with only 2.6% of females and 2.5% of males aged 15 years and over experiencing physical assault¹ in 2018–19.

Females (3.5%) were slightly more likely than males (2.5%) to experience threatened physical assault² (both face-to-face³ and non-face-to-face incidents⁴ such as SMS, email or over the phone).⁵

Females aged 15 years and over were less likely than males to feel safe alone after dark at home or in local area in 2014:

- 84.1% of females, compared with 94.1% of males, felt safe or very safe at home alone after dark.⁶
- 32.6% of females reported feeling safe or very safe walking alone in local area after dark, compared with 69.6% of males.⁷

Victims of offences

Females were slightly more likely than males to be a victim of an offence against the person with 53.6% of all reported victims in 2019–20 identified as female.⁸

Females aged 15–24 years were the age group most likely to be a victim of an offence against the person in 2019–20⁹: Females

- aged 15–19 years were the most common victims of offences in all age groups of both females and males, with a rate of 1,823.3 victims per 100,000 female population aged 15–19 years, compared with 999.7 per 100,000 male population aged 15–19 years.¹⁰
- aged 20–24 years were the second-most common victims of offences in all age groups of both females and males at a rate of 1,474.2 victims per 100,000 female population aged 20–24 years, compared with 955.1 victims per 100,000 male population aged 20–24 years.¹¹

Sexual offences and stalking

There were 4,115 victims of sexual assault¹² in 2019.¹³ Of these victims, females constituted 84.7% – nationally, 83.1%.¹⁴

Of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victims of sexual assault, 78.9% were women in 2019.¹⁵

Females in all age groups were considerably more likely than males to be a victim of a sexual offence, with those aged 15–19 years being the most likely. In this victim age group, 90.9% were identified as female in 2019–20.¹⁶



In 2019–20, **9 in 10** victims of sexual offences aged 15–19 years were female.

Of the total 2,778 sexual offenders in 2019–20, 3.2% (or 89) were identified as female 96.7% (or 2,685) were identified as male¹⁷:

- Offenders were known to almost three in four (72.2%) victims of sexual offences in 2019–20, with 37.9% of victims offended against by a family member (a partner, a former partner, a child or other family members) and 34.3% by an acquaintance, friend, neighbour or colleague.¹⁸

Females of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin comprised 10.8% of total female victims of sexual assault in 2019.¹⁹ This compares with 8.2% in New South Wales, 5.9% in South Australia and 39.0% in the Northern Territory.²⁰

In 2019–20, 78.7% of victims of stalking were identified as female, while 86.7% of all stalking offenders were identified as male.²¹



Domestic and family violence

Fewer breaches of domestic violence protection orders were recorded for female offenders than males in 2019–20, with 84.9% of all offenders identified as male for this offence type²²:

- A total of 33,811 offences were reported to police, equating to a rate of 658.2 offences per 100,000 persons, a 17.7% increase from 559.3 offences per 100,000 persons in 2018–19.²³
- More than two-thirds (68.7%) of male offenders were aged 18–39 years.²⁴

Females were over three times more likely than males to be killed by a partner, comprising 77.9% of the total 134 victims of intimate partner relationship homicides between 1 July 2006 and 30 June 2020.²⁵

During this period²⁶:

- Almost all females killed within an intimate partner relationship (95.4%) were identified as the primary victim of domestic and family violence.
- In all but two cases where a male was killed by his female intimate partner, the male deceased was identified as the primary perpetrator of domestic and family violence in the relationship.
- 80.0% of homicide offenders were male in cases of intimate partner homicide involving one homicide victim.
- Just over one in six (17.0%) of all domestic and family homicide cases, the deceased was identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

Between 1 March 2020 and 30 June 2020 (which included COVID-19 restrictions) there were nine identifiable domestic and family violence homicides in Queensland.²⁷ This involved:

- Two intimate partner homicides, both involving female deceased
- One collateral homicide involving a male deceased
- Six family homicides, involving two adult female deceased; two child deceased; and two adult male deceased.

Female victims of domestic and family violence-related homicide and related offences accounted for 53.8% of all female homicide victims recorded during 2019.²⁸ By contrast, male victims of domestic and family violence-related homicides accounted for 8.3% of all male homicide victims – nationally 65.0% and 16.2% respectively.²⁹ Comparable statistics available for other states and territories were 66.7% and 20.5% in New South Wales, 79.4% and 8.6% in Victoria, and 56.3% and 11.5% in Western Australia.³⁰



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Of all Queensland clients seeking government-funded specialist homelessness services, due to domestic and family violence as a main reason, 75.0% were female in 2018–19³¹ – nationally 76.9%.³²

Females accounted for 67.6% of all alleged victims of elder abuse reported to the Elder Abuse Helpline in 2019–20.^{33,34} Between 1 March 2020 and 30 June 2020 (which included COVID-19 restrictions), females accounted for 66.1% of all alleged victims of elder abuse reported to the Elder Abuse Helpline.^{35, 36}

Discrimination and other forms of violence

Of 846 complaints accepted and dealt with by the Human Rights Commission Queensland in 2019–20, illegal discrimination on the basis of pregnancy accounted for 26 (or 3.1%) complaints.³⁷

Australia provides support services for trafficked people³⁸ through the Support Program. Females comprised³⁹:

- 76.3% of total 80 clients who were on the Support Program in 2015–16
- all clients supported through the Support Program due to exploitation in sex industry (in 2014–15 and 2015–16) and forced marriage (in 2014–15).



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- ¹ Includes being beaten, pushed, grabbed, shoved, slapped, hit with an open hand or fist, kicked, bitten, choked, stabbed, shot, burnt, being hit with something such as a bat or being dragged or hit deliberately by a vehicle. Includes assault that occurred while the person was at work. Excludes incidents that occurred during the course of play on a sporting field or organised sport, verbal abuse, incidents where the person did not encounter the offender face-to-face, and incidents of sexual assault or threatened sexual assault which also involved physical assault.
- ² Verbal, written and/or physical threat to inflict physical harm where the person being threatened believed the threat was likely and able to be carried out. Threatened assault may occur face-to-face or via non-face-to-face methods (such as SMS, email or over the phone). Includes any threat or attempt to strike the person which could cause pain; situations where a gun or other weapon was left in an obvious place (including fake or toy guns/weapons where the threatened person thought it was real) or if the person knew the perpetrator had access to a gun (including toy guns, starter pistol, etc.). Also includes incidents where the person was threatened in their line of work. Excludes any incident of name calling or swearing which did not involve a physical threat, and threats that resulted in an actual assault.
- ³ Any verbal and/or physical threat to inflict physical harm, made face-to-face, where the person being threatened believed the threat was likely and able to be carried out. Excludes any incident where the person being threatened did not encounter the offender in person (e.g. threats made via telephone, text message, e-mail, in writing or through social media).
- ⁴ Any threat to inflict physical harm where the person being threatened believed the threat was likely and able to be carried out, and where the victim did not encounter the offender face-to-face (e.g. via telephone, text message, e-mail, in writing or through social media).
- ⁵ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2019, *Crime victimisation, Australia, 2018–19*, 'Populations, Table 27 Populations, by states and territories', cat. no. 4530.0.
- ⁶ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2017, *General social survey, summary results, Australia, 2014*, 'Table 03. State and Territory, Table 3.3 All persons, selected personal characteristics – by state and territory', cat. no. 4159.0, customised data.
- ⁷ *ibid.*
- ⁸ Queensland Police Service, data current as at July 2020.
- ⁹ *ibid.*
- ¹⁰ *ibid.*
- ¹¹ *ibid.*
- ¹² Includes physical contact, or intent of contact, of a sexual nature directed toward another person where that person does not give consent, gives consent as a result of intimidation or deception, or consent is proscribed (i.e. the person is legally deemed incapable of giving consent because of youth, temporary/permanent (mental) incapacity or there is a familial relationship).
- ¹³ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2020, *Recorded crime – victims, Australia, 2019*, 'Victims of Crime, Selected offences, states and territories, Table 7 Victims, age by selected offences and sex, 2019', cat. no. 4510.0.
- ¹⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2020, *Recorded crime – victims, Australia, 2019*, 'Victims of crime, Australia, Table 2 Victims, sex and age by selected offences, 2010–2019', cat. no. 4510.0.
- ¹⁵ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2020, *Recorded crime – victims, Australia, 2019*, 'Victims of crime, Indigenous status, selected states and territories, Table 20 Victims of sexual assault, sex and relationship of offender to victim by Indigenous status, selected states and territories, 2019', cat. no. 4510.0.
- ¹⁶ Queensland Police Service, data current as at July 2020.
- ¹⁷ *ibid.*
- ¹⁸ *ibid.*
- ¹⁹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2020, *Recorded crime – victims, Australia, 2019*, 'Victims of crime, Indigenous status, selected states and territories, Table 20 Victims of sexual assault, sex and relationship of offender to victim by Indigenous status, selected states and territories, 2019', cat. no. 4510.0.
- ²⁰ *ibid.*
- ²¹ Queensland Police Service, data current as at July 2020.
- ²² *ibid.*
- ²³ *ibid.*
- ²⁴ *ibid.*
- ²⁵ Coroners Court of Queensland, Queensland domestic and family homicide statistical database, unpublished data. Data is preliminary only and is subject to change as more information is gathered as part of the coronial investigation.
- ²⁶ *ibid.*
- ²⁷ *ibid.*

²⁸ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2020, *Recorded crime – victims, Australia, 2019*, ‘Victims of FDV Related offences, Table 22 Victims of family and domestic violence-related offences by sex, states and territories, 2014–2019, cat. no. 4510.0.

²⁹ *ibid.*

³⁰ Users should be aware that data about victims of domestic and family violence-related offences may be reflective of changes in reporting behaviour or police detection. As a result, caution should be exercised when interpreting these results, or making comparisons across the states and territories.

³¹ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2020, *Specialist homelessness services 2018–19, Supplementary tables - Queensland*, ‘Table QLD Clients.15: Clients by main reasons for seeking assistance, 2018–19.

³² Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2020, *Specialist homelessness services 2018–19, Supplementary tables - National*, ‘Table Clients.15: Clients by main reasons for seeking assistance, 2018–19.

³³ Elder Abuse Prevention Unit (EAPU), 2020, *Year in review 2019–20*, unpublished data.

³⁴ This applies to elder abuse in close or intimate relationships (including spouse/partners, family members, friends and informal carers) and does not include abuse in consumer and social relationships.

³⁵ *ibid.*

³⁶ Elder Abuse Prevention Unit (EAPU), 2020, unpublished data.

³⁷ Human Rights Commission Queensland, 2020, *Annual report 2019-20*, page 34.

³⁸ The term ‘trafficked people’ is used as a general term that encompasses all victims of human trafficking, slavery and slavery-like practices.

³⁹ *ibid.*