



Priority area

3 Women's safety

Feelings of safety

Females and males in Queensland largely did not experience physical assault, with only 2.8% of females and 2.6% of males aged 15 years and over reporting experiencing physical assault¹ in 2019–20.

Females (3.0%) were slightly less likely than males (3.3%) 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 2016:

- 87.0% of females, compared with 97.5% of males, felt safe or very safe at home alone after dark.⁶
- 27.1% of females reported feeling safe walking alone in local area after dark, compared with 60.6% of males.⁷

Victims of all offences against the person

Females were slightly more likely than males to be a victim of an offence against the person with 54.2% of all reported victims in 2020–21 identified as female.⁸

Females aged 15–24 years were the group most likely to be a victim of an offence against the person in 2020–21⁹:

- females aged 15–19 years had the highest rate for victims of offences across all age groups in both females and males (2,234.7 victims per 100,000 female population aged 15–19 years).¹⁰
- females aged 20–24 years had the second highest victims of offence rate across all age groups in both females and males at a rate of (1,833.1 victims per 100,000 female population aged 20–24 years).¹¹

Sexual offences and stalking

Females accounted for almost 9 in 10 victims of sexual offences (86.6%) in 2020–21 with females in all age groups considerably more likely than males to be reported as a victim of a sexual offence. Females aged 15–19 years were most likely to be a reported as a victim of a sexual offence, accounting for one in five (21.3%) of the total 6,540 victims of sexual offences and 91.8% of all victims of sexual offences in this age group.¹²



In 2020–21, **9 in 10** victims of sexual offences aged 15–19 years were female.

Of the reported 2,871 sexual offenders in 2020–21, just 4.1% (119) were identified as female, while 95.8% (2,750) were identified as male.¹³

Across all reported victims of sexual offences, nearly two-thirds (65.6%) of victims knew their offenders in 2020–21, with 31.5% of victims offended against by a family member (a partner, a former partner, a child or other family members) and 34.1% by an acquaintance, friend, neighbour or colleague.¹⁴

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females accounted 10.0% of female victims of sexual assault and were at least 4 times more likely to be reported as a victim of a sexual offence in 2020–21 as non-Indigenous females.¹⁵

In 2020–21, 77.8% of victims of stalking were identified as female, while 85.4% of all stalking offenders were identified as male.¹⁶



Domestic and family violence

A total of 39,871 offences of breach of domestic violence order were reported to police in 2020–21, equating to a rate of 764.2 offences per 100,000 persons, a 15.3% increase from 662.8 offences per 100,000 persons in 2019–20.¹⁷

Fewer breaches of domestic violence (protection) orders were recorded for female offenders than male offenders in 2020–21, with 84.4% of the total 24,318 identified as male for this offence type¹⁸:

- More than two-thirds (67.1%) of male offenders were aged 18–39 years.¹⁹

Between 1 July 2006 and 30 June 2021, there were 375 domestic and family homicides in Queensland.²⁰

- This included 346 women, men and children who were killed by a family member or by someone they were, or had been, in an intimate partner relationship with. An additional 29 were collateral homicides.
- In 21.5% of cases (76 of 353) of all domestic and family homicide cases, the deceased identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person.

There were 186 intimate partner homicides during the same period. Females were over three times more likely than males to be killed by an intimate partner, comprising 75.8% (141 of 186 cases) of intimate partner homicide victims.²¹

During this period (between 1 July 2006 and 30 June 2021)²²:

- for all intimate partner homicide cases, males were the homicide offender in 78.5% (146 of 186) of cases and females were the homicide offender in 21.5% (40 of 186) of cases.
- 65.9% (93 of 141) of females killed within an intimate partner relationship were involved in an identifiable history of domestic and family violence. In 98.9% of these cases the female deceased was the primary victim of domestic and family violence.

- there were 30 intimate partner homicides involving a male deceased where a history of domestic and family violence was able to be established. In 100.0% of these cases the male deceased was the primary perpetrator of the domestic and family violence.
- in just over one in five cases (20.3%, 35 of 172) of all intimate partner homicide cases, the deceased identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.



Females were over
3 times
more likely than
males to be killed by
a partner.

Of all Queensland clients seeking government-funded specialist homelessness services, due to domestic and family violence as a main reason, 77.1% were female in 2019–20 — nationally 77.2%.²³

Females accounted for 68.8% of all alleged victims of elder abuse reported to the Elder Abuse Helpline in 2020–21.^{24,25}

Discrimination and other forms of violence

Of 698 complaints accepted and dealt with by Queensland's Human Rights Commission Queensland in 2020–21, discrimination on the basis of pregnancy accounted for 11 (or 1.6%) complaints.²⁶

Australia provides support services for trafficked people²⁷ through the Support Program. Females comprised²⁸:

- 76.3% of the 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, 2021, *Crime victimisation, Australia, 2019–20*, 'Populations, Table 27 Populations, by states and territories', cat. no. 4530.0.
- ⁶ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2017, *Personal Safety, Australia, 2016*, 'Queensland, Table 6.1 Feelings of general safety in the last 12 months, By sex of respondent', cat. no. 4906.0.
- ⁷ *ibid.*
- ⁸ Queensland Police Service, data current as at July 2021.
- ⁹ *ibid.*
- ¹⁰ *ibid.*
- ¹¹ *ibid.*
- ¹² *ibid.*
- ¹³ *ibid.*
- ¹⁴ *ibid.*
- ¹⁵ *ibid.*
- ¹⁶ *ibid.*
- ¹⁷ *ibid.*
- ¹⁸ *ibid.*
- ¹⁹ *ibid.*
- ²⁰ *ibid.*
- ²¹ Coroners Court of Queensland, Queensland domestic and family homicide statistical database, unpublished data. Data is preliminary and subject to change.
- ²² *ibid.*
- ²³ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2021, *Specialist homelessness services 2019–20, Supplementary tables - National*, 'Table Clients.20: Clients by main reasons for seeking assistance, 2019–20'.
- ²⁴ Elder Abuse Prevention Unit (EAPU), 2021, *Year in review 2020–21*, unpublished data.
- ²⁵ 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.
- ²⁶ Queensland Human Rights Commission, 2021, *Annual report 2020–21*, page 38.
- ²⁷ The term 'trafficked people' is used as a general term that encompasses all victims of human trafficking, slavery and slavery-like practices.
- ²⁸ Commonwealth of Australia, 2016, *Trafficking in persons: the Australian government response 1 July – 30 June 2016*, the eighth report of the interdepartmental committee on human trafficking and slavery.