

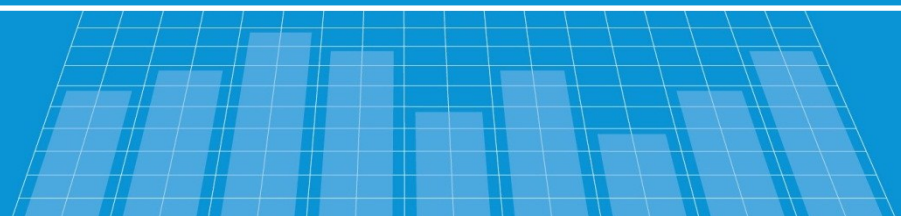


**Government of South Australia**  
Attorney-General's Department

office of crime statistics and research

July 2014

## Statistical Overview



**Australian Bureau of Statistics**

***Personal Safety, Australia***

**2012**

**The South Australian Perspective**

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# Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	3
Executive Summary .....	3
Introduction .....	5
Women.....	5
<i>Experiences of violence in the 12 months prior to the survey.....</i>	5
South Australia versus Australia, 2012.....	5
States and Territories, 2005 versus 2012.....	5
States and Territories, 2012 .....	6
<i>Women’s experiences of physical and/or sexual violence .....</i>	6
<i>Women’s relationship to perpetrator .....</i>	9
<i>Age of female victims .....</i>	9
<i>Disability or long-term health condition of female victims .....</i>	10
Men .....	10
<i>Experiences of violence in the 12 months prior to the survey.....</i>	10
South Australia versus Australia, 2012.....	10
States and Territories, 2005 versus 2012.....	11
<i>Men’s relationship to perpetrator.....</i>	11
Men and women.....	12
<i>Australia-wide: Since the age of 15.....</i>	12
<i>Experience of physical and/or sexual violence.....</i>	12
<i>Current and previous partner violence .....</i>	13
<i>Partner emotional abuse .....</i>	14
<i>Experience of stalking .....</i>	14
References.....	15
Appendix A.....	16
<i>Survey Methodology.....</i>	16
Appendix B.....	18
<i>Limitations of the Personal Safety, Australia report .....</i>	18

## Executive Summary

### Experiences of violence in the 12 months prior to the survey

#### Overall experiences of violence

- Around 5.5 percent of South Australian women experienced an incident of violence compared with 5.3 percent Australia-wide. For men, this figure was 7.0 percent in SA and 8.7 percent nationally.

In relation to physical violence:

- Around one in twenty (4.5%) South Australian women reported having experienced physical violence (assault and/or threats) in the 12 months prior to the survey, which was on a par with the national figure (4.6%).

In relation to sexual violence:

- Approximately 1.2 percent of South Australian women reported having experienced sexual violence (assault and/or threats) in the 12 months prior to the survey, which was also on a par with the national figure (1.2%).

#### Relationship to perpetrator

- In South Australia, 4.7 percent of men stated they had experienced violence in the 12 months prior to the survey and they didn’t know the perpetrator, whereas for SA women, this figure was 1.5 percent.
- Conversely, 4.2 percent of South Australian women had been victims of violence in the 12 months prior to the survey and they knew the perpetrator. This figure for South Australian men was 2.5 percent.

### ***Age of female victims***

- The proportion of South Australian 18 to 24 year old women who reported having experienced violence in the 12 months prior to the survey was higher than the national figure (15.8% compared with 12.8% respectively), while the proportion aged over 55 years was lower (0.8% compared with 1.5%).

### ***Disability or long-term health condition of female victims***

- In South Australia, 6.4 percent of women had a disability or long-term health condition and had experienced violence in the 12 months prior to the survey. The Australia-wide figure was slightly lower at 6.0 percent.

### **Experiences of violence since the age of 15 (Australia-wide figures only)**

#### ***Overall experiences of violence***

- Around half (49.0%) of Australian men and 40.8 percent of Australian women had experienced some form of violence since the age of 15.

In relation to physical violence:

- Men were far more likely than women to experience physical violence (48.1% compared with 34.4%) and, for men, this type of violence was most likely to be perpetrated by a stranger (35.0%). In contrast, women who experienced physical violence were more likely to know the perpetrator (29.6%) with only 8.4 percent reporting the perpetrator to be a stranger.

In relation to sexual violence:

- Women were over four times more likely to have experienced sexual violence than men (19.4% compared with 4.5% for men) with women most likely to know the perpetrator (16.4% compared with 3.2%).

#### ***Current or previous partner violence***

Of the victims of current partner violence:

- Around two-thirds of both women and men stated that it involved more than one incident.
- Nearly three-quarters (74.4%) of the women reported that they told someone about the violence compared with less than half of the men (45.9%).
- Women were more likely than men to seek advice or support in relation to the violence (61.0% compared with 29.7%).
- Around one in five women (19.8%) reported that the police were contacted compared with only one in twenty men (5.3%).

Of the victims of previous partner violence:

- Almost three-quarters of the women (73.0%) reported that it involved more than one incident compared with around half of the men (50.6%).
- The vast majority of women and men told someone about the violence (93.3% and 79.1% respectively).
- Over three-quarters of women (76.1%) and half of men (52.4%) sought advice or support in relation to the violence.
- Women were more likely than men to report that the police were contacted about the violence (42.4% compared with 20.0%).

In relation to current or previous partner emotional abuse:

- A smaller proportion of men reported partner emotional abuse (14.4% compared with 24.5% of women), with previous partners most likely to be identified as the perpetrator for both men and women (12.1% and 21.1% respectively).

#### ***Experience of stalking***

- Overall, women were more likely than men to experience stalking with nearly one-in-five women (18.5%) having experienced stalking during their lifetime compared with 7.8 percent of men.

## Introduction

This report summarises the key South Australian findings from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) *Personal Safety, Australia, 2012* (cat. no. 4906.0) in which Australia-wide and very limited state-specific information was released on 11 December 2013 with additional state-specific information released on 7 July 2014.

*Personal Safety, Australia, 2012* provides the results of an Australia-wide personal safety survey undertaken by the ABS from February to December 2012. The survey collected information about the nature and extent of violence experienced by men and women since the age of 15, including their experience of violence in the 12 months prior to the survey. Also collected was detailed information about men's and women's experience of current and previous partner violence, physical and sexual violence, and lifetime experience of stalking.

This is the second time the personal safety survey has been conducted, with the first survey carried out in 2005. The scope, content and data collection methods for the two surveys are very similar, with the exception of a significantly larger sample size for the latest survey, and slight changes to the questions and/or definitions to improve respondents' understanding of the questions. These changes are minimal and should not impact on the comparability of data between 2005 and 2012.

Please see Appendices A and B for the methodology used and the limitations of the report.

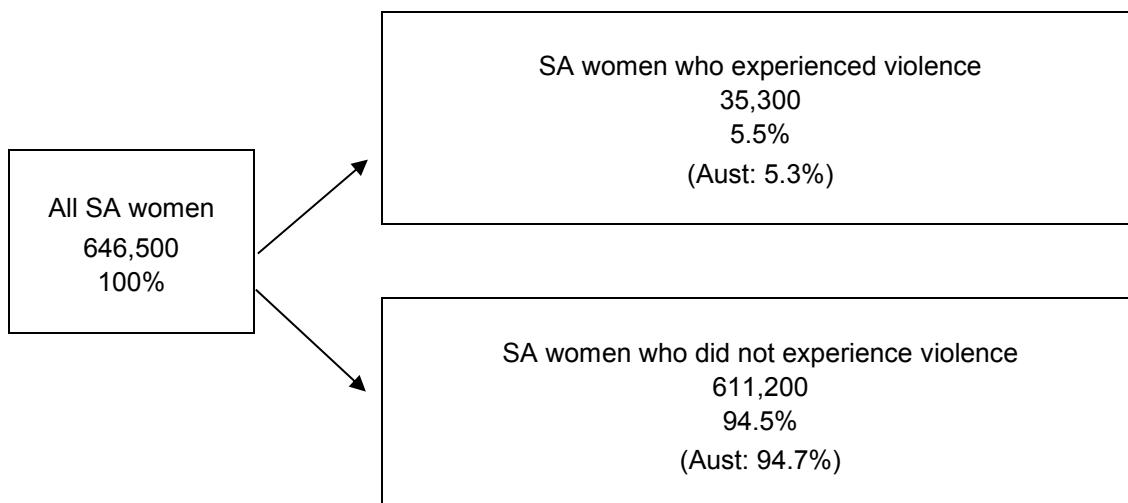
## Women

### Experiences of violence in the 12 months prior to the survey<sup>1</sup>

#### *South Australia versus Australia, 2012*

Figure 1 shows an estimated 35,300 South Australian women (5.5%) experienced an incident of violence in the 12 months prior to the survey. Nationally, the proportion of women who experienced an incident of violence was similar to that of South Australia at 5.3 percent.

**Figure 1. Women's experiences of violence in the 12 months prior to the survey, South Australia versus Australia, 2012**



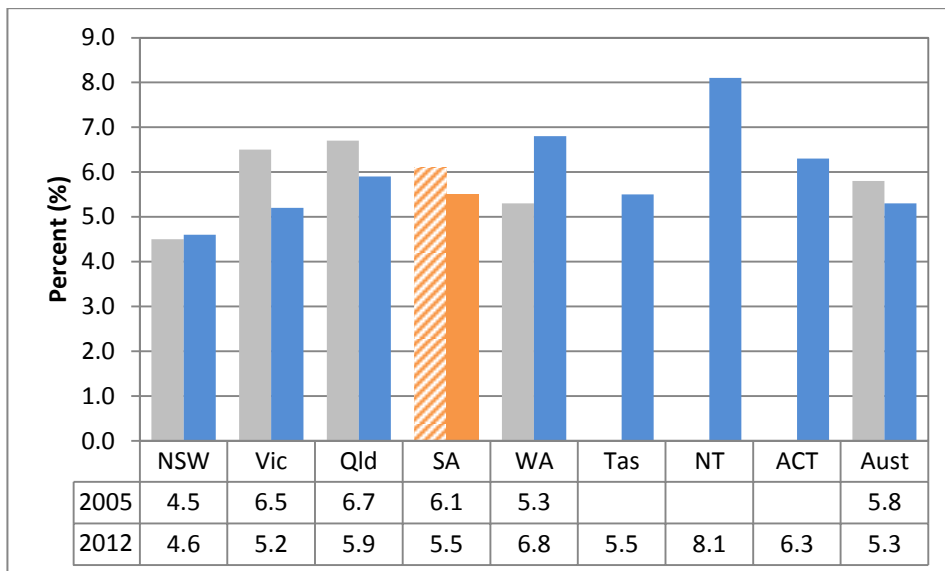
#### *States and Territories, 2005 versus 2012*

Figure 2 shows the experience of violence for South Australian women in the 12 months prior to both the 2005 and 2012 surveys, compared with other Australian jurisdictions and the nation as a whole. This indicates that within SA, the prevalence of violence reported by women fell from 6.1 percent in 2005 to 5.5 percent in 2012. Similarly, between 2005 and 2012 there was a small decrease from 5.8 to 5.3 percent in the national figure.

Although the SA figure was slightly higher in 2012 than the national average, it was still lower than the figures recorded for Queensland, Western Australia, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

<sup>1</sup> Violence is defined as any incident involving the occurrence, attempt or threat of either physical or sexual assault.

**Figure 2. Women’s experiences of violence in the 12 months prior to the survey, 2005 and 2012 <sup>a, b</sup>**



<sup>a</sup> Figures from the 2005 survey unavailable for Tas, NT and the ACT.

<sup>b</sup> Australia includes Tas, NT and the ACT.

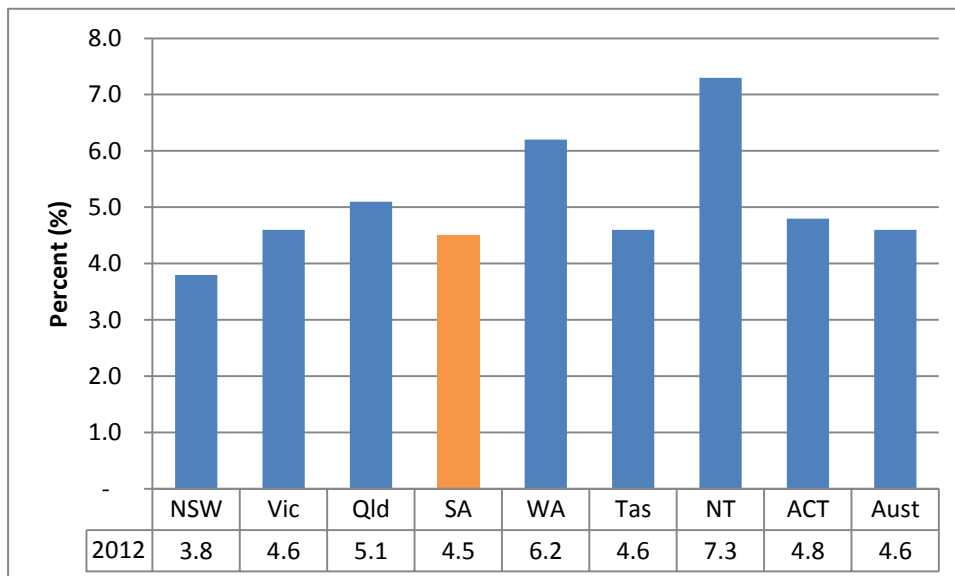
## States and Territories, 2012

### Women’s experiences of physical and/or sexual violence<sup>2</sup>

#### Physical violence<sup>3</sup>

Figure 3 shows that a similar proportion of South Australian women experienced physical violence to that of women Australia-wide in the 12 months prior to the survey. However, NSW was the only state or territory to record a figure lower than that of South Australia.

**Figure 3. Women’s experiences of physical violence in the 12 months prior to the survey, 2012**



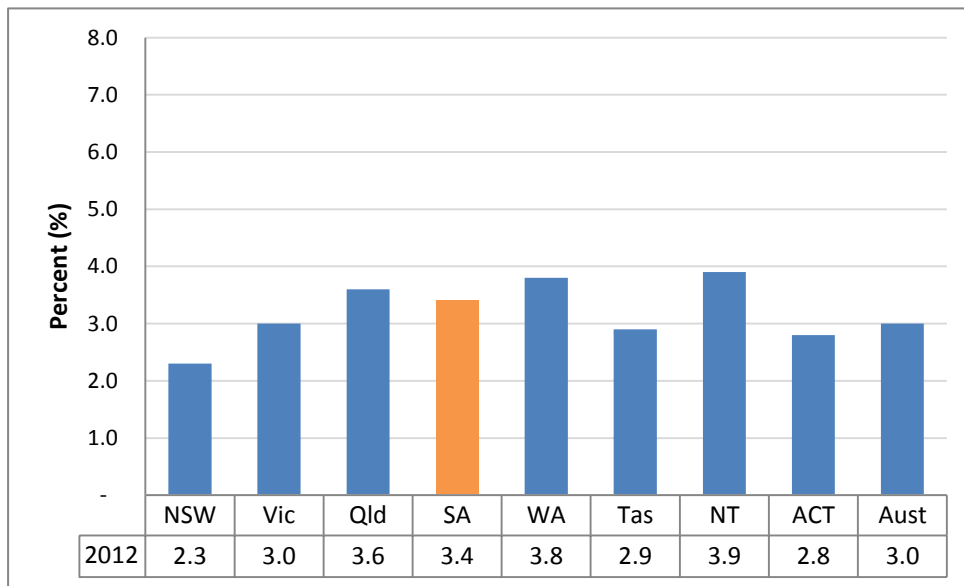
<sup>2</sup> Where a person had experienced an incident of both physical and sexual violence (or threat), they were counted separately for each type of violence but were only counted once in the overall experience of violence figures.

<sup>3</sup> Physical violence includes any incident involving the occurrence, attempt or threat of physical assault. An attempt or threat to inflict physical harm is included only if a person believes it is likely to be carried out.

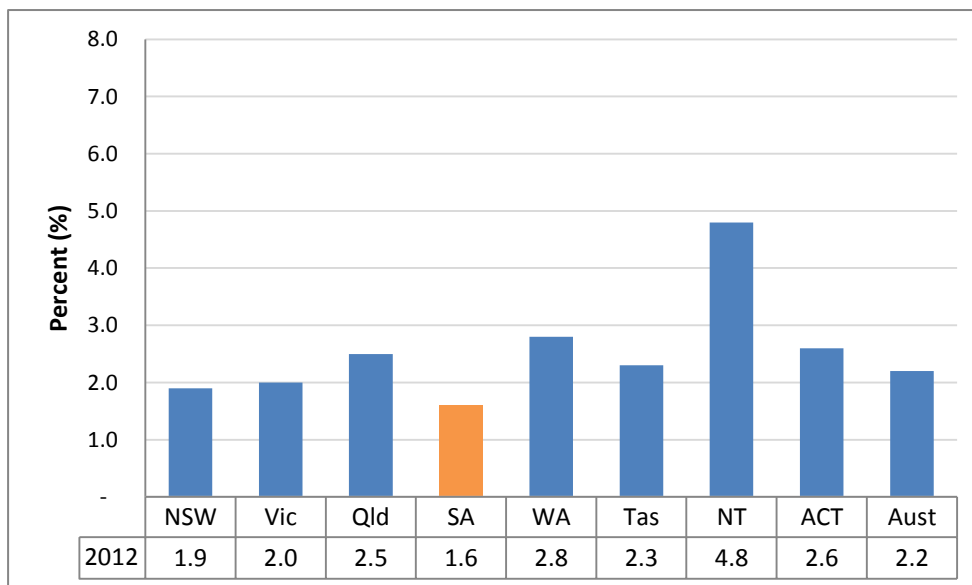
Figures 4 and 5 show the proportions of women who experienced physical violence by whether they had experienced physical assault and/or physical threats<sup>4</sup>.

In relation to physical assault, the proportion of women in SA was slightly higher than the Australia-wide figure at 3.4 percent compared with 3.0 percent respectively. Conversely, the proportion of SA women who reported having been threatened with physical violence in the 12 months prior to the survey was the lowest of all the jurisdictions.

**Figure 4. Women’s experiences of physical assault in the 12 months prior to the survey, 2012**



**Figure 5. Women’s experiences of physical threats in the 12 months prior to the survey, 2012<sup>a</sup>**



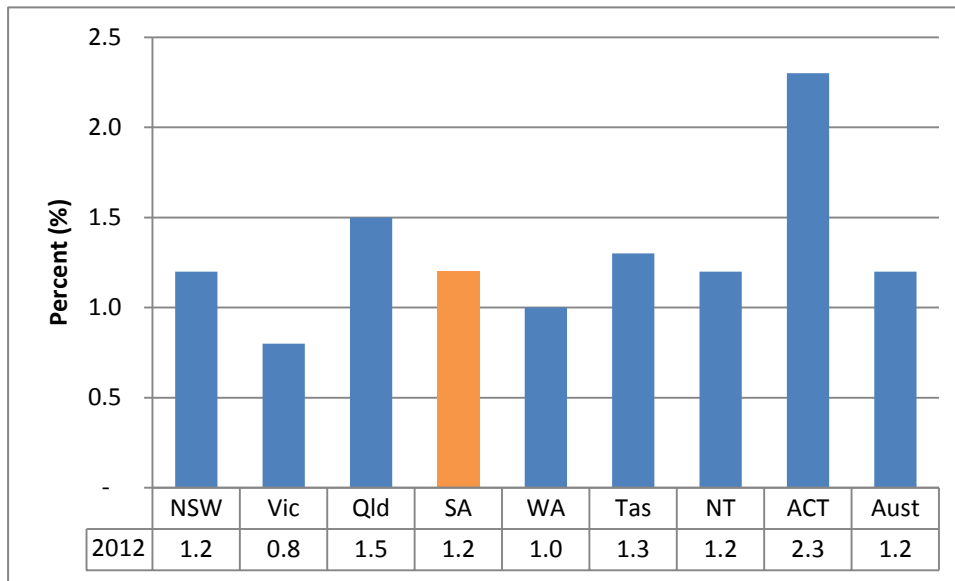
<sup>a</sup> NSW figure should be treated with caution.

<sup>4</sup> Where a person had experienced both physical assault and threat, they were counted separately for each type of violence they experienced but were counted only once in the physical violence total.

**Sexual violence<sup>5</sup>**

Figure 6 shows South Australian women’s experiences of sexual violence are on a par with the Australia-wide figures.

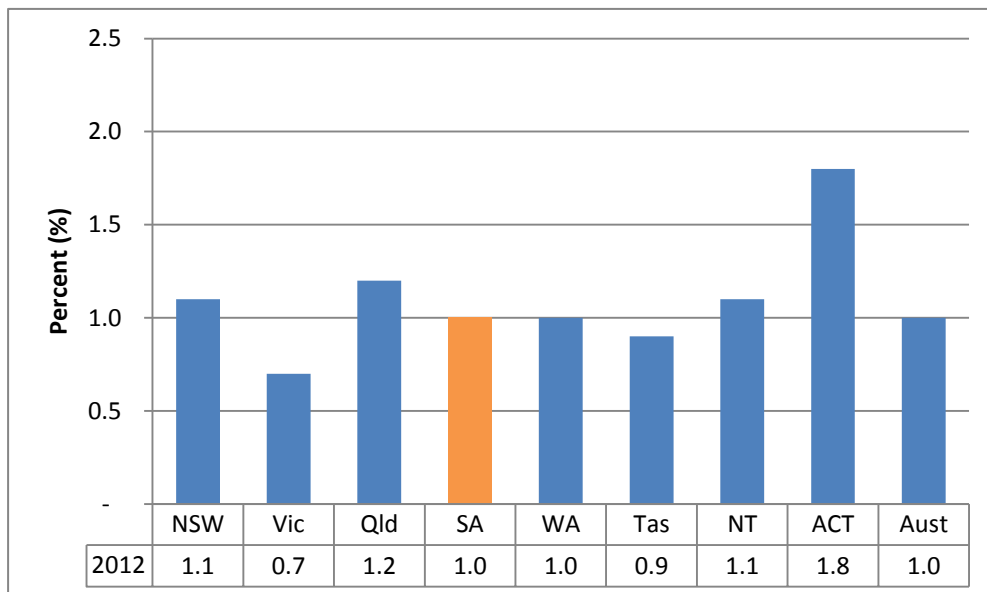
**Figure 6. Women’s experiences of sexual violence in the 12 months prior to the survey, 2012<sup>a</sup>**



<sup>a</sup> Vic, Qld, WA, Tas and NT figures should be treated with caution.

The following information provides a summary of the sexual violence figures by sexual assault<sup>6</sup>. As shown, the South Australian figure for sexual assault is also on a par with the Australia-wide figure.

**Figure 7. Women’s experiences of sexual assault in the 12 months prior to the survey, 2012<sup>a</sup>**



<sup>a</sup> Vic, Qld, SA, WA, Tas and NT figures should be treated with caution.

<sup>5</sup> Sexual violence includes any incident involving the occurrence, attempt or threat of sexual assault. An attempt or threat to sexually assault is included only if a person believes it is likely to be carried out.

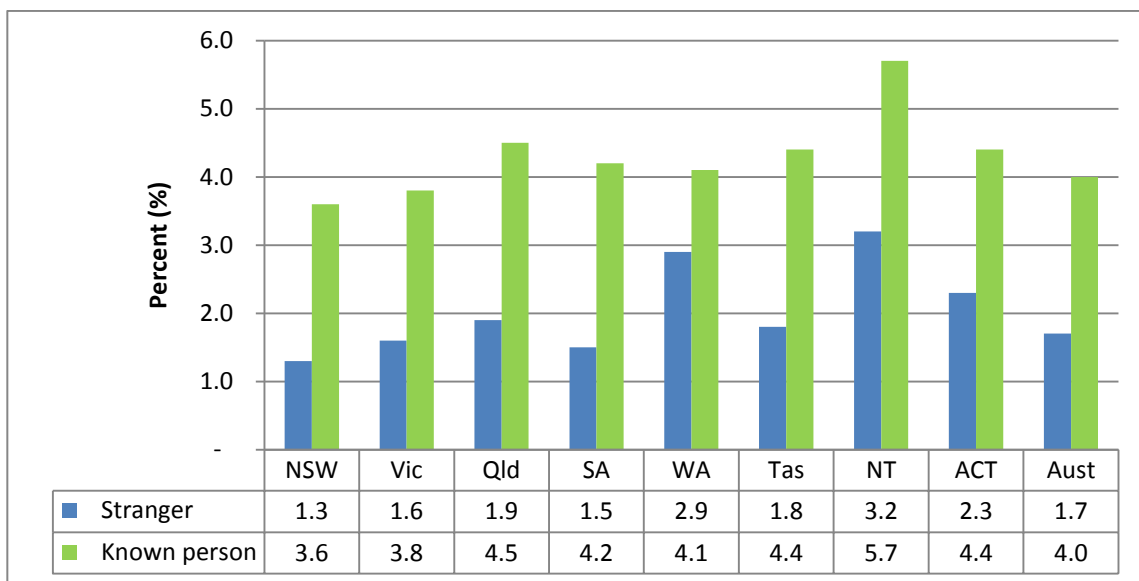
<sup>6</sup> Sexual threat figures are not reported here as they are highly unreliable for all jurisdictions.



## Women's relationship to perpetrator<sup>7</sup>

Nationally, 4.0 percent of women reported having experienced some form of violence where they knew the perpetrator. The figure for SA was slightly higher at 4.2 percent.

**Figure 8. Relationship to perpetrator, women who experienced violence in the 12 months prior to the survey, 2012<sup>a</sup>**

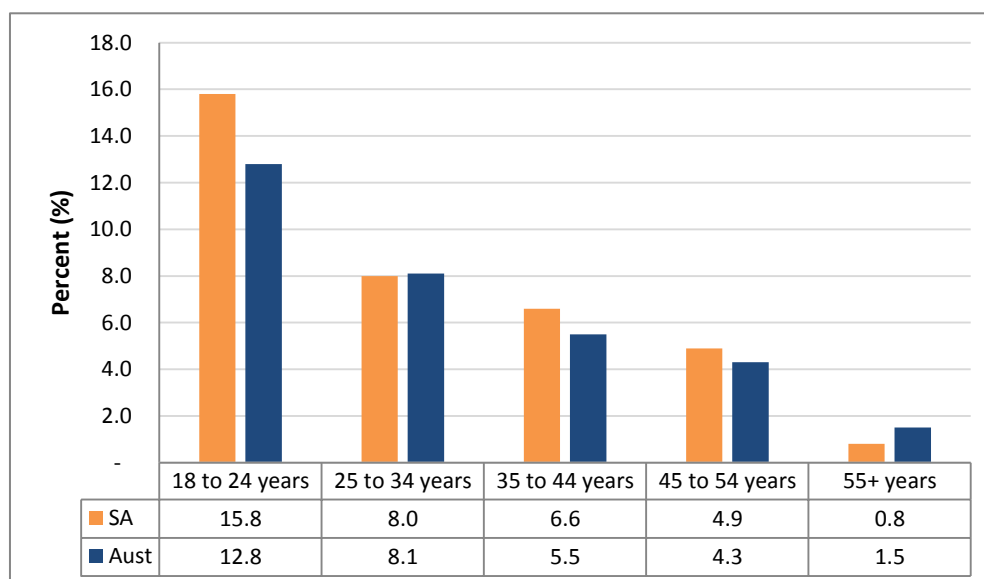


<sup>a</sup> NSW figures should be treated with caution.

## Age of female victims

As shown in Figure 9, the proportion of South Australian 18 to 24 year old women who reported having experienced violence in the 12 months prior to the survey was higher than the national figure (15.8% compared with 12.8% respectively). Similarly, the proportions of female victims in the 35 to 44 and 45 to 54 age groups in SA were slightly higher than the Australia-wide figure while the proportion aged over 55 years was lower.

**Figure 9. Broad age groups, women who experienced violence in the 12 months prior to the survey, 2012<sup>a</sup>**



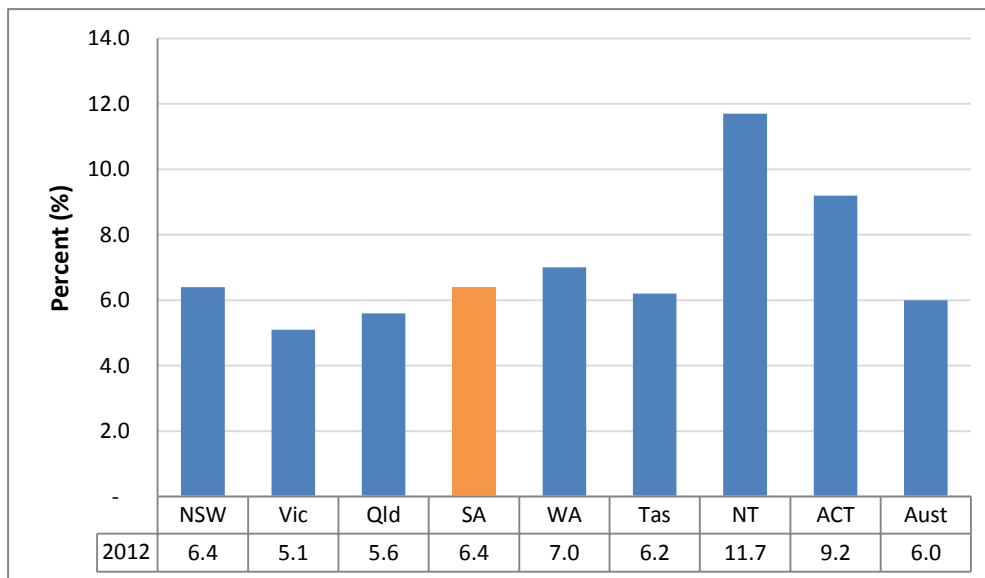
<sup>a</sup> SA figures for the 18 to 24 and 55+ age groups should be treated with caution.

<sup>7</sup> Known persons include current partners, previous partners, boyfriends/girlfriends or dates and other known persons.

## Disability or long-term health condition<sup>8</sup> of female victims

The proportions of women who had a disability or long-term health condition and had experienced violence in the 12 months prior to the survey are outlined in Figure 10. This shows that in South Australia, 6.4 percent of women had a disability or long-term health condition and had experienced violence in the above-mentioned time period. The Australia-wide figure was slightly lower at 6.0 percent.

**Figure 10. Disability or long-term health conditions, women who experienced violence in the 12 months prior to the survey, 2012**



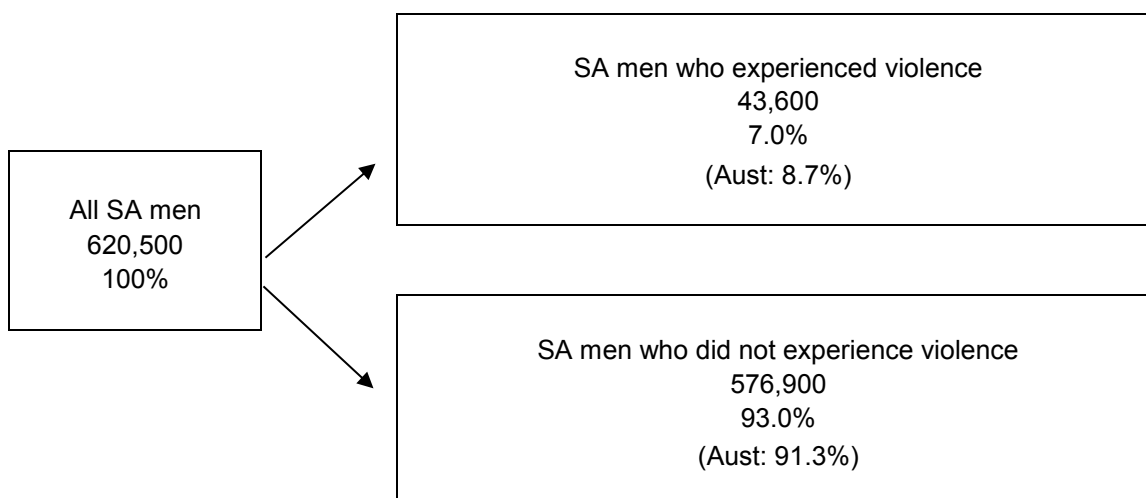
## Men

### Experiences of violence in the 12 months prior to the survey<sup>9</sup>

#### South Australia versus Australia, 2012

As shown, the proportion of South Australian men who experienced violence in the 12 months prior to the survey was slightly lower than the national figure (7.0% compared with 8.7% respectively). It should be noted, however, that the SA figure should be treated with some caution due to the small numbers surveyed in South Australia.

**Figure 11. Men's experiences of violence in the 12 months prior to the survey, South Australia, 2012<sup>a</sup>**



<sup>a</sup> SA figures should be treated with caution.

<sup>8</sup> A person was defined as having a disability or long-term health condition if they had one or more conditions which had lasted, or were likely to last, for six months or more, and that restricted every day activities. People were identified as having a profound or severe core-activity limitation if they required help or supervision for one or more core activities, such as self-care, mobility or communication.

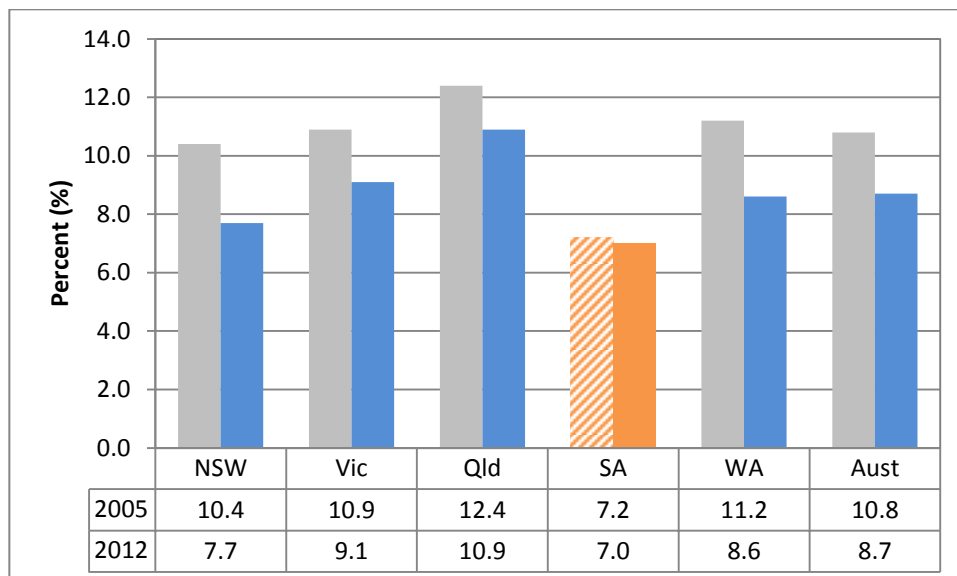
<sup>9</sup> The only figures available by jurisdiction for men were overall experiences of violence and relationship to perpetrator. Figures for men's experiences of violence by the age or the disability or long-term health condition of the victim were unavailable.

## States and Territories, 2005 versus 2012

In relation to the Australia-wide prevalence of violence over time, between 2005 and 2012, the proportion of men who had experienced violence in the 12 months prior to interview declined from 10.8 to 8.7 percent.

The South Australian figures<sup>10</sup> appear to indicate that a smaller proportion of South Australian men had experienced violence than any of the other jurisdictions depicted and Australia-wide.

**Figure 12. Men's experiences of violence in the 12 months prior to the survey, 2005 and 2012** <sup>a, b, c</sup>



<sup>a</sup> Figures unavailable for Tas, NT and the ACT.

<sup>b</sup> Australia includes Tas, NT and the ACT.

<sup>c</sup> SA figures should be treated with caution.

## Men's relationship to perpetrator

Nationally, 5.9 percent of men surveyed in 2012 stated they had experienced violence in the 12 months prior and they did not know the perpetrator. Comparatively, the proportion of women who had experienced some form of violence and did not know the perpetrator was 1.7 percent.

In South Australia, 4.7 percent of men stated they had experienced violence in the 12 months prior to the survey and they didn't know the perpetrator, whereas for SA women, this figure was 1.5 percent.

Conversely, 4.1 percent of South Australian women had been victims of violence in the 12 months prior to the survey and they knew the perpetrator. This figure for South Australian men was 2.5 percent.

It appears from these results that men are more likely to experience violence from a stranger than women, whereas women are more likely to know the perpetrator.

<sup>10</sup> The South Australian figures should be treated with caution as the estimate is likely to be unreliable.

**Figure 13. Relationship to perpetrator, men who experienced violence in the 12 months prior to the survey, 2012<sup>a, b, c</sup>**



<sup>a</sup> Tas, NT and ACT figures unavailable.

<sup>b</sup> Australian figure includes Tas, NT and ACT.

<sup>c</sup> SA and WA figures should be treated with caution.

## Men and women

### Australia-wide: Since the age of 15

This section summarises Australia-wide<sup>11</sup> data from the 2012 survey on men and women's experience of violence since the age of 15, including information on the relationship of the victim to the perpetrator.

#### Experience of physical and/or sexual violence

Table 1 shows around half (49.0%) of Australian men and 40.8 percent of Australian women had experienced some form of violence since the age of 15.

Men were far more likely than women to experience physical violence (48.1% compared with 34.4%) and, for men, this type of violence was most likely to be perpetrated by a stranger (35.0%). In contrast, women who experienced physical violence were more likely to know the perpetrator (29.6%) with only 8.4 percent reporting the perpetrator to be a stranger.

With regard to sexual violence, the opposite finding emerged. Women were over four times more likely to have experienced sexual violence than men (19.4% compared with 4.5% for men) with women most likely to know the perpetrator (16.4% compared with 3.2%).

<sup>11</sup> South Australian data are not available from this section onwards.

**Table 1. Experience of violence and relationship to perpetrator since the age of 15, Australia, 2012**

	<b>Women (%)</b>	<b>Men (%)</b>
<b><i>Did not experience violence since the age of 15</i></b>	<b>59.2</b>	<b>51.0</b>
<b>Experienced physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15 <sup>a</sup></b>	<b>40.8</b>	<b>49.0</b>
Stranger	12.2	35.7
Known person	35.6	26.6
<i>Partner (current or previous)</i>	16.9	5.3
<b>Experienced physical violence</b>	<b>34.4</b>	<b>48.1</b>
Stranger	8.4	35.0
Known person	29.6	25.6
<i>Partner (current or previous)</i>	15.6	5.0
<b>Experienced sexual violence</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>4.5</b>
Stranger	5.3	1.9
Known person	16.4	3.2
<i>Partner (current or previous) <sup>b</sup></i>	4.9	0.4

<sup>a</sup> Individual components may not sum to the total as an individual may have experienced more than one type of violence.

<sup>b</sup> Figure for men's experiences of partner sexual violence should be treated with caution.

## **Current and previous partner violence**

### ***Current partner violence***

Table 2 provides further detail on the men and women who reported having experienced current partner violence since the age of 15.

In summary, of the victims of current partner violence:

- Around two-thirds of both women and men stated that it involved more than one incident.
- Nearly three-quarters (74.4%) of the women reported that they told someone about the violence compared with less than half of the men (45.9%).
- Women were also more likely than men to seek advice or support in relation to the violence (61.0% compared with 29.7%).
- Around one in five women (19.8%) reported that the police were contacted compared with only one in twenty men (5.3%).

**Table 2. Current partner violence since the age of 15, Number of incidents and whether victim told anybody, Australia, 2012**

	<b>Women (%)</b>	<b>Men (%)</b>
<b><i>Number of violent incidents</i></b>		
One incident <sup>a</sup>	34.9	35.0
More than one incident	65.1	65.0
<b><i>Whether victim told anybody</i></b>		
Told someone about the violence	74.4	45.9
Sought advice or support	61.0	29.7
Police ever contacted about violence <sup>a</sup>	19.8	5.3

<sup>a</sup> Male estimates unreliable.

### Previous partner violence

Table 3 shows that for the men and women who reported having experienced previous partner violence since the age of 15:

- Almost three-quarters of the women (73.0%) reported that it involved more than one incident compared with around half of the men (50.6%).
- The vast majority of women and men told someone about the violence (93.3% and 79.1% respectively).
- Over three-quarters of women (76.1%) and half of men (52.4%) sought advice or support in relation to the violence.
- Women were more likely than men to report that the police were contacted about the violence (42.4% compared with 20.0%).

**Table 3. Previous partner violence since the age of 15, Number of incidents and whether victim told anybody, Australia, 2012**

	Women (%)	Men (%)
<b>Number of violent incidents</b>		
One incident	27.0	49.4
More than one incident <sup>a</sup>	73.0	50.6
<b>Whether victim told anybody</b>		
Told someone about the violence	93.3	79.1
Sought advice or support	76.1	52.4
Police ever contacted about violence	42.4	20.0

<sup>a</sup> Male estimate unreliable.

### Partner emotional abuse

Table 4 summarises the national findings of men and women's experience of partner emotional abuse<sup>12</sup> since the age of 15.

This form of abuse was less common in general, and less common for men, with 14.4 percent reporting emotional abuse compared with 24.5 percent of women, with previous partners most likely to be identified as the perpetrator for both women and men (21.1% and 12.1% respectively).

**Table 4. Experience of partner emotional abuse since the age of 15, Australia, 2012**

	Women (%)	Men (%)
<b>Did not experience emotional abuse</b>	<b>75.5</b>	<b>85.6</b>
<b>Experienced emotional abuse</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>14.4</b>
Current partner	4.5	2.9
Previous partner	21.1	12.1

### Experience of stalking

The personal safety survey collects information from men and women about their experience of stalking<sup>13</sup>. Overall, women were more likely than men to experience stalking with nearly one-in-five women (18.5%) having experienced stalking during their lifetime compared with 7.8 percent of men.

<sup>12</sup> Emotional abuse refers to being subjected to behaviours or actions that are aimed at preventing or controlling a person's behaviour with the intent to cause emotional harm or fear. These behaviours are characterised in nature by their intent to manipulate, control, isolate or intimidate the person they are aimed at and includes psychological, social, economic and verbal abuse.

<sup>13</sup> Stalking involves various behaviours, such as loitering and following, which the respondent believed was being undertaken with the intent to harm or frighten. To be classified as stalking more than one type of behaviour had to occur or the same type of behaviour had to occur on more than one occasion.

## References

Australian Bureau of Statistics (2013). *Personal Safety, Australia, 2012*. Cat. no. 4906.0. Canberra. Released 11 December 2013. Viewed 10 July 2014.

<<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/4906.02012?OpenDocument>>

Australian Bureau of Statistics (2006). *Personal Safety, Australia, 2005 (Reissue)*. Cat. no. 4906.0. Canberra. Released 21 August 2006. Viewed 7 July 2014.

<[http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/4906.02005%20\(Reissue\)?OpenDocument](http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/4906.02005%20(Reissue)?OpenDocument)>

# Appendix A

## Survey Methodology

- The scope of the survey was persons aged 18 years and over in private dwellings across Australia. Interviews were conducted with one randomly selected person aged 18 years or over who was a usual resident of the selected household. Interviews were conducted in person February to December 2012 and were voluntary. All interviews were confidential and no other members of the household were to be present during the participant's interview with the ABS interviewer.
- Both urban and rural areas in all States and Territories were included in the survey, except for very remote areas of Australia and Discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities. The following groups were also excluded from the survey:
  - Visitors at a dwelling whose usual place of residence is Australia (as they would have their chance of selection at their usual residence)
  - International visitors intending to stay in Australia for less than 12 months
  - Any non-Australia diplomat, diplomatic staff, and non-Australian members of their household
  - Any non-Australian military personnel stationed in Australia and their dependants
  - People who usually reside in non-private dwellings
  - Households where there are no members aged 18 years or older.
- People who had experienced violence were asked to provide more detailed information about their most recent incident including: what happened, the actions taken following the incident, and the impact of their incident. The perpetrator could include: current partner, previous partner, boyfriend/girlfriend or date, other known man or woman, and stranger. It should be noted that boyfriend/girlfriend or date refers to a person who the victim dated or was intimately involved with, but did not live with that person.
- Data collected from interviews provides information for each of the following eight types of violence a person could experience:
  - Sexual assault by a male;
  - Sexual assault by a female;
  - Sexual threat by a male;
  - Sexual threat by a female;
  - Physical assault by a male;
  - Physical assault by a female;
  - Physical threat by a male; and
  - Physical threat by a female.
- There were 41,350 private dwellings identified for the survey, comprising 31,650 females and 9,700 males. Where the household did not contain an in scope resident of the assigned gender, was vacant, under construction or derelict, no interview was required. This resulted in a final sample of around 30,200 eligible dwellings approached to participate in a survey, of which 17,050 consented to participate (57% response rate). 13,307 were females (57% response rate), and 3,743 were males (56% response rate).
- If a person has experienced more than one type of violence, they are counted separately for each type of violence they experience but are only counted once in the aggregated totals. Components therefore may not add to the totals. For example if a person had experienced an incident of physical assault by a stranger and an incident of physical assault by their current partner, they would be counted against each type of violence by type of perpetrator (i.e. physical assault by a stranger and physical assault by a current partner) but they would only be counted once in the total for those who had experienced physical assault.
- Separate information was recorded if an interviewee experienced violence by a current and previous partner. If the interviewee had more than one previous partner whom they experienced violence from, experiences of violence with the most recent partner were recorded.



- It is also possible that a single incident of violence may involve more than one of the different types of violence. Where an incident involves both sexual and physical assault, it is counted as a sexual assault. For example if a person is physically assaulted during or as part of a sexual assault, this would be counted once only as a sexual assault. Where an incident involves a person being both threatened with assault and assaulted, it is counted as an assault. For example if in a single incident a perpetrator threatens to sexually assault a person and then sexually assaults them, this would be counted only once in the survey as a sexual assault. The same applies for incidents where a person is both threatened with physical assault and physically assaulted.
- The ABS, with the assistance of a Survey Advisory Group, have defined the following types of violence as follows:
  - **Physical assault** involves the use of physical force with the intent to harm or frighten a person. Assaults may have occurred in conjunction with a robbery and includes incidents where a person was assaulted in their line of work (e.g. assaulted while working as a security guard). Physical assault excludes incidents of sexual assault or threatened sexual assault which also involved physical assault, and excludes incidents that occurred during the course of play on a sporting field. If a person experienced physical assault and physical threat in the same incident, this was counted once only as a physical assault.
  - **Physical threat** is an attempt to inflict physical harm or a threat or suggestion of intent to inflict physical harm, that was made face-to-face where the person believes it was able to and likely to be carried out. Physical threat includes incidents where a person was threatened in their line of work. If a person experienced sexual threat and physical threat in the same incident, this was counted once only as a sexual threat.
  - **Sexual Assault** is an act of a sexual nature carried out against a person's will through the use of physical force, intimidation or coercion, and includes any attempts to do this. This includes rape, attempted rape, aggravated sexual assault (assault with a weapon), indecent assault, penetration by objects, forced sexual activity that did not end in penetration and attempts to force a person into sexual activity. Sexual assault excludes unwanted sexual touching - for the purposes of this survey, this is defined as Sexual Harassment. Sexual assault also excludes incidents of violence that occurred before the age of 15 - for the purposes of this survey, these are defined as Sexual Abuse. If a person experienced sexual assault and sexual threat in the same incident, this was counted once only as a sexual assault. If an incident of sexual assault also involved physical assault or threats, this was counted once only as a sexual assault.
  - **Sexual threat** involves the threat of acts of a sexual nature that were made face-to-face where the person believes it is able to and likely to be carried out.

## Appendix B

### Limitations of the *Personal Safety, Australia* report

- The survey results were benchmarked to the estimated resident Australian population aged 18 years or more who were living in private dwellings, excluding very remote areas of Australia and those living in Discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. This population was estimated to be 17,201,700 as at 30 June 2012. The benchmarks, and hence estimates from the survey, do not (and are not intended to) match estimates for the total Australian resident population (which include persons living in non-private dwellings, such as hotels and boarding houses, persons living in very remote parts of Australia and those living in Discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities).
- There was a relatively low response rate and the ABS could not apply their usual weighting calculations because the following variables were under represented in the sample: marital status, country of birth and labour force status. Additional weighting calculations were conducted to account for this as well as extensive non-response analyses as part of the validation and estimation process.
- Information recorded in the survey is essentially 'as reported' by respondents, and hence may differ from information available from other sources, or collected using a different methodology.
- Where a person has experienced more than one type of violence, they are counted separately for each type of violence they experience but are only counted once in the aggregated totals. Components therefore may not add to the totals. For example if a person had experienced an incident of physical assault by a stranger and an incident of physical assault by their current partner, they would be counted against each type of violence by type of perpetrator (i.e. physical assault by a stranger and physical assault by a current partner) but they would only be counted once in the total for those who had experienced physical assault.
- The characteristics of the different types of violence are not able to be added to produce a total for characteristics of "violence". Conceptually it is invalid to add together data about the characteristics for the different types of violence, as actions a person may take could differ depending on the type of violence experienced.
- Due to constraints on the length of an interview and the load placed on respondents, it was not possible to collect detailed information about each incident of violence a person had experienced. Instead, detailed information was collected about their most recent incident for each of the eight different types of violence. A 'most recent' incident method was used to select a sample of incidents. If the most recent incident occurred more than 20 years ago, detailed information was not collected due to difficulties associated with recalling the incident.
- As information is only collected in relation to the most recent incident, rates will not reflect the total prevalence of different characteristics or behaviours. For example, if a person had experienced more than one incident of physical assault by a male and had **not** contacted police about their most recent incident but **had** about an earlier incident then they have actually contacted the police at some point (just not for their most recent incident). In this instance the characteristics of a person's most recent incident would understate their overall behaviour in reporting of incidents to the police.
- Comparisons of personal safety survey data with data from other sources cannot be readily made because of differences in data collection methods and the concepts and definitions used to measure violence.