

# Trends in Self-Reported Violence Victimization

## Update to 2022/2023

This report estimates the proportion of the population who experience a violent crime each year based on self-reports gathered through the Australian Bureau of Statistics' annual Crime Victimization Survey. As much violent crime is not reported to police, Police recorded crime statistics are not necessarily a reliable way to measure patterns in these offences. Victim surveys overcome this limitation by directly asking the public whether they have experienced violence in the previous year. Police reporting rates are also measured.

This report shows ABS Crime Victimization Survey data collected from 2008/09 to 2022/23.



### 1. Estimated NSW 12-month violent victimisation rate by gender

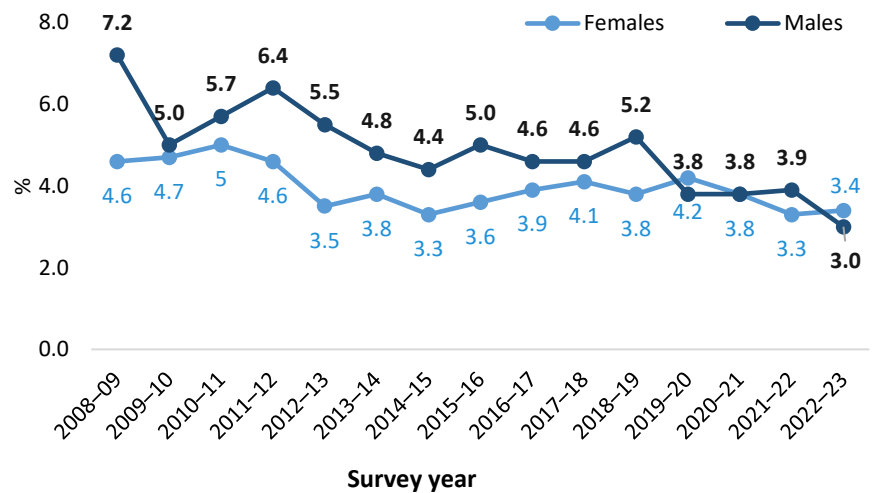
**3.2%** of persons in 2022-23 self reported violent crime victimisation in the past year:



**3.4%**  
of females



**3.0%**  
of males



Over the last 15 years self reported violent victimisation fell significantly\* from 5.9% to 3.2%.



4.6% to 3.4%  
for females



7.2% to 3.0%  
for males

**Violence** includes physical assault, face-to-face threatened assault, non-face-to-face threatened assault, robbery and sexual assault. Respondents are aged 15 years and over, or 18+ years for sexual assault. See Table 1 for prevalence rate data.



### 2. Estimated NSW 12-month victimisation rate for Domestic & Family Violence (DFV) related assault (3 years pooled data with 95% confidence intervals)

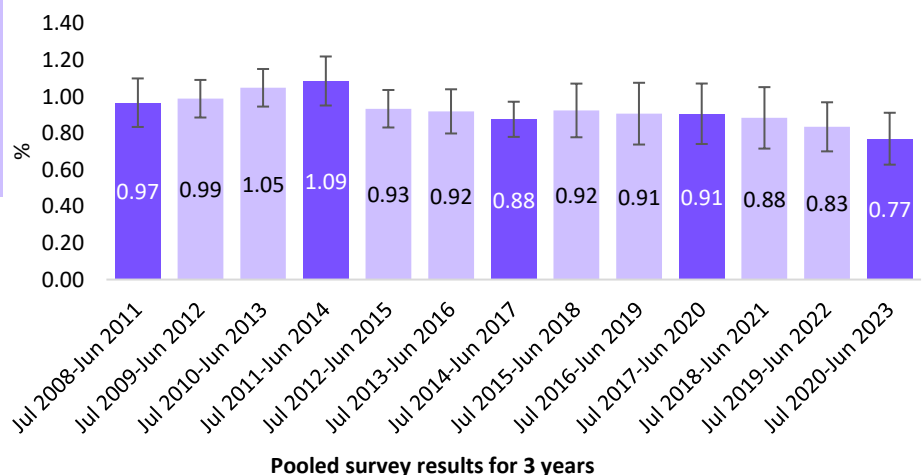
**0.8%** of persons in the 3 years from July 2020-June 2023 self-reported a DFV assault in the past 12 months



Self-reported DFV assault victimisation was stable between July 2017-June 2020 and July 2020-June 2023.



Victimisation fell significantly between July 2011 -June 2014 and July 2020 - June 2023, from 1.1% to 0.8%



See Table 2 for prevalence rate data.

\*Significance is based on 95% confidence intervals of prevalence rate estimates and differences between these rates. When the 95% confidence interval of the difference is less than 0.00 it is considered significantly lower than the comparison rate.  
Domestic and family relationships include current and previous partners (married/de facto), boy/girlfriend (including ex), date and family (including in-laws).

# NSW Trends in Self-Reported Victims of Violence

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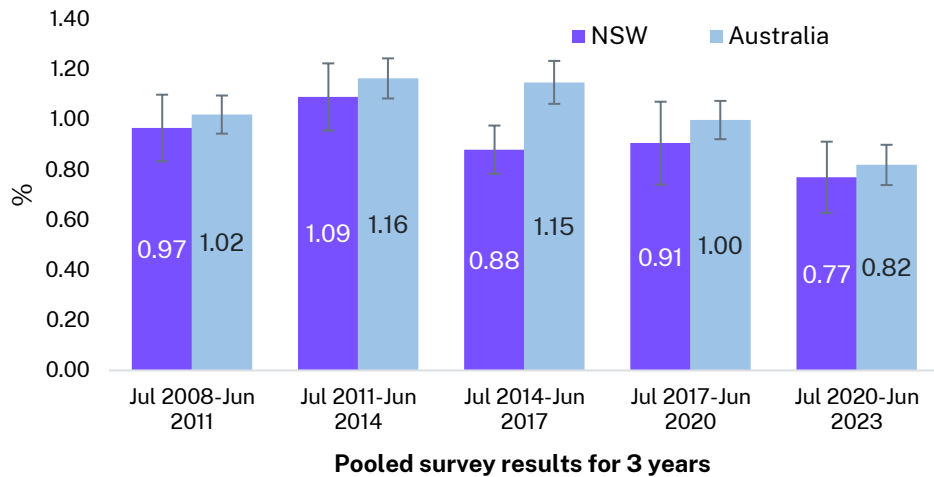
## 3. Estimated 12-month victimisation rate for Domestic & Family Violence (DFV) related assault (3 years pooled data with 95% confidence intervals), NSW and Australia

**0.8%** of persons in Australia self-reported a DFV assault in the past 12 months when surveyed between July 2020-June 2023.



Self-reported DFV assault victimisation in Australia fell significantly between July 2017-June 2020 and July 2020-June 2023.

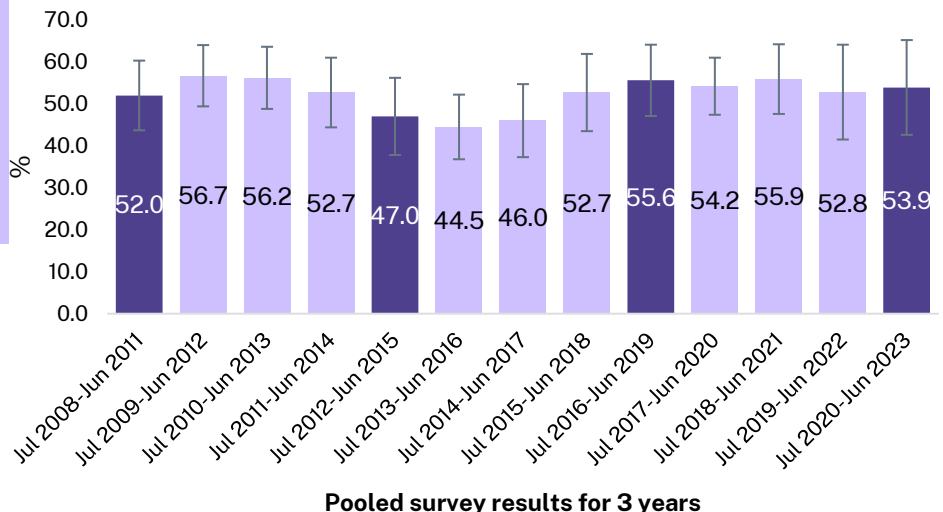
There was no significant difference in self-reported DFV assault victimisation in NSW and Australia between July 2020-June 2023.



## 4. NSW reporting rate, victims of Domestic and Family Violence related assault who reported last incident to police (3 yr pooled data, 95% confidence intervals)

**53.9%** of persons in NSW who experienced an episode of DFV assault in the previous 12 months, reported the most recent incident to police, (among those surveyed between July 2020 - June 2023).

The self-reported rate at which DFV assault was reported to police has not changed significantly over time.



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## Data Source: Crime victimisation survey

This report uses data from the Crime Victimization Survey (CVS), conducted each financial year by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) since 2008/2009. The CVS is a component of the Australian Multipurpose Household Survey. Respondents aged 15 years and over are interviewed by phone about their experience of personal and household crimes in the 12 months prior to the interview. Demographic information and characteristics of the most recent incident of each crime type is collected. The NSW CVS sample size has ranged from 5,110 in 2008/09 to 7,006 in 2012/13. In the 2022/23 survey there were 6,333 NSW respondents. More detail: [ABS](#).

The estimated rate of violent victimisation is based on the proportion of respondents who report experiencing at least one of the following in the previous 12 months: physical assault, face-to-face and non-face-to-face threatened assault, robbery and/or sexual assault.

The estimated rate of DFV assault victimisation is based on the proportion of respondents who report experiencing at least one physical assault or face-to-face threatened assault by an intimate partner or family member in the previous 12 months. Note, only victims of assault where the most recent incident of assault was by an intimate partner or family member are counted in the DFV assault victimisation rate. As such the DFV assault rate is an underestimate of the actual prevalence of DFV assault victimisation.

'Intimate partner' includes the respondent's current spouse/partner, ex-spouse/ex-partner, current boy/girlfriend, ex-boy/girlfriend or date. Reliable DFV assault rates by gender are not available. Survey respondents who report experiencing DFV assault in the past 12 months are also asked whether they reported the most recent incident to the police.

## Analysis

Significant differences in prevalence rates are determined by calculating the 95% confidence intervals of the differences between prevalence rates for different time periods.

**Pooling Data to Improve Reliability:** Data pooling is a statistical technique in which data from multiple survey cycles are combined to produce more reliable estimates. This is useful for data items with low frequency. Here, we show DFV assault victimisation prevalence estimates based on pooled survey responses from three consecutive survey periods. The technique increases the sample size on which individual estimates are based and correspondingly, each estimate is more reliable. It also means the estimates for the pooled periods represent the average across the three years of the pooled data. See the [ABS](#) for more information.

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## Data tables

**Table 1. Estimated 12-month victimisation rate, victims of violence aged 15 years and over (with 95% confidence intervals), by gender, NSW**

Survey Period	Female				Male				Persons			
	Victimisation rate (%)	RSE of victimisation rate (%)	LCI (95%)	HCI (95%)	Victimisation rate (%)	RSE of victimisation rate (%)	LCI (95%)	HCI (95%)	Victimisation rate (%)	RSE of victimisation rate (%)	LCI (95%)	HCI (95%)
July 2008–June 2009	4.6	11.5	3.56	5.64	7.2	7.6	6.13	8.27	5.9	7.0	5.09	6.71
July 2009–June 2010	4.7	9.7	3.81	5.59	5.0* <sup>Λ</sup>	10.7	3.95	6.05	4.8* <sup>Λ</sup>	6.7	4.17	5.43
July 2010–June 2011	5.0 <sup>Λ</sup>	10.3	3.99	6.01	5.7 <sup>Λ</sup>	7.8	4.83	6.57	5.3	5.7	4.71	5.89
July 2011–June 2012	4.6	8.4	3.84	5.36	6.4	7.3	5.48	7.32	5.5	4.9	4.97	6.03
July 2012–June 2013	3.5*	7.4	2.99	4.01	5.5 <sup>Λ</sup>	9.4	4.49	6.51	4.5* <sup>Λ</sup>	6.7	3.91	5.09
July 2013–June 2014	3.8	11.1	2.97	4.63	4.8 <sup>Λ</sup>	8.6	3.99	5.61	4.3 <sup>Λ</sup>	7.8	3.64	4.96
July 2014–June 2015	3.3 <sup>Λ</sup>	7.8	2.80	3.80	4.4 <sup>Λ</sup>	11.3	3.43	5.37	3.9 <sup>Λ</sup>	7.4	3.33	4.47
July 2015–June 2016	3.6	8.5	3.00	4.20	5.0 <sup>Λ</sup>	9.7	4.05	5.95	4.2 <sup>Λ</sup>	5.8	3.72	4.68
July 2016–June 2017	3.9	7.6	3.32	4.48	4.6 <sup>Λ</sup>	8.9	3.80	5.40	4.3 <sup>Λ</sup>	6.4	3.76	4.84
July 2017–June 2018	4.1	9.7	3.32	4.88	4.6 <sup>Λ</sup>	8.9	3.80	5.40	4.3 <sup>Λ</sup>	6.0	3.79	4.81
July 2018–June 2019	3.8	8.4	3.17	4.43	5.2 <sup>Λ</sup>	8.8	4.30	6.10	4.6 <sup>Λ</sup>	5.9	4.07	5.13
July 2019–June 2020	4.2	7.8	3.56	4.84	3.8* <sup>Λ</sup>	9.6	3.08	4.52	4.1 <sup>Λ</sup>	5.9	3.63	4.57
July 2020–June 2021	3.8	9.1	3.12	4.48	3.86 <sup>Λ</sup>	10.0	3.06	4.54	3.8 <sup>Λ</sup>	7.0	3.28	4.32
July 2021–June 2022	3.3 <sup>Λ</sup>	10.4	2.63	3.97	3.9 <sup>Λ</sup>	10.4	3.11	4.69	3.5 <sup>Λ</sup>	6.8	3.03	3.97
July 2022–June 2023	3.4 <sup>Λ</sup>	8.8	2.81	3.99	3.0 <sup>Λ</sup>	10.7	2.37	3.63	3.2 <sup>Λ</sup>	5.8	2.84	3.56

\*Difference in the victimisation rate between the selected reference period and the preceding reference period is statistically significant.

<sup>Λ</sup>Difference in the victimisation rate between the selected reference period and July 2008-June 2009 is statistically significant.

Tables 2 and 3 shows estimates for 13 rolling three-year pooled data periods starting with the 3 years from July 2008 to June 2011 through to the 3 years from July 2020 to June 2023. Note that the 3-year pooled estimates overlap and cannot be treated as independent data points.

**Table 2. Estimated victimisation rate, victims of domestic and family violence assault aged 15 years and over (3 year pooled data with 95% confidence intervals), and population estimates, NSW**

Survey Period	Victimisation rate (%)	RSE of victimisation rate (%)	LCI (95%)	HCI (95%)	Estimate of persons aged 15 years and over, '000
<b>Jul 2008-Jun 2011</b>	<b>0.97</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>0.83</b>	<b>1.10</b>	<b>5690.5</b>
Jul 2009-Jun 2012	0.99	5.3	0.89	1.09	5788.4
Jul 2010-Jun 2013	1.05	5.0	0.95	1.15	5858.9
<b>Jul 2011-Jun 2014</b>	<b>1.09</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>0.95</b>	<b>1.22</b>	<b>5907.4</b>
Jul 2012-Jun 2015	0.93	5.6	0.83	1.04	5966.9
Jul 2013-Jun 2016	0.92	6.7	0.80	1.04	6017.4
<b>Jul 2014-Jun 2017</b>	<b>0.88*~</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>0.78</b>	<b>0.97</b>	<b>6097.7</b>
Jul 2015-Jun 2018	0.92	8.1	0.78	1.07	6178.9
Jul 2016-Jun 2019	0.91	9.5	0.74	1.08	6276.4
<b>Jul 2017-Jun 2020</b>	<b>0.91</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>0.74</b>	<b>1.07</b>	<b>6368.1</b>
Jul 2018-Jun 2021	0.88	9.7	0.72	1.05	6439.8
Jul 2019-Jun 2022	0.83	8.2	0.70	0.97	6458.4
<b>Jul 2020-Jun 2023</b>	<b>0.77~</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>0.63</b>	<b>0.91</b>	<b>6497.0</b>

\*Difference in the victimisation rate between the reference period and the preceding independent reference period is statistically significant.

~Difference in the victimisation rate between the reference period and the 3-year pooled period July 2011-June 2014 is statistically significant (ie July 2014 June 2017 compared with July 2011-June 2014).

Source: Customised ABS data, 2024

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**Table 3. Estimated victimisation rate, victims of domestic and family violence assault aged 15 years and over (3 year pooled data with 95% confidence intervals), and population estimates, Australia**

Survey Period	Victimisation rate (%)	RSE of victimisation rate (%)	LCI (95%)	HCI (95%)	Total Persons aged 15 years and over, '000
<b>Jul 2008-Jun 2011</b>	<b>1.02</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>0.94</b>	<b>1.10</b>	<b>17384.3</b>
Jul 2009-Jun 2012	1.03	3.7	0.96	1.11	17758.7
Jul 2010-Jun 2013	1.14	3.8	1.06	1.23	18066.7
<b>Jul 2011-Jun 2014</b>	<b>1.16*</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>1.08</b>	<b>1.24</b>	<b>18314.8</b>
Jul 2012-Jun 2015	1.10	3.5	1.03	1.18	18539.1
Jul 2013-Jun 2016	1.11	3.3	1.04	1.18	18702.5
<b>Jul 2014-Jun 2017</b>	<b>1.15^</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>1.06</b>	<b>1.23</b>	<b>18933.0</b>
Jul 2015-Jun 2018	1.14	3.6	1.06	1.22	19193.6
Jul 2016-Jun 2019	1.05	3.1	0.99	1.11	19513.1
<b>Jul 2017-Jun 2020</b>	<b>1.00*</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>0.92</b>	<b>1.07</b>	<b>19836.6</b>
Jul 2018-Jun 2021	0.96	4.3	0.88	1.05	20099.3
Jul 2019-Jun 2022	0.89	4.3	0.82	0.97	20279.4
<b>Jul 2020-Jun 2023</b>	<b>0.82*</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>0.74</b>	<b>0.90</b>	<b>20518.8</b>

\*Difference in the victimisation rate between the reference period and the preceding independent reference period is statistically significant.

^The difference in the victimisation rate between NSW and Australia is statistically significant

**Table 4. Proportion of victims of domestic and family violence assault reporting last incident of domestic and family violence assault to police (3 yr pooled data with 95% confidence intervals), NSW**

Survey Period	Proportion reporting (%)	RSE of reporting rate (%)	LCI (95%)	HCI (95%)
<b>July 2008-June 2011</b>	<b>52.0</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>43.54</b>	<b>60.46</b>
July 2009-June 2012	56.7	7.3	48.59	64.81
July 2010-June 2013	56.2	7.4	48.05	64.35
<b>July 2011-June 2014</b>	<b>52.7</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>44.13</b>	<b>61.27</b>
July 2012-June 2015	47.0	9.2	38.52	55.48
July 2013-June 2016	44.5	7.7	37.78	51.22
<b>July 2014-June 2017</b>	<b>46.0</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>38.16</b>	<b>53.84</b>
July 2015-June 2018	52.7	9.2	43.20	62.20
July 2016-June 2019	55.6	8.5	46.34	64.86
<b>July 2017-June 2020</b>	<b>54.2</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>46.98</b>	<b>61.42</b>
July 2018-June 2021	55.9	8.3	46.81	64.99
July 2019-June 2022	52.8	11.3	41.11	64.49
<b>July 2020-June 2023</b>	<b>53.9</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>41.96</b>	<b>65.84</b>

Differences between each data point and the previous independent data point were not statistically significant.