



## **Information Paper**

# **Personal Safety Survey: User Guide**

**Australia**

**2005**



New  
Issue

**Information Paper**

**Personal Safety Survey:  
User Guide**

**Australia**

**2005**

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AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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# CONTENTS

page

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Abbreviations	vi
Background to the survey	vii
Methodology	vii
Using this publication	viii

## 2. SURVEY CONTENT

Information collected	1
Survey definitions	3
Measures used	4

## 3. SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Scope and coverage	6
Sample design and collection	6
Data collection	8
Measures to maximise response	12
Response rates	12

## 4. DATA PROCESSING

Data processing	13
Weighting and estimation procedures	14

## 5. DATA QUALITY

Data quality	16
Comparability between sources	19

## 6. OUTPUT AND DISSEMINATION

Data availability	22
Publications	22
Access to micro data	22
Special data services	23
Related publications	23

## 7. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Appendix 1: Data items	24
Appendix 2: Comparisons between WSS and PSS	44
Technical notes (Standard Errors on Survey Estimates)	48
Glossary	52

## ABBREVIATIONS

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<b>ABS</b>	Australian Bureau of Statistics
<b>ASCED</b>	Australian Standard Classification of Education
<b>CAI</b>	computer assisted interviewing
<b>CD</b>	Collection District
<b>CURF</b>	Confidentialised Unit Record File
<b>FLI</b>	foreign language interviewer
<b>GSS</b>	General Social Survey
<b>LFS</b>	Labour Force Survey
<b>NCCJS</b>	National Centre for Crime and Justice Statistics, Australian Bureau of Statistics
<b>NCSS</b>	National Crime and Safety Survey
<b>PSS</b>	Personal Safety Survey
<b>RADL</b>	Remote Access Data Laboratory
<b>RSE</b>	relative standard error
<b>SE</b>	standard error
<b>SEIFA</b>	Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas
<b>WSS</b>	Women's Safety Survey

# INTRODUCTION

## BACKGROUND TO THE SURVEY

The Personal Safety Survey (PSS) was conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) from August to December 2005. The survey provides information on people's safety at home and in the community and, in particular, on the nature and extent of violence against men and women in Australia. It collected information about experiences of physical and sexual violence. Key findings from the survey are presented in *2005 Personal Safety, Australia* (cat no. 4906.0) which was released in August 2006.

The focus of the survey is on those that experienced violence aged 18 years and over as opposed to that experienced by children or other specific groups known to be at risk of violence. The survey collected information about experiences of violence in which a male or female perpetrator was involved. As well as examining incidents of violence, the survey collected information on abuse, harassment, and people's feelings of safety within the home and the community.

Funding for the women's component of the PSS is provided through the *National Initiative to Combat Sexual Assault and Partnerships Against Domestic Violence* – Australian Government initiatives administered by the Office for Women (OfW). The male component was funded by the ABS.

A Survey Advisory Group, comprising experts in the field of crime and violence, provided the ABS with advice on the information to be collected and on some aspects of survey methodology. Members of the group included representatives from State and Commonwealth departments, crime research agencies, services providers, health research organisations, academics and OfW.

## METHODOLOGY

The ABS was responsible for the development and conduct of the survey. As for all ABS surveys, extensive testing was carried out to ensure that the survey would collect objective and high quality data.

The 2005 PSS was conducted under the authority of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*. The ABS sought the willing cooperation of households in the survey. The confidentiality of all information provided by respondents is guaranteed. Under its legislation the ABS cannot release identifiable information about households or individuals. All aspects of the PSS implementation were designed to conform to Information Privacy Principles set out in the *Privacy Act 1988*, and the Privacy Commissioner was informed of the details of the proposed survey.

The ABS seeks to encourage respondent cooperation and maximise response in a number of ways e.g. explain the value of the survey. Due to the sensitive nature of the interview respondents were asked at several points if they wished to continue. A small proportion of people chose not to proceed. An overall response rate of 72% was achieved, with approximately 11,900 women and 4,600 men completing the survey nationally.

Standard ABS interviewing techniques were used and due to the sensitive nature of the information being collected, special procedures were introduced to ensure the safety of respondents, and the interviewers, and the reliability of the data provided. It was a requirement of the survey that all interviews were conducted in private, ensuring that other members of the household were not aware of the survey content or the responses

## INTRODUCTION *continued*

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### METHODOLOGY *continued*

given. If preferred by the respondent, the interview could be conducted over the telephone.

Female interviewers from the ABS panel of household survey interviewers were used, although respondents were given the option of a male interviewer upon request.

In addition to standard ABS training in the content and procedures for the survey, the interviewers received sensitivity and awareness training to increase their understanding of and ability to deal with issues related to violence against women and men.

### USING THIS PUBLICATION

Appropriate use and interpretation of the PSS results relies on a knowledge of what information was collected, how it was collected and how the information was used to produce final estimates. This User Guide covers these topics in four chapters: survey content; survey methodology; data processing; and data quality and interpretation of results.

Appendix 1 includes a comprehensive list of the data items available from the survey. Appendix 2 itemises the comparisons between PSS and WSS data items.



## CHAPTER 2 SURVEY CONTENT

**INFORMATION COLLECTED** The content of the 2005 PSS was based on the 1996 Women's Safety Survey (WSS) and through consultation with key users, who were represented by a Survey Advisory Group. Interview questions and response categories were refined through field tests to ensure they could be clearly understood by respondents and that they would produce statistically valid and comparable results.

Further information about the content of the survey can be obtained by referring to the list of available data items in Appendix 1. Many data items available from the survey are derived from responses to a number of survey questions. The definitions used in the survey, as set out in the Glossary (p. 52), are based on both the questionnaire and interviewer instructions.

### *Physical and sexual violence*

All respondents were asked if they had experienced sexual or physical violence by each type of perpetrator (current partner, previous partner, boyfriend, girlfriend or date, other known man or woman and stranger). If they had, they were asked when the most recent incident by each type of perpetrator occurred. More detailed information was then collected about the most recent incident of sexual assault, threatened sexual assault, physical assault, and/or threatened or attempted physical assault by a man and/or woman, irrespective of how the perpetrator was known to them.

The information collected about the most recent incident included:

- number of perpetrators
- when it occurred
- location
- whether regarded as a crime
- police contact or main reason decided not to contact the police
- contribution of alcohol and/or other drugs
- injuries sustained and consultation with doctor
- changes in aspects of life resulting from physical injury and/or anxiety or fear in the 12 months after the incident
- advice or support sought from professionals (doctor, counsellor, minister or priest)
- help sought from service providers (crisis, legal, financial, other support services) or reason(s) for not using them
- whether talked to others (family, friend or neighbour, work colleague, anyone else)
- time off work in the 12 months after the incident
- anxiety or fear experienced during the last 12 months.

### *Partner violence*

Additional information was collected from respondents who experienced violence by a partner. If a person experienced violence by both a current and a previous partner, information was collected about both partners. For respondents who experienced violence by more than one previous partner, information was collected about the last partner who was violent (i.e. the most recently violent previous partner).

Information collected included:

- frequency of violence
- length of relationship before first incident
- violence during pregnancy
- violence during separation and patterns of separation
- children witnessing violence

## CHAPTER 2 SURVEY CONTENT *continued*

### *Partner violence continued*

- anxiety or fear experienced during relationship with previous partner and during the last 12 months
- use of restraining/violence orders and their effectiveness.

The fear that a person may experience after a violent incident by a partner they are living with could be different to the fear experienced after an incident perpetrated by someone who they are not intimately involved with, or who they do not know. To reflect this, people who experienced violence by a partner were asked if they experienced anxiety or fear during the relationship and during the last 12 months as a result of the violence. As well as fear for their personal safety, this incorporates the fear a person may have experienced as a result of living with the perpetrator of that violence, such as, fear of leaving the house, fear of people in general and fear for their children's safety.

### *Stalking*

All respondents were asked whether they had been stalked by a man or woman. Information collected about the most recent incident of stalking by a man and/or woman included:

- the nature of the stalking (e.g. type of stalking activity, how the perpetrator was known to them, when it began, whether it had stopped, duration of stalking)
- whether respondent regarded the stalking as a crime
- police contact or main reason decided not to contact the police
- time off work in the 12 months after the stalking started
- anxiety or fear experienced in the 12 months after the stalking started and during the last 12 months
- changes in aspects of life resulting from anxiety or fear in the 12 months after the stalking started.

### *General safety and harassment*

All respondents were asked about their feelings of safety when alone in selected situations, such as using and waiting for public transport after dark, walking in their local area after dark and when home in the evening.

They were also asked about their experience of various forms of harassment including whether they had received an obscene telephone call, experienced a person indecently exposing themselves, received unwanted comments about their body or sex life, or experienced unwanted sexual touching.

### *Experience of emotional abuse*

This information was only collected from respondents who were currently married or in a de facto relationship.

The questions sought to determine if a respondent had experienced manipulation, isolation or intimidation by a current partner. Interviewers were provided with detailed definitions of each type of abuse to assist respondents who had difficulty interpreting the questions.

### *Experience of child abuse*

All respondents were asked if they had experienced physical or sexual abuse before the age of 15.

## CHAPTER 2 SURVEY CONTENT *continued*

### *Experience of child abuse continued*

The purpose of including questions about people's experience of physical and sexual abuse when a child was not to measure the extent of child abuse (in order to do this a separate survey would be required), but to provide background information about people's experiences and to allow for investigation of the relationship between childhood abuse and experiences of violence as an adult.

Care should be taken when using these items as they were not collected using detailed questioning. The experience of physical abuse as a child is particularly difficult to measure, given changes in what is generally perceived as acceptable behaviour toward children, particularly in relation to discipline. For example, while caning was practised at schools in the past, this is no longer an acceptable practice. In order to minimise the level of interpretation by respondents, a definition of physical abuse was included in the survey question. However, the response given by people would reflect their interpretation of the question and what constitutes physical abuse.

### *Socio-demographic information*

This information was collected about the respondent and, where applicable, their partner. The latter was provided by the respondent. Information collected included:

- labour force status
- educational attainment
- language first spoken
- proficiency in English
- income (including household income).

### SURVEY DEFINITIONS

In developing the concepts and definitions used in the survey, the ABS was conscious that the data be comparable with the 1996 WSS. In the 1996 WSS, assistance was sought from a Survey Advisory Group, which included members with legal and crime research backgrounds, to determine the definitions of what constitutes violence and to describe related concepts. The definitions used were based on actions which would be considered offences under State and Territory criminal law. For example, physical violence was defined as the occurrence, attempt or threat of physical assault, where physical assault was the use of physical force with the intent to harm or frighten. These same definitions are used for the 2005 PSS.

The definitions of violence are set out in more detail in the Glossary (p. 52). While, inevitably, the incidents of violence reported by people reflected their perceptions of the concepts and definitions used, the incidents reported were judged as significant by the respondent.

Consideration was given as to whether unwanted sexual touching and/or emotional abuse should be included in the definition of violence. It was decided to exclude them from the definition of violence because of the high degree of subjectivity associated with measuring these concepts, and because although some forms of unwanted sexual touching may in fact constitute a criminal offence, many would not. In this way the definition of sexual violence was limited to more serious incidents.

In defining physical and sexual violence, threats and attempts of assault were treated differently. For physical violence, threats and attempts were combined and physical assault was collected separately (by a range of types of assault). For sexual violence, sexual assault included attempts, while information about threats was collected

## CHAPTER 2 SURVEY CONTENT *continued*

### SURVEY DEFINITIONS

*continued*

separately. As a result, detailed information collected about the most recent incident differs for physical and sexual violence.

Physical violence was classified according to a range of types of violence, such as kicking, biting, punching, shooting and stabbing and threats or attempts to physically hurt. Although a similar approach could have been taken for sexual violence, it was not considered feasible to ask people to discuss the specific sexual actions they had experienced.

### MEASURES USED

Due to constraints on the length of the interview and the load on respondents, it was not possible to collect detailed information about each incident of violence experienced (i.e. a person's lifetime experience of violence).

Instead, detailed information was collected about the most recent incident of sexual assault, threatened sexual assault, physical assault and threatened or attempted physical assault. Using the most recent incident was a method of selecting a sample of incidents.

People who experienced violence were asked to focus on the most recent incident and provide more detailed information about that incident. If the most recent incident occurred more than 20 years ago, detailed information was not collected due to difficulties associated with recalling the incident.

While information was collected about people's experience of violence by each type of perpetrator, the survey did not collect the actual number of violent incidents people experienced. It also does not provide information about repeat victimisation, that is, the number of incidents a person experienced by the same perpetrator. People who experienced violence by a partner were asked if they had experienced violence on more than one occasion. However, this question was not asked of people who reported incidents by a boyfriend, girlfriend, date or another person who they knew (such as a family member or friend).

In the *2005 Personal Safety Survey, Australia* (cat no. 4906.0) most results are also expressed as percentages. Percentages indicate the distribution of events or characteristics among the population of interest, such as, the proportion of women or men who experienced violence in various locations. It is possible that people may be present in more than one category of the distribution. This occurs when people have experienced violence by more than one type of perpetrator, or when data items allow for more than one response category. The data item listing in Appendix 1 indicates items where more than one response can be given, for example, type of physical violence experienced. In these cases, the components when added, will be greater than 100%.

There are two main reference periods reported in the publication, the '12 months prior to the survey' and 'since the age of 15'. The former is used to measure current levels of violence in Australia, while the latter shows people's experience of violence as an adult.

It is important to note that some estimates are based on information about the most recent incident of violence experienced by people. For example, if a person experienced more than one incident of physical violence, information about the type of physical violence and whether the incident was reported to the police was only collected in relation to the most recent incident. As a result, the estimates will not reflect the total

**CHAPTER 2 SURVEY CONTENT** *continued*

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MEASURES USED *continued*

counts of different incidents, and in general will understate the occurrence of particular incidents.

When interpreting the results presented in the PSS publication, reference should be made to the title of each table to determine the reference period and whether the data relates to experiences of violence since the age of 15 or the most recent incident.

## CHAPTER 3 SURVEY METHODOLOGY

### SCOPE AND COVERAGE

Personal face to face interviews were conducted with one randomly selected person aged 18 years and over who was a usual resident of the selected household. Both urban and rural areas in all states and territories were included, but very remote areas of Australia were excluded. the following groups were also excluded for the survey:

- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from the census and estimated population figures
- overseas residents in Australia
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia
- residents in non-private dwellings, such as hospitals, retirement villages, refuges etc.

### SAMPLE DESIGN AND SELECTION

#### *Sample design*

Decisions on the appropriate sample size, distribution and method of selection are dependent on a number of considerations. These include the aims and content of the survey, the level of disaggregation and accuracy at which the survey estimates are required and the costs and operational constraints of conducting the survey.

The aim of the PSS was to provide national estimates of the nature and extent of violence experienced by men and women. In meeting this aim, a balance had to be maintained between obtaining a sample size which allowed for the level of analysis required, the overall cost of the survey and maintaining comparability with the 1996 WSS. The use of probability sampling and weighting ensured that the sample was fully representative of the Australian population. Approximately, 11,900 women and 4,600 men, in both metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas, were interviewed to provide reliable estimates for females in the larger States and Territories and primarily national estimates for males.

To achieve these design objectives the state and territory sampling fractions were set as shown in the following table, which also depicts the corresponding expected number of fully responding households. The sample selection procedures described below result in every dwelling in the same state or territory having a known probability of selection, equal to the state or territory sample fraction.

### STATE AND TERRITORY SAMPLING FRACTIONS

Observations	State or Territory	Sampling fraction	<i>Expected fully responding households</i>
1	Australia	*	17 760
2	NSW	1/390	4 588
3	VIC	1/355	3 847
4	QLD	1/325	3 183
5	SA	1/230	1 996
6	WA	1/245	2 200
7	TAS	1/140	1 023
8	NT	1/140	258
9	ACT	1/135	665

### Sample Selection

The sample was drawn using multistage area sampling techniques. Each state and territory of Australia was divided into geographic regions and then into smaller areas, known as collection districts (CDs), the basic unit of enumeration in the population census. CDs were divided into strata according to their geographic region (metropolitan and non-metropolitan) and the required number of CDs were randomly selected.

Sample selection differed slightly in metropolitan and non-metropolitan regions. In the metropolitan areas the dwelling sample was selected in three stages:

- a systematic sample of CDs was selected with probability proportional to the number of dwellings in each CD
- each selected CD was divided into groups of dwellings or blocks of similar size, and one block was selected from each CD, with probability proportional to the number of dwellings in the block
- within each selected block a list of all private dwellings was prepared and a systematic random sample of dwellings was selected.

In non-metropolitan areas an extra stage of selection was introduced to optimise the efficiency of the sample. CDs were first formed into groups with about 2 to 5 CDs in each group. Each CD group was coded to the location of the nearest interviewer. A sample of CD groups was then chosen with probability inversely proportional to the distance of the CD group from its assigned interviewer. Dwelling selection then proceeded as described above for the metropolitan areas.

In both metropolitan and non-metropolitan regions, in order to target the differential numbers of male and female sample, selected CDs were assigned a gender. One in-scope person was randomly selected from each dwelling. In a 'female' CD, the person selected to be interviewed was generally a female. The only exemption was where a selected household contained no females in scope (e.g. an all male household, no females aged 18 years and over) in which case an in-scope male was selected for interview. In a 'male' CD, the person selected to be interviewed was generally a male. The only exception to this was where a selected household contained no males in scope (i.e. an all female household, no males aged 18 years and over) in which case an in-scope female was selected for interview.

Dwellings selected in the sample were divided into workloads. Each workload averaged 25 dwellings and was completed over a two week period. Each interviewer was responsible for approximately 5 workloads and the survey was enumerated over a five month period from August to December 2005.

In total, a sample of approximately 26,000 households were selected. The sample was designed to achieve the desired sample of about 16,500 responding households, taking account of an expected rate of sample loss (e.g. vacant dwellings, dwellings under construction etc.) of 13% and non-response of 13%.

### DATA COLLECTION Survey Procedures

While generally the standard ABS approach was followed, as with all surveys, there were also specific field procedures applied reflecting the nature and content of the survey. The aims of these procedures were to ensure a high level of response and to ensure the safety of both respondents and interviewers.

### *Survey Procedures continued*

The ABS considered the best method of advising respondents they had been selected to participate in the survey. It was decided that similar procedures would be adopted to those used in the WSS. Rather than sending an official letter preceding the interview (a Primary Approach Letter), the interviewer would explain the nature of the survey when they arrived at the selected household. Interviewers were given copies of an introductory letter which they could use to provide information about the survey. The letter detailed the official status of the survey, what information would be collected and assured respondents of the confidentiality of data collected. The majority of interviews were conducted face-to-face. However, the option of a telephone interview was offered to respondents who did not wish to proceed with a face-to-face interview, or where the interviewing environment was unsuitable.

Interviews were only conducted with people in private, so other household members were only aware of the general nature of the survey. People selected in the survey were advised that they were not under any obligation to respond.

Special procedures were used to conduct interviews with selected respondents who could not speak English. In other ABS surveys, another household member can generally translate for the selected respondent, or a translator can be used. However, as interviewers for this survey required specialised training and because interviews had to be conducted in private, these methods were considered unsuitable. While it was not possible to provide a trained interviewer for every language spoken, ABS interviewers were available who spoke Arabic, Cantonese, Mandarin, Vietnamese, Croatian, Serbian, Italian and Greek. All interviewers received the full program of PSS training.

Foreign language interviews were conducted by telephone.

When an interviewer went to a household where the selected person did not speak English, they were asked to attempt to identify the language spoken and whether it was one where a foreign language interviewer (FLI) was available. If a FLI was available for the language, they were asked to obtain a phone number for the household, inform them that an interviewer would ring them and send the record back to the office for reallocation.

### *Interviews*

The ABS was particularly concerned not to upset respondents (as people were being asked to recall incidents that may have been traumatic for them), or to further endanger people currently experiencing violence. People were first advised of the general nature of the survey and asked if they wished to proceed with the interview. If so, less sensitive questions were asked first, such as their demographic details and general safety and harassment questions. This allowed people to become comfortable with the method of questioning and also familiarised them with the survey content. At the point in the interview immediately before questions about sexual and physical violence, respondents were advised of the content of the following questions and that they were under no obligation to continue. They were again asked if they were prepared to continue answering the questions. A small proportion of people chose not to proceed.

For people who had experienced incidents of violence, the questions asked during the interview may have caused some emotional distress. With this in mind, the ABS provided a card to each respondent which listed selected service agencies in their state or territory. These included agencies providing sexual assault and domestic violence



### *Interviews continued*

services. This card was offered to all people at the conclusion of an interview, irrespective of whether they had reported an incident of violence.

### *Interviewers*

Interviewers for the survey were chosen from the panel of ABS interviewers used for household surveys, and included some interviewers who had previously worked on the 1996 WSS.

Expert advice, evidence and experience gained from the WSS and findings from the PSS field tests indicated that both men and women are more inclined to communicate sensitive information to a female, than to a male, and feel more comfortable doing so. Based on this, female interviewers from the ABS panel of household survey interviewers were used. Respondents were given the option of a male interviewer upon request.

Wherever possible, senior and more experienced interviewers were recruited to work on the PSS. Interviewers were provided with an information paper which explained the content of the survey and some of the challenges they might encounter. Based on this, interviewers then decided whether they wanted to work on the survey.

### *Training*

Training for interviewers, emphasised understanding of the concepts, definitions and survey procedures, in order to ensure all interviewers used a standard approach.

The training program included sessions to familiarise the interviewers with the Computer Assisted Interview (CAI) instrument, procedural and administrative aspects of the survey, as well as Sensitivity and Awareness Training. The latter session aimed to increase interviewers' awareness of the experience of survivors of violence, and their own response to the topic. It also provided techniques to assist interviewers to deal with difficult or emotional interviews and to react professionally and appropriately to the topics addressed in the survey.

A support network was put in place to provide support, stress management and coping strategies for interviewers while they were working on the survey. The main components of the network were access to counsellors, a contact person in the office, other PSS interviewers and the provision of voluntary emotional debriefing sessions at the end of enumeration. Interviewers were strongly encouraged to use this network.

### *Questionnaire*

A CAI instrument was developed for the 2005 PSS. It contained a household form and a personal questionnaire.

The household form collected, from any responsible adult within the household, basic demographic data, such as sex, age, country of birth and details of the relationship between individuals in the household. The instrument then randomly selected an in-scope person to be interviewed.

The personal questionnaire was designed and thoroughly tested according to standard ABS procedures. Factors taken into consideration included:

- the length and wording of questions
- the suitability of response categories
- the sensitivity of the subjects and issues to be covered
- the ability of people to recall events which occurred in the past
- minimising and simplifying instructions

### *Questionnaire continued*

- the logical sequence of the instrument
- the inclusion of edits
- the length of interviews.

Careful consideration was also given to the structuring of the instrument, so that more sensitive topics were progressively introduced.

The Survey Advisory Group provided input on the content of the survey, as well as in relation to special survey procedures.

Information was recorded by interviewers in a number of different ways.

- *Predetermined response categories.* This approach was used for recording answers where a limited range of responses were expected, or where the focus of interest was on a particular type of group of responses. Response categories were listed in the survey instrument and were expected to cover all given responses.
- *Responses for coding.* This method was used for family, country of birth, education and qualifications and income questions. Responses were recorded by the interviewer and either automatically coded by the instrument or subsequently coded by office staff.
- *Running prompt.* In these questions, predetermined response categories were read out to the respondent one at a time until the respondent indicated agreement to one or more of the categories (as appropriate to the topic) or until all predetermined categories were exhausted
- *Prompt cards.* Printed lists covering the range of possible answers to the question were shown to the respondent who was asked to select the most relevant response. By listing a set of possible responses (either in the form of a prompt card or running prompt question) the prompt served to clarify the question or to present various alternatives, to refresh the respondent's memory and at the same time assist the respondent to select an appropriate response.
- *Open-ended question.* A question was placed at the end of the instrument which allowed respondents to raise issues which had not been covered in the preceding questions. It was not coded in the survey processing.

The CAI instrument offered important advantages over the paper questionnaires used in the past. These included:

- the ability to check the responses entered against previous responses, to reduce data entry errors by interviewers, and to enable seemingly inconsistent responses to be clarified with respondents at the time of the interview. The audit trail recorded in the instrument also provides valuable information about the operation of particular questions, and associated data quality issues
- the ability to carry forward responses to later questions, to assist respondents in answering, and interviewers in recording future questions
- the ability to use complex sequencing to define specific populations for questions, and ensure word substitutes used in the questions were appropriate to each respondent's characteristics and prior responses
- the data are captured electronically at the point of interview, which removes all the added cost, logistical, timing and quality issues around the transport, storage and security of paper forms, and the transcription/data entry of information from forms into a computerised format

### *Questionnaire continued*

- the instrument delivers data in an electronic semi-processed form compatible with ABS data processing facilities; semi-processed in terms of the data validation and some derivations which occur in the instrument itself. While both the input and output data still needed to be separately specified to the processing system, input of the data in this form assists in that specification task and reduces the amount and complexity of some later processing tasks. Electronic delivery of text fields describing education, country of birth etc. facilitated the introduction of auto-coding systems and improved supplementary manual coding and query processes. Provision was made in the CAI instrument to enable interviewers to record comments to help explain/clarify certain responses or provide supplementary information to assist in office coding.

As with all ABS surveys, the questionnaire was tested using experienced ABS interviewers and applying the procedures and methods planned for the final survey. A Pilot Test was conducted in Queensland during November–December 2004. Targeted interviews with known victims of violence were conducted at local crisis support centres as part of the Pilot Test. The main purpose was to ensure that the content of the survey was effectively tested on people who have experienced violence as well as obtaining feedback about their reactions to the Survey's content. A Dress Rehearsal was conducted in NSW during March–April 2005.

The broad aims of the testing program were to assess the suitability of the questions for male respondents, to ascertain respondent reactions to the survey content and understanding of the issues addressed, to determine if the survey instrument design (including response categories) was appropriate, to test operational aspects of the CAI instrument, and to assess the suitability and comprehensiveness of survey procedures and documentation. As a result of the testing, the survey instrument was progressively improved and the methodology and survey procedures refined.

To ensure consistency of approach, interviewers were instructed to ask the interview questions precisely as they appeared in the instrument.

### MEASURES TO MAXIMISE RESPONSE

In an ideal situation interviews would be conducted with all people selected in the sample. The ABS attempts to maximise response, to avoid bias and reduce sampling variability. However, some non-response is unavoidable as people cannot always be contacted, interviews cannot be arranged at mutually convenient times or people refuse to participate. Measures taken to encourage respondent cooperation and maximise response included:

- using female interviewers and offering the respondent the choice of a male interviewer
- offering a telephone interview
- arranging foreign language interviewers
- providing information on the broad purpose of the survey, its official nature, the confidentiality of the information collected and the legal basis for the survey
- interviewing the respondent in private
- introducing the survey content progressively, including an explanation of the reasons for asking sensitive questions.

RESPONSE RATE

The PSS was fully completed by approximately 11,900 women and 4,600 men, achieving a response rate of 72% (see table 3.1). Full refusals accounted for 16% of the sample (3,596). A further 9% of the sample (2,061) were either unable to be contacted or unable to be interviewed due to language difficulties, death or illness. These non-respondents did not receive specific information about the content of the survey.

People who did not respond to any questions relating to their experience of violence were treated as a part refusal and were not included in the survey estimates.

In an effort to make contact with people in the household, interviewers called at a number of different times during the day and on different days during the enumeration period. However, no contact was made with people in 1,257 households (6% of the sample).

3.1 RESPONSE RATE

	no.	%
Fully/adequately completed questionnaire	16 430.0	72.2
Refusal		
Full refusal	3 596.0	15.8
Part refusal	664.0	2.9
Total	4 260.0	18.7
Non-contact		
Full non-contact	1 257.0	5.5
Part non-contact	115.0	0.5
Total	1 372.0	6.0
Other non-response(a)	689.0	3.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>22 751.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Includes language difficulties, death or illness.

## CHAPTER 4 DATA PROCESSING

### DATA PROCESSING

Computer-based systems were used to process the data from the survey. Internal system edits were applied in the CAI instrument to ensure the completeness and consistency of the questionnaire. The interviewer could not proceed from one section of the interview to the next until responses had been properly completed.

A number of range and consistency edits were programmed into the CAI collection instrument. Edit messages appeared on screen automatically if the information entered was either outside the permitted range for a particular question, or contradicted information already recorded. These edit queries were resolved on the spot with respondents.

Workloads were electronically loaded on receipt in the ABS office in each state or territory. Checks were made to ensure interviewer workloads were fully accounted for and that questionnaires for each household and respondent were completed. Problems with the questionnaire identified by interviewers were resolved by office staff based, where possible, on other information contained in the questionnaire, or by referring to the comments provided by interviewers.

Further computer-assisted coding was performed on responses to questions on country of birth, family relationships and educational qualifications.

- *Country of birth coding.* The survey questionnaire listed 10 most frequently reported countries: interviewers were instructed to mark the appropriate box, or if the reported country was not among those listed to record the name of the country for subsequent office coding. Text responses were classified to the *Standard Australian Classification of Countries* (cat. no. 1269.0).
- *Coding of language.* The survey questionnaire listed 10 frequently reported languages first spoken at home. Interviewers were instructed to mark the appropriate box, or if the reported language was not among those listed, to record the name of the language for subsequent office coding. Language was coded to the *Australian Standard Classification of Languages* (first edition) (cat. no. 1267.0).
- *Coding of educational qualification.* Level of highest non-school educational qualification and field of study of that qualification were coded to the *Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED)* (cat. no. 1272.0).
- *Family relationships.* Based on household information recorded in the Household Form, all usual residents of each sampled private dwelling were grouped into family units and classified according to their relationship within the family. This information was then transferred to each individual record.

Information from the questionnaires, other than names and addresses, was stored on a computer output file in the form of data items. In some cases, items were formed from answers to individual questions, while in other cases, data items were derived from answers to several questions.

At the completion of each stage of computer processing, frequency counts and cross-tabulations of selected data items were produced and used to check the contents of the data file. Where necessary, any errors detected in the data capture were subsequently corrected, by reference back to the questionnaire.

DATA PROCESSING  
*continued*

Data available from the survey are essentially 'as reported' by respondents. The processing procedures and checks outlined above were designed primarily to minimise errors occurring during processing. In some cases it was possible to correct errors or inconsistencies in the data which was originally recorded through reference to other data in the record; in other cases this was not possible and some errors and inconsistencies remain on the data file.

An 8 level hierarchical data output file was produced as outlined below:

- Person level, which is the main level, containing demographic information about the respondent and partner including income, education, labour force and language information as well as SEIFA, lifestyle and general safety information
- Abuse level, containing information about the respondent's experience of physical and or sexual abuse before age 15
- Harassment level, which contains information about the respondent's experience of for example unwanted touching by a male and or female perpetrator
- Partner level, which contains detailed information about current or previous partner violence experienced by the respondent
- Two stalking levels, one which contains summary information about a respondent's most recent experience of stalking and a perpetrator level which contains detailed information about a respondent's experience of stalking by a male and or female perpetrator
- Two violence levels, one which contains summary information about a respondent's most recent experience of violence (threatened physical assault, physical assault, threatened sexual assault or sexual assault) and a perpetrator level which contains detailed information about a respondent's experience of violence by a male or female perpetrator.

A hierarchical file is an efficient means of storing and retrieving information which describes one to many, or many to many, relationships. For example a person may have experienced sexual assault by a male and physical threat by a female perpetrator and have taken out a restraining order in relation to one incident but not the other. In this circumstance different record levels are used to record the details related to the incidents.

WEIGHTING AND  
ESTIMATION PROCEDURES

Weighting is a process of adjusting results from a sample survey to infer results for the total population. To do this, a weight is allocated to each sample unit. The weight is a value which indicates how many population units are represented by the sample unit.

The first step in calculating weights for each person was to determine an initial household weight, equal to the inverse of the probability of the household being selected in the survey. For example, if the probability of a household being selected in the survey was 1 in 600, then the household would have an initial weight of 600 (that is, they represent 600 others). An adjustment was then made to the household weights for household composition. Initial person weights were derived from the adjusted household weights according to the number of in-scope males or females in the household.

WEIGHTING AND  
ESTIMATION PROCEDURES  
*continued*

The person weights were then calibrated to align with independent estimates of the population of interest, referred to as 'benchmarks', in designated categories of sex by age by area of usual residence categories. Weights calibrated against population benchmarks help to compensate for over or under-enumeration of particular categories of persons and ensure that the survey estimates conform to the independently estimated distribution of the population by age, sex and area of usual residence, rather than to the distribution within the sample itself.

Estimates obtained from the survey were derived using a complex ratio estimation procedure. This procedure ensures that survey estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of the total population by age and area (rather than to the age-area distribution within the sample itself). The survey was conducted during August to December 2005, and estimates were made to conform to the population distribution during that period.

## CHAPTER 5 DATA QUALITY

### DATA QUALITY

Although care was taken to ensure that the results of the 2005 PSS are as accurate as possible, there are certain factors which affect the reliability of the results to some extent and for which no adequate adjustments can be made. One such factor is known as sampling variability. Other factors are collectively referred to as non-sampling errors. These factors, which are discussed below, should be kept in mind in interpreting results of the survey.

#### *Sampling variability*

Since the estimates are based on information obtained from a sample of the population, they are subject to sampling variability (or sampling error), i.e. they may differ from the figures that would have been obtained from an enumeration of the entire population, using the same questionnaires and procedures. The magnitude of the sampling error associated with a sample estimate depends on the following factors:

- sample design - there are many different methods which could have been used to obtain a sample from which to collect data on incidence of violence. The final design attempted to make survey results as accurate as possible within cost and operational constraints. (Details of sample design are contained in Chapter 3)
- sample size - the larger the sample on which the estimate is based, the smaller the associated sampling error
- population variability - the third factor which influences sampling error is the extent to which people differ on the particular characteristic being measured. This is referred to as the population variability for that characteristic. The smaller the population variability of a particular characteristic, the more likely it is that the population will be well represented by the sample, and therefore the smaller the sampling error. Conversely, the more variable the characteristic, the greater the sampling error.

#### *Measure of sampling variability*

One measure of sampling variability is the standard error (SE). There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors. The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percentage of the estimate to which it relates.

Very small estimates may be subject to such high relative standard errors as to detract seriously from their value for most reasonable purposes. Only estimates with relative standard errors less than 25% are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes. However, estimates with relative standard errors of 25% or more are included in ABS publications of results from this survey: estimates with an RSE of 25% to 50% are preceded by the symbol \* as a caution to indicate that they are subject to high relative standard errors, while estimates with an RSE greater than 50% are preceded by the symbol \*\* to indicate the estimate is too unreliable for general use.

Standard errors on estimates from this survey are available in two forms: modelled and actual. Both are obtained through a methodology known as replicate weighting. This methodology involves taking a number of different sub-samples of survey records and re-weighting them to population benchmark totals. The standard errors are compiled based on the differences between the re-weighted estimates and the original estimate.



*Measure of sampling variability continued*

This method enables the calculation of an actual standard error on every estimate produced from a survey. However for some purposes, such as publications, it is impractical to show the standard error for every estimate. An alternative is to model the actual standard errors to ensure a suitable fit for a range of different variables available from the survey. A table of 'indicative' standard errors can then be compiled showing the standard error of an estimate of a particular size, irrespective of the item to which the estimate relates. This table therefore provides a useful quick guide to the approximate level of sampling error on any survey estimate. The table of modelled standard errors from the 2005 PSS is contained in the Technical Notes (Standard Errors on Survey Estimates) (p.50).

*Significance testing on differences between survey estimates*

For comparing estimates between surveys or between populations within a survey it is useful to determine whether apparent differences are 'real' differences between the corresponding population characteristics or simply the product of differences between the survey samples. One way to examine this is to determine whether the difference between the estimates is statistically significant. This is done by calculating the standard error of the difference between two estimates (x and y) and using that to calculate the test statistic using the formula below:

$$\frac{[x-y]}{SE(x-y)}$$

If the value of the test statistic is greater than 1.96 then we may say there is good evidence of a real difference in the two populations with respect to that characteristic. Otherwise, it cannot be stated with confidence that there is a real difference between the populations.

*Non-sampling errors*

Errors made in giving and recording information during an interview can occur regardless of whether the estimates are derived from a sample or from a complete enumeration. These response errors are referred to as non-sampling errors. Other sources of non-sampling error include: non-response bias; errors related to scope and coverage; and errors in processing.

*Errors related to Survey Scope*

Some dwellings may have been inadvertently included or excluded due to inaccuracies in the lists of dwellings in the selected areas. In addition, some people may have been inadvertently included or excluded, due to difficulties in applying the scope rules for household visitors or people over 18 years. However, since the ABS has gained considerable experience in these procedures over many years, any resultant errors are considered to be minimal.

*Response errors*

Response errors may arise through ambiguous or misleading questions, or inadequate or inconsistent definitions of terms used. Thorough testing of the CAI instrument aimed to minimise problems associated with sequencing of questions, content and order of the questions. During testing, particular attention was given to the wording of questions and respondent interpretation of them, as well as to the interviewer instructions which support the CAI instrument, to ensure that information collected fitted within the relevant definitions.

### *Response errors continued*

While the CAI instrument was improved and streamlined through testing, the type and amount of data required from the survey, resulted in a complex questionnaire. In some cases, such as when a person had experienced incidents of violence by a number of different perpetrators, errors may have resulted from the interviewer and/or the respondent.

In any survey, inaccurate reporting may occur due to respondents misunderstanding the questions or answering incorrectly to protect their personal integrity, their personal safety or to protect somebody else. For example, some people may not have reported incidents they experienced, particularly if the perpetrator was somebody close to them, such as a partner or family member. However, conducting the interviews alone with people was a procedure used to minimise this effect.

### *Recall*

People were asked to report incidents of physical and sexual violence experienced since the age of 15, the perpetrators of the incidents and when the most recent incident by each type of perpetrator occurred. When the most recent incident(s) occurred was coded by the interviewer to one of seven time periods with the most recent being during the last 12 months. For people whose most recent experience of violence occurred more than 20 years ago, detailed information about the most recent incident was not collected due to the possibility of recall errors.

Recall errors may arise in a number of ways. People may forget to report incidents that occurred in the past, or they may report incidents as occurring in a more recent time period. It is also possible that people who experienced more than one incident may have focused on the incident they perceived to be the most serious and subsequently provided details about that incident. Recall errors are likely to be greater for information collected about incidents that occurred a long time ago. It is for this reason that estimates relating to experiences of violence during the previous 12 month period will be more reliable than estimates relating to other time periods.

Some insight into the effect of recall can be gained from the survey results. It could be expected that older people would be more likely than younger people to have experienced an incident of violence at some time since the age of 15. However, the proportion of women aged 55 and over who reported an incident of violence since the age of 15 (9%) was less than the proportion of women aged 18-24 (26%).

There are a number of possible explanations for this difference. As most incidents of violence reported in the survey had occurred when people were young, older people may have underreported their experience of violence when they were young. It is also possible that older people may have recalled incidents but not considered them sufficiently serious to report in the survey, particularly if an incident only occurred once. Changes in community attitudes about what is acceptable behaviour may have made it difficult for older people to decide which incidents were serious enough to report. Younger people may have had less difficulty in this regard.

### *Non-response bias*

Non-response can introduce errors into the results, as non-respondents may have different characteristics and experiences of violence from those people who responded.

*Non-response bias  
continued*

The magnitude of the bias depends on the extent of the differences, the level of non-response and the extent to which non-response adjustments can be made during estimation through the use of benchmarks.

As it is not possible to quantify differences between respondents and non-respondents in any survey, every effort is made to reduce the level of non-response and for this survey, additional measures were taken (see p.12).

Non-response bias may be redressed to an extent by calibration to benchmark totals. The 2005 PSS was calibrated to two sets of benchmarks: (i) estimated household composition totals and (ii) State, part of state, age group and sex totals.

Under or over-representation of persons and households in these benchmark groups were adjusted for, helping to compensate for any differential response patterns that may also be associated with these groups.

*Processing errors*

Opportunities exist for errors to arise during the processing of data. Again, due to long-standing and proven data processing practices the ABS does not believe that there are any significant processing errors in the data.

Errors may also occur when computer editing programs fail to detect errors; and when data is coded and transferred at various stages of computer processing.

In order to minimise these errors, computer edits were devised to ensure that logical sequences were followed in the CAI instrument, that necessary items were present and that specific values lay between certain ranges. These edits were designed to detect reporting or recording errors, and incorrect relationships between data items or missing data items.

Tabulations were obtained from the data file at various stages during processing (such as, after computer editing and subsequent amendments, weighting of the file and after derivation of new data items) to help identify possible errors.

COMPARABILITY BETWEEN  
PSS AND OTHER DATA  
SOURCES

The 2005 PSS expands on the 1996 WSS by broadening the scope of the survey to include men. It enables analysis of the relative changes in women's personal safety over time, based on the comprehensive national benchmark provided by the WSS.

The ABS publishes data relating to crime and safety from different sources. Comparisons of PSS 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. Other main differences which may affect the comparability of data presented in this publication are outlined below.

In addition to the 2005 PSS, crime victimisation indicators have recently been collected by the ABS through the 2005 National Crime and Safety Survey (NCSS) and the 2002 General Safety Survey (GSS). All three are household surveys using different methodologies and procedures resulting in different measures of crime victimisation. The following table summarises assault prevalence from these three surveys.

## CHAPTER 5 DATA QUALITY *continued*

COMPARABILITY BETWEEN  
PSS AND OTHER DATA  
SOURCES *continued*

ASSAULT PREVELANCE RATES, PERSONS 18 YEARS AND OVER

	PHYSICAL ASSAULT			PHYSICAL VIOLENCE		
	2005 PSS	2005 NCSS	2002 GSS(a)	2005 PSS	2005 NCSS	2002 GSS
	'000					
Males	485.4	128.8	na	779.8	363.6	783.8
Females	242.0	115.0	na	363.0	309.8	528.5
Persons	727.4	243.8	na	1 142.8	673.4	1 312.3
	%					
Males	6.5	1.7	na	10.4	4.9	10.9
Females	3.1	1.5	na	4.7	4.0	7.2
Persons	4.8	1.6	na	7.5	4.4	9.0

(a) na not available

The above table indicates that prevalence of assault and violence victimisation ranges from 4.4% in the 2005 NCSS to 9.0% in the 2002 GSS. Quantifying the reasons for these differences is not possible. However, much of the differences are attributable to methodological and procedural factors, context effects (preceding questions influence responses to subsequent questions) and question wording. For example, the 2005 PSS asked about the most recent incident of sexual assault and sexual threat and then respondents were instructed to exclude any incidents they had already reported when reporting any incidents of physical assault and physical threat, whereas the GSS only asked about physical assaults and threats. It is possible an incident that may have been reported as sexual assault in the PSS would have been included as a physical assault in the GSS.

The PSS is a purpose built survey designed to collect potentially sensitive information on feelings of safety and assault victimisation. The survey involved face to face personal interviews using Computer Assisted Interviewing (CAI) incorporating special procedures that:

- built a rapport with respondents and encouraged them to provide answers to often difficult and very personal questions
- emphasised the need for a safe environment in which to conduct the interview, and
- enabled concepts and definitions to be explained to the respondent as necessary.

The NCSS is conducted as a supplement to the ABS Labour Force Survey (LFS) and uses a self-administered questionnaire. The survey collects information from household members 15 years and over on a range of personal and property related crimes, such as household break-in, attempted break-ins and motor vehicle theft, and person robberies, assaults and sexual assaults (for persons aged 18 years and over) in the 12 months prior to the survey. The survey measures the incidence of force and violence and the respondent is required to make judgements about the definition of these terms.

The GSS involved a face to face personal interview using CAI. Being a general survey of social issues the collection of crime and safety data was only one part of the survey.

## CHAPTER 5 DATA QUALITY *continued*

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COMPARABILITY BETWEEN  
PSS AND OTHER DATA  
SOURCES *continued*

Further information on crime data measurement issues is available in the following:  
*Information paper: Measuring Crime Victimisation, Australia - The Impact of Different  
Collection Methodologies, 2002* (cat no 4522.0.55.001).

## CHAPTER 6 DATA OUTPUT AND DISSEMINATION

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### DATA AVAILABILITY

Results from the 2005 PSS are available in the form of:

- an electronic publication available free of charge on the ABS website;
- tables produced on request to meet specific information requirements from the survey; and
- an expanded Confidential Unit Record File (CURF) available via the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL).

This section outlines the products and services currently available and those expected to be available over the coming months.

### PUBLICATION

The summary publication, *Personal Safety Survey, Australia 2005* (4906.0) can be ordered at a cost of \$41.00 from ABS bookshops or can be downloaded from the ABS website free of charge.

This publication contains summary data on personal safety issues such as people's fears for their personal safety; people's experiences of sexual and physical assault; people's experience of partner violence; people's experiences of stalking; experience of emotional abuse; experience of child abuse; socio-demographic information; actions people took after these experiences (such as contacting police or victim support services); and effects on people of incidents of violence. Data are classified by demographic characteristics. The publication includes some state and territory data and some comparisons with the *1996 Women's Safety Survey* (cat. no. 4128.0).

### ACCESS TO MICRO DATA

The ABS is required by legislation not to release information in a manner that is likely to enable the identification of a particular person or organisation. To meet this requirement in releasing micro data, the ABS aims to protect against two main types of risk; spontaneous recognition and matching against other data sources. In order to ensure the confidentiality of respondents the ABS usually removes some items from the micro data it makes available, and reduces the level of detail shown for some other items. However in this process the ABS is conscious of the need to find an appropriate balance between ensuring confidentiality while maximising the usefulness of the data set to users of the data.

In the past, the ABS released confidentialised data files on floppy disk or CD ROM. To better meet needs for access to micro data, in 2003 the ABS introduced a new facility whereby approved users of the data were granted remote access to confidentialised data files which were retained in the ABS; this facility is called the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL). This enables greater security around access to, and use of the file, and by effectively removing the risk of matching to other data sources, RADL enables more detailed information to be made available to users than could be released on CD ROM.

An expanded confidentialised unit record file will be released from the 2005 PSS through RADL. It is expected that this data file will be available from September 2006.

Release of all confidentialised unit record information is subject to the approval of the Australian Statistician, and is contingent upon users of the file agreeing in writing to abide by the legislative restrictions on use and such other conditions of sale as may be determined by the Australian Statistician. These include use of the data for statistical purposes only, not attempting to identify particular persons or organisations and not

## CHAPTER 6 DATA OUTPUT AND DISSEMINATION *continued*

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ACCESS TO MICRO DATA <i>continued</i>	attempting to match the information with any other unit level list of persons or organisations. Full details of the conditions of sale and use, together with application and undertaking forms are available from the ABS Web site.
SPECIAL DATA SERVICES	Special tabulations to suit individual user requirements, can be provided subject to confidentiality and sampling variability constraints. Tabulations can be produced from the survey incorporating data items and populations selected to meet individual requirements. A cost is associated with the production of these tables. For further information please contact the National Centre for Crime and Justice Statistics (NCCJS) on (03) 9615 7374.
RELATED PUBLICATIONS	<p>Listed below is a selection of other ABS publications on related topics which may be of interest. Information about current ABS publications and products can be found in the <i>Catalogue of Publications</i> (cat. no. 1101.0), or on-line at <a href="http://www.abs.gov.au">www.abs.gov.au</a>.</p> <p><i>Crime and Safety, Australia, 2005</i> (cat. no. 4509.0)</p> <p><i>General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia, 2002</i> (cat. no. 4159.0)</p> <p><i>Information Paper: Measuring Crime Victimisation, Australia: The impact of different collection methodologies, 2002</i> (cat. no. 4522.0.55.001)</p> <p><i>Information paper: National Information Development Plan for Crime and Justice Statistics, 2005</i> (cat. no. 4520.0)</p> <p><i>Recorded Crime—Victims, Australia, 2004</i> (cat. no. 4510.0)</p> <p><i>Sexual Assault in Australia: A Statistical Overview, 2004</i> (cat. no. 4523.0)</p> <p><i>Women's Safety, Australia, 1996</i> (cat. no. 4128.0)</p>

## APPENDIX 1 DATA ITEMS LIST

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### HOUSEHOLD

- 1 State or territory of usual residence
  - New South Wales
  - Victoria
  - Queensland
  - South Australia
  - Western Australia
  - Tasmania
  - Northern Territory
  - Australian Capital Territory
- 2 Capital city/balance of state
  - Capital city
  - Balance of State
- 3 SEIFA index of advantage/disadvantage – single values
  - Continuous
- 4 SEIFA index of advantage/disadvantage – quintiles
  - Lowest quintile
  - Second quintile
  - Third quintile
  - Fourth quintile
  - Highest quintile
  - Not stated
  - Not known
- 5 SEIFA index of advantage/disadvantage – deciles
  - First decile
  - Second decile
  - Third decile
  - Fourth decile
  - Fifth decile
  - Sixth decile
  - Seventh decile
  - Eighth decile
  - Ninth decile
  - Tenth decile
  - Not stated
  - Not known
- 6 ARIA 2001 remoteness area
  - Major urban
  - Inner regional
  - Outer regional
  - Remote
  - Very remote
  - Migratory and offshore



## APPENDIX 1 DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

### HOUSEHOLD *continued*

- 7 Family composition of household
  - Couple family with dependent children only
  - Couple family with dependent children and other persons
  - One parent family with dependent children only
  - One parent family with dependent children and other persons
  - Couple only
  - Other one family households
  - Multiple family household with dependent children
  - Multiple family household with no dependent children
  - Lone person household
  - Group household
- 8 Household income – main source
  - Employee cash income
  - Unincorporated business cash income
  - Government cash pensions and allowances
  - Other cash income
  - None of these
  - Don't know
  - Refusal
- 9 Gross weekly household income – single values
  - Continuous
- 10 Gross weekly household income – quintiles
  - Lowest quintile
  - Second quintile
  - Third quintile
  - Fourth quintile
  - Highest quintile
  - Not stated
  - Not known
- 11 Gross weekly household income – deciles
  - Lowest decile
  - Second decile
  - Third decile
  - Fourth decile
  - Fifth decile
  - Sixth decile
  - Seventh decile
  - Eighth decile
  - Ninth decile
  - Highest decile
  - Not stated
  - Not known
- 12 Ability to raise emergency money
  - Could raise \$2000 within a week
  - Could not raise \$2000 within a week
  - Don't know
  - Refused to answer

## APPENDIX 1 DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

### HOUSEHOLD

*continued*

- 13 Cash flow problems in the last 12 months
  - Could not pay electricity, gas or telephone bills on time
  - Could not pay mortgage or rent payments on time
  - Could not pay for car registration or insurance on time
  - Could not make minimum payment on credit card
  - Pawned or sold something because you needed cash
  - Went without meals
  - Were unable to heat your home
  - Sought financial assistance from friends or family
  - Sought assistance from welfare or community organisations
  - No/none of these
  - Don't know
  - Refused to answer

### PERSON

- 14 Age – single years
  - Continuous
- 15 Age – 10 year groups
  - Not applicable
  - Aged 18 to 24 years
  - Aged 25 to 34 years
  - Aged 35 to 44 years
  - Aged 45 to 54 years
  - Aged 55 to 64 years
  - Aged 65 or more years
- 16 Sex
  - Male
  - Female
- 17 Registered marital status
  - Never married
  - Widowed
  - Divorced
  - Separated
  - Married
- 18 Social marital status
  - Married in a registered marriage
  - Married in a defacto marriage
  - Not married
- 19 Year of arrival – single years
  - Continuous
- 20 Year of arrival – 5 year groups
  - Born in Australia
  - Arrived 1985 and before
  - Arrived 1986 to 1990
  - Arrived 1991 to 1995
  - Arrived 1996 to 2000
  - Arrived 2001 to 2005
  - Not stated

## APPENDIX 1 DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

### PERSON

*continued*

- 21 Year of arrival – 10 year groups
  - Born in Australia
  - Arrived 1985 and before
  - Arrived 1986 to 1995
  - Arrived 1996 to 2005
  - Not stated
- 22 Proficiency in spoken English
  - Speaks English Very well
  - Speaks English Well
  - Speaks English Not well
  - Speaks English Not at all
- 23 Labour force status
  - Employed
  - Unemployed
  - Not in the labour force
  - Don't know
  - Refused to answer
- 24 Full-time or part-time status
  - Employed working full-time
  - Employed working part-time
  - Unemployed
  - Not in the labour force
  - Don't know
  - Refused to answer
- 25 Hours usually worked in all jobs – single values
  - Continuous
- 26 Hours usually worked in all jobs - ranged
  - Less than 1 hour/no hours
  - 1 – 15 hours
  - 16 – 24 hours
  - 25 – 34 hours
  - 35 – 39 hours
  - 40 hours
  - 41 – 48 hours
  - 49 hours and over
  - Don't know
  - Refused to answer
- 27 Duration of unemployment
  - Under 2 weeks
  - 2 weeks and under 4 weeks
  - 4 weeks and under 8 weeks
  - 8 weeks and under 13 weeks
  - 13 weeks and under 26 weeks
  - 26 weeks and under 52 weeks
  - 52 weeks and under 104 weeks
  - 104 weeks and over
  - Don't know
  - Refused to answer

## APPENDIX 1 DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

### PERSON

*continued*

- 28 Duration since last worked
  - Under 2 weeks
  - 2 weeks and under 4 weeks
  - 4 weeks and under 8 weeks
  - 8 weeks and under 13 weeks
  - 13 weeks and under 26 weeks
  - 26 weeks and under 52 weeks
  - 52 weeks and under 104 weeks
  - 104 weeks and over
  - Don't know
  - Refused to answer
- 29 Gross weekly income of respondent/partner/couple – single values
  - Continuous
- 30 Gross weekly income of respondent/partner/couple – quintiles
  - Lowest quintile
  - Second quintile
  - Third quintile
  - Fourth quintile
  - Highest quintile
  - Not stated
  - Not known
- 31 Gross weekly income of respondent/partner/couple – deciles
  - Lowest decile
  - Second decile
  - Third decile
  - Fourth decile
  - Fifth decile
  - Sixth decile
  - Seventh decile
  - Eighth decile
  - Ninth decile
  - Highest decile
  - Not stated
  - Not known
- 32 Highest year of school completed – respondent/partner
  - Year 12 or equivalent
  - Year 11 or equivalent
  - Year 10 or equivalent
  - Year 9 or equivalent
  - Year 8 or below
  - Never attended school
  - Don't know
  - Refusal
- 33 Highest non-school qualification for respondent/partner – year
  - No non-school qualification
  - Don't know
  - Refusal
  - Before 1980
  - 1980 to 2005 in single years

## APPENDIX 1 DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

### PERSON

*continued*

- 34 Level of highest attainment – respondent/partner  
Postgraduate Degree  
Graduate Diploma/Graduate Certificate  
Bachelor Degree  
Advanced Diploma/Diploma  
Certificate III/IV  
Certificate I/II  
Certificate not further defined  
Year 12  
Year 11  
Year 10 or below  
Level not determined  
No non–school qualification  
Don't know  
Refusal
- 35 Highest non–school qualification for respondent/partner – level  
Postgraduate Degree  
Graduate Diploma/Graduate Certificate  
Bachelor Degree  
Advanced Diploma/Diploma  
Certificate III/IV  
Certificate I/II  
Certificate not further defined  
No non–school qualification  
Level not determined  
Don't know  
Refusal
- 36 Highest non–school qualification for respondent/partner – field  
Natural and physical sciences  
Information technology  
Engineering and related technologies  
Architecture and building  
Agriculture, environmental and related studies  
Health  
Education  
Management and commerce  
Society and culture  
Creative arts  
Food, hospitality and personal services  
Mixed field programmes  
Field not determined  
Don't know  
Refusal
- 37 Feelings of safety at home alone after dark  
At home and felt unsafe  
Not at home because felt unsafe  
At home and felt safe  
Not at home for other reasons

## APPENDIX 1 DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

### PERSON *continued*

- 38 Feeling safe using public transport alone after dark
  - Used and felt unsafe
  - Did not use because felt unsafe
  - Used and felt safe
  - Did not use for other reasons
- 39 Feeling safe walking in the local area alone after dark
  - Walked and felt unsafe
  - Did not walk because felt unsafe
  - Walked and felt safe
  - Did not walk for other reasons
- 40 Feeling safe waiting for public transport alone after dark
  - Waited and felt unsafe
  - Waited and felt safe
- 41 How often respondent/partner drunk
  - Never drinks
  - Drinks but never gets drunk
  - Gets drunk a couple of times a year
  - Gets drunk a couple of times a month
  - Gets drunk once or twice a week
  - Gets drunk every day or almost every day
  - Don't know
  - Refused to answer

### ABUSE

- 42 Age at first incident of abuse
  - 1 to 14 years old in single years
  - Don't know
- 43 More than one perpetrator first incident of abuse
  - More than one person involved
  - One person involved
- 44 More than one abuse incident experienced
  - Experienced more than once
  - Experienced once only
- 45 Whether abuse was physical or sexual
  - Physical abuse before age 15
  - Sexual abuse before age 15

## APPENDIX 1 DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

### ABUSE

*continued*

- 46 Relationship to perpetrator of first incident of <type of abuse>
- Father
  - Mother
  - Brother
  - Sister
  - Step Father
  - Step Mother
  - Step Brother
  - Step Sister
  - Other male relative
  - Other female relative
  - Family friend
  - Acquaintance/neighbour
  - Doctor
  - Teacher
  - Minister/priest/clergy
  - Stranger
  - Other known person

### HARASSMENT

- 47 Sex of perpetrator
- Male
  - Female
  - Total
- 48 Behaviour of perpetrator
- Obscene phone call
  - Indecent exposure
  - Inappropriate comments
  - Unwanted sexual touching
- 49 Experienced harassment during lifetime
- Experienced in the last 12 months
  - Experienced during lifetime
  - Did not experience

### PARTNER

- 50 More than one incident of abuse by partner
- One incident only
  - More than one incident
- 51 How often incidents of abuse by partner
- Every day
  - Weekly
  - Monthly
  - Less than once per month
- 52 Pregnant at time of abuse by partner
- Violence occurred during pregnancy
  - Violence did not occur during pregnancy
  - Not pregnant during relationship
- 53 Length of relationship before first incident of abuse by partner
- 1 to 11 months in single months
  - 1 to 98 years in single years
- 54 Pregnant at time of first incident of abuse by partner
- Violence occurred for the first time during pregnancy
  - Violence did not occur for the first time during pregnancy
  - Don't know

## APPENDIX 1 DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

### PARTNER *continued*

- 55 Abuse by partner ever seen or heard by children
  - Violence witnessed by children
  - Violence not witnessed by children
  - Do not know if witnessed by children
  - No children in their care during the relationship
- 56 Number of times separated from partner
  - Once only
  - Twice
  - Three times
  - More than three times
  - Don't know
- 57 Violence first occurred during separation from partner
  - Assaulted by partner for the first time while separated
  - Was not assaulted by partner for the first time while separated
- 58 Violence occurred during separation from partner
  - Threatened or tried to assault while separated
  - Did not threaten or try to assault while separated
- 59 Violence increased during separation from partner
  - Threatened or attempted assaults increased while separated
  - Threatened or attempted assaults did not increase while separated
- 60 Reasons for returning to partner
  - Partner promised to stop abuse
  - No money/financial support
  - Nowhere to go
  - Sake of children
  - Shame of divorce
  - Fear of partner
  - Other
- 61 Ever moved away from abusive partner
  - Relocated to a different house or rental property
  - Did not relocate to a different house or rental property
- 62 Ever left assets behind when moved away
  - Left behind property or assets
  - Did not leave behind property or assets
- 63 Restraining order ever issued
  - Restraining/violence order taken out
  - Restraining/violence order not taken out
- 64 Violence continued after restraining order issued
  - Further incidents occurred
  - No further incidents occurred
- 65 How often felt fear in the last 12 months
  - Every day
  - Weekly
  - Monthly
  - Less than once per month
- 66 Whether abuse from current or previous partner
  - Current partner violence
  - Previous partner violence



## APPENDIX 1 DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

### PARTNER *continued*

- 67 Physical assault from current partner – high level  
Beat you  
Choke you  
Stab you with a knife  
Shoot you with a gun  
Any other type of physical assault  
None of these
- 68 Physical assault from current partner – low level  
Throw anything at you that could hurt you  
Push, grab or shove you  
Slap you  
Kick, bite or hit you with a fist  
Hit you with something else that could hurt you  
None of these
- 69 Physical threat from current partner – high level  
Threatened or tried to hit with a fist or anything else that could hurt  
Threatened or tried to stab with a knife  
Threatened or tried to shoot with a gun  
Threatened or tried to physically hurt in any other way  
Not applicable
- 70 Ever wanted to separate from current partner  
Wanted to leave current partner  
Did not want to leave current partner
- 71 Main reason wanted to separate from current partner  
Because of partner's assaults, abuse or threats to respondent/children  
Concern for children's safety  
Concern for own safety  
Other
- 72 Main reason for most recent separation from current partner  
Because of partner's assaults, abuse or threats to respondent/children  
Better life for children  
Court ordered partner away  
Partner initiated separation  
Respondent found someone else  
Other
- 73 Main reason unable to separate from current partner  
No money/financial support  
Nowhere to go  
Sake of children  
Shame of divorce  
Fear of partner  
Cultural reasons  
Other
- 74 First incident of abuse from previous partner, living with at the time  
Experienced violence while living with previous partner  
Did not experience violence while living with previous partner

## APPENDIX 1 DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

### PARTNER *continued*

- 75 Main reason for final separation from previous partner  
Because of partner's assaults, abuse or threats to respondent/children  
Better life for children  
Court ordered partner away  
Partner initiated separation  
Person found someone else  
Partner died  
Other
- 76 Violence increased after final separation from previous partner  
Violence increased after relationship ended  
Violence did not increase after relationship ended
- 77 How often felt fear since relationship ended  
Often  
Sometimes  
Rarely  
One incident of violence
- 78 Damaged or destruction of property by previous partner  
Damaged or destroyed property  
Did not damage or destroy property
- 79 Type of physical threat or attempt in most recent incident  
Threatened or tried to hit with a fist or anything else that could hurt  
Threatened or tried to stab with a knife  
Threatened or tried to shoot with a gun  
Threatened or tried to physically hurt in any other way
- 80 Type of physical assault in most recent incident  
Throw anything at you that could hurt you  
Push, grab or shove you  
Slap you  
Kick, bite or hit you with a fist  
Hit you with something else that could hurt you  
Beat you  
Choke you  
Stab you with a knife  
Shoot you with a gun  
Any other type of physical assault  
None of these

### STALKING

- 81 Sex of perpetrator  
Male  
Female  
Total
- 82 Types of behaviour by stalking perpetrator  
Loitered or hung around outside home  
Loitered or hung around outside workplace  
Loitered or hung around outside place of leisure or social activities  
Followed  
Watched  
Interfered with or damaged property  
Gave or left offensive or disturbing material where it could be found  
Telephoned, sent mail or contacted electronically with the intent to harm or frighten

## APPENDIX 1 DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

### STALKING *continued*

- 83 Number of stalking perpetrators
- One stalker
  - Two stalkers
  - Three stalkers
  - Four stalkers
  - Five stalkers
- 84 Relationship to perpetrators
- Stranger
  - Boyfriend or Girlfriend or date
  - Current partner
  - Previous partner you were living with at the time
  - Previous partner you were no longer living with at the time
  - Father or Mother
  - Son or Daughter
  - Brother or Sister
  - Other relative or in-law
  - Friend
  - Acquaintance or neighbour
  - Employer or boss or supervisor
  - Co-worker or co-volunteer
  - Counsellor or psychologist or psychiatrist
  - Doctor
  - Teacher
  - Minister or priest or clergy
  - Prison officer
  - Ex-boyfriend or Ex-girlfriend
  - Other
- 85 How long ago stalking began
- Less than 12 months ago
  - 1 year to less than 2 years ago
  - 2 years to less than 3 years ago
  - 3 years to less than 5 years ago
  - 5 years to less than 10 years ago
  - 10 years to less than 20 years ago
  - 20 years ago or more
- 86 Whether stalking stopped
- Stalking has stopped
  - Stalking has not stopped
  - Don't know
- 87 Duration of stalking
- Less than 1 month
  - 1 month to less than 6 months
  - 6 months to less than 1 year
  - 1 year to less than 2 years
  - 2 years to less than 3 years
  - 3 years to less than 5 years
  - 5 years or more

## APPENDIX 1 DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

### STALKING *continued*

- 88 How much time taken off work in last 12 months due to stalking
- Up to 1 day
  - 2 to 5 days
  - 6 days to less than 1 month
  - 1 month to less than 6 months
  - 6 months to less than 12 months
  - 1 year or more
  - Did not take time off
- 89 Changes to routine due to fear of stalking
- Social or leisure activities
  - Work
  - School or studies
  - Household tasks
  - Shopping
  - Child care
  - Voluntary or community work
  - Building or maintaining relationships
  - Eating habits
  - Sleeping habits
  - Home security
  - None of these
- 90 How often felt fear of stalking in the last 12 months
- Every day
  - Weekly
  - Monthly
  - Less than once per month
  - Did not experience anxiety or fear for personal safety in the 12 months after the most recent stalking
- 91 Stalking reported to police
- Police told by respondent
  - Police told by someone else
  - Police not told
- 92 Main reason stalking not reported to police
- Shame/embarrassment
  - Did not want perpetrator arrested
  - Did not regard it as a serious offence
  - Did not think police could do anything
  - Did not think police would do anything
  - Would not be believed
  - Fear of perpetrator
  - Fear of legal processes
  - Cultural reasons
  - Language reasons
  - Did not want to ask for help
  - Felt that they could deal with it themselves
  - Other
  - Do not know
  - Refused to answer

**APPENDIX 1 DATA ITEMS LIST** *continued*

STALKING  
*continued*

- 93 Stalking perceived as crime by police
  - Incident perceived as a crime
  - Incident perceived as wrong but not a crime
  - Incident perceived as something that just happens
  - Don't know/can't remember
  - Refused to answer
- 94 Perpetrator charged by police
  - Perpetrator charged
  - Perpetrator not charged
  - Don't know
- 95 Perpetrator went to court
  - Went to court
  - Did not go to court
  - Don't know
- 96 Perpetrator recency
  - First incident reported
  - Second incident reported
  - Third incident reported
  - Fourth incident reported
  - Fifth incident reported
- 97 Types of stalking by perpetrator
  - Loitered or hung around outside home
  - Loitered or hung around outside workplace
  - Loitered or hung around outside place of leisure or social activities
  - Followed
  - Watched
  - Interfered with or damaged property
  - Gave or left offensive or disturbing material where it could be found
  - Telephoned, sent mail or contacted electronically with the intent to harm or frighten
- 98 Perpetrator followed and watched respondent on same occasion
  - Followed and watched on the same occasion
  - Not followed and watched on the same occasion
- 99 More than one stalking
  - More than one action of stalking by perpetrator
  - One action of stalking by perpetrator
- 100 More than one incident by certain perpetrator type
  - Followed and watched more than once
  - Followed and watched once

VIOLENCE

- 101 Sex of perpetrator in most recent incident
  - Male
  - Female
  - Total
- 102 Violence was physical or sexual in most recent incident
  - Physical violence
  - Sexual violence
  - Total
- 103 Violence was assault or threat in most recent incident
  - Assault
  - Threat
  - Total

## APPENDIX 1 DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

### VIOLENCE

*continued*

- 104 Relationship to perpetrator
- Stranger
  - Boyfriend or Girlfriend or date
  - Current partner
  - Previous partner you were living with at the time
  - Previous partner you were no longer living with at the time
  - Father or Mother
  - Son or Daughter
  - Brother or Sister
  - Other relative or in-law
  - Friend
  - Acquaintance or neighbour
  - Employer or boss or supervisor
  - Co-worker or co-volunteer
  - Counsellor or psychologist or psychiatrist
  - Doctor
  - Teacher
  - Minister or priest or clergy
  - Prison officer
  - Ex-boyfriend or Ex-girlfriend
  - Other
- 105 How long ago was violent incident
- Less than 12 months ago
  - 1 year to less than 2 years ago
  - 2 years to less than 3 years ago
  - 3 years to less than 5 years ago
  - 5 years to less than 10 years ago
  - 10 years to less than 20 years ago
  - 20 years ago or more
- 106 Type of location of violent incident
- At respondent's home
  - At perpetrator's home
  - At another person's home
  - At respondent's workplace
  - At licensed premises
  - In a private vehicle
  - Using public transport
  - Outside
  - In an institution
  - At a sporting venue
  - Other
- 107 More than one violent incident
- One incident only
  - More than one incident
- 108 More than one perpetrator in violent incident
- One
  - Two
  - Three or more

## APPENDIX 1 DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

### VIOLENCE

*continued*

- 109 How much time off work due to violent incident
  - Up to 1 day
  - 2 to 5 days
  - 6 days to less than 1 month
  - 1 month to less than 6 months
  - 6 months to less than 12 months
  - 1 year or more
- 110 Whether saw doctor for an injury resulting from violent incident
  - Doctor consulted
  - Doctor not consulted
- 111 Type of injury received as a result of violent incident
  - Scratches
  - Bruises
  - Cuts
  - Fractured or broken bones
  - Broken teeth
  - Penetrative injury/stab/gun shot
  - Miscarriage (women only)
  - Other
- 112 Changes to routine due to injury and/or fear from violent incident
  - Social or leisure activities
  - Work
  - School or studies
  - Household tasks
  - Shopping
  - Child care
  - Voluntary or community work
  - Building or maintaining relationships
  - Eating habits
  - Sleeping habits
  - Home security
  - None of these
- 113 How often felt fear
  - Every day
  - Weekly
  - Monthly
  - Less than once per month
- 114 Types of emotional abuse
  - Tried to prevent contact with family or friends
  - Tried to prevent use of the telephone or car
  - Tried to prevent knowledge about or access to family money
  - Insulted with the intent to shame, belittle or humiliate
  - Threatened to harm children
  - Threatened to harm other family/friends
  - Damaged or destroyed property
  - Threatened to harm or harmed pets
  - Threatened suicide
  - None of these
- 115 How long ago was abuse
  - Experienced threatened physical assault during last 12 months
  - Did not experience threatened physical assault during last 12 months

## APPENDIX 1 DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

### VIOLENCE *continued*

- 116 Physical assault behaviours
- Throw anything at you that could hurt you
  - Push, grab or shove you
  - Slap you
  - Kick, bite or hit you with a fist
  - Hit you with something else that could hurt you
  - Beat you
  - Choke you
  - Stab you with a knife
  - Shoot you with a gun
  - Any other type of physical assault
  - None of these
- 117 Physical threat behaviours
- Threatened or tried to hit with a fist or anything else that could hurt
  - Threatened or tried to stab with a knife
  - Threatened or tried to shoot with a gun
  - Threatened or tried to physically hurt in any other way
- 118 Whether alcohol or drugs involved
- Respondent had been drinking
  - Respondent had been taking drugs
  - Respondent believed that (additional) alcohol had been added to their drink without their consent
  - Respondent believed that other drugs had been added to their drink without their consent
  - Perpetrator had been drinking
  - Perpetrator had been taking drugs
  - Don't know/Can't remember
  - Refused to answer
- 119 Whether violent incident perceived as a crime by police
- Incident perceived as a crime
  - Incident perceived as wrong but not a crime
  - Incident perceived as something that just happens
  - Don't know/can't remember
  - Refused to answer
- 120 Whether perpetrator charged by police
- Perpetrator charged
  - Perpetrator not charged
  - Don't know
- 121 Whether perpetrator went to court
- Went to court
  - Did not go to court
  - Don't know



## APPENDIX 1 DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

### VIOLENCE *continued*

- 122 Main reason violent incident not reported to police
- Shame/embarrassment
  - Did not want perpetrator arrested
  - Did not regard it as a serious offence
  - Did not think police could do anything
  - Did not think police would do anything
  - Would not be believed
  - Fear of perpetrator
  - Fear of legal processes
  - Cultural reasons
  - Language reasons
  - Did not want to ask for help
  - Felt that they could deal with it themselves
  - Other
  - Do not know
  - Refused to answer
- 123 Professional help sought
- Doctor
  - Counsellor
  - Minister or priest
  - Professional help not sought
- 124 Other people talked to for help
- Family
  - Friend or neighbour
  - Work colleague
  - Anyone else
  - None of the above
- 125 Reasons for not using crisis/financial/legal/other help
- Received help from family or friends
  - Did not know of any services
  - Not serious enough to seek help
  - Shame or embarrassment
  - Did not think they could help
  - Would not be believed
  - Fear of perpetrator
  - Cultural reasons
  - Language reasons
  - Couldn't afford
  - Couldn't get an appointment
  - Couldn't get through or unable to contact service
  - Did not want to ask for help
  - Felt they could deal with it themselves
  - Did not need or want service
  - Other
  - Don't know

## APPENDIX 1 DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

### VIOLENCE

*continued*

- 126 Changes to routine from fear of violence
  - Social or leisure activities
  - Work
  - School or studies
  - Household tasks
  - Shopping
  - Child care
  - Voluntary or community work
  - Building or maintaining relationships
  - Eating habits
  - Sleeping habits
  - Home security
  - None of these
- 127 Whether police told about the most recent incident
  - Police told by respondent
  - Police told by someone else
  - Police not told
- 128 Still in relationship with fe/male perpetrator
  - Still in the relationship
  - No longer in the relationship
- 129 Used any other victim support service after the most recent incident
  - Crisis help
  - Legal help
  - Financial help
  - Any other support service including a telephone help line
  - Services not used
- 130 Type of perpetrator of violence
  - Stranger
  - Boyfriend/Girlfriend or date
  - Current partner
  - Previous partner
  - Any other known person
  - Total
- 131 Whether violence was physical or sexual
  - Physical violence
  - Sexual violence
  - Total
- 132 Whether violence was assault or threat
  - Assault
  - Threat
  - Total
- 133 Relationship to perpetrator
  - Still in the relationship
  - No longer in the relationship
- 134 More than one perpetrator
  - One incident only
  - More than one incident
- 135 Experienced violence
  - Experienced
  - Did not experience

## APPENDIX 1 DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

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### VIOLENCE *continued*

- 136 How long ago was most recent indecent
- Less than 12 months ago
  - 1 year to less than 2 years ago
  - 2 years to less than 3 years ago
  - 3 years to less than 5 years ago
  - 5 years to less than 10 years ago
  - 10 years to less than 20 years ago
  - 20 years ago or more
- 137 Violence more than one perpetrator
- More than one person involved
  - One person involved
- 138 Knowledge of person who was mainly responsible for incident
- Father/Mother
  - Son/Daughter
  - Brother/Sister
  - Other relative/in-law
  - Friend
  - Acquaintance/neighbour
  - Employer/boss/supervisor
  - Co-worker/Co-volunteer
  - Counsellor/psychologist/psychiatrist
  - Doctor
  - Teacher
  - Minister/priest/clergy
  - Prison officer
  - Ex-boyfriend/Ex-girlfriend
  - Other

## APPENDIX 2 COMPARISONS BETWEEN WSS AND PSS

### CONCEPTUAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN WSS AND PSS

<i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status</i>	Not collected in the PSS.
<i>Age when first incident of abuse occurred</i>	This is a new item in the PSS.
<i>Country of Birth</i>	Referred to as Birthplace in the WSS. The PSS does not collect parent's country of birth.
<i>Change in day-to-day activities</i>	Additional categories added in the PSS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ work,</li> <li>■ school or studies</li> <li>■ building or maintaining relationships, eating habits, sleeping habits</li> <li>■ home security</li> </ul>
<i>Drinking behaviours</i>	New item in the PSS. Refers to respondents perception of 'drunk'.
<i>Effects on life</i>	The WSS collected data on the effects on a person's life as a result of the last incident of physical violence and/or sexual assault during the 12 months after the incident. In the PSS this was split into 2 conceptually different items; the effect the injuries had, and the effect that anxiety or fear had.
<i>Emergency cash</i>	New item in the PSS. This question aims to provide a measure of the economic well-being of households.
<i>Emotional abuse</i>	In the WSS, respondents were asked whether there had been insults with the intent to shame, belittle or humiliate. This included the intentional putting down of the person. Insults that are said in jest or fun were excluded. In the PSS the wording was amended to Insulted you with the intent to shame, belittle or humiliate.  The following 2 categories were included in the PSS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Threatened to harm other family members/friend</li> <li>■ Threatened suicide</li> </ul>
<i>Fear</i>	Wording of questions relating to fear were updated in the PSS and a new question added on how often fear was experienced.
<i>How often violence occurred</i>	New item in the PSS. Categories are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Everyday</li> <li>■ Weekly</li> <li>■ Monthly</li> <li>■ Less than once per month</li> </ul>
<i>Household cash flow problems</i>	New item in the PSS. This question aims to provide a measure of the economic well-being of households.
<i>Involvement of alcohol</i>	In the WSS, for the most recent incident of physical violence and/or sexual assault, it was considered alcohol was involved if the person, the perpetrator or anyone else had been drinking alcohol at the time of the incident. Alcohol was also considered to have been involved if the person believed alcohol contributed to the incident, for example, when the perpetrator was recovering from a hangover. In the PSS the question wording was amended to ask 'Whether alcohol or any other substance contributed to this incident'.  How alcohol and/or drugs contributed was a new item added in the PSS. Response categories are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ I was under the influence of alcohol</li> </ul>

## APPENDIX 2 COMPARISONS BETWEEN WSS AND PSS *continued*

*Involvement of alcohol  
continued*

- I was under the influence of another substance
- I believe that (additional) alcohol had been added to my drink without my consent
- I believe that another substance had been added to my drink without my consent
- the person responsible had been drinking alcohol
- the person responsible had taken another substance

*Income*

In the PSS less detailed information is collected about the sources of income, Income ranges were collected in the WSS. In the PSS respondents recorded used actual dollars amounts.

The PSS does not collect information about main source of income for either the respondent or their partner.

Household income is a new item in the PSS.

*Language first spoken*

New item in the PSS. This item refers to the language that was spoken most often if more than one language was spoken.

*Length of relationship before  
first instance of violence*

New item in the PSS.

*Location*

Where the most recent incident of either physical violence and/or sexual assault occurred. In the WSS this information was not collected if a current or previous partner was the perpetrator in the most recent incident. In the PSS this information is collected for current and/or previous partner.

In the PSS the following new categories have been included:

- at respondents home
- at perpetrators home
- at another persons home
- in an institution
- at a sporting venue

In the WSS, the category 'Outside' included sporting venues, which is categorised separately in the PSS and includes assault that occurred at a sporting venue, playing fields, stadium or sporting grounds.

*Main reason for wanting to  
leave*

Response wording changed has been updated in the PSS.

*Main reason police not told*

In the WSS, if the respondent did not tell police about the last incident of physical violence and/or sexual assault by another person/people they were asked why not. In the PSS 2 new categories were added:

- did not think police would do anything
- did not want to ask for help

Also in the PSS Cultural/language reasons was split into 2 separate response categories:

- cultural reasons
- language reasons

*Number of days off work*

New item in the PSS.

*Number of incidents*

In the WSS this referred to the number of persons who had experienced an incident of violence by male and female perpetrators since the age of 15. It excluded repeat victimisation by a boyfriend/girlfriend/date or person who the respondent knew other than a partner. In the PSS this was not collected.

## APPENDIX 2 COMPARISONS BETWEEN WSS AND PSS *continued*

<i>Number of perpetrators</i>	In the WSS, this referred to the type of perpetrators, male and female, (as defined in relationship to perpetrator) who were violent toward a person in the previous 12 month period. In the PSS, the relevant question asks if there were 1, 2, 3 or more perpetrators involved.
<i>Parents country of birth</i>	Not collected in the PSS.
<i>Physical assault</i>	In the WSS the category 'Other' included burns, scalds, being dragged by the hair. In PSS the wording 'Any other type of physical assault' was included.
<i>Physical attempt or threat</i>	In the WSS, this item included verbal and/or physical intent to inflict physical harm which the person believed was able and likely to be carried out. It excluded incidents which occurred before the age of 15. Various types of physical attempt or threat were identified. In the PSS separate questions were asked for attempt/threat and actual assault.
<i>Proficiency in English</i>	New item in PSS. This is asked only of those respondents who spoke another language other than English at home. It is the respondents perception of how well they speak English.
<i>Reasons services not used</i>	<p>In the WSS, people who did not use any crisis, legal or financial help recorded all the reasons why they did not use them. In the PSS this was split into 4 questions aimed at finding out why they didn't used each specific service, and the same categories were asked about each type of service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Cultural/language reasons. In the WSS this included the inability to communicate well enough in English to use services, and cultural and religious reasons, such as not being able to talk to anyone other than their partner. In the PSS the category was split into Cultural reasons and Language reasons</li> <li>■ Couldn't afford</li> <li>■ Couldn't get an appointment</li> <li>■ Couldn't get through/unable to contact service</li> <li>■ Did not want to ask for help</li> <li>■ Did not need or want service</li> </ul>
<i>Relationship to perpetrator</i>	<p>Friend/neighbour/acquaintance was a single category in WSS, that was split as follows in the PSS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Friend</li> <li>■ Neighbour/acquaintance</li> </ul> <p>Also the response 'Ex-boyfriend/ex-girlfriend,' and 'Prison officer' was added in the PSS.</p>
<i>Relationship to perpetrator of first incident of abuse</i>	New item in the PSS.
<i>Reason for separation</i>	<p>In the WSS one of the response categories was worded 'Because of partner's abuse of, or threats to, respondent or respondent's children.' In the PSS the wording was updated to read 'Because of partner's abuse of or threats to respondent/children'.</p> <p>The response 'Court order him away' was updated in the PSS to 'Court ordered partner away'.</p>
<i>Services used</i>	A new category of 'Any other support service including telephone help line' was added in the PSS.
<i>Stalking</i>	In the PSS the definition of stalking was tightened and the survey now collects up to 5 incidents of stalking and asks a series of questions to determine the most recent incident of stalking. Questions on the actions of stalking were amalgamated and now include actions such as sending SMS messages or via the Internet.

## APPENDIX 2 COMPARISONS BETWEEN WSS AND PSS *continued*

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*Whether current partner  
violent towards others*

This item was added to the PSS with the aim of determining whether the respondents current partner has ever threatened or physically assaulted anyone else outside the household.

*Whether police told*

In the WSS this question asked whether the police were contacted about the most recent incident of physical violence and/or sexual assault. The contact with police may have been by the respondent or another person. In the PSS the question wording has been amended to ask whether the respondent or somebody else told police about the incident.

*Whether stalking perceived as  
a crime*

New item in the PSS.

*Whether violence order taken  
out*

New item in the PSS.

*Whether violence occurred  
after violence order issued*

New item in the PSS.

*Whether more than one  
incident*

New item in the PSS that establishes whether the respondent has been involved in multiple incidents.

*Whether incident perceived as  
a crime*

New item in the PSS that included the following categories:

- respondents regarded the incident as a crime
- respondents regarded the incident as wrong but not a crime
- respondents regarded the incident as something that just happens

# TECHNICAL NOTE STANDARD ERRORS ON SURVEY ESTIMATES

## ESTIMATION PROCEDURES

**1** Estimates obtained from the survey were derived using a complex ratio estimation procedure. This procedure ensures that survey estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of the total female and male population by age and area (rather than to the age-area distribution within the sample itself). The survey was conducted during August to December 2005, and estimates were made to conform to the population distribution during that period.

## RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

**2** Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of persons, they are subject to sampling variability, that is, they may differ from those that would have been produced if all persons had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error (SE), which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of persons was included. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one SE from the number that would have been obtained if all persons had been included, and about 19 chances in 20 that the difference will be less than two SEs. Another measure of the likely difference is the relative standard error (RSE), which is obtained by expressing the SE as a percentage of the estimate.

**3** Space does not allow for the separate indication of the SEs of all estimates in this publication. A table of SEs and RSEs for estimates of numbers of persons appears at the end of these Technical Notes. These figures will not give a precise measure of the SE for a particular estimate but will provide an indication of its magnitude.

**4** The size of the SE increases with the level of the estimate, so that the larger the estimate the larger is the SE. However, the larger the sample estimate the smaller the SE will be in percentage years (that is the RSE). This means larger estimates will be relatively more reliable than smaller estimates. In the tables in this publication, only estimates with RSEs of 25% or less, and percentages based on these estimates, are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes. Estimates with RSEs of 25% to 50% are preceded by an asterisk (e.g. \* 2.4) to indicate they are subject to high SEs and should be used with caution. Estimates with RSEs greater than 50% are preceded with a double asterisk (e.g. \*\*0.1); these estimates are considered too unreliable for general use.

**5** The imprecision due to sampling variability, which is measured by the SE, should not be confused with inaccuracies that may occur because of imperfections in reporting by respondents and recording by interviewers, and errors made in coding and processing data. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as non-sampling error, and they may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or a sample. Every effort is made to reduce non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and efficient operating procedures.

## CALCULATION OF STANDARD ERRORS

**6** An example of the calculation and the use of SEs in relation to estimates of persons is as follows:

**7** From table 3.13 the estimate of the number of women who were married or in a de facto relationship who experienced physical violence by a man during the last 12 months is 151,000. Since the estimate is between 100,000 and 200,000 the standard error for Australia will be between 11,800 and 16,200 ( taken from the standard error column of table A) and can be approximated to 14,000 ( rounded to the nearest 100), Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the value that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey fall in the range of 137,000 to 165,000 and about nineteen chances in twenty that the value will fall within the range of 123,000 to 179,000.

**8** The smaller the estimate the higher is the relative standard error. Very small estimates are thus subject to such high standard errors (relative to the size of the estimate) as to detract seriously from their value for most reasonable uses.



# TECHNICAL NOTE STANDARD ERRORS ON SURVEY ESTIMATES

*continued*

## RATES AND PERCENTAGES

**9** Proportions and percentages formed from the ratio of two estimates are also subject to sampling errors. The size of the error depends on the accuracy of both the numerator and the denominator. A formula to approximate the relative standard error (RSE) of a proportion is given below.

$$RSE\left(\frac{x}{y}\right) = \sqrt{[RSE(x)]^2 + [RSE(y)]^2}$$

**10** Referring back to table 3.13, the 151,000 women who were married or in a de facto relationship who experienced physical violence by a man during the last 12 months represented 3.5% of all women with a partner (4,318,300). The standard error of 4,318,300 is approximately 47,300, so the relative standard error is 1.1%. The relative standard error for 151,000 is 9.3%. Applying the above formula, the relative standard error proportion is  $\sqrt{(9.3)^2 + (1.1)^2}$  or 9.2%, giving a standard error for the proportion (3.5%) of 0.3 percentage points. Therefore, there are about two chances in three that women who had a partner and experienced physical violence by a man during the last 12 months as a proportion of all women with a partner is between 3.2% and 3.8% and nineteen chances in twenty the proportion is within the range 2.9% to 4.1%.

**11** The standard error of an estimated percentage or rate computed by using sample data for both numerator and denominator, depends upon both the size of the numerator and the size of the denominator. However, the relative standard error of the estimated percentage or rate will generally be lower than the relative standard error of the estimate of the numerator.

**12** Approximate standard errors of the rates or percentages may be derived by first obtaining the number of persons corresponding to the numerator of the rate or percentage and then applying this figure to the estimated rate or percentage.

**13** The difference between two survey estimates is itself an estimate and is therefore subject to sampling variability. The standard error of the difference of two survey estimates depends on the standard errors of the original estimates and on the relationship (correlation) between the two original estimates. An approximate standard error (SE) of the difference between two estimated (x-y) may be calculated by the following formula.

$$SE(x-y) = \sqrt{[SE(x)]^2 + [SE(y)]^2}$$

**14** While this formula will only be exact for differences between separate and uncorrelated (unrelated) characteristics or sub-populations, it is expected to provide a good approximation for all differences likely to be of interest.

## SIGNIFICANCE TESTING

**15** Statistical significance testing has been undertaken for the comparison of estimates from the 1996 Women's Safety Survey and the 2005 PSS. The statistical significance test for these comparisons was performed to determine whether it is likely that there is a difference between the corresponding population characteristics. The standard error of the difference between two corresponding estimates (x and y) can be calculated using the formula in the paragraph above. This standard error is used to calculate the following test statistic:

$$\frac{[x-y]}{SE(x-y)}$$

**16** If the value of the test statistic is greater than 1.96 then we may say there is good evidence of a real difference in the two populations with respect to that characteristic. Otherwise, it cannot be stated with confidence that there is a real difference between the populations. Users should take account of RSEs when comparing estimates for different populations.

# TECHNICAL NOTE STANDARD ERRORS ON SURVEY ESTIMATES

*continued*

## SIGNIFICANCE TESTING

*continued*

### A) STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES FOR MEN

.....

	<i>Standard error</i>	<i>Relative standard error</i>
	no.	%
<b>SIZE OF ESTIMATES</b>		
<b>Number of men</b>		
1,500	1 180.0	78.7
2,000	1 450.0	72.5
2,500	1 700.0	68.0
3,000	1 950.0	65.0
3,500	2 150.0	61.4
4,000	2 350.0	58.8
5,000	2 750.0	55.0
7,000	3 450.0	49.3
10,000	4 350.0	43.5
15,000	5 600.0	37.3
20,000	6 650.0	33.3
30,000	8 400.0	28.0
40,000	9 900.0	24.8
50,000	11 150.0	22.3
100,000	16 000.0	16.0
150,000	19 500.0	13.0
200,000	22 300.0	11.2
300,000	26 750.0	8.9
500,000	33 200.0	6.6
1,000,000	43 400.0	4.3
2,000,000	55 200.0	2.8
5,000,000	72 700.0	1.5

.....

### B) STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES FOR WOMEN

.....

	<i>Standard error</i>	<i>Relative standard error</i>
	no.	%
<b>SIZE OF ESTIMATES</b>		
<b>Number of women</b>		
1,500	960.0	64.0
2,000	1 140.0	57.0
2,500	1 300.0	52.0
3,000	1 450.0	48.3
3,500	1 600.0	45.7
4,000	1 750.0	43.8
5,000	2 000.0	40.0
7,000	2 400.0	34.3
10,000	2 950.0	29.5
15,000	3 750.0	25.0
20,000	4 350.0	21.8
30,000	5 450.0	18.2
40,000	6 300.0	15.8
50,000	7 100.0	14.2
100,000	10 050.0	10.1
150,000	12 250.0	8.2
200,000	14 050.0	7.0
300,000	16 900.0	5.6
500,000	21 300.0	4.3
1,000,000	28 650.0	2.9
2,000,000	37 950.0	1.9
5,000,000	53 750.0	1.1

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# TECHNICAL NOTE STANDARD ERRORS ON SURVEY ESTIMATES

*continued*

SIGNIFICANCE TESTING

*continued*

## C) STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES FOR PERSONS

.....

	<i>Standard error</i>	<i>Relative standard error</i>
	no.	%
<b>SIZE OF ESTIMATES</b>		
<b>Number of persons</b>		
1,500	1 050.0	70.0
2,000	1 270.0	63.5
2,500	1 450.0	58.0
3,000	1 650.0	55.0
3,500	1 850.0	52.9
4,000	2 000.0	50.0
5,000	2 300.0	46.0
7,000	2 850.0	40.7
10,000	3 500.0	35.0
15,000	4 450.0	29.7
20,000	5 250.0	26.3
30,000	6 600.0	22.0
40,000	7 700.0	19.3
50,000	8 700.0	17.4
100,000	12 400.0	12.4
150,000	15 150.0	10.1
200,000	17 350.0	8.7
300,000	20 950.0	7.0
500,000	26 300.0	5.3
1,000,000	35 150.0	3.5
2,000,000	46 050.0	2.3
5,000,000	63 900.0	1.3

.....

## GLOSSARY

<b>Abuse when a child</b>	<p>Abuse experienced by a person before the age of 15 from any adult (male or female), including the person's parents. Emotional abuse is excluded.</p> <p><i>Physical abuse.</i> Any deliberate physical injury (including bruises) inflicted by an adult. Discipline that accidentally resulted in an injury is excluded.</p> <p><i>Sexual abuse.</i> Involving a child in sexual activity beyond their understanding or contrary to currently accepted community standards.</p>
<b>Age</b>	<p>Of the person at the time of the survey.</p> <p>Of the respondent when they experienced abuse for the first time.</p>
<b>Anxiety or fear</b>	<p>If a person had experienced any incident of sexual assault, threatened sexual assault, physical assault and/or threatened or attempted physical assault they were asked if they had experienced anxiety or fear in the 12 months after the incident and during the last 12 months. If a person had experienced any incident of violence by a previous partner they were also asked if they had experienced anxiety or fear when they lived with their previous partner. Anxiety or fear for personal safety was also collected in relation to the most recent incident of stalking.</p> <p><i>Anxiety for personal safety.</i> Distress or uneasiness of mind resulting from apprehension of danger or misfortune. The anxiety or worry may be accompanied by restlessness or feeling 'on edge', difficulty concentrating or mind going blank, irritability, muscle tension or sleep disturbance.</p> <p><i>Fear for personal safety.</i> Includes fear of reprisals or the recurrence of a similar incident by either the perpetrator or another person. It excludes fear for the person's children.</p> <p><i>Experienced anxiety or fear when living with previous partner.</i> A broader concept than anxiety or fear for personal safety, incorporating the generalised fear which a person may have experienced as a result of living with the perpetrator of the violence. Includes fear of leaving the house, fear of men and/or women in general and fear for their children's safety.</p>
<b>Assault</b>	<p>An incident, other than a robbery, where the respondent was threatened with force or violence or physically attacked. See Physical assault and Sexual assault.</p>
<b>Children witnessed violence</b>	<p>People who had children in their long-term care reported whether or not these children saw or heard the violence by a current and/or previous partner. The children may have been the person's or their partner's, own children, stepchildren, adopted or foster children. Children of relatives, friends or neighbours who were visiting and saw or heard the violence were excluded.</p>
<b>Country of birth</b>	<p>Classified according to the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC) (cat. no. 1269.0) Main English speaking countries include Canada, Republic of Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, United Kingdom and United States of America.</p>
<b>Doctor consulted</b>	<p>Includes qualified medical practitioners working in private practice, health centres, hospitals, emergency services who the person visited to treat the injuries sustained in the most recent incident of either physical assault and/or sexual assault. Excludes ambulance officers and nurses.</p>
<b>Drunk</b>	<p>There is no consistent or agreed definition of being 'drunk' or 'intoxicated'. These terms are usually taken to refer to an elevated concentration of alcohol in the blood, such that a person cannot function within their normal range of physical and/or cognitive abilities. Based on the person's perception of the term 'drunk'.</p>
<b>During the relationship</b>	<p>Refers to the time that a person lived with their current or previous partner.</p>
<b>During their lifetime</b>	<p>For those who were ever stalked in their lifetime, it is what happened to them in the most recent incident, NOT what has happened to them for every stalking incident.</p>
<b>Educational attainment</b>	<p>The highest level of qualification completed.</p>

## GLOSSARY *continued*

**Effects on life** The effects on a person's life as a result of the most recent incident of sexual assault, threatened sexual assault, physical assault, threatened or attempted physical assault and/or stalking during the 12 months after the incident.

*Whether took time off work.* Time off from paid work or work without pay in a family business. This includes time off work to:

- appear in court
- meet with the police or a lawyer
- to visit the doctor or a counsellor
- because respondent was unable to work because of either physical injuries or emotional distress.

*Change in day-to-day activities.* Includes a change in the usual way of carrying out unpaid work such as:

- shopping
- household tasks
- child care
- voluntary or community work
- social activities because of the injuries they received or as a result of experiencing anxiety or fear for their personal safety.

The change may have been either a reduction or an increase in the amount that the person did, or a change in the way activities were carried out because of injuries or their emotional condition. For example, they were unable to complete any of their normal household duties and arranged for a relative to do them or they were unable to attend their regular leisure activities because the perpetrator would be there.

*Social or leisure activities.* Includes formal and informal social activities e.g. having friends over for dinner, or playing organised sport.

*Work.* Includes paid work, regardless of hours worked. Includes changing hours of work, duties performed, or taking leave. Excludes voluntary work.

*Child care.* Caring for children in own home or another person's home. Excludes employment as a child care worker which is recorded as work.

*Home security.* Includes installing and/or upgrading door or window locks, installation of a security system, improving external lighting (e.g. adding additional external lighting or installing sensor lights), removing bushes or shrubs close to the house to improve visibility, getting a dog and/or having another person move in.

**Emotional abuse** *Manipulation, isolation or intimidation by a current partner.* Includes persistent behaviour that seeks to control the respondent's behaviour and contact with others.

*Tried to prevent contact with family or friends.* Long-term prevention of contact with family, relatives or friends, including those overseas.

*Tried to prevent use of the telephone or family car.* Excludes the occasional situation where a person has not been able to use the car because their partner needs it or not being able to use the telephone because the last bill was too large.

*Tried to prevent knowledge about or access to family money.* The partner controls the household income or assets and does not let the person know about them. For example, the person is only given a certain amount of money each week and does not know how much money comes into the family. Excludes money belonging to the partner's parents or their other family members.

*Insulted with the intent to shame, belittle or humiliate.* Intentional putting down of the person. Insults that are said in jest or fun were excluded.

*Damaged or destroyed property.* Includes if the person's partner stole their property and then sold it.

## GLOSSARY *continued*

- Employed** People who worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job or business, or on a farm. Includes people who were employees, employers or self employed. People who usually worked 35 hours or more in their main job were classified as working full time.
- Frequency of violence** Relates to violence by a current and/or previous partner. If the frequency of violence changed, for example, depending on the time of the year, then the person was asked to determine how often the assaults occurred overall. If a person reported violence by more than one previous partner this relates to the partner who was violent to them in the most recent incident (i.e. the most recently violent previous partner).
- General safety** Relates to people's feelings of safety in various situations when they are alone. If a person had only a young child with them they were treated as being alone.
- Using and waiting for public transport alone after dark.* Includes using and waiting for buses, trains, trams, taxis and ferries.
- Walking alone in the local area after dark.* Includes the person's neighbourhood or suburb. A person who was walking their dog was considered to be alone, unless they were accompanied by another person.
- Harassment** Relates to a range of disturbing situations that a person may have experienced.
- Obscene phone call.* Refers to a telephone call that the receiver felt was indecent or improper due to the sexual content of the message. Includes phone calls in which profanity was used or any other type of obscene message. Includes phone calls involving racial vilification. Excludes SMS or text messages which are regarded as stalking.
- Indecent exposure.* The act of exposing genitals, where the person believed the purpose was to distress, shock, humiliate and/or generate fear.
- Inappropriate comments about body/sex life.* Includes inappropriate comments in a group situation or when alone with a person. Includes comments that related to a person's race, such as implying that people of a particular cultural group have certain sexual characteristics.
- Unwanted sexual touching.* Any intentional touching, grabbing, kissing or fondling which is carried out without a person's consent. It is momentary or brief touching which did not lead to sexual assault. It includes groping or brushing against a person's breast or bottom.
- Incident** An occurrence/reoccurrence or event of violence, abuse or assault that an individual has encountered in their life.
- People were asked about the most recent incident for the various types of violence (sexual assault, threatened sexual assault, physical assault, threatened or attempted physical assault). Where a person was a victim of continuous acts of violence by the same perpetrator (e.g. in a domestic violence situation), they may have considered the continuous acts of violence to be a single incident. In these cases, the person was instructed to think about the most recent act of violence by that perpetrator when answering the questions.
- Income** Sources of income includes;
- Wages or salary.* From all jobs, whether full-time or part-time. Also wages, salaries or fees paid to the owner of a limited liability company.
- Profit or loss.* From own unincorporated business or share in a partnership.
- Any Government pension, benefit or allowance.* Payments made by overseas governments as well as the Australian government.
- Any other regular source.* 'Regular income' is defined as at least one payment a year.
- Income ranges.** Respondent's or partner's gross income, that is, the amount they receive before tax and other expenses are taken out.

## GLOSSARY *continued*

<b>Income ranges. <i>continued</i></b>	<p><i>Main source of income.</i> The person in the household that provides the largest income.</p> <p><i>Household income.</i> This is a total income from all sources for all members of their household aged 15 years or over (e.g. independent children, other relatives or unrelated people living in the household).</p>
<b>Injured</b>	<p>As a result of the most recent incident of physical assault and/or sexual assault. A 'physical injury' includes any type of injury ranging from general stiffness and soreness to bruises, marks of any kind (i.e. cuts, scrapes, fractures, miscarriage, internal injuries or any other kind of injury, such as a chipped tooth, etc.).</p> <p><i>Scratches.</i> May have been caused by fingernails, bushes, or as a result of falling on, or being dragged on, a rough surface such as cement. Includes scrapes and abrasions.</p> <p><i>Bruises.</i> They are external and visible and can range in severity from mild to severe. Includes black eyes, contusions and haematomas.</p> <p><i>Cuts.</i> Include any kind of a cut which is more severe than a scratch, but not as severe as a penetrative injury such as a stab or gun shot wound.</p> <p><i>Fractured or broken bones.</i> Range from hairline fractures to a complete break. Includes cracked ribs and broken noses.</p> <p><i>Broken teeth.</i> Range from a chip to a complete break or loss of teeth.</p> <p><i>Penetrative injury/stab/gun shot.</i> Usually deeper wounds than cuts. Can be due to a bullet or any other sharp instrument (e.g. a knife or stick) which penetrated into deeper tissues.</p> <p><i>Miscarriage.</i> Cases in which a female respondent lost a baby, miscarried, or had a spontaneous abortion as a result of the incident.</p> <p><i>Other injuries.</i> Includes burns, bites, loss of fingers, toes, limbs, eyes or hearing, internal injuries, sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV and hepatitis, and loss of consciousness.</p>
<b>Involvement of alcohol or another substance</b>	<p>In the most recent incident of sexual assault, threatened sexual assault, physical assault and/or threatened or attempted physical assault. Alcohol or another substance was involved if the person or the perpetrator were under the influence of alcohol or another substance at the time of the incident or if the person believed alcohol or another substance contributed to the incident, for example, when the perpetrator was recovering from a hangover or the person believed that their drink had been spiked.</p> <p><i>Another substance.</i> Includes any mood altering substances, whether legal or not, e.g. marijuana, Cocaine, rohypnol or amphetamines.</p>
<b>Language first spoken</b>	<p>If more than one language was spoken, being the most often spoken language within the household.</p>
<b>Left property or assets</b>	<p>When separating from their current or previous partner. Includes furniture, household goods, clothing, car, jewellery, pets, the house (if owned by the person), money (in the bank or cash left in the home), shares, securities, land or share in a business.</p>
<b>Length of relationship before (first) incident by partner</b>	<p>The length of time the person had been in the relationship with their current partner and/or previous partner before the (first) incident. Includes the time that a person lived with a current partner and/or previous partner in a de facto relationship, as well as the period while they were married. If the person had left the relationship and then returned, the sum of the time before and after the separation was included.</p>
<b>Level of highest non-school qualification</b>	<p>The highest level of qualification completed.</p>
<b>Location</b>	<p>Where the most recent incident of sexual assault, threatened sexual assault, physical assault and/or threatened or attempted physical assault occurred. If the incident occurred in a number of places, where the incident initially took place was recorded.</p>

## GLOSSARY *continued*

<b>Location</b> <i>continued</i>	<p><i>In a home.</i> If the incident occurred at the respondent's home and this was the same as the perpetrator's home, it was recorded as occurring at the respondent's home. Includes incidents which occurred just outside of the home (e.g. in the front or backyard).</p> <p><i>At licensed premises.</i> Includes hotels, bars, taverns and licensed restaurants and the areas surrounding these premises such as on the footpath, in a beer garden or carpark of a pub or hotel.</p> <p><i>Using public transport.</i> Includes waiting for, or using any vehicle where a fare is charged such as, buses, trains, trams, coaches, taxis, ships and aircraft.</p> <p><i>Outside.</i> Includes university campuses, streets, sidewalks or footpaths, parks, forests or bushland, rural areas etc.</p> <p><i>In an institution.</i> Includes gaols (jails), mental institutions, nursing homes, hospitals, boarding schools/colleges and orphanages.</p> <p><i>At a sporting venue.</i> Includes playing fields, stadiums, sporting grounds etc.</p>
<b>Main reason police not told</b>	<p>If the person did not tell police about the most recent incident of sexual assault, threatened sexual assault, physical assault, threatened or attempted physical assault and/or stalking, and neither did anyone else, they were asked why they decided not to contact the police.</p> <p><i>Shame or embarrassment.</i> Includes reasons such as did not want to make trouble, that the person considered it to be a family problem, that they were asked not to by someone in the family or that they did not want anybody to know about the incident.</p> <p><i>Cultural reasons.</i> Includes fear of police because of experiences in their country of origin; thinks that police believe violence against women or men is accepted as part of other cultures; belief that the police are racist; not being able to talk to anyone other than their husband or wife; violence is an accepted part of other cultures; and religious reasons.</p> <p><i>Language reasons.</i> Includes could not communicate well enough in English to make complaint known.</p>
<b>Main reason unable to leave current partner</b>	<p>Cultural reasons. Includes unacceptable in person's culture; not being able to talk to anyone other than their husband or wife; violence is an accepted part of other cultures; and religious reasons.</p>
<b>Main reason for wanting to leave</b>	<p>Includes partner's abuse of, or threats to respondent or respondent's children.</p>
<b>Marital status</b>	<p>As reported by the person at the time of the survey.</p> <p><i>Married.</i> Includes people who are married or in a de facto relationship.</p>
<b>Money for something important</b>	<p>The phrase 'something important' was left for the person to interpret. Examples might include to pay for an emergency operation or unexpected bills.</p>
<b>Most recent incident of violence</b>	<p>If the incident occurred 20 years ago or more, information was only collected about relationship to perpetrator. This was the same for stalking which began 20 years ago or more, and had stopped 20 years ago or more.</p>
<b>Most recent incident of violence by previous partner</b>	<p>The previous partner of the person who was responsible for the most recent incident of sexual assault, threatened sexual assault, physical assault and/or threatened or attempted physical assault if the person had experienced violence by different previous partners. This was based on the most recent assault by a previous partner (regardless of whether a threat by a previous partner had occurred since then), unless the person had only experienced threat by a previous partner.</p>
<b>Number of days off work</b>	<p>Refers to the amount of time the respondent needed to take off from paid work, or work without pay in a family business, which was due to the incident.</p>



## GLOSSARY *continued*

<b>Other incidents</b>	Other incidents of sexual assault, threatened sexual assault, physical assault and/or threatened or attempted physical assault if the person has experienced multiple incidents. Excludes other perpetrators involved in the most recent incident.
<b>Partner violence</b>	Any incident of sexual assault, threatened sexual assault, physical assault or threatened or attempted physical assault by a current and/or previous partner.
<b>Perpetrator went to court</b>	As a result of being charged over the most recent incident. Includes family and magistrates court and cases that were still pending.
<b>Physical abuse</b>	Any deliberate physical injury (including bruises) inflicted by an adult. Discipline that accidentally resulted in an injury is excluded.
<b>Physical assault</b>	<p>The use of physical force with the intent to harm or frighten a person. The assault may have occurred in conjunction with a robbery. It includes incidents where a person was assaulted in their line of work (e.g. assaulted while working as a Security Guard). It excludes incidents of sexual assault or threatened sexual assault which also involved physical assault, those which occurred before the age of 15 and those which occurred during the course of play on a sporting field. If a physical assault was preceded by a threat of the same type in the same incident, only the physical assault was recorded. Various types of physical assault were identified, including:</p> <p><i>Pushed, grabbed or shoved.</i> Includes being pushed off a balcony, down stairs, or across the room.</p> <p><i>Slapped.</i> Includes a hit with an open hand. Excludes slaps with a belt or bat, etc.</p> <p><i>Kicked, bitten or bit with a fist.</i> Excludes being hit with an open hand.</p> <p><i>Hit you with something else that could hurt you.</i> Includes being hit with a bat, hammer, belt, pot, ruler, etc. Excludes being punched.</p> <p><i>Beaten.</i> Includes punching, hitting or slapping in a repetitive manner.</p> <p><i>Choked.</i> Includes being choked by hands, a rope, a scarf, a tie or any other item.</p> <p><i>Stabbed.</i> With a knife.</p> <p><i>Shot.</i> With a gun.</p> <p><i>Any other type of physical assault.</i> Includes burns, scalds, being dragged by the hair, being deliberately hit by a vehicle.</p>
<b>Physical violence</b>	Any incident of physical assault, attempt or threat (as defined above). Incidents so defined would be an offence under State and Territory criminal law.
<b>Police action taken</b>	The outcomes for the perpetrator as a result of an incident being reported to police, that is, whether the perpetrator was charged and went to court.
<b>Population</b>	Females and males aged 18 years and over.
<b>Pregnancy during relationship with partner</b>	Includes only women who were assaulted whilst they were pregnant and living with her current/previous partner, even though he was not the biological father. Also, if she was pregnant while living with her current/previous female partner.
<b>Professional help</b>	<p>Advice or support sought from a doctor, counsellor, minister or priest after the most recent incident of sexual assault, threatened sexual assault, physical assault and /or threatened or attempted physical assault. The support may have been in the form of listening to the problem, being understanding, making suggestions, giving information about other appropriate services, and offering further help.</p> <p><i>Doctor.</i> Includes qualified medical practitioners in private practice, health centres, hospitals, emergency services who the person visited for advice or support. Doctors who were visited for the sole purpose of treatment of an injury were excluded. Excludes ambulance officers and nurses.</p>

## GLOSSARY *continued*

<b>Professional help <i>continued</i></b>	<i>Minister or priest.</i> Includes any member of the clergy such as Christian brothers, monks, elders, deacons or rabbi, nuns or any other person who operates in a religious capacity who the person sought advice or support from.
<b>Proficiency in English</b>	This is how non-English speaking background respondents perceive of how well they speak English at home.
<b>Reasons for returning to current partner</b>	<i>Other.</i> Includes love or commitment.
<b>Reasons for separation</b>	The respondent spent at least one night somewhere other than with their current partner. Excludes business trips or holidays.
<b>Reasons services not used</b>	<p>People who did not use or seek help from a particular support provider (crisis, legal, financial or any other support service including a telephone help line) were asked for all the reasons why they did not use it. For example, if a person did not report using crisis help they were asked for their reasons for not using any crisis help.</p> <p><i>Shame or embarrassment.</i> Includes not wanting to cause any trouble, didn't want anyone to know about it, may cause family/business conflict.</p> <p><i>Cultural reasons.</i> Includes not being able to talk to anyone other than their husband or wife, violence is an accepted part of other cultures and religious reasons.</p> <p><i>Language reasons.</i> Includes the inability to communicate well enough in English to use services.</p>
<b>Relationship to perpetrator</b>	<p>The person's relationship to the perpetrator at the time of the incident. If there were multiple perpetrators involved, the person was asked to focus on the person they considered to have been mainly responsible for the incident.</p> <p><i>Stranger.</i> Someone the person did not know, or someone they only knew by hearsay.</p> <p><i>Boyfriend/girlfriend or date.</i> This relationship may have different levels of commitment and involvement, for example, one date only, regular dating with no sexual involvement, or a serious sexual or emotional relationship. Excludes de facto relationships. Does not involve living together.</p> <p><i>Current partner.</i> Includes both married and de facto relationships. If the incident occurred while the person was dating a person who they later married, the perpetrator of the incident would have been described as boyfriend/girlfriend or date.</p> <p><i>Previous partner.</i> Includes both married and de facto relationships. Includes partners at the time of the incident from whom a person is now separated and partners a person was no longer living with at the time of the incident.</p> <p><i>Friend.</i> Is someone one knows, likes and trusts.</p> <p><i>Neighbour/acquaintance.</i> Person who lives or is located near another, and occasionally has a brief conversation.</p> <p><i>Ex-boyfriend/ex-girlfriend.</i> See Other known man/woman.</p> <p><i>Prison Officer.</i> See Other known man/woman.</p> <p><i>Other known man/woman.</i> Any man/woman who does not fit into any of the above categories, for example, family members, doctors or teachers. Includes ex-partner of partner and carers.</p>
<b>Separated from partner</b>	Whether the person stopped then started their relationship with their current or previous partner. The separation must have been for at least one night. Excludes nights spent apart due to holidays or business trips and the final separation from a previous partner.

## GLOSSARY *continued*

<b>Services used</b>	<p>Includes services contacted or visited after the most recent incident of sexual assault, threatened sexual assault, physical assault and/or threatened or attempted physical assault. If a person used more than one source of help offered by an individual service then each relevant category was answered. Excludes doctors, counsellors, ministers or priests.</p> <p><i>Crisis help.</i> Includes shelters, refuges providing accommodation, telephone crisis lines, rape crisis service, etc.</p> <p><i>Legal help.</i> Includes legal aid commissions, community legal centres, Clerks of Court, private solicitors or legal centres which provide specialised services for Indigenous people, women or migrants.</p> <p><i>Financial help.</i> Includes Centrelink and church or community groups that offer financial help, or financial counselling such as The Smith Family.</p> <p>Any other support service including a telephone help line. Captures any other sources of help the person used and covers any non-crisis type help sought. This would, more than likely, be help sought after an incident (as opposed to help sought to cope at the time of the incident). Some examples include Victim Support Service, Victim Support Program, Domestic Violence Helpline and Lifeline.</p>
<b>Sexual abuse</b>	<p>Involving a child in sexual activity beyond their understanding or contrary to currently accepted community standards.</p>
<b>Sexual assault</b>	<p>An act of a sexual nature carried out against a person's will, through the use of physical force, intimidation or coercion. It includes attempts to force a person into sexual activity. However, attempts are not separately identified. It includes rape, attempted rape, aggravated sexual assault (assault with a weapon), indecent assault, penetration by objects and forced sexual activity that did not end in penetration. It excludes unwanted sexual touching and incidents which occurred before the age of 15. Incidents so defined would be an offence under State and Territory criminal law.</p>
<b>Sexual violence</b>	<p>Any incident of sexual assault or threat (as defined above).</p>
<b>Short of money</b>	<p>If in the last 12 months the respondent had been short of money (at least once) where they needed to obtain money from another source, such as, drawing money from their savings, or getting a loan from a financial institution or family/friends. Refers to situations where any of the listed things happened when the household as a whole was short of money. Excludes being short of money because the person wasn't able to get to the bank or forgot.</p>
<b>Since the age of 15</b>	<p>Threat or assault experienced by a person since the age of 15, by any adult (male or female).</p>
<b>Stalking</b>	<p>The definition of stalking is based on State and Territory legislation. It is defined by a range of activities which the person believed were undertaken with the intent to harm or frighten. Activities include: loitering outside a person's home, workplace or place of leisure or social activities; following or watching a person; interfering with their property; giving or leaving offensive material and telephoning; and sending mail or contacting electronically. In order to be classified as stalking more than one type of stalking behaviour had to occur, or the same type of behaviour had to occur on more than one occasion. People who had been stalked by more than one person during their lifetime provided details about the most recent incident of stalking. Includes stalking by partners.</p> <p><i>Given or left offensive material.</i> Includes pornographic material, destroyed photographs, articles about murders, dead animals (if not person's own).</p> <p><i>Telephoned, sent mail or contacted electronically.</i> Includes by SMS messages, emails, or information about the person being placed on a web site.</p>

## GLOSSARY *continued*

<b>Talked to others</b>	Includes family members, friends or neighbours, work colleagues or anybody else. Excludes talking to professionals (e.g. doctor, counsellor, minister or priest) or contacting services (e.g. crisis, legal, financial, any other support service including a telephone help line).
<b>Threatened or physically assaulted anyone else outside the household</b>	The act of threat or physical violence against other people. For example, the person's partner might have threatened or assaulted a work colleague, someone at a party or pub, or another person due to road rage. Excludes threatened or physical assault against members of the household.
<b>Threatened Physical Assault</b>	<p>Verbal and/or physical intent or suggestion of intent to inflict physical harm, which the person believed was able and likely to be carried out.</p> <p>The threats must have been made face-to-face. It includes incidents where a person was assaulted in their line of work (e.g. assaulted while working as a Security Guard). It excludes any act of violence which was actually carried out, incidents of sexual assault, threatened sexual assault or physical assault which also involved threatened or attempted physical assault, those which occurred before the age of 15, and those which occurred during the course of play on a sporting field.</p> <p>Various types of physical attempt or threat were identified, including:</p> <p><i>Threaten or attempt to hit with a fist or anything else that could hurt.</i> Includes threats or attempts to slap, punch, spank or hit in any way with a fist or weapon such as a bat, hammer or pot. It excludes where the person was threatened with a knife or gun.</p> <p><i>Threaten or attempt to shoot with a gun.</i> The gun may or may not have been aimed at the person. Includes situations where a gun was left in an obvious place or if the person knew that the perpetrator had access to a gun. Includes toy guns, starter pistols etc. if the person believed they were real.</p>
<b>Threatened sexual assault</b>	The threat of acts of a sexual nature which are carried out against a person's will, through the use of physical force, intimidation or coercion. The person must have believed that the threats were able, and likely, to be carried out. It only includes threats that were made face-to-face and includes verbal threats, threats with a weapon and threats to harm children. It excludes when threats were made and then a sexual assault was carried out and incidents that occurred before the age of 15 .
<b>Took time off work</b>	Respondent took time off from paid work or work without pay in a family business due to physical injuries or emotional distress. This also includes time off work to appear in court, meet with police or a lawyer, visit a doctor or a counsellor.
<b>Unemployed</b>	A person who was not employed during the reference week who had actively looked for work during the previous four weeks and who was available to start work.
<b>Unwanted sexual touching</b>	See Harassment.
<b>Violence</b>	Includes physical and sexual violence (as defined above).
<b>Violence or restraining order</b>	All Australian, and many overseas, jurisdictions have passed legislation allowing courts to make orders intended to protect individuals from future violence, abuse and harassment from specific persons. Such orders typically prohibit an individual (the defendant) from being violent, or threatening violence, towards another individual (the protected person). Different states have different names for violence orders e.g. apprehended violence order (AVO), domestic violence order (DVO), intervention order, etc. Includes orders which have been issued by the court and interim orders.
<b>Violence increased</b>	Includes an increase in the number or severity of violent incidents by a current or previous partner during pregnancy, separation or after the relationship ended.
<b>Whether police told</b>	Whether the police were contacted about the most recent incident of sexual assault, threatened sexual assault, physical assault, threatened or attempted physical assault and/or stalking. The contact with police may have been by the person or another person. Includes contacting the police by phone or in person.







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