



Ref: MS25-000012

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS ACT 1975: sub-section 6(3)

PERSONAL SAFETY SURVEY 2025-26

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) proposes to collect information to inform the nature, extent and characteristics of violence in Australia. These data enable monitoring and evaluation of actions to reduce the prevalence of family and domestic violence, and sexual assault; and are important inputs to the *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032*.

The information will be collected:

- from October 2025 to June 2026
- from an expected responding sample of approximately 20,700 households (from which approximately 14,500 female and 6,200 male respondents will be selected)
- from one person aged 18 years and over in the household
- across Australia, excluding very remote areas and discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- by a computer assisted web form, computer assisted telephone interview, and face to face interview for household information
- by a face-to-face interview for the selected respondent information, with the option for identified voluntary components to be self-completed.

Information will be collected on a range of characteristics including:

- socio-demographic characteristics of household members, the respondent and their current partner
- lifestyle indicators such as self-assessed health status, disability, life satisfaction, social connectedness, and financial stressors
- feelings of safety in selected situations
- experience of selected types of sexual harassment (voluntary)
- experience of violence, such as sexual assault/threat and physical assault/threat (voluntary)
- details on most recent experience of violence by a partner (voluntary)
- experience of physical abuse and sexual abuse before age 15 (voluntary)
- witnessing violence between a parent and their partner before age 15 (voluntary)
- experience of emotional abuse by current partner or previous partners (voluntary)
- experience of stalking (voluntary).

While this collection will be conducted under the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*, the content regarding experiences such as violence or abuse will be voluntary, as identified above. All information obtained by the Australian Bureau of Statistics will be covered by the secrecy provisions of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

The information collected will be used by the ABS in the compilation and analysis of aspects of personal safety and experiences of violence, at a level of detail that is not available from any other source. The data will be used to support analysis of the demographic characteristics and circumstances of people experiencing violence, and to measure changes over time.

The ABS expects to make statistical and related information from the collection available from the middle of 2027.

The data collected will assist and inform decision making, research and discussion around the development, implementation and evaluation of social and economic policies and services.

The principal users of the information ABS produces will be:

- Commonwealth, State and Territory governments (e.g. Department of Social Services, Office for Women, Attorney Generals Department) for the purpose of measuring prevalence rates and characteristics of family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia
- Other government agencies
- The research and academic community (e.g. Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety, OurWatch)
- Service providers and advocates working in family, domestic and sexual violence
- Media
- Public.

To assist in determining the feasibility of the collection and to understand and manage respondent burden consistent with the Government's Regulator Performance Framework, the ABS:

- has considered what existing information is available
- has consulted with key stakeholders
- conducted cognitive testing and field tested the survey to ensure that the required data are readily available and that the respondent load has been minimised. No significant adverse respondent reaction is expected as a result of the sensitive content, however support mechanisms are being implemented.

The survey is referred to as the *Personal Safety Survey* when ABS staff interact with the public due to the sensitive nature of the survey content. This approach improves the quality of the data collected by reducing the risk that respondents could be prevented from participating in the survey by other members of their household. Only the selected individual in the household who is responding to the survey will know the details of the questions asked.

This collection was last conducted in 2021-22 (originally scheduled for 2020 but was delayed due to Covid-19 impacts) and was previously tabled in Parliament as Proposal No. 20 of 2019.

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