

WOMEN AND GIRLS IN TASMANIA FACT SHEET 2018



17%

of Tasmanian women experienced sexual harassment in 2016.³



4.7%

or almost one in twenty Tasmanian women had experienced violence in 2016.¹



3098

incidents of family violence were reported to Tasmania Police in 2016-17. This is 815 more incidents than in 2012-13.⁴



4.7%

or almost one in twenty Tasmanian women experienced emotional abuse by a current and/or previous partner in 2016.²



9.5%

of the complaints received by Equal Opportunity Tasmania in 2016-17 concerned sexual harassment.⁵



SAFETY & JUSTICE

Feeling safe at home, at work, at your place of study and in the community is a human right. However, not all Tasmanians enjoy this right.

Violence against women and girls continues to be a particular and widespread problem. In Australia, on average, at least one woman each week is killed by a current or former partner.⁶ The Tasmanian Government has committed to addressing gendered violence in a range of ways, including through *Safe Homes, Safe Families: Tasmania's Family Violence Action Plan 2015-2020* – a coordinated, whole-of-government approach to family violence. Gender equality in public and private life is essential to end violence against women and to promote respectful relationships that benefit the whole community.

Violence against women

“All violence is wrong, regardless of the sex of the victim or perpetrator. But there are distinct gendered patterns in the perpetration and impact of violence.”⁷

Women are most likely to experience violence in their home, at the hands of a current or former male partner. Men largely experience violence at the hands of other men and most likely in a public place.⁸

The Personal Safety Survey in 2016 found that:

- Nearly one in three women (30.5 per cent) in Australia have experienced physical violence and nearly one in five (18.4 per cent) experienced sexual violence since the age of 15.⁹
- 15.8 per cent of women and 11 per cent of men in Australia experienced physical and/or sexual violence before the age of 15.¹⁰

- Close to one in twenty (4.7 per cent) Tasmanian women had experienced violence in the last 12 months.¹¹
- Almost one in twenty (4.7 per cent) Tasmanian women experienced emotional abuse by a current and/or previous partner in the last 12 months.¹²

Note: The Australian Bureau of Statistics, Personal Safety Survey 2016 did not collect statistically significant data for males in Tasmania, Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

Sexual Assault

The majority of sexual assaults Australia-wide are committed against women and girls. Sexual assault data collected between 2010-2016 shows that women and girls of all ages in Australia are at risk of sexual assault. Children and young people are, however, particularly at risk.

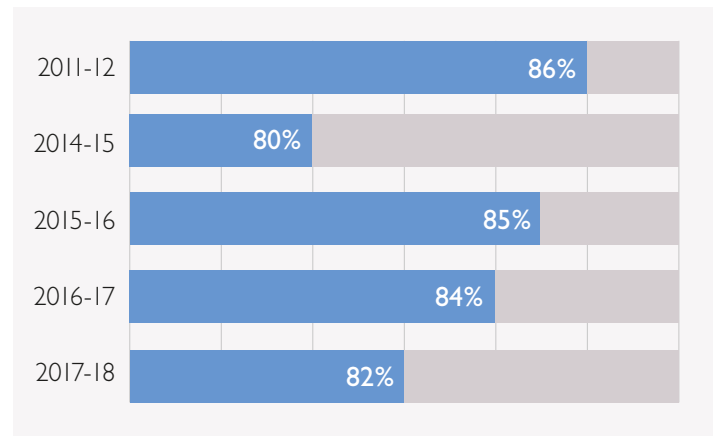
The number of sexual assaults recorded in Tasmania is decreasing. There were 184 cases recorded by Tasmania Police in 2017-18. This is down 26 per cent from 2016-17, which was 10 percent lower than 2015-16.¹³

Tasmania Police note that there is variation in the number of reported sexual assaults annually because many cases are reported years after the assault took place. For example, in 2017-18, 27 per cent of sexual assaults reported were committed over a year earlier, and some even decades ago.

In Tasmania, 33 per cent of sexual assaults reported to police in 2015-16 were committed more than a year before they were reported, with some occurring around 50 years before.¹⁴ Australia-wide in 2016-17, only 39 per cent of people aged 18 years and over who experienced sexual assault in the previous twelve months reported it to police.¹⁵

In 2017-18, 82 per cent of the sexual assaults reported to Tasmania Police were committed against females and 71 per cent of these assaults were committed in residences.¹⁷ This is similar to the 2014-15 data which shows 80 per cent of reported sexual assaults were perpetrated against women, and 70 per cent were in residences.¹⁸

Figure 1. Percentage of female victims of sexual assaults in Tasmania from 2011-12 to 2017-18



Source: Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management, *Crime Statistics Supplements 2010 - 2017*



Family Violence

In Tasmania, family violence is defined by the *Family Violence Act 2004* and includes a range of abusive and violent behaviours committed by a person directly or indirectly against their spouse or partner. Family violence includes physical, psychological and emotional (threats, coercion, intimidation, verbal abuse) and economic abuse.

Australia-wide, on average:

- more than one woman a week is killed by a current or former partner;¹⁹
- eight women a day are hospitalised after being assaulted by their spouse or partner;²⁰
- intimate partner violence contributes to more death, disability and illness in women aged 15 to 44 than any other preventable risk factor;²¹
- domestic and family violence is the principal cause of homelessness for women and their children.²²

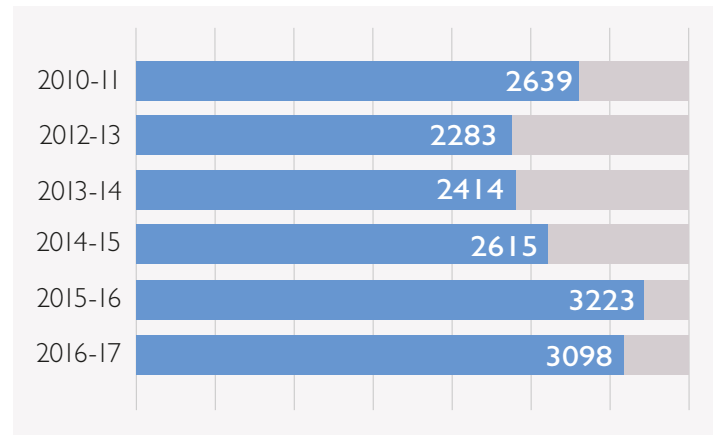
In 2016-17, Tasmania Police recorded 3,098 family violence incidents. This is lower than the previous year, 2015-16 when 3,223 incidents were reported.

Reported family violence incidents have increased overall since 2012-13, when 2,283 incidents were reported to Tasmania Police.²³

From 2005 - 2015 in Tasmania, 82.2 per cent of family violence offenders were male and 87.8 per cent of victims were female.²⁴

The general trend of increased police reports may be due to growing public awareness and understanding of family violence. However, domestic and family violence continues to be under-reported. Across Australia, it is estimated that in 82.1 per cent of cases of family violence perpetrated by a current partner against a female, police have not been contacted.²⁵ This has not changed since the previous Personal Safety Survey in 2012.

Figure 2. Number of family violence incident reports to Tasmania Police from 2010-11 to 2016-17



Source: Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management, *Annual Report 2016 - 2017* p33



Crime and Incarceration

In 2017, females comprised 6 per cent of the total prisoner population (596) in Tasmania, with 36 female prisoners, which is 23 fewer than in 2016. In the same period, the adult male prison population has increased by 57, an increase of 11 per cent.²⁶

Since 30 June 2016, the male imprisonment rate increased from 252 to 282 prisoners per 100,000 male adult population. During the same period, the female imprisonment rate decreased from 31 to 18 prisoners per 100,000 female adult population.²⁷

There is little change in these statistics from 2013, when females were around 8 per cent of the Tasmanian prison population, with 37 women in full time custody.²⁸

Women are more likely to receive community-based correction orders than full time prison sentences. In March 2018, women comprised 23 per cent of all Tasmanian persons on community-based correction orders. There were 443 Tasmanian women on community-based correction orders, compared to 1,498 males, of a total of 1,941 persons.²⁹ These numbers are similar to 2015 and 2013.³⁰

Discrimination

Under Tasmania's *Anti-Discrimination Act 1998*, people can make complaints regarding discrimination and other unlawful conduct including sexual harassment, on the basis of particular characteristics including race, age, disability and gender.

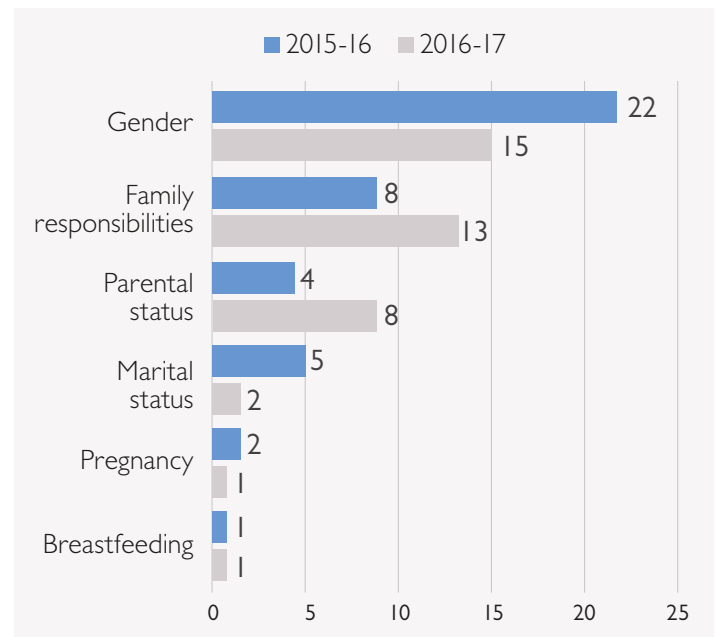
Gender-related complaints data provides an indicator of areas of continued inequality for women and girls, and is a useful way to track progress towards gender equality.

Women made up 40 per cent (61) of all complainants (that is, people making a complaint for themselves or on behalf of others) to Equal Opportunity Tasmania in 2016-17. This is 20 fewer female complainants from 2015-16.³¹

In 2016-17, 27 per cent of the complaints to Equal Opportunity Tasmania alleged discrimination on the basis of one or more gender-related attributes or personal characteristics, that is, gender, family responsibilities, parental status, breast-feeding, pregnancy and/or marital status. This is a slight increase from 2014-15, when 25 per cent of complaints were related to gender, but a decrease from 30 per cent in 2012-12.

In 2016-17, of the total 147 complaints made to Equal Opportunity Tasmania, almost 10 per cent (9.52 per cent) concerned sexual harassment (14 complaints). The number of sexual harassment complaints received by Equal Opportunity Tasmania has been relatively unchanged since 2010, with numbers ranging between 16 and 10.³²

Figure 3. Gender-related attributes of discrimination complaints to Equal Opportunity Tasmania, by number of complaints, 2015-16 and 2016-17



If you or someone you know is impacted by family violence, call the Safe At Home Family Violence Response and Referral Line on 1800 633 937 or visit www.1800respect.org.au.

In an emergency, always call 000.

To contact Equal Opportunity Tasmania (the Office of the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner), call 1300 305 062 or (03) 6165 7515.

Further reading:

- *Tasmanian Women's Strategy 2018-2021*
- Tasmanian Women and Girls Fact Sheets on: Financial Security, Health and Wellbeing, Safety and Justice, Leadership and Participation and Demographics are available at www.women.tas.gov.au.

Contact details:

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¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016 Personal Safety Survey 2016 Cat no: 4906.0, ABS, Canberra 4906D0014.Table1.3

² ibid

³ ibid

⁴ Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management, 2017 2016-17 Annual Report p33

⁵ Equal Opportunity Tasmania, 2017 Annual Report 2016-17 p35

⁶ Our Watch, 2017, 'Facts and Figures', <https://www.ourwatch.org.au/understanding-violence/facts-and-figures>.

⁷ ibid

⁸ ibid

⁹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2017, Catalogue 4906.0, Personal Safety, Australia, 2016, Table 3.3 Violence since the age of 15, Type of violence by relationship to and sex of perpetrator, proportion of persons, ABS, Canberra.

¹⁰ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2017, Catalogue 4906.0 Personal Safety, Australia, 2016, Table 31.3 Experience of abuse before the age of 15, Characteristics of abuse by sex of respondent, ABS, Canberra.

¹¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2017 Personal Safety, Australia, 2016, , Catalogue 4906.0, Tasmania Datacube

¹² ibid

¹³ Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management, 2018, *2017-18 Crime Statistics Supplement*, p3.

¹⁴ Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management, 2016, *2015-16 Crime Statistics Supplement*, p3.

¹⁵ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2018, Catalogue 4530.0 Crime Victimization, Australia, 2016-17, Table 1 Persons and Households, Experience of selected personal and household crimes in the last 12 months, ABS, Canberra.

¹⁶ Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management, 2012 Annual Report 2011 – 2012, p31

¹⁷ Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management, 2018, *2017-18 Crime Statistics Supplement*, p3.

¹⁸ Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management, 2015 *2014-15 Crime Statistics Supplement*,

¹⁹ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2018. Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence in Australia 2018, Catalogue FDV 2, AIHW, Canberra.

²⁰ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2018, Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence in Australia 2018, Catalogue FDV 2, AIHW, Canberra.

²¹ Our Watch, 2017, Understanding Violence: Facts and Figures, <https://www.ourwatch.org.au/Understanding-Violence/Facts-and-figures> viewed 19 December 2017.

²² Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2018, Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence in Australia 2018, Catalogue AIHW, Canberra.

²³ Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management, 2017, *2016-17 Annual Report*, p33.

²⁴ Unpublished data provided by the Department of Justice, cited in *Women and Girls in Tasmania – Fact Sheet 6, Safety and Justice*

²⁵ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2017, Catalogue 4906.0 Personal Safety, Australia, 2016, Table 19.3 Police involvement after partner violence, by sex of respondent and partner type, proportion of persons, ABS, Canberra.

²⁶ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2017 Prisoners in Australia, 2017 Tasmania Snapshot Cat no:4517.0, ABS, Canberra

²⁷ Ibid Table 15

²⁸ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2014, Corrective Services, Australia, March Quarter 2013, Cat No4512.0 Data Cubes, Tables 4,5,18 ABS, Canberra

²⁹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2018 Corrective Services, Australia, March Quarter 2018 Cat No: 4512.0 Data Cubes Table 15 ABS, Canberra

³⁰ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2013 Corrective Services, Australia, March Quarter 2013 Cat No: 4512.0 Data Cubes Tables 4, 5, 18 ABS, Canberra

³¹ Equal Opportunity Tasmania, 2017, Annual Report 2016-17, Table 7.8 Complaints: Complainants and respondents, p38.

³² Unpublished data from Equal Opportunity Tasmania, cited in *Women and Girls in Tasmania Fact Sheet 6 – Safety and Justice* p7

