

# Violence against people with disability in Australia



**CRE-DH**

Centre of Research  
Excellence in  
Disability and Health

In Australia people with disability are more likely to experience violence\* than people without disability.

This fact sheet is part of a series on violence against people with disability in Australia and is based on current data for men and women aged 18 to 64 years. Data are sourced from national surveys where people have reported on their experience of violence in the last 12 months (recent experience) and since the age of 15 (lifetime experience). We recognise that not all people with disability are represented in these surveys, and that rates of violence may be under-reported.

## KEY FACTS

### LIFETIME EXPERIENCE

People who have experienced violence since the age of 15.



### RECENT EXPERIENCE

People with disability are nearly **twice as likely** to have experienced violence in the last year compared to people without disability.



Source: Personal Safety Survey 2016

## DIFFERENT TYPES OF VIOLENCE

### PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

People who have experienced at least one incident of physical violence since the age of 15.



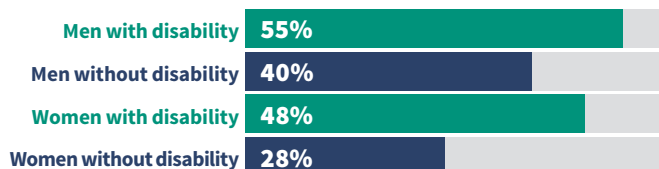
People with disability are **twice as likely** to have experienced physical violence in the last 12 months compared to people without disability.



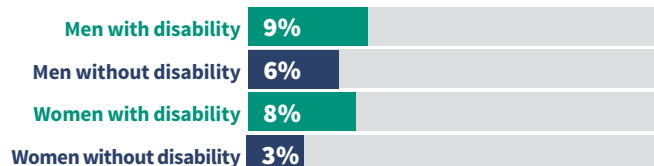
Source: Personal Safety Survey 2016

\*Violence includes physical or sexual violence, emotional abuse, intimate partner violence, stalking and/or harassment.

## Physical violence since age 15 by gender



## Physical violence in the last 12 months by gender



Source: Personal Safety Survey 2016

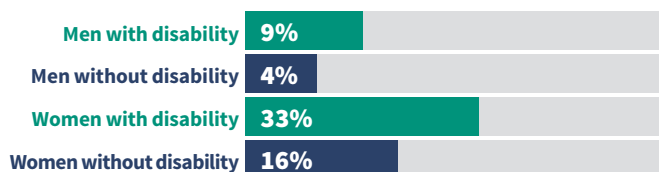
## SEXUAL VIOLENCE

### LIFETIME EXPERIENCE

People who have reported at least one incident of sexual violence since the age of 15.



### Sexual violence since age 15 by gender



### RECENT EXPERIENCE

**People with disability** are **twice as likely** than people without disability, to have experienced sexual violence in the last year.

### LIFETIME EXPERIENCE

**Men with disability** are **2.5 times more likely** than men without disability to have experienced sexual violence since the age of 15.

**Women with disability** are **twice as likely** than women without disability to have experienced sexual violence since the age of 15.

Source: Personal Safety Survey 2016

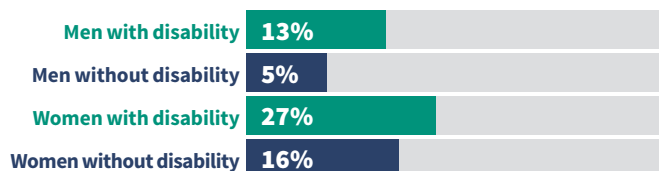
## STALKING AND HARASSMENT

### LIFETIME EXPERIENCE

People who have reported at least one incident of stalking and harassment since the age of 15.



### Stalking and harassment since age 15 by gender



### RECENT EXPERIENCE

**People with disability** are **2.5 times more likely** than people without disability, to have been stalked or harassed in the last year.

### LIFETIME EXPERIENCE

**Men with disability** are **2.5 times more likely** than men without disability to have been stalked or harassed since the age of 15.

**Women with disability** are **twice as likely** than women without disability to have been stalked or harassed since the age of 15.

Source: Personal Safety Survey 2016

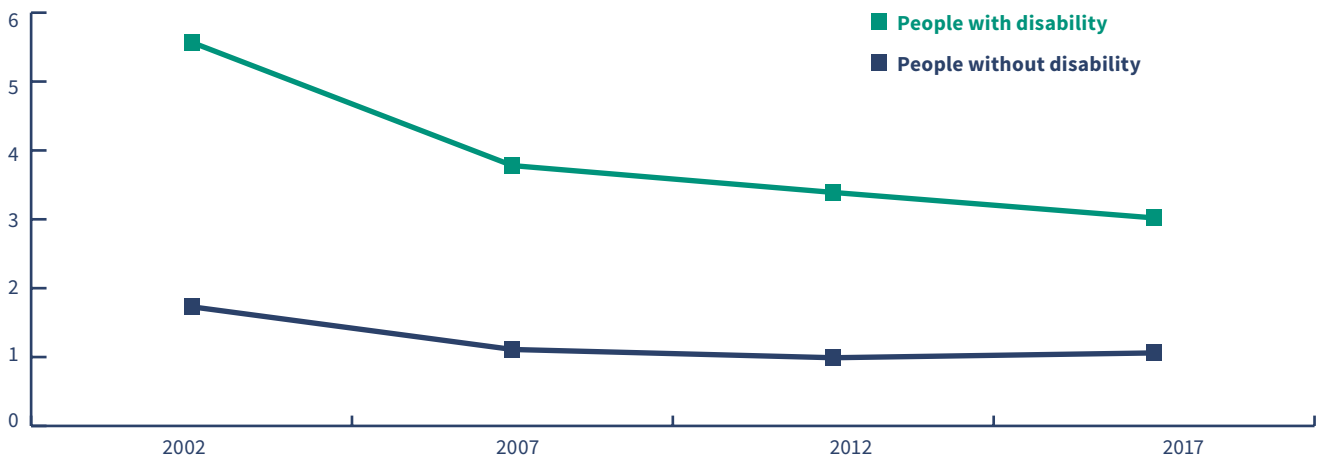
# PHYSICAL VIOLENCE TRENDS OVER TIME

People with disability are at significantly greater risk of violence than people without disability.

For people with and without disability, the risk of experiencing at least one incident of physical violence in the last 12 months has decreased over time from 2002 to 2017.

However people with disability are still at a greater risk of experiencing physical violence.

## Percent of people who experienced violence in the last 12 months



Source: Household Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey 2002-2017

## DATA ON DISABILITY AND VIOLENCE

Violence against people with disability is a significant human rights violation. We acknowledge the strength and resilience of people with disability who have survived violence. We thank those who have disclosed their experiences for making this work possible.

The Personal Safety Survey does not provide support for people who need assistance to complete the survey and therefore does not represent the experiences of all people with disability.

We report on recent experiences of violence (last 12 months) and since the age of 15 (the survey selected reference period for lifetime experiences):

- **recent experiences** (the last 12 months) provide an indication of recent experiences of violence.
- **lifetime experiences** (since the age of 15) estimate the total number of people ever affected by violence

While gender is non binary, the data sources we refer to define people as men or women and we have reflected that in our findings.

Estimates are directly age-adjusted to the June 2018 Australian population.

In the data, violence refers to an occurrence, or threat and includes violence perpetrated by persons both known (current or former partner or family member) and unknown.

For more information on how disability is collected in the survey, see: <https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/4906.0.55.003main+features122016>

## FURTHER INFORMATION

This fact sheet was produced by the team at the Centre of Research Excellence in Disability and Health (CRE-DH) and funded by the Melbourne Disability Institute.

Source: ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2017. Microdata: Personal Safety, Australia, 2016. ABS cat. No. 4906.0.55.001. Canberra: ABS. CRE-DH analysis of DataLab. Note: Figures are rounded.

Datasets: Australian Bureau of Statistics Personal Safety Survey and the Household Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey for trends over time.

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