AnglicareWA
FOR TODAY. FOR TOMORROW.

COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS REPORT **2014**
FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

ABOUT
ANGLICARE WA

Anglicare WA is a not for profit community service organisation. We support people, families and their communities to cope with the challenges of life. Our services assist people with relationship issues, financial problems, and housing difficulties and are available from more than 40 locations around the State – from Kununurra in the north to Albany in the south. We seek to influence policy makers through advocacy and our work is achieved in a spirit of reconciliation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Western Australians.

CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Family and domestic violence (FDV) continues to have a profound impact on the Western Australian community. It is a significant cause of mental and physical trauma, the leading cause of homelessness in women, a prominent barrier to employment opportunities and a fundamental abuse of human rights. Understanding the Western Australian people's perceptions and experiences of FDV is a vital step in exploring innovative ways to respond to this long standing social concern.

Based on a survey of 918 Western Australians located across the state, the Anglicare WA Community Perceptions Report: Family and Domestic Violence provides an opportunity to deepen our knowledge of FDV in the Western Australian community.

The report attends to a number of key areas of FDV including:

- public perceptions
- acceptance and tolerance
- experiences of victimisation and perpetration
- impact
- availability and accessibility of information and assistance
- community intervention

Using Biderman's Chart of Coercion and the Family Violence Protection Act Victoria, we developed a list of 29 behaviours associated with FDV. These were grouped into five headings – isolation, humiliation and degradation, threats, physical and violating abuse, and other. We used this list as a reference for many of the survey's questions. The survey included unprompted questions, which allowed the respondents to speak off the top of their mind, and prompted questions, which asked respondents to select or rate items from a list.

What people think FDV Is

Most respondents talked about FDV as a range of abusive behaviours. They demonstrated a sophisticated understanding that FDV includes verbal, psychological, financial and emotional abuse, as well as physical abuse. However, less confrontational behaviours were less likely to be associated with abuse. Unprompted, people did not seem to connect to the idea that these behaviours are usually deliberate attempts to establish power and control over a partner or family member.

While acts of physical abuse, sexual assault and verbal threats towards one's partner or child were identified as FDV by over 96% of respondents, only 64% recognised monitoring someone's communication as qualifying.

Even lower, only 52% would describe denying someone access to communication and media technology, such as a phone or computer, as FDV. Notably, women were more likely than men to recognise 22 of the 29 listed behaviours as FDV.

What People Think Causes FDV

There is a strong public perception that alcohol and drug abuse is a factor that causes FDV. When unprompted, over half of respondents mentioned it as a cause of abuse. Four in ten respondents said that exposure to FDV in early family life served as a precursor to future perpetration.

Most unprompted responses focused on external variables as causes, with relatively few people naming perpetrator's beliefs, attitudes and choices. Only 13% of respondents named a need for power and control as a cause. This is a significant concern as it identifies a lack of community understanding of the core dynamics that underpin the perpetration of FDV. However, this trend reversed when respondents were provided with prompted questions. More than 90% of respondents recognised a need for control as a cause, when it was presented to them on a list. Troublingly, more than half of respondents thought that provocation by the victim was a cause – indicating a strong prevalence of victim blaming.

Community Tolerance

The majority of respondents did not believe that their community was tolerant of FDV. However, on average there was still 17% who believed that each behaviour from the list of 29 was accepted and tolerated by the general community.

While 65% of respondents believed their local community did not accept people withholding food, water, clothing and medication from another, there was still 21% who believed that this was tolerated to an extent. Sixty-six per cent of respondents said the community was strongly intolerant of forced sexual contact, and of violence committed when a child is in a position to see or hear.

However, the participants believed society was more tolerant of non-physical abuse. Only 37% said the community did not tolerate monitoring communications, and 36% for monitoring someone's time. Only 35% of respondents believed that their community did not accept put downs, insults and shouting at someone.

Respondents from regional areas – including the Kimberley, Pilbara, Great Southern and South West – were generally more likely to regard their community as more tolerant of abusive behaviour. Twenty-six per cent of respondents from regional areas thought pushing, slapping, punching, choking and kicking would be tolerated locally, compared to 16% of respondents from Perth metropolitan area.

Sources of Information

The police was the first place most respondents would go to for help with FDV. Forty-four per cent said they would call the police if they needed help with FDV. Thirty-five per cent said they would get more information from internet research, 23% would use telephone help lines, and 18% said they would seek support from their families. Professional support providers were comparatively low, with only 7% saying they would go to a FDV specialist service.

Experience

The most commonly experienced type of FDV was humiliation and degradation. Thirty-six per cent of respondents had been belittled. One in three had been subject to mind games from a partner. The most commonly experienced single behaviour was being put down, insulted or shouted at – with 43% of respondents. Nearly a quarter of respondents had been threatened with physical violence.

One in four respondents had been physically assaulted at some point in their lives and twenty per cent had their property damaged or stolen. Eleven per cent had endured forced sexual contact or coercion.

There was a high level of discrepancy between men and women's experiences of sexual violence and abuse. One in five women had experienced sexual assault, compared to one in twenty men. Women were more likely to have experienced 24 of the 29 abusive behaviours. This is consistent with information gathered in the national Australian Bureau of Statistics Personal Safety Survey (2013).

Very few respondents reported having committed FDV. Less than 5% of respondents admitted to perpetrating 22 of the 29 behaviours. Of the remaining seven behaviours, four were classified as humiliation and degradation. The most commonly admitted act of perpetration was put downs, insults and shouting – with 20% of respondents. Notably, this group was divided into 65% men and 35% women.

Impact

Respondents discussed the impact of FDV as varying depending on a range of factors. Roughly one in five respondents said as a result of their experience they now had an increased awareness of FDV. Thirteen per cent reported an increased awareness of their own behaviour, 7% reported negative psychological symptoms, and 7% reported damage to their family relationships. Around 6% reported little or no impact; however, it is possible this represents a proportion of people who have had minimal exposure.

Community Intervention

Of those respondents who had witnessed an incident of FDV, 44% had intervened. Twenty-eight per cent had called the police or another third party for help. Another 44% said they took no action at all. However, a reasonable proportion of respondents who did not intervene were not in a position to do so. A quarter said they did not intervene because they were not present at the time that the violence occurred. Around 5% said they were too young at the time to do anything.

Reflections

It is apparent that people learned about FDV by experiencing it and in the process of healing and recovery, discovered their own knowledge and resilience. An unexpected outcome was that respondents doing the survey began to increase their knowledge about the less known aspects and patterns of FDV; most particularly, the range of psychologically abusive behaviours designed to establish and maintain control.

Increasing awareness of FDV through direct experience is an unacceptable way to learn about this issue in family life. Our professional responses both in primary prevention and tertiary intervention can take clear messages from the Community Perceptions Report: Family and Domestic Violence – we need to continue to raise public awareness of the complex dynamics of this type of abuse and further enhance our response systems.

OUR RESPONSE

The Community Perceptions Report: Family and Domestic Violence provides Anglicare WA with an opportunity to identify and recommend effective strategies to address the problem of FDV.

Perpetrator Accountability

Anglicare WA recommends increasing accountability on those who perpetrate abuse. The system has a role in identifying their capacity for change and to divert men into voluntary or mandated programs. Anglicare WA proposes:

- A scoping and mapping exercise in Western Australia, to determine where the needs are in terms of service provision for men's behaviour change programs.

- The provision of adequate resources and funding for services by state and federal government, in order to promote appropriate early intervention opportunities to men who use violence and abuse against their families.

- The alignment of any men's behaviour change program with standards associated with evidenced based best practice principles and cultural competence.

Anglicare WA supports and endorses the work of White Ribbon Australia, who work with men as key stakeholders in changing attitudes and beliefs in our community that enable violence.

Accommodation

The impact and trauma of FDV on adult victims and children continues to carry long term emotional, physical, financial and health costs to individuals and the community. Particular attention needs to be paid to accommodation, especially the availability of medium and long term, affordable, safe accommodation. Anglicare WA advocates that long-term strategies and partnerships in relation to crisis, medium and sustainable accommodation need further funding and resourcing to provide more safe places for women and children.

Police Responses

The Community Perceptions Report: Family and Domestic Violence noted that 44% of respondents would contact police as first responders. This shows a strong public perception that police are able and willing to provide assistance in these criminal matters. Increased help-seeking is an important indication that the experience of abuse and violence has gotten worse and help is required – often immediately. However, there are concerns that recent shifts in policing have increased vulnerability for those seeking safety. These vulnerabilities need to be addressed. Anglicare WA proposes:

- Greater community sector consultation in relation to the impact of police policy changes on victims of family and domestic violence.

- Development and implementation of new family and domestic violence policy and practice guidelines for the Western Australian Police (as outlined in the Law Reform Commission Final Report: Enhancing Family and Domestic Violence Laws, Recommendation 8). This development should reflect greater consultation with the community stakeholders and service providers and incorporate existing State policy in relation to best practice.

- Development and establishment of a multi-agency stakeholder committee or reference group to regularly review the content of Police training associated with Family and Domestic Violence (as outlined in the Law Reform Commission Final Report: Enhancing Family and Domestic Violence Laws, Recommendation 11).

Community Responses

The Community Perceptions Report: Family and Domestic Violence found that the community can benefit from greater knowledge about the actions, attitudes and beliefs that underpin violence and abuse, and can be invited to further action.

In order for the community to become a meaningful part of the solution, awareness raising needs to be focused on providing more specific information, including:

- That abuse includes psychological tactics designed to monitor the victim.

- That monitoring the victim isolates victims from community and family supports, can appear early in the relationship, and be an identifier for future abuse.

- That abusive and violent behaviour can be seen as a pattern rather than a one off incident.

- That this pattern of behaviours establishes and maintains control and can escalate over time into high risk.

- That the causes of FDV are varied and complex rather than attributable to a loss of control, mental health diagnosis, life stressors, or drug and alcohol use by the perpetrator.

The ongoing issue of victim blaming across our community needs to be addressed through a state and nation wide awareness raising campaign that has a strong focus on perpetrator accountability.

Abusive men are capable of using non-abusive ways of relating. Our community needs to promote values associated with high expectations of evidenced based behaviour change.

Across the public and private sector, our responses must include increasing community awareness of the fundamental dynamics of abuse and provide easily accessible resources that pay attention to perpetrator accountability.

The Community Perceptions Report: Family and Domestic Violence strongly indicated a lack of community awareness about FDV specialist services, as well as how different agencies work together. We need to become more visible to those who need us the most and work collaboratively to assist people who are seeking support, safety and information.

> "I used to think I would never have anything to do with a violent man...but then it happened to me and I didn't walk away."
> Female, 55-59 years old, Kimberley

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE

FDV is a concern for all Australians.

One woman is killed every week by a former or current partner in Australia. The Australian Bureau of Statistics shows that one in three women over the age of 15 have experienced sexual or physical violence at some point in their lives (ABS, 2013).

The impact of FDV is felt at all levels of society. It affects individuals, families, workplaces, and communities. Its cost is personal, social, and economic. The National Council to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children predicts that domestic violence will cost Australia $9.9 billion in the year 2021-22, if action is not taken.

Finding effective ways to prevent FDV, minimise the harm it causes, and advocate on behalf of its victims are key objectives of Anglicare WA. In order to deliver effective services, we strive to build a bank of understanding and knowledge in this area.

In 2014, we commissioned Painted Dog Research to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the perceptions and experiences that Western Australians have of FDV. The results of that research are contained within this report.

ABOUT THE RESEARCH

In order to develop our survey, we conducted three stages of research. Firstly, we examined 2011 Census Data for insight into current family structures and distribution. We then conducted a thorough literature review of available research, reports and statistics on FDV. The information gathered in these two stages was used to develop the draft survey for the project. Finally, the survey was subject to internal review by the Anglicare WA project team and a two hour workshop session. The survey was pilot tested on 50 community members.

Data collection began in February 2014 and continued through March through an online survey, which was provided to 918 community members across Western Australia. Random telephone recruitment calls were utilised to invite respondents take the survey. Community members surveyed were selected to reflect the population distribution within each region, based on 2011 Census Data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

All of the 918 respondents were:
- Residents of WA
  - o 500 from Perth Metropolitan Region
  - o 104 from Kimberley
  - o 100 from Pilbara
  - o 111 from South West
  - o 103 from Great Southern
- Over the age of 18

The data was post-weighted to reflect the population distribution within each region and metropolitan area based on ABS 2011 Census data.

Of our respondents:
- 50% were male (456 respondents)
- 50% were female (461 respondents)
- 51% reported working full time
- 39% reported an annual household income of less than $75,000
- 69% reported being married, defacto or in a relationship
- 41% reported their household

status was buying or mortgaged while 21% were renting and 37% own their home outright
- 55% were single or a couple with no kids while 31% reported being in an intact family

The survey took, on average, 32 minutes to complete. All respondents were recruited by telephone to take the survey online

The survey included unprompted questions, which allowed the respondents to speak off the top of their mind, and prompted questions, which asked respondents to select or rate items from a list.

In this report percentages have been rounded. Not all results necessarily add up to 100.

*Asterisks throughout this report identify statistically significant results between the groups being compared (e.g. female vs male). This signifies that the difference is unlikely to be due to chance and reflects an important discrepancy.

KEY FINDINGS ▶

What do people think when they hear the term FDV?

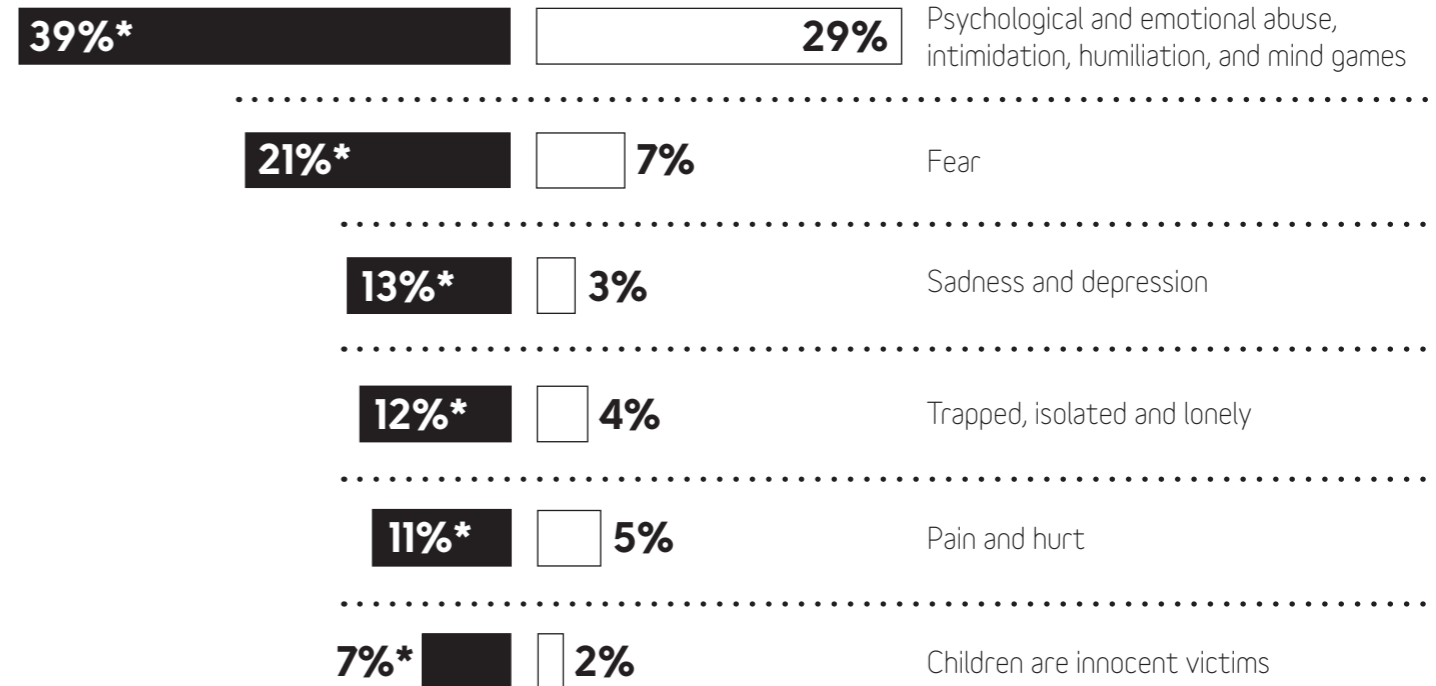|	
Physical abuse	**59%**
Emotional and psychological abuse	**34%**
Abuse by a family member	**19%**
Verbal abuse	**17%**
Drug and alcohol abuse	**17%**
Abuse against women	**17%**
Fear	**14%**
Abuse against women and children	**12%**
Abuse against children	**10%**
Abuse against partner	**9%**

WHAT PEOPLE THINK FDV IS

Question:

To begin with, when you think about the term 'Family and Domestic Violence', what thoughts, words, images or feelings first come to mind?

The respondents demonstrated a sophisticated understanding of what constitutes FDV. When asked to define FDV the most common response was the notion of abuse. Abuse was mentioned in many contexts and variations. Fifty-nine per cent of respondents mentioned physical abuse, 34% mentioned psychological and emotional abuse, and 17% mentioned verbal abuse. Alcohol and drug abuse was mentioned by 17% of respondents, usually as a precursor to violent behaviour.

Fourteen per cent of total respondents mentioned fear in their response. However, there was a noticeable difference between the genders, with 21% of women identifying fear as an aspect of FDV, but only 7% of men.

We provided the respondents with a list of 29 actions and asked them to identify which defined FDV. Using Biderman's Chart of Coercion and the Family Violence Protection Act Victoria to guide us, these behaviours were grouped into five categories – isolation, humiliation and degradation, threats, physical and violating abuse, and other.

Women and men's perceptions of FDV vary

👩 **vs.** 👨

Women	Men	
39%*	**29%**	Psychological and emotional abuse, intimidation, humiliation, and mind games
21%*	**7%**	Fear
13%*	**3%**	Sadness and depression
12%*	**4%**	Trapped, isolated and lonely
11%*	**5%**	Pain and hurt
7%*	**2%**	Children are innocent victims

On average behaviours classified as threats were the most commonly identified as FDV. Eighty-eight per cent of respondents indicated that they definitely define FDV. Ninety-six per cent of respondents agreed that threats of physical violence constituted FDV. Ninety-six per cent of respondents agreed that threats to harm children also qualified. Slightly less people acknowledged threats made towards pets or one's self as qualifying, with 81% and 82% recognition respectively.

On average, 84% of respondents identified behaviours classified as physical and violating abuse as constituting FDV. Acts of physical and sexual violence had an overwhelming rate of recognition, with 98% and 97% of respondents respectively

Less direct behaviours were less likely to be perceived as FDV. Eighty per cent of respondents identified stalking and only 64% recognised monitoring someone's electronic communication or phone calls. Sixteen per cent of respondents actively disagreed that the later counted as FDV.
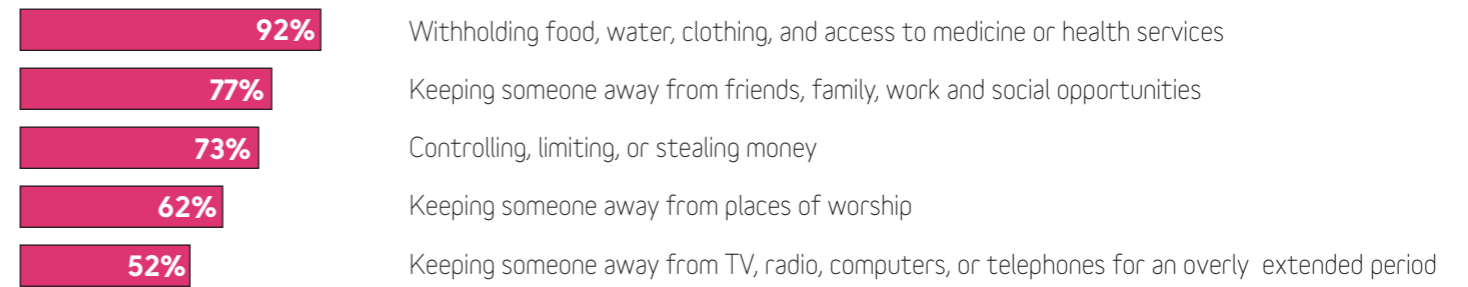
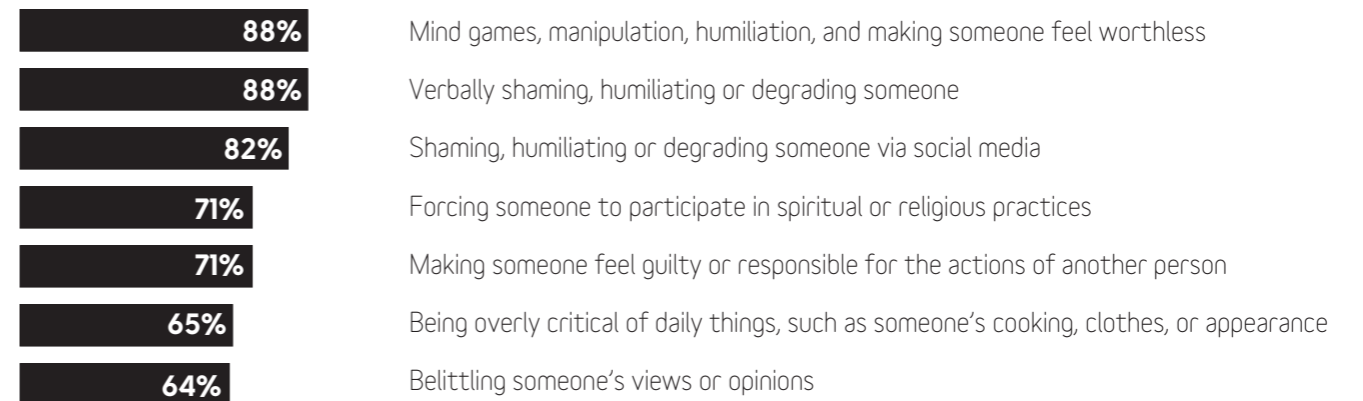*What behaviours do the community perceive as being FDV?*

Question:

To what extent do you feel each of these represents, defines or demonstrates FDV?

Behaviours classified as humiliation and degradation were perceived as FDV by 75% of respondents on average.
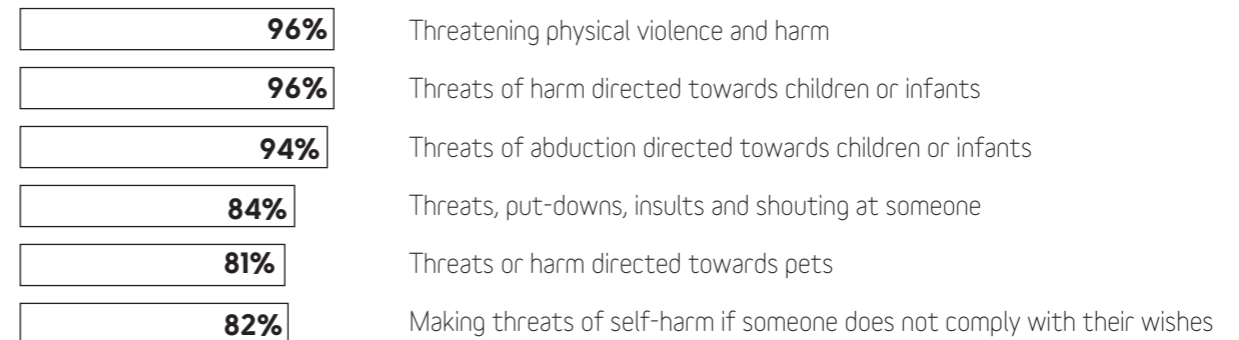
ISOLATION

92%	Withholding food, water, clothing, and access to medicine or health services
77%	Keeping someone away from friends, family, work and social opportunities
73%	Controlling, limiting, or stealing money
62%	Keeping someone away from places of worship
52%	Keeping someone away from TV, radio, computers, or telephones for an overly extended period

HUMILIATION AND DEGRADATION

88%	Mind games, manipulation, humiliation, and making someone feel worthless
88%	Verbally shaming, humiliating or degrading someone
82%	Shaming, humiliating or degrading someone via social media
71%	Forcing someone to participate in spiritual or religious practices
71%	Making someone feel guilty or responsible for the actions of another person
65%	Being overly critical of daily things, such as someone's cooking, clothes, or appearance
64%	Belittling someone's views or opinions

THREATS

96%	Threatening physical violence and harm
96%	Threats of harm directed towards children or infants
94%	Threats of abduction directed towards children or infants
84%	Threats, put-downs, insults and shouting at someone
81%	Threats or harm directed towards pets
82%	Making threats of self-harm if someone does not comply with their wishes

PHYSICAL AND VIOLATING ABUSE

98%	Pushing, slapping, punching, choking or kicking someone
97%	Forced sexual contact or coercion
96%	Being violent towards a partner or someone where a child is in a position to see or hear
81%	Theft, damage or destruction of someone's possessions or property
75%	Monitoring someone's time to make them account for every minute when out of the home
80%	Stalking or following someone
64%	Monitoring someone's electronic communications or phone calls

OTHER

92%	Any behaviour that results in someone living in fear
83%	Inducing physical or emotional exhaustion in someone
65%	Enforcing trivial demands
15%	Having an argument or difference of opinion with someone

Regional WA community views on what defines FDV vary from those of Perth Metro communities

vs.

91%* | **82%**
Threats, put-downs, insults and shouting at someone

86%* | **73%**
Monitoring someone's time to make them account for every minute when out of the home

85%* | **76%**
Keeping someone away from friends, family, work and social opportunities

79%* | **69%**
Forcing someone to participate in spiritual or religious practices

74%* | **63%**
Enforcing trivial demands

73%* | **62%**
Belittling someone's views or opinions

73%* | **63%**
Being overly critical of daily things

61%* | **50%**
Keeping someone away from TV, radio, computers, or telephones for an overly extended period

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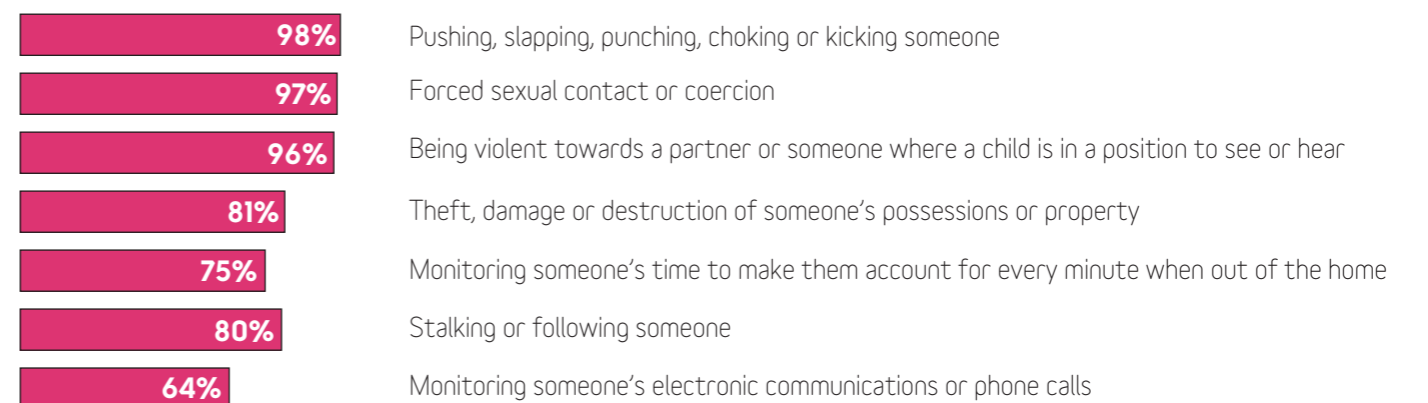Behaviours classified as humiliation and degradation were perceived as FDV by 75% of respondents on average. Mind games and verbal shaming were both identified by 88% of respondents. Sixty-four per cent of respondents identified belittling, with 16% actively disagreeing.
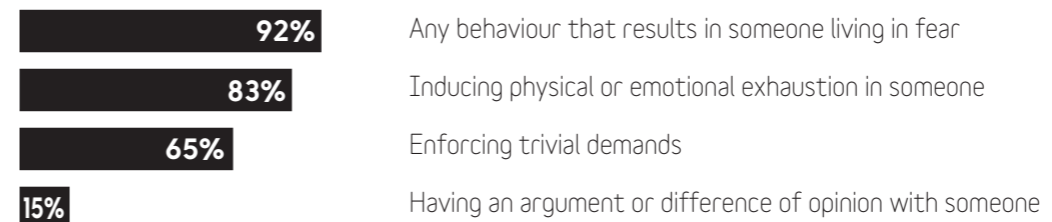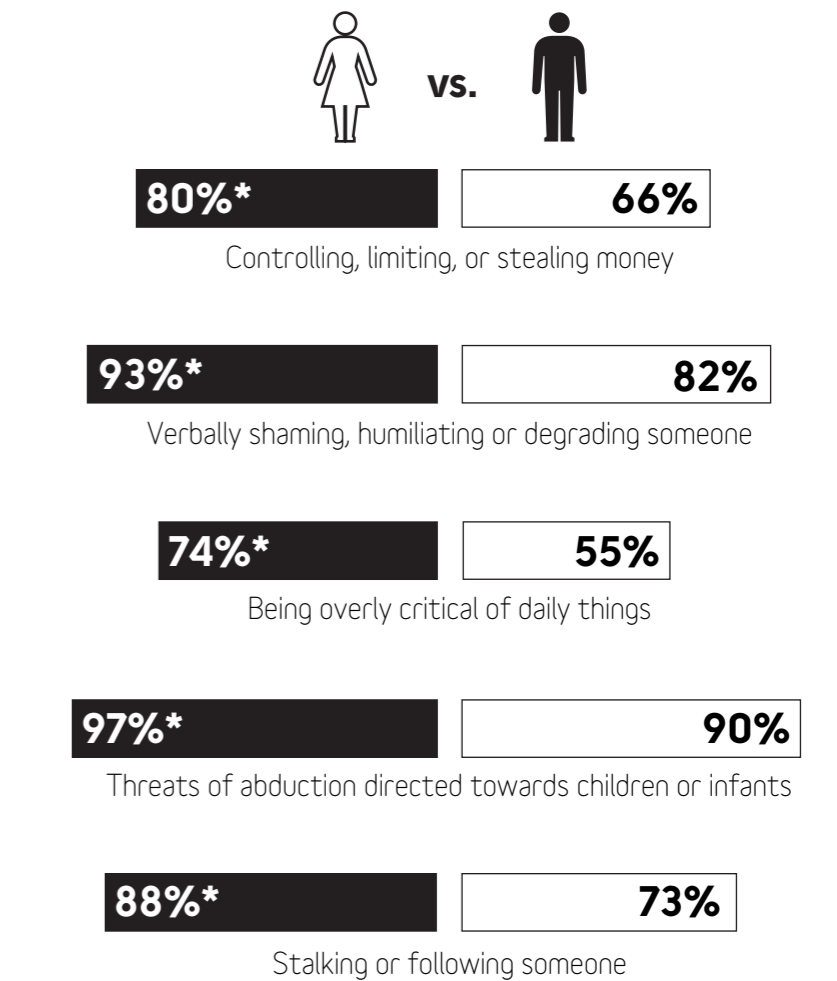
Behaviours classified as isolation were recognised as FDV by 71% of respondents. These behaviours drew the most disparate responses. Withholding food, water, clothing and medicine drew the highest rate of recognition, with 92%. Withholding media and communication technology such as TV, computers and phones drew the lowest rate of recognition with only 52%. Nearly one in three respondents stated explicitly that they did not regard this as FDV. There was a noticeable difference between the genders perception of this behaviour – with 63% of women identifying it, but only 40% of men. It is possible that some respondents interpreted this behaviour as a

punishment for children rather than one designed to control and isolate.

People from the Perth-metropolitan area and people from regional areas demonstrated different levels of understanding. Twenty-one of the 29 behaviours were not perceived differently. However, Western Australians from regional areas were significantly more likely to identify the remaining eight behaviours as qualifying as FDV. The greatest disparity was in regard to monitoring someone's time: 73% of people in Perth identified this as FDV, while 86% of people from regional areas did.

Women were more likely than men to regard all but seven of the 29 behaviours as FDV. Keeping someone away from friends and family was perceived as violent behaviour by 88% of women, but only 67% of men. Women were 26% more likely to identify monitoring someone's time, and 18% more likely to identify monitoring electronic communication.

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS:

Does the word 'violence' cause people to preclude non-physical behaviours in their definitions?

Is there a lack of awareness about the trauma that can be inflicted by non-physical means?

Do people from regional areas demonstrate greater awareness because of better education or because of greater exposure?

Do men have a lower rate of recognition than women because they are less likely to be victims?

Women were significantly more likely than men to regard some behaviours as being FDV

vs.

80%* | **66%**
Controlling, limiting, or stealing money

93%* | **82%**
Verbally shaming, humiliating or degrading someone

74%* | **55%**
Being overly critical of daily things

97%* | **90%**
Threats of abduction directed towards children or infants

88%* | **73%**
Stalking or following someone

"I think of verbal and or physical abuse within the family. My main image is that of physical abuse in particular. Words can take many forms but can still cause great anxiety in the person receiving the words, whether it be sarcasm or yelling."

Male, 65+ years old, Great Southern

Most commonly mentioned causes of FDV

Drug and alcohol abuse — 55%

Aggressors have often suffered themselves — 42%

Irrational behaviour — 40%

Poverty and poor living conditions — 33%

Stress and unemployment — 26%

Weakness, insecurity and low self-esteem — 20%

Anger, rage and jealousy — 18%

Raised with poor parenting — 14%

Need for control — 13%

Cannot handle issues and a lack of control — 13%

WHAT PEOPLE THINK CAUSES FDV

Question:

What would you say are the main influences, causes, situations or circumstances that can result in a FDV incident?

Respondents named a variety of situations when asked to speak about what they believe causes FDV.

The most commonly mentioned cause was drug and alcohol abuse. More than half of the respondents believe drug and alcohol problems are causes of FDV. Four in ten mentioned previous exposure to FDV serving as a precursor to future perpetration. One in three believe that poverty and poor living conditions are causes.

Forty per cent of respondents mentioned irrational behaviour, but there was no specification on whether the violence was caused by irrational behaviour on behalf of the perpetrator or victim.

There were proportionally few responses which named the perpetrator's beliefs, attitudes or choices as the cause of their behaviour. Off the top of their mind, only 13% of respondents identified the need for power and control as a cause. Twelve per cent of respondents mentioned aggression, lack of respect and cruelty. Seven per cent mentioned feelings of entitlement. In general external variables were far more likely to be mentioned than internal attitudes.
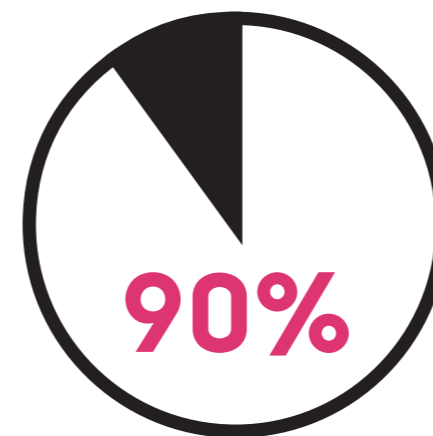
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Perpetrator's attitudes perceived as causes of FDV

90% — Someone believing they have the right to use violence to solve a problem or issue
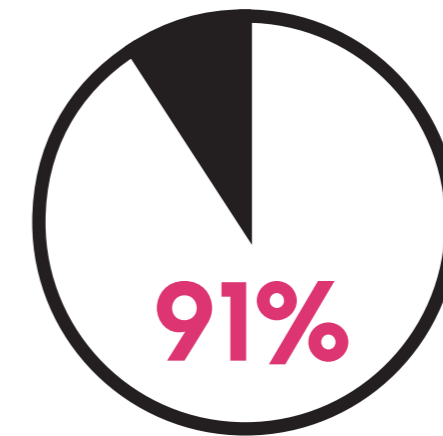
91% — Someone believing they have the right to control or dominate another person
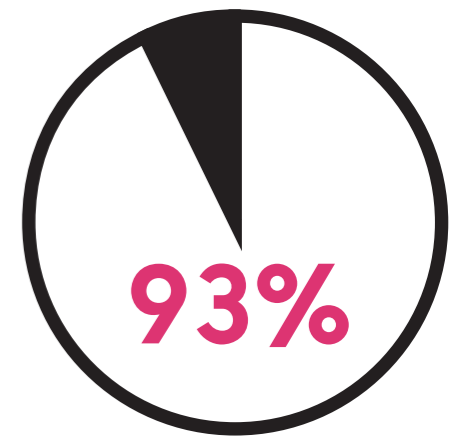
93% — Someone believing they have the right to use violence to achieve a desired outcome

Question:

To what extent do you feel each of these represents a potential influence, cause, situation or circumstance that could result in a FDV incident?

Note: 15 statements tested.

However, when presented with a list of causes the respondents were far more likely to recognise perpetrator's underlying attitudes as a cause. More than 90% of respondents recognised someone believing they have the right to control another person, or use violence to solve problems, or use violence to achieve a desired outcome as causes of FDV. While these behaviours had a high rate of recognition across both genders, women were still significantly more likely to identify them than men.

Unsurprisingly, when prompted, 97% of respondents identified drug and alcohol abuse as a cause of FDV from the list. Eighty per cent identified previous exposure to FDV as a precursor.
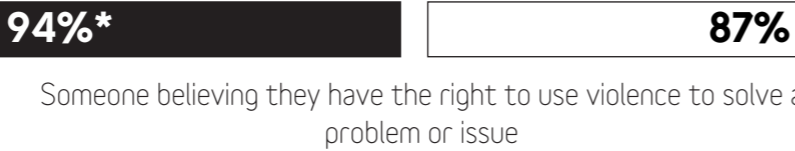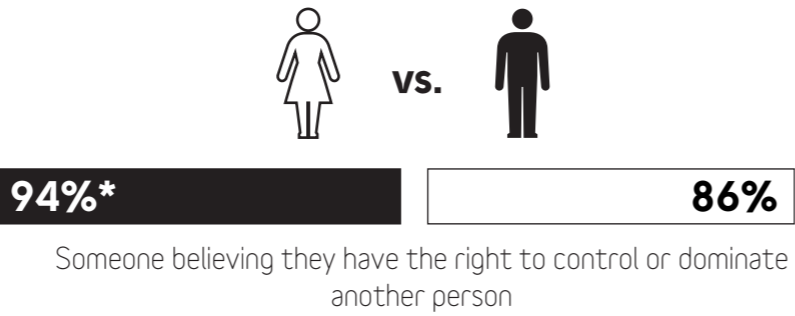
Of concern, more than half of the respondents thought that provocation on behalf of the victim was a cause. While this is the third least identified cause, it is still a troublingly high number. Sixty per cent of men perceived this to be the cause, while only 51% of women did.

From the list, lack of education and gender inequalities were the least likely to be recognised as causes, with just over 4 in 10 respondents identifying them. Women were significantly more likely to acknowledge gender inequalities as a cause with 48% recognition compared to 38% of men.
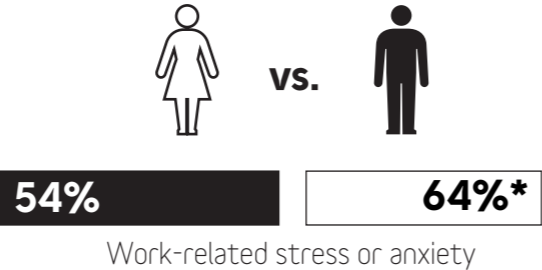
Men were 10% more likely to identify work related stress as a cause, with 64% compared to 54% of women.

Women and men have differing opinions when it comes to the causes of FDV

Where women were higher:

vs.

| 94%* | 86% |
Someone believing they have the right to control or dominate another person

| 94%* | 87% |
Someone believing they have the right to use violence to solve a problem or issue

| 86%* | 75% |
Exposure to family or domestic violence as a child

| 48%* | 38% |
Gender inequalities within our society

Where men were higher:

vs.

| 54% | 64%* |
Work-related stress or anxiety

| 51% | 60%* |
Provoked by a partner or family member

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS:

Are the differences between the genders in perception indicative of different experiences of victimhood and perpetration?

Why do people instinctively name external situations and circumstances as causes, and only name attitudes and beliefs when prompted?

Are women more likely to recognise gender inequality as a cause because of their lived experience?

Alternatively, are men less likely to recognise gender inequality as a cause because they are insulated from it?

Of concern, more than half of the respondents thought that provocation on behalf of the victim was a cause. While this is the third least identified cause, it is still a troublingly high number.

COMMUNITY TOLERANCE

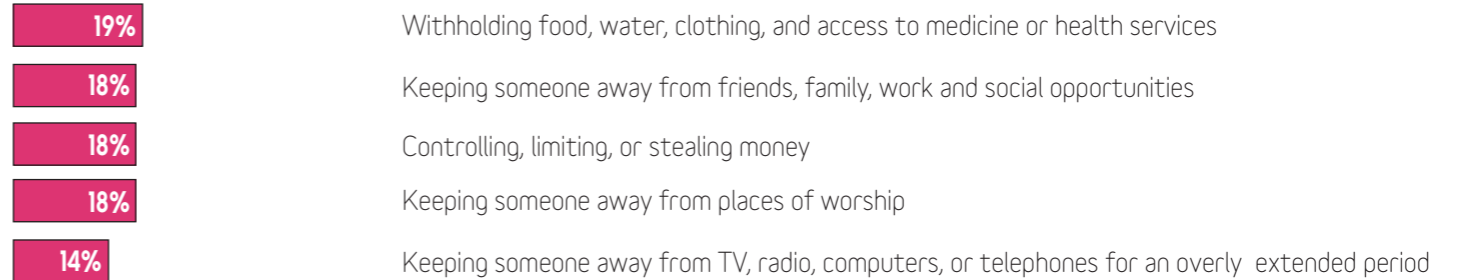*What FDV behaviours are perceived to be tolerated by the community?*

Question:

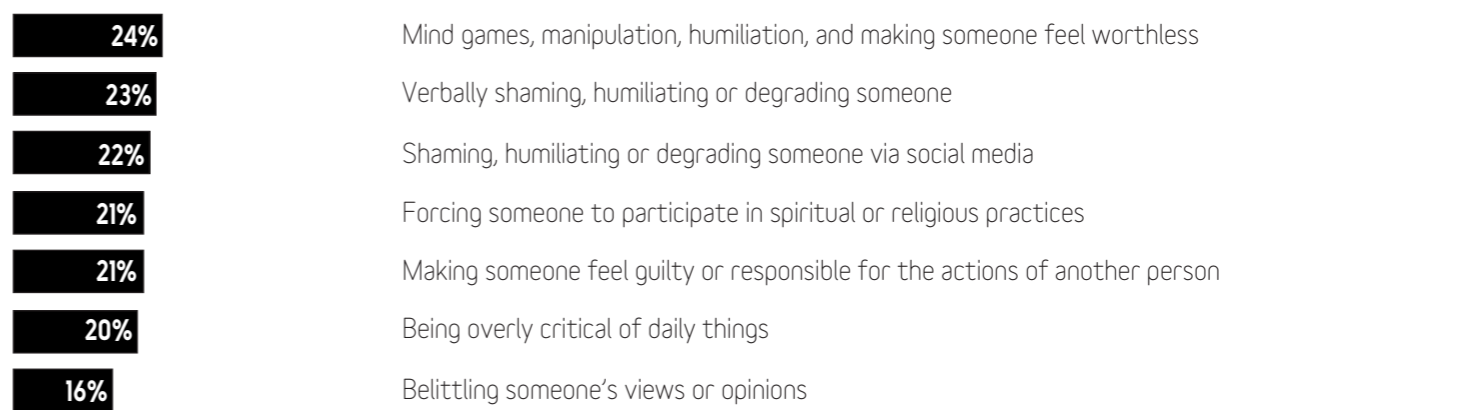And to what extent do you feel the community at large is prepared to accept or tolerate each of these situations?

"...Aboriginal communities where domestic violence is not only common but accepted as part of life. Teenage girls at the community where I live recently answered a questionnaire where they said it was reasonable for a partner to use violence. DV is the norm here."
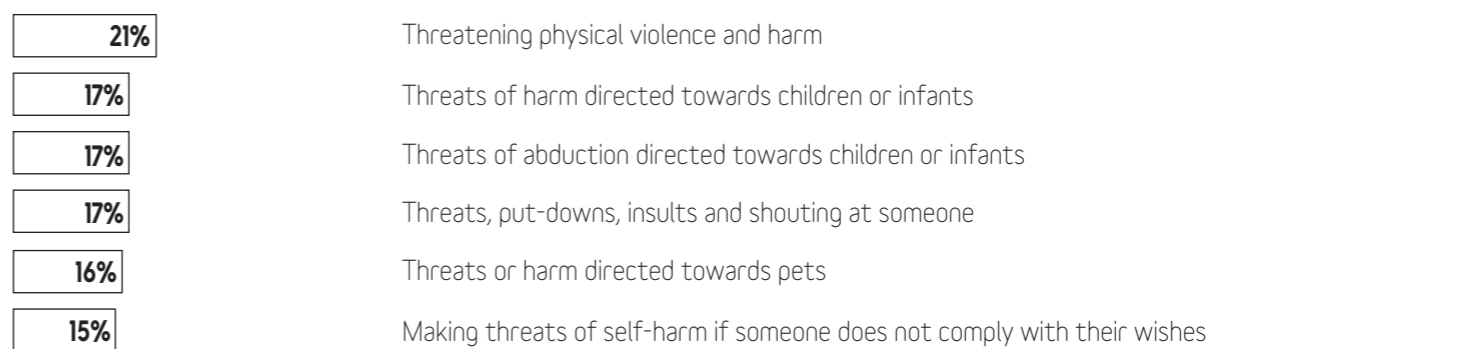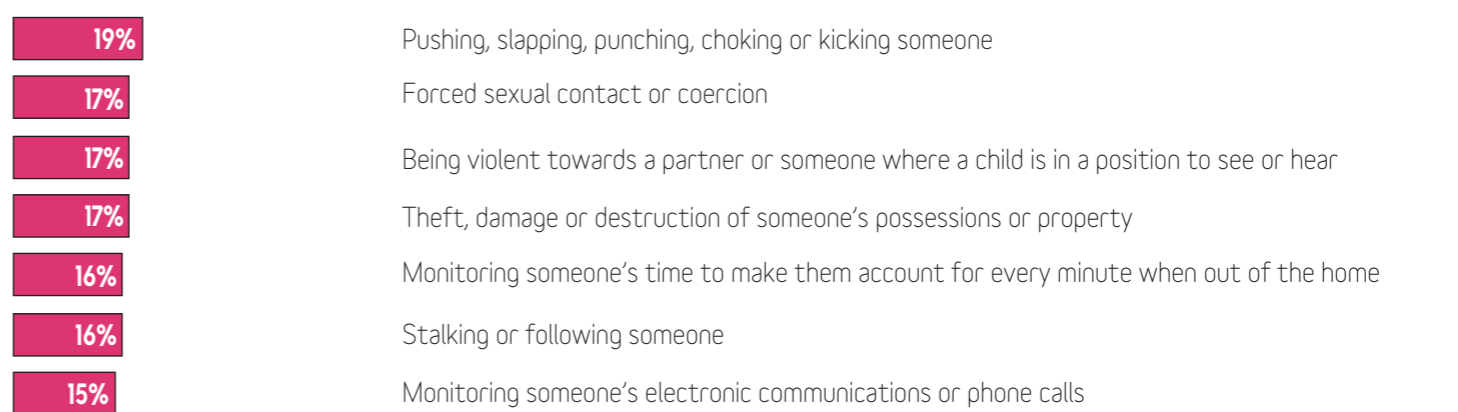
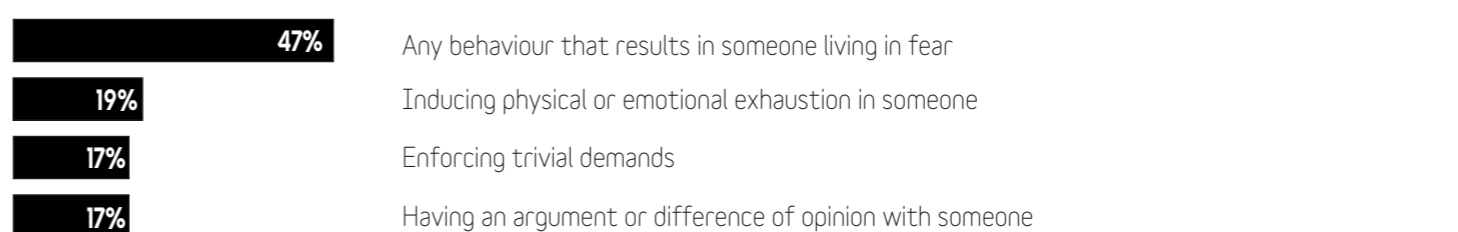Female, 55-59 years old, Kimberley

ISOLATION

%	Behaviour
19%	Withholding food, water, clothing, and access to medicine or health services
18%	Keeping someone away from friends, family, work and social opportunities
18%	Controlling, limiting, or stealing money
18%	Keeping someone away from places of worship
14%	Keeping someone away from TV, radio, computers, or telephones for an overly extended period

HUMILIATION AND DEGRADATION

%	Behaviour
24%	Mind games, manipulation, humiliation, and making someone feel worthless
23%	Verbally shaming, humiliating or degrading someone
22%	Shaming, humiliating or degrading someone via social media
21%	Forcing someone to participate in spiritual or religious practices
21%	Making someone feel guilty or responsible for the actions of another person
20%	Being overly critical of daily things
16%	Belittling someone's views or opinions

THREATS

%	Behaviour
21%	Threatening physical violence and harm
17%	Threats of harm directed towards children or infants
17%	Threats of abduction directed towards children or infants
17%	Threats, put-downs, insults and shouting at someone
16%	Threats or harm directed towards pets
15%	Making threats of self-harm if someone does not comply with their wishes

PHYSICAL AND VIOLATING ABUSE

%	Behaviour
19%	Pushing, slapping, punching, choking or kicking someone
17%	Forced sexual contact or coercion
17%	Being violent towards a partner or someone where a child is in a position to see or hear
17%	Theft, damage or destruction of someone's possessions or property
16%	Monitoring someone's time to make them account for every minute when out of the home
16%	Stalking or following someone
15%	Monitoring someone's electronic communications or phone calls

OTHER

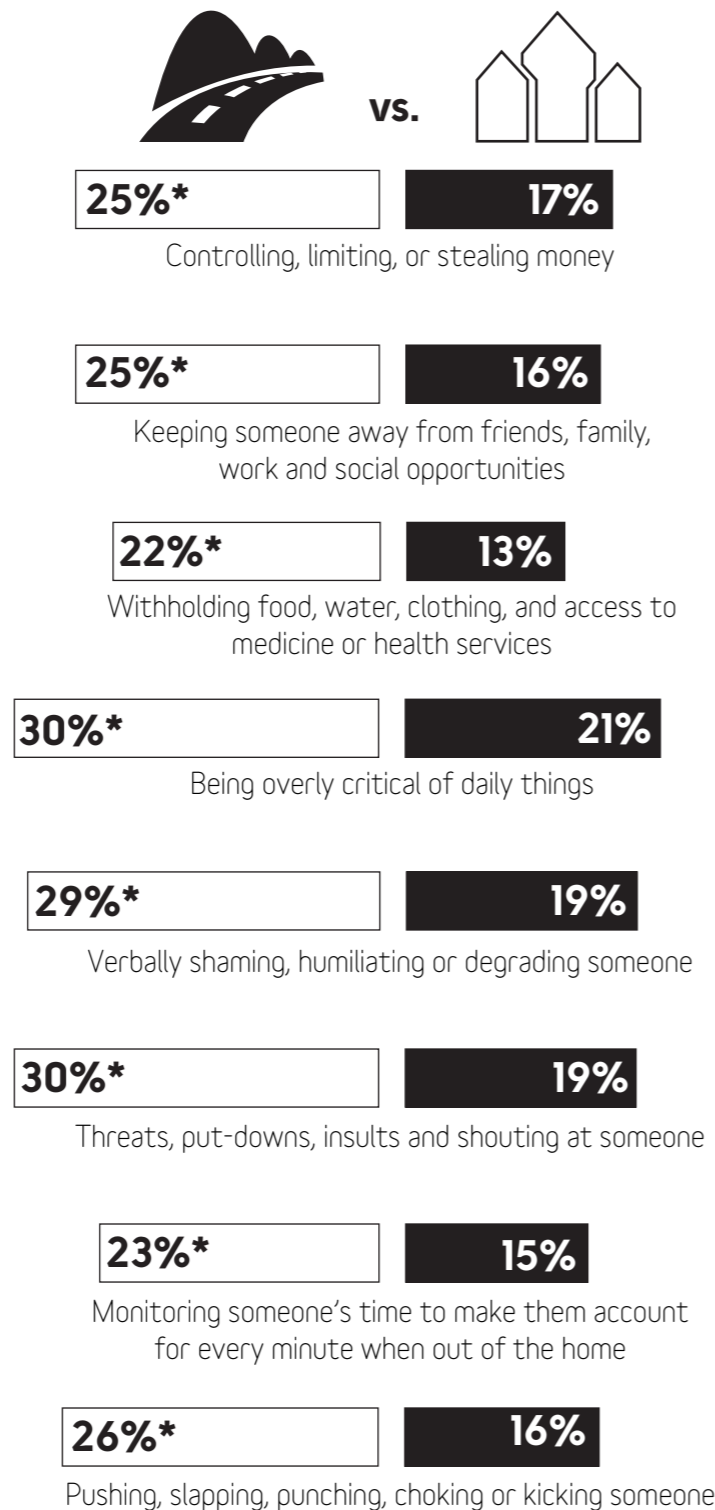| %	Behaviour
47%	Any behaviour that results in someone living in fear
19%	Inducing physical or emotional exhaustion in someone
17%	Enforcing trivial demands
17%	Having an argument or difference of opinion with someone

We presented respondents with the list of 29 FDV behaviours, and asked them to rate out of 10 how accepting or tolerant they believe the community is of each behaviour – with 10 meaning 'definitely does' and 0 meaning 'definitely does not'.

While, the majority of respondents indicated that the community did not tolerate FDV, there was still 18% on average who strongly believed each behaviour was accepted.

On average, 17% of respondents expressed their belief that behaviours classified as isolation are tolerated by the community. Respondents thought the behaviour least likely to be tolerated was withholding food, water, clothing and medicine – with 65% scoring this between 0-2 (definitely does not). However there was still 14% who strongly believed this was tolerated, and 7% who believed it was tolerated to an extent. Notably, 22% of regional respondents strongly believed their community would accept this behaviour compared to 13% of Perth-metro respondents. Roughly one in five respondents strongly agreed that all other behaviours in this category – denying access to communication and media technology, controlling money, denying access to a place of worship, and denying contact with family and friends – was accepted by their communities. ▶

Respondents living in regional areas believed FDV behaviours were more tolerated by their community

vs.

25%*	17%

Controlling, limiting, or stealing money

25%*	16%

Keeping someone away from friends, family, work and social opportunities

22%*	13%

Withholding food, water, clothing, and access to medicine or health services

30%*	21%

Being overly critical of daily things

29%*	19%

Verbally shaming, humiliating or degrading someone

30%*	19%

Threats, put-downs, insults and shouting at someone

23%*	15%

Monitoring someone's time to make them account for every minute when out of the home

26%*	16%

Pushing, slapping, punching, choking or kicking someone

Behaviours classified as humiliation and degradation were on average the most likely to be regarded as tolerated by the community – with 21% of respondents scoring them 8-10 (definitely does). Belittling someone's opinion was thought to definitely be tolerated by 24% of respondents, and thought to be tolerated to an extent by 21% of respondents. One in three respondents from regional areas strongly believed that verbal shaming was accepted in their community, compared to one in five respondents from Perth-metro areas.

The respondents believed that there was a lower level of acceptance towards behaviours classified as threats. On average, nearly 60% scored community tolerance towards these behaviours as 0-2 (definitely does not). Interestingly, the respondents were somewhat polarised in their responses, with very few scoring these behaviours between 3-7. The majority of responses fell into either the 0-2 or 8-10 score ranges. Threats of harm and threats of abduction directed towards children were believed to be the least tolerated, with over 70% saying the community strongly rejects these behaviours. There was a relatively higher level of perceived acceptance towards put downs, insults and shouting at someone – with only 35% scoring these 0-2 (definitely does not) and 21% scoring them 8-10 (definitely does).

When asked about behaviours classified as physical and violating abuse, the majority of respondents felt it was not accepted by the community. On average 54% of respondents said the community was intolerant of such behaviour. Sixty-six per cent of respondents said the community was strongly intolerant of forced sexual contact or coercion and violence committed when a child is in a position to see or hear. Respondents believed the community was more tolerant of non-physical abuse; only 37% said monitoring communication was rejected by the community, and only 36% said monitoring someone's time was rejected by the community. Twenty-six per cent of respondents from regional areas thought that pushing, slapping, punching, choking and kicking were accepted by their community, compared to 16% of respondents from Perth.
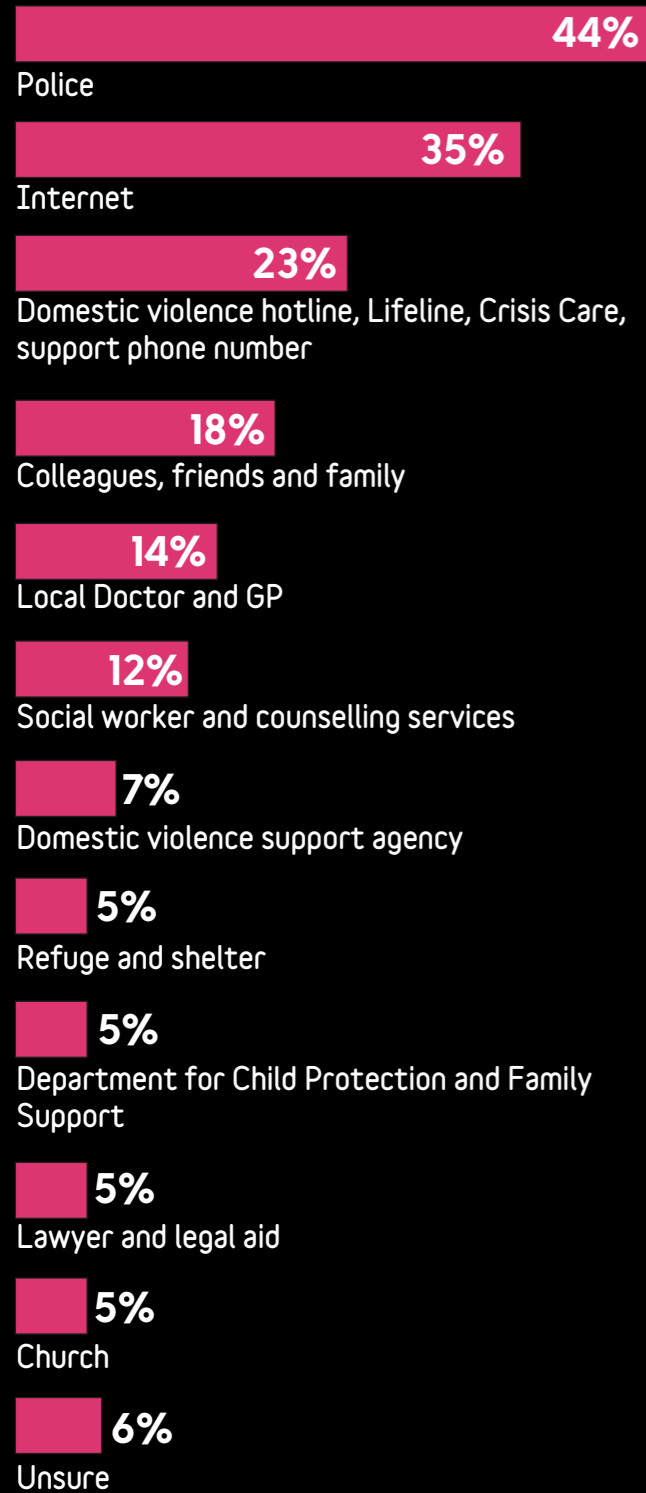
IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS:

Is the difference in perception between metro and regional communities due to a difference in the availability of support services?

Does the higher level of perceived acceptance in regional areas indicate a higher level of experience with FDV?

Are non-physical and psychological types of abuse more accepted and tolerated due to a lack of understanding about the trauma they cause?

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Where would the community go if they needed information or assistance in relation to FDV?
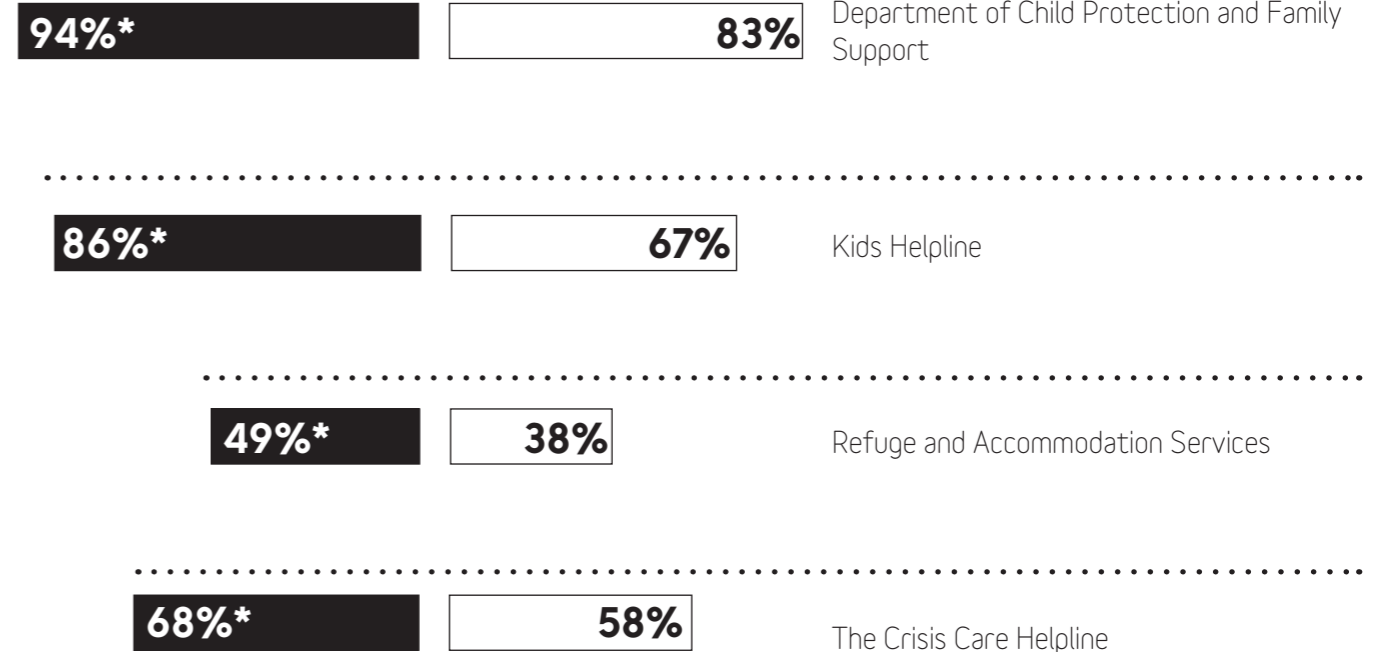
44%
Police

35%
Internet

23%
Domestic violence hotline, Lifeline, Crisis Care, support phone number

18%
Colleagues, friends and family

14%
Local Doctor and GP

12%
Social worker and counselling services

7%
Domestic violence support agency

5%
Refuge and shelter

5%
Department for Child Protection and Family Support

5%
Lawyer and legal aid

5%
Church

6%
Unsure

Question:

If you needed any information, assistance or advice in relation to FDV where would you go?

When asked unprompted where they would go for information, advice and assistance in relation to FDV, respondents gave an eclectic variety of responses.

For 44% of respondents, the police would be the first port of call for assistance. Thirty-five per cent said they would research on the internet. Twenty-three per cent mentioned telephone helplines such as the Domestic Violence Hotline, Lifeline and Crisis Care. Eighteen per cent said they would go to colleagues, friends and family. Comparatively, professional support providers were less likely to be thought of. Only 7% of respondents said they would go to a FDV specialist service. Only 5% mentioned the Department for Child Protection and Family Support as a source of support. ▶

Women and men's awareness of FDV supports differ

vs.

94%* | **83%** | Department of Child Protection and Family Support

86%* | **67%** | Kids Helpline

49%* | **38%** | Refuge and Accommodation Services

68%* | **58%** | The Crisis Care Helpline

Question:

Here are some service providers and ways that people can access information, assistance or advice in relation to FDV. Please indicate whether you have ever heard of each of these.

Differences in regional awareness of FDV supports

vs.

57%*   41%

Refuge and Accommodation Services

93%*   88%

Department of Child Protection and Family Support

We presented the respondents with a list of pathways to information, advice and assistance regarding FDV and asked them to indicate which they were familiar with. The highest was the Western Australian Police, which 97% of respondents were aware of. Second was the Department of Child Protection and Family Support, known by 89% of respondents. Helplines were the next most known resource – with 77% of respondents aware the Kids Helpline, 74% aware of the Women's Domestic Violence Helpline, 63% aware of the Men's Domestic Violence Helpline, and 63% aware of the Crisis Care Helpline.

Women demonstrated a comprehensively greater awareness of the various supports available to them. Ninety-four per cent of women were aware of the Department of Child Protection and Family Support, while only 83% of men were. Eighty-six per cent of women were aware of the Kids Helpline, compared to 67% of men. Women were also more aware of the Men's Domestic Violence Helpline – 67% compared to 59%.

There were also several noticeable differences in awareness between regions. The Kimberley scored the highest rate of awareness of the Family Violence Service, with 41%. The next closest region was the Pilbara with 29%. Respondents from the South West had noticeably less recognition of the Sexual Assault Resource Centre, with 28%. Perth had 38%, the Pilbara 41%, the Great Southern 50%, and the Kimberly 51%. Regional areas in general were more aware than Perth-metro areas of Refuge and Accommodation Services – with 57% compared to 41%.

"I was referred on to a counsellor who made me more assertive and gave me strategies for how to deal with confrontations. I am much better now."

Female, 30-34 years old, South West

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS:

Are women more aware of support providers because they utilise them more often?

Why are women more aware of the Men's Domestic Violence Helpline? Are women more

likely to be the ones referring their partners to such services?

Does the difference in awareness between certain regions indicate a lack of

need or a lack of accessible information?

How can we increase unprompted recall in the community of FDV specialist support services?
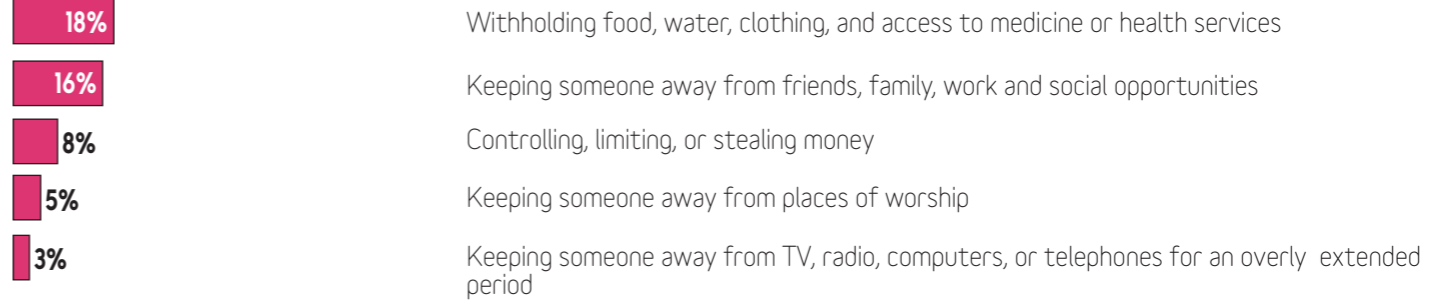
EXPERIENCE

What FDV situations have been personally experienced by the community?
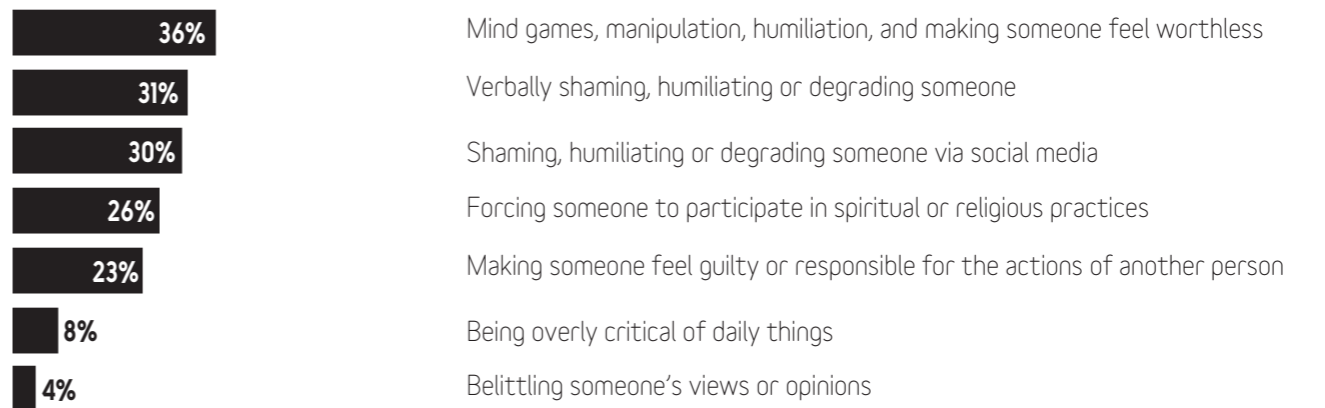
Question:

Please indicate whether any of these represent experiences that you have personally been exposed to, at any time in your life.

The most commonly experienced type of behaviour was humiliation and degradation. On average 23% of respondents had experienced the behaviours in this category.
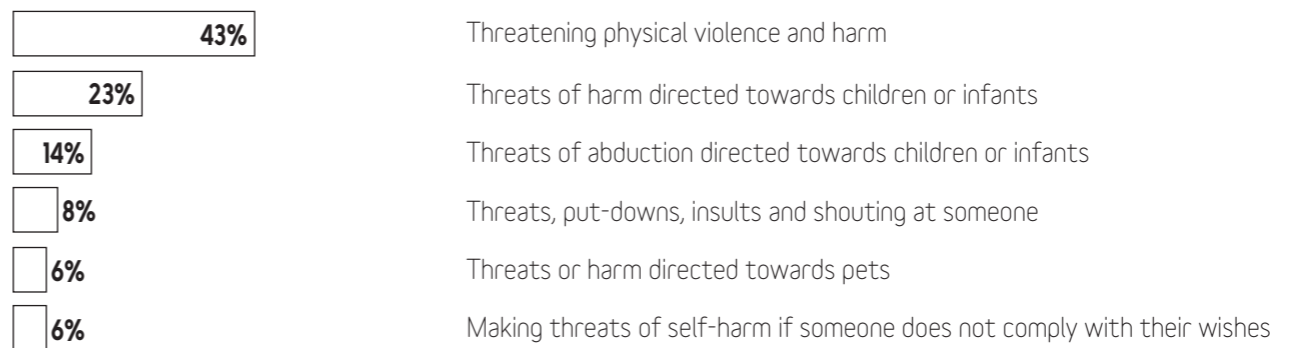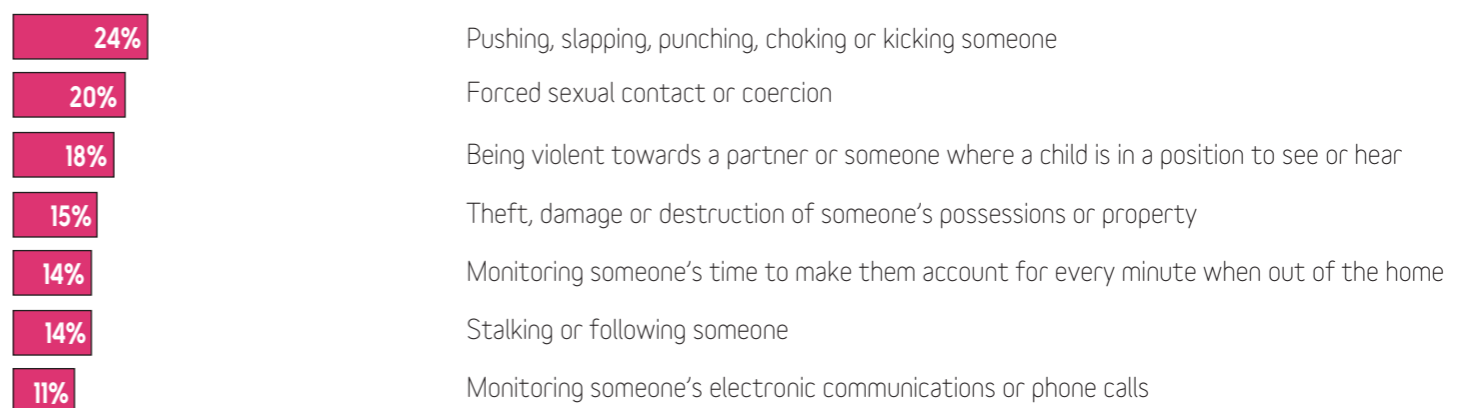
ISOLATION

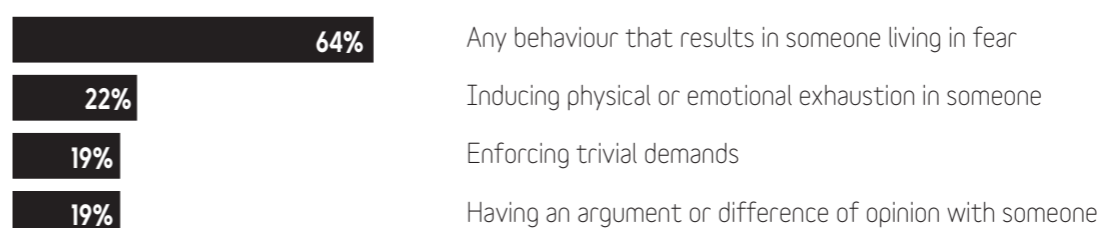| %	Description
18%	Withholding food, water, clothing, and access to medicine or health services
16%	Keeping someone away from friends, family, work and social opportunities
8%	Controlling, limiting, or stealing money
5%	Keeping someone away from places of worship
3%	Keeping someone away from TV, radio, computers, or telephones for an overly extended period

HUMILIATION AND DEGRADATION

%	Description
36%	Mind games, manipulation, humiliation, and making someone feel worthless
31%	Verbally shaming, humiliating or degrading someone
30%	Shaming, humiliating or degrading someone via social media
26%	Forcing someone to participate in spiritual or religious practices
23%	Making someone feel guilty or responsible for the actions of another person
8%	Being overly critical of daily things
4%	Belittling someone's views or opinions

THREATS

%	Description
43%	Threatening physical violence and harm
23%	Threats of harm directed towards children or infants
14%	Threats of abduction directed towards children or infants
8%	Threats, put-downs, insults and shouting at someone
6%	Threats or harm directed towards pets
6%	Making threats of self-harm if someone does not comply with their wishes

PHYSICAL AND VIOLATING ABUSE

%	Description
24%	Pushing, slapping, punching, choking or kicking someone
20%	Forced sexual contact or coercion
18%	Being violent towards a partner or someone where a child is in a position to see or hear
15%	Theft, damage or destruction of someone's possessions or property
14%	Monitoring someone's time to make them account for every minute when out of the home
14%	Stalking or following someone
11%	Monitoring someone's electronic communications or phone calls

OTHER

%	Description
64%	Any behaviour that results in someone living in fear
22%	Inducing physical or emotional exhaustion in someone
19%	Enforcing trivial demands
19%	Having an argument or difference of opinion with someone

Most experienced FDV situations

43%

Threats, put-downs, insults and shouting at someone

36%

Belittling someone's views or opinions

31%

Mind games, manipulation, humiliation, and making someone feel worthless

30%

Verbally shaming, humiliating or degrading someone

26%

Making someone feel guilty or responsible for the actions of another person

23%

Threatening physical violence and harm

14%

Stalking or following someone

11%

Forced sexual contact or coercion

Using the list of 29 behaviours, we asked respondents about their personal experiences of FDV. This included experiences as a victim, as a perpetrator, and as a bystander or witness.

The most commonly experienced type of behaviour was humiliation and degradation. On average, 23% of respondents had experienced the behaviours in this category. Thirty-six per cent reported having been belittled, with 29% experiencing this at some point in the last three months and 45% in the last 12 months. Around one in three had experienced mind games and verbal shaming. On the lower end, 8% had experienced shaming via social media – which may have been indicative of the respondents all being older than 18. Almost half the respondents said they have seen or heard most of the humiliation and degradation behaviours being done to others.

On average, 17% of respondents had been subjected to a behaviour classified as a threat. However, this number was inflated by the very high rate of people who reported having been put down, insulted and shouted at – 43%, the highest of any single behaviour. Forty-five per cent of respondents had seen or heard someone threaten, put down, insult or shout at another. Twenty three per cent of respondents had been threatened with physical violence.

Behaviours classified as physical and violating abuse were also experienced by 17% of respondents. Disturbingly, no single behaviour in this domain was experienced by fewer than 10% of respondents. One in four respondents had been assaulted; either being punched, kicked, pushed, choked or slapped. Twenty per cent had their property stolen or damaged. Eleven per cent of respondents had endured forced sexual contact and coercion.

On average, behaviours that were labelled as isolation had been experienced by one in ten participants. Eighteen per cent of these respondents had been deliberately kept away from friends, family and colleagues.
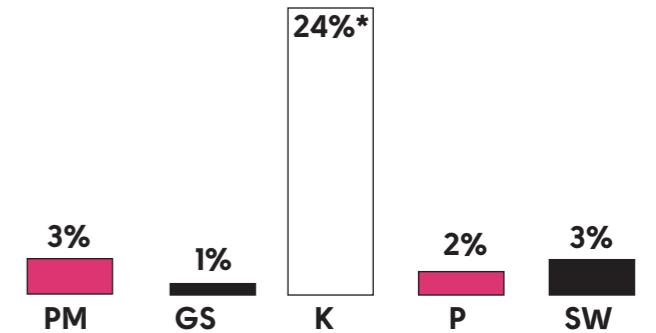
Regional areas in general experienced greater levels of FDV than metropolitan Perth. However there was a noticeable level of disparity between

regional areas. Respondents from the Great Southern scored the lowest amount of experience of any region, including Perth, for 22 of the 29 behaviours. While respondents from the Kimberley scored the highest amount of experience in 23 of the 29

behaviours. Respondents from the Kimberley reported a much higher rate of sexual assault with 33%, compared to 16% in the Pilbara, 10% in the Perth-metro area, 9% in the Great Southern, and 8% in the South West.

Differences in experiences of FDV across regional locations

Shaming, humiliating or degrading someone via social media

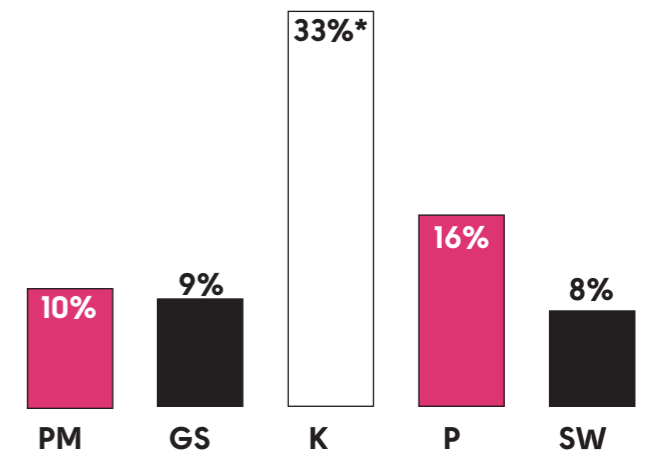| PM	GS	K	P	SW
7%	2%	23%*	15%	4%

Forcing someone to participate in spiritual or religious practices

PM	GS	K	P	SW
3%	1%	24%*	2%	3%

Threats of abduction directed towards children or infants

PM	GS	K	P	SW
4%	4%	24%*	17%	5%

Forced sexual contact or coercion

PM	GS	K	P	SW
10%	9%	33%*	16%	8%

KEY:

PM	Perth Metro
GS	Great Southern
K	Kimberley
P	Pilbara
SW	South West

Women experienced behaviours as victims of FDV more than men

vs.
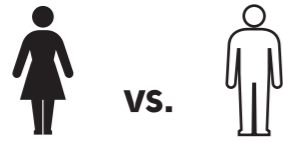
27%* | **20%**
Being pushed, slapped, punched, choked or kicked

18%* | **10%**
Being stalked or followed

18%* | **4%**
Forced sexual contact or coercion
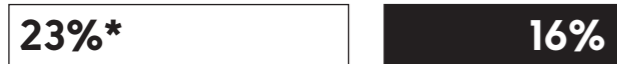
23%* | **16%**
Being induced to physical or emotional exhaustion

Women had personally experienced these behaviours as victims of FDV more than men; reporting a higher level of experience in 24 of the 29 behaviours. Women were more likely to have been pushed, slapped, punched, choked or kicked – with 27% reporting the experience compared to 20% of men.

Women had personally experienced these behaviours as victims of FDV more than men; reporting a higher level of experience in 24 of the 29 behaviours. Women were more likely to have been pushed, slapped, punched, choked or kicked – with 27% reporting the experience compared to 20% of men. One in five women reported being stalked as compared to one in 10 men. There was a significantly higher level of discrepancy of experience between genders when it came to sexual violence. One in five women had been sexually assaulted compared to one in twenty men. Thirty-six per cent of women had suffered mind games and manipulation compared to 25% of men.

Men were in general more commonly victimised by isolating behaviours, albeit by a smaller margin. Men were also slightly more likely to be shamed on social media.

Very few respondents reported having committed any of the 29 behaviours. Only for seven of the behaviours did more than 5% of respondents admit to perpetration – four of these behaviours were classified as humiliation and degradation. The most commonly admitted act of perpetration was put downs, insults and shouting at someone – with 20%. Notably this group was divided into 65% men and 35% women. Men consistently reported perpetrating humiliation and degradation more often than women. Thirteen per cent of men reported verbally shaming someone, compared to 4% of women. Seven per cent of men reported having threatened violence on another, compared to 2% of women. Twelve per cent of men reported having played mind games on another, compared to 2% of women.

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS:

If more women than men experience not only deliberate isolation, humiliation and degrading abuse, but are more likely to experience high risk physical and sexual assault, do we need to think about better ways of highlighting these behaviours as a pattern of establishing and maintaining power and control in relationships?

Given the significant differences in experience between regions, do we need to explore these differences in more depth and identify factors that are impacting more positively or negatively?

What is disturbingly clear is that respondents are very familiar with the range of behaviours consistent with FDV whether by personal experience or by witnessing acts and threats of abuse. Does this mean that people are more or less likely to access assistance for themselves or others? Would they know where to go for help or information?

Men reported perpetrating behaviours more than women

vs.

8% | **17%***
Belittling someone's views or opinions

4% | **13%***
Verbally shaming, humiliating or degrading someone

3% | **10%***
Being overly critical of daily things

14% | **26%***
Threats, put-downs, insults or shouting at someone

2% | **7%***
Threatening physical violence or harm

"I had an emotionally abusive partner for four years. It has completely changed who I am. I have left him and am trying hard to stay away from him and move on with my life. It has completely destroyed my confidence and sense of who I am."

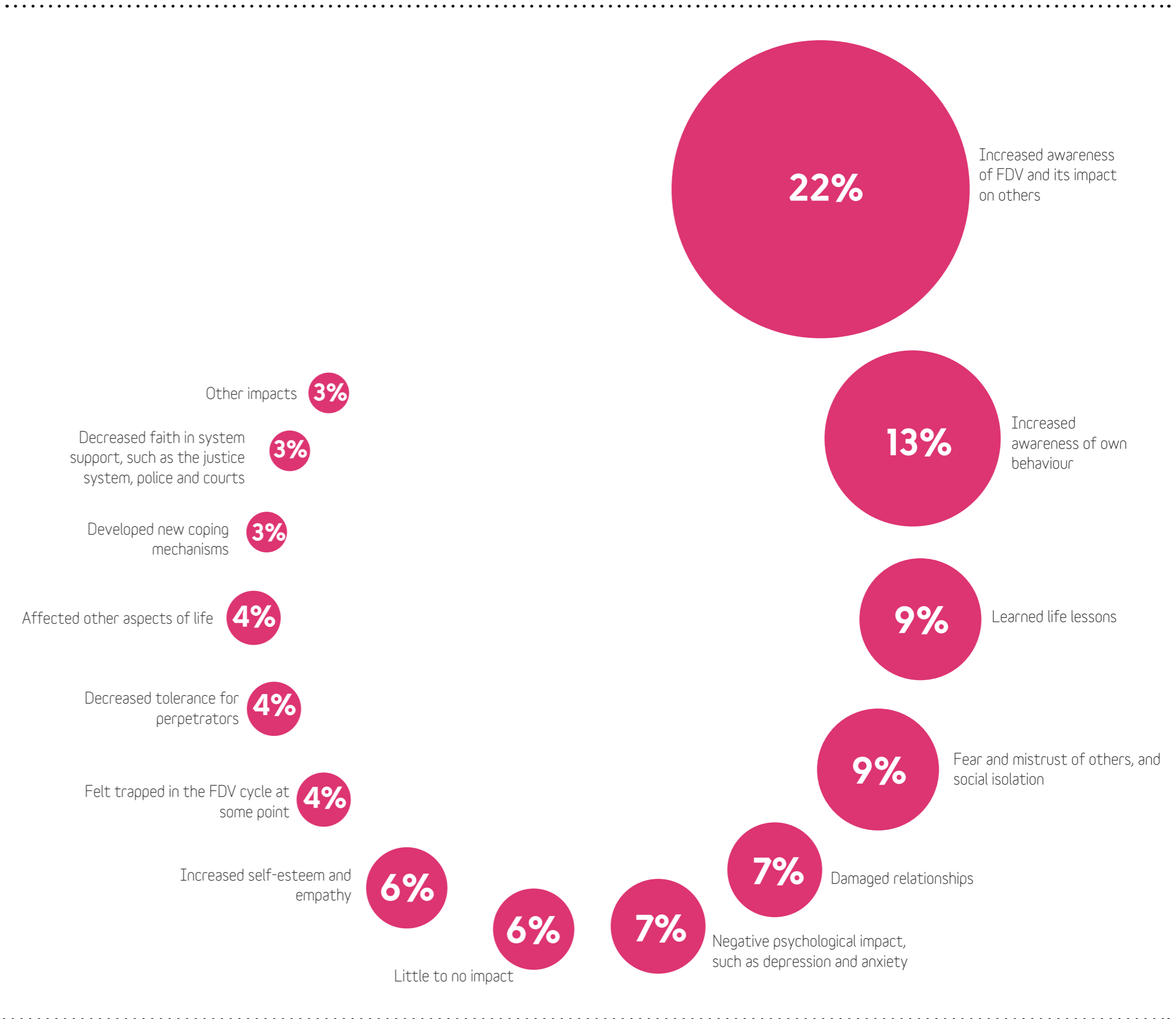Female, 18-24 years old, Kimberley

IMPACT

How has FDV impacted the Western Australian community?

Question:

And how have these personal experiences of FDV impacted you personally, your family or you broader circles of contact?

The most commonly reported effect was increased awareness of FDV and its impact on others, with over one in five respondents reporting this.

22% Increased awareness of FDV and its impact on others

Other impacts **3%**

Decreased faith in system support, such as the justice system, police and courts **3%**

Developed new coping mechanisms **3%**

13% Increased awareness of own behaviour

Affected other aspects of life **4%**

9% Learned life lessons

Decreased tolerance for perpetrators **4%**

9% Fear and mistrust of others, and social isolation

Felt trapped in the FDV cycle at some point **4%**

Increased self-esteem and empathy **6%**

6% Little to no impact

7% Damaged relationships

7% Negative psychological impact, such as depression and anxiety

"I had no idea that what I experienced was any different from anyone else. Even now, I am confused by what I remember. In some situations I am unsure what is right or wrong, in words or actions. I often have to talk things over, ask questions of someone I trust. Other people tell me that my head is messed up, that my spirit has been damaged. I am often confused as to what parts of me are broken and if I can fix them."

Female, 40-44 years old, Great Southern

Respondents gave a wide range of responses when asked what personal impact FDV had on them. It is important to note that the type of experience was not specified; some respondents may have only witnessed FDV, compared to others who had been victimised, and others who had perpetrated.

The most commonly reported effect was an increased awareness of FDV and its impact on others, with over one in five respondents reporting this. In a similar vein, 13% reported an increased awareness of their own behaviour.

Six per cent reported no effect at all, though it is possible many of these respondents may be part of the segment of respondents who simply had not experienced FDV.

There were multiple reported negative impacts. Seven per cent of respondents said they had suffered a negative psychological impact, including depression and anxiety. Nine per cent said they felt fear and mistrust of others as a result of their exposure. Seven per cent felt that their family relationships had been damaged. Four per cent said they had felt entrapped by the violence and abuse as well as by the barriers that contributed to the challenges of seeking help and support.

There were occasional reports of positive reactions, with 6% of respondents saying they had increased self-esteem and empathy as a result of their experience. Nine per cent said they had learnt life lessons.

Four per cent of respondents indicated they had a decreased tolerance for perpetrators and interestingly three per cent had decreased faith in system support.

Developed from open-ended survey responses.
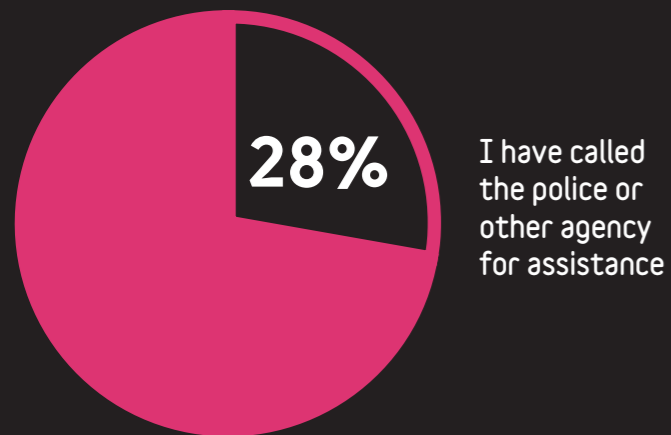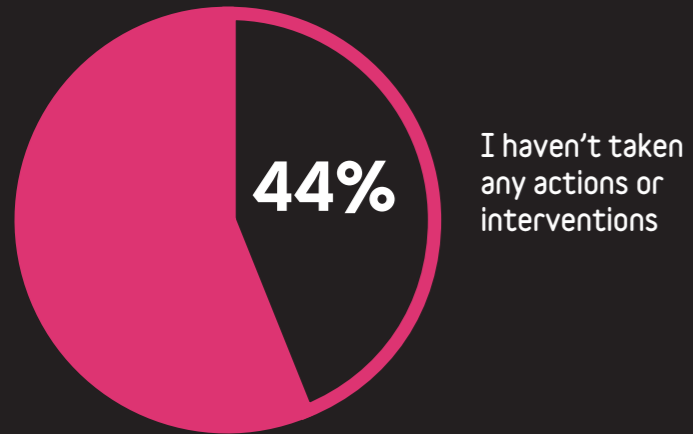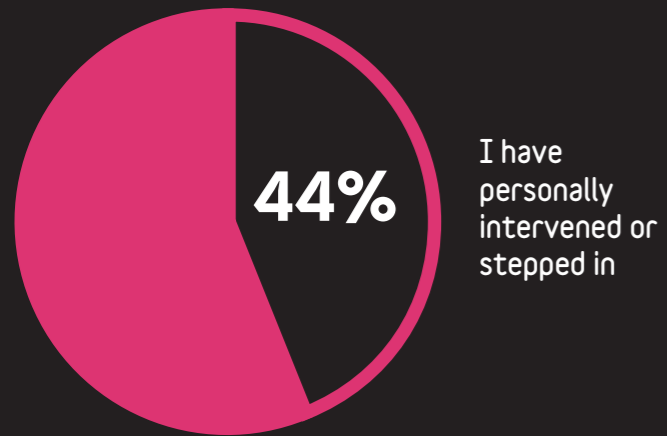
IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS:

What can our service system learn from those who lost faith in services that are designed to be there for help and support? How can our service delivery systems continue to learn to respond better?

What is very concerning is that people learned more about FDV by having personal experiences of being violated and abused. How can we provide information in a way that is preventative and that alerts people to the early indicators of abuse?

Actions taken when witnessing FDV

44% I have personally intervened or stepped in

44% I haven't taken any actions or interventions

28% I have called the police or other agency for assistance

COMMUNITY INTERVENTION

Where are people more likely to intervene?

vs.

Question:

In terms of any domestic violence incident experiences you have personally seen or heard happen to other people, what actions or interventions, if any, have you taken?
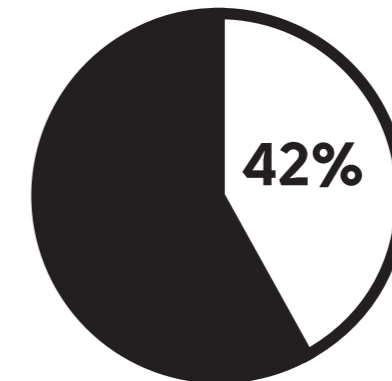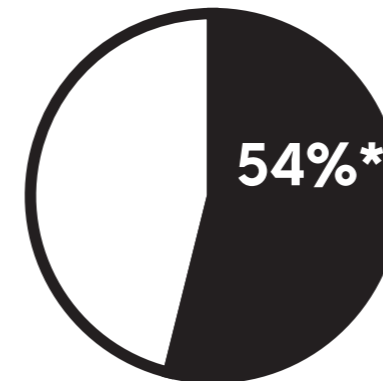
Intervention was a polarising issue as it seemed that when witnessing acts of FDV, respondents were just as likely to step in as they were to do nothing at all. Interestingly, a slightly smaller percentage of people said they would contact a third party for help.

When we asked the respondents if they had intervened, 44% indicated that they had personally stepped in. Another 44% indicated that they have not taken any action. Just under one third said they called the police or another agency for assistance.
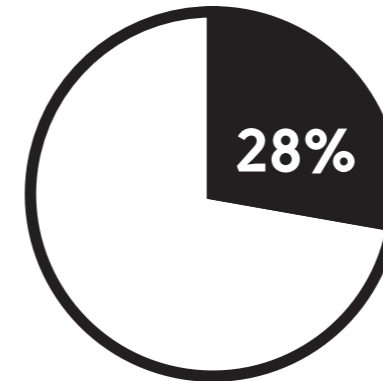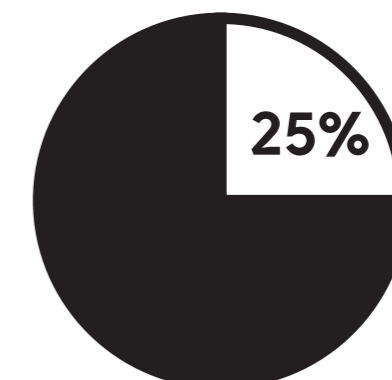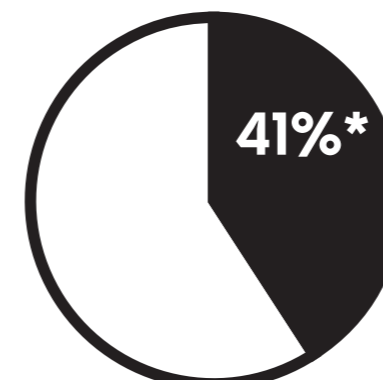
54%* **42%** I have personally intervened or stepped in

28% **47%*** I haven't taken any actions or interventions

41%* **25%** I have called the police or other agency for assistance

Respondents from regional areas were more likely to personally intervene. Fifty-four per cent of regional respondents had stepped in when witnessing an incidence of FDV, compared to 42% of Perth-metro respondents. The South West had the highest rate of personal intervention of any single region, with 62% of respondents likely to intervene. Inversely, nearly half of Perth Metro respondents had taken no action when witnessing FDV compared to only 28% of regional respondents. Forty-one per cent of regional respondents had called a third party, such as the police, while only 25% of Perth-metro respondents had. There was some disparity between the regional areas when it came to calling for external help. Six in ten respondents from the Kimberley had called for help, while only 20% of respondents from the South West.

While men and women were roughly as likely to personally step in – with 43% of male respondents and 45% of female respondents having done so – men were notably more likely to take no action at all. Half of the male respondents who had witnessed FDV took no action, compared to 40% of women. Roughly one in three women had called the police or another third party agency, compared to 24% of men.

However, a reasonable proportion of respondents who did not intervene were not in a position to do so. A quarter said they did not intervene because they were not present at the time that the violence occurred. Around 5% said they were too young at the time to do anything.

Other reasons for not intervening included: that the respondent felt it was not their business, reported by 35%; that the respondent felt the victim would not want them to, reported by 25%; and that the respondent was too scared to do anything, reported by 17%.

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS:

Does the higher rate of intervention by regional respondents reflect the higher rate of FDV in the area? Or a higher sense of social responsibility?
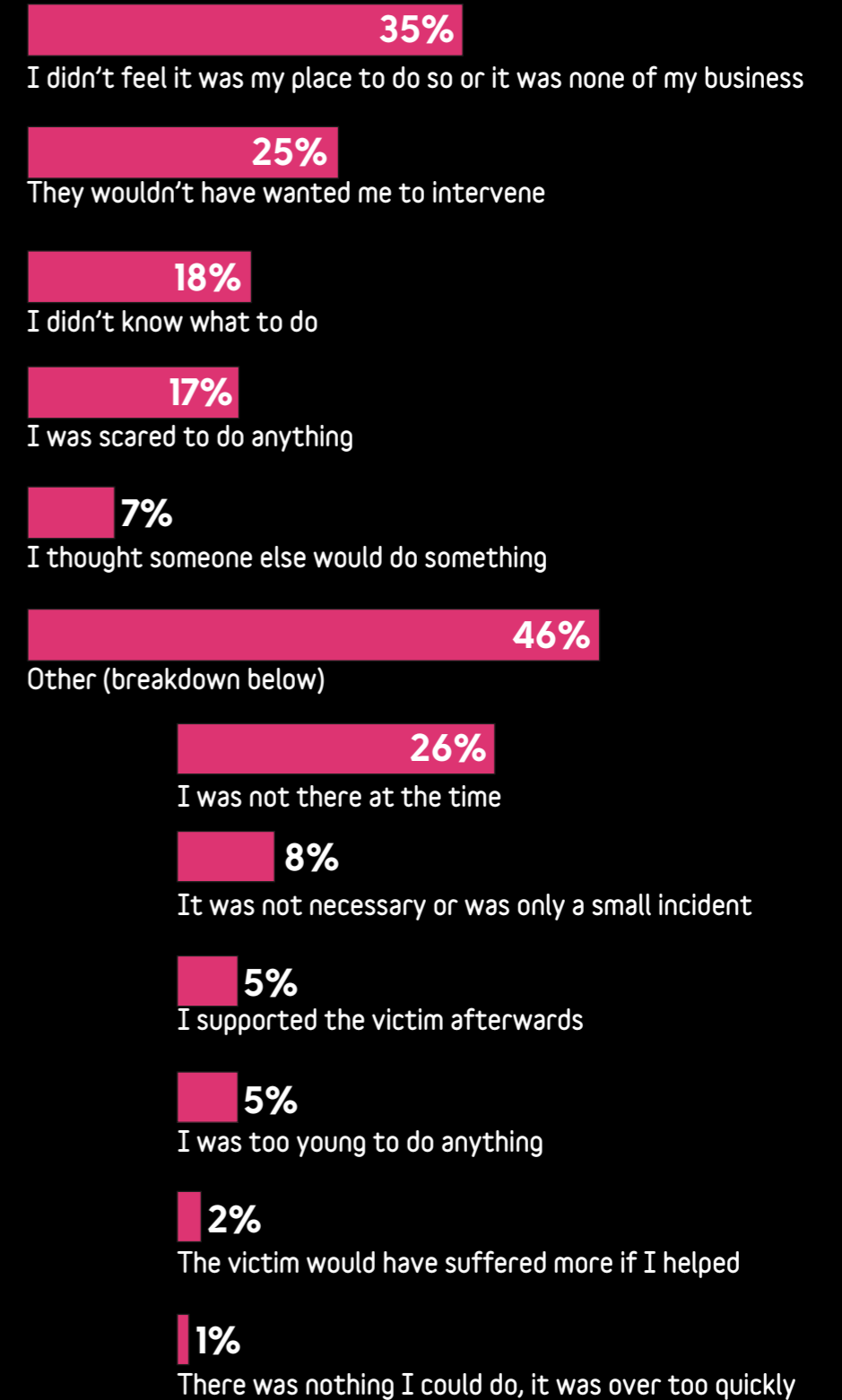
Do people know what to do and who to contact when witnessing acts of abuse either publicly or privately? Does this indicate that more work needs to be done in terms of practical and safe ideas about what are the best strategies when witnessing FDV?

Do we need to promote and market the issues more effectively as a 'men's issue and a men's concern' rather than continue to see FDV as an issue only concerning women?

Why didn't people act when aware of FDV incidents?

35% — I didn't feel it was my place to do so or it was none of my business

25% — They wouldn't have wanted me to intervene

18% — I didn't know what to do

17% — I was scared to do anything

7% — I thought someone else would do something

46% — Other (breakdown below)

26% — I was not there at the time

8% — It was not necessary or was only a small incident

5% — I supported the victim afterwards

5% — I was too young to do anything

2% — The victim would have suffered more if I helped

1% — There was nothing I could do, it was over too quickly
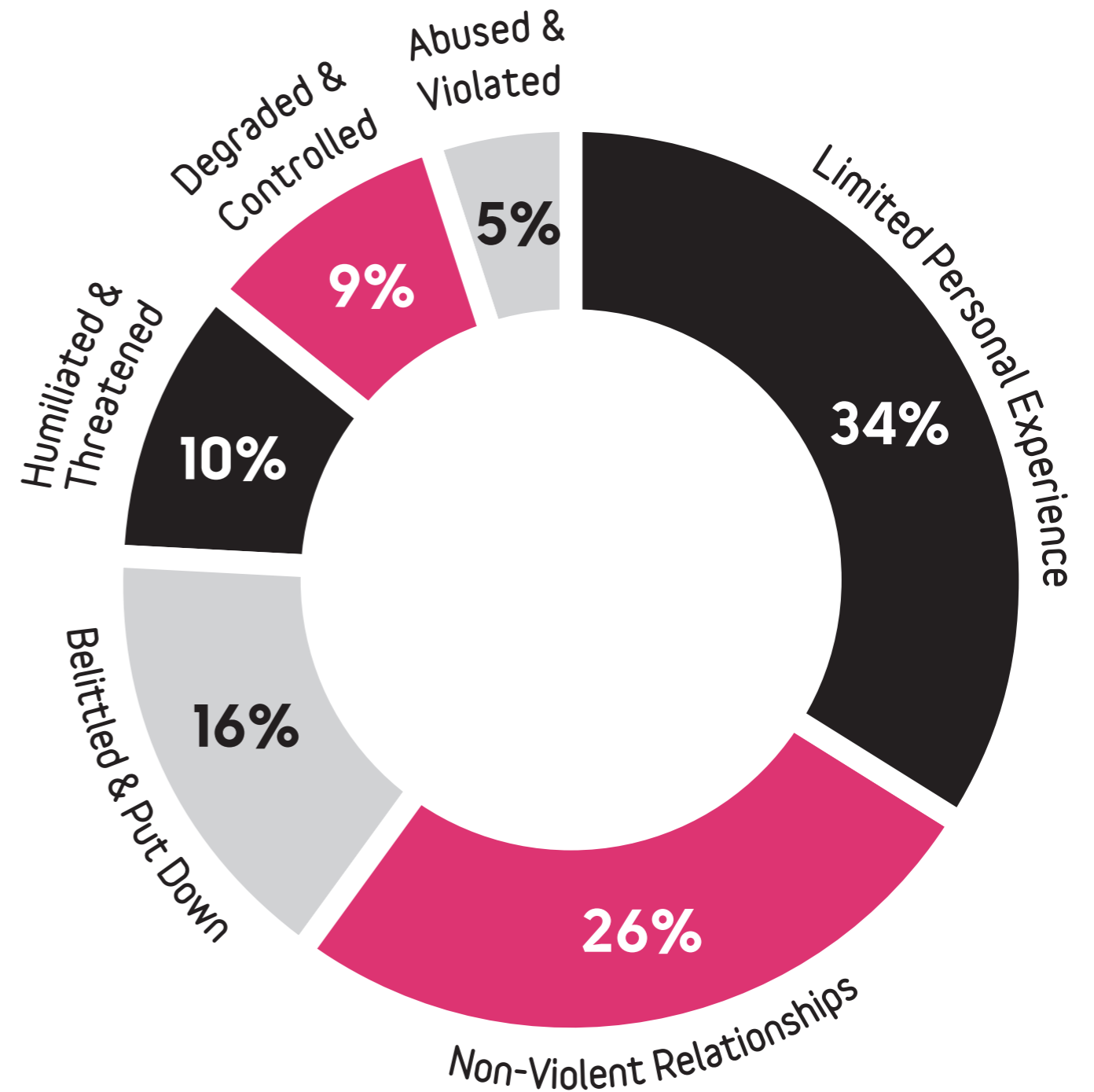
CLUSTER ANALYSIS

A cluster analysis is a class of statistical techniques used to find patterns in data. It determines if data exhibit "natural" groupings or clusters of relatively homogenous observations. Objects in a cluster are similar to each other and dissimilar to objects outside the cluster, particularly objects in other clusters. Cluster analysis is an interdependent technique; it makes no distinction between dependent and independent variables. The entire set of interdependent relationships is examined.

When running a cluster analysis of the 29 FDV behaviours (as can be seen on page 10 of this report), a six cluster solution emerged.

40% of the community have experienced some level of FDV during their lifetime.

SEGMENT PROFILES

- Degraded & Controlled — 9%
- Abused & Violated — 5%
- Limited Personal Experience — 34%
- Humiliated & Threatened — 10%
- Belittled & Put Down — 16%
- Non-Violent Relationships — 26%

The Western Australian community falls into these six segments

"I understand on one level the violence was not my fault on another level I wish I had done more to stop it or get out of it. Feelings of helplessness and an inability to understand why I stayed and endured the put downs and the control and the beltings for so long."
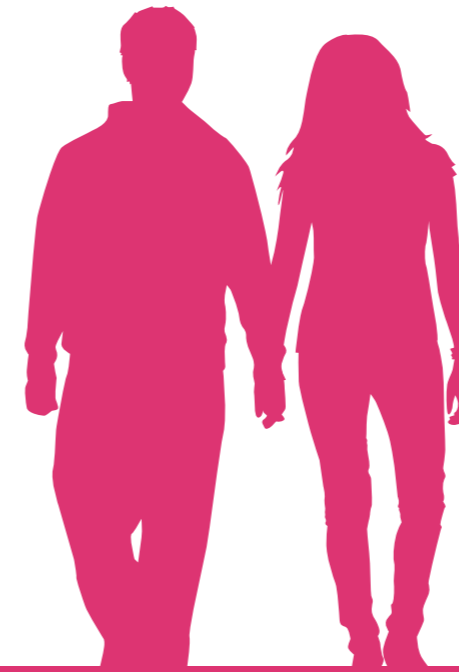
Female, 50-54 years old, Kimberley

LIMITED PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

- make up 34% of the population
- significantly more likely to be 60+ years old
- significantly more likely to be male
- higher proportion of singles and couples without children

NON-VIOLENT RELATIONSHIPS

- make up 26% of the population
- no significant age or gender differences
- significantly more likely to be male
- more prevalent amongst couple relationships

BELITTLED AND PUT DOWN

- make up 16% of the population
- significantly more likely to be 30-39 years old
- no gender differences
- more likely to have kids and be married or in relationships

LIMITED PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

One third of the population have had very limited or no personal experiences of FDV in their lives, but many have seen or heard it happen to others.

This group is broadly and evenly distributed throughout metro and regional Western Australia. They are significantly more likely to be over the age of 60, male and to own their home outright. In this group there was a higher proportion of singles and couples with no kids.

NON-VIOLENT RELATIONSHIPS

One quarter of the population have had very limited or no personal experiences of FDV in their lives; however, arguments and differences of opinion are common.

This group was broadly and evenly distributed throughout metro and regional Western Australia. There was no significant age, gender, income, or family status differences. In this group there was a higher proportion of couples, and those paying off their homes.

BELITTLED AND PUT DOWN

One in six people have had significant experiences in terms of being belittled and put down at some point in their lives.

This group was broadly and evenly distributed throughout metro and regional Western Australia. Members of this group were significantly more likely to be 30-39 years of age. There were no gender differences in the group, but members were significantly more likely to be in a married or de-facto relationship and more likely to have kids. Generally, members had a household income between $75,000-$125,000.

Members of this group reported that the biggest impacts of their exposure to FDV were: them or their children suffering anxiety or depression, and questioning their self-worth.
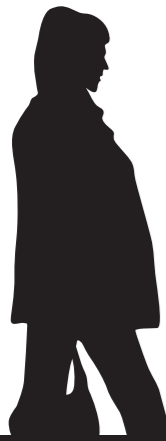
HUMILIATED AND THREATENED

- make up 10% of the population
- more likely to be 30-49 years old
- more likely to be female
- more likely to be engaged in home duties or not working

DEGRADED AND CONTROLLED

- make up 5% of the population
- more likely to be 40-49 years old
- more likely to be female

ABUSED AND VIOLATED

- make up 9% of the population
- significantly more likely to be 18-29 years old
- significantly more likely to be female
- more likely to be divorced, separated, widowed or have never been married

24% of respondents have experienced serious, acute and chronic FDV.

HUMILIATED AND THREATENED

One in ten people have had significant experiences in terms of being humiliated and threatened at some point in their lives.

This group was broadly and evenly distributed throughout metro and regional Western Australia. They were more represented in the 30-39 and 40-49 years age groups. They were more likely to be female and engaged in home duties or not working. People with a lower income, less than $75,000, were significantly more prevalent in this group.

They generally had lower levels of education and were far more likely to be renting.

Members in this group demonstrated a much higher awareness of the Crisis Care Helpline and Refuge and Accommodation Services.

The most significant impacts that this group suffered were: them and their children suffering anxiety or depression, and being wary or fearful of relationships.

DEGRADED AND CONTROLLED

One in seventeen people have experienced being degraded and controlled at some point in their lives.

Members of this group were broadly and evenly distributed throughout metro and regional Western Australia. In general members were more likely to be in the 40-49 years age group and female. They were more likely to be working part-time or not working, and significantly more likely to be separated, widowed or divorced. They were generally better educated. There was a higher representation of blended families in this group, and a significantly higher representation of single parents.

This group demonstrated a significantly higher awareness of the Department of Child Protection and Family Support. They were also more aware of both the Women's Domestic Violence Helpline, and showed the highest awareness of counselling support available by NGOs.

This group suffered from anxiety and depression along with their children, had experienced a sense of destroyed confidence brought about by the abuse and violence, but interestingly also reported feeling like a stronger person after things had become safe and healing could begin.

ABUSED AND VIOLATED

One in eleven people have experienced a significant level of FDV and at some point in their lives have had a partner or ex-partner enact and sustain abusive and violating behaviours against them.

One in five people from this group were from regional Western Australia. They were significantly more likely to be 18-29 years of age and female. Members of this group were more likely to be engaged in home duties or not working, and more likely to have never been married, or be separated, widowed or divorced.

Members of this group were significantly more likely to have a low household income – less than $75,000. They generally had lower levels of education and were significantly more likely to be renting.

Members of this group demonstrated the highest awareness of the Family Violence Service and the Sexual Assault Resource Centre (SARC). They had a higher awareness of the Women's Domestic Violence Helpline and Refuge and Accommodation Services.

The most common impacts they suffered were: them and their children experiencing anxiety or depression, isolation, feeling judged by those around them, and losing friends.

Members of this group desired improvement to FDV services, better and more responsive laws and court responses, harsher punishments for perpetrators, and greater empowerment and training for the police.

SERIOUS, ACUTE AND CHRONIC FDV

It is problematic to define low, medium and high risk behaviours, as risk can change over time. However, the behaviours experienced in Humiliated and Threatened, Degraded and Controlled and Abused and Violated segments voiced the experience of those who have been deeply and profoundly affected by FDV perpetrated by their partner or ex partner.

White Ribbon Workplace

FOR TODAY, FOR TOMORROW.

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