

Facts on Violence against Women with Disabilities

Why are we focusing on women with disabilities?

Violence against women is a **serious, widespread problem** in Australia

Approximately
1 in 4 women
has experienced
violence by an
intimate partner¹



Intimate partner violence is a
**leading contributor to illness,
disability and premature death**
for women aged 18-44 years²



On average,
**one woman a
week is killed**
in Australia by an
intimate partner³

Women with disabilities experience **higher rates of violence**

Over one-third of women with
disabilities experience some
form of intimate partner
violence⁴

...compared to one-fourth of
women with no disability

Women with disability report experiencing...

compared to
women without
disability...

**Physical
violence**

48%

28%

**Sexual
violence**

33%

16%

**Stalking or
harassment**

27%

16%

Some women with disabilities experience **even higher** rates of violence and discrimination

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
women experience **higher rates** of
disability than non-indigenous
women.⁵

They also experience
**disproportionate rates of
family violence compared to
non-indigenous women.**⁶

LGBTQI people with disabilities
experience **higher rates** of crime,
violence and discrimination.⁷



More than **half**
of all incarcerated women in
Australian prisons have a
diagnosed psychosocial
disability and a history of
sexual victimisation.⁸

Women with disabilities in
a rural setting experience a
higher risk of social isolation
and have less access to support
services.⁹

Women with disabilities
from refugee or migrant
backgrounds are **less likely to
report** acts of violence or access
disability services.¹⁰



Women make up
74% of all elder
abuse victims, many
of whom are also
living with
disabilities.¹¹

Women with disabilities face **unique challenges** in seeking support for violence

Women with disabilities are
often exposed to other **risk
factors** for violence, such as
**living in institutions or being
dependent on informal or
formal care in the home.**¹²

Women with disabilities are **less
likely** to report violence or access
support services,¹³ and their
experiences of violence are more
likely to be minimised, excused or
not believed.



Women with disabilities are **less
likely** to receive support due to:

- inaccessible information and communication
- physical barriers to services
- not knowing their rights.¹⁴

Facts on Violence against Women with Disabilities - Sources

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