

# NORTHERN METROPOLITAN REGION

## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN FACT SHEET 2020



WOMEN'S HEALTH  
IN THE NORTH

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**Violence against women is a prevalent and serious human rights abuse that causes significant harm to individuals, families, communities and society.**

Experiences of violence are gendered, with women and men experiencing different types of violence in different contexts.<sup>1</sup> The majority (95%) of all victims of violence, both women and men, experience violence from a male perpetrator.<sup>2</sup>

This fact sheet details the most recently available data pertaining to violence against women for the 496,191 women who call the northern metropolitan region (NMR) home.<sup>3</sup>

Violence against women has serious and long-lasting impacts on women's health, including death, injury, suicide and self-harm, anxiety and depressive disorders, and sexual and reproductive health issues. It also has significant economic and social consequences, including homelessness and access to employment. Witnessing family violence has serious consequences on children's health and development.

More information: [www.anrows.org.au/research-areas/statistics-prevalence-and-community-attitudes](http://www.anrows.org.au/research-areas/statistics-prevalence-and-community-attitudes).



### A NOTE ON DATA

Many women experiencing violence do not report this to police, therefore the local government area (LGA) figures are likely to underestimate the extent of the problem.

Barriers to women reporting violence perpetrated against them include community attitudes, fear of more abuse, social isolation, victim-blaming, sexism and justifications for violence.

While some LGA figures indicate rates below the Victorian average, all people in the NMR have the right to live in a safe, equitable and respectful environment that is free from violence.

### IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW NEEDS HELP

If you are in immediate danger, call 000.

**1800 RESPECT:** The national sexual assault and family violence counselling service. 24/7 phone and online services. Call 1800 737 732.

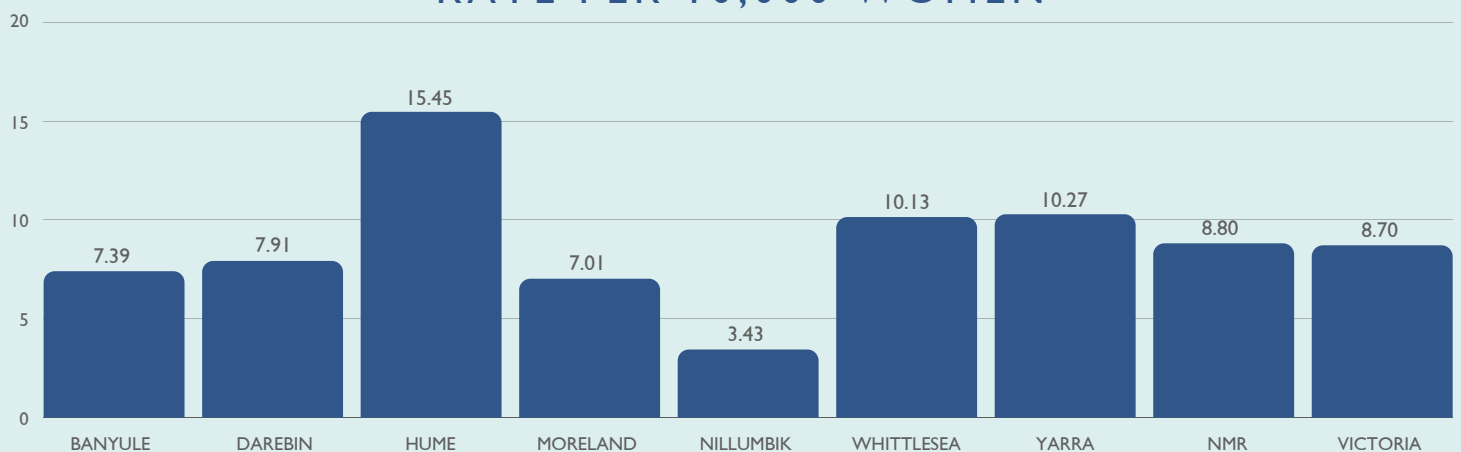
## STALKING, HARASSMENT AND THREATENING BEHAVIOURS

Stalking, harassment and threatening behaviours includes repeated acts of unreasonable conduct intended to: cause physical or mental harm; arouse apprehension or fear; threaten or invade privacy; or create nuisance.

# 1,057

INCIDENTS OF STALKING, HARASSMENT AND THREATENING BEHAVIOURS WERE REPORTED BY FEMALE VICTIMS IN THE NMR IN 2019.<sup>4</sup>

## STALKING, HARASSMENT AND THREATENING BEHAVIOURS RATE PER 10,000 WOMEN<sup>4</sup>



The rate equals the number of victim reports received in the year period 2019 in the region, per 10,000 total persons living in the corresponding region.

## PERCEPTIONS OF SAFETY

When asked 'How safe do you feel walking alone in your local area after dark?', 34.9% of women in the NMR answered 'Very safe' or 'Safe'.<sup>4</sup>



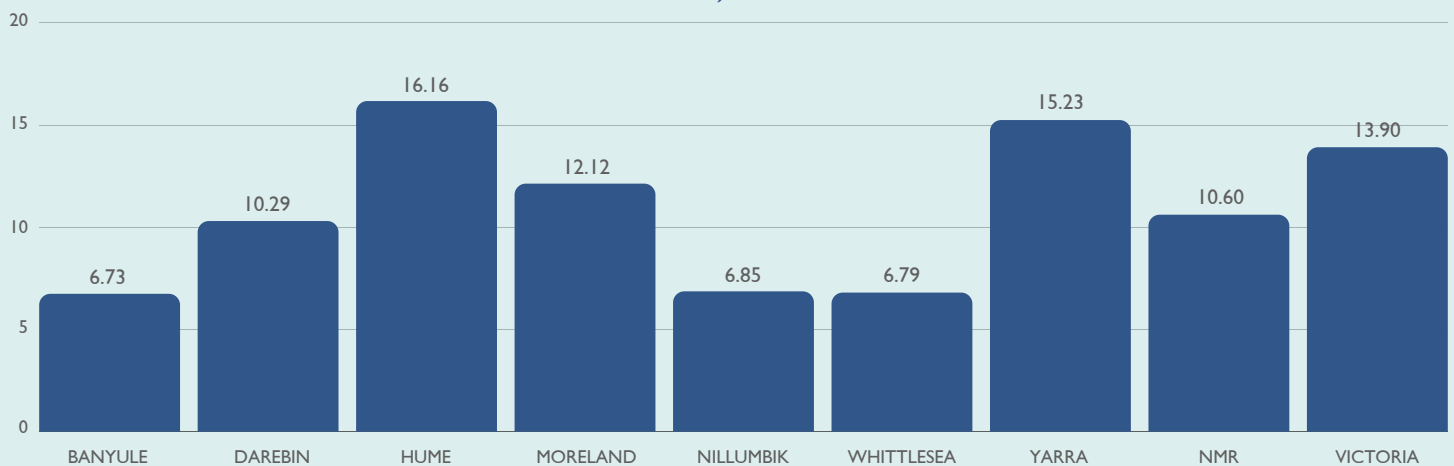
## SEXUAL OFFENCES

Sexual offences include rape, indecent assault, and other acts of a sexual nature against another person, which are non-consensual or where the person is deemed incapable of giving consent because of youth or temporary/permanent incapacity.

# 935

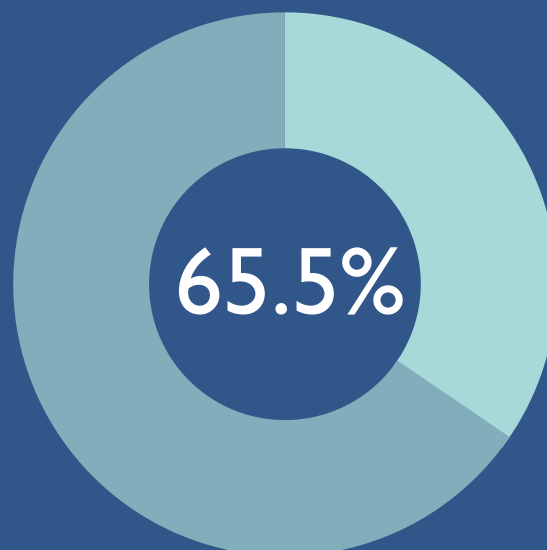
SEXUAL OFFENCES WERE  
REPORTED BY FEMALE  
VICTIMS IN THE NMR IN  
2019.<sup>4</sup>

### SEXUAL OFFENCES RATE PER 10,000 WOMEN<sup>4</sup>



The rate equals the number of victim reports received in the year period 2019 in the region, per 10,000 total persons living in the corresponding region.

### SEXUAL OFFENCES RELATIONSHIP TO VICTIM



In 65.5% of reported cases in the NMR in 2019, the alleged sexual offender was known to the female victim.<sup>4</sup>

Victim includes females of any age. The relationship of the victim to the alleged offender is recorded as current partner, former partner, family member or non-family member.

## FAMILY VIOLENCE

Family violence includes violent or threatening behaviour, or any other form of behaviour that coerces or controls a family member or causes that family member to be fearful.

Family violence takes many forms. It can occur within extended families, kinship networks, intergenerational relationships and through family-like or carer relationships. Intimate partners, family members and non-family carers can perpetrate violence against people with a disability.

Family violence is the most pervasive and common form of men's violence against women in Victoria.

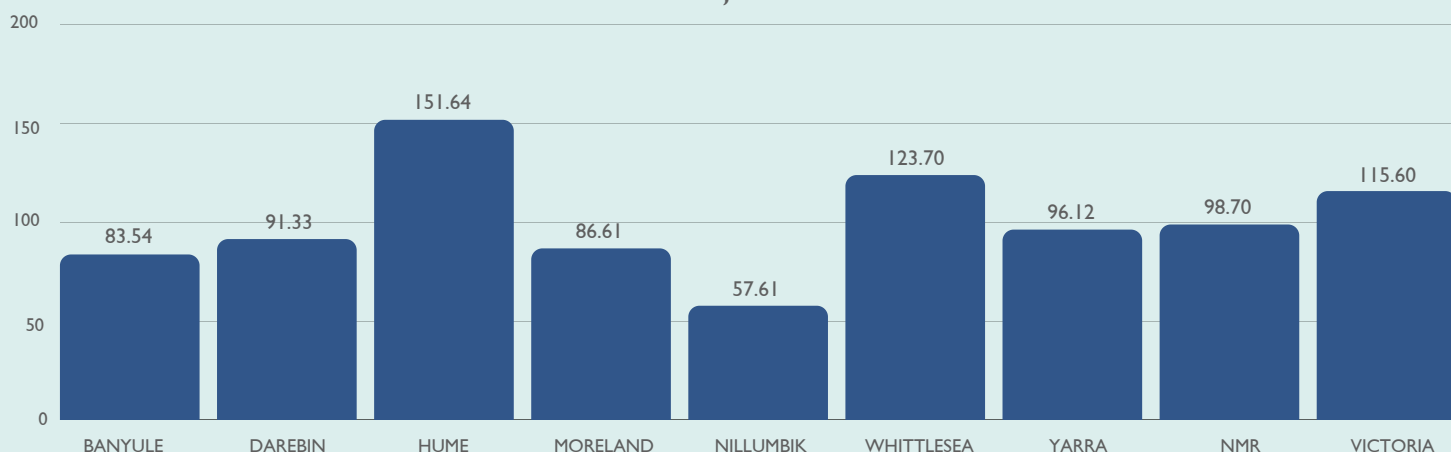
It is the leading cause of death and disability in women aged 15-45 years and is the biggest contributor to women's ill health including poor mental health.<sup>4</sup>



# 10,388

INCIDENTS OF FAMILY  
VIOLENCE WERE REPORTED  
BY FEMALE VICTIMS IN THE  
NMR IN 2019.<sup>4</sup>

### FAMILY VIOLENCE RATE PER 10,000 WOMEN<sup>4</sup>



The rate equals the number of victim reports in 2019, where incidents were attended by Victoria Police and a Victoria Police Risk Assessment and Risk Management Report was completed, per region, per 10,000 total persons living in the corresponding region.

Victim includes females of all ages.

A family violence incident can involve one or more affected family members and/ or one or more other parties.

## INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Intimate partner violence is family violence perpetrated against a current or former partner.

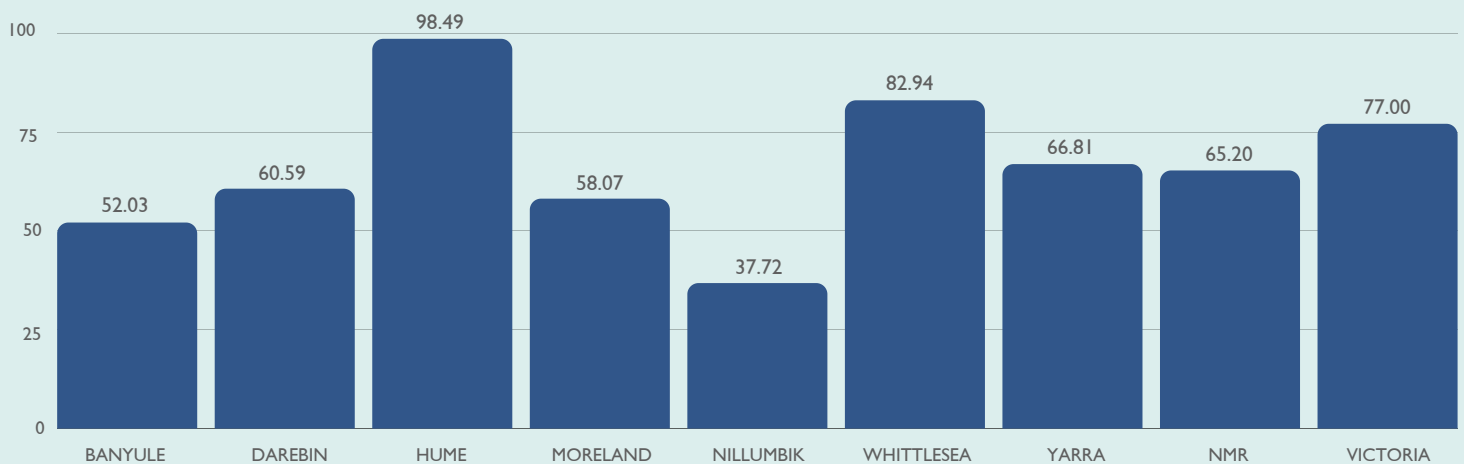
Intimate partner includes: current or former spouse, defacto, boyfriend/girlfriend, or domestic partner.

# 6,853

AFFECTED FAMILY MEMBERS WHERE AN INTIMATE PARTNER RELATIONSHIP WAS RECORDED, AS REPORTED BY FEMALE VICTIMS IN THE NMR IN 2019.<sup>4</sup>



### INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE RATE PER 10,000 WOMEN<sup>4</sup>



The rate equals the number of affected family members where an intimate partner relationship was recorded in the year period 2019 in the region, per 10,000 total persons living in the corresponding region.

### IN 2019, PER WEEK IN THE NMR...

- 18 incidents of stalking, harassment or threatening behaviours were reported by female victims.
- 20 sexual offences were reported by female victims.
- Almost 200 incidents of family violence were reported by female victims.
- There were 131 affected family members where an intimate partner relationship was recorded, as reported by female victims.<sup>4</sup>

# VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IS SERIOUS, PREVALENT AND PREVENTABLE.



## BUILDING A **Respectful Community**

Violence against women can be prevented by changing the social norms, practices and structures in our society to create greater equality for women. The Building a Respectful Community Partnership in Melbourne's north is working towards this aim. For more information, go to [www.whin.org.au/brc](http://www.whin.org.au/brc).



## **WOMEN'S HEALTH IN THE NORTH**

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680 High Street, Thornbury VIC 3071

T: 03 9484 1666

E: [info@whin.org.au](mailto:info@whin.org.au)

W: [whin.org.au](http://whin.org.au)

## REFERENCES

1. Our Watch, Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety, & VicHealth. (2015). Change the Story: A Shared Framework for the Primary Prevention of Violence against Women and their Children in Australia. <https://www.ourwatch.org.au/change-the-story/>
2. VicHealth. (2017). Violence against Women in Australia: An Overview of Research and Approaches to Primary Prevention.
3. Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2016). 2016 Census Age by Sex - Local Government Area. Retrieved July, 2020 from [http://stat.data.abs.gov.au/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=ABS\\_C16\\_T01\\_LGA](http://stat.data.abs.gov.au/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=ABS_C16_T01_LGA).
4. Women's Health Victoria (2020) Victorian Women's Health Atlas [Website], Women's Health Victoria, Melbourne. Available from: <http://victorianwomenshealthatlas.net.au/#!/>

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Women's Health In the North acknowledges Victorian Aboriginal people as the Traditional Owners of the land on which we provide our services and pay our respects to their Elders past and present and emerging. WHIN acknowledges that Aboriginal sovereignty was never ceded and expresses hope for justice and reconciliation.



Women's Health In the North acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government.