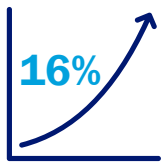


# Family violence

Family and domestic violence is any violent, threatening, coercive or controlling behaviour that occurs in current or past family, domestic or intimate relationships. This includes not only physical injury but direct or indirect threats, sexual assault, emotional and psychological torment, economic control, damage to property, social isolation and any behaviour which causes a person to live in fear.



## Key statistics



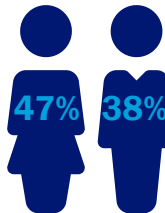
Reported family violence incidence rate has increased 16% from 2018-19



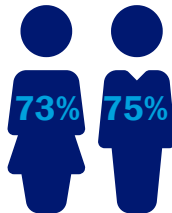
2 in 5 incidents reported a child or children as witnesses



93% of respondents could identify a range of physical forms of violence. *Compared to 78% nationally*



47% of females and 38% of males agree family violence is a serious problem



73% of females and 75% of males believe family violence was common



1,527 'family incident reports' during the period July 2019 to June 2020, which equates to 29 a week or 4 per day



- Women are more likely to experience family violence than men
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women experience disproportionate rates of violence and violence that is often more severe
- LGBTIQ+ people experience family violence at higher rates than those in heterosexual relationships
- Females are more likely to understand what constitutes family violence, in particular non-physical forms of violence



- During the 2020 lockdown period there was an increase in online searches about family violence, calls to Victoria Police about family violence, demand for services, and referrals to men's services
- 12.6% increase in family violence incidents and 17.9% in the number of reports
- 4% reported family violence as an impact on their feelings of safety



- Climate change is likely to increased incidence of family violence during and following periods of natural disasters due to trauma and pressures from events such as bushfires

For more information contact Cardinia Shire Council on 1300 787 624 or [mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au](mailto:mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au) or call 1800 RESPECT if you are experiencing domestic violence