



What's behind a smile: The role of oral health in Domestic and Family Violence prevention

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WHY ME?

APPROXIMATELY



**ONE IN
FOUR
WOMEN**

**has experienced violence
by an intimate partner****

compared to one in thirteen men.

ABS 2017



adapted from
@lauraheartlines



IPV Impact

Intimate partner violence is a **MAJOR HEALTH RISK FACTOR**



LEADING RISK FACTORS FOR WOMEN AGED 25-44

- Child abuse and neglect during childhood
- Illicit drug use
- PARTNER VIOLENCE**

for women aged 25-44.

(AIHW, 2019b)

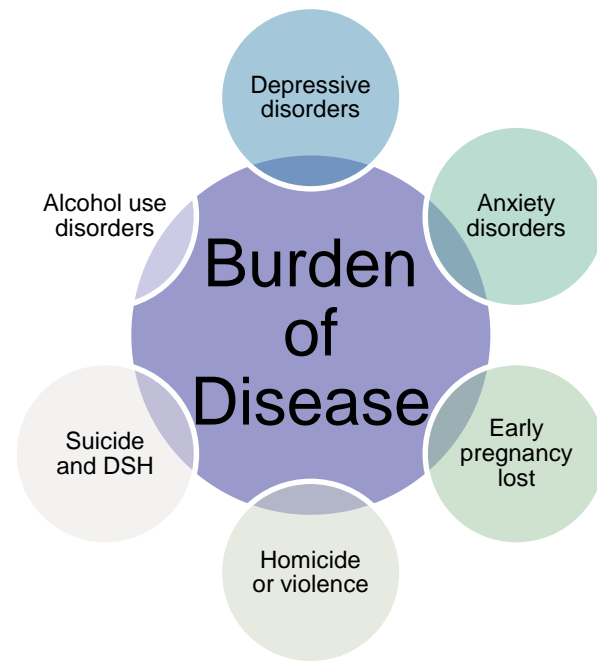



Figure 4.1: Burden of disease due to partner violence, women aged 15 and over, 2015

If no women had experienced partner violence, then in 2015 the disease burden would have been reduced by:



- 41% less homicide and violence
- 18% less early pregnancy loss
- 19% less suicide and self-inflicted injuries
- 19% less depressive disorders
- 12% less anxiety disorders
- 4% less alcohol use disorders

Source: AIHW forthcoming 2019.

Mental Illness and Oral Health

Neglect

Anxiety

Eating disorders

Brushing actions

Medication

Other considerations

- 75% of DFV physical injuries involve the head, neck and mouth
- Dental clinics positioned uniquely to identify DFV injuries (risk reduced when attending a dentist rather than hospital)

Terminology

DFV

Gendered
Language

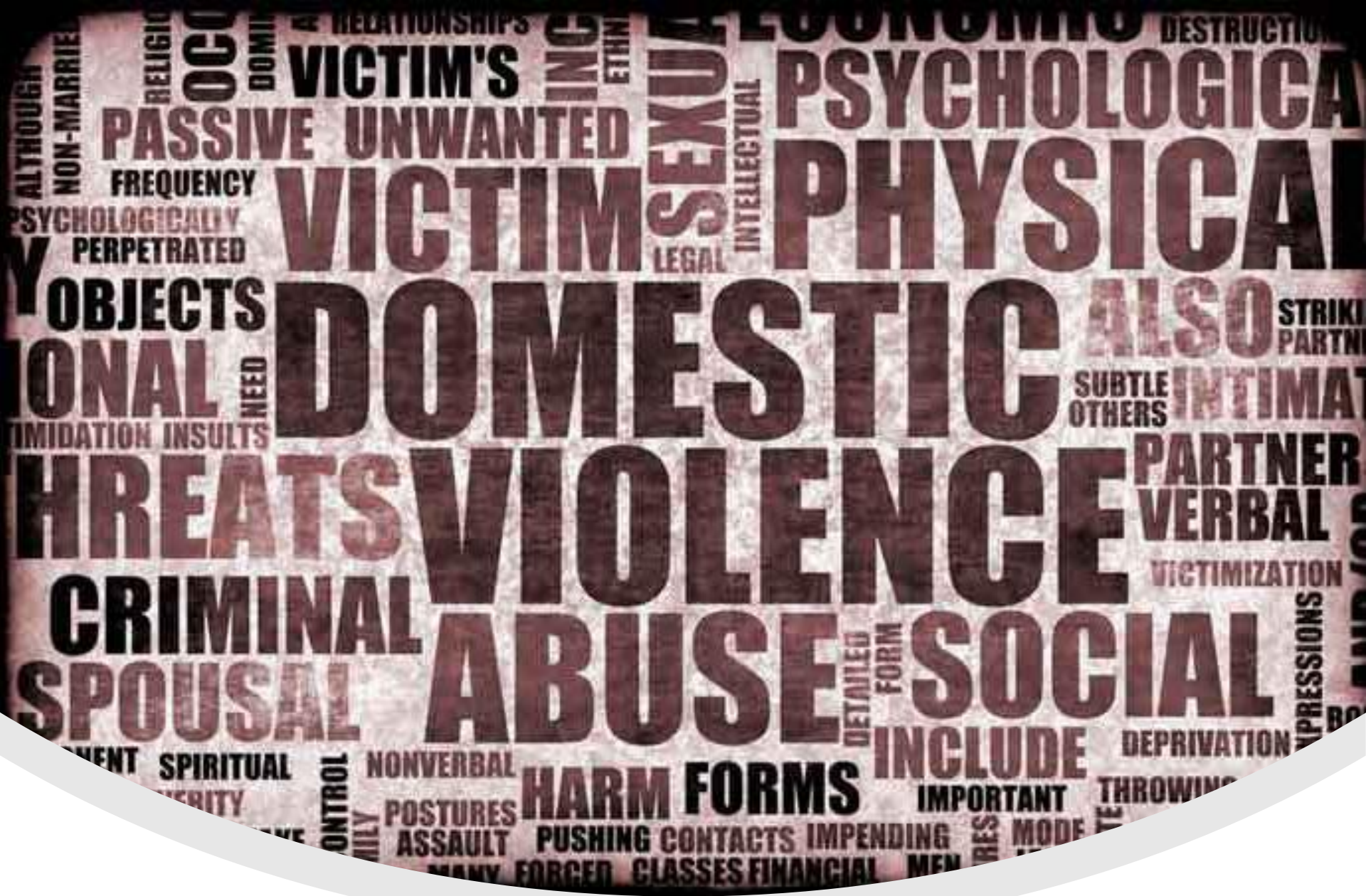
Elder Abuse

Victim
Survivor

RESPONDENT

Aggrieved

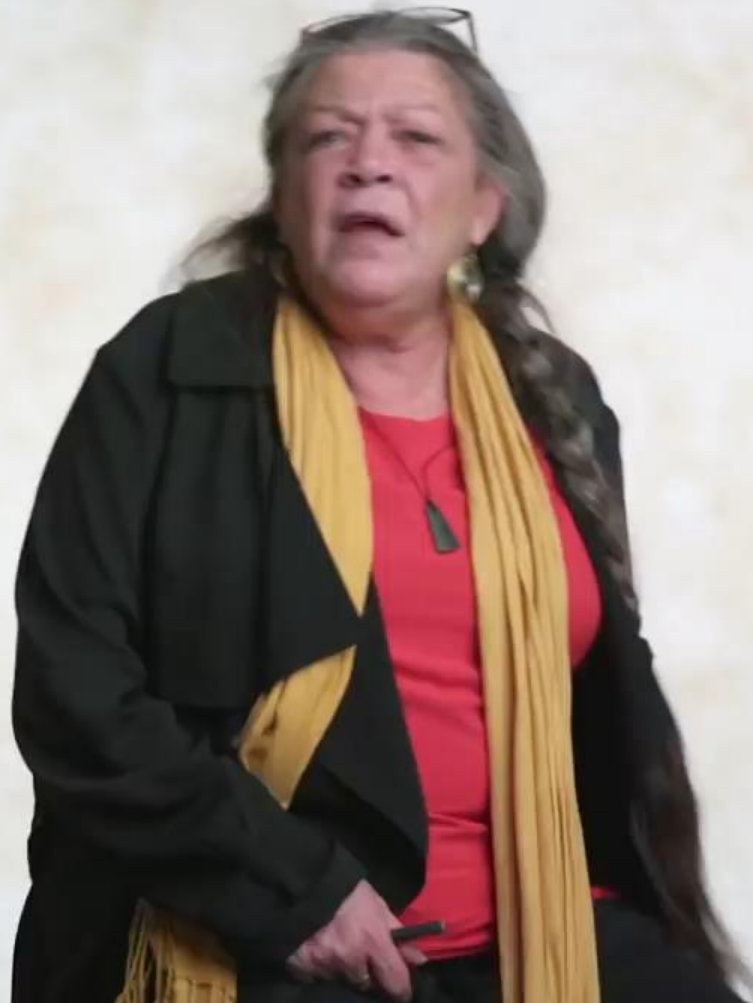
Child Harm







Adult Themes






These are the key themes that emerged from an in-depth analysis of the hashtag dataset collected Sep. 8 to Dec. 1, 2014.

How DFV affects children

Children exposed to DFV will be at higher risk of physical, emotional and behavioural problems that persist into adulthood.

Witnessing DFV is a form of child abuse



I SEE THE
VIOLENCE



Child and family

- ⊕ [Support for children and families](#)
- ⊕ [Protecting children](#)
- ⊕ [Foster and kinship care](#)
- ⊕ [Adoption](#)
- ⊕ [Child and family reform](#)
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Child and family

Our vision is that Queensland children and young people are cared for, protected, safe and able to reach their full potential.

We are the Queensland Government's lead agency for child safety and adoption services. We focus on safety, belonging and wellbeing and support the delivery of services to build families' capacity to care for and nurture their children.

We administer the [Child Protection Act 1999 and the Adoption Act 2009](#). We work closely with [non-government and government partners](#) in the delivery of child protection services across Queensland.

Quicklinks

- [Child Safety Service Centres](#)
- [Compliments and complaints](#)
- [Report a missing child in care](#)
- [Make a referral to Family and Child Connect](#)
- [Our partners](#)
- [Our legislation](#)
- [Partners in Care](#)



Experience & risk

Certain groups of people are more vulnerable to family, domestic and sexual violence, particularly:

(AIHW, 2019b)



CHILDREN



YOUNG WOMEN



OLDER AUSTRALIANS



PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



PEOPLE FROM CALD BACKGROUNDS



LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE



PEOPLE IN RURAL AND REMOTE AUSTRALIA



SOCIOECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED PEOPLE



Violence against women by a partner
often
BEGINS OR INCREASES DURING PERIODS OF SEPARATION.

(Bruton & Tyson, 2018, & ABS 2017 in AIHW, 2019b)

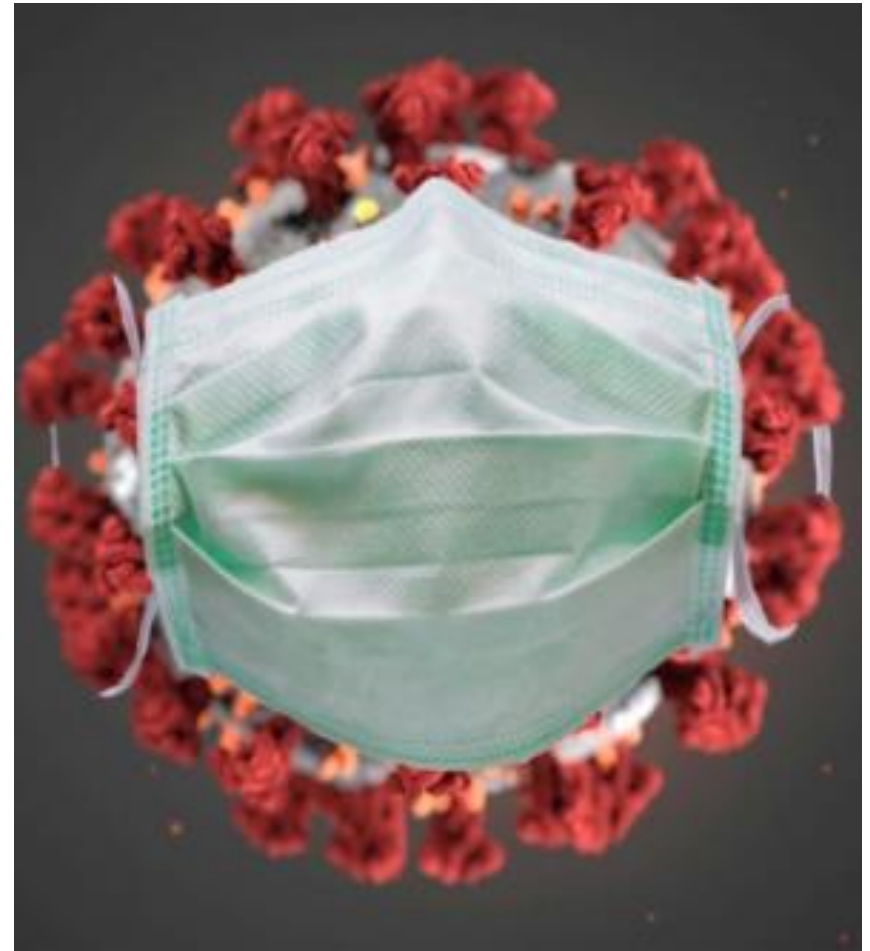
<p>Controlling behaviours</p> 	<p>Escalation of violence</p>	<p>Recent separation</p> 	<p>Stalking</p> 
<p>Jealous, obsessive behaviour</p>	 <p>Threats to kill victim</p>	<p>Strangulation or attempts to strangle</p>	 <p>Harms or threatens to harm or kill children</p>
 <p>Access to, or use of weapons</p>	<p>Perpetrator threatens or attempts to commit suicide</p>	<p>Perpetrator drug or alcohol misuse</p> 	<p>Sexual assault</p>
 <p>Threats to harm or kill pets</p>	<p>Perpetrator unemployment</p>	<p>Pregnancy/new birth</p> 	<p>Source: Victoria, Department of Human Services (issuing body) 2012, <i>Family violence risk assessment and risk management framework and practice guides 1-3</i>, Second edition, Melbourne, Australia, Victorian Government, Department of Human Services.</p>

ACTIVITY



COVID19 and Domestic Violence

- Pandemic coincided with onset or escalation of violence and abuse
- Women experiencing complex forms of violence reported safety concerns were a barrier to help-seeking
- New forms of violence have emerged using the pandemic as the excuse



Legislation



**DFV Prevention
Act 2012**



**Criminal Code
1899**

Including non-lethal
strangulation



**Information
sharing**



**Evidence Act
1977**



**Child Protection
Act 1999**

A close-up photograph of a human eye. The iris is a vibrant yellow-green color. Reflected in the center of the iris is a person wearing a bright yellow shirt and dark pants, standing in a room with a large window. The reflection is clear and detailed, showing the person's posture and the surrounding environment.

Recognise

Respond

Refer

Record



Recognise

In isolation it may not be an indicator, but when indicators are viewed in their entirety it a picture of domestic and family violence is evident.

Indicators

- Frequent appointments for vague complaints or symptoms
- Frequent missed appointments
- Hyperalert
- Avoid eye contact and minimal communication
- Family members always attends unnecessary
- Injuries inconsistent with explanation
- Multiple injuries at different stages of healing
- Tries to hide or minimise injuries
- Patient appears frightened, overly anxious or depressed
- Patient is submissive, afraid or reluctant to speak in front of family member
- Non-compliment with treatment
- Family member is aggressive towards staff

DFV Trauma in Oral Examinations:

- Dental neglect
- Facial and lip trauma
- Burns, ulcerations and scars
- Oral lacerations and tears
- Oral manifestations of sexual transmitted diseases
- Unexplained erythema or petechiae on the soft and hard palate and/or floor of the mouth

DFV Trauma in Oral Examinations:

- New or healed fractures
 - tooth
 - Mandible
 - Zygomatic-orbital complex
 - Dentoalveolar region
 - Nasal bone
 - Tooth discoloration
 - Blunted roots
 - Pulpal necrosis
- Unexplained malocclusion



Respond

Some patients have these symptoms/injuries when they are at risk of abuse. Are you afraid of anyone?

We know that are other things can affect our oral health. I notice a couple of things in my examination, is there anything you would like to tell me

ACTIVITY



Barriers to Disclosure

Environment

Personal

Professional

Professional



Refer

Police

DV Connect : 1800 811 811

1800 RESPECT : 1800 737 732

Brisbane Domestic Violence Service : 3217 2544

Centre for Women and Co. : 3050 3060

Women's Legal Service Queensland: 3392 0644



Refer

Australian Dental Health Foundation Rebuilding Smiles Charity

- Volunteer dental program to assist clients to access dental health services that they may not otherwise had access to.
- Volunteer dentist and their staff donate their time and skills to provide treatment at no cost to the client.



Refer

Financial Institutions response to Domestic and Family Violence

Commonwealth Bank

ANZ

Westpac

NAB

Bendigo



Record

Disclosure

Suspicion

Intervention

Safety and Risk

Resources

- www.qld.gov.au/domesticviolence
- <https://www.dvalert.org.au/education-and-training/e-learning-courses/e-learning-disabilities>
- <https://frontlineworkers.esafety.gov.au/>
- www.dvconnect.org
- www.1800respect.org.au
- www.wslq.org.au

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Oral Health Foundation *Mental Illness and Oral Health* from <https://www.dentalhealth.org/mental-illness-and-oral-health>