

Gender issues and the impact on health



Family violence

70% of family violence incidents reported to police were between current or former partners.

In 2020, the number of family violence incidents reported to police increased  by 24% to 1040.



88.6% took place at a residential location. Children were present at 14.1% of incidents.



» In the Southern metropolitan region, police referrals only account for 25 per cent of all referrals to family violence services.

» In 70% of family violence cases in Stonnington, females were affected. Those aged 25–34 are the largest age group affected.

» **Groups experiencing higher rates of violence** including women with disabilities, Aboriginal women, immigrant and refugee women, women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, pregnant women and new mothers.

» Older adults are another group at risk of elder abuse. The World Health Organisation estimates that **one in six people aged 60 years and older are subjected to some form of abuse**. Approximately 70 per cent of elder abuse victims are women.

» **72%** of calls to the Seniors Rights Victoria Helpline are from women and 28% are from men. 91% of **abuse experienced by clients calling the Helpline was perpetrated by a family member** – 39% by sons and 28% by daughters.



» Family violence is the leading driver of homelessness for women.

» The **most frequent type of abuse/violence** reported was verbal abuse followed by emotional abuse and physical abuse.



Gender and health

27.2% of residents have low levels of support for gender equality. Men are twice as likely as women to hold low levels of support for gender equality.

83.6%  of single parent families are female led.

16.4%  of single parent families are male led.

» Women in Stonnington are more likely to have a university degree, be employed part time, earn below the minimum wage, do almost 4 times more unpaid domestic labour, provide unpaid disability support, be less active and be an occasional smoker.

» Men in Stonnington are more likely to leave school before year 11, be employed full time, earn above the minimum wage, be overweight, consume more than 2 alcoholic drinks on average per day, be admitted to hospital due to alcohol, meet physical activity guidelines, eat take away food, smoke daily and experience more harm caused by crime.

» Women feel 60–80 per cent less safe than men to walk alone in their neighbourhood.

» In 2020, approximately 3 out of every 4 suicides were males. For both males and females, those aged 25–34 years were the largest age group for suicides. Women are more likely to self-harm.



» Hospital admissions for falls is higher in Stonnington than Greater Melbourne and Victoria, and is significantly higher for females than males.

» Stonnington has a higher rate of hospital admissions due to injury or poisoning with more males than females admitted.



During COVID-19 restrictions:

Women were more likely than men to have experienced high or very high levels of psychological distress.



There was an increase in elder abuse incidents attended by Victoria Police and Ambulance Victoria.