

# PUTTING A FULL STOP TO SEXUAL, DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE.

📞 1800 FULL STOP  
1800 385 578  
💬 [fullstop.org.au](https://fullstop.org.au)

## ABS Data Shines a Light on Sexual Violence.

**Date:** 27 June 2024

**Notes to Editors:** The contents of this press release can be used as quotes attributable to Full Stop Australia CEO, Karen Bevan

The ABS has today released [data](#) showing that national rates for reported sexual assaults are at a 31-year high. This is against the backdrop that the vast majority of victim-survivors ([92%](#)) don't report to police.

*"While this data is disturbing, the epidemic of sexual violence in Australia is more grave than these numbers suggest."* said Full Stop Australia CEO, Karen Bevan.

39% of reported sexual assaults were related to domestic and family violence, highlighting the clear intersection between sexual violence and domestic violence. Contrary to myths about what sexual assault looks like and who perpetrates it, the data also demonstrates that most sexual assaults did not involve the use of a weapon (94%) and occurred in a residential setting (69%).

Data showing the most common victim-survivor age group as 10-17 year olds (41%) is concerning but aligns with what we have learned from the Australian Childhood Maltreatment Study and highlights the critical importance of support services that respond in a timely, developmentally appropriate way. Sexual violence can forever alter a young person's life trajectory, particularly when they don't have access to critical trauma-specialist support.

It is difficult to pinpoint precisely why the number of people reporting sexual violence to police is on the rise. For example, we may be seeing the impacts of things like the availability of alternative reporting options, affirmative consent reform, consent education, and growing awareness of sexual violence at a community level. However, we cannot discount that sexual violence incidents are on the rise.

Sexual violence is often invisible, with very little accountability for perpetrators and rarely justice for victim-survivors.

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*"The increasing demand on sexual violence frontline services underscores the critical need for more resourcing and funding in response, recovery and long-term healing and support. There are significant waitlists for people to access counselling and ongoing support following sexual assault. We need adequate trauma-specialist support to reduce the impacts of trauma and barriers to reporting for victim-survivors, whether they chose to report to police and then go through the criminal legal system or not."* said Full Stop Australia CEO, Karen Bevan.

Free 24/7 trauma-specialist counselling is also available to anyone in Australia who has been impacted by sexual, domestic and family violence. Call 1800 FULL STOP (1800 385 578).

**END**

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