

Children who have grown up in a family with domestic violence have a higher risk of anxiety, depression, learning difficulties, relationship problems, and alcohol and drug misuse. They may also be more likely to become perpetrators or victims of domestic and family violence as adults¹.

In 2015, for females aged 15 and over, partner violence contributed to:

- **223 deaths** (0.3% of all deaths) in Australia (including deaths linked to suicide, homicide & violence, alcohol use disorders and depressive disorders)
- **1.6% of the burden of disease and injury** (AIHW 2019)².

Domestic Violence and Mental Health

Domestic and family violence can have a significant negative impact on the mental health of the victims, or other family members who witness it. It may result in long-term physical and psychological trauma, and affect sleep, appetite, concentration or other relationships¹.

Partner violence was ranked as **the third leading risk factor** contributing to total disease burden for women aged 25–44, behind child abuse & neglect during childhood, and illicit drug use.²

31% of assault hospitalisations in Australia for people aged 15 and over were due to family and domestic violence (6,500 assault hospitalisations in 2017-18).

If in any year, no female aged 15 and over had experienced partner violence there would have been (among females aged 15 and over):

- 41% less homicide & violence (where females were the victim)
- 18% less early pregnancy loss
- 19% less suicide & self-inflicted injuries
- 19% less depressive disorders
- 12% less anxiety disorders
- 4% less alcohol disorders²



1 in 3

Australian women have experienced physical violence from a current or former partner.



1 in 4

Australian women have experienced emotional abuse by a current or former partner.



1 in 5

Australian women have experienced sexual violence

The Australian Burden of Disease Study 2015 found **six diseases were causally linked** to exposure to partner violence:



Depressive disorders



Anxiety disorders



Alcohol use disorders



Early pregnancy loss



Homicide & violence (injuries due to violence)



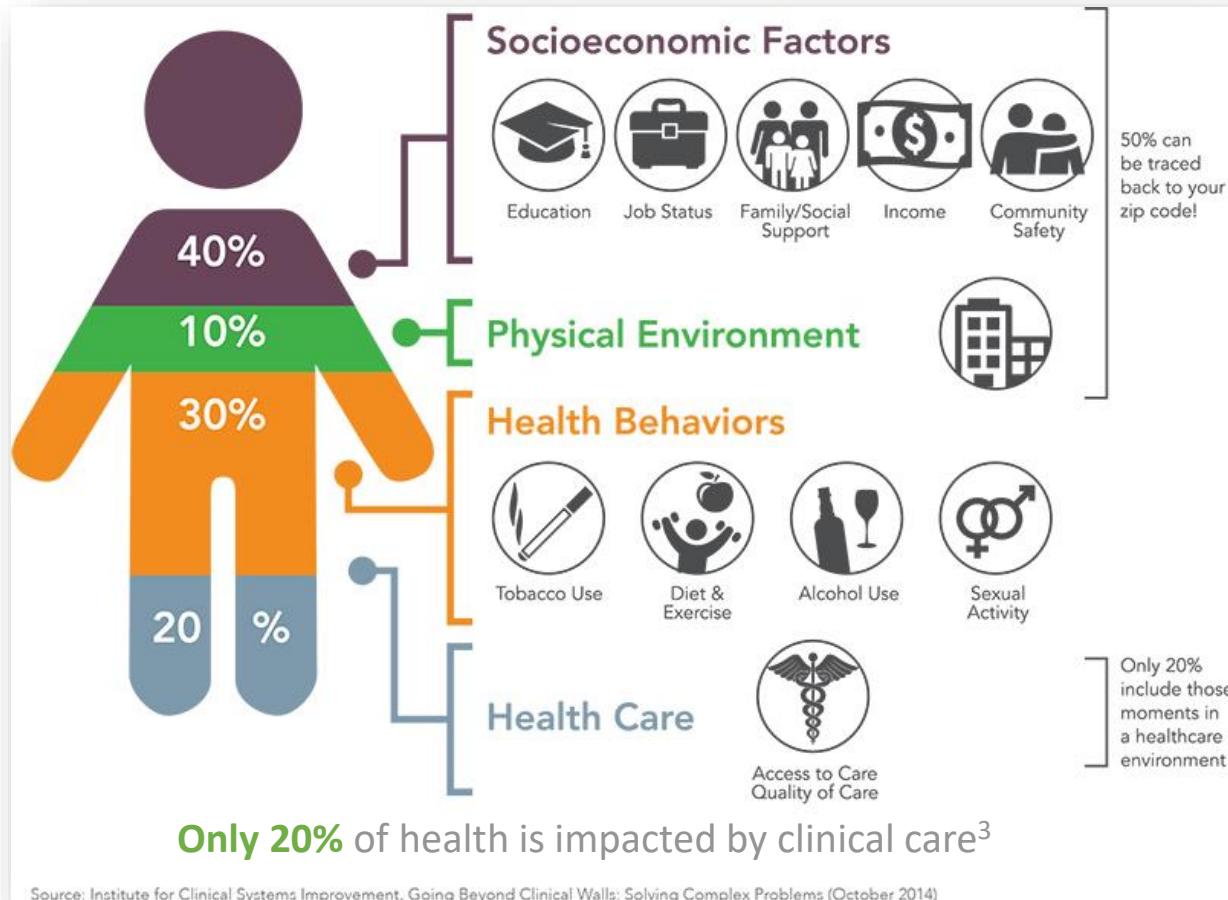
Suicide



Self-inflicted injuries

The Link Between the Social Determinants of Health & Domestic Violence

The Social Determinants of Health account for **80% of health outcomes**



Research shows some individuals die more than 20 years earlier than others who live just a few miles away because of differences in education, employment, housing, safety, community development, and access to quality health care.³

DV and People Living in Lower Socioeconomic Areas

In 2017–18, people aged 15 and over living in the **lowest socioeconomic areas** were more than 6 times as likely to be hospitalised for assault by a spouse or domestic partner (47 per 100,000) than those living in the highest socioeconomic areas (7.1 per 100,000).

More than 2 in 5 (45%, or 1,900) hospitalisations for assault perpetrated by a spouse or domestic partner involved people living in the **lowest socioeconomic areas**.

DV and Education

Research shows that **a lack of education is a risk factor for domestic violence**. “Lack of education is generally defined as having earned less than a high school diploma, although some studies include those with less than a college degree in their definition. It has been noted that women with less education experience domestic violence at higher rates than women who have achieved a higher level of education. In the simplest of terms, those individuals with less than a college education are at a higher risk of being victims of domestic violence than those with a college degree...Lack of education is also a risk factor associated with perpetrators of domestic violence”.^{5,6}



Domestic Violence and Indigenous Women

Domestic violence rates for Indigenous women were:

- 6.3 times greater among women 18-44 years; and
- 5.3 times greater among women of all ages.

3. <https://healthcoalitionpc.org/our-work/addressing-the-social-determinants-of-health>
 4. Lavizzo-Mourey, R. (2014). 2014 President’s Message. Retrieved from <http://www.rwjf.org/en/library/annual-reports/presidents-message-2014.html>
 5. <http://criminal-justice.iresearchnet.com/crime/domestic-violence/education/>
 6. https://svri.org/sites/default/files/attachments/2017-07-21/SVRI_SB_InvEducation_LR.pdf