

National Survey



on Young People's Attitudes towards Domestic and Family Violence and Intimate Partner Violence

The 2014 National Survey on Young People's Attitudes towards Domestic and Family Violence and Intimate Partner Violence (DFV/IPV) is an online research project led by Youth Action NSW and White Ribbon Australia, designed to develop an understanding of young people's (16-25 years) awareness of and attitudes towards DFV/IPV in 2014.

This survey will be the first national, comprehensive measurement of young people's understanding of and attitudes towards DFV/IPV since 1999. **The survey takes approximately 10 minutes to complete and is entirely anonymous.** It is anticipated to be launched on 10 March 2014, with a closing date of 12 May 2014.

Why is this research important?

In 1999, the Crime Research Centre produced a national survey of young people's attitudes and experiences of domestic violence, titled *Young People & Domestic Violence: National research on young people's attitudes to and experiences of domestic violence*. This survey found that young people had alarmingly low levels of understanding of DFV/IPV.

Since this report 15 years ago, there has not been any significant national research specifically targeting the attitudes of young people towards DFV/IPV. During this time, Australian society has undergone many societal changes and there has been significant work undertaken to prevent violence against women and address its causes.

The 2014 National Survey on Young People's Attitudes towards DFV/IPV seeks to provide an updated version of the survey conducted in 1999, in order to ascertain young people's current attitudes towards DFV/IPV, what young people understand DFV/IPV to be and what they believe the causes of this violence are.

Critically, the age group targeted for this survey, between 16 and 25 years are a completely new generation of young people whose personal attitudes towards the issue of DFV/IPV have developed during this 15 year period. As such, the data gathered from the survey will also provide a comparison with the data collected in the 1999 survey to provide an insight as to whether young people's attitudes towards violence have changed in the period between the two surveys and the progress being made in changing attitudes and behaviours to prevent violence. This research, used in conjunction with the 1999 survey, will provide a robust comparison through which longitudinal attitudinal change can be measured.

Improving an institutional understanding of young people's attitudes towards DVF/IPV will enable organisations, including Youth Action NSW and White Ribbon Australia, to more effectively address this violence by informing and developing current and future programs to address the specific needs amongst young people and prevent violence-supportive attitudes amongst this peer group, as indicated by the survey data.

What does the research involve?

The research involved is one online survey for young people aged 16-25 years. The survey takes approximately 10 minutes to complete and is entirely anonymous. The survey collects participants demographic information and asks a range of questions regarding their understanding of, and opinions and attitudes towards gender roles, domestic and family violence and relationships between young people. The questions in this survey only measure attitudes, and care has been taken to ensure questions do not seek disclosure of experiences of DFV/IPV. For more information participants can access the [Participant Information Sheet](#).

How can you help?

In order to ensure a sound evidence base, the survey requires a large response base across young people from a diverse range of backgrounds including ethnicity, geography, age and religion. To achieve this, we are asking our partners and supporters to share this survey and encourage as many young people to respond to the survey as possible.

Research Ethics

The research survey has received ethics approval by the University of New South Wales under approval number HC13363. The survey has been carefully designed to ensure that ethical standards are upheld.

What will happen to this research?

The data from the survey will be compiled to produce the first comprehensive report on young people's understanding of and attitudes towards domestic and family violence in Australia since 1999.

In addition, survey data will:

- Measure changes in attitudes amongst young people between 1999 and 2014;
- Provide a research and evidence base for advocacy, campaigns and primary prevention programs targeting young people and DFV/IPV; and
- Be used in broader academic research conducted by Youth Action NSW, White Ribbon Australia, or other research partners.

What are the survey time frames?

The survey will be conducted in the first half of 2014. It is anticipated to be launched on 10 March, with a closing date of 12 May. Analysis of survey data and outcomes will be undertaken and reported on in the second half of 2014. Reports will be published on the websites of Youth Action NSW (www.youthaction.org.au) and White Ribbon Australia (www.whiteribbon.org.au).

Why focus on DFV/IPV?



Over a third of Australian women with a current or former intimate partner report experiencing physical and/or sexual violence since the age of sixteen^[i], and on average one woman is killed almost every week by her current or former partner^[ii]. Intimate partner violence remains the leading contributor to death, disability and ill-health among Australian women aged 15-44 and is one of the greatest predictors of high prevalence mental health concerns such as depression and anxiety^[iii]. Young people are being exposed to, and influenced by, domestic violence and young people are being subjected to, and perpetrating, violence themselves^[iv].

Further information

Further information about the issue of men's violence against women and its prevention can be found through the websites of Youth Action and White Ribbon Australia, provided below.

Information on the work of Youth Action can be found at www.youthaction.org.au.

Information on the work of White Ribbon Australia can be found at www.whiteribbon.org.au.

For more information on this survey, please contact admin@whiteribbon.org.au.

This survey will be conducted in collaboration with:



References

[i] Mouzos & Makkai 2004

[ii] Dearden & Jones 2008; Chan & Payne 2013

[iii] Campbell 2002; Heise et al. 2002; Rees et al. 2011; VicHealth 2008; WHO 2013

[iv] Flood & Fergus 2008; Stith et al. 2000.