The Personal Safety Survey: Prevalence of violence against women in various subpopulations

Dr Peta Cox
Senior Research Officer (Research Program)
ANROWS

Much of the debate about violence against women in Australia relies on high-level prevalence statistics from the ABS Personal Safety Survey (PSS), yet most of the detailed data remains un-tapped. In 2015, ANROWS completed an additional analysis of the 2012 PSS, publishing an accessible resource which provides several hundred new statistics on violence against women. This new data has generated interest from policy-makers, advocates, educators, ministers and media.

This presentation will look at:

- The methodology of the survey, and its most significant strengths and weaknesses.
- Key statistics for both sexual assault and partner violence related to:
  - the number of women affected by these forms of violence;
  - help seeking behaviours and
  - psychological and practical impacts of violence.
- Statistics related to specific sub-populations, including the effect of sampling method on estimates.

The discussion session will focus on:

- What areas of policy and practice can be informed by PSS data.
- Precisely how PSS data can (and cannot) be used when contextualising policy and practice decisions.
- Ways of using PSS data to respond to inaccurate portrayals of violence against women.