

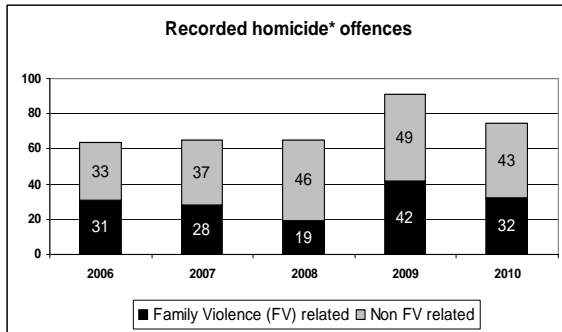
Family violence indicators

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Are the major outcomes of family violence changing: getting more or less severe?

These indicators answer the question of how many people are dying or being seriously injured as a result of family violence and whether family violence is increasing or decreasing over time.

How many people are dying as a result of family violence?



Source: New Zealand Police

The graph shows the number of recorded homicide offences broken down into those recorded as family violence-related and those that were not.

The number of homicides in New Zealand each year is thankfully small; as a result small fluctuations in a single period can distort an entire year's figures.

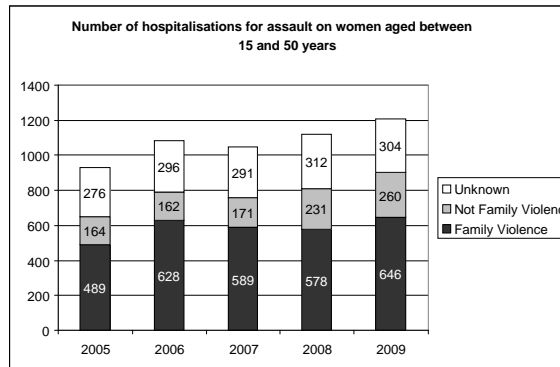
*Homicide offences only include murder, manslaughter and infanticide.

Between 2005 and 2009 there was no trend in terms of family violence-related murders.

Family violence-related homicides, as a proportion of all homicides, has ranged from 30–48 per cent over the last five years.

Fifty per cent of family violence-related homicide (murder and manslaughter offences) victims in 2010 were female. In 2010 69 per cent of female victims of family violence-related homicide were killed by their current or ex-partner, whereas the majority of male victims were killed by other family members.

How many women end up in hospital as a result of family violence?



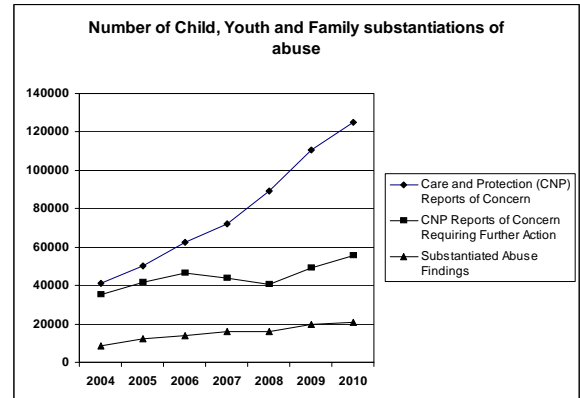
Source: Ministry of Health (MOH)

The graph shows hospital admissions for women aged between 15 and 50 years who were victims of assault.

In the majority of cases, where a woman is admitted to hospital due to assault, the perpetrator is a family member. The number of assaults on women by family members has fluctuated over the five-year period from 2005 to 2009, but there is no discernable trend.

It should be noted that for a large number of assaults against women, the identity of the perpetrator is unknown to the health system. Steps are being taken to improve data quality.

How many children reported to Child, Youth and Family are abused?



Source: Child, Youth and Family

This graph shows the number of reports of concern (notifications) reported to Child, Youth and Family (CYF) for each fiscal year, and how many reports of concern result in abuse being substantiated by CYF.

Notifications are reports of concern that abuse of a child or young person may be taking place. Not all reports of concern require further action. In most cases where further action is not required, the family is referred to support services in the community as part of a Partnered Response.

Between 2004 and 2009 substantiations of child abuse doubled, increasing from around 8,500 to over 20,000. The doubling of cases of substantiated abuse can be attributed to the high numbers of family violence referrals from Police where children have been present during family violence and as a result of this are found to have suffered emotional abuse.

Levels of physical and sexual abuse have remained relatively consistent since 2004. Substantiated cases of sexual abuse are on average 1200 cases per annum and physical abuse cases have been around 2300 since 2004, with an increase to 2800 in the last two years.

Reports of concern (notifications) have also increased significantly over the last six years, increasing from 40,000 to over 125,000 reports. The increase in reports of concern may reflect an increased awareness amongst family, friends, and other agencies of child abuse.

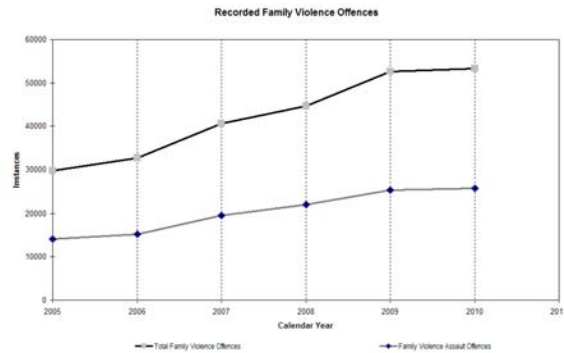
The increase in reports of concern also reflects a significant increase in Police family violence referrals from 2006 onwards.

Family violence indicators

2 Are incidents of family violence increasing or decreasing year by year?

These indicators address whether there are more, or less, new cases of family violence year by year.

How many family violence offences are recorded?



Source: New Zealand Police

The graph shows the total number of family violence offences, and the number of family violence assault offences.

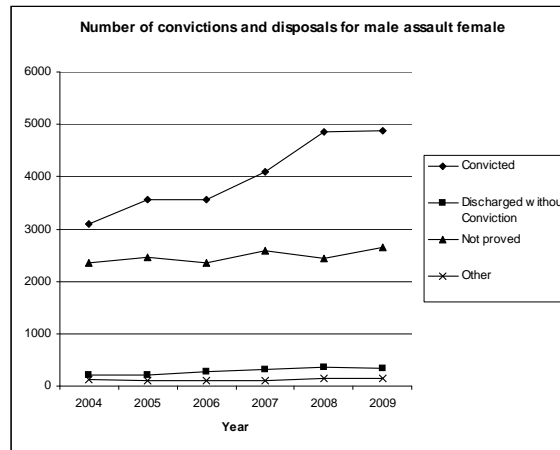
Police family violence statistics include offences other than violence that are detected as part of an occurrence involving family violence. For example, if drugs are found by police attending a family violence assault, a drugs possession offence would be recorded as being family violence-related.

The latest Police data indicates the rate of family violence offences has plateaued and this is a distinct and sustained change.

EXPECTED TRENDS

Soon after the launch of the "It's not OK campaign" Police predicted we would see an increase in reporting as a result of the campaign for about five years then the rates would level out, and if the campaign sustained its activity over time family violence offences would begin to decrease. We are now seeing recorded offences levelling out.

How many people are prosecuted and convicted for family violence?



Source: Ministry of Justice

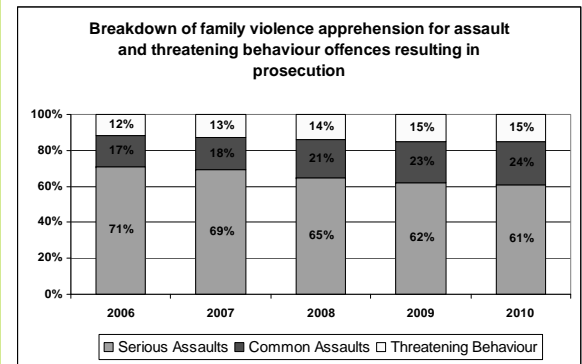
The graph shows the number of prosecuted charges of male assaults female by outcome between 2004 and 2009.

EXPECTED TRENDS

If we assume a growing intolerance of family violence and a greater likelihood to report seeing or experiencing family violence, then we would expect to see an increase in the short-term of prosecutions of male assaults female charges. However, over time we would expect this to stabilise and drop as efforts to address attitudes towards family violence begin to have an impact on offending behaviour and reduce the number of prosecutions.

The number of convictions should increase as prosecutions increase, but the proportion of charges that result in a conviction should be relatively stable once the current increase levels out.

Is the level of seriousness of family violence charges changing?



Source: New Zealand Police

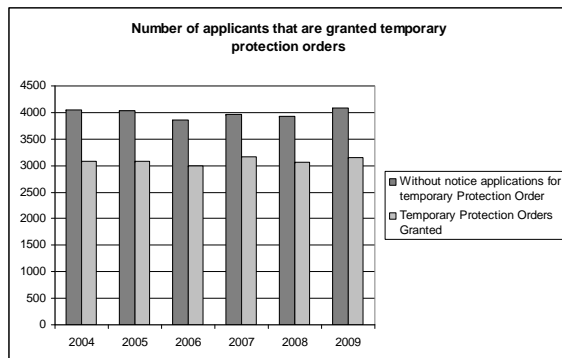
The graph shows the number of family violence apprehensions split by three levels of seriousness. The recorded level of seriousness may be affected by Police practice, not just by the level of violence.

The proportion of serious assaults resulting in prosecution compared to lesser family violence charges has fallen over the last five years. This may indicate intervention in family violence is occurring at an earlier stage.

Family violence indicators

2 Are incidents of family violence increasing or decreasing year by year?

How many people are seeking protection orders?



Source: Ministry of Justice

The graph shows numbers of temporary protection orders granted in the Family Court.

The number of applicants applying for, and being granted, temporary protection orders has remained stable between 2004 and 2009.

The graph shows that more than three quarters of without-notice applications are granted a temporary protection order.

For the past six years 90 per cent of respondents of protection orders have been male, and over 90 per cent of applicants were female.

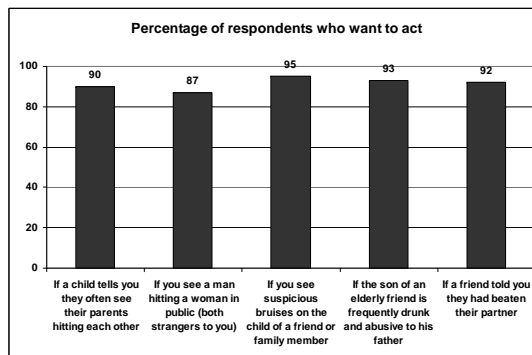
EXPECTED TRENDS

We would expect to see a slight increase in the total number of applications as more victims seek help.

3 Is there specific evidence of reduced tolerance of violence and behaviour change in families?

This indicator shows the level of people's tolerance of violence amongst their families, friends and communities. The data is from a selection of surveys which can only be reported on as the data is collected. This data will provide an emerging picture of people's tolerance and attitude to violence over time.

Are people in New Zealand less tolerant of violence within families?



Source: Attitudes, values and beliefs about violence within families: 2008 survey

The graph shows how many respondents said they would want to act in a particular situation. Respondents were also asked how likely they would be to act, and most respondents reported that they would be likely to act.

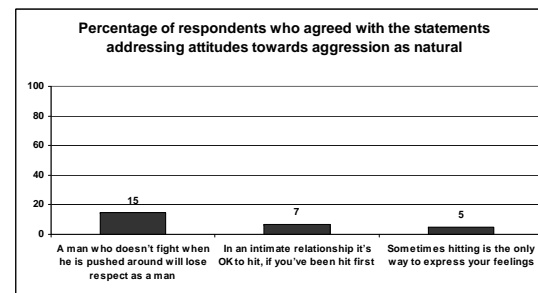
People are more likely to want to act against violence when a child is involved.

At least 15 per cent of the community still hold views that justify, excuse or explain violence against others.

EXPECTED TRENDS

With ongoing government and local community campaigns to increase awareness that family violence is not OK, we would expect to see the number of people who hold views that justify any type of family violence to decrease.

We would also expect to see an increase in the proportion of people who want to act when they witness any form of family violence.



Source: Attitudes, values and beliefs about violence within families: 2008 survey

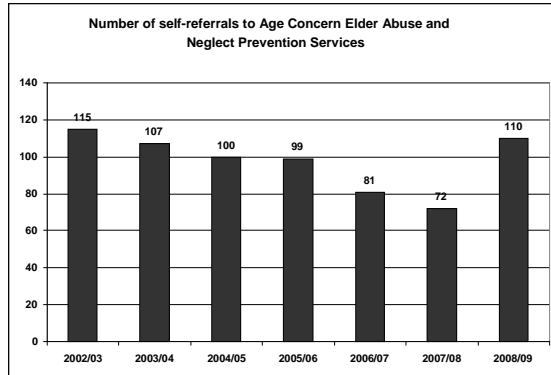
The graph shows the percentage of respondents that agreed with the statements addressing attitudes towards aggression as natural. Those who were most likely to agree that "a man who doesn't fight when he is pushed around will lose respect as a man" were men, low or no income, 65 years and over, and not married.

Family violence indicators

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Is there specific evidence of reduced tolerance of violence and behaviour change in families?

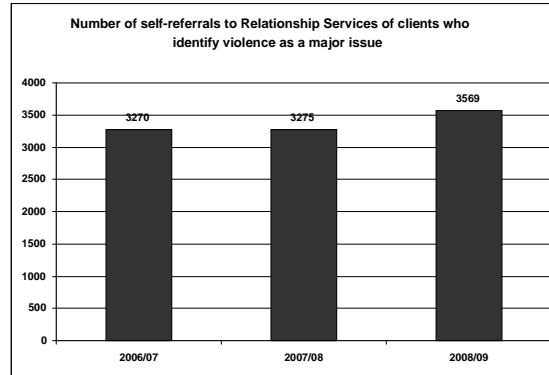
Are people more often referring themselves for help, without being sent?



Source: Age Concern New Zealand

This graph shows the number of self referred clients. In interpreting this graph, the very small numbers concerned needs to be taken into account.

Self referred clients only include victims.



Source: Relationship Services New Zealand

The graph shows the number of self-referred clients, it does not include clients mandated by Ministry of Justice and Probation referrals.

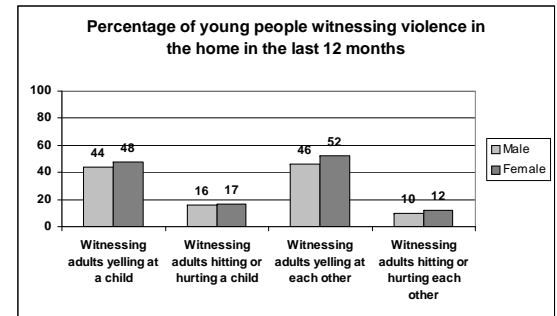
Self referred clients include both victims and perpetrators.

Increased self referrals is one measure demonstrating that people are aware that abuse or neglect is unacceptable and that it is OK to seek help.

EXPECTED TRENDS

With increased government and community focus on increasing awareness of family violence, we would expect to continue to see an increase over the next couple of years in people seeking help. This is because we would expect more people to self-refer if knowledge and tolerance were changing.

How much violence are young people witnessing in their own homes?



Source: National Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey (2007) – University of Auckland

The graph shows the various forms of violence students reported witnessing in their homes over the past 12 months.

A large proportion of young people witnessing violence in their homes report it as severe.

Witnessing violence in the home was more common among young people from neighbourhoods with high levels of deprivation.

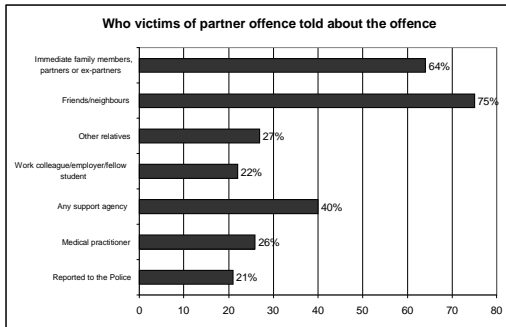
Twelve per cent of young people also reported that they had been physically hurt at home in the last 12 months. There was no difference between ethnic groups in the proportion of students who reported being physically hurt at home.

Family violence indicators

3 Is there specific evidence of reduced tolerance of violence and behaviour change in families?

Why do victims not report a partner offence to the Police?

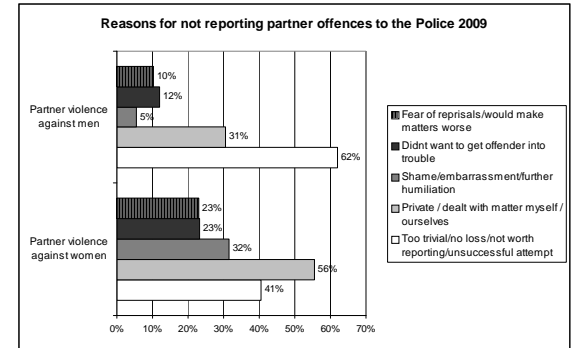
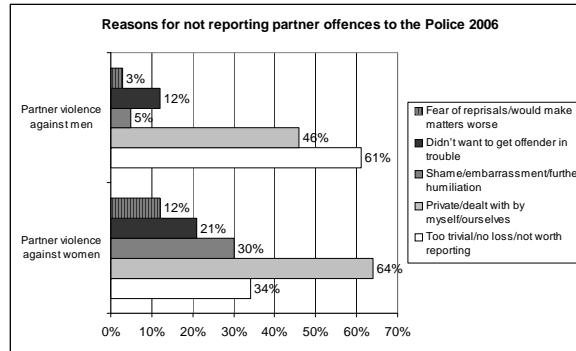
Who do victims talk to about the offence?



Source: New Zealand Crime and Safety Survey (2007) – Ministry of Justice

The graph shows responses from those who said they experienced a partner offence and mentioned to someone what happened. Only 61 per cent of victims said they told someone about their experience.

The graph relates to a small number of people who indicated they had been victims of a partner offence. Victims could choose more than one response.



Source: New Zealand Crime and Safety Survey 2006 and 2009 – Ministry of Justice

These two graphs show the reasons that victims gave for not reporting a partner offence to Police. Seventy nine per cent of victims reported they did not contact the Police in 2006. In 2009 this was 75 per cent.

The graph relates to a small number of people who indicated they had been victims of partner offences. Victims could choose more than one response.

The New Zealand Crime and Safety Survey (NZCASS)

These graphs provide contextual information about who victims talk to about partner offences and the reasons victims do not report to Police.

Sixty one per cent of victims of partner offences mentioned to someone what happened to them. There were a number of people and groups that victims talked to about partner offences besides the Police. Consistent with research undertaken for the 'It's Not OK' Campaign, the most common groups of people victims talked to were friends, neighbours, and immediate family.

The 2006 NZCASS showed that only 21 per cent of partner offences were reported to the Police, which rose to 25 per cent in 2009. This change between the 2006 and 2009 NZCASS was not statistically significant. The reasons why victims did not report partner offences varied, but most commonly female victims did not report to Police because they considered the matter to be private. There were also a number of female victims who did not report to Police because they feared reprisals from their partner or they were too embarrassed. The most common reason why male victims did not report to Police was that they considered the matter too trivial.

NZCASS 2009 also provided data about victims' experiences of partner offences. Findings show that female victims are more likely than male victims to be fearful after the incident and to be 'highly affected' by it. Female victims were much more likely than male victims to consider what happened to be a crime.

Additional notes on specific indicators

	Notes
Recorded Homicide Offences	<p>Increased Police focus and training on family violence is likely to have resulted in more cases being recognised as family violence-related, and recorded as such.</p> <p>These figures may differ from other figures on family violence deaths in New Zealand as a result of different definitions and counting rules.</p> <p>The graph is based on the Australian Standard Offence Classification (ASOC) grouping.</p>
Number of applicants that are granted temporary protection orders	<p>If an application for a protection order is urgent, the application can be made without notice, so the respondent is not told about the application until after a temporary protection order is made. Eighty nine per cent of all applications for a protection order are made without notice.</p> <p>The vast majority of applicants and protected persons are female, and respondents are overwhelmingly male.</p> <p>A judge may either grant a temporary protection order or direct that the application proceed on notice so that the respondent can defend the application. If the application is directed to proceed on notice, the person applying will be given the choice of continuing the application on notice or withdrawing their application.</p> <p>A temporary protection order becomes final after three months unless it is successfully defended or otherwise discharged.</p>
Apprehensions for offences against persons resulting in prosecutions	<p>The resolution category of 'Prosecution' indicates that the apprehension was resolved by a decision to prosecute in adult or youth court jurisdictions or a decision to seek an 'application for declaration' in family courts. These figures include instances where adult offenders end up receiving diversion. In all instances that conclude with diversion, the offender must first be charged.</p> <p>It is likely that family violence-related offending is significantly under-reported to Police, and that publicity campaigns, combined with increased Police focus and training, have driven increases in Police statistics for family violence. Therefore, inferences about trends in the prevalence of family violence should not be made from these statistics.</p>
Conviction and other outcomes for prosecuted charges of male assaults female	<p>One person may have a number of charges they are prosecuted and convicted for. An unknown number of charges of male assaults female are not family violence-related.</p>
Breakdown of Family Violence Apprehension for Assault and Threatening Behaviour resulting in prosecution	<p>The way in which charges may be laid is not comparable to the way other data on the criminal justice process are collated. It is therefore not possible, at this time, to track individual people through the system.</p> <p>The data represents the number of apprehensions and not the number of offences or offenders. One offender may be apprehended for multiple offences, or multiple offenders may be apprehended for one offence.</p> <p>The resolution category of 'Prosecution' indicates that the apprehension was resolved by a decision to prosecute in adult or youth court jurisdictions or a decision to seek an 'application for declaration' in family courts. These figures include instances where adult offenders end up receiving diversion. In all instances that conclude with diversion, the offender must first be charged.</p> <p>The graph is based on the Australian Standard Offence Classification (ASOC) grouping.</p>
New Zealand Crime and Safety Survey	<p>The New Zealand Crime and Safety Survey (NZCASS) is a comprehensive household survey that explores the experience of crime victimisation of more than 5,000 randomly selected New Zealand residents aged 15 and over. The 2009 NZCASS was designed to measure the amount of crime in New Zealand in 2008 by asking people directly about crimes they have experienced. The survey includes crimes not reported to the Police, so it is an important complement to Police records.</p> <p>While NZCASS is a general victimisation survey, it did include questions about whether the person had been a victim of a confrontational offence by their partner. Partner confrontational offences are defined as assaults or threats to the person or to personal property. Further analysis of NZCASS data was undertaken for the Families Commission Family Violence Statistics Report.</p> <p>The full reports are available from the Families Commission (http://www.familiescommission.govt.nz/files/family-violence-statistics-report.pdf) and the Ministry of Justice (http://www.justice.govt.nz/publications/global-publications/nz-crime-safety-survey-2006-key-findings) websites.</p>