

# Weaponised and Stigmatised

## Substance Use in the Context of Family Violence

**50%** of all police recorded family violence incidents in Australia **involve alcohol.**



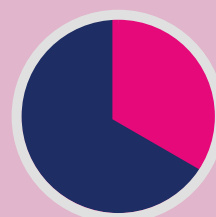
(AIHW, 2023)

Family violence incidents are **10 times more likely** on days when alcohol is consumed, and **12 times more likely** on heavy drinking days.



(Livingston et al., 2019)

Around **two thirds** of intimate **partner homicide offenders** report either **alcohol or drug use** prior to, or at the time of the offence.



(Eriksson et al. (2021))

**Mothers** who experience family violence and who use substances are significantly **more likely** to have their parenting scrutinised and **rights restricted**, regardless of safety or parenting capacity.



(ADF, 2021)

**Aboriginal women** are significantly over represented in both experiences of family violence, and in criminalisation linked to substance use, **reflecting systemic failures** to uphold safety, care, and justice.



(Victorian Government, 2022)

**1 in 3 women** who die by **suicide** have a history of family violence.



(ANROWS, 2022)

**Substance use** is present in **over 80%** of intimate partner **homicide suicide** cases.



(Australian Domestic and Family Homicide Monitoring Program, 2022)



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**35-50%** of people **convicted of family violence homicide** have a history of **alcohol dependence**.

35% → 50%

(AIHW, 2023)

People from **LGBTIQ+** communities who use substances experience disproportionately **high rates of family violence**, yet are more often met with surveillance, punitive responses, or exclusion from services rather than the **support they deserve**.

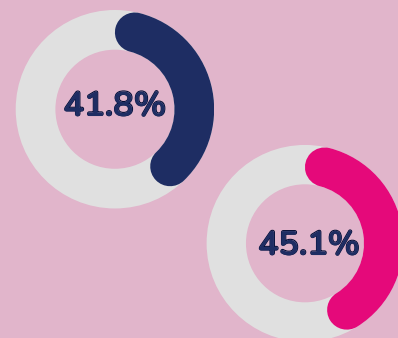
(AIVL, 2023; Safe and Equal, 2022)



**Family violence survivors** are **less likely** to be believed or supported by judicial systems if they are perceived to be **using substances**.

Sutherland et al., 2016 - cited in EVANS, 2020)

**41.8%** of intimate partner violence and **45.1%** of other violence cases involve **alcohol**.



(Laslett et al, 2010)

**1 in 3** family violence incidents involve **alcohol and other drugs**.



(Bryant & Bricknell, AIC, 2017)

Incidents where **victims used alcohol** and where **both parties used alcohol** were **less likely** to have an **offence recorded**. Substance use fuels systematic disbelief.



(Sutherland et al., 2016)

**25-40%** of people **convicted of family violence homicide** have a history of **drug dependence**.



(AIHW, 2023)

**Family violence** involving **alcohol** is more likely to result in **serious physical harm** and require hospitalisation.



(AIHW, 2023)