Nāhana Tūraru | *Young Women 16-35*

Most young women seeking help from Refuge have experienced severe violence

WOMEN'S REFUGE

TACTICS OF ABUSE

These young women experience certain abuse tactics more than other age-groups.

16–19-year-olds are more likely to disclose:

78.6% The perpetrator controlling all or most of what they do each day

64.0% The perpetrator keeping them somewhere against their will

52.0% Feeling like they had to say yes to sex out of fear

35.6% The perpetrator raping them



52.1% say the physical violence got worse in the month before they contacted Refuge

50.4% of 20-35-year-olds are the most likely to report being strangled, which is a red flag for the risk of being killed by that same partner

PERPETRATOR RISKS

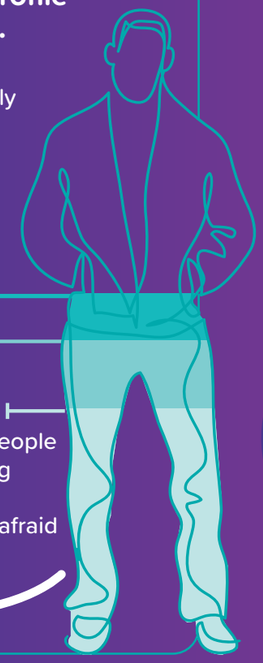
Young women report a slightly different perpetrator profile than other age-groups.

16-19-year-olds are more likely to say that:

Their perpetrator has access to weapons **55.9%**

48.7% Their perpetrator has affiliations or membership to a gang

38.1% Multiple people are making them feel unsafe or afraid



Just over half (**53.0%**) report that their perpetrator has harmful alcohol/drug use, and over a third (**39.4%**) have mental health issues

DOWNSTREAM RISKS FROM THE ABUSE

The impacts from perpetrators' use of violence can extend into every part of women's lives. However, we see slightly less of this for our youngest IPV clients.

53.6% of 16-19-year-olds also disclosed post-separation stalking — this is less than other age-groups, but still a huge proportion

16-19-year-olds report that their perpetrators threatened to make up/ share their private information about:

34.4% Their mental health

21.9% Their parenting

21.1% Their use of alcohol or drugs

13.3% Their income/benefits

5.5% Their involvement in illicit or illegal activity

While these percentages are worryingly high, they are lower for young women than for other age groups, likely because many of these abuse tactics rely on victims' involvement with systems (e.g. workplaces, Work and Income, Police etc) which tends to grow with age.

RISK TO YOUNG MUMS AND THEIR CHILDREN

Young mums coming into Refuge face intensified risks from their perpetrators, with the highest rates of violence perpetrated against the youngest Mums.

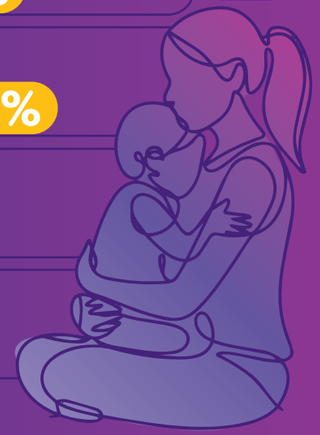
All young women are more likely than older age groups to have experienced:



	Age 16-19	Age 20-35
The perpetrator's harmful behaviour starting or getting worse while they were pregnant	56.0%	39.0%
The perpetrator harming them while pregnant	65.5%	49.3%

Like mums in other age groups, young women also report that their perpetrators:

	Age 16-19	Age 20-35
Harmed them in front of child(ren)	62.2%	72.7%
Made their child(ren) feel scared	51.7%	78.2%
Used the child(ren) to try and see or contact them	43.6%	55.0%
Used the child(ren) to find out details about their life	13.2%	41.6%





34.0% of 16-19-year-olds are more likely to report the perpetrator physically harming their child(ren)

42.4% of 20-35-year-olds are more likely to report some form of reproductive coercion

60.5% are more likely to report the perpetrator taking or threatening to take their child(ren) from them