

## Temporal trends and characteristics of intimidation

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**Aim:** The current study has two aims. The first is to investigate whether there has been any change in the characteristics of intimidation in recent years that might inform which types of offences are becoming more common. The second aim is to investigate whether the characteristics of intimidation related to domestic violence (DV) have changed over time.

**Method:** Characteristics of intimidation incidents across 2006-2011 were collated from the NSW Police database. Additional information was coded from 600 free-text event narratives for intimidation incidents across 3 years (2006, 2008, 2010). Analyses tested whether characteristics of intimidation incidents changed over this period. Analyses were carried out for intimidation and for intimidation related to DV separately.

**Results:** Intimidation related to DV increased over time. Intimidation and intimidation related to DV involving injured victims also increased. In intimidation related to DV, male POIs decreased and female POIs increased, and male victims increased and female victims decreased over time. The relationship of unknown POI differed over time, however there was no change in other relationship types. The type of intimidation and the location did not change. Additionally, there was no change over time in intimidation and intimidation related to DV with a weapon, face to face contact, AVO issued/applied for, or prior AVO.

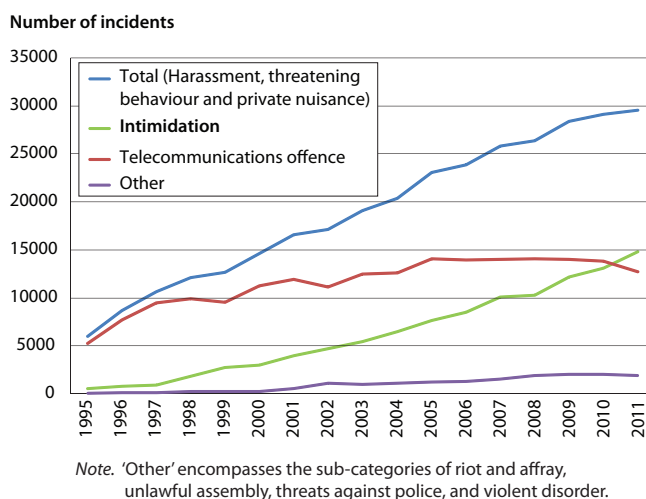
**Conclusion:** Intimidation related to DV is driving the overall increase in intimidation observed in NSW over recent years.

**Keywords:** crime statistics, domestic abuse, domestic violence, harassment, intimidation, private nuisance, stalking, threatening behaviour

## INTRODUCTION

There has been a substantial increase in the number of police-recorded incidents of 'harassment, threatening behaviour and private nuisance' in NSW over the last decade. In 2000, NSW Police recorded 14,661 incidents of this nature. By 2011 this had increased to 29,530 incidents. The offence category of harassment consists of six sub-categories: telecommunications offences (e.g., nuisance phone calls); intimidation (e.g., threatening behaviour, stalking); riot and affray; unlawful assembly; threats against police; and violent disorder (NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research [BOCSAR], 2012). Figure 1 illustrates that, of the six sub-categories of harassment, intimidation is increasing at the greatest rate and seems to be driving most of the growth in offences of harassment, threatening behaviour and private nuisance. In just six years (2006 to 2011), the number of intimidation incidents reported or detected in NSW increased by 74 percent, from 8,527 to 14,808.

**Figure 1. Number of recorded incidents of harassment threatening behaviour and private nuisance in NSW, by sub-category, 1995 to 2011**



Section 3 of the *Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007* defines intimidation as:

- (a) conduct amounting to harassment or molestation of the person, or
- (b) an approach made to the person by any means (including by telephone, telephone text messaging, e-mailing and other technologically assisted means) that causes the person to fear for his or her safety, or
- (c) any conduct that causes a reasonable apprehension of injury to a person or to a person with whom he or she has a domestic relationship, or of violence or damage to any person or property.

Currently we have very little information about the general characteristics and patterns of intimidation offences. Previous research has tended to focus on intimidation occurring under specific circumstances. For instance, studies include research on the rate at which women experience stalking related to domestic violence (DV) (Australian Bureau of Statistics [ABS], 1996), and intimidating behaviour linked with the introduction of the NSW Apprehended Violence Order (AVO) scheme (Trimboli & Bonney, 1997). Other studies in Australia have focused on a certain type of intimidation, such as intimidation in specific professions; sexual harassment in the workplace; bullying at school or work; prejudice harassment; and stalking (e.g., Forero, McLellan, Rissel, & Bauman, 1999; Hamlin & Hoffman, 2002; McDonald, Graham, & Martin, 2010; Purcell, Pathé & Mullen, 2002).

The increase in intimidation incidents in NSW may be attributed to one or two different sources. First, for whatever reason, the incidence of intimidating behaviour may be increasing in the population. If this is occurring and the proportion of people who are willing to report the behaviour to the police is stable, the incidence of the offence will increase in police statistics. While this is possible, it is also possible that victims have become more willing to report intimidation incidents to the police over time. This can happen if victims are encouraged by third parties to report the behaviour to police or if their own tolerance threshold to less serious forms of intimidation decreases. While we cannot definitively identify which of these sources the growth is coming from, we can explore whether there have been changes in the characteristics of these offences over time to shed some light on what has been happening. A general increase across all types of intimidation would be consistent with an increase in the prevalence of the offence. Increases in less serious offences (e.g. those where the victim was not injured, those where no weapon was involved), would be more consistent with an increase in victims' willingness to report intimidation incidents of a less serious nature.

The dearth of previous research on the characteristics of general intimidation, coupled with the substantial rise in intimidation over the last 10 years in NSW, makes it important and timely to explore whether a particular characteristic (or a host of characteristics) of intimidation is driving the increase in the number of incidents recorded.

## THE CURRENT STUDY

### AIMS

The current study has two aims. The first is to investigate whether there has been any change in the characteristics of intimidation incidents in recent years that might inform which types of offences are becoming more common. To foreshadow the results, we found that much of the growth in intimidation offences was related to DV. A secondary aim, therefore, was to investigate whether the characteristics of intimidation related to DV have changed over time.

The specific questions of interest are as follows:

1. How does the rate of intimidation vary across geographical areas in NSW and in which areas have the greatest increase in intimidation come from?
2. Has there been a change in the types of intimidation reported to police?
3. Has there been a change in the gender and Indigenous status of persons of interest and victims?
4. Has there been a change in the relationship between the victim and the person of interest, and the location of intimidation incidents?
5. Has the proportion of incidents involving more serious types of intimidation increased?
6. Has the proportion of incidents classified as involving domestic violence increased?
7. What are the key characteristics of intimidation related to domestic violence?

### METHOD

#### DATA SOURCE

The data examined in the current study were sourced from the NSW Police Force Computerised Operational Policing System (COPS). Data items included those recorded in standard fields whenever police record information about an offence on COPS and information coded from the free-text event narrative fields on that system.

#### SAMPLE

This study used data on intimidation incidents recorded in NSW across a 6-year period, 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2011. The dataset contained all records of intimidation incidents across 2006 to 2011 and from these data, a subset of intimidation incidents related to DV were identified. To retrieve information about intimidation incidents that was not recorded in standard fields on COPS, additional characteristics of the incident were extracted from a randomly selected sample of intimidation event narratives for the years 2006, 2008, and 2010. Two hundred event narratives for each of the 3 years sampled were extracted from COPS and coded by the researcher (of which 83 event narratives of intimidation related to DV were randomly selected per year).

## STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

To test the prediction that a particular characteristic (or host of characteristics) of intimidation is increasing over time, the distribution of incidents with a given variable were contrasted across recent years. Chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) tests were used for analysis. A significant test is denoted by  $p < .05$  and suggests that the distribution of the variable being tested differs across years. A non-significant test is  $p > .05$  and suggests the distribution of the variable is similar across years.

## RESULTS

### ALL INTIMIDATION

#### How does the rate of intimidation vary across geographical areas in NSW and in which areas have the greatest increase in intimidation come from?

Table 1 lists the top ten NSW Local Government Areas (LGAs) which had the highest recorded rates of intimidation across 2006 to 2011. Further, the rate of intimidation is divided into incidents related to DV and incidents not related to DV. Bourke had the highest rate of intimidation incidents in NSW in 2011 (842.8 incidents per 100,000 population), followed by Walgett (772.6 per 100,000 population) and Griffith (755.2 per 100,000 population). The average rate of intimidation incidents across all LGAs in NSW steadily increased from 125.1 per 100,000 population in 2006 to 205.6 in 2011. The rates for all LGAs in NSW are shown in Table A1 of the appendix.

**Table 1. Top ten Local Government Areas (LGAs) with the highest rates of intimidation incidents per 100,000 resident population, NSW, 2006 to 2011**

	LGA	Overall rate* per 100,000	DV related rate* per 100,000	Non DV related rate* per 100,000	Overall total incident count
2006	Bourke	1,231.1	615.6	615.6	40.0
	Walgett	550.0	137.5	412.5	40.0
	Moree Plains	544.9	95.4	449.5	80.0
	Young	506.8	185.0	321.8	63.0
	Inverell	501.6	185.8	315.8	81.0
	Campbelltown	437.5	255.0	182.4	645.0
	Tumut Shire	425.8	239.5	186.3	48.0
	Kempsey	423.6	203.0	220.5	121.0
	Weddin	395.0	131.7	263.4	15.0
	Tenterfield	353.3	117.8	235.5	24.0
	<b>NSW</b>	<b>125.1</b>	<b>52.7</b>	<b>72.4</b>	<b>8,527.0</b>
2007	Moree Plains	930.0	222.1	707.9	134.0
	Walgett	633.4	168.9	464.5	45.0
	Forbes	596.2	390.6	205.6	58.0
	Lachlan	577.5	311.0	266.5	39.0
	Narrandera	534.4	178.1	356.3	33.0
	Campbelltown	505.1	289.1	216.0	746.0
	Kempsey	474.7	244.3	230.4	136.0
	Parkes	463.7	268.8	194.9	69.0
	Richmond Valley	451.1	151.9	299.3	101.0
	Inverell	444.1	117.2	326.9	72.0
	<b>NSW</b>	<b>147.2</b>	<b>62.9</b>	<b>84.3</b>	<b>10,133.0</b>

**Table 1. Top ten Local Government Areas (LGAs) with the highest rates of intimidation incidents per 100,000 resident population, NSW, 2006 to 2011 (continued....)**

	LGA	Overall rate* per 100,000	DV related rate* per 100,000	Non DV related rate* per 100,000	Overall total incident count
2008	Walgett	885.8	242.9	642.9	62.0
	Tenterfield	782.8	318.9	463.9	54.0
	Bourke	742.2	322.7	419.5	23.0
	Moree Plains	712.5	258.5	454.1	102.0
	Forbes	551.4	322.5	228.9	53.0
	Bogan	527.2	98.8	428.3	16.0
	Kyogle	510.9	104.3	406.6	49.0
	Campbelltown	507.8	282.9	224.9	754.0
	Parkes	501.7	287.6	214.1	75.0
	Inverell	496.8	153.3	343.5	81.0
	<b>NSW</b>	<b>147.4</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>83.7</b>	<b>10,280.0</b>
2009	Forbes	752.0	271.6	480.5	72.0
	Moree Plains	723.6	259.9	463.7	103.0
	Campbelltown	643.1	340.9	302.2	964.0
	Kempsey	602.0	309.6	292.4	175.0
	Narrandera	601.5	227.6	373.9	37.0
	Bourke	555.6	261.4	294.1	17.0
	Kyogle	552.3	260.5	291.8	53.0
	Inverell	533.8	182.0	351.8	88.0
	Leeton	483.5	215.9	267.7	56.0
	Nambucca	466.2	125.7	340.5	89.0
	<b>NSW</b>	<b>172.3</b>	<b>76.4</b>	<b>95.9</b>	<b>12,179.0</b>
2010	Bourke	1,174.6	424.1	750.4	36.0
	Griffith	736.2	213.7	522.5	186.0
	Inverell	634.9	272.1	362.8	105.0
	Forbes	622.6	295.5	327.1	59.0
	Walgett	588.0	157.8	430.2	41.0
	Kyogle	585.0	156.7	428.3	56.0
	Campbelltown	570.9	299.4	271.5	858.0
	Narrandera	538.2	309.8	228.3	33.0
	Gunnedah	509.2	242.5	266.7	63.0
	Mid-Western Regional	504.1	214.8	289.3	115.0
	<b>NSW</b>	<b>183.7</b>	<b>84.3</b>	<b>99.4</b>	<b>13,123.0</b>
2011	Bourke	842.8	486.2	356.6	26.0
	Walgett	772.6	277.0	495.6	53.0
	Griffith	755.2	300.5	454.7	191.0
	Liverpool Plains	579.2	308.9	270.3	45.0
	Gunnedah	575.3	287.7	287.7	72.0
	Mid-Western Regional	573.9	269.6	304.3	132.0
	Moree Plains	570.9	239.6	331.2	81.0
	Cooma-Monaro	545.3	198.3	347.0	55.0
	Gilgandra	529.3	176.4	352.9	24.0
	Leeton	526.0	306.9	219.2	60.0
	<b>NSW</b>	<b>205.6</b>	<b>100.9</b>	<b>104.8</b>	<b>14,828.0</b>

\* Population data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (2011) were used to calculate rates per 100,000 population for each LGA. LGAs with a population of less than 3,000 are not included in this ranking.

Table 2 lists the top five LGAs which had the greatest percentage increase in intimidation incidents between 2006 and 2011. Only those LGAs that had significantly increasing trends were included in this ranking, and only if they had at least 20 incidents in each of the five years examined. The top five LGAs with the greatest percentage increases were Wollondilly, Bankstown, Canterbury, Holroyd, and Griffith. For intimidation incidents related to DV, the top five LGAs were Bankstown, Tamworth Regional, Sutherland Shire, Shoalhaven, and the Blue Mountains.

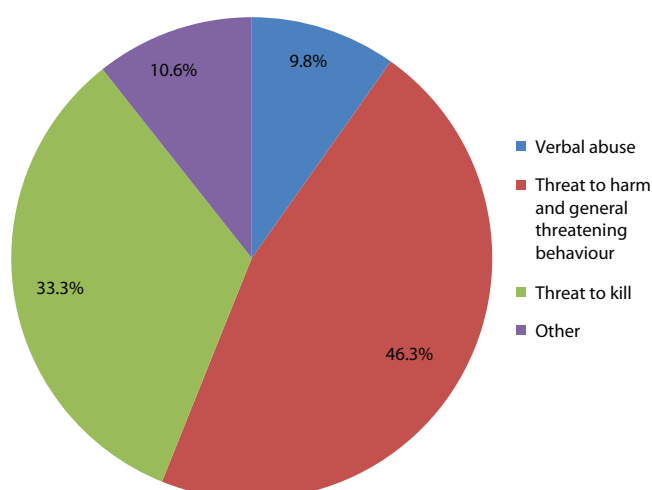
**Table 2. Top five Local Government Areas (LGAs) with the greatest percentage increase in the total number of incidents of intimidation and intimidation related to domestic violence (DV) in NSW between 2006 and 2011**

LGA	No. 2006	No. 2011	Percent change
<b>All incidents of intimidation</b>			
Wollondilly	21	109	419.05%
Bankstown	96	479	398.96%
Canterbury	40	185	362.50%
Holroyd	70	299	327.14%
Griffith	46	191	315.22%
<b>Incidents of intimidation related to DV</b>			
Bankstown	21	240	1,042.86%
Tamworth Regional	29	125	331.03%
Sutherland Shire	36	140	288.89%
Shoalhaven	60	220	266.67%
Blue Mountains	20	71	255.00%

### Has there been a change in the types of intimidation reported to police?

Figure 2 shows the proportion of specific types of intimidation pooled across 2006, 2008, and 2010. These intimidation types were coded from the free-text narratives in COPS. The intimidation type presented is the most serious type that occurred per incident. Intimidation types from the most serious to the least serious were threat to kill, threat to harm and general threatening behaviour, threat of malicious damage, stalking, sexually abusive comment, and verbal abuse. The category 'other' encompasses sexually abusive comments, stalking and threat of malicious damage. Of the most serious type of intimidation occurring in an incident the most common types were 'threat to harm and general threatening behaviour' (46.3%) and 'threat to kill' (33.3%). These two types of intimidation accounted for 80 percent of all intimidation incidents. There was no evidence to suggest that the nature of intimidation incidents changed across the three observed years (Table A2).

**Figure 2. The most serious type of intimidation occurring per intimidation incident in NSW, 2006, 2008, and 2010**



Intimidation incidents which involved telecommunications were coded from the free-text narratives in COPS. Phone calls and/or voice messages occurred in one fifth (14.3%) and text messages in 7.2 percent of intimidation incidents. There was no change in the distribution of phone calls and/or voice messages across 2006, 2008, and 2010 (Table A2).

### Has there been a change in the gender and Indigenous status of persons of interest and victims?

Figure 3 shows the person of interest (POI) and victim characteristics across 2006 to 2010. Incidents where the POI or victim characteristic was not recorded or was unknown are included in these figures. POIs were more commonly male (71.8%) and non-Indigenous (69.0%) whereas victims were more commonly female (62.8%) and non-Indigenous (89.0%).

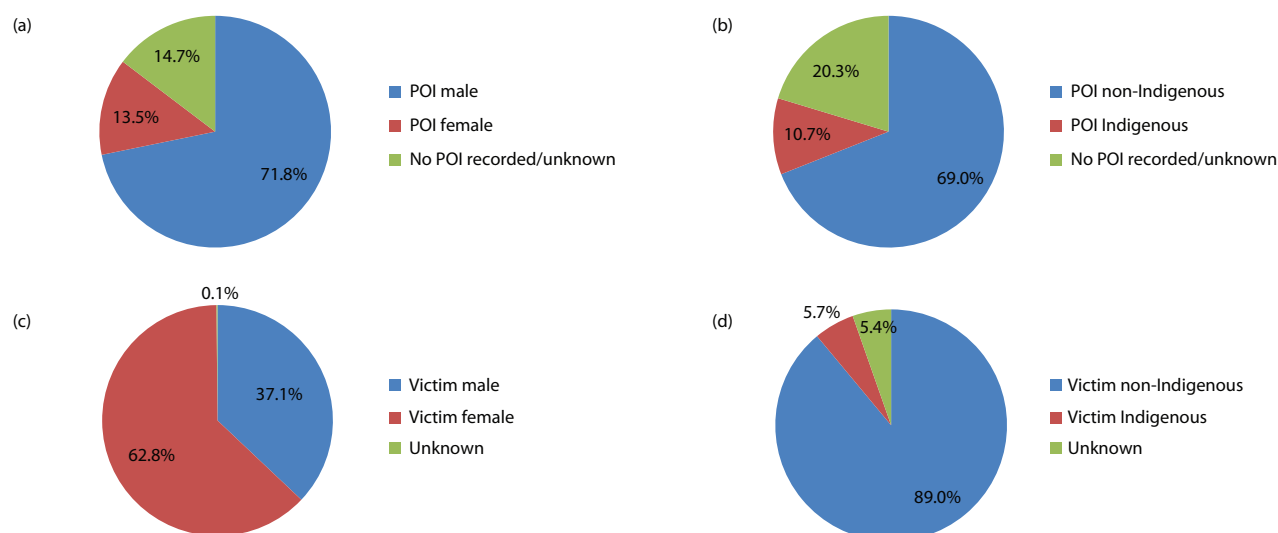
There were statistically significant changes in the distributions of POI gender, POI Indigenous status, and victim Indigenous status over time, but these changes were mainly a result of variations in the percentage of incidents where these characteristics were unknown (see Table A2). The distributions of victim gender did not differ across years. There is very little evidence, in other words, of any significant shift in the demographic characteristics of victims and alleged offenders.

### Has there been a change in the relationship between the victim and the POI and the location of intimidation incidents?

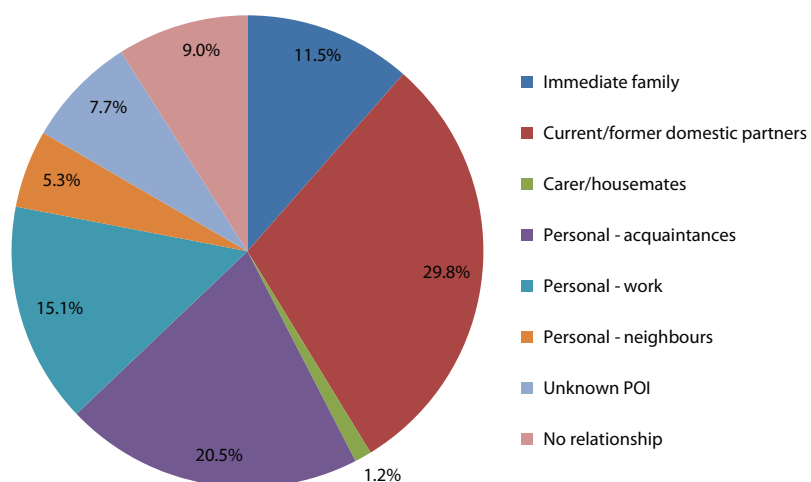
#### Relationship

Figure 4 shows the breakdown of the relationship between victims and POIs of intimidation pooled across 2006, 2008 and 2010. Relationship types were coded from the free-text narratives in COPS. The most common relationship between the victim and the POI was domestic partners (29.8%) followed by personal acquaintances (20.5%). With the exception of relationships where the POI was unknown ( $\chi^2 = 9.94$ ,  $df = 2$ ,  $p < .01$ ), there was no significant difference in the distribution

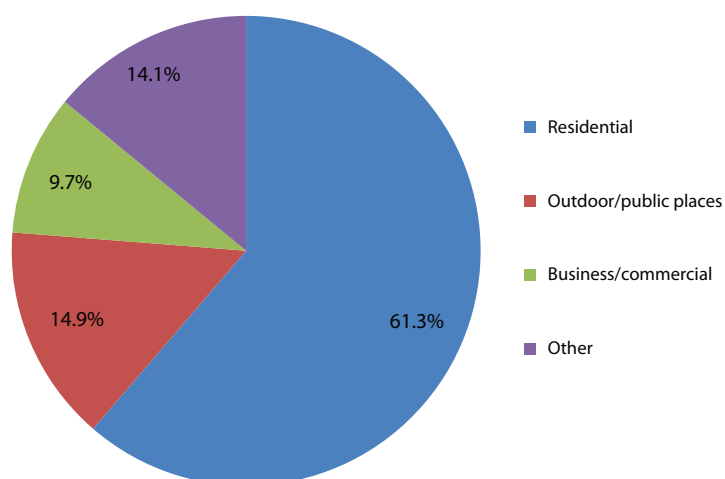
**Figure 3. Distribution of person of interest (POIs) and victims of intimidation by gender (Figures 3a and 3c) and Indigenous status (Figures 3b and 3d), NSW, 2006 to 2010**



**Figure 4. Relationship between victims and persons of interest (POIs) involved in intimidation in NSW, 2006, 2008, and 2010**



**Figure 5. Locations in which intimidation incidents occurred, NSW, 2006 to 2010**



of relationship types across 2006, 2008, and 2010. The proportion of intimidation incidents where the POI was unknown increased in 2008 (12.5%) before falling in 2010 (5.0%) to a proportion similar to that recorded in 2006 (5.5%) (Table A2).

#### Location

Figure 5 shows the most common locations in which intimidation incidents occurred across 2006 to 2010. The category 'other' includes law enforcement (e.g., police stations), health, licenced premises, education, car park, recreation, transport, utilities, vehicle, religious, industrial, adult entertainment, and unknown locations. Intimidation occurred most commonly in residential premises (61.3%) followed by outdoor/public places (14.9%) (Figure 5). There was a no change in the distribution of any location type over time (Table A2).

#### Has the proportion of incidents involving more serious types of intimidation increased?

To assess whether the number of more serious intimidation incidents are increasing the following characteristics were investigated:

- A weapon was used
- A victim was injured
- There was face to face contact between the victim and the POI
- The victim of the intimidation incident was a police officer



- An Apprehended Violence Order (AVO) was issued/applied for on behalf of the victim (i.e. the current intimidation incident resulted in an AVO being issued or applied for)
- There was a prior AVO issued against the POI (i.e. an AVO was in existence/previously held at the time of the intimidation incident)

Figure 6 shows the trends in intimidation where a weapon was used and where a victim was injured over time. These data come from standard fields in the COPS database. Across 2006 to 2010, only 5.1 percent of intimidation incidents involved the use of a weapon, yet 15.0 percent of intimidation incidents resulted in a victim being injured. The number of incidents where a victim was injured significantly differed across 2006 to 2010 ( $\chi^2 = 52.2$ ,  $df = 4$ ,  $p < .001$ ). The proportion increased from 13.5 percent in 2006 to 16.3 percent in 2010. There was no difference in the proportion of incidents involving a weapon over time (Table A2).

From the samples of intimidation incidents coded from the free-text narratives in COPS for 2006, 2008 and 2010, face to face contact between the victim and the POI occurred in 82.2 percent of incidents and did not change across years. The number of incidents where a police officer was named as the victim was very small (4.3%) and did not change across years. Approximately one-third (32.3%) of intimidation resulted in an AVO being applied for or issued, and 13.3 percent of incidents involved POIs who had a current or expired AVO against them. There was no difference in the distribution of AVOs issued/applied for, or the distribution of POIs with prior AVOs across the 3 years (Table A2).

### Has the proportion of incidents classified as involving domestic violence increased?

Figure 7 shows the proportion of intimidation incidents flagged by police as being related to DV by year. Nearly half of intimidation incidents were related to DV (44.2%). The distribution of intimidation incidents related to DV differed significantly over time ( $\chi^2 = 40.3$ ,  $df = 4$ ,  $p < .001$ ). The proportion increased from 42.2 percent in 2006 to 45.9 percent in 2010.

## INTIMIDATION RELATED TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

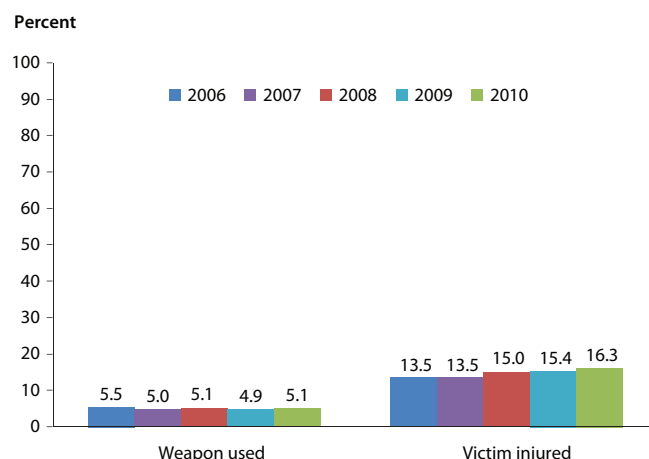
### What are the key characteristics of intimidation incidents related to domestic violence?

Due to the large proportion of intimidation incidents involving DV and the increasing trend over time, the next section will focus specifically on the characteristics of intimidation related to DV.

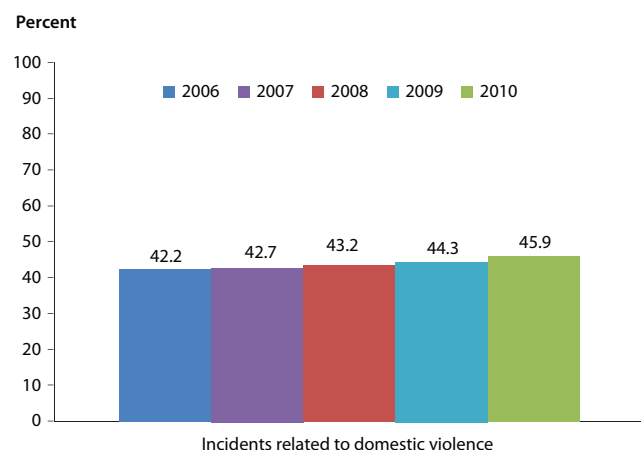
#### Types of intimidation related to domestic violence

Figure 8 shows the specific types of intimidation related to DV in 2006, 2008, and 2010. Intimidation types were coded from the free-text narratives in COPS. The intimidation type presented is the most serious type that occurred per incident. Intimidation types from the most serious to the least serious were threat to kill, threat to harm and general threatening behaviour, threat

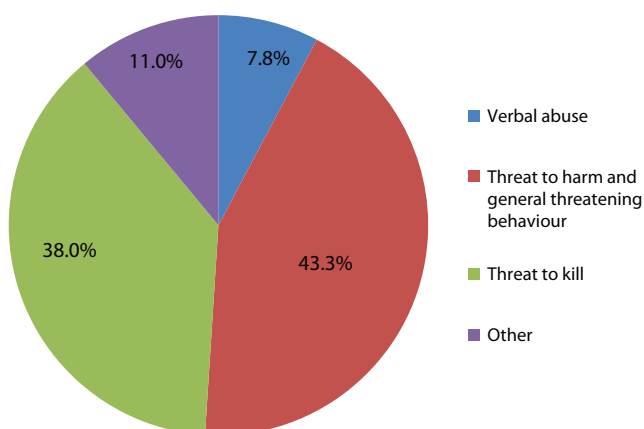
**Figure 6. Intimidation incidents involving a weapon and intimidation incidents where the victim was injured in NSW by year**



**Figure 7. The proportion of intimidation incidents related to domestic violence (DV) in NSW by year**



**Figure 8. The most serious type of intimidation related to domestic violence (DV) in NSW, 2006, 2008, and 2010**



of malicious damage, stalking, sexually abusive comment, and verbal abuse. The category 'other' encompasses sexually abusive comments, stalking, and threat of malicious damage. The most common type of intimidation related to DV was 'threat to harm and general threatening behaviour' (43.3%) followed by 'threat to kill' (38.0%). There was no significant change in the types of intimidation related to DV recorded over time (Table A3).

Incidents of intimidation related to DV which involved telecommunications were coded from the free-text narratives in COPS. Phone calls and/or voice messages occurred in one fifth (21.3%) and text messages in 10.8 percent of intimidation related to DV. There was no difference in the distribution of phone calls and/or voice messages across 2006, 2008, and 2010 (Table A3).

### Characteristics of persons of interest and victims of intimidation related to domestic violence

Figure 9 shows the POI and victim characteristics for intimidation related to DV. Incidents where the POI or victim characteristic was not recorded and/or unknown are included. POIs were more commonly male (87.4%) and non-Indigenous (82.3%), and victims were more commonly female (82.1%) and non-Indigenous (87.1%).

The distribution of POI gender for intimidation related to DV differed over time ( $\chi^2 = 24.5$ ,  $df = 4$ ,  $p < .001$ ). The proportion of male POIs declined from 89.9 percent in 2006 to 85.0 percent in 2010. Correspondingly, the proportion of female POIs increased over time, from 9.4 percent in 2006 to 12.1 percent in 2010. Additionally, the proportion of unknown POI gender increased over time, from 0.7 percent in 2006 to 3.0 percent in 2010 (Table A3).

There was some evidence of a change in the distribution of incidents involving Indigenous POIs but this appeared

mainly due to a growth in the proportion of incidents where Indigenous status was not recorded/unknown (Table A3).

The distribution of victim gender differed across years ( $\chi^2 = 12.7$ ,  $df = 4$ ,  $p < .05$ ). The proportion of male victims increased from 16.2 percent in 2006 to 18.9 percent in 2010. Correspondingly the proportion of female victims decreased from 83.8 percent in 2006 to 81.0 percent in 2010 (Table A3).

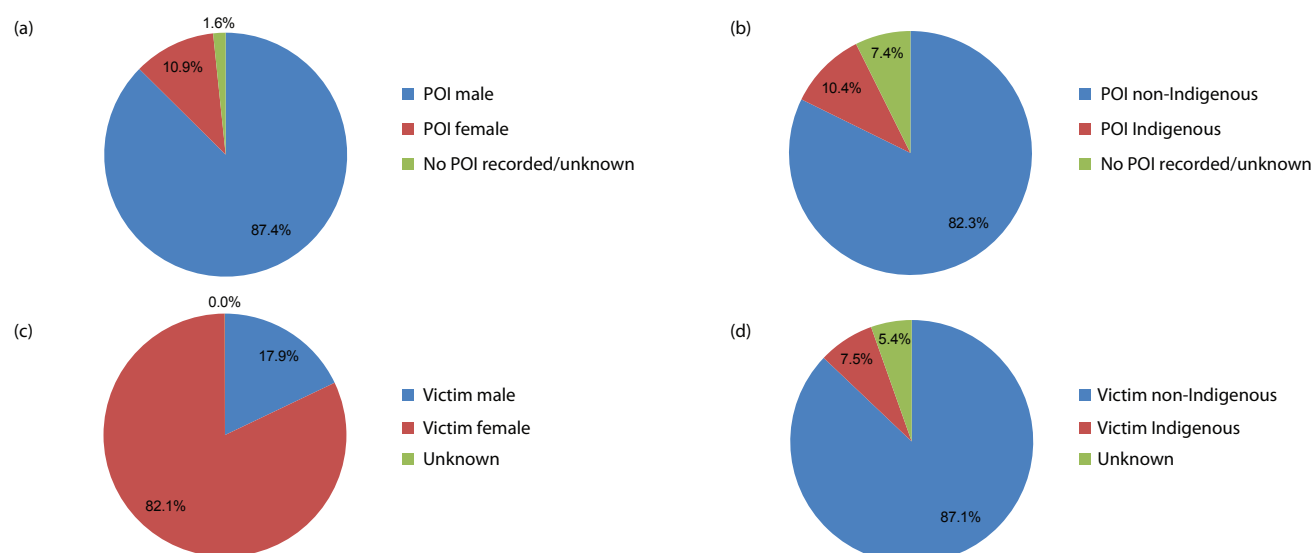
The distribution of the Indigenous status of victims differed over time, however this result was driven primarily by the proportion of incidents where victim Indigenous status was unknown (Table A3).

### Intimidation incidents related to domestic violence where a weapon was involved or where a victim was injured

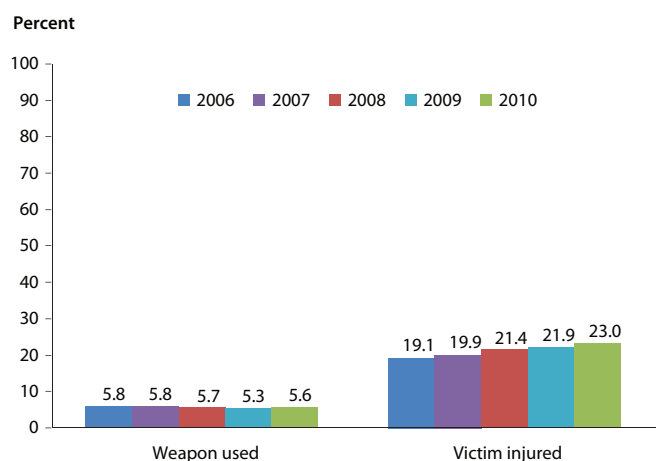
Figure 10 shows the proportion of incidents where a weapon was used and where a victim was injured. A weapon was used in nearly 6 percent (5.6%) of incidents and victims were injured in just over one fifth (21.3%) of incidents of intimidation related to DV (Figure 10). The distribution of incidents where a weapon was used did not change across 2006 to 2010 but the distribution of incidents where a victim was injured significantly differed ( $\chi^2 = 27.2$ ,  $df = 4$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ). The proportion of incidents of intimidation related to DV in which someone was injured increased from 19.1 percent in 2006 to 23.0 percent in 2010 (Table A3).

Samples of intimidation incidents related to DV which were coded from the free-text narratives in COPS showed that face to face contact between the victim and the POI occurred in 81.1 percent of incidents; AVOs were issued to or applied for on behalf of victims in 57.8 percent of incidents; and POIs had existing AVOs in approximately one-quarter (25.3%) of incidents across 2006, 2008 and 2010. These characteristics did not significantly change over time (Table A3).

**Figure 9. Distribution of person of interest (POIs) and victims of intimidation related to domestic violence (DV) by gender (Figures 3a and 3c) and Indigenous status (Figures 3b and 3d), NSW, 2006 to 2010**



**Figure 10. Intimidation incidents related to domestic violence (DV) involving weapons and intimidation incidents related to DV where a victim was injured in NSW by year**



## DISCUSSION

There has been a significant rise in the number of incidents of harassment, threatening behaviour and private nuisance in NSW across recent years. As a sub-category of harassment, intimidation seems to be primarily driving the recorded increase. Incidents of intimidation increased by 74 percent between 2006 and 2011 (from 8,527 to 14,808 incidents). This study aimed to investigate whether there had been a change in a particular characteristic (or host of characteristics) of intimidation incidents over the last few years and to describe the characteristics of intimidation related to domestic violence (DV).

Overall, the results clearly show that intimidation related to DV is driving the increase observed in all intimidation in NSW over recent years. Intimidation related to DV occurred in nearly half (44.2%) of all intimidation incidents and showed an increase of nearly 10 percent (8.9%) between 2006 and 2010. Intimidation where a victim was injured also significantly increased over time (from 13.5% of incidents in 2006 to 16.3% in 2010). This may be due to intimidation related to DV more often involving injury compared with non-DV incidents, and it was in these incidents of DV-related intimidation where a lot of the growth in overall intimidation occurred.

In 2011, the top three LGAs with the greatest intimidation rates were Bourke (842.8), Walgett (772.6), and Griffith (755.2). Between 2006 and 2011 Wollondilly (419.1%) followed by Bankstown (399.0%) had the greatest percentage increase in intimidation and Bankstown (1,042.9%) followed by Tamworth Regional (331.0%) had the greatest percentage increase in intimidation related to DV.

Of the most serious type of intimidation to occur in an incident, 'threat to harm and general threatening behaviour' was most common occurring in nearly half of intimidation (46.3%) and intimidation related to DV (43.3%). The types of intimidation did not appear to change over time.

The vast majority of intimidation and intimidation related to DV across 2006 to 2010 involved male POIs (71.8% of all intimidation; 87.4% of DV-related intimidation), non-Indigenous POIs (69.0% of all intimidation; 82.3% of DV-related intimidation), female victims (62.8% of all intimidation; 82.1% of DV-related intimidation), and non-Indigenous victims (89.0% of all intimidation; 87.1% of DV-related intimidation). The only clear changes in the characteristics of victims and POIs was a decrease in the proportion of male POIs involved in intimidation related to DV (from 89.9% in 2006 to 85.0% in 2010). Consistent with this decrease was the increase in the proportion of female POIs (from 9.4% in 2006 to 12.1% in 2010). There was also an increase over time in the proportion of male victims (from 16.2% in 2006 to 18.9% in 2010) and a decrease in the proportion of female victims (from 83.8% in 2006 to 81.0% in 2010) involved in intimidation related to DV.

The most common relationship between POIs and victims was current/former partners in an intimate relationship (29.8%) followed by parties which were personal acquaintances (20.5%). With the exception of unknown POI, none of the relationship types changed over time. Intimidation occurred most frequently in residential locations (61.3%) followed by outdoor/public places (14.9%). There was no change in location type over time.

The only indicator of offence seriousness that was found to change over time was victim injury, which increased across years (from 13.5% in 2006 to 16.3% in 2010 for intimidation; and from 19.1% in 2006 to 23.0% in 2010 for intimidation related to DV). Weapons were infrequently used (5.1% of intimidation, 5.6% of intimidation related to DV). Most incidents involved face to face contact between the victim and POI (82.2% of intimidation, 81.1% of intimidation related to DV). AVOs were issued/applied for in a large proportion of matters (32.3% of intimidation, 57.8% of intimidation related to DV); and existing AVOs were in place in a substantial proportion of cases (13.3% of intimidation, 25.3% of intimidation related to DV). Only 4.3 percent of intimidation incidents named a police officer as the victim.

The finding that intimidation related to DV is increasing indicates that reports of DV may be driving the increase in overall intimidation and also the increase in offences of harassment recorded in recent years. There are two explanations for why intimidation related to DV has risen in recent years. First, for an unknown reason there may have been an actual increase in intimidation related to DV. Second, victims may be more willing to report incidents of intimidation related to DV. Third, there may have been a change in the recording of intimidation related to DV by police.

The finding that intimidation related to DV is increasing over time is constructive for future research directions and management strategies for intimidation, and suggests that DV-related intimidation should be considered when developing policies and programmes aimed at reducing DV.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## APPENDIX

**Table A1. The rank order of the rate of intimidation and domestic violence (DV) related intimidation per 100,000 population in Local Government Areas (LGAs) in NSW, 2006, 2008, and 2010**

Rank	2006			2008			2010		
	LGA	Rate* 100,000 popn.	DV related rate* 100,000 popn.	LGA	Rate* 100,000 popn.	DV related rate* 100,000 popn.	LGA	Rate* 100,000 popn.	DV related rate* 100,000 popn.
1	Bourke	1231.1	615.6	Walgett	885.8	242.9	Bourke	1174.6	424.1
2	Walgett	550.0	137.5	Tenterfield	782.8	318.9	Griffith	736.2	213.7
3	Moree Plains	544.9	95.4	Bourke	742.2	322.7	Inverell	634.9	272.1
4	Young	506.8	185.0	Moree Plains	712.5	258.5	Forbes	622.6	295.5
5	Inverell	501.6	185.8	Forbes	551.4	322.5	Walgett	588.0	157.8
6	Campbelltown	437.5	255.0	Bogan	527.2	98.8	Kyogle	585.0	156.7
7	Tumut Shire	425.8	239.5	Kyogle	510.9	104.3	Campbelltown	570.9	299.4
8	Kempsey	423.6	203.0	Campbelltown	507.8	282.9	Narrandera	538.2	309.8
9	Weddin	395.0	131.7	Parkes	501.7	287.6	Gunnedah	509.2	242.5
10	Tenterfield	353.3	117.8	Inverell	496.8	153.3	Mid-Western Regional	504.1	214.8
11	Lachlan	344.5	200.9	Kempsey	478.6	277.5	Liverpool Plains	489.2	115.9
12	Glen Innes Severn	338.5	131.0	Mid-Western Regional	441.1	169.3	Deniliquin	459.5	270.3
13	Narrandera	335.1	159.6	Richmond Valley	425.4	190.5	Gilgandra	459.1	240.5
14	Leeton	330.9	84.9	Uralla	378.0	147.9	Cootamundra	453.5	213.4
15	Cootamundra	327.8	118.0	Gilgandra	374.6	132.2	Richmond Valley	446.0	150.1
16	Richmond Valley	316.1	85.8	Bland	373.8	195.0	Moree Plains	444.2	246.8
17	Goulburn Mulwaree	316.0	95.5	Gunnedah	371.9	115.7	Tamworth Regional	437.1	245.3
18	Bland	300.1	110.5	Griffith	370.4	131.4	Cessnock	434.9	225.2
19	Coonamble	296.0	22.8	Hay	361.8	150.7	Guyra	420.6	243.5
20	Cessnock	294.0	198.8	Lachlan	355.4	192.5	Parkes	412.9	173.1
21	Narromine	293.0	73.2	Leeton	337.1	181.5	Tenterfield	401.0	128.9
22	Wagga Wagga	283.3	125.7	Narrabri	327.2	96.7	Shoalhaven	392.4	198.3
23	Uralla	283.0	83.2	Greater Taree	325.0	149.9	Maitland	372.3	165.0
24	Lismore	278.5	63.4	Coonamble	325.0	0.0	Kempsey	361.1	206.4
25	Coffs Harbour	278.2	100.1	Narrandera	309.8	97.8	Cowra	357.1	142.8
26	Forbes	267.1	154.1	Cootamundra	308.3	120.6	Warrumbungle Shire	329.5	79.9
27	Albury	264.0	121.7	Narromine	306.4	43.8	Nambucca	327.6	145.6
28	Kyogle	258.5	82.7	Nambucca	306.1	84.4	Port Macquarie- Hastings	321.1	151.8
29	Parkes	255.1	114.1	Temora	303.6	151.8	Temora	318.3	150.8
30	Gilgandra	254.7	63.7	Lismore	300.3	94.8	Broken Hill	315.7	181.2
31	Guyra	249.1	90.6	Wagga Wagga	293.3	150.8	Cooma-Monaro	307.3	39.7
32	Temora	244.9	32.7	Deniliquin	291.1	172.0	Leeton	295.9	130.6
33	Greater Taree	236.1	100.0	Armidale Dumaresq	287.5	95.8	Dubbo	289.7	108.9
34	Gundagai	234.1	130.1	Albury	284.7	160.7	Blacktown	278.6	144.2
35	Maitland	233.5	142.3	Junee	282.3	99.7	Narrabri	274.5	103.9
36	Bogan	233.5	66.7	Young	281.9	88.6	Lachlan	267.7	178.5
37	Hay	227.5	85.3	Dubbo	278.8	90.4	Glen Innes Severn	266.0	121.9
38	Mid-Western Regional	226.5	40.8	Broken Hill	272.0	201.5	Liverpool	256.7	135.9
39	Gunnedah	224.9	50.0	Guyra	271.1	135.5	Wagga Wagga	255.3	136.6
40	Eurobodalla	221.4	35.5	Cooma-Monaro	268.1	39.7	Wellington	254.6	88.6
41	Deniliquin	219.9	64.7	Gloucester	265.1	81.6	Lockhart	254.0	31.7
42	Queanbeyan	212.6	81.4	Wellington	259.9	67.8	Hay	252.4	220.9
43	Broken Hill	203.7	104.3	Cessnock	257.8	157.9	Eurobodalla	249.7	122.1
44	Blacktown	199.6	106.6	Port Stephens	255.1	119.9	Fairfield	249.4	126.5
45	Coolamon	191.6	71.8	Corowa Shire	247.0	114.7	Albury	249.0	135.6
46	Armidale Dumaresq	191.0	48.8	Eurobodalla	244.8	49.0	Oberon	248.9	76.6
47	Griffith	184.6	96.3	Great Lakes	232.9	129.4	Harden	245.7	109.2
48	Port Stephens	183.3	99.6	Tumut Shire	232.3	125.1	Cobar	240.2	100.1
49	Junee	181.6	49.5	Queanbeyan	231.8	115.9	Greater Taree	235.0	117.5
50	Corowa Shire	174.9	61.2	Tamworth Regional	230.0	98.3	Bathurst Regional	234.6	90.8

**Table A1. The rank order of the rate of intimidation and domestic violence (DV) related intimidation per 100,000 population in Local Government Areas (LGAs) in NSW, 2006, 2008, and 2010 - (continued ....)**

Rank	2006			2008			2010		
	LGA	Rate* 100,000 popn.	DV related rate* 100,000 popn.	LGA	Rate* 100,000 popn.	DV related rate* 100,000 popn.	LGA	Rate* 100,000 popn.	DV related rate* 100,000 popn.
51	Snowy River	171.4	13.2	Blacktown	227.5	107.1	Bega Valley	229.9	54.4
52	Wentworth	170.0	42.5	Port Macquarie- Hastings	225.0	91.4	Great Lakes	228.8	118.7
53	Narrabri	167.5	29.1	Shoalhaven	221.3	109.0	Lismore	228.2	74.5
54	Fairfield	166.6	89.7	Glen Innes Severn	221.0	66.3	Coffs Harbour	226.8	107.7
55	Sydney	165.5	38.0	Coolamon	214.7	119.3	Camden	216.7	118.0
56	Hawkesbury	164.2	69.2	Coffs Harbour	211.7	96.5	Hawkesbury	214.5	89.3
57	Wyong	162.6	78.5	Gundagai	211.4	105.7	Wyong	207.6	84.7
58	Liverpool	162.1	86.0	Bathurst Regional	210.9	52.1	Penrith	206.1	90.7
59	Bega Valley	160.1	40.0	Bega Valley	210.6	54.9	Orange	203.6	72.2
60	Port Macquarie- Hastings	158.5	63.1	Warrumbungle Shire	208.1	109.0	Gloucester	202.7	81.1
61	Shoalhaven	157.0	65.0	Wyong	204.4	92.7	Bogan	198.2	33.0
62	Tamworth Regional	153.7	51.8	Maitland	197.1	128.4	Goulburn Mulwaree	195.5	81.8
63	Muswellbrook	150.6	31.4	Shellharbour	194.7	114.3	Young	192.1	96.1
64	Shellharbour	148.2	64.6	Gwydir	193.5	38.7	Ballina	191.7	83.6
65	Bellingen	146.6	108.0	Harden	192.0	164.6	Coolamon	189.5	71.1
66	Liverpool Plains	139.9	38.1	Liverpool Plains	191.7	38.3	Bankstown	189.0	98.5
67	Cooma-Monaro	137.6	19.7	Lockhart	187.1	124.7	Hurstville	187.6	89.5
68	Tumbarumba	135.4	81.3	Goulburn Mulwaree	185.4	83.6	Corowa Shire	185.2	79.4
69	Dubbo	133.8	32.8	Wollondilly	167.7	75.6	Sydney	184.7	56.4
70	Newcastle	130.6	51.6	Dungog	166.7	131.0	Shellharbour	184.1	105.0
71	Wollongong	130.6	53.5	Wollongong	165.8	73.8	Cabonne	182.9	22.9
72	Cowra	123.0	30.7	Cowra	165.1	55.0	Wollondilly	181.0	98.5
73	Gosford	120.9	61.1	Camden	160.1	96.8	Blue Mountains	180.6	75.6
74	Wellington	117.9	35.4	Fairfield	158.7	72.8	Byron	177.9	80.8
75	Bathurst Regional	117.1	42.6	Greater Hume Shire	148.4	89.0	Uralla	176.6	64.2
76	Great Lakes	114.1	46.8	Orange	147.7	52.7	Holroyd	174.7	85.4
77	Berrigan	108.2	12.0	Liverpool	147.7	76.1	Port Stephens	174.2	81.1
78	Warrumbungle Shire	107.5	19.5	Hurstville	147.1	82.4	Tumbarumba	171.6	28.6
79	Hurstville	107.2	52.3	Hawkesbury	144.4	57.1	Greater Hume Shire	168.5	59.5
80	Dungog	107.1	47.6	Penrith	141.7	50.6	Wakool	168.5	120.3
81	Clarence Valley	103.8	61.9	Cobar	138.5	59.4	Newcastle	165.4	69.0
82	Orange	102.4	53.9	Ballina	135.7	54.3	Wollongong	165.0	75.8
83	Cobar	97.2	58.3	Clarence Valley	128.8	53.5	Junee	164.1	114.9
84	Penrith	96.0	38.9	Sydney	123.0	32.9	Wentworth	159.8	87.1
85	Singleton	95.9	43.6	Newcastle	122.2	56.5	Rockdale	155.4	90.4
86	Lake Macquarie	93.8	42.7	Wakool	115.8	0.0	Leichhardt	149.2	71.0
87	Cabonne	93.1	54.3	Blue Mountains	115.3	40.2	Narromine	144.8	57.9
88	Lockhart	90.9	90.9	Tumbarumba	112.4	28.1	Berrigan	143.8	71.9
89	Ashfield	89.1	24.1	Singleton	108.1	47.6	Tumut Shire	141.9	53.2
90	Wingecarribee	87.9	31.6	Leichhardt	103.4	43.2	Coonamble	139.8	23.3
91	Rockdale	86.2	50.9	Gosford	102.9	51.8	Kogarah	137.4	67.0
92	Ballina	84.4	24.8	Ashfield	101.7	28.4	Botany Bay	136.5	65.8
93	Marrickville	83.4	31.8	Upper Hunter Shire	101.6	43.6	Gwydir	136.2	38.9
94	Camden	82.4	27.5	Palerang	100.3	71.6	Armidale Dumaresq	134.8	43.6
95	Upper Lachlan Shire	81.6	13.6	Murray	99.6	42.7	Weddin	134.4	0.0
96	Nambucca	80.4	26.8	Lake Macquarie	94.0	41.3	Lake Macquarie	133.1	66.6
97	Greater Hume Shire	78.5	49.1	Muswellbrook	87.8	43.9	Dungog	129.6	94.3
98	Lithgow	77.8	43.8	Rockdale	87.7	49.8	Gosford	127.5	64.7
99	Leichhardt	77.6	34.9	Marrickville	86.9	43.5	Walcha	126.3	63.2
100	Holroyd	75.0	19.3	Wentworth	84.7	70.6	Queanbeyan	126.0	70.6
101	Murray	74.9	59.9	Parramatta	84.0	27.8	Clarence Valley	125.2	54.8
102	Blayney	72.7	43.6	Berrigan	83.5	59.7	Lithgow	120.5	62.6
103	Gwydir	72.3	0.0	Wingecarribee	82.0	35.5	Parramatta	117.2	40.4
104	Blue Mountains	65.7	26.3	Upper Lachlan Shire	81.3	13.6	Kiama	111.5	53.3

**Table A1. The rank order of the rate of intimidation and domestic violence (DV) related intimidation per 100,000 population in Local Government Areas (LGAs) in NSW, 2006, 2008, and 2010 - (continued ....)**

Rank	2006			2008			2010		
	LGA	Rate* 100,000 popn.	DV related rate* 100,000 popn.	LGA	Rate* 100,000 popn.	DV related rate* 100,000 popn.	LGA	Rate* 100,000 popn.	DV related rate* 100,000 popn.
105	Palerang	61.8	15.4	Kogarah	78.0	40.8	Upper Lachlan Shire	108.2	54.1
106	Kiama	60.0	35.0	Lithgow	77.9	34.1	Sutherland Shire	107.9	49.6
107	Parramatta	59.8	22.7	Byron	77.8	32.4	Auburn	103.9	50.6
108	Kogarah	58.3	32.8	Bankstown	77.7	20.3	Burwood	103.2	41.3
109	Oberon	56.9	37.9	Oberon	76.8	0.0	Marrickville	99.2	36.0
110	Bankstown	54.3	11.9	Holroyd	76.5	21.4	Muswellbrook	99.0	30.9
111	Waverley	54.1	13.9	Sutherland Shire	75.4	27.3	Singleton	98.4	30.0
112	Harden	53.5	53.5	Yass Valley	69.1	27.6	Ashfield	90.4	51.0
113	Burwood	52.5	9.3	Burwood	68.7	14.9	Snowy River	90.2	25.8
114	Sutherland Shire	51.8	16.9	Pittwater	68.3	12.3	Strathfield	86.7	27.1
115	Wollondilly	50.9	24.3	Walcha	62.2	31.1	Yass Valley	85.5	32.9
116	Manly	50.9	20.4	Auburn	61.8	15.1	Bland	82.4	33.0
117	Yass Valley	50.9	21.8	Kiama	59.4	24.7	Gundagai	79.3	0.0
118	Botany Bay	47.8	15.9	Warringah	58.2	11.9	Canterbury	78.7	45.3
119	Warringah	46.0	9.3	Tweed	58.2	16.3	Wingecarribee	78.5	30.5
120	Pittwater	44.2	8.8	Botany Bay	56.2	17.9	Upper Hunter Shire	78.4	35.6
121	Byron	42.3	16.3	Canterbury	55.9	19.3	Palerang	75.2	34.2
122	Gloucester	40.2	0.0	Bellingen	54.2	38.7	The Hills Shire	74.2	29.1
123	Upper Hunter Shire	36.8	14.7	Weddin	53.4	26.7	Canada Bay	67.1	34.8
124	The Hills Shire	33.9	10.3	Snowy River	51.9	0.0	Manly	64.8	12.0
125	Mosman	32.4	7.2	The Hills Shire	50.7	20.1	Tweed	64.7	40.9
126	Tweed	31.3	8.4	Manly	45.3	10.1	Waverley	60.3	16.2
127	Walcha	30.1	0.0	Randwick	44.2	11.4	Murray	55.9	41.9
128	Woollahra	30.0	3.8	Waverley	42.1	12.0	Warringah	54.1	17.1
129	Canterbury	29.5	9.6	Strathfield	36.8	11.3	Pittwater	53.9	6.7
130	Hornsby	29.3	11.5	Canada Bay	33.2	6.9	Randwick	52.2	20.6
131	North Sydney	27.5	3.2	Hornsby	31.4	9.4	Bellingen	46.4	7.7
132	Randwick	25.4	8.7	Cabonne	30.9	15.4	Hunters Hill	43.2	7.2
133	Canada Bay	24.7	8.7	Woollahra	29.6	3.7	Ryde	43.0	15.9
134	Auburn	23.4	10.3	Blayney	28.7	14.4	Blayney	42.1	0.0
135	Strathfield	18.1	12.0	Mosman	24.6	10.5	Mosman	41.1	20.5
136	Willoughby	16.4	3.0	Ryde	23.0	11.5	North Sydney	37.9	9.1
137	Ku-ring-gai	16.2	8.6	North Sydney	22.0	6.3	Hornsby	30.7	8.0
138	Ryde	14.9	5.0	Ku-ring-gai	13.9	3.7	Woollahra	27.0	10.8
139	Lane Cove	6.3	0.0	Willoughby	13.1	2.9	Willoughby	18.4	5.7
140	Hunters Hill	0.0	0.0	Hunters Hill	7.3	7.3	Lane Cove	15.3	3.1
141	Wakool	0.0	0.0	Lane Cove	6.3	3.1	Ku-ring-gai	13.3	5.3
-	Balranald	na	na	Balranald	na	na	Balranald	na	na
-	Bombala	na	na	Bombala	na	na	Bombala	na	na
-	Boorowa	na	na	Boorowa	na	na	Boorowa	na	na
-	Brewarrina	na	na	Brewarrina	na	na	Brewarrina	na	na
-	Carrathool	na	na	Carrathool	na	na	Carrathool	na	na
-	Central Darling	na	na	Central Darling	na	na	Central Darling	na	na
-	Conargo	na	na	Conargo	na	na	Conargo	na	na
-	Jerilderie	na	na	Jerilderie	na	na	Jerilderie	na	na
-	Murrumbidgee	na	na	Murrumbidgee	na	na	Murrumbidgee	na	na
-	Unincorporated Far West	na	na	Unincorporated Far West	na	na	Unincorporated Far West	na	na
-	Urana	na	na	Urana	na	na	Urana	na	na
-	Warren	na	na	Warren	na	na	Warren	na	na
NSW		125.1	52.7	NSW	147.4	22.5	NSW	183.7	84.3

\* For the rate calculations, population data were obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics publication: Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2011, Cat. No. 3218.0. Rates calculated per 100,000 population for each LGA. Data suppressed for LGAs with a population of less than 3,000.

**Table A2. Characteristics of intimidation by year**

		Proportion of all incidents	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Intimidation characteristic		%	%	%	%	%	%
Type of intimidation	Verbal abuse	9.8	8.1	-	8.0	-	13.3
	Threat to harm and general threatening behaviour	46.3	47.0	-	45.7	-	46.2
	Threat to kill	33.3	32.8	-	33.7	-	33.3
	Other	10.6	12.1	-	12.6	-	7.2
Telecommunications	Phone calls/voice messages	14.3	18.0	-	13.5	-	11.5
	Text messages	7.2	9.5	-	5.5	-	6.5
Gender of person of interest	Male*	71.8	74.0	72.9	73.3	70.9	69.2
	Female	13.5	13.1	13.3	13.9	13.5	13.7
	Unknown POI gender*	14.7	12.9	13.9	12.8	15.6	17.1
Indigenous status of person of interest	Non-Indigenous*	69.0	70.9	69.0	70.1	68.5	67.3
	Indigenous*	10.7	10.9	11.1	11.9	10.4	9.6
	Unknown POI Indigenous status*	20.3	18.2	19.9	18.0	21.1	23.1
Gender of victim	Male	37.1	36.8	37.2	38.0	37.1	37.1
	Female	62.8	63.2	62.8	62.0	62.8	62.8
	Unknown victim gender	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Indigenous status of victim	Non-Indigenous*	89.0	90.7	89.0	89.1	88.8	87.8
	Indigenous	5.7	5.3	5.7	6.2	5.5	5.6
	Unknown victim Indigenous status*	5.4	4.0	5.3	4.7	5.7	6.6
Relationship	Immediate family	11.5	11.9	-	9.5	-	13.0
	Partners	29.8	27.9	-	33.5	-	28.0
	Carer/housemates	1.2	2.0		1.0		0.5
	Personal-acquaintances	20.5	21.9	-	17.5	-	22.0
	Personal-work	15.1	18.4	-	10.5	-	16.5
	Personal - neighbours	5.3	5.5		6.0		4.5
	Unknown POI*	7.7	5.5	-	12.5	-	5.0
	No relationship	9.0	7.0		9.5		10.5
Location	Residential	61.3	60.3	61.3	61.1	61.6	61.9
	Outdoor/public place	14.9	14.7	15.3	15.4	14.3	15.1
	Business/commercial	9.7	10.0	9.5	9.8	9.7	9.6
	Other	14.1	15.0	13.9	13.7	14.4	13.4
Indicators of seriousness	Weapon used	5.1	5.5	5.0	5.1	4.9	5.1
	Victim injured*	15.0	13.5	13.5	15.0	15.4	16.3
	Face to face contact	82.2	79.5	-	82.5	-	84.5
	Victim a police officer	4.3	5.0	-	3.5	-	4.5
	AVO issued/applied for	32.3	27.5	-	35.5	-	34.0
	Prior AVO held by POI	13.3	10.0	-	13.5	-	16.5
Related factor	Domestic violence*	44.2	42.2	42.7	43.2	44.3	45.9

\* There was a significant difference ( $p < .05$ ) across years.

Note. For variables sourced from COPS event narratives, no data was extracted for the years 2007 and 2009.



**Table A3. Characteristics of intimidation related to domestic violence (DV) by year**

		Proportion of all incidents	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Intimidation characteristic		%	%	%	%	%	%
Type of intimidation	Verbal abuse	7.8	3.7	-	4.9	-	14.6
	Threat to harm and general threatening behaviour	43.3	45.1	-	45.7	-	39.0
	Threat to kill	38.0	39.0	-	34.6	-	40.2
	Other	11.0	12.2	-	14.8	-	6.1
Telecommunications	Phone calls/voice messages	21.3	28.9	-	21.7	-	13.3
	Text messages	10.8	16.9	-	8.4	-	7.2
Gender of person of interest	Male*	87.4	89.9	89.2	88.2	86.5	85.0
	Female*	10.9	9.4	10.2	10.9	11.2	12.1
	Unknown POI gender*	1.6	0.7	0.6	0.8	2.3	3.0
Indigenous status of person of interest	Non-Indigenous*	82.3	84.7	83.1	82.1	81.7	80.9
	Indigenous*	10.4	9.7	10.0	12.1	10.4	9.6
	Unknown POI Indigenous status*	7.4	5.5	6.9	5.8	7.9	9.5
Gender of victim	Male*	17.9	16.2	17.4	18.1	18.2	18.9
	Female*	82.1	83.8	82.6	81.9	81.8	81.0
	Unknown victim gender	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Indigenous status of victim	Non-Indigenous*	87.1	89.4	87.2	87.1	86.7	85.9
	Indigenous	7.5	6.8	7.6	8.1	7.4	7.4
	Unknown victim Indigenous status*	5.4	3.8	5.2	4.9	5.8	6.6
Indicators of seriousness	Weapon used	5.6	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.3	5.6
	Victim injured*	21.3	19.1	19.9	21.4	21.9	23.0
	Face to face contact	81.1	78.3	-	78.3	-	86.7
	AVO issued/applied for	57.8	48.2	-	60.2	-	65.1
	Prior AVO held by POI	25.3	19.3	-	25.3	-	31.3

\* There was a significant difference ( $p < .05$ ) across years.

Note. For variables sourced from COPS event narratives, no data was extracted for the years 2007 and 2009.