

# A LOOK AT THE FINANCIAL COST OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

**The human cost of violence against women and girls is immeasurable.**

Beyond the emotional and physical toll on victims, violence results in significant financial costs to individuals, governments, and communities.

**Violence disrupts peace and stability within families and communities, leading to widespread costs in healthcare, education, social protection, justice, and lost productivity.** Ultimately, violence against women hinders societies and economies from reaching their full potential.

Categories	Description	Cost
Pain, suffering and premature mortality of victims	Experiences of the victim can lead to long-term effects on psychological and physical health, and premature mortality for victims	\$10.4B
Consumption	Replacing damaged property, defaulting on bad debts, and the costs of moving	\$4.4B
Production	Being absent from work, and employer administrative costs (eg. employee replacement)	\$1.9B
Administrative	Police, incarceration, court system costs, counselling, and violence prevention programs	\$1.7B
Health System	Public and private health system costs associated with treating the effects of violence against women	\$1.4B
Second Generation	Cost of children living with violence, incl. child protection services and increased juvenile and adult crime	\$333M

The cost of *reported* violence against women and their children in Australia

(Final Report, KPMG, 2016)



**Under-representation** of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, pregnant women, women with disability, and women who are homeless within national prevalence estimates may add **a further \$4 billion** to the cost of violence against women and their children in Australia in 2015-16.

**Gendered financial abuse is estimated to cost \$10.9 billion a year** – with \$5.7 billion of that cost borne directly by victims.

**Gendered financial abuse costs the broader economy \$5.2 billion a year in productivity.**

(Deloitte Access Economics (2022) The cost of Financial Abuse in Australia, Commonwealth Bank of Australia, accessed on 9 September 2025.)

# SNAPSHOT ACROSS THE GLOBE

A recent study estimated the **cost of violence in 2024 was 11.6% of the global economy**, an increase of 3.8% from 2023.<sup>1</sup>

In 2021, gender-based violence across the **EU** was estimated to cost around EUR 366 billion a year. Violence against women makes up 79% of this cost, amounting to EUR 289 billion<sup>2</sup>



The cost of violence against women could amount to about 2% of the world's GDP – about the size of **Canada's** economy<sup>3</sup>

In **Morocco**, the total cost of physical and/or sexual violence against women was estimated at MAD 2.85 billion (around USD 308 million) a year<sup>4</sup>

In **Egypt**, approx. 500,000 working days are lost each year due to marital violence, and the health sector bears more than USD 14 million in costs to serve just one quarter (600,000) of survivors<sup>5</sup>

In **Vietnam**, both out-of-pocket expenditures and lost earnings represent nearly 1.41% of the GDP. More importantly, regression results for estimating productivity loss due to violence indicate that women experiencing violence earn 35% less than those who are not abused, pointing to another significant drain on the national economy<sup>6</sup>

1. Anke Hoeffler and James Fearon, Benefits and Costs of the Conflict and Violence Targets for the Post-2015 Development Agenda, 2014

2. European Institute for Gender Equality (2021)

3. Puri L (2016) The economic costs of violence against women, Deputy Executive Director of UN Women, Lakshmi Puri at the high-level discussion on the 'Economic cost of violence against women' on 21 September 2016

4. Haut Commissariat au Plan Maroc (2019)

5. Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics and the National Council for Women, Republic of Egypt, with UNFPA (2015)

6. Estimating Economic Costs of Domestic Violence Against Women in Vietnam (2012)