



KEY STATISTICS

An insight into gender-based violence in PNG and sport as a vehicle for behaviour change.



**RUGBY LEAGUE
AGAINST
VIOLENCE**

KEY STATISTICS

Papua New Guinea is the only country in the world with Rugby League as the national sport. Despite its popularity, it is underutilised as a vehicle for development.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

- An estimated 67% of women have been beaten by their husbands.¹
- The most common forms of physical violence include: kicking, punching, burning, and cutting with knives. These account for 80-90% of the injuries to women treated by health workers.²
- PNG has one of the world's highest rates of sexual violence, with an estimated 55% of women having experienced forced sex – in most cases by men known to them.³
- Medecins Sans Frontiers described the rates of sexual violence in PNG as a “humanitarian crisis”.⁴
- Approximately 50% of married women have been beaten by their husbands to force them into sex.
- Through interviews, the PNG Medical Research Institute found that approximately 60% of men had engaged in gang rape.⁵
- Nearly half of reported rape victims are under 15 years of age and 13% are under age 7.⁶

SPORT AS A VEHICLE FOR BEHAVIOUR CHANGE

- The national strategy has identified men and boys as key agents in combating rates of gender-based violence.⁷
- Australian initiatives utilising Rugby League as a tool of behaviour change have successfully reduced reported rates of domestic violence by up to two thirds.⁸
- Crucially, outside RLAV, there are no significant strategies engaging men as vehicles of positive change within PNG.

67%

OF WOMEN BEATEN BY THEIR HUSBANDS¹

55%

OF WOMEN HAVE EXPERIENCED FORCED SEX³

50%

OF REPORTED RAPE VICTIMS ARE UNDER 15 YEARS OF AGE⁶

13%

ARE UNDER 7 YEARS OF AGE⁶

ONE LARGE PNG STUDY FOUND

60%

OF MEN HAD ENGAGED IN GANG RAPE⁵

¹ Law Reform Commission, 'Domestic Violence in Papua New Guinea, 1986.

² Amnesty International, 'Papua New Guinea violence against women: Not inevitable, never acceptable', 2006.

³ PNG Medical Research Institute, 1993.

⁴ ABC, 'PNG pushed to solve domestic violence crisis', 2012.

⁵ PNG Medical Research Institute, 1993.

⁶ UNICEF, 'UNICEF Strives to help Papua New Guinea break cycle of violence', 2008.

⁷ 'Consultative Implementation and Monitoring Council's National Strategy and Recommendations', 2009.

⁸ Australian Institute of Criminology, 'Domestic Violence – it's not our Game!', 2008

