

SIBLING VIOLENCE

What is it?

One of the most common yet least recognized forms of violence

1 out of 3
children

1 out of 10
adolescents

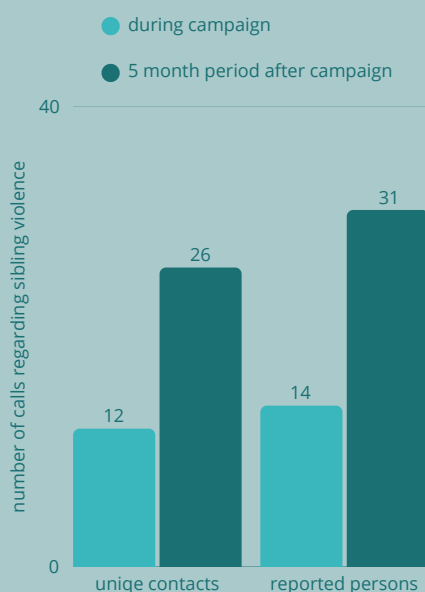
experienced some kind of sibling violence in last 12 months (Tucker et al., 2013)

Sibling violence is often dismissed as nothing more than normal rivalry between brothers and sisters and therefore seen as harmless (Meyers, 2017). Yet, this perception minimizes the serious impact such violence can have.

Despite being common, sibling violence remains one of the least recognized forms of domestic violence. Its effects can be far-reaching both in childhood and adulthood. Victims may struggle with depression, low self-esteem, loyalty conflicts, self-destructive behaviour and aggressive behaviour (e.g., Bertele & Talmon, 2023; Lawrence et al., 2024). Like other forms of domestic violence, sibling violence can take many shapes: it may be physical, psychological, financial and/or sexual. Importantly, the term siblings refers not only to biological brothers and sisters, but also to half-siblings, step-siblings, foster siblings, and even fictional sibling-like relationships (Caffaro, 2014).

1712

What did we do?



Although helpline 1712 responded to 9,594 reports of violence in 2024, only a small fraction concerned sibling violence. This is disproportionately low compared to prevalence rates in community samples, which range from 21% to 45%.

To promote help-seeking among those affected by sibling violence, helpline 1712 launched a cross-media campaign in April 2024. The campaign combined various formats—including posters, a book, and short movie clips—to raise awareness, sensitize the broader public, and reach individuals directly or indirectly confronted with this type of violence.

The campaign led to several calls to the helpline specifically related to sibling violence, all from individuals actively seeking help.



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