

12 The relationship between family violence, mental disorders, and tourism

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Introduction

This chapter examines the relationship between the three components of family violence, mental disorders, and tourism. Whilst these three matters are extensively studied separately, the interrelationship between them has not been an active area of research. Within the focus of this book, the interrelationship between these three domains is important. The significance of the interrelationship lies in four aspects. First, the volume of tourists who are also living with/surviving family violence and/or living with a mental disorder is substantial and necessarily represents a large volume of travellers. Second, as has been discussed in previous chapters, family violence spikes in peak holiday times such as Christmas, as well as during events, making the intersection between tourism and family violence crucial to progressing tourism scholarship. Third, many family violence victims/survivors end up developing mental disorders from the trauma of experiencing it, and this intersection is critical for tourism scholarship since victims/survivors are also people who travel. Fourth, as a society, we understand that both victims of family violence and individuals living with mental disorders require support to assist them, and tourism scholarship should be providing leadership in this field.

As this study is the first to examine the intersection of the three domains outlined, the core purpose will be to serve as a key marker for tourism researchers, indicating directions to pursue to provide value to key aspects of society with deep relevance to tourism scholarship. This chapter first provides context in terms of definitions and the scope of each of the three areas – family violence, mental disorders, and tourism.