



CRIME AND SAFETY

NEW
SOUTH
WALES

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- For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information Service on 1300 135 070 or Michael Clarke on Sydney 02 9268 4660.

NOTES

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

The NSW Crime and Safety survey covers only selected types of household and personal crimes. Household crimes include break and enter, attempted break and enter and motor vehicle theft. Personal crimes include robbery, assault and sexual assault.

The terms used to describe the various types of offences in this publication may not necessarily correspond with legal or police definitions. Victims are counted once only for each type of offence, regardless of the number of incidents occurring.



ABBREVIATIONS

- ABS Australian Bureau of Statistics
- MPS Monthly Population Survey
- NSW New South Wales

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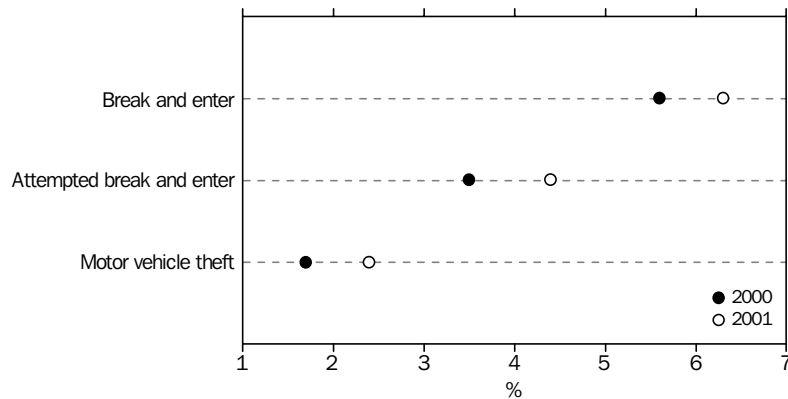
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

HOUSEHOLD CRIME

A total of 276,400 households (11.4% of all households in NSW) were victims of household crime in the 12 months to April 2001. The household victimisation rate has increased compared to the same period in 2000 (9.4%). The household victimisation rate for break and enter in 2001 showed an increase from the previous year (6.3% in 2001 compared with 5.6% in 2000) however this increase was not statistically significant. The victimisation rate for attempted break and enter (4.4%) in 2001 was higher compared with the same period in 2000 (3.5%). The victimisation rate for motor vehicle theft also increased (2.4% in 2001 compared with 1.7% in 2000).

The household victimisation rate for Sydney (13.3%) was higher than for the Balance of NSW (8.3%). Victimization rates also varied according to household type. One parent households (15.6%) and other households (15.5%) reported relatively higher victimisation rates compared to couple only households (9.0%), couple households with children (10.6%) and households with a person living alone (11.2%).

1 VICTIMISATION RATES FOR HOUSEHOLD CRIME—2000 and 2001



PERSONAL CRIME

A total of 261,100 usual residents of NSW were victims of personal crime in the 12 months to April 2001, a victimisation rate of 5.1%. This victimisation rate was higher than that recorded 12 months earlier (4.4%). The victimisation rate for robbery (1.0%) was the same as that reported in 2000, however the victimisation rate for assault (4.2%) rose compared to the same period last year (3.6%).

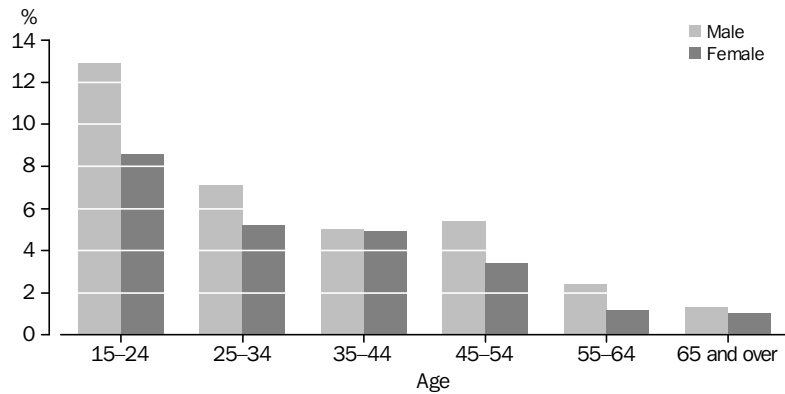
Males were more likely to be victims of crime than females. There were 151,600 male victims, a victimisation rate of 6.1% and 109,500 female victims, a victimisation rate of 4.3%. Victimization rates for personal crime varied according to age. The highest victimisation rate (10.8%) was amongst 15–24 year olds.

Of the 213,800 victims of assault, just over half (51%) stated that they knew their offender.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

PERSONAL CRIME *continued*

2 VICTIMS OF PERSONAL CRIME(a), Age and Sex—2001



(a) Robbery, assault or sexual assault.

Unemployed people were more likely to be victims of personal crime than those who were employed or not in the labour force. The victimisation rate for unemployed persons was 9.4% while the rate for employed persons was 5.5%. People who were not in the labour force were least likely to be victims of personal crime, with a victimisation rate of 4.2%.

The person victimisation rate varied according to region. The victimisation rate for Sydney (5.5%) was greater than the Balance of NSW (4.4%).

MULTIPLE VICTIMS

Of those households which experienced household crime, 33% were victims on more than one occasion within the 12 month reference period. Of the victims of personal crime, 44% experienced more than one incident in the 12 month reference period. For personal crime, the multiple victimisation rate was the highest for victims of assault (48%).

REPORTING TO POLICE

Reporting of incidents to the police varied considerably depending on the type of offence. For household crime, the proportion of victims reporting the last incident to the police was considerably higher for break and enter (73%) than for attempted break and enter (32%). In comparison, around 95% of motor vehicle theft victims reported the last incident to the police.

The rates of reporting break and enter and motor vehicle theft to the police remained similar to the levels reported in 2000. However, in 2001 there was an increase in the rate of reporting attempted break and enter to the police (32% in 2001 compared with 20% in 2000).

For victims of robbery, 39% reported the last incident to the police, and for victims of assault the last incident was reported by 30% of victims.

PERCEPTION OF CRIME/PUBLIC NUISANCE

The main perceived crime or public nuisance problem was housebreaking/burglaries/theft from homes, with 18% of people identifying this as the main problem. An estimated 45% of people did not think there were any crime or public nuisance problems in their neighbourhood.

VICTIMS AND NON-VICTIMS OF CRIME, Type of Offence

Type of offence	2001		VICTIMISATION RATE(a) .			
	Victims '000	Non- victims '000	1997 %	1999 %	2000 %	2001 %
Households						
Break and enter	152.0	2 277.3	5.6	5.6	5.6	6.3
Attempted break and enter	107.3	2 322.0	3.8	4.3	3.5	4.4
Break and enter or attempted break and enter(b)	232.2	2 197.2	8.5	8.8	8.2	9.6
Motor vehicle theft	57.4	2 371.9	2.0	2.2	1.7	2.4
<i>Total households(b)</i>	<i>276.4</i>	<i>2 153.0</i>	<i>10.2</i>	<i>10.7</i>	<i>9.4</i>	<i>11.4</i>
Persons						
Robbery(c)	50.3	5 019.9	na	1.2	1.0	1.0
Assault	213.8	4 856.3	3.2	3.7	3.6	4.2
Sexual assault(d)	11.6	2 424.3	0.6	0.7	*0.2	0.5
<i>Total persons(b)</i>	<i>261.1</i>	<i>4 809.0</i>	<i>na</i>	<i>4.7</i>	<i>4.4</i>	<i>5.1</i>

na not available

* estimate is subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes

(a) Proportion of all households/persons.

(b) Figures for individual offence types do not sum to totals, as a household or person could be a victim of more than one type of offence.

(c) Robbery, and consequently total person victimisation rates prior to 1999 are not comparable with data in this publication. (See paragraph 11 of the Explanatory Notes.)

(d) Sexual assault questions were asked only of females aged 18 years and over.

VICTIMS AND NON-VICTIMS OF HOUSEHOLD CRIME(a), Selected Characteristics

Selected characteristics	2001			VICTIMISATION RATE(b)	
	Victims '000	Non-victims '000	Total '000	2000 %	2001 %
Major statistical region					
Sydney	198.7	1 299.8	1 498.5	10.4	13.3
Balance of New South Wales	77.7	853.2	930.9	7.8	8.3
Total households	276.4	2 153.0	2 429.3	9.4	11.4
Household type					
Couple with child(ren)	83.3	704.7	788.0	9.6	10.6
Couple only	52.8	532.5	585.2	7.7	9.0
One parent household	36.0	195.2	231.1	14.7	15.6
Person living alone	60.5	481.6	542.1	8.1	11.2
Other households	43.8	239.0	282.8	11.4	15.5
Total households	276.4	2 153.0	2 429.3	9.4	11.4

- (a) Break and enter, attempted break and enter or motor vehicle theft.
- (b) Proportion of all households.

VICTIMS AND NON-VICTIMS OF PERSONAL CRIME(a), Sex by Age

Age (years)	2001			VICTIMISATION RATE(b)	
	Victims '000	Non-victims '000	Total '000	2000 %	2001 %
MALES					
15-24	57.2	385.5	442.7	11.0	12.9
25-34	34.2	446.2	480.4	7.0	7.1
35-44	24.8	467.5	492.3	5.4	5.0
45-54	23.6	415.0	438.6	4.8	5.4
55-64	*7.2	296.9	304.1	*2.9	*2.4
65 and over	*4.7	341.8	346.4	*1.1	*1.3
Total males	151.6	2 352.9	2 504.5	5.7	6.1
FEMALES					
15-24	37.1	392.8	429.9	5.0	8.6
25-34	25.2	464.1	489.3	5.1	5.2
35-44	24.2	468.9	493.1	3.8	4.9
45-54	14.9	418.2	433.2	2.2	3.4
55-64	*3.7	295.9	299.6	*1.4	*1.2
65 and over	*4.3	416.3	420.5	*0.5	*1.0
Total females	109.5	2 456.2	2 565.6	3.2	4.3
PERSONS					
15-24	94.3	778.3	872.6	8.0	10.8
25-34	59.4	910.3	969.7	6.0	6.1
35-44	49.0	936.4	985.4	4.6	5.0
45-54	38.5	833.2	871.7	3.5	4.4
55-64	10.9	592.8	603.7	2.2	1.8
65 and over	*8.9	758.0	766.9	*0.8	*1.2
Total persons	261.1	4 809.0	5 070.1	4.4	5.1

* estimate is subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes

(a) Robbery, assault or sexual assault.

(b) Proportion of all persons.

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VICTIMS AND NON-VICTIMS OF PERSONAL CRIME(a), Selected Characteristics

Selected characteristics	2001			VICTIMISATION RATE(b)	
	Victims '000	Non-victims '000	Total '000	2000 %	2001 %
Major statistical region					
Sydney	180.0	3 064.1	3 244.1	4.6	5.5
Balance of New South Wales	81.0	1 745.0	1 826.0	4.1	4.4
Total persons	261.1	4 809.0	5 070.1	4.4	5.1
Labour force status					
Employed	170.5	2 943.3	3 113.8	5.1	5.5
Unemployed	16.7	160.5	177.2	9.4	9.4
Not in the labour force	73.9	1 705.2	1 779.1	2.8	4.2
Total persons	261.1	4 809.0	5 070.1	4.4	5.1

(a) Robbery, assault or sexual assault.

(b) Proportions of all persons.

5

VICTIMS OF CRIME, Number of Incidents Experienced by Type of Offence

Type of offence	Number of victims			Percentage of total victims		
	One '000	Two '000	Three or more '000	One %	Two %	Three or more %
Households						
Break and enter	119.4	21.0	11.6	78.5	13.8	7.6
Attempted break and enter	59.7	22.5	25.2	55.6	21.0	23.4
Break and enter or attempted break and enter(a)	151.4	41.2	39.6	65.2	17.7	17.1
Motor vehicle theft	53.0	*2.7	*1.7	92.3	*4.7	*3.0
Total household victims(a)	186.3	47.1	43.0	67.4	17.0	15.6
Persons						
Robbery	38.6	*6.4	*5.2	76.8	*12.8	*10.4
Assault	111.5	46.2	56.1	52.1	21.6	26.2
Sexual assault(b)	*7.3	*2.4	*1.9	*63.4	*20.4	*16.2
Total person victims(a)	145.3	51.9	63.9	55.7	19.9	24.5

* estimate is subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes

(a) Figures for individual offence types do not sum to totals, as a household or person could be a victim of more than one type of offence.

(b) Sexual assault questions were asked only of females aged 18 years and over.

6

VICTIMS OF CRIME, Whether Police Told About Last Incident by Type of Offence

Type of offence	2001 . . .		POLICE TOLD(a)			
	Police told '000	Police not told '000	1997 %	1999 %	2000 %	2001 %
Household victims						
Break and enter	111.1	40.9	70.8	73.7	71.7	73.1
Attempted break and enter	34.5	72.8	25.5	32.3	19.7	32.2
Motor vehicle theft	54.7	*2.7	96.9	95.1	95.2	95.3
Person victims						
Robbery(b)	19.4	30.8	na	51.9	42.7	38.6
Assault	63.7	150.1	43.1	34.1	34.9	29.8
Sexual assault(c)	*1.9	*9.7	18.8	12.6	np	*16.1

* estimate is subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes

na not available

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Proportion of all household/person victims.

(b) Robbery, and consequently total person victimisation rates prior to 1999 are not comparable with data in this publication. (See paragraph 11 of the Explanatory Notes.)

(c) Sexual assault questions were asked only of females aged 18 years and over.

7

VICTIMS OF ASSAULT, Whether Offender Known in Last Incident

Whether offender known	'000	%
Offender known		
Family member(a)	22.4	10.5
Friend(b)	15.3	7.2
Work/study colleague	*9.5	*4.5
Acquaintance	23.0	10.7
Neighbour	18.3	8.6
Other	23.2	10.9
Total offender known(c)	110.0	51.4
Offender not known	103.9	48.6
Total assault victims	213.8	100.0

* estimate is subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes

(a) Includes ex-partner.

(b) Includes (ex)girlfriend/(ex)boyfriend.

(c) Figures for individual categories do not sum to totals in this row, as an individual could be assaulted by more than one person in the last assault.

PERSONS, Perceptions of Crime or Public Nuisance Problems in the Neighbourhood

<i>Crime or public nuisance problems</i>	<i>Perceived to be a problem(a)</i>		<i>Perceived to be the main problem</i>	
	'000	%	'000	%
Perceived problems				
Housebreaking/burglaries/theft from home	1 856.1	36.6	920.8	18.2
Dangerous/noisy driving	1 548.4	30.5	464.0	9.2
Louts/youth gangs	1 109.9	21.9	238.9	4.7
Illegal drugs	967.8	19.1	283.3	5.6
Vandalism/graffitti/damage to property	1 418.6	28.0	395.2	7.8
Car theft	1 214.7	24.0	173.6	3.4
Drunkenness	741.4	14.6	94.7	1.9
Problems with neighbours/domestic problems	408.5	8.1	84.0	1.7
Other theft	627.0	12.4	50.5	1.0
Prowlers/loiterers	461.8	9.1	31.6	0.6
Other assault	320.2	6.3	22.3	0.4
Sexual assault	161.3	3.2	11.7	0.2
Other	99.8	2.0	37.6	0.7
No perceived problem	2 261.8	44.6	2 261.8	44.6
All persons	5 070.1	..	5 070.1	100.0

.. not applicable

(a) Figures in these columns do not sum to the total for all persons, as a person could nominate more than one problem.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 This publication contains results from a survey on crime and safety which was conducted throughout NSW in April 2001 as a supplement to the ABS Monthly Population Survey (MPS). The survey was conducted and funded at the request of the NSW Police Service and the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research.

2 Information was collected from individuals and households about their experience of selected crimes, reporting behaviour and individuals' perception of crime problems in their neighbourhood.

3 The MPS was conducted during the two weeks commencing Monday, 9 April 2001.

4 Information was sought from approximately 12,663 persons, of whom about 9,201 (73%) responded. Approximately 6,103 households were surveyed from which complete household data was obtained from 4,502 (74%) of these.

5 Examination of successive waves of responses did not indicate any significant non-response bias. Estimation and imputation procedures were employed to reduce the effect of non-response.

SCOPE

6 The survey was conducted for all persons aged 15 and over who were usual residents of private dwellings, except:

- members of the permanent defence forces;
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from censuses and surveys;
- overseas residents in Australia;
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia;
- persons living in sparsely settled areas of the state; and
- private dwellings containing visitors only.

7 Residents of other non-private dwellings such as hospitals, motels and prisons were excluded from this survey.

COVERAGE

8 Coverage rules were applied to ensure that each person was associated with only one dwelling, and hence had only one chance of selection in the survey.

9 Crime and safety questionnaires were either delivered to the selected households by ABS interviewers or, in the majority of cases, mailed out to households who were interviewed for the MPS over the telephone. The questionnaires were completed by household members and returned to the ABS by mail. Each household received:

- one questionnaire containing questions relating to the household as a whole;
- a questionnaire for each person aged 15 or over relating to their personal experiences of crime; and
- a questionnaire for each female aged 18 or over relating to their personal experiences of sexual assault only.

COMPARISON WITH POLICE STATISTICS

10 Responses obtained in this survey are based on the respondent's perception of their having been the victim of an offence. The terms used summarise the wording of the questions asked of the respondent, and may not necessarily correspond with the legal or police definitions which are used for each offence.

BREAK IN TIME SERIES

11 Additional questions about robbery incidents were included in the 1999, 2000 and 2001 NSW Crime and Safety Surveys. This has made it possible to

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

BREAK IN TIME SERIES

continued

collect robbery data that aligns with data collected from the 1998 National Crime and Safety Survey. This change has caused a break in the time series for robbery estimates published from the NSW Crime and Safety Surveys conducted in 1997 and earlier years. The definition of robbery for the statistics included in this publication can be found in the Glossary. Comparison with results from the 1998 National Crime and Safety Survey for other offences is not recommended. Differences in question wording and processing procedures mean that survey estimates are not directly comparable.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

12 The ABS produces a wide range of publications containing social and demographic statistics. Other ABS publications which relate to this survey topic include:

Australian Standard Offence Classification, 1997 (Cat. no. 1234.0)

Crime and Safety, New South Wales, April 2000 (Cat. no. 4509.1)

Crime and Safety, Australia, April 1998 (Cat. no. 4509.0)

Crime and Safety, South Australia, October 2000 (Cat. no. 4509.4)

Crime and Safety, Victoria, April 1995 (Cat. no. 4509.2)

Crime and Safety, Queensland, April 1995 (Cat. no. 4509.3)

Crime and Safety, Western Australia, October 1999 (Cat. no. 4509.5)

Recorded Crime, Australia, 2000 (Cat. no. 4510.0)

APPENDIX ADDITIONAL DATA

ADDITIONAL DATA AVAILABLE

The NSW Crime and Safety Survey provides information on the incidence of selected categories of crime and crime reporting behaviour, for persons aged 15 and over for the 12 months to April 2001. In addition, females aged 18 years and over were asked to provide information on personal experiences of sexual assault.

A customised data service is available to meet special data requirements.

Information collected in the survey includes:

- Types of offences:
 - For break and enter, attempted break and enter, motor vehicle theft, robbery, assault and sexual assault:
 - whether an incident occurred in the last 12 months
 - number of incidents in the last 12 months
 - number of incidents reported to the police
 - whether the last incident was reported to police
 - the main reason why the last incident was not reported to the police
 - For break and enter and attempted break and enter:
 - where the most recent incident occurred
 - For break and enter:
 - what the offender did in the last incident
 - For robbery, assault and sexual assault:
 - location of the last incident
 - whether a weapon was used
 - occurrence of physical injury
 - how many offenders there were
 - whether the offender(s) were known to the victim
 - how the offender(s) were known to the victim
 - For robbery:
 - what happened in the last incident
 - whether anything was stolen in the last incident
 - what was stolen in the last incident
- Perceived crime or public nuisance problems.

Data can be classified by the following variables:

- Age;
- Sex;
- Marital status;
- Household type;
- Country of birth;
- Year of arrival in Australia;
- Labour force region (NSW only);
- Labour force status; and
- Indigenous status.

To discuss your data requirements or for further information regarding this survey please contact Michael Clarke on Sydney 02 9268 4660.

TECHNICAL NOTE 1 DATA RELIABILITY

ESTIMATION PROCEDURE

1 Estimates derived from this survey were obtained in two stages. In the first stage the effects of non-response were investigated by analysing the demographic composition of the monthly population survey sample and response patterns after reminder action on the responses obtained. This information was used to determine the appropriate adjustment procedure for non-response.

2 The second stage was a complex ratio estimation procedure which ensured that the survey estimates conformed to an independently estimated distribution of the population by age, sex, and part of state, rather than to the age, sex, and part of state distribution among respondents. A similar procedure also ensured that household estimates conformed to independent estimates of households by number of adults, number of children in the household and part of state.

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

Non-sampling errors

3 Estimates in this publication are subject to non-sampling and sampling errors.

4 Non-sampling errors may arise as a result of errors in the reporting, recording or processing of the data. Non-sampling errors can be introduced through inadequacies in the questionnaire, non-response, inaccurate reporting by respondents, errors in the application of survey procedures, incorrect recording of answers and errors in data entry and processing.

5 It is difficult to measure the size of the non-sampling errors. The extent of these errors could vary considerably from survey to survey and from question to question. Every effort is made in the design of the survey and development of survey procedures to minimise the effect of these errors.

Sampling errors

6 Sampling error is the error which occurs by chance because the data were obtained from a sample, rather than the entire population.

TECHNICAL NOTE 2 STANDARD ERRORS

ESTIMATES OF SAMPLING ERROR

1 One measure of the variability of estimates which occurs as a result of surveying only a sample of the population is the standard error (see table below).

2 There are about two chances in three (67%) that a survey estimate is within one standard error of the figure that would have been obtained if all households/persons had been included in the survey. There are about nineteen chances in twenty (95%) that the estimate will lie within two standard errors.

3 Linear interpolation is used to calculate the standard error of estimates falling between the sizes of estimates listed in the table.

4 The standard error can also be expressed as a percentage of the estimate. This is known as the relative standard error (RSE). The RSE is determined by dividing the standard error of an estimate SE(x) by the estimate x and expressing it as a percentage. That is—

$$RSE(x) = \frac{100SE(x)}{x}$$

(where x is the estimate). The relative standard error is a measure of the error likely to have occurred due to sampling.

5 Proportions and percentages formed from the ratio of two estimates are also subject to sampling error. The size of the error depends on the accuracy of both the numerator and the denominator. The formula for the relative standard error of a proportion or percentage is—

$$RSE\left(\frac{x}{y}\right) = \sqrt{[RSE(x)]^2 + [RSE(y)]^2}$$

6 For all tables in this publication, only estimates with relative standard errors of 25% or less, and percentages based on such estimates, are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes. Estimates and percentages with relative standard errors greater than 25% have been included, preceded by the symbol * to indicate that they are subject to high standard errors and should be used with caution.

TECHNICAL NOTE 2 STANDARD ERRORS *continued*

STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES OF HOUSEHOLDS AND PERSONS, APRIL 2001

<i>Size of estimate</i>	<i>Standard error</i>	<i>Relative standard error</i>
no. of households or persons	no.	%
1 000	757	75.7
1 500	955	63.7
2 000	1 121	56.1
2 500	1 266	50.7
3 000	1 396	46.5
3 500	1 514	43.3
4 000	1 623	40.6
5 000	1 819	36.4
8 000	2 293	28.7
10 000	2 550	25.5
20 000	3 491	17.5
30 000	4 149	13.8
50 000	5 098	10.2
100 000	6 602	6.6
200 000	8 348	4.2
300 000	9 471	3.2
500 000	10 974	2.2
1 000 000	13 127	1.3
2 000 000	15 332	0.8

GLOSSARY

Household	A group of persons of a private dwelling who share common facilities and meals or who consider themselves to be a household. It is possible for a dwelling to contain more than one household, for example, where regular provision is made for groups to take meals separately and where persons consider their households to be separate.
Offence	Indicates crimes which persons or households reported as having been committed against them.
Break and enter	An incident where the respondent's home had been broken into. The respondent's home was also defined to include their garage or shed. Break and enter offences relating to their car or garden were excluded.
Attempted break and enter	An incident where an attempt was made to break into the respondent's home.
Motor vehicle theft	An incident where a motor vehicle was stolen from any member of the household. It includes privately owned motor vehicles as well as business/company vehicles used exclusively by any members of the household.
Robbery	An incident where someone had stolen anything from a respondent by threatening or attacking them. It includes incidents of attempted robbery where someone attempted to steal something from the victim but nothing was actually stolen.
Assault	An incident, other than a robbery where the respondent was threatened with force or attacked.
Sexual assault	An incident which was of a sexual nature involving physical contact, including rape, attempted rape, indecent assault, and assault with intent to sexually assault. Sexual harassment (that did not lead to an assault) was excluded. Only females aged 18 years and over were asked sexual assault questions.
Victim	A household or person reporting at least one of the offences surveyed. Victims were counted once only for each type of offence, regardless of the number of incidents of that type.
Victimisation rate	The number of victims of an offence in a given population expressed as a percentage of that population.
Crime or public nuisance problems	Anything perceived by the respondent to be a problem arising from crime or people creating a public nuisance.
Neighbourhood	Respondents were asked about crime problems in their neighbourhood. The perception of this term was left to the respondent.

FOR MORE INFORMATION . . .

- INTERNET** www.abs.gov.au the ABS web site is the best place to start for access to summary data from our latest publications, information about the ABS, advice about upcoming releases, our catalogue, and Australia Now—a statistical profile.
- LIBRARY** A range of ABS publications is available from public and tertiary libraries Australia-wide. Contact your nearest library to determine whether it has the ABS statistics you require, or visit our web site for a list of libraries.
- CPI INFOLINE** For current and historical Consumer Price Index data, call 1902 981 074 (call cost 75c per minute).
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