

**CRIME AND SAFETY**NEW  
SOUTH  
WALES

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) THURS 4 DEC 2008

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For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Anne Bartlett on Sydney (02) 9268 4166.

# NOTES

## INTRODUCTION

This publication contains results from the April 2008 survey of Crime and Safety which collected information from approximately 2,600 households and 5,100 persons aged 15 years and over, across New South Wales (NSW). The 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. See the Glossary for the definitions of terms used in this survey.

Unless otherwise specified, differences between data items noted in the Summary of Findings are statistically significant. See Technical Note (paragraph 18) for further details.

## ROUNDING

As estimates have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between totals and the sums of the component items. Published percentages are calculated prior to rounding, and therefore some discrepancy may occur between these percentages and those that may be calculated from the rounded figures.



## ABBREVIATIONS

ABS Australian Bureau of Statistics  
MPS Monthly Population Survey  
NSW New South Wales  
RSE relative standard error  
SE standard error

Chris Libreri  
Regional Director, New South Wales

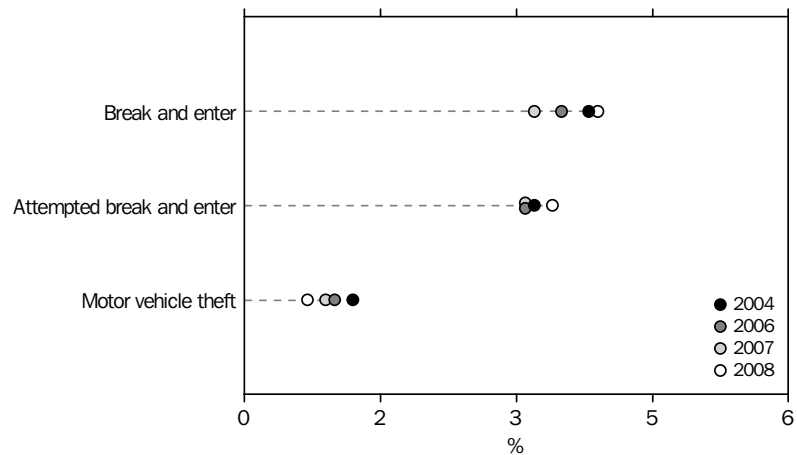
## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### HOUSEHOLD CRIME

A total of 190,300 households (7.0% of all households in NSW) were victims of household crime in the 12 months to April 2008, which was similar to the 2007, 2006, and 2004 victimisation rates (6.5%, 6.8% and 7.4% respectively).

The victimisation rates for break and enter (3.8%) and attempted break and enter (3.4%) also remained similar to their corresponding 2007, 2006 and 2004 rates. The victimisation rate for motor vehicle theft (0.7%) was lower than the 2004 rate (1.2%) but not significantly different from the 2007 or 2006 rates (0.9% and 1.0% respectively).

#### VICTIMISATION RATES FOR HOUSEHOLD CRIME—2004 to 2008



As in 2007, the household victimisation rate for Sydney in 2008 (7.2%) was about the same as for the balance of NSW (6.8%).

In 2008, there was no significant difference between household victimisation rates for different household types.

### PERSONAL CRIME

There were 232,400 usual residents aged 15 years and over in NSW who were victims of personal crime in the 12 months to April 2008, a victimisation rate of 4.2%. This does not significantly differ from 2007, 2006 or 2004 (5.0%, 4.2% and 4.5% respectively).

Assault was the only type of personal crime to show a statistically significant change from 2007. The victimisation rate for assault was 3.6% in 2008, a decrease from 4.4% in 2007. However, the victimisation rate in 2008 was not significantly different from 2006 or 2004 victimisation rates (3.5% and 3.8%, respectively).

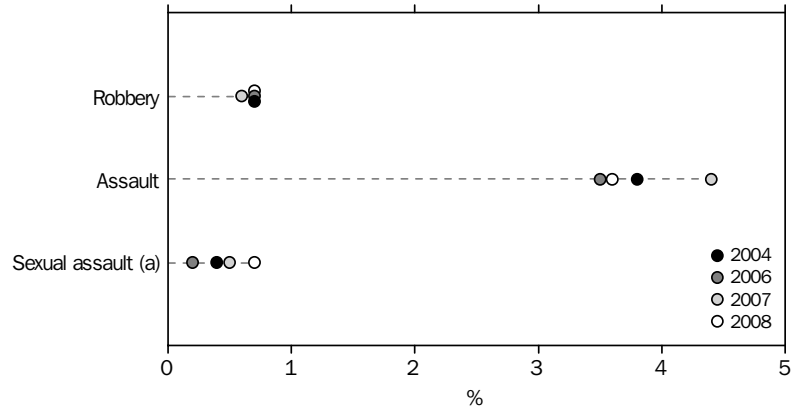
The victimisation rate for robbery in 2008 (0.7%) was unchanged from the 2007, 2006 and 2004 figures (0.6%, 0.7% and 0.7%, respectively).

The victimisation rate for sexual assault in 2008 (0.7%) was not significantly different from the 2007 or 2004 rates (0.5% and 0.4%), but was greater than the 2006 rate (0.2%). Sexual assault rates between 2004, 2006 and 2007 did not significantly differ.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

### PERSONAL CRIME *continued*

### VICTIMISATION RATES FOR PERSONAL CRIME—2004 to 2008



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

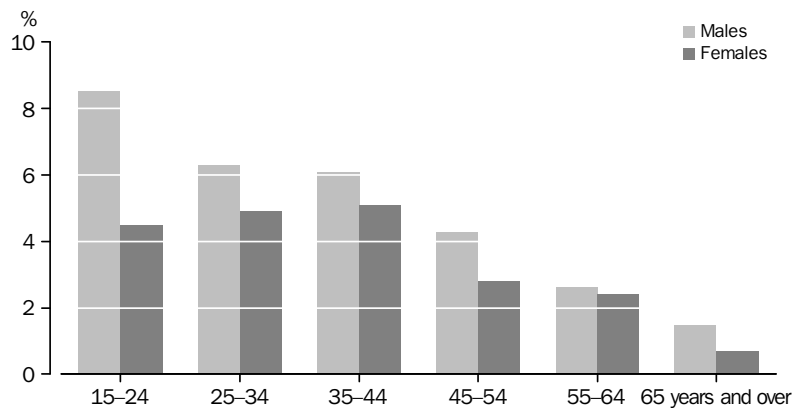
As with household crime, the personal crime victimisation rate for Sydney (4.0%) was similar to that for the balance of NSW (4.6%). However, the victimisation rate for Sydney in 2008 (4.0%) had decreased from the 2007 figure (4.9%). The rate for the balance of NSW in 2008 (4.6%) was similar to the 2007 figure (5.2%).

Persons not in the labour force had a lower victimisation rate (2.9%) than both employed persons (4.8%) and unemployed persons (7.9%). The apparent difference between victimisation rates for employed persons and unemployed persons was not statistically significant.

Overall, males were more likely to have been victims of personal crime than females. There were 137,100 male victims, a victimisation rate of 5.0%, and 95,300 female victims, a victimisation rate of 3.4%. The differences between the victimisation rates for males and females were significant for 15–24 year olds. The differences between the sexes for all other age groupings were not statistically significant.

Victimisation rates showed a general decline with increasing age. However, the only adjacent age groups with a significant difference was the 35–44 year olds and 45–54 year olds.

### VICTIMS OF PERSONAL CRIME(a), Age and sex—2008



(a) Robbery, assault and sexual assault.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

### PERSONAL CRIME *continued*

Of the 196,800 victims of assault, about half (47%) knew their offender in the most recent assault. Of the victims who knew their offender, around one in five (22%) stated that the offender was a family member.

Around two thirds (67%) of assaults occurred in the street or other open land, at the victim's place of work or study, or at the victim's home.

### MULTIPLE VICTIMS

Of those households which were victims of household crime, 30% experienced more than one incident in the 12 months to April 2008. For individual household offence types, attempted break and enter had a higher proportion of victims who experienced more than one incident (37%), than break and enter (17%).

Of those persons who were victims of personal crime, 49% experienced more than one incident in the 12 months to April 2008. The proportion of victims who experienced more than one incident was higher for victims of assault at 50%, compared to 26% for victims of robbery.

### REPORTING TO POLICE

The reporting of incidents to the police varied according to the type of offence. For household crime, the proportion of victims reporting the most recent incident to the police was higher for break and enter (60%) than attempted break and enter (13%).

The reporting rate for attempted break and enter in 2008 was a decrease from the 34% who reported attempted break and enter in 2007. The reporting rate for break and enter did not significantly differ from the 2007 figure.

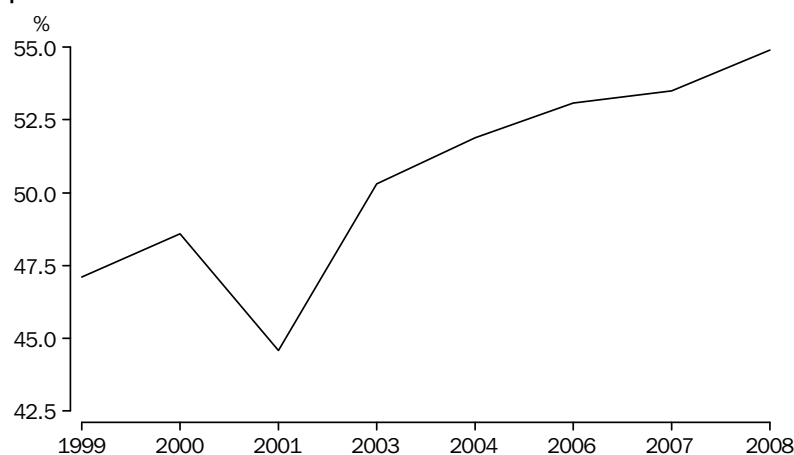
The reporting rate for assault (31%) was similar to the reporting rate for robbery (38%). There were no significant differences in reporting rates for any individual person offence types compared to 2007.

### PERCEPTION OF CRIME/PUBLIC NUISANCE

In 2008, an estimated 55% of persons did not think there were any crime or public nuisance problems in their neighbourhood. This was similar to the 2007 figure (53%).

Between 1999 and 2008, the percentage of persons who did not perceive any problems from crime or public nuisance in their neighbourhoods has risen from 47% to 55%.

#### PERCEPTION OF CRIME/PUBLIC NUISANCE PROBLEMS: **No perceived problems**—1997 to 2008



**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS** *continued*

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PERCEPTION OF  
CRIME/PUBLIC NUISANCE  
*continued*

The most commonly identified problems were vandalism/graffiti/damage to property (26%) and dangerous/noisy driving (25%), followed by housebreaking/burglaries/theft from homes (21%), louts/youth gangs (20%) and drunkenness (20%).

# 1

## VICTIMS AND NON-VICTIMS OF CRIME, Type of offence

Type of offence	2008		VICTIMISATION RATE (a)			
	Victims '000	Non-victims '000	2004 %	2006 %	2007 %	2008 %
<b>Households</b>						
Break and enter	104.0	2 604.4	(b)(c)(d)3.8	(b)(c)3.5	(b)3.2	3.8
Attempted break and enter	90.9	2 617.5	(b)(c)(d)3.2	(b)(c)3.1	(b)3.1	3.4
Break and enter or attempted break and enter(e)	176.3	2 532.2	(b)(c)(d)6.3	(b)(c)5.9	(b)5.8	6.5
Motor vehicle theft	18.8	2 689.7	(c)(d)1.2	(b)(c)1.0	(b)0.9	0.7
<b>Total households(e)</b>	<b>190.3</b>	<b>2 518.2</b>	(b)(c)(d) <b>7.4</b>	(b)(c) <b>6.8</b>	(b) <b>6.5</b>	<b>7.0</b>
<b>Persons</b>						
Robbery	38.7	5 484.8	(b)(c)(d)0.7	(b)(c)0.7	(b)0.6	0.7
Assault	196.8	5 326.7	(b)(d)3.8	(b)3.5	4.4	3.6
Sexual Assault(f)	17.5	2 638.5	*(b)(c)(d)0.4	*(c)0.2	*(b)0.5	0.7
<b>Total persons(e)</b>	<b>232.4</b>	<b>5 291.1</b>	(b)(c)(d) <b>4.5</b>	(b) <b>4.2</b>	(b) <b>5.0</b>	<b>4.2</b>

\* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) Proportion of total households/persons

(b) Difference from 2008 rate is not statistically significant. See technical note.

(c) Difference from 2007 rate is not statistically significant. See technical note.

(d) Difference from 2006 rate is not statistically significant. See technical note.

(e) 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.

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

# 2

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

Selected characteristics	2008			VICTIMISATION RATE (b)	
	Victims '000	Non-victims '000	Total '000	2007 %	2008 %
<b>Major statistical region</b>					
Sydney	117.7	1 524.3	1 641.9	(c)6.7	7.2
Balance of NSW	72.6	993.9	1 066.5	(c)6.1	6.8
<b>Household type</b>					
Couple with child(ren)	53.3	754.1	807.4	(c)5.2	6.6
Couple only	43.1	622.2	665.3	(c)5.0	6.5
Lone Parent	24.0	233.2	257.3	(c)8.8	9.3
Person living alone	43.1	635.5	678.6	(c)7.9	6.3
Other	26.8	273.2	300.0	(c)8.3	8.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>190.3</b>	<b>2 518.2</b>	<b>2 708.5</b>	(c) <b>6.5</b>	<b>7.0</b>

(a) Break and enter, attempted break and enter or motor vehicle theft.

(b) Proportion of total households.

(c) Difference from 2008 rate is not statistically significant. See Technical Note.

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

Age group (years)	2008			VICTIMISATION RATE(b)	
	Victims '000	Non-victims '000	Total '000	2007 %	2008 %
MALES					
15-24	40.1	431.8	471.8	12.6	8.5
25-34	30.2	447.9	478.2	(c)9.0	6.3
35-44	30.2	462.0	492.2	(c)4.9	6.1
45-54	20.2	453.0	473.3	(c)5.1	4.3
55-64	*10.2	381.2	391.4	(c)3.0	*2.6
65 and over	*6.2	418.6	424.8	*(c)1.5	*1.5
<b>Total males</b>	<b>137.1</b>	<b>2 594.5</b>	<b>2 731.6</b>	<b>(c)6.2</b>	<b>5.0</b>
FEMALES					
15-24	20.6	433.0	453.6	7.8	4.5
25-34	*23.2	454.1	477.2	(c)5.5	*4.9
35-44	25.3	471.3	496.6	(c)3.8	5.1
45-54	*13.3	466.6	479.9	(c)3.1	*2.8
55-64	*9.6	384.4	394.0	(c)2.3	*2.4
65 and over	**3.4	487.2	490.6	*(c)0.6	**0.7
<b>Total females</b>	<b>95.3</b>	<b>2 696.6</b>	<b>2 791.9</b>	<b>(c)3.9</b>	<b>3.4</b>
PERSONS					
15-24	60.6	864.7	925.4	10.2	6.6
25-34	53.4	902.0	955.4	(c)7.2	5.6
35-44	55.5	933.3	988.9	(c)4.3	5.6
45-54	33.5	919.7	953.2	(c)4.1	3.5
55-64	*19.8	765.6	785.4	(c)2.6	*2.5
65 and over	*9.6	905.8	915.4	*(c)1.0	*1.0
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>232.4</b>	<b>5 291.1</b>	<b>5 523.5</b>	<b>(c)5.0</b>	<b>4.2</b>

\* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

\*\* estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Robbery, assault or sexual assault.

(b) Proportion of total persons.

(c) Difference from 2008 rate is not statistically significant. See Technical Note.



## 4

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

Selected characteristics	2008			VICTIMISATION RATE(b)	
	Victims	Non-victims	Total	2007	2008
	'000	'000	'000	%	%
Major statistical region					
Sydney	138.2	3 341.7	3 479.9	4.9	4.0
Balance of NSW	94.2	1 949.4	2 043.6	(c)5.2	4.6
Labour force status					
Employed	162.5	3 253.2	3 413.6	(c)5.8	4.8
Unemployed	12.6	148.2	161.0	(c)8.9	7.9
Not in the Labour Force	57.3	1 889.7	1 948.9	(c)3.1	2.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>232.4</b>	<b>5 291.1</b>	<b>5 523.5</b>	<b>(c)5.0</b>	<b>4.2</b>

(a) Robbery, assault or sexual assault.

(b) Proportion of total persons.

(c) Difference from 2008 rate is not statistically significant. See Technical Note.

## 5

## VICTIMS OF CRIME, Number of incidents experienced by type of offence

Type of offence	Number of incidents			Total	Victimisation rate		
	One	Two	3 or more		One	Two	3 or more
	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%	%
<b>Households</b>							
Break-in	86.8	*10.7	*6.5	104.0	83.5	*10.3	*6.2
Attempted break-in	57.6	*23.1	*10.2	90.9	63.3	25.4	*11.2
Break-in/Attempted break-in(a)	124.5	28.0	23.8	176.3	70.6	15.9	13.5
Motor vehicle theft	15.0	np	np	18.8	79.7	np	np
<b>Total household victims(a)</b>	<b>132.6</b>	<b>30.8</b>	<b>26.9</b>	<b>190.3</b>	<b>69.7</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>14.2</b>
<b>Persons</b>							
Robbery	*28.6	np	np	38.7	73.9	np	np
Assault	98.2	35.1	63.5	196.8	49.9	17.9	32.2
Sexual Assault(b)	14.4	np	np	17.5	82.2	np	np
<b>Total person victims(a)</b>	<b>118.8</b>	<b>42.4</b>	<b>71.2</b>	<b>232.4</b>	<b>51.1</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>30.6</b>

\* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

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

(a) Figures 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.

## VICTIMS OF CRIME, Whether police told about most recent incident by type of offence

Type of offence	2008		POLICE TOLD(a)			
	Police told '000	Police not told '000	2004 %	2006 %	2007 %	2008 %
<b>Households</b>						
Break and enter	62.0	42.0	(b)(c)(d) 66.7	(b)(c) 71.5	(b) 73.5	59.6
Attempted break and enter	*11.6	79.4	(c)(d) 25.1	(b) 22.2	33.9	*12.7
Motor vehicle theft	np	np	(c) 90.5	np	93.7	np
<b>Persons</b>						
Robbery	*14.5	24.2	(b)(c)(d) 38.0	(b)(c) 41.2	(b) 30.7	*37.5
Assault	61.0	135.8	(b)(c)(d) 36.0	(b)(c) 32.8	(b) 32.4	31.0
Sexual Assault(e)	*6.3	*11.2	np	np	** (b) 13.8	*35.9

\* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

\*\* estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

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

(a) Proportion of total household/person victims.

(b) Difference from 2008 rate is not statistically significant. See technical note.

(c) Difference from 2007 rate is not statistically significant. See technical note.

(d) Difference from 2006 rate is not statistically significant. See technical note.

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

## VICTIMS OF ASSAULT, Whether offender known in most recent incident

Whether offender known	'000	%
<b>Offender known</b>		
Family member(a)	*20.2	*10.3
Other personally known(b)	55.5	28.2
Recognised but not personally known(c)	*18.6	*9.5
Total offender known(d)	92.8	47.2
Offender(s) not known	104.0	52.8
<b>Total assault victims</b>	<b>196.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) Includes ex-partner.

(b) Includes friend, girlfriend/boyfriend, ex-girlfriend/ex-boyfriend, neighbour, workmate, classmate, acquaintance and other known person.

(c) Includes recognised but not known, known by role/uniform and known through professional association.

(d) 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 most recent assault.

# 8

## VICTIMS OF ASSAULT, Location of the most recent incident

<i>Location of assault</i>	'000	%
In the street or other open land	59.2	30.1
At victim's place of work or study	38.8	19.7
At home	34.1	17.3
In a place of entertainment or recreation, including car park(a)	28.8	14.6
In a private vehicle eg. car	*18.5	9.4
At another person's home	**4.2	**2.1
In a shopping centre, including car park	**3.8	*1.9
Other(b)	*9.5	*4.8
<b>Total assault victims</b>	<b>196.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

\*\* estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Including pub or nightclub.

(b) Including in a public vehicle e.g. train, bus, taxi.

PERSONS, Whether perceived a crime or public nuisance problem in their neighbourhood

Whether perceived crime or public nuisance problems	2008 '000	1999 %	2000 %	2001 %	2003 %	2004 %	2006 %	2007 %	2008 %
Perceived problem	2 491.2	52.9	51.4	55.4	49.7	(a)48.1	(b)(a)46.9	(b)46.5	45.1
No perceived problem	3 032.4	47.1	48.6	44.6	50.3	(a)51.9	(b)(a)53.1	(b)53.5	54.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>5 523.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Difference from 2007 rate is not statistically significant.  
See technical note.

(b) Difference from 2008 rate is not statistically significant.  
See technical note.

PERSONS WHO PERCEIVED A CRIME OR PUBLIC NUISANCE PROBLEM, Type of problem

	PERCEIVED TO BE A PROBLEM (a) (b)		PERCEIVED TO BE THE MAIN PROBLEM (b)	
	'000	%	'000	%
Perceived problems				
Vandalism graffiti damage to property	1 432.3	25.9	469.8	8.5
Housebreaking burglaries theft from homes	1 137.2	20.6	456.1	8.3
Dangerous noisy driving	1 384.4	25.1	420.9	7.6
Louts youth gangs	1 108.3	20.1	340.3	6.2
Drunkennes	1 079.7	19.5	270.0	4.9
Illegal drugs	743.3	13.5	182.5	3.3
Problems with neighbours domestic problems	457.9	8.3	121.5	2.2
Car theft	700.2	12.7	77.4	1.4
Prowlers loiterers	394.9	7.1	54.1	1.0
Other theft	417.0	7.5	51.8	0.9
Other assault	306.9	5.6	*21.0	*0.4
Sexual assault	130.2	2.4	*7.0	*0.1
Other	42.0	0.8	*18.7	*0.3
<i>Total</i>	..	..	2 491.2	45.1

NUMBER ('000)

Total	..	..	5 523.5	..
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\* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

.. not applicable

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

(b) Percentages (%) are calculated as a proportion of total persons.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### INTRODUCTION

- 1** This publication summarises results from the 2008 New South Wales (NSW) Crime and Safety Survey.
- 2** The survey was conducted during the two weeks commencing Monday 7 April 2008 as a supplement to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Monthly Population Survey (MPS). It was conducted and funded at the request of NSW Police Force and the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research.
- 3** Information sought from approximately 3,300 households and about 2,600 (80%) responded.
- 4** Examination of successive waves of responses did not indicate any serious problem of non-response bias. Estimation procedures were employed to reduce the effect of non-response.
- 5** For details of the design, scope and coverage of the MPS, readers should refer to *Information Paper: Labour Force Survey Sample Design, 2007* (cat. no. 6269.0), and any recent edition of the monthly ABS publication, *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0).

### CHANGE TO SAMPLE SIZE

- 6** The 2008 Crime and Safety Survey was conducted using half of the full sample of private dwellings in the MPS. In previous years, the survey was conducted using seven-eighths of the full sample of private dwellings in the MPS. The sample size was changed in 2008 in order to prevent respondents being included in both the 2008 Crime and Safety Survey and the 2008-2009 Multi Purpose Household Survey (MPHS) Crime topic.

### SCOPE OF SURVEY

- 7** The survey was conducted using half of the full sample of private dwellings in the MPS. It excluded:
  - persons aged less than 15 years;
  - 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;
  - private dwellings containing visitors only; and
  - residents of non-private dwellings such as hospitals, motels and prisons.
- 8** The survey was conducted in both urban and rural areas throughout NSW.

### COVERAGE

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

### DATA COLLECTION

- 10** Crime and Safety questionnaires were mailed out to households who were included in the MPS, and who were in scope for the Crime and Safety survey (see paragraph 7 above). 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 years or over relating to their personal experiences of crime
  - a questionnaire for each female aged 18 years or over relating to their personal experiences of sexual assault only.
- 11** There were two rounds of mail-out reminders for non-responding households, followed by a telephone follow-up interview for a proportion of the remaining non-responding households.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

### COMPARISON WITH OTHER ABS SURVEYS

**12** There are different crime statistics collections and these can yield differing results. Caution should be taken in comparisons across other ABS surveys that address crime and justice issues. An *Information Paper: Measuring Crime Victimization, Australia: The Impact of Different Collection Methodologies, Australia* (cat. no. 4522.0.55.001) is available. This paper aims to increase community understanding of the nature of crime measurement in Australia, and why the findings from different data sources may differ.

### COMPARISON WITH POLICE STATISTICS

**13** The terms used for the offences (such as robbery, assault) may not necessarily correspond with the legal or police definitions which are used for each offence. This is because responses obtained in this survey are based on the respondent's perception of their having been the victim of an offence. The definitions of these terms which are used in this survey are based on the wording of the questions asked of the respondent, and can be found in the Glossary of this publication.

### BREAK IN TIME SERIES

**14** Additional questions about robbery incidents were included in the 1999 and subsequent NSW Crime and Safety Surveys. This has made it possible to collect robbery data that aligns more closely with data collected from the 1998, 2002 and 2005 National Crime and Safety Surveys. 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. Comparisons with results from the 1998, 2002 and 2005 National Crime and Safety Surveys for all offences should be undertaken with caution. Differences in question wording and processing procedures mean that survey estimates are not directly comparable.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

**15** ABS publications draw extensively on information provided freely by individuals, businesses, government and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated, for without it the wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

### RELATED PUBLICATIONS

**16** 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, 2008*, cat. no. 1234.0

*Crime and Safety, Australia, April 2005*, cat. no. 4509.0

*Crime and Safety, New South Wales, April 2007*, cat. no. 4509.1

*Crime and Safety, Queensland, April 1995*, cat. no. 4509.3

*Crime and Safety, South Australia, October 2000*, cat. no. 4509.4

*Crime and Safety, Victoria, April 1995*, cat. no. 4509.2

*General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia, 2006*, cat. no. 4159.0

*General Social Survey, New South Wales, 2006*, cat. no. 4159.1.55.001

*Information Paper: National Information Development Plan for Crime and Justice, 2005*, cat. no. 4520.0

*Personal Safety, Australia, 2005*, cat. no. 4906.0

*Recorded Crime - Victims, Australia, 2007*, cat. no. 4510.0

*Western Australian Statistical Indicators, March 2001*, cat. no. 1367.5.

**17** Information about current publications and other products released by the ABS is available from the statistics page on the ABS website <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>.

## APPENDIX DATA AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

### DATA AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

In addition to the statistics provided in this publication, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) can produce upon request customised tables to meet special data requirements. Inquiries should be made to the contact person shown on the front of this publication. Information collected in the survey included:

- 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 most recent incident was reported to police
    - the main reason why the most recent incident was not reported to the police.
  - For break and enter and attempted break and enter:
    - where the most recent incident occurred (previous or current address).
  - For break and enter:
    - what the offender did in the most recent incident.
  - For robbery, assault and sexual assault:
    - location of the most recent incident
    - whether a weapon was used
    - occurrence of physical injury
    - number of offenders
    - whether the offender(s) were known to the victim
    - how the offender(s) were known to the victim.
  - For robbery:
    - what happened in the most recent incident
    - whether anything was stolen in the most recent incident
    - what was stolen in the most recent incident.
- Perceived crime or public nuisance problems.

Data can be classified by the following variables:

- Age
- Sex
- Marital status
- Labour force status
- Household type
- Country of birth
- Year of arrival in Australia
- Labour force region.

## TECHNICAL NOTE SAMPLING VARIABILITY

### ESTIMATION PROCEDURE

**1** Estimates derived from the 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 to the Crime and Safety Survey after reminder action had been undertaken. This information was used to determine the appropriate adjustment procedure for non-response.

**2** The second stage was a regression estimation procedure. This procedure ensured that the survey estimates for persons conformed to independent population totals, commonly referred to as 'benchmarks', rather than to the distribution of demographic characteristics among the survey respondents. These benchmarks consist of population estimates by age, sex and part of state. 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. Unlike the person benchmarks, these household benchmarks are actually estimates themselves and not strictly known population totals.

**3** Since the 2006 Crime and Safety Survey, the weighting procedure has been refined to incorporate previously separate non-response adjustments and to improve the representation of survey error. To ensure this would not effect the time series, estimates from the 2006 Crime and Safety survey were re-calculated using the new method, and victimisation rates obtained via this method were compared with victimisation rates obtained using the previous method. No significant difference in victimisation rates across the two methods was found.

**4** Since the 2004 Crime and Safety Survey, the process for producing household benchmarks has been refined. Whilst this process is still under review, it represents a significant improvement to the previous method and household benchmarks produced using the new method are considered sufficient quality for use in household survey estimation. In addition, measures of the variability in household benchmarks have been incorporated into household estimates for the first time. These changes may result in unexpected movements in total households (at some broad levels) due to revised benchmark methodology. A paper describing these issues in detail is currently being developed and will be released with catalogue number 3107.0.55.007.

### RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

#### *Non-sampling errors*

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

**6** Non-sampling errors may arise as a result of errors in the reporting, recording or processing of the data and can occur even if there is a complete enumeration of the population. 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.

**7** 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 to minimise reporting error by the careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of staff, and efficient data processing procedures.

#### *Sampling errors*

**8** Sampling errors are the errors which occur by chance because the data was obtained from a sample, rather than from the entire population.

### ESTIMATES OF SAMPLING ERRORS

**9** One measure of the variability of estimates which occurs as a result of surveying only a sample of the population is the standard error.

**10** There are about 2 chances in 3 (67%) that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the number that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included, and about 19 chances in 20 (95%) that the difference will be less than two standard errors.



ESTIMATES OF SAMPLING  
ERRORS *continued*

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

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

**12** Space does not allow for the separate indication of the SEs and/or RSEs of all the estimates in this publication. However, RSEs for all of these estimates are available free-of-charge on the ABS web site <[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)>, released in spreadsheet format as an attachment to this publication, *Crime and Safety, New South Wales, 2008* (cat. no. 4509.1).

**13** An example of the calculation and use of standard errors for estimates of households follows. Table 1 shows that the estimated number of households in NSW that have been a victim of motor vehicle theft is 18,800. In the RSE spreadsheet table, the RSE for this estimate is shown to be 23.4%. The SE is—

$$SE(\text{estimate}) = \text{estimate} \times \frac{RSE}{100} = 4,400 \text{ (rounded to the nearest 100)}$$

**14** Thus there are about 2 chances in 3 that the value that would have been obtained, had all dwellings been included in the survey, lies between 14,400 and 23,200. Similarly, there are about 19 chances in 20 that the value lies between 10,000 and 27,600.

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

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

**16** Only estimates with relative standard errors of 25% or less are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes. However, estimates with a larger RSE have been included, preceded by \* (RSE between 25% and 50%) or \*\* (RSE greater than 50%) to indicate that they are subject to high standard errors and should be used with caution.

NOTE ON CHANGE TO  
STANDARD ERRORS

**17** Due to the change in sample size (see paragraph 6 of the Explanatory Notes), the relative standard errors of estimates for the 2008 Crime and Safety Survey have increased since the 2007 Crime and Safety Survey. For standard errors associated with previous cycles of the survey, see previous releases of this publication.

STATISTICAL SIGNIFICANCE  
TESTING

**18** Where differences between data items have been noted in the Summary of Findings, they are statistically significant unless otherwise specified. In this publication a statistically significant difference is one where there are 19 chances in 20 that the difference noted reflects a true difference between population groups of interest rather than being the result of sampling variability.

**19** In tables 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 9 of this publication, apparent changes in results between the 2008 survey and previous NSW Crime and Safety surveys have been tested to determine whether the changes are statistically significant. That is, to determine whether it is likely that the differences observed in sample estimates indicate real differences in the population. In these tables, cells which have not changed significantly over time are indicated. In other tables, which do not show the results of significance testing, RSEs should be taken into account when comparing estimates for different populations.

## GLOSSARY

<b>Assault</b>	An incident, other than a robbery, where the respondent was physically attacked or threatened with force or violence.
<b>Attempted break and enter</b>	An incident where an attempt was made to break into the respondent's home, garage or shed.
<b>Break and enter</b>	An incident where the respondent's home was 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.
<b>Crime or public nuisance problems</b>	Anything perceived by the respondent to be a problem arising from crime or people creating a public nuisance.
<b>Family member</b>	Includes Partner, Parent, Sibling, Child of victim, Other family member, Ex-partner and Family member (not further specified).
<b>Friend</b>	Includes Girlfriend/boyfriend, Ex-girlfriend/ex-boyfriend, Other friend and Other known person (not further specified).
<b>Household</b>	A group of persons resident in a private dwelling who share common facilities and meals and 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.
<b>Household crime</b>	Specifically, a break and enter, attempted break and enter or motor vehicle theft, in which a household is considered to be the victim of the crime.
<b>Incident</b>	A single occurrence of a crime event, such as a break and enter, an attempted break and enter, the theft of a motor vehicle, or an act of robbery, assault or sexual assault.
<b>Motor vehicle theft</b>	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. A motor vehicle includes cars, motorbikes and trucks. Caravans, trailers and floats were excluded.
<b>Neighbourhood</b>	The definition of this term was left to the interpretation of the respondent.
<b>Offence</b>	A crime committed against either a person or a household.
<b>Personal crime</b>	Specifically, a robbery, assault or sexual assault, in which an individual is considered to be the victim of the crime.
<b>Robbery</b>	An incident where someone stole (or tried to steal) property from the respondent by physically attacking them or threatening them with force or violence.
<b>Sexual assault</b>	An incident of a sexual nature involving physical contact, including rape, attempted rape, indecent assault, and assault with the intent to sexually assault. Sexual harassment (that did not lead to an sexual assault) was excluded. Only females aged 18 years and over were specifically asked questions about sexual assault in a separate questionnaire.
<b>Victim</b>	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.
<b>Victimisation rate</b>	The total number of victims of an offence in a given population expressed as a percentage of that population.



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