

CRIME AND SAFETY, NEW SOUTH WALES, APRIL 1994

MAIN FEATURES

HOUSEHOLD CRIME

During the 12 months to April 1994, 183,100 (8.5%) of the estimated 2,148,900 households in NSW were victims of at least one household crime. This was an increase over the 7.5% victimisation rate recorded for the 12 months to April 1993.

Households in Sydney Statistical Division had a higher victimisation rate (9.8%) than that of the balance of NSW (6.3%).

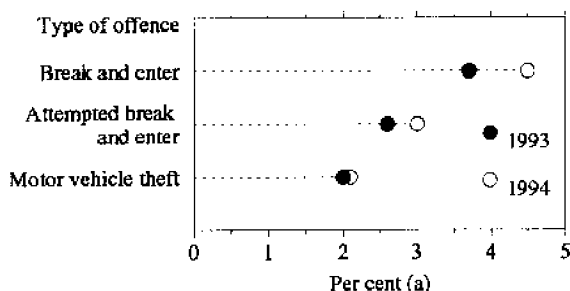
Household type

Household victimisation rates ranged from 12.1% for a one parent household to 6.2% for households comprising a couple only.

Security devices

Households with some form of security devices had higher victimisation rates than those households with no security devices. However, it should be noted that the main reason for installation of such devices given by households with security devices was that they had experience of being victims of break and enter offences.

VICTIMS OF HOUSEHOLD CRIME, IN THE 12 MONTHS TO APRIL, NSW



(a) Of households experiencing the offence.

PERSONAL CRIME

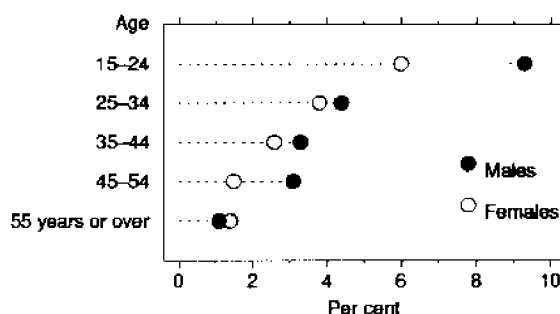
During the 12 months to April 1994, 159,900 (3.5%) of the estimated 4,560,300 persons (aged 15 years and over) were victims of at least one personal crime. This compared with 3.9% in the corresponding period for 1993.

Age and sex

The victimisation rate for males was higher than that

for females, being 4.1% and 2.9% respectively. For both males and females the victimisation rate was highest in the 15-24 years age group (9.3% for males and 6.0% for females).

VICTIMS OF PERSONAL CRIME IN THE 12 MONTHS TO APRIL 1994, NSW



Risk factors

Persons who had occupied their accommodation for less than one year recorded the highest victimisation rate (6.5%). The victimisation rate tended to decrease as the length of occupancy increased.

MULTIPLE VICTIMS

In the 12 months to April 1994, just over 27% of victims of household crime were victims on more than one occasion. More than 22% of victims of break and enter experienced multiple offences, as did more than 10% of motor vehicle theft victims.

In the 12 months to April 1994, almost 45% of victims of a personal crime were victims on more than one occasion. Just over 35% of victims of robbery and almost 50% of victims of assault experienced multiple offences.

REPORTING TO POLICE

The proportion of victims reporting the last incident to the police ranged from 94.5% for motor vehicle theft, down to 35.2% for attempted break and enter. The majority of victims of sexual assault did not report the last incident to the police, but this is based on a small sample of respondents.

INQUIRIES

- for further information about statistics in this publication, and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Michael Clarke on (02) 268 4498.
- for information about other ABS statistics and services, please refer to the back page of this publication.

NOTES

The 1994 New South Wales Crime and Safety Survey covered only selected types of household and personal crimes. Household crimes covered in the survey were break and enter, attempted break and enter and motor vehicle theft. Personal crimes covered in the survey were robbery, assault and sexual assault.

The terms used to describe various types of offences in this publication may not necessarily correspond with the legal or police definitions. Victims are counted once only for each type of offence, regardless of the number of incidents of that type. Sexual assaults were not identified separately from assaults in the 1990 and 1991 surveys, thus affecting comparability with these data. Explanatory and Technical Notes for these data can be found on pages 7 to 9.

GREG BRAY
Deputy Commonwealth Statistician

TABLE 1. VICTIMS AND NON-VICTIMS OF CRIME (a) IN THE 12 MONTHS TO APRIL: TYPE OF OFFENCE, NEW SOUTH WALES

Type of offence	1994 (b)		Victimisation rate				
	Victims	Non-victims	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
	'000—				—% (c)—		
Households—							
Break and enter	96.3	2,052.6	5.6	5.6	4.6	3.7	4.5
Attempted break and enter	63.6	2,085.3	4.6	3.8	3.3	2.6	3.0
Break and enter or attempted break and enter	144.7	2,004.2	8.9	8.3	6.9	5.7	6.7
Motor vehicle theft	46.0	2,102.9	n.a.	n.a.	2.1	2.0	2.1
Total households	183.1	1,965.9	8.6	7.5	8.5
Persons—							
Robbery	53.8	4,506.4	1.6	1.5	1.1	1.3	1.2
Assault	108.6	4,451.7	2.1	2.7	2.2	2.6	2.4
Sexual assault (d)	14.4	2,184.2	n.a.	n.a.	0.6	0.8	0.7
Total persons	159.9	4,400.4	3.5	4.0	3.2	3.9	3.5

(a) Refers to households or persons who were victims of any of the types of offence specified. (b) Because an individual household or person could be a victim of two or more types of offence, figures given for individual offence types do not sum to the totals in these columns. (c) Of all households/persons. (d) Sexual assault questions were asked only of females aged 18 years and over but not separately identified in the 1990 and 1991 surveys.

TABLE 2. VICTIMS AND NON-VICTIMS OF HOUSEHOLD CRIME (a) IN THE 12 MONTHS TO APRIL: SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS, NEW SOUTH WALES

Selected characteristics	1994			Victimisation rate		
	Victims	Non-victims	Total	1992	1993	1994
	—'000—			—% (b)—		
Major Statistical Region—						
Sydney	131.6	1,205.2	1,336.8	10.6	8.5	9.8
Balance of New South Wales	51.4	760.7	812.1	5.4	5.8	6.3
Household type —						
Couple with child(ren)	66.7	709.9	776.6	8.9	6.9	8.6
Couple only	32.2	491.0	523.2	7.5	4.2	6.2
One parent household	21.9	158.8	180.7	11.9	13.0	12.1
Person living alone	34.0	377.0	411.0	7.7	8.7	8.3
Other households	28.2	229.2	257.4	8.9	9.5	11.0
Total households	183.1	1,965.9	2,148.9	8.6	7.5	8.5

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

**TABLE 3. VICTIMS AND NON-VICTIMS OF HOUSEHOLD CRIME (a) IN THE 12 MONTHS TO APRIL:
SELECTED RISK FACTORS, NEW SOUTH WALES**

Selected risk factors	1994			Victimisation rate	
	Victims	Non-victims	Total	1993	1994
	—'000—			—% (b)—	
Whether a member of Neighbourhood (or Rural) Watch—					
Member	51.0	540.1	591.1	7.3	8.6
Not a member	109.0	1,152.4	1,261.3	7.1	8.6
Don't know	23.1	273.4	296.5	9.9	7.8
Type of security devices in households (c)—					
Electronic devices	39.8	313.5	353.3	9.6	11.3
Physical devices	143.9	1,434.0	1,577.9	8.0	9.1
Other	6.4	68.4	74.8	11.4	8.6
No security devices	31.2	424.0	455.2	6.3	6.9
Total households	183.1	1,965.9	2,148.9	7.5	8.5

(a) Break and enter, attempted break and enter or motor vehicle theft. (b) Of households. (c) A household could have more than one type of security device. As a consequence, figures in these columns do not sum to the total shown for all households. Households that did not state whether they had security devices have not been included in the table.

**TABLE 4. VICTIMS AND NON-VICTIMS OF PERSONAL CRIME (a) IN THE 12 MONTHS TO APRIL:
SEX BY AGE, NEW SOUTH WALES**

Age	1994			Victimisation Rate	
	Victims	Non-victims	Total	1993	1994
	MALES				
		—'000—		—% (b)—	
15–24 years	40.8	400.1	440.9	9.6	9.3
25–34 years	20.0	435.3	455.3	5.9	4.4
35–44 years	14.6	423.3	437.9	3.2	3.3
45–54 years	11.2	349.9	361.1	2.5	3.1
55–64 years	*3.0	249.3	252.3	*1.7	*1.2
65 years or over	*2.8	290.9	293.8	*0.7	*1.0
Total males	92.4	2,148.9	2,241.3	4.4	4.1
FEMALES					
		—'000—		—% (b)—	
15–24 years	25.7	405.5	431.2	7.8	6.0
25–34 years	17.7	451.1	468.8	3.8	3.8
35–44 years	11.7	433.7	445.4	3.1	2.6
45–54 years	*5.2	345.3	350.4	2.0	*1.5
55–64 years	*5.5	248.8	254.3	*0.9	*2.2
65 years or over	*1.8	367.1	368.9	*0.8	*0.5
Total females	67.5	2,251.5	2,319.0	3.3	2.9
PERSONS					
		—'000—		—% (b)—	
15–24 years	66.5	805.6	872.1	8.7	7.6
25–34 years	37.7	886.4	924.1	4.8	4.1
35–44 years	26.3	857.0	883.3	3.2	3.0
45–54 years	16.3	695.2	711.5	2.2	2.3
55–64 years	8.5	498.1	506.6	1.3	1.7
65 years or over	*4.6	658.0	662.7	*0.7	*0.7
Total persons	159.9	4,400.4	4,560.3	3.9	3.5

(a) Robbery, assault or sexual assault. (b) Of persons.

**TABLE 5. VICTIMS AND NON-VICTIMS OF PERSONAL CRIME (a) IN THE 12 MONTHS TO APRIL:
SELECTED RISK FACTORS, NEW SOUTH WALES**

Selected risk factors	1994			Victimisation rate	
	Victims	Non-victims	Total	1993	1994
	—'000—			—% (b)—	
Length of occupancy in dwelling—					
Less than 1 year	45.8	658.7	704.5	8.3	6.5
1 to less than 3 years	29.4	736.3	765.7	4.1	3.8
3 to less than 5 years	12.0	412.8	424.8	3.2	2.8
5 years or more	72.8	2,592.5	2,665.3	2.8	2.7
Frequency of travel on public transport after 6 p.m. in the last 12 months—					
More than once a week	33.5	338.6	372.1	10.3	9.0
Once a week	9.5	137.3	146.8	8.5	6.5
At least once a month	20.4	246.9	267.3	7.9	7.6
Less often than once a month	96.5	3,677.4	3,774.0	2.7	2.6
Frequency of attending entertainment places after 6 p.m. in the last 12 months—					
More than once a week	51.0	632.4	683.3	8.4	7.5
Once a week	33.3	791.2	824.5	4.3	4.0
At least once a month	31.3	1,039.1	1,070.4	3.7	2.9
Less often than once a month	44.4	1,937.6	1,982.0	2.3	2.2
Total persons	159.9	4,400.4	4,560.3	3.9	3.5

(a) Robbery, assault or sexual assault. (b) Of persons.

**TABLE 6. VICTIMS AND NON-VICTIMS OF PERSONAL CRIME (a) IN THE 12 MONTHS TO APRIL:
SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS, NEW SOUTH WALES**

Selected characteristics	1994			Victimisation rate	
	Victims	Non-victims	Total	1993	1994
	—'000—			—% (b)—	
Major Statistical Region—					
Sydney	116.8	2,769.5	2,886.3	4.1	4.0
Balance of New South Wales	43.2	1,630.8	1,674.0	3.5	2.6
Labour force status—					
Employed	100.9	2,531.4	2,632.3	4.1	3.8
Unemployed	18.0	266.4	284.4	9.5	6.3
Not in the labour force	41.1	1,602.5	1,643.6	2.6	2.5
Total persons	159.9	4,400.4	4,560.3	3.9	3.5

(a) Robbery, assault or sexual assault. (b) Of persons.

TABLE 7. VICTIMS OF CRIME (a) IN THE 12 MONTHS TO APRIL: NUMBER OF INCIDENTS EXPERIENCED BY TYPE OF OFFENCE, NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994

Type of offence	—'000—			Total victims	—%—		
	One	Two	Three or more		One	Two	Three or more
Households—							
Break and enter	75.0	16.0	*5.3	96.3	77.9	16.6	*5.5
Attempted break and enter	45.7	10.9	7.0	63.6	71.8	17.2	10.9
<i>Break and enter or attempted break and enter (b)</i>	<i>104.5</i>	<i>23.1</i>	<i>17.1</i>	<i>144.7</i>	<i>72.2</i>	<i>15.9</i>	<i>11.8</i>
Motor vehicle theft	41.2	*3.6	**1.3	46.0	89.4	*7.8	**2.7
Total household victims (b)	132.7	30.8	19.6	183.1	72.5	16.8	10.7
Persons—							
Robbery	35.0	9.6	9.3	53.8	64.9	17.9	17.2
Assault	55.3	20.8	32.4	108.6	51.0	19.2	29.8
Sexual assault (c)	8.5	*2.1	*3.8	14.4	58.8	*14.7	*26.5
Total personal victims (b)	88.5	24.0	47.4	159.9	55.4	15.0	29.7

(a) Refers to households or persons who were victims of any of the types of offence specified. (b) Because an individual household or person could be a victim of two or more types of offence, figures given for individual offence types do not sum to the figures in this row. (c) Sexual assault questions were asked only of females aged 18 years and over.

TABLE 8. VICTIMS OF CRIME (a) IN THE 12 MONTHS TO APRIL: TOLD POLICE ABOUT LAST INCIDENT BY TYPE OF OFFENCE, NEW SOUTH WALES

Type of offence	1994		Police told				
	Police told	Police not told	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
	—'000—		—% (b)—				
Households—							
Break and enter	73.2	23.2	73.2	72.3	71.2	73.4	76.0
Attempted break and enter	22.4	41.2	36.0	30.1	28.2	28.5	35.2
Motor vehicle theft	43.5	*2.5	n.a.	n.a.	95.5	95.6	94.5
Persons—							
Robbery	28.3	25.5	59.7	58.7	58.6	45.6	52.6
Assault	42.2	66.4	30.8	31.8	37.0	31.9	38.9
Sexual assault (c)	*3.7	10.7	n.a.	n.a.	*24.6	*28.8	*25.6

(a) Refers to households or persons who were victims of any of the types of offence specified. (b) Of all household/person victims. (c) Sexual assault questions were asked only of females aged 18 years and over but not separately identified in the 1990 and 1991 surveys.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This publication contains results from a Crime and Safety survey which was conducted throughout NSW in April 1994 as a supplement to the ABS Monthly Population Survey (MPS). The survey was conducted and funded at the request of the New South Wales Police Service, the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) and the Department of Court Administration, and funded by these organisations.

2. Information was collected from individuals and households about their experience of selected crimes, reporting behaviour and risk factors, and households' membership of Neighbourhood or Rural Watch programs.

3. The survey was conducted using all the private dwellings included in the MPS for NSW, with the exception of private dwellings containing only visitors. The MPS was conducted during the two weeks commencing Monday, 11 April 1994.

4. Information was sought from approximately 14,630 persons, of whom about 11,646 (79.6%) responded. Data pertaining to households were sought from approximately 6,950 households and about 5,470 (78.7%) replied. Examination of successive waves of responses did not indicate any serious problem of non-response bias. Special estimation procedures and imputation were employed to reduce the effect of non-response.

Scope

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

- (a) members of the permanent defence forces;
- (b) certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from censuses and surveys;
- (c) overseas residents in Australia; and
- (d) members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia.

6. Residents of other non-private dwellings such as hospitals, motels and jails (included in the MPS) were excluded from this survey.

Coverage

7. In the survey, coverage rules were applied which aimed to ensure that each person was associated with only one dwelling, and hence had only one chance of selection in the survey.

8. Crime and Safety questionnaires were delivered to the selected households by MPS interviewers for completion by respondents and return by mail. One questionnaire per household contained questions relating to the house-

hold as a whole. In addition, all persons in scope (refer paragraph 5) were provided with a questionnaire relating to their personal experiences of crime. All females aged 18 years or over were provided with an additional questionnaire relating to their personal experiences of sexual assault.

Comparisons with police statistics

9. It should be emphasised that the 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.

Definitions

10. *Household*: A group of residents of a 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.

11. *Neighbourhood (or Rural) Watch*: A community-based crime prevention program mainly aimed at preventing break and enter offences.

12. *Offence*: Indicates crimes which persons or households reported had been committed against them.

13. *Break and enter offence*: An incident where the respondent's home had been broken into. The respondent's home was defined to include their garage or shed, but break and enter offences relating to their car or garden were excluded.

14. *Attempted break and enter offence*: An incident where an attempt was made to break into the respondent's home.

15. *Motor vehicle theft*: An incident where a registered motor vehicle was stolen from any member of the household. It included privately owned motor vehicles as well as business/company vehicles used exclusively by any members of the household.

16. *Robbery*: An incident where someone had stolen something from a respondent by threatening or attacking them.

17. *Assault*: An incident other than a robbery where the respondent was threatened with force or attacked.

18. *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.

19. *Victim*: A person or a household reporting at least one of the offences listed above. Victims were counted once only for each type of offence, regardless of the number of incidents of that type.

20. *Dwelling*: A suite of rooms contained within a building which are self-contained and intended for long-term residential use. To be self-contained the suite of rooms must possess cooking and bathing facilities as building fixtures.

21. *Security devices*: Electronic devices include alarms, electric timers for lights and motion sensor devices. Physical devices include dead locks or improved locks, security screen doors, security screens and grills or shutters on windows.

Related publications

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

Crime and Safety, Victoria, April 1994 (4509.2)

Crime and Safety, Australia, April 1993 (4509.0)

National Crime Statistics, January-December 1993 (4510.0)

Crime and Safety, New South Wales, April 1992 (4509.1)

Crime and Safety, South Australia, April 1991 (4509.4)

Crime Victims, Western Australia, October 1991 (4506.5)

Crime and Crime Prevention Survey, Victoria, July 1987, Preliminary (4507.2)

Crime Victims Survey, Victoria 1986 (4506.2)

Crime Victims Survey, Australia, 1983, Preliminary (4505.0)

Victims of Crime, Australia, 1983 (4506.0)

Symbols and other usages

- n.a. not available
- . . not applicable (due to non-comparability)
- * estimate is subject to a relative standard error of between 25% and 50%.
- ** estimate is subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes (more than 50%). Refer to the Technical Notes on Data Reliability.
- nil occurrences or rounded to zero

TECHNICAL NOTE ON DATA RELIABILITY

Estimation procedure

Estimates derived from this survey were obtained in two stages. In the first stage, adjustment of non-response was carried out based on the demographic composition of the Monthly Population Survey sample, as well as on analysis of the effect of reminder action on the responses obtained.

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.

Reliability of estimates

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

Non-sampling errors

4. 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.

5. It is difficult to measure the size of the non-sampling errors and the extent of these errors could vary considerably in significance from survey to survey and from question to question. However, 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 only obtained from a sample, not the entire population.

Estimates of sampling error

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

8. 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 persons had been included in the survey. There are about nineteen chances in twenty (95%) that the difference will be within two standard errors.

9. Linear interpolation should be used to calculate the standard error of estimates falling between the sizes of estimates listed in the table.

10. The standard error can also be expressed as a percentage of the estimate and 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 useful measure in that it provides an immediate indication of the percentage errors likely to have occurred due to sampling.

11. 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—

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

12. 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. However, estimates and percentages with relative standard errors between 25% to 50% have been included, preceded by the symbol * to indicate that they are subject to high standard errors and should be used with caution. Estimates with relative standard errors greater than 50% should not be regarded as reliable, and are indicated by the symbol **.

13. Although figures for these small components may be derived by subtraction, they should not be regarded as reliable.

STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES OF PERSONS AND HOUSEHOLDS, NEW SOUTH WALES, APRIL 1994

Size of estimate (households or persons)	Standard error (Number)	Relative standard error (per cent)
1,000	660	65.7
1,500	810	54.2
2,000	920	46.2
2,500	1,020	40.7
3,000	1,110	37.1
3,500	1,200	34.2
4,000	1,280	32.0
4,500	1,360	30.3
5,000	1,450	28.9
6,000	1,560	26.0
8,000	1,780	22.3
10,000	1,950	19.5
20,000	2,670	13.4
30,000	3,170	10.6
40,000	3,620	9.0
50,000	3,950	7.9
100,000	5,290	5.3
200,000	6,900	3.5
300,000	8,120	2.7
400,000	9,020	2.3
500,000	9,800	2.0
1,000,000	12,580	1.3
2,000,000	15,920	0.8
5,000,000	21,480	0.4

**CRIME AND SAFETY SURVEY, NEW SOUTH WALES
APRIL 1994**

DO YOU NEED ADDITIONAL DATA?

The *Crime and Safety Survey* provides information on the incidence of selected categories of crime, reporting behaviour, and victimisation risk factors from persons aged 15 years and over for the 12 months to April 1994. In addition, females aged 18 years and over were asked to provide information on their personal experience of sexual assaults. A customised data service is available to meet special data requirements.

Information collected in the survey includes:

- Length of residence
- Socio-economic profile of the victims
- Whether a member of Neighbourhood (or Rural) Watch
- Household security:
 - security devices installed and
 - reasons for having the security devices
- Victimisation risk factors:
 - frequency of attending evening entertainment
 - types of entertainment places attended
 - frequency of using public transport in the evening
- Types of offences:
 - (i) For break and enter, attempted break and enter, motor vehicle theft, robbery, assault and sexual assault:
 - number of incidents in the last 12 months
 - number of incidents reported to the police, and
 - the main reason why the incident was not reported to the police.
 - (ii) For break and enter:
 - description of items stolen
 - (iii) For motor vehicle theft:
 - location of incident,
 - type of registered owner, and - whether covered by comprehensive insurance
 - (iv) For robbery, assault and sexual assault:
 - location of the last incident,
 - whether a weapon was used, and
 - whether the offender was known to the victim.
 - (v) For assault and sexual assault:
 - occurrence of physical injury

Data can be classified by the following variables:

- Age
- Sex
- Marital status
- Household type
- Country of birth
- Year of arrival in Australia
- Whether studying
- Labour force region
- Labour force status
- Status of worker

**To discuss your data requirements or for further information regarding this survey please contact
Michael Clarke on (02) 268 4498.**



For more information ...

The ABS publishes a wide range of statistics and other information on Australia's economic and social conditions. Details of what is available in various publications and other products can be found in the *ABS Catalogue of Publications and Products* available at all ABS Offices (see below for contact details).

Information Consultancy Service

Information tailored to special needs of clients can be obtained from the Information Consultancy Service available at ABS Offices (see Information Inquiries below for contact details).

National Dial-a-Statistic Line

0055 86 400

This number gives you 24 hour access, 365 days a year for a range of statistics.

Electronic Data Services

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