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Crime and Safety

New South Wales

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NOTES

The 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.

Explanatory Notes for these data can be found on pages 13 to 14. Technical Notes and Standard Errors for these data can be found on pages 18 to 20.

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CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

For a number of reasons it has been difficult to compare the crime and safety survey results with recorded police statistics (see Comparisons with Police Statistics, in the Explanatory Notes, page 13, paragraph 10). Particular difficulties were seen to exist for the personal offence categories of robbery and assault. In an attempt to address this problem, the 1996 survey included some additional questions for these offence categories which allowed the offences to be redefined so as to enable a better alignment with an Australian Standard Offences Classification currently being developed by the ABS.

As a result of this reclassification, two sets of figures appear in this publication for robbery and assault. The data for these offences found in the main body of the publication are reported on the same basis as in previous years' publications. This will allow the general reader to compare data regarding these offences on a consistent basis which in turn allows for a continuation of the time series information. Pages 15-17 of the publication explain in more detail how the revised robbery and assault data items are defined and derived. This section also contains tables comparing the original and revised data for these offences cross classified with some key demographic variables. Tables on the differences in reporting to the police are also included.

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SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

n.a. not available
n.p. not available for publication but included in totals where applicable
* estimate is subject to a relative standard error greater than 25%
.. not applicable
— nil or rounded to zero

.....

INQUIRIES

For further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Michael Clarke on (02) 9268 4498.

For information about other ABS statistics and services, please refer to the back of this publication.

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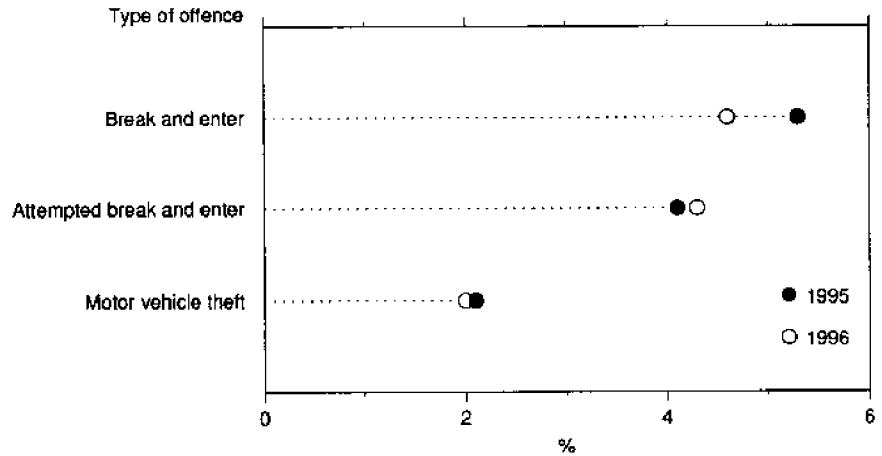
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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

VICTIMS OF HOUSEHOLD CRIME

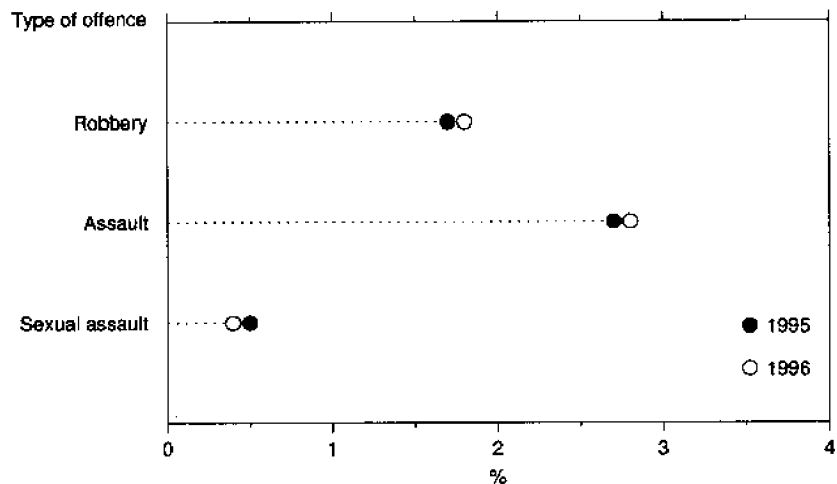
A total of 223,300 households were victims of household crime in NSW in the 12 months to April 1996. Household victimisation rates in 1996 were similar to the victimisation rates in 1995.



Victimisation rates for Sydney (11.1%) were higher than for the Balance of NSW (7.9%). Of the different types of households, those consisting of a couple only were the least likely to be victims of crime, with a victimisation rate of 6.0%. Households consisting of one parent families and 'other' households had the highest victimisation rates (14.6% and 14.9% respectively).

VICTIMS OF PERSONAL CRIME

There were 210,700 residents of NSW who were victims of personal crime in the 12 months to April 1996 — a victimisation rate of 4.5%. The victimisation rates for personal crime have remained much the same between 1995 and 1996.



Males are more likely to be victims of crime than females. There were 128,900 male victims (5.6% of all males) and 81,800 female victims (3.4% of all females). Victimisation rates for personal crime varied according to age. The highest victimisation rate (8.7%) was amongst 15–24 year olds, followed by 25–34 year olds (6.8%).

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

.....

Unemployed people were more likely to be victims of crime than those who were employed or those who were not in the labour force. Around 22,500 of the estimated 230,000 unemployed people were victims of personal crime, a victimisation rate of 9.8%. By comparison, the victimisation rate was 5.2% for employed people and 2.6% for those persons not in the labour force.

Regional differences for personal crime were similar to those for household crime, with victimisation rates higher in Sydney (5.1%) than in the Balance of NSW (3.5%).

MULTIPLE VICTIMS

Of the households that experienced household crime, 29.9% were victims on more than one occasion within the 12 month reference period. Around 37.7% of persons who were victims of personal crime experienced more than one incident in the 12 month reference period.

REPORTING TO POLICE

Reporting of incidents to the police varied widely according to the type of offence. For household crime, the proportion of victims reporting the last incident to police was considerably higher for break and enter (77.3% reported) than for attempted break and enter (24.3%). Around 97.3% of motor vehicle theft victims reported the last incident to police.

For break and enter and robbery, the reporting of the last incident to police has increased, compared with the corresponding period in 1995. However, these increases are based on data from a small sample of respondents and, as such, the increases could be the result of sampling error.

PERCEPTION OF CRIME/PUBLIC NUISANCE

The main perceived crime or public nuisance problem was housebreaking/ burglaries/theft from homes, with 20.6% of people identifying this as the main problem. Around 44.7% of people did not think there were any crime or public nuisance problems in their neighbourhood.

1

VICTIMS AND NON-VICTIMS OF CRIME(a): Type of Offence

Type of offence	1996.....		VICTIMISATION RATE(b).....			
	Victims '000	Non- victims '000	1993 %	1994 %	1995 %	1996 %
Households						
Break and enter	103.7	2 168.0	3.7	4.5	5.3	4.6
Attempted break and enter	97.7	2 174.0	2.6	3.0	4.1	4.3
<i>Break and enter or attempted break and enter(c)</i>	184.2	2 087.5	5.7	6.7	8.5	8.1
Motor vehicle theft	46.4	2 225.3	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.0
Total households(c)	223.3	2 048.4	7.5	8.5	10.1	9.8
Persons						
Robbery	85.6	4 608.4	1.3	1.2	1.7	1.8
Assault	129.8	4 564.2	2.6	2.4	2.7	2.8
Sexual assault(d)	9.2	2 235.0	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.4
Total persons(c)	210.7	4 483.2	3.9	3.5	4.3	4.5

(a) Refers to households or persons who were victims of any of the types of offence specified.

(b) Proportion of all households/persons.

(c) 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 this row.

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

Selected characteristics	1996.....			VICTIMISATION RATE(b).....	
	Victims '000	Non- victims '000	Total '000	1995 %	1996 %
Major statistical region					
Sydney	152.3	1 219.6	1 371.9	12.2	11.1
Balance of New South Wales	71.0	828.8	899.8	6.9	7.9
Household type					
Couple with child(ren)	81.0	723.1	804.2	9.3	10.1
Couple only	32.0	504.1	536.0	6.9	6.0
One parent household	26.6	155.2	181.7	15.5	14.6
Person living alone	45.4	447.6	493.0	10.7	9.2
Other households	38.3	218.5	256.8	14.3	14.9
Whether a member of Neighbourhood (or Rural) Watch					
Member	37.2	450.4	487.6	9.1	7.6
Not a member	143.2	1 319.8	1 462.9	10.3	9.8
Don't know	42.9	278.3	321.2	11.0	13.4
Total households	223.3	2 048.4	2 271.7	10.1	9.8

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

(b) Proportion of all households.

3

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

Age	1996.....			VICTIMISATION RATE(b).....	
	Victims '000	Non- victims '000	Total '000	1995 %	1996 %
.....					
MALES					
15-24 years	49.4	392.7	442.1	10.4	11.2
25-34 years	36.8	426.3	463.1	6.0	7.9
35-44 years	19.7	431.9	451.6	4.8	4.4
45-54 years	16.9	370.3	387.3	3.2	4.4
55-64 years	*3.8	257.6	261.3	*2.4	*1.4
65 years or over	*2.3	310.1	312.4	*1.2	*0.7
Total males	128.9	2 188.9	2 317.8	5.1	5.6
.....					
FEMALES					
15-24 years	25.9	400.9	426.8	6.7	6.1
25-34 years	26.2	443.4	469.6	4.4	5.6
35-44 years	13.8	445.9	459.7	4.1	3.0
45-54 years	10.9	366.7	377.6	*1.8	2.9
55-64 years	*3.0	255.1	258.1	*2.2	*1.2
65 years or over	*2.0	382.3	384.3	*1.0	*0.5
Total females	81.8	2 294.3	2 376.1	3.6	3.4
.....					
PERSONS					
15-24 years	75.3	793.6	869.0	8.6	8.7
25-34 years	63.0	869.7	932.7	5.2	6.8
35-44 years	33.5	877.8	911.3	4.4	3.7
45-54 years	27.9	737.0	764.9	2.5	3.6
55-64 years	*6.8	512.6	519.4	2.3	*1.3
65 years or over	*4.3	692.4	696.7	*1.1	*0.6
Total persons	210.7	4 483.2	4 694.0	4.3	4.5

(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	1996.....			VICTIMISATION RATE(b).....	
	Victims '000	Non- victims '000	Total '000	1995 %	1996 %
Major statistical region					
Sydney	149.8	2 785.3	2 935.0	4.9	5.1
Balance of New South Wales	61.0	1 698.0	1 758.9	3.4	3.5
Labour force status					
Employed	144.2	2 633.8	2 778.0	4.9	5.2
Unemployed	22.5	207.4	230.0	7.5	9.8
Not in the labour force	44.0	1 642.0	1 686.0	3.0	2.6
Total persons	210.7	4 483.2	4 694.0	4.3	4.5

(a) Robbery, assault or sexual assault.

(b) Proportion of all persons.

5

VICTIMS OF CRIME(a): Number of Incidents Experienced by Type of Offence

Type of offence	NUMBER OF VICTIMS.....			Total victims	PERCENTAGE OF VICTIMS.....		
	One incident	Two incidents	Three or more incidents		One incident	Two incidents	Three or more incidents
	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%	%
Households							
Break and enter	78.9	19.1	*5.7	103.7	76.1	18.4	*5.5
Attempted break and enter	65.8	24.0	7.9	97.7	67.4	24.5	8.1
Break and enter or attempted break and enter(b)	125.2	39.1	19.8	184.2	68.0	21.2	10.8
Motor vehicle theft	40.8	*3.7	*1.9	46.4	87.9	*8.0	*4.1
Total household victims(b)	156.6	43.6	23.1	223.3	70.1	19.5	10.3
Persons							
Robbery	61.8	15.8	8.0	85.6	72.2	18.5	9.4
Assault	80.5	22.4	26.8	129.8	62.1	17.3	20.6
Sexual assault(c)	*6.4	—	*2.8	9.2	*69.9	—	*30.1
Total personal victims(b)	131.2	41.0	38.5	210.7	62.3	19.5	18.3

(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 this row.

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

VICTIMS OF CRIME(a): Whether Police Told About Last Incident by Type of Offence

Type of offence	1996.....		POLICE TOLD(b).....			
	Police told '000	Police not told '000	1993 %	1994 %	1995 %	1996 %
Household victims						
Break and enter	80.2	23.5	73.4	76.0	73.5	77.3
Attempted break and enter	23.7	74.0	28.5	35.2	31.3	24.3
Motor vehicle theft	45.1	*1.3	95.6	94.5	91.4	97.3
Person victims						
Robbery	50.6	35.0	45.6	52.6	52.2	59.1
Assault	40.1	89.7	31.9	38.9	30.4	30.9
Sexual assault(c)	n.p.	n.p.	*28.8	*25.6	n.p.	n.p.

(a) Refers to households or persons who were victims of any of the types of offence specified.

(b) Proportion of all households/persons.

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

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

	PERCEIVED TO BE A PROBLEM(a).....		PERCEIVED TO BE THE MAIN PROBLEM....	
	Number	Proportion(b)	Number	Proportion(b)
<i>Crime or public nuisance problem</i>	'000	%	'000	%
Perceived problem(s)				
Housebreaking/burglaries/theft from homes	1 737.9	37.0	968.6	20.6
Dangerous/noisy driving	1 428.2	30.4	452.5	9.6
Louts/youth gangs	1 061.8	22.6	322.1	6.9
Illegal drugs	750.0	16.0	214.2	4.6
Vandalism/graffiti	1 113.0	23.7	208.6	4.4
Car theft	1 014.7	21.6	125.2	2.7
Problems with neighbours/domestic problems	392.2	8.4	100.3	2.1
Other theft	513.4	10.9	54.8	1.2
Prowlers/loiterers	449.1	9.6	49.6	1.1
Other assault	275.6	5.9	25.5	0.5
Sexual assault	193.1	4.1	18.2	0.3
Other	141.8	3.0	57.9	1.2
No perceived problem	2 098.3	44.7	2 098.3	44.7
All persons	4 694.0	..	4 694.0	100.0

(a) A person could nominate more than one perceived problem. As a consequence, figures in these columns do not sum to the total shown for all persons.

(b) Of all persons.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

- 1** This publication contains results from a Crime and Safety survey which was conducted throughout NSW in April 1996 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, individuals' perception of crime problems in their neighbourhood and households' membership of Neighbourhood or Rural Watch programs.
- 3** The survey was conducted using all the private dwellings included in the MPS, with the exception of private dwellings containing only visitors. The MPS was conducted during the two weeks commencing Monday 8 April 1996.
- 4** Information was sought from approximately 13,000 persons, of whom about 10,000 (77%) responded. Data pertaining to households were sought from approximately 6,200 households, and complete household data was obtained from 4,800 (77%) of these households.
- 5** 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

- 6** The survey was conducted for all persons aged 15 years 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; and
 - members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia.
- 7** Residents of other non-private dwellings such as hospitals, motels and jails (included in the MPS) were excluded from this survey.

COVERAGE

- 8** 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.
- 9** 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 household as a whole. In addition, all persons in scope (refer paragraph 6) 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 only.

COMPARISONS WITH POLICE STATISTICS

- 10** 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.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

11 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, South Australia, April 1995 (4509.4)*
- Crime and Safety, Victoria, April 1995 (4509.2)*
- Crime and Safety, Queensland, April 1995 (4509.3)*
- Crime and Safety, Western Australia, October 1995 (4509.5)*
- Crime and Safety, Australia, April 1993 (4509.0)*
- National Crime Statistics, January-December 1995 (4510.0)*
- 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)*

APPENDIX: ALTERNATIVE CLASSIFICATIONS

ALTERNATIVE CLASSIFICATION OF ROBBERY AND ASSAULT

Robbery

1 In 1996 some additional questions about robbery incidents were included in the Crime and Safety NSW questionnaire. Information obtained from these questions has made it possible to produce revised robbery data that more closely approximates the definition contained in the Australian Standard Offences Classification (currently under development by the ABS).

2 The revised definition includes attempted robbery (where nothing was actually stolen) and includes only those incidents where:

- the offender(s) stole something or attempted to steal something from the victim, *and*
- a direct encounter occurred between the offender(s) and the victim and the victim was threatened and/or attacked and/or injured in the incident.

3 Incidents are *excluded* from the revised robbery data (but may have been included in the original robbery data) if:

- nothing was stolen or there was no attempt to steal anything, or
- the incident did not involve a direct encounter between the offender and the victim, or
- the victim was not actually threatened, attacked, or injured in the incident.

Assault

4 The additional robbery questions asked in 1996 identified some incidents reported as robbery that would be more accurately defined as assault. A revised data item for assault has been produced that includes these incidents that were classified as robbery in the original data set.

REVISED ROBBERY AND ASSAULT DATA

5 The tables in the main section of the publication show robbery and assault data according to the original definitions, consistent with data produced in previous Crime and Safety surveys. Special tabulations containing the revised robbery and assault data can be produced on request.

6 The following summary tables show a comparison of the original and revised data.

APPENDIX: ALTERNATIVE CLASSIFICATIONS *continued*

VICTIMS OF ROBBERY

Selected characteristics

Selected characteristics	ORIGINAL ROBBERY DATA.....		REVISED ROBBERY DATA.....		Total persons '000
	Victims '000	Victimisation rate %	Victims '000	Victimisation rate %	
Sex					
Male	50.8	2.2	16.3	0.7	2 317.8
Female	34.8	1.5	*7.5	*0.3	2 376.1
Age					
15-24	31.3	3.6	13.1	1.5	869.0
25-34	22.8	2.4	*2.2	*0.2	932.7
35-44	15.1	1.7	*3.3	*0.4	911.3
45-54	11.0	1.4	*3.7	*0.5	764.9
55 years and over	*5.3	*0.4	*1.4	*0.1	1 216.1
Labour force status					
Employed	60.3	2.2	15.0	0.5	2 778.0
Unemployed	8.7	3.8	*4.0	*1.7	230.0
Not in the labour force	16.6	1.0	*4.8	*0.3	1 686.0
Total	85.6	1.8	23.8	0.5	4 694.0

Reporting of robbery to police

Whether told police about the last robbery incident	ORIGINAL ROBBERY DATA.....		REVISED ROBBERY DATA.....	
	'000	%	'000	%
Told police	50.6	59.1	13.7	57.5
Did not tell police	35.0	40.9	10.1	42.5
Total robbery victims	85.6	100.0	23.8	100.0

APPENDIX: ALTERNATIVE CLASSIFICATIONS *continued*

VICTIMS OF ASSAULT

Selected characteristics

Selected characteristics	ORIGINAL ASSAULT DATA.....		REVISED ASSAULT DATA.....		Total
	Victims '000	Victimisation rate %	Victims '000	Victimisation rate %	
Sex					
Male	84.1	3.6	93.4	4.0	2 317.8
Female	45.6	1.9	47.1	2.0	2 376.1
Age					
15-24	45.7	5.3	51.2	5.9	869.0
25-34	41.4	4.4	44.6	4.8	932.7
35-44	21.2	2.3	22.2	2.4	911.3
45-54	16.3	2.1	16.8	2.2	764.9
55 years or over	*5.2	*0.4	*5.7	*0.5	1 216.1
Labour force status					
Employed	84.8	3.1	93.4	3.4	2 778.0
Unemployed	14.9	6.5	14.9	6.5	230.0
Not in the labour force	30.1	1.8	32.2	1.9	1 686.0
Total persons	129.8	2.8	140.5	3.0	4 694.0

Reporting of assault to police

Whether told police about the last assault incident	ORIGINAL ASSAULT DATA.....		REVISED ASSAULT DATA.....	
	'000	%	'000	%
Told police	40.1	30.9	45.3	32.2
Did not tell police	89.7	69.1	95.2	67.8
Total assault victims	129.8	100.0	140.5	100.0

APPENDIX: ADDITIONAL DATA

ADDITIONAL DATA AVAILABLE

1 The Crime and Safety Survey provides information on the incidence of selected categories of crime and crime reporting behaviour, for persons aged 15 years and over for the 12 months to April 1996. In addition, females aged 18 years and over were asked to provide information on their personal experience of sexual assaults.

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

3 Information collected in the survey includes:

- Whether a member of neighbourhood (or Rural) watch
- Perceived crime or public nuisance problems
- Types of offences:
 - ◆ 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.
 - ◆ For break and enter:
 - description of items stolen.
 - ◆ For motor vehicle theft:
 - location of incident,
 - type of registered owner, and
 - whether covered by comprehensive insurance.
 - ◆ For robbery, assault and sexual assault:
 - location of last incident,
 - whether a weapon was used, and
 - whether the offender was known to the victim.
 - ◆ For assault and sexual assault:
 - occurrence of physical injury.

4 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 (NSW only)
- Labour force status
- Status of worker

5 To discuss your data requirements or for further information regarding this survey please contact Michael Clarke on (02) 9268 4498.

TECHNICAL NOTE

ESTIMATION PROCEDURE

- 1** For this survey, the effects of non-response were investigated 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. This information was used to determine the appropriate adjustment procedure.
- 2** Estimates derived from this survey were obtained using a complex ratio estimation procedure. This procedure ensured that the survey estimates conformed to an independently estimated distribution of population by age, sex, and part of state, rather than to the age, sex and part of state distribution among respondents. The procedure also ensured that household estimates conformed to independently estimated distribution of households by certain household characteristics (number of adults and children in the household) rather than to the distribution among responding households.

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 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.

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* (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 persons had been included in the survey. There are about nineteen chances in twenty (95%) that the difference will be less than two standard errors.
- 3** Linear interpolation should be 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 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.

- 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—

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

- 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. However, 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.

STANDARD ERRORS *continued*

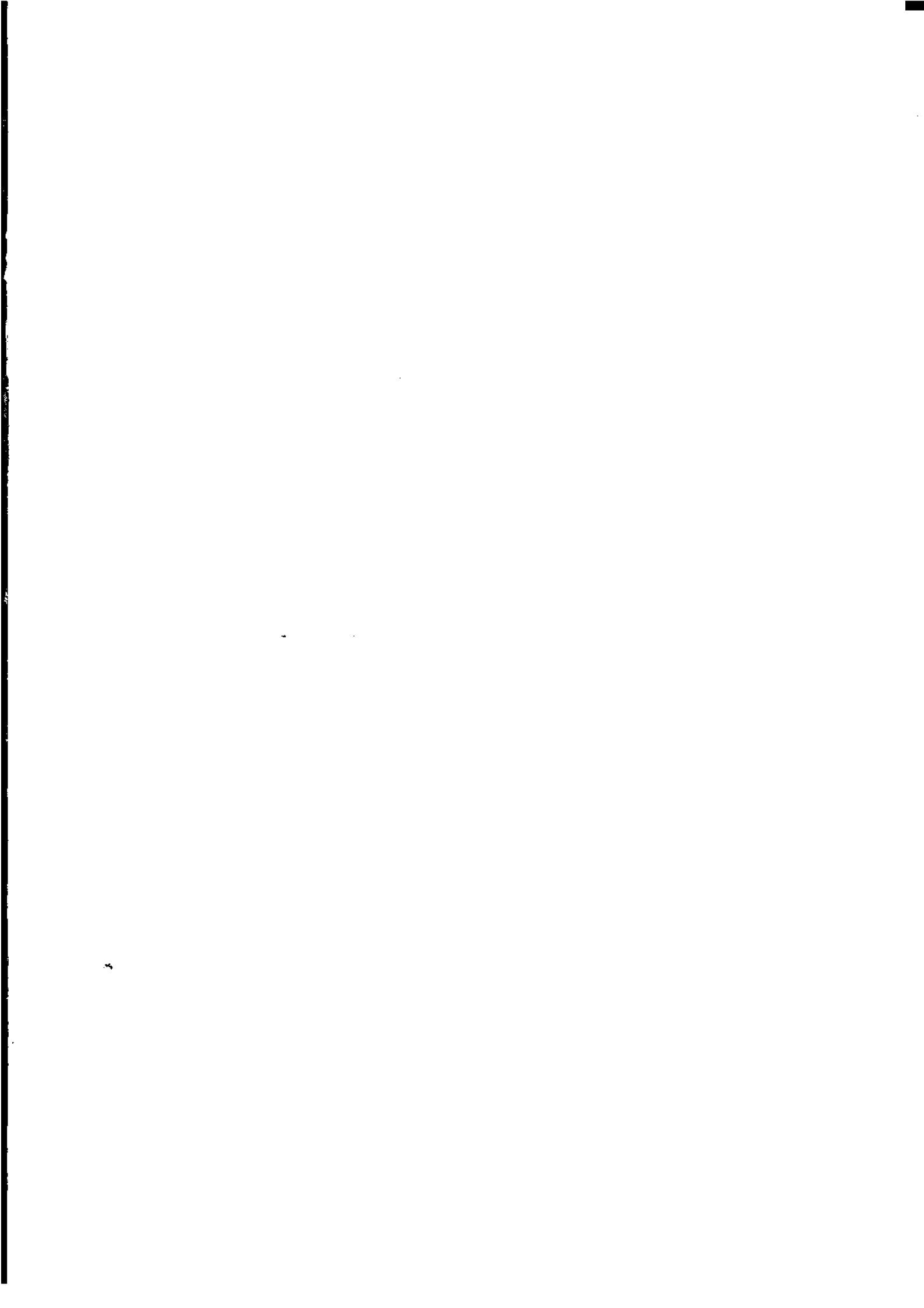
STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES OF HOUSEHOLDS AND PERSONS, NEW SOUTH WALES, APRIL 1996

SIZE OF ESTIMATE <i>Number of households or persons</i>	Standard error	Relative standard error
	Number	%
1 000	730	73.2
1 500	890	59.7
2 000	1 030	51.5
2 500	1 150	45.9
3 000	1 250	41.7
3 500	1 350	38.5
4 000	1 430	35.9
5 000	1 600	31.9
8 000	2 000	24.7
10 000	2 200	21.9
20 000	3 000	14.9
30 000	3 550	11.8
50 000	4 400	8.8
100 000	5 850	5.8
200 000	7 650	3.8
300 000	8 950	3.0
500 000	10 850	2.2
1 000 000	13 900	1.4
2 000 000	17 650	0.9

GLOSSARY

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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.
Neighbourhood (or Rural) Watch	A community-based crime prevention program mainly aimed at preventing break and enter offences.
Offence	Indicates crimes which persons or households reported had been committed against them.
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.
Attempted break and enter offence	An incident where an attempt was made to break into the respondent's home.
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.
Robbery	An incident where someone had stolen something from a respondent by threatening or attacking them.
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 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.
Crime or public nuisance problems	Anything perceived by the respondent to be problems arising from crime or people creating a public nuisance.
Neighbourhood	Respondents were asked about crime problems in their neighbourhood. The precise definition of this term was left to the respondent.



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