

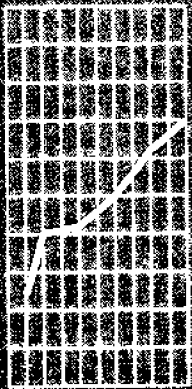


April 1997

EMBARGO: 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) FRI 28 NOV 1997

# Crime and Safety

## New South Wales



## 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.

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### CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

In the 1996 survey additional questions were asked to enable the personal offence category of robbery to be more consistently aligned with the definition contained in the ABS publication *Australian Standard Offence Classification (ASOC)*. (Cat. no. 1234.0). This has enabled a better comparison of the crime and safety survey data with reported police statistics, a problem which has been of concern to users of the survey data in previous years (see Comparisons with Police Statistics, in the Explanatory Notes, page 13 paragraph 10).

In 1997, further refinements were made to the question wording to better align the robbery questions with the standard classification as well as with the questions to be asked in the 1998 National Crime and Safety Survey. The refinements made to the 1997 questions will improve comparability between the 1997 and 1998 survey results while, at the same time, ensuring that the 1997 data remains comparable with the 1996 findings.

As a consequence of this, comparable robbery data, more closely aligned to ASOC definitions, is only available in this publication for the years 1996 and 1997. Minor revisions have also been made to the assault data in the publication as a consequence of the changes to the robbery questions. Additionally, as this change directly affects overall personal victimisation data, total person victims information is also only available for the last 2 years.

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### SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

n.a.	not available
n.p.	not available for publication but included in totals where applicable
r	revised
*	estimate is subject to a relative standard error greater than 25%
..	not applicable

.....

### INQUIRIES

For further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Michael Clarke on Sydney (02) 9268 4498.

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

Gregory W. Bray  
Regional Director  
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# CONTENTS

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Page

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Household crime .....	4
Personal crime .....	4
Multiple victims .....	5
Reporting to police .....	5
Perception of crime/public nuisance .....	5

## TABLES

<b>1</b> Victims and non-victims of crime: type of offence .....	6
<b>2</b> Victims and non-victims of household crime: selected characteristics .....	7
<b>3</b> Victims and non-victims of personal crime: sex by age .....	8
<b>4</b> Victims and non-victims of personal crime: selected characteristics .....	9
<b>5</b> Victims of crime: number of incidents experienced by type of offence .....	9
<b>6</b> Victims of crime: whether told police about last incident by type of offence ...	10
<b>7</b> Persons: perceptions of crime or public nuisance problems in the neighbourhood .....	11

## INFORMATION

Explanatory notes .....	12
Appendix: additional data .....	14
Technical notes .....	15
Standard errors .....	16
Glossary .....	18

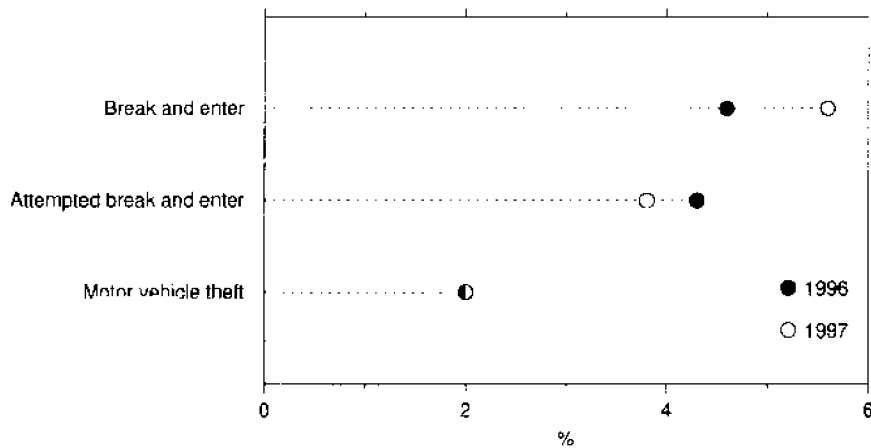
# SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

## HOUSEHOLD CRIME

A total of 236,000 households (10.2% of all households in NSW) were victims of household crime in the 12 months to April 1997. Household victimisation rates in 1997 were similar to the victimisation rates recorded in 1996. The only exception was for break and enter, where the 1997 victimisation rate was 5.6% compared with 4.6% 12 months earlier.

Victimisation rates for Sydney (11.4%) were higher than for the Balance of NSW (8.3%). Of the different types of households, those consisting of one parent families and 'other' households had the highest victimisation rates (14.9% and 14.3% respectively).

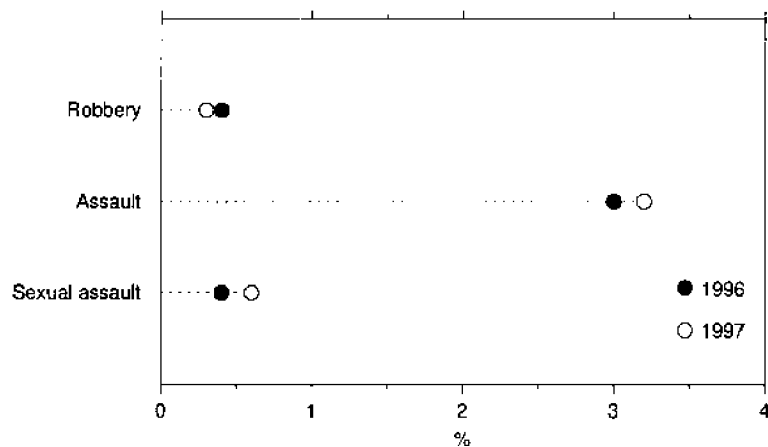
Types of household crime, 1996-97



## PERSONAL CRIME

There were 172,100 residents of NSW who were victims of personal crime in the 12 months to April 1997—a victimisation rate of 3.6%. The victimisation rates for personal crime have remained much the same between 1996 and 1997.

Types of personal crime, 1996-97



## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

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Males were more likely to be victims of crime than females. There were 97,800 male victims (4.2% of all males) and 74,300 female victims (3.1% of all females). Victimization rates for personal crime varied according to age. The highest victimisation rate (6.4%) was amongst 15-24 year olds.

Both unemployed and employed people were more likely to be victims of crime than those who were not in the labour force. The victimisation rate for unemployed people was 5.9% while the rate for employed persons was 4.3%. By comparison, the victimisation rate was 2.2% for those persons not in the labour force.

When comparing Sydney with the Balance of NSW, the 1997 victimisation rates for personal crime were about the same. However, in the past when comparing the two regions, Sydney has tended to have a higher personal victimisation rate. The victimisation rate for the Balance of NSW increased from 2.9% in 1996 to 4.0% in 1997 while Sydney's victimisation rate remained about the same over the two year period.

### MULTIPLE VICTIMS

Of the households that experienced household crime, 29.1% were victims on more than one occasion within the 12 month reference period. Around 40.2% 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 (70.8% reported) than for attempted break and enter (25.5%). Around 96.9% of motor vehicle theft victims reported the last incident to police. For each of the individual household offences the proportions reporting the last incident to the police were similar to 1996.

For robbery, the last incident was reported to police by 53.6% of robbery victims, while the last assault incident was reported by 43.1% of assault victims. Compared with 1996, the rate of reporting assaults to the police has increased while the rate of reporting for robberies has remained much the same.

### PERCEPTION OF CRIME/PUBLIC NUISANCE

The main perceived crime or public nuisance problem was housebreaking/ burglaries/theft from homes, with 22.4% of people identifying this as the main problem. Around 46.8% of people did not think there were any crime or public nuisance problems in their neighbourhood. This is an increase on the 44.7% of people who did not think there were any crime or public nuisance problems in their neighbourhood 12 months earlier.

# 1

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

Type of offence	1997.....		VICTIMISATION RATE(b).....			
	Victims 000	Non- victims '000	1994 %	1995 %	1996 %	1997 %
<b>Households</b>						
Break and enter	130.7	2 191.9	4.5	5.3	4.6	5.6
Attempted break and enter	87.9	2 234.7	3.0	4.1	4.3	3.8
<i>Break and enter or attempted break and enter(c)</i>	198.4	2 124.2	6.7	8.5	8.1	8.5
Motor vehicle theft	45.9	2 276.7	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.0
<i>Total households(c)</i>	236.0	2 086.6	8.5	10.1	9.8	10.2
<b>Persons</b>						
Robbery(d)	12.2	4 708.4	n.a.	n.a.	0.4	0.3
Assault	149.9	4 570.7	2.4	2.7	3.0	3.2
Sexual assault(e)	13.5	2 261.1	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.6
<i>Total persons(c)</i>	172.1	4 548.5	n.a.	n.a.	3.4	3.6

(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) The classification for robbery was redefined in 1996 to more closely approximate the definition contained in the Australian Standard Offence Classification. As a consequence data prior to 1996 is not comparable and is not included in this publication. See paragraph 11 of the Explanatory Notes for more details. Total person victimisation rates have also been affected for this reason.

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

Selected characteristics	1997.....			VICTIMISATION RATE(b) .....	
	Victims '000	Non- victims '000	Total '000	1996 %	1997 %
.....					
<b>Major statistical region</b>					
Sydney	159.6	1 239.1	1 398.7	11.1	11.4
Balance of New South Wales	76.4	847.5	923.9	7.9	8.3
<b>Household type</b>					
Couple with child(ren)	80.8	733.0	813.8	10.1	9.9
Couple only	43.3	536.9	580.2	6.0	7.5
One parent household	32.2	183.1	215.3	14.6	14.9
Person living alone	44.1	418.9	462.9	9.2	9.5
Other households	35.7	214.6	250.4	14.9	14.3
<b>Whether a member of Neighbourhood (or Rural) Watch</b>					
Member	39.6	352.7	392.2	7.6	10.1
Not a member	156.4	1 450.1	1 606.5	9.8	9.7
Don't know	40.0	283.8	323.9	13.4	12.4
<b>Total households</b>	<b>236.0</b>	<b>2 086.6</b>	<b>2 322.6</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>10.2</b>
.....					

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

(b) Proportion of all households.

Age	1997.....			VICTIMISATION RATE(b).....	
	Victims 000	Non- victims 000	Total '000	1996 %	1997 %
MALES					
15-24 years	28.9	404.0	432.9	9.5	6.7
25-34 years	23.8	439.6	463.4	6.3	5.1
35-44 years	23.1	435.5	458.6	3.4	5.0
45-54 years	12.3	385.7	398.0	3.7	3.1
55-64 years	*7.2	252.4	259.6	*1.2	*2.8
65 years or over	*2.5	307.9	310.3	*0.1	*0.8
<b>Total males</b>	<b>97.8</b>	<b>2 225.0</b>	<b>2 322.8</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>4.2</b>
FEMALES					
15-24 years	25.7	396.3	422.0	4.8	6.1
25-34 years	21.0	455.4	476.4	3.9	4.4
35-44 years	13.0	455.6	468.6	1.7	2.8
45-54 years	10.5	378.2	388.6	*1.9	2.7
55-64 years	*2.0	257.9	259.9	*0.7	*0.8
65 years or over	*2.0	380.1	382.2	*0.5	*0.5
<b>Total females</b>	<b>74.3</b>	<b>2 323.5</b>	<b>2 397.7</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>3.1</b>
PERSONS					
15-24 years	54.6	800.3	854.9	7.2	6.4
25-34 years	44.8	895.0	939.9	5.1	4.8
35-44 years	36.1	891.1	927.2	2.5	3.9
45-54 years	22.8	763.8	786.6	2.8	2.9
55-64 years	9.2	510.3	519.5	*1.0	1.8
65 years or over	*4.5	688.0	692.5	*0.3	*0.7
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>172.1</b>	<b>4 548.5</b>	<b>4 720.6</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>3.6</b>

(a) Robbery, assault or sexual assault.

(b) Proportion of all persons.



## 4

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

Selected characteristics	1997.....			VICTIMISATION RATE(b).....	
	Victims	Non victims	Total	1996	1997
	'000	'000	'000	%	%
<b>Major statistical region</b>					
Sydney	100.8	2 846.7	2 947.4	3.8	3.4
Balance of New South Wales	71.3	1 701.8	1 773.1	2.9	4.0
<b>Labour force status</b>					
Employed	121.1	2 677.5	2 798.6	3.9	4.3
Unemployed	13.8	218.2	232.0	8.0	5.9
Not in the labour force	37.2	1 652.8	1 690.0	2.1	2.2
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>172.1</b>	<b>4 548.5</b>	<b>4 720.6</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>3.6</b>

(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	1997.....				1996.....		
	One	Two	Three or more	Total victims	One	Two	Three or more
	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%	%
<b>Households</b>							
Break and enter	98.3	22.3	10.1	130.7	75.3	17.0	7.7
Attempted break and enter	62.4	16.7	8.9	87.9	71.0	18.9	10.1
Break and enter or attempted break and enter(b)	136.5	37.5	24.4	198.4	68.8	18.9	12.3
Motor vehicle theft	41.4	*3.5	*0.9	45.9	90.2	*7.7	*2.1
<b>Total household victims(b)</b>	<b>167.3</b>	<b>41.1</b>	<b>27.6</b>	<b>236.0</b>	<b>70.9</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>11.7</b>
<b>Persons</b>							
Robbery(c)	9.9	n.p.	n.p.	12.2	81.5	n.p.	n.p.
Assault	85.4	28.9	35.6	149.9	57.0	19.3	23.7
Sexual assault(d)	11.3	n.p.	n.p.	13.5	83.6	n.p.	n.p.
<b>Total personal victims(b)</b>	<b>102.9</b>	<b>30.5</b>	<b>38.7</b>	<b>172.1</b>	<b>59.8</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>22.5</b>

(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) The classification for robbery was redefined in 1996 to more closely approximate the definition contained in the Australian Standard Offence Classification. As a consequence data prior to 1996 is not comparable and is not included in this publication. See paragraph 11 of the Explanatory Notes for more details. Total person victimisation rates have also been affected for this reason.

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

Type of offence	1997.....		POLICE TOLD(b).....			
	Police told '000	Police not told '000	1994 %	1995 %	1996 %	1997 %
<b>Household victims</b>						
Break and enter	92.6	38.1	76.0	73.5	77.3	70.8
Attempted break and enter	22.4	65.5	35.2	31.3	24.3	25.5
Motor vehicle theft	44.5	*1.4	94.5	91.4	97.3	96.9
<b>Person victims</b>						
Robbery(c)	*6.5	*5.6	n.a.	n.a.	61.3	*53.6
Assault	64.6	85.3	38.9	30.4	32.2	43.1
Sexual assault(d)	*2.5	11.0	*25.6	n.p.	n.p.	*18.8

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

(b) Proportion of all households/persons.

(c) The classification for robbery was redefined in 1996 to more closely approximate the definition contained in the Australian Standard Offence Classification. As a consequence data prior to 1996 is not comparable and is not included in this publication. See paragraph 11 of the Explanatory Notes for more details.

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

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

	PERCEIVED TO BE A PROBLEM(a).....		PERCEIVED TO BE THE MAIN PROBLEM....	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Proportion(b)</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Proportion(b)</i>
<i>Crime or public nuisance problem:</i>	'000	%	'000	%
<b>Perceived problem(s)</b>				
Housebreaking/burglaries/theft from homes	1 798.7	38.1	1 055.4	22.4
Dangerous/noisy driving	1 387.2	29.4	423.1	9.0
Louts/youth gangs	969.6	20.5	274.0	5.8
Illegal drugs	785.0	16.6	205.4	4.4
Vandalism/graffiti	1 011.3	21.4	157.7	3.3
Car theft	1 032.8	21.9	141.4	3.0
Problems with neighbours/domestic problems	404.2	8.6	83.5	1.8
Other theft	533.3	11.3	61.9	1.3
Prowlers/loiterers	410.9	8.7	35.9	0.8
Other assault	322.4	6.8	22.3	0.5
Sexual assault	217.7	4.6	14.0	0.3
Other	111.6	2.4	35.5	0.8
<b>No perceived problem</b>	2 210.5	46.8	2 210.5	46.8
<i>All persons</i>	4 720.6	..	4 720.6	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

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## INTRODUCTION

**1** This publication contains results from a Crime and Safety survey which was conducted throughout NSW in April 1997 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, 7 April 1997.

**4** Information was sought from approximately 13,380 persons, of whom about 10,440 (78%) responded. Data pertaining to households were sought from approximately 6,490 households, and complete household data was obtained from 5,000 (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;
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia; and
- persons living in sparsely settled areas of the state.

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

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

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### 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.

### CHANGES TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE

**11** Because of the problem of comparing crime and safety survey findings with recorded police statistics particularly in relation to robbery, some additional questions about robbery incidents were included in the 1996 Crime and Safety questionnaire. The questions relating to robbery were further refined in the 1997 survey resulting in robbery data that now closely approximates the definition used in *Australian Standard Offence Classification*, (Cat. no. 1234.0) and is more comparable with robbery data collected from police sources. The definition of robbery for the statistics included in this publication can be found in the Glossary on page 18.

### RELATED PUBLICATIONS

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

- Australian Standard Offence Classification, 1997* (Cat. no. 1234.0)
- Crime and Safety, South Australia, April 1995* (Cat. no. 4509.4)
- Crime and Safety, Victoria, April 1995* (Cat. no. 4509.2)
- Crime and Safety, Queensland, April 1995* (Cat. no. 4509.3)
- Crime and Safety, Western Australia, October 1995* (Cat. no. 4509.5)
- Crime and Safety, Australia, April 1993* (Cat. no. 4509.0)
- Recorded Crime, Australia, 1996* (Cat. no. 4510.0)

## APPENDIX ADDITIONAL DATA

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### 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 1997. 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 last 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,
    - whether the offender was known to the victim, and
    - 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
- Labour force region (NSW only)
- Labour force status

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

# TECHNICAL NOTES

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## 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

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### 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* (SE) (see table on page 17).
- 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 1997

<i>Size of estimate</i>	<i>Standard error</i>	<i>Relative standard error</i>
<i>(number of households or persons)</i>	No.	%
1 000	720	71.8
1 500	880	58.5
2 000	1 010	50.5
2 500	1 120	45.0
3 000	1 230	40.9
3 500	1 320	37.7
4 000	1 410	35.2
5 000	1 550	31.2
8 000	1 950	24.2
10 000	2 150	21.5
20 000	2 900	14.6
30 000	3 500	11.6
50 000	4 300	8.6
100 000	5 750	5.7
200 000	7 500	3.8
300 000	8 800	2.9
500 000	10 600	2.1
1 000 000	13 650	1.4
2 000 000	17 300	0.9

## GLOSSARY

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<b>Household</b>	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.
<b>Neighbourhood (or Rural) Watch</b>	A community-based crime prevention program mainly aimed at preventing break and enter offences.
<b>Offence</b>	Indicates crimes which persons or households reported had been committed against them.
<b>Break and enter offence</b>	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.
<b>Attempted break and enter offence</b>	An incident where an attempt was made to break into the respondent's home.
<b>Motor vehicle theft</b>	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.
<b>Robbery</b>	An incident where someone had stolen something from a respondent by threatening or attacking them. It excludes incidents of attempted robbery where someone attempted to steal something from the victim but nothing was actually stolen. In the Australian Standard Offence Classification attempted robbery is included in the definition of robbery. However in this publication attempts are excluded due to problems with comparability with the 1996 data.
<b>Assault</b>	An incident other than a robbery where the respondent was threatened with force or attacked.
<b>Sexual assault</b>	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.
<b>Victim</b>	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.
<b>Crime or public nuisance problems</b>	Anything perceived by the respondent to be problems arising from crime or people creating a public nuisance.
<b>Neighbourhood</b>	Respondents were asked about crime problems in their neighbourhood. The precise definition of this term was left to the respondent.



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