

**CRIME AND SAFETY, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, APRIL 1995**

**MAIN FEATURES**

**HOUSEHOLD CRIME**

During the 12 months to April 1995, an estimated 49,900 (8.5 per cent) of 584,100 South Australian households were victims of at least one break and enter, attempted break and enter or motor vehicle theft. This was a similar victimisation rate to that recorded in the 12 months to April 1993 (9.7 per cent).

Victimisation rates for households who were members of Neighbourhood (or Rural) Watch were similar to those who were not members (8.4 per cent compared with 7.9 per cent).

Households in the Adelaide Statistical Division had a higher victimisation rate (9.5 per cent) than households located in the balance of South Australia (5.6 per cent).

Victimisation rates for the various types of households ranged from 13.0 per cent for one parent households to 6.7 per cent for couple only households.

**PERSONAL CRIME**

During the 12 months to April 1995, an estimated 47,200 (4.1 per cent) of 1,148,100 South Australians (aged 15 years and over) were victims of at least one robbery, assault or sexual assault. This compared with the 3.8 per cent in the corresponding period for 1993.

The victimisation rate for males was 5.3 per cent (29,900 of 565,300 males aged 15 and over). This was significantly higher than the victimisation rate of 3.0 per cent for females (17,300 of 582,800 females aged 15 years and over). In general, victimisation rates ranged from 8.6 per cent for persons aged 15 to 24 years to 0.7 per cent for persons aged 65 years and over.

Persons who had lived in their current dwelling for less than one year had a victimisation rate of 6.5 per cent, while persons who had lived in their current dwelling for five years or more had a victimisation rate of 3.3 per cent. The victimisation rate tended to decrease as the length of occupancy increased.

Unemployed persons had the highest victimisation rate (8.7 per cent) followed by employed persons (4.7 per cent) and those not in the labour force (2.5 per cent).

Victimisation rates for all persons ranged from 13.0 per cent for persons travelling on public transport after 6 p.m. more than once a week to 3.5 per cent for persons travelling on public transport after 6 p.m. less often than once a month.

Similarly, victimisation rates for all persons ranged from 8.7 per cent for persons attending entertainment places after 6 p.m. more than once a week to 2.4 per cent for persons attending entertainment places after 6 p.m. less often than once a month.

About 564,200 persons (49.1 per cent) felt that their neighbourhood had a crime or public nuisance problem. A significantly higher number of victims of personal crime (68.9 per cent) felt that such problems existed than those who had not been victims of personal crime (48.3 per cent). The crime or public nuisance problem most commonly nominated as the main one was housebreaking/burglaries/ theft from homes (21.6 per cent), followed by vandalism/graffiti (8.1 per cent) and dangerous/noisy driving (7.1 per cent).

**MULTIPLE VICTIMS**

In the 12 months to April 1995, 26.3 per cent of victims of household crime were victims on more than one occasion. A similar proportion (26.7 per cent) of victims of break and enter or attempted break and enter experienced multiple offences. For motor vehicle theft victims, the proportion who were multiple victims was 6.1 per cent.

In the 12 months to April 1995, almost 45 per cent of victims of personal crime were victims on more than one occasion. Just over 35 per cent of robbery victims and just over 47 per cent of assault victims experienced multiple offences.

**REPORTING TO POLICE**

The proportion of victims reporting their most recent incident to the police ranged from 96.8 per cent for motor vehicle theft to 32.7 per cent for attempted break and enter. Over half (54.0 per cent) of the victims of robbery reported the most recent incident to the police, while 38.5 per cent of victims of assault reported their most recent incident to the police.

**INQUIRIES**

- for further information about statistics in this publication, and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Gary Niedorfer on Adelaide (08) 237 7379 or any ABS State Office.
- for information about other ABS statistics and services, please contact Information Services on Adelaide (08) 237 7100, call at 55 Currie Street Adelaide, or write to Information Services, ABS, GPO Box 2272, Adelaide 5001.

**NOTES**

The 1995 South Australia 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. Additional data from Crime and Safety surveys run in South Australia in 1991 and 1993 have been included in some of the following tables. Sexual assaults were not identified separately from assaults and motor vehicle thefts were not measured in the 1991 survey. This affects the comparability with these data. Explanatory and Data Quality Notes for these data can be found on pages 7 to 9.

**PETER GARDNER**  
Deputy Commonwealth Statistician  
and Government Statist

TABLE 1 - VICTIMS AND NON-VICTIMS OF CRIME <sup>(a)</sup> IN THE 12 MONTHS TO APRIL: TYPE OF OFFENCE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Type of offence	1995 (b)		Victimisation rate (c)		
	Victims	Non-victims	1991 (d)	1993	1995
	'000		%		
Households --					
Break and enter	27.0	557.1	6.9	5.0	4.6
Attempted break and enter	23.5	560.6	5.2	3.8	4.0
<i>Break and enter or attempted break and enter</i>	<i>44.8</i>	<i>539.3</i>	<i>10.3</i>	<i>8.1</i>	<i>7.7</i>
Motor vehicle theft (d)	6.6	577.5	n.a.	1.7	1.1
<b>Total households</b>	<b>49.9</b>	<b>534.2</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>8.5</b>
Persons --					
Robbery	12.5	1,135.6	1.4	1.3	1.1
Assault	33.4	1,114.7	2.6	2.5	2.9
Sexual assault (e)	3.9	1,144.1	n.a.	0.8	0.3
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>47.2</b>	<b>1,100.9</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>4.1</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 these columns. (c) Percent of all households/persons. (d) Motor vehicle theft was not measured in the 1991 survey. (e) Sexual assault questions were asked only of females aged 18 years and over but not separately identified in the 1991 survey.

TABLE 2 - VICTIMS AND NON-VICTIMS OF HOUSEHOLD CRIME <sup>(a)</sup> IN THE 12 MONTHS TO APRIL: SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Selected characteristics	1995			Victimisation rate (b)	
	Victims	Non-victims	Total	1993	1995
	'000			%	
Whether a member of Neighbourhood (or Rural) Watch --					
Member	15.4	167.8	183.2	8.5	8.4
Not a member	26.5	309.7	336.3	9.3	7.9
Don't know	8.0	56.6	64.6	16.5	12.4
Major Statistical Region --					
Adelaide	41.6	395.5	437.1	10.9	9.5
Balance of South Australia	8.3	138.7	147.0	6.1	5.6
Household type --					
Couple with child(ren)	15.2	178.7	194.0	9.1	7.9
Couple only	10.2	142.8	153.0	5.9	6.7
One parent household	6.0	40.0	45.9	12.6	13.0
Person living alone	14.0	129.5	143.4	12.5	9.7
Other households	4.6	43.2	47.8	13.3	9.6
<b>Total households</b>	<b>49.9</b>	<b>534.2</b>	<b>584.1</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>8.5</b>

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

TABLE 3 - VICTIMS AND NON-VICTIMS OF PERSONAL CRIME <sup>(a)</sup> IN THE 12 MONTHS TO APRIL: SEX BY AGE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Age	1995			Victimisation rate <sup>(b)</sup>	
	Victims	Non-victims	Total	1993	1995
<b>MALES</b>					
	'000			%	
15 - 24 years	11.4	93.3	104.7	8.0	10.9
25 - 34 years	8.3	104.2	112.6	4.5	7.4
35 - 44 years	4.6	105.8	110.4	4.0	4.2
45 - 54 years	*3.1	87.2	90.2	3.0	*3.4
55 - 64 years	*1.5	61.6	63.1	*0.5	*2.4
65 and over	*1.0	83.3	84.3	*0.4	*1.2
<b>All males</b>	<b>29.9</b>	<b>535.3</b>	<b>565.3</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>5.3</b>
<b>FEMALES</b>					
	'000			%	
15 - 24 years	6.3	94.4	100.7	9.5	6.2
25 - 34 years	4.0	107.4	111.4	4.7	3.6
35 - 44 years	4.6	106.7	111.2	2.9	4.1
45 - 54 years	*1.5	88.0	89.5	*1.5	*1.7
55 - 64 years	*0.7	63.6	64.3	*1.4	*1.1
65 and over	*0.2	105.4	105.7	*0.7	*0.2
<b>All females</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>565.5</b>	<b>582.8</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.0</b>
<b>PERSONS</b>					
	'000			%	
15 - 24 years	17.7	187.7	205.4	8.7	8.6
25 - 34 years	12.3	211.6	223.9	4.6	5.5
35 - 44 years	9.2	212.5	221.7	3.4	4.1
45 - 54 years	4.6	175.2	179.8	2.2	2.5
55 - 64 years	*2.2	125.2	127.3	*1.0	*1.7
65 and over	*1.2	188.7	190.0	*0.6	*0.7
<b>All persons</b>	<b>47.2</b>	<b>1,100.9</b>	<b>1,148.1</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>4.1</b>

(a) Robbery, assault or sexual assault. (b) Percent of all persons.

TABLE 4 - VICTIMS AND NON-VICTIMS OF PERSONAL CRIME <sup>(a)</sup> IN THE 12 MONTHS TO APRIL: SELECTED RISK FACTORS, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Selected risk factors	1995			Victimisation rate <sup>(b)</sup>	
	Victims	Non-victims	Total	1993	1995
	'000			%	
Length of occupancy in dwelling --					
Less than 1 year	10.4	151.1	161.6	7.8	6.5
1 to less than 3 years	10.6	186.5	197.1	3.9	5.4
3 to less than 5 years	4.6	123.4	127.9	3.8	3.6
5 years or more	21.6	637.3	658.9	2.7	3.3
Not stated	-	*2.5	*2.5	-	-
Frequency of travel of public transport after 6 p.m. in the last 12 months --					
More than once a week	6.4	42.7	49.0	12.1	13.0
Once a week	*1.3	22.3	23.6	8.3	*5.7
At least once a month	4.2	42.8	47.0	11.2	9.0
Less often than once a month	35.3	988.6	1,023.9	2.9	3.4
Not stated	-	4.5	4.5	-	-
Frequency of attending entertainment places after 6 p.m. in the last 12 months --					
More than once a week	15.4	162.5	177.9	7.0	8.7
Once a week	11.1	189.2	200.3	5.8	5.5
At least once a month	8.6	269.4	278.0	2.9	3.1
Less often than once a month	11.8	474.6	486.4	2.3	2.4
Not stated	*0.2	5.2	5.4	-	*4.5
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>47.2</b>	<b>1,100.9</b>	<b>1,148.1</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>4.1</b>

(a) Robbery, assault or sexual assault. (b) Percent of all persons.

**TABLE 5 - VICTIMS AND NON-VICTIMS OF PERSONAL CRIME <sup>(a)</sup> IN THE 12 MONTHS TO APRIL: SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS, SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

Selected characteristics	1995			Victimisation rate (b)	
	Victims	Non-victims	Total	1993	1995
	'000			%	
Major Statistical Region --					
Adelaide	34.3	820.3	854.5	4.4	4.0
Balance of South Australia	12.9	280.6	293.5	1.9	4.4
Labour force status --					
Employed	31.1	632.7	663.8	4.0	4.7
Unemployed	5.8	60.8	66.6	10.2	8.7
Not in the labour force	10.3	407.4	417.7	2.2	2.5
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>47.2</b>	<b>1,100.9</b>	<b>1,148.1</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>4.1</b>

(a) Robbery, assault or sexual assault. (b) Percent of all persons.

**TABLE 6 - VICTIMS OF CRIME <sup>(a)</sup> IN THE 12 MONTHS TO APRIL: NUMBER OF INCIDENTS EXPERIENCED BY TYPE OF OFFENCE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 1995**

Type of offence	One	Two	Three or more	Not stated	Total victims	One	Two	Three or more
	'000					%		
Households --								
Break and enter	24.3	*2.3	*0.5	-	27.0	89.9	*8.4	*1.7
Attempted break and enter	17.1	4.9	*1.3	*0.2	23.5	72.7	20.8	*5.5
<i>Break and enter or attempted break and enter (b)</i>	<i>32.6</i>	<i>8.8</i>	<i>*3.2</i>	<i>*0.2</i>	<i>44.8</i>	<i>72.8</i>	<i>19.6</i>	<i>*7.1</i>
Motor vehicle theft	6.1	*0.4	-	-	6.6	93.3	*6.7	-
<b>Total household victims (b)</b>	<b>36.6</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>*0.2</b>	<b>49.9</b>	<b>73.4</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>8.0</b>
Persons --								
Robbery	7.8	*2.7	*1.8	*0.2	12.5	62.6	*21.3	*14.1
Assault	17.1	7.5	8.3	*0.5	33.4	51.3	22.4	24.8
Sexual assault (c)	*2.3	*0.7	*0.5	*0.4	3.9	*59.2	*18.8	*12.0
<b>Total personal victims (b)</b>	<b>24.9</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>*1.1</b>	<b>47.2</b>	<b>52.8</b>	<b>22.1</b>	<b>22.8</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 these columns. (c) Sexual assault questions were asked only of females aged 18 years and over.

**TABLE 7 - VICTIMS OF CRIME <sup>(a)</sup> IN THE 12 MONTHS TO APRIL: TOLD POLICE ABOUT LAST INCIDENT BY TYPE OF OFFENCE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

Type of offence	1995		Police told (b)		
	Police told	Police not told	1991	1993	1995
	'000		%		
Households --					
Break and enter	22.0	5.0	79.3	81.2	81.5
Attempted break and enter	7.7	15.6	34.9	32.2	32.7
Motor vehicle theft (c)	6.3	-	n.a.	89.6	96.8
Persons --					
Robbery	6.7	5.5	66.0	66.8	54.0
Assault	12.9	20.3	31.2	31.5	38.5
Sexual assault (d)	*1.0	*2.5	n.a.	-	*25.6

(a) Refers to households or persons who were victims of any of the types of offence specified. (b) Percent of all households/persons. (c) Motor vehicle theft was not separately identified in the 1991 survey. (d) Sexual assault questions were asked only of females aged 18 years and over but not separately identified in the 1991 survey.

**TABLE 8 - VICTIMS AND NON-VICTIMS OF PERSONAL CRIME <sup>(a)</sup> IN THE 12 MONTHS TO APRIL: PERCEPTIONS OF CRIME OR PUBLIC NUISANCE PROBLEMS IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 1995**

<i>Crime or public nuisance problem</i>	<i>Perceived to be a problem</i>				<i>Perceived to be the main problem</i>			
	<i>Victims (b)</i>		<i>Non-victims(b)</i>		<i>Victims</i>		<i>Non-victims</i>	
	<i>'000</i>	<i>% (c)</i>	<i>'000</i>	<i>% (c)</i>	<i>'000</i>	<i>% (c)</i>	<i>'000</i>	<i>% (c)</i>
Housebreaking/burglaries/theft from homes	23.2	49.1	379.9	34.5	10.8	22.8	237.5	21.6
Car theft	11.4	24.2	160.9	14.6	*0.2	*0.5	15.0	1.4
Other theft	7.5	15.8	84.9	7.7	*0.9	*1.8	11.4	1.0
Louts/youth gangs	14.9	31.6	138.4	12.6	3.6	7.7	31.1	2.8
Prowlers/loiterers	8.2	17.3	83.3	7.6	*0.8	*1.8	11.8	1.1
Vandalism/graffiti	19.9	42.2	293.8	26.7	4.7	9.9	88.8	8.1
Dangerous/noisy driving	19.0	40.1	271.8	24.7	4.7	10.0	77.1	7.0
Illegal drugs	10.4	22.0	78.7	7.1	*2.7	*5.8	13.5	1.2
Sexual assault	3.5	7.5	18.1	1.6	*0.5	*1.0	*1.3	*0.1
Other assault	5.5	11.7	29.2	2.7	*0.7	*1.5	*0.4	*0.0
Problems with neighbours/domestic problems	6.2	13.1	67.4	6.1	*0.6	*1.3	15.8	1.4
Other problems	*1.1	*2.3	18.9	1.7	*0.9	*2.0	6.7	0.6
<i>Total with at least one perceived problem</i>	<i>32.6</i>	<i>68.9</i>	<i>531.7</i>	<i>48.3</i>	<i>32.6</i>	<i>68.9</i>	<i>531.7</i>	<i>48.3</i>
No perceived problem	14.2	30.1	558.9	50.8	14.2	30.1	558.9	50.8
No main problem/not stated	*0.5	*1.0	10.3	0.9	*1.9	*4.0	31.6	2.9
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>47.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,100.9</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>47.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,100.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Robbery, assault or sexual assault. (b) Because an individual person could be a victim of two or more types of offence, figures given for nuisance/problem types do not sum to the totals in these columns. (c) Of all persons.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### Introduction

This publication summarises the results of a survey of crime and safety. It was conducted throughout South Australia during April 1995 as a supplement to the Australia-wide Monthly Population Survey (MPS) (which is described in *The Labour Force, Australia (6103.0)*). The supplementary survey was carried out at the request of the South Australian Office of Crime Statistics.

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

### Survey methodology

3. The survey was conducted using a multi-stage area sample of 3,378 private dwellings. The MPS was conducted during the two weeks commencing Monday, 10 April 1995. The sample covers about 0.6 per cent of households in South Australia.

4. Information was sought from approximately 6,670 persons, of whom 5,381 (80.6%) responded. Data pertaining to households were sought from 3,378 households and 2,754 (81.5%) replied.

### 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 change 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 household as a whole.

9. 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

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.

### Definitions

11. A *household* is defined as a group of people who live together (in a single dwelling) as a single unit in the sense that they have common housekeeping arrangements; some common provision for food and other essentials of living. 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 household to be separate.

12. *Neighbourhood (or Rural) Watch* is a community-based crime prevention program mainly aimed at preventing break and enter offences.

13. The term *offence* indicates crimes which persons or households reported had been committed against them.

14. A *break and enter offence* was recorded when the person responding for the household indicated that their home had been broken into in the last 12 months. 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.

15. An *attempted break and enter offence* was recorded if the respondent indicated that an attempt was made to break into the respondents home.

16. A *motor vehicle theft* was recorded 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.

17. A *robbery* was recorded when a person indicated that someone had stolen something from them in the last 12 months by threatening or attacking them.

18. An *assault* was recorded for any incident in the last 12 months, other than robbery, when the respondent was threatened with force or attacked.

19. A *sexual assault* was recorded for any 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.

20. A *victim* is a person or a household reporting at least one of the offences listed above. Victims are counted once only for each type of offence, regardless of the number of incidents of that type.

21. *Crime or public nuisance problems* were any issues perceived by the respondent to be problems arising from crime or people creating a public nuisance.

22. Respondents were asked about crime problems in their *neighbourhood*. The precise definition of neighbourhood was left to the respondent.

23. A *dwelling* is 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.

#### Related publications

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

*Crime and Safety, New South Wales, April 1995* (4509.1)

*Crime and Safety, Victoria, April 1995* (4509.2)

*Crime and Safety, Queensland, April 1995* (4509.3)

*Crime and Safety, New South Wales, April 1994* (4509.1)

*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 and Safety, Western Australia, April 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)

#### Unpublished data

25. In some cases the ABS can make available information from this survey which is not published. This may include data relating to reasons why offences were not reported to the police and items stolen in break and enter offences. In general, a charge is made for providing unpublished information. For further information please contact Sharon Wibrow on (08) 237 7317.

#### Symbols and other usages

- n.a. not available
- .. not applicable
- \* use estimate with caution, relative standard error 25% or higher. Refer to Data Quality on page 9.
- nil occurrences or rounded to zero

26. Figures have been rounded and discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals shown. Published proportions are calculated prior to rounding of figures and therefore some discrepancies may exist between published proportions and those that could be calculated from the rounded figures.



## DATA QUALITY

### Reliability of the estimates

The estimates provided in this publication may be subject to two types of error.

#### Non-sampling error

2. Inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by respondents, and errors made in coding and processing the data. These errors can occur whether the estimates are derived from a sample or a complete enumeration. Every effort is made to reduce non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and effective operating procedures.

#### Sampling error

3. Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from occupants from a sample of dwellings they are subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of dwellings was included. There are about two chances in three that the sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

4. A standard error expressed as a percentage of the estimate is known as the 'relative standard error'. For example, if an estimate of 2,000 persons has a standard error of 660 then the estimate has a relative standard error of  $660/2,000 \times 100 = 33.0$  per cent.

### Standard errors of estimates

5. The table below gives standard errors for general application to estimates of numbers of persons and households.

These figures will not give a precise measure of the standard error of a particular estimate, but they will provide an indication of its magnitude.

6. The size of the standard error increases with the level of the estimate, so that the larger the estimate the larger is the standard error. However, it should be noted that the larger the sampling estimate, the smaller will be the standard error in percentage terms. Thus, larger sample estimates will be relatively more reliable than small estimates.

7. Very small estimates are subject to such high standard errors (relative to the size of the estimate) as to detract seriously from their value for most reasonable uses. Only estimates with relative standard errors less than 25 per cent are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes. Estimates less than 3,310 have a relative standard error greater than 25 per cent and have been indicated with the symbol \*.

8. An example of the calculation and use of standard errors is as follows:

9. From Table 1, an estimated 33,400 persons were victims of assault. An estimate of 33,400 has a standard error of between 2,150 and 2,400 persons. By interpolation it can be seen that the estimate has a standard error of about 2,235.

10. There are about two chances in three (66.7 per cent) that the number that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey lies in the range 31,165 to 35,635. There are about nineteen chances in twenty (95 per cent) that the number lies between 28,930 and 37,870.

11. Percentages formed from the ratio of two estimates of the same type (such as proportions) are also subject to sampling error. The size of the error depends on the accuracy of both the numerator (x) and the denominator (y). The formula for the relative standard error (RSE) of a percentage is given below.

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

STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES OF PERSONS AND HOUSEHOLDS,  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA, APRIL 1995

Size of estimate (households or persons)	Standard error of estimate (number)	Relative standard error (per cent)
500	340	67.3
1,000	470	47.2
2,000	660	32.8
3,000	790	26.4
4,000	900	22.5
5,000	1,000	19.9
6,000	1,100	18.0
8,000	1,250	15.3
10,000	1,350	13.5
20,000	1,800	9.0
30,000	2,150	7.1
40,000	2,400	6.0
50,000	2,600	5.2
100,000	3,450	3.4
200,000	4,450	2.2
300,000	5,100	1.7
400,000	5,700	1.4
500,000	6,100	1.2
1,000,000	7,700	0.8
2,000,000	9,700	0.5

**CRIME AND SAFETY SURVEY, SOUTH AUSTRALIA  
APRIL 1995**

**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 1995. 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
- Whether own or rent dwelling
- Perceptions of crime or public nuisance problems in the neighbourhood
- Whether a member of Neighbourhood (or Rural) Watch
- Victimization risk factors:
  - frequency of using public transport in the evening
  - frequency of attending evening entertainment
  - types of entertainment places attended
- Types of offences:
  - break and enter
  - attempted break and enter
  - motor vehicle theft
  - robbery
  - assault
  - sexual assault
- For all offences:
  - number of incidences in last 12 months
  - number of incidences reported to police
  - main reason for not reporting last incident to police
- In addition:
  - For break and enter, description of the items stolen
  - For motor vehicle theft:
    - location of last 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 if so what type of weapon was used
    - whether offender was known to the victim
  - 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  
Sharon Wibrow on (08) 237 7317.**





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0055 86 400

(Steadycom P/L: premium rate 25c/21.4 secs.)

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

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