



CRIME AND SAFETY

NEW
SOUTH
WALES

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- For more information about these and related statistics, contact John Stamolis on Sydney 02 9268 4660, or Client Services in any ABS office as shown on the back cover of this publication.

NOTES

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

The NSW Crime and Safety Survey covers only selected types of household and personal crimes. Household crimes include break and enter, attempted break and enter and motor vehicle theft. Personal crimes include robbery, assault and sexual assault.

The terms used to describe the various types of offences in this publication may not necessarily correspond with legal or police definitions. Victims are counted once only for each type of offence, regardless of the number of incidents occurring.

CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

For the 1999 survey, questions were asked to enable the personal offence category of robbery to align with the National Crime and Safety Survey conducted in 1998. This change has caused a break in the time series for robbery estimates between 1997 and 1999. Therefore, estimates for robbery and consequently overall person victimisation estimates are only published for 1999.

Comparison with results from the 1998 National Crime and Safety Survey for offences other than robbery is not recommended. Differences in question wording and processing procedures mean that survey estimates are not directly comparable. Where applicable, estimates from 1995, 1996 and 1997 are used for comparison. A NSW Crime and Safety Survey was not conducted in 1998.

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
NSW	New South Wales
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
MPS	Monthly Population Survey

Gregory W. Bray
Regional Director
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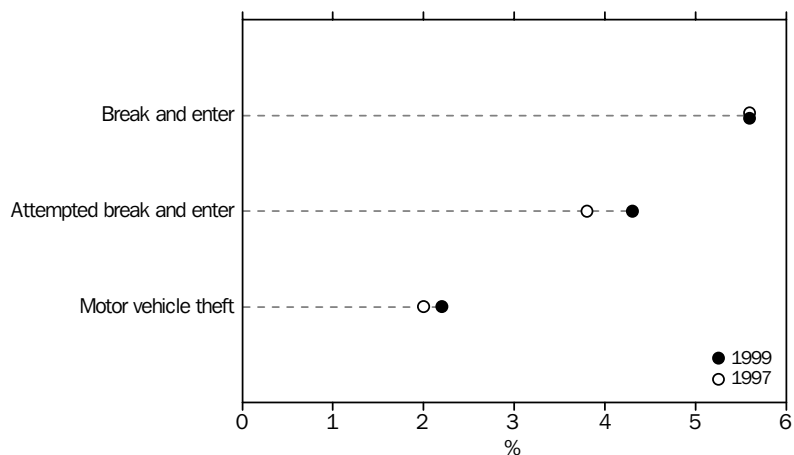
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

HOUSEHOLD CRIME

A total of 254,700 households (10.7% of all households in NSW) were victims of household crime in the 12 months to April 1999. Household victimisation rates in 1999 for break and enter, attempted break and enter and motor vehicle theft were similar to rates recorded in 1997.

Victimisation rates for Sydney (12.1%) were higher than for the Balance of NSW (8.4%). Of the different types of households, one parent households had the highest victimisation rate (15.4%).

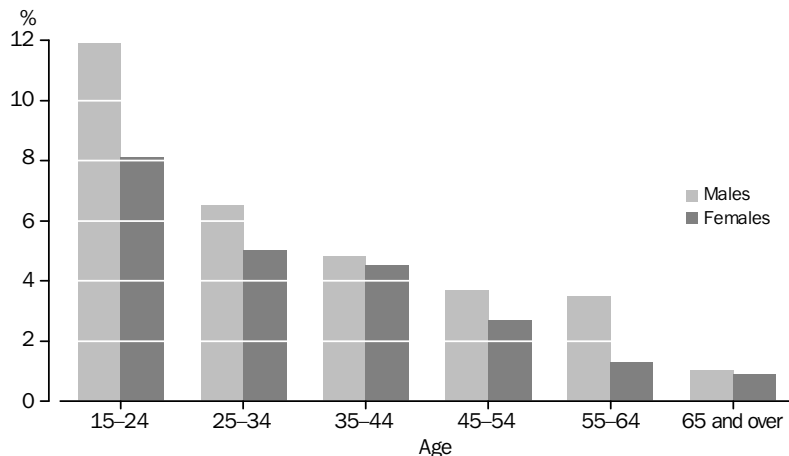
VICTIMISATION RATES FOR HOUSEHOLD CRIME—1997 and 1999



PERSONAL CRIME

There were 236,300 residents of NSW who were victims of personal crime in the 12 months to April 1999, a victimisation rate of 4.7%. Males were more likely to be victims of crime than females. There were 136,400 male victims, a victimisation rate of 5.6% and 99,900 female victims, a victimisation rate of 4.0%. Victimisation rates for personal crime varied according to age. The highest victimisation rate across all persons was amongst 15–24 year olds (10.1%).

VICTIMS OF PERSONAL CRIME(a), By Age and Sex—1999



(a) Robbery, assault or sexual assault.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

PERSONAL CRIME *continued*

Persons in the labour force (employed and unemployed) were more likely to be victims of crime than those who were not in the labour force. The victimisation rate for unemployed persons was 11.0% while the rate for employed persons was 5.5%. By comparison, the victimisation rate for those persons not in the labour force was 2.8%.

When comparing Sydney with the Balance of NSW, the 1999 victimisation rates for personal crime were similar. Sydney had a victimisation rate of 5.0%, while the victimisation rate for the Balance of NSW was 4.3%.

MULTIPLE VICTIMS

Of those households which experienced household crime, 29.4% were victims on more than one occasion within the 12 month reference period. Of those persons who were victims of personal crime, 45.9% 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 (73.7%) than for attempted break and enter (32.3%). An estimated 95.1% 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 1997.

For robbery, the last incident was reported to police by 51.9% of robbery victims, while the last assault incident was reported by 34.1% of assault victims. Compared with 1997, the rate of reporting assaults to the police has decreased (43.1% in 1997 compared to 34.1% in 1999). Of those who were victims of assault, 46% knew the offender in the last incident.

PERCEPTION OF CRIME/PUBLIC NUISANCE

The main perceived crime or public nuisance problem was housebreaking/ burglaries/theft from homes, with 20.2% of people identifying this as the main problem. An estimated 47.1% of people did not think there were any crime or public nuisance problems in their neighbourhood. This is similar to the 46.8% of people who did not perceive any crime or public nuisance problems in their neighbourhood in 1997.

1

VICTIMS AND NON-VICTIMS OF CRIME, Type of Offence

Type of offence	1999.....		VICTIMISATION RATE(a).....			
	Victims '000	Non- victims '000	1995 %	1996 %	1997 %	1999 %
Households						
Break and enter	132.7	2 252.7	5.3	4.6	5.6	5.6
Attempted break and enter	103.4	2 282.0	4.1	4.3	3.8	4.3
<i>Break and enter or attempted break and enter(b)</i>	209.8	2 175.6	8.5	8.1	8.5	8.8
Motor vehicle theft	52.3	2 333.1	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.2
<i>Total households(b)</i>	254.7	2 130.7	10.1	9.8	10.2	10.7
Persons						
Robbery(c)	59.0	4 921.1	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1.2
Assault	182.3	4 797.7	2.7	3.0	3.2	3.7
Sexual assault(d)	16.0	2 374.2	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.7
<i>Total persons(b)</i>	236.3	4 743.7	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	4.7

(a) Proportion of all households/persons.

(b) Figures for individual offence types do not sum to totals, as a household or person could be a victim of more than one type of offence.

(c) Robbery, and consequently total person victimisation rates prior to 1999 are not comparable with data in this publication. (See paragraph 11 of the Explanatory Notes.)

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

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

Selected characteristics	1999.....			VICTIMISATION RATE(b)	
	Victims '000	Non- victims '000	Total '000	1997 %	1999 %
.....					
Major statistical region					
Sydney	177.4	1 284.7	1 462.1	11.4	12.1
Balance of New South Wales	77.3	846.0	923.3	8.3	8.4
Total households	254.7	2 130.7	2 385.4	10.2	10.7
Household type					
Couple with child(ren)	89.5	720.3	809.8	9.9	11.0
Couple only	45.1	525.8	570.8	7.5	7.9
One parent household	33.2	181.6	214.7	14.9	15.4
Person living alone	58.9	494.8	553.7	9.5	10.6
Other households	28.1	208.2	236.3	14.3	11.9
Total households	254.7	2 130.7	2 385.4	10.2	10.7
.....					

(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 (years)	1999.....			VICTIMISATION RATE(b).....
	Victims '000	Non- victims '000	Total '000	1999 %
MALES				
15-24	52.8	389.9	442.7	11.9
25-34	31.0	445.7	476.7	6.5
35-44	23.7	465.4	489.1	4.8
45-54	15.7	407.4	423.1	3.7
55-64	9.8	274.2	284.0	3.5
65 or over	*3.5	336.9	340.4	*1.0
Total males	136.4	2 319.6	2 456.0	5.6
FEMALES				
15-24	34.6	392.1	426.7	8.1
25-34	24.4	460.4	484.8	5.0
35-44	22.0	469.9	491.8	4.5
45-54	11.4	404.4	415.8	2.7
55-64	*3.6	278.6	282.2	*1.3
65 or over	*3.9	418.8	422.7	*0.9
Total females	99.9	2 424.1	2 524.1	4.0
PERSONS				
15-24	87.5	781.9	869.4	10.1
25-34	55.4	906.1	961.5	5.8
35-44	45.6	935.3	980.9	4.7
45-54	27.1	811.9	838.9	3.2
55-64	13.4	552.9	566.2	2.4
65 or over	*7.4	755.6	763.1	*1.0
Total persons	236.3	4 743.7	4 980.1	4.7

(a) Robbery, assault or sexual assault.

(b) Proportion of all persons.

4

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

Selected characteristics	1999.....			VICTIMISATION RATE(b).....
	Victims '000	Non- victims '000	Total '000	1999 %
Major statistical region				
Sydney	158.7	3 014.4	3 173.1	5.0
Balance of New South Wales	77.7	1 729.3	1 807.0	4.3
Total persons	236.3	4 743.7	4 980.1	4.7
Labour force status				
Employed	163.4	2 819.8	2 983.2	5.5
Unemployed	22.2	180.5	202.8	11.0
Not in the labour force	50.7	1 743.4	1 794.1	2.8
Total persons	236.3	4 743.7	4 980.1	4.7

(a) Robbery, assault or sexual assault.

(b) Proportion of all persons.

5

VICTIMS OF CRIME, Number of Incidents Experienced by Type of Offence

Type of offence	One	Two	Three or more	Total victims	One	Two	Three or more
	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%	%
Households							
Break and enter	106.7	22.0	*4.0	132.7	80.4	16.6	*3.0
Attempted break and enter	70.7	23.1	9.6	103.4	68.3	22.4	9.3
Break and enter or attempted break and enter(a)	143.2	45.5	21.2	209.8	68.2	21.7	10.1
Motor vehicle theft	47.8	n.p.	n.p.	52.3	91.4	n.p.	n.p.
Total household victims(a)	179.9	51.2	23.7	254.7	70.6	20.1	9.3
Persons							
Robbery	35.1	13.5	10.4	59.0	59.5	22.9	17.6
Assault	97.6	32.0	52.8	182.3	53.5	17.5	28.9
Sexual assault(b)	12.4	n.p.	n.p.	16.0	78.0	n.p.	n.p.
Total person victims(a)	127.8	40.8	67.7	236.3	54.1	17.3	28.6

(a) Figures for individual offence types do not sum to totals, as a household or person could be a victim of more than one type of offence.

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

6

VICTIMS OF CRIME, Whether Police Told About Last Incident by Type of Offence

Type of offence	1999.....		POLICE TOLD(a).....			
	Police told '000	Police not told '000	1995 %	1996 %	1997 %	1999 %
Household victims						
Break and enter	97.9	34.8	73.5	77.3	70.8	73.7
Attempted break and enter	33.4	70.0	31.3	24.3	25.5	32.3
Motor vehicle theft	49.7	*2.6	91.4	97.3	96.9	95.1
Person victims						
Robbery(b)	30.6	28.4	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	51.9
Assault	62.1	120.2	30.4	r32.2	43.1	34.1
Sexual assault(c)	*2.0	13.9	n.p.	n.p.	*18.8	*12.6

(a) Proportion of all households/persons.

(b) Robbery, and consequently total person victimisation rates prior to 1999 are not comparable with data in this publication. (See paragraph 11 of the Explanatory Notes.)

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

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VICTIMS OF ASSAULT, Whether Offender Known in Last Incident

Whether offender known	'000	%
Offender known		
Family member(a)	17.6	9.7
Friend(b)	12.8	7.0
Work/study colleague	11.8	6.5
Acquaintance	25.7	14.1
Neighbour	12.7	7.0
Other	*4.3	*2.4
Total offender known(c)	83.9	46.0
Offender not known	98.5	54.0
Total assault victims	182.3	100.0

(a) Includes ex-partner.

(b) Includes (ex)girlfriend/(ex)boyfriend.

(c) Figures for individual categories do not sum to totals in this row, as an individual could be assaulted by more than one person in the last assault.

<i>Crime or public nuisance problem</i>	PERCEIVED TO BE A PROBLEM(a).....		PERCEIVED TO BE THE MAIN PROBLEM.....	
	'000	%	'000	%
Perceived problem(s)				
Housebreaking/burglaries/theft from homes	1 808.7	36.3	1 005.6	20.2
Dangerous/noisy driving	1 400.6	28.1	344.7	6.9
Louts/youth gangs	1 058.1	21.2	300.2	6.0
Illegal drugs	919.1	18.5	259.7	5.2
Vandalism/graffiti /damage to property	1 255.5	25.2	243.6	4.9
Car theft	1 146.0	23.0	152.0	3.1
Drunkenness	752.8	15.1	109.1	2.2
Problems with neighbours/domestic problems	381.6	7.7	57.9	1.2
Other theft	645.4	13.0	54.7	1.1
Prowlers/loiterers	445.4	8.9	44.5	0.9
Other assault	304.7	6.1	16.1	0.3
Sexual assault	184.9	3.7	*8.5	*0.2
Other	92.0	1.8	36.3	0.7
No perceived problem	2 347.1	47.1	2 347.1	47.1
All persons	4 980.1	. .	4 980.1	100.0

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

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 This publication contains results from the NSW Crime and Safety survey which was conducted throughout NSW in April 1999 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 and individuals' perception of crime problems in their neighbourhood.

3 The MPS was conducted during the two weeks commencing Monday, 12 April 1999.

4 Information was sought from approximately 12,650 persons, of whom about 9,635 (76%) responded. Approximately 6,110 households were surveyed from which complete household data was obtained from 4,647 (76%) of these.

5 Examination of successive waves of responses did not indicate any significant non-response bias. Estimation and imputation procedures were employed to reduce the effect of non-response.

SCOPE

6 The survey was conducted for all persons aged 15 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;
- persons living in sparsely settled areas of the state; and
- private dwellings containing visitors only.

7 Residents of other non-private dwellings such as hospitals, motels and prisons were excluded from this survey.

COVERAGE

8 Coverage rules were applied 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 ABS 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. Each household received:

- one questionnaire containing questions relating to the household as a whole;
- a questionnaire for each person aged 15 or over relating to their personal experiences of crime;
- a questionnaire for each female aged 18 or over relating to their personal experiences of sexual assault only.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

COMPARISONS WITH POLICE STATISTICS

10 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 Additional questions about robbery incidents were included in the 1999 NSW Crime and Safety questionnaire. This has made it possible to collect robbery data that aligns with data collected from the 1998 National Crime and Safety Survey. This change has caused a break in the time series for robbery estimates between the NSW Crime and Safety conducted in 1997 and the 1999 survey. The definition of robbery for the statistics included in this publication can be found in the Glossary. Comparison with results from the 1998 National Crime and Safety Survey for other offences is not recommended. Differences in question wording and processing procedures mean that survey estimates are not directly comparable.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

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

Australian Standard Offence Classification, 1997 (Cat. no. 1234.0)
Crime and Safety Australia, April 1998 (Cat. no. 4509.0)
Crime and Safety New South Wales, April 1997 (Cat. no. 4509.1)
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)
Recorded Crime, Australia, 1998 (Cat. no. 4510.0)

APPENDIX—ADDITIONAL DATA

ADDITIONAL DATA AVAILABLE

The NSW Crime and Safety Survey provides information on the incidence of selected categories of crime and crime reporting behaviour, for persons aged 15 and over for the 12 months to April 1999. In addition, females aged 18 and over were asked to provide information on personal experiences of sexual assault.

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

Information collected in the survey includes:

- Types of offences:
 - ◆ For break and enter, attempted break and enter, motor vehicle theft, robbery, assault and sexual assault:
 - whether an incident occurred in the last 12 months,
 - number of incidents in the last 12 months,
 - number of incidents reported to the police,
 - whether the last incident was reported to police, and
 - the main reason why the last incident was not reported to the police.
 - ◆ For break and enter and attempted break and enter:
 - where the most recent incident occurred.
 - ◆ For break and enter:
 - what the offender did in the last incident.
 - ◆ For robbery, assault and sexual assault:
 - location of the last incident,
 - whether a weapon was used,
 - occurrence of physical injury,
 - how many offenders there were,
 - whether the offender(s) were known to the victim and
 - how the offender(s) were known to the victim
 - ◆ For robbery:
 - what happened in the last incident,
 - whether anything was stolen in the last incident,
 - what was stolen in the last incident.
- Perceived crime or public nuisance problems

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

To discuss your data requirements or for further information regarding this survey please contact John Stamolis on Sydney 02 9268 4660.

TECHNICAL NOTES

ESTIMATION PROCEDURE

1 For this survey, the effects of non-response were investigated by analysing the demographic composition of the Monthly Population Survey sample and response patterns after reminder action. This information was used to determine the appropriate adjustment procedure for non-response.

2 Estimates derived from this survey were obtained using a post-stratification procedure. This procedure ensured that the survey estimates for persons conformed to independent estimates of the population by age, sex, and part of state. A similar procedure also ensured that household estimates conformed to independent estimates of households by number of adults, number of children in the household and part of state.

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. 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. The extent of these errors could vary considerably from survey to survey and from question to question. 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 obtained from a sample, rather than 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* (see 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 households/persons had been included in the survey. There are about nineteen chances in twenty (95%) that the estimate will lie within than two standard errors.
- 3** Linear interpolation is 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. 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 measure of the error 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. Estimates and percentages with relative standard errors between 25% and 50% 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 OF ESTIMATES
OF HOUSEHOLDS AND PERSONS,
APRIL 1999

<i>Size of estimate</i>	<i>Standard error</i>	<i>Relative standard error</i>
<i>(number of households or persons)</i>	No.	%
1 000	758	75.9
1 500	936	62.4
2 000	1 084	54.2
2 500	1 212	48.5
3 000	1 327	44.3
3 500	1 432	40.9
4 000	1 528	38.2
5 000	1 701	34.0
8 000	2 124	26.6
10 000	2 354	23.5
20 000	3 212	16.1
30 000	3 828	12.8
50 000	4 741	9.5
100 000	6 261	6.3
200 000	8 153	4.1
300 000	9 453	3.2
500 000	11 312	2.3
1 000 000	14 258	1.4
2 000 000	17 721	0.9

GLOSSARY

Household	A group of persons of a private 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.
Offence	Indicates crimes which persons or households reported as having been committed against them.
Break and enter	An incident where the respondent's home had been broken into. The respondent's home was also defined to include their garage or shed. Break and enter offences relating to their car or garden were excluded.
Attempted break and enter	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 includes 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 anything from a respondent by threatening or attacking them. It includes incidents of attempted robbery where someone attempted to steal something from the victim but nothing was actually stolen.
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 and over were asked sexual assault questions.
Victim	A household or person reporting at least one of the offences surveyed. Victims were counted once only for each type of offence, regardless of the number of incidents of that type.
Victimisation rate	The number of victims of an offence in a given population expressed as a percentage of that population.
Crime or public nuisance problems	Anything perceived by the respondent to be a problem arising from crime or people creating a public nuisance.
Neighbourhood	Respondents were asked about crime problems in their neighbourhood. The perception of this term was left to the respondent.

SELF-HELP ACCESS TO STATISTICS

- CPI INFOLINE* For current and historical Consumer Price Index data, call 1902 981 074 (call cost 75c per minute).
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	Brisbane	07 3222 6351	07 3222 6283
	Perth	08 9360 5140	08 9360 5955
	Adelaide	08 8237 7400	08 8237 7566
	Hobart	03 6222 5800	03 6222 5995
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