



CRIME AND SAFETY

AUSTRALIA

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- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Carol Soloff on Melbourne 03 9615 7384, or Client Services in any ABS office as shown on the back cover of this publication.

NOTES

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This publication presents the results of the fourth national Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) household survey of crime and safety, which was conducted in April 1998. It forms part of the commitment by the ABS to present a comprehensive overview of crime and the criminal justice system in Australia.

ABOUT THE SURVEY

The purpose of the Crime and Safety Survey is to provide a picture of the way that crime affects the Australian community. The survey focuses on those categories of more serious crime that affect the largest number of people: household break-in, motor vehicle theft, assault (including sexual assault) and robbery. It measures the extent of crime in our community, including the number of persons and households victimised and the number of crimes reported to police. It also provides information on the socio-economic profile of victims and non-victims, and the characteristics of offences.

The Crime and Safety Survey represents an important tool for helping agencies involved in law enforcement, crime prevention and victim services to better understand the nature of crime in Australia. Estimates from the survey, which complement the information on the number of incidents becoming known to or detected by police, will enable those involved in criminal justice administration to formulate policies and strategies based on the overall incidence of crime. Further information about crimes recorded by police can be found in *Recorded Crime, Australia* (Cat. no. 4510.0).

Additional data from the Crime and Safety Survey will be made available through standard tabulations, special tabulations, and the statistical consultancy service. See paragraphs 50–51 on page 85 for further information.

In conjunction with data collected from previous surveys, the information from this survey can be used to assess changes in the level of crime and crime reporting behaviour, providing account is taken of changes to survey methodology.

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

See page 87 for explanations of the symbols used.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The ABS acknowledges the valuable contribution of the National Crime Statistics Advisory Group in the development of the survey and the New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research in the development of the logistic regression models. The ABS looks forward to continuing to improve its contribution to informed discussion and decision making with respect to crime and the criminal justice system in Australia.

T.J. Skinner
Acting Australian Statistician

MAIN FEATURES

INTRODUCTION

The 1998 Crime and Safety Survey was conducted principally to obtain information on the level of victimisation in the community for selected offences. Information was collected from individuals and households about their experience of selected crimes, whether these crimes were reported to police and crime-related risk factors. The characteristics of offences that are included in this publication refer to the most recent incident experienced by the victim.

For household crimes, information was collected on households that had experienced a break-in to their dwelling, that had found signs of an attempted break-in, and that had any motor vehicles stolen in the 12 months prior to the survey.

For personal crimes, information was collected on individuals who had experienced being physically attacked or threatened with violence when someone stole or tried to steal property from them (robbery), and on individuals who had force or violence used, attempted, or threatened against them (assault) in the 12 months prior to the survey. For females aged 18 years and over, information was also collected on sexual assaults experienced in the 12 months prior to the survey.

STATISTICAL MEASURES OF CRIME VICTIMISATION

The level of victimisation can be measured in more than one way. The most common measure derived from crime victims surveys is *prevalence*, that is, the number of the relevant population that have been a victim of a given offence at least once in the reference period.

Another measure that can be used is *incidence*. This is the total number of incidents of the offence that occurred in the reference period. As some victims experience repeated incidents of victimisation, incidence numbers are typically higher than prevalence numbers.

Rates of prevalence and incidence are often used in this publication, and these are generally expressed as a percentage of the total relevant population. Prevalence rates are also given as a rate per 1,000 households/persons.

A further measure of victimisation levels is the average number of incidents per victim for a particular offence. This gives an indication of the concentration of victimisation—the higher the average number of incidents per victim, the higher the level of repeat victimisation for that offence category.

HOW MANY VICTIMS OF CRIME ARE THERE?

Households and individuals in Australia experience a diverse range of crimes, some of which were covered by the 1998 Crime and Safety Survey.

In the 12 months prior to the 1998 Crime and Safety Survey, it is estimated that there were 349,900 households in Australia that had at least one break-in to their home, garage or shed.

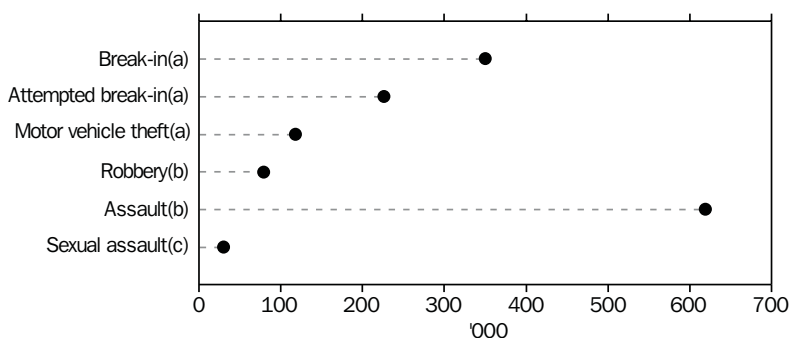
HOW MANY VICTIMS OF CRIME ARE THERE? *continued*

There were 226,400 households that found signs of at least one attempted break-in and overall 534,100 households that were victims of either a break-in or an attempted break-in in the 12 months prior to the survey.

About 117,900 households had at least one motor vehicle stolen in the 12 months prior to the survey.

There were an estimated 79,100 persons aged 15 years and over who were victims of robbery and 618,300 persons aged 15 years and over who were victims of assault in the 12 months prior to the survey. About 30,100 females aged 18 years and over were estimated to be victims of sexual assault in the same time period.

HOUSEHOLD/PERSON VICTIMS



(a) Households.
 (b) Persons aged 15 years and over.
 (c) Females aged 18 years and over.

HAS THE LEVEL OF CRIME INCREASED?

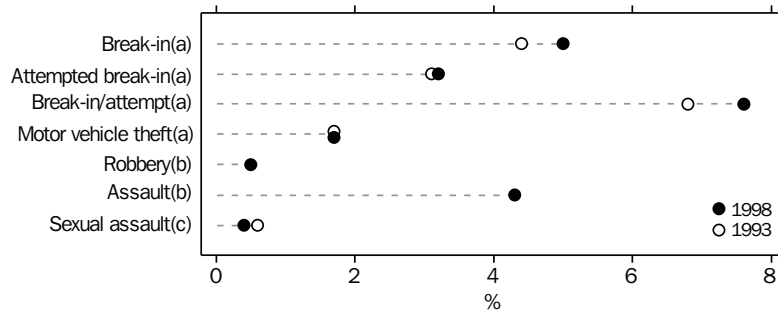
A previous Crime and Safety Survey was conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in 1993 and shows that, where data can be compared, the prevalence of victimisation for offences were similar for 1993 and 1998.

The 1998 prevalence rates for household break-ins and attempted break-ins were slightly higher than the rates in 1993 but the differences are not statistically significant. The prevalence rates for household motor vehicle theft were the same for each year.

In 1998 the prevalence rate for sexual assault for females aged 18 years and over was slightly lower than the 1993 figure, but the difference is not statistically significant.

It is not possible to compare the personal crimes of robbery and assault between the 1993 and 1998 surveys due to changes in the questions used in the survey.

VICTIMISATION PREVALENCE RATES



- (a) Households.
- (b) Persons aged 15 years and over. No 1993 rate has been provided as data are not comparable between 1998 and 1993 surveys.
- (c) Females aged 18 years and over.

HOW MUCH OF THIS CRIME IS REPORTED TO POLICE?

Crime is not always reported to police and many factors influence whether or not a crime is reported. In particular, rates of reporting to police vary depending on the type of offence.

Most motor vehicle thefts were reported to the police, with 95% of household victims of motor vehicle theft reporting the most recent theft to police. It can be estimated from the survey that there were 133,700 motor vehicle thefts that occurred in the 12 months prior to the survey. Of these, 130,800 became known to the police, a reporting rate of 98% of all motor vehicles stolen.

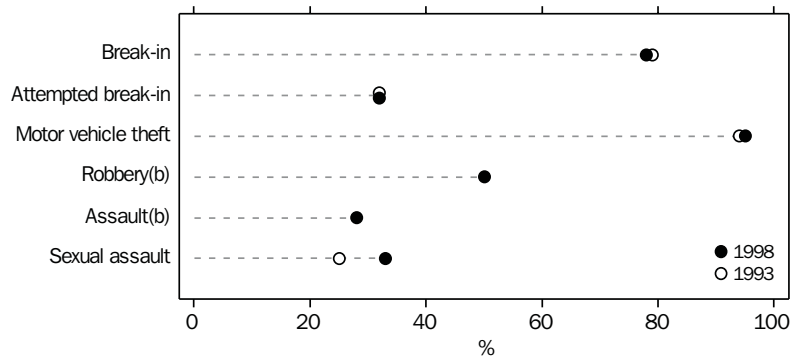
About 78% of household victims of break-ins told the police about the most recent incident. Common reasons for not reporting the most recent incident to the police were that it was felt there was nothing the police could do and the incident was too trivial.

Half of the victims of robbery told the police about the most recent incident, with the most common reasons for not reporting also being that they felt there was nothing the police could do and the incident was too trivial.

Only 28% of assault victims and 33% of sexual assault victims told the police about the most recent incident. Common reasons for not telling police about the most recent assault were that the incident was too trivial and that it was a personal matter. These were also common reasons for not reporting sexual assaults.

For household crimes, there was almost no difference in the level of reporting of the most recent incident to the police for 1993 and 1998. In 1998 there was a slightly higher rate of reporting to police for sexual assaults than in 1993.

REPORTING RATE(a) TO POLICE FOR THE MOST RECENT INCIDENT



(a) Of household/person victims.

(b) No 1993 rate has been provided as data are not comparable between 1998 and 1993 surveys.

HOW LIKELY AM I TO BE THE VICTIM OF A CRIME?

Household crime

In the 12 months prior to the survey, 50 in 1,000 households in Australia were victims of at least one break-in, 32 in 1,000 households were victims of at least one attempted break-in and 76 in 1,000 households were victims of a break-in/attempted break-in. There were 17 in 1,000 households that were victims of motor vehicle theft in the 12 months prior to the 1998 survey.

One parent households and single person households had higher victimisation prevalence for break-in/attempted break-in. In the 12 months prior to the survey, 113 out of 1,000 one parent households were victims of at least one break-in/attempted break-in, as were 85 out of 1,000 persons who lived alone. This compares with 59 out of 1,000 couple only households and 69 out of 1,000 couples with children households that were victims of break-in/attempted break-in in the 12 months prior to the survey.

Logistic regression analysis shows each of the following types of households to have an increased risk of break-in compared to households without these characteristics, when other factors included in the model were held constant:

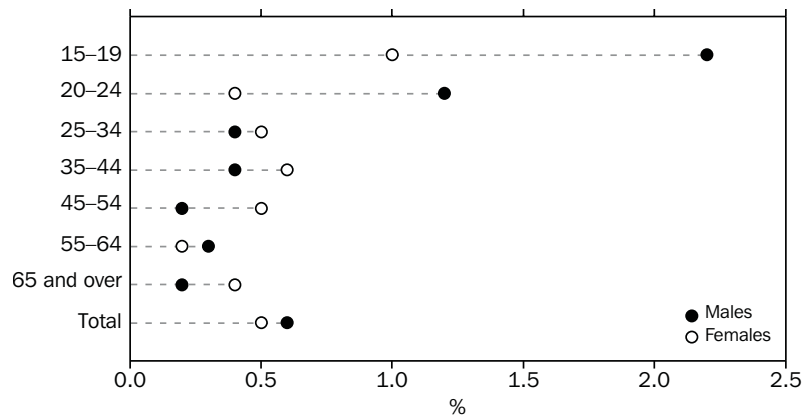
- one parent households;
- households with dwellings with large amounts of motor vehicle traffic in the street;
- households with dwellings next to laneways and bicycle paths;
- households in areas where 10% or more of the population were unemployed;
- households in areas where 9% or more of the population were males aged 15–24 years; and
- households in cities and towns with a population of 8,000 persons or more.

Households with persons aged 55 years and over had a lower risk of break-in victimisation compared with other households.

Personal crime About 5 in 1,000 persons aged 15 years and over were victims of robbery. Young males aged 15–24 years had a relatively high prevalence of victimisation for robbery (22 out of 1,000 males aged 15–19 years were robbery victims, as were 12 out of 1,000 males aged 20–24 years). Young females aged 15–19 years also had a relatively high prevalence of robbery victimisation (10 out of 1,000 females aged 15–19 years were robbery victims).

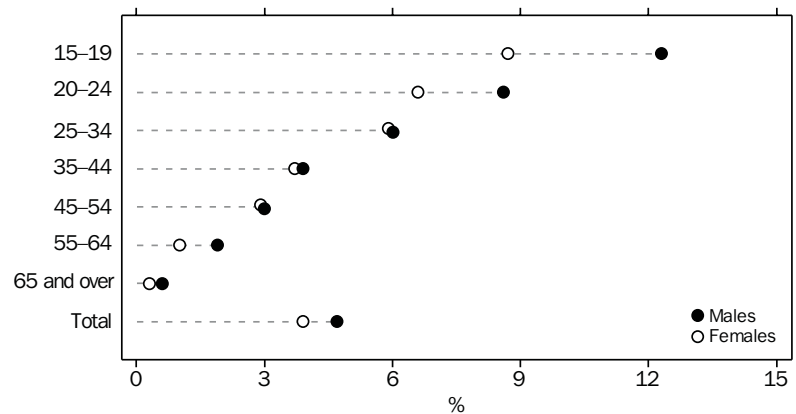
For persons aged 15–24 years, males were much more likely to be victims of robbery, while for persons aged 25 years and over, females were more likely to be victims.

ROBBERY VICTIMISATION RATES



About 43 in 1,000 persons aged 15 years and over were victims of assault in the 12 months prior to the survey. Males comprised just over half (54%) of all assault victims, and had higher victimisation prevalence rates than females for those aged under 25 years, and similar rates for those aged 25 years and over.

ASSAULT VICTIMISATION RATES



There were about 4 in 1,000 females aged 18 years and over who were victims of sexual assault in the 12 months prior to the survey. Only females aged 18 years and over were asked about sexual assault.

Personal crime *continued*

The highest victimisation prevalence rates for sexual assault were for females aged 18 and 19 years (25 in 1,000 females of these ages reported being a victim of sexual assault).

Divorced and separated females aged 18 years and over also reported higher than average levels of sexual assault (12 in 1,000 divorced females and 16 in 1,000 separated females).

HOW LIKELY AM I TO BE
ASSAULTED BY A
STRANGER?

Most victims of robbery reported that they were assaulted by a stranger in the most recent incident. About 4 in 1,000 persons aged 15 years and over were robbed by someone they did not know and 1 in 1,000 robbed by someone they knew.

Most victims of assault, however, were assaulted in the most recent incident by someone they knew (about 27 people in 1,000). Of these, about 10 people in 1,000 were assaulted by a partner, ex-partner or other family member. A further 16 people in 1,000 were assaulted by someone they did not know or did not know personally.

Most females aged 18 years and over who indicated that they had been a victim of sexual assault were assaulted by someone they knew in the most recent incident (about 3 females in 1,000). One female in 1,000 was sexually assaulted by someone unknown to them.

WHERE DOES CRIME
OCCUR?

The most common location for the most recent incident of robbery was in the street or other open land (34% of all most recent incidents), followed by in homes (21%), at the victim's place of work or study (12%) and at shopping centres (11%).

For the most recent incidents of assault, 24% were classed as family violence regardless of where the incident occurred, with the offender being a partner or ex-partner of the victim, or a member of the victim's family. Another 24% of incidents were home-based, with an offender other than a partner or ex-partner of the victim, or a member of the victim's family. A further 15% of most recent incidents were classed as work/study violence, 14% street violence and 12% pubs/clubs violence.

For the most recent incidents of sexual assault, 58% of incidents occurred in homes and 14% in the street or open land.

HOW MUCH DO VICTIMS
SUFFER REPEATED
INCIDENTS OF CRIME?

Repeat victimisation over the 12-month period was more likely to occur with assault than for the other crimes covered in the survey. Victims of motor vehicle theft were least likely to experience repeat victimisation in a 12-month period.

Assault victims experienced an average of 2.5 incidents in the 12-month period, compared with an average of 1.3 incidents for household victims of break-in and 1.1 incidents for household victims of motor vehicle theft.

HOW MUCH DO VICTIMS SUFFER REPEATED INCIDENTS OF CRIME?

continued

The majority of all incidents of assault were experienced by people who were repeat victims of assault, that is, the 45% of assault victims who experienced two or more assaults in the 12-month period accounted for 78% of all incidents of assault. Those assault victims who experienced four or more assaults accounted for 50% of all assault incidents.

VICTIMS EXPERIENCING GIVEN NUMBER OF INCIDENTS

	<i>Number of incidents in the last 12 months</i>			<i>Average number of incidents per victim</i>
	1	2	3 or more	
	%	%	%	no.
Break-in(a)	80.2	15.2	4.7	1.3
Attempted break-in(a)	67.1	24.4	8.5	1.6
Motor vehicle theft(a)	90.8	7.3	1.9	1.1
Robbery(b)	77.3	14.5	8.2	1.5
Assault(b)	54.6	21.3	24.2	2.5
Sexual assault(c)	73.0	*9.9	*17.1	1.6

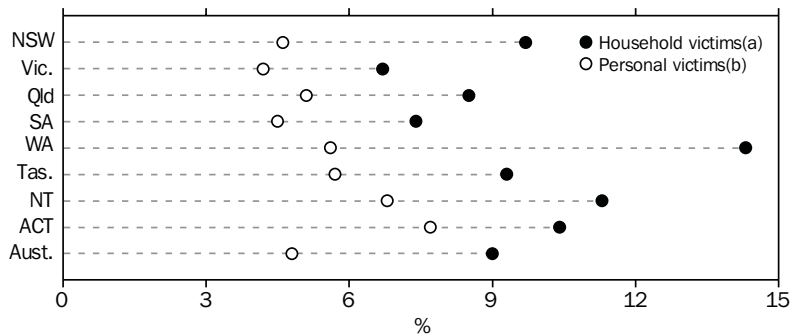
- (a) Households.
- (b) Persons aged 15 years and over.
- (c) Females aged 18 years and over.

WHERE IS THE SAFEST PLACE TO LIVE?

Victoria had the lowest proportions of both household and personal crime victims compared with other States and Territories. The proportions of household and personal crime victims in South Australia were also relatively low.

Western Australia had the highest proportion of household crime victims and the Australian Capital Territory had the highest proportion of personal crime victims.

VICTIMISATION PREVALENCE RATES



- (a) Households that were a victim of break-in, attempted break-in or motor vehicle theft.
- (b) Persons aged 15 years and over who were a victim of robbery or assault or, for females aged 18 years and over, sexual assault.

Western Australia had the highest victimisation prevalence rates for break-in and attempted break-in (124 households in 1,000 were victims of break-in/attempted break-in), followed by the Northern Territory (108 households in 1,000) and the Australian Capital Territory (91 in 1,000). Victoria had the lowest prevalence rates for these crimes (53 households in 1,000).

WHERE IS THE SAFEST PLACE TO LIVE? *continued*

Rates for motor vehicle theft were high in Western Australia (24 households in 1,000) and New South Wales (21 in 1,000), with all other States and Territories having rates lower than the national average (17 in 1,000).

Both the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory generally had high prevalence rates for personal crimes. About 69 persons in 1,000 aged 15 years and over experienced at least one assault in the 12 months prior to the survey in the Australian Capital Territory, as did 63 people in 1,000 in the Northern Territory. Victoria had the lowest prevalence rate for assault with 38 in 1,000 persons indicating they had been victims of at least one assault.

VICTIMISATION PREVALENCE RATES(a)

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
PROPORTION (%)									
Households									
Break-in	5.3	3.6	5.4	4.0	7.5	5.0	6.3	5.8	5.0
Attempted break-in	3.4	2.1	2.9	2.9	6.0	3.6	5.0	4.0	3.2
Break-in/attempted break-in	7.9	5.3	7.7	6.3	12.4	8.1	10.8	9.1	7.6
Motor vehicle theft	2.1	1.6	1.1	1.2	2.4	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.7
<i>Total household victims(b)</i>	9.7	6.7	8.5	7.4	14.3	9.3	11.3	10.4	9.0
Persons									
Robbery(c)	0.9	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.6	1.0	0.6	0.5
Assault(c)	3.9	3.8	4.8	4.2	4.9	5.1	6.3	6.9	4.3
Sexual assault(d)	0.3	0.7	0.4	*0.3	0.5	*0.7	*0.6	*0.9	0.4
<i>Total personal victims(b)</i>	4.6	4.2	5.1	4.5	5.6	5.7	6.8	7.7	4.8
Victims of household and/or personal offences(b)(e)	13.1	10.4	12.6	11.2	18.2	13.8	17.9	15.6	12.8

(a) Proportion of all households/persons.

(b) Total is less than the sum of the components as households/persons may be victims of more than one type of offence.

(c) Persons aged 15 years and over.

(d) Females aged 18 years and over.

(e) Persons who were victims of any of the personal crimes or who lived in victim households.

WHAT CONCERNS DO PEOPLE HAVE ABOUT CRIME AND OTHER PUBLIC NUISANCE PROBLEMS IN THEIR NEIGHBOURHOOD?

Overall 27% of persons aged 15 years and over did not perceive that there were problems with any crime or public nuisance issues in their neighbourhood. However, only 9% of persons who had been victims of the crimes covered in this survey thought that there were no problems in their neighbourhood.

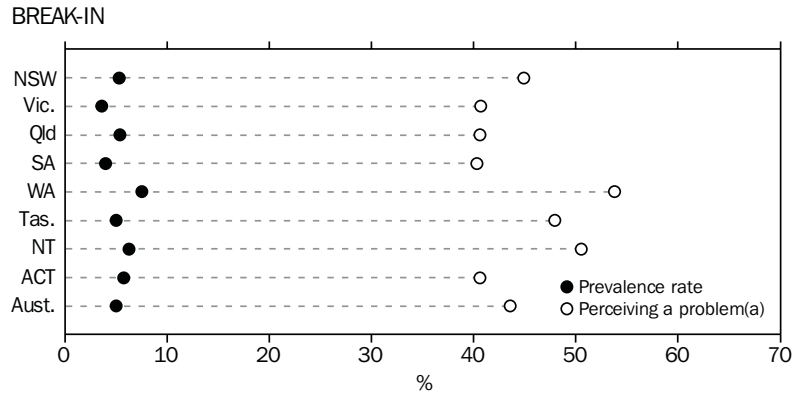
The most commonly perceived problem was the category 'housebreaking/burglaries/theft from homes', with 44% of persons perceiving this as a problem. Other commonly perceived problems were 'dangerous/noisy driving' (34% of all persons), 'vandalism/graffiti/damage to property' (25%) and 'car theft' (21%).

Persons aged 65 years and over were more likely to perceive that there were no crime or public nuisance problems in their neighbourhood. Fewer people aged 65 years and over perceived any of the issues as problems. For many of the issues, proportionally more people aged 15-19 years perceived these as problems.

WHAT CONCERNS DO
PEOPLE HAVE ABOUT CRIME
AND OTHER PUBLIC
NUISANCE PROBLEMS IN
THEIR NEIGHBOURHOOD?

continued

There was some variation between the States and Territories in the proportion of persons who perceived issues in their neighbourhood as problems. States and Territories that had higher than the average level of victimisation prevalence rates generally showed higher than the average concern for problems in the neighbourhood, and likewise those States and Territories with lower than average prevalence rates generally showed less concern. An example of this for break-ins is shown in the following chart.



(a) Proportion of persons aged 15 years and over who perceived a problem with 'housebreakings/burglaries/theft from homes' in their neighbourhood.

CHAPTER 1

HOUSEHOLD CRIMES

BREAK-IN AND ATTEMPTED BREAK-IN

In the 12 months prior to the survey, it is estimated that there were 349,900 households in Australia that had at least one break-in to their home, garage or shed. This represents a victimisation prevalence rate of 5.0% of households. This is a small increase over the 1993 break-in victimisation rate of 4.4%.

There were 226,400 households that had found signs of at least one attempted break-in during the 12 months prior to the survey (3.2% of all households). This is similar to the 1993 rate of 3.1%.

Overall, 7.6% of households (534,100) were victims of a break-in or attempted break-in (this includes households that were victims of both), a higher rate than the 1993 figure of 6.8% (table 1.9).

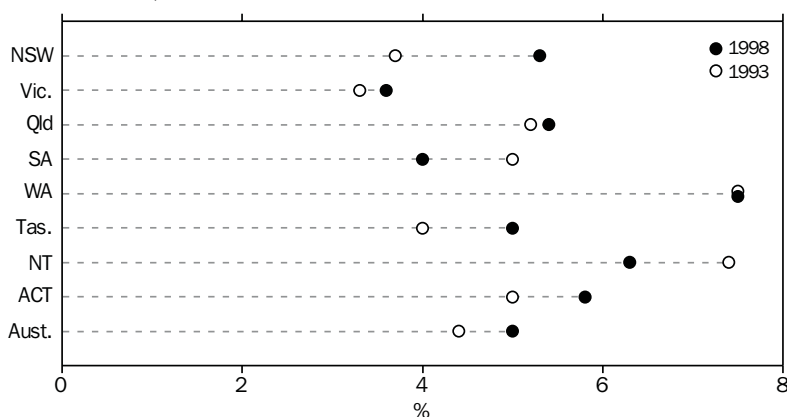
States and Territories

Break-in

Western Australia had the highest proportion of households that were victims of a break-in (7.5% of all households) in the 12 months prior to the survey, followed by the Northern Territory (6.3%). The lowest household break-in prevalence rates were found in Victoria (3.6%) and South Australia (4.0%).

Both South Australia and the Northern Territory had a decrease in the proportion of households that had been a victim of at least one break-in during a 12-month period when compared with the 1993 survey results. New South Wales, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory showed an increase in the proportion.

1.1 BREAK-IN, HOUSEHOLD VICTIMISATION RATES IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS



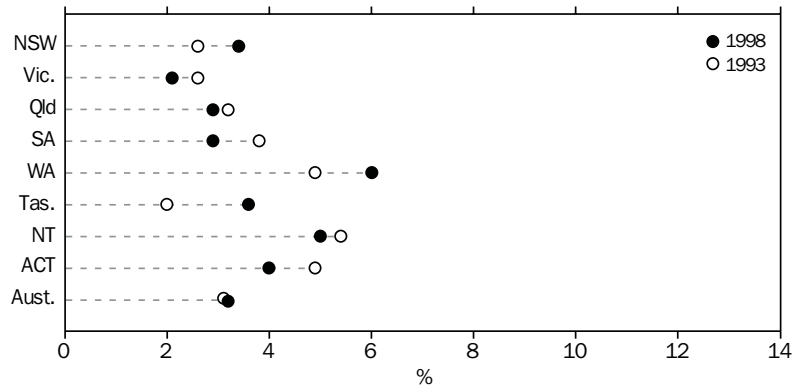
Attempted break-in

The prevalence rates for attempted break-in show a similar pattern to the prevalence rates for break-in across the States and Territories. Western Australia (6.0%) and the Northern Territory (5.0%) had the highest prevalence rates for attempted break-in. Victoria had the lowest rate (2.1%), followed by South Australia and Queensland (both at 2.9%).

Attempted break-in continued

Western Australia, New South Wales and Tasmania had an increase in attempted break-in prevalence rates, whereas South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory showed a decrease in these rates when compared with the 1993 survey results.

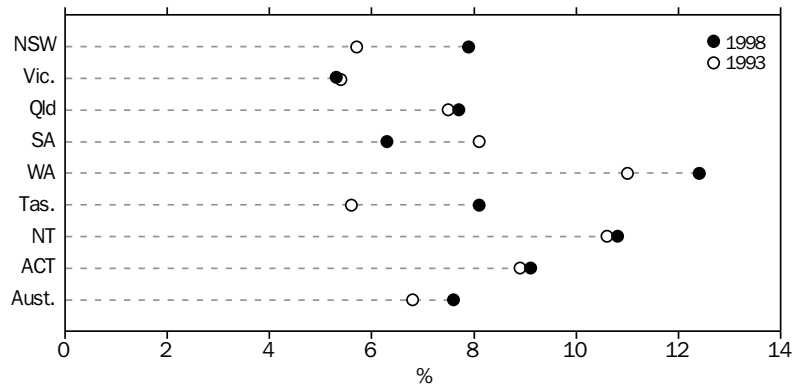
1.2 ATTEMPTED BREAK-IN, HOUSEHOLD VICTIMISATION RATES IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS



Break-in/attempted break-in

South Australia was the only State to show a marked decrease in the proportion of households that were victims of break-in/attempted break-in when compared with the 1993 survey results. The largest increases in the proportion of households that experienced break-in/attempted break-in were in New South Wales, Tasmania and Western Australia. In the other States and Territories there was minimal change.

1.3 BREAK-IN/ATTEMPTED BREAK-IN, HOUSEHOLD VICTIMISATION RATES IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS



Victim characteristics

The prevalence rates for households that had lived in their dwelling for less than three years were higher than those for households that had lived in their dwelling three years or more. The rates for households that had lived in their dwelling for less than a year were 5.9% for break-in, 4.0% for attempted break-in and 9.2% for break-in/attempted break-in, compared with 4.4%, 2.6% and 6.5%, respectively, for households that had lived in their dwelling for five years or more.

Victim characteristics
continued

Households that were renting had higher prevalence rates than those that owned or were purchasing their dwelling. The rates for households that were renting were 6.3% for break-in, 5.1% for attempted break-in and 10.5% for break-in/attempted break-in, compared with 4.6%, 2.6% and 6.6% for households that owned or were purchasing their dwelling.

One-parent households with unmarried children had higher victimisation prevalence rates than other types of households: 7.1% of one-parent families were victims of break-in, 5.5% were victims of attempted break-in and 11.3% were victims of break-in/attempted break-in. This compares with the respective rates of 4.6%, 2.6% and 6.9% for couple families with unmarried children.

Higher victimisation prevalence rates were found for persons living alone (5.6% for break-in, 3.7% for attempted break-in and 8.5% for break-in/attempted break-in) compared with couple only households (3.8%, 2.5% and 5.9%).

Households in metropolitan areas were more likely to be victims of break-in and attempted break-in than households in non-metropolitan areas. Victimisation prevalence rates were 5.5% for break-in, 3.5% for attempted break-in and 8.4% for break-in/attempted break-in for metropolitan households, compared with 4.1%, 2.7% and 6.3% respectively for non-metropolitan households (table 1.10).

Further details on victim characteristics and risk factors associated with break-ins are given in chapter 3.

Repeat victims

During the 12 months prior to the 1998 survey, there were an estimated 460,400 incidents of break-in and 345,600 incidents of attempted break-in. This was an incidence rate for break-in of 6.5% of households, and 4.9% for attempted break-in.

Of households that experienced a break-in during the 12 months prior to the survey, 20% experienced two or more break-ins, which accounted for 39% of all the break-ins that occurred in the 12-month period (as estimated from the survey). About 5% of households experienced three or more break-ins, accounting for 16% of all incidents (table 1.11). There was an average of 1.3 break-ins per victim household.

Repeat victimisation was a more evident feature of attempted break-in: 24% of household victims of attempted break-in experienced two attempts and 9% experienced three or more attempts. There was an average of 1.6 attempts per victim household.

Most recent incident

Reporting to police

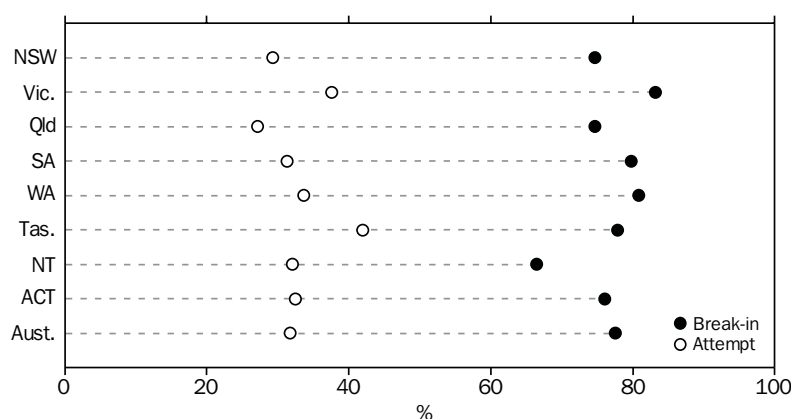
Of households that were victims of break-in, 78% told police about the most recent incident. This compares with 32% of households that were victims of attempted break-in that informed police. These reporting rates are essentially the same as the rates found in 1993.

1.4 HOUSEHOLD VICTIMS

	1998			1993 reporting rate	1998 reporting rate
	Police told	Police not told	Total		
	'000	'000	'000		
Break-in	271.0	78.9	349.9	78.5	77.5
Attempted break-in	71.7	154.7	226.4	32.3	31.7

The reporting rate for the most recent incident of break-in ranged from 66% in the Northern Territory to 83% in Victoria. For attempted break-in, the reporting rates ranged from 27% in Queensland to 42% in Tasmania.

1.5 HOUSEHOLDS THAT TOLD POLICE ABOUT THE MOST RECENT INCIDENT



Reporting rates in 1998 were similar to the 1993 rates for most States and Territories. The biggest difference was in Western Australia (81% of the most recent break-ins reported to police in 1998 compared with 85% in 1993) (table 1.12).

Reasons for not reporting

Of the 78,900 victim households that did not tell police about the most recent break-in, the main reasons for not doing so were that they thought there was nothing the police could do (28% of households that did not tell police) and the incident was too trivial or unimportant (24%).

1.6 MAIN REASON FOR NOT TELLING POLICE ABOUT THE MOST RECENT BREAK-IN(a)

	'000	%
I thought there was nothing the police could do	21.7	27.5
Too trivial/unimportant	19.2	24.4
I thought the police would have been unwilling to do anything	9.0	11.4
Because nothing was stolen	8.6	10.8
Personal matter/would take care of it myself	7.6	9.7
Not covered by insurance	*3.0	*3.8
Somebody else told police	*1.9	*2.4
Other reasons	5.2	6.6
Total(b)	78.9	100.0

(a) Household victims that did not tell police about the most recent break-in.

(b) Includes 'not stated'.

Result of the most recent break-in

Property was stolen in 83% of incidents for the most recent break-in, and in 29% of cases property was damaged. In 5% of incidents the offender confronted someone in the household.

1.7 RESULT OF THE MOST RECENT BREAK-IN(a)

	'000	%
Property stolen	288.6	82.5
Property damaged	102.9	29.4
Someone confronted	16.8	4.8
Other	25.0	7.1
Total household victims(b)	349.9	100.0

(a) Components sum to more than the total as respondents could indicate more than one item.

(b) Includes 'not stated'.

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT

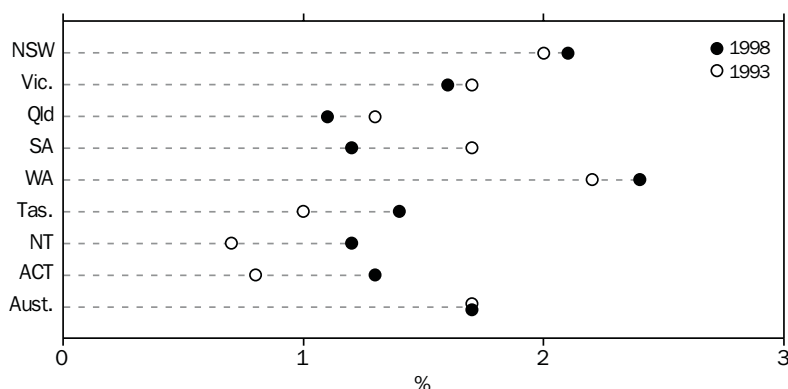
In the 12 months prior to the survey, it is estimated that 117,900 households had at least one motor vehicle stolen, representing a victimisation prevalence rate of 1.7% of households. This rate is the same as in the 1993 survey (table 1.9).

States and Territories

Western Australia had the highest prevalence rate for motor vehicle theft (2.4% of households), followed by New South Wales with a rate of 2.1%. The lowest rates were in Queensland (1.1%), South Australia and the Northern Territory (both 1.2%).

The State with the most change from 1993 was South Australia, which had a decline in the proportion of households with a motor vehicle theft. The larger States showed similar rates for 1993 and 1998, while Tasmania and the Territories showed a slight increase in the rate of motor vehicle theft.

1.8 MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT, HOUSEHOLD VICTIMISATION RATES IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS



Other measures of motor vehicle theft victimisation

Other measures of victimisation levels can be derived for motor vehicle theft. Victimisation rates can be calculated based only on the population of households which own, are purchasing, or have exclusive use of vehicles. This will lead to higher prevalence and incidence rates.

Other measures of motor
vehicle theft victimisation
continued

The survey collected information on the number of vehicles owned, being purchased or used exclusively by the household at the time of the survey. Rates of motor vehicle theft can be expressed as a percentage of the total number of vehicles owned by the relevant population (either all households in the scope of the survey, or those households that have at least one motor vehicle).

Regardless of what measure is used, Western Australia and New South Wales consistently have the highest rates. For example, the total number of motor vehicles stolen as a proportion of total vehicles owned by households was 1.2%. Western Australia and New South Wales had the highest victimisation rates (1.7% and 1.6% respectively), and Queensland (0.7%), the Northern Territory (0.7%) and South Australia (0.8%) had the lowest rates (table 1.13).

Repeat victims There were 107,100 households that had one motor vehicle theft in the 12-month period, 91% of all motor vehicle theft victim households. The remaining 9% experienced two or more motor vehicle thefts (table 1.13).

Total incidents In the 12 months prior to the survey, it is estimated that there were 133,700 motor vehicle thefts from household victims. This was an incidence rate of 1.9 vehicles per 100 households.

Of these motor vehicle thefts, it is estimated that 130,800 became known to the police (table 1.13). This represents 98% of all motor vehicles stolen and is similar to the number of motor vehicle thefts (131,500) recorded by police in the period May 1997 to April 1998 (source, Recorded Crime Statistics Collection, unpublished data) which corresponds to the reference period for the 1998 Crime and Safety Survey.

Reporting to police Of all victim households of motor vehicle theft, there were 95% that told the police about the most recent theft. This is essentially the same as the 1993 reporting rate of 94%.

The highest rates for reporting the most recent motor vehicle theft to police were in the Northern Territory (100% of all household victims), Queensland (98% of household victims) and Victoria (97%), and the lowest rates in the Australian Capital Territory (85%) and Tasmania (86%).

Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia had an increase in rates of reporting the most recent motor vehicle theft when compared to the 1993 survey, whereas Tasmania showed a decrease in the rate of reporting since 1993 (table 1.12).

1.9 VICTIMS AND NON-VICTIMS OF HOUSEHOLD CRIME IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS

	1998			Victimisation prevalence rate		
	Victims	Non-victims	Total	1993	1995(a)	1998
	'000	'000	'000	%	%	%
BREAK-IN						
New South Wales(b)	122.5	2 210.0	2 332.5	3.7	5.3	5.3
Victoria	61.7	1 672.5	1 734.1	3.3	3.2	3.6
Queensland	70.1	1 234.6	1 304.7	5.2	6.3	5.4
South Australia	24.3	584.1	608.4	5.0	4.6	4.0
Western Australia	51.6	638.7	690.3	7.5	8.9	7.5
Tasmania	9.3	177.1	186.4	4.0	n.a.	5.0
Northern Territory	3.3	49.5	52.8	7.4	n.a.	6.3
Australian Capital Territory	7.1	114.9	121.9	5.0	4.5	5.8
Australia	349.9	6 681.3	7 031.2	4.4	n.a.	5.0
ATTEMPTED BREAK-IN						
New South Wales(b)	78.7	2 253.8	2 332.5	2.6	4.1	3.4
Victoria	36.3	1 697.8	1 734.1	2.6	2.3	2.1
Queensland	38.0	1 266.7	1 304.7	3.2	5.5	2.9
South Australia	17.5	590.9	608.4	3.8	4.0	2.9
Western Australia	41.8	648.5	690.3	4.9	7.1	6.0
Tasmania	6.7	179.7	186.4	2.0	n.a.	3.6
Northern Territory	2.6	50.1	52.8	5.4	n.a.	5.0
Australian Capital Territory	4.9	117.1	121.9	4.9	4.5	4.0
Australia	226.4	6 804.8	7 031.2	3.1	n.a.	3.2
BREAK-IN/ATTEMPTED BREAK-IN(c)						
New South Wales(b)	184.6	2 147.9	2 332.5	5.7	8.5	7.9
Victoria	92.7	1 641.4	1 734.1	5.4	5.0	5.3
Queensland	100.5	1 204.2	1 304.7	7.5	10.3	7.7
South Australia	38.4	570.0	608.4	8.1	7.7	6.3
Western Australia	85.9	604.4	690.3	11.0	13.6	12.4
Tasmania	15.1	171.4	186.4	5.6	n.a.	8.1
Northern Territory	5.7	47.1	52.8	10.6	n.a.	10.8
Australian Capital Territory	11.1	110.8	121.9	8.9	7.9	9.1
Australia	534.1	6 497.1	7 031.2	6.8	n.a.	7.6
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT						
New South Wales(b)	48.1	2 284.5	2 332.5	2.0	2.1	2.1
Victoria	27.3	1 706.8	1 734.1	1.7	1.5	1.6
Queensland	13.8	1 290.9	1 304.7	1.3	1.4	1.1
South Australia	7.2	601.2	608.4	1.7	1.1	1.2
Western Australia	16.7	673.6	690.3	2.2	3.0	2.4
Tasmania	2.6	183.8	186.4	1.0	n.a.	1.4
Northern Territory	0.6	52.2	52.8	*0.7	n.a.	1.2
Australian Capital Territory	1.6	120.3	121.9	*0.8	*1.0	1.3
Australia	117.9	6 913.3	7 031.2	1.7	n.a.	1.7

(a) 1995 rates were produced from separate State surveys in all the mainland States and the Australian Capital Territory. Estimates are not available for Tasmania, Northern Territory or Australia.

(b) Crime and Safety Surveys have been carried out in New South Wales in each year that national surveys have not been conducted since 1990. The victimisation rate estimates for 1994, 1996 and 1997 were: break-in, 4.5%, 4.6%, 5.6%; attempted break-in, 3.0%, 4.3%, 3.8%; break-in or attempted break-in, 6.7%, 8.1%, 8.5%; motor vehicle theft, 2.1%, 2.0%, 2.0%.

(c) Break-in/attempted break-in includes households that were victims of either a break-in or an attempted break-in, or both. Therefore the figures for break-in/attempted break-in are less than the sum of the break-in and attempted break-in figures.

1.10 VICTIMS OF BREAK-IN AND ATTEMPTED BREAK-IN IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

	Victims						Not a victim of break-in/ attempted break-in	Total households
	Break-in		Attempted break-in		Break-in/attempted break-in(a)			
	Number	Victim- isation rate	Number	Victim- isation rate	Number	Victim- isation rate		
'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	'000	
LENGTH OF STAY AT CURRENT ADDRESS								
Less than 1 year	58.0	5.9	38.9	4.0	89.5	9.2	886.9	976.3
1 to less than 3 years	74.7	6.0	50.9	4.1	117.1	9.4	1 128.3	1 245.3
3 to less than 5 years	45.5	5.3	32.8	3.8	71.9	8.4	782.3	854.1
5 years or more	171.0	4.4	103.1	2.6	254.4	6.5	3 675.1	3 929.5
Not stated	**0.6	**2.2	**0.7	**2.9	*1.3	**5.1	24.6	25.9
DWELLING TENURE								
Own/purchase	233.6	4.6	132.8	2.6	340.4	6.6	4 787.6	5 128.0
Rent	110.3	6.3	89.2	5.1	183.9	10.5	1 560.9	1 744.8
Other	5.0	4.7	*3.1	*2.9	7.5	7.1	99.2	106.8
Not stated	*1.0	*1.9	*1.3	*2.6	*2.3	*4.5	49.3	51.6
HOUSEHOLD TYPE								
Person living alone	90.5	5.6	60.5	3.7	137.9	8.5	1 481.8	1 619.7
Couple only	64.9	3.8	42.7	2.5	102.0	5.9	1 614.3	1 716.3
Couple with unmarried child(ren)	110.3	4.6	63.1	2.6	163.8	6.9	2 227.2	2 391.0
One parent with unmarried child(ren)	44.7	7.1	34.7	5.5	71.1	11.3	560.4	631.5
All other households	39.4	5.9	25.4	3.8	59.3	8.8	613.5	672.7
REGION								
Metropolitan	239.4	5.5	151.9	3.5	364.0	8.4	3 950.9	4 314.9
Non-metropolitan	110.5	4.1	74.6	2.7	170.1	6.3	2 546.2	2 716.3
ALL CHARACTERISTICS								
Total households	349.9	5.0	226.4	3.2	534.1	7.6	6 497.1	7 031.2

(a) Break-in/attempted break-in includes households that were victims of either a break-in or an attempted break-in, or both. Therefore the figures for break-in/attempted break-in are less than the sum of the break-in and attempted break-in figures.

1.11 VICTIMS OF BREAK-IN AND ATTEMPTED BREAK-IN IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, NUMBER OF INCIDENTS EXPERIENCED

	<i>Break-in</i>				<i>Attempted break-in</i>				<i>Break-in/attempted break-in</i>			
	<i>Victims</i>		<i>Incidents</i>		<i>Victims</i>		<i>Incidents</i>		<i>Victims(a)</i>		<i>Incidents</i>	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
One	280.6	80.2	280.6	60.9	152.1	67.1	152.1	44.0	386.2	72.3	386.2	47.9
Two	53.0	15.2	106.1	23.0	55.3	24.4	110.5	32.0	93.7	17.5	187.4	23.3
Three or more	16.3	4.7	73.7	16.0	19.1	8.5	83.0	24.0	54.3	10.2	232.4	28.8
Total	349.9	100.0	460.4	100.0	226.4	100.0	345.6	100.0	534.1	100.0	806.0	100.0

(a) Break-in/attempted break-in includes households that were victims of either a break-in or an attempted break-in, or both. Therefore the figures for break-in/attempted break-in are less than the sum of the break-in and attempted break-in figures.

1.12 VICTIMS OF HOUSEHOLD CRIME IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, WHETHER TOLD POLICE ABOUT MOST RECENT INCIDENT

	1998			<i>Reporting rate(a)</i>	
	<i>Police told</i>	<i>Police not told</i>	<i>Total victims</i>	1993	1998
	'000	'000	'000	%	%
BREAK-IN					
New South Wales	91.5	31.0	122.5	73.4	74.7
Victoria	51.3	10.4	61.7	82.9	83.2
Queensland	52.3	17.8	70.1	74.9	74.6
South Australia	19.4	4.9	24.3	81.2	79.8
Western Australia	41.7	9.9	51.6	85.1	80.8
Tasmania	7.3	2.1	9.3	80.5	77.8
Northern Territory	2.2	1.1	3.3	n.a.	66.4
Australian Capital Territory	5.4	1.7	7.1	72.1	76.0
Australia	271.0	78.9	349.9	78.5	77.5
ATTEMPTED BREAK-IN					
New South Wales	23.0	55.6	78.7	28.5	29.3
Victoria	13.7	22.6	36.3	39.6	37.6
Queensland	10.3	27.7	38.0	28.6	27.1
South Australia	5.5	12.0	17.5	32.2	31.3
Western Australia	14.0	27.7	41.8	32.5	33.6
Tasmania	2.8	3.9	6.7	38.4	41.9
Northern Territory	0.8	1.8	2.6	n.a.	32.0
Australian Capital Territory	1.6	3.3	4.9	27.2	32.5
Australia	71.7	154.7	226.4	32.3	31.7
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT					
New South Wales	45.7	**2.4	48.1	95.6	95.1
Victoria	26.5	**0.8	27.3	94.2	97.1
Queensland	13.5	**0.3	13.8	96.6	97.5
South Australia	6.8	**0.4	7.2	89.6	94.4
Western Australia	15.4	*1.3	16.7	87.2	92.4
Tasmania	2.2	**0.4	2.6	94.4	86.2
Northern Territory	0.6	—	0.6	n.a.	100.0
Australian Capital Territory	1.4	**0.2	1.6	*88.1	85.2
Australia	112.1	5.8	117.9	93.7	95.1

(a) The reporting rate is the number of victims in a particular category who told police expressed as a percentage of all victims in that category.

1.13 MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
NUMBER ('000)									
Number of incidents									
One	43.2	25.0	13.1	6.8	14.4	2.5	0.6	1.5	107.1
Two or more	*4.9	*2.3	**0.7	**0.4	*2.3	**0.1	—	**0.1	10.8
Total victim households	48.1	27.3	13.8	7.2	16.7	2.6	0.6	1.6	117.9
Total households(a)	2 332.5	1 734.1	1 304.7	608.4	690.3	186.4	52.8	121.9	7 031.2
Households with motor vehicles(a)	2 025.1	1 569.2	1 180.1	540.4	635.1	167.4	48.7	112.2	6 278.2
Total motor vehicles owned(b)	3 539.7	2 935.6	2 138.3	966.0	1 211.5	313.4	95.0	198.5	11 397.8
Total motor vehicles stolen(c)	55.2	30.0	14.5	7.8	21.0	2.7	0.6	1.8	133.7
Total motor vehicle thefts becoming known to police	54.7	29.6	14.2	7.4	20.3	2.5	0.6	1.5	130.8
PROPORTION (%)									
Household prevalence rate(d)	2.1	1.6	1.1	1.2	2.4	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.7
Household incidence rate(e)	2.4	1.7	1.1	1.3	3.0	1.5	1.2	1.4	1.9
Motor vehicles stolen as a percentage of total motor vehicles owned	1.6	1.0	0.7	0.8	1.7	0.9	0.7	0.9	1.2

(a) Includes both victim and non-victim households.

(b) Total motor vehicles owned was estimated from the number of vehicles owned, being purchased or used exclusively by households in the survey.

(c) Total motor vehicles stolen was estimated from the number of motor vehicle thefts indicated by respondents in the survey.

(d) Prevalence rate is the number of victim households expressed as a percentage of the total number of households.

(e) Incidence rate is the total number of motor vehicle thefts expressed as a percentage of the total number of households.

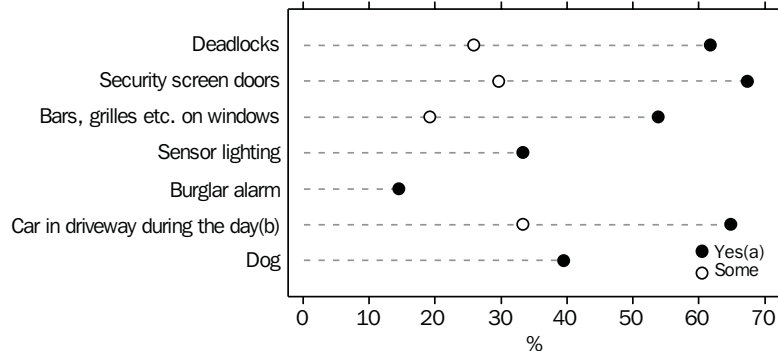
CHAPTER 2

DWELLING SECURITY

The 1998 Crime and Safety Survey collected information about neighbourhood and dwelling characteristics that may affect the level of risk of that dwelling being broken into.

The use of dwelling security in April 1998 for households is shown in graph 2.1.

2.1 HOUSEHOLDS WITH SECURITY FEATURES

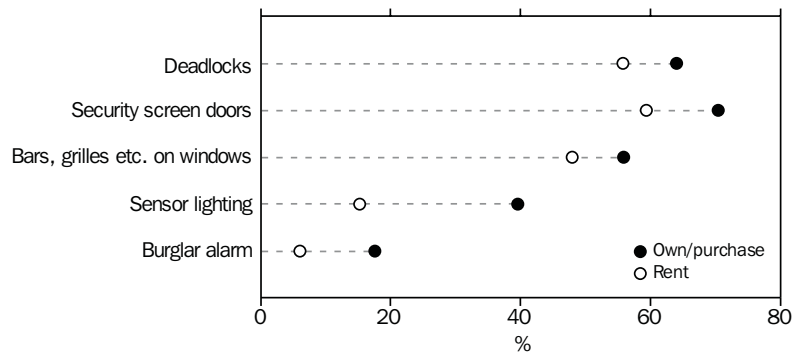


(a) Includes 'all' and 'some' for deadlocks, security screen doors, and bars, grilles etc. on windows.
 (b) 'Yes' means always/most of the time, 'some' means sometimes.

Home ownership The proportion of households with particular dwelling security features was generally lower for those who were renting their dwelling than for those who owned or were purchasing their dwelling.

The largest difference between households that owned or were purchasing their dwelling compared with those that were renting was in the proportion of households with sensor lighting. The lack of sensor lighting is compensated to some extent by 31% of households that rented leaving the outside light on all evening, compared with 16% of households that owned or were purchasing their dwelling (table 2.5).

2.2 HOUSEHOLDS WITH SECURITY FEATURES(a) BY TYPE OF HOME OWNERSHIP



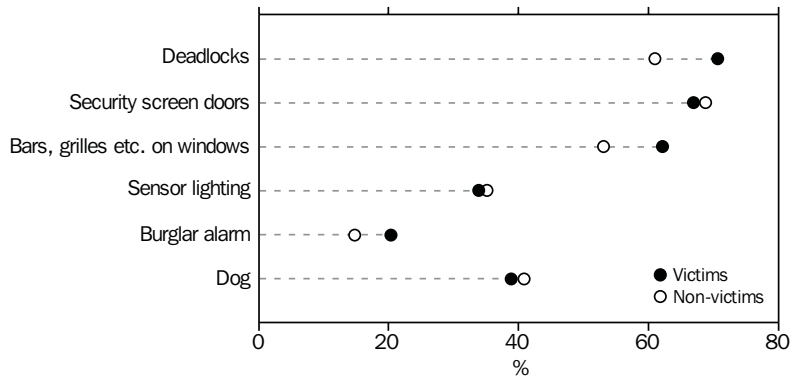
(a) Includes 'all' and 'some' for deadlocks, security screen doors, and bars, grilles etc. on windows.

Victims and non-victims

In order to better compare information about victims and non-victims of break-in/attempted break-in, only households that had lived in their dwelling for at least a year have been included in the following analysis.

At the time of the survey, proportionally more victim than non-victim households had deadlocks on all doors, security on all windows, and burglar alarms. There was little difference in the proportion of victim and non-victim households with other dwelling security features (table 2.6).

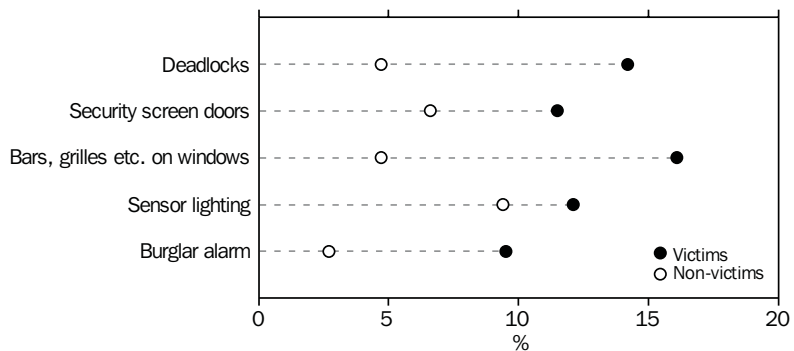
2.3 HOUSEHOLDS(a) WITH SECURITY FEATURES



(a) Households that had lived in dwelling for one year or more.

However, proportionally more victim than non-victim households had added security during the course of the year, for all types of security measures. About 57% of household victims did not increase their security during the year (table 2.6).

2.4 SECURITY FEATURES INSTALLED BY HOUSEHOLDS(a) IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS



(a) Households that had lived in dwelling for one year or more.

2.5 HOUSEHOLD SECURITY MEASURES BY DWELLING TENURE

	Own/purchase		Rent		Total(a)	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
DEADLOCKS ON DOORS						
All doors	1 911.2	37.3	559.3	32.1	2 519.7	35.8
Some doors	1 369.3	26.7	412.9	23.7	1 818.3	25.9
None	1 754.6	34.2	751.3	43.1	2 574.0	36.6
Not stated	92.9	1.8	21.3	1.2	119.2	1.7
SECURITY SCREEN DOORS						
All doors	1 993.0	38.9	596.5	34.2	2 650.8	37.7
Some doors	1 614.3	31.5	439.3	25.2	2 091.7	29.7
None	1 454.3	28.4	693.3	39.7	2 203.1	31.3
Not stated	66.4	1.3	15.8	0.9	85.6	1.2
BARS, GRILLES, SECURITY SHUTTERS OR LOCKS ON WINDOWS						
All windows	1 837.9	35.8	542.6	31.1	2 431.8	34.6
Some windows	1 030.4	20.1	292.6	16.8	1 347.2	19.2
None	2 160.8	42.1	886.8	50.8	3 125.1	44.4
Not stated	98.9	1.9	22.8	1.3	127.1	1.8
OUTSIDE LIGHTING(b)						
Sensor lighting	2 033.0	39.6	265.2	15.2	2 343.5	33.3
Outside light turned on	827.7	16.1	539.9	30.9	1 397.8	19.9
Street lighting	2 231.2	43.5	733.2	42.0	3 020.6	43.0
None	1 079.8	21.1	447.8	25.7	1 571.2	22.3
Not stated	56.5	1.1	18.0	1.0	78.6	1.1
WHETHER HAS BURGLAR ALARM						
Has burglar alarm	895.2	17.5	105.3	6.0	1 021.9	14.5
No burglar alarm	4 097.6	79.9	1 614.4	92.5	5 842.8	83.1
Not stated	135.2	2.6	25.1	1.4	166.6	2.4
CAR IN THE DRIVEWAY DURING THE DAY						
Always/most the time	1 665.8	32.5	496.7	28.5	2 215.3	31.5
Sometimes	1 774.1	34.6	520.2	29.8	2 341.9	33.3
Rarely/never	1 196.3	23.3	318.1	18.2	1 538.2	21.9
No driveway	202.1	3.9	142.3	8.2	356.8	5.1
No car	222.2	4.3	252.2	14.5	492.9	7.0
Not stated	67.5	1.3	15.3	0.9	86.0	1.2
WHETHER HAS A DOG						
Has a dog	2 178.2	42.5	532.1	30.5	2 774.5	39.5
Has no dog	2 853.7	55.6	1 191.4	68.3	4 135.4	58.8
Not stated	96.1	1.9	21.3	1.2	121.3	1.7
ALL CHARACTERISTICS						
Total households	5 128.0	100.0	1 744.8	100.0	7 031.2	100.0

(a) Includes dwelling tenure status of 'other'.

(b) Components sum to more than the total as respondents could indicate more than one type of lighting.

2.6 HOUSEHOLD(a) SECURITY MEASURES BY WHETHER A VICTIM OF BREAK-IN AND ATTEMPTED BREAK-IN IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS

	<i>Break-in victim</i>		<i>Attempted break-in victim</i>		<i>Break-in/attempted break-in victim</i>		<i>Not a victim of break-in/attempted break-in</i>	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
DEADLOCKS ON DOORS								
All doors	130.9	44.9	78.4	42.0	195.0	44.0	1 963.7	35.2
Some doors	81.9	28.1	50.1	26.8	118.5	26.7	1 442.7	25.8
None	75.7	26.0	57.4	30.7	126.2	28.5	2 074.7	37.1
Not stated	*2.7	*0.9	**0.8	**0.5	*3.6	*0.8	104.6	1.9
SECURITY SCREEN DOORS								
All doors	105.7	36.3	73.1	39.1	164.7	37.2	2 156.8	38.6
Some doors	89.8	30.8	53.5	28.7	132.0	29.8	1 684.1	30.2
None	91.3	31.3	58.8	31.5	140.7	31.7	1 673.9	30.0
Not stated	*4.5	*1.5	*1.4	*0.7	5.9	1.3	70.8	1.3
BARS, GRILLES, SECURITY SHUTTERS OR LOCKS ON WINDOWS								
All windows	121.5	41.7	77.4	41.4	184.7	41.7	1 899.2	34.0
Some windows	63.5	21.8	36.9	19.7	91.1	20.6	1 067.2	19.1
None	101.4	34.8	70.1	37.6	160.5	36.2	2 512.3	45.0
Not stated	4.9	1.7	*2.4	*1.3	6.9	1.6	107.0	1.9
OUTSIDE LIGHTING(b)								
Sensor lighting	104.5	35.9	59.8	32.0	150.2	33.9	1 964.5	35.2
Outside light turned on	64.7	22.2	49.2	26.3	105.8	23.9	1 018.6	18.2
Street lighting	132.6	45.5	88.4	47.3	205.6	46.4	2 417.5	43.3
None	51.3	17.6	33.9	18.2	79.5	17.9	1 246.7	22.3
Not stated	*2.9	*1.0	*1.2	*0.6	*4.1	*0.9	64.2	1.2
WHETHER HAS BURGLAR ALARM								
Has burglar alarm	61.9	21.2	35.9	19.2	89.8	20.3	824.7	14.8
No burglar alarm	222.9	76.5	148.3	79.4	345.2	77.9	4 616.1	82.6
Not stated	6.5	2.2	*2.5	*1.4	8.3	1.9	144.8	2.6
CAR IN THE DRIVEWAY DURING THE DAY								
Always/most the time	84.4	29.0	61.4	32.9	133.2	30.0	1 776.4	31.8
Sometimes	103.4	35.5	55.6	29.8	149.1	33.6	1 880.9	33.7
Rarely/never	64.0	22.0	42.3	22.7	98.1	22.1	1 223.9	21.9
No driveway	15.8	5.4	10.0	5.4	24.7	5.6	254.2	4.6
No car	21.6	7.4	16.8	9.0	35.6	8.0	377.2	6.8
Not stated	*2.0	*0.7	**0.6	**0.3	*2.6	*0.6	73.0	1.3
WHETHER HAS A DOG								
Has a dog	112.3	38.6	74.0	39.6	172.3	38.9	2 284.0	40.9
Has no dog	176.2	60.5	111.6	59.8	267.7	60.4	3 198.6	57.3
Not stated	*2.8	*1.0	*1.1	*0.6	*3.4	*0.8	103.0	1.8
SECURITY MEASURES ADDED IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS(b)								
Deadlocks on doors	50.1	17.2	23.0	12.3	63.1	14.2	260.2	4.7
Security screen doors	37.8	13.0	18.8	10.1	51.1	11.5	371.1	6.6
Bars, grilles, security shutters or locks on windows	56.0	19.2	22.3	11.9	71.3	16.1	262.3	4.7
Sensor lighting	36.9	12.7	23.3	12.5	53.6	12.1	527.3	9.4
Burglar alarms	37.3	12.8	9.5	5.1	41.9	9.5	149.8	2.7
None of the above	150.5	51.7	116.6	62.4	253.7	57.2	4 268.2	76.4
ALL CHARACTERISTICS								
Total households(a)	291.3	100.0	186.8	100.0	443.3	100.0	5 585.6	100.0

(a) Households that had lived in dwelling for one year or more.

(b) Components sum to more than the total as respondents could indicate more than one item.

CHAPTER 3

BREAK-IN RISK FACTORS

INTRODUCTION

In Chapter 1 the relationship between the risk of break-in victimisation and household characteristics was examined for one characteristic at a time (bivariate analysis). The bivariate relationships between break-in victimisation and other possible risk factors (selected dwelling and location characteristics) are shown in table 3.2.

However, there are often strong relationships between risk factors. The apparent relationship of any single risk factor with break-in victimisation may be partly or wholly due to that factor's relationship with some other factors. For example, both one parent households and households that are renting have higher than average risks of break-in victimisation (see table 1.10). Both of these may be risk factors or it may be that only 'one parent households' is a significant risk factor, and one parent households are more likely to live in rental dwellings.

A more complete analysis of the associations between break-in and its risk factors takes into account all possible risk factors simultaneously and examines each of the associations while controlling for the remaining factors. One method of doing this uses the multivariate technique known as logistic regression. The results of such an analysis are presented in this chapter, using data from the 1998 Crime and Safety Survey and the 1996 ABS Census of Population and Housing.

RISK FACTORS ANALYSED

The purpose of the regression analysis was to determine, from a range of household, dwelling and area risk factors, the most significant ones for break-in victimisation in Australia. It involved bringing together the household and dwelling information from the 1998 survey with information on the socio-economic characteristics of the areas where households live from the 1996 Census.

Note that the risk factors included in the analysis were limited to data from these two sources. It is likely that there are other risk factors that are important in explaining break-in victimisation that were not available from the survey or Census and therefore not included in the analysis.

METHODOLOGY

Technical details about the logistic regression technique and models used in the analysis are given in Appendix 2. Results obtained from this technique do not imply that a causal relationship exists between a risk factor and victimisation, they simply identify the association between victimisation and the risk factor.

The degree of association between victimisation and a risk factor is presented as an odds ratio. Odds are the probability that something has occurred or will occur compared to the probability that it has not occurred or will not occur. An odds ratio is obtained by dividing the odds for one category of an explanatory variable with the odds for a reference category within that variable. In this analysis the reference group was generally chosen on the basis that it had the lowest bivariate victimisation rate among the categories to which it would be compared.

Odds ratios can be interpreted as follows. For example, the reference group for household type is 'couple with unmarried child(ren)'. When the 'person living alone' household group is compared with the reference group, the odds ratio is 1.4 (see table 3.1, Model 1). The correct interpretation of this result is that the odds of being a victim of break-in are 40% (1.4 times) greater for 'person living alone' households than 'couple with unmarried child(ren)' households.

Two logistic regression models were developed for the analysis. Model 1 examines the association between victimisation and the household/dwelling characteristics. Model 2 examines the association between victimisation and household/dwelling and area characteristics. It is useful to compare the two models to see which household/dwelling characteristics remain significant after the introduction of area characteristics. These two models include only the risk factors which were found to be statistically significant at the 10% level. The odds ratios and the 95% confidence intervals for these risk factors are presented in table 3.1.

The household/dwelling and area characteristics that were included in the logistic regression analysis are listed in Appendix 2. It was not possible to include in the regression analysis all data items related to dwelling characteristics collected in the survey. For example, data items on household security measures were not included in the analysis due to problems in deriving suitable variables.

MAIN FINDINGS

The results from the logistic regression analysis indicate that households with the following household/dwelling risk factors included in Model 1 had a statistically significant association with risk of break-in victimisation in the presence of all other risk factors. The significant risk factors associated with higher levels of break-in were:

- one parent households, compared with the reference group of couple with child(ren) households (odds ratio 1.9);
- person living alone households, compared with the reference group of couple with child(ren) households (odds ratio 1.4);
- households in dwellings next to laneways/bicycle paths, compared to households not next to laneways/bicycle paths (odds ratio 1.6);
- households with large amounts of motor vehicle traffic in their street, compared with households without large amounts of motor vehicle traffic (odds ratio 1.7 for traffic all day and evening; odds ratio 1.4 for traffic mainly in peak hours).

Households with persons aged 55 years and over had a lower risk of break-in victimisation compared with other households, as did households in dwellings more than 100 metres from any community facility (such as parks, pubs, schools, shops, public transport stops).

When area characteristics were included in Model 2, this had minimal effect on the results for the household/dwelling characteristics. All the household/dwelling characteristics included in Model 1 retained a significant association with break-in victimisation, apart from households in dwellings more than 100 metres from any community facility.

The odds ratios for professional households in both models indicated that these households were marginally more likely to be victims of break-in compared to non-professional households. However, the difference between these two types of households was not statistically significant.

Area characteristics that showed a significant association with break-in victimisation were:

- households in Census Collection Districts where 10% or more of the population were unemployed, compared with households in areas with 4% or less of the population unemployed (odds ratio 1.5);
- households in Statistical Local Areas where 9% or more of the population were males aged 15–24 years, compared with households in areas with 6% or less males aged 15–24 years (odds ratio 1.5); and
- households in cities and towns with a population of 8,000 persons or more (odds ratio 2.0).

Households in all States and Territories, apart from South Australia, had an increased risk of break-in when compared with Victoria. The odds ratios for Western Australia and the Northern Territory were particularly high (2.3 and 2.2 respectively).

This initial analysis from the Crime and Safety Survey data represents a first step in a more detailed analysis and understanding of factors affecting crime victimisation, and further work is planned.

3.1 LOGISTIC REGRESSION MODELS OF BREAK-IN VICTIMISATION

Risk factors	Model 1			Model 2		
	p-value	Odds ratio(a)	95% confidence interval	p-value	Odds ratio(a)	95% confidence interval
HOUSEHOLD/DWELLING CHARACTERISTICS						
Household type						
Person living alone	0.0037	1.4	1.10–1.67	0.0095	1.3	1.07–1.63
Couple only	0.8784	1.0	0.79–1.22	0.9599	1.0	0.80–1.24
Couple with unmarried child(ren)(b)	..	1.0	..	..	1.0	..
One parent with unmarried child(ren)	0.0001	1.9	1.50–2.38	0.0001	1.8	1.45–2.31
All other households	0.0474	1.3	1.00–1.73	0.0902	1.3	0.96–1.66
Age of the oldest person in the household						
Under 25 years	0.2447	1.4	0.79–2.17	0.3870	1.3	0.73–2.02
25–34 years	0.0001	1.6	1.29–2.03	0.0001	1.6	1.29–2.02
35–44 years	0.0001	1.7	1.34–2.04	0.0001	1.6	1.32–2.02
45–54 years	0.0024	1.4	1.12–1.72	0.0054	1.4	1.09–1.68
55 years and over(b)	..	1.0	..	..	1.0	..
Occupation						
Professional households	0.0990	1.2	0.97–1.36	0.0970	1.2	0.97–1.37
Dwelling location						
Dwelling next to laneway/bicycle path	0.0001	1.6	1.31–2.00	0.0001	1.6	1.30–1.98
Dwelling more than 100 metres from any community facility	0.0045	0.8	0.67–0.93	0.3046	0.9	0.77–1.08
Amount of traffic in street						
A large amount of motor vehicle traffic all day and evening	0.0001	1.7	1.43–2.02	0.0001	1.7	1.44–2.05
A large amount of motor vehicle traffic mainly during peak hours	0.0002	1.4	1.17–1.69	0.0002	1.4	1.18–1.70
Not a large amount of motor vehicle traffic(b)	..	1.0	..	..	1.0	..
AREA CHARACTERISTICS						
Proportion of unemployed persons						
4% or less of unemployed persons(b)				..	1.0	..
4.1% to less than 10% of unemployed persons				0.8091	1.0	0.83–1.16
10% or more of unemployed persons				0.0050	1.5	1.12–1.97
Proportion of young males						
6% or less of males aged 15–24 years(b)				..	1.0	..
6.1% to less than 9% of males aged 15–24 years				0.2817	1.2	0.89–1.56
9% or more of males aged 15–24 years				0.0230	1.5	1.06–2.11
State and Territory						
New South Wales				0.0012	1.5	1.17–1.90
Victoria(b)				..	1.0	..
Queensland				0.0003	1.6	1.24–2.06
South Australia				0.3896	1.1	0.85–1.51
Western Australia				0.0001	2.3	1.75–2.89
Tasmania				0.0080	1.6	1.11–2.12
Northern Territory				0.0028	2.2	1.27–3.58
Australian Capital Territory				0.0419	1.5	1.01–2.10
Urban indicator						
Capital city or town with population of 8,000 or more				0.0001	2.0	1.53–2.62

(a) Adjusted for all risk factors listed.

(b) The reference group. Odds ratio is equal to 1.0 by definition.

3.2 DWELLING AND LOCATION CHARACTERISTICS OF HOUSEHOLDS THAT HAVE LIVED IN DWELLING FOR ONE YEAR OR MORE

	<i>Break-in victim</i>		<i>Attempted break-in victim</i>		<i>Break-in/attempted break-in victim</i>		<i>Not a victim of break-in/attempted break-in</i>	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
PERIOD OF RESIDENCE AT THIS ADDRESS								
1 to less than 3 years	74.7	25.7	50.9	27.3	117.1	26.4	1 128.3	20.2
3 to less than 5 years	45.5	15.6	32.8	17.5	71.9	16.2	782.3	14.0
5 years or more	171.0	58.7	103.1	55.2	254.4	57.4	3 675.1	65.8
DWELLING TENURE								
Own/purchase	215.3	73.9	123.2	66.0	314.2	70.9	4 461.5	79.9
Rent	71.2	24.4	59.4	31.8	120.8	27.2	1 014.0	18.2
Other	*4.3	*1.5	*3.1	*1.7	6.9	1.6	79.5	1.4
DWELLING TYPE								
Separate house	224.5	77.1	134.1	71.8	332.7	75.0	4 482.6	80.3
Semi detached/terrace house/villa unit/townhouse	27.3	9.4	18.6	10.0	42.6	9.6	401.8	7.2
Flat/unit/apartment—on ground level	17.6	6.0	14.9	8.0	30.8	6.9	311.9	5.6
Flat/unit/apartment—not on ground level	14.8	5.1	15.9	8.5	27.5	6.2	253.3	4.5
Other dwelling	*4.6	*1.6	*2.4	*1.3	6.4	1.4	86.3	1.5
DWELLING VISIBILITY FROM STREET								
Can be completely seen	153.7	52.8	95.3	51.0	232.6	52.5	3 220.1	57.6
Is partially screened	98.5	33.8	56.8	30.4	142.6	32.2	1 566.3	28.0
Cannot be seen at all	5.2	1.8	*3.8	*2.1	8.3	1.9	210.7	3.8
Not applicable(a)	32.4	11.1	30.8	16.5	58.3	13.2	565.2	10.1
AMOUNT OF MOTOR VEHICLE TRAFFIC								
Motor vehicle traffic all day and evening	92.0	31.6	66.2	35.5	141.3	31.9	1 269.9	22.7
Motor vehicle traffic mainly during peak hours	70.3	24.1	45.4	24.3	108.5	24.5	1 182.9	21.2
No motor vehicle traffic	128.0	43.9	74.9	40.1	192.2	43.3	3 105.6	55.6
AMOUNT OF PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC								
Pedestrian traffic all day and evening	42.3	14.5	32.8	17.6	65.1	14.7	495.7	8.9
Pedestrian traffic mainly during peak hours	58.2	20.0	49.1	26.3	99.3	22.4	865.4	15.5
No pedestrian traffic	188.7	64.8	103.8	55.6	276.0	62.3	4 183.6	74.9
DWELLING LOCATION CHARACTERISTICS(b)								
Next to laneway/bicycle path	38.5	13.2	25.1	13.5	58.5	13.2	446.6	8.0
On a corner block	39.9	13.7	26.9	14.4	59.9	13.5	658.4	11.8
In a cul de sac (includes 'place', 'court')	32.5	11.2	17.9	9.6	45.7	10.3	671.3	12.0
In another dead end street	17.3	6.0	13.7	7.3	29.6	6.7	348.1	6.2
In a battle-axe block	6.8	2.3	*4.7	*2.5	9.9	2.2	99.5	1.8
None of the above	138.0	47.4	79.0	42.3	204.7	46.2	2 936.8	52.6
Not applicable(a)	32.4	11.1	30.8	16.5	58.3	13.2	565.2	10.1
DWELLING WITHIN 100 METRES OF(b)								
Park/playing field/reserve	122.4	42.0	92.0	49.3	198.4	44.8	2 134.5	38.2
A pub/hotel/club or other licensed premises	33.4	11.5	31.4	16.8	58.8	13.3	467.9	8.4
A primary school	43.9	15.1	36.1	19.4	73.5	16.6	784.7	14.1
A secondary school, high school or college	19.4	6.7	17.1	9.1	34.5	7.8	336.7	6.0
A late-closing shop or petrol station	48.3	16.6	42.4	22.7	82.2	18.6	646.3	11.6
Other shops/shopping centres/commercial premises	49.3	16.9	41.9	22.5	85.0	19.2	699.9	12.5
A bus stop/tram stop	115.0	39.5	81.1	43.4	181.9	41.0	1 736.4	31.1
A railway station	13.7	4.7	14.7	7.9	26.1	5.9	194.2	3.5
None of the above	75.7	26.0	37.2	19.9	107.0	24.1	1 940.5	34.7
Not stated	9.8	3.4	6.0	3.2	12.6	2.8	194.1	3.5
ALL CHARACTERISTICS								
Total households(c)	291.3	100.0	186.8	100.0	443.3	100.0	5 585.6	100.0

(a) Household living in flats/units/apartments were not asked this question.

(b) Components sum to more than the total as respondents could indicate more than one response.

(c) Total includes 'not stated'.

CHAPTER 4

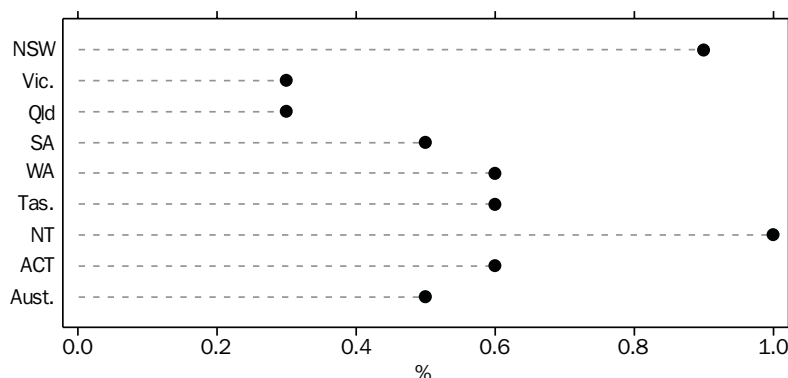
ROBBERY

Robbery was defined as an incident where the victim was physically attacked or threatened with violence when someone stole or attempted to steal property from them. In the 12 months prior to the 1998 survey, it is estimated there were 79,100 persons aged 15 years and over who were victims of robbery in Australia. This represents a victimisation prevalence rate for robbery of 0.5% of persons aged 15 years and over (table 4.9).

STATES AND TERRITORIES

The highest prevalence rates for robbery were in the Northern Territory and New South Wales (1.0% and 0.9% respectively). The lowest robbery prevalence rates were in Victoria and Queensland (both 0.3%).

4.1 ROBBERY VICTIMISATION RATES(a) IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS



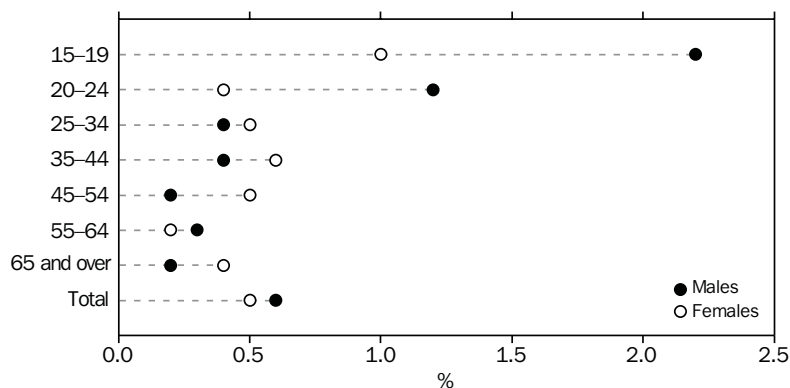
(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF VICTIMS

There were 41,500 male and 37,600 female victims of robbery in the 12 months prior to the survey, with males comprising 52% of all robbery victims.

The highest prevalence rate by age group for robbery victimisation occurred for males aged 15–19 years (2.2% of all males in this age group). The lowest rate of robbery victimisation by age group was for females aged 55–64 years, males aged 45–54 years, and males aged 65 years and over (0.2% in each case) (table 4.10).

4.2 ROBBERY VICTIMISATION RATES IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS BY AGE GROUP (YEARS)



SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC
CHARACTERISTICS OF
VICTIMS *continued*

For persons aged 15–24 years, males were more likely to be victims of robbery, while for persons aged 25 years and over, females were more likely to be victims.

4.3 VICTIMS OF ROBBERY IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS

<i>Age group (years)</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
	<i>'000</i>	<i>'000</i>	<i>'000</i>
15–24	22.3	8.6	30.9
25 and over	19.1	29.1	48.2
Total	41.5	37.6	79.1

Comparing victimisation prevalence rates (table 4.11) shows that:

- of all marital status categories, only separated/divorced persons showed a higher robbery victimisation rate (1.1%) once the rates were standardised for age;
- unemployed persons had higher rates of robbery victimisation than those employed or those not in the labour force (1.0% compared with 0.6% for both other categories when standardised for age);
- robbery victimisation rates were similar for persons born in Australia (0.6%) and persons born outside Australia (0.5%); and
- the robbery victimisation rate for persons living in metropolitan areas was 0.6% compared with 0.4% for persons living in non-metropolitan areas.

REPEAT VICTIMISATION

During the 12 months prior to the survey there were an estimated 117,600 incidents of robbery of persons aged 15 years and over in Australia. This was an incidence rate of 0.8% for persons aged 15 years and over.

Of all robbery victims, 23% experienced two or more incidents of robbery in the 12 months prior to the survey, accounting for 48% of all robbery incidents (as estimated from the survey). About 8% of robbery victims experienced three or more incidents, accounting for 29% of all robberies. There was an average of 1.5 incidents per victim.

4.4 VICTIMS(a) OF ROBBERY IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, NUMBER OF INCIDENTS EXPERIENCED

<i>Incidents per victim</i>	<i>Victims</i>		<i>Incidents</i>	
	<i>'000</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>'000</i>	<i>%</i>
1	61.1	77.3	61.1	52.0
2	11.5	14.5	22.9	19.5
3 or more	6.5	8.2	33.5	28.5
Total	79.1	100.0	117.6	100.0

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

REPEAT VICTIMISATION
continued

Two or more incidents were more likely to be experienced by robbery victims who were (table 4.12):

- male (32% compared with 12% of female robbery victims);
- aged 15–24 years (28% compared with 19% of those aged 25 years and over);
- never married (28% compared with 20% of those who were married); and
- unemployed (47% compared with 21% of employed robbery victims and 18% of those not in the labour force).

MOST RECENT INCIDENT

In 23% of the incidents the victim knew at least one offender. Younger persons were more likely to know the offender: 31% of robbery victims aged 15–24 years knew at least one offender compared to 18% of robbery victims aged 25 years and over. In particular, female robbery victims aged 25 years and over were less likely than males in this age group to know the offender (15% compared with 23%).

4.5 VICTIMS OF ROBBERY, WHETHER OFFENDER KNOWN IN THE MOST RECENT INCIDENT

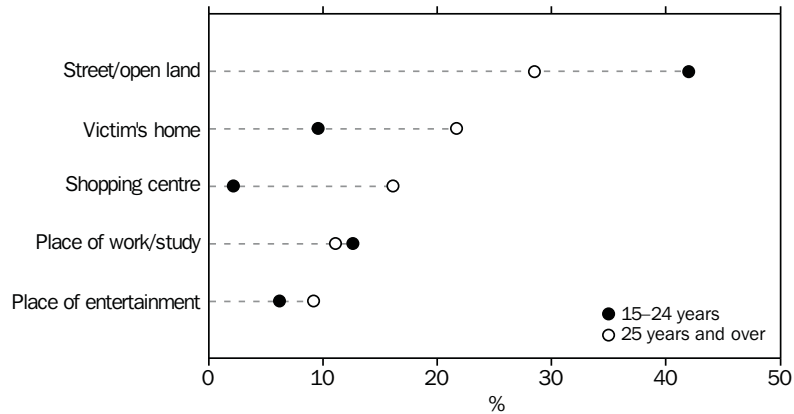
	Offender(s)		Total victims(a)	
	known/some known	Offenders not known/unknown	Number	Proportion where offender known
	'000	'000	'000	%
Males				
15–24 years	6.1	16.2	22.3	27.4
25 years and over	*4.3	14.5	19.1	*22.5
Total	10.4	30.7	41.5	25.1
Females				
15–24 years	*3.4	5.2	8.6	*39.5
25 years and over	*4.3	24.8	29.1	*14.8
Total	7.6	30.0	37.6	20.3
Persons				
15–24 years	9.5	21.4	30.9	30.8
25 years and over	8.6	39.3	48.2	17.8
Total	18.1	60.7	79.1	22.9

(a) Total includes any 'not stated'.

The most common location for the most recent incidents of robbery was in the street or other open land (34% of all incidents). A further 21% of robberies occurred in homes, 12% were at the victim's place of work or study, and 11% were at shopping centres (table 4.13).

The most common location for the most recent robbery incident for persons aged 15–24 years was in a street or other open land (42% of incidents). Although this was also the most common location for persons aged 25 years and over (29% of incidents), other common locations were at home (22%) and in a shopping centre (16%).

4.6 VICTIMS OF ROBBERY, LOCATION OF THE MOST RECENT INCIDENT



Weapon use Weapons were used in 24% of incidents. Weapon use was most common when the offender did not know the victim: 83% of incidents where a weapon was used were in this category. Weapons were more likely to be used against male victims, with 33% of male robbery victims having a weapon used against them compared with 15% of female robbery victims. In particular, males aged 15–24 years were the most likely group to have a weapon used against them, and females of this age the least likely (38% of males in this age group, compared with 5% of females in this age group). A weapon was more likely to be used than not in the victim's place of work/study (a weapon was used in 62% of incidents) (table 4.14).

Other characteristics of the incident Other characteristics of the most recent incidents of robbery included (table 4.15):

- the victim was physically injured in 28% of incidents;
- in just under half the incidents (48%) property was stolen;
- in just over half (52%) of incidents there was only one offender; and
- in 39% of incidents the victim was with friends, relatives or companions.

Reporting to police Half the victims told the police about the most recent incident of robbery. Reporting rates for the States and Territories are given in table 4.16.

For those who did not tell police, the most common reasons for not doing so were that the incident was too trivial or unimportant (26% of victims who did not tell the police), and that they thought there was nothing the police could do (25%).

4.7 MAIN REASON FOR NOT TELLING POLICE ABOUT THE MOST RECENT INCIDENT OF ROBBERY

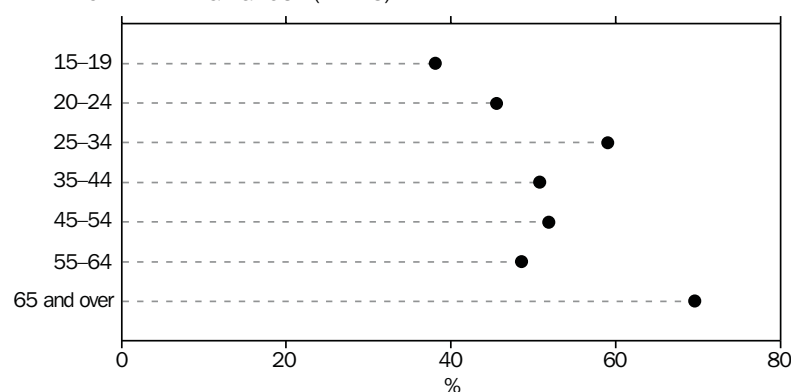
	'000	%
Too trivial/unimportant	10.5	26.4
I thought there was nothing the police could do	10.1	25.4
I thought the police would have been unwilling to do anything	7.0	17.7
Personal matter/would take care of it myself	5.0	12.7
I was too confused/upset/injured	*2.4	*6.0
Somebody else told police	*1.0	*2.6
Other reasons	*3.7	*9.2
Total(a)	39.7	100.0

(a) Victims aged 15 years and over who did not tell police about the most recent incident.

Factors influencing reporting to police

Females were more likely to tell police about the most recent incident of robbery (59% of females compared with 42% of males). The rate of reporting to police generally increased with age (table 4.16).

4.8 VICTIMS OF ROBBERY WHO TOLD POLICE ABOUT THE MOST RECENT INCIDENT BY AGE GROUP (YEARS)



Characteristics of the incident that were associated with higher rates of reporting to police included (table 4.15):

- when a weapon was used (59% of victims compared with 47% when a weapon was not used);
- when the victim was physically injured (68% of victims compared with 43% when the victim was not physically injured);
- when property was stolen (68% compared to 33% when no property was stolen); and
- if the incident was in a private vehicle (84%), at the victim's place of work or study (72%), or at another person's home (64%).

In contrast, whether the offender was known to the victim did not appear to affect the rate of reporting to police (50% of incidents reported in each case).

4.9 VICTIMS AND NON-VICTIMS(a) OF ROBBERY IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS

	Victims	Non-victims	Total	Victimisation prevalence rate
	'000	'000	'000	%
New South Wales	42.4	4 867.7	4 910.2	0.9
Victoria	9.6	3 626.1	3 635.7	0.3
Queensland	9.2	2 628.9	2 638.1	0.3
South Australia	5.5	1 161.2	1 166.7	0.5
Western Australia	7.8	1 391.2	1 399.0	0.6
Tasmania	2.1	360.5	362.5	0.6
Northern Territory	1.0	107.4	108.5	1.0
Australian Capital Territory	1.5	233.8	235.3	0.6
Australia	79.1	14 376.9	14 456.0	0.5

(a) Victims and non-victims aged 15 years and over.

4.10 VICTIMS AND NON-VICTIMS(a) OF ROBBERY IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, AGE AND SEX

Age group (years)	Victims		Non-victims		Total	Victimisation prevalence rate
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
MALES						
15-19	14.2	34.2	636.2	9.0	650.4	2.2
20-24	8.1	19.6	662.8	9.3	671.0	1.2
25-34	5.9	14.2	1 407.3	19.8	1 413.2	0.4
35-44	6.1	14.7	1 415.7	20.0	1 421.8	0.4
45-54	*2.9	*7.1	1 222.6	17.2	1 225.5	*0.2
55-64	*2.0	*4.8	798.7	11.3	800.7	*0.3
65 and over	*2.2	*5.3	949.1	13.4	951.3	*0.2
<i>Total</i>	<i>41.5</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>7 092.3</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>7 133.8</i>	<i>0.6</i>
FEMALES						
15-19	6.2	16.6	612.9	8.4	619.1	1.0
20-24	*2.3	*6.2	654.9	9.0	657.2	*0.4
25-34	7.8	20.8	1 423.5	19.5	1 431.3	0.5
35-44	9.1	24.2	1 433.1	19.7	1 442.2	0.6
45-54	6.2	16.5	1 200.7	16.5	1 206.9	0.5
55-64	*1.8	*4.8	790.9	10.9	792.7	*0.2
65 and over	*4.2	*11.0	1 168.6	16.0	1 172.7	*0.4
<i>Total</i>	<i>37.6</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>7 284.5</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>7 322.2</i>	<i>0.5</i>
PERSONS						
15-19	20.4	25.8	1 249.1	8.7	1 269.5	1.6
20-24	10.5	13.2	1 317.7	9.2	1 328.2	0.8
25-34	13.7	17.3	2 830.8	19.7	2 844.5	0.5
35-44	15.2	19.2	2 848.8	19.8	2 864.0	0.5
45-54	9.1	11.5	2 423.2	16.9	2 432.4	0.4
55-64	*3.8	*4.8	1 589.6	11.1	1 593.4	*0.2
65 and over	6.3	8.0	2 117.7	14.7	2 124.0	0.3
Total	79.1	100.0	14 376.9	100.0	14 456.0	0.5

(a) Victims and non-victims aged 15 years and over.

4.11 VICTIMS AND NON-VICTIMS(a) OF ROBBERY IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS

	<i>Victims</i>		<i>Non-victims</i>		<i>Victimisation prevalence rate</i>		
	<i>'000</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>'000</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Non-standardised</i>	<i>Standardised(b)</i>
					<i>'000</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>
MARITAL STATUS							
Married/de facto	22.4	28.3	8 599.9	59.8	8 622.3	0.3	0.2
Separated/divorced	11.4	14.4	1 073.1	7.5	1 084.5	1.1	1.1
Widowed	*3.3	*4.2	815.9	5.7	819.2	0.4	0.6
Never married	42.0	53.2	3 887.9	27.0	3 930.0	1.1	0.6
LABOUR FORCE STATUS							
Employed	46.0	58.1	8 721.8	60.7	8 767.7	0.5	0.6
Unemployed	8.0	10.1	664.1	4.6	672.1	1.2	1.0
Not in labour force	25.1	31.8	4 991.0	34.7	5 016.1	0.5	0.6
COUNTRY OF BIRTH							
Born in Australia	61.2	77.3	10 642.6	74.0	10 703.7	0.6	n.a.
Born outside Australia	17.9	22.7	3 734.3	26.0	3 752.2	0.5	n.a.
REGION							
Metropolitan	58.5	73.9	8 999.9	62.6	9 058.4	0.6	n.a.
Non-metropolitan	20.6	26.1	5 377.0	37.4	5 397.6	0.4	n.a.
ALL CHARACTERISTICS							
Total	79.1	100.0	14 376.9	100.0	14 456.0	0.5	0.5

(a) Victims and non-victims aged 15 years and over.

(b) Standardised victimisation rates show the victimisation rates which would occur in different populations if they had the same age composition as the standard population. For further details see paragraph 47 of the Explanatory Notes.

4.12 VICTIMS(a) OF ROBBERY, SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS BY NUMBER OF INCIDENTS EXPERIENCED IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS

	<i>One incident</i>		<i>Two incidents or more</i>		<i>Total victims</i>		<i>Total number of incidents</i>	<i>Average number of incidents per victim</i>
	<i>'000</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>'000</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>'000</i>	<i>%</i>		
SEX								
Males	28.1	67.8	13.3	32.2	41.5	100.0	70.2	1.7
Females	33.0	87.7	*4.6	*12.3	37.6	100.0	47.4	1.3
AGE GROUP								
15-24 years	22.1	71.6	8.8	28.4	30.9	100.0	54.3	1.8
25 years and over	39.0	80.9	9.2	19.1	48.2	100.0	63.3	1.3
MARITAL STATUS								
Married/de facto	17.9	80.2	*4.4	*19.8	22.4	100.0	30.9	1.4
Separated/divorced	10.1	88.6	*1.3	*11.3	11.4	100.0	12.7	1.1
Widowed	*2.8	*84.5	**0.5	**15.5	*3.3	*100.0	*3.9	*1.2
Never married	30.3	72.1	11.7	27.9	42.0	100.0	70.1	1.7
EMPLOYMENT STATUS								
Employed	36.3	79.1	9.6	20.9	46.0	100.0	60.0	1.3
Unemployed	*4.3	*53.3	*3.7	*46.7	8.0	100.0	17.7	2.2
Not in labour force	20.5	81.8	*4.6	*18.2	25.1	100.0	39.8	1.6
COUNTRY OF BIRTH								
Born in Australia	45.7	74.8	15.4	25.2	61.2	100.0	95.0	1.6
Born outside Australia	15.4	85.9	*2.5	*14.1	17.9	100.0	22.6	1.3
REGION								
Metropolitan	46.1	78.8	12.4	21.2	58.5	100.0	83.1	1.4
Non-metropolitan	15.0	73.0	5.6	27.0	20.6	100.0	34.5	1.7
ALL CHARACTERISTICS								
Total	61.1	77.3	18.0	22.7	79.1	100.0	117.6	1.5

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

4.13 VICTIMS(a) OF ROBBERY IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, LOCATION OF THE MOST RECENT INCIDENT BY WHETHER OFFENDER(S) KNOWN

	Offender(s) known/some known		Offender(s) not known/unknown		Total(b)	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
15-24 YEARS						
At home	*2.2		**0.8		*3.0	*9.6
At the place of work/study	*1.9		*2.0		*3.9	*12.6
In a place of entertainment	**0.7		*1.2		*1.9	*6.2
In a street or other open land	*2.1		10.9		13.0	42.0
In a shopping centre, including car park	**0.4		**0.3		**0.7	**2.2
Total(b)	9.5		21.4		30.9	100.0
25 YEARS AND OVER						
At home	4.9		5.3		10.5	21.7
At the place of work/study	**0.4		5.0		5.4	11.1
In a place of entertainment	—		*4.4		*4.4	*9.2
In a street or other open land	*1.4		12.4		13.8	28.5
In a shopping centre, including car park	—		7.7		7.7	16.1
Total(b)	8.6		39.3		48.2	100.0
PERSONS						
At home	7.0		6.1		13.4	17.0
At another person's home	*2.7		**0.1		*2.9	*3.6
At the place of work/study	*2.3		7.0		9.3	11.7
In a private vehicle	**0.9		*2.1		*3.0	*3.8
In a public vehicle	—		*1.8		*1.8	*2.2
In a place of entertainment	**0.7		5.6		*6.4	*8.0
In a street or other open land	*3.4		23.3		26.7	33.8
In a shopping centre, including car park	**0.4		8.0		8.4	10.7
Other	**0.6		6.4		7.0	8.9
Total(c)	18.1		60.7		79.1	100.0

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

(b) Total includes any 'not stated'.

(c) Total includes all locations.

4.14 VICTIMS(a) OF ROBBERY IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MOST RECENT INCIDENT BY WEAPON USE

	<i>Weapon used</i>	<i>Weapon not used</i>	<i>Total(b)</i>	<i>Proportion where weapon used</i>
	'000	'000	'000	%
VICTIMS				
Males				
15 to 24 years	8.4	13.9	22.3	37.8
25 years and over	5.3	13.5	19.1	27.5
<i>Total</i>	13.7	27.4	41.5	33.1
Females				
15 to 24 years	**0.4	8.1	8.6	**5.0
25 years and over	5.2	22.9	29.1	17.9
<i>Total</i>	5.6	31.0	37.6	15.0
Persons				
15 to 24 years	8.9	22.0	30.9	28.7
25 years and over	10.5	36.4	48.2	21.7
NUMBER OF OFFENDERS				
One	9.1	30.9	41.0	22.2
Two or more	10.3	27.4	37.6	27.4
WHETHER OFFENDER(S) KNOWN				
Offender(s) known/some known	*3.3	14.8	18.1	*18.2
Offender(s) not known/don't know	16.1	43.6	60.7	26.5
WHETHER PHYSICALLY INJURED				
Physically injured	5.3	16.7	22.0	24.1
Not physically injured	14.0	41.7	56.2	24.9
WHETHER PROPERTY STOLEN				
Property stolen	9.5	28.3	37.8	25.1
Nothing stolen	9.8	30.1	41.3	23.7
LOCATION				
At home	*3.1	9.4	13.4	*23.1
At another person's home	**0.5	*2.3	*2.9	**17.2
At the place of work/study	5.8	*3.5	9.3	62.4
In a private vehicle	*1.7	*1.3	*3.0	*56.7
In a public vehicle	—	*1.8	*1.8	—
In a place of entertainment	*1.8	*4.6	6.4	*28.1
In a street or other open land	*4.4	21.9	26.7	*16.5
In a shopping centre, including car park	*1.3	7.1	8.4	*15.5
Other	**0.7	6.4	7.0	**10.0
WHETHER VICTIM WAS ACCOMPANIED				
With friends, relatives or companions	8.6	21.9	31.1	27.7
Alone	10.7	35.4	46.6	23.0
ALL CHARACTERISTICS				
Total(b)	19.3	58.4	79.1	24.4

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

(b) Total includes any 'not stated'.

4.15 VICTIMS(a) OF ROBBERY IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MOST RECENT INCIDENT BY WHETHER TOLD POLICE

	Police told		Police not told		Total	
	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%
NUMBER OF OFFENDERS						
One	22.5	18.6	41.0	51.9	54.7	
Two or more	16.9	20.7	37.6	47.6	45.0	
WHETHER OFFENDER(S) KNOWN						
Offender(s) known/some known	9.0	9.1	18.1	22.9	49.5	
Offender(s) not known/don't know	30.4	30.3	60.7	76.7	50.1	
USE OF WEAPON						
No weapon used	27.4	31.0	58.4	73.8	46.9	
Weapon used(c)	11.5	7.9	19.4	24.5	59.1	
Knife	4.8	*4.5	9.4	11.8	51.8	
Gun	*2.0	**0.6	*2.6	*3.3	*76.5	
Other weapon	*4.7	*2.7	7.4	9.3	*63	
WHETHER PHYSICALLY INJURED						
Physically injured	14.9	7.1	22.0	27.9	67.7	
Not physically injured	23.9	32.3	56.2	71.1	42.6	
WHETHER PROPERTY STOLEN						
Property stolen	25.7	12.1	37.8	47.8	68.1	
Nothing stolen	13.6	27.6	41.3	52.2	33.0	
LOCATION						
At home	5.4	8.0	13.4	17.0	40.1	
At another person's home	*1.8	*1.0	*2.9	*3.6	*63.5	
At the place of work/study	6.6	*2.6	9.3	11.7	71.5	
In a private vehicle	*2.5	**0.5	*3.0	*3.8	*83.9	
In a public vehicle	**0.5	*1.3	*1.8	*2.2	**27.3	
In a place of entertainment	*1.7	4.7	6.4	8.0	*26.0	
In a street or other open land	13.5	13.2	26.7	33.8	50.5	
In a shopping centre, including car park	*4.4	*4.0	8.4	10.7	*52.0	
Other	*3.0	*4.1	7.0	8.9	*42.4	
WHETHER VICTIM WAS ACCOMPANIED						
With friends, relatives or companions	18.3	12.7	31.1	39.3	59.0	
Alone	20.8	25.8	46.6	58.9	44.6	
ROBBERY						
Aggravated(d)	27.7	25.4	53.1	67.2	52.2	
Non-aggravated	11.6	14.3	26.0	32.8	44.8	
ALL CHARACTERISTICS						
Total(e)	39.4	39.7	79.1	100.0	49.8	

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

(b) The reporting rate is the number of victims in a particular category who told police, expressed as a percentage of all victims in that category.

(c) More than one weapon type may have been used.

(d) Aggravated robbery is defined as an incident where either there was more than one offender, a weapon was used, or the victim was injured.

(e) Total includes any 'not stated'.

4.16 VICTIMS(a) OF ROBBERY IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, WHETHER TOLD POLICE ABOUT THE MOST RECENT INCIDENT

	<i>Police told</i>	<i>Police not told</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Reporting rate(b)</i>
	'000	'000	'000	%
SEX				
Males	17.2	24.2	41.5	41.5
Females	22.1	15.5	37.6	58.9
AGE				
15-19 years	7.8	12.7	20.4	38.1
20-24 years	4.8	5.7	10.5	45.5
25-34 years	8.1	5.6	13.7	59.0
35-44 years	7.7	7.5	15.2	50.8
45-54 years	*4.7	*4.4	9.1	*51.9
55-64 years	*1.9	*2.0	*3.8	*48.6
65 years and over	*4.4	*1.9	6.3	*69.6
STATE/TERRITORY				
New South Wales	20.3	22.1	42.4	47.9
Victoria	4.4	5.2	9.6	46.0
Queensland	4.8	4.4	9.2	52.4
South Australia	*2.3	3.2	5.5	42.5
Western Australia	4.6	3.2	7.8	59.5
Tasmania	*1.2	*0.9	2.1	56.5
Northern Territory	0.8	**0.2	1.0	79.8
Australian Capital Territory	*0.8	*0.7	1.5	56.3
ROBBERY VICTIMS				
Total	39.4	39.7	79.1	49.8

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

(b) The reporting rate is the number of victims in a particular category who told police, expressed as a percentage of all victims in that category.

CHAPTER 5

ASSAULT

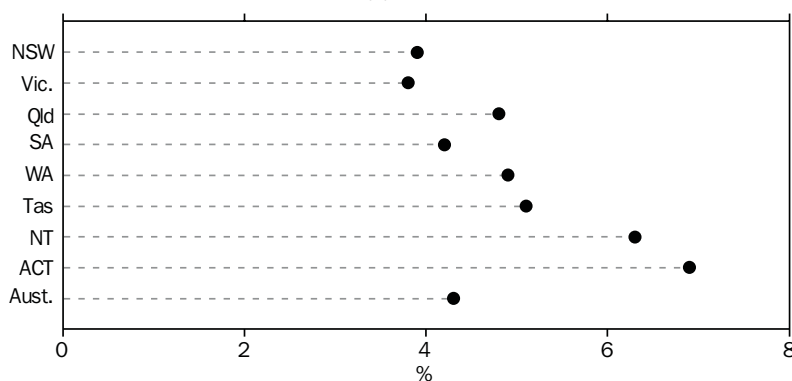
INTRODUCTION

An assault was defined as an incident other than a robbery involving the use, attempted use, or threat of force or violence against the victim. In the 12 months prior to the 1998 survey, it is estimated that there were 618,300 people aged 15 years and over who were victims of assault. This represents a victimisation prevalence rate for assault of 4.3% of persons aged 15 years and over (table 5.13).

STATES AND TERRITORIES

The highest assault prevalence rates were in the Territories (Australian Capital Territory, 6.9%; Northern Territory, 6.3%). The lowest rates for assault were in Victoria (3.8%) and New South Wales (3.9%).

5.1 ASSAULT VICTIMISATION RATES(a) IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS



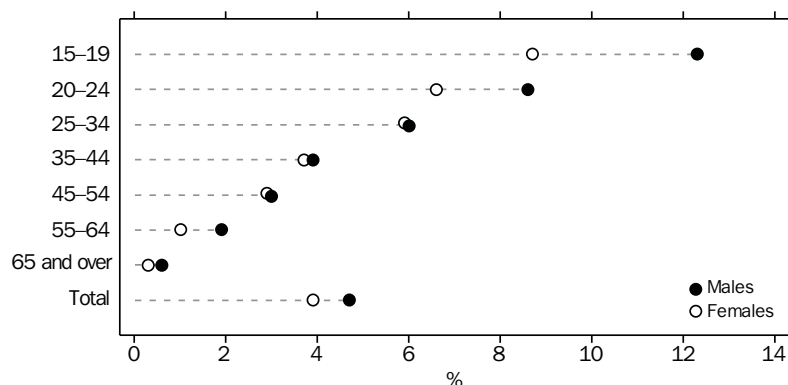
(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF VICTIMS

There were 336,200 male and 282,000 female victims of assault in the 12 months prior to the survey, with males comprising 54% of all assault victims.

The highest prevalence rates by age group for assault occurred for males aged between 15 and 19 years (12% of males in this age group). The next highest rates for assault by age group occurred for females aged 15–19 years (8.7%) and males aged 20–24 years (8.6%). Prevalence rates for assault were similar for males and females aged 25 years and over and decreased with age.

5.2 ASSAULT VICTIMISATION RATES IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS BY AGE GROUP (YEARS)



SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC
CHARACTERISTICS OF
VICTIMS *continued*

More of the married and never married assault victims were male than female, whereas more of the separated and divorced victims were female than male.

5.3 VICTIMS(a) OF ASSAULT IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
	'000	'000
Married	104.7	77.2
De facto	27.6	18.5
Separated	12.2	32.3
Divorced	11.0	27.6
Widowed	*2.0	*3.5
Never married	178.8	123.0
Total	336.2	282.0

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

Comparing assault victimisation prevalence rates shows that (table 5.15):

- both separated and divorced persons had high rates of assault victimisation when these rates are standardised for age (10.2% and 9.7% respectively);
- unemployed persons had higher rates of victimisation than those employed and those not in the labour force (age standardised rate of 6.1% compared with 4.3% and 4.1% respectively);
- a higher proportion of persons born in Australia had been a victim of assault (4.8%) compared with persons born outside Australia (2.8%); and
- the assault victimisation rate for persons living in metropolitan areas was 4.2% compared with 4.4% for persons living in non-metropolitan areas.

MOST RECENT INCIDENT

As an aid in the interpretation of the assault data, the most recent incident for each assault victim has been classified to one of eight categories, based on a classification used in the 1992 British Crime Survey:

Family—incidents where the offender was the partner or ex-partner of the victim, or a member of the victim's family, regardless of the location of the incident.

Home-based—where the incident occurred at the victim's home or someone else's home, excluding any family violence (as defined above).

Work/study—where the incident occurred at the victim's place of work, or study (excluding family violence).

Street—where the incident occurred either in the street or other open land, or in a public vehicle such as train, bus or taxi (excluding family violence).

Pubs/clubs—where the incident was in a place of entertainment such as a pub or nightclub, including the car park (excluding family violence).

Private car—where the incident occurred in a private vehicle such as a car (excluding family violence).

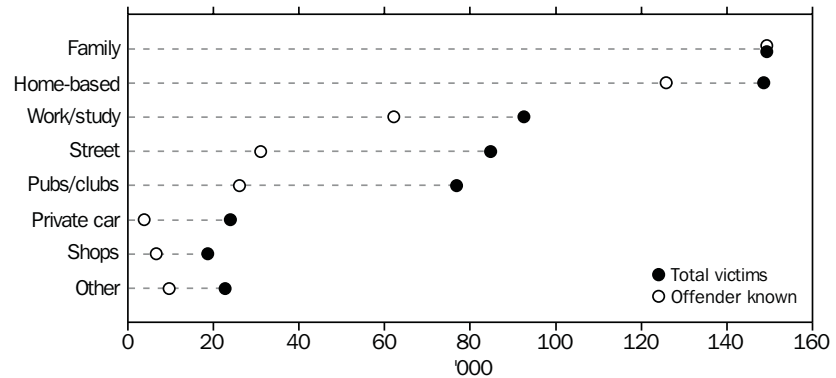
MOST RECENT INCIDENT
continued

Shops—in a shopping centre, including car park (excluding family violence).

Other—any other location (excluding family violence).

About 24% of most recent assaults were classified as family violence. A further 24% were home-based violence, 15% were work/study violence, 14% street violence, and 12% pubs/clubs violence (table 5.16).

5.4 VICTIMS(a) OF ASSAULT, MOST RECENT INCIDENT

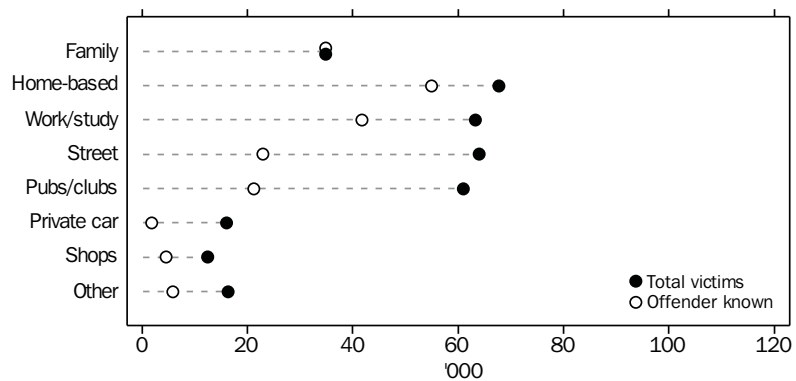


(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

For home-based incidents, 85% of victims knew the offender, in contrast with street violence, where 37% of victims knew the offender.

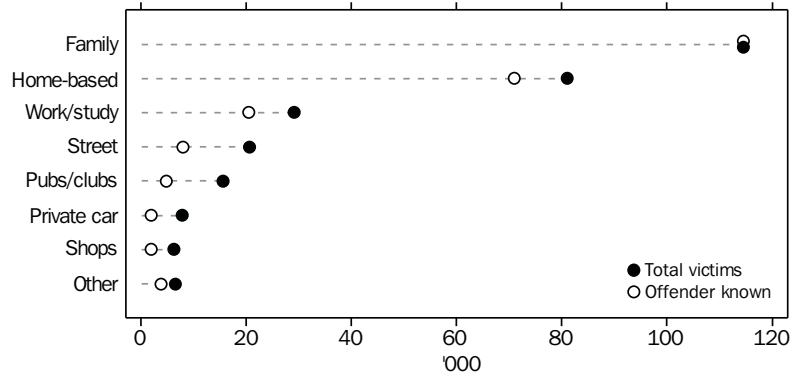
The profile of assaults for males and females is quite different. For females, 69% of the most recent incidents of assault were either family or home-based. In contrast, 30% of most recent assaults for male victims were in these categories. Other common types of assaults for males were street-based violence (19% of male assault victims), work/study-based violence (19%) and pubs/clubs violence (18%).

5.5 MALE VICTIMS(a) OF ASSAULT, MOST RECENT INCIDENT



(a) Aged 15 years and over.

5.6 FEMALE VICTIMS(a) OF ASSAULT, MOST RECENT INCIDENT



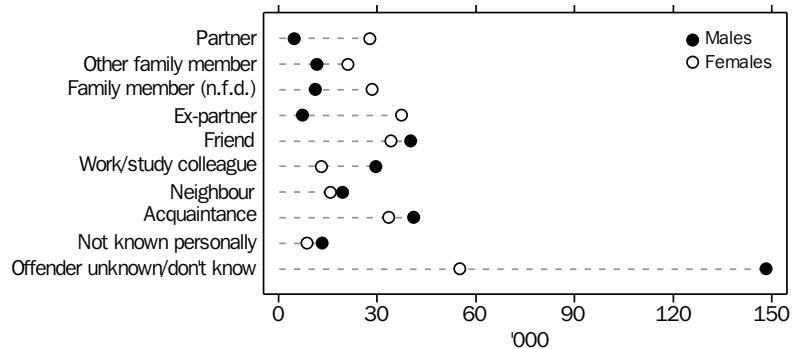
(a) Aged 15 years and over.

At least one offender was known in 67% of most recent incidents. Female assault victims were more likely to know the offender (81% of females knew at least one offender in the most recent incident, compared with 56% of males) (table 5.16).

How offender known

Graph 5.7 indicates how the victim knew the offender in the most recent incident of assault. More females than males were assaulted by partners, ex-partners and other family members, whereas more males than females were assaulted by work/study colleagues, friends and other acquaintance.

5.7 VICTIMS(a) OF ASSAULT, HOW OFFENDER KNOWN IN THE MOST RECENT INCIDENT



(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

Other characteristics of the incident

Other characteristics of the most recent incidents of assault were (table 5.18):

- there was only one offender in 73% of incidents;
- a weapon was used in 11% of incidents;
- the victim was physically injured in 21% of incidents; and
- 40% of the incidents involved the actual use of force or violence on the victim, 15% involved an attempt to use force or violence, and 39% involved the threat of force or violence.

Reporting behaviour Only 28% of assault victims told the police about the most recent incident of assault that they had experienced (table 5.17). The most common reason given for not telling the police was that the incident was too trivial or unimportant (35% of persons who did not tell the police).

5.8 MAIN REASON FOR NOT TELLING POLICE ABOUT THE MOST RECENT INCIDENT OF ASSAULT

	'000	%
Too trivial/unimportant	155.4	34.8
Personal matter/ would take care of it myself	105.0	23.5
I thought there was nothing the police could do	41.3	9.2
I thought the police would have been unwilling to do anything	36.2	8.1
Afraid of reprisal	25.2	5.6
Told somebody else instead	24.6	5.5
Did not want offender punished	12.3	2.7
I was too confused/upset/injured	8.2	1.8
Somebody else told police	6.4	1.4
Other reasons	30.4	6.8
Not stated	*2.0	*0.5
Total(a)	447.0	100.0

(a) Victims aged 15 years and over who did not tell police about the most recent incident.

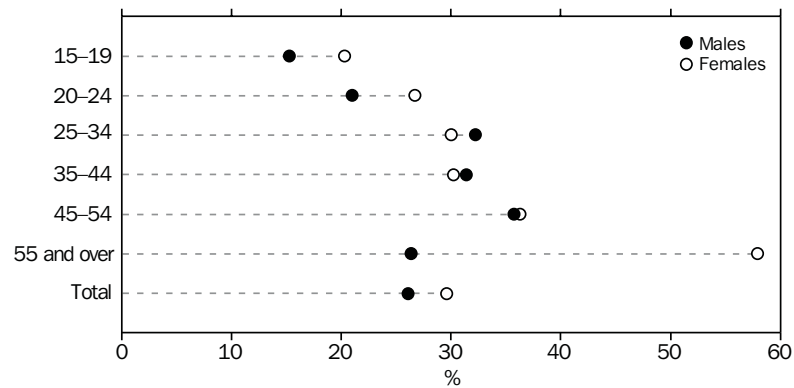
In 12% of the most recent incidents, the victim did not tell anyone (apart from the police) about the assault. When the victim did discuss the incident with other persons, the most likely confidantes were friends (59% of assault victims) and family members (51%). About 10% of assault victims consulted a medical practitioner and 5% consulted a crisis helper or a counsellor (table 5.19).

Persons who were assaulted by their partner were less likely to discuss the incident with anyone else. About 24% of victims assaulted by their partner did not discuss the incident with anyone else (table 5.20).

Crisis workers and counsellors were more likely to be consulted by victims of family violence and violence from neighbours than other victims (15% of victims of partner violence, 11% of victims of ex-partner violence, 14% of victims of other family member violence and 12% of victims of neighbour violence).

Factors influencing reporting to police A slightly higher proportion of females told police about the most recent incident of assault (30% as compared with 26% for males). Rates of reporting to police generally increased with age for both males and females, though with males the reporting rate peaked for those aged 45–54 years and then declined slightly for the older age groups (table 5.20).

5.9 VICTIMS OF ASSAULT WHO TOLD POLICE ABOUT THE MOST RECENT INCIDENT BY AGE GROUP (YEARS)



Characteristics of most recent incidents that are associated with higher than average rates for reporting to the police include (table 5.18):

- if there were two or more offenders (34% reported to police compared with 25% when there was one offender);
- if a weapon was used (55% compared with 24% if no weapon used);
- if the offender was a neighbour (63%) or an ex-partner (41%); and
- if the victim was admitted to hospital (65% compared with 24% if no physical injury).

Lower than average rates of reporting to police were found:

- if the assault was classed as pubs/clubs violence (15%); and
- if the offender was a current partner of the victim (17%).

REPEAT VICTIMISATION

It is estimated that there were 1.5 million assaults of persons aged 15 years and over, in the 12 months prior to the survey. This was an incidence rate of 10.6% of persons aged 15 years and over (table 5.10).

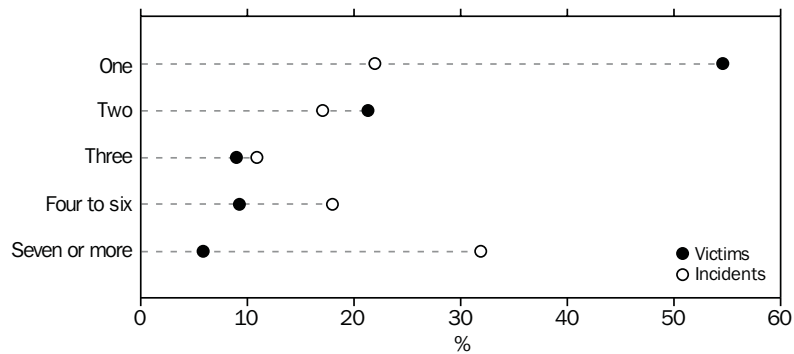
Overall, 45% of assault victims experienced two or more assaults in the 12 months prior to the survey, accounting for 78% of all assaults (as estimated by the survey). About 6% of assault victims experienced seven or more incidents, accounting for 32% of all incidents. There was an average of 2.5 incidents per assault victim.

5.10 VICTIMS(a) OF ASSAULT IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, NUMBER OF INCIDENTS EXPERIENCED

Incidents	Victims		Incidents	
	'000	%	'000	%
1	337.5	54.6	337.5	22.0
2	131.4	21.3	262.8	17.1
3	55.9	9.0	167.6	10.9
4-6	57.2	9.3	276.7	18.0
7 or more	36.3	5.9	488.7	31.9
Total	618.3	100.0	1 533.3	100.0

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

5.11 VICTIMS(a) OF ASSAULT IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, NUMBER OF INCIDENTS EXPERIENCED



(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

Assault victims who experienced high levels of repeated assault victimisation were those aged 20–24 years, where victims in this age group had an average of 3.4 incidents per victim, and separated and divorced persons, who had an average of 3.5 and 3.3 incidents per victim respectively (table 5.22).

Three or more incidents were more likely to be experienced by assault victims who were (table 5.22):

- female (27% compared with 22% of male assault victims);
- aged 45–54 years (29% compared with 20% of assault victims aged 15–19 years and 22% of assault victims aged 20–24 years);
- separated or divorced (41% of separated assault victims and 32% of divorced assault victims compared with 20% of never married victims and 25% of married victims);
- Australian-born (25% compared with 22% of assault victims born overseas); and
- victims where the most recent incident was classified as family violence (35%) or work/study violence (31%).

The three most recent incidents of assault

In the 1998 Crime and Safety Survey, details were collected for the three most recent assault incidents for victims of three or more assaults. There were 149,400 people who were victims of three or more assaults in the 12 months prior to the survey.

Some of the characteristics of these repeated assaults and their victims were (table 5.23):

- 48% of victims of three or more assaults were assaulted by the same person in the three most recent incidents, with a further 10% assaulted by the same person in two of the three most recent incidents;
- females were more likely to be assaulted by the same offender (65% of female victims compared with 30% of males);
- 34% of victims of three or more assaults had the three most recent incidents all occur at home; a further 24% had each of the most recent incidents occur at the same type of place; and

The three most recent incidents of assault *continued*

- half of the females victims were assaulted at home in each of the most recent incidents, compared with 18% of males.

If each of the three most recent incidents is classified to one of the assault categories, then the following emerges. Over a quarter (28%) of victims of three or more assaults were victims of family violence in each of the three most recent assaults. Potentially a further 5% of repeat victims were in this category if those who did not state details of the second and third most recent incident are included.

When relevant 'not stated's are included, 19% of victims of three or more assaults were victims of home-based violence in each of the three most recent incidents, and 17% were victims of work/study violence in each of the three most recent incidents. About 21% of repeat victims were victims of different types of assaults.

5.12 VICTIMS(a) OF THREE OR MORE ASSAULTS IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, TYPE OF ASSAULT IN THE THREE MOST RECENT INCIDENTS

	'000	%
All family violence	41.2	27.6
Family violence; one or two other incidents 'not stated'	7.0	4.7
All home based violence	22.3	14.9
Home based violence; one or two other incidents 'not stated'	6.5	*4.3
Mixture of family and home based violence	*2.6	*1.7
All work/study violence	21.8	14.6
All work/study violence; one or two other incidents 'not stated'	*3.7	*2.5
All street violence	6.7	4.5
All street violence; one or two other incidents 'not stated'	*1.1	*0.7
All pubs/clubs violence	*2.4	*1.6
All pubs/clubs violence; one or two other incidents 'not stated'	*1.1	*0.8
Other cases where type of assault the same for the 3 incidents	*1.2	*0.8
Other combinations	31.8	21.3
Total	149.4	100.0

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

Some of the other characteristics of the three most recent incidents of assault were (tables 5.23 and 5.24):

- 1% of victims had a weapon used against them on each of the three most recent incidents, 16% had a weapon used once or twice, and 69% did not have a weapon used in any of the incidents (for 15% of victims the information was not stated);
- weapon use was less likely when the same offender was involved (87% of victims with the same offender each time did not have a weapon used against them, compared with 69% of victims who had different offenders each time);
- 7% of victims were injured in each of the three most recent incidents, 18% were injured in one or two of the incidents, and 61% were not injured in any of them;
- females were more likely to be injured (32% of females were injured at least once in the three most recent incidents, compared with 17% of males);

The three most recent incidents of assault *continued*

- 11% of victims with the same offender each time were injured on each of the three occasions, compared with 6% of victims with different offenders each time;
- 12% of victims told police about each of the three most recent incidents, and 56% did not tell police about any of the three most recent incidents;
- the police were more likely to hear about each of the three most recent incidents when the offenders were unknown each time (26% of victims with unknown offenders reported each of the three most recent incidents to police, compared with 12% of victims of the same offender each time); and
- 66% of victims of the same offender in each of the three most recent incidents did not tell the police about any of the three most recent offences, compared with 50% of those where the offender was not known in any of the three most recent incidents.

5.13 VICTIMS AND NON-VICTIMS(a) OF ASSAULT IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS

	Victims		Non-victims		Total	Victimisation prevalence rate
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
New South Wales	192.3		4 717.9		4 910.2	3.9
Victoria	139.9		3 495.8		3 635.7	3.8
Queensland	126.6		2 511.5		2 638.1	4.8
South Australia	48.8		1 117.9		1 166.7	4.2
Western Australia	69.0		1 330.0		1 399.0	4.9
Tasmania	18.6		343.9		362.5	5.1
Northern Territory	6.8		101.7		108.5	6.3
Australian Capital Territory	16.2		219.1		235.3	6.9
Australia	618.3		13 837.7		14 456.0	4.3

(a) Victims and non-victims aged 15 years and over.

5.14 VICTIMS AND NON-VICTIMS(a) OF ASSAULT IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, AGE AND SEX

Age group (years)	Victims		Non-victims		Total '000	Victimisation prevalence rate		Proportion of all victims(b) %
	'000	%	'000	%		%		
MALES								
15-19	80.0	23.8	570.4	8.4	650.4	12.3		12.9
20-24	57.9	17.2	613.1	9.0	671.0	8.6		9.4
25-34	84.9	25.3	1 328.2	19.5	1 413.2	6.0		13.7
35-44	55.7	16.6	1 366.2	20.1	1 421.8	3.9		9.0
45-54	36.2	10.8	1 189.3	17.5	1 225.5	3.0		5.9
55-64	15.5	4.6	785.1	11.6	800.7	1.9		2.5
65 and over	6.1	1.8	945.2	13.9	951.3	0.6		1.0
Total	336.2	100.0	6 797.6	100.0	7 133.8	4.7		54.4
FEMALES								
15-19	53.9	19.1	565.2	8.0	619.1	8.7		8.7
20-24	43.1	15.3	614.0	8.7	657.2	6.6		7.0
25-34	85.0	30.1	1 346.4	19.1	1 431.3	5.9		13.7
35-44	53.6	19.0	1 388.7	19.7	1 442.2	3.7		8.7
45-54	35.0	12.4	1 171.9	16.6	1 206.9	2.9		5.7
55-64	8.2	2.9	784.5	11.1	792.7	1.0		1.3
65 and over	*3.2	*1.1	1 169.5	16.6	1 172.7	*0.3		*0.5
Total	282.0	100.0	7 040.1	100.0	7 322.2	3.9		45.6
PERSONS								
15-19	133.9	21.7	1 135.6	8.2	1 269.5	10.6		21.7
20-24	101.0	16.3	1 227.2	8.9	1 328.2	7.6		16.3
25-34	169.9	27.5	2 674.6	19.3	2 844.5	6.0		27.5
35-44	109.2	17.7	2 754.8	19.9	2 864.0	3.8		17.7
45-54	71.2	11.5	2 361.2	17.1	2 432.4	2.9		11.5
55-64	23.8	3.8	1 569.6	11.3	1 593.4	1.5		3.8
65 and over	9.3	1.5	2 114.7	15.3	2 124.0	0.4		1.5
Total	618.3	100.0	13 837.7	100.0	14 456.0	4.3		100.0

(a) Victims and non-victims aged 15 years and over.

(b) This is the number of victims in a particular sex and age category expressed as a percentage of the total number of assault victims.

5.15 VICTIMS AND NON-VICTIMS(a) OF ASSAULT IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS

	<i>Victims</i>		<i>Non-victims</i>		<i>Total</i>	<i>Victimisation prevalence rate (%)</i>	
	'000	%	'000	%		'000	<i>Non-standardised</i>	Standardised(b)
MARITAL STATUS							
Married	181.8	29.4	7 696.3	55.6	7 878.1	2.3	2.9
De facto	46.0	7.4	698.1	5.0	744.2	6.2	4.8
Separated	44.5	7.2	371.6	2.7	416.1	10.7	10.2
Divorced	38.6	6.2	629.8	4.6	668.4	5.8	9.7
Widowed	5.5	0.9	813.8	5.9	819.2	0.7	3.1
Never married	301.9	48.8	3 628.1	26.2	3 930.0	7.7	3.8
LABOUR FORCE STATUS							
Employed	416.5	67.4	8 351.2	60.4	8 767.7	4.8	4.3
Unemployed	59.5	9.6	612.6	4.4	672.1	8.9	6.1
Not in labour force	142.2	23.0	4 873.9	35.2	5 016.1	2.8	4.1
COUNTRY OF BIRTH							
Born in Australia	514.6	83.2	10 189.2	73.6	10 703.7	4.8	n.a.
Born outside Australia	103.7	16.8	3 648.5	26.4	3 752.2	2.8	n.a.
REGION							
Metropolitan	380.8	61.6	8 677.6	62.7	9 058.4	4.2	n.a.
Non-metropolitan	237.5	38.4	5 160.1	37.3	5 397.6	4.4	n.a.
ALL CHARACTERISTICS							
Total	618.3	100.0	13 837.7	100.0	14 456.0	4.3	4.3

(a) Persons ages 15 years and over.

(b) Standardised victimisation rates show the victimisation rates which would occur in different populations if they had the same age composition as the standard population. For further details see paragraph 47 of the Explanatory Notes.

5.16 VICTIMS(a) OF ASSAULT IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, TYPE OF ASSAULT BY WHETHER OFFENDER(S) KNOWN IN THE MOST RECENT INCIDENT

	Males			Females			Persons		
	Offender(s) known/some known	Offender(s) unknown/don't know	Total(b)	Offender(s) known/some known	Offender(s) unknown/don't know	Total(b)	Offender(s) known/some known	Offender(s) unknown/don't know	Total(b)
NUMBER ('000)									
Family	34.8	..	34.8	114.5	..	114.5	149.3	..	149.3
Home-based	55.0	12.7	67.7	70.9	10.1	81.0	125.8	22.8	148.6
Work/study	41.7	21.7	63.3	20.5	8.6	29.2	62.2	30.3	92.5
Street	23.0	41.0	64.0	8.0	12.6	20.7	31.0	53.6	84.7
Pubs/clubs	21.2	39.8	61.0	4.9	10.8	15.6	26.1	50.6	76.7
Private car	*1.9	14.2	16.1	*2.0	5.9	7.9	*3.9	20.0	24.0
Shops	*4.5	7.9	12.4	*2.0	*4.2	6.3	6.6	12.1	18.7
Other	5.9	10.4	16.3	*3.8	*2.7	6.6	9.7	13.1	22.8
Total(c)	188.2	148.1	336.2	227.1	55.0	282.0	415.2	203.0	618.3
PROPORTION OF ASSAULT WITH KNOWN OFFENDER(S) BY SEX(d) (%)									
Family	100.0	..	100.0	100.0	..	100.0	100.0	..	100.0
Home-based	81.2	18.8	100.0	87.5	12.5	100.0	84.6	15.4	100.0
Work/study	65.8	34.2	100.0	70.5	29.5	100.0	67.2	32.8	100.0
Street	35.9	64.1	100.0	38.9	61.1	100.0	36.7	63.3	100.0
Pubs/clubs	34.7	65.3	100.0	31.2	68.8	100.0	34.0	66.0	100.0
Private car	*12.0	88.0	100.0	*25.3	74.7	100.0	*16.4	83.6	100.0
Shops	*36.4	63.6	100.0	*32.5	*67.5	100.0	35.1	64.9	100.0
Other	36.2	63.8	100.0	*58.4	*41.6	100.0	42.6	57.4	100.0
Total(c)	56.0	44.0	100.0	80.5	19.5	100.0	67.2	32.8	100.0
PROPORTION OF VICTIMS BY SEX(e) (%)									
Family	10.3	..	10.3	40.6	..	40.6	24.1	..	24.1
Home-based	16.3	3.8	20.1	25.1	3.6	28.7	20.4	3.7	24.0
Work/study	12.4	6.4	18.8	7.3	3.1	10.3	10.1	4.9	15.0
Street	6.8	12.2	19.0	2.9	4.5	7.3	5.0	8.7	13.7
Pubs/clubs	6.3	11.8	18.2	1.7	3.8	5.5	4.2	8.2	12.4
Private car	*0.6	4.2	4.8	*0.7	2.1	2.8	*0.6	3.2	3.9
Shops	*1.3	2.3	3.7	*0.7	*1.5	2.2	1.1	2.0	3.0
Other	1.7	3.1	4.8	*1.4	*1.0	2.3	1.6	2.1	3.7
Total(c)	56.0	44.0	100.0	80.5	19.5	100.0	67.2	32.8	100.0
PROPORTION OF ALL VICTIMS(f) (%)									
Family	5.6	..	5.6	18.5	..	18.5	24.1	..	24.1
Home-based	8.9	2.1	10.9	11.5	1.6	13.1	20.4	3.7	24.0
Work/study	6.7	3.5	10.2	3.3	1.4	4.7	10.1	4.9	15.0
Street	3.7	6.6	10.3	1.3	2.0	3.3	5.0	8.7	13.7
Pubs/clubs	3.4	6.4	9.9	0.8	1.7	2.5	4.2	8.2	12.4
Private car	*0.3	2.3	2.6	*0.3	1.0	1.3	*0.6	3.2	3.9
Shops	*0.7	1.3	2.0	*0.3	*0.7	1.0	1.1	2.0	3.0
Other	1.0	1.7	2.6	*0.6	*0.4	1.1	1.6	2.1	3.7
Total(c)	30.4	23.9	54.4	36.7	8.9	45.6	67.2	32.8	100.0

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

(b) Includes 'not stated'.

(c) Includes a small number where the type of assault could not be determined as the location information was not given.

(d) This percentage shows the proportion of offenders known compared with offenders unknown for males and females for each type of assault.

(e) This percentage shows the proportion of male and female assault victims in each type of assault category by whether or not the offender was known. For example, 16.3% of male victims were assaulted in home-based violence by someone they knew.

(f) This percentage shows the proportion of victims in any given sex by type of assault by offender known category. For example, 11.5% of all victims were females assaulted in home-based violence by someone they knew.

5.17 VICTIMS(a) OF ASSAULT IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, HOW OFFENDER(S) KNOWN IN THE MOST RECENT INCIDENT BY SEX OF VICTIM

	Males		Females		Persons	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
Partner	4.8	1.4	27.7	9.8	32.5	5.3
Other family member	11.6	3.5	21.1	7.5	32.8	5.3
Family member n.f.d.	11.1	3.3	28.5	10.1	39.6	6.4
Ex-partner	7.3	2.2	37.5	13.3	44.8	7.2
Friend	40.2	12.0	34.2	12.1	74.4	12.0
Work/study colleague	29.6	8.8	13.1	4.6	42.7	6.9
Neighbour	19.4	5.8	15.9	5.6	35.3	5.7
Acquaintance	41.0	12.2	33.5	11.9	74.5	12.1
Other known	*2.7	0.8	*1.3	0.5	*4.0	0.7
Not known personally	13.3	4.0	8.7	3.1	22.0	3.6
Not stated	8.2	2.4	7.2	2.6	15.4	2.5
<i>Offender(s) known/some known(b)</i>	188.2	56.0	227.1	80.5	415.2	67.2
<i>Offender(s) unknown/don't know</i>	148.1	44.0	55.0	19.5	203.0	32.8
Total	336.2	100.0	282.0	100.0	618.3	100.0

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

(b) Subtotal may be less than the sum of the components as the victim could give details for more than one offender.

5.18 VICTIMS(a) OF ASSAULT IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MOST RECENT INCIDENT BY WHETHER TOLD POLICE

	Police told		Police not told		Total	
	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%
NUMBER OF OFFENDERS						
One	115.2	338.0	453.2	73.3	25.4	
Two or more	56.1	107.2	163.3	26.4	34.4	
USE OF WEAPON						
No weapon used	132.8	414.5	547.2	88.5	24.3	
Weapon used(c)	38.0	31.2	69.2	11.2	54.8	
Knife	12.2	7.6	19.8	3.2	61.4	
Gun	6.5	**0.6	7.1	1.1	91.4	
Other weapon	21.4	23.5	44.9	7.3	47.7	
WHETHER PHYSICALLY INJURED						
Admitted to hospital	8.6	*4.7	13.3	2.2	64.7	
Other injury	43.3	71.7	115.0	18.6	37.6	
Not physically injured	119.4	370.6	490.1	79.3	24.4	
LOCATION						
At home	79.8	146.6	226.4	36.6	*35.2	
At another person's home	9.9	41.1	51.0	8.2	19.5	
At the place work/study	23.4	72.6	96.0	15.5	24.4	
In a private vehicle	7.2	19.5	26.7	4.3	26.9	
In a public vehicle	*3.5	6.4	9.8	1.6	35.2	
In a place of entertainment	14.0	66.5	80.5	13.0	17.4	
In a street or other open land	21.2	58.0	79.1	12.8	26.8	
In a shopping centre, including car park	*4.6	15.4	20.0	3.2	*23.1	
Other	7.3	20.5	27.7	4.5	26.2	
NATURE OF INCIDENT						
Used force or violence	80.8	164.7	245.5	39.7	32.9	
Attempted to use force or violence						
In danger of being hurt	18.8	42.3	61.1	9.9	30.8	
Not in danger of being hurt	*4.3	29.3	33.6	5.4	*12.7	
Threat of force or violence						
In danger of being hurt	38.6	83.6	122.3	19.8	31.6	
Not in danger of being hurt	20.7	98.2	118.9	19.2	17.4	
Other						
In danger of being hurt	*3.1	8.5	11.6	1.9	*26.7	
Not in danger of being hurt	*1.7	12.3	14.0	2.3	*11.9	
ASSAULT						
Aggravated(d)	102.8	174.2	277.0	44.8	37.1	
Non-aggravated	68.5	272.7	341.3	55.2	20.1	
HOW OFFENDER(S) KNOWN						
Partner	5.5	27.0	32.5	5.3	16.9	
Other family member	8.6	24.2	32.8	5.3	26.3	
Family member n.f.d.	6.3	33.2	39.6	6.4	16.0	
Ex-partner	18.4	26.4	44.8	7.2	41.0	
Friend	16.3	58.1	74.4	12.0	21.9	
Work/study colleague	*4.2	38.5	42.7	6.9	*9.8	
Neighbour	22.3	13.0	35.3	5.7	63.2	
Acquaintance	23.3	51.2	74.5	12.1	31.3	
Other known	**0.2	*3.8	*4.0	*0.7	**4.9	
Not known personally	7.9	14.1	22.0	3.6	36.0	
Not stated	*2.6	12.8	15.4	2.5	*17.0	
Offender(s) known/some known	113.8	301.4	415.2	67.2	27.4	
Offender(s) unknown/don't know	57.5	145.5	203.0	32.8	28.3	

For footnotes see end of table.

...continued

5.18 VICTIMS(a) OF ASSAULT IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MOST RECENT INCIDENT BY WHETHER TOLD POLICE *continued*

	<i>Police told</i>		<i>Police not told</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	<i>'000</i>	<i>'000</i>	<i>'000</i>	<i>'000</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Reporting rate(b)</i>
						<i>%</i>
WHETHER DISCUSSED WITH ANYONE						
Did not discuss with anyone	9.7	65.0	74.7	12.1		13.0
Discussed with others(e)						
Friend	110.1	255.5	365.6	59.1		30.1
Family member	113.7	199.1	312.8	50.6		36.3
Medical practitioner	38.0	21.1	59.1	9.6		64.3
Crisis helper	14.3	11.0	25.4	4.1		56.5
Counsellor	*3.4	4.8	8.1	1.3		*41.4
Work colleague	9.7	23.7	33.4	5.4		28.9
Other	13.2	22.3	35.6	5.8		37.2
TYPE OF ASSAULT						
Family	38.8	110.5	149.3	24.1		26.0
Home-based	59.4	89.2	148.6	24.0		40.0
Work/study	22.5	69.9	92.5	15.0		24.4
Street	24.2	60.5	84.7	13.7		28.5
Pubs/clubs	11.2	65.4	76.7	12.4		14.6
Private car	6.4	17.6	24.0	3.9		26.8
Shops	*3.7	15.0	18.7	3.0		*19.6
Other	4.7	18.2	22.9	3.7		20.4
ALL CHARACTERISTICS						
Total(f)	171.3	447.0	618.3	100.0		27.7

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

(b) The reporting rate is the number of victims in a particular category who told police expressed as a percentage of all victims in that category.

(c) More than one weapon type may have been used.

(d) Aggravated assault is defined as an incident where either there was more than one offender, a weapon was used, or the victim was injured.

(e) The assault victim may have discussed the incident with a number of people and hence the components do not sum to the total.

(f) Total includes any 'not stated'.

5.19 VICTIMS(a) OF ASSAULT IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, HOW OFFENDER(S) KNOWN BY WHETHER DISCUSSED THE MOST RECENT INCIDENT WITH ANYONE APART FROM POLICE

	<i>Did not discuss with anyone</i>	<i>Friend</i>	<i>Family member</i>	<i>Medical practitioner</i>	<i>Crisis helper/counsellor</i>	<i>Work colleague</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total</i>
NUMBER ('000)								
Partner	7.7	18.9	11.9	6.1	4.9	**0.2	*1.1	32.5
Other family member	5.0	14.7	21.2	5.7	*4.5	**0.1	*2.8	32.8
Family member n.f.d.	7.0	18.1	23.1	*2.3	*4.0	—	*1.9	39.6
Ex-partner	*2.9	30.7	26.1	10.8	5.0	—	*2.6	44.8
Friend	11.0	49.4	30.0	*4.6	*2.6	—	*2.8	74.4
Work/study colleague	*4.3	21.6	16.7	*2.7	*1.7	6.7	6.7	42.7
Neighbour	*2.8	23.9	22.6	5.2	*4.4	**0.9	*2.6	35.3
Acquaintance	5.0	47.0	40.2	*3.7	*1.7	5.8	5.8	74.5
Other known	**0.5	*2.8	*2.8	—	—	—	**0.4	*4.0
Not known personally	*3.5	9.4	10.9	*2.5	**0.9	5.5	*1.9	22.0
Not stated	*3.4	7.1	*4.5	—	—	—	**0.4	15.4
<i>Offender(s) known/some known(b)</i>	52.9	241.9	208.3	42.9	28.9	19.3	29.2	415.2
<i>Offender(s) unknown/don't know</i>	21.7	123.6	104.5	16.2	*3.6	14.1	6.4	203.0
Total	74.7	365.6	312.8	59.1	32.5	33.4	35.6	618.3
PROPORTION (%)								
Partner	23.6	58.2	36.5	18.7	15.1	**0.7	*3.4	100.0
Other family member	15.3	44.9	64.8	17.3	*13.6	**0.3	*8.6	100.0
Family member n.f.d.	17.7	45.7	58.3	*5.8	*10.0	—	*4.9	100.0
Ex-partner	*6.4	68.6	58.1	24.0	11.2	—	*5.9	100.0
Friend	14.8	66.4	40.3	*6.2	*3.5	—	*3.7	100.0
Work/study colleague	*10.1	50.5	39.1	*6.2	*4.0	15.7	15.7	100.0
Neighbour	*7.9	67.8	64.1	14.6	*12.4	**2.5	*7.4	100.0
Acquaintance	6.7	63.1	53.9	*5.0	*2.3	7.8	7.7	100.0
Other known	**12.1	*68.4	*69.9	—	—	—	**11.0	100.0
Not known personally	*15.9	42.6	49.7	*11.4	**4.3	25.2	*8.8	100.0
Not stated	*21.9	46.2	*29.1	—	—	—	**2.7	100.0
<i>Offender(s) known/some known(b)</i>	12.8	58.3	50.2	10.3	7.0	4.6	7.0	100.0
<i>Offender(s) unknown/don't know</i>	10.7	60.9	51.5	8.0	*1.8	6.9	3.2	100.0
Total	12.1	59.1	50.6	9.6	5.3	5.4	5.8	100.0

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

(b) Subtotal may be less than the sum of the components as the victim could give details for more than one offender.

5.20 VICTIMS(a) OF ASSAULT IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, WHETHER TOLD POLICE ABOUT THE MOST RECENT INCIDENT

	<i>Police told</i>	<i>Police not told</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Reporting rate(b)</i>
	'000	'000	'000	%
MALES				
15–19 years	12.3	67.8	80.0	15.3
20–24 years	12.2	45.7	57.9	21.0
25–34 years	27.3	57.6	84.9	32.2
35–44 years	17.5	38.2	55.7	31.4
45–54 years	12.9	23.3	36.2	35.7
55–64 years	*4.2	11.3	15.5	*27.3
65 years and over	*1.5	*4.5	6.1	*25.6
<i>Total</i>	87.9	248.3	336.2	26.1
FEMALES				
15–19 years	10.9	43.0	53.9	20.3
20–24 years	11.5	31.6	43.1	26.7
25–34 years	25.5	59.5	85.0	30.0
35–44 years	16.2	37.4	53.6	30.2
45–54 years	12.7	22.3	35.0	36.3
55–64 years	*4.3	*4.0	8.2	*51.7
65 years and over	*2.3	**0.9	*3.2	*72.1
<i>Total</i>	83.4	198.7	282.0	29.6
PERSONS				
15–19 years	23.2	110.8	133.9	17.3
20–24 years	23.7	77.3	101.0	23.5
25–34 years	52.8	117.1	169.9	31.1
35–44 years	33.6	75.6	109.2	30.8
45–54 years	25.6	45.5	71.2	36.0
55–64 years	8.5	15.3	23.8	35.7
65 years and over	*3.9	5.4	9.3	*41.7
<i>Total</i>	171.3	447.0	618.3	27.7
STATE AND TERRITORY				
New South Wales	58.5	133.8	192.3	30.4
Victoria	32.5	107.4	139.9	23.2
Queensland	38.3	88.3	126.6	30.2
South Australia	15.0	33.8	48.8	30.8
Western Australia	17.5	51.6	69.0	25.3
Tasmania	4.4	14.2	18.6	23.8
Northern Territory	2.0	4.9	6.8	28.8
Australian Capital Territory	3.2	13.0	16.2	19.7
Total	171.3	447.0	618.3	27.7

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

(b) The reporting rate is the number of victims in a particular category who told police, expressed as a percentage of all victims in that category.

5.21 VICTIMS(a) OF ASSAULT IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, NUMBER OF INCIDENTS EXPERIENCED

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
NUMBER ('000)									
Number of incidents									
1	104.7	75.4	74.4	25.8	35.6	9.6	3.6	8.4	337.5
2	39.6	36.1	22.5	8.4	14.9	4.4	1.6	3.9	131.4
3 or more	47.9	28.5	29.6	14.7	18.5	4.6	1.7	3.9	149.4
Total victims	192.3	139.9	126.6	48.8	69.0	18.6	6.8	16.2	618.3
Total persons(b)	4 910.2	3 635.7	2 638.1	1 166.7	1 399.0	362.5	108.5	235.3	14 456.0
Total number of incidents(c)	468.1	342.4	304.4	127.2	187.3	50.5	17.2	36.3	1 533.3
Total incidents becoming known to police(d)	139.0	85.8	55.1	38.2	50.0	9.4	4.4	6.1	388.0
PROPORTION (%)									
Prevalence rate(e)	3.9	3.8	4.8	4.2	4.9	5.1	6.3	6.9	4.3
Incidence rate(f)	9.5	9.4	11.5	10.9	13.4	13.9	15.8	15.4	10.6

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

(b) Includes victim and non-victims.

(c) Total number of incidents was derived using the actual number of incidents as indicated by the victims.

(d) Total number of incidents becoming known to police was derived using the number of incidents as indicated by the victims.

(e) Prevalence rate is the number of victims expressed as a percentage of the total number of people.

(f) Incidence rate is the total number of incidents reported expressed as a percentage of the total number of people.

5.22 VICTIMS(a) OF ASSAULT, SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS BY NUMBER OF INCIDENTS EXPERIENCED IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS

	One incident		Two incidents		Three or more incidents		Total victims		Total number of incidents	Average number of incidents per victim
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%		
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	no.
SEX										
Males	198.7	59.1	65.4	19.4	72.2	21.5	336.2	100.0	791.6	2.4
Females	138.8	49.2	66.0	23.4	77.2	27.4	282.0	100.0	741.8	2.6
AGE GROUP (YEARS)										
15-19	75.7	56.5	30.9	23.1	27.3	20.4	134.0	100.0	216.7	1.6
20-24	53.6	53.1	24.8	24.6	22.6	22.4	101.0	100.0	341.7	3.4
25-34	91.9	54.1	36.8	21.6	41.2	24.3	169.9	100.0	451.2	2.7
35-44	58.1	53.2	20.7	18.9	30.4	27.9	109.2	100.0	297.0	2.7
45-54	37.8	53.1	13.1	18.5	20.3	28.5	71.2	100.0	164.1	2.3
55-64	12.8	53.8	*4.3	*18.1	6.7	28.1	23.8	100.0	50.2	2.1
65 and over	7.6	82.2	**0.8	**8.7	**0.8	**9.1	9.3	100.0	12.4	1.3
MARITAL STATUS										
Married	103.4	56.9	33.4	18.4	44.9	24.7	181.8	100.0	435.9	2.4
De facto	26.3	57.2	6.9	14.9	12.8	27.9	46.0	100.0	131.8	2.9
Separated	19.2	43.1	7.1	15.9	18.3	41.1	44.5	100.0	156.5	3.5
Divorced	18.5	47.9	7.8	20.2	12.3	31.9	38.6	100.0	128.6	3.3
Widowed	*2.5	*45.1	*2.6	*47.5	**0.4	**7.4	5.5	100.0	8.9	1.6
Never married	167.6	55.5	73.7	24.4	60.6	20.1	301.9	100.0	671.6	2.2
EMPLOYMENT STATUS										
Employed	239.5	57.5	80.4	19.3	96.6	23.2	416.5	100.0	994.9	2.4
Unemployed	31.3	52.5	11.9	20.0	16.4	27.5	59.5	100.0	161.6	2.7
Not in labour force	66.7	46.9	39.1	27.5	36.4	25.6	142.2	100.0	376.9	2.6
COUNTRY OF BIRTH										
Born in Australia	277.6	54.0	109.8	21.3	127.1	24.7	514.6	100.0	1 289.2	2.5
Born outside Australia	59.8	57.7	21.6	20.8	22.3	21.5	103.7	100.0	244.1	2.4
REGION										
Metropolitan	212.9	55.9	79.2	20.8	88.7	23.3	380.8	100.0	943.1	2.5
Non-metropolitan	124.6	52.5	52.2	22.0	60.7	25.6	237.5	100.0	590.3	2.5
MOST RECENT ASSAULT										
Family	57.0	38.2	39.5	26.5	52.8	35.4	149.3	100.0	426.8	2.9
Home-based	83.7	56.3	29.3	19.7	35.7	24.0	148.6	100.0	398.8	2.7
Work/study	46.6	50.4	17.2	18.6	28.7	31.0	92.5	100.0	283.8	3.1
Street	56.3	66.6	16.1	19.0	12.2	14.5	84.7	100.0	166.1	2.0
Pubs/clubs	48.1	62.8	18.2	23.8	10.3	13.4	76.7	100.0	150.5	2.0
Private car	17.1	71.1	5.4	22.5	*1.5	*6.4	24.0	100.0	33.6	1.4
Shops	11.6	62.1	*2.3	*12.2	4.8	25.8	18.7	100.0	34.1	1.8
Other assaults	16.4	71.6	*3.2	*13.8	*3.3	*14.5	22.9	100.0	38.4	1.7
ALL CHARACTERISTICS										
Total(b)	337.5	54.6	131.4	21.3	149.4	24.2	618.3	100.0	1 533.3	2.5

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

(b) Includes 'not stated' for the location of the most recent incident.

5.23 VICTIMS(a) OF THREE OR MORE ASSAULTS IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF THE THREE MOST RECENT ASSAULTS

	<i>Males</i>		<i>Females</i>		<i>Persons</i>	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
WHETHER SAME OFFENDER IN LAST 3 INCIDENTS						
Same offender	21.3	29.5	49.9	64.6	71.2	47.7
Same offender in 2 out of 3 incidents	7.1	9.8	7.3	9.5	14.4	9.6
Different offender in 3 incidents	19.3	26.7	6.2	8.0	25.5	17.1
Offender not known in any of 3 incidents	13.1	18.1	*3.8	*4.9	16.9	11.3
Not stated	11.3	15.7	10.1	13.1	21.4	14.3
WHETHER SAME LOCATION TYPE IN LAST 3 INCIDENTS						
Same location type						
Home	12.9	17.9	38.4	49.7	51.3	34.3
Not at home	25.6	35.5	9.7	12.6	35.3	23.6
Same location type in 2 out of 3 incidents	14.7	20.4	11.0	14.2	25.7	17.2
Different location type	7.7	10.7	7.9	10.2	15.6	10.4
Not stated	11.3	15.7	10.2	13.2	21.6	14.5
WHETHER WEAPON USED IN LAST 3 INCIDENTS						
Weapon used in all 3 incidents	*1.2	*1.7	—	—	*1.2	*0.8
Weapon used in 1 or 2 incidents	14.4	19.9	9.7	12.6	24.1	16.1
No weapon used	45.0	62.3	56.3	72.9	101.3	67.8
Not stated	11.6	16.1	11.2	14.5	22.8	15.3
WHETHER INJURED IN LAST 3 INCIDENTS						
Injured in all 3 incidents	*3.5	*4.8	6.8	8.8	10.3	6.9
Injured in 1 or 2 incidents	8.9	12.3	17.7	22.9	26.6	17.8
Not injured	48.6	67.3	42.6	55.2	91.2	61.0
Not stated	11.3	15.7	10.1	13.1	21.4	14.3
WHETHER TOLD POLICE ABOUT THE LAST 3 INCIDENTS						
Police were told about all 3 incidents	9.1	12.6	8.4	10.9	17.5	11.7
Police told about 1 or 2 incidents	11.5	15.9	15.4	19.9	26.9	18.0
Police not told	40.3	55.8	43.3	56.1	83.6	56.0
Not stated	11.3	15.7	10.1	13.1	21.4	14.3
VICTIMS OF THREE OR MORE ASSAULTS						
Total	72.2	100.0	77.2	100.0	149.4	100.0

(a) Persons aged 15 and over.

5.24 VICTIMS(a) OF THREE OR MORE ASSAULTS IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF THE THREE MOST RECENT ASSAULTS BY WHETHER OFFENDER(S) KNOWN

	Same offender in 3 incidents		Same offender in 2 out of 3 incidents		Different offender in 3 incidents		Offender not known in any of 3 incidents	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
WHETHER SAME LOCATION TYPE IN LAST 3 INCIDENTS								
Same location type								
Home	45.5	63.9	*3.7	*25.6	*1.0	*3.8	*1.1	*6.7
Not at home	9.6	13.4	*4.5	*31.5	9.5	37.2	11.7	69.2
Same location type in 2 out of 3 incidents	10.4	14.6	4.8	33.2	8.3	32.4	*2.3	*13.5
Different location type	5.6	7.8	*1.4	*9.8	6.8	26.7	*1.8	*10.6
WHETHER WEAPON USED IN LAST 3 INCIDENT								
Weapon used in all 3 incidents	**0.5	**0.7	—	—	**0.6	**2.5	—	—
Weapon used in 1 or 2 incidents	8.2	11.5	5.3	37.2	7.0	27.5	*3.6	*21.1
No weapon used	61.7	86.6	8.8	60.9	17.5	68.7	13.3	78.9
WHETHER INJURED IN LAST 3 INCIDENTS								
Injured in all 3 incidents	7.7	10.9	**0.5	**3.4	*1.4	*5.5	**0.7	**3.9
Injured in 1 or 2 incidents	15.5	21.8	*3.8	*26.1	6.5	25.5	**0.8	**4.7
Not injured	48.0	67.4	10.1	70.5	17.6	69.0	15.5	91.4
WHETHER TOLD POLICE ABOUT THE LAST 3 INCIDENTS								
Police were told about all 3 incidents	8.7	12.2	*2.0	*14.2	*2.4	*9.2	*4.4	*25.8
Police told about 1 or 2 incidents	14.4	20.2	*2.4	*16.9	6.1	23.9	*4.0	*23.8
Police not told	48.1	67.6	9.9	68.9	17.0	66.8	8.5	50.4
VICTIMS OF THREE OR MORE ASSAULTS								
Total(b)	71.2	100.0	14.4	100.0	25.5	100.0	16.9	100.0

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

(b) Includes 'not stated'.

CHAPTER 6

SEXUAL ASSAULT

INTRODUCTION

Sexual assault was defined as an incident which was of a sexual nature involving physical contact, including rape, attempted rape, indecent assault, and assault with intent to sexually assault. Information relating to sexual assaults was only collected for females aged 18 years and over.

In the 12 months prior to the 1998 survey, it is estimated that there were 30,100 females aged 18 years and over who were victims of sexual assault. This represents a victimisation prevalence rate for sexual assault of 0.4% of females aged 18 years and over, which is comparable with the 1993 rate of 0.6%.

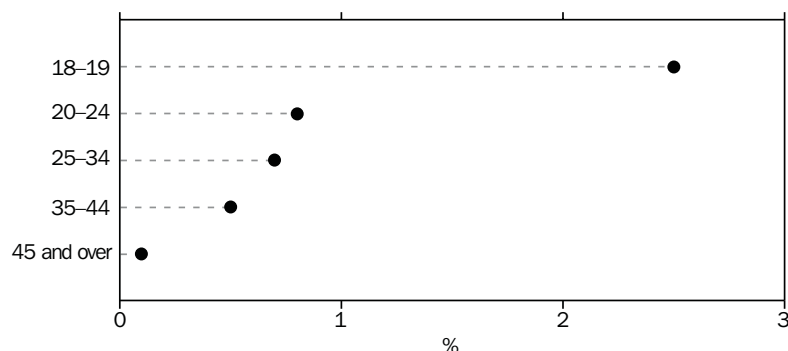
STATES AND TERRITORIES

Estimates at State and Territory level are small and subject to high sampling error. The highest victimisation prevalence rates for sexual assault for females aged 18 years and over were in the Australian Capital Territory (0.9%), Tasmania and Victoria (both 0.7%). The lowest rates were in New South Wales and South Australia (both 0.3%) (table 6.4).

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF VICTIMS

The highest prevalence rates by age group for sexual assault were for females aged 18–19 years (2.5% of females in this age group reported being a victim of a sexual assault).

6.1 SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMISATION RATES FOR FEMALES(a) IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS BY AGE GROUP (YEARS)



(a) Aged 18 years and over.

Comparing prevalence rates for sexual assault shows that (table 6.5):

- females who were divorced or separated had higher than average rates of sexual assault when these rates were standardised for age (1.6% and 1.3% respectively), with the other categories having close to the average victimisation rate;
- unemployed females had higher than average rates of sexual assault after age standardisation (1.3%);
- the sexual assault victimisation rate for females born in Australia was 0.5% compared with 0.3% for females born outside Australia; and
- females living in metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas had similar rates for sexual assault (0.5% compared with 0.4%).

REPEAT VICTIMISATION

It is estimated that there were 47,300 incidents of sexual assault experienced by females aged 18 years and over, in the 12 months prior to the survey. This was an incidence rate of 0.7% of females aged 18 years and over.

Of sexual assault victims, 27% experienced two or more incidents in the 12 months prior to the survey, accounting for 54% of all incidents of sexual assault. There was an average of 1.6 incidents per sexual assault victim.

6.2 FEMALE VICTIMS(a) OF SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, NUMBER OF INCIDENTS EXPERIENCED

<i>Incidents per victim</i>	<i>Victims</i>		<i>Incidents</i>	
	<i>'000</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>'000</i>	<i>%</i>
1	22.0	73.0	22.0	46.4
2	*3.0	*9.9	*6.0	*12.6
3 or more	5.1	17.1	19.4	41.0
All victims	30.1	100.0	47.3	100.0

(a) Aged 18 years and over.

Two or more incidents were more likely to be experienced by sexual assault victims who were (table 6.6):

- aged 35 years and over (49% of sexual assault victims aged over 35 years compared with 18% of females aged 18–34 years);
- married/de facto and separated/divorced (47% and 27% respectively compared with 18% of never married sexual assault victims);
- not in the labour force (42% compared with 29% of unemployed sexual assault victims and 21% of employed sexual assault victims); and
- born in Australia (29% compared with 21% of overseas born sexual assault victims).

MOST RECENT INCIDENT

The victim knew the offender in 83% of the most recent incidents of sexual assault. For 11% of sexual assault victims, the offender was their current partner and for 12%, the offender was an ex-partner. About 30% of victims were sexually assaulted by someone who was a friend at the time of the offence (table 6.7).

All victims of sexual assault told someone about the most recent incident. There were 10% of victims who did not discuss the incident with anyone apart from telling the police. About 59% of females discussed the incident with a friend, 45% with a family member, 20% with a medical practitioner and 18% with a crisis helper.

Other characteristics of the most recent incidents of sexual assault include (table 6.7):

- a weapon was used in 7% of incidents;
- the victim was physically injured in 23% of incidents; and
- 58% of incidents occurred in a home, and 14% in the street or open land.

Reporting to police One-third (33%) of victims told the police about the most recent incident of sexual assault (table 6.7). The most common reason for not telling police was that it was a personal matter or the respondent would take care of it themselves (23% of victims who did not tell police).

6.3 MAIN REASON FOR NOT TELLING POLICE ABOUT THE MOST RECENT INCIDENT OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

	'000	%
Personal matter/would take care of it myself	4.6	22.7
Too trivial/unimportant	*2.7	*13.2
I thought there was nothing the police could do	*2.6	*13.0
Afraid of reprisal	*2.6	*12.8
Told somebody else instead	*1.8	*8.9
I thought the police would have been unwilling to do anything	*1.8	*8.8
I was too confused/upset/injured	*1.6	*7.7
Did not want offender punished	**0.3	*1.3
Other reasons	*2.4	*11.7
Total(a)	20.3	100.0

(a) Females aged 18 years and over who did not tell police about the most recent incident.

6.4 FEMALE VICTIMS AND NON-VICTIMS(a) OF SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS

	1998			Victimisation prevalence rate(b)		
	Victims	Non-victims	Total	1993	1995(c)	1998
	'000	'000	'000	%	%	%
New South Wales(d)	6.4	2 356.3	2 362.8	0.8	0.5	0.3
Victoria	11.6	1 743.7	1 755.3	0.5	*0.3	0.7
Queensland	4.6	1 249.7	1 254.3	0.5	0.6	0.4
South Australia	*1.8	559.9	561.6	0.8	0.7	*0.3
Western Australia	3.2	663.7	666.9	*0.3	0.7	0.5
Tasmania	*1.2	173.7	174.9	*0.5	n.a.	*0.7
Northern Territory	*0.3	48.5	48.8	*0.2	n.a.	*0.6
Australian Capital Territory	*1.0	111.8	112.8	*0.9	1.3	*0.9
Australia	30.1	6 907.4	6 937.4	0.6	n.a.	0.4

(a) Victims and non-victims aged 18 years and over.

(b) Victimisation prevalence rate is the number of victims expressed as a percentage of the total number of females aged 18 years and over.

(c) 1995 rates were produced from separate State surveys in all the mainland States and the Australian Capital Territory. Hence estimates are not available for Tasmania, the Northern Territory or Australia.

(d) Crime and Safety Surveys have been carried out in New South Wales in each year that national surveys have not been conducted since 1990. The victimisation rate estimates for 1994, 1996 and 1997 were 0.7%, 0.4% and 0.6%.

6.5 FEMALE VICTIMS AND NON-VICTIMS(a) OF SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS

	<i>Victims</i>		<i>Non-victims</i>		<i>Total</i>	<i>Victimisation prevalence rate</i>	
	<i>'000</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>'000</i>	<i>%</i>		<i>'000</i>	<i>Non-standardised</i>	Standardised(b)
						<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>
AGE GROUP (YEARS)							
18-19	5.8	19.4	228.6	3.3	234.4	2.5	..
20-24	5.5	18.1	651.7	9.4	657.2	0.8	..
25-34	10.2	33.9	1 421.1	20.6	1 431.3	0.7	..
35-44	6.6	21.8	1 435.7	20.8	1 442.2	0.5	..
45 and over	*2.1	*6.8	3 170.3	45.9	3 172.3	*0.1	..
MARITAL STATUS							
Married/de facto	5.2	17.5	4 245.6	61.5	4 250.9	0.1	0.2
Separated	*4.0	*13.4	251.1	3.6	255.1	*1.6	*1.3
Divorced	5.1	16.9	410.2	5.9	415.3	1.2	1.6
Widowed	*1.1	*3.6	663.3	9.6	664.4	*0.2	*0.5
Never married	14.6	48.5	1 337.2	19.4	1 351.8	1.1	0.4
LABOUR FORCE STATUS							
Employed	18.1	60.0	3 629.9	52.6	3 648.0	0.5	0.4
Unemployed	5.2	17.4	260.5	3.8	265.7	2.0	1.3
Not in labour force	6.8	22.6	3 017.0	43.7	3 023.8	0.2	0.3
COUNTRY OF BIRTH							
Born in Australia	24.3	81.0	5 062.9	73.3	5 087.2	0.5	n.a.
Born outside Australia	5.7	19.0	1 844.5	26.7	1 850.2	0.3	n.a.
REGION							
Metropolitan	20.0	66.5	4 369.3	63.3	4 389.3	0.5	n.a.
Non-metropolitan	10.1	33.5	2 538.0	36.7	2 548.1	0.4	n.a.
ALL CHARACTERISTICS							
Total	30.1	100.0	6 907.4	100.0	6 937.4	0.4	0.4

(a) Victims and non-victims aged 18 years and over.

(b) Standardised victimisation rates show the victimisation rates which would occur in different populations if they had the same age composition as the standard population. For further details see paragraph 47 of the Explanatory Notes.

6.6 FEMALE VICTIMS(a) OF SEXUAL ASSAULT, SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS BY NUMBER OF INCIDENTS EXPERIENCED IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS

	<i>One Incident</i>		<i>Two or more incidents</i>		<i>Total victims</i>		<i>Total number of incidents</i>	<i>Average number of incidents per victim</i>
	<i>'000</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>'000</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>'000</i>	<i>%</i>		
AGE GROUP (YEARS)								
15-34	17.5	81.7	*3.9	*18.3	21.5	100.0	29.1	1.4
35 and over	*4.4	*51.4	*4.2	*48.6	8.6	100.0	18.2	2.1
MARITAL STATUS								
Married/de facto	*2.8	*52.6	*2.5	*47.4	5.3	100.0	9.7	1.8
Separated/divorced	6.7	73.2	*2.4	*26.8	9.1	100.0	13.9	1.5
Widowed	**0.5	**48.5	**0.6	**51.5	*1.1	100.0	*2.2	*2.0
Never married	12.0	82.1	*2.6	*17.9	14.6	100.0	21.5	1.5
EMPLOYMENT STATUS								
Employed	14.3	79.3	*3.7	*20.7	18.1	100.0	24.0	1.3
Unemployed	*3.7	*70.6	*1.5	*29.3	5.2	100.0	10.3	2.0
Not in labour force	*3.9	*58.1	*2.8	*41.9	6.8	100.0	13.0	1.9
COUNTRY OF BIRTH								
Born in Australia	17.4	71.5	6.9	28.5	24.3	100.0	38.8	1.6
Born outside Australia	*4.6	*79.5	*1.2	*20.5	5.7	100.0	8.5	1.5
REGION								
Metropolitan	13.6	68.0	6.4	32.0	20.0	100.0	33.6	1.7
Non-metropolitan	8.4	83.0	*1.7	*17.0	10.1	100.0	13.7	1.4
ALL CHARACTERISTICS								
Total	22.0	73.0	8.1	27.0	30.1	100.0	47.3	1.6

(a) Aged 18 years and over.

6.7 FEMALE VICTIMS(a) OF SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MOST RECENT INCIDENT

	'000	%
WEAPON USE		
No weapon used	27.9	92.8
Weapon used	*2.2	*7.2
WHETHER PHYSICALLY INJURED		
Physically injured	7.0	23.2
Not physically injured	23.1	76.8
LOCATION		
At home	12.0	39.8
At another person's home	5.4	18.0
At the place of work/study	*1.9	*6.5
In a private vehicle	*1.7	*5.6
In a public vehicle	**1.0	**3.2
In a place of entertainment	*1.5	*5.0
In a street or other open land	*4.1	*13.6
In a shopping centre, including car park	**0.5	**1.5
Other	*2.0	*6.8
HOW OFFENDER(S) KNOWN		
Partner	*3.4	*11.2
Other family member	*2.5	*8.2
Family member n.f.d.	*1.1	*3.8
Ex-partner	*3.7	*12.2
Friend	9.0	30.0
Work/study colleague	*1.4	*4.7
Neighbour	*1.6	*5.3
Acquaintance	*3.0	*10.0
<i>Offender(s) known/some known(b)</i>	24.9	82.7
<i>Offender(s) unknown/don't know</i>	5.2	17.3
WHETHER TOLD POLICE		
Police told	9.8	32.6
Police not told	20.3	67.4
WHETHER DISCUSSED WITH ANYONE		
Did not discuss with anyone else		
Police told	*2.8	*9.4
Police not told	—	—
Discussed with others(c)		
Friend	17.9	59.4
Family member	13.5	44.9
Medical practitioner	6.1	20.4
Crisis helper	5.4	18.0
Work colleague	*3.0	*10.1
The offender	**0.7	**2.3
ALL CHARACTERISTICS		
Total(d)	30.1	100.0

(a) Aged 18 years and over.

(b) Subtotal may be less than the sum of the components as the victim could give details for more than one offender.

(c) The victim may have discussed the incident with a number of people and hence the components do not sum to the total.

(d) Total includes any 'not stated'.

CHAPTER 7

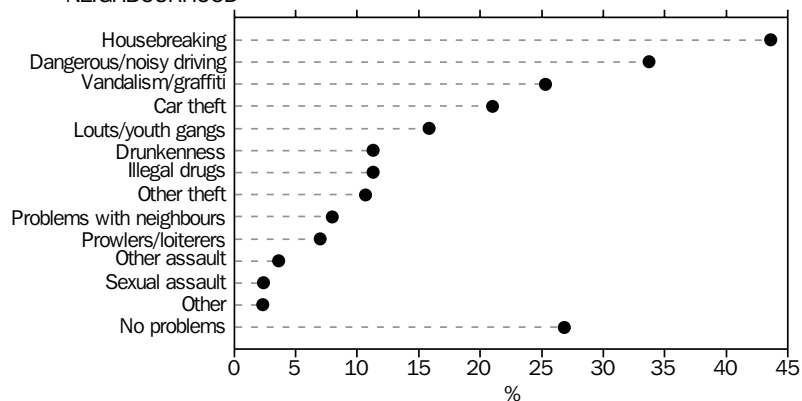
INTRODUCTION

NEIGHBOURHOOD PROBLEMS

Overall, 27% of persons aged 15 years and over did not perceive that there were problems with any crime or public nuisance issues in their neighbourhood (table 7.6).

Respondents were asked to indicate all of the crime and public nuisance issues that they perceived as a problem in their neighbourhood. The most commonly perceived problem was 'housebreaking/burglaries/theft from homes' (44% perceived this as a problem). Other commonly perceived problems were 'dangerous/noisy driving' (34%), 'vandalism/graffiti/damage to property' (25%) and 'car theft' (21%).

7.1 PERSONS(a) WHO PERCEIVED PARTICULAR PROBLEMS IN THEIR NEIGHBOURHOOD

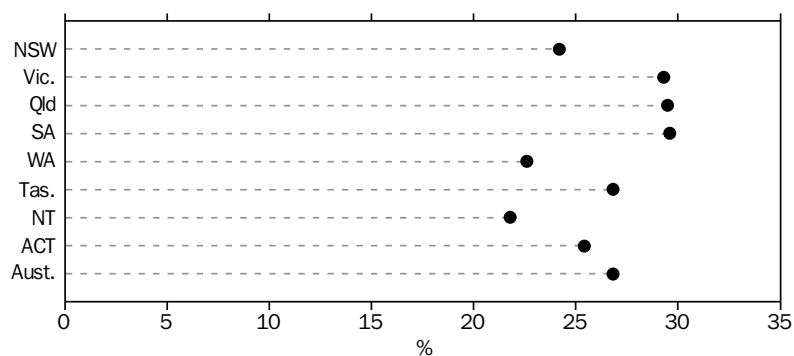


(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

STATES AND TERRITORIES

There was some variation in people's perceptions across States and Territories. Proportionally more people in South Australia, Queensland and Victoria did not perceive any problems from crime or people creating a public nuisance in their neighbourhood compared with the national average, and proportionally fewer people in the Northern Territory and Western Australia did not perceive any problems (table 7.6).

7.2 PERSONS(a) WHO PERCEIVED NO PARTICULAR PROBLEMS IN THEIR NEIGHBOURHOOD

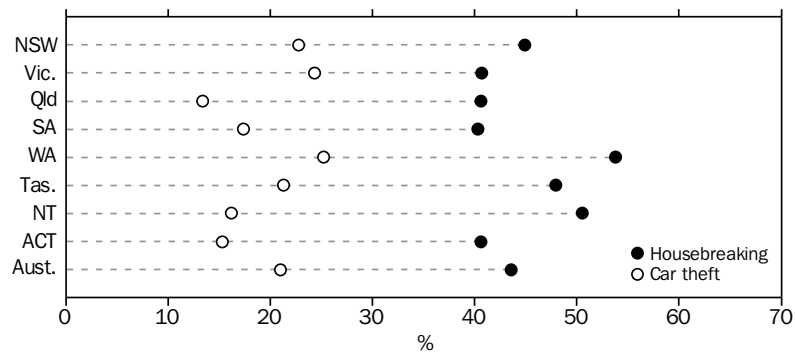


(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

Higher than average proportions of people in Western Australia, the Northern Territory and Tasmania perceived 'housebreaking/burglary/theft from homes' to be a problem. Both Western Australia and the Northern Territory had higher than the national victimisation prevalence rate for break-in.

Higher than average proportions of people in Western Australia, Victoria and New South Wales perceived car theft to be a problem. These three States had the highest victimisation prevalence rates for motor vehicle theft.

7.3 PERSONS(a) WHO PERCEIVED PARTICULAR PROBLEMS IN THEIR NEIGHBOURHOOD



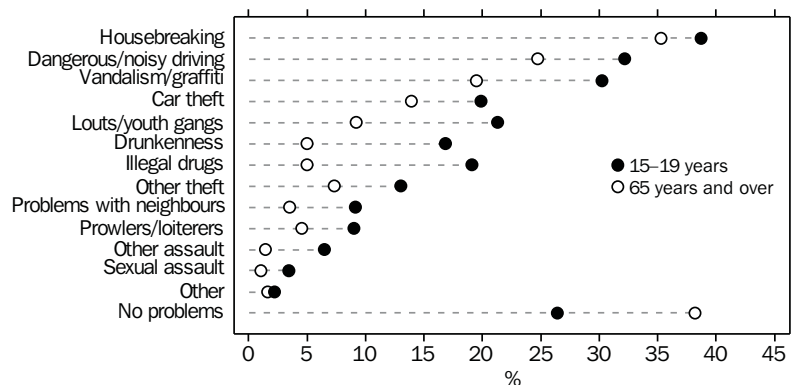
(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

AGE AND SEX

There was minimal difference between the proportions of males and females who perceived particular crime and public nuisance issues as a problem (table 7.8). For many of the issues, however, proportionally more youth than other age groups perceived these as problems. The exceptions to this were 'housebreakings/burglaries/theft from homes', 'car theft' and 'dangerous/noisy driving', where those aged 20–64 years had higher proportions of concerned persons (table 7.8).

Persons aged 65 years and over were less likely to perceive any of the issues as problems in their neighbourhood. Of persons aged 65 years and over, 38% believed there were no crime or public nuisance problems in their neighbourhood, compared with about one-quarter of those in the age ranges between 15 and 55 years.

7.4 PARTICULAR PROBLEMS IN NEIGHBOURHOOD, PERSONS IN SELECTED AGE GROUPS

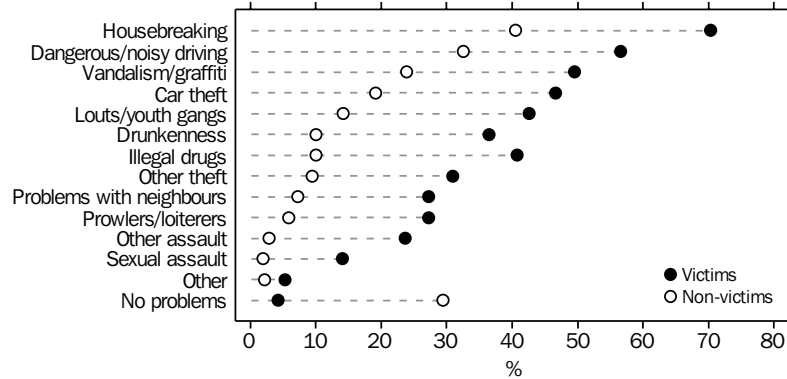


VICTIMS AND NON-VICTIMS

Higher proportions of people who had been victims of the crimes covered by the 1998 survey thought that there were problems in their neighbourhood. Only 9% of victims thought there were no problems in their neighbourhood (table 7.9).

The ranking of the most commonly perceived problems was similar for victims and non-victims, however higher proportions of victims perceived each crime or public nuisance issue as a problem.

7.5 VICTIMS AND NON-VICTIMS(a) WHO PERCEIVED PROBLEMS IN THEIR NEIGHBOURHOOD



(a) Persons aged 15 years and over. Victims are people who were victims of any of the crimes in the survey, including if they lived in a victim household. Non-victims were not victims of any of the crimes covered by the survey.

7.6 PERSONS(a) WHO PERCEIVED PARTICULAR PROBLEMS IN THEIR NEIGHBOURHOOD BY STATE

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
NUMBER ('000)									
Housebreakings/burglaries/theft from homes	2 203.0	1 480.3	1 071.6	470.0	752.7	173.6	54.8	95.4	6 301.4
Dangerous/noisy driving	1 751.6	1 043.7	942.4	406.6	477.4	127.9	32.0	83.7	4 865.3
Vandalism/graffiti/damage to property	1 276.7	930.2	479.4	363.7	445.8	74.3	20.8	72.7	3 663.5
Car theft	1 120.0	882.2	352.2	202.6	351.9	77.4	17.6	36.0	3 039.9
Louts/youth gangs	966.1	451.7	387.5	166.8	211.1	53.4	17.6	32.9	2 287.1
Drunkenness	704.5	294.1	297.7	88.6	153.1	39.4	30.6	23.7	1 631.6
Illegal drugs	651.6	430.4	236.9	100.8	143.7	38.3	7.8	20.5	1 630.0
Other theft	547.6	398.9	225.5	135.4	142.4	50.8	10.4	29.7	1 540.6
Problems with neighbours/ domestic problems	403.5	248.6	269.5	69.3	96.7	27.2	15.0	23.7	1 153.6
Prowlers/loiterers	368.8	194.3	183.3	81.0	120.1	33.0	15.6	17.2	1 013.3
Other assault	225.8	101.3	77.9	38.8	50.8	15.9	5.7	9.4	525.8
Sexual assault	129.0	91.5	54.8	16.0	37.0	5.8	5.0	5.1	344.2
Other	122.3	65.1	72.8	23.9	30.4	8.0	3.7	5.6	331.7
No problems	1 187.2	1 064.1	777.5	344.9	316.3	97.3	23.7	59.8	3 870.7
Not stated	90.8	76.1	44.0	16.8	20.1	6.0	2.2	4.2	260.1
Total(b)	4 910.2	3 635.7	2 638.1	1 166.7	1 399.0	362.5	108.5	235.3	14 456.0
PROPORTION (%)									
Housebreakings/burglaries/theft from homes	44.9	40.7	40.6	40.3	53.8	47.9	50.5	40.6	43.6
Dangerous/noisy driving	35.7	28.7	35.7	34.8	34.1	35.3	29.5	35.6	33.7
Vandalism/graffiti/damage to property	26.0	25.6	18.2	31.2	31.9	20.5	19.2	30.9	25.3
Car theft	22.8	24.3	13.4	17.4	25.2	21.3	16.2	15.3	21.0
Louts/youth gangs	19.7	12.4	14.7	14.3	15.1	14.7	16.2	14.0	15.8
Drunkenness	14.3	8.1	11.3	7.6	10.9	10.9	28.2	10.1	11.3
Illegal drugs	13.3	11.8	9.0	8.6	10.3	10.6	7.2	8.7	11.3
Other theft	11.2	11.0	8.5	11.6	10.2	14.0	9.6	12.6	10.7
Problems with neighbours/ domestic problems	8.2	6.8	10.2	5.9	6.9	7.5	13.8	10.1	8.0
Prowlers/loiterers	7.5	5.3	6.9	6.9	8.6	9.1	14.4	7.3	7.0
Other assault	4.6	2.8	3.0	3.3	3.6	4.4	5.3	4.0	3.6
Sexual assault	2.6	2.5	2.1	1.4	2.6	1.6	4.6	2.2	2.4
Other	2.5	1.8	2.8	2.0	2.2	2.2	3.4	2.4	2.3
No problems	24.2	29.3	29.5	29.6	22.6	26.8	21.8	25.4	26.8
Not stated	1.8	2.1	1.7	1.4	1.4	1.6	2.0	1.8	1.8
Total(b)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

(b) The total is less than the sum of the components as respondents could indicate more than one problem.

7.7 PERSONS(a) WHO PERCEIVED PARTICULAR PROBLEMS IN THEIR NEIGHBOURHOOD BY SEX

	<i>Males</i>		<i>Females</i>		<i>Persons</i>	
	<i>'000</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>'000</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>'000</i>	<i>%</i>
Housebreakings/burglaries/theft from homes	3 058.7	42.9	3 242.7	44.3	6 301.4	43.6
Dangerous/noisy driving	2 354.5	33.0	2 510.8	34.3	4 865.3	33.7
Vandalism/graffiti/damage to property	1 826.7	25.6	1 836.8	25.1	3 663.5	25.3
Car theft	1 496.8	21.0	1 543.1	21.1	3 039.9	21.0
Louts/youth gangs	1 171.9	16.4	1 115.2	15.2	2 287.1	15.8
Drunkenness	817.5	11.5	814.1	11.1	1 631.6	11.3
Illegal drugs	820.3	11.5	809.7	11.1	1 630.0	11.3
Other theft	773.6	10.8	767.0	10.5	1 540.6	10.7
Problems with neighbours/domestic problems	548.0	7.7	605.6	8.3	1 153.6	8.0
Prowlers/loiterers	483.6	6.8	529.7	7.2	1 013.3	7.0
Other assault	265.2	3.7	260.6	3.6	525.8	3.6
Sexual assault	153.8	2.2	190.5	2.6	344.2	2.4
Other	163.5	2.3	168.2	2.3	331.7	2.3
No problems	1 948.8	27.3	1 921.9	26.2	3 870.7	26.8
Not stated	102.4	1.4	157.7	2.2	260.1	1.8
Total(b)	7 133.8	100.0	7 322.2	100.0	14 456.0	100.0

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

(b) The total is less than the sum of the components as respondents could indicate more than one problem.

7.8 PERSONS(a) WHO PERCEIVED PARTICULAR PROBLEMS IN THEIR NEIGHBOURHOOD BY AGE

	15-19 years	20-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years	65 years and over
NUMBER ('000)							
Housebreakings/burglaries/theft from homes	490.7	546.0	1 280.8	1 406.4	1 157.8	669.9	749.7
Dangerous/noisy driving	408.4	460.5	1 074.6	1 057.6	821.2	518.5	524.5
Vandalism/graffiti/damage to property	382.9	338.2	731.9	803.1	626.9	366.3	414.2
Car theft	253.2	317.0	711.2	649.7	518.1	295.5	295.3
Louts/youth gangs	269.9	261.4	522.1	464.3	367.0	207.0	195.4
Drunkenness	212.7	200.4	392.1	325.7	260.2	135.2	105.3
Illegal drugs	242.7	178.1	318.2	337.6	299.9	147.4	106.1
Other theft	165.1	170.4	329.5	305.0	269.1	145.9	155.6
Problems with neighbours/domestic problems	115.7	116.3	276.1	271.0	199.4	100.7	74.5
Prowlers/loiterers	113.8	116.0	225.3	191.1	173.0	98.6	95.4
Other assault	83.1	66.4	112.8	106.5	84.0	43.2	29.7
Sexual assault	43.0	39.0	83.8	80.1	54.9	21.4	22.1
Other	27.6	24.1	69.9	79.0	60.0	36.8	34.5
No problems	335.6	328.7	656.1	648.3	604.3	486.1	811.7
Not stated	11.0	18.4	35.8	31.5	43.9	37.6	81.9
Total(b)	1 269.5	1 328.2	2 844.5	2 864.0	2 432.4	1 593.4	2 124.0
PROPORTION (%)							
Housebreakings/burglaries/theft from homes	38.7	41.1	45.0	49.1	47.6	42.0	35.3
Dangerous/noisy driving	32.2	34.7	37.8	36.9	33.8	32.5	24.7
Vandalism/graffiti/damage to property	30.2	25.5	25.7	28.0	25.8	23.0	19.5
Car theft	19.9	23.9	25.0	22.7	21.3	18.5	13.9
Louts/youth gangs	21.3	19.7	18.4	16.2	15.1	13.0	9.2
Drunkenness	16.8	15.1	13.8	11.4	10.7	8.5	5.0
Illegal drugs	19.1	13.4	11.2	11.8	12.3	9.2	5.0
Other theft	13.0	12.8	11.6	10.6	11.1	9.2	7.3
Problems with neighbours/domestic problems	9.1	8.8	9.7	9.5	8.2	6.3	3.5
Prowlers/loiterers	9.0	8.7	7.9	6.7	7.1	6.2	4.5
Other assault	6.5	5.0	4.0	3.7	3.5	2.7	1.4
Sexual assault	3.4	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.3	1.3	1.0
Other	2.2	1.8	2.5	2.8	2.5	2.3	1.6
No problems	26.4	24.8	23.1	22.6	24.8	30.5	38.2
Not stated	0.9	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.8	2.4	3.9
Total(b)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

(b) The total is less than the sum of the components as respondents could indicate more than one problem.

7.9 VICTIMS AND NON-VICTIMS(a) WHO PERCEIVED PARTICULAR PROBLEMS IN THEIR NEIGHBOURHOOD

	<i>Victims of household crime(b) only</i>	<i>Victims of personal crime only</i>	<i>Victims of both personal and household crime(b)</i>	<i>Victims of any of these crimes(c)</i>	<i>Not a victim of any of these crimes</i>	<i>Total persons(d)</i>
NUMBER ('000)						
Housebreakings/burglaries/theft from homes	837.4	269.4	89.8	1 196.6	5 051.7	6 301.4
Dangerous/noisy driving	438.2	264.8	72.4	775.4	4 047.0	4 865.3
Vandalism/graffiti/damage to property	377.0	211.8	63.2	652.0	2 981.7	3 663.5
Car theft	408.7	143.9	59.5	612.1	2 396.4	3 039.9
Louts/youth gangs	246.6	187.0	54.4	488.0	1 773.1	2 287.1
Drunkenness	179.3	142.5	46.6	368.5	1 242.6	1 631.6
Illegal drugs	170.3	144.4	52.0	366.7	1 246.7	1 630.0
Other theft	199.5	101.5	39.5	340.5	1 184.4	1 540.6
Problems with neighbours/domestic problems	99.6	94.5	34.9	228.9	911.9	1 153.6
Prowlers/loiterers	149.1	79.7	34.9	263.7	738.9	1 013.3
Other assault	60.1	70.7	30.3	161.2	359.2	525.8
Sexual assault	43.9	37.9	18.1	99.9	239.4	344.2
Other	23.4	20.5	6.8	50.6	278.2	331.7
No problems	90.7	72.0	5.5	168.1	3 659.7	3 870.7
Not stated	12.5	6.0	**1.0	19.5	237.8	260.1
Total(e)	1 163.3	555.8	127.8	1 847.0	12 466.9	14 456.0
PROPORTION (%)						
Housebreakings/burglaries/theft from homes	72.0	48.5	70.3	64.8	40.5	43.6
Dangerous/noisy driving	37.7	47.6	56.6	42.0	32.5	33.7
Vandalism/graffiti/damage to property	32.4	38.1	49.5	35.3	23.9	25.3
Car theft	35.1	25.9	46.6	33.1	19.2	21.0
Louts/youth gangs	21.2	33.6	42.6	26.4	14.2	15.8
Drunkenness	15.4	25.6	36.4	20.0	10.0	11.3
Illegal drugs	14.6	26.0	40.7	19.9	10.0	11.3
Other theft	17.1	18.3	30.9	18.4	9.5	10.7
Problems with neighbours/domestic problems	8.6	17.0	27.3	12.4	7.3	8.0
Prowlers/loiterers	12.8	14.3	27.3	14.3	5.9	7.0
Other assault	5.2	12.7	23.7	8.7	2.9	3.6
Sexual assault	3.8	6.8	14.1	5.4	1.9	2.4
Other	2.0	3.7	5.3	2.7	2.2	2.3
No problems	7.8	12.9	4.3	9.1	29.4	26.8
Not stated	1.1	1.1	**0.7	1.1	1.9	1.8
Total(e)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

(b) Persons who lived in victim household.

(c) Persons who were victims of any of the crimes in the survey, including if they lived in a victim household.

(d) Total includes persons where household crime data are unknown.

(e) The total is less than the sum of the components as respondents could indicate more than one problem.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 This publication contains results from a national survey of crime and safety which was conducted during April to July 1998 as a supplement to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) April Monthly Population Survey (MPS).

2 Information was collected from individuals and households about their experience of selected crimes, reporting behaviour and crime-related risk factors.

3 The 1998 Crime and Safety Survey was conducted using all the private dwellings included in the MPS, with the exception of those private dwellings that had been in the latter survey for eight months, private dwellings containing only visitors, and private dwellings in remote or sparsely settled areas. The MPS was conducted during the two weeks commencing Monday 6 April 1998.

4 Information was sought from approximately 51,800 persons, of whom about 42,200 (81.4%) responded. Data pertaining to households were sought from approximately 25,600 households and about 20,900 (81.6%) replied. Examination of successive waves of responses did not indicate any serious problem of non-response bias. The estimation and imputation procedures employed were designed to reduce the effect of non-response (see paragraph 27).

SCOPE

5 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.

6 Residents of non-private dwellings such as hospitals, motels and prisons (included in the MPS) were excluded from this survey. Persons living in remote or sparsely settled areas in Australia were also excluded.

COVERAGE

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

COVERAGE *continued*

8 Crime and Safety Survey questionnaires were either delivered to the selected households by MPS interviewers or mailed to those respondents who completed the MPS by telephone. Respondents were asked to complete the relevant questionnaires and return them by mail. One questionnaire per household contained questions relating to the household as a whole. In addition, all persons in scope were provided with a questionnaire relating to their personal experiences of crime. Females aged 18 years and over were supplied with a separate questionnaire about sexual assault. Completion of this sexual assault form was voluntary. The response rate for this form was 94.6% of females aged 18 years and over who responded to the other personal form in the survey.

CONTENT

9 Crime victim surveys are most suitable for measuring crimes against individuals or households with specific victims, who are aware of and recall what happened to them and how it happened, and who are willing to relate what they know.

10 This survey covered only selected types of household and personal crimes. Household crimes covered in the survey were break-ins, attempted break-ins, and motor vehicle theft. Personal crimes covered in the survey were robbery, assault and sexual assault. Data on selected break-in victimisation risk factors were also collected.

11 Data on crimes recorded by police are available in *Recorded Crime, Australia* (Cat. no. 4510.0). The Crime and Safety Survey provides an additional source of data on crime for selected offences, including crime not reported to or detected by the police. As such, the survey is important in order to identify the nature of crime that is not reported to the police. The survey also gives information on victims of repeated crimes, which is not available from police data. The information from the survey should be viewed as a complement to the published police statistics on crime.

12 Not all types of crime are suitable for measurement by household surveys. No reliable information can be obtained about crimes without specific victims, such as trafficking in narcotics. Crimes of which the victim may not be aware cannot be measured effectively—some instances of fraud and attempted crimes of many types may fall into this category. It may also be difficult to obtain information about some crimes such as sexual offences and assault committed by other household members. Some of these crimes are not fully reflected in the data collected. Lastly, no reliable data can be collected by household surveys on crimes against commercial establishments or government agencies.

13 For this survey, the definition of total victims is restricted to those offences included in the survey; it by no means represents total crime.

DATA QUALITY

Interpretation of results

14 Information recorded in this survey is essentially 'as reported' by respondents and hence may differ from that which might be obtained from other sources or via other methodologies. This factor should be considered in interpreting the estimates in this publication.

Interpretation of results <i>continued</i>	<p>15 Information was collected on respondents' perceptions of problems in their neighbourhood. Perceptions are influenced by a number of factors and can change quickly. Care should therefore be taken when analysing or interpreting the data.</p>
Comparability with previous ABS surveys	<p>16 Since 1990, the ABS has been conducting State-specific Crime and Safety Surveys in New South Wales (annually), Western Australia (1991 and 1995), South Australia (1991 and 1995), Victoria (1994 and 1995), and Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory (1995), often with funding from the State concerned. A national survey was last conducted in 1993, and previous to that in 1983 and 1975. All of the surveys since 1990 have required respondents to complete the questionnaires themselves and mail these back to the ABS.</p> <p>17 The introduction of telephone interviewing for the MPS necessitated a change from the drop-off/mail-back methodology adopted in the 1993 survey. For the 1998 survey, questionnaires were either mailed from the office to respondents (for Labour Force Survey (LFS) interviews conducted over the telephone) or delivered by the interviewer (for LFS conducted face-to-face). All respondents were asked to mail their completed questionnaires back to the ABS.</p> <p>18 While an important use of crime victims surveys is to establish the trend of crime and reporting behaviour over time, care must be exercised in the comparison of the results of the 1993 and 1998 surveys for robbery and assault because of significant definitional differences. The household crimes are comparable between the surveys. However, changes in respondents' attitudes towards crime in the last five years may have affected their responses to the surveys. See Appendix 1 for details on the differences between the ABS surveys.</p>
Other methodological problems	<p>19 In the interpretation of the results of the 1998 survey, consideration should be given to the representativeness of the sample. This is affected by the response rate and also the fact that the survey only covers people living in private dwellings. Thus it does not include such people as the homeless or people living in special accommodation, sections of the community which may be heavily victimised. Also, how a respondent completed a questionnaire will depend on their personal circumstances, their interpretation of the questions, and how much they are willing to divulge.</p> <p>20 An advantage of self-enumeration questionnaires is that these may increase the chance of a person revealing personal information on issues such as assault and sexual assault. However, there are also problems if the respondent's literacy skills are not adequate to understand a reasonably complex form.</p> <p>21 The survey also looked at victimisation as discrete incidents, whereas for many victims of violence this is an ongoing situation.</p>
Data processing	<p>22 Consistency and range edit checks were applied to all forms, mainly during data entry, to ensure that answers were consistent within the household or person record and that they made sense.</p>

23 Victims' forms were more closely scrutinised. The questions asking respondents to describe the incident were used to check that other questions had been consistently answered. If this resulted in the incident being incorrectly included as a particular offence type, then the incident was either recoded or discounted, as appropriate. This either resulted in an adjustment to the number of incidents, or the respondent being counted as a non-victim of the original offence.

24 There were a number of cases where the questionnaire was not complete. The most common problem was when questions that should have been answered had been left blank.

25 Missing data were treated in one of the following ways:

- where possible, missing information was imputed from other answers on the form, following a standard set of imputation rules as derived for this survey;
- where the data could not be imputed, a 'not stated' code was used; and
- forms with significant amounts of missing data were treated as non-response.

26 If an unanswered question affected other questions, then a decision was made on how to code this item. When an unanswered question did not have an effect on other questions, it was coded to 'not stated'. Generally the proportions of 'not stated' were very small. When this was not the case, the number of 'not stated' have been included overtly in the tables; if the number was small, they have just been included in the total.

27 A complex set of multistage weighting procedures was employed to adjust for non-response and improve the precision of estimates in this survey.

28 Information on sexual assaults was collected from females aged 18 years and over in a separate, voluntary questionnaire because of the perceived sensitivity of the topic. About 5.4% of females aged 18 years and over in the sample who responded to the other questionnaires did not respond to the sexual assault questionnaire.

29 The non-response to the sexual assault questionnaire among the respondents of other questionnaires was dealt with first. This was treated as item non-response, and handled by imputation. This was to avoid the need for different weights in the same personal records. The imputation was carried out by choosing a respondent at random within an imputation class, and assigning this selected donor's value to the non-respondent. Imputation classes were defined using age groups by State and Territory.

30 Estimates were then obtained in two stages. In the first stage, adjustment for non-response was carried out based on the demographic composition of the MPS sample, as well as on results of the analysis of the effect of reminder action on the responses obtained.

Non-response bias and weighting of data *continued*

31 In most surveys there is little information available about non-respondents. In this survey, however, demographic characteristics of most non-respondents were available from the MPS which had a very high response rate. Weighting adjustments were carried out using the distribution of the demographic characteristics from the MPS which were correlated with crime victimisation.

32 For this survey there were two separate reminder follow-ups (by mail for the first reminder, and mail or telephone for the second reminder). Indications of bias due to the difference between respondents and non-respondents were investigated using successive waves of responses. Any significant bias identified was adjusted using data from later waves of responses.

33 The second stage was a complex ratio estimation procedure which 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 within the sample itself. The procedure also ensured that household estimates conformed to the 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.

34 The weighted populations include all households and persons aged 15 years and over living in private dwellings in Australia in April 1998. These household and person benchmarks were interpolated from the March 1998 and June 1998 place of usual residence demographic estimates for private dwellings and their residents (Publication reference). The populations therefore include estimates for members of the defence forces who live in private dwellings, for persons and households in sparsely settled areas, and for persons who may have been away from their dwellings at the time of the survey, even those these persons/households were not included in the scope of the survey.

Comparison with police statistics

35 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 for the offences (such as robbery, assault) 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.

36 Even though the respondent may indicate that the crime has been reported to the police, there is no verification that a crime report has actually been made for the offence. There are many reasons why an incident which is reported to police may not be recorded as a crime. Victims may advise police of a matter but not seek to have it dealt with as a crime. This is especially true of incidents where the offender is related, or otherwise known, to the victim. The information received by police may not be sufficient to allow them to determine whether a crime has been committed, or what kind of offence has been committed. The police may regard the incident as not having enough evidence to substantiate an offence or be too trivial to warrant the paperwork. The incident may also have been coded to a different offence category.

37 Another source of variation between the survey results and crimes recorded by police relates to differences in scope. This survey collects information on robbery and assault only for persons aged 15 years and over, and sexual assault is only asked directly for females aged 18 years and over, whereas police statistics include victims of all ages and comparisons need to allow for this. Police record all crimes reported to them in the counting period, whether or not the incidents took place during that period or at an earlier time, and count all distinct estimates of victimisation reported.

38 It is also possible that respondents to the survey may have included some incidents which occurred outside the 12-month period. Information was collected on which quarter in the last 12 months the most recent incident occurred, in an attempt to reduce this telescoping effect.

39 The following compares the survey estimates of the total number of offences that became known to the police with the offence figures recorded by police for the period May 1997 to April 1998 as determined from the Recorded Crime Statistics collection.

Offences becoming known to police

40 For each offence type, survey respondents were asked how many of the incidents that happened to them in the previous 12 months became known to the police. From this the total number of offences that became known to police was estimated.

41 From the Recorded Crime Statistics collection, the offences recorded by police for the period May 1997 to April 1997 for comparable offence categories and relevant populations were determined.

42 For most offences, the survey estimates of incidents becoming known to the police considerably exceed the number recorded by police, for reasons such as those given in paragraphs 36–38. Motor vehicle theft is the only offence category where the numbers are similar.

TOTAL NUMBER OF INCIDENTS BECOMING KNOWN TO/RECORDED BY POLICE

	<i>Crime and Safety Survey(a)</i>	<i>Recorded Crime, Australia(b)</i>
	'000	'000
Break-in/attempted break-in(c)	456.1	289.6
Motor vehicle theft	130.8	131.5
Robbery(d)	55.1	15.6
Assault(d)	388.0	116.3
Sexual assault(e)	11.0	5.4

(a) Number of incidents becoming known to police, as indicated by respondents for the 12 months prior to the April 1998 survey.

(b) As recorded by police from May 1997 to April 1998.

(c) Relevant recorded crime offence is Unauthorised Entry With Intent to a residential location.

(d) For persons aged 15 years and over.

(e) For females aged 18 years and over.

PRESENTATION OF DATA

43 For simplicity in reporting, 'offender known' includes cases where some offenders were known, and 'offender unknown' includes cases where the respondent did not know if they knew the offender. Only a small proportion of responses were in the 'some known' and 'don't know' categories. Also, often in the discussion the term 'offender' is used, whether or not there was more than one offender.

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

45 In some tables, an individual person or a household may be represented in more than one of the listed categories. The sum of the numbers in all categories may therefore exceed the total number of persons or households shown in the table.

46 See the Technical Notes for an explanation of how to interpret standard errors and relative standard errors.

AGE STANDARDISATION

47 Standardisation is a technique used when comparing estimates for populations which have different structures. In particular, age standardisation is used because some demographic characteristics are influenced by age distribution. Where indicated in the text and tables in this publication, victimisation rates have been age standardised.

48 These standardised rates show the victimisation rates which would occur in different populations if they had the same age composition as the standard population. The standard population used in the publication is the population benchmark as described in paragraph 34. See the Technical Notes for the derivation process for age standardisation.

AGE STANDARDISATION

continued

49 For example, the assault victimisation rate among people who have never been married was 7.7% compared to 0.7% among widowed people (see table 5.15). However, people who have never been married are generally younger than those who have been widowed. Therefore, because assault victimisation is age related, the difference between the victimisation rates for these two groups is partly due to their different age profiles. When the age rates within each of these groups are applied to the same population profile, then the age standardised rate for people who have never been married decreases to 3.8% and the victimisation rate for widowed people increases to 3.1%.

DATA DISSEMINATION

50 Additional data from the national Crime and Safety Survey will be made available through standard tabulations, special tabulations, and the statistical consultancy service. A standard set of additional tables containing state wafers of most tables in this publication and some additional national tables is available (Cat. no. 4509.0.40.001). Special tabulations can be produced on request to meet individual user requirements. These can be provided in printed form or on floppy disk. At the time of release of this publication, it had not been decided whether to release a confidentialised unit record data file. Users wishing to undertake detailed analyses of the data should contact the National Centre for Crime and Justice Statistics (NCCJS) to discuss the best way for their needs to be met.

STATISTICAL CONSULTANCY

51 For users wishing to have the unit record data analysed according to their own needs (e.g. model building, hypothesis testing), the ABS offers a specialist consultancy service to assist with their work. This consultancy attracts a service charge. For further information, contact the NCCJS by email through crime.justice@abs.gov.au.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

ABS publications

52 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)

Community Safety, Tasmania, October 1998 (Cat. no. 4515.6)

Crime and Safety, Australia, April 1993 (Cat. no. 4509.0)

Crime and Safety, New South Wales, April 1997 (Cat. no. 4509.1)

Crime and Safety, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, April 1995 (Cat. no. 4509.1)

Crime and Safety, Queensland, April 1995 (Cat. no. 4509.3)

Crime and Safety, South Australia, April 1995 (Cat. no. 4509.4)

Crime and Safety, Victoria, April 1995 (Cat. no. 4509.2)

Crime and Safety, Western Australia, October 1995 (Cat. no. 4509.5)

ABS publications continued *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey: Law and Justice Issues, 1994* (Cat. no. 4189.0)

Recorded Crime, Australia, 1998 (Cat. no. 4510.0)

Victims of Crime, Australia, 1983 (Cat. no. 4506.0)

Women's Safety, Australia, 1996 (Cat. no. 4128.0)

53 Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (Cat. no. 1101.0) and the list is available on the ABS Internet site <http://www.abs.gov.au>. The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Release Advice* (Cat. no. 1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The National Centre for Crime and Justice Statistics releases a biannual newsletter that is published on the ABS Internet site. The Centre can be contacted by email through crime.justice@abs.gov.au.

Non-ABS publications **54** Non-ABS sources which may be of interest include:

Australian Institute of Criminology, *List of Publications* (<http://www.aic.gov.au>).

Budd, Tracey 1999, *Burglary of Domestic Dwellings, Findings of the 1998 British Crime Survey*, Home Office Statistical Bulletin Issue 4/99.

Bottoms, Anthony E. 1994, Environmental Criminology in *The Oxford Handbook of Criminology*, Maguire, M., Morgan, R. & Reiner, R., Oxford: Clarendon.

Cohen, L. & Cantor, D. 1981, 'Residential Burglary in the United States: Lifestyle and Demographic Factors Associated with the Probability of Victimization', *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, vol. 18 pp. 113–27.

Cohen, L. E., Kluegel, J. R. & Land, K. C. 1981, 'Social Inequality and Predatory Victimization: An Exposition and Test of a Formal Theory', *American Sociological Review* 46, pp. 505–24.

Hindelang, M., Gottfredson, M. R. & Garofalo, J. 1978, *Victims of Personal Crime: An Empirical Foundation for a Theory of Personal Victimization*, Cambridge, Mass.: Ballinger.

Hosmer, D. & Lemeshow, S. 1989, *Applied Logistic Regression*, Wiley, New York.

Maxfield, Michael G. 1987, 'Household Composition, Routine Activity and Victimization: A Comparative Analysis', *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, vol. 3, no. 4, pp. 301–20.

Mayhew, P., Maung, N. A. & Mirrlees-Black, C. 1993, *The 1992 British Crime Survey*, British Home Office Research Study 132.

Non-ABS publications
continued

Mesch, Gustavo S. 1997, 'Victims and Property Victimization in Israel', *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, vol. 13, no. 1, pp. 57–71.

Mirrlees-Black, C., Budd, T., Partridge, S. & Mayhew, P. 1998, *The 1998 British Crime Survey, England and Wales*, British Home Office Statistical Bulletin Issue 21/98.

Osborn, D. R. & Tseloni, A. 1998, 'The Distribution of Household Property Crimes', *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, vol. 14, no. 3, pp. 307–30.

Sampson, R. J. & Wooldredge, J. D. 1987, 'Linking the Micro- and Macro-Level Dimensions of Lifestyle—Routine Activity and Opportunity Models of Predatory Victimization', *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, vol. 3, no. 4, pp. 371–93.

Smith, D. A. & Jarjoura, G. R. 1988, 'Social Structure and Criminal Victimization', *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, vol. 25, pp. 27–52.

Smith, D. A. & Jarjoura, G. R. 1989, 'Household Characteristics, Neighborhood Composition and Victimization Risk', *Social Forces*, December 1989, pp. 621–40.

Trickett, A., Osborn, D. & Ellingworth, D. 1995, 'Property Crime Victimization: The Roles of Individual and Area Influences', *International Review of Victimology*, vol. 3, pp. 273–95.

Young, W., Morris, A., Cameron, N. & Haslett, S. 1997, *New Zealand National Survey of Crime Victims, 1996*, Victimization Survey Committee, Wellington, New Zealand.

SYMBOLS AND OTHER
USAGES

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
LFS	Labour Force Survey
MPS	Monthly Population Survey
n.a.	not available
n.f.d.	not further defined
RSE	revised standard error
SE	standard error
*	estimate is subject to a relative standard error of 25% or more
**	estimate is subject to a relative standard error of 50% or more
. .	not applicable
—	indicates that no observations reflecting these characteristics were recorded in the survey

APPENDIX 1

COMPARABILITY WITH PREVIOUS ABS SURVEYS

INTRODUCTION

Some of the more important methodological, definitional and other differences between the 1993 and 1998 Crime and Safety Surveys follow.

METHODOLOGY

All the 1993 questionnaires were delivered to the respondent households by interviewers at the time of their Labour Force Survey (LFS) interview; in 1998 most of the questionnaires were mailed out from Australian Bureau of Statistics offices within two weeks of the completion of the LFS interviewing.

CRIME QUESTIONS

In the 1998 survey use was made of the 'please describe' responses to refine the coding of all crimes. This was not possible in 1993. As a result of this there could be some incorrect coding of crimes in 1993 compared with 1998, though the effect would be small.

HOUSEHOLD CRIME

Motor vehicle theft in 1998 includes all motor vehicles, whereas the 1993 survey included only registered motor vehicles.

Less detail was collected on motor vehicle theft (and attempted break-ins) in 1998 compared with 1993 to allow for more information to be collected for the personal crimes.

PERSONAL CRIME

Information on the personal crimes of robbery and assault was collected using different sets of questions.

Due to the significant changes in question wording, it is not possible to provide comparable figures on robbery and assault for 1993 and 1998, therefore the 1993 data have not been included in this publication.

<i>Offence</i>	<i>Survey</i>	<i>Questions</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Robbery	1993	In the last 12 months did anyone steal anything from you by threatening or attacking you?	. .
	1998	In the last 12 months, has anyone stolen or tried to steal anything from you?	If 'yes' then answer the next question.
		In how many of these incidents were you physically attacked or threatened with violence?	include: any incident where you were pushed, shoved, hit or attacked, etc. exclude: any incident where you did not encounter the offender(s) in person. Counted as a victim of robbery if had a non-zero response to the question.
Assault	1993	In the last 12 months has anyone threatened you with force or attacked you?	. .
	1998	In the last 12 months, did anyone (including people you know well) use force or violence against you? In the last 12 months, did anyone (including people you know well) try to or threaten to use force or violence against you?	include: any incident where you were pushed, shoved, hit, attacked with a weapon, etc. exclude: any incident where you did not encounter the offender(s) in person, e.g. telephone calls, and any incident of name calling, swearing, etc. which did not involve a physical threat. Respondents who answered 'yes' to either of the questions were counted as a victim of assault.

PERSONAL CRIME <i>continued</i>	The robbery and assault questions used in 1998 were aimed at obtaining more detail on what actually happened to the victim, so as to give a better picture of the nature and seriousness of the incident, and to allow easier comparison with data from other sources. As a result of the additional information collected in 1998, incidents were able to be more accurately recorded as a robbery or an assault.
ROBBERY	It is believed that the 1993 robbery figure included a number of incidents that police would classify as theft and some others that would be classified as assault. As a result of the problems with this question, additional questions were added in later New South Wales Crime and Safety Surveys to determine whether or not anything was stolen and to determine what actually happened in the incident. In 1998 a two-phase approach was used, as indicated in the above table. Note that the 1998 robbery figures include attempts, which are specifically excluded from the New South Wales Crime and Safety 1996 and 1997 data.
ASSAULT	A number of differences exist between the 1993 and 1998 questions, in particular the prompt in 1998 to include assaults from people the respondent knew well. Note also that the 1998 assault question specifically includes attempts whereas the 1993 survey question did not. However, it is believed that the 1993 data are likely to include some attempts. For each incident of assault for which information has been obtained in the survey (most recent, second most recent and third most recent), there is a data item which specifies whether the incident involved the use, attempted use or threat of force or violence. This information could be used to refine the assault data.
REASONS FOR NOT TELLING THE POLICE ABOUT AN INCIDENT	In 1993 this question was open-ended and the information given by the respondent was coded to a set of responses developed in the office. In 1998 a tick box response list was used, which was developed from the responses obtained to this question over a number of surveys, and room was provided for other reasons to be written down. It is possible that a respondent's interpretation of the precoded responses may be different to how an office coder would have coded a written response from the respondent. Tick boxes were specifically used in an attempt to reduce the amount of uncodable responses that were ending up in 'other'. There were proportionally less reasons coded to 'other' in 1998 compared with 1993.
1993 AND 1995 CRIME AND SAFETY SURVEYS	Differences between the 1993 national survey and the 1995 State surveys were minimal. The 1995 surveys were conducted in April, apart from the Western Australia survey which was conducted in October. Questions relating to the offences were the same as in the 1993 survey. Preliminary questions in 1993 relating to personal risk factors were replaced (in some States) by questions on respondent perceptions of problems in the neighbourhood.

APPENDIX 2

LOGISTIC REGRESSION ANALYSIS

Logistic regression can be used to measure the association between a binary or multinomial dependent variable and a set of explanatory variables (risk factors). This regression technique applies a logit transformation which ensures that the dependent variable can range from negative infinity to positive infinity rather than between 0 and 1.

In its simplest form, the logistic regression model can be described as follows:

$$\text{Logit } P_i = \log [P_i / (1-P_i)] = \alpha + \beta_i X_i + \epsilon_i \quad \text{Equation 1}$$

where P_i is the probability of the outcome occurring (e.g. being a victim of break-in), α is an intercept term, β_i 's are the coefficients, X_i 's are the explanatory variables of interest, and ϵ_i is the error term. Logit P_i is the natural logarithm of the 'odds ratio' which is commonly used as a measure of the magnitude of the relationship between two variables. More information on logistic regression is available elsewhere (e.g. Hosmer & Lemeshow, 1989).

THE MODELS

The dependent variable used in this analysis was the prevalence of break-in victimisation and has two categories, victim or non-victim. Two logistic regression models were constructed. In Model 1, all household/dwelling variables as specified below were used simultaneously in the first stage of the analysis. Model 2 included all household/dwelling and area variables specified below in the first stage of the analysis. Backward elimination procedures were applied to both models to remove any explanatory variables that were not significant at the 10% level. For simplicity, no interaction terms have been included in the model.

Odds ratios have been estimated relative to a reference category which has been assigned for each explanatory variable. In table 3.1 and the table in this Appendix, the reference group is not shown for variables that have only two categories (such as whether the dwelling is next to a laneway/bicycle path or not). By definition, the odds ratio for the reference group is always 1 and 95% confidence intervals are not applicable.

SCOPE OF THE ANALYSIS

This analysis includes households that had lived in their current dwelling for one year or more and responded to all the relevant questions which are used in the model construction (i.e. households which had a 'not stated' response for any of the explanatory variables were not included).

A victim of break-in may also be a victim of attempted break-in during the survey reference period. However, a non-victim household was defined as a household that was not a victim of a break-in or attempted break-in.

VARIABLES INITIALLY
INCLUDED IN THE MODELS

Household/dwelling
characteristics

Variables with more than two categories:

- length of residence at the current address;
- whether own or rent;
- type of dwelling;
- amount of motor vehicle traffic in the street;
- amount of pedestrian traffic in the street;
- age of the oldest person in the household;
- household type; and
- number of persons in the household.

Variables with two categories:

- dwelling next to a laneway/bicycle path;
- dwelling on a corner block;
- dwelling in a cul de sac (includes 'Place', 'Court');
- dwelling in another dead end street;
- dwelling in a battle-axe block;
- dwelling not having any of the above features;
- dwelling within 100 metres/100 yards of a park/playing field/reserve;
- dwelling located within 100 metres/100 yards of a pub/hotel/club or other licensed premises;
- dwelling within 100 metres/100 yards of a primary school;
- dwelling within 100 metres/100 yards of a secondary school, high school or college;
- dwelling within 100 metres/100 yards of a late-closing shop or petrol station;
- dwelling within 100 metres/100 yards of other shops/shopping centres/commercial premises;
- dwelling within 100 metres/100 yards of a bus stop/tram stop;
- dwelling within 100 metres/100 yards of a railway station;
- dwelling not within 100 metres/100 yards of any of the above facilities; and
- professional households (households with one or more persons with an occupation classified to the ABS Australian Standard Classification of Occupations group of Managers and Administrators, Professionals or Technicians and Associate Professionals).

Area characteristics Two variables were taken from the survey data:

- State/Territory; and
- Capital City or town with population of 8,000 or more.

A number of data items were used from the 1996 ABS Census of Population and Housing as socio-economic characteristics of each area:

- percentage of persons aged 55 years and over and not in the labour force;
- percentage of males aged 15–24 years;
- percentage of one parent households;
- percentage of households with one or more persons with an occupation classified to the ABS Australian Standard Classification of Occupations group of Managers and Administrators, Professionals or Technicians and Associate Professionals; and
- percentage of unemployed persons.

These data were extracted at the Collection District level, except the percentage of males aged 15–24 years which were extracted at the Statistical Local Area level. Data from the Census of Population and Housing were categorised into three groups primarily based on the Dalenius-Hodges method. This technique divides the data into different categories that minimise the variance within each category.

RESULTS

There are two types of odds ratio, unadjusted and adjusted. The unadjusted odds ratio can be calculated directly from the bivariate table, and is the proportion of victims in one category divided by the proportion of victims in the reference category. For example, the unadjusted odds ratio of 1.2 for 'person living alone' (see the following table), can be calculated by dividing the proportion of victims in this category (8.5%, see table 1.10) by the proportion of victims in the reference category of 'couple with unmarried child(ren)' (6.9%, see table 1.10).

However, the unadjusted odds ratio only takes account of two bivariate relationships at one time. The adjusted odds ratios are estimated by logistic regression, which allows the effect of other risk factors to be taken into account, and these odds ratios show the effect of each possible risk factor while holding all other factors constant.

Two sets of results are presented in the following table:

(1) the unadjusted odds ratios for each of the significant variables included in Models 1 and 2; and

(2) the estimated regression coefficients of the significant variables in both models. The regression coefficients are the β 's mentioned in Equation 1 and are included for users who are interested in doing further analysis.

UNADJUSTED ODDS RATIOS AND REGRESSION COEFFICIENTS FOR THE ADJUSTED(a) ODDS RATIOS FOR BREAK-IN VICTIMISATION

Risk factors	Unadjusted ratios		Model 1		Model 2	
	Odds ratio	95% confidence interval	Regression coefficient	Standard error	Regression coefficient	Standard error
HOUSEHOLD/DWELLING CHARACTERISTICS						
Household type						
Person living alone	1.2	0.97–1.43	0.31	0.11	0.28	0.11
Couple only	0.8	0.64–0.95	–0.02	0.11	–0.01	0.11
Couple with unmarried child(ren)(b)	1.0	..	..	..	..	..
One parent with unmarried child(ren)	1.9	1.53–2.40	0.64	0.12	0.61	0.12
All other households	1.3	0.98–1.65	0.28	0.14	0.24	0.14
Age of the oldest person in the household						
Under 25 years	1.6	0.94–2.55	0.30	0.26	0.22	0.26
23–34 years	1.7	1.37–2.11	0.48	0.12	0.49	0.12
35–44 years	1.7	1.40–2.04	0.50	0.11	0.49	0.11
45–54 years	1.4	1.14–1.69	0.33	0.11	0.30	0.11
55 years and over(b)	1.0	..	..	..	..	..
Occupation						
Professional households	1.1	0.94–1.30	0.14	0.09	0.15	0.09
Dwelling location						
Dwelling next to laneway/bicycle path	1.8	1.42–2.16	0.49	0.11	0.48	0.11
Dwelling more than 100 metres from any community facility	0.6	0.55–0.76	–0.24	0.08	–0.09	0.09
Amount of traffic in street						
A large amount of motor vehicle traffic all day and evening	1.8	1.52–2.12	0.53	0.09	0.54	0.09
A large amount of motor vehicle traffic mainly during peak hours	1.5	1.24–1.78	0.34	0.09	0.35	0.09
Not a large amount of motor vehicle traffic(b)	1.0	..	..	..	..	..
AREA CHARACTERISTICS						
Proportion of unemployed persons						
4% or less of unemployed persons(b)	1.0	..			..	..
4.1% to less than 10% of unemployed persons	1.0	0.84–1.15			–0.02	0.08
10% or more of unemployed persons	1.4	1.10–1.87			0.40	0.14
Proportion of young males						
6% or less of males aged 15–24 years(b)	1.0	..			..	..
6.1% to less than 9% of males aged 15–24 years	1.7	1.35–2.23			0.15	0.14
9% or more of males aged 15–24 years	2.6	1.93–3.59			0.40	0.18
State and Territory						
New South Wales	1.4	1.15–1.84			0.40	0.12
Victoria(b)	1.0	..			..	..
Queensland	1.5	1.14–1.88			0.47	0.13
South Australia	1.1	0.84–1.50			0.13	0.15
Western Australia	2.3	1.81–2.96			0.81	0.13
Tasmania	1.4	1.01–1.91			0.44	0.16
Northern Territory	2.3	1.36–3.75			0.78	0.26
Australian Capital Territory	1.8	1.24–2.52			0.38	0.19
Urban indicator						
Capital city or town with population of 8,000 or more	2.3	1.85–2.98			0.69	0.14

(a) Adjusted for all risk factors listed.

(b) The reference group. Odds ratio is equal to 1.0 by definition.

APPENDIX 3

QUESTIONS IN THE 1998 CRIME AND SAFETY SURVEY

NEIGHBOURHOOD CHARACTERISTICS

What are the problems from crime or people creating a public nuisance in your neighbourhood?

- Housebreakings/burglaries/theft from homes
- Car theft
- Other theft
- Louts/youth gangs
- Prowlers/loiterers
- Drunkenness
- Vandalism/graffiti/damage to property
- Dangerous/noisy driving
- Illegal drugs
- Sexual assault
- Other assault
- Problems with neighbours/domestic problems
- Other
- Have no problems

How long have you lived at this address?

- Less than 1 year
- 1 to less than 3 years
- 3 to less than 5 years
- 5 years or more

Is this dwelling owned outright, being bought, or being rented by you or another member of this household?

- Owned outright/being bought
- Being rented
- Other

What type of dwelling is this?

- Separate house
- Semi detached/terrace house/townhouse/villa
- Flat/apartment—on ground level
- Flat apartment—**not** on ground level
- Other dwelling

How visible is your dwelling from the street? (*not asked for flats*)

- The dwelling can be completely seen
- The dwelling is partially screened. e.g. by trees, shrubs, a high fence or wall
- The dwelling cannot be seen at all

Do you live (*not asked for flats*):

- Next to a laneway/bicycle path
- On a corner block
- In a cul-de-sac (includes 'Place', 'Court')
- In another dead end street
- In a battle-axe block
- None of the above

Does your street usually have a large amount of motor vehicle traffic?

- Yes, constant motor vehicle traffic all day and evening
- Yes, motor vehicle traffic mainly during peak hours
- No

Does your street usually have a large amount of pedestrian traffic?

- Yes, constant pedestrian traffic all day and evening
- Yes, pedestrian traffic mainly during peak hours
- No

Do you live about 100 metres/100 yards of any of the following:

- A park/playing field/reserve
- A pub/hotel/club or other licensed premises
- A primary school
- A secondary school, high school or college
- A late-closing shop or petrol station
- Other shops/shopping centres/commercial premises
- A bus stop/tram stop
- A railway station
- None of the above

HOUSEHOLD

Break-in and attempts

In the last 12 months, did anyone break into your home?

- Include
 - your garage or shed
 - your current and any previous addresses in the last 12 months
- Exclude
 - your car or garden
 - all **attempted** break-ins

In the last 12 months, have you found any signs of an attempted break-in?

- Include
 - your garage or shed
 - your current and any previous address in the last 12 months
- Exclude
 - your car

The following were asked for the above household crimes.

How many times did this happen in the last 12 months?

How many of these (attempted) break-ins became known to the police?

Break-in and attempts *continued*

When did the **most recent** (attempted) break-in occur?

- 0–3 months ago
- 4–6 months ago
- 7–9 months ago
- 10–12 months ago

Where did the **most recent** (attempted) break-in occur?

- This address
- Previous address

Did you tell the police about the **most recent** (attempted) break-in?

What was the main reason you did not tell the police about the **most recent** break-in?

- Too trivial/unimportant
- Somebody else told police
- I thought there was nothing the police could do
- I thought the police would have been unwilling to do anything
- Personal matter/would take care of it myself
- Because nothing was stolen
- Not covered by insurance
- Other

What did the offender(s) do in the **most recent** break-in?

- Stole property
- Damaged property
- Confronted someone
- Other

Break-in risk factors

Does your home currently have:

Note: If you live in a flat or unit, please answer for your own flat or unit only, not for the block.

A dog?

A car in the driveway during the day?

- Yes, always/most of the time
- Yes, sometimes
- No
- No driveway
- No car

Outside lighting?

- Yes, sensor lighting
- Yes, outside light turned on all evening
- Yes, street lighting directly outside home
- No

Bars, grilles, security shutters or locks on windows?

- Yes, on all windows
- Yes, on some windows
- No

Deadlocks on doors?

- Yes, on all doors
- Yes, on some doors
- No

Security screen doors?

- Yes, on all doors
- Yes, on some doors
- No

Burglar alarms?

Have any of the following security measures been added to your home in the last 12 months?

- Sensor lighting
- Bars, grilles, security shutters or locks on windows
- Deadlocks on doors
- Security screen doors
- Burglar alarms
- None of the above

Motor vehicle theft

How many motor vehicles are currently owned, being purchased or used exclusively by members of this household?

- Include
 - utilities, trucks and motor bikes
 - both privately owned and business/employer/company vehicles

- Exclude
 - caravans, trailers and floats
 - company vehicles **not** used exclusively by household members

In the last 12 months, has a motor vehicle been stolen from any member(s) of this household?

How many times did this happen in the last 12 months?

How many of these motor vehicle thefts became known to the police?

Did you tell police about the **most recent** motor vehicle theft?

PERSONAL

In the last 12 months, has anyone stolen or tried to steal anything from you?

Robbery

In how many of these incidents were you physically attacked or threatened with violence?

- Include
 - any incident where you were pushed, shoved, hit or attached with a weapon, etc.
- Exclude
 - any incident where you did not encounter the offender(s) in person

Assault

In the last 12 months, did anyone (including people you know well) use force or violence against you?

Include

- any incident where you were pushed, shoved, hit, attached with a weapon, etc.

In the last 12 months, did anyone (including people you know well) try to or threaten to use force or violence against you?

Exclude

- any incident where you did not encounter the offender(s) in person e.g. telephone calls
- any incident of name calling, swearing, etc. which did not involve a physical threat

How many times has this happened in the last 12 months?

Include

- attempts and/or threats of force or violence against you

Exclude

- threats over the telephone

The following were asked for the above personal crimes.

How many of these incidents became known to the police?

When did the **most recent** incident occur?

- 0–3 months ago
- 4–6 months ago
- 7–9 months ago
- 10–12 months ago

Did you tell police about the **most recent** incident?

What was the **main** reason you did not tell the police about the most recent incident?

- Too trivial/unimportant
- Somebody else told police
- I thought there was nothing the police could do
- I thought the police would have been unwilling to do anything
- Personal matter/would take care of it myself
- I was too confused/upset/injured
- Told somebody else instead (*assault only*)
- Did not want offender punished (*assault only*)
- Afraid of reprisal (*assault only*)
- Other

Was anything actually stolen from you as a result of the **most recent** incident? (*robbery only*)

What was stolen from you as a result of the **most recent** incident? (*robbery only*)

What was the nature of the **most recent** incident? (*robbery only*)

- Someone snatched/grabbed items from me
- Someone tried to snatch/grab items from me
- Someone physically attacked me
- Someone threatened me
- Other

Was a weapon used in the **most recent** incident?

- No weapon used
- Yes, knife
- Yes, gun
- Yes, other

Were you physically injured in the **most recent** incident?

- Yes, admitted to hospital
- Yes, other injury
- No, not injured

How many offenders were there in the **most recent** incident?

- One
- Two or more

At the time of the **most recent** incident, did you know the offender(s)?

- Yes
- Some known
- No
- Don't know

At the time of the **most recent** incident, were you with friends, relatives or companions? (*robbery only*)

Where were you when the **most recent** incident occurred?

- At home
- At another person's home
- At the place where I work or study
- In a private vehicle, e.g. car
- In a public vehicle, e.g. train, bus, taxi
- Place of entertainment, e.g. pub, nightclub, including car park
- In the street or other open land
- In a shopping centre, including car park
- Other

Did you discuss the **most recent** incident with anyone else? (*assault only*)

- No
- Yes, friend
- Yes, family member
- Yes, medical practitioner
- Yes, crisis helper
- Yes, other

Assault *continued*

At the time of the **most recent** incident, how did you know the offender(s)? (*assault only*)

Responses were coded to the following categories:

Family member:

Partner

Parent

Child

Sibling

Other family member

Family member n.f.d.

Ex-partner

Boyfriend/girlfriend

Neighbour

Acquaintance

Work colleague

Study colleague

Person recognised but not known personally

Which of the following happened in the most recent incident? (*assault only*)

Someone used force or violence against me

Someone attempted to use force or violence against me

Someone threatened to use force or violence against me

Other

At the time of the **most recent** incident, were you in danger of being hurt? (*assault only*)

For persons reporting 2 or more assaults in the last 12 months:

(Response categories as for most recent robbery/assault)

When did the **second/third most recent** incident occur?

Did you tell police about the **second/third most recent** incident?

What was the **main** reason you did not tell the police about the second/third most recent incident?

Where were you when the **second/third most recent** incident occurred?

At the time of the **second/third most recent** incident, did you know the offender(s)?

At the time of the **second/third most recent** incident, how did you know the offender(s)?

Was a weapon used in the **second/third most recent** incident?

Were you physically injured in the **second/third most recent** incident?

Which of the following happened in the **second/third most recent** incident?

At the time of the **second/third most recent** incident, were you in danger of being hurt?

Sexual assault

(Response categories as for robbery/assault)

In the last 12 months have you been the victim of sexual assault?

Include

- All incidents of a sexual nature involving physical contact—rape, attempted rape, indecent assault, assault with the intent to sexually assault

Exclude

- Sexual harassment that did not lead to an assault

How many times were you the victim of sexual assault in the last 12 months?

How many of these incidents became known to the police?

When did the **most recent** incident occur?

Did you tell police about the **most recent** incident?

What was the **main** reason you did not tell the police about the most recent incident?

Did you discuss the **most recent** incident with anyone else?

Where were you when the **most recent** incident occurred?

At the time of the most recent incident, did you know the offender(s)?

At the time of the most recent incident, how did you know the offender(s)?

Was a weapon used in the **most recent** incident?

Were you physically injured in the **most recent** incident?

TECHNICAL NOTE

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

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

Non-sampling errors

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.

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

Sampling error is the error which occurs by chance because the data were only obtained from a sample, not the entire population.

STANDARD ERRORS

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).

There are about two chances in three (67%) that a survey estimate is within one SE of the figure that would have been obtained if all persons had been included, and about nineteen chances in twenty (95%) that it is within two SEs. That is, there are 19 chances in 20 that the figure that would have been obtained if all persons had been included is in the range:

$$x - 2 SE(x) \text{ to } x + 2 SE(x)$$

(where x is the estimate).

The SE of an estimate can be obtained from the table T1 below. Linear interpolation should be used to calculate the SE of estimates falling between the sizes of estimates listed in the table.

RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS

The SE 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 SE 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 RSE is a useful measure in that it provides an immediate indication of the percentage errors likely to have occurred due to sampling.

RELATIVE STANDARD
ERRORS *continued*

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 RSE of a proportion or percentage is:

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

For all tables in this publication, only estimates with RSEs of 25% or less, and percentages based on such estimates, are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes. However, estimates and percentages with larger RSEs have been included and are preceded by an * to indicate that they are subject to high SEs and should be used with caution. Estimates with RSEs greater than 50% should not be regarded as reliable, and are indicated by the symbol **.

AGE STANDARDISED
VICTIMISATION RATE

To calculate this, first select the variable(s) to standardise by, e.g. employed persons. Then calculate the victimisation rates for each age group of the standardising variable (e.g. victimisation rates for each age group of the persons employed). Next, multiply the victimisation rate in each age group by the standard population in each age group to give the expected number of victims for each age group in the standard population. Finally, sum the expected numbers of victims and divide by the total standard population to give the standardised rate.

STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES OF PERSONS AND HOUSEHOLDS

Size of estimate	Aust.									
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	SE	RSE
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	%
400	1 030	550	430	410	320	270	130	230	280	70.9
500	1 040	570	460	420	340	290	140	240	330	65.1
600	1 050	590	490	440	370	300	140	250	360	60.7
700	1 070	620	510	450	390	310	150	260	400	57.2
800	1 080	640	530	470	400	320	150	270	430	54.2
900	1 090	650	550	480	420	330	160	280	470	51.7
1 000	1 110	670	570	490	440	340	160	290	500	49.5
1 100	1 120	690	590	510	450	350	170	300	520	47.6
1 200	1 130	710	610	520	470	360	170	300	550	45.9
1 300	1 140	720	630	530	480	360	180	310	580	44.4
1 400	1 160	740	640	540	490	370	180	320	600	43.0
1 500	1 170	750	660	550	510	380	190	330	630	41.8
1 600	1 180	760	670	560	520	390	190	330	650	40.7
1 700	1 190	780	690	570	530	400	200	340	670	39.6
1 800	1 200	790	700	580	540	400	200	350	700	38.6
1 900	1 210	800	710	590	550	410	200	360	720	37.7
2 000	1 220	820	730	600	570	420	210	360	740	36.9
2 100	1 230	830	740	610	580	420	210	370	760	36.1
2 200	1 240	840	750	620	590	430	220	380	780	35.4
2 300	1 250	850	770	620	600	440	220	380	800	34.7
2 400	1 260	860	780	630	610	440	230	390	820	34.0
2 500	1 270	880	790	640	620	450	230	390	840	33.4
3 000	1 320	930	840	680	660	480	250	420	920	30.8
3 500	1 370	980	900	720	710	510	270	450	1 000	28.7
4 000	1 410	1 030	940	750	750	530	290	480	1 080	26.9
4 500	1 450	1 070	990	780	780	560	300	500	1 150	25.5
5 000	1 490	1 110	1 030	810	820	580	320	530	1 210	24.3
6 000	1 560	1 190	1 110	870	890	630	360	570	1 330	22.2
8 000	1 690	1 330	1 240	970	1 000	710	420	660	1 540	19.3
10 000	1 800	1 460	1 370	1 070	1 110	780	480	740	1 730	17.3
20 000	2 280	1 970	1 850	1 450	1 530	1 100	780	1 080	2 410	12.0
30 000	2 660	2 390	2 230	1 770	1 860	1 360	1 070	1 370	2 890	9.6
40 000	2 990	2 750	2 560	2 050	2 150	1 600	1 350	1 640	3 290	8.2
50 000	3 290	3 090	2 850	2 310	2 410	1 820	1 630	1 900	3 620	7.2
100 000	4 560	4 500	4 040	3 410	3 480	2 790	3 100	3 060	4 820	4.8
200 000	6 580	6 780	5 840	5 220	5 110	4 440	6 300	5 170	6 290	3.1
300 000	8 300	8 750	7 320	6 820	6 460	5 930	..	7 160	7 280	2.4
400 000	9 880	10 560	8 620	8 290	7 650	7 340	..	9 110	8 040	2.0
500 000	11 350	12 260	9 810	9 700	8 750	8 700	..	..	8 670	1.7
1 000 000	17 960	19 910	14 850	16 140	13 450	..	..	..	10 800	1.1
2 000 000	29 560	33 390	22 930	27 830	21 070	..	..	..	13 190	0.7
5 000 000	60 770	69 540	..	..	..	..	..	..	16 650	0.3
10 000 000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19 410	0.2
15 000 000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21 030	0.1

GLOSSARY

- Assault** An incident other than a robbery involving the use, attempted use, or threat of force or violence against the victim.
- Assault categories** As an aid in the interpretation of the assault data, the three most recent incidents for each assault victim have each been classified to one of eight groups, based on a classification used in the 1992 British Crime Survey:
- *Family*—incidents where the offender was the partner or ex-partner of the victim, or a member of the victim’s family, regardless of the location of the incident.
 - *Home-based*—where the incident occurred at the victim’s home or someone else’s home, excluding any family violence (as defined above).
 - *Work/study*—where the incident occurred at the victim’s place of work, or study (excluding family violence).
 - *Street*—where the incident occurred either in the street or other open land, or in a public vehicle such as train, bus or taxi (excluding family violence).
 - *Pubs/clubs*—where the incident was in a place of entertainment such as a pub or nightclub, including the car part (excluding family violence).
 - *Private car*—where the incident occurred in a private vehicle such as a car (excluding family violence).
 - *Shops*—in a shopping centre, including car park (excluding family violence).
 - *Other*—any other location (excluding family violence).
- Attempted break-in** An incident where there were signs that an attempt was made to break into the respondent’s home, garage or shed.
- Break-in** An incident where the respondent’s home had been broken into. The respondent’s home was defined to include their garage or shed, but exclude their car and garden.
- Dwelling** A suite of rooms contained within a building which are self-contained and intended for long-term residential use. To be self-contained the suite of rooms must possess cooking and bathing facilities as building fixtures.
- 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.
- Metropolitan** Includes all State Capital City Statistical Divisions and Part A of the Queensland Gold Coast Statistical Division. Non-metropolitan includes all other areas covered by the survey.

Motor vehicle theft	An incident where a 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 members of the household.
Neighbourhood	Respondents were asked about crime problems in their neighbourhood. The precise definition of this term was left to the respondent.
Relationship of victim to offender	<p>Respondents were asked to write down the relationship at the time of the incident and these were matched to the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ partner; ■ other family member—includes parent, child, sibling, aunt, uncle, cousin, son-in-law, etc.; ■ family member n.f.d.—where the respondent wrote ‘family member’; ■ ex-partner; ■ friend—includes girlfriend, boyfriend, ex-girlfriend, ex-boyfriend, other friend; ■ neighbour; ■ work/study colleague—includes workmate, classmate, fellow student; ■ acquaintance; ■ other known; ■ not known personally—includes recognised but not known, known by role/uniform (e.g. police, security guard, bouncer); and ■ not stated—where the question was left blank.
Robbery	An incident where someone had stolen (or tried to steal) property from a respondent by physically attacking them or threatening them with violence.
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.
Standardised victimisation rates	These show the victimisation rates which would occur in different populations if these populations had the same age composition as the standard population. For further details see paragraph 47 of the Explanatory Notes.
Victim	A person or a household reporting at least one of the offences covered by the survey. Victims were counted once only for each type of offence, regardless of the number of incidents of that type.

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