



# **CRIME AND SAFETY** WESTERN AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) THURS 25 MAY 2000

## CONTENTS

	<i>page</i>
Notes .....	2
Summary of findings .....	3
TABLES	
<b>1</b> Victims and non-victims of crime, type of offence .....	6
<b>2</b> Victims and non-victims of household crime, selected characteristics .....	7
<b>3</b> Victims and non-victims of personal crime, sex by age .....	8
<b>4</b> Victims and non-victims of personal crime, selected characteristics .....	9
<b>5</b> Victims of crime, number of incidents experienced, type of offence .....	10
<b>6</b> Victims of crime, whether police told, type of offence .....	11
<b>7</b> Victims of assault, whether offender known in last incident .....	11
<b>8</b> Persons, perceptions of crime or public nuisance problems in the neighbourhood .....	12
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	
Explanatory Notes .....	13
Appendix 1: Comparability with 1995 Survey Data .....	16
Appendix 2: Additional Data .....	18
Technical Notes .....	19
Standard Errors .....	20
Glossary .....	22

- For more information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information Service on 1300 135 070 or Chris McDavitt on Perth 08 9360 5144

## NOTES

**ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION** The WA Crime and Safety Survey covers only selected types of household and personal crimes. Household crimes include break-in, attempted break-in and motor vehicle theft. Personal crimes include robbery, assault and sexual assault (females only).

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



**CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE** For the 1999 survey, questions were asked to enable the personal offence categories of robbery and assault to align with the National Crime and Safety Survey conducted in 1998 (see Appendix 1). Therefore, estimates for robbery and assault and consequently overall person victimisation estimates are not comparable with estimates from the 1995 WA Crime and Safety Survey and are only published for 1999. For household crimes and sexual assault, victimisation rates from the 1995 survey are provided for comparison. Caution should be used when comparing 1995 and 1999 victimisation rates (see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 12 to 15).



### **SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES**

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
MPS	Monthly Population Survey
n.a.	not available
n.p.	not available for publication but included in totals where applicable
r	revised
WA	Western Australia
*	estimate is subject to a relative standard error greater than 25%
..	not applicable

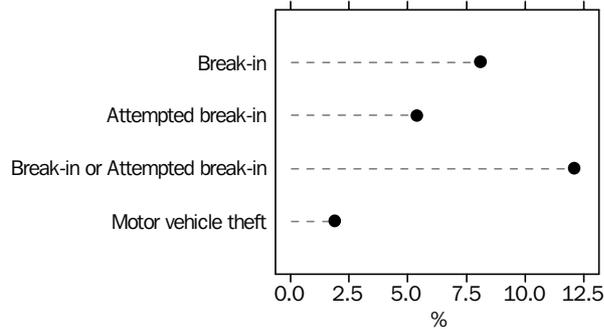
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## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### HOUSEHOLD CRIME

During the twelve months to October 1999, 96,500 households (13.3% of all households in WA) were victims of at least one household crime, which includes *break-in*, *attempted break-in* or *motor vehicle theft*. The victimisation rate was higher for Perth (14.6%) than for the rest of Western Australia (9.7%).

HOUSEHOLD CRIME, By Offence Type—Victimisation Rates



The victimisation rate for *motor vehicle theft* was 1.9%, a lower estimate than the 3.0% victimisation rate for 1995.

The most common household offence reported in the survey was *break-in*, reported by 58,300 households or 8.1% of all households.

The victimisation rate was highest for *one parent* households of which 18.0% or 10,100 reported at least one incident of household crime.

### PERSONAL CRIME

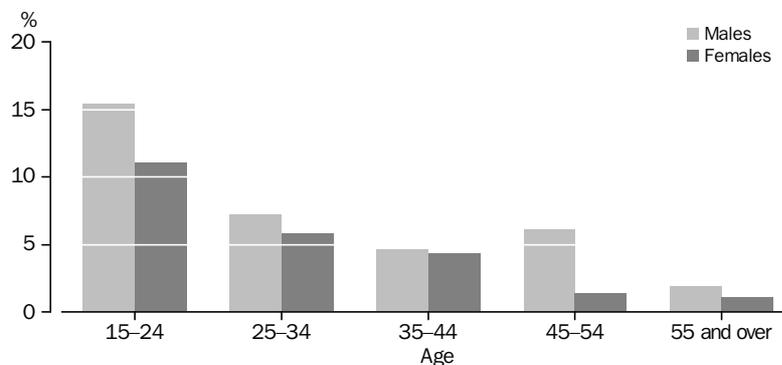
Of an estimated 1,440,000 residents of Western Australia aged 15 years or over, 80,900 (5.6%) reported being victims of at least one personal crime in the 12 months to October 1999. Personal crime is defined in this survey as robbery, assault or sexual assault (females only).

Victimisation rates for personal crime varied according to age and sex. Males were more likely to be victims of crime than females with a 6.8% victimisation rate compared to 4.5% for females. Younger persons experienced higher victimisation rates than older persons, with 13.3% of persons aged 15 to 24 years experiencing personal crime. The victimisation rate progressively decreased with age to 1.5% for persons aged 55 years and over (see graph on page 4).

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

### PERSONAL CRIME *continued*

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



(a) Robbery, assault or sexual assault (females only).

Persons in the labour force (employed and unemployed) were more likely to be victims of crime than those who were not in the labour force. The victimisation rate for unemployed persons was highest at 14.4% while the rate for employed persons was 5.7%. By comparison, the victimisation rate for those persons not in the labour force was 4.4%.

### MULTIPLE VICTIMS

Of the 96,500 households in Western Australia that reported being victims of household crime in the 12 months to October 1999, 31,700, representing 32.9%, experienced two or more occurrences. 87,800 households reported an incident of break-in or attempted break-in, and of these 31.9% reported more than one such incident.

Assault was the most reported personal crime in the survey, with 22,700 (51.5%) males reporting one occurrence and 21,400 (48.5%) reporting two or more occurrences. Of the 26,700 females who reported assault, 55.8% experienced more than one incident.

### REPORTING TO POLICE

Analysis of the most recent incident shows that the nature of the crime heavily influenced whether victims report the occurrence to the police. For household crimes, 96.4% of motor vehicle thefts were reported to police while 21.7% of attempted break-ins were reported. Among victims of personal crime, 24.7% of assaults were reported to police while 46.9% of robberies were reported.

### RELATIONSHIP TO OFFENDER

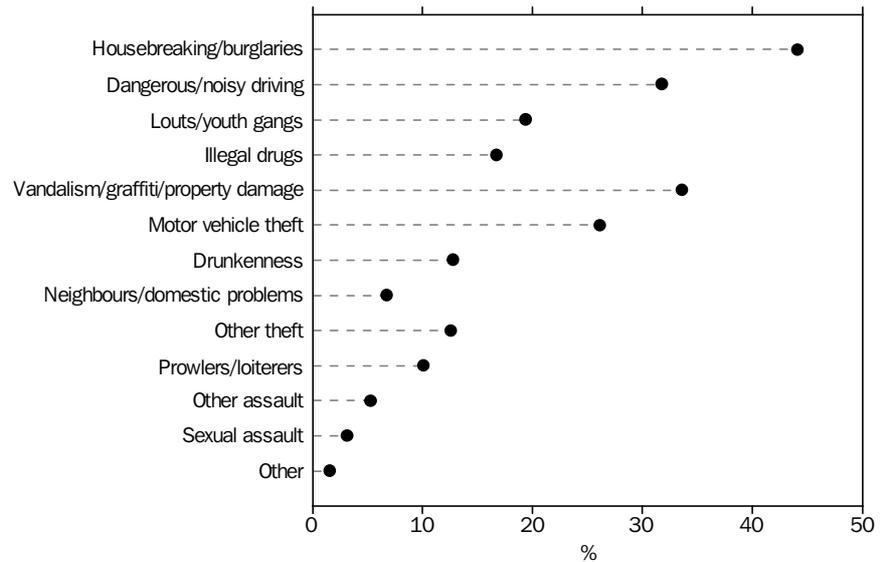
For occurrences of assault, the offender was known to the victim in 39,800 or 56.2% of cases. Where the offender was known, most incidents of assault (18.5%) involved a family member (including ex-partner) of the victim. Acquaintances (12.3%) and friends (11.1%) were the next most commonly reported known offenders.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

### PERCEPTION OF CRIME/PUBLIC NUISANCE

594,600 persons (41.3%) reported no perceived crime or public nuisance problems in their neighbourhood. Of the remaining 845,400 persons (58.7%), the most commonly perceived problems were housebreaking/burglaries (44.1%), vandalism/graffiti/damage to property (33.6%), dangerous/noisy driving (31.8%) and motor vehicle theft (26.1%).

PERCEPTIONS OF CRIME — PUBLIC NUISANCE, By Offence Type—Proportion of Persons



Type of offence	1999.....			VICTIMISATION RATE(a).....	
	Victims '000	Non-victims '000	Total '000	1995 %	1999 %
<b>Household victims</b>					
Break-in	58.3	665.4	723.6	8.9	8.1
Attempted break-in	38.8	684.9	723.6	7.1	5.4
Break-in or attempted break-in(b)	87.8	635.9	723.6	13.6	12.1
Motor vehicle theft	13.5	710.2	723.6	3.0	1.9
<b>Total households(b)</b>	<b>96.5</b>	<b>627.1</b>	<b>723.6</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>13.3</b>
<b>Person victims</b>					
Male					
Robbery(c)	7.9	709.8	717.7	n.a.	1.1
Assault(c)	44.2	673.6	717.7	n.a.	6.2
Sexual assault(d)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
<i>Total male (b)</i>	<i>48.6</i>	<i>669.2</i>	<i>717.7</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>6.8</i>
Female					
Robbery(c)	*2.9	719.3	722.2	n.a.	*0.4
Assault(c)	26.7	695.5	722.2	n.a.	3.7
Sexual assault(d)	5.0	681.2	686.2	*0.7	0.7
<i>Total female (b)</i>	<i>32.3</i>	<i>689.9</i>	<i>722.2</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>4.5</i>
Persons					
Robbery(c)	10.8	1 429.1	1 440.0	n.a.	0.8
Assault(c)	70.9	1 369.1	1 440.0	n.a.	4.9
Sexual assault(d)	5.0	681.2	686.2	*0.7	0.7
<b>Total persons(b)</b>	<b>80.9</b>	<b>1 359.1</b>	<b>1 440.0</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>5.6</b>

(a) Proportion of all households/persons.

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

(c) Robbery and assault, and consequently total person victimisation rates prior to 1999 are not comparable with data in this publication (see paragraph 11 of the Explanatory Notes and Appendix 1).

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

# 2

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

Selected characteristics	1999.....			VICTIMISATION RATE(b).....	
	Victims '000	Non-victims '000	Total '000	1995 %	1999 %
<b>Major statistical regions</b>					
Perth Metropolitan	78.2	456.7	534.9	17.5	14.6
Balance of WA	18.3	170.4	188.7	11.0	9.7
<b>Total households</b>	<b>96.5</b>	<b>627.1</b>	<b>723.6</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>13.3</b>
<b>Household type</b>					
Couple with child(ren)	31.1	218.7	249.8	15.3	12.5
Couple only	18.8	164.9	183.7	11.3	10.2
One parent household	10.1	45.7	55.8	25.5	18.0
Person living alone	25.0	138.3	163.3	16.4	15.3
Other households	11.5	59.5	71.1	19.5	16.2
<b>Total households</b>	<b>96.5</b>	<b>627.1</b>	<b>723.6</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>13.3</b>

(a) Break-in, attempted break-in or motor vehicle theft.

(b) Proportion of all households.

# 3

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

Age (years)	Victims '000	Non- victims '000	Total '000	Victimisation rate(b) %
MALES				
15-24	20.7	113.8	134.6	15.4
25-34	10.0	129.4	139.4	7.1
35-44	7.0	143.9	150.8	4.6
45-54	7.8	120.2	128.0	6.1
55 years and over	*3.1	161.9	165.0	*1.9
<b>Total males</b>	<b>48.6</b>	<b>669.2</b>	<b>717.7</b>	<b>6.8</b>
FEMALES				
15-24	14.0	111.8	125.8	11.1
25-34	7.9	128.2	136.0	5.8
35-44	6.8	150.7	157.5	4.3
45-54	*1.7	121.6	123.3	*1.4
55 years and over	*2.0	177.7	179.6	*1.1
<b>Total females</b>	<b>32.3</b>	<b>689.9</b>	<b>722.2</b>	<b>4.5</b>
PERSONS				
15-24	34.7	225.6	260.3	13.3
25-34	17.8	257.6	275.4	6.5
35-44	13.8	294.5	308.3	4.5
45-54	9.5	241.8	251.3	3.8
55 years and over	5.1	339.5	3 446.0	1.5
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>80.9</b>	<b>1 359.1</b>	<b>1 440.0</b>	<b>5.6</b>

(a) Robbery, assault or sexual assault (females only).

(b) Proportion of all persons.

# 4

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

<i>Selected characteristics</i>	<i>Victims</i>	<i>Non-victims</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Victimisation rate(b)</i>
	'000	'000	'000	%
<b>Major statistical region</b>				
Perth (met)	62.5	1 018.1	1 080.5	5.8
Balance of WA (ex-met)	18.4	341.0	359.4	5.1
<b>Total Persons</b>	<b>80.9</b>	<b>1 359.1</b>	<b>1 440.0</b>	<b>5.6</b>
<b>Labour force status</b>				
Employed	53.0	874.9	927.9	5.7
Unemployed	7.9	46.9	54.8	14.4
Not in the labour force	20.1	437.2	457.3	4.4
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>80.9</b>	<b>1 359.1</b>	<b>1 440.0</b>	<b>5.6</b>

(a) Robbery, assault or sexual assault (females only).

(b) Proportion of all persons.

# 5

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

Type of offence	One	Two or more	Total	One	Two or more
	'000	'000		%	%
<b>Household victims</b>					
Break-in	43.4	14.9	58.3	74.4	25.6
Attempted break-in	26.7	12.1	38.8	68.8	31.2
<i>Break-in or attempted break-in(a)</i>	59.8	28.0	87.8	68.1	31.9
Motor vehicle theft	12.0	*1.5	13.5	88.9	*11.1
<b>Total households (a)</b>	<b>64.8</b>	<b>31.7</b>	<b>96.5</b>	<b>67.1</b>	<b>32.9</b>
<b>Person victims</b>					
Male					
Robbery	5.0	*3.0	7.9	62.7	37.3
Assault	22.7	21.4	44.2	51.5	48.5
Sexual assault (b)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
<i>Total males (a)</i>	24.4	24.2	48.6	50.2	49.8
Female					
Robbery	*2.6	n.p.	*2.9	*90.5	n.p.
Assault	11.8	14.9	26.7	44.2	55.8
Sexual assault (b)	*3.5	*1.5	5.0	*70.1	*29.9
<i>Total females (a)</i>	15.4	16.9	32.3	47.7	52.3
Persons					
Robbery	7.6	*3.2	10.8	70.1	*29.9
Assault	34.5	36.3	70.9	48.7	51.3
Sexual assault (b)	*3.5	*1.5	5.0	*70.1	*29.9
<b>Total persons (a)</b>	<b>39.8</b>	<b>41.1</b>	<b>80.9</b>	<b>49.2</b>	<b>50.8</b>

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

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

# 6

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

Type of offence	1999.....			POLICE TOLD(a).....	
	Police told '000	Police not told '000	Total '000	1995 %	1999 %
<b>Household victims</b>					
Break-in	43.9	14.4	58.3	80.3	75.3
Attempted break-in	8.4	30.3	38.8	31.2	21.7
Motor vehicle theft	13.0	n.p.	13.5	93.7	96.4
<b>Person victims</b>					
Male					
Robbery(b)	*2.8	5.2	7.9	n.a.	*34.8
Assault(b)	11.5	32.7	44.2	n.a.	25.9
Sexual assault(c)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Female					
Robbery(b)	*2.3	n.p.	*2.9	n.a.	*80.2
Assault(b)	6.0	20.7	26.7	n.a.	22.6
Sexual assault(c)	*1.4	*3.6	5.0	n.a.	*28.4
Persons					
Robbery(b)	5.1	5.8	10.8	n.a.	46.9
Assault(b)	17.5	53.4	70.9	n.a.	24.7
Sexual assault(c)	*1.4	*3.6	5.0	n.p.	*28.4

(a) Proportion of all households/persons.

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

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

# 7

## VICTIMS OF ASSAULT, Whether Offender Known in Last Incident

Whether offender known	'000	%
<b>Offender known</b>		
Family member(a)	13.1	18.5
Friend(b)	7.9	11.1
Work/study colleague	*4.0	*5.6
Acquaintance	8.7	12.3
Neighbour	*3.9	*5.6
Other	*2.2	*3.1
<b>Total offender known</b>	<b>39.8</b>	<b>56.2</b>
Offender not known	31.0	43.8
<b>Total assault victims</b>	<b>70.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Includes ex-partner.

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

<i>Crime or public nuisance problem</i>	<i>Perceived to be a problem(a).....</i>	
	<i>'000</i>	<i>%</i>
<b>Perceived problem(s)</b>		
Housebreaking/burglaries	635.4	44.1
Vandalism/graffiti/damage to property	484.0	33.6
Dangerous/noisy driving	458.2	31.8
Motor Vehicle theft	375.5	26.1
Louts/youth gangs	279.1	19.4
Illegal drugs	240.0	16.7
Drunkenness	183.8	12.8
Other theft	182.0	12.6
Prowlers/loiterers	144.8	10.1
Problems with neighbours/domestic problems	97.3	6.8
Other assault	75.7	5.3
Sexual assault	45.7	3.2
Other	23.3	1.6
<b>No perceived problem</b>	<b>594.6</b>	<b>41.3</b>
<b>All persons</b>	<b>1 440.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

# EXPLANATORY NOTES

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## INTRODUCTION

**1** This publication contains results from the WA Crime and Safety Survey which was conducted throughout WA in October 1999 as a supplement to the ABS Monthly Population Survey (MPS). The survey was conducted at the request of the Ministry of Justice, the WA Police Service, Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet, Office of Seniors Interests, Womens' Policy Development Office, and the Crime Research Centre, University of Western Australia.

**2** Information was collected from individuals and households about their experience of selected crimes, reporting behaviour and individuals' perception of crime problems in their neighbourhood.

**3** The MPS was conducted during the two weeks commencing Monday, 11 October 1999.

**4** Information was sought from a 7/8 sample of the MPS which was approximately 6,900 persons, of whom 5,400 (78%) responded. Approximately 3,230 households were surveyed from which complete household data were obtained from 2,730 (78%) of these.

**5** Estimation and imputation procedures were employed to reduce the effect of non-response.

## SCOPE

**6** The survey was conducted for all persons aged 15 and over who were usual residents of private dwellings, except:

- members of the permanent defence forces;
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from censuses and surveys;
- overseas residents in Australia;
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia;
- persons living in sparsely settled areas of the State; and
- private dwellings containing visitors only.

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

## COVERAGE

**8** Coverage rules were applied to ensure that each person was associated with only one dwelling, and hence had only one chance of selection in the survey.

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

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

## COMPARISONS WITH POLICE STATISTICS

**10** Responses obtained in this survey are based on the respondent's perception of their having been the victim of an offence. The terms used summarise the wording of the questions asked of the respondent, and may not necessarily correspond with the legal or police definitions which are used for each offence.

## CHANGES TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE

**11** For the 1999 WA Crime and Safety Survey, additional questions about robbery and assault incidents were included in order to be consistent with the 1998 National Crime and Safety Survey (see Appendix 1). The data for robbery and assault is therefore not comparable with data collected during the 1995 WA Crime and Safety Survey. The definitions of robbery and assault for the statistics included in this publication can be found in the Glossary.

## CAUTION WHEN COMPARING 1995 AND 1999 VICTIMISATION RATES

**12** Caution should be exercised when comparing data and victimisation rates between the 1995 and 1999 WA Crime and Safety Surveys. Significant changes to the question wording for incidents of both robbery and assault have made data comparisons for personal crime invalid (see Appendix 1).

**13** To confidently estimate the movement in estimates between surveys, it is essential that there is a substantial overlap of units selected in the sample. Factors such as sample size and the time period between surveys should also be taken into account. The 1999 survey was not specifically designed to account for these factors. Consequently, comparisons between 1995 and 1999 estimates have been included in this publication only in a limited number of cases. Where such comparisons have been published, standard errors (SEs) should be taken into consideration before any conclusions are drawn about the significance of apparent changes in victimisation rates.

**14** For example, if we look at *Break-in* in table 1 on page 6 and table 1 of the 1995 Crime and Safety publication:

Household Crime	1995	1999
Break-in	56,900 victims	58,300 victims
Victimisation rate	8.9%	8.1%
2 standard errors	± 3,860 victims	± 6,900 victims
95% confidence interval (real figure is within 2 SEs)	53,040 to 60,760 victims	51,400 to 65,200 victims
Victimisation rate (based on 95% confidence)	8.3% to 9.5%	7.1% to 9.0%

**15** Based on the victimisation rates for *break-in*, it would be easy to assume that the rate has fallen between 1995 and 1999. However, we can only be 95 percent confident that the true figure would lie within a range of 2 standard errors plus or minus the survey estimate. From the above example, we are 95 percent confident that the true victimisation rate for 1995 lies between 8.3% and 9.5% and for 1999 between 7.1% to 9.0%. Because there is an overlap in these ranges, the estimates show that the victimisation rate could have either risen or fallen between 1995 and 1999 and therefore, it would be statistically invalid to draw any inference about the movement in break-in rates during that period.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

**16** The ABS produces a wide range of publications containing social and demographic statistics. Other ABS publications which relate to this survey topic are shown below.

*Australian Standard Offence Classification, 1997* (Cat. no. 1234.0)

*Crime and Safety, New South Wales, April 1999* (Cat. no. 4509.1)

*Crime and Safety, Australia, April 1998* (Cat. no. 4509.0)

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

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

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

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

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

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

# APPENDIX 1 COMPARABILITY WITH 1995 SURVEY DATA

## INTRODUCTION

Some of the more important methodological, definitional and other differences between the 1995 and 1999 WA Crime and Safety Surveys follow.

## METHODOLOGY

All the 1995 questionnaires were delivered to the respondent households by interviewers at the time of their Labour Force Survey (LFS) interview. In 1999, most of the questionnaires were mailed out from the Perth Office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics within two weeks of the completion of LFS interviewing.

## CRIME QUESTIONS

In the 1999 survey, use was made of the 'please describe' responses to refine the coding of all crimes. This was not possible in 1995. As a result, coding of crimes may be less accurate in 1995 compared with 1999.

## HOUSEHOLD CRIME

Motor vehicle theft in 1999 includes all motor vehicles, whereas the 1995 survey included only registered motor vehicles.

## 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 the personal crimes of robbery and assault for 1995 and 1999, therefore the 1995 data have not been included in this publication.

Question wording used in 1995 and 1999 is shown in the following table.

Offence	Survey	Questions	Comments
Robbery	1995	In the last 12 months did anyone steal anything from you by threatening or attacking you?	. .
	1999	In the last 12 months, has anyone stolen or tried to steal anything from you?  In how many of these incidents were you physically attacked or threatened with violence?	If yes, then answer the next question.  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	1995	In the last 12 months has anyone threatened you with force or attacked you?	. .
	1999	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 use 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 *continued*

The robbery and assault questions used in 1999 were aimed at obtaining more detail on what actually happened to the victims, 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 1999, incidents were able to be more accurately recorded as a robbery or an assault.

#### ROBBERY

It is believed that the 1995 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, questions were added in 1999 to determine whether or not anything was stolen and to determine what actually happened in the incident.

In 1999, a two-phase approach was used, as indicated in the above table. Note that the 1999 robbery figures include attempts, which are specifically excluded from the 1995 WA Crime and Safety Survey.

#### ASSAULT

A number of differences exist between the 1995 and 1999 questions, in particular the prompt in 1999 to include assaults from people the respondent knew well. Note also that the 1999 assault question specifically includes attempts whereas the 1995 survey question did not. However, it is believed that the 1995 data are likely to include some attempts. Where an incident of assault has been reported in the 1999 survey, there is a data item which specifies whether the incident involved the use, attempted use or threat of force or violence. This information was used to refine the assault data.

In 1999, a two-phase approach was also used for assault, as indicated in the above table. Note that the 1999 assault figures include attempts, which are specifically excluded from the 1995 WA Crime and Safety Survey.

#### REASONS FOR NOT TELLING THE POLICE ABOUT AN INCIDENT

In 1995, this question was open-ended and the information given was coded to a set of responses which reflected those most frequently recorded. In 1999, 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 ABS coder would have coded a written response from the respondent. Tick boxes were specifically used in an attempt to reduce the number of uncodable responses. There were proportionally less reasons coded to 'other' in 1999 compared with 1995.

## APPENDIX 2 ADDITIONAL DATA

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### ADDITIONAL DATA AVAILABLE

- 1** The WA Crime and Safety Survey provides information on the incidence of selected categories of crime and crime reporting behaviour for persons aged 15 and over for the 12 months to October 1999. In addition, females aged 18 and over were asked to provide information on personal experiences of sexual assault.
- 2** A customised data service is available to meet special data requirements.
- 3** Information collected in the survey includes:
  - Types of offences:
    - ◆ For break-in, attempted break-in, motor vehicle theft, robbery, assault and sexual assault:
      - whether an incident occurred in the last 12 months;
      - number of incidents in the last 12 months;
      - number of incidents reported to the police;
      - whether the most recent incident was reported to police; and
      - main reason why the most recent incident was not reported to the police.
    - ◆ For break-in and attempted break-in:
      - where the most recent incident occurred.
    - ◆ For break-in:
      - what the offender did in the last incident.
    - ◆ For robbery, assault and sexual assault:
      - location of the last incident;
      - whether a weapon was used;
      - occurrence of physical injury;
      - how many offenders there were;
      - whether the offender(s) were known to the victim; and
      - how the offender(s) were known to the victim.
    - ◆ For robbery:
      - what happened in the last incident;
      - whether anything was stolen in the last incident.
  - Perceived crime or public nuisance problems.
- 4** Data can be classified by the following variables:
  - Age
  - Sex
  - Marital status
  - Household type
  - Country of birth
  - Year of arrival in Australia
  - Labour force region (WA only)
  - Labour force status
- 5** To discuss your data requirements or for further information regarding this survey, please contact the Statistical Consultancy Unit on Perth (08) 9360 5144.

## TECHNICAL NOTES

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### ESTIMATION PROCEDURE

**1** For this survey, the effects of non-response were investigated by analysing the demographic composition of the Monthly Population Survey sample. This information was used to determine the appropriate adjustment procedure for non-response. An initial person weight that accounted for the probability of selection and non-response was then formed.

**2** The harmonic mean of the initial weights of the persons that reside in the household was then used as the initial household weight. This initial household weight was then calibrated against independent estimates of population (benchmarks) for persons and households to obtain a common weight. In this survey broad age by sex benchmarks were used for persons and part of state for households.

**3** Expansion factors, or weights, are values by which information for the sample is multiplied to produce estimates for the whole population. From this survey, estimates are produced referring to persons, and to households, and the weights are calculated so that each person in a household has the same weight and that weight is also used for the household.

**4** Estimates of counts are then simply obtained by summing the weights of either households or persons within the required group. For example, an estimate of the total persons who were robbed in the population would be obtained by simply adding the weight for each person that was robbed in the sample.

### RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

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

#### Non-sampling errors

**6** Non-sampling errors may arise as a result of errors in the reporting, recording or processing of the data. Non-sampling errors can be introduced through inadequacies in the questionnaire, non-response, inaccurate reporting by respondents, errors in the application of survey procedures, incorrect recording of answers and errors in data entry and processing.

**7** It is difficult to measure the size of the non-sampling errors. The extent of these errors could vary considerably from survey to survey and from question to question. Every effort is made in the design of the survey and development of survey procedures to minimise the effect of these errors.

#### Sampling errors

**8** Sampling error is the error which occurs by chance because the data were obtained from a sample, rather than the entire population.

## STANDARD ERRORS

### ESTIMATES OF SAMPLING ERROR

- 1** One measure of the variability of estimates which occurs as a result of surveying only a sample of the population is the *standard error* (see table on page 20).
- 2** There are about two chances in three (67%) that a survey estimate is within one standard error of the figure that would have been obtained if all households/persons had been included in the survey. There are about nineteen chances in twenty (95%) that the estimate will lie within two standard errors.
- 3** Linear interpolation is used to calculate the standard error of estimates falling between the sizes of estimates listed in the table.
- 4** The standard error can also be expressed as a percentage of the estimate. This is known as the *relative standard error (RSE)*. The *RSE* is determined by dividing the standard error of an estimate  $SE(x)$  by the estimate  $X$  and expressing it as a percentage. That is—

$$RSE(x) = \frac{100SE(x)}{x}$$

(where  $x$  is the estimate). The relative standard error is a measure of the error (relative to the size of the estimate) likely to have occurred due to sampling.

- 5** Proportions and percentages formed from the ratio of two estimates are also subject to sampling error. The size of the error depends on the accuracy of both the numerator and the denominator. The formula for the relative standard error of a proportion or percentage is—

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

- 6** For all tables in this publication, only estimates with relative standard errors of 25% or less, and percentages based on such estimates, are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes. Estimates and percentages with relative standard errors between 25% and 50% have been included, preceded by the symbol \* to indicate that they are subject to high standard errors and should be used with caution.

# STANDARD ERRORS *continued*

## STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES OF HOUSEHOLDS AND PERSONS—October 1999

<i>Size of estimate</i>	<i>Standard error</i>	<i>Relative standard error</i>	<i>95% confidence interval</i>
no. of households or persons	no.	%	no. of households or persons
500	350	69.7	0-1 200
600	380	64.0	0-1 360
700	420	59.5	0-1 540
800	450	55.8	0-1 700
900	470	52.7	0-1 840
1 000	500	50.1	0-2 000
1 100	530	47.8	40-2 160
1 200	550	45.8	100-2 300
1 300	570	44.1	160-2 440
1 400	600	42.5	200-2 600
1 500	620	41.1	260-2 740
1 600	640	39.8	320-2 880
1 700	660	38.6	380-3 020
1 800	680	37.5	440-3 160
1 900	690	36.5	520-3 280
2 000	710	35.6	580-3 420
2 100	730	34.8	640-3 560
2 200	750	34.0	700-3 700
2 300	760	33.2	780-3 820
2 400	780	32.5	840-3 960
2 500	800	31.9	900-4 100
3 000	870	29.1	1 260-4 740
3 500	940	26.9	1 620-5 380
4 000	1 000	25.1	2 000-6 000
4 500	1 060	23.6	2 380-6 620
5 000	1 120	22.4	2 760-7 240
6 000	1 220	20.4	3 560-8 440
8 000	1 400	17.5	5 200-10 800
10 000	1 560	15.6	6 880-13 120
20 000	2 150	10.7	15 700-24 300
30 000	2 580	8.6	24 840-35 160
40 000	2 930	7.3	34 140-45 860
50 000	3 240	6.5	43 520-56 480
100 000	4 360	4.4	91 280-108 720
150 000	5 180	3.5	139 640-160 360
200 000	5 830	2.9	188 340-211 660
500 000	8 430	1.7	483 140-516 860
1 000 000	11 010	1.1	977 980-1 022 020

## GLOSSARY

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<b>Assault</b>	An incident, other than a robbery, where the respondent was threatened with force or attacked.
<b>Attempted break-in</b>	An incident where an attempt was made to break into the respondent's home.
<b>Break-in</b>	An incident where the respondent's home had been broken into. The respondent's home was also defined to include their garage or shed. Break-in offences relating to their car or garden were excluded.
<b>Crime or public nuisance problems</b>	Anything perceived by the respondent to be a problem arising from crime or people creating a public nuisance.
<b>Dwelling</b>	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.
<b>Household</b>	A group of residents of a dwelling who share common facilities and meals or who consider themselves to be a household. It is possible for a dwelling to contain more than one household, for example, where regular provision is made for groups to take meals separately and where persons consider their households to be separate.
<b>Metropolitan</b>	The Perth Statistical Division.
<b>Motor vehicle theft</b>	An incident where a registered motor vehicle was stolen from any member of the household. It includes privately owned motor vehicles as well as business/company vehicles used exclusively by any members of the household.
<b>Neighbourhood</b>	Respondents were asked about crime problems in their neighbourhood. The precise definition of this term was left to the respondent.
<b>Offence</b>	Indicates crimes which persons or households reported as having been committed against them.
<b>Robbery</b>	An incident where someone had stolen anything from a respondent by threatening or attacking them. It includes incidents of attempted robbery where someone attempted to steal something from the victim but nothing was actually stolen.
<b>Sexual assault</b>	An incident which was of a sexual nature involving physical contact, including rape, attempted rape, indecent assault, and assault with intent to sexually assault. Sexual harassment (that did not lead to an assault) was excluded. Only females aged 18 years and over were asked sexual assault questions.
<b>Victim</b>	A household or person reporting at least one of the offences surveyed. Victims were counted once only for each type of offence, regardless of the number of incidents of that type.
<b>Victimisation rate</b>	The number of victims of an offence in a given population expressed as a percentage of that population.



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