



## **Technical Manual**

# **Crime Victimisation, Expanded CURF**

**Australia**

**2009–10**



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## **Australia**

**2009–10**

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AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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## ABBREVIATIONS .....

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ABSDL	Australian Bureau of Statistics Data Laboratory
ANZSCO	Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
ARIA	Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia
ASCED	Australian Standard Classification of Education
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
CAI	computer assisted interviewing
CD	collection district
CURF	confidentialised unit record file
DVA	Australian Government Department of Veterans Affairs
ERP	estimated resident population
LFS	Labour Force Survey (Australia)
MESC	main English-speaking countries
MPHS	Multipurpose Household Survey
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
RA	Remoteness Area
RADL	Remote Access Data Laboratory
RSE	relative standard error
SACC	Standard Australian Classification of Countries
SE	standard error
SEIFA	Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas

OVERVIEW

This Technical Manual provides information about the release of microdata from the 2009–10 Multipurpose Household Survey (MPHS). Microdata are the most detailed information available from a survey and are generally the answers to most individual questions on the questionnaire or the data derived from answers to two or more questions.

The microdata are only released with the approval of the Australian Statistician and for data collected in the MPHS are only available through Expanded Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs). An Expanded CURF provides access to more detailed information than would otherwise be available from a Basic CURF product. A Basic CURF has not been produced from this survey.

This publication provides general information and technical details about the CURF and should be used as a reference document when interrogating the file. The CURF can be accessed through the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) or via an ABS Data Laboratory (ABSDL).

The ABS RADL is a secure online data query service that approved clients can access via the ABS website <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>. Within the RADL, users submit data queries in SAS, SPSS or STATA analytical software languages to interrogate and analyse CURFs which are kept within the ABS environment. The results of the queries are automatically checked for confidentiality prior to being made available to the users via their desktops.

The ABSDL is available to approved clients in a secure data laboratory in any ABS State or Territory office. This service provides researchers with a more responsive and interactive environment in which to analyse CURFs than that offered by the RADL. Because CURFs are kept within the ABS environment, the ABS is able to release more detailed confidentialised unit record data via the RADL and ABSDL than can be made available on CD-ROM.

Further information about the RADL and ABSDL services, and other information to assist users in understanding and using CURFs in general, is available from the CURF Microdata Entry Page on the ABS website (<<http://www.abs.gov.au/about/microdata>> or click on Services then Confidentialised Unit Record Files next to the CURF Microdata heading).

ABOUT THE SURVEY

The MPHS is conducted each financial year throughout Australia from July to June as a supplement to the ABS's monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS) and is designed to provide annual statistics for a number of small, self-contained topics. In 2009–10, the topics were:

- Crime victimisation
- Participation in sport and physical recreation
- Spectator attendance at sporting events
- Attendance at selected cultural venues and events
- Patient experience

## ABOUT THE SURVEY

*continued*

- Work related injuries
- Family characteristics

In addition to these topics, information on basic demographics, labour force characteristics, educational attainment and income were also collected.

Summary data for all MPHS topics collected in 2009–10 have, or will be, published in separate publications. Generally, separate Expanded CURFs for all topics will be available following the release of the publications. In some cases, an Expanded CURF may include two or more related topics.

This MPHS Expanded CURF contains microdata covering the Crime Victimization topic.

*Crime victimisation*

The Crime Victimization topic contains information collected from people aged 15 years and over about their own and their household's experience of selected crimes in the last 12 months, the reporting of those crimes to police, and perceptions of social disorder in their local area.

Details were collected on the following crimes:

- Personal crimes – assault, threatened assault, robbery and sexual assault. (Note: Sexual assault information was only collected from persons aged 18 years and over).
- Household crimes – break-ins, attempted break-ins, motor vehicle theft, theft from a motor vehicle, other theft and malicious property damage.

The information available for these crimes includes the characteristics of the victim, broad characteristics of the offender and the characteristics of the most recent incident such as location.

Estimates from the 2009–10 MPHS relating to the Crime Victimization topic, as well as more information on the methodology, survey sample, conceptual framework and definitions, were published in *Crime Victimization, Australia, 2009–10* (cat. no. 4530.0). This publications can be accessed free of charge from the ABS website <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>.



SCOPE AND COVERAGE

The MPHS is conducted as a supplement to the ABS's monthly LFS. The scope of the LFS is restricted to people aged 15 years and over and excludes the following:

- members of the permanent defence forces
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from census and estimated resident populations
- overseas residents in Australia
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants).

In addition, the 2009–10 MPHS also excluded:

- people living in very remote parts of Australia
- people living in non-private dwellings such as hotels, university residences, students at boarding schools, patients in hospitals, residents of homes, (e.g. retirement homes, homes for persons with disabilities, women's shelters), and inmates of prisons.

The 2009–10 MPHS was conducted across urban and rural areas in all states and territories but excluded people living in very remote parts of Australia. The exclusion of these people will only have a minor impact on any aggregate estimates that are produced for states and territories, with the exception of the Northern Territory where people living in very remote areas account for approximately 23% of the total number of people in the population aged 15 years and over.

The coverage of the 2009–10 MPHS was the same as the scope, except the following small population was not covered for operational reasons:

- persons living in Indigenous communities in non-very remote areas.

In the LFS, other coverage rules are applied which aim to ensure that each person is associated with only one dwelling and hence, has only one chance of selection. For more information about the LFS see *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0).

DATA COLLECTION  
METHODOLOGY

Each month one eighth of the dwellings selected in the LFS sample are rotated out of the survey. These dwellings are called 'the outgoing rotation group'. For 2009–10, the majority (over 80%) of the dwellings in the outgoing rotation group were selected for the MPHS each month.

In these dwellings, after the LFS had been fully completed for each person in scope and coverage, a person aged 15 years or over was selected at random (based on a computer algorithm) and asked the various MPHS topic questions in a personal interview. If the randomly selected person was aged 15–17 years, permission was sought from a parent or guardian before conducting the interview. If permission was not given, the parent or guardian was asked the questions on behalf of the 15–17 year old.

DATA COLLECTION  
METHODOLOGY  
*continued*

Data were collected using Computer Assisted Interviewing (CAI), whereby responses were recorded directly onto an electronic questionnaire in a notebook computer, usually during a telephone interview. Face-to-face CAI interviews were conducted in a small number of households, where that was the method of collection for the LFS.

The 2009–10 MPHS sample was accumulated over a twelve month period from July 2009 to June 2010.

*Sample size*

The sample size may vary for different topics in the MPHS. The initial sample for the 2009–10 MPHS was 38,655 private dwellings, from which one person was randomly selected. Of the 32,760 private dwellings that remained in the survey after sample loss (for example, vacant or derelict dwellings, dwellings under construction and dwellings selected in the survey that had no residents in scope for the LFS), 28,554 or 87% of those dwellings fully responded to the MPHS. The entire MPHS dwelling sample were asked questions on the Crime Victimization topic (28,554 dwellings/persons).

It should be noted that steps are taken to confidentialise the unit record data made available on the CURF. This may include deleting some records. Consequently, the number of dwellings in the sample outlined above may not correspond to the number of records included on the CURF. For further details, see 'Chapter 3 Using CURF Data'.

Due to differences in the scope, coverage and sample size of the MPHS and that of the LFS, the estimation procedure may lead to some small variations between labour force estimates from this survey and those from the LFS. For further information about survey design and sample size of the LFS, refer to the ABS publication *Information Paper: Labour Force Survey Sample Design, Nov 2007 (Third edition)* (cat. no. 6269.0).

WEIGHTING,  
BENCHMARKING AND  
ESTIMATION

*Weighting*

Weighting is the process of adjusting results from a sample survey to infer results for the total in-scope population. To do this, a 'weight' is allocated to each covered sample unit which, for the MPHS, can be either a person or a household. The weight is a value which indicates how many population units are represented by the sample unit.

The first step in calculating weights for each unit is to assign an initial weight, which is the inverse of the probability of being selected in the survey. For example, if the probability of a person being selected in the survey was 1 in 600, then the person would have an initial weight of 600 (i.e. they represent 600 people).

*Benchmarking*

The initial weights were then calibrated to align with independent estimates of the population of interest, referred to as 'benchmarks', in designated categories of age by sex by area of usual residence. Weights calibrated against population benchmarks ensure that the survey estimates conform to the independently estimated distribution of the population rather than the distribution within the sample itself. Calibration to population benchmarks helps to compensate for over or under-enumeration of particular categories of persons/households which may occur due to either the random nature of sampling or non-response.

For person estimates, the MPHS was benchmarked to the Estimated Resident Population (ERP), at 31 March 2010, in each state and territory excluding the ERP living in very remote areas of Australia. For household estimates, the MPHS was benchmarked to independently calculated estimates of the total number of households in Australia. The

*Benchmarking continued*

MPHS estimates do not (and are not intended to) match estimates for the total Australian person/household population obtained from other sources (which may include persons living in very remote parts of Australia).

The Crime Victimization Expanded CURF includes both person and household weights as the data relates to both person and household characteristics (i.e. person and household crime incidents).

*Estimation*

Survey estimates of counts of persons are obtained by summing the weights of persons with the characteristic of interest. Similarly, estimates of counts of households are obtained by summing the household weights for the characteristic(s) of interest.

## RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

All sample surveys are subject to error which can be broadly categorised as either sampling error or non-sampling error.

Sampling error occurs because only a small proportion of the total population is used to produce estimates that represent the whole population. Sampling error can be reliably measured as it is calculated based on the scientific methods used to design surveys.

Non-sampling error can occur at any stage throughout the survey process. For example, persons selected for the survey may not respond (non-response); survey questions may not be clearly understood by the respondent; responses may be incorrectly recorded by interviewers; or there may be errors when coding or processing the survey data.

*Sampling error*

One measure of the likely difference between an estimate derived from a sample of persons and the value that would have been produced if all persons in scope of the survey had been included, is given by the Standard Error (SE) which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of persons was included. There are about two chances in three (67%) that the sample estimate will differ by less than one SE from the number that would have been obtained if all persons had been surveyed and about 19 chances in 20 (95%) that the difference will be less than two SEs.

Another measure of the likely difference is the Relative Standard Error (RSE), which is obtained by expressing the SE as a percentage of the estimate.

Generally, only estimates (numbers, percentages, means and medians) with RSEs less than 25% are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes. In ABS publications, estimates with an RSE of 25% to 50% are preceded by an asterisk (e.g. \*15.7) to indicate that the estimate should be used with caution. Estimates with RSEs over 50% are indicated by a double asterisk (e.g. \*\*2.8) and should be considered unreliable for most purposes.

In addition to the main weights (as outlined earlier), each record on the CURF also contains 30 'replicate' person weights and 30 'replicate' household weights. The purpose of these replicate weights is to enable the calculation of the sample error on each estimate produced.

*Sampling error continued*

The basic concept behind the replication approach is to select different sub-samples repeatedly (30 times) from the whole sample. For each of these sub-samples the statistic of interest is calculated. The variance of the full sample statistics is then estimated using the variability among the replicate statistics calculated from these sub-samples. As well as enabling variances of estimates to be calculated relatively simply, replicate weights also enable unit record analyses such as chi-square and logistic regression to be conducted which take into account the sample design.

Further information about RSEs and how they are calculated can be referenced in the 'Technical Note' section of the summary publication *Crime Victimization, Australia, 2009–10* (cat. no. 4530.0). RSEs for the estimates in the tables presented in this publication are available in spreadsheet format, on the ABS website <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>, as an attachment to that publication.

*Non-sampling error*

Non-sampling error may occur in any collection, whether it is based on a sample or a full count such as a census. One of the main sources of non-sampling error is non-response by persons selected in the survey. Non-response occurs when persons cannot or will not co-operate, or cannot be contacted. Non-response can affect the reliability of results and can introduce a bias. The magnitude of any bias depends upon the rate of non-response and the extent of the difference between the characteristics of those persons who responded to the survey and those that did not.

Every effort was made to reduce non-response and other non-sampling errors in the MPHS to a minimum by careful design and testing of the questionnaire, training and supervision of interviewers, and undertaking extensive editing and quality control procedures at all stages of data processing.

One advantage of the CAI technology used to conduct interviews is that it potentially reduces non-sampling error by enabling edits to be applied as the data are being collected. The interviewer is alerted immediately if information entered into the computer is either outside the permitted range for a particular question, or contradictory to information previously recorded during the interview. These edits allow the interviewer to query respondents and resolve issues during the interview. CAI sequencing of questions is also automated so that respondents are only asked relevant questions and in the appropriate order, thereby eliminating interviewer sequencing errors.

## ABOUT THE MICRODATA

The data included in the 2009–10 Crime Victimization Expanded CURF are released under the provisions of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*. These provisions allow for the release of data in the form of unit records where the information is not likely to enable the identification of a particular person or organisation. Accordingly, there are no names or addresses of survey respondents on the file. In addition, other steps have also been taken to protect the confidentiality of respondents, while at the same time maintaining the integrity of the data and optimising content. These include:

- reducing the level of detail for some data items
- changing some characteristics, particularly records identified as high risk
- excluding some data items that were collected
- perturbing or randomly adjusting income data.

As a result, data on the CURF will not exactly match other previously published estimates. Any changes to the distribution of values are not significant and the statistical validity of aggregate data is not affected.

The 2009–10 Crime Victimization Expanded CURF contains 28,513 confidentialised respondent records from the survey. Subject to the limitations of the sample size and the data classifications used, it is possible to interrogate the CURF, produce tabulations and undertake statistical analyses to individual specifications.

## FILE STRUCTURE

Two separate files (also referred to as levels) make up the 2009–10 Crime Victimization Expanded CURF. These are the:

- Person and household level file – comprising all data items relating to both personal and household crimes, as well as general socio-demographic data items.
- Social disorder 'episodic' level file – comprising data items relating to each perceived social disorder issue reported by each respondent. Up to a maximum of 12 selected social disorder issues could be recorded in the survey for each respondent. There are four data items available on this level:
  - 'Type of social disorder considered to be a problem in local area in the last 12 months'
  - 'Magnitude of problem for type of social disorder in local area'
  - 'What influenced opinion of problem in local area' and
  - 'Location where type of social disorder was experienced in last 12 months'.

Each of the above files are available in SAS, SPSS and STATA formats.

*Person and household  
level*

The person and household level file contains information about each survey respondent such as their age, sex, country of birth, personal income and highest level of educational attainment. The file also includes some household characteristics such as 'Equivalised weekly household income' and 'Whether household has children aged under 15'.

*Person and household level continued*

Some examples of personal crime data items include:

- 'Whether victim of any assault in last 12 months'
- 'Total number of assaults experienced in last 12 months' and
- 'Total number of assaults reported to police in last 12 months'.

Some examples of household crime data items include:

- 'Whether household experienced a break-in in the last 12 months'
- 'Number of break-ins experienced in last 12 months'
- 'Whether most recent break-in reported to the police' and
- 'Type of property stolen in the most recent break-in'.

The two weights (i.e. person and household) and all geographic identifiers are also included on the person and household level file (i.e. State or territory of usual residence, Remoteness areas and Capital city/balance of state).

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LEVELS

The episodic level is in a hierarchical relationship with the person and household level – i.e. a person may have reported one or more social disorder issues. The table below shows the number of records on each level or in each file.

2009–10 EXPANDED CURF RECORD COUNTS

	<i>No. of records</i>
Person and household level	28 513
Social disorder episodic level	72 780

IDENTIFIERS

*Person and household level identifier*

Each person/household has a unique random identifier – ABSHID. This identifier appears on the person and household level and is repeated on the episodic level thus linking these data to each person/household.

As well as uniquely identifying each person/household, ABSHID is vital when copying attributes from one level to another. For example, a person level data item such as age (AGECE) can be copied to the Social disorder 'episodic' level to enable, for example, a table of 'Type of social disorder X Age' to be created. An example of the code to merge data from one level to another is provided later in this Chapter.

*Episodic level identifier*

As well as the unique person/household identifier (ABSHID), the episodic level also includes an identifier that is a system requirement for RADL purposes only. This identifier numbers each episodic record sequentially for each person (i.e. 1,2,3,4,.....). This identifier is also present on the person and household level where it is set to zero. For tabulation purposes this identifier is meaningless and should not be used.

WEIGHTS AND ESTIMATION

For each record on the person and household level file, a person weight (FINWTPF) and a household weight (FINWTHF) is provided that represents the number of population units that each record represents in the total in-scope population for person and household estimates respectively.

WEIGHTS AND  
ESTIMATION *continued*

Care needs to be taken to ensure that the appropriate weight is selected when calculating either person or household estimates, i.e. FINWTPF must be used when estimating the number of people with particular characteristics and FINWTHF must be used when estimating the number of households.

When estimates are derived from the CURF, it is essential that they are calculated by adding the weights and not by just adding the sample count. If the weight was to be ignored, then no account would be taken of a the chance of selection or of different response rates across population groups, and the resulting estimates could be biased.

The application of person weights ensures that person estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of the population by age, sex, state/territory and part of state/territory. Similarly, household estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of dwellings by state/territory, part of state/territory and household composition.

STANDARD ERRORS

Each record on the person and household level also contains 30 person and 30 household replicate weights. By using these weights, it is possible to calculate standard errors for weighted estimates produced from the CURF. This method is known as the 30 group Jack-knife variance estimator.

To obtain the standard error of a weighted estimate  $y$ , calculate the same estimate using each of the 30 replicate weights. The variability between these replicate estimates (denoting  $y(g)$  for group number  $g$ ) is used to measure the standard error of the original weighted estimate  $y$  using the formula:

$$SE(y) = \sqrt{(29/30) \sum_{g=1}^{30} (y(g) - y)^2}$$

where:

$g$  = the replicate group number

$y(g)$  = the weighted estimate, having applied the weights for replicate group  $g$

$y$  = the weighted estimate from the sample.

The 30 group Jack-knife method can also be applied where the estimate  $y$  is a function of estimates of the population total, such as a proportion, difference or ratio. For more information on the 30 group Jack-knife method of SE estimation, see *Research Paper: Weighting and Standard Error Estimation for ABS Household Surveys (Methodology Advisory Committee), July 1999* (cat. no. 1352.0.55.029).

Use of the 30 group Jack-knife method for complex estimates, such as regression parameters from a statistical model, is not straightforward and may not be appropriate. The method as described does not apply to investigations where survey weights are not used, such as in unweighted statistical modelling.

### MERGING CHARACTERISTICS FROM ONE FILE TO ANOTHER

To apply, for example, person level characteristics to an episodic level, the person level characteristics (on the person level file CVS10EP) must be merged on to the episodic level file (i.e. CVS10EE) using the person identifier (ABSHID). To do this, the following SAS code (or equivalent) can be used:

```
PROC SORT DATA = CVS10EP;
BY ABSHID;
PROC SORT DATA = CVS10EE;
BY ABSHID;
DATA MERGEFILE;
MERGE CVS10EE (IN = A)
CVS10EP (KEEP = ABSHID AGECE SEX FINWTPF IN = B);
BY ABSHID;
IF A AND B THEN OUTPUT; *Only keeps records which are present on both files;
RUN;
```

The KEEP statement includes all person data items specified to be merged onto the episodic level file. Person characteristics can be merged on to the episodic level to identify the characteristics of the persons who reported social disorder issues in their local area, and these characteristics are applied to each social disorder record on the episodic level file. In the above example, age (data item AGECE), sex and the person weight (FINWTPF) are merged onto the episodic level.

Episodic level characteristics should not be merged onto the person and household level file.

### SPECIAL CODES

For some data items certain classification values have been reserved as special codes and must not be added as if they were quantitative values. These special codes generally relate to data items such as income. For example, code 99999998 for the data item 'Weekly personal income from all sources - parametric', refers to income 'Not known or not stated'.

Furthermore, most data items included on the CURF include a 'Not applicable' category. The classification value of the 'Not applicable' category and other special codes, where relevant, are shown in the CURF data item list (see Data Item List section at the end of this Chapter).

### MULTI-RESPONSE FIELDS

A number of questions included in the survey allowed respondents to provide one or more responses. On the CURF, each response category for one of these 'multi-response' questions (or data items) is basically treated as a separate data item. These data items have the same general data item identifier (SASName) but are each suffixed with a letter – A for the first response, B for the second response, C for the third response, D for the fourth response and so on.



## MULTI-RESPONSE FIELDS

*continued*

For example, the multi-response data item 'Type of property stolen from motor vehicle in most recent incident' (with a general SASName of TMVWHTC – See data item list), has 7 response categories. Consequently, 7 data items have been produced - TMVWHTC A, TMVWHTC B, TMVWHTC C, TMVWHTC D, TMVWHTC E, TMVWHTC F and TMVWHTC G.

Generally, the first data item in the series (e.g. TMVWHTC A) can have up to 3 response codes: A 'Yes' response (usually code 1 or 01); a 'Null' response (usually 0 or 00) indicating that the response was not relevant for the respondent; and a 'Not applicable' response (usually 9 or 99) which comprises the respondents who were not asked the question. Other data items in the series (e.g. TMVWHTC B, TMVWHTC C, etc.) have only 2 response categories: a 'Yes' response and a 'Null' response.

The 'Yes' response code is usually sequential beginning with code 1 for position A, code 2 for position B, code 3 for position C, and code 4 for position D, etc.

It should be noted that the sum of individual multi-response categories will be greater than the population or number of people applicable to the particular data item as respondents are able to select more than one response. Multi-response data items can be identified in the data item list as SASNames followed by a range of letters in brackets; for example, TMVWHTC (A–G).

## GEOGRAPHY

To enable analysis at a regional level, each record on the CURF contains a state/territory identifier (STATEUR) and two sub-state identifiers – Capital city/balance of state (AREASRC) and Remoteness areas (REMOTEC). The AREASRC geographic data item has two output categories – Capital city and Balance of state. Only the capital city statistical divisions (as defined in the *Australian Standard Geographical Classification ASGC* (cat. no. 1216.0)) of the six states are included in the Capital city category. All other regions in Australia, including the territory capitals Darwin and Canberra, are classified to the Balance of state category.

## CONDITIONS OF USE OF SEIFA AND GEOGRAPHIC DATA ITEMS

To provide CURF users with greater flexibility in their analyses, the ABS has included one Socio-economic Index For Areas (SEIFA) and several sub-state geography data items (as described above) on the Expanded CURF. For this CURF, the Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage (in deciles) has been included (data item DSEIFAD).

Conditions are placed on the use of these items. Tables showing multiple data items, cross tabulated by more than one sub-state geography at a time (including DSEIFAD), are not permitted due to the detailed information about small geographic regions that could be presented. However, simple cross-tabulations of population counts by sub-state geographic data items may be useful for clients in order to determine which geography item to include in their primary analysis, and such output is permitted.

## HOUSEHOLD SIZE

Some inconsistencies may occur between the family composition of the household and the household size as recorded on the CURF. The household size data item is determined by the scope rules for the LFS, i.e. household members that are out of scope for the labour force survey (e.g. they are part of the defence forces, etc.) are excluded from the calculation of household size. However, the out of scope persons are included when family composition is determined.

## HOUSEHOLD SIZE

*continued*

The result of these definitional differences is that, for example, the family composition may be described as a group household (i.e. two or more persons) but the household size recorded on the file may be one person (because the other household member(s) are out of scope for the labour force survey).

## POPULATIONS

The population relevant to each data item is identified in the data item list and should be borne in mind when extracting and analysing data from the CURF. The actual population count for each data item is equal to the total cumulative frequency minus the 'Not applicable' category.

Generally, all populations, including very specific populations, can be 'filtered' by using other relevant data items. For example, if the population of interest is 'Employed persons', any data item with that population (excluding the Not applicable category) can be used.

For example, the data items 'Full-time or part-time status in employment' (FTPTEMP) and 'Occupation of current main job – ANZSCO 2006' (OCC06CF) are applicable to employed persons only. Therefore, either of the following filters could be used when restricting a table to 'Employed persons' only:

$FTPTEMP > 0$  or  $OCC06CF > 00$

(Note: For these data items the 'Not applicable' categories (i.e. those persons who are not employed) are codes 0 and code 00 respectively – which is therefore excluded from the population filter).

Conversely, code 1 for the data item 'Labour force status' (LFSTATC) is Employed persons. Therefore, once again, if the population of interest is Employed persons, this data item could be used as the filter (i.e.  $LFSTATC = 1$ ).

## DATA COMPARABILITY

*Time series comparisons*

The Crime Victimization topic included in the 2009–10 MPHS is the second in a new series of regular crime victimisation surveys to be conducted by the ABS. The first survey in this series was conducted in the 2008–09 MPHS.

The new series was introduced because of a major change to the collection methodology. The new method of collection mainly uses personal telephone interviews of selected respondents. Previous data collections since 1990 required respondents to self complete questionnaires and mail these back to the ABS. This difference in mode of collection and changes to survey questions means that data collected using the MPHS is generally not directly comparable with data collected from the various crime and safety related surveys in previous years. The Explanatory Notes section in *Crime Victimization, Australia, 2009–10* (cat. no. 4530.0) provides further information about changes to the survey.

Most of the questions relating to Crime Victimization asked in the 2008–09 MPHS have been repeated in 2009–10. As a similar methodology has been adopted for both surveys, data on the prevalence of personal and household crimes are comparable across the two periods.

*Time series comparisons  
continued*

Several questions were added to the Crime Victimization topic in 2009–10 which relate to people's perceptions of social disorder in their neighbourhood. These questions replace those on people's feelings of safety and their perceptions of neighbourhood problems asked in 2008–09. While there is some similarity between the social disorder and neighbourhood problem questions, they should not be compared as there are significant variations in question wording.

In the 2008–09 MPHS, Crime Victimization data was not collected in July and August in New South Wales (to avoid an overlap with the April 2008 NSW Crime and Safety Survey). In the 2009–10 survey, data was collected for the full 12 months, but this change does not impact on the comparability of the data.

**DIFFERENCES BETWEEN  
2009–10 AND 2008–09  
CURFS**

*Structure and content of  
files*

Some significant changes have occurred in the way the data collected in the 2009–10 MPHS has been presented in the CURF in comparison to the 2008–09 CURF.

Firstly, all previous MPHS CURFs included microdata relating to all topics collected in the survey. However, this CURF includes microdata only relating to the Crime Victimization topic. Data relating to the other topics collected in the 2009–10 MPHS will be released in separate individual CURFs.

This change simplifies the use of the 2009–10 CURF, in comparison to the one produced for 2008–09, by removing the need to use different weights and different sample identifiers for the various topics. However, the ability to produce cross-tabulations across different topics is no longer possible. Previous MPHS CURFs were released under the ABS catalogue number 4100.0.55.001.

Secondly, as outlined earlier in this Chapter, this 2009–10 Expanded CURF consists of two data files – one file comprising data items relating to persons and households and one file comprising data items relating to each social disorder issue reported by each respondent. In the 2008–09 CURF, only one file with person and household level microdata was produced.

**DATA ITEM LIST**

A complete list of all data items included on the 2009–10 CURF is provided in the Excel spreadsheet (4530055001\_Data\_Item\_List\_CVS10E.xls) that accompanies this Technical Manual. The data items are grouped under the following broad topics and sub-topics:

- PERSON AND HOUSEHOLD LEVEL
  - Identifiers and weights
  - Demographics
  - Education
  - Labour force
  - Income
  - Crime victimisation – Personal crimes
  - Crime victimisation – Household crimes
- SOCIAL DISORDER EPISODIC LEVEL

Users intending to purchase CURFs should ensure that the data they require, and the level of detail required, are available on the CURF they are intending to use.

**DATA AVAILABLE ON  
REQUEST**

Data obtained in the survey but not contained on the CURF may be available from the ABS, on request, as aggregated estimates in tabulated form.

DATA AVAILABLE ON  
REQUEST *continued*

Subject to confidentiality and sampling variability constraints, special tabulations can be produced incorporating data items, populations and geographic areas selected to meet individual requirements. These are available on a fee for service basis and can be provided in printed or electronic form. Contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or <[client.services@abs.gov.au](mailto:client.services@abs.gov.au)> for further information.

## CHAPTER 4

## FILE CONTENT .....

### FILE CONTENT

This 2009–10 Crime Victimization Expanded CURF can be accessed via the RADL or ABSDL and is available in SAS, SPSS and STATA formats. The CURF comprises the following files:

#### Data files

CVS10EP.sas7bdat – contains the person and household level confidentialised survey unit record data in SAS for Windows format.

CVS10EE.sas7bdat – contains the Social disorder episodic level confidentialised survey unit record data in SAS for Windows format.

CVS10EP.sav – contains the person and household level confidentialised survey unit record data in SPSS for Windows format.

CVS10EE.sav – contains the Social disorder episodic level confidentialised survey unit record data in SPSS for Windows format.

CVS10EP.dta – contains the person and household level confidentialised survey unit record data in STATA format.

CVS10EE.dta – contains the Social disorder episodic level confidentialised survey unit record data in STATA format.

#### Information files

4530055001\_Data\_Item\_List\_CVS10E.xls – contains all the data items, including details of categories and code values, that are available on the Expanded CURF.

45300\_2009-10.pdf – previously published results from the 2009–10 MPHS Crime Victimization topic: *Crime Victimization, Australia, 2009–10* (cat. no. 4530.0).

Frequencies\_CVS10EP.txt – contains weighted and unweighted frequency counts for all person and household level data items.

Frequencies\_CVS10EE.txt – contains unweighted frequency counts for Social disorder episodic level data items.

Formats.sasb7cat – the SAS format file which provides labels for associated code values in the SAS version of the CURF.

1406055002\_mar 2006.pdf – provides information about accessing CURFs via the RADL: *Technical Manual: ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) User Guide, March 2006* (cat. no. 1406.0.55.002).

## CLIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The 2009–10 MPHS Crime Victimization Expanded CURF is released in accordance with a Ministerial Determination (*Clause 7, Statutory Rules 1983, No.19*) in pursuance of section 13 of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*. As required by the Determination, the information contained in the CURF can only be disclosed in a manner that is not likely to enable the identification of any particular person or organisation to which it relates.

The Australian Statistician's approval is required for the release of the CURF. In addition, and prior to being granted access to the CURF, all organisations and all individuals within organisations who request access to the CURF, will be required to sign an undertaking to abide by the legislative restrictions on their use. Organisations and individuals who seek access to use the 2009–10 Crime Victimization Expanded CURF are required to give an undertaking which includes, amongst other conditions, that in using the data they will:

- use the information only for the statistical purposes specified in the Deed of Undertaking
- not attempt to identify particular persons or organisations
- not disclose, either directly or indirectly, the information to any other person or organisation, other than members of their organisation who have been given prior approval by the ABS to have individual access to the information
- not attempt to match the data, with or without using identifiers, to any other list of persons or organisations
- comply with any other directions or requirements specified in the ABS electronic publication *Responsible Access to ABS CURFs Training Manual* (cat. no. 1406.0.55.003)
- not attempt to access the information after the term of their authorisation expires, or after their authorisation is rescinded by the organisation which provided it, or after they cease to be a member of that organisation.

Use of the data for statistical purposes means use of the information contained in the CURF to produce information of a statistical nature, i.e. the arrangement and classification of numerical facts or data, including statistical analyses or statistical aggregates. Examples of statistical purposes are:

- manipulation of the data to produce means, correlations or other descriptive or summary measures
- estimation of population characteristics
- use of data as input to mathematical models or for other types of analysis (e.g. factor analysis)
- providing graphical or pictorial representations of the characteristics of the population or subsets of the population.

## CLIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

*continued*

All CURF users are required to read and abide by the conditions and restrictions in the *Responsible Access to ABS CURFs Training Manual* (cat. no. 1406.0.55.003) which is available on the ABS website (<http://www.abs.gov.au/about/microdata>) then click on CURF User Tool Kit).

Use of the data for unauthorised purposes may render the purchaser liable to severe penalties. Advice about the propriety of any particular intended use of the data should be sought from the Microdata Access Strategies Section of the ABS (email: [microdata.access@abs.gov.au](mailto:microdata.access@abs.gov.au)).

## CONDITIONS OF SALE

All ABS products and services are provided subject to ABS Conditions of Sale. Any queries relating to these conditions should be referred to [intermediary.management@abs.gov.au](mailto:intermediary.management@abs.gov.au).

## PRICE

CURF access is priced according to ABS Pricing Policy and Commonwealth Cost Recovery Guidelines. For these details refer to <http://www.abs.gov.au> click on About Us then ABS Pricing Policy.

The price for the 2009–10 Crime Victimization Expanded CURF, as at February 2011, is \$1,430 including GST.

CURF prices are also listed on the ABS website (<http://www.abs.gov.au/about/microdata>) then click on Frequently Asked Questions then How much do CURFs cost).

## HOW TO ORDER

All clients wishing to access the 2009–10 Crime Victimization Expanded CURF are required to sign and submit a Deed of Undertaking. This Deed legally binds the client to comply with the ABS terms and conditions of CURF access.

Assistance in applying for CURF access and submitting relevant documentation is provided in *Managing ABS Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs): A Step by Step Guide* (cat. no 1406.0.55.004). To access this guide on the ABS website <http://www.abs.gov.au/about/microdata> click on Applying for CURF Microdata which is located on the left menu panel.

Before completing the application form, clients should read the *Responsible Access to ABS CURFs Training Manual* (cat. no. 1406.0.55.003) and other related CURF information which are available on the CURF Microdata web pages (<http://www.abs.gov.au/about/microdata>).

AUSTRALIAN  
UNIVERSITIES

The ABS/Universities Australia Agreement provides participating universities with access to a range of ABS products and services. This includes access to the 2009–10 Crime Victimization Expanded CURF for research and teaching purposes. For further information, university clients should refer to the ABS website <http://www.abs.gov.au/about/microdata> then click on ABS/Universities Australia Agreement located on the left menu panel.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The CURF Microdata Entry page on the ABS website (<<http://www.abs.gov.au/about/microdata>>) contains links to all the information required for understanding and accessing CURFs. However, if other information is required, clients should contact the Microdata Access Strategies Section of the ABS (email: <[microdata.access@abs.gov.au](mailto:microdata.access@abs.gov.au)> or phone: (02) 6252 7714).



## GLOSSARY .....

<b>Attempted break-in</b>	<p>An incident where an attempt was made to break into the respondent's home, garage or shed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Includes incidents where the respondent (or another person) saw someone acting suspiciously around the property if it was suspected that his or her intent was to steal property.</li> <li>■ Excludes any attempted break-in that resulted in an actual break-in (e.g. attempted to break in through a door but then gained entry through a window).</li> <li>■ Also excludes attempted break-ins to a respondent's car.</li> </ul>
<b>Audio/visual equipment</b>	Includes TVs, VCRs, DVD players and stereos.
<b>Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED)</b>	The ASCED is a national standard classification which includes all sectors of the Australian education system, i.e. schools, vocational education and training, and higher education. The ASCED comprises two classifications: 'Level of education' and 'Field of education'. See <i>Australian Standard Classification of Education, 2001</i> (cat. no. 1272.0).
<b>Balance of state</b>	This category comprises people usually resident in areas outside of the six state capital city statistical divisions, (as defined in the <i>Australian Standard Geographical Classification ASGC</i> (cat. no. 1216.0)) including all residents of the Northern Territory (except those in very remote areas) and the Australian Capital Territory.
<b>Break-in</b>	An incident where an offender broke into the respondent's home (primary residence). Includes break-ins to garages, sheds or any detached secure buildings such as games/hobby rooms, etc. Caravans were only included if it was the respondent's permanent residence. Break-in incidents relating to a respondent's car or front or rear yard were excluded.
<b>Capital city</b>	Comprises the capital city statistical divisions (as defined in the <i>Australian Standard Geographical Classification ASGC</i> (cat. no. 1216.0)) of the six states only. Darwin and Canberra are excluded.
<b>Computer equipment</b>	Includes PCs, printers, scanners and modems.
<b>Confront</b>	To come into contact with an offender or offenders during a break-in.
<b>Contributing family worker</b>	A person who works without pay in an economic enterprise operated by a relative.
<b>Country of birth</b>	Country of birth is classified according to the <i>Standard Australian Classification of Countries</i> (SACC) (cat. no. 1269.0).
<b>Couple</b>	Two people in a registered or de facto marriage, who usually live in the same household.
<b>Couple family</b>	A household consisting of a couple and at least one dependent child usually resident in the household. Related non-dependent children may also be present. Households which also have other related or unrelated residents are included. For the purpose of this survey, 'Couple family' only refers to households containing one family. Households comprising more than one family have been included in the household composition category 'Other households'.
<b>Couple only</b>	A household consisting of a couple with no other related or unrelated persons usually resident. For the purpose of this survey, 'Couple only' only refers to households containing one family. Households comprising more than one family have been included in the household composition category 'Other households'.

<b>Deciles</b>	Groupings that result from ranking all households or people in the population in ascending order according to some characteristic such as their income, and then dividing the population into ten equal groups, each comprising around 10% of the estimated population. See also Income deciles.
<b>Dependent children</b>	All persons aged under 15 years, and persons aged 15–24 years who are full-time students, who have a parent in the household and do not have a partner or child of their own in the household.
<b>Employed</b>	All persons aged 15 years and over who, during the week prior to interview: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job or business, or on a farm (comprising employees, employers and own account workers); or</li> <li>■ worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers); or</li> <li>■ were employees who had a job but were not at work and were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week; or</li> <li>■ away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four week period to the end of the reference week; or</li> <li>■ away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement; or</li> <li>■ on strike or locked out; or</li> <li>■ on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job; or</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ were employers or own account workers, who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.</li> </ul>
<b>Employed full-time</b>	Employed persons who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) and those who, although usually working less than 35 hours a week, worked 35 hours or more during the reference week.
<b>Employed part-time</b>	Employed persons who usually worked less than 35 hours a week (in all jobs) and either did so during the reference week, or were not at work in the reference week.
<b>Employee</b>	A person who works for a public or private employer and receives remuneration in wages, salary, a retainer fee from their employer while working on a commission basis, tips, piece rates, or payment in kind, or a person who operates his/her own incorporated enterprise with or without hiring employees.
<b>Employee income</b>	Includes wages or salary from all jobs, whether full-time or part-time. Also wages, salaries or fees paid to the owner of a limited liability company.
<b>Employer</b>	A person who operates his/her own unincorporated economic enterprise or engages independently in a profession or trade, and hires one or more employees.
<b>Equivalised household income</b>	<p>Equivalising adjusts actual income to take into account the different needs of households of different sizes and compositions. There are economic advantages associated with living with others, because household resources, especially housing, can be shared.</p> <p>The equivalence scale used to obtain equivalised income is that used in studies by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and is referred to as the 'modified OECD scale'. The scale gives a weight of 1.0 to the first adult in the household, a weight of 0.5 for each additional adult (persons aged 15 years and over) and a weight of 0.3 for every child. For each household, the weights of the household members are added together to form a household weight. Total household income is then divided by the household weight to give an income that a lone person household would need for a similar standard of living.</p> <p>Equivalised household income can be viewed as an indicator of the economic resources available to each member of the household.</p>

<b>Exterior items</b>	Includes walls, windows, doors, fences, garden, letter boxes, statues, and outdoor settings.
<b>Family</b>	Two or more people, one of whom is at least 15 years of age, who are related by blood, marriage (registered or de facto), adoption, step or fostering, and who usually live in the same household. A separate family is formed for each couple relationship, lone parent-child relationship or other blood relationship. For the purposes of this survey, family types are only identified for one family households.
<b>Family composition of household</b>	For the purposes of this survey, the family type categories for this data item only refer to one family households.
<b>Field of education</b>	Field of education is defined as the subject matter of an educational activity. It is categorised according to the <i>Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001</i> (cat. no. 1272.0) – Field of Education classification.
<b>Government pension/allowance</b>	Income support payments from government to people under social security and related government programs. Included are pensions and allowances received by the aged, disabled, unemployed and sick people, families and children, veterans and their survivors, and study allowances for students. Payments made by overseas governments as well as the Australian Government are included.
<b>Group household</b>	A household consisting of two or more unrelated people where all persons are aged 15 years and over. There are no reported couple relationships, parent-child relationships or other blood relationships in the household. Group households are classified in the Family composition of household data item.
<b>Household</b>	A group of related or unrelated persons who usually live in the same dwelling and make common provision for food and other essentials of living; or a lone person who makes provision for his or her own food and other essentials of living without combining with any other person.
<b>Household crime</b>	Specifically, a break-in, attempted break-in, motor vehicle theft, theft from a motor vehicle, incident of malicious property damage, or other theft, in which a household is considered to be the victim of the crime.
<b>Incident</b>	A single occurrence of a crime event, such as a break-in, attempted break-in, theft of a motor vehicle, or act of robbery, assault or sexual assault. Single respondents can report multiple incidents, which means the total number of victims and total number of incidents may differ.
<b>Income</b>	Regular and recurring cash receipts before income tax is deducted, including moneys received from wages and salaries, government pensions and allowances, and other regular receipts such as superannuation, worker's compensation, child support, other transfers from other households, scholarships, profit or loss from own unincorporated businesses or partnerships and investment income.
<b>Income deciles</b>	When ranking and deriving income deciles, the same dollar values can appear in adjoining deciles. For the purposes of the CURF, the decile boundaries have been adjusted so that each decile range is mutually exclusive. The impact of this is minor but it should be noted that the income deciles only approximate 10% of the estimated population.  Cases where the income was not stated, not known or refused are recorded as 'Income not known or not stated' and were excluded from the calculation of the deciles. All deciles were calculated on perturbed income values. See also Deciles and Perturbation.
<b>Industry</b>	An industry relates to a group of businesses or organisations that perform similar sets of activities in terms of the production of goods and services. Industry data has been classified according to the <i>Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 2006</i> (cat.no.1292.0).

<b>Inner regional Australia</b>	Inner regional Australia is a category in the ASGC Remoteness Structure. It is defined as 'CDs with an average ARIA index value greater than 0.2 and less than or equal to 2.4'. Inner regional Australia includes cities and towns such as Hobart, Launceston, Noosa and Tamworth. See also Remoteness areas.
<b>Interior furnishings</b>	Includes walls, floors, and ceilings.
<b>Known by sight only</b>	Used when the respondent knew of the offender(s) by sight only but did not have a personal relationship with them. Respondents were not asked whether they were living with this person at the time of the incident if this was the only response to a question about a particular incident.
<b>Labour force status</b>	A classification of the civilian population aged 15 years and over into employed, unemployed or not in the labour force, as defined. The definitions conform closely to the international standard definitions adopted by the International Conferences of Labour Statisticians.
<b>Level of education</b>	Level of education is a function of the quality and quantity of learning involved in an educational activity. It is categorised according to the <i>Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001</i> (cat. no. 1272.0) – Level of Education classification.
<b>Level of highest educational attainment</b>	<p>Level of highest educational attainment identifies the highest achievement a person has attained in any area of study. It is not a measurement of the relative importance of different fields of study but a ranking of qualifications and other educational attainments regardless of the particular area of study or the type of institution in which the study was undertaken.</p> <p>The level of highest educational attainment has been classified according to the <i>Australian Standard Classification of Education, 2001</i> (cat. no. 1272.0).</p>
<b>Level of highest non-school qualification</b>	Level of highest non-school qualification identifies the highest achievement a person has attained in any area of study, outside of their school achievements. The level has been classified according to the <i>Australian Standard Classification of Education, 2001</i> (cat. no. 1272.0). See also Non-school qualification and Level of highest educational attainment.
<b>Lone person household</b>	A household consisting of a person living alone.
<b>Main English-speaking countries</b>	The list of main English-speaking countries (MESC) used is not an attempt to classify countries on the basis of whether or not English is the predominant or official language of each country. It is a list of the main countries from which Australia receives, or has received, significant numbers of overseas settlers who are likely to speak English. These countries comprise the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa and the United States of America. Non-MESC describes people originating from countries where a language other than English is likely to be spoken by migrants. It is important to note that being from a non-main English-speaking country does not imply a lack of proficiency in English.
<b>Major cities of Australia</b>	Major cities of Australia (not to be confused with Major urban or capital city statistical divisions) is a category in the ASGC Remoteness Structure. It is defined as 'CDs with an average ARIA index value of 0 to 0.2'. The 'Major cities of Australia' class includes most capital cities, as well as major urban areas such as Newcastle, Geelong and the Gold Coast. See also Remoteness areas.
<b>Malicious property damage</b>	Intentional or wilful (not accidental) damage, defacement or destruction of any part of the respondent's home or anything usually kept at his or her home. The questions on malicious property damage relate to the respondent's home and any property belonging to the respondent or a member of his or her household, excluding any rental, investment or holiday properties that he or she owns. Property is something tangible in nature including land, conveyances, animals or other objects capable of being privately owned. Destruction can mean any alteration that may render something imperfect or

<b>Malicious property damage</b> <i>continued</i>	inoperative. It can include destruction of property, graffiti or vandalism, partial destruction, killing or harming an owned animal, and removing or destroying a plant or other part of an owned landscape. Excludes turning off water meters and flicking safety switches etc. if no damage to the meter occurred.
<b>Medical treatment</b>	Includes incidents where a respondent was admitted to hospital, or incidents where a respondent was seen by a doctor or other medical practitioner in a hospital emergency room but not admitted to hospital.
<b>Motor vehicle parts</b>	Includes car audio and DVD equipment.
<b>Motor vehicle theft</b>	An incident where a motor vehicle was stolen from any member of the household. Includes cars, utes, motorcycles, buses and trucks. Excludes boats and trailers. Only includes vehicles where the primary use is for private purposes (i.e. excludes commercial vehicles). Motor vehicle theft incidents are collected as household-level data.
<b>Noisy neighbours</b>	Includes barking dogs.
<b>Non-dependent children</b>	A child of a couple or lone parent usually resident in the household, aged 15 years or over and who is not a dependent student aged 15–24 years, and does not have a partner or child of his/her own in the household.
<b>Non-school qualification</b>	Non-school qualifications are awarded for educational attainments other than those of pre-primary, primary or secondary education. They include qualifications at the Post Graduate Degree level, Master Degree level, Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate level, Bachelor Degree level, Advanced Diploma and Diploma level, and Certificates I, II, III and IV levels. Non-school qualifications may be attained concurrently with school qualifications.
<b>Non-victim</b>	A household or person that has not reported any of the crimes surveyed.
<b>Not in the labour force</b>	Persons who were not in the categories employed or unemployed as defined.
<b>Occupation</b>	An occupation relates to a collection of jobs that are sufficiently similar in their title and tasks, skill level and skill specialisation which are grouped together for the purposes of classification. Occupation data has been classified according to the <i>Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO), First Edition, 2006</i> (cat.no.1220.0).
<b>Offender</b>	A person who commits a crime, as reported by the survey respondent. A crime can be committed by multiple offenders.
<b>One-parent family</b>	A household consisting of a lone parent and at least one dependent child usually resident in the household. Related non-dependent children may also be present. Households which also have other related or unrelated residents are included. For the purposes of this survey, 'one-parent family' only refers to households containing one family. Households comprising more than one family have been included in the household composition category 'Other households'.
<b>Other households</b>	Comprises all households not otherwise defined, including multiple family households, and households consisting of unrelated adults. This category is applicable to the household composition data item.
<b>Other income</b>	Includes profit or loss from rental property, dividends or interest, child support or maintenance, superannuation, annuity or allocated pension, or workers' compensation.
<b>Other known person</b>	Used to describe the relationship of the offender to the respondent when the relationship did not match any of the other categories listed.
<b>Other personal items</b>	Includes clothing and compact discs.



<b>Other theft</b>	Any unlawful taking or obtaining of money or goods other than from motor vehicles owned by the respondent or a household member, without the use of force, threat of force or violence, coercion or deception, with the intent to permanently deprive the owner or possessor of the use of the money or goods. Includes any theft of property belonging to a respondent or a member of the respondent's household not mentioned previously in the survey by the respondent. Includes property belonging to a household member stolen from a vehicle not owned by a household member. Also includes property stolen from a yard or garden (e.g. statues, plants). Excludes any incidents involving theft covered in other sections of the survey such as break-ins or robberies. Other theft incidents are collected as household-level data.
<b>Outdoor/garden items</b>	Includes Christmas decorations stolen from the yard or exterior walls.
<b>Own account worker</b>	A person who operates his or her own unincorporated business or engages independently in a profession or trade and hires no employees.
<b>Parametric</b>	The term 'parametric' is used in some income data item names to indicate that all single dollar values, as reported by the respondent, are available on the CURF rather than grouped income ranges.
<b>People hanging around in groups</b>	Includes any group of people (regardless of age or demographic) that the respondent perceives to be a problem, e.g. gangs.
<b>Personal crime</b>	Specifically, a robbery, physical assault, threatened assault or sexual assault, in which an individual is considered to be the victim of the crime.
<b>Personal matter</b>	Relates to the reason a crime incident was not reported where the respondent felt they could deal with the issue themselves rather than involve the police.
<b>Personal electronic equipment</b>	Includes MP3 players and digital cameras.
<b>Perturbation</b>	Perturbation is a process whereby some values of particular variables are slightly varied to protect the confidentiality of the record. For the CURF, perturbation has been applied to all income data items.
<b>Physical assault</b>	An incident where anyone used physical force or violence against a respondent. Physical force or violence includes being: pushed, grabbed, shoved, slapped, hit with an open hand or fist, kicked or bitten. It also includes being hit with something else that could hurt a respondent i.e. a bat, hammer, belt, pot, ruler, etc. It includes being beaten, choked, stabbed, shot, burnt, dragged or hit deliberately by a vehicle. Includes assault in a respondent's line of work. It excludes incidents that occurred during the course of play on a sporting field, verbal abuse, and incidents of sexual assault or threatened sexual assault which also involved physical assault.
<b>Place of entertainment/recreation</b>	Includes pubs and nightclubs.
<b>Private vehicle</b>	Motor vehicle used for private purposes, e.g. car.
<b>Professional relationship</b>	A relationship between the respondent and other person(s) which has occurred primarily through the course of the respondent's occupation. For example, this includes engagement with clients of a business at which the respondent may have been working at the time of an incident, as well as relationships between medical professionals and patients, and also relationships between police/security officers and offenders.
<b>Public transport or public vehicle</b>	Includes buses, trains, trams, ferries and taxis.
<b>Qualification</b>	A formal certification, issued by a relevant approved body, in recognition that a person has achieved learning outcomes or competencies relevant to identified individual, professional, industry or community needs. Statements of attainment are excluded.
<b>Relationship to offender</b>	The person's relationship to a perpetrator at the time of the incident. More than one response was allowed if there were multiple offenders involved in the incident.



<b>Remoteness areas</b>	<p>The ABS has defined Remoteness within the <i>Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)</i> (cat. no. 1216.0). The ASGC Remoteness Structure is defined only in Census years, commencing with the Census year 2001, and includes all collection districts (CDs) across Australia. The purpose of the Remoteness Structure is to classify CDs which share common characteristics of remoteness into broad geographical regions called Remoteness areas (RAs). The structure defines six RAs: Major cities of Australia; Inner regional Australia; Outer regional Australia; Remote Australia; Very remote Australia; and Migratory.</p> <p>The delimitation criteria for RAs are based on the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA), which measures the remoteness of a point based on the physical road distance to the nearest Urban Centre in each of five size classes. For this survey, the ASGC 2006 CDs were used. The RAs were derived by calculating the average ARIA index value for each CD and applying the ASGC 2001 RA criteria. The Remoteness Structure is described in detail in the publication <i>Statistical Geography Volume 1: Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), 2001</i> (cat. no. 1216.0).</p> <p>In the CURF only three Remoteness areas are presented: Major cities of Australia; Inner regional Australia; and Other.</p>
<b>Robbery</b>	<p>An incident where someone stole (or tried to steal) property from a respondent by physically attacking or threatening them with force or violence. Includes incidents of physical assault and threatened assault which also involved robbery or attempted robbery.</p>
<b>Rowdy behaviour</b>	<p>Classified as behaviour generally disturbing to the public peace (e.g. loud behaviour, arguments, general boisterousness).</p>
<b>SAS</b>	<p>A data analysis and statistical software system.</p>
<b>Sexual assault</b>	<p>The definition of sexual assault was left to the interpretation of the respondent. Only people aged 18 years and over were asked questions about sexual assault.</p>
<b>Social disorder</b>	<p>Relates to respondents' attitudes and opinions about social disorder problems in the local area where they currently live at the time of the survey. The definition of 'local area' was left to the interpretation of the respondent and may include a whole town or suburb or just the streets surrounding the respondent's home. Questions about social disorder problems were asked of all respondents aged 18 years or over and all 15–17 year olds where a parent/guardian gave permission for a personal interview.</p>
<b>Social marital status</b>	<p>Social marital status is the relationship status of an individual with reference to another person who is usually resident in the household. A marriage exists when two people live together as husband and wife, or partners, regardless of whether the marriage is formalised through registration. Individuals are, therefore, regarded as married if they are in a de facto relationship, or if they are living with the person to whom they are registered as married.</p>
<b>Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA 2006)</b>	<p>Socio-economic Indexes for Areas 2006 (SEIFA 2006) is a suite of four summary measures that have been created from Population Census information. The indexes rank geographic areas across Australia in terms of their socio-economic characteristics, thereby providing a method of determining the level of social and economic well-being in a region.</p> <p>The Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage is available on the CURF. This index is a general socio-economic index that summarises a wide range of information about the economic and social resources of people and households within an area. This information includes low income earners, relatively lower educational attainment and high unemployment and provides a general measure of disadvantage only. A high index value reflects a lack of disadvantage rather than high advantage and occurs when the area has few families of low income and few people with little training and in unskilled occupations.</p>

<b>Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA 2006) <i>continued</i></b>	<p>On the Expanded CURF, the Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage is presented in deciles only.</p> <p>For further information see <i>Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) – Technical Paper</i> (cat. no. 2039.0.55.001).</p>
<b>SPSS</b>	A data analysis and statistical software system.
<b>STATA</b>	A data analysis and statistical software system.
<b>Theft from a motor vehicle</b>	<p>An incident where property owned by a respondent or any member of that respondent's household was stolen from a motor vehicle owned (for private use) by that respondent or any member of that respondent's household.</p> <p>It excludes property stolen that belonged to someone not living in the household (e.g. friend, other relative), and property owned by a business/employer (e.g. computer, mobile phone, work tools). Property stolen from commercial vehicles (this includes a self-employed business operator whose vehicle is mainly used for work purposes), and any break-ins to motor vehicles where nothing was stolen are also excluded. Incidents of theft from a motor vehicle are collected as household-level data.</p>
<b>Threatened assault</b>	Includes any verbal and/or physical intent or suggestion of intent to inflict physical harm, which the person believed was able and likely to be carried out. Includes a threat or attempt to hit with a fist or anything else that could hurt, threats or attempts to slap, punch, spank or hit in any way with a fist or weapon such as a bat, hammer or pot, situations where a gun was left in an obvious place or if the person knew that the perpetrator had access to a gun. Includes toy guns, starter pistols etc. if the respondent believed they were real. Also includes incidents where a respondent was threatened in their line of work (e.g. while working as a security guard).
<b>Unemployed</b>	<p>Persons aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and were available for work in the reference week; or</li> <li>■ were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.</li> </ul>
<b>Unincorporated business</b>	A business in which the owner(s) and the business are the same legal entity, so that, for example, the owner(s) are personally liable for any business debts that are incurred.
<b>Unincorporated business income</b>	Profit or loss from own unincorporated business or share in a partnership.
<b>Usual residence</b>	A usual residence is a dwelling that is a person's only or main residence. If a person resided in more than one dwelling, the usual residence was the dwelling with which the person had the strongest family and/or economic ties. This would normally be the person's permanent home base or place of permanent address.
<b>Victim</b>	A household or person reporting at least one of the crimes surveyed. Victims were counted once only for each type of crime, regardless of the number of incidents of that type.
<b>Weapon used</b>	Includes incidents when the respondent was unsure whether a weapon was present but believed that there could have been one, or if they were threatened that a weapon would be used if necessary. Weapon includes knife, gun and syringe/hypodermic needle.









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