



Technical Manual

Multipurpose Household Survey, Expanded CURF

Australia

2008–09

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Australia

2008–09

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CONTENTS

page

CHAPTERS

1	Introduction	1
2	Survey Methodology	3
3	Using the CURF Data	9
4	File Content	14
5	Conditions of Release	16

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

	Data Item List	18
	Glossary	19

ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ABSCQ	Australian Bureau of Statistics Classification of Qualifications
ABSDL	Australian Bureau of Statistics Site Data Laboratory
ADSL	asymmetric digital subscriber line
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
DHAC	Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care
DSL	digital subscriber line
DVA	Australian Government Department of Veterans Affairs
Gbps	gigabits per second
GISCA	National Centre for Social Applications of GIS, University of Adelaide
GST	goods and services tax
HUIT	Household Use of Information Technology
ISDN	integrated service digital network
kbps	kilobits per second
LFS	Labour Force Survey
Mbps	megabits per second
MB	megabyte
MPHS	Multipurpose Household Survey
n.f.d.	not further defined
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
SAR	Special Administrative Region
SAS	software package for preparing and executing computerised data analysis
SDSL	symmetric digital subscriber line
SE	standard error
SPSS	software package for preparing and executing computerised data analysis
STATA	software package for preparing and executing computerised data analysis
TAFE	Technical and Further Education

OVERVIEW

This paper provides information on the release of microdata from the 2008–09 Multipurpose Household Survey (MPHS). The data are available through an Expanded Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) released with the approval of the Australian Statistician. The 2008–09 MPHS Expanded CURF is accessible through the ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) and the ABS Data Laboratory (ABSDL). This Expanded CURF option 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.

The RADL is a secure online data query service that approved clients can access via the ABS web site. Users of the RADL can submit data queries using SAS, SPSS or STATA software to interrogate and analyse the CURF microdata that is kept in 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 office around Australia.

Further information about the RADL and ABSDL facilities, accessing the 2008-09 MPHS expanded CURF and other information to assist users in understanding and using CURFs in general, is available on the ABS web site <<http://www.abs.gov.au>> (see Services, CURF Microdata).

ABOUT THE SURVEY

The MPHS is conducted each month as a supplement to the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The 2008–09 MPHS was conducted throughout Australia for the 12 month period between July 2008 and June 2009.

The MPHS is designed to provide statistics annually for a small number of labour, social and economic topics. In 2008–09, the topics were:

- Crime Victimization
- Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation
- Retirement and Retirement Intentions and
- Household Use of Information Technology (HUIT).

The 2008-09 MPHS also collected other socio-demographic information such as educational qualifications, labour force status, occupation and industry of current job and personal and household income (core topics).

All topics were included on the expanded CURF.

The *Crime Victimization* topic collected information from people aged 15 years and over about their personal feelings of safety, whether they were a victim of selected crimes in the last 12 months, and details about the most recent incident of the crime.

ABOUT THE SURVEY

continued

Details were collected on the following crimes:

- Personal crimes - assault, threatened assault, robbery, sexual assault (the latter is only whether a victim and just asked of those aged 18 years and over).
- Household crimes - break-ins, attempted break-ins, motor vehicle theft, theft from a motor vehicle, other theft, malicious property damage.

Estimates from the survey were published in *Crime Victimisation, Australia, 2008-09* (cat. no. 4530.0).

The *Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation* topic collected information on persons aged 18 years and over, who were either not employed or who worked very few hours (less than 16 hours per week in all jobs). The survey provided information on the number and the characteristics of the potential labour force. It included current and previous job details; reasons for not wanting more hours/work; reasons for not being available to start work or work more hours and reasons for not looking for work/more hours. Such information will contribute to studies of factors that influence people to join or leave the labour force. Estimates from this topic were released in *Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation, Australia, July 2008 to June 2009* (cat. no. 6239.0).

The *Retirement and Retirement Intentions* topic collected information on persons aged 45 years and over who had previously worked for two weeks or more. It covered contributions to payments received from superannuation schemes (including lump sum payments); factors which influenced decisions to retire; retirement intentions, and sources of income at retirement. Estimates from this topic were released in *Retirement and Retirement Intentions, Australia, July 2008 to June 2009* (cat. no. 6238.0).

The *Household Use of Information Technology (HUIT)* topic collected information from people aged 15 years and over on household access to computers and the Internet. It also collected information on personal access to the Internet, home use of the Internet and use of the Internet at other locations. Questions collected information on the main purposes and frequency of access to the Internet, ordering of goods and services over the Internet and details on the technology used to access the Internet. Estimates from the survey were published in *Household Use of Information Technology, Australia, 2008-09* (cat. no. 8146.0).

Core topics of Education, Labour force status, Occupation and Industry, Personal income, Partner's income and Household income were collected. Partner's income was only collected for the population associated with the Barriers and Incentives and Retirement and Retirement Intentions topics.

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

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) stationed in Australia.

In addition, the 2008-09 MPHS excluded the following:

- People living in very remote parts of Australia, as defined by the *Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)* (cat. no. 1216.0) remoteness classification;
- 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 2008–09 MPHS was conducted in both 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 have only 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.

In the LFS, 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

Dwellings selected for the MPHS comprised the majority of the outgoing rotation group for the LFS (one-eighth of the sample is rotated out each month) from July 2008 to June 2009. Socio-demographic information was also collected from these dwellings.

In these dwellings (any) one person aged 15 years or over living in the dwelling was randomly selected and asked the MPHS questions in a personal interview, after the LFS had been fully completed. If the selected person was aged 15 to 17 years, permission to interview was first sought from a parent or guardian. If such permission was denied, information was obtained about the 15 to 17 year old from a responsible adult in the household (proxy).

DATA COLLECTION
METHODOLOGY
continued

Note for the Crime Victimization topic, if the selected person was aged 15 to 17 years then they were not asked about sexual assault. Also, questions on feelings of safety were not asked of those aged between 15 and 17 years where a proxy responded to the survey questions on their behalf.

Data were collected using Computer Assisted Interviewing (CAI), whereby responses were recorded directly onto an electronic questionnaire in a notebook computer 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 LFS outgoing rotation group was divided into two equal samples. Persons in one sample, known as the main sample were asked all topics (Crime Victimization, HUIT, Barriers and incentives to Labour Force Participation and Retirement and Retirement Intentions) and the core questions. Persons in the other sample, known as the extra sample, were asked only the Crime Victimization topic and the core questions. A column has been provided in the Data item list stating the sample identifier MAIN or CRIME to easily identify which questions were asked of which sample.

The Crime Victimization topic was not collected in New South Wales in July and August in 2008 to avoid having respondents being asked similar questions to those they were asked in the April 2008 NSW Crime and Safety Survey. The estimation methodology used ensures that estimates for this topic are not impacted by the abbreviated collection period in New South Wales. The table below illustrates the different topics included in the two outgoing rotation samples.

TOPICS COLLECTED BY SAMPLE FOR MPHS 2008-09

	JUL 08 - AUG 08		SEP 08 - JUN 09	
	NSW	Australia (excl NSW)		Australia
Main sample (50%)	Core(a)	Core(a)		Core(a)
	HUIT	HUIT		HUIT
	Barriers & Incentives	Barriers & Incentives		Barriers & Incentives
	Retirement & Retirement Intentions	Retirement & Retirement Intentions		Retirement & Retirement Intentions
		Crime Victimization		Crime Victimization
Extra sample (50%)		Core(b)		Core(b)
		Crime Victimization		Crime Victimization

- (a) Core includes Education, Labour force status, Occupation and Industry and Income (Personal, Household and Partner (collected only for the Barriers & Incentives and Retirement & Retirement Intentions population))
- (b) Core includes Education, Labour force status, Occupation and Industry and Income (Personal and Household)

There are 26,112 records included on the CURF. This represents the total number of records on the 'Main' and 'Extra' sample.

There are 25,601 records containing Crime Victimization data (represented by the last two columns in the table above). This represents the full MPHS sample, with the exception of 511 NSW records where Crime Victimization data was not collected. In the Data item list these items have been given the sample identifier code of CRIME.

DATA COLLECTION
METHODOLOGY
continued

The initial total sample for the Crime Victimization topic (asked of the full rotation group) included in the MPHS 2008-09 consisted of 34,513 private dwelling households, which is approximately double the standard MPHS sample. Of the 29,261 private dwelling households that remained in the survey after sample loss (i.e. households with LFS non-response, no residents in scope for the LFS, vacant or derelict dwellings and dwellings under construction), 25,601 or approximately 87% were fully responding to the Crime Victimization topic.

There are 13,035 records enumerated in the Main sample. This includes the 511 NSW records.

The initial total sample for the other MPHS 2008-09 topics (asked of half the rotation group) consisted of approximately 18,000 private dwelling households. Of the 15,233 private dwelling households that remained in the survey after sample loss (e.g. households with LFS non-response, no residents in scope for the LFS, vacant or derelict dwellings and dwellings under construction), approximately 86% were fully responding to the MPHS. The number of completed interviews obtained from these private dwelling households (after taking into account scope, coverage and subsampling exclusions) was 5,243 for the Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation topic; 6,647 for the Retirement and Retirement Intentions topic; and 13,035 for the Household Use of Information Technology topic.

Due to differences in the scope 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 on the sample size of the LFS, refer to the *ABS information paper Information Paper: Labour Force Survey Sample Design, Nov 2007 (Third edition)* (cat. no. 6269.0).

*Specific issues relating to
Partner's income data
items*

The Partner's income module is only collected in the MPHS 2008-09 for the Barriers and Incentives and Retirement and Retirement Intentions topics. As such, records on the 'Extra sample' were not asked the Partner's income questions.

*Specific issues relating to
cross-classifying data
items*

The Main sample weight should be used (see Table 9 of the Data item list) when cross-classifying a Crime data item with a data item from the Main sample such as partner's income, as only the relevant records - collected on the first half of the sample - will have a weight and therefore appear in output.

The following matrix explains how to cross classify items from different topics if required.

CROSS-CLASSIFYING MPHS 2008-09 TOPICS: RECOMMENDED USE OF WEIGHTS (a)

	<i>Crime Victimisation</i>	<i>HUIT</i>	<i>Barriers and Incentives to LF Participation</i>	<i>Retirement and Retirement Intentions</i>	<i>Demographic</i>	<i>Education</i>	<i>Labour Force items</i>	<i>Income (Personal/ Household)</i>	<i>Partner's income</i>
Crime Victimisation	C	M	M	M	C	C	C	C	M
HUIT		M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Barriers and Incentives to LF Participation			M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Retirement and Retirement Intentions				M	M	M	M	M	M

(a) where C = Crime weights and M = Main weights

WEIGHTING, ESTIMATION
AND BENCHMARKING

As the survey was conducted on a sample of households in Australia, it is important to consider the method of sample selection when deriving estimates from the CURF. This is particularly important as a person's chance of selection in the survey varies depending on the state or territory in which they are selected.

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

The first step in calculating weights for each sample unit is to assign an initial weight which is equal to 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 one in 600, then the selected person would have an initial weight of 600 (that is, they represent 600 people in the population). The initial weights are then calibrated to align with independent estimates of the population of interest, referred to as 'benchmarks'.

The survey was benchmarked to the estimated civilian population aged 15 years and over living in private dwellings in each state and territory in non very remote areas. The process of weighting ensures that the survey estimates conform to person benchmarks by state, part of state, age and sex and to household benchmarks by state, part of state and household composition. These benchmarks are produced from estimates of the resident population derived independently of the survey.

Replicate weights have been included on the CURF which can be used to calculate sampling error. For more information, refer to the 'Standard Errors' section in Chapter 3.

Both person and household weights are included on the CURF. As the Crime Victimization topic was collected for the full rotation group (excluding NSW in July and August 2008), separate weights need to be applied for the Crime Victimization topic compared with the weights which need to be applied to the topics included only in the 'Main sample' (Household Use of Information Technology, Barriers and Incentives, Retirement, Retirement and Retirement Intentions and Core topics). See the table 'Cross-classifying MPHS 2008-09 Topics: Recommended use of weights' and 'Table 9. Identifiers and weights' in the Data item list for more information.

Two sets of weights were created:

WEIGHTING, ESTIMATION
AND BENCHMARKING
continued

1. MAIN sample (Household Use of Information Technology/Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation/Retirement and Retirement Intentions topics) - represented by the three columns under 'Main sample' in the table 'Topics Collected by Sample for MPHS 2008-09'.

- Both person and household weights were created

2. CRIME sample (Crime Victimisation topic) - which refers to Main sample + extra sample excluding NSW in July and August 2008 - represented by the last two columns in the table 'Topics Collected by Sample for MPHS 2008-09'.

- Both person and household weights were created

Refer to the sample identifier column in the Data item list to assist in applying the correct weights to data being analysed.

RELIABILITY OF
ESTIMATES

Sampling error

Estimates derived from the CURF are subject to both sampling and non-sampling error.

Sampling error arises because the estimates are based on a sample of units and so will differ from estimates that would have been produced if all units in the population had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error (SE), which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied because only a sample of dwellings was included. There are about two chances in three that the sample estimates will differ by less than one SE from the number that would have been obtained if all people had been surveyed and about 19 chances in 20 that the difference will be less than two SEs. Instructions on how to calculate SEs can be found in Chapter 3.

Another measure of the sampling error 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. The formula for calculating the RSE of an estimate (y) is:

$$RSE(y) = SE(y)/y \times 100\%$$

Further information about RSEs and how they are calculated using 'replicate weights' can be referenced in the Technical Note sections of the following publications:

Crime victimisation, Australia, 2008-09 (cat. no. 4530.0)

Retirement and Retirement Intentions, Australia, July 2008 to June 2009 (cat. no. 6238.0)

Barriers and incentives to Labour Force Participation, Australia, July 2008 to June 2009 (cat. no. 6239.0)

Household Use of Information Technology, Australia, 2008-09 (cat. no. 8146.0)

Datacubes linked to these publications are available on the ABS web site <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>. The datacubes contain estimates and their associated RSEs which can be used as a guide by users who have calculated their own RSEs.

Non-sampling error

Non-sampling errors are inaccuracies that occur because of imperfections in reporting by respondents and interviewers, and errors made in coding and processing data. These inaccuracies may occur in any enumeration whether it be a full count or a sample of the population. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and efficient processing procedures.

ABOUT THE MICRODATA

The 2008-09 MPHS Expanded CURF enables users to manipulate the data, produce tabulations and undertake statistical analysis to individual specifications.

This 2008-09 MPHS microdata is released under the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* which has provision 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 CURF, and other steps have been taken to protect the confidentiality of respondents. These include removing or reducing the level of detail shown for some data items and changing characteristics such as state or area for several records. All income items have been perturbed. Perturbation is a process of altering the reported values for earnings to prevent identification of respondents. The distribution of values is not changed significantly through perturbation and the statistical validity of aggregate data is not affected. Data from the 2008–09 MPHS Expanded CURF will therefore not exactly match published data.

Steps to confidentialise the datasets made available on the CURF are taken in such a way as to ensure the integrity of the data and optimise the content of files, while maintaining the confidentiality of respondents. Intending users should ensure that the data they require, at the level of detail they require, are available on the CURF. The location of a full list of all data items that are available on the CURF is provided in the Appendix. Data obtained in the survey but not contained on the CURF may be available in tabulated form on request. For instance, the number of non face-to-face threatened assaults reported to police in the last 12 months may be available through a special data request.

FILE STRUCTURE

The 2008–09 MPHS Expanded CURF contains three data files (SAS, SPSS and STATA), each containing 26,112 confidentialised records. Each record holds both the person and household level data of a respondent to the survey. Using the person and household weights provided for each record, the data can be used to estimate characteristics for the Australian population.

GEOGRAPHY

To enable analysis at a regional level, each record contains a state/territory identifier (STATEC) and a substate identifier (CCBALST). The CCBALST data item has two output categories – Capital city and Balance of state. Only the statistical divisions for the six state capital cities defined in the *Australian Standard Geographical Classification* (cat. no. 1216.0) are classified as capital cities. All other regions in Australia, including Canberra and Darwin are classified to the Balance of state category.

SPECIAL CODES

For income data items, certain values are reserved as special codes and must not be added as if they were quantitative values. The value of the codes are as follows:

9999999998 = Not applicable

9999999999 = Not known or not stated.

MULTIPLE RESPONSE FIELDS

A number of questions asked during the 2008-09 MPHS allowed respondents to give more than one response. On the CURF, each response category for these multiple response questions is treated as a separate data item. Each data item has either a 'Not applicable' or a 'Yes' response. Generally a 'Not applicable' response has a code of '0' indicating that the response category is not relevant for the respondent. A 'Yes' response has a code greater than '0' indicating a positive response for that category.

Multiple response questions have an overall identifier and an identifier for each response (with suffixes of A, B, C.....etc.). Only the response item identifiers are included on the CURF.

An example of this is the 'Purpose of Internet access at home' (PURNETH) question which has six response categories. From these categories six separate data items containing the data have been produced – PURNETHA, PURNETHB, PURNETHC...PURNETHF (See table 'Purpose of Internet Access at Home').

PURPOSE OF INTERNET ACCESS AT HOME

<i>Response category</i>	<i>Data item</i>	<i>Data item response</i>
Work / business	PURNETHA	Not applicable (0)
		Yes (1)
Education / study	PURNETHB	Not applicable (0)
		Yes (2)
Volunteer / community groups	PURNETHC	Not applicable (0)
		Yes (3)
Personal / private	PURNETHD	Not applicable (0)
		Yes (4)
Other	PURNETHE	Not applicable (0)
		Yes (5)
Did not access the internet at home in last 12 months	PURNETHF	Not applicable (0)
		Yes (6)

Several multiple response data items within the Crime Victimization topic contain a code '0' as well as codes '9', '99', '999' or '9999'. These codes indicate either a null response or that the data was not collected because it was not applicable for a respondent. Users are encouraged to refer to the formats and the frequency tables provided for a description of each of the response codes. This category contains the 511 respondents who were not asked these Crime Victimization questions as they were NSW respondents during July and August 2008 (for more information see Chapter 2: Survey Methodology).

SEIFA INDEX

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 on the Expanded CURF. For this CURF, the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage in deciles has been included. 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, 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 are permitted and may be useful for clients in order to determine which geography item to include in their primary analysis.

See the Glossary for a definition of the SEIFA data item included on this CURF. For more information about SEIFA see *Information Paper: An Introduction to Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), 2006* (cat. no. 2039.0).

SPECIFIC DATA ITEMS

Users should be aware of the limitations of the COUNTRY OF BIRTH WITH MAIN ENGLISH SPEAKING COUNTRIES CLASSIFICATION (MESC). MESC is used to describe people migrating from main English-speaking countries, countries from where significant numbers of migrants to Australia are likely to speak English (comprising of 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 languages 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.

The list of Main English Speaking Countries specified in the classification 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. The list therefore includes South Africa. Although large numbers of South Africans do not speak English as their first language, those who migrate to Australia are likely to speak English. The list does not include country units which are statistically insignificant in the Australian context, although they are English speaking countries.

The set of Main English Speaking Countries used by the ABS consists of:

Australia
 Canada
 Ireland, Republic of
 New Zealand
 South Africa
 United Kingdom
 England
 Scotland
 Wales
 Northern Ireland

SPECIFIC DATA ITEMS

continued

United States of America

Some inconsistencies occur between household size recorded on this file, determined by scope rules for labour force, and family composition. For example, household size recorded on this file can be one person, while family composition may relate to a couple or group household, because the other household member(s) are out of scope for the labour force survey (i.e. they part of the defence force or temporarily overseas).

WEIGHTS AND ESTIMATION

The CURF contains records which can be adjusted (weighted) to infer results for the total in-scope population in Australia. Care needs to be taken to ensure the appropriate weight is selected when estimating for the Australian population. The CURF contains two weights for each sample (Crime and Main samples).

Crime sample:

- FINWTCP– Person weight
- FINWTCH– Household weight.

Main sample:

- FINWTHP– Person weight
- FINWTHH – Household weight.

The FINWTCP or FINWTHP weight must be used when estimating the number of people in Australia with a particular characteristic. When estimating the number of households in Australia with certain characteristics, the FINWTCH or FINWTHH weight must be used. For further explanation of the weights used, please see the table 'Cross Classifying MPHS 2008-09 Topics: Recommended Use of Weights' in Chapter 2. Survey Methodology.

The application of weights ensures that person estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of the population by age, sex, state/territory and part of state. Similarly, household estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of households by certain household characteristics (e.g. by state, part of state and number of adults and children), rather than to the distributions within the sample itself. If weights were to be ignored, no account would be taken of a person's or household's chance of selection in the survey or of different response rates across population groups, with the result that distributions based on the sample alone will be biased for distributions in the in-scope population, and overall aggregates will add up to sample and not population totals.

The sample identifier (MAIN or CRIME) for each data item is listed on the Data item list. This should be referred to, to ensure the correct weight is applied when analysing weighted data.

STANDARD ERRORS

Standard errors for each estimate produced from this CURF can be calculated using the replicate weights provided on the file.

Each record on the CURF contains 30 replicate weights. Using these weights, it is possible to calculate standard errors for estimates produced from this file, using what is known as the 30 group Jack-knife variance estimator. When calculating standard errors it is important to select the replicate weights which are most appropriate for the analysis being undertaken:

STANDARD ERRORS

continued

Crime sample:

- WCP0101 to WCP0130 – use for person estimates
- WCH0101 to WCH0130 – use for household estimates.

Main sample:

- WHP0101-WHP0130 – use for person estimates
- WHH0101-WHH0130 – use for household estimates.

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 groups number $y_{(g)}$ = the weighted estimate, having applied the weights for replicate group g y = the weighted estimate from the full sample.

The 30 group Jack-knife method can be applied not just to estimates of population total, but also where the estimate y is a function of estimates of 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.

FILE CONTENT

The 2008–09 MPHS Expanded CURF contains the files listed below which are available through the RADL.

Expanded CURF files

FORMAT.sas7bcat – the format file which provides labels for associated codes in the SAS version of the 2008–09 MPHS Expanded CURF.

MPHS08E.sas7bdat – the MPHS file in SAS for Windows format.

MPHS08E.sav – the MPHS file in SPSS format.

MPHS08E.dta – the MPHS file in STATA format.

41000_DATA_ITEM_LISTING_MPHS08E.xls – the documentation file which includes data item names, category labels and populations. The file is in Microsoft Excel format.

Information files

FREQUENCIES_MPHS08ECPNS.txt – for data items relating to the crime sample, data item code values and category labels are provided with weighted person frequencies for each response category. The file is in plain text format.

FREQUENCIES_MPHS08EMPSN.txt – for data items relating to the main sample, data item code values and category labels are provided with weighted person frequencies for each response category. The file is in plain text format.

FREQUENCIES_MPHS08ECHH.txt – for data items relating to the crime sample, data item code values and category labels are provided with weighted household frequencies for each response category. The file is in plain text format.

FREQUENCIES_MPHS08EMHH.txt – for data items relating to the main sample, data item code values and category labels are provided with weighted household frequencies for each response category. The file is in plain text format.

FREQUENCIES_MPHS08ECUW.txt – for both person and household level data items relating to the crime sample, data item code values and category labels are provided with unweighted frequencies for each response category. The file is in plain text format.

FREQUENCIES_MPHS08EMUW.txt – for both person and household level data items relating to the main sample, data item code values and category labels are provided with unweighted frequencies for each response category. The file is in plain text format.

45300_2008-09.pdf - previously published results from the Crime Victimization topic: *Crime Victimization, Australia* (cat. no. 4530.0).

62380_2008-09.pdf - previously published results from the Retirement and Retirement Intentions topic: *Retirement and Retirement Intentions, Australia, July 2008 to June 2009* (cat. no. 6238.0).

Information files
continued

62390_2008-09.pdf - previously published results from the Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation topic: *Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation, Australia, July 2008 to June 2009* (cat. no. 6239.0).

81460_2008-09.pdf - previously published results from the Household Use of Information Technology topic: *Household Use of Information Technology, Australia, 2008-09* (cat. no. 8146.0).

1406055002_mar2006.pdf - *Technical Manual: ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL), User Guide, March 2006* (cat. no. 1406.0.55.002).

RELEASE OF CURF

The Australian Statistician's approval is required for each release of the CURF. In addition and prior to being granted access to the CURF, all organisations, and individuals within organisations, who request access to the CURF will be required to sign an Undertaking to abide by the legislative restrictions on use. Organisations and individuals who seek access to the 2008–09 MPHS Expanded CURF are required to give an undertaking which includes, among other conditions, that in using the CURF data they will:

- use the data only for the statistical purposes specified
- not attempt to identify particular persons or organisations
- not disclose, either directly or indirectly, the data to any other person or organisation other than members of their organisation who have been approved by the ABS to have individual access to the information
- not attempt to match, with or without using identifiers, the data with any other list of persons or organisations
- in relation to data made available via the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) or the ABS Site Data Laboratory (ABS DL), access the data only in a manner specifically authorised in writing by the ABS
- not attempt to access the data 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 content of 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.

All CURF users are required to read and abide by the 'Responsible Access to ABS CURFs – Training Manual' available on the ABS website <<http://www.abs.gov.au>> (see Services, CURF Microdata). Use of the data for unauthorised purposes may render the purchaser liable to severe penalties. Advice on the propriety of any particular intended use of the data is available from the Microdata Access Strategies Section via <microdata.access@abs.gov.au>.

CONDITIONS OF SALE

All ABS products and services are provided under Conditions of Sale. Any queries relating to these Conditions of Sale should be referred to <intermediary.management@abs.gov.au>.

PRICE

CURF access is priced according to ABS Pricing Policy (see <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>, About Us, ABS Pricing Policy) and Commonwealth Cost Recovery Guidelines. For details, please use the relevant link upon the ABS website (<<http://www.abs.gov.au>>, Services, CURF Microdata, Applying for CURF Microdata).

HOW TO APPLY

All clients wishing to access the 2008–09 MPHS Expanded CURF should refer to the ABS website, <<http://www.abs.gov.au>> (see Services, CURF Microdata) and read the Applying for CURF Microdata link (<<http://www.abs.gov.au>>, Services, CURF Microdata, Applying for CURF Microdata).

Australian universities

University clients should refer to the ABS website <<http://www.abs.gov.au>> (see Services, Universities). The 2008–09 MPHS Expanded CURF can be accessed by universities participating in the ABS/Universities Australia CURF agreement for research and teaching purposes.

Other clients

Other prospective clients should contact the Microdata Access Strategies Section via <microdata.access@abs.gov.au> or on (02) 6252 7714.

For data items and structure see the Excel spreadsheet titled '41000_DATA_ITEM_LISTING_MPHS08E' associated with this information paper.

GLOSSARY

Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia	Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA) was developed by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing (formerly Department of Health and Aged Care (DHAC)) and the National Key Centre for Social Applications of Geographic Information System (GISCA). ARIA measures the remoteness of a point based on the physical road distance to the nearest Urban Centre (ASGC 1996) in each of five size classes.
Age	This is the reported age of a person on their last birthday.
Alone	The definition of this term was left to the interpretation of the respondent. However, if respondents queried whether having a baby, young child (under 12 years of age) or pet at home was the same as being alone, they were informed that it was.
ASGC Remoteness Structure	The Remoteness structure is used for the production of standard ABS statistical outputs from Population Censuses and some ABS surveys. It is a structure describing Australia in terms of a measurement of remoteness. The Remoteness structure includes all Collection Districts (CDs) and therefore, in aggregate, it covers the whole of Australia. The purpose of the structure is to classify CDs which share common characteristics of remoteness into broad geographical regions called Remoteness Areas (RAs). There are six RAs in this structure.
Attempted break-in	An incident where an attempt was made to break into the respondent's home, garage or shed. 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. 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). Also excludes attempted break-ins to a respondent's car.
Audio/visual equipment	Includes TVs, VCRs, DVD players, and stereos.
Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED)	The ASCED is a national standard classification which includes all sectors of the Australian education system: that is, schools, vocational education and training, and higher education. From 2001, ASCED replaced a number of classifications used in administrative and statistical systems, including the Australian Bureau of Statistics Classification of Qualifications (ABSCQ). The ASCED comprises two classifications: LEVEL OF EDUCATION and FIELD OF EDUCATION. See <i>Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001</i> (cat. no. 1272.0).
Available to start work	For people not in the labour force, those who were available to start work in the reference week or within four weeks.
Available to start work with more hours	Employed people who usually worked 0-15 hours per week in all jobs and were available to start work with more hours in the reference week or within four weeks.
Balance of state or territory	Comprises the Northern Territory, Australian Capital Territory, and the balance of the six states (excluding the state capital cities).
Break-in	An incident where the respondent's home (primary residence) was broken into. Includes break-ins to garage, shed or any detached secure building such as games/hobby room 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.
Break-in/attempted break-in	Where a household was a victim of either a break-in or an attempted break-in, or both.
Broadband	Defined by the ABS as an 'always on' Internet connection with an access speed equal to or greater than 256 kilobits per second (kbps).

Cable	Describes those technologies including coaxial cable, fibre optic cable and hybrid fibre coaxial cable which are capable of transmitting data at speeds of up to 2 Gigabits per second (Gbps).
Capital city	This area comprises the Statistical Divisions of the six state capital cities which are defined in the <i>Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)</i> (cat. no. 1216.0). Excludes Canberra and Darwin.
Certificate not further defined	Level of Education survey responses are coded to Certificate not further defined (n.f.d.) when there is not enough information to code them to Certificate I, II, III or IV in the <i>Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001</i> (cat. no. 1272.0), Level of Education classification.
Child	A person of any age who is a natural, adopted, step, or foster son or daughter of a couple or lone parent, usually resident in the same household, and who does not have a child or partner of their own usually resident in the household.
Collection Districts	CDs are designed for use in Census years for the collection and dissemination of Population Census data. In non-Census years, CDs are undefined. In aggregate, CDs cover the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps. The CD is the smallest spatial unit in the ASGC. CDs aggregate to form larger spatial units such as the Remoteness Areas in the Remoteness Structure. In Census years, the CD is the common denominator which integrates all classification structures in the ASGC. For the 2006 Census, 38,704 CDs were defined throughout Australia.
Confront	To come into contact with an offender or offenders.
Computer use	This refers to use of a computer in the 12 months prior to interview.
Computer equipment	Includes PCs, printers, scanners and modems.
Country of birth	Country of birth has been classified according to the <i>Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), 1998 (Revision 2.03)</i> (cat. no. 1269.0). Main English speaking countries include Canada, Republic of Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, United Kingdom and United States of America.
Couple families	For the purposes of this publication, a couple family consisting of two persons in a registered marriage or de facto relationship and at least one child aged 0 to 14 years who are usually resident in the household. The family may also include any number of other dependents, non-dependents and other related individuals.
Country of birth	Country of birth has been classified according to the <i>Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), 1998, Second Edition</i> (cat. no. 1269.0).
Current job	The job in which a person currently works.
Dependent children	All people aged under 15 years, and people aged 15 to 24 years who are full-time students, have a parent in the household and do not have a partner or child of their own in the household.
Dial-up connections	Connection to the Internet via modem and dial-up software utilising the public switched telecommunication network (PSTN).
Did not prefer to work more hours	People who said 'no' or 'don't know' when asked 'would you prefer to work more hours than you usually work?'.
Did not want a paid job	People who were not classified as employed or unemployed who answered 'no' or 'don't know' when asked if they would like a paid job.
Digital Subscriber Line	More properly referred to as ADSL as this covers several digital technologies (e.g. asymmetric DSL or ADSL and symmetric DSL or SDSL) for fast two-way data connections over the PSTN.
Duration of current main job/last job	Length of time worked in current main job/last job.

Educational attainment	Level of highest educational attainment identifies the highest achievement a person has attained in any area of study. It is not a measurement of relative importance of different fields of study.
Educational institution	Any institution whose primary role is education. Included are schools, higher education establishments, colleges of Technical and Further Education (TAFE), public and private colleges, etc. Excluded are institutions whose primary role is not education, for example, hospitals.
Employed	<p>People who during the reference week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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 ■ worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers); or ■ were employees who had a job but were not at work and were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week; or ■ 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 ■ away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement; or ■ on a strike or locked out; or ■ on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job; or ■ were employers or own account workers who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.
Employed full-time	Employed people 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.
Employed part-time	Employed people 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.
Employees	People who work for a public or private employer and receive remuneration in wages, salary, a retainer fee from their employer while working on a commission basis, tips, piece rates, or payment in kind, or people who operate their own incorporated enterprise with or without hiring employees.
Employees (excluding OMIEs) with paid leave entitlements	Employees (excluding Owner Managers of Incorporated Enterprises) (OMIEs), who were entitled to either paid sick leave or paid holiday leave (or both).
Employees (excluding OMIEs) without paid leave entitlements	Employees (excluding OMIEs), who were not entitled to, or did not know whether they were entitled to, paid sick and paid holiday leave.
Employers	People who operate their own unincorporated economic enterprise or engage independently in a profession or trade and hire one or more employees.
Employment types	<p>Classification of employed people according to the following employment type categories on the basis of their main job (i.e. the job in which they usually work the most hours):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ employees (excluding owner-managers of incorporated enterprises) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ with paid leave entitlements ■ without paid leave entitlements ■ owner managers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ owner managers of incorporated enterprises ■ owner managers of unincorporated enterprises ■ contributing family workers.
Employee cash income	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.

Equivalised weekly household income	Equivalising adjusts actual gross income to take account of the different needs of households of different size and composition. There are economic advantages associated with living with others, because household resources, especially housing, can be shared. The equivalence scale used to obtain equivalised incomes 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 each child. For each household, the weights for household members are added together to form the 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. Equivalised weekly household income can be viewed as an indicator of the economic resources available to each member of the household.
Equivalised weekly household income deciles	These are groupings of 10% of the total population when ranked in ascending order according to equivalised weekly household income. The population used for this purpose includes all people living in private dwellings, including children and other persons under the age of 15 years. As the scope of this publication is restricted to only those persons aged 15 years and over, the distribution of this smaller population across the deciles is not necessarily the same as it is for persons of all ages, i.e. the percentage of persons aged 15 years and over in each of these deciles may be larger or smaller than 10%.
Exterior items	Includes walls, windows, doors, fences, garden, letter boxes, statues, and outdoor settings.
Family	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 are usually resident in the same household. The basis of a family is formed by identifying the presence of a couple relationship, lone parent-child relationship or other blood relationship. Some households will, therefore, contain more than one family.
Family member	For the purposes of this CURF previous partner, ex-boyfriend or ex-girlfriend are included.
Feelings of safety	Relates to people's feelings of safety in selected situations when they are alone. People are considered alone even if they have a young child or pet with them. Questions about feelings of safety were asked of all respondents aged 18 years or over and all 15 to 17 year olds where a parent/guardian gave permission for a personal interview.
Field of education	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. The ASCED comprises two classifications: LEVEL OF EDUCATION and FIELD OF EDUCATION.
Full-time study	People aged 15 to 19 years who, during the reference week were enrolled full-time at secondary or high schools, and those aged 15 to 24 years who, during the reference week, were enrolled full-time at a college of Technical and Further Education (TAFE), university, or other tertiary educational institution.
Gbps	A data transfer speed measurement for high speed networks. A unit of data transfer that equates to 1 million (1,000,000) kilobits per second.
Government pension/allowance	Income support payments from government to people under social security and related government programs. Included are pensions and allowances received by 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.

Group Jack-knife method	This method of calculating standard errors starts by dividing the survey sample into a number of approximately equal-sized groups (replicate groups). Replicate estimates of the population total are then calculated from the sample by excluding each replicate group in turn. The Jack-knife variance is derived from the variation of the respective replicate estimates around the estimate based on the whole sample.
Had ever worked	People who are not in the labour force or are unemployed and have previously worked for two weeks or more.
Household	A group of people resident in a private dwelling who share common facilities and meals and 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 people consider their households to be separate.
Household crime	Specifically, a break-in, attempted break-in, motor vehicle theft, theft from a motor vehicle, other theft, or incident of malicious property damage, in which a household is considered to be the victim of the crime.
Incident	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. A respondent can report multiple incidents, which means the total number of victims and total number of incidents may differ.
Income/Gross income	Regular and recurring cash receipts including monies received from wages and salaries, government pensions and allowances, and other regular receipts such as superannuation, workers' compensation, child support, scholarships, profit or loss from own unincorporated business or partnership, and property income. Gross income is the sum of current income from all these sources before income tax or the Medicare levy have been deducted.
Incorporated enterprise	An enterprise which is registered as a separate legal entity to its members or owners. Also known as a limited liability company.
Indigenous	This refers to people who identified themselves, or were identified by another household member, as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin.
Industry	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. In this publication, industry is classified according to the <i>Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 2006</i> (cat.no.1292.0).
Inner Regional Australia	Inner Regional Australia is a category in the ASGC Remoteness Structure. Inner Regional Australia 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 towns such as Hobart, Launceston, Noosa and Tamworth.
Intends to retire from the labour force	Those people who indicated that they intend to give up all labour force activity, that is working or looking for work.
Interior furnishings	Includes walls, curtains, flooring, and ceilings.
Internet	A world-wide public computer network. Organisations and individuals can connect their computers to this network and exchange information across a country and/or across the world. The Internet provides access to a number of communication services including the World Wide Web and carries email, news, entertainment and data files.
Internet access	Availability of lines, points, ports, and modem to subscribers to access the Internet.
Internet use	This refers to the use of the Internet in the 12 months prior to interview. It includes access via mobile phones, set-top boxes connected to either an analogue or digital television, and games machines.
kbps	A measure of data transfer rate. A unit of data transfer that equates to 1000 bits per second.

kilobit (kb)	A data unit of 1,024 bits and generally abbreviated as kb or kbit. Data speeds are generally referred to in kilobits (kbps) rather than kilobytes.
kilobyte (kB)	A data unit of 1,024 bytes and generally abbreviated as kB or kbyte.
Labour force status	A classification of the civilian population aged 15 years or 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.
Last job	Refers to last job less than 20 years ago.
Level not determined	Level not determined includes inadequately described responses and cases where no response was given.
Level of education	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.
Level of highest educational attainment	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. For further information regarding how 'highest level' is derived, refer to paragraphs 45–47 of the Explanatory Notes in <i>Adult Learning, Australia, 2006–07</i> (cat. no. 4229.0).
Level of highest non-school qualification	Level of highest non-school qualification identifies the highest achievement a person has attained in any area of study, outside of their school achievements. See also Level of highest educational attainment.
Looking for work with more hours	Refers to persons who indicated that they had done something in the last four weeks to obtain more hours of work.
Louts or youth gangs	People alone or in groups creating problems or fear in the respondent's neighbourhood.
Main English Speaking countries	The list of Main English Speaking Countries provided here 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. For more information, refer to Chapter 3 "Using the CURF data".
Main job	The job in which most hours were usually worked.
Major Cities of Australia	Major Cities of Australia (not to be confused with Major Urban) is a category in the ASGC Remoteness Structure. Major Cities of Australia 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.
Malicious property damage	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 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.

Medical treatment	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.
Motor vehicle parts	Includes car audio and DVD equipment.
Motor vehicle theft	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.
Neighbourhood	The definition of this term was left to the interpretation of respondents. It can be the street they live in or include the whole suburb they live in.
Non-victim	A household or person that has not reported at least one of the crimes surveyed.
Non-dependent child	A child of a couple or lone parent usually resident in the household, aged over 15 years and who is not a dependent student aged 15-24 years, and do not have a partner or child of their own in the household.
Non Dial-up connections	Refers to permanent and 'always on' connections to the Internet via a variety of technologies including Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN), Digital Subscriber Lines (DSL), Cable, Wireless, Satellite, dedicated data service, frame relay, etc.
Non-school qualification	Non-school qualifications are awarded for educational attainments other than those of pre-primary, primary or secondary education. They include qualifications at the Postgraduate 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.
Not employed	People who are either unemployed or not in the labour force.
Not retired from the labour force	People aged 45 years and over who have, at some time, worked for two weeks or more and were not retired from the labour force. That is, either employed, unemployed or intending to look for, or take up, work in the future.
Occupation	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. In this publication, occupation is classified according to ANZSCO - <i>Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, First Edition, 2006</i> (cat.no.1220.0).
One parent families	For the purposes of this publication, a family consisting of a lone parent and at least one child aged 0 to 14 years usually resident in the household. The family may also include any number of other dependents, non-dependents and other related individuals.
Other cash income	Includes profit or loss from rental property, dividends or interest, child support or maintenance, superannuation, annuity or allocated pension, or workers' compensation.
Other personal items	Always includes clothing and compact discs. However, this category contains additional items, depending on the question. Please refer to the data item list where all additions to this category are listed.
Other theft	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. statue, plants). Excludes any incidents

Other theft <i>continued</i>	involving theft covered in other sections of the survey such as break-ins or robberies. Other theft incidents are collected as household-level data.
Outdoor/garden items	Includes Christmas decorations stolen from yard or exterior walls.
Own account worker	A person who operates his or her own unincorporated economic enterprise or engages independently in a profession or trade, and hires no employees.
Owner managers	People who work in their own business, with or without employees, whether or not the business is of limited liability.
Owner managers of incorporated enterprises	People who work in their own incorporated enterprise, that is, a business entity which is registered as a separate legal entity to its members or owners (also known as a limited liability company).
Owner managers of unincorporated enterprises	People who operate their own unincorporated enterprise, that is, a business entity in which the owner and the business are legally inseparable, so that the owner is liable for any business debts that are incurred. Includes those engaged independently in a trade or profession.
Persons in the labour force	People who were classified as being in the labour force, that is, either employed or unemployed.
Persons not in the labour force	People who were not classified as employed or unemployed.
Personal crime	Specifically, a robbery, physical assault, threatened assault or sexual assault, in which an individual is considered to be the victim of the crime.
Personal electronic equipment	Includes MP3 players and digital cameras.
Physical assault	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.
Place of entertainment/recreation	Includes pub and nightclub
Preferred to work more hours	Employed people who usually work 0-15 hours each week and would prefer to work more hours than they usually work.
Public library computers	Includes computers provided in the library for public access for library catalogue searches, Internet use and word processing.
Private vehicle	Motor vehicle used for private purposes, e.g. car.
Prowlers or loiterers	People hanging around respondents' homes or around shops/parks in their neighbourhoods who made them feel worried/concerned.
Public transport	Includes buses, trains, trams, ferries and taxis.
Public vehicle	Includes train, bus and taxi.
Qualification	Formal certification, issued by a relevant approved body, in recognition that a person has achieved an appropriate level of learning outcomes or competencies relevant to identified individual, professional, industry or community needs. Statements of attainment awarded for partial completion of a course of study at a particular level are excluded.
Reference week	The week preceding the week in which the interview was conducted.
Relationship in household	The relationship of people who live in the same household.

Relationship to offender	The person's relationship to a perpetrator(s) at the time of the incident. More than one response was allowed if there were multiple offenders involved in the incident.
Retired from the labour force	People who had previously worked for two weeks or more and had retired from work or looking for work, and did not intend to look for, or take up, work in the future.
Retirement scheme	Includes superannuation schemes, life assurance policies or similar schemes that provide financial benefit when a person leaves work.
Reporting rate	The total number of incidents of crime reported to police expressed as a percentage of the total number of incidents of crime experienced. The proportion of victims who reported the most recent incident of a crime to police.
Robbery	An incident where someone stole (or tried to steal) property from a respondent by physically attacking them or threatening him or her with force or violence. Includes incidents of physical assault and threatened assault which also involved robbery or attempted robbery.
Satellite	A satellite stationed in geosynchronous orbit that acts as a microwave relay station, receiving signals sent from a ground based station, amplifying them, and re-transmitting them on a different frequency to another ground-based station. Satellites can be used for high-speed transmission of computer data.
Self-assessed health status	A person's general assessment of their own health against a five point scale from excellent through to poor.
Socio-economic Indexes for Areas 2006 (SEIFA 2006)	<p>Socio-economic Indexes for Areas 2006 (SEIFA 2006) is a suite of four summary measures that have been created from 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 2008-09 MPHS Expanded 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> <p>For further information see: <i>Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) – Technical Paper</i> (cat. no. 2039.0.55.001).</p>
Set hours on set days	A working arrangement where a person has predictable days of work and start and finish times each week.
Sexual assault	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. This also includes attempted sexual assault.
Social marital status	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 marriage, or if they are living with the person to whom they are registered as married.
Status in employment	Employed people classified according to whether they were employees, employers, own account workers, or contributing family workers.

Superannuation scheme	Any fund, association or organisation set up for the purpose of providing financial cover for members when they retire from work. For this survey, information about superannuation scheme membership was collected if the respondent indicated that contributions had been made to a scheme. Contributions could either have been made by the respondent, the respondent's partner or the respondent's employer.
Theft from a motor vehicle	<p>An incident where property owned by a respondent or any member of that respondent's household was stolen from a motor vehicle owned by that respondent or any member of that respondent's household for private use. It includes property owned by a respondent or another member of a respondent's household that was in a vehicle owned by the respondent or a household member when that vehicle was stolen, in instances where the property was never returned.</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). Also excludes property stolen from commercial vehicles (this includes a self-employed business operator whose vehicle is mainly used for work purposes), and any break-in to a motor vehicle if nothing was stolen. Incidents of theft from a motor vehicle are collected as household-level data.</p>
Threatened assault	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).
Time since last job	The elapsed time since ceasing last job.
Unemployed	<p>Persons aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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 ■ 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.
Unincorporated enterprise	A business entity in which the owner and the business are legally inseparable, so that the owner is liable for any business debts that are incurred.
Unpaid activities	Includes caring for own children or other people's children including grandchildren. Also includes caring for elderly or someone with long-term illness or disability or unpaid voluntary workers. Respondents were asked whether they had undertaken any of these activities in the last four weeks.
Unincorporated business income	Profit or loss from own unincorporated business or share in a partnership.
Using and waiting for public transport alone after dark	Includes using and waiting for buses, trains, trams, taxis and ferries.
Usual hours worked	The number of hours usually worked in a week in all jobs.
Vary start and finish times	A working arrangement where people are able to either negotiate different start and finish times on a weekly basis or start and finish within a defined range of time each day.
Victim	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.
Victimisation rate	The total number of victims of a crime in a given population expressed as a percentage of that population.

Wanted a paid job	People who are not in the labour force and would like a paid job of any kind. Includes people who said 'depends'.
Wanted more hours	See 'Preferred to work more hours'.
Weapon used	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.
Work extra to have time off	A working arrangement where an employee is able to work extra hours in order to have time off at a later stage. These arrangements are sometimes called 'flexdays' or 'time off in lieu'.
Work from home	Working arrangements where a person works for an employer while located in their own home. This work often involves sending and receiving work related documents via an Internet connection.
Work part-time hours	Working arrangements where a person works less than 35 hours each week.

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