

**CRIME AND SAFETY****SOUTH  
AUSTRALIA**

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) FRI 30 MAR 2001

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- For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information Service on 1300 135 070 or Sharon Wibrow on Adelaide 08 8237 7303.

## NOTES

### ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

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

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

### CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

For the 2000 survey, questions were asked to enable the categories of crime to align with the National Crime and Safety Survey conducted in 1998. Therefore, estimates for crimes are not comparable with estimates from the 1995 SA Crime and Safety Survey.

Victimisation rates of crimes are provided for comparison from the South Australian data from the 1998 National Crime and Safety Survey



### ABBREVIATIONS

ABS Australian Bureau of Statistics

MPS Monthly Population Survey

SA South Australia

Ian Crettenden

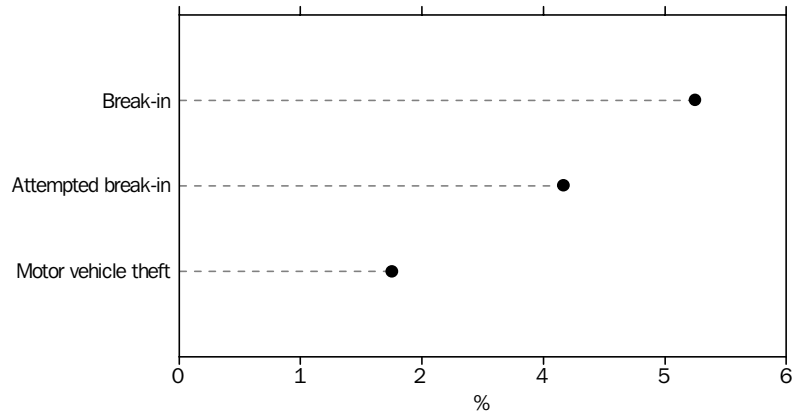
Regional Director, South Australia

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### HOUSEHOLD CRIME

During the 12 months to October 2000, an estimated 59,000 households were victims of at least one household crime, defined as *break-in*, *attempted break-in* or *motor vehicle theft*. Since April 1998, the victimisation rate has increased from 7.4% of all households in South Australia, to 9.6% in October 2000. The victimisation rate was higher for Adelaide (11.0%) than for the Balance of South Australia (5.6%).

HOUSEHOLD CRIME, By Offence Type—Victimisation Rates

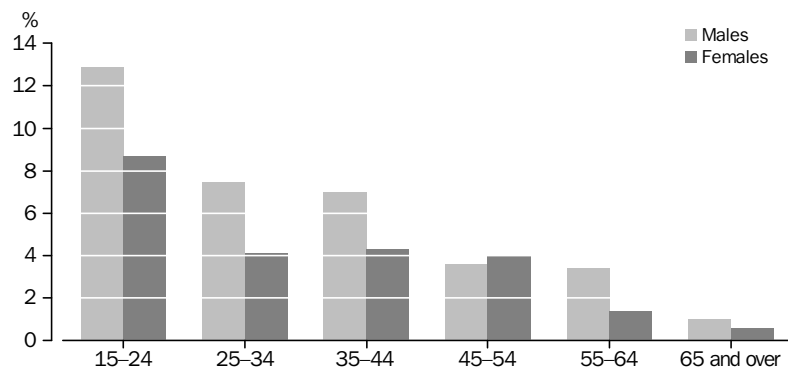


### PERSONAL CRIME

Of an estimated 1,169,200 residents of South Australia aged 15 years or over, 58,700 reported being victims of at least one personal crime in the 12 months to October 2000. Since April 1998, the victimisation rate has increased from 4.4% of all persons in South Australia, to 5.0% in October 2000, however this increase is not statistically significant. Personal crime is defined in this survey as *robbery* or *assault*.

Victimisation rates for personal crime varied according to age and sex. Males were more likely to be victims of crime than females, with a victimisation rate of 6.2%, compared to 3.9% for females. Younger persons experienced higher victimisation rates than older persons. The highest victimisation rate across all persons was amongst persons aged between 15 and 24 years, where 21,500 persons (10.8% of the age group) reported a personal crime.

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



(a) Robbery or assault.

Unemployed persons were more likely to be victims of crime than both employed persons and those who were not in the labour force. The victimisation rate for

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

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**PERSONAL CRIME** *continued*      unemployed persons was 13.0%, while the rates for employed persons and persons not in the labour force were 5.5% and 3.5%, respectively.

**MULTIPLE VICTIMS**      Of those households that experienced household crime, 30.4% were victims on more than one occasion in the 12 months to October 2000.

Assault was the most common personal crime reported in the survey. Of those who reported assault, 44.7% of males and 52.7% of females reported more than one incident during the 12-month period.

**REPORTING TO POLICE**      Reporting of incidents to the police varied widely according to the type of offence. In almost all incidents (90.8%) of motor vehicle theft, the most recent incident was reported to the police. For household break-ins, 78.8% reported the most recent break-in to police. In comparison, 54.8% of robberies were reported to police, while only 27.3% of assaults were reported.

**RELATIONSHIP TO OFFENDER**      For occurrences of assault, the offender was known to the victim in 62.6% of cases. Just under a quarter of assaults (21.4%) involved a family member of the victim.

**PERCEPTION OF CRIME/PUBLIC NUISANCE**      503,700 persons (43.1%) reported no perceived crime or public nuisance in their neighbourhood. Of the remaining persons, the most commonly perceived problems were housebreakings/burglaries/theft from home (38.3%), dangerous/noisy driving (35.5%), and vandalism/graffiti/damage to property (34.7%).

## VICTIMS AND NON-VICTIMS OF CRIME, Type of Offence

Type of offence	2000			VICTIMISATION RATE(a)	
	Victims	Non-victims	Total	1998	2000
	'000	'000	'000	%	%
<b>Households</b>					
Break-in	31.6	583.3	614.9	4.0	5.1
Attempted break-in	23.3	591.6	614.9	2.9	3.8
<i>Break-in or attempted break-in</i>	49.5	565.4	614.9	6.3	8.0
Motor vehicle theft	12.9	602.0	614.9	1.2	2.1
<b>Total households</b>	<b>59.0</b>	<b>555.9</b>	<b>614.9</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>9.6</b>
<b>Persons</b>					
Males					
Robbery	6.1	569.7	575.8	0.6	1.1
Assault	31.6	544.3	575.8	4.6	5.5
<i>Total</i>	35.5	540.3	575.8	4.8	6.2
Females					
Robbery	*2.1	591.3	593.3	*0.3	*0.3
Assault	21.8	571.5	593.3	3.8	3.7
<i>Total</i>	23.2	570.1	593.3	4.1	3.9
Persons					
Robbery	8.2	1 161.0	1 169.2	0.5	0.7
Assault	53.4	1 115.8	1 169.2	4.2	4.6
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>58.7</b>	<b>1 110.5</b>	<b>1 169.2</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>5.0</b>

\* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution

(a) Proportion of all households/persons.

**2**

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

Type of offence	2000			POLICE TOLD(a)	
	Police told '000	Police not told '000	Total '000	1998 %	2000 %
<b>Household victims</b>					
Break-in	24.9	6.7	31.6	79.8	78.8
Attempted break-in	7.9	15.4	23.3	31.3	33.8
Motor vehicle theft	11.7	*1.2	12.9	94.4	90.8
<b>Person victims</b>					
Males					
Robbery	*2.9	*3.3	6.1	*38.9	*47.0
Assault	7.0	24.6	31.6	26.8	22.0
Females					
Robbery	*1.6	**0.5	*2.1	**52.6	*77.9
Assault	7.6	14.2	21.8	35.1	34.9
Persons					
Robbery	4.5	*3.7	8.2	*41.8	54.8
Assault	14.6	38.8	53.4	30.7	27.3

\* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution  
 \*\* estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use  
 (a) Proportion of all households/persons.

**3**

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

	Number '000	Proportion %
Too trivial/unimportant	*1.7	*25.6
Somebody else told police	—	—
I thought there was nothing the police could do	*1.8	*26.5
I thought the police would have been unwilling to do anything	*1.4	*21.5
Personal matter/would take care of it myself	—	—
Because nothing was stolen	*1.0	*15.2
Not covered by insurance	*0.8	*11.2
Other reasons	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution  
 — nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)  
 (a) Household victims that did not tell police about the most recent break-in.

# 4

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

Type of offence	One	Two	Three or more	Total victims(a)	One	Two	Three or more
	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%	%
<b>Households</b>							
Break-in	25.1	*4.2	*2.2	31.6	79.5	*13.4	*7.0
Attempted break-in	15.4	5.1	*2.4	23.3	66.4	22.1	*10.5
Break-in/attempted break-in(b)	34.3	8.8	6.2	49.5	69.2	17.8	12.9
Motor vehicle theft	12.4	**0.2	**0.2	12.9	96.2	**1.9	**1.9
<b>Total household victims(b)</b>	<b>41.1</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>59.0</b>	<b>69.6</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>12.0</b>
<b>Persons</b>							
Robbery	6.3	*1.5	*0.5	8.2	76.3	*17.7	**5.9
Assault	27.5	13.5	12.1	53.4	51.4	25.3	22.7
<b>Total person victims(b)</b>	<b>30.5</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>58.7</b>	<b>52.0</b>	<b>23.9</b>	<b>24.1</b>

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\*\* estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Includes 'not stated' and 'don't know'.

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

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## VICTIMS OF BREAK-IN AND ATTEMPTED BREAK-IN IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, Household Characteristics

	BREAK-IN VICTIMS		ATTEMPTED BREAK-IN VICTIMS		BREAK-IN OR ATTEMPTED BREAK-IN VICTIMS(a)		Not a victim of a break-in or attempted break-in	Total households
	Number	Victimisation rate	Number	Victimisation rate	Number	Victimisation rate		
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%		
<b>LENGTH OF STAY AT CURRENT ADDRESS</b>								
Less than 1 year	5.4	7.7	*3.5	*4.9	7.4	10.5	63.3	70.7
1 to less than 3 years	7.6	7.5	*4.0	*4.0	11.0	11.0	89.1	100.2
3 to less than 5 years	*3.8	*5.9	*2.6	*4.1	5.5	8.6	58.3	63.7
5 years or more	14.8	3.9	13.2	3.5	25.6	6.7	353.7	379.3
Not applicable/not stated	—	—	—	—	—	—	*1.0	*1.0
<b>DWELLING TENURE</b>								
Own/purchase	22.1	4.8	14.7	3.2	34.0	7.4	428.9	463.0
Rent	9.0	6.5	7.8	5.6	14.2	10.2	125.3	139.5
Other	**0.5	**5.6	*0.8	*9.7	*1.2	*15.3	6.9	8.1
Not applicable/not stated	—	—	—	—	—	—	*4.3	*4.3
<b>DWELLING TYPE</b>								
Separate house	24.5	5.0	16.3	3.4	37.2	7.7	448.4	485.5
Semi-detached/terrace house/villa unit/townhouse	*4.1	*8.1	*3.4	*6.7	7.0	13.8	44.1	51.1
Flat/unit/apartment—on ground level	*1.8	*3.0	*1.8	*3.0	3.1	5.1	56.7	59.7
Flat/unit/apartment—not on ground level	*0.9	*10.4	*1.2	*13.7	1.5	16.2	7.6	9.1
Other dwelling	**0.2	**3.2	**0.5	**7.0	**0.7	**10.2	6.3	7.0
Not applicable/not stated	—	—	—	—	—	—	*2.4	*2.4
<b>REGION</b>								
Metropolitan	26.2	5.7	20.0	4.4	41.4	9.1	415.2	456.5
Non-metropolitan	5.4	3.4	*3.2	*2.0	8.1	5.1	150.2	158.4
<b>ALL CHARACTERISTICS</b>								
<b>Total</b>	<b>31.6</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>23.3</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>49.5</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>565.4</b>	<b>614.9</b>

\* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

\*\* estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

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



HOUSEHOLD SECURITY MEASURES BY WHETHER A VICTIM OF BREAK-IN IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS

	Victims	Non-victims	Total	Victimisation rate
	'000	'000	'000	%
DEADLOCKS ON DOORS				
All doors	13.2	233.7	247.0	5.4
Some doors	8.6	154.0	162.6	5.3
None	9.2	188.1	197.3	4.7
Not stated	**0.5	7.5	8.0	**6.2
SECURITY SCREEN DOORS				
All doors	12.8	249.0	261.8	4.9
Some doors	9.6	188.1	197.7	4.9
None	8.4	139.6	148.0	5.7
Not stated	*0.8	6.7	7.5	*10.1
BARS, GRILLES, SECURITY SHUTTERS OR LOCKS ON WINDOWS				
All windows	11.7	238.0	249.7	4.7
Some windows	8.4	115.0	123.3	6.8
None	11.0	220.8	231.8	4.7
Not stated	**0.5	9.5	10.0	**4.6
OUTSIDE LIGHTING (a)				
Sensor lighting	13.2	273.2	286.4	4.6
Outside light turned on	6.9	73.5	80.4	8.6
Street lighting	16.1	280.9	297.0	5.4
None	*4.0	96.3	100.2	*4.0
Not stated	**0.3	4.7	4.9	**5.3
WHETHER HAS BURGLAR ALARM				
Has burglar alarm	8.7	120.5	129.2	6.7
No burglar alarm	21.4	445.5	466.9	4.6
Not stated	*1.5	17.3	18.8	*7.7
CAR IN THE DRIVEWAY DURING THE DAY				
Always/most of the time	9.0	210.9	219.9	4.1
Sometimes	12.6	194.2	206.8	6.1
Rarely/never	5.0	101.3	106.3	4.7
No driveway	*1.7	19.5	21.1	*7.9
No car	*2.8	53.2	56.0	*5.0
Not stated	**0.5	4.3	4.8	**10.3
WHETHER HAS A DOG				
Has a dog	11.7	245.9	257.6	4.6
Has no dog	19.3	334.0	353.3	5.5
Not stated	**0.5	3.4	3.9	**12.5

\*\* estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

\* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution

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

**6**

HOUSEHOLD SECURITY MEASURES BY WHETHER A VICTIM OF BREAK-IN IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS *continued*

	<i>Victims</i>	<i>Non-victims</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Victimisation rate</i>
	'000	'000	'000	%
.....				
SECURITY MEASURES ADDED IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS (a)				
Sensor lighting	4.6	53.0	57.6	8.0
Bars, grilles, security shutters or locks on windows	7.7	34.5	42.1	18.2
Deadlocks on doors	5.9	37.2	43.2	13.7
Security screen doors	5.3	40.8	46.0	11.4
Burglar alarms	*3.7	18.5	22.2	*16.7
None of the above	16.0	409.0	425.0	3.8
Not stated	*0.8	48.0	48.8	*1.7
.....				
ALL CHARACTERISTICS				
Total households	<b>31.6</b>	<b>583.3</b>	<b>614.9</b>	<b>5.1</b>

\* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution

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

VICTIMS AND NON-VICTIMS OF PERSONAL CRIME(a), By Age and Sex

Age group (years)	Victims	Non- victims	Total	Victimisation rate(b)
	'000	'000	'000	%
MALES				
15-24	13.0	87.9	100.9	12.9
25-34	7.8	95.7	103.5	7.5
35-44	7.8	103.5	111.2	7.0
45-54	*3.6	98.5	102.2	*3.6
55-64	*2.3	66.9	69.2	*3.4
65 and over	*0.9	87.9	88.8	*1.0
<i>Total</i>	35.5	540.3	575.8	6.2
FEMALES				
15-24	8.4	88.5	96.9	8.7
25-34	*4.1	96.0	100.2	*4.1
35-44	4.9	106.8	111.7	4.3
45-54	*4.1	99.0	103.1	*4.0
55-64	*1.0	70.5	71.5	*1.4
65 and over	**0.7	109.3	110.0	**0.6
<i>Total</i>	23.2	570.1	593.3	3.9
PERSONS				
15-24	21.5	176.4	197.8	10.8
25-34	11.9	191.7	203.6	5.8
35-44	12.6	210.3	222.9	5.7
45-54	7.8	197.5	205.3	3.8
55-64	*3.3	137.4	140.7	*2.4
65 and over	*1.6	197.2	198.8	*0.8
<i>Total</i>	58.7	1 110.5	1 169.2	5.0

\* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution

\*\* estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Robbery or assault.

(b) Proportion of all persons.

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

	2000			VICTIMISATION
	Victims	Non-victims	Total	RATE(b)
	'000	'000	'000	2000
				%
<b>Region</b>				
Metropolitan	46.9	816.4	863.3	5.4
Non-metropolitan	11.8	294.1	305.8	3.9
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>58.7</b>	<b>1 110.5</b>	<b>1 169.2</b>	<b>5.0</b>
<b>Labour force status</b>				
Employed	37.6	652.0	689.6	5.5
Unemployed	5.8	38.7	44.5	13.0
Not in the labour force	15.3	419.8	435.1	3.5
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>58.7</b>	<b>1 110.5</b>	<b>1 169.2</b>	<b>5.0</b>

(a) Robbery or assault.

(b) Proportion of all persons.

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

<i>Whether offender known</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Proportion</i>
	'000	%
<b>Offender known</b>		
Family member(a)	11.4	21.4
Friend(b)	5.8	10.9
Neighbour	*2.9	*5.4
Work/study colleague	*3.5	*6.5
Acquaintance	5.5	10.3
Other	*2.3	*4.4
Not stated	*1.9	*3.6
<i>Total offender known</i>	33.4	62.6
Offender not known	20.0	37.4
<b>Total assault victims</b>	<b>53.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution

(a) Includes ex-partner.

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

PERCEIVED TO BE A PROBLEM(a) . . . . .

<i>Crime or public nuisance problem</i>	<i>Males</i>		<i>Females</i>		<i>Persons</i>	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
Perceived problem(s)						
Housebreakings/burglaries/ theft from home	220.5	38.3	227.3	38.3	447.7	38.3
Car theft	159.4	27.7	157.9	26.6	317.3	27.1
Other theft	90.0	15.6	83.5	14.1	173.6	14.8
Louts/youth gangs	122.0	21.2	118.5	20.0	240.5	20.6
Prowlers/loiterers	55.3	9.6	52.7	8.9	108.0	9.2
Drunkenness	67.5	11.7	65.3	11.0	132.7	11.4
Vandalism/graffiti/damage to property	204.7	35.6	201.5	34.0	406.2	34.7
Dangerous/noisy driving	201.6	35.0	213.8	36.0	415.4	35.5
Illegal drugs	83.6	14.5	73.2	12.3	156.8	13.4
Sexual assault	16.6	2.9	13.6	2.3	30.2	2.6
Other assault	32.5	5.7	24.5	4.1	57.0	4.9
Problems with neighbours/domestic problems	41.7	7.2	45.2	7.6	86.9	7.4
Other	8.1	1.4	8.4	1.4	16.6	1.4
No perceived problems	246.8	42.9	256.9	43.3	503.7	43.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>575.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>593.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1 169.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### INTRODUCTION

**1** This publication contains results from the SA Crime and Safety survey which was conducted throughout SA in October 2000 as a supplement to the ABS Monthly Population Survey (MPS). The survey was conducted and funded at the request of the Office of Crime Statistics.

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

**3** The MPS was conducted during the two weeks commencing Monday, 9th October 2000.

**4** Information was sought from a 7/8 sample of the MPS which was approximately 6,340 persons, of whom about 4,810 (75.9%) responded.

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

### SCOPE

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

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

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

### COVERAGE

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

**9** Crime and Safety questionnaires were mailed out to households who were interviewed for the MPS. The questionnaires were completed by household members and returned to the ABS by mail. Each household received:

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

### COMPARISONS WITH POLICE STATISTICS

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

### CHANGES TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE

**11** For the 2000 SA Crime and Safety Survey, question wording was adjusted for many questions, from the wording used in the 1995 SA Crime and Safety Survey, so that the wording was consistent with the 1998 National Crime and Safety Survey. Caution should therefore be taken when comparing the 1995 data with the 2000 data. Data from the 1998 National Survey and the 2000 SA Crime and Safety Survey are comparable. While question wording and order in the 2000 SA Crime and Safety Survey are identical to the 1998 National Crime and Safety Survey, the 2000 SA Crime and Safety Survey does not include all the questions

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

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### CHANGES TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE *continued*

asked in the 1998 National Survey. For example, the 1998 National Survey prompted the respondents to provide detail on the most recent incident of crime, as well as the second-most recent incident, while the 2000 SA Survey asks only about the most recent incidents of crime.

### RELATED PUBLICATIONS

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

- Australian Standard Offence Classification, 1997* (Cat. no. 1234.0)
- Crime and Safety, Australia, April 1998* (Cat. no. 4509.0)
- Crime and Safety, Australia, April 1998: Supplementary National and Standard Tables* (Cat. no. 4509.0.40.001)
- Crime and Safety, New South Wales, April 2000* (Cat. no. 4509.1)
- Crime and Safety, Western Australia, October 1999* (Cat. no. 4509.5)
- Crime and Safety, New South Wales, April 1999* (Cat. no. 4509.1)
- Crime and Safety, South Australia, April 1995* (Cat. no. 4509.4)
- Crime and Safety, Victoria, April 1995* (Cat. no. 4509.2)
- Crime and Safety, Queensland, April 1995* (Cat. no. 4509.3)
- Recorded Crime, Australia, 1998* (Cat. no. 4510.0)

## APPENDIX ADDITIONAL DATA

### ADDITIONAL DATA AVAILABLE

The SA Crime and Safety Survey provides information on the incidence of selected categories of crime and crime reporting behaviour, for persons aged 15 years and over for the 12 months to October 2000.

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

Information collected in the survey includes:

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

Data can be classified by the following variables:

- Age
- Sex
- Marital status
- Household type
- Country of birth
- Year of arrival in Australia
- Labour force region (SA only)
- Labour force status

To discuss your data requirements or for further information regarding this survey please contact Sharon Wibrow on Adelaide 08 8237 7303



## TECHNICAL NOTE 1 SAMPLING VARIABILITY

### ESTIMATION PROCEDURE

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

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

### RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

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

#### *Non-sampling errors*

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

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

#### *Sampling errors*

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

## TECHNICAL NOTE 2 STANDARD ERRORS

### ESTIMATES OF SAMPLING ERROR

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

it as a percentage. That is—  $RSE(x) = \frac{100SE(x)}{x}$  (where x is the estimate). The relative standard error is a measure of the error likely to have occurred due to sampling.

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

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

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

**TECHNICAL NOTE 2 STANDARD ERRORS** *continued*

ESTIMATES OF SAMPLING  
ERROR *continued*

STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES OF HOUSEHOLDS AND  
PERSONS, October 2000

Size of estimate	Standard error	Relative standard error	95% confidence interval
	no.	%	no.
500	280.0	55.9	0-1060
600	320.0	52.8	0-1240
700	350.0	50.2	0-1400
800	380.0	48.0	40-1560
900	420.0	46.1	60-1740
1000	440.0	44.4	120-1880
1100	470.0	43.0	160-2040
1200	500.0	41.7	200-2200
1300	530.0	40.5	240-2360
1400	550.0	39.4	300-2500
1500	580.0	38.4	340-2660
1600	600.0	37.5	400-2800
1700	620.0	36.6	460-2940
1800	650.0	35.9	500-3100
1900	670.0	35.1	560-3240
2000	690.0	34.4	620-3380
2100	710.0	33.8	680-3520
2200	730.0	33.2	740-3660
2300	750.0	32.6	800-3800
2400	770.0	32.1	860-3940
2500	790.0	31.5	920-4080
3000	880.0	29.3	1240-4760
3500	960.0	27.5	1580-5420
4000	1 040.0	26.0	1920-6080
4500	1 110.0	24.7	2280-6720
5000	1 180.0	23.6	2640-7360
6000	1 310.0	21.8	3380-8620
8000	1 530.0	19.1	4940-11060
10000	1 730.0	17.2	6540-13460
20000	2 460.0	12.2	15080-24920
30000	2 980.0	9.9	24040-35960
40000	3 400.0	8.5	33200-46800
50000	3 760.0	7.5	42480-57520
100000	5 040.0	5.0	89920-110080
150000	5 900.0	3.9	138200-161800
200000	6 570.0	3.2	186860-213140
500000	8 980.0	1.7	482040-517960
1000000	11 040.0	1.1	977920-1022080

## GLOSSARY

<b>Assault</b>	An incident, other than a robbery where the respondent was threatened with force or attacked.
<b>Attempted break-in</b>	An incident where an attempt was made to break into the respondent's home.
<b>Break-in</b>	An incident where the respondent's home had been broken into. The respondent's home was also defined to include their garage or shed. Break-in offences relating to their car or garden were excluded.
<b>Crime or public nuisance problems</b>	Anything perceived by the respondent to be a problem arising from crime or people creating a public nuisance.
<b>Dwelling</b>	A suite of rooms contained within a building which are self-contained and intended for long-term residential use. To be self-contained, the suite of rooms must possess cooking and bathing facilities as building fixtures.
<b>Household</b>	A group of persons of a private dwelling who share common facilities and meals or who consider themselves to be a household. It is possible for a dwelling to contain more than one household, for example, where regular provision is made for groups to take meals separately and where persons consider their households to be separate.
<b>Motor vehicle theft</b>	An incident where a registered motor vehicle was stolen from any member of the household. It includes privately owned motor vehicles as well as business/company vehicles used exclusively by any members of the household.
<b>Neighbourhood</b>	Respondents were asked about crime problems in their neighbourhood. The perception of this term was left to the respondent.
<b>Offence</b>	Indicates crimes which persons or households reported as having been committed against them.
<b>Robbery</b>	An incident where someone had stolen anything from a respondent by threatening or attacking them. It includes incidents of attempted robbery where someone attempted to steal something from the victim but nothing was actually stolen.
<b>Victim</b>	A household or person reporting at least one of the offences surveyed. Victims were counted once only for each type of offence, regardless of the number of incidents of that type.
<b>Victimisation rate</b>	The number of victims of an offence in a given population expressed as a percentage of that population.







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