

The New Zealand  
Crime and Victims Survey

# Key Findings Booklet

## Cycle 5

November 2021 - November 2022



MINISTRY OF  
**JUSTICE**  
*Tāhū o te Tīre*

New Zealand Government



New Zealand  
Crime and Victims **survey**

HELP CREATE SAFER COMMUNITIES

# About the NZCVS



The New Zealand Crime and Victim Survey (NZCVS) is the most reliable source on reported and unreported crime in New Zealand.

**The NZCVS is a nationwide, face-to-face, random-sample survey.**

Adults aged 15 and over are interviewed about experiences of crime they had over the previous 12 months. This includes incidents reported to the Police and unreported incidents.

Results obtained from interviews are then extrapolated to apply to the entire New Zealand adult population using statistical techniques. These extrapolations by their nature are estimates and include statistical uncertainty.

The NZCVS covers personal offences that respondents have experienced and household offences that the respondents' households have experienced. It does not cover crimes where a victim cannot be identified (such as drug or traffic offences) or cannot respond (such as murder or manslaughter). It does not cover crime against businesses including ramraids. If an individual experienced interpersonal violence in their workplace this would still be covered by the survey.

**The findings presented in this booklet reflect five years of interviewing.**

The focus is on results from Cycle 5, and comparisons with previous cycles. Where stated, data from all five cycles are combined to make results about small groups more reliable. We call this combined data "pooled data".

|         | Data collection | Sample size | Response rate |
|---------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|
| Cycle 1 | 2018            | 8,030       | 81%           |
| Cycle 2 | 2018 - 2019     | 8,038       | 80%           |
| Cycle 3 | 2019 - 2020     | 7,425       | 80%           |
| Cycle 4 | 2020 - 2021     | 6,244       | 76%           |
| Cycle 5 | 2021 - 2022     | 5,326       | 71%           |

# Introduction



This booklet provides insights and analysis of the New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey (NZCVS) Cycle 5 results.

In addition to the latest crime and victimisation trends, this booklet also details who is at risk, how crime is distributed, whether crime was reported to the Police and how safe people feel.

The latest NZCVS data covers an interesting time in New Zealand. We collected data between November 2021 and November 2022 during both the peak of the COVID-19 outbreak and the end of most outbreak related restrictions including the re-opening of New Zealand to non-residents.

This booklet highlights results from the fifth year of data collection for the NZCVS and analyses changes in crime and victimisation before and after the first nationwide lockdown (referred to as the COVID-19 impact analysis).

**The full Cycle 5 survey findings report and other resources are available on the Ministry of Justice website<sup>1</sup>.** Future in-depth reports using Cycle 5 data will be made available on this site.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.justice.govt.nz/justice-sector-policy/research-data/nzcvs/resources-and-results/>

# Key Stories



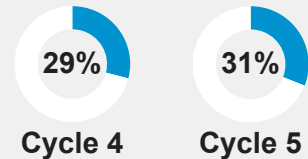
The **proportion of victims** in New Zealand is **similar** between Cycle 4 and 5 but the **proportion of fraud and deception victims** has **increased**.

Almost **1 in 3** New Zealand adults<sup>2</sup> (31%)



**experienced at least one offence**  
in the last 12 months

The **proportion of adults** who experienced at least one offence



There was a **statistically significant increase** in both the **prevalence** and **incidence rate** of **fraud and deception**



The most common offences were



Fraud and deception



Burglaries



Physical offences<sup>3</sup>

## The COVID-19 impact analysis shows similar patterns before and after outbreak

- » About **30% of adults** experienced crime before and after the COVID-19 outbreak.
- » The number of offences that adults experienced increased from **60 offences per 100 adults** before the COVID-19 outbreak to **67 offences per 100 adults** afterwards.
- » There was a **significant increase** in both the number of victims of fraud and deception, and the number of fraud and deception offences.

<sup>2</sup> For the purpose of this survey adults are people aged 15 and over.

<sup>3</sup> Physical offences include robbery and non-sexual assault.

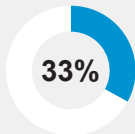
# Key Stories



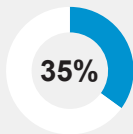
The **reporting to Police rate** has **dropped**, largely due to **highly victimised adults**<sup>4</sup> reporting a **smaller** proportion of incidents.

**Slightly more** adults reported crime to the Police in Cycle 5 compared to Cycle 4 but a **smaller** proportion of total crimes were reported

The proportion of adults reporting at least one offence

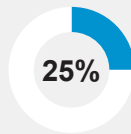


Cycle 4

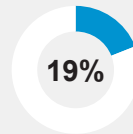


Cycle 5

The proportion of total offences reported

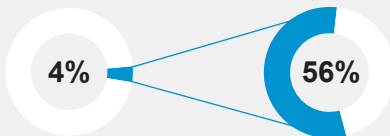


Cycle 4

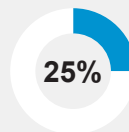


Cycle 5

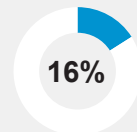
**Highly victimised adults** make up **4% of the adult population** but experience **56% of offences**



The reporting rate for **highly victimised adults** dropped by 36%



Cycle 4



Cycle 5

<sup>4</sup> Highly victimised adults are those who have experienced four or more offences within a 12-month period.

# Level and changes in crime



New Zealand adults experienced **2.47 million incidents of crime** in the last 12 months.

- » In Cycle 5, **31%** of New Zealand adults experienced at least one offence, compared to **29%** in Cycle 4. This change is driven by the increase in fraud and deception.
- » **1.28 million adults** experienced about **2.47 million offences** against them and their households. About **75%** were personal offences and **25%** were household offences.
- » Following the COVID-19 outbreak, the number of offences that New Zealand adults experienced also increased, from **60 offences per 100 adults** before the outbreak to **67 offences per 100 adults** afterwards.

## The most common offences were



**Fraud and deception**  
510,000 offences  
10% of adults



**Burglaries**  
288,000 offences  
10% of households



**Physical offences**  
253,000 offences  
2% of adults

**Note:** All information on this page reflects Cycle 5 results.

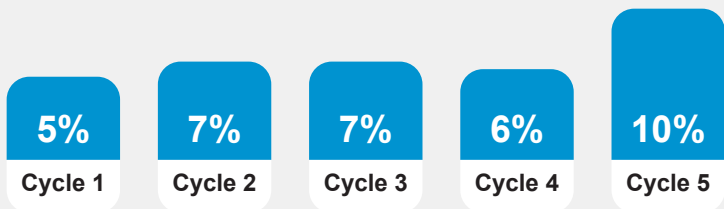
# Level and changes in crime



**Fraud and deception** offences have increased in the last 12 months.

- » The proportion of adults who experienced fraud and deception in the last 12 months increased from **6%** in Cycle 4 to **10%** in Cycle 5. Since the COVID-19 outbreak began, the proportion of adults who experienced fraud and deception also increased, from **6%** before the outbreak to **8%** afterwards.
- » The number of fraud and deception offences also increased from **288,000** in Cycle 4 to **510,000** in Cycle 5.
- » The proportion of households that experienced burglary has remained lower since the outbreak of COVID-19: **12%** of households before the COVID-19 outbreak compared to **10%** of households afterwards.

## Changes in the proportion of adults who experienced fraud and deception



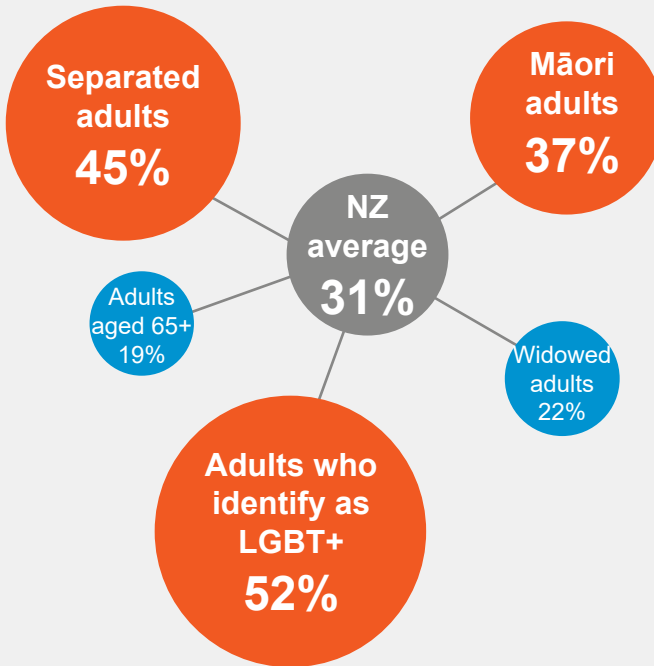
**Note:** All information on this page reflects Cycle 5 results.

# Risk of victimisation



Adults who identify as LGBT+<sup>5</sup>, separated adults, and Māori<sup>6</sup> were significantly more likely to be victims of crime.

Adults who are more or less likely to be victimised when compared to the New Zealand average (31%)



<sup>5</sup> LGBT+ demographic group includes transgender persons and those who identified as gay, lesbian, bisexual or having another sexual identity.

<sup>6</sup> Analysis shows that Māori are younger and live in more deprived areas and these factors contribute to their higher likelihood of victimisation.

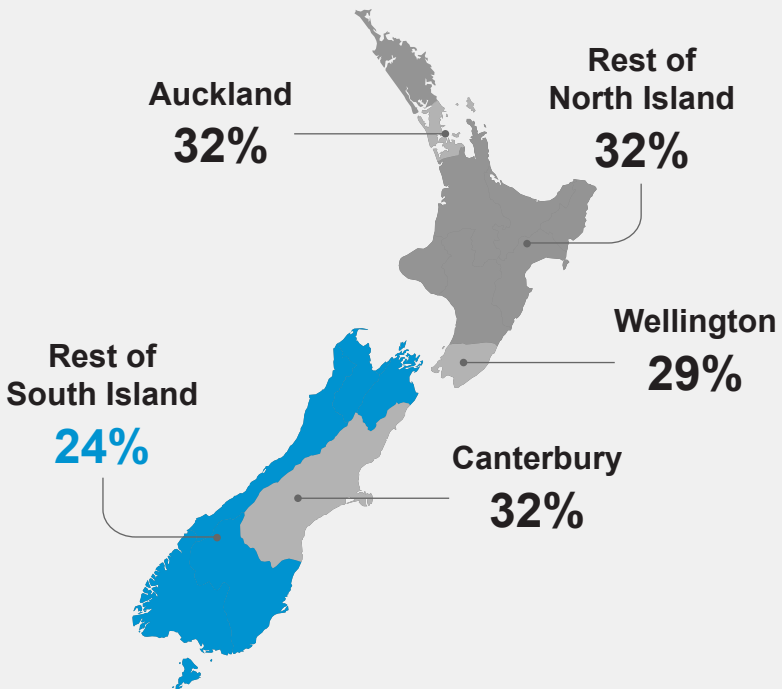


# Risk of victimisation



Adults living in the main urban areas were no more likely to be victims of crime than the New Zealand average (31%).

Adults living in the South Island (excluding Canterbury) were less likely to be victims of crime



Note: All information on this page reflects Cycle 5 results.

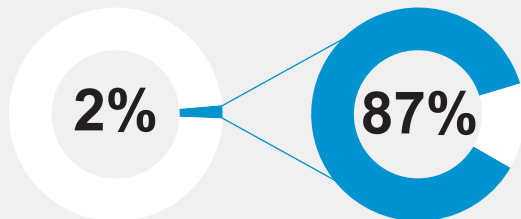
# Interpersonal violence offences



The number of adults experiencing interpersonal violence<sup>7</sup> decreased slightly in Cycle 5 but victims experienced more acts of interpersonal violence.

- » **266,000 adults** experienced about **1,211,000 acts of interpersonal violence** in the last 12 months.
- » There were **29 interpersonal violence offences per 100 adults** in Cycle 5, compared to **19 per 100 adults** in Cycle 4. But **6%** of adults experienced one or more interpersonal violence offences, compared to **7%** in Cycle 4.
- » Population groups that were more likely to experience interpersonal violence included: **adults who identify as LGBT+, Māori adults, adults aged 15–29 years old, adults who have never been married or in civil union, separated adults, adults who have a partner but aren't legally registered, and adults who cannot meet an unexpected expense.**

**2%** of adults who experienced more than one act of interpersonal violence experienced **87%** of all interpersonal violence offences



<sup>7</sup> In the NZCVS, interpersonal violence offences include sexual assault; other assault; robbery; harassment and threatening behaviour; and household and personal property damage where the offender is known to the victim.

**Note:** All information on this page reflects Cycle 5 results.

# Sexual assault



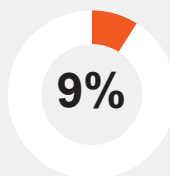
The **proportion of adults** experiencing **sexual assault** remained **unchanged** between Cycle 4 and Cycle 5.

- » **2.0% of adults** experienced at least one sexual assault in Cycle 5 compared to **2.1% of adults** in Cycle 4.
- » Between Cycle 1 to 5, there were **5 incidents of sexual assault per 100 adults**.
- » Population groups that were more likely to experience sexual assault included: **women, adults who identify as LGBT+, Māori adults, adults aged 15–29 years old, adults who have never been married or in civil union, separated adults, and adults who experience financial pressure.**

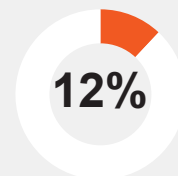
**Women were significantly more likely to be victims of sexual assault. Young women<sup>8</sup> and women who identify as LGBT+ were particularly at risk.**



Women



Young women



Women who identify as LGBT+

<sup>8</sup> Young women are those aged 15–19 years old.

**Note:** The infographic relates to pooled data (Cycle 1-5); all other information on this page reflects results from Cycle 5.

# Offences by family members

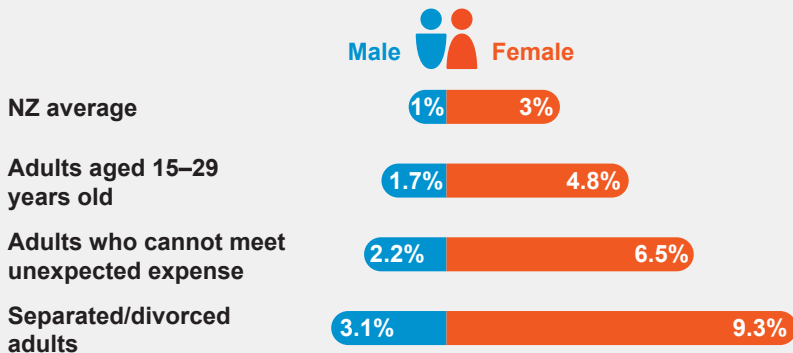


The **proportion of adults** experiencing **offences by family members**<sup>9</sup> has remained **similar** between Cycle 4 and Cycle 5.

- » **1.8% of population** experienced at least one offence by family members in Cycle 5 compared to **1.7%** in Cycle 4.
- » The number of adults experiencing offences by **an intimate partner** increased between Cycle 4 and Cycle 5, **from 35,000 to 56,000**.<sup>10</sup>
- » The number of adults experiencing offences by **other family member** decreased between Cycle 4 and Cycle 5, **from 34,000 to 20,000**.<sup>10</sup>

**Note:** The infographic below relates to pooled data (Cycle 1-5); all other information on this page reflects results from Cycle 5.

## Offences by family members are clearly gendered forms of victimisation



<sup>9</sup> Offences by family members in the NZCVS include episodes of assault, robbery, sexual assault, threats and harassment or property damage, where the perpetrator was a family or whānau member of the victim.

<sup>10</sup> Due to the low response rate and resultant small sample size the above changes are not statistically significant at a 95% confidence level.

# Controlling behaviours



**18% of adults** experienced harm because of a partner's, ex-partner's, family or whānau member's behaviour.

- » The proportion of adults who experienced harm because of a partner, ex-partner, family or whānau members' behaviour has remained **unchanged** between Cycle 4 and Cycle 5.
- » In Cycle 5, **12% of adults** experienced at least one **controlling behaviour** by a partner, ex-partner, family or whānau member compared to **13%** in Cycle 4.
- » The **most prevalent controlling behaviour** by a partner, ex-partner, family or whānau member was being "kept track of where you went, or who you spent time with".

**The three most common harms experienced because of a partner, ex-partner, family or whānau members' behaviour were:**



**11%**

Been made to feel ashamed or bad about yourself



**10%**

Having to change your routine, behaviour, or appearance



**8%**

Been made to feel that your mana had been stamped on, or your spirituality/wairua had been attacked

**Note:** All information on this page reflects results from Cycle 5.

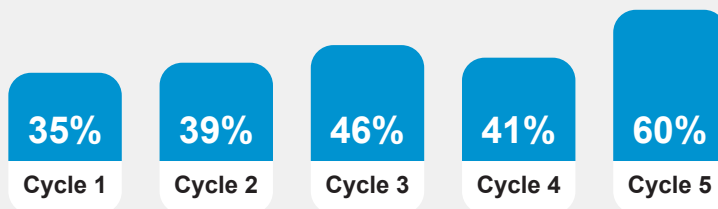
# Distribution of crime



In Cycle 5, **highly victimised adults** experienced even **more crime**.

- » In Cycle 5, **163,000 adults** (4% of the adult population) experienced **56% of offences**.
- » The number of offences experienced by **highly victimised adults** increased from **823,000** in Cycle 4 to **1,381,000** in Cycle 5.
- » **Women, Māori, adults who identify as LGBT+, adults aged 15–29 years old, adults in large urban areas, adults living in deprived areas<sup>10</sup> or adults under financial pressure** are disproportionately represented in the 4% of adults who experienced the most crime.

The proportion of victims who experienced more than one offence by one or more family members has nearly doubled from Cycle 1 to Cycle 5



<sup>10</sup> Deprived areas are areas that have high socioeconomically deprived scores measured by NZDep2018 – NZDep2018 quintile 9 and 10.

**Note:** All information on this page reflects results from Cycle 5.

# Reporting to the Police



The **proportion of crime incidents** reported to the Police has **decreased** from 25% in Cycle 4 to 19% in Cycle 5.

- » The **decrease** in the reporting rate was primarily driven by the reporting behaviour of **highly victimised adults** who reported a **smaller proportion of offences** in Cycle 5, **16%** compared to **25%** in Cycle 4.
- » **Non-highly victimised adults** also contributed to a **small decrease** in the reporting rate. This reflects the amount of **fraud and deception** experienced in Cycle 5 which has a **low reporting rate**.
- » Since the COVID-19 outbreak began there were **significant decreases** in the proportion of offences reported (from 26% before the outbreak to 21% afterwards) and in the proportion of victims who reported at least one incident (from 38% before the outbreak to 34% afterwards).

## Of all fraud and deception not reported to the Police

**65%**

were **NOT** reported because of **“bank / credit card company dealt with issue / contacted me”**

**16%**

were **NOT** reported because of **“too trivial / no loss or damage / not worth reporting”**

**14%**

were **“reported to other authorities”**

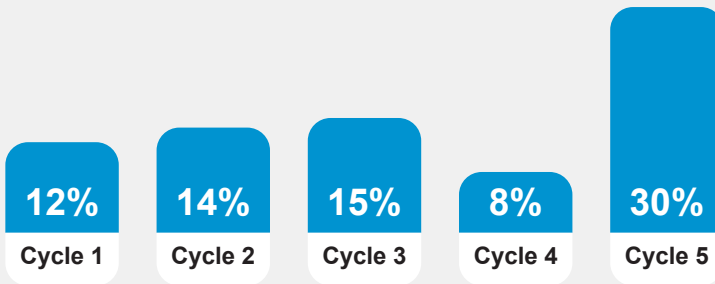
# Perceptions of safety



Overall **perceptions of safety** have not significantly changed between Cycle 4 and Cycle 5, but some groups **feel safer** than others.

- » In Cycle 5, **more than a quarter of adults** (27%) reported feeling completely safe (10 out of 10) where as **11%** reported feeling relatively unsafe (between 0 and 6 out of 10).
- » Feelings of safety **did not change significantly** when compared with previous Cycles and when compared between before and after the COVID-19 outbreak.

**Adults who identify as Chinese felt less safe in Cycle 5 with almost a third rating their feeling of safety between 0 and 6 out of 10**





# Notes



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# Disclaimer



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2. This report contains highly aggregated data. No identifiable personal data is included in the report.
3. Count estimates in the text have been rounded to the nearest thousands or hundreds. Percentage and mean estimates have been rounded to the nearest whole number or one decimal place. Graphs and tables provide accuracy to one decimal place. Higher precision may be provided where it is important for the content.



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# More information



All observations in this booklet are based on the **NZCVS Cycle 5** survey findings report and data tables. These documents and other resources are located on the **NZCVS** pages of the Ministry of Justice website below.

 [justice.govt.nz/justice-sector-policy/research-data/nzcv5/resources-and-results/](https://justice.govt.nz/justice-sector-policy/research-data/nzcv5/resources-and-results/)

If you have any feedback or questions about NZCVS results, please email us at [nzcv5@justice.govt.nz](mailto:nzcv5@justice.govt.nz)