

# THE NEW ZEALAND CRIME AND VICTIMS SURVEY KEY FINDINGS

# 2018

## CYCLE 1



MINISTRY OF  
**JUSTICE**  
*Tāhū o te Ture*

New Zealand Government



New Zealand  
Crime and Victims **survey**

HELP CREATE SAFER COMMUNITIES

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# About this booklet



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**This booklet provides insights and analysis of the New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey (NZCVS) results. It is based on the NZCVS Key findings Cycle 1 report.**

The NZCVS is a nationwide, face-to-face, annual, random-sample survey asking New Zealanders aged 15 and over about incidents of crime they experienced over the last 12 months. This includes both incidents reported to the Police and unreported incidents.

The findings presented reflect the first year of interviewing. NZCVS data collection will continue until September 2020 which will make it possible to both increase the accuracy of the survey results and to analyse changes in the volume and structure of victimisation in New Zealand.

We intend to gradually provide follow-up reports on specific topics, such as family violence, Māori victimisation, consequences of crime, heavily victimised people, victimisation of young and aged people, and more.

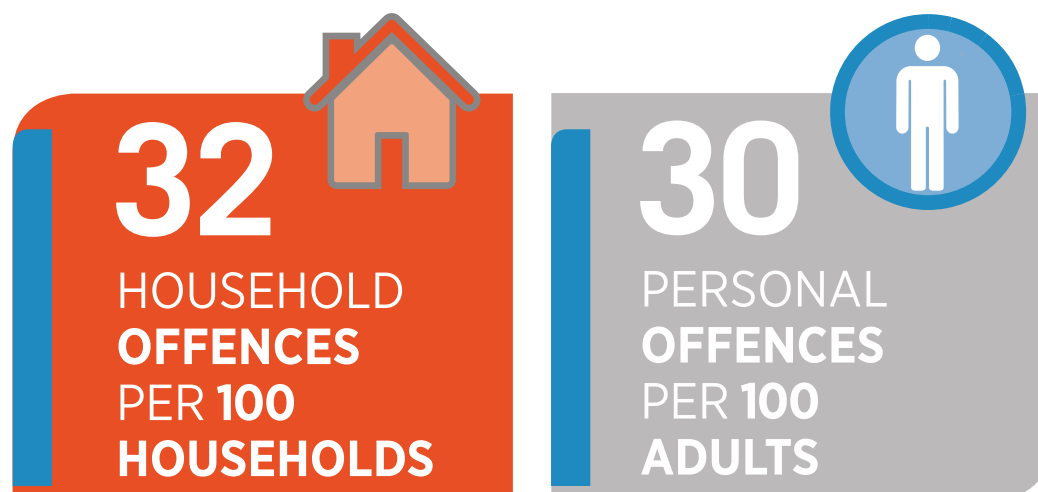
*These reports and other resources will all be available on the NZCVS pages of the [Ministry of Justice website](https://www.justice.govt.nz/justice-sector-policy/research-data/nzcvs/resources-and-results/).*  
<https://www.justice.govt.nz/justice-sector-policy/research-data/nzcvs/resources-and-results/>

# The extent and nature of crime



A significant majority of adults<sup>1</sup> (71%) experienced no crime over the last 12 months<sup>2</sup>.

- 1,777,000 offences were identified over last 12 months, where personal offences make up the majority (68% of total offences).
- On average, there were 32 household offences per 100 households and 30 personal offences per 100 adults.
- About 355,000 households experienced one or more household offences and 575,000 adults experienced one or more personal offences.



<sup>1</sup> For the purpose of this survey adults are identified as people aged 15 years and above.  
<sup>2</sup> From the date of the interview.

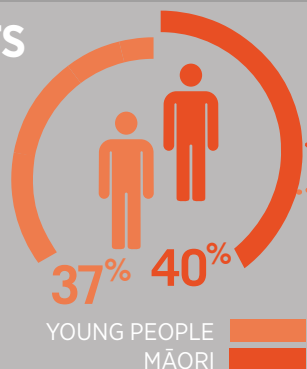
# Who experiences crime



**Young adults aged 20-29 (40%) and Māori (37%) are more likely to experience crime compared with the New Zealand average (29%).**

- People aged 65 and over (18%) were less likely to be victims of crime. People aged 20 to 29 were more likely to be victims of crime (40%).
- Chinese people (19%) were less likely to be victims of crime than the national average.
- Higher area deprivation is associated with higher victimisation, although no statistically significant difference in victimisation was observed for overall crime and personal crime.
- Males (29%) and females (29%) were equally likely to be victims of crime over the last 12 months.

**YOUNG ADULTS AND MĀORI ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE VICTIMS OF CRIME...**



**COMPARED TO NATIONAL AVERAGE AT...**

**29%**



# Who experiences crime



People who are financially stressed or psychologically distressed are more likely to experience crime.

- Neither disabled nor non-disabled people were more or less likely to be victims of crime. This relates both to overall victimisation and to personal and household offences taken separately.
- Moderate and high levels of psychological distress are both associated with significantly higher prevalence and incidence rates of victimisation than the national average.
- People with a high level of financial hardship are more likely than the national average to be victimised overall or experience personal or household offences taken separately.
- People living in the three major urban areas had no statistically significant difference in offence prevalence compared with the national average (29%).

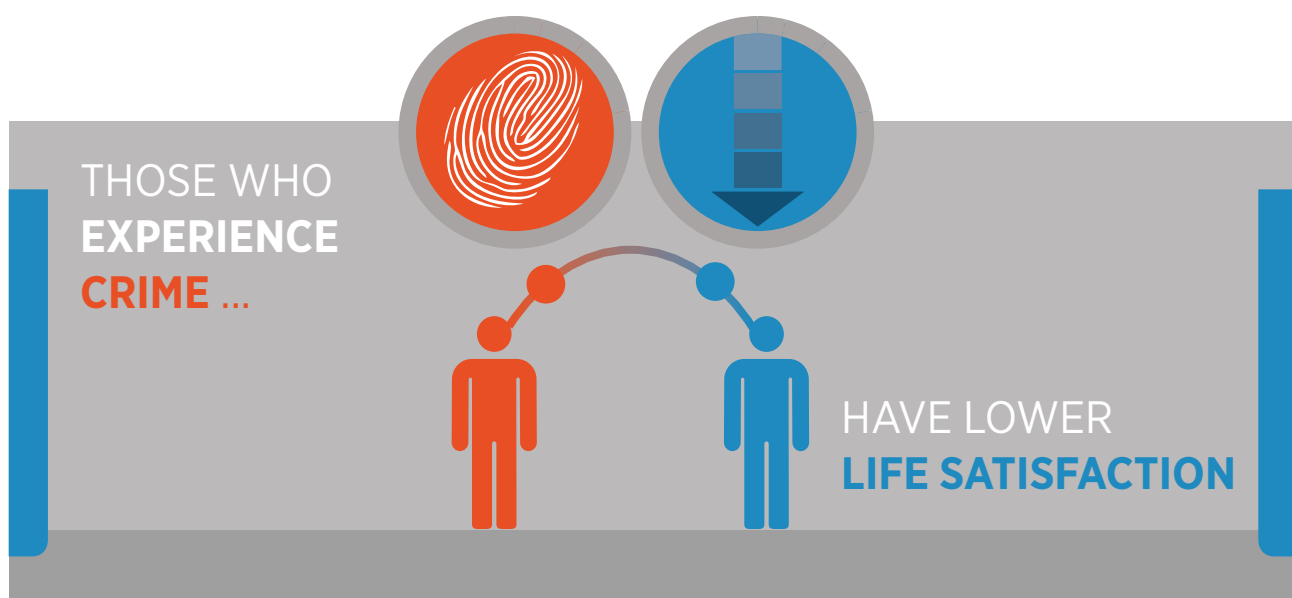


# Who experiences crime



## Those who experience crime have lower life satisfaction and feel less safe.

- A higher level of life satisfaction is associated with lower prevalence and incidence rates of victimisation overall and for personal offences.
- A higher level of perceived safety is associated with lower prevalence and incidence rates of victimisation overall, for personal offences and for household offences.
- Those living in larger households (5 or more people) are more likely to experience household crime than the national average.
- Students who are not employed are more likely than the national average to be victimised overall or experience personal or household offences taken separately.



# Interpersonal violence



Almost **300,000** adults experienced interpersonal violence over the last 12 months. These victims were victimised more than **747,000** times.

- Nineteen personal violence incidents happened for every 100 adults.
- More than one quarter of incidents related to sexual assaults and almost a third related to other assaults and robberies.

**300,000**

ADULTS EXPERIENCED  
**INTERPERSONAL  
VIOLENCE**



**ADULTS VICTIMISED  
MORE THAN  
747,000 TIMES**





# Family violence



## The proportion of female victims of family violence (71%) more than twice exceeds that of male victims (29%).

- Almost 80,000 adults experienced more than 190,000 incidents of family violence over the last 12 months.
- The number of family violence incidents per 100 among Māori is twice as high as among New Zealand Europeans.
- Argument is the most often perceived reason for all family violence incidents (44%) and especially for current-partner violence (66%). It is followed by jealousy (33% for all family violence incidents and 40% for intimate partner violence (IPV) incidents).
- More than 30,000 adults were victimised by partners, more than 16,000 by ex-partners, and approximately 40,000 by other family members. (Note: For some incidents more than one offender may be involved).
- More than 40% of all family violence victims are between 15 and 29 years old.



# Psychological violence



More than **100,000** adults (**3.6%**) experienced psychological violence over the last 12 months.

- The most frequent type of psychological violence is stopping someone from contacting family or friends. The least frequent is pressing a victim into paid work.
- Māori and those aged between 15 and 29 years old are almost twice more likely than the national average to experience psychological violence.

**100,000**

ADULTS EXPERIENCED  
**PSYCHOLOGICAL  
VIOLENCE**



**MĀORI** AND THOSE  
AGED BETWEEN  
**15 AND 29** ARE  
ALMOST **TWICE AS**  
LIKELY TO EXPERIENCE  
**PSYCHOLOGICAL VIOLENCE**

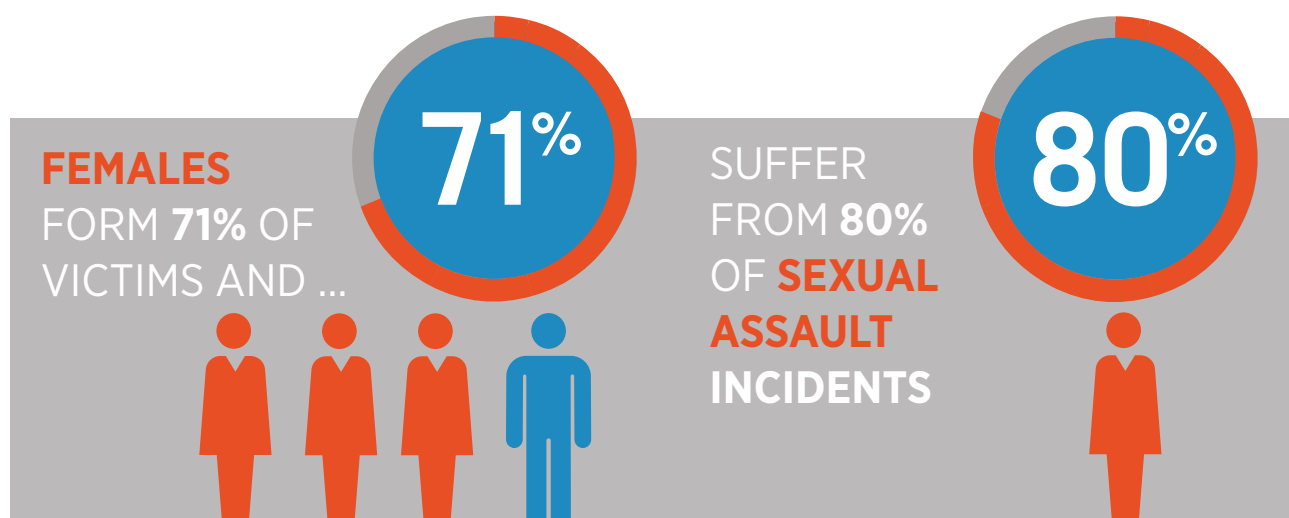


# Sexual violence



Females form **71%** of victims and suffer from **80%** of sexual assault incidents.

- Almost 200,000 sexual assault incidents happened to almost 90,000 adults over the last 12 months.
- The number of sexual assault incidents per 100 females is almost four times higher than per 100 males.
- Two in three victims of sexual assault are between 15 and 29 years old.



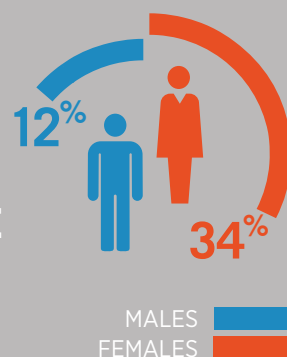
# Lifetime violence



**Females (34%) were almost three times more likely than males (12%) to have experienced sexual violence during their lives.**

- More than half a million people (16% of adults) experienced one or more incidents of intimate partner violence (IPV) at some point during their lives.
- Females (21%) were more likely than males (10%) to have experienced one or more incidents of IPV at some point during their lives.
- More than 900,000 people (23% of adults) experienced one or more incidents of sexual violence at some point during their lives.
- Māori people are more likely to be victims of lifetime sexual violence than national average, while Asian people are less likely.

LIFETIME  
**SEXUAL  
VIOLENCE**  
ALMOST THREE  
TIMES HIGHER  
FOR FEMALES



**900,000**

ADULTS (23%) EXPERIENCED  
**ONE OR MORE INCIDENTS OF  
SEXUAL VIOLENCE** AT SOME  
POINT DURING THEIR LIVES.

# Fraud and cybercrime



Almost **400,000** people (about **7.5%** of adults) experienced one or more incidents of fraud or cybercrime over the last 12 months.

→ More than 200,000 adults were victims of one or more fraud incidents and more than 100,000 were victims of one or more cybercrime incidents.

**400,000**

PEOPLE EXPERIENCED  
ONE OR MORE INCIDENTS OF  
FRAUD OR CYBERCRIME



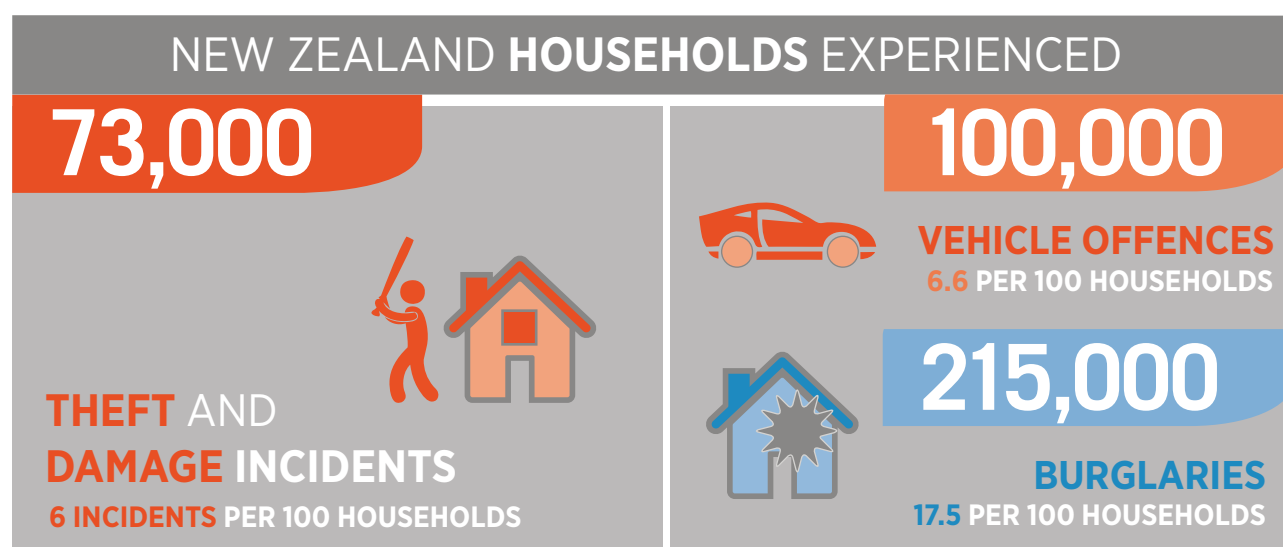
**7.5% OF ADULTS**

# Property crime



Approximately **355,000** households (20% of all New Zealand households) experienced one or more property crime incidents over the last 12 months.

- Approximately 577,000 property crime incidents happened over the last 12 months.
- There were approximately 32 property crime incidents per 100 households.
- New Zealand households experienced 73,000 theft and damage incidents (almost 6 incidents per 100 households), more than 100,000 vehicle offences (6.6 per 100 households) and 215,000 burglaries (17.5 per 100 households).



# Incidents driven by discrimination



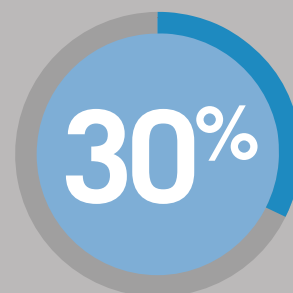
About **20%** of all incidents are perceived to involve discrimination.

- About 20% of all incidents are perceived to happen because of the offender's attitude towards the victim's race/ethnicity, sex, age, sexuality, religion or disability.
- More than one third of violent interpersonal offences were perceived as driven by discrimination. Attitude towards the sex of the victim (30%) was the major perceived driver.

**20%**

OF ALL INCIDENTS  
PERCEIVED  
TO INVOLVE  
DISCRIMINATION

30% OF VIOLENT INTERPERSONAL OFFENCES  
ARE PERCEIVED AS DRIVEN



BY ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE VICTIM'S SEX

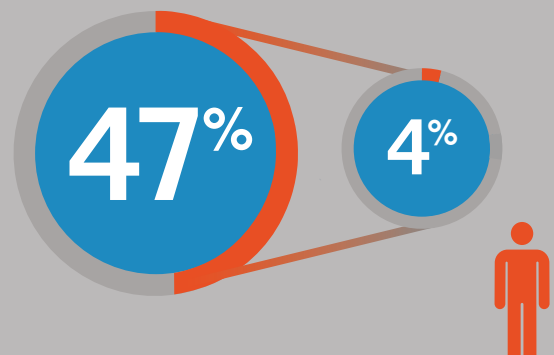
# Distribution of crime



Almost half (47%) of all crime incidents were experienced by only 4% of adults.

- Thirty-seven percent of victims of interpersonal violence were victimised more than once within 12 months; 15% were victimised five or more times.
- Four percent of victims of household offences and 10% of victims of personal crime were victimised five or more times within 12 months.
- Thirty percent of victims of household offences and 31% of victims of personal crime were victimised more than once within 12 months.

ALMOST HALF (47%) OF ALL **CRIME INCIDENTS** WERE EXPERIENCED BY ONLY 4% OF ADULTS





# Reporting crime



Less than a quarter (**23%**) of all crime was reported to the Police over the last 12 months.

- Household offences (34%) were reported to the Police twice as often as personal offences (17%).
- Theft of / unlawful takes / converts of motor vehicle is the offence most commonly reported to the Police over the last 12 months (82%).
- Burglaries (36%) are also reported more often than the national average.
- Fraud / deception and cybercrime are the offences least commonly reported to the Police (7%).
- People's perception about the seriousness of an incident significantly affects the level of reporting to the Police.



# Family violence victims' experience



Most family violence victims (more than **90%**) are aware of support organisations. But only a small proportion of those (**23%**) actually contacted them.

- Even well-known support organisations were contacted by only 10-12% of victims. Significantly more family violence victims are seeking help from other family members than from organisations providing formal support.
- The reasons most often given for not contacting support organisations were “Did not need help” (30%), “Wanted to handle it myself” (22%), and “Private matter” (17%).





# More information



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All observations in this booklet are based on the **NZCVS Key findings Cycle 1** report and data tables. These documents and other resources are located on the **NZCVS** pages of the Ministry of Justice website below.

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

List of relevant documents on the NZCVS web page:

1. **NZCVS** Key findings Cycle 1 report
2. **NZCVS** Data tables Cycle 1
3. **NZCVS** 2018 Methodology Report
4. **NZCVS** Frequently Asked Questions
5. **NZCVS** 2018 Topline Report
6. **NZCVS** 2018 Topline Infographic

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