

**CRIME AND SAFETY,  
AUSTRALIA**

AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) WED 26 APR 2006

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**I N Q U I R I E S**

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Marika Woodberry on Melbourne (03) 9615 7601.

## ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This publication presents the results of the sixth national Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) household survey of crime and safety conducted during April to July 2005. It forms part of the commitment by the ABS to present a comprehensive view of crime and the criminal justice system in Australia.

The ABS publishes data relating to crime from different sources. Different methodologies can affect estimates. For example, instances recorded by police are different from those reported in household surveys. Also, responses in surveys may be affected by the ways in which questions are asked. Some of these measurement issues are discussed in the following: *Information Paper: Measuring Crime Victimization, Australia — The Impact of Different Collection Methodologies, 2002* (cat. no. 4522.0.55.001).

A review of Australian crime surveys commenced in 2005. In the first stage of the review, information was collected about user requirements from crime and safety surveys. Further work is underway to confirm and prioritise requirements with respect to content, frequency and geography in the context of developing future crime and safety surveys in Australia. Refer to Explanatory Notes (paragraphs 29-32) for additional information.

Unless otherwise specified, differences between data items noted in the Summary of Findings are statistically significant. See Technical Note (paragraph 12) for further details.

## ABOUT THIS SURVEY

The 2005 Crime and Safety Survey was conducted throughout Australia as part of the ABS Monthly Population Survey (MPS). After questions related to the labour force had been asked, the respondent was sent a questionnaire with questions on crime and safety, to be completed and returned by mail to the ABS. The survey asked that incidents of certain crimes be recorded, regardless of whether they had been reported to police.

The survey focused on those categories of more serious crime occurring in the 12 months prior to the survey that affect the largest number of people: household break-in and attempted break-in, motor vehicle theft, assault (including sexual assault for persons aged 18 years and over) and robbery. It measures the extent of crime in our community, including the number of persons and households victimised and the number of crimes reported to police. It also provides information on the socio-economic profile of victims and non-victims, and the characteristics of offences and offenders.

Information was collected from individuals and households about their experience of selected crimes, their perception of problems in their neighbourhood and their feelings of safety. Detailed information was collected about the most recent incident experienced by the victim, including whether the incident was reported to the police and whether the victim was physically injured.

## ROUNDING

As estimates have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

Dennis Trewin  
Australian Statistician

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### PREVALENCE OF CRIME OVERVIEW

#### Households

There were 7,855,600 households in Australia in April 2005. In the 12 months prior to the survey it was estimated that:

- 259,800 (3.3%) households were victims of at least one break-in to their home, garage or shed
- 205,400 (2.6%) households had at least one attempted break-in
- 427,100 (5.4%) households overall were victims of either a break-in or an attempted break-in
- 74,800 (1.0%) households had at least one motor vehicle stolen.

In total, 488,200 households were victims of one or more of these selected household crimes, equating to an overall household victimisation prevalence rate of 6.2%.

#### Persons aged 15 years and over

In April 2005, there were 15,966,900 persons aged 15 years and over living in private dwellings in Australia. In the 12 months prior to the survey it was estimated that:

- 58,900 (0.4%) persons were victims of at least one robbery
- 770,600 (4.8%) persons were victims of at least one assault
- 44,100 (0.3%) persons aged 18 years and over were victims of at least one sexual assault.

In total 841,500 persons aged 15 years and over were victims of one or more of these selected personal crimes, equating to an overall personal victimisation prevalence rate of 5.3%.

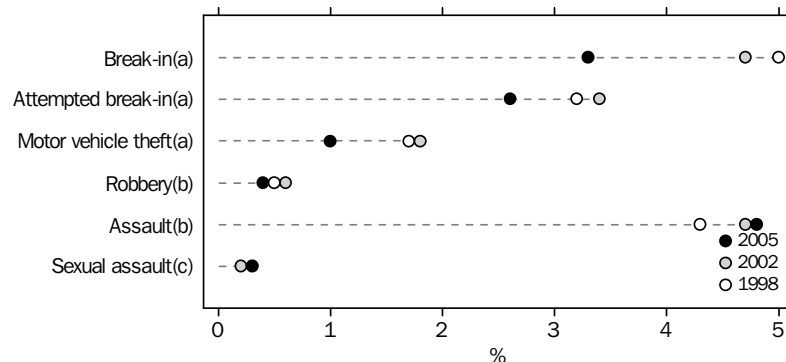
#### Changes in victimisation rates over time

In 2005 the victimisation prevalence rate for household crime was 6.2%, compared to 8.9% in 2002. Comparisons with 2002 for all selected types of household crime showed statistically significant decreases in the prevalence rates for:

- break-in, where the victimisation rate in 2005 was 3.3% compared with 4.7% in 2002
- attempted break-in, where the victimisation rate in 2005 was 2.6% compared with 3.4% in 2002
- motor vehicle theft, where the victimisation rate in 2005 was 1.0% compared with 1.8% in 2002.

For personal crime, the victimisation prevalence rate for 2005 remained unchanged from the 2002 figure of 5.3%.

### CRIME VICTIMISATION RATES



- (a) Households.  
 (b) Persons aged 15 years and over.  
 (c) Persons aged 18 years and over.

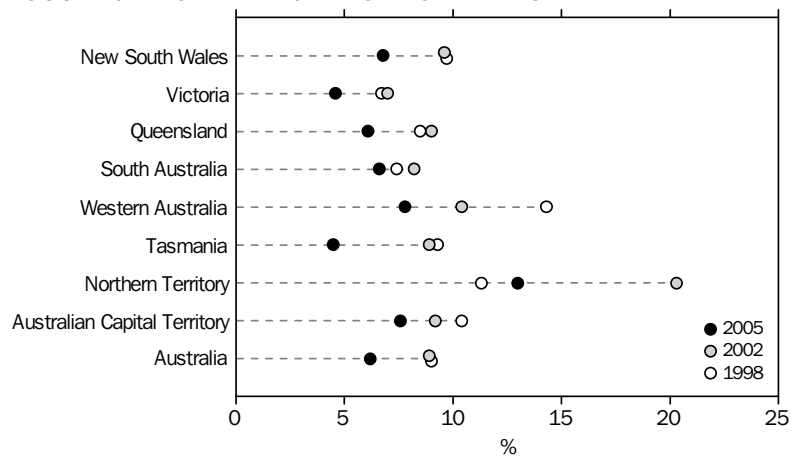
## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

### STATES AND TERRITORIES

Household experience of crime varied across states and territories. The lowest levels of household victimisation were experienced in Tasmania and Victoria, 4.5% and 4.6% respectively. The highest level of victimisation occurred in the Northern Territory, where an estimated 13% of households experienced at least one of the selected household crimes in the 12 months prior to the survey.

Household crime victimisation prevalence rates decreased in all states and territories from 2002 to 2005, except for the Australian Capital Territory where the recorded decrease was not statistically significant.

### HOUSEHOLD CRIME VICTIMISATION RATES



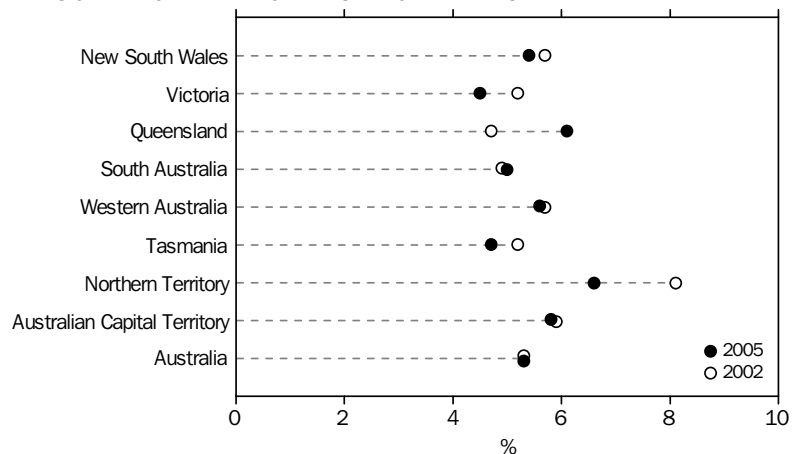
The experience of individuals also varied across states and territories, with victimisation prevalence rates ranging from 4.5% in Victoria to 6.6% in the Northern Territory.

Personal crime victimisation prevalence rates varied only slightly in most states and territories between the 2002 and 2005 surveys. Changes in the rate occurred in:

- Victoria, where it fell to 4.5% in 2005 from 5.2% in 2002
- Queensland, where it increased to 6.1% in 2005 from 4.7% in 2002.

While the Northern Territory showed a decrease in the prevalence rate to 6.6% in 2005 from 8.1% in 2002, this change was not statistically significant.

### PERSONAL CRIME VICTIMISATION RATES



## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

### HOUSEHOLD CRIME

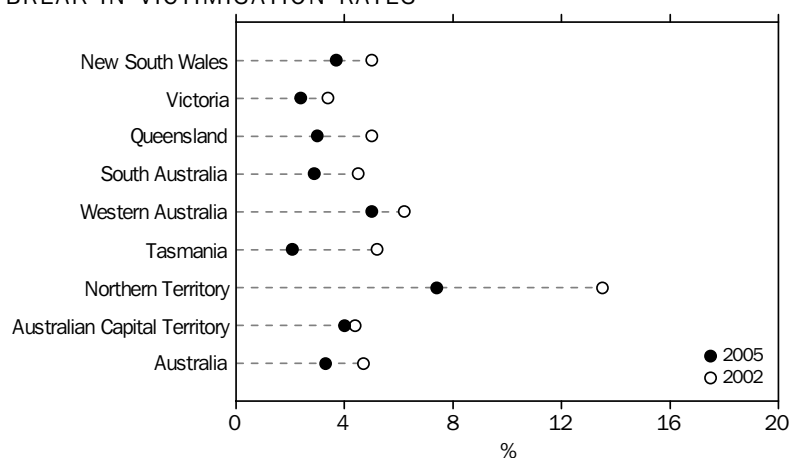
#### *Break-in*

In 2005 there were an estimated 346,600 incidents of break-in during the 12 months prior to the survey, with 80% of victim households experiencing only one incident.

The break-in victimisation prevalence rate for Australia decreased to 3.3% in 2005 from 4.7% in 2002. Break-in victimisation prevalence rates decreased for all states and territories between 2002 and 2005, except for the Australian Capital Territory where the recorded decrease was not statistically significant. Notable decreases in the victimisation rate occurred in:

- Tasmania (2.1% in 2005 compared with 5.2% in 2002)
- Northern Territory (7.4% in 2005 compared with 13.5% in 2002)

#### BREAK-IN VICTIMISATION RATES



Rental homes had a significantly higher break-in victimisation rate (4.7%) than homes that were owned or being purchased (2.9%).

#### *Attempted break-in*

In 2005 there were an estimated 317,800 incidents of attempted break-in during the 12 months prior to the survey.

The attempted break-in victimisation prevalence rate for Australia decreased to 2.6% in 2005 from 3.4% in 2002. Across the states and territories, decreases occurred in:

- New South Wales (2.7% in 2005 compared with 3.7% in 2002)
- Queensland (2.9% in 2005 compared with 3.8% in 2002)
- Western Australia (3.0% in 2005 compared with 4.4% in 2002)
- Tasmania (2.1% in 2005 compared with 3.3% in 2002).

For all other states and territories, the changes were not statistically significant.

Rental homes had a significantly higher attempted break-in victimisation rate (4.1%) than homes that were owned or being purchased (2.1%).

#### *Motor vehicle theft*

In 2005 there were an estimated 85,200 incidents of motor vehicle theft recorded.

The motor vehicle theft victimisation prevalence rate for Australia decreased to 1.0% in 2005 from 1.8% in 2002, with statistically significant decreases in the victimisation rate occurring in:

- New South Wales (1.1% in 2005 compared with 2.1% in 2002)
- Victoria (0.7% in 2005 compared with 2.0% in 2002)

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

### *Motor vehicle theft continued*

- Queensland (0.8% in 2005 compared with 1.3% in 2002).

For all other states and territories, the changes were not statistically significant.

### PERSONAL CRIME

#### *Robbery*

There were an estimated 91,400 incidents of robbery in the 12 months prior to the survey, with 68% of victims experiencing only one incident. The robbery victimisation prevalence rate for Australia decreased to 0.4% in 2005 from 0.6% in 2002.

For most states and territories, there was little change in robbery victimisation prevalence rates between 2002 and 2005. Statistically significant decreases in robbery victimisation rates did however occur in:

- New South Wales (0.4% in 2005 compared with 1.0% in 2002)
- Victoria (0.2% in 2005 compared with 0.5% in 2002).

For all other states and territories, the changes were not statistically significant.

Young people were victims of robbery more often than older people, with victimisation prevalence rates of 1.2% for people aged 15 to 19 years and 0.8% for people aged 20 to 24 years, compared to a rate of 0.1% for people aged 65 years and over (Table 7).

Some 44,000 or 75% of robbery victims were male. In addition, the victimisation prevalence rate for robbery was:

- higher for unmarried persons (0.7%) than for married persons (0.1%)
- higher for people born in Australia (0.4%) than for those born overseas (0.2%).

More than two thirds of victims (40,800 or 69%) indicated that no weapon was used in the most recent robbery and 38,400 or 65% of victims were not injured.

Robberies occurred in a variety of locations, with 21,300 or 36% of victims reporting that the most recent incident had occurred in the street or in other open land, while the victim's home (10,300 or 18%) was the next most often reported location.

Other key findings pertaining to robbery victimisation included:

- 46,700 (79%) victims indicated that the offenders in the most recent incident were male
- 31,300 (53%) victims indicated that there were two or more offenders in the most recent incident
- 39,900 (68%) victims indicated that they did not know the offender (or any of the offenders) in the most recent incident.

#### *Assault*

An estimated 2,613,400 incidents of assault occurred in the 12 months prior to the survey. Of the 770,600 victims, just over half (52%) indicated that they had experienced more than one assault.

Assault victimisation rates for most states and territories remained relatively stable from 2002 to 2005. Changes of note were:

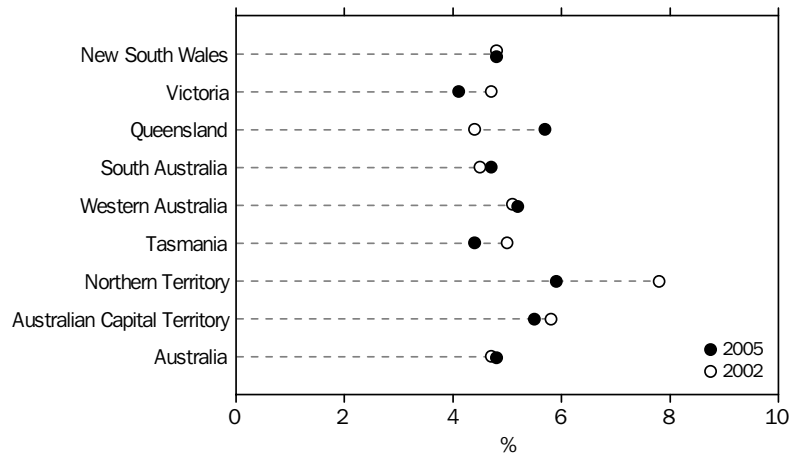
- a decrease in Victoria to 4.1% in 2005 from 4.7% in 2002
- an increase in Queensland to 5.7% in 2005 from 4.4% in 2002.

Reported decreases in Tasmania (4.4% in 2005 compared with 5.0% in 2002) and the Northern Territory (5.9% in 2005 compared with 7.8% in 2002) were not statistically significant.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

### Assault *continued*

#### ASSAULT VICTIMISATION RATES



Young people were victims of assault more often than older people, with victimisation rates of 9.9% for people aged 15 to 19 years and 7.9% for people aged 20 to 24 years, compared to rates of 2.3% for people aged 55 to 64 years and 0.8% for people aged 65 years and over (Table 11).

Some 412,600 or 54% of assault victims were male. In addition, the victimisation prevalence rate for assault was:

- higher for unmarried persons (7.2%) than for married persons (3.3%)
- higher for unemployed persons (9.8%) than for employed persons (5.5%)
- higher for persons born in Australia (5.3%) than for those born overseas (3.4%).

Some 677,700 or 88% of assault victims reported that no weapon was used in the most recent incident, and 590,400 or 77% of victims were not injured in the most recent incident.

The location of the most recent assault was most commonly the victim's home (31%), significantly more so for females (42%) than for males (22%).

Nearly three-quarters (73%) of victims indicated that there was a single offender and 77% indicated that the offender was male in the most recent incident. An estimated 483,800 or 63% of victims knew the offender (or at least one of the offenders) in the most recent assault.

Some form of support was sought by 91% of assault victims after the most recent incident, most commonly a family member (61%) and/or a friend or neighbour (57%).

### Sexual assault

In 2005, there were an estimated 44,100 persons aged 18 years and over who were victims of at least one sexual assault in the 12 months prior to the survey; a victimisation prevalence rate of 0.3%. Approximately 72,000 incidents of sexual assault were experienced by these victims. For information specific to the quality and extent of sexual assault data collected in 2005, see paragraph 23 of the Explanatory Notes.

#### REPORTING TO POLICE

The proportion of victims that reported the most recent incident to police varied depending on the type of offence:

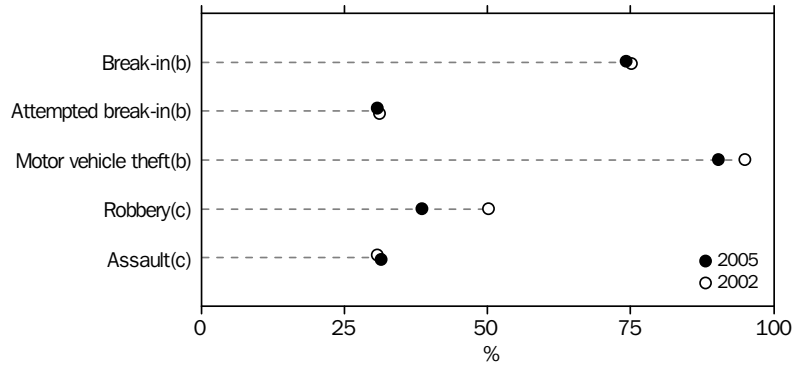
- 74% for household victims of break-in
- 31% for household victims of attempted break-in

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

### REPORTING TO POLICE *continued*

- 90% for household victims of motor vehicle theft
- 38% for victims of robbery
- 31% for victims of assault.

### REPORTING RATES (a)



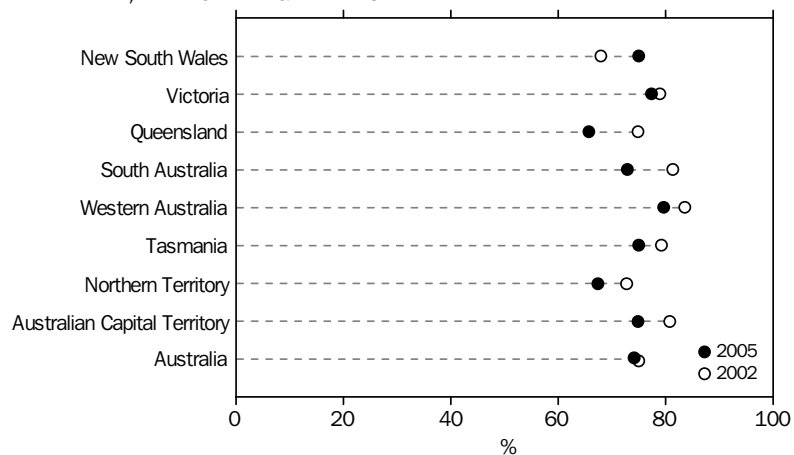
- (a) Of household/person victims.  
 (b) Households.  
 (c) Persons aged 15 years and over.

Common reasons given for not reporting the most recent break-in to police included:

- that there was nothing the police could do (31%), and
- that the incident was too trivial or unimportant (20%).

For victims of break-in, while decreases in reporting rates between 2002 and 2005 were recorded in Queensland (66% in 2005 compared with 75% in 2002) and South Australia (73% in 2005 compared with 81% in 2002), these decreases were not statistically significant.

### BREAK-IN, REPORTING RATES



For victims of robbery, the most common reason for not reporting the incident was that there was nothing the police could do (48%).

For assault victims, common reasons for not telling the police were:

- that the incident was too trivial or unimportant (31%), and
- that the victim considered it a personal matter or would take care of it themselves (23%).

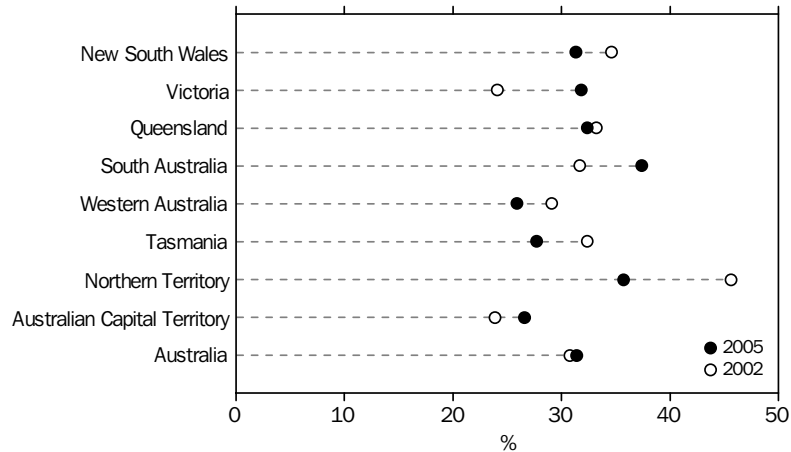


## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

### REPORTING TO POLICE *continued*

For victims of assault, only Victoria showed a statistically significant change in the reporting rate between 2002 and 2005, with the rate increasing to 32% in 2005 from 24% in 2002. While the Northern Territory showed a decrease in the reporting rate (36% in 2005 compared with 46% in 2002), this decrease was not statistically significant.

### ASSAULT, REPORTING RATES



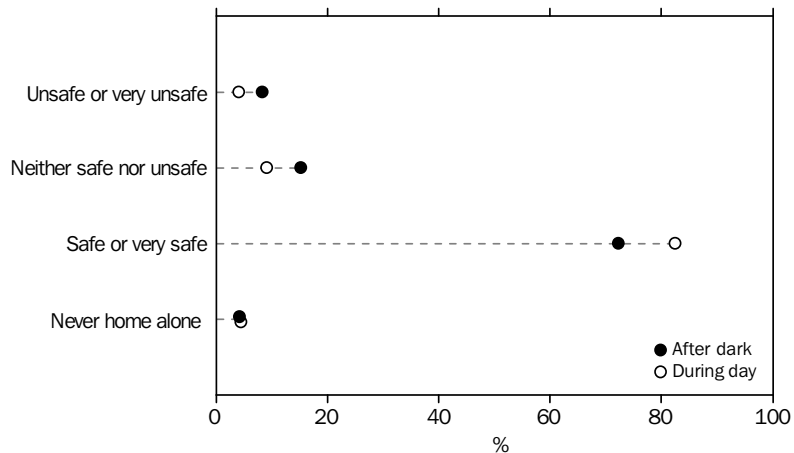
### FEELINGS OF SAFETY

Approximately 82% of persons felt safe or very safe when at home alone during the day, compared with 72% feeling this way after dark. Conversely, 4.0% of persons felt unsafe or very unsafe when at home alone during the day, compared with 8.3% at home alone after dark.

Across the states and territories there were only slight variations in feelings of safety. The proportion of persons feeling safe or very safe during the day ranged from 80% in South Australia and Western Australia to 85% in Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory. Similarly, the proportion of persons feeling safe or very safe after dark ranged from 69% in South Australia and Western Australia to 76% in Tasmania.

Perceptions of safety varied between males and females, particularly after dark, when 80% of males compared with 64% of females felt safe or very safe when at home alone. Feelings of safety also varied according to age, with 84% of persons aged 15 to 19 years and 83% of persons aged 20 to 24 years feeling safe or very safe when at home alone during the day, compared to 78% of persons aged 65 years and over.

### FEELINGS OF SAFETY AT HOME ALONE

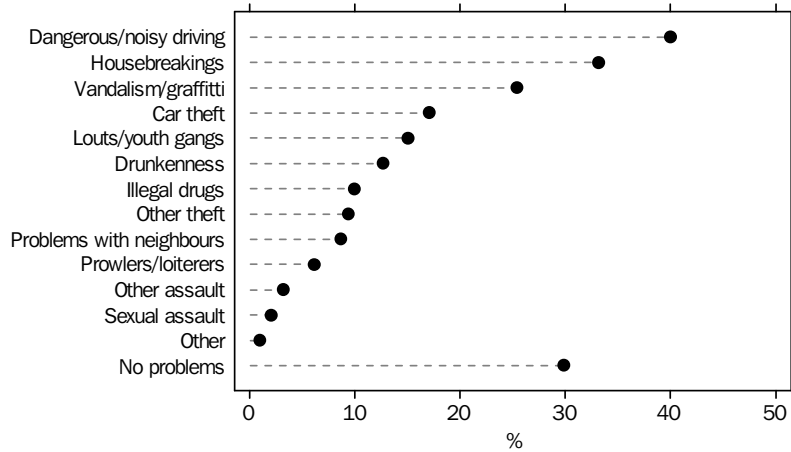


## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

PERCEIVED  
NEIGHBOURHOOD  
PROBLEMS

Overall, around 70% of persons aged 15 years and over perceived that there were problems from crime and/or public nuisance in their neighbourhoods. There was some variation in perceptions across states and territories, with the proportion of persons who perceived problems in their neighbourhood varying from 76% in South Australia to 64% in Tasmania. The most commonly perceived problem was dangerous/noisy driving (40% perceived this as a problem). Other commonly perceived problems were housebreaking/burglaries/theft from homes (33%) and vandalism/graffiti/damage to property (25%).

### NEIGHBOURHOOD PROBLEMS



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	Victims '000	Non-victims '000	All households '000	Total incidents '000	VICTIMISATION PREVALENCE RATES(a)		
					1998	2002	2005
					%	%	%
BREAK-IN							
New South Wales	96.6	2 498.9	2 595.5	133.1	(b) 5.3	5.0	3.7
Victoria	45.4	1 873.9	1 919.3	60.1	(b) 3.6	3.4	2.4
Queensland	46.5	1 485.6	1 532.1	60.4	(b) 5.4	5.0	3.0
South Australia	18.3	624.6	642.9	25.4	(b) 4.0	4.5	2.9
Western Australia	39.6	749.6	789.2	48.5	7.5	6.2	5.0
Tasmania	4.2	191.8	196.0	5.8	(b) 5.0	5.2	2.1
Northern Territory(c)	4.1	51.3	55.4	5.5	(d) 6.3	13.5	7.4
Australian Capital Territory	5.0	120.2	125.2	7.7	(b) 5.8	(d) 4.4	4.0
<i>Australia</i>	259.8	7 595.8	7 855.6	346.6	(b) 5.0	4.7	3.3
ATTEMPTED BREAK-IN							
New South Wales	69.5	2 526.1	2 595.5	103.8	(b)(d) 3.4	3.7	2.7
Victoria	35.8	1 883.5	1 919.3	51.4	(b)(d) 2.1	(d) 2.2	1.9
Queensland	44.5	1 487.6	1 532.1	75.0	(d) 2.9	3.8	2.9
South Australia	19.9	623.0	642.9	32.3	(b)(d) 2.9	(d) 3.0	3.1
Western Australia	23.5	765.7	789.2	36.2	6.0	4.4	3.0
Tasmania	4.1	192.0	196.0	7.3	(b) 3.6	3.3	2.1
Northern Territory(c)	4.3	51.1	55.4	7.1	(d) 5.0	(d) 9.5	7.8
Australian Capital Territory	3.9	121.3	125.2	4.7	(b)(d) 4.0	(d) 3.8	3.1
<i>Australia</i>	205.4	7 650.2	7 855.6	317.8	(b) 3.2	3.4	2.6
BREAK-IN/ATTEMPTED BREAK-IN (e)							
New South Wales	153.7	2 441.9	2 595.5	236.9	(b) 7.9	7.9	5.9
Victoria	75.7	1 843.6	1 919.3	111.5	(b) 5.3	5.3	3.9
Queensland	82.7	1 449.4	1 532.1	135.4	(b) 7.7	8.0	5.4
South Australia	35.1	607.8	642.9	57.7	(b)(d) 6.3	(d) 6.7	5.5
Western Australia	57.2	732.0	789.2	84.7	12.4	9.6	7.2
Tasmania	7.4	188.6	196.0	13.1	(b) 8.1	7.8	3.8
Northern Territory(c)	7.1	48.4	55.4	12.7	(d) 10.8	19.5	12.8
Australian Capital Territory	8.3	116.9	125.2	12.4	(b) 9.1	(d) 7.4	6.6
<i>Australia</i>	427.1	7 428.5	7 855.6	664.4	(b) 7.6	7.4	5.4
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT							
New South Wales	29.2	2 566.4	2 595.5	33.8	(b) 2.1	2.1	1.1
Victoria	13.8	1 905.5	1 919.3	16.3	(b) 1.6	2.0	0.7
Queensland	12.8	1 519.3	1 532.1	13.6	(b) 1.1	1.3	0.8
South Australia	8.5	634.4	642.9	9.9	(b) 1.2	(d) 1.8	1.3
Western Australia	7.1	782.1	789.2	7.1	2.4	(d) 1.0	0.9
Tasmania	*1.8	194.2	196.0	2.8	(b) 1.4	(d) 1.6	*0.9
Northern Territory(c)	np	np	55.4	np	(b) 1.2	*2.5	np
Australian Capital Territory	np	np	125.2	np	(b) 1.3	(d) 2.3	np
<i>Australia</i>	74.8	7 780.8	7 855.6	85.2	(b) 1.7	1.8	1.0

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

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) See paragraph 18 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) Difference from 2002 rate is not statistically significant. See Technical Note and paragraph 22 of the Explanatory Notes.

(c) Refers to mainly urban areas only. For further information see paragraph 7 of the Explanatory Notes.

(d) Difference from 2005 rate is not statistically significant. See Technical Note and paragraph 22 of the Explanatory Notes.

(e) Comprises victims of break-in and victims of attempted break-in. Victims of more than one type of crime are counted once only.

	Victims '000	Non-victims '000	All households '000	Total incidents '000	VICTIMISATION PREVALENCE RATES(a)		
					1998	2002	2005
					%	%	%
TOTAL SELECTED HOUSEHOLD CRIMES (b)							
New South Wales	176.2	2 419.4	2 595.5	270.7	(c)9.7	9.6	6.8
Victoria	88.9	1 830.4	1 919.3	127.7	(c)6.7	7.0	4.6
Queensland	93.5	1 438.6	1 532.1	149.0	(c)8.5	9.0	6.1
South Australia	42.4	600.5	642.9	67.6	(c)(d)7.4	8.2	6.6
Western Australia	61.5	727.7	789.2	91.8	14.3	10.4	7.8
Tasmania	8.9	187.1	196.0	15.9	(c)9.3	8.9	4.5
Northern Territory(e)	7.2	48.2	55.4	np	(d)11.3	20.3	13.0
Australian Capital Territory	9.6	115.6	125.2	np	(c)10.4	(d)9.2	7.6
<b>Australia</b>	<b>488.2</b>	<b>7 367.5</b>	<b>7 855.6</b>	<b>749.6</b>	<b>(c)9.0</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>6.2</b>

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) See paragraph 18 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) Comprises victims of break-in, victims of attempted break-in, and victims of motor vehicle theft. Victims of more than one type of crime are counted once only.

(c) Difference from 2002 rate is not statistically significant. See Technical Note and paragraph 22 of the Explanatory Notes.

(d) Difference from 2005 rate is not statistically significant. See Technical Note and paragraph 22 of the Explanatory Notes.

(e) Refers to mainly urban areas only. For further information see paragraph 7 of the Explanatory Notes.

## VICTIMS OF HOUSEHOLD CRIME, Whether told police and reporting rates

	Told police(a)	Did not tell police(a)	Victims(b)	REPORTING RATES(c)		
				1998	2002	2005
				'000	'000	'000
BREAK-IN						
New South Wales	72.4	24.2	96.6	(d)(e) 74.7	(e) 68.0	75.0
Victoria	35.1	10.2	45.4	(d)(e) 83.2	(e) 79.0	77.4
Queensland	30.5	16.0	46.5	(d)(e) 74.6	(e) 74.9	65.7
South Australia	13.4	*5.0	18.3	(d)(e) 79.8	(e) 81.4	72.9
Western Australia	31.6	8.1	39.6	(d)(e) 80.8	(e) 83.7	79.7
Tasmania	3.2	*1.1	4.2	(d)(e) 77.8	(e) 79.3	75.0
Northern Territory(f)	*2.8	*1.3	4.1	(d)(e) 66.4	(e) 72.8	*67.4
Australian Capital Territory	3.7	*1.3	5.0	(d)(e) 76.0	(e) 80.9	74.9
<i>Australia</i>	192.7	67.1	259.8	77.5	(e) 75.1	74.2
ATTEMPTED BREAK-IN						
New South Wales	22.0	47.5	69.5	(d)(e) 29.3	(e) 31.2	31.6
Victoria	11.8	24.0	35.8	(d)(e) 37.6	(e) 26.9	32.9
Queensland	14.2	30.4	44.5	(d)(e) 27.1	31.4	31.8
South Australia	6.0	13.8	19.9	(d)(e) 31.3	(e) 37.4	30.4
Western Australia	6.4	17.2	23.5	(d)(e) 33.6	(e) 33.6	27.0
Tasmania	*0.6	3.5	4.1	(d) 41.9	*28.8	*14.7
Northern Territory(f)	*1.3	*3.0	4.3	(d)(e) 32.0	*(e) 30.0	*29.8
Australian Capital Territory	*0.9	3.0	3.9	(d)(e) 32.5	*(e) 23.4	*23.5
<i>Australia</i>	63.1	142.3	205.4	(d)(e) 31.7	(e) 31.1	30.7
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT						
New South Wales	np	np	29.2	(d) 95.1	96.3	np
Victoria	np	np	13.8	(d) 97.1	95.6	np
Queensland	10.6	**1.6	12.8	(d)(e) 97.5	(e) 91.0	83.1
South Australia	7.3	**1.1	8.5	(d)(e) 94.4	(e) 96.0	86.5
Western Australia	*5.2	*1.6	7.1	(d)(e) 92.4	96.9	*72.9
Tasmania	np	np	*1.8	(d) 86.2	87.4	np
Northern Territory(f)	np	—	np	(d)(e) 100.0	*(e) 89.6	100.0
Australian Capital Territory	np	—	np	(d)(e) 85.2	(e) 91.6	100.0
<i>Australia</i>	67.6	*5.9	74.8	(d)(e) 95.1	(e) 95.0	90.3

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

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

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Refers to most recent incident.

(b) Includes households that did not give details of most recent incident.

(c) See paragraph 16 of the Explanatory Notes.

(d) Difference from 2002 is not statistically significant. See Technical Note and paragraph 22 of the Explanatory Notes.

(e) Difference from 2005 is not statistically significant. See Technical Note and paragraph 22 of the Explanatory Notes.

(f) Refers to mainly urban areas only. For further information see paragraph 7 of the Explanatory Notes.

## VICTIMS OF BREAK-IN, Number of incidents and whether told police

	Households	
	'000	%
<b>Number of incidents in last 12 months</b>		
One	208.6	80.3
Two	35.7	13.8
Three	15.5	6.0
<b>Total number of incidents</b>	<b>346.6</b>	<b>. .</b>
<b>Whether told police about most recent incident</b>		
Told police	192.7	74.2
Did not tell police	67.1	25.8
<b>How most recent incident was reported to police (a)</b>		
Reported in person at a police station	33.2	12.8
Police were telephoned	154.7	59.5
Police were already at the scene	*8.9	*3.4
Don't know - incident reported by someone else	10.9	4.2
<b>Main reason did not tell police about most recent incident</b>		
Too trivial/unimportant	13.2	5.1
Somebody else told the police	*2.8	*1.1
Thought there was nothing police could do	20.6	7.9
Thought police would be unwilling to do anything	9.2	3.5
Personal matter or would take care of it themselves	*4.3	*1.7
Nothing was stolen	*7.6	*2.9
Not covered by insurance	*2.6	*1.0
Other	**1.7	**0.7
<b>Total (b)</b>	<b>259.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

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

. . not applicable

(a) Incident may have been reported in more than one way.

(b) Include households that did not give details of most recent incident.

## 4

## VICTIMS OF BREAK-IN AND ATTEMPTED BREAK-IN, Dwelling structure and tenure type

	Break-in(a)		Attempted break-in(a)		Break-in/ Attempted break-in(a)(b)		Non-victims	All households
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%		
<b>Dwelling structure</b>								
Separate house	184.3	3.1	139.6	2.4	301.3	5.1	5 604.0	5 905.3
Semi-detached/row or terrace house/townhouse etc.	34.4	3.9	29.0	3.3	55.2	6.3	821.4	876.5
Flat or apartment—on ground level	15.9	3.8	15.0	3.5	28.7	6.8	393.6	422.2
Flat or apartment—not on ground level	22.2	4.3	17.4	3.4	36.8	7.1	481.4	518.1
Other dwelling(c)	*3.1	*2.3	*4.5	*3.4	*5.2	*3.9	128.2	133.4
<b>Tenure type</b>								
Owned/being purchased	165.1	2.9	122.6	2.1	270.3	4.7	5 437.7	5 708.0
Rented	92.4	4.7	80.4	4.1	152.4	7.8	1 811.3	1 963.8
Other(c)	*2.2	*1.2	*2.5	*1.3	*4.4	*2.4	179.5	183.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>259.8</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>205.4</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>427.1</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>7 428.5</b>	<b>7 855.6</b>

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

(a) Percentage shown is the victimisation prevalence rate.

(b) Comprises victims of break-in and victims of attempted break-in. Victims of more than one type of crime are counted once only.

(c) Includes households that did not give details of dwelling structure and/or tenure type.

## 5

## VICTIMS OF MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT

	HOUSEHOLDS			MOTOR VEHICLES				
	Victims	With motor vehicles(b)	All households(b)	Total stolen	Total owned	Total stolen as a proportion of total owned	Victimisation prevalence rate(a)	Incidence rate(a)
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%	%
New South Wales	29.2	2 316.5	2 595.5	33.8	4 226.3	0.8	1.1	1.3
Victoria	13.8	1 746.0	1 919.3	16.3	3 450.4	0.5	0.7	0.8
Queensland	12.8	1 429.8	1 532.1	13.6	2 668.6	0.5	0.8	0.9
South Australia	8.5	585.3	642.9	9.9	1 132.7	0.9	1.3	1.5
Western Australia	7.1	741.5	789.2	7.1	1 444.3	0.5	0.9	0.9
Tasmania	*1.8	183.5	196.0	2.8	362.3	0.8	*0.9	1.4
Northern Territory(c)	np	52.5	55.4	np	105.0	np	np	np
Australian Capital Territory	np	118.5	125.2	np	216.4	np	np	np
<b>Australia</b>	<b>74.8</b>	<b>7 173.5</b>	<b>7 855.6</b>	<b>85.2</b>	<b>13 606.1</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.1</b>

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

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) See paragraphs 18-19 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) Includes non-victims.

(c) Refers to mainly urban areas only. For further information see paragraph 7 of the Explanatory Notes.



## ALL PERSONS, Whether victim of personal crime and victimisation rates

	VICTIMISATION PREVALENCE RATES (a)						
	Victims	Non-victims	All persons	Total incidents	1998	2002	2005
	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%	%
<b>ROBBERY</b>							
New South Wales	22.8	5 325.4	5 348.2	37.8	(b)0.9	1.0	0.4
Victoria	9.7	3 982.1	3 991.8	16.1	(b)(c)0.3	0.5	0.2
Queensland	12.8	3 059.7	3 072.5	16.3	(b)(c)0.3	(c)0.3	0.4
South Australia	*3.6	1 225.5	1 229.1	5.1	(b)(c)0.5	(c)0.5	*0.3
Western Australia	8.3	1 567.8	1 576.1	12.5	(b)(c)0.6	(c)0.6	0.5
Tasmania	**0.4	381.4	381.8	0.6	(b)0.6	*(c)0.3	**0.1
Northern Territory(d)	**0.6	111.4	112.0	1.5	(c)1.0	*(c)0.1	**0.5
Australian Capital Territory	*0.8	254.6	255.4	1.5	(b)(c)0.6	*(c)0.2	*0.3
<b>Australia</b>	<b>58.9</b>	<b>15 907.9</b>	<b>15 966.9</b>	<b>91.4</b>	<b>(b)(c)0.5</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.4</b>
<b>ASSAULT</b>							
New South Wales	257.5	5 090.7	5 348.2	869.5	3.9	(c)4.8	4.8
Victoria	162.7	3 829.1	3 991.8	459.1	(c)3.8	4.7	4.1
Queensland	174.0	2 898.4	3 072.5	667.9	(b)4.8	4.4	5.7
South Australia	57.3	1 171.9	1 229.1	166.3	(b)(c)4.2	(c)4.5	4.7
Western Australia	81.4	1 494.7	1 576.1	311.6	(b)(c)4.9	(c)5.1	5.2
Tasmania	17.0	364.9	381.8	57.6	(b)(c)5.1	(c)5.0	4.4
Northern Territory(d)	6.7	105.4	112.0	19.8	(b)(c)6.3	(c)7.8	5.9
Australian Capital Territory	14.1	241.3	255.4	61.6	(b)6.9	(c)5.8	5.5
<b>Australia</b>	<b>770.6</b>	<b>15 196.3</b>	<b>15 966.9</b>	<b>2 613.4</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>(c)4.7</b>	<b>4.8</b>
<b>SEXUAL ASSAULT (e)(f)</b>							
New South Wales	15.6	5 070.9	5 086.5	28.3	na	(c)0.3	0.3
Victoria	12.5	3 781.5	3 793.9	22.9	na	*(c)0.2	0.3
Queensland	9.9	2 894.3	2 904.2	11.3	na	*(c)0.3	0.3
South Australia	*2.2	1 166.1	1 168.3	2.7	na	*(c)0.1	*0.2
Western Australia	*2.7	1 486.1	1 488.8	4.7	na	*(c)0.2	*0.2
Tasmania	**0.5	360.9	361.4	0.9	na	*(c)0.3	**0.1
Northern Territory(d)	np	np	106.3	np	na	** (c)0.2	np
Australian Capital Territory	np	np	241.6	np	na	*(c)0.2	np
<b>Australia</b>	<b>44.1</b>	<b>15 106.9</b>	<b>15 151.1</b>	<b>72.0</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.3</b>
<b>TOTAL SELECTED PERSONAL CRIMES (g)</b>							
New South Wales	286.9	5 061.2	5 348.2	935.6	4.6	(c)5.7	5.4
Victoria	178.7	3 813.1	3 991.8	498.1	(c)4.2	5.2	4.5
Queensland	187.0	2 885.4	3 072.5	695.5	(b)5.1	4.7	6.1
South Australia	60.9	1 168.2	1 229.1	174.2	(b)(c)4.5	(c)4.9	5.0
Western Australia	87.8	1 488.3	1 576.1	328.8	(b)(c)5.6	(c)5.7	5.6
Tasmania	17.8	364.0	381.8	59.1	(b)5.7	(c)5.2	4.7
Northern Territory(d)	7.4	104.7	112.0	np	(b)(c)6.8	(c)8.1	6.6
Australian Capital Territory	14.9	240.5	255.4	np	(b)7.7	(c)5.9	5.8
<b>Australia</b>	<b>841.5</b>	<b>15 125.4</b>	<b>15 966.9</b>	<b>2 776.8</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>(c)5.3</b>	<b>5.3</b>

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

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

na not available

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) See paragraph 18 of the Explanatory Notes

(b) Difference from 2002 rate is not statistically significant. See Technical Note and paragraph 22 of the Explanatory Notes.

(c) Difference from 2005 rate is not statistically significant. See Technical Note and paragraph 22 of the Explanatory Notes.

(d) Refers to mainly urban areas only. For further information see paragraph 7 of the Explanatory Notes.

(e) Persons aged 18 years and over.

(f) For information about the quality of 2005 sexual assault data see paragraph 23 of the Explanatory Notes

(g) Comprises victims of robbery, victims of assault, and victims of sexual assault. Victims of more than one type of crime are counted once only.

## VICTIMS OF ROBBERY, Characteristics of victim

	VICTIMS OF ROBBERY						Victimisation prevalence rate (a)	
	Males		Females		Persons		All persons	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
<b>Age group (years)</b>								
15-19	13.4	30.5	*3.3	*21.9	16.7	28.3	1 354.9	1.2
20-24	9.2	20.9	**2.0	**13.1	11.2	18.9	1 413.0	0.8
25-34	*6.2	*14.0	*2.8	*18.6	*9.0	*15.2	2 841.3	*0.3
35-44	*6.5	*14.8	**0.9	**6.3	*7.5	*12.7	2 976.5	*0.3
45-54	np	np	np	np	*5.2	*8.8	2 760.0	*0.2
55-64	*5.1	*11.5	*2.8	*19.1	*7.9	*13.4	2 154.4	*0.4
65 and over	np	np	np	np	**1.6	**2.6	2 466.8	**0.1
<b>Marital status</b>								
Married	*6.9	*15.7	*4.6	*31.0	11.5	19.6	9 534.9	0.1
Not Married	37.1	84.3	10.3	69.0	47.4	80.4	6 432.0	0.7
<b>Labour force status</b>								
Employed	28.7	65.2	9.5	63.7	38.2	64.8	10 048.0	0.4
Unemployed	*4.0	*9.1	**1.2	**7.8	*5.2	*8.8	499.9	*1.0
Not in the labour force	11.3	25.7	*4.2	*28.5	15.6	26.4	5 418.9	0.3
<b>Country of birth</b>								
Born in Australia	35.5	80.8	13.1	87.7	48.6	82.5	11 728.3	0.4
Born overseas	*8.5	*19.2	**1.8	**12.3	10.3	17.5	4 238.6	0.2
<b>Area of usual residence</b>								
Capital city	29.7	67.5	9.8	65.5	39.5	67.0	9 976.9	0.4
Balance of state or territory	14.3	32.5	*5.1	*34.5	19.5	33.0	5 989.9	0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>44.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>58.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>15 966.9</b>	<b>0.4</b>

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

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

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) See paragraph 18 of the Explanatory Notes.

VICTIMS OF ROBBERY						
	Males		Females		Persons	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
<b>Number of incidents in last 12 months</b>						
One	29.7	67.4	10.2	68.3	39.9	67.7
Two	*7.8	*17.6	*3.3	*21.8	11.0	18.7
Three or more	*6.6	*14.9	**1.5	**9.9	*8.0	*13.6
<b>Total number of incidents</b>	<b>67.6</b>	<b>. .</b>	<b>23.8</b>	<b>. .</b>	<b>91.4</b>	<b>. .</b>
<b>Use of weapon in most recent incident</b>						
Weapon used	16.4	37.2	**1.8	11.9	18.2	30.8
No weapon used	27.6	62.8	13.2	88.1	40.8	69.2
<b>Type of weapon used in most recent incident(a)</b>						
Knife	np	np	np	np	11.1	18.8
Other weapon	np	np	np	np	*8.5	*14.5
<b>Whether physically injured in most recent incident</b>						
Physically injured	14.7	33.4	*5.9	*39.5	20.6	34.9
Not physically injured	29.3	66.6	*9.0	*60.5	38.4	65.1
<b>Location of most recent incident</b>						
Home	*5.8	*13.1	*4.6	*30.6	10.3	17.5
Another person's home	np	np	np	np	*2.5	*4.3
Place of work/study	*6.1	*13.8	**1.5	**9.9	*7.5	*12.8
Train station, bus stop or interchange	np	np	np	np	*7.1	*12.1
Place of entertainment (including car park)	np	np	np	np	*3.4	*5.8
Street or other open land	16.2	36.9	*5.1	*34.1	21.3	36.2
Shopping centre	*3.1	*7.0	**1.5	**10.4	*4.6	*7.9
Other	np	np	np	np	*2.1	*3.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>44.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>58.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

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

. . not applicable

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) More than one type of weapon may have been used.

## VICTIMS OF ROBBERY, Characteristics of offender

VICTIMS OF ROBBERY						
	Males		Females		Persons	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
<b>Number of offenders in most recent incident</b>						
One	17.9	40.7	*6.1	*41.1	24.0	40.8
Two	9.8	22.2	*3.6	*24.0	13.4	22.7
Three or more	14.5	33.0	*3.4	*22.9	17.9	30.4
<b>Age of offender(s) in most recent incident</b>						
Under 18 years	*7.6	*17.2	*3.6	*24.0	11.1	18.9
18 years or over	23.4	53.2	*7.3	*49.2	30.8	52.2
Some under 18, some 18 years or over	*9.0	*20.5	**1.4	**9.4	10.4	17.7
<b>Sex of offender(s) in most recent incident</b>						
Male	37.3	84.7	9.4	63.1	46.7	79.2
Female	**1.6	*3.7	*2.6	*17.7	4.2	7.2
Some male, some female	*4.8	*10.8	*2.3	*15.1	*7.0	*11.9
<b>Whether offender(s) known to the victim in most recent incident</b>						
Known	*6.8	*15.5	*3.9	*25.8	10.7	18.1
Some known, some not known	np	np	np	np	*5.8	*9.9
Not known	31.0	70.4	*8.9	*59.3	39.9	67.6
<b>Total(a)</b>	<b>44.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>58.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

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

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Includes persons who did not give details of offender(s) in most recent incident.

VICTIMS OF ROBBERY						
	Males		Females		Persons	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
<b>Whether told police about most recent incident</b>						
Told police	17.2	39.2	*5.4	*36.5	22.7	38.5
Did not tell police	26.8	60.8	9.5	63.5	36.3	61.5
<b>How most recent incident was reported to police(a)</b>						
Reported in person at a police station	np	np	np	np	*5.4	*9.2
Police notified by telephone	13.4	30.4	*3.6	*24.0	17.0	28.8
Other	*2.9	*6.7	**0.5	**3.5	*3.5	*5.9
<b>Main reason did not tell police about most recent incident</b>						
Too trivial/unimportant	*7.5	*17.0	*3.2	*21.6	10.7	18.2
Thought there was nothing police could/would do	13.4	30.5	*4.0	*26.6	17.4	29.5
Other	*5.9	*13.3	*2.3	*15.3	*8.1	*13.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>44.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>58.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

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

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Incident may have been reported to police in more than one way.

	VICTIMS OF ASSAULT						Victimisation prevalence rate (a)	
	Males		Females		Persons		All persons	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
<b>Age group (years)</b>								
15-19	68.1	16.5	65.4	18.3	133.5	17.3	1 354.9	9.9
20-24	66.9	16.2	45.3	12.7	112.2	14.6	1 413.0	7.9
25-34	97.8	23.7	89.2	24.9	187.0	24.3	2 841.3	6.6
35-44	80.7	19.5	69.8	19.5	150.4	19.5	2 976.5	5.1
45-54	59.7	14.5	57.8	16.1	117.4	15.2	2 760.0	4.3
55-64	30.5	7.4	19.5	5.5	50.0	6.5	2 154.4	2.3
65 and over	*9.1	*2.2	10.9	3.1	20.0	2.6	2 466.8	0.8
<b>Marital status</b>								
Married	173.8	42.1	136.6	38.2	310.4	40.3	9 534.9	3.3
Not Married	238.8	57.9	221.3	61.8	460.2	59.7	6 432.0	7.2
<b>Labour force status</b>								
Employed	319.3	77.4	233.4	65.2	552.7	71.7	10 048.0	5.5
Unemployed	25.6	6.2	23.6	6.6	49.2	6.4	499.9	9.8
Not in the labour force	67.7	16.4	101.0	28.2	168.7	21.9	5 418.9	3.1
<b>Country of birth</b>								
Born in Australia	332.9	80.7	291.5	81.4	624.4	81.0	11 728.3	5.3
Born overseas	79.7	19.3	66.5	18.6	146.2	19.0	4 238.6	3.4
<b>Area of usual residence</b>								
Capital city	254.6	61.7	210.0	58.7	464.6	60.3	9 976.9	4.7
Balance of state or territory	158.0	38.3	148.0	41.3	306.0	39.7	5 989.9	5.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>412.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>358.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>770.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>15 966.9</b>	<b>4.8</b>

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

(a) See paragraph 18 of the Explanatory Notes.

VICTIMS OF ASSAULT						
	Males		Females		Persons	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
<b>Number of incidents in last 12 months</b>						
One	216.6	52.5	155.4	43.4	372.1	48.3
Two	77.6	18.8	68.8	19.2	146.4	19.0
Three or more	118.4	28.7	133.7	37.4	252.1	32.7
<b>Total number of incidents</b>	<b>1 284.1</b>	<b>. .</b>	<b>1 329.4</b>	<b>. .</b>	<b>2 613.4</b>	<b>. .</b>
<b>Use of weapon in most recent incident</b>						
Weapon used	49.6	12.0	40.3	11.3	90.0	11.7
No weapon used	361.1	87.5	316.6	88.4	677.7	87.9
<b>Type of weapon used in most recent incident(a)</b>						
Knife	11.5	2.8	*7.8	*2.2	19.3	2.5
Gun	np	np	np	np	*4.3	*0.6
Syringe/hypodermic needle	**1.2	**0.3	**1.4	**0.4	*2.6	*0.3
Other	36.0	8.7	30.5	8.5	66.4	8.6
<b>Whether physically injured in most recent incident</b>						
Physically injured	104.7	25.4	74.2	20.7	178.9	23.2
Not physically injured	307.8	74.6	282.7	79.0	590.4	76.6
<b>Location of most recent incident</b>						
Home	89.6	21.7	148.8	41.6	238.4	30.9
Another person's home	26.8	6.5	26.4	7.4	53.2	6.9
Place of work/study	106.4	25.8	91.9	25.7	198.2	25.7
Private vehicle	24.5	5.9	10.4	2.9	34.9	4.5
Public vehicle	*2.8	*0.7	*3.6	*1.0	*6.5	*0.8
Train station, bus stop or interchange	*5.6	*1.3	*2.9	*0.8	*8.5	*1.1
Place of entertainment (including car park)	75.1	18.2	26.6	7.4	101.7	13.2
Street or other open land	63.1	15.3	28.4	7.9	91.5	11.9
Shopping centre	9.4	2.3	10.9	3.0	20.3	2.6
Other	*8.7	*2.1	*6.8	*1.9	15.5	2.0
<b>Whether sought support after most recent incident</b>						
Sought support	365.3	88.5	334.0	93.3	699.3	90.8
Did not seek support	43.2	10.5	18.0	5.0	61.2	7.9
<b>Type of support sought after most recent incident(b)</b>						
Counsellor	25.4	6.2	54.1	15.1	79.5	10.3
Doctor	29.7	7.2	50.7	14.2	80.4	10.4
Minister, priest, or other religious advisor	*7.6	*1.8	10.9	3.0	18.5	2.4
Crisis help	*7.1	*1.7	14.3	4.0	21.4	2.8
Legal help	25.2	6.1	43.7	12.2	68.9	8.9
Financial help	*3.8	*0.9	*7.4	*2.1	11.1	1.4
Family	238.8	57.9	232.5	65.0	471.2	61.2
Friend or neighbour	219.3	53.2	223.7	62.5	443.0	57.5
Work colleague	147.7	35.8	125.1	34.9	272.8	35.4
Other	*6.2	*1.5	12.7	3.5	18.9	2.5
<b>Total(c)</b>	<b>412.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>358.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>770.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<p>* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution</p> <p>** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use</p> <p>. . not applicable</p> <p>np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated</p> <p>(a) More than one type of weapon may have been used.</p> <p>(b) More than one type of support may have been sought.</p> <p>(c) Includes persons who did not give details of most recent incident.</p>						

VICTIMS OF ASSAULT						
	Males		Females		Persons	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
<b>Number of offenders in most recent incident</b>						
One	271.4	65.8	294.1	82.2	565.5	73.4
Two	55.2	13.4	27.9	7.8	83.1	10.8
Three or more	74.1	18.0	28.4	7.9	102.5	13.3
<b>Age of offender(s) in most recent incident</b>						
Under 18 years	51.4	12.5	53.1	14.8	104.5	13.6
All 18 years or over	302.5	73.3	272.2	76.0	574.7	74.6
Some under 18, some 18 years or over	25.2	6.1	14.2	4.0	39.3	5.1
<b>Sex of offender(s) in most recent incident</b>						
Male	348.1	84.4	248.8	69.5	596.9	77.5
Female	30.3	7.3	81.9	22.9	112.2	14.6
Some male, some female	28.9	7.0	24.4	6.8	53.3	6.9
<b>Whether offender(s) known to the victim in most recent incident</b>						
Known	192.1	46.6	261.5	73.1	453.6	58.9
Some known, some not known	20.5	5.0	9.7	2.7	30.1	3.9
Not known	195.2	47.3	83.9	23.5	279.1	36.2
<b>How offender(s) known to the victim in most recent incident</b>						
Partner	*6.7	*1.6	18.2	5.1	24.9	3.2
Other family member	23.3	5.6	43.8	12.2	67.1	8.7
Ex-partner	*8.5	*2.1	48.2	13.5	56.7	7.4
Friend	34.3	8.3	40.3	11.2	74.6	9.7
Work/study colleague	39.2	9.5	24.0	6.7	63.2	8.2
Neighbour	27.5	6.7	24.0	6.7	51.6	6.7
Acquaintance	41.1	10.0	38.9	10.9	80.0	10.4
Other known person	*4.1	*1.0	*5.6	*1.6	9.8	1.3
Not known personally	27.4	6.6	23.4	6.5	50.8	6.6
<b>Total(a)</b>	<b>412.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>358.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>770.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

(a) Includes persons who did not give details of most recent incident.



VICTIMS OF ASSAULT						
	Males		Females		Persons	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
<b>Whether told police about most recent incident</b>						
Told police	120.4	29.2	121.6	34.0	242.0	31.4
Did not tell police	292.2	70.8	236.3	66.0	528.6	68.6
<b>How most recent incident was reported to police(a)</b>						
Reported in person at a police station	34.1	8.3	41.8	11.7	75.9	9.9
Police notified by telephone	64.2	15.6	75.0	21.0	139.2	18.1
Police were already at the scene	13.1	3.2	*8.1	*2.3	21.2	2.8
Don't know—incident reported by someone else	16.2	3.9	*7.4	*2.1	23.6	3.1
Other	*8.4	*2.0	*4.8	*1.3	13.2	1.7
<b>Main reason did not tell police about most recent incident</b>						
Too trivial/unimportant	103.4	25.1	61.1	17.1	164.5	21.3
Somebody else told police	*8.3	*2.0	**1.4	**0.4	9.7	1.3
Thought there was nothing police could do	42.6	10.3	26.6	7.4	69.3	9.0
Thought police would be unwilling to do anything	28.6	6.9	15.2	4.2	43.8	5.7
Personal matter or would take care of it themselves	63.6	15.4	57.7	16.1	121.3	15.7
Told somebody else instead	15.0	3.6	31.4	8.8	46.4	6.0
Did not want offender punished	*2.2	*0.5	9.2	2.6	11.3	1.5
Afraid of reprisal	*9.0	*2.2	11.5	3.2	20.5	2.7
Too confused, upset or injured	*5.5	*1.3	*5.0	*1.4	10.6	1.4
Other	13.5	3.3	16.5	4.6	30.0	3.9
<b>Total(b)</b>	<b>412.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>358.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>770.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 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) Incidents may have been reported to police in more than one way.

(b) Includes persons who did not give details of most recent incident.

## VICTIMS OF ASSAULT, Whether told police and reporting rates

	Told police(a)	Did not tell police(a)	Victims	REPORTING RATES(b)		
				1998	2002	2005
				%	%	%
	'000	'000	'000			
New South Wales	80.5	177.0	257.5	(c)(d)30.4	(d)34.6	31.3
Victoria	51.8	111.0	162.7	(c)23.2	24.1	31.8
Queensland	56.4	117.7	174.0	(c)(d)30.2	(d)33.2	32.4
South Australia	21.4	35.8	57.3	(c)(d)30.8	(d)31.7	37.4
Western Australia	21.1	60.2	81.4	(c)(d)25.3	(d)29.1	25.9
Tasmania	4.7	12.3	17.0	(c)(d)23.8	(d)32.4	27.7
Northern Territory(e)	*2.4	4.3	6.7	(d)28.8	(d)45.6	*35.7
Australian Capital Territory	3.8	10.3	14.1	(c)(d)19.7	(d)23.9	26.6
<b>Australia</b>	<b>242.0</b>	<b>528.6</b>	<b>770.6</b>	<b>27.2</b>	(d) <b>30.8</b>	<b>31.4</b>

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

(a) Refers to most recent incident.

(b) See paragraph 16 of the Explanatory Notes.

(c) Difference from 2002 rate is not statistically significant. See Technical Note and paragraph 22 of the Explanatory Notes.

(d) Difference from 2005 rate is not statistically significant. See Technical Note and paragraph 22 of the Explanatory Notes.

(e) Refers to mainly urban areas only. For further information see paragraph 7 of the Explanatory Notes.

	Safe or Very safe	Neither safe nor unsafe	Unsafe or Very unsafe	Never home alone during the day	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Sex</b>					
Male	84.1	7.1	3.2	5.6	100.0
Female	80.7	11.1	4.7	3.5	100.0
<b>Age group (years)</b>					
15-19	84.1	8.2	3.1	4.6	100.0
20-24	82.7	8.7	3.0	5.5	100.0
25-34	83.6	8.3	3.4	4.7	100.0
35-44	84.6	7.9	3.2	4.3	100.0
45-54	83.2	8.4	4.0	4.4	100.0
55-64	80.5	10.6	4.8	4.1	100.0
65 and over	77.7	11.8	5.8	4.7	100.0
<b>State or territory of usual residence</b>					
New South Wales	82.4	9.0	4.0	4.6	100.0
Victoria	82.2	9.3	3.8	4.8	100.0
Queensland	84.0	8.1	3.4	4.4	100.0
South Australia	80.1	10.8	4.9	4.2	100.0
Western Australia	79.9	10.6	4.8	4.6	100.0
Tasmania	85.3	7.3	3.3	4.1	100.0
Northern Territory(a)	83.1	8.5	4.9	3.5	100.0
Australian Capital Territory	84.7	8.4	3.3	3.6	100.0
<b>Area of usual residence</b>					
Capital city	80.5	10.4	4.2	4.9	100.0
Balance of state or territory	85.4	7.1	3.6	3.9	100.0
<b>Country of birth</b>					
Born in Australia	83.7	8.4	3.6	4.3	100.0
Born overseas	78.6	11.3	5.0	5.2	100.0
<b>Household type</b>					
Person living alone	81.4	11.0	5.8	1.8	100.0
Couple only	82.3	8.9	4.1	4.7	100.0
Couple with child(ren)	84.4	7.8	3.0	4.7	100.0
One parent with child(ren)	78.6	11.5	5.8	4.1	100.0
All other households	79.4	10.5	3.7	6.4	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>82.4</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Refers to mainly urban areas only. For further information see paragraph 7 of the Explanatory Notes.

	Safe or Very safe	Neither safe nor unsafe	Unsafe or Very unsafe	Never home alone after dark	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Sex</b>					
Male	80.5	11.2	4.7	3.6	100.0
Female	64.3	19.1	11.8	4.8	100.0
<b>Age group (years)</b>					
15-19	70.5	16.5	8.6	4.3	100.0
20-24	69.8	17.5	9.6	3.0	100.0
25-34	71.0	16.6	9.8	2.6	100.0
35-44	75.7	14.0	7.4	2.9	100.0
45-54	75.7	13.6	7.1	3.6	100.0
55-64	73.5	14.2	7.8	4.6	100.0
65 and over	67.3	15.7	8.5	8.6	100.0
<b>State or territory of usual residence</b>					
New South Wales	72.3	15.1	8.2	4.4	100.0
Victoria	72.2	15.3	8.0	4.5	100.0
Queensland	74.7	13.7	7.6	4.0	100.0
South Australia	69.3	17.0	9.6	4.1	100.0
Western Australia	68.8	17.7	10.0	3.5	100.0
Tasmania	76.3	12.3	6.9	4.4	100.0
Northern Territory(a)	70.3	14.4	12.0	3.3	100.0
Australian Capital Territory	75.4	14.2	7.9	2.5	100.0
<b>Area of usual residence</b>					
Capital city	70.4	16.4	8.8	4.3	100.0
Balance of state or territory	75.4	13.1	7.5	4.0	100.0
<b>Country of birth</b>					
Born in Australia	73.8	14.6	8.0	3.6	100.0
Born overseas	68.2	16.9	9.1	5.8	100.0
<b>Household type</b>					
Person living alone	72.2	17.2	10.2	*0.4	100.0
Couple only	72.6	14.0	7.9	5.5	100.0
Couple with child(ren)	74.8	14.2	7.2	3.8	100.0
One parent with child(ren)	65.1	19.2	11.7	4.0	100.0
All other households	68.7	16.3	8.7	6.3	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>72.3</b>	<b>15.2</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

(a) Refers to mainly urban areas only. For further information see paragraph 7 of the Explanatory Notes.

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT(a)	ACT	Aust.
NUMBER ('000)									
Housebreakings/burglaries/theft from homes	1 705.5	1 339.1	904.6	467.7	633.0	108.6	43.0	95.2	5 296.6
Car theft	891.1	858.3	321.0	256.1	284.9	61.8	15.1	38.2	2 726.5
Other theft	542.5	413.8	210.3	134.6	137.1	31.5	12.6	26.2	1 508.5
Louts/youth gangs	935.5	533.8	435.4	183.9	222.5	47.8	27.4	30.6	2 417.0
Prowlers/loiterers	364.9	190.7	205.9	82.3	106.9	15.6	15.6	14.4	996.3
Drunkenness	827.8	437.4	357.3	132.3	174.8	41.1	36.8	22.9	2 030.4
Vandalism/graffitti/damage to property	1 409.5	1 038.2	576.4	404.3	465.0	68.4	23.3	74.0	4 059.1
Dangerous/noisy driving	2 046.2	1 507.5	1 280.5	596.1	674.1	146.2	37.1	105.6	6 393.3
Illegal drugs	605.8	383.4	260.6	120.6	156.0	31.6	11.1	20.5	1 589.4
Sexual assault	138.9	70.7	36.7	47.6	19.2	*2.1	7.5	6.4	329.2
Other assault	225.8	99.2	71.2	45.2	40.0	8.8	9.8	6.9	507.0
Problems with neighbours/domestic problems	469.2	314.2	310.4	106.8	112.0	28.0	17.9	23.8	1 382.3
Other	60.3	37.9	28.0	10.5	16.2	3.7	*1.3	2.7	160.6
No problems	1 599.6	1 225.4	1 004.2	290.8	422.7	136.5	33.9	68.4	4 781.6
<b>Total(b)</b>	<b>5 348.2</b>	<b>3 991.8</b>	<b>3 072.5</b>	<b>1 229.1</b>	<b>1 576.1</b>	<b>381.8</b>	<b>112.0</b>	<b>255.4</b>	<b>15 966.9</b>
PROPORTION (%)									
Housebreakings/burglaries/theft from homes	31.9	33.5	29.4	38.0	40.2	28.5	38.4	37.3	33.2
Car theft	16.7	21.5	10.4	20.8	18.1	16.2	13.5	15.0	17.1
Other theft	10.1	10.4	6.8	10.9	8.7	8.2	11.3	10.3	9.4
Louts/youth gangs	17.5	13.4	14.2	15.0	14.1	12.5	24.5	12.0	15.1
Prowlers/loiterers	6.8	4.8	6.7	6.7	6.8	4.1	14.0	5.6	6.2
Drunkenness	15.5	11.0	11.6	10.8	11.1	10.8	32.8	9.0	12.7
Vandalism/graffitti/damage to property	26.4	26.0	18.8	32.9	29.5	17.9	20.8	29.0	25.4
Dangerous/noisy driving	38.3	37.8	41.7	48.5	42.8	38.3	33.1	41.3	40.0
Illegal drugs	11.3	9.6	8.5	9.8	9.9	8.3	9.9	8.0	10.0
Sexual assault	2.6	1.8	1.2	3.9	1.2	*0.5	6.7	2.5	2.1
Other assault	4.2	2.5	2.3	3.7	2.5	2.3	8.8	2.7	3.2
Problems with neighbours/domestic problems	8.8	7.9	10.1	8.7	7.1	7.3	16.0	9.3	8.7
Other	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	*1.2	1.0	1.0
No problems	29.9	30.7	32.7	23.7	26.8	35.7	30.3	26.8	29.9

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

(a) Refers to mainly urban areas only. For further information see paragraph 7 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) Includes persons who did not give details of perceived problems in neighbourhood.

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT(a)	ACT	Aust.
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
MALES									
1 All persons aged 15 years and over(b)	2 640.9	1 957.3	1 525.7	606.1	783.1	187.2	58.9	125.4	7 884.7
2 All employed persons	1 835.8	1 376.4	1 080.6	416.2	590.1	121.3	46.8	96.2	5 563.4
3 All unemployed persons	87.0	70.6	49.9	17.5	21.9	7.0	*2.3	2.7	258.9
7 Victims of robbery	18.4	*5.7	9.2	*3.6	6.5	np	np	np	44.0
8 Victims of assault	147.7	84.2	88.5	28.7	45.0	6.9	4.3	7.3	412.6
9 Victims of sexual assault(c)	np	np	*3.7	—	np	—	—	—	*6.1
FEMALES									
1 All persons aged 15 years and over(b)	2 707.2	2 034.5	1 546.7	623.0	792.9	194.6	53.1	130.0	8 082.2
2 All employed persons	1 474.1	1 130.7	836.2	347.7	466.7	100.6	38.2	90.4	4 484.6
3 All unemployed persons	73.0	65.7	50.1	15.1	27.0	5.9	*1.4	2.7	241.0
7 Victims of robbery	*4.3	*4.0	*3.6	—	*1.8	np	np	np	14.9
8 Victims of assault	109.8	78.5	85.5	28.6	36.3	10.0	*2.4	6.8	358.0
9 Victims of sexual assault(c)	np	np	*6.2	*2.2	np	**0.5	np	np	38.0
PERSONS									
1 All persons aged 15 years and over(b)	5 348.2	3 991.8	3 072.5	1 229.1	1 576.1	381.8	112.0	255.4	15 966.9
2 All employed persons	3 310.0	2 507.1	1 916.9	763.9	1 056.7	221.9	85.0	186.6	10 048.0
3 All unemployed persons	160.0	136.3	100.0	32.6	48.9	12.9	3.7	5.4	499.9
7 Victims of robbery	22.8	9.7	12.8	*3.6	8.3	**0.4	**0.6	*0.8	58.9
8 Victims of assault	257.5	162.7	174.0	57.3	81.4	17.0	6.7	14.1	770.6
9 Victims of sexual assault(c)	15.6	12.5	9.9	*2.2	*2.7	**0.5	np	np	44.1
HOUSEHOLDS									
1a All households(b)	2 595.5	1 919.3	1 532.1	642.9	789.2	196.0	55.4	125.2	7 855.6
4 Victims of break-in	96.6	45.4	46.5	18.3	39.6	4.2	4.1	5.0	259.8
5 Victims of attempted break-in	69.5	35.8	44.5	19.9	23.5	4.1	4.3	3.9	205.4
6 Victims of motor vehicle theft	29.2	13.8	12.8	8.5	7.1	*1.8	np	np	74.8

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

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

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Refers to mainly urban areas only. For further information see paragraph 7 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) Person/household estimates sourced from June 2005 estimated residential population (preliminary unpublished) (based on 1996 Population Census benchmarks).

(c) Persons aged 18 years and over.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### INTRODUCTION

**1** This publication presents results from the National Crime and Safety Survey (CSS) conducted throughout Australia during April to July 2005 as part of the Monthly Population Survey (MPS), as a supplement to the April Labour Force Survey (LFS). This is the fourth in the series of Australia-wide self-enumeration Crime and Safety Surveys conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS); previous surveys were conducted in 1993, 1998 and 2002.

**2** The publication *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0) contains information about survey design, sample redesign, scope, coverage and population benchmarks relevant to the monthly LFS, which also apply to supplementary surveys. It also contains definitions of demographic and labour force characteristics.

**3** The CSS collected information from individuals and households about their experience of selected crimes, reporting behaviour and crime-related risk factors. Information was sought from approximately 46,100 persons, of whom 36,500 (79%) responded. Data pertaining to households were sought from approximately 23,200 households, of which 18,600 (80%) responded.

**4** Non-response occurs when people cannot or will not cooperate, or cannot be contacted. Non-response can affect the reliability of results and can introduce bias. The magnitude of any bias depends on the rate of non-response and the extent of the difference between the characteristics of those people who responded and those who did not. Examination of responses after follow-up did not indicate any serious problem of non-response bias. The estimation and imputation procedures employed were designed to reduce the effect of non-response (see paragraphs 41-49).

### SCOPE OF THE SURVEY

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

- members of the permanent defence forces;
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded for Census and estimated resident population figures;
- overseas residents in Australia;
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants); and
- visitors to private dwellings.

**6** Students at boarding schools, patients in hospitals, residents of homes (e.g. retirement homes, homes for persons with disabilities), and inmates of prisons are also excluded from all supplementary surveys.

**7** The CSS was conducted in both urban and rural areas in all states and territories, but excluded approximately 120,000 persons living in very remote areas of Australia who would otherwise have been within the scope of the survey. The exclusion of these persons will have only a minor impact on any aggregate estimates that are produced for individual states and territories, except for the Northern Territory where such persons account for around 23% of the population.

### COVERAGE

**8** The estimates in this publication relate to persons covered by the LFS in April 2005. 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 in the survey. See *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0) for more details.

**9** At the end of the April LFS interview, CSS questionnaires were mailed to LFS respondents. Each respondent in the household was asked to complete a questionnaire relating to their personal experience of crime, and return it to the ABS by mail. One questionnaire per household also contained questions relating to experiences of household crime, to be answered by one respondent on behalf of the household as a whole. All questionnaires also included additional questions about sexual assault, to be

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

### COVERAGE *continued*

answered only by persons aged 18 years and over. Completion of the sexual assault questions was voluntary for all persons.

### RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

- 10** Estimates in this publication are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors:
- Sampling error is the difference between the published estimate and the value that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. For further information on sampling error, refer to the Technical Note.
  - Non-sampling errors are inaccuracies that occur because of non-response, errors 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 such as a census or a sample. 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.

### CLASSIFICATIONS USED

**11** Offence data are classified according to the *Australian Standard Offence Classification, 1997* (cat. no. 1234.0).

**12** Country of birth data are classified according to the *Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), 1998* (cat. no. 1269.0).

### CONTENT

**13** Crime victim surveys are best suited to measuring crimes against individuals or households with specific victims, who are aware of and recall what happened to them and how it happened, and who are willing to relate what they know.

**14** This survey covered only selected types of household and personal crimes. Household crimes covered in the survey were break-ins, attempted break-ins, and motor vehicle theft. Personal crimes covered in the survey were robbery, assault and sexual assault.

**15** Not all types of crime are suitable for measurement by household surveys. No reliable information can be obtained about crimes without specific victims, such as trafficking in narcotics. Crimes of which the victim may not be aware cannot be measured effectively — some instances of fraud and attempted crimes of many types may fall into this category. It may also be difficult to obtain information about some crimes such as sexual offences and assault committed by other household members. Some of these crimes may not be fully reflected in the data collected. No reliable data can be collected by household surveys on crimes against commercial establishments or government agencies.

**16** Data on selected crimes recorded by police agencies are available in *Recorded Crime—Victims, Australia* (cat. no. 4510.0). The CSS provides an additional source of data on crime victimisation for the selected offences, including crime not reported to or detected by the police. This survey identifies the nature of this unreported crime, as well as giving information on victims of repeated crimes, which is not available from police data. The information from the survey should be viewed as a complement to the published police statistics on crime. Reporting rates in the CSS refer to the total number of most recent incidents of an offence that were reported to police expressed as a percentage of the total victims of that offence. Police statistics include victims of all ages, whereas the CSS collects information for persons aged 15 years and over, and sexual assault is only asked directly for persons aged 18 years and over.

**17** For this survey, the definition of total victims is restricted to those offences included in the survey; it by no means represents total crime.



## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

### *Statistical measures of crime victimisation*

**18** The level of victimisation can be measured in more than one way. The most common measure derived from crime victim surveys is prevalence, that is, the number of the relevant population that have been a victim of a given offence at least once in the reference period. Victimization prevalence rates are used in this publication, and are generally expressed as a proportion of the total relevant population.

**19** Another measure that can be used is incidence. This is the total number of incidents of the offence that occurred in the reference period. As some victims experience repeated incidents of victimisation, incidence numbers are typically higher than prevalence numbers. Incidence rates are also used in this publication, and are also generally expressed as a percentage of the total relevant population.

### DATA QUALITY

#### *Interpretation of results*

**20** Information recorded in this survey is essentially 'as reported' by respondents and hence may differ from that which might be obtained from other sources or via other methodologies. This factor should be considered when interpreting the estimates in this publication.

**21** Information was also collected on respondents' perceptions of problems in their neighbourhood. Perceptions are influenced by a number of factors and can change quickly. Care should therefore be taken when analysing or interpreting this data.

#### *Significance testing*

**22** In tables 1, 2, 6 and 15 of this publication, apparent changes in results between the 2005, 2002 and 1998 surveys have been tested to determine whether the changes are statistically significant. That is, to determine whether it is likely that the differences observed in sample estimates indicate real differences in the population. In these tables, cells which have not changed significantly over time are indicated. See Technical Note (paragraphs 13-14) for further details.

#### *Sexual assault data*

**23** Response rates for sexual assault in 2005 are lower than in previous years. This is most likely due to changes made to the survey methodology, which included combining the sexual assault questions with the main survey form, and some changes to the structure and wording of the screening questions. Due to the low response rates for sexual assault only limited data is available for 2005. For further information on sexual assault non-response and imputation, see paragraph 44.

#### *Reasons for feeling unsafe*

**24** For those respondents who indicated in the survey that they felt unsafe or very unsafe, either during the day or after dark, data was also collected on their reasons for feeling unsafe. This data has not been collected in previous ABS crime and safety surveys and due to limited testing prior to the survey, the estimates produced are regarded as 'experimental'. The data therefore is not included in this publication but is available on request.

### DATA COMPARABILITY

#### *Comparability of time series*

**25** Revisions are made to population benchmarks for the LFS after each five-yearly Census of Population and Housing. The last such revision was made in February 2004 to take account of the results of the 2001 Census of Population and Housing. Estimates from supplementary surveys conducted from February 2004 are based on these population benchmarks. However, as the 2005 CSS includes both household and person level estimates, these estimates are based on 1996 Population Census benchmarks.

#### *Comparability with previous ABS Crime and Safety Surveys*

**26** Since 1990, the ABS has been conducting state-specific Crime and Safety Surveys in New South Wales (annually), Western Australia (1991, 1995, 1999 and 2000), South Australia (1991, 1995 and 2000), Victoria (1994 and 1995), Tasmania (1998) and Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory (1995), often with funding from the state concerned. A national survey was last conducted in 2002, and previous to that in 1998, 1993, 1983 and 1975. All of the surveys since 1990 have required respondents to complete the questionnaires themselves and mail these back to the ABS.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

*Comparability with previous  
ABS Crime and Safety Surveys  
continued*

**27** While an important use of crime victims surveys is to establish the trend of crime and reporting behaviour over time, care must be exercised in the comparison of the results of the 1993 survey with the 1998, 2002 and 2005 surveys for robbery and assault because of significant definitional differences. The household crime definitions are comparable between the surveys, however, changes in respondents' attitudes towards crime in the last twelve years may have affected their responses to the surveys.

*Comparison with other ABS  
surveys*

**28** There are different crime statistics collections and these can yield differing results. Caution should be taken in comparison across other ABS surveys that address crime and justice issues. For more information on comparisons with other surveys, please refer to *Information Paper: Measuring Crime Victimization, Australia — The Impact of Different Collection Methodologies, 2002* (cat. no. 4522.0.55.001).

**29** A review of Australian crime surveys has commenced. The context for the review is outlined in the National Information Development Plan for Crime and Justice Statistics (ABS cat. no. 4520.0).

**30** The broad objectives of this review are to:

- where possible, consolidate national needs for crime survey data in Australia;
- identify deficiencies and overlaps in current data collections with reference to national data requirements; and
- develop strategies to improve integration and coordination in national crime survey data.

**31** In the first phase of the review, information was collected about user requirements from crime and safety surveys. In the second stage, a paper describing the current situation and user requirements is expected to be circulated in the second quarter of 2006. This paper will seek to identify user priorities from the wide range of information needs collected in the first stage of the project. The paper will provide suggestions for data item content, frequency and geography, to guide thinking about the future conduct of crime and safety surveys in Australia, with a view to better meeting user needs and improving the integration and coordination of ABS and non-ABS survey activity in this field.

**32** Findings from the second stage of consultation will guide planning for crime surveys in the ABS forward work program.

*Comparison with police  
statistics*

**33** The terms used for the offences (such as robbery, assault) may not necessarily correspond with the legal or police definitions which are used for each offence. This is because responses obtained in this survey are based on the respondent's perception of their having been the victim of an offence. The definitions of these terms which are used in this survey are based on the wording of the questions asked of the respondent, and can be found in the Glossary of this publication.

**34** For each offence type, survey respondents were asked how many of the incidents that happened to them in the previous 12 months became known to the police. However, there is no verification that a crime report has actually been made for the offence. There are many reasons why an incident which is reported to police may not be recorded as a crime. Victims may advise police of a matter but not seek to have it dealt with as a crime. This is especially true of incidents where the offender is related, or otherwise known, to the victim. The information received by police may not be sufficient to allow them to determine whether a crime has been committed, or what kind of offence has been committed. The incident may also have been coded to a different offence category.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

### *Comparison with police statistics continued*

**35** Another source of variation between the survey results and crimes recorded by police relates to differences in scope. This survey collects information on the personal crimes of robbery and assault for all persons aged 15 years and over, and sexual assault for persons aged 18 years and over; whereas police statistics include victims of all ages and comparisons need to allow for this. Police record all crimes reported to them in the reference period, whether or not the incidents took place during that period or at an earlier time, and count all distinct estimates of victimisation reported.

**36** It is also possible that respondents to the survey may have included some incidents which occurred outside the 12 month period. Information was collected on which quarter in the last 12 months the most recent incident occurred, in an attempt to reduce this effect.

### *Other methodological issues*

**37** In the interpretation of the results of the 2005 survey, consideration should be given to the representativeness of the sample. This is affected by the response rate and also the fact that the survey only covers people living in private dwellings. It does not include such people as the homeless or people living in special accommodation; sections of the community which may be heavily victimised. Also, how respondents complete their questionnaire will depend on their personal circumstances, their interpretation of the questions, and how much they are willing to divulge.

**38** Self-enumeration questionnaires may affect the willingness of a person to reveal personal information on issues such as assault and sexual assault. There may also be problems if the respondent's literacy skills are not adequate to understand a reasonably complex form.

**39** In order to derive the total number of incidents for the selected offences the survey looked at victimisation as discrete incidents, whereas for many victims of violence it is an ongoing situation. The result of such treatment is an undercount of total incidents in this survey.

## DATA PROCESSING

**40** Consistency and range edit checks along with careful clerical scrutiny were applied to all forms, mainly during data entry, to ensure that answers were complete and consistent within the household or person record. The survey included questions asking respondents to describe the incident, and these descriptions were used to check that other questions had been consistently answered. Where an incident had been incorrectly included as a particular offence type, then the incident was either recoded or discounted, as appropriate. This either resulted in an adjustment to the number of incidents, or the respondent being counted as a non-victim of the original offence.

### *Non-response and imputation*

**41** There were a number of cases where the questionnaires were not complete. The most common problem was when questions that should have been answered had been left blank.

**42** Missing data were treated in one of the following ways:

- where possible, missing information was imputed from other answers on the form, following a standard set of imputation rules as derived for this survey
- where the data could not be imputed, a 'not stated' code was used
- forms with significant amounts of missing data were treated as non-response.

**43** If an unanswered question affected other questions, then a decision was made on how to code this item. When an unanswered question did not have an effect on other questions, it was coded to 'not stated'. Generally the proportions of 'not stated' were very small, in which case they were included in the total and the table footnoted accordingly.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

### *Non-response and imputation continued*

**44** Completion of the sexual assault questions was voluntary. Of those respondents aged 18 years and over who completed the main survey form, 75.4% of females and 71.5% of males completed the sexual assault questions. The number of sexual assault victims for non-respondents was imputed for Table 6. The imputed number of victims was based on the assumption that the victimisation rates were equal for respondents and non-respondents within age group and sex categories. Apart from the imputed number of victims, no further imputation was carried out for subsequent sexual assault questions, and any tables providing more detail on sexual assault have these questions coded as 'not stated'.

### *Non-response bias adjustment and weighting of data*

**45** A complex set of multistage weighting procedures was employed to adjust for non-response and improve the precision of estimates in this survey.

**46** Estimates derived from this survey were obtained in two stages. In the first stage, adjustment for non-response was carried out based on the demographic composition of the MPS sample, as well as on results of the analysis of the effect of reminder action on the responses obtained.

**47** In most surveys there is little information available about non-respondents. In this survey, however, demographic characteristics of most non-respondents were available from the MPS which had a very high response rate. Weighting adjustments were carried out using the distribution of the demographic characteristics from the MPS which were correlated with crime victimisation.

**48** For this survey there were two separate reminder follow-ups (by mail for the first reminder, and mail or telephone for the second reminder). Indications of bias due to the difference between respondents and non-respondents were investigated using successive waves of responses. Any significant bias identified was adjusted using data from later waves of responses.

**49** The second stage of the weighting procedure was a complex ratio estimation procedure which ensured that the survey estimates conformed to an independently estimated distribution of population by age, sex, and part of state, rather than to the age, sex and part of state distribution within the sample itself. The procedure also ensured that household estimates conformed to the independently estimated distribution of households by certain household characteristics (number of adults and children in the household) rather than to the distribution that existed among the responding households.

### PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

**50** Summary results from this survey, compiled separately for each state and territory, will be available in spreadsheet form from the ABS website <[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)> or on request to the ABS.

**51** For users who wish to undertake more detailed analysis of the survey data, an expanded confidentialised unit record data file (CURF) is proposed to be available in mid 2006. The Expanded CURF will be accessible through the ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) system. Further information about these files, including details of how they can be obtained and conditions of use, will be available on the ABS website <[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)>.

**52** Special tabulations are available on request. Subject to confidentiality and sampling variability constraints, tabulations can be produced from the survey incorporating data items, populations and geographic areas selected to meet individual requirements. These can be provided in printed or electronic form. A list of data items available from the survey is available in Appendix 2. Further information about the survey and associated products can be obtained from the contact officer listed at the front of this publication.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**53** ABS surveys draw extensively on information provided by individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated: without it, the wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

### NEXT SURVEY

**54** Subject to the ABS's review of Australian crime surveys, the ABS plans to conduct this survey again in 2008.

### RELATED PUBLICATIONS

**55** Other ABS publications which may be of interest are shown below. Most of these are available at <[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)>

- *Australian Standard Offence Classification, 1997* (cat. no. 1234.0)
- *Community Safety, Tasmania, October 1998* (cat. no. 4515.6)
- *Crime and Safety, Australia: Supplementary National and Standard Tables, 1998* (cat. no. 4509.0.40.001)
- *Crime and Safety, Australia, April 2002, 1998 and 1993* (cat. no. 4509.0)
- *Crime and Safety, Australia: Expanded Confidentialised Unit Record File, 2002* (cat. no. 4509.0.55.002)
- *Crime and Safety, New South Wales, April 2004* (cat. no. 4509.1)
- *Crime and Safety, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, April 1995* (cat. no. 4509.1)
- *Crime and Safety, Queensland, April 1995* (cat. no. 4509.3)
- *Crime and Safety, South Australia, October 2000* (cat. no. 4509.4)
- *Crime and Safety, Victoria, April 1995* (cat. no. 4509.2)
- *Crime and Safety, Western Australia, October 1999* (cat. no. 4509.5)
- *General Social Survey, Australia, 2001* (cat. no. 4159.0)
- *Information Paper: Measuring Crime Victimisation, Australia — The Impact of Different Collection Methodologies, 2002* (cat. no. 4522.0.55.001)
- *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey: Law and Justice Issues, 1994* (cat. no. 4189.0)
- *Personal Safety Survey, Australia, 2005* (cat. no. 4906.0) (due for release July 2006)
- *Recorded Crime — Victims, Australia, 2004* (cat. no. 4510.0)
- *Victims of Crime, Australia, 1983* (cat. no. 4506.0)
- *Western Australian Statistical Indicators, March 2001* (cat. no. 1367.5)
- *Women's Safety, Australia, 1996* (cat. no. 4128.0)

**56** Current publications and other products released by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (cat. no. 1101.0). The Catalogue is available from any ABS office or the ABS web site <[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)>. The ABS also issues a daily Release Advice on the web site which details products to be released in the week ahead. The National Centre for Crime and Justice Statistics theme page also contains a wealth of information and useful references and this site can be accessed through the ABS web site <[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)>.

### NON-ABS PUBLICATIONS

**57** Non-ABS sources which may be of interest can be accessed through the National Centre for Crime and Justice Statistics theme page on the ABS web site <[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)>.

### ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
CSS	Crime and Safety Survey
CURF	Confidentialised Unit Record File
LFS	Labour Force Survey
MPS	Monthly Population Survey
RADL	Remote Access Data Laboratory

**EXPLANATORY NOTES** *continued*

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- RSE relative standard error
- SACC Standard Australian Classification of Countries
- SE standard error

## APPENDIX 1 POPULATIONS

### DATA AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

The ABS has a range of data available from the Crime and Safety Survey. This section lists the data items and populations which relate to the survey. More detailed breakdowns of some data items are available on request.

The populations for a particular data item refers to the persons in the survey to whom the data relates. Where alternative output categories are available for the same data item, these are shown and the data item name is followed by a bracketed numeral (e.g. Countryofbirth(2)).

To obtain data available on request, or for more information about our customised data service, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070, or by facsimile on 1300 135 211, or email to <client.services@abs.gov.au>.

<i>Population 1A</i>	All households
<i>Population 1</i>	All persons aged 15 years or over
<i>Population 2</i>	All employed persons
<i>Population 3</i>	All unemployed persons
<i>Population 4</i>	Household victims of break-in
<i>Population 5</i>	Household victims of attempted break-in
<i>Population 6</i>	Household victims of motor vehicle theft
<i>Population 7</i>	Victims of robbery
<i>Population 8</i>	Victims of assault
<i>Population 9</i>	Victims of sexual assault (persons aged 18 years and over)

## APPENDIX 2 DATA ITEM LIST

<p><i>Data Items</i></p> <p><b>1 State or Territory of usual residence</b>            New South Wales            Victoria            Queensland            South Australia            Western Australia            Tasmania            Northern Territory            Australian Capital Territory            Australia</p> <p><b>2 Area of usual residence</b>            Capital City              Sydney              Melbourne              Brisbane              Adelaide              Perth              Hobart</p> <p>  Balance of state/territory              Balance of New South Wales              Balance of Victoria              Balance of Queensland              Balance of South Australia              Balance of Western Australia              Balance of Tasmania              Northern Territory              Australian Capital Territory</p> <p>  Australia</p> <p><b>3 Dissemination region</b>            Standard labour force dissemination regions</p> <p><b>4 Household Type</b>            Person living alone            Couple family with no children            Couple family with children 15 years or over only            Couple family with children under 15 only            Couple family with children under 15 and children 15 years and over            One parent family with children 15 years or over only            One parent family with children under 15 only            One parent family with children under 15 and children 15 years and over            All other households            Total</p> <p><b>5 Number of children under 15 years in household</b>            None            One            Two            Three or more            Total</p> <p><b>6 Number of people in household</b>            None            One            Two            Three or more            Total</p> <p><b>7 Sex of person</b>            Males</p>	<p><i>Data Items</i></p> <p><b>7 Sex of person <i>cont.</i></b>            Females            Persons</p> <p><b>8 Age group (years)</b>            15–19            20–24            25–34            35–44            45–54            55–64            65 and over            Total</p> <p><b>9 Marital Status</b>            Married            Not Married            Total</p> <p><b>10 Relationship in household</b>            Family member              Husband, wife or partner              Lone parent              Child under 15              Dependent student              Non-dependent child              Other related individual</p> <p>  Non-family member              Unrelated individual in family household              Group household member              Lone person</p> <p>  Total</p> <p><b>11a Country of birth and period of arrival</b>            Born in Australia            Born overseas              Arrived before 1971              Arrived 1971 to 1980              Arrived 1981 to 1990              Arrived 1991 to 2000              Arrived 2001 to survey date</p> <p>  Total</p> <p><b>11b Country of birth (1)</b>            Born in Australia            Born overseas              Born in main English speaking countries              Born in other countries</p> <p>  Total</p> <p><b>11c Country of birth (2)</b>            Born in Australia            Born overseas              Oceania and Antarctica              North-West Europe              Southern and Eastern Europe              North Africa and the Middle East              South-East Asia              North-East Asia              Southern and Central Asia              Americas              Sub-Saharan Africa</p> <p>  Total</p>
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## APPENDIX 2 DATA ITEM LIST *continued*

<i>Data Items</i>	<i>Data Items</i>
<p><b>12 Age and whether attending an educational institution</b>  Aged 15–19 attending neither school nor a tertiary educational institution  Aged 15–19 attending a tertiary educational institution full time  Aged 15–19 attending school  Aged 20–24 not attending tertiary educational institution full time  Aged 20–24 attending tertiary educational institution full time  Aged 20 attending school  Aged 21 and over  Total</p> <p><b>13 Labour force status</b>  Employed  Unemployed  Not in the Labour Force  Total</p> <p><b>14 Status in employment</b>  Employee  Employer  Own account worker  Contributing family worker  Total</p> <p><b>15 Full time or part time status of employment</b>  Employed full-time  Employed part-time  Total</p> <p><b>16 Hours worked in main job in reference week</b>  (Collected in single hours)</p> <p><b>17 Hours worked in all jobs in reference week</b>  (Collected in single hours)</p> <p><b>18 Hours usually worked in all jobs</b>  (Collected in single hours)</p> <p><b>19 Duration of unemployment</b>  Under 52 weeks  Under 2 weeks  2 to less than 4 weeks  4 to less than 8 weeks  8 to less than 13 weeks  13 to less than 26 weeks  26 to less than 52 weeks  52 weeks and over  52 to less than 104 weeks  104 weeks and over  Total</p> <p><b>20 Problems in neighbourhood</b>  Housebreakings/burglaries/theft from homes  Car theft  Other theft  Louts/youth gangs  Prowlers/loiterers  Drunkenness  Vandalism/graffitti/damage to property  Dangerous/noisy driving</p>	<p><b>20 Problems in neighbourhood <i>cont.</i></b>  Illegal drugs  Sexual assault  Other assault  Problems with neighbours/domestic problems  Other  No problems  Not stated  Total</p> <p><b>21 Whether a victim of household crime or personal crime (1)</b>  Victim of household crime only  Victim of personal crime only  Victim of both household and personal crime  Not a victim of any of these crimes  No household data available  Total</p> <p><b>22 Whether a victim of household crime or personal crime (2)</b>  Victim of household crime  Victim of personal crime  Not a victim of household or personal crime  Total</p> <p><b>23 Feelings of safety when home alone during the day</b>  Unsafe or very unsafe  Neither safe nor unsafe  Safe or very safe  Never home alone during the day  Total</p> <p><b>24 Reasons for feeling unsafe at home alone during the day</b>  Someone broke into my home or stole things from my home  I have been attacked or treated violently by somebody  I have been threatened or harassed by somebody  Because of things I find out about from the media  Because of crimes that have occurred in my area  My home is not secure enough  Disturbances occur near my home (e.g. gangs, vandalism, drunkenness)  There is nobody around to help if something happens  Because of my age  I am physically unable to defend myself  I have seen or heard people acting suspiciously  Other  Not stated  Total</p> <p><b>25 Feelings of safety when home alone after dark</b>  Unsafe or very unsafe  Neither safe nor unsafe  Safe or very safe  Never home alone after dark  Total</p>

## APPENDIX 2 DATA ITEM LIST *continued*

<i>Data Items</i>	<i>Data Items</i>
<p><b>26</b>    <b>Reasons for feeling unsafe at home alone after dark</b>                      Someone broke into my home or stole things from my home                      I have been attacked or treated violently by somebody                      I have been threatened or harassed by somebody                      Because of things I find out about from the media                      Because of crimes that have occurred in my area                      My home is not secure enough                      Disturbances occur near my home (e.g. gangs, vandalism, drunkenness)                      There is nobody around to help if something happens                      Because of my age                      I am physically unable to defend myself                      I have seen or heard people acting suspiciously                      I can't see what's happening when it's dark                      Other                      Not stated                      Total</p>	<p><b>33</b>    <b>Whether a victim of attempted break-in in the last 12 months</b>                      Victim of attempted break-in                      Not a victim of attempted break-in                      Total</p> <p><b>34</b>    <b>Whether a victim of motor vehicle theft in the last 12 months</b>                      Victim of motor vehicle theft                      Not a victim of motor vehicle theft                      Total</p> <p><b>35</b>    <b>Number of household crime incidents in the last 12 months</b>                      None                      One                      Two                      Three or more                      Don't know                      Not stated                      Total</p> <p><b>36</b>    <b>Number of household crime incidents in the last 12 months that became known to the police</b>                      None                      One                      Two                      Three or more                      Don't know                      Not stated                      Total</p>
<p><b>27</b>    <b>Length of time lived in current dwelling</b>                      Less than 1 year                      1 to less than 3 years                      3 to less than 5 years                      5 years or more                      Not stated                      Total</p>	<p><b>37</b>    <b>Whether most recent household crime at current or previous address<sup>(a)</sup></b>                      Current address                      Previous address                      Total</p> <p><b>38</b>    <b>Whether told police about most recent household crime</b>                      Told police                      Did not tell police                      Not stated                      Total</p>
<p><b>28</b>    <b>Dwelling structure</b>                      Separate house                      Semi-detached, row or terrace house, townhouse etc.                      Flat or apartment - on ground level                      Flat or apartment - not on ground level                      Other dwelling                      Not stated                      Total</p>	<p><b>39</b>    <b>How most recent household crime was reported to police<sup>(a)</sup></b>                      Reported in person at a police station                      Police notified by telephone                      Police were already at the scene                      Don't know - the incident was reported by someone else                      Other                      Not stated                      Total</p> <p><b>40</b>    <b>Main reason did not tell police about the most recent break-in<sup>(b)</sup></b>                      Too trivial/unimportant                      Somebody else told the police                      Thought there was nothing the police could do                      Thought police would be unwilling to do anything                      Private matter/would take care of it themselves                      Too confused/upset/injured                      Nothing was stolen                      Not covered by insurance                      Other                      Not stated                      Total</p>
<p><b>29</b>    <b>Tenure type of the dwelling</b>                      Owned/being purchased                      Rented                      Other                      Not stated                      Total</p>	
<p><b>30</b>    <b>Whether a victim of household crime in the last 12 months</b>                      Victims                      Non-victims                      Total</p>	
<p><b>31</b>    <b>Type of household crime</b>                      Break-in                      Attempted break-in                      Break-in/Attempted break-in                      Motor vehicle theft                      Total household victims</p>	
<p><b>32</b>    <b>Whether a victim of break-in in the last 12 months</b>                      Victim of break-in                      Not a victim of break-in                      Total</p>	

(a) Available only for break-in, attempted break-in.

(b) Available only for break-in.

## APPENDIX 2 DATA ITEM LIST *continued*

<i>Data Items</i>	<i>Data Items</i>
41 <b>When the most recent break-in occurred</b> (a) Less than 3 months ago 3 months to less than 6 months ago 6 months to less than 9 months ago 9 months to 12 months ago Not stated Total	49 <b>Whether victim of sexual assault in the last 12 months</b> <i>cont.</i> Total
42 <b>What the offender did in the most recent break-in</b> (a) Stole property Damaged property Confronted someone Something else Not stated Total	50 <b>Number of personal crime incidents in the last 12 months</b> None One Two Three or more Don't know Not stated Total
43 <b>Evidence of an attempted break-in</b> (b) Door was damaged or tampered with Window was damaged or tampered with Other property damage Door open when it should not have been Window was open when it should not have been Burgler alarm went off Someone seen trying to break in Someone seen acting suspicious Someone tried to enter by using false pretences Other Not stated Total	51 <b>Number of personal crime incidents in the last 12 months that became known to the police</b> None One Two Three or more Don't know Not stated Total
44 <b>Number of motor vehicles owned or used by members of the household</b> None One Two Three or more Total	52 <b>When the most recent personal crime incident occurred (within last 12 months)</b> Less than 3 months ago 3 months to less than 6 months ago 6 months to less than 9 months ago 9 months to 12 months ago Not stated Total
45 <b>Whether person was a victim of personal crime in the last 12 months</b> Victims Non-victims Total	53 <b>Whether told police about most recent personal crime incident</b> Told police Did not tell police Not stated Total
46 <b>Type of personal crime</b> Robbery Assault Sexual Assault Total person victims	54 <b>How most recent personal crime incident was reported to police</b> Reported in person at a police station Police notified by telephone Police were already at the scene Don't know - the incident was reported by someone else Other Not stated Total
47 <b>Whether a victim of robbery in the last 12 months</b> Victim of robbery Not a victim of robbery Total	55 <b>Main reason police did not tell police most recent personal crime incident</b> Too trivial/unimportant Somebody else told the police Nothing the police could do Police unwilling to do anything Private matter/would take care of it themselves Told somebody else instead Did not want offender punished Afraid of reprisal Too confused/upset/injured Other Not stated Total
48 <b>Whether victim of assault in the last 12 months</b> Victim of assault Not a victim of assault Total	
49 <b>Whether victim of sexual assault in the last 12 months</b> Victim of sexual assault Not a victim of sexual assault	

(a) Available only for break-in.

(b) Available only for attempted break-in.

## APPENDIX 2 DATA ITEM LIST *continued*

<p><i>Data Items</i></p> <p><b>56 Location of most recent personal crime incident</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Home</li> <li>Another person's home</li> <li>Place of work/study                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Own work - incident related to job</li> <li>Own work - incident not related to job</li> </ul> </li> <li>Place of study</li> <li>Private vehicle</li> <li>Public vehicle</li> <li>Train station, bus stop or interchange</li> <li>Place of entertainment (including car park)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pub, nightclub, etc.</li> <li>Other place of entertainment or recreation, including car park</li> </ul> </li> <li>Street or other open land</li> <li>Shopping centre</li> <li>Other</li> <li>Not stated</li> <li>Total</li> </ul> <p><b>57 Use of weapon and type of weapon in most recent personal crime incident</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weapon used                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Knife</li> <li>Gun</li> <li>Syringe/hypodermic needle</li> <li>Other</li> </ul> </li> <li>No weapon used</li> <li>Not stated</li> <li>Total</li> </ul> <p><b>58 Whether physically injured in most recent personal crime incident</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physically injured                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Admitted to hospital</li> <li>Seen or treated by doctor or other medical practitioner</li> <li>Injured but not seen by doctor or other medical practitioner</li> </ul> </li> <li>Not physically injured</li> <li>Not stated</li> <li>Total</li> </ul> <p><b>59 Whether victim saw offender(s) in the most recent personal crime incident</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offender(s) were seen</li> <li>Offender(s) were not seen</li> <li>Not stated</li> <li>Total</li> </ul> <p><b>60 Number of offenders in the most recent personal crime incident</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One</li> <li>Two</li> <li>Three or more</li> <li>Don't know</li> <li>Not stated</li> <li>Total</li> </ul> <p><b>61 Sex of offender(s) in the most recent personal crime incident</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Male</li> <li>Female</li> <li>Some male, some female</li> <li>Not stated</li> <li>Not sure</li> </ul>	<p><i>Data Items</i></p> <p><b>61 Sex of offender(s) in the most recent personal crime incident <i>cont.</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total</li> </ul> <p><b>62 Age of offender(s) in the most recent personal crime incident</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All under 18 years</li> <li>All 18 years or over</li> <li>Some under 18, some 18 years or over</li> <li>Not sure</li> <li>Not stated</li> <li>Total</li> </ul> <p><b>63 Whether offender(s) known to victim in most recent personal crime incident</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offender(s) all known</li> <li>Some offender(s) known</li> <li>Offender(s) not known</li> <li>Don't know</li> <li>Not stated</li> <li>Total</li> </ul> <p><b>64 How victim knew the offender(s) in the most recent personal crime incident<sup>(a)</sup></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family member                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partner</li> <li>Parent</li> <li>Sibling</li> <li>Child of victim</li> <li>Other family member</li> <li>Family member (not further specified)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Other known person                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ex-partner</li> <li>Girlfriend/boyfriend</li> <li>Ex-girlfriend/ex-boyfriend</li> <li>Other friend</li> <li>Neighbour</li> <li>Workmate</li> <li>Classmate/fellow student</li> <li>Acquaintance</li> <li>Other known person (not further specified)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Person not known                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognised but not known</li> <li>Known by role/uniform</li> <li>Not stated</li> <li>Did not know offender</li> <li>Person not known (not further specified)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Total</li> </ul> <p><b>65 Emotional reaction after the most recent personal crime incident</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anger</li> <li>Shock</li> <li>Frustration</li> <li>Fear for personal safety</li> <li>Depression/anxiety/panic attacks</li> <li>Loss of confidence/feeling vulnerable</li> <li>Difficulty sleeping</li> <li>Crying/tears</li> <li>Fear of being alone</li> <li>Became more cautious/wary</li> <li>Other</li> <li>None</li> <li>Not stated</li> <li>Total</li> </ul>
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(a) Available only for assault, sexual assault.

## APPENDIX 2 DATA ITEM LIST *continued*

<p><i>Data Items</i></p> <p><b>66</b> Whether victim sought advice or support as a result of the most recent personal crime incident<sup>(a)</sup></p> <p>Counsellor, including social worker or psychologist</p> <p>Doctor, including general practitioner</p> <p>Minister, priest or other religious advisor</p> <p>None of these</p> <p>Not stated</p> <p>Total</p> <p><b>67</b> Whether sought help because of most recent personal crime incident<sup>(a)</sup></p> <p>Crisis help</p> <p>Legal help</p> <p>Financial help</p> <p>None</p> <p>Not stated</p> <p>Total</p> <p><b>68</b> Whether victim talked to anyone about the most recent personal crime incident<sup>(a)</sup></p> <p>Family</p> <p>Friend or neighbour</p> <p>Work colleague</p> <p>Anyone else</p> <p>None of these</p> <p>Not stated</p> <p>Total</p> <p><b>69</b> Whether sought support and type of support sought after most recent incident<sup>(a)</sup></p> <p>Support sought</p> <p>Counsellor</p> <p>Doctor</p> <p>Minister, priest or other religious advisor</p> <p>Crisis help</p> <p>Legal help</p> <p>Financial help</p> <p>Family</p> <p>Friend or neighbour</p> <p>Work colleague</p> <p>Other</p> <p>Did not seek support</p> <p>Not stated</p> <p>Total</p> <p><b>70</b> Whether anything was stolen from the victim in the most recent robbery<sup>(b)</sup></p> <p>Something stolen</p> <p>Nothing stolen</p> <p>Total</p> <p><b>71</b> Items stolen in the most recent robbery<sup>(b)</sup></p> <p>Portable stereo/radio/walkman/discman</p> <p>Camera/Video recorder/Photographic equipment</p> <p>Jewellery (including watch)</p> <p>Bicycle</p> <p>Money (unspecified)</p> <p>Cash</p> <p>Credit cards/cheques/ATM cards</p> <p>Clothes/shoes/hat</p> <p>Laptop portable computer equipment</p> <p>Mobile telephone</p> <p>Handbag/briefcase/bag/wallet/purse</p> <p>Sporting equipment/Sporting bag</p>	<p><i>Data Items</i></p> <p><b>71</b> Items stolen in the most recent robbery<sup>(b)</sup> <i>cont.</i></p> <p>Other items</p> <p>Not stated</p> <p>Total</p> <p><b>72</b> What the offender did in the most recent robbery<sup>(b)</sup></p> <p>Demand that something be handed over</p> <p>Attempt to take items</p> <p>Items actually taken</p> <p>Physical attack</p> <p>Threat of physical violence</p> <p>Attacked or threatened in some other way</p> <p>Not stated</p> <p>Total</p> <p><b>73</b> What happened in the most recent assault</p> <p>Used force or violence</p> <p>Attempted to use force or violence</p> <p>Threatened to use force or violence</p> <p>Other</p> <p>Total</p> <p><b>74</b> Whether victim was in danger of being hurt during the most recent assault<sup>(c)</sup></p> <p>Yes</p> <p>No</p> <p>Not stated</p> <p>Total</p> <p><b>75</b> Nature of most recent assault<sup>(c)</sup></p> <p>Used force or violence</p> <p>Attempted force or violence - in danger of being hurt</p> <p>Attempted force or violence - not in danger of being hurt</p> <p>Threatened force or violence - in danger of being hurt</p> <p>Threatened force or violence - not in danger of being hurt</p> <p>Other - in danger of being hurt</p> <p>Other - not in danger of being hurt</p> <p>Not stated</p> <p>Total</p> <p><b>76</b> Day of the week on which the most recent assault occurred<sup>(c)</sup></p> <p>Monday to Wednesday</p> <p>Thursday</p> <p>Friday</p> <p>Saturday</p> <p>Sunday</p> <p>Not sure</p> <p>Not stated</p> <p>Total</p> <p><b>77</b> Time of day at which the most recent assault occurred<sup>(c)</sup></p> <p>Not applicable</p> <p>From 6am to before noon</p> <p>From noon to before 6 pm</p> <p>From 6pm to before 10 pm</p> <p>From 10pm to before 2 am</p> <p>From 2am to before 6am</p> <p>Not stated</p> <p>Not sure</p>
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(a) Available only for assault, sexual assault.

(b) Available only for robbery.

(c) Available only for assault.

APPENDIX 2 DATA ITEM LIST *continued*

Data  
Items

- 79 Assault typology<sup>(a)</sup>**  
Offender was family member  
Home-based  
Work/study  
Street  
Recreation/entertainment venue  
Private vehicle  
Shops  
Other

Data  
Items

- 79 Assault typology<sup>(a)</sup> cont.**  
Not stated  
Total
- 80 Whether victim considered the most recent sexual assault to be a crime<sup>(b)</sup>**  
Considers the incident a crime  
Does not consider the incident a crime  
Not stated  
Total

(a) Available only for assault.

(b) Available only for sexual assault.

## RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

**1** Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings, they are subject to sampling variability. That is, they may differ from those estimates that would have been produced if all dwellings 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 by chance due to only a sample of dwellings being included. There are about two chances in three (67%) that a sample estimate will differ by less than one SE from the number that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included, and about 19 chances in 20 (95%) that the difference will be less than two SEs. Another measure of the likely difference is the relative standard error (RSE), which is obtained by expressing the SE as a percentage of the estimate.

**2** In general, the size of the SE increases as the size of the estimate increases. Conversely, the RSE decreases as the size of the estimate increases. Very small estimates are thus subject to such high RSEs that their value for most practical purposes is unreliable. In this publication, only estimates with RSEs of 25% or less are considered reliable for most purposes. Estimates with RSEs greater than 25% but less than or equal to 50% are preceded by an asterisk (e.g.\*2.2) to indicate they are subject to high SEs and should be used with caution. Estimates with RSEs of greater than 50%, preceded by a double asterisk (e.g.\*\*1.5), are considered too unreliable for general use and should only be used to aggregate with other estimates to provide derived estimates with RSEs of 25% or less.

**3** The imprecision due to sampling variability, which is measured by the SE, should not be confused with inaccuracies that may occur because of imperfections in reporting by respondents and recording by interviewers, and errors made in coding and processing data. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as non-sampling error, and they may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or a sample. Every effort is made to minimise non-sampling error by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and efficient operating procedures.

**4** Due to space limitations, it is impractical to print the SE of each estimate in this publication. A table of SEs and RSEs is provided at the end of this Technical Note to enable readers to determine the SE for an estimate from the size of that estimate. These figures will not give a precise measure of the SE for a particular estimate but will provide an indication of its magnitude.

## CALCULATION OF STANDARD ERROR

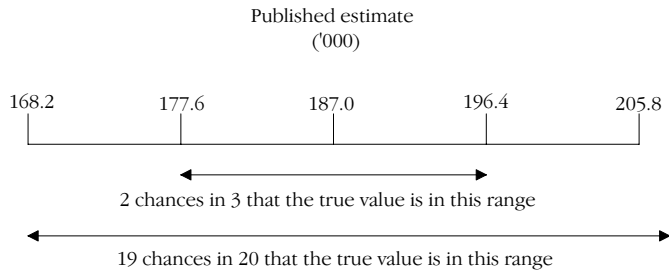
*Standard error of an estimate*

**5** An example of the calculation and the use of SEs in relation to estimates of persons is as follows. Consider the estimate for Australia of persons aged 25–34 years who have been a victim of assault within the last 12 months, which is 187,000. Since this estimate is between 100,000 and 200,000 in the SE table for person estimates, the SE for Australia will lie between 7,221 and 9,736 and can be approximated by interpolation using the following general formula:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & SE \text{ of estimate} \\
 &= \text{lower SE} + \left( \left( \frac{\text{size of estimate} - \text{lower estimate}}{\text{upper estimate} - \text{lower estimate}} \right) \times (\text{upper SE} - \text{lower SE}) \right) \\
 &= 7,221 + \left( \left( \frac{187,000 - 100,000}{200,000 - 100,000} \right) \times (9,736 - 7,221) \right) \\
 &= 9,409 \\
 &= 9,400 \text{ rounded to the nearest 100}
 \end{aligned}$$

**6** Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the value that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey will fall within the range 177,600 to 196,400 and about 19 chances in 20 that the value will fall within the range 168,200 to 205,800. This example is illustrated in the diagram below.

Standard error of an estimate  
*continued*



RSES OF COMPARATIVE ESTIMATES

*Proportions and percentages*

**7** 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. For proportions where the denominator is an estimate of the number of persons in a group and the numerator is the number of persons in a sub-group of the denominator group, the formula to approximate the RSE is:

$$RSE\left(\frac{x}{y}\right) = \sqrt{[RSE(x)]^2 - [RSE(y)]^2}$$

**8** Considering the example above, the 187,000 persons aged 25–34 years who had been a victim of assault within the last 12 months represent 24.3% of the 770,600 persons who were victims of assault in the last 12 months. The SE of 770,600 may be calculated by interpolation as 16,400. To convert this to a RSE we express the SE as a percentage of the estimate, or  $16,400/770,600=2.1\%$ . The SE for 187,000 was calculated previously as 9,400 which converted to a RSE is  $9,400/187,000=5.0\%$ . Applying the above formula, the RSE of the proportion is

$$RSE = \sqrt{(5.0)^2 - (2.1)^2} = 4.5\%$$

**9** Therefore, the SE for the proportion of victims of assault aged 25–34 years in the last 12 months is 1.1 percentage points ( $= (24.3/100) \times 4.5$ ). Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the proportion of victims of assault in the last 12 months who were persons aged 25–34 years is between 23.2% and 25.4% and 19 chances in 20 that the proportion is within the range 22.1% to 26.5%.

*Differences between estimates*

**10** The difference between two survey estimates is itself an estimate and is therefore subject to sampling variability. The sampling error of the difference between two estimates depends on their SEs and the relationship (correlation) between them. An approximate SE of the difference between two estimates (x-y) may be calculated by the following formula:

$$SE(x-y) = \sqrt{[SE(x)]^2 + [SE(y)]^2}$$

**11** While this formula will only be exact for differences between separate and uncorrelated characteristics or subpopulations, it is expected to provide a good approximation for all differences likely to be of interest in this publication.

STATISTICAL SIGNIFICANCE TESTING

**12** Where differences between data items have been noted in the Summary of Findings, they are statistically significant unless otherwise specified. In this publication a statistically significant difference is one where there are 19 chances in 20 that the difference noted reflects a true difference between population groups of interest rather than being the result of sampling variability.

**13** Statistical significance testing has also been undertaken for the comparison of estimates between 2005, 2002 and 1998, included in tables 1, 2, 6 and 15. The statistical significance test for these comparisons was performed to determine whether it is likely that there is a difference between the corresponding population characteristics. The standard error of the difference between two corresponding estimates (x and y) can be



STATISTICAL SIGNIFICANCE  
TESTING *continued*

calculated using the formula in paragraph 10. This standard error is used to calculate the following test statistic:

$$\frac{[x-y]}{SE(x-y)}$$

**14** If the value of the test statistic is greater than 1.96 then we may say there is good evidence of a real difference in the two populations with respect to that characteristic. Otherwise, it cannot be stated with confidence that there is a real difference between the populations. Tables 1, 2, 6 and 15 are annotated to indicate whether the differences between estimates which have been compared are statistically significant. In other tables, which do not show the results of significance testing, users should take account of RSEs when comparing estimates for different populations.

## TECHNICAL NOTE DATA QUALITY *continued*

### T1 STANDARD ERROR OF ESTIMATES

Size of estimate	STANDARD ERROR									RELATIVE STANDARD ERROR
	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	Aust.	Aust. %
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	%
500	505	536	469	385	361	265	312	247	440	92.2
600	567	588	520	429	402	292	347	272	492	84.9
700	624	636	567	470	441	317	379	294	540	79.1
800	678	680	611	507	476	339	408	315	585	74.4
900	729	721	653	543	510	361	435	334	628	70.4
1,000	777	760	692	576	542	380	459	353	668	67.0
1,100	823	796	729	608	572	399	482	369	707	64.1
1,200	867	831	764	638	601	416	504	386	744	61.6
1,300	910	865	798	667	629	433	524	401	779	59.3
1,400	951	897	831	694	655	449	543	415	814	57.2
1,500	990	928	862	721	681	464	561	429	847	55.4
1,600	1 029	957	893	746	706	478	578	442	879	53.7
1,700	1 066	986	922	771	729	492	595	455	910	52.2
1,800	1 102	1 014	950	795	753	505	610	468	940	50.8
1,900	1 137	1 040	978	818	775	518	625	479	970	49.5
2,000	1 171	1 067	1 005	840	797	531	639	491	999	48.3
2,100	1 205	1 092	1 031	862	818	543	653	502	1 027	47.2
2,200	1 237	1 117	1 056	883	839	554	666	513	1 054	46.2
2,300	1 269	1 141	1 081	904	859	565	679	523	1 081	45.2
2,400	1 300	1 164	1 105	924	879	576	691	533	1 107	44.3
2,500	1 330	1 187	1 129	943	898	587	703	543	1 133	43.4
3,000	1 474	1 295	1 240	1 035	989	636	757	589	1 255	39.7
3,500	1 606	1 393	1 341	1 117	1 071	680	803	630	1 366	36.8
4,000	1 728	1 484	1 434	1 193	1 147	720	844	667	1 470	34.5
4,500	1 842	1 568	1 521	1 262	1 218	756	880	701	1 567	32.6
5,000	1 949	1 647	1 603	1 327	1 284	790	912	732	1 659	30.9
6,000	2 148	1 792	1 753	1 445	1 405	850	968	788	1 830	28.2
8,000	2 495	2 044	2 015	1 647	1 616	950	1 055	883	2 131	24.4
10,000	2 796	2 262	2 239	1 817	1 796	1 033	1 120	961	2 393	21.8
20,000	3 926	3 080	3 076	2 420	2 459	1 313	1 303	1 232	3 397	15.3
30,000	4 741	3 673	3 676	2 826	2 926	1 492	1 389	1 407	4 141	12.4
40,000	5 395	4 154	4 157	3 137	3 295	1 624	1 436	1 539	4 749	10.6
50,000	5 950	4 565	4 563	3 390	3 604	1 729	1 465	1 645	5 273	9.4
100,000	7 950	6 082	6 031	4 239	4 693	2 061	1 503	1 988	7 221	6.5
200,000	10 399	8 029	7 840	5 157	5 980	2 389	1 461	2 343	9 736	4.4
300,000	12 048	9 404	9 069	5 711	6 823	2 571	..	2 550	11 513	3.5
400,000	13 315	10 501	10 022	6 105	7 458	2 693	..	2 694	12 926	3.0
500,000	14 352	11 426	10 809	6 409	7 971	2 782	..	..	14 113	2.6
1,000,000	17 866	14 762	13 517	7 319	9 662	..	..	..	18 356	1.7
2,000,000	21 770	18 897	16 625	8 133	11 461	..	..	..	23 505	1.1
5,000,000	27 359	25 821	..	..	..	..	..	..	31 825	0.7
10,000,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	39 310	0.4
15,000,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	44 160	0.3

.. not applicable

## GLOSSARY

<b>Assault</b>	An incident, other than a robbery, where the respondent was physically attacked or threatened with force or violence.
<b>Attempted break-in</b>	An incident where an attempt was made to break into the respondent's home, garage or shed.
<b>Break-in</b>	An incident where the respondent's home was broken into. The respondent's home was defined to include their garage or shed. Break-in offences relating to their car or garden were excluded.
<b>Break-in/attempted break-in</b>	Where a household was a victim of either a break-in or an attempted break-in, or both.
<b>Household</b>	A group of persons 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 persons consider their households to be separate.
<b>Household crime</b>	Specifically, a break-in, attempted break-in or motor vehicle theft, in which a household is considered to be the victim of the crime.
<b>Incidence rate</b>	The total number of incidents of an offence that occurred in the reference period expressed as a percentage of the relevant population.
<b>Incident</b>	A single occurrence of a crime event, such as a break-in, an attempted break-in, the theft of a motor vehicle, or an act of robbery, assault or sexual assault.
<b>Labour force status</b>	The situation of respondents in relation to the labour force at the time of the survey. Categories include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Employed—had a job or business, or undertook work without pay in a family business in the week prior to the survey, including being absent from a job or business that they had</li><li>■ Unemployed—not employed but actively looked for work in the four weeks prior to the survey, and available to start work in the week prior to the survey</li><li>■ Not in the labour force—persons who were neither employed nor unemployed, e.g. retired persons, persons keeping house (unpaid), and persons who are voluntarily inactive or permanently unable to work.</li></ul>
<b>Motor vehicle theft</b>	An incident where a 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 members of the household.
<b>Neighbourhood</b>	The definition of this term was left to the interpretation of the respondent.
<b>Offence</b>	A crime committed against either a person or a household.
<b>Personal crime</b>	Specifically, a robbery, assault or sexual assault, in which an individual is considered to be the victim of the crime.
<b>Reporting rate</b>	The total number of victims of an offence who reported the most recent incident to police, expressed as a percentage of the total victims of that offence.
<b>Robbery</b>	An incident where someone stole (or tried to steal) property from a respondent by physically attacking them or threatening them with force or violence.
<b>Sexual assault</b>	An incident of a sexual nature involving physical contact, including rape, attempted rape, indecent assault, and assault with the intent to sexually assault. Sexual harassment (that did not lead to sexual assault) was excluded. Only persons aged 18 years and over were asked questions about sexual assault.
<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 prevalence rate</b>	The total number of victims of an offence in a given population expressed as a percentage of that population.

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