



New Zealand
Crime and Victims **survey**

HELP CREATE SAFER COMMUNITIES

Survey findings - Cycle 4 report

Descriptive statistics

June 2022

Results drawn from Cycle 4 (2020/21) of the
New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey

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5. Unfortunately, due to an error in data collection, this report does not include over 200 interviews from the Hawke's Bay area. Survey results were revised, amended and re-weighted to maintain accuracy and avoid bias.

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If you have any feedback or questions about NZCVS results, please email us on nzcvs@justice.govt.nz

Foreword



Kia ora koutou!

I am pleased to present the key findings report of the New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey (NZCVS) 2021.

Last year was the fourth year of the NZCVS data collection. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic we had to stop interviewing in the affected areas a few times. Still, 6,244 New Zealanders over the age of 15 were personally interviewed about their experience of crime in the last 12 months.

The NZCVS is New Zealand's only comprehensive source of data about victims of crime. Without this survey we would have much less reliable information on New Zealanders' experiences with crime. This is because only 25% of crime is reported to the Police. And that's why the NZCVS is so important. The results from the NZCVS help government agencies to create safer neighbourhoods and communities.

The survey's anonymised database now contains information received from almost 30,000 adults over four years. The increasing period of interviewing and number of respondents makes it possible to produce more accurate results and look at changes in the volume and structure of victimisation over time. In addition to previously collected data we now ask people about their experiences with the New Zealand Police. Analyses of these data will be reported by Police in separate report.

Behind each survey record there are real people with real problems, issues and experiences of crime in New Zealand. Of course, a survey like this cannot reflect the entire effects of these experiences across families, whānau and communities. We, therefore, need to ensure that we all honour those experiences by making use of the evidence collected here to monitor and improve the justice system and enhance the wellbeing of all New Zealanders.

Many people made this survey possible. Thank you to the Research and Evaluation team at the Ministry of Justice who designed and analysed it, government agencies, non-governmental organisations and academics who reviewed it and provided input. Thank you to CBG Public Sector Surveying for the hundreds of interviews and for their commitment and very professional contribution.

But most of all, thank you to the 6,244 people who told us the story of their experience of crime. The gift of insight you have given us during the uneasy time of the COVID-19 pandemic to help our community is very precious.

Ngā mihi



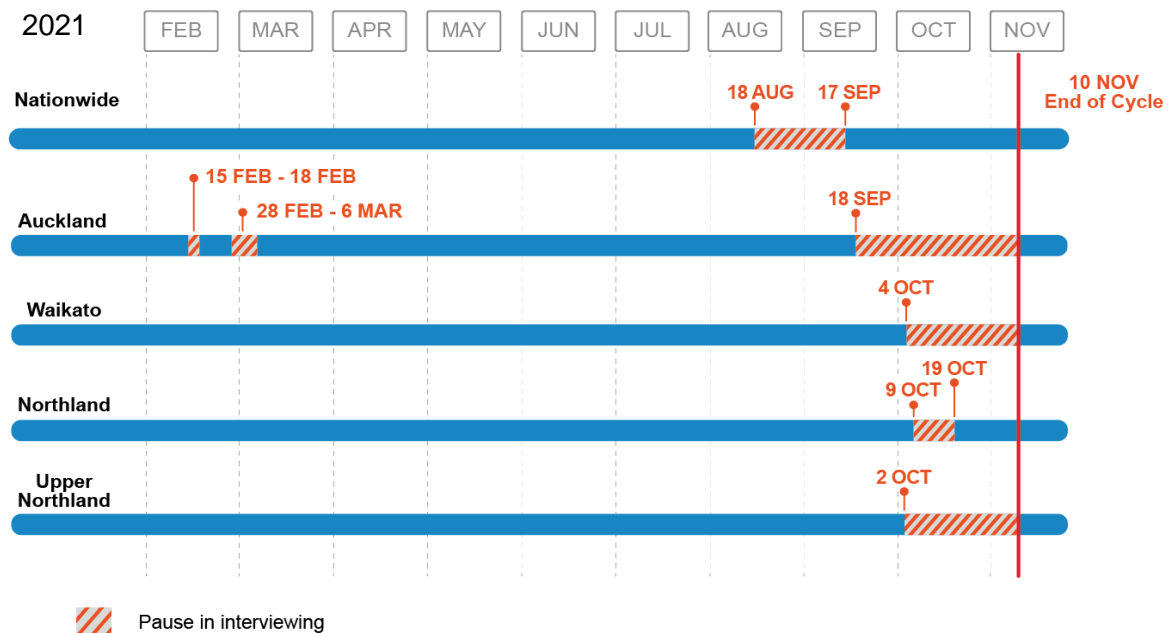
Andrew Kibblewhite

Secretary of Justice and Chief Executive

Victimisation and COVID-19 in Cycles 3 and 4

Cycles 3 and 4 covered an unusual time in Aotearoa New Zealand because of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated alert level restrictions. New Zealanders faced various restrictions on their movements and social interactions – the strongest at Alert Level 4, which was in place nationwide from 25 March to 27 April 2020 and from 17 August to 31 August 2021.

In line with the public health recommendations, the NZCVS team suspended interviews during Alert Levels 3 and 4. This requirement resulted in multiple fieldwork interruptions during Cycle 4 (see chart below).



As a result, interviewing continued later into the year than planned and achieved a lower number of responses – 6,244 instead of the planned 8,000. This also affected the overall response rate, which, while still being high, was marginally reduced from 80% to 76%.

When interviewers returned to the field, precautions were made to ensure the safety of respondents and interviewers. This included pre-interview screening to identify household members who had COVID-like symptoms, those who were self-isolating, and those who worked in high-risk occupations. Interviewers also employed a set of enhanced health and safety measures recommended by the Ministry of Health, including sanitising of hands and equipment before and after an interview; body temperature control and wider wellbeing checks; thorough record-keeping; and keeping masks and gloves available. All interviewers undertook special COVID-related training. These efforts were important for maintaining a high response rate to the survey.

Key findings

Topic	Key findings
How much crime is there in New Zealand?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 29% of adults were victimised once or more in the previous 12 months. This level of overall victimisation has remained stable over time (from Cycle 1 to Cycle 4). • The three most common offence types in Cycle 4 were harassment and threatening behaviour; burglary; and fraud and deception. Together, these made up more than half of all offences (51%). • The proportion of households that experienced burglaries fell significantly, from 12.1% in Cycle 1 to 9.3% in Cycle 4. However, the number of burglary incidents increased compared to Cycle 3. This indicates a growing concentration of burglaries. Burglaries are the only offence type with a statistically significant change from Cycle 3.
Who is experiencing crime?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Cycle 4, key population factors associated with a higher likelihood of victimisation when compared with the New Zealand average included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – personal factors: young adults (aged 15–29); bisexual; Māori; separated – economic and household factors: not employed and not actively seeking work; living in a one-parent-with-child(ren) household or multi-person household; renting government accommodation; being under high levels of financial pressure – wellbeing factors: having a moderate or high level of psychological distress; having low life satisfaction; having a low feeling of safety. • There was only a small (2%) gap between Māori victimisation and the New Zealand average when age and derivation are accounted for. This finding supports the view that the different age structure and the different level of deprivation between Māori and the New Zealand average are key contributors to the higher likelihood of victimisation for Māori. • Disabled adults were significantly more likely to experience crime across personal offences and household offences when differences in average age are accounted for.
Sexual assault	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 2% of adults experienced sexual assault – ranging from threats and unwanted touching to forced sexual intercourse – in the previous 12 months. This figure did not change significantly from Cycle 1. • 11% of people with diverse sexualities (gay, lesbian, bisexual and others) were victims of sexual assault in the previous 12 months. • Young females were at high risk of sexual assault, with 9% of females aged 15–19 and 7% of females aged 20–29 affected in the previous 12 months.
Offences by family members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 2% of New Zealand adults had experienced one or more offences by family members in the previous 12 months. This figure did not change significantly from Cycle 1. • Offending by intimate partners has decreased significantly between the previous year and current year; the decrease was driven by the rate of offending by current partners (as opposed to ex-partners). • Females were almost four times as likely as males to have experienced offending by an intimate partner and nearly twice as likely to have experienced offending by another family member.

<p>Lifetime experience of sexual assault and intimate partner violence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 35% of females and 12% of males had experienced sexual assault in their lifetime. Sexual assault started at a younger age, with 18% of adults aged 15–19 affected so far during their lives. • About 23% of females and 10% of males who have ever had a partner had experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime. • Disabled adults were at elevated risk of having experienced sexual assault or intimate partner violence during their lifetime, especially when controlling for age (45%).
<p>Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on victimisation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The overall victimisation level has remained stable before and during the COVID-19 pandemic across all victimisation measures. • Prevalence rates for burglaries, household property damage and overall household offences significantly reduced since the start of the pandemic.
<p>Reporting to the Police</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall, 25% of all victimisation incidents were reported to the Police (no significant difference with the previous cycles). • Only 8% of sexual assaults and 9% of fraud and cybercrime incidents were reported to the Police. • Only 15% of incidents perceived to be driven by discrimination towards the victim's sexuality were reported to the Police.
<p>Distribution of crime</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Cycle 4, 38% of victims experienced two or more victimisations within the previous 12 months. These victims experienced the majority (73%) of all victimisations. Just over 2% of adults experienced 39% of all victimisations. • There was a significant increase in repeat burglaries in Cycle 4 (63% compared with 40% for the previous year). • Offences by family members were the most repeated type of offence. Repeat victims of offences by family members (40%) experienced 79% of all offences by family members.
<p>Crime scene and consequences</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almost half of personal offence incidents (49%) involved a male offender and a female victim. This proportion increases to 52% for interpersonal violence, 69% for offences by family members and 73% for sexual assault. • One in 11 incidents (9%) resulted in injury. This proportion increases to 21% for interpersonal violence offences, 29% for offences by family members and 49% for non-sexual assaults.
<p>Perceptions of safety</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Females and disabled people were significantly more likely to feel unsafe in general and when with family or whānau. • Those separated or divorced, and those living in a one-parent-with-child(ren) household were significantly less likely to feel safe. • Adults who were not employed and not actively seeking work were twice as likely to have felt unsafe when with family or whānau.

For the full list of findings, see Appendix 1: Key findings.

Executive summary

Welcome to the Cycle 4 (2020/21) survey findings report of the annual New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey (NZCVS).

The NZCVS is the most comprehensive source of data on adult (aged 15 and older) victims of crime in Aotearoa New Zealand. Because only about 25% of crime is reported to the Police, the NZCVS provides the only data on the true nature and volume of crime in New Zealand.

The survey also provides rich information on the experiences of victims of crime, and how they were affected.

Since it was established in 2017, the NZCVS has dramatically increased knowledge and understanding of crime and victimisation and is widely used by key government agencies and non-governmental organisations to support better policy development and interventions.

Because of the consistent methodology used by the NZCVS across all four cycles, we are now able to compare four years of data representing almost 30,000 interviews with New Zealanders about their experiences of crime. This allows us to analyse changes in the levels of crime and victimisation since the beginning of the NZCVS data collection in March 2018 with higher accuracy.

This report is focused on significant findings and trends which may inform policy development and strategic decisions in the justice sector. More information is available from statistical data tables supporting the report. Additionally, pooling the sample from all four years makes possible a richer analysis covering experiences of victims in smaller population groups. For example, this report reveals deeper information about the victimisation of disabled people.

While this report mostly replicates the structure of the previous annual report, some topics are significantly extended. In particular, a deeper dive into perceptions of safety and their association with victimisation is provided, and for the first time data related to controlling and coercive behaviour is described – a response to new questions introduced in Cycle 4. Finally, a high-level comparative analysis of victimisation before and during the COVID-19 pandemic is performed.

The report consists of ten sections. **Sections 1 and 2** briefly describe the NZCVS and provide information about the report itself. We strongly recommend reading these sections as they are key to understanding the report language and enabling correct interpretation of the survey results.

Section 3: “How much crime is there in New Zealand?” provides a high-level snapshot of victimisation and crime in New Zealand, using four different measures. It also compares the levels of victimisation across NZCVS cycles 1–4 (2018–2021).

Apart from burglaries, which fell significantly between Cycles 1 and 4, there were no other statistically significant changes in individual offence types.

Section 4: “Who is experiencing crime?” describes the level of victimisation across different demographic and socio-economic groups both for Cycle 4 and over time. This section also analyses the demographic factors associated with victimisation both in Cycle 4 and using pooled data across all four years.

The level of victimisation is compared across factors including age, sex, marital status, ethnicity, deprivation and disability, as well as the intersections of some of these characteristics. For example, the analysis found that in every NZCVS cycle, the proportion of Māori who were victimised is higher than any other ethnic group. However, after considering differences in age and deprivation, the gap in victimisation between Māori and the New Zealand average over four NZCVS cycles reduced from statistically significant (7%) to not statistically significant (2%). In contrast, after accounting for age differences, disabled people were significantly more likely to experience crime than the New Zealand average.

The analysis also revealed that females who were separated or divorced at the time of the survey were significantly more likely to be victimised, while males who were married, in a civil union, or in a de facto relationship were significantly less likely to be victimised.

Section 5: “Sexual violence and violence by family members” provides comprehensive information about population groups at particularly high risk of sexual assault or offences by family members, and the relationship of offenders to victims.

Sexual assault and offences by family members each affected about 2% of New Zealand adults within the previous 12 months. These rates are consistent between Cycle 1 and Cycle 4. The results show that some groups within our population face high levels of sexual assault or offences by family members, identifying where resources can be targeted.

For example, groups at very high risk of sexual assault included people with diverse sexualities (11%), particularly people identifying as bisexual (16%), and young females aged 15–19 (9%) and 20–29 (7%). Around two thirds (63%) of sexual assaults were perpetrated by an intimate partner, family member or someone known to the victim.

Groups at very high risk of offences by family members included those who were separated (11%), identified as bisexual (9%), or lived in a one-parent-with-child(ren) household (9%).

Almost three-quarters (73%) of offences by family members were perpetrated by intimate partners. Yet, offending by intimate partners significantly decreased from the previous year.

Newly added questions in Cycle 4 revealed that 13% of adults had a partner, ex-partner, or family or whānau member exhibiting a controlling behaviour within the 12 months prior to the interview, while 18% of adults had experienced a negative impact because of a partner, ex-partner, or family or whānau member’s behaviour or reaction.

Section 6: “Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on victimisation” provides high-level analysis of changes in victimisation after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

While no changes were observed for overall levels of victimisation and for personal offences, prevalence rates for household offences, and specifically for burglaries and household property damage, significantly reduced. We also identified a wide range of population groups

with significantly reduced prevalence rates of household offences and burglaries. More observations, however, are needed to identify drivers behind these changes.

Section 7: “Reporting to the Police” analyses data about reporting incidents to the Police. This section looks into whether an incident was reported to the Police and analyses why some incidents were not reported.

Overall, 25% of victimisations were reported to the Police (no significant difference between Cycle 4 and the previous cycles). Motor vehicles theft (80%) had the highest likelihood of being reported to the Police, while cybercrime offences were mostly not reported (98%).

Over the four cycles, only 8% of sexual assaults and 9% of fraud and cybercrime were reported to the Police.

Overall, the most common reason for not reporting victimisations to the Police in Cycle 4 was “too trivial/no loss or damage/not worth reporting” (45% of incidents). Some of the most common reasons for not reporting offences by family members were “private/personal/family or whānau matter” (38%), “dealt with matter myself/ourselves” (29%), and “shame/embarrassment/further humiliation” (24%). Almost one in five offences by family members (17%) were not reported to the Police because victims “didn’t want to get offender into trouble”.

Section 8: “Distribution of crime” provides data about victims who experienced more than one crime incident.

Just 2% of New Zealand adults experienced almost 40% of all victimisations. More than a third of victims (38%) were victimised more than once within the 12 months prior to the interview. These victims experience almost three-quarters (73%) of all victimisations. The above numbers are very stable and did not change significantly between Cycle 1 and Cycle 4. Offences by family members were the most concentrated type of offence. Repeat victims (40%) experienced the vast majority (79%) of all offences by family members.

Young adults (aged 15–29), Māori, disabled adults, adults with diverse sexualities, adults living in a one-parent-with-child(ren) household and some other population categories were significantly more likely to be highly victimised.

Notably, burglary saw a significant increase in the proportion of repeat victimisations – 63% compared to 40% in Cycle 3 and 47% in Cycle 1.

Section 9: “Crime scene and consequences” describes the location of crime and some of the consequences of crime for victims like injuries and time taken off work.

Almost three-quarters of all victimisations (71%) took place either in residential areas or online/over the phone compared to the other areas investigated (public area, community area, business/retail area). In contrast, one-third (33%) of sexual assaults and 18% of interpersonal violence incidents occurred in business/retail areas.

One in eleven incidents (9%) resulted in injury. This proportion increases to 21% for interpersonal violence offences, 29% for offences by family members and 49% for non-sexual assaults. Every tenth incident resulted in time taken off work by a victim. This proportion

increases to 18% for vehicle offences, 20% for offences by family members and 22% for offences by ex-partners.

Almost half of all personal offences (49%) are male-against-female offences. This proportion increases to 52% for interpersonal violence, 69% for offences by family members and to 73% for sexual assault.

Section 10: “Perceptions of safety”, which we significantly extended in this report, focuses on public perceptions of safety.

At a high level, there were no significant changes in the overall feeling of safety over the four NZCVS cycles – more than three-quarters of adults (78%) reported their overall feeling of safety as high (8 or more out of 10). On the other hand, 11% of adults reported feeling less safe (0 to 6 out of 10). This proportion is reduced to 6% for people aged 65+.

An overwhelming majority (95%) of adults felt safe when with their family or whānau (8 or more out of 10). Population groups who felt less safe when with family or whānau included bisexual adults, Māori, those separated or divorced, disabled adults, those not employed and not actively seeking for work, and those with a high level of psychological distress.

Victims were more concerned about safety than non-victims. Furthermore, victims of multiple crimes were more concerned about their safety than victims of only one crime, and highly victimised people had the highest level of safety concern.

Some population groups felt less safe than others. They include females, those separated or divorced, disabled adults, those living in a one-parent-with-child(ren) household, those experiencing high levels of financial pressure and those living in more deprived areas.

Appendix 1 offers a detailed list of key findings in a tabular format for readers’ convenience. Each group of key findings is referred to a relevant section of the report.

Appendix 2 provides a brief methodology overview. For the detailed survey methodology, please refer to the standalone [NZCVS Cycle 4 methodology report](#).

This survey findings report is designed to present the most notable results. Every year, the NZCVS key findings reports are followed by topical reports providing in-depth analysis of prioritised topics. We also release methodological reports and data tables for those keen to explore the survey data further. Professional researchers and statisticians are invited to apply for unit-level data analysis in Stats NZ’s Integrated Data Infrastructure.

Behind the numbers and figures within this report are the real stories of New Zealanders. Those who shared their stories with us have helped us to build a comprehensive picture of the extent of victimisation in Aotearoa New Zealand. Their stories have the potential to guide decision-makers to target prevention efforts and support services for victims of crime.

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External experts

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NZCVS Project Team

1 About the NZCVS

The New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey (NZCVS) is a nationwide, face-to-face, annual, random-sample survey. Adults who are aged 15+ and living in private dwellings are interviewed about experiences of crime they had in New Zealand over the previous 12 months. This includes incidents reported to the Police and unreported incidents.

1.1 Survey objectives

The key research objectives of the NZCVS are to:

- measure the extent and nature of reported and unreported crime across New Zealand
- understand who experiences crime and how they respond
- identify the groups at above-average risk of victimisation
- facilitate a better understanding of victims' experiences and needs
- provide a measure of crime trends in New Zealand
- provide timely and adequate information to support strategic decisions
- significantly shorten the period between data collection and reporting compared with previous victimisation surveys
- match survey data with relevant administrative records to reduce information gaps in the decision- and policy-making process.

1.2 Survey scope

The NZCVS delivers the best estimate currently available about a wide range of personal and household offences that are not captured elsewhere. However, it still does not report the total amount of crime in New Zealand. This is because the NZCVS is a sample survey¹ subject to sampling errors, and it does not cover every type of crime (see [NZCVS Cycle 4 methodology report](#) for more details).

¹ A sample survey means that not every adult gives information about their experiences; it's not a census of the population. Also, not all survey respondents may want to talk about their experiences, remember the incidents that they have experienced, and/or provide accurate information about incidents (deliberately or due to imperfect recall).

Table 1.1 Scope of crimes/offences covered in the NZCVS

Scope	Description
Covered in the NZCVS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> personal offences, either reported to the Police or not, where the survey respondent was the victim of the crime household offences, either reported to the Police or not, where the survey respondent's household was offended against
Not covered in the NZCVS^a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> manslaughter and murder abduction crimes against children (aged 14 and under) traffic offences "victimless crime" where a victim cannot be identified (eg, drug offences) commercial crime/white-collar crime/crimes against businesses or public-sector agencies crimes against people who do not live in permanent private dwellings crimes against people living in institutions^b

^a Particular groups of offences are excluded from the NZCVS, including those that are not directly experienced by an interviewee (eg, manslaughter, murder), have a very small sample size not supporting meaningful statistical analysis (eg, abductions), have additional legal restrictions for data collection (eg, crimes against children, crimes against people living in institutions) or require development of different survey tools (eg, crimes against businesses).

^b Those living in care facilities, prisons, army barracks, boarding schools and other similar institutions or non-private dwellings are excluded from the NZCVS sampling and interviewing process.

1.3 Reporting survey results

A number of resources, including previous annual and topical reports, tables, and infographics, are already available on the [Ministry of Justice website](#).

This report is part of the annual NZCVS reporting framework presented in Figure 1.1. The current report is based on the fourth year of interviewing (Cycle 4).

The fifth year of interviewing is underway and will be followed by another annual report in 2023.

The NZCVS is incorporated into the Stats NZ Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI) from 2018. This makes it possible to analyse the NZCVS data linked to administrative datasets.

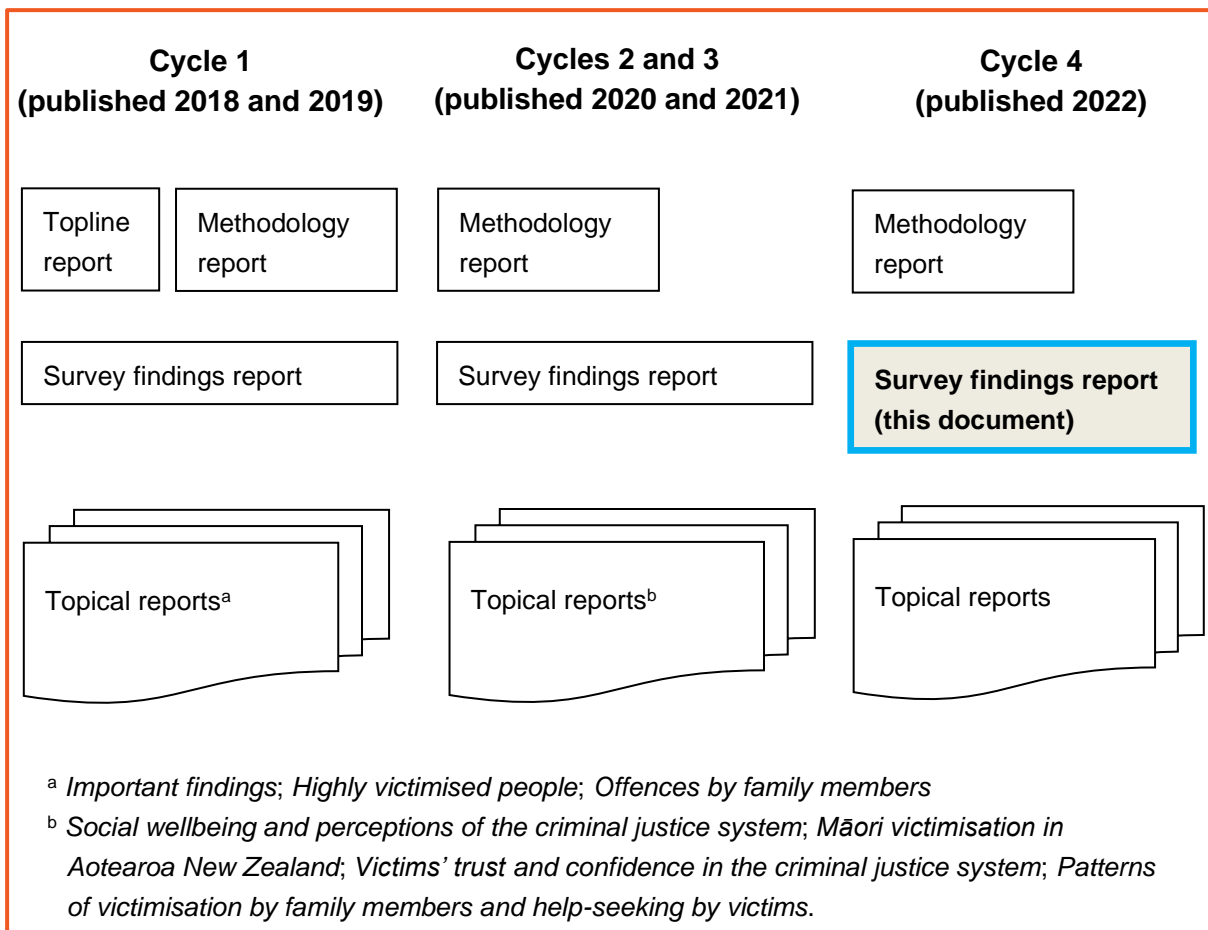


Figure 1.1 NZCVS reporting framework

Note: Topline reports were not produced for Cycles 2, 3 and 4 due to resource limitations.

2 About this report

2.1 Purpose

This report provides detailed insights and analysis of the results of the fourth year of interviewing, or **Cycle 4**, of the NZCVS. These interviews were carried out between November 2020 and November 2021. These results are also compared with those from Cycle 1 (2018), Cycle 2 (2018/19) and Cycle 3 (2018/19), providing a short **time series**.

The results vary from year to year due to either real changes in crime volumes or to random statistical variation. This report focuses on **statistically significant changes over time** – that is, those unlikely to have occurred by chance. It also focuses on **statistically significant differences in victimisation for population groups**, compared with the general adult population.

Pooled data

Sometimes when the NZCVS sample is too small to provide sufficiently accurate estimates, the usefulness of the survey can be improved by combining the four cycles of survey data in a new dataset called **pooled data**. The pooled dataset uses its own set of weights to make analytical results consistent with outcomes for individual cycles.

Estimates based on this dataset are weighted so that they represent victimisation in a 12-month period, equivalent to data from an individual cycle. The estimates from pooled data often have less statistical uncertainty than those from an individual cycle because they are based on a larger sample size. This is particularly useful for looking at small population groups, or offence types that are experienced by a relatively small part of the population.

More information is provided in the [NZCVS Cycle 4 methodology report](#).

The NZCVS is a survey with some significant improvements in design compared with its predecessor, the **New Zealand Crime and Safety Survey (NZCASS)**. Methodological differences between the surveys mean that direct comparison of NZCVS results with NZCASS is potentially misleading, even within similar offence types. This is discussed in detail in section 2.6.

The NZCVS results are also not directly comparable with **Police crime statistics**. The main reason for this is that more than three-quarters of incidents collected by the NZCVS were not reported to the Police (see section 7). The proportion of incidents reported to the Police varies significantly depending on the offence type. The NZCVS timeframe is also different from that in the Police administrative data (see section 2.5).

Where are the “whys”?

This report contains mostly descriptive statistics. It does not include analysis of relationships between variables, nor does it attribute causation.

More in-depth analysis is done in topical reports available from the [NZCVS resources and results web page](#).

This report does not include survey methodology and metadata. These technical aspects are discussed in detail in the [NZCVS Cycle 4 methodology report](#).

2.2 Using this report

This report contains many graphs and infographics that help to visualise key facts and findings. Only those graphs that support the key findings are included.

All observations and graphs in the report are based on the **data tables** that accompany this report, which are available on the [NZCVS resources and results web page](#).

Estimates in the text and graphs (including percentages) are **rounded** to the nearest thousands, hundreds or whole numbers. The one exception is when it is helpful to show smaller differences between the prevalence rates for different groups. In this case, the percentages are rounded to one decimal point.

The NZCVS is a sample survey. This means that a sample of areas, households and people are selected from the New Zealand adult population using a set process. Because of this, the estimates from the survey might be different to the true figures for the New Zealand population. This difference, or **sampling error**, depends on both sample size and variance in the population. As sample size increases, sampling error decreases, and as variance increases, sampling error increases. Although estimates based on a larger sample size generally have less sampling error, this is not always the case.

Confidence intervals are used to show how reliable estimates are. They indicate the range of values above and below the estimate, between which the actual value is likely to fall. This range that estimates are likely to fall within is called the **margin of error**. Ninety-five percent confidence intervals are used, which means that we can be 95% confident that the true figure lies within the confidence interval provided.

Confidence intervals are displayed as bars around estimates in **graphs** in this report. In the example graph in Figure 2.1 below, the confidence intervals around each of the estimates show the range in which the true values are likely to fall. While the estimate for Group A is 83%, the confidence interval reflects that it is likely to fall between 82% and 85%. The estimate for Group C has a wider confidence interval than Group A, which means there is more uncertainty around it (it is likely to fall between 73% and 81%).

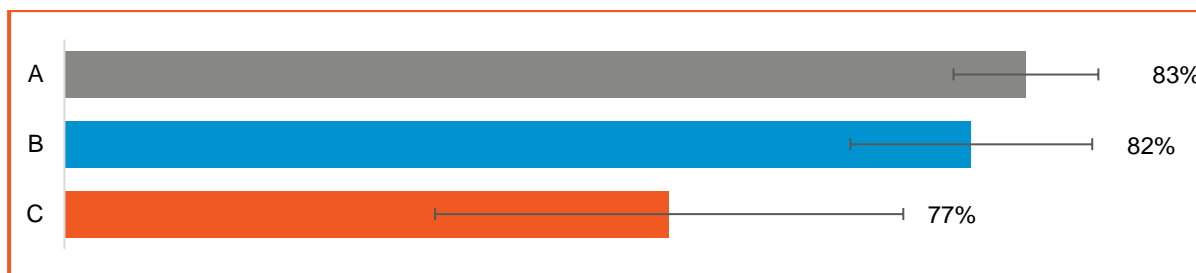


Figure 2.1 Example graph

Confidence intervals for estimates in **tables** within this report are not shown, but any estimates subject to high uncertainty are indicated. The margins of error around all estimates are available in the [data tables](#) that accompany this report.

Sometimes the sampling error of an estimate is so large that this estimate does not provide meaningful information. Estimates that need to be used with caution are **flagged** in the data tables.² Estimates that are too unreliable for general use are **suppressed** – that is, not reported at all.³ This is always clearly indicated in the data tables that accompany this report.

Statistical significance describes whether differences in estimates for different time periods or population groups are meaningful, given the sampling error. When the difference between two estimates is statistically significant, it means we are reasonably confident (with some selected confidence probability) that it is a “real” difference. Differences that are not statistically significant could just be due to who happened to be selected for the survey, rather than real differences in the population.

Significance testing in this report is based on overlapping confidence intervals, not formal statistical tests. One estimate is described as statistically significantly different from another when their confidence intervals do not overlap. On the other hand, when the confidence intervals of two estimates do overlap, the difference between the estimates is described as not statistically significant. This is a more conservative approach than a formal statistical test.⁴

Throughout the report, **the term “significance” always refers to “statistical significance”**. Note that statistical significance depends not only on the difference between the estimates but also on a sample size and variance usually measured by the standard deviation. This may result in situations where smaller differences are statistically significant while larger differences are not.

Comparisons of estimates are made over time, **with the previous cycle (Cycle 3) and with the baseline (Cycle 1)**, and across population groups. The terms “Cycle 3” and “previous

² As a rule, we advise using caution with all count estimates with a relative sampling error (RSE) between 20% and 50% and all percentage estimates with the margin of error (MOE) between 10 and 20 percentage points. Estimates of prevalence rates and incidence rates also need caution if their numerators or denominators have to be used with caution.




³ All estimates with a relative sampling error more than 50% or a margin of error higher than 20 percentage points are either suppressed or aggregated. Estimates of prevalence rates and incidence rates are also suppressed or aggregated if their numerators or denominators should be suppressed.

⁴ Using a formal statistical test, when confidence intervals for two estimates overlap, it is likely (but not definite) that the difference between the estimates is not statistically significant.

year”, and the terms “Cycle 1” and “base year” are used in the report interchangeably. The following symbols are used in tables and graphs to indicate the **statistical significance of changes in estimates between either Cycle 1 and Cycle 4 or between Cycle 3 and Cycle 4.**⁵

Symbols denoting statistical significance of changes between the NZCVS cycles

Some graphs and tables in this report display results over time. The following symbols are used to denote the statistical significance of these differences.


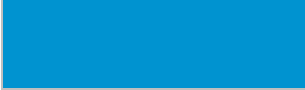

	Statistically significant increase over time
	Statistically significant decrease over time
	No statistically significant difference over time

Note: Statistical testing is based on overlapping confidence intervals (at the 95% confidence level) and not formal tests, as described above.

Estimates for population groups are usually compared to the overall adult population (ie, the New Zealand average). The following colour coding is used in graphs and infographics to indicate these differences.

Colour coding in graphs showing statistical significance of differences from the New Zealand average

In graphs in which significance testing relative to the national average was carried out, the following colour scheme is used to highlight statistical significance.

	New Zealand average
	No statistically significant difference from the New Zealand average (at 95% confidence level)
	Statistically significant difference from the New Zealand average (at 95% confidence level)

Note: Statistical testing is based on overlapping confidence intervals (at the 95% confidence level) and not formal tests, as described above.

Note that the above colour coding is used only for comparison with the New Zealand average. It is not applied for comparisons between population groups or within time series.

Additionally, the following symbols are used for estimates in the data tables.

⁵ In order to increase robustness of the analysis and improve readability, we do not compare in this report differences between other pairs of cycles.

Table 2.1 Symbols used for estimates in NZCVS data tables

Symbol notation	Description
#	Use with caution. Percentage has a margin of error greater than or equal to 10 and less than 20 percentage points, or the count estimate/mean has a relative sampling error greater than or equal to 20% and less than 50%. Statistics should be used with caution because they may be too variable for certain types of reporting.
‡	Use with caution. The numerator and/or denominator of the ratio-based estimate has a relative sampling error between 20% and 50%. Statistics should be used with caution because they may be too variable for certain types of reporting.
S	Suppressed because the percentage has a margin of error greater than or equal to 20 percentage points, or the count estimate/mean has a relative sampling error greater than or equal to 50%, which is considered too unreliable for general use.
Ŝ	Suppressed because the numerator and/or denominator of the ratio-based estimate has a relative sampling error greater than or equal to 50%, which is considered too unreliable for general use.
*	Statistically significant difference from the New Zealand average, or the relevant total, at the 95% confidence level.
+	Statistically significant difference across time at the 95% confidence level between current year (Cycle 4) and previous year (Cycle 3).
^	Statistically significant difference across time at the 95% confidence level between current year (Cycle 4) and the base year (Cycle 1).

Some sections of the report use **standardisation** to describe relationships between variables, while controlling for other variables. The [NZCVS Cycle 4 methodology report](#) provides more information about this technique.

Answers to **frequently asked questions** may be found on the [Ministry of Justice website](#).

If you have any feedback or questions about NZCVS results, please email us on nzcvcs@justice.govt.nz

2.3 Key terms and definitions

The following key terms and definitions are used in this report.

Table 2.2 Key terms and definitions (in alphabetical order)

Key terms	Definitions
Adults	Refers to people aged 15 or over.
Crime	A general description of an act or omission that constitutes an offence and is punishable by law.
Decile	In statistics, one of ten equal parts that a set of objects is divided into when you are comparing a particular feature relating to them.
Deprivation index	The New Zealand Index of Deprivation 2018 (NZDep2018) groups deprivation scores into deciles (or quintiles), where 1 represents the areas with the least deprived scores, and 10 (or 5) represents the areas with the most deprived scores.
Disability	In this report, disabled adults are defined using the Washington Group Short Set (WGSS) of disability questions . The questions ask if the respondent has experienced difficulties performing basic universal activities (walking, seeing, hearing, cognition, self-care and communication). Someone who reports “a lot of difficulty” with at least one of the six basic activities covered is defined as a disabled person using this classification.
Family member	Family members include a current partner (husband, wife, partner, boyfriend or girlfriend), ex-partner (previous husband, wife, partner, boyfriend or girlfriend), or other family or whānau member (parent or step-parent; parent’s partner, boyfriend or girlfriend; son or daughter, including in-laws; sibling or step-sibling; or other family or whānau, including extended family).
Financial pressure	The NZCVS measures financial pressure using two different questions. The first assesses the ability to afford an attractive but non-essential item for \$300. The second assesses the ability to afford an unexpected \$500 of extra spending within a month without borrowing.
Household offences	In the NZCVS, household offences include the following offence types: burglary; theft of/unlawful takes/converts motor vehicle; theft from motor vehicle; unlawful interference/getting into motor vehicle; damage to motor vehicles; unlawful takes/converts/interferes with bicycle; property damage (household); theft (except motor vehicles – household); and trespass.
Imputation	The process of replacing missing data with estimated values (see NZCVS Cycle 4 methodology report for more detail).
Incidence	An estimated total number of offences during the previous 12 months.
Incidence rate	An estimate of the average number of offences per 100 adults and/or per 100 households during the previous 12 months. Note: Incidence rates take into account that one adult and one household may be victimised more than once, but they do not show how victimisation is unevenly distributed across the population.

Incident (victimisation)	<p>A situation that happened at a specific place and time where one or more offences were committed.</p> <p>Note: If an incident includes more than one offence, in most cases only the most serious offence is coded. For example, an assault with property damage would just be coded as assault. The only exception when two offences will be registered is the situation where the primary offence is burglary and the secondary offence is theft of/unlawful takes/converts motor vehicle. This approach reflects current Police practice.</p>
Interpersonal violence	<p>In the NZCVS, interpersonal violence includes the following offence types: sexual assault; other assault; robbery; harassment and threatening behaviour; and household and personal property damage where the offender is known to the victim.</p>
Intimate partner violence (IPV)	<p>In the NZCVS, IPV includes sexual assault; other assault; robbery; harassment and threatening behaviour; and damage to motor vehicles and property damage, where the offender was a current partner or ex-partner at the time of the offending.</p> <p>It is the subset of <i>offences by family members</i> (defined below), where the offender was a current partner or ex-partner.</p>
Life satisfaction	<p>Self-reported satisfaction with “life as a whole these days”, on a scale from 0 to 10. Zero means “not at all satisfied” and 10 means “completely satisfied”.</p>
New Zealand average	<p>Used to describe an estimate for the overall New Zealand adult population.</p>
Offence	<p>A specific crime that has been coded according to the legislation and Police practice. An <i>incident</i> (defined above) can involve one or more offences.</p>
Offences by family members	<p>In the NZCVS, offences by family members include the following offence types where the offender was a family or whānau member: robbery and assault (except sexual assault); sexual assault; harassment and threatening behaviour; and damage to motor vehicles and property damage.</p> <p>Note: Offences by family members considered in this report are a subset of experiences of family violence by adults in New Zealand. Family violence encompasses a broader range of experiences, which are defined in the Family Violence Act 2018.</p>
Offender	<p>A person who committed an offence. In NZCVS reporting, an offender may or may not have been convicted of an offence.</p>
People with diverse sexualities	<p>Adults who describe themselves as gay, lesbian, bisexual and all other diverse sexualities.</p>
Perceptions of safety	<p>Self-reported feeling of safety, where 0 means “not at all safe” and 10 means “completely safe”.</p>
Personal offences	<p>In the NZCVS, personal offences include the following offence types: theft and property damage (personal); sexual assault; robbery and assault (except sexual assault); fraud and deception; cybercrime; and harassment and threatening behaviour.</p>
Pooled data	<p>A dataset combining four years of survey data (in this document, Cycles 1, 2, 3 and 4). The pooled dataset is weighted to make estimates equivalent to those from a single cycle.</p>

Prevalence	<p>The number of adults and/or households that were victims of crime once or more in the previous 12 months.</p> <p>In some cases, prevalence is used to describe the number of adults that were victims of one or more offences during their lifetime.</p> <p>Note: Prevalence does not show that some people and/or households may be victimised more than once.</p>
Prevalence rate	The percentage of the adults and/or households that experienced criminal offences.
Psychological distress	<p>In the NZCVS, psychological distress is measured by the Kessler-6 (K6) scale. This short six-item self-reported scale screens for non-specific psychological distress in the general population. Ratings of moderate or high indicate the probability of experiencing mild to moderate or serious mental illness respectively, in the previous four weeks.</p> <p>The measure was designed for population health screening surveys and has previously been used in the New Zealand Attitudes and Values Study. The long form version (the Kessler-10, or K10) is used in the New Zealand Health Survey.</p>
Quintile	In statistics, one of five equal parts that a set of objects is divided into when comparing a particular feature relating to them.
Standardisation	Analytical technique to control for certain variables in estimates. The goal of standardisation is to allow for comparisons of values between groups, after accounting for other factors.

2.4 Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used in this report.

Table 2.3 List of abbreviations

Abbreviation	Meaning
CAPI	Computer-assisted personal interviewing
CASI	Computer-assisted self-interviewing
IPV	Intimate partner violence
MOE	Margin of error (also used in the data tables)
NZ	New Zealand
NILF	Not in the labour force
NZCASS	New Zealand Crime and Safety Survey
NZCVS	New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey
NZDep2018	New Zealand Deprivation Index 2018
RSE	Relative sampling error (also used in the data tables)

2.5 Time periods covered by NZCVS cycles

The NZCVS questionnaire asks respondents about crime they experienced within the 12 months before their interview. As a result, information provided by each respondent relates to the year up to their interview date, not the calendar year.

Therefore, each cycle of the NZCVS covers a rolling time period from the 12 months before the first interview to the date of the last interview. This is why throughout this report we refer to measures of victimisation during *the previous 12 months*, rather than victimisation in a particular year.

For example, the interviewing period for Cycle 4 was between 20 November 2020 and 10 November 2021. Therefore, estimates about victimisation from Cycle 4 cover 20 November 2019 to 10 November 2021. However, if a participant was interviewed on 1 March 2021, their answers related to the period between 1 March 2020 and 1 March 2021.

This is very different to administrative data collected by Police and related to a calendar year. While Police administrative data may answer the question “How many crime incidents were **reported** in 2020?” the NZCVS is not calendar-year specific. Instead, it can be used to answer the question “How many victimisations were **experienced** by adults interviewed in 2020, within the 12 months prior to their interview?” These are very different questions, and that is one reason why NZCVS data is not directly comparable with administrative data.

Because the NZCVS is a continuous survey with minimal interruptions, there is a significant overlap in the time periods covered by each NZCVS cycle.

Table 2.4 explains this in more detail.

Table 2.4 Time periods covered by the first three NZCVS cycles and pooled data

NZCVS cycle	Period of data collection	Time period covered by data
Cycle 1	1 March 2018– 30 September 2018	1 March 2017– 30 September 2018
Cycle 2	1 October 2018– 30 September 2019	1 October 2017– 30 September 2019
Cycle 3	30 September 2019– 18 November 2020 ^a	30 September 2018– 18 November 2020
Cycle 4	20 November 2020– 10 November 2021 ^a	20 November 2019– 10 November 2021
Pooled data (Cycles 1–4)	1 March 2018– 10 November 2021	1 March 2017– 10 November 2021

^a Data collection in Cycles 3 and 4 was paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic during Alert Levels 4 and 3 (see page 4 for more details).

Starting from Cycle 2, each cycle covers a time period of approximately two years with an approximately one-year overlap with the previous cycle.⁶ Still, the NZCVS only ever asks about one year of each respondent's experience.

2.6 Comparison with previous victimisation surveys

The NZCVS has some significant improvements in design compared with its predecessors, including the NZCASS. In particular, the NZCVS:

- has a slightly different approach to selecting an interviewed person within the household
- uses a different approach to coding offences that is more consistent with the Police approach to categorising offences
- uses a different approach to capping the number of offences
- covers additional offence types (eg, fraud, cybercrime, trespass)
- uses a different approach to collecting data from people who experienced multiple victimisations (allowing similar incidents to be reported as a group)
- uses fewer data imputations.

Table 2.5 describes these differences in more detail.

⁶ Some variations are still possible due to deviations from a standard fieldwork schedule; for example, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Table 2.5 Key methodological differences of the NZCVS compared to the NZCASS

Key difference	Description	Consequences for comparison
Different approach to selecting an interviewed person within the household	<p>Sample Manager software automatically selected one person to be the respondent based on the following rules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If there were occupant(s) present who identified as Māori, one person was randomly selected from those identifying as Māori. • If there were no occupant(s) present who identified as Māori, one occupant was selected at random. <p>Previously, the NZCASS applied only the second rule.</p> <p>The change is intended to increase the proportion of Māori in the sample and to mitigate risk of Māori under-representation.</p>	May potentially affect the comparison of both crime incidence and prevalence, as well as the comparison of Police reporting numbers.
Different approach to coding offences	<p>In line with Police practice, if an incident involves multiple offences, the NZCVS counts only the major one (the only exception is burglary combined with theft of/unlawfully taking/ converting a motor vehicle). Previously, the NZCASS allowed counting two main offences within one incident.</p>	May potentially affect the comparison of crime incidence.
Different approach to incidents capping	<p>Very high frequency incidents are censored or “capped” to stabilise wide swings in offence incidence that can occur as a result of a small number of respondents reporting very high victimisation. In line with international practice, capping removed 2% of the most frequent incidents.</p>	May potentially affect the comparison of crime incidence.
Much lower level of data imputations	<p>In the NZCVS, victim forms were not available for about 5% of incidents, as the maximum of eight allowed victim forms had already been achieved. This data was imputed from the distribution of offence codes associated with the scenario that generated the incident. This is very different from the NZCASS, where victim form information was collected for only 17% of reported incidents while the rest was imputed.</p>	May potentially affect the comparison of both crime incidence and prevalence as well as the comparison of Police reporting numbers.
Covering additional offence types	<p>The NZCVS incorporates three new offence types – cybercrime, fraud and trespass.</p>	May potentially affect the comparison of both crime incidence and prevalence as well as the comparison of Police reporting numbers.



Different approach for collecting data from highly victimised people

Where a respondent indicated that an incident scenario had occurred three or more times, they were asked to consider if the incidents were similar (ie, a similar thing was done, under similar circumstances and probably by the same person/people). In order to collect as much information about as many incidents as possible, similar incidents were grouped together, and the respondent was asked the victim form questions about the group of incidents as a set. These were termed “cluster” victim form questions.

May potentially affect the comparison of both crime incidence and prevalence as well as the comparison of Police reporting numbers.

The differences in design mean that direct comparison of NZCVS results with its predecessor (the NZCASS) is potentially misleading, even within similar offence types.

Examples of incorrect comparisons between the NZCVS and NZCASS results

1. *The NZCVS Cycle 4 assessed that over the previous 12 months adults experienced approximately 1,744,000 offences. The 2013 NZCASS assessed the total number of offences as approximately 1,872,000. Does it mean that the number of offences has reduced compared with seven years ago?*

Answer. No, this cannot be concluded because of differences between the two surveys. On the one hand, the NZCVS includes more offence types than the NZCASS. But on the other hand, if an incident involves multiple offences, the NZCASS counts two main offences while the NZCVS in most cases counts only the major one, which is in line with Police practice. In addition, the NZCASS uses many more statistical imputations to assess the total number of offences while the NZCVS is mostly using the actual responses. Finally, the NZCVS is using different approaches to limit the influence of statistical outliers (capping), which is more aligned with international practice.

2. *According to the NZCVS Cycle 4, 25% of offences were reported to the Police. This is 6 percentage points lower than the 31% found by the NZCASS. Does it mean that the level of reporting to the Police decreased since seven years ago?*

Answer. No, this cannot be concluded because of differences between the two surveys. In particular, the NZCVS incorporates three new offence types – cybercrime, fraud and trespass – which are all reported to the Police at relatively low rates. This will affect the estimated proportion of crimes reported to the Police.

3. *The NZCVS Cycle 4 assessed that 86,000 adults experienced 237,000 incidents of violence by family members over the previous 12 months. This is significantly less than the 229,000 adults and 781,000 offences reported by the 2013 NZCASS. Does this mean the volume of violence by family members in New Zealand has decreased?*

Answer. No, these numbers are not comparable for many reasons. Compared with the NZCASS, the NZCVS uses a different approach to coding offences (closer to

Police practice), a different incident-capping methodology (aligned with leading overseas surveys), a different approach to collecting data from highly victimised people and recording multiple incidents (introducing “cluster” victim forms), and fewer data imputations. All of these differences may significantly affect estimates, especially when they relate to a reasonably small number of respondents in the sample. Analysis of changes in offending by family members over time is possible by comparing cycles of the NZCVS since collection began in 2018.

Weights and benchmarks

The sample design used in this survey means that respondents initially do not have the same probability of selection and so cannot be treated equally. For example, the NZCVS incorporates a Māori booster sample, which gives Māori a higher chance of being selected for the survey. If this was not adjusted for, the overall survey results would be biased towards the outcomes that are correlated with being Māori. Moreover, complex estimators have been used to account for non-response and missing information. Therefore, the NZCVS data analysis should always be performed using weights. Using weights for selected demographic variables will also ensure that the weighted sample proportions match known population proportions.

The NZCVS is using multiple types of weights (see [NZCVS Cycle 4 methodology report](#)). These weights use Stats NZ population and household projections to align the survey’s sample structure with the actual household and population structure. Note that for Cycles 1 and 2 the NZCVS used Stats NZ projections based on Census 2013. Cycles 3 and 4 use updated Stats NZ projections derived from Census 2018. This required an adjustment of the household and population benchmarks used in the survey. This adjustment was done in collaboration with Stats NZ. The details are available in the [NZCVS Cycle 4 methodology report](#). Adjustments have a minor effect on the high-level estimates produced by the NZCVS.

Note: Some Cycle 1 and Cycle 2 data in this report may be slightly different from the data published in the Cycle 1 and Cycle 2 reports because we applied new benchmarks (based on Census 2018 population projections) to the Cycle 1 and Cycle 2 data in this report for accurate comparison.

3 How much crime is there in New Zealand?

What is included in this section?

The NZCVS provides a larger picture of crimes against New Zealand adults than administrative data because it captures crime both reported and not reported to the Police.

This section looks at the following four measures of victimisation, from Cycle 1 to Cycle 4:

1. the number of incidents of crime experienced by adults in a given cycle (**incidence**)
2. the number of offences per 100 adults or 100 households (**incidence rate**)
3. the number of adults or households victimised once or more (**prevalence**)
4. the percentage of adults or households victimised once or more (**prevalence rate**).

All measures relate to offences experienced during the previous 12 months. Differences in incidence rates and prevalence rates between Cycles 1 and 4 as well as Cycles 3 and 4 are indicated, following the approach described in section 2.2.

What did we find?

- 29% of adults were victimised once or more in the previous 12 months. This level of overall victimisation has remained stable over time (from Cycle 1 to Cycle 4).
- The three most common offence types in Cycle 4 were harassment and threatening behaviour; burglary; and fraud and deception. Together, these made up more than half of all offences (51%).
- The proportion of households that experienced burglaries fell significantly – from 12.1% in Cycle 1 to 9.3% in Cycle 4. However, the number of burglary incidents increased compared to Cycle 3. This indicates a growing concentration of burglaries. Burglaries are the only offence type with a statistically significant change from Cycle 3.
- The above reduction in the prevalence rate of burglaries caused the overall significant reduction in the prevalence rate of household offences – from 20% in Cycle 1 to 18% in Cycle 4.
- Apart from burglary, there were no other statistically significant changes in prevalence or incidence rates across individual offence types from Cycle 1 to Cycle 4.
- There were no significant changes in prevalence or incidence rates across any broad offence groups from Cycle 1 to Cycle 4 (ie, fraud and cybercrime offences; interpersonal violence offences; theft and damage offences; or vehicle offences).

3.1 Overall victimisation

Number of offences (incidence)

The estimated number of offences, or incidence, tells us how many offences happened to New Zealand adults. Because respondents tell us about the crimes they experienced in the 12 months before the interview, the estimates reflect victimisation over a 12-month period.

Results from Cycle 4 indicate there were around **1.74 million offences** against New Zealand adults during the previous 12 months (Figure 3.1). The estimated number of offences was unchanged since Cycle 1 (2018).

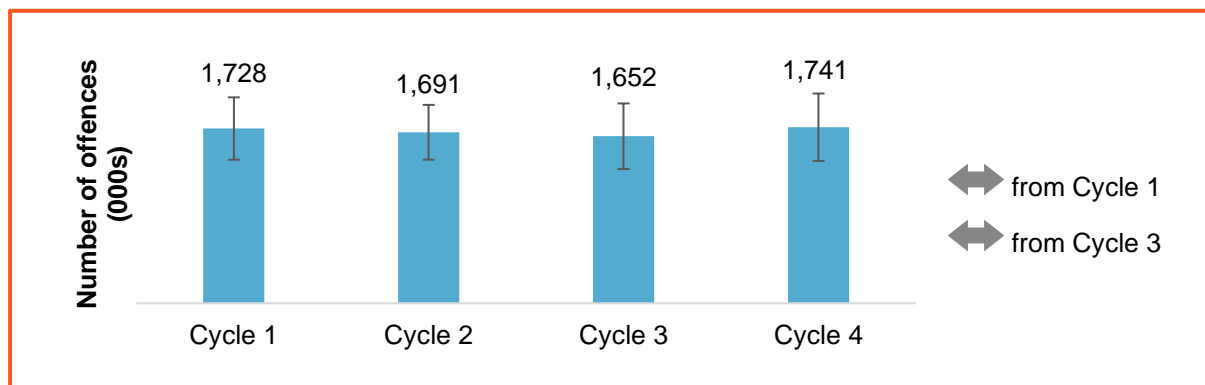


Figure 3.1 Number of offences (000s) in the previous 12 months, by cycle

Offences per 100 adults or 100 households (incidence rate)

The estimated number of offences, or incidence, does not account for population size. As such, we also use “incidence rates” to measure victimisation. These are the number of offences per 100 adults or 100 households. Incidence rates do not show how victimisation is distributed across the population.

Using data from Cycle 4, there were **61 offences per 100 adults** during the previous 12 months (Figure 3.2). This included both personal offences and household offences. Any adult living in a household that experienced a household offence was counted as a victim of that offence.

The number of offences per 100 adults slightly increased – from 60 in Cycle 1 to 61 in Cycle 4. However, this change over time was not statistically significant.

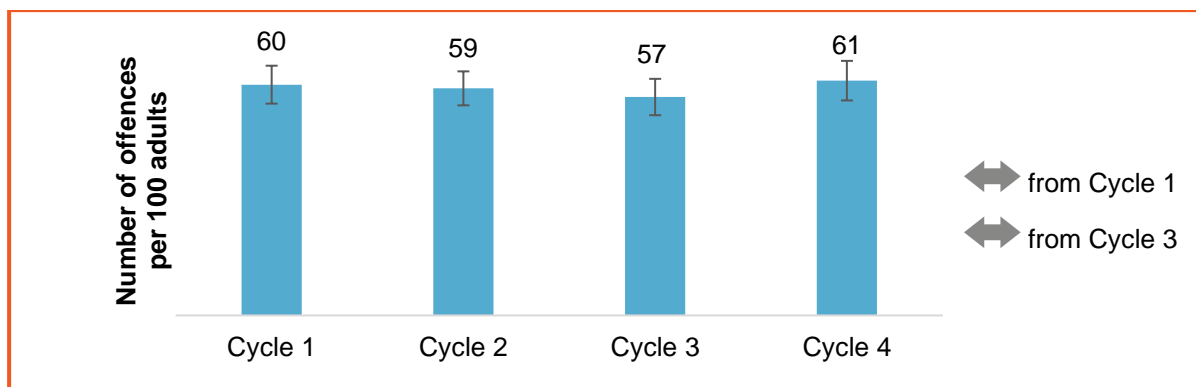


Figure 3.2 Number of offences per 100 adults in the previous 12 months, by cycle

Number of victims (prevalence)

We can also estimate the prevalence of victimisation; that is, the number of households or adults that experienced one or more offences. This measure does not capture that some victims would have experienced only one offence while others experienced multiple offences.

Cycle 4 results indicate that about **1.2 million adults** were victims of at least one personal or household offence during the previous 12 months (Figure 3.3). This included adults who were victims of personal offences as well as those who lived in a household that experienced a household offence.

The result for Cycle 4 was similar to results from the previous two cycles. No statistically significant changes were observed.

Note that the number of victims is marginally reduced in Cycle 4 compared with Cycle 3, while the number of victimisations between Cycle 4 and Cycle 3 increased, although both changes are not statistically significant.

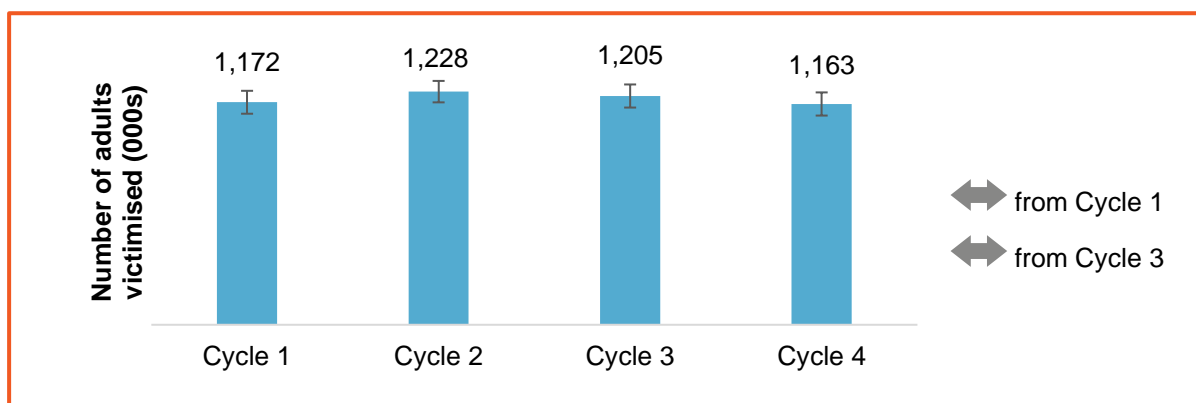


Figure 3.3 Number of adults victimised in the previous 12 months (000s), by cycle

Percentage of adults or households victimised (prevalence rate)

The percentage of households or adults who experienced one or more incidents in a given time period is known as the “prevalence rate”. This measure tells us what proportion of the population was affected by one or more offences.

In Cycle 4, **29% of adults** had experienced one or more offences over the previous 12 months (Figure 3.4). In other words, almost 3 out of every 10 adults had been a victim of crime. This proportion is unchanged from Cycle 3.

While this prevalence rate was lower than in Cycle 1 (30%) or Cycle 2 (31%), these differences were not statistically significantly.

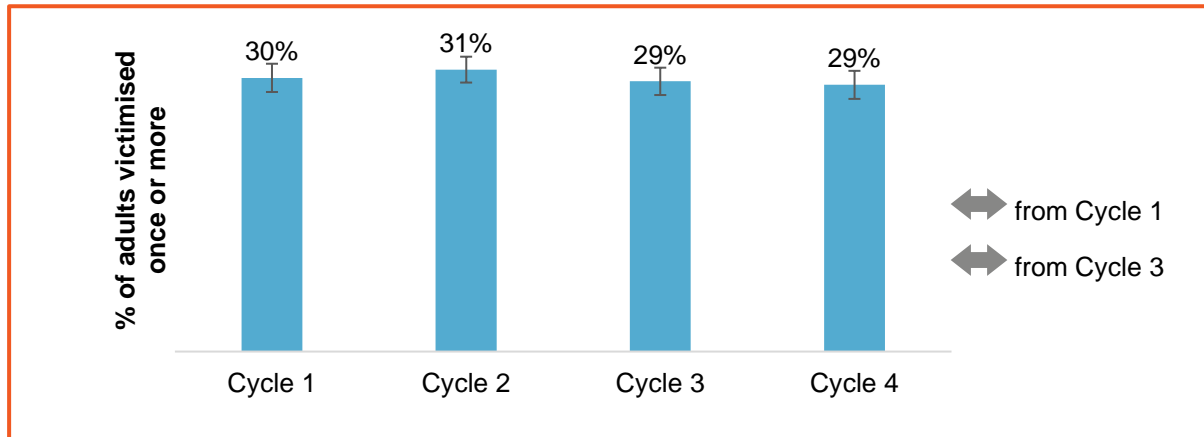


Figure 3.4 Percentage of adults victimised in the previous 12 months, by cycle

3.2 Offence types

This section looks at the scale of different offence types over time, from Cycle 1 to Cycle 4. The same four measures as above are used.

Number of offences (incidence)

Table 3.1 shows the number of personal offences, by offence type, and Table 3.2 shows the number of household offences, by offence type. The total volume of crime in Cycle 4 included about **1.2 million personal offences** and **more than half a million household offences** (1,180,000 and 561,000 respectively).

Table 3.1 Number of personal offences, by offence type

Offence type	Number of personal offences (000s)		
	Cycle 1	Cycle 3	Cycle 4
Harassment and threatening behaviour	282	255	306
Fraud and deception	272	353	288
Robbery and assault (except sexual assault)	234	233	209
Sexual assault	167	158	200
Cybercrime	123	86	100
Theft and property damage (personal)	84	69	78
All personal offences	1,162	1,153	1,180

Table 3.2 Number of household offences, by offence type

Offence type	Number of household offences (000s)		
	Cycle 1	Cycle 3	Cycle 4
Burglary	305	245	289
Trespass	41	49	64
Theft (except motor vehicles – household)	52	47	49
Damage to motor vehicles	41	37	43
Property damage (household)	45	33	39
Theft (from motor vehicle)	34	42	30
Theft of/unlawful takes/converts motor vehicle	29	28	30
Unlawful interference/getting into motor vehicle	11	10	12
Unlawful takes/converts/interferes with bicycle	9	S	5
All household offences	566	499	561

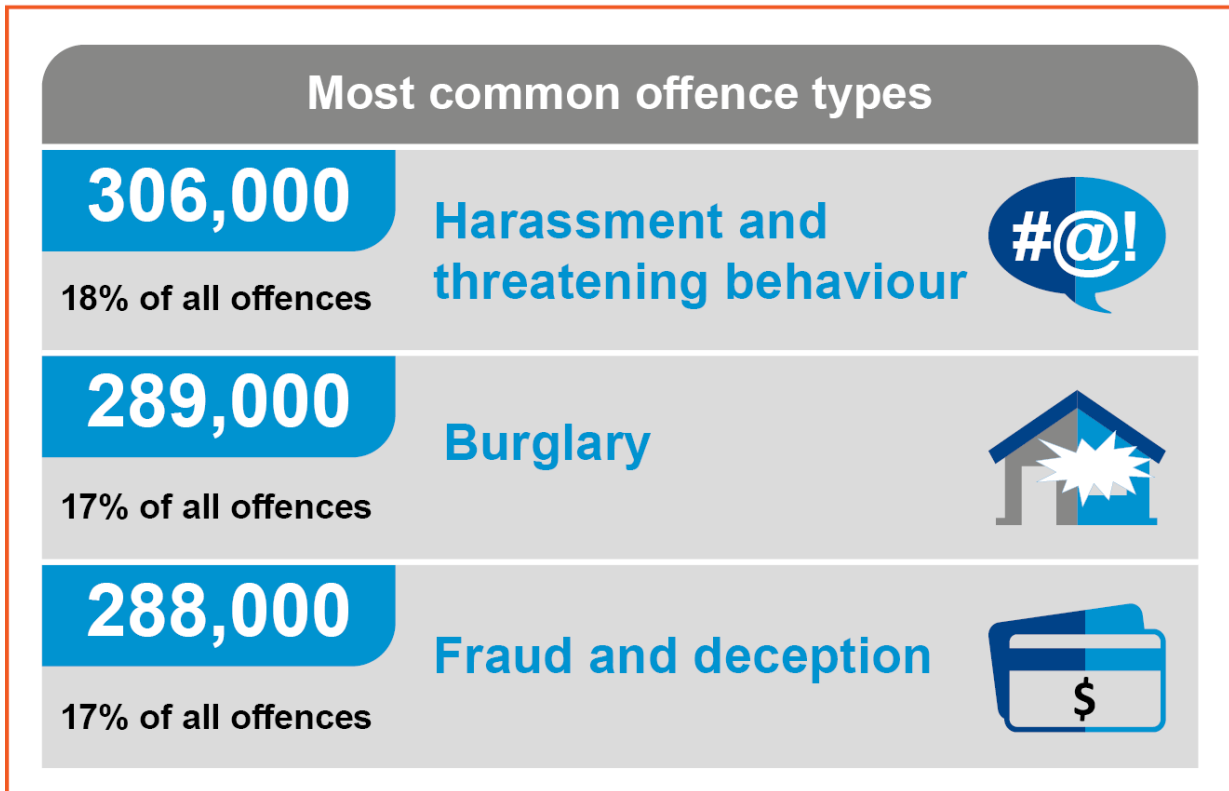
S = Suppressed because the percentage has a margin of error greater than or equal to 20 percentage points, or the count estimate/mean has a relative sampling error greater than or equal to 50%, which is considered too unreliable for general use.

Harassment and threatening behaviour was the most common offence type over the previous 12 months in Cycle 4. There were **306,000** harassment and threatening behaviour offences. This was 18% of offences overall.

Burglary was the second most common offence type in Cycle 4 and the most common household offence type. There were **289,000 burglaries** over the previous 12 months, making up 17% of all offences.

Fraud and deception was the third most common offence type in Cycle 4. There were about **288,000** offences of this type during the previous 12 months, which was 17% of all offences.

Together, harassment and threatening behaviour; fraud and deception; and burglaries made up more than half of all offences (51%).



The fourth most common offence type was **robbery and assault** (excluding sexual assault). There were **209,000** of these offences, making up 12% of the total number.

Sexual assault was the fifth most common offence type. There were **200,000** sexual assaults, which was 11% of all offences.

Each of the remaining offence types made up no more than 6% of the total number of offences.

Looking at the overall makeup of offences in Cycle 4, we see that 68% were personal offences and 32% were household offences (Figure 3.5).

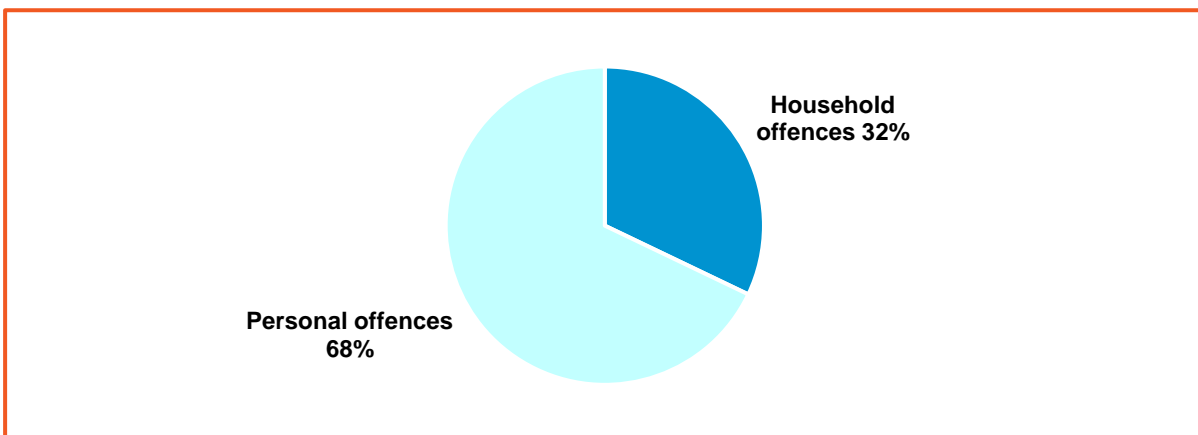


Figure 3.5 Percentage of household offences vs personal offences (Cycle 4)

Figure 3.6 shows the makeup of personal offences across the different personal offence types. More than a quarter (26%) of personal offences were harassment and threatening behaviour.

The next most common personal offence type was fraud and deception offences (24%), followed by robbery and assault (18%) and sexual assault (17%).

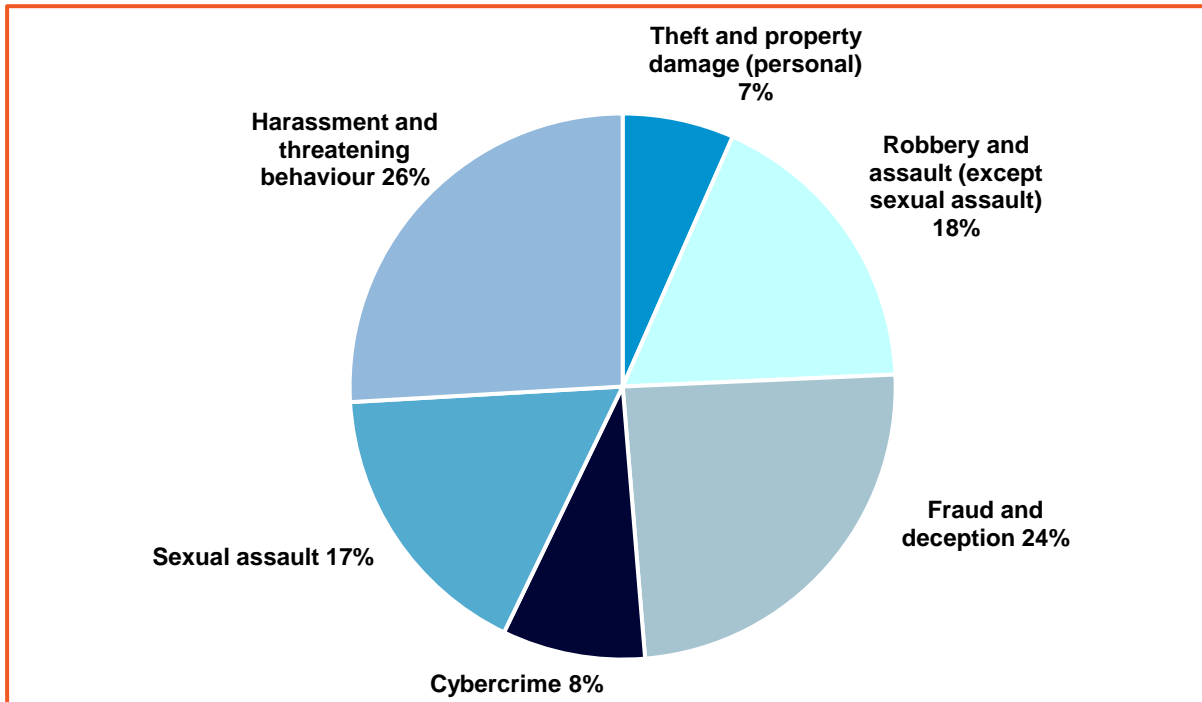


Figure 3.6 Makeup of personal offence types (Cycle 4)

Figure 3.7 shows the makeup of household offences across the different household offence types. More than half (52%) of household offences were burglaries. The next most common household offence type was trespass (11%), followed by theft (except motor vehicles) (9%).

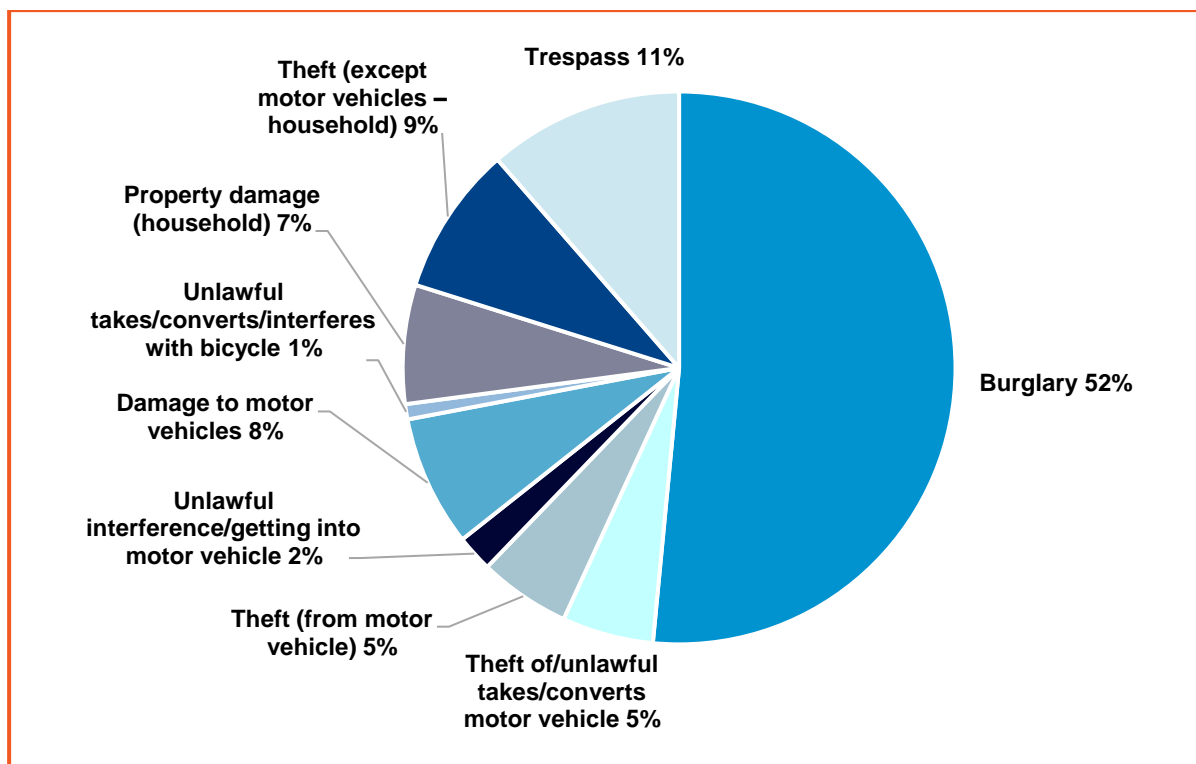


Figure 3.7 Makeup of household offence types (Cycle 4)

Note: Getting into motor vehicle includes unlawful interference. Theft of motor vehicle includes unlawful taking or converting a motor vehicle.

Offences per 100 adults or 100 households (incidence rates)

There were **29 personal offences per 100 adults** in Cycle 4. This figure slightly increased from 28 in Cycle 3, but this change was not statistically significant. There were also no statistically significant changes in the number of personal offences per 100 adults for any of the individual offence types.



Table 3.3 summarises the number of personal offences per 100 adults, by offence type.

Table 3.3 Number of personal offences per 100 adults, by offence type

Offence type	Number of personal offences per 100 adults		
	Cycle 1	Cycle 3	Cycle 4
Harassment and threatening behaviour	7.1	6.2	7.6
Fraud and deception	6.9	8.6	7.2
Robbery and assault (except sexual assault)	5.9	5.7	5.2
Sexual assault	4.2	3.9	5.0
Cybercrime	3.1	2.1	2.5
Theft and property damage (personal)	2.1	1.7	1.9
All personal offences	29.4	28.0	29.0

Table 3.4 summarises the number of household offences per 100 households, by offence type. There were **31 household offences per 100 households** in Cycle 4. This is not a statistically significant reduction compared with 32 household offences per 100 households in Cycle 1.

Table 3.4 Number of household offences per 100 households, by offence type

Offence type	Number of household offences per 100 households		
	Cycle 1	Cycle 3	Cycle 4
Burglary	17.5	13.7	16.0
Trespass	2.3	2.7	3.5
Theft (except motor vehicles – household)	3.0	2.6	2.7
Damage to motor vehicles	2.3	2.0	2.4
Property damage (household)	2.6	1.9	2.2
Theft (from motor vehicle)	2.0	2.3	1.7
Theft of/unlawful takes/converts motor vehicle	1.7	1.6	1.7
Unlawful interference/getting into motor vehicle	0.6	0.5	0.6
Unlawful takes/converts/interferes with bicycle	0.5	S	0.3
All household offences	32.5	27.8	31.0

S = Suppressed because the percentage has a margin of error greater than or equal to 20 percentage points, or the count estimate/mean has a relative sampling error greater than or equal to 50%, which is considered too unreliable for general use.

The number of **burglaries fell from 18 per 100 households in Cycle 1 to 16 per 100 households in Cycle 4**. However, compared with Cycle 3 (14 burglaries per 100 households), the incidence rate of burglaries increased. This may reflect lesser influence of lockdowns on burglaries during Cycle 4 compared with Cycle 3 (Figure 3.8).

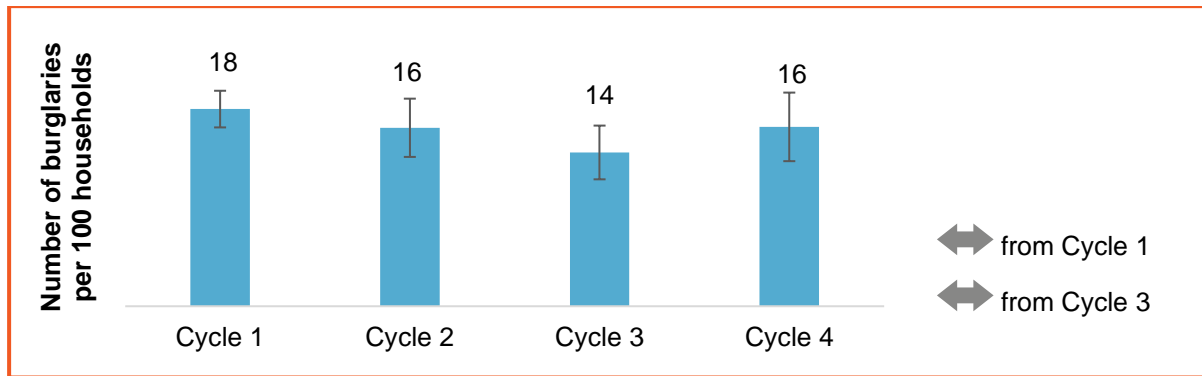


Figure 3.8 Number of burglaries per 100 households in the previous 12 months, by cycle

Number of adults or households victimised (prevalence)

About **592,000 adults** experienced one or more personal offences and about **320,000 households** experienced one or more household offences over the previous 12 months.

Table 3.5 shows the number of adults victimised once or more, by personal offence type. Similarly, Table 3.6 shows the number of households victimised once or more, by household offence type.

Note that the number of households that experienced burglary reduced in Cycle 4 compared with Cycle 3, while the number of burglary incidents increased between Cycle 3 and Cycle 4, although both changes are not statistically significant. A similar trend (driven by burglaries) was observed for overall household offences.

Table 3.5 Number of adults victimised once or more, by personal offence type

Offence type	Total number of adults victimised once or more (000s)		
	Cycle 1	Cycle 3	Cycle 4
Fraud and deception	208	273	248
Harassment and threatening behaviour	114	108	114
Robbery and assault (except sexual assault)	113	116	100
Sexual assault	80	71	84
Cybercrime	107	75	81
Theft and property damage (personal)	64	45	61
All personal offences	576	602	595

Table 3.6 Number of households victimised once or more, by household offence type

Offence type	Number of households victimised once or more (000s)		
	Cycle 1	Cycle 3	Cycle 4
Burglary	210	184	169
Damage to motor vehicles	36	35	42
Trespass	31	35	38
Theft (except motor vehicles – household)	35	34	37
Theft (from motor vehicle)	32	40	30
Theft of/unlawful takes/converts motor vehicle	26	28	28
Property damage (household)	34	26	26
Unlawful interference/getting into motor vehicle	9	10	11
Unlawful takes/converts/interferes with bicycle	8	S	5
All household offences	348	332	322

S = Suppressed because the percentage has a margin of error greater than or equal to 20 percentage points, or the count estimate/mean has a relative sampling error greater than or equal to 50%, which is considered too unreliable for general use.

Percentage of adults or households victimised (prevalence rate)

Over the previous 12 months about **15% of adults** experienced one or more personal offences, and **18% of households** experienced one or more household offences.

Table 3.7 shows the prevalence rates of each personal offence type, and Table 3.8 shows the prevalence rates of each household offence type.

Table 3.7 Percentage of adults victimised once or more, by personal offence type

Offence type	Percentage of adults victimised once or more		
	Cycle 1	Cycle 3	Cycle 4
Fraud and deception	5.3	6.6	6.2
Harassment and threatening behaviour	2.9	2.6	2.8
Robbery and assault (except sexual assault)	2.9	2.8	2.5
Sexual assault	2.0	1.7	2.1
Cybercrime	2.7	1.8	2.0
Theft and property damage (personal)	1.6	1.1	1.5
All personal offences	14.6	14.6	14.8

Table 3.8 Percentage of households victimised once or more, by household offence type

Offence type	Percentage of households victimised once or more			Change from Cycle 1	Change from Cycle 3
	Cycle 1	Cycle 3	Cycle 4		
Burglary	12.1	10.3	9.3	↓	↔
Damage to motor vehicles	2.1	2.0	2.3	↔	↔
Trespass	1.8	2.0	2.1	↔	↔
Theft (except motor vehicles – household)	2.0	1.9	2.1	↔	↔
Theft (from motor vehicle)	1.8	2.2	1.7	↔	↔
Theft of/unlawful takes/converts motor vehicle	1.5	1.5	1.6	↔	↔
Property damage (household)	1.9	1.5	1.5	↔	↔
Unlawful interference/getting into motor vehicle	0.5	0.5	0.6	↔	↔
Unlawful takes/converts/interferes with bicycle	0.5	S	0.3	↔	↔
All household offences	20.0	18.5	17.9	↓	↔

S = Suppressed because the percentage has a margin of error greater than or equal to 20 percentage points, or the count estimate/mean has a relative sampling error greater than or equal to 50%, which is considered too unreliable for general use.

The prevalence rate of overall personal offences in the adult population has been stable at around 15% between Cycle 1 and Cycle 4. The prevalence rate of overall household offences fell slightly, from 20% in Cycle 1 to 19% in Cycle 3 and 18% in Cycle 4. The change in households victimised between Cycle 1 and 4 was statistically significant.

The percentage of households that were victims of burglary has been on a gradual downward trend between Cycle 1 and Cycle 4 (Figure 3.9). Slightly above 9% of households were victims of burglary in the previous 12 months in Cycle 4, compared with 12% in Cycle 1. This change was statistically significant.

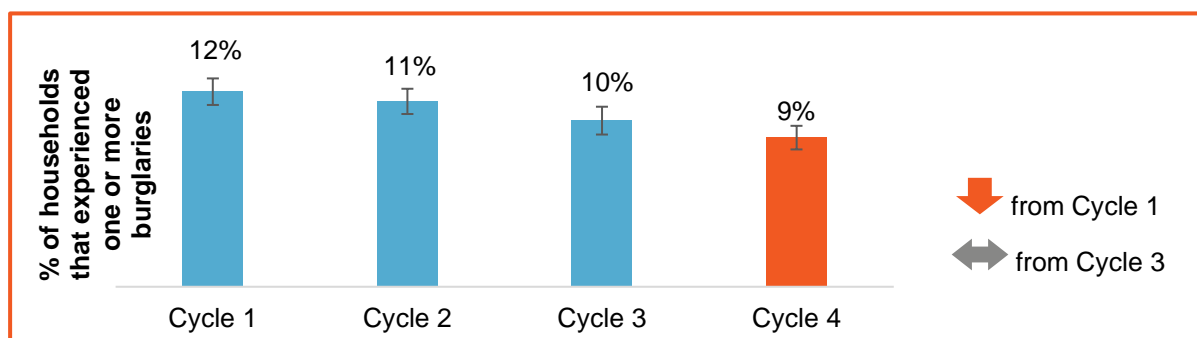


Figure 3.9 Percentage of households that experienced one or more burglaries in the previous 12 months, by cycle

Apart from household offences and burglary, there was no significant change in the prevalence rate of any other offence type between Cycle 1 and Cycle 4.

3.3 Broad offence groups

This section looks at the scale of victimisation across broad offence groups:

- fraud and cybercrime offences
- interpersonal violence offences
- theft and damage offences
- vehicle offences.

Table 3.9 summarises how individual offence types are combined into these broad offence groups.

Table 3.9 Broad offence grouping

Individual offence types	Broad offence grouping	
Fraud and deception	Fraud and cybercrime offences	
Cybercrime		
Sexual assault	Interpersonal violence offences ^a	
Harassment and threatening behaviour		
Other assault		
Robbery		
Property damage (personal)		
Property damage (household)		
Theft (except motor vehicles – personal)		Theft and damage offences ^b
Theft (except motor vehicles – household)		
Unlawful takes/converts/interferes with bicycle		
Burglary		
Trespass		
Theft of/unlawful takes/converts motor vehicle		
Theft (from motor vehicle)	Vehicle offences	
Unlawful interference/getting into motor vehicle		
Damage to motor vehicles		

^a “Interpersonal violence offences” is a group combining sexual assault; other assault; harassment and threatening behaviour; robbery; and damage of personal or household property if the offender is known to the victim.

^b “Theft and damage offences” is a group combining theft (except motor vehicle theft); damage of household and personal property if the offender is unknown to the victim; and unlawful takes, converts or interference with bicycle.

Interpersonal violence offences and theft and damage offences each contain both personal and household offences.⁷ All fraud and cybercrime offences are personal offences, and all vehicle offences are household offences.

These four broad offence groups together with burglary and trespass cover all crime recorded in the NZCVS.

Number of offences (incidence)

In all four cycles of the NZCVS, the most common broad offence group was interpersonal violence offences, followed by fraud and cybercrime offences, theft and damage offences, and vehicle offences.

For Cycle 4, it was estimated that during the previous 12 months there were:

- **745,000** interpersonal violence offences
- **388,000** fraud and cybercrime offences
- **247,000** theft and damage offences
- **115,000** vehicle offences.

Figure 3.10 shows the number of offences in each broad offence group over time.

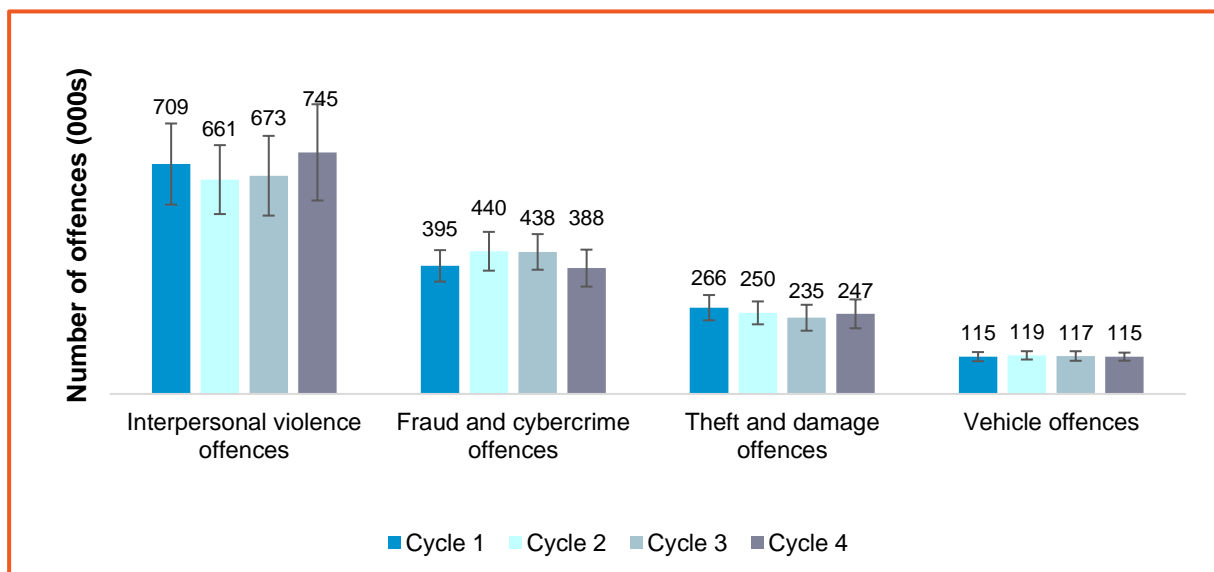


Figure 3.10 Number of offences (000s) in the previous 12 months, by broad offence group and cycle

Offences per 100 adults or 100 households (incidence rates)

The number of offences per 100 adults or 100 households in the previous 12 months has been relatively stable for the four broad offence groups from Cycle 1 to Cycle 4 (Figure 3.11). The incidence rates for each group in Cycle 4 were not statistically different from those in Cycle 1.

⁷ We treat these offence groups like personal offences – that is, we consider the number (or percentage) of adults who experienced these offences, as opposed to the number (or percentage) of households.

For Cycle 4, it was estimated that in the previous 12 months there had been:

- **19** interpersonal violence offences **per 100 adults**
- **10** fraud and cybercrime offences **per 100 adults**
- **6** vehicle offences **per 100 households**
- **6** theft and damage offences **per 100 adults**.

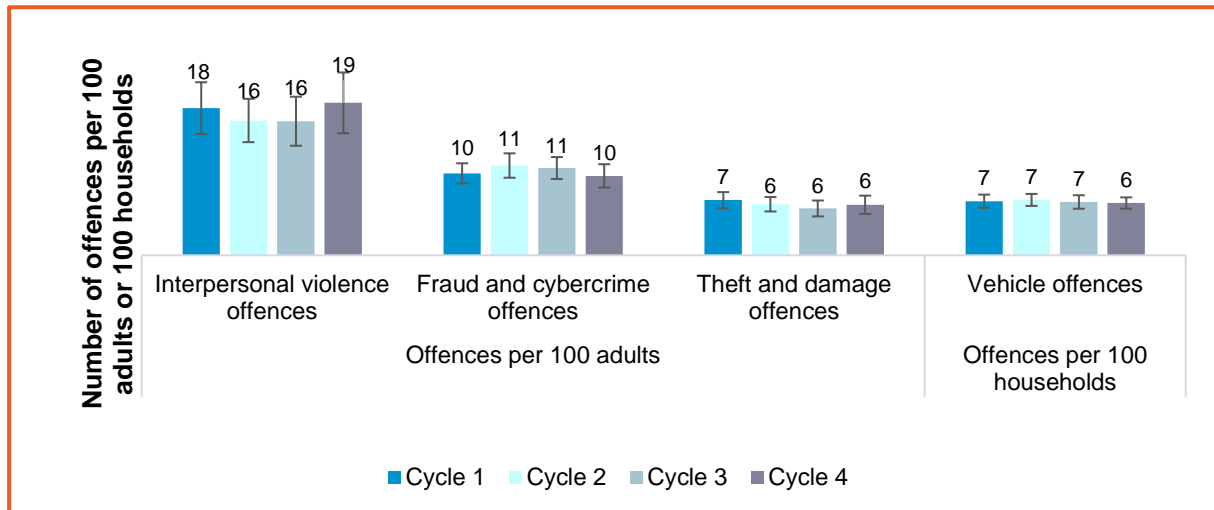


Figure 3.11 Number of offences per 100 adults or 100 households in the previous 12 months, by broad offence group and cycle

Number of adults or households victimised (prevalence)

The number of adults or households affected by each of the broad offence groups is shown in Figure 3.12. There were no significant changes over time.

Above we showed that there was a greater number of interpersonal violence offences than fraud and cybercrime offences. However, here we see that more adults were affected by fraud and cybercrime than by interpersonal violence. This means that although interpersonal violence was more common than fraud and cybercrime, it was concentrated on a smaller part of the population. More information on the distribution of victimisation is provided in section 8.

For Cycle 4, it was estimated that over the previous 12 months:

- **318,000 adults** were victims of fraud and cybercrime offences
- **292,000 adults** were victims of interpersonal violence offences
- **180,000 adults** were victims of theft and damage offences
- **104,000 households** were victims of vehicle offences.

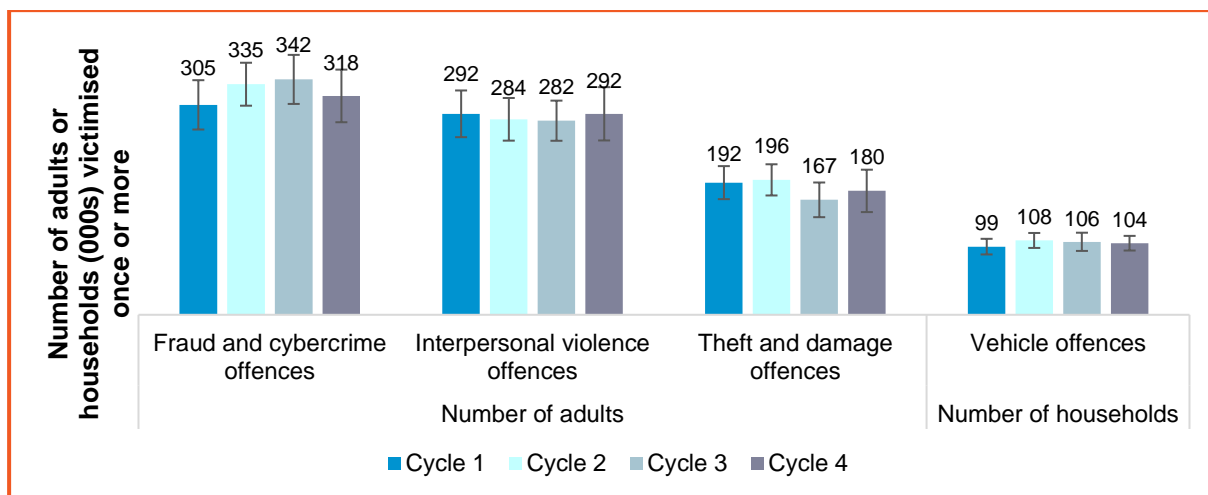
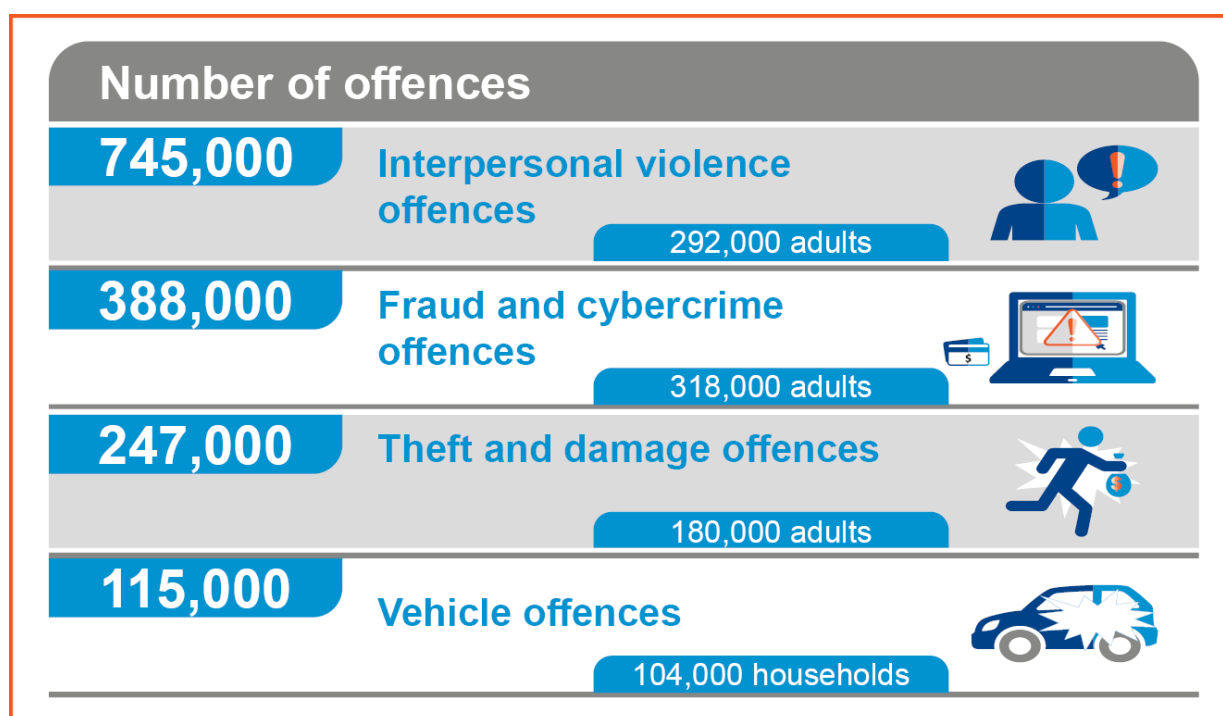


Figure 3.12 Number of adults or households (000s) victimised once or more in the previous 12 months, by broad offence group and cycle



Percentage of adults or households victimised (prevalence rates)

There were no statistically significant changes in the prevalence rates of any of the four broad offence groups between Cycle 1 and Cycle 4 (Figure 3.13).

For Cycle 4, it was estimated that during the previous 12 months:

- **8.0% of adults** had been victims of fraud and cybercrime offences
- **7.3% of adults** had been victims of interpersonal violence offences
- **5.8% of households** had been victims of vehicle offences
- **4.5% of adults** had been victims of theft and damage offences.

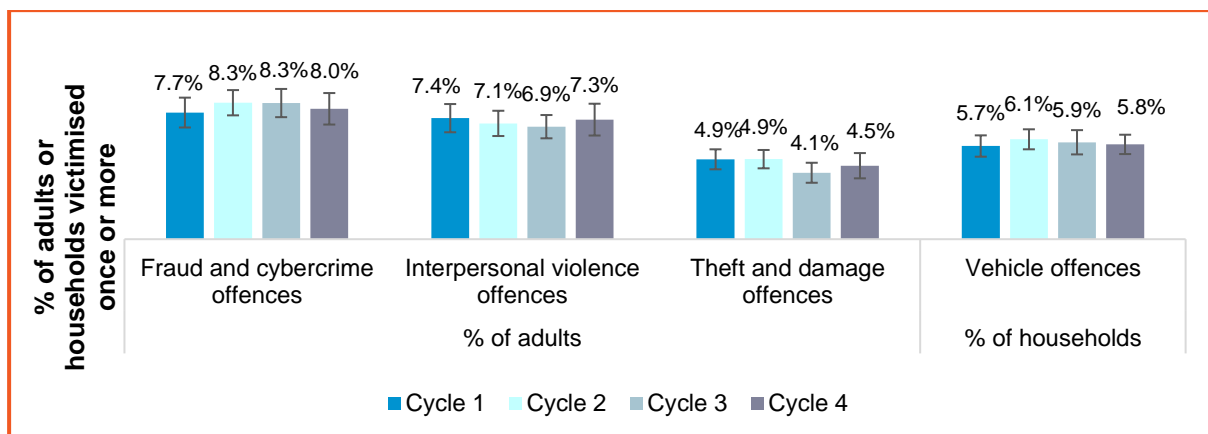


Figure 3.13 Percentage of adults or households victimised once or more in the previous 12 months, by broad offence group and cycle

The percentage of adults affected by interpersonal violence fell gradually between Cycle 1 and Cycle 3, but it has now returned back to almost the Cycle 1 level.

4 Who is experiencing crime?

What is included in this section?

In this section we discuss the characteristics and circumstances of people who are most likely to experience different types of crime both over time and compared with the New Zealand average. We refer to these characteristics and circumstances as population factors of victimisation. The factors discussed in this section include:

- personal factors – demographic attributes such as sex, age, ethnicity, sexual identity and marital status
- economic and geographic (based on regional council boundaries) factors that describe people's situation and location
- factors that describe the living arrangement of people – for example, whether someone lives in their own home, by themselves or with others
- wellbeing factors such as disability, level of psychological distress, life satisfaction, and feeling of safety.

We look at these factors across all offences and, where relevant, personal offences, household offences, burglary, trespass, and the following broad offence groups: vehicle offences; theft and damage offences; interpersonal violence offences; and fraud and cybercrime offences.

For each population factor, we look at the Cycle 4 results (section 4.1), changes over time (section 4.2) and victimisation by population factors (section 4.3). In the graphs, tables and infographics, all statistically significant differences are indicated in orange.

4.1 Victimization by population factors: Cycle 4 snapshots

This section analyses Cycle 4 results. We look at each population factor against one of the key measures of crime, such as the percentage of people or households victimised once or more in Cycle 4. The estimates were compared with the New Zealand average and tested to see which ones are significantly higher or lower than the national average.

What did we find?

In Cycle 4, key population factors associated with a **higher likelihood of victimisation** when compared with the New Zealand average included:

- **personal factors:** young adults (aged 15–29); bisexual; Māori; separated
- **economic and household factors:** not employed and not actively seeking work; living in a one-parent-with-child(ren) household or a multi-person household; renting government accommodation; being under high levels of financial pressure
- **wellbeing factors:** having a moderate or high level of psychological distress; having low life satisfaction; having a low feeling of safety.

In Cycle 4, population factors associated with a **lower likelihood of victimisation** when compared with the New Zealand average included:

- **personal factors:** older adults (aged 65+); Asian; widowed
- **economic and household factors:** retired; living alone or in a couple-only household; having a personal or household income of \$20,001–\$30,000; not being under financial pressure
- **geographic factors:** living in the Taranaki region
- **wellbeing factors:** having high life satisfaction; having a high feeling of safety.

Any victimisation in Cycle 4

Overall, in Cycle 4 several groups of population factors were associated with either a significantly higher likelihood or significantly lower likelihood of victimisation when compared with the New Zealand average (Figure 4.1 and Figure 4.2).

Figure 4.1 demonstrates which population factors were associated with significantly higher likelihood of victimisation in Cycle 4. Compared to the New Zealand average (29%), we found that these factors include:

- being younger (aged 15–29)
- being sexually diverse (especially bisexual, 61%)
- being Māori
- being separated or partnered but not legally registered
- being not employed and not actively seeking work
- living in a multi-person household
- having a household income of \$100,001–\$150,000 per annum
- having very limited ability to afford non-essential \$300 item
- having a moderate or high level of psychological distress
- having low life satisfaction
- having a low feeling of safety.

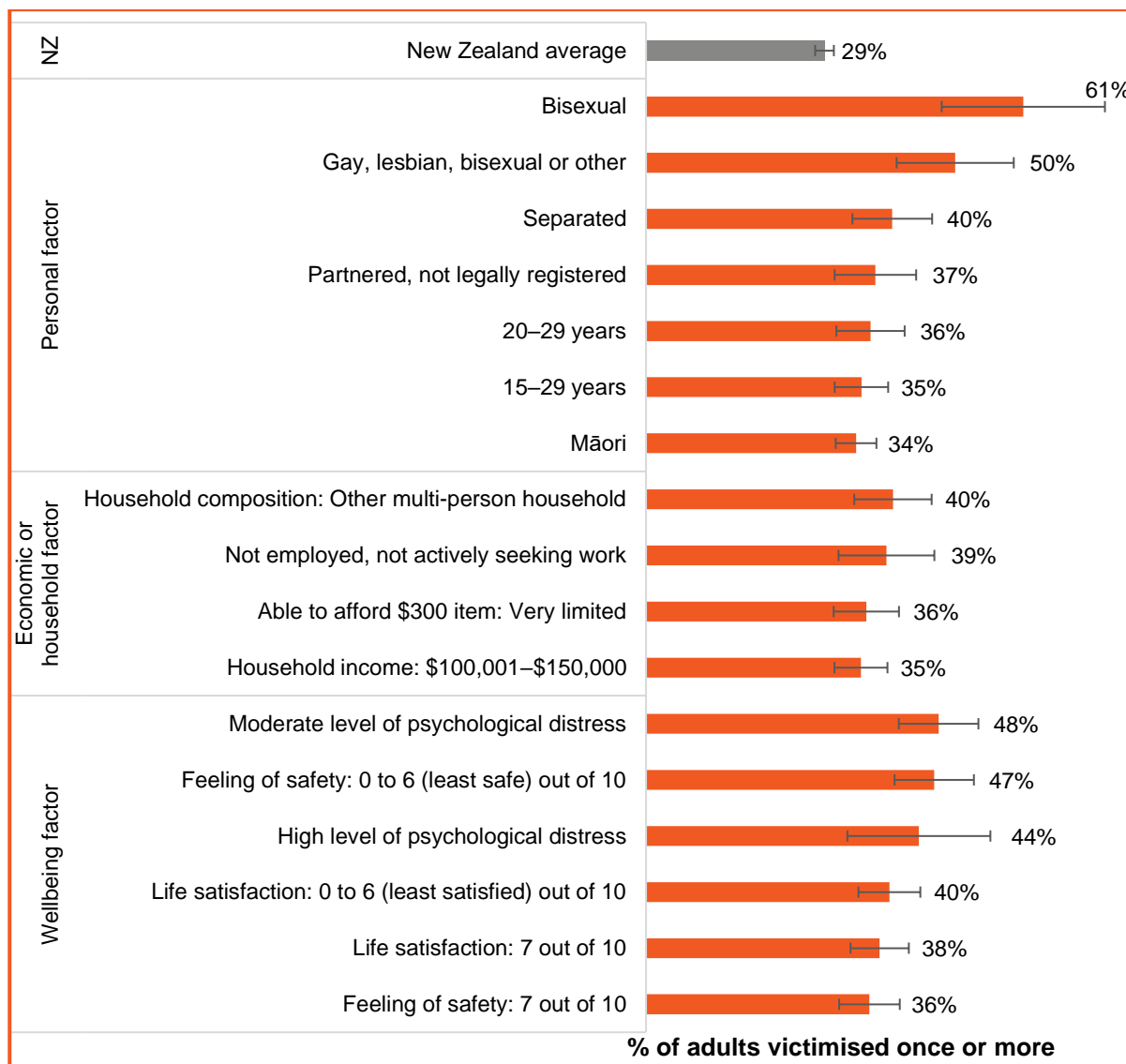


Figure 4.1 Percentage of adults victimised significantly more than the New Zealand average, by population factor – all offences (Cycle 4)

In contrast, as shown in Figure 4.2, factors associated with a significantly lower likelihood of victimisation include:

- being older (aged 65+)
- being Asian (especially “other Asian ethnicity”, which excludes Chinese and Indian)
- being widowed
- being retired
- living in a one-person, two-people, or couple-only household
- having a personal or household income of \$20,001–\$30,000 per annum
- living in Taranaki
- having high life satisfaction
- having a high feeling of safety.

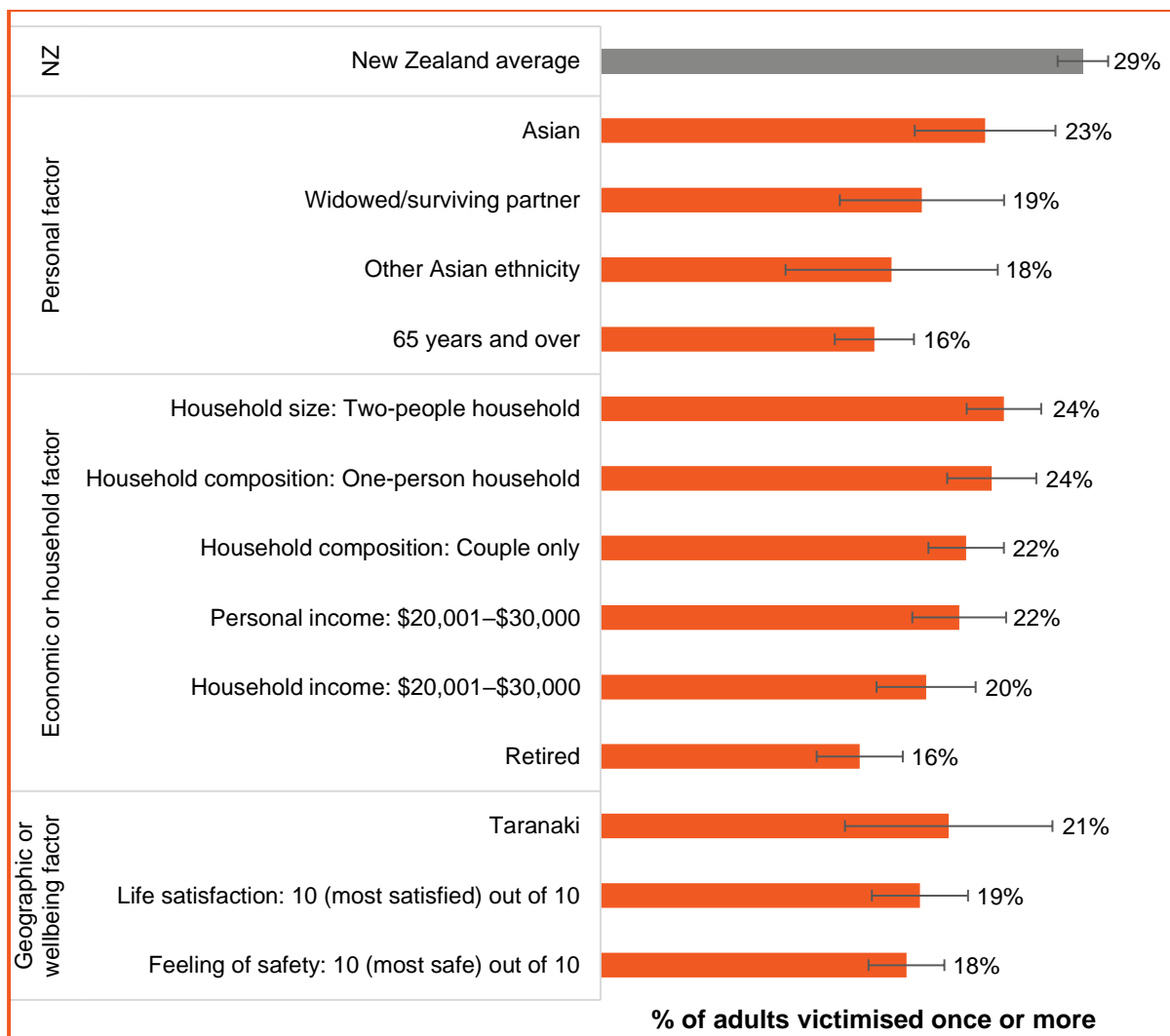


Figure 4.2 Percentage of adults victimised significantly less than the New Zealand average, by population factor – all offences (Cycle 4)

Personal offences in Cycle 4

As shown in Figure 4.3, population factors associated with a significantly higher likelihood of experiencing one or more personal offences than the New Zealand average (15%) include:

- being younger (aged 15–29)
- being sexually diverse (especially bisexual, 52%)
- being Māori
- being separated or divorced (especially separated, 26%)
- never having been married or in a civil union
- being partnered but not legally registered
- living in a multi-person household
- having a moderate or high level of psychological distress
- having low life satisfaction
- having a low feeling of safety.

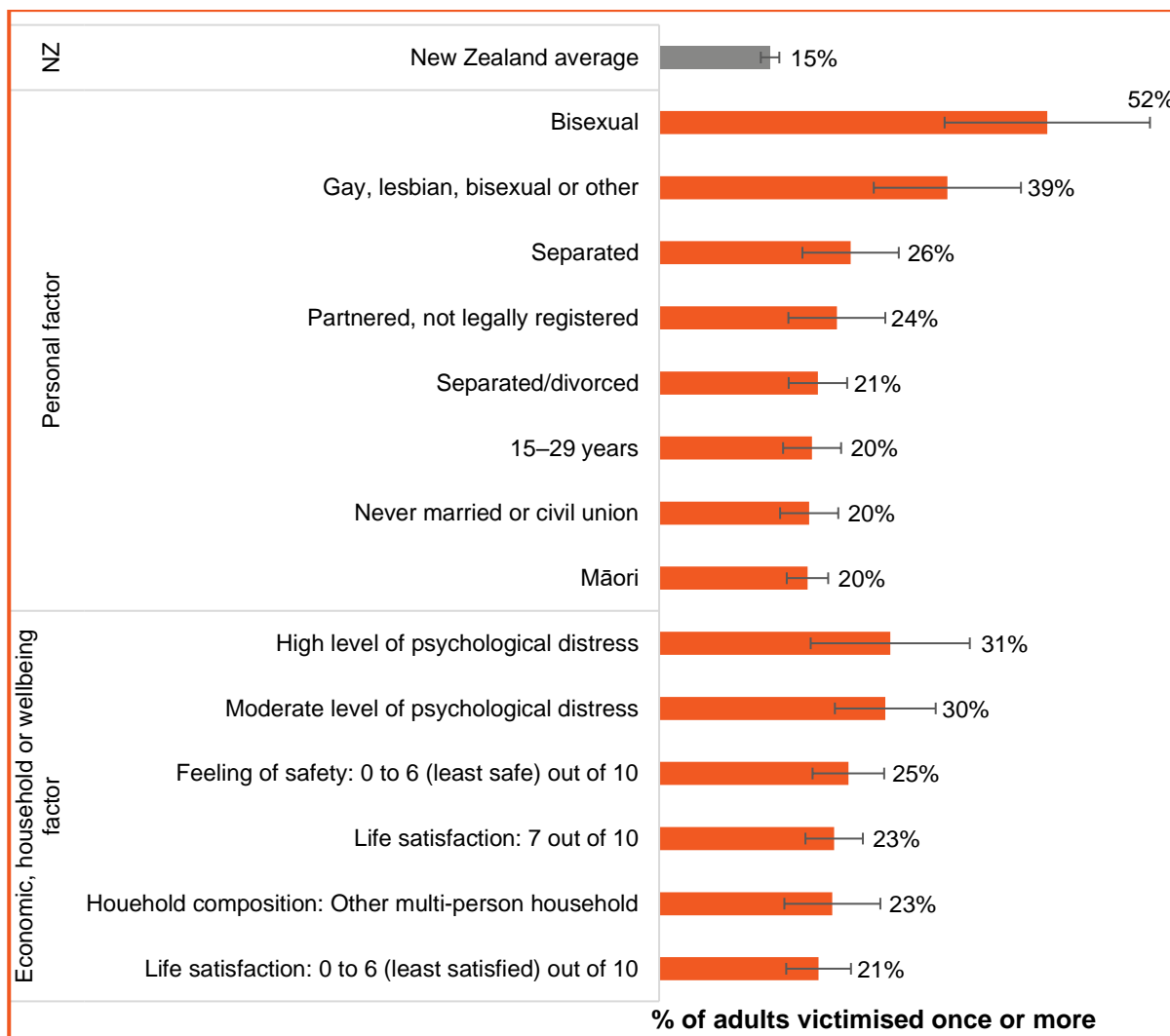


Figure 4.3 Percentage of adults victimised significantly more than the New Zealand average, by population factor – personal offences (Cycle 4)

As shown in Figure 4.4, population factors associated with a significantly lower likelihood of experiencing one or more personal offences include:

- being older (aged 65+)
- being Asian
- being widowed
- being retired
- living in a couple-only household
- having a personal or household income of \$20,001–\$30,000 or a household income of \$10,000 or less
- having high life satisfaction
- having a high feeling of safety.

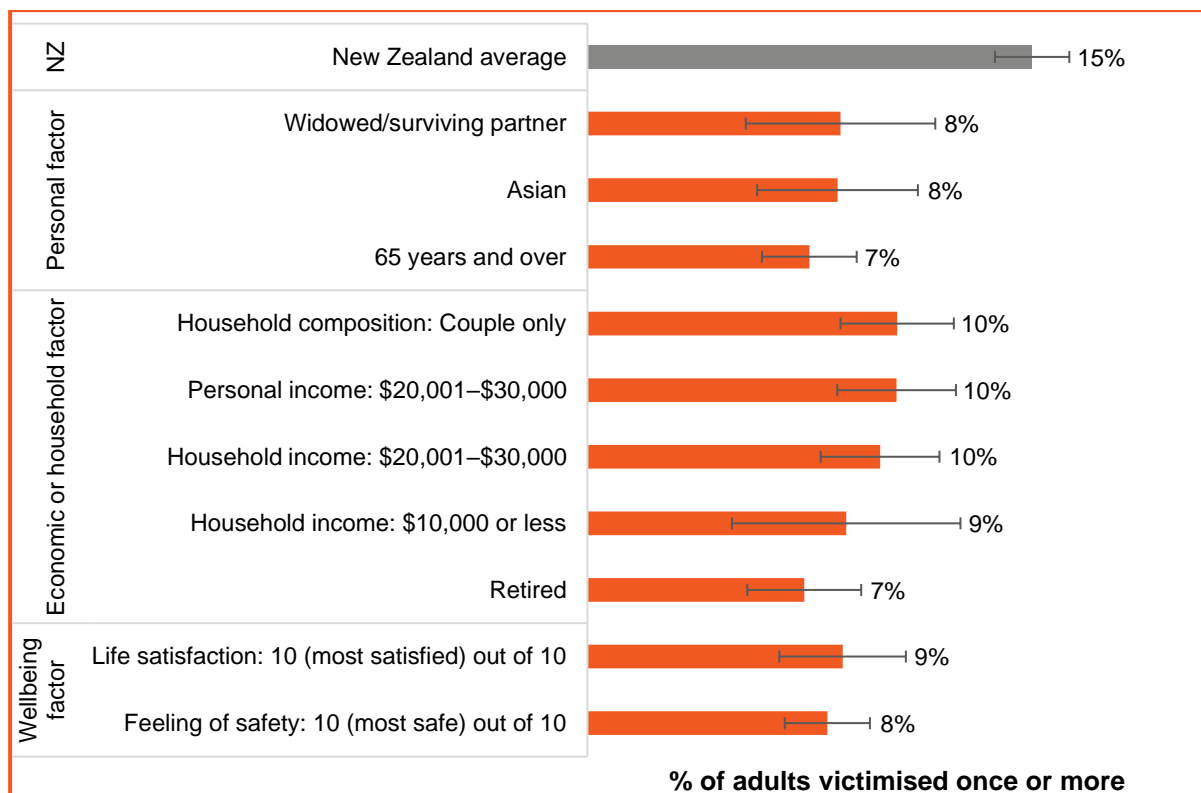


Figure 4.4 Percentage of adults victimised significantly less than the New Zealand average, by population factor – personal offences (Cycle 4)

Household offences in Cycle 4

As demonstrated in Figure 4.5, population factors associated with a significantly higher likelihood of experiencing one or more offences towards the household (eg, burglary) than the New Zealand average (18%) include:

- having adults in the household with diverse sexualities
- having adults in the household who are separated
- renting government accommodation
- having adults in the household who are not employed and not actively seeking work
- living in a “one parent with child(ren) and other person(s)” household
- living in a “couple with no children and other person(s)” household
- living in a household with three or more people
- living in a household with one child
- having adults in the household who are under extreme financial stress (no ability to afford a non-essential \$300 item or meet a \$500 unexpected expense)
- having adults in the household who are having a moderate or high level of psychological distress
- having adults in the household who have low life satisfaction
- having adults in the household who have a low feeling of safety.

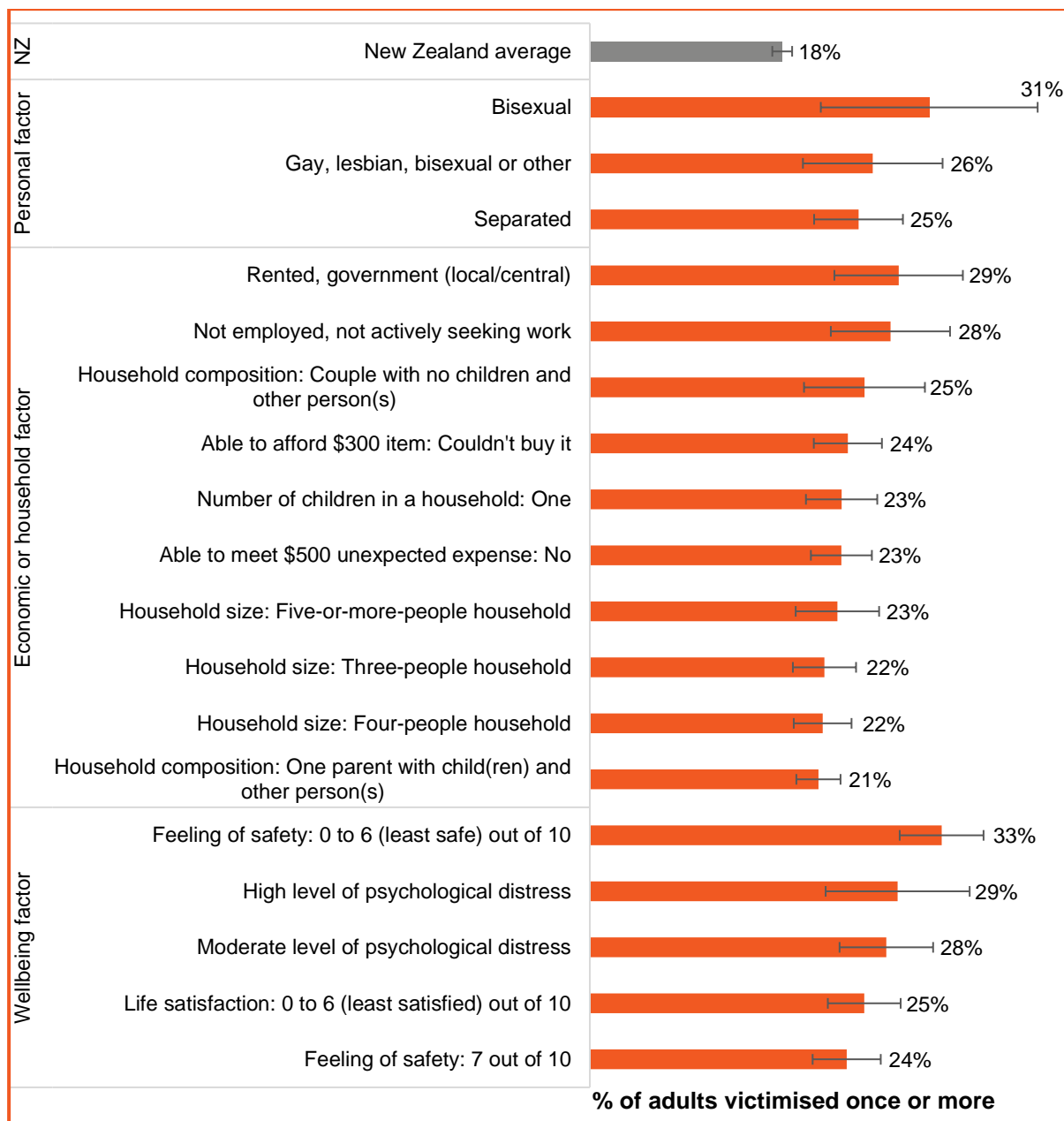


Figure 4.5 Percentage of households victimised significantly more than the New Zealand average, by population factor – household offences (Cycle 4)

As shown in Figure 4.6, population factors associated with a significantly lower likelihood of experiencing one or more household offences include:

- having adults in the household who are aged 65+
- having adults in the household who are widowed
- living alone or in a couple-only household
- having adults in the household who are retired
- having a household income of \$20,001–\$30,000 per annum
- living in the least deprived area (New Zealand Index of Deprivation 2018 (NZDep2018) decile 1)
- having adults in the household who have high life satisfaction
- having adults in the household who have a high feeling of safety.

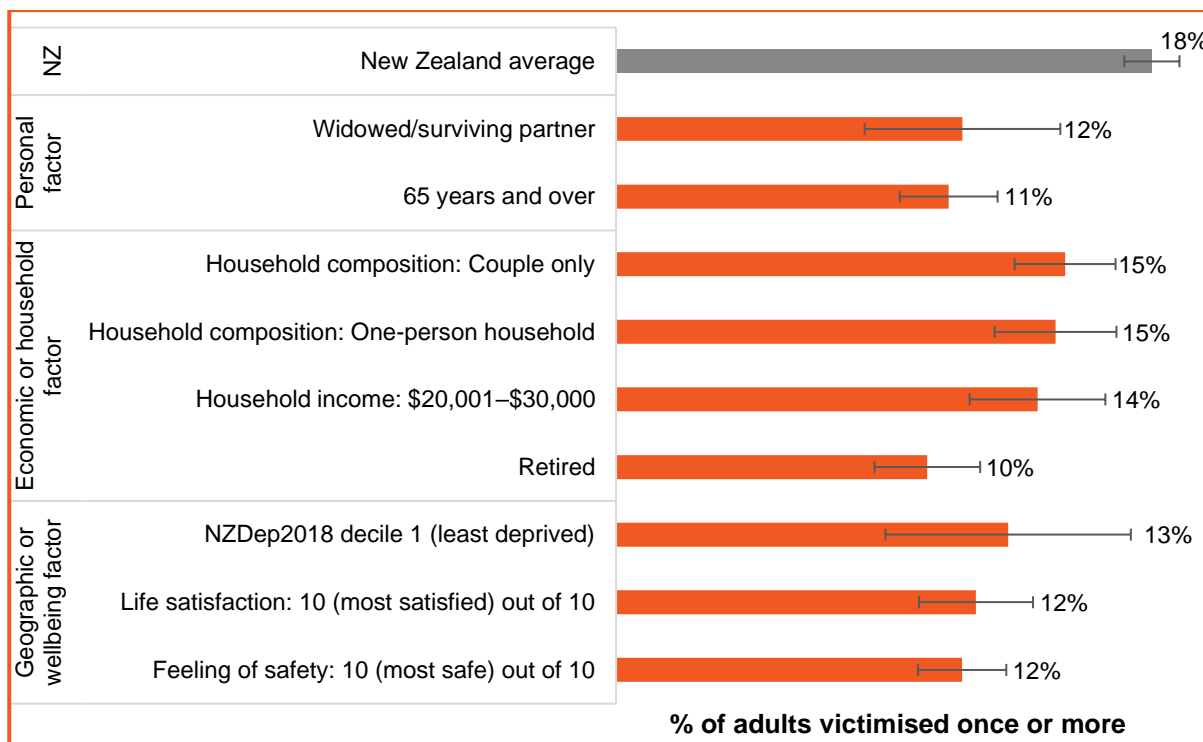


Figure 4.6 Percentage of households victimised significantly less than the New Zealand average, by population factor – household offences (Cycle 4)

4.2 Changes in victimisation by population factors over time

This section consists of two parts: one discusses the significant reductions in the prevalence rate of household offences and burglaries by population factors, and the other discusses other significant changes over time found in victimisation by population factors. Generally, for most population factors there were no significant changes in victimisation over time.

What did we find?

Most of the changes in victimisation over time relate to significant reductions in the prevalence rate of household offences and burglaries between the base year (Cycle 1) and the current year (Cycle 4).

- Some of the largest decreases are observed among more vulnerable population groups. The groups included Māori, those living in the more deprived neighbourhoods, those not in a stable relationship, those living alone or in a one-parent-with-child(ren) household, and those with a high level of psychological distress.
- There were no significant regional changes in overall victimisation over time. However, some statistically significant changes did occur between the previous year (Cycle 3) and the current year (Cycle 4) for particular offence types.

- Between the base year and the current year, overall victimisation decreased by almost a third for adults who experience a high level of psychological distress. This reduction is greater for household offences and, in particular, burglaries.
- Adults living in the most deprived neighbourhoods (NZDep2018 quintile 5) saw a significant decrease in the prevalence rate and the incidence rate of burglaries between the base year and the current year.
- However, adults living in quintile 4 neighbourhoods saw a significant increase in the incidence rate of burglaries between the previous year and the current year, where the current year rate appears to have returned to the base year level.

There were also a few statistically significant changes over time found for other offence types.

- Māori saw a significant reduction in the prevalence rate and incidence rate of theft and damage offences between the base year and the current year.
- Those living in a couple-only household saw a significant reduction in overall victimisation between the previous year and the current year.
- Adults living in a household without any children saw a significant reduction between the previous year and the current year in the incidence rate of fraud and cybercrime offences experienced.
- Adults with a household income of \$10,000 or less per annum saw a significant reduction in overall victimisation and personal offences between the base year and the current year.
- Those with a household income of \$20,001–\$30,000 per annum saw a significant decrease in the overall victimisation between the base year and the current year.
- Adults living in the Manawatū-Whanganui region experienced three times as many personal offences per 100 adults in the current year than the previous year. This pattern is even more pronounced in the incidence rate of interpersonal violence offences.
- Adults living in the Otago region saw the prevalence rate of fraud and cybercrime offences double between the base year and the current year.
- Only the major urban areas saw a significant increase in the incidence rate of trespass offences between the base year and the current year.
- Those who were most satisfied with their life (10 out of 10) saw a significant reduction in overall victimisation between the previous year and the current year.

Changes in household offences over time

As stated in section 3, there were significant reductions in the prevalence rate of household offences and burglaries between the base year (Cycle 1) and the current year (Cycle 4). However, these reductions were not evenly distributed across population factors.

Household offences overall

As shown in Tables 4.1 and 4.2, population groups who experienced a significant reduction in either the prevalence or incidence of household offences between the base year and the current year included:

- Māori
- those living alone or in a “one parent with child(ren) and other person(s)” household
- those who were employed
- those with a household income of \$70,001–\$100,000 per annum
- those living in the Wellington region
- those living in more deprived neighbourhoods (quintile 5, decile 10)
- those with high levels of psychological distress.

We saw a significant reduction in the overall prevalence of household offences – from 20% in the base year to 18% in the current year – but no significant change was detected in the overall incidence of household offences. Some of the largest reductions between the base year and the current year were observed among the following population groups.

- Māori saw over a quarter decrease in the prevalence rate of household offences – from 27% to 21%.
- Adults living in a “one parent with child(ren) and other person(s)” household saw a 40% decrease in the prevalence rate of household offences – from 35% to 21%. A significant decrease between the base year and the current year was also found in overall victimisation – from 45% to 32%. There was also a significant reduction in the incidence rate of household offences, from 56 household offences per 100 households to 35 per 100.
- The Wellington region saw a significant reduction in the incidence rate of household offences experienced – from 38 household offences per 100 households to 25 per 100.
- Between the previous year and the current year, the North Island (excluding the Auckland and Wellington regions) saw a significant increase in the incidence rate of household offences – from 25 household offences per 100 households to 34 per 100. Looking more closely at this pattern, the Manawatū-Whanganui region saw a more than doubled increase in the incidence rate of household offences experienced – from 19 household offences per 100 households to 42 per 100.
- Adults living in the most deprived neighbourhoods in New Zealand (quintile 5) saw a significant decrease in the prevalence rate of household offences – from 27% to 21%. There was also a significant reduction in the incidence rate of household offences – from 54 household offences per 100 households to 38 per 100. Looking more closely at the most deprived neighbourhoods in New Zealand, decile 10 areas saw a significant reduction in the prevalence rate of household offences – from 30% to 21%.
- Adults rated as having high levels of psychological distress saw a decrease of over one-third in the prevalence rate of household offences – from 44% to 29%. This significant reduction between the base year and the current year was also reflected in overall victimisation – from 65% to 44%.

Table 4.1 Percentage of households victimised once or more, by population factor

Population factor	Percentage of households victimised once or more		Change from Cycle 1
	Cycle 1	Cycle 4	
New Zealand average	20.0	17.9	↓
Māori	27.3	20.5	↓
One-person household	18.9	14.6	↓
One parent with child(ren) and other person(s) household	35.4 [‡]	21.2	↓
Employed	21.5	18.7	↓
Household income: \$70,001–\$100,000	21.6	15.4	↓
NZDep2018 quintile 5 (most deprived)	27.3	21.0	↓
NZDep2018 decile 10 (most deprived)	29.5	21.3 [‡]	↓
High level of psychological distress	44.0 [‡]	28.6 [‡]	↓

[‡] Use with caution. The numerator and/or denominator of the ratio-based estimate has a relative sampling error between 20% and 50%. Statistics should be used with caution because they may be too variable for certain types of reporting.

Table 4.2 Number of household offences per 100 households, by population factor

Population factor	Number of household offences per 100 households		Change from Cycle 1
	Cycle 1	Cycle 4	
New Zealand average	32.5	31.1	↔
One parent with child(ren) and other person(s) household	56.2 [#]	34.9	↓
Wellington	38.0	24.5 [#]	↓
NZDep2018 quintile 5 (most deprived)	54.4	37.7 [‡]	↓

[#] Use with caution. Percentage has a margin of error greater than or equal to 10 and less than 20 percentage points, or the count estimate/mean has a relative sampling error greater than or equal to 20% and less than 50%. Statistics should be used with caution because they may be too variable for certain types of reporting.

Burglaries

The reductions observed in the overall household offences for specific population groups appeared to be largely driven by decreases in the prevalence or incidence of burglaries, as burglaries account for almost half of household offences.

As shown in Tables 4.3 and 4.4), population groups⁸ that experienced a significant reduction in either the prevalence or incidence of burglaries between the base year and the current year included:

- Māori
- those who did not have a partner (never married or in a civil union; non-partnered; or widowed)
- those living alone or in a “one parent with child(ren) and other person(s)” household
- those living in a household with two or more children
- those who were employed
- those living in a household owned by themselves (including with a mortgage)
- those living in a large urban area
- those with a household income of \$70,001–\$100,000 per annum
- those who were not able to meet a \$500 unexpected expense
- those who were not at all limited in their ability to afford a non-essential \$300 item
- those living in the Waikato region
- those living in more deprived neighbourhoods (quintile 5, decile 10)
- those with a high level of psychological distress
- those who were most satisfied with life (10 out of 10)
- those with a moderate feeling of safety (8 out of 10).

We saw a significant reduction in the prevalence rate of burglaries – from 12% in the base year to 9% in the current year. Once again, no significant change was detected in the overall incidence of burglaries. Some of the largest significant reductions between the base year and the current year observed among population groups were as follows.

- Widowed adults saw an over 50% reduction in the prevalence rate of burglaries – from 9% to 5%. Notably, those who were separated at the time of the survey saw the incidence rate of burglaries almost doubled between the previous year and the current year – from 19 burglaries per 100 households to 38 per 100.
- Adults living in a “one parent with child(ren) and other person(s)” household saw the prevalence rate of burglaries halved – from 19% to 10%. No significant reductions were found in other detailed offence types, so the decrease in burglaries is the main contributor to the change in overall prevalence rate.
- Households with two or more children saw a 40% reduction in the prevalence rate of burglaries – from 17% to 10%.
- The North Island (excluding the Auckland and Wellington regions) saw a significant decrease in the prevalence rate of burglaries – from 14% to 10%. Looking more closely within the North Island regions, Waikato was the only region that saw a significant reduction in the prevalence rate of burglaries – from 16% to 9%.

⁸ There were also significant reductions in either the prevalence or incidence of burglaries for heterosexual adults, non-disabled adults, New Zealand Europeans, households with no children, privately owned households, adults who can meet a \$500 unexpected expense and adults with low psychological distress. However, many of these population groups are large and likely reflect the observed reduction for the New Zealand average (see [data tables](#)).

- Adults living in the most deprived neighbourhoods in New Zealand (decile 10) saw a significant decrease in the prevalence rate of burglaries – from 21% to 13%. The rate of burglaries also significantly reduced – from 40 burglaries per 100 households to 24 per 100.
- Households with an income between \$70,001 and \$100,000 per annum saw a significant decrease in the prevalence rate of burglaries – from 13% to 8%.
- Those who were employed saw a significant decrease in the prevalence rate of burglaries – from 12% to 9%.
- Adults having a high level of psychological distress saw a 55% decrease in the prevalence rate of burglaries – from 34% to 15%.

Table 4.3 Percentage of households burgled once or more, by population factor

Population factor	Percentage of households victimised once or more		Change from Cycle 1
	Cycle 1	Cycle 4	
New Zealand average	12.1	9.3	↓
Māori	17.9	11.8	↓
Non-partnered	13.8	9.4	↓
Widowed/surviving partner	9.2 [‡]	4.5 [‡]	↓
Never married or civil union	15.6	10.3	↓
One-person household	12.3	7.9	↓
One parent with child(ren) and other person(s) household	18.8 [‡]	10.3	↓
Number of children in a household: Two or more	17.0	10.3 [‡]	↓
Employed	12.3	9.2	↓
Household ownership: Owned (including with a mortgage)	10.5	8.1	↓
Household income: \$70,001–\$100,000	12.7	7.8 [‡]	↓
Able to afford \$300 item: Not at all limited	10.3	7.6	↓
Able to meet \$500 unexpected expense: No	17.7	13.2	↓
Large urban area	13.2 [‡]	8.4 [‡]	↓
Waikato	15.6	9.5 [‡]	↓
Rest of North Island	14.0	10.0	↓
NZDep2018 decile 9	17.9 [‡]	11.0 [‡]	↓
NZDep2018 decile 10 (most deprived)	21.3 [‡]	13.3 [‡]	↓



NZDep2018 quintile 5 (most deprived)	19.6	11.9	↓
High level of psychological distress	33.9 [‡]	15.1 [‡]	↓
Life satisfaction: 10 out of 10 (most satisfied)	10.3	6.2 [‡]	↓
Feeling of safety: 8 out of 10	11.7	8.6	↓

[‡] Use with caution. The numerator and/or denominator of the ratio-based estimate has a relative sampling error between 20% and 50%. Statistics should be used with caution because they may be too variable for certain types of reporting.

Table 4.4 Number of burglaries per 100 households, by population factor

Population factor	Number of household offences per 100 households		Change from Cycle 1
	Cycle 1	Cycle 4	
New Zealand average	17.5	16.0	↔
NZDep2018 decile 9	27.4 [‡]	16.5 [#]	↓
NZDep2018 decile 10 (most deprived)	39.7 [#]	23.9 [#]	↓
NZDep2018 quintile 5 (most deprived)	33.5 [‡]	19.7	↓

[‡] Use with caution. The numerator and/or denominator of the ratio-based estimate has a relative sampling error between 20% and 50%. Statistics should be used with caution because they may be too variable for certain types of reporting.

[#] Use with caution. Percentage has a margin of error greater than or equal to 10 and less than 20 percentage points, or the count estimate/mean has a relative sampling error greater than or equal to 20% and less than 50%. Statistics should be used with caution because they may be too variable for certain types of reporting.

Other changes in victimisation over time

This section compares the estimates from base year (Cycle 1), previous year (Cycle 3), and current year (Cycle 4) for offences other than household offences and burglaries. Generally, for most population factors there were no significant changes in victimisation over time.

Tables 4.5 and 4.6 show the few statistically significant changes that did occur across the base year, the previous year, and the current year. The key changes were as follows.

- Māori saw a significant reduction in the prevalence rate of theft and damage offences between the base year and the current year – from 8% to 5%. There was also a significant reduction in the incidence rate of theft and damage offences – from 13 theft and damage offences per 100 adults to 7 per 100.
- Those living in a couple-only household saw a significant drop in overall victimisation between the previous year and the current year – from 27% to 22%.
- Adults living in a household without any children saw a significant reduction in the incidence rate of fraud and cybercrime offences experienced – from 11 fraud and cybercrime offences per 100 adults in the previous year to 8 per 100 in the current year.
- Adults with a household income of \$10,000 or less per annum saw a significant reduction in the overall victimisation – from 42% in the previous year to 25% in the current year. A similar pattern was found in the prevalence rate of personal offences – from 22% in the

previous year to 9% in the current year. Those with a household income of \$20,001–\$30,000 per annum saw a significant decrease in the overall victimisation rate between the base year and the current year – from 26% to 20%.

- There were no significant regional changes found in overall victimisations over time. However, a few statistically significant changes did occur when delving into more detailed offence types. After a significant drop in the previous year, incidence rates for personal offences in the Manawatū-Whanganui region returned to the base year level. Adults living in the Otago region saw the prevalence rate of fraud and cybercrime offences double between the base year and the current year – from 6% to 13%.
- Those who were most satisfied with their life (10 out of 10) saw a significant reduction in overall victimisation between the previous year and the current year – from 25% to 19%. Adults with high life satisfaction (9 out of 10) experienced a record low incidence rate of interpersonal violence offences experienced – significantly reduced from 10 interpersonal violence offences per 100 adults in the base year and 14 per 100 in the previous year to 5 per 100 in the current year.

Table 4.5 Incidence rate of offences, by population factor

Population factor	Number of offences per 100 adults			Change from Cycle 1	Change from Cycle 3
	Cycle 1	Cycle 3	Cycle 4		
Personal offences					
New Zealand average	29.4	28.0	29.5	↔	↔
Manawatū-Whanganui	47.2 [#]	15.9 [#]	47.4 [#]	↔	↑
Interpersonal violence offences					
New Zealand average	17.9	16.3	18.6	↔	↔
Manawatū-Whanganui	S	11.2 [#]	35.6 [#]	↔	↑
Life satisfaction: 9 out of 10	10.5 [#]	13.5 [#]	5.0 [#]	↓	↓
Theft and damage offences					
New Zealand average	6.7	5.7	6.2	↔	↔
Māori	12.8 [#]	10.6 [#]	7.1 [#]	↓	↔
Fraud and cybercrime offences					
New Zealand average	10.0	10.6	9.7	↔	↔
No children in a household	9.9	10.7	7.9	↔	↓
Trespass offences					
New Zealand average	2.3	2.7	3.5	↔	↔
Major urban area	1.6 [#]	2.7 [#]	4.3 [#]	↑	↔

[#] Use with caution. Percentage has a margin of error greater than or equal to 10 and less than 20 percentage points, or the count estimate/mean has a relative sampling error greater than or equal to 20% and less than 50%. Statistics should be used with caution because they may be too variable for certain types of reporting.

S = Suppressed because the percentage has a margin of error greater than or equal to 20 percentage points, or the count estimate/mean has a relative sampling error greater than or equal to 50%, which is considered too unreliable for general use.

Table 4.6 Prevalence rate of offences, by population factor

Population factor	Percentage of adults who were victimised once or more			Change from Cycle 1	Change from Cycle 3
	Cycle 1	Cycle 3	Cycle 4		
All offences					
New Zealand average	29.6	29.3	29.0	↔	↔
Couple only	23.2	27.4	22.0	↔	↓
Household income: \$10,000 or less	31.3 [‡]	42.1 [‡]	25.2 [‡]	↔	↓
Household income: \$20,001 – \$30,000	26.4	25.6	19.6	↓	↔
Life satisfaction: 10 out of 10 (most satisfied)	22.3	25.1	19.2	↔	↓
Personal offences					
New Zealand average	14.6	14.6	14.8	↔	↔
Household income: \$10,000 or less	15.8 [‡]	22.0 [‡]	8.6 [‡]	↔	↓
Interpersonal violence offences					
New Zealand average	7.4	6.7	7.3	↔	↔
One parent with child(ren) and other person(s)	16.9 [‡]	14.6 [‡]	7.5 [‡]	↓	↔
Theft and damage offences					
New Zealand average	4.9	4.1	4.5	↔	↔
Māori	8.4	6.0 [‡]	4.6 [‡]	↓	↔
Fraud and cybercrime offences					
New Zealand average	7.7	8.3	8.0	↔	↔
Otago	5.5 [‡]	11.3 [‡]	12.5 [‡]	↑	↔
Trespass offences					
New Zealand average	1.8	2.0	2.1	↔	↔
Major urban area	1.3 [‡]	2.0 [‡]	2.3 [‡]	↑	↔

[‡] Use with caution. The numerator and/or denominator of the ratio-based estimate has a relative sampling error between 20% and 50%. Statistics should be used with caution because they may be too variable for certain types of reporting.

4.3 Victimisation by population factors: pooled data

The remaining analyses in this section use pooled data combining all four NZCVS cycles to compare victimisations in different population groups with the New Zealand average. Using pooled data reduces error for population estimates and helps to show, even for smaller population groups, more clearly which population factors are associated with victimisation.

The next subsections delve more deeply into selected areas that we have not been able to report on using single-year data due to small sample sizes and high levels of error. We look more closely at the relationships between specific population factors and victimisation to provide more information about the nature of these relationships. Specifically, we look deeper into regional differences in victimisation across offence types;⁹ the cross-sections of sex, age and marital status; the cross-sections of ethnicity by sex, age and deprivation; and disability by age, household composition and psychological distress.

What did we find?

The following results are compared with the New Zealand average.

Regional comparison

- Adults from three regions – Taranaki, West Coast and Southland – were significantly less likely to experience any victimisation.
- Households in the Auckland region were significantly more likely to experience household offences and burglaries, whereas households in the Bay of Plenty, Taranaki, Wellington, Otago, Southland, and Tasman regions were significantly less likely to experience household offences or burglaries.

Age, sex and marital status

- Females (but not males) aged 40–49 were significantly more likely to experience any type of victimisation. This group was also significantly more likely to experience household offences, personal offences, burglary, interpersonal violence offences and fraud/cybercrime offences.
- Females (but not males) aged 30–39 were significantly more likely to experience household offences. They were also significantly more likely to experience burglary.
- Females (but not males) aged 15–19 were significantly less likely to experience fraud and cybercrime offences.
- Males (but not females) aged 15–19 were significantly more likely to experience theft and damage offences compared to the New Zealand average.
- Males (but not females) aged 40–49 (5%) and aged 50–59 (5%) were significantly less likely to experience interpersonal violence offences.

⁹ We look at regional differences in victimisation across all offences, personal offences, household offences, burglary, trespass and the following broad offence groups: vehicle offences; theft and damage offences; interpersonal violence offences; and fraud and cybercrime offences.

- Males (but not females) who were married, in a civil union, or in a de facto relationship at the time of the survey were significantly less likely to be victimised across all offences, household offences, and personal offences.
- Females (but not males) who were separated or divorced at the time of the survey were significantly more likely to be victimised across all offences, household offences and personal offences.
- Accounting for differences in age between groups with different marital statuses:
 - Adults who were married, in a civil union, or in a de facto relationship were significantly less likely to experience interpersonal violence offences and theft and damage offences.
 - Adults who were separated or divorced had an even higher likelihood of being victimised across all offences, household offences, personal offences, burglary, and interpersonal violence offences.
 - Those who were separated or divorced were still more likely to experience theft and damage offences compared with the New Zealand average, but not higher than before accounting for differences in age.
- Accounting for differences in age and deprivation between different ethnic groups:
 - There was only a small (2%) gap between Māori victimisation and the New Zealand average when age and deprivation are accounted for. This finding supports the view that the different age structure and the different level of deprivation between Māori and the New Zealand average are key contributors to the higher likelihood of victimisation for Māori.

Disability status

- Disabled adults were significantly more likely to experience crime across personal offences and household offences when differences in average age are accounted for. This also includes burglary, interpersonal violence offences and fraud and cybercrime offences.
- Looking at victimisation by disability status, disabled adults who were more likely to be victimised compared to non-disabled adults include those who were:
 - younger than 60 years old (except those aged 40–49)
 - married
 - employed
 - living in a couple-with-child(ren) household
 - living in a four-or-more-people household
 - living in a household with children
 - renting a privately owned accommodation
 - living in rural areas.

Regional differences in victimisation

This subsection looks more deeply into victimisation by region for different offence types. Generally, for most regions there were no significant differences in the likelihood of

victimisation when compared with the New Zealand average. Adults from Taranaki (23%), West Coast (16%) and Southland (24%) were significantly less likely to experience any victimisation when compared with the New Zealand average (30%).

Household offences

Households in the Auckland region were significantly more likely to experience household offences (21%) compared to the New Zealand average (19%), while households in the Bay of Plenty (17%), Taranaki (15%), Otago (14%), Southland (14%), and Tasman (14%) regions were significantly less likely to experience household offences. This pattern is also observed among households that experienced one or more burglaries, except that the change in the Bay of Plenty region was not statistically significant (Figures 4.7 and 4.8).

Compared to the New Zealand average, households in the Wellington region were also significantly less likely to experience burglaries (8% compared to 11%) but significantly more likely to experience vehicle offences (8% compared to 6%).

Notably, households in the Hawke's Bay region were also significantly more likely to experience burglaries (15%) compared to the New Zealand average (11%).

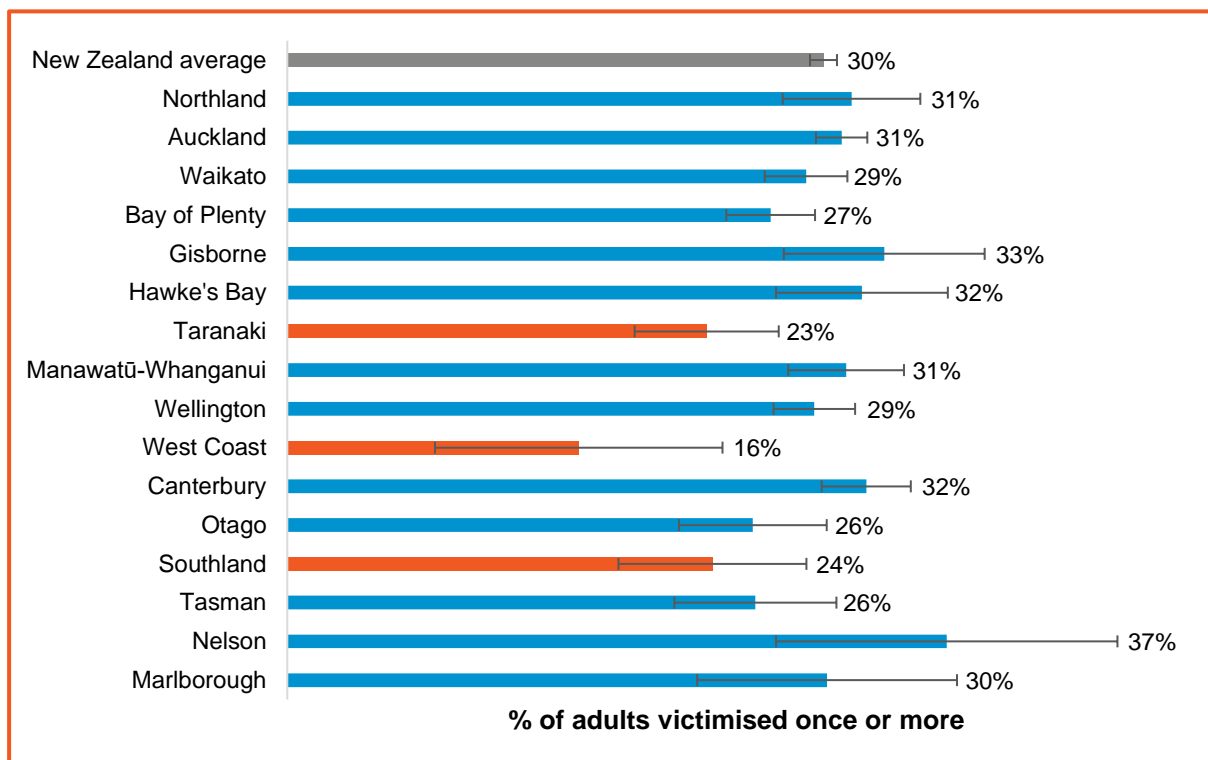


Figure 4.7 Percentage of households victimised, by region – household offences (pooled data)

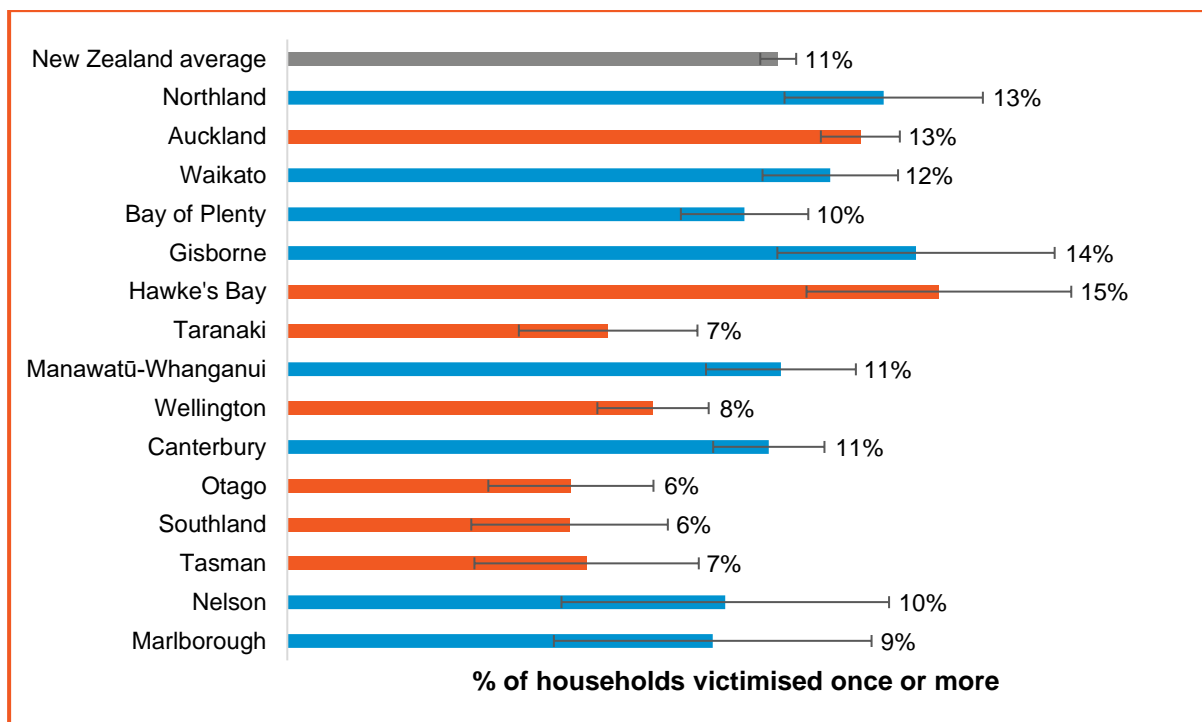


Figure 4.8 Percentage of households victimised, by region – burglaries (pooled data)

Note: The result for households in the West Coast region that experienced one or more burglaries is suppressed due to large margin of error.

Households in the Bay of Plenty and Waikato regions were significantly less likely to experience vehicle offences (4%) compared to the New Zealand average (6%) (Figure 4.9).

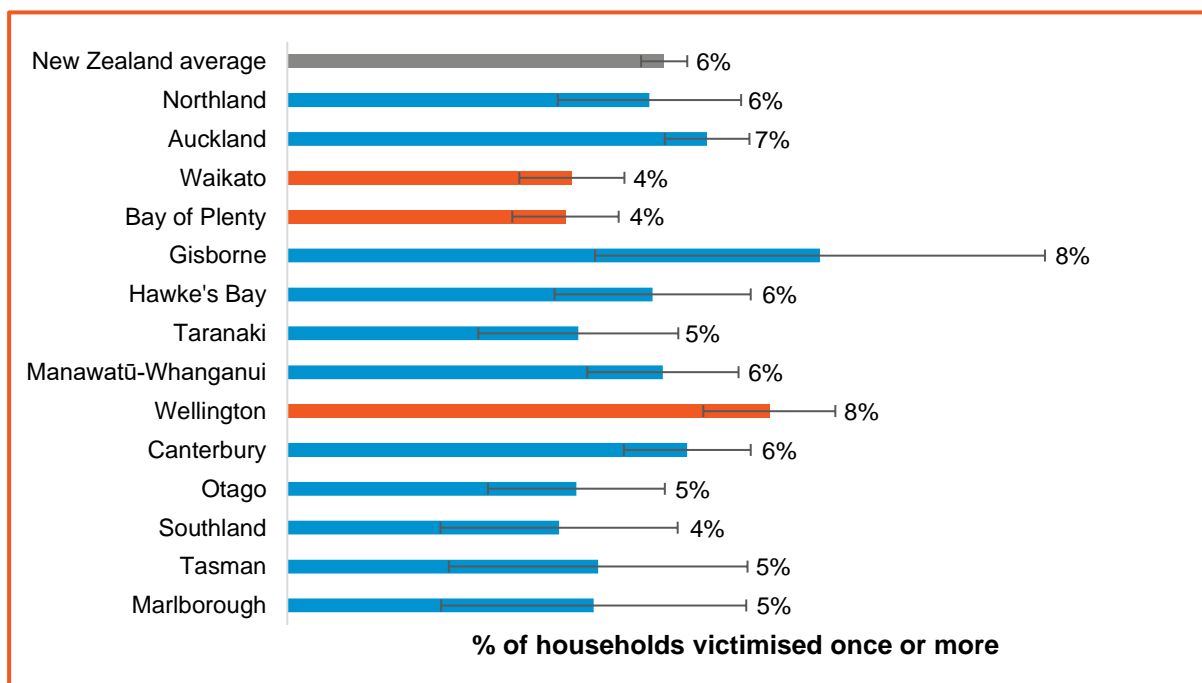


Figure 4.9 Percentage of households victimised, by region – vehicle offences (pooled data)

Note: Although results are drawn from pooled data from four cycles of the NZCVS to reduce the margin of error, the results of the West Coast and Nelson regions are suppressed due to a large margin of error.

Personal offences

Adults living in the Nelson region were significantly more likely to experience a personal offence (24%) compared to the New Zealand average (15%), whereas adults living in the Southland region were significantly less likely to experience a personal offence (11%) (Figure 4.10).

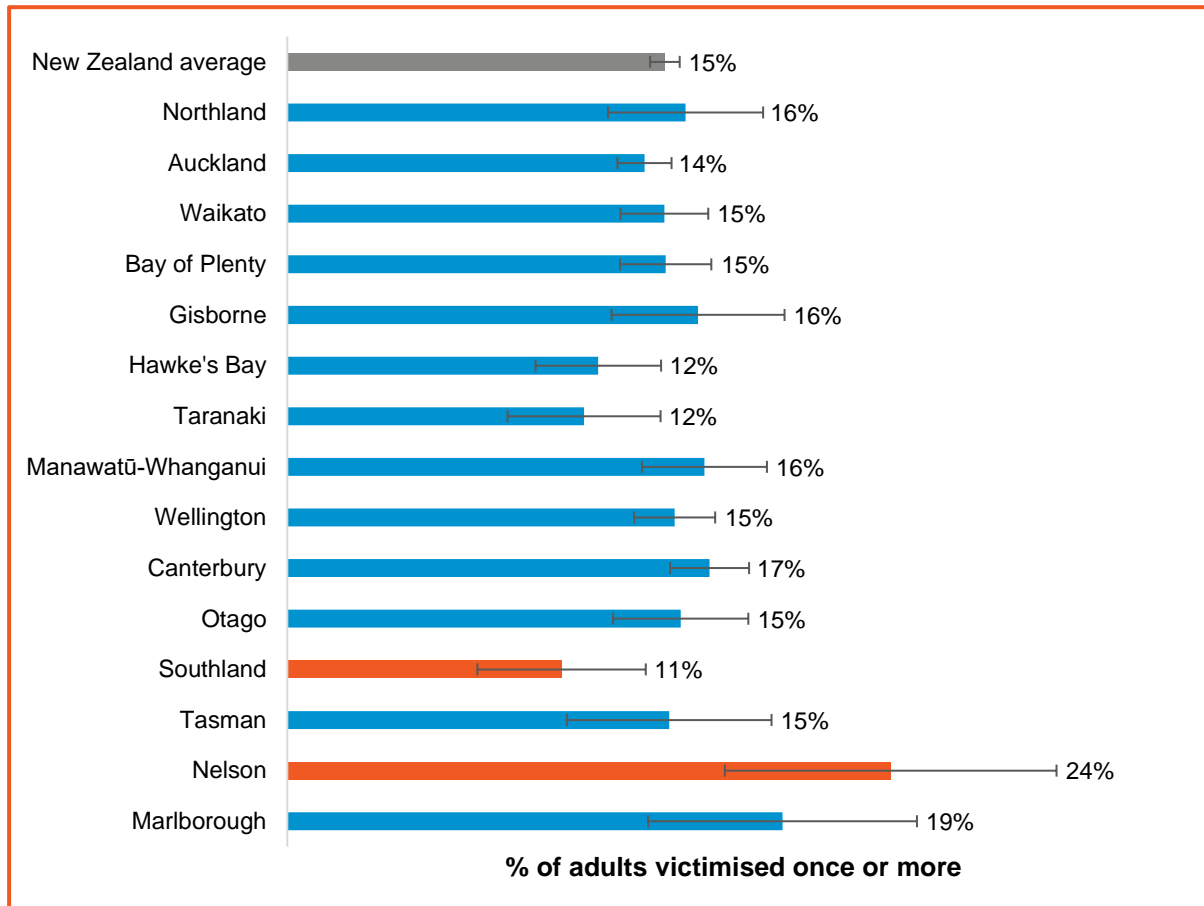


Figure 4.10 Percentage of adults victimised, by region – personal offences (pooled data)

Note: The result of the West Coast region is suppressed due to a large margin of error

Delving into more detailed personal offence types, we found that adults living in the Nelson (13%) and Manawatū-Whanganui (9%) regions were significantly more likely to experience an interpersonal violence offence compared to the New Zealand average (7%). Those living in the Nelson region were also more likely to experience a fraud and cybercrime offence (14%) compared to the New Zealand average (8%).

When compared to the New Zealand average, adults living in the Tasman region (4%) were significantly less likely to experience an interpersonal violence offence. Adults living in the Hawke's Bay and Taranaki regions were significantly less likely to experience a fraud and cybercrime offence (Figures 4.11 and 4.12).

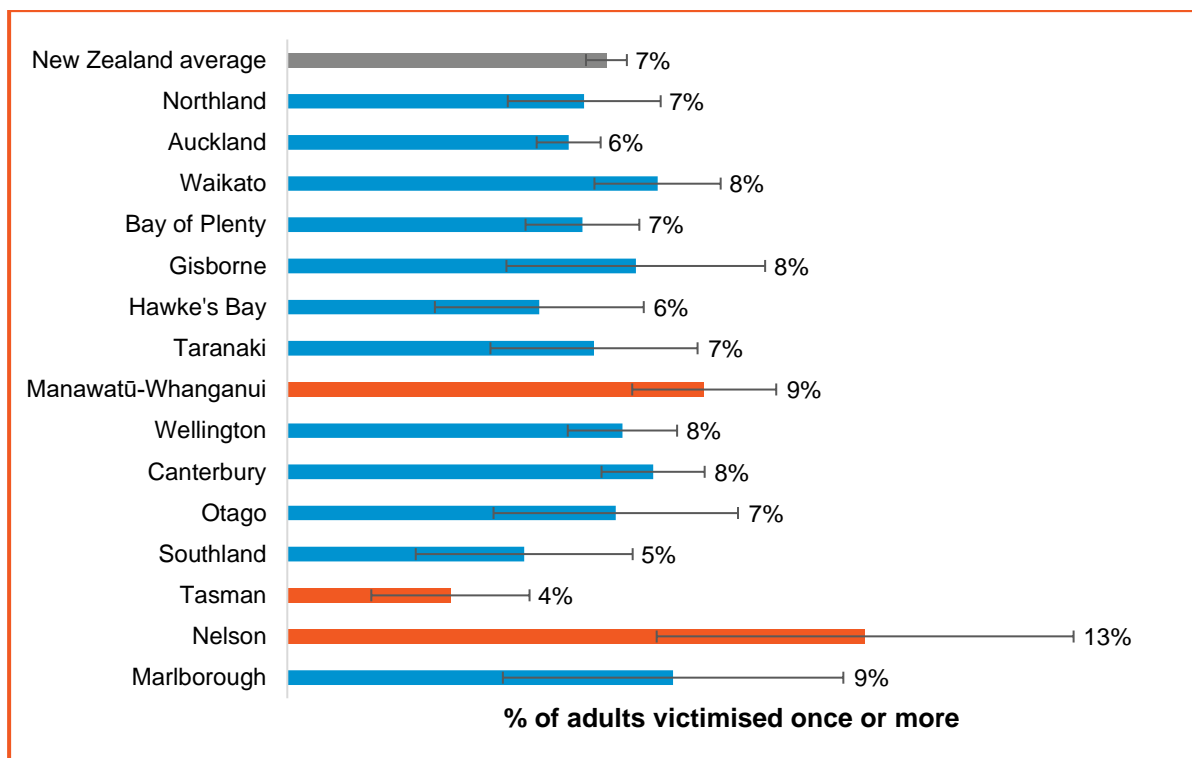


Figure 4.11 Percentage of adults victimised, by region – interpersonal violence offences (pooled data)

Note: The result of the West Coast region is suppressed due to a large margin of error

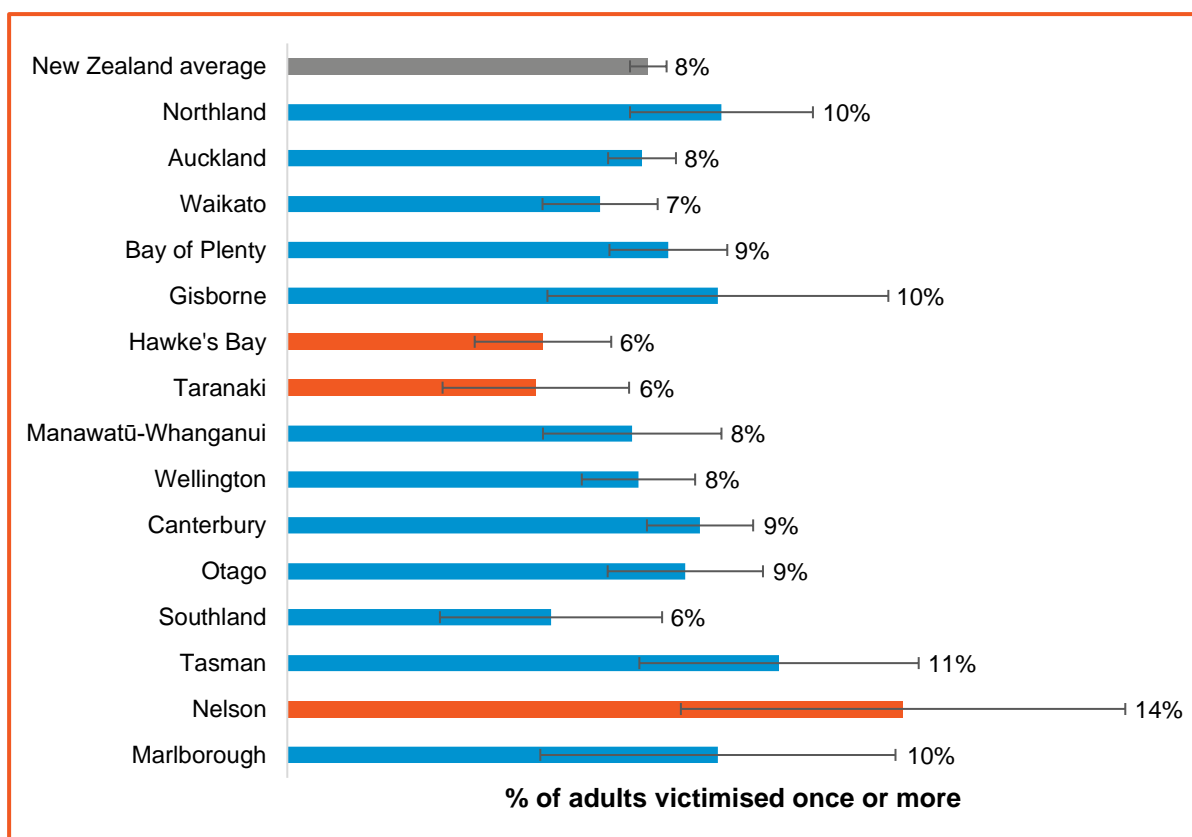


Figure 4.12 Percentage of adults victimised, by region – fraud and cybercrime offences (pooled data)

Note: The result of the West Coast region is suppressed due to a large margin of error

Age, sex, and marital status

Age

There is a strong and consistent relationship between age and victimisation. This relationship shows that younger people (aged 15–29) were significantly more likely to be victimised, especially regarding personal offences and interpersonal violence offences, whereas older people (aged 65+) were significantly less likely to be victimised (Figure 4.13).

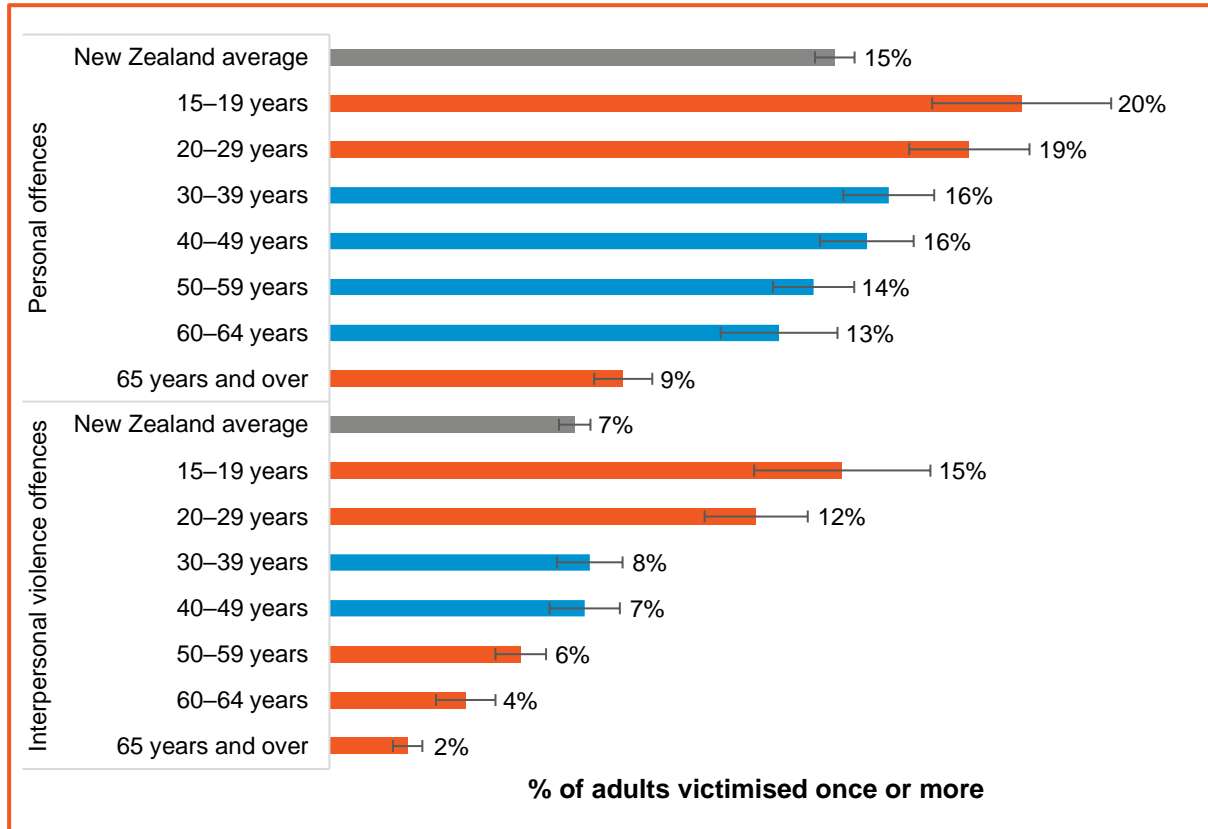


Figure 4.13 Percentage of adults victimised, by age group – personal offences and interpersonal violence offences (pooled data)

Sex by age

There are no significant differences in victimisation by sex¹⁰ across a broad range of offence types, including all offences (29% for male, 31% for female); household offences; personal offences; burglary; vehicle offences; trespass, theft and damage offences; interpersonal violence offences; and fraud and cybercrime offences.

However, when we look more closely at males and females by age groups, we do notice some significant differences when compared with the New Zealand average, some of which were

¹⁰ “Sex” in the NZCVS means biological sex. The results presented here were broken down by biological sex. The NZCVS also collects information on gender identity, with respondents able to self-select “male”, “female”, or “gender diverse”. This is in line with the standard for gender identity set by Stats NZ at the time of the survey design, which was updated in 2021. The way the NZCVS measures gender identity will be updated to reflect the new standards.

only notable in one sex and not the other. We found the following groups were significantly more likely to be victimised compared with the New Zealand average.

- Females (but not males) aged 40–49 were significantly more likely to experience any type of victimisation (36%) compared to the New Zealand average (30%). This group was also significantly more likely to experience household offences, personal offences, burglary, interpersonal violence offences and fraud/cybercrime offences.
- Females (but not males) aged 30–39 were significantly more likely to experience household offences (22%) compared to the New Zealand average (19%). They were also significantly more likely to experience burglary (13%) compared to the New Zealand average (11%).
- Females (but not males) aged 20–29 were significantly more likely to experience trespass offences (3%) compared to the New Zealand average (2%).
- Males (but not females) aged 15–19 were significantly more likely to experience theft and damage offences (8%) compared to the New Zealand average (5%).



Figure 4.14 Prevalence rates, by sex and age group – household offences and burglary (pooled data)

The following groups were significantly less likely to be victimised compared with the New Zealand average.

- Males (but not females) aged 40–49 (5%) and aged 50–59 (5%) were significantly less likely to experience interpersonal violence offences compared to the New Zealand average (7%) (Figure 4.15 shows the difference for interpersonal violence offences).
- Females (but not males) aged 15–19 were significantly less likely to experience fraud and cybercrime offences (5%) compared to the New Zealand average (8%).

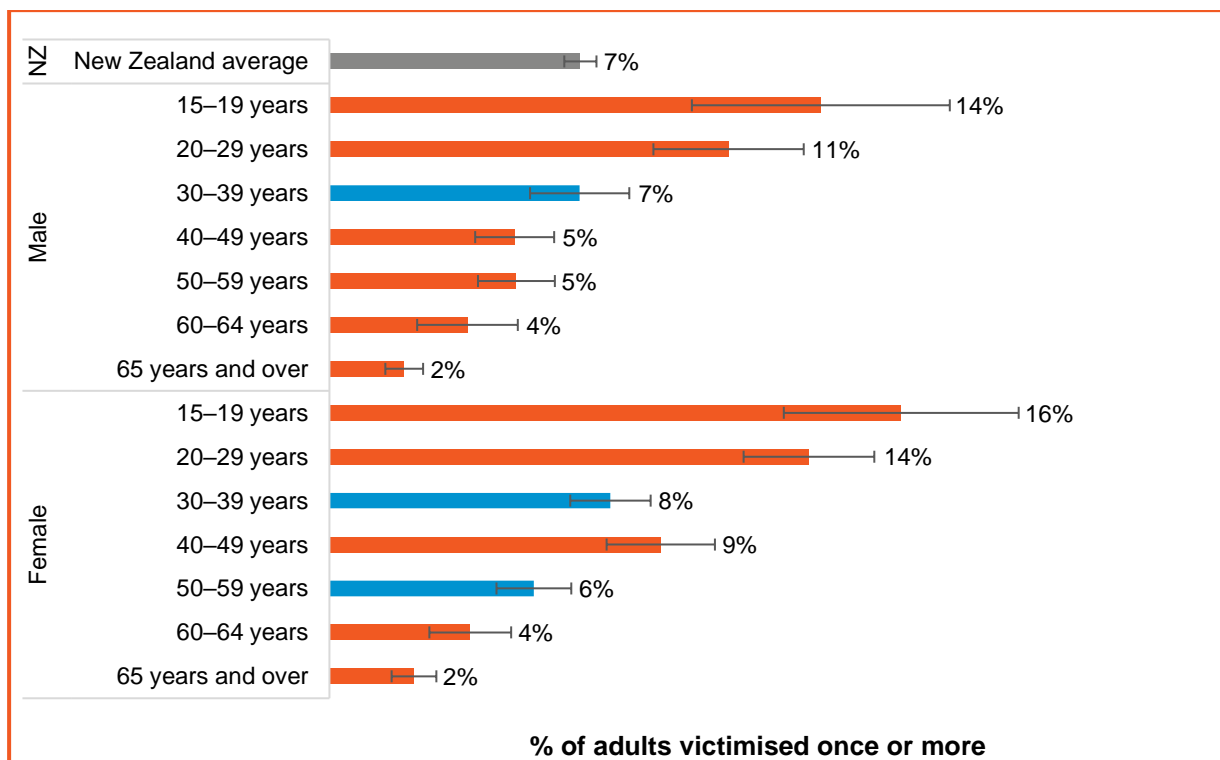


Figure 4.15 Prevalence rates, by sex and age group – interpersonal violence offences (pooled data)

Marital status

The relationship between marital status and victimisation is a consistent finding in the NZCVS. Looking at Cycle 1 to Cycle 4 of the NZCVS combined data, we have found that those who had never been married or in a civil union and those who were separated or divorced at the time of the survey were significantly more likely to be victimised, whereas those who were widowed and those who were married, in a civil union, or in a de facto relationship were significantly less likely to be victimised (Figure 4.16 shows the difference for personal offences).

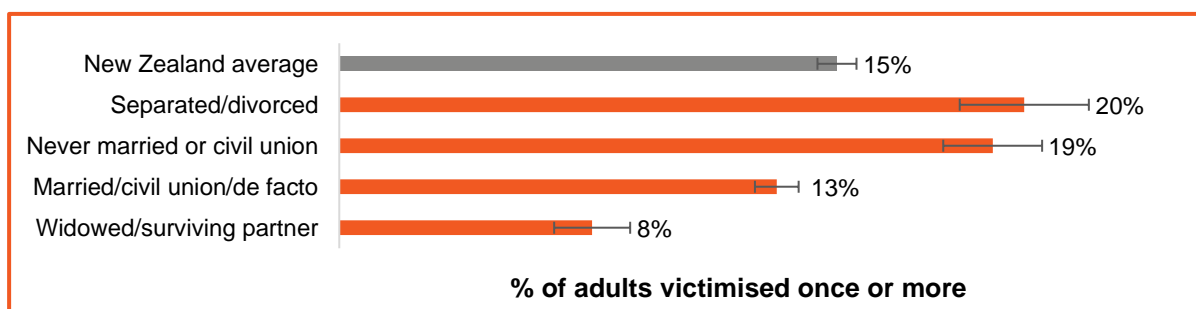


Figure 4.16 Prevalence rates, by marital status – personal offences (pooled data)

The pattern described above is reasonably consistent across offence types; however, the lower risk of victimisation for adults who were married, in a civil union, or in a de facto relationship and the higher risk of victimisation for adults who were separated or divorced is mostly observed for personal offence types (ie, personal offences, interpersonal violence offences, and theft and damage offences). The lower risk of victimisation for widowed adults is

found in all offence types, all significantly less likely when compared with the New Zealand average except for trespass (Figure 4.17).

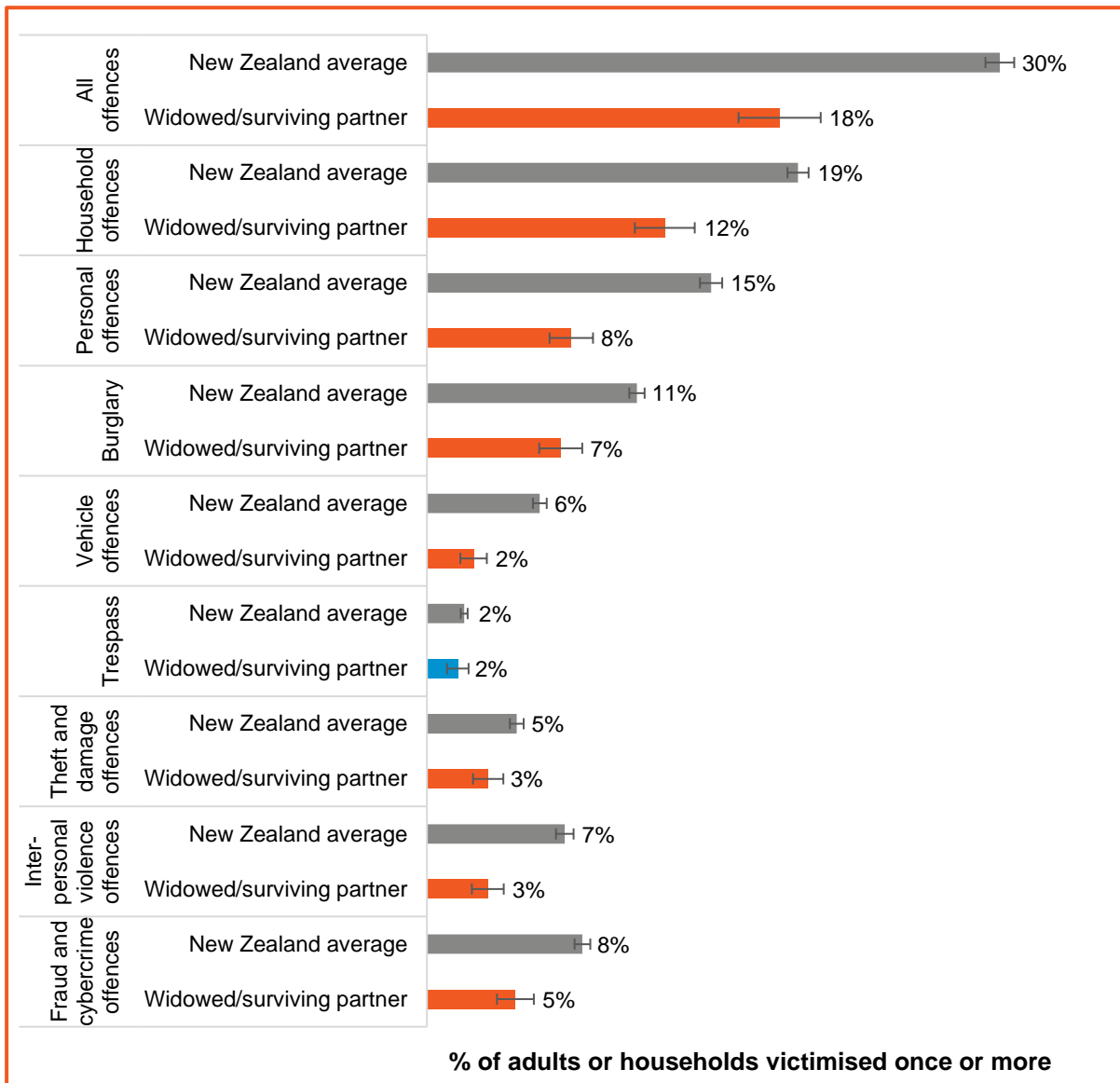


Figure 4.17 Prevalence rates for widowed adults, standardised by age – by offence type (pooled data)

Marital status by age: separation still related to victimisation when accounting for age differences

Because age is associated with both victimisation and marital status, we may be inclined to think that the patterns of victimisation by marital status are simply driven by age. That is, younger adults are both more likely to have been victimised and more likely to be separated, divorced or to have never been married or in a civil union, whereas older adults are both less likely to have been victimised and are more likely to be widowed, married, in a civil union, or in a de facto relationship. However, when we look at the relationship between marital status and victimisation standardised by age (meaning we assume equal ages for those with different marital statuses), the results are as follows.

- Accounting for age differences, the gap between adults who are married, in a civil union, or in a de facto relationship and the New Zealand average has narrowed. This results in the previously observed significant difference in personal offence types for those who are married, in a civil union, or in a de facto relationship being no longer significant (Figure 4.18). Only adults aged 65+ who were married, in a civil union, or in a de facto relationship at the time of the survey were significantly less likely to experience personal offences (9%) compared with the New Zealand average (15%). This pattern is also reflected in the victimisation rates for theft and damage offences (2% compared with 5%). Adults aged 30+ who were married, in a civil union, or in a de facto relationship were significantly less likely to experience interpersonal violence offences compared with the New Zealand average (Figure 4.19).

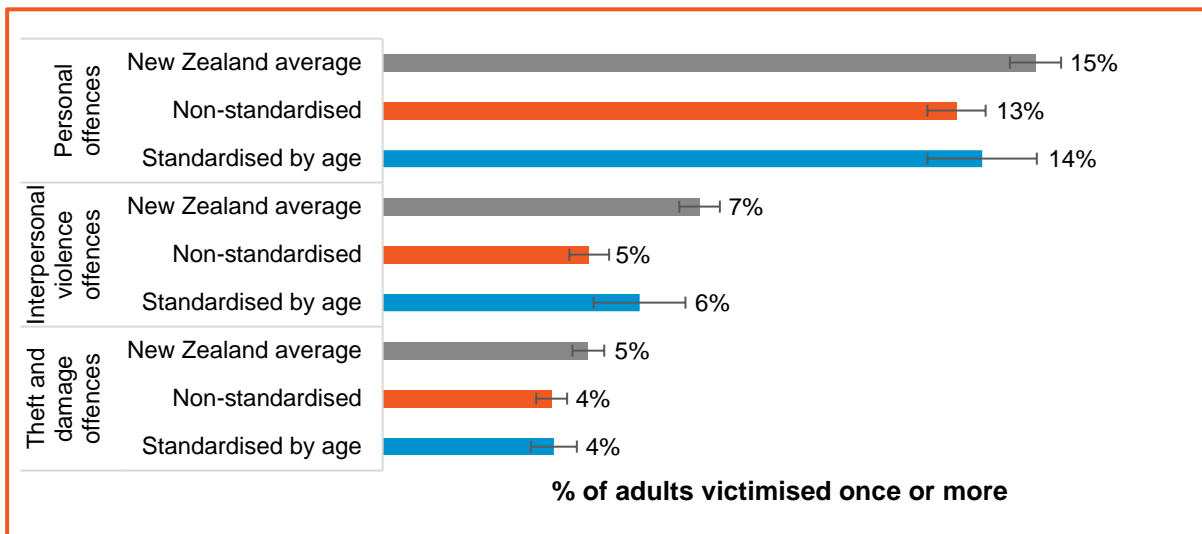


Figure 4.18 Prevalence rates for adults who were married, in a civil union, or in a de facto relationship at the time of the survey, standardised by age – personal offences, interpersonal violence offences, and theft and damage offences (pooled data)

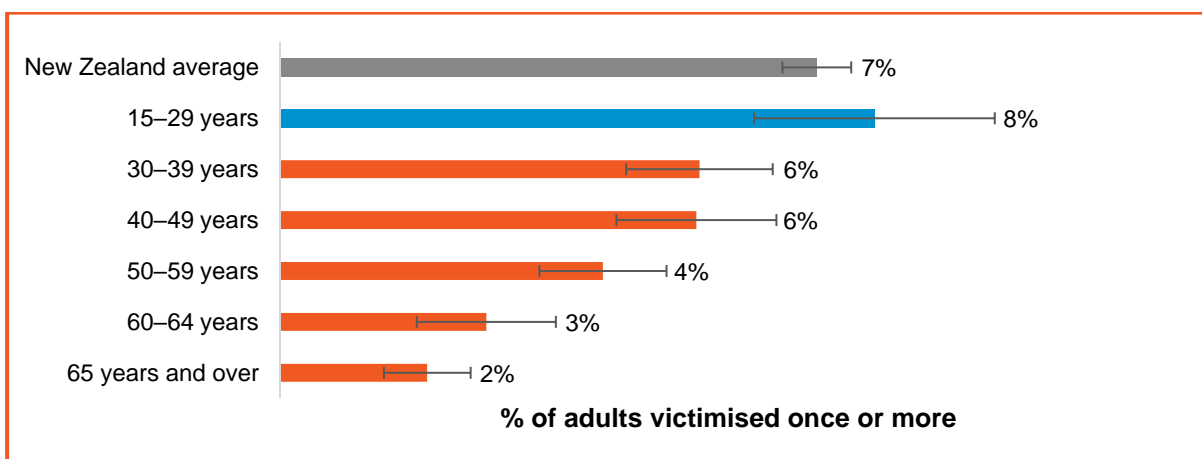


Figure 4.19 Prevalence rates for adults who were married, in a civil union, or in a de facto relationship at the time of the survey, by age – interpersonal violence offences (pooled data)

- Accounting for age differences, adults who were separated or divorced at the time of the survey had an even higher likelihood of being victimised across all offences, household

offences, personal offences, burglary, and interpersonal violence offences. Those who were separated or divorced were still more likely to experience theft and damage offences compared with the New Zealand average, but not higher than before accounting for differences in age (Table 4.7), with the highest rates being among those under the age of 50. Figure 4.20 shows the prevalence rates for adults who were separated or divorced, standardised by age for personal offences.

Table 4.7 Prevalence rates for adults who were separated or divorced at the time of the survey, standardised by age – all offences, personal offences, household offences, burglary, interpersonal violence offences, and theft and damage offences (pooled data)

Offence type	New Zealand average	Non-standardised	Standardised by age
All offences	29.9	36.3*	38.4*
Household offences	19.3	21.8*	22.7*
Personal offences	14.8	20.3*	22.2*
Burglary	10.9	12.9*	13.7*
Interpersonal violence offences	7.2	13.1*	15.8*
Theft and damage offences	4.7	6.8*	6.5*

* Statistically significant difference from the New Zealand average, or the relevant total, at the 95% confidence level.

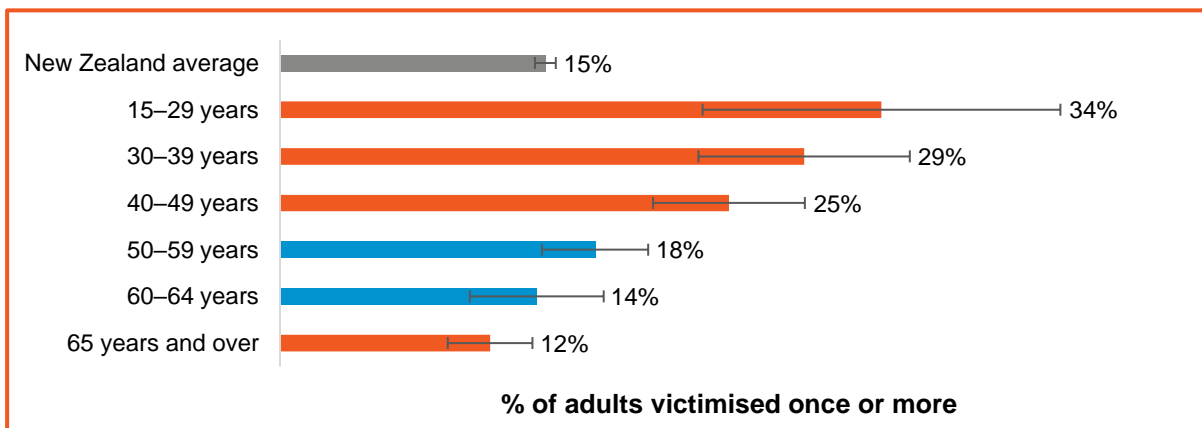


Figure 4.20 Prevalence rates for adults who were separated or divorced at the time of the survey, by age – personal offences (pooled data)

- Accounting for age differences, being widowed did not significantly reduce the risk of victimisation (Figure 4.21). Only widowed adults aged 65+ were significantly less likely to experience crime (15%) compared with the New Zealand average (30%). The same pattern was also observed among household offences (10% compared with 19%) and personal offences (6% compared with 15%).

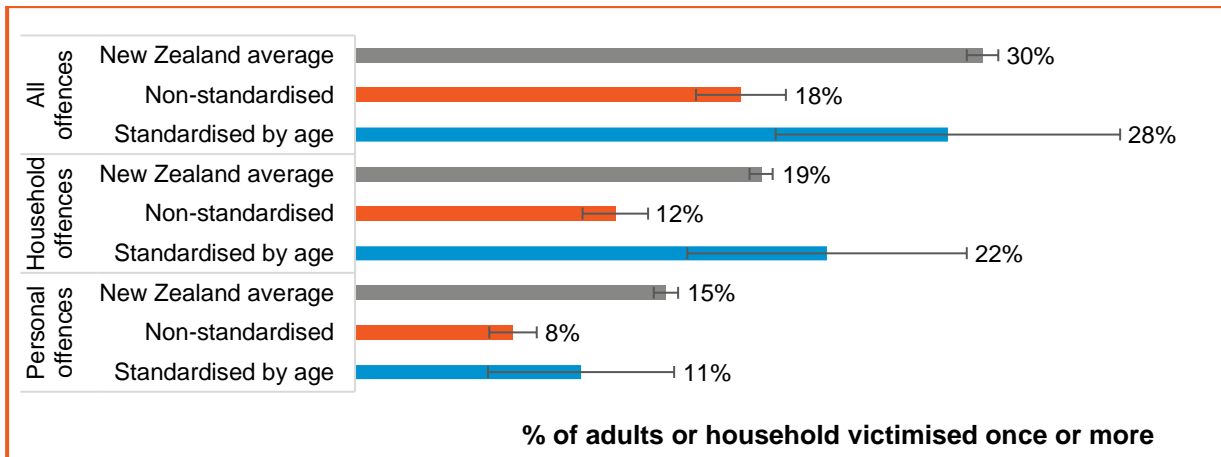


Figure 4.21 Prevalence rates for widowed adults, standardised by age – all offences, household offences, and personal offences (pooled data)

- Accounting for age differences, those who had never been married or in a civil union were not more likely to experience all offences, personal offences, household offences, burglary or theft and damage offences but were still significantly more likely to experience interpersonal violence offences (Figure 4.22). Adults below the age of 50 who had never been married or in a civil union had a significantly higher risk of experiencing interpersonal violence offences compared to the New Zealand average (Figure 4.23).

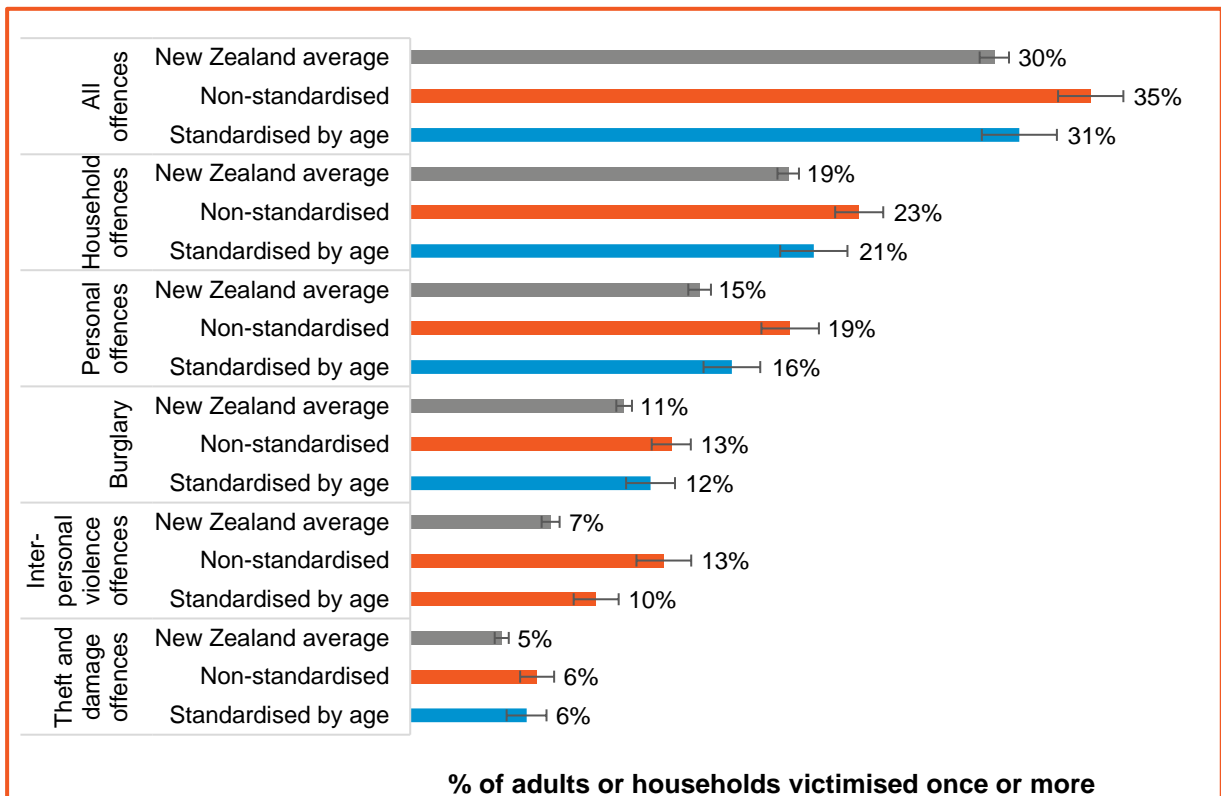


Figure 4.22 Prevalence rates for adults who had never been married or in a civil union, standardised by age – all offences, personal offences, household offences, burglary, interpersonal violence offences, and theft and damage offences (pooled data)

Note: The result for adults over the age of 60 who had never been married or in a civil union is suppressed due to a large margin of error

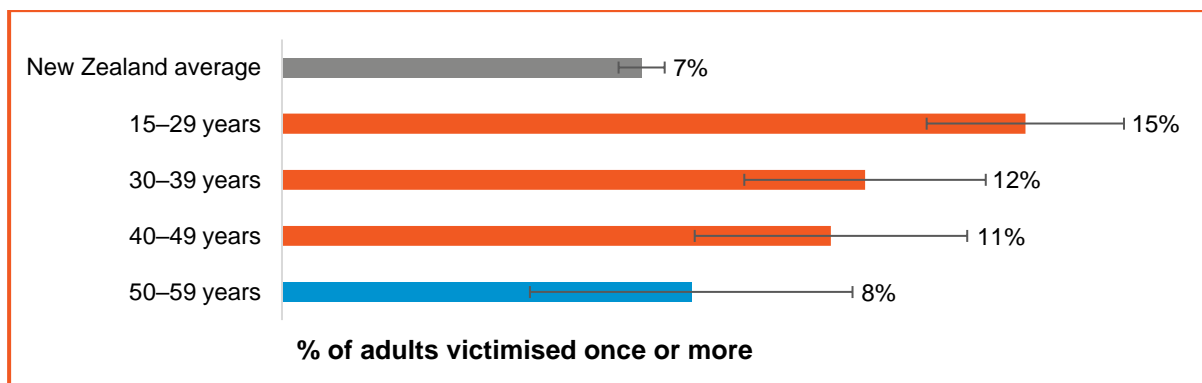


Figure 4.23 Prevalence rates for adults who had never been married or in a civil union, by age – interpersonal violence offences (pooled data)

Marital status by sex

Overall, males (but not females) who were married, in a civil union, or in a de facto relationship at the time of the survey were significantly less likely to be victimised across all offences, household offences and personal offences compared with the New Zealand average. In contrast, females (but not males) who were separated or divorced at the time of the survey were significantly more likely to be victimised across all offences, household offences and personal offences compared with the New Zealand average (Figure 4.24 shows the difference for personal offences).

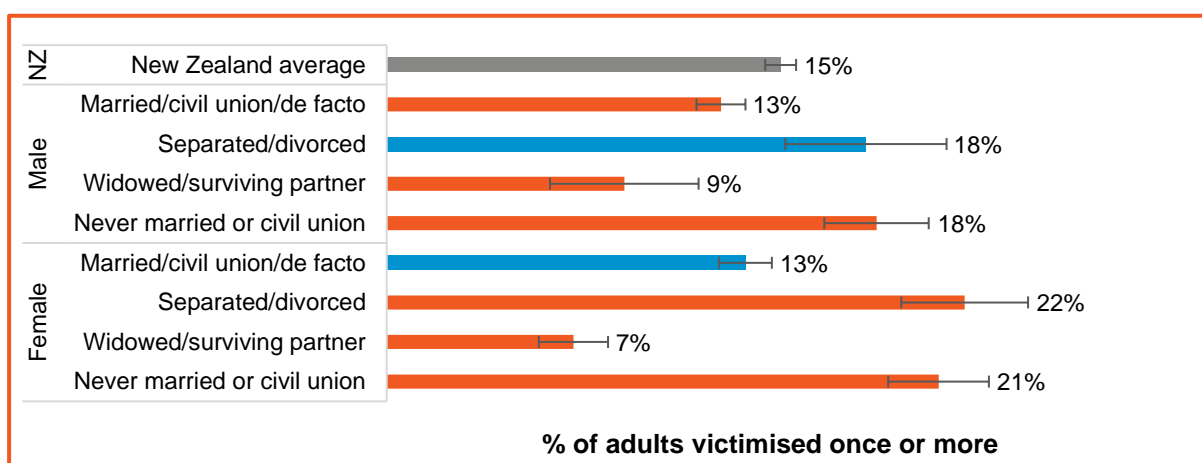


Figure 4.24 Prevalence rates, by sex and marital status – personal offences (pooled data)

Delving into more detailed offence types, we found that the pattern of females (but not males) who were separated or divorced at the time of the survey being significantly more likely to be victimised is further reflected in the victimisation rates for burglary, interpersonal violence offences, and theft and damage offences. Among them, females (but not males) who were separated or divorced at the time of the survey were twice as likely to experience interpersonal violence offences (15%) compared with the New Zealand average (7%) (Figure 4.25).

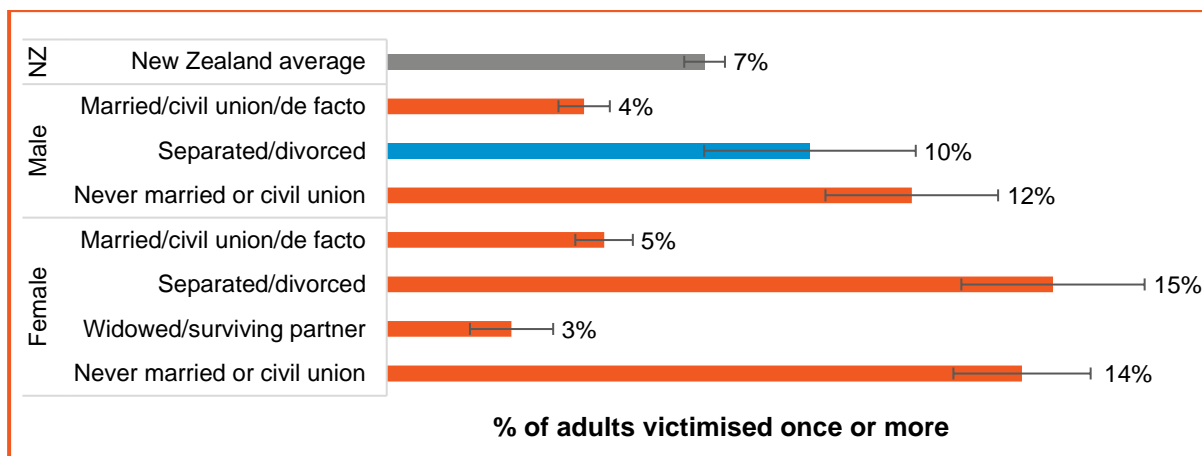


Figure 4.25 Prevalence rates, by sex and marital status – interpersonal violence offences (pooled data)

Note: The result of males (but not females) who were widowed is suppressed due to a large margin of error.

Ethnicity by sex, age and deprivation

Overall, Māori adults, Chinese adults, and adults of other Asian ethnicity (except Indian) were more or less likely to be victimised when compared with the New Zealand average, whereas the rest were equally likely to be victimised when compared with the New Zealand average (Figure 4.26).

- Māori adults were significantly more likely to experience crime across all offences, household offences and personal offences.
- Chinese adults and adults of other Asian ethnicity (except Indian) were significantly less likely to experience crime across all offences, household offences and personal offences.
- Pacific adults were significantly more likely to experience offences towards their households (22%) compared with the New Zealand average (19%).
- Indian adults were significantly less likely to experience personal offences (11%) compared to the New Zealand average (15%).
- These patterns of victimisation by ethnicity were relatively consistent across burglary and the following broad offence groups: interpersonal violence offences, theft and damage offences, and fraud and cybercrime offences (see [data tables](#)), except that Pacific adults were significantly less likely to experience theft and damage offences (3%) compared with the New Zealand average (5%).

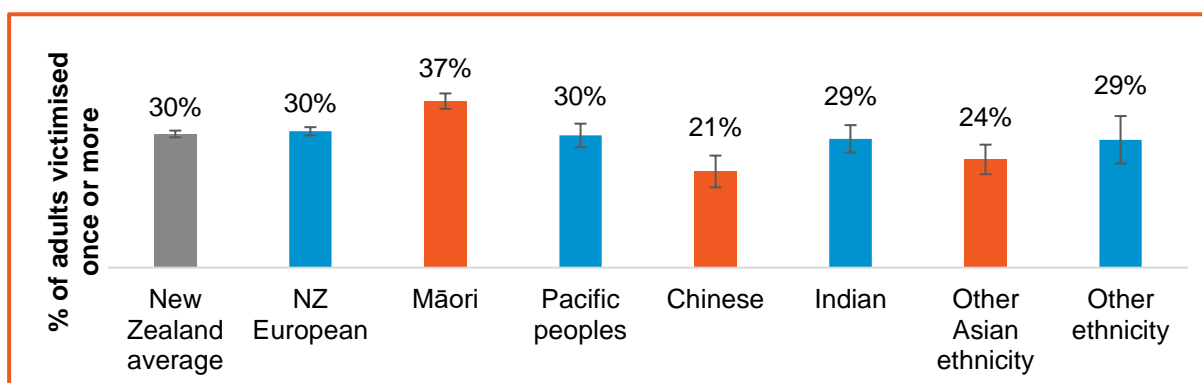


Figure 4.26 Prevalence rates, by ethnicity – all offences (pooled data)

Ethnicity by sex

Broken down by sex, the pattern for any victimisation by ethnicity is the same for males and females; however, some differences begin to emerge when looking at personal and household offences (Figures 4.27 and 4.28).

- Female (but not male) New Zealand Europeans were significantly more likely to experience personal offences (17%) compared with the New Zealand average (15%).
- On the other hand, female (but not male) Pacific adults (11%) and Indian adults (11%) were significantly less likely to experience personal offences compared with the New Zealand average.
- Delving into more detailed personal offence types, we found that these patterns were not consistent across interpersonal violence offences, theft and damage offences, and fraud and cybercrime offences (Table 4.8).

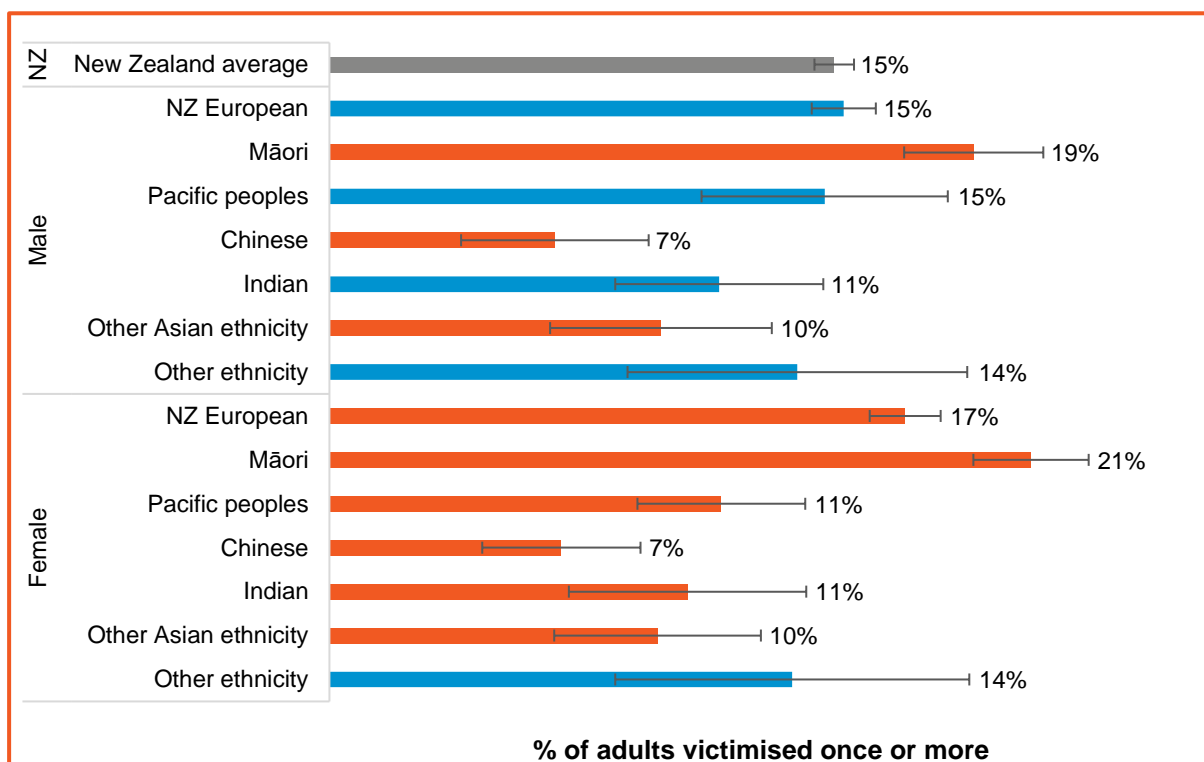


Figure 4.27 Prevalence rates, by sex and ethnicity – personal offences (pooled data)

Table 4.8 Prevalence rates, by sex and ethnicity – personal offence types (pooled data)

	Percentage of adults victimised once or more					
	Interpersonal violence offences		Theft and damage offences		Fraud and cybercrime offences	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
New Zealand average	7.2		4.7		8.1	
NZ European	7.0	8.5*	4.7	5.2	8.3	9.1
Māori	11.4*	12.6*	6.3	7.3*	9.2	9.6*

Pacific peoples	6.2	5.7	Ŷ	Ŷ	8.3	6.9
Asian	3.9*	3.7*	3.1*	3.1*	5.3*	5.3*
Chinese	Ŷ	Ŷ	Ŷ	3.0*	Ŷ	3.7*
Indian	4.4*	Ŷ	Ŷ	3.5	7.0	6.6
Other Asian ethnicity	Ŷ	5.1	Ŷ	Ŷ	5.2*	5.3*
Other ethnicity	Ŷ	Ŷ	Ŷ	Ŷ	Ŷ	7.9

* Statistically significant difference from the New Zealand average, or the relevant total, at the 95% confidence level.

Ŷ = Suppressed because the numerator and/or denominator of the ratio-based estimate has a relative sampling error greater than or equal to 50%, which is considered too unreliable for general use.

- Female (but not male) Pacific adults were significantly more likely to experience offences towards their households (24%) compared with the New Zealand average (19%).
- Male (but not female) Chinese adults (14%) and female (but not male) adults of other Asian ethnicity (excluding Chinese and Indian) (15%) were significantly less likely to experience offences towards their households compared with the New Zealand average.
- These patterns of victimisation by sex and ethnicity are further reflected among those that experienced burglaries (see [data tables](#)).

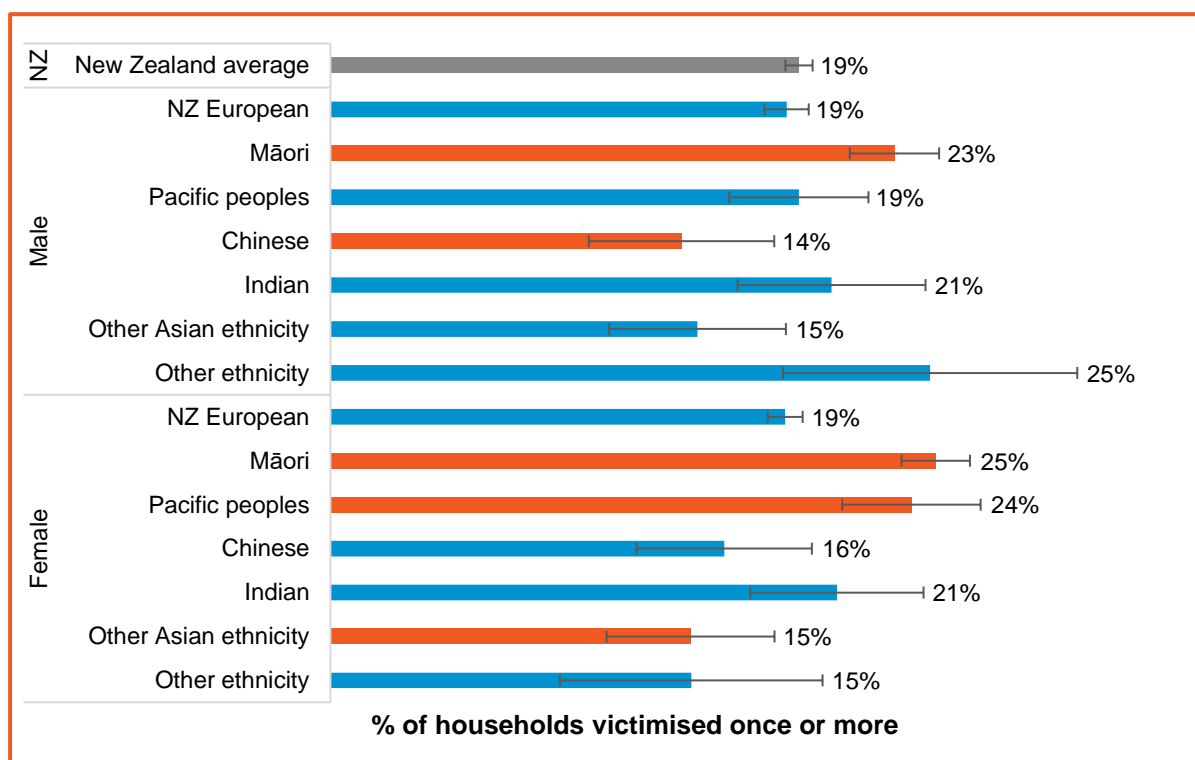


Figure 4.28 Prevalence rates, by sex and ethnicity – household offences (pooled data)

Ethnicity by age

Broken down by age, the pattern for any victimisation by ethnicity reveals that the overall pattern for victimisation by age is replicated within each ethnic group. That is, within each ethnic group, younger people were more likely to be victimised and older people less likely.

However, there are still large differences in the base rates of victimisation between different ethnic groups (Figure 4.29). This breakdown also shows that compared with the New Zealand average:

- New Zealand European adults and Māori adults aged 15–49 were significantly more likely to experience crime, whereas those aged 65+ were significantly less likely to experience crime.
- Pacific adults aged 65+ were significantly less likely to experience crime.
- Asian adults aged 30+ were significantly less likely to experience crime.

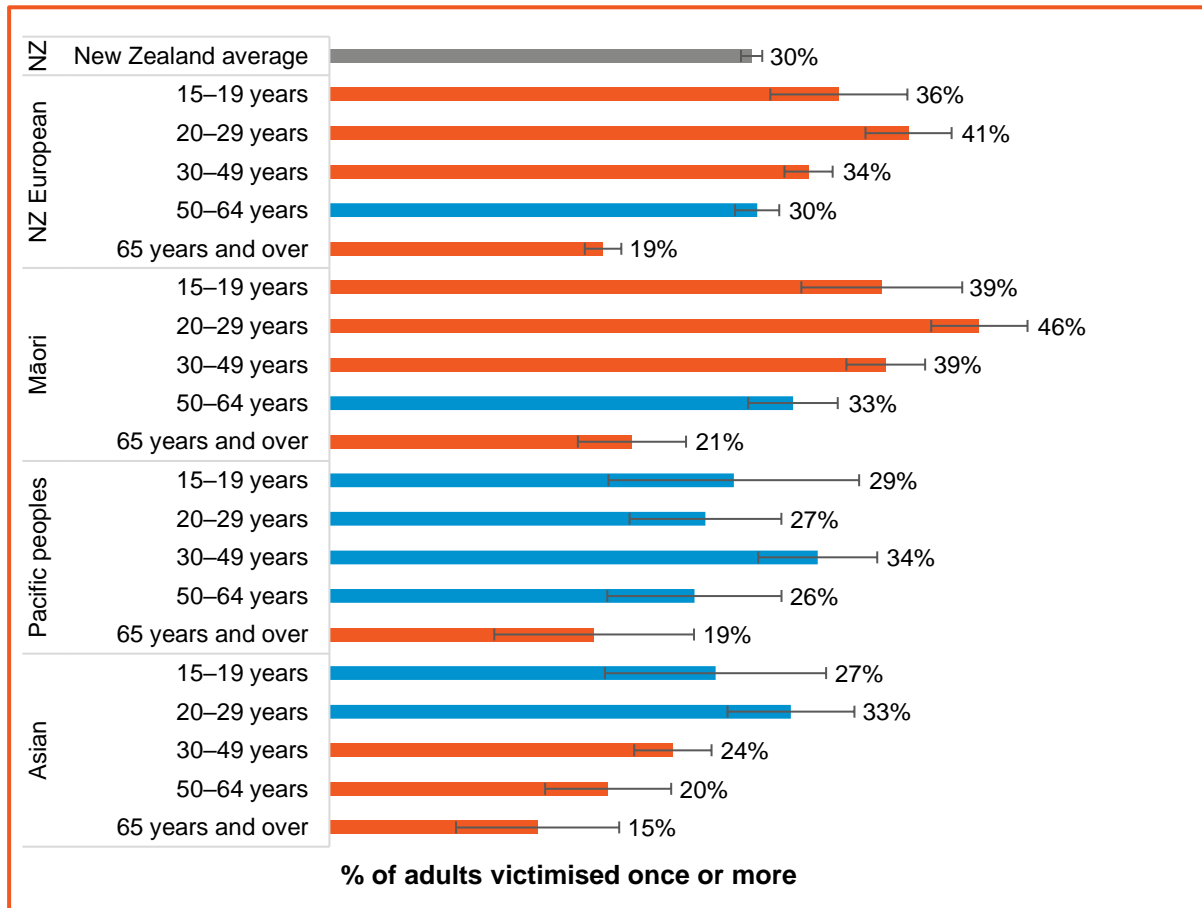


Figure 4.29 Prevalence rates, by ethnicity and age – all offences (pooled data)

The patterns described above are further reflected in the overall victimisation rate for personal offences. Adults who experienced one or more household offences largely followed these patterns, except for Māori adults aged 50–64 (23%) and Pacific adults aged 30–49 (25%), who were significantly more likely to experience offences towards their households compared with the New Zealand average (19%).

Ethnicity standardised by age and deprivation

Because both age and deprivation are related to victimisation and both age and deprivation differ between ethnic groups, we wanted to understand whether victimisation was due to victims' ethnicity or to other population factors, such as age or deprivation.

To answer this, we perform analysis called “multiple standardisation”. This method allows us to control for age and deprivation at the same time and provides us with the ability to discuss the differences in victimisation between ethnic groups and the New Zealand average, and whether these differences can be explained by differences in age or deprivation or both. The results of this analysis are as follows.

Māori adults

Without any standardisation, there is a difference of 7 percentage points between Māori and the New Zealand average. Māori adults are 7 percentage points more likely than the New Zealand average to be victimised. Once we standardised individually for age and deprivation, we found that the difference reduces to 4 percentage points when controlling for age, and 5 percentage points when controlling for deprivation.

After controlling for both age and the level of deprivation, the difference between Māori and the New Zealand average reduces to just 2 percentage points (Figure 4.30). This difference is also not statistically significant, which suggests that higher overall rates of victimisation observed for Māori are partly due to there being higher proportions of young Māori, lower proportions of older Māori, and higher proportions of Māori in high deprivation areas. This observation remains correct if we compare Māori victimisation with victimisation of New Zealand Europeans rather than the New Zealand average.

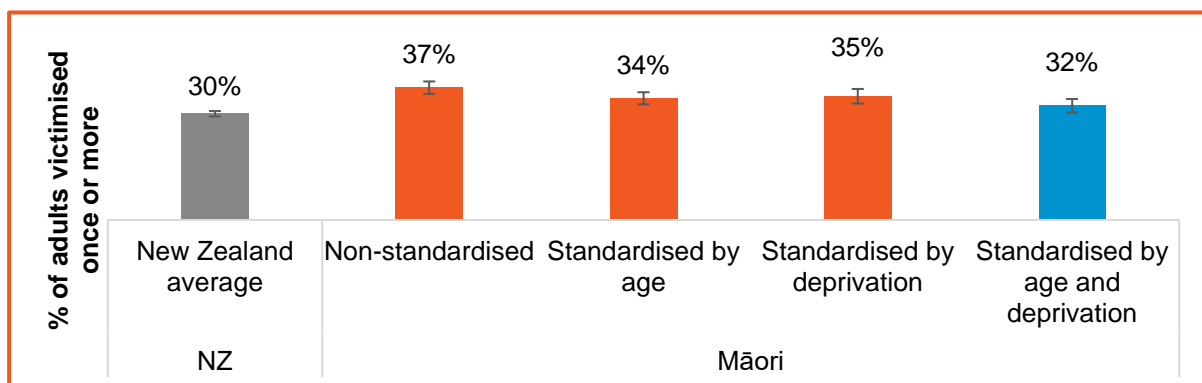


Figure 4.30 Prevalence rates for Māori adults, standardised – all offences (pooled data)

Looking at Māori victimisation over time, there is a non-significant decrease in the overall rate of victimisation between the base year (Cycle 1) and the current year (Cycle 4) – from 39% to 34%. When these same rates of victimisation are standardised by age and deprivation, there is a non-significant decrease in victimisation (from 34% to 30%), meaning Māori victimisation standardised by age and deprivation became comparable with the New Zealand average in Cycle 4 (Figure 4.31). In both cases, these reductions are likely to be driven by the significant reduction in household offences and burglaries observed for Māori.

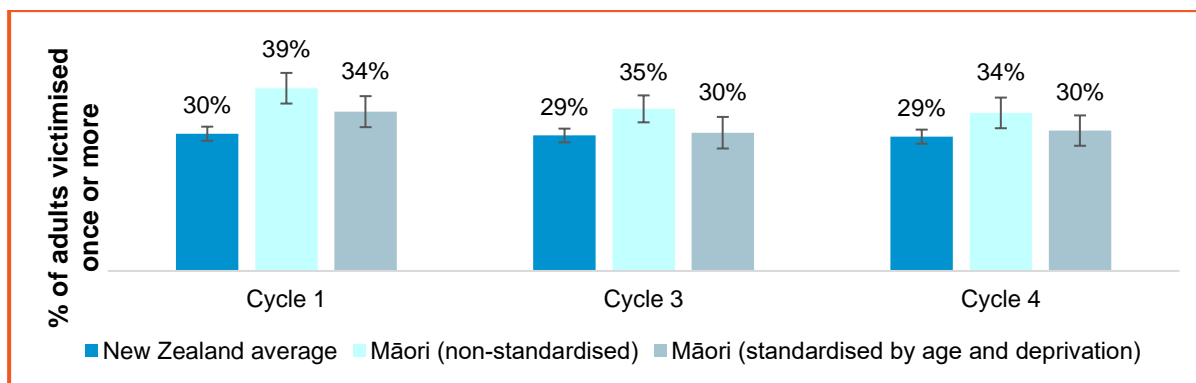


Figure 4.31 Prevalence rates for Māori over time, standardised by age and deprivation – all offences

Pacific adults

Controlling for age and the level of deprivation, both separately and combined, Pacific adults were less likely to experience crime compared with the New Zealand average. However, apart from only controlling for age, the difference between these reduced likelihoods and the New Zealand average is not statistically significant. When standardised individually for age, we found that Pacific adults were 4 percentage points less likely than the New Zealand average to be victimised (Figure 4.32).

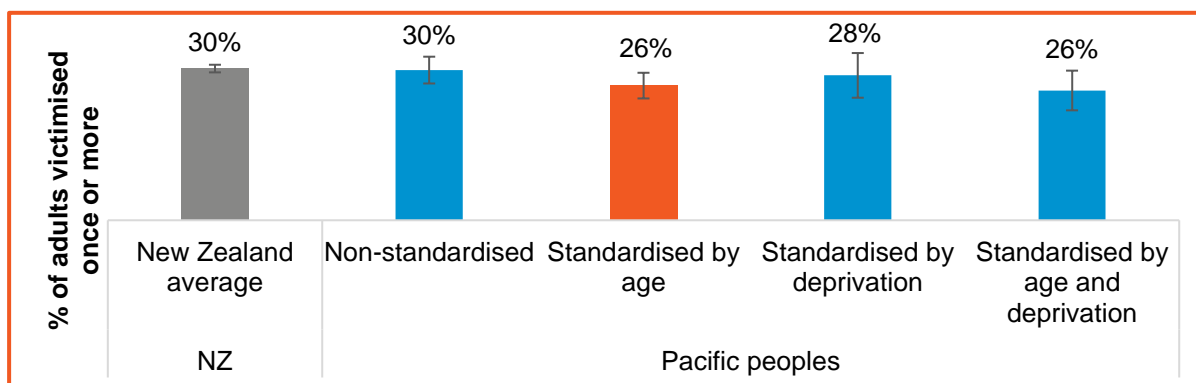


Figure 4.32 Prevalence rates for Pacific adults, standardised – all offences (pooled data)

Asian adults – especially Chinese

Controlling for age and the level of deprivation, both separately and combined, Asian adults, especially Chinese, were still significantly less likely to experience crime compared with the New Zealand average. This suggests the lower overall rates of victimisation observed for Asian adults, especially Chinese, are not due to differences in age or deprivation.

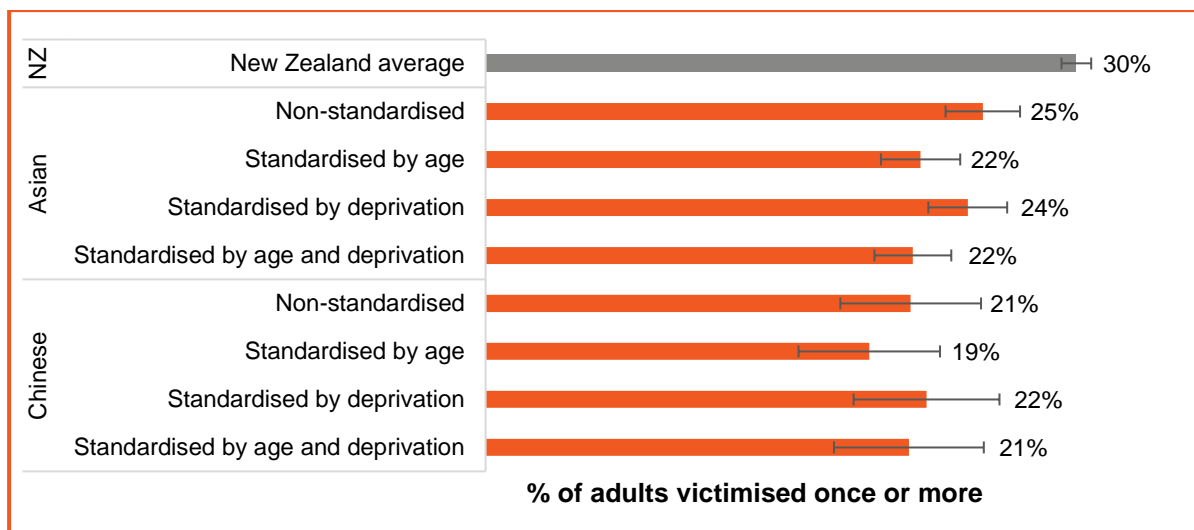


Figure 4.33 Prevalence rates for Asian and Chinese adults, standardised – all offences (pooled data)

Disability

Overall, there was no significant difference in victimisation between disabled adults and the New Zealand average across all offence types, except for interpersonal violence offences. However, when differences in average age between disabled adults and non-disabled adults were considered, disabled adults were significantly more likely to experience any offences compared to the New Zealand average (Figure 4.34).

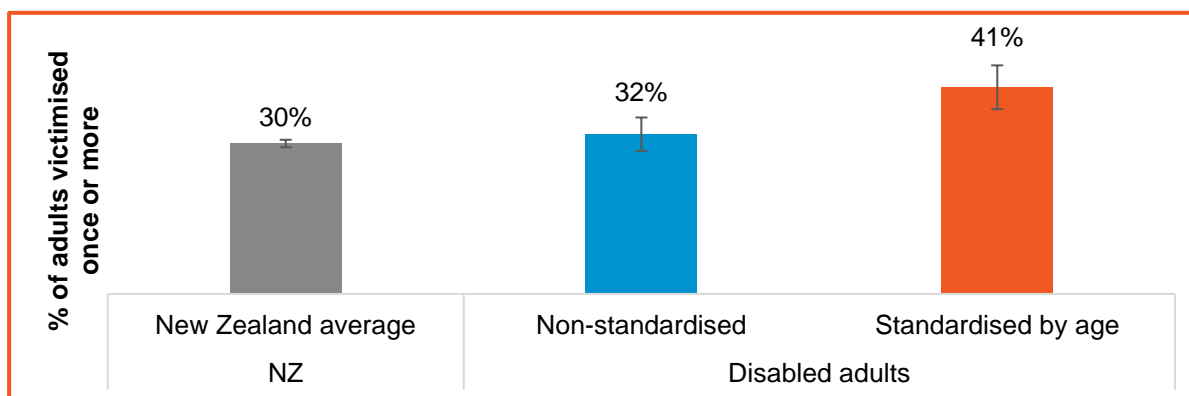


Figure 4.34 Prevalence rates for disabled adults standardised by age – all offences (pooled data)

The pattern described above is further reflected across personal offences, household offences, burglary, interpersonal violence offences and fraud and cybercrime offences. In fact, the risk of interpersonal violence for disabled adults is over two times as high as the New Zealand average, after accounting for age differences (Figure 4.35).

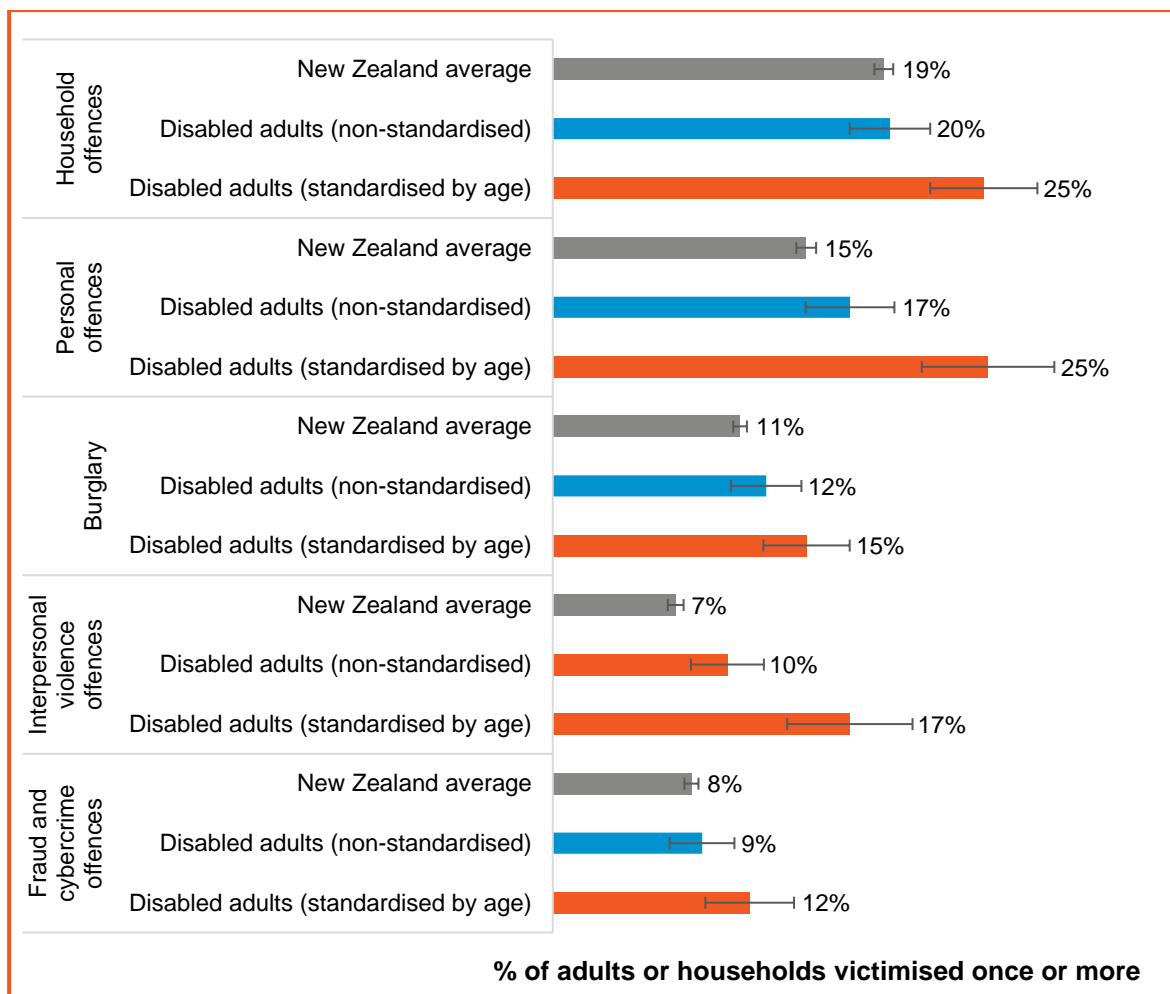


Figure 4.35 Prevalence rates for disabled adults, standardised by age – household offences, personal offences, burglary, interpersonal violence offences (pooled data)

Disability by personal factors

Age

When victimisation of disabled people is broken down by age, we can see that disabled adults below the age of 65 were significantly more likely to experience all offences, household offences and personal offences compared to the New Zealand average. In contrast, disabled people aged 65+ were significantly less likely to experience these offences compared to the New Zealand average (Figure 4.36). Notably, disabled people aged 15–29 were over 50% more likely to be victimised than non-disabled people of the same age group.



More than half of disabled people aged 15–29 **(55%)** were **victimised** within a 12-month period.

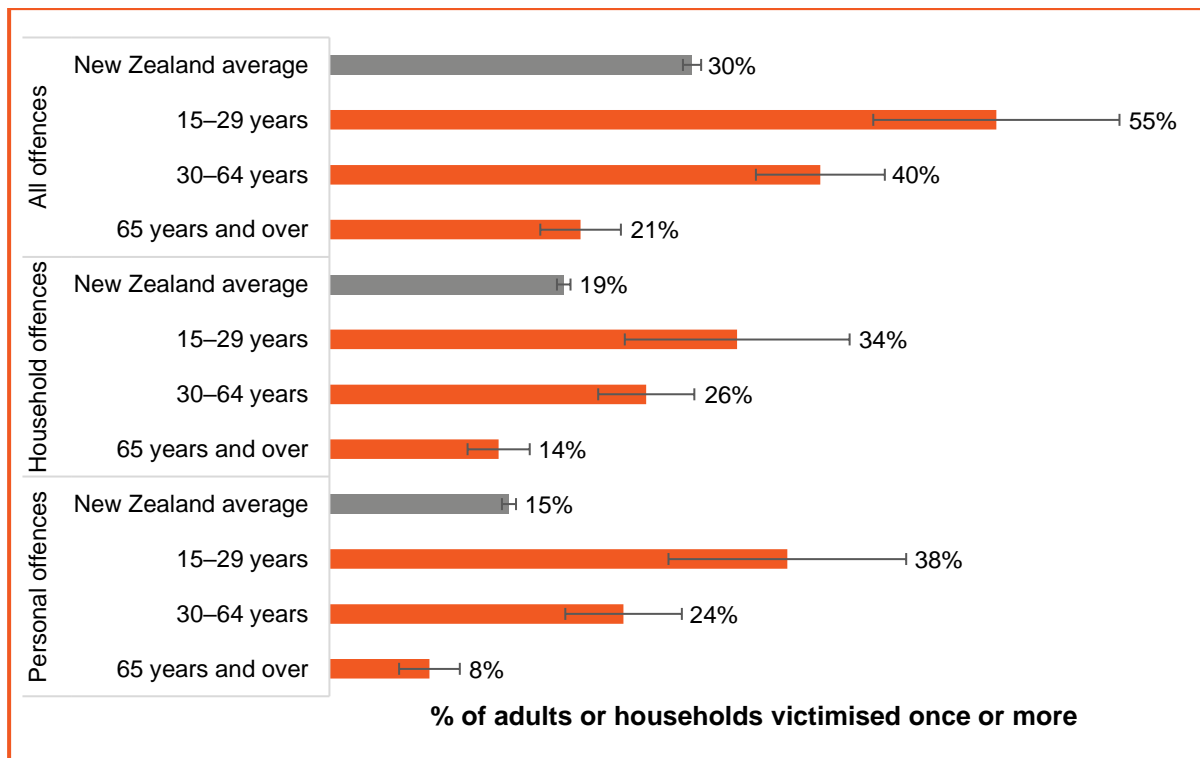


Figure 4.36 Prevalence rates for disabled adults by age – all offences, household offences, personal offences (pooled data)

Delving into slightly more detailed offence types, we found that this difference is amplified for personal offences but reduced to non-significant for household offences. Disabled people aged 15–29, were two times as likely as non-disabled people of the same age to experience personal offences. Likewise, disabled people aged 50–59 were over 45% more likely to be victimised than non-disabled people of the same age. This difference is amplified in both personal and household offences. Disabled people aged 30–39 were over 90% more likely to experience personal offences – however, no significant differences were found across all offences and household offences (Table 4.9).

Table 4.9 Prevalence rates, by disability status and age group (pooled data)

Percentage of adults or households victimised once or more						
	All offences		Personal offences		Household offences	
New Zealand average	29.8		14.8		19.3	
Disabled or non-disabled people						
Age group	disabled	non-disabled	disabled	non-disabled	disabled	non-disabled
15–29	54.9 [^]	35.5 [*]	37.7 [^]	18.8 [*]	33.6 [*]	24.2 [*]
30–39	41.6	31.8	30.9 [^]	16.1	27.3	21.5 [*]
40–49	45.2 [*]	32.5 [*]	22.1	15.7	26.5	22.8 [*]
50–59	42.8 [^]	29.4	26.4 [^]	13.8	30.8 ^{^*}	19.7

Percentage of adults or households victimised once or more						
	All offences		Personal offences		Household offences	
60–64	31.4	27.5	Ŝ	13.0	18.8	18.0
65+	20.8*	19.0*	8.3*	8.6*	13.9*	11.6*

* Statistically significant difference from the New Zealand average, or the relevant total, at the 95% confidence level.

^ Statistically significant difference at the 95% confidence level between disabled and non-disabled adults.

Ŝ = Suppressed because the numerator and/or denominator of the ratio-based estimate has a relative sampling error greater than or equal to 50%, which is considered too unreliable for general use.

Marital status

Looking at victimisation by disability status and marital status, the relationship between marital status and victimisation¹¹ holds true when accounting for disability status. However, due to small sample sizes for disabled people, some of the differences are no longer significant compared to the New Zealand average (Table 4.10).

Table 4.10 Prevalence rates, by disability status and marital status (pooled data)

Percentage of adults or households victimised once or more						
	All offences		Personal offences		Household offences	
New Zealand average	29.8		14.8		19.3	
Disabled or non-disabled people						
Marital status	disabled	non-disabled	disabled	non-disabled	disabled	non-disabled
Married/civil union/de facto	33.3	27.9*	19.0^	12.8*	20.2	18.4
Separated/divorced	37.8	36.3*	18.5	20.5*	26.5*	21.4*
Widowed/surviving partner	14.6*	19.1*	Ŝ	8.0*	11.4*	12.6*
Never married or civil union	42.5*	34.6*	26.2*	19.2*	24.0	22.9*

^ Statistically significant difference at the 95% confidence level between disabled and non-disabled adults.

* Statistically significant difference from the New Zealand average, or the relevant total, at the 95% confidence level.

Ŝ = Suppressed because the numerator and/or denominator of the ratio-based estimate has a relative sampling error greater than or equal to 50%, which is considered too unreliable for general use.

Interestingly, the prevalence of personal offences for disabled adults who were married, in a civil union, or in a de facto relationship at the time of the survey (19%) was not significantly different from the New Zealand average (15%). However, this group was significantly more likely to be victimised compared to non-disabled adults (13%). This pattern is more pronounced in the incidence rate of personal offences. For adults who were married, in a civil

¹¹ Adults who had never been married or in a civil union and those who were separated or divorced were significantly more likely to be victimised, whereas those who were widowed and those who were married, in a civil union, or in a de facto relationship were significantly less likely to be victimised.

union, or in a de facto relationship, the number of personal offences experienced by disabled adults (41 per 100 adults) is about twice the number of personal offences experienced by non-disabled adults (21 per 100 adults).

For adults who had never been married or in a civil union, disabled people had a higher likelihood of experiencing a personal offence compared to non-disabled people. Although this difference is not statistically significant for the prevalence of personal offences, it is statistically significant for the incidence rate of personal offences. For adults who had never been married or in a civil union, the number of personal offences experienced by disabled people (123 offences per 100 adults) was almost three times higher than the number of personal offences experienced by non-disabled people (43 offences per 100 adults).

Employment status

Looking at victimisation of employed people by disability status, 42% of employed disabled adults were victimised once or more, which was about 10 percentage points higher than non-disabled adults who were employed and 12 percentage points higher than the New Zealand average (Figure 4.37). This pattern of higher likelihood is further reflected among those who experienced personal offences and household offences.

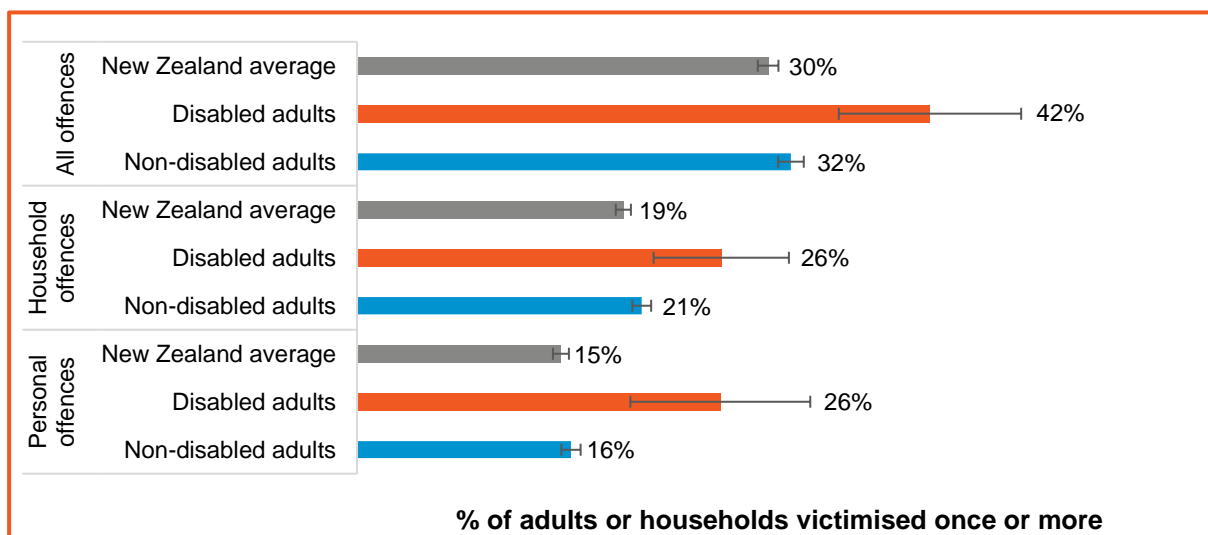


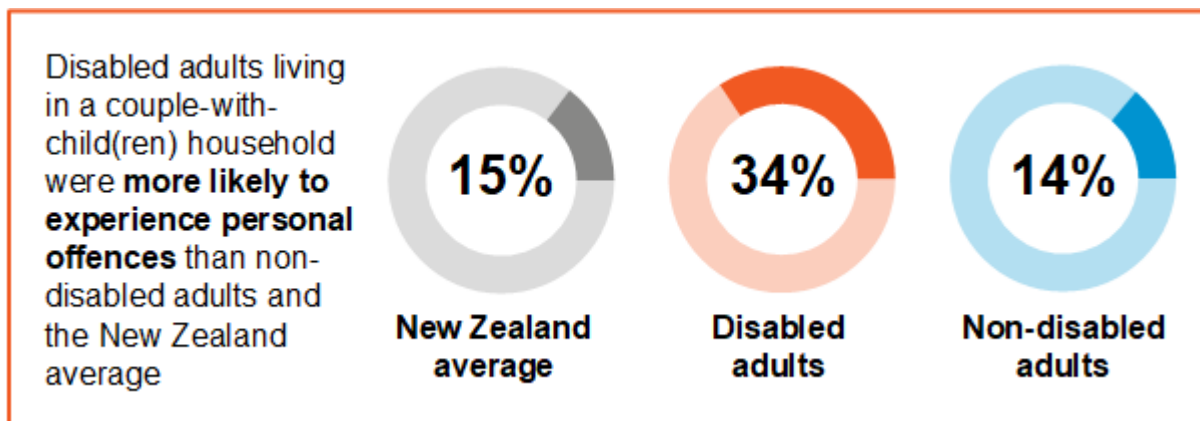
Figure 4.37 Prevalence rates for employed adults, by disability status – all offences, household offences and personal offences (pooled data)

Notably, disabled adults who were not employed and not actively seeking work (30%) were almost twice as likely to experience personal offences as non-disabled adults with the same employment status (17%) and the New Zealand average (15%) (see [data tables](#)).

Disability by household factors

Household composition

Of disabled adults living in a couple-with-child(ren) household, 50% were victimised once or more, which was significantly more likely than non-disabled adults living in a couple-with-child(ren) household (29%) and the New Zealand average (30%). This pattern is further reflected among those who experienced personal offences.



Household size

Disabled adults living in a household with four or more people were significantly more likely to be victimised compared to non-disabled adults living in a household with four or more people and the New Zealand average. This pattern is further reflected among those who experienced personal offences and household offences (Table 4.11). Notably, disabled adults who live alone were significantly less likely to experience personal offences compared to the New Zealand average, whereas there were no significant differences in personal offence victimisation between non-disabled adults who live alone and the New Zealand average.

Table 4.11 Prevalence rates, by disability status and household size (pooled data)

	Percentage of adults or households victimised once or more					
	All offences		Personal offences		Household offences	
New Zealand average	29.8		14.8		19.3	
Disabled or non-disabled people						
Household size	disabled	non-disabled	disabled	non-disabled	disabled	non-disabled
One person	21.7*	26.3*	10.3*	13.4	16.3	17.7*
Two people	26.4	27.0*	13.3	13.5	18.9	17.3*
Three people	40.6	32.1	23.4	15.9	28.1	22.6*
Four people	51.6*^	31.2	32.8*^	14.5	37.5*^	21.7*
Five or more people	54.9*^	33.0*	34.0*^	16.7	§	23.5*

* Statistically significant difference from the New Zealand average, or the relevant total, at the 95% confidence level.

^ Statistically significant difference at the 95% confidence level between disabled and non-disabled adults.

§ = Suppressed because the numerator and/or denominator of the ratio-based estimate has a relative sampling error greater than or equal to 50%, which is considered too unreliable for general use.

Number of children in a household

Figure 4.38 shows that for those living in a household with one child, disabled adults were almost twice as likely as non-disabled adults to be victimised.

Similarly, for those living in a household with two or more children, disabled adults were more likely than non-disabled adults to be victimised. This pattern was also found in the prevalence rate of personal offences.

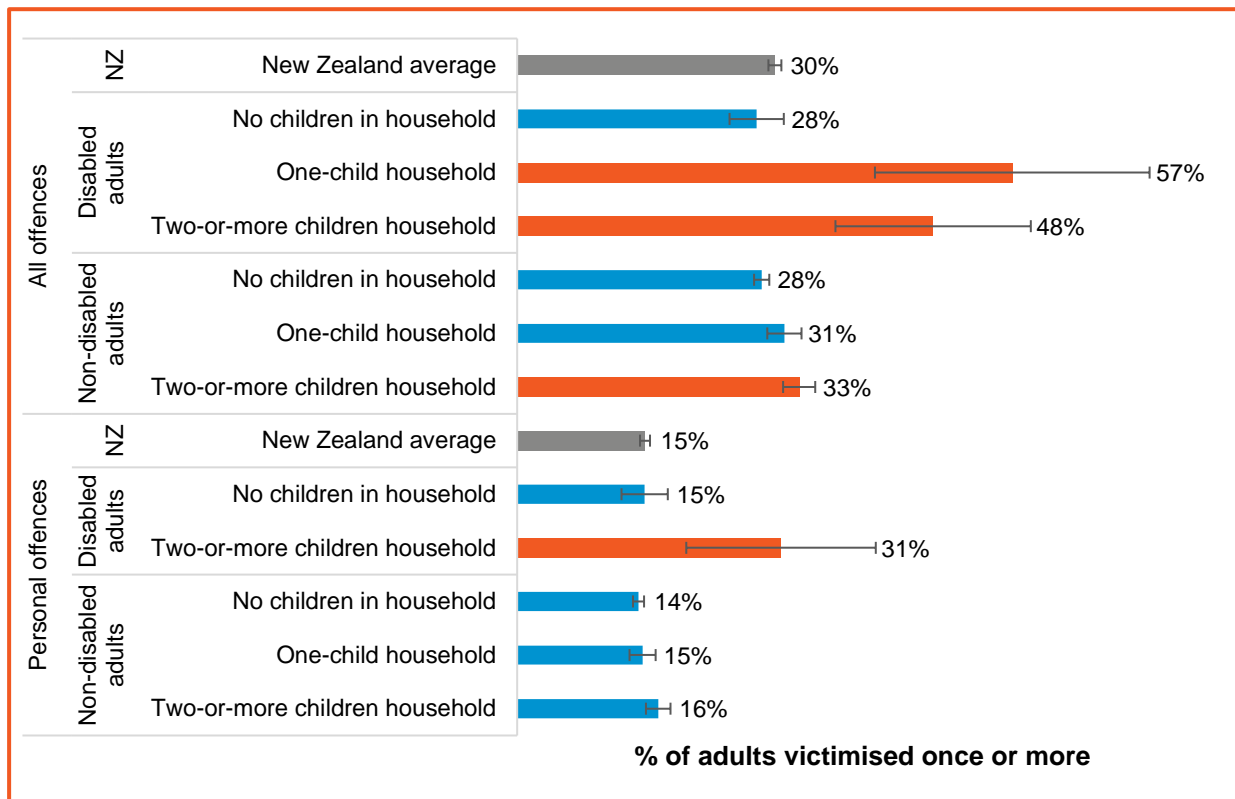


Figure 4.38 Prevalence rates, by disability status and number of children in a household – all offences and personal offences (pooled data)

Note: The result of the prevalence of personal offences for disabled adults living in a household with one child is suppressed due to a large margin of error.

Household ownership

Of disabled adults renting privately owned accommodation, 24% experienced one or more personal offences, significantly more than non-disabled adults renting privately owned accommodation (15%) and the New Zealand average (15%) (Table 4.12).

Table 4.12 Prevalence rates, by disability status and household ownership (pooled data)

Percentage of adults or households victimised once or more						
	All offences		Personal offences		Household offences	
New Zealand average	29.8		14.8		19.3	
Disabled or non-disabled people						
Household ownership	disabled	non-disabled	disabled	non-disabled	disabled	non-disabled
Owned (including with a mortgage)	28.5	28.4	15.1	14.0	17.3	17.9*
Rented, private	37.6*	32.0	23.9*^	15.5	22.9	21.4*
Rented, government (local/central)	35.4	36.4*	16.4	19.1*	25.2	28.8*

* Statistically significant difference from the New Zealand average, or the relevant total, at the 95% confidence level.

^ Statistically significant difference at the 95% confidence level between disabled and non-disabled adults.

Disability by geographic factors

Urbanisation

Disabled adults living in rural areas (24%) were less likely to be victimised compared to the New Zealand average (30%) and non-disabled adults living in rural areas (36%). However, this pattern is not further reflected among more detailed offence types.

Deprivation

Looking at victimisation by disability status and deprivation quintile, of disabled adults living in quintile 4 neighbourhoods, 38% were victimised once or more, which was 8 percentage points higher than non-disabled adults and the New Zealand average. This pattern of higher likelihood is further reflected among those who experienced personal offences and household offences (Table 4.13).

Table 4.13 Prevalence rates, by disability status and deprivation quintile (pooled data)

Percentage of adults or households victimised once or more						
	All offences		Personal offences		Household offences	
New Zealand average	29.8		14.8		19.3	
Disabled or non-disabled people						
NZDep2018 quintile	disabled	non-disabled	disabled	non-disabled	disabled	non-disabled
1 (least deprived)	Ŝ	26.6*	Ŝ	14.7	Ŝ	15.4*
2	25.6	28.7	13.4	15.1	17.5	17.0*
3	30.3	29.5	16.1	14.5	15.1	18.9
4	38.3*^	30.0	21.5*^	14.4	25.5*^	19.7
5 (most deprived)	35.4	34.0*	18.2	14.8	23.5	25.2*

Ŝ = Suppressed because the numerator and/or denominator of the ratio-based estimate has a relative sampling error greater than or equal to 50%, which is considered too unreliable for general use.

* Statistically significant difference from the New Zealand average, or the relevant total, at the 95% confidence level.

^ Statistically significant difference at the 95% confidence level between disabled and non-disabled adults.

5 Sexual violence and violence by family members

What is included in this section?

This section looks at the following measures of victimisation:

- the number of incidents of sexual violence and/or violence by family members experienced by adults (aged 15+) (**incidence**)
- the number of offences of sexual violence and/or violence by family members per 100 adults (**incidence rate**)
- the number of adults who have experienced sexual violence offences and/or offences by family members once or more (**prevalence**)
- the percentage of adults who have experienced sexual violence offences and/or offences by family members once or more (**prevalence rate**).

The offences covered in this section were concentrated over a relatively small number of survey respondents.¹² To make the results as reliable as possible, we calculated all estimates using pooled data (Cycles 1–4) except to compare overall measures of victimisation over time, where we compared the current year (Cycle 4) with the base year (Cycle 1) and previous year (Cycle 3). Having now accumulated four years of NZCVS data, the analysis for this section was able to go into more detail about some factors not previously reported. However, many estimates were still subject to high levels of uncertainty.

Not all types of family violence and sexual violence against adults are covered in the NZCVS. Instead, we report on **sexual assaults** (not necessarily by family members) and **offences by family members**. What is covered by these measures is explained in the corresponding sections below.

Prior to starting field work for the NZCVS Cycle 4, we added to the survey questionnaire a set of questions related to behaviours used to coerce or control a person and cause cumulative harm. Responses received in relation to these **controlling behaviours** are also analysed in this section. While in this report we provide only a high-level description of the prevalence of controlling behaviour, more detailed analysis is expected in a stand-alone report.

We will show later in this report that large proportions of both sexual assaults and offences by family members are not reported to the Police (see section 7). The NZCVS enhances our understanding of that picture by covering both reported and unreported offences. The survey also provides more detailed information about victims that is often not available in administrative data sources, such as their ethnicity and their disability status.

¹² In the pooled dataset there were 664 respondents who experienced sexual assault in the previous 12 months, and 723 who experienced offences by a family member.

5.1 Sexual assault

Sexual violence includes any sexual behaviour towards a person without their consent. The NZCVS collects information about experiences of **sexual assault**, covering some forms of sexual violence.

Sexual assault measured in the NZCVS includes experiences in the previous 12 months of:

- forced sexual intercourse (and attempts)
- being forced to perform a sexual act (and attempts)
- unwanted sexual touching (and attempts)
- threats to do something of a sexual nature.

Sexual assaults by any perpetrators, including intimate partners, are included.

Acts of sexual violence not included in the measure of sexual assault include behaviours like indecent exposure, sending unwanted sexual messages, sharing sexual photos of someone without their consent, or forcing someone to watch pornography.

What did we find?

- About 2% of adults experienced sexual assault – ranging from threats and unwanted touching to forced sexual intercourse – in the previous 12 months (pooled data).
- The current year figure (Cycle 4) did not change significantly from the base year (Cycle 1) or the previous year (Cycle 3).
- Sexual assault affected adults in all population groups, but some more than others. Compared to the national average, the following groups were more than twice as likely to be a victim of sexual assault:
 - people identifying as bisexual (16%) and people with diverse sexualities (gay, lesbian, bisexual or other) (11%)
 - adults aged 15–19 (5%) and 20–29 (4%)
 - adults who were separated (5%) and those who had never been married, in a civil union, or in a de facto relationship (4%)
 - adults who were not working because they were studying (4%)
 - adults living in a multi-person household (5%) (eg, flatting situations).
- Young females were at particularly high risk of sexual assault, with 9% of females aged 15–19 and 7% of females aged 20–29 affected in the previous 12 months.
- Sexual assault victimisation was strongly associated with psychological distress, low ratings of life satisfaction, and a poor feeling of safety.
- About two thirds (63%) of sexual assaults were perpetrated by an intimate partner, other family member, or someone else the victim already knew.
- Almost half of all sexual assaults happened in residential locations.

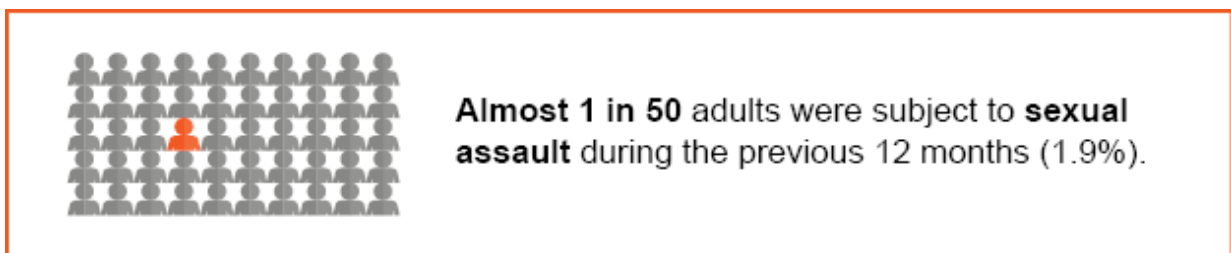
Around 2% of adults were sexually assaulted in the previous 12 months

Table 5.1 summarises the scale of sexual assault victimisation using pooled data. The estimates reveal that about 78,000 adults had been sexually assaulted in the previous 12 months. This was equivalent to 1.9% of the adult population, or about one in 50 adults.

In total, these adults experienced 176,000 sexual assault offences. There were around four sexual assaults for every 100 adults in the population.

Table 5.1 Sexual assault victimisation in the previous 12 months (pooled data)

Sexual assault	Estimate
Total number of adults victimised once or more	78,000
Percentage of adults victimised once or more	1.9%
Total number of offences	176,000
Number of offences per 100 adults	4.3



About 7% of all victims of crime during the previous 12 months had been affected by sexual assault. Sexual assault made up about 8% of all offences recorded in the NZCVS.

No significant change in the rate of sexual assault since base year (Cycle 1) or since previous year (Cycle 3)

There were no statistically significant changes in the prevalence rate or incidence rate of sexual assault between the base year and the current year or between the previous year and the current year (Figures 5.1 and 5.2).¹³

¹³ These results were also presented in section 3.

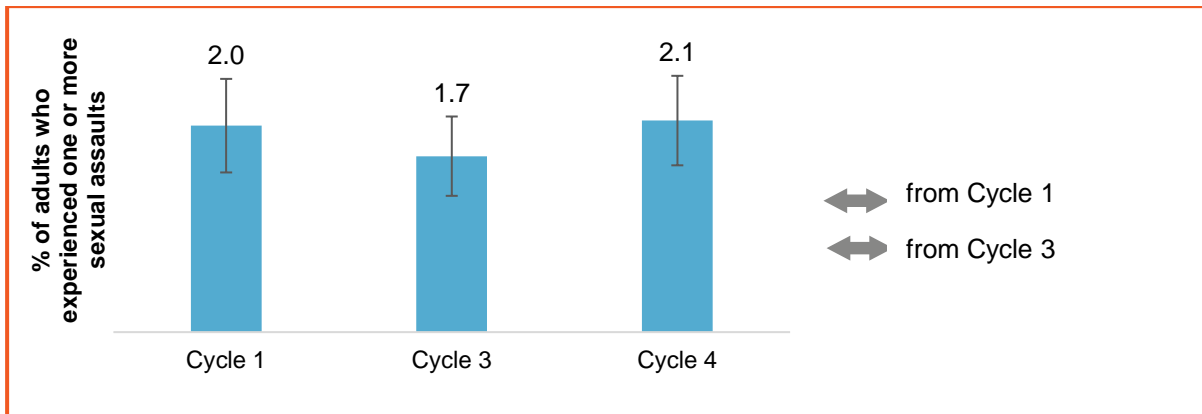


Figure 5.1 Percentage of adults who experienced one or more sexual assaults in the previous 12 months (Cycles 1, 3 and 4)

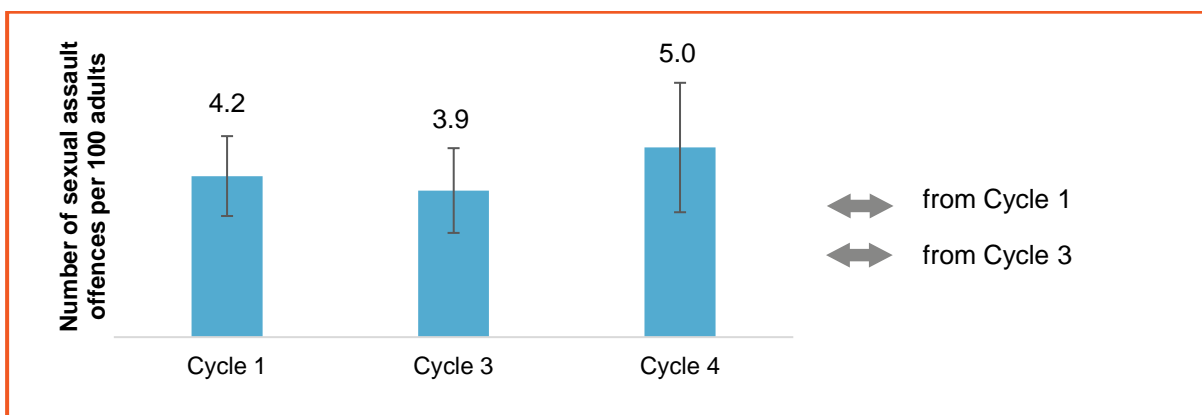


Figure 5.2 Number of sexual assault offences per 100 adults (Cycles 1, 3 and 4)

Some population groups were disproportionately affected

This section focuses mostly on the percentage of adults in different population groups who experienced sexual assault victimisation in the previous 12 months. Information on the number of victims, the number of incidents, and the rate of incidents per 100 adults, by population group, is also provided in the [data tables](#) that accompany this report.

The results reveal that sexual assaults occur across all population groups. However, some population groups were more likely to be a victim of sexual assault than the national average. These groups included:

- females
- people with diverse sexualities, especially those identifying as bisexual
- those aged 15–29
- Māori
- those who did not have a partner within the last 12 months
- those who were separated
- those who had never been married or in a civil union
- those living in a multi-person household (eg, a flatting situation)
- those living in an “other multi-person household”

- those not working but studying
- those renting a privately owned accommodation
- those with a personal income less than \$20,000
- those experiencing financial stress.

Figure 5.3 summarises the percentage of adults who were victims of sexual assault, by key personal factors.

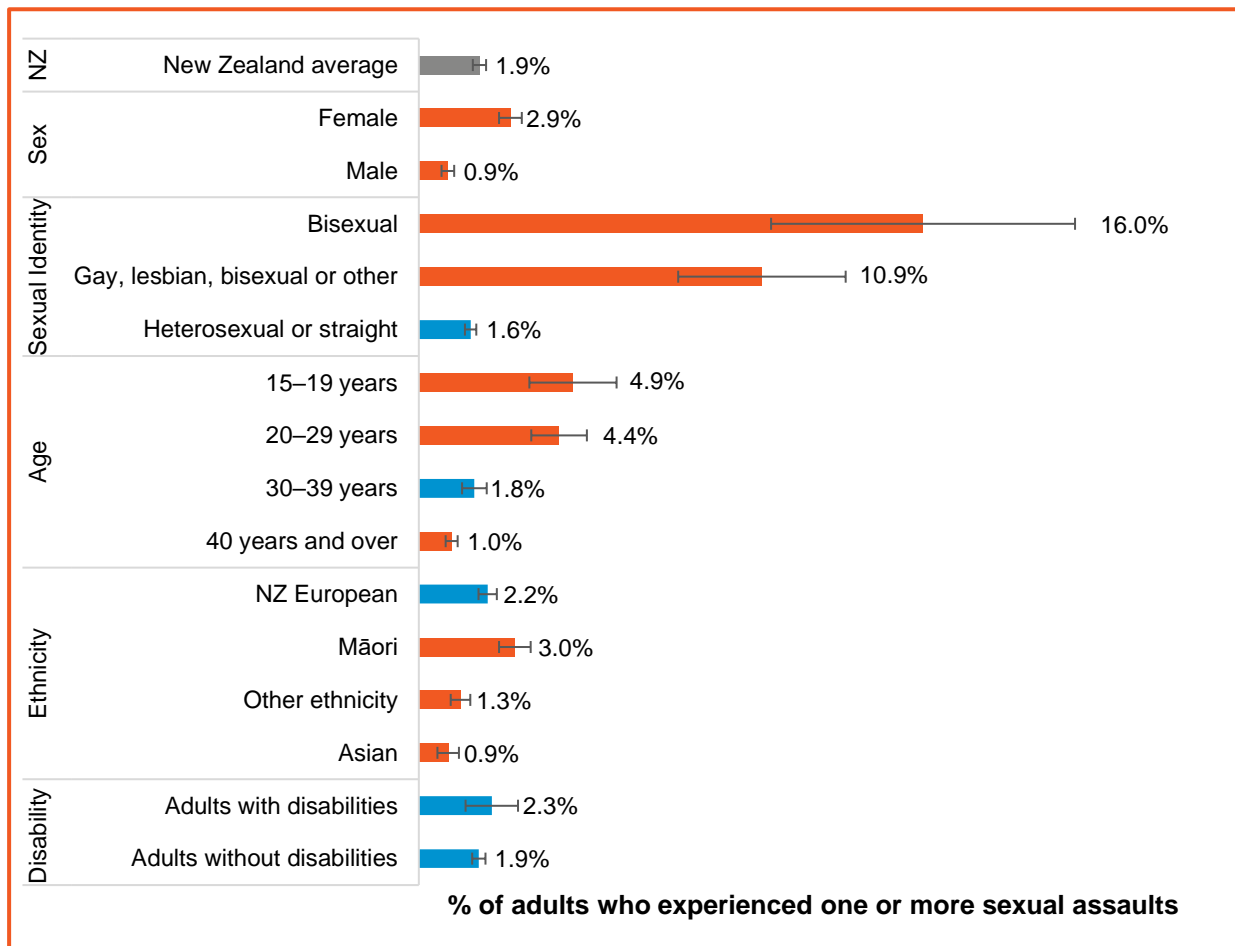


Figure 5.3 Percentage of adults who experienced one or more sexual assaults in the previous 12 months, by personal factor (pooled data)

Both males and females experienced sexual assault, but females were at higher risk. Females were three times as likely as males to have experienced sexual assault during the previous 12 months (2.9% compared with 0.9%).

Over three-quarters of sexual assaults were against females (142,000 out of 176,000).

Females were three times as likely as males to have experienced sexual assault during the previous 12 months.



Although the NZCVS collects information on gender, the sample size for people with diverse genders was too small to provide reliable results.

Adults with diverse sexualities were more than six times as likely as heterosexual adults to have been a victim of sexual assault in the previous 12 months. About 1 in 9 adults with diverse sexualities (10.9%) were victims of sexual assault in the previous 12 months compared with about 1 in 60 heterosexual adults (1.6%).

Adults with diverse sexualities were victims of about 2 out of every 10 sexual assaults (40,000 out of 176,000).

1 in 60 heterosexual adults **1 in 9** adults with diverse sexualities
aged 15 years old and over had been **sexually assaulted** in the last 12 months

Young adults (aged 15–19) were at high risk of sexual assault. Prevalence rates of sexual assault were higher in younger age groups, with 4.9% of adults aged 15–19 affected compared with 1.0% of those aged 40+.

These results demonstrate that a large proportion of sexual violence occurred in young adulthood. More information is needed on the prevalence of sexual violence in children under the age of 15, who are not covered by the NZCVS.

Out of the total 176,000, about 90,000 sexual assaults (51%) were against adults aged 15–29 (Figure 5.4). About 32,000 (18%) were against adults aged 30–39, and another 54,000 (31%) were against adults aged 40+.

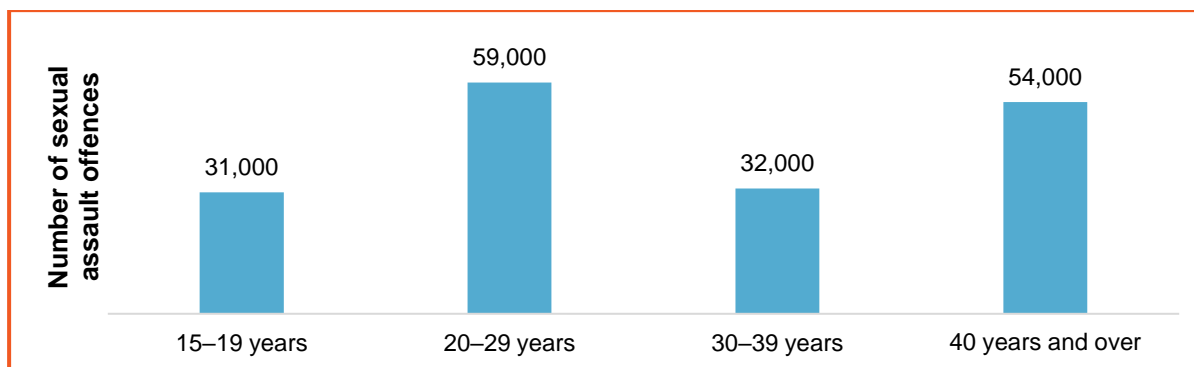


Figure 5.4 Total number of sexual assault offences, by age of victims (pooled data)

The NZCVS does not cover adults living outside of residential housing, such as in aged-care facilities. More research is needed to gauge the scale of sexual violence against vulnerable people in these contexts, including older people and disabled people.

Māori were at significantly higher risk of sexual assault than the national average, while Asians were at significantly lower risk. About 3 in 100 Māori adults (3.0%) were victims of sexual assault, compared with less than 1 in 100 Asian adults (0.9%) and about 2 in 100 adults overall (1.9%). The prevalence rate of sexual assault for New Zealand Europeans (2.2%) and Pacific peoples (1.9%) was similar to the national average.

Differences in prevalence rates of sexual assault across ethnic groups may partially be driven by age differences across those groups. For example, the makeup of the Māori population is younger than the overall adult population. Table 5.2 looks at differences in sexual assault prevalence rates by both ethnicity and age to understand this further.

The prevalence of sexual assault for disabled adults was similar to the national average, even though this group tends to be older. Of disabled adults, 2.3% were a victim of sexual assault during the previous 12 months. This was not significantly different from non-disabled adults (1.9%) or the general adult population (1.9%).

We showed above that older adults tend to be safer from sexual assault than younger adults. Because disabled adults in the NZCVS tend to be older than other adults, it is useful to look at differences by disability status, within similar age groups.

When looking only at the population aged 15–64, disabled people were at twice the risk of sexual assault compared to non-disabled people (4.5% compared with 2.2%). This difference was statistically significant.

As the NZCVS accumulates more data in future years, more reliable analysis of sexual assault victimisation of disabled adults should become possible.¹⁴

Adults who were separated and adults who had never been married or in a civil union were at elevated risk of sexual assault. Figure 5.5 presents the percentage of adults who experienced sexual assault in the previous 12 months, by factors relating to their relationship status and household.

¹⁴ Many results about sexual assault for subgroups of the disabled population were too unreliable to report. This included results by age groups (eg, 15–29) and by sex.

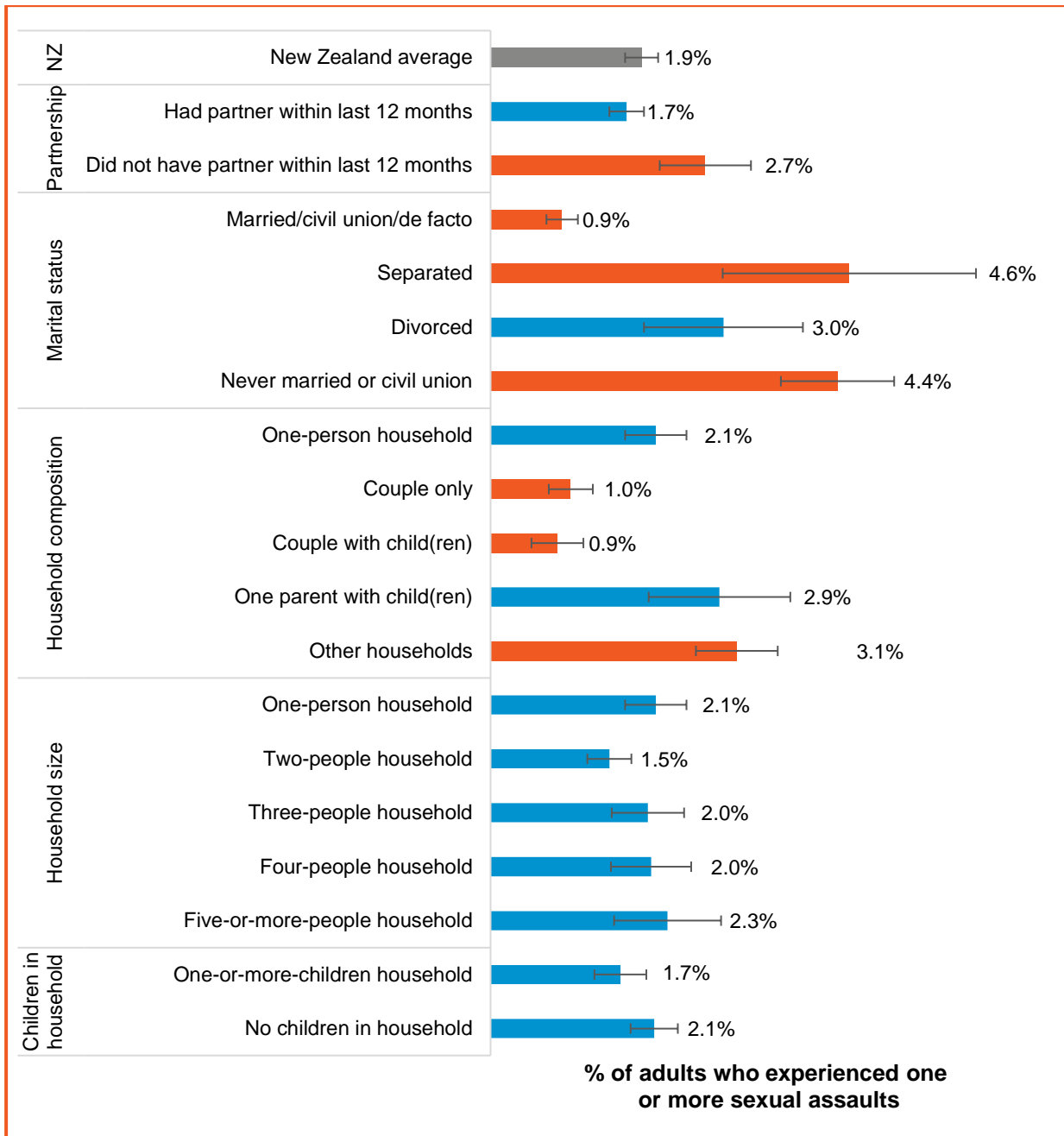


Figure 5.5 Percentage of adults who experienced one or more sexual assaults in the previous 12 months, by household and relationship factors (pooled data).

Note: The results for adults who were widowed or surviving their partner are suppressed due to high uncertainty.

One in 58 adults who had a partner during the previous 12 months (1.7%) were victims of sexual assault during that time. In contrast, one in 37 adults who did not have a partner in the previous 12 months (2.7%) had experienced sexual assault. This difference was statistically significant.

Adults who had never been married or in a civil union were at relatively high risk of sexual assault (4.4%), as were those who were separated (4.6%). On the other hand, those who were married, in a civil union, or in a de facto relationship at the time of the survey were at relatively low risk of experiencing sexual assault (0.9%).

The prevalence rate of sexual assault for adults in a one-person household (2.1%) or in a one-parent-with-child(ren) household (2.9%) was not significantly different from the national average (1.9%). The prevalence rate for adults living in a couple-only household (1.0%) and for adults living in a couple-with-child(ren) household (0.9%) was relatively low.¹⁵

Adults living in “other households” were victims of sexual assault at a significantly higher rate than the national average (3.1% compared with 1.9%). These households include related and/or unrelated people. For example, this could include flatting arrangements, two siblings living together, or one person with a boarder.

Although prevalence rates of sexual assault among adults who were separated and those living in a one-parent-with-child(ren) household were very high, they made up a relatively small proportion of all victims. Out of the estimated 78,000 victims of sexual assault, 8,000 were separated and, similarly, 7,000 lived in one-parent-with-child(ren) households. Those who had never been married or in a civil union (39,000) and those who were married, in a civil union, or in a de facto relationship (24,000) made up relatively larger shares of all victims.

Adults under financial pressure were more vulnerable to sexual assault. Figure 5.6 summarises the percentage of adults who experienced sexual assault in the previous 12 months across economic factors. There were significant differences within each economic factor, except household income.

¹⁵ This group mostly includes parents but can include adults (aged 15 or older) who live with their parent(s).

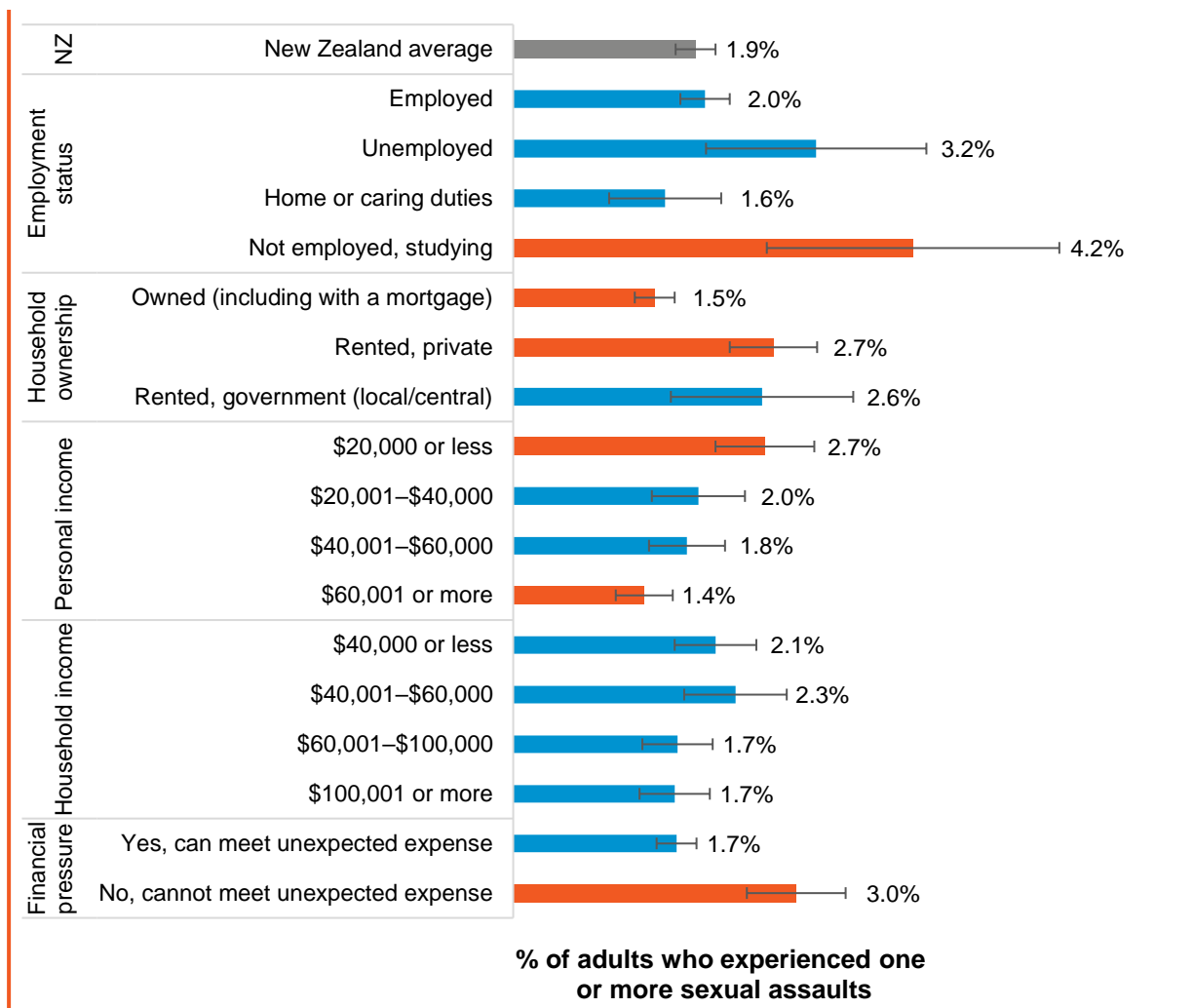


Figure 5.6 Percentage of adults who experienced one or more sexual assaults in the previous 12 months, by economic factor (pooled data)

Note: Adults who were retired are not included in the graph because the result is suppressed due to high uncertainty.

Adults who were not working because they were studying were at relatively high risk of sexual assault (4.2%). This group did not include students who were in employment so is not representative of all adult students. However, this finding does suggest those in school or other education were at increased risk.

Adults living in private rental accommodation (2.7%) were significantly more likely to be a victim of sexual assault than adults living in a house owned by one or more of the residents (1.5%). Both were significantly different from the New Zealand average. Adults living in government rental accommodation (2.6%) were also victims at a higher rate, but the difference from the New Zealand average was not statistically significant. These differences might partially be driven by age differences in the population who rent compared with those who own their own homes.

Adults with lower personal income tended to be at higher risk of being a victim of sexual assault. Adults with an income of \$20,000 or less were at significantly higher risk than the New

Zealand average, while those with an income of \$60,000 or more were at significantly lower risk. This pattern may be at least partially driven by age.

Adults facing high levels of financial stress were at increased risk of sexual assault. Of those adults who could not afford an unexpected expense of \$500, 3.0% were affected in the previous 12 months, and these adults were at significantly higher risk than the New Zealand average. This compares with 1.7% of those who could afford the expense.¹⁶

Although the risk of sexual assault was higher for adults experiencing financial stress, it is worth noting that many victims were not in this situation. In total, 20,000 out of 78,000 victims of sexual assault (26%) said they would not be able to afford an unexpected expense of \$500, while 57,000 could afford it.

Sexual assault affected people living across the country. There are no significant differences between locations, types of urbanisation and deprivation quintiles.

Two-dimensional breakdowns reveal elevated risk of sexual assault for young females

We showed above that females were three times as likely as males to have experienced sexual assault in the previous 12 months (2.9% compared with 0.9%).

Table 5.2 shows the prevalence rate of sexual assault separately for males and females, by sexual identity, age, and ethnicity. Most of these estimates were subject to high levels of uncertainty, and some are suppressed because they were too unreliable for general use. Nonetheless, they reveal particularly high-risk groups within the female population.

One in eight females with diverse sexualities (12.5%) had experienced sexual assault during the previous 12 months, compared with about one in 12 males with diverse sexualities (8.4%). Both females and males with diverse sexualities experienced higher rates of sexual assault than the national average, but the difference between females and males was not statistically significant.

Young females were at particularly high risk of sexual assault. Around 9% of females aged 15–19 and around 6.7% of females aged 20–29 had been sexually assaulted in the previous 12 months.

The prevalence rate of sexual assault was significantly higher for Māori males compared to the New Zealand average (1.9% compared with 0.9%). It was also significantly higher for Māori females than for females overall (4.0% compared with 2.9%).

¹⁶ Similarly, 3.0% of adults who could not afford a non-essential item for \$300 had been a victim of sexual assault, compared with 1.1% of those who would not be at all limited in affording it.

Table 5.2 Percentage of adults who experienced one or more sexual assaults in the previous 12 months, by sex and population group (pooled data)

Population group		Percentage of adults who experienced one or more sexual assaults		
		Females	Males	Difference between females and males
New Zealand average		2.9	0.9‡	^
Sexual identity	Heterosexual	2.5	0.7‡	^
	Gay, lesbian, bisexual or other	12.5‡*	8.4‡*	–
Age	15–29 years	7.3*	2.4‡*	^
	15–19 years	8.8‡*	Ŝ	–
	20–29 years	6.7‡*	2.5‡*	^
	30–64 years	2.3	0.6‡	^
Ethnicity	New Zealand European	3.4	1.0‡	^
	Māori	4.0*	1.9‡*	^
	Other ethnicity	1.9‡*	0.8‡	^

^ Statistically significant difference between females and males.

‡ Use with caution. The numerator and/or denominator of the ratio-based estimate has a relative sampling error between 20% and 50%. Statistics should be used with caution because they may be too variable for certain types of reporting.

* Statistically significant difference from the New Zealand average, or the relevant total, at the 95% confidence level.

Ŝ = Suppressed because the numerator and/or denominator of the ratio-based estimate has a relative sampling error greater than or equal to 50%, which is considered too unreliable for general use.

Table 5.3 summarises the prevalence rates of sexual assault for adults of different age groups (15–29 and 30–64), by sexual identity and ethnicity. Results for adults aged 65+ are not shown because of a high margin of error.

Both younger and older adults with diverse sexualities were significantly more likely to have been victims of sexual assault than adults overall in the respective age groups.

Both younger and older Māori adults were more likely to have been victims of sexual assault than the New Zealand average of the same age. However, only the rate for older Māori adults (aged 30–64) was statistically significant.

On the other hand, adults of “other” ethnicities (ie, other than New Zealand European or Māori) were significantly less likely to have experienced sexual assault than the national average, within both age groups. Therefore, age differences do not seem to explain why ethnic minority groups have a relatively lower prevalence rate of sexual assault.

Table 5.3 Percentage of adults who experienced one or more sexual assaults in the previous 12 months, by age and population group (pooled data)

Population group		Percentage of adults who experienced one or more sexual assaults		
		Adults aged 15–29	Adults aged 30–64	Difference between age ranges
New Zealand average		4.6	1.5	^
Sexual identity	Heterosexual	3.8	1.3	^
	Gay, lesbian, bisexual or other	15.3 ^{‡*}	7.8 ^{‡*}	–
Ethnicity	New Zealand European	6.0 [‡]	1.8	^
	Māori	5.7 [‡]	2.3 ^{‡*}	^
	Other ethnicity	2.9 ^{‡*}	0.6 ^{‡*}	^

^ Statistically significant difference between adults aged 15–29 and adults aged 30–64.

‡ Use with caution. The numerator and/or denominator of the ratio-based estimate has a relative sampling error between 20% and 50%. Statistics should be used with caution because they may be too variable for certain types of reporting.

* Statistically significant difference from the New Zealand average, or the relevant total, at the 95% confidence level.

Sexual assault is associated with poor wellbeing outcomes

Figure 5.7 summarises the percentage of adults who experienced sexual assault in the previous 12 months by three wellbeing outcomes: psychological distress, life satisfaction, and perceptions of safety. Adults with poorer wellbeing on these measures were at significantly higher risk of sexual violence victimisation – however, this does not indicate causality because the poor wellbeing outcomes may have been caused by the victimisation.

Most victims showed low levels of psychological distress. Of the 78,000 victims of sexual assault, 56,000 (72%) had low, 12,000 (15%) had moderate, and 9,000 (12%) had high levels of psychological distress.

Similarly, 20,000 (26%) had a low life-satisfaction score (between 0 and 6 out of 10) and 16,000 (21%) had a low feeling-of-safety score (between 0 and 6 out of 10).

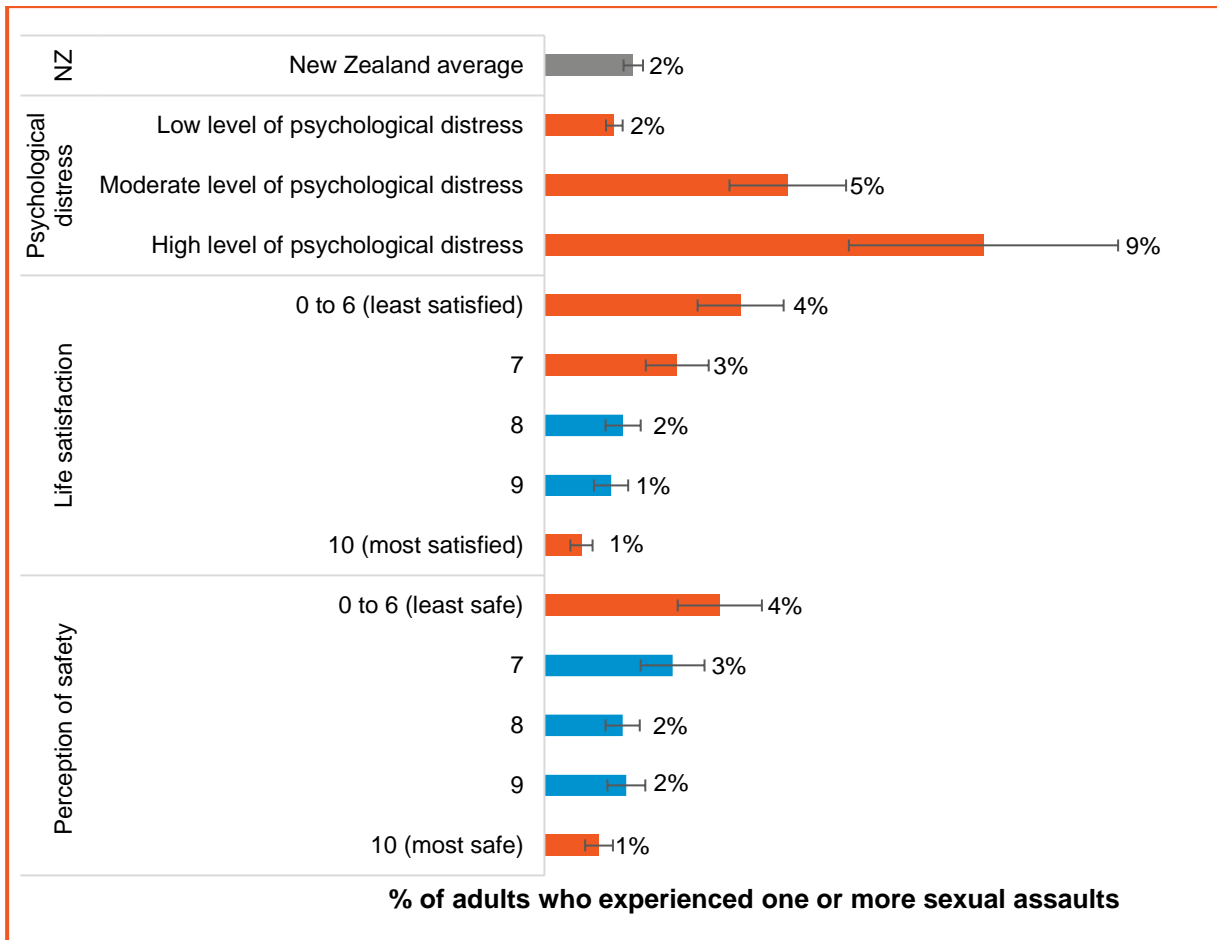


Figure 5.7 Percentage of adults who experienced one or more sexual assaults in the previous 12 months, by wellbeing outcome (pooled data)

Most sexual assaults were experienced by highly victimised adults

Just over two-thirds of sexual assaults were against adults who had experienced four or more crimes in the past 12 months. In total, this group of highly victimised adults experienced 120,000 out of all 176,000 sexual assaults.

More than half of sexual assaults were perpetrated by a family member or someone else the victim already knew

Out of 176,000 sexual assaults in the previous 12 months, about 45,000 (26%) were perpetrated by family members (Table 5.4), compared with 122,000 (69%) sexual assaults by non-family members.

Of those 45,000 sexual assaults perpetrated by family members, the majority involved an intimate partner (41,000). This included current partners (25,000) and ex-partners (16,000).

Almost 40% of sexual assaults were perpetrated by someone the victim knew who was not a family member (66,000). Overall, about 63% of sexual assaults were perpetrated by a family member or someone else the victim knew.

Over a third of sexual assaults (65,000) were perpetrated by a stranger.

For a number of offences within the “know person” group (37,000), respondents said the perpetrator had another relationship to them that did not fit the categories in the survey. They were able to specify these relationships, but further analysis of the responses is needed. This group may, for example, include someone they had just met or someone they were dating.

Table 5.4 Number of sexual assault offences and victims during the previous 12 months, by offender relationship to victim (pooled data)

Offender relationship to victim	Number of offences	Number of victims
Family member	45,000 [#]	16,000 [#]
• Intimate partner	41,000 [#]	14,000 [#]
– Current partner	25,000 [#]	9,000 [#]
– Ex-partner	16,000 [#]	6,000 [#]
• Other family member	S	S
Non-family member	122,000	64,000
• Known person	66,000 [#]	34,000
• Stranger	65,000	36,000
Not answered	S	S
Total sexual assaults	176,000	78,000

[#] Use with caution. Percentage has a margin of error greater than or equal to 10 and less than 20 percentage points, or the count estimate/mean has a relative sampling error greater than or equal to 20% and less than 50%. Statistics should be used with caution because they may be too variable for certain types of reporting.

S = Suppressed because the percentage has a margin of error greater than or equal to 20 percentage points, or the count estimate/mean has a relative sampling error greater than or equal to 50%, which is considered too unreliable for general use.

Almost half of sexual assaults took place in residential settings

The following list describes the number of sexual assaults, out of a total of 176,000, that happened in different places:

- 83,000 in residential locations
- 56,000 in business or retail locations, including 43,000 in a restaurant, café, bar, pub, or nightclub and 6,000 in an office, factory, or warehouse
- 18,000 in public places, including 12,000 on the street or a road.

These results imply that just under half of all sexual assaults happened in residential locations, about 32% in business or retail locations, and about 10% in public places.

The number of sexual assaults taking place in other locations cannot be reported because the estimates were too unreliable.

Sexual assaults



63% of sexual assaults were perpetrated by someone the victim knew.



Almost 50% of sexual assaults happened in a residential location.

5.2 Offences by family members

Family violence is a term that describes any violent or abusive behaviour perpetrated by a family or whānau member. In the Family Violence Act 2018, family violence is defined as any behaviour that is coercive, controlling or that causes cumulative harm. This includes a wide range of behaviours, some which are criminal offences and some not.

The following measure from the NZCVS of **offences by family members** covers some types of family violence that are criminal offences. These offences represent particular incidents, which do not capture the repeated and ongoing nature of family violence for many victims.

Offences by family members measured in the NZCVS includes episodes in the previous 12 months of physical violence; sexual assault; threats and harassment; and property damage where the perpetrator was a family or whānau member of the victim.

Family and whānau members include current partners, ex-partners, and any other family or whānau members. Offences perpetrated by individuals with other close relationships to the victim, such as caregivers, are not included in this measure.

Notes:

1. Physical violence includes assault and robbery. Property damage includes property damage (personal), property damage (household), and damage to motor vehicles.
2. The Ministry of Justice piloted new questions in Cycle 4 of the NZCVS that cover a wider range of patterns of behaviour that make up family violence. High-level results can be found in section 5.4, and further results will be released in a report later this year.

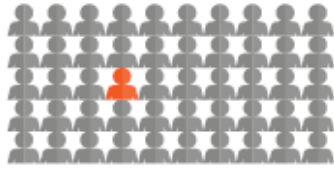
What did we find?

- About 2.1% of New Zealand adults had experienced one or more offences by family members in the previous 12 months (pooled data).

- Offending by intimate partners has decreased significantly between the previous year (Cycle 3) and current year (Cycle 4), driven by a significant decrease in offending by current partners (as opposed to ex-partners). This rate decreased significantly both between the base year and the current year and between the previous year and the current year.
- Almost three-quarters of offences by family members were perpetrated by intimate partners.
- For every 10 offences by family members, approximately four were physical violence, three were threats and harassment, two were sexual assaults, and one was property damage.
- Females were almost four times as likely as males to have experienced offending by an intimate partner (2.1% compared with 0.6%) and nearly twice as likely to have experienced offending by another family member (1.1% compared with 0.6%).
- The following population groups had a prevalence rate of offences by family members of 6% or higher:
 - adults who identified as bisexual (8.6%)
 - adults who were separated (11.2%)
 - adults living in a one-parent-with-child(ren) household (8.5%)
 - adults living in a household with four or more children (7.3%)
 - adults living in a government rental accommodation (6.6%).
- The prevalence rate for Māori females was just over double that for females overall (6.9% compared with 3.1%), and the rate for Māori males was about three times that for males overall (3.4% compared with 1.2%).
- Being a victim of offending by family members was strongly associated with high levels of psychological distress (12.4%), lower ratings of life satisfaction (5.8%), and a poor feeling of safety (5.1%).
- Victims were injured in 28% of offences by family members and received medical attention in relation to 16%.
- Offenders were under the influence of alcohol and/or other drugs in about half of all offences by family members (52%).
- In Cycle 4, one in six adults (17%) knew someone who had experienced a family incident during the previous 12 months, and 59% had further involvement in order to support the other person or people.

Around 2% of adults were a victim of an offence by a family member in the previous 12 months

Table 5.5 summarises the scale of offending by family members. There were 87,000 adults affected by one or more offences by a family member in the previous 12 months (Table 5.5). This is equivalent to about one in 50 adults (2.1%).



About 1 in 50 adults were a victim of one or more **offences by family members** in the previous 12 months (2.1%).

In total, those adults were harmed by 237,000 offences by family members. For every 100 adults in New Zealand, there were about six offences by a family member over the previous 12 months.

Table 5.5 Offences by family members in the previous 12 months (pooled data)

Offences by family members	Estimate
Total number of adults victimised once or more	87,000
Percentage of adults victimised once or more	2.1%
Total number of offences	237,000
Number of offences per 100 adults	5.8

About 7% of all victims of crime in the previous 12 months were affected by offences by family members. Offences by family members made up about 10% of all offences recorded in the NZCVS.

No significant changes in rates of offending by family members since the base year

The prevalence rate of offences by family members for Cycle 4 (1.7%) has decreased since Cycle 3 (2.1%), but this difference is not statistically significant (Figure 5.8). The number of incidents per 100 adults also decreased from Cycle 3 to Cycle 4 (6.5 compared to 4.8), but the difference is not statistically significant (Figure 5.9).

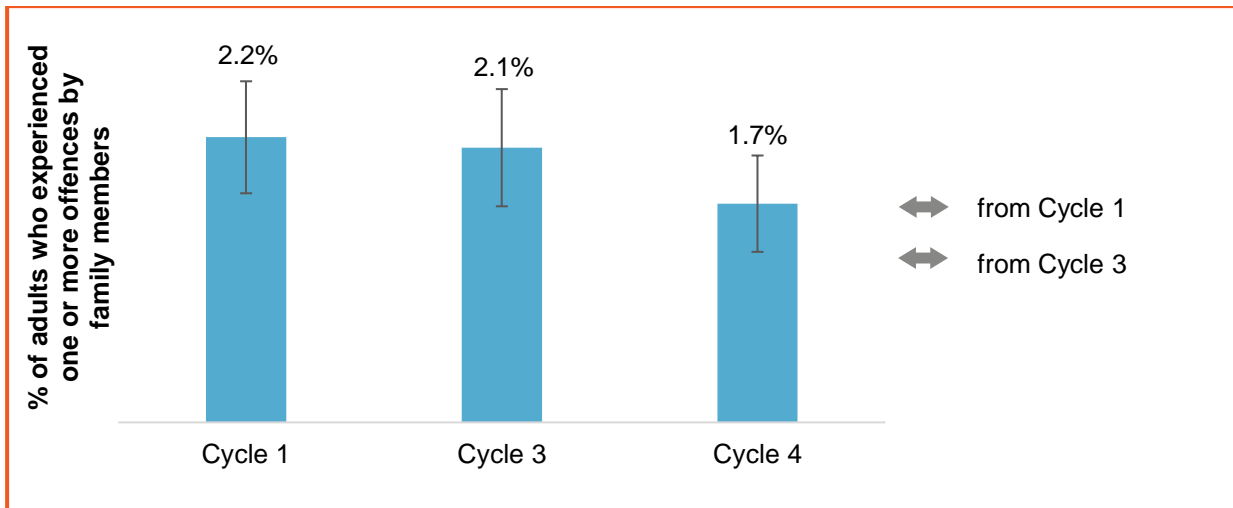


Figure 5.8 Percentage of adults who experienced one or more offences by family members in the previous 12 months, by cycle

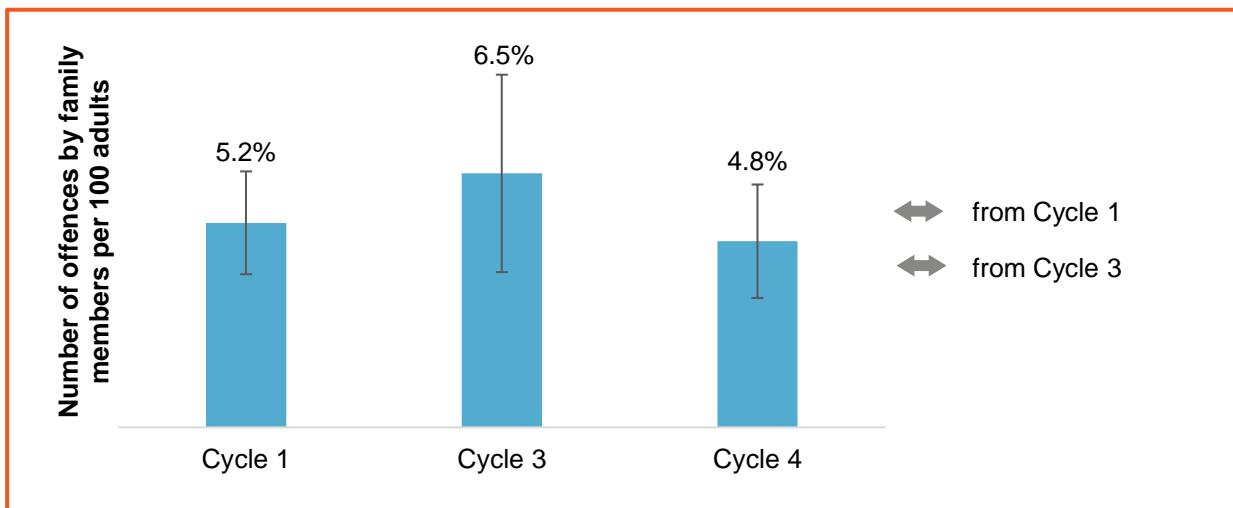


Figure 5.9 Number of offences by family members per 100 adults in the previous 12 months, by cycle

Intimate partners were responsible for almost three-quarters of offences by family members

Of 237,000 offences by family members during the previous 12 months, almost three-quarters (172,000) were perpetrated by an intimate partner. This included 96,000 offences by current partners and 76,000 by ex-partners (Figure 5.10).

Close to 30% of offences were perpetrated by other family or whānau members (71,000).

Note that some offences may have involved more than one family member. This explains why adding the number of offences perpetrated by each group adds up to more than the total number of offences.

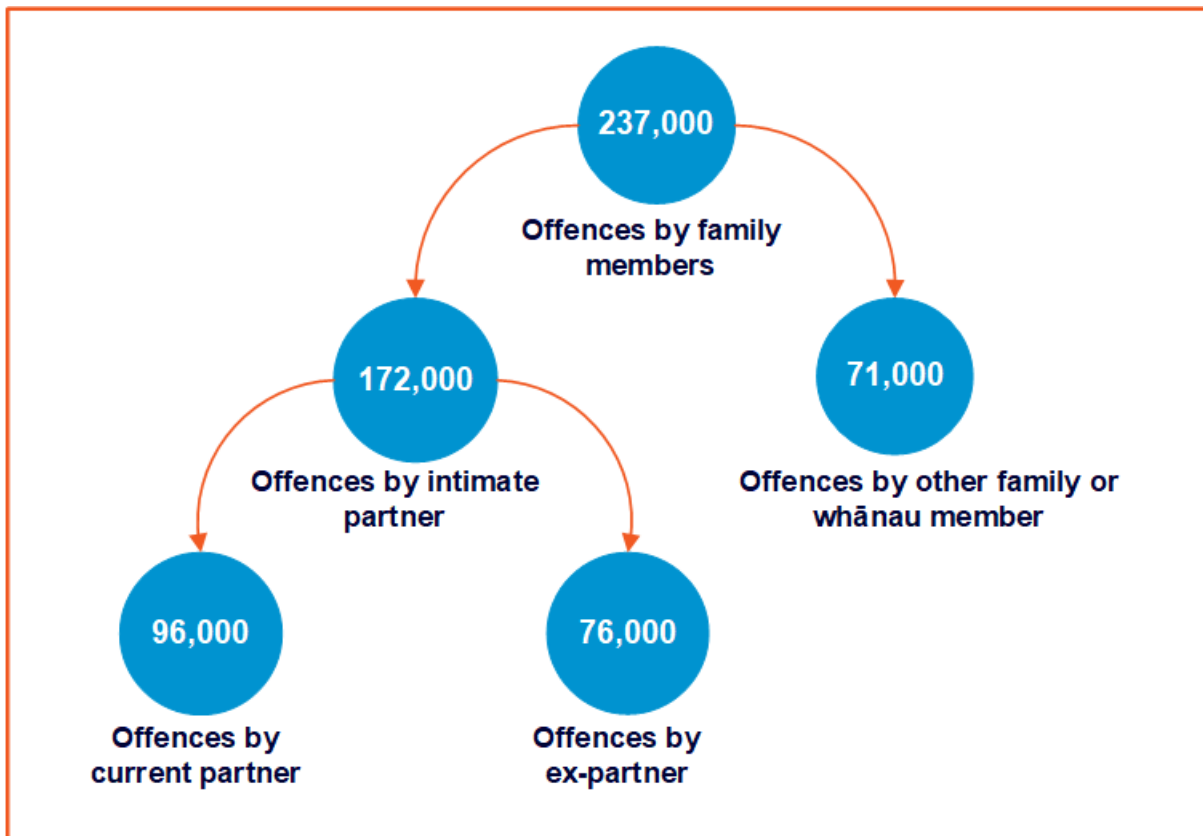


Figure 5.10 Number of offences by family members in the previous 12 months, by offender relationship (pooled data)

Physical violence and threats and harassment made up the majority of offences by family members

Figure 5.11 shows the makeup of offences by family members across different offence types. These results show that for every 10 offences by family members, roughly four were physical violence, three were threats and harassment, two were sexual assaults, and one was property damage.

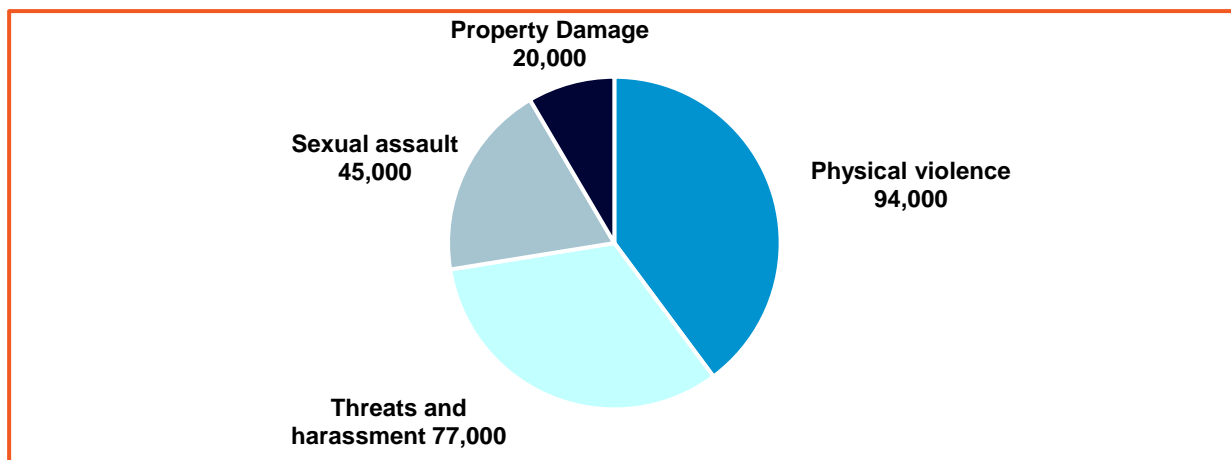


Figure 5.11 Number of offences by family members in the previous 12 months, by offence group (pooled data)

Note: Physical violence includes robbery and assault (excluding sexual assault). Property damage includes property damage (personal), property damage (household), and damage to motor vehicles.

We can also look at the number of victims who had experienced different types of offences. Figure 5.12 shows that nearly half of victims of offending by family members had experienced physical violence (40,000 out of 87,000).

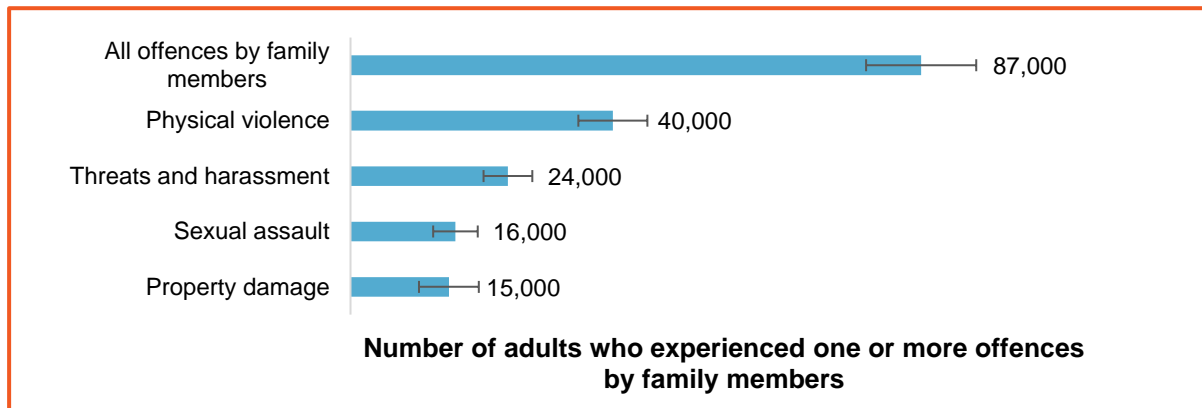


Figure 5.12 Number of adults who experienced one or more offences by family members in the previous 12 months, by offence group (pooled data)

Notes: Physical violence includes robbery and assault (excluding sexual assault). Property damage includes property damage (personal), property damage (household), and damage to motor vehicles. Some victims may experience multiple offences of different types.

About one-quarter of sexual assaults were perpetrated by a family member, including intimate partners

We showed in section 5.1 that about 45,000 out of 176,000 sexual assaults were perpetrated by family members, or just over 25%. Most of those sexual assaults by family members were perpetrated by intimate partners (41,000 out of 45,000).



Females were three and a half times as likely as males to be a victim of offending by an intimate partner

Females were 3.5 times as likely as males to have experienced one or more offences by an intimate partner (2.1% compared with 0.6%) (Figure 5.13). Intimate partners include both current partners and ex-partners.

Females were also nearly twice as likely as males to have been a victim of offences by another family member (1.1% compared with 0.6%).

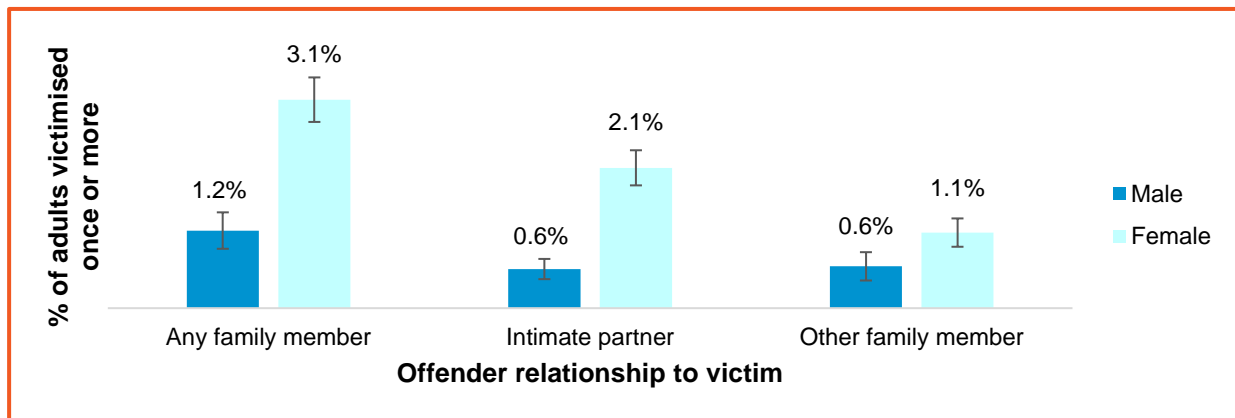


Figure 5.13 Percentage of adults who experienced one or more offences by intimate partners or other family members in the previous 12 months, by sex (pooled data)

We also looked at further demographic breakdowns, separately for offences by intimate partners and offences by other family members. These generally followed the same patterns as offending by family members overall, which are discussed in the next section. The results are available in the [data tables](#) that accompany this report.

Offending by family members affected some population groups more than others

This section looks at the percentage of adults in different population groups who were affected by offending by family members.

Females, people who identify as bisexual, 20–29-year-olds, Māori, disabled adults, individuals living in areas with high deprivation, and those facing economic disadvantage were all more vulnerable to offending by family members than the general population. Adults living in a household with four or more children and those living in rented (government and private) housing were also at comparatively high risk. Additionally, adults who were separated, those experiencing high levels of psychological distress and those living in a one-parent-with-child(ren) household were some of the higher risk groups.

Figure 5.14 shows the percentage of adults in different demographic groups who were a victim of offences by a family member in the previous 12 months.

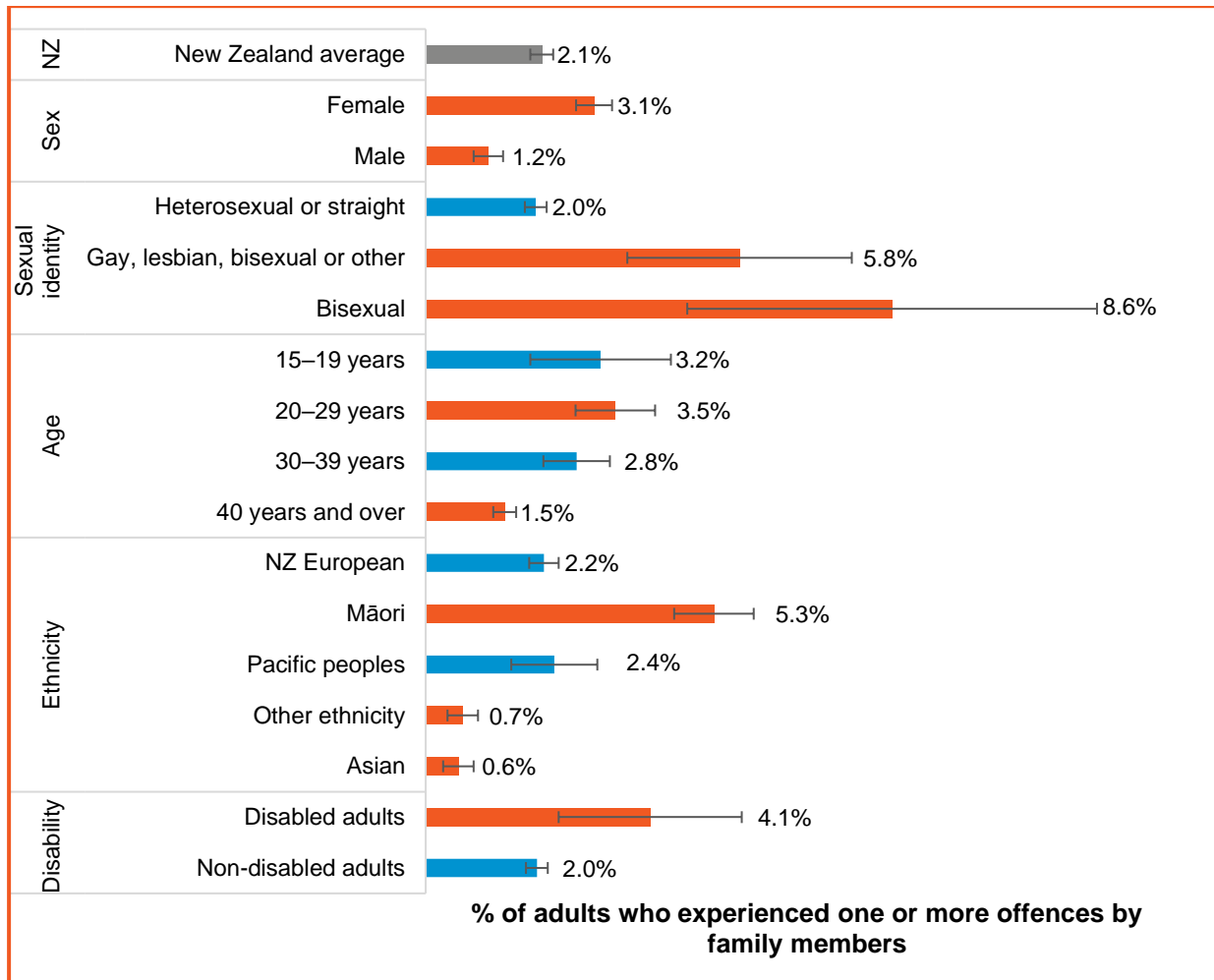


Figure 5.14 Percentage of adults who experienced one or more offences by family members in the previous 12 months, by personal factor (pooled data)

Females were over 2.5 times as likely as males to experience offending by family members. The prevalence rate for females was 3.1%, compared with 1.2% for males.

Females made up almost three-quarters of all victims of offences by family members (Table 5.6). Of all 87,000 victims, 63,000 were female; they experienced 185,000 of the total 237,000 offences.

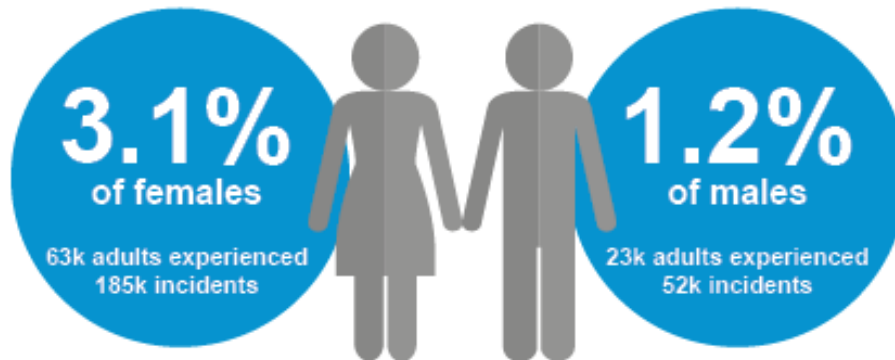
Table 5.6 Prevalence and incidence of offences by family members in the previous 12 months, by sex (pooled data)

Sex	Total number of victims	Total number of offences
Male	23,000 [#]	52,000 [#]
Female	63,000	185,000
All adults	87,000	237,000

[#] Use with caution. Percentage has a margin of error greater than or equal to 10 and less than 20 percentage points, or the count estimate/mean has a relative sampling error greater than or equal to 20% and less than 50%. Statistics should be used with caution because they may be too variable for certain types of reporting.

Although the NZCVS collects information on gender, in Cycle 4 as in previous years, the sample size for people with diverse genders was too small to provide reliable results.

Females were just over 2.5 times as likely as males to have been a victim of offending by a family member during the previous 12 months.



Offences by family members include physical violence, sexual assault, threats and harassment, and property damage where the perpetrator was a family or whānau member.

People with diverse sexualities were nearly three times as likely as heterosexual people to experience offences by family members. The prevalence rate for people with diverse sexualities was 5.8%, compared with 2.0% for heterosexual people. Adults identifying as bisexual were one of the highest risk groups, having a prevalence rate of 8.6%. This is about 1 in 12 adults who identify as bisexual.

People with diverse sexualities were over three times as likely as heterosexual people to have experienced intimate partner violence (IPV) over the previous 12 months, and adults identifying as bisexual were almost five times as likely as heterosexual people to experience IPV.



Adults who identify as **bisexual** were **five times** as likely as adults who identify as heterosexual to experience **offending by an intimate partner** in the previous 12 months.

Offending by family members affected adults of all ages but was most prevalent in younger adults. Adults aged 15–19 experienced offences by family members at a higher rate than the general population, but the difference is not statistically significant (3.2% compared with 2.1%). Adults aged 20–29 were affected at a significantly higher rate than the general population (3.5%).

Adults aged 30–64 were victims of offending by family members at about the same rate as the national average (2.2%).

Less than 1% of adults aged 65+ (0.8%) experienced offences by family members, which was significantly lower than the national average. However, the NZCVS only covers adults living in residential housing.

Māori were disproportionately affected by offending by family members. Compared with 2.1% of adults in the overall population, 5.3% of Māori adults were victims of offending by a family member in the previous 12 months. The rates for New Zealand Europeans (2.2%) and Pacific peoples (2.4%) were similar to the New Zealand average. On the other hand, adults of other ethnicities were at significantly lower risk (0.7%).

Overall, New Zealand Europeans made up the largest group of victims and experienced the largest number of offences, followed by Māori (Table 5.7).

Table 5.7 Prevalence and incidence of offences by family members, by ethnicity (pooled data)

Ethnicity	Total number of victims	Total number of offences
New Zealand European	61,000	161,000
Māori	33,000	95,000 [#]
Pacific peoples	7,000 [#]	17,000 [#]
Other ethnicity	5,000 [#]	S
All adults	87,000	237,000

[#] Use with caution. Percentage has a margin of error greater than or equal to 10 and less than 20 percentage points, or the count estimate/mean has a relative sampling error greater than or equal to 20% and less than 50%. Statistics should be used with caution because they may be too variable for certain types of reporting.

S = Suppressed because the percentage has a margin of error greater than or equal to 20 percentage points, or the count estimate/mean has a relative sampling error greater than or equal to 50%, which is considered too unreliable for general use.

After accounting for age differences, disabled adults were more than three times as likely as non-disabled adults to experience offences by family members. The age-standardised estimate is presented in Table 5.8.

Table 5.8 Percentage of adults who experienced offences by family members during the previous 12 months, by disability (standardised by age) (pooled data)

Population group	Percentage of adults victimised once or more
New Zealand average	2.1%
Disabled adults (standardised by age)	6.9% ^{‡*}
Non-disabled adults (standardised by age)	2.0%

[‡] Use with caution. The numerator and/or denominator of the ratio-based estimate has a relative sampling error between 20% and 50%. Statistics should be used with caution because they may be too variable for certain types of reporting.

* Statistically significant difference from the New Zealand average, or the relevant total, at the 95% confidence level.

Age-standardised estimates are reweighted as if they had the same age structure as the overall adult population (see the [methodology report](#) for more detail). This is helpful because disabled people tend to be older than the general population, and older adults were at relatively lower risk of offending by family members.

The results reveal that if the disabled adult population had the same age structure as the general adult population, 6.9% would have been victims of offences by family members in the previous 12 months. This was significantly higher than the national average of 2.1%.

On the other hand, if non-disabled adults had the same age structure as the general adult population, 2.0% would have been victims of offences by family members in the previous 12 months. This was not significantly different from the national average of 2.1%.

In other words, after accounting for age differences, disabled adults were more than three times as likely as non-disabled adults to have experienced offences by family members over the previous 12 months.

After accounting for age differences



disabled adults were more than three times as likely as the New Zealand average to have been a victim of **offending by family members** in the previous 12 months.

Offences by family members include physical violence, sexual assault, threats and harassment, and property damage where the perpetrator was a family or whānau member.

Being separated, living in a household with four or more children or in a one-parent-with-child(ren) household were some key risk factors for being a victim of offending by family members. Figure 5.15 summarises the percentage of adults who experienced an offence by a family member in the previous 12 months, by relationship and household factors.

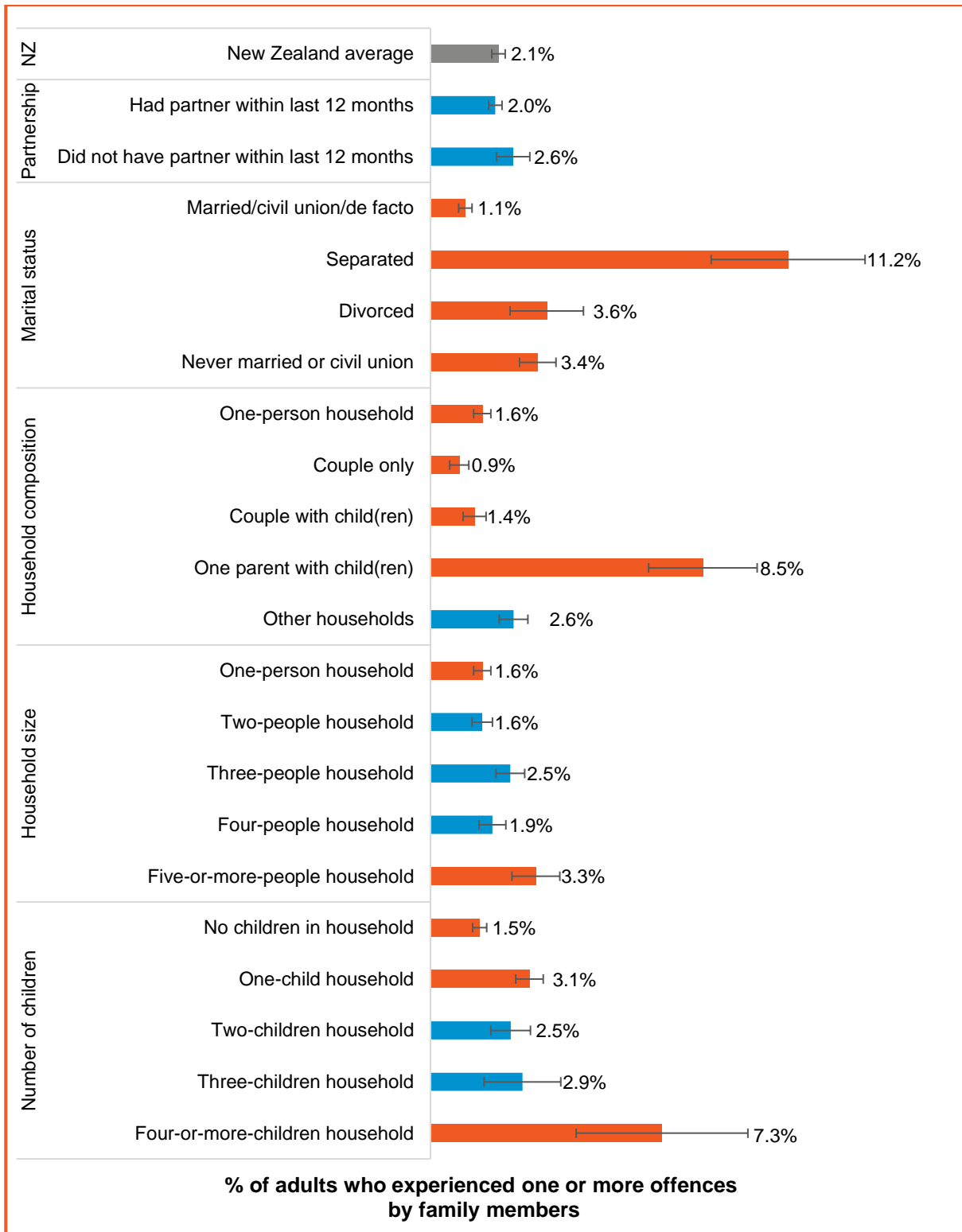


Figure 5.15 Percentage of adults who experienced one or more offences by family members in the previous 12 months, by relationship and household factors (pooled data)

Note: Results for adults who were widowed or surviving a partner are suppressed due to high uncertainty.

There were significant differences by marital status, household size and composition and by number of children in a household. Adults who were separated (11.2%) or divorced (3.6%) at the time of the survey or had never been married or in a civil union (3.4%) experienced significantly higher rates of offending by family members than the New Zealand average.



1 in 9 separated adults were victims of offences by family members in the previous 12 months.

Offences by family members include physical violence, sexual assault, threats and harassment, and property damage where the perpetrator was a family or whānau member.

There was a slight association between household size and experiencing offending by family members. Adults living in a one-person household were significantly less likely to be a victim of offending by family members than the New Zealand average (1.6% compared to 2.1%), and adults living in a household with five or more people were significantly more likely to experience offending (3.3% compared to 2.1%).

Adults living in a household without children were at lower risk than those living in a household with children. The risk for adults increased with the number of children in their household. Adults living in a household with four or more children were much more likely to have been victimised than those living in a household with no children (7.3% compared with 1.5%). Additionally, adults living in a one-parent-with-child(ren) household (8.5%) were at higher risk than the New Zealand average.

Offending by family members affected people across the country but was more common in neighbourhoods with high levels of deprivation

There was a clear association between neighbourhood deprivation and prevalence rates of offences by family members (Figure 5.16). Adults living in the most deprived neighbourhoods (3.2%) were more than twice as likely to be affected as adults in the least deprived neighbourhoods (1.4%); this was statistically significant.

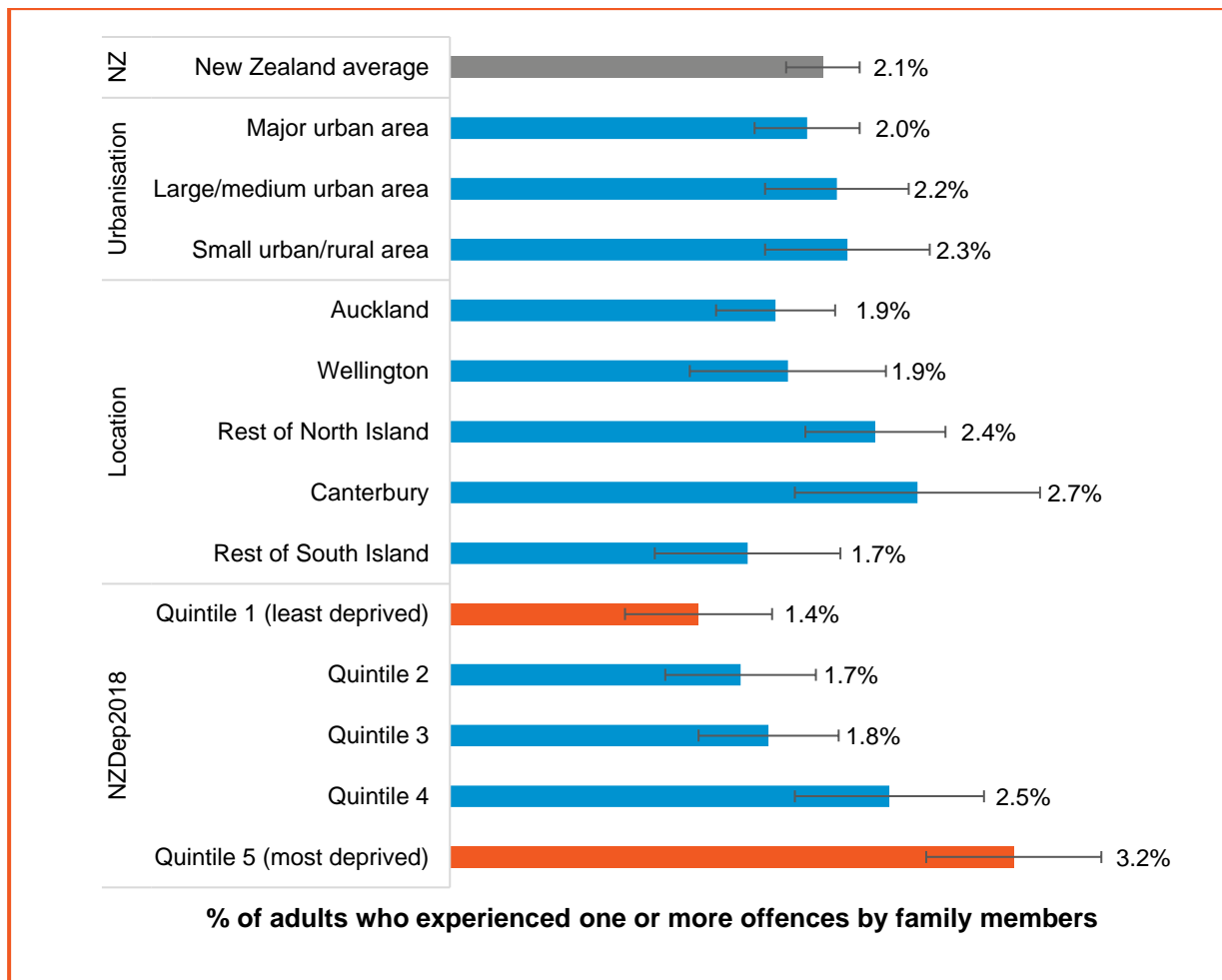


Figure 5.16 Percentage of adults who experienced one or more offences by family members in the previous 12 months, by geographic factor (pooled data)

Low income and financial stress were risk factors for offending by family members

Figure 5.17 shows adults in all economic situations were affected, but those in poorer economic situations were more vulnerable. Adults who were unemployed (4.7%), not working because of home or caring duties (4.9%), not employed and studying (3.9%), and not employed and not seeking work (5.0%) were significantly more likely than the New Zealand average (2.1%) to be a victim of offending by family members. On the other hand, retirees were significantly less likely to have been affected (0.7%).

Adults living in private rental accommodation (2.9%) or in government housing (6.6%) were at significantly higher risk than adults who own a home (1.5%) and the New Zealand average (2.1%).

Adults with higher personal income and higher household income were at lower risk. Those with a personal income of \$60,000 or more were significantly less likely to have been a victim than the New Zealand average (1.2% compared with 2.1%). Those with a personal income of \$20,000 or less were significantly more likely to be a victim than the New Zealand average (2.9% compared to 2.1%). Adults living in a household with an income of \$40,000 or less were

at significantly higher risk (3.0%) than the New Zealand average, while those living in a household with an income of \$100,000 or more were at significantly lower risk (1.3%).

Adults who could not afford an unexpected expense of \$500 within a month (4.9%) were three times as likely to be a victim of offending by family members as those who could afford the expense (1.6%).

Financial pressure is likely to be a constraint on many victims of offences by family members. In total, 33,000 victims out of 87,000 victims said they could not afford an unexpected expense of \$500 within a month.

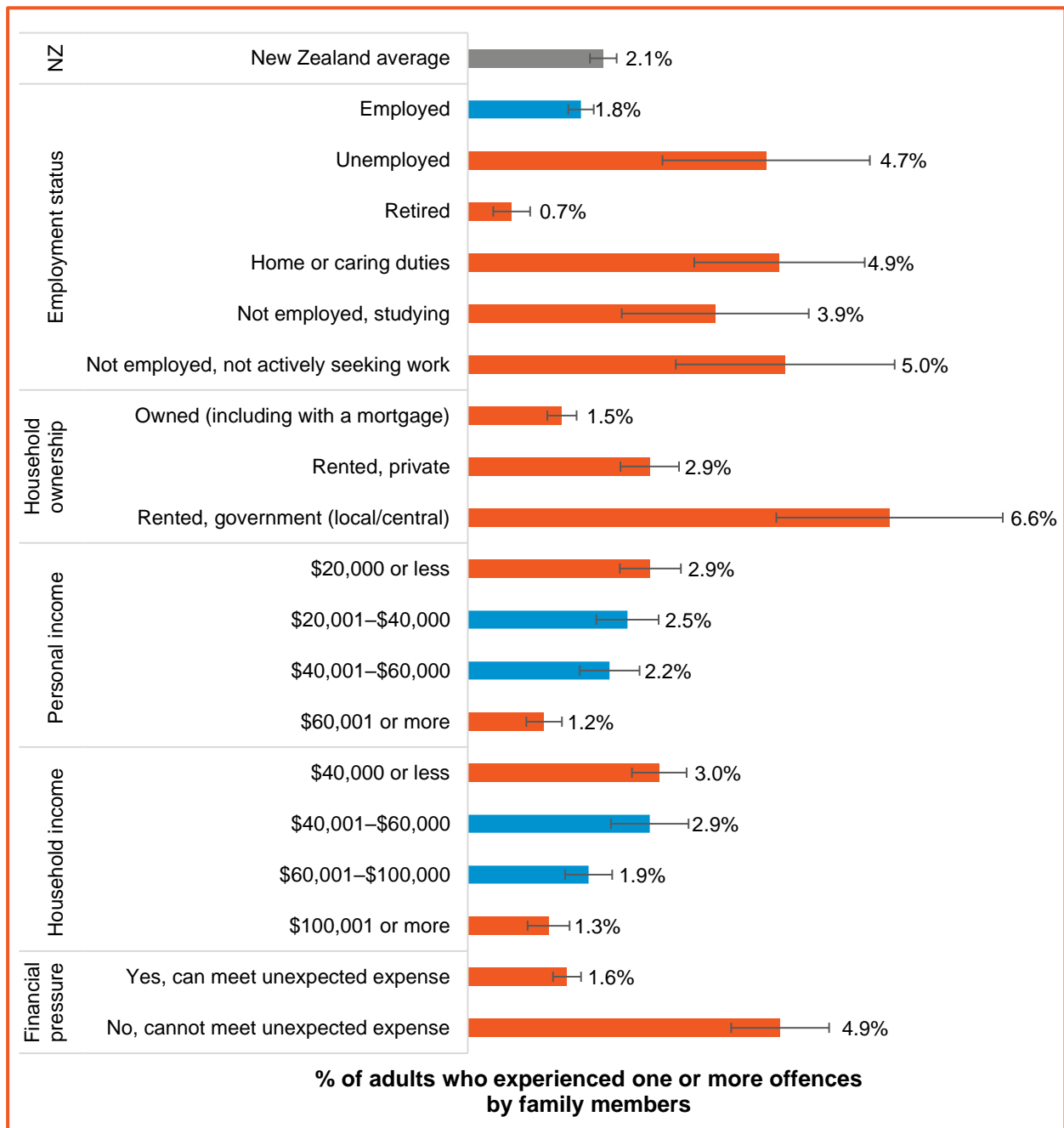


Figure 5.17 Percentage of adults who experienced one or more offences by family members in the previous 12 months, by economic factor (pooled data)

Females are at higher risk of experiencing offences by family members across multiple demographic factors

We showed above that females were at greater risk than males of being victims of offences by family members (3.1% compared with 1.2%). Table 5.9 summarises the prevalence rate of offences by family members separately for males and females, across several personal and household factors.

Young females were at relatively high risk, especially those aged 20–29 (5.5%).

Māori females were at more than double the risk of females in the general population (6.9% compared with 3.1%). Similarly, Māori males were at three times the risk of males in the general population (3.4% compared with 1.2%).

Females who were separated (14.9%) or divorced (5.1%) at the time of the survey are at considerably higher risk of offending by family members than females in the general population (3.1%). Females living in a one-parent household with children were three times as likely as females in the general population (9.4% compared with 3.1%) to be victimised. The estimates for males were too unreliable to report.

Females living in a household with children were at more than twice the risk of females living in a household with no children (4.6% compared with 2.1%). On the other hand, males living in a household with children (1.4%) were at a similar risk as males living in a household without children (1.0%).

Table 5.9 Percentage of adults who experienced one or more offences by family members in the previous 12 months, by sex and population group (pooled data)

Population group		Percentage of adults victimised once or more		
		Female	Male	Difference between females and males
New Zealand average		3.1	1.2‡	^
Age	15–29 years	5.0*	2.1‡	^
	15–19 years	3.7‡	Ŝ	–
	20–29 years	5.5‡*	Ŝ	–
	30–64 years	3.2	1.1‡	^
	65 years and over	1.1‡*	Ŝ	–
Ethnicity	New Zealand European	3.1	1.2‡	^
	Māori	6.9*	3.4‡*	^
	Other ethnicity	1.8‡*	Ŝ	–
Marital status	Married/civil union/de facto	1.6‡*	0.6‡*	^
	Separated/divorced	9.7‡*	Ŝ	^
	Separated	14.9‡*	Ŝ	–
	Divorced	5.1‡*	Ŝ	–
	Widowed/surviving partner	Ŝ	Ŝ	–
	Never married or civil union	4.8*	2.2‡	^
Household composition	One-person household	2.3*	0.8‡	^
	One parent with child(ren) and other person(s) household	9.4‡*	Ŝ	–
	Couple-only household	1.2‡*	0.6‡*	–
	Couple-with-child(ren) household	2.2‡	0.6‡	^
	Other households	3.6	1.7	^
	No children in household	2.1*	1.0‡	^
Children in household	Children in household	4.6*	1.4‡	^

^ Statistically significant difference between females and males.

‡ Use with caution. The numerator and/or denominator of the ratio-based estimate has a relative sampling error between 20% and 50%. Statistics should be used with caution because they may be too variable for certain types of reporting.

* Statistically significant difference from the New Zealand average, or the relevant total, at the 95% confidence level.

Ŝ = Suppressed because the numerator and/or denominator of the ratio-based estimate has a relative sampling error greater than or equal to 50%, which is considered too unreliable for general use.

Table 5.10 shows the prevalence rate of offences by family members separately for two age groups (15–29 and 30–64), across several demographic and household factors. Estimates are not shown for those aged 65+ because most of the breakdowns were too unreliable to report.

The risk of victimisation for older adults was significantly lower than for young adults for New Zealand Europeans, but not for Māori. New Zealand Europeans aged 15–29 were significantly more likely than those aged 30–64 to have been a victim of offences by family members in the previous 12 months (4.1% compared with 2.2%). However, the differences across these age groups for Māori was smaller and not statistically significant (6.8% compared with 5.4%).

Having had a partner in the previous 12 months was a risk factor for young adults, but a protective factor for older adults. Adults aged 15–29 who had a partner in the previous 12 months were at higher risk of offences by family members than those of the same age who had not had a partner (4.1% compared with 2.0%). However, this pattern was reversed for adults aged 30–64 (1.8% compared with 4.3%).

Separation was an especially big risk factor for young adults. Almost a quarter (23%) of adults aged 15–29 who were separated or divorced had experienced one or more offences by family members in the previous 12 months.¹⁷ This was almost seven times the risk of all adults in this age group. Adults aged 30–64 with this marital status were also at elevated risk, but to a lesser extent (8%).

¹⁷ The margin of error around this estimate means it was likely to fall between 14% and 32%.

Table 5.10 Percentage of adults who experienced one or more offences by family members in the previous 12 months, by age and population group (pooled data)

Population group		Percentage of adults victimised once or more		
		Adults aged 15–29	Adults aged 30–64	Difference between age ranges
New Zealand average		3.4	2.2	^
Ethnicity	New Zealand European	4.1 [‡]	2.2	^
	Māori	6.8 ^{‡*}	5.4 [*]	–
	Other ethnicity	1.5 ^{‡*}	1.1 ^{‡*}	–
Partnership	Had partner within previous 12 months	4.1 [‡]	1.9	^
	Did not have partner within previous 12 months	2.0 [‡]	4.3 ^{‡*}	^
Marital status	Married/civil union/de facto	1.8 ^{‡*}	1.1 ^{‡*}	–
	Separated/divorced	22.8 ^{‡*}	7.9 ^{‡*}	^
	Separated	24.2 ^{‡*}	10.6 ^{‡*}	^
	Divorced	Ŝ	5.1 ^{‡*}	–
	Widowed/surviving partner	22.4 ^{‡*}	Ŝ	–
	Never married or civil union	3.3 [‡]	3.8 ^{‡*}	–

^ Statistically significant difference between adults aged 15–29 and adults aged 30–64.

‡ Use with caution. The numerator and/or denominator of the ratio-based estimate has a relative sampling error between 20% and 50%. Statistics should be used with caution because they may be too variable for certain types of reporting.

* Statistically significant difference from the New Zealand average, or the relevant total, at the 95% confidence level.

Ŝ = Suppressed because the numerator and/or denominator of the ratio-based estimate has a relative sampling error greater than or equal to 50%, which is considered too unreliable for general use.

Being a victim of offending by family members was associated with poor wellbeing outcomes

Adults with high and moderate levels of psychological distress, adults with low life satisfaction, and adults with a low feeling of safety were at increased risk of experiencing offending by family members (Figure 5.18). There are two possible explanations for this result: first, this could mean that being a victim of offending by family members leads to poorer wellbeing outcomes in some victims. Second, it is possible that adults with poor wellbeing measures share factors and experiences that make them more vulnerable to victimisation.



Figure 5.18 Percentage of adults who experienced one or more offences by family members in the previous 12 months, by wellbeing outcome (pooled data)

Even though the rates of offences by family members were very high for adults with moderate or high psychological distress, most victims showed low levels of psychological distress. Of the 87,000 victims of offences by family members, 62,000 had low, 13,000 had moderate, and 11,000 had high levels of psychological distress.

Similarly, 28,000 had a low life-satisfaction score (between 0 and 6), and 22,000 had a low feeling-of-safety score (between 0 and 6).

A large proportion of offences by family members happened to highly victimised adults (ie, those who had experienced four or more crimes in the previous 12 months). In total, this group experienced almost three-quarters of offences by family members (176,000 out of 237,000).

Many victims were injured or received medical attention

Across all types of offences by family members, 28% of offences resulted in the victim being injured.¹⁸

Of all offences by family members that resulted in the victim being injured, about 86% involved bruises, a black eye, cuts, and/or grazes. About 23% of injuries were caused by strangulation or other internal injuries. Estimates relating to broken bones were too unreliable to report.

¹⁸ This estimate was subject to high uncertainty, with the 95% confidence interval ranging from 20% to 37%.

Victims had attention from a medical professional in relation to 13% of offences.¹⁹ This included any attention for physical, emotional, and/or mental health.

Offenders were under the influence of alcohol and/or other drugs in about half of all offences by family members²⁰

It is important to note that substance use is understood to exacerbate the risk of family violence offending and victimisation.²¹ Substance use by victims can also affect their ability to get help and to live free from violence. Victims of family violence may also increase their use of alcohol and other drugs as a coping mechanism.

Offenders were under the influence of alcohol in 37% of offences by family members and under the influence of other drugs in 38% of offences. When looking at both alcohol and other drugs, offenders were under the influence of these substances in about half of offences by family members (52%).

Victims reported that they themselves were under the influence of alcohol during 14% of offences by family members, or under the influence of alcohol and/or other drugs during 20% of offences. Information about how often they were under the influence of drugs other than alcohol was too unreliable to report.

For 12% of offences by family members, victims said it had led them to increase their use of alcohol and/or other drugs. Other self-reported impacts of incidents are provided in the [data tables](#). These may underestimate the cumulative harm of family violence because they are asked in relation to individual incidents.

One in six adults knew someone else who experienced a family or whānau incident in the previous 12 months

From Cycle 3 of the NZCVS, respondents were asked whether they knew someone who had experienced a family or whānau incident in the previous 12 months.

Respondents were asked to consider incidents of **violence, threats, intimidation or controlling behaviour by their partners, ex-partners, boyfriends or girlfriends, and family or whānau members.**²²

In Cycle 4, 17% of New Zealand adults said they knew of someone who had experienced a family or whānau incident in the previous 12 months. This is equivalent to about one in six adults. This is similar to what was reported in Cycle 3. This result provides support for

¹⁹ This estimate was subject to high uncertainty, with the 95% confidence interval ranging from 6% to 19%.

²⁰ Estimates in this section are subject to high uncertainty.

²¹ Social Policy Evaluation and Research Unit. 2015. *Reducing the impact of alcohol on family violence (What works paper)*. Wellington: Superu. <https://thehub.swa.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/What-works-Alcohol-Violence.pdf>

²² They were told that family members include anyone they are related to, including “step” and “in-law” relationships and whānau.

campaigns to equip community members with knowledge about how to provide appropriate support to people impacted by family violence.



1 in 6 adults knew someone else who had experienced a family or whānau incident during the last 12 months.

Family or whānau incidents include violence, threats, intimidation, or controlling behaviour by their partners, ex-partners, boyfriends or girlfriends, and family or whānau members.

Adults in some communities were especially likely to know of someone who had experienced a family or whānau incident. About 1 in 3 adults with diverse sexualities (38%) and about 1 in 4 Māori adults (26%) knew someone who had faced this kind of situation in the previous 12 months.

Adults who were separated or divorced (24%) and those living in a one-parent-with-child(ren) household (24%) were also significantly more likely to know of someone who had experienced a family or whānau incident than the New Zealand average.

Those adults who said they were aware of someone affected by a family or whānau incident were asked if they had any further involvement (ie provided some sort of support) after learning about what had happened. More than half (59%) said they did so. Further breakdowns are provided in the [data tables](#) accompanying this report.

5.3 Lifetime experience of sexual assault and intimate partner violence (IPV)

The measures of sexual assault and offences by family members discussed above are about experiences during the 12 months before the interview. In this section we look at measures of sexual assault and IPV across people's lifetimes.

What did we find?

- In Cycle 4, about 26% of adults had experienced any sexual assault in their lifetime. This was significantly higher than in Cycle 3, though it has remained stable since the base year.
- In pooled data, the prevalence rate of lifetime sexual assault was 24%.
 - About 35% of females and 12% of males had experienced sexual assault in their lifetime.
 - Sexual assault started at a young age, with 18% of adults aged 15–19 affected so far during their lives.
- About 18% of adults who have ever had a partner had experienced IPV in their lifetime, with no statistically significant change from the base year or the previous year.
 - About 23% of females and 10% of males who have ever had a partner had experienced IPV in their lifetime.
- Disabled adults were at elevated risk of having experienced any sexual assault or IPV during their lifetime, especially when controlling for age (45% compared with 29% of all adults).

Almost one-quarter of adults experienced forced intercourse or unwanted sexual touching in their lifetime

The lifetime measure of sexual assault covers forced intercourse and unwanted touching, including attempts of these acts. Unlike the past 12-month measure, it does not ask if a victim was forced to perform other sexual acts or received threats of a sexual nature.

Results from pooled data reveal that almost a quarter of adults (24%) had experienced one of these forms of sexual violence in their lifetime (Figure 5.19). More than 1 in 7 adults (14%) had experienced forced intercourse (including attempts).

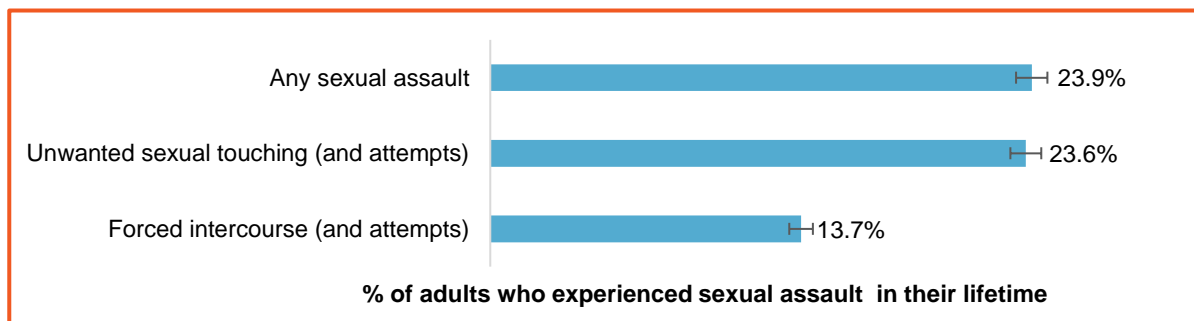


Figure 5.19 Percentage of adults who had experienced sexual assault in their lifetime, by type (pooled data)

Note that for the lifetime data, different to the past 12-month measure, responses of “don’t know” or “don’t wish to answer” are assumed to be an experience of sexual assault and included in these estimates.

Lifetime prevalence of sexual assault has not changed significantly since Cycle 1

The lifetime prevalence rate of sexual assault in the New Zealand adult population increased significantly from 23% in the previous year to 26% in the current year (Figure 5.20). However, the current prevalence rate was not significantly different from the rate in the base year (23%) or from the rate in Cycle 2 (24%).

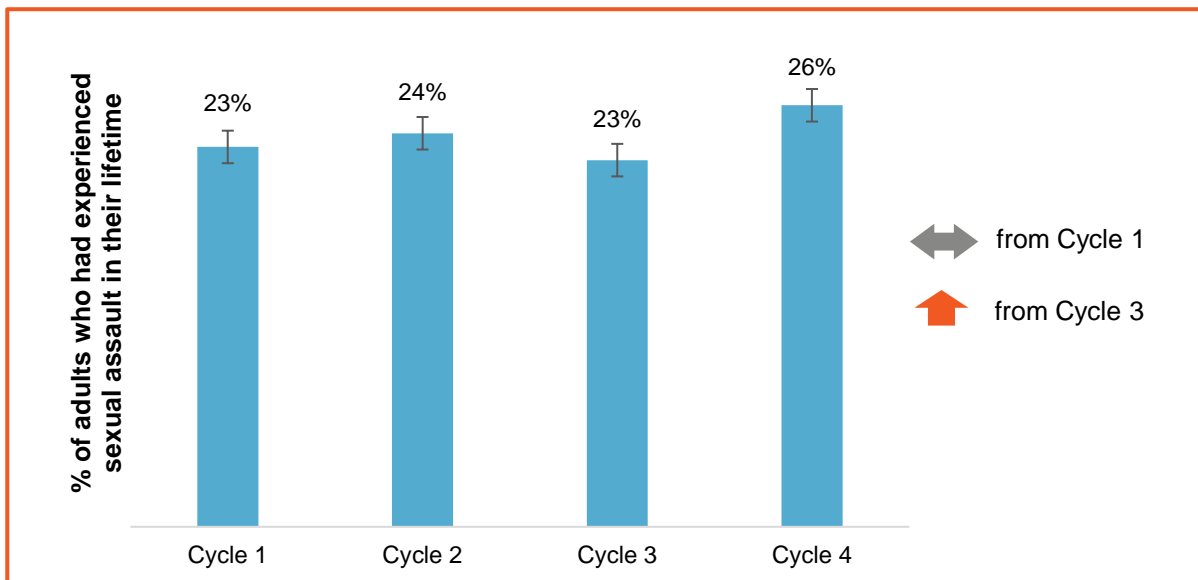


Figure 5.20 Percentage of adults who had experienced sexual assault in their lifetime, by cycle

There were significant increases in the prevalence rate from the previous year to the current year for adults experiencing non-consensual sexual touches (22% compared with 26%, respectively) and forced intercourse (13% compared with 15%, respectively). The prevalence rate of adults experiencing forced intercourse in the current year was also significantly higher than in the base year.

One in five females experienced forced sexual intercourse in their lifetime

Lifetime prevalence of sexual assault was much higher for some population groups than others. Differences across population groups are provided in the [data tables](#) that accompany this report. The data tables also present population breakdowns of lifetime sexual assault separately for forced intercourse and unwanted touching.

The lifetime prevalence rate for females experiencing sexual assault was significantly higher than for males (35% compared with 12%).

One in five females (22%) and 1 in 18 males (6%) had been a victim of forced intercourse (or attempts) in their lifetime.

Having experienced unwanted touching (and attempts) was even more common, for both males and females. One in three females (35%) and 1 in 8 males (12%) had experienced unwanted touching (or attempts) during their lifetime.

Lifetime sexual assault

1 in 5 females



1 in 18 males



had experienced **forced intercourse (or attempts)** in their lifetime

1 in 3 females



1 in 8 males



had experienced **unwanted touching (or attempts)** in their lifetime

Young adults were at risk of sexual assault

Almost 2 in 10 adults aged 15–19 (18%) had been subject to sexual assault in their lifetime. One in four females aged 15–19 (28%) and 1 in 9 males of the same age (11%) had been affected.



aged 15–19 years old

had been sexually assaulted in their lifetime

Disabled adults were at elevated risk of lifetime sexual assault

Disabled adults were significantly more likely than non-disabled adults to have been subject to sexual assault in their lifetime (30% compared with 24%). This means that disabled adults were about 25% more likely to have experienced sexual assault than other adults.

After standardising by age, the lifetime sexual assault prevalence rate for disabled adults was 37%, which is significantly higher than the rates for non-disabled adults (23%) and the New Zealand average (24%).²³

One in six adults who have ever had a partner had experienced IPV in their lifetime

The measure of lifetime IPV covers deliberate use of force or violence, and threats to use force or violence, by a partner or ex-partner. Unlike the past 12-month measure, it does not cover sexual assault (subject to a separate question), harassment, or property damage (unless covered by violence and threats of violence). Also different to the past 12-month measure, all incidents reported by the NZCVS respondents were counted without further coding of the incident as an offence.²⁴ Results were analysed for adults who have ever had a partner.

Results from pooled data reveal that 1 in 6 adults (17%) who have ever had a partner had experienced IPV their lifetime (Figure 5.21). Of adults who had ever had a partner and experienced lifetime IPV, 14% had experienced deliberate use of force or violence and 13% had experienced threats of force or violence. This implies that adults who experienced one type of IPV may have experienced the other as well.

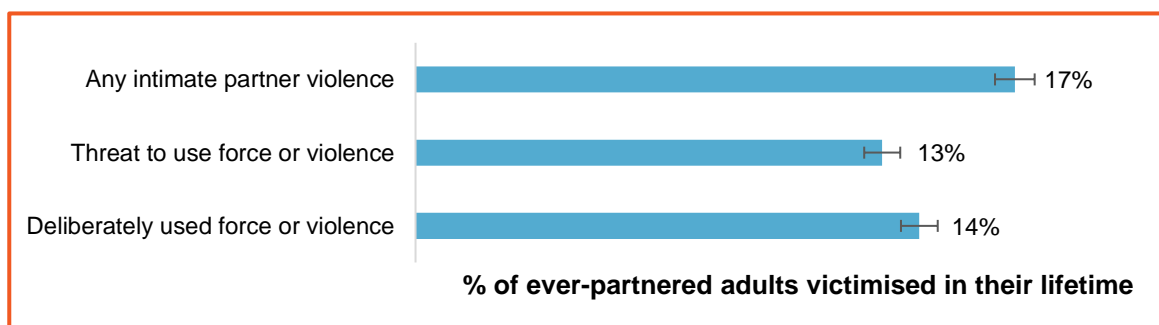


Figure 5.21 Percentage of ever-partnered adults who had experienced IPV in their lifetime (pooled data)

Lifetime experience of IPV has been stable since Cycle 1

Figure 5.22 presents the prevalence rate of lifetime IPV for Cycles 1, 3 and 4. The estimates for Cycle 4 and Cycle 3 have increased since Cycle 1, but the change is not statistically

²³ Estimates that are standardised by age are adjusted as if they had the same age structure as the general adult population.

²⁴ A brief description of the coding process is provided in the [NZCVS Cycle 4 methodology report](#).

significant. Though not statistically significant, there has been a consistent increase in lifetime IPV over the four NZCVS cycles.

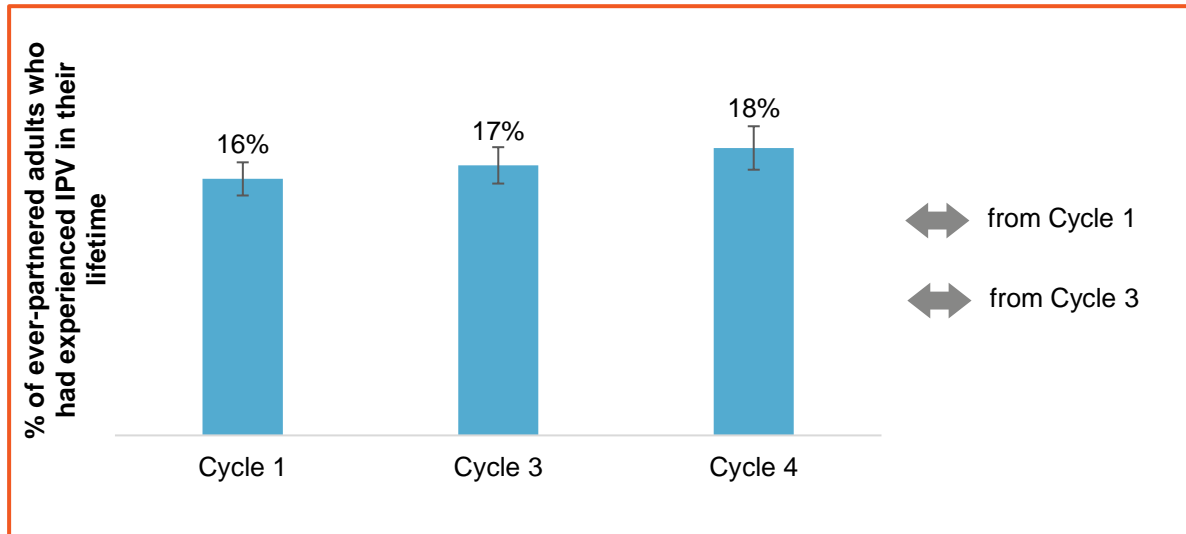


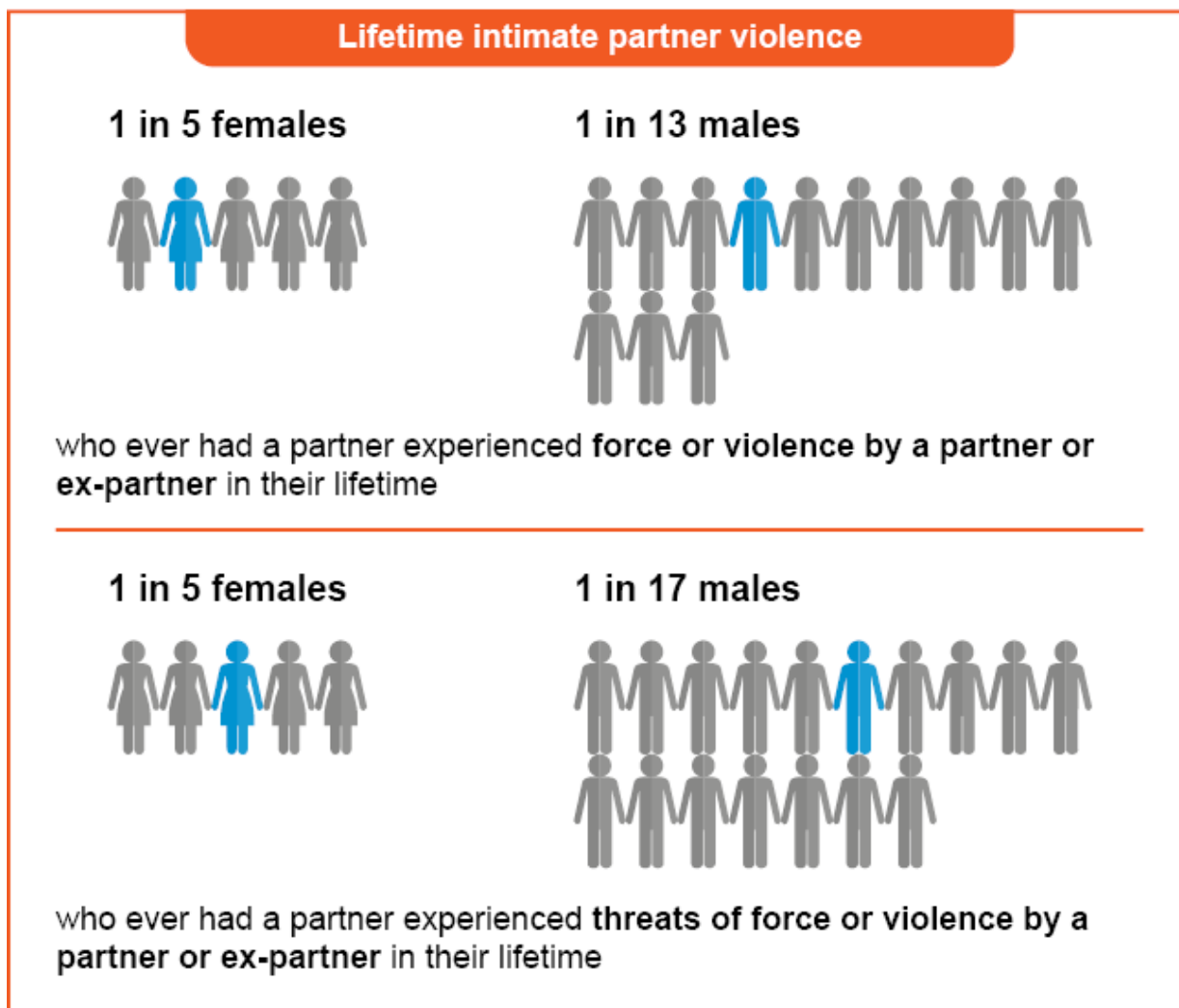
Figure 5.22 Percentage of ever-partnered adults who had experienced IPV in their lifetime (Cycles 1, 3 and 4)

Almost one in four females experienced IPV in their lifetime

Differences in the prevalence rate of lifetime IPV across population groups are provided in the [data tables](#) that accompany this report, including separate analysis for males and females. The data tables also present population breakdowns of lifetime IPV separately for experiences of force or violence and threats of force or violence.

Overall, 23% of females and 10% of males had experienced one of the forms of IPV in their lifetime.

One in five females who have ever had a partner (20%) had experienced force or violence by an intimate partner. About 1 in 5 (20%) had also experienced threats of violence by an intimate partner. This compares with 1 in 13 males who have ever had a partner (8%) experiencing force or violence, and 1 in 17 (6%) experiencing threats of violence.



Disabled adults were at elevated risk of lifetime IPV

Disabled adults were significantly more likely than other adults to have experienced IPV in their lifetime (25% compared with 16%). This means that disabled adults were about 52% more likely to have experienced IPV than other adults.

After standardising by age, the lifetime IPV prevalence rate for disabled adults was 32%, which is significantly higher than the rates for non-disabled adults (16%) and the New Zealand average (17%).²⁵

5.4 Prevalence of controlling behaviours and impacts

This section looks at aspects of family violence, previously defined in section 5.2, that are not necessarily offences and therefore not covered by the analysis in section 5.2. New questions

²⁵ Estimates that are standardised by age are adjusted as if they had the same age structure as the general adult population.

were introduced in Cycle 4 to capture experiences of controlling behaviours by family members – that is, patterns of behaviour used to coerce or control a person and/or cause cumulative harm.

The questions reflect ways that controlling behaviours can be expressed in a family or whānau relationship.²⁶ They were designed to fill gaps in prevalence measures of family violence – as it is defined in the Family Violence Act 2018 – that are not covered by offences measured in the NZCVS.

The first set of questions were designed to **capture harms** caused by a perpetrator’s behaviour. This was in recognition that controlling behaviours are highly diverse, but what matters is the intent behind the behaviours and the impact they have on the person’s life.

Respondents were asked if they had experienced any of the following in the last 12 months because of how a partner, ex-partner, or other family or whānau member behaved, or how they thought they might react:

- changed your routine, behaviour, or appearance
- were unable to contact family or whānau or friends
- felt ashamed or bad about yourself
- felt your spiritual power/mana was stamped on, or your spirituality/wairua was attacked
- worried about your own safety or wellbeing
- worried about the safety of your child or dependents
- worried about the safety of a pet
- feared false accusations could lead you to lose contact with your children
- feared damage to your reputation, or the reputation of your family or whānau.

The second set of questions was included to capture particular forms of **controlling behaviours** used by a perpetrator, such as financial abuse.

Respondents were also asked if a partner, ex-partner, or other family or whānau member had done any of the following in the last 12 months:

- kept track of where you went, or who you spent time with
- monitored or restricted your access to your phone, the Internet, transport, etc
- made it difficult for you or your children to get healthcare or medication
- pressured you into work or study, or pressured you not to work or study
- monitored or controlled your money, or pressured you to take on debt, or sign legal documents
- made it difficult to access or use birth control or contraception
- forced you to use alcohol and/or other drugs, or to use more than you wanted to
- threatened legal action unless you did what they wanted.

²⁶ Questions were answered with a frequency scale. If a respondent selected “All of the time”, “Most of the time”, “Some of the time” or “A little of the time”, then they were counted as having experienced harm or controlling behaviour. Residual answers were excluded.

What did we find?

- 18% of adults had experienced at least one of the harms because of a partner, ex-partner, or family or whānau member’s behaviour.
 - The most common harm experienced was “being made to feel ashamed or bad about yourself”, with 11% of adults experiencing this.
- 13% of adults experienced at least one controlling behaviour by a partner, ex-partner, or family or whānau member.
 - The most prevalent controlling behaviour by a partner, ex-partner or family or whānau member was “kept track of where you went, or who you spent time with”, with 10% of adults experiencing this.

18% of adults experienced harm because of behaviour by a partner, ex-partner, or family or whānau member

Figure 5.23 shows that 18% of adults experienced at least one harm because of the behaviour of a partner, ex-partner, or other family or whānau member in the last 12 months. The most common harm experienced was having “been made to feel ashamed or bad about yourself” (11%), followed by “had to change your routine, behaviour or appearance” (10%).

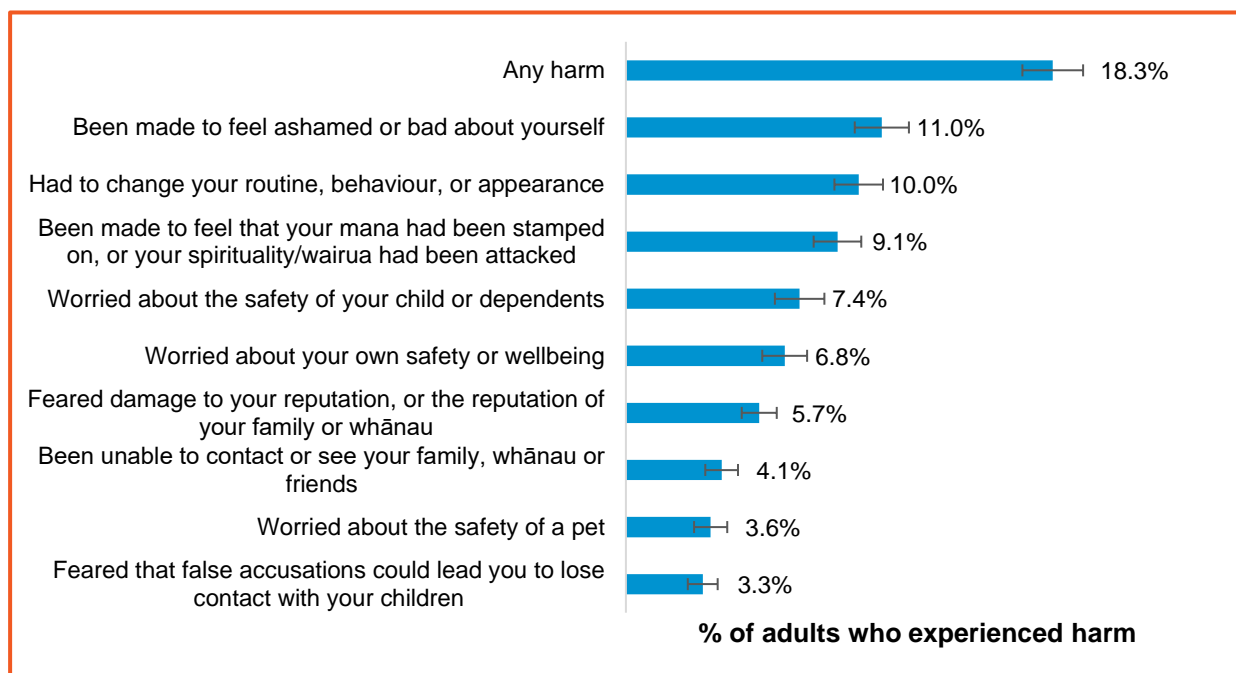


Figure 5.23 Percentage of adults who experienced harm because of the behaviour of a partner, ex-partner or family or whānau member in the last 12 months (Cycle 4)

Figure 5.24 shows 13% of adults experienced at least one controlling behaviour by a partner, ex-partner, or family or whānau member in the last 12 months. The most common controlling behaviour experienced was someone “kept track of where you went, or who you spent time with”, with 10% of adults experiencing this.

Further research is needed to explore patterns in the experiences of these behaviours and harms, including where respondents report multiple behaviours and/or harms and how frequently they were experienced. Analysis of this data will be presented in a topical report later this year.



Figure 5.24 Percentage of adults who experienced controlling behaviours by a partner, ex-partner or family or whānau member in the last 12 months (Cycle 4)

6 Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on victimisation

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected life all over the world. Multiple studies have confirmed dramatic changes in the economy, health, education, tourism, social life and many other areas. To assess the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on victimisation in New Zealand, we divided the NZCVS sample over 4 years into two parts. The first part (pre-pandemic) contains 19,907 interviews covering the period between 1 March 2018 (start of the NZCVS Cycle 1) and 20 March 2020 (the last day of interviewing before the first nationwide COVID-19 Alert Level 4 lockdown). The second part (during-pandemic) contains 8,927 interviews between 3 July 2020 (the first day when we restarted interviews after COVID-19 arrived in New Zealand) and 10 November 2021 (end of Cycle 4). We then compared the rates of victimisation in both groups.

This section presents the results of the pre-pandemic and during-pandemic comparison of the victimisation levels overall for particular offence types and for population groups. To be accurately compared, all indicators are normalised to the annual level.

Note: Because the survey was not specifically designed for this type of analysis, the following results should be viewed with caution. Specifically, because the survey asks people about incidents that occurred in the last 12 months, some respondents interviewed after the March 2020 lockdown will have reported incidents that occurred before that lockdown, therefore the presented estimates will not be completely accurate.

What did we find?

- The scale of overall victimisation has remained stable before and during the COVID-19 pandemic across all four victimisation measures.
- Prevalence rates for burglaries, household property damage and overall household offences significantly reduced after the start of the pandemic.
- Overall victimisation rates significantly reduced after the start of the pandemic for the following population groups: adults living in a one-person household; adults with a personal or household income of \$20,001–\$30,000; and adults living in the most deprived areas (quintile 5).
- No statistically significant changes were observed in personal offence prevalence rates between the pre-pandemic and during-pandemic periods.
- Prevalence rates for overall household offences and for burglaries reduced for a large number of population groups. These groups reflect a wide variety of socio-economic characteristics, and further research is needed to analyse the drivers behind the improvements observed in these groups' prevalence rates after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

6.1 Changes in victimisation by offence types since the start of the pandemic

While levels of all four indicators of victimisation reduced since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, we did not find any statistically significant difference between them on the overall level (see Table 6.1).

Table 6.1 Overall victimisation levels before and during the COVID-19 pandemic

Indicator of overall victimisation	Pre-pandemic	During-pandemic	Statistical significance
Incidence	1,692,000	1,617,000	↔
Prevalence	1,169,000	1,151,000	↔
Prevalence rate	30.2%	28.8%	↔
Incidence rate	60.1%	57.5%	↔

However, the changes become visible when the overall numbers are broken down by offence type. Tables 6.2 and 6.3 demonstrate changes in prevalence rates of household and personal offences accordingly. Data confirms statistically significant differences between pre-pandemic and during-pandemic levels in prevalence rates for burglaries, household property damage and overall level of household offences.

Note that changes in levels of personal offences are still statistically not significant.

Table 6.2 Percentage of households victimised once or more, by household offence type

Offence type	Percentage of households victimised once or more		Statistical significance
	Pre-pandemic	During-pandemic	
Burglary	11.4	9.3	↓
Damage to motor vehicles	2.2	2.2	↔
Theft (except motor vehicles – household)	2.1	1.8	↔
Theft (from motor vehicle)	2.1	1.8	↔
Trespass	1.9	2.2	↔
Property damage (household)	1.9	1.3	↓
Theft of/unlawful takes/converts motor vehicle	1.6	1.5	↔
Unlawful interference/getting into motor vehicle	0.5	0.7	↔
Unlawful takes/converts/interferes with bicycle	0.4	0.3	↔
All household offences	19.9	17.6	↓

Table 6.3 Percentage of adults victimised once or more, by personal offence type

Offence type	Percentage of adults victimised once or more		
	Pre-pandemic	During-pandemic	Statistical significance
Fraud and deception	6.2	6.3	↔
Robbery and assault (except sexual assault)	3.0	2.6	↔
Harassment and threatening behaviour	2.8	2.7	↔
Cybercrime	2.2	2.1	↔
Sexual assault	2.0	1.9	↔
Theft and property damage (personal)	1.6	1.4	↔
All personal offences	14.9	14.8	↔

Further analysis was undertaken to monitor changes in the level of offences by family members. Table 6.4 demonstrates that while overall level of offences by family members did not change significantly, the level (prevalence rate) of offences by intimate partners (in particular, current partners) significantly reduced.

Table 6.4 Percentage of adults victimised once or more, by relationship with the offender

Relationship with the offender	Percentage of adults victimised once or more		
	Pre-pandemic	During pandemic	Statistical significance
Intimate partner	1.5	1.0	↓
Current partner	0.9	0.5	↓
Ex-partner	0.6	0.5	↔
Other family or whānau member	0.9	0.9	↔
All offences by family or whānau member	2.3	1.8	↔

6.2 Changes in victimisation by population factors since the start of the pandemic

Further, we analysed if the COVID-19 pandemic changed levels of victimisation within specific population groups. This analysis was done for overall victimisation and for burglaries, the offence type most significantly affected by the pandemic. Notably, we did not find any significant changes in incidence rates between the pre-pandemic and during-pandemic periods, therefore further analysis will focus on changes in prevalence rates. All changes

relate to a decrease of prevalence rates; there are no population groups who experienced growth of victimisation due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For most population groups, the COVID-19 pandemic did not significantly affect overall victimisation. As shown in Figure 6.1, the limited number of population groups who experienced a decrease in prevalence rates after March 2020 include those who were:

- living in a one-person household
- having a personal income of \$20,001–\$30,000
- having a household income of \$20,001–\$30,000
- living in the most deprived areas (quintile 5).

As one can see from the above list, the pandemic positively affected (ie, reduced) the level of victimisation of those living alone, and some groups with lower levels of wellbeing. More research is needed to determine the reasons for these changes.

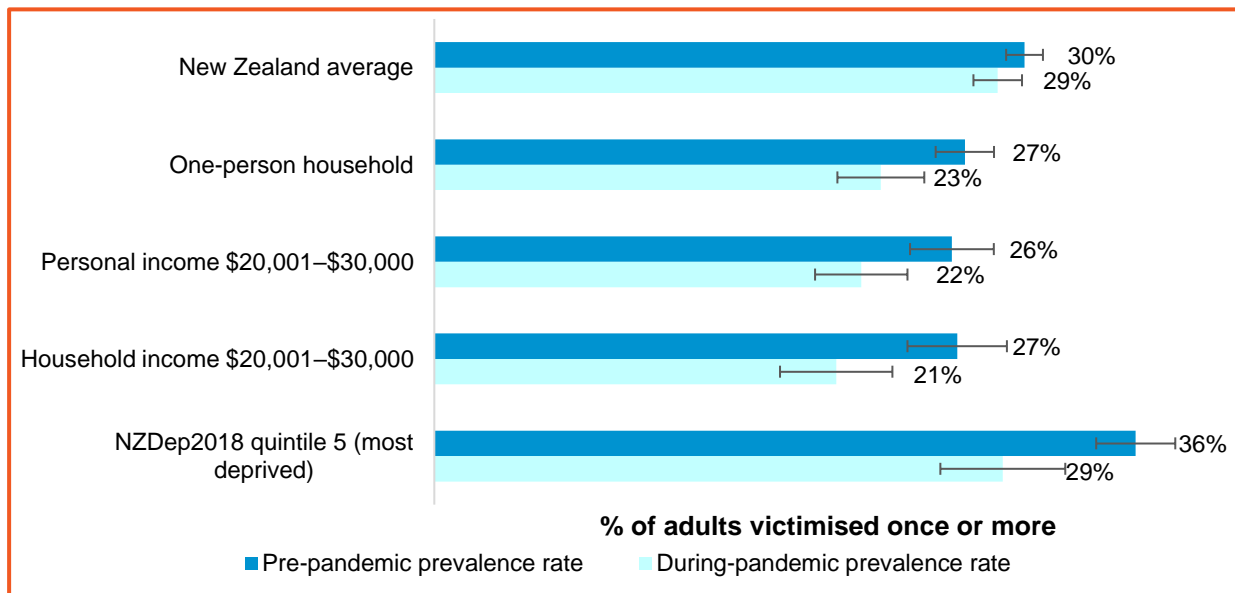


Figure 6.1 Significant changes in overall prevalence rates for population groups between the pre-pandemic and during-pandemic periods

No statistically significant changes in prevalence rates of population groups between the pre-pandemic and during-pandemic periods were observed for personal offences.

Multiple population groups experienced reductions of prevalence rates for overall household offences after the start of the pandemic (see Figure 6.2). The following list includes only population factors relevant on a household level:

- **personal factors:** Māori; Pacific; non-disabled
- **household factors:** one-person household; couple-with-child(ren) household; any household without children; any household with two or more children; rented household in private sector
- **geographic factors:** household in Auckland or Tasman regions; household in major urban area
- **wellbeing factors:** household income of \$70,001–\$100,000; living in most deprived areas (decile 9, quintile 5).

The above list includes a wide variety of socio-economic characteristics. Further research is needed to analyse the drivers behind the improvements in the prevalence rates for the population groups with these factors after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

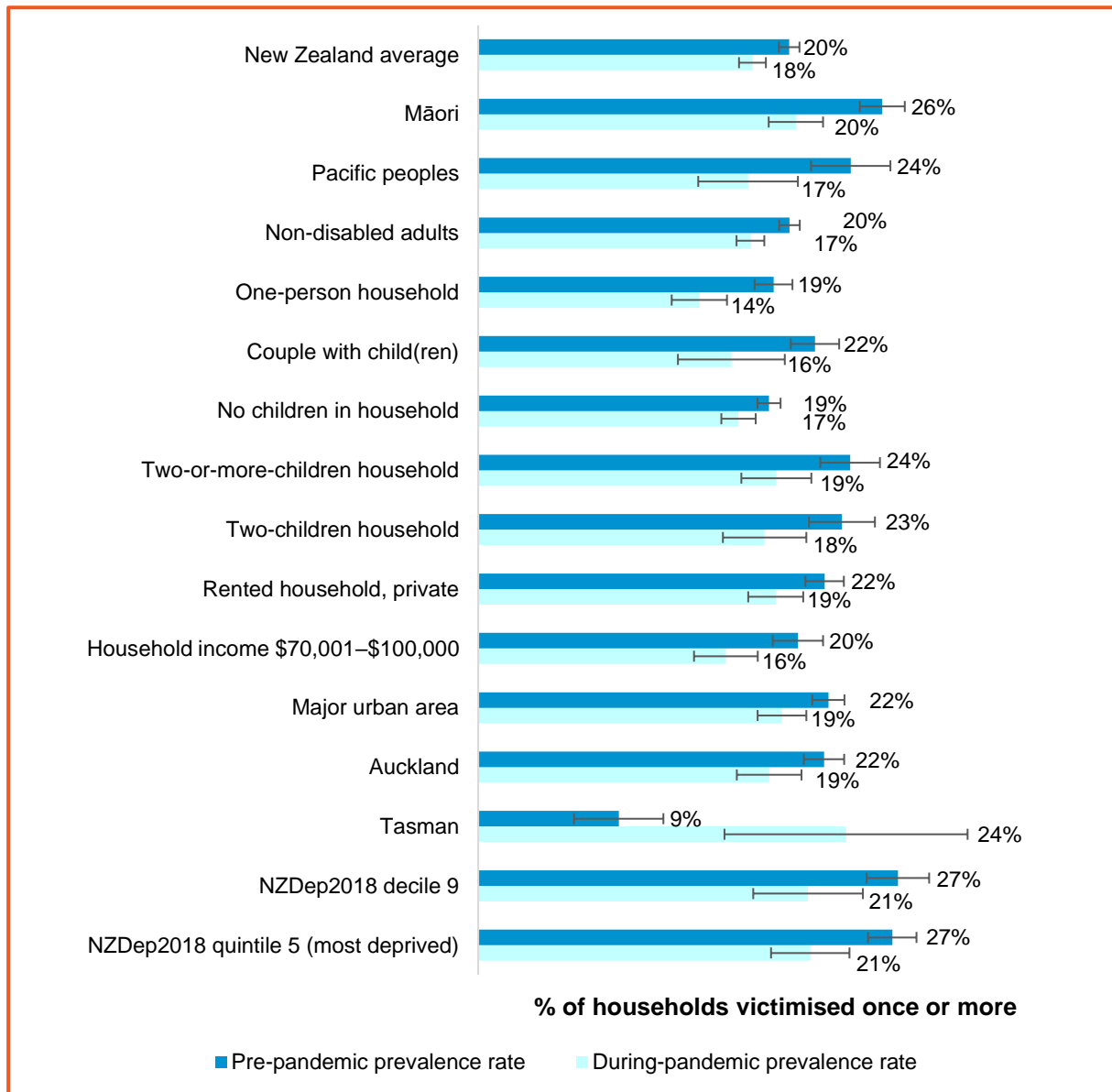


Figure 6.2 Significant changes in prevalence rates of household offences for population groups between the pre-pandemic and during-pandemic periods

Population factors for groups who experienced a reduction in prevalence rates for burglaries after the start of the pandemic are shown in Figure 6.3.

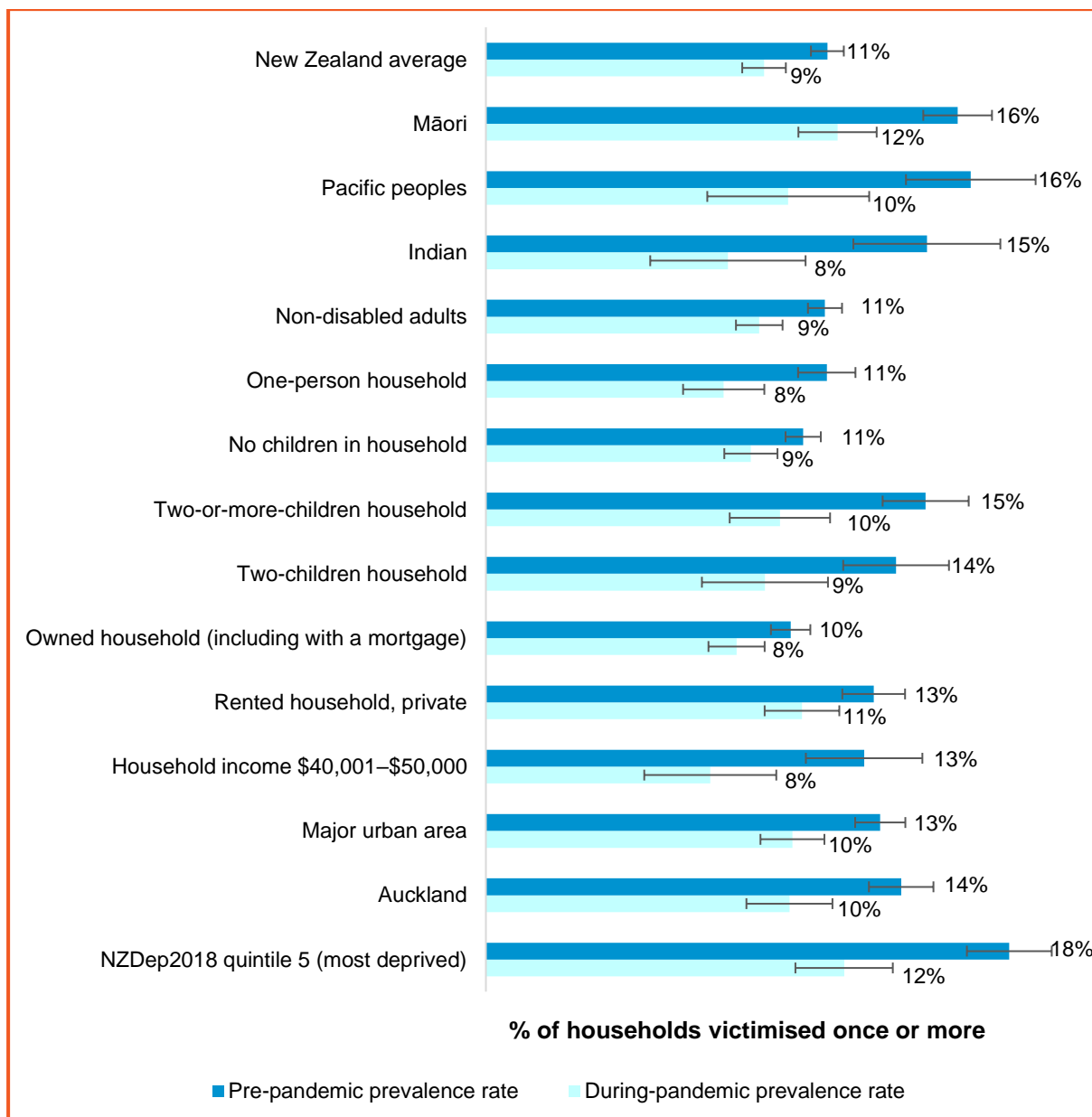


Figure 6.3 Significant changes in prevalence rates of burglary for population groups between the pre-pandemic and during-pandemic periods

Analysis shows that the reduction in overall household offences during the COVID-19 pandemic is to a high degree driven by declines in burglaries. It is therefore not surprising that the factors for the most affected population groups for burglaries are similar to those listed above for household offences:

- **personal factors:** Māori; Pacific; Indian; non-disabled
- **household factors:** one-person household; any household without children; any household with two or more children; owned household (including with a mortgage); rented household in private sector
- **geographic factors:** households in Auckland; households in major urban areas
- **wellbeing factors:** household income of \$40,001–\$50,000; households in the most deprived areas (quintile 5).

Again, the above list reflects a wide variety of socio-economic characteristics, and further research is needed to analyse the drivers behind the improvements in these the prevalence rates for the population groups with these factors after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

7 Reporting to the Police

What is included in this section?

In the NZCVS, we monitor whether the incident of crime became known to the Police. In this section we look at reporting to the Police by offence types and changes over time. We also analyse reporting by victim demographics, relationship to the offender, and offence perceptions. Finally, we look at reasons for not reporting to the Police. In some cases, when we were unable to provide reporting statistics due to a high level of error, we looked at rates of non-reporting to provide a more in-depth picture of reporting patterns.

What did we find?

Cycle 4

- Overall, 25% of all victimisations were reported to the Police in Cycle 4.
- Motor vehicle thefts (80%) had the highest likelihood of being reported to the Police.
- Cybercrime offences were the least likely to be reported, with 98% of incidents not reported to the Police.

Changes over time

- Reporting rates have remained stable over time, with no significant changes in reporting over the last four cycles.

Differences in reporting (pooled data)

- Over the last four cycles, household offences were significantly more likely to be reported to the Police. The offences most likely to be reported were motor vehicle thefts (89%), thefts from motor vehicles (47%), bicycle thefts/conversions (47%) and burglaries (37%).
- Only 8% of sexual assaults were reported to the Police over the last four cycles.
- Only 9% of fraud and cybercrime incidents were reported to the Police over the last four cycles.
- Adults who were not employed because they were studying and adults living in the least deprived areas were significantly less likely to report victimisations to the Police.
- Only 9% of incidents that occurred online or over the phone were reported to the Police.
- Only 12% of incidents that occurred in community settings like churches, maraes, schools, hospitals and sports grounds were reported to the Police.
- Only 15% of incidents perceived to be driven by discrimination towards the victim's sexuality were reported to the Police.

Reasons for not reporting (changes over time)

- Between Cycles 1 and 4 there was a significant decrease in the use of the following reasons for not reporting an incident to the Police: "Police couldn't have done

anything”, “Dealt with the matter myself/ourselves”, and “Police would be too busy to deal with something like this”.

- In contrast, between Cycles 1 and 4 there was a significant increase in the reason for not reporting being “Private/personal/family/whānau matter” and a significant increase in the reason “Dislike/fear of police/bad experience” between Cycles 3 and 4.

Reasons for not reporting (pooled data)

- Over the last four cycles the most common reasons given for not reporting an incident to the Police were “Too trivial/no loss or damage/not worth reporting”, “Police couldn’t have done anything”, “Didn’t have enough evidence to report it” and “Dealt with the matter myself ourselves”.
- The least common reasons given for not reporting were “Tried to report but not able to contact police”, “Happens as part of my job”, “Dislike/fear of police/bad experience before” and “Didn’t want to get offender into trouble”.
- Two of the most common reasons given for not reporting fraud and cybercrime offences were “Bank/credit card company dealt with issue/contacted me” and “Reported to other authorities (eg, superiors, company security staff)”.
- For interpersonal violence, sexual assault and offences by family members, the reasons given for not reporting were significantly more likely to be of a personal nature, such as “Private/personal/family or whānau matter”, “Dealt with the matter myself/ourselves”, “Fear of reprisals/would make matters worse”, “Shame/embarrassment/further humiliation” and “Didn’t want to get offender into trouble”.

7.1 Reporting to the Police, Cycle 4

- Overall, 25% of all victimisations were reported to the Police in Cycle 4 (see Figure 7.1).²⁷ Motor vehicle thefts (80%) and, more broadly, vehicle offences (46%) were significantly more likely to be reported to the Police.
- Cybercrime offences were the least likely to be reported, with 98% of incidents not reported to the Police.



98% of cybercrimes were not reported to the Police across Cycles 1, 3 and 4.

²⁷ Data for some offence types was suppressed due to a high margin of error.

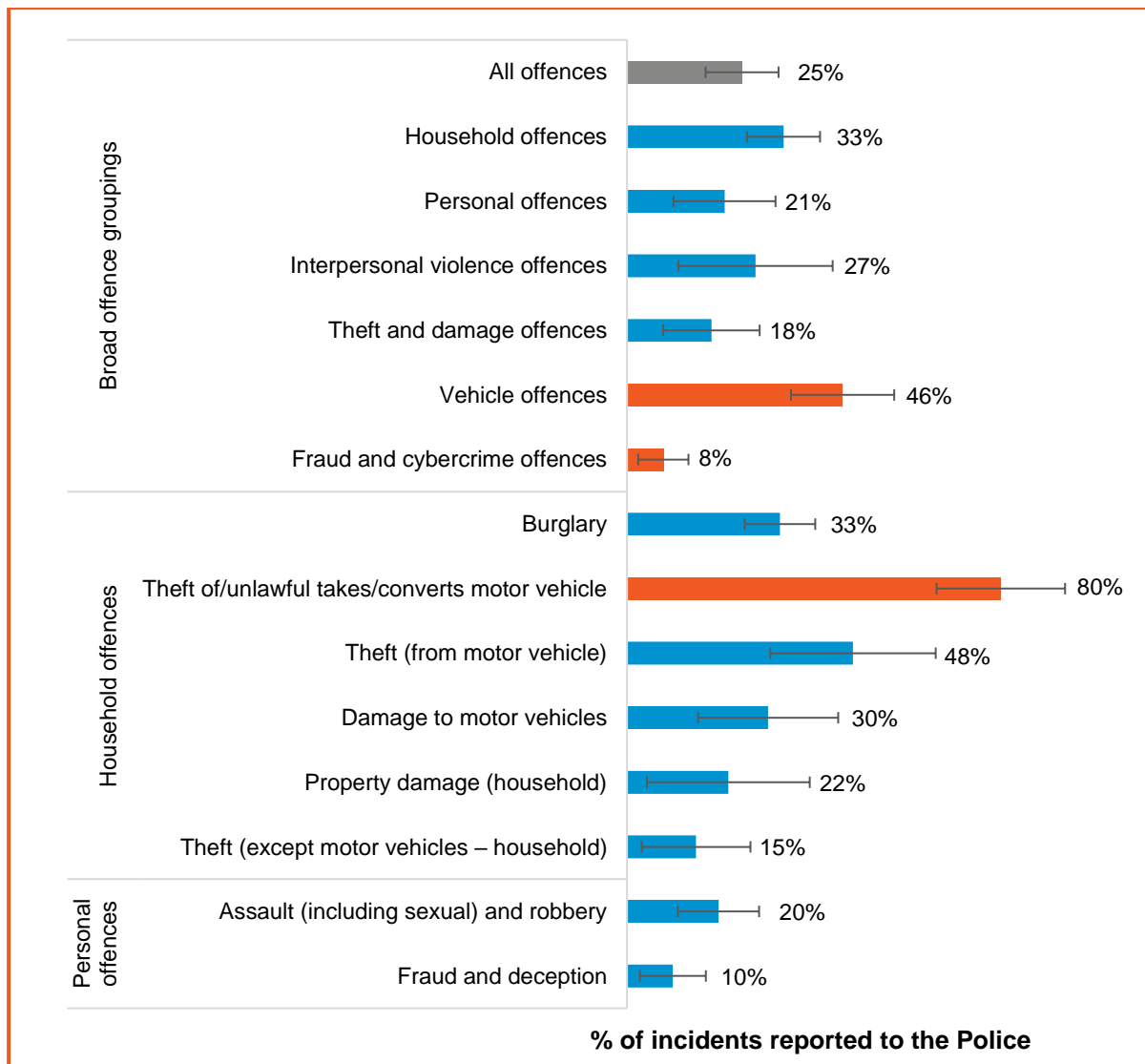


Figure 7.1 Percentage of incidents reported to the Police, by offence type (Cycle 4)

7.2 Changes in reporting to the Police by offence types over time

To provide more reliable reporting statistics under the suppression rules, we looked at both reporting and non-reporting patterns across offence types. The reporting results were suppressed for some offence types due to a large margin of error.

Looking at trends over time, there were no significant changes in both reporting and non-reporting rates over time between Cycle 1 and Cycle 4 overall and by different offence types (see Figures 7.2 and 7.3).

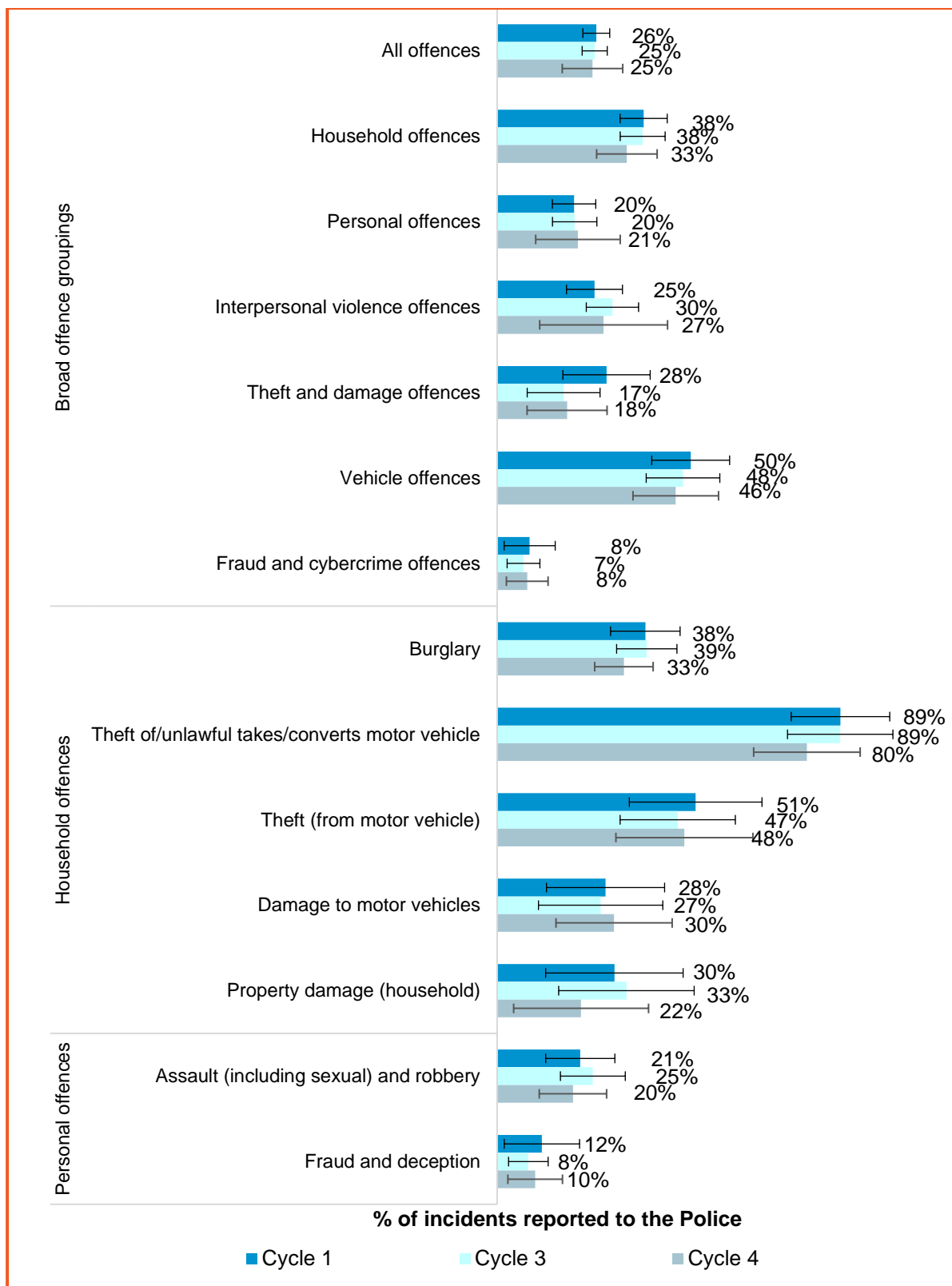


Figure 7.2 Percentage of incidents reported to the Police over time, by offence type

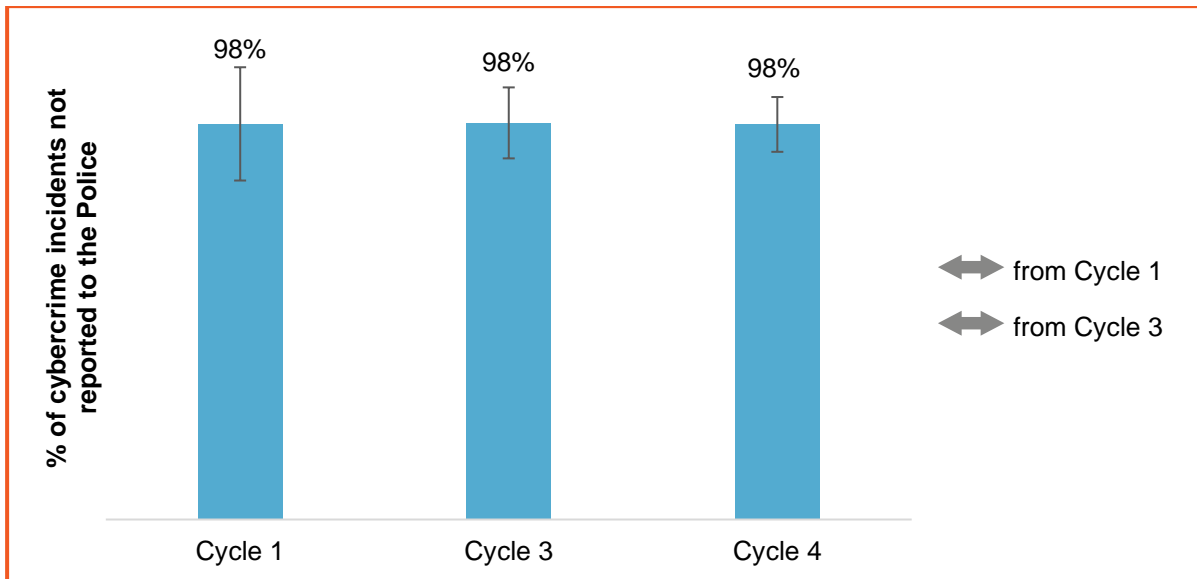


Figure 7.3 Percentage of cybercrime incidents not reported to the Police over time

7.3 Differences in reporting to the Police by selected offence types (pooled data)

Looking at pooled data combining the last four cycles, we can provide more in-depth trends in reporting differences by specified offence types (see Figure 7.4). Over the last four cycles:

- Household offences were significantly more likely to be reported to the Police, with 37% of all household incidents reported compared with 25% for all offences.
- Within household offences, motor vehicle thefts (89%), thefts from motor vehicles (47%), bicycle thefts/conversions (47%) and burglaries (37%) were all significantly more likely to be reported to the Police.
- In contrast, household thefts that did not include motor vehicles were significantly less likely to be reported to the Police, with only 14% of incidents reported.
- Sexual assaults and fraud and cybercrime offences were significantly less likely to be reported, with only 8% of sexual assaults and only 9% of fraud and cybercrime incidents reported to the Police over the last four cycles.



Only **8%** of **sexual assaults** and **9%** of **fraud and cybercrimes** were reported to the Police over the last four cycles.

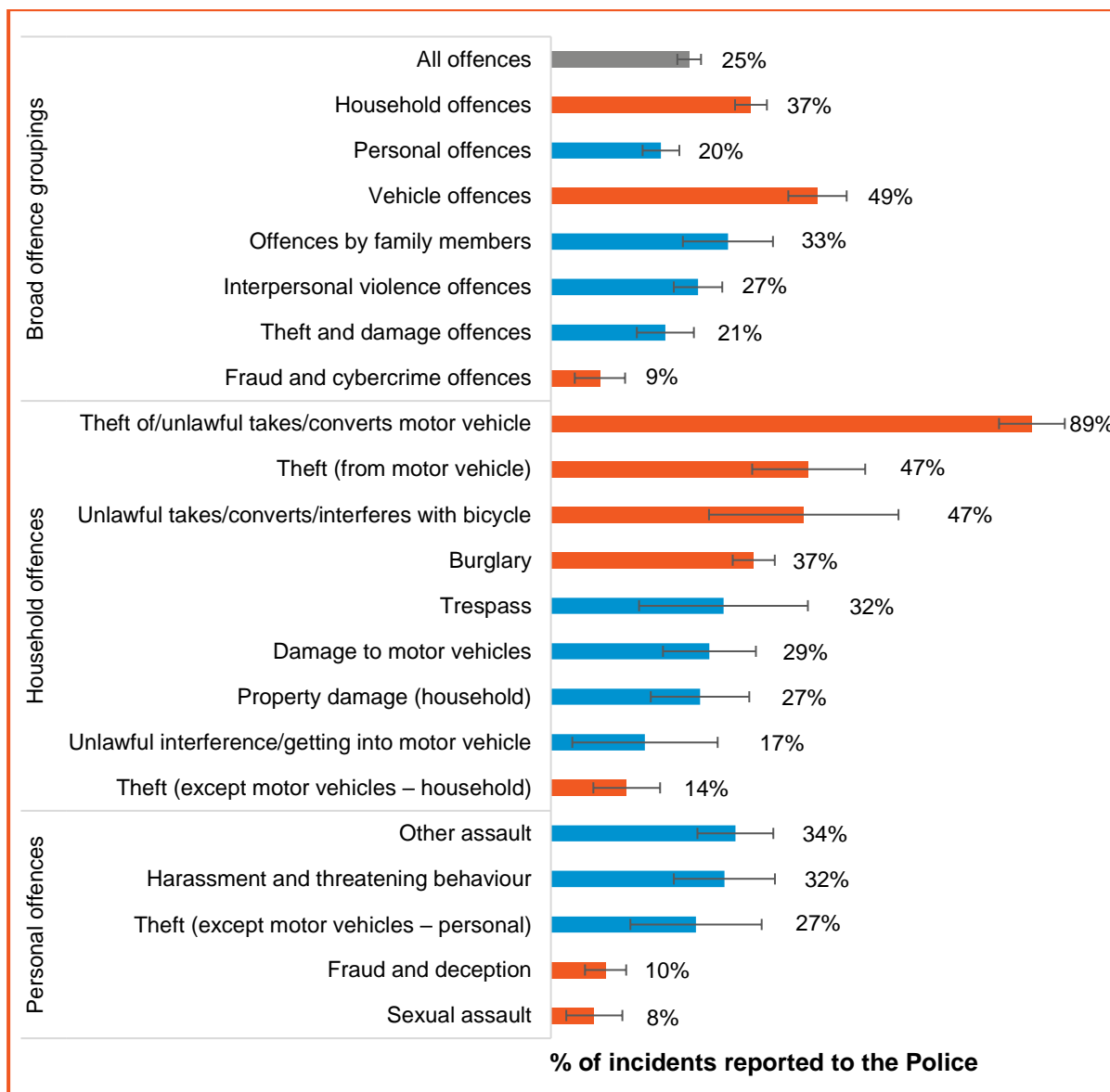


Figure 7.4 Percentage of incidents reported to the Police, by broad offence groups (pooled data)

7.4 Reporting to the Police by population groups (pooled data)

Using pooled data, we also analysed reporting rates over the last four cycles by personal factors like sex, sexuality, age, ethnicity, disability status, psychological distress, relationship status, regions, deprivation, employment status, and financial pressure.

No significant differences in reporting rates were observed for sex, sexual identity, age, ethnicity, disability, psychological distress, relationship status, geographic regions or financial pressure. The only population groups who demonstrated significant differences in reporting behaviour were as follows.

- Adults who live in the least deprived areas (quintile 1) were significantly less likely to report crimes to the Police (Figure 7.5), and trends suggest that reporting increases with higher levels of deprivation.
- Adults who were not working because they were studying reported only 14% of the offences they experienced to the Police, significantly lower than the New Zealand average (Figure 7.6).

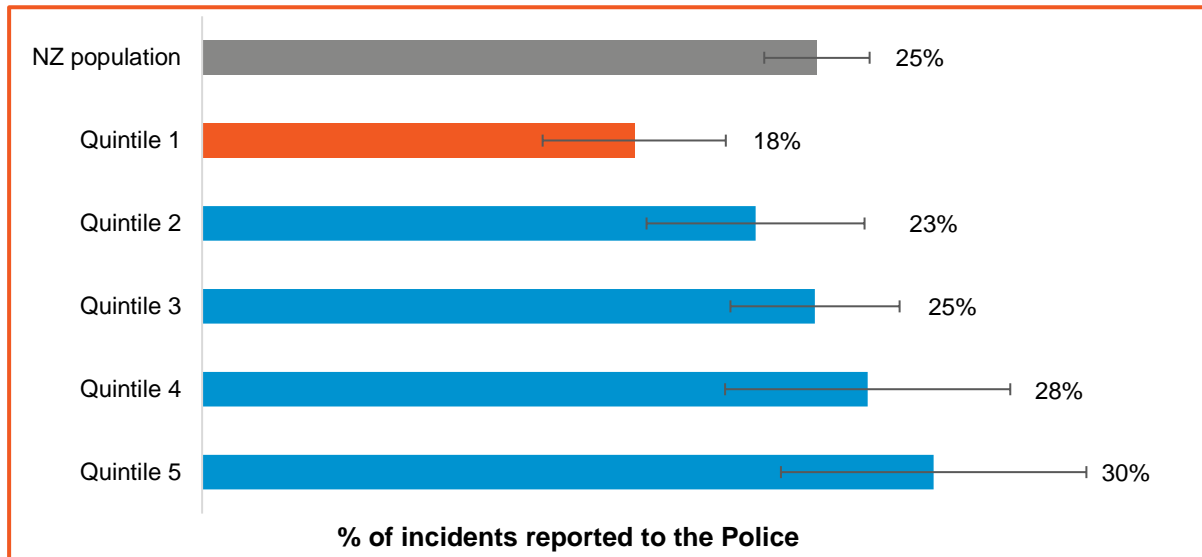


Figure 7.5 Percentage of incidents reported to the Police, by deprivation quintile (pooled data)



Figure 7.6 Percentage of incidents reported to the Police, by employment status (pooled data)

Note: NILF is short for “not in the labour force” and relates to any person who is neither employed nor unemployed.

7.5 Reporting to the Police by location and perceptions of the incident (pooled data)

Despite there being few demographic differences in reporting rates, attributes of the offence including where it happened and how it was perceived do have a substantial influence on whether the offence will be reported to the Police.

- Over the last four cycles, incidents that happened in public or residential places were significantly more likely to be reported to the Police, with 35% of all incidents in these locations reported (Figure 7.7).
- In contrast, victims were significantly less likely to report incidents that occurred in community settings such as schools, sports grounds, hospitals and religious buildings, with only 12% of incidents in these locations reported.
- Victims were also significantly less likely to report offences that occurred online or over the phone, with only 9% of these incidents being reported.

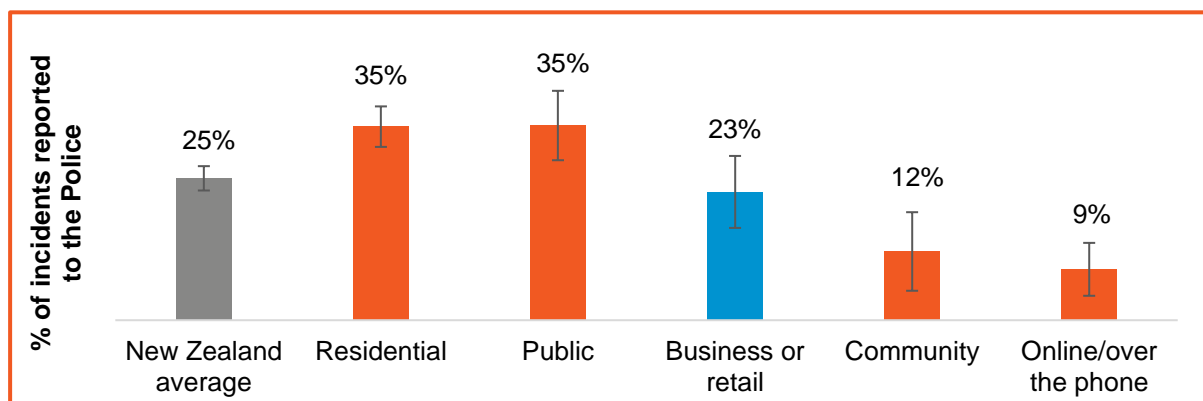


Figure 7.7 Percentage of incidents reported to the Police, by location (pooled data)

Over the last four cycles of the NZCVS, if the victim perceived an incident to be at least partly driven by discriminatory attitudes towards their sexuality, they were significantly less likely to report that incident to the Police, with only 15% of incidents of this kind reported (Figure 7.8). A similar rate of reporting (16%) was found for incidents driven by discriminatory attitudes towards sex; however, this rate was not significantly different from the average reporting rate (25%).



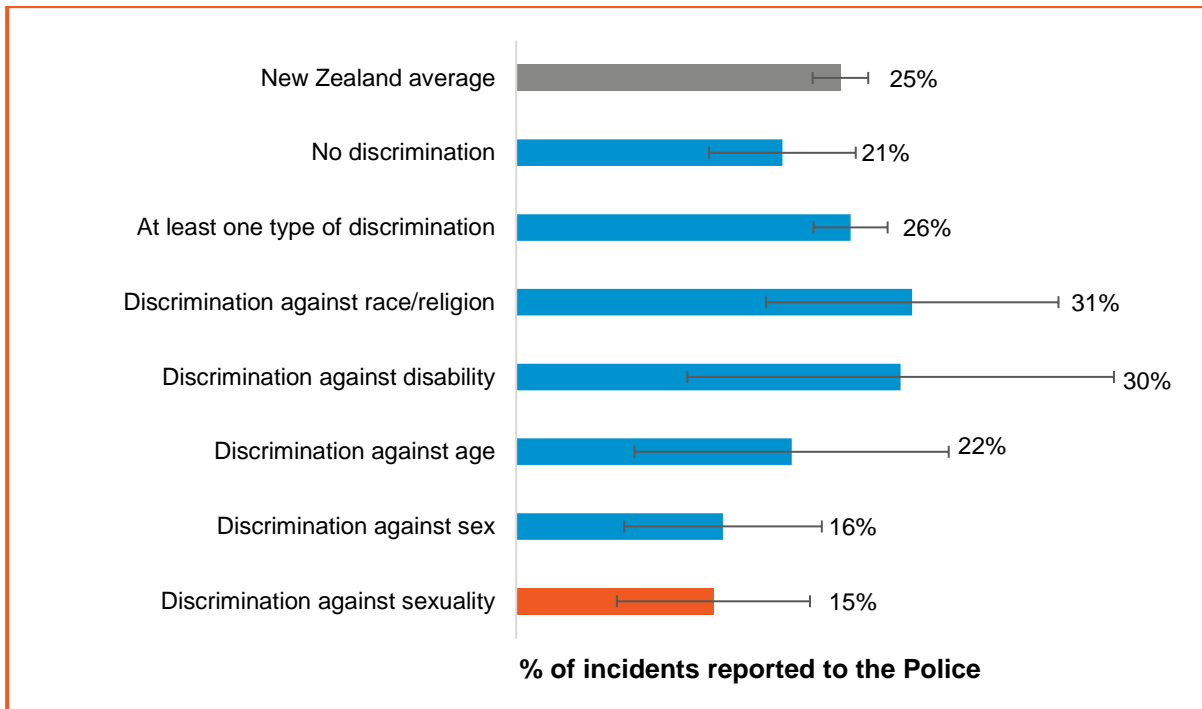


Figure 7.8 Percentage of incidents reported to the Police, by discrimination type (pooled data)

A clear difference in reporting rates was also observed depending on the perceived criminality of an incident (Figure 7.9). Those victims who viewed the incident as a crime were significantly more likely to report it to the Police (32%) whereas those who viewed the crime as “Wrong, but not a crime” or “Just something that happens” were significantly less likely to report that incident to the Police (between 8% and 15%).

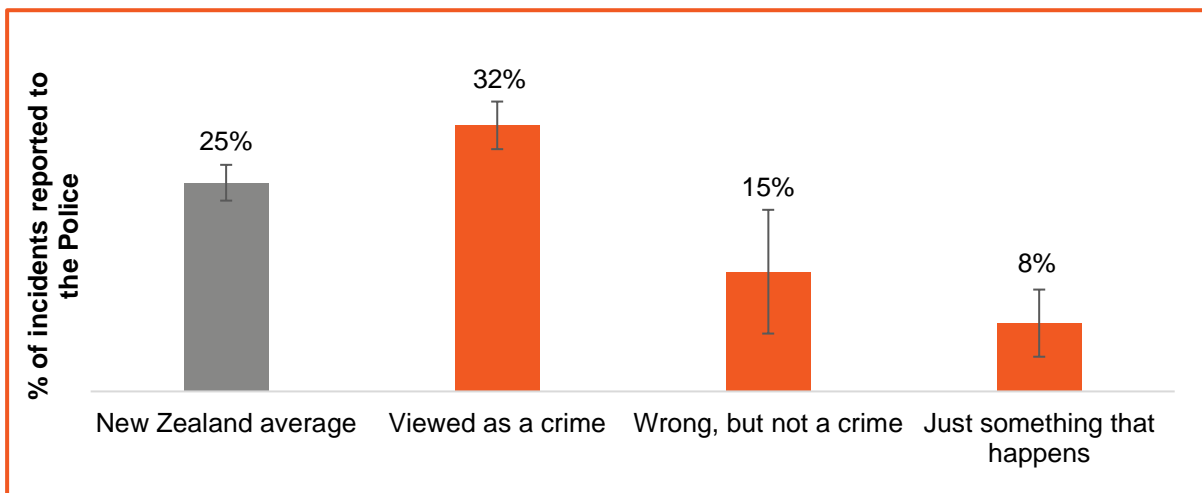


Figure 7.9 Percentage of incidents reported to the Police, by perceived level of criminality (pooled data)

There is also a clear pattern between the perceived seriousness of a crime and whether that crime was reported to the Police (see Figure 7.10). On a scale from 0 to 10 where 0 indicates the offence was “not at all serious”, those who rated the offence between 0 and 3 in terms of seriousness were significantly less likely to report that incident to the Police (between 6% and 17% of incidents reported). In contrast, those who rated the offence as very serious (between

8 and 10) were significantly more likely to report that incident to the Police (between 34% and 43% of incidents reported).

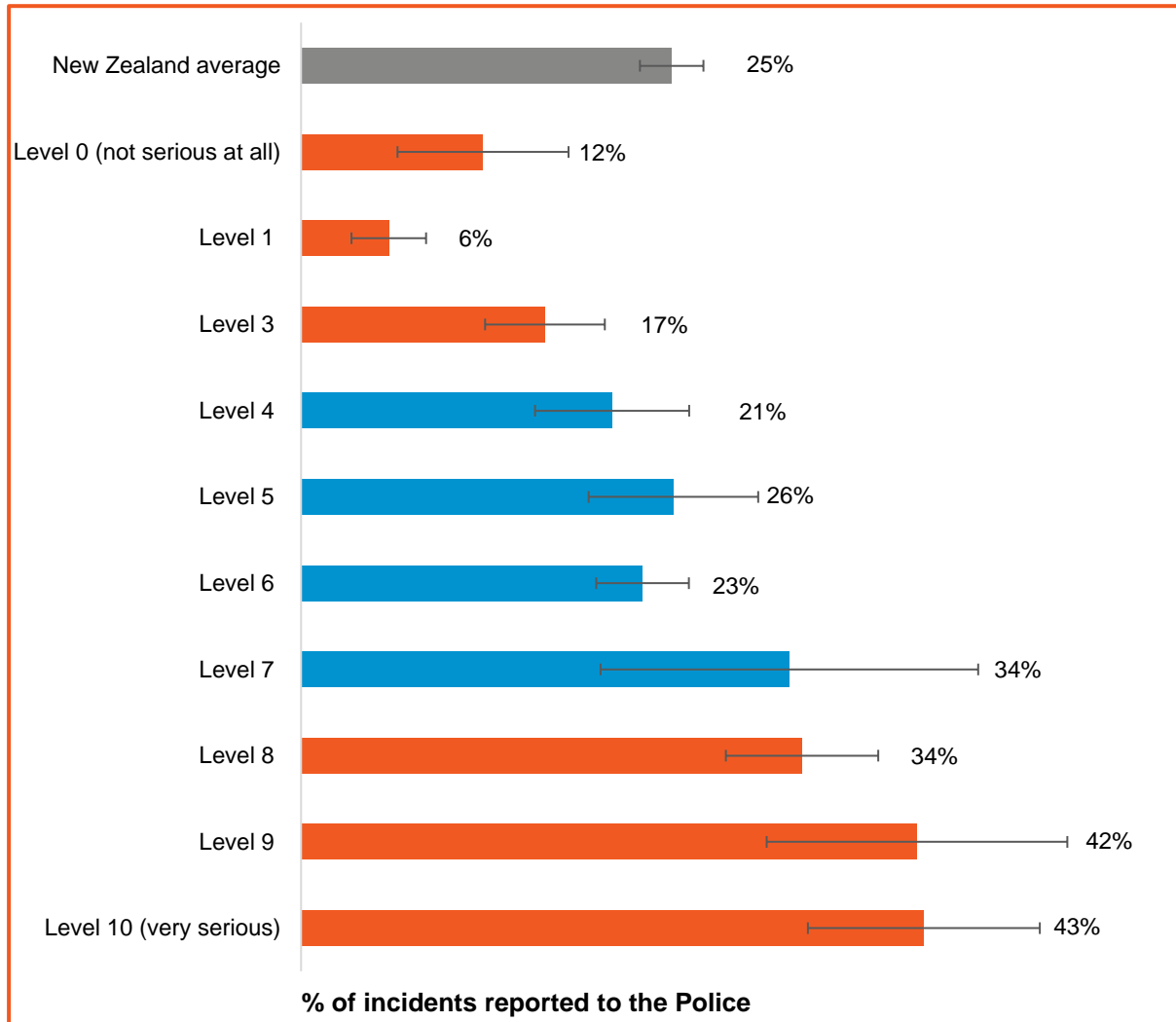


Figure 7.10 Percentage of incidents reported to the Police, by perceived seriousness (pooled data)

Note: Level 2 data was suppressed due to a high margin of error.

7.6 Changes in reasons for not reporting incidents to the Police

This section provides statistics on the reasons for not reporting incidents to the Police. We analysed whether the reasons have changed over time, whether the reasons differ by offence type, and what the most common reasons were for not reporting over the last four cycles.

In Cycle 4 the most common reasons for not reporting an incident to the Police (see Table 7.1) were the incident was “Too trivial/no loss or damage/not worth reporting” (45%), “Police couldn’t have done anything” (16%), “Didn’t have enough evidence to report it” (16%) and “Private/personal/family or whānau matter” (15%). The least common reasons given for not

reporting in Cycle 4 were “Police would be too busy to deal with something like this” (4%) and “Dealt with the matter myself/ourselves” (4%).

Despite there being no significant changes in reporting rates over time, we detected a number of significant changes in the reasons given for not reporting an offence (see Table 7.1 and Figure 7.11). The changes detected were as follows.

- There was a significant decrease in the reason “Police couldn’t have done anything”, from 27% in Cycle 1 to 16% in Cycle 4.
- There was a significant decrease in the reason “Dealt with the matter myself/ourselves”, from 20% in Cycle 1 and 17% in Cycle 3 to 4% in Cycle 4.
- There was a significant decrease in the reason “Police would be too busy to deal with something like this”, from 11% in Cycle 1 and 8% in Cycle 3 to 4% in Cycle 4.
- There was a significant decrease in the reason “Bank/credit card company dealt with the issue/contacted me”, from 15% in Cycle 3 to 6% in Cycle 4.
- There was a significant increase in the reason “Private/personal/family or whānau matter”, from 7% in Cycle 1 to 15% in Cycle 4.
- There was a significant increase in the reason “Dislike/fear of police/bad experience before”, from 2% in Cycle 3 to 10% in Cycle 4.



Of all offences by family members not reported to the Police, 38% were not reported because it was considered a “Private/personal/family or whānau matter”.

Table 7.1 Reasons for not reporting incidents to the Police over time – all offences

Reason for not reporting	Reporting rate (%)			Change from Cycle 1	Change from Cycle 3
	Cycle 1	Cycle 3	Cycle 4		
Too trivial/no loss or damage/not worth reporting	50.3	40.7	45.3	↔	↔
Police couldn't have done anything	27.0	20.8	16.5	↓	↔
Dealt with the matter myself/ourselves	19.8	16.6	3.6	↓	↓
Didn't have enough evidence to report it	16.3	11.6	15.7	↔	↔
Police would not have bothered/not been interested	16.3	12.9	§	↔	↔
Reported to other authorities (eg, superiors, company security staff)	11.9	10.0	§	↔	↔
Police would be too busy to deal with something like this	10.7	7.8	4.2	↓	↓
Bank/credit card company dealt with issue/contacted me	–	14.6	6.4	↔	↓
Inconvenient/too much trouble	8.6	7.5	8.0	↔	↔
No particular reason/other/don't know	8.6	5.3	-	↔	↔
Attempted crime was unsuccessful	8.3	5.2	6.7	↔	↔
Private/personal/family or whānau matter	7.3	11.9	15.1	↑	↔
Dislike/fear of police/bad experience before	§	1.7	9.5	↔	↑
Fear of reprisals/would make matters worse	6.1	9.5	6.2	↔	↔
Shame/embarrassment/further humiliation	5.4	6.5	7.1	↔	↔
Didn't want to get offender into trouble	4.1	§	§	↔	↔
Tried to report but not able to contact Police	§	§	6.3	↔	↔

§ = Suppressed because the numerator and/or denominator of the ratio-based estimate has a relative sampling error greater than or equal to 50%, which is considered too unreliable for general use.

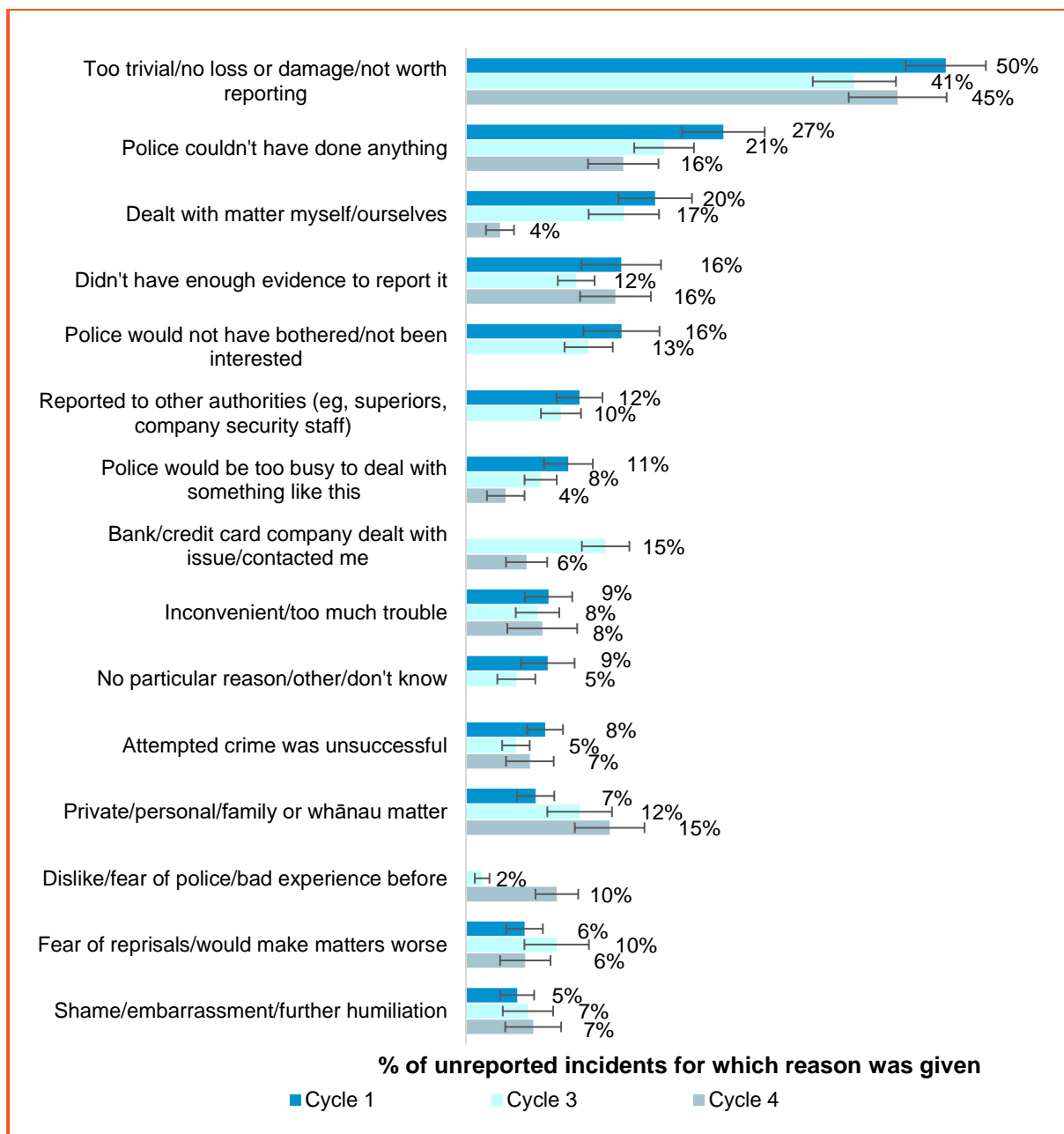


Figure 7.11 Reasons for not reporting incidents to the Police over time – all offences

Looking across broad offence groups, there were also several significant changes in the reasons given for not reporting specific types of offence (Table 7.2). The changes detected were as follows.

- For burglaries there were significant decreases in the reasons “Too trivial/no loss or damage/not worth reporting”, “Police couldn’t have done anything”, “Police would not have bothered/not been interested” and “Police would be too busy to deal with something like this” from Cycle 1 to Cycle 4 and from Cycle 3 to Cycle 4, and a significant decreases in reason “Didn’t have enough evidence to report it” from 23% in Cycle1 to 15% in Cycle 4.
- For fraud and cybercrime there was a significant decrease in the reason “Police couldn’t have done anything”, from 28% in Cycle 1 to 10% in Cycle 4.
- For vehicle offences there was a significant decrease in the reason “Police couldn’t have done anything”, from 35% in Cycle 1 to 16% in Cycle 4.

- For interpersonal violence there was a significant decrease in the reason “Dealt with the matter myself/ourselves”, from 28% in Cycle 1 and 29% in Cycle 3 to 7% in Cycle 4, and also a significant decrease in the reason “Fear of reprisals/would make matters worse”, from 24% in Cycle 3 to 8% in Cycle 4. In addition, there was a significant increase in the reason “Didn’t have enough evidence to report it”, from 9% in Cycle 3 to 23% in Cycle 4.

Table 7.2 Reasons for not reporting incidents to the Police over time – broad offence groups

Reason for not reporting	Reporting rate (%)			Change from Cycle 1	Change from Cycle 3
	Cycle 1	Cycle 3	Cycle 4		
Burglary					
Too trivial/no loss or damage/not worth reporting	61.5	67.5	45.3	↓	↓
Didn't have enough evidence to report it	22.8	20.2	15.0	↓	↔
Police couldn't have done anything	34.2	34.1	17.9	↓	↓
Police would not have bothered/not been interested	19.5	20.9	4.0	↓	↓
Police would be too busy to deal with something like this	11.6	17	4.6	↓	↓
Fraud and cybercrime					
Police couldn't have done anything	28.3	12.3	9.6	↓	↔
Interpersonal violence					
Didn't have enough evidence to report it	§	9.2	22.7	↔	↑
Dealt with the matter myself/ourselves	27.9	28.8	7.0	↓	↓
Fear of reprisals/would make matters worse	12.1	23.5	7.8	↔	↓
Vehicle offences					
Police couldn't have done anything	35.2	40.6	16.4	↓	↓

§ = Suppressed because the numerator and/or denominator of the ratio-based estimate has a relative sampling error greater than or equal to 50%, which is considered too unreliable for general use.

7.7 Reasons for not reporting incidents to the Police (pooled)

Using pooled data across the last four cycles, we looked at the most common reasons given for not reporting offences and how those reasons change by different offence types.

- Looking at all offences across the last four cycles (see Figure 7.12) the most common reasons given for not reporting an offence to the Police were “Too trivial/no loss or damage/not worth reporting” (46%), “Police couldn’t have done anything” (23%), “Didn’t have enough evidence to report it” (14%) and “Dealt with the matter myself ourselves” (14%).
- Across all offences the least common reasons given for not reporting were “Tried to report but not able to contact police” (2%), “Happens as part of my job” (3%), “Dislike/fear of police/bad experience before” (4%) and “Didn’t want to get offender into trouble” (5%).

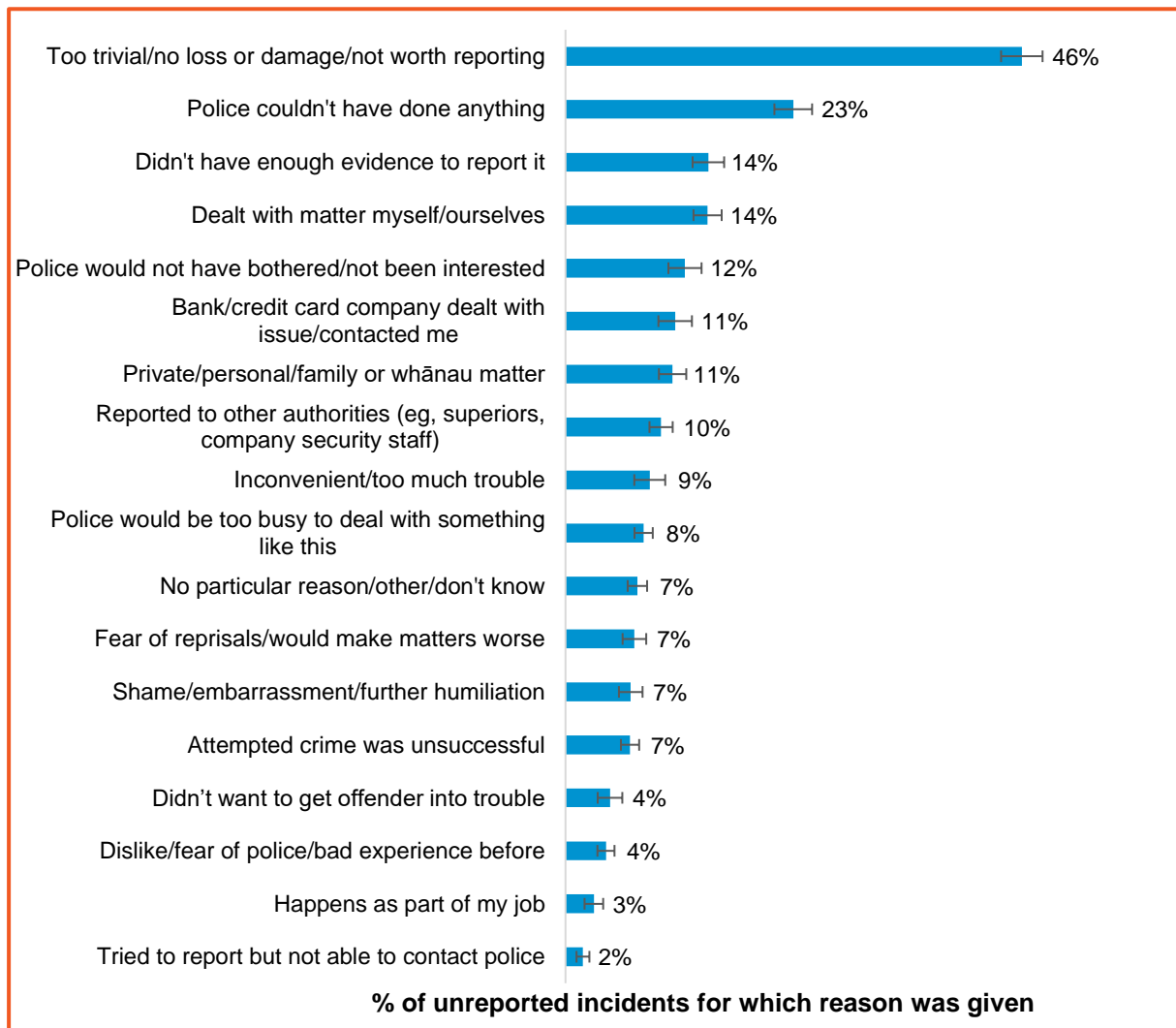


Figure 7.12 Reasons for not reporting incidents to the Police – all offences (pooled data)

For burglaries and vehicle offences, the most common reasons for not reporting were similar to reasons for all offences, with the reasons “Too trivial/no loss damage/not worth reporting”, “Police couldn’t have done anything” and “Didn’t have enough evidence to report it” ranking as the top three for both types of offence (see Figure 7.13).

In contrast, the most common reasons given for not reporting fraud and cybercrime offences (see Figure 7.14) were “Too trivial/no loss or damage/not worth reporting” (32%), “Bank/credit card company dealt with issue/contacted me” (29%) and “Reported to other authorities (eg, superiors, company security staff)” (22%).

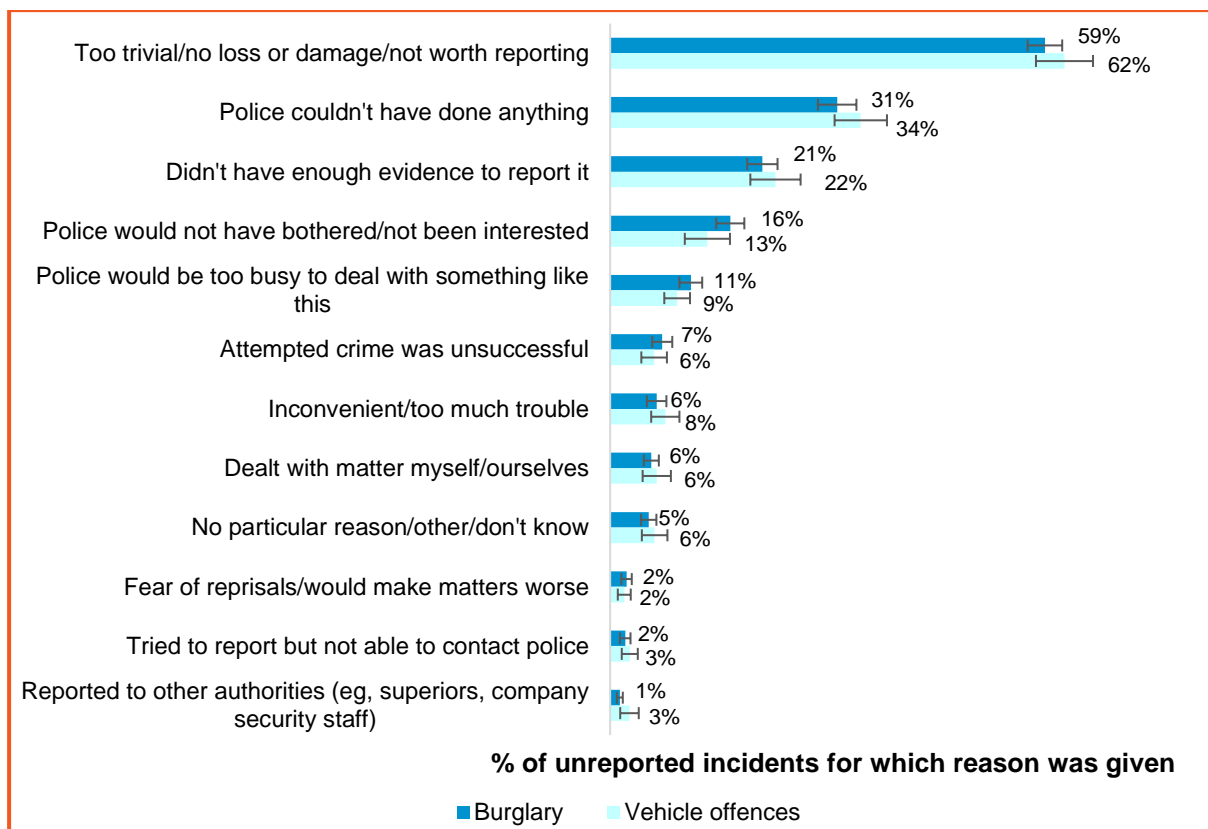


Figure 7.13 Reasons for not reporting burglary and vehicle offences to the Police (pooled data)



Figure 7.14 Reasons for not reporting fraud and cybercrime offences to the Police (pooled data)

For offences like interpersonal violence, sexual assault, and offences by family members, the reasons given for not reporting were significantly more likely to involve reasons of a personal nature such as “Private/personal/family or whānau matter”, “Dealt with the matter myself/ourselves”, “Fear of reprisals/would make matters worse”, “Shame/embarrassment/further humiliation” and “Didn’t want to get offender into trouble” (see Figure 7.15).

These reasons were particularly prevalent for not reporting offences by family members, where the most common reasons were:

- “Private/personal/family or whānau matter” (38%)
- “Dealt with the matter myself/ourselves” (29%)
- “Fear of reprisals/would make matters worse” (22%)
- “Shame/embarrassment/further humiliation” (24%)
- “Didn’t want to get offender into trouble” (17%).²⁸

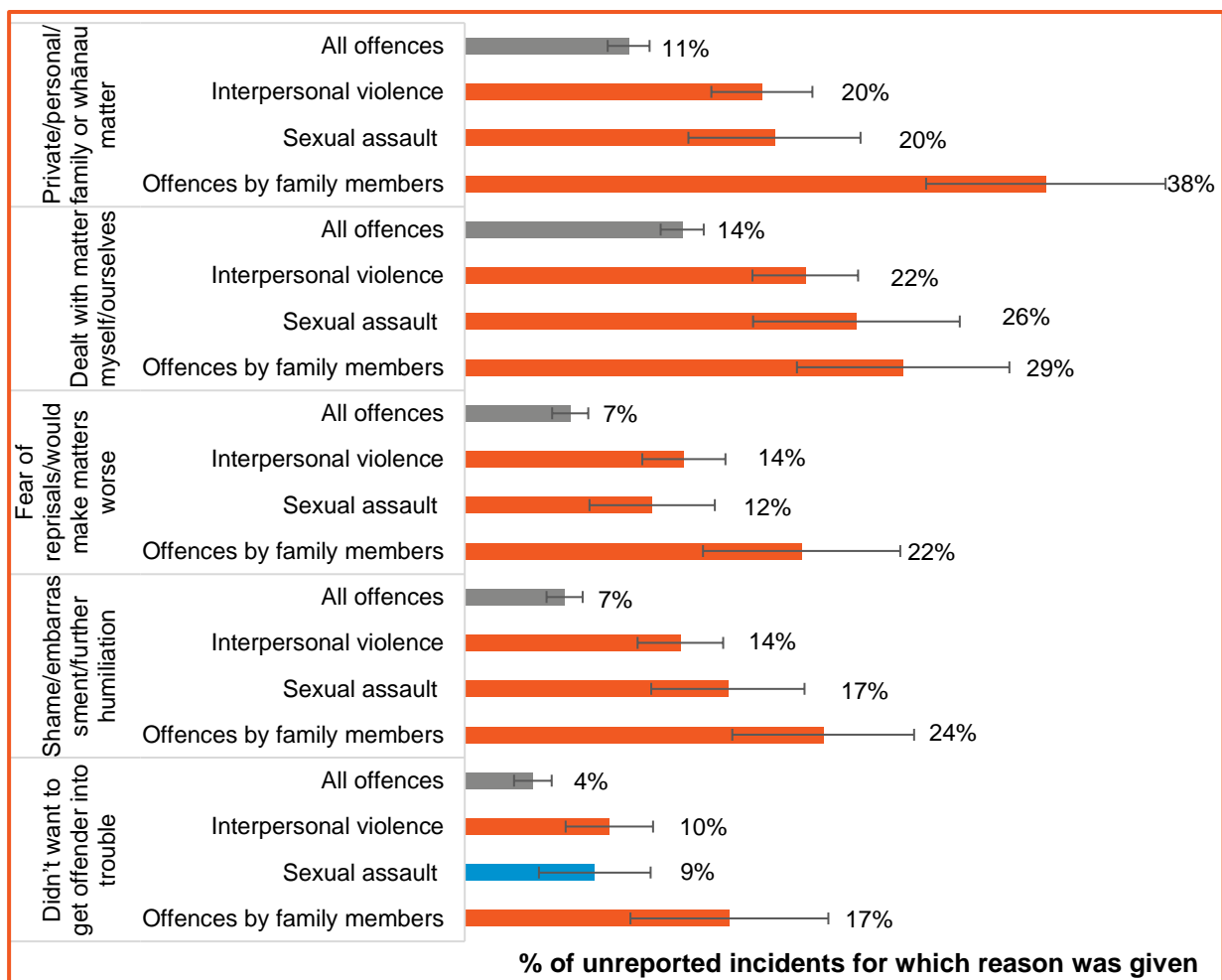


Figure 7.15 Reasons for not reporting interpersonal violence, sexual assault and offences by family members to the Police (pooled data)

²⁸ Note that victims are able to select multiple reasons for why they did not report a particular incident to the Police, so proportions of reasons selected may sum to more than 100%.

8 Distribution of crime

What is included in this section?

This section discusses the distribution of crime – that is, how much crime was experienced by how many adults. We reported that 29% of adult New Zealanders were victims of crime in Cycle 4. Analysis in this section tells us whether crime is distributed evenly across those victims, or whether some victims experience a disproportionate amount of crime. We measure the distribution of crime in two ways: by level of multiple victimisation and the level of repeat victimisation.

Multiple victimisation occurs when someone has been the victim of crime more than once regardless of the type of offence (for example, someone might have been assaulted, had their car stolen and had their house burgled all within the same 12 months).

Repeat victimisation is when someone has been the victim of the same offence more than once (for example, two or more burglaries).

We also did some analysis of **highly victimised people** – those who experienced four or more criminal incidents within a 12-month period.

In this section we look at multiple and repeat victimisation for Cycle 4 (2020/21), for pooled data (Cycles 1–4), changes in multiple or repeat victimisation over time, and demographic factors associated with high levels of victimisation.

What did we find?

- Just over 2% of New Zealand adults experienced 39% of all victimisations.
- 38% of victims experienced two or more incidents within the previous 12 months. These victims experienced the majority (73%) of all incidents.
- The prevalence of multiple victimisations has remained relatively constant across the cycles.
- Cycle 4 saw an increase in the proportion of incidents experienced by adults with 5 or more victimisations (39%) compared to the previous cycle. This was similar to the base year level (39%).
- Offences by family members were the most repeated type of offence. Repeat victims of offences by family members (40%) experienced 79% of all offences by family members.
- Vehicle offences were the most common one-off offence type, with 81% of incidents occurring as a one-off event.
- Repeat victimisation didn't significantly change over time; however, burglary victimisation saw a significant increase in Cycle 4. During the current year, the proportion of burglaries that were repeat incidents was 63%, compared to 40% for the previous year and 47% in the base year.

- The groups significantly more likely to be highly victimised (ie, experience four or more crimes within a 12-month period) were:
 - younger adults (aged 15–29)
 - Māori
 - disabled people
 - people with diverse sexualities
 - those living in a one-parent-with-child(ren) household
 - those living in a household with four or more children
 - those living in a household with five-or-more-people or another multi-person household
 - those who were unemployed and not actively seeking work
 - those experiencing high levels of financial pressure
 - those renting government accommodation (local and central)
 - those with a moderate or high level of psychological distress
 - those with low life satisfaction
 - those with a low feeling of safety.
- The groups significantly less likely to be highly victimised were:
 - males
 - older adults (aged 60+)
 - Asians
 - those living in a couple-only, couple-with-child(ren) or two-person household
 - retired adults
 - those who were not under financial pressure
 - those who were not psychologically distressed
 - those with high life satisfaction
 - those with a high feeling of safety.

8.1 Multiple victimisation

As shown in Table 8.1, in Cycle 4 most New Zealand adults (71%) did not experience any crimes within the previous 12 months, whereas 29% experienced one incident or more.

Of those 29% who experienced crime, the majority (62%) experienced one incident, with the remaining 38% experiencing two or more incidents.

Those who experienced multiple incidents experienced the majority (73%) of all victimisations, whereas those who experienced one incident experienced 27% of all victimisations.

Table 8.1 Number of New Zealand adults, percentage of adults, percentage of victims and percentage of overall incidents, by the number of incidents experienced (Cycle 4)

Number of victimisations	Number of adults (000s)	% of adults	% of victims	% of incidents
None	2,845	71	–	–
One	724	18	62	27
Two	224	6	19	16
Three	76	2	7	9
Four	50	1	4	9
Five or more	88	2	8	39

As shown in Figure 8.1, those who experienced five or more incidents make up around 2% of adults (8% of victims), but they experienced 39% of all victimisations.

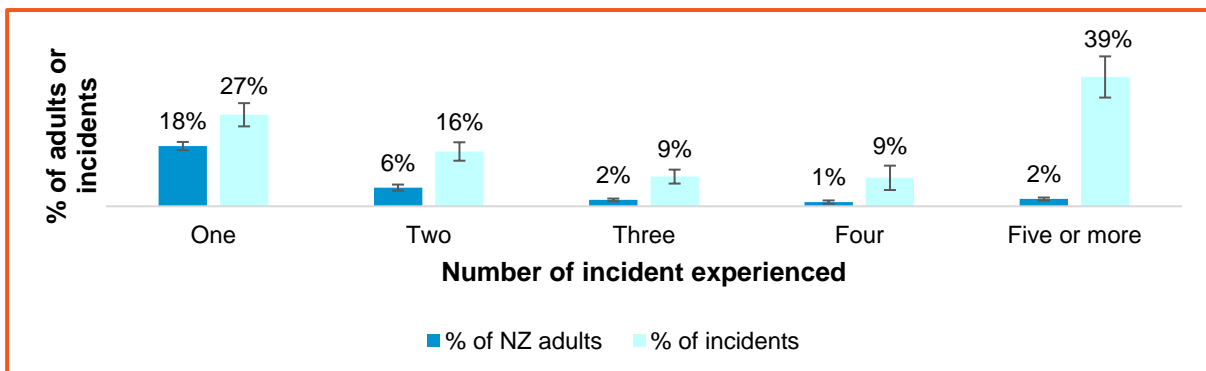
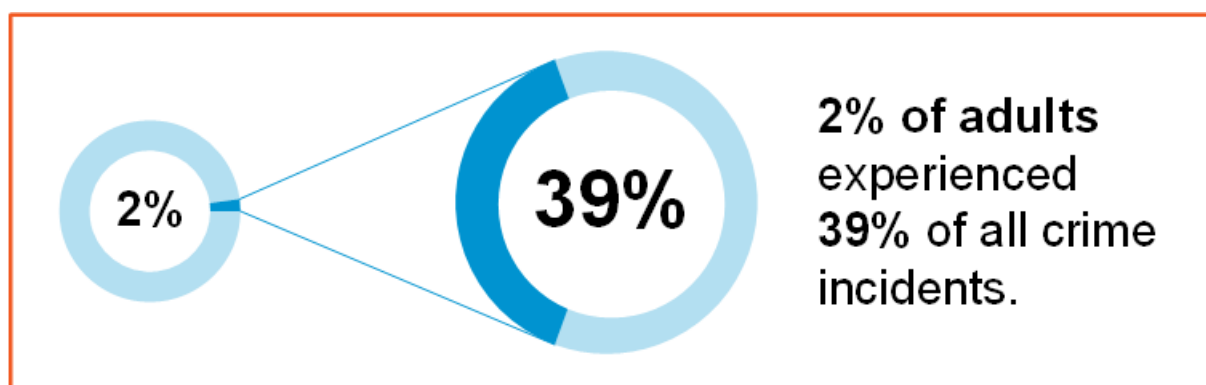


Figure 8.1 Percentage of New Zealand adults and percentage of incidents experienced, by number of incidents experienced (Cycle 4)



8.2 Changes in multiple victimisation over time

The number of incidents experienced by New Zealand adults has been very stable over time (Figure 8.2).

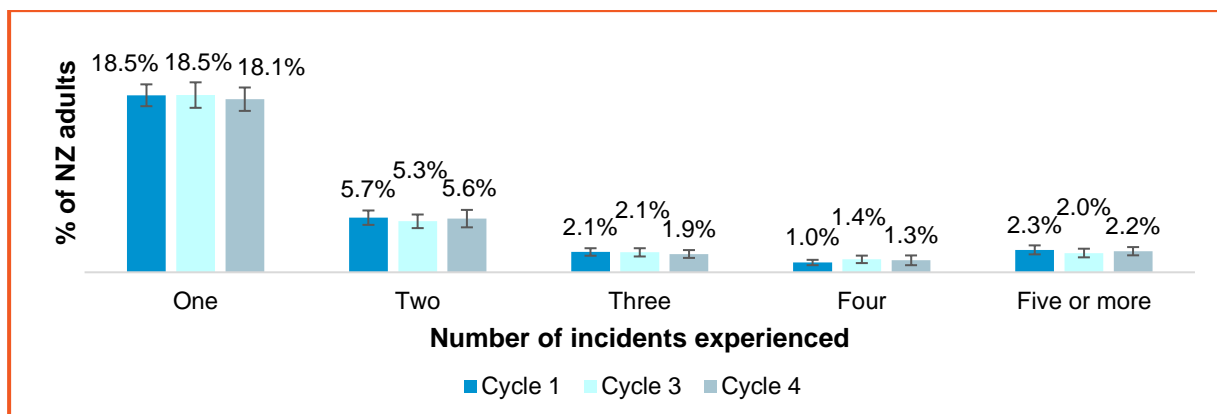


Figure 8.2 Percentage of New Zealand adults, by number of incidents experienced (Cycles 1, 3 and 4)

Similarly, there was no significant difference across the base, previous, and current year cycles in the percentage of victims and the number of incidents they experienced within the previous 12 months (Figure 8.3).

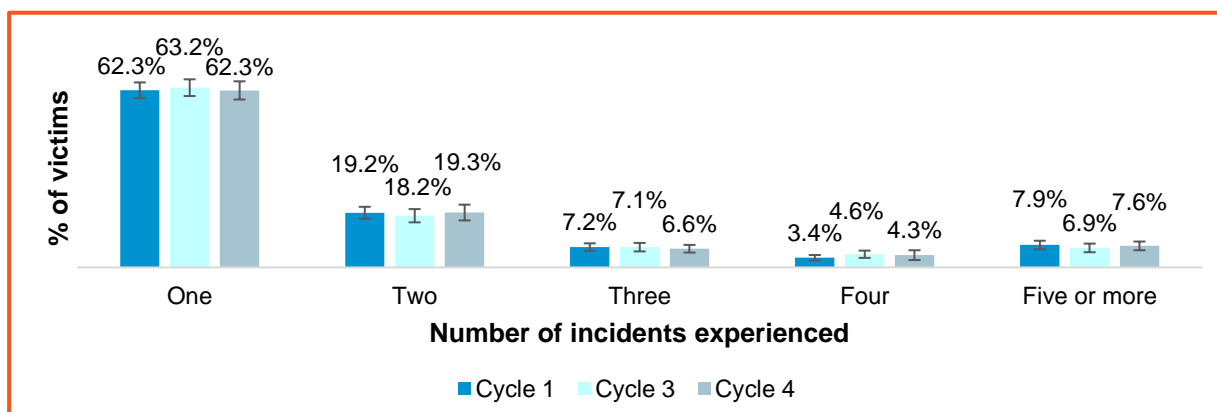


Figure 8.3 Percentage of victims, by number of incidents experienced (Cycles 1, 3 and 4)

The current year cycle has seen an increase in the percentage of incidents experienced by victims with 5 or more victimisations compared with the previous year cycle, though the difference is not statistically significant (Figure 8.4). The current level is similar to what it was in the base year (Cycle 1).

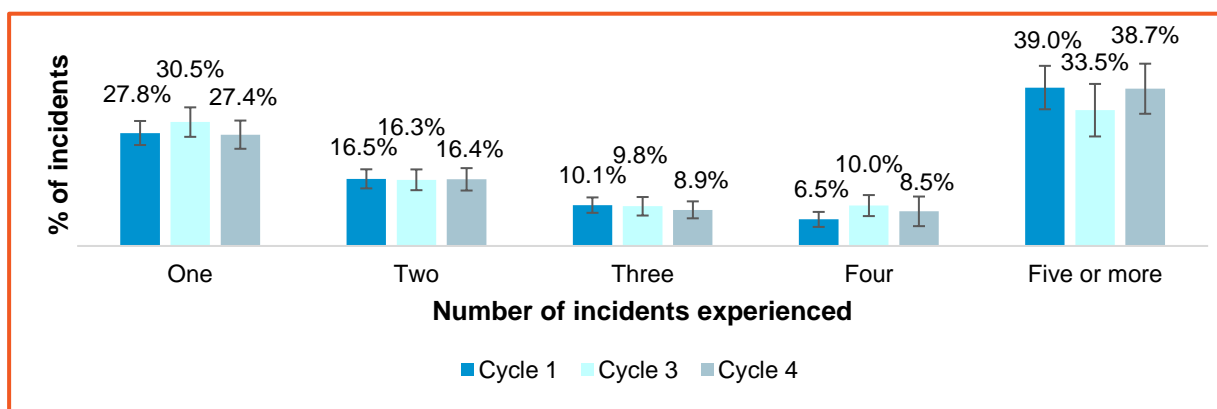


Figure 8.4 Percentage of incidents, by victims with different numbers of incidents experienced (Cycles 1, 3 and 4)

8.3 Highly victimised people

As mentioned in section 8.2, the distribution of crime across victims was stable over time. Therefore, in order to reduce error and better identify demographic differences in multiple victimisation, we looked at demographic factors in the distribution of crime using pooled data from Cycles 1–4. For this subsection we have also chosen to focus specifically on the demographics of highly victimised people because this subgroup shows some of the strongest demographic patterns in relation to multiple victimisations.²⁹

As defined above, **highly victimised people** are people who experienced four or more incidents within a 12-month period.

Across the four cycles of the NZCVS, highly victimised people made up only 3% of New Zealand adults but experienced 44% of all victimisations.

As shown in Figure 8.5, several demographic factors were associated with being highly victimised. Specifically, the groups significantly more likely to be highly victimised were:

- younger adults (aged 15–29)
- Māori
- disabled people
- people with diverse sexualities
- those living in a one-parent-with-child(ren) household
- those living in a household with four or more children
- those living in a household with five-or-more-people or another multi-person household
- those who were unemployed and not actively seeking work
- those living in the most deprived areas (deciles 9 and 10)
- those experiencing high levels of financial pressure
- those renting government accommodation (local and central)
- those with a moderate or high level of psychological distress
- those with low life satisfaction
- those with a low feeling of safety.

²⁹ The demographic patterns for those who experienced one, two or three incidents within a 12-month period can be viewed in the [data tables](#).

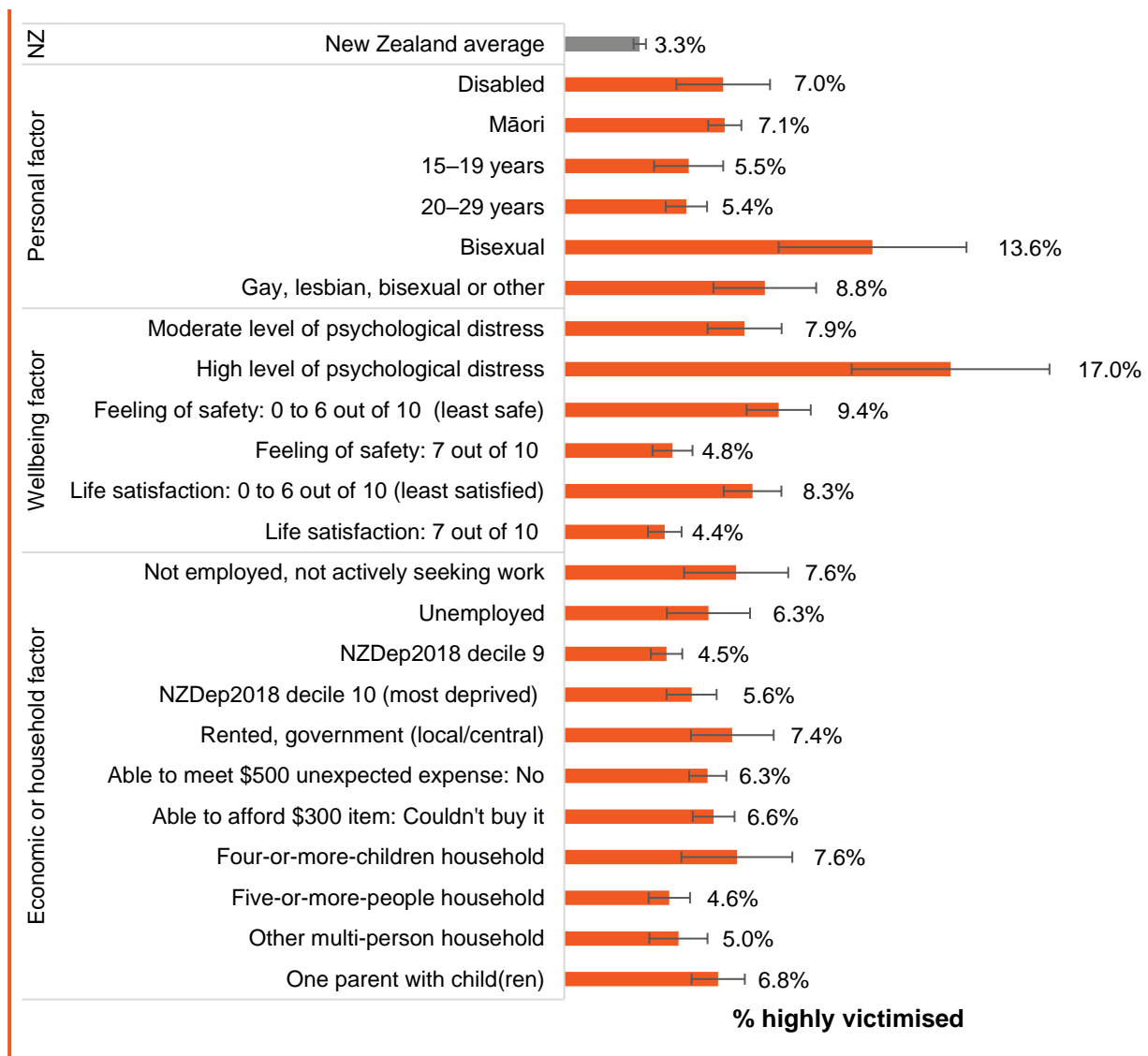


Figure 8.5 Percentage of adults highly victimised, by personal factor (those with a significantly higher prevalence rate than the New Zealand average; pooled data)

In contrast, as shown in Figure 8.6, the groups significantly less likely to be highly victimised were:

- males
- older adults (aged 60+)
- Asians
- those living in a couple-only, couple-with-child(ren) or two-person household
- retired adults
- those who were not under financial pressure
- those with a low level of psychological distress
- those with high life satisfaction
- those with a high feeling of safety.

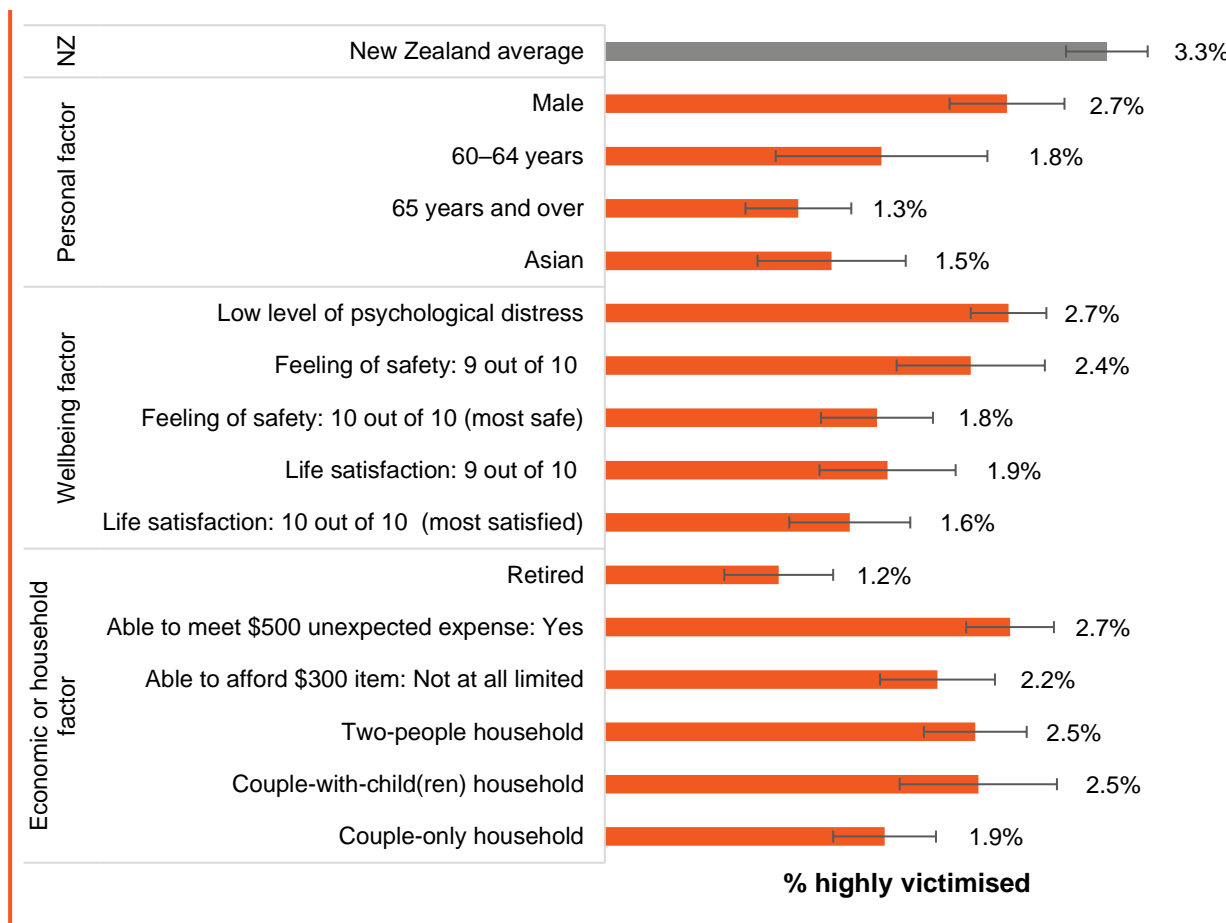
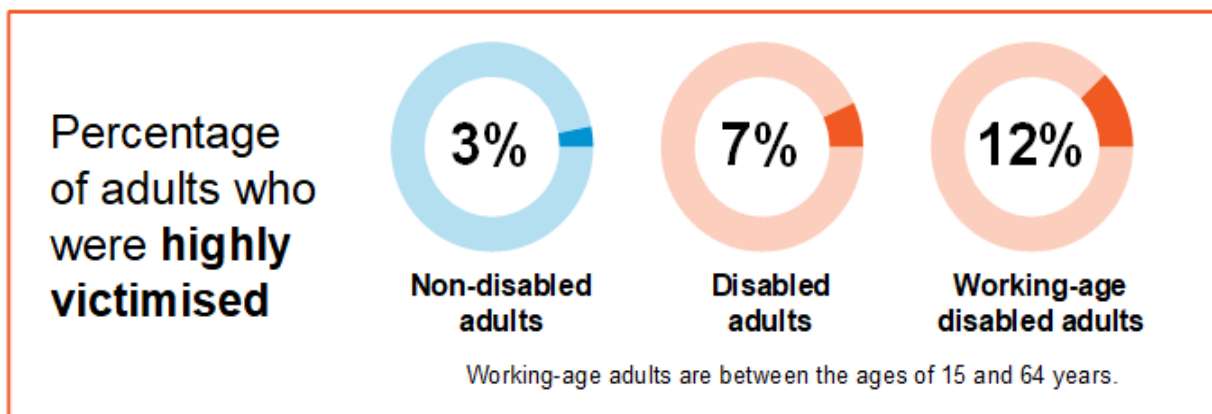


Figure 8.6 Percentage of adults highly victimised, by personal factor (those with a significantly lower prevalence rate than the New Zealand average; pooled data)

Adults identifying as **bisexual** were **four times** as likely to be **highly victimised** compared with the New Zealand average.

For the first time and before age standardisation, results show that disabled adults have been significantly more highly victimised than the New Zealand average. Using pooled data, 7% of disabled adults were highly victimised, compared with 3% of non-disabled adults. Furthermore, 12% of working-age disabled adults (between the ages of 15 and 64) were highly victimised.



8.4 Repeat victimisation

Offences by family members were the most repeated group of offences across the four cycles of NZCVS, with 79% of offences occurring as part of a chain of two or more episodes within a 12-month period. The other 21% of offences by family members were the only episode in the 12-month period (Figure 8.7, pooled data).

Interpersonal violence offences were the second most repeated group of offences, with 73% of offences occurring as part of a chain of two or more incidents and 27% occurring as one-off events.

Vehicle offences were the most common type of one-off incidents, with 81% of vehicle offences occurring as one-off events and 19% occurring as part of a chain of two or more incidents.

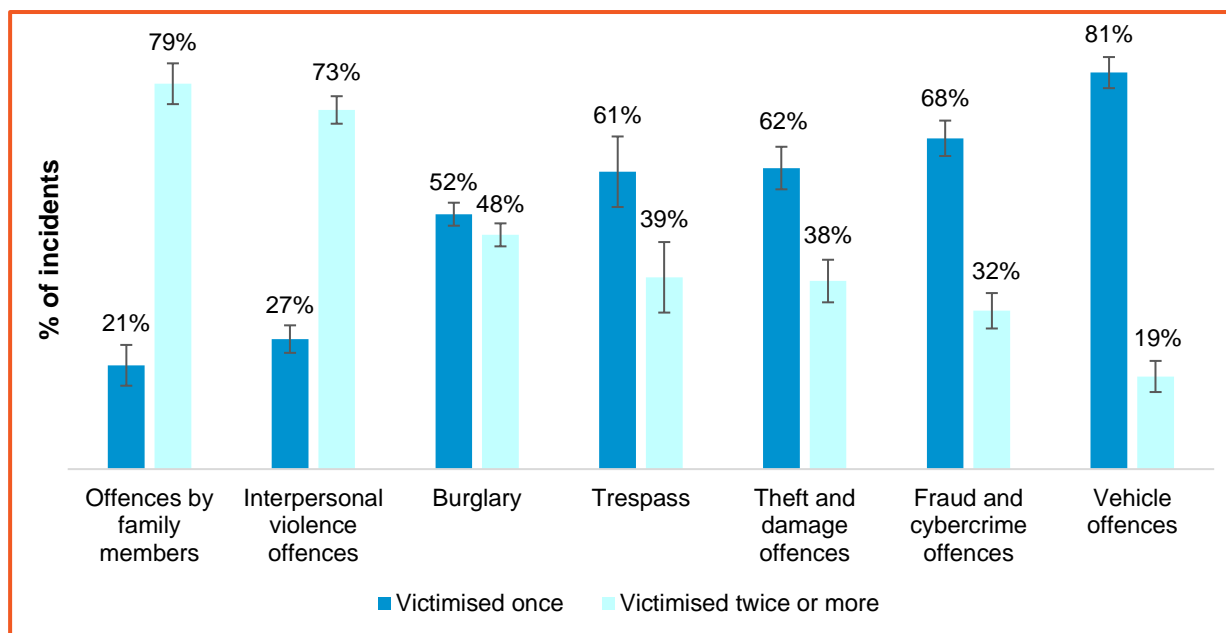


Figure 8.7 Percentage of incidents, by number of victimisations across broad offence groups (pooled data)

For Cycle 4, data was suppressed due to a high margin of error for offences by family members and trespass incidents occurring as part of a chain of two or more incidents.

Interpersonal violence offences were the most repeated group of offence, and vehicle offences were the most common group of one-off incidents.

Repeat victims experienced the majority of all offences by family members and interpersonal violence offences

Looking more closely at offences by family members (pooled data), 60% of victims experienced one incident within a 12-month period, and they experienced 21% of all offences by family members. Victims with repeat offences by family members (40%) within a 12-month period (Table 8.2) experienced the majority of all offences by family members (79%).

Table 8.2 Number of New Zealand adults, percentage of adults, percentage of victims and percentage of incidents, by the number of offences by family members experienced (pooled data)

Number of offences by family members experienced	Number of adults (000s)	% of adults	% of victims	% of incidents
None	3,976	97.9	–	–
One	52	1.3	60	21
Two or more	34	0.9	40	79

Similarly, victims of repeat interpersonal violence offences (36%) experienced 73% of all interpersonal violence incidents (Table 8.3), and victims of one-off incidents experienced 27% of interpersonal violence incidents.

Table 8.3 Number of New Zealand adults, percentage of adults, percentage of victims and percentage of incidents, by the number of interpersonal violence offences experienced (pooled data)

Number of interpersonal violence offences experienced	Number of adults (000s)	% of adults	% of victims	% of incidents
None	3,771	92.8	–	–
One	187	4.6	64	27
Two or more	104	2.6	36	73

79% of offences by family members and 73% of interpersonal violence offences occurred as part of a chain of two or more incidents.



8.5 Changes in repeat victimisation over time

As shown in Figure 8.8, there were some shifts in repeat victimisation between the current year, the previous year and the base year across different offence types; however, only the shifts in repeat victimisation for burglary were statistically significant.

Notably, there was a 23-percentage point increase in the proportion of repeat incidents of burglary, from 40% in Cycle 3 (previous year) to 63% in Cycle 4 (current year). Comparing the current year with the base year, there was a 16-percentage point increase. Both differences were statistically significant.

Further to this, from the previous year to the current year there was a slight decrease in repeat victimisation for fraud and cybercrime incidents and for vehicle offences. These differences were not significant. Repeat victimisation for interpersonal violence incidents and theft and damage offences remained relatively constant. The percentages of repeat victimisation incidents by cycle for both offending by family members and trespassing were suppressed due to large margin of error.

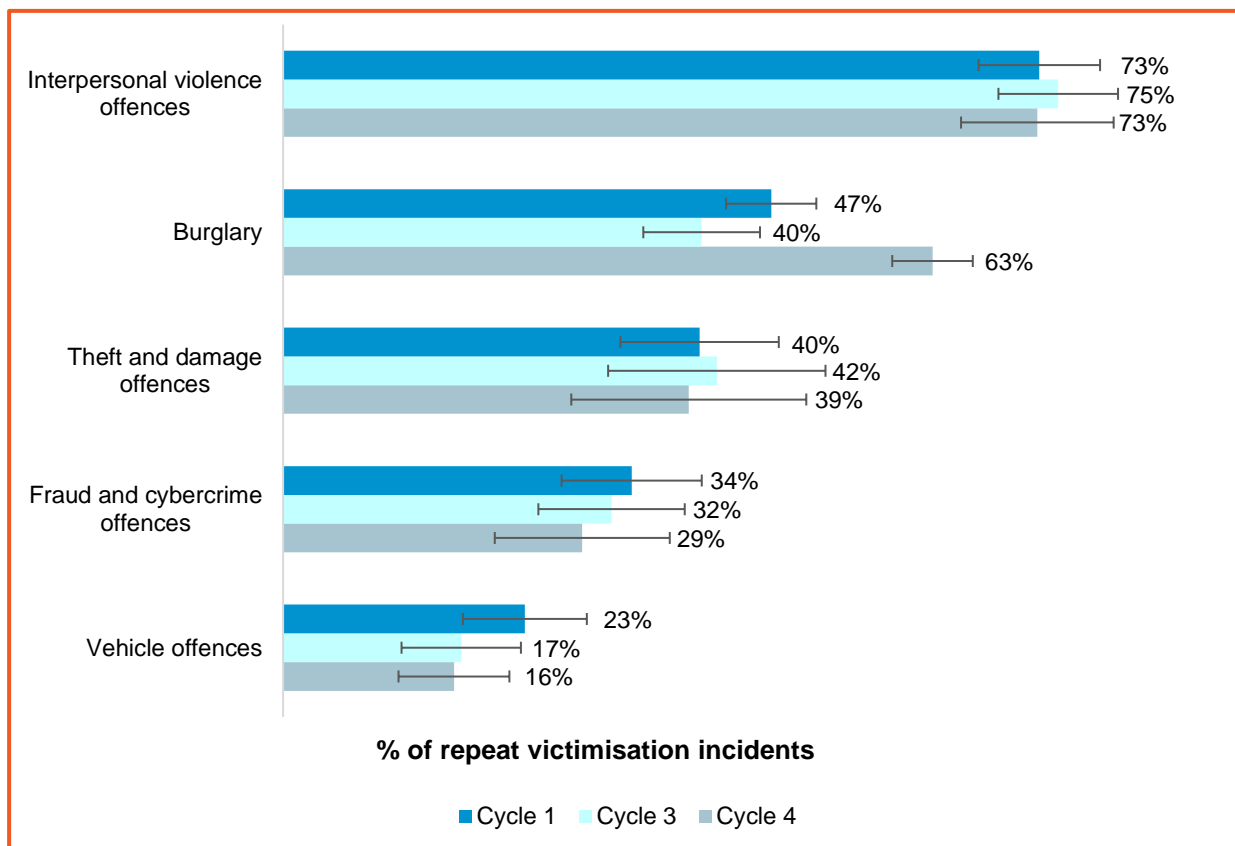


Figure 8.8 Percentage of repeat incidents, by broad offence group (Cycles 1, 3 and 4)

Looking more deeply within the trend for burglary, the current year saw increases in repeat burglaries for households experiencing two burglaries or four or more burglaries. However, the only statistically significant increase was between the previous year and the current year for four or more repeat burglaries (Figure 8.9). It is notable that the percentage of only one incident occurring has decreased in the current year when compared to both the previous year and the base year.

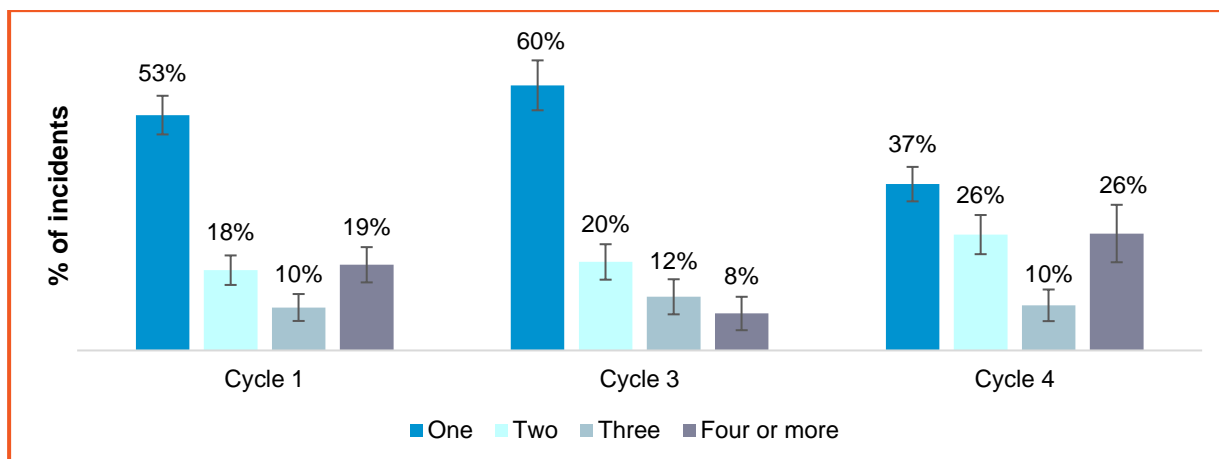


Figure 8.9 Percentage of burglary incidents, by number of victimisations (Cycle 1, 3 and 4)

As shown in Table 8.4, the proportion of households that experienced four or more burglaries significantly increased from the previous year – from 0.2% to 0.7%. The current proportion is similar to what it was in the base year. There was also a significant increase in the proportion of households that experienced two burglaries between the previous year (1.4%) and the current year (2.1%). The current proportion of households that experienced one burglary (6.0%) significantly decreased since the base year (9.3%) and the previous year (8.1%).

Table 8.4 Percentage of households burgled, by number of burglaries a household experienced (Cycles 1, 3 and 4)

Number of burglaries experienced	Percentage of households victimised			Change from Cycle 1	Change from Cycle 3
	Cycle 1	Cycle 3	Cycle 4		
One	9.3	8.1	6.0	↓	↓
Two	1.6	1.4	2.1	↔	↑
Three	0.6	0.6	0.5	↔	↔
Four or more	0.7	0.2	0.7	↔	↑

Similarly, households that experienced four or more burglaries saw a significant increase in the overall proportion of burglary incidents experienced – from 8% in the previous year to 26% in the current year (Table 8.5 and Figure 8.9). The current proportion of two burglary incidents occurring (26%) has significantly increased since the base year (18%).

Table 8.5 Percentage of all burglary incidents, by number of burglaries a household experienced (Cycles 1, 3 and 4)

Number of burglaries experienced	Percentage of incidents			Change from Cycle 1	Change from Cycle 3
	Cycle 1	Cycle 3	Cycle 4		
One	53.0	59.7	37.4	↓	↓
Two	18.1	19.9	26.1	↑	↔
Three	9.7	12.1	10.2	↔	↔
Four or more	19.3	8.3	26.3	↔	↑

9 Crime scene and consequences

What is included in this section?

This section analyses different factors related to victimisation that are not described in the previous sections. They include location of crime, male-against-female incidents, use of weapons, and some important consequences of victimisation, including injuries and needing to take time off work. Pooled data covering all four cycles was used for the analysis.

What did we find?

- More than two-thirds of all incidents (70%) happened either in residential areas or online/over the phone.
- More than half (55%) of vehicle offences, 16% of interpersonal violence offences and 21% of physical assaults/robberies happened in public areas.
- Almost a third (32%) of sexual assaults, 18% of interpersonal violence offences, and 18% of thefts/damages and vehicle offences happened in business areas.
- Almost half of personal victimisations (48%) involved a male offender and a female victim. This proportion increases to 52% for interpersonal violence, 69% for offences by family members and 73% for sexual assault.
- 12% of all non-sexual assault incidents involved the use of a weapon.
- Every 11th incident (9%) resulted in injury. This proportion increases to 21% for interpersonal violence offences, 28% for offences by family members and 49% for non-sexual assaults.
- Every 10th incident (10%) resulted in time taken off work by a victim. This proportion increases to 18% for vehicle offences, 20% for offences by family members and 22% for offences by ex-partner.

9.1 Location of crime

For each reported crime incident (or group of incidents) the NZCVS asked where the incident happened. The answers were grouped into six major locations:

- **residential** (inside a house, caravan, campervan or tent; in a garage, carport, shed or outbuilding; inside a residential building, corridor, stairs, lift etc; outside a house on the same premises as garden, yard, driveway, walkways etc)
- **public** (on the street, road, footpath, berm; in a park, bush, forest, beach, lake; on transport or in/around transport facilities)

- **business/retail** (in a restaurant, café, bar, pub, nightclub; in a shop, petrol station; in a recreational place like a cinema, bowling alley, casino, or gym; in the office, factory, warehouse; in a car park; in a farm or orchard)
- **community** (in a religious or cultural place like a marae, church or mosque; in or around a sports ground; in a school, university or hospital)
- **online or over the phone** (including via any digital means – eg, text message, email)
- **other** (to be specified).

Pooled data was used for the analysis. Overall, 46% of incidents took place in residential locations. A quarter of incidents (25%) happened either online or over the phone. Much lower proportions of incidents happened in public areas (12%), business locations (12%) and community locations (4%). About 2% of locations were not identified. The overall distribution of the incidents is presented on Figure 9.1 below.

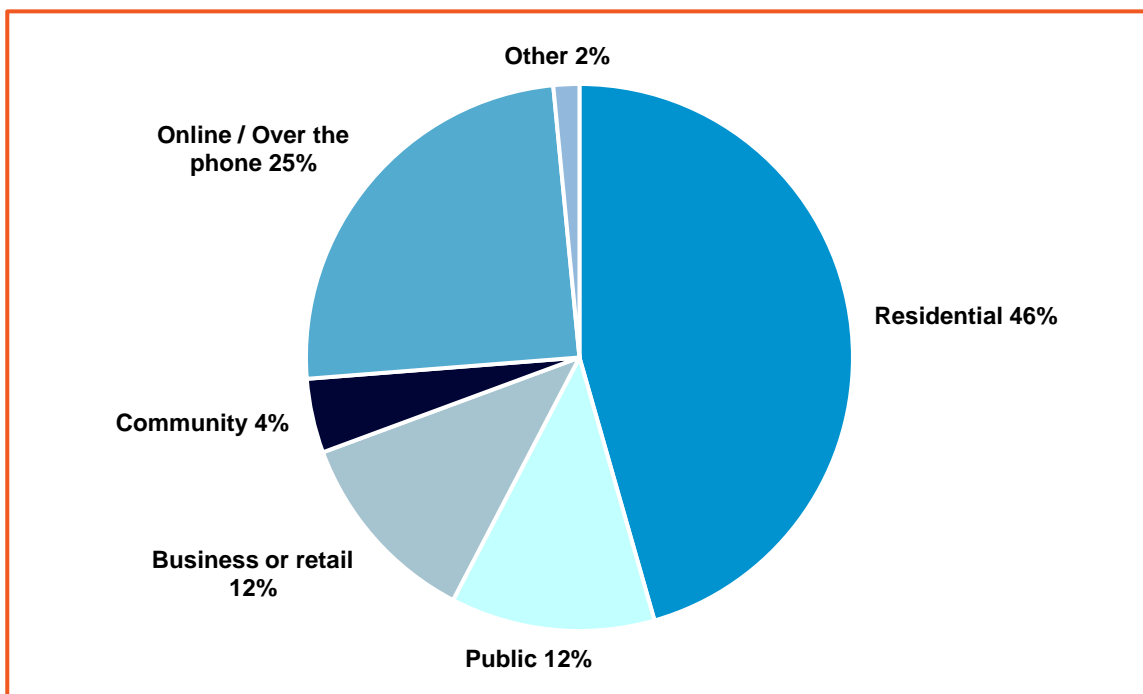


Figure 9.1 Distribution of incidents, by location (pooled data)

Note. The total exceeds 100% due to rounding.

However, the distribution of the incident locations varies significantly depending on the offence type. Not surprisingly, household crime such as burglary and trespass occurred almost completely in residential locations (Figure 9.2). Also, almost three-quarters of offences by family members (74%) happened in residential areas.

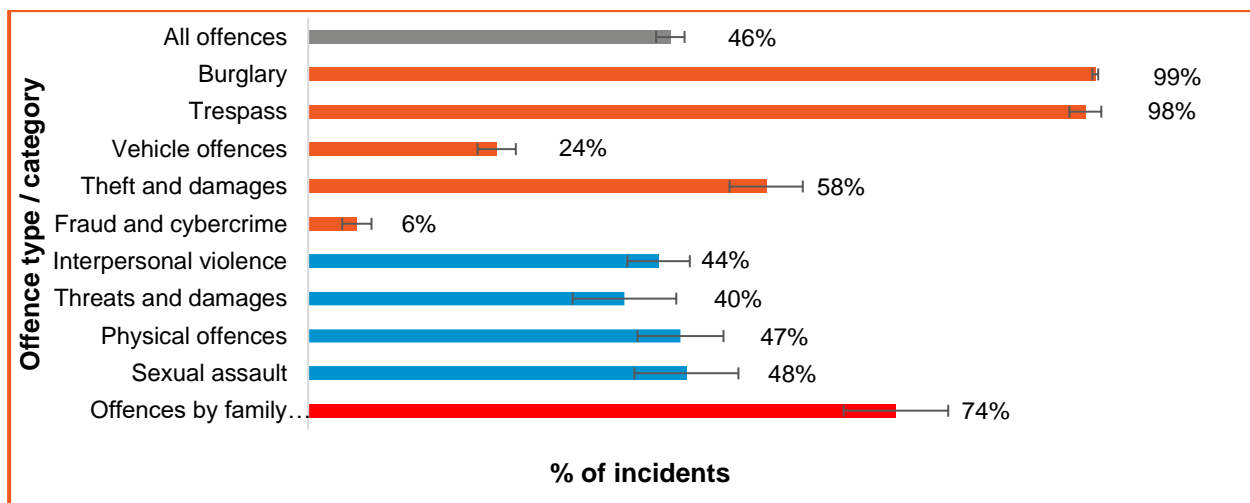


Figure 9.2 Percentage of incidents that occurred in residential locations, by offence categories (pooled data)

Vehicle offences and physical assault and robbery are the most common offences that occurred in public areas (Figure 9.3).

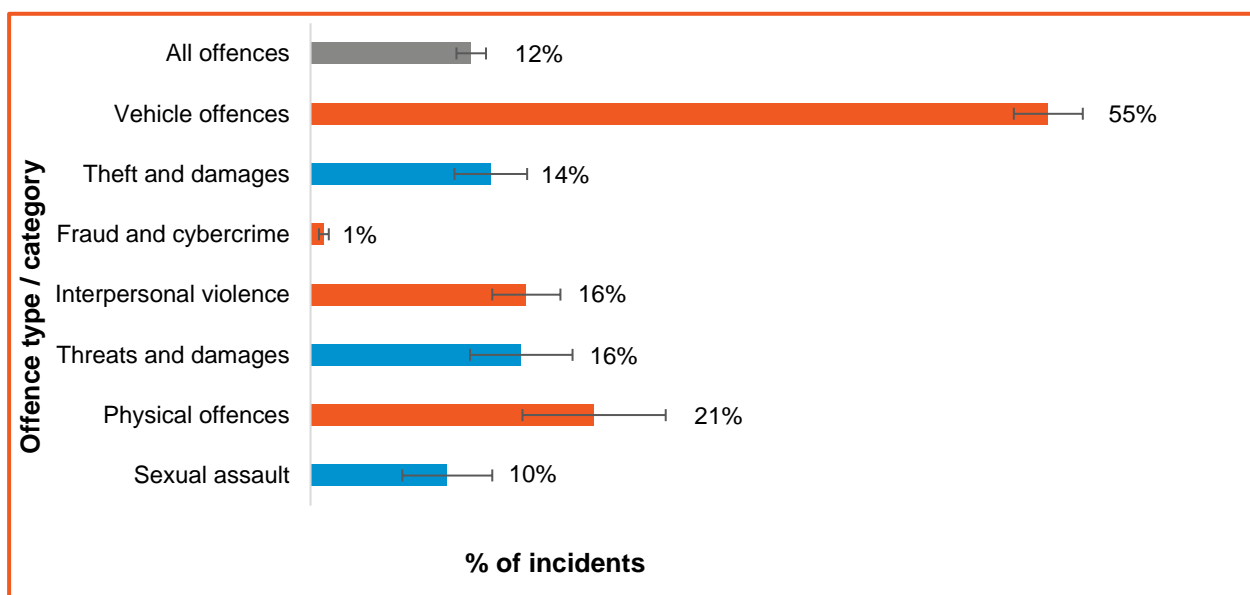


Figure 9.3 Percentage of incidents that occurred in public areas, by offence categories (pooled data)

Business/retail areas were characterised by a high prevalence of sexual assaults and overall interpersonal violence offences, followed by vehicle offences and theft and damage offences (Figure 9.4).

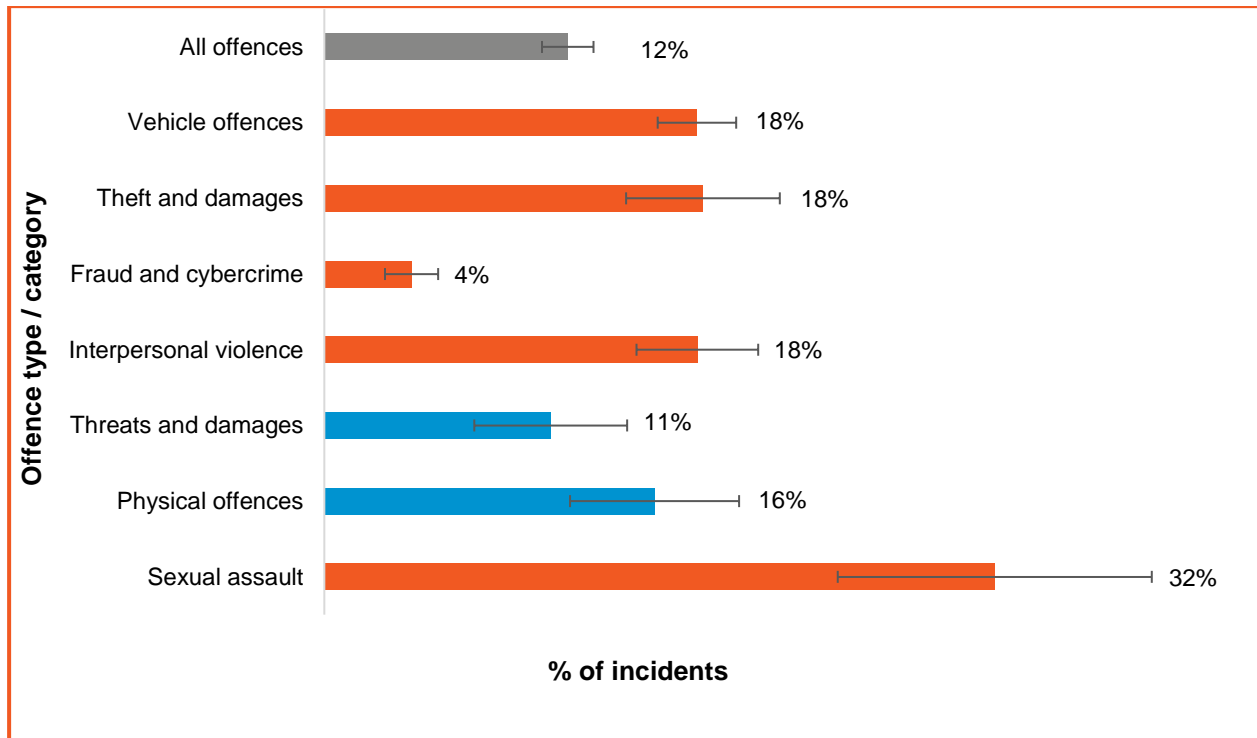


Figure 9.4 Percentage of incidents that occurred in business/retail areas, by offence category (pooled data)

Community areas are comparatively safer, with 4% of all incidents happening there. Offence categories that happened relatively more often in community areas include physical assault and robberies (13%), theft and damage (9%), and interpersonal violence offences (8%).

A quarter (25%) of all incidents occurred online or over the phone. They include 86% of all fraud and cybercrime incidents, and 27% of threats and damages offences.

9.2 Offences by males against females

If victims came into contact with offenders or found out who the offenders were, the NZCVS asked a question about the sex of the offender. This allowed high-level analysis of male-against-female offences. We found that in almost half (49%) of all personal offences where the sex of the offender was known to the victim, males were the offenders and females were the victims. This proportion increased to 52% for interpersonal violence offences, 53% for assaults and robberies, 69% for offences by family members, and 73% for sexual assaults, which was the only offence type with the proportion significantly higher than the national average (Figure 9.5).

Notably, proportions of offences where the offender and victim were of the same sex are much lower – 29% were male-against-male offences, and 13% were female-against-female offences. 10% of offences were female-against-male.

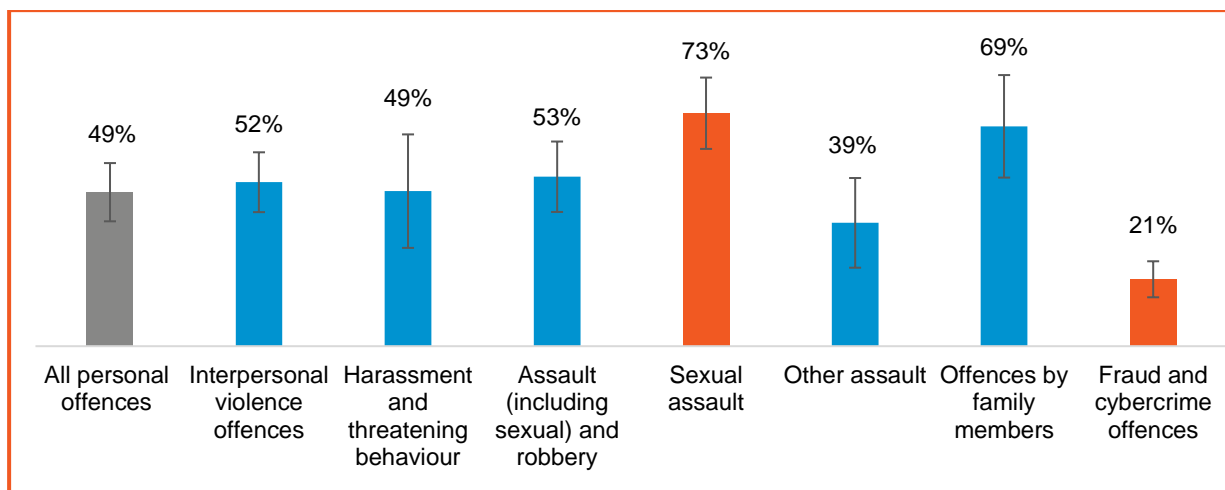


Figure 9.5 Percentage of male-against-female incidents, by offence category (pooled data)

9.3 Use of a weapon, injuries and time off work

Use of a weapon by offenders was checked only for other (non-sexual) assaults. Overall, offenders used a weapon in 12% of all non-sexual assaults (pooled data). No statistically significant difference in the use of a weapon was found for particular demographic groups. The analysis was limited due to a small sample size.

Every 11th incident (9%) resulted in injuries (Figure 9.6). While injuries were uncommon for household offences (1% of incidents, significantly lower than the average level), the proportion increased to 12% for all personal offences and became significantly higher than the overall level for interpersonal violence offences (21%), and especially for other (non-sexual) assaults, where victims were injured in every second incident (49%).

More than a quarter of offences by family members resulted in physical injuries (28%). The same proportion of victims were physically injured in incidents involving intimate partners, both ex-partners (22%) and current partners (35%). Both proportions are significantly higher than the average level. Note that offences by family members also include non-physical offence types like threats, harassment or property damage.

Victims were also physically injured in 12% of all sexual assaults.

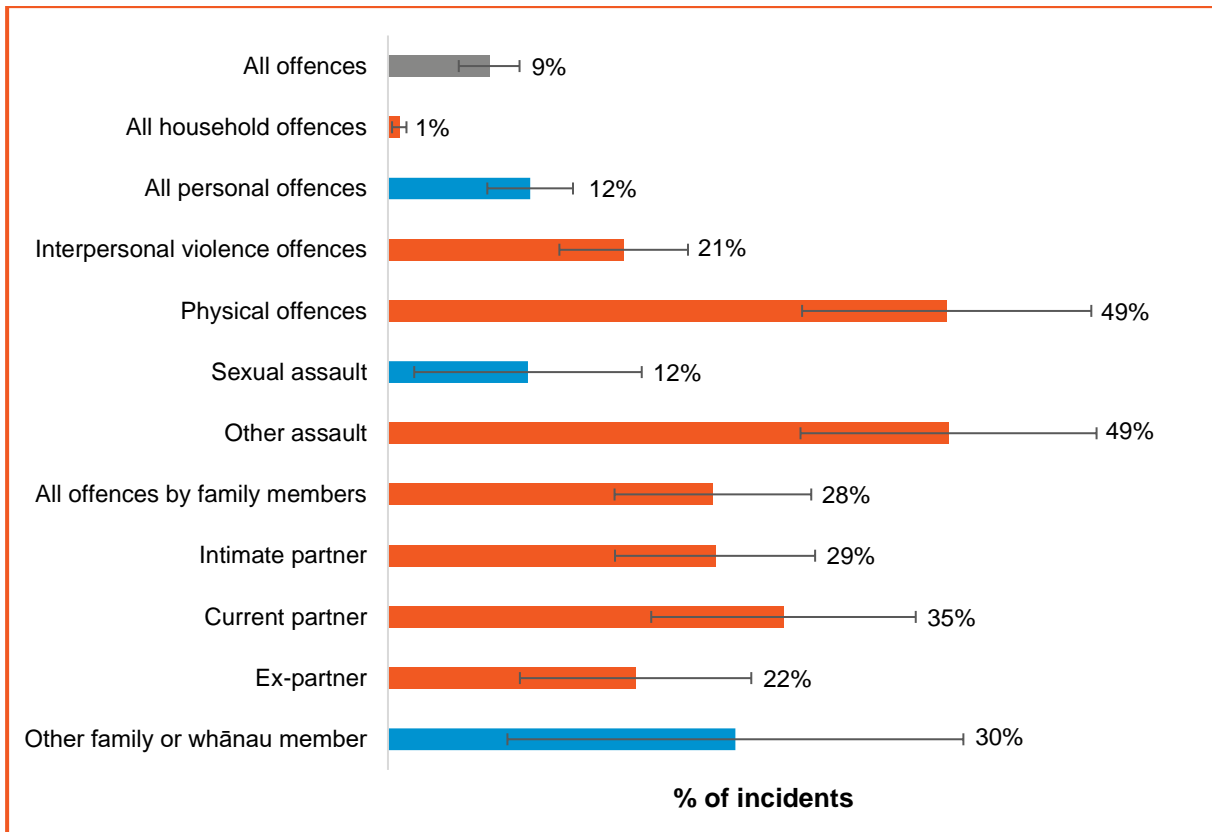


Figure 9.6 Percentage of incidents where victims were injured, by offence category (pooled data)

As the result of 10% of incidents, victims needed to take time off work (Figure 9.7). This proportion is about the same for both household and personal offences. Within the personal offences category this proportion is higher for interpersonal violence offences (13%), robberies and other offences (20%) and offences by family members (20%), but the difference is not statistically significant. A significantly higher proportion of incidents with time taken off work was recorded for vehicle offences.

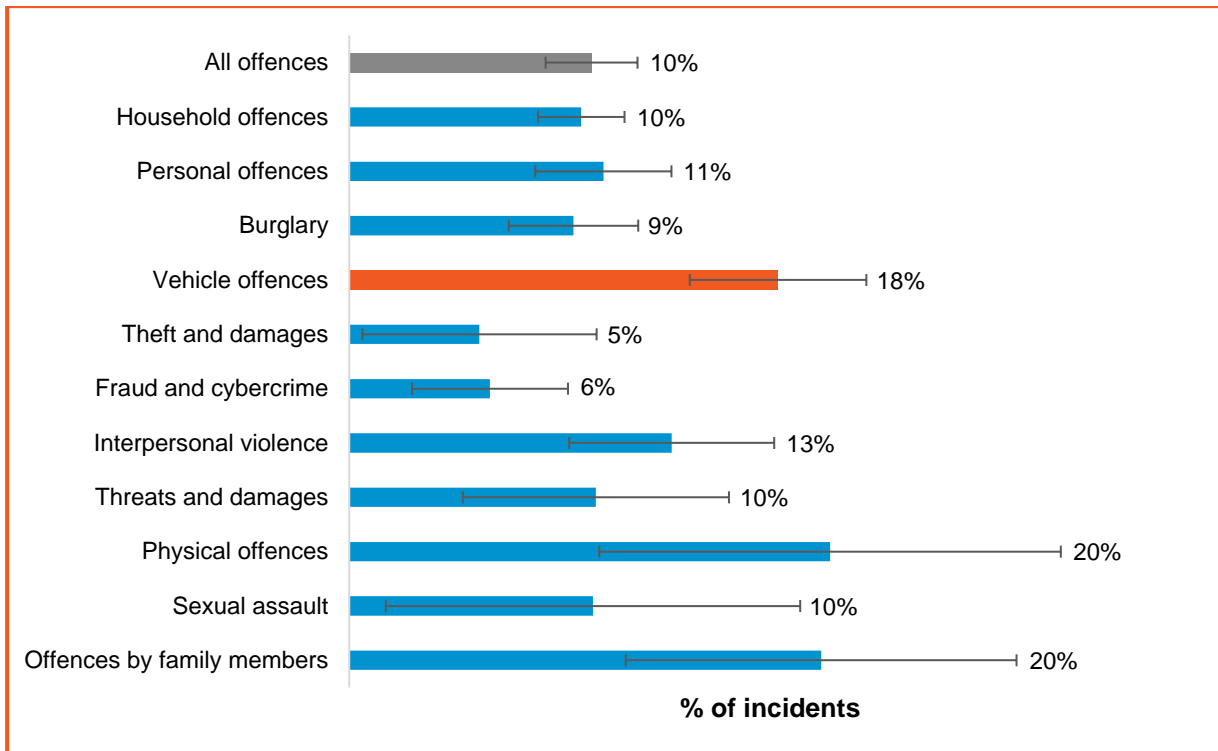


Figure 9.7 Percentage of incidents where victims had to take time off work, by offence category (pooled data)

10 Perceptions of safety

What is included in this section?

Safety is a wellbeing domain for New Zealand in the Treasury’s Living Standards Framework, which defines it as “Being safe from harm and the fear of harm and keeping oneself and others safe from harm”.³⁰ Two general questions were asked in the NZCVS to help us understand respondents’ perceptions of safety. The answers were measured on an 11-point scale, where zero means you feel “not at all safe” and 10 means you feel “completely safe”.³¹ The questions are:

- Overall, how safe do you feel?
- Overall, how safe do you feel when with family or whānau?

Families can contribute for better or worse to the feeling of safety of family members.³² The NZCVS further assesses this by asking “Do you ever feel unsafe when with family or whānau?” The answers were measured in yes or no.

Previous NZCVS reports found a strong relationship between overall perceptions of safety and victimisation.³³ In this section we discuss the overall perceptions of safety and analyse the differences in perceptions of safety for diverse population groups.

10.1 Changes in perceptions of safety by population factors over time

What did we find?

- There are no significant changes in the overall feeling of safety over time since the start of the NZCVS.
- In the current year (Cycle 4), people aged 65+, those who were retired, and those with a household income of \$20,001–\$30,000 per annum were significantly less likely to rate their feeling of safety between 0 and 6 out of 10.
- Chinese adults saw an over 50% reduction in the likelihood of feeling the most safe (10 out of 10) between the base year (Cycle 1) and the current year.

³⁰ The Treasury. 2021. *The Living Standards Framework (LSF) 2021* (p12).

<https://www.treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2021-10/tp-living-standards-framework-2021.pdf>

³¹ Seven lowest levels are combined in one group, 0 to 6, to avoid multiple suppressions due to a small sample size.

³² The Treasury. 2021. *The Living Standards Framework (LSF) 2021* (p43).

<https://www.treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2021-10/tp-living-standards-framework-2021.pdf>

³³ NZCVS resources and results <https://www.justice.govt.nz/justice-sector-policy/research-data/nzcvsv/resources-and-results/>

- Adults living in the Southland region were significantly more likely to feel the most safe in the current year compared to the base year and the previous year (Cycle 3).
- There are no significant changes in the overall feeling of safety when with family or whānau since the start of the NZCVS.
- Five out of six adults (83%) said they feel the most safe when they are with family or whānau in the current year.
- Adults with the lowest level of household income (\$10,000 or less per annum) were over 75% less likely to rate their feeling of safety when with family or whānau between 0 and 6 out of 10 in the current year compared to the previous year.
- Adults living in the Nelson region were significantly more likely to rate their feeling of safety when with family or whānau between 0 and 6 out of 10 in the current year compared to the previous year.
- Overall, there are no significant changes observed between the previous year and current year. In both years, at least 5% of adults had felt unsafe when with family or whānau.
- Adults living in a “one parent with child(ren) and other person(s)” household saw a 60% reduction in the likelihood of ever feeling unsafe when with family or whānau between the previous year and the current year.

Adults living in the Southland region feel safer than before

As Figure 10.1 shows, overall, the structure of the answers is very stable over time. No significant changes were observed.

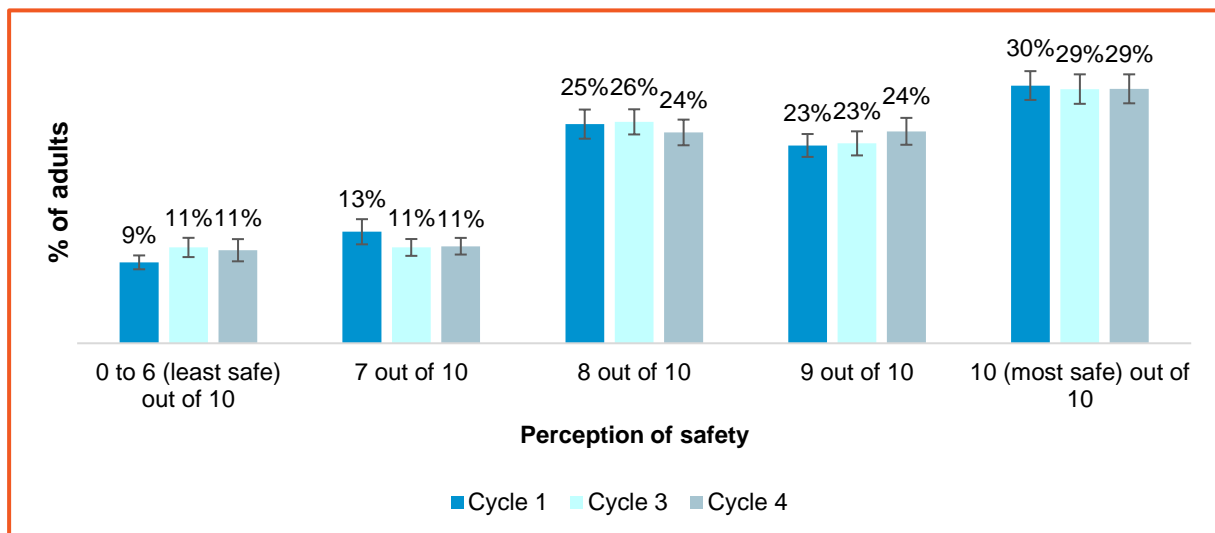


Figure 10.1 Perception of safety over time

Generally, for most population factors there were no significant changes in adults’ perception of safety over time. The few statistically significant changes that did occur across Cycles 1, 3 and 4 were as follows (Table 10.1).

- People aged 65+ were less likely to rate their feeling of safety between 0 and 6 out of 10 (6% in the current year compared to 9% in the previous year).
- Chinese adults saw an over 50% reduction in the likelihood of feeling the most safe (10 out of 10) between the base year and the current year – from 32% to 15%.
- Adults living in a “one parent with child(ren) and other person(s)” household saw a significant reduction in the likelihood of them feeling the most safe between the previous year and the current year – from 41% to 30%.
- Retired adults were significantly less likely to rate their feeling of safety between 0 and 6 out of 10 (5% in the current year compared to 9% in the base year and 8% in the previous year).
- Sixteen percent of adults renting privately owned accommodation rated their feeling of safety between 0 and 6 out of 10 in the current year, a significant increase from 10% in the base year.
- Adults with a household income of \$20,001–\$30,000 per annum saw a significant reduction in the likelihood of rating their feeling of safety between 0 and 6 out of 10 between the base year and the current year (from 14% to 8%), whereas those with a household income of \$100,001–\$150,000 were more likely to rate their feeling of safety between 0 and 6 out of 10 (11% in the current year compared to 6% in the base year).
- Adults who had very limited ability to afford a \$300 non-essential item saw a significant increase in the likelihood of rating their feeling of safety 10 out of 10 between the previous year and the current year (from 27% to 35%).
- Adults living in the Southland region were significantly more likely to rate their feeling of safety 10 out of 10 (from 31% in the base year and 35% in the previous year to 73% in the current year). In contrast, those living in the Tasman region were significantly less likely to feel the most safe (15% in the current year compared to 47% in the base year and 35% in the previous year).

Table 10.1 Perception of safety, by population factor over time

Population factor	Cycle 1	Cycle 3	Cycle 4	Change from Cycle 1	Change from Cycle 3
Feeling of safety: between 0 and 6 (least safe) out of 10					
Aged 65+	8.5	9.1	6.0	↔	↓
Retired	8.6	8.1	5.1	↓	↓
Renting a privately owned accommodation	10.3	12.6	15.9	↑	↔
Household income: \$20,001–\$30,000	13.6	11.9	7.8	↓	↔
Household income: \$100,001–\$150,000	6.4	9.1	11.5	↑	↔
Feeling of safety: 10 (most safe) out of 10					
Chinese	31.9	20.1	15.3	↓	↔
Household composition: one parent with child(ren) and other person(s)	37.1	41.3	29.5	↔	↓
Able to afford \$300 item: very limited	27.7	26.5	35.0	↔	↑
Southland	31.4	35.3	73.5	↑	↑
Tasman	47.3	35.3	15.3	↓	↓

In the current year, adults with the lowest level of household income (\$10,000 or less per annum) were over 75% less likely to rate their feeling of safety when with family or whānau as low compared to the previous year

Overall, the structure of the answers in the current year is basically the same as in the previous year – no significant changes were observed. In the current year, more than 80% of adults rated their feeling of safety when with family or whānau at the highest level (10 out of 10).



5 in 6 adults (83%) felt safest (10 out of 10) when with their family or whānau.

However, 4% of adults reported lower levels of safety (between 0 and 6 out of 10) when with family or whānau, with a further 1% selecting 7 out of 10. The results are presented in Figure 10.2.

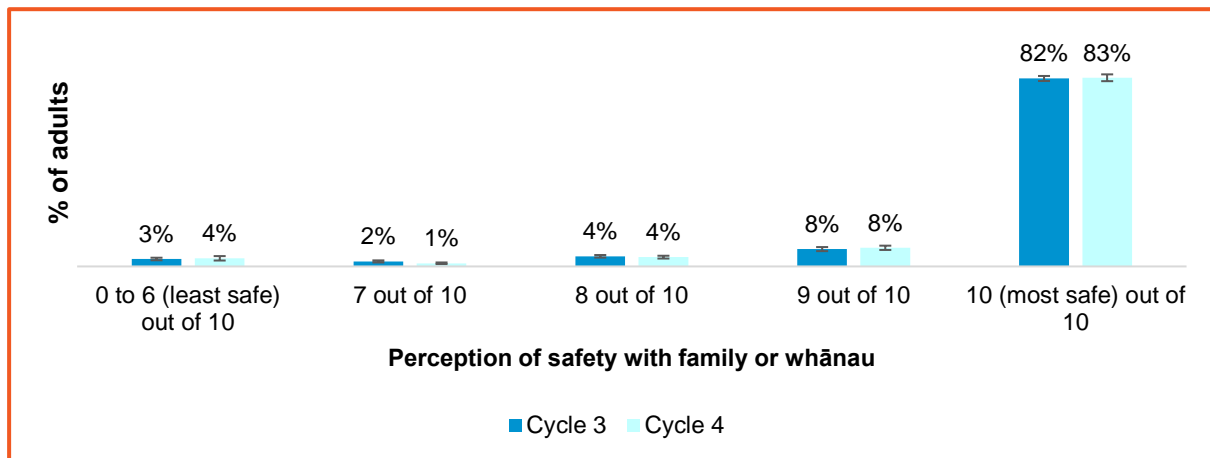


Figure 10.2 Perceived level of safety when with family or whānau over time

Generally, for most population factors there were no significant changes in adults' perception of safety when with family or whānau over time. The few statistically significant changes that did occur between the previous year and the current year were as follows (Table 10.2).

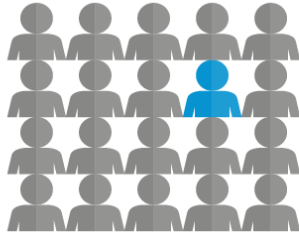
- Adults with the lowest level of household income (\$10,000 or less per annum) were over 75% less likely to rate their feeling of safety when with family or whānau between 0 and 6 out of 10 (1% in the current year compared to 6% in the previous year).
- Adults living in the Wellington region were significantly less likely to feel the most safe (10 out of 10) when with family or whānau (75% in the current year compared to 83% in the previous year). Those living in the Nelson region were significantly more likely to rate their feeling of safety when with family or whānau between 0 and 6 out of 10 (10% in the current year compared to 1% in the previous year).

Table 10.2 Perception of safety when with family or whānau, by population factor over time

Population factor	Cycle 3	Cycle 4	Change from Cycle 3
Feeling of safety when with family or whānau: between 0 and 6 (least safe) out of 10			
Household income: \$10,000 or less	5.9	1.3	↓
Nelson	0.7	9.6	↑
Feeling of safety when with family or whānau: 10 (most safe) out of 10			
Wellington	83.3	75.5	↓

At least 5% of adults had felt unsafe when with family or whānau

We also asked respondents if they ever feel unsafe when with family or whānau. The answers collected were either yes or no.³⁴ Overall, no significant differences were observed between the previous year and the current year. In both years, about 5% of adults had felt unsafe when with family or whānau.



1 in 20 adults reported **feeling unsafe** when with their family or whānau.

Notably, apart from the rates for those living in a “one parent with child(ren) and other person(s)” household, no other significant changes were detected in the rates of adults feeling unsafe when with family or whānau by population factors. Adults living in a “one parent with child(ren) and other person(s)” household saw a 60% reduction in the likelihood of them ever feeling unsafe when with family or whānau between the previous year and the current year – from 13% to 5%.

10.2 Perception of safety and victimisation

What did we find?

- There is an association between the level of safety and victimisation measured in prevalence rates. This association is observed for overall victimisation, household offences, personal offences, burglary and interpersonal violence offences.
- Those who reported feeling the lowest levels of safety (between 0 and 6 out of 10) were victimised significantly more than the New Zealand average, and those who reported feeling the highest level of safety (10 out of 10) were victimised significantly less.
- Victims were more concerned about safety than non-victims. The level of safety concern increases with the number of crime incidents that victims experience. Highly victimised adults (those who experienced four or more incidents over the previous 12 months) have the highest level of safety concern.
- No significant differences were found between general perceptions of safety and victimisation over time.

³⁴ The question “Do you ever feel unsafe when with family/whānau?” was introduced in the NZCVS Cycle 3.

- There is also a strong association between victimisation and the feeling of safety when with family or whānau, but no significant differences were detected between victimisation and the feeling of safety when with family or whānau over time.
- One in two adults who felt the least safe (between 0 and 6 out of 10) with their family or whānau had experienced one or more offences.
- Victims of multiple crimes and highly victimised adults were more concerned about their safety when with family or whānau. The percentage of adults who felt unsafe when with family or whānau consistently increased with higher numbers of incidents experienced by an adult.

General feeling of safety

Over time we observed an association between the level of safety and overall victimisation measured in prevalence rates. Adults who felt the least safe (between 0 and 6 out of 10) and those who rated their level of safety as 7 out of 10 were victimised significantly more than the New Zealand average. Adults who felt the most safe (10 out of 10) were victimised significantly less than the New Zealand average (Figure 10.3). This pattern is also observed among household offences and personal offences.

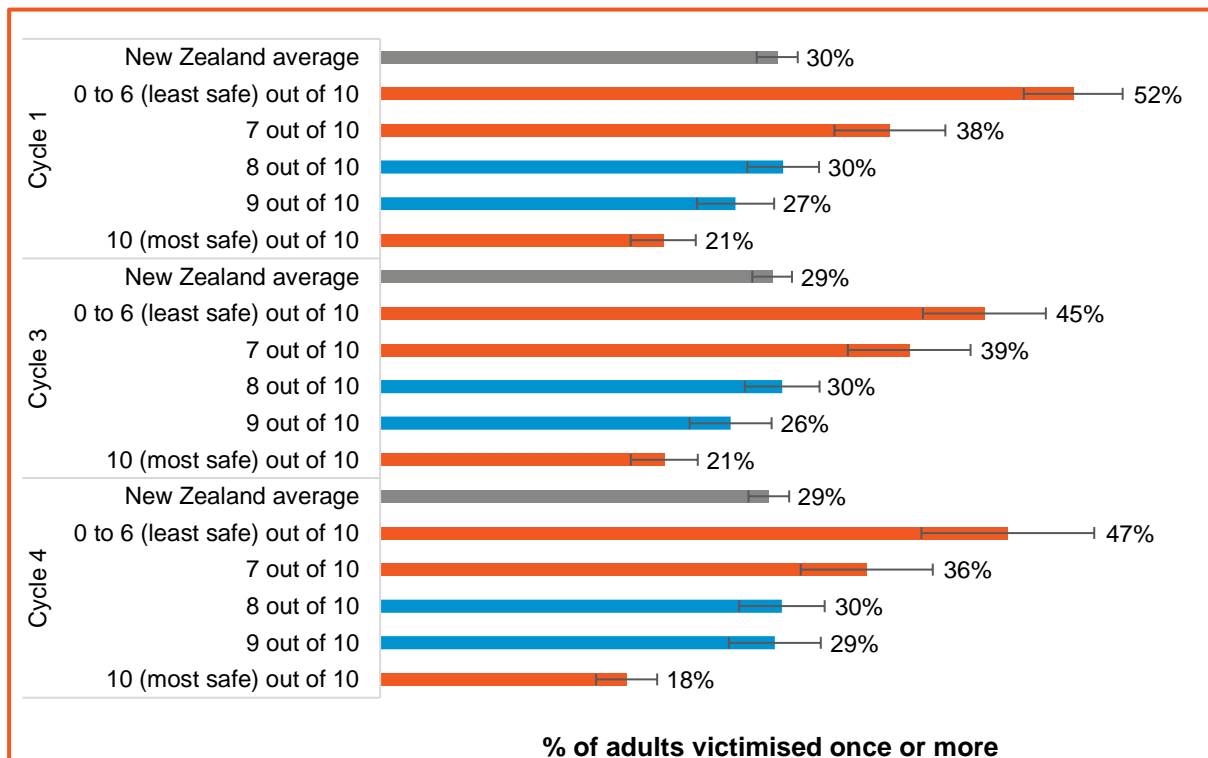


Figure 10.3 Percentage of adults victimised once or more in the previous 12 months (all offences), by perceived safety (over time)

Both for household offences and for personal offences, no significant differences were found between cycles. Delving into more detailed offence types, the downward trend (victimisation decreasing with increased perceived safety) was also observed for burglary (Figure 10.4) and interpersonal violence offences (Figure 10.5).

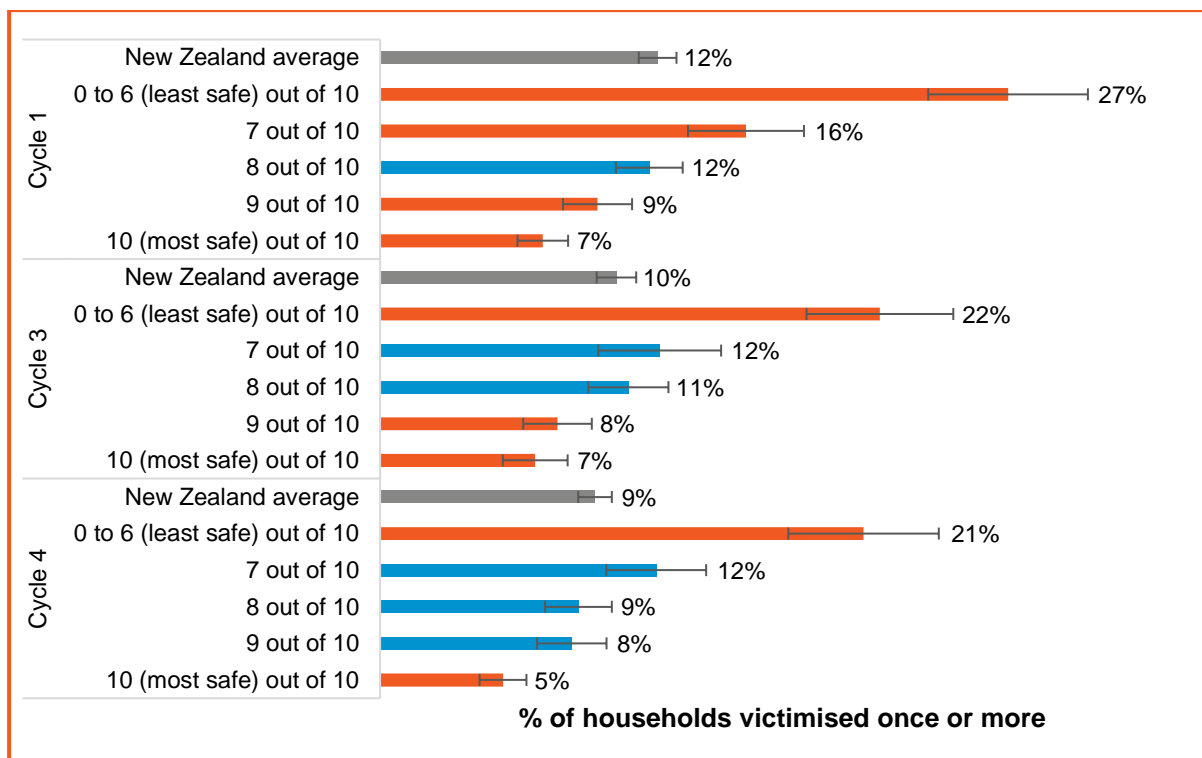


Figure 10.4 Percentage of households victimised once or more in the previous 12 months (burglary), by perceived safety (over time)

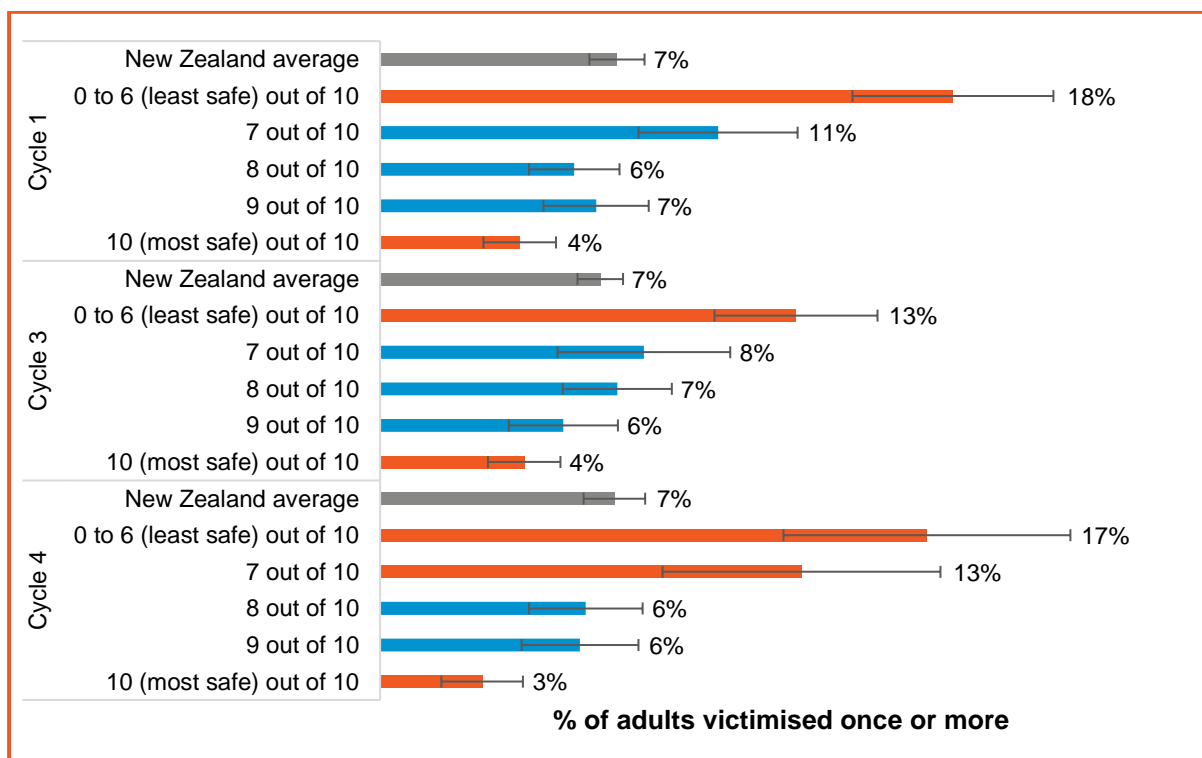


Figure 10.5 Percentage of adults victimised once or more in the previous 12 months (interpersonal violence offences), by perceived safety (over time)

The association between a general feeling of safety and victimisation is clearly seen in the above figures. Those who felt the least safe were victimised significantly more than the New Zealand average, and those who felt the most safe were victimised significantly less.

Number of victimisations experienced by an adult

Figure 10.6 shows the number of victimisations experienced by an adult over the previous 12 months is significantly associated with perceived level of safety. Pooled data is used in the analysis to avoid large margins of error for smaller groups.

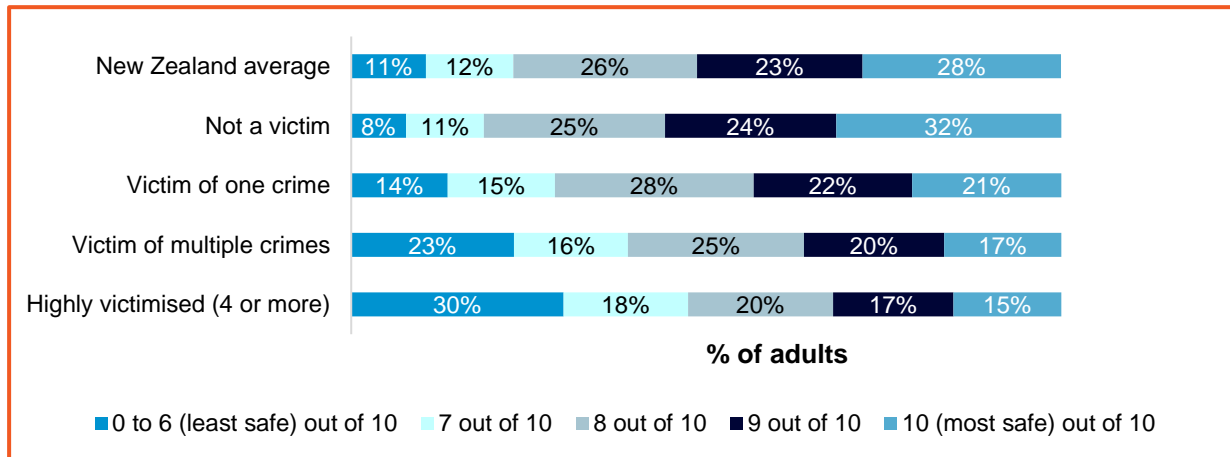


Figure 10.6 Perceived level of safety of New Zealand adults, by the number of incidents experienced over previous 12 months (pooled data)

Victims were more concerned about safety than non-victims. Further, victims of multiple crimes (two and more incidents) were more concerned about their safety than victims of only one crime incident, and highly victimised adults (those who experienced four or more incidents over the previous 12 months) had the highest level of safety concern. This trend relates to both those who felt the least safe and those who felt the most safe (8% of non-victims vs 30% of highly victimised adults felt the least safe; 32% of non-victims vs 15% of highly victimised adults felt the most safe).

Feeling of safety when with family or whānau

We analysed the association between victimisation and the feeling of safety when with family or whānau and found no significant differences between the previous year and the current year. However, a similar downward trend is found between the feeling of safety when with family or whānau and victimisation (Figure 10.7).

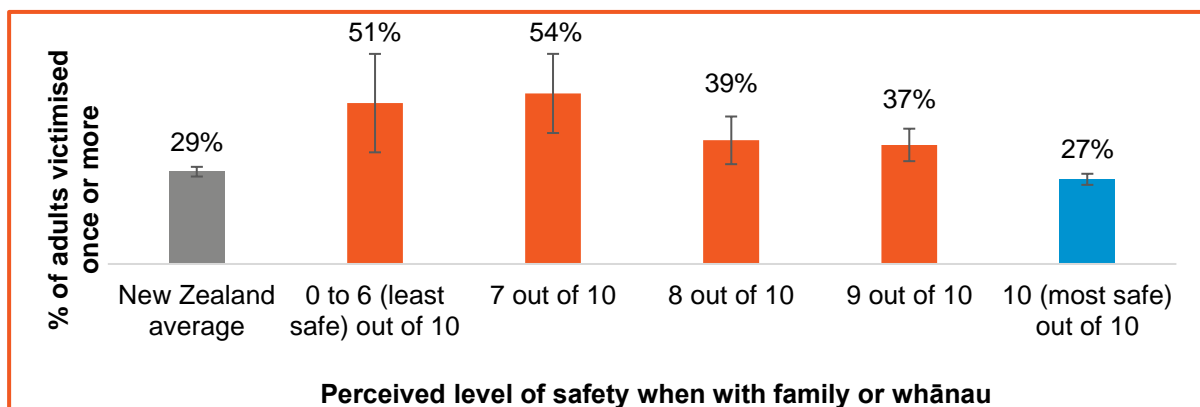
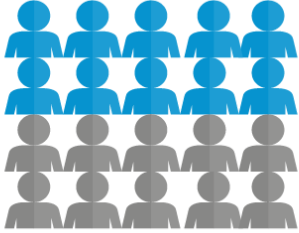


Figure 10.7 Association between the victimisation levels (overall prevalence rates) and perceived level of safety when with family or whānau (Cycle 4)

Most adults felt the most safe (10 out of 10) when with their family or whānau (over 80%). Their level of victimisation is close to the New Zealand average. All other groups, even those with a slightly lower perceived level of safety when with family or whānau (9 out of 10), were victimised significantly more than the New Zealand average. About 2 in 5 adults who rated their level of safety when with family or whānau as 8 or 9 out of 10 were victimised once or more. For those who felt the least safe (between 0 and 6 out of 10) and those with the perceived level of safety 7 out of 10, the victimisation rate increased to over 50%.



About 50% of adults who felt the least safe (between 0 and 6 out of 10) when with their family or whānau were victimised within a 12-month period.

This downward trend is observed among household offences and personal offences (Figure 10.8).

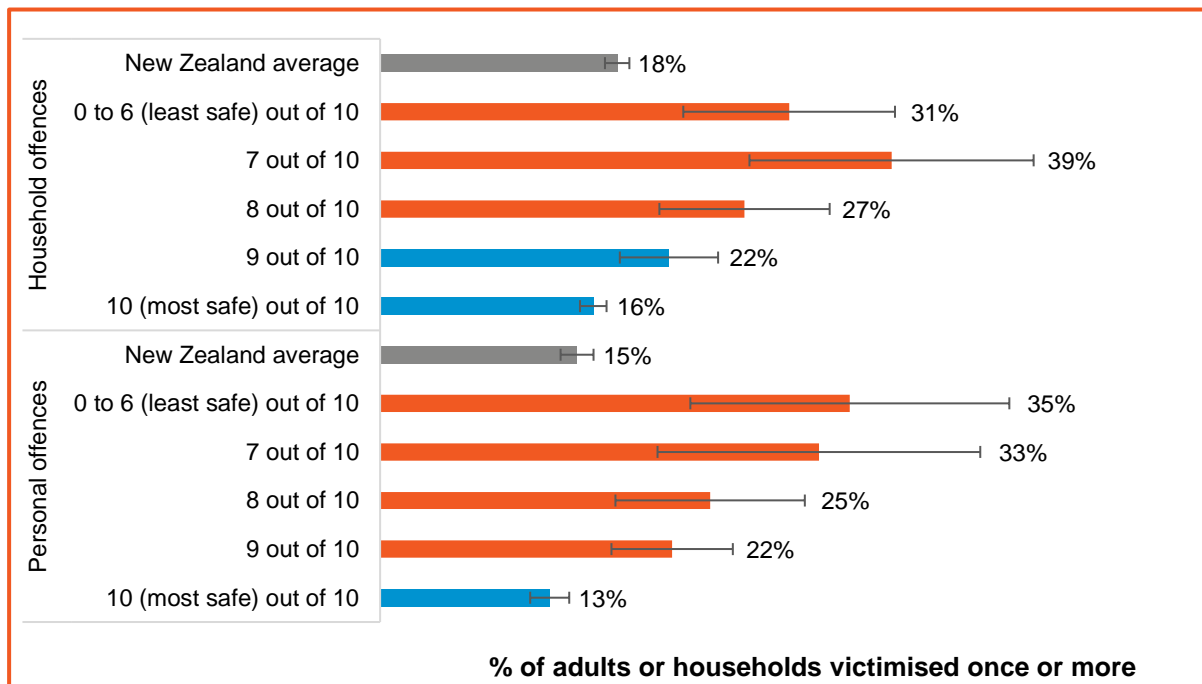


Figure 10.8 Percentage of adults/households victimised once or more, by perceived safety when with family or whānau (Cycle 4)

Number of victimisations experienced by an adult

Figures 10.9 and 10.10 show the number of victimisations experienced by an adult over the previous 12 months is significantly associated with perceived level of safety when with family or whānau. This section discusses the current year results.

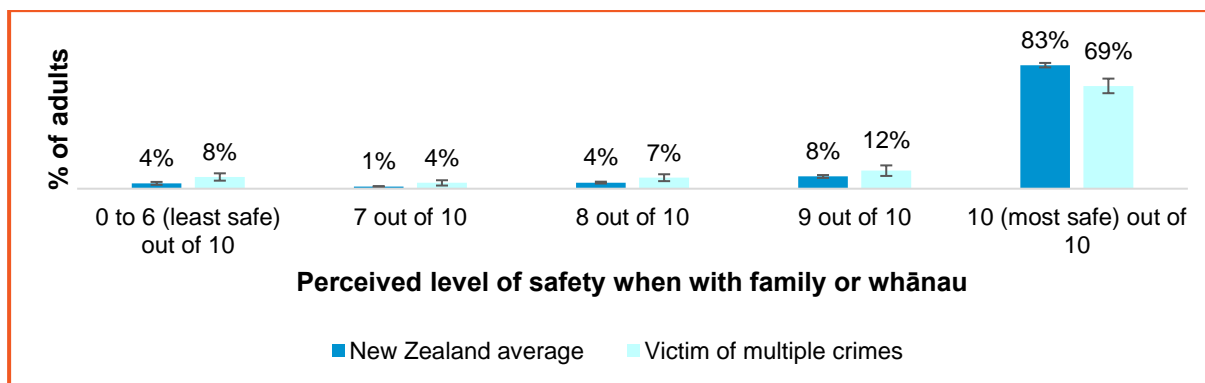


Figure 10.9 Perceived level of safety when with family or whānau – adults victimised more than once compared with the national average (Cycle 4)

Victims of multiple crimes (two and more incidents) were more concerned about their safety than the New Zealand average. They were significantly more likely to rate their feeling of safety when with family or whānau between 0 and 6 out of 10 and were significantly less likely to feel the most safe (10 out of 10) compared with the New Zealand average.

Highly victimised adults (those who experienced four or more incidents over the previous 12 months) had the highest level of safety concern when with family or whānau. This trend relates to both those who felt the least safe and those who felt the most safe (4% of national average vs 13% of highly victimised adults felt the least safe; 83% of non-victims vs 62% of highly victimised adults felt the most safe).

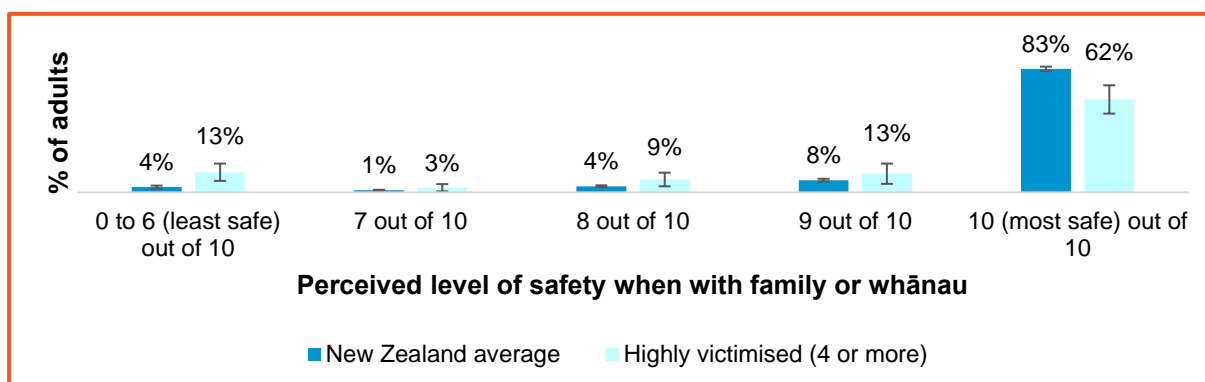


Figure 10.10 Perceived level of safety when with family or whānau – highly victimised adults compared with the national average (Cycle 4)

The percentage of adults who felt unsafe when with family or whānau consistently increased with higher numbers of incidents experienced by an adult (Figure 10.11). Victims of multiple crimes were three times as likely as the New Zealand average to have felt unsafe when with family or whānau, and highly victimised adults were over four times as likely as the New Zealand average to have felt unsafe when with family or whānau.

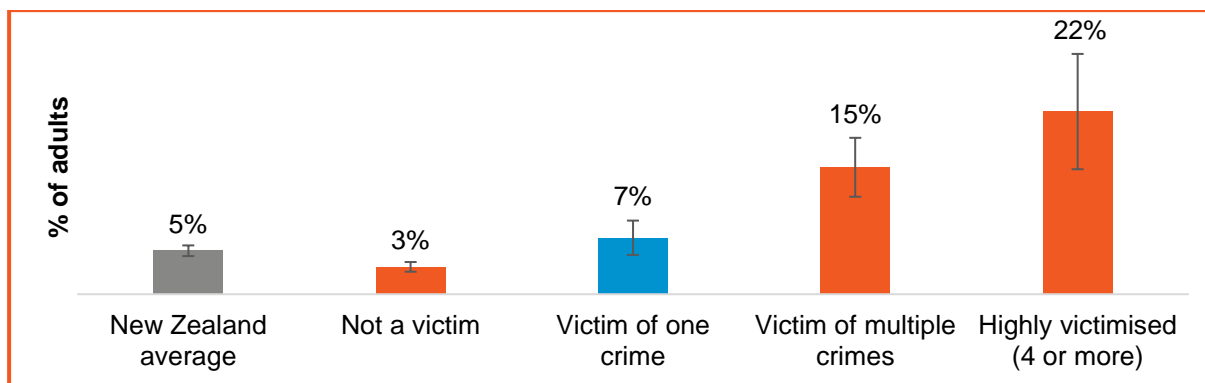


Figure 10.11 Percentage of adults who felt unsafe when with family or whānau, by number of victimisations experienced by an adult (Cycle 4)

10.3 General perception of safety by population factors

In this section we analyse differences in perceived levels of safety for key population factors. This analysis helps to recognise the most vulnerable groups of the New Zealand adult population. Pooled data is used in the analysis to avoid large margins of error for smaller groups.

What did we find?

Compared with the New Zealand average:

Population factors associated with **greater concern** about safety included:

- **personal factors:** aged 40–64; female; disabled; sexually diverse; New Zealand European; Chinese; non-partnered; separated or divorced
- **household factors:** living alone or in a one-parent-with-child(ren) household; living in a household with four or more children
- **economic factors:** employed; cannot meet \$500 unexpected expense; having very or quite limited ability to afford a \$300 non-essential item
- **geographic factors:** living in the Hawke’s Bay or Canterbury region; living in major urban area; living in more deprived areas (deciles 8, 9, or 10)
- **wellbeing factors:** having a moderate or high level of psychological distress; having low life satisfaction (between 0 and 7 out of 10).

Population factors associated with **less concern** about safety included:

- **personal factors:** young adults (aged 15–29); older adults (aged 65+); male; Māori; widowed; never married and never in a civil union
- **household factors:** living in self-owned accommodation; living in a couple-only household; living in a “couple with child(ren) and other person(s)” household; living in a “one parent with child(ren) and other person(s)” household; living in a large household (five or more people); living in a household with three children

- **economic factors:** retired; not under financial pressure
- **geographic factors:** living in the Gisborne, Taranaki, Wellington, Otago, Southland, Tasman, Nelson, or Marlborough region; living in a medium or small urban area; living in a rural area (rural settlement or rural other); living in less deprived areas (deciles 1, 2, 3, or 4)
- **wellbeing factors:** having a low level of psychological distress; having the highest life satisfaction score (10 out of 10).

Adults who were more concerned about their safety when compared with the New Zealand average

Overall, several groups of population factors were associated with a significantly higher likelihood of feeling the least safe (between 0 and 6 out of 10) and a significantly lower likelihood of feeling the most safe (10 out of 10) when compared with the New Zealand average (Figures 10.12 and 10.13). Adults with the following population factors were more concerned about their safety than the New Zealand average:

- **personal factors:** aged 40–64; female; disabled; sexually diverse; New Zealand European; Chinese;³⁵ non-partnered; separated or divorced
- **household factors:** living alone or in a one-parent-with-child(ren) household; living in a household with four or more children
- **economic factors:** employed; cannot meet \$500 unexpected expense; having very or quite limited ability to afford a \$300 non-essential item
- **geographic factors:** living in the Hawke’s Bay or Canterbury region; living in a major urban area; living in more deprived areas (deciles 8, 9, or 10)
- **wellbeing factors:** having a moderate or high level of psychological distress; having low life satisfaction (between 0 and 7 out of 10).

³⁵ Despite being victimised comparatively less than other ethnic groups, Chinese adults are slightly more concerned about safety than the New Zealand average.

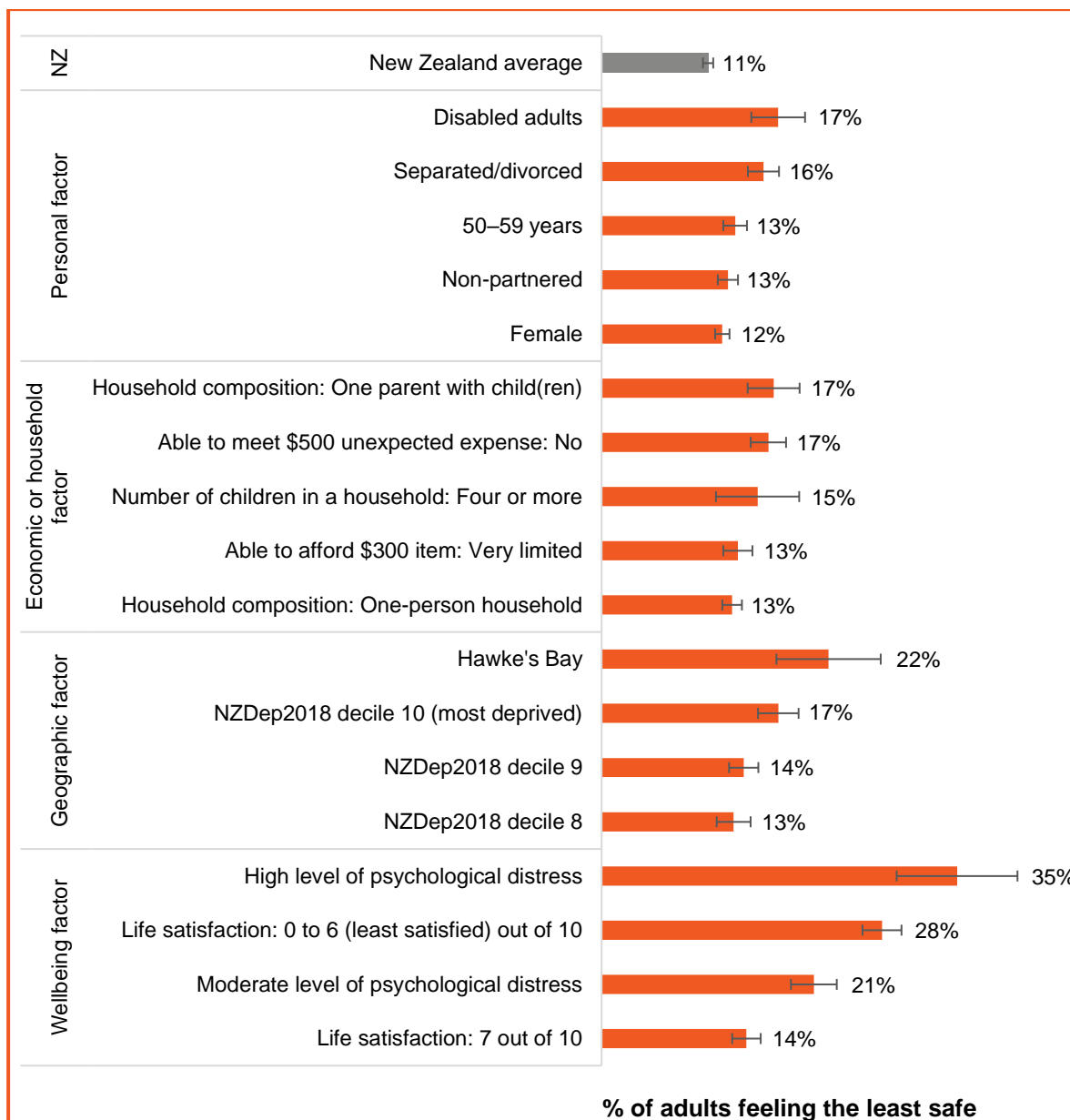


Figure 10.12 Population factors associated with a significantly higher likelihood of feeling the least safe when compared with the New Zealand average (pooled data)

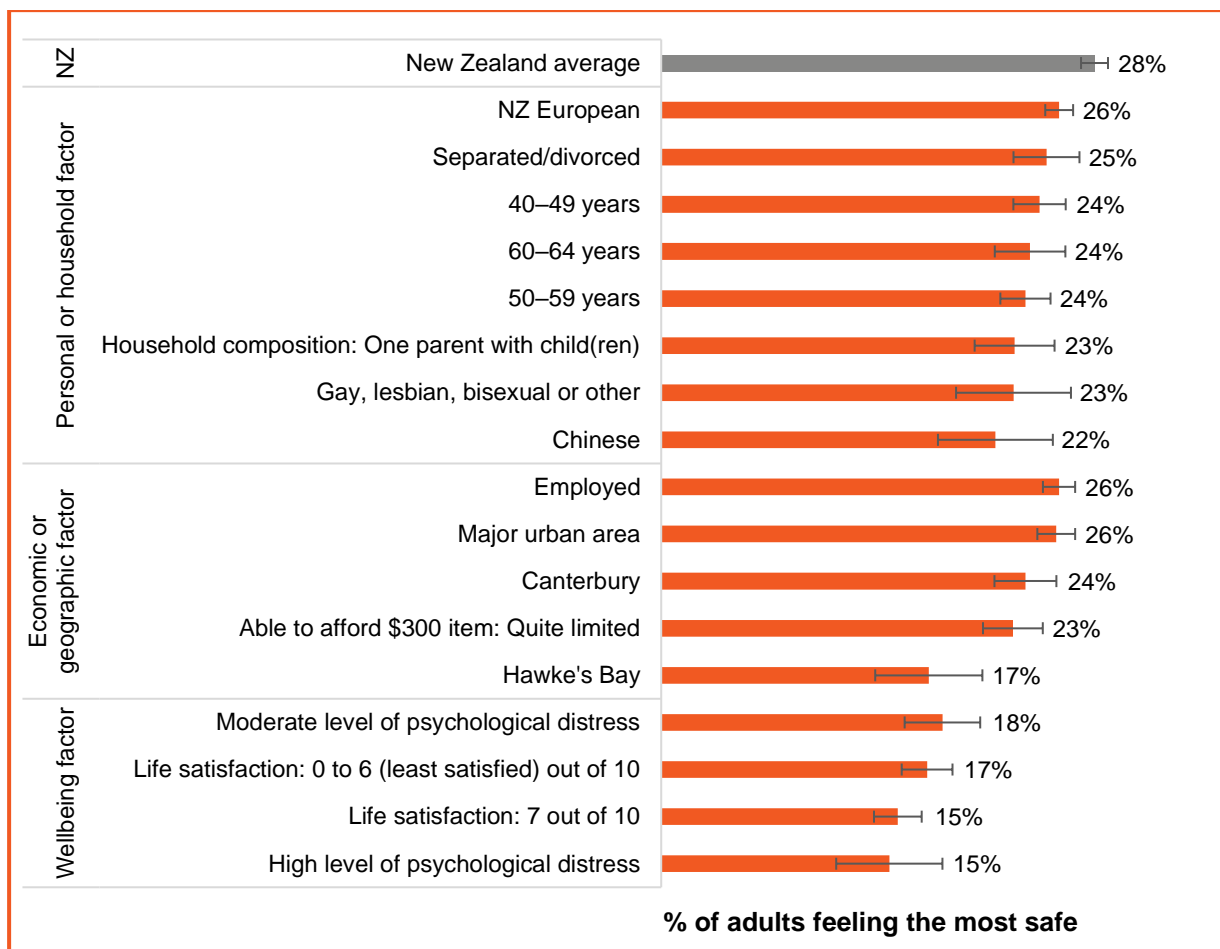


Figure 10.13 Population factors associated with a significantly lower likelihood of feeling the most safe when compared with the New Zealand average (pooled data)

Adults who are less concerned about their safety when compared with the New Zealand average

Overall, several groups of population factors were associated with a significantly lower likelihood of feeling the least safe (between 0 and 6 out of 10) and a significantly higher likelihood of feeling the most safe (10 out of 10) when compared with the New Zealand average (Figures 10.14 and 10.15). Adults with the following population factors were less concerned about their safety than the New Zealand average:

- **personal factors:** young adults (aged 15–29);³⁶ older adults (aged 65+); male; Māori;³⁷ widowed; never married and never in a civil union
- **household factors:** living in self-owned accommodation: living in a couple-only household, living in a “couple with child(ren) and other person(s)” household; living in a

³⁶ The NZCVS data (section 4) shows that the least victimised age group was aged 65+, so their higher confidence regarding safety is not surprising. Young adults (aged 15–29), however, also felt relatively safe despite being comparatively more victimised.

³⁷ Despite being victimised comparatively more than the New Zealand average, Māori adults were significantly more likely to rate their feeling of safety 10 out of 10 (35%) compared with the New Zealand average (28%).

“one parent with child(ren) and other person(s)” household; living in a large household (five or more people); living in a household with three children

- **economic factors:** retired; not under financial pressure³⁸
- **geographic factors:** living in the Gisborne, Taranaki, Wellington, Otago, Southland, Tasman, Nelson, or Marlborough region; living in a medium or small urban area; living in a rural area (rural settlement or rural other); living in less deprived areas (deciles 1, 2, 3, or 4, quintiles 1 or 2)
- **wellbeing factors:** having a low level of psychological distress, having the highest life satisfaction score (10 out of 10).

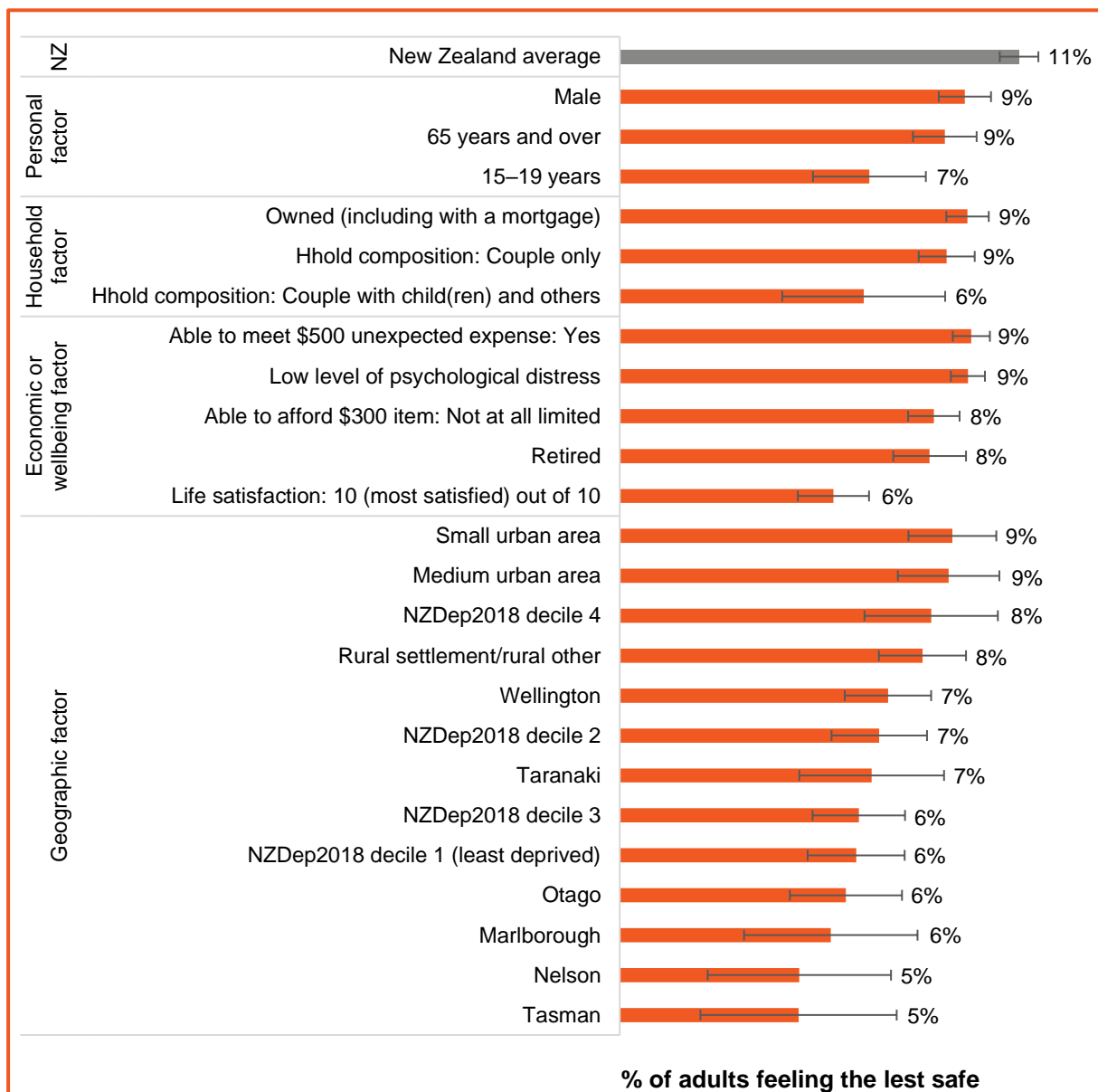


Figure 10.14 Population factors associated with a significantly lower likelihood of feeling the least safe when compared with the New Zealand average (pooled data)

³⁸ Can meet \$500 unexpected expense, and not at all limited in the ability to afford a \$300 non-essential item.

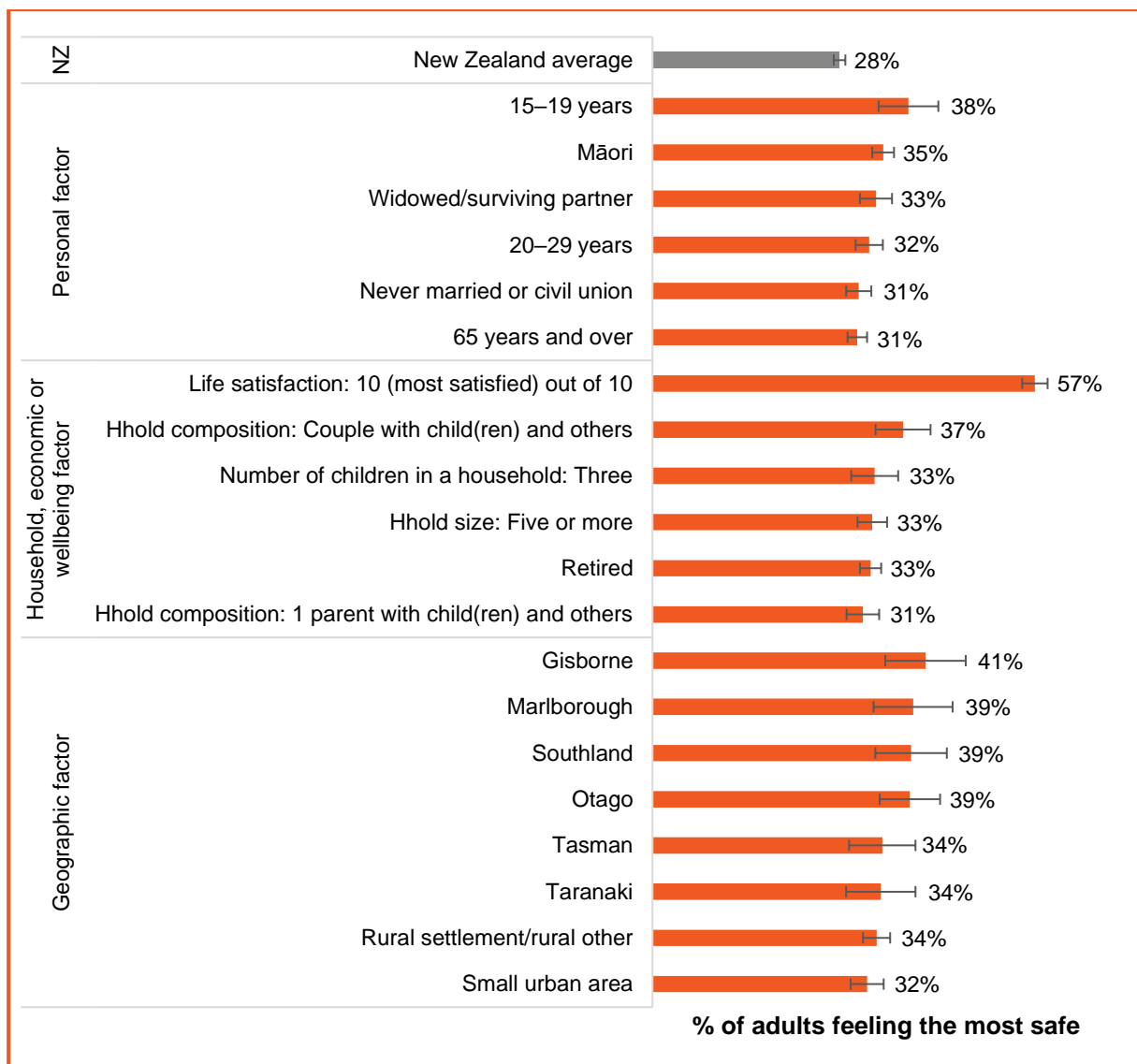


Figure 10.15 Population factors associated with a significantly higher likelihood of feeling the most safe when compared with the New Zealand average (pooled data)

10.4 Perception of safety when with family or whānau by population factors

This section analyses Cycle 4 results.³⁹ In this section we analyse differences in perceived levels of safety when with family or whānau for key demographic groups of respondents. The estimates were compared with the New Zealand average and tested to see which ones are significantly higher or lower than the national average.

³⁹ Two questions that ask about the perception of safety with family or whānau (“Overall, how safe do you feel when with family/whānau?”, and “Do you ever feel unsafe when with family/whānau?”) were only asked in the NZCVS from Cycle 3 onwards, so pooled data is not available.

What did we find?

Compared with the New Zealand average:

Population factors associated with feeling **more concerned** about safety when with family or whānau or being **more likely** to have felt unsafe when with family or whānau included:

- **personal factors:** bisexual; female; Māori; Chinese; non-partnered; separated or divorced, disabled
- **economic factors:** not employed and not actively seeking work; experiencing high level of financial pressure
- **geographic factors:** living in the Wellington or Nelson region
- **wellbeing factors:** having a moderate or high level of psychological distress; having low life satisfaction.

Population factors associated feeling **less concerned** about safety when with family or whānau or being **less likely** to have felt unsafe when with family or whānau included:

- **personal factors:** older adults (aged 65+); male; partnered and legally registered; married, in a civil union, or in a de facto relationship; widowed
- **household factors:** living in a couple-only household
- **economic factors:** retired; not under financial pressure; personal income of \$20,001–\$30,000 per annum; household income of \$10,000 or less per annum
- **geographic factors:** living in the West Coast region; living in a rural area (rural settlement or rural other)
- **wellbeing factors:** having the highest life satisfaction score (10 out of 10).

Adults who were more concerned about their safety when with family or whānau than the New Zealand average

Overall, several groups of population factors were associated with a significantly higher likelihood of feeling the least safe (between 0 and 6 out of 10) when with family or whānau and a significantly lower likelihood of feeling the most safe (10 out of 10) when with family or whānau when compared with the New Zealand average (Figures 10.16 and 10.17). Adults with the following population factors were more concerned about their safety when with family or whānau than the New Zealand average:

- **personal factors:** bisexual; Chinese; separated or divorced
- **economic factors:** having no ability or quite limited ability to afford a \$300 non-essential item
- **geographic factors:** living in the Wellington or Nelson region
- **wellbeing factors:** having a moderate or high level of psychological distress; having low life satisfaction (between 0 and 7 out of 10).

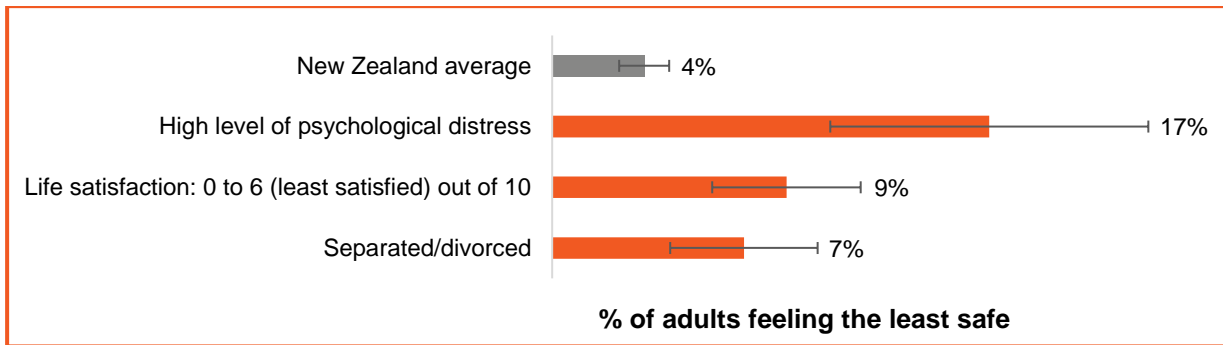


Figure 10.16 Population factors associated with a significantly higher likelihood of feeling the least safe when with family or whānau when compared with the New Zealand average (Cycle 4)

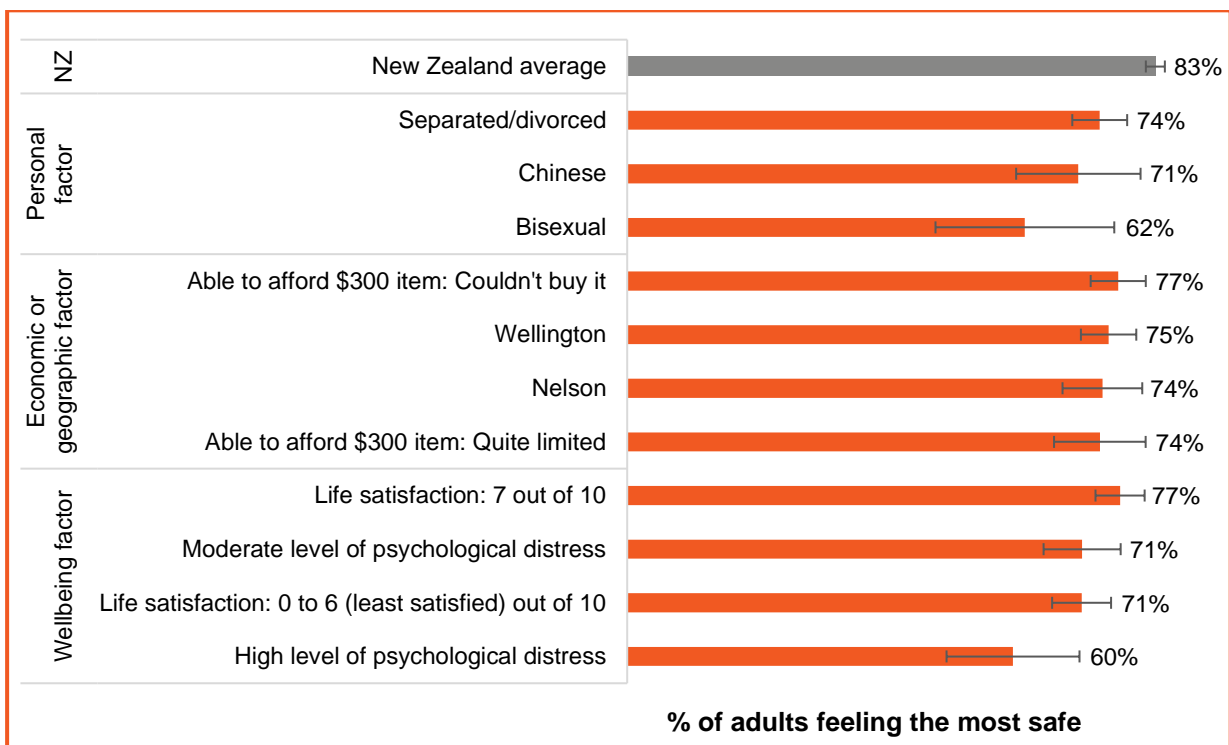


Figure 10.17 Population factors associated with a significantly lower likelihood of feeling the most safe when with family or whānau when compared with the New Zealand average (Cycle 4)

Adults who are less concerned about their safety when with family or whānau than the New Zealand average

Overall, several groups of population factors were associated with a significantly lower likelihood of feeling the least safe (between 0 and 6 out of 10) when with family or whānau and a significantly higher likelihood of feeling the most safe (10 out of 10) when with family or whānau when compared with the New Zealand average (Figures 10.18 and 10.19). The following population factors were associated with being less concerned about safety when with family or whānau than the New Zealand average:

- **personal factors:** older adults (aged 65+); widowed
- **household factors:** living in a couple-only household

- **economic factors:** retired; not under financial pressure;⁴⁰ personal income of \$20,001–\$30,000 per annum; household income of \$10,000 or less per annum
- **geographic factors:** living in the West Coast region; living in a rural area (rural settlement or rural other)
- **wellbeing factors:** having the highest life satisfaction score (10 out of 10).

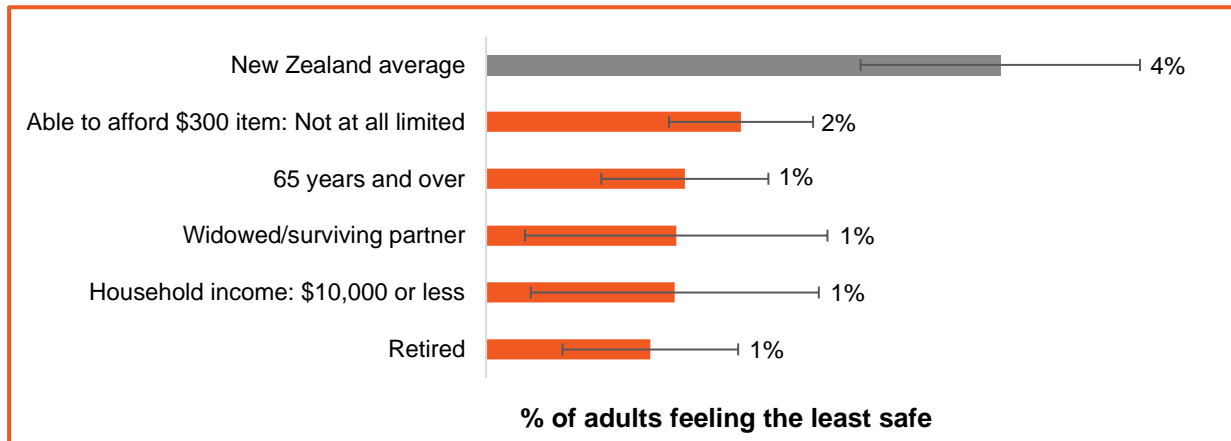


Figure 10.18 Population factors associated with a significantly lower likelihood of feeling the least safe when with family or whānau when compared with the New Zealand average (Cycle 4)

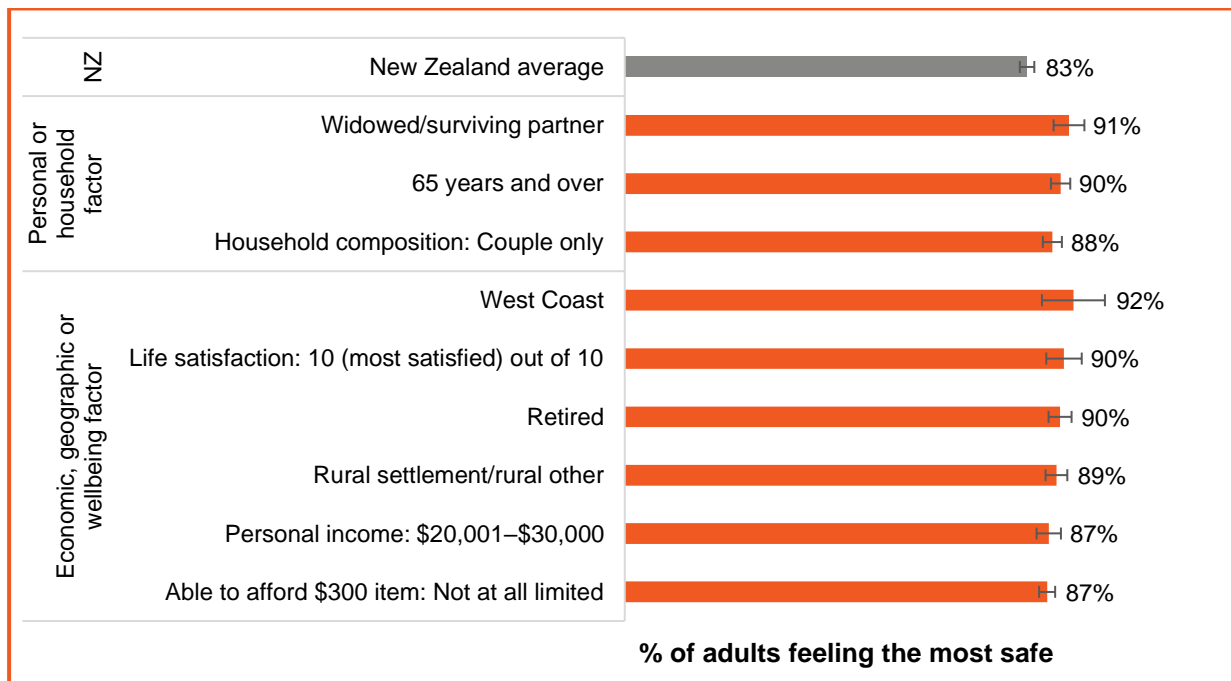


Figure 10.19 Population factors associated with a significantly higher likelihood of feeling the most safe when with family or whānau when compared with the New Zealand average (Cycle 4)

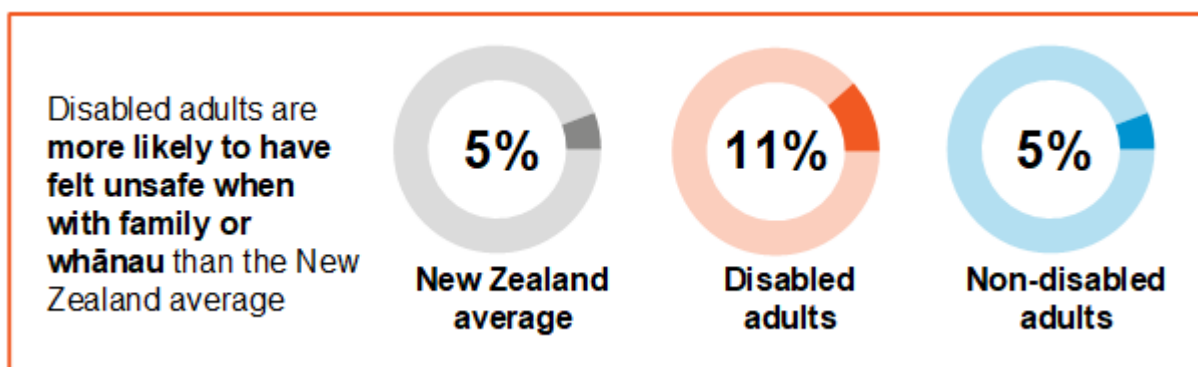
⁴⁰ Not at all limited in the ability to afford a \$300 nonessential item.

Adults who have ever felt unsafe when with family or whānau

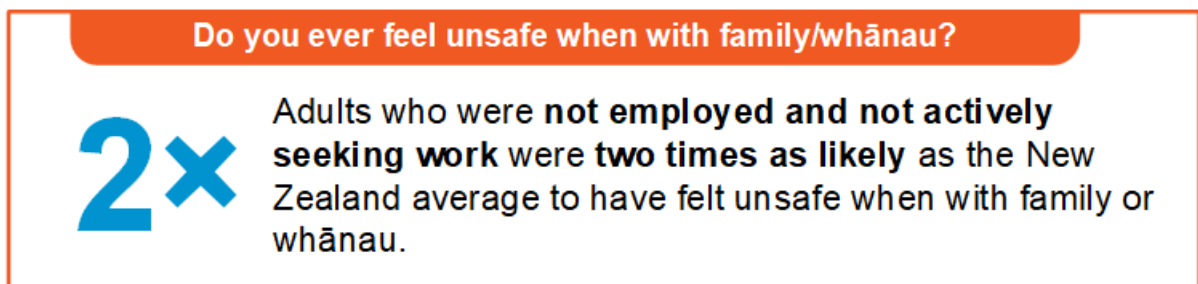
As mentioned previously, we also asked respondents if they ever feel unsafe when with family or whānau. Overall, in the current year (Cycle 4) several groups of population factors were either significantly more likely or significantly less likely to have felt unsafe when with family or whānau when compared with the New Zealand average (5%).

As shown in Figure 10.20, the following population factors were associated with being significantly more likely to have felt unsafe when with family or whānau in Cycle 4 when compared with the New Zealand average (5%):

- **personal factors:** female; Māori; non-partnered; separated or divorced; disabled.



- **economic factors:** not employed and not actively seeking work; experiencing a high level of financial pressure



- **geographic factors:** living in the “rest of North Island” (North Island excluding the Auckland and Wellington region)
- **wellbeing factors:** having a moderate or high level of psychological distress; having low life satisfaction (between 0 and 6 out of 10).



Figure 10.20 Percentage of adults significantly more likely to have felt unsafe when with family or whānau when compared with the New Zealand average, by population factor (Cycle 4)

As shown in Figure 10.21, the following population factors were associated with being significantly less likely to have felt unsafe when with family or whānau in Cycle 4 when compared with the New Zealand average (5%):

- **personal factors:** male; aged 65+; partnered and legally registered; married, in a civil union, or in a de facto relationship
- **economic factors:** not under financial pressure⁴¹
- **wellbeing factors:** having the highest life satisfaction score (10 out of 10).

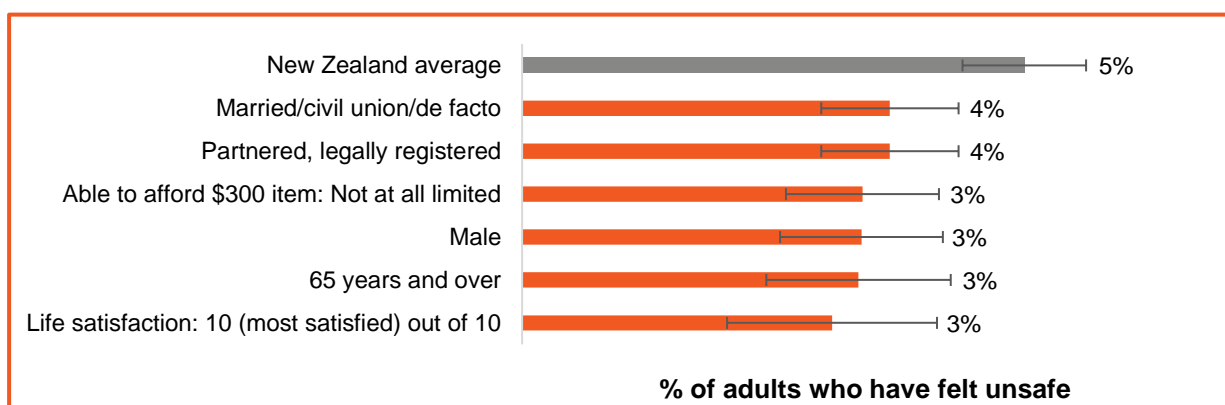


Figure 10.21 Percentage of adults significantly less likely to have felt unsafe when with family or whānau when compared with the New Zealand average, by population factor (Cycle 4)

⁴¹ Not at all limited in the ability to afford a \$300 nonessential item.

Appendix 1: Key findings

Topic	Key findings	More details in
<p>How much crime is there in New Zealand?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 29% of adults were victimised once or more in the previous 12 months. This level of overall victimisation has remained stable over time (from Cycle 1 to Cycle 4). • The three most common offence types in Cycle 4 were harassment and threatening behaviour; burglary; and fraud and deception. Together, these made up more than half of all offences (51%). • The proportion of households that experienced burglaries fell significantly – from 12.1% in Cycle 1 to 9.3% in Cycle 4. However, the number of burglary incidents increased compared to Cycle 3. This indicates a growing concentration of burglaries. Burglaries are the only offence type with a statistically significant change from Cycle 3. • The above reduction in the prevalence rate of burglaries caused the overall significant reduction in the prevalence rate of household offences – from 20% in Cycle 1 to 18% in Cycle 4. • Apart from burglary, there were no other statistically significant changes in prevalence or incidence rates across individual offence types from Cycle 1 to Cycle 4. • There were no significant changes in prevalence or incidence rates across any broad offence groups from Cycle 1 to Cycle 4 (ie, fraud and cybercrime offences; interpersonal violence offences; theft and damage offences; or vehicle offences). 	<p>Section 3</p>
<p>Who is experiencing crime?</p>	<p>Cycle 4 snapshot</p> <p>In Cycle 4, key population factors associated with a higher likelihood of victimisation when compared with the New Zealand average included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • personal factors: young adults (aged 15–29); bisexual; Māori; separated • economic and household factors: not employed and not actively seeking work; living in a one-parent-with-child(ren) household or a multi-person household; renting government accommodation; being under high levels of financial pressure • wellbeing factors: having a moderate or high level of psychological distress; having low life satisfaction; having a low feeling of safety. <p>In Cycle 4, population factors associated with a lower likelihood of victimisation when compared with the New Zealand average included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • personal factors: older adults (aged 65+); Asian; widowed 	<p>Section 4</p>

- **economic and household factors:** retired; living alone or in a couple-only household; having a personal or household income of \$20,001–\$30,000; not being under financial pressure
- **geographic factors:** living in the Taranaki region
- **wellbeing factors:** having high life satisfaction; having a high feeling of safety.

Changes over time

Most of the changes in victimisation over time relate to significant reductions in the prevalence rate of household offences and burglaries between the base year (Cycle 1) and the current year (Cycle 4).

- Some of the largest decreases are observed among more vulnerable population groups. The groups included Māori, those living in the more deprived neighbourhoods, those not in a stable relationship, those living alone or in a one-parent-with-child(ren) household, and those with a high level of psychological distress.
- There were no significant regional changes in overall victimisation over time. However, some statistically significant changes did occur between the previous year (Cycle 3) and the current year (Cycle 4) for particular offence types.
- Between the base year and the current year, overall victimisation decreased by almost a third for adults who experience a high level of psychological distress. This reduction is greater for household offences and, in particular, burglaries.
- Adults living in the most deprived neighbourhoods (NZDep2018 quintile 5) saw a significant decrease in the prevalence rate and the incidence rate of burglaries between the base year and the current year.
- However, adults living in quintile 4 neighbourhoods saw a significant increase in the incidence rate of burglaries between the previous year and the current year, where the current year rate appears to have returned to the base year level.

There were also a few statistically significant changes over time found for other offence types.

- Māori saw a significant reduction in the prevalence rate and incidence rate of theft and damage offences between the base year and the current year.
- Those living in a couple-only household saw a significant reduction in overall victimisation between the previous year and the current year.
- Adults living in a household without any children saw a significant reduction between the previous year and the current year in the incidence rate of fraud and cybercrime offences experienced.
- Adults with a household income of \$10,000 or less per annum saw a significant reduction in overall victimisation and personal offences between the base year and the current year.

- Those with a household income of \$20,001–\$30,000 per annum saw a significant decrease in the overall victimisation between the base year and the current year.
- Adults living in the Manawatū-Whanganui region experienced three times as many personal offences per 100 adults in the current year than the previous year. This pattern is even more pronounced in the incidence rate of interpersonal violence offences.
- Adults living in the Otago region saw the prevalence rate of fraud and cybercrime offences double between the base year and the current year.
- Only the major urban areas saw a significant increase in the incidence rate of trespass offences between the base year and the current year.
- Those who were most satisfied with their life (10 out of 10) saw a significant reduction in overall victimisation between the previous year and the current year.

Victimisation by population groups – pooled data

Compared with the New Zealand average:

Regional comparison

- Adults from three regions – Taranaki, West Coast and Southland – were significantly less likely to experience any victimisation.
- Households in the Auckland region were significantly more likely to experience household offences and burglaries, whereas households in the Bay of Plenty, Taranaki, Wellington, Otago, Southland, and Tasman regions were significantly less likely to experience household offences or burglaries.

Age, sex and marital status

- Females (but not males) aged 40–49 were significantly more likely to experience any type of victimisation. This group was also significantly more likely to experience household offences, personal offences, burglary, interpersonal violence offences and fraud/cybercrime offences.
- Females (but not males) aged 30–39 were significantly more likely to experience household offences. They were also significantly more likely to experience burglary.
- Females (but not males) aged 15–19 were significantly less likely to experience fraud and cybercrime offences.
- Males (but not females) aged 15–19 were significantly more likely to experience theft and damage offences compared to the New Zealand average.
- Males (but not females) aged 40–49 (5%) and aged 50–59 (5%) were significantly less likely to experience interpersonal violence offences.
- Males (but not females) who were married, in a civil union, or in a de facto relationship at the time of the survey were significantly less likely to be victimised across all offences, household offences, and personal offences.



- Females (but not males) who were separated or divorced at the time of the survey were significantly more likely to be victimised across all offences, household offences and personal offences.
- Accounting for differences in age between groups with different marital statuses:
 - Adults who were married, in a civil union, or in a de facto relationship were significantly less likely to experience interpersonal violence offences and theft and damage offences.
 - Adults who were separated or divorced had an even higher likelihood of being victimised across all offences, household offences, personal offences, burglary, and interpersonal violence offences.
 - Those who were separated or divorced were still more likely to experience theft and damage offences compared with the New Zealand average, but not higher than before accounting for differences in age.
- Accounting for differences in age and deprivation between different ethnic groups:
 - There was only a small (2%) gap between Māori victimisation and the New Zealand average when age and deprivation are accounted for. This finding supports the view that the different age structure and the different level of deprivation between Māori and the New Zealand average are key contributors to the higher likelihood of victimisation for Māori.

Disability status

- Disabled adults were significantly more likely to experience crime across personal offences and household offences when differences in average age are accounted for. This also includes burglary, interpersonal violence offences and fraud and cybercrime offences.
- Looking at victimisation by disability status, groups of disabled adults who were more likely to be victimised compared to non-disabled adults include those who were:
 - younger than 60 years old (except those aged 40–49)
 - married
 - employed
 - living in a couple-with-child(ren) household
 - living in a four-or-more-people household
 - living in a household with children
 - renting a privately owned accommodation
 - living in rural areas

Sexual assault

- About 2% of adults experienced sexual assault – ranging from threats and unwanted touching to forced sexual intercourse – in the previous 12 months (pooled data).
- The current year figure (Cycle 4) did not change significantly from the base year (Cycle 1) or the previous year (Cycle 3).

Section 5



- Sexual assault affected adults in all population groups, but some more than others. Compared to the national average, the following groups were more than twice as likely to be a victim of sexual assault:
 - people identifying as bisexual (16%) and people with diverse sexualities (gay, lesbian, bisexual or other) (11%)
 - adults aged 15–19 (5%) and 20–29 (4%)
 - adults who were separated (5%) and those who had never been married, in a civil union, or in a de facto relationship (4%)
 - adults who were not working because they were studying (4%)
 - adults living in a multi-person household (5%) (eg, flatting situations).
- Young females were at particularly high risk of sexual assault, with 9% of females aged 15–19 and 7% of females aged 20–29 affected in the previous 12 months.
- Sexual assault victimisation was strongly associated with psychological distress, low ratings of life satisfaction, and a poor feeling of safety.
- About two thirds (63%) of sexual assaults were perpetrated by an intimate partner, other family member, or someone else the victim already knew.
- Almost half of all sexual assaults happened in residential locations.

Offences by family members

- About 2.1% of New Zealand adults had experienced one or more offences by family members in the previous 12 months (pooled data).
- Offending by intimate partners has decreased significantly between the previous year (Cycle 3) and current year (Cycle 4), driven by a significant decrease in offending by current partners (as opposed to ex-partners). This rate decreased significantly both between the base year and the current year and between the previous year and the current year.
- Almost three-quarters of offences by family members were perpetrated by intimate partners.
- For every 10 offences by family members, approximately four were physical violence, three were threats and harassment, two were sexual assaults, and one was property damage.
- Females were almost four times as likely as males to have experienced offending by an intimate partner (2.1% compared with 0.6%) and nearly twice as likely to have experienced offending by another family member (1.1% compared with 0.6%).
- The following population groups had a prevalence rate of offences by family members of 6% or higher:
 - adults who identified as bisexual (8.6%)
 - adults who were separated (11.2%)
 - adults living in a one-parent-with-child(ren) household (8.5%)

Section 5



- adults living in a household with four or more children (7.3%)
- adults living in a government rental accommodation (6.6%).
- The prevalence rate for Māori females was just over double that for females overall (6.9% compared with 3.1%), and the rate for Māori males was about three times that for males overall (3.4% compared with 1.2%).
- Being a victim of offending by family members was strongly associated with high levels of psychological distress (12.4%), lower ratings of life satisfaction (5.8%), and a poor feeling of safety (5.1%).
- Victims were injured in 28% of offences by family members and received medical attention in relation to 16%.
- Offenders were under the influence of alcohol and/or other drugs in about half of all offences by family members (52%).
- In Cycle 4, one in six adults (17%) knew someone who had experienced a family incident during the previous 12 months, and 59% had further involvement in order to support the other person or people.

Lifetime experience of sexual assault and intimate partner violence

- In Cycle 4, about 26% of adults had experienced any sexual assault in their lifetime. This was significantly higher than in Cycle 3, though it has remained stable since the base year.
- In pooled data, the prevalence rate of lifetime sexual assault was 24%.
 - About 35% of females and 12% of males had experienced sexual assault in their lifetime.
 - Sexual assault started at a young age, with 18% of adults aged 15–19 affected so far during their lives.
- About 18% of adults who have ever had a partner had experienced IPV in their lifetime, with no statistically significant change from the base year or the previous year.
 - About 23% of females and 10% of males who have ever had a partner had experienced IPV in their lifetime.
- Disabled adults were at elevated risk of having experienced any sexual assault or IPV during their lifetime, especially when controlling for age (45% compared with 29% of all adults).

Section 5

Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on victimisation

- The scale of overall victimisation has remained stable before and during the COVID-19 pandemic across all four victimisation measures.
- Prevalence rates for burglaries, household property damage and overall household offences significantly reduced after the start of the pandemic.

Section 6



- Overall victimisation rates significantly reduced after the start of the pandemic for the following population groups: adults living in a one-person household; adults with a personal or household income of \$20,001–\$30,000; and adults living in the most deprived areas (quintile 5).
- No statistically significant changes were observed in personal offence prevalence rates between the pre-pandemic and during-pandemic periods.
- Prevalence rates for overall household offences and for burglaries reduced for a large number of population groups. These groups reflect a wide variety of socio-economic characteristics, and further research is needed to analyse the drivers behind the improvements observed in these groups' prevalence rates after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reporting to the Police

Cycle 4

Section 7

- Overall, 25% of all victimisations were reported to the Police in Cycle 4.
- Motor vehicle thefts (80%) had the highest likelihood of being reported to the Police.
- Cybercrime offences were the least likely to be reported, with 98% of incidents not reported to the Police.

Changes over time

- Reporting rates have remained stable over time, with no significant changes in reporting over the last four cycles.

Differences in reporting (pooled data)

- Over the last four cycles, household offences were significantly more likely to be reported to the Police. The offences most likely to be reported were motor vehicle thefts (89%), thefts from motor vehicles (47%), bicycle thefts/conversions (47%) and burglaries (37%).
- Only 8% of sexual assaults were reported to the Police over the last four cycles.
- Only 9% of fraud and cybercrime incidents were reported to the Police over the last four cycles.
- Adults who were not employed because they were studying and adults living in the least deprived areas were significantly less likely to report victimisations to the Police.
- Only 9% of incidents that occurred online or over the phone were reported to the Police.
- Only 12% of incidents that occurred in community settings like churches, maraes, schools, hospitals and sports grounds were reported to the Police.
- Only 15% of incidents perceived to be driven by discrimination towards the victim's sexuality were reported to the Police.

Reasons for not reporting (changes over time)

- Between Cycles 1 and 4 there was a significant decrease in the use of the following reasons for not reporting an incident to the Police: “Police couldn’t have done anything”, “Dealt with the matter myself/ourselves”, and “Police would be too busy to deal with something like this”.
- In contrast, between Cycles 1 and 4 there was a significant increase in the reason for not reporting being “Private/personal/family/whānau matter” and a significant increase in the reason “Dislike/fear of police/bad experience” between Cycles 3 and 4.

Reasons for not reporting (pooled data)

- Over the last four cycles the most common reasons given for not reporting an incident to the Police were “Too trivial/no loss or damage/not worth reporting”, “Police couldn’t have done anything”, “Didn’t have enough evidence to report it” and “Dealt with the matter myself ourselves”.
- The least common reasons given for not reporting were “Tried to report but not able to contact police”, “Happens as part of my job”, “Dislike/fear of police/bad experience before” and “Didn’t want to get offender into trouble”.
- Two of the most common reasons given for not reporting fraud and cybercrime offences were “Bank/credit card company dealt with issue/contacted me” and “Reported to other authorities (eg, superiors, company security staff)”.
- For interpersonal violence, sexual assault and offences by family members, the reasons given for not reporting were significantly more likely to be of a personal nature, such as “Private/personal/family or whānau matter”, “Dealt with the matter myself/ourselves”, “Fear of reprisals/would make matters worse”, “Shame/embarrassment/further humiliation” and “Didn’t want to get offender into trouble”.

Distribution of crime

- Just over 2% of New Zealand adults experienced 39% of all victimisations.
- 38% of victims experienced two or more incidents within the previous 12 months. These victims experienced the majority (73%) of all incidents.
- The prevalence of multiple victimisations has remained relatively constant across the cycles.
- Cycle 4 saw an increase in the proportion of incidents experienced by adults with 5 or more victimisations (39%) compared to the previous cycle. This was similar to the base year level (39%).
- Offences by family members were the most repeated type of offence. Repeat victims of offences by family members (40%) experienced 79% of all offences by family members.
- Vehicle offences were the most common one-off offence type, with 81% of incidents occurring as a one-off event.

Section 8



- Repeat victimisation didn't significantly change over time; however, burglary victimisation saw a significant increase in Cycle 4. During the current year, the proportion of burglaries that were repeat incidents was 63%, compared to 40% for the previous year and 47% in the base year.
- The groups significantly more likely to be highly victimised (ie, experience four or more crimes within a 12-month period) were:
 - younger adults (aged 15–29)
 - Māori
 - disabled people
 - people with diverse sexualities
 - those living in a one-parent-with-child(ren) household
 - those living in a household with four or more children
 - those living in a household with five-or-more-people or another multi-person household
 - those who were unemployed and not actively seeking work
 - those experiencing high levels of financial pressure
 - those renting government accommodation (local and central)
 - those with a moderate or high level of psychological distress
 - those with low life satisfaction
 - those with a low feeling of safety.
- The groups significantly less likely to be highly victimised were:
 - males
 - older adults (aged 60+)
 - Asians
 - those living in a couple-only, couple-with-child(ren) or two-person household
 - retired adults
 - those who were not under financial pressure
 - those who were not psychologically distressed
 - those with high life satisfaction
 - those with a high feeling of safety.

Crime scene and consequences

Based on pooled data:

Section 9

- More than two-thirds of all incidents (70%) happened either in residential areas or online/over the phone.
- More than half (55%) of vehicle offences, 16% of interpersonal violence offences and 21% of physical assaults/robberies happened in public areas.
- Almost a third (32%) of sexual assaults, 18% of interpersonal violence offences, and 18% of thefts/damages and vehicle offences happened in business areas.



- Almost half of personal victimisations (49%) involved a male offender and a female victim. This proportion increases to 52% for interpersonal violence, 69% for offences by family members and 73% for sexual assault.
- 12% of all non-sexual assault incidents involved the use of a weapon.
- Every 11th incident (9%) resulted in injury. This proportion increases to 21% for interpersonal violence offences, 28% for offences by family members and 49% for non-sexual assaults.
- Every 10th incident (10%) resulted in time taken off work by a victim. This proportion increases to 18% for vehicle offences, 20% for offences by family members and 22% for offences by ex-partner.

Perceptions of safety

General feeling of safety

Section 10

- There are no significant changes in the overall feeling of safety over time since the start of the NZCVS.
- In the current year (Cycle 4), people aged 65+, those who were retired, and those with a household income of \$20,001–\$30,000 per annum were significantly less likely to rate their feeling of safety between 0 and 6 out of 10.
- Chinese adults saw an over 50% reduction in the likelihood of feeling the most safe (10 out of 10) between the base year (Cycle 1) and the current year.
- Adults living in the Southland region were significantly more likely to feel the most safe in the current year compared to the base year and the previous year (Cycle 3).

Feeling of safety when with family or whānau

- There are no significant changes in the overall feeling of safety when with family or whānau since the start of the NZCVS.
- Five out of six adults (83%) said they feel the most safe when they are with family or whānau in the current year.
- Adults with the lowest level of household income (\$10,000 or less per annum) were over 75% less likely to rate their feeling of safety when with family or whānau between 0 and 6 out of 10 in the current year compared to the previous year.
- Adults living in the Nelson region were significantly more likely to rate their feeling of safety when with family or whānau between 0 and 6 out of 10 in the current year compared to the previous year.
- Overall, there are no significant changes observed between the previous year and current year. In both years, at least 5% of adults had felt unsafe when with family or whānau.
- Adults living in a “one parent with child(ren) and other person(s)” household saw a 60% reduction in the likelihood of ever feeling unsafe when with family or whānau between the previous year and the current year.

Victimisation and safety



- There is an association between the level of safety and victimisation measured in prevalence rates. This association is observed for overall victimisation, household offences, personal offences, burglary and interpersonal violence offences.
- Those who reported feeling the lowest levels of safety (between 0 and 6 out of 10) were victimised significantly more than the New Zealand average, and those who reported feeling the highest level of safety (10 out of 10) were victimised significantly less.
- Victims were more concerned about safety than non-victims. The level of safety concern increases with the number of crime incidents that victims experience. Highly victimised adults (those who experienced four or more incidents over the previous 12 months) have the highest level of safety concern.
- No significant differences were found between general perceptions of safety and victimisation over time.
- There is also a strong association between victimisation and the feeling of safety when with family or whānau, but no significant differences were detected between victimisation and the feeling of safety when with family or whānau over time.
- One in two adults who felt the least safe (between 0 and 6 out of 10) with their family or whānau had experienced one or more offences.
- Victims of multiple crimes and highly victimised adults were more concerned about their safety when with family or whānau. The percentage of adults who felt unsafe when with family or whānau consistently increased with higher numbers of incidents experienced by an adult.

Perceptions of safety by population factors

Compared with the New Zealand average:

Section 10

Population factors associated with **greater concern** about safety included:

- **personal factors:** aged 40–64; female; disabled; sexually diverse; New Zealand European; Chinese; non-partnered; separated or divorced
- **household factors:** living alone or in a one-parent-with-child(ren) household; living in a household with four or more children
- **economic factors:** employed; cannot meet \$500 unexpected expense; having very or quite limited ability to afford a \$300 non-essential item
- **geographic factors:** living in the Hawke’s Bay or Canterbury region; living in major urban area; living in more deprived areas (deciles 8, 9, or 10)
- **wellbeing factors:** having a moderate or high level of psychological distress; having low life satisfaction (between 0 and 7 out of 10).

Population factors associated with **less concern** about safety included:

- **personal factors:** young adults (aged 15–29); older adults (aged 65+); male; Māori; widowed; never married and never in a civil union
- **household factors:** living in self-owned accommodation; living in a couple-only household; living in a “couple with child(ren) and other person(s)” household; living in a “one parent with child(ren) and other person(s)” household; living in a large household (five or more people); living in a household with three children
- **economic factors:** retired; not under financial pressure
- **geographic factors:** living in the Gisborne, Taranaki, Wellington, Otago, Southland, Tasman, Nelson, or Marlborough region; living in a medium or small urban area; living in a rural area (rural settlement or rural other); living in less deprived areas (deciles 1, 2, 3, or 4)
- **wellbeing factors:** having a low level of psychological distress; having the highest life satisfaction score (10 out of 10).

Perceptions of safety when with family or whānau by population factors

Compared with the New Zealand average:

Section 10

Population factors associated with feeling **more concerned** about safety when with family or whānau or being **more likely** to have felt unsafe when with family or whānau included:

- **personal factors:** bisexual; female; Māori; Chinese; non-partnered; separated or divorced, disabled
- **economic factors:** not employed and not actively seeking work; experiencing high level of financial pressure
- **geographic factors:** living in the Wellington or Nelson region
- **wellbeing factors:** having a moderate or high level of psychological distress; having low life satisfaction.

Population factors associated feeling **less concerned** about safety when with family or whānau or being **less likely** to have felt unsafe when with family or whānau included:

- **personal factors:** older adults (aged 65+); male; partnered and legally registered; married, in a civil union, or in a de facto relationship; widowed
- **household factors:** living in a couple-only household
- **economic factors:** retired; not under financial pressure; personal income of \$20,001–\$30,000 per annum; household income of \$10,000 or less per annum
- **geographic factors:** living in the West Coast region; living in a rural area (rural settlement or rural other)
- **wellbeing factors:** having the highest life satisfaction score (10 out of 10).

Appendix 2: Brief survey methodology

Below is an overview of the key methodological aspects of the NZCVS. More details about how the NZCVS was conducted in 2020/21 can be found in the [NZCVS Cycle 4 methodology report](#).

Table A.1 Key features of the NZCVS methodology

Key feature	Description						
Overview	Nationwide, face-to-face, annual, random-sample survey, with one survey respondent selected per household using multistage stratified cluster sampling methods.						
Target population	Total usually resident, non-institutionalised, civilian population of New Zealand aged 15 and over.						
Sampled areas	North Island, South Island and Waiheke Island.						
Dwellings included	Permanent, private dwellings.						
Sample composition	Two samples were drawn as part of the NZCVS: a general or “main sample” and a Māori booster sample that aimed to increase sample size for Māori.						
Sample size	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Main sample:</td> <td>4,246</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Māori booster sample:</td> <td>1,998</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total sample:</td> <td>6,244</td> </tr> </table>	Main sample:	4,246	Māori booster sample:	1,998	Total sample:	6,244
Main sample:	4,246						
Māori booster sample:	1,998						
Total sample:	6,244						
Response rates	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Main sample:</td> <td>76%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Māori booster sample:</td> <td>75%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total sample:</td> <td>76%</td> </tr> </table>	Main sample:	76%	Māori booster sample:	75%	Total sample:	76%
Main sample:	76%						
Māori booster sample:	75%						
Total sample:	76%						
Interviewing period	20 November 2020 to 10 November 2021						
Average interview length	31 minutes and 32 seconds						
Recall period	12 months preceding the date of the interview ⁴²						
Coding crimes/offences	In the NZCVS, questions were asked about different things (incidents) that might have happened to the survey respondent or their household. These incidents were then coded by legal experts to determine whether or not the incident was a crime, and what type of offence (or offences) occurred.						

⁴² While most questions use the recall period 12 months preceding the date of the interview, there were some that referred to a different period (eg, the in-depth module questions on lifetime prevalence of sexual assault and offences by a partner).

	Important: The NZCVS does not directly ask survey respondents whether they experienced certain crimes. This is because people do not always view some things that happen as crimes, and they may not know which acts are legally considered crimes and which are not.
Weighting	Two key types of weighting were applied: household weights and person weights. New population benchmarks based on the 2018 Census were supplied by Stats NZ.
Imputation	Missing income data was imputed using the nearest neighbour hot deck algorithm. Missing victim forms were imputed from the distribution of offence codes associated with the scenario that generated the incident.

Survey structure and questionnaire

The NZCVS consists of a core module that includes crime and victimisation questions that repeat every year, and additional in-depth modules on different topical subjects that change from year to year. Cycle 3 included an in-depth module on family violence, the same as in Cycle 1 but with some additional questions. In Cycle 2, the in-depth module covered social wellbeing and perceptions of the criminal justice system. Cycle 4 included a set of new questions related to controlling behaviour by family members and reflected recent changes in the family violence legislation. The survey design was developed after extended consultations with key stakeholders.

Depending on the sensitivity of the questions, the answers may be collected either through computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI), where interviewers enter respondents' answers into a laptop, or through computer-assisted self-interviewing (CASI), where respondents are handed the laptop and can enter their own responses. CASI is used for highly sensitive questions and CAPI for less sensitive ones.

The following table provides an outline of the questionnaire sections and the topics covered in each section.

Table A.2 Topics covered in the NZCVS questionnaire

Section	Questions	Interviewing mode
Initial demographics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sex age partnership status marital status life satisfaction/feeling of safety 	CAPI
CAPI victim screener questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> household and personal offences screener questions (excludes interpersonal violence (including sexual violence), harassment and threatening behaviour) 	CAPI



CASI victim screener questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• interpersonal violence (includes sexual violence), harassment and threatening behaviour	CASI
Lifetime prevalence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• lifetime experience of sexual assault/IPV	CASI
General victim form questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• same/series of offences• date of offence• incident description• location of offence• contact with the offender• existence of Protection, Restraining, or Police Safety Orders• offender's attitude towards victim's race, sexuality, age, sex, religion and disability• cost of crime• insurance• time off work• reporting to Police• injury and weapon use• perceptions of seriousness of incident	CASI for incidents relating to CAPI screeners and CASI for incidents relating to CASI screeners
Family violence in-depth module	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• support service awareness• contact with support services• help/advice received from support services and usefulness• reasons for not seeking help from support services• help/advice received from family or whānau , friends and neighbours, and usefulness• reasons for not seeking help from family or whānau , friends and neighbours• unmet need for help/advice relating to family or whānau violence incidents• feeling of safety when with family or whānau• awareness of others who have experienced family or whānau incidents and further involvement	CASI
Main demographics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• gender• sexuality• income	CAPI (with the exception of gender and sexual identity and income, which are administered using CASI)



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• financial stress• household composition• ethnicity• functional difficulties• psychological distress• employment status• housing and tenure	
Exit and re-contact questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• re-contact for audit• future research consent• data linking• interviewer observations• respondent burden assessment	CAPI

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