

Offences against New Zealand adults by family members

[Frequently asked questions, topical report, cycle 1 \(2018\)](#)

What offences are covered by the report?

The following offence types are included in the report (where the offender is a family member):

- physical assault
- sexual assault
- robbery
- harassment and threatening behaviour
- damage to personal or household property
- damage to motor vehicles.

In addition, the report covers psychological violence by intimate partners (partner and ex-partner).

What family violence offences are not covered by the report?

- Offences against children 14 years of age and younger
- Economic abuse
- Abuse of pets of importance to someone
- Psychological violence by family members other than intimate partners (partner and ex-partner)

Who are considered family members?

Intimate partners (partner and ex-partner); parent or step-parent; parent's partner, boyfriend or girlfriend; son or daughter including in-laws; sibling or step-sibling; and other family members including extended family.

What types of offences included in psychological violence category?

- stopping victims from seeing or contacting friends, family or whānau
- following or keeping track of victims' whereabouts in a way that felt controlling or frightening
- stopping or controlling victims' access to things like their mobile phone, the Internet, or transport
- stopping victims from getting healthcare when they needed it
- pressuring victims into paid work they did not want to do
- stopping victims from doing paid work they wanted to do.

Can we compare the report results with other surveys such as NZCASS?

The NZCVS is a new survey with significant improvements in design compared with its predecessor the New Zealand Crime and Safety Survey (NZCASS). This makes any direct comparison between the NZCVS results and the NZCASS results extremely questionable and potentially misleading, even for the same offence types. The good news is that NZCVS will deliver consistent reports much more often than NZCASS and this will make possible to compare NZCVS results from now on.

What about comparing the report results with international criminal research?

Any international comparisons are even more difficult due to differences in legislation, coding systems, interview questions, channels used by interviewers (i.e. face to face, phone, online) etc.

What if the report results conflicts with other data Government agencies are using?

NZCVS is not comparable. No other agency is collecting comprehensive data about crime not reported to Police. This makes NZCVS a unique source of information about victimisation in New Zealand. On the other hand, do not forget that this report does not cover all offence types considered as family violence (see the answer above). Therefore, the numbers provided in this report cover only part of the family violence incidents in New Zealand.

How did you handle these very sensitive questions? For example, someone responding to a question about violence they may have experienced in the house in which they are currently living?

For all sensitive questions, survey participants entered their responses directly into the computers themselves. This ensured that even the interviewer did not see the participant's responses.

[General questions about NZCVS](#)

What is NZCVS?

The New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey (NZCVS) is a nationwide, face-to-face annual survey asking 8,000 randomly selected New Zealanders aged 15 years, and over about incidents of crime that they experienced over the last 12 months. This includes both incidents reported to the Police and unreported incidents.

Why do we need a NZCVS?

There is very little information on the amount of crime and the number of victims in New Zealand. It is something of an information black hole as only 23 percent of crime is reported to the Police. The NZCVS will provide very valuable information and data for the Ministry of Justice, Stats NZ, Ministry of Social Development, Te Puni Kokiri, the Police, Department of Corrections, Oranga Tamariki, and the Ministry for Women. It will also be of great value to universities and NGOs working in the justice sector.

The NZCVS:

- Feeds Hāpaitia to Oranga Tangata: the Safe and Effective Justice Programme
- Provides information for the Stats NZ's living standards dashboard and to Treasury's wellbeing network. Stats NZ has already recommended to include at least three NZCVS measures into the list of NZ wellbeing indicators
- Potential linking of consented anonymised records with IDI data allowing wider analysis
- Consistent with the Ministry of Justice forecasting models assessing future crime
- Allows to build consistent time series for "before vs. after" analysis from the second year onwards.

How many people were surveyed?

8,030.

What was the response rate?

81% of people in eligible households agreed to be interviewed.

Is the privacy of participants protected?

The information provided to the interviewer is confidential and protected by the Privacy Act 1993. The interviewer cannot discuss information collected with anyone else. Individual responses will

never be identified, and all contact details will be removed from the data set. Only approved researchers can use the data. Participants name, and any identifying details will not be included in the published material and small groups will be either suppressed or aggregated.

How different is NZCVS from the previous New Zealand Crime and Safety Survey (NZCASS)

The NZCVS interviews more people, covers more types of offences, uses offence coding system that is closer to the Police coding approach. Another important difference is the NZCVS approach to handling situations when people are unable to fill victim forms for all reported incidents as there are too many of them. While NZCASS in these situations relied on statistical imputations (i.e. drawing conclusions based on existing statistical data), NZCVS offers group victim forms which allows combining similar incidents.

What are the limitations of NZCVS?

The NZCVS gathers information on a range of personal and household offences that are not captured elsewhere, but it does not report the total amount of crime in New Zealand. This is because the NZCVS does not cover all groups of the New Zealand population and every type of crime that someone might experience.

Where can I obtain more information about this survey?

More information is available from the Ministry of Justice website:

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

Survey methodology and results are published on: <https://www.justice.govt.nz/justice-sector-policy/research-data/nzcvsv/resources-and-results/>

Enquiries about the purpose, results and use of the survey Ministry of Justice:

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