

# Public trust and confidence in the criminal justice system is key to a fair and safe Aotearoa



When people have trust and confidence in the criminal justice system



victims and witnesses are more likely to report crime and assist with investigations



enabling criminal justice agencies to support them with support and access to justice, and to keep communities safe

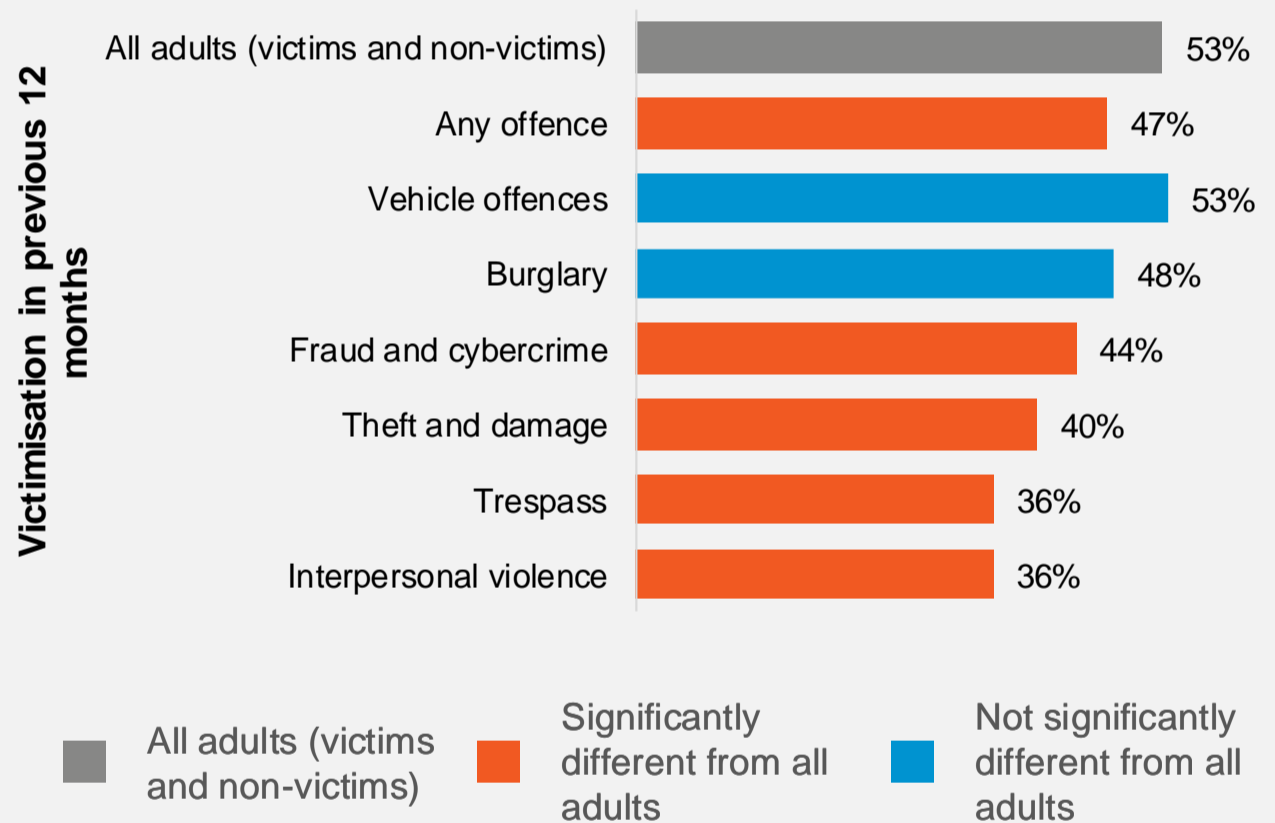
## Compared with all adults, victims of crime have lower levels of trust and confidence in the criminal justice system.

Compared with all adults, trust and confidence tends to be lower for those who have experienced some types of crime during the previous 12 months.

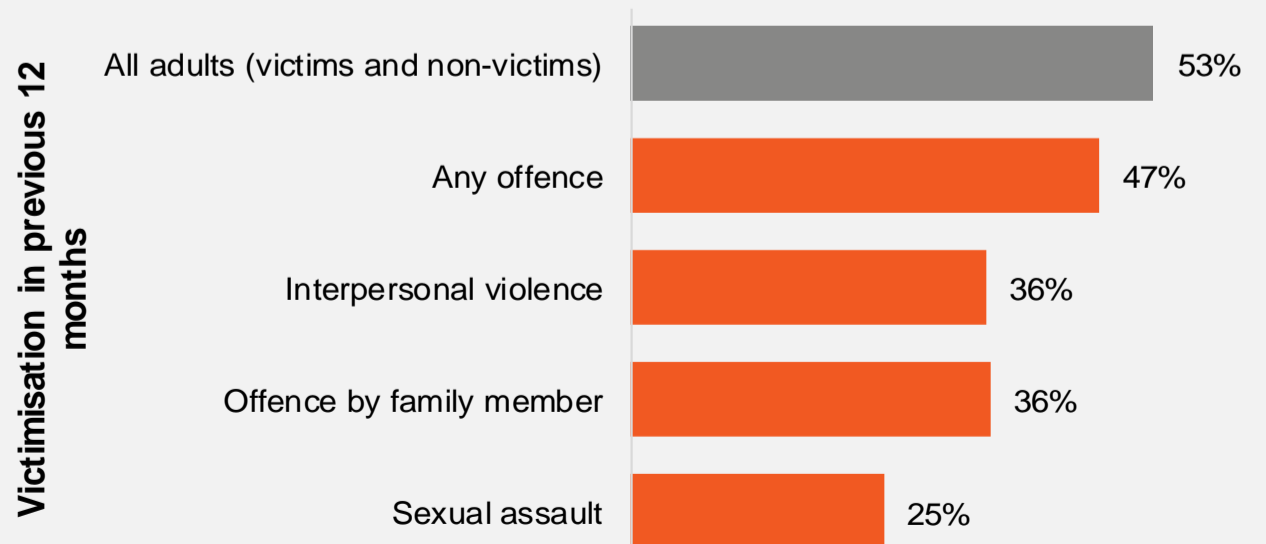
This is especially true for **victims of interpersonal violence**.

The same pattern is seen for **victims of offences by family members** and **victims of sexual assault**.

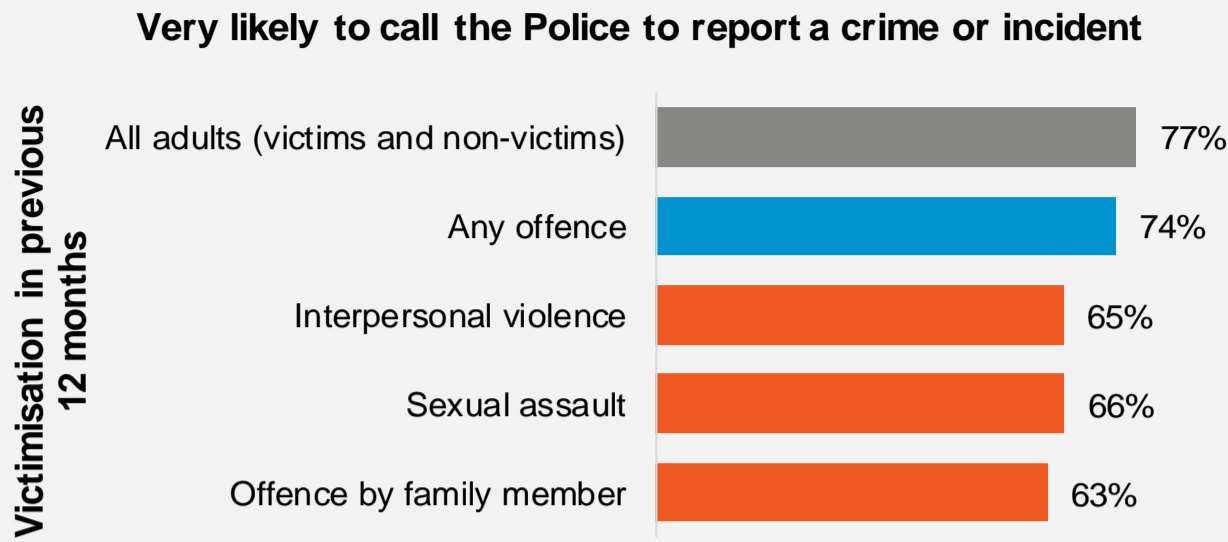
### Completely / fairly confident that the criminal justice system as a whole is effective



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## Compared with all adults, victims of interpersonal violence are less likely to say they would call the Police to report a crime.



This pattern is true for victims of sexual assault and victims of offences by family members.

However, in reality, 94% of sexual assaults and 75% of offences by family members are not reported to Police.<sup>1</sup>

## Previous research shows that contact with the criminal justice system affects trust and confidence.<sup>2</sup>

Victims of interpersonal violence have a relatively high rate of contact with the system.

**37%**  
of all  
adults

**50%**  
of victims  
of any  
offence

**60%**  
of victims of  
interpersonal  
violence

had contact with the  
criminal justice system  
over the previous 12  
months

Victims of interpersonal violence are more likely to have some types of contact when their role is not as a victim. For example, they are more likely to have been in a vehicle stopped by Police.



## Improving the trust and confidence of victims of interpersonal violence should be a priority.



We need a system that victims of interpersonal violence feel comfortable engaging with.



Achieving this means strengthening the criminal justice system for victims. The way they are treated when they are not in the role of a victim also matters.



Monitoring trust and confidence over time can show whether progress is being made.

<sup>1</sup> Ministry of Justice. 2020a. Ministry of Justice. 2020a. *New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey. Key findings. Cycle 2 (October 2018 – September 2019)*.

<sup>2</sup> Gau, J. M. 2010. A longitudinal analysis of citizens' attitudes about police. *Policing: An International Journal*, 33(2), 236-252. <https://doi.org/10.1108/13639511011044867>; Myhill, A & Bradford, B. 2012. Can police enhance public confidence by improving quality of service? Results from two surveys in England and Wales. *Policing and Society* 33(2): 397-425. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10439463.2011.64155>.