

Part 1: Māori and Victimization Report - Frequently Asked Questions

What data did you use for this report?

The report is based on two New Zealand Crime and Victims Surveys (NZCVS) conducted by the Ministry of Justice in 2018 and 2019, where over 16,000 New Zealanders over the age of 15 were interviewed about their experience of crime in the previous 12 months.

Why have you specifically looked at Māori victimisation for the first time?

Since the NZCVS was started in 2018 about 8,000 adult New Zealanders have been interviewed annually. Māori comprise about 30% of all respondents. After the first year of interviews (2018) the sample size was not big enough to analyse in detail the responses obtained from Māori. We needed to wait for the second year of interviewing (2019) to combine the results for two years.

Why has it taken so long to focus on that group?

Please see the answer above. We prioritised the analysis of Māori responses and produced this report as soon as we had enough data for reliable analysis.

What about other minority groups – Pacifica and Asian people have a growing population in New Zealand, will you also look at the statistics there?

We do not compare Māori with other ethnic groups in this report. It is specifically focussed on the in-depth analysis of Māori victimisation. Comparisons between key ethnic groups has been already done in previously released NZCVS annual reports.

What efforts were made to conduct the survey in a tikanga Māori way and by Māori?

The NZCVS reflects a mainly Eurocentric worldview and was influenced by similar international surveys in the United States, Australia and Europe. However, in preparation of the Māori victimisation report we extensively consulted experts in Te Ao Māori, Māori and non-Māori academics, Te Puni Kokiri, and Māori staff in the Ministry of Justice. For future reports on this topic, we intend to move closer towards a kaupapa Māori research model with Māori authors or co-authors to lead the research questions, analysis, and writing, to provide more of a Te Ao Māori perspective to our research outputs.

Were Māori people highly engaged?

Yes. The response rate for Māori respondents was very high and similar to the response rate for non-Māori. We take this as evidence of high engagement.

Is your figure that Māori experience more crime due to the New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey interviewing more Māori?

No, the figure that Māori are more likely to be victims of crime (38 percent vs 30 percent) reflects the current New Zealand population. While we interviewed more Māori, the figures reflect their part of the population.

Why is the survey so old – it is dated 2018/2019?

The NZCVS is a continuous survey. It started in March 2018 and continues up to now. We report the NZCVS findings annually. The Māori victimisation report uses data collected in 2018 and 2019. Data collected in 2020 is still analysed and will be reported later in 2021.

Since the national average for violent interpersonal crime is 12%, why is it higher for Māori living in Wellington at 14%, and Canterbury and the South Island at 16%, compared with Māori living in Auckland, or the rest of the North Island?

These results are obtained after we controlled for a range of other factors (i.e. we cleared the data from the influence of these other factors). One hypothesis is that after controlling for other factors, the level of victimisation is lower where Māori have a more established community life (like in Waikato, Northland, Gisborne or Hawkes Bay regions). However, to confirm this hypothesis, more research and analysis is needed.

What is the point of the survey – what will the Ministry of Justice do with the results?

These findings support criminal justice reform efforts by providing more in-depth information about the characteristics and circumstances behind higher rates of Māori and crime.

This information will be vital in the development of any new Māori led services for victims, or for improving current services that support Māori victims and their whānau. For example, any new or existing service for victims must support the needs of Māori who are either younger, are gay, lesbian or bisexual, have a disability, have a mental illness, are a single parent or live alone, are under financial stress, or live in a poorly resourced neighbourhood or a neighbourhood with high levels of social disorder.

This research also provides valuable information and data for the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Social Development, Te Puni Kokiri, the Police, Department of Corrections, Oranga Tamariki, and the Ministry for Women. It is a resource which will help to make a fairer and safer New Zealand.

The results aren't a revelation, are they? We all know Māori are overrepresented across the board in all statistics – this surely didn't come as a surprise?

Yes, we know that Māori are over-represented in crime statistics, and the NZCVS has reported on this in its annual reports. However, this report provides much more detail about who are Māori victims of crime, their demographics, and social and economic characteristics. Much of this data was not analysed previously and some of the results are quite surprising.

So, looking at the results – why do you think Māori are more likely to be victims of crime?

There are many factors that affect the level of Māori victimisation. They include demographics (the average age of Māori is younger than of other ethnic groups, and we know that younger people are more victimised), economic factors (deprivation), and social factors (wellbeing). The report analyses the influence of each of these groups of factors.

Why offer the results without thinking “why”?

This report contains a lot of thinking about “why” and, hopefully, will provoke further thought. The report provides evidence which will be used by researchers, academics, policy makers, politicians, and Māori organisations.

How much does colonisation play in this picture?

Many of the factors that lead to the Māori population to be overrepresented in crime statistics have been attributed to the ongoing effects of colonisation. This suggests that any intervention or response aimed at reducing victimisation for Māori needs to extend beyond the relatively narrow set of interventions currently available within the criminal justice system to encompass a wider set of contextual issues. This includes recognising social and economic inequalities, urban/rural disparities, and structural racism, as well as seeking to understand the issues and identify solutions within a Māori conceptual framework.

Part 2: The New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey - Frequently Asked Questions

What is the New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey?

The New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey 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 Crime and Victims Survey?

As only a small amount of crime is reported to the Police, the Crime and Victims Survey provides 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 also provides data to universities and NGOs working in the justice sector.

The New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey:

- Informs 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 include a few Crime and Victims Survey measures in their list of NZ wellbeing indicators
- Links consented anonymised records with the Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI) data, allowing wider analysis
- Is consistent with the Ministry of Justice forecasting models, assessing future crime trends
- Allows us to build a consistent time series for "before vs. after" analysis from the second year onwards.

Who was asked to take part?

One person from each of the randomly selected households aged 15 or over can be selected to take part in the survey. People did not need to have experienced a crime to answer the questions. Participation in the Survey is voluntary.

How many people were interviewed for the annual survey?

8,000 people.

How can you ensure that the respondents represent an accurate cross-section of society?

This is ensured through both the sampling and weighting processes. Household and individual weights are applied using the latest census data available to ensure results represent the NZ population.

When did interviews take place?

Face-to-face interviews with participants took place in their homes. They were asked about crime and victimisation that had occurred over the last 12 months from the day of the interview.

What questions were asked?

We do not ask people whether a crime has been committed against them. Instead we ask about different kinds of experiences a participant has had in the previous 12 months. For example, “Was someone on your property without permission?”, or “Have you been harmed?” Aspects of these experiences are recorded including:

- What has happened?
- How it affected them?
- Whether they have told anyone about them?
- How helpful any agencies were?

The experiences are then assessed and coded by a specialist team including Police coders, who then determine whether a crime has been committed.

How were the questions asked?

The interviewers used laptops rather than paper questionnaires.

How did you handle 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 some sections of the questionnaire, survey participants are handed the laptop to enter their responses directly into the computers themselves. This is because some questions are sensitive, and this ensures the interviewer does not see the participant’s responses.

How long did interviews take?

Interviews normally take between 20 to 30 minutes.

Is the privacy of participants protected?

The information provided to the interviewer is strictly 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 are removed from the data set. Only approved researchers can use the data. The participants name, and any identifying details are not included in published material. If the results could identify small groups those results are either suppressed or aggregated.

What kinds of crime does the New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey not cover?

The New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey covers a range of personal and household offences, but it does not cover:

- Manslaughter and homicide
- Abduction
- Crimes against children (14 years old and under)
- “Victimless crime” (such as 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.

Why is homicide not included?

The New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey collects information about personal and household crimes that individuals (and their households) may have experienced. Homicide is out of scope for the survey since the direct victim is deceased.

Who carried out the survey?

The Ministry of Justice managed the survey with the help of a range of organisations and contracted providers.

Interviewing and offence coding activities were carried out by CBG Health Research Ltd (trading as: CBG Public Sector Surveying) on behalf of the Ministry of Justice. CBG is an independent, New Zealand-based research company.

An expert criminologist from Victoria University of Wellington, and an expert from the New Zealand Police provided quality assurance advice and support as part of the offence coding processes.

Stats NZ carried out the statistical services, and experts at the Victoria University of Wellington provided quality assurance advice and support at various times throughout the project.

How did you develop the methodology for the survey?

It was designed by Research and Evaluation staff at the Ministry of Justice and reviewed by Stats NZ and the Police. Thirteen government and NGO organisations were consulted throughout this process.

It has also been reviewed by Victoria University and by international criminology expert, Pat Mayhew OBE, who serves on the UK Statistics Authority's Crime Statistics Advisory Committee and who was director of the Crime and Justice Centre at Victoria University

For details on the methodology please go to:

<https://www.justice.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/NZCVS-2018-19-Methodology-Report-Year-2-fin.pdf> .

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

The New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey interviews more people, covers more types of offences, uses offence coding system that is closer to the Police coding approach. Another important difference is that the New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey applies different 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), the New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey offers group victim forms which allow combining similar incidents.

Can we compare the New Zealand Crime and Safety Survey with the New Zealand Crime and Safety Survey (NZCASS)?

The New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey is a new survey with significant improvements in design compared with its predecessor the New Zealand Crime and Safety Survey (NZCASS). All the above differences make 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 delivers consistent reports much more often than NZCASS and this makes possible to compare consecutive NZCVS results from now on.

What about comparing the New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey 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 New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey results conflict with those that other data Government agencies are using?

No other agency is collecting comprehensive data about crime not reported to Police. This makes the New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey a unique source of information about victimisation in New Zealand.

What are the limitations of the New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey?

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

The New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey is a sample survey. What does this mean?

A sample survey means that not all New Zealanders give information about their experiences. The survey is not a census of the population. Not all 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).

What is the confidence level selected for survey reporting?

95 percent. This is the same as many other social and economic surveys in New Zealand.