



New Zealand
Crime and Victims

survey

HELP CREATE SAFER COMMUNITIES

Survey findings - Cycle 4 report

Section 2 – *About this report*

June 2022

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

ISSN 2744-3981

Disclaimer

1. While all care and diligence has been taken in processing, analysing, and extracting data and information for this publication, the Ministry of Justice gives no warranty that it is error free and will not be liable for any loss or damage suffered by the use directly, or indirectly, of the information in this publication.
2. Data collection was suspended during COVID-19 Alert Levels 4 and 3 (more detail is provided on page 4 of the full report).
3. This report contains highly aggregated data. No identifiable personal data is included in the report.
4. Count estimates in the text have been rounded to the nearest thousands or hundreds. Percentage and mean estimates have been rounded to the nearest whole number or one decimal place. Graphs and tables provide accuracy to one decimal place. Higher precision may be provided where it is important for the content.
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.

Published in June 2022 by the Ministry of Justice

Justice Centre, 19 Aitken Street

DXSX10088, Wellington, New Zealand

ISSN: 2744-3981

Suggested citation

Ministry of Justice. 2022. *New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey. Cycle 4 survey findings. Descriptive statistics. June 2022. Results drawn from Cycle 4 (2020/21) of the New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey.* Wellington: Ministry of Justice.

This document is available at <https://www.justice.govt.nz/justice-sector-policy/research-data/nzcvs/resources-and-results/>



Crown copyright © 2022

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 New Zealand licence. You are free to copy, distribute, and adapt the work, as long as you attribute the work to New Zealand Ministry of Justice and abide by the other licence terms. Please note you may not use any departmental or governmental emblem, logo, or coat of arms in any way that infringes any provision of the Flags, Emblems, and Names Protection Act 1981. Use the wording “New Zealand Ministry of Justice” in your attribution. Do not use the New Zealand Ministry of Justice logo.

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

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](#).

If you are reading the report for the first time, it is recommended that you refer to this section first before reading subsequent sections. This will help with understanding and presentation of results.

Table of Contents

2	About this report.....	5
2.1	Purpose	5
2.2	Using this report.....	6
2.3	Key terms and definitions.....	10
2.4	Abbreviations	12
2.5	Time periods covered by NZCVS cycles	13
2.6	Comparison with previous victimisation surveys	14

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%).

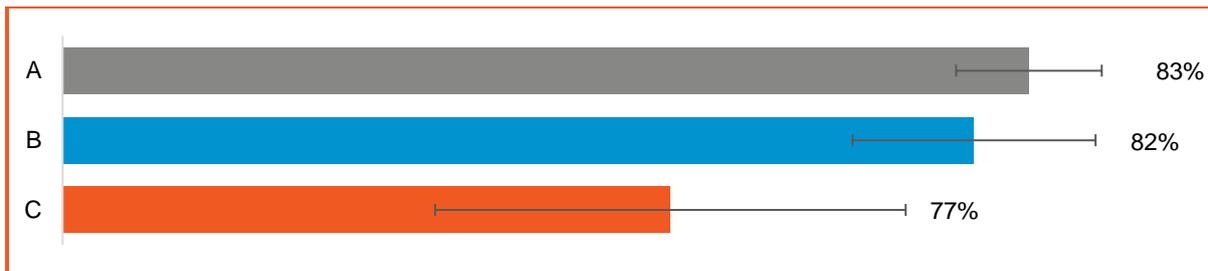


Figure 2.1 Example graph

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.¹ Estimates that are too unreliable for general use are **suppressed** – that is, not reported at all.² 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.³

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

¹ 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.

² 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.

³ 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.**⁴

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.

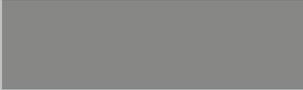
	Statistically significant increase over time
	Statistically significant decrease over time
	No statistically significant difference over time

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.

⁴ 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.⁵ 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.

⁵ 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
<p>Different approach to selecting an interviewed person within the household</p>	<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>	<p>May potentially affect the comparison of both crime incidence and prevalence, as well as the comparison of Police reporting numbers.</p>
<p>Different approach to coding offences</p>	<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>	<p>May potentially affect the comparison of crime incidence.</p>
<p>Different approach to incidents capping</p>	<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>	<p>May potentially affect the comparison of crime incidence.</p>
<p>Much lower level of data imputations</p>	<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>	<p>May potentially affect the comparison of both crime incidence and prevalence as well as the comparison of Police reporting numbers.</p>
<p>Covering additional offence types</p>	<p>The NZCVS incorporates three new offence types – cybercrime, fraud and trespass.</p>	<p>May potentially affect the comparison of both crime incidence and prevalence as well as the comparison of Police reporting numbers.</p>

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.