



New Zealand
Crime and Victims **survey**

HELP CREATE SAFER COMMUNITIES

Survey findings - Cycle 4 report

**Section 6 – *Impact of the
COVID-19 pandemic on
victimisation***

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 “Cycle 4 Core report - Section 2 – About this report” to help with understanding and presentation of results.

Topic	Key findings
Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on victimisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.

Table of Contents

6	Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on victimisation	5
6.1	Changes in victimisation by offence types since the start of the pandemic.....	6
6.2	Changes in victimisation by population factors since the start of the pandemic.....	8

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		Statistical significance
	Pre-pandemic	During-pandemic	
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.

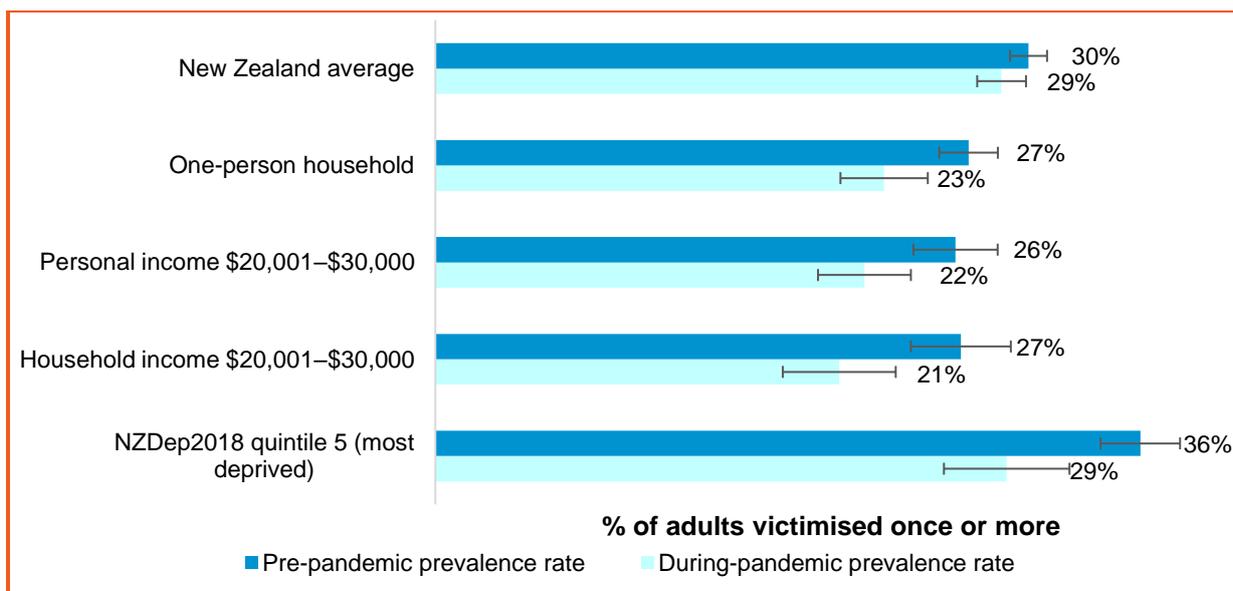


Figure 6.1 Significant changes in overall prevalence rates for population groups between the pre-pandemic and during-pandemic periods

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.

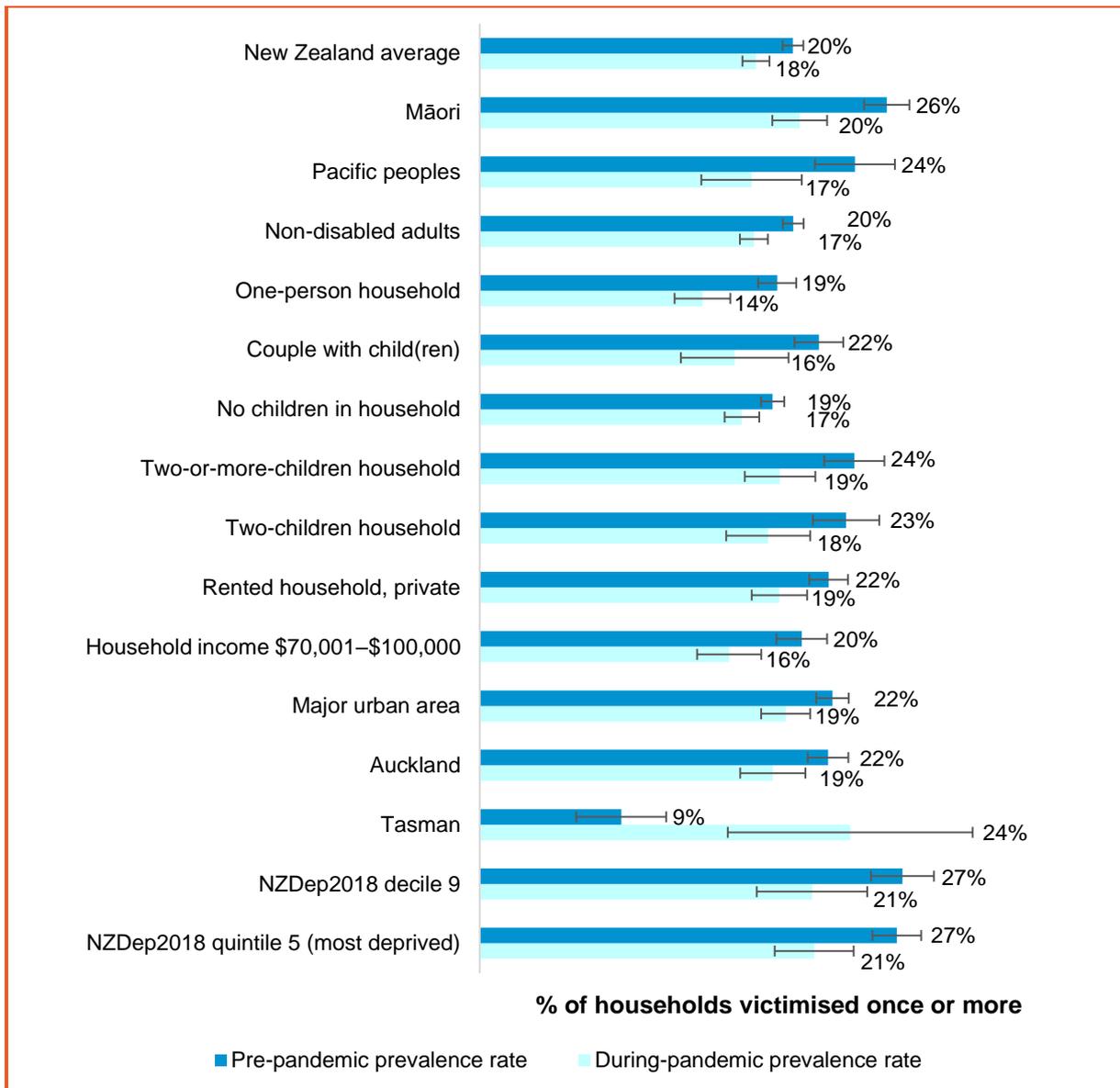


Figure 6.2 Significant changes in prevalence rates of household offences for population groups between the pre-pandemic and during-pandemic periods

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.

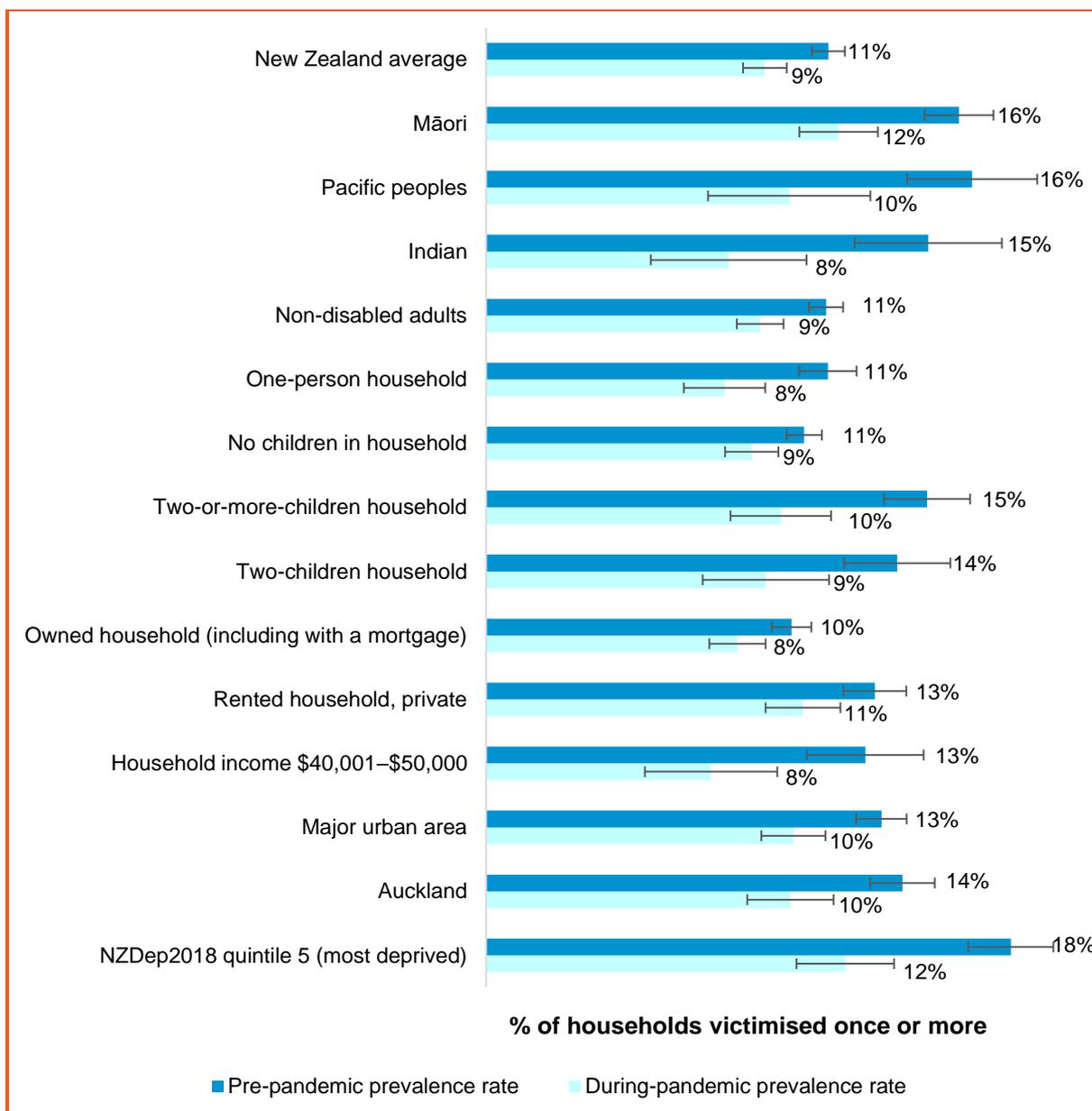


Figure 6.3 Significant changes in prevalence rates of burglary for population groups between the pre-pandemic and during-pandemic periods

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.