



New Zealand  
Crime and Victims **survey**

**HELP CREATE SAFER COMMUNITIES**

**Survey findings - Cycle 4 report**

**Section 8 – *Distribution of  
crime***

June 2022

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

**ISSN 2744-3981**

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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.
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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.

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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
<b>Distribution of crime</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Just over 2% of New Zealand adults experienced 39% of all victimisations.</li> <li>• 38% of victims experienced two or more incidents within the previous 12 months. These victims experienced the majority (73%) of all incidents.</li> <li>• The prevalence of multiple victimisations has remained relatively constant across the cycles.</li> <li>• Cycle 4 saw an increase in the proportion of incidents experienced by adults with 5 or more victimisations (39%) compared to the previous cycle. This was similar to the base year level (39%).</li> <li>• Offences by family members were the most repeated type of offence. Repeat victims of offences by family members (40%) experienced 79% of all offences by family members.</li> <li>• Vehicle offences were the most common one-off offence type, with 81% of incidents occurring as a one-off event.</li> <li>• Repeat victimisation didn't significantly change over time; however, burglary victimisation saw a significant increase in Cycle 4. During the current year, the proportion of burglaries that were repeat incidents was 63%, compared to 40% for the previous year and 47% in the base year.</li> <li>• The groups significantly more likely to be highly victimised (ie, experience four or more crimes within a 12-month period) were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– younger adults (aged 15–29)</li> <li>– Māori</li> <li>– disabled people</li> <li>– people with diverse sexualities</li> <li>– those living in a one-parent-with-child(ren) household</li> <li>– those living in a household with four or more children</li> <li>– those living in a household with five-or-more-people or another multi-person household</li> <li>– those who were unemployed and not actively seeking work</li> <li>– those experiencing high levels of financial pressure</li> <li>– those renting government accommodation (local and central)</li> <li>– those with a moderate or high level of psychological distress</li> <li>– those with low life satisfaction</li> <li>– those with a low feeling of safety.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The groups significantly less likely to be highly victimised were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– males</li> <li>– older adults (aged 60+)</li> <li>– Asians</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

- those living in a couple-only, couple-with-child(ren) or two-person household
- retired adults
- those who were not under financial pressure
- those who were not psychologically distressed
- those with high life satisfaction
- those with a high feeling of safety.

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# 8 Distribution of crime

## What is included in this section?

This section discusses the distribution of crime – that is, how much crime was experienced by how many adults. We reported that 29% of adult New Zealanders were victims of crime in Cycle 4. Analysis in this section tells us whether crime is distributed evenly across those victims, or whether some victims experience a disproportionate amount of crime. We measure the distribution of crime in two ways: by level of multiple victimisation and the level of repeat victimisation.

**Multiple victimisation** occurs when someone has been the victim of crime more than once regardless of the type of offence (for example, someone might have been assaulted, had their car stolen and had their house burgled all within the same 12 months).

**Repeat victimisation** is when someone has been the victim of the same offence more than once (for example, two or more burglaries).

We also did some analysis of **highly victimised people** – those who experienced four or more criminal incidents within a 12-month period.

In this section we look at multiple and repeat victimisation for Cycle 4 (2020/21), for pooled data (Cycles 1–4), changes in multiple or repeat victimisation over time, and demographic factors associated with high levels of victimisation.

## What did we find?

- Just over 2% of New Zealand adults experienced 39% of all victimisations.
- 38% of victims experienced two or more incidents within the previous 12 months. These victims experienced the majority (73%) of all incidents.
- The prevalence of multiple victimisations has remained relatively constant across the cycles.
- Cycle 4 saw an increase in the proportion of incidents experienced by adults with 5 or more victimisations (39%) compared to the previous cycle. This was similar to the base year level (39%).
- Offences by family members were the most repeated type of offence. Repeat victims of offences by family members (40%) experienced 79% of all offences by family members.
- Vehicle offences were the most common one-off offence type, with 81% of incidents occurring as a one-off event.
- Repeat victimisation didn't significantly change over time; however, burglary victimisation saw a significant increase in Cycle 4. During the current year, the proportion of burglaries that were repeat incidents was 63%, compared to 40% for the previous year and 47% in the base year.

- The groups significantly more likely to be highly victimised (ie, experience four or more crimes within a 12-month period) were:
  - younger adults (aged 15–29)
  - Māori
  - disabled people
  - people with diverse sexualities
  - those living in a one-parent-with-child(ren) household
  - those living in a household with four or more children
  - those living in a household with five-or-more-people or another multi-person household
  - those who were unemployed and not actively seeking work
  - those experiencing high levels of financial pressure
  - those renting government accommodation (local and central)
  - those with a moderate or high level of psychological distress
  - those with low life satisfaction
  - those with a low feeling of safety.
- The groups significantly less likely to be highly victimised were:
  - males
  - older adults (aged 60+)
  - Asians
  - those living in a couple-only, couple-with-child(ren) or two-person household
  - retired adults
  - those who were not under financial pressure
  - those who were not psychologically distressed
  - those with high life satisfaction
  - those with a high feeling of safety.

## 8.1 Multiple victimisation

As shown in Table 8.1, in Cycle 4 most New Zealand adults (71%) did not experience any crimes within the previous 12 months, whereas 29% experienced one incident or more.

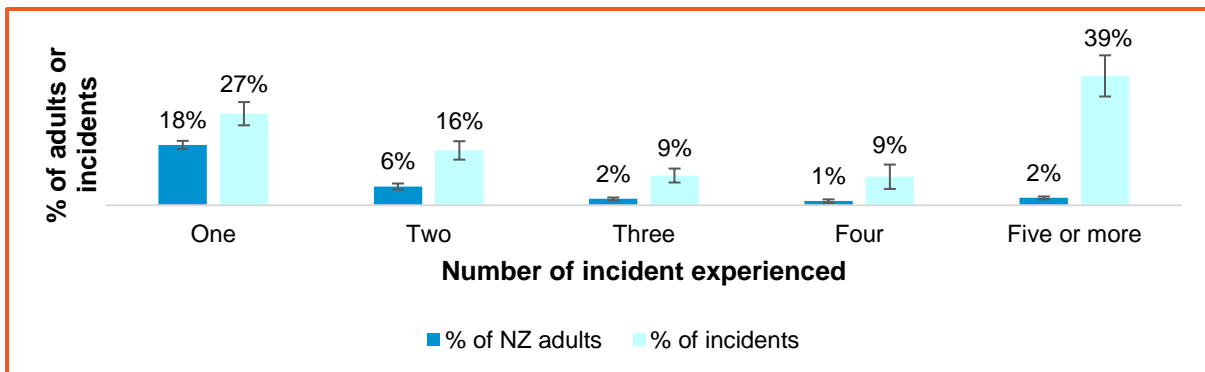
Of those 29% who experienced crime, the majority (62%) experienced one incident, with the remaining 38% experiencing two or more incidents.

Those who experienced multiple incidents experienced the majority (73%) of all victimisations, whereas those who experienced one incident experienced 27% of all victimisations.

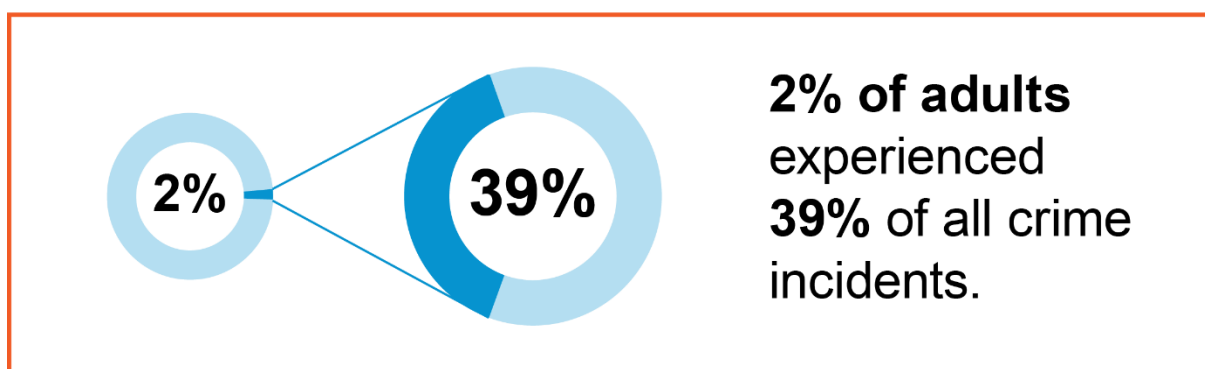
**Table 8.1 Number of New Zealand adults, percentage of adults, percentage of victims and percentage of overall incidents, by the number of incidents experienced (Cycle 4)**

Number of victimisations	Number of adults (000s)	% of adults	% of victims	% of incidents
None	2,845	71	–	–
One	724	18	62	27
Two	224	6	19	16
Three	76	2	7	9
Four	50	1	4	9
Five or more	88	2	8	39

As shown in Figure 8.1, those who experienced five or more incidents make up around 2% of adults (8% of victims), but they experienced 39% of all victimisations.



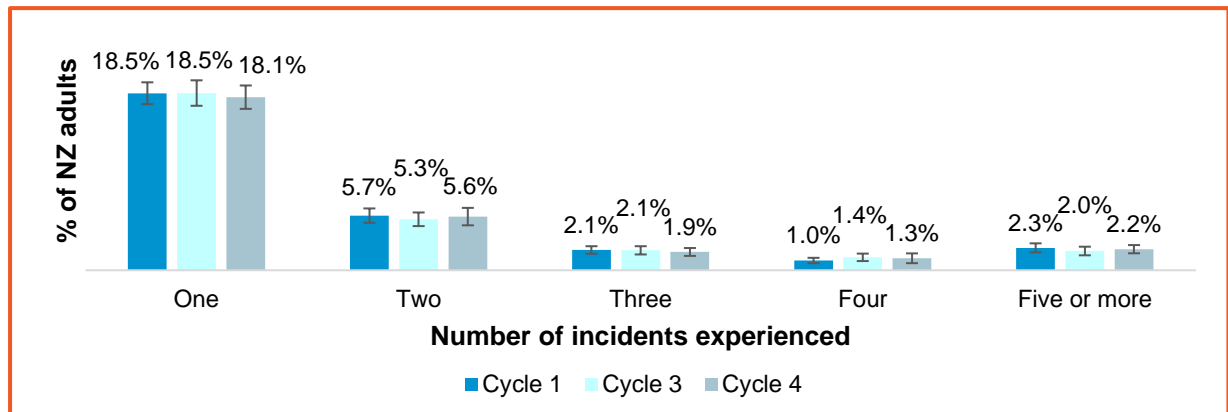
**Figure 8.1 Percentage of New Zealand adults and percentage of incidents experienced, by number of incidents experienced (Cycle 4)**





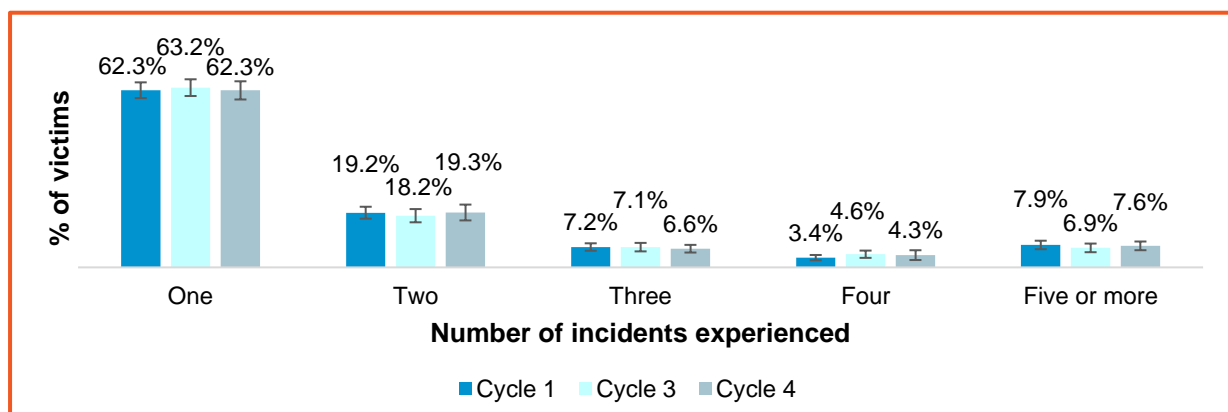
## 8.2 Changes in multiple victimisation over time

The number of incidents experienced by New Zealand adults has been very stable over time (Figure 8.2).



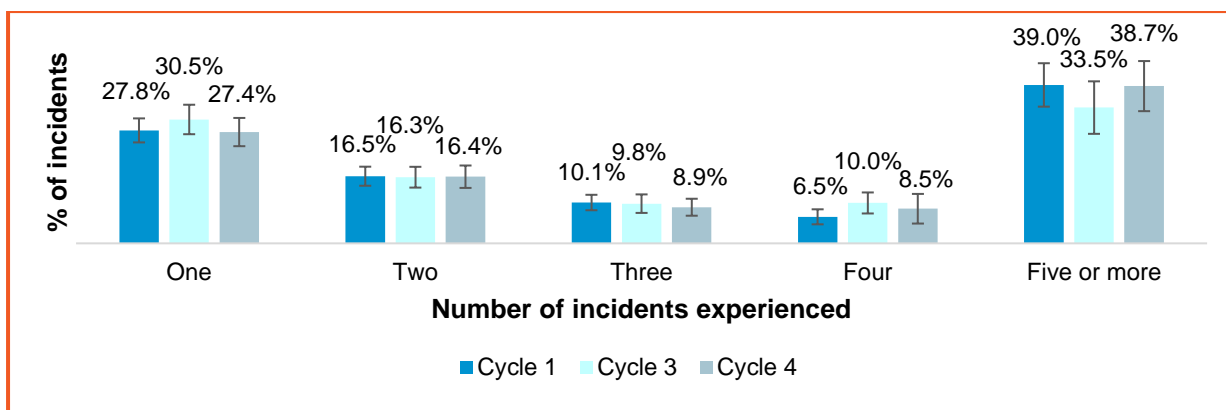
**Figure 8.2** Percentage of New Zealand adults, by number of incidents experienced (Cycles 1, 3 and 4)

Similarly, there was no significant difference across the base, previous, and current year cycles in the percentage of victims and the number of incidents they experienced within the previous 12 months (Figure 8.3).



**Figure 8.3** Percentage of victims, by number of incidents experienced (Cycles 1, 3 and 4)

The current year cycle has seen an increase in the percentage of incidents experienced by victims with 5 or more victimisations compared with the previous year cycle, though the difference is not statistically significant (Figure 8.4). The current level is similar to what it was in the base year (Cycle 1).



**Figure 8.4** Percentage of incidents, by victims with different numbers of incidents experienced (Cycles 1, 3 and 4)

## 8.3 Highly victimised people

As mentioned in section 8.2, the distribution of crime across victims was stable over time. Therefore, in order to reduce error and better identify demographic differences in multiple victimisation, we looked at demographic factors in the distribution of crime using pooled data from Cycles 1–4. For this subsection we have also chosen to focus specifically on the demographics of highly victimised people because this subgroup shows some of the strongest demographic patterns in relation to multiple victimisations.<sup>1</sup>

As defined above, **highly victimised people** are people who experienced four or more incidents within a 12-month period.

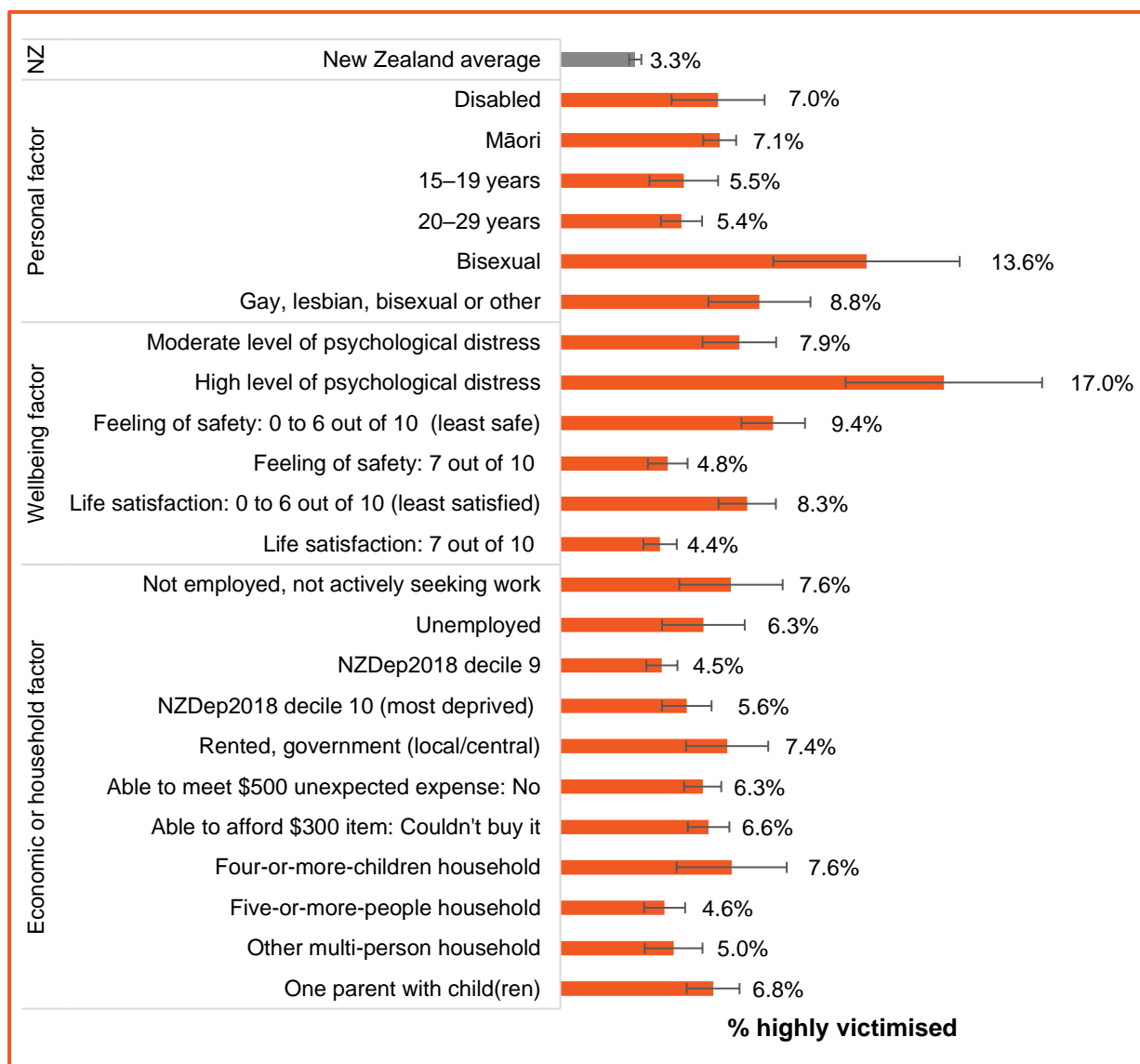
Across the four cycles of the NZCVS, highly victimised people made up only 3% of New Zealand adults but experienced 44% of all victimisations.

As shown in Figure 8.5, several demographic factors were associated with being highly victimised. Specifically, the groups significantly more likely to be highly victimised were:

- younger adults (aged 15–29)
- Māori
- disabled people
- people with diverse sexualities
- those living in a one-parent-with-child(ren) household
- those living in a household with four or more children
- those living in a household with five-or-more-people or another multi-person household
- those who were unemployed and not actively seeking work
- those living in the most deprived areas (deciles 9 and 10)
- those experiencing high levels of financial pressure
- those renting government accommodation (local and central)

<sup>1</sup> The demographic patterns for those who experienced one, two or three incidents within a 12-month period can be viewed in the [data tables](#).

- those with a moderate or high level of psychological distress
- those with low life satisfaction
- those with a low feeling of safety.

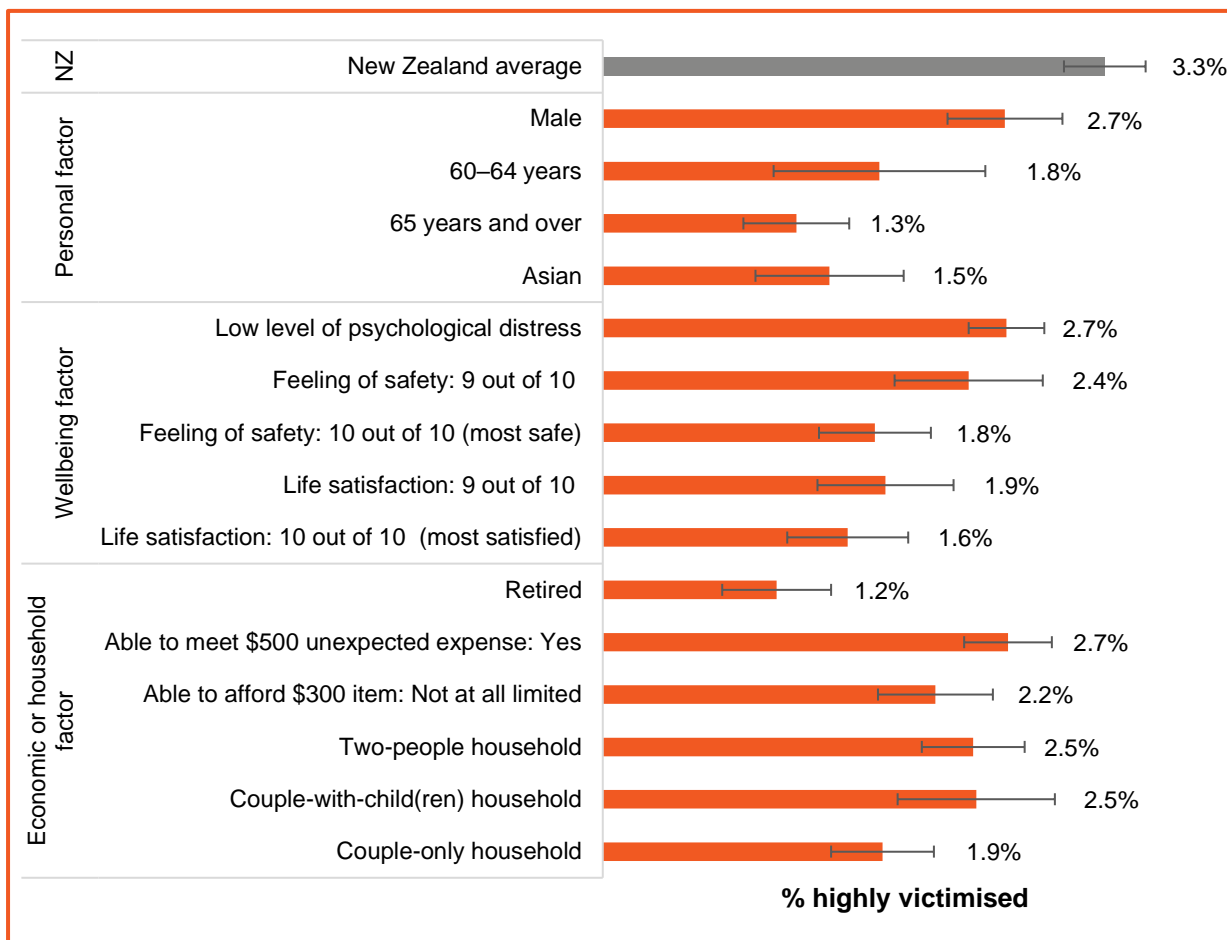


**Figure 8.5 Percentage of adults highly victimised, by personal factor (those with a significantly higher prevalence rate than the New Zealand average; pooled data)**


In contrast, as shown in Figure 8.6, the groups significantly less likely to be highly victimised were:

- males
- older adults (aged 60+)
- Asians
- those living in a couple-only, couple-with-child(ren) or two-person household
- retired adults
- those who were not under financial pressure

- those with a low level of psychological distress
- those with high life satisfaction
- those with a high feeling of safety.

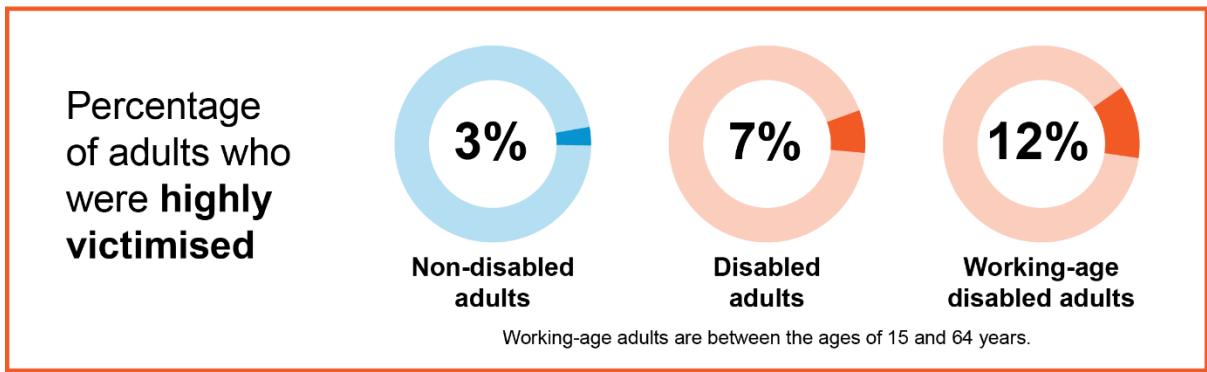


**Figure 8.6** Percentage of adults highly victimised, by personal factor (those with a significantly lower prevalence rate than the New Zealand average; pooled data)



Adults identifying as **bisexual** were **four times** as likely to be **highly victimised** compared with the New Zealand average.

For the first time and before age standardisation, results show that disabled adults have been significantly more highly victimised than the New Zealand average. Using pooled data, 7% of disabled adults were highly victimised, compared with 3% of non-disabled adults. Furthermore, 12% of working-age disabled adults (between the ages of 15 and 64) were highly victimised.

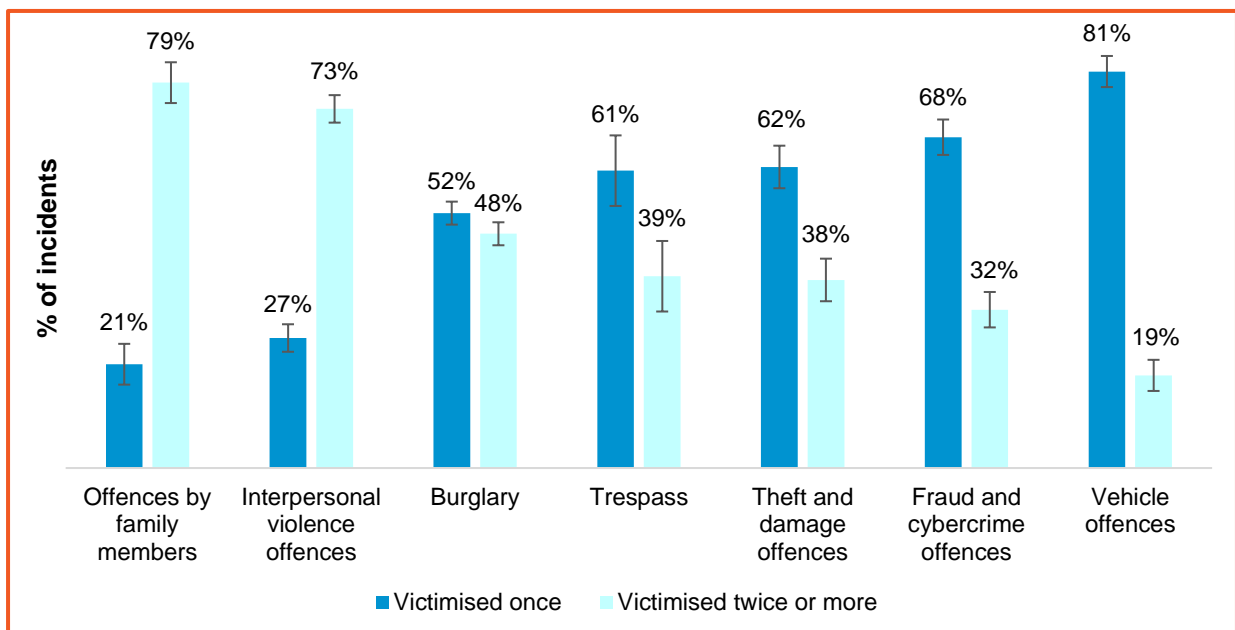


## 8.4 Repeat victimisation

Offences by family members were the most repeated group of offences across the four cycles of NZCVS, with 79% of offences occurring as part of a chain of two or more episodes within a 12-month period. The other 21% of offences by family members were the only episode in the 12-month period (Figure 8.7, pooled data).

Interpersonal violence offences were the second most repeated group of offences, with 73% of offences occurring as part of a chain of two or more incidents and 27% occurring as one-off events.

Vehicle offences were the most common type of one-off incidents, with 81% of vehicle offences occurring as one-off events and 19% occurring as part of a chain of two or more incidents.



**Figure 8.7** Percentage of incidents, by number of victimisations across broad offence groups (pooled data)

For Cycle 4, data was suppressed due to a high margin of error for offences by family members and trespass incidents occurring as part of a chain of two or more incidents.

Interpersonal violence offences were the most repeated group of offence, and vehicle offences were the most common group of one-off incidents.

## Repeat victims experienced the majority of all offences by family members and interpersonal violence offences

Looking more closely at offences by family members (pooled data), 60% of victims experienced one incident within a 12-month period, and they experienced 21% of all offences by family members. Victims with repeat offences by family members (40%) within a 12-month period (Table 8.2) experienced the majority of all offences by family members (79%).

**Table 8.2** Number of New Zealand adults, percentage of adults, percentage of victims and percentage of incidents, by the number of offences by family members experienced (pooled data)

Number of offences by family members experienced	Number of adults (000s)	% of adults	% of victims	% of incidents
None	3,976	97.9	–	–
One	52	1.3	60	21
Two or more	34	0.9	40	79

Similarly, victims of repeat interpersonal violence offences (36%) experienced 73% of all interpersonal violence incidents (Table 8.3), and victims of one-off incidents experienced 27% of interpersonal violence incidents.

**Table 8.3** Number of New Zealand adults, percentage of adults, percentage of victims and percentage of incidents, by the number of interpersonal violence offences experienced (pooled data)

Number of interpersonal violence offences experienced	Number of adults (000s)	% of adults	% of victims	% of incidents
None	3,771	92.8	–	–
One	187	4.6	64	27
Two or more	104	2.6	36	73

**79% of offences by family members and 73% of interpersonal violence offences occurred as part of a chain of two or more incidents.**

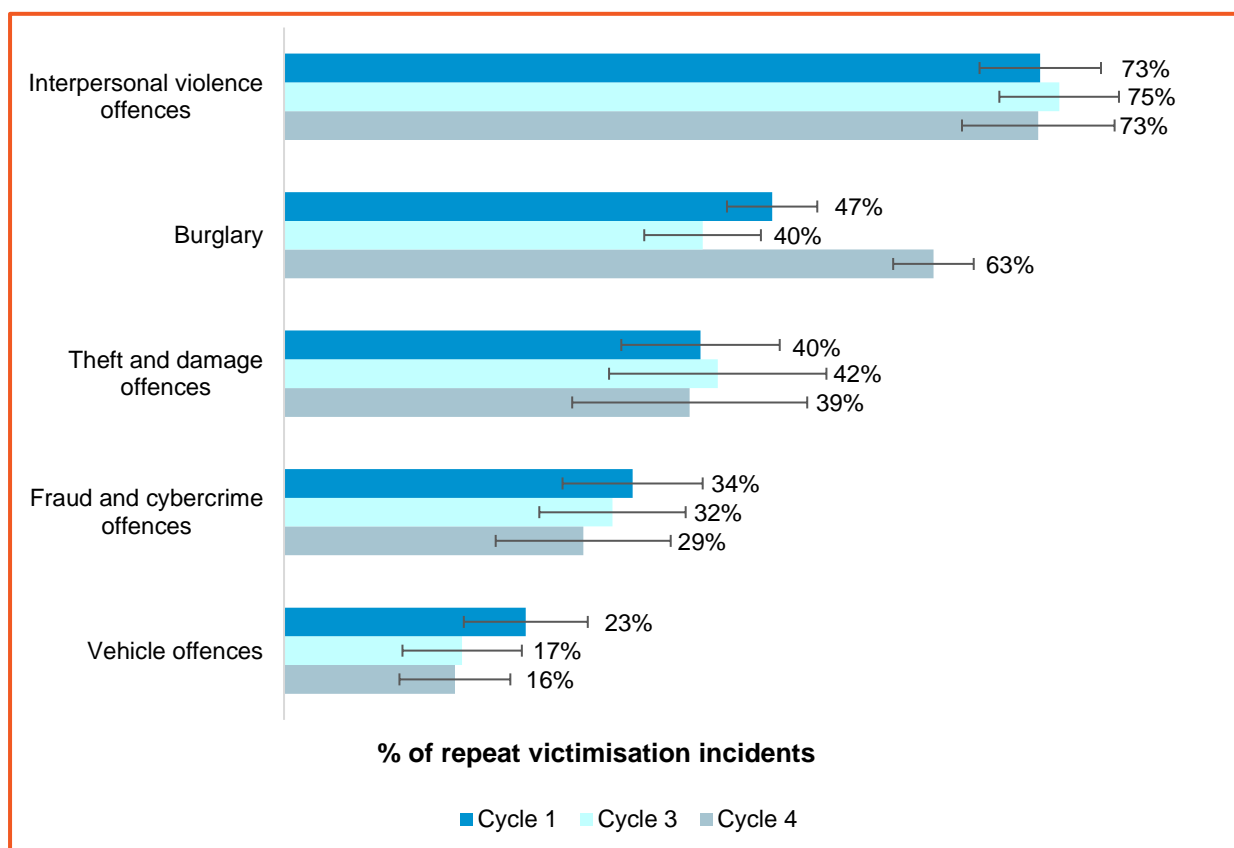


## 8.5 Changes in repeat victimisation over time

As shown in Figure 8.8, there were some shifts in repeat victimisation between the current year, the previous year and the base year across different offence types; however, only the shifts in repeat victimisation for burglary were statistically significant.

Notably, there was a 23-percentage point increase in the proportion of repeat incidents of burglary, from 40% in Cycle 3 (previous year) to 63% in Cycle 4 (current year). Comparing the current year with the base year, there was a 16-percentage point increase. Both differences were statistically significant.

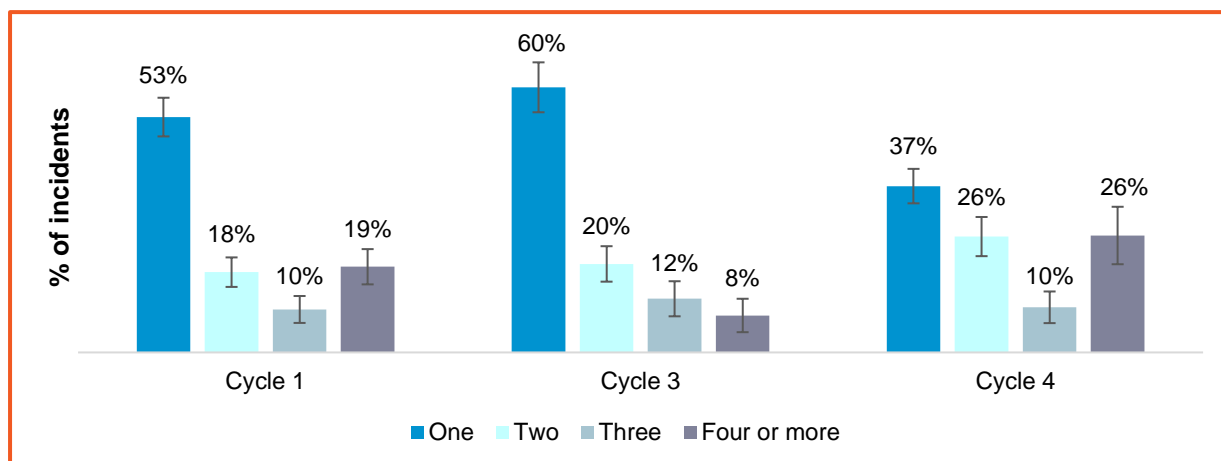
Further to this, from the previous year to the current year there was a slight decrease in repeat victimisation for fraud and cybercrime incidents and for vehicle offences. These differences were not significant. Repeat victimisation for interpersonal violence incidents and theft and damage offences remained relatively constant. The percentages of repeat victimisation incidents by cycle for both offending by family members and trespassing were suppressed due to large margin of error.



**Figure 8.8** Percentage of repeat incidents, by broad offence group (Cycles 1, 3 and 4)

Looking more deeply within the trend for burglary, the current year saw increases in repeat burglaries for households experiencing two burglaries or four or more burglaries. However, the only statistically significant increase was between the previous year and the current year for four or more repeat burglaries (Figure 8.9). It is notable that the percentage of only one

incident occurring has decreased in the current year when compared to both the previous year and the base year.



**Figure 8.9 Percentage of burglary incidents, by number of victimisations (Cycle 1, 3 and 4)**

As shown in Table 8.4, the proportion of households that experienced four or more burglaries significantly increased from the previous year – from 0.2% to 0.7%. The current proportion is similar to what it was in the base year. There was also a significant increase in the proportion of households that experienced two burglaries between the previous year (1.4%) and the current year (2.1%). The current proportion of households that experienced one burglary (6.0%) significantly decreased since the base year (9.3%) and the previous year (8.1%).

**Table 8.4 Percentage of households burgled, by number of burglaries a household experienced (Cycles 1, 3 and 4)**

Number of burglaries experienced	Percentage of households victimised			Change from Cycle 1	Change from Cycle 3
	Cycle 1	Cycle 3	Cycle 4		
<b>One</b>	9.3	8.1	6.0	↓	↓
<b>Two</b>	1.6	1.4	2.1	↔	↑
<b>Three</b>	0.6	0.6	0.5	↔	↔
<b>Four or more</b>	0.7	0.2	0.7	↔	↑

Similarly, households that experienced four or more burglaries saw a significant increase in the overall proportion of burglary incidents experienced – from 8% in the previous year to 26% in the current year (Table 8.5 and Figure 8.9). The current proportion of two burglary incidents occurring (26%) has significantly increased since the base year (18%).



**Table 8.5 Percentage of all burglary incidents, by number of burglaries a household experienced (Cycles 1, 3 and 4)**

Number of burglaries experienced	Percentage of incidents			Change from Cycle 1	Change from Cycle 3
	Cycle 1	Cycle 3	Cycle 4		
<b>One</b>	53.0	59.7	37.4	↓	↓
<b>Two</b>	18.1	19.9	26.1	↑	↔
<b>Three</b>	9.7	12.1	10.2	↔	↔
<b>Four or more</b>	19.3	8.3	26.3	↔	↑