Disclaimer

- 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.

- Data collection was suspended during COVID-19 Alert Levels 4 and 3.

- This report contains highly aggregated data. No identifiable personal data is included in the report.

- 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.

Crown copyright © 2021

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, not the New Zealand Ministry of Justice logo.
This booklet provides insights and analysis of the New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey (NZCVS) results. It is based on the NZCVS Key findings Cycle 3 report.

**The NZCVS is a nationwide, face-to-face, random-sample survey.** Adults aged 15 and over are interviewed about experiences of crime they had over the previous 12 months. This includes incidents reported to the Police and unreported incidents.

**The findings presented in this booklet reflect three years of interviewing.** The focus is on results from Cycle 3, and comparisons with previous cycles. Where stated, data from all three cycles are combined to make results about small groups more reliable. We call this combined data “pooled data”.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data collection</th>
<th>Sample size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cycle 1  March – September 2018</td>
<td>8,030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cycle 2  October 2018 – September 2019</td>
<td>8,038</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cycle 3  October 2019 – November 2020</td>
<td>7,425</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Cycle 3 data was collected both before and after the COVID-19 pandemic began.** Because of COVID-19 outbreaks, interviewing was paused nationally from 21 March to 2 July 2020 and in Auckland from 12 August to 2 September 2020. Cycle 3 results still largely reflect the period before the pandemic, because respondents were asked about their experiences over the previous 12 months.

**The full report and other resources are available on the Ministry of Justice website.** In-depth reports using Cycle 3 data will be also made available on this website.
The extent and nature of crime

In Cycle 3, 29% of adults\(^1\) had experienced one or more offences over the previous 12 months.\(^2\)

- About 1.2 million adults were victims.
- These adults experienced about 1.65 million offences against them and their households. About 70% were personal offences and 30% were household offences.
- The most common offence types were fraud and deception; harassment and threatening behaviour; and burglary. Together, these made up more than half of all offences.
- About 15% of adults experienced one or more personal offences and about 19% of households experienced one or more household offences.

\(^1\) For the purpose of this survey adults are people aged 15 years and above
\(^2\) From the date of the interview.

Note: All information on this page reflects Cycle 3 results.
Changes in victimisation rates

Although the overall level of victimisation did not change, household offences declined from Cycle 1 to Cycle 3.

- Both the number of offences per 100 adults and the proportion of adults victimised stayed about the same between Cycles 1 and 3.
- The number of household offences fell significantly from Cycle 1 to Cycle 3, from 32 down to 28 per 100 households.
- This appeared to be driven by a decline in burglaries, which fell significantly from 18 to 14 per 100 households.
- Apart from burglary, there were no other statistically significant changes in individual offence types from Cycle 1 to Cycle 3.
- The decline in household offences could be related to the impacts of COVID-19 and subsequent lockdowns. We explore this in more detail on the next page.

Burglary rates have fallen since Cycle 1

- In Cycle 1, 18 per 100 households experienced a burglary.
- In Cycle 2, 16 per 100 households experienced a burglary.
- In Cycle 3, 14 per 100 households experienced a burglary.

Throughout this booklet, significant changes mean the difference was statistically significant at the 95% confidence level. See the full report for more information.
Impact of COVID-19 and lockdowns

Household offences decreased since the COVID-19 nationwide lockdown.

» The number of offences per 100 households was decreasing before the nationwide lockdown, but decreased more sharply after the lockdown. The Cycle 3 pre-lockdown\(^4\) rate was 29 offences per 100 households, which was not significantly different from the Cycle 1 rate of 32. The post-lockdown\(^5\) rate fell to 25, which was significantly lower than the Cycle 1 rate.

» Within household offences, rates of burglary and household property damage reduced significantly post-lockdown, compared with Cycle 1. No significant changes were observed for any other offence type post-lockdown. More reliable analysis will be possible when Cycle 4 data is available, which will provide a larger post-lockdown sample.

### Number of offences per 100 households

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cycle</th>
<th>Number of Offences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 PRE-LOCKDOWN</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 POST-LOCKDOWN</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^4\) Between 3 September 2019 and 20 March 2020.

\(^5\) Between 3 July 2020 and 18 November 2020. Note that because we asked respondents about their experiences over the last 12 months, the post-lockdown sample covers victimisation over a period before, during and after the lockdown.
Who experiences crime?

Some groups were at much higher risk of victimisation than others.

» Overall **29% of New Zealand adults** experienced one or more offences over the last 12 months.

» The risk was significantly higher for **bisexual people**, with almost half (47%) experiencing one or more offences.

» Those who were **not employed, and not actively seeking work**, were also at high risk, with 43% experiencing one or more offences. Having low household income and living in government rental accommodation were also factors associated with higher risk of victimisation.

» More than half of those showing symptoms of **high psychological distress** (55%) had been a victim of one or more offences. Low life-satisfaction and poor feelings of safety were also associated with higher risk of victimisation.

---

**Bisexual people** were at **twice the risk** of experiencing a **personal offence** than the New Zealand average.

15%  **New Zealand average**

33%  **Bisexual**

---

Note: All information on this page reflects Cycle 3 results.
Regional differences

The risk of experiencing personal offences was similar across the country, but household offences were more common in some regions than others.

Between Cycle 1 and Cycle 3, household offences fell significantly in Wellington and the rest of the North Island (excluding Auckland).

Households experiencing offences in previous 12 months

- Auckland: 22%
- Waikato: 20%
- Taranaki: 15%
- Manawatū-Whanganui: 19%
- Tasman: 10%
- Nelson: 18%
- Wellington: 19%
- Marlborough: 14%
- Canterbury: 21%
- Bay of Plenty: 17%
- Gisborne: 24%
- Hawke’s Bay: 22%
- Northland: 21%
- Southland: 14%
- Otago: 13%

Note: All information on this page reflects results from pooled data (Cycles 1–3), except where stated.
Controlling for age and deprivation

Younger people and people living in more deprived areas tend to be at higher risk of victimisation.

- Using pooled data from Cycle 1–3, Māori adults were significantly more likely to be victimised than the average adult (38% compared with 30%). This can be partly explained by the fact that compared with the overall population, Māori tend to be younger and to live in areas with higher deprivation.

- If Māori had the same age and deprivation profile as the overall population, we would expect 32% to have been victims of crime.

- Adults with disability were victims of crime at a similar rate to the population average (31% compared with 30%). After accounting for the older age distribution of adults with disability, they were significantly more likely to experience crime.

If adults with disability had the same age structure as the overall population, we would expect 41% to have been victimised.

Note: All information on this page reflects results from pooled data (Cycles 1–3).
Interpersonal violence offences

About 280,000 adults experienced about 670,000 interpersonal violence offences over the last 12 months.

- 7% of adults experienced one or more interpersonal violence offences.
- There were 16 interpersonal violence offences per 100 adults.
- 75% of interpersonal violence offences occurred as part of a chain of two or more incidents against the same victim.

6 In the NZCVS, interpersonal violence offences include sexual assault; other assault; robbery; harassment and threatening behaviour; and household and personal property damage where the offender is known to the victim.

Notes: One person may be victimised more than once by different offenders. All information on this page reflects Cycle 3 results.
Sexual assault

About 1 in 11 females aged 15–19 were sexually assaulted in the previous 12 months.

» About 2% of adults experienced sexual assault in the previous 12 months. This figure did not change significantly between Cycles 1 and 3.

» There were about 168,000 sexual assaults against 76,000 adults.

» More than half of sexual assaults were perpetrated by an intimate partner, other family member or someone else the victim already knew.

» About half of sexual assaults happened in a residential location.

Adults victimised once or more by sexual assault

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>New Zealand average</th>
<th>Females aged 15–19</th>
<th>Females with diverse sexualities</th>
<th>People with diverse sexualities aged 15–29</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: All information on this page reflects results from pooled data (Cycles 1–3), except where stated.
Offences by family members

Around three quarters of offences by family members\(^7\) were against females.

- Almost **90,000 adults (2%)** experienced offences by family members over the last 12 months.
- Nearly **2 in 10** offences by family members were **sexual assaults**.
- The prevalence rate of offences by family members was especially high for adults who were **separated** (11%) or in **sole-parent households** (9%).

---

7 Offences by family members in the NZCVS include episodes of assault, robbery, sexual assault, threats and harassment or property damage, where the perpetrator was a family or whānau member of the victim.

Notes: One person may be victimised more than once by different offenders. All information on this page reflects results from pooled data (Cycles 1–3).
Lifetime violence

About 35% of females and 12% of males had experienced sexual assault in their lifetime.

» Sexual assault had affected 18% of people aged 15–19 so far during their lives.

» About 23% of females and 9% of males who have ever had a partner had ever experienced intimate partner violence.

» Adults with disability were at elevated risk of having experienced both sexual assault and intimate partner violence during their lifetime, especially when accounting for age.

Note: All information on this page reflects results from pooled data (Cycles 1–3).
A quarter (25%) of offences experienced by New Zealand adults in the last 12 months were reported to the Police.

» Household offences (38%) were almost twice as likely to be reported as personal offences (20%).

» Motor vehicle thefts (89%) were the most likely offence type to be reported, while only 7% of fraud or cybercrime offences were reported.

» Across different offence types, there were no significant changes in reporting rates between Cycles 1 and 3.

» Reporting rates did not vary much across population groups. However, offences against bisexual people and those living in less deprived neighbourhoods were less likely to be reported.

Note: All information on this page reflects Cycle 3 results.
Reasons for not reporting

The most common reason for not reporting offences to the Police was that it was *too trivial*, there was *no loss or damage*, or it was *not worth reporting*.

» The second most common reason for not reporting, “Police couldn’t have done anything”, was given for 21% of unreported offences.

» The reasons “shame/embarrassment/further humiliation” and “fear of reprisals/would make matters worse” were significantly more likely to be given for not reporting interpersonal violence, sexual assault, and physical offence incidents.

For 41% of unreported offences, the reason given was that it was *too trivial*, there was *no loss or damage*, or it was *not worth reporting*.

Note: All information on this page reflects Cycle 3 results.
One third (33%) of all crime incidents were experienced by only 2% of adults.

- Thirty-seven percent of victims experienced two or more incidents within the previous 12 months. These victims experienced the majority (69%) of all crime incidents.
- Offences by family members were the most repeated offence group. Almost half of the victims (46%) of offences by family members experienced repeat events, and these victims experienced 82% of all offences by family members.
- Vehicle offences were the most likely offence group to be one-off incidents, with 83% occurring as one-off events.

2% of adults experience one-third of all crime incidents.

Note: All information on this page reflects Cycle 3 results.
Crime scene

The most common setting in which offences took place was residential (44%), followed by online or over the phone (27%).

- More than half (56%) of vehicle offences, 16% of interpersonal violence offences and 23% of physical assaults/robberies happened in public areas.
- A third (31%) of sexual assaults, 18% of interpersonal violence offences, and 19% of thefts/damages and vehicle offences happened in business or retail areas.

Location of offences against New Zealand adults

- Residential 44%
- Online or over the phone 27%
- Business or retail 12%
- Community 4%
- Public 12%
- Other 1%

Note: All information on this page reflects results from pooled data (Cycles 1–3).
Consequences of crime

Nine percent of all offences resulted in injury.

» Victims were injured in 21% of interpersonal violence offences, 27% of offences by family members and 51% of non-sexual assaults.

» Nine percent of offences resulted in time taken off work by the victim. This proportion increased to 15% for offences by family members and 16% for vehicle offences.

15% of offences resulted in the victim taking time off work.

---

8 Offences by family members in the NZCVS include episodes of assault, robbery, sexual assault, threats and harassment or property damage, where the perpetrator was a family or whānau member of the victim.

Note: All information on this page reflects results from pooled data (Cycles 1–3).
Perceptions of safety

Adults were most concerned about their safety in Hawke’s Bay and Auckland.

- Those living in Gisborne, Taranaki, Wellington, Otago, Southland and Marlborough were relatively more confident about their safety.

- The proportion of men who ranked their safety as 0 to 6 out of 10 was significantly lower than the national average, while the proportion of women was significantly higher.

- Two age groups that felt most safe were those aged 15–19 and 65+. The 65+ age group is relatively less victimised than other age groups, so their higher confidence is not surprising. Those aged 15–19, however, felt relatively safe despite being at higher risk of victimisation.

29% of adults ranked their overall feeling of safety as 10 out of 10.

81% of adults ranked their feeling of safety with family and whānau as 10 out of 10.

Note: All information on this page reflects results from pooled data (Cycles 1–3), except in the infographic which reflects Cycle 3 results.
All observations in this booklet are based on the NZCVS key findings Cycle 3 report and data tables. These documents and other resources are located on the NZCVS pages of the Ministry of Justice website below.

Note: NZCVS is the New Zealand Crime andVictims Survey.

justice.govt.nz/justice-sector-policy/research-data/nzcsvs/resources-and-results

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