

## New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey (NZCVS) 2018: FAQs

### **What is 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?**

There is very little information on the amount of crime and the number of victims in New Zealand. It is something of an information black hole as only 23 percent of crime is reported to the Police. The Crime and Victims Survey will provide very 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 will also be of great value to universities and NGOs working in the justice sector.

The New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey will:

- Inform Hāpaitia to Oranga Tangata: The Safe and Effective Justice Programme
- Provide information for the Stats NZ's living standards dashboard and to Treasury's wellbeing network. Stats NZ has already recommended to include at least three Crime and Victims Survey measures into the list of NZ wellbeing indicators
- Potentially link consented anonymised records with IDI data allowing wider analysis
- Be consistent with Ministry of Justice forecasting models assessing future crime trends
- Allow 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 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 for the 2018 New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey took place in their homes between March and October 2018. They were asked about crime and victimisation that had occurred over the last 12 months from the day of the interview.

**How many people were surveyed?**

8,030.

**What was the response rate?**

81% of people in eligible households agreed to be interviewed.

**What questions were asked?**

We asked participants if they had any experience of crimes and if so:

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

**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 entered their responses directly into the computers themselves. This was because the questions were sensitive, and this ensured the interviewer did not see the participant's responses.

**How long did interviews take?**

Interviews normally took between 20 to 30 minutes

**Is the privacy of participants protected?**

The information provided to the interviewer is 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 will be removed from the data set. Only approved researchers can use the data. Participants name and any identifying details will not be included in the published material and small groups will be 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.

### **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

A pilot survey was held in advance of the main survey to test the methodology. For details on the methodology please go to:

<https://www.justice.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/NZCVS-2018-Methodology-Report-Year-1-fin.pdf>.

### **What is the confidence level selected for survey reporting?**

95 percent. Same as the New Zealand Crime and Safety Survey.

### **What is incidence rate?**

Incidence rate is the total number of offences (all, or of a certain type) in the reference year divided by the total number of (relevant) people or households. It is expressed as the average number of victimisation incidents experienced per 100 households or adults.

For example, there were 17 burglaries per 100 households in 2017.

It takes into account that some people or households are victimised more than once, but it does not take into account that victimisation is unevenly distributed across the population.

### **What is prevalence rate?**

Prevalence rate is the total number of people/households who experience at least one offence (all, or of a certain type) in the reference year divided by the total number of (relevant) people or households. It is expressed as the percentage of total number of NZ households or percentage of NZ adults aged over 15 years.

For example, 12 percent of households experienced a burglary in 2017.

Unlike incidence rates it does not take into account the number of times one person or household has been victimised.

### **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 the New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey 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 will deliver consistent reports much more often than NZCASS and this will make possible to compare NZCVS results from now on.

### **What about comparing it 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 New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey results conflicts with other data Government agencies are using?**

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

### **What are the limitations of 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 the total amount of 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.

### **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 (37 percent vs 29 percent) reflects the current New Zealand population. While we interviewed more Māori, the figures have been scaled to reflect their part of the population.

### **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).

### **How much does the Survey cost?**

The Survey has been funded for three consecutive years at \$3 million in total for all the surveys. It is important to remember that the New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey is the only source of information about unreported crime and victimisation. Only 23% of crime is reported to the Police. The New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey findings will be a very valuable resource that will be used frequently by policy analysts, researchers and other staff at a range of government agencies.

## **How does the cost of the New Zealand Crime and Victims survey compare to other similar surveys?**

It is difficult to compare different surveys as each is set up differently with different methodological processes, sample sizes, and resource requirements.

However, to provide a rough comparison, the New Zealand General Social Survey conducted by Stats NZ cost around \$1.2 million per iteration in 2010 and 2012 but cost substantially more at \$3.7 million for the first iteration in 2008 due to set up costs. The General Social Survey provides a good comparison to Crime and Victims Survey because it has similar sample size, collection method and questionnaire length.

## **When will the results be published?**

The first high level or “topline” results will be published in late December 2018. The main report will be issued in the first quarter of 2019 followed by a series of specialist reports.

## **Where can I obtain more information about this survey?**

- Enquiries about the Survey method or feedback from participants in the Survey CBG Public Sector Surveying (CBG) 0800 478 783
- Enquiries about the purpose, results and use of the Survey Ministry of Justice: [NZCVS@justice.govt.nz](mailto:NZCVS@justice.govt.nz)