



New Zealand
Crime and Victims **survey**

HELP CREATE SAFER COMMUNITIES

List of key findings

Cycle 1 (March - September 2018)

About this document

This document provides detailed insights and analysis of the New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey (NZCVS) results. It is based on the *NZCVS Year 1 Key Findings report* providing more detailed information and available from the [Ministry of Justice website](#).

The list of key findings reflects the first year of interviewing. NZCVS data collection will continue until September 2020 which will make it possible to both increase the accuracy of the survey results and to analyse changes in the volume and structure of victimisation in New Zealand.

We intend to gradually provide other reports and resources on the NZCVS pages of the Ministry of Justice website. In particular, we are planning a series of follow-up reports on specific topics, such as family violence, Māori victimisation, consequences of crime, heavily victimised people, victimisation of young and aged people, and more. These reports will provide in-depth analysis on the above topics using confidentialised data in Statistics New Zealand's Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI).

This document does not include survey methodology and metadata. These technical aspects are discussed in detail in the NZCVS methodology report on the [Ministry of Justice website](#).

The NZCVS is a nationwide, face-to-face, annual, random-sample survey asking New Zealanders aged 15 and over about incidents of crime they experienced over the last 12 months. This includes both incidents reported to the Police and unreported incidents.

All observations in this document are based on data tables available from the separate Excel document located on the [Ministry of Justice website](#). The data tables also provide information about accuracy of the estimates. Please be aware that some estimates should be used with caution due to small sample size as stated in relevant spreadsheets.

The NZCVS is a new survey with some significant improvements in design compared with its predecessors such as the New Zealand Crime and Safety Survey (NZCASS). Methodological differences between the surveys mean that direct comparison of NZCVS results with its predecessor NZCASS is potentially misleading, even within similar offence types. The NZCVS results are also not comparable with Police crime statistics. The main reason for this is that more than three quarters of crime incidents collected by the NZCVS were not reported to the Police and the proportion of incidents reported to the Police varies significantly depending on the offence type.

Answers for frequently asked questions may be found on the Ministry of Justice website – see <https://www.justice.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/NZCVS-FAQs.pdf>

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

Key findings

| Topic | Key findings |
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| The extent and nature of crime | <p>A significant majority of adults¹ (71%) experienced no crime over the last 12 months.²</p> |
| | <p>Approximately 1,777,000 offences were identified over the last 12 months, where personal offences make up the majority (68% of total offences).</p> |
| | <p>On average, there were 32 household offences per 100 households and 30 personal offences per 100 adults.</p> |
| | <p>About 355,000 households experienced one or more household offences and 575,000 adults experienced one or more personal offences.</p> |
| Who experiences crime | <p>Males (29%) and females (29%) were equally likely to be victims of crime over the last 12 months.</p> |
| | <p>People aged 65 and over (18%) were less likely to be victims of crime. People aged 20–29 were more likely to be victims of crime (40%).</p> |
| | <p>Māori (37%) were more likely to be victims of crime than the national average (29%).</p> |
| | <p>Chinese people (19%) were less likely to be victims of crime than the national average.</p> |
| | <p>A higher level of life satisfaction is associated with lower prevalence and incidence rates of victimisation overall and for personal offences.</p> |
| | <p>A higher level of perceived safety is associated with lower prevalence and incidence rates of victimisation overall, for personal offences and for household offences.</p> |
| | <p>Neither disabled nor non-disabled people were more or less likely to be victims of crime. This relates both to overall victimisation and to personal and household offences taken separately.</p> |
| | <p>Moderate and high levels of psychological distress are both associated with significantly higher prevalence and incidence rates of victimisation than the national average.</p> |
| | <p>People living in the three major urban areas had no statistically significant difference in offence prevalence compared with the national average (29%).</p> |
| | <p>Those living in larger households (five or more people) are more likely to experience household crime than the national average.</p> |
| <p>Students who are not employed are more likely than the national average to be victimised overall or experience personal or household offences taken separately.</p> | |
| <p>Higher area deprivation is associated with higher victimisation, although no statistically significant difference in victimisation was found for overall crime and personal crime.</p> | |

¹ For the purposes of this survey, adults are identified as people aged 15 years and above.

² From the date of the interview.

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| | <p>People with a high level of financial hardship are more likely than the national average to be victimised overall or experience personal or household offences taken separately.</p> |
| Interpersonal violence | <p>Almost 300,000 adults experienced interpersonal violence over the last 12 months.</p> |
| | <p>These victims were victimised more than 747,000 times.</p> |
| | <p>Nineteen personal violence incidents happened for every 100 adults.</p> |
| | <p>More than one quarter of incidents related to sexual assaults, and almost a third related to other assaults and robberies.</p> |
| Family violence | <p>Almost 80,000 adults experienced more than 190,000 incidents of family violence over the last 12 months.</p> |
| | <p>The proportion of female victims of family violence (71%) more than twice exceeds that of male victims (29%).</p> |
| | <p>More than 40% of all victims are between 15 and 29 years old.</p> |
| | <p>The number of family violence incidents per 100 adults among Māori is twice as high as among New Zealand Europeans.</p> |
| | <p>More than 30,000 adults were victimised by partners, more than 16,000 by ex-partners, and approximately 40,000 by other family members.</p> |
| | <p>Note: For some incidents more than one offender may be involved.</p> |
| Psychological violence | <p>More than 100,000 adults (3.6%) experienced psychological violence over the last 12 months.</p> |
| | <p>The most frequent type of psychological violence is stopping someone from contacting family or friends. The least frequent type is pressing a victim into paid work.</p> |
| | <p>Māori and those aged between 15 and 29 years old are almost twice more likely than the national average to experience psychological violence.</p> |
| Sexual violence | <p>Almost 200,000 sexual assault incidents happened to almost 90,000 adults over the last 12 months.</p> |
| | <p>Females made up 71% of the victims and suffered from 80% of sexual assault incidents.</p> |
| | <p>The number of sexual assault incidents per 100 females is almost four times higher than per 100 males.</p> |
| | <p>Every two of three sexually assaulted people are between 15 and 29 years old.</p> |
| Lifetime violence | <p>More than half a million people (16% of adults) experienced one or more incidents of IPV at some point during their lives.</p> |
| | <p>Females (21%) were more likely than males (10%) to have experienced one or more incidents of IPV at some point during their lives.</p> |
| | <p>More than 900,000 people (23% of adults) experienced one or more incidents of sexual violence at some point during their lives.</p> |

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| | <p>Females (34%) were almost three times more likely than males (12%) to have experienced one or more incidents of sexual violence at some point during their lives.</p> <p>Māori are more likely to be victims of lifetime sexual violence than the national average, while Asian people are less likely.</p> |
| Non-violent personal crime | <p>Almost 400,000 people (about 7.5% of adults) experienced one or more incidents of fraud or cybercrime over the last 12 months.</p> <p>More than 200,000 adults were victims of one or more fraud incidents, and more than 100,000 were victims of one or more cybercrime incidents.</p> |
| Property crime | <p>Approximately 577,000 property crime incidents happened over the last 12 months.</p> <p>Approximately 355,000 households (20% of all New Zealand households) experienced one or more property crime incidents over the last 12 months.</p> <p>There were approximately 32 property crime incidents per every 100 households.</p> <p>New Zealand households experienced 73,000 theft and damage incidents (almost 6 incidents per 100 households), more than 100,000 vehicle offences (6.6 per 100 households) and 215,000 burglaries (17.5 per 100 households).</p> |
| Distribution of crime | <p>Thirty percent of victims of household offences and 31% of victims of personal crime were victimised more than once within 12 months.</p> <p>Thirty-seven percent of victims of interpersonal violence were victimised more than once within 12 months; 15% were victimised five or more times.</p> <p>Four percent of victims of household offences and 10% of victims of personal crime were victimised five or more times within 12 months.</p> <p>Almost half (47%) of all crime incidents were experienced by only 4% of adults.</p> |
| Incidents caused by discrimination | <p>About 20% of all incidents are perceived to happen because of the offender's attitude towards the victim's race/ethnicity, sex, age, sexuality, religion or disability.</p> <p>More than one third of violent interpersonal offences were perceived as driven by discrimination. Attitude towards the sex of the victim (30%) was the major perceived driver.</p> |
| Selected drivers of family violence | <p>Argument is the most often perceived reason for all family violence incidents (44%) and especially for current-partner violence (66%). It is followed by jealousy (33% for all family violence incidents and 40% for intimate partner violence).</p> <p>About one in three incidents of current-partner violence is believed to be triggered by financial issues.</p> |
| Reporting crime | <p>Less than a quarter (23%) of all crime was reported to the Police over the last 12 months. This proportion is twice as high for household offences (34%) compared to personal offences (17%).</p> <p>Theft of/unlawful takes/converts of motor vehicle is the offence most commonly reported to the Police over the last 12 months (82%). Also, theft of/from motor vehicles as well as vehicle offences as a group were reported more often than the national average of 23%.</p> |

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| | <p>Burglaries (36%) are also reported more often than the national average.</p> <p>Fraud/deception and cybercrime are the offences least commonly reported to the Police (7%).</p> <p>People's perception about the seriousness of an incident significantly affects the level of reporting to the Police</p> |
| Family violence victims' experience | <p>Most family violence victims (more than 90%) are aware of support organisations.</p> |
| | <p>Only a small proportion of those aware of the support organisations actually contacted them (23%). Even well-known support organisations were contacted by only 10–12% of victims. Significantly more family violence victims are seeking help from other family members than from organisations providing formal support.</p> |
| | <p>The reasons most often given for not contacting support organisations were "Did not need help" (30%), "Wanted to handle it myself" (22%) and "Private matter" (17%).</p> |