

HELP CREATE SAFER COMMUNITIES

Topical report: An overview of important findings

October 2019

Results drawn from Cycle 1 (March-September 2018) of the New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey



New Zealand Government



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Disclaimer

1. This report contains only information about people aged 15 years and above. The survey does not cover children younger than 15 years of age.

2. 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.

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

4. Estimates measured in percentages are rounded to the nearest whole numbers.

5. The NZCVS is a new survey with significant improvements in design compared with its predecessor the New Zealand Crime and Safety Survey (NZCASS). Therefore, **any direct comparison with the NZCASS results may be misleading, even for the same offence types.**



Acknowledgements

The Ministry of Justice acknowledges and thanks the following people and organisations for their valuable contribution to the New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey (NZCVS) 2018.

Survey participants

We would like to thank the 8030 New Zealanders who gave their time to take part in the survey and share their stories.

Service provider

We appreciate the work of CBG Health Research Ltd. Their interviewing and data management services made this survey possible.

Contributors

All writing for this report was performed by Dr Michael Slyuzberg. Dr Slyuzberg was employed by the Ministry of Justice Research and Evaluation team at the time of publication.

External experts

We are grateful for the support, guidance and advice of the experts who contributed to the project. Our special thanks go to consultant Patricia Mayhew for her invaluable contribution in the survey design, Andrea Johnston (New Zealand Police) for her support of the coding design and process, Chris Hansen and Naeimeh Abi (Statistics New Zealand) for their methodological advice and peer-review, Associate Professor Louise Dixon and Adrienne Everest for reviewing the methodological report, and our colleagues from the Ministry of Justice for their ongoing help and support.

NZCVS Project Team

Published in October 2019 By The Ministry of Justice Justice Centre, 19 Aitken Street DX SX10088, Wellington, New Zealand

Suggested citation

Ministry of Justice. 2019. *Topical report: An overview of important findings. New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey. October 2019. Results drawn from Cycle 1 (March–September 2018) of the New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey.* Wellington: Ministry of Justice. <u>https://www.justice.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/NZCVS-topical-report-Important-findings-Cycle-1-2018-v1.1-fin.pdf</u>

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Introduction

The New Zealand crime and victims survey (NZCVS) answers on the following key questions:

- What is the extent and nature of crime and victimisation in New Zealand?
- What is the extent and nature of crime that goes reported or unreported to the Police?
- Who experiences crime?
- How is crime distributed among victims?

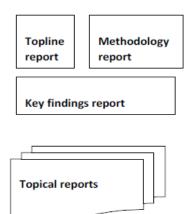
The NZCVS is a nationwide, face-to-face, annual, random-sample survey asking New Zealanders aged 15 and over about incidents of crime they experienced over the last 12 months. This includes both incidents reported to the Police and unreported incidents.

Note that the NZCVS does not ask survey participants directly about crimes that happened to them, such as 'Have you been burgled?' This is because people don't always know what are legally considered crimes, and what aren't. Once collected, the incidents are coded by legal experts to determine whether or not the incident was a crime, and what type of crime.

The first NZCVS cycle reflected in this report was undertaken between March and October 2018 and achieved 8030 interviews. The response rate was 81%, which means that the survey results are representative.

This **topical** report is prepared as part of the wider NZCVS reporting network shown on Fig. 0.1. below. It is built on data collected in March-October 2018 and published in the <u>2018 Key</u> <u>findings report</u>. All published reports are available from the Ministry of Justice public website (see Section 15).

Fig. 0.1: Reporting framework for each NZCVS cycle.



The findings selected for this report meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Provide important information for policy or service delivery decisions.
- Are to some degree unexpected or inconsistent with common perceptions.
- Demonstrate significant difference in the incidence or prevalence of crime for particular groups of population or households.

The final selection reflects both the professional view of the Ministry of Justice survey team and views of key stakeholders and NZCVS users.



Selected findings summary

- A significant majority of adults¹ (71%) and households (80%) did not experience crime over the last 12 months.² However, only 4% of adults experienced almost half (47%) of all crime incidents.
- 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%).
- Māori (37%) were more likely to be victims of crime than the national average (29%).
- Higher rates of victimisation are associated with lower life satisfaction, lower perceived safety and higher socioeconomic deprivation.
- The suburb you live in is more important than the city with regards to the amount of crime. Differences were found between socioeconomic deprivation deciles as opposed to urban centres.
- There is no difference in the level of victimisation between people with disability (living at home) and people without disability. However, moderate and high levels of psychological distress are both associated with significantly higher rates of victimisation.
- There is no overall difference in victimisation between men and women. However, there are large differences for particular types of crime. Women make up 71% of family violence victims and experience 80% of sexual violence incidents.
- More than 160,000 people experienced physical and/or psychological family violence.
- More than 900,000 people (23% of adults) experienced one or more incidents of sexual violence and more than half a million people (16% of adults) experienced one or more incidents of intimate partner violence at some point during their lives. Women form the significant majority of victims (80%).
- Victims perceive that about 20% of all incidents are driven by discrimination.
- 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 with personal offences (17%). People's perception about the seriousness of an incident significantly affects the level of reporting to the Police.
- Most adult family violence victims (more than 90%) are aware of support organisations but only 23% actually contacted them. 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%).

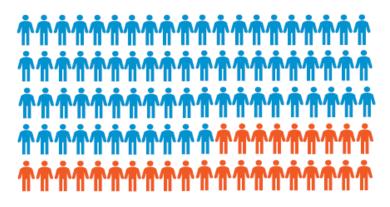
¹ For the purposes of this survey, adults are identified as people aged 15 years and above. ² From the date of the interview.



1. Almost three in four adults and four in five households experienced no crime over the 12 months before the interview

The NZCVS signifies that for every 100 New Zealand residents aged 15 years and above and living in residential households, 71 did not experience any (either personal or household) crime over the 12 months before the interview.

Fig. 1.1: Proportion of adults who experienced crime over 12 months before the interview.



Using households as the unit of measurement, the NZCVS found that four out of every five households were free from household crime over the same period of time.

Fig. 1.2: Proportion of households that experienced crime over 12 months before the interview.

This means that although the majority of adults and households were free of crime, 29% of adults (575,000) and 20% of households (355,000) experienced one or more offences over the last 12 months.

These proportions (29% and 20%) are known as prevalence rates.

Another measure of crime, the incidence rate, shows the number of crime incidents per 100 adults or per 100 households. The NZCVS found that over last 12 months from the day of



the interview every 100 adult New Zealanders experienced 30 personal offences and every 100 households experienced 32 household offences.

Burglary is the most common offence against households (17 incidents per 100 households). Harassment and threats is the most common offence among personal crime (8 offences per 100 adults).

When we compare the incidence rates with the prevalence rates on the previous page, we see that the incidence rates are higher than the prevalence rates. This means that some adults and households experienced more than one crime incident.

Overall, approximately 11% of adults experienced more than one incident of crime over the last 12 months. For particular types of offences, 30% of household offence victims, 31% of personal crime victims, and 37% of interpersonal violence victims were victimised more than once within 12 months.

Approximately 15% percent of interpersonal violence victims were victimised five or more times. These 15% were victims of more than half of all interpersonal violence incidents. Three out of four family violence incidents and four in five intimate partner violence (IPV) incidents were experienced by repeatedly victimised people.

For fraud and cybercrime, the proportion of repeatedly victimised people is 15%, for theft and property damage – 18%, and for vehicle offences – 11%. For property crime, the highest proportion of repeat victimisation was found for burglaries (23% of victims).

Overall, 40% of all crime incidents were experienced by only 2% of adult New Zealanders and almost half (47%) of all crime incidents – by only 4% of adult New Zealanders.

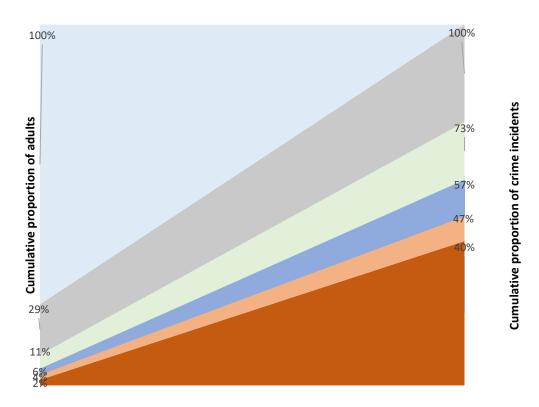


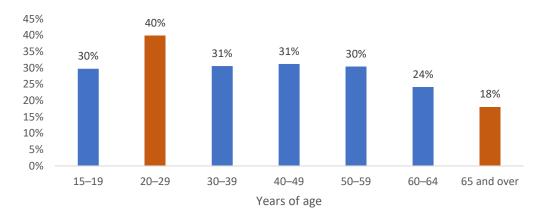
Fig. 1.3: Concentration of victimisation in New Zealand

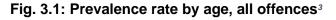
More information about the concentration of crime in New Zealand will be available from a topical NZCVS report "Highly victimised people".



2. Younger adults (20 – 29 years old) are more likely to be victims of crime

Our data shows that people aged between 20 - 29 are more likely to be victims of crime while people aged 65 and over are less likely to be victims of crime. This is true for both all offences and for personal offences





The NZCVS surveyed only people living in residential properties. It does not include people in retirement villages and other institutions for older people, which may influence survey results for this age group.

3. Māori are more likely to be victims of crime

One of the most important findings of the survey is that Māori people are more likely (37%) to be victims of crime compared with the national average of 29%⁴. This is a statistically significant difference in the prevalence rate.

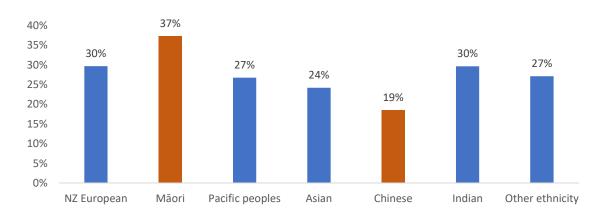


Fig. 4.1: Prevalence rates by ethnicity – all offences (rounded)⁵

³ Red bars hereafter represent statistically significant difference with the New Zealand average.

⁴ A statistically significant difference means that the difference is unlikely to be due to chance.

⁵ Asian group includes Chinese, Indian and other Asian.



Statistically significant differences on the figure above are shown in orange. You can see that the only other statistical deviation from the national average relates to Chinese people – as a group Chinese people report a significantly lower victimisation rate than the national average.

Demographic and socioeconomic characteristics are often connected between themselves. For example, different ethnic groups may have different age structure, income structure, etc. The current report describes only high-level findings and these dependencies are not taken into account.

More details about victimisation of Māori will be available from a topical NZCVS report that is currently under development.

4. Level of victimisation is associated with life satisfaction and perceived safety

The NZCVS tested the relationship between victimisation and a large set of socio-economic parameters including life satisfaction, feelings about safety and the level of socio-economic deprivation in the area where people live. We found quite strong associations between the level of victimisation and some socioeconomic measures.

Higher rates of victimisation are associated with lower life satisfaction (self-assessed by the respondents using a scale from 0, the lowest level of life satisfaction to 10, the highest level). This difference is observed for both all crimes and personal offences taken separately.



Fig. 4.1: Prevalence rate by the level of life satisfaction, all offences

A similar trend was found between the rates of victimisation and the level of perceived safety, also measured on a scale from 0 to 10.



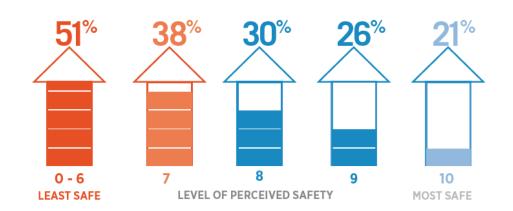


Fig. 4.2: Prevalence rate by the level of perceived safety, all offences

These are only reported as an association between the above three factors and the level of victimisation. Identifying causal relations requires more research.

5. The suburb you live in is more important than the city with regards to crime

Some NZCVS (Cycle 1) findings show no significant difference between levels of victimisation where some might expect that a difference should exist. However, perceptions are not always correct, and a lack of difference is not equal to a lack of evidence. We suppressed results where accuracy might be questioned due to a small sample size and / or high margin of error, but all the results released in the report passed our conservative reliability tests.

One of the examples where the lack of statistically significant difference in the levels of victimisation might look surprising is the risk of being victimised in different locations.

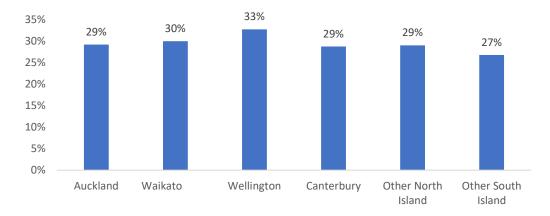


Fig. 5.1: Prevalence rates by location – all offences

People living in the four most populated regions (Auckland, Canterbury, Wellington and Waikato) did not have a statistically significant difference in offence prevalence compared with the national average (29%). There was also no statistically significant difference between offence prevalence for personal crime. The only noted statistically significant



difference related to geographical location is that people in the South Island (except Canterbury) are less likely to experience household crime than other New Zealanders.

However, location becomes important if the level of analysis moves one level down, from cities to suburbs.

Socioeconomic conditions of every suburb can be described using the New Zealand Index of Deprivation 2013 (NZDep2013, <u>available</u> from the Ministry of Health on the meshblock level). This index groups deprivation scores into deciles. A value of 10 indicates the most deprived 10% of areas in New Zealand. The deciles were then converted to quintiles through combining deciles 1 and 2, 3 and 4, etc.



Fig. 5.2: Prevalence rates by deprivation level (quintiles) – all crimes

The chart above shows that overall higher deprivation is associated with higher victimisation. For household crime, households located in the most deprived areas (quintile 5) are statistically more likely to experience crime than the national average, while households located in the least deprived areas (quintile 1) are statistically less likely to experience crime than the national average. No statistically significant difference in victimisation was found for overall crime and personal crime but the trend described above is clearly observed.

The survey also established that those living in rural areas are less likely to experience criminal offences overall and household crime taken separately.

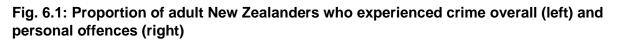
6. No difference between people with and without disability, but psychological distress is associated with higher rates of victimisation

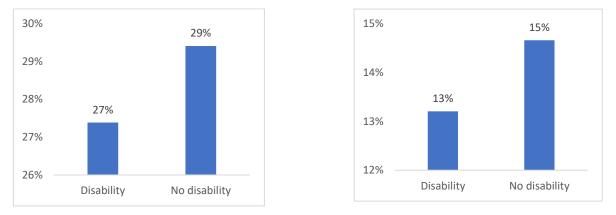
The measures of disability used in NZCVS are suggested by the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, a UN group established to create robust measures of disability status and promote international comparability in disability data. According to this approach, people with disability are identified as those who have a lot of difficulty, or cannot do at all, at least one of six specified activities: seeing (even with their glasses), hearing (even with their hearing aid), walking or climbing stairs, remembering or concentrating, self-care, and communicating.

This measure is also consistent with the NZ Household Labour Force Survey. NZCVS found (see Fig. 6.1. below) that overall, having a disability does not make a person more likely to



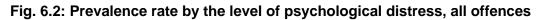
be a victim of crime. This relates both to overall victimisation and to personal and household offences taken separately. However, the NZCVS does not survey people living in medical institutions or retirement villages and therefore people with serious disabilities might be underrepresented in the survey. Also, people with disability are more likely to be older, and older people are less likely to experience crime.





But, if instead of physical disability we compare the risk of victimisation for people with the various levels of psychological distress, the situation changes dramatically.

To measure a person's psychological state, we used the <u>Kessler-6 (K6) scale</u>. This is a short six-item scale that screens for non-specific psychological distress in the general population. The scale is intended to yield a global measure of distress based on questions about anxiety and depressive symptoms that a person has experienced in the most recent four-week period. Based on the Kessler-6 scale we distinguish three levels of psychological distress – low, moderate and high. NZCVS found that people with moderate and high level of psychological distress experience significantly higher levels of victimisation.

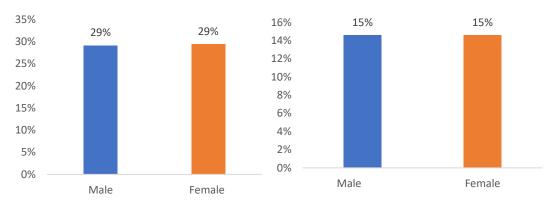






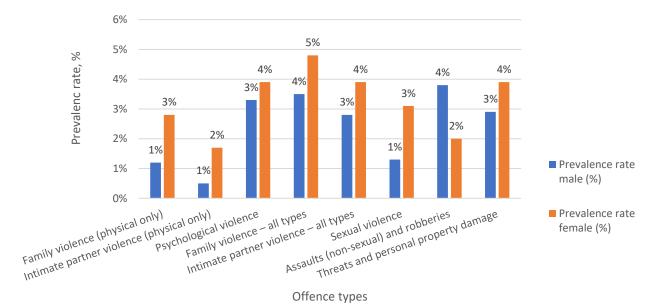
7. No difference between women and men overall but stark differences for particular types of crime

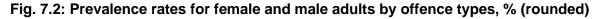
Overall, neither men nor women were more or less likely to be victims of crime. The proportion of victims of personal offences is also the same for men and women (rounded 15%).





However, the difference in prevalence rates between men and women becomes evident for particular offence types. This is demonstrated by the following two charts:







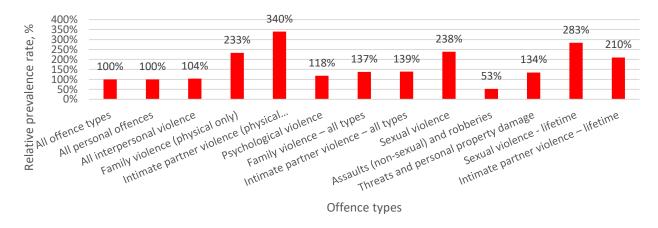
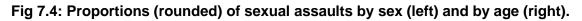
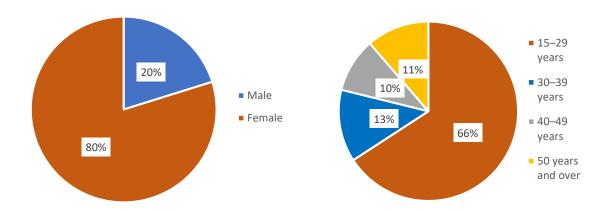


Fig 7.3: Relative prevalence rate, female (male = 100%)

Sexual assault is a clear example of an offence which women experience much more often than men. The survey found that almost 200,000 sexual assaults happened to almost 90,000 adults within 12 months. Women made up 71% of the victims and suffered from 80% of sexual assault incidents. The number of sexual assault incidents per 100 women is almost four times higher than per 100 men. Two out of three sexually assaulted people are between 15 and 29 years old. No significant difference was found between Māori and New Zealand European victims.





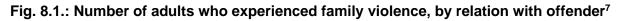
It is also worth mentioning that the number of personal offence incidents per 100 adults is about 20% higher for women which means that the concentration of crime is higher amongst women than amongst men. In other words, although a similar number of men and women experience personal offences, women experience more incidents, i.e. are more likely to suffer from multiple incidents.

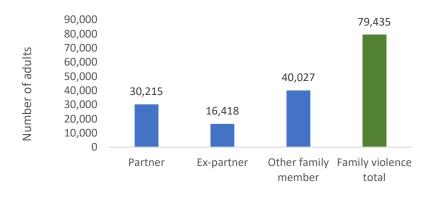


8. Family violence experienced by more than 160,000 adults within 12 months

NZCVS covers two types of family violence, physical defined as interpersonal violence (including property damage) by an intimate partner and/or a family member, and psychological, including various types of controlling behaviour⁶.

Almost 80,000 adults experienced more than 190,000 incidents of physical family violence over the last 12 months prior to the day of the interview. Among them 71% were women and 40% were young adults. The number of family violence incidents per 100 among Māori is twice as high as among New Zealand Europeans.





Combined with psychological violence, the above number doubles to 160,000 victims. Almost 25,000 adults suffer from both forms of family violence.

Fig. 8.2: Number of adult victims of psychological violence by offence type.



Many important types of family violence are outside the scope of the NZCVS – for example, violence against children and violence against people not living in private households.

More information about family violence in New Zealand will be available from a topical NZCVS report which is now under development.

⁶ For more details see the NZCVS methodology report online at <u>www.justice.govt.nz/justice-sector-policy/research-data/nzcvs</u>

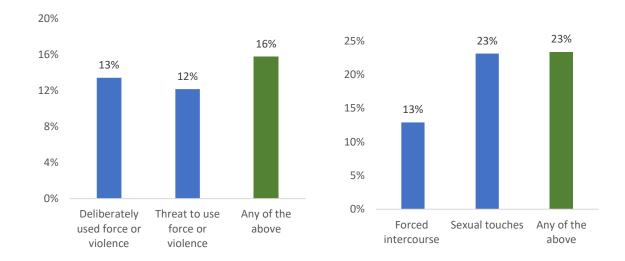
⁷ Some incidents may involve more than one offender.

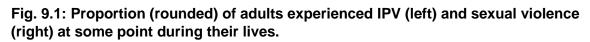


9. More than one million adults experienced sexual assault or intimate partner violence at some point during their lives

Overall, almost 1.1 million adults (28% of the entire adult population) experienced either intimate partner violence (IPV) or sexual violence at some point during their lives. This includes more than half a million people (16% of adults) who experienced one or more incidents of IPV and more than 900,000 people (23% of adults) who experienced one or more more incidents of sexual violence.

Women are significantly more likely to be victimised than men. For sexual violence, the level of women's victimisation is almost three times higher (34% vs. 12%) and for IPV more than two times higher (21% vs. 10%).





10. About 20% of all incidents are perceived to be driven by discrimination

The survey asked respondents if they think that the incidents they experienced were driven by discrimination – that is, the incidents happened, at least partly, because of the offender's attitude towards the victim's race, sex, sexuality, age, religion or disability.

Overall, about 20% of all incidents are perceived to happen because of the offender's attitude towards the above characteristics. This proportion is much higher for personal offences (26%) than for household offences (6%). It is even higher for interpersonal violence (39%).



Attitudes towards the sex of the victim was perceived as the most frequent offence driver (14% of all incidents, 19% of personal offences and 30% for interpersonal violence).

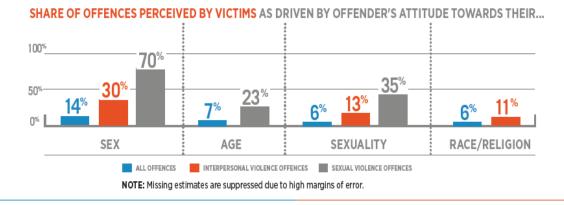
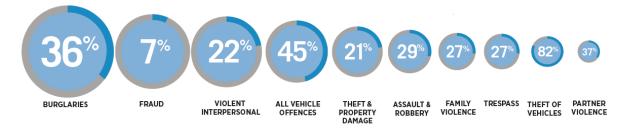


Fig. 10.1: Offences perceived as driven by discrimination

11. Less than a quarter of all crime was reported to the Police

Overall, it is estimated that only 23% of crimes were reported to the Police. This proportion is twice as high for household offences (34%) compared with personal offences (17%). The level of reporting to the Police varies widely depending on the type of crime, from 82% for the theft of motor vehicles to 7% for fraud.



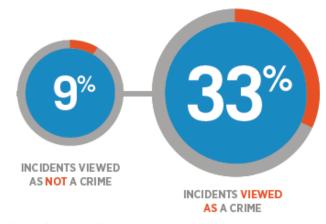


KEY 1 | BUBBLE SIZE REFLECTS THE PREVALENCE RATE OF EACH TYPE OF OFFENCE KEY 2 | BUBBLE SHADING REFLECTS THE PROPORTION AN OFFENCE TYPE WAS REPORTED TO THE POLICE

The level of reporting to the Police is associated with the perception about the seriousness of a crime incident. Overall, if people perceive that the incident is a crime, they are significantly more likely than the national average to report it to the Police. On the contrary, when people believe that the incident is "just something that happened" or "not a crime", they report it to the Police much less often.



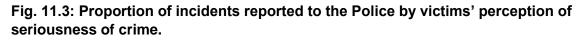
Fig. 11.2: Proportion of incidents reported to the Police by victim's perceptions of crimes vs. wrongdoing

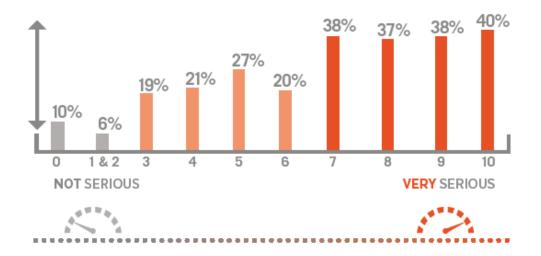


If people perceive that the incident is a crime, they are more likely to report it to the police.

NOTE: Bubble size reflects the proportion of all incidents viewed as a crime **(59%)** or not a crime **(34%)**.

If people believe that an incident was a crime, they still tend to make a decision about reporting it to the Police depending on their perception of the seriousness of the incident. Seriousness was self-assessed by the respondents using a scale from 0 (not at all serious) to 10 (very serious). The graph below shows that incidents perceived as more serious were more likely to be reported to the Police; still only 40% of incidents perceived as 10/10 in terms of seriousness were reported.





More information about reporting to the Police will be available from a topical NZCVS report which is now under development.

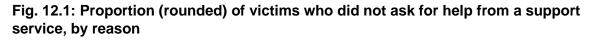


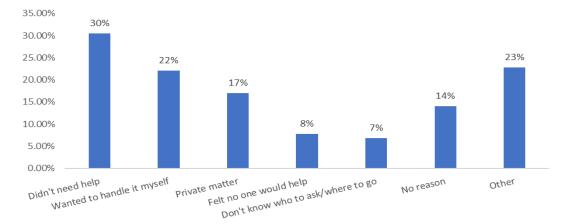
12. Support of family violence victims

The NZCVS has a modular design. It is made up of a core module that includes crime and victimisation questions that will be repeated every year to form a consistent time series, and an in-depth module that is changed annually. After extensive consultation with stakeholders, we chose family violence as a priority topic for the revolving module in 2018. It reflects the experiences of family violence victims and analyses their awareness of support organisations, the effectiveness of formal and informal support of victims, the reasons for not applying for support, and the types of support that victims would like to receive.

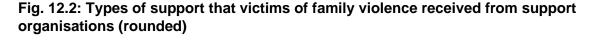
We found that while a significant majority (92%) of family violence victims are aware of support organisation or helplines, only 23% decided to contact them. 40% of victims asked their family or whānau for help.

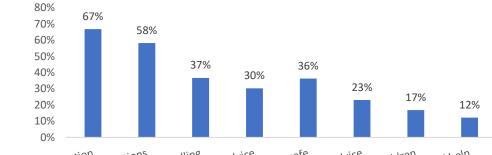
The reasons for not contacting support organisations vary from "do not need help" (30%) to "felt no one would help" (8%) and "do not know where to go" (7%).





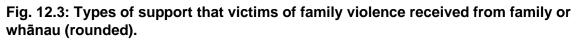
The types of support received from support organisations and from families or whānau are presented on the next two figures.

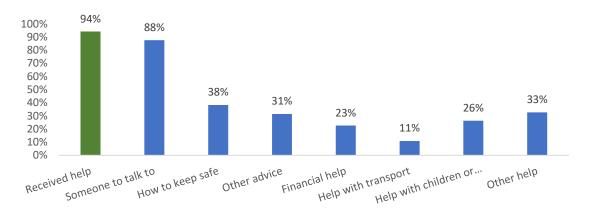




Obtaining useful information General conversations General conversations Counselling Legal advice Legal advice Advice on keeping safe Other advice Help with children Help with children







More information about family violence will be available from a topical NZCVS report which is now under development.



About NZCVS

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

The first NZCVS was undertaken between March and October 2018 and achieved 8,030 interviews. The response rate was 81% which means that the survey results are representative.

Note that while the NZCVS delivers the best estimate available about a wide range of personal and household offences that are not captured elsewhere, it still does not report the total amount of crime in New Zealand. This is because the NZCVS is a sample survey⁸ subject to sample errors; also, it does not cover every type of crime that someone might experience (see Table 14.1).

Table 14.1. Scope of crimes/offences covered in the NZCVS	
Covered in the NZCVS	 personal offences, either reported to the Police or not, where the respondent was the victim of the crime household offences, either reported to the Police or not, where the respondent's household was offended
Not covered in the NZCVS	 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 institutions⁹

The NZCVS is a new survey with some significant improvements in design compared with its predecessors such as New Zealand Crime and Safety Survey (NZCASS). In particular¹⁰, the NZCVS:

- has a larger annual sample
- uses a different approach to coding offences that is more consistent with the Police approach
- applies a much lower level of data imputations
- covers additional offence types (e.g. fraud, cybercrime, trespass) and
- employs a different approach for collecting data from highly victimised people (allowing similar incidents to be reported as a group).

These differences mean that direct comparison of NZCVS results with its predecessor NZCASS is potentially misleading, even within similar offence types. More detail about how the NZCVS was conducted in 2018 can be found in the NZCVS methodology report¹¹.

⁸ A sample survey means that not every New Zealander gives information about their experiences; it's not a census of the population. Also, 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).

⁹ Those living in care facilities, prisons, army barracks, boarding schools and other similar institutions or non-private dwellings are excluded from the NZCVS sampling and interviewing process.
¹⁰ Partial list.

¹¹ See the methodology report online at <u>www.justice.govt.nz/justice-sector-policy/research-data/nzcvs</u>



Other NZCVS reports and future reporting

A number of resources are already available on the Ministry of Justice website to help access the results from the NZCVS, interpret findings, and understand the research.

The technical aspects of the research are discussed in detail in the methodology report available from <u>https://www.justice.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/NZCVS-2018-Methodology-Report-Year-1-fin.pdf</u>.

For the topline report summarising the initial findings of the NZCVS Cycle 1 (2018) go to https://www.justice.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/NZCVS-2018-Topline-report.pdf

The NZCVS Cycle 1 (2018) core report (the most comprehensive, full size report) is available from https://www.justice.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/NZCVS-A4-KeyFindings-2018-fin-v1.1.pdf .

The NZCVS Cycle 1 (2018) key findings only report (short version) is available from <u>https://www.justice.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/NZCVS-List-of-key-findings-Y1-fin.pdf</u> (without infographics) or <u>https://www.justice.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/NZCVS-A4-KeyFindings-2018-fin.pdf</u> (with infographics).

A standalone set of infographics supporting the core report may be downloaded from https://www.justice.govt.nz/justice-sector-policy/research-data/nzcvs/resources-and-results/.

Data tables (aggregated data) are available from <u>https://www.justice.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/NZCVS-Core-report-2018-tables-fin.pdf</u> (in pdf format) or <u>https://www.justice.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/NZCVS-Core-report-2018-tables-fin.xlsx</u> (excel spreadsheet).

Some additional documents are also available from <u>https://www.justice.govt.nz/justice-sector-policy/research-data/nzcvs/resources-and-results/</u>.

We are working with Statistics New Zealand on putting the NZCVS data (only those records obtaining respondents' consent) on their Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI) in the fourth quarter of 2019.

We are working on a set of analytical reports on prioritised topics. These reports will be published on <u>https://www.justice.govt.nz/justice-sector-policy/research-</u> <u>data/nzcvs/resources-and-results/</u>. Later on the same page we will publish survey results for Cycles 2 (2018/19) and 3 (2019/2020).

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