

Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey Victims of Crime 2018/19

Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General
3 October 2019



stats sa

Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Why do we need crime statistics?



Safety

Crime creates anxiety in society and this has a negative **effect on the quality of life** and **economic development**.

Its' reduction is therefore a priority on the national agenda

NDP and MTSF

Chapter 12 of the National Development Plan lists crime reduction as a strategic priority.

The NDP envisions that people feel safe at home, at school and at work and live without fear.

One of the broad strategic outcomes of the MTSF (2014-2019) is:

"All People in South Africa are, and feel safe"

Statistics

In order to **achieve the national strategic outcomes** on crime, it is important to measure the levels, trends and patterns of crime and victimisation in SA

The South African Police Service and VOCS data provide complementary official sources of crime statistics in SA



stats sa

Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



ABOUT GPSJS SURVEY

01

Conducted by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) in 1998. The Institute for Security Studies (ISS) conducted the 2003 and 2007 versions of the VOCS.

02

Stats SA resumed the survey from 2011 – 2017/18, based on a total sample size of approximately 30 000 households across 9 provinces of SA.

03

In 2017 VOCS was redesigned to make room for new information demands on governance. The redesigned survey is called Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS). GPSJS retains most of the VOCS content.

04

Stats SA published two reports from GPSJS, one on governance themes published in August and the other on victims of crime published in September.



stats sa

Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Objectives of this report

1

Provide an overview of the level and trend of crime experienced by households and individuals in SA

2

Explore public perceptions on issues of safety and methods used by households to protect themselves

3

Complement SAPS crime statistics by providing estimates for quantities that cannot be measured at police stations

INTRODUCTION

- While redesigning VOCS into GPSJS some questions were modified for greater accuracy and in order to align with international reporting demands (e.g. SDGs).
- This caused a break of series for affected questions, in particular questions on 12-month experience of crime.
- The question on 5-year experience of crime was not changed and hence there is no break of series.
- The 5-year trends were therefore used as a proxy for the 12-month series as the two follow similar patterns.
- Similarity of shapes of the two series makes it possible to predict increase or decrease of crime during the past 12 months using the 5-year series.



- Survey data provide evidence that Theft of personal property, Street robbery and Deliberate damage of residential property & arson increased between 2017/18 – 2018/19
- The number of incidences for other crimes remained the same as the previous year, notwithstanding the fact that the actual numbers reported to the police, according to SAPS data, may have increased or decreased during the same period

The Victim of Crime modules in GPSJS cover 7 household crimes and 6 crimes on individuals randomly selected from adults aged 16 and older.

Since last year, we present crime statistics from our household surveys together with comparable administrative data from SAPS.



Household crimes

Housebreaking, home robbery, theft of motor vehicles, deliberate damage of residential property and arson, murder, assault and sexual offence



Individual crimes

Theft of personal property, street robbery, hijacking, assault, sexual offence and consumer fraud



HOUSEHOLD EXPERIENCE OF CRIME



stats sa

Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

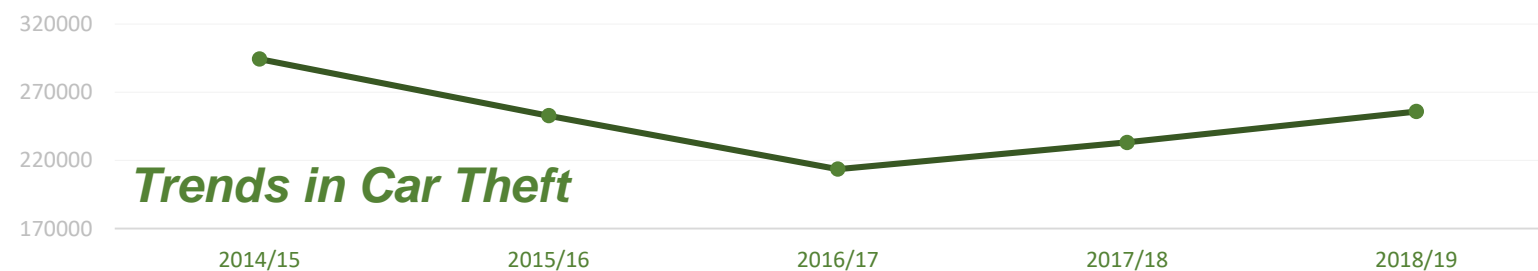
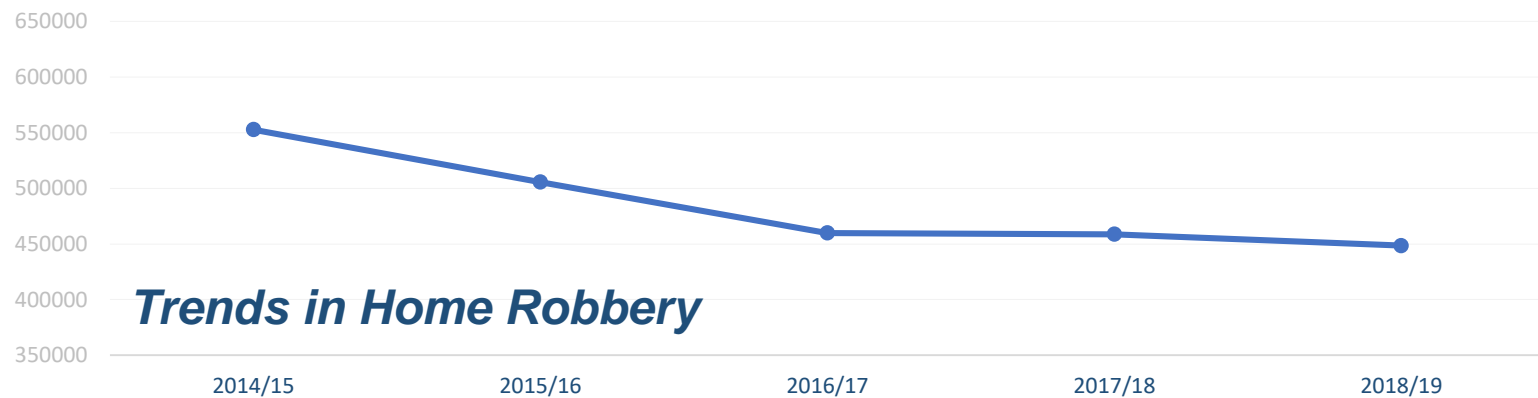
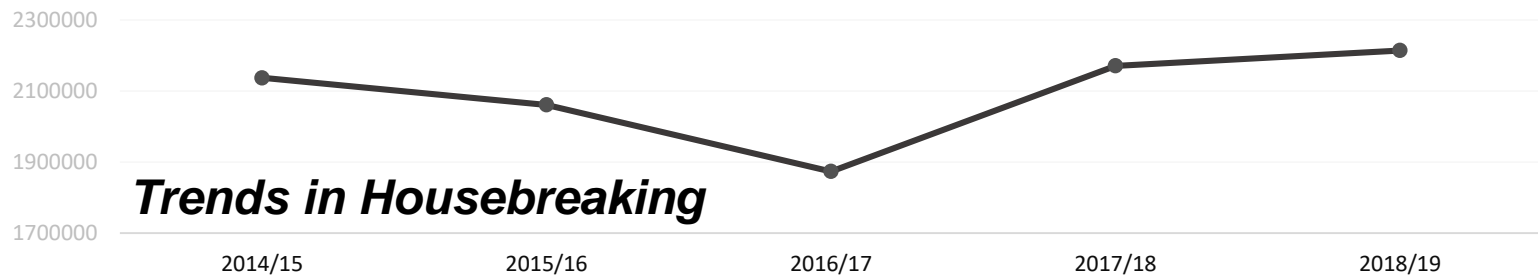




Trends in household crimes

“Have you or your household experienced (.....) during **the past 5 years**”

Household



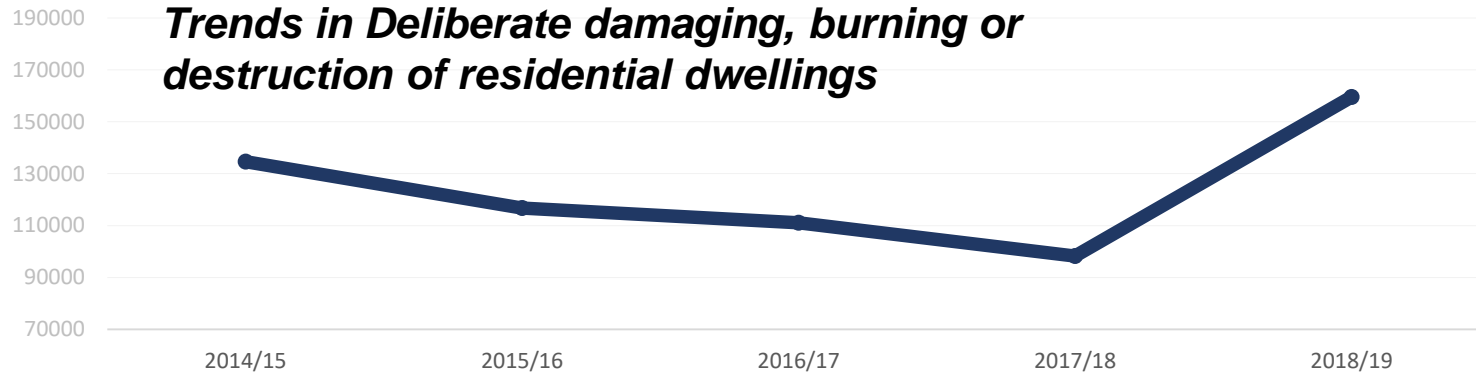


Trends in household crimes

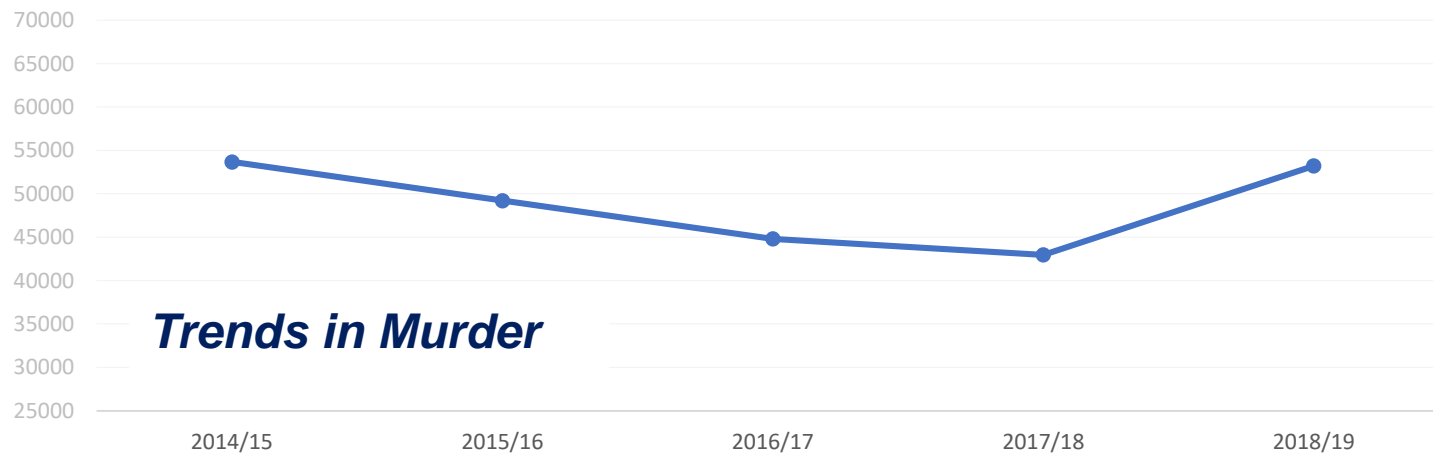
“Have you or your household experienced (.....) during **the past 5 years**”

Household

Trends in Deliberate damaging, burning or destruction of residential dwellings



Trends in Murder



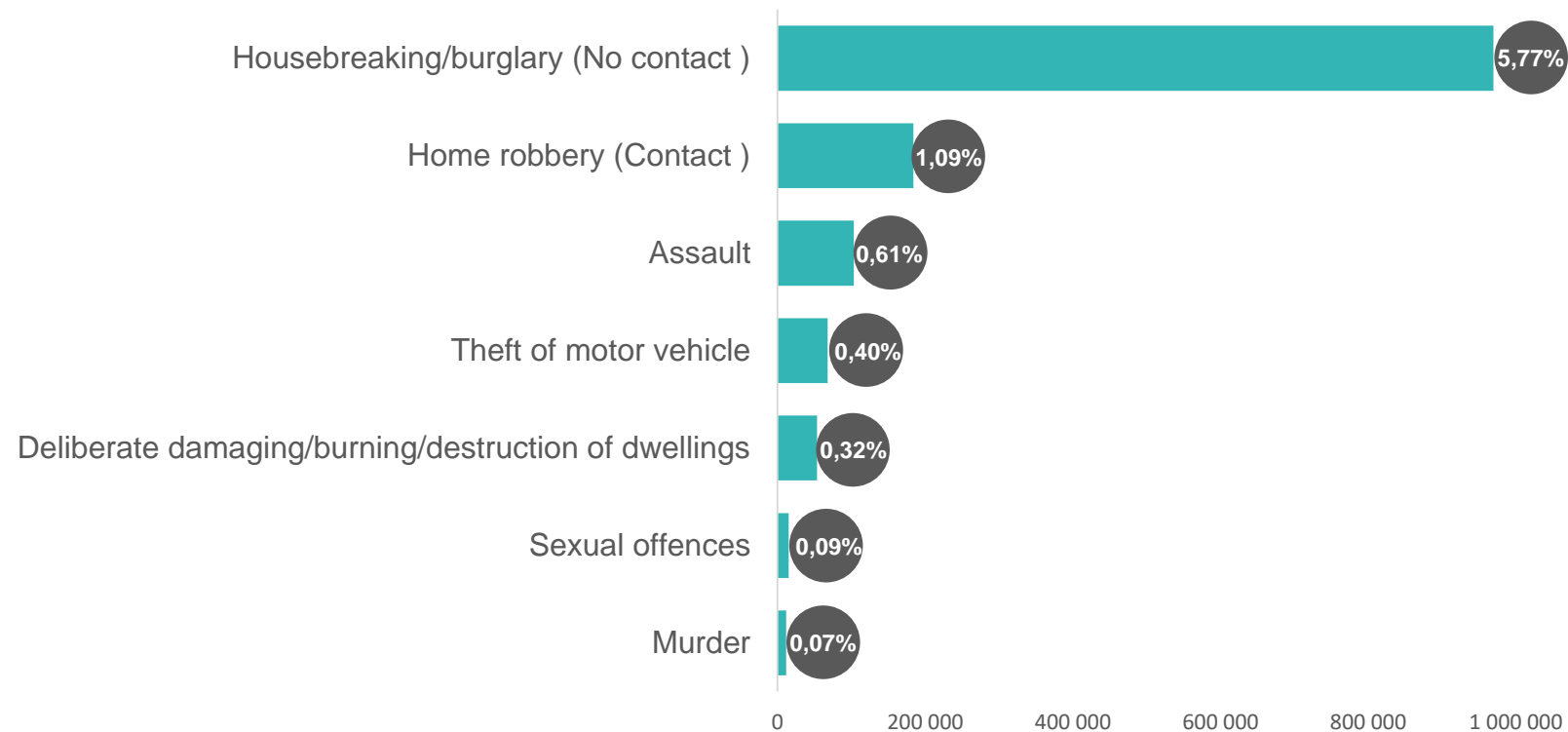
Number and percentage of households that experienced specified types of crime during the past 12 months



	No. of Incidences	% of Households	Reported to police (GPSJS)	Most likely victims	Alignment with SAPS data
Housebreaking	1,3 million incidences	5,8% of households in SA	467 599 48%	Male-headed HH Indian/Asian-HH Low and high income HH	Estimates differ from SAPS (220 865)
Home robbery	260 000 incidences	1% of households in SA	110 203 60%	White-headed HH Metro Households headed by young people	Estimates differ from SAPS (22 431)
Deliberate damage of property & arson	70 000 incidences	0,32% of households in SA	26 734 50%	Female-headed HH Metro	SAPS uses different definitions

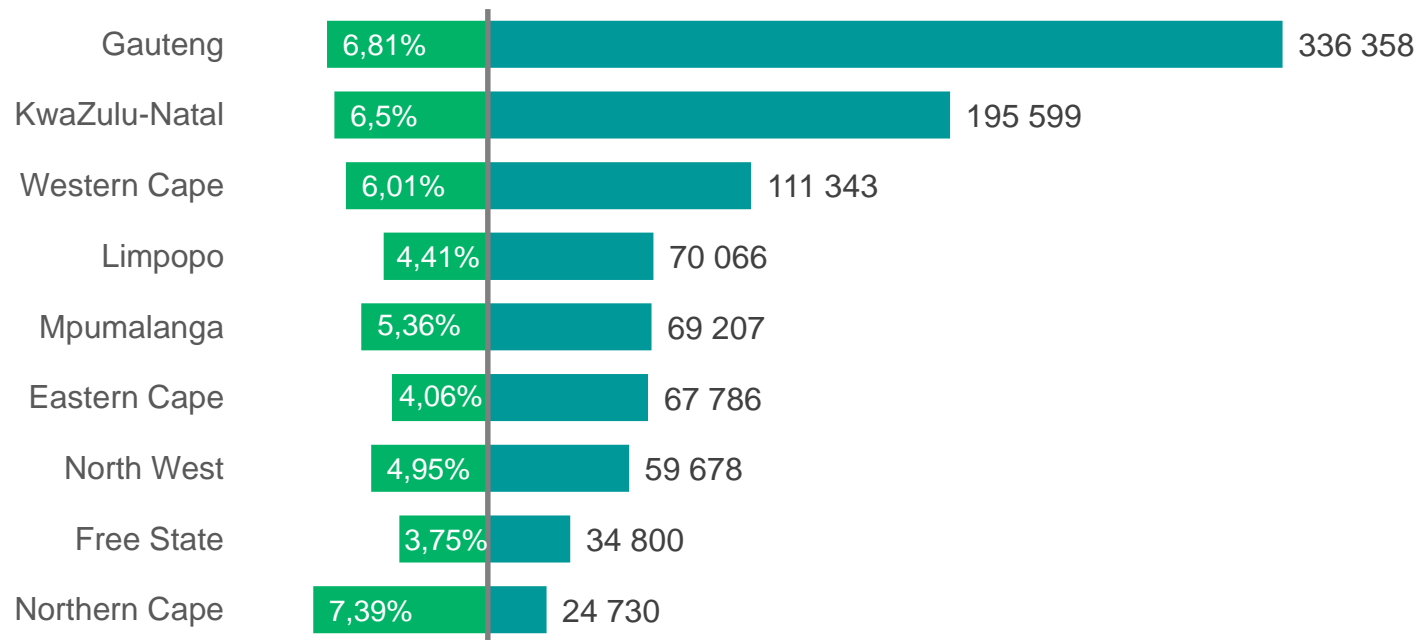
Housebreaking made up the largest percentage of affected households compared to other households crimes

Number and percentage of households that experienced specified types of crime during the past 12 months



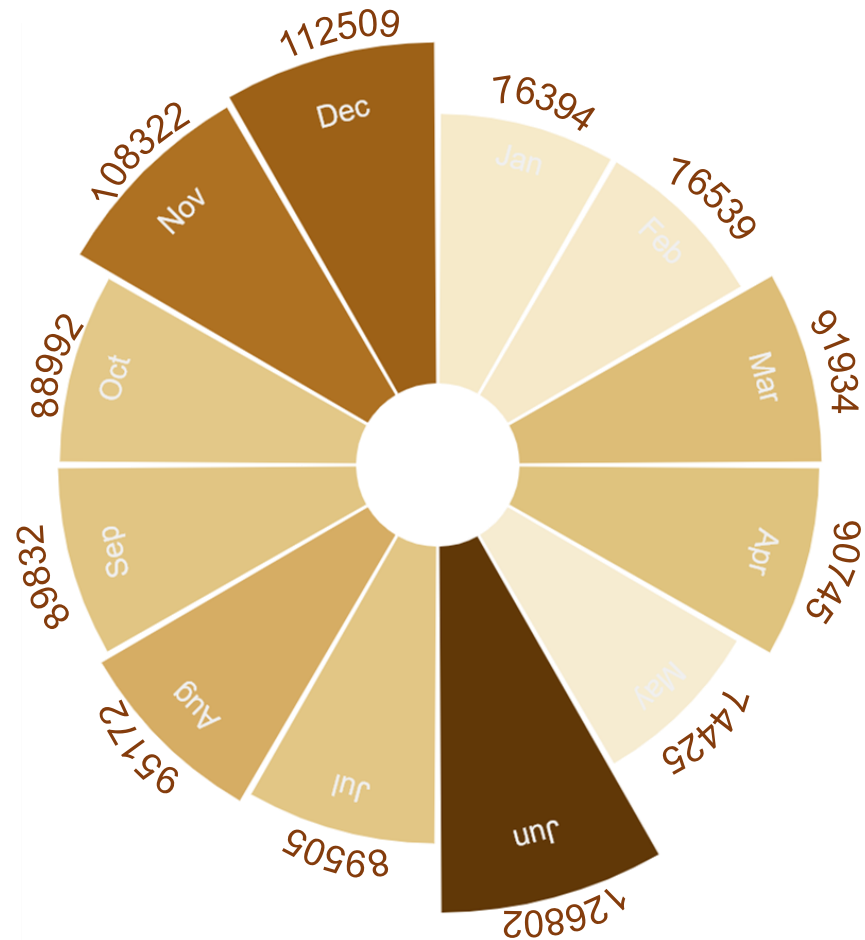
The highest proportion (7,39%) of households that experienced housebreaking was in the Northern Cape. The Free State experienced the lowest proportion (3,75%) of households that experienced housebreaking.

Number and percentage of households that experienced housebreaking by province



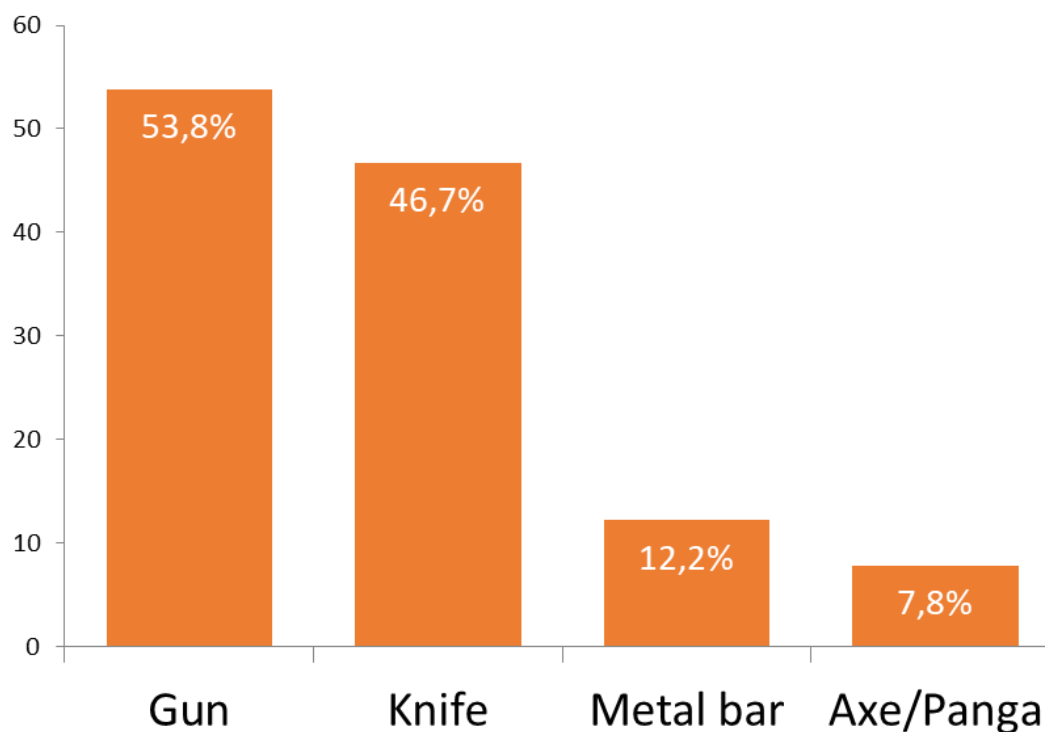
Housebreaking peaked in June, November and December.

Number of incidences of
Housebreaking by month, 2018/19



Guns and knives were used in 54% and 47% of home robberies, respectively.

Percentage of households where specific weapons were used during home robbery 2018/19 (top 4 shown)



INDIVIDUAL EXPERIENCE OF CRIME



stats sa

Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



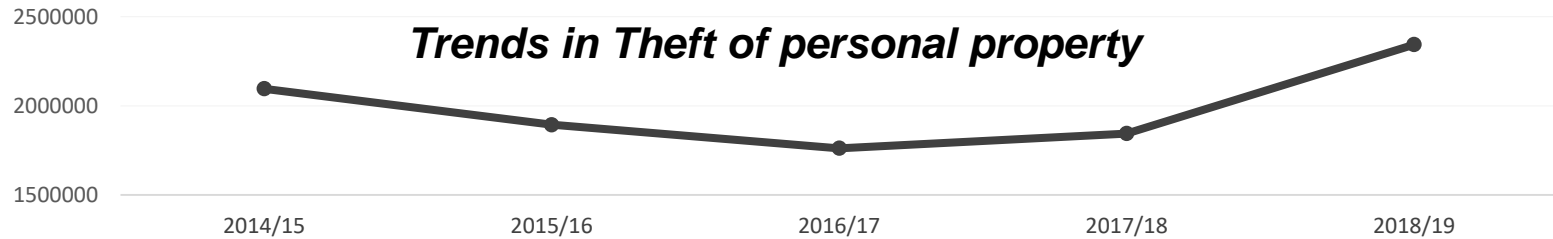


Trends in individual crimes

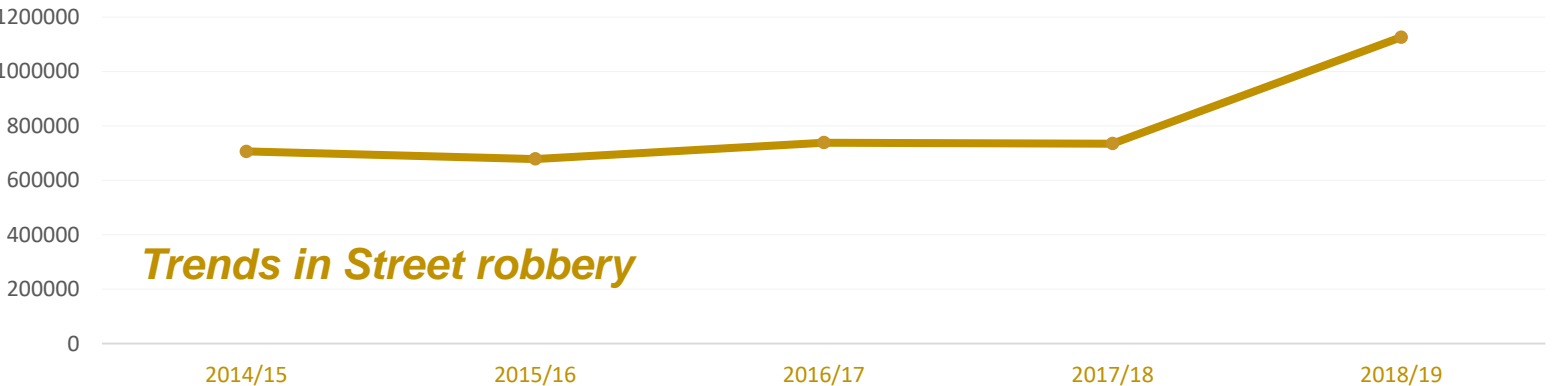
Number and percentage of individuals aged 16 and older that experienced specific types of crime during the **past 5 years**

Individuals

Trends in Theft of personal property



Trends in Street robbery



Trends in assault (excluding sexual assault)



stats sa

Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



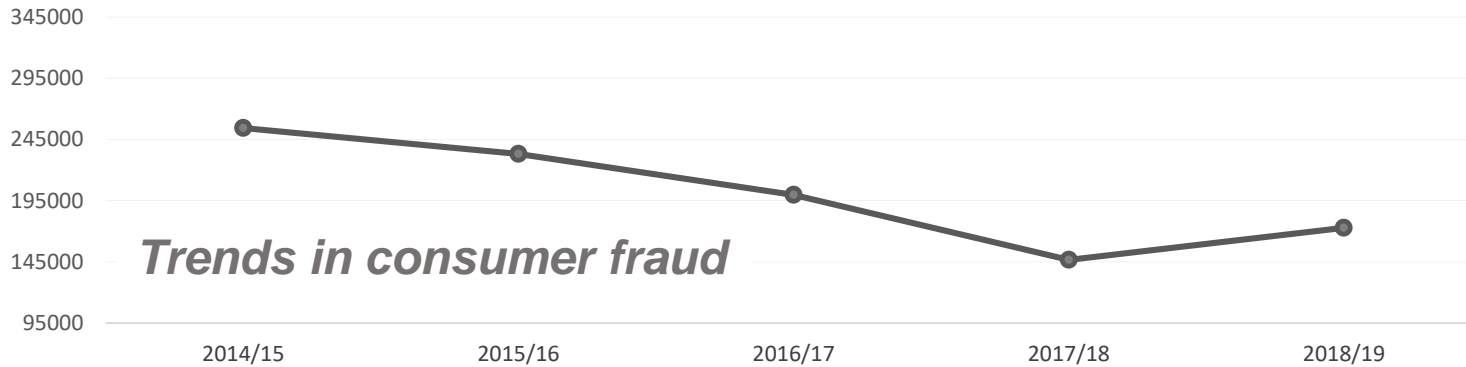


Trends in individual crimes

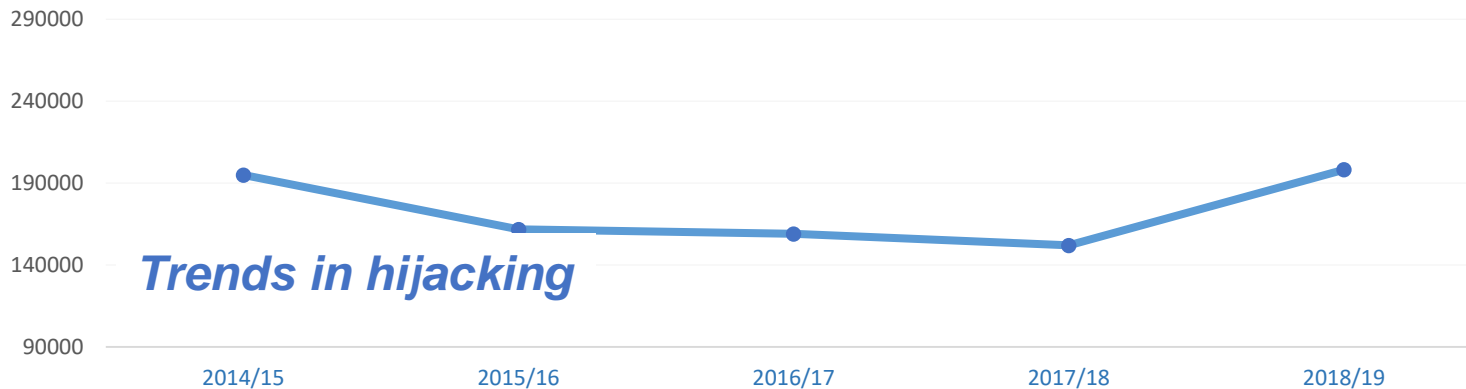
Number and percentage of individuals aged 16 and older that experienced specific types of crime during the **past 5 years**

Individuals

Trends in consumer fraud



Trends in hijacking



stats sa

Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



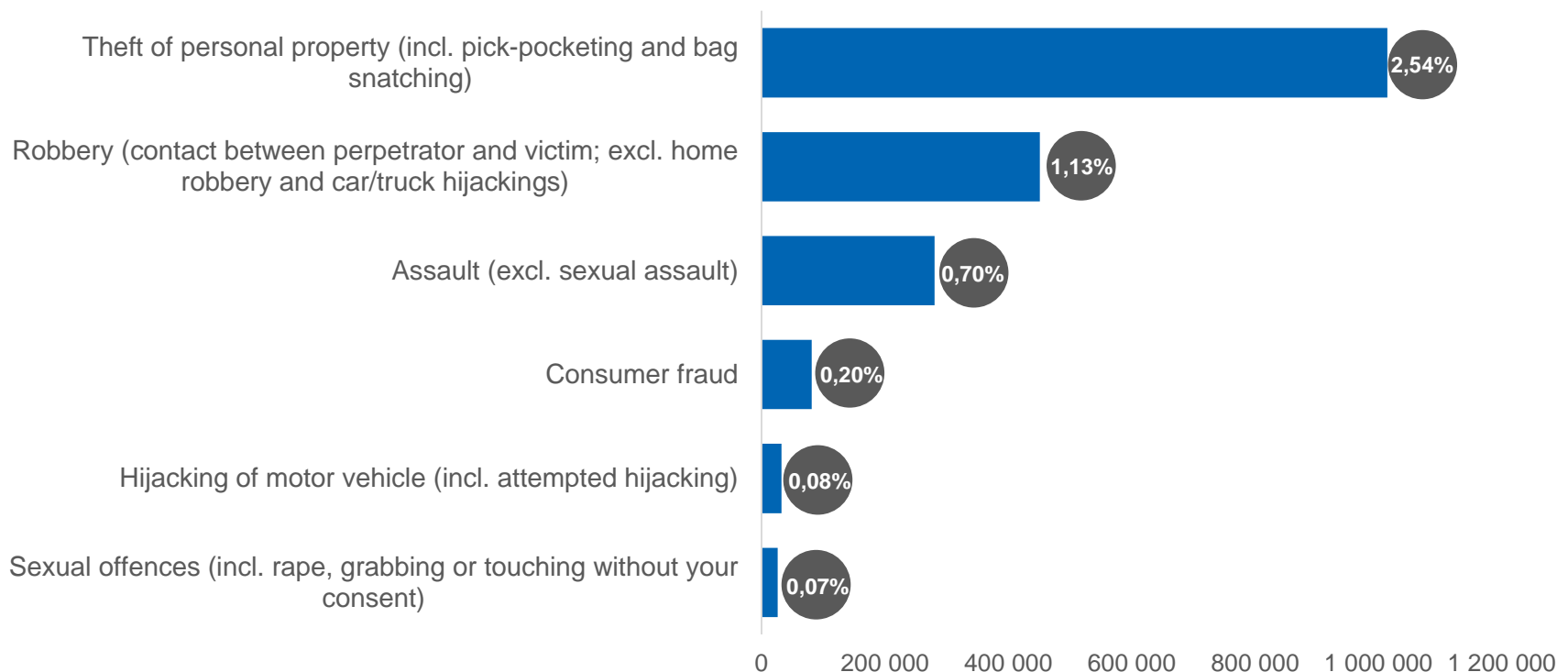
Number and percentage of individuals aged 16 and older who experienced specified types of crime during the **past 12 months**



	No. of Incidences	% of Individuals	Reported to police (GPSJS)	Most likely victims	Alignment with SAPS data
Theft Of Personal Property	1,2 million incidences	2,5% of persons aged 16 or older	324 580 32%	Male White Young GP/WC	Trends in line with SAPS data
Street robbery	580 000 incidences	1% of persons aged 16 years or older	156 770 35%	Male Metro WC	Trends in line with SAPS data
Assault	500 000 incidences	0,7% of persons aged 16 or older	140 459 50%	Males Young adults	Not comparable as GPSJS estimates exclude children under 16

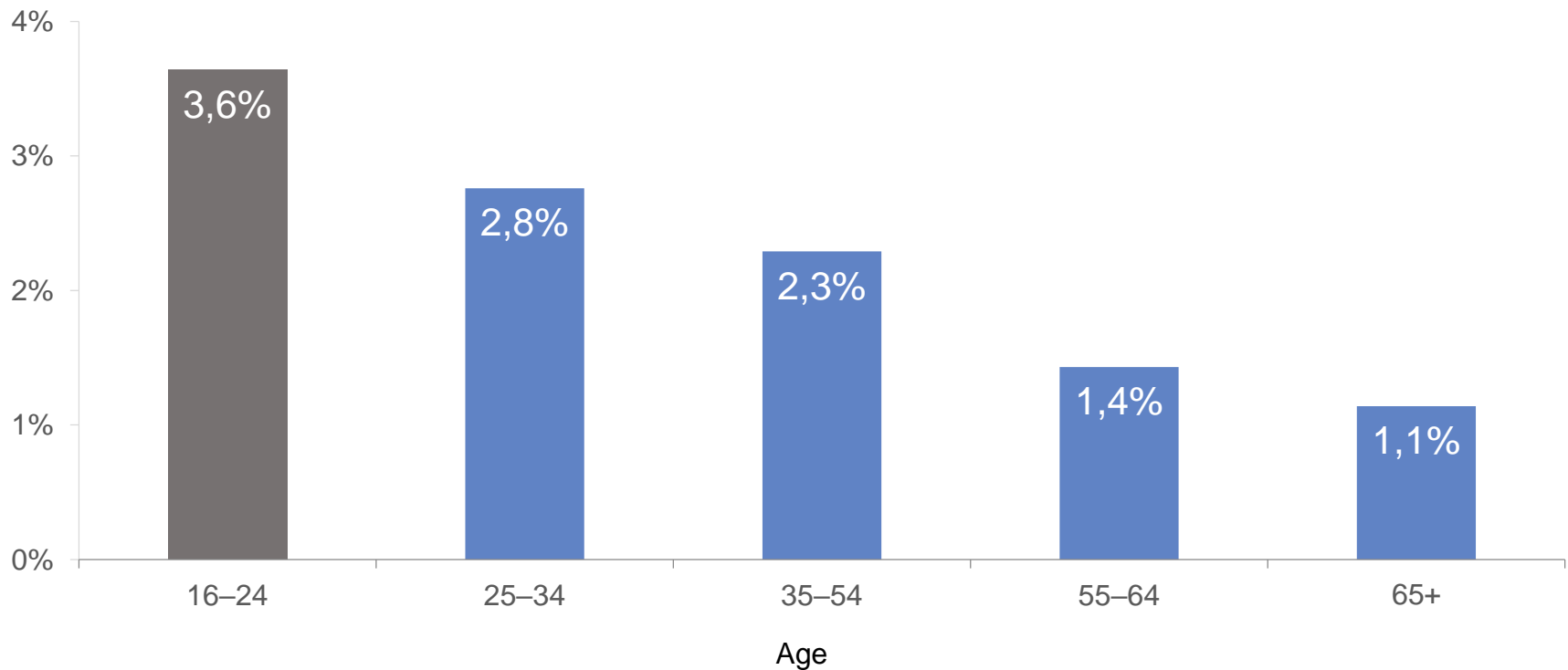
About a million persons aged 16 and older experienced theft of personal property in 2018/19. This was 2,54% of the population of persons aged 16 and older.

Number and percentage of individuals aged 16 and older who experienced specified types of crime during the past 12 months



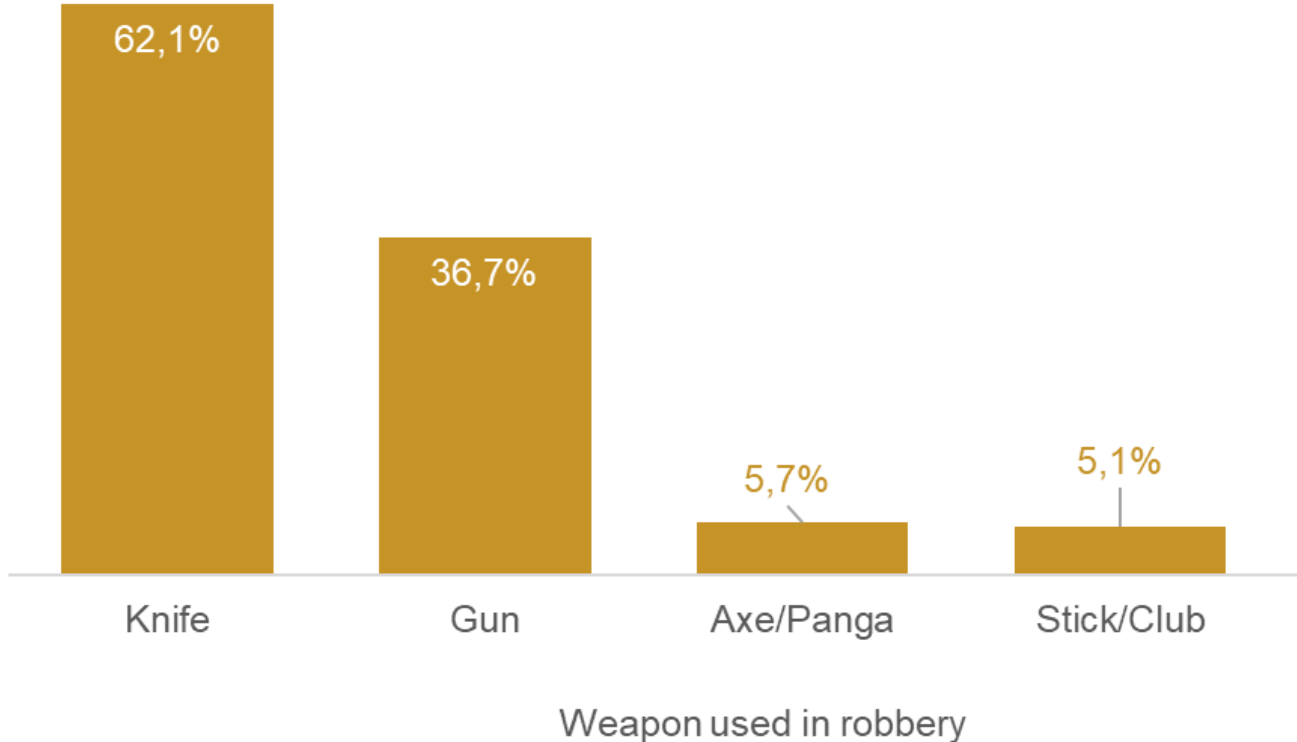
There is a relationship between age and vulnerability to theft of personal property. The young were most likely to lose personal property through theft.

Percentage of victims of theft of personal property in different age groups, 2018/19



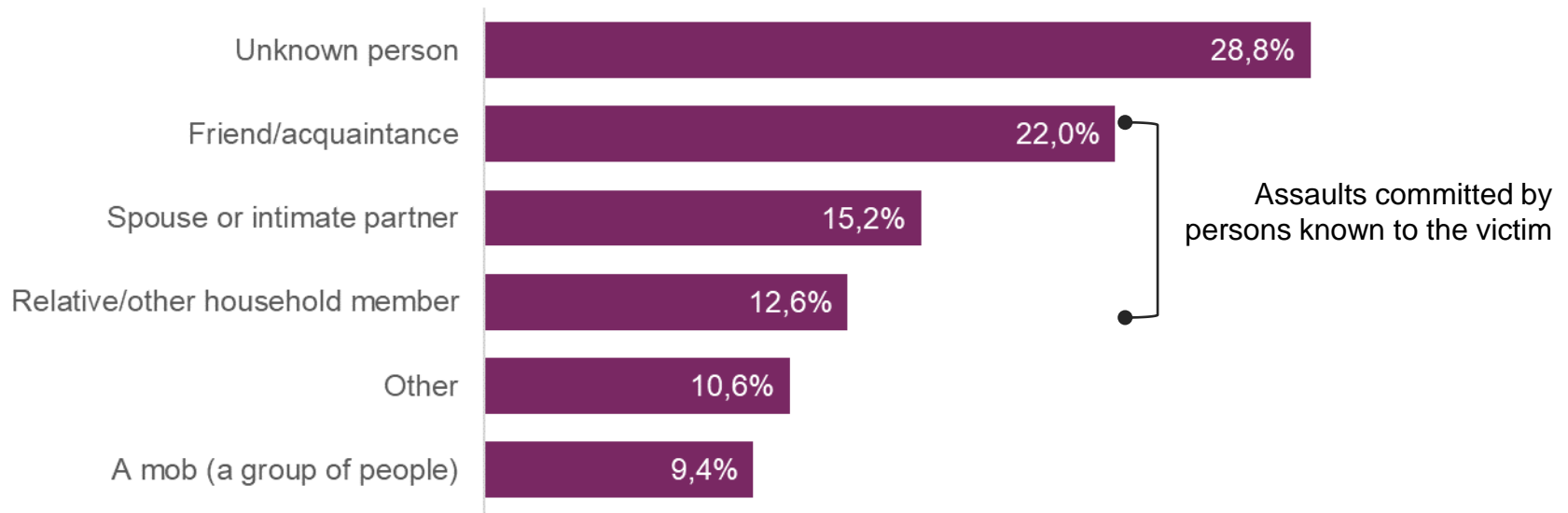
Knives and guns were used on 62% and 37% of individuals during **street robberies**, respectively.

Percentage of individuals who experienced usage of specific weapons during street robbery 2018/19



Almost 50% of the assaults were committed by someone close such as a friend or acquaintance (22%), a spouse or intimate partner (15%), a relative or other household member (13%). About 29% of the assaults were committed by unknown persons.

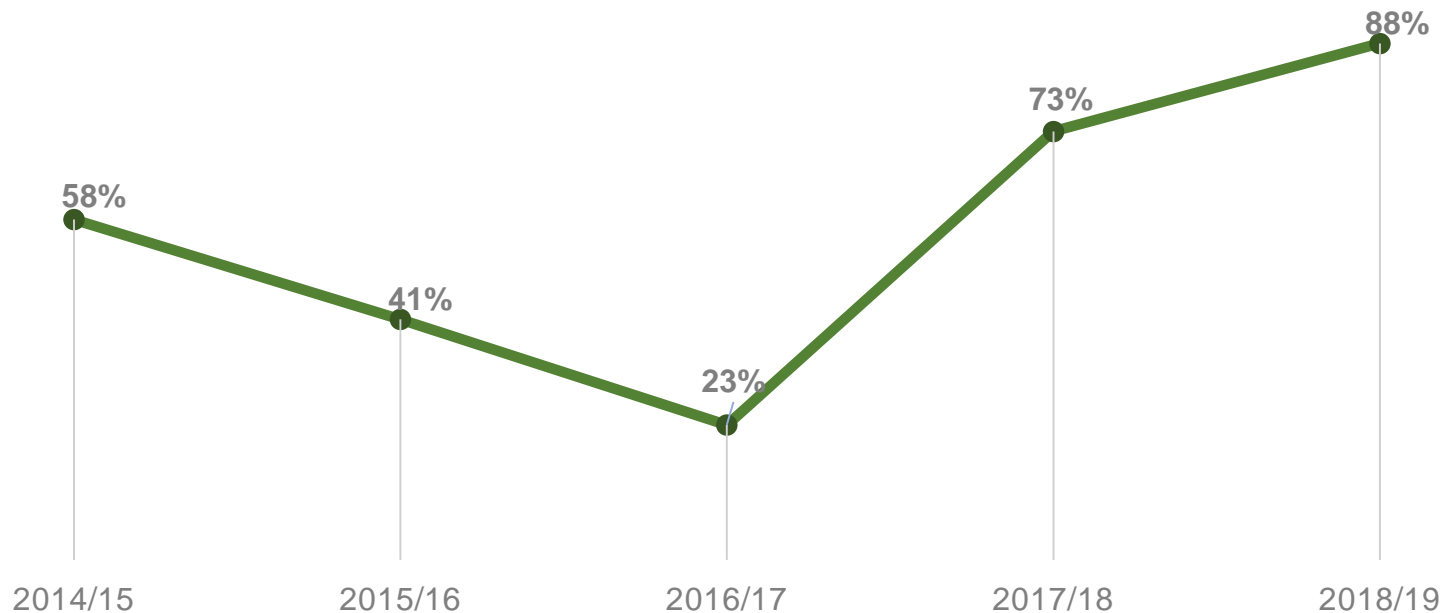
Percentage of assaults committed by a specified perpetrator, 2018/19



88% of victims of sexual offence reported at least one incident. This is an increase from 73% in 2017/18.

Percentage of individuals who reported sexual offences to the police, 2018/19

SAPS data also showed an increase of sexual offence between 2017/18 - 2018/19 from 50 108 to 52 420



Household and individual perceptions of their safety



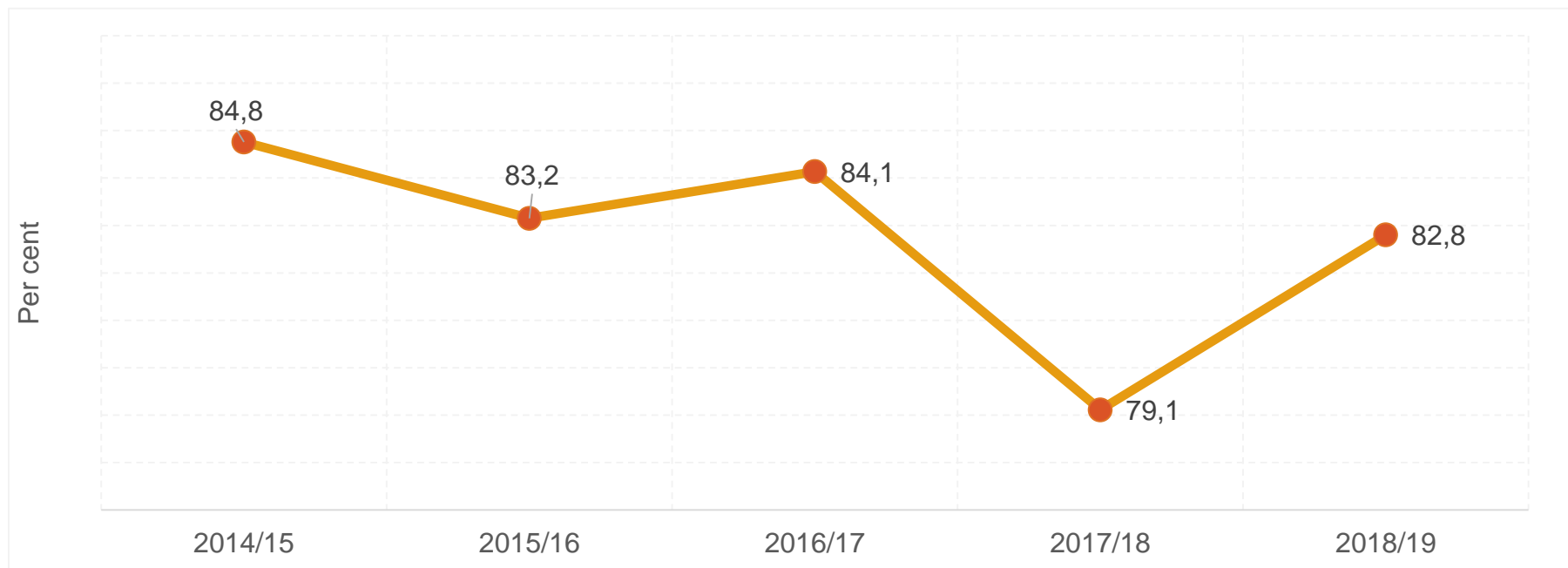
stats sa

Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



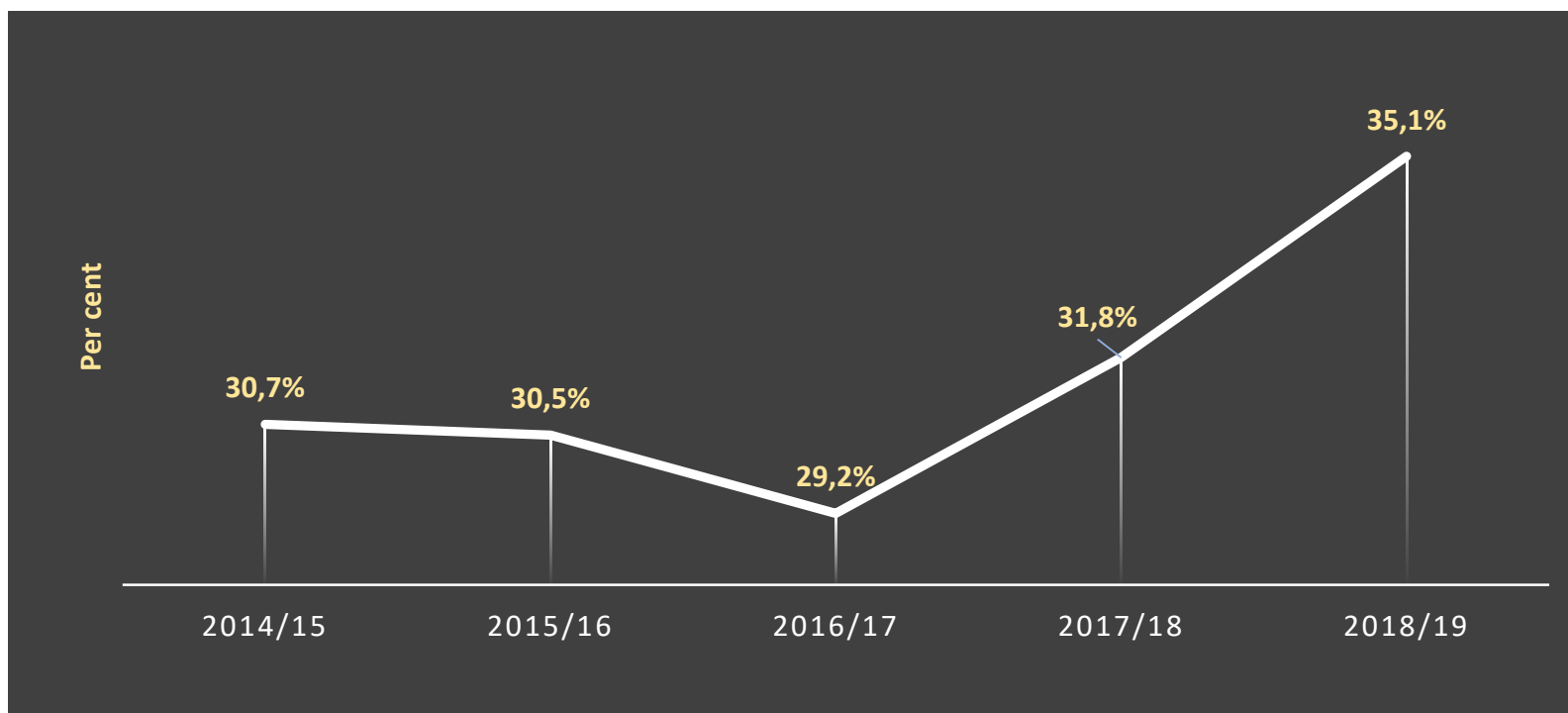
Individuals who felt safe walking alone in their neighbourhoods during the day increased from 79% in 2017/18 to 83% in 2018/19

Percentage of individuals who felt safe walking alone in their areas during the day



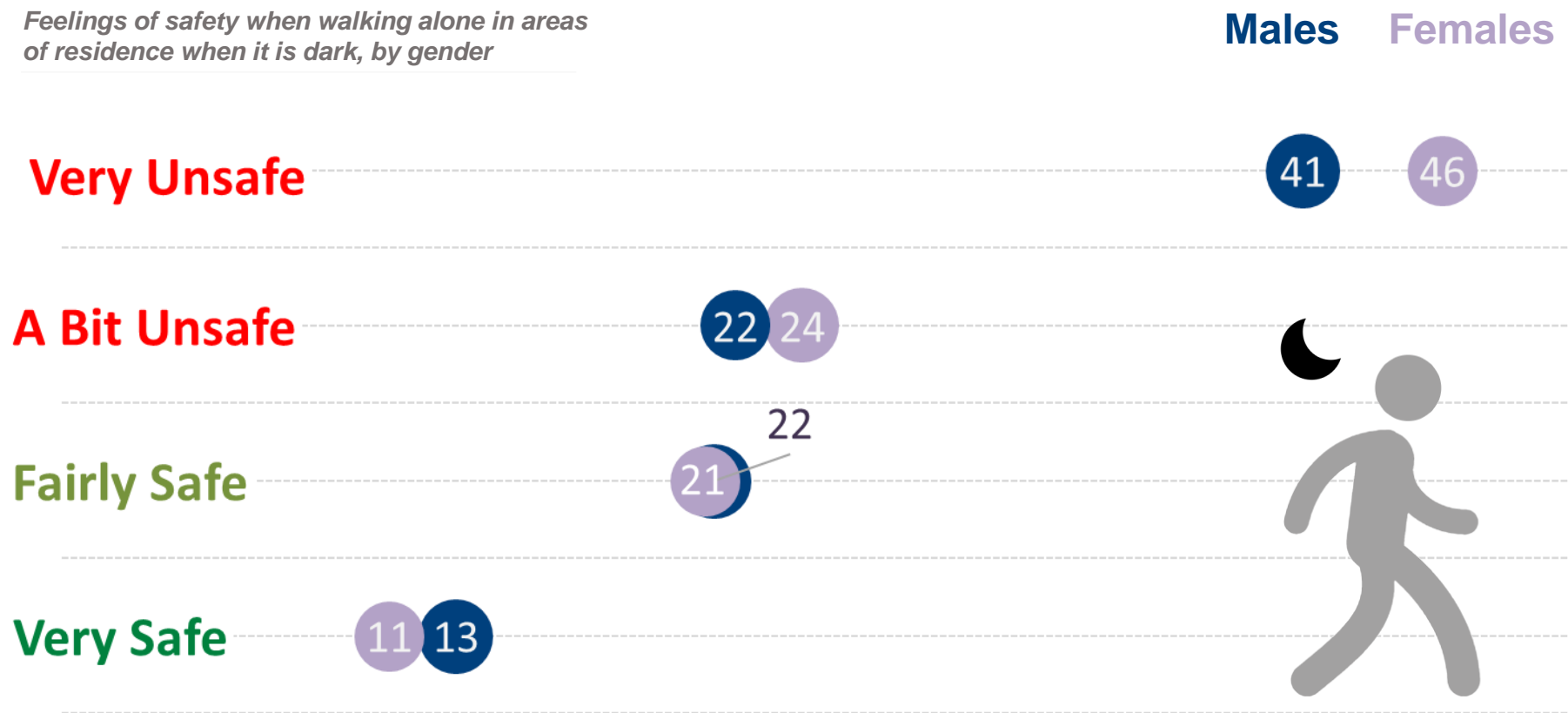
Individuals who felt safe walking alone at night in their neighbourhoods increased from 32% in 2017/18 to 35% in 2018/19.

Percentage of individuals who felt safe walking alone in their areas during the night

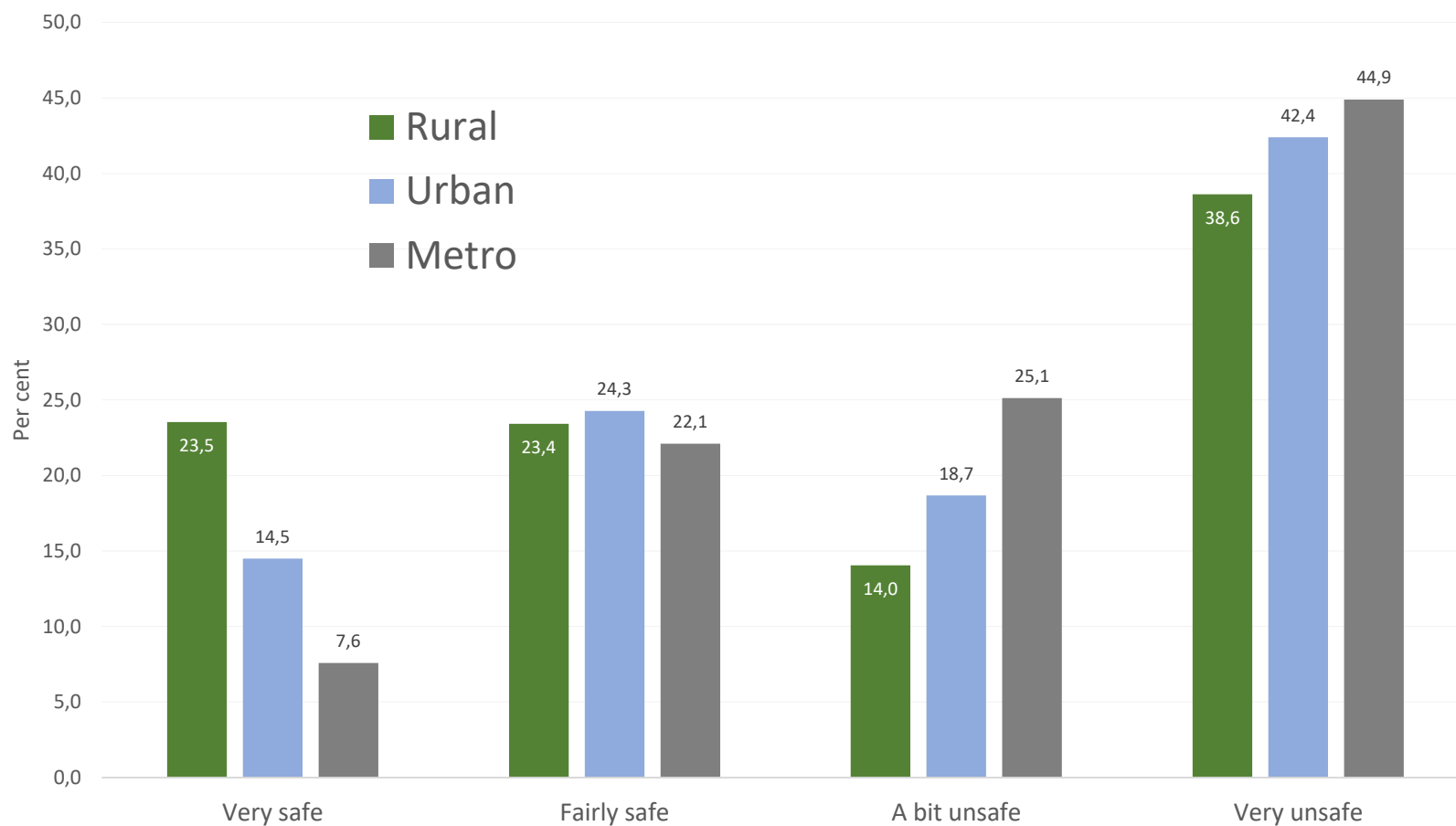


A larger proportion of females felt unsafe walking **alone at night** in their neighbourhoods compared to males.

Feelings of safety when walking alone in areas of residence when it is dark, by gender



A larger proportion of rural people felt safe walking alone at night in their neighbourhoods compared to people in urban and metro areas





Ndzi Hela Kwala!