

**Governance, Public
Safety and Justice
Survey**

Victims of Crime 2019/20

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1 December 2020**

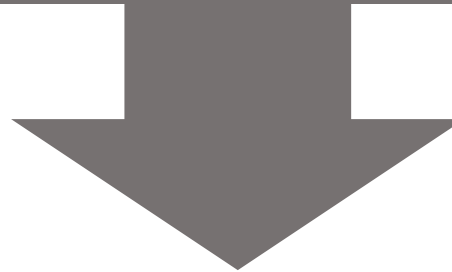


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Why do we need crime statistics?



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 GPSJS data provide complementary official sources of crime statistics in SA



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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.



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Objectives of this report

1

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

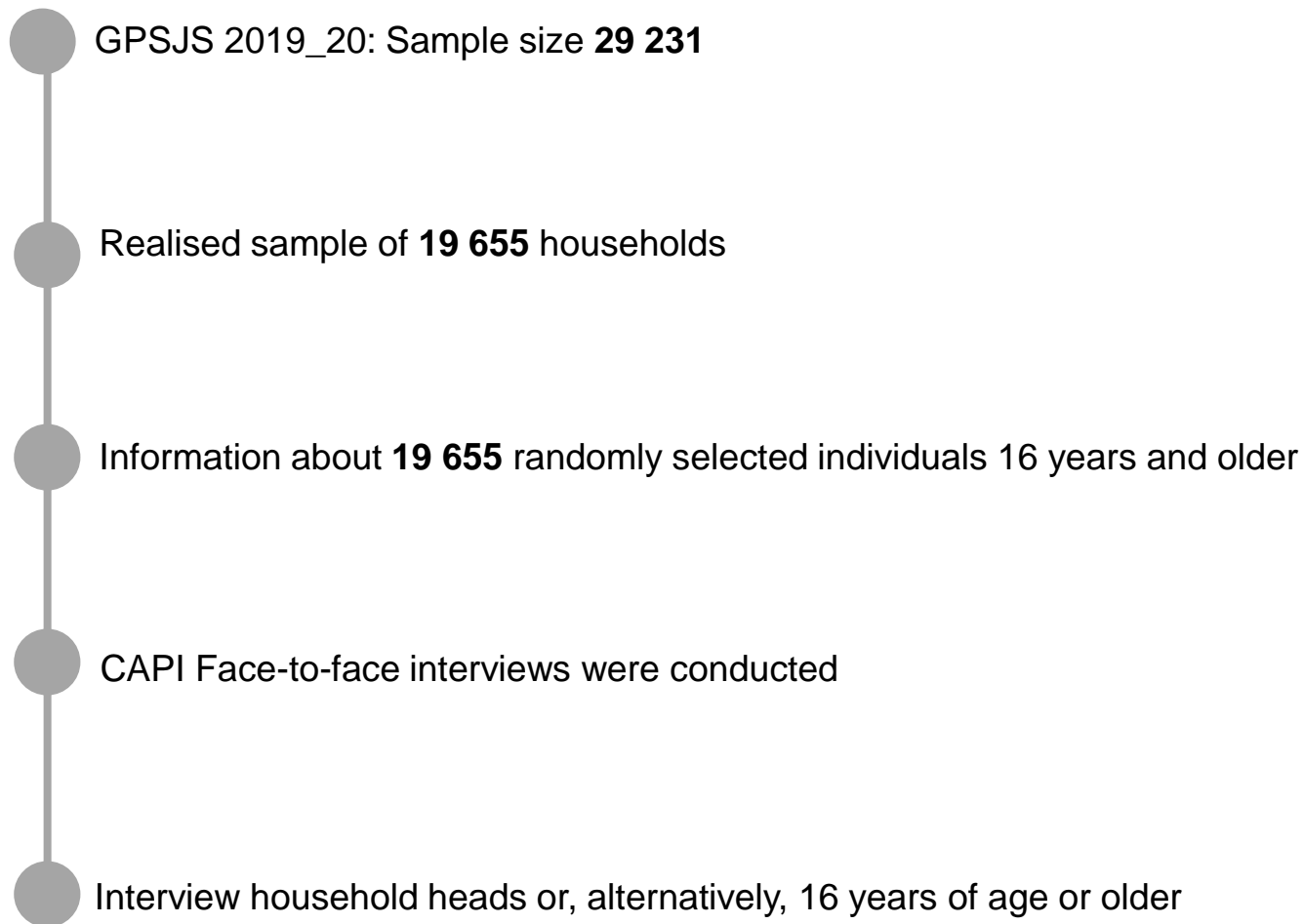
2

Explore public perceptions on issues of safety and citizen interaction/ community cohesion

3

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

Methodology



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.

These changes were first introduced in the GPSJS 2018/19 questionnaire.

It is possible to determine whether crime increased or decreased between **2017/18 and 2018/19 using the five-year series.**

The **twelve-month series** will be used to determine whether crime increased or decreased between the **2018/19 and 2019/20** data collection periods.



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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



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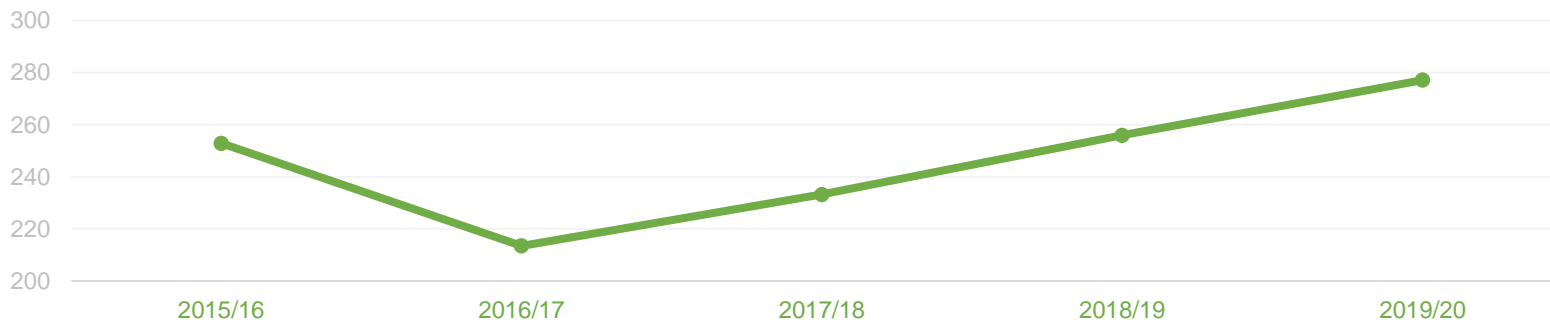
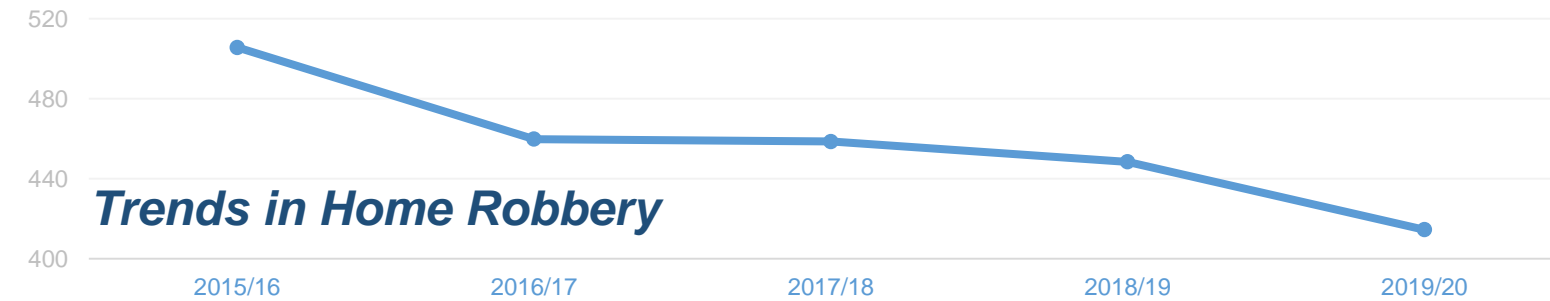
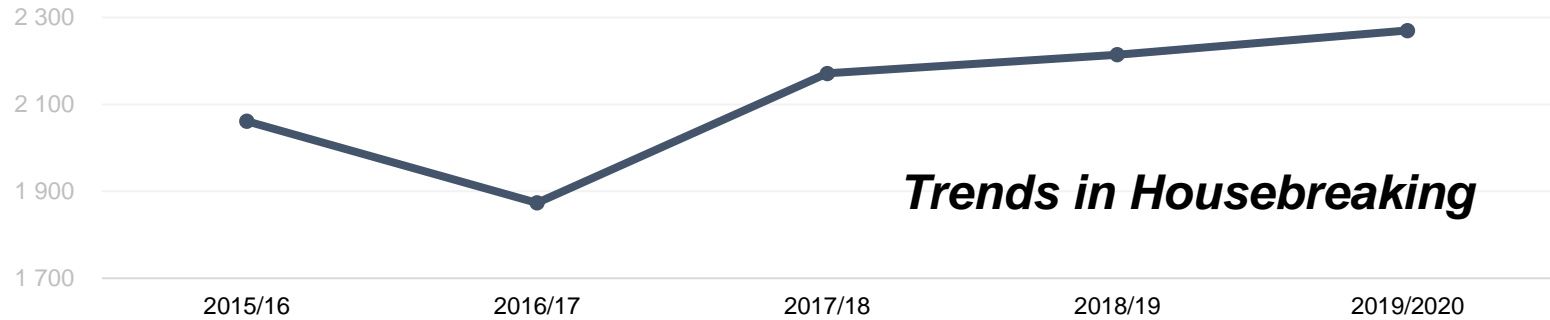




Trends in household crimes

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

Household ('000)

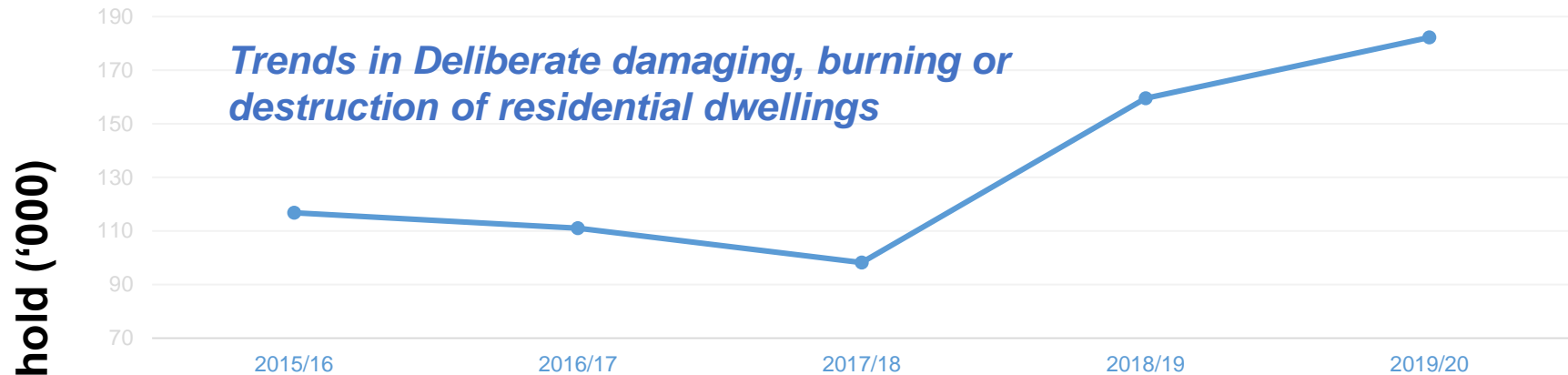




Trends in household crimes

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

Trends in Deliberate damaging, burning or destruction of residential dwellings



Trends in Murder



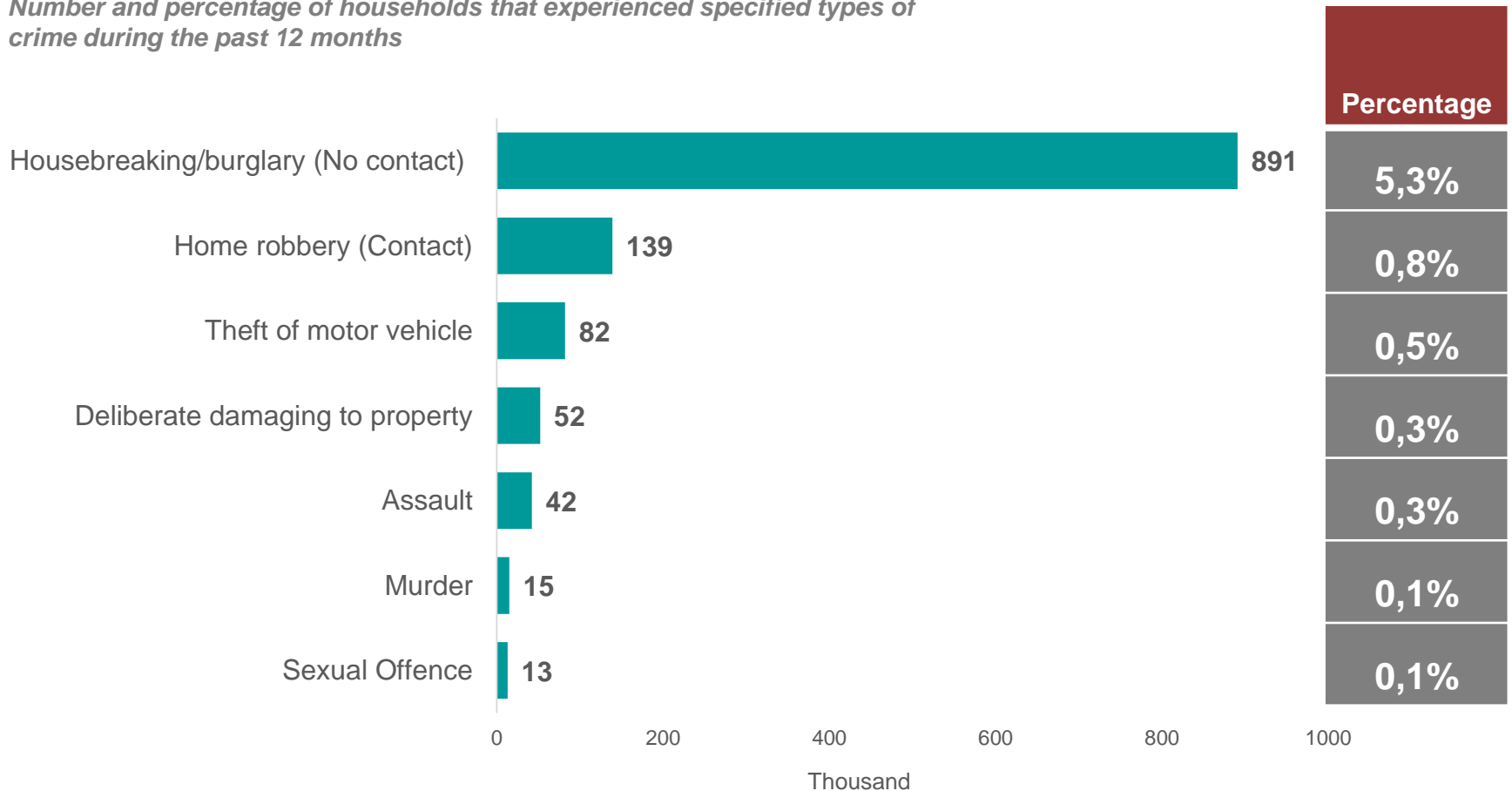
Number and percentage of households that experienced specified types of crime during the past 12 months



	No. of Incidences	% of Households	Reported to police (GPSJS)	Most likely victims
Housebreaking	1,2 million incidences	5,3% of households in SA	460 00 51,7%	Male-headed HH Urban Low and high income HH
Home robbery	169 000 incidences	0,8% of households in SA	76 000 54,5%	Female-headed HH Rural Northern Cape
Theft of motor vehicle	88 000 incidences	0,5% of households in SA	65 000 78,7%	Female-headed HH Metro Gauteng

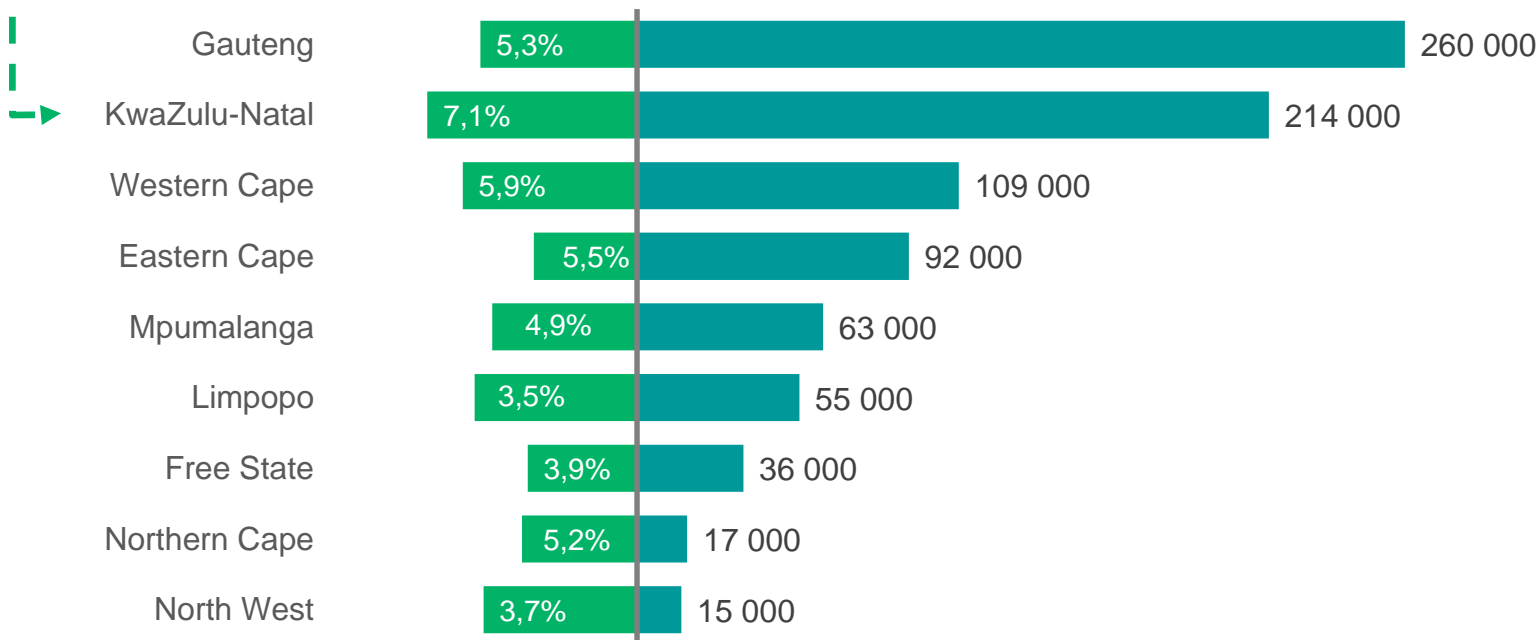
Housebreaking made up the largest percentage of affected households compared to other households crimes.

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



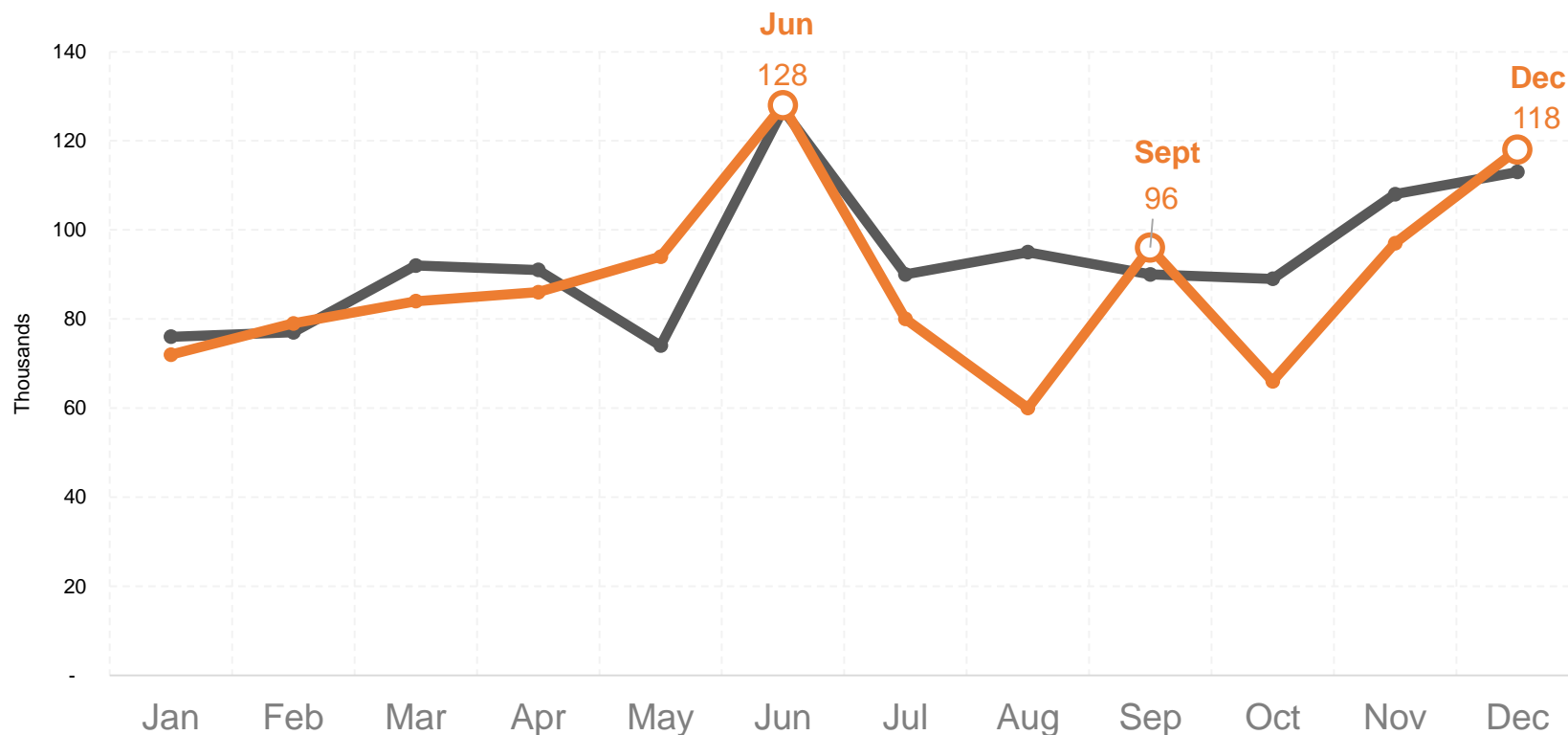
The highest proportion (7,1%) of households that experienced **housebreaking** was in **KwaZulu-Natal**. Limpopo had the lowest proportion (3,5%) of households that experienced housebreaking.

Number and percentage of households that experienced housebreaking by province



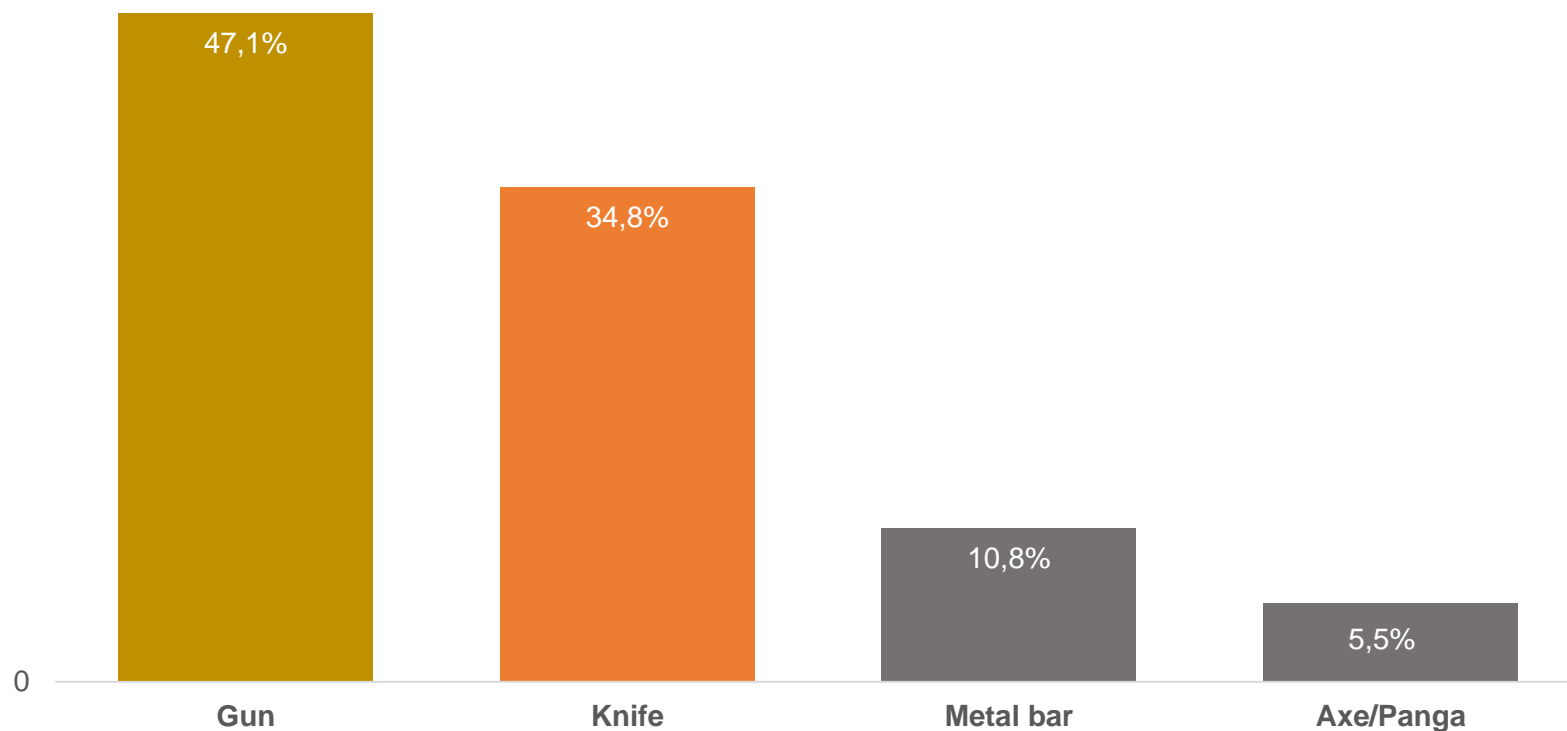
Incidence of **housebreaking** peaked in June, September and December.

Number of incidences of Housebreaking
by month, 2019/20



Guns and **knives** were used in 47,1% and 34,8% of home robberies, respectively.

Percentage of households where specific weapons were used during home robbery 2019/20 (top 4 shown)



INDIVIDUAL EXPERIENCE OF CRIME



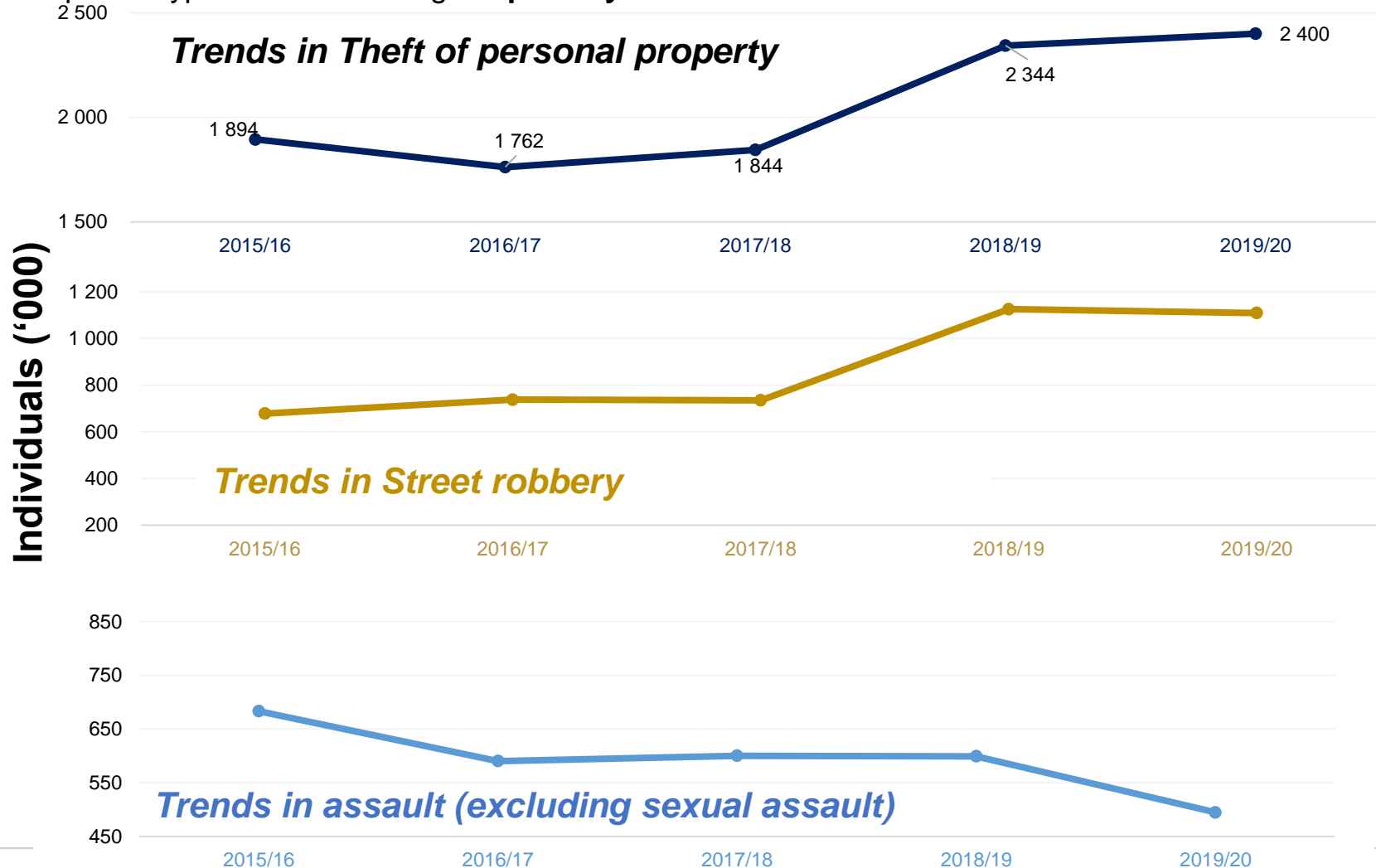
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There has been a significant **decrease** in the number of victims of **assault** between 2015/16 and 2019/20.

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



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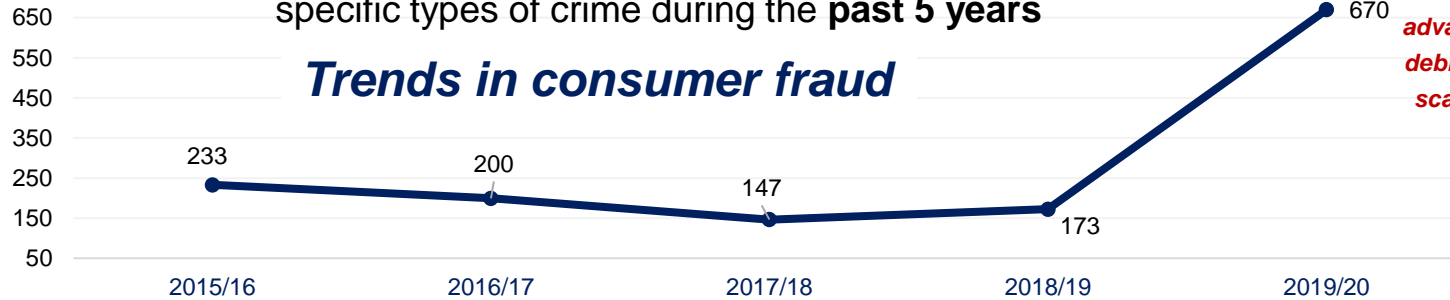


There is a significant increase in consumer fraud between 2015/16 and 2019/20.

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

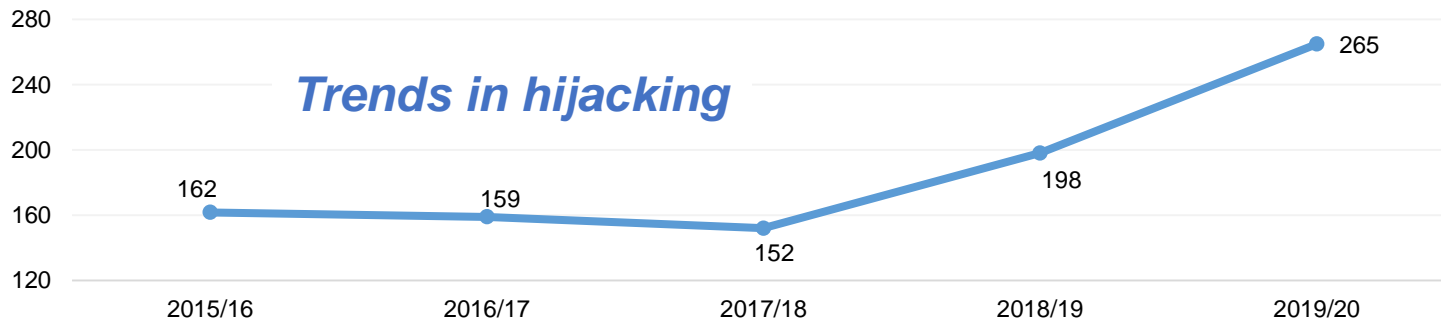
Trends in consumer fraud

Consumer fraud includes advance-fee fraud (e.g. R99 debit/credit card scam, 419 scams, online shopping).

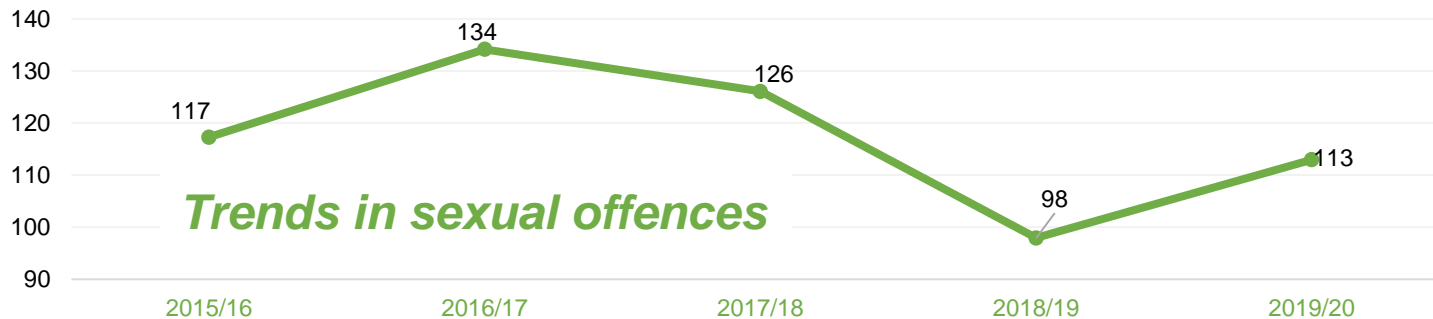


Trends in hijacking

Individuals ('000)



Trends in sexual offences



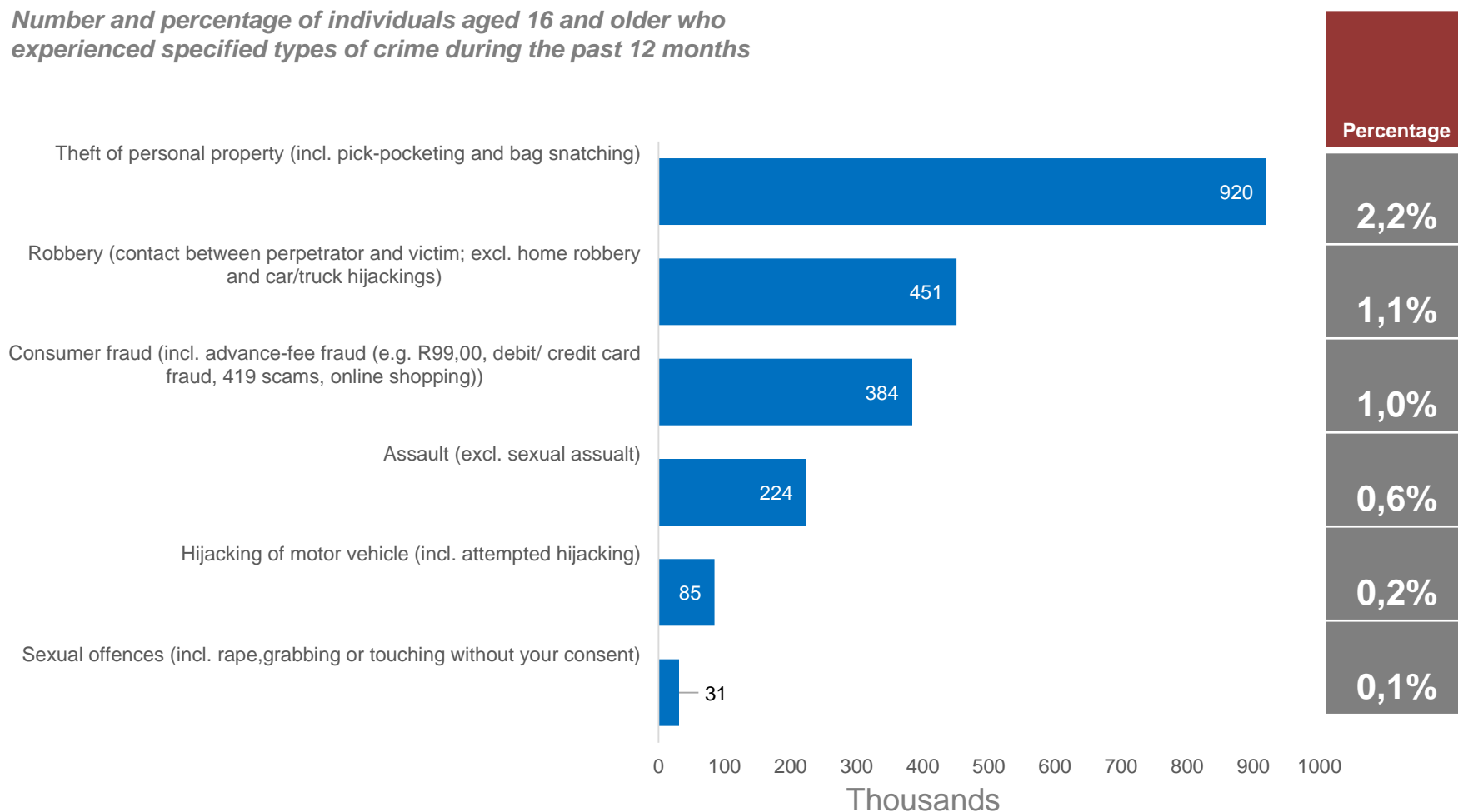
Number and percentage of individuals aged 16 and older who experienced specified types of crime during the **past 12 months**



	No. of Incidences	% of Individuals	Reported to police (GPSJS)	Most likely victims
Theft Of Personal Property	1,1 million incidences	2,2% of persons aged 16 or older	344 000 38,2%	Males High income Urban
Street robbery	567 000 incidences	1,1% of persons aged 16 years or older	189 000 42,0%	Males Urban
Consumer fraud	1,4 million incidences	1% of persons aged 16 or older	102 000 26%	Females Metro Salaries/Wages
Assault	294 000 incidences	0,6% of persons aged 16 or older	92 000 41,4%	Females Urban

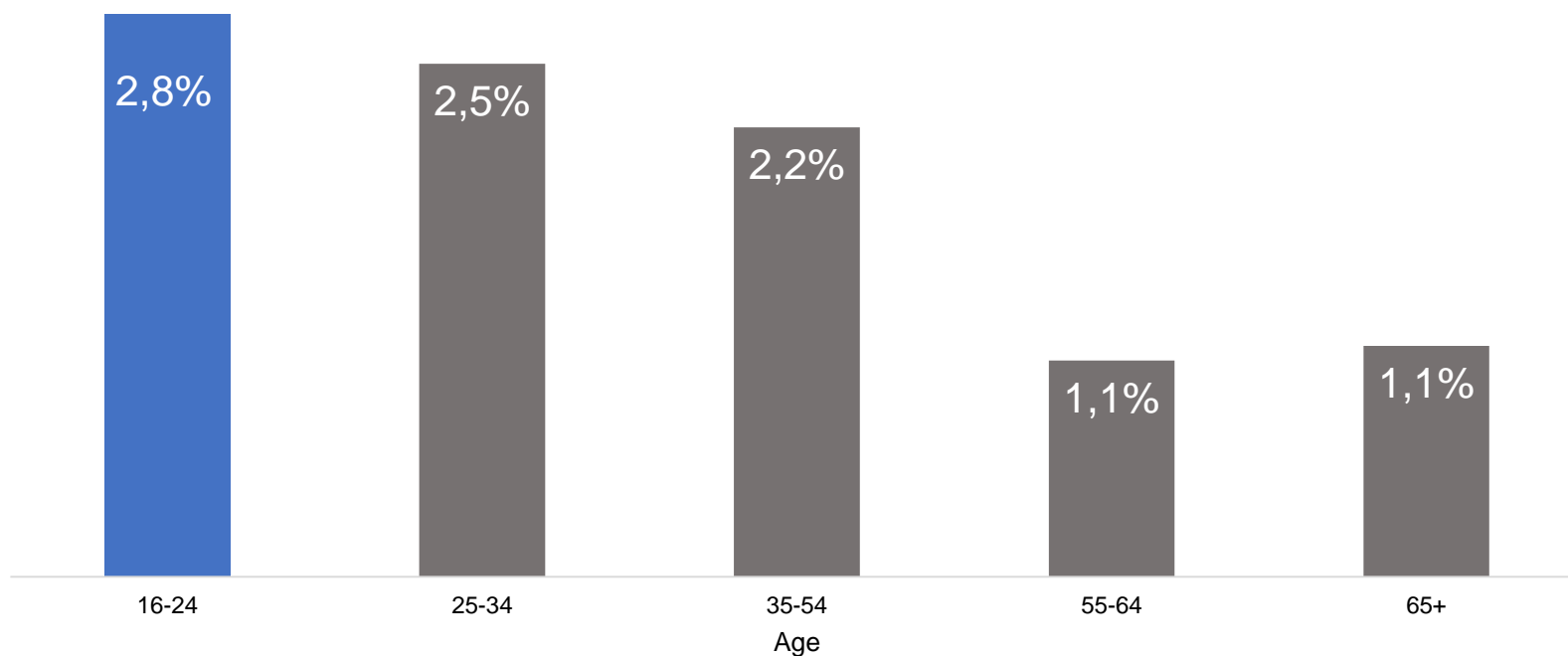
About 902 000 persons aged 16 and older experienced theft of personal property in 2019/20. This was 2,2% of the population of persons aged 16 and older.

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



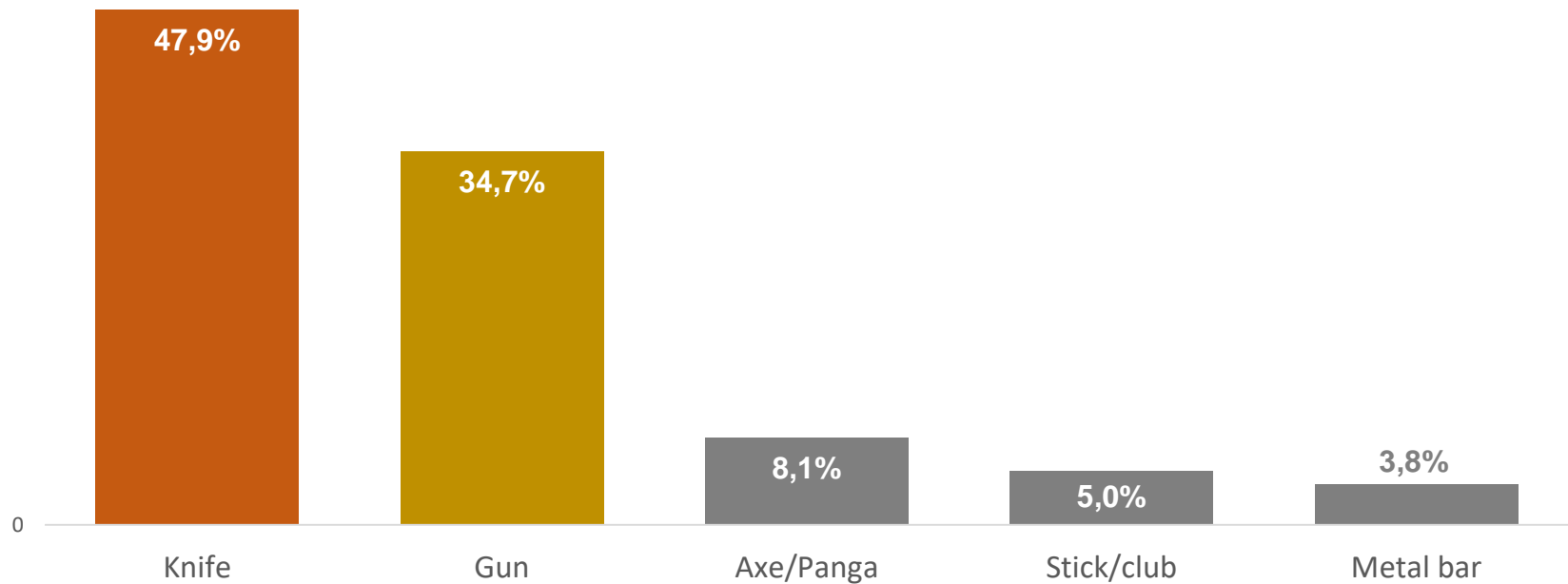
The young were most likely to lose personal property through theft. There is a relationship between age and vulnerability to theft of personal property.

Percentage of victims of theft of personal property in different age groups, 2019/20



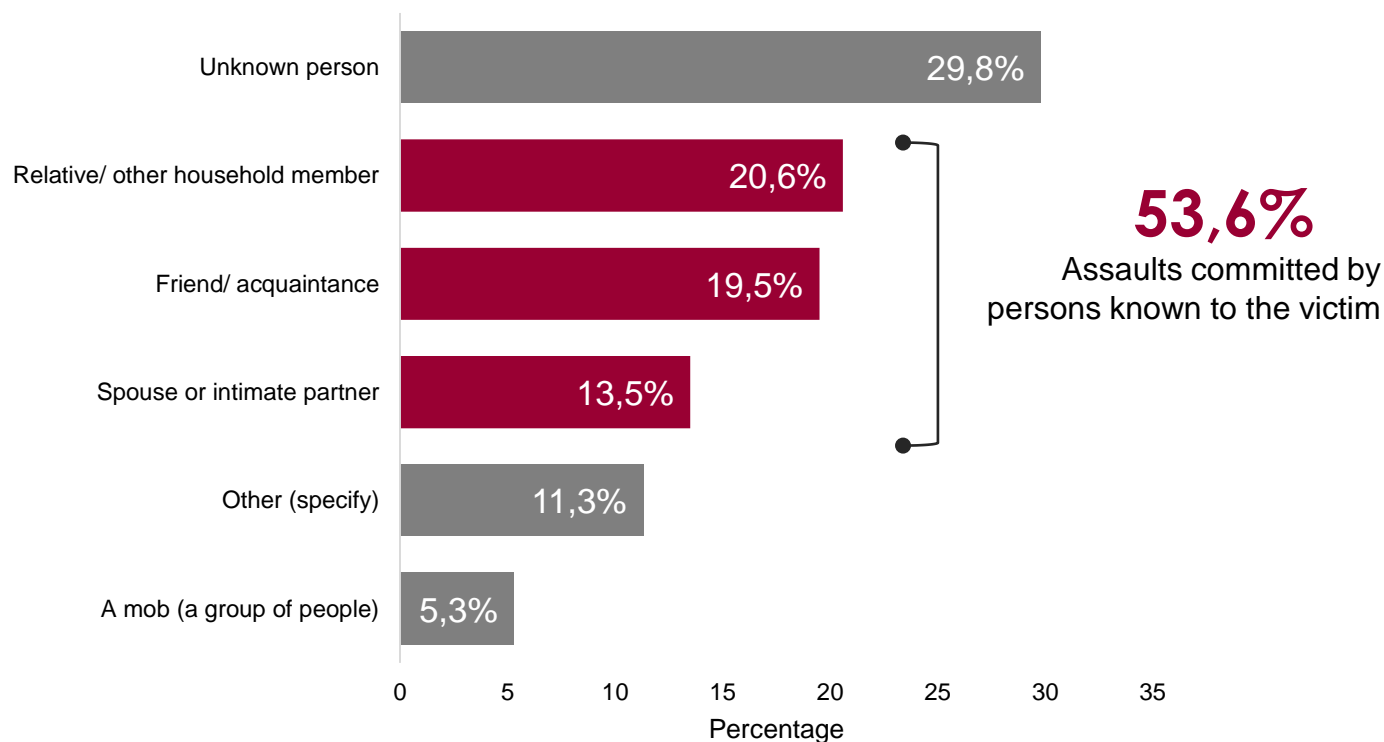
Knives and **guns** were used on 47,9% and 34,7% of individuals during street robberies, respectively.

Percentage of individuals who experienced usage of specific weapons during street robbery 2019/20



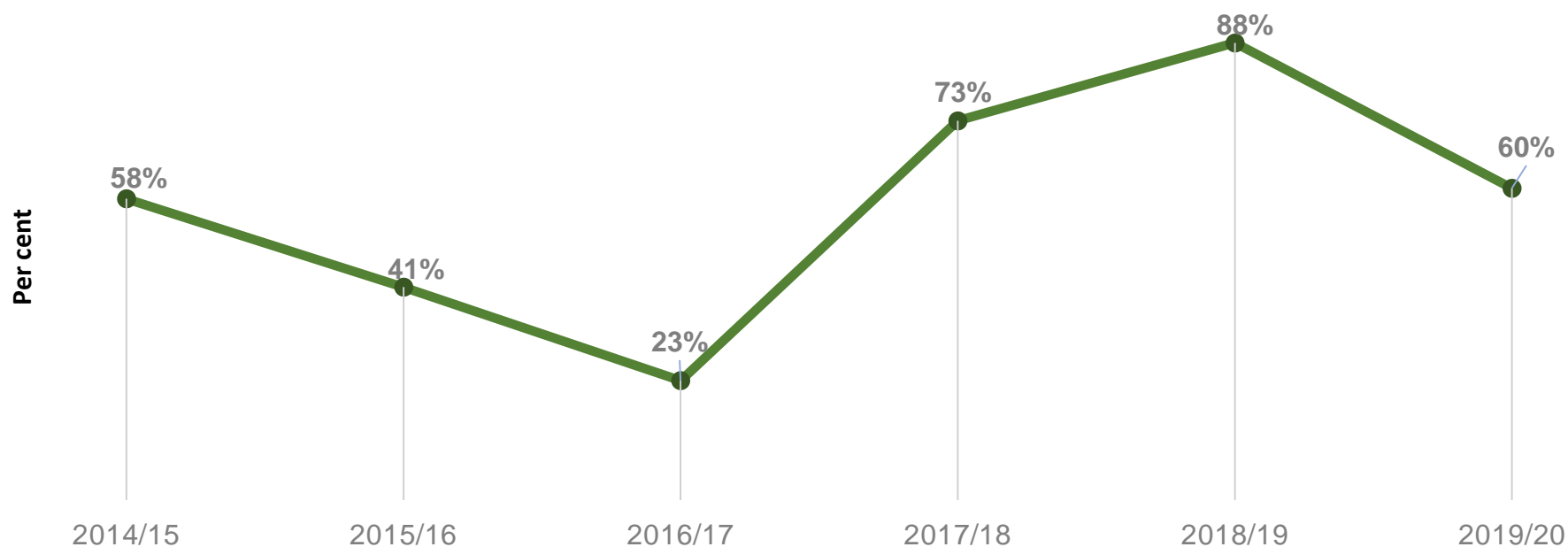
More than half **(53,6%)** of the assaults were committed by someone close such as a relative or other household member (20,6%), a friend or acquaintance (19,5%), a spouse or intimate partner (13,5%). About 29,8% of the assaults were committed by unknown persons.

Percentage of assaults committed by a specified perpetrator, 2019/20



60% of victims of sexual offence reported at least one incident. This is a decrease from 88% in 2018/19.

Percentage of individuals who reported sexual offences to the police, 2019/18



Household and individual perceptions of their safety



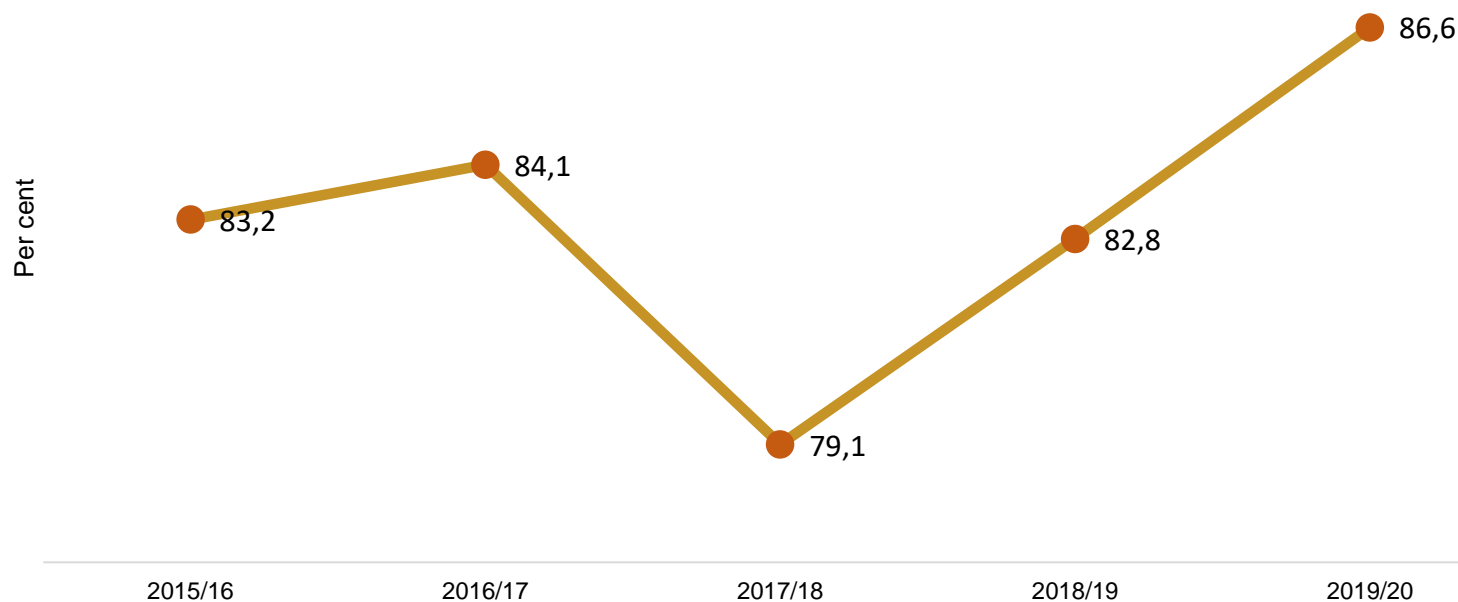
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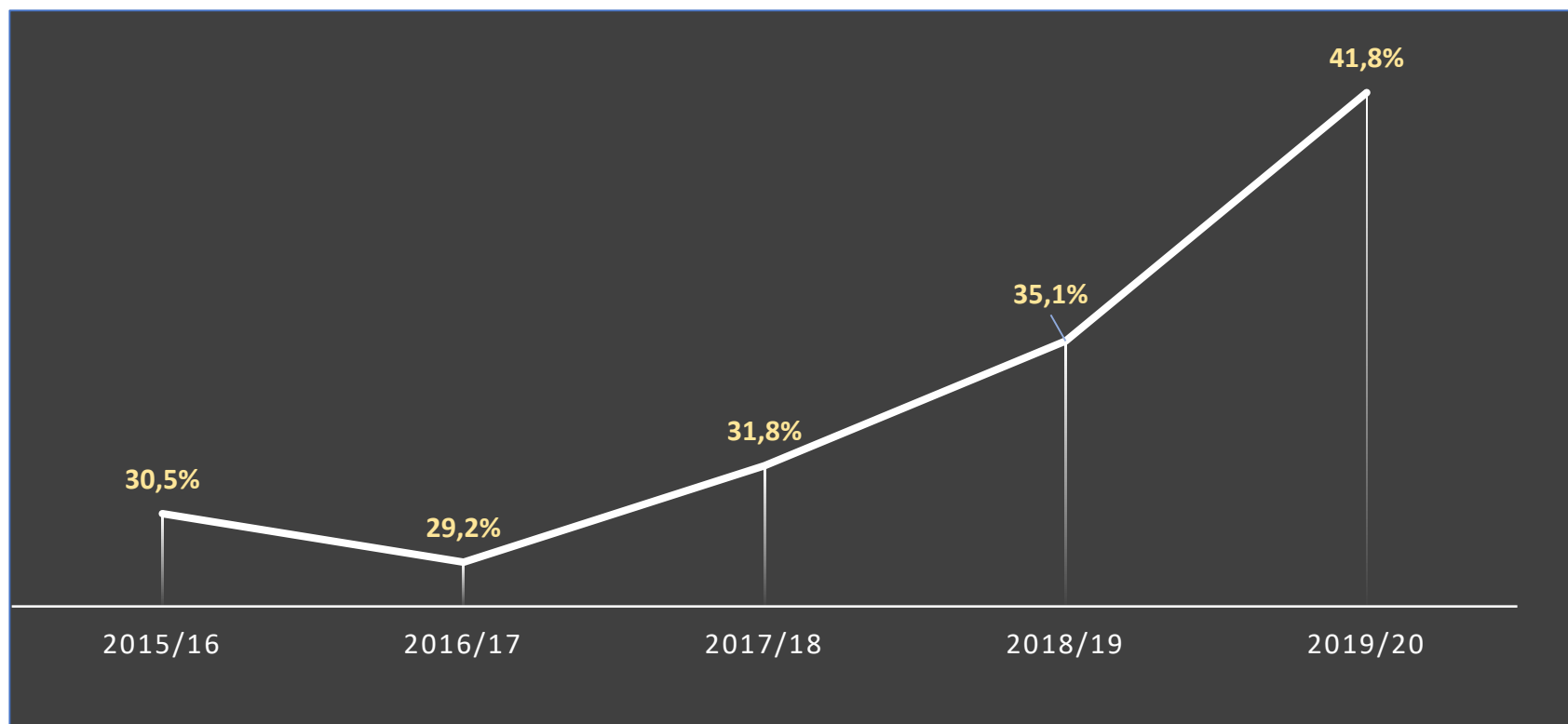
Individuals who felt safe walking alone in their neighbourhoods during the day increased from 79,1% in 2017/18 to 86,6% in 2019/20

Percentage of individuals who felt safe (“Very safe” and “Fairly safe”) walking alone in their areas during the day



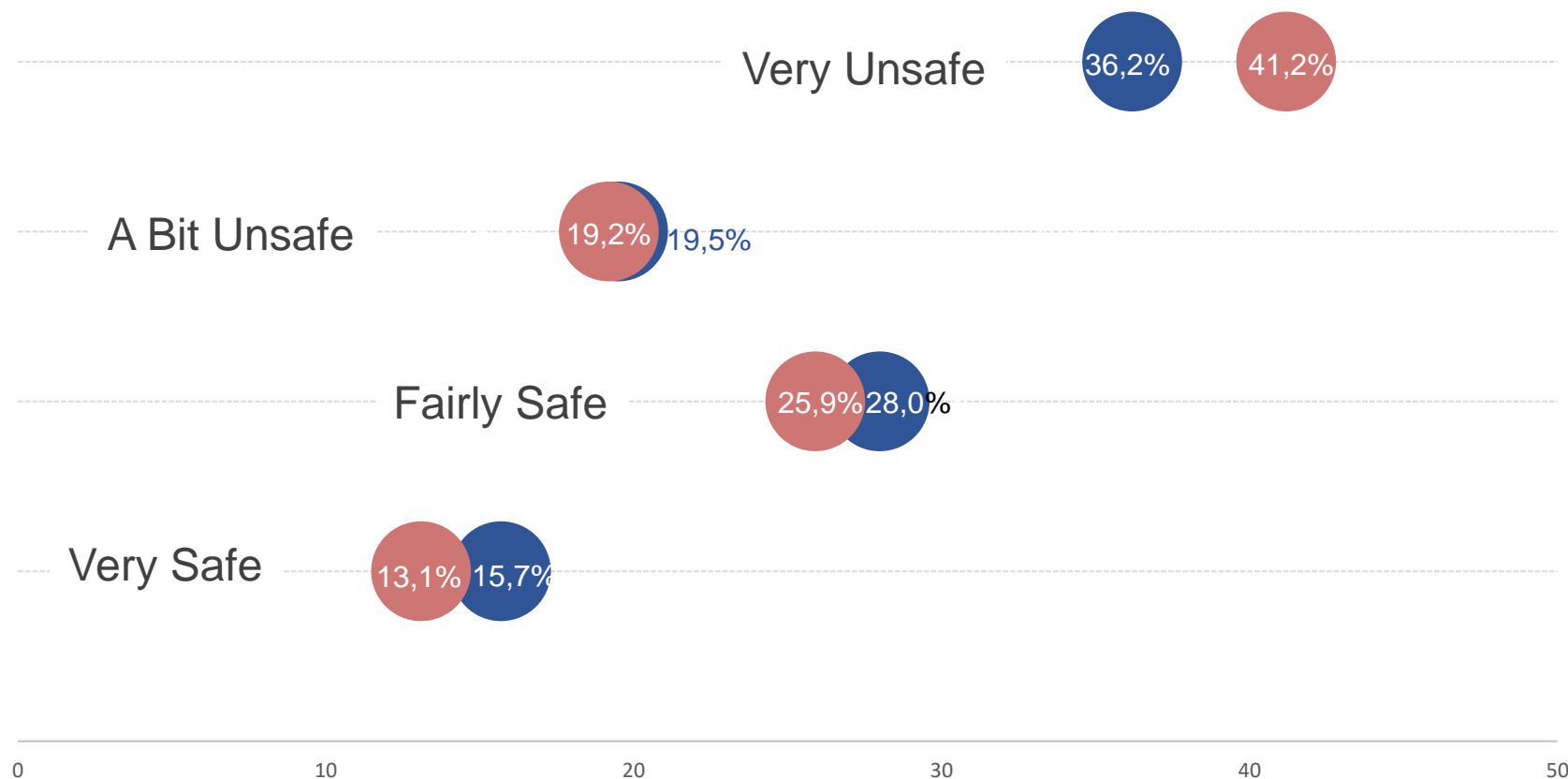
Individuals who felt safe walking alone at night in their neighbourhoods increased from 35,1% in 2018/19 to 41,8% in 2019/20.

Percentage of individuals who felt safe ("Very safe" and "Fairly safe") walking alone in their areas during the night



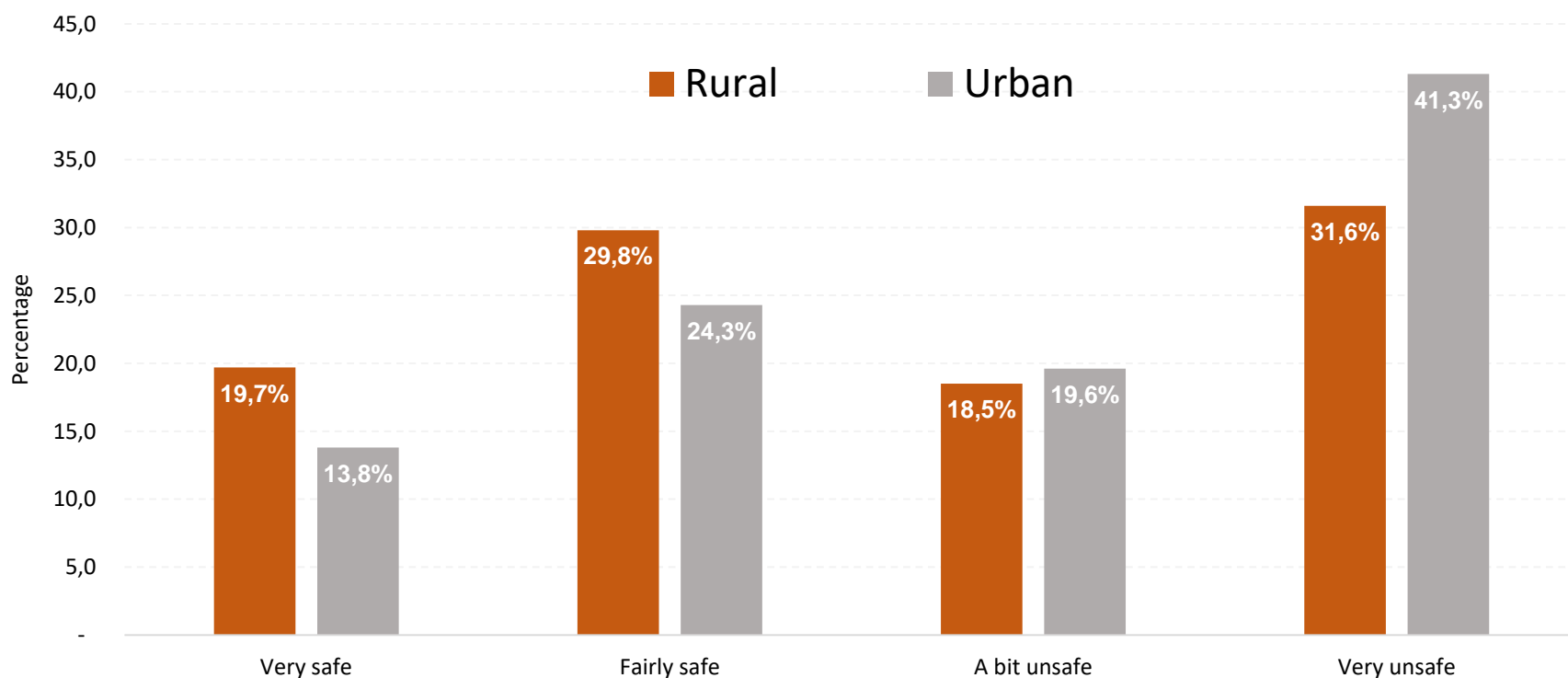
A larger proportion of females felt unsafe walking alone at night in their neighbourhoods compared to males.

Feelings of safety when walking alone in their areas of residence when it is dark by gender, 2019/20



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

Feelings of safety when walking alone in their areas of residence when it is dark by geographical location, 2019/20



Community Cohesion/Citizen interaction

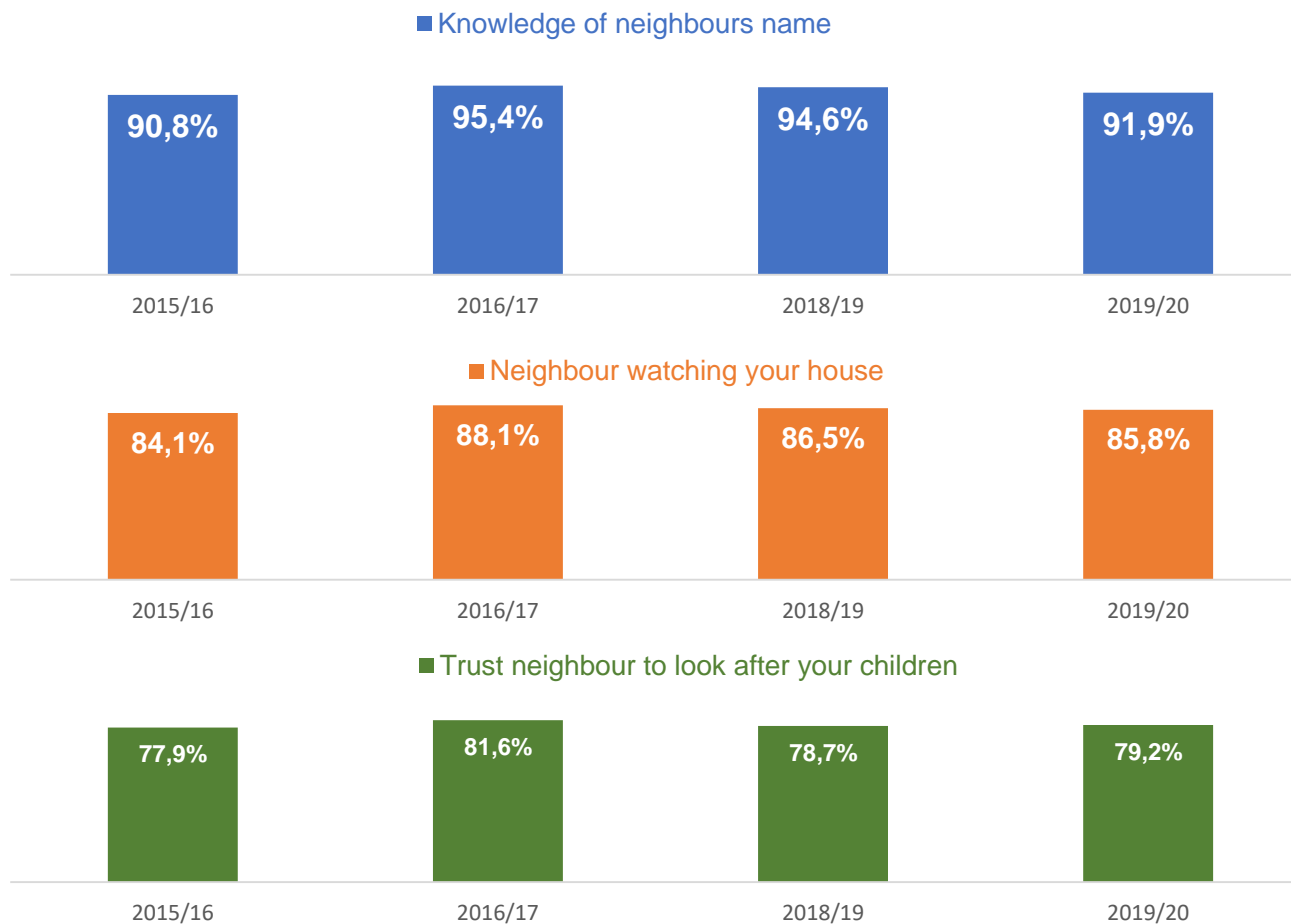


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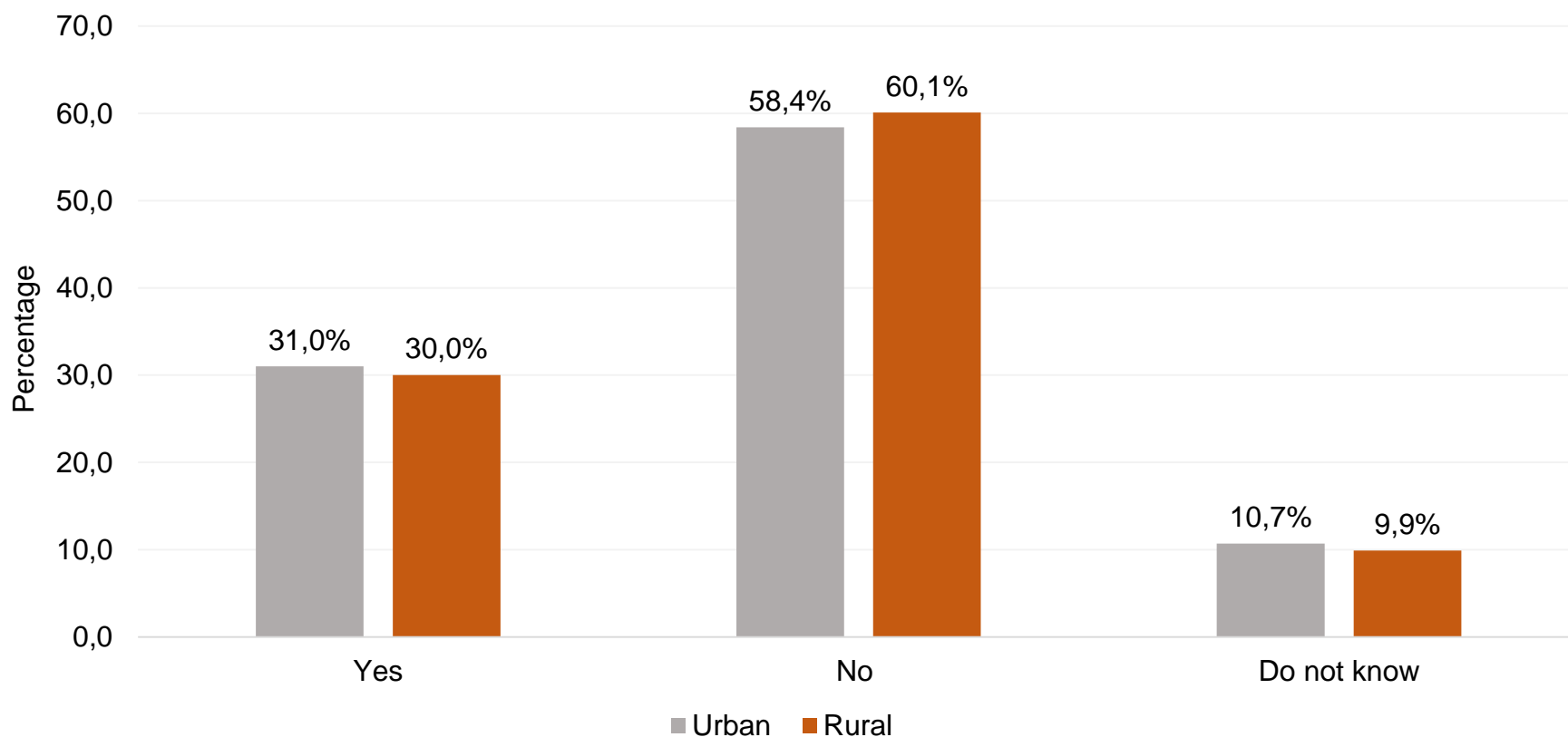


In 2019/20, about **86%** of the households would ask **any of their next-door neighbours** to watch their house if they were going away. While **79,2%** of households trust their neighbours to **look after their children**.



The vast majority of households indicated that there are no active forums that discusses or deals with community-related issues in their communities.

Percentage distribution of households' knowledge of an active forum that discusses or deals with community-related issues by settlement type, 2019/20



Ndzi Hela Kwala!



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