stats sa
Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001, South Africa, ISIbalo House, Koch Street, Salvokop, Pretoria, 0002
www.statssa.gov.za, info@statssa.gov.za, Tel +27 12 310 8911

STATISTICAL RELEASE
P0341 Victims of Crime

GOVERNANCE, PUBLIC SAFETY, AND JUSTICE SURVEY
GPSJS 2019/20

Embargoed until:
1 December 2020
11:00

ENQUIRIES:
User Information Services
Tel.: (012) 310 8600

FORTHCOMING ISSUE:
GPSJS 2020/21

EXPECTED RELEASE DATE
September 2021

Contents

List of tables

List of figures

Abbreviations

CV	Coefficient of variation
DCS	Department of Correctional Services
DU	Dwelling unit
EA	Enumeration area
EC	Eastern Cape
FS	Free State
GHS	General Household Survey
GP	Gauteng
GPSJS	Governance, Public Safety, and Justice Survey
KZN	KwaZulu-Natal
LP	Limpopo
MP	Mpumalanga
MS	Master sample
MTSF	Medium Term Strategic Framework
NC	Northern Cape
NDP	National Development Plan
NPC	National Planning Commission
NW	North West
PPS	Probability proportional to size
PSU	Primary sampling unit
RSA	Republic of South Africa
SHaSA	Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa
SAPS	South African Police Service
SASQAF	South African Statistical Quality Assurance Framework
Stats SA	Statistics South Africa
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VOCS	Victims of Crime Survey
WB	World Bank
WC	Western Cape

Summary of key findings

Household crime levels in South Africa

In 2019/20 an estimated 1,2 million incidences of housebreaking occurred, affecting 891 000 households in South Africa. The number of affected households represents 5,3% of all households in the country. Almost 52% (51,7%) of households that experienced housebreaking reported it to the police.

An estimated 169 000 incidences of home robberies occurred, affecting 139 000 households in 2019/20. The number of affected households represents 0,8% of all households in the country. About 55% (54,5%) of households that experienced home robbery reported it to the police.

Theft of motor vehicles was experienced by 82 000 households in 2019/20 in a total of 88 000 incidences. Less than 1% (0,5%) of all households in the country experienced theft of motor vehicles. About 79% (78,7%) of households that experienced theft of motor vehicles reported the crime to the police, which is a 7,6% decrease compared to the previous year.

There was a total of 72 000 incidences of deliberate damaging, burning, or destruction of residential dwellings affecting 52 000 households (0,3%). More than half (55,4%) of the affected households reported the crime to the police.

Individual crime levels in South Africa

An estimated 1,1 million incidences of theft of personal property occurred in 2019/20, affecting 902 000 individuals aged 16 years and older. The number of affected individuals represents 2,2% of the population. About 38% (38,2%) of individuals who experienced theft of personal property reported it to the police, which is a 6,2% increase compared to the previous year.

A total of 451 000 (1,1% of adults aged 16 and older) individuals experienced street robbery in a total of 561 000 incidences. About 42,0% of the victims reported the crime to the police.

There were 294 000 incidences of assault in 2019/20 experienced by 225 000 individuals (0,6% of adults aged 16 and older). About 42% (41,4%) of the victims of assault reported the crime to the police, which is a 8,6% decrease compared to the previous year.

A total of 384 000 (1,0% of adults aged 16 and older) individuals experienced customer fraud in a total of 1,4 million incidences. A larger number of these incidences is attributed to advance-fee fraud (e.g. the R99 credit/debit card scam, 419 scams). Results show that 26,0% of the victims reported the crime to the police, which is a 21,0% decrease compared to the previous year.

An estimated 99 000 hijackings occurred in 2019/20, affecting 85 000 (0,2%) persons aged 16 years and older. A total of 78% of the victims reported the crime to the police, which is a 7% decrease compared to the previous year.

Feelings of safety

About 87% (86,6%) of the population felt safe walking alone in their neighbourhood during the day while 41,8% felt safe walking alone in their neighbourhood during the night. Both figures increased from 2018/19. Males in general felt safer walking alone in their neighbourhood than females. Similarly, rural residents had a greater feeling of safety walking alone in their areas when it is dark than residents in urban areas.

Citizen interaction and community cohesion

Households in rural areas were more likely to have knowledge of their neighbours' names than those in urban areas. Eastern Cape had the highest proportions of households who know their neighbours' names, while Gauteng had the least.

Overall, there was no significant increase in the number of households who would ask any of their next-door neighbours to watch their house if they were going away between 2015/16 (84,1%) and 2019/20 (85,8%). Notwithstanding, households in rural areas were more likely to ask any of their next-door neighbours to watch their house if they were going away than households in urban areas.

The survey shows that households who trust their neighbours to look after their children increased significantly between 2015/16 and 2016/17; however, this figure decreased again between 2016/17 and 2017/18. There was a very minor difference in households who trust their neighbours to look after their children between 2017/18 and 2019/20.

The results further show that most households indicated that there are no active forums that discuss or deal with community-related issues, and this was prevalent in all types of settlements.

Risenga Maluleke

Statistician-General

1. Introduction

This statistical release presents a selection of key findings from the Governance, Public Safety, and Justice Survey (GPSJS) 2019/20, conducted by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) from April 2019 to March 2020.

1.1 Background

The re-engineered GPSJS retained many items from the Victims of Crime Survey (VOCS), while new content was added. The GPSJS is a countrywide household-based survey that aims to bridge the statistical information gaps in the field of governance statistics by conducting interviews with households and individuals and collecting the data items needed for planning and monitoring. The GPSJS was conducted for the first time in South Africa in 2018/19 as an updated version of the long-running VOCS to include themes on governance. The rule of law and control of corruption were the only themes or sub-themes covered by VOCS before 2018. To achieve a reasonable balance between questionnaire length and depth of questions, a three-year rotation regime was adopted where the five themes are spread over three years. Once in three years, the GPSJS will measure, in detail, the general experience (including perceptions) of crime experienced by households and individuals in the country.

Victims of crime statistics are population estimates of the level of crime in South Africa derived from GPSJS data and previous VOCS data. These estimates complement crime statistics provided by the South African Police Service (SAPS). GPSJS is able to provide estimates of the prevalence and incidence of crime while SAPS statistics provide the total number of reported cases. For crimes such as consumer fraud, only a small proportion of the victims report the crime to the police. Moreover, GPSJS statistics also report on feelings of safety, perceptions on crime, and satisfaction with the police, courts, and correctional services. Such information is indispensable in the monitoring of development goals.

Since 2011 the key questions on which household estimates of Victims of Crime statistics were based were “In the past 12 months have you or any member of the household experienced […….]. If yes, how many times?” followed by “How many were successful in the past 12 months?” The interviewer would replace the dots with a specific type of crime from a list of 12. We have long realised that this is not the best way to ask the questions but decided not to change to avoid breaking the series. The demand for international reporting such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA), and Agenda 2063 created an opportunity to change and align the questions with these demands while maintaining relevance to national demands. It was therefore decided to change the questions and take the risk of breaking the crime series. These changes were first introduced in the GPSJS 2018/19 questionnaire, and the first question was divided into two sections. The first is “Have you or any member of your household experienced housebreaking in the past 12 months?”, and the second is “How many times have you or any member of your household experienced housebreaking in the past 12 months?” The follow-up question “How many were successful in the past 12 months?” has been dropped from the GPSJS because respondents would interpret the word ‘successful’ in different ways, and in some cases, it would be considered insensitive to ask the question.

Evidence from the GPSJS 2018/19 data has shown that the changes significantly affect the frequency of crime incidences captured, and consequently, the estimates are also affected. There is therefore a break of series in the estimates of crime from VOCS to GPSJS. However, there is no break of series for questions that remained the same; for example, questions on perceptions of crime. In particular, there is also no break to the five-year crime series arising from the question “In the past 5 years have you or any member of the household experienced any of the following crimes?” because no change was made to this question. Therefore, it is possible to determine whether crime increased or decreased between 2017/18 and 2018/19 using the five-year series, while the twelve-month series will be used to determine whether crime increased or decreased between the 2018/19 and 2019/20 data collection periods.

1.2 Objectives of the survey

The GPSJS is a countrywide household-based survey and the objectives of the survey are to provide information on:

- Perceptions about citizen interaction/community cohesion.
- Trust in government/public institutions.
- Government's performance and effectiveness.
- Experience of corruption.
- General individual perceptions.
- Household and individual perceptions and experience of crime.

1.3 Survey scope

The target population of the survey consists of all private households in all nine provinces of South Africa and residents in workers' hostels. The survey does not cover other collective living quarters such as students' hostels, old-age homes, hospitals, prisons, and military barracks, and is therefore, the only representative of non-institutionalised and non-military persons or households in South Africa.

1.4 Purpose

The Victims of Crime report focuses on people's perceptions and experiences of crime, as well as their views regarding their access to, and effectiveness of the police service and the criminal justice system. Households are also asked about community responses to crime. The survey profiled different aspects that are inherent in the different types of crime, such as the location and timing of the different crimes, the use of weapons, and the nature and extent of the violence that takes place. The GPSJS 2019/20 is comparable to the previous versions in cases where the questions remained largely unchanged.

While the GPSJS cannot replace police statistics, it can be a rich source of information that will assist in the planning of crime prevention as well as providing a more holistic picture of crime in South Africa. The data can be used for the development of policies and strategies, as well as for crime prevention and public education programmes. The reference period for the experience of crime estimates is April 2015 to February 2020, while questions on perceptions referred to the collection period (i.e. April 2019 to March 2020).

This report has three main objectives, namely:

- To provide an overview of the level and trend of crime experienced by households and individuals in South Africa – produce estimates of the prevalence and incidence of crime.
- To explore public perceptions on issues of safety and citizen interaction/community cohesion.
- To provide complementary data on the level of crime within South Africa in addition to the statistics published annually by the SAPS.

2. Crime levels in South Africa

2.1 Trends for household crimes

The section aims to present trends of household crimes for the period 2015/16 to 2019/20. The data used to calculate these estimates come from the question “Have you or your household experienced (housebreaking) during the past 5 years”. The reference period is five years.

Table 1: Number and percentage of households that experienced a specific type of crime in 5 years preceding the survey, 2015/16–2019/20

Indicator	Statistics (Numbers in thousands)	Year				
		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Housebreaking/burglary	Number	2 061	1 874	2 171	2 214	2 270
	Per cent	13,0	12,0	13,0	13,0	13,5
Home robbery	Number	506	460	459	449	415
	Per cent	3,2	2,9	2,8	2,7	2,5
Theft of motor vehicle	Number	253	214	233	256	277
	Per cent	1,6	1,3	1,4	1,5	1,7
Deliberate damage to property	Number	117	111	98	160	182
	Per cent	0,7	0,7	0,6	1,0	1,1
Murder	Number	49	45	43	53	53
	Per cent	0,3	0,3	0,3	0,3	0,3
Assault	Number	*	*	*	*	117
	Per cent	*	*	*	*	0,9
Sexual offence	Number	*	*	*	*	39
	Per cent	*	*	*	*	0,3

* Unweighted number of 3 and below per cell are too small to provide accurate estimates.
The totals used as the denominator to calculate percentages are excluded from unspecified responses.

Table 1 shows that housebreaking/burglary has consistently been the most common crime experienced by households in South Africa. The number of households that experienced this crime has increased over the years from 2,1 million in 2015/16 to 2,3 million in 2019/20. The second most common crime experienced by households during the five years is home robbery. Home robbery declined over the years from 506 000 in 2015/16 to 415 000 in 2019/20.

The trends will be analysed with the assistance of the charts below. The 95% confidence intervals will be used to determine whether the changes over time were statistically significant or otherwise.

Figure 1: Trends in housebreaking/burglary, 2015/16–2019/20

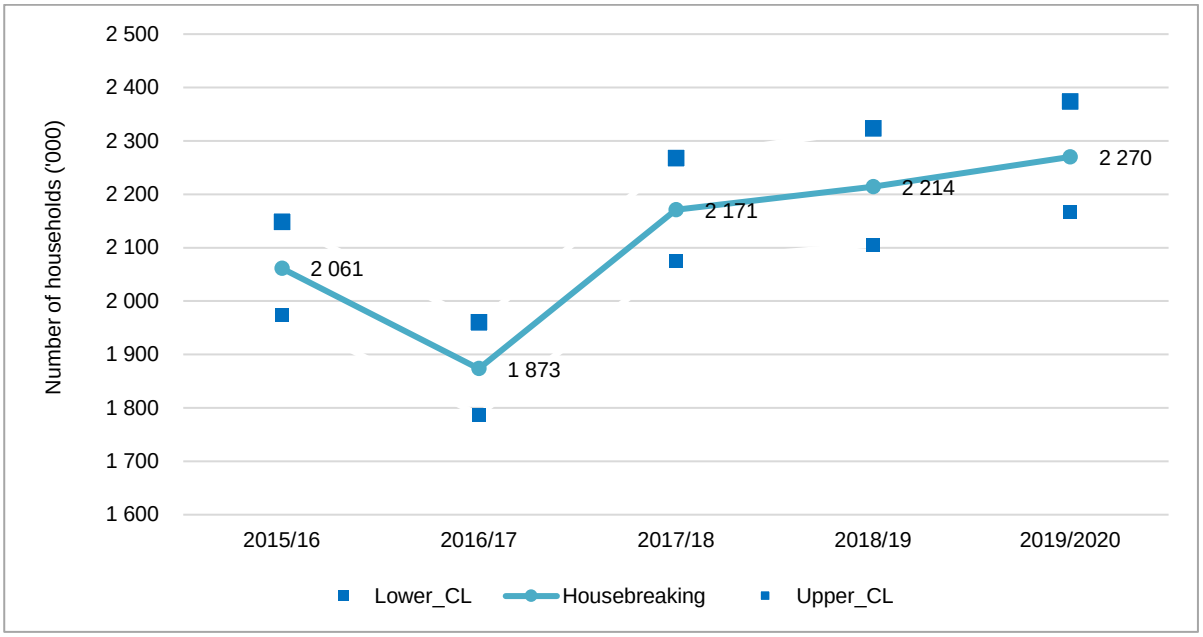
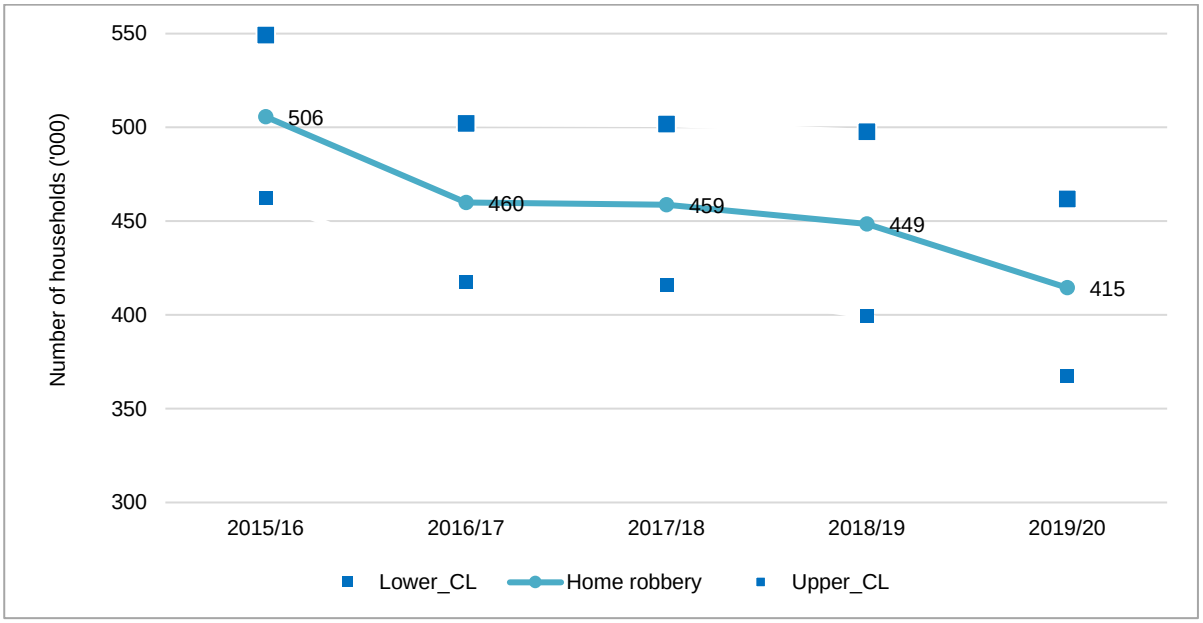


Figure 1 shows that housebreaking declined between 2015/16 and 2016/17, then increased between 2016/17 and 2017/18. The decline between 2015/16 and 2016/17 was statistically significant. Similarly, the increase in housebreaking between 2016/17 and 2017/18 was also statistically significant. The figure further shows a steady increase between periods 2017/18 to 2018/19 and 2018/19 to 2019/20 which was not statistically significant.

Figure 2: Trends in home robbery, 2015/16–2019/20



There was a general decrease in home robberies between 2015/16 and 2019/20, which is statistically significant. However, in between these periods, there was a steady decrease between 2016/17 and 2017/18, a decrease between 2017/18 and 2018/19, and a further decrease between 2018/19 and 2019/20. However, the decreases between the survey periods were not statistically significant.

Figure 3: Trends in theft of a motor vehicle, 2015/16–2019/20

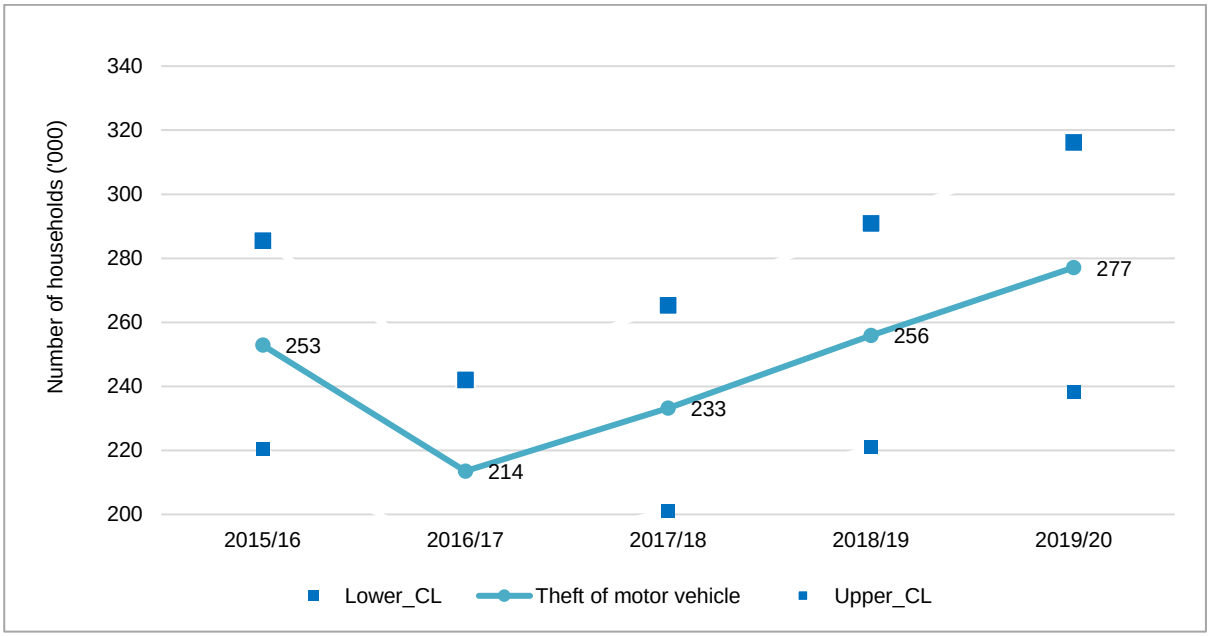
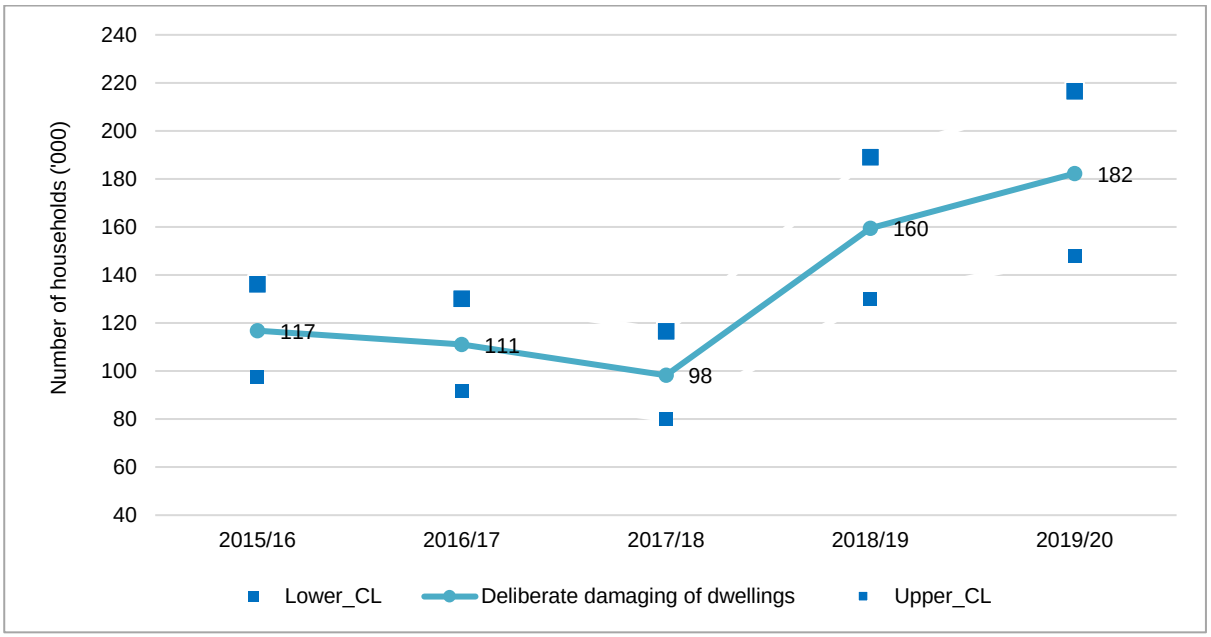


Figure 3 shows that there was a decrease in motor vehicle theft between 2015/16 and 2016/17. Theft of motor vehicles has been increasing since 2016/17 and 2019/20 although the increase is not statistically significant.

Figure 4: Trends in deliberate damaging, burning, or destruction of residential dwellings, 2015/16–2019/20



Deliberate damaging, burning, or destruction of residential dwellings declined between 2015/16 and 2017/18, but the decline was not statistically significant. There was, however, a statistically significant increase between 2017/18 and 2018/19. There was a further increase in deliberate damage to dwelling units between 2018/19 and 2019/20, although the increase was not statistically significant.

Figure 5: Trends in murder, 2015/16–2019/20

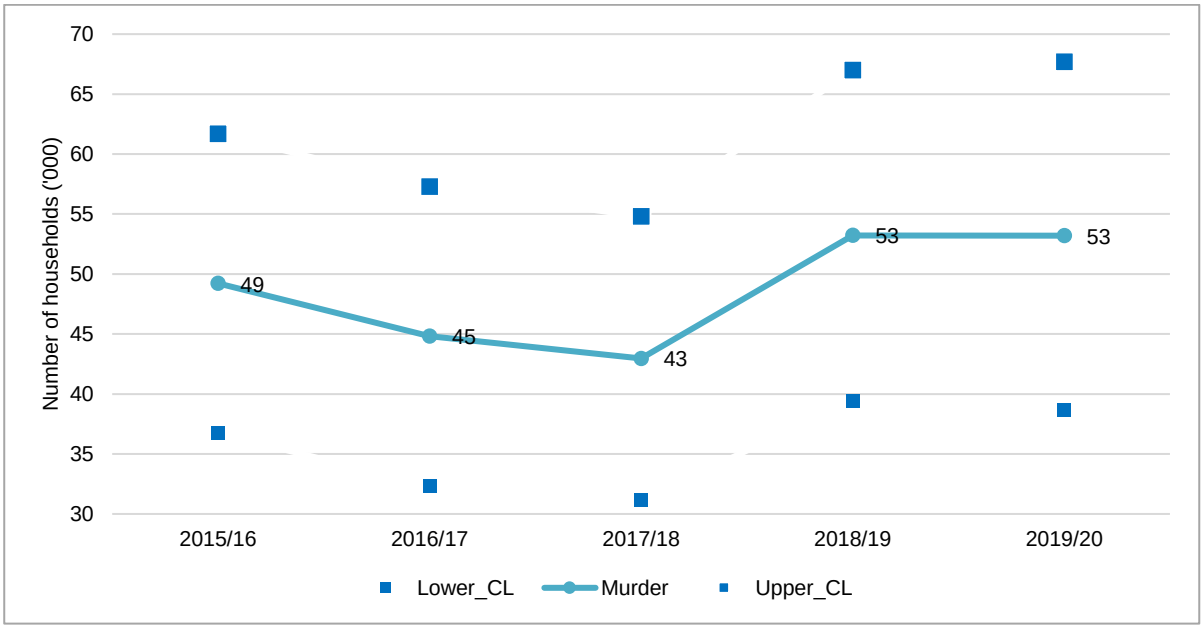


Figure 5 shows that there was a decline in the number of murders between 2015/16 and 2017/18. There was an increase in murder between 2017/18 and 2018/19 before it flattens in 2019/20. The differences in all the years are not statistically significant.

2.2 Trends for individual crimes

This section focuses on crimes committed against members of households who were 16 years or older during the survey. Crimes committed against children under 16 are not captured by the GPSJS because they require special resources to comply with regulations concerning child welfare. Trends for six crimes on individuals are reported in the table below.

Table 2: Number and percentage of individuals that experienced a specific type of crime during in 5 years preceding the survey, 2015/16–2019/20

Indicator	Statistics	Year				
	Numbers in thousands	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Theft of personal property	Number	1 894	1 762	1 844	2 344	2 400
	Per cent	5,1	4,6	4,8	5,9	6,0
Street robbery	Number	679	738	735	1 126	1 109
	Per cent	1,8	1,9	1,9	2,8	2,8
Assault excluding sexual assault	Number	683	590	600	599	495
	Per cent	1,8	1,6	1,6	1,5	1,2
Consumer fraud	Number	233	200	147	173	670
	Per cent	0,6	0,5	0,4	0,4	1,7
Hijacking	Number	162	159	152	198	265
	Per cent	0,4	0,4	0,4	0,5	0,7
Sexual offence	Number	117	134	126	98	113
	Per cent	0,3	0,4	0,3	0,3	0,3

Table 2 shows that theft of personal property has consistently been the most common crime experienced by individuals in South Africa. The number of individuals who experienced this crime has increased over the years from 1,9 million in 2015/16 to 2,4 million in 2019/20. The second most common crime experienced by individuals during the five-year period is street robbery. Street robbery increased over the years from 697 000 in 2015/16 to 1,1 million in 2019/20.

The trends will be analysed with the assistance of the charts below. The 95% confidence intervals will be used to determine whether the changes over time were statistically significant or otherwise.

Figure 6: Trends in theft of personal property, 2015/16–2019/20

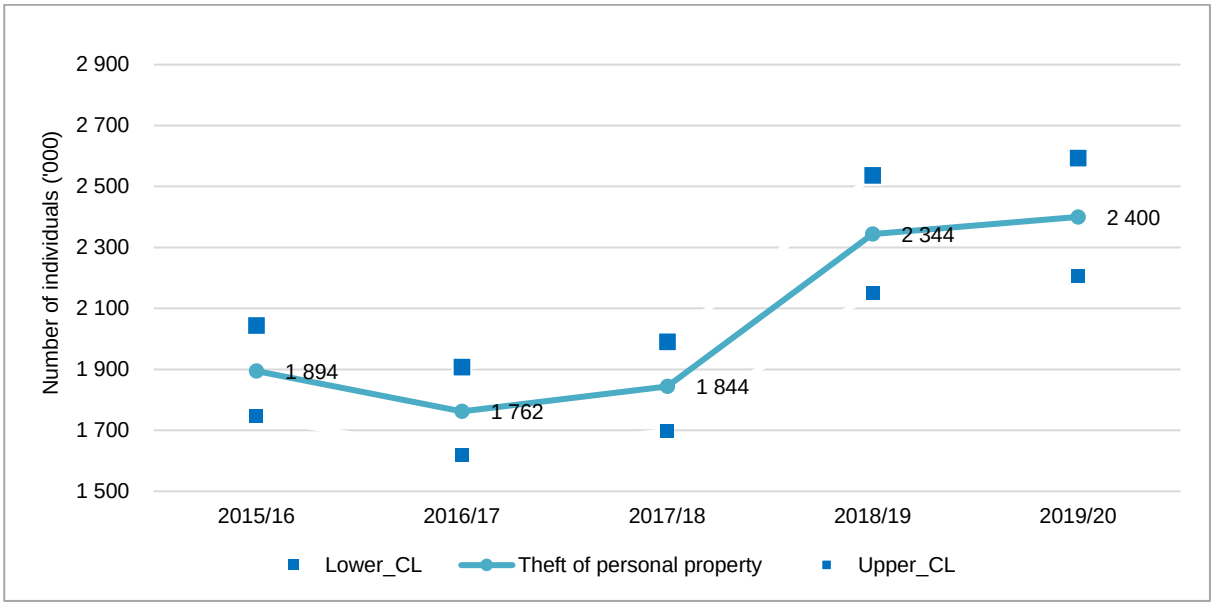
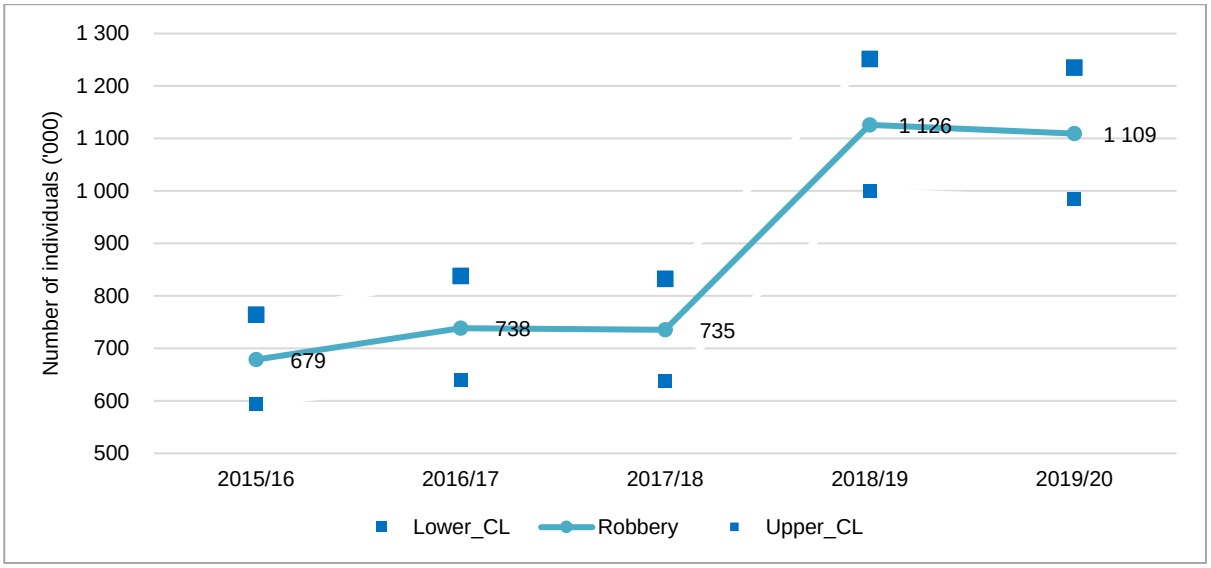


Figure 6 shows that theft of personal property declined between 2015/16 and 2016/17 and increased between 2016/17 and 2017/18. Figure 6 also shows a statistically significant increase between 2017/18 and 2018/19. There was a slight increase between 2018/19 and 2019/20, which is not statistically significant. In general, there has been a statistically significant increase in the theft of personal property between the years 2015/16 and 2019/2020.

Figure 7: Trends in street robbery, 2015/16–2019/20



There was no significant change in street robbery during the period 2015/16 to 2017/18. However, there was a statistically significant increase between 2017/18 and 2018/19, with an increase from 735 000 to 1,1 million. The figure also shows a decline between 2018/19 and 2019/20 which was not statistically significant; however, there was an overall significant increase in the number of street robberies between 2015/16 and 2019/20.

Figure 8: Trends in assault (excluding sexual assault), 2015/16–2019/20

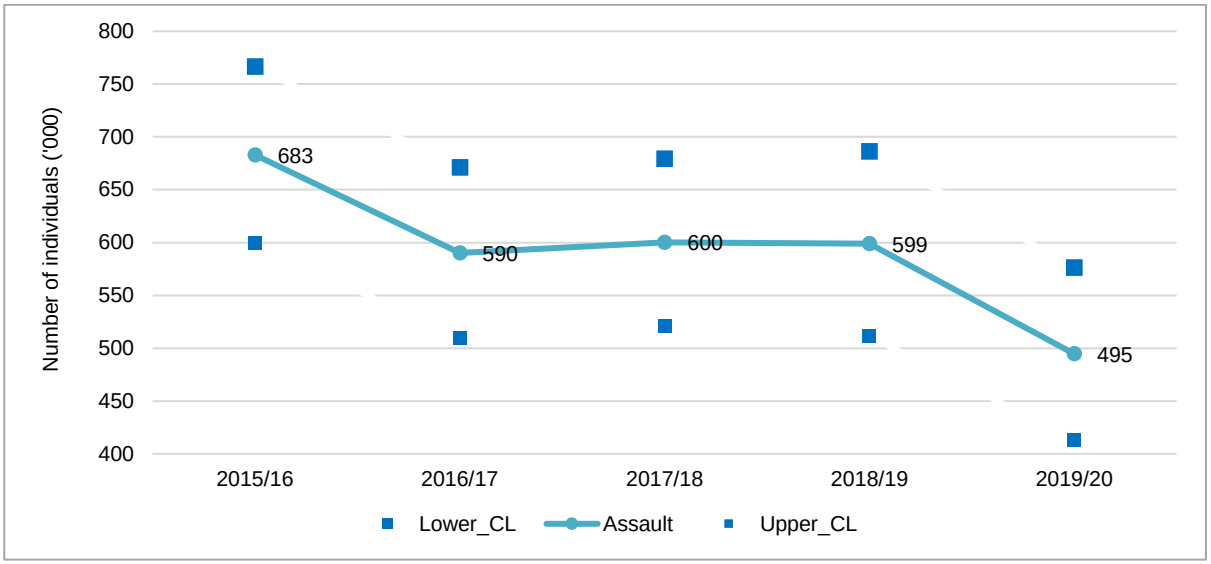
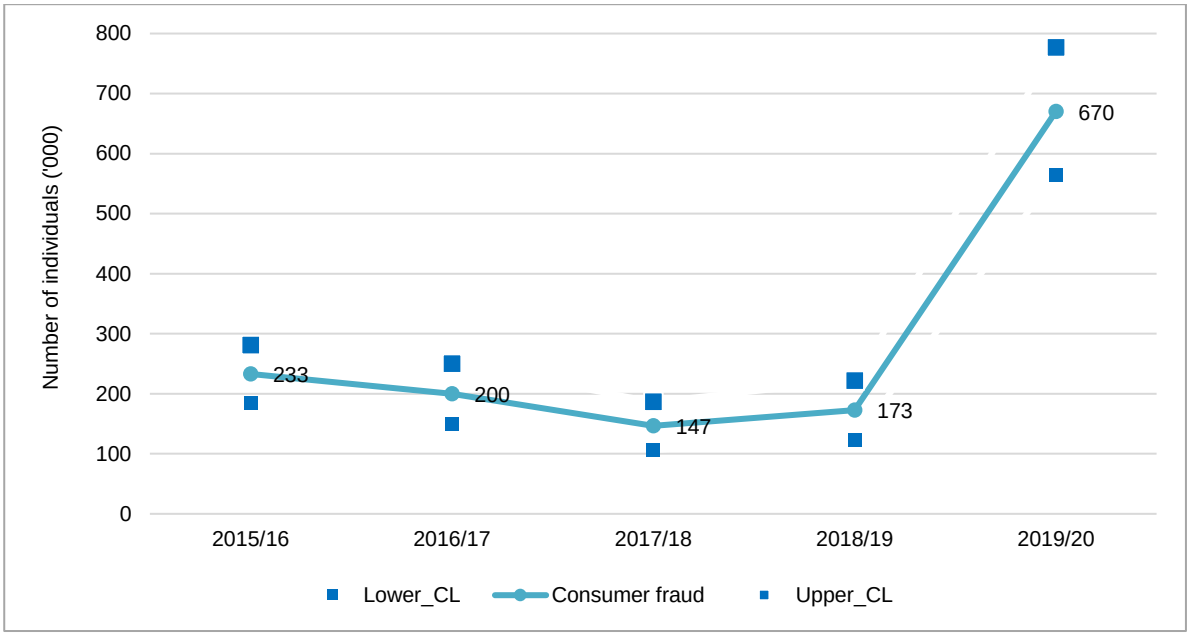


Figure 8 shows a not statistically significant decrease in the number of victims of assault between 2015/16 and 2016/17. The number of victims of assault almost remained constant with no significant change between 2016/17 and 2018/19. There was a further decline in the number of victims of assault between 2018/19 and 2019/20. In general, there has been a statistically significant decrease in the number of victims of assault between 2015/16 and 2019/20.

Figure 9: Trends in consumer fraud, 2015/16–2019/20



The number of victims of consumer fraud has been declining from 2015/16 until 2017/18. The number of victims of consumer fraud started to increase in 2018/19, and there has been a statistically significant increase between 2018/19 and 2019/20. Overall, there is a statistically significant increase in consumer fraud between 2015/16 and 2019/20.

Figure 10: Trends in hijacking, 2015/16–2019/20

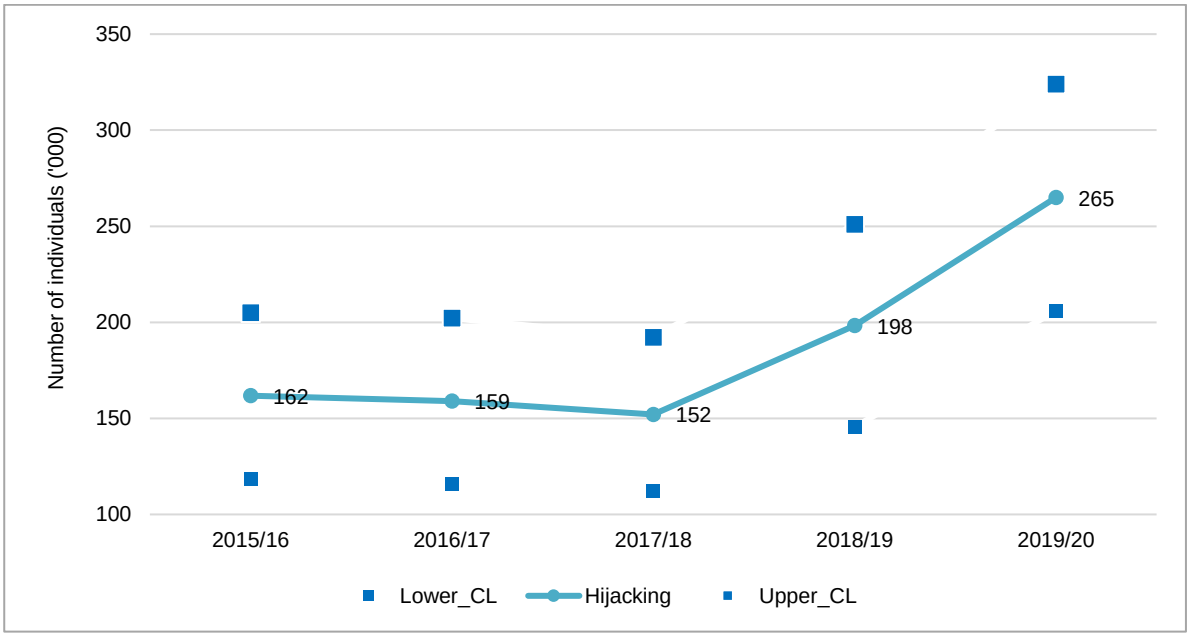
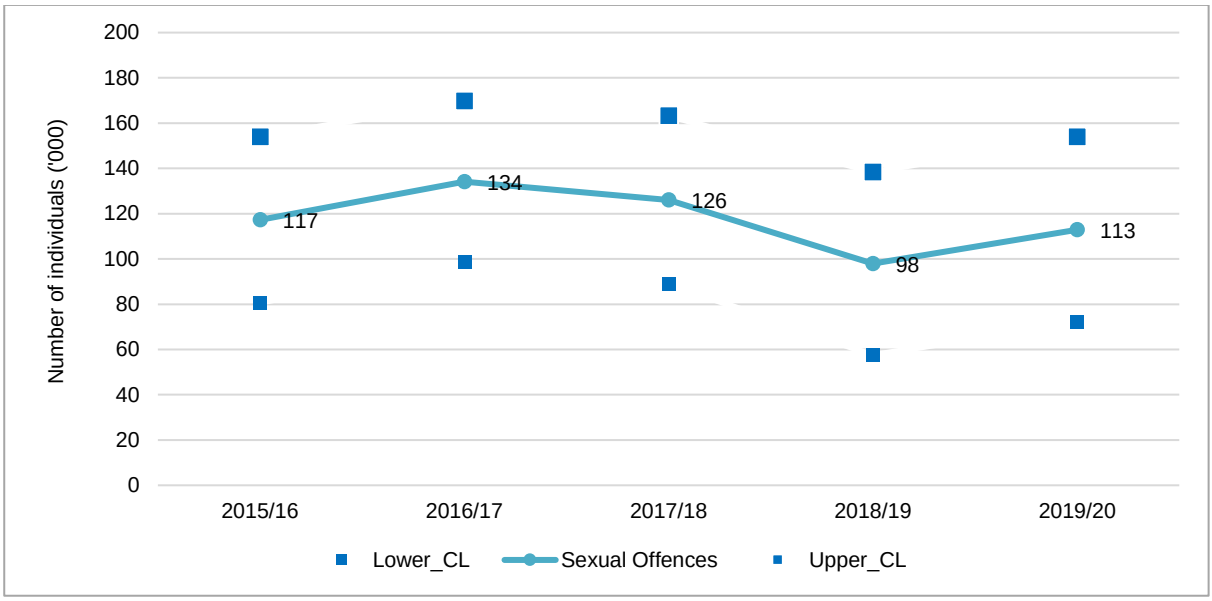


Figure 10 shows that there was a slight decline in the number of victims of hijacking between 2015/16 and 2017/18. The number of victims of hijacking started increasing in 2017/18 although the increase between 2017/18 and 2018/19 is not statistically significant. The figure also shows an increase in the number of hijackings between 2018/19 and 2019/20, which is not statistically significant.

Figure 11: Trends in sexual offences, 2015/16–2019/20



The number of victims of sexual offences increased between 2015/16 and 2016/17. The figure further shows a decline between 2016/17 and 2018/19 and an increase between 2018/19 and 2019/20; however, the change between 2015/16 and 2019/20 was not statistically significant.

2.3 Summary

Housebreaking/burglary has consistently been the most common crime experienced by households in South Africa. Despite a decrease between 2015/16 and 2016/17, the number of households that experienced housebreaking and burglary in the five years preceding the survey has increased. The number increased from 2,1 million in 2015/16 to 2,3 million in 2019/20. The second most common crime experienced by households during the five-year period is home robbery. Home robbery has constantly declined between 2015/16 (506 000) and 2019/20 (415 000).

The results further show that there was a statistically significant decrease in car theft between 2015/16 and 2016/17; however, the numbers increased significantly between 2016/17 and 2019/2020. Overall, there was a statistically significant increase in deliberate damaging, burning, or destruction of residential dwellings between 2015/16 and 2019/2020. Although there was a decline in the number of murders between 2015/16 and 2017/18, and an increase between 2017/18 and 2018/19, data shows stability in the number of murders between 2018/19 and 2019/20.

Theft of personal property has been the most common crime experienced by individuals in South Africa. Despite dropping between 2015/16 (1,9 million) and 2016/17 (1,8 million), there was a statistically significant increase in the number of victims of theft of personal property between 2015/16 (1,9 million) and 2019/20 (2,4 million). The second most common crime experienced by individuals is street robbery which increased significantly between 2015/16 (679 000) and 2019/20 (1,1 million). Assault has been decreasing over the past five years. The number of victims of assault has dropped significantly from 663 000 in 2015/16 to 495 000 in 2019/20.

Overall, there is a statistically significant increase in consumer fraud between 2015/16 and 2019/20 (increasing from 233 000 (0,6%) to 670 000 (1,7%). The number of victims of sexual offences has remained almost the same between 2015/16 (117 000) and 2019/20 (113 000). The number of individuals who experienced consumer fraud in the past five years prior to the survey increased from 233 000 individuals in 2015/16 to 670 000 in 2019/20. This is a statistically significant increase. The number of individuals who experienced hijacking in the past five years prior to the survey increased from 162 000 individuals in 2015/16 to 265 000 in 2019/20.

3. Household experience of crime

3.1 Introduction

In this section, we focus on household crime experienced during the past twelve months from the 2019/20 GPSJS. The reference period was April 2019 to February 2020. Seven types of crime were surveyed compared to thirteen types of crime in VOCS. The number was reduced to accommodate new governance questions but maintain the questionnaire length. Some in-depth questions on each of the specific crimes were also dropped for the same reason. However, all these questions will be asked in the GPSJS 2021/22. The fourth round of GPSJS will, to a great extent, resemble VOCS.

3.2 Overview of household crime level

Table 3 below presents a summary of the number of victims of various types of crime together with the percentage of the population that the number represents. The data used to calculate these estimates come from the question “Have you or your household experienced (housebreaking) during the past 12 months”. The reference period is twelve months.

Table 3: Number and percentage of households that experienced a specific type of crime in the 12 months preceding the survey, 2018/19–2019/20

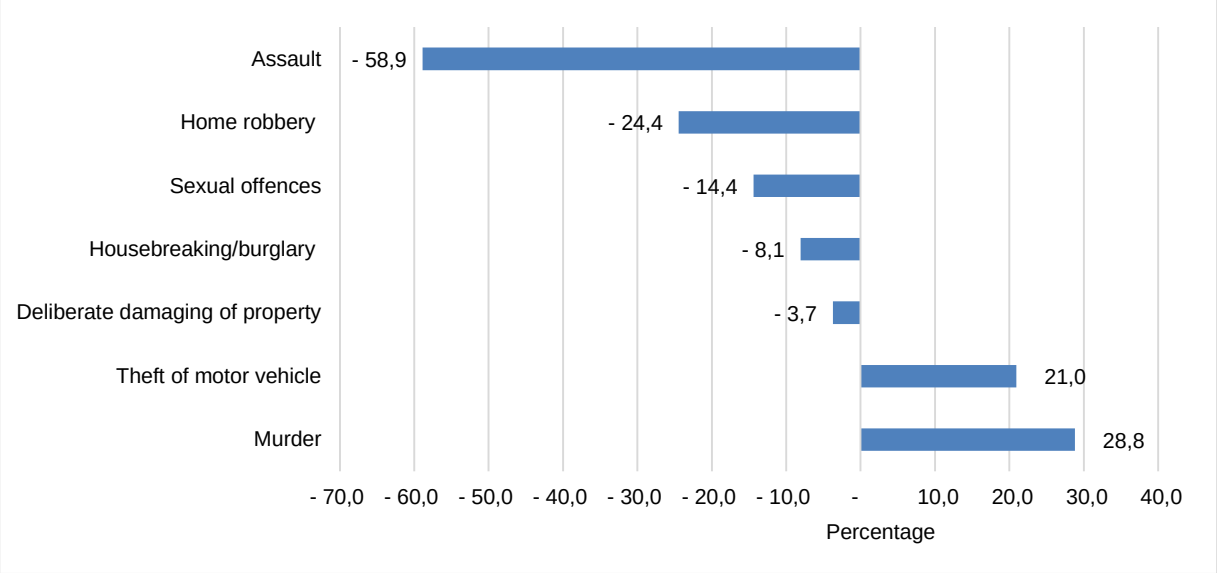
Indicator	Number in thousands	2018/19	2019/20
Housebreaking/burglary	Number	970	891
	Per cent	5,8	5,3
Home robbery	Number	184	139
	Per cent	1,1	0,8
Theft of motor vehicle	Number	68	82
	Per cent	0,4	0,5
Assault	Number	103	42
	Per cent	0,6	0,3
Deliberate damaging to property	Number	54	52
	Per cent	0,3	0,3
Sexual offence	Number	15	13*
	Per cent	0,1	0,1*
Murder	Number	12	15
	Per cent	0,1	0,1

*Sample for sexual offences is too small and should be used with caution.

Table 3 shows that 891 000 households in South Africa experienced housebreaking in the reference period. Approximately 139 000 households experienced home robbery, 82 000 experienced theft of a motor vehicle, and 42 000 experienced assault.

It is important to note that the sexual offence count in the sample was small, it was not possible to calculate disaggregated estimates of acceptable quality.

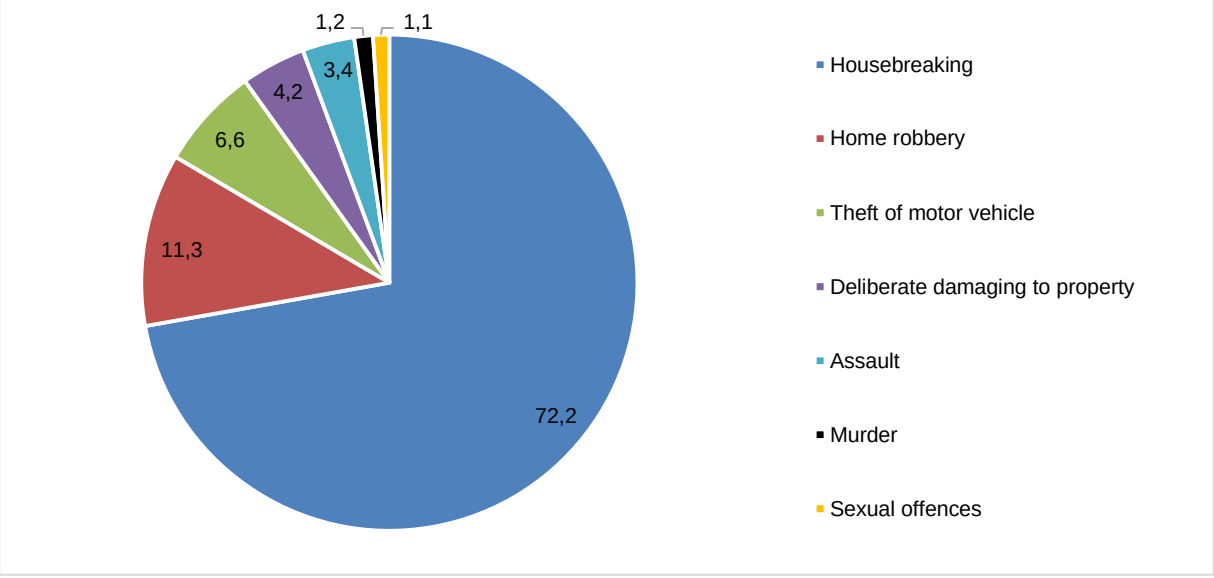
Figure 12: Year-on-year percentage changes on household crime levels, 2018/19–2019/20



Absolute numbers were used in the calculation.
Sample for sexual offences is too small and should be used with caution.

Figure 12 gives a summary of the changes in the levels of crime between 2018/19 and 2019/20 for household crimes. The figure shows that the largest drop in household crime was recorded for assault, which dropped by 58,9%, followed by home robbery (24,4%), sexual offences 14,4%, housebreaking (8,1%), and deliberate damaging of property (3,7%). In contrast to this decline, household crime increased in car theft (21,0%) and murder (28,8%).

Figure 13: Percentage distribution of type of crimes experienced by households in the 12 months preceding the survey, 2018/19–2019/20



Sample for sexual offences is too small and should be used with caution.

Figure 13 above shows the percentage distribution of the type of crimes experienced by households. Housebreaking accounts for 72% of the household crimes, followed by home robbery (11,3%), theft of motor vehicle (6,6%), and deliberate damaging to property at 4,2%. Murder and sexual offences respectively contributed around 1% to the total percentage of household crimes.

3.3 Profile of selected household crime types

3.3.1 Housebreaking or burglary

Only four questions were asked under housebreaking in GPSJS 2019/20. Respondents were asked whether they experienced housebreaking during the past 12 months, how many times, during which months, and whether they reported any incidences to the police.

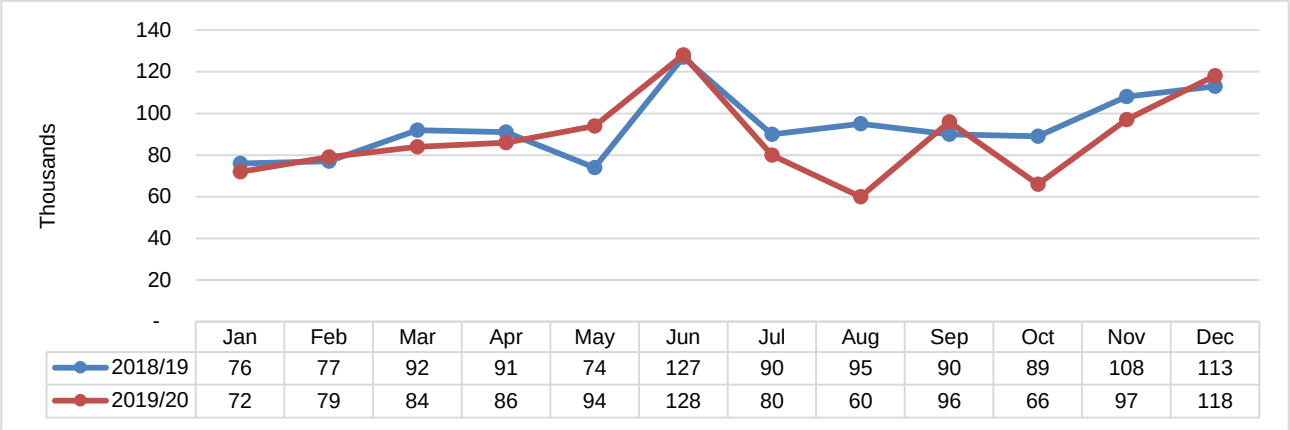
Table 4: Number and percentage of households that experienced housebreaking by sex, monthly household income category, settlement type, and province, 2019/20

Indicator	Number of incidences ('000)	Number of households ('000)	Per cent of households
Sex			
Male	714	540	5,5
Female	450	351	5,0
Income group			
R1 – R1 500	194	149	5,8
R1 501 – R3 500	280	218	4,9
R3 501 – R6 000	177	142	4,7
R6 001 – R16 000	221	160	5,5
R16 001+	291	222	5,7
Urban/rural status			
Urban	296	249	5,7
Rural	303	225	4,6
Metro status			
Metro	564	417	5,5
Non-metro	591	474	5,1
Province			
Western Cape	144	109	5,9
Eastern Cape	121	92	5,5
Northern Cape	27	17	5,2
Free State	45	36	3,9
KwaZulu-Natal	335	214	7,1
North West	50	15	3,7
Gauteng	311	260	5,3
Mpumalanga	68	63	4,9
Limpopo	62	55	3,5

Table 4 shows that male-headed households were more likely to experience housebreaking than female-headed households. On the other hand, households in the lowest income bracket (R1 to R1 500) and those in the highest income bracket (R16 001 and more) were the most likely to experience housebreaking.

In terms of settlement type, households in urban areas were more likely to experience housebreaking while households in the metro and non-metro areas had more or less the same proportions to experience housebreaking. The highest proportion of households that experienced housebreaking were in KwaZulu-Natal, while Limpopo had the lowest proportion of households that experienced housebreaking.

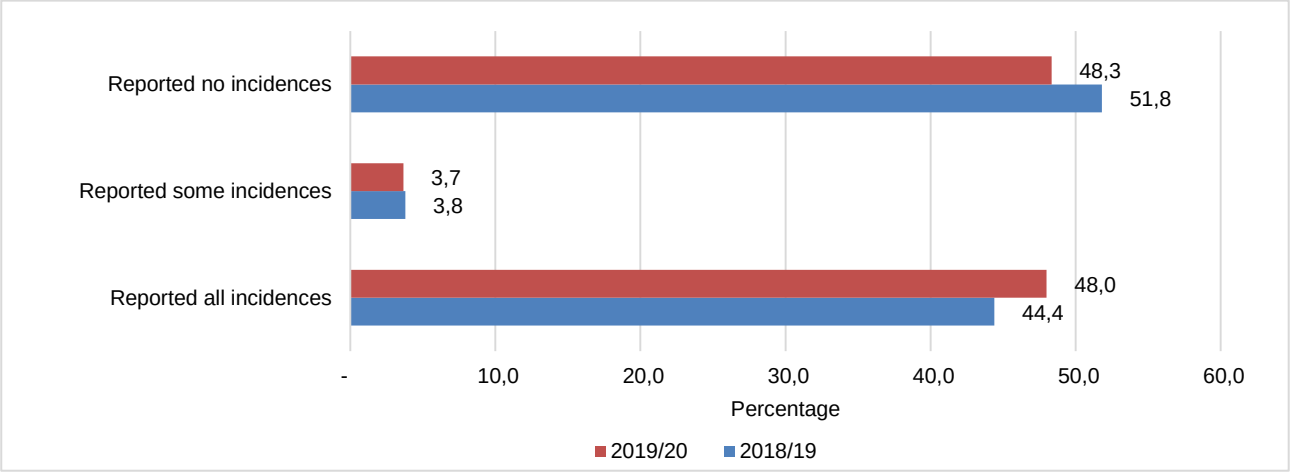
Figure 14: Number of incidences of housebreaking by month, 2018/19 and 2019/20



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2018/19	76	77	92	91	74	127	90	95	90	89	108	113
2019/20	72	79	84	86	94	128	80	60	96	66	97	118

Figure 14 depicts the number of incidences of housebreaking patterns. It is important to note that in 2018/19, housebreaking peaked in June and December while in 2019/20, housebreaking peaked in June, September, and December.

Figure 15: Percentage of households that reported housebreaking to the police, 2018/19–2019/20



The percentage of households who did not report any incidences of housebreaking has decreased by 3,5 percentage points from 51,8% in 2018/19 to 48,3% in 2019/20.

Table 5: Summary statistics for housebreaking 2018/19–2019/20

Indicator	2018/19	2019/20
Number of incidences	1 345	1 164
Number of households that experienced housebreaking ('000)	970	891
Number of households that reported all or some incidences of housebreaking to the police	468	460
Percentage of households that reported all or some incidences of housebreaking to the police	48,2	51,7

The number of incidences of housebreaking decreased from 1,3 million in 2018/19 to 1,2 million in 2019/20. Similarly, the number of households that experienced housebreaking decreased from 970 000 in 2018/19 to 891 000 in 2019/20. However, the percentage of households that reported the incidences to the police increased from 48,2% in 2018/19 to 51,7% in 2019/20.

3.3.2 Home robbery

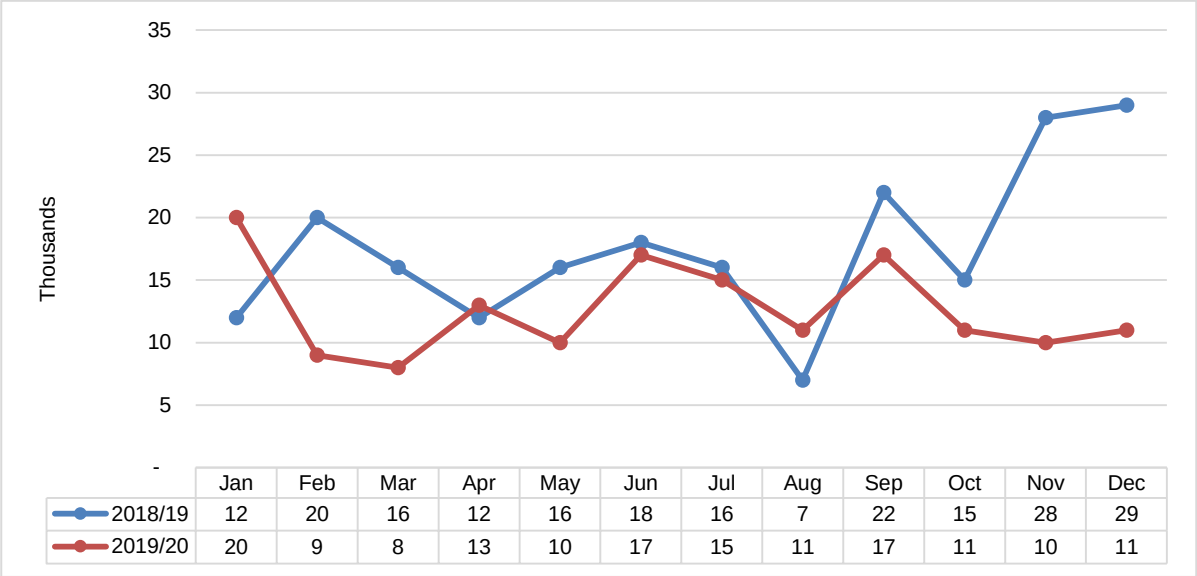
The GPSJS 2019/20 had ten questions on home robbery. In addition to the four standard questions, there were questions on whether any weapons were used, the type of weapons used, whether anyone died during the home robbery, the number of people who died, and whether any of the dead were members of the household.

Table 6: Number and percentage of households that experienced home robbery by sex, monthly household income category, settlement type, and province, 2019/20

Indicator	Number of incidences ('000)	Number of households ('000)	Per cent of households
Sex			
Male	93	76	0,8
Female	76	63	0,9
Income group			
R1 – R1 500	33	25	1,0
R1 501 – R3 500	35	31	0,7
R3 501 – R6 000	30	27	0,9
R6 001 – R16 000	26	26	0,9
R16 001+	45	31	0,8
Urban/rural status			
Urban	44	36	0,8
Rural	49	44	0,9
Metro status			
Metro	75	60	0,8
Non-metro	94	79	0,9
Province			
Western Cape	17	12	0,7
Eastern Cape	17	14	0,8
Northern Cape	4	3	1,0
Free State	7	5	0,5
KwaZulu-Natal	29	25	0,8
North West	16	11	0,9
Gauteng	55	47	1,0
Mpumalanga	14	13	1,0
Limpopo	9	8	0,5

Table 6 shows that female-headed households were more likely to experience home robbery than male-headed households. The result further shows that households in rural areas were more likely to experience home robbery while households in urban areas were the least to experience home robbery. The highest proportion of households that experienced home robbery were in Northern Cape, Gauteng, and Mpumalanga.

Figure 16: Number of incidences of home robbery by month, 2018/19–2019/20



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2018/19	12	20	16	12	16	18	16	7	22	15	28	29
2019/20	20	9	8	13	10	17	15	11	17	11	10	11

Figure 16 shows that in 2018/19, home robbery peaked in February, June, September, and November. The peak did not change much between November and December. In 2019/20, there was a peak in January and a spike in June and September.

Figure 17: Use of weapons during a home robbery

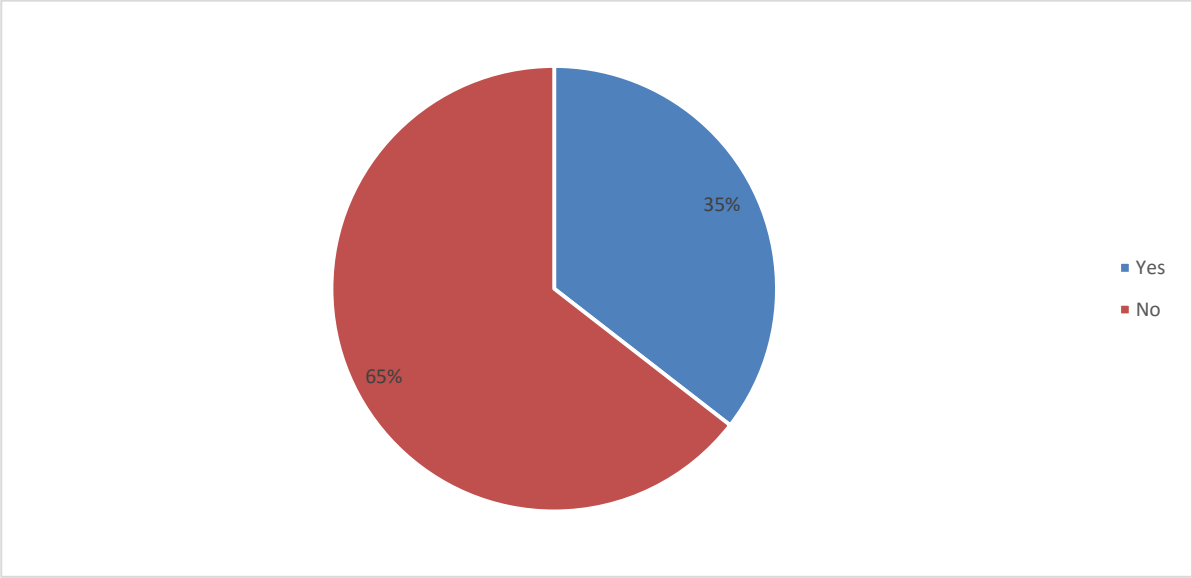
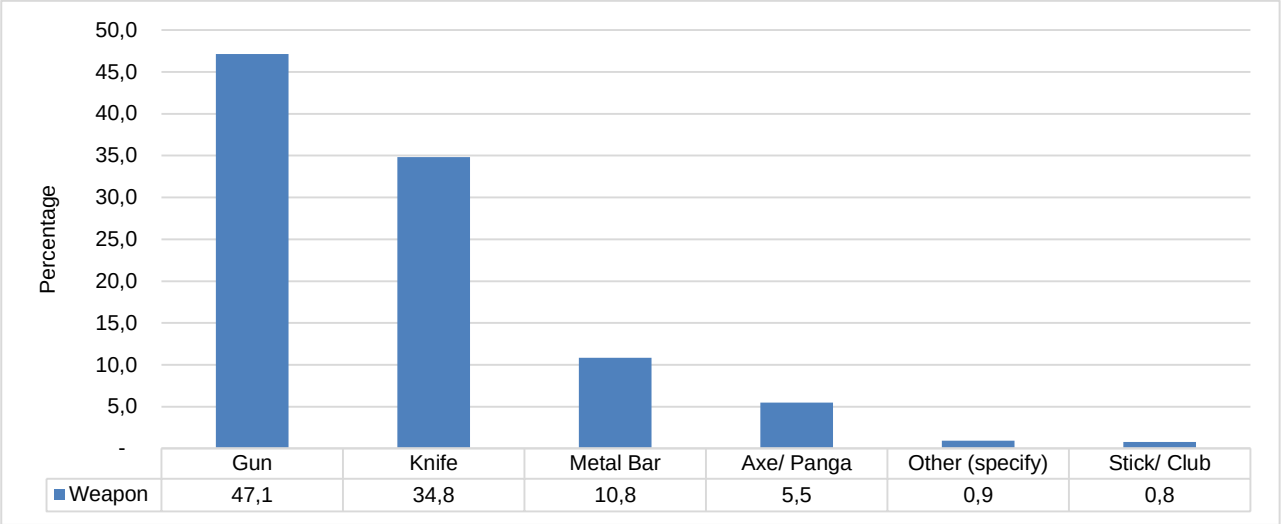


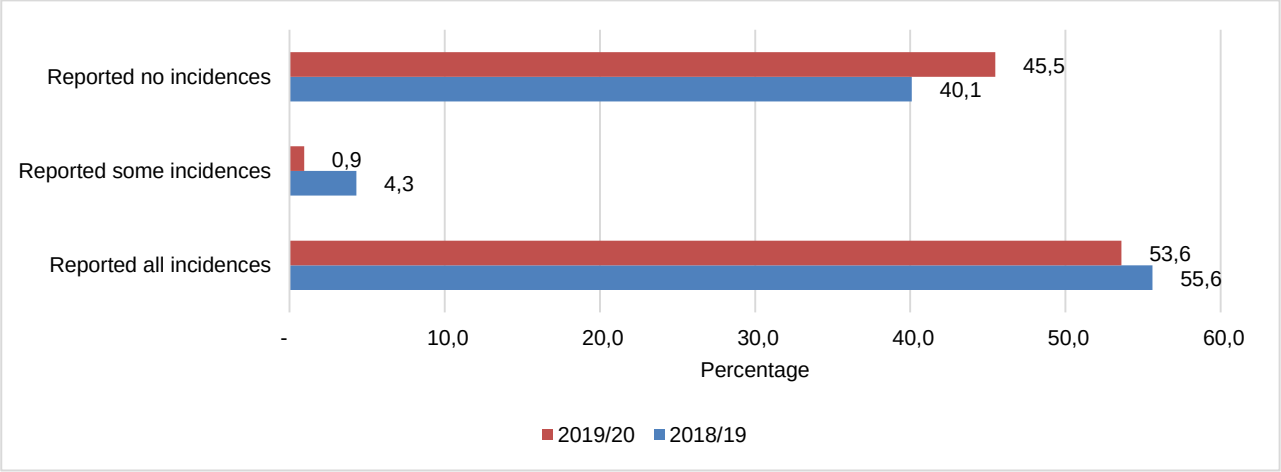
Figure 17 shows that weapons were used in 35% of the incidences where households were subjected to home robberies.

Figure 18: Percentage of time specified weapons were used during home robbery



Guns were the preferred weapons used in home robberies (47,1%), followed by knives (34,8%), metal bars (10,8%), and axes/pangas (5,5%).

Figure 19: Percentage of households that reported home robbery to the police



The proportion of households who reported all or some incidences of housebreaking declined by 5,4 percentage points from 59,9% in 2018/19 to 54,5% in 2019/20, as shown in Figure 19.

Table 7: Summary statistics home robbery 2018/19–2019/20

Indicator	2018/19	2019/20
Number of incidences	264	169
Number of households that experienced home robbery ('000)	184	139
Number of households that reported some or all incidences of home robbery to the police	99	76
Percentage of households that reported some or all incidences of home robbery to the police	59,9	54,5

Table 7 shows that the number of incidences of home robbery decreased from 264 000 in 2018/19 to 169 000 in 2019/20. Also, the number of households that experienced housebreaking declined from 184 000 in 2018/19 to 139 000 in 2019/20. However, the percentage of households that reported the incidences to the police decreased from 59,9% in 2018/19 to 54,5% in 2019/20.

3.3.3 Assault

There were eight questions on household experience of assault. All questions asked on home robbery were asked about assault and, also, there was a question regarding the perpetrator. Table 7 below presents disaggregated estimates of the total number of victims, the number of households, and the percentage of households that experienced an assault during the past 12 months.

Table 8: Number and percentage of households that experienced assault by sex, monthly household income category, settlement type, and province, 2019/20

Indicator	Number of incidences ('000)	Number of households ('000)	Per cent of households
Sex			
Male	28	25	0,3
Female	20	17	0,2
Income group			
R1 – R1 500	10	7	0,3
R1 501 – R3 500	8	7	0,2
R3 501 – R6 000	11	11	0,4
R6 001 – R16 000	10	8	0,3
R16 001+	8	8	0,2
Urban/rural status			
Urban	13	13	0,3
Rural	9	7	0,1
Metro status			
Metro	25	22	0,3
Non-metro	22	20	0,2

Table 8 shows that male-headed households were more likely to experience assault than female-headed households were. Households in the urban areas were more likely to experience assault than households in the rural areas were. It is also evident that households who have a total monthly income between R3 501 and R6 000 had the highest percentage of households that experienced assault.

Urban areas recorded a higher percentage of households that experienced assault compared to rural areas.

Figure 20: Number of incidences of assault by month

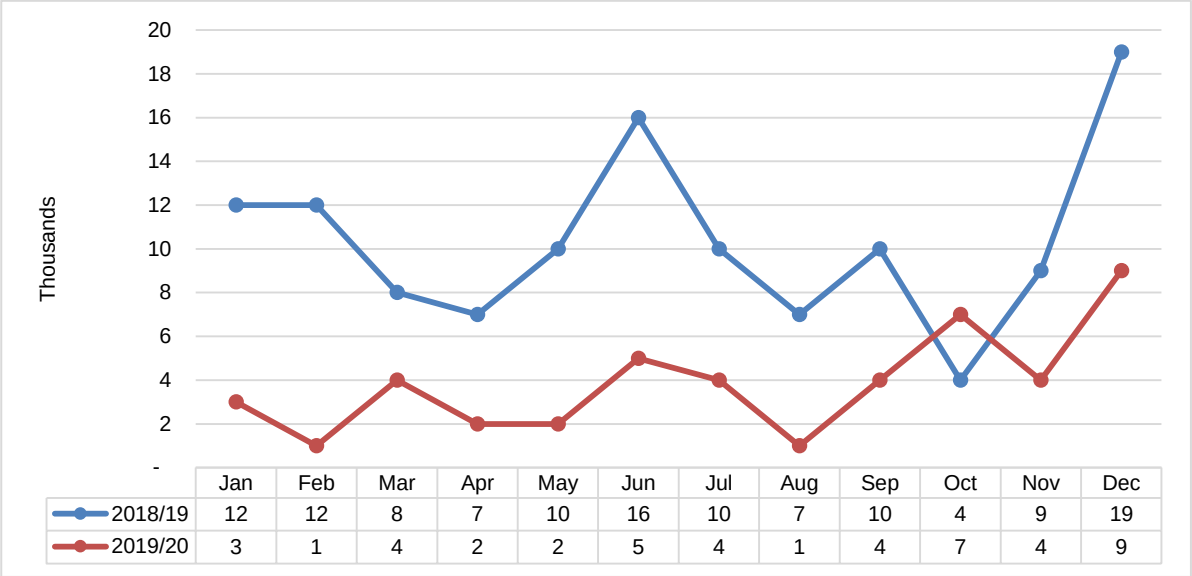


Figure 20 shows that in 2018/19, incidences of assault peaked in June and December. Furthermore, the figure shows that the incidences of assault in 2019/20 were lower than those recorded in 2018/19; however, there was a peak in March, June, October, and December.

Figure 21: Percentage of assaults committed by a specified perpetrator

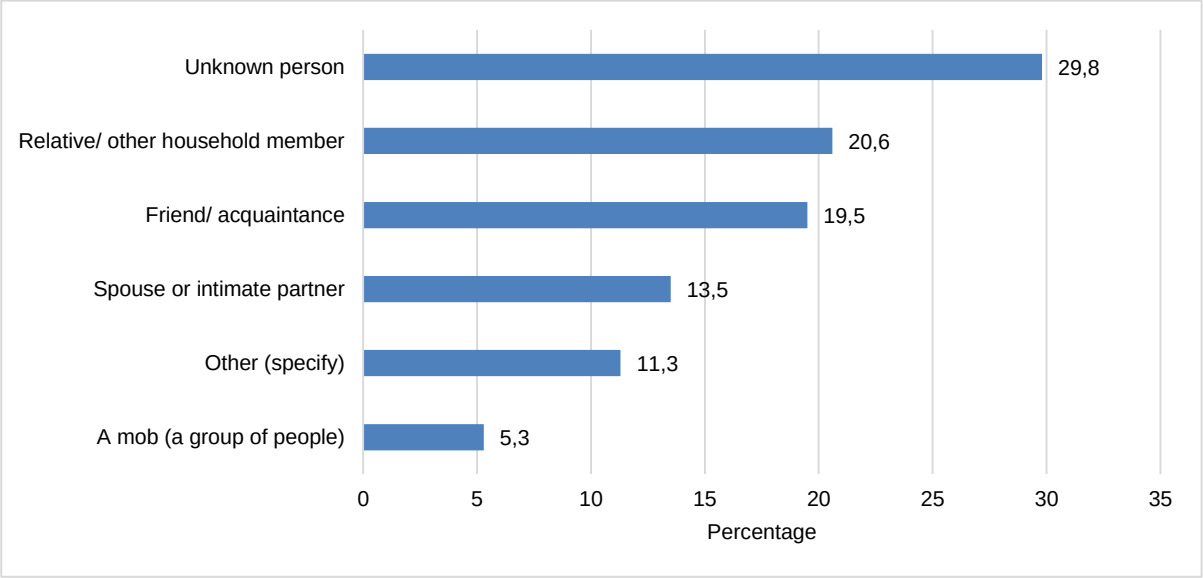
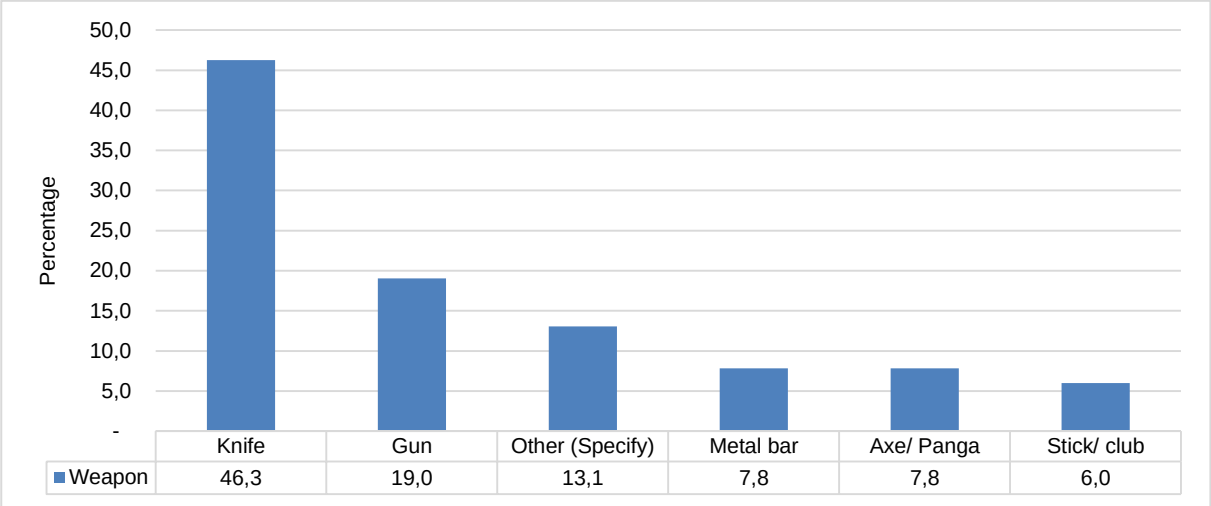


Figure 21 indicates that more than half of the assaults were committed by someone close, such as a relative or other household member (20,6%), a friend or acquaintance (19,5%), and a spouse or intimate partner (13,5%), while thirty per cent (29,8%) of the assaults were committed by an unknown person and 5,3% were assaults perpetrated by mobs.

Figure 22: Percentage of households that experienced assault with specified weapon



The most preferred weapons used during assault incidents were knives (46,3%), followed by guns (19,0%), metal bars (7,8%), and axes/pangas (7,8%). About six per cent of perpetrators used sticks/clubs (6,0%) as a weapon.

Figure 23: Percentage of households that reported assault to the police

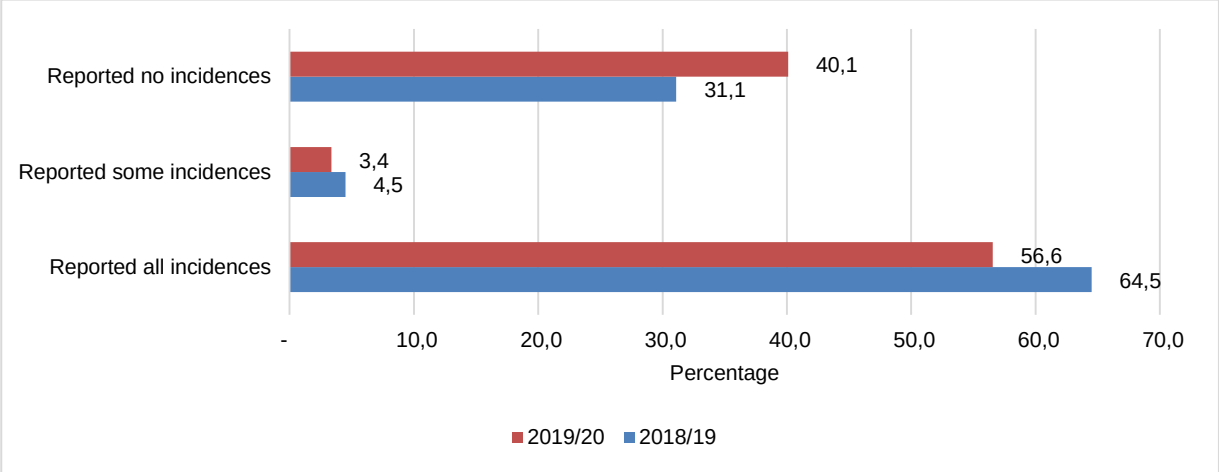


Figure 23 shows that there is a nine percentage points increase between 2018/19 to 2019/20 (from 31,1% to 40,1%) in terms of households that did not report any incidences of assault to the police.

Table 9: Summary statistics assault 2018/19–2019/20

Indicator	2018/19	2019/20
Number of incidences	133	48
Number of households that experienced assault ('000)	103	42
Number of households that reported some or all incidences of assault to the police	72	25
Percentage of households that reported some or all incidences of assault to the police	69,0	60,0

Table 9 shows that both the number of incidences of assault and the number of households that experienced assault has decreased between 2018/19 and 2019/20. Equally, the number of households that reported at least one incidence of assault to the police has declined between 2018/19 to 2019/20 (declining from 69,0% to 60,0%).

3.3.4 Theft of a motor vehicle

Respondents were asked whether they experienced theft of a motor vehicle during the past 12 months, how many times, during which months, and whether they reported any incidences to the police.

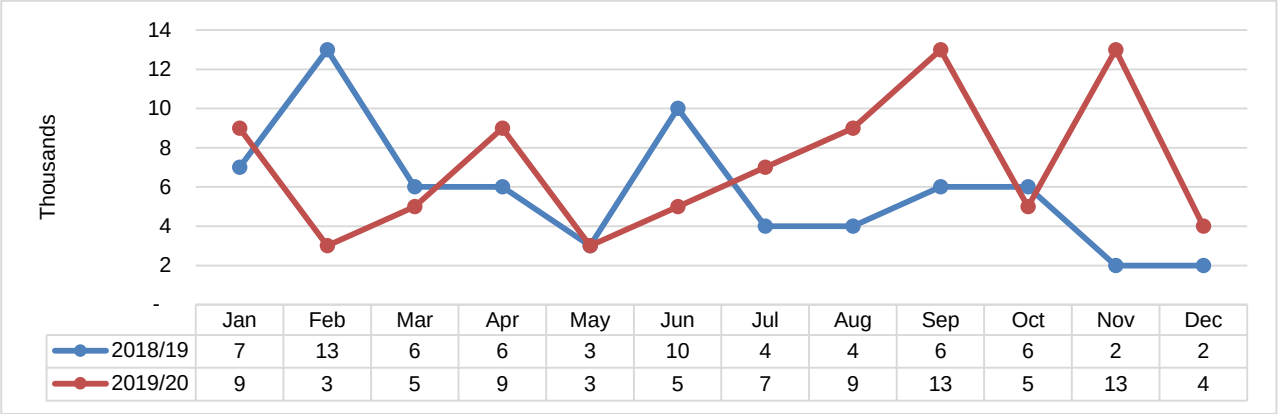
Table 10: Number and percentage of households that experienced theft of motor vehicle by sex, monthly household income category, settlement type, and province, 2019/20

Indicator	Number of incidences ('000)	Number of households ('000)	Per cent of households
Sex			
Male	66	61	0,6
Female	22	21	0,3
Income group			
R1 – R1 500	7	7	0,3
R1 501 – R3 500	9	7	0,2
R3 501 – R6 000	11	9	0,3
R6 001 – R16 000	16	16	0,5
R16 001+	45	44	1,1
Urban/rural status			
Urban	24	21	0,5
Rural	10	8	0,2
Metro status			
Metro	54	53	0,7
Non-metro	34	30	0,3
Province			
Western Cape	11	11	0,6
Eastern Cape	9	8	0,5
Northern Cape	2	1	0,4
Free State	5	4	0,4
KwaZulu-Natal	5	4	0,2
North West	4	4	0,3
Gauteng	47	45	0,9
Mpumalanga	5	5	0,4
Limpopo	1	1	0,0

Table 10 shows that male-headed households were more likely to experience car theft than female-headed households. Similarly, households in metros were more likely to experience car theft than households in non-metro areas.

In terms of provinces, Gauteng (45 000) recorded the highest number of households that experienced car theft, followed by Western Cape (11 000) and Eastern Cape (8 000). Limpopo and Northern Cape had the least number of households that experienced car theft (1 000, respectively).

Figure 24: Number of incidences of theft of motor vehicle by month



In 2018/19, theft of motor vehicle incidences peaked in February, June, and September, while in 2019/20, the incidences peaked in January, April, September, and November. Figure 24 further shows that in February 2018/19, reported incidences peaked; however, these declined in 2019/20 during the same period, while in November 2018/19 the incidences declined and peaked in 2019/20 of the same period.

Figure 25: Percentage of households that reported theft of motor vehicles to the police

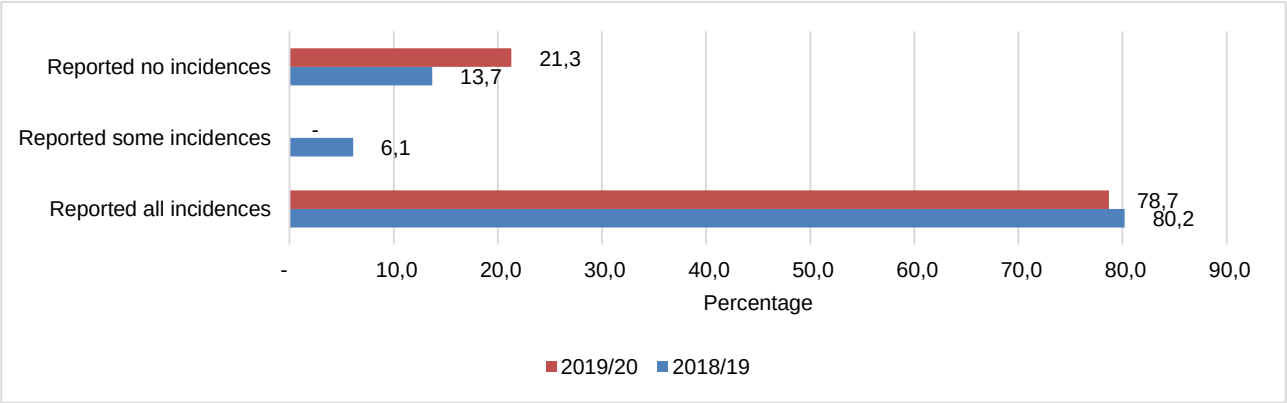


Figure 25 shows the changes in the levels of crime reporting to police. The results show that more than twenty per cent (21,3%) of households did not report any incidences of car theft to the police in 2019/20 compared to 13,7% in 2018/19.

Table 11: Summary statistics theft of motor vehicle 2018/19–2019/20

Indicator	2018/19	2019/20
Number of incidences	83	88
Number of households that experienced theft of motor vehicle ('000)	68	82
Number of households that reported all or some incidences of theft of motor vehicle to the police	59	65
Percentage of households that reported all or some incidences of theft of motor vehicle to the police	86,3	78,7

In summary, the number of incidences of car theft increased from 83 000 in 2018/19 to 88 000 in 2019/20. The number of households that experienced car theft increased from 68 000 in 2018/19 to 82 000 in 2019/20. The percentage of households that reported the incidences to the police decreased from 86,3% in 2018/19 to 78,7% in 2019/20.

3.3.5 Deliberate damaging, burning, or destruction of residential dwellings

Four questions were asked about this household crime. Respondents were asked whether they experienced deliberate damaging, burning, or destruction of residential dwellings during the past 12 months, how many times, during which months, and whether they reported any incidences to the police.

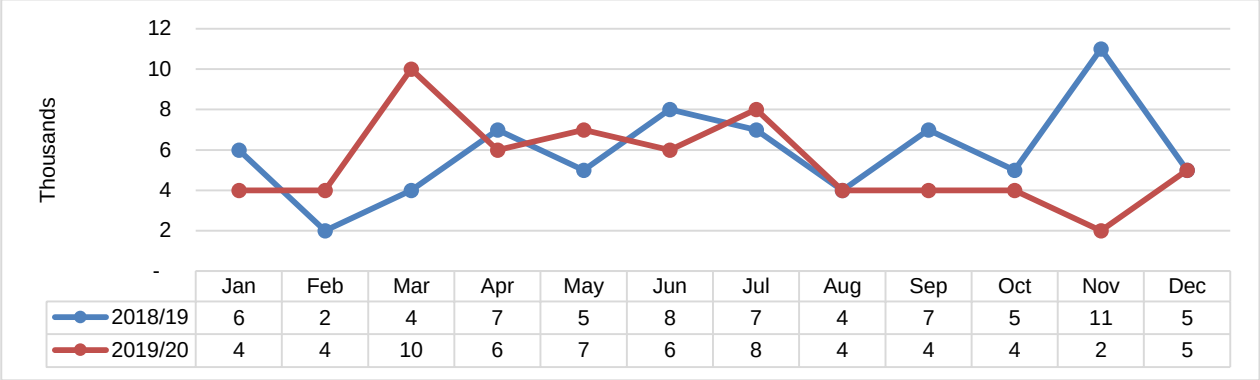
Table 12: Number and percentage of households that experienced deliberate damaging of a residential dwelling by sex, monthly household income category, settlement type, and province, 2019/20

Indicator	Number of incidences ('000)	Number of households ('000)	Per cent of households
Sex			
Male	44	31	0,3
Female	28	20	0,3
Income Group			
R1 – R1 500	8	7	0,3
R1 501 – R3 500	15	11	0,2
R3 501 – R6 000	9	6	0,2
R6 001 – R16 000	11	9	0,3
R16 001+	28	19	0,5
Urban/rural status			
Urban	15	13	0,3
Rural	13	10	0,2
Metro status			
Metro	43	28	0,4
Non-metro	29	24	0,3
Province			
Western Cape	13	8	0,4
Eastern Cape	8	6	0,4
Northern Cape	3	3	1,0
Free State	1	1	0,1
KwaZulu-Natal	10	8	0,3
North West	3	3	0,3
Gauteng	32	20	0,4
Mpumalanga	*	*	*
Limpopo	2	2	0,1

* Unweighted numbers of 3 and below per cell are too small to provide reliable estimates.

Male-headed households and households in metros were more likely to experience deliberate damaging, burning, or destruction of residential dwellings than female-headed households and households in non-metros. The highest number of households that experienced deliberate damaging, burning, or destruction of residential dwellings were observed in Gauteng (20 000), Western Cape (8 000), and KwaZulu-Natal (8 000).

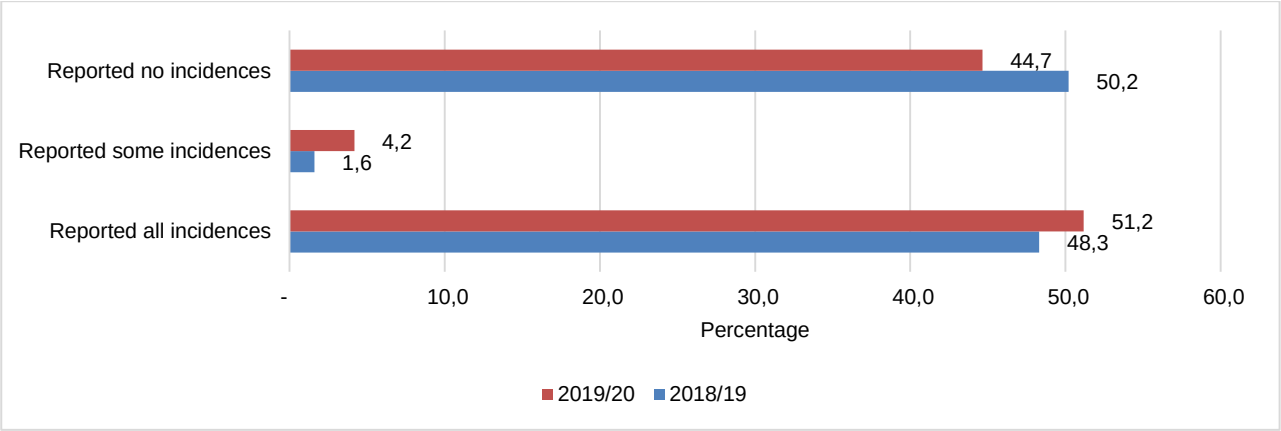
Figure 26: Number of incidences of deliberate damaging, burning or destruction of residential dwellings by month



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2018/19	6	2	4	7	5	8	7	4	7	5	11	5
2019/20	4	4	10	6	7	6	8	4	4	4	2	5

Figure 26 shows that deliberate damaging, burning, or destruction of residential dwelling incidences peaked in January, April, June, and November in 2018/19, while in 2019/20, the peak was seen in March and July. Contrary to November 2018/19, deliberate damaging, burning, or destruction of residential dwellings declined in November 2019/20.

Figure 27: Percentage of households that reported deliberate damaging, burning, or destruction of residential dwellings to the police



By contrast, more than half (55,4%) of households reported some or all the incidences of deliberate damaging, burning, or destruction of residential dwellings to the police in 2019/20 compared to 2018/19 (49,9%).

Table 13: Summary statistics, deliberate damaging, burning, or destruction of residential dwellings, 2018/19–2019/20

Indicator	2018/19	2019/20
Number of incidences	70	72
Number of households that experienced deliberate, burning, or destruction of residential dwellings ('000)	54	52
Number of households that reported all or some incidences of deliberate, burning, or destruction of residential dwellings to the police	27	29
Percentage of households that reported all or some incidences of deliberate burning, or destruction of residential dwellings to the police	49,9	55,4

Table 13 shows that the number of incidences increased by 2 000 between 2018/19 and 2019/20, and the number of households that experienced the same crime also decreased by the same margin (declining from 54 000 in 2018/19 to 52 000 in 2019/20). However, the results show that the reporting levels have increased from 49,9% in 2018/19 to 55,4% in 2019/20.

3.3.6 Murder

The term "murder" in GPSJS includes what SAPS refers to as "culpable homicide or unintentional killing of a human being". Stats SA understands the importance of distinguishing between murder and culpable homicide, but it is not feasible to collect such information from household surveys where respondents may not understand the difference between the two. It may be a challenge even at police stations for an officer to determine whether the case being reported is murder or homicide.

Since the murder count in the sample was small, it was not possible to calculate disaggregated estimates of acceptable quality.

Table 14: Murder statistics for 2018/19–2019/20

Indicator	2018/19	2019/20
Number of incidences (000s)	12	16*
Number of households that experienced murder	12	15
Number of households that reported all or some incidences of murder to the police	12	15
Percentage of households that reported all or some incidences of murder to the police	100,0	100,0

* Includes incidences that occurred during a home robbery.

The number of incidences of murder increased from 12 000 in 2018/19 to 16 000 in 2019/20 as shown in Table 14. On the other hand, the number of households that experienced murder rose from 12 000 in 2018/19 to 15 000 in 2019/20. All incidences were reported to the police in both periods.

3.3.7 Sexual offences

Given the sensitive nature of sexual offences and the context of household-based interviews, sexual offences are thought to be underreported in the GPSJS, and it is likely that most of those individuals who have already reported sexual offences to the police will proceed to also report it to the survey officer who is collecting the data.

It is important to note that the sexual offence count in the sample was small; it was not possible to calculate disaggregated estimates of acceptable quality.

Table 15: Sexual offences statistics for 2018/19–2019/20

Indicator	2018/19	2019/20
Number of incidences (000s)	17	13*
Number of households that experienced sexual offences (000s)	15	13*
Number of households that reported all or some incidences of sexual offences to the police	10	8*
Percentage of households that reported all or some incidences of sexual offences to the police	69,0	59,9

* Sample is too small and should be used with caution.

About six out of every ten households that experienced sexual offences reported them to the police, as shown in Table 15.

3.4 Summary

Data shows that 891 000 households in South Africa experienced housebreaking in the reference period, which was followed by households that experienced home robbery at approximately 139 000. Sexual offences and murder were experienced the least.

Furthermore, it can be seen that housebreaking was mostly experienced by male-headed households and households in rural areas. Housebreaking peaked in June in both the 2018/19 and 2019/20 periods. Almost 48,2% and 51,7% of victims of housebreaking reported the incidences to the police in 2018/19 and 2019/20, respectively.

Home robbery was most likely to be experienced by female-headed households and households belonging to the lowest monthly household income bracket. Similarly, households in rural areas were more likely to experience home robbery than households in metro areas.

Weapons were used in 35,0% of home robberies and guns (47,1%) were the preferred weapons used in home robberies. About 55% (54,5%) and 60% (59,9%) of households reported home robberies to the police in 2018/19 and 2019/20, respectively.

4. Individual experience of crime

4.1 Introduction

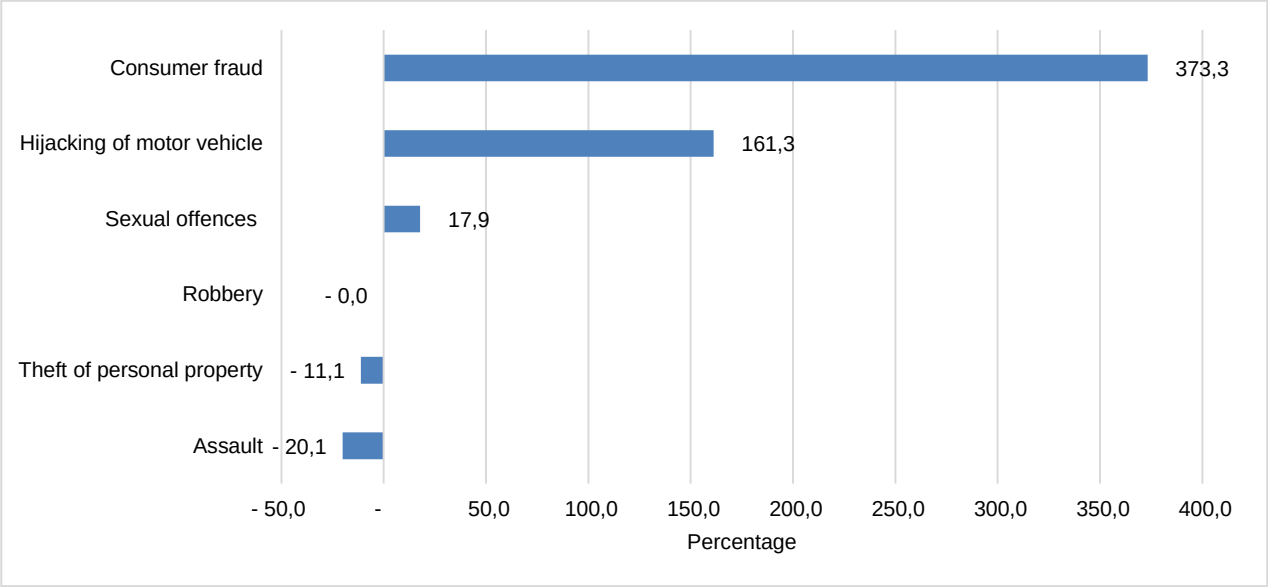
This section focuses on crimes experienced by individual members of households aged 16 years and older. As mentioned earlier in the report, the survey of children under 16 requires more resources due to legislation on child welfare. The respondent is a randomly selected member of a sampled household aged 16 years or older at the time of the interview.

Table 16: Number and percentage of individuals that experienced a specific type of crime in the 12 months preceding the survey, 2018/19–2019/20

Indicator	Number in thousands	2018/19	2019/20
Theft of personal property	Number	1 015	902
	Per cent	2,5	2,2
Robbery	Number	452	451
	Per cent	1,1	1,1
Assault	Number	281	224
	Per cent	0,7	0,6
Consumer fraud	Number	81	384
	Per cent	0,2	1,0
Hijacking of motor vehicle	Number	32	85
	Per cent	0,1	0,2
Sexual offence	Number	26	31
	Per cent	0,1	0,1

Table 16 indicates that in 2019/20, most (902 000) of South Africans aged 16 years and older experienced theft of personal property, followed by those who experienced robbery (451 000) and consumer fraud (384 000). It can further be seen that 224 000 experienced assault and 85 000 experienced hijacking of motor vehicles in the 12 months prior to the survey. A total of 31 000 persons aged 16 years and older experienced sexual offences.

Figure 28: Year-on-year percentage changes on individual crime levels, 2018/19–2019/20

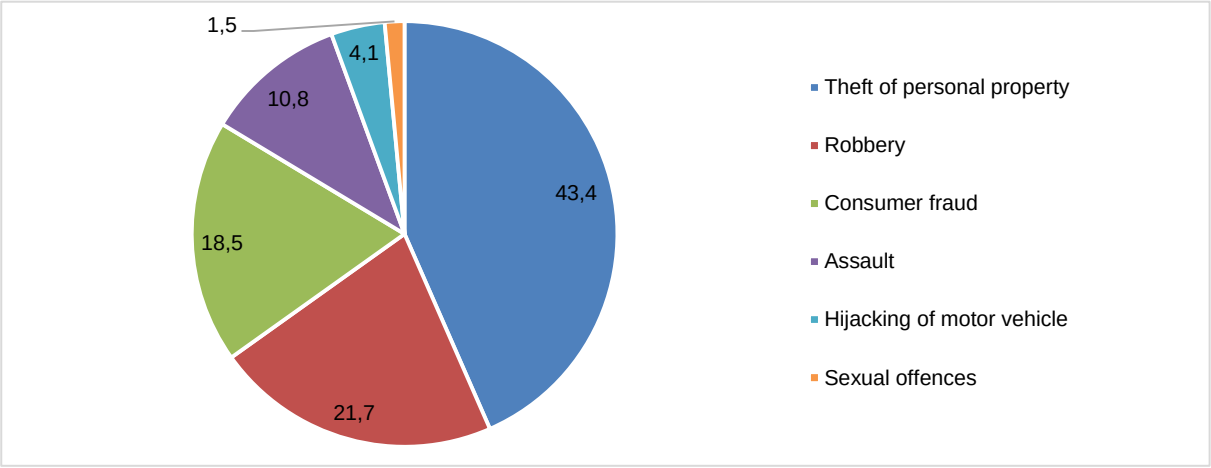


Consumer fraud includes advance-fee fraud (e.g. R99 debit/ credit card scam, 419 scams, online shopping).

Figure 28 also shows that between 2018/19 and 2019/20, there has been a 373,3% increase in the number of individuals who experienced consumer fraud. A larger proportion of these incidences is attributed to advance-fee fraud (e.g. R99 credit/debit card scams and 419 scams).

This is followed by a 161,3% increase in hijacking of motor vehicles and a 17,9% increase in sexual offences. There is no change in the number of robberies while theft of personal property decreased by 11,1%. Assault decreased by 20,1% between 2018/19 and 2019/20.

Figure 29: Percentage distribution of type of crimes experienced by individuals in the 12 months preceding the survey, 2018/19–2019/20



Theft of personal property is the most common type of crime experienced by individuals. Almost four in every ten crimes committed against individuals involve the theft of personal property (43,4%). Street or common robbery is the second most common type of crime experienced by individuals with two in every ten of the crimes against individuals being street robbery (21,7%). The least common crime experienced by individuals is sexual offences (1,5%).

4.2 Profile of selected individual crime types

4.2.1 Theft of personal property

Table 17: Number and percentage of individuals that experienced theft of personal property by sex, monthly household income category, and settlement type, 2019/20

Indicator	Number of incidences ('000)	Number of individuals ('000)	Per cent of individuals
Sex			
Male	521	447	2,3
Female	587	454	2,2
Income group			
R1 – R1 500	74	71	1,6
R1 501 – R3 500	247	179	1,7
R3 501 – R6 000	188	167	2,1
R6 001 – R16 000	228	183	2,4
R16 001+	370	301	3,0
Urban/rural status			
Urban	290	223	2,2
Rural	111	103	0,9
Metro status			
Metro	707	575	3,1
Non-metro	401	327	1,5

Table 17 shows that males were more likely to experience theft of personal property than females. Persons living in the urban and metros areas were most likely to experience theft of personal property. The results show that persons in the highest monthly household income group (R16 001+) were most likely to experience theft of personal property.

Figure 30: Percentage of victims of theft of personal property in different age groups, 2019/20

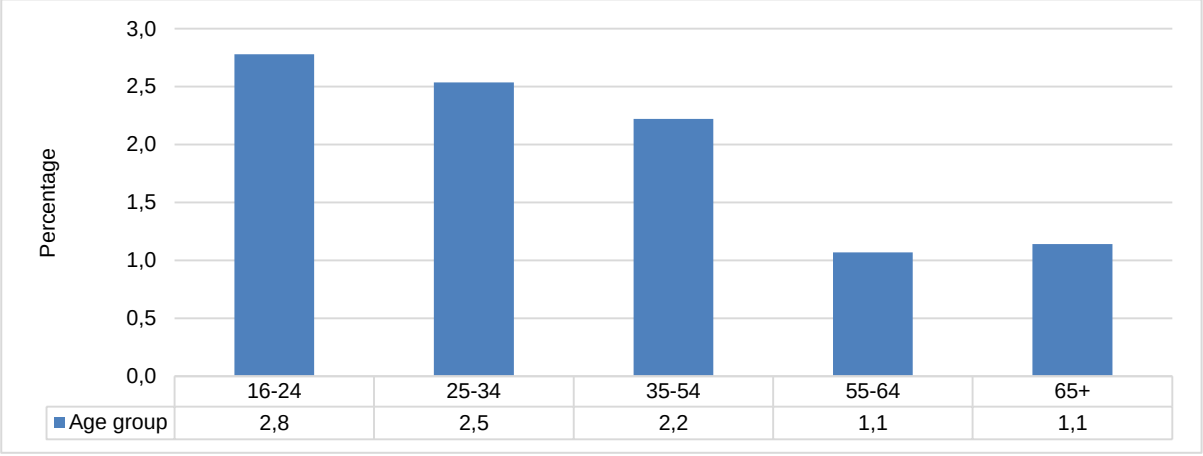
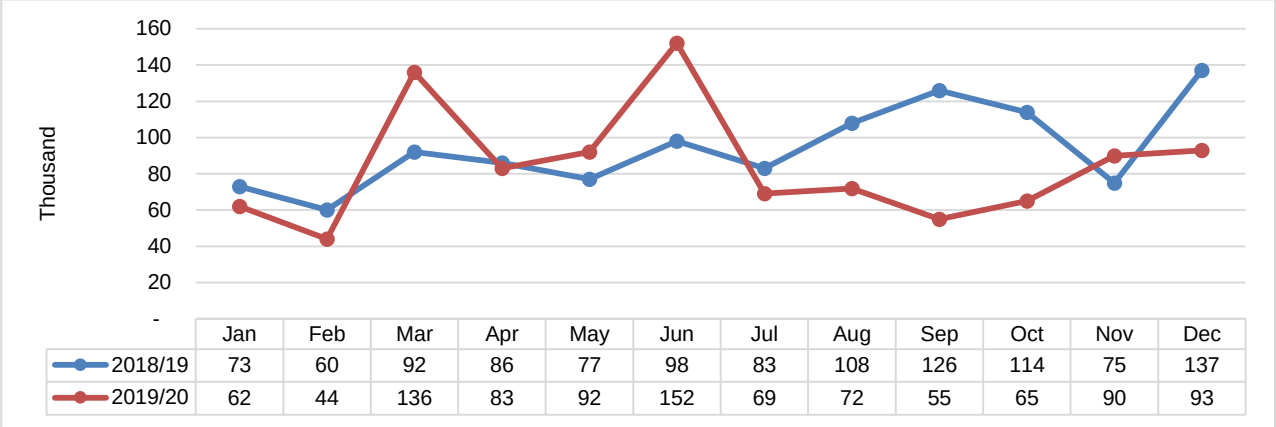


Figure 30 depicts an interesting relationship between age and vulnerability to theft of personal property. The young were the most likely to lose personal property through theft.

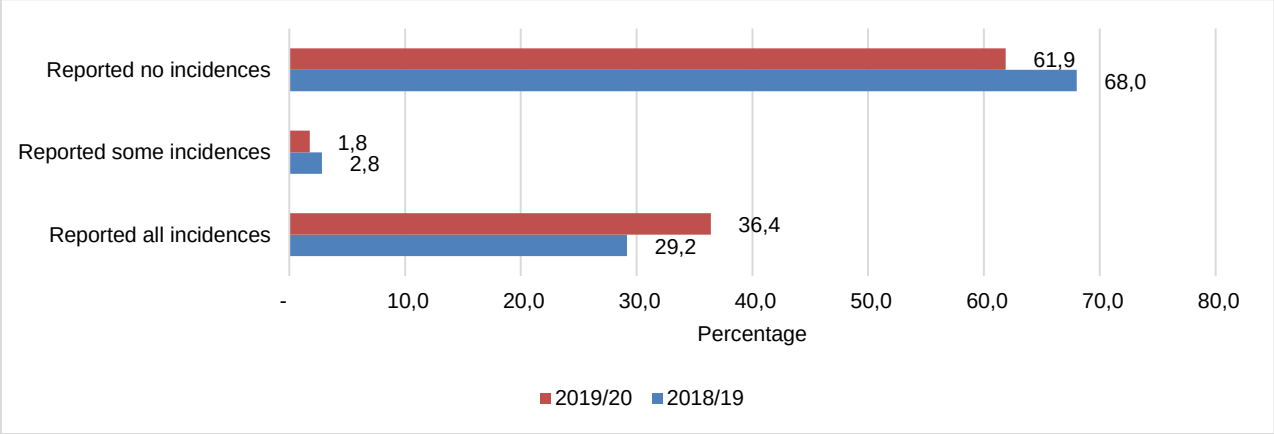
Figure 31: Number of theft of personal property for individuals aged 16 and older by month, 2018/19–2019/20



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2018/19	73	60	92	86	77	98	83	108	126	114	75	137
2019/20	62	44	136	83	92	152	69	72	55	65	90	93

Figure 31 shows that incidences of theft of personal property peaked in January, March, June, September, and December in 2018/19, while in 2019/20, incidences peaked in March and June. In September of 2019/20, there was a decline in the incidences of theft of personal property in contrast with September of 2018/19.

Figure 32: Percentage of victims that reported the theft of personal property to the police



The results show that 61,9% of victims of theft of personal property did not report the incidences in 2019/20 compared to 68,0% in 2018/19.

Table 18: Summary of statistics on theft of personal property

Indicator	2018/19	2019/20
Number of incidents (‘000)	1 241	1 108
Number of victims (‘000)	1 015	902
Number of victims who reported at least one incidence (‘000)	325	344
Percentage of victims who reported at least one incidence	32,0	38,2

The number of incidences of theft of personal property decreased from 1,2 million in 2018/19 to 1,1 million in 2019/20. The number of individuals who experienced theft of personal property decreased from 1,0 million in 2018/19 to 902 000 in 2019/20. The percentage of individulas that reported the incidences to the police increased from 32,0% in 2018/19 to 38,2% in 2019/20.

4.2.2 Robbery

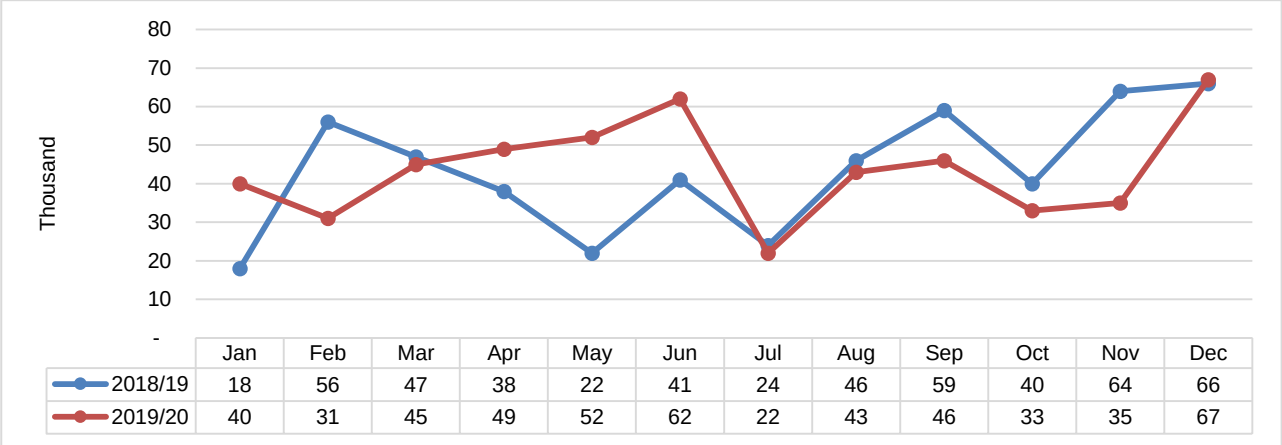
Street robbery or simply robbery is when there is contact between the perpetrator or perpetrators and the victim away from home. It excludes home robbery and car or truck hijacking. Seven questions were asked, most of them similar to the questions asked about other contact crimes.

Table 19: Number and percentage of individuals that experienced robbery by sex, monthly household income category, and settlement type, 2019/20

Indicator	Number of incidences ('000)	Number of individuals ('000)	Per cent of individuals
Sex			
Male	309	244	1,2
Female	258	208	1,0
Income group			
R1 – R1 500	60	51	1,1
R1 501 – R3 500	105	94	0,9
R3 501 – R6 000	116	86	1,1
R6 001 – R16 000	136	103	1,4
R16 001+	151	118	1,2
Urban/rural status			
Urban	123	84	0,8
Rural	44	43	0,4
Metro status			
Metro	401	324	1,8
Non-metro	167	127	0,6

Table 19 shows that males were more likely to be victims of street robbery than females. Those who live in metro areas were more likely to be victims of robbery than people in non-metro areas. Similarly, people who reside in urban areas were more likely to be victims of robbery than people in rural areas.

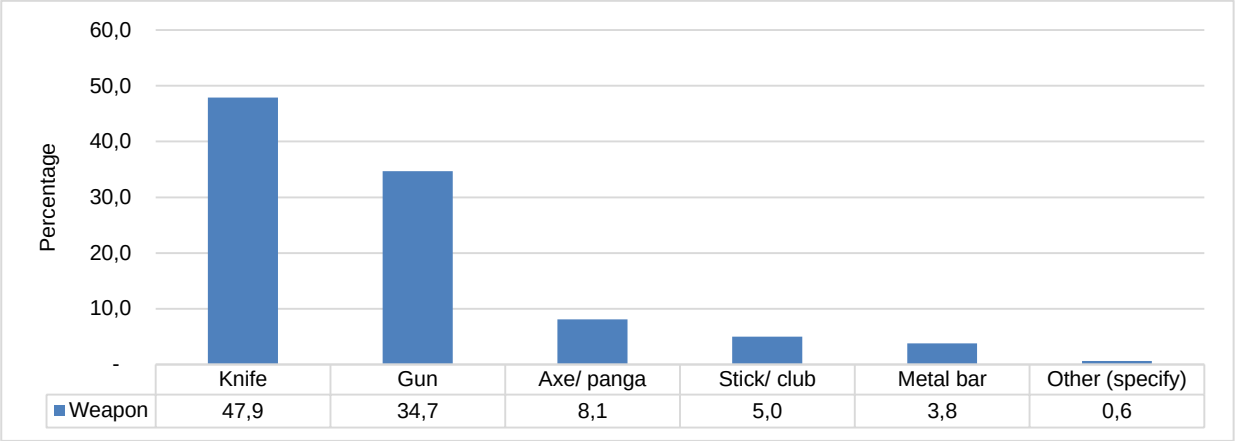
Figure 33: Number of street robberies for individuals aged 16 and older by month



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2018/19	18	56	47	38	22	41	24	46	59	40	64	66
2019/20	40	31	45	49	52	62	22	43	46	33	35	67

Figure 33 shows that in 2018/19, street robberies peaked in February, June, September, and December. However, in 2019/20, the peak was seen in June and December. February and November of 2019/20 showed a decline when compared with the same months of 2018/19.

Figure 34: Percentage of incidences where specific weapons were used during a street robbery



Knives were used in 47,9% of the street robberies while 34,7% used guns in street robberies, as shown in Figure 34.

Figure 35: Percentage of victims that reported street robbery to the police

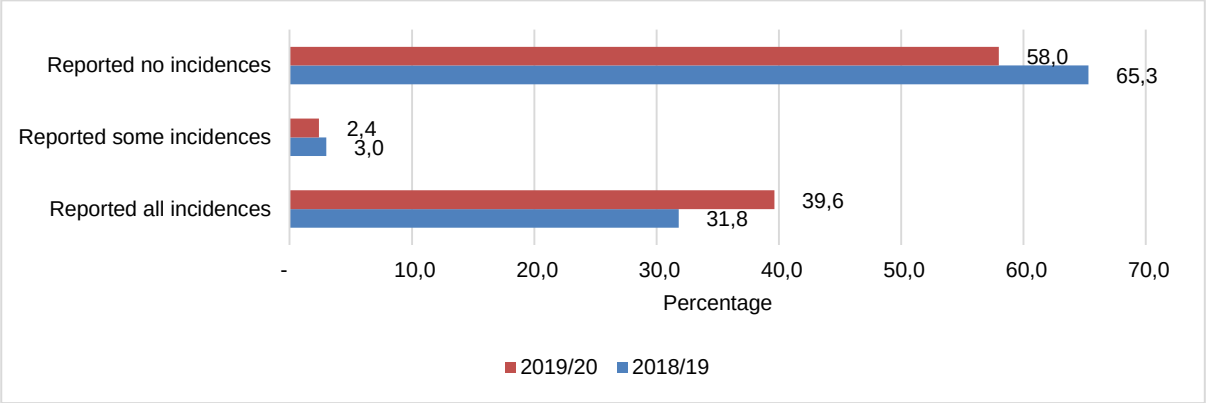


Figure 35 shows that more victims of street robbery reported some or all the incidences to the police in 2019/20 than in 2018/19 (42,0% vs 34,8%).

Table 20: Summary of statistics on street robbery

Indicator	2018/19	2019/20
Number of incidents (‘000)	581	567
Number of victims of street robbery(‘000)	451	451
Number of victims of street robbery who reported at least one incidence (‘000)	172	189
Percentage of victims of street robbery who reported at least one incidence	34,8	42,0

Table 20 shows that the number of incidences of street robbery decreased from 581 000 in 2018/19 to 567 000 in 2019/20. The number of individuals who experienced street robbery remained the same at 451 000 in both 2018/19 and 2019/20. However, the percentage of individuals who reported the incidences to the police increased from 34,8% in 2018/19 to 42,0% in 2019/20.

4.2.3 Assault

Assault is defined as the direct or indirect application of force to the body of another person or threat of application of immediate personal violence to another, in circumstances in which the threatened person is prevailed upon to believe that the person who is threatening him/her has the intention and power to carry out his/her threat. SAPS calls this type of assault “common assault”. In addition to common assault, the word “assault” in GPSJS includes what SAPS refers to as “assault with the intent to inflict grievous bodily harm”.

Seven questions were asked concerning the individual experience of assault in the 12 months preceding the survey, including the number of times the respondent has been assaulted, the month the incident took place, whether any weapons were used, who the perpetrator was, and whether they reported the incident to the police.

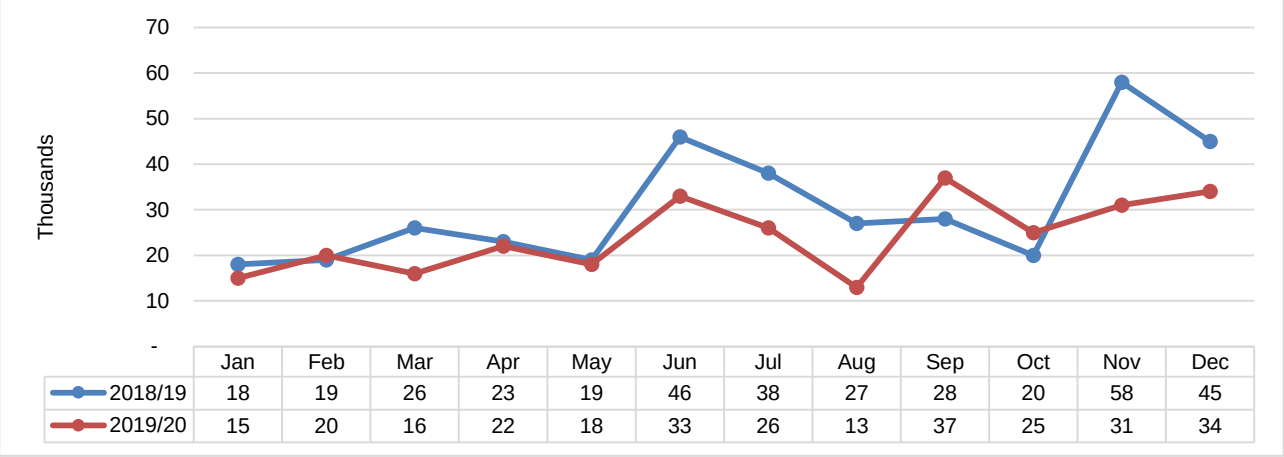
Table 21 presents a summary of disaggregated statistics. It was not possible to disaggregate beyond gender and location because of the resulting poor estimates due to the small number of observations.

Table 21: Number and percentage of individuals that experienced assault by sex and settlement type, 2019/20

Indicator	Number of incidences ('000)	Number of individuals ('000)	Per cent of individuals
Sex			
Male	179	154	0,8
Female	115	70	0,3
Urban/rural status			
Urban	99	85	0,8
Rural	90	77	0,7
Metro status			
Metro	105	63	0,3
Non-metro	189	162	0,7

Table 21 shows that males were more likely to be victims of assault than females. In terms of settlement type, metro areas had more victims of assault compared to non-metro areas. Similarly, urban areas recorded a higher number of victims of assault compared to rural areas.

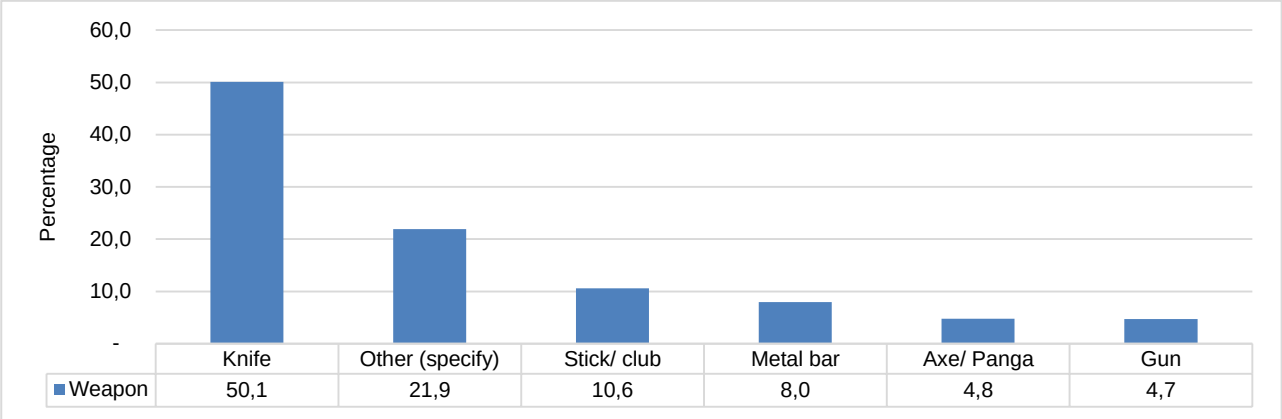
Figure 36: Number of assaults for individuals aged 16 and older by month



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2018/19	18	19	26	23	19	46	38	27	28	20	58	45
2019/20	15	20	16	22	18	33	26	13	37	25	31	34

Figure 36 shows that incidences of assault peaked in June and November in 2018/19, while in 2019/20, the incidences peaked in June and September.

Figure 37: Percentage of incidences where specific weapons were used during assault



Knives were the most common weapons of assault. Knives were used in 50,1% of the assault incidences.

Figure 38: Percentage of victims that reported assault to the police

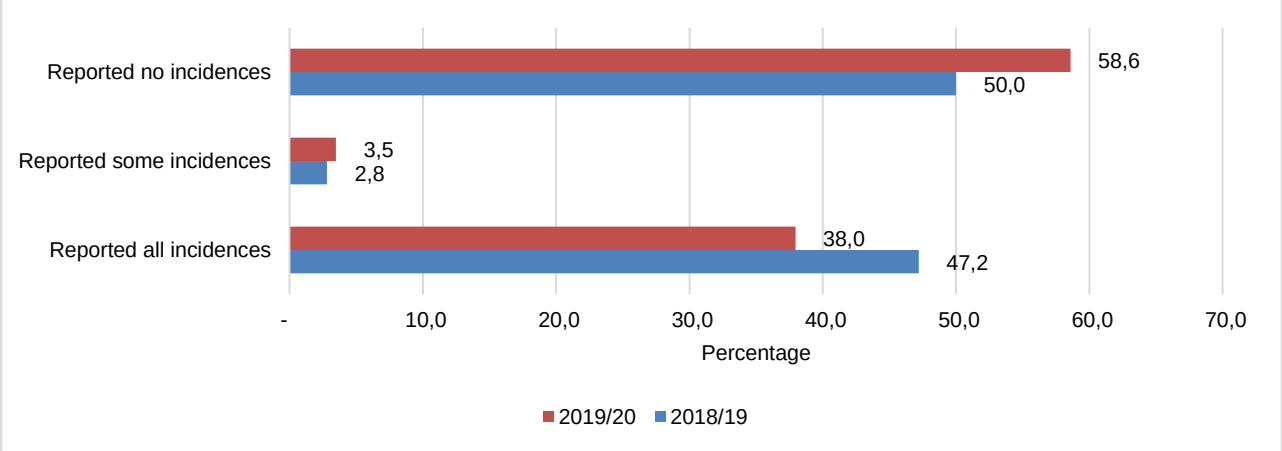


Figure 38 shows that incidences that were not reported to the police increased by approximately 8,6% from 2018/19 to 2019/20. By contrast, in 2018/19, 50,0% of victims of assault did not report any incidences to the police while 58,6% did not report these in 2019/20.

Table 22: Summary of statistics on assault 2018/19 to 2019/20

Indicator	2018/19	2019/20
Number of incidents ('000)	497	294
Number of victims of assault ('000)	281	225
Number of victims of assault who reported at least one incidence ('000)	140	92
Percentage of victims of assault who reported at least one incidence	50,0	41,4

The number of incidences of assault decreased from 497 000 in 2018/19 to 294 000 in 2019/20. The number of individuals who experienced assault decreased from 281 000 in 2018/19 to 225 000 in 2019/20. The percentage of individuals that reported the incidences to the police, however, decreased from 50,0% in 2018/19 to 41,4% in 2019/20.

4.2.4 Consumer fraud

Consumer fraud happens when someone provides services or goods and cheats on quality or quantity.

It includes advance-fee fraud (e.g. the R99 debit/credit card scam, 419 scams, online shopping). Adults aged 16 and older were asked whether they were victims of consumer fraud 12 months prior to the survey date.

Table 23: Number and percentage of individuals that experienced consumer fraud by sex, main source of household income and settlement type, 2019/20

Indicator	Number of incidences ('000)	Number of individuals ('000)	Per cent of individuals
Sex			
Male	900	200	1,1
Female	477	185	0,9
Main source of household income			
Salaries and wages	1 145	295	1,3
Remittances	4	4	0,2
Pensions	69	14	1,1
Grants	41	29	0,3
Income from a business	96	40	1,3
Other sources	13	4	0,3
Urban/rural status			
Urban	119	49	0,5
Rural	107	42	0,3
Metro status			
Metro	1 151	293	1,6
Non-metro	226	91	0,4

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

Males were more likely to be victims of consumer fraud compared to females. People in the metro areas were more likely to be victims of consumer fraud than people in the non-metro areas. Those who received income from salaries and wages most likely to be victims of consumer fraud.

Table 24: Summary of statistics on consumer fraud 2018/19-2019/20

Indicator	2018/19	2019/20
Number of incidents (‘000)	497	1 377
Number of victims of consumer fraud (‘000)	81	384
Number of victims of consumer fraud who reported at least one incidence (‘000)	38	102
Percentage of victims of consumer fraud who reported at least one incidence	47	26

The number of incidences of consumer fraud increased from 497 000 in 2018/19 to 1,4 million in 2019/20. A larger number of these incidences is attributed to advance-fee fraud (e.g. R99 debit/credit card scam, 419 scams). The number of individuals who experienced consumer fraud increased from 81 000 in 2018/19 to 384 000 in 2019/20. The percentage of individuals that reported the incidences to the police decreased from 47,0% in 2018/19 to 26,0% in 2019/20.

4.2.5 Hijacking of a motor vehicle

Hijacking of motor vehicles is a type of crime committed against an individual while driving their vehicles or vehicles belonging to another person or institution. The question of ownership was not relevant when respondents were asked whether they had experienced incidents of hijacking in the 12 months preceding the survey. The type of vehicle the victim was driving or riding in as a passenger is also not relevant. The number of hijacking incidents in the sample were so small that any disaggregation of data would produce poor statistics.

Table 25: Summary of statistics on hijacking, 2018/19–2019/20

Indicator	2018/19	2019/20
Number of incidents (‘000)	32	99
Number of victims (‘000)	32	85
Hijacking victims as a percentage of the population (16+) ('000)	0,1	0,2
Number of victims who reported at least one incidence ('000)	28	66
Percentage of victims who reported at least one incidence	85	78

The number of incidences of hijacking increased from 32 000 in 2018/19 to 99 000 in 2019/20. The number of individuals who experienced hijacking increased from 32 000 in 2018/19 to 85 000 in 2019/20. The percentage of individuals that reported the incidences to the police decreased from 85,0% in 2018/19 to 78,0% in 2019/20.

4.2.6 Sexual offences

It is important to note that the sexual offence count in the sample was small; it was not possible to calculate disaggregated estimates of acceptable quality.

Table 26: Summary of statistics on sexual offences,2018/19–2019/20

Indicator	2018/19	2019/20
Number of incidents (‘000)	26	37*
Number of victims (‘000)	26	31*
Sexual offence victims as a percentage of the population (16+)	0,1	0,1*
Number of victims who reported at least one incidence ('000)	23	19*
Percentage of victims who reported at least one incidence	88	60*

4.3 Summary

The results indicate that in 2019/20, most (902 000) of South Africans aged 16 years and older experienced theft of personal property, followed by those who experienced robbery (451 000) and consumer fraud (384 000). Males and persons living in urban areas were most likely to experience theft of personal property. Furthermore, persons aged 16–24 years are vulnerable to theft of personal property. The results show that, generally, most (61,9%) of the victims of theft of personal property did not report the incidences to the police.

Males and persons living in the metros areas were more likely to be victims of street robbery. Knives were the weapon of choice used during the street robberies. Furthermore, more victims of street robbery reported some or all the incidences to the police in 2019/20 than in 2018/19 (42,0% vs 34,8%).

The survey further shows that the number of incidences of consumer fraud increased from 497 000 in 2018/19 to 1,4 million in 2019/20. A larger number of these incidences is attributed to advance-fee fraud (e.g. R99 debit/credit card scams, 419 scams). The number of individuals who experienced consumer fraud also increased from 81 000 in 2018/19 to 384 000 in 2019/20. Notwithstanding, the percentage of individuals that reported the incidences to the police decreased from 47,0% in 2018/19 to 26,0% in 2019/20.

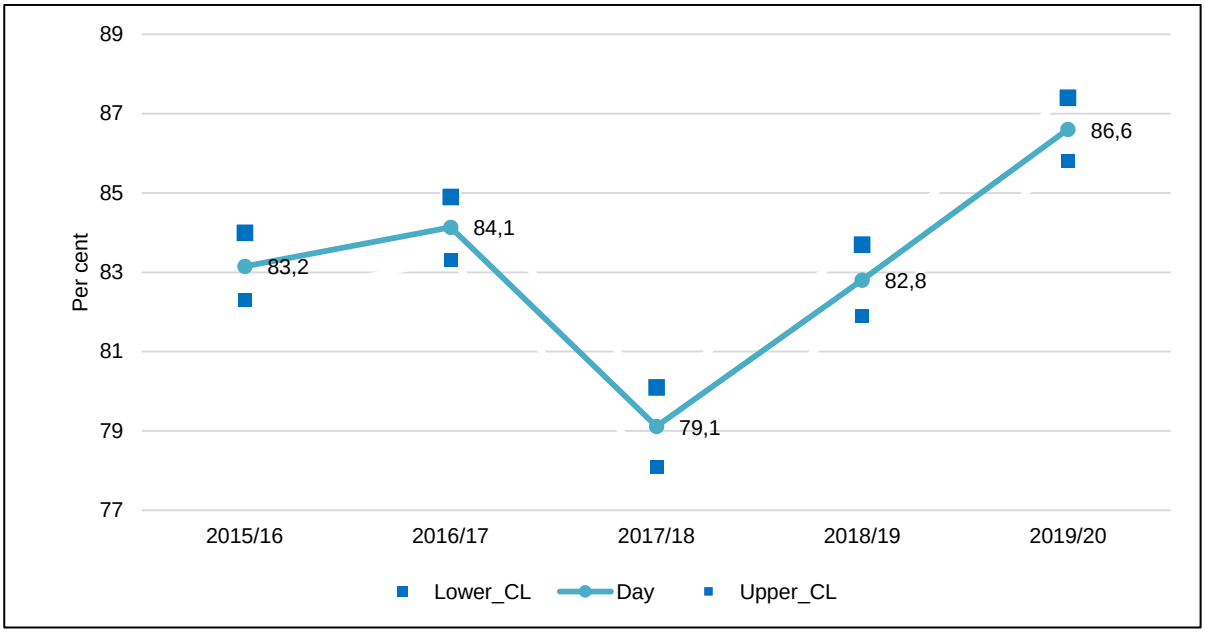
5. Feelings of safety

5.1 Introduction

To feel safe at home and in the neighbourhood is one of the goals of the National Development Plan (NDP). Perception of safety is considered a subjective wellbeing SDG 16.1.4 indicator. It affects the way in which a human being interacts with its surroundings, its health, and as a consequence, its quality of life. Perceptions of safety from crime are different across different demographic groups.

Respondents were asked how safe they felt walking in their neighbourhoods alone during the day and when it was dark. In Figures 39 and 40, the safety categories “Very safe” and “Fairly safe” were collapsed into a new category “Safe” while “A bit unsafe” and “Very unsafe” were collapsed into a new category “Unsafe”.

Figure 39: Percentage distribution of individuals who felt safe walking alone in their areas during the day, 2015/16–2019/20



The percentage of adults aged 16 years and older who felt safe walking alone in their neighbourhoods during the day increased slightly from 83,2% to 84,1% between 2015/16 and 2016/17, and then significantly decreased from 84,1% to 79,1% between 2016/17 and 2017/18. There was a statistically significant increase between 2017/18 (79,1%) and 2018/19 (82,8%). There was a further statistically significant increase between 2018/19 (82,8%) and 2019/20 (86,6%).

Figure 40: Percentage distribution of individuals who felt safe walking alone in their areas when it was dark, 2015/16–2019/20

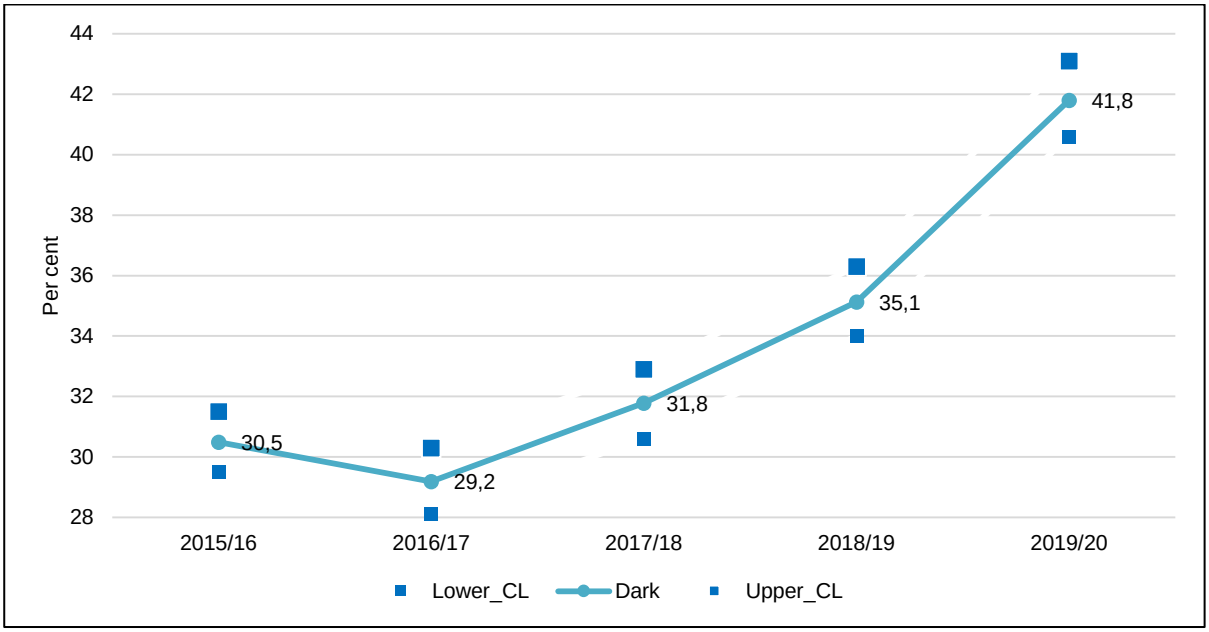
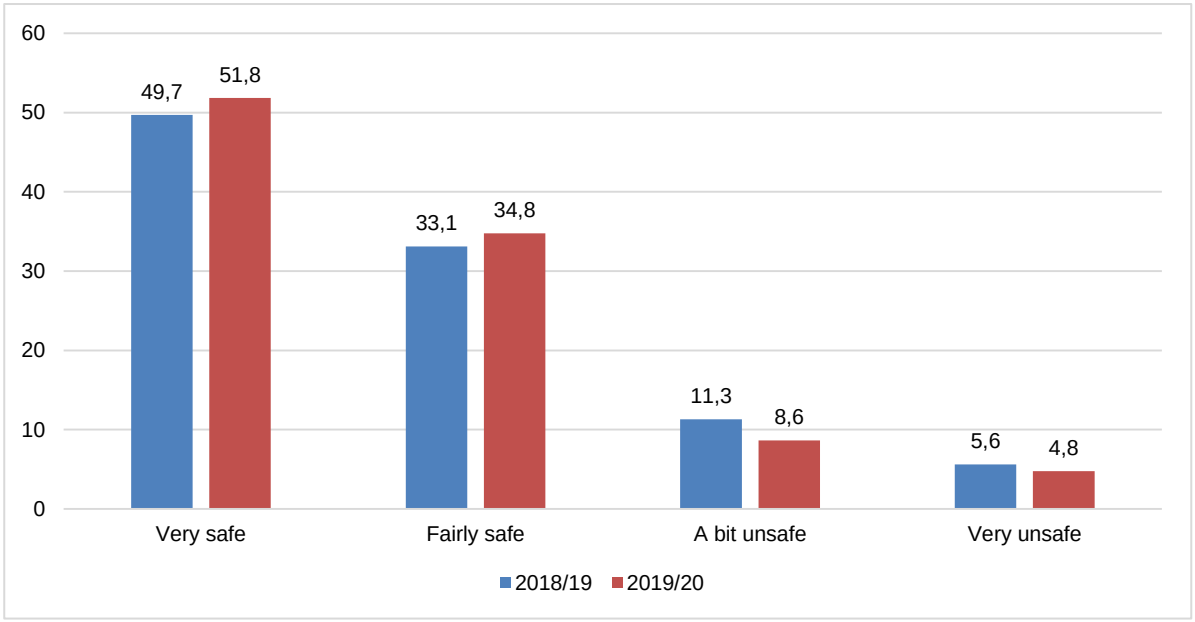


Figure 40 shows a slight decrease from 30,5% to 29,2% of adults aged 16 years and older who felt safe walking alone in their areas when it was dark between 2015/16 and 2016/17, but this figure increased significantly from 29,2% in 2016/17 to 41,8% in 2019/20.

Figure 41: Feelings of safety when walking alone in their areas of residence during the day, 2018/19–2019/20



There is s slight increase in the proportion of those who feel safe walking alone during the day between 2018/19 and 2019/20. About 87% (86,6%) of the individuals feel safe (51,8% very safe and 34,8% fairly safe) when walking alone in their areas of residence during the day in 2019/20 as compared to 82,8% in 2018/19 (49,7% very safe and 33,1% fairly safe).

Figure 42: Feelings of safety when walking alone in their areas of residence when it is dark, 2018/19–2019/20

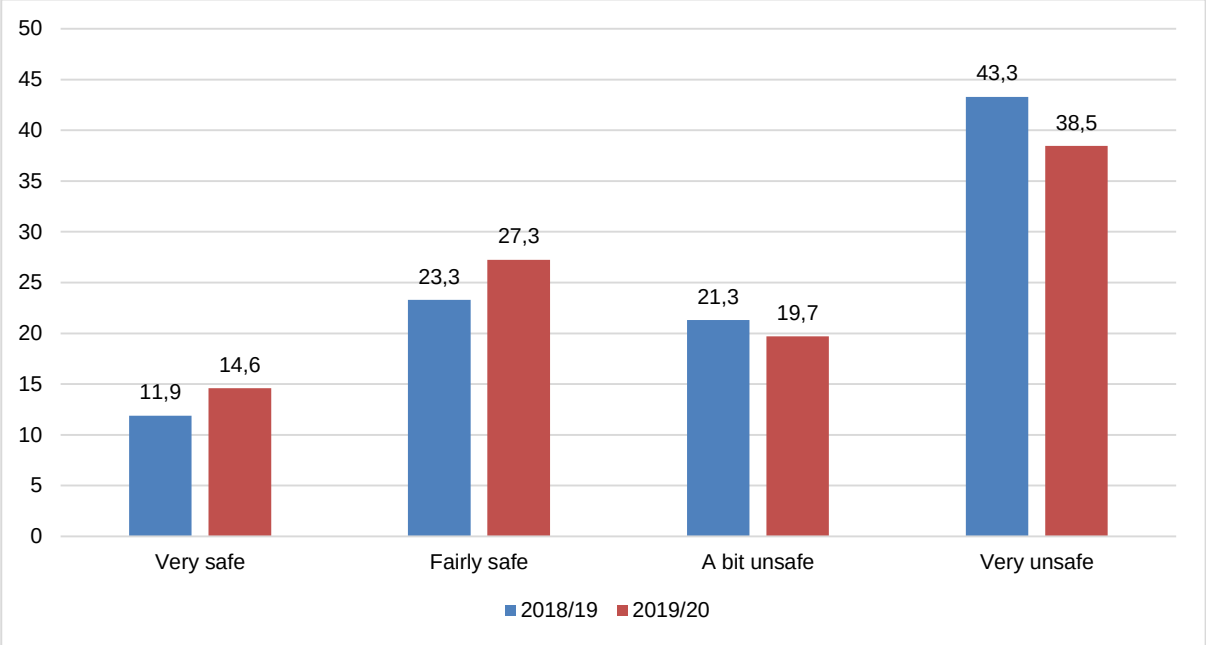


Figure 42 shows that people felt more unsafe when walking alone in their areas of residence when it is dark. In 2018/19, approximately 65% (64,6%) of persons age 16 years and older felt unsafe (21,3% a bit unsafe and 43,3% very unsafe) when walking alone in their areas of residence when it is dark compared to 58,2% in 2019/20 (19,7% a bit unsafe and 38,5% very unsafe).

Figure 43: Feelings of safety when walking alone in their areas of residence when it is dark by gender, 2019/20

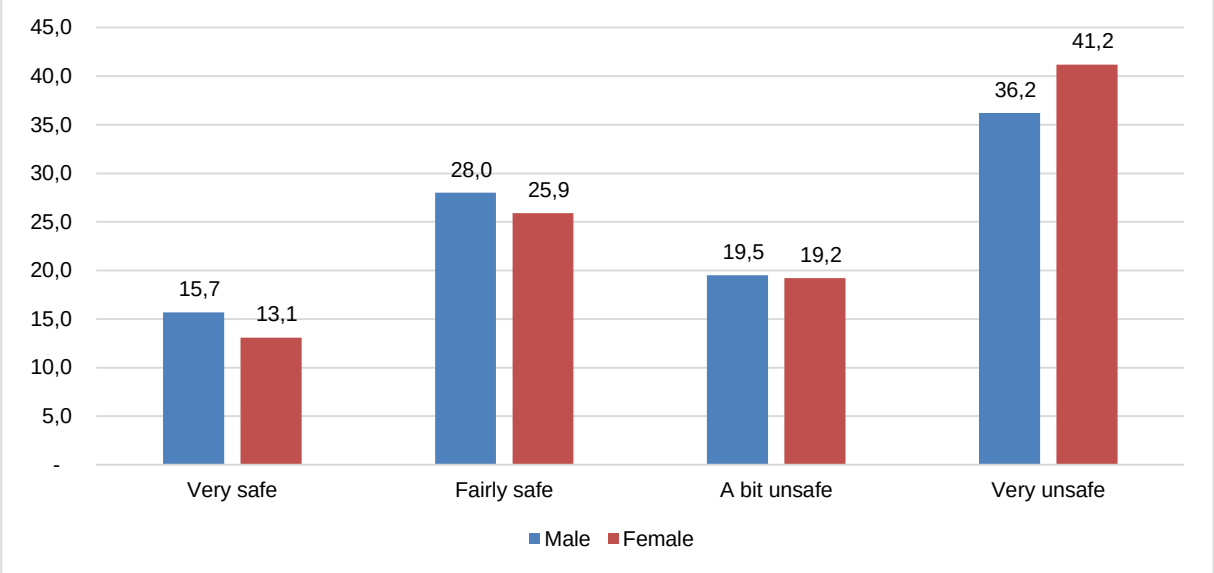


Figure 43 shows that females felt more unsafe than males walking alone when it is dark. Slightly more than sixty per cent (60,4%) of females feel either a bit unsafe or very unsafe while walking alone at night compared to fifty-six per cent of males (55,7%).

Figure 44: Feelings of safety when walking alone in their areas of residence when it is dark by geographical location, 2019/20

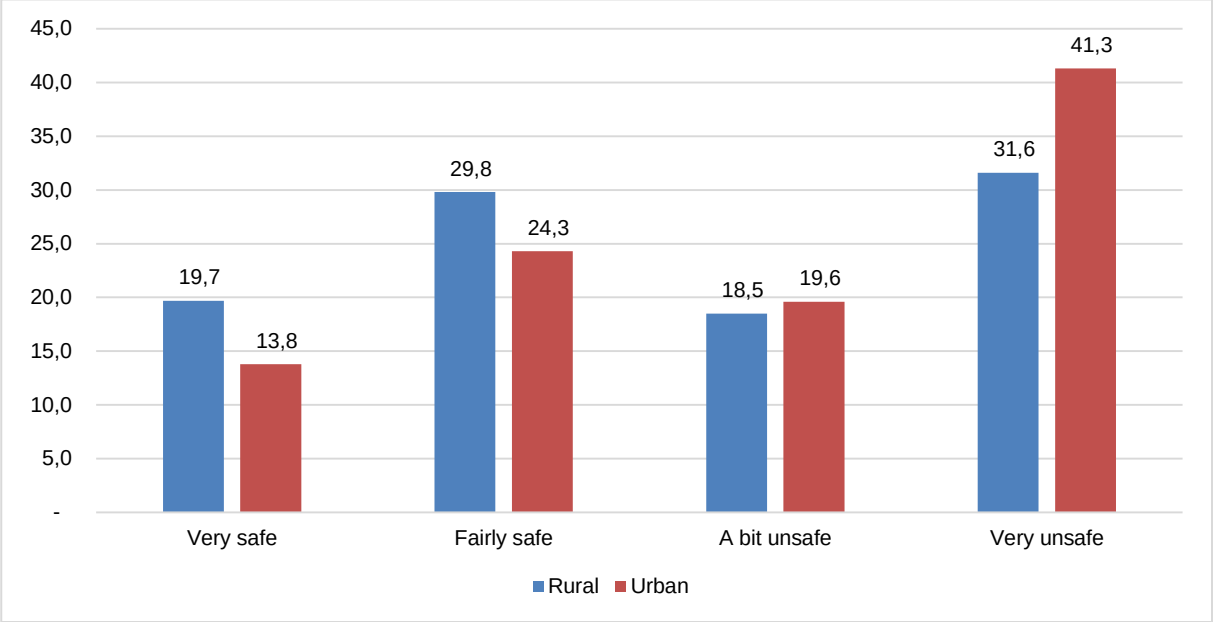


Figure 44 shows that people in rural areas had a greater feeling of safety walking alone in their areas when it is dark than people in urban areas. Results show that urban residents (60,9%) felt more unsafe walking alone in their areas at night compared to those in rural areas (50,1%).

5.2 Summary

The percentage of adults aged 16 years and older who felt safe walking alone in their neighbourhoods during the day increased slightly from 83,2% to 84,1% between 2015/16 and 2016/17, and then significantly decreased from 84,1% to 79,1% between 2016/17 and 2017/18. There was a significant increase of 7,5% between 2017/18 and 2019/20 (increasing from 79,1% to 86,6%).

Overall, there was a significant increase in proportions of adults aged 16 years and older who felt safe walking alone in their areas when it was dark between 2015/16 and 2019/20 (moving from 30,5% to 41,8%).

The results show that most households felt safer walking alone in their area during the day than when it is dark. Females felt more unsafe than males walking alone when it is dark. On the other hand, people in rural areas had a greater feeling of safety walking alone in their areas when it is dark than people in urban areas.

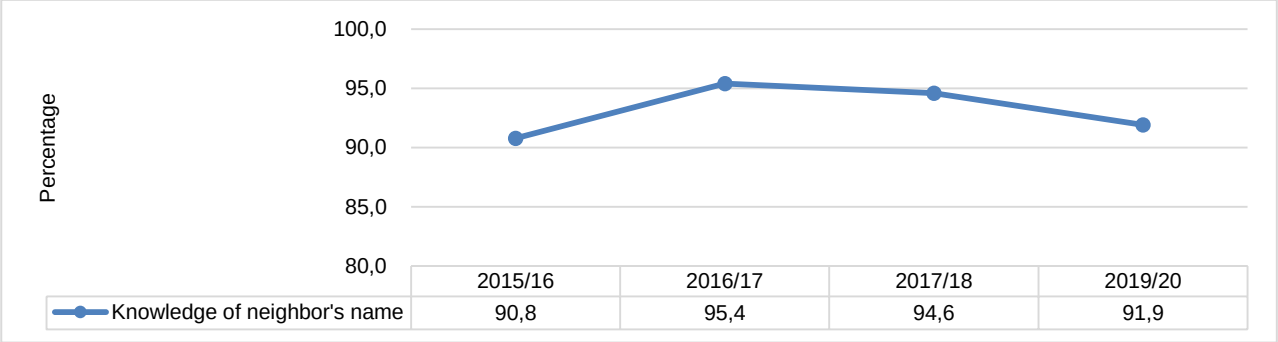
6. Citizen interaction and community cohesion

6.1 Introduction

This section measures the level of interaction among community members. This measure is used as a proxy for the level of community cohesion. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), social cohesion has two main dimensions: first, reducing disparities, inequalities, and social exclusion; and second, strengthening social relations, interactions, and ties. It also involves tolerance of, and respect for diversity (in terms of religion, nationality, economic situation, political preferences, sexuality, and gender)–both institutionally and individually.

The respondents were asked whether they know their neighbours, whether they would ask their neigbours to watch their house if they were going away, whether they trust their neighbours with their children, and whether they would participate in any forums that discuss community issues.

Figure 45: Percentage distribution of households' knowledge of their neighbours' name, 2015/16–2019/20



There was a significant increase in the proportions of households who know their neighbours' names between 2015/16 and 2016/17. Although a significant decrease between 2016/17 and 2019/20 was observed, there was no significant increase in the proportions of households who have knowledge of their neighbours' names over the five-year period.

Figure 46: Households' knowledge of their neighbours' name by settlement type and province, 2019/20

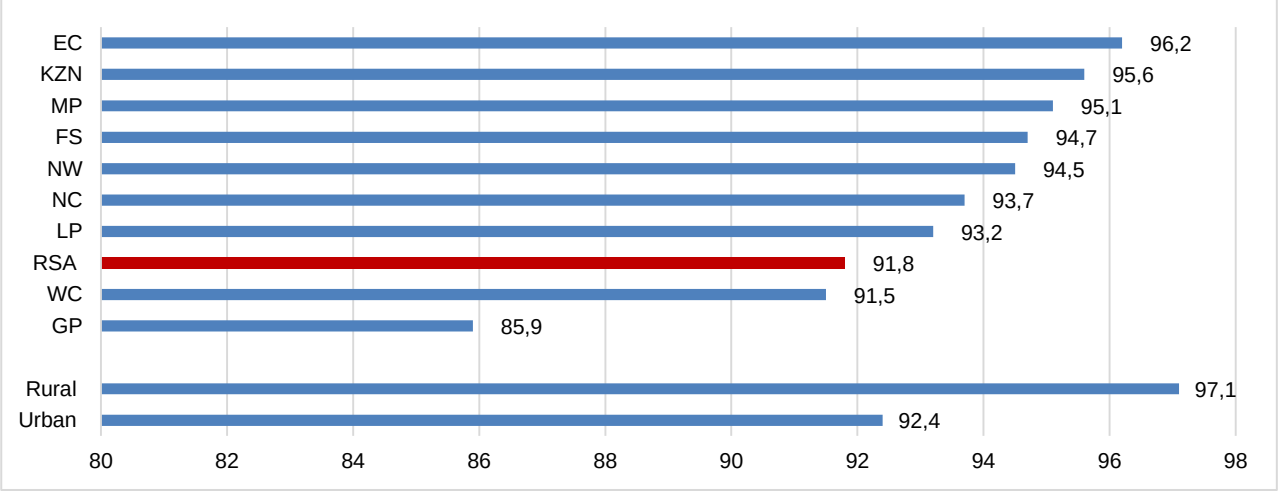
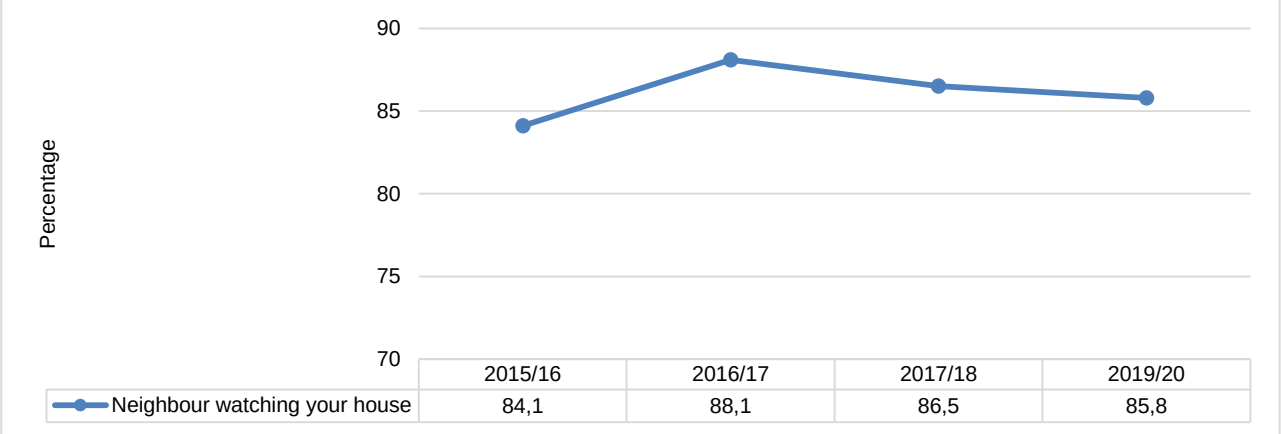


Figure 46 shows that 97,1% of households in rural areas know their neighbours' names compared to urban areas (92,4%). Eastern Cape recorded the highest proportions (96,2%) of households who know their neighbours' names, followed by KwaZulu-Natal (95,6%), Mpumalanga (95,1%), and Free State (94,7%). In addition, North West (94,5%), Northern Cape (93,7%), and Limpopo (93,2%) had the highest proportions of households who know their neighbours' names. These percentages were much higher than the national

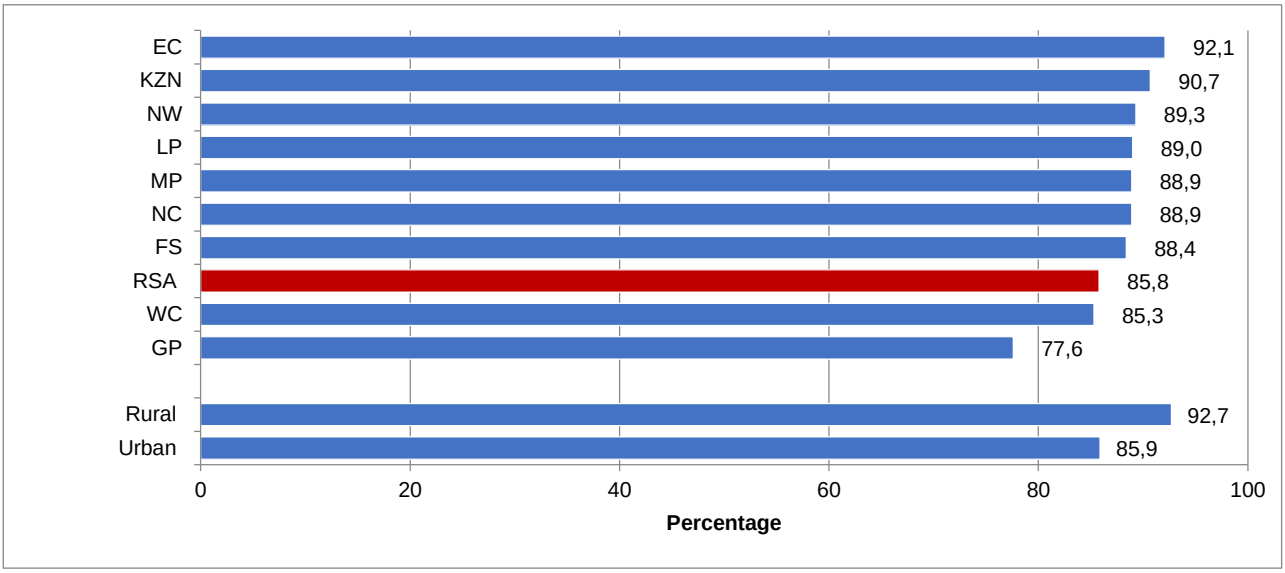
proportion of 91,9%. Western Cape (91,5%) and Gauteng (85,9%) had the least number of households who know their neighbours' names.

Figure 47: Percentage distribution of households by those who would ask any of their next-door neighbours to watch their house if they were going away, 2015/16–2019/20



Overall, there was no significant increase in the number of households who would ask any of their next-door neighbours to watch their house if they were going away over the five-year period. In 2019/20, almost 86% (85,8%) of the households would ask any of their next-door neighbours to watch their house if they were going away.

Figure 48: Percentage distribution of households by those who would ask any of their next-door neighbours to watch their house if they were going away by settlement type and province, 2019/20



Similar trends observed in Figure 46 are also observed in Figure 48. The majority (92,7%) of households in rural areas would ask any of their next-door neighbours to watch their house if they were going away compared to 85,9% in urban areas.

Eastern Cape had the highest proportions (92,1%) of households who would ask any of their next-door neighbours to watch their house, followed by KwaZulu-Natal (90,7%), North West (89,3%), and Limpopo (89,0%). These percentages were much higher than the national proportion of 85,8%.

Western Cape (85,3%) and Gauteng (77,6%) had the least number of households who would ask any of their next-door neighbours to watch their house if they were going away.

Figure 49: Percentage distribution of households who trust their neighbours to look after their children, 2015/16–2019/20

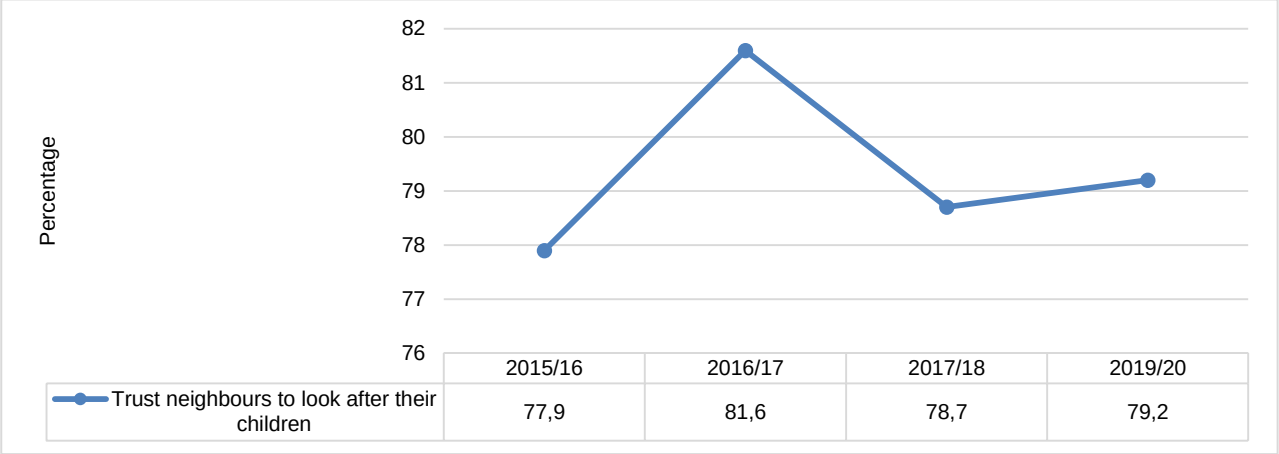


Figure 49 shows that households who trust their neighbours to look after their children increased significantly between 2015/16 and 2016/17; however, this figure decreased again between 2016/17 and 2017/18. There was a very minor difference in households who trust their neighbours to look after their children between 2017/18 and 2019/20.

Figure 50: Percentage distribution of households who trust their neighbours to look after their children by settlement type and province, 2019/20

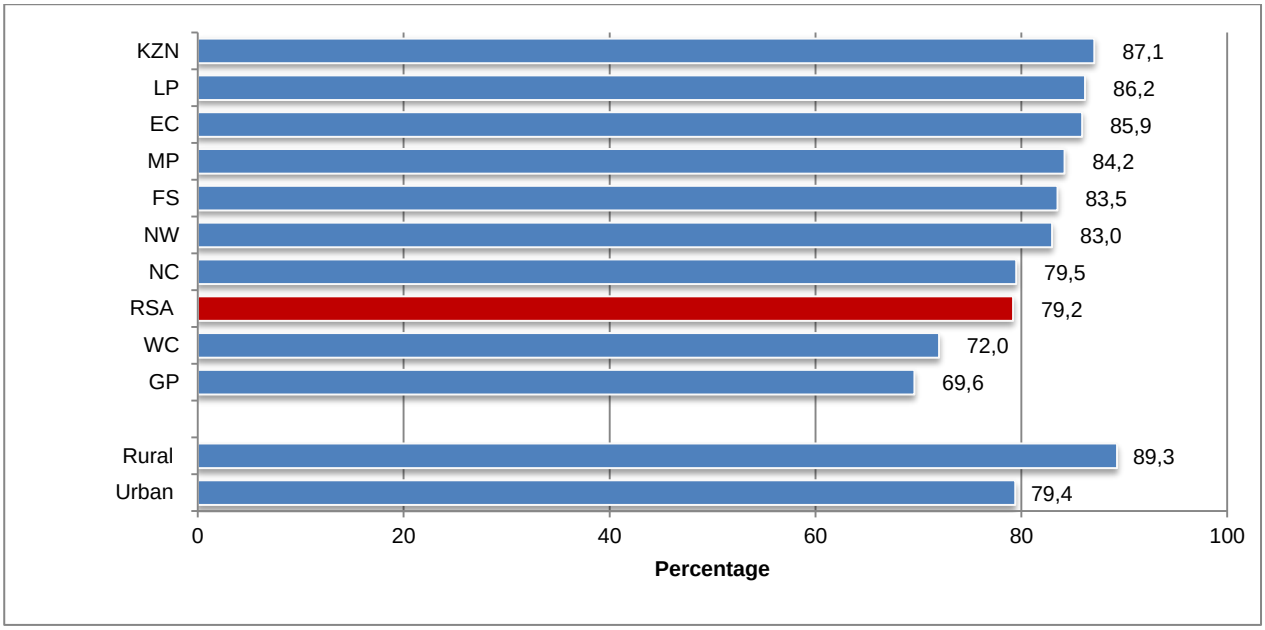


Figure 50 shows that households in rural areas trust their neighbours to look after their children more (89,3%) than households in urban areas (79,4%). In terms of provinces, KwaZulu-Natal (87,1%) had the highest proportions of households who trust their neighbours to look after their children, followed by Limpopo (86,2%) and Eastern Cape (85,9%).

Western Cape (72,0%) and Gauteng (69,6%) had the lowest proportions of households who trust their neighbours to look after their children. These percentages were much lower than the national proportion of 79,2%.

Table 27: Percentage distribution of households' knowledge of their neighbours' name by their trust in neighbours to watch their house, 2019/20

Indicator	Trust your neighbour to watch your house		
	Yes	No	Total
Know neighbours' name	92,0	8,0	**100,0**
Do not know neighbours' name	23,9	76,1	**100,0**

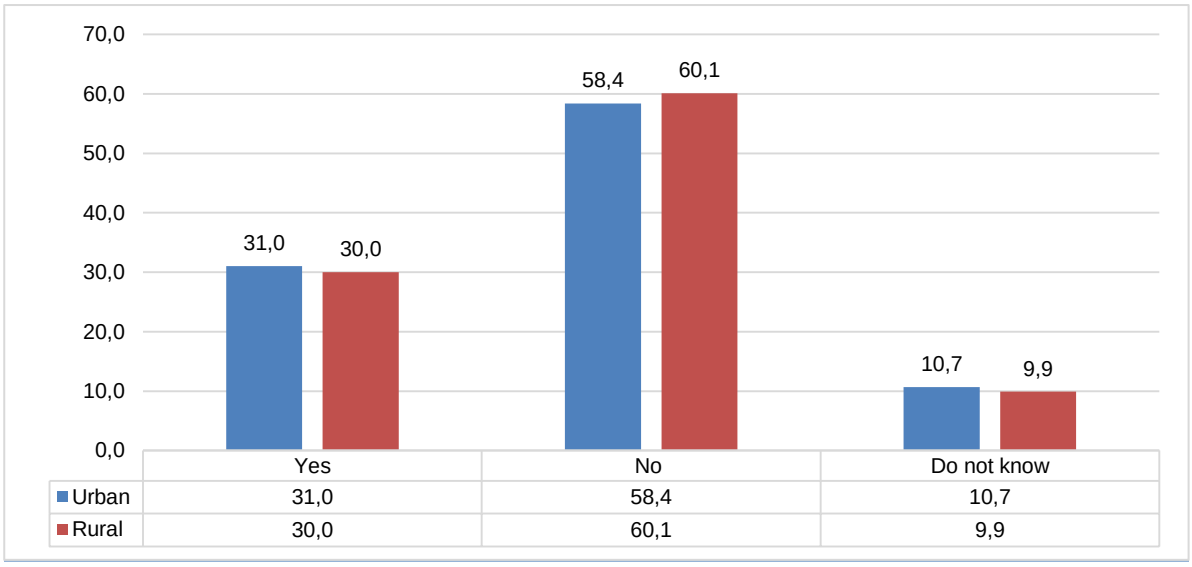
Table 27 shows that among households that knew the name of their neighbour, the majority (92,0%) did trust them to watch their house if they were going away. The table also suggests that there is a high level of mistrust if the neighbours do not know each other's names. Among households that did not know their neighbour's names, 76,1% did not trust their neighbours to watch their house if they went away.

Table 28: Percentage distribution of households' knowledge of their neighbours' name by their trust in neighbours to watch their children, 2019/20

Indicator	Ask your neighbour to watch children		
	Yes	No	Total
Know neighbours' name	85,3	14,7	**100,0**
Do not know neighbours' name	21,8	78,2	**100,0**

The general trends observed in Table 27 are also observed in Table 28. Among households that knew the name of their neighbours, the majority (85,3%) would let them take care of their children. Those households that did not know their neighbours' name (78,2%) also did not trust their neighbours enough to let them take care of their children.

Figure 51: Percentage distribution of households' knowledge of an active forum that discusses or deals with community-related issues by settlement type, 2019/20



It can be seen from the figure that the vast majority of households indicated that there are no active forums that discuss or deal with community-related issues. More households (60,1%) who do not know any active forums that discuss or deal with community-related issues were seen in rural areas than in urban areas (58,4%).

Figure 52: Percentage distribution of households by the level of participation in community forums by settlement type, 2019/20

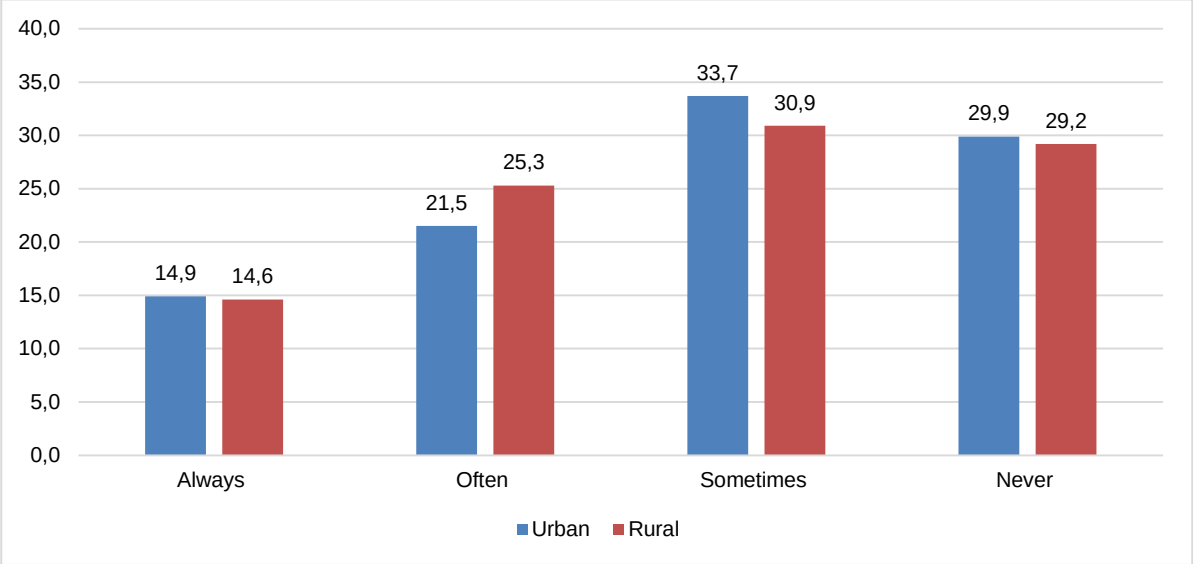


Figure 52 shows the percentage distribution of households by the level of participation in community forums by settlement type. It can be seen that almost 31% (30,9%) of rural and 34% (33,7%) of urban households sometimes participate in community forums. Furthermore, the results show that about 30% of households never participate in community forums (29,2% in rural areas and 29,9% in urban areas).

6.2 Summary

Households in rural areas are more likely to have knowledge of their neighbours' names than those in urban areas. Eastern Cape had the highest proportions of households who know their neighbours' names, while Gauteng had least. Significantly, there was an increase in the proportion of households who know their neighbours' names between 2015/16 and 2016/17, and a decrease between 2016/17 and 2019/20. However, there was no significant increase in the proportions of households who have knowledge of their neighbours' names between 2015/16 and 2019/20.

Overall, there was no significant increase in the number of households who would ask any of their next-door neighbours to watch their house if they were going away between 2015/16 (84,1%) and 2019/20 (85,8%). Notwithstanding, households in rural areas were more likely to ask any of their next-door neighbours to watch their house if they were going away than households in urban areas.

The survey shows that households who trust their neighbours to look after their children increased significantly between 2015/16 and 2016/17; however, this figure decreased again between 2016/17 and 2017/18. There was a very minor difference in households who trust their neighbours to look after their children between 2017/18 and 2019/20.

The results show that most households said that there are no active forums that discuss or deal with community-related issues, and this was prevalent in all types of settlements.

7. Technical notes

7.1 Survey requirements and design

The questionnaire design, testing of the questionnaire, sampling techniques, data collection, computer programming, and weighting constituted the research methodology used in this survey, as discussed below.

7.2 Sample design

The GPSJS 2019/20 uses the master sample (MS) sampling frame which has been developed as a general-purpose household survey frame that can be used by all other Stats SA household-based surveys having design requirements that are reasonably compatible with GPSJS. The GPSJS 2019/20 collection was drawn from the 2013 master sample. This master sample is based on information collected during Census 2011. In preparation for Census 2011, the country was divided into 103 576 enumeration areas (EAs). The census EAs, together with the auxiliary information for the EAs, were used as the frame units or building blocks for the formation of primary sampling units (PSUs) for the master sample, since they covered the entire country and had other information that is crucial for stratification and creation of PSUs.

There are 3 324 primary sampling units (PSUs) in the master sample with an expected sample of approximately 33 000 dwelling units (DUs). The number of PSUs in the current master sample (3 324) reflect an 8,0% increase in the size of the master sample compared to the previous (2008) master sample (which had 3 080 PSUs). The larger master sample of PSUs was selected to improve the precision (smaller coefficients of variation, known as CVs) of the GPSJS estimates.

The master sample is designed to be representative at provincial level and within provinces at metro/non-metro levels. Within the metros, the sample is further distributed by geographical type. The three geography types are Urban, Tribal and Farms. This implies, for example, that within a metropolitan area, the sample is representative of the different geography types that may exist within that metro. The sample for the GPSJS is based on a stratified two-stage design with probability proportional to size (PPS) sampling of PSUs in the first stage, and sampling of dwelling units (DUs) with systematic sampling in the second stage.

7.3 Data collection

The GPSJS was conducted for the first time in South Africa in 2018/19. GPSJS is an updated version of the long-running Victims of Crime Survey (VOCS) to include themes on governance, as discussed in the introduction. The rule of law and control of corruption were the only themes or sub-themes covered by VOCS prior to 2018. To achieve a reasonable balance between questionnaire length and depth of questions, a three-year rotation regime was adopted where the five themes are spread over a three-year period. Once in three years, GPSJS will measure in detail the general experience of household and individual crime in the country.

Stats SA conducted the second annual GPSJS and data collection took place from April 2018 to March 2019 with a moving reference period of 12 months. This is different from the 2011 and 2012 collections, which were done from January to March and had a fixed reference period from January to December of the previous year. The sample has been distributed evenly over the whole collection period in the form of quarterly allocations.

This will provide a guarantee against possible seasonal effects in the survey estimates. It will, in future, provide an opportunity for the production of rolling estimates relating to any desired time period. It has been noted that the change of data collection methodology may cause concerns over the survey estimates, particularly upon comparisons of years before and after the change. Victimisation questions referred to the twelve calendar months ending with the month before the interview. Statistics South Africa is committed to meeting the highest ethical standards in its data collection processes. In addition to being bound to the Statistics Act (Act No. 6 of 1999), the GPSJS, due to its sensitive nature, required additional measures to ensure that the integrity and well-being of the households are protected.

7.4 Questionnaire

Table 29 summarises the details of the questions included in the GPSJS questionnaire. The questions are covered in 9 sections, each focusing on a particular aspect. Depending on the need for additional information, the questionnaire is adapted on an annual basis. New sections may be introduced on a specific topic for which information is needed or additional questions may be added to existing sections. Likewise, questions that are no longer necessary may be removed.

Table 29: The structure of the GPSJS 2019/20 questionnaire

Section	Number of questions 2019/20	Details of each section
Cover page		Household information, response details, field staff information, result codes, etc.
Person information	13	Demographic information (name, sex, age, population group, etc.)
Part 01: Household Information		
Section 1	7	Household income sources and economic activities
Section 2	5	Citizen interaction/community cohesion
Section 3	46	Experience of household crime
Part 02: Individual Respondent		
Section 4	16	General health and functioning, economic activities and information and communication technology
Section 5	14	Trust in government/public institutions
Section 6	22	Government's performance and effectiveness
Section 7	2	Experience of corruption
Section 8	14	General individual perceptions
Section 9	34	Individual experience of crime
Survey Officer Questions	5	Survey officer to answer questions
All sections	**178**	

7.5 Response rate

Table 30: Response rates per province, GPSJS 2019/20

Province/metropolitan area	Response rates
Western Cape	**84,60**
Non-metro	94,13
City of Cape Town	80,32
Eastern Cape	**93,95**
Non-metro	96,58
Buffalo City	91,25
Nelson Mandela Bay	86,80
Northern Cape	**91,78**
Free State	**91,56**
Non-metro	93,50
Mangaung	87,50
KwaZulu-Natal	**90,78**
Non-metro	92,78
eThekwini	87,08
North West	88,68
Gauteng	**73,39**
Non-metro	83,03
Ekurhuleni	79,94
City of Johannesburg	67,30
City of Tshwane	70,58
Mpumalanga	**90,70**
Limpopo	**97,38**
South Africa	**86,04**

7.6 Editing and imputation

Data editing is concerned with the identification and, if possible, the correction of erroneous or highly suspect survey data. Data was checked for valid range, internal logic and consistency. The focus of the editing process was on clearing up skip violations and ensuring that each variable only contains valid values. Very few limits to valid values were set and data were largely released as they were received from the field. When dealing with internal inconsistencies, logical imputation was used, i.e. information from other questions was compared with the inconsistent information. If other evidence was found to back up either of the two inconsistent viewpoints, the inconsistency was resolved accordingly. If the internal consistency remained, the question subsequent to the filter question was dealt with by either setting it to missing and imputing its value or printing a message of edit failure for further investigation, decision-making and manual editing. Hot-deck imputation was used to impute for missing age.

7.7 Construction of household sample weights

The sample weights were constructed in order to account for the following: the original selection probabilities (design weights), adjustments for PSUs that were sub-sampled or segmented, excluded population from the sampling frame, non-response, weight trimming, and benchmarking to known population estimates from the Demographic Analysis Division within Stats SA. The sampling weights for the data collected from the sampled households were constructed so that the responses could be properly expanded to represent the entire civilian population of South Africa. The design weights, which are the inverse sampling rate (ISR) for the province, are assigned to each of the households in a province.

The household sample weights for GPSJS 2019/20 were constructed in such a manner that the responses from the respondent households could be properly expanded to represent the household population. The sample weights therefore are a product of several factors, including the original selection probabilities (design weights), adjustments for PSUs that were sub-sampled or segmented, excluded population from the sampling frame, non-response, weight trimming and benchmarking to known household estimates.

The base weights for the household weighting process are the same as those for the person weighting process. The adjustments applied to the base weights to obtain the adjusted base weights for household weighting. In the final step of constructing the household sample weights, the adjusted base weights were calibrated such that the aggregate totals match with the independently derived household estimates (as determined by Stats SA Demography Division) by the head of household's age, population group and gender at national and provincial levels. The calibrated weights are constructed with a lower bound on the calibrated weights of 50 within the StatMx software from Statistics Canada.

The household estimates were used in benchmarking to two sets of control totals:

- National level totals that were defined by the cross-classification of age, population group and gender of the head of the household. Age represents the four age groups of 0–34, 35–49, 50–64 and 65+. Population group represents the four groups of black African, coloured, Indian/Asian and white. Gender represents the two groups of male and female. The cross-classification resulted in 32 calibration cells at the national level.
- Provincial level totals were defined within the provinces by age of head of household. The country has 9 provinces; Age represents the four age groups of 0–34, 35–49, 50–64 and 65+. The cross-classification of the areas with age resulted in 36 calibration cells.

7.8 Individual sample weights

The final survey weights were constructed by calibrating the non-response-adjusted design weights to the known population estimates as control totals using the 'Integrated Household Weighting' method. The GPSJS 2019/20 sample was calibrated using the Population Estimates as at the end of September 2019 (based on the 2018 series). The final weights were benchmarked to the known population estimates of 5-year age groups by population groups by gender at national level, and broad age groups at province level. The 5-year age groups are: 0–4, 5–9, 10–14, 15–19, 20–24, 25–29, 30–34, 35–39, 40–44, 45–49, 50–54, 55–59, 60–64, 65–69,70–74, and 75 and older. The provincial level age groups are 0–14, 15–34, 35–64; and 65 years and older. The calibrated weights are constructed such that all persons in a household would have the same final weight.

The GPSJS 2019/20 had an extra level of selection where one person, 16 years or older, was selected per household to complete sections 4 to 9 of the questionnaire. The individual weights were benchmarked to an estimated national population of age 16 and older. Records for which the age, population group or gender had item non-response could not be weighted and were therefore excluded from the dataset. No additional imputation was done to retain these records.

7.9 Estimation

The final survey weights were used to obtain the estimates for various domains of interest at a household level, for example, victimisation level in South Africa; households' perceptions of crime levels in the country, etc.

7.10 Sampling and the interpretation of the data

Caution must be exercised when interpreting the results of the GPSJS at low levels of disaggregation. The sample and reporting are based on the provincial boundaries as defined in 2011. These new boundaries resulted in minor changes to the boundaries of some provinces, especially Gauteng, North West, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, Eastern Cape, and Western Cape. In previous reports the sample was based on the provincial boundaries as defined in 2006, and there will therefore be slight comparative differences in terms of provincial boundary definitions.

7.11 Limitations of crime victimisation surveys

Victimisation surveys are likely to produce higher crime estimates than police-recorded administrative data. This is due to the fact that many crimes are not reported to the police. Victim surveys deal with incidents which may not necessarily match the legal definition of crime. Although data from crime victim surveys are likely to elicit better disclosure of criminal incidents than data from police records, they can also be subject to undercounting, as some victims may be reluctant to disclose information, particularly for incidents of a sensitive nature, such as sexual offences.

The accuracy of statistics is influenced by the ability of people to recall past victimisations. The longer the elapsed time period, the less likely it is that an incident will be recalled accurately. Surveys are also subject to sampling and non-sampling errors. The survey is also limited by not involving a monthly cycle of field work, and the sample each month being a random subset of the annual sample.

7.12 Differences between GSPSJ and police-reported data

The most basic difference between the two types of crime measurement is the method of data collection. Police reported statistics to obtain data from police administrative records. In contrast, victim surveys collect both household and personal information about their victimisation experiences, through face-to-face interviews. The survey covers victims' experiences of crime at microdata level, including the impact of crime on victims.

Police-reported statistics normally collate information on all incidents reported to a variety of police stations. Victim surveys ask a sample of the population about their experiences and, if well designed, this sample should be representative of the population as a whole. Although police statistics and victim surveys normally cover comparable geographic areas, if appropriately nationally representative, victim surveys may exclude some categories of victims, such as very young children or persons residing in institutions such as a prisons, hospital, care centres, or military barracks. The reference period for the police-recorded statistics is April 2019 to March 2020, whereas the reference period of the GPSJS 2019/20 estimates is April 2019 to February 2020.

7.13 Measures of precision for selected variables of the GPSJS

This section provides an overview of the standard error, confidence interval, coefficient of variation (CV), and the design effect (Deff) for a number of selected person and household variables. Estimates were computed based on a complex multistage survey design with stratification, clustering, and unequal weighting. The standard error is the estimated measure of variability in the sampling distribution of a statistic. The design effect for an estimate is the ratio of the actual variance (estimated based on the sample design) to the variance of a simple random sample with the same number of observations (Lohr, 1999; Kish, 1965). Coefficient of variation (CV) is a measure of the relative size of error defined as 100 X (standard error/estimated value).

Figure 53: Coefficient of variation thresholds

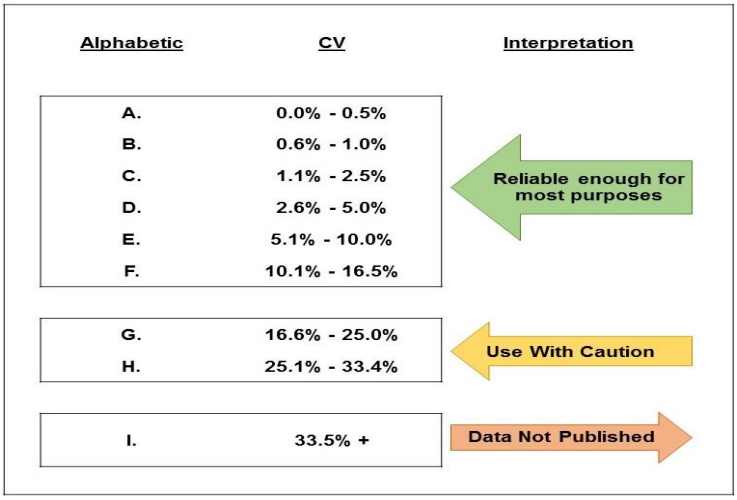


Table 31: Measures of precision for household crime in past 5 years

3.1A In the past 5 years, have you or any member of your household experienced theft of motor vehicle?				
Q31fiveyears__1	**Frequency**	**CV**	**Per cent**	**CV**
Yes	277 096	7,2	1,6	7,1
No	16 535 962	0,7	98,4	0,1
Total	**16 813 057**	**0,7**	**100,0**	
3.1A In the past 5 years, have you or any member of your household experienced housebreaking/ burglary (No contact between perpetrator and victim)?				
Q31fiveyears__2	**Frequency**	**CV**	**Per cent**	**CV**
Yes	2 270 024	2,3	13,5	2,3
No	14 543 033	0,8	86,5	0,4
Total	**16 813 057**	**0,7**	**100,0**	
3.1A In the past 5 years, have you or any member of your household experienced home robbery (Contact between perpetrator and victim)?				
Q31fiveyears__3	**Frequency**	**CV**	**Per cent**	**CV**
Yes	414 543	5,8	2,5	5,8
No	16 398 514	0,7	97,5	0,2
Total	**16 813 057**	**0,7**	**100,0**	
3.1A In the past 5 years, have you or any member of your household experienced murder?				
Q31fiveyears__4	**Frequency**	**CV**	**Per cent**	**CV**
Yes	53 190	13,91	0,3	13,9
No	16 759 867	0,72	99,7	0,1
Total	**16 813 057**	**0,72**	**100,00**	

* Indicates 0% to 16,5% Coefficient of Variation for reliable enough statistics .

** Indicates 16,6% to 33,4% Coefficient of Variation for statistics that should be used with caution.

*** Indicates Coefficient of Variation greater than 33,5%.

3.1A In the past 5 years, have you or any member of your household experienced deliberate damaging/ burning/destruction of dwellings?				
Q31fiveyears__5	**Frequency**	**CV**	**Per cent**	**CV**
Yes	182 228	9,6	1,1	9,6
No	16 630 829	0,7	98,9	0,1
Total	**16 813 057**	**0,7**	**100,0**	
3.1A In the past 5 years, have you or any member of your household experienced sexual offence (incl. rape, grabbing or touching without your consent)?				
Q31fiveyears__6	**Frequency**	**CV**	**Per cent**	**CV**
Yes	39 096*	17,0	0,3	17,0
No	12 596 139	0,8	99,7	0,1
Total	**12 635 235**	**0,8**	**100,0**	
3.1A In the past 5 years, have you or any member of your household experienced Assault (excl. sexual assault)?				
Q31fiveyears__7	**Frequency**	**CV**	**Per cent**	**CV**
Yes	116 947	9,5	0,9	9,5
No	12 518 288	0,8	99,1	0,1
Total	**12 635 235**	**0,8**	**100,0**	

* Indicates 0% to 16,5% Coefficient of Variation for reliable enough statistics.

** Indicates 16,6% to 33,4% Coefficient of Variation for statistics that should be used with caution.

*** Indicates Coefficient of Variation greater than 33,5%.

Table 32: Measures of precision for household crime in past 12 months

3.2A.1 Have you or any member of your household experienced theft of motor vehicle in the past 12 months, from … last year to … this year?				
Q32A1Exp	**Frequency**	**CV**	**Per cent**	**CV**
Yes	82 284	9,8	29,7	9,2
No	194 812	4,7	70,3	3,9
Total	**277 096**	**2,9**	**100,0**	
3.2B.1 Have you or any member of your household experienced housebreaking or burglary in the past 12 months, from … last year to … this year?				
Q32B1Exp	**Frequency**	**CV**	**Per cent**	**CV**
Yes	891 363	3,2	39,3	2,8
No	1 378 661	2,3	60,7	1,8
Total	**2 270 024**	**1,5**	**100,0**	
3.2C.1 Have you or any member of your household experienced home robbery in the past 12 months, from … last year to … this year?				
Q32C1Exp	**Frequency**	**CV**	**Per cent**	**CV**
Yes	139 016	6,5	33,5	6,8
No	275 527	5,1	66,5	3,5
Total	**414 543**	**2,8**	**100,0**	
3.2D.1 Apart from the murder during the home robbery, did your household experience any other murder between … last year and … this year?				
Q32D1Exp	**Frequency**		**Per cent**	**CV**
Yes	794		100,00	CV
Total	**794**		**100,00**	
3.2D.3 Have you lost any member of your household through murder between … last year and … this year?				
Q32D3Exp	**Frequency**	**CV**	**Per cent**	**CV**
Yes	14 018	10,8	26,8	10,4
No	38 377	5,1	73,2	3,8
Total	**52 396**	**3,3**	**100,0**	
3.2E.1 Did your household experience deliberate damaging, burning or destruction of dwellings in the past 12 months, from … last year to … this year?				
Q32E1Exp	**Frequency**	**CV**	**Per cent**	**CV**
Yes	51 650	8,9	28,3	10,9
No	130 579	8,3	71,7	4,3
Total	**182 228**	**4,9**	**100,0**	

3.2F.1 Have you or any member of your household experienced sexual offence between … last year and … this year?				
Q32F1Exp	**Frequency**	**CV**	**Per cent**	**CV**
Yes	12 740	12,3	32,6	10,5
No	26 356	4,1	67,4	5,1
Total	**39 096**	**2,7**	**100,0**	
3.2G.1 Have you or any member of your household experienced assault between … last year and … this year?				
Q32G1Exp	**Frequency**	**CV**	**Per cent**	**CV**
Yes	42 463	15,5	36,3	15,5
No	74 484	12,2	63,7	12,2
Total	**116 947**		**100,0**	

* Indicates 0% to 16,5% Coefficient of Variation for reliable enough statistics.

** Indicates 16,6% to 33,4% Coefficient of Variation for statistics that should be used with caution.

*** Indicates Coefficient of Variation greater than 33,5%.

Table 33: Measures of precision for individual crime in past 12 months

9.3A.1 Have you experienced theft of personal property in the past 12 months, from … last year to … this year?				
Q93A1Exp	**Frequency**	**CV**	**Per cent**	**CV**
Yes	901 740	5,2	37,6	4,7
No	1 498 397	3,9	62,4	2,8
Total	**2 400 137**	**2,5**	**100,0**	
9.3B.1 Have you been hijacked while travelling in a motor vehicle during the past 12 months, from… last year to… this year?				
Q93B1Exp	**Frequency**	**CV**	**Per cent**	**CV**
Yes	84 817	12,3	32,0	12,3
No	180 112	7,8	68,0	5,8
Total	**264 929**	**4,3**	**100,0**	
9.3C.1 Have you been robbed anywhere other than at home during the past 12 months, from … last year to … this year?				
Q93C1Exp	**Frequency**	**CV**	**Per cent**	**CV**
Yes	451 421	7,6	40,7	6,3
No	657 889	4,7	59,3	4,3
Total	**1 109 311**	**3,1**	**100,0**	
9.3D.1 Have you experienced sexual offence in the past 12 months months, from … last year to … this year?				
Q93D1Exp	**Frequency**	**CV**	**Per cent**	**CV**
Yes	31 186	10,3	27,6	10,0
No	81 755	6,3	72,4	3,8
Total	**112 941**	**4,5**	**100,0**	
9.3E.1 Have you experienced assault in the past 12 months, last year to … this year?				
Q93E1Exp	**Frequency**	**CV**	**Per cent**	**CV**
Yes	224 436	8,9	45,4	7,4
No	270 233	6,9	54,6	6,1
Total	**494 669**	**4,0**	**100,0**	
9.3F.1 Have you personally experienced consumer fraud in the past 12 months, from … last year to … this year?				
Q93F1Exp	**Frequency**	**CV**	**Per cent**	**CV**
Yes	384 464	7,8	57,4	6,3
No	285 771	9,6	42,6	8,5
Total	**670 235**	**4,6**	**100,0**	

* Indicates 0% to 16,5% Coefficient of Variation for reliable enough statistics.

** Indicates 16,6% to 33,4% Coefficient of Variation for statistics that should be used with caution.

*** Indicates Coefficient of Variation greater than 33,5%.

7.14 Definitions of terms

A household is a group of persons who live together and provide themselves jointly with food and/or other essentials for living, or a single person who lives alone.

Note: The persons basically occupy a common dwelling unit (or part of it) for at least four nights in a week on average during the past four weeks prior to the survey interview, sharing resources as a unit. Other explanatory phrases can be 'eating from the same pot' and 'cook and eat together'.

Persons who occupy the same dwelling unit but do not share food or other essentials, are regarded as separate households. For example, people who share a dwelling unit, but buy food separately, and generally provide for themselves separately, are regarded as separate households within the same dwelling unit. They are generally referred to as multiple households (even though they may be occupying the same dwelling).

Conversely, a household may occupy more than one structure. If persons on a plot, stand or yard eat together, but sleep in separate structures (e.g. a room at the back of the house for single young male members of a family), all these persons should be regarded as one household.

Multiple households occur when two or more households live in the same dwelling unit.

Note: If there are two or more households in the selected dwelling unit and they do not share resources, all households are to be interviewed. The whole dwelling unit has been given one chance of selection and all households located there were interviewed using separate questionnaires.

Household head is the main decision-maker, or the person who owns or rents the dwelling, or the person who is the main breadwinner.

Acting household head is any member of the household acting on behalf of the head of the household.

Formal dwelling refers to a structure built according to approved plans, i.e. house on a separate stand, flat or apartment, townhouse, room in backyard, rooms or flatlet elsewhere. Contrasted with informal dwelling and traditional dwelling.

Informal dwelling is a makeshift structure not erected according to approved architectural plans, for example shacks or shanties in informal settlements or in backyards

Table 34: SAPS and GPSJS definitions of crime

SAPS	GPSJS
Murder Murder consists of the unlawful and intentional killing of another human being.	**Murder** Unlawful and intentional killing of another human being.
Sexual offences Rape, compelled rape, sexual assault, compelled sexual assault, compelled self-sexual assault, incest, bestiality, sexual act with corpse, acts of consensual sexual penetration with certain children (statutory rape), acts of consensual sexual violation with certain children (statutory sexual assault).	**Sexual offences** Refers to grabbing, touching someone's private parts or sexually assaulting or raping someone. Note: In terms of the Sexual Offences Act No. 32 of 2007 section 5, (1) A person ('A') who unlawfully and intentionally sexually violates a complainant ('B'), without the consent of B, is guilty of the offence of sexual assault. (2) A person ('A') who unlawfully and intentionally inspires the belief in a complainant ('B') that B will be sexually violated is guilty of the offence of sexual assault.
Assault with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm Assault with the intent to cause grievous bodily harm is the unlawful and intentional direct or indirect application of force to the body of another person with the intention of causing grievous bodily harm to that person.	
Common assault Assault is the unlawful and intentional — (a) direct or indirect application of force to the body of another person, or (b) threat of application of immediate personal violence to another, in circumstances in which the threatened person is prevailed upon to believe that the person who is threatening him/her has the intention and power to carry out his/her threat.	**Assault (excludes sexual assault)** Direct or indirect application of force to the body of another person which may cause bodily harm, or threat of application of immediate personal violence to another, in circumstances in which the threatened person is prevailed upon to believe that the person who is threatening him/her has the intention and power to carry out his/her threat.
Common robbery Robbery is the unlawful and intentional forceful removal and appropriation of movable tangible property belonging to another.	
Robbery with aggravating circumstances Robbery with aggravating circumstances is the unlawful and intentional forceful removal and appropriation in aggravating circumstances of movable tangible property belonging to another.	**Robbery (excludes home robbery and car/truck hijackings)** Unlawfully obtaining property with use of force or threat of force against a person with intent to permanently or temporarily withhold it form a person.
Hijacking Robbery of a motor vehicle is the unlawful and intentional forceful removal and appropriation of a motor vehicle (excluding a truck) belonging to another.	
Truck hijacking Robbery of a truck is the unlawful and intentional forceful removal and appropriation of a truck (excluding a light delivery vehicle) belonging to another.	**Hijacking of motor vehicle** Unlawful and intentional forceful removal and appropriation of a motor vehicle from the occupant(s).
Robbery of cash-in-transit Cash-in-transit robbery is the unlawful and intentional forceful removal and appropriation of money or containers for the conveyance of money, belonging to another while such money or containers for the conveyance of money are being transported by a security company on behalf of the owner thereof.	

Table 35: SAPS and GPSJS crime types

SAPS crime category	Type of crime – SAPS	Type of crime – GPSJS
Crime against a person	Murder	Murder
	Attempted murder	
	Sexual offences	Sexual offences
	Assault with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm	
	Common assault	Assault (excludes sexual assault)
	Common robbery	
	Robbery with aggravating circumstances	Robbery (excludes home robbery and car/truck hijackings)
Sexual offences	Rape	
	Sexual assault	
	Attempted sexual offences	
	Contact sexual offences	
Trio crimes	Carjacking	Hijacking of motor vehicle
	Truck hijacking	
	Robbery of cash-in-transit	
	Bank robbery	
	Robbery at residential premises	Home robbery
	Robbery at non-residential premises	
Property-related crime	Burglary at residential premises	Housebreaking
	Theft of motor vehicle & motorcycle	Theft of motor vehicle
	Theft out of or from motor vehicle	Theft out of motor vehicle
	Stock theft	Theft of livestock/poultry and other animals
		Theft of personal property
Other property-related crimes	Arson	Deliberate damage/burning/destruction of dwellings
	Malicious damage of residential premises	
		Theft of bicycle
		Theft of crops
Crime detected as a result of police action	Drug-related crime	
	Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs	
	Sexual offences detected as a result of police action	
Other crimes	All theft not mentioned elsewhere	Corruption
	Commercial crimes	Consumer fraud
	Illegal possession of firearms or ammunition	