Why do we need crime statistics?

Safety

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

Its reduction is therefore a priority on the national agenda.

NDP and MTSF

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

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

One of the broad strategic outcomes of the MTSF (2014-2019) is: “All People in South Africa are, and feel safe”

Statistics

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

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

VOCS 2017/18
VOCS is a household-based survey that examines crime from the point of view of the victims. Focus is on peoples’ perceptions and experiences of crime.

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

Stats SA continued to run the survey from 2011 onwards, based on a sample size of approximately 30 000 private households in all 9 provinces of SA.

This is the last report of VOCS as conducted from 2011. From April this year a new survey called Governance, Public Safety and Justice (GPSJS) began. GPSJS has some VOCS content plus new content on governance public safety and justice.
OBJECTIVES OF THE SURVEY

1. Explore the views households and crime victims have about crime

2. Explore public perceptions of the activities of the police, prosecutors, courts and correctional services

3. Provide complementary data on the level of crime in South Africa
VENTURING TO ALIGN CRIME STATS

- We present VOCS and SAPS statistics side-by-side as a first step towards aligning the two major sources of crime statistics.

- Different definitions of crime categories is one of the obstacles that would need to be addressed.

- International Classification of Crime for Statistical purposes (ICCS) project is a step in the right direction.

- VOCS produces estimates of the actual number of incidents of crime experienced by households and individuals while SAPS statistics are derived from crime reported at police stations.

- VOCS and SAPS statistics represent different measurements so the numbers would differ even if identical definitions were used.
CAUTIONARY REMARKS

- VOCS covers only thirteen household crimes and seven individual crimes.

- Some SAPS crime categories are not reported by VOCS e.g. crime on businesses, drug related crimes, illegal possession of firearms, e.t.c.
Household crimes
Generally impacts on the household

Individual crimes
Impacts on one individual in the household
GENERAL EXPERIENCE OF HOUSEHOLD CRIME IN SOUTH AFRICA

- Estimated total number of crime incidences: 1,545,701
- Estimated number of households that experienced crime: 1,244,152
- Estimated percentage of households that experienced crime: 7.5%

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Stats SA
Statistics South Africa

VOCS 2017/18
GENERAL EXPERIENCE OF INDIVIDUAL CRIME IN SOUTH AFRICA for persons aged 16 and above

- Estimated total number of crime incidences: 1,682,624
- Estimated number of victimised individuals aged 16 and above: 1,417,731
- Estimated percentage of victimised individuals aged 16 and above: 3.7%
NORTH WEST EXPERIENCED THE HIGHEST INCREASE OF BOTH HOUSEHOLD AND INDIVIDUAL CRIME. FS, NW and GP experienced an increase of both household and individual crime. WC, EC, NC and LP experienced a decrease of both household and individual crime.

Percentage change of household and individual crime levels by province, 2016/17 - 2017/18
BETWEEN 2013/14 AND 2016/17, THERE WAS A DECLINING TREND OF THE PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS IN SOUTH AFRICA THAT EXPERIENCED AT LEAST ONE INCIDENT OF CRIME. However there was an increase between 2016/17 and 2017/18.
Housebreaking or burglary was again the dominant household crime in 2017/18 accounting for about 54% of all household crimes.

Household experience of crime, 2017/18

- Housebreaking or burglary: 54%
- Theft of livestock, poultry and other animals: 10%
- Theft out of motor vehicle: 8%
- Home robbery: 10%
- Other crimes: 4%

Other crimes include:
- Theft of crops planted by the household: 1%
- Theft of bicycle: 2%
- Motor vehicle vandalism/deliberate damage of motor vehicle: 3%
- Deliberate damaging, burning, destruction of buildings: 3%
- Theft of motor vehicle: 4%
MOTOR VEHICLE VANDALISM SHOWED THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN CRIME.

Percentage changes in crime categories between 16/17 and 17/18

- **Motor vehicle vandalism**: 26%
- **Theft of motor vehicles**: 19%
- **Hijacking**: 14%
- **Assault**: 12%
- **Deliberate damage of residential buildings**: 7%
- **Housebreaking**: 7%
- **Murder**: 4%
- **Home robbery**: 3%
- **Livestock theft**: -1%
- **Theft of personal property**: -2%
- **Robbery away from home**: -5%
- **Theft out of motor vehicle**: -7%
- **Theft of crops**: -23%

INCREASES IN CRIME

DECREASES IN CRIME
Both VOCS estimates of the number of incidences of housebreaking and SAPS statistics on reported burglary declined during the period 2013/14 and 2016/17.

Household experience of housebreaking/burglary, 2017/18

- **832 122** incidents
- **7%** increase
- **4.25%**
- **0.51%** increase in points
- Percentage of households that experienced burglary
- **51%**
- **No change**
- Percentage of burglary victims who reported to the police

![Graph showing the number of burglaries and reporting rates over time](image-url)
HOUSEHOLDS LOST CLOTHES IN ABOUT A THIRD OF ALL HOUSEBREAKINGS. Cell phones and food stuffs were taken in about a quarter of all recorded housebreakings in 2017/18.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items stolen during housebreaking</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clothes</td>
<td>31.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cellphone</td>
<td>23.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food stuff</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic equipment (e.g. laptop)</td>
<td>21.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money</td>
<td>20.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal effects (e.g. watches)</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SATISFACTION WITH POLICE RESPONSE TO HOUSEBREAKING

- About 33% of households that reported housebreaking were satisfied with police response.

- Male and female-headed households were equally likely to be satisfied with police response.

- The white population group had the highest percentage (53%) of households satisfied with police response to housebreaking reporting.

- Black African and coloured population groups had the lowest percentage (30%) of households satisfied with police response.
Northern Cape had the highest percentage of households satisfied with police response to housebreaking.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Satisfaction Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northern Cape</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free State</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Cape</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Cape</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mpumalanga</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KwaZulu-Natal</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gauteng</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limpopo</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North West</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
VOCS ESTIMATES OF THE NUMBER OF HOME ROBBERY INCIDENCES DECREASED RAPIDLY BETWEEN 2013/14 AND 2016/17. SAPS reported cases of home robbery slightly increased between 2013/14 and 2016/17.

Home robbery estimates for 2017/18

156 089 INCIDENCES

0.8% No change

Percentage of households that experienced home robbery

59% Points

Percentage of home robbery victims who reported to the police

Livestock theft estimates for 2017/18

159 421
INCIDENCES

0.77%
Percentage of households that experienced livestock theft

29%
Percentage of livestock theft victims who reported to the police

SAPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>VOCS</th>
<th>SAPS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>301 350</td>
<td>24 534</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/15</td>
<td>176 066</td>
<td>26 902</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/16</td>
<td>159 421</td>
<td>28 849</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SAPS statistics for stock theft increased during that period.
VOCS ESTIMATED MURDER INCIDENCES DECLINED BETWEEN 2013/14 AND 2015/16 AND THEN FOLLOWED AN INCREASING TREND. SAPS murder plus culpable homicide increased steadily since 2013/14

Murder estimates for 2017/18

16 809 INCIDENCES

0,08% Percentage of households that experienced murder

89% Percentage of households that reported murder to the police

Number of murders / cases

2013/14 2014/15 2015/16 2016/17 2017/18

SAPS

28 280

26 529

32 359

VOCS

23% Points

0,02% Points

23% Points

W Stats SA

NDP

THE SOUTH AFRICA I KNOW, THE HOME I UNDERSTAND
Individual Experience of Crime
THE PERCENTAGE OF INDIVIDUALS AGED 16 AND ABOVE WHO EXPERIENCED CRIME DECREASED STEADILY BETWEEN 2013/14 AND 2016/17 THEN INCREASED SLIGHTLY IN 2017/18
THEFT OF PERSONAL PROPERTY, ROBBERY OUTSIDE HOME AND ASSAULT ACCOUNTED FOR 79% OF CRIME EXPERIENCED BY INDIVIDUALS 16 YEARS AND ABOVE.

Distribution of individual crime experienced, 2017/18

- Theft of personal property: 41%
- Robbery: 17%
- Assault: 21%
- Other crimes: 21%

* Other includes: Hijacking of motor vehicles, sexual offences, consumer fraud and corruption

* Numbers have been rounded and may not total 100%
CELLPHONES DOMINATED THE LIST OF ITEMS LOST THROUGH THEFT OF PERSONAL PROPERTY AFFECTING 69.1% OF THE VICTIMS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cell phone</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money/purse/wallet</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bankbooks/cards</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal effects (e.g. jewellery)</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travelling bag</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portable computer</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel document</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portable radio/MP3 player</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

693,219 INCIDENTS

1.72% Individuals aged 16 and above who experienced theft of personal property

2% Individuals aged 16 and above who reported to the police

24% Individuals aged 16 and above who experienced theft of personal property

8% Individuals aged 16 and above who reported to the police
VOCS ESTIMATED ROBBERY OUTSIDE HOME INCIDENCES DECLINED BETWEEN 2013/14 AND 2017/18. Saps reported robbery plus robbery with aggravating circumstances increased for the most part during that period.

Robbery outside home estimates for 2017/18

**280 526 INCIDENCES**

0,67%

Percentage of individuals aged 16 years and above who experienced robbery outside home

36%

Percentage of assault victims who reported to the police

Number of incidences / Cases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>VOCS</th>
<th>SAPS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>373 148</td>
<td>172 468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/15</td>
<td>294 874</td>
<td>194 374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/16</td>
<td>280 526</td>
<td>189 094</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VOCS 2017/18

THE SOUTH AFRICA I KNOW, THE HOME I UNDERSTAND
Most victims (65.4%) are robbed in the streets in the residential area.

Males are almost twice as likely to be victims of robbery as females.

31.5% resist robbery.

25.8% injured during robbery.

There is evidence of association between resisting robbery and sustaining injury during robbery.

Assault estimates for 2017/18

355 739
INCIDENCES

0,72%
Percentage of individuals aged 16 years and above who experienced assault

47%
Percentage of assault victims who reported to the police

Both SAPS statistics and VOCS estimates show declining trends of assault for most of the period 2013/14 and 2016/17.
ASSAULT: QUICK FACTS

- Number of incidents: 355 739
- Males more likely to be victims than females
- Females are more likely to report assault to the police than males
- Most assaults occur at home
Household's Feelings About Crime And Their Safety

Household perceptions on violent crime in their areas of residence, 2012-2017/18

- **Increased**
  - 2012: 32.5%
  - 2013: 39.4%
  - 2014: 42.1%
  - 2015: 32.5%
  - 2016: 38.2%
  - 2017: 24.5%

- **Decreased**
  - 2012: 38.2%
  - 2013: 29.2%
  - 2014: 28.6%
  - 2015: 28.6%
  - 2016: 29.2%
  - 2017: 32.5%

- **Stayed the same**
  - 2012: 20%
  - 2013: 25%
  - 2014: 30%
  - 2015: 35%
  - 2016: 40%
  - 2017: 45%
HOUSEHOLDS THAT FELT SAFE TO WALK (DAY AND NIGHT) IN THEIR NEIGHBOURHOODS DECLINED FOR MOST OF THE PERIOD 2013/14 TO 2017/18

Household feelings of safety during the day and when it is dark, 2013/14-2017/18

Feeling safe during the day

87%  
79%

Feeling safe when it is dark

35%  
32%

13/14  14/15  15/16  16/17  17/18
Satisfaction with the police and the court
WIDENING GULF IN HOUSEHOLDS SATISFACTION BETWEEN POLICE SERVICES AND HOW COURTS GENERALLY DEAL WITH PERPETRATORS OF CRIME

Percentage of households satisfied with the police or the courts

- **Police**
  - 2013/14: 63.9%
  - 2014/15: 59.4%
  - 2015/16: 56.2%
  - 2016/17: 54.2%
  - 2017/18: 41.1%

- **Courts**
  - 2013/14: 54.2%
  - 2014/15: 46.6%
  - 2015/16: 44.7%
  - 2016/17: 36.5%
  - 2017/18: 30.0%
NC showed relatively large declines in both satisfaction levels with police and courts between 2016/17 and 2017/18.

Percentage change in general satisfaction with the police and courts between 2016/17 and 2017/18 by province.
LIMPOPO IS THE ONLY PROVINCE TO SHOW A HIGHER SATISFACTION RATE WITH THE COURTS VS THE POLICE.

Household satisfaction with the courts vs the police, by province, 2017/18

- **FS**: 64% Courts, 44% Police
- **LP**: 58% Courts, 64% Police
- **WC**: 56% Courts, 44% Police
- **MP**: 56% Courts, 44% Police
- **EC**: 54% Courts, 41% Police
- **SA**: 53% Courts, 40% Police
- **GP**: 52% Courts, 41% Police
- **NC**: 50% Courts, 40% Police
- **KZN**: 47% Courts, 44% Police
- **NW**: 47% Courts, 44% Police

Limpopo is the only province to show higher satisfaction rates with the courts vs the police.
Households’ perceptions of effectiveness of correctional services
Males have more trust in the effectiveness of correctional services than women.

Black Africans have more trust in the effectiveness of correctional services than other population groups.
The general level of crime as estimated by VOCS has been declining during the past five years but increased in 2016/17 and 2017/18.

The percentage of households who feel safe walking in their neighbourhoods during the day continued to decline.

Murder increased during the past three years both in terms of the total number of incidences (VOCS) and the number of cases reported to the police (SAPS).

Greater percentage of households, in 2017/18 compared to 2016/17, think that the levels of violent and property crimes increased during the past three years.
Ndzi Hela Kwala!