

Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS)

Victims of Crime Release 2025/26

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About the GPSJS and its objectives



Victims of Crime Survey (VOCS)

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



Sample size

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



New information demands on governance

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



Levels, trends and perceptions about crime in SA

Provides an overview of the level and trend of crime experienced by households and individuals in SA and explore public perceptions on issues of safety and general perceptions of individuals on gender norms and societal issues.



Complement SAPS Crime Statistics

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



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Household Experience of Crime

The Victim of Crime modules in GPSJS consists of **8 types of household crimes**: Housebreaking, home robbery, theft of motor vehicles, murder, assault, sexual offence, deliberate damaging of dwellings, and theft of livestock/poultry and other animals



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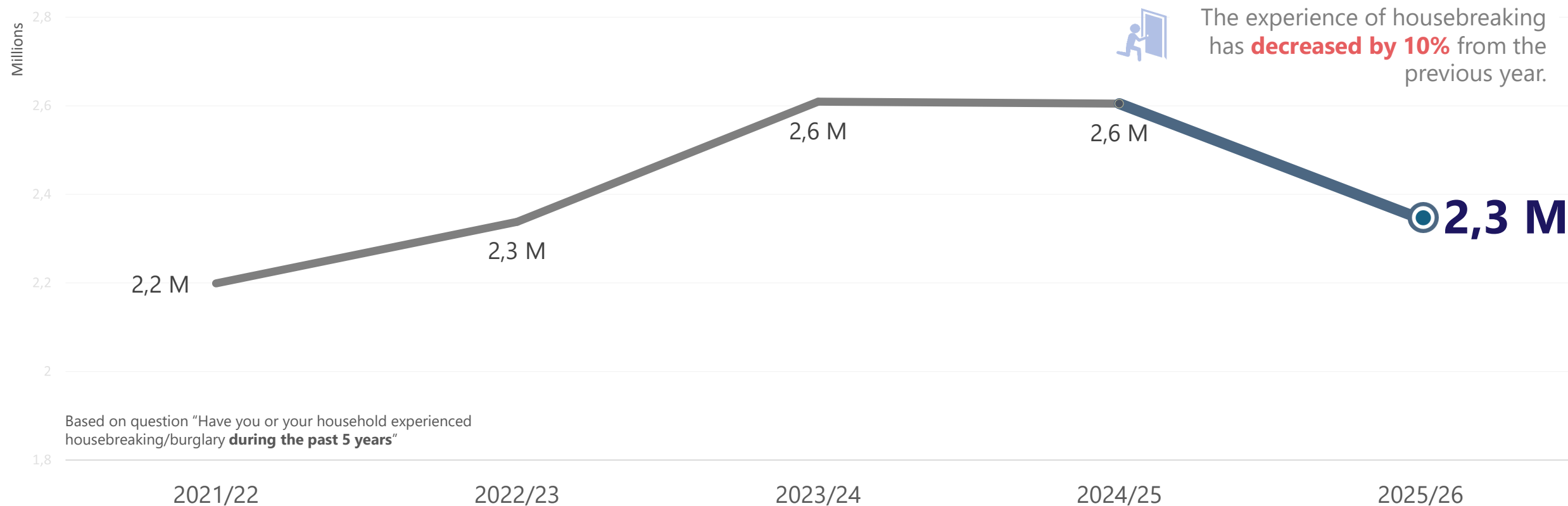


Households asked to recall back events over a 5 year period



Around **2,3M households** experienced **housebreaking/burglary** during the **past 5 years**.

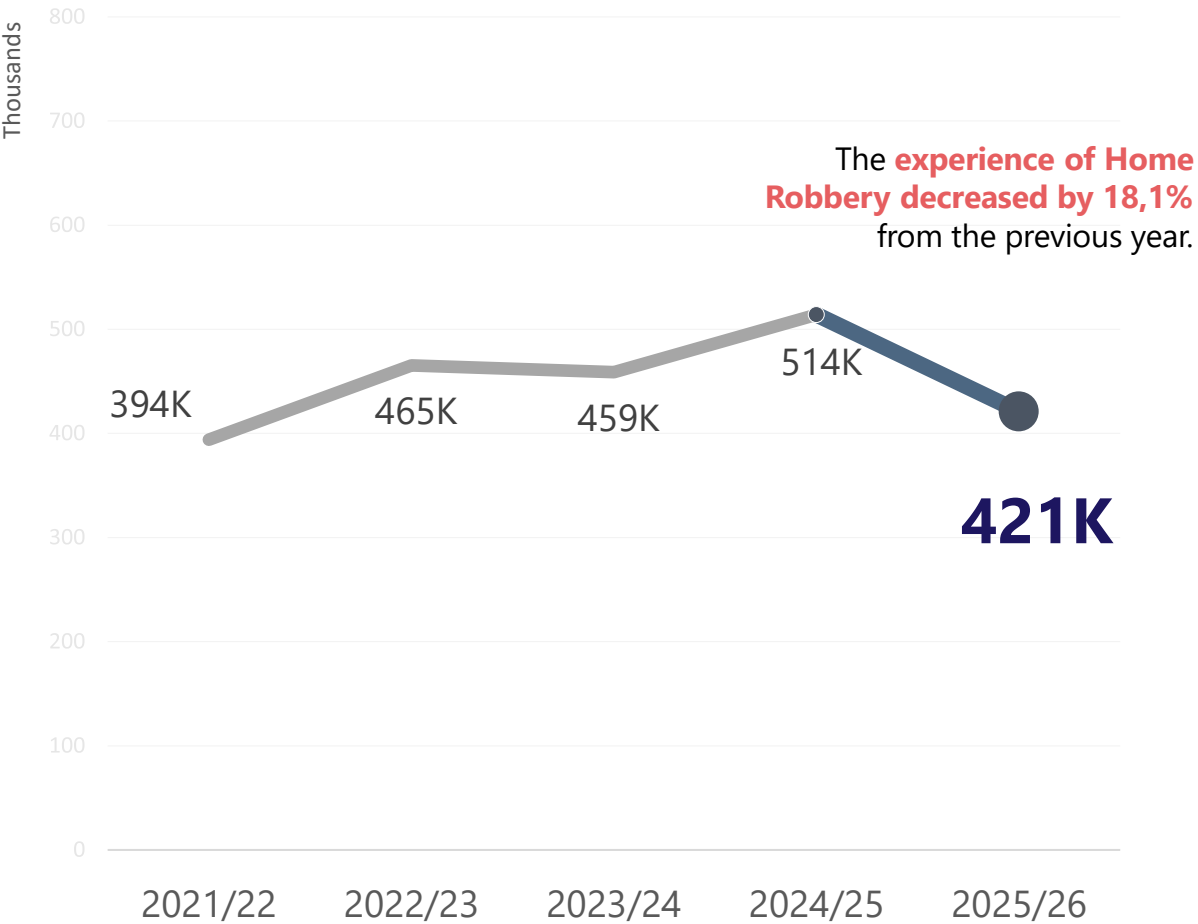
5 YEARS
RECALL



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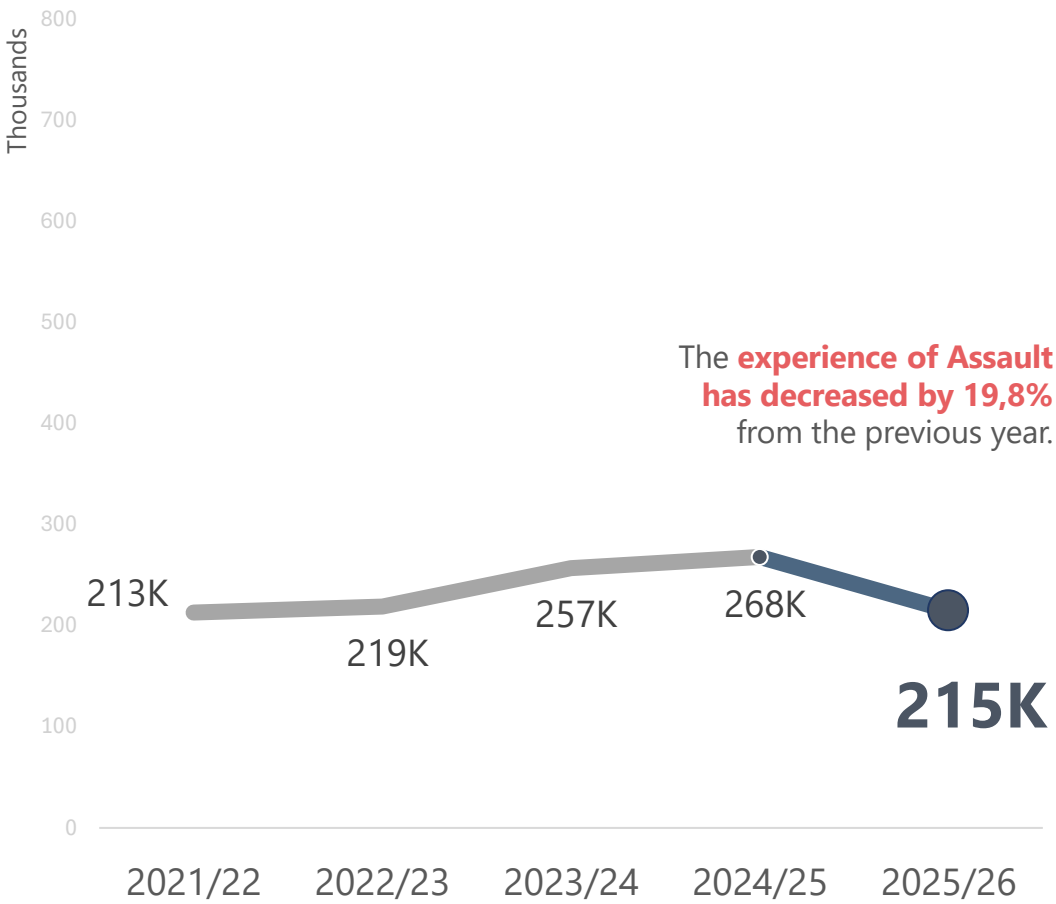
Around **421 000** households experienced **Home Robbery** during the **past 5 years**.



Based on question "Have you or your household experienced Home robbery during the past 5 years"

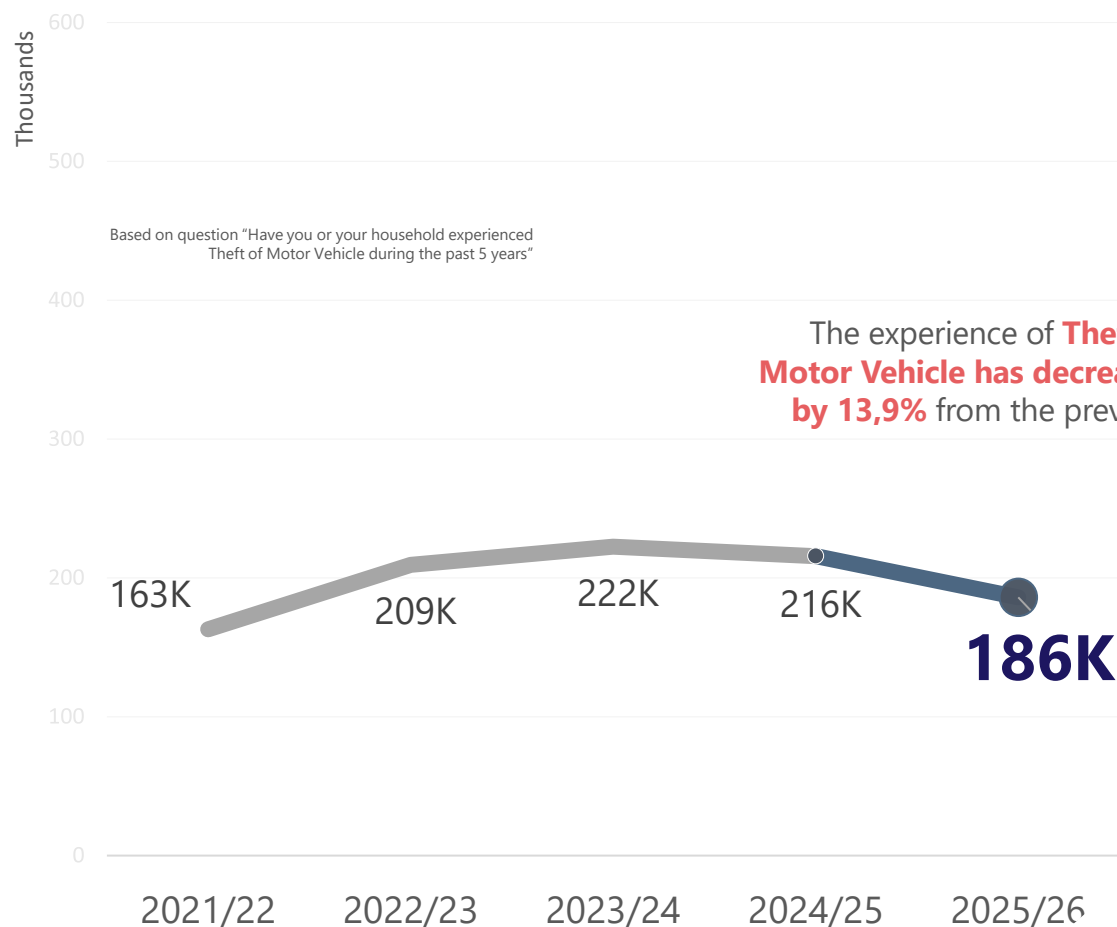
Around **215 000** households experienced **Assault** during the **past 5 years**.

5 YEARS RECALL



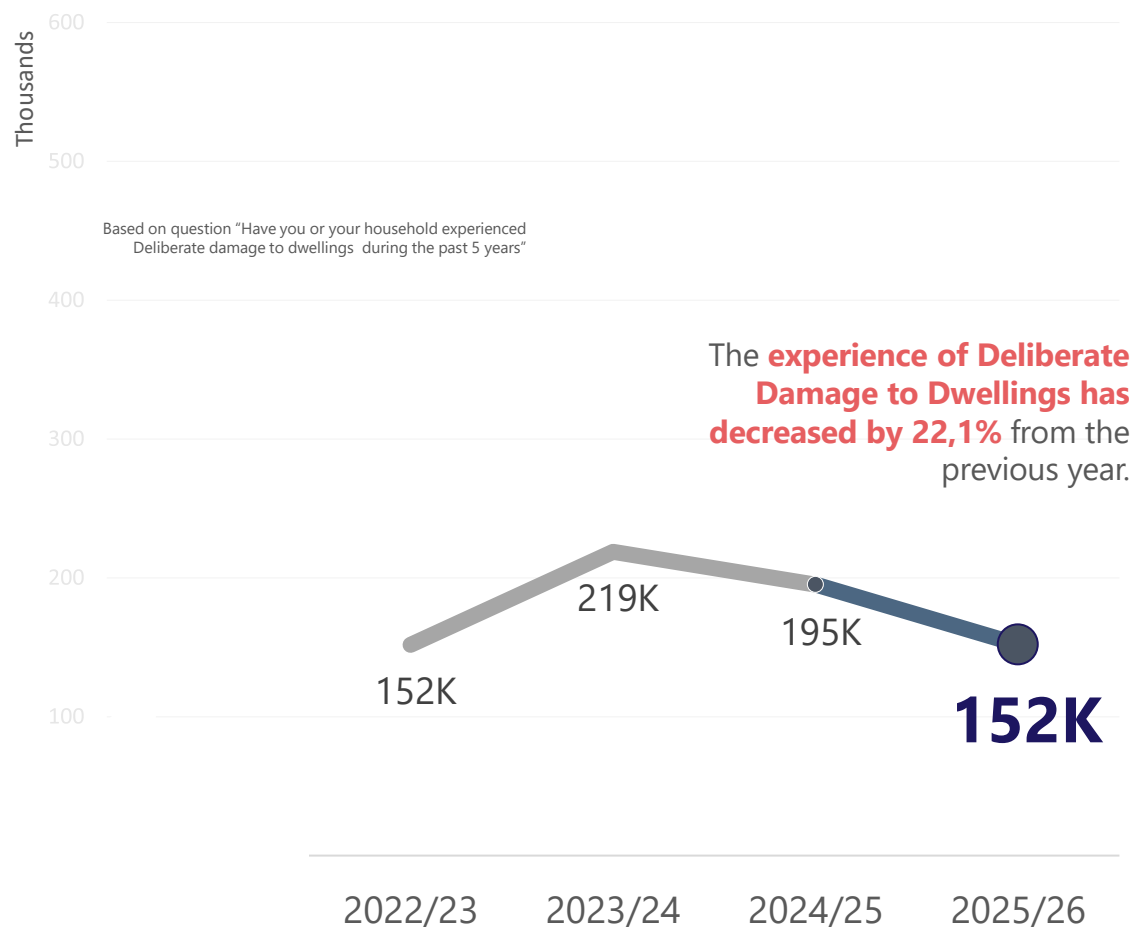
Based on question "Have you or your household experienced Assault during the past 5 years"

Around **186 000** households experienced **Theft of Motor Vehicles** during the **past 5 years**.

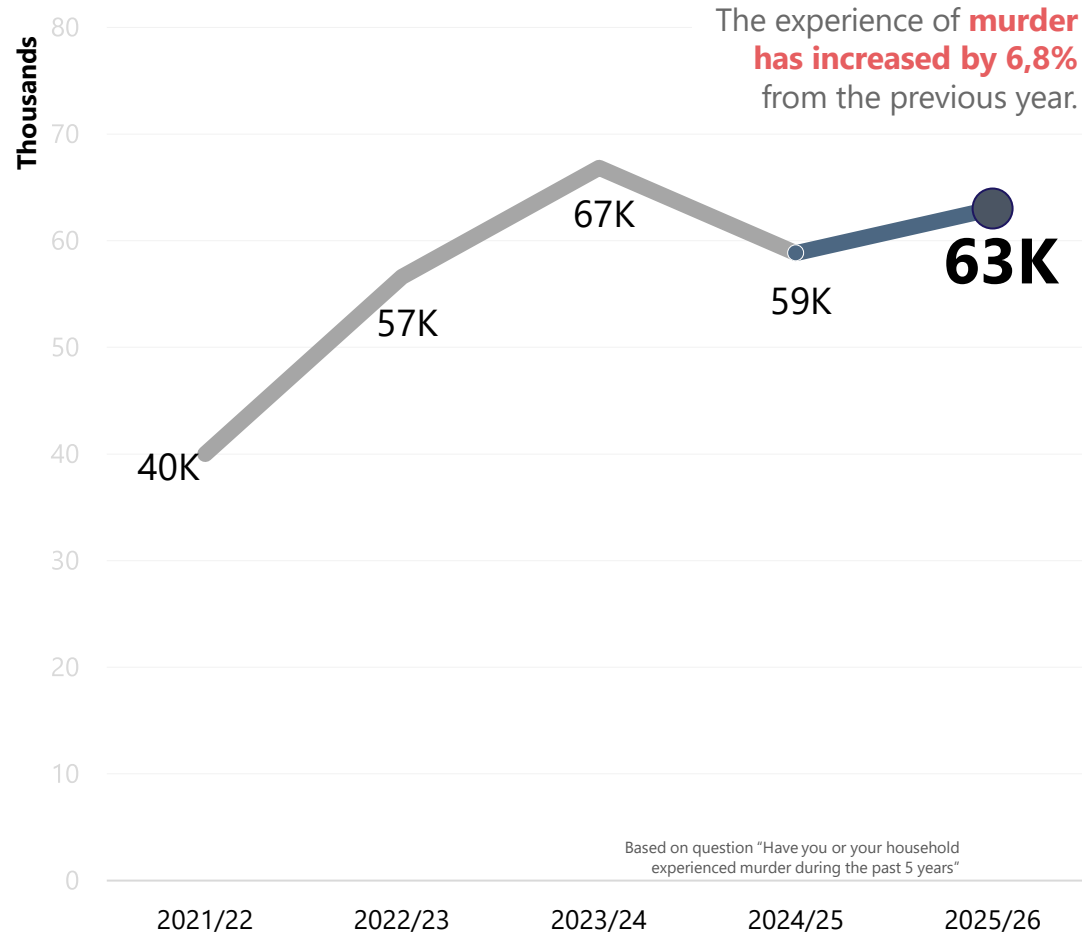


Around **152 000** households experienced **Deliberate damage to dwellings** during the **past 5 years**.

5 YEARS
RECALL

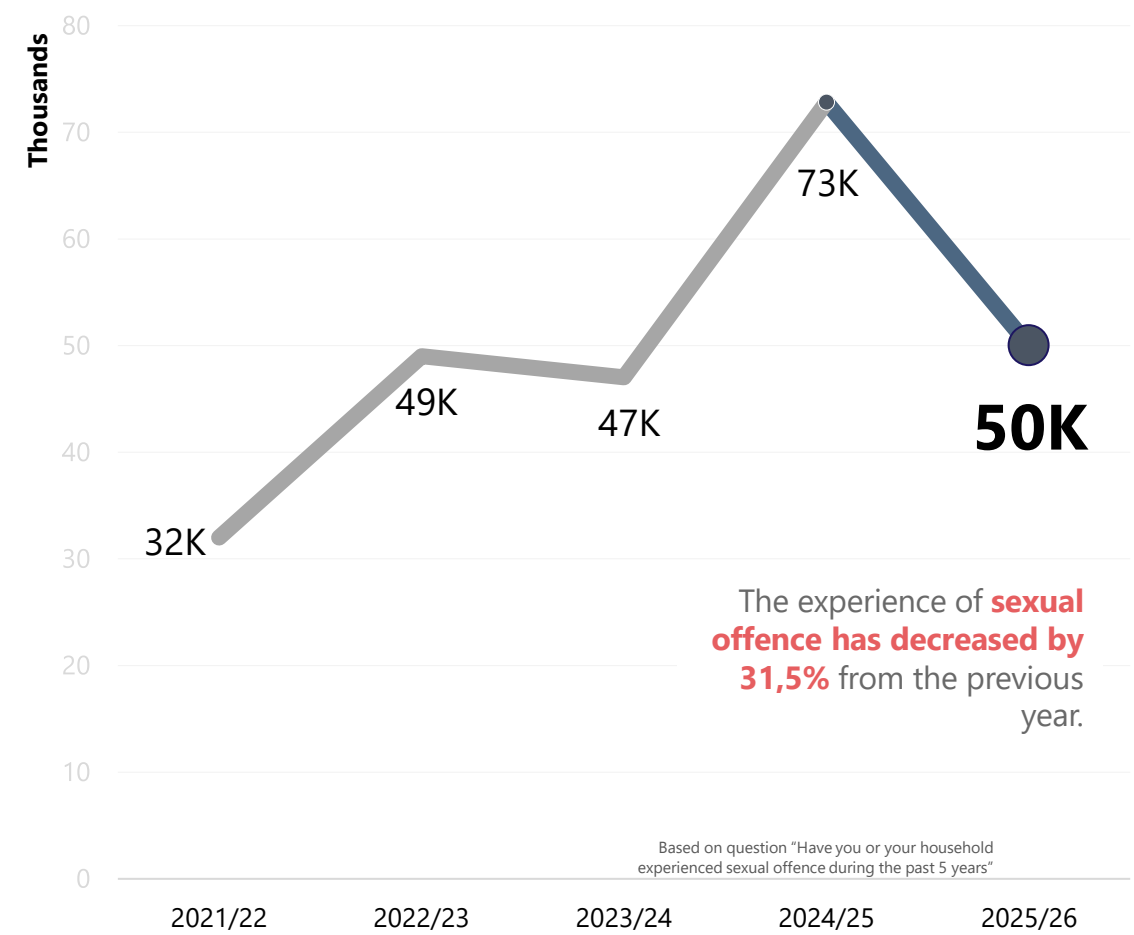


Around **63 000** households experienced **Murder** during the **past 5 years**.



Around **50 000** households experienced **Sexual Offence** during the **past 5 years**.

5 YEARS RECALL





Changes over a 12-Month Period

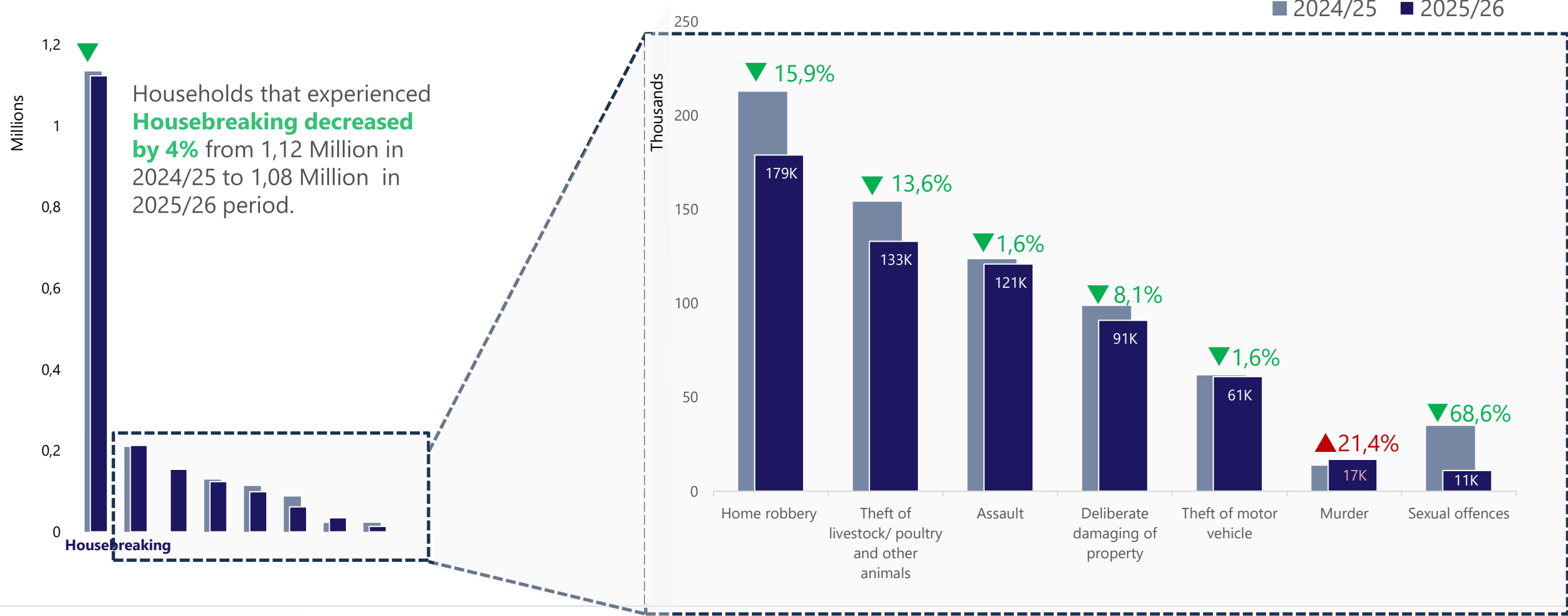


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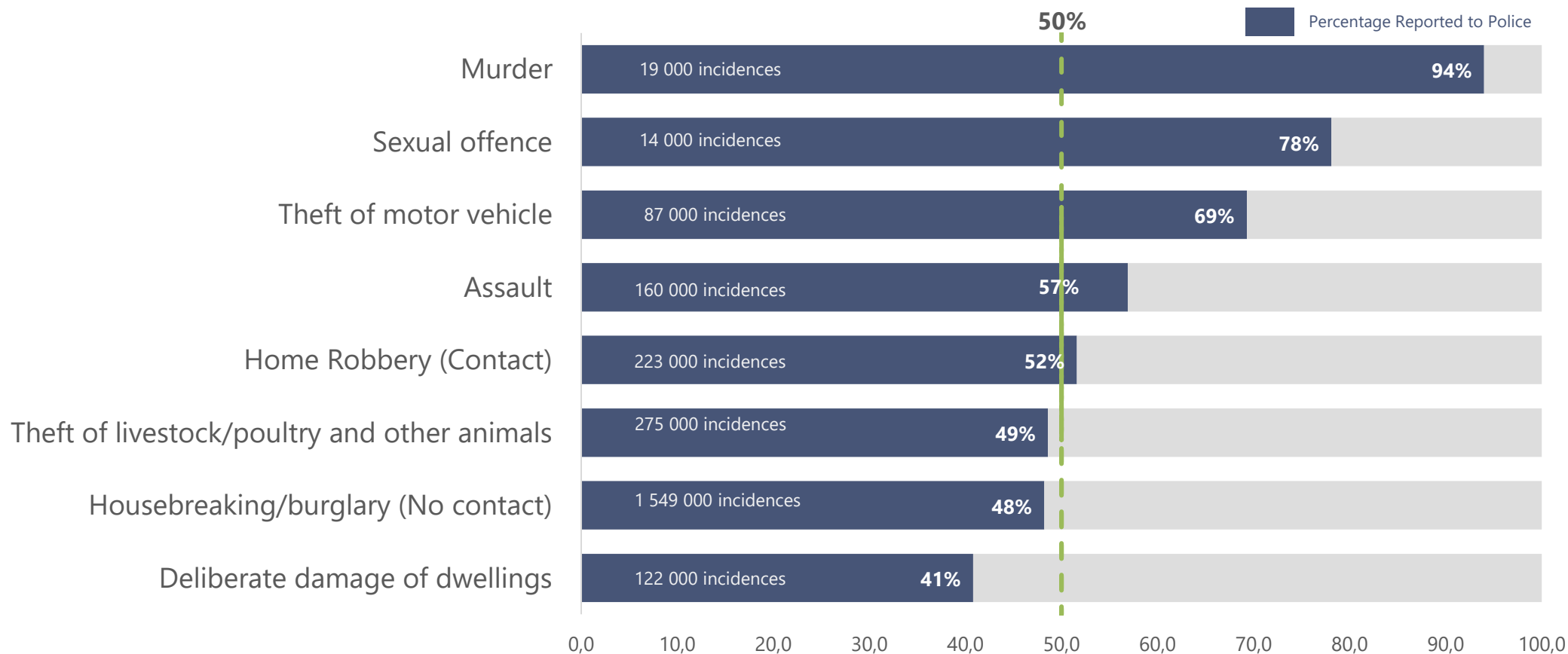
Housebreaking is the most experienced household crime with around 6 times more occurrences than the next most experience of crime being home robbery

Number of households that experienced specified types of crime, 2024/25 and 2025/26



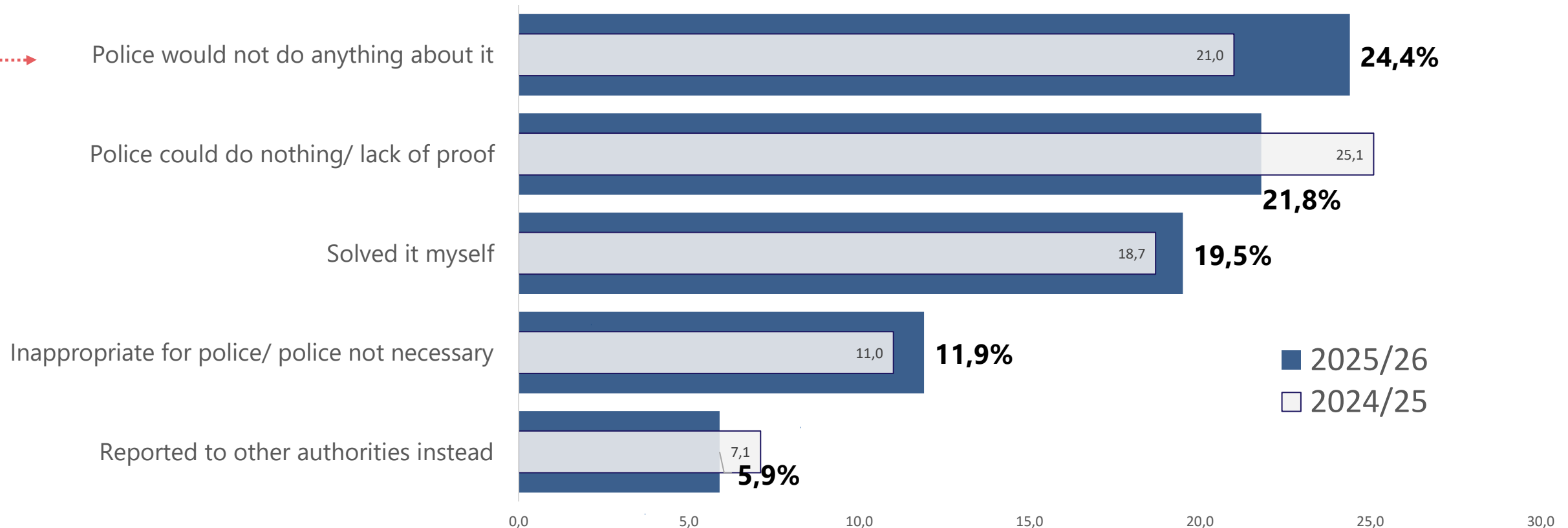
About 94% of **households** that experienced Murder reported all incidences to the police. Less than **50%** of Housebreaking incidents were reported to the police.

Percentage of households that reported incidences of specified type of crime to the police in the **12 months preceding the survey, 2025/26**

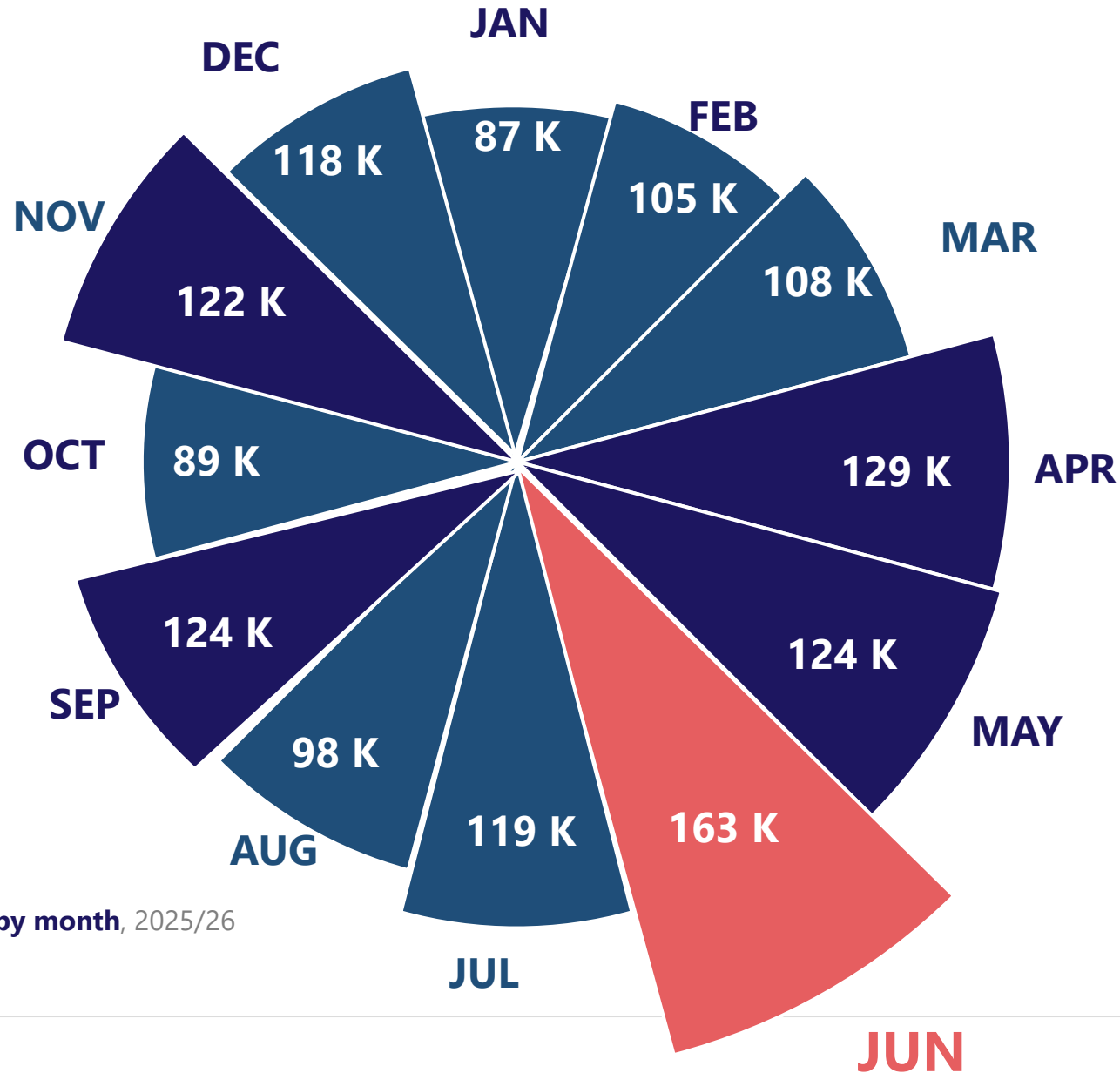


Majority of households indicated the reason they did not report housebreaking incidences to the police in 2025/26 was **“police would not do anything about it”**

Reasons for not reporting Housebreaking, 2024/25 and 2025/26



**Housebreaking
peaked in June**
with **163 000**
incidences



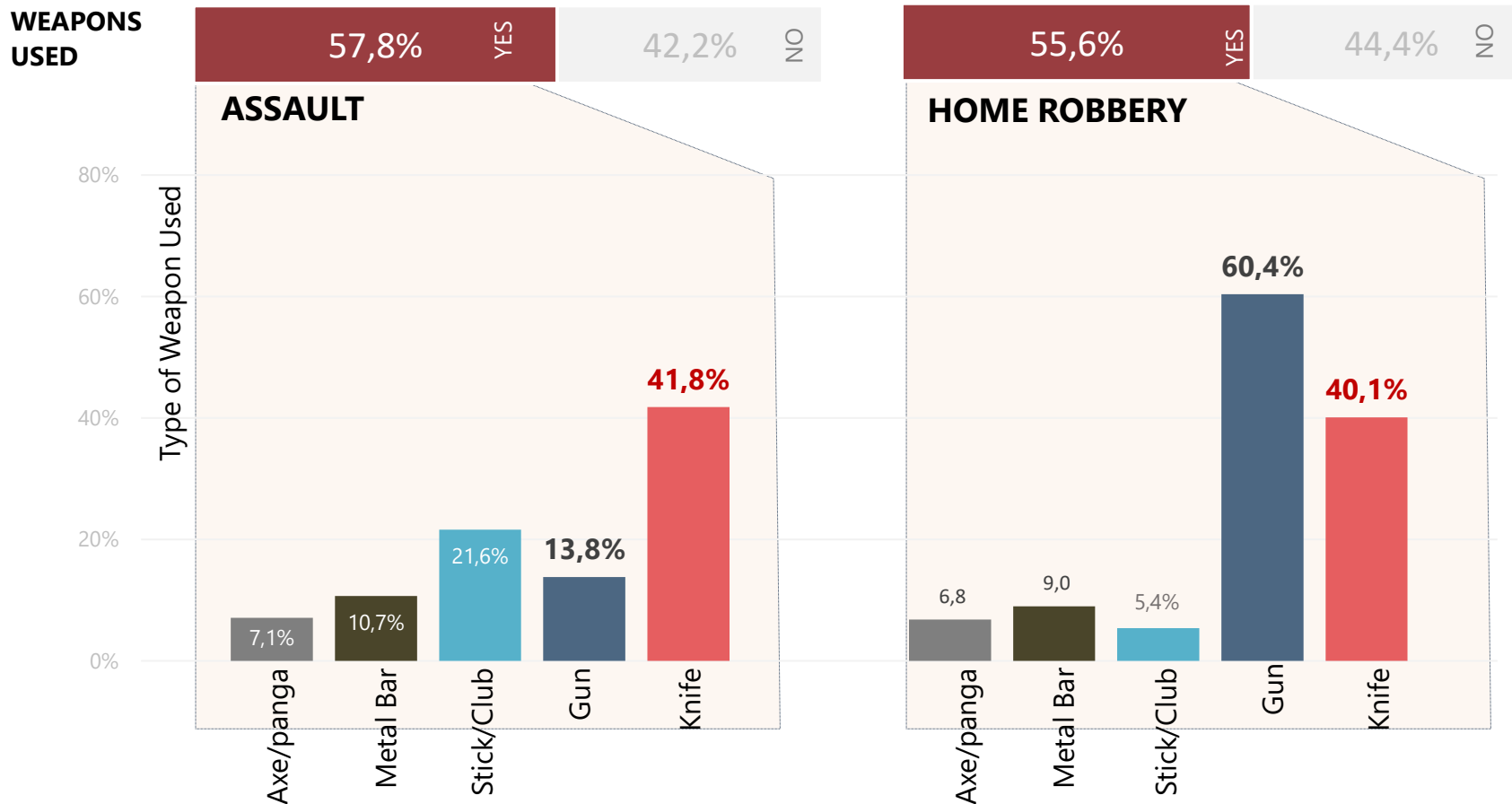
Number of incidences of **Housebreaking by month**, 2025/26



About **58%** households indicated that weapons were used during incidents of **assault** and **41,8%** indicated that a knife was used.

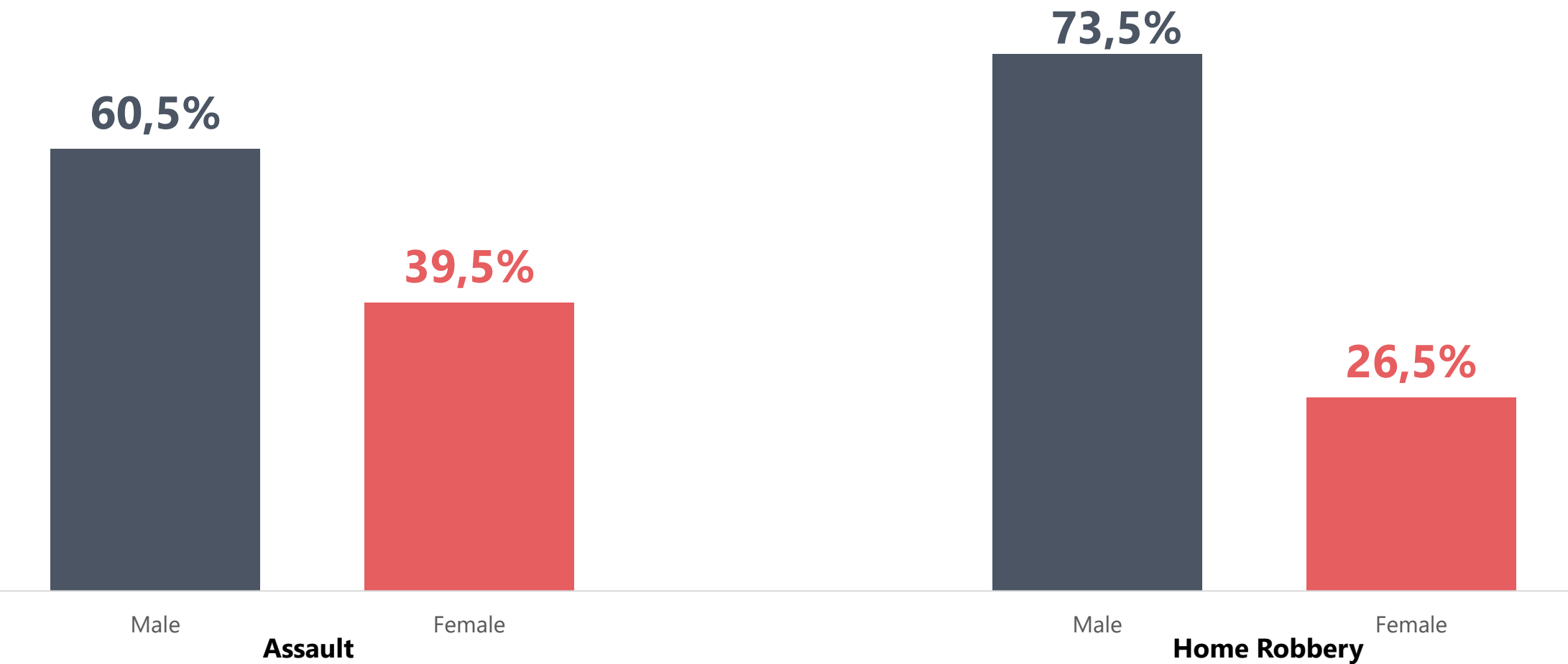
56% households indicated weapons were used during an incident of **home robbery** and **60,4%** reported that a gun was used.

Percentage of households that indicated that a weapon was used during assault and home robbery incidences, 2025/26



More male-headed households indicated that weapons were used during incidents of assault and home robbery.

Percentage of households that indicated weapons were used during incidence of home robbery and assault by sex, 2025/26



Individual Experience of Crime

The Victim of Crime modules in GPSJS consists of **7 types of individual crime**:

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



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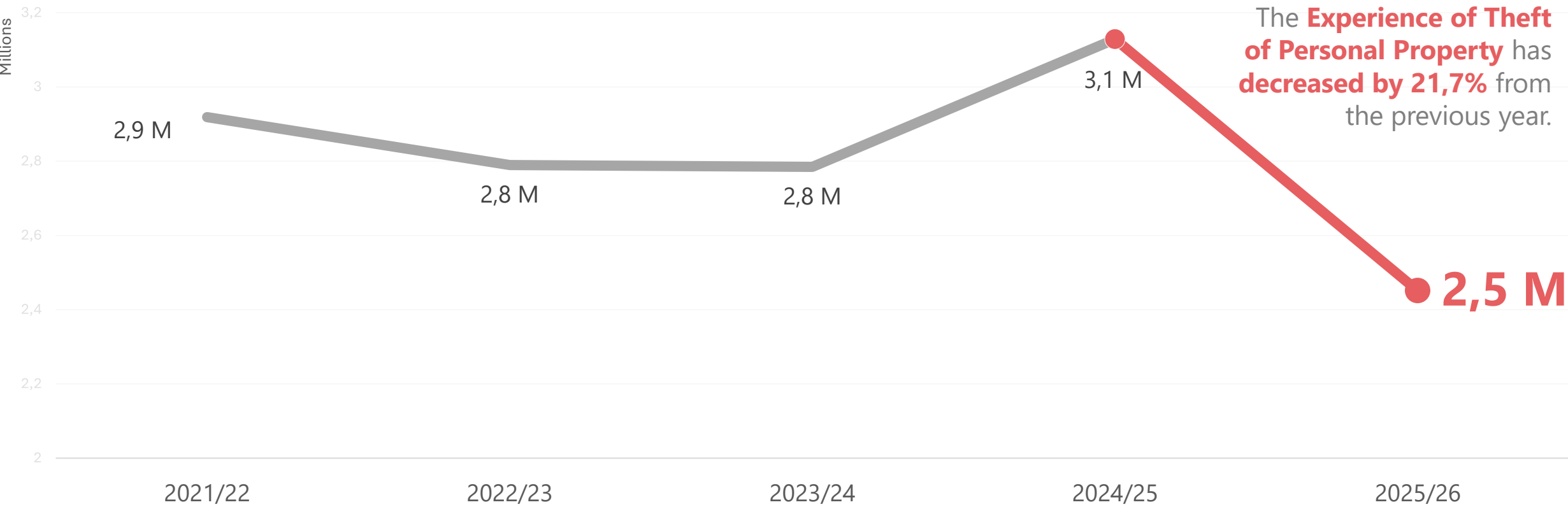


Individuals asked to recall back events over a 5 year period

2,5 Million individuals experienced theft of personal property during the past 5 years.

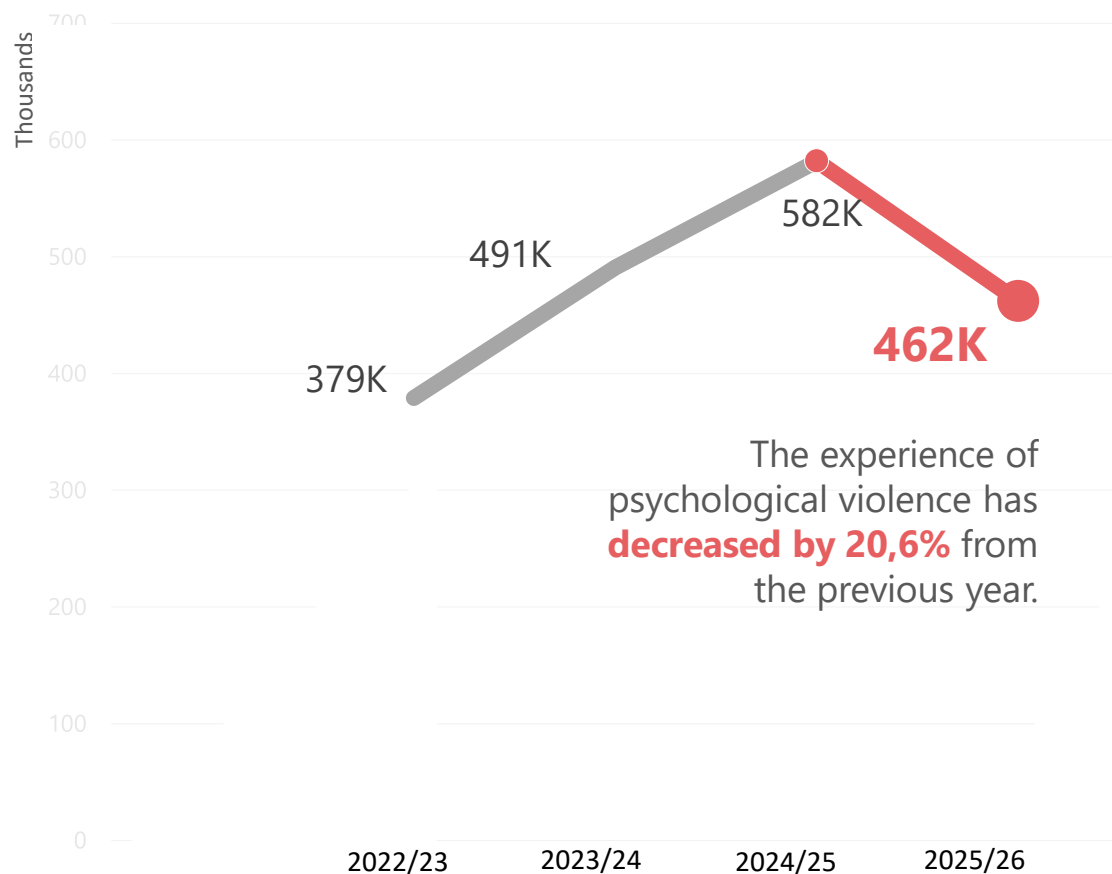
5 YEARS RECALL

Number of individuals aged 16 and older that experienced theft of personal property during the past 5 years



462 000 individuals experienced **psychological violence** during the **past 5 years**.

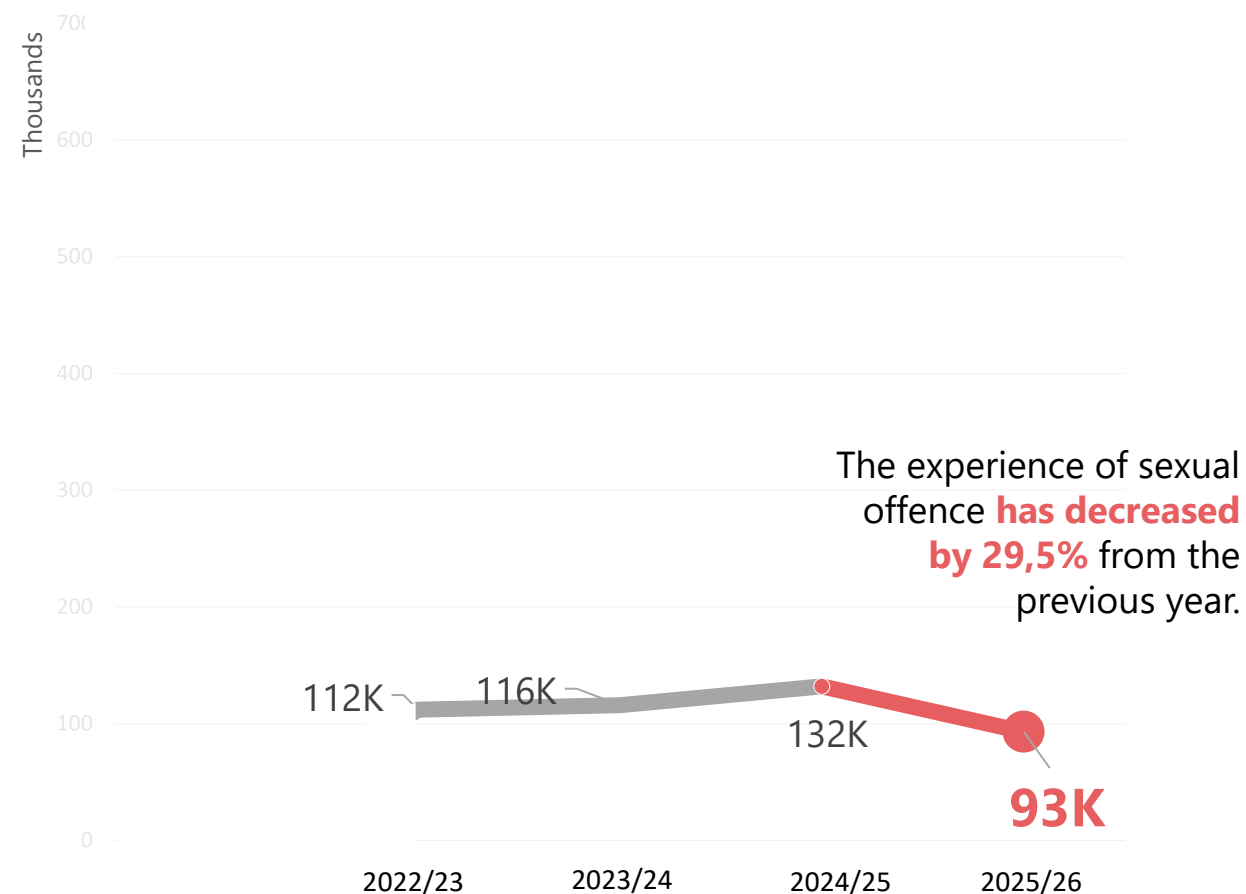
Number of individuals aged 16 and older that Psychological violence during the past 5 years



93 000 individuals experienced **sexual offence** during the **past 5 years**.

5 YEARS RECALL

Number of individuals aged 16 and older that experienced Sexual offence during the past 5 years



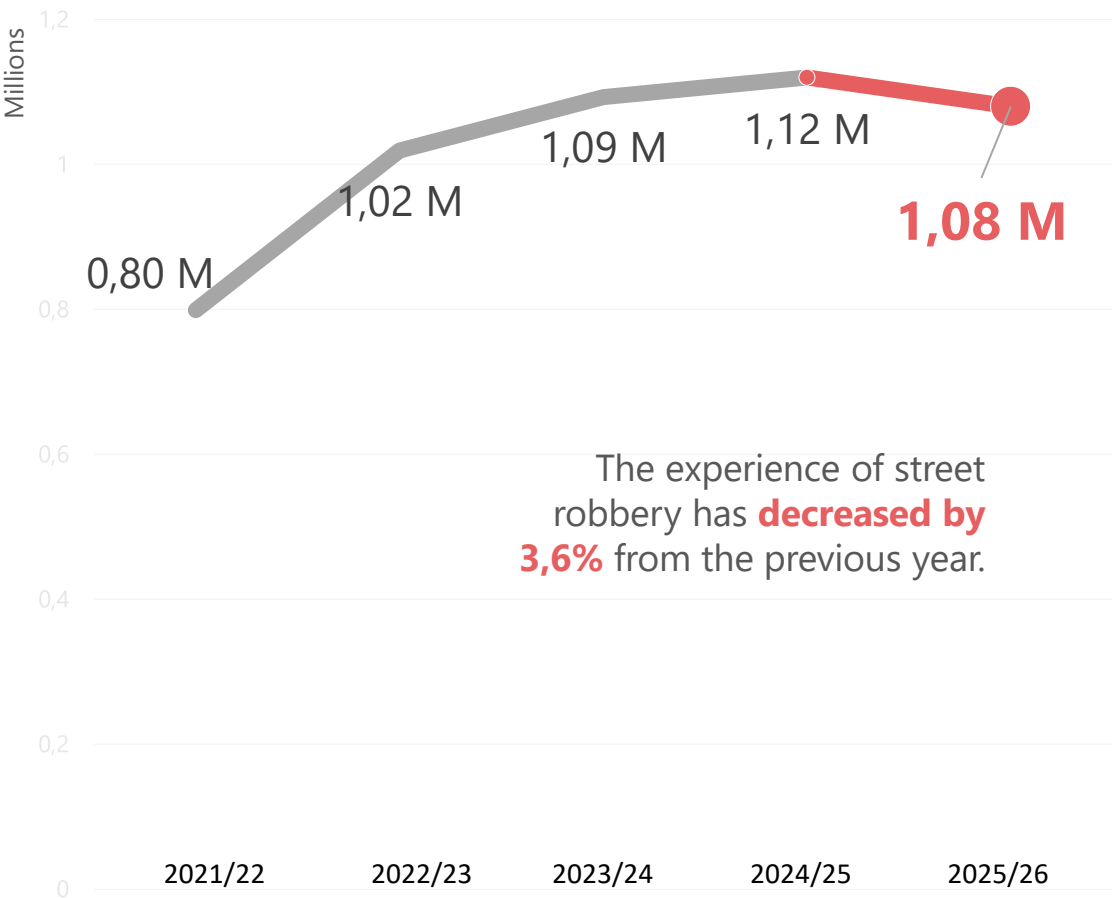
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1,08 M individuals experienced street robbery during the past 5 years.

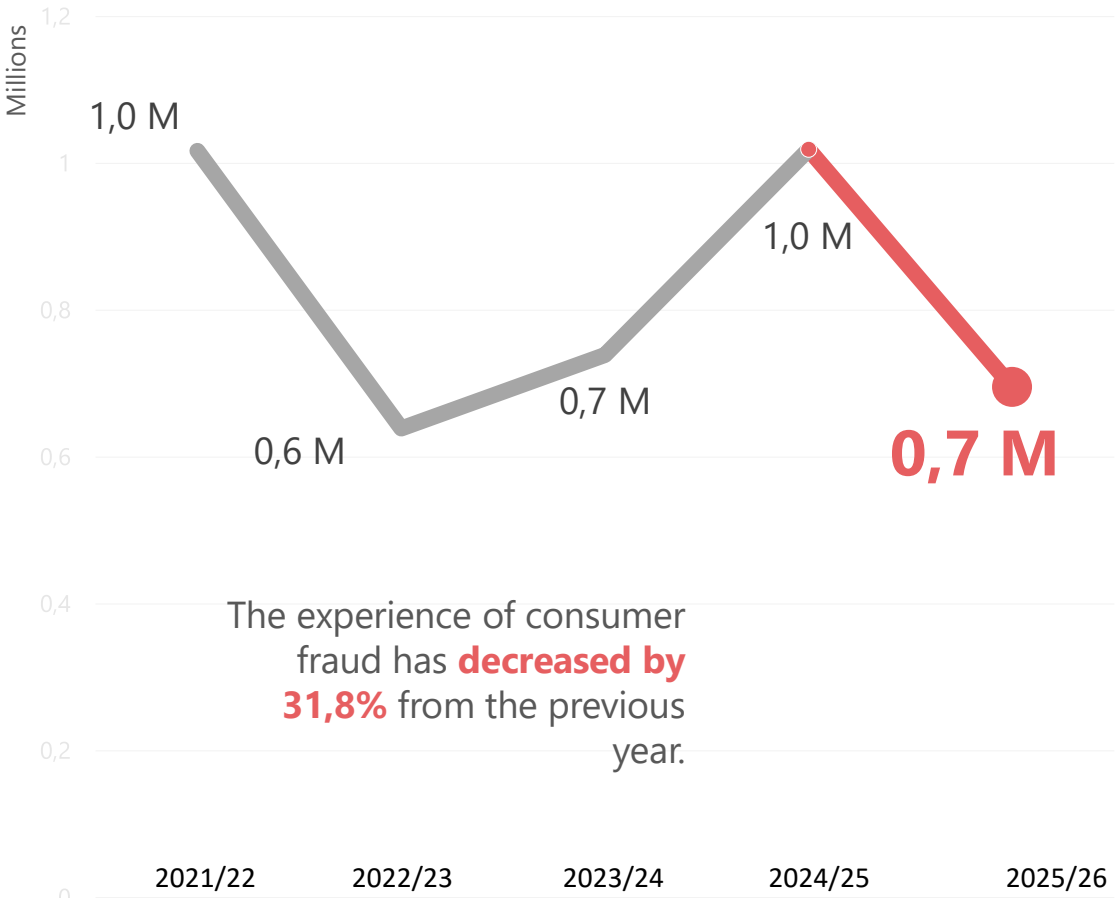
Number of individuals aged 16 and older that experienced street robbery during the past 5 years



695 000 individuals experienced consumer fraud during the past 5 years.

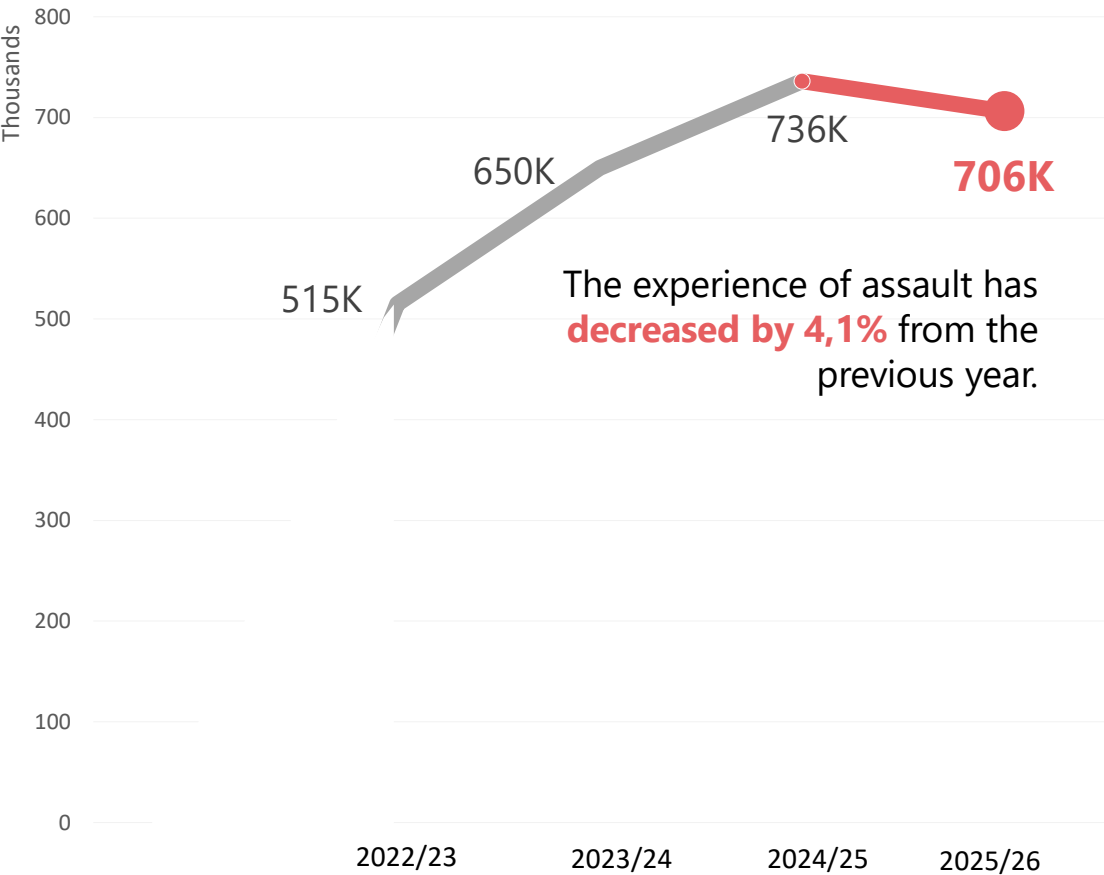


Number of individuals aged 16 and older that experienced consumer fraud during the past 5 years



706 000 individuals experienced assault during the past 5 years.

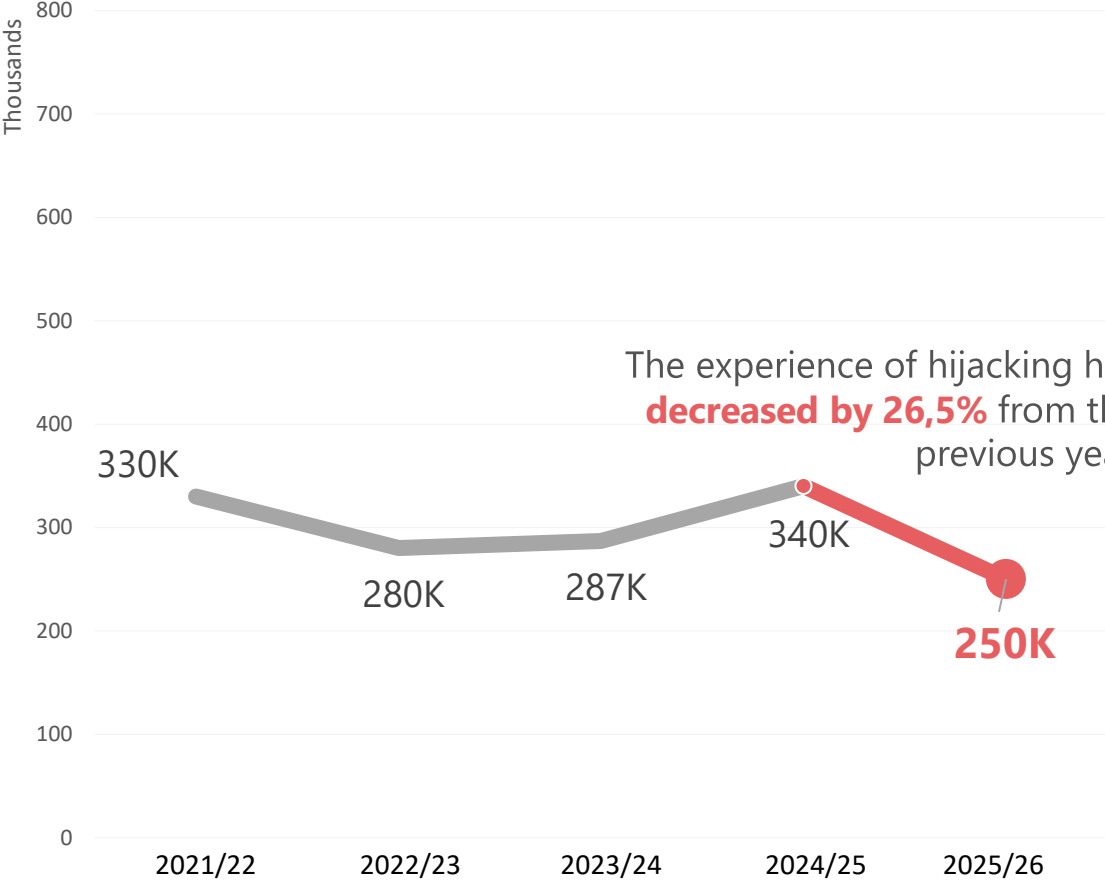
Number of individuals aged 16 and older that experienced assault during the past 5 years



250 000 individuals experienced hijacking during the past 5 years.



Number of individuals aged 16 and older that experienced hijacking during the past 5 years





Changes over a 12-Month Period



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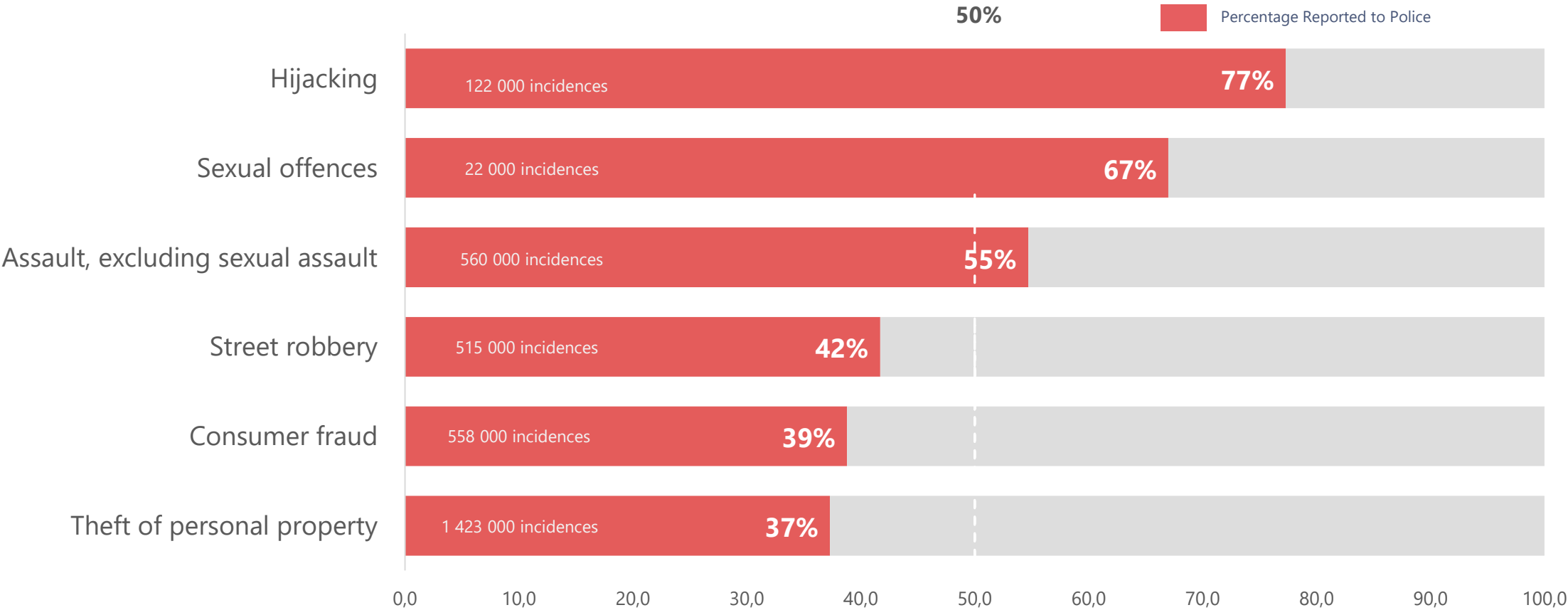
Theft of Personal Property was the most common individual crime in 2025/26.

Number of individuals that experienced specified types of crime, 2024/25 and 2025/26



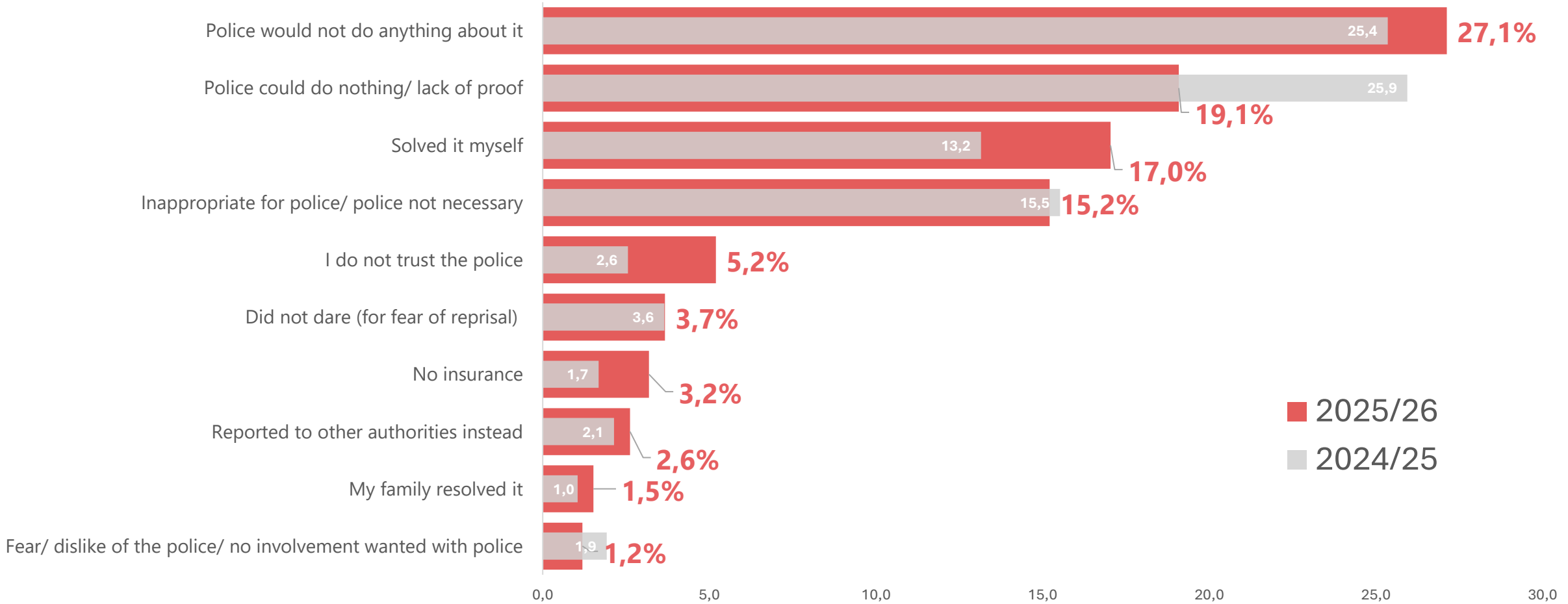
Only 37% of individuals that experienced Theft of Personal Property reported some or all incidences to the police. A total of 1,4M incidences of theft of personal property occurred in 2025/26.

Percentage of individuals 16 years and older that reported incidences of specified type of crime to the police in the 12 months preceding the survey, 2025/26

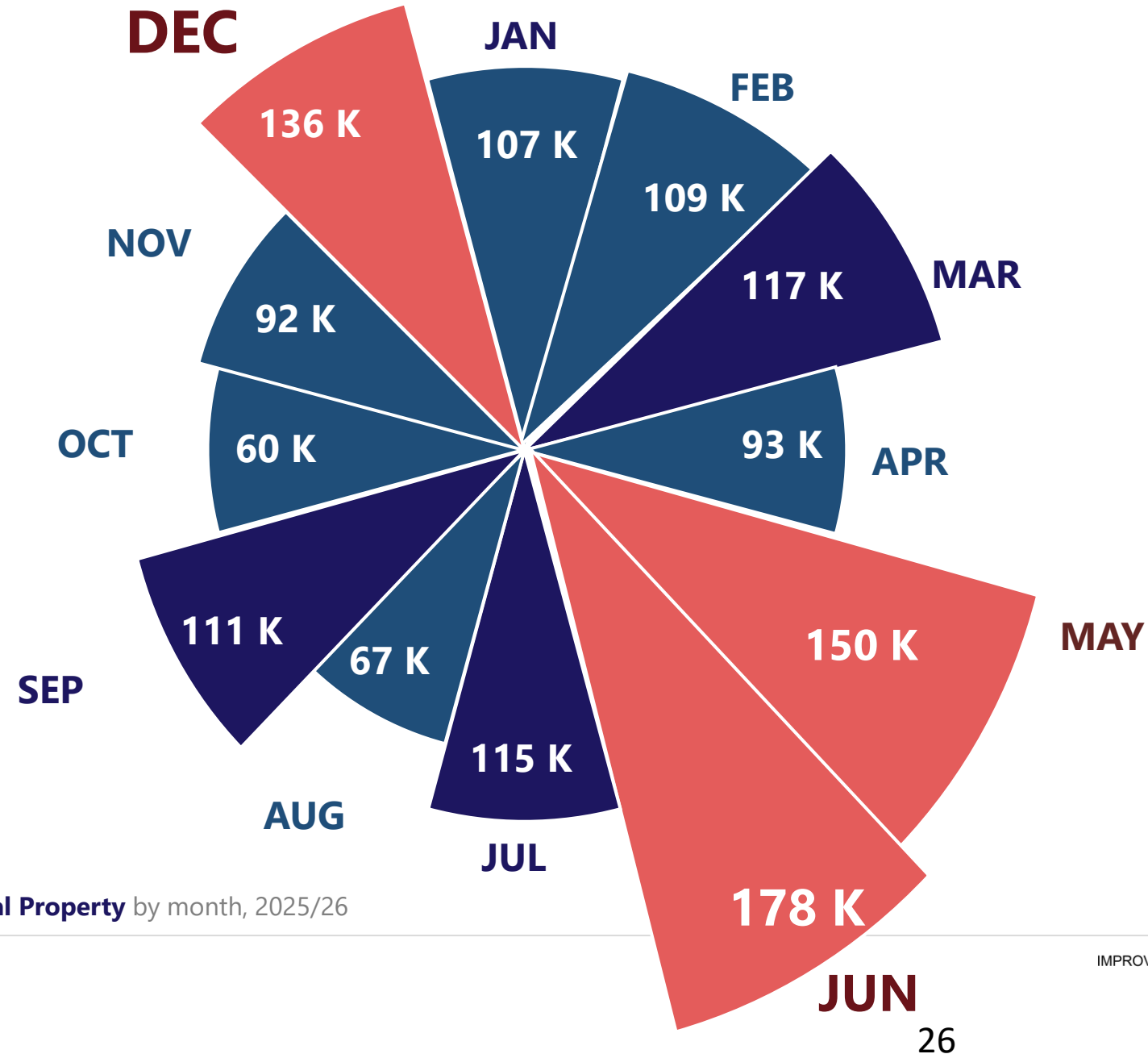


In both years, “**police would not do anything about it**” and “**police could not do anything/lack of proof**” were the two top reasons why **individuals 16 years and older** did not report theft of personal property to the police.

Percentage distribution of reasons why individuals did not report theft of personal property to the police, 2024/25 and 2025/26



Incidences of
**Theft of
Personal
Property**
peaked in **June,
May and
December**



Number of incidences of **Theft of Personal Property** by month, 2025/26



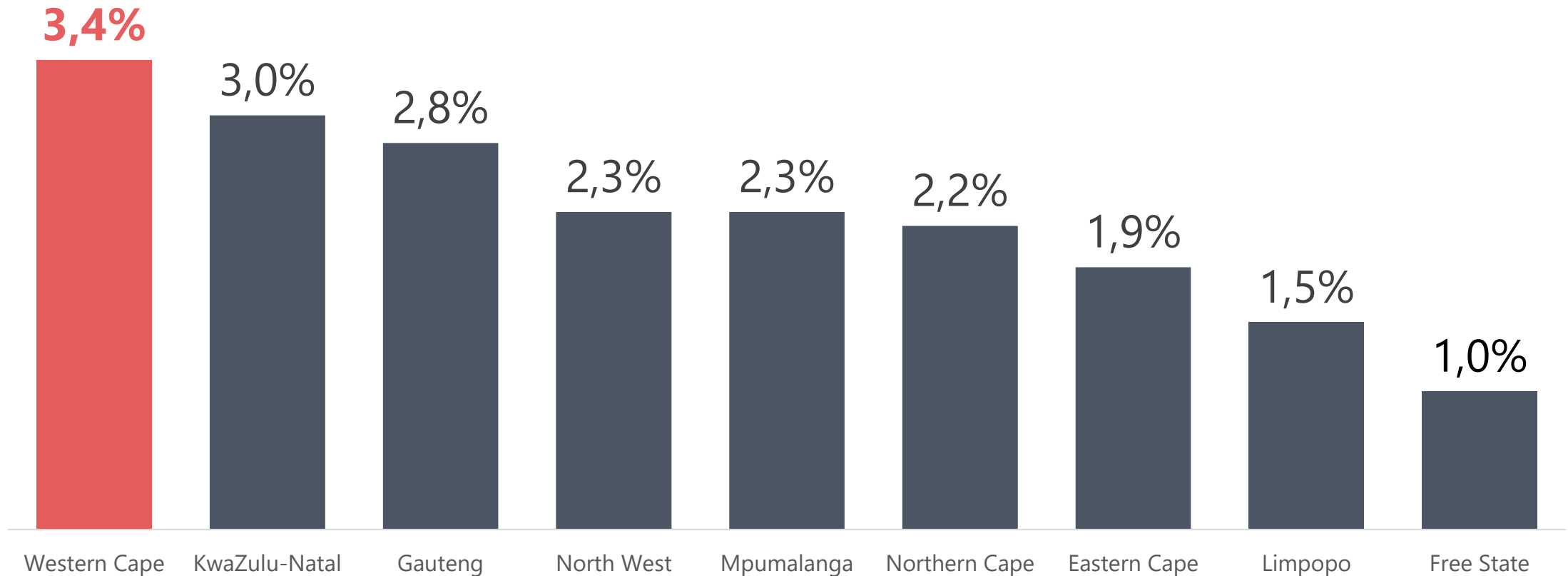
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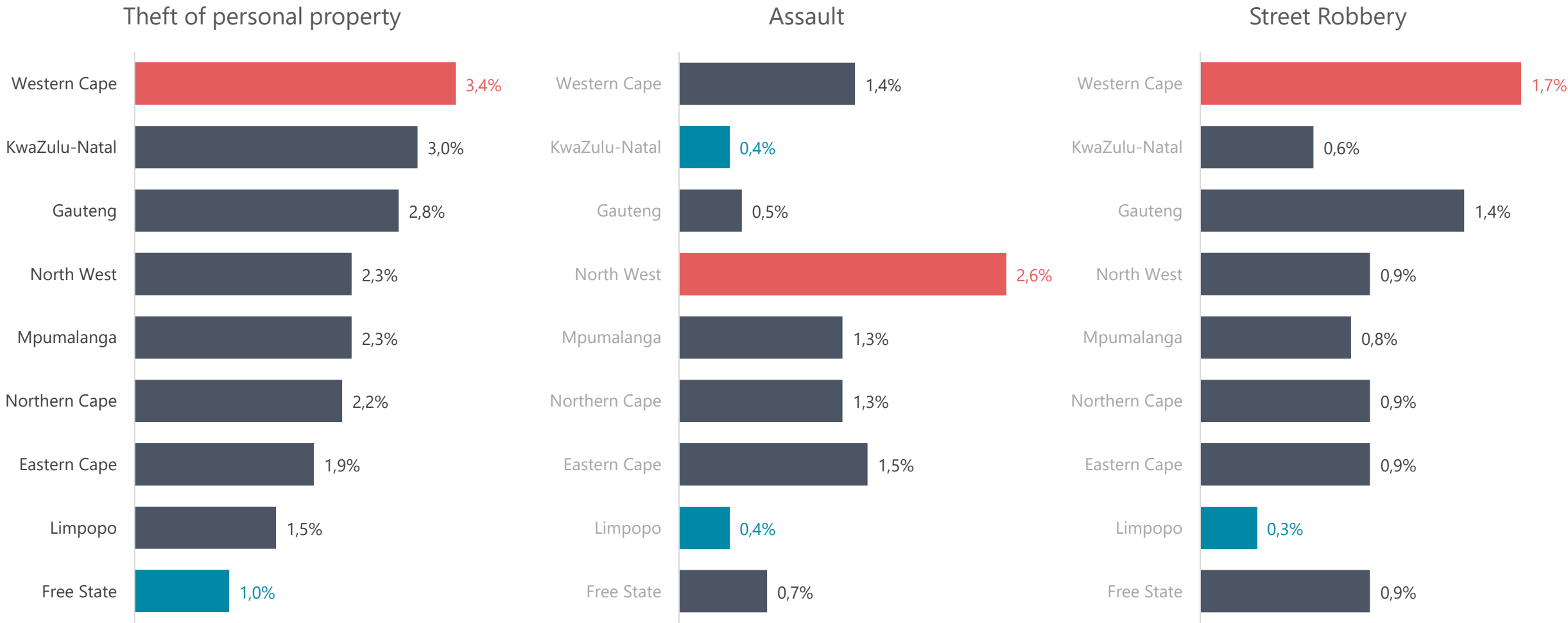
Western Cape province (3,4%) has the highest proportion of individuals that experienced theft of personal property and **Free State (1,0%)** has the lowest proportion.

Percentage of individuals who experience of **theft of personal property** by province, 2025/26



Western Cape province has the **highest proportion** of individuals who experienced **theft of personal property (3,4%)** & **street robbery (1,7%)**. **Limpopo** has the **lowest proportions** of both **assault (0,4%)** and **street robbery (0,3%)**.

Percentage of individuals who experienced street robbery, assault or theft of personal property by province, 2025/26

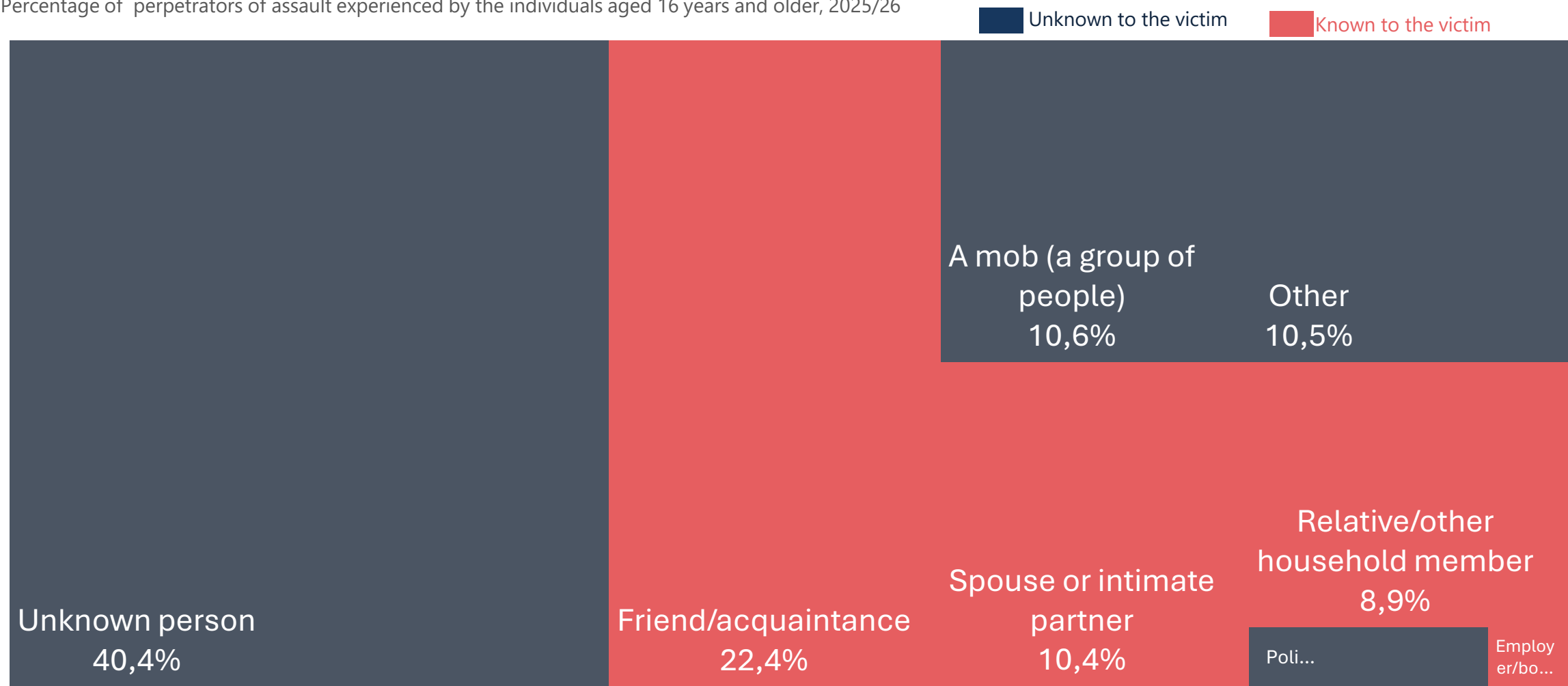


42,2% of individuals reported that a **known person** was the perpetrator of assault.

(Friend/acquaintance (22,4%), Spouse or intimate partner (10,4%), Relative/ other household member (8,9%), Employer/ boss (0,5%))

12 MONTHS
RECALL

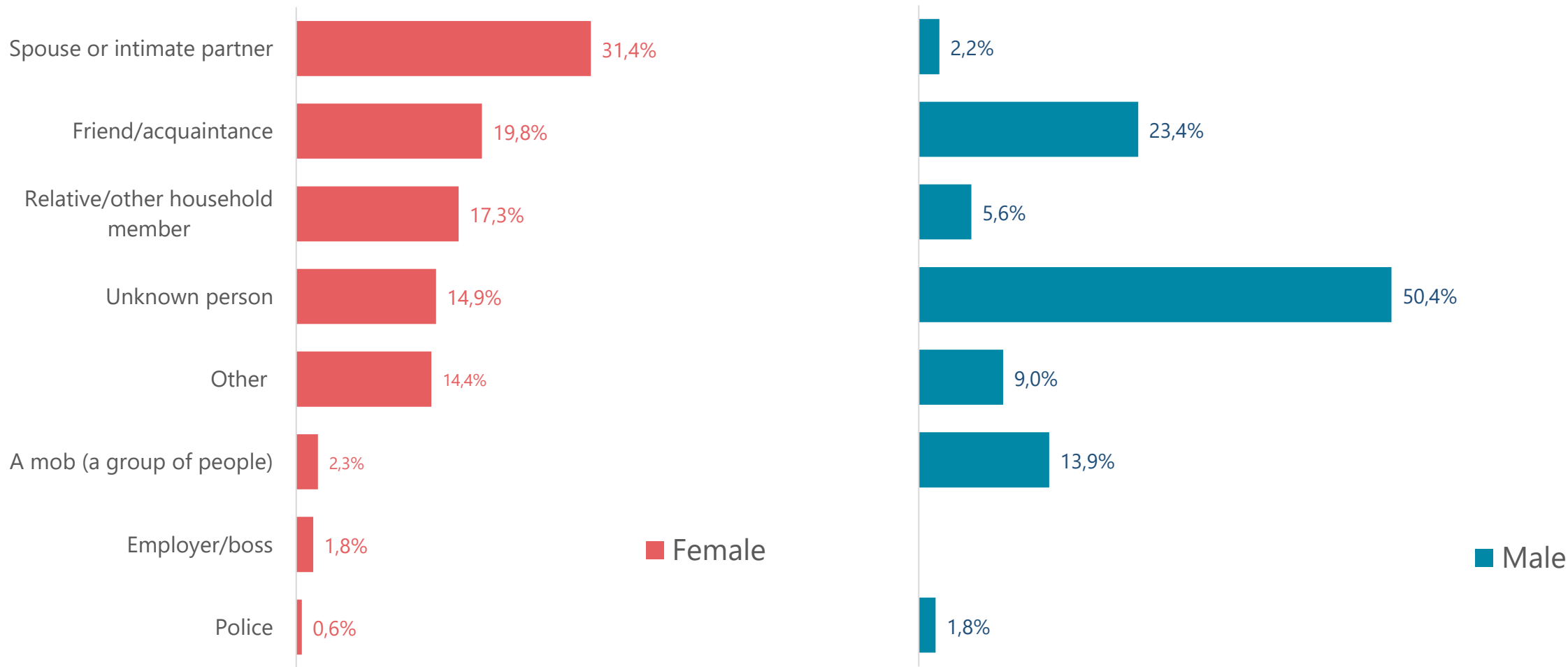
Percentage of perpetrators of assault experienced by the individuals aged 16 years and older, 2025/26



A larger proportion of **females (70,3 %)** experienced assault from **known persons**.

(Spouse or intimate partner (31,4%), friend/ acquaintance (19,8%), relative/other household member (17,3%), employer/boss (1,8%))

Percentage of perpetrators of assault experienced by the individuals aged 16 years and older by sex, 2025/26



Individual perceptions of their safety



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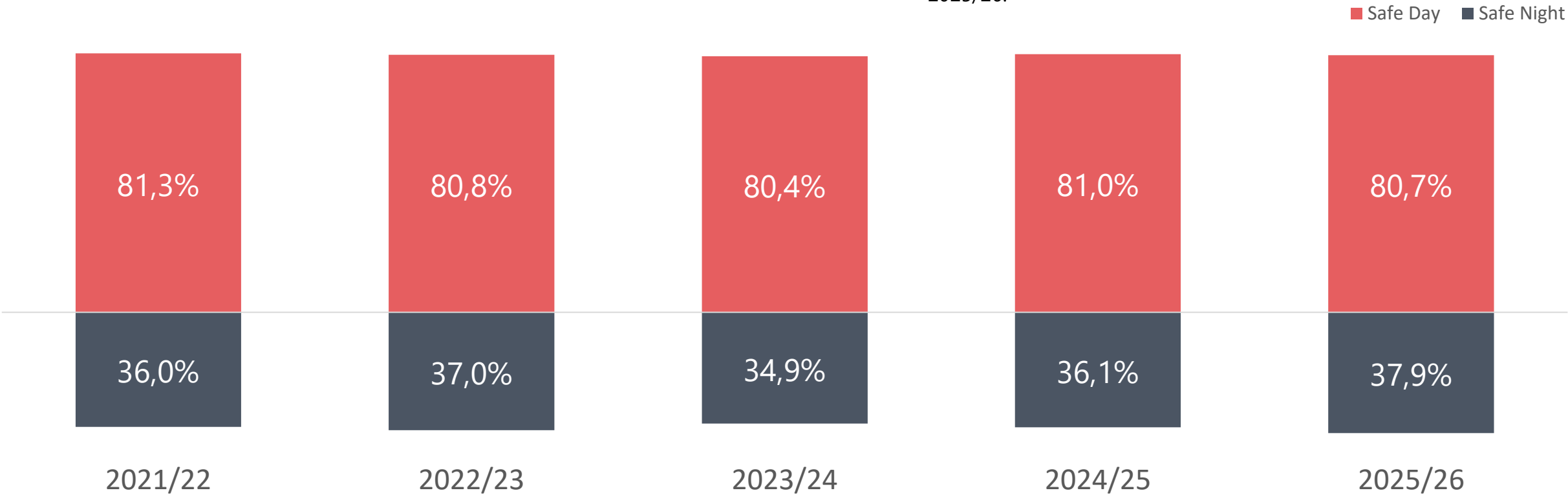
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Individuals who felt safe walking alone in their neighbourhoods during the **day** slightly decreased from **81,0%** in 2024/25 to **80,7%** in 2025/26.

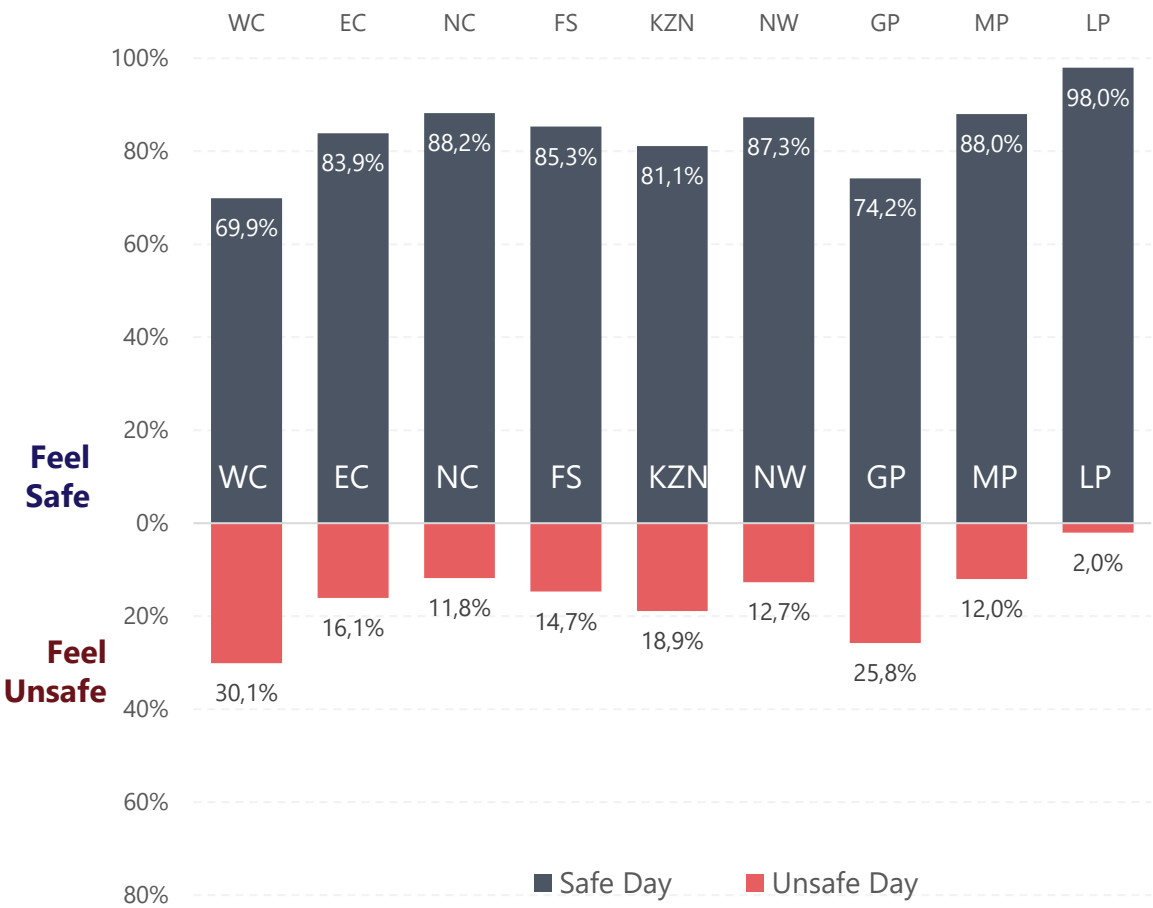
Percentage of individuals who felt safe walking alone in their neighbourhood during **day** vs when it is **dark**.

Those who felt safe walking alone when it is dark increased from **36,1%** in 2024/25 to **37,9%** in 2025/26.



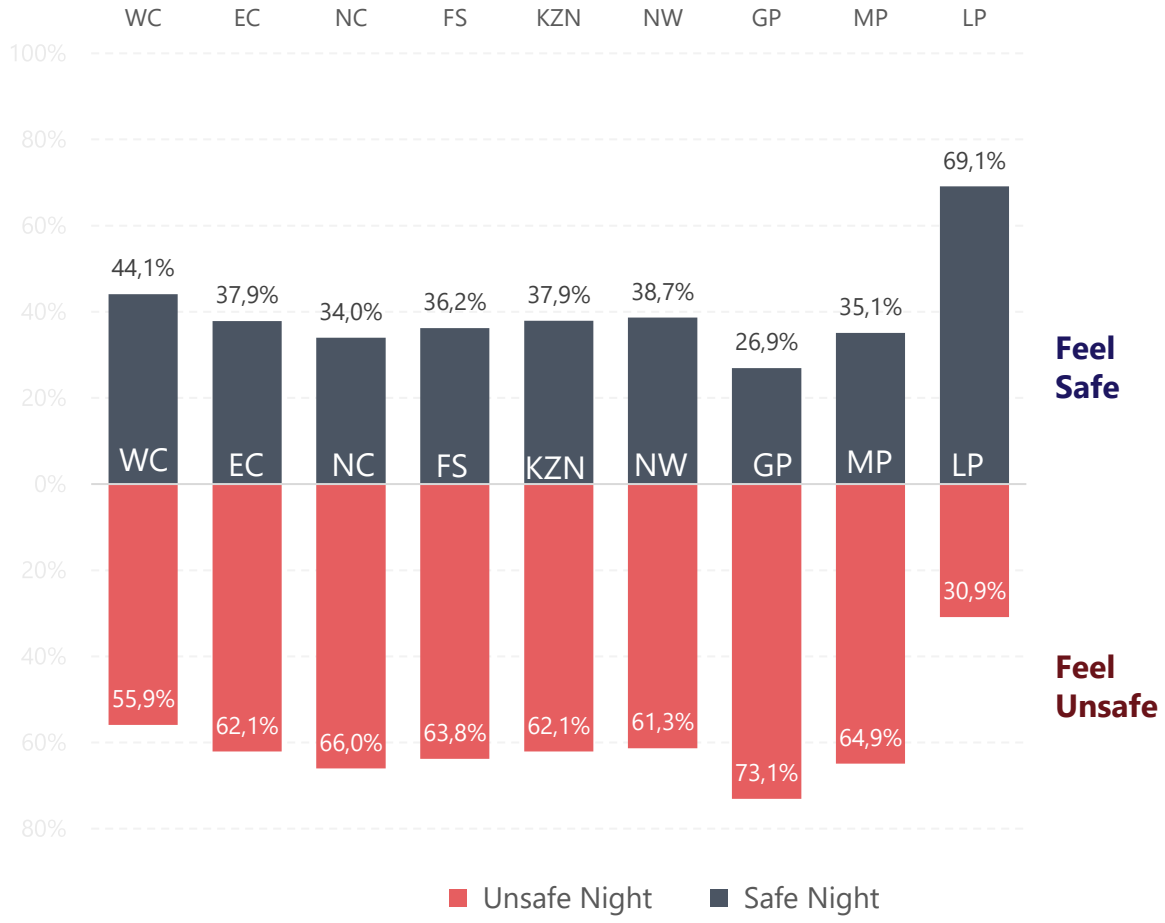
Individuals from Limpopo **felt safer (98%)** walking alone in their neighbourhoods **during the day**.

Percentage of individuals who felt safe ("safe" and "unsafe") walking alone in their neighbourhood **during the day** by Province.



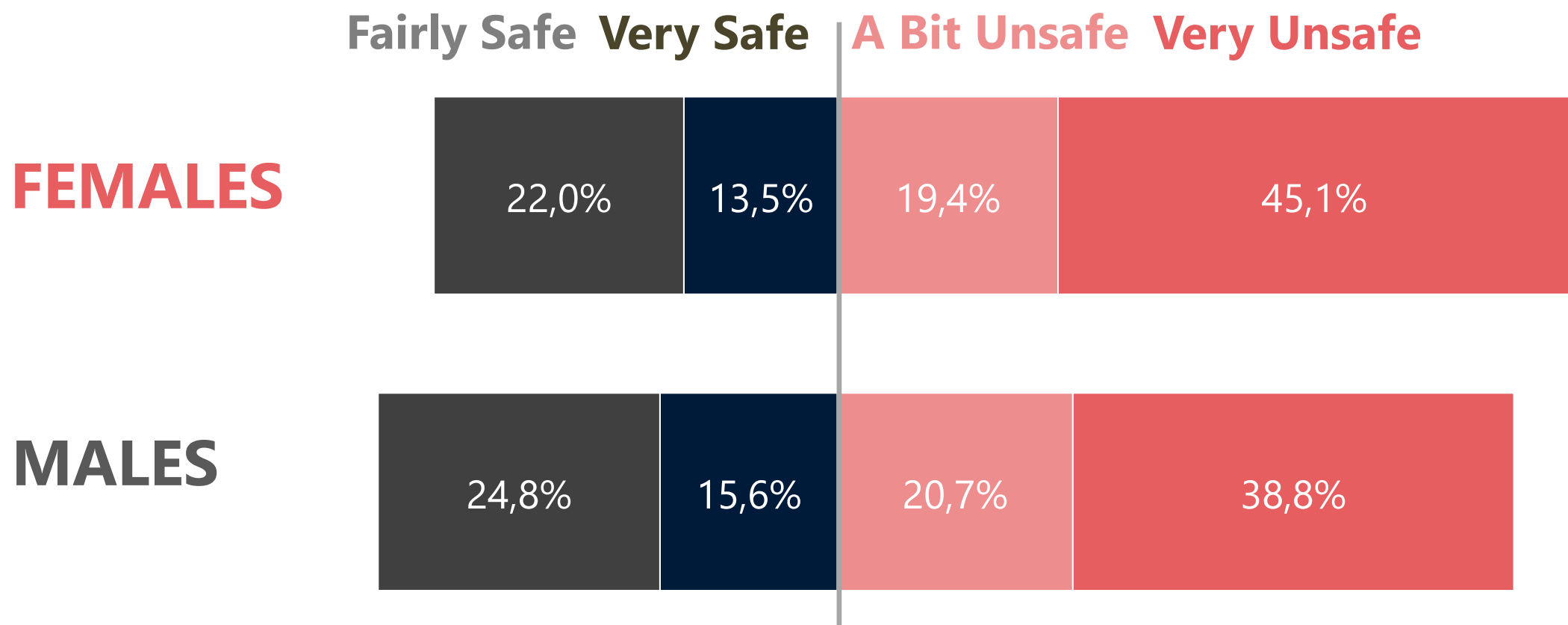
More than **73% of Gauteng individuals felt unsafe walking alone when it is dark**, in Limpopo this figure was only **30,9%**.

Percentage of individuals who felt safe ("safe" and "unsafe") walking alone in their neighbourhood **when it is dark** by province.

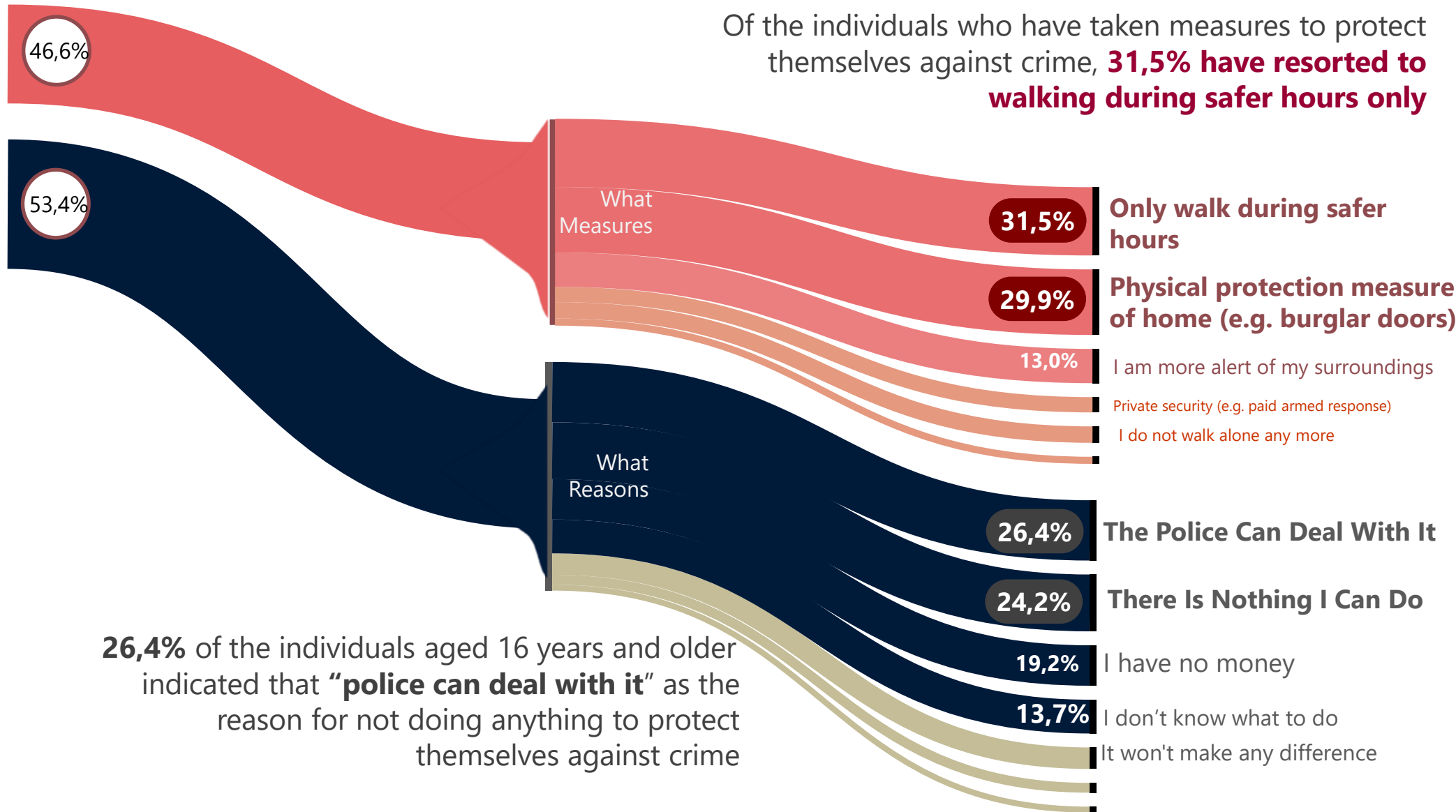


More **females felt very unsafe walking alone** when it is dark in their neighbourhoods compared to males in 2025/26

Percentage of individuals aged 16 years and older: Feelings of safety when walking alone in their areas of residence when it is dark by sex, 2025/26



Measures
Taken to
Protect
Against
Crime? **YES**
NO





Individual **General individual perceptions** on gender norms and societal issues

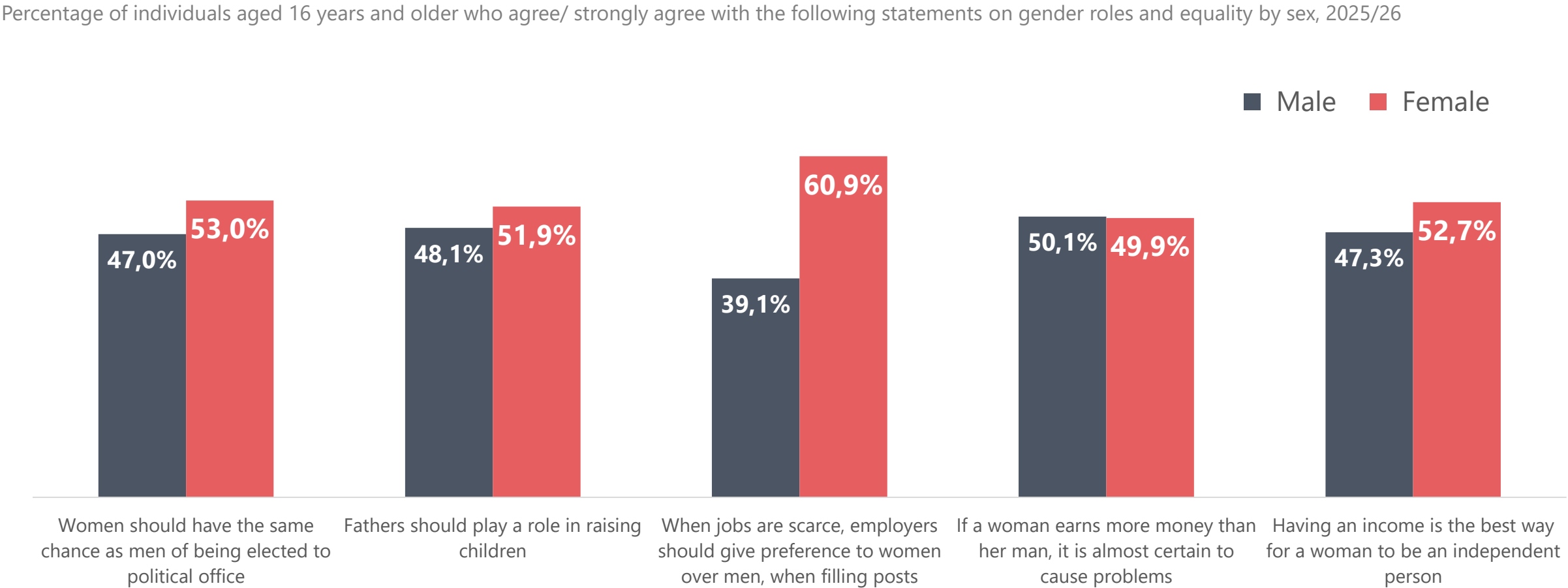


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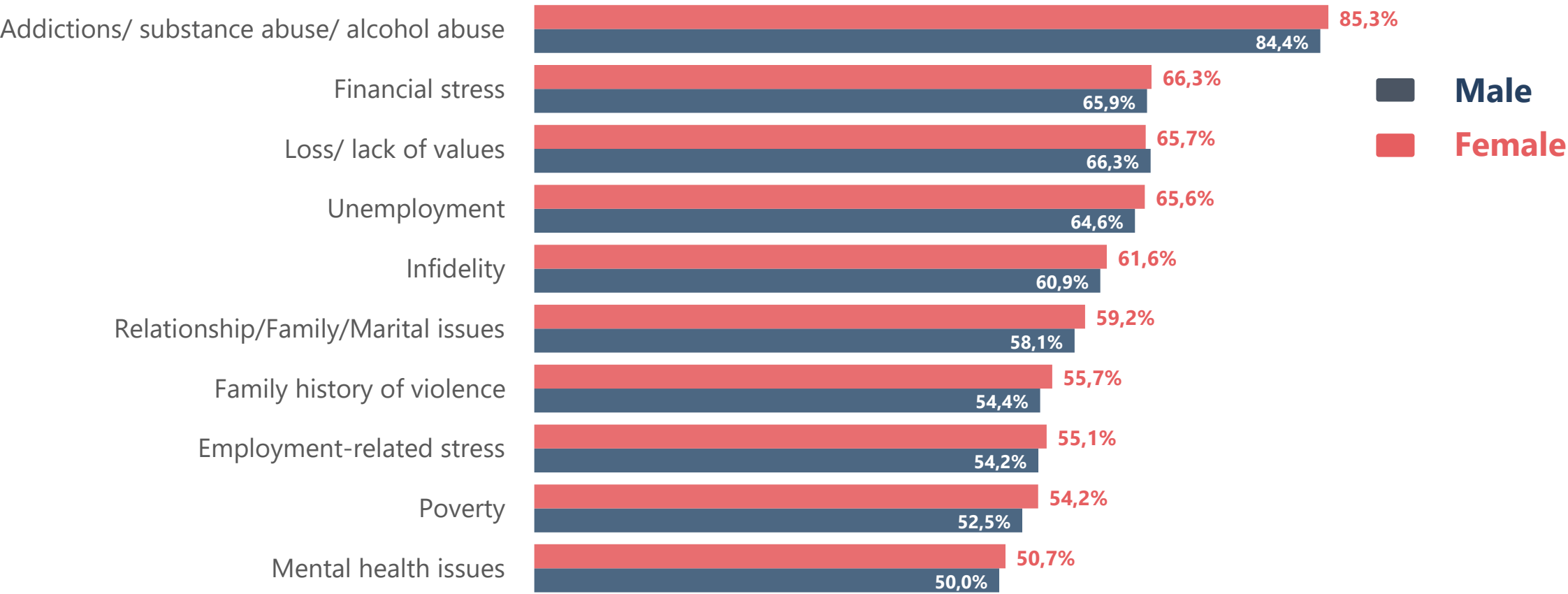


About 50% of both males and females believe that a woman earning more money than her man is almost certain to cause problems.



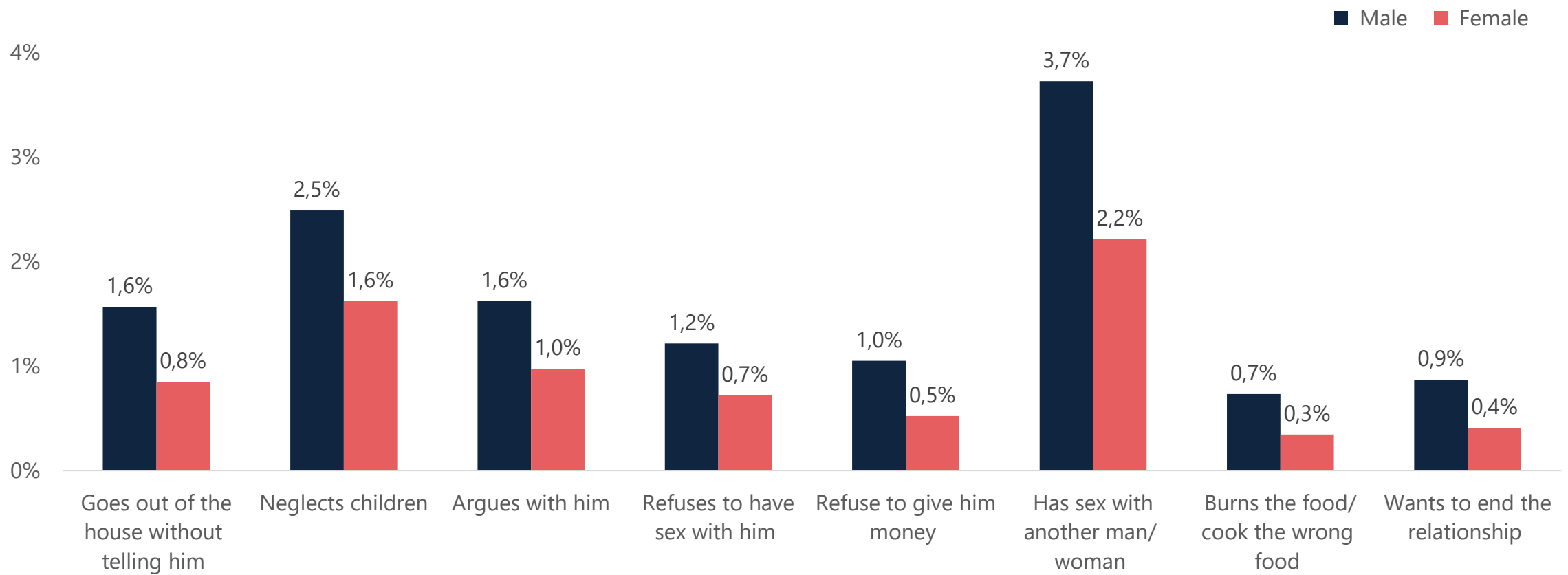
Both **Males (84,4%)** and **Females (85,3%)** said Addictions/substance abuse/alcohol abuse was the main cause for violence against women and children in 2025/26.

Percentage of individuals aged 16 years and older by what they think causes violence against women and children by sex, 2025/26



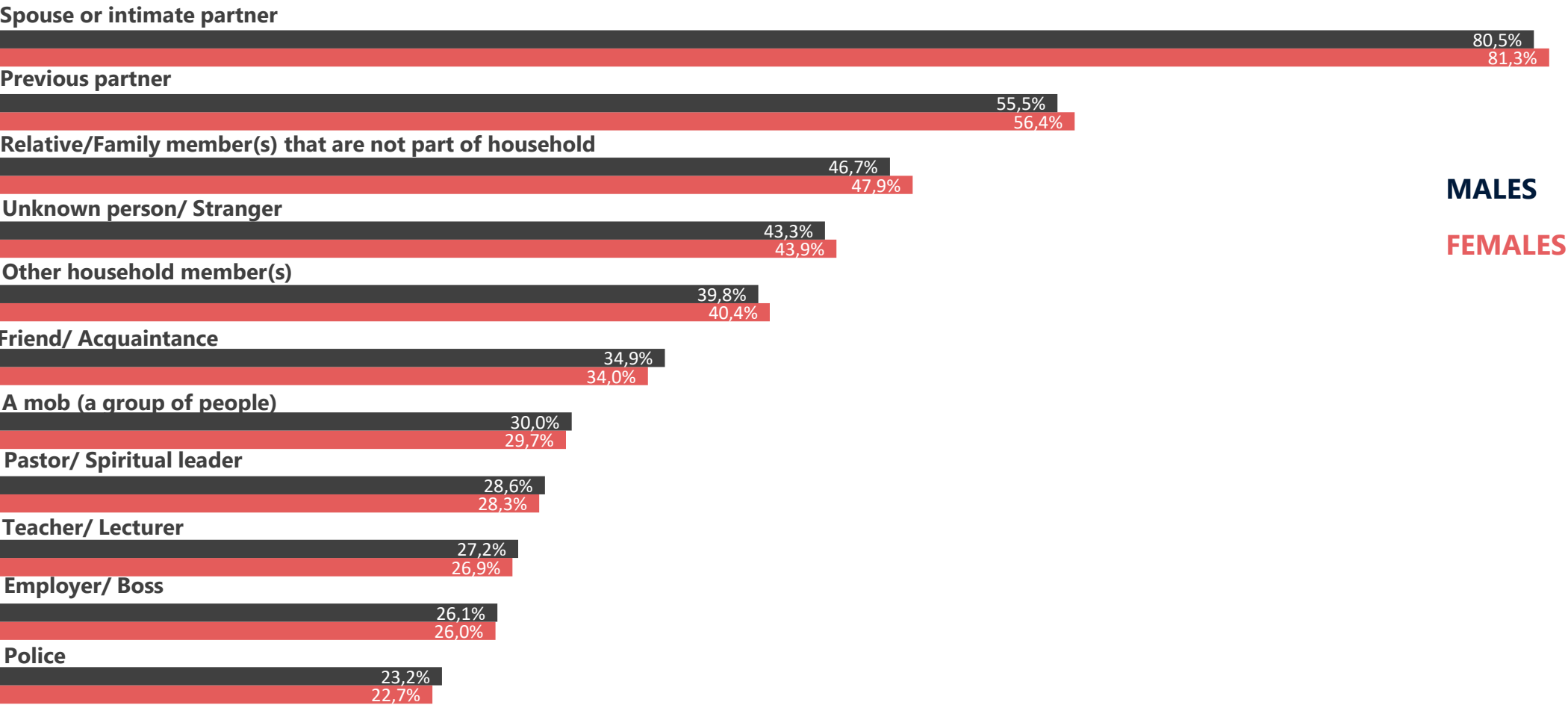
More **males** than **females** believe there are situations that are acceptable for a man/ husband to hit or beat his woman/ wife.

Perceptions and attitudes of individuals aged 16 years and older on whether it is acceptable for a man/ husband to hit or beat his woman/ wife under certain situations by sex, 2025/26



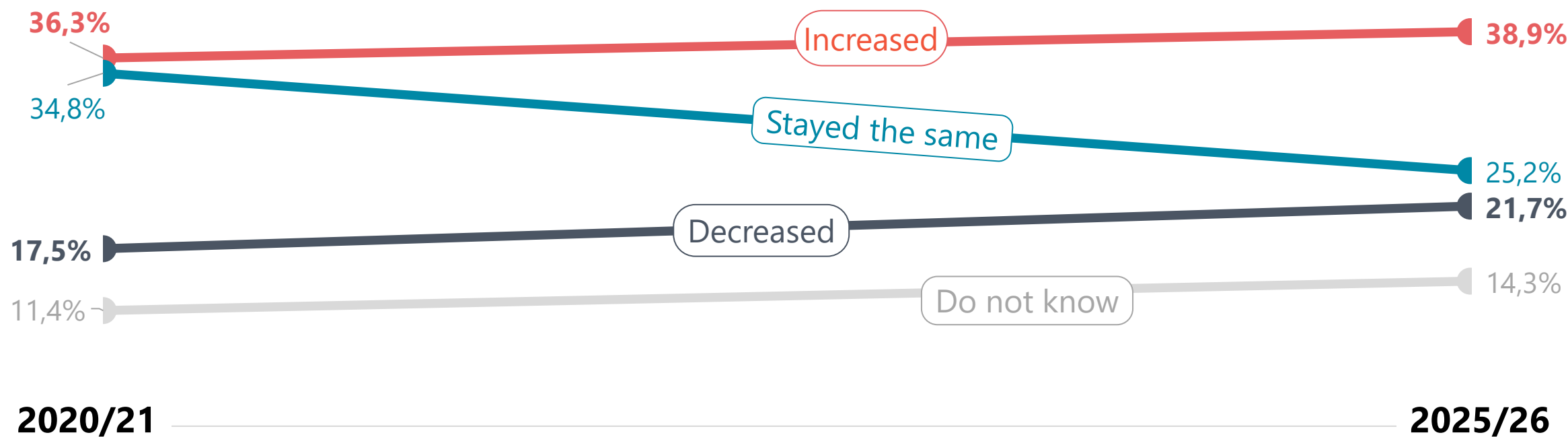
Both **MALES (80,5%)** and **FEMALES (81,3%)** think that the spouse or intimate partners commit the most acts of gender-based violence.

Percentage of individuals aged 16 years and older by whom they think commits the most acts of gender-based violence by sex, 2025/26



A larger proportion **(38,9%)** of individuals aged 16 years and above are of the opinion that **gender-based violence** has increased in their areas in 2025/26.

Percentage of individuals aged 16 years and older by whether gender-based violence has increased, decreased or remained the same in their area by sex, 2020/21 and 2025/26



Recap: GPSJS 2025/26



Household level crime

In 2025/26, over **1,5 million incidences of housebreaking occurred**, affecting 1,08 million households in South Africa. About 48% (48,2%) of households that experienced housebreaking reported some or all incidences to the police.



Individual level crime

Theft of personal property is the most common crime experienced by individuals aged 16 years and older in South Africa. An estimated 1,4 million incidences of theft of personal property occurred in 2025/26, affecting 1,2 million individuals aged 16 years and older.



Feelings of safety

About 81% (80,7%) of those aged 16 years and older **felt safe walking alone** in their neighbourhood during the day while **37,9% felt safe walking alone in their neighbourhood when it is dark**.



General individual perceptions.

In 2025/26, both females (81,3%) and males (80,5%) think that the spouse or intimate partners commit the most acts of gender-based violence.



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