

Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS)

Victims of Crime Release 2024/25

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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

Provide 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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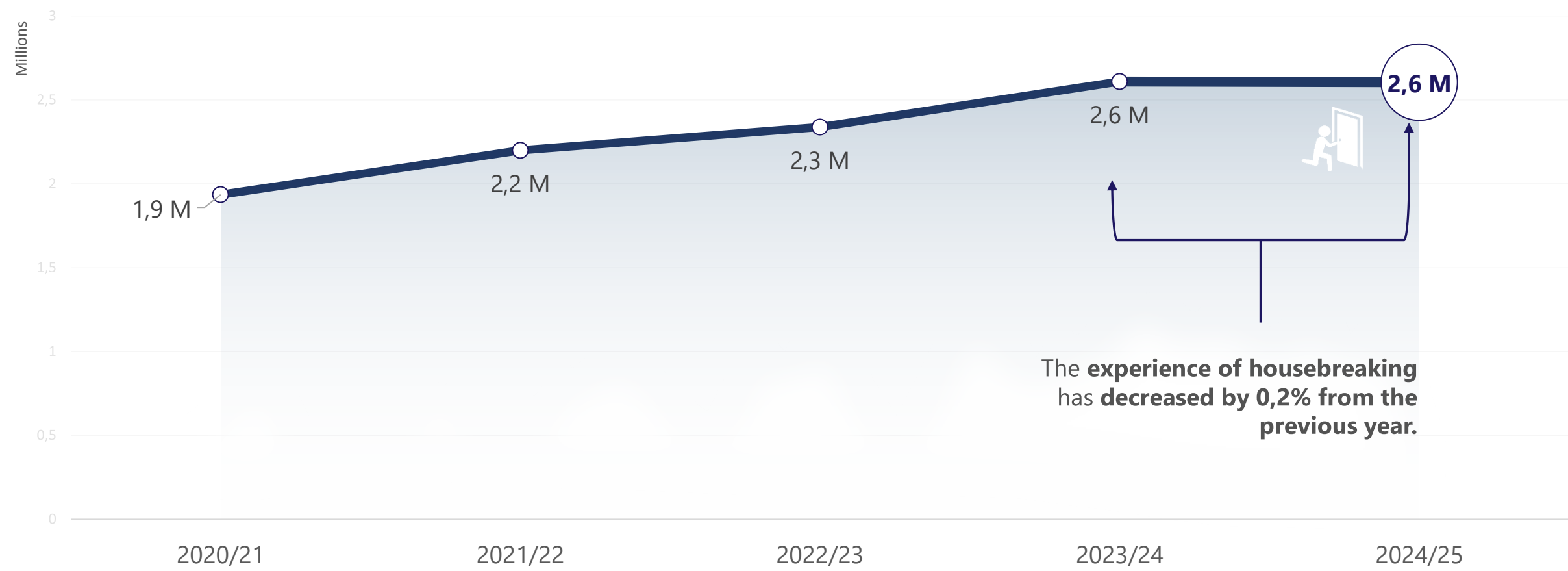




Households asked to recall back events over a 5 year period

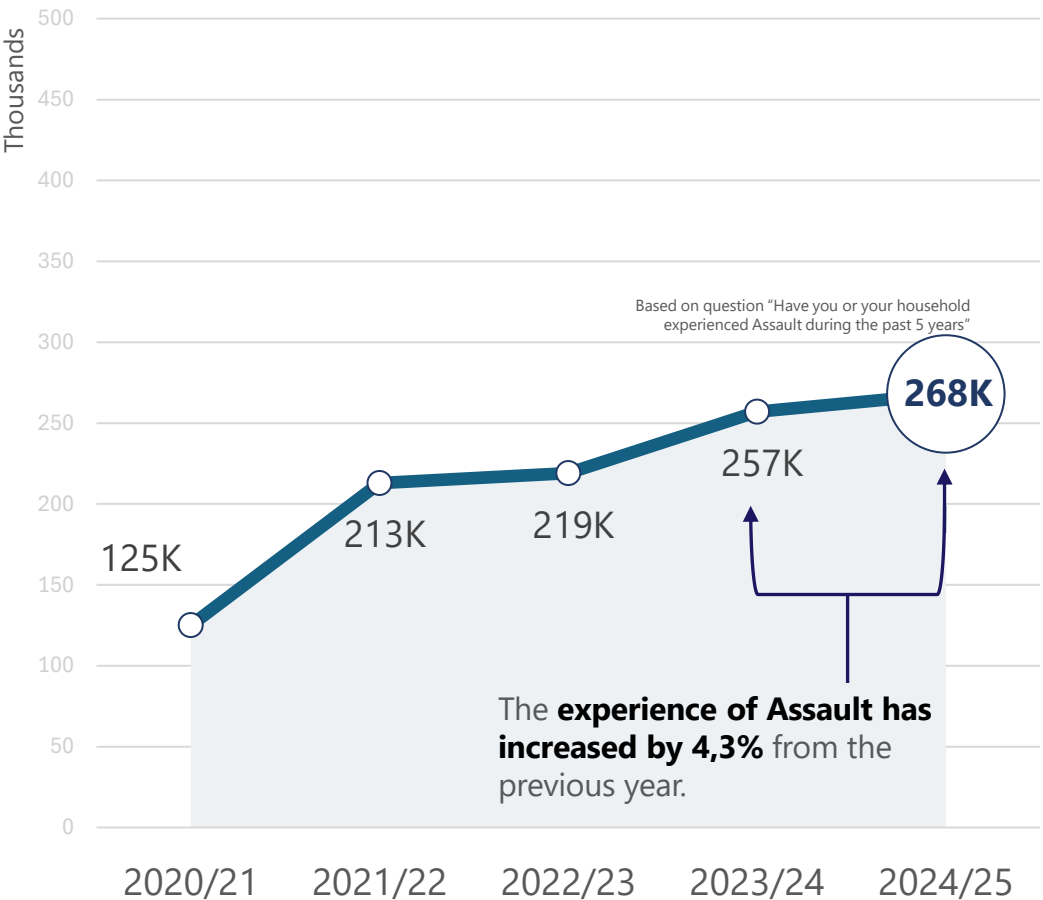


Around **2,6M** households experienced **Housebreaking/burglary** during the **past 5 years**.

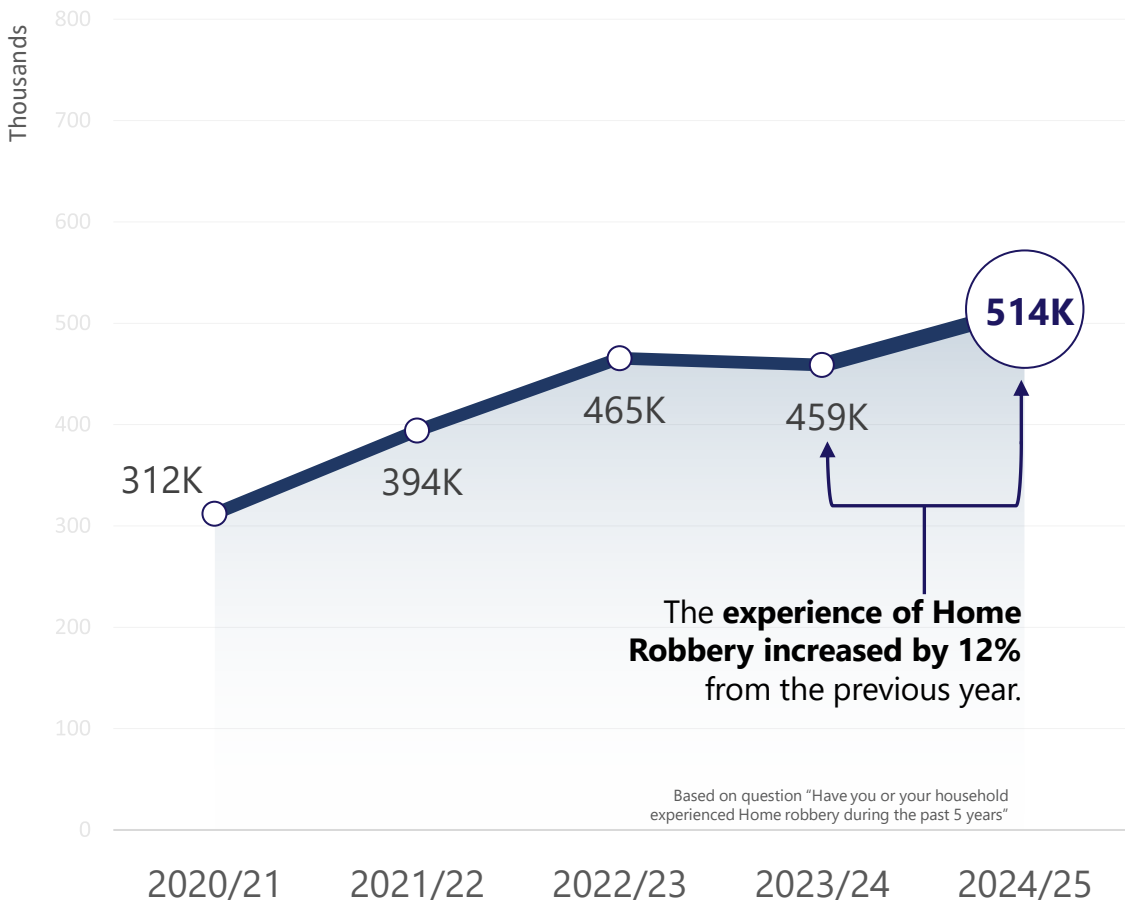


Based on question "Have you or your household experienced housebreaking/burglary during the past 5 years"

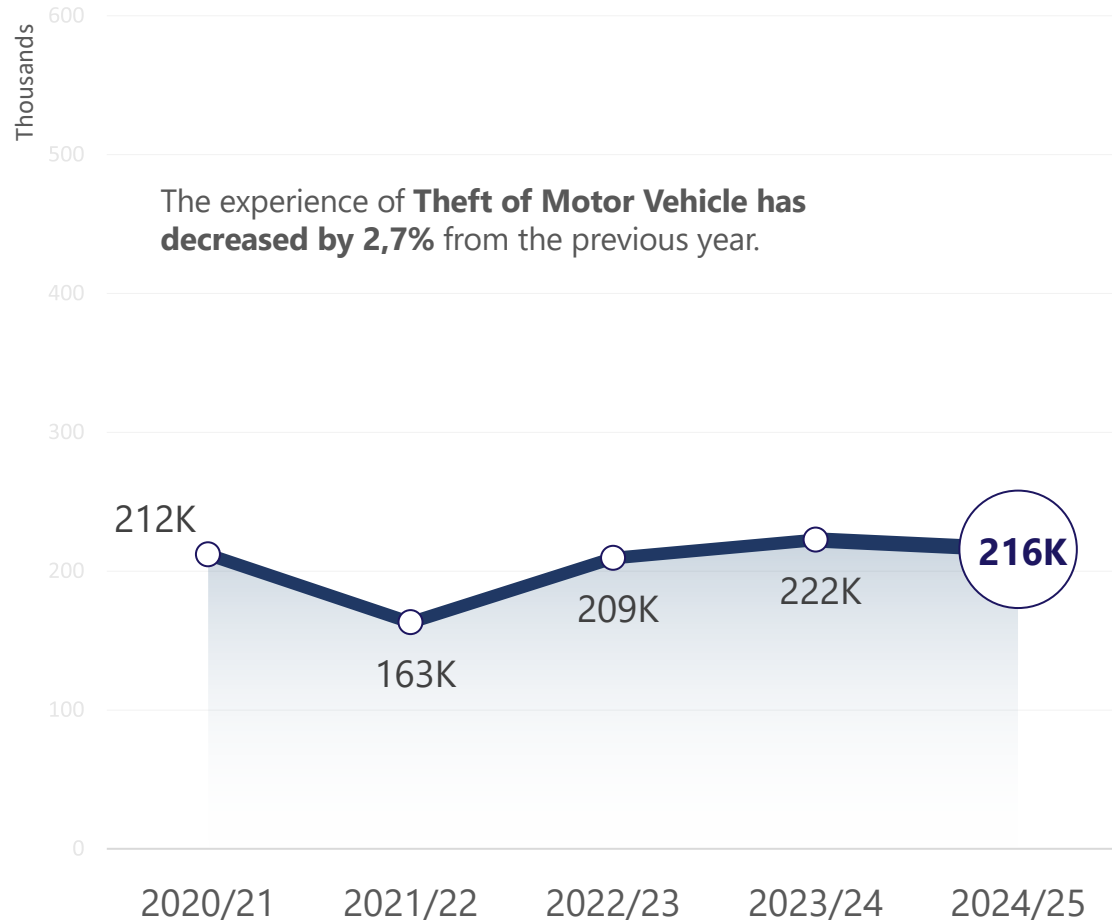
Around **268 000 households** experienced **Assault** during the **past 5 years**.



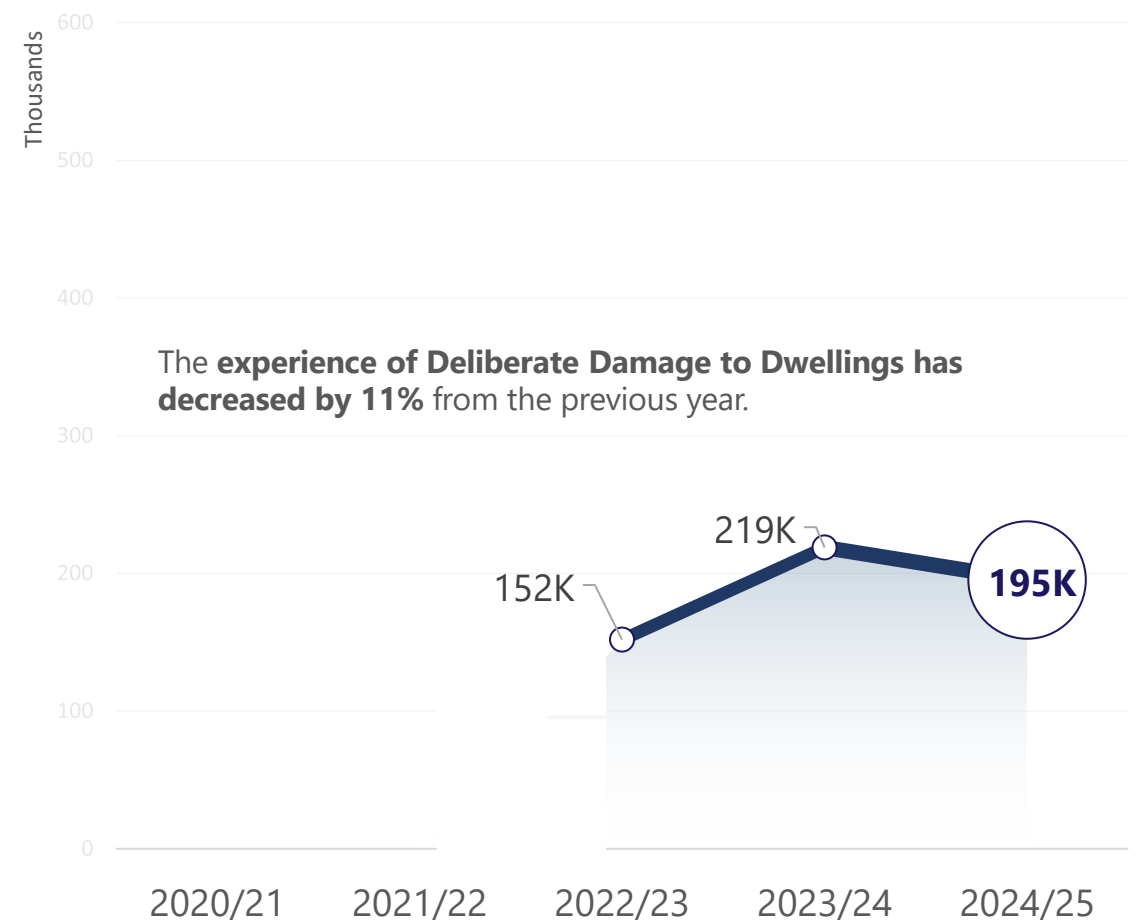
Around **514 000 households** experienced **Home Robbery** during the **past 5 years**.



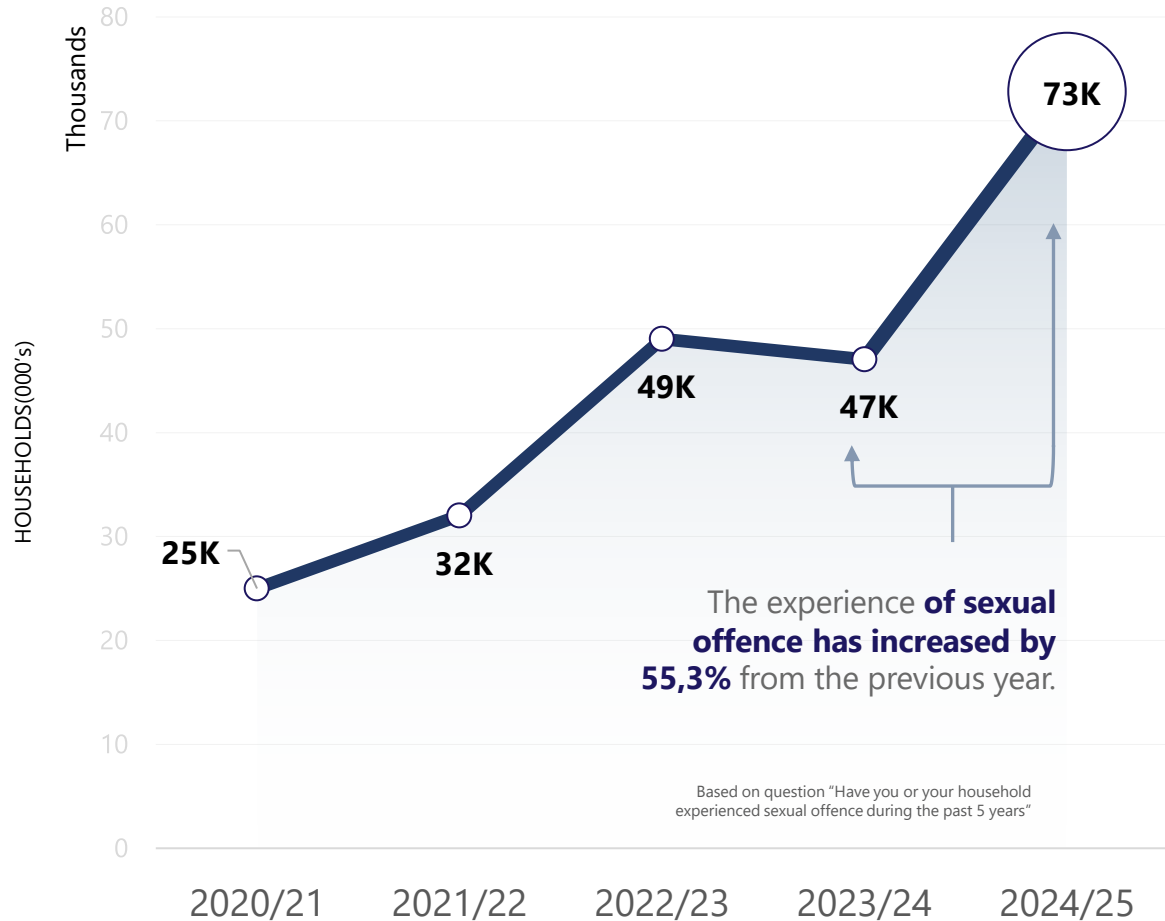
Around **216 000 households** experienced **Theft of Motor Vehicle** during the **past 5 years**.



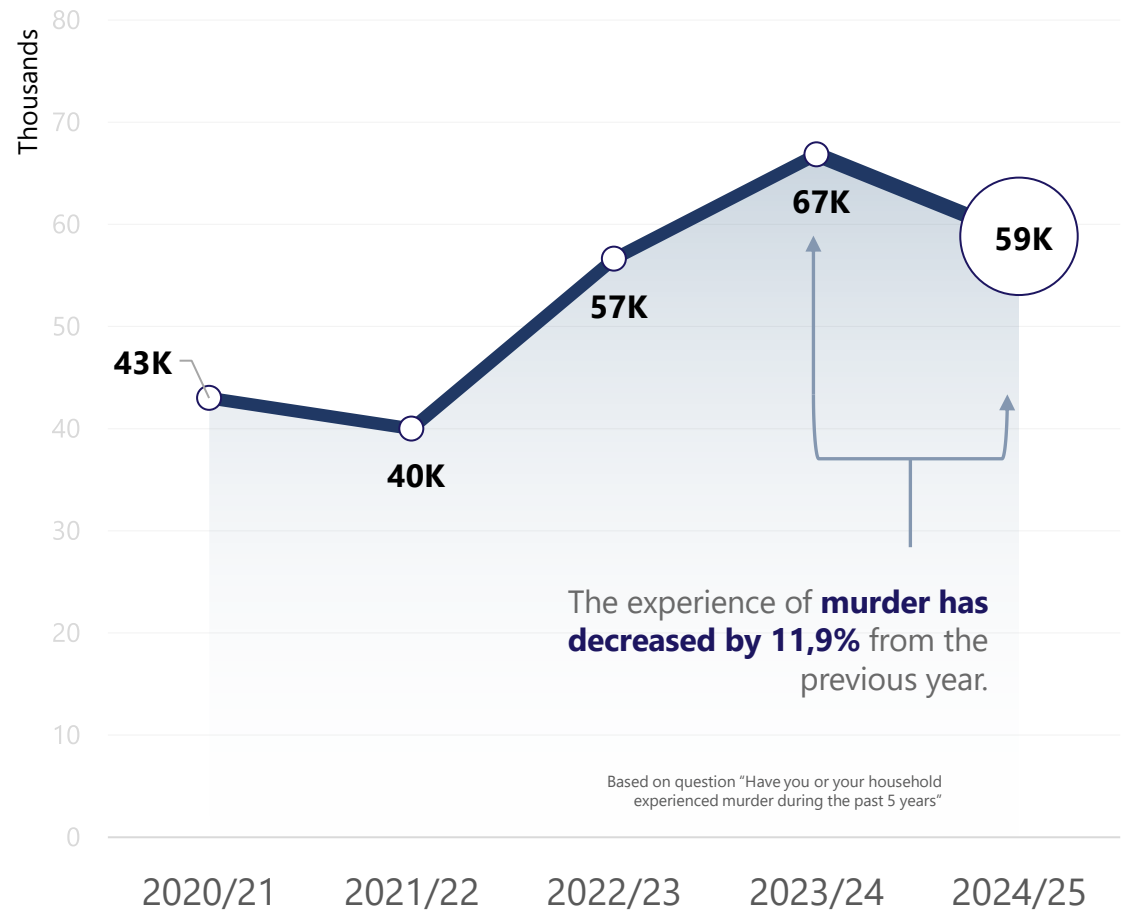
Around **195 000 households** experienced **Deliberate damage to dwellings** during the **past 5 years**.



Around **73 000** households experienced **Sexual Offence** during the **past 5 years**.



Around **59 000** households experienced **Murder** during the **past 5 years**.





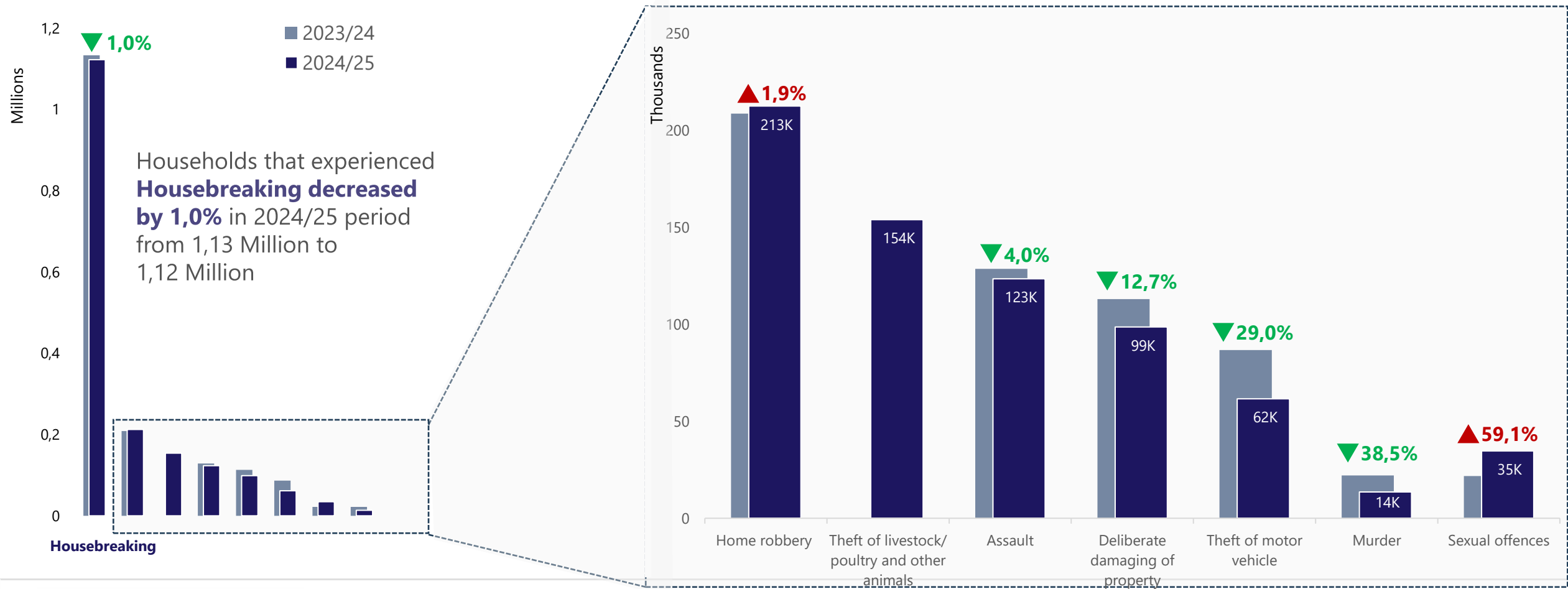
Changes over a 12 Month Period



Housebreaking is the most prevalent household crime occurring approximately 5 times more often than the next common crime which is home robbery

Number of households that experienced specified types of crime between 2023/24 and 2024/25

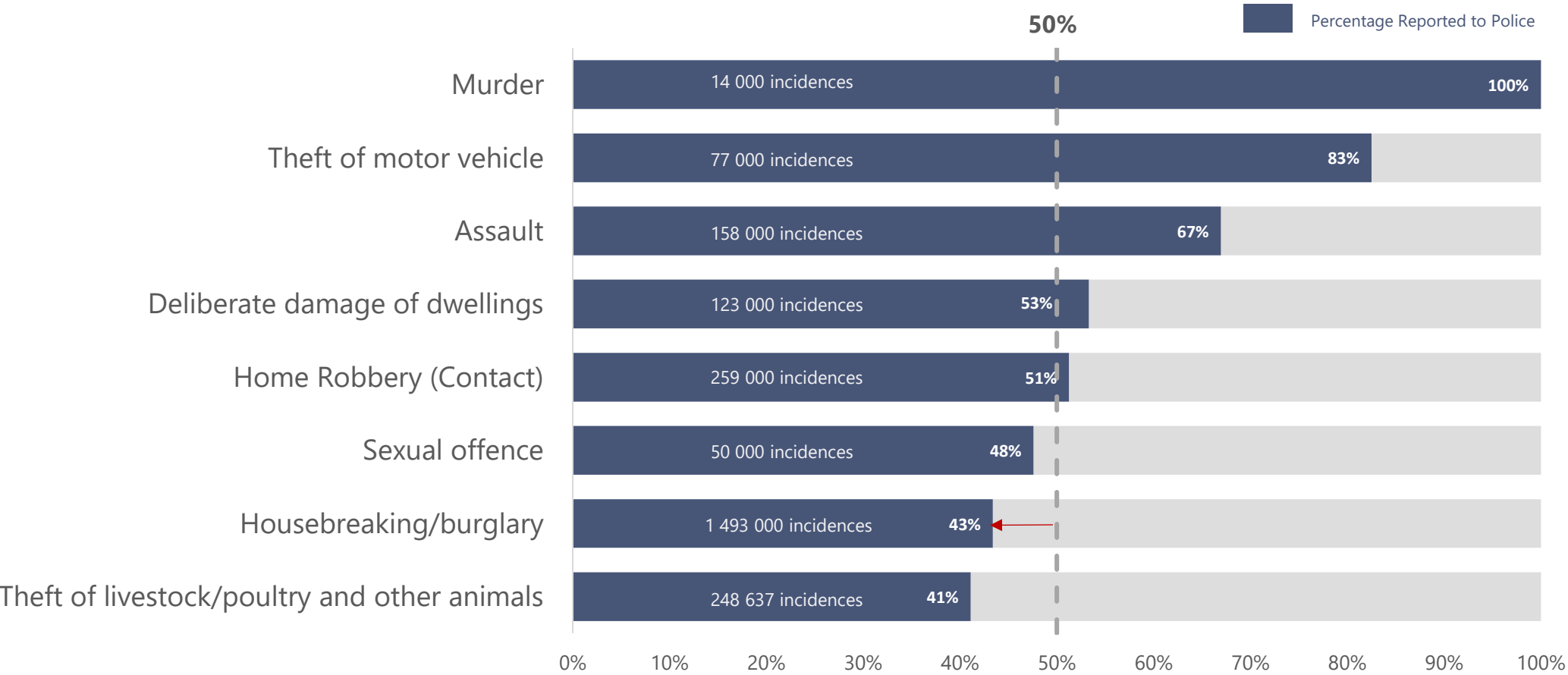
Percentage change between 2023/24 and 2024/25



All households that experienced incidents of Murder reported to the police. Less than 50% of Housebreaking incidents were reported to the police.



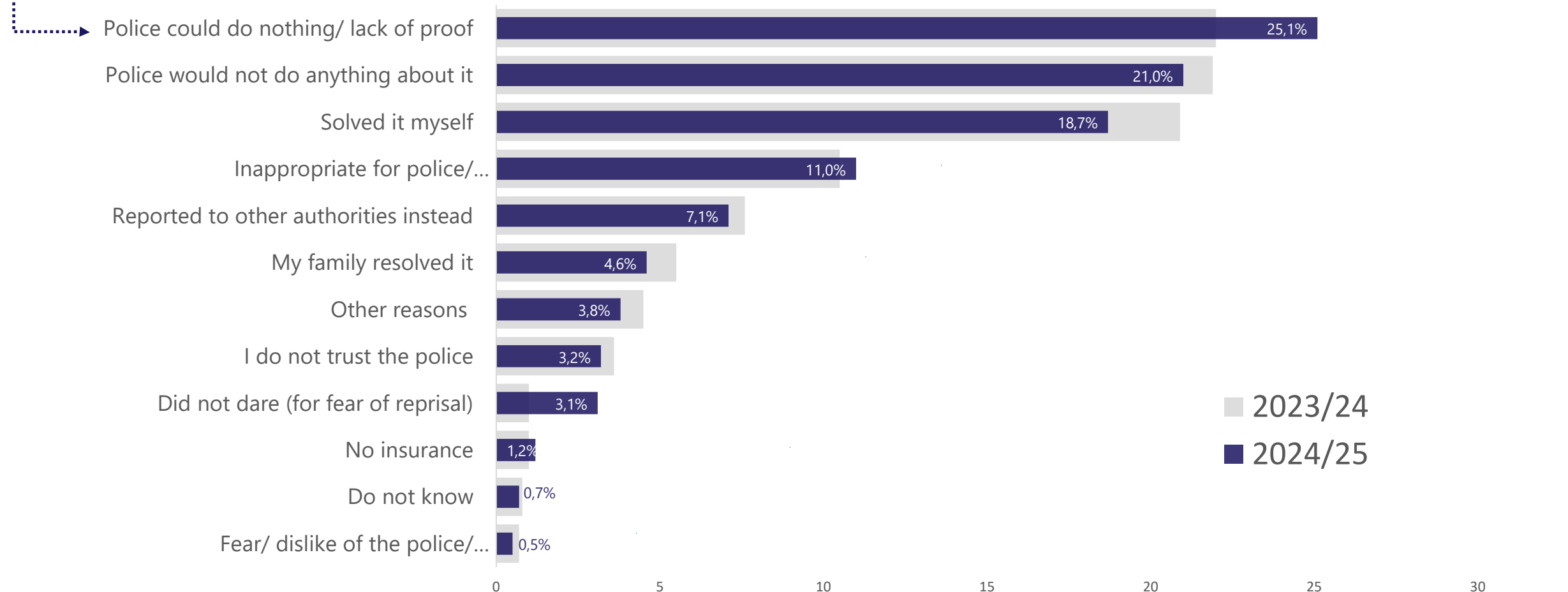
Percentage of households that reported incidences of specified type of crime to the police in the **12 months preceding the survey, 2024/25**



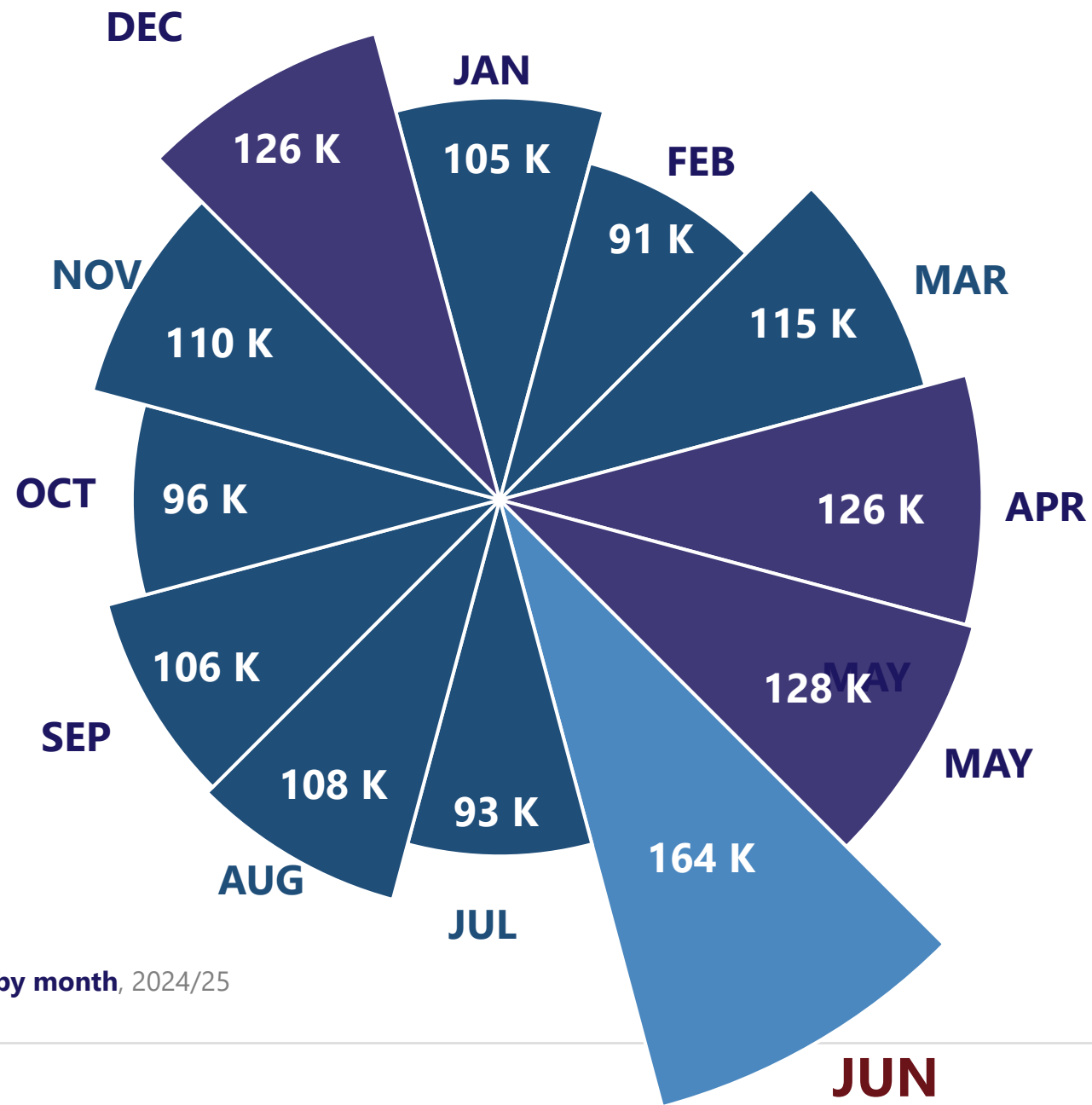
Majority of households indicated the reason they did not report housebreaking incidents to the police in both 2023/24 and 2024/25 was “police could not do anything due to lack of proof”

Reasons for not reporting Housebreaking, 2023/24 and 2024/25

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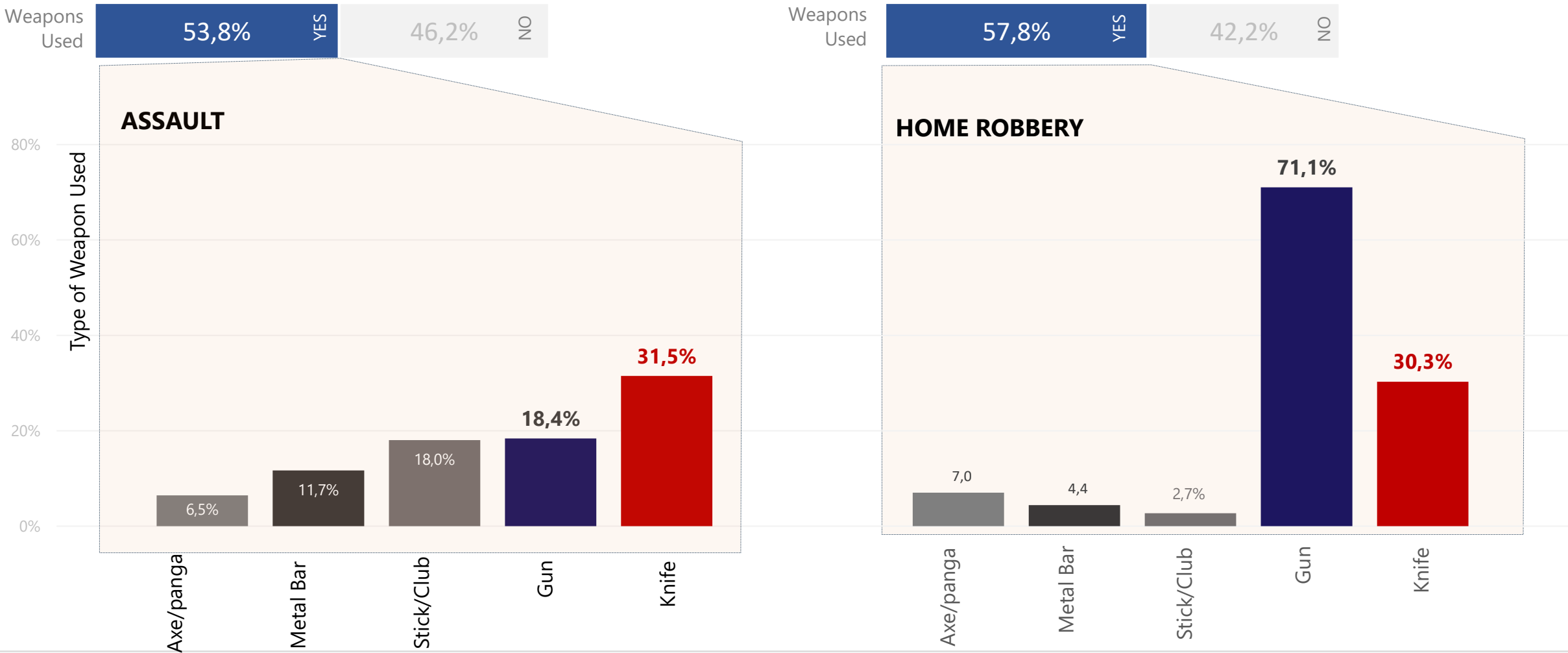
Housebreaking peaked in June with 164 000 incidences



Number of incidences of Housebreaking by month, 2024/25

About 58% indicated that weapons were used during an incident of **Home Robbery**. (*71,1% reported that a gun was used.*)

Percentage of households that indicated that a weapon was used during a home robbery and assault incidences, 2024/25



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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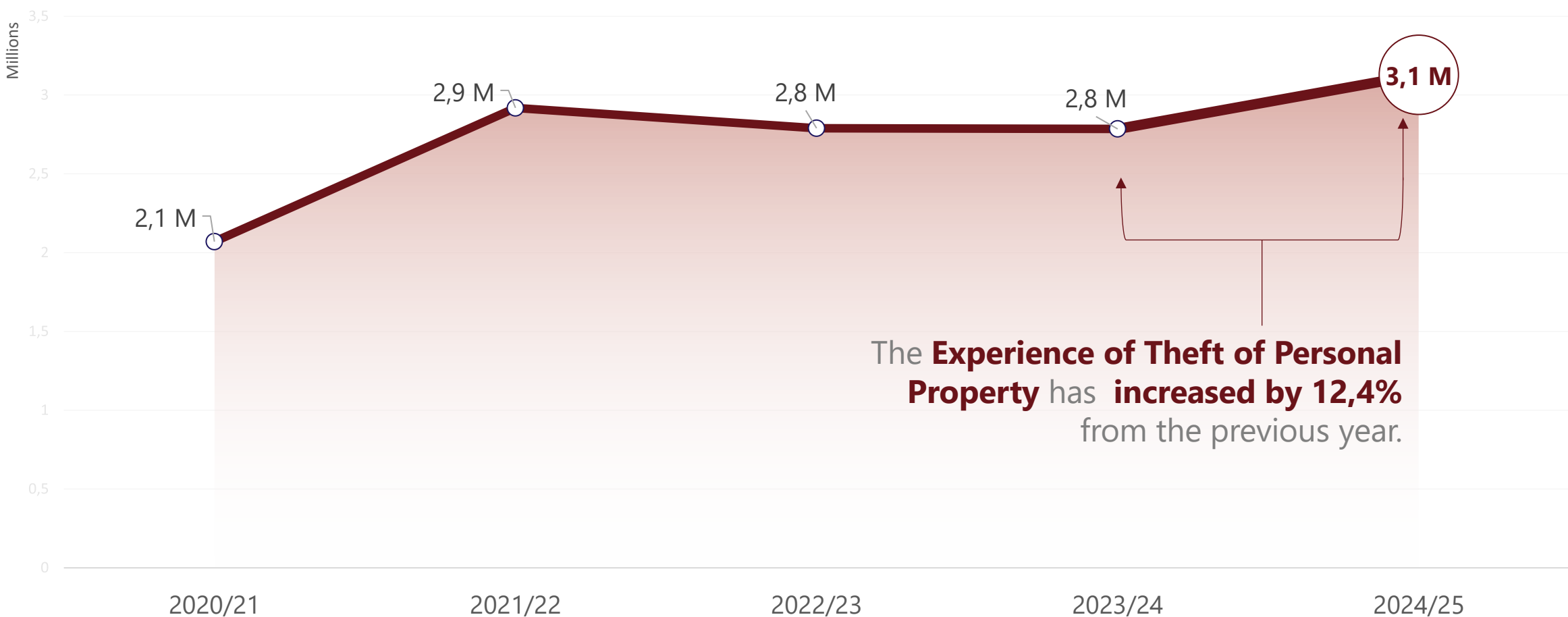


Individuals asked to recall back events over a 5 year period



3,1 Million individuals experienced Theft of Personal Property during the past 5 years.

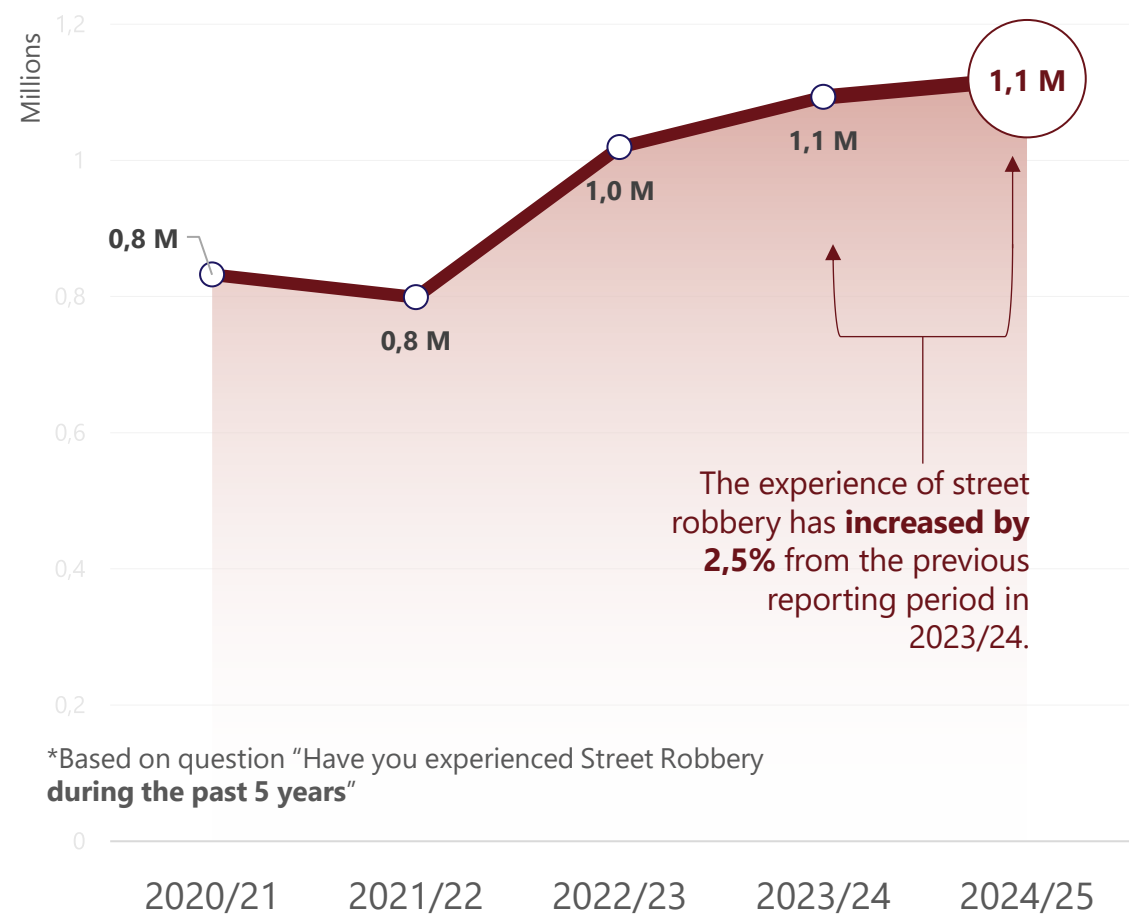
Number of individuals aged 16 and older who experienced theft of personal property during the past 5 years



*Based on question "Have you experienced theft of personal property during the past 5 years"

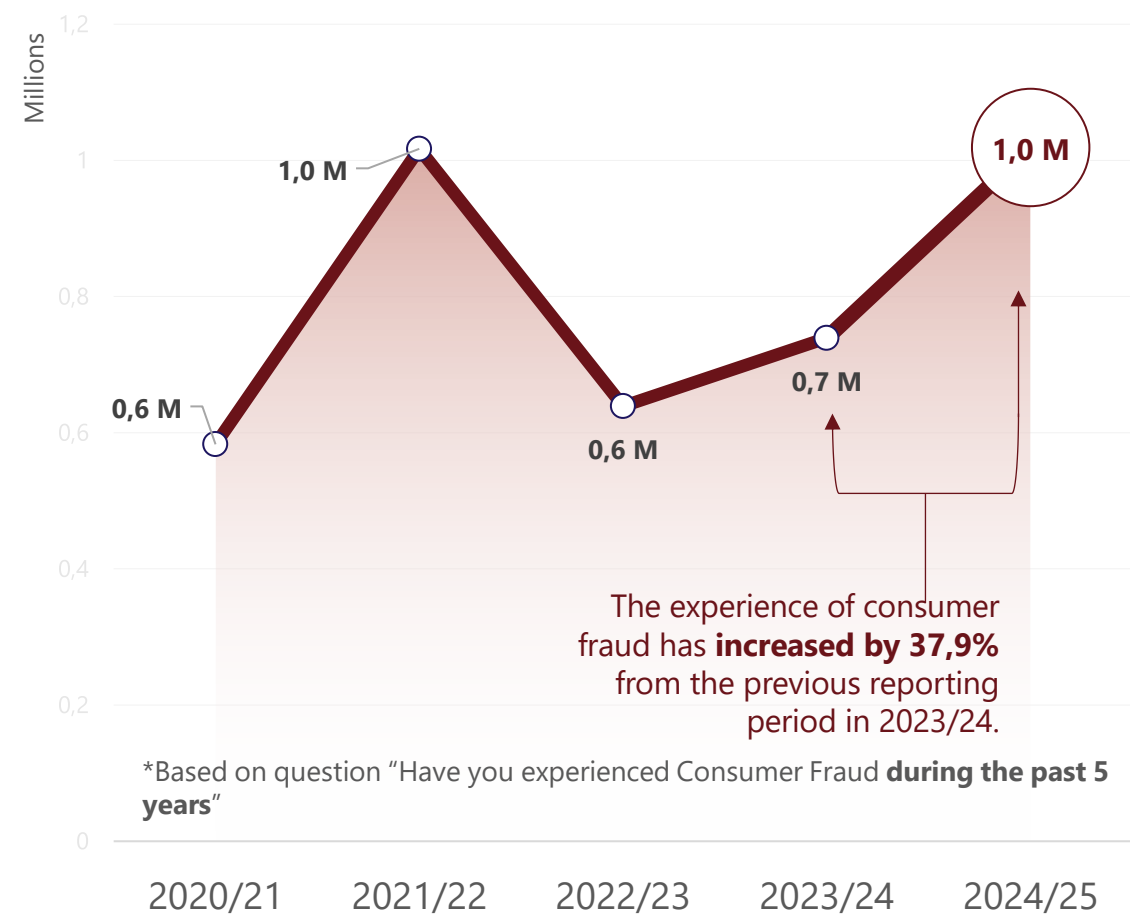
1,1M individuals experienced **Street Robbery** during the past 5 years.

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



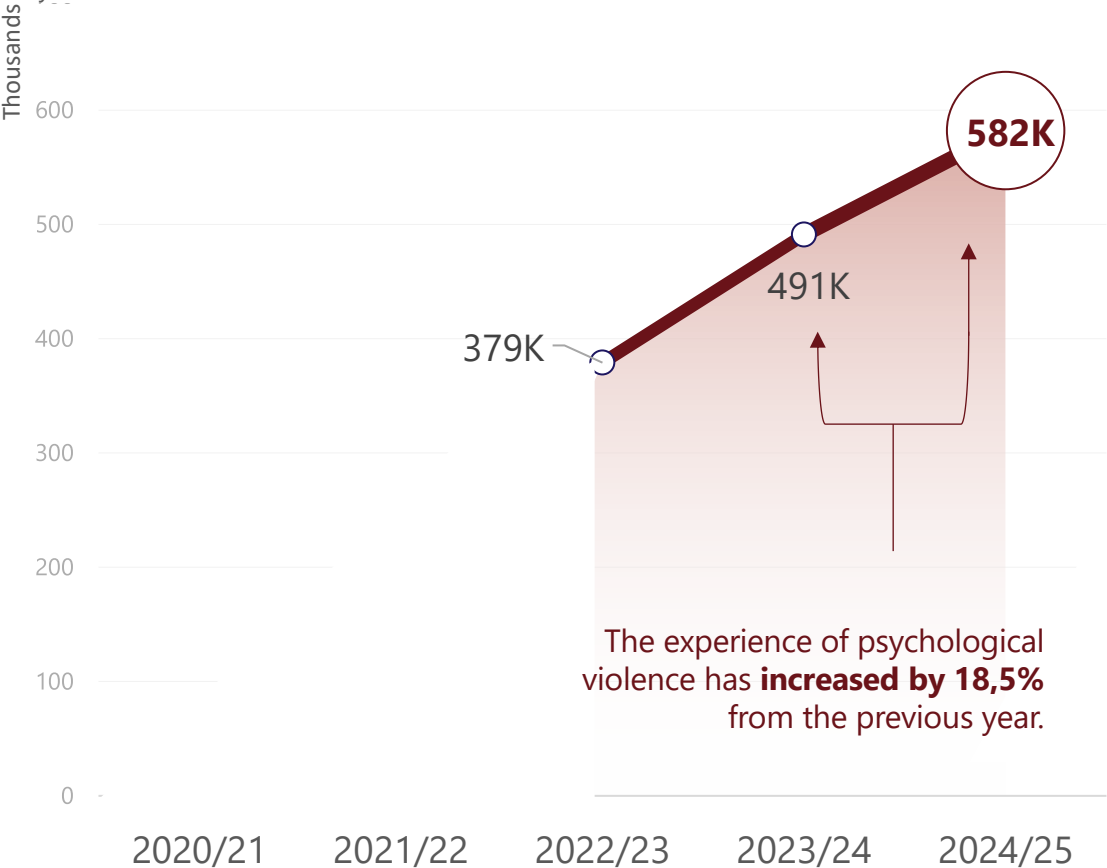
1,0 M individuals experienced **Consumer Fraud** during the past 5 years.

Number of individuals aged 16 and older who experienced Consumer Fraud during the past 5 years



582 000 individuals experienced **Psychological Violence** during the past 5 years.

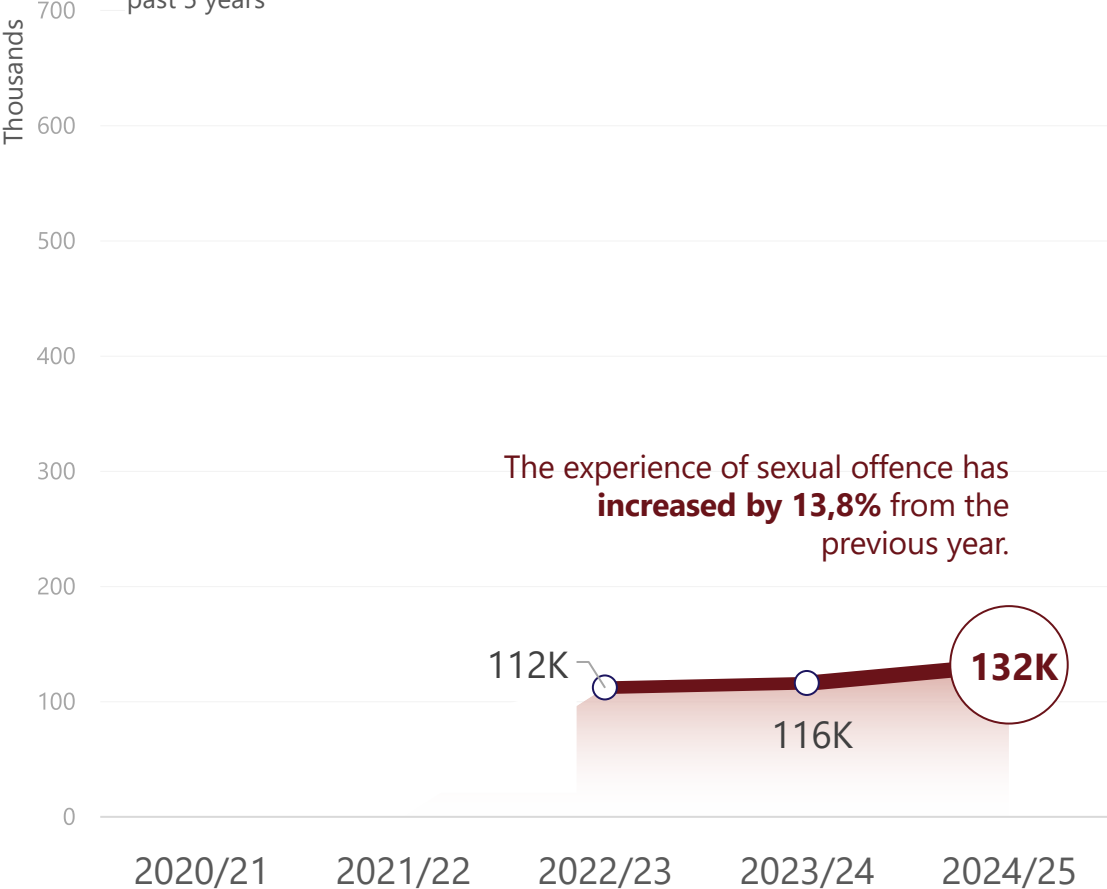
Number of individuals aged 16 and older who experienced Psychological violence during the past 5 years



*Based on question "Have you experienced Psychological Violence **during the past 5 years**"

132 000 individuals experienced **Sexual Offence** during the past 5 years.

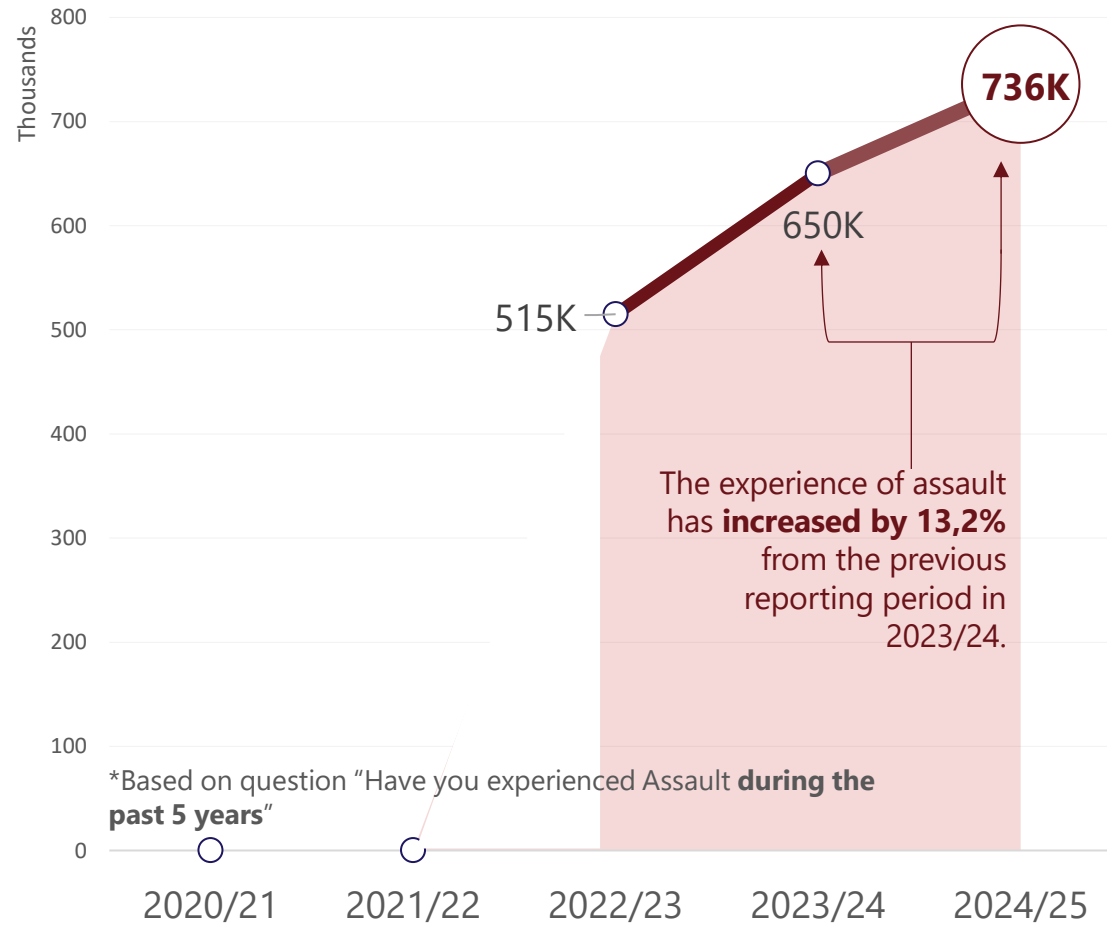
Number of individuals aged 16 and older who experienced Sexual offence during the past 5 years



*Based on question "Have you experienced Sexual Offence **during the past 5 years**"

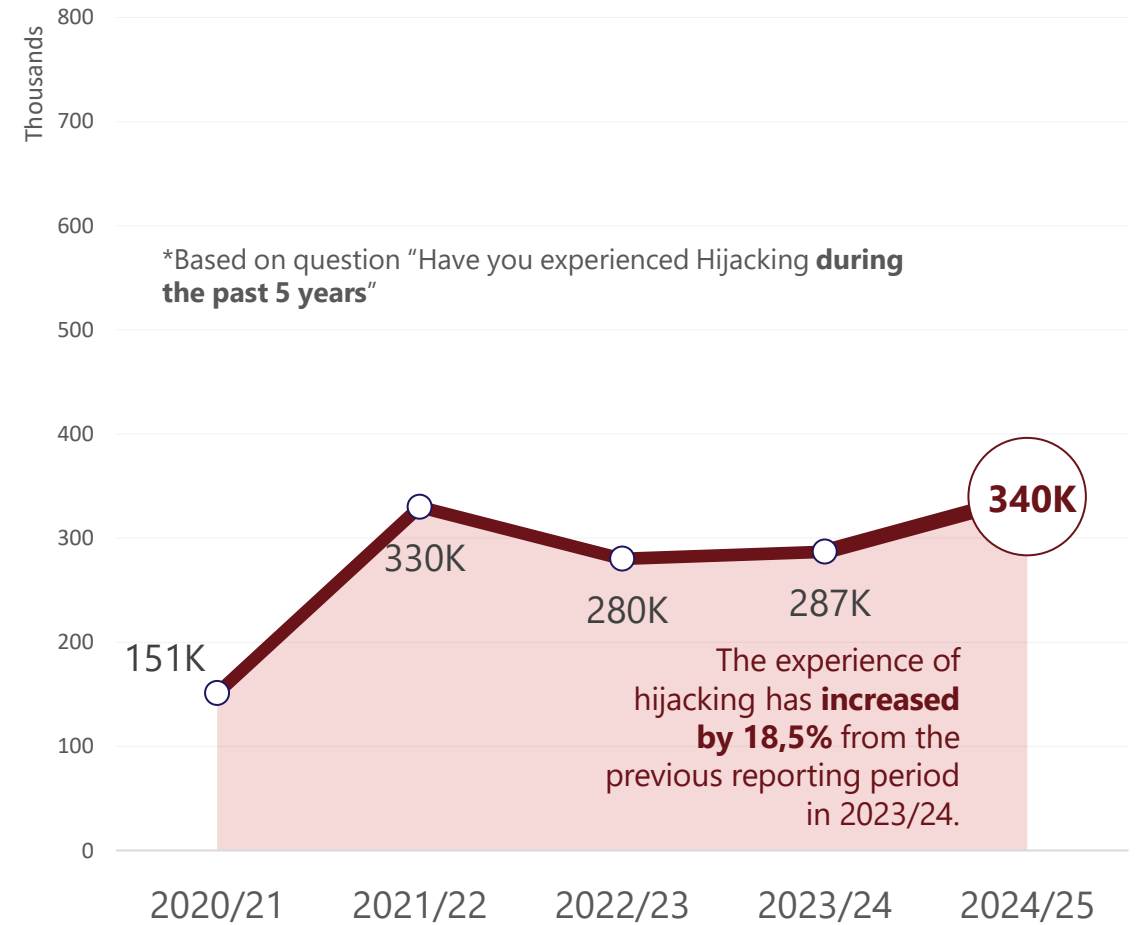
736 000 individuals experienced **Assault** during the past 5 years.

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



340 000 individuals experienced **Hijacking** during the past 5 years. The experience of hijacking has increased by 18,5% from the previous year.

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





Changes over a 12 Month Period

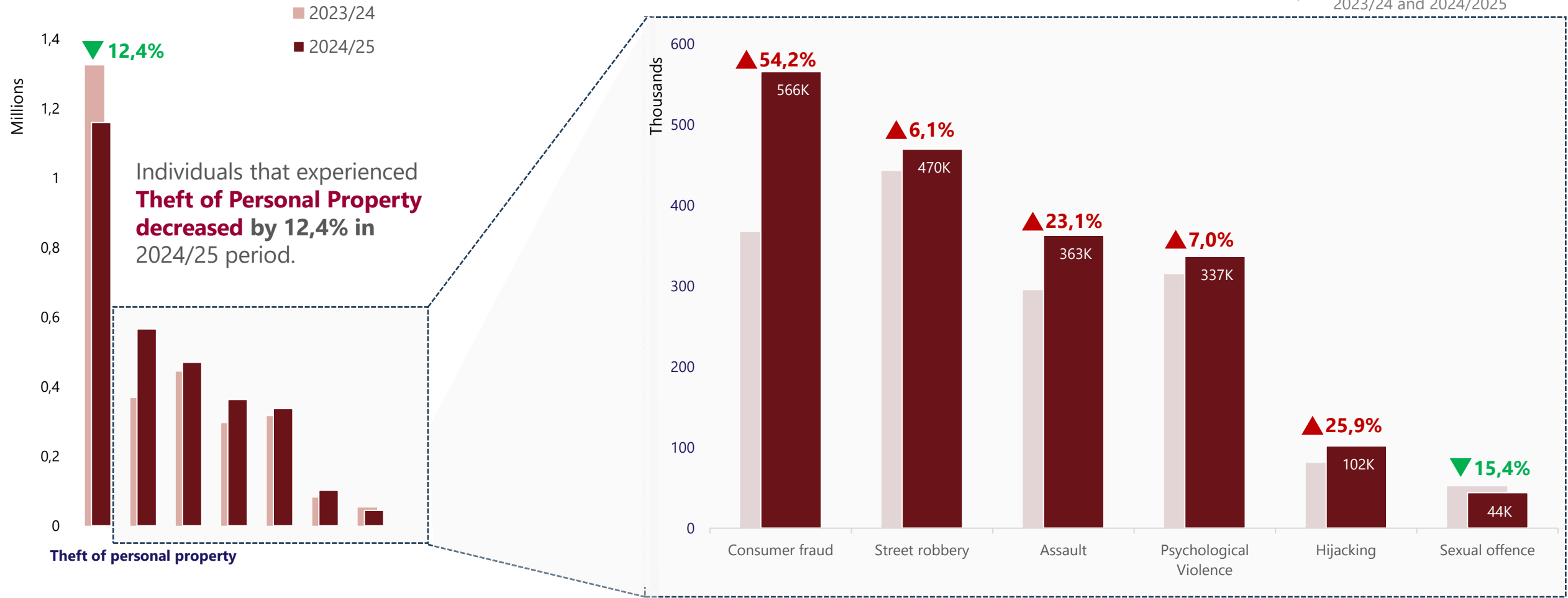


Theft of Personal Property was the most common individual crime in 2024/25.

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Comparison of Number of individuals who experienced crime 2023/24 and 2024/25

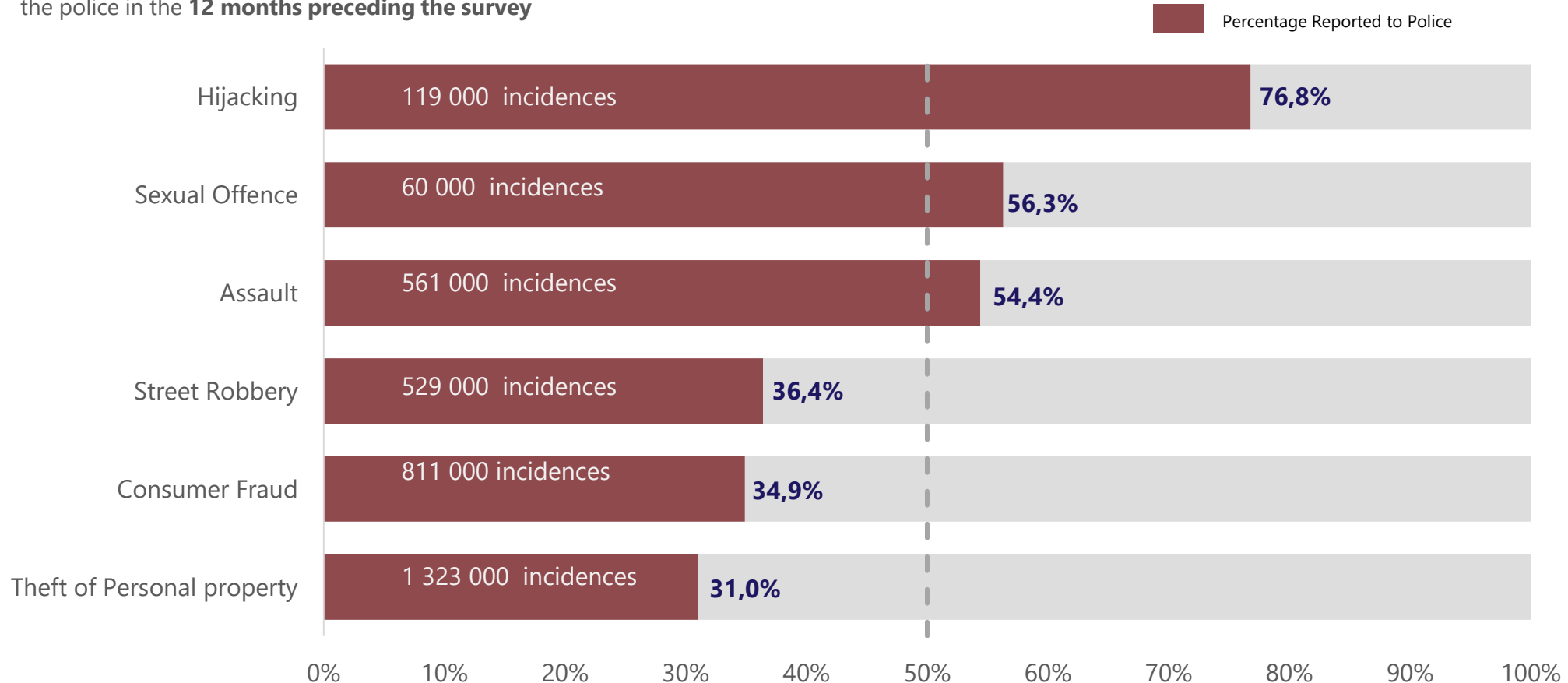
Percentage change between 2023/24 and 2024/25



Only 31% of individuals who experienced Theft of Personal Property reported some or all incidences to the police. A total of 1,3M incidences of theft of personal property occurred in 2024/25.

Percentage of individuals aged 16 years and older who reported incidences of specified type of crime to the police in the **12 months preceding the survey**

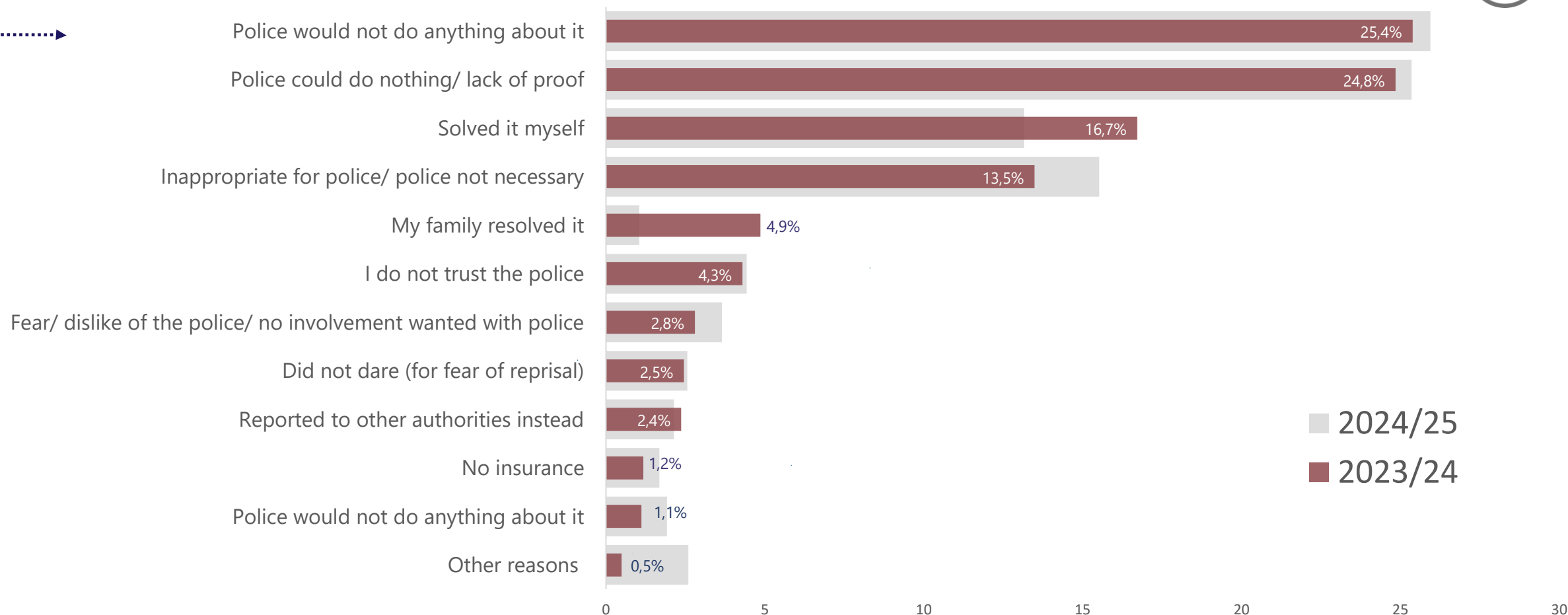
PAST
12 M



• **Majority of individuals** indicated the reason they did not report Theft of Personal Property incidents to the police in both 2023/24 and 2024/25 was **“Police would not do anything about it”**

Reasons for not reporting Theft of Personal Property, 2023/24 and 2024/25

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12 M

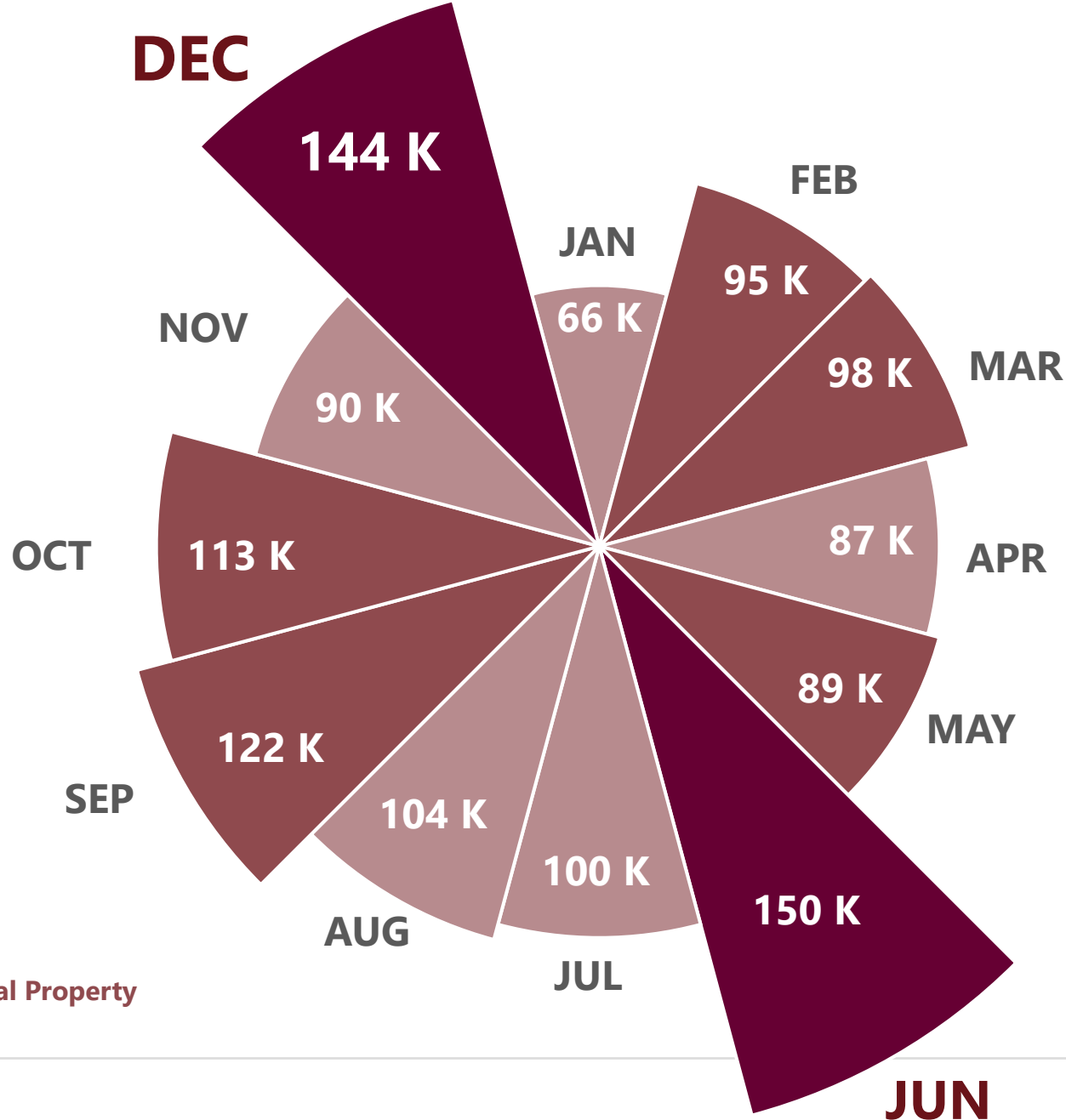


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Incidences of Theft of Personal Property peaked in June and December

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Number of incidences of **Theft of Personal Property** by month, 2024/25



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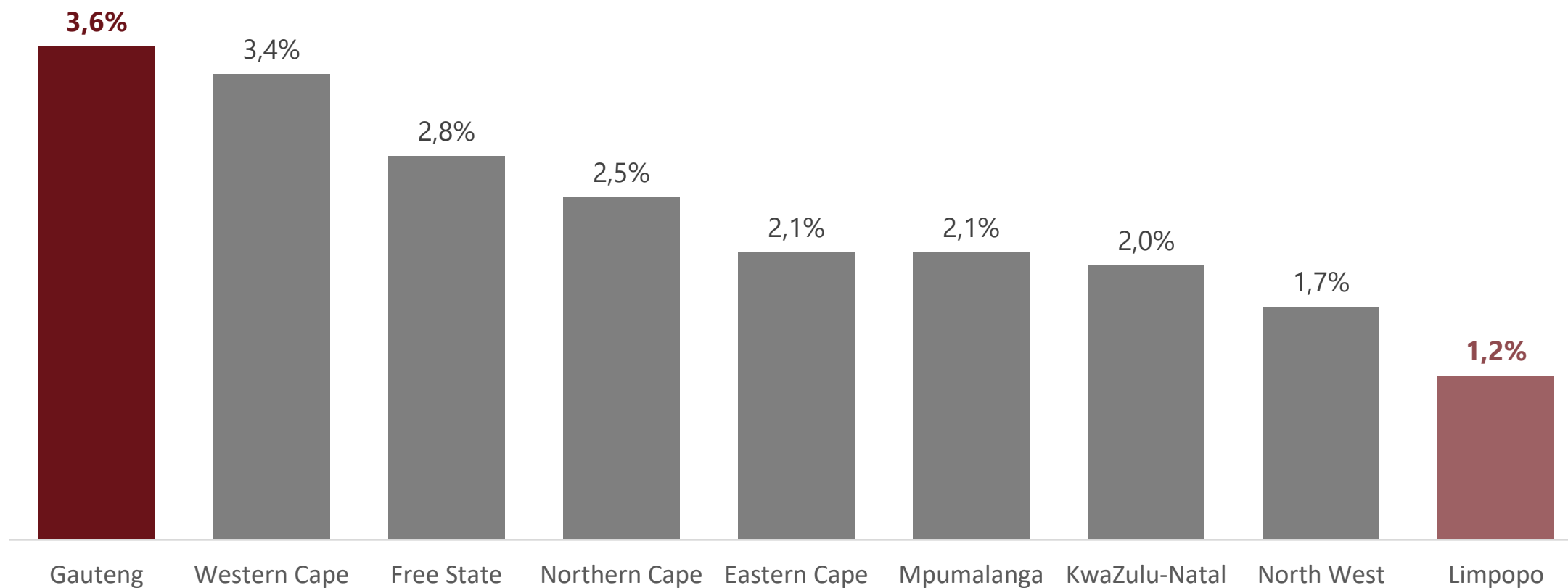
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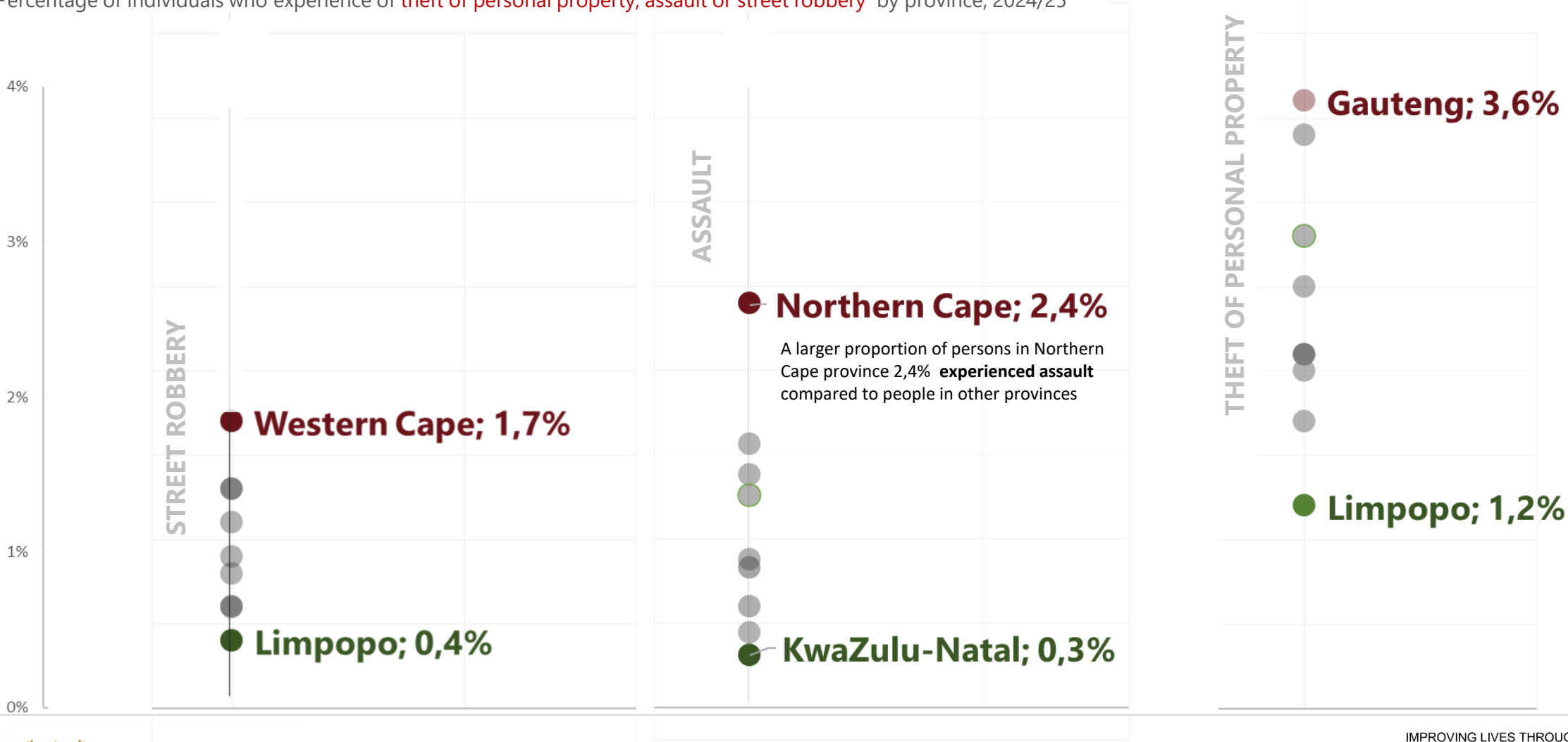
Gauteng province (3,6%) had the highest proportion of individuals who experienced Theft of Personal Property and **Limpopo (1,2%)** had the lowest proportion.

Percentage of individuals who experienced of **theft of personal property** by province, 2024/25



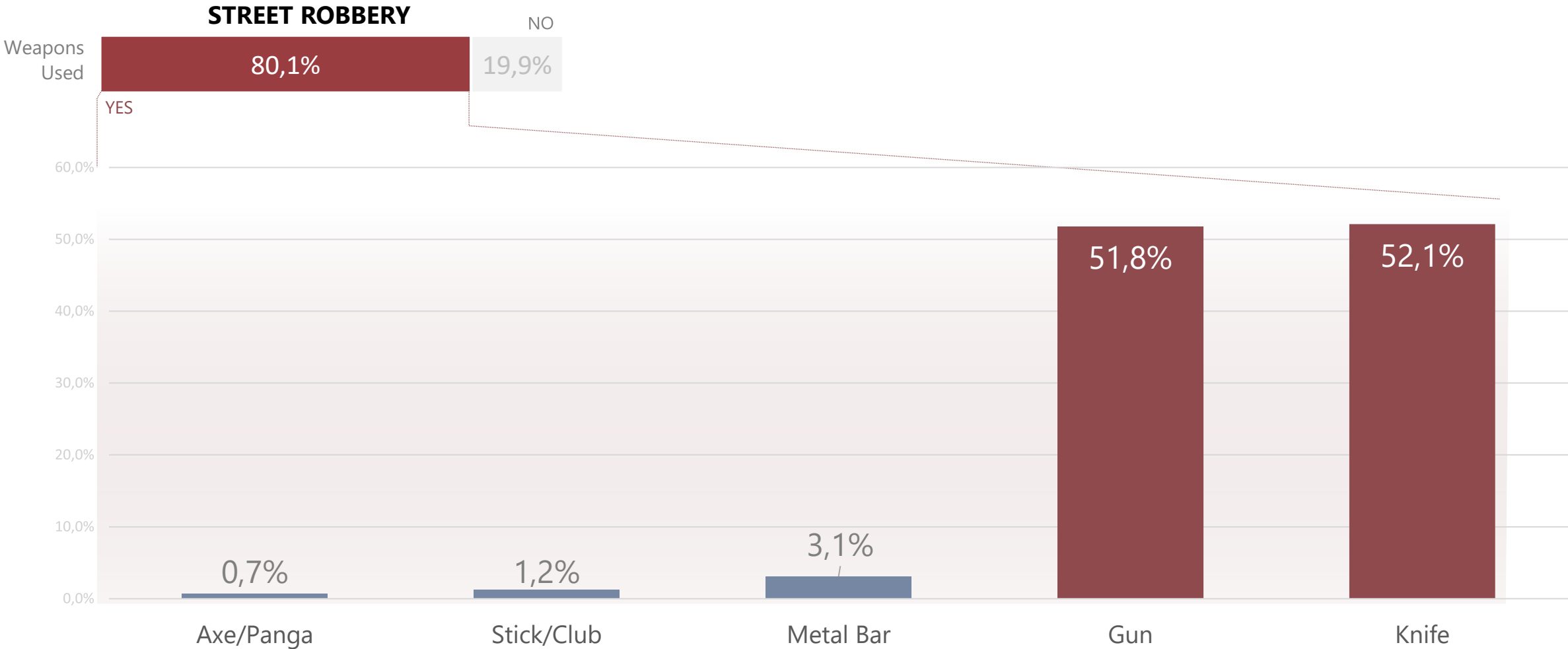
Gauteng province (3,6%) has the highest proportion of individuals who experienced Theft of Personal Property and **Limpopo** had the **lowest proportions** of both **Theft of Personal Property (1,2%)** and **Street Robbery (0,4%)**

Percentage of individuals who experience of **theft of personal property, assault or street robbery** by province, 2024/25



80% of individuals indicated that **weapons were used** during an incident of **Street Robbery**.

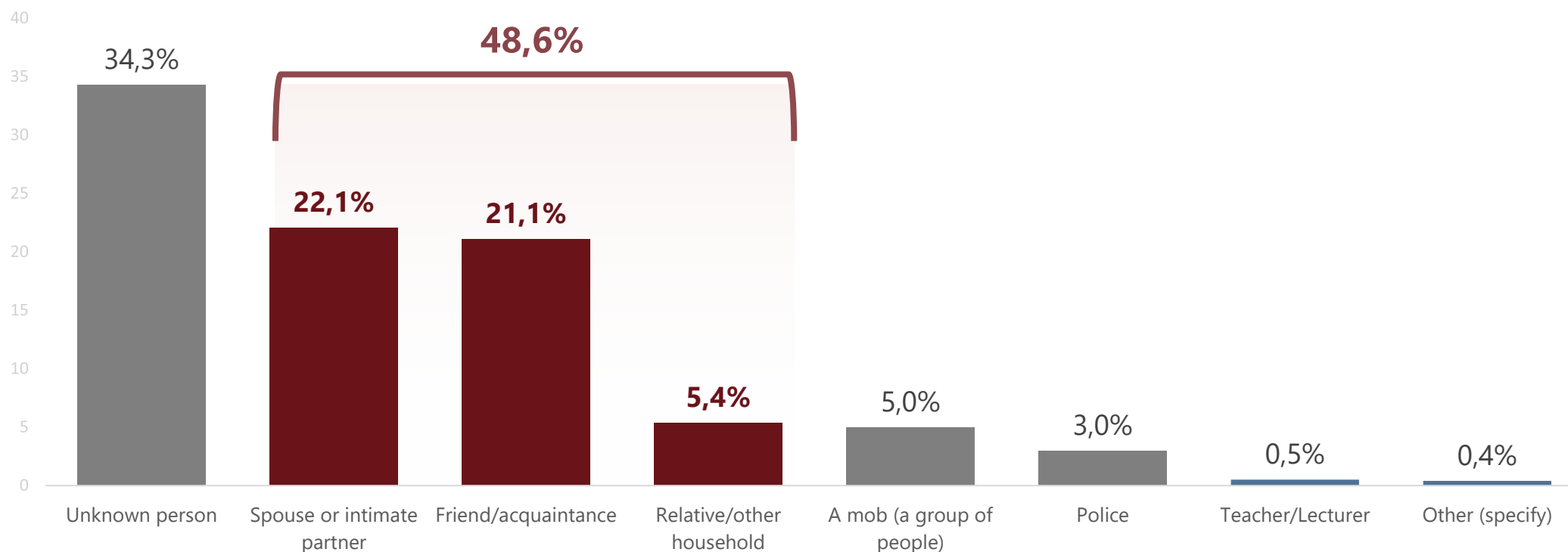
Percentage of individuals who indicated that a weapon was used during a street robbery, 2024/25



About 48,6% of individuals reported that a known person was the perpetrator of assault.
(Friend/acquaintance, Spouse or intimate partner, Relative/ other household member)

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12 M

Percentage of perpetrators of assault experienced by the individuals aged 16 years and older, 2024/25

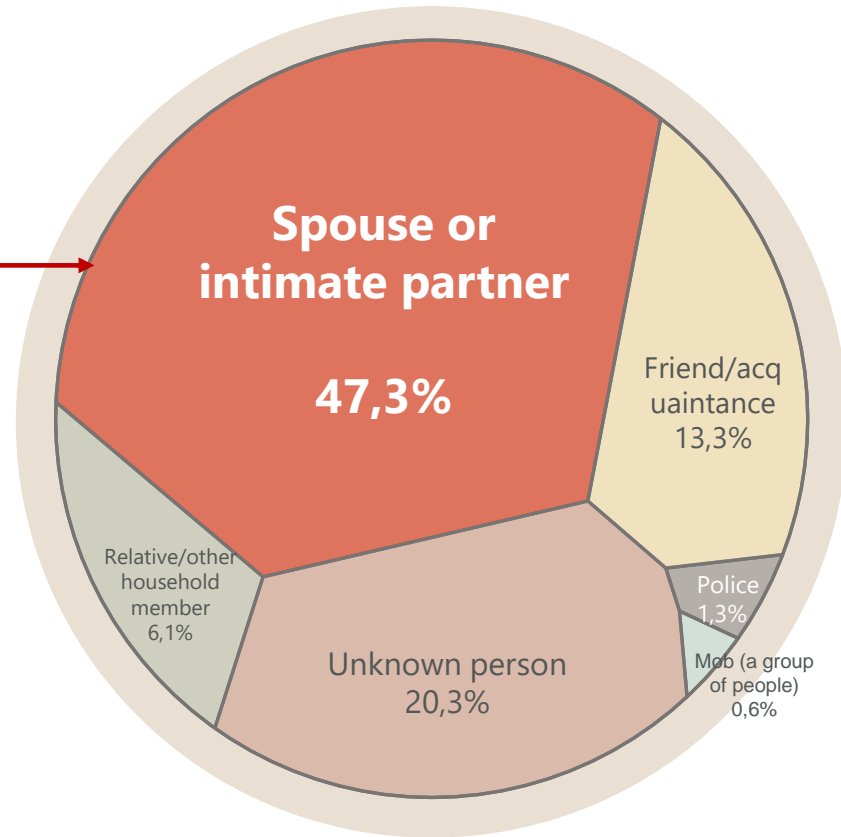


- **Female** (47,3%) individuals reported that a **spouse or intimate partner** was the most common perpetrator of assault as compared to **males** (43,6%) who indicated an **unknown person**.

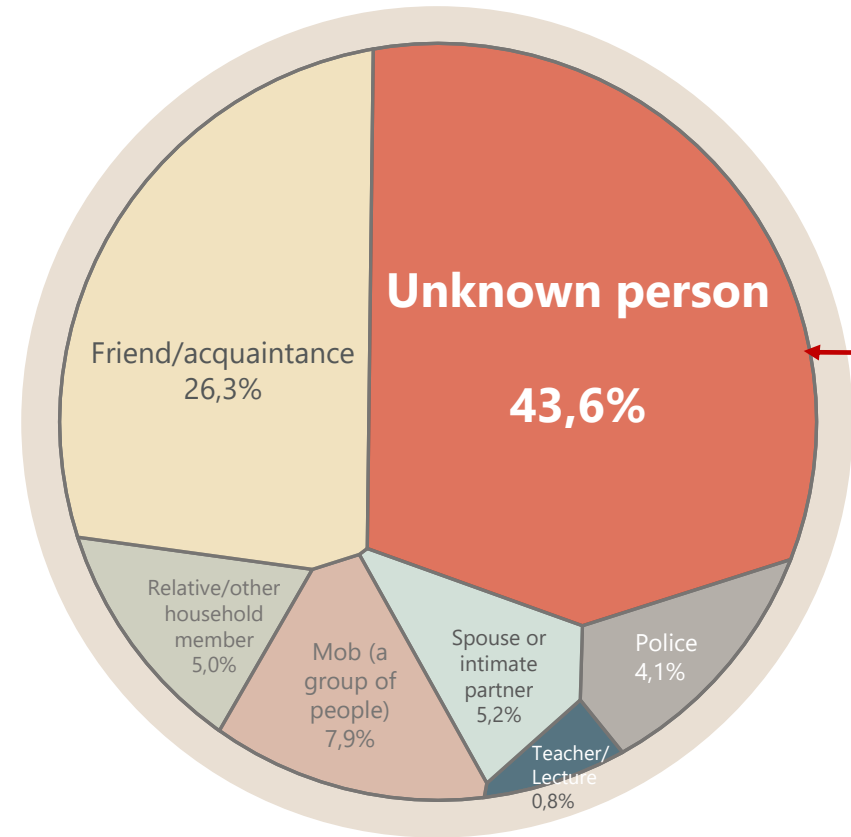
Percentage of perpetrators of assault experienced by the individuals aged 16 years and older by sex, 2024/25

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Female



Male



Individual perceptions of their safety



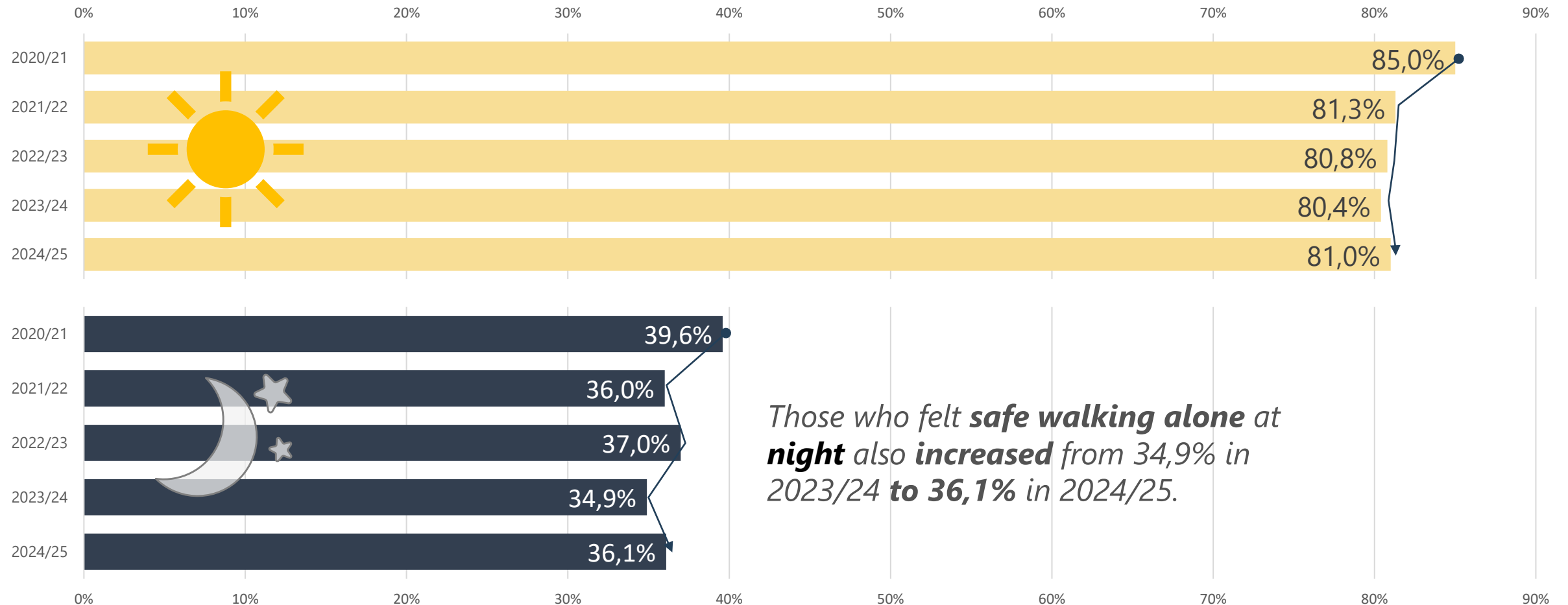
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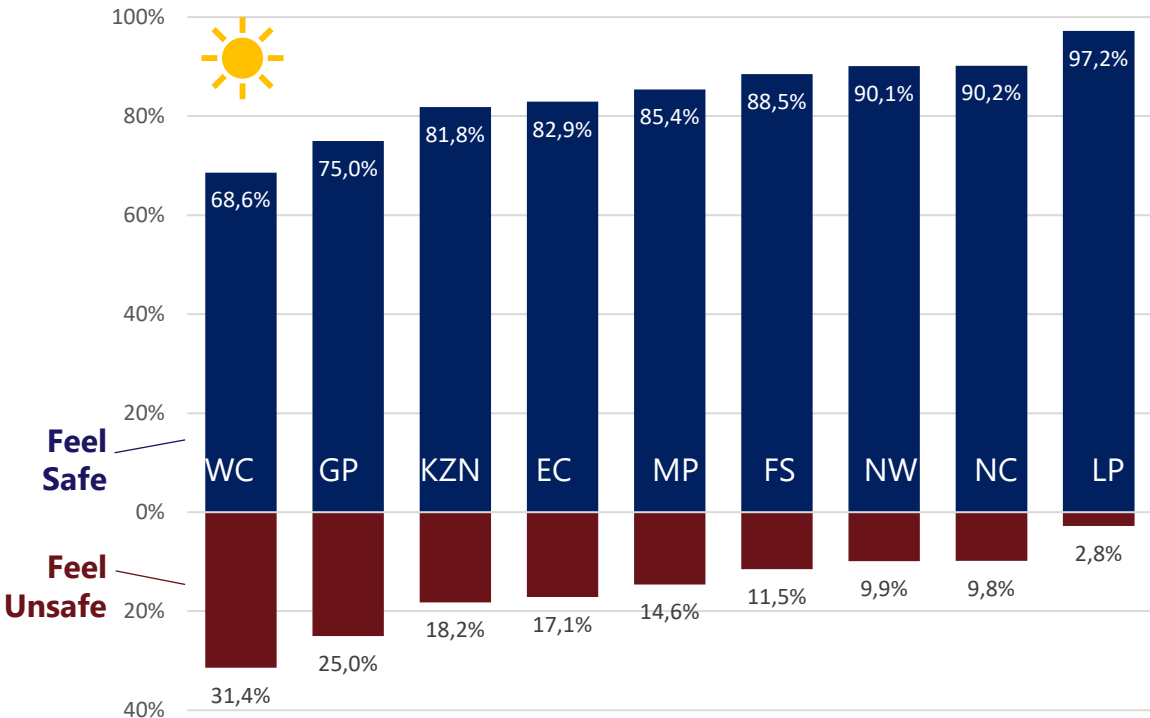


Individuals who felt safe walking alone in their neighbourhoods during the **day** increased from **80,4%** in 2023/24 to **81,0%** in 2024/25.



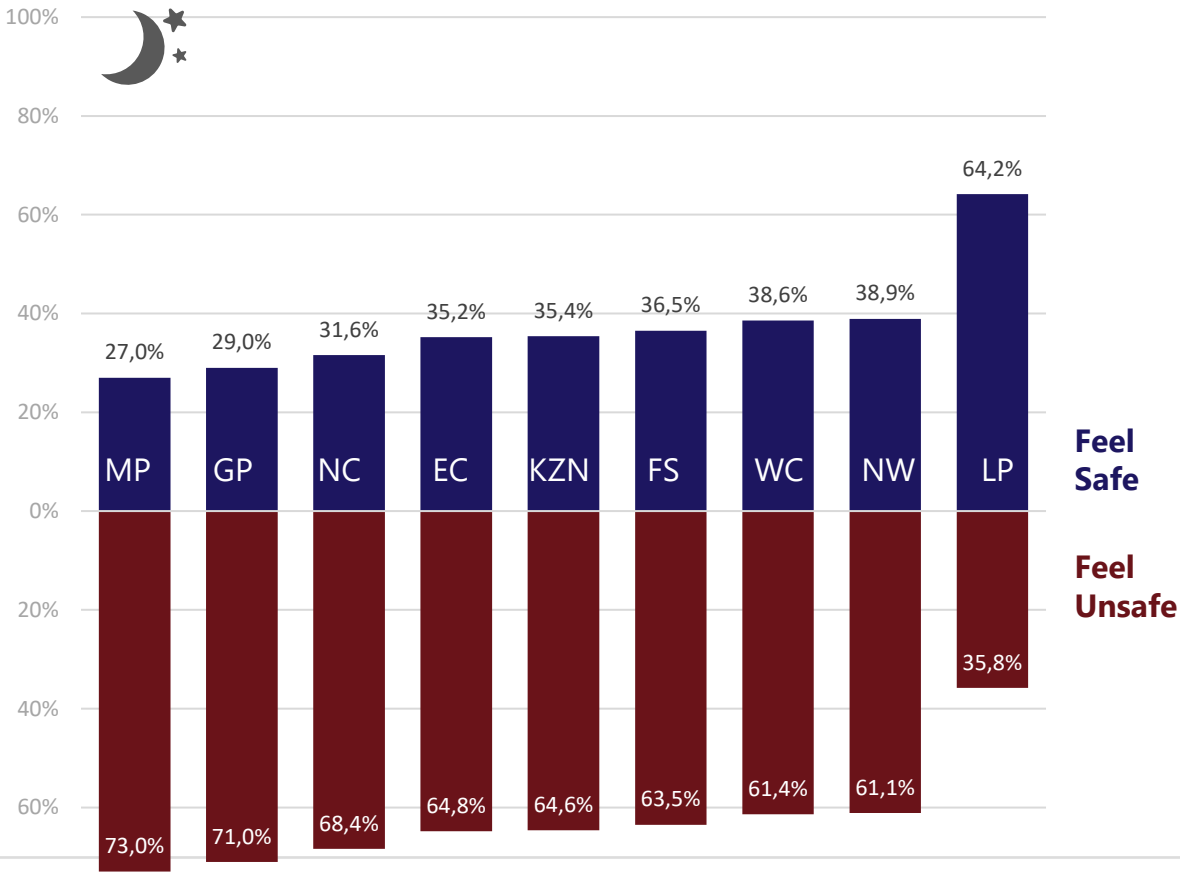
Individuals from Limpopo **felt safer (97,2%)** walking alone in their neighbourhoods **during the day**.

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



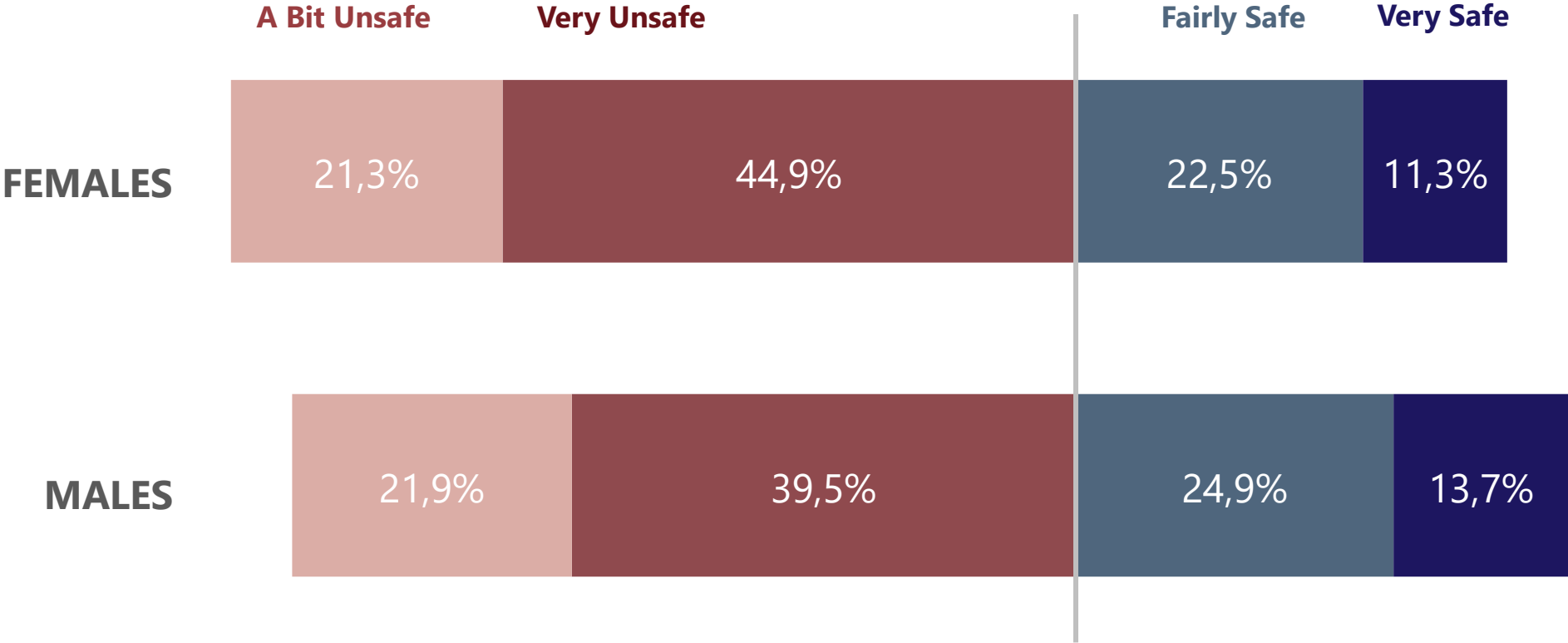
Over **70% of individuals in Mpumalanga and Gauteng** reported feeling unsafe walking alone after dark, compared to just 35,8% in Limpopo.

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

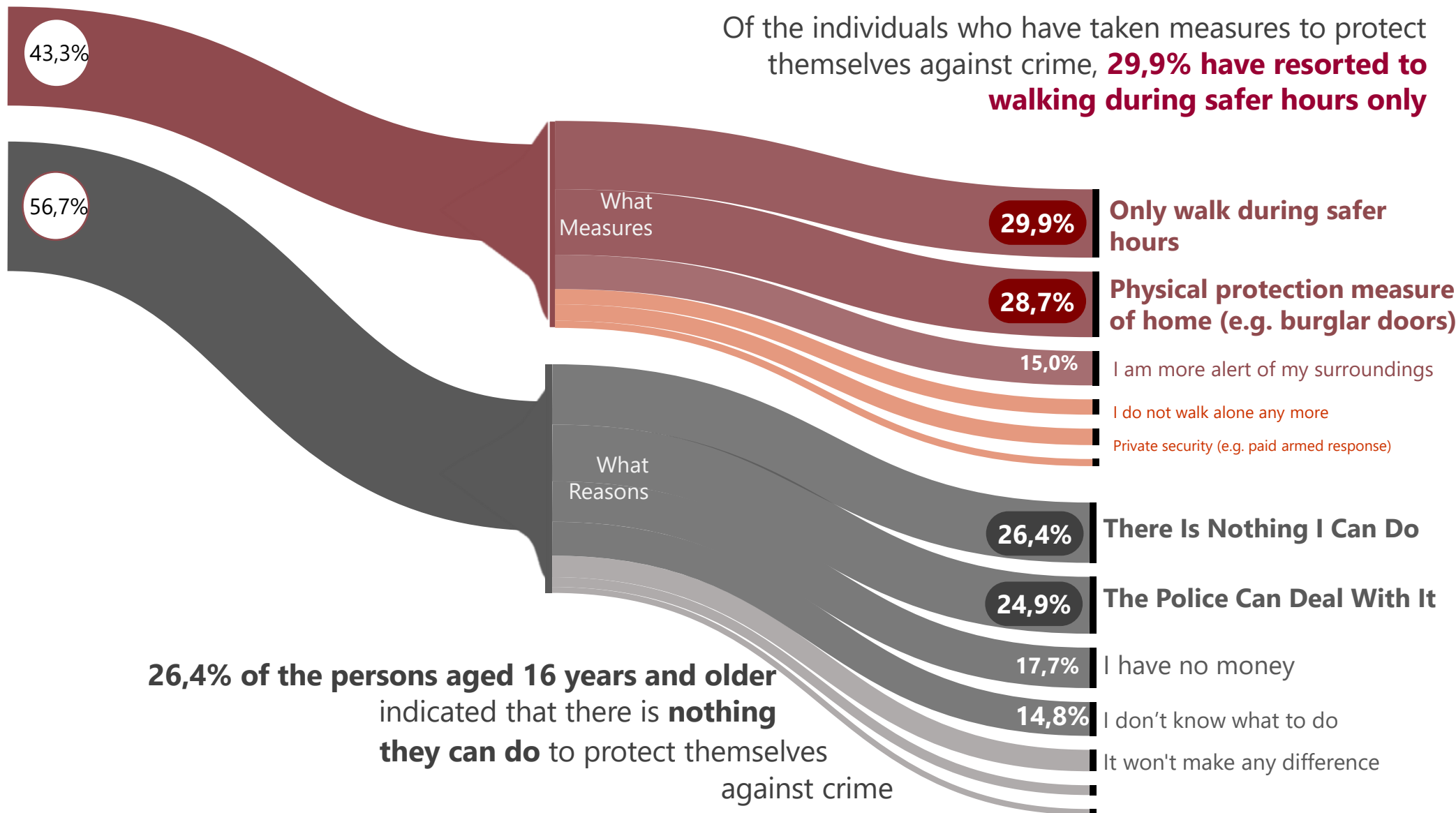


More **females felt very unsafe walking alone** at night in their neighbourhoods compared to males in 2024/25

Percentage of persons aged 16 years and above: Feelings of safety when walking alone in their areas of residence when it is dark by sex, 2024/25



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



Persons aged 16 years or older on what they have done to protect themselves against crime, 2024/25



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Recap: GPSJS 2024/25

Household level crime

01

- An estimated 1,5 million incidences of housebreaking occurred in 2024/25, affecting 1,1 million households in South Africa. However, it remains one of the crimes least reported to the police.
- Murder, theft of motor vehicle and assault were the three household crimes most reported to the police
- The three most common reasons for not reporting housebreaking incidents were: "Police could do nothing/ lack of proof", "Police would not do anything about it" and households indicating they resolved it themselves

Individual level crime

02

- An estimated 1,3 million incidences of theft of personal property occurred in 2024/25, affecting 1, 2 million individuals aged 16 years and older. The number of affected individuals represents 2,6% of the population.
- For individuals who experienced assault, more females reported that a spouse or intimate partner as the perpetrator, as compared to males who reported that the perpetrator was an unknown person.

Feelings of safety.

03

- About 81% of the population felt safe walking alone in their neighbourhood during the day while 36,1% felt safe walking alone in their neighbourhood at night.
- Of those who have taken measures to protect themselves from crime, approximately 30% (29,9%) indicated they have resorted to only walking during safer hours.
- Over half of the individuals aged 16 and older who participated in the survey indicated that they had not taken any steps to protect themselves against crime. Among them, nearly one in four expressed that they felt there was nothing they could do.



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