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Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey 2024/25, Victims of Crime Release

The latest Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS) 2024/25 report, released by Statistics South Africa, reveals that housebreaking is the most common crime experienced by households in South Africa. The household experience of housebreaking has decreased slightly, while home robbery has increased slightly in the 2024/25 period compared to the 2023/24 period.

The report shows that in 2024/25, an estimated 1,5 million incidences of housebreaking occurred, affecting 1,1 million households in South Africa. The number of affected households represents 5,7% of all households in the country. About 43% (43,4%) of households that experienced housebreaking reported some or all incidences to the police.

An estimated 259 000 incidences of home robberies occurred, affecting 213 000 households in 2024/25. The number of affected households represents 1,1% of all households in the country. About 51% (51,3%) of households that experienced home robbery reported some or all incidences to the police.

Theft of personal property is the most common crime experienced by individuals aged 16 years and older in South Africa. 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 those 16 years and older. About 31% of individuals who experienced theft of personal property reported some or all incidences to the police.

The second most experienced crime by individuals was consumer fraud. A total of 566 000 individuals experienced consumer fraud with an estimated 811 000 incidences. This type of crime increased from 367 000 in 2023/24 to 566 000 in 2024/25. About 35% (34,9%) of the individuals reported some or all incidences to the police.

The survey also reveals that about 81% of those aged 16 years and older felt safe walking alone in their neighbourhood during the day while 36,1% felt safe walking alone in their neighbourhood when it is dark. Females felt very unsafe walking alone when it is dark compared to males. The proportion of individuals who have done something to protect themselves against crime increased from 39,9% in 2023/24 to 43,3% in 2024/25. Only 30% (29,9%) of the population indicated that they only walk during safer hours as the main thing they have done to protect themselves against crime.

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