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Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey 2025/26, Victims of Crime Release

The latest Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS) 2025/26 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 in the 2025/26 period compared to the 2024/25 period. The report shows that in 2025/26, over 1,5 million incidences of housebreaking occurred, affecting 1,08 million households in South Africa. The number of affected households represents 5,3% of all households in the country. About 48% (48,2%) of households that experienced housebreaking reported some or all incidences to the police. A total of 179 000 households experienced home robberies in 2025/26. The number of affected households represents 0,9% of all households in the country. About 52% (51,6%) 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 1,4 million incidences of theft of personal property occurred in 2025/26, 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 37% (37,3%) of individuals who experienced theft of personal property reported some or all incidences to the police. The second most experienced crime by individuals was street robbery. A total of 459 000 individuals experienced street robbery, with an estimated 515 000 incidences. Less than 50% (41,7%) of the individuals reported some or all incidences to the police.

The GPSJS survey reported that the third most common crime experienced by individuals aged 16 years and older is assault, and the number of individuals who experienced assault increased from 363 000 in 2024/25 to 408 000 in 2025/26. A larger proportion of females (70,3%) experienced assault at the hands of known persons, including a spouse or intimate partner (31,4%), friend/acquaintance (19,8%), relative or other household member (17,3%), and employer/boss (1,8%).

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. In the previous reporting period (2024/25), a higher proportion of females (44,9%) than males (39,6%) felt very unsafe walking alone in their areas when it is dark. In 2025/26, the proportion of those who felt very unsafe decreased among males (38,8%) but increased among females (45,1%).

Limpopo (98,0%) recorded the highest proportion of individuals who felt safe walking alone during the day, followed by the Northern Cape (88,2%) and Mpumalanga (88,0%). By contrast, the Western Cape (30,1%) recorded the highest proportion of individuals who felt unsafe walking alone during the day, followed by Gauteng (25,8%) and KwaZulu-Natal (18,9%). The proportion of individuals who have done something to protect themselves against crime increased from 43,3% in 2024/25 to 46,6% in 2025/26.

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