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**Crime Victimization, Australia, 2013-14**

## **EXPLANATORY NOTES**

### **INTRODUCTION**

**1** The statistics presented in this release were compiled from data collected in the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) 2013-14 Multipurpose Household Survey (MPHS). The MPHS is conducted each financial year throughout Australia from July to June as a supplement to the ABS' monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS) and is designed to provide annual statistics for a number of small, self-contained topics.

**2** In 2013-14 the topics were:

- Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation
- Retirement and Retirement Intentions (including Method of Meeting Current Living Costs)
- Household Use of Information Technology
- Patient Experience
- Family Transitions and History
- Family Characteristics
- Crime Victimization
- Income (Personal, Partner's, Household).

**3** For all topics, general demographic information such as age, sex, labour force characteristics, education and income are also available.

**4** This publication covers the Crime Victimization Survey topic and presents details about victims of a selected range of personal and household crimes, whether victims reported these incidents to police, the characteristics of victims and the characteristics of their most recent incident. Some estimates from the 2008–09, 2009–10, 2010–11, 2011-12, and 2012-13 Crime Victimization Surveys are also included in this publication.

**5** Crime victimisation data are again being collected in the MPHS for the reference period 2014–15, with that data expected to be available in early 2016.

### **SCOPE**

**6** The scope of the Labour Force Survey (LFS) is restricted to people aged 15 years and over and excludes the following:

- members of the permanent defence forces
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments usually excluded from census and estimated resident populations
- overseas residents in Australia

- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants).

**7** In addition, the 2013–14 MPHS excluded the following from scope:

- Households in Indigenous communities
- people living in non-private dwellings (e.g. hotels, university residences, students at boarding schools, patients in hospitals, inmates of prisons and residents of other institutions (e.g. retirement homes, homes for persons with disabilities)).

## **COVERAGE**

**8** In the LFS, coverage rules are applied which aim to ensure that each person is associated with only one dwelling and hence has only one chance of selection in the survey. See [Labour Force, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6202.0) for more details.

**9** In the LFS, rules are applied which aim to ensure that each person in coverage is associated with only one dwelling and hence has only one chance of selection in the survey. See [Labour Force, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6202.0) for more details.

## **DATA COLLECTION**

**10** The MPHS was conducted as a supplement to the monthly LFS. Each month one eighth of the dwellings in the LFS sample were rotated out of the survey. In 2013-14, all of these dwellings were selected to respond to the MPHS each month. In these dwellings, after the LFS had been fully completed for each person in scope and coverage, a person aged 15 years and over was selected at random (based on a computer algorithm) and asked the various MPHS topic questions in a personal interview. If the randomly selected person was aged 15–17 years, permission was sought from a parent or guardian before conducting the interview. If permission was not given, the parent or guardian was asked the crime questions on behalf of the 15–17 year old. Questions relating to sexual assault, alcohol or substances contributing to the most recent physical or face-to-face threatened assault were not asked of proxy respondents. Only those persons aged 18 years and over were asked questions on sexual assault. Data was collected using Computer Assisted Interviewing, whereby responses were recorded directly onto an electronic questionnaire in a notebook computer, usually during a telephone interview.

**11** For the 2013-14 MPHS, the sample was accumulated over a 12 month period from July 2013 to June 2014.

**12** The publication [Labour Force, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6202.0) contains definitions of demographic and labour force characteristics, and information about telephone interviewing that is relevant to both the monthly LFS and MPHS.

### **Sample size**

**13** The initial sample for the crime victimisation topic was 42,102 private dwellings, from which one person was randomly selected. Of the 35,904 private dwellings that remained in the survey after sample loss (for example, dwellings selected in the survey which had no residents in scope for the LFS, vacant or derelict dwellings and dwellings under construction), 27,327 or 76% fully responded to the questions on crime victimisation.

## **ESTIMATION METHOD**

### **Weighting**

**14** Weighting is the process of adjusting results from a sample survey to infer results for the total in-scope population. To do this, a 'weight' is allocated to each sample unit, which, for the MPHS, can be either a person or a household. The weight is a value which indicates how many population units are represented by the sample unit. For the MPHS, the first step in calculating weights for each unit was to assign an initial weight, which is the inverse of the probability of being selected in the survey. For example, if the probability of a person being selected in the survey was 1 in 600, then the person would have an initial weight of 600 (i.e. they represent 600 people).

### **Benchmarking**

**15** The initial weights were then calibrated to align with independent estimates of the population of interest, referred to as 'benchmarks', in designated categories of age by sex by area of usual residence. Weights calibrated against population benchmarks ensure that the survey estimates conform to the independently estimated distribution of the population rather than the distribution within the sample itself. Calibration to population benchmarks helps to compensate for over or under-enumeration of particular categories of persons/households which may occur due to either the random nature of sampling or non-response.

**16** For person estimates, the MPHS was benchmarked to the projected population in each state and territory, as at 31 March 2014. For household estimates, the

MPHS was benchmarked to independently calculated estimates of the total number of households in Australia. The MPHS estimates do not (and are not intended to) match estimates for the total Australian person/household populations obtained from other sources.

## **Estimation**

**17** Survey estimates of counts of persons or households are obtained by summing the weights of persons or households with the characteristic of interest. Estimates of non-person counts (e.g. number of attempted break-ins) are obtained by multiplying the characteristic of interest with the weight of the reporting person/household and then aggregating them.

## **Confidentiality**

**18** To minimise the risk of identifying individuals in aggregate statistics, a technique is used to randomly adjust cell values. This technique is called perturbation. Perturbation involves a small random adjustment of the statistics and is considered the most satisfactory technique for avoiding the release of identifiable statistics while maximising the range of information that can be released. These adjustments have a negligible impact on the underlying pattern of the statistics. After perturbation, a given published cell value will be consistent across all tables. However, adding up cell values to derive a total will not necessarily give the same result as published totals. Perturbation has only been applied to the 2013–14 data.

**19** For data from previous cycles (2008-09 to 2012–13) table cells containing small values only were randomly adjusted to avoid releasing confidential information. Due to this randomisation process, totals may vary slightly across tables. These adjustments do not impair the value of the tables as a whole.

## **RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES**

**20** All sample surveys are subject to error which can be broadly categorised as either:

- sampling error
- non-sampling error.

### **Sampling error**

**21** Sampling error is the difference between the published estimates, derived from a sample of persons, and the value that would have been produced if the total population (as defined for the scope of the survey) had been included in the survey. For more information refer to the Technical Note.

### **Non-sampling error**

**22** Non-sampling error may occur in any collection, whether it is based on a sample or a full count such as a census. Sources of non-sampling error include non-response, errors in reporting by respondents or recording of answers by interviewers and errors in coding and processing data. Every effort is made to reduce non-sampling error by careful design and testing of questionnaires, training and supervision of interviewers, and extensive editing and quality control procedures at all stages of data processing.

### **INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS**

**23** Crime victimisation surveys are best suited to measuring crimes against individuals or households with specific and identifiable victims. Victims need to be aware of and recall what happened to them and how it happened, as well as be willing to relate what they know to interviewers.

**24** Not all types of crime are suitable for measurement by household surveys. No reliable information can be obtained about crimes without specific victims, such as trafficking in narcotics. Crimes of which the victim may not be aware cannot be measured effectively - some crimes involving deception and attempted crimes of many types may fall into this category. It may also be difficult to obtain information about some crimes such as sexual offences and assault committed by other household or family members due to the sensitivity of the crime and an increased reluctance to disclose. Some of these crimes may not be fully reflected in the data collected. Household survey data excludes crimes against commercial establishments or government agencies.

**25** This survey covered only selected types of personal and household crimes. Personal crimes covered in the survey were physical assault, threatened assault, robbery and sexual assault. Household crimes covered were break-in, attempted break-in, motor vehicle theft, theft from a motor vehicle, malicious property damage and other theft.

**26** For this survey the definition of total victims is restricted to those crimes

included in the survey and does not represent all crime in Australia. Information collected in this survey is essentially 'as reported' by respondents and hence may differ from that which might be obtained from other sources or via other methodologies. This factor should be considered when interpreting the estimates and when making comparisons with other data sources.

### **Statistical measures of crime victimisation**

**27** The level of victimisation can be expressed in more than one way. The most common measure derived from crime victim surveys is prevalence, that is, the number of the relevant population that have been a victim of a given crime at least once in the reference period. This is known as the 'victimisation rate'. Victimization rates used in this publication represent the prevalence of selected crimes in Australia, and are generally expressed as a percentage of the total relevant population. Reporting rates used in this publication are expressed as the percentage of victims whose most recent incident of each type of crime had been reported to the police.

### **DATA COMPARABILITY**

**28** The 2013-14 Crime Victimization Survey is the sixth in a new series of regular Crime Victimization Surveys conducted by the ABS. The five previous surveys in this series (conducted for the 2008–09, 2009–10, 2010–11, 2011-12, and 2012-13 reference periods) included many of the questions asked in 2013-14. This has enabled some time series comparisons to be made in this publication.

**29** The Crime Victimization Survey series replaced the previous Crime and Safety Surveys and was introduced because of a change to the collection methodology. The new method of collection mainly uses personal telephone interviews of selected respondents. Data collections between 1990 and 2005 required respondents to self complete questionnaires and mail these back to the ABS. This difference in mode of collection and changes to survey questions means that data collected using the MPHS is generally not directly comparable with data from previous years' Crime and Safety Surveys.

**30** Since 1990, Crime and Safety Surveys were conducted by the ABS nationally and in specific states and territories at different times. Collections have taken place in the following years:

<b>Region</b>	<b>Collection reference periods prior to the 2008–09 Crime Victimization Survey</b>
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New South Wales	2008, 2007, 2006, 2004, 2003, 2001, 2000, 1999, 1997, 1996, 1995, 1994
Victoria	1995, 1994
Queensland	1995
Western Australia	1999, 1995, 1991
South Australia	2000, 1995, 1991
Tasmania	1998
Australian Capital Territory	1995
Australia	2005, 2002, 1998, 1993, 1983, 1975

**31** Different crime statistics collections can yield different results. Caution should be taken when comparing data from different surveys and administrative by-product collections that relate to crime and justice issues. For more information on comparisons between sources, please refer to [Measuring Victims of Crime: A Guide to Using Administrative and Survey data, June 2011](#) (cat. no. 4500.0.55.001).

### **Comparability with the 2008–09, 2009–10, 2010-11, 2011-12, and 2012-13 Crime Victimization Survey**

**32** Most of the questions asked in the 2008–09, 2009–10, 2010–11, 2011-12, and 2012-13 Crime Victimization Surveys have been repeated in 2013-14. As a similar methodology has been adopted for the surveys, data on the prevalence of personal and household crimes should be comparable across the periods.

**33** In the 2008–09 Crime Victimization Survey, data was not collected in July and August in New South Wales (to avoid overlap with the April 2008 NSW Crime and Safety Survey). In the 2009–10, 2010–11, 2011–12, 2012-13, and 2013-14 surveys, data was collected for the full 12 months, however this change does not impact on the comparability of the data.

**34** A significant change was made to the area of usual residence data item in 2010–11. In the 2008–09 and 2009–10 crime victimisation publications, area of usual residence was classified as *State Capital Cities* and *Balance of State/Territory*. The *Balance of State/Territory* category comprised people usually resident in areas outside of the six state capital city Statistical Divisions (as defined in the [Australian Standard Geographical Classification \(ASGC\)](#) (cat. no. 1216.0)), including all residents of the Northern Territory (except those in very remote areas) and the Australian Capital Territory. For 2010–11, 2011–12, 2012-13, and 2013-14, the State capital cities category has been changed to *Capital City* and now



includes all of the ACT and Darwin Statistical Division, while the *Balance of State/Territory* category now comprises people usually resident in areas outside of the eight capital city Statistical Divisions, excluding all residents in the ACT. The new definitions of *Capital City* and *Balance of State/Territory*, as published, result in area of usual residence not being comparable across the surveys. However, comparable Correspondences for these classifications are available on request (see Products and Services section below for further details).

**35** Crime Victimization Survey data for 'Capital City' and 'Balance of State/Territory' areas in 2008-09, 2009-10, 2011-12 and 2012-13 were based on Capital City and Balance of State/Territory boundaries contained in the [Australian Statistical Geography Classification \(ASGC\)](#). [The Australian Standard Geographical Classification \(ASGS\)](#), introduced in 2011, contained new boundaries for [Greater Capital City Statistical Areas](#) and Balance of State/Territory areas and these have been used for the first time in Crime Victimization data for 2013-14. Data for 'Greater Capital City Statistical Areas' (GCCSA) and 'Balance of State/Territory' in 2013-14 are based on the relevant boundaries contained in the ASGS. Users should note that these boundaries differ from the 'Capital City' and 'Balance of State/Territory' boundaries contained in the ASGC. More information is available [here](#).

**36** Some minor changes to the survey questions have been made in recent cycles. For the 2011–12 survey testing revealed that some respondents were including verbal threats in the physical assault module despite the question specifically referring to physical force or violence. From the 2011–12 survey, respondents were specifically instructed to exclude verbal abuse. Testing also found that some respondents were including bicycles and caravans in motor vehicle theft, which are not defined as motor vehicles for the purposes of the survey. In response, since the 2011–12 survey, respondents are asked explicitly to exclude theft of caravans, trailers and bicycles and theft of vehicles used mainly for business from the motor vehicle theft module. Due to the increase in ownership of iPads and other tablets, from the 2013-14 survey, respondents were asked to include these items in the "personal electronic equipment" category for robbery, theft from a motor vehicle and other theft and the "computer equipment" category for break-in and attempted break-in.

### **Comparability with police statistics**

**37** Data for selected crimes recorded by police agencies are available in [Recorded](#)

[Crime - Victims, Australia](#) (cat. no. 4510.0). The Crime Victimization Survey provides an additional source of data on crime victimisation for the selected crimes, including crime not reported to or detected by police. This survey identifies the nature of this unreported crime, as well as giving information about victims of repeated crimes. The information from the survey should be viewed as complementary to police recorded crime statistics.

**38** The terms used for the crimes (such as robbery and physical assault) may not necessarily correspond with the legal or police definitions used. This is because responses obtained in this survey are based on the respondent's perception of being the victim of a crime. The definitions of terms used in the survey are based on the wording of the questions asked of the respondent and specifications provided to interviewers. Definitions of crime types included in this survey can be found in the Glossary.

**39** The Crime Victimization Survey collects information on crimes that were reported to police, as well as those which police did not become aware of. In this publication, reporting rates are based on whether or not the most recent incident of each crime type experienced by respondents in the 12 months prior to interview were reported to police. Interviews were conducted over a 12 month period from 1 July 2013 and 30 June 2014. The actual reference period for a particular respondent was determined by the date of their interview. There is no verification a crime report has actually been made for the crime if a survey respondent indicates that police were informed about the incident.

**40** Another source of variation between the survey results and crimes recorded by police relates to differences in scope. This survey collects information on the personal crimes of physical assault, threatened assault and robbery for all people aged 15 years and over, and sexual assault for people aged 18 years and over. In contrast, police statistics include victims of all ages and any comparisons need to allow for this difference. Furthermore, police record all crimes reported to them in the reference period, whether or not the incidents took place during that period or at an earlier time.

### **Comparability with monthly LFS Statistics**

**41** Due to differences in the scope and sample size of the MPHS and that of the LFS, the estimation procedure may lead to some small variations between labour force estimates from this survey and those obtained from the LFS.

## **Other methodological issues**

**42** When interpreting data from the 2013-14 MPHS, consideration should be given to the representativeness of the sample. This is affected by the response rate and scope and coverage rules. For example, people living in boarding houses, refuges or on the streets are excluded from this survey and may experience different levels of victimisation than those surveyed, who live in private dwellings.

## **EQUIVALISED WEEKLY HOUSEHOLD INCOME**

**43** Equivalence scales are used to adjust the actual incomes of households in a way that enables the analysis of the relative well-being of people living in households of different size and composition. For example, it would be expected that a household comprising two people would normally need more income than a lone person household if all the people in the two households are to enjoy the same material standards of living. Adopting a per capita analysis would address one aspect of household size difference, but would address neither compositional difference (i.e. the number of adults compared with the number of children) nor the economies derived from living together.

**44** When household income is adjusted according to an equivalence scale, the equivalised income can be viewed as an indicator of the economic resources available to a standardised household. For a lone person household, it is equal to income received. For a household comprising more than one person, equivalised income is an indicator of the household income that would be required by a lone person household in order to enjoy the same level of economic well-being as the household in question.

**45** The equivalence scale used in this publication was developed for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and is referred to as the 'modified OECD' equivalence scale. It is widely accepted among Australian analysts of income distribution.

**46** The scale allocates 1.0 point for the first adult (aged 15 years and over) in a household; 0.5 for each additional adult; and 0.3 for each child. Equivalised household income is derived by dividing total household income by the sum of the equivalence points allocated to Australian household members. For example, if a household received combined gross income of \$2,100 per week and comprised two adults and two children (combined household equivalence points of 2.1), the equivalised gross household income would be calculated as \$1,000 per week.

**47** For more information on the use of equivalence scales, see [Household Income and Distribution, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6523.0).

## **CLASSIFICATIONS**

**48** Australian geographic data are classified according to the [Australian Statistical Geography Standard \(ASGS\): Volume 1 - Main Structure and Greater Capital City Statistical Areas, July 2011](#) (cat. no. 1270.0.55.001).

**49** Country of birth data are classified according to the [Standard Australian Classification of Countries \(Second Edition\) \(SACC\), 2011](#) (cat. no. 1269.0).

**50** Educational attainment data are classified according to the [Australian Standard Classification of Education \(ASCED\), 2001](#) (cat. no. 1272.0).

## **PRODUCTS AND SERVICES**

### **Spreadsheets**

**51** All tables, in Excel spreadsheet format, can be accessed from Downloads. The spreadsheets present tables of count person and proportion estimates, and their corresponding relative standard errors.

### **Data available on request**

**52** A further option for accessing data from the Crime Victimization Survey is to contact the [National Information and Referral Service](#). A range of additional data not provided in the standard spreadsheets may be provided on a fee-for-service basis through ABS [Information Consultancy](#). A spreadsheet containing a complete list of the data items available from the Crime Victimization Survey can be accessed from Downloads.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**53** ABS surveys draw extensively on information provided freely by individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated. Without it the wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the [Census and Statistics Act 1905](#).

## **RELATED INFORMATION**

**54** The Related Information tab associated with this release contains links to a selected range of ABS Crime and Justice publications.

## **KEY FINDINGS**

This release presents information from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2013-14 national Crime Victimization Survey, which is the sixth in the annual series.

The survey collected data, via personal interview, about people's experiences of crime victimisation for a selected range of personal and household crimes. The

survey also collected data about whether persons experiencing crime reported these incidents to police, selected characteristics of persons experiencing crime, and selected characteristics of the most recent incident they experienced.

At the national level, the results showed that:

### **Personal crime:**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, of the 18.5 million persons aged 15 years and over in Australia:

- 418,200 (2.3%) experienced at least one physical assault
- 538,500 (2.9%) experienced at least one threatened assault, including face-to-face and non face-to-face threatened assaults
- 65,600 (0.4%) experienced at least one robbery
- Of the 17.6 million person aged 18 years and over, 48,300 (0.3%) experienced at least one sexual assault.

Australians were more likely to experience face-to-face threatened assault than any of the other selected personal crime types. Physical assault was the second most frequent personal crime type experienced in 2013-14.

### **Household crime:**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, of the 8.8 million households in Australia:

- 528,900 (6.0%) households experienced at least one incident of malicious property damage
- 258,800 (2.9%) households experienced at least one theft from a motor vehicle
- 238,800 (2.7%) households experienced at least one incident of other theft
- 228,900 (2.6%) households experienced at least one break-in to their home, garage or shed
- 170,800 (1.9%) households experienced at least one attempted break-in to their home, garage or shed
- 54,400 (0.6%) households had at least one motor vehicle stolen.

Households were more likely to experience malicious property damage than any other of the selected household crimes and less likely to experience motor vehicle theft than any of the other types of household crime.

## **ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION**

This release presents results from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) national Crime Victimization Survey, conducted from July 2013 to June 2014 as part of the ABS Multipurpose Household Survey (MPHS). The survey collected data, via personal interview, about people's experiences of crime victimisation for a selected range of personal and household crimes. The survey also collected data about whether persons experiencing crime reported these incidents to police,

selected characteristics of persons experiencing crime, and selected characteristics of the most recent incident they experienced.

This is the sixth Crime Victimization Survey conducted by the ABS since it was redesigned in 2008–09. This publication includes some data from previous surveys (refer to Time Series Data Cube). Comparisons between 2012-13 and 2013-14 are discussed in the text where there was a statistically significant difference in the estimate between the two reference periods.

All tables are available in Excel spreadsheet format from the Downloads tab. Information on the concepts and methods used in the survey, reliability of the results, definitions and interpretation are included in the Explanatory Notes, Technical Note, and Glossary. Differences between data items highlighted in the publication text are statistically significant (refer to the Significance Testing section of the Technical Note).

## **CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE**

To minimise the risk of identifying individuals in aggregate statistics, a technique is used to randomly adjust cell values. This technique is called perturbation and has been applied to the 2013-14 data presented in this publication. Perturbation involves small random adjustment of the statistics and is considered the most satisfactory technique for avoiding the release of identifiable statistics while maximising the range of information that can be released. These adjustments have a negligible impact on the underlying pattern of the statistics.

After perturbation, a given published cell value will be consistent across all tables. However, adding up cell values to derive a total will not necessarily give the same result as published totals.

The introduction of perturbation in publications ensures that these statistics are consistent with statistics released via services such as ABS Table Builder. Further information is available in the Explanatory Notes.

Data on the total number of incidents was not published in 2012-13 and is excluded from the publication in 2013-14. Data relating to the number of incidents of each offence type experienced by respondents as an indicator of multiple victimisation is included, however. In 2013-14, further detail on multiple victimisation has been provided with the addition of a fourth 'number of incidents' category ('6 or more incidents'). Data from 2008-09 to 2013-14 presented in this issue has been updated to reflect this change.

## **COMPARISONS WITH OTHER ABS CRIME SOURCES**

The ABS publishes data about crime victimisation from a range of sources with differing measurement methodologies, and this can produce different estimates. As such, caution should be exercised when making comparisons with other sources. For more information, see the Data Comparability section in the Explanatory Notes.

## **ROUNDING**

As estimates have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between the sum of component items and the published total. Published percentages are calculated prior to rounding and therefore some discrepancy may occur between these percentages and those that could be calculated from the rounded figures.

## **INQUIRIES**

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service.

## **INTRODUCTION**

This publication presents findings from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2013–14 Crime Victimization Survey, which was conducted throughout Australia from July 2013 to June 2014. This is the sixth annual national survey of crime victimisation in Australia, with the first Crime Victimization Survey conducted in 2008–09. The publication presents estimates of the extent of victimisation experienced by Australians aged 15 years and over for selected types of crime, and whether or not the most recent incident of each crime type was reported to police. The survey also collects information about selected characteristics of incidents of victimisation (such as the location of the incident and the victim's relationship to the offender) and socio-demographic details of persons who experienced crime (such as age, sex and education). The data referred to within this commentary are available to download as data cubes from the Download tab within this publication.

## **WHAT 'CRIMES' WERE INCLUDED IN THE CRIME VICTIMISATION SURVEY?**

The types of crime collected in the survey included both personal crimes and household crimes. Definitions of the individual crime types can be found in the Glossary.

The personal crimes included in the survey were:

- Physical assault
- Threatened assault (including face-to-face and non face-to-face threatened assault)
- Robbery
- Sexual assault.



The household crimes included in the survey were:

- Break-in
- Attempted break-in
- Motor vehicle theft
- Theft of property from a motor vehicle
- Malicious property damage
- Other theft.

## **WHAT IS A 'VICTIM'?**

For the Crime Victimization Survey, a victim is a person or household who has experienced at least one incident of a selected type of crime in the 12 months prior to interview in 2013–14. While state and territory legislative definitions of these crime types differ, the survey questions focused on specific actions and events to ensure consistency in definitions and responses across jurisdictions. For example, a respondent was counted as a victim of physical assault if they reported they had experienced 'physical force or violence' against their person. Responses therefore reflect individual respondents' subjective understanding of the survey questions and their own interpretation of their experiences.

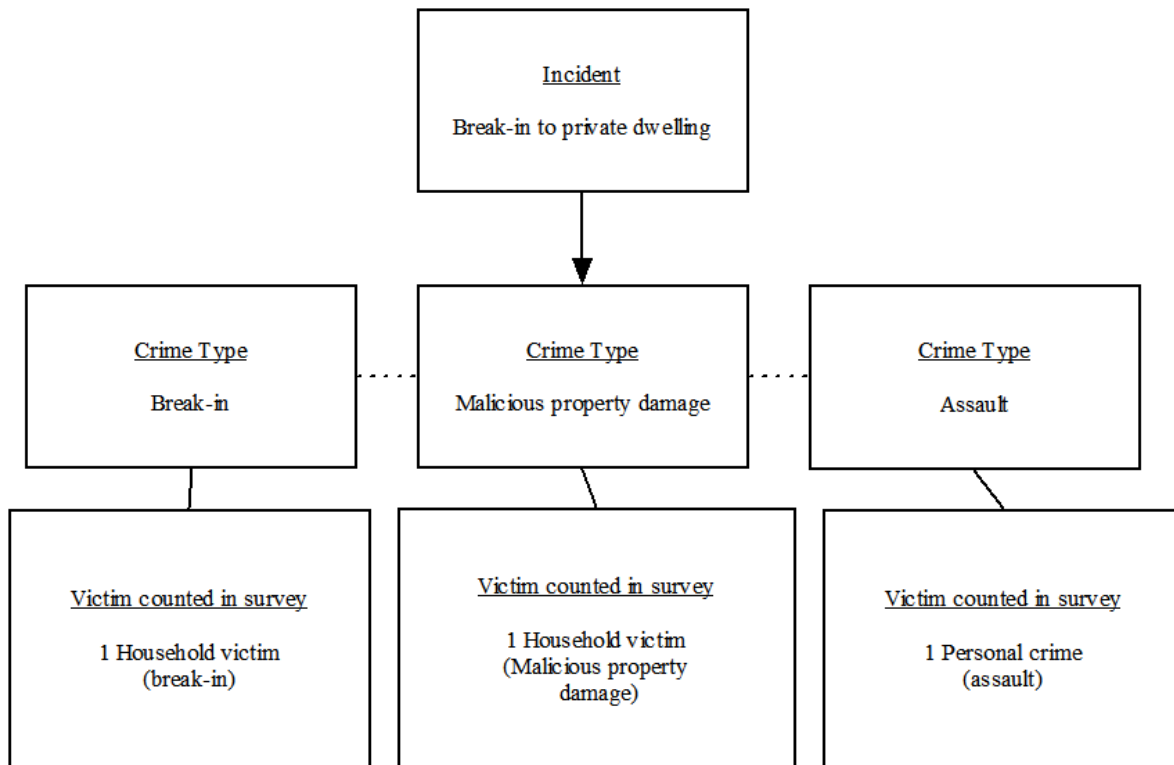
A victim may report multiple incidents of a type of crime within the reference period, however for this survey, a victim is only counted once for each type of crime experienced.

## **WHAT IS AN 'INCIDENT'?**

An incident is a single occurrence of a crime event, such as a break-in to a household or an assault of a person. In any particular incident, a number of different types of crimes may be committed against a person or household. The Crime Victimization Survey collects each relevant type of crime within an incident separately.

For instance, a person might confront someone breaking into their home and deliberately damaging property and subsequently be assaulted during that same incident. In this example, the person would be counted once for break-in (as a household victim), once for malicious property damage (as a household victim) and once for physical assault (as a person victim) (as demonstrated in Diagram 1).

### **Diagram 1: Breakdown of incident recording**



## WHAT IS MULTIPLE VICTIMISATION?

People and households may experience multiple incidents in the 12 months prior to interview, which may involve the same crime type or differing crime types. For the Crime Victimization Survey, 'multiple victimisation' refers to victims who experienced more than one instance of the same crime type within the 12 months prior to interview. For example, a person who reports experiencing assault on three separate occasions within the reference period is considered, for the purposes of the survey, as having experienced multiple victimisation for assault. Where a victim reports experiencing multiple victimisation, specific details (e.g. location of crime, relationship to offender, whether alcohol or other substance was involved in the incident) are only collected for the most recent instance of that crime type experienced by the victim.

## HOW DOES THE CRIME VICTIMISATION SURVEY CONTRIBUTE TO UNDERSTANDING VICTIMISATION IN AUSTRALIA?

Estimates from the Crime Victimization Survey provide important information for

the community about the extent of crime in Australia. This includes not only incidents that are reported to the police, but also those that are not brought to the attention of the police. This differs from available administrative data sourced from state and territory police, which capture only those incidents which are reported to and recorded by police. More information about the differences between administrative data and survey data when measuring victims of crime can be found in the ABS information paper [Measuring Victims of Crime: A Guide to Using Administrative and Survey Data, June 2011](#) (cat. no. 4500.0.55.001).

Data from the Crime Victimization Survey is used by police, the justice sector, researchers and the wider Australian community to better understand the extent and nature of certain types of crime in Australia and the proportion of crime that is reported to the police. This knowledge contributes to a range of community, police and public policy initiatives, such as operational planning, evaluation of services, education programs and prevention policies.

## **WHAT INFORMATION ABOUT DATA QUALITY IS INCLUDED IN THIS PUBLICATION?**

Estimates with a relative standard error (RSE) of less than 25% are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes and only estimates of such precision are referred to in the analysis. Due to the relatively small numbers of persons experiencing certain types of crime, some of the estimates provided in the data cubes are subject to high sampling error; these are indicated by footnotes when presented in charts and through the use of cell comments in data cubes. Where estimates have relative standard error (RSE) of 50% or more, the RSE value is not available for publication and users are advised that these estimates are considered too unreliable for general use.

All differences and changes mentioned have been tested for statistical significance with a 95% level of confidence that there is a real difference between the two populations being tested. More information about significance testing can be found in the Technical Note.

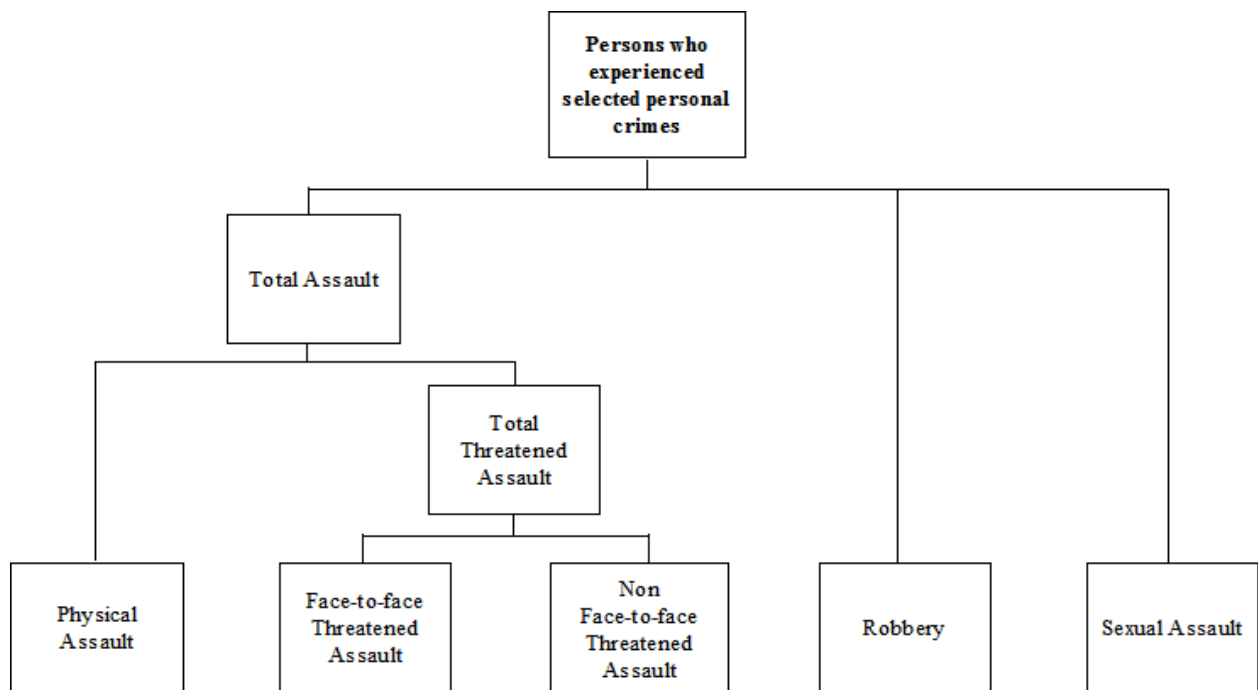
## **PERSONAL CRIME**

Personal crime in the Crime Victimization Survey refers to crimes, or offences, that were committed against a person directly, which caused or threatened harm to their physical self.

As Diagram 2 shows, the types of personal crime included in the Crime Victimization Survey are physical assault, threatened assault (including face-to-

face and non face-to-face threatened assault), robbery (including attempts), and sexual assault (including attempts). Information about experiences of physical assault, threatened assault and robbery are collected for people aged 15 years and over, and information about sexual assault is collected for people aged 18 years and over.

**Diagram 2: Types of personal crime included in the Crime Victimization Survey**



## HOW MANY PERSONS EXPERIENCED PERSONAL CRIME IN 2013-14? [Endnote 1](#)

### VICTIMISATION (Table 1)

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, of the 18.5 million persons aged 15 years and over in Australia:

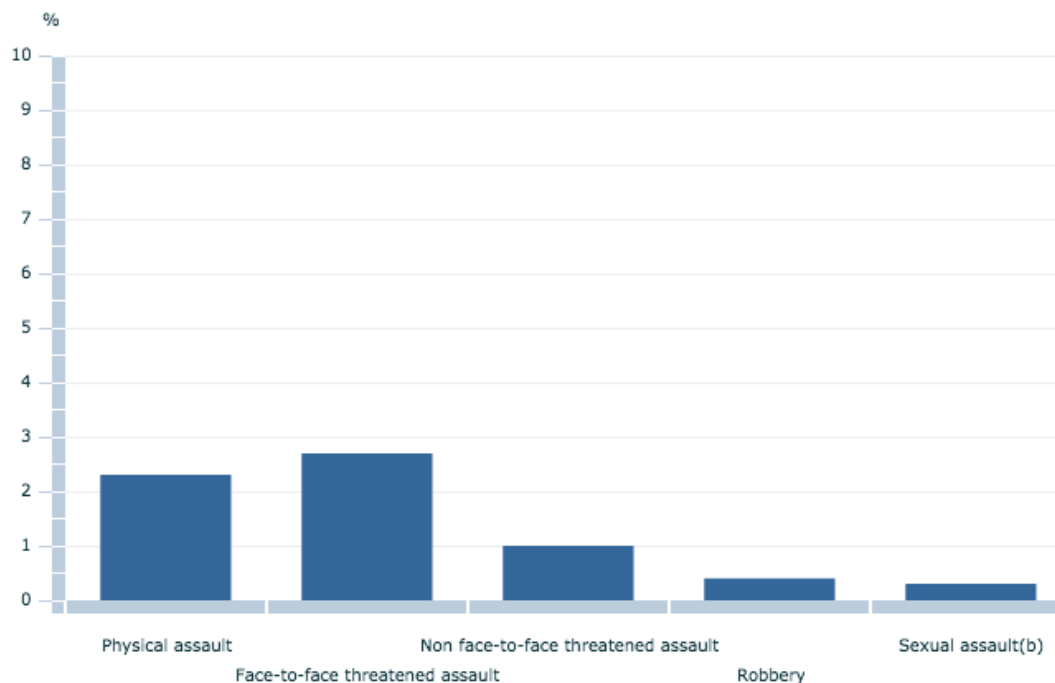
- 418,200 (2.3%) experienced at least one physical assault
- 538,500 (2.9%) experienced at least one threatened assault, including face-to-face and non face-to-face threatened assaults
- 65,600 (0.4%) experienced at least one robbery

- Of the 17.6 million person aged 18 years and over, 48,300 (0.3%) experienced at least one sexual assault.

Australians were more likely to experience face-to-face threatened assault than any of the other selected personal crime types. Physical assault was the second most frequent personal crime type experienced in 2013-14.

## 2013-14 Personal Crime Victimisation Rates, Australia

**VICTIMISATION RATES(a), Selected personal crimes, Australia, 2013-14**



**Footnote(s):** (a) The total number of persons experiencing a crime in a given population, expressed as a percentage of that population. (b) Experience of sexual assault was collected for persons aged 18 years and over only.

**Source(s):** [Crime Victimisation, Australia](#)

## REPORTING TO POLICE (Table 1)

The proportion of persons who reported the most recent incident of each type of personal crime they experienced to police varied depending on the type of crime. In 2013-14:

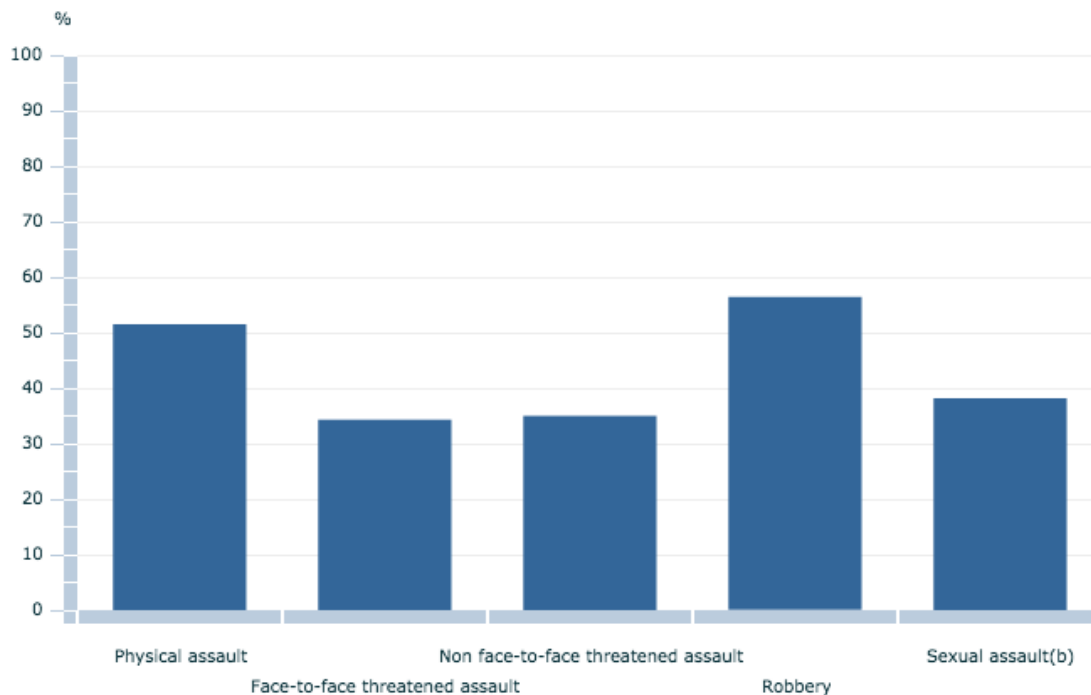
- 52% of persons who experienced physical assault reported their most recent incident to police

- 34% of persons who experienced face-to-face threatened assault reported their most recent incident to police
- 35% of persons who experienced non face-to-face threatened assault reported their most recent incident to police
- 56% of persons who experienced robbery reported their most recent incident to police
- 38% of persons who experienced sexual assault reported their most recent incident to police.

The reporting rates for persons who experienced physical assault and robbery were higher than the reporting rates for persons who experienced face to face threatened assault and non face-to-face threatened assault.

### 2013-14 Reporting of Personal Crimes to Police, Australia

REPORTING RATES(a), Selected personal crimes, Australia, 2013-14



**Footnote(s):** (a) The total number of households that had the most recent incident of the household crime reported to police, expressed as a percentage of all households experiencing the household crime. The incident may have been reported by any member of the household or another person. (b) Experience of sexual assault was collected for persons aged 18 years and over only.

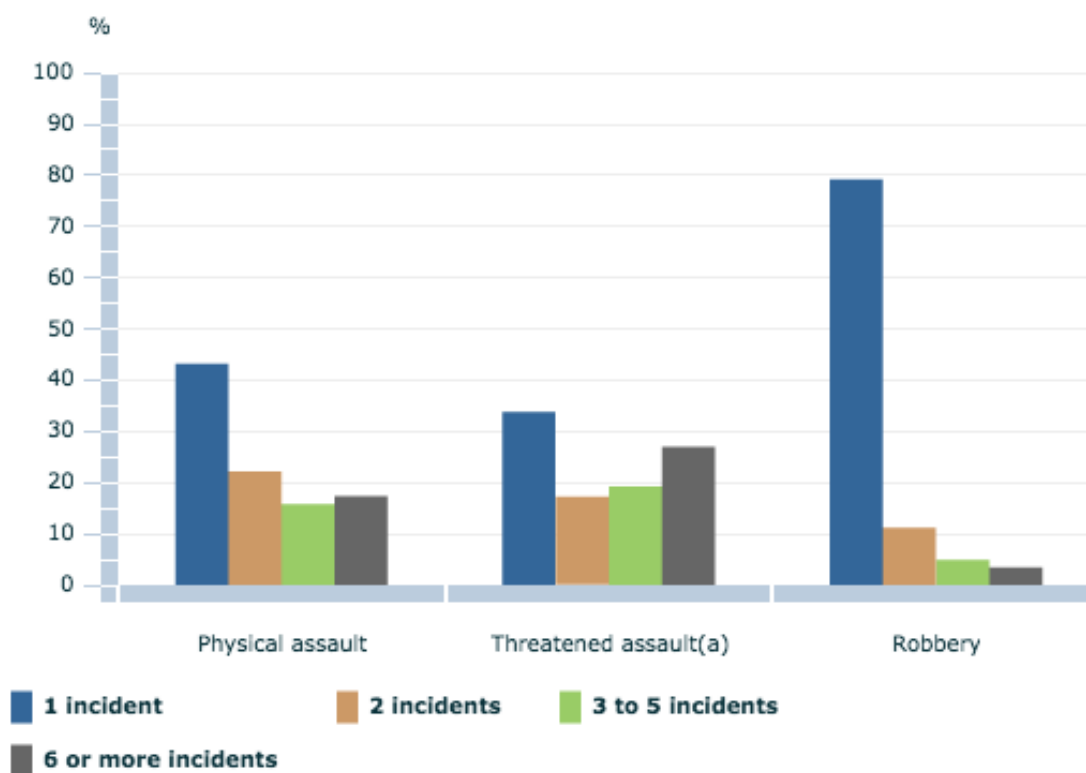
**Source(s):** [Crime Victimisation, Australia](#)

### EXPERIENCE OF MULTIPLE VICTIMISATION (Tables 8, 9, and 10)

Persons experience of multiple victimisation within the 12 months prior to interview differed for the selected crime types.

- Of the selected personal crime types, persons who experienced robbery were the most likely to experience a single incident only. More than three quarters (79%) of robbery victims experienced one incident only compared to less than half (43%) of physical assault victims and approximately one third (34%) of threatened assault victims
- All victims of assault (including physical assault, face-to-face and non face-to-face threatened assault) were more likely to experience multiple incidents than one incident:
  - 55% of persons who experienced physical assault experienced multiple incidents, compared to 43% who only experienced one incident
  - 56% of persons who experienced face-to-face threatened assault experienced multiple incidents, compared to 42% who only experienced one incident
  - 59% of all persons who experienced assault experienced multiple incidents, compared to 40% who only experienced one incident.
- Over a quarter (27%) of persons who experienced threatened assault (including both face-to-face and non face-to-face threatened assault) experienced six or more incidents of threatened assault. In comparison, just under one fifth (17%) of victims of physical assault experienced six or more incidents.

#### EXPERIENCE OF MULTIPLE INCIDENTS OF PERSONAL CRIME, Australia, 2013-14



*Footnote(s): (a) Includes both face-to-face and non face-to-face incidents.*

*Source(s): EXPERIENCE OF MULTIPLE INCIDENTS OF PERSONAL CRIME, Australia, 2013-14-Experience of multiple victimisation - personal crimes*

## ENDNOTE

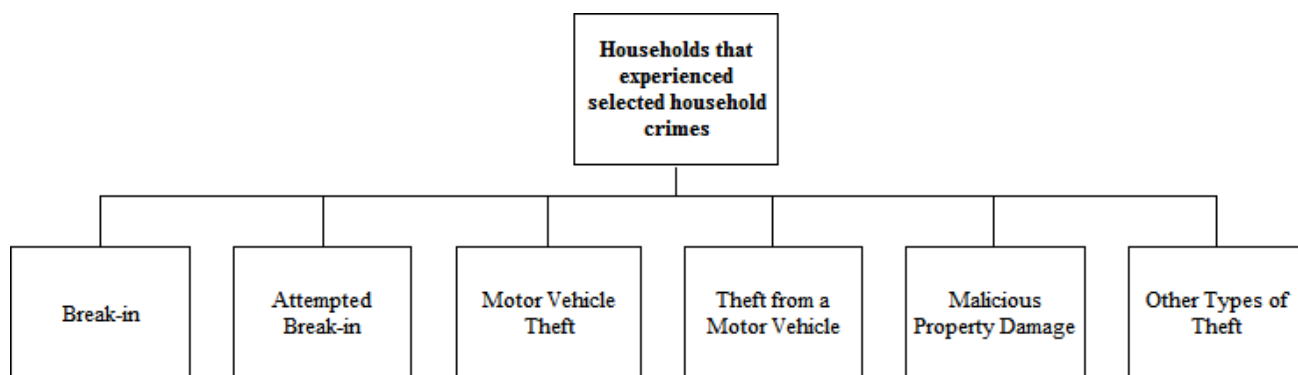
**Endnote 1** All comparisons discussed have been tested for statistical significance with a 95% level of confidence that there is a real difference in the two populations being tested. Only data with a relative standard error (RSE) of less than 25% is referred to in the text of this publication and these estimates are considered sufficiently reliable for general use. To determine whether there is a statistical difference between any other two estimates, significance testing should be undertaken. For further information, refer to the Technical Note.

## HOUSEHOLD CRIME

Household crime in the Crime Victimization Survey refers to crimes, or offences, that were committed with the aim/intention of depriving a person of, or damaging, their personal property.

The types of household crime included in the Crime Victimization Survey are break-in, attempted break-in, motor vehicle theft, theft of property from a motor vehicle, malicious property damage and other types of theft (Diagram 3). When referring to victims of these types of crime, it is the household as a whole that is considered the victim, rather than a specific individual within the household.

**Diagram 3: Types of household crime included in the Crime Victimization Survey**



## HOW MANY HOUSEHOLDS EXPERIENCED HOUSEHOLD CRIME IN 2013-14?

VICTIMISATION (Table 1)



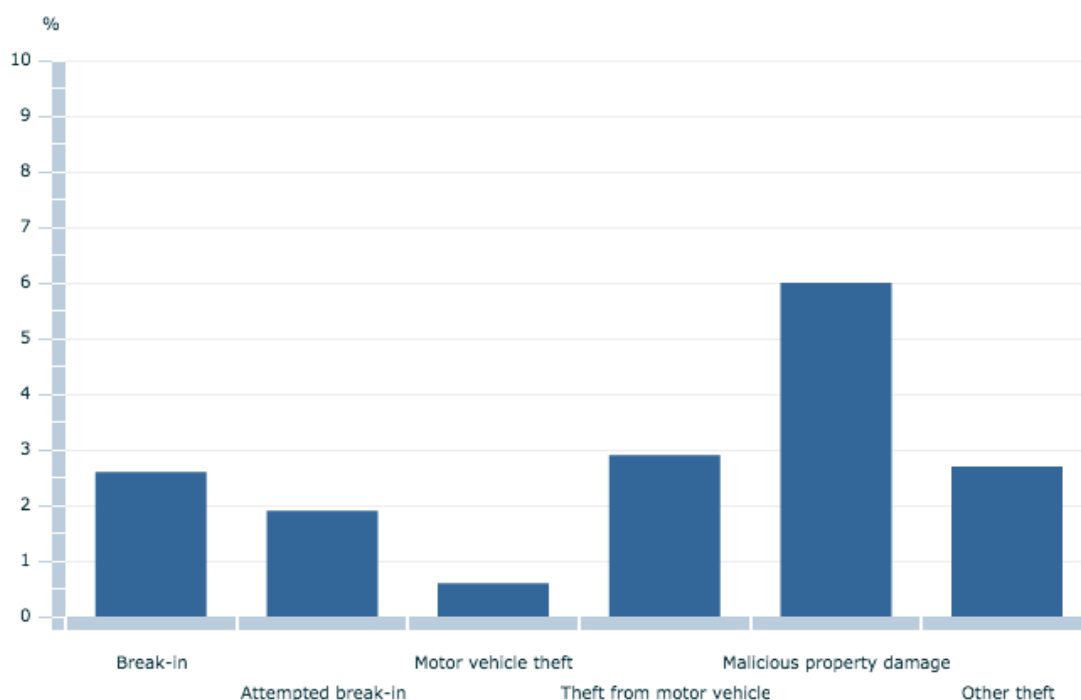
In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, of the 8.8 million households in Australia:

- 528,900 (6.0%) households experienced at least one incident of malicious property damage
- 258,800 (2.9%) households experienced at least one theft from a motor vehicle
- 238,800 (2.7%) households experienced at least one incident of other theft
- 228,900 (2.6%) households experienced at least one break-in to their home, garage or shed
- 170,800 (1.9%) households experienced at least one attempted break-in to their home, garage or shed
- 54,400 (0.6%) households had at least one motor vehicle stolen.

Households were more likely to experience malicious property damage than any other of the selected household crimes and less likely to experience motor vehicle theft than any of the other types of household crime. [Endnote 1](#)

### 2013-14 Household Crime Victimization Rates, Australia

VICTIMISATION RATES(a), Selected household crimes, Australia, 2013-14



Save Chart Image

Australian Bureau of Statistics

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**Footnote(s):** (a) The total number of households experiencing a crime in a given population, expressed as a percentage of that population.

Source(s): [\*Crime Victimization, Australia\*](#)

## **REPORTING TO POLICE (Table 1)**

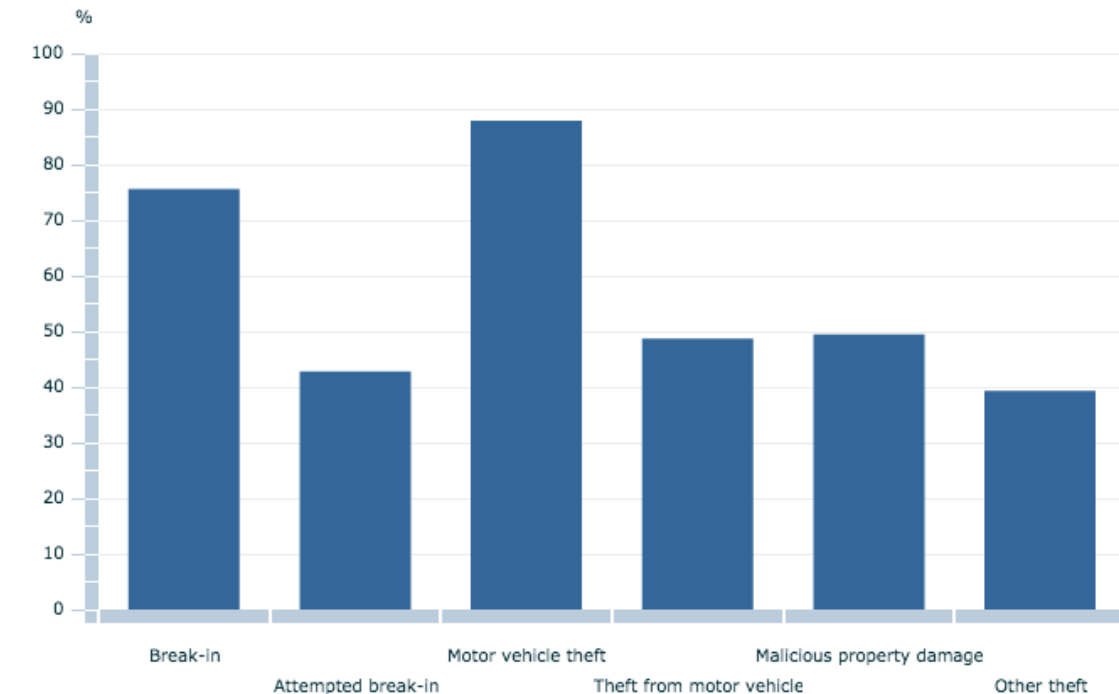
The proportion of households that reported the most recent incident of each type of household crime to police varied depending on the type of crime. In 2013-14:

- 88% of households that experienced motor vehicle theft reported the most recent incident to police
- 76% of households that experienced break-in reported the most recent incident to police
- 49% of households that experienced theft from a motor vehicle reported the most recent incident to police
- 50% of households that experienced malicious property damage reported the most recent incident to police
- 43% of households that experienced attempted break-in reported the most recent incident to police
- 39% of households that experienced other theft reported the most recent incident to police.

The reporting rate for motor vehicle theft was higher than for any of the other selected types of household crime. Other theft had the lowest reporting rate of the selected household crime types. Households that experienced attempted break-in were less likely to report their most recent incident to police than those that experienced break-in, malicious property damage, motor vehicle theft, theft from a motor vehicle or other theft.

## 2013-14 Reporting of Household Crimes to Police, Australia

REPORTING RATES(a), Selected household crimes, Australia, 2013-14



Save Chart Image

Australian Bureau of Statistics

© Commonwealth of Australia 2017.

**Footnote(s):** (a) The total number of households that had the most recent incident of the household crime reported to police, expressed as a percentage of all households experiencing the household crime. The incident may have been reported by any member of the household or another person.

**Source(s):** [Crime Victimization, Australia](#)

### EXPERIENCE OF MULTIPLE VICTIMISATION (Table 11)

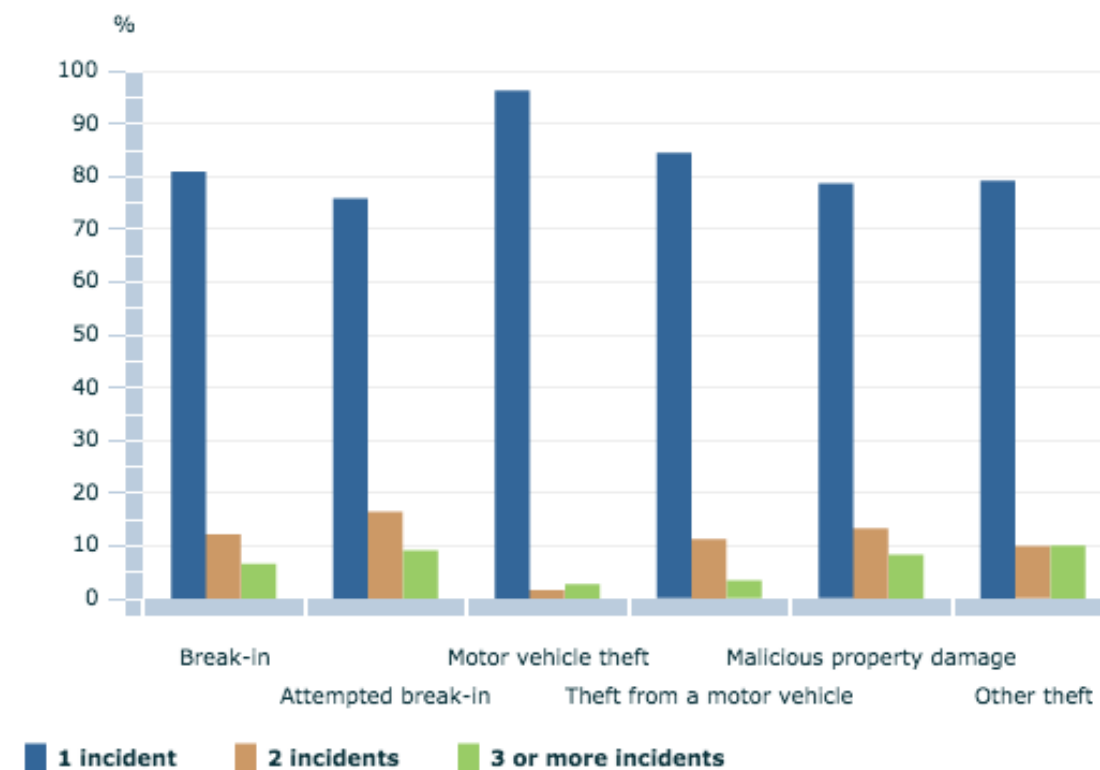
For each type of household crime, the majority of household victims experienced only one incident within the 12 months prior to interview:

- Of households that experienced motor vehicle theft, 96% experienced a single incident
- Of households that experienced theft from a motor vehicle, 84% experienced a single incident
- Of households that experienced break-in, 81% experienced a single incident
- Of households that experienced other theft, 79% experienced a single incident
- Of households that experienced malicious property damage, 79% experienced a single incident

- Of households that experienced attempted break-in, 76% experienced a single incident. Households were more likely to experience one incident than either two or three or more incidents of break-in, attempted break-in, theft from a motor vehicle, malicious property damage and other theft in the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14.

Motor vehicle theft was excluded from this analysis due to high levels of sample error. [Endnote 2](#)

**EXPERIENCE OF MULTIPLE INCIDENTS OF HOUSEHOLD CRIME, Australia, 2013-14**



Save Chart Image

Australian Bureau of Statistics

© Commonwealth of Australia 2017.

*Source(s): [EXPERIENCE OF MULTIPLE INCIDENTS OF HOUSEHOLD CRIME, Australia, 2013-14-Experience of multiple victimisation - household crimes](#)*

## ENDNOTES

**Endnote 1** All comparisons discussed have been tested for statistical significance

with a 95% level of confidence that there is a real difference in the two populations being tested. Only data with a relative standard error (RSE) of less than 25% is referred to in the text of this publication and these estimates are considered sufficiently reliable for general use. To determine whether there is a statistical difference between any other two estimates, significance testing should be undertaken. For further information, refer to the Technical Note.

**Endnote 2** Due to the relatively small numbers of households experiencing two and three or more incidents of motor vehicle theft in the 12 months prior to interview, these estimates are subject to high sampling error (for further details refer to the Technical Note).

## STATE AND TERRITORY SPOTLIGHTS

This section provides an overview of the level of crime victimisation, including experiences of multiple victimisation and reporting rates for each crime type in each state and territory. Comparisons of change in key estimates from previous survey periods are also included where there is a statistically significant difference between the reference periods.

### VICTIMISATION EXPERIENCES IN NEW SOUTH WALES [Endnote 1](#), [Endnote 2](#), [Endnote 3](#)

This section contains the victimisation and reporting rates for selected crime types for New South Wales. Estimates for New South Wales were compared with the national estimates to identify any differences that were statistically significant. Where significant differences existed, they are presented here.

#### PERSONAL CRIME (Tables 4 and 9)

##### Physical assault

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 119,500 persons in New South Wales (2.0%) experienced physical assault.

Of these, 64,900 persons (54%) reported the most recent incident to police.

Less than half of all victims of physical assault in New South Wales (43% or 51,700) experienced a single incident and about three in ten experienced three or more incidents (30% or 35,800).

The physical assault victimisation rate in New South Wales (2.0%) was lower than the overall national physical assault victimisation rate (2.3%).

### **Face-to-face threatened assault**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 145,500 persons in New South Wales (2.5%) experienced face-to-face threatened assault.

Of these, 47,900 (33%) reported the most recent incident to police.

### **Non face-to-face threatened assault**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 54,000 persons in New South Wales (0.9%) experienced non face-to-face threatened assault.

### **Total threatened assault**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 153,000 persons in New South Wales (2.6%) [Endnote 3](#) experienced threatened assault. Around a third of persons who experienced threatened assault (33% or 51,100) experienced a single incident, 17% (26,600) experienced two incidents, and nearly half (48% or 72,600) experienced three or more incidents.

### **Total assault**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 245,900 persons in New South Wales (4.1%) [Endnote 3](#) experienced assault. Around two in five persons (39% or 95,400) who experienced assault experienced a single incident, 17% (41,500) experienced two incidents, and four in ten (42% or 103,400) experienced three or more incidents.

## **HOUSEHOLD CRIME (Table 5)**

### **Break-in**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 64,300 households in New South Wales (2.3%) experienced a break-in. Of these incidents, 42,400 (66%) were reported to police.

The break-in reporting rate for New South Wales (66%) was lower than the overall national break-in reporting rate (76%).

### **Attempted break-in**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 41,600 households in New South Wales (1.5%) experienced an attempted break-in. Of these, 18,000 (43%) had the most recent incident reported to police.

The attempted break-in victimisation rate for New South Wales (1.5%) was lower than the overall national attempted break-in victimisation rate (1.9%).

### **Motor vehicle theft**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 15,800 households in New South Wales (0.6%) experienced a motor vehicle theft.

Of these, 14,000 (88%) had the most recent incident reported to police.

### **Theft from motor vehicle**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 70,700 households in New South Wales (2.5%) experienced a theft from a motor vehicle.

Of these, 35,100 (50%) had the most recent incident reported to police.

The theft from motor vehicle victimisation rate in New South Wales (2.5%) was lower than the overall national theft from motor vehicle victimisation rate (2.9%).

### **Malicious property damage**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 146,700 households in New South Wales (5.2%) experienced malicious property damage.

Of these, 70,200 (48%) had the most recent incident reported to police.

### **Other theft**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 76,600 households in New South Wales (2.7%) experienced other theft.

Of these, 30,500 (40%) had the most recent incident reported to police.

## **ENDNOTES**

**Endnote 1** Data for number of victims, victimisation and reporting rates are not discussed where the relative standard error (RSE) for the estimates is greater than 25%. This data is available in Table 2; users are advised to exercise caution when interpreting these estimates.

**Endnote 2** All comparisons discussed have been tested for statistical significance with a 95% level of confidence that there is a real difference in the two populations being tested. Only data with a relative standard error (RSE) of less than 25% is referred to in the text of this publication and these estimates are considered sufficiently reliable for general use. To determine whether there is a statistical

difference between any other two estimates, significance testing should be undertaken. For further information, refer to the Technical Note.

**Endnote 3** This number is not published in the accompanying tables, but can be obtained by dividing the number of victims of a selected crime type by the relevant population total (in this case, the total population of persons over the age of 15 in New South Wales).

## **VICTIMISATION EXPERIENCES IN VICTORIA** [Endnote 1](#), [Endnote 2](#), [Endnote 3](#)

This section contains the victimisation and reporting rates for selected crime types for Victoria. Estimates for Victoria were compared with the national estimates to identify any differences that were statistically significant. Where significant differences existed, they are presented here.

### **PERSONAL CRIME** (Tables 4 and 9)

#### **Physical assault**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 93,600 persons in Victoria (2.0%) experienced physical assault. Of these, 45,200 (48%) reported the most recent incident to police.

Around two in five victims of physical assault (41% or 38,100) experienced a single incident, just under a quarter experienced two incidents (23% or 21,800), and 36% (33,900) experienced three or more incidents.

#### **Face-to-face threatened assault**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 109,800 persons in Victoria (2.4%) experienced face-to-face threatened assault.

Of these, 42% (45,600) reported the most recent incident to police.

#### **Non face-to-face threatened assault**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 39,600 persons in Victoria (0.8%) experienced non face-to-face threatened assault.

#### **Total threatened assault**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 121,900 persons in Victoria (2.6%) [Endnote 3](#) experienced threatened assault. Four in ten victims of threatened assault experienced a single incident (40% or 48,300), about 15% (17,900) experienced two incidents, and 43% (52,500) experienced three or more incidents.

#### **Assault**



In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 196,800 persons in Victoria (4.2%) [Endnote 3](#) experienced assault. Just over four in ten persons who experienced assault experienced a single incident (41% or 79,900), 17% (34,00) experienced two incidents, and 38% (74,000) experienced three or more incidents.

## **Robbery**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, an estimated 15,500 persons in Victoria (0.3%) experienced robbery.

## **HOUSEHOLD CRIME (Table 5)**

### **Break-in**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 51,000 households in Victoria (2.3%) were victims of break-in. Of these, 38,200 (75%) had the most recent incident reported to police.

### **Attempted break-in**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 33,600 households in Victoria (1.5%) were victims of attempted break-in.

### **Motor vehicle theft**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 10,800 households in Victoria (0.5%) were victims of motor vehicle theft.

### **Theft from a motor vehicle**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 68,400 households in Victoria (3.1%) were victims of theft from a motor vehicle.

Of these, 33,500 (49%) had the most recent incident reported to police.

### **Malicious property damage**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 140,500 households in Victoria (6.3%) were victims of malicious property damage.

Of these, 64,300 (46%) had the most recent incident reported to police.

### **Other theft**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 59,000 households in Victoria

(2.7%) were victims of other theft.

Of these, 24,400 (37%) had the most recent incident reported to police.

## ENDNOTES

**Endnote 1** Data for number of victims, victimisation and reporting rates are not discussed where the relative standard error (RSE) for the estimates is greater than 25%. This has resulted in some crime types being excluded from this commentary text. This data is available in Table 2; users are advised to exercise caution when interpreting these estimates.

**Endnote 2** All comparisons discussed have been tested for statistical significance with a 95% level of confidence that there is a real difference in the two populations being tested. Only data with a relative standard error (RSE) of less than 25% is referred to in the text of this publication and these estimates are considered sufficiently reliable for general use. To determine whether there is a statistical difference between any other two estimates, significance testing should be undertaken. For further information, refer to the Technical Note.

**Endnote 3:** This number is not published in the accompanying tables, but can be obtained by dividing the number of victims of a selected crime type by the relevant population total (in this case, the total population of persons over the age of 15 in Victoria).

## VICTIMISATION EXPERIENCES IN QUEENSLAND [Endnote 1](#), [Endnote 2](#), [Endnote 3](#)

### PERSONAL CRIME (Tables 4 and 9)

This section contains the victimisation and reporting rates for selected crime types for Queensland. Estimates for Queensland were compared with the national estimates to identify any differences that were statistically significant. Where significant differences existed, they are presented here.

#### Physical assault

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 85,100 persons in Queensland (2.3%) experienced physical assault. Of these, 46,900 (55%) reported the most recent incident to police.

Just under half of all victims of physical assault in Queensland experienced a single incident (44% or 37,500), 22% (19,100) experienced two incidents, and 33% (28,100) experienced 3 or more incidents.

#### Face-to-face threatened assault

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 102,700 persons in Queensland (2.8%) experienced face-to-face threatened assault.

Of these, 41,500 (40%) reported the most recent incident to police.

### **Non face-to-face threatened assault**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 40,100 persons in Queensland (1.1%) experienced non face-to-face threatened assault.

### **Threatened assault**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 118,000 persons in Queensland (3.2%) [Endnote 3](#) experienced threatened assault. Three in ten victims of threatened assault experienced a single incident (31% or 36,200), and 51% (60,300) experienced 3 or more incidents.

### **Assault**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 180,300 persons in Queensland (4.9%) [Endnote 3](#) experienced assault. Just over a third of persons who experienced assault experienced a single incident (36% or 65,100), 19% (33,700) experienced two incidents, and just over four in ten (43% or 77,800) experienced 3 or more incidents.

## **HOUSEHOLD CRIME (Table 5)**

### **Break-in**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 41,700 households in Queensland (2.3%) experienced a break-in. Of these, 31,400 (75%) had the most recent incident reported to police.

### **Attempted break-in**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 46,000 households in Queensland (2.6%) experienced an attempted break-in.

Of these, 18,700 (41%) had the most recent incident reported to police.

The attempted break-in victimisation rate for Queensland (2.6%) was higher than the overall national attempted break-in victimisation rate (1.9%).

### **Motor vehicle theft**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 10,600 households in Queensland (0.6%) experienced a motor vehicle theft. Of these, 9,300 (88%) had the most recent incident reported to police.

### **Theft from a motor vehicle**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 34,600 households in Queensland (1.9%) experienced theft from a motor vehicle.

Of these, 14,600 (42%) had the most recent incident reported to police.

The theft from a motor vehicle victimisation rate for Queensland (1.9%) was lower than the overall national theft from a motor vehicle victimisation rate (2.9%).

### **Malicious property damage**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 78,800 households in Queensland (4.4%) experienced malicious property damage.

Of these, 36,800 (47%) had the most recent incident reported to police.

The malicious property damage victimisation rate in Queensland (4.4%) was lower than the overall national malicious property damage victimisation rate (6.0%).

### **Other theft**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 36,400 households in Queensland (2.0%) experienced other theft.

Of these, 16,600 (45%) had the most recent incident reported to police.

The other theft victimisation rate in Queensland (2.0%) was lower than the overall national other theft victimisation rate (2.7%).

## **ENDNOTES**

**Endnote 1** Data for number of victims, victimisation and reporting rates are not discussed where the relative standard error (RSE) for the estimates is greater than 25%. This has resulted in some crime types being excluded from this commentary text. This data is available in Table 2; users are advised to exercise caution when interpreting these estimates.

**Endnote 2** All comparisons discussed have been tested for statistical significance with a 95% level of confidence that there is a real difference in the two populations being tested. Only data with a relative standard error (RSE) of less than 25% is referred to in the text of this publication and these estimates are considered sufficiently reliable for general use. To determine whether there is a statistical difference between any other two estimates, significance testing should be undertaken. For further information, refer to the Technical Note.

**Endnote 3:** This number is not published in the accompanying tables, but can be obtained by dividing the number of victims of a selected crime type by the relevant population total (in this case, the total population of persons over the age of 15 in Queensland).

## **VICTIMISATION EXPERIENCES IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA** [Endnote 1](#), [Endnote 2](#), [Endnote 3](#)

This section contains the victimisation and reporting rates for selected crime types for South Australia. Estimates for South Australia were compared with the national estimates to identify any differences that were statistically significant. Where significant differences existed, they are presented here.

### **PERSONAL CRIME** (Tables 4 and 9)

#### **Physical assault**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 36,500 persons in South Australia (2.7%) experienced physical assault. Of these, 15,600 (43%) reported the most recent incident to police.

Just under half (43% or 15,800) of all victims of physical assault experienced a single incident.

#### **Face-to-face threatened assault**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 30,600 persons in South Australia (2.3%) experienced face-to-face threatened assault. Of these, 9,500 (31%) reported the most recent incident to police.

#### **Non face-to-face threatened assault**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 13,800 persons in South Australia (1.0%) experienced non face-to-face threatened assault.

#### **Threatened assault**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 36,200 persons in South Australia (2.7%) [Endnote 3](#) experienced threatened assault.

Just over one in five persons (23% or 8,400) who experienced threatened assault experienced a single incident.

#### **Assault**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 66,800 persons in South Australia (5.0%) [Endnote 3](#) experienced assault.

A third of persons who experienced assault experienced a single incident (34% or 22,500), 23% (15,000) experienced two incidents, and 43% (28,700) experienced three or more incidents.

## **HOUSEHOLD CRIME** (Table 5)

### **Break-in**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 14,800 households in South Australia (2.2%) experienced a break-in.

Of these, 11,200 (76%) had the most recent incident reported to police.

### **Attempted break-in**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 12,400 households in South Australia (1.8%) experienced an attempted break-in.

Of these, 5,000 (40%) had the most recent incident reported to police.

### **Motor vehicle theft**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 4,800 households in South Australia (0.7%) experienced a motor vehicle theft.

### **Theft from motor vehicle**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 18,700 households in South Australia (2.8%) experienced theft from a motor vehicle.

Of these, 10,500 (56%) had the most recent incident reported to police.

### **Malicious property damage**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 40,500 households in South Australia (6.0%) experienced malicious property damage.

Of these, 21,200 (52%) had the most recent incident reported to police.

### **Other theft**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 19,200 households in South Australia (2.9%) experienced other theft.

Of these, 8,400 (44%) had the most recent incident reported to police.

## ENDNOTES

**Endnote 1** Data for number of victims, victimisation and reporting rates are not discussed where the relative standard error (RSE) for the estimates is greater than 25%. This has resulted in some crime types being excluded from this commentary text. This data is available in Table 2; users are advised to exercise caution when interpreting these estimates.

**Endnote 2** All comparisons discussed have been tested for statistical significance with a 95% level of confidence that there is a real difference in the two populations being tested. Only data with a relative standard error (RSE) of less than 25% is referred to in the text of this publication and these estimates are considered sufficiently reliable for general use. To determine whether there is a statistical difference between any other two estimates, significance testing should be undertaken. For further information, refer to the Technical Note.

**Endnote 3:** This number is not published in the accompanying tables, but can be obtained by dividing the number of victims of a selected crime type by the relevant population total (in this case, the total population of persons over the age of 15 in South Australia).

## VICTIMISATION EXPERIENCES IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA [Endnote 1](#), [Endnote 2](#), [Endnote 3](#)

This section contains the victimisation and reporting rates for selected crime types for Western Australia. Estimates for Western Australia were compared with the national estimates to identify any differences that were statistically significant. Where significant differences existed, they are presented here.

### PERSONAL CRIME (Tables 4 and 9)

#### Physical assault

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 58,200 persons in Western Australia (2.9%) experienced physical assault. Of these, 28,300 (49%) reported the most recent incident to police.

Approximately half of all persons who experienced physical assault experienced a single incident (28,500 or 49%), around one in five experienced two incidents (12,300 or 21%), and 29.9% (17,400) experienced three or more incidents.

#### Face-to-face threatened assault

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 81,000 persons in Western Australia (4.0%) experienced face-to-face threatened assault. Of these, 26,600 (33%) reported the most recent incident to police.

The face-to-face threatened assault victimisation rate for Western Australia (4.0%) was higher than the overall face-to-face threatened assault victimisation rate for Australia (2.7%).

### **Non face-to-face threatened assault**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 25,400 people in Western Australia (1.3%) experienced non face-to-face threatened assault.

### **Total threatened assault**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 84,500 persons in Western Australia (4.2%) [Endnote 3](#) experienced threatened assault.

Most persons who experienced threatened assault experienced three or more incidents (38% or 31,700). Just over a third (36% or 30,100) experienced a single incident, while another 16% (13,200) experienced two incidents.

### **Assault**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 125,000 persons in Western Australia (6.2%) [Endnote 3](#) experienced assault.

Just under half of all victims of assault experienced a single incident (46% or 57,200). Just over a third (36% or 45,100) experienced three or more incidents, while another 15% (19,200) experienced two incidents .

## **HOUSEHOLD CRIME (Table 5)**

### **Break-in**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 45,200 households in Western Australia (4.8%) experienced an incident of break-in. Of these, 35,000 (77%) had the most recent incident reported to police.

The break-in victimisation rate for Western Australia (4.8%) was higher than the overall break-in victimisation rate for Australia (2.6%).

### **Attempted break-in**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 30,400 households in Western Australia (3.2%) experienced an incident of attempted break-in.

Of these, 14,800 (49%) had the most recent incident reported to police.

The attempted break-in victimisation rate for Western Australia (3.2%) was higher



than the overall attempted break-in victimisation rate for Australia (1.9%).

### **Motor vehicle theft**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 10,000 households in Western Australia (1.1%) experienced an incident of motor vehicle theft.

The motor vehicle theft victimisation rate for Western Australia (1.1%) was higher than the overall motor vehicle theft victimisation rate for Australia (0.6%).

### **Theft from motor vehicle**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 49,400 households in Western Australia (5.3%) experienced an incident of theft from a motor vehicle.

Of these, 24,600 (50%) had the most recent incident reported to police.

The theft from motor vehicle victimisation rate for Western Australia (5.3%) was higher than the overall theft from motor vehicle victimisation rate for Australia (2.9%).

### **Malicious property damage**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 88,500 households in Western Australia (9.4%) experienced an incident of malicious property damage.

Of these, 53,800 (61%) had the most recent incident reported to police.

The malicious property damage victimisation rate for Western Australia (9.4%) was higher than the overall malicious property damage victimisation rate for Australia (6.0%).

The reporting rate for malicious property damage in Western Australia (61%) was higher than the overall malicious property damage reporting rate for Australia (50%).

### **Other theft**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 35,900 households in Western Australia (3.8%) experienced an incident of other theft.

Of these, 12,900 (36%) had the most recent incident reported to police.

The other theft victimisation rate for Western Australia (3.8%) was higher than the overall other theft victimisation rate for Australia (2.7%).

## ENDNOTES

**Endnote 1** Data for number of victims, victimisation and reporting rates are not discussed where the relative standard error (RSE) for the estimates is greater than 25%. This has resulted in some crime types being excluded from this commentary text. This data is available in Table 2; users are advised to exercise caution when interpreting these estimates.

**Endnote 2** All comparisons discussed have been tested for statistical significance with a 95% level of confidence that there is a real difference in the two populations being tested. Only data with a relative standard error (RSE) of less than 25% is referred to in the text of this publication and these estimates are considered sufficiently reliable for general use. To determine whether there is a statistical difference between any other two estimates, significance testing should be undertaken. For further information, refer to the Technical Note.

**Endnote 3** This number is not published in the accompanying tables, but can be obtained by dividing the number of victims of a selected crime type by the relevant population total (in this case, the total population of people over the age of 15 in Western Australia).

## VICTIMISATION EXPERIENCES IN TASMANIA [Endnote 1](#), [Endnote 2](#), [Endnote 3](#)

This section contains the victimisation and reporting rates for selected crime types for Tasmania. Estimates for Tasmania were compared with the national estimates to identify any differences that were statistically significant. Where significant differences existed, they are presented here.

### PERSONAL CRIME (Tables 4 and 9)

#### Physical assault

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 13,500 persons in Tasmania (3.3%) experienced physical assault.

Of these, 4,900 (37%) reported the most recent incident to police. The physical assault reporting rate in Tasmania (37%) was lower than the overall national physical assault reporting rate (52%).

Just over a third of all persons who experienced physical assault experienced a single incident (37% or 5,000), and three in ten experienced two incidents (30% or 4,000). A further 43% (5,700) experienced three or more incidents.

#### Face-to-face threatened assault

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 13,700 persons in Tasmania (3.3%)

experienced face-to-face threatened assault.

### **Non face-to-face threatened assault**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 8,700 persons in Tasmania (2.1%) experienced non face-to-face threatened assault.

The non face-to-face threatened assault victimisation rate in Tasmania (2.1%) was higher than the overall national non face-to-face threatened assault victimisation rate (1.0%).

### **Total threatened assault**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 17,500 persons in Tasmania (4.3%)<sup>[Endnote 3](#)</sup> experienced threatened assault.

Of the victims of threatened assault in Tasmania, 33% (5,800) experienced a single incident.

### **Assault**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 26,700 persons in Tasmania (6.5%)<sup>[Endnote 3](#)</sup> experienced assault. Just under a third experienced a single incident (32% or 8,400), 17% (4,600) experienced two incidents, and 49% (13,000) experienced three or more incidents.

## **HOUSEHOLD CRIME** (Table 5)

### **Break-in**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 6,400 households in Tasmania (3%) experienced an incident of break-in. Of these, 5,200 (82%) had the most recent incident reported to police.

### **Attempted break-in**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 5,300 households in Tasmania (2.5%) experienced an attempted break-in.

Of these, 2,800 (53%) had the most recent incident reported to police.

### **Theft from motor vehicle**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 5,000 households in Tasmania (2.4%) experienced theft from a motor vehicle.

## **Malicious property damage**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 16,100 households in Tasmania (7.7%) experienced malicious property damage.

Of these, 8,300 (51%) had the most recent incident reported to police.

The malicious property damage victimisation rate in Tasmania (7.7%) was higher than the overall national malicious property damage victimisation rate (6.0%).

## **Other theft**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 6,900 households in Tasmania (3.3%) experienced other theft.

Of these, 2,700 (40%) had the most recent incident reported to police.

## **ENDNOTES**

**Endnote 1** Data for number of victims, victimisation and reporting rates are not discussed where the relative standard error (RSE) for the estimates is greater than 25%. This has resulted in some crime types being excluded from this commentary text. This data is available in Table 2; users are advised to exercise caution when interpreting these estimates.

**Endnote 2** All comparisons discussed have been tested for statistical significance with a 95% level of confidence that there is a real difference in the two populations being tested. Only data with a relative standard error (RSE) of less than 25% is referred to in the text of this publication and these estimates are considered sufficiently reliable for general use. To determine whether there is a statistical difference between any other two estimates, significance testing should be undertaken. For further information, refer to the Technical Note.

**Endnote 3** This number is not published in the accompanying tables, but can be obtained by dividing the number of victims of a selected crime type by the relevant population total (in this case, the total population of people over the age of 15 in Tasmania).

## **VICTIMISATION EXPERIENCES IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY** [Endnote 1](#), [Endnote 2](#), [Endnote 3](#)

This section contains the victimisation and reporting rates for selected crime types for the Northern Territory. Estimates for the Northern Territory were compared with the national estimates to identify any differences that were statistically significant. Where significant differences existed, they are presented here.

## **PERSONAL CRIME** (Tables 4 and 9)

## **Physical assault**

In the 12 months prior to interview, 7,100 persons in the Northern Territory (5.0%) experienced physical assault. Of these, 4,700 (66%) reported the most recent incident to police.

The physical assault victimisation rate in the Northern Territory (5.0%) was higher than the overall national physical assault victimisation rate (2.3%). The reporting rate for physical assault in the Northern Territory (66%) was higher than the overall national physical assault reporting rate (52%).

## **Face-to-face threatened assault**

In the 12 months prior to interview, 4,600 persons in the Northern Territory (3.2%) experienced face-to-face threatened assault.

## **Total threatened assault**

In the 12 months prior to interview, 4,800 persons in the Northern Territory (3.4%)<sup>Endnote 3</sup> experienced threatened assault.

## **Assault**

In the 12 months prior to interview, 10,100 persons in the Northern Territory (7.1%)<sup>Endnote 3</sup> experienced assault.

## **HOUSEHOLD CRIME** (Table 5)

### **Break-in**

In the 12 months prior to interview, 4,000 households in the Northern Territory (6.1%) experienced a break-in. Of these, 2,500 (64%) had the most recent incident reported to police.

The break-in victimisation rate in the Northern Territory (6.1%) was higher than the overall national break-in victimisation rate (2.6%).

### **Attempted break-in**

In the 12 months prior to interview, 3,300 households in the Northern Territory (5%) experienced an attempted break-in. Of these, 1,700 (51%) had the most recent incident reported to police.

The attempted break-in victimisation rate in the Northern Territory (5%) was higher than the overall national attempted break-in victimisation rate (1.9%).

### **Theft from motor vehicle**

In the 12 months prior to interview, 2,700 households in the Northern Territory (4.2%) experienced a theft from a motor vehicle.

Of these, 1,900 (68%) had the most recent incident reported to police.

The theft from a motor vehicle victimisation rate in the Northern Territory (4.2%) was higher than the overall national theft from a motor vehicle victimisation rate (2.9%).

### **Malicious property damage**

In the 12 months prior to interview, 5,400 households in the Northern Territory (8.1%) experienced malicious property damage.

Of these, 2,600 (49%) had the most recent incident reported to police.

The malicious property damage victimisation rate in the Northern Territory (8.1%) was higher than the overall national malicious property damage victimisation rate (6.0%).

### **Other theft**

In the 12 months prior to interview, 2,800 households in the Northern Territory (4.2%) experienced other theft.

The other theft victimisation rate in the Northern Territory (4.2%) was higher than the overall national other theft victimisation rate (2.7%).

## **ENDNOTES**

**Endnote 1** Data for number of victims, victimisation and reporting rates are not discussed where the relative standard error (RSE) for the estimates is greater than 25%. This has resulted in some crime types being excluded from this commentary text. This data is available in Table 2; users are advised to exercise caution when interpreting these estimates.

**Endnote 2** All comparisons discussed have been tested for statistical significance with a 95% level of confidence that there is a real difference in the two populations being tested. Only data with a relative standard error (RSE) of less than 25% is referred to in the text of this publication and these estimates are considered sufficiently reliable for general use. To determine whether there is a statistical difference between any other two estimates, significance testing should be undertaken. For further information, refer to the Technical Note.

**Endnote 3** This number is not published in the accompanying tables, but can be obtained by dividing the number of victims of a selected crime type by the relevant population total (in this case, the total population of people over the age of 15 in Northern Territory).

## **VICTIMISATION EXPERIENCES IN THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY** [Endnote 1](#), [Endnote 2](#), [Endnote 3](#)

This section contains the victimisation and reporting rates for selected crime types for the Australian Capital Territory. Estimates for the Australian Capital Territory were compared with the national estimates to identify any differences that were statistically significant. Where significant differences existed, they are presented here.

### **PERSONAL CRIME** (Tables 4 and 9)

#### **Physical assault**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 7,800 persons in the Australian Capital Territory (2.6%) experienced physical assault.

#### **Total threatened assault**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 8,100 persons in the Australian Capital Territory (2.7%) [Endnote 3](#) experienced threatened assault.

#### **Assault**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 15,000 persons in the Australian Capital Territory (5.0%) [Endnote 3](#) experienced assault.

Nearly four in ten persons who experienced assault experienced a single incident (39% or 5,900).

### **HOUSEHOLD CRIME** (Table 5)

#### **Break-in**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 4,900 households in the Australian Capital Territory (3.4%) experienced a break-in. Of these, 4,400 (90%) had the most recent incident reported to police.

#### **Theft from motor vehicle**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 4,700 households in the Australian Capital Territory (3.3%) experienced theft from a motor vehicle. Of these, 3,400

(71%) had the most recent incident reported to police.

The theft from motor vehicle reporting rate in the Australian Capital Territory (71%) was higher than the overall national theft from motor vehicle reporting rate (49%).

### **Malicious property damage**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 13,500 households in the Australian Capital Territory (9.3%) experienced malicious property damage. Of these, 7,300 (54%) had the most recent incident reported to police.

The malicious property damage victimisation rate in the Australian Capital Territory (9.3%) was higher than the overall national malicious property damage victimisation rate (6.0%).

### **Other theft**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 3,600 households in the Australian Capital Territory (2.5%) experienced other theft.

## **ENDNOTES**

**Endnote 1** Data for number of victims, victimisation and reporting rates are not discussed where the relative standard error (RSE) for the estimates is greater than 25%. This has resulted in some crime types being excluded from this commentary text. This data is available in Table 2; users are advised to exercise caution when interpreting these estimates.

**Endnote 2** All comparisons discussed have been tested for statistical significance with a 95% level of confidence that there is a real difference in the two populations being tested. Only data with a relative standard error (RSE) of less than 25% is referred to in the text of this publication and these estimates are considered sufficiently reliable for general use. To determine whether there is a statistical difference between any other two estimates, significance testing should be undertaken. For further information, refer to the Technical Note.

**Endnote 3** This number is not published in the accompanying tables, but can be obtained by dividing the number of victims of a selected crime type by the relevant population total (in this case, the total population of people over the age of 15 in Australian Capital Territory).

## **ABOUT THIS RELEASE**

Contains summary data about victims for a selected range of personal and household offences including physical assault, threatened assault, personal robbery, sexual assault, household break-in, motor vehicle theft, theft from a motor



vehicle, malicious property damage and other theft. Also provides information about the characteristics of victims, the characteristics of their most recent incident and whether these incidents were reported to police.

## **PROFILES OF VICTIMISATION BY CRIME TYPE**

This section provides an overview of the key characteristics of persons who experienced each of the crime types covered in this survey, such as age and sex, as well as the degree of multiple victimisation experienced for each crime type. Characteristics of the most recent incident experienced of each crime type and changes in key estimates from previous survey periods are also discussed. Comparisons of persons and incident characteristics and changes from previous survey periods have only been included where there is a statistically significant difference between the variables being compared.

## **PHYSICAL ASSAULT** [Endnote 1](#)

### **WHAT IS PHYSICAL ASSAULT?**

For this survey, physical assault is defined as an act of physical force or violence by a person against another person. It includes:

- being pushed, grabbed, shoved, slapped, kicked, bitten, choked, shot, burnt
- being hit with something such as a bat
- being dragged or hit deliberately by a vehicle
- assault which happens in the line of work.

Physical assault excludes:

- incidents that occurred during the course of play on a sporting field or organised sport
- verbal abuse
- incidents where the person did not encounter the offender face-to-face
- incidents of sexual assault or threatened sexual assault which also involved physical assault.

### **WHO EXPERIENCED PHYSICAL ASSAULT IN 2013-14? (Table 12)**

During the 12 months prior to interview, an estimated 418,200 persons experienced at least one incident of physical assault in Australia (2.3% of the population), which was less than in 2012-13 (2.7% or 498,000 persons).

The victimisation rate for physical assault was lower for married people (1.3%) than for unmarried people (3.6%).

Persons who were unemployed experienced physical assault more often than persons who were employed (5.7% compared with 2.3%).

Persons living outside capital cities were more likely to experience physical assault than those living in capital cities. Persons living outside capital cities had a victimisation rate of 2.7% (166,700 victims) compared to 2.0% (252,900 victims) for persons living in capital cities.

### **EXPERIENCE OF MULTIPLE VICTIMISATION** (Table 8)

Of the selected personal crime types, persons who experienced physical assault were most likely to experience a single incident in the 12 months prior to interview (43%), with an estimated one in five (22%) experiencing two incidents. A further 16% experienced three to five incidents and 17% experienced six or more incidents.

Persons who experienced physical assault were more likely to have experienced multiple incidents in the 12 months prior to interview (54%) than a single incident (43%). Females who experienced physical assault were more likely than males to have experienced multiple incidents (61% compared with 48%).

### **REPORTING RATE** (Table 13)

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, an estimated 215,200 persons who experienced physical assault (52% of all persons who experienced physical assault) reported the most recent incident to police.

### **CHARACTERISTICS OF PHYSICAL ASSAULT INCIDENTS** (Table 13)

This section discusses characteristics of the most recent incident for people who experienced physical assault in the 12 months prior to interview.

In the most recent incident of physical assault:

- The offender was more likely to be male (for 75% of persons who experienced physical assault) than female (for 17% of persons who experienced physical assault)
- The offender was more likely to be someone known to the person (62%) than to be a stranger (for 38%)
- When the offender was known, the person was less likely to be living with the offender at the time of the incident (17%), than not living with the offender (46%)
- The location of the incident was most likely to be the person's home (35% of persons who experienced physical assault)
- For 13% of victims, the main reason they did not report the incident to the police was they considered it to be too trivial/unimportant. A further 12% of victims did not report it to the police because they thought it was a personal matter.

## DIFFERENCES IN MALE AND FEMALE EXPERIENCE OF PHYSICAL ASSAULT INCIDENTS

In the most recent incident of physical assault:

- Males were more likely than females to have been physically assaulted by strangers (52% compared with 21%) and people known by sight only (8% compared with 2%). For males who experienced physical assault in the twelve months prior to interview, strangers (52% of incidents) were the most common offender type
- Females were more likely than males to have been physically assaulted by someone they know (80% compared with 47%). For females who experienced physical assault in the twelve months prior to interview, intimate partners (25%) and family members (19%) were the most common offender type.

### ENDNOTE

**Endnote 1** All comparisons discussed have been tested for statistical significance with a 95% level of confidence that there is a real difference in the two populations being tested. Only data with a relative standard error (RSE) of less than 25% is referred to in the text of this publication and these estimates are considered sufficiently reliable for general use. To determine whether there is a statistical difference between any other two estimates, significance testing should be undertaken. For further information, refer to the Technical Note.

## THREATENED ASSAULT [Endnote 1](#)

### WHAT IS THREATENED ASSAULT?

For this survey, threatened assault is defined as a verbal and/or physical threat to inflict physical harm, where the person being threatened believed the threat was able and likely to be carried out. Threatened assault may occur face-to-face or via non face-to-face methods (such as email).

Threatened assault includes:

- any threat or attempt to strike the person which could cause pain
- situations where a gun was left in an obvious place (including fake or toy guns where the victim thought it was real) or where the person knew the perpetrator had access to a gun
- incidents where the person was threatened in their line of work.

Threatened assault excludes:

- any incident of name calling or swearing which did not involve a physical threat
- threats that resulted in an actual assault (the latter are counted under the offence category of physical assault).

## **FACE-TO-FACE THREATENED ASSAULT**

Face-to-face threatened assault includes any verbal and/or physical threat, made in person, to inflict physical harm where the person being threatened believed the threat was able and likely to be carried out. It excludes any incident where the victim did not encounter the offender in person (e.g. via telephone, text message, e-mail, in writing or through social media).

### **WHO EXPERIENCED FACE-TO-FACE THREATENED ASSAULT IN THE 12 MONTHS PRIOR TO INTERVIEW IN 2013-14? (Table 12)**

In the 12 months prior to interview, 494,200 Australians aged 15 years and over experienced face-to-face threatened assault (2.7% of the population).

Males were more likely to experience this crime type than females (3.0% of males compared to 2.4% of females).

The victimisation rate for face-to-face threatened assault was lower for married persons (1.9%) than for unmarried persons (3.8%).

People who were unemployed were more likely to have experienced face-to-face threatened assault than persons who were employed (7% compared with 3%).

People living outside capital cities were more likely to have experienced face-to-face threatened assault than those living in capital cities (3% compared with 2.5%).

### **REPORTING RATE (Table 15)**

Just over a third (34%) of persons who experienced face-to-face threatened assault reported their most recent incident to police.

### **EXPERIENCE OF MULTIPLE VICTIMISATION (Table 8)**

Two out of five (42%) persons who experienced face-to-face threatened assault (205,100 victims) experienced a single incident in the 12 months prior to interview, while 21% (105,800 victims) experienced two incidents.

### **CHARACTERISTICS OF FACE-TO-FACE THREATENED ASSAULT INCIDENTS (Table 15)**

This section discusses characteristics of the most recent incident for persons who experienced face-to-face threatened assault in the 12 months prior to interview.

In the most recent incident of face-to-face threatened assault:

- The offender was more likely to be male (for 76% of victims) than female (14% of victims)
- The offender was more likely to be known to the victim (56%) than to be a stranger (43%)
  - When the offender was known, the victim was less likely to be living with the offender at the time of the incident (9%) than not living with the offender (48%)
  - For male victims, the offender was more likely to be a stranger (53%) than someone they knew (45%), while for female victims, offenders who were known to them were more common (70% compared with 31%)
- The location of the incident was more likely to be the victim's home (28%) or work (26%) than any other location
  - Male victims were more likely than female victims to have experienced face-to-face threatened assault in a licensed entertainment/recreation venue (11% compared with 3%)
  - Female victims were more likely than male victims to have experienced face-to-face threatened assault in their home (38% compared with 19%)
- A weapon was not used in the most recent incident for the majority of victims (89%)
- For nearly one in four persons who experienced face-to-face threatened assault (24%), the main reason they did not report the incident to police was they considered the incident to be too trivial/unimportant.

## **NON FACE-TO-FACE THREATENED ASSAULT**

Non face-to-face threatened assault includes any threat to inflict physical harm where the person experiencing the incident did not encounter the offender in person, such as via telephone, text message, e-mail, in writing or through social media and the person being threatened believed the threat was able and likely to be carried out.

### **WHO EXPERIENCED NON FACE-TO-FACE THREATENED ASSAULT IN THE 12 MONTHS PRIOR TO INTERVIEW IN 2013-14? (Table 12)**

In the 12 months prior to interview, 183,100 Australians aged 15 years and over experienced non face-to-face threatened assault (1.0% of the population).

The victimisation rate for non face-to-face threatened assault was lower for married persons (0.4%) than for unmarried persons (1.8%).

Persons who were unemployed experienced non face-to-face threatened assault more often than persons who were employed (2.9% compared with 0.9%).

The victimisation rate was lower in state and territory capital cities (0.8%) than in

other parts of Australia (1.3%).

## REPORTING RATE (Table 1)

Over a third (35%) of victims of non face-to-face threatened assault reported the most recent incident they experienced to the police.

## ENDNOTE

**Endnote 1** All comparisons discussed have been tested for statistical significance with a 95% level of confidence that there is a real difference in the two populations being tested. Only data with a relative standard error (RSE) of less than 25% is referred to in the text of this publication and these estimates are considered sufficiently reliable for general use. To determine whether there is a statistical difference between any other two estimates, significance testing should be undertaken. For further information, refer to the Technical Note.

## CONTRIBUTION OF ALCOHOL OR ANY OTHER SUBSTANCE TO ASSAULT

Since the 2010-11 Crime Victimization Survey, persons who experienced physical assault and face-to-face threatened assault have been asked whether they believed alcohol or any other substance contributed to their most recent incident of assault. [Endnote 1](#)

## PHYSICAL ASSAULT (Table 14)

Nationally, 62% of persons who experienced physical assault believed that alcohol or any other substance contributed to their most recent incident. This included:

- 67% of males who experienced physical assault
- 55% of females who experienced physical assault
- Three-quarters of victims of physical assault aged 18 to 24 years (75%)
- 91% of victims whose most recent incident occurred at a licensed entertainment/recreation venue.

In general, persons who experienced physical assault believed that alcohol or any other substance contributed to their most recent incident more often than not (62% compared with 31% of most recent incidents). More males who experienced physical assault (67%) reported that they believed alcohol contributed to the most recent incident of physical assault than female victims (55%). Alcohol or any other substance was perceived to have contributed to the most recent incident of physical assault more often than not in age groups 18-24 (75% compared with 27%), 25-34 (70% compared with 20%) and 35-44 (65% compared with 26%).

Victims reported that alcohol contributed to the most recent incident more often when the offender was male (66%) than when the offender was female (47%).

Where the offender was:

- A current partner (66%), previous partner (61%) or boyfriend/girlfriend/ex-boyfriend/ex-girlfriend (77%), alcohol was more likely to have contributed than not
- A friend (77%), neighbour (61%), an offender who was known by sight only (65%) or a stranger (70%), alcohol was more likely to have contributed than not
- A stranger (70%), victims reported that alcohol contributed to the most recent incident more often than when the offender was known to them (56%).

Victims reported that alcohol contributed to the most recent incident more often than not when the incident occurred in the victim's home (56% compared with 38%), in another person's home (79% compared with 11%), or in the street or open land (63% compared with 21%).

There has been no significant change between 2012-13 and 2013-14 in the proportion of victims of physical assault who believed that alcohol or any other substance contributed to their most recent incident of assault.

### **FACE-TO-FACE THREATENED ASSAULT** (Table 16)

Nationally, 51% of persons who experienced face-to-face threatened assault believed that alcohol or any other substance contributed to their most recent incident. This included:

- 49% of males who experienced face to face threatened assault
- 52% of females who experienced face to face threatened assault
- 59% of persons who were aged 25 to 34 years
- 74% of persons who experienced face to face threatened assault at a licensed entertainment/recreation venue.

Males who experienced face to face threatened assault were more likely to have believed that alcohol had contributed to the most recent incident (49%), than to believe that it had not (36%).

Victims believed that alcohol contributed to the most recent incident more often than not when the offender was a stranger (53% compared with 23%) or friend (66% compared with 23%).

Alcohol was believed to have contributed to a greater proportion of incidents occurring in licensed entertainment/recreation venues than in any other location.

There has been no significant change between 2012-13 and 2013-14 in the proportion of victims of face-to-face threatened assault who believed that alcohol or any other substance contributed to their most recent incident of assault.

## ENDNOTE

**Endnote 1:** While this question was asked of all respondents aged 15 years and over, data has only been published for those 18 years and over. The responses of respondents aged 15 to 17 years may have been provided by a proxy respondent (such as a parent) and as this is a perception based question it was not asked of proxies. See Data Collection section of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

## ROBBERY [Endnote 1](#)

### WHAT IS ROBBERY?

In this survey, robbery is defined as an act of stealing (or attempting to steal) property from a person by physically attacking them or threatening them with force or violence. It includes incidents where the person was threatened in their line of work.

Robbery excludes pick pocketing or other types of theft that did not involve physical or threatened violence.

People who experienced robbery are also counted in the physical assault and threatened assault modules in instances where they were actually assaulted or threatened with assault.

### WHO EXPERIENCED ROBBERY IN 2013-14? (Table 17)

During the 12 months prior to interview 65,600 persons (or 0.4% of the population aged 15 years and over) experienced at least one robbery. This represented 0.4% of males (32,000 victims) and 0.3% of females (31,000 victims).

### REPORTING RATE (Table 18)

Over half (56% or 37,00 persons) of all persons who experienced robbery reported the most recent incident to police.

### CHARACTERISTICS OF ROBBERY INCIDENTS (Table 18)

This section discusses characteristics of the most recent incident for people who experienced robbery in the 12 months prior to interview.

In the most recent incident of robbery:



- The offender was more likely to be male (for 78% of victims) than female (9%)
- Just under a third (31%) occurred in the street or other open land
- Most incidents did not involve the use of a weapon (73% compared with 26%)
- Most people who experienced robbery did not have property stolen (61% compared with 32%).

## **ENDNOTE**

**Endnote 1** All comparisons discussed have been tested for statistical significance with a 95% level of confidence that there is a real difference in the two populations being tested. Only data with a relative standard error (RSE) of less than 25% is referred to in the text of this publication and these estimates are considered sufficiently reliable for general use. To determine whether there is a statistical difference between any other two estimates, significance testing should be undertaken. For further information, refer to the Technical Note.

## **SEXUAL ASSAULT**

### **WHAT IS SEXUAL ASSAULT?**

For this survey, sexual assault is defined as an act of a sexual nature carried out against a person's will or without a person's consent. It involves physical contact and/or through the use of physical force, intimidation or coercion.

Sexual assault includes:

- any actual or attempted forced sexual activity such as rape, attempted rape or indecent assault (e.g. being touched inside clothing or intentional rubbing of genitals against the victim)
- assault with the intent to sexually assault
- incidents that occurred at the victim's place of work.

Sexual assault excludes sexual harassment that did not involve or lead to an actual assault.

For this survey, only people aged 18 years and over were asked the questions about sexual assault.

### **WHO EXPERIENCED SEXUAL ASSAULT IN 2013-14? (Table 19)**

During the 12 months prior to interview, 48,300 Australians (0.3% of the population) aged 18 years and over experienced sexual assault. Females were more likely to experience sexual assault (0.5% or 41,000 persons) than males (0.1% or 8,500 persons).

### **REPORTING RATE (Table 1)**

Over a third of all victims of sexual assault (38% or 18,500 persons) reported the most recent incident to police.

## **BREAK-IN AND ATTEMPTED BREAK-IN** [Endnote 1](#)

### **BREAK-IN**

#### **What is a break-in?**

In this survey, a break-in is defined as an act of unauthorised forced entry into a home or other place where a victim permanently resides.

Break-in includes:

- forced entry to garages, sheds or any detached secure buildings such as games/hobby rooms and granny flats
- caravans where it was the victim's permanent residence.

Break-in excludes:

- forced entry to motor vehicles or front or rear yards
- incidents of attempted break-in.

#### **Victimisation and reporting rates for 2013-14 (Table 1)**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 228,900 Australian households (2.6% of all households) experienced at least one break-in. In 43% of households the most recent incident of attempted break-in was reported to police.

#### **Characteristics of break-in incidents (Table 20)**

This section discusses characteristics of households' most recent incident of break-in in the 12 months prior to interview.

In the most recent incident of break-in experienced by households:

- - The majority of households had property stolen (73%, or 168,000 households)
  - Personal items were stolen in almost one third of households that experienced break-in (31%, or 71,400 households)
  - Half of all households that experienced break-in had property damaged (50%, or 114,400 households)
  - Around one in ten households that experienced a break-in involved the offender/s confronting someone (11%, or 24,400 households)
  - 10% of households (or 22,800 households) that experienced break-in did not report the incident to the police as it was considered to be too trivial/unimportant, while a further 8% (or 18,000 households) believed that the police would have been unwilling/unable to do anything .

## **ATTEMPTED BREAK-IN**

### **What is an attempted break-in?**

For this survey, attempted break-in is defined as an incident where an attempt was made to forcibly enter a home.

Attempted break-in includes:

- attempts to forcibly enter a caravan (if the caravan was the respondent's permanent residence), garage, shed or any other detached secure building such as games/hobby rooms or granny flats
- incidents where a person saw someone acting suspiciously around the property if it was suspected that their intent was to steal property.

Attempted break-in excludes:

- incidents that resulted in an actual break-in (for example, where someone attempted to break in through a door but then gained entry through a window)
- attempts to forcibly enter a motor vehicle.

### **Victimisation and reporting rates (Table 1)**

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, an estimated 170,800 Australian households (1.9% of all households) experienced at least one incident of attempted break-in. Just over two-fifths (43%) of households had the most recent incident of attempted break-in reported to police.

### **Characteristics of attempted break-in incidents (Table 21)**

This section discusses characteristics of the most recent incident for households that were victims of attempted break-in during the 12 months prior to interview.

In the most recent incident of attempted break-in experienced by households:

- - The most commonly identified evidence of attempted break-in was damage to doors or windows (53%), followed by seeing or hearing someone trying to break-in (22%)
  - About one in five (22% or 37,900 households) did not report the most recent incident to police because the incident was considered to be too trivial/unimportant. For a further 17% (or 29,600 households) the main reason for not reporting the incident to police was it was believed that there was nothing the police could do.

## ENDNOTE

**Endnote 1** All comparisons discussed have been tested for statistical significance with a 95% level of confidence that there is a real difference in the two populations being tested. Only data with a relative standard error (RSE) of less than 25% is referred to in the text of this publication and these estimates are considered sufficiently reliable for general use. To determine whether there is a statistical difference between any other two estimates, significance testing should be undertaken. For further information, refer to the Technical Note.

## MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT AND THEFT FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE [Endnote 1](#)

### MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT

#### What is motor vehicle theft?

In this survey, motor vehicle theft is defined as an incident where a motor vehicle was stolen from any member of the household. This includes:

- cars, utilities, motorcycles (including motorised scooters), buses, trucks and motor homes
- privately owned vehicles and business/employer/company owned vehicles only if the vehicle was used exclusively by members of the household.

Motor vehicle theft excludes boats, trailers and company vehicles not used exclusively by household members.

For the purposes of this survey, motor vehicle theft incidents are considered to be household crimes rather than a crime against an individual person.

#### Victimisation and reporting rates for 2013-14 (Table 1)

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, 54,400 households (0.6% of all households) experienced motor vehicle theft. Nearly 9 in 10 households (88%) that experienced a motor vehicle theft reported the most recent incident to police.

#### Characteristics of motor vehicle theft incidents (Table 22)

In the most recent incident of motor vehicle theft in the 12 months prior to interview, the most common location was the person's, or another person's, home (58% of incidents). The second most common location was 'in the street or other open land' (32%).

### THEFT FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE

## **What is theft from a motor vehicle?**

In this survey, theft from a motor vehicle is defined as the theft of property owned by any member of the household from a motor vehicle owned (for private use) by any member of that household.

It excludes:

- property stolen that belonged to someone not living in the household (e.g. a friend or other relative)
- property owned by a business or employer (e.g. a computer, mobile phone or work tools)
- property stolen from commercial vehicles (this includes a self-employed business operator whose vehicle is mainly used for work purposes)
- any break-in into a motor vehicle if nothing was stolen.

## **Victimisation and reporting rates for 2013-14 (Table 1)**

During the 12 months prior to interview, 258,800 households (2.9% of all households) experienced theft from a motor vehicle. Just under half of all households (49%) that experienced theft from a motor vehicle reported the most recent incident to police.

## **Characteristics of theft from motor vehicle incidents (Table 23)**

This section discusses characteristics of the most recent incident for households that experienced theft from a motor vehicle in the 12 months prior to interview.

In the most recent incident of theft from a motor vehicle experienced by households:

- The most common type of property stolen was money (41%, or 107,100 households), followed by other personal items (32%, or 83,800 households)
- The most common location of theft from a motor vehicle was the person's home (63%, or 161,600 households), followed by in the street or other open land (16%, or 40,300 households)
- For around a third (31%, or 79,500 households) of households that experienced theft from a motor vehicle, the main reason for not reporting the incident to police was it was considered to be too trivial or unimportant. A further 11% (or 28,300 households) did not report the incident to police as it was believed that there was nothing the police could do.

## **ENDNOTE**

**Endnote 1** All comparisons discussed have been tested for statistical significance with a 95% level of confidence that there is a real difference in the two populations

being tested. Only data with a relative standard error (RSE) of less than 25% is referred to in the text of this publication and these estimates are considered sufficiently reliable for general use. To determine whether there is a statistical difference between any other two estimates, significance testing should be undertaken. For further information, refer to the Technical Note.

## **MALICIOUS PROPERTY DAMAGE** [Endnote 1](#)

### **WHAT IS MALICIOUS PROPERTY DAMAGE?**

In this survey, malicious property damage is defined as the intentional or wilful (not accidental) damage, defacement or destruction of any part of the victim's home or anything usually kept at home. Property is something tangible in nature, including land, conveyances, animals or other objects capable of being privately owned. Destruction can mean any alteration that may render something imperfect or inoperative, including destruction of property, graffiti or vandalism, partial destruction, killing or harming an owned animal and removing or destroying a plant or other part of an owned landscape.

Malicious property damage excludes:

- damage to rental, investment or holiday properties owned by a member of the household
- acts such as turning off water meters and flicking safety switches if no damage to the meter occurred.

### **VICTIMISATION AND REPORTING RATES FOR 2013-14** (Table 1)

During the 12 months prior to interview, 528,900 Australian households (6.0% of all households) experienced at least one incident of malicious property damage. Half (50%) of households that experienced malicious property damage reported the most recent incident to police.

### **CHARACTERISTICS OF MALICIOUS PROPERTY DAMAGE INCIDENTS** (Table 24)

This section discusses characteristics of the most recent incident for households that were victims of malicious property damage in the 12 months prior to interview.

In the most recent incident of malicious property damage:

- For 27% of household victims, the main reason for not reporting the incident to police was that it was considered too trivial/unimportant. A further 12% of household victims believed that there was nothing the police could do

- Exterior items were the most common type of property damaged, defaced, or destroyed (for 65% of all household victims), followed by a car or other motor vehicle (28% of all household victims).

## **ENDNOTE**

**Endnote 1** All comparisons discussed have been tested for statistical significance with a 95% level of confidence that there is a real difference in the two populations being tested. Only data with a relative standard error (RSE) of less than 25% is referred to in the text of this publication and these estimates are considered sufficiently reliable for general use. To determine whether there is a statistical difference between any other two estimates, significance testing should be undertaken. For further information, refer to the Technical Note.

## **OTHER THEFT** [Endnote 1](#)

### **WHAT IS OTHER THEFT?**

In this survey, other theft is defined as the unlawful taking of money or goods owned by a household member (other than from motor vehicles owned by a household member) with the intent to permanently deprive the owner of the money or goods, without the use, or threat, of force or violence, coercion or deception. It includes:

- Property belonging to a member of the household not covered by the other types of crime included in the survey
- Property belonging to a household member stolen from a vehicle not owned by a household member
- Property stolen from a yard or garden (e.g. statues or plants).

Other theft excludes any incidents involving theft covered in other crime types in the survey (e.g. break-in or robbery).

Other theft is considered to be a household crime for the purpose of this survey.

### **VICTIMISATION AND REPORTING RATES FOR 2013-14** (Table 1)

In the 12 months prior to interview in 2013-14, an estimated 238,800 households (2.7% of all households) experienced at least one incident of other theft. Almost two-fifths of all households (39%) that experienced other theft reported the most recent incident to police.

### **CHARACTERISTICS OF OTHER THEFT INCIDENTS** (Table 25)

This section discusses characteristics of the most recent incident for households that were victims of other theft in the 12 months prior to interview.

In the most recent incident of other theft experienced by households:

- 47,200 households, or one in five (20%) victims had personal items stolen. A further 17% of households (or 41,400 households) that experienced other theft had outdoor/garden items stolen
- The most common location for other theft was the victim's home (54% of household victims, or 129,100 households), followed by the victim's work (11% of household victims, or 25,800 households)
- Just under a third of all households that were a victim of other theft (31%) did not report the most recent incident to police due to the incident being seen as too trivial or unimportant. This was the most common main reason the most recent incident was not reported to police. A further 14% did not report the most recent incident to police due to a belief that there was nothing that the police could do.

## **ENDNOTE**

**Endnote 1** All comparisons discussed have been tested for statistical significance with a 95% level of confidence that there is a real difference in the two populations being tested. Only data with a relative standard error (RSE) of less than 25% is referred to in the text of this publication and these estimates are considered sufficiently reliable for general use. To determine whether there is a statistical difference between any other two estimates, significance testing should be undertaken. For further information, refer to the Technical Note.

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

17 February 2015

Embargo: 11.30 am (Canberra time) 21/2015

### **Threats of assault, property damage still top the crime list**

Australians were more likely to have experienced threatened assault than any other type of personal crime during 2013-14, according to figures released today by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

"Being threatened with assault - in a face-to-face situation - is still the most common type of personal crime, with nearly half a million Australians experiencing this sort of threat," said William Milne from the ABS.

"For men, the threat was most likely to come from a stranger, while for women it was more likely to come from someone they knew.

"Almost two-thirds of people who were threatened with assault didn't report the incident to



police, often because they thought the incident was too trivial or unimportant.

"People also felt that alcohol or other drugs contributed to the incident in around half of all cases.

"When it comes to household crime, malicious property damage continues to be the most common, with over half a million homes - about six per cent - experiencing it.

"Half the people who experienced property damage didn't report the incident to police, most commonly thinking it was too trivial to report.

"Outside items - such as letterboxes, fences, walls and outdoor furniture - were the most commonly damaged items, about two-thirds of the time, followed by cars or motor bikes about a quarter of the time," said Mr Milne.

Further information can be found in *Crime Victimization, Australia* (cat. no. 4530.0), available as a free download from the ABS website - <http://www.abs.gov.au>.

**Media Notes:**

- Statistics in this media release refer to people over the age of 15, and relate to the most recent incident the person has experienced.
- Statistics relating to contribution of alcohol to incidents refer to people over the age of 18, and relate to the most recent incident the person has experienced.
- When reporting ABS data the Australian Bureau of Statistics (or ABS) must be attributed as the source.
- Media requests and interviews - contact the ABS Communications Section on 1300 175 070