Victims of Crime Survey, 2017/18

(P0341)

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Victims of Crime Survey: 2017/18

This statistical release presents a selection of key findings from the Victims of Crime Survey (VOCS) 2017/18, which was conducted by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) from April 2017 to March 2018.

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Aggregate crime levels increased in 2017/18 compared to 2016/17. It is estimated that over 1,5 million incidences of household crime occurred in South Africa in 2017/18, which constitutes an increase of 5% compared to the previous year. Incidences of crime on individuals are estimated to be over 1,6 million, which is an increase of 5% from the previous year. Aggregate household crime levels increased in Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, North West, Gauteng and Mpumalanga. Individual crime levels increased in Free State, North West and Gauteng. North West experienced a drastic increase of 80% in the individual crime level. More provinces experienced an increase in household and individual crime levels if comparisons were done using proportions instead of absolute numbers.

Housebreaking or burglary continued to be the dominant type of crime in 2017/18, accounting for 54% of all household crimes surveyed in the Victims of Crime Survey (VOCS). An estimated 832 122 incidences of housebreaking occurred, which is a 7% increase compared to the previous year. An estimated 156 089 incidences of home robbery occurred, constituting an increase of 3% from last year. It is estimated that 16 809 incidences of murder occurred in 2017/18, which is an increase of about 4% from the previous year. The definition of murder in VOCS includes culpable homicide because it is practically impossible to separate the two types of killing in a household survey. This is one of the reasons that the VOCS estimates differ from the figures released by the South African Police Service (SAPS). Another reason for the VOCS murder estimates being different from those of the SAPS is that some murders recorded by the SAPS are not known at household level; for example, murders of immigrants that have no relatives in South Africa.

In the case of individual crimes, theft of personal property was the most dominant, accounting for about 41% of individual crimes. It is estimated that 693 219 incidences of theft of personal property occurred in 2017/18, which is a decrease of 2% from the previous year. Robbery away from home decreased by 5%, sexual offence decreased by 61%, and assault increased by 12% from the previous year. Sexual offence has a narrower definition in VOCS compared to the SAPS definition, which includes offences such as bestiality and sexual acts with a corpse. On the other hand, assault is defined more broadly in the VOCS compared to the SAPS and combines SAPS common assault and assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm. Disagreement between VOCS and SAPS statistics should not be a matter of concern at this stage, as the two organisations do not use the same definitions of crime types. Moreover, not all crime experienced by individuals is reported to the police. Despite the challenge of non-aligned definitions, in many cases, VOCS and SAPS trends agree for similar types of crime.

Perceptions of South Africans on crime in 2017/18 were more sceptical compared to the previous year. About 42% thought property crime increased during the past three years. This is an increase of 6,9% from the previous year. Those who thought violent crime increased during the past three years were 46%, which is an increase of 4,5% over the previous year. Western Cape was the most sceptical about crime trends, as 84% of Western Cape residents thought that crime in South African increased or stayed the same. Mpumalanga was the least sceptical among the nine provinces, where 65% thought that crime increased or stayed the same during the past three years. Crimes that are feared most are those that are most common.

An estimated 79% of South Africans felt safe walking alone in their neighbourhoods during the day, which is a decrease of 6,7% from last year. About 32% of South Africans felt safe walking alone in their neighbourhoods at night, constituting an increase of 8% from last year.

Police visibility declined between 2017/17 and 2017/18. It is estimated that the proportion of South Africans who never saw a police officer in uniform during the past twelve months increased by 6%. Police visibility was least in the Eastern Cape, where the percentage of people who never saw a police officer in uniform during the past twelve months is estimated to be 38%. The percentage of South Africans who were satisfied with police response in 2017/18 was 54%, which is a decrease of 5,5% from the previous year. The most common (34,4%) reason for dissatisfaction with the police was that "they don't respond in time". The most common reason for dissatisfaction in 2016/17 was "they don't recover goods". South Africans who were satisfied with the courts dropped by 8,5% from last year to 41%.

Gender and population group are important factors that impact the level of confidence on the capacity of correctional services to rehabilitate prisoners. On the question of whether the respondent would be willing to offer employment to a former prisoner, the estimates for a "Yes" response were: Males (51%) and females (45%); Black Africans (52%), coloureds (38%), Indians/Asians (31%) and whites (35%). On the question of whether the respondent would be willing to marry a former prisoner, the estimates for a "Yes" response were: Males (25%) and females (19%); Black Africans (25%), coloureds (13%), Indians/Asians (9%) and whites (12%).

Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General

2. INTRODUCTION

Crime prevention and ultimate elimination is one of the top priority goals of the National Development Plan (NDP). Crime affects all people irrespective of their background, and it is a topic that attracts a lot of media attention. Analysis will show that some groupings are affected by certain types of crime more than others. Crime statistics are essential in order to understand the temporal and spatial dynamics of crime. Such understanding is vital for planning targeted interventions and assessing progress made towards achieving a crime free nation where

"people living in South Africa feel safe at home, at school and at work, and they enjoy a community life free of fear. Women walk freely in the streets and children play safely outside".

There are two major sources of crime statistics in South Africa, namely the South African Police Service (SAPS) and Statistics South Africa (Stats SA). The other smaller sources such as the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) and the Medical Research Council (MRC) are by no means insignificant, as they provide statistics for types of crime not adequately covered by the major players, such as domestic violence. While the methodologies used by the SAPS and Stats SA are very different, the two institutions produce crime statistics that complement each other. The SAPS produces administrative data of crime reported to police stations by victims, the public and crime reported as a result of police activity. Stats SA produces crime statistics estimated from household surveys. The crime types reported by the SAPS and VOCS are listed in Annexure A, where an attempt was made to juxtapose SAPS and VOCS crimes where similar definitions apply. Crimes reported to the SAPS do not always have the same definitions as crime statistics produced from VOCS. In addition, not all crimes reported by the SAPS are reported by VOCS and vice versa. Working in close collaboration with Stats SA, the SAPS has undertaken to align its Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (CCSP) to the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS).

Stats SA started conducting the annual collection of the VOCS as from 2011. Data collections for VOCS 2011 and VOCS 2012 were conducted from January to March of that year and referred to incidents of crime experienced during the previous year (i.e. from January to December). Since 2013, Stats SA has changed the data collection methodology to continuous data collection. Data are collected from April of the current year to March of the following year, and the reference period is for the 12 months preceding the interview date. The following table shows the reference periods for each data collection period.

Table 1: Reference periods for data collection

Year	Data collection	Reference period
2011	January 2011 – March 2011	January 2010 – December 2010
2012	January 2012 – March 2012	January 2011 – December 2011
2013/14	April 2013 – March 2014	April 2012 – February 2014
2014/15	April 2014 – March 2015	April 2013 – February 2015
2015/16	April 2015 – March 2016	April 2014 – February 2016
2016/17	April 2016 – March 2017	April 2015 – February 2017
2017/18	April 2017 – March 2018	April 2016 – February 2018

The survey series is a countrywide household-based survey and has three main objectives:

- Provide information about the dynamics of crime from the perspective of households and the victims of crime.
- Explore public perceptions of the activities of the police, prosecutors, courts and correctional services in the prevention of crime and victimisation.
- Provide complementary data on the level of crime within South Africa (SA) in addition to the statistics published annually by the South African Police Service (SAPS).

VOCS focuses on people's perceptions and experiences of crime, as well as their views regarding their access to, and effectiveness of the police service and the criminal justice system. Households are also asked about community responses to crime. The survey profiled different aspects that are inherent in the different types of crime, such as the location and timing of the different crimes, the use of weapons and the nature and extent of the violence that takes place. The VOCS 2017/18 is comparable to the previous versions in cases where the questions remained largely unchanged.

While the VOCS cannot replace police statistics, it can be a rich source of information that will assist in the planning of crime prevention and provide a more holistic picture of crime in South Africa. The data can be used for the development of policies and strategies, as well as for crime prevention and public education programmes. This report ventures into exploring the possibility of integrating the VOCS and SAPS crime statistics by tabulating estimates from VOCS and statistics released by SAPS for every category of crime that is common to both sources. The biggest challenge in this project is the difference of definitions of crime categories used by VOCS and SAPS. For example, "murder" for VOCS includes both the intentional and unintentional killing of a human being, while for SAPS "murder" only refers to the intentional killing of a human being. For SAPS, "sexual offence" includes bestiality while in VOCS it is limited to sexual violations against human beings.

Like other household surveys conducted by Stats SA, VOCS is designed to produce accurate estimates at national and provincial levels. The accuracy of estimates at lower levels or small areas cannot be guaranteed. Small areas include specific demographic or social groupings of interest such as children under 15 or sex workers. VOCS data cannot produce sexual offence statistics for children under 15 or murders of sex workers. Statistics for small areas require specialised methodologies that are not readily available in Stats SA. Some of the institutions that use these methodologies for small areas are the South Africa Medical Research Council, the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) and universities.

This report is organised as follows: In Chapter 3 a brief account of the methodology used by the VOCS will be given. This will include the methodology used to calculate the errors of the estimates and the classification of the quality of the estimates. A general overview of the crime situation in 2017/18 and the trends leading to it are presented in Chapter 4. The crime trends are presented for overall household and individual crimes, and are disaggregated by province, gender and population group. Estimates of totals and percentages for specific types of crimes covered by VOCS will be confined only for the 2017/18 survey period.

Chapter 5 will focus on the details of specific household types of crime covered by VOCS. Some types of crime may have more details than others, depending on the quantity of information gathered for each crime type. For example, housebreaking or burglary will have most details because it is a crime that affects most households. Details may include disaggregation by province, gender and population group; reporting to the police behaviour; reasons for not reporting to the police; and levels of satisfaction with police service. For the number of cases reported to the police we shall only present statistics from SAPS;

however, we shall present estimates of proportions of households that reported crime to the police. Simultaneous presentation of crime statistics from the two major sources is expected to provide a better understanding of the crime situation and trends in the country.

Chapter 6 focuses on the same content as the previous chapter, but for individual crimes. The chapter reports on various types of crime experienced by individuals aged 16 or above. Child interviews require specialised techniques and settings that were not planned for the VOCS. Therefore, the survey does not report on crime against children. This makes it difficult to compare VOCS individual crimes with crime statistics (crimes against a person) reported by SAPS, as the latter does not have an age restriction.

Statistics on how communities respond to crime are presented and discussed in Chapter 7, while Chapter 8 deals with perceptions of household heads and individuals on issues of crime, safety and satisfaction with the criminal justice system in South Africa. Statistics from these chapters feed into impact indicators of the National Development Plan (NDP) on crime and safety.

3. METHODOLOGY

The VOCS 2016 uses the master sample sampling frame which has been developed as a general-purpose household survey frame that can be used by all other Stats SA household-based surveys having design requirements that are reasonably compatible with the VOCS. The VOCS 2015/16 collection was drawn from the 2013 master sample. This master sample is based on information collected during Census 2011. In preparation for Census 2011, the country was divided into 103 576 enumeration areas (EAs). The census EAs, together with the auxiliary information for the EAs, were used as the frame units or building blocks for the formation of primary sampling units (PSUs) for the master sample, since they covered the entire country and had other information that is crucial for stratification and creation of PSUs. There are 3 324 primary sampling units (PSUs) in the master sample with an expected sample of approximately 33 000 dwelling units (DUs). The number of PSUs in the current master sample (3 324) reflect an 8,0% increase in the size of the master sample compared to the previous (2008) master sample (which had 3 080 PSUs). The larger master sample of PSUs was selected to improve the precision (smaller coefficients of variation, known as CVs) of the VOCS estimates.

The master sample is designed to be representative at provincial level and within provinces at metro/non-metro levels. The sample is also distributed by geographical type. The three geographical areas are metro, rural and urban. This implies, for example, that within a province, the sample is representative of the different geographical areas that may exist within that metro.

The sample of the VOCS is based on a stratified, two-stage design with probability proportional to size (PPS) sampling of PSUs in the first stage, and sampling of dwelling units (DUs) with systematic sampling in the second stage.

Indicators of crime level

Statistics that are used mostly in this report are the totals, proportions and percentages, as has been the case for a number of years. This year, two more statistics will be introduced in order to enrich the presentation of the crime situation in the country. The new statistics introduced in this report are the repeat victimisation index (RVI) and the multiple victimisation index (MVI) defined as:

$$\text{RVI} = \left(\frac{\text{Estimated total number of incidents of a specific type of crime committed}}{\text{Estimated total number of victimised households or individuals}} \right) \times 100$$

$$= 100 \times \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} f_i w_i 1_i}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} w_i 1_i}$$

where f_i is the number of times household/individual i experienced a specific type of crime, w_i is the sampling weight of household/individual i and 1_i equals to 1 if household/individual i experienced the specific type of crime and 0 otherwise.

$$\text{MVI} = \left(\frac{\text{Estimated total number of crimes of different types committed}}{\text{Estimated total number of victimised households/individuals}} \right) \times 100$$

$$= 100 \times \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} c_i w_i 1_i}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} w_i 1_i}$$

where c_i is the number of different types of crimes experienced by household/individual i during the reference period.

The repeat victimisation index is thus a weighted average number of repeated victimisation through a specific type of crime per 100 households/individuals. Similarly, the multiple victimisation index is the weighted average of the number of different types of crime experienced by 100 households/individuals. The bigger the value of any of these indices, the worse the crime situation is. The minimum value of each index is 100.

Quality flag

In this report, every estimate will be assigned a quality level based on the coefficient of variation (CV) of the estimate. Coefficient of variation is a measure of the relative size of error defined as

$$100 \times \left(\frac{\text{Standard error}}{\text{Estimate value}} \right)$$

The South African Statistical Quality Assurance Framework (SASQAF) prescribes four quality levels based on a number of criteria, including the coefficient of variation. Each quality level will be labelled by colour (flag) as defined in the table below.

Table 2: Quality classification of estimates

Coefficient of variation range	Level	Interpretation
0 – 16,5		Quality statistics (reliable estimates)
16,6 – 33,4		Acceptable estimate (use with caution)
33,5 – 100,0		Poor estimate (not fit for use)

The survey package of the R software was used to calculate the estimates and the CVs. The package is specifically designed for analysis of data from complex surveys. Every computation using the survey package requires specification of three key design parameters, namely the strata, clusters (PSUs) and final weights.

Estimates with CVs highlighted in orange must not be used as they are of poor quality. These poor quality estimates are left in the table just for completeness. The poor estimates are also highlighted in grey as a further indication that they should not be used.

4. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF CRIME

This chapter provides an overview of various crime types from the period 2013/14 and 2017/18. The Victims of Crime Survey (VOCS) focuses on eleven types of household crimes and seven types of crimes against individuals. Crimes against households are discussed in more detail in Chapter 5, and those against individuals are discussed in Chapter 6. The household crimes measured in VOCS are theft of motor vehicle, housebreaking or burglary, home robbery, theft of livestock/poultry and other animals, theft of crops planted by households, murder, trafficking in persons, theft out of motor vehicles, deliberate damaging/burning/ destruction of dwellings, motor vehicle vandalism/deliberate damage of motor vehicles, and theft of bicycles. The individual crime section focuses on crime experienced by a randomly selected person in the household aged 16 years and older. Individual crimes involve crimes that are violent and non-violent in nature, such as theft of personal property, hijacking of motor vehicle, robbery, sexual offence, assault, consumer fraud and corruption.

4.1 Five-year trends

The section aims to give a general overview for each of the nine provinces. Each figure below represents the estimate of the total number of incidences of household (or individual) crime that occurred in the specific year in the particular province.

Table 3: Number of incidences of household and individual crime by province, 2013/14–2017/18

Household crime	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	Qty
Western Cape	345 600	300 164	307 572	217 428	213 697	
Eastern Cape	376 178	315 564	190 397	196 187	183 007	
Northern Cape	74 918	86 826	28 534	48 009	39 287	
Free State	52 231	57 300	80 291	77 061	85 467	
KwaZulu-Natal	157 579	156 134	239 091	282 805	304 626	
North West	133 905	138 831	113 425	72 496	103 276	
Gauteng	445 768	402 500	498 474	377 834	401 139	
Mpumalanga	252 783	248 081	138 609	102 802	128 953	
Limpopo	275 909	171 871	103 341	93 658	86 250	
SOUTH AFRICA	**2 114 871**	**1 877 271**	**1 699 734**	**1 468 279**	**1 545 701**	
Individual crime						
Western Cape	420 193	377 725	366 138	346 048	261 758	
Eastern Cape	219 256	226 347	247 602	262 161	233 166	
Northern Cape	50 949	59 455	43 489	40 113	34 710	
Free State	137 340	110 452	76 943	81 916	124 333	
KwaZulu-Natal	219 485	306 090	226 997	184 980	162 943	
North West	142 612	127 208	105 765	90 982	164 383	
Gauteng	544 484	558 552	432 340	375 643	486 270	
Mpumalanga	162 356	123 688	142 868	116 591	112 276	
Limpopo	138 180	74 904	111 903	104 206	102 786	
SOUTH AFRICA	**2 034 854**	**1 964 421**	**1 754 044**	**1 602 640**	**1 682 624**	

Proportions and percentages usually provide a better understanding than absolute numbers.

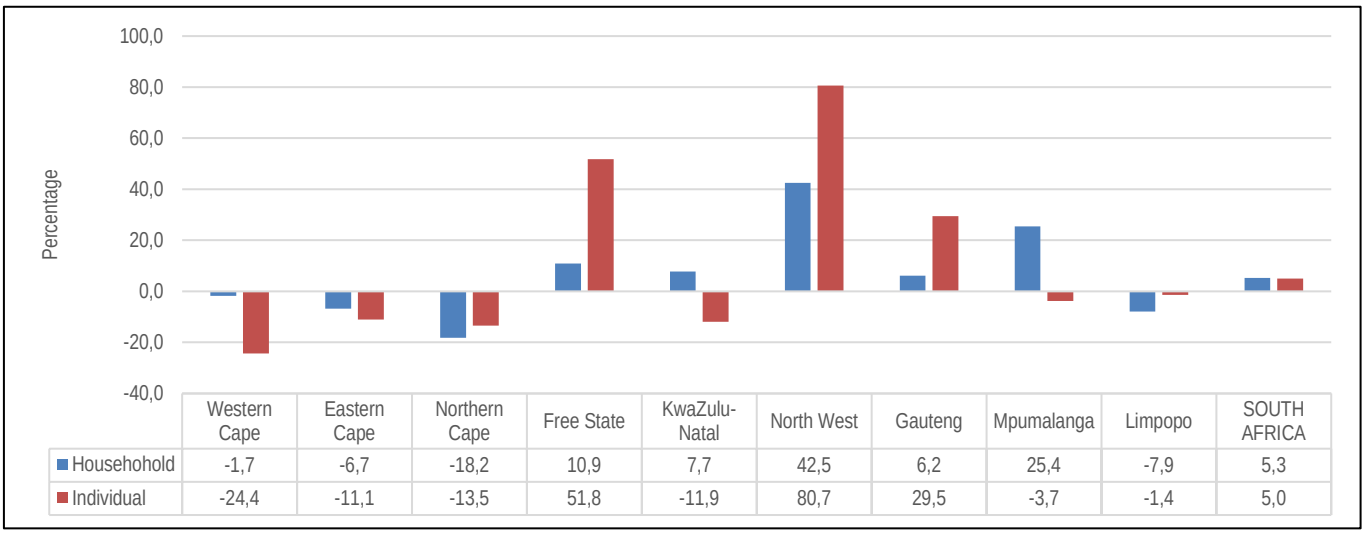
Table 4: Percentage of households and individuals affected by crime by province, 2013/14–2017/18

Household crime	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	Qty
Western Cape	13,4	13,9	11,1	9,0	8,7	
Eastern Cape	12,3	12,4	10,2	9,0	8,6	
Northern Cape	10,7	10,0	7,5	8,2	8,4	
Free State	6,8	6,9	7,2	5,7	7,3	
KwaZulu-Natal	10,5	9,1	7,5	7,8	8,5	
North West	9,9	7,2	7,2	6,3	6,4	
Gauteng	9,7	10,2	9,1	6,5	6,8	
Mpumalanga	11,5	9,7	9,0	6,5	8,9	
Limpopo	6,5	6,6	5,0	5,4	4,8	
SOUTH AFRICA	**10,2**	**9,9**	**8,5**	**7,2**	**7,5**	
MVI	109	107	109	106	124	
Individual crime						
Western Cape	7,6	7,0	6,5	5,4	4,6	
Eastern Cape	4,8	4,3	5,2	5,1	4,2	
Northern Cape	5,3	5,9	4,3	2,9	3,9	
Free State	5,0	4,8	3,3	3,5	5,0	
KwaZulu-Natal	3,2	3,1	2,3	2,3	1,8	
North West	4,9	4,5	3,6	3,1	5,0	
Gauteng	4,5	5,0	3,9	3,1	4,2	
Mpumalanga	5,2	3,5	4,3	4,1	3,4	
Limpopo	3,0	2,0	2,0	2,3	2,6	
SOUTH AFRICA	**4,7**	**4,4**	**3,9**	**3,5**	**3,7**	
MVI	104	105	105	105	119	

It is important to note that the statistics provided in Table 3 and Table 4 do not include crimes that are not covered by the VOCS, such as business robbery, cash in transit robbery, drug trafficking or illegal possession of firearms or ammunition, just to mention a few. The multiple victimisation index (MVI) tries to capture the multiplicity of crimes experienced by households or individuals in a particular year.

Figure 1 below gives a summary of the changes of the levels of crime between 2016/17 and 2017/18 for household and individual crimes.

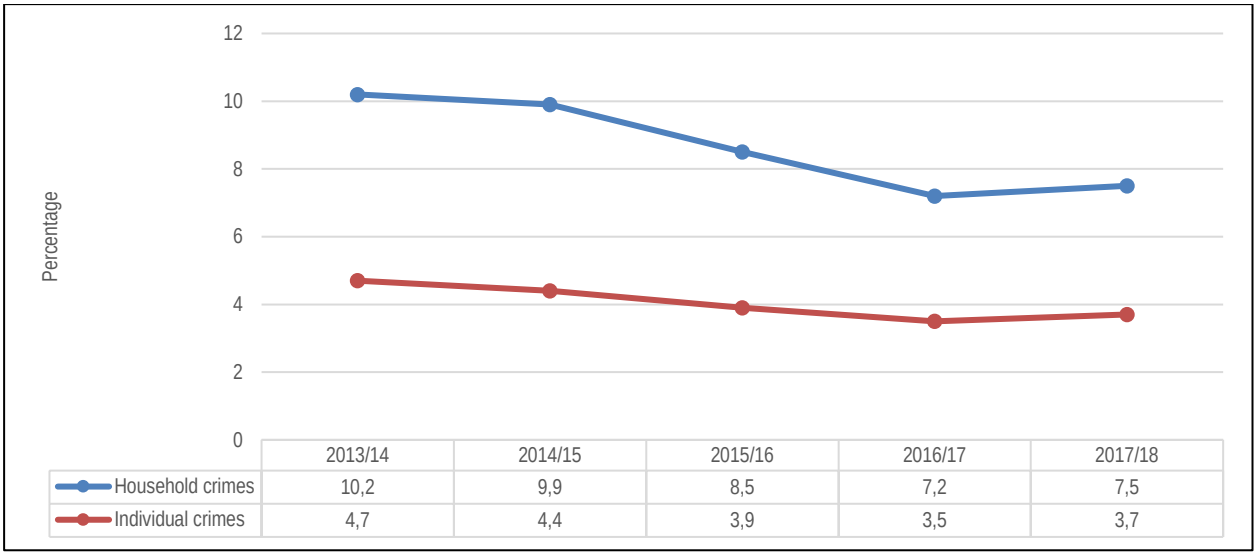
Figure 1: Percentage change of household and individual crime levels by province, 2016/17–2017/18



	Western Cape	Eastern Cape	Northern Cape	Free State	KwaZulu-Natal	North West	Gauteng	Mpumalanga	Limpopo	SOUTH AFRICA
Household	-1,7	-6,7	-18,2	10,9	7,7	42,5	6,2	25,4	-7,9	5,3
Individual	-24,4	-11,1	-13,5	51,8	-11,9	80,7	29,5	-3,7	-1,4	5,0

Figure 1 shows that between 2016/17 and 2017/18, five provinces have experienced an increase in household crime, while three have experienced an increase in individual crime. North West had the highest increase of both household (43%) and individual crime (81%), followed by Free State and Gauteng for individual crime.

Figure 2: Percentage of households and individuals that were victims of crime, 2013/14–2017/18



	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Household crimes	10,2	9,9	8,5	7,2	7,5
Individual crimes	4,7	4,4	3,9	3,5	3,7

Figure 2 shows that household and individual crime followed similar trends between 2013/14 and 2017/18, where both declined between 2013/14 and 2016/17, and both escalated between 2016/17 and 2017/18.

Table 5: Percentage of households and individuals who experienced crime according to gender and population group, 2017/18

Gender	Percentage of households	CV%	Percentage of individuals	CV%
Male	7,8	4	4,3	6
Female	7,1	4	3,1	7
Population group				
Black African	7,2	3	3,7	5
Coloured	7,4	10	3,9	14
Indian/Asian	11,7	16	1,9	39
White	8,5	10	3,8	15
SOUTH AFRICA	**7,5**	**3**	**3,7**	**4**

Male-headed households and individual males aged 16 year and older experienced significantly more crime in 2018/17 compared to female-headed households and females aged 16 years and older. Indian/Asian households (11,7%) were more likely to experience household crime compared to other population groups, while coloured individuals aged 16 and above (3,9%) were more likely to experience individual crime than other population groups.

4.2 Crime levels in 2017/18

In this section we look at statistics related to specific types of crime covered in VOCS. Estimates are provided for 2017/18. Changes between 2016/17 and 2017/18 are also discussed.

Table 6: Number of incidences, number of households affected and distribution of household crime experienced, 2017/18

Type of household crime	Number of crime incidences experienced by households	CV%	Number of households that experienced crime (%)	Percentage of total household crimes experienced	CV%
Theft of motor vehicle	56 526	15	54 092 (0,33)	4	14
Housebreaking or burglary	832 122	5	705 569 (4,25)	54	4
Home robbery	156 089	9	133 549 (0,80)	10	9
Theft of livestock, poultry and other anima	159 421	10	127 826 (0,77)	10	8
Theft of crops planted by the household	11 493	38	8 252 (0,05)	1	33
Murder	16 809	31	12 585 (0,08)	1	25
Theft out of motor vehicle	130 350	11	112 063 (2,35)	8	9
Deliberate damaging, burning, destruction of buildings	50 426	19	38 143 (0,23)	3	14
Motor vehicle vandalism/deliberate damage of motor vehicle	40 155	16	40 155 (0,24)	3	16
Theft of bicycle	29 264	20	29 264 (0,18)	2	20
Other crimes	63 045	13	54 556 (0,33)	4	13
SOUTH AFRICA	**1 545 701**	**4**	**1 244 152 (7,5)**	**100**	

Table 6 shows that housebreaking or burglary constituted 54% of all household crimes surveyed by VOCS. According to SAPS 2017/18 statistics, burglary also had the highest figure among the community-reported serious crimes. The least experienced crimes were murder and theft of crops, where 1% of households experienced these crimes.

Figure 3: Comparison of distribution of household crime, 2016/17–2017/18

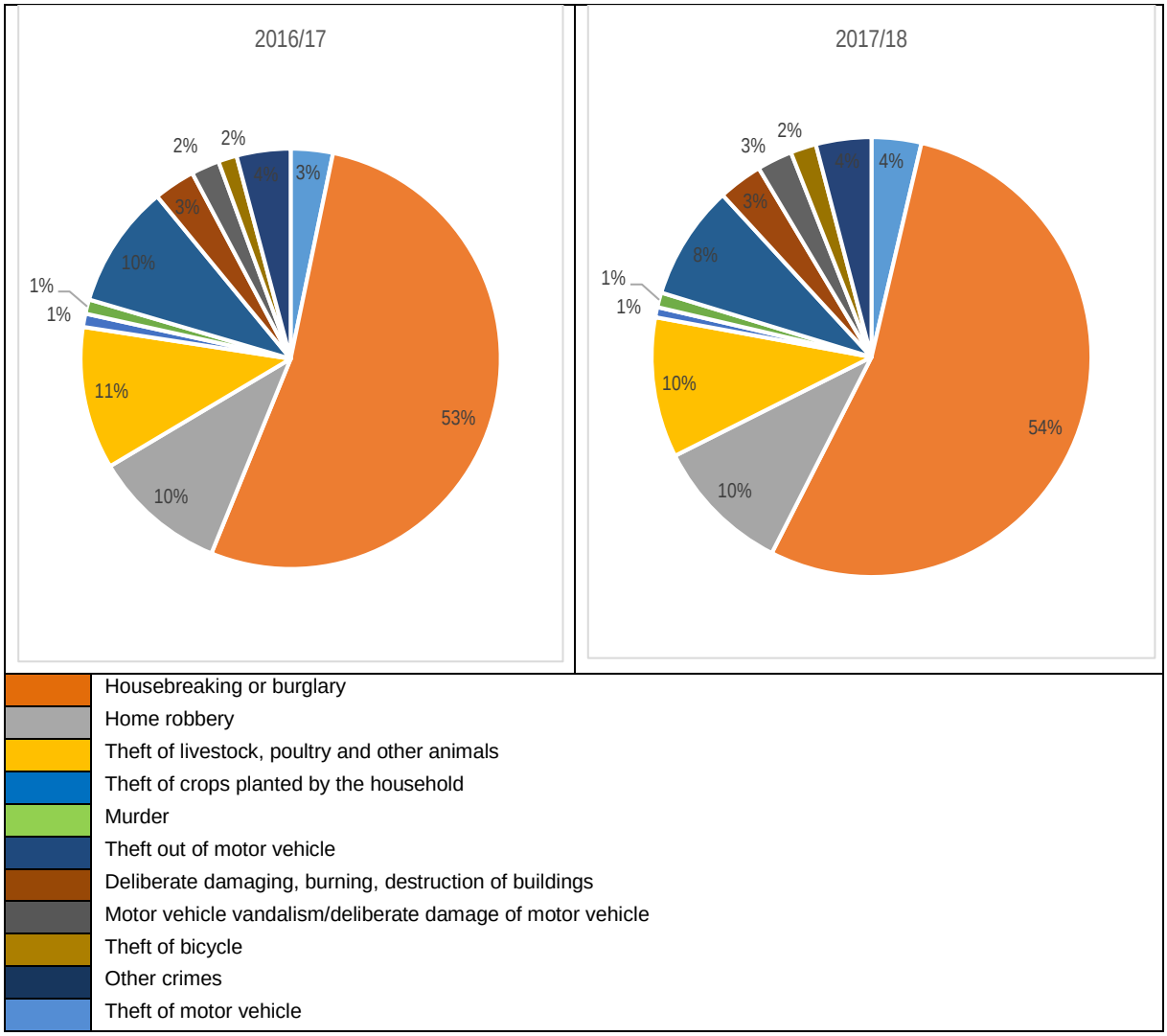


Figure 3 shows that housebreaking or burglary continues to be the dominant household crime, accounting for about 54% of all household crimes in 2017/18.

Table 7: Number of incidences, number of individuals affected and distribution of individual crime experienced, 2017/18

Type of individual crime	Number of crime incidences experienced by individuals	CV%	Number of individuals who experienced crime %	Percentage of total individual crimes experienced	CV%
Theft of personal property	693 219	6	663 477 (1,72)	41,2	6
Hijacking of motor vehicle	34 880	27	34 880 (0,09)	2,1	27
Robbery	280 526	12	258 910 (0,67)	16,7	11
Sexual offence	28 596	35	22 694 (0,06)	1,7	33
Assault	355 739	13	277 397 (0,72)	21,1	10
Consumer fraud	137 274	29	89 065 (0,23)	8,2	18
Corruption	134 442	18	116 014 (0,30)	8,0	16
Other crimes	17 949	44	9 956 (0,03)	1,1	39
SOUTH AFRICA	**1 682 624**	**6**	**1 417 731 (4,0)**	**100**	

In 2017/18, over 1,6 million individuals aged 16 years and above were victims of crime, of which 74% experienced theft of personal property, robbery or assault.

Figure 4: Comparison of distribution of individual crime, 2016/17–2017/18

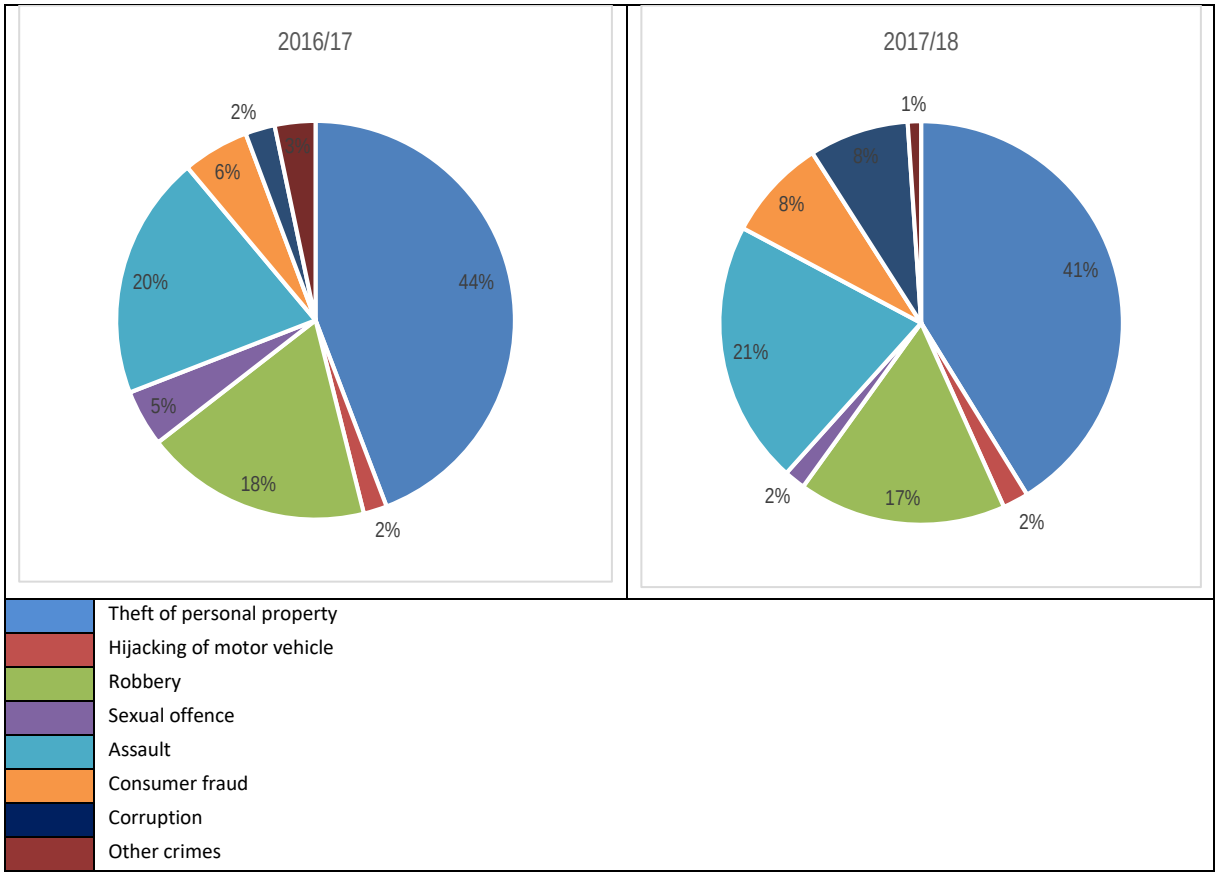


Figure 4 shows that the theft of personal property, assault and robbery were the most common crimes against individual adults 16 years and older in 2017/18.

5. HOUSEHOLD EXPERIENCE OF CRIME

In this chapter, household crime statistics are presented according to the type of crime. The Victims of Crime Survey (VOCS) focuses on thirteen types of household crime and seven types of crimes against individuals. Crimes against individuals will be discussed in the next chapter. The household crimes measured in VOCS are theft of motor vehicle, housebreaking or burglary, home robbery, theft of livestock/poultry and other animals, theft of crops planted by households, murder, trafficking in persons, theft out of motor vehicles, deliberate damaging/burning/destruction of dwellings, motor vehicle vandalism/deliberate damage of motor vehicles, theft of bicycles, sexual offence, and assault. For definitions of these crimes, refer to Annexure B. No estimates for trafficking in persons will be presented, as the number of households that experienced this type of crime is too small.

Every section will have a graph showing a five-year trend for the particular type of crime covered in that section. Disaggregated statistics will be presented only when the majority of the estimates are of acceptable quality.

5.1 Theft of motor vehicle

Estimates of the total number and percentages of households affected by motor vehicle theft in 2017/18 are presented according to the gender and population group of the household head.

Information on the household ownership of motor vehicles for various groups of people in South Africa may provide useful information when analysing the profiles of victims of theft of motor vehicles later in the section.

Table 8: Distribution of vehicle ownership by gender and population group of household head, 2017/18

Indicator	Number of vehicles	CV%	Percentage of households	CV%
Gender of the household head				
Male	3 623 088	2	37,2	1
Female	1 392 177	4	20,3	3
Population group of the household head				
Black African	2 704 131	3	20,2	2
Coloured	467 622	6	38,9	4
Indian/Asian	314 963	8	82,0	3
White	1 528 550	4	91,6	1
SOUTH AFRICA	**5 015 266**	**2**	**30,2**	**1**

Household ownership of motor vehicles according to the population group of the household head is highlighted in the bar chart below:

Figure 5: Percentage distribution of household vehicle ownership by population group of the household head, 2016/17–2017/18

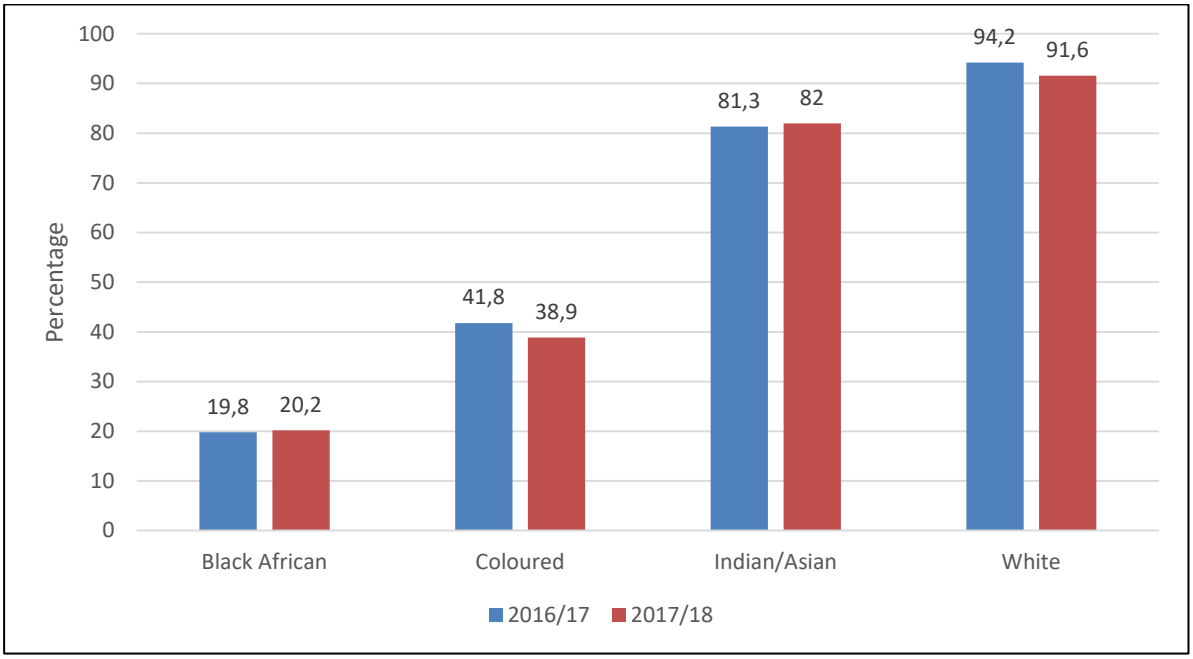


Figure 5 shows that two out of ten black African households owned a motor vehicle, in working condition, while more than nine in ten of white households owned a motor vehicle in a working condition. The distribution of motor vehicle ownership is the same as that of 2016/17.

It is useful to examine the trend in motor vehicle theft over a number of years. As indicated in the introduction, two trends are presented: one is the estimate of the number of households that experienced motor vehicle theft in the past twelve months, and the other is the number of vehicles and motorcycles reported as stolen to the police (SAPS). Stolen vehicles reported to SAPS include commercial vehicles while VOCS estimates only reflect stolen motor vehicles owned by households.

Table 9: Trends in motor vehicle theft estimated from VOCS, 2013/14–2017/18

Statistic	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Number of incidents (CV%)	57 415 (15)	67 104 (12)	57 783 (14)	47 586 (15)	56 526 (15)
Number of households that experienced at least one incident (CV%)	53 172 (15)	62 819 (12)	57 783 (14)	45 593 (14)	54 092 (14)
Percentage of households that experienced at least one incident (CV%)	***	***	1,26 (14)	0,95 (14)	0,33 (14)
Repeat victimisation index (CV%)	108 (5)	107 (3)	100 (0)	104 (4)	104 (4)

*Vehicle ownership was not asked in this period

Table 9 shows that between 2016/17 and 2017/18 theft of motor vehicles increased from 47 586 to 56 526 incidences. This was an increase of 19%.

SAPS statistics combines theft of motor vehicles with theft of motor cycles, unlike VOCS, which reports only on the former. The number of motor vehicles and motor cycles reported as stolen to the police (SAPS) are presented in Table 10. The VOCS estimates cannot be disaggregated by province like the SAPS data because of the small number of incidences recorded during the survey.

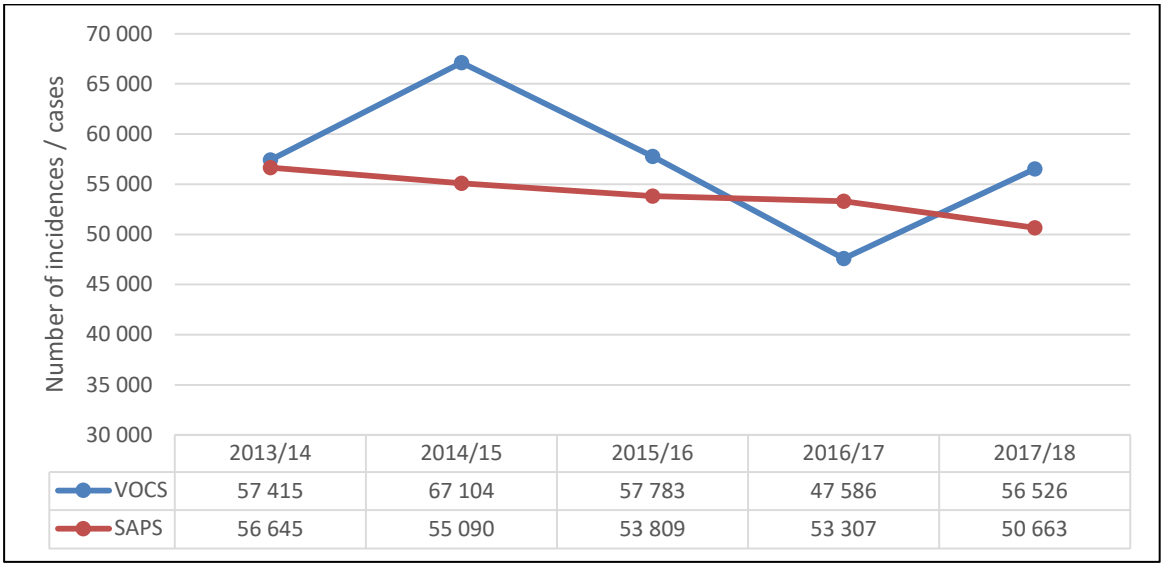
Table 10: Theft of motor vehicles and motor cycles reported to the police, 2013/14–2017/18

Province	Number of reported cases				
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Western Cape	9 460	8 918	8 378	7 381	7 104
Eastern Cape	3 376	3 276	2 678	2 739	2 443
Northern Cape	321	327	246	219	233
Free State	2 022	1 743	1 745	1 588	1 596
KwaZulu-Natal	8 674	8 404	8 673	8 413	8 240
North West	2 039	1 984	2 070	2 068	2 112
Gauteng	27 436	27 147	26 646	27 674	25 705
Mpumalanga	2 340	2 303	2 222	2 208	2 206
Limpopo	977	988	1 151	1 017	1 024
SOUTH AFRICA	**56 645**	**55 090**	**53 809**	**53 307**	**50 663**

Source: SAPS Crime Statistics, https://www.saps.gov.za/services/crimestats.php

It is unfortunate that SAPS data do not separate motor vehicle and motor cycle theft. This makes it difficult to compare the two series.

Figure 6: Trends in theft of motor vehicles and reporting of motor vehicle theft to the police, 2013/14–2017/18



Between 2014/15 and 2016/17, both series show declining trends, although VOCS declined more rapidly than SAPS. VOCS shows a sharp increase in theft of motor vehicles between 2016/17 and 2017/18. It must be remembered that the SAPS statistics include motor cycles and non-private vehicles, while VOCS counts only motor vehicles owned by households.

Table 11: Percentage of theft of motor vehicles reported to the police by gender and population group of the household head and insurance status, 2016/17–2017/18

Indicator	Percentage in 2016/17	CV%	Percentage in 2017/18	CV%
Gender of the household head				
Male	81	7	77	10
Female	100	0	81	10
Population group of the household head				
Black African	81	9	74	10
Coloured	87	11	100	0
Indian/Asian	100	0	85	18
White	94	7	79	17
Insurance				
Insured	100	0	95	5
Not insured	91	7	81	9
SOUTH AFRICA	**86**	**5**	**78**	**7**

Table 11 shows a significant decline in the percentage of motor vehicle thefts that are reported to the police (from 86% to 78%). Among the stolen motor vehicles that were insured, however, 95% of the thefts were reported to the police in 2017/18. Among the non-insured, 91% and 81% were reported to the police in 2016/17 and 2017/18, respectively. Population group seems to be a factor associated with the reporting of motor vehicle thefts, where black Africans had the lowest reporting rates in both years and coloureds had the highest reporting rate in 2017/18. Among black African households who had cars stolen, only 32% had car insurance while 70% of white households had car insurance. 37% of male-headed households had car insurance, while 50% of female-headed households had car insurance.

5.2 Housebreaking/burglary

Housebreaking or burglary accounts for 54% of all household crimes covered by VOCS and for about 14% of community reported serious crimes released by SAPS in 2017/18. In both cases it is the dominant type of crime. In this section, five-year series of VOCS housebreaking estimates are presented together with burglary at residential premises released by SAPS. The purpose is to visualise the trends in order to determine the commonalities of the data sources with respect to burglary.

Table 12: Trends in housebreaking/burglary, 2013/14–2017/18

Statistic	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Number of incidents (CV%)	940 954 (5)	874 606 (4)	844 982 (4)	776 933 (4)	832 122 (5)
Number of households that experienced at least one incident (CV%)	714 089 (4)	767 917 (4)	727 130 (4)	647 340 (4)	705 569 (4)
Percentage of households that experienced at least one incident (CV%)	4,86 (4)	5,07 (4)	4,66 (4)	4,04 (4)	4,25 (4)
Repeat victimisation index (CV%)	132 (4)	114 (2)	116 (2)	120 (2)	118 (2)

Table 12 shows a steady decline in housebreaking incidences between 2013/14 and 2016/17, but then an increase to 832 122 incidences in 2017/18.

Table 13: Housebreaking or burglary reported to the police, 2013/14–2017/18

Province	Number of reported cases				
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Western Cape	50 503	47 783	47 569	46 043	42 662
Eastern Cape	24 643	24 329	23 901	24 385	23 758
Northern Cape	6 013	6 204	6 469	6 518	6 228
Free State	16 314	15 618	15 323	14 635	13 463
KwaZulu-Natal	43 969	43 274	42 429	41 013	38 545
North West	15 388	15 687	15 568	15 908	15 267
Gauteng	67 988	66 172	64 968	63 661	56 255
Mpumalanga	18 489	18 183	18 162	18 507	17 565
Limpopo	16 477	16 466	16 217	15 984	14 351
SOUTH AFRICA	**259 784**	**253 716**	**250 606**	**246 654**	**228 094**

Source: SAPS Crime Statistics, https://www.saps.gov.za/services/crimestats.php

At national level, the VOCS estimates are more than three times those of the SAPS. This is to be expected, because not all burglaries are reported to the police.

Figure 7: Trends in housebreaking/burglary and reporting to the police, 2013/14–2017/18

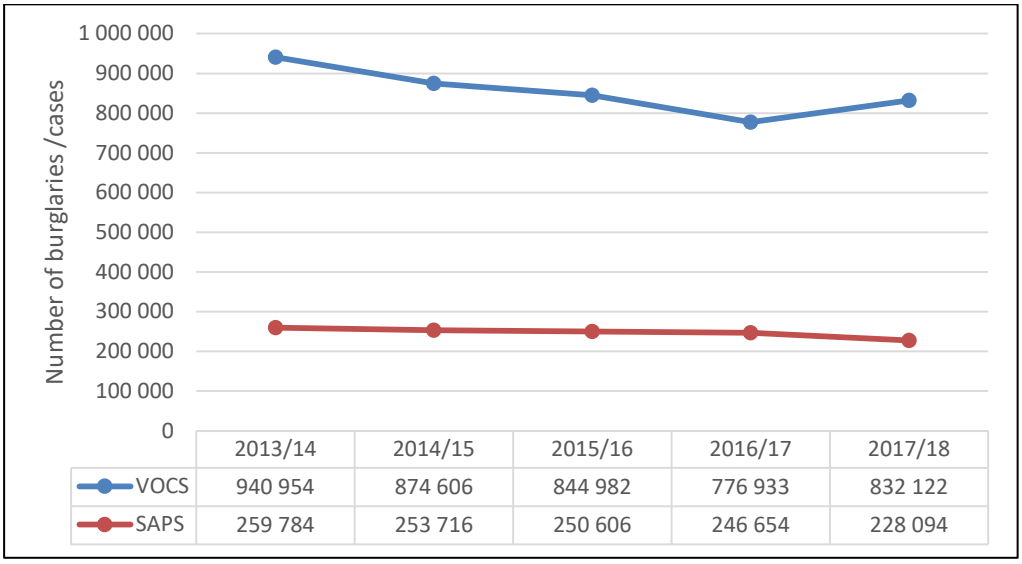


Figure 7 shows that both VOCS estimates and SAPS reported cases declined between 2013/14 and 2016/17, although the rate of decline for SAPS was much slower than for VOCS. SAPS figures continued to decline in 2017/18 while the VOCS estimate of the number of housebreaking incidences increased. This is unexpected, as the estimated rate of reporting housebreaking to the police remained the same, as shown in Table 14 below.

Table 14: Percentage of housebreaking or burglary reported to the police by gender and population group of the household head, province and geographical area, 2016/17–2017/18

Indicator	Percentage in 2016/17	CV%	Percentage in 2017/18	CV%
Gender of the household head				
Male	54	4	50	5
Female	46	6	53	5
Population group of the household head				
Black African	46	4	46	4
Coloured	63	11	64	10
Indian/Asian	71	14	76	12
White	86	5	80	6
Geographical area				
Metro	***	***	54	5
Rural	***	***	32	29
Urban	***	***	50	5
Province				
Western Cape	64	9	58	11
Eastern Cape	40	13	40	12
Northern Cape	78	8	39	18
Free State	72	11	72	8
KwaZulu-Natal	47	9	46	9
North West	56	13	52	15
Gauteng	49	7	53	7
Mpumalanga	42	18	52	12
Limpopo	43	14	54	12
SOUTH AFRICA	**51**	**4**	**51**	**4**

Nationally, the proportion of households that reported housebreaking or burglary to the police remained the same as in 2016/17 at 51%. The provincial reporting rates remained essentially the same except for the Northern Cape, where the number of households that reported housebreaking to the police dropped sharply from 78% to 39%. The rates for reporting to the police were significantly higher in the metro and urban areas compared to the rural areas. This may be due to better accessibility of police stations in metro and urban areas when compared to rural areas.

Table 15: Distribution of housebreaking/burglary by gender and population group of the household head, province and geographical area, 2017/18

Indicator	Number of incidences of housebreaking/burglary experienced by households	CV%	Percentage of households that experienced at least one housebreaking/burglary	CV%
Gender of the household head				
Male	504 732	6	4,4	5
Female	327 390	7	4,1	6
Population group*				
Black African	683 178	5	4,3	4
Coloured	58 029	14	4,3	13
Indian/Asian	30 010	27	5,9	24
White	60 904	16	3,4	16
Province				
Western Cape	97 918	13	4,5	12
Eastern Cape	97 573	16	4,4	11
Northern Cape	23 678	23	5,2	17
Free State	35 912	19	3,6	18
KwaZulu-Natal	188 383	11	5,4	8
North West	55 687	20	3,3	16
Gauteng	209 511	8	3,8	8
Mpumalanga	74 781	14	5,3	12
Limpopo	48 679	15	2,9	15
Geographical area				
Metro	369 522	8	4,2	6
Rural	34 641	19	3,0	18
Urban	427 959	6	4,5	5
SOUTH AFRICA	**832 122**	**5**	**4,25**	**4**

*of the household head

It is estimated that 832 122 incidences of housebreaking or burglary took place in 2017/18, affecting 4,25% of households in South Africa. This is an increase of 7% from 2016/17. Northern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga had the highest proportion of households affected by housebreaking, while Limpopo had the lowest proportion of households affected by housebreaking. The Indian/Asian population group had the highest proportion of housebreakings and the white population group had the lowest. The difference between male- and female-headed households was marginal, but a greater proportion of male-headed than female-headed households experienced housebreakings.

Table 16: Percentage of household goods stolen during housebreaking/burglary by type, 2017/18

Item stolen	Percentage	CV%
Handbag/wallet	8,3	12
Money	20,4	8
Electronic equipment (e.g. laptop)	21,0	8
Travelling bag	6,9	15
Food stuff	22,2	7
Personal effects (e.g. watches)	17,6	8
Cell phones	23,6	7
Clothes	31,6	5
TV	***	***
Radio	16,4	9
Bicycle	1,9	25
Other	31,1	5

Clothes was the most common (31,6%) item stolen during housebreaking in 2017/18, followed by cell phones and food. Bicycles were the least likely items to be stolen during housebreaking. It is estimated that 1,9% of households lost bicycles during burglary.

Table 17 gives a summary of reasons for not reporting housebreaking to the police.

Table 17: Reasons for not reporting housebreaking to the police, 2017/18

Reason for not reporting housebreaking/burglary to the police	Percentage	CV%
Solved it myself/perpetrator known to me	4,7	22
Inappropriate for police/police not necessary	11,6	14
Reported to other authorities instead	3,2	28
My family resolved it	6,3	23
No insurance	2,1	37
Police could do nothing/lack of proof	52,8	5
Fear/dislike of the police/no involvement wanted with police	2,1	36
Did not dare (fear of reprisal)	1,1	46
Other reasons	14,4	13
Do not know	1,0	50

"Police could do nothing" accounted for 52,8% of the reasons given by household representatives for not reporting housebreaking to the police. This reason for not reporting housebreaking to the police has been the dominant reason for the past five years.

Victim satisfaction with police handling of crime reported to them is an important indicator of progress in the war against crime. Satisfaction with the police may encourage communities to work with the police in the fight against crime. Table 18 provides a summary of the levels of satisfaction among different groups.

Table 18: Satisfaction with the police by gender, population group of the household head, geographical area and province, 2017/18

Indicator	Percentage	CV%
Gender of the household head		
Male	33	9
Female	33	12
Population group of the household head		
Black African	30	9
Coloured	30	24
Indian/Asian	38	34
White	53	17
Geographical area		
Metro	33	12
Rural	22	59
Urban	33	10
Province		
Western Cape	38	18
Eastern Cape	42	19
Northern Cape	52	21
Free State	43	19
KwaZulu-Natal	29	19
North West	25	40
Gauteng	28	19
Mpumalanga	37	20
Limpopo	26	29
SOUTH AFRICA	**33**	**8**

Over 33% of households that reported housebreaking were satisfied with the police response. There was no difference in the percentage of satisfied households between those headed by males and those headed by females. Whites were the population group that was most satisfied (53%) with the police response compared to other groups. Households in Northern Cape, Free State and Eastern Cape were the most satisfied with the police response when compared to other provinces.

5.3 Home robbery

Home robbery is a type of robbery that happens at residential premises when there is contact between perpetrators and one or more household members. Typically, the victims are subdued by force when the crime is committed. This makes home robbery a more violent crime than housebreaking, where there is, per definition, no contact between perpetrators and victims when the crime is committed. The term "Robbery at residential premises" is the expression used by SAPS that has the same meaning as home robbery.

Nationally it is estimated that 156 089 home robberies were committed in 2017/18. This is an increase of 3% from last year's estimate.

Table 19 presents the time series of the total number of home robberies, total number of households affected by home robberies, proportion of households that experienced at least one home robbery in the last year, and the multiple victimisation index.

Table 19: Trends in home robbery, 2013/14–2017/18

Statistic	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Number of incidents (CV%)	268 639 (7)	208 401 (8)	187 830 (7)	151 279 (9)	156 089 (9)
Number of households that experienced at least one incident (CV%)	234,045 (7)	182 692 (7)	171 739 (7)	128 206 (8)	133 549 (8)
Percentage of households that experienced at least one incident (CV%)	1,59 (7)	1,21 (7)	1,10 (7)	0,80 (8)	0,80 (9)
Repeat victimisation index (CV%)	115 (3)	114 (4)	109 (2)	118 (4)	115 (4)

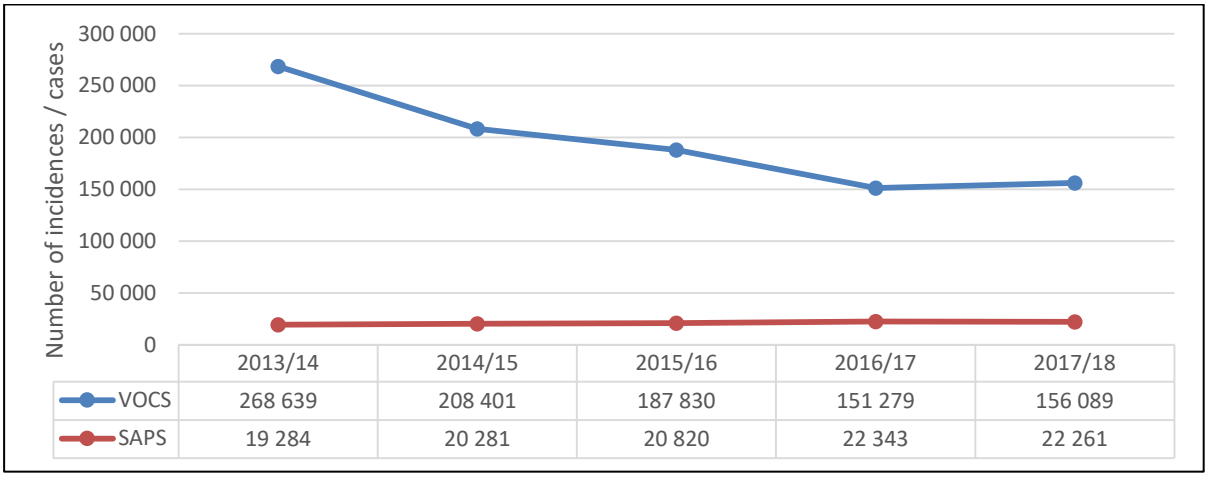
Due to sample limitations, VOCS cannot produce accurate provincial estimates of home robbery for all provinces. The SAPS provincial breakdown of home robbery or robbery at residential premises is summarised in Table 20.

Table 20: Robbery at residential premises reported to the police by province, 2013/14–2017/18

	Number of reported cases				
Province	**2013/14**	**2014/15**	**2015/16**	**2016/17**	**2017/18**
Western Cape	1 878	2 158	2 574	2 560	2 787
Eastern Cape	1 924	1 811	2 054	2 171	2 184
Northern Cape	110	123	106	142	159
Free State	753	718	773	875	864
KwaZulu-Natal	4 099	3 958	4 082	4 255	4 174
North West	1 004	1 110	1 065	1 290	1 145
Gauteng	7 438	8 174	7 896	8 731	8 333
Mpumalanga	1 118	1 112	1 080	1 138	1 125
Limpopo	960	1 117	1 190	1 181	1 490
SOUTH AFRICA	**19 284**	**20 281**	**20 820**	**22 343**	**22 261**

Source: SAPS Crime Statistics, https://www.saps.gov.za/services/crimestats.php

Figure 8: Home robbery and reporting of robbery at residential places to the police, 2013/14–2017/18



The home robbery trends for VOCS and SAPS data moved in different directions between 2013/14 and 2016/17. It is quite possible for incidences of home robbery to decline, and for the rate of reporting the crime to the police to increase, possibly as more people gain better access to police stations.

Table 21: Percentage of home robberies reported to the police by gender and population group of the household head, geographical area and province, 2016/17–2017/18

Indicator	Percentage in 2016/17	CV%	Percentage in 2017/18	CV%
Gender of the household head				
Male	59	4	62	8
Female	43	15	55	12
Population group of the household head				
Black African	47	10	58	8
Coloured	54	21	70	20
Indian/Asian	***	***	36	51
White	73	14	71	16
Geographical area				
Metro	***	***	59	10
Rural	***	***	39	62
Urban	***	***	59	9
Province				
Western Cape	75	12	71	15
Eastern Cape	40	29	47	22
Northern Cape	59	48	79	17
Free State	***	***	75	18
KwaZulu-Natal	64	14	64	15
North West	40	43	59	35
Gauteng	51	14	55	15
Mpumalanga	42	27	73	17
Limpopo	31	40	33	41
SOUTH AFRICA	**53**	**8**	**59**	**7**

As remarked earlier, accurate provincial estimates of home robbery reporting rates could be calculated for seven provinces, while estimates from the other two provinces are not usable. Mpumalanga, Northern Cape, Free State and Western Cape had the highest (over 70%) percentage of robbed households that reported to the police. In the case of Mpumalanga, the jump in the reporting rate from 42% in 2016/17 to 73% in 2017/18 is quite drastic and needs further investigation.

Table 22: Home robberies experienced by gender and population group of the household head, geographical area and province, 2017/18

Indicator	Number of incidences of home robberies experienced by households	CV%	Percentage of households that experienced at least one home robbery	CV%
Gender of the household head				
Male	83 944	13	0,72	12
Female	72 145	13	0,93	13
Population group of the household head				
Black African	117 961	11	0,76	10
Coloured	11 939	34	0,69	33
Indian/Asian	11 492	42	2,33	44
White	14 697	26	0,85	26
Geographical area				
Metro	76 640	14	0,92	13
Rural	4 816	54	0,31	51
Urban	74 633	14	0,76	12
Province				
Western Cape	16 792	25	0,85	24
Eastern Cape	19 223	23	0,94	22
Northern Cape	5 617	42	0,96	33
Free State	8 281	35	0,76	33
KwaZulu-Natal	26 673	24	0,83	23
North West	6 187	41	0,45	41
Gauteng	45 679	18	0,84	17
Mpumalanga	12 475	31	0,82	29
Limpopo	15 162	39	0,68	27
SOUTH AFRICA	**156 089**	**9**	**0,80**	**9**

It is estimated that nearly 1% of South African households were victims of home robbery in 2017/18. While housebreaking seems to target male-headed households more than female-headed households, it is the other way around for home robbery. The difference between victimisation rates between different population groups with respect to home robbery appears to be significant.

5.4 Theft of poultry, livestock and other animals

In the case of theft of livestock, poultry and other animals, it is reasonable to include a disaggregation of statistics according to geographical areas, as animals are kept mostly in rural areas. The geographical classification used here has three categories, namely metro, urban and rural. Metro areas are Cape Town, Johannesburg, Ekurhuleni, eThekwini, Nelson Mandela Bay, Tshwane, Mangaung and Buffalo City.

Table 23 presents estimates of the number of incidences of theft of livestock, poultry and other animals, the number of households affected, percentage of households affected and multiple victimisation index for the period 2013/14 to 2017/18. An estimated total of 159 421 incidences of theft of livestock, poultry and other animals were experienced by South Africans in 2017/18, which is a decrease of 1% from 2016/17. Almost 1% of South African households were affected by this crime.

Table 23: Trends in theft of livestock, poultry and other animals, 2013/14–2017/18

Statistic	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Number of incidents (CV%)	253 373 (8)	164 710 (8)	148 785 (8)	161 063 (10)	159 421 (10)
Number of households that experienced at least one incident (CV%)	190 135 (6)	138 397 (7)	124 913 (8)	115 953 (8)	127 826 (10)
Percentage of households that experienced at least one incident (CV%)	1,30 (6)	0,92 (7)	0,80 (8)	0,73 (8)	0,77 (10)
Repeat victimisation index (CV%)	133 (4)	119 (4)	119 (4)	139 (7)	114 (4)

The SAPS crime type that is closest to the VOCS theft of livestock, poultry and other animals is stock theft. Stock theft, however, includes theft of agricultural produce. A fair comparison can be done when theft of livestock, poultry and other animals is combined with theft of crops planted by households.

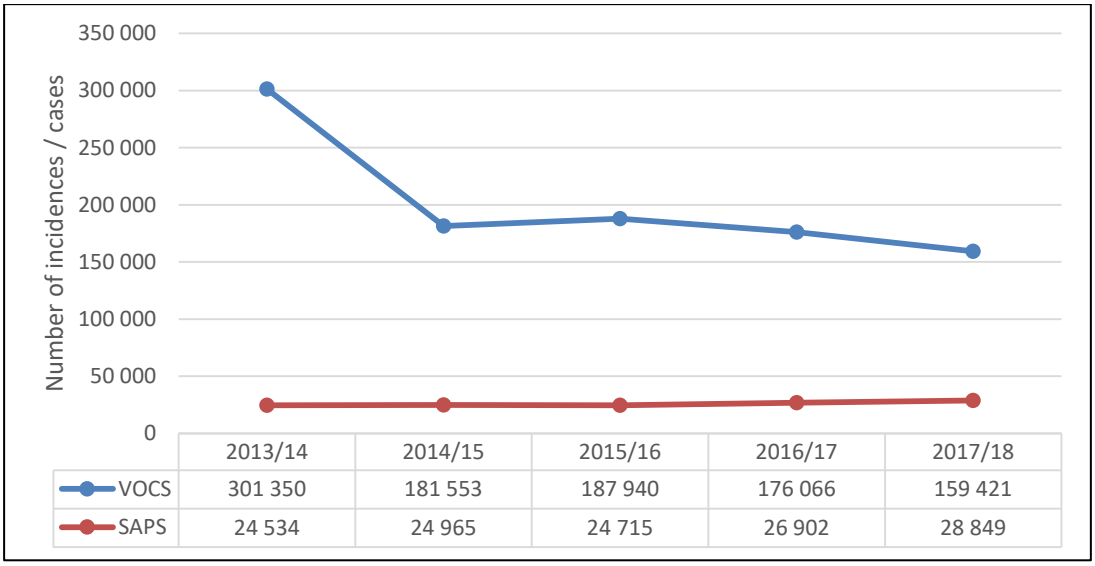
Table 24: Stock theft reported to the police by province, 2013/14–2017/18

	Number of reported cases				
Province	**2013/14**	**2014/15**	**2015/16**	**2016/17**	**2017/18**
Western Cape	789	831	861	885	953
Eastern Cape	5 808	6 087	5 809	6 023	6 217
Northern Cape	1 211	1 331	1 332	1 356	1 558
Free State	4 051	3 527	3 466	3 677	4 032
KwaZulu-Natal	5 754	5 956	5 731	5 959	6 322
North West	2 388	2 574	2 605	3 192	3 447
Gauteng	784	801	818	987	998
Mpumalanga	2 182	2 192	2 337	2 867	3 135
Limpopo	1 567	1 666	1 756	1 956	2 187
SOUTH AFRICA	**24 534**	**24 965**	**24 715**	**26 902**	**28 849**

Source: SAPS Crime Statistics, https://www.saps.gov.za/services/crimestats.php

Stock theft as referred to in Figure 9, is based on the expanded SAPS definition of stock theft, which combines animals and agricultural produce statistics. Thus, the VOCS data in Figure 9 combine theft of livestock, poultry and other animals and theft of crops planted by households to make it comparable to SAPS figures.

Figure 9: Theft of livestock and reporting of stock and crop theft to the police, 2013/14–2017/18



Theft of stock and crops reported to the police has in general been increasing between 2013/14 and 2017/18, while the VOCS reported a decrease in the incidence of theft of livestock, poultry and other animals for the same period.

Table 25: Percentage of theft of livestock, poultry and other animals reported to the police by gender and population group of the household head and geographical area, 2016/17–2017/18

Gender of the household head	Percentage in 2016/17	CV%	Percentage in 2017/18	CV%
Male	35	15	34	14
Female	19	23	23	20
Population group of the household head				
Black African	25	15	28	12
Coloured	26	66	***	***
Indian/Asian	***	***	***	***
White	61	32	65	27
Geographical area				
Metro	***	***	***	***
Rural	***	***	38	31
Urban	***	***	30	12
SOUTH AFRICA	26	13	29	12

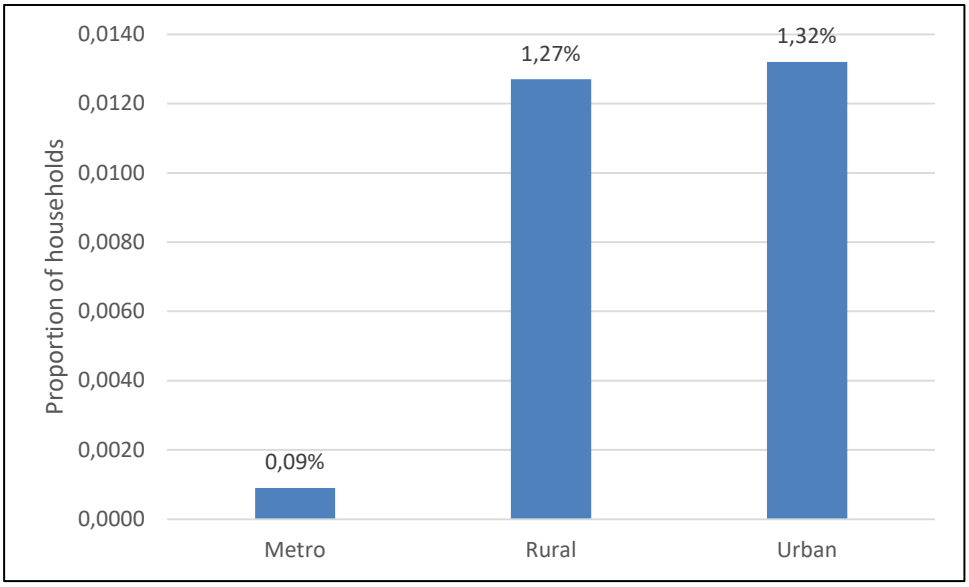
In both 2016/17 and 2017/18, female-headed households tended to report theft of livestock, poultry and other animals less than male-headed households. In general, the reporting rate of this crime is very low compared to the reporting rates of other crimes.

Table 26: Distribution of theft of poultry/livestock by gender of the household head, geographical area and province, 2017/18

Indicator	Number of incidences	CV%	Percentage of households	CV%
Gender of the head of household				
Male	90 125	13	0,73	10
Female	69 297	15	0,83	12
Geographical area				
Metro	6 327	32	0,09	32
Rural	14 984	27	1,27	24
Urban	138 110	11	1,32	9
Province				
Western Cape	4 120	70	0,11	58
Eastern Cape	36 007	13	2,00	13
Northern Cape	2 639	41	0,66	40
Free State	12 478	28	1,19	27
KwaZulu-Natal	47 610	24	1,18	17
North West	15 586	28	1,08	28
Gauteng	8 003	58	0,06	52
Mpumalanga	22 459	29	1,45	20
Limpopo	10 519	27	0,63	27
SOUTH AFRICA	**159 421**	**10**	**0,77**	**8**

Theft of livestock, poultry and other animals was experienced significantly more in the rural and urban areas than in the metro areas.

Figure 10: Percentage of households that experienced theft of livestock, poultry or other animals by geographical area, 2017/18



The non-metro areas dominate in the percentage of households that experienced theft of livestock, poultry and other animals. This is to be expected, as farming is not a main economic activity in metropolitan areas.

Table 27 below presents the number of animals/poultry stolen during theft of livestock, poultry and other animals as well as the proportion of households that suffered loss from theft.

Table 27: Number of animals stolen and percentage of households that suffered loss, 2017/18

Type of animal	Number of animals stolen	CV%	Percentage of households that suffered loss	CV%
Cattle	177 310	33	23,8	13
Rabbits	***	100	***	
Pigs	10 467	43	3,7	35
Sheep	269 226	35	19,0	17
Goats	170 316	22	30,6	12
Poultry (chicken, ducks, etc.)	213 560	27	26,5	12
Dogs (excl. pets)	1 507	71	1,5	60
Horses, donkeys, mules	8 392	50	2,1	45
Other	16 469	98	***	***
SOUTH AFRICA	**927 699**	**17**	**0,7**	**8**

An estimated total of 927 699 animals and poultry were stolen in South Africa in 2017/18, of which 23,8% were cattle, 30,6% were goats and 26,5% were poultry. Only the estimates on the number of cattle, goats, poultry and the total are of acceptable quality; the other estimates should not be used. About 9,8% of households that lost livestock knew who stole their livestock. There is sufficient statistical evidence (at 5% level of significance) of association between knowing the perpetrator of theft of livestock, poultry and other animals, and reporting of theft to the police.

5.5 Theft of crops planted by household

Only thirty-seven households out of 21 190 surveyed reported that they experienced theft of crops during the past twelve months, and none of them were located in rural areas. The population estimate of the total number of incidences of theft of crops for 2017/18 is 11 493. This is a decrease of 21% since 2015/16. We cannot use the 2016/17 figure because of the poor quality of the estimate.

Table 28: Trends in theft of crops planted by the household, 2013/14–2017/18

Statistic	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Number of incidences (CV%)	47 977 (23)	16 843 (22)	39 155 (26)	15 003 (65)	11 493 (38)
Number of households that experienced at least one incident (CV%)	28 005 (17)	14 870 (23)	25 552 (17)	6 031 (32)	8 252 (38)
Proportion of households that experienced at least one incident (CV%)	0,0019 (17)	0,001 (23)	0,0016 (17)	0,00042 (32)	0,05 (33)
Repeat victimisation index for crop theft (CV%)	171 (16)	113 (7)	153 (20)	249 (57)	111 (7)

5.6 Murder

Murder is another crime that had a very low count among households interviewed. Only 30 out of a total 21 190 households reported that they were victims of murder during the past year. Therefore, the lowest level of disaggregation possible is by geographical area, as given in Table 31.

An estimated 16 809 people were murdered in South Africa in 2017/18. The term "murder" in VOCS includes what SAPS refers to as "culpable homicide or unintentional killing of a human being". The SAPS crime statistics release put the total number of murders in 2017/18 as 20 336. The difference with the VOCS estimate is due to a number of factors; the main one being the inclusion of culpable homicide in the definition of murder in VOCS. Another reason for the difference is that the SAPS murder count includes murders identified by the police which households may not be aware of, such as, for example, murders of immigrants or temporary visitors that have no connection with any household in the sample frame.

Stats SA understands the importance of distinguishing murder and culpable homicide, but it is not feasible to collect such information from household surveys where respondents may not understand the difference between the two. It may also be a challenge at police stations for an officer to determine whether the case being reported is murder or homicide.

Table 29: Trends in murder, 2013/14–2017/18

Statistic	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Number of incidents (CV%)	26 529 (24)	18 012 (21)	14 930 (24)	16 201 (24)	16 809 (31)
Number of households that experienced at least one incident (CV%)	21 693 (20)	18,012 (21)	14 930 (24)	16 201 (24)	12 585 (31)
Percentage of households that experienced at least one incident (CV%)	0,15 (20)	0,12 (21)	0,10 (24)	0,10 (24)	0,08 (25)
Repeat victimisation index (CV%)	122 (15)	100 (0)	100 (0)	100 (0)	111 (7)

The number of households that experienced murder in 2017/18 was 12 585 or 0,08% of all households in South Africa. The repeat victimisation index being over 100 means that some households experienced more than one murder during the reference period.

Table 30: Murder and culpable homicide reported to the police, 2013/14–2017/18

Province	Number of reported cases				
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Western Cape	3 902	4 170	4 349	4 404	4 827
Eastern Cape	4 723	4 715	5208	5 100	5 243
Northern Cape	734	759	704	677	665
Free State	1 708	1 679	1 791	1 728	1 825
KwaZulu-Natal	5 854	6 043	6 333	6 449	6 823
North West	1 706	1 709	1 802	1 852	1 837
Gauteng	5 828	6 055	6 383	6 657	6 753
Mpumalanga	1 977	1 954	2 096	2 221	2 113
Limpopo	1 848	1 854	2 163	2 088	2 273
SOUTH AFRICA	**28 280**	**28 938**	**30 829**	**31 176**	**32 359**

Source: SAPS Crime Statistics, https://www.saps.gov.za/services/crimestats.php

The VOCS and SAPS murder series comparison in Figure 11 below must be viewed with the background given at the beginning of the section in mind. The two series present related, but not same type, of measurements.

Figure 11: Murder and reporting of murder and culpable homicide to the police, 2013/14–2017/18

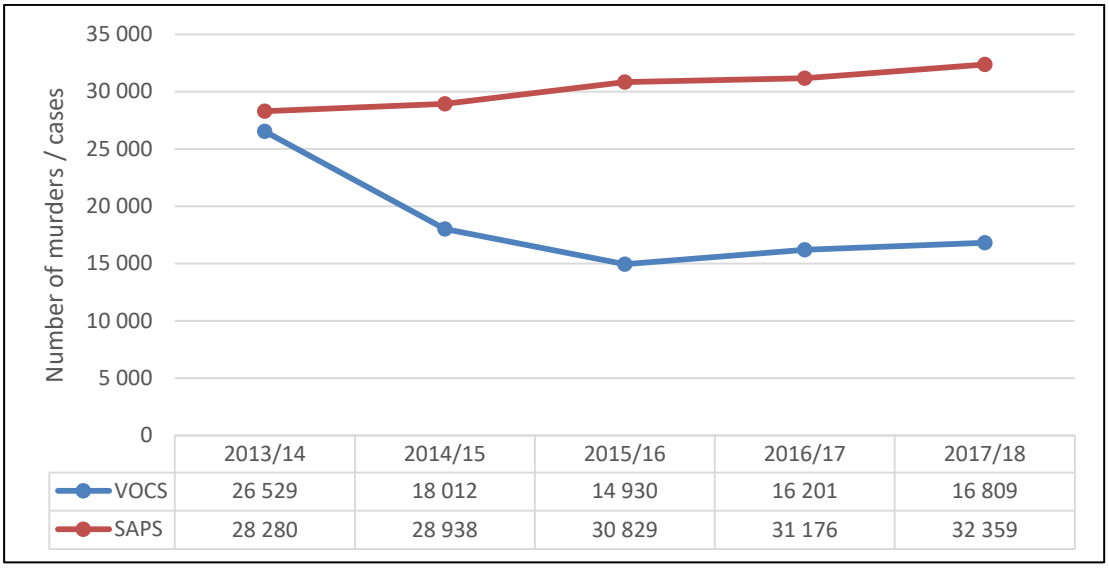


Figure 11 shows that both VOCS and SAPS statistics show increasing trends in murder in South Africa between 2015/16 and 2017/18. The fact that SAPS murder figures are higher than the VOCS estimated number of incidences suggests that there are many murders that are unknown to households.

Table 31: Murder reported to the police by gender of the household head and geographical area, 2016/17–2017/18

Indicator	Percentage in 2016/17	CV%	Percentage in 2017/18	CV%
Gender of the household head				
Male	72	22	89	11
Female	63	27	88	13
Geographical area				
Metro	***	***	90	10
Rural	***	***	***	***
Urban	***	***	82	20
SOUTH AFRICA	**66**	**19**	**89**	**9**

It is estimated that 89% of the murders in 2017/18 were reported to the police.

5.7 Theft out of motor vehicle

Theft out of a motor vehicle occurs when a person gains access to the interior of a motor vehicle, by force or otherwise, when the owner is not present and takes valuable items. It is estimated that a total of 130 350 incidences of theft out of motor vehicle occurred in 2017/18. This is a decrease of 7% from the previous year. A total of 112 063 households were victims of this crime, representing 2,35% of all households in South Africa that own motor vehicles.

Table 32: Trends in theft out of motor vehicle, 2013/14–2017/18

Statistic	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Number of incidents (CV%)	208 978 (10)	196 236 (8)	192 736 (10)	139 432 (10)	130 350 (11)
Number of households that experienced at least one incident (CV%)	163 242 (8)	173 978 (8)	151 485 (8)	121 764 (9)	112 063 (11)
Percentage of households that experienced at least one incident (CV%)	1,12 (8)	1,16 (8)	3,284 (8)	2,54 (9)	2,35 (9)
Repeat victimisation index (CV%)	128 (6)	113 (2)	127 (6)	115 (6)	107 (3)

Note: Coefficients of variation (CVs) in brackets

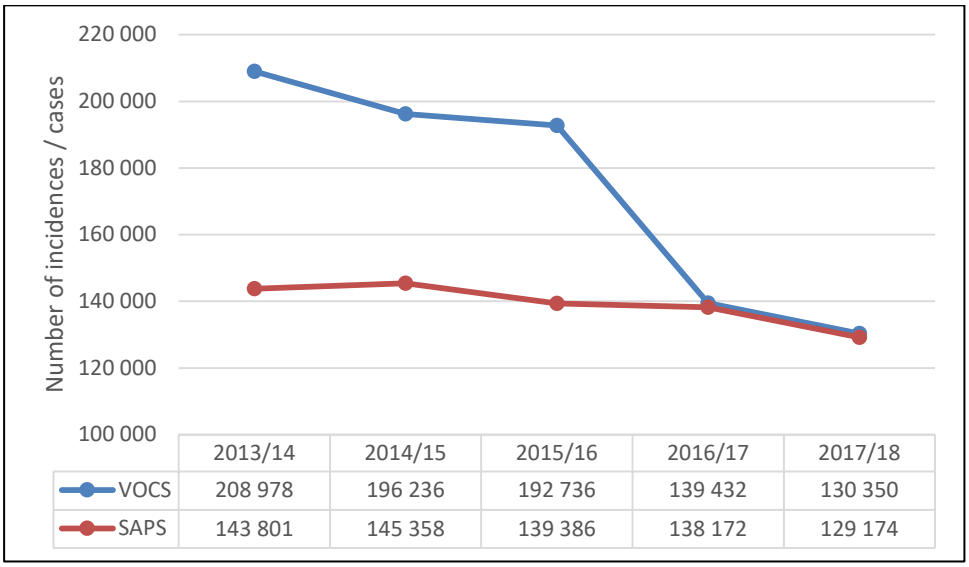
The SAPS crime category that has almost the same definition as "theft out of motor vehicle" is "theft out of or from motor vehicle". The main difference between the two definitions is that in the SAPS definition, it is not a requirement that the owner of the vehicle be absent. For example, a smash-and-grab incident would be recorded by SAPS as theft out of or from motor vehicle, while VOCS would not record it as theft out of motor vehicle. Table 33 below gives the number of incidences of theft out of or from motor vehicle reported to the police during the past five years, disaggregated by province.

Table 33: Theft out of or from motor vehicle reported to the police by province, 2013/14–2017/18

Province	Number of reported cases				
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Western Cape	42 549	42 221	41 458	37 910	35 532
Eastern Cape	11 771	12 034	11 225	12 195	11 649
Northern Cape	2 968	2 898	2 962	2 911	2 609
Free State	5 661	5 399	4 878	4 822	4 599
KwaZulu-Natal	18 614	18 148	17 896	16 854	16 344
North West	5 981	6 349	5 913	6 293	5 866
Gauteng	42 528	44 809	42 111	45 266	41 298
Mpumalanga	7 675	7 999	7 372	6 926	6 830
Limpopo	5 466	5 501	5 571	4 995	4 447
SOUTH AFRICA	**143 213***	**145 358**	**139 386**	**138 172**	**129 174**

Source: SAPS Crime Statistics, https://www.saps.gov.za/services/crimestats.php (*143 801?)

Figure 12: Theft out of motor vehicle reported to the police, 2013/14–2017/18



Both VOCS and SAPS statistics show decreasing trends for the period 2013/14–2017/18.

Table 34: Percentage of theft out of motor vehicle reported to the police by gender and population group of the household head and geographical area, 2016/17–2017/18

Indicator	Percentage in 2016/17	CV%	Percentage in 2017/18	CV%
Gender of the household head				
Male	52,3	9	42	11
Female	52,5	18	48	20
Population group of the household head				
Black African	43,2	14	39	14
Coloured	34,1	25	46	22
Indian/Asian	62,0	26	35	44
White	72,0	10	54	17
Geographical area				
Metro	***	***	43	12
Rural	***	***	73	22
Urban	***	***	41	19
SOUTH AFRICA	**27**	**15**	**43**	**10**

Reporting of theft out of motor vehicle to police increased from 27% in 2016/17 to over 43% in 2017/18. With less than half of theft out motor vehicles reported to the police one would have expected the number of incidences to be more than twice the figure released by SAPS. Rural areas have the highest reporting rates (73%) compared to urban and metro areas. A comparison among the four population groups shows that white people have the highest rate of reporting theft out of motor vehicle, and a greater percentage of female-headed households than male-headed households reported this crime.

Table 35: Number and percentage of households that experienced theft out of motor vehicle by gender and population group of the household head, geographical area and province, 2017/18

Indicator	Number of incidences	CV%	Percentage of households	CV%
Gender of the household head				
Male	104 392	13	0,92	10
Female	25 958	21	0,33	20
Population group of the household head				
Black African	72 094	16	0,46	11
Coloured	15 658	25	1,18	24
Indian/Asian	8 287	35	2,04	35
White	34 311	21	1,70	19
Geographical area				
Metro	93 014	14	1,06	11
Rural	3 203	60	0,27	64
Urban	34 133	16	0,38	15
SOUTH AFRICA	**130 350**	**11**	**0,67**	**9**

Table 35 shows that theft out of motor vehicle affected 2,35% of South African households in 2017/18. The proportion of affected households in the metropolitan areas was more than twice the proportion affected in urban areas. The proportion of Indian/Asian households that experienced theft out of motor vehicles was higher than all other population groups, while black Africans were least affected. More

male-headed households than female-headed households experienced theft out of vehicles. This is most likely because car ownership was more prevalent among male-headed households, as shown in Table 6.

5.8 Deliberate damage, burning or destruction of residential dwellings

This crime includes all deliberate actions that cause damage to or destruction of residential dwellings. SAPS crime categories that are closely related to deliberate damage, burning or destruction of dwellings are malicious damage to property and arson. In this definition, the word property means residential premises.

In 2017/18, it is estimated that 50 426 incidences of deliberate damaging, burning or destruction of residential dwellings occurred, which is a 7% increase from the previous year.

Table 36: Trends in deliberate damage, burning or destruction of dwellings, 2017/18

Statistic	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Number of incidents (CV%)	58 452 (17)	60 624 (14)	40 892 (15)	46 915 (14)	50 426 (19)
Number of households that experienced at least one incident (CV%)	44 660 (13)	53 576 (14)	38 626 (15)	41 895 (14)	38 143 (19)
Percentage of households that experienced at least one incident (CV%)	0,31 (13)	0,36 (14)	0,25 (15)	0,26 (14)	0,23 (14)
Repeat victimisation index (CV%)	131 (9)	113 (4)	106 (4)	112 (4)	120 (9)

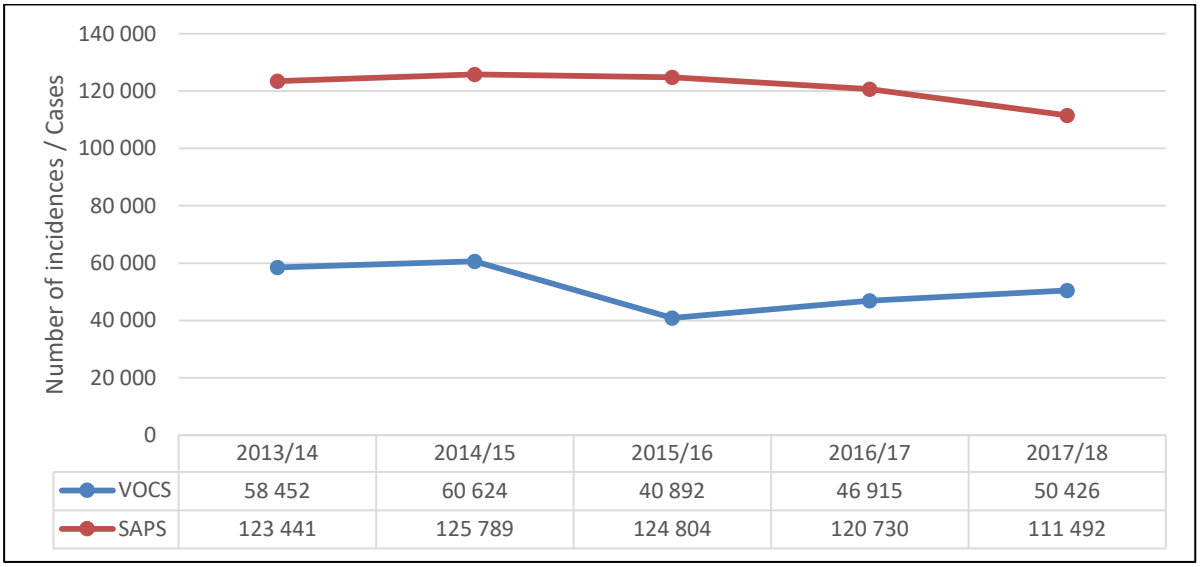
Table 37: Malicious damage to property and arson reported to the police by province, 2013/14–2017/18

	Number of reported cases				
Province	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Western Cape	27 107	30 071	29 974	29 997	28 001
Eastern Cape	13 735	13 184	12 498	12 810	11 422
Northern Cape	3 250	3 381	3 256	3 103	2 927
Free State	8 424	7 942	7 816	6 838	6 068
KwaZulu-Natal	15 850	15 459	15 534	14 709	12 958
North West	6 201	6 231	6 076	6 064	5 821
Gauteng	35 757	35 847	35 312	34 023	31 961
Mpumalanga	5 972	6 130	6 113	5 834	5 519
Limpopo	7 145	7 544	8 225	7 352	6 815
SOUTH AFRICA	**123 441**	**125 789**	**124 804**	**120 730**	**111 492**

Source: SAPS Crime Statistics, https://www.saps.gov.za/services/crimestats.php

Not many interviewed households indicated that they experienced this type of crime. Only one Indian/Asian household indicated that they experienced deliberate damage, burning or destruction of property. This puts a limit to the level of disaggregation of the statistics.

Figure 13: Deliberate damaging, burning or destruction of dwellings and reporting to the police, 2013/14–2017/18



The malicious damage to property and arson cases reported to SAPS steadily declined from 2014/15, while deliberate damage, burning or destruction of residential dwellings increased since 2015/16. This is most likely due to the decline of the proportion of households that report this crime to the police. Table 38 below shows that reporting increased from 56% in 2016/17 to 62% in 2017/18. A possible reason for the VOCS estimates being smaller than SAPS figures could be that SAPS statistics include non-residential properties, while VOCS estimates are confined to residential properties.

Table 38: Percentage of deliberate damaging, burning or destruction of dwellings reported to the police by gender of the household head and geographical area, 2016/17–2017/18

Indicator	Percentage in 2016/17	CV%	Percentage in 2017/18	CV%
Gender of the household head				
Male	49	19	60	16
Female	67	15	64	16
Geographical area				
Metro	***	***	54	23
Rural	***	***	***	***
Urban	***	***	63	14
SOUTH AFRICA	**56**	**12**	**62**	**11**

In 2017/18, the reporting of deliberate damaging, burning or destruction of property was more common in urban areas than in metros. Female-headed households were more likely than male-headed households to report the crime to the police.

Table 39: Number and percentage of households that experienced deliberate damage, burning or destruction of dwellings by gender of the household head and geographical area, 2017/18

Indicator	Number of incidences	CV%	Percentage of households	CV%
Gender of the household head				
Male	29 199	25	0,23	19
Female	21 227	28	0,23	22
Geographical area				
Metro	21 567	32	0,20	25
Rural	2 176	58	0,21	58
Urban	26 683	24	0,26	18
SOUTH AFRICA	**50 426**	**19**	**0,23**	**14**

An estimated total of 50 426 households experienced deliberate damaging, burning or destruction of dwellings, representing 0,23% of all households in South Africa. There was no difference between male-headed and female-headed households as far as the proportion of households that experienced this type of crime was concerned.

5.9 Motor vehicle vandalism or deliberate damaging of motor vehicles

This crime is only about vandalism of vehicles under the care of or belonging to households. It does not include vandalism of public vehicles. SAPS does not report on motor vehicle vandalism.

Table 40: Trends in motor vehicle vandalism, 2013/14–2017/18

Statistic	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Number of incidents (CV%)	54 633 (12)	74 824 (15)	67 715 (19)	31 907 (20)	40 155 (16)
Number of households that experienced at least one incident (CV%)	54 633 (12)	64 705 (14)	50 424 (15)	29 450 (19)	40 155 (16)
Percentage of households that experienced at least one incident (CV%)	0,37 (12)	0,43 (14)	0,18 (15)	0,18 (19)	0,24 (16)
Repeat victimisation index (CV%)	100 (0)	116 (7)	134 (10)	108 (8)	100 (0)

The challenge of insufficient data for disaggregated statistics also applies in this case. Even estimation by gender of the household head compromises the quality of the statistics.

Table 41: Percentage of households that reported motor vehicle vandalism to the police by gender of the household head, 2016/17–2017/18

Gender of the household head	Percentage in 2016/17	CV%	Percentage in 2017/18	CV%
Male	60	19	48	19
Female	19	69	59	30
SOUTH AFRICA	**45**	**21**	**50**	**16**

Female-headed households were more likely than male-headed households to report motor vehicle vandalism to the police.

Table 42: Number and percentage of households that experienced motor vehicle vandalism by gender and population group of the household head, 2017/18

Indicator	Number of incidences	CV%	Percentage of households	CV%
Gender of the household head				
Male	30 562	18	0,31	18
Female	9 593	37	0,14	37
Population group of the household head				
Metro	31 178	19	0,42	19
Rural	***		***	***
Urban	8 108	30	0,10	30
SOUTH AFRICA	**40 155**	**16**	**0,24**	**16**

The percentage of households that experienced motor vehicle vandalism in the metro areas was more than four times the percentage of households in the urban areas.

5.10 Theft of bicycle

While motor vehicles are the common mode of transport in urban areas, some rural areas depend on modest modes of transport such as bicycles. In South Africa urban areas, bicycles are also used for recreational purposes. In 2017/18, a total of 29 264 households were victims of bicycle theft, representing 0,18% of all households in South Africa.

Table 43: Trends in theft of bicycle, 2013/14–2017/18

Statistic	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Number of incidents (CV%)	54 119 (13)	60 375 (16)	37 227 (17)	21 051 (19)	29 264 (20)
Number of households that experienced at least one incident (CV%)	52 720 (13)	54 847 (16)	36 319 (17)	21 051 (19)	29 264 (20)
Percentage of households that experienced at least one incident (CV%)	0,36 (13)	0,37 (16)	0,23 (17)	0,13 (19)	0,18 (20)
Repeat victimisation index (CV%)	103 (2)	110 (4)	103 (2)	100 (0)	100 (0)

Table 44: Distribution of theft of bicycle by gender of the household head, 2017/18

Gender of the household head	Number	CV%	Percentage	CV%
Male	17 820	26	0,18	26
Female	11 444	32	0,17	32
SOUTH AFRICA	**29 264**	**20**	**0,18**	**20**

Results in Table 44 above shows that the difference between male and female-headed households that reported the theft of a bicycle is not significant.

Table 45: Percentage of households that reported bicycle theft to the police by gender of the household head, 2016/17–2017/18

Gender of the household head	Percentage in 2016/17	CV%	Percentage in 2017/18	CV%
SOUTH AFRICA	**37**	**26**	**30**	**29**

The percentage of households that experienced theft of bicycle decreased from 37% in 2016/17 to 30% in 2017/18.

5.11 Sexual offence and assault

This section deals with sexual offences and assault incidents reported by household heads. Estimates provided here may not be the same as those arising from individual interviews reported in Section 6.4. Since household heads may not be aware of all crime experiences of members of their households, it is expected that the numbers provided here will be smaller than those provided in Section 6.4.

VOCS uses a narrower definition of sexual offence, which is limited to intentional sexual violation of individuals through grabbing, touching or rape. The SAPS definition of sexual offence is broader and includes bestiality and sexual acts with a corpse. Therefore, statistics provided by these two organisations do not measure the same thing. VOCS is compelled to adopt a narrower definition of sexual offence because of the limitations of the survey methodology.

SAPS has three categories of assault, namely common assault, assault with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm, and sexual assault. The VOCS definition of assault combines the first two, i.e. common assault and assault with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm.

In 2017/18, an estimated 28 986 (or 0,17%) of all households had a member who was a victim of sexual offence, and 136 607 (or 0,82%) of all households had a member who was a victim of assault.

Table 46: Household sexual offence and assault by gender of the household head, 2017/18

	Sexual offence				Assault			
Gender of the household head	**Number of households**	**CV%**	**Percent of households**	**CV%**	**Number of households**	**CV%**	**Percent of households**	**CV%**
Male	9 870	28	0,10	28	72 528	11	0,74	11
Female	19 116	21	0,28	21	64 079	12	0,93	12
SOUTH AFRICA	**28 986**	**17**	**0,17**	**17**	**136 607**	**9**	**0,82**	**9**

In 2017/18, female-headed households experienced significantly greater proportions of sexual offence and assault incidences than did male-headed households.

Table 47: Household experiences of sexual offence and assault by gender of victim, 2017/18

Gender of the victim	Number of persons who experienced sexual offence	CV%	Number of persons who experienced assault	CV%
Male	3 570	56	104 399	18
Female	32 881	23	67 872	16
SOUTH AFRICA	**36 451**	**21**	**172 270**	13

Sexual offence is a crime that mostly affects women and girls. It is estimated that the number people who experienced sexual offence in 2017/18 was 36 451. More males than females experienced assault in 2017/18, as the estimates in Table 49 show.

5.12 Comparison of household crimes experienced

Theft of motor vehicles, housebreaking, home robbery, theft out of motor vehicle, motor vehicle vandalism and theft of bicycles are the household crimes that have mostly been decreasing during the past five years. All crime categories except livestock theft and theft out of motor vehicles increased during the period 2016/17–2017/18.

6. INDIVIDUAL EXPERIENCE OF CRIME

This section provides statistics on crime perpetrated against individuals. VOCS randomly selects individuals from sampled households aged sixteen years and older, and asks if they have been victims of crime in the twelve months preceding the survey. Individual crimes are typically crimes that mostly affect individuals rather than entire households. The crimes covered in this section are theft of personal property, motor vehicle hijacking, robbery, assault, and consumer fraud.

6.1 Theft of personal property

Personal property includes all items of a personal nature such as clothes, jewellery, watches and cell phones. An estimated 693 219 incidences of theft of personal property occurred in 2017/18, affecting 663 477 individuals. There was a decline of 2% from the previous year in terms of the number of incidences, but an increase of 3,6% in terms of the number of individuals affected.

Table 48: Trends in theft of personal property, 2013/14–2017/18

Statistic	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2017/18	2017/18
Number of incidences (CV%)	1 012 537 (8)	921 773 (9)	842 478 (8)	708 357 (7)	693 219 (6)
Number of individuals that experienced at least one incident (CV%)	880 028 (7)	786 895 (6)	750 553 (6)	640 179 (6)	663 477 (6)
Percentage of individuals that experienced at least one incident (CV%)	2,47 (6)	2,14 (6)	2,03 (6)	1,68 (6)	1,72 (6)
Repeat victimisation index (CV%)	115 (3)	117 (6)	112 (5)	111 (7)	102 (1)

Table 49: Percentage of victims who reported theft of personal property to the police by gender, population group and geographical area, 2016/17–2017/18

Gender	Percentage of persons 16 years and above in 2016/17	CV%	Percentage of persons 16 years and above in 2017/18	CV%
Male	36	12	26	14
Female	27	15	22	17
Population group				
Black African	28	10	19	14
Coloured	23	38	52	23
Indian/Asian	61	28	55	55
White	64	19	42	21
Geographical area				
Metro	***		27	14
Rural	***		8	71
Urban	***		21	17
SOUTH AFRICA	**32**	**9**	**24**	**11**

Data for both 2016/17 and 2017/18 show that males were more likely to report theft of personal property to the police than females were. The black African population group recorded the least percentage of victims reporting theft of personal property to the police.

Table 50: Distribution of theft of personal property by gender, population group, geographical area and province, 2017/18

Gender	Number of incidences	CV%	Percentage	CV%
Male	371 131	9	1,94	9
Female	322 088	10	1,51	9
Population group				
Black African	561 986	7	1,79	7
Coloured	41 972	23	1,18	23
Indian/Asian	10 420	57	0,91	59
White	78 842	22	1,91	22
Geographical area				
Metro	378 532	9	2,25	9
Rural	19 069	32	0,87	32
Urban	295 618	10	1,38	9
Province				
Western Cape	73 905	19	1,51	19
Eastern Cape	64 868	19	1,44	19
Northern Cape	17 993	29	1,95	30
Free State	41 022	24	2,03	24
KwaZulu-Natal	73 750	20	1,01	21
North West	52 517	28	1,59	24
Gauteng	272 656	11	2,61	10
Mpumalanga	41 335	22	1,35	21
Limpopo	55 172	22	1,44	22
SOUTH AFRICA	**693 219**	**6**	**1,72**	**6**

Table 50 shows significant gender differences among victims of theft of personal property. Males were more likely to be victims of theft of personal property than females. People from the coloured population group had the lowest percentage of individuals who experienced theft of personal property.

Table 50 also shows that the prevalence of theft of personal property was highest amongst those residing in Gauteng (2,61%) and lowest among people who reside in KwaZulu-Natal (1,01%). In terms of the number of individuals who experienced theft of personal property, Gauteng recorded the highest figures at 272 656.

Table 51: Number and percentage of victims who knew the perpetrator and victims who were satisfied with police response, 2017/18

	Number of victims	CV%	Percentage of victims	CV%
Know who stole their personal property	637 765	6	96,1	1
Satisfied with police response – Male	37 674	26	40,7	21
Satisfied with police response – Female	24 365	28	36,4	25
Satisfied with police response – TOTAL	**62 039**	**19**	**38,9**	**15**

The majority (96,1%) of the victims of theft of personal property knew the perpetrator. The percentage of males (35,4%) who were satisfied with police response was significantly greater than that of females (28,5%).

Table 52: Place where theft of personal property occurred, 2017/18

Stolen items	Number victims of theft of personal property	CV%	Percentage of victims of theft of personal property	CV%
In the workplace	22 831	33	3,4	33
In the street in a residential area	316 419	9	47,7	7
At an entertainment area/bar/tavern	19 643	29	3,0	28
In a field/park	12 371	45	1,9	44
In some other outdoor area	15 483	44	2,3	44
In someone else's home	26 481	30	4,0	30
In the street outside offices/shops	50 330	20	7,6	30
In a shop/place of business	65 313	20	9,8	20
At a public transport station/taxi rank or shop	34 459	26	5,2	19
While travelling in public transport	11 518	41	1,7	25
At some other indoor area	7 040	61	1,1	40
Other social gathering	4 186	67	8,9	60
Other	58 972	21	9,2	20

Most thefts of personal property (47,7%) occurred in the streets in residential areas.

Table 53: Number and percentage of victims who lost various items through theft of personal property, 2017/18

Stolen items	Number of incidences	CV%	Percentage of persons 16 year or older	CV%
Money/purse/wallet	300 072	9	45,2	7
Bankbooks/cards	90 102	16	13,6	15
Cell phone	458 700	8	69,1	4
Travel document	7 767	58	1,2	57
Travelling bag	15 664	41	2,4	40
Personal effects (e.g. jewellery)	37 456	25	5,6	24
Portable radio/MP3 player	7 469	69	1,1	68
Clothing	43 097	22	6,5	22
Portable computer	12 311	54	1,9	53
Other	53 132	25	8,0	24

Cell phones dominated the list of items lost through theft of personal property, affecting 69,1% of the victims. This was followed by theft of money, purse or wallet affecting, 45,2% of the victims.

6.2 Hijacking of motor vehicles

Hijacking of motor vehicles is a type of crime committed against an individual while driving their own vehicles or vehicles belonging to another person or institution. The question of ownership was not relevant when respondents were asked whether they had experienced incidents of hijacking during the

past twelve months. The type of vehicle the victim was driving or riding in as a passenger is also not relevant. SAPS reports separate statistics for carjacking and truck hijacking.

It is estimated that in 2017/18, there were 34 880 incidences of hijacking of motor vehicles, representing 0,09% of persons aged 16 or above.

Table 54: Trends in motor vehicle hijacking, 2013/14–2017/18

Statistic	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Number of incidents (CV%)	26 098 (43)	53 427 (24)	27 414 (32)	30 644 (30)	34 880 (27)
Number of individuals that experienced at least one incident (CV%)	26 098 (43)	53 427 (24)	27 414 (32)	30 644 (30)	34 880 (27)
Percentage of individuals that experienced at least one incident (CV%)	0,07 (43)	0,15 (24)	0,07 (32)	0,08 (30)	0,09 (27)
Repeat victimisation index (CV%)	100 (0)	100 (0)	100 (0)	100 (0)	100 (0)

Table 54 above shows an increase of 14% in the number of hijackings compared to 2016/17. SAPS statistics in Table 55 below show a decline in the number of SAPS reported cases of hijackings.

Table 55: Carjacking and truck hijacking reported to the police by province, 2013/14–2017/18

	Number of reported cases				
Province	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Western Cape	996	1 592	2 078	2 259	2 182
Eastern Cape	804	803	1 010	1 037	999
Northern Cape	28	15	49	29	37
Free State	326	359	323	275	235
KwaZulu-Natal	2 308	2 253	2 564	3 110	2 698
North West	288	323	412	438	425
Gauteng	6 603	7 671	8 062	9 278	8 269
Mpumalanga	556	664	823	988	896
Limpopo	262	372	465	486	584
SOUTH AFRICA	**12 171**	**14 052**	**15 786**	**17 900**	**16 325**

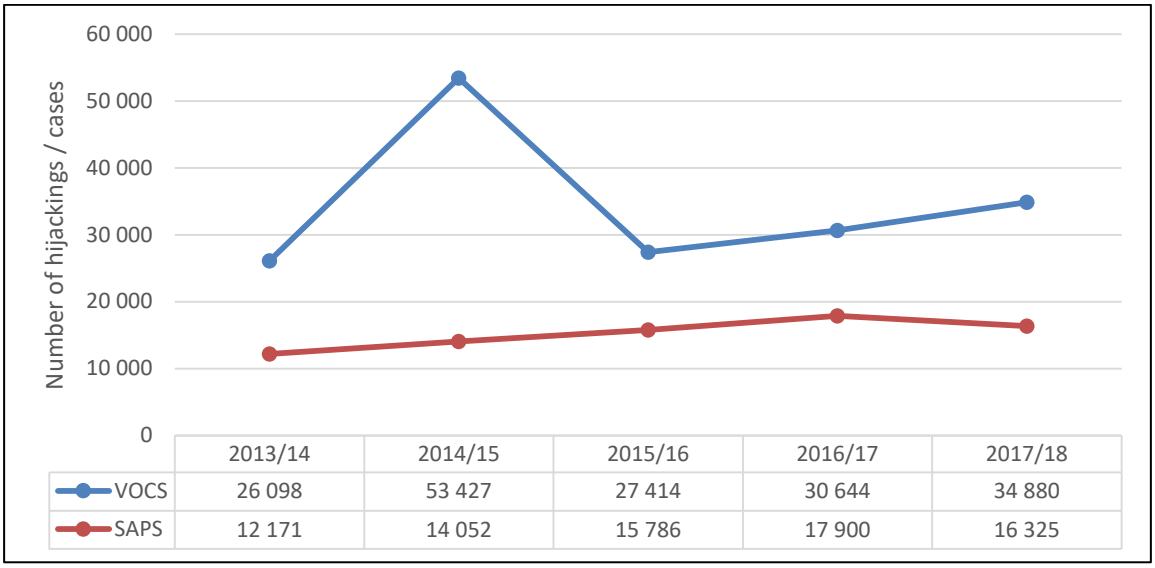
Source: SAPS Crime Statistics, https://www.saps.gov.za/services/crimestats.php

Table 56: Motor vehicle hijacking reported to the police by gender and geographical area, 2016/17–2017/18

Indicator	Percentage of persons 16 years and above in 2016/17	CV%	Percentage of persons 16 years and above in 2017/18	CV%
Gender				
Male	78		74	19
Female	100		67	26
Geographical area				
Metro	***	***	66	20
Rural	***	***	100	0
Urban	***	***	83	21
SOUTH AFRICA	**88**	**13**	**70**	**16**

The percentage of victims of hijackings that reported this crime to the police dropped from 88% in 2016/17 to 70% in 2017/18.

Figure 14: Number of hijacking incidences and cases reported to the police, 2013/14–2016/17



The VOCS and SAPS statistics on hijacking trended in different directions between 2016/17 and 2017/18.

6.3 Robbery outside home

This is robbery committed against individuals outside their homes. It could happen in the street, at the workplace, in a shopping mall or other places outside a person's home.

Table 57: Trends in robbery, 2013/14–2017/18

Statistic	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2017/18	2017/18
Number of incidents (CV%)	373 148 (18)	348 349 (12)	283 544 (10)	294 874 (13)	280 526 (12)
Number of individuals that experienced at least one incident (CV%)	303 205 (10)	297 683 (10)	267 613 (10)	269 610 (13)	258 910 (12)
Percentage of individuals that experienced at least one incident (CV%)	0,85 (10)	0,81 (10)	0,72 (10)	0,71 (13)	0,67 (11)
Repeat victimisation index (CV%)	123 (12)	117 (6)	106 (2)	109 (3)	108 (4)

In 2017/18, it is estimated that 280 526 incidences of robbery outside the home occurred, affecting 258 910 individuals aged 16 or above. This is a decrease of 5% over the previous year. The percentage of victims decreased by 4%.

The SAPS equivalent of robbery outside the home is a combination of two crime categories, namely common robbery and robbery with aggravating circumstances. SAPS statistics in Table 58 below are a sum of these two categories.

Table 58: Common robbery and robbery with aggravating circumstances reported to the police by province, 2013/14–2017/18

	Number of reported cases				
Province	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Western Cape	32 591	36 536	36 217	36 606	36 332
Eastern Cape	17 431	16 998	16 467	17 395	16 945
Northern Cape	2 679	2 708	2 735	3 011	2 924
Free State	7 984	7 760	7 082	7 339	7 227
KwaZulu-Natal	29 354	28 738	28 585	29 632	28 139
North West	7 750	8 396	8 698	9 606	9 649
Gauteng	58 085	64 741	67 843	71 160	68 690
Mpumalanga	8 229	8 590	8 742	9 652	9 298
Limpopo	8 365	9 505	10 268	9 973	9 887
SOUTH AFRICA	**172 468**	**183 972**	**186 637**	**194 374**	**189 094**

Source: SAPS Crime Statistics, https://www.saps.gov.za/services/crimestats.php

Figure 15: Number of robbery incidences and robberies reported to the police, 2013/14–2017/18

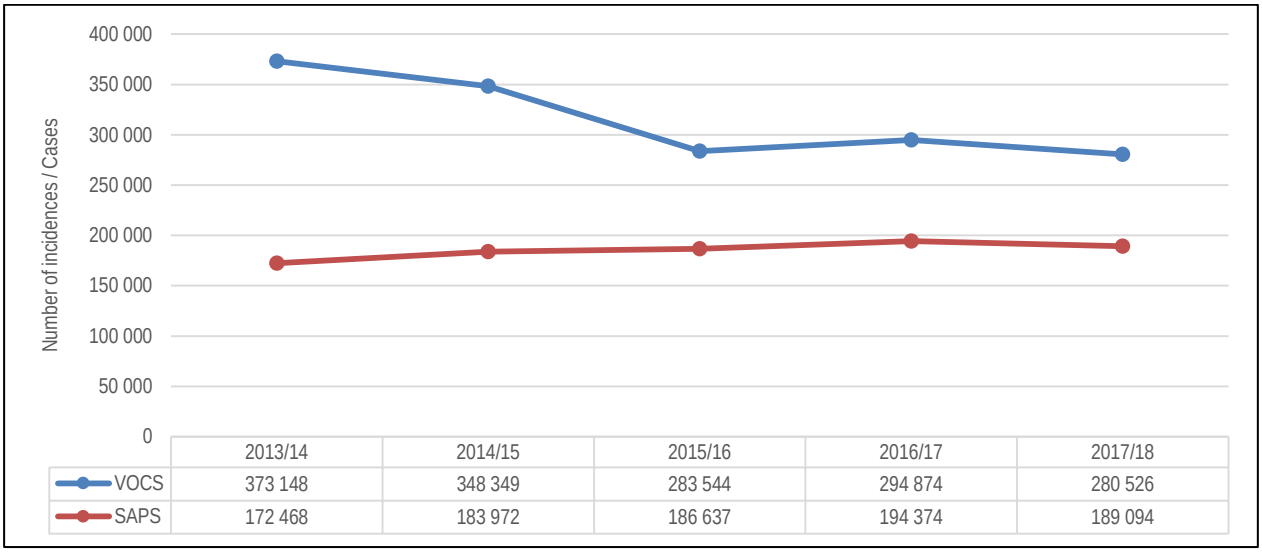


Figure 15 shows that during the past three years, the VOCS and SAPS statistics have had almost similar trends.

Table 59: Percentage of robberies reported to the police by gender, population group, geographical area and province, 2016/17–2017/18

Indicator	Percentage of persons 16 years and above in 2016/17	CV%	Percentage of persons 16 years and above in 2017/18	CV%
Gender				
Male	35	15	40	16
Female	30	24	29	26
Population group				
Black African	31	17	32	17
Coloured	31	26	41	46
Indian/Asian	***	***	***	***
White	37	63	70	26
Geographical area				
Metro	***	***	32	20
Rural	***	***	43	54
Urban	***	***	41	20
Province				
Western Cape	34	22	26	34
Eastern Cape	30	40	31	32
Northern Cape	76	22	***	***
Free State	42	38	46	29
KwaZulu-Natal	35	50	54	40
North West	7	104	22	61
Gauteng	39	24	44	32
Mpumalanga	33	37	55	33
Limpopo	22	57	79	26
SOUTH AFRICA	**33**	**13**	**36**	**14**

Some estimates in Table 59 above are not usable due to unacceptably high CVs. The percentage of victims who reported robbery to the police increased from 33% in 2016/17 to 36% in 2017/18.

Table 60: Distribution of robbery by gender, geographical area and province, 2017/18

Indicator	Number of individual victims 16 years of age and above	CV%	Victims as percentage of people 16 years of age and above	CV%
Gender				
Male	191 694	16	0,92	14
Female	88 832	17	0,44	17
Geographical area				
Metro	160 873	17	0,87	15
Rural	6 868	45	0,34	45
Urban	112 785	17	0,55	17
Province				
Western Cape	83 647	28	1,54	23
Eastern Cape	71 376	23	1,53	23
Northern Cape	1 315	76	0,15	77
Free State	33 067	28	1,65	28
KwaZulu-Natal	17 571	43	0,22	43
North West	18 375	39	0,63	38
Gauteng	33 913	29	0,31	27
Mpumalanga	18 022	38	0,61	38
Limpopo	3 239	62	0,08	62
SOUTH AFRICA	**297 885**	12	**0,67**	11

An estimated 280 526 incidences of robbery away from home occurred in 2017/18. Results in Table 60 also show that males were more affected by this crime than females. A comparison among the four population groups is not possible because only the estimate for the black African population is a quality statistic (reasonably low coefficient of variation). Among acceptable quality statistics, robbery prevalence was lowest in Gauteng (0,31%) and highest in Free State (1,65%). Nationally, 0,67% of adults 16 years and older were victims of robbery away from home in 2017/18.

Table 61: Percentage of individuals robbed using a specified type of weapon, 2017/18

Type of weapon used	Percentage of individuals	CV%
Knife	70,9	8
Stick/club	2,6	55
Metal/bar	2,4	52
Axe/panga	1,9	54
Gun	34,0	17
Other	0,4	100
SOUTH AFRICA	**73,3**	**6**

A weapon was used in about 73,3% of all robberies. The most common types of weapons used in robberies were knives, followed by guns.

Table 62: Percentages for different robbery scenarios, 2017/18

Robbery scenario	Percentage of victims	CV%
Individuals robbed in the street in residential area	65,4	8
Individuals robbed while alone	62,6	9
Individuals who resist robbery	31,5	16
Individuals who sustain injury during robbery	25,8	17

Over 65% of the robberies occurred in a street in residential areas. The majority of the victims (62,6%) were alone during robbery, while 31,5% of the victims resisted robbery and 25,8% sustained injury. Statistical evidence (at 0,5% level of significance) from VOCS data shows that there is an association between resisting robbery and sustaining injury during robbery.

6.4 Sexual offence

VOCS uses a narrower definition of sexual offence limited to intentional sexual violation of individuals through grabbing, touching or rape. The SAPS definition of sexual offence is broader and includes bestiality, a sexual act with a corpse and other unlawful sexual acts. Therefore, statistics provided by these two organisations do not measure the same thing. Given the sensitive nature of this crime and the context of household-based interviews, sexual offences are thought to be underreported in the VOCS, and it is likely that most of those individuals who have already reported sexual offences to the police will proceed to also report it to the survey officer collecting data.

Table 63: Trends in sexual offences, 2013/14–2017/18

Statistic	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Number of incidents (CV%)	62 074 (27)	44 464 (25)	29 473 (27)	73 842 (21)	28 596 (35)
Number of individuals that experienced at least one incident (CV%)	41,925 (20)	43 696 (26)	29 473 (27)	70 813 (21)	22 694 (33)
Percentage of individuals that experienced at least one incident (CV%)	0,12 (20)	0,12 (26)	0,08 (27)	0,19 (21)	0,06 (33)
Repeat victimisation index (CV%)	148 (20)	102 (2)	100 (0)	104 (4)	109 (9)

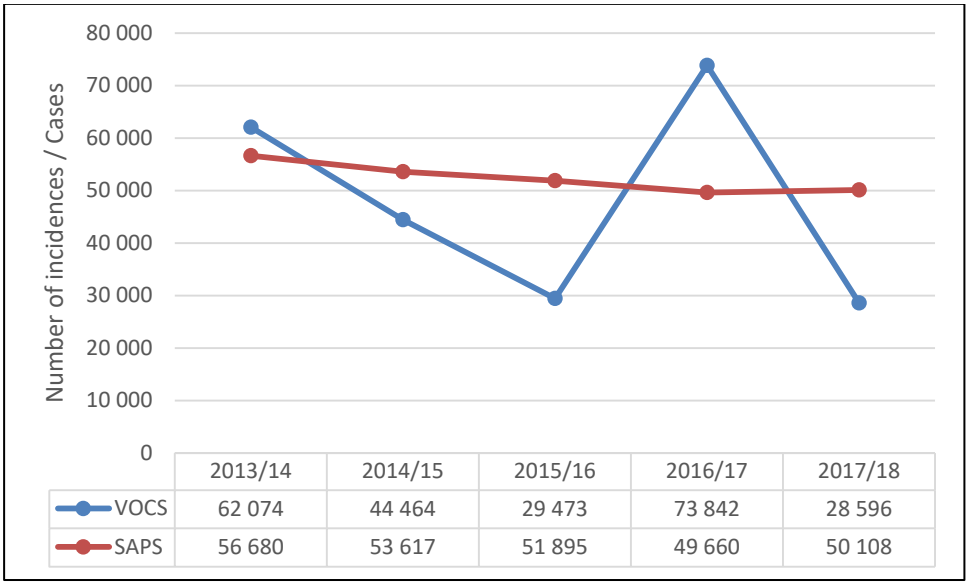
While VOCS estimates cannot be disaggregated by province, SAPS has provincial counts, as shown in Table 64 below.

Table 64: Sexual offences reported to the police by province, 2013/14–2017/18

Province	Number of reported cases				
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Western Cape	7 760	7 369	7 130	7 115	7 075
Eastern Cape	9 616	9 224	8 797	8 050	8 094
Northern Cape	1 731	1 578	1 719	1 587	1 538
Free State	4 584	4 094	3 928	3 488	3 284
KwaZulu-Natal	9 889	9 079	8 947	8 484	8 759
North West	4 616	4 585	4 164	4 326	4 182
Gauteng	10 264	9 902	9 510	9 566	10 116
Mpumalanga	3 797	3 474	3 331	3 216	3 198
Limpopo	4 423	4 312	4 369	3 828	3 862
SOUTH AFRICA	**56 680**	**53 617**	**51 895**	**49 660**	**50 108**

Source: SAPS Crime Statistics, https://www.saps.gov.za/services/crimestats.php

Figure 16: Number of sexual offence incidences and sexual offences reported to the police, 2013/14–2017/18



Cases of sexual offence reported to the South African Police Service (SAPS) steadily declined between 2013/14 and 2016/17, and marginally increased in 2017/18.

Table 65: Percentage of sexual offences reported to the police by gender, 2016/17–2017/18

Gender	Percentage of persons 16 years and above in 2016/17	CV%	Percentage of persons 16 years and above in 2017/18	CV%
Male	8	98	***	***
Female	30	35	73	19
SOUTH AFRICA	**23**	**34**	**73**	**19**

An estimated 73% of the victims of sexual offence reported the crime to the police in 2017/18.

Table 66: Distribution of sexual offences by gender, 2017/18

Gender	Number	CV%	Percentage	CV%
Male	***	***	***	***
Female	28 596	35	0,11	33
SOUTH AFRICA	**28 596**	**35**	**0,06**	**33**

Table 66 shows that an estimated 28 596 individuals, mostly women, experienced a sexual offence in 2017/18.

6.5 Assault

Assault is defined as an attack, physical beating or threat of attack without taking anything from the victim. This includes domestic violence. The VOCS definition of assault includes what the SAPS terms common assault and assault with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm.

Table 67: Trends in assault, 2013/14–2017/18

Statistic	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Number of incidents (CV%)	431 043 (10)	431 914 (11)	331 913 (12)	318 077 (12)	355 739 (13)
Number of individuals that experienced at least one incident (CV%)	345 030 (9)	344 554 (9)	272 712 (9)	271 970 (11)	277 397 (13)
Percentage of individuals that experienced at least one incident (CV%)	0,96 (9)	0,94 (9)	0,74 (9)	0,71 (11)	0,72 (10)
Repeat victimisation index (CV%)	125 (5)	125 (6)	122 (7)	117 (7)	117 (5)

It is estimated that 277 397 individuals aged 16 and above were victims of assault in 2017/18 who experienced 355 739 incidences. The number of incidences increased by 12% from the previous year.

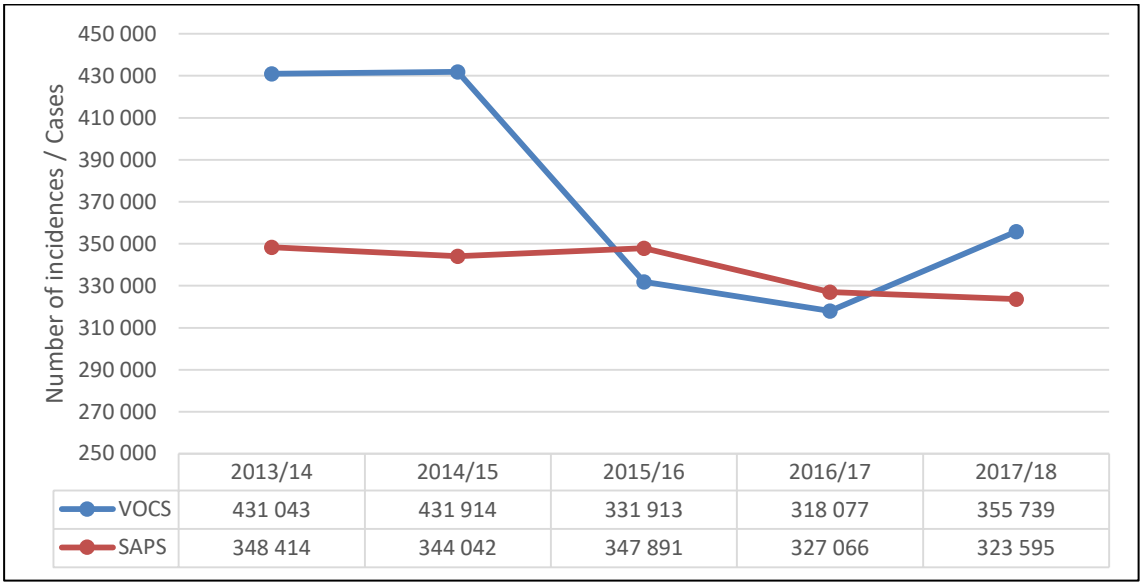
Table 68: Common assault and assault with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm reported to the police by province, 2013/14–2017/18

	Number of reported cases				
Province	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Western Cape	37 183	65 350	66 843	64 285	62 162
Eastern Cape	40 691	37 279	36 293	34 341	34 304
Northern Cape	13 493	13 616	13 487	12 613	12 098
Free State	31 529	28 701	28 310	25 270	23 543
KwaZulu-Natal	55 289	53 212	52 368	49 109	49 535
North West	20 214	20 264	20 556	19 752	20 959
Gauteng	85 341	84 748	87 045	81 767	83 139
Mpumalanga	18 179	18 288	19 008	18 608	18 331
Limpopo	21 689	22 584	23 981	21 321	19524
SOUTH AFRICA	**348 414**	**344 042**	**347 891**	**327 066**	**323 595**

Source: SAPS Crime Statistics, https://www.saps.gov.za/services/crimestats.php

SAPS figures in Table 68 were obtained by adding together common assault and assault with intention to inflict grievous bodily harm.

Figure 17: VOCS estimated assault incidences and reporting of SAPS common assault and assault with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm to the police, 2013/14–2017/18



VOCS and SAPS statistics did not differ too much between 2015/16 and 2017/18.

Table 69: Percentage of assaults reported to the police by gender and geographical area, 2016/17–2017/18

Indicator	Percentage of victims in 2016/17	CV%	Percentage of victims in 2017/18	CV%
Gender				
Male	34	19	40	16
Female	62	12	59	13
Geographical area				
Metro	***	***	48	18
Rural	***	***	54	39
Urban	***	***	46	13
SOUTH AFRICA	**48**	**11**	**47**	**10**

A significant difference is noticeable between males and females in the percentage of victims who reported assault to the police. Figures for both 2016/17 and 2017/18 show that females were more likely to report assault to the police than males were.

Table 70: Number and percentage of individuals who experienced assault by gender, geographical area and province, 2017/18

Gender	Number of individual victims 16 years of age and above	CV%	Victims as percentage of people 16 years of age and above	CV%
Male	184 384	13	0,96	13
Female	148 626	17	0,50	15
Geographical area				
Metro	138 249	26	0,53	17
Rural	20 625	44	0,68	41
Urban	196 865	13	0,88	12
Province				
Western Cape	88 589	25	1,26	22
Eastern Cape	84 402	38	1,11	21
Northern Cape	13 332	26	1,57	26
Free State	15 118	32	0,68	32
KwaZulu-Natal	15 997	41	0,22	41
North West	46 308	27	1,68	27
Gauteng	35 058	28	0,35	28
Mpumalanga	25 544	42	0,69	42
Limpopo	31 392	29	0,71	30
SOUTH AFRICA	**355 739**	**13**	**0,72**	**10**

The difference in the victimisation rates between males and females was very significant. North West had the highest (1,68%) percentage of adults, aged 16 and above, who were victims of assault during 2017/18.

Table 71: Distribution of place where assault occurred, 2017/18

Place where assault occurs	Percentage	CV%
At home	30,4	15
In the street in a residential area	25,0	17
In the street outside offices/shops	19,1	19
At an entertainment area/bar/tavern	12,6	28
Other	12,9	

Over 87% of all assaults occur at home, in residential area streets, in streets around offices and shops, and at entertainment areas such as bars and taverns. All other areas accounts for less than 13% of the assaults.

6.6 Consumer fraud

Adults aged 16 and above were also asked whether they were victims of consumer fraud during the past twelve months. Consumer fraud happens when someone provides services or goods and cheats on quality or quantity. It is estimated that 137 274 incidences of consumer fraud occurred in South Africa in 2017/18, affecting 89 065 (0,23%) adults aged 16 or above. This is approximately 60% increase from the previous year.

Table 72: Trends in consumer fraud, 2013/14–2017/18

Statistic	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Number of incidents (CV%)	86 012 (18	90 249 (18)	160 076 (25)	85 848 (22)	137 274 (29)
Number of individuals that experienced at least one incident (CV%)	86 012 (18)	87 664 (18)	108 799 (15)	80 089 (21)	89 065 (29)
Percentage of individuals that experienced at least one incident (CV%)	0,24 (18)	0,24 (18)	0,30 (15)	0,21 (21)	0,23 (18)
Repeat victimisation index (CV%)	100 (0)	103 (3)	147 (20)	107 (6)	144 (21)

Table 73: Percentage of consumer fraud victims who reported to the police, 2016/17–2017/18

	Percentage of victims in 2016/17	CV%	Percentage of victims in 2017/18	CV%
SOUTH AFRICA	**32**	**29**	**28**	**29**

The proportion of households that reported consumer fraud to the police dropped from 32% in 2016/17 to 28% in 2017/18.

Table 74: Distribution of consumer fraud by gender, 2017/18

Gender	Number of incidences	CV%	Percentage of people aged 16 and above	CV%
Male	44 700	33	0,18	30
Female	92 574	40	0,28	22
SOUTH AFRICA	**137 274**	**29**	**0,23**	**18**

The proportion of women aged 16 and above who experienced consumer fraud in 2017/18 was significantly higher than that of men.

6.7 Corruption

Corruption can be broadly defined as abuse of power entrusted to a public or corporate sector official for private gain. Apart from a few general questions on perceptions of corruption, VOCS is mainly concerned with corruption in the public sector. Statistics concerning household perceptions on corruption and individual experience on payment of bribes to public officials are reported in this section.

In 2017/18 an estimated total of 134 442 incidences of corruption were experienced by 116 014 South African residents aged 16 and above, representing 0,3% of adults in this age category.

Table 75: Five-year trends in individual experiences of corruption, 2013/14–2017/18

Statistic	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Number of incidents (CV%)	60 480 (20)	63 437 (21)	45 487 (27)	37 778 (31)	134 442 (18)
Number of individuals that experienced at least one incident (CV%)	60 480 (20)	53 458 (20)	40 019 (27)	32 814 (31)	116 014 (16)
Percentage of individuals that experienced at least one incident (CV%)	0,17 (20)	0,15 (20)	0,11 (27)	0.09 (31)	0,30 (16)
Repeat victimisation index (CV%)	100 (0)	119 (9)	114 (9)	115 (9)	116 (9)

Individual experience of corruption declined steadily between 2014/15 and 2016/17 and then sharply increased in 2017/18.

Table 76 below disaggregates the 2017/18 corruption statistics by gender and geographical area. There are insufficient data on corruption for provincial and lower-level disaggregation.

Table 76: Number of incidences of corruption and percentage of individuals who experienced corruption, 2017/18

Gender	Number of incidences of corruption experienced by individuals 16 years of age and above	CV%	Victims as percentage of people 16 years of age and above	CV%
Male	64 714	24	0,30	22
Female	69 728	27	0,30	24
Geographical area				
Metro	84 769	24	0,45	21
Rural	14 165	68	0,34	58
Urban	35 508	27	0,17	27
SOUTH AFRICA	**134 442**	**18**	**0,30**	**16**

Table 76 shows that there is no difference in the level of corruption experienced by men and that experienced by women. Metro areas experienced significantly more corruption than urban areas. Insufficient data prevented an accurate estimation of the level of corruption experienced by people in the rural areas.

Bribe is a specific form of corruption where a public official demands payment for services that should be free, or where a person offers a public official payment for a favour or special treatment.

Table 77: Individual experiences with bribes, 2017/18

People who were asked and/or paid bribe among those who experienced corruption	Number of adults aged 16 years and above	CV%	Percentage of adults aged 16 years and above	CV%
Asked	109 588	17	95	16
Paid	75 516	20	69	11
Form of bribe requested				
Money	108 306	17	93	4
Favour	***	***	***	***
Present	***		***	***
Government service				
Policing	12 912	48	12	45
Traffic	66 691	22	61	13
Other	***		***	***
Reason for paying a bribe				
To avoid payment of fine	48 532	23	59	15
Other	***	***	***	***
Whether crime was reported to authorities				
Reported to the police or other authorities	***	***	***	***
Did not report to any authority	99 095	17	91	6
Reason for not reporting bribe to authorities				
Pointless, nobody would care	20 604	33	19	29
Benefited from the bribe	27 766	28	25	25
Common practice	27 766	28	25	25
Other	***	***	***	***

It is estimated that in 2017/18, 0,31% of adults aged 16 and above were asked to pay a bribe by government officials in return for service. In contrast, 10% of household heads had personally been asked by a public official to pay a bribe or paid a bribe during the past twelve months. An estimated 69% of the individuals aged 16 and older who were asked for a bribe paid the bribe. Money constituted about 93% of all the bribes that South Africans were asked to pay and most of it (59%) was paid to avoid paying traffic fines. The majority (91%) of people who were asked for a bribe did not report the matter to the police or any other authority. The most popular reasons for not reporting bribes were "It is pointless, nobody would care", "I benefited from the bribe" and "Bribe is a common practice".

Perceptions about corruption also provide a useful indication of the progress made in the fight against the scourge. The following summaries are based on questions on what respondents (household heads) thought were the reasons for corruption and whether they perceived corruption as having increased, decreased or stayed the same during the last twelve months.

Table 78: Perceptions of South African households on corruption, 2017/18

Perception	Percentage of households	CV%
People engage in corruption because of …		
Real need such as hunger	29,8	2
Greed	85,3	0
Get rich quickly	79,8	1
Other	2,0	9
In the past three years the level of corruption has …		
Increased	78,9	0
Decreased	9,3	4
Stayed the same	11,4	4

Eighty per cent or more of the households in South Africa believe that people engage in corruption because of greed or the desire to get rich quickly. The majority (78,9%) thought that the level of corruption has increased during the last three years.

6.8 Comparison of individual crimes experienced

Theft of personal property and sexual offences are the only individual crimes that saw a decline between 2016/17 and 2017/18 according to VOCS data. SAPS statistics show a decline in hijacking, robbery and assault (common assault and assault with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm). As mentioned earlier, the disagreement between VOCS and SAPS statistics should not be a matter of concern at this stage, as the two organisations do not use the same definitions of crime types. Moreover, not all crime experienced by individuals is reported to the police.

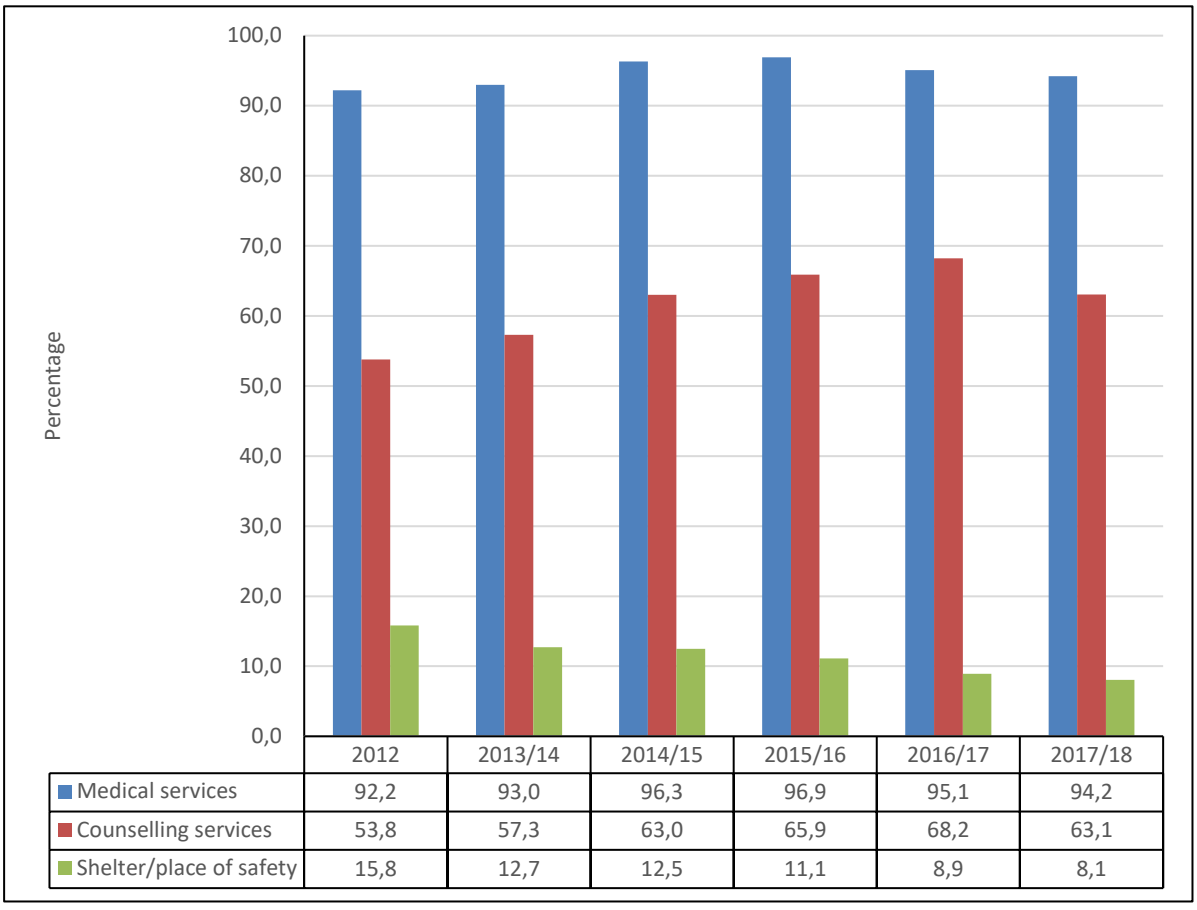
7. INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO CRIME

The previous chapters provided facts about the crime situation in the country. In this chapter, statistics on how individuals and communities responded to crime will be presented and discussed. The chapter focuses on three key areas: (1) The extent of community awareness of support services for victims of crime; (2) Measures taken by households to protect themselves against crime; and (3) The extent of community cohesion. In general, every response category of questions relevant to this section enjoys a large number of responses, resulting in very small standard errors (and CVs). The CVs will therefore be reported only in cases where some estimates are doubtful.

7.1 Victim support and other interventions

Figure 18 is a graphical representation of households' knowledge of victim support services/institutions in their area of residence, from 2012 to 2017/18.

Figure 18: Percentage distribution of households who knew where to take a victim of crime to access selected services, 2012–2017/18



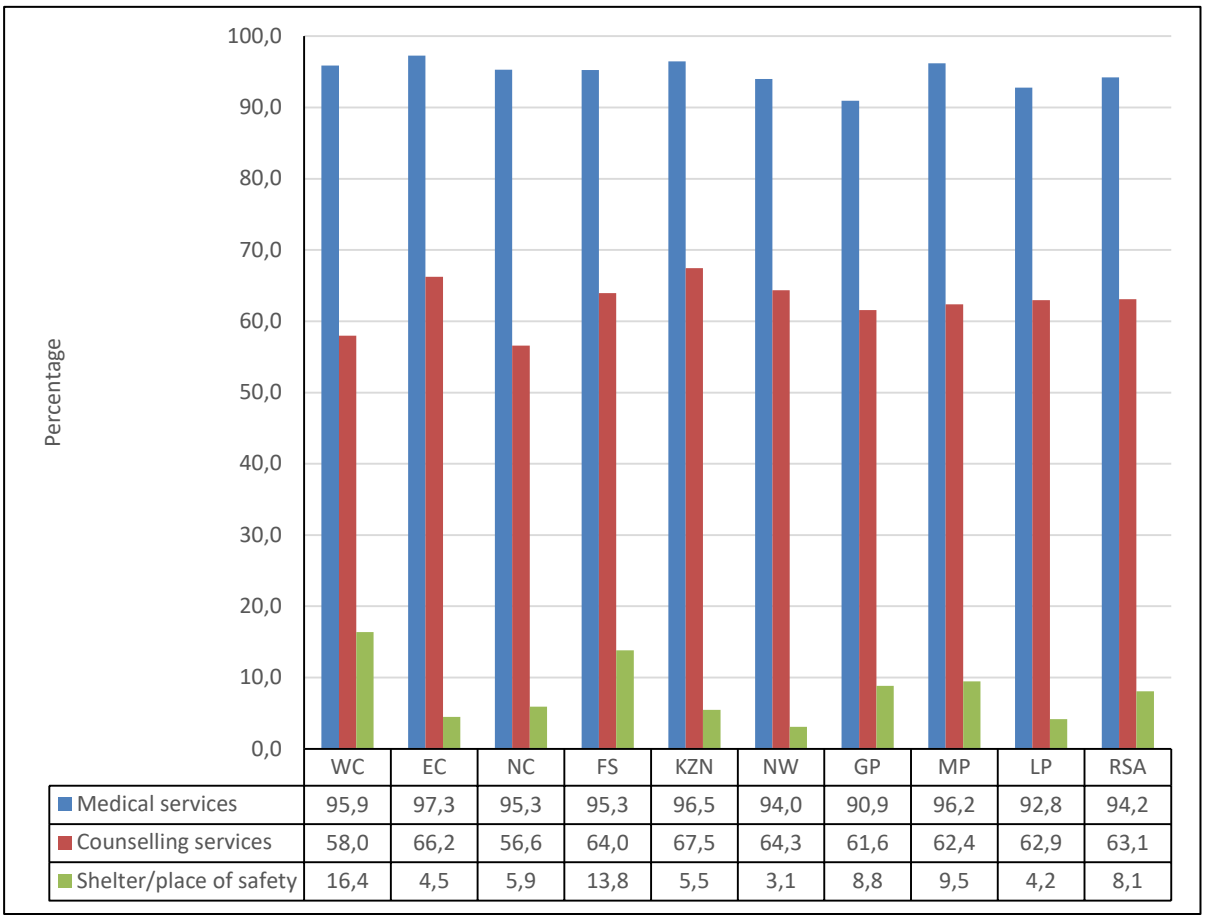
	2012	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Medical services	92,2	93,0	96,3	96,9	95,1	94,2
Counselling services	53,8	57,3	63,0	65,9	68,2	63,1
Shelter/place of safety	15,8	12,7	12,5	11,1	8,9	8,1

The chart shows that the majority of households knew where to take victims of crime to access medical services, as compared to counselling services and places of shelter. There is a clear increasing trend in the percentage of households who knew where to take victims for counselling services between 2012

and 2016/17, then a decline in 2017/18. Also evident is the downward trend among households who knew the location of shelters or places of safety where they could take victims of domestic violence.

A provincial distribution of the percentage of households who knew where to take a victim of crime to access selected services is depicted in Figure 19.

Figure 19: Percentage distribution of households who knew where to take a victim of crime to access selected services by province, 2017/18



	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
Medical services	95,9	97,3	95,3	95,3	96,5	94,0	90,9	96,2	92,8	94,2
Counselling services	58,0	66,2	56,6	64,0	67,5	64,3	61,6	62,4	62,9	63,1
Shelter/place of safety	16,4	4,5	5,9	13,8	5,5	3,1	8,8	9,5	4,2	8,1

The same pattern is repeated in all nine provinces: knowledge about medical services for victims of crime ranked highest (over 94%), followed by counselling services (over 63%), while knowledge about the location of shelters or places of safety for victims of crime ranked lowest (8,1%). Residents of KwaZulu-Natal (67,5%) and Eastern Cape (66,2%) were the most knowledgeable of the location of counselling services for victims. Nationally, a much lower percentage of households in the country responded that they knew of a shelter or place of safety where they could take a victim of crime (8,1%); residents of Western Cape (16,4%) and Free State (13,8%) had the highest awareness of the locations of shelters or places of safety.

Table 79: Number and percentage of households who knew where to take a victim of crime to access medical services by type of institution and province, 2017/18

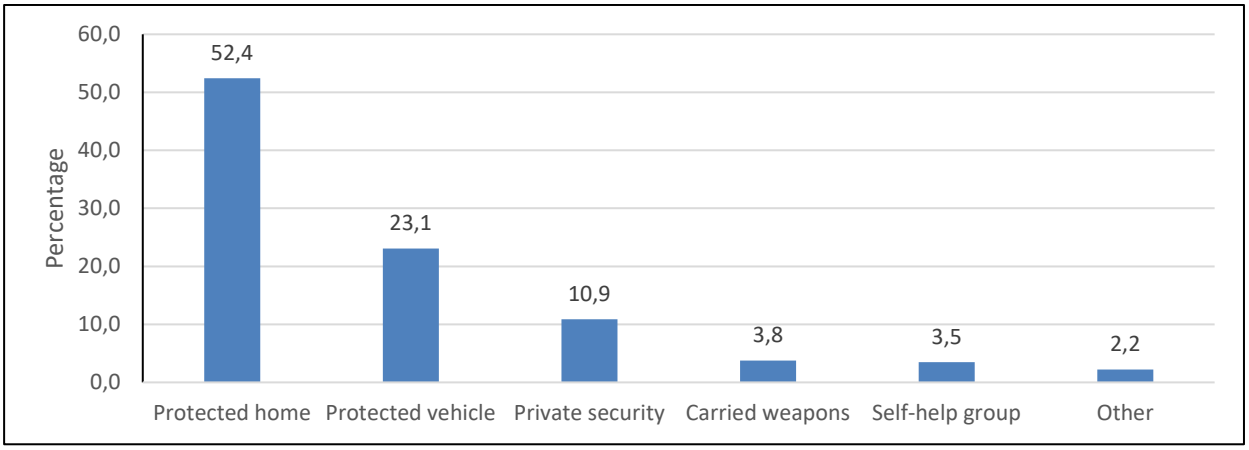
		Province									
Institution	**Statistics**	**WC**	**EC**	**NC**	**FS**	**KZN**	**NW**	**GP**	**MP**	**LP**	**RSA**
Police	Number '000	498	319	89	364	960	281	1 093	318	188	4 111
	Per cent	27,4	18,8	26,9	40,8	35,2	24,3	24,8	27,3	12,9	26,2
Hospital or trauma unit	Number '000	1 563	1 416	277	777	2 029	778	3600	822	1 009	12 270
	Per cent	85,9	83,2	83,4	87,1	74,5	67,4	81,6	70,4	69,3	78,4
Local clinic	Number '000	1 054	1 285	205	690	2 427	1 039	3519	985	1 391	12 596
	Per cent	58,0	75,5	61,6	77,5	89,1	90,0	79,7	84,4	95,5	80,4
Private doctor	Number '000	577	794	123	349	967	372	1933	332	559	6 006
	Per cent	31,7	46,6	36,9	39,1	35,5	32,2	43,8	28,5	38,4	38,4
NGO/volunteer group	Number '000	17	39	8	46	93	15	146	29	106	499
	Per cent	2,4	2,3	2,4	5,2	3,4	1,3	3,3	2,5	7,2	3,2
Victim empowerment	Number '000	22	21	6	23	65	8	63	18	79	305
	Per cent	1,7	1,2	1,7	2,6	2,4	0,7	1,4	1,6	5,4	1,9
Religious/traditional group	Number '000	30	138	8	44	119	8	232	26	149	832
	Per cent	2,6	8,1	2,6	4,9	4,4	7,4	5,3	2,2	10,2	5,3
Courts	Number '000	4	116	2	36	187	2	198	23	54	625
	Per cent	0,5	6,8	0,5	4,0	6,9	0,5	4,5	1,9	3,7	4,0
Other	Number '000	16	1	8	55	7	8	11	41	1	142
	Per cent	2,3	0,1	2,3	6,2	0,3	0,2	0,2	3,5	0,0	0,9

Table 79 presents the number and percentage of households who knew where to take a victim of crime to access medical services by type of institution and province. Approximately eight in every ten households responded that they would take victims to a hospital or trauma unit, or a local clinic.

7.2 Protection measures taken by victims

Figure 20 shows the distribution of households who took measures to protect themselves from crime in 2017/18.

Figure 20: Percentage distribution of households who took measures to protect themselves from crime, 2017/18



Most households in the country took physical protection measures for their homes (52,4%), followed by protecting their vehicles (23,1%) and using private security (10,9%).

Table 80: Percentage distribution of households who took measures to protect themselves from crime by province, 2017/18

Protective measure	Statistics	Province									
		WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
Protected home	Number '000	1 265	764	143	487	1 196	503	3 194	616	542	8 709
	Per cent	66,,7	43,,7	41,,1	52,1	42,3	40,9	65,8	50,7	34,5	52,4
Protected vehicle	Number '000	689	256	58	136	477	203	1 612	214	191	3 838
	Per cent	36,4	14,7	16,8	14,5	16,9	16,6	33,2	17,7	12,2	23,1
Carried weapons	Number '000	76	31	21	37	92	50	243	49	28	626
	Per cent	4,0	1,8	6,0	3,9	3,3	4,1	5,0	4,0	1,8	3,8
Private security	Number '000	345	105	21	59	229	61	869	67	53	1 809
	Per cent	18,2	6,0	6,1	6,3	8,1	5,0	17,9	5,5	3,4	10,9
Self-help groups	Number '000	43	84	6	11	59	17	270	33	55	577
	Per cent	2,3	4,8	1,6	1,2	2,1	1,4	5,6	2,7	3,5	3,5
Other	Number '000	51	92	19	27	58	5	70	37	11	371
	Per cent	2,7	5,2	5,6	2,9	2,1	0,4	1,4	3,1	0,7	2,2

- More than one response category could be marked and percentages therefore do not necessarily add up to 100%

Table 80 shows the provincial distribution of households who took measures to protect themselves from crime. Households in the Western Cape (66,7%) and Gauteng (65,8%) were the more likely to have taken measures to protect their homes compared to the other provinces. The table shows that in general, a higher percentage of households in Gauteng and Western Cape, compared to other provinces, took protective measures.

7.3 Community interaction

This section measures the level of interaction among community members. This measure is used as a proxy for the level of community cohesion. The survey asked household heads, answering on behalf of their households, if they knew the name of their next-door neighbour. About 5,4% of households indicated that they did not know the name of their next-door neighbour. The percentage of households that did not know their neighbour's name by geographical area were as follows: metro (7,5%), rural (5,3%) and urban (3,6%).

Table 81: Percentage distribution of households' knowledge of their neighbours' name by their trust in neighbours, 2017/18

	Trust your neighbour to watch your house		
Knowledge of neighbour's name	**Do not trust neighbour**	**Trust neighbour**	**Total**
Do not know neighbour's name	85,6	14,4	100
Know neighbour's name	9,6	90,4	100
Total	**13,5**	**86,5**	**100**

Table 81 above shows that among households that knew the name of their neighbour, the majority (90,4%) did trust them. The table also suggests that there is a high level of mistrust if the neighbours do not know each other's names. Among households that did not know their neighbour's name, 85,6% did not trust their neighbours, while 14,4% did trust their neighbours.

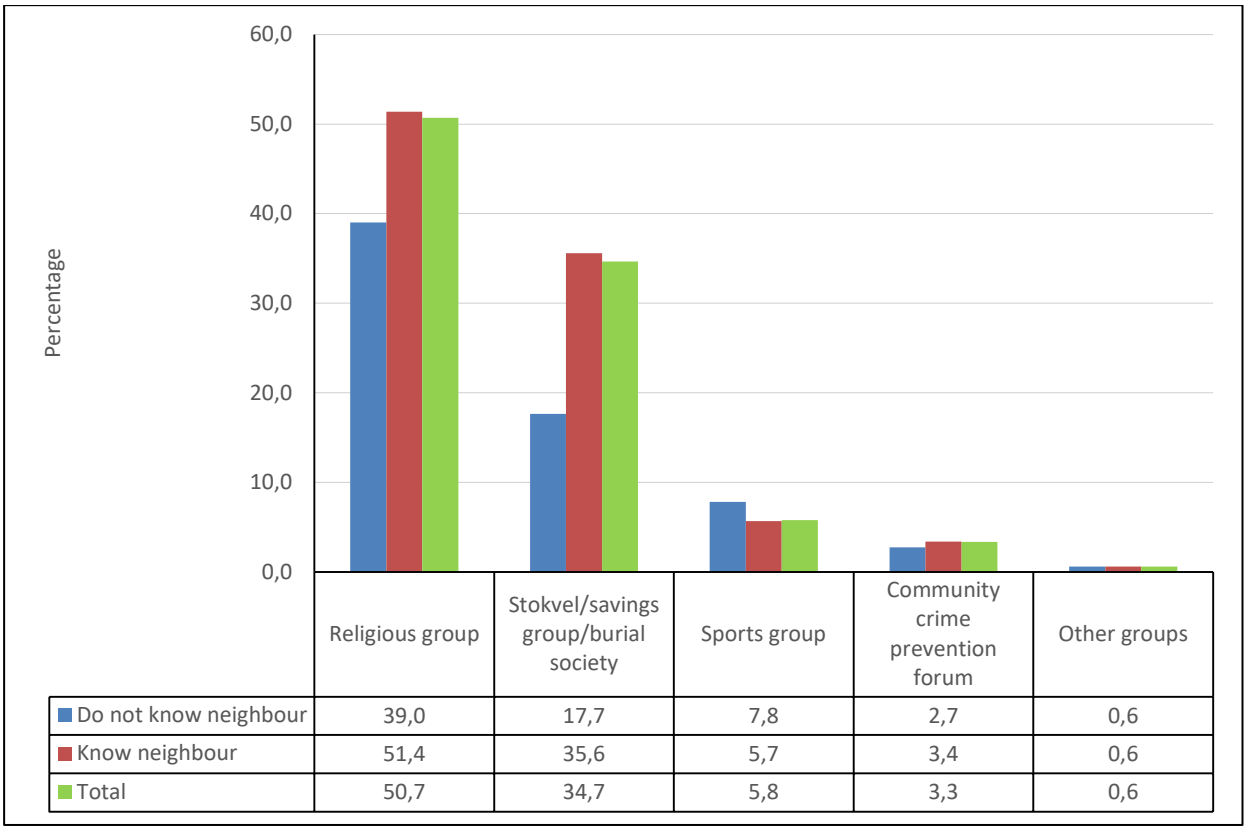
Table 82: Percentage distribution of households' knowledge of their neighbours' name by whether they would let them watch their children, 2017/18

	Trust your neighbour to look after your children		
Knowledge of neighbour's name	**Would not let neighbour look after your children**	**Would let neighbour look after your children**	**Total**
Do not know neighbour's name	86,9	13,1	100
Know neighbour's name	17,7	82,3	100
Total	21,3	78,7	100

The general trends observed in Table 81 are also observed in Table 82. Among households that knew the name of their neighbour, the majority (82,3%) would let them take care of their children. Those households that did not know their neighbour's name (86,9%) also did not trust their neighbours enough to let them take care of their children.

The respondents were also asked if their households participated in any community-based activities. Figure 21 below depicts the percentage distribution of these community-based initiatives.

Figure 21: Percentage distribution of households' knowledge of their neighbours' name by activities in which they partake, 2017/18



	Religious group	Stokvel/savings group/burial society	Sports group	Community crime prevention forum	Other groups
Do not know neighbour	39,0	17,7	7,8	2,7	0,6
Know neighbour	51,4	35,6	5,7	3,4	0,6
Total	50,7	34,7	5,8	3,3	0,6

The findings summarised in Figure 21 suggest that households who know their neighbours are more likely to belong to religious groups and stokvels/savings groups than those who do not. Knowing the neighbour's name does not seem to be significantly associated with belonging to other social groups.

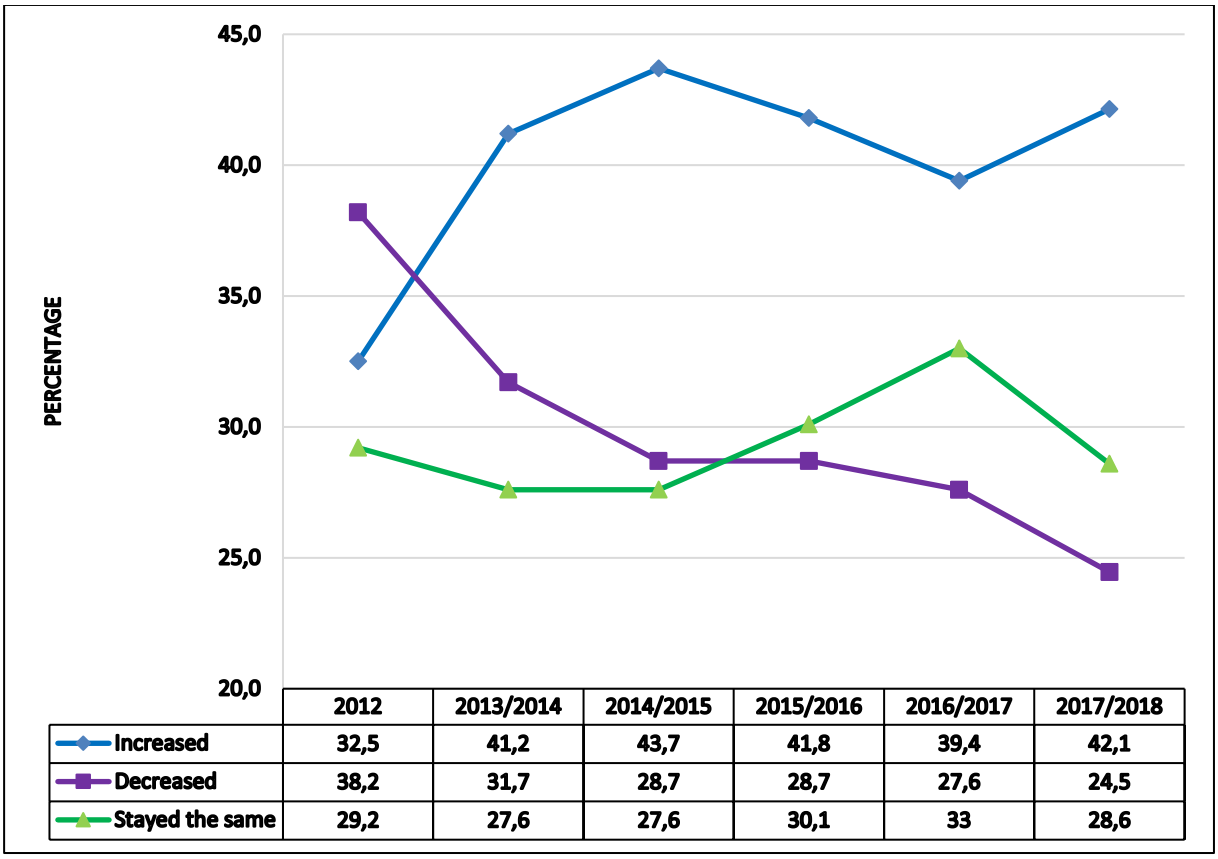
8. ATTITUDES AND PERCEPTIONS OF CRIME

8.1 Perceptions on crime trends

This section addresses the extent to which people in South Africa feel safe as outlined in the Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) for the period 2014–2019. Households were asked about their perceptions of how the levels of violent crime have changed in the three years prior to the survey.

Households' perceptions about change in violent crime levels between 2012 and 2017/18 are depicted in Figure 22 below.

Figure 22: Percentage distribution of households' perceptions of violent crime levels in their areas of residence over three-year interval prior to the survey, 2012–2017/18

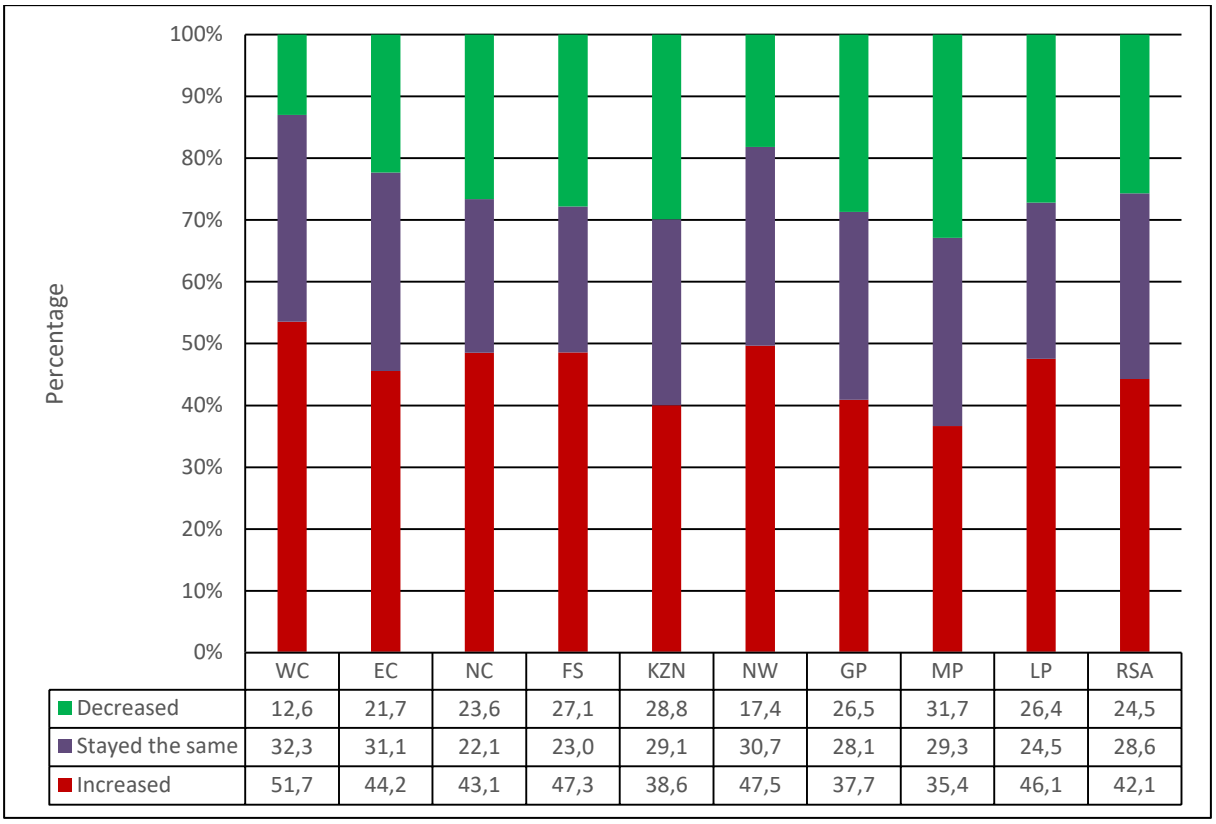


	2012	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
Increased	32,5	41,2	43,7	41,8	39,4	42,1
Decreased	38,2	31,7	28,7	28,7	27,6	24,5
Stayed the same	29,2	27,6	27,6	30,1	33	28,6

Between 2012 and 2015, there is a clear downward trend in the numbers of those who believe that crime had decreased over the preceding three years. In 2017/18, the proportion of households who were of the view that violent crime in their area had increased in the last three years was higher than in the preceding two years, after a decline between 2015/16 and 2016/17. Thus, emerging positive public perceptions about the violent crime situation observed between 2015/16 and 2016/17 has reversed again. The percentage of households who feel that violent crime has decreased was lowest in 2017/18, and less than a quarter of households felt that violent crime has decreased.

Figure 23 depicts the provincial distribution of households' perceptions of the levels of violent crime in their areas of residence in 2017/18.

Figure 23: Percentage distribution of households' perceptions of violent crime levels in their areas of residence in the past three years, 2017/18

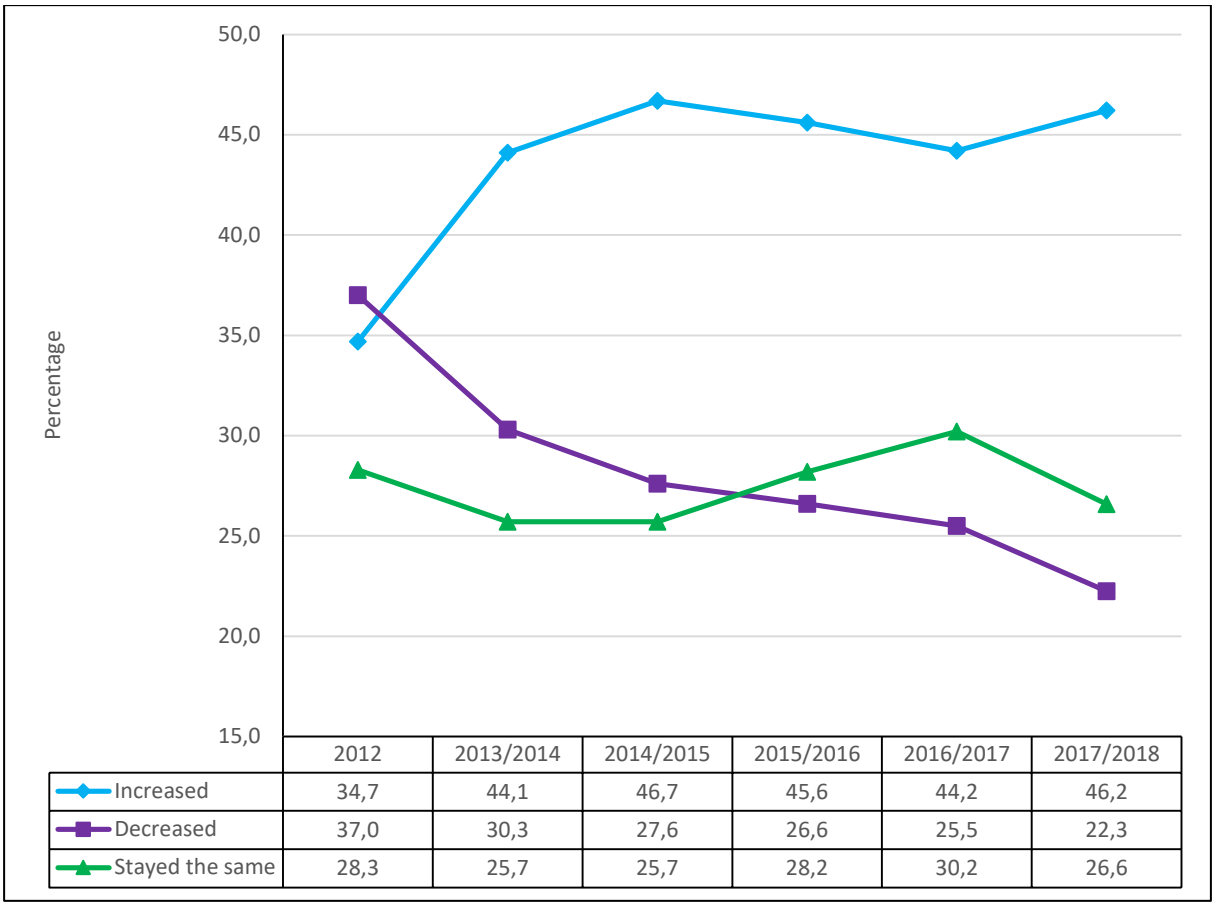


	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
Decreased	12,6	21,7	23,6	27,1	28,8	17,4	26,5	31,7	26,4	24,5
Stayed the same	32,3	31,1	22,1	23,0	29,1	30,7	28,1	29,3	24,5	28,6
Increased	51,7	44,2	43,1	47,3	38,6	47,5	37,7	35,4	46,1	42,1

According to Figure 23, Western Cape (51,7%) had the highest proportion of households who said that crime increased, followed by North West (47,5%), Free State (47,3%) and Limpopo (46,1%). The proportions of households that thought crime had decreased were highest in Mpumalanga (31,7%) and KwaZulu-Natal (28,8%).

Households' perceptions about property crime levels between 2011 and 2017/18 are shown in Figure 24 below.

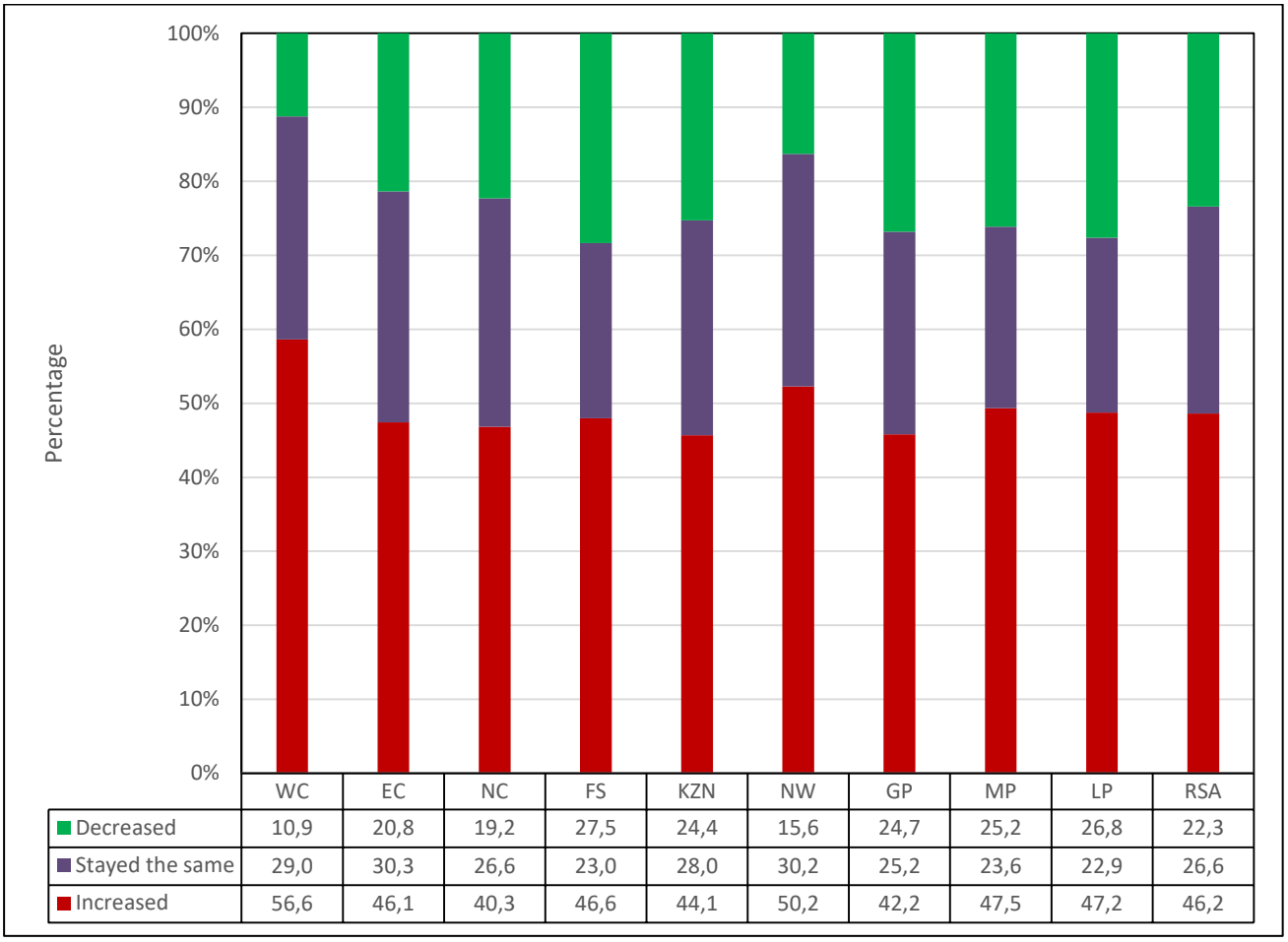
Figure 24: Percentage distribution of households' perceptions of property crime levels in their areas of residence over three-year interval prior to the survey, 2012–2017/18



	2012	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
Increased	34,7	44,1	46,7	45,6	44,2	46,2
Decreased	37,0	30,3	27,6	26,6	25,5	22,3
Stayed the same	28,3	25,7	25,7	28,2	30,2	26,6

Trends in the perceptions of the changes in property crime, especially with regard to perceptions about the increase of crime, are similar to those of violent crime, with improved trends for 2015/16 and 2016/17, only to deteriorate again in 2017/18. Less than a quarter of households feel that crime decreased over the preceding three years. This number if lower than any of those for the previous years in the time series.

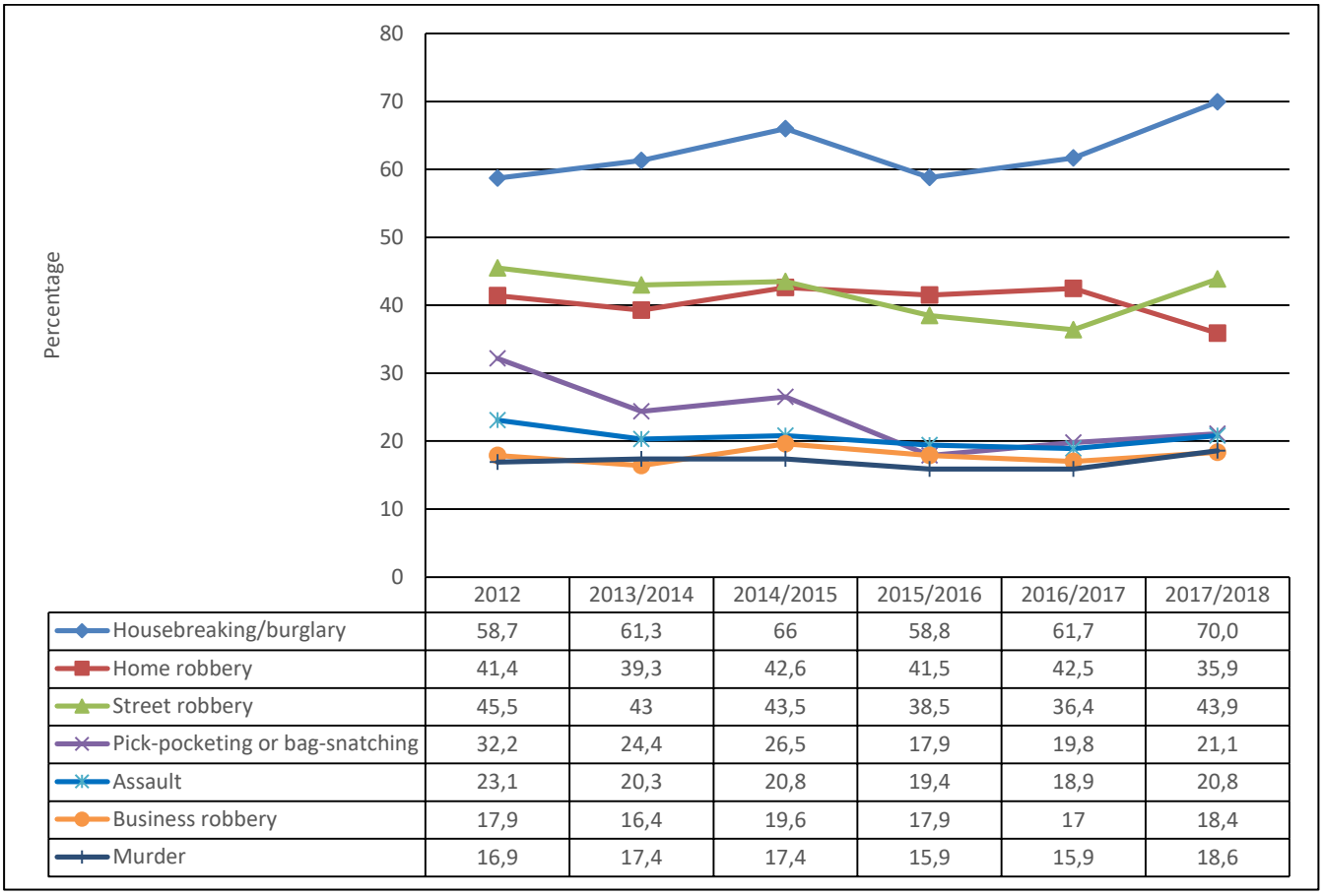
Figure 25: Percentage distribution of households' perceptions of property crime levels in their areas of residence in the past three years, 2017/18



	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
Decreased	10,9	20,8	19,2	27,5	24,4	15,6	24,7	25,2	26,8	22,3
Stayed the same	29,0	30,3	26,6	23,0	28,0	30,2	25,2	23,6	22,9	26,6
Increased	56,6	46,1	40,3	46,6	44,1	50,2	42,2	47,5	47,2	46,2

Figure 25 shows the provincial distribution of households' perceptions of the levels of property crime in their areas of residence for the period 2011–2017/18. In South Africa as a whole, 46,2% of households indicated that property crime increased, while 22,3% of the households felt that it has decreased. Western Cape (56,6%) had the highest proportion of households who said that property crime increased, followed by Mpumalanga (47,5%) and Limpopo (47,2%).

Figure 26: Crimes perceived by households to be most common in South Africa, 2012–2017/18



	2012	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
Housebreaking/burglary	58,7	61,3	66	58,8	61,7	70,0
Home robbery	41,4	39,3	42,6	41,5	42,5	35,9
Street robbery	45,5	43	43,5	38,5	36,4	43,9
Pick-pocketing or bag-snatching	32,2	24,4	26,5	17,9	19,8	21,1
Assault	23,1	20,3	20,8	19,4	18,9	20,8
Business robbery	17,9	16,4	19,6	17,9	17	18,4
Murder	16,9	17,4	17,4	15,9	15,9	18,6

A time series analysis of crime types perceived to be the most common by households in their area of residence between 2012 and 2017/18 is shown in Figure 26. The majority of households perceived housebreaking/burglary as the most common crime type, followed by street and home robbery. The percentage of households that thought that housebreaking was the most common crime increased steadily from 58,7% in 2012 to 70,0% in 2017/18.

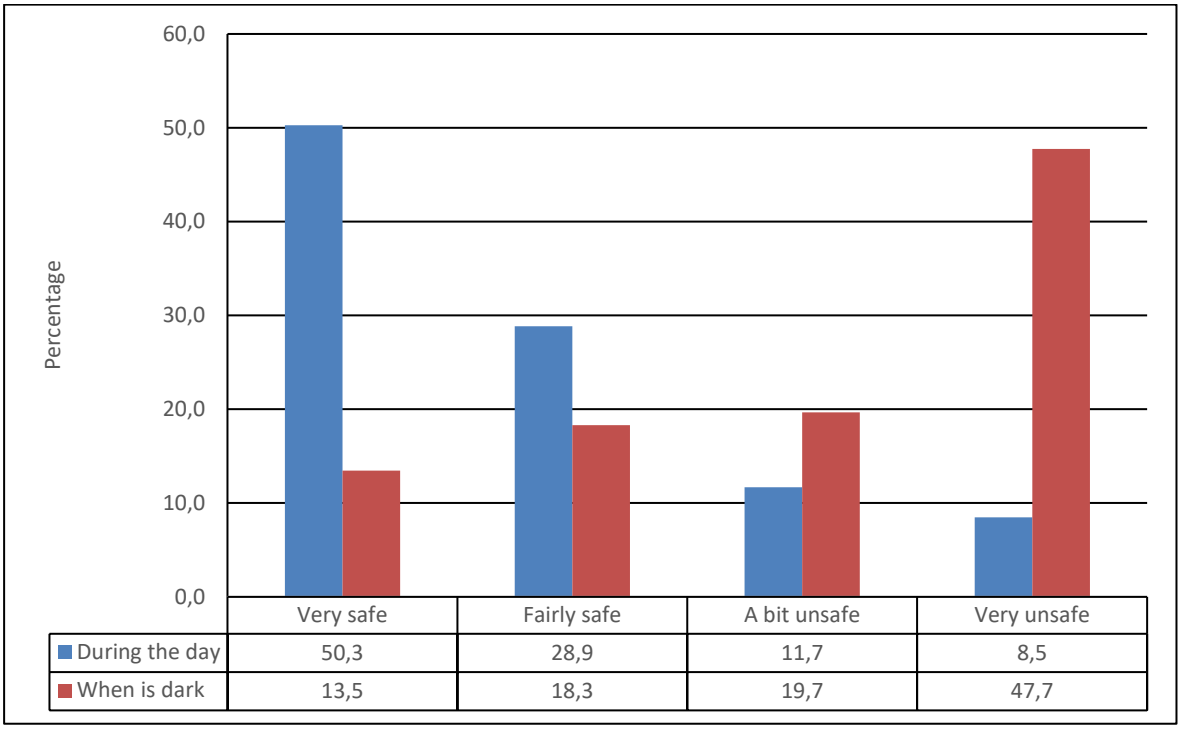
Table 83: Crimes perceived by households to be the most common and feared in South Africa, 2017/18

Crime type	Crime perceived to be most common		Crime feared most	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Housebreaking or burglary	1 1640	70,0	10 106	60,8
Home robbery	6 268	37,7	7 846	47,2
Robbery outside home	7 677	46,2	7 700	46,3
Murder	3 301	19,9	6 726	40,5
Sexual assault	2 499	15,0	4 711	28,3
Pick-pocketing or bag-snatching	3 953	23,8	3 892	23,4
Assault	3 645	21,9	3 872	23,3
Drug trafficking	3 179	19,1	2 813	16,9
Car theft or any type of vehicle	2 032	12,2	2 685	16,2
Business robbery	3 416	20,6	2 622	15,8
Vehicle hijacking	2 148	12,9	2 146	12,9
Trafficking in persons	732	4,4	2 038	12,3
Child abuse	946	5,7	1 917	11,5
Livestock/poultry theft	1 990	12,0	1 821	11,0
Mob justice/vigilante group	1 188	7,1	1 658	10,0
Political violence	1 016	6,1	1 502	9,0
Hate crime	715	4,3	1 448	8,7
Identity document theft	238	1,4	1 309	7,9
Deliberate damage to dwelling	474	2,9	1 226	7,4
White-collar crime	301	1,8	1 120	6,7
Bicycle theft	700	4,2	1 083	6,5
Crop theft	457	2,7	936	5,6
Other crimes	626	3,8	462	2,8

Table 83 shows crimes that were perceived to be the most common and those that were feared most by household representatives. Although it is widely accepted that murder and sexual assault are more serious crimes than housebreaking, housebreaking is feared more than murder and sexual assault. A total of 60,8% of households in South Africa fear housebreaking/burglary the most, followed by home robbery (47,2%) and robbery outside the home (46,3%).

8.2 Feelings of safety

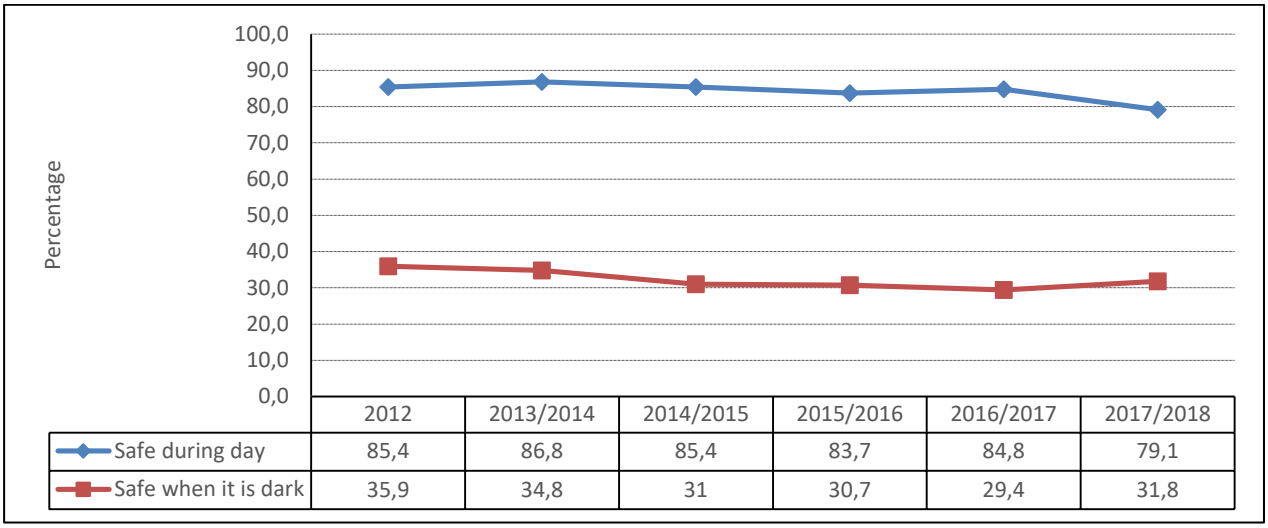
Figure 27: Comparison of feelings of safety when walking alone in their areas of residence during the day and when it is dark, 2017/18



	Very safe	Fairly safe	A bit unsafe	Very unsafe
During the day	50,3	28,9	11,7	8,5
When is dark	13,5	18,3	19,7	47,7

Figure 27 shows the percentage distribution of households' feelings of safety when walking alone in their areas of residence during the day and when it is dark. About 79% of households felt safe in their area during the day (50,3% felt very safe and 28,9% fairly safe). This is a significant decline from 2016/17, when 84,8% felt safe or fairly safe. Feelings of safety at night have been significantly less. In 2017/18, 67,4% felt a bit unsafe or very unsafe (19,7% felt a bit unsafe and 47,7% felt very unsafe).

Figure 28: Percentage distribution of households who felt safe walking alone in their areas of residence during the day and when it is dark, 2012–2017/18



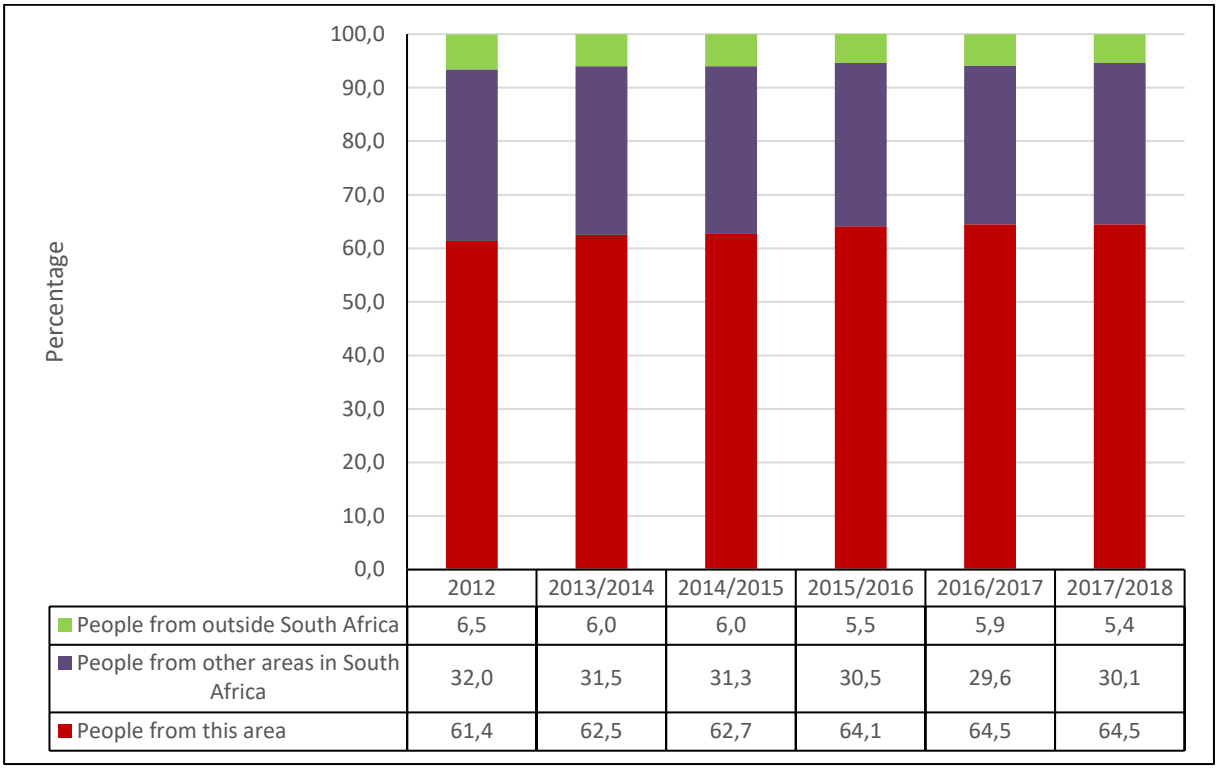
The percentages of households who felt safe walking alone in their areas of residence during the day and when it is dark for the period 2012 to 2017/18 are shown in Figure 28. The graph shows that during the last five years, people in South Africa consistently felt a lot safer walking in their neighbourhoods during the day than when it is dark. There is also evidence of a steadily declining trend for walking alone during the day and a slight increase from 2016/17 in the percentage who feel safe walking alone at night.

Table 84: Percentage distribution of households who were prevented from engaging in daily activities as a result of crime in their area, 2017/18

Activity	Households prevented from engaging in daily activities	
	Number in thousands	Per cent
Going to open spaces	5 369	32,3
Allowing children to play	2 838	17,1
Walk town	2 378	14,3
Dressing in any way	1 881	11,3
Walk to shops	2 313	13,9
Public transport	2 318	13,9
Allowing children to walk to school	1 914	11,5
Starting a home business	1 538	9,3
Expressing sexual orientation	1 661	10,0
Keeping livestock	959	5,8
Walking to fetch water/wood	714	4,3

Table 84 summarises the distribution of households who were prevented from engaging in daily activities. The VOCS 2017/18 data show that, due to the fear of crime, the majority of households were prevented from going to open spaces (32,3%), allowing children to play in their area (17,1%) and walking to town (14,3%). About 12% of households that have children did not allow their children to walk to school due to the fear of crime.

Figure 29: Percentage distribution of households' perception of the most likely perpetrators of property crime, 2012–2017/18



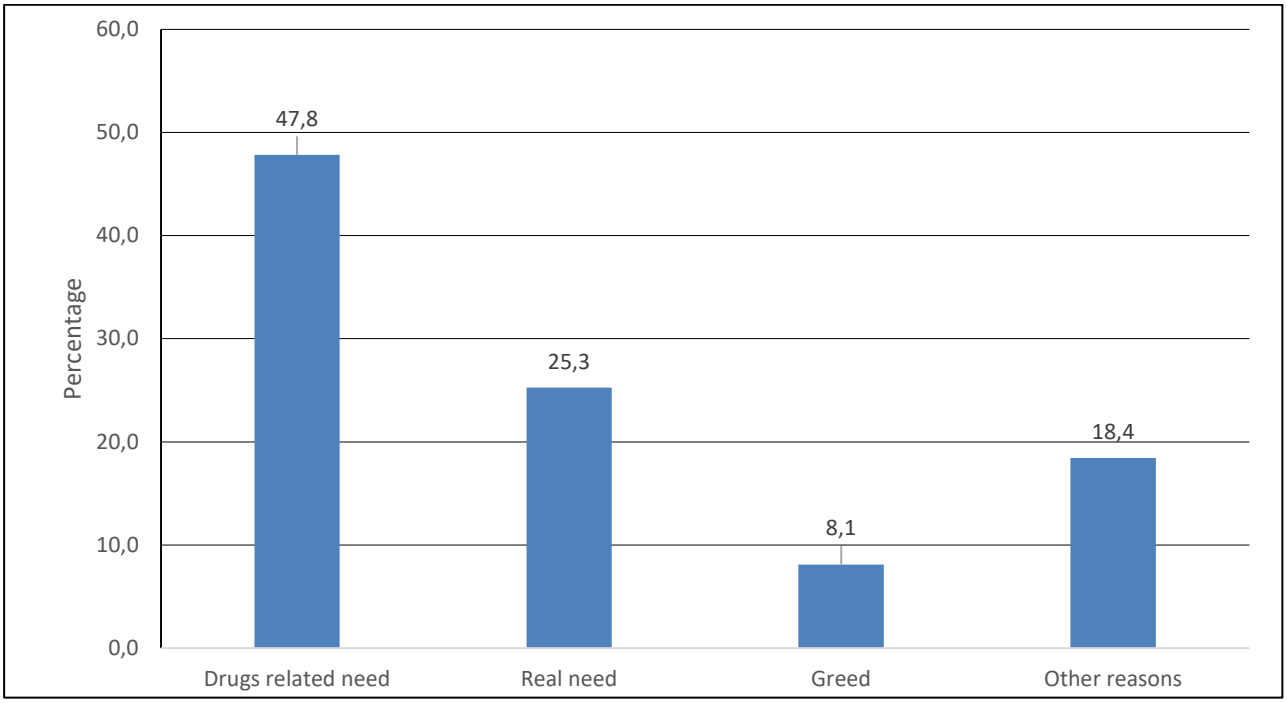
	2012	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
People from outside South Africa	6,5	6,0	6,0	5,5	5,9	5,4
People from other areas in South Africa	32,0	31,5	31,3	30,5	29,6	30,1
People from this area	61,4	62,5	62,7	64,1	64,5	64,5

Figure 29 depicts the distribution of perceptions about who were the likely perpetrators of property and violent crime, respectively. From 2012 to 2017/18, the general perception was that perpetrators of property crime are people from around the neighbourhood. In 2017/18, the majority of households (65%) thought that perpetrators of property crime are people from their area. The same results were obtained for the question about violent crimes.

8.3 Beliefs about reasons for committing crime

In the VOCS 2017/18 questionnaire, respondents were asked what they thought could be the motive for perpetrators committing crime. This question was asked differently in 2017/18 as compared to the previous years. Users are advised to use caution when comparing these responses across the series.

Figure 30: Percentage distribution of households' perceptions of why perpetrators commit crime, 2017/18

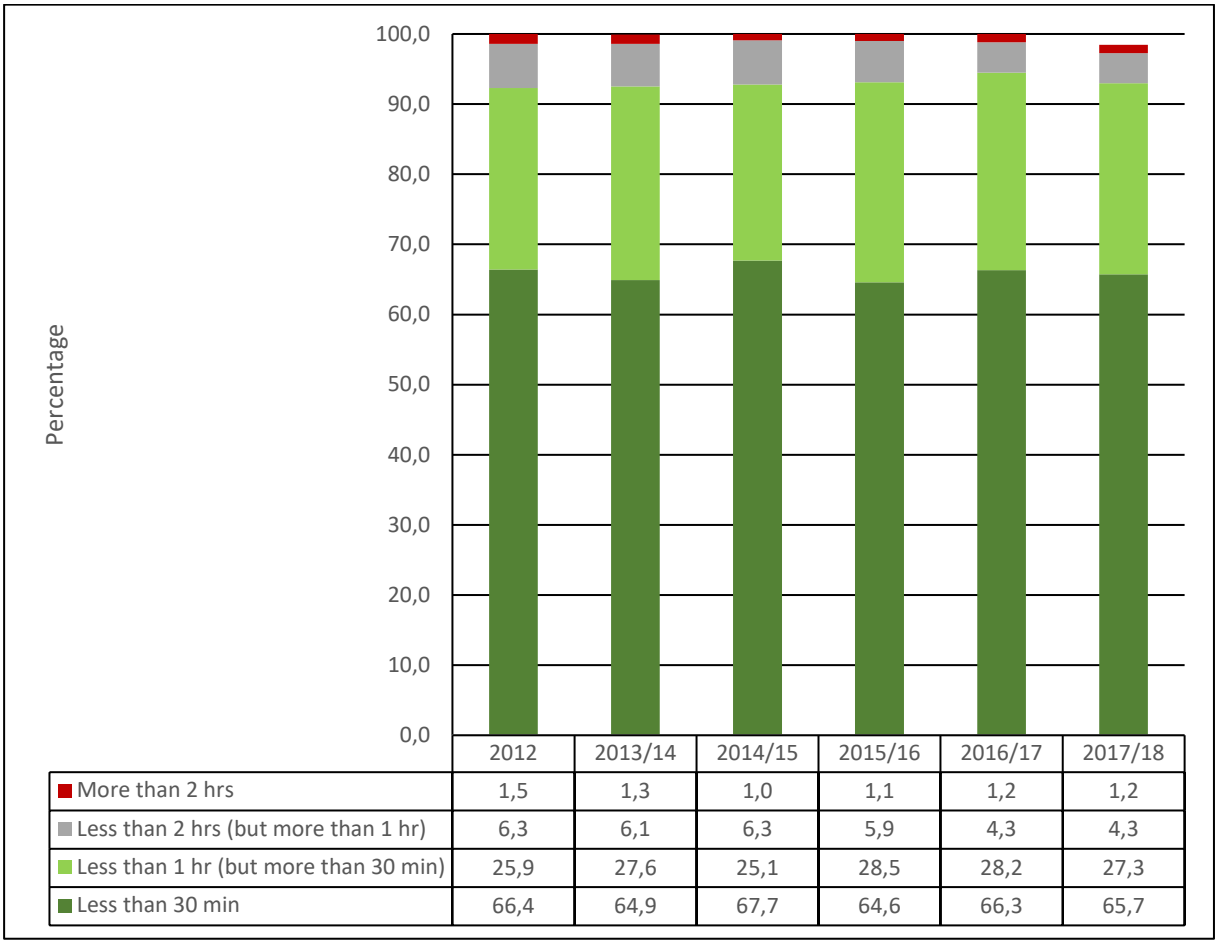


In 2017/18, the majority of households in South Africa thought that the need for drugs (47,8%) was the main reason perpetrators committed crime. More than a quarter (25,3%) felt that they did so because of a real need. About 8% of households were of the view that the perpetrators of crime commit crime because they are greedy. A further 18,4% of households attributed the reasons for committing crimes to other motives, which include jealousy, hatred, ritual killings and a lack of parental influence over children.

8.4 Attitudes towards police

A descriptive analysis of the average length of time it takes households to reach their nearest police station and for the police to respond to emergency calls, police visibility, as well as household levels of satisfaction with police services, by selected demographic variables, produced the following results.

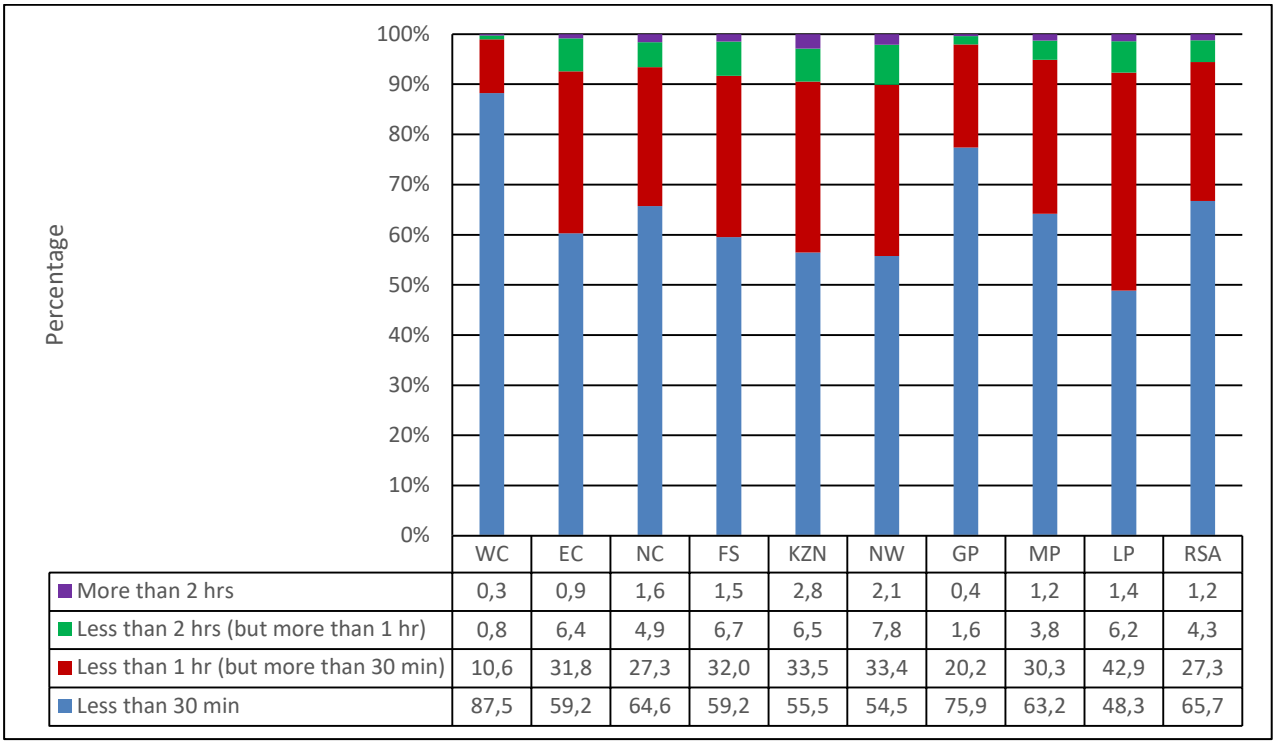
Figure 31: Percentage distribution of households' perceptions of the average time it takes to reach the nearest police station using their usual mode of transport, 2012–2017/18



	2012	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
More than 2 hrs	1,5	1,3	1,0	1,1	1,2	1,2
Less than 2 hrs (but more than 1 hr)	6,3	6,1	6,3	5,9	4,3	4,3
Less than 1 hr (but more than 30 min)	25,9	27,6	25,1	28,5	28,2	27,3
Less than 30 min	66,4	64,9	67,7	64,6	66,3	65,7

Figure 31 shows households' perceptions of the average length of time it would take to reach their nearest police station when using their usual mode of transport between 2011 and 2017/18. Responses were very similar over time. In 2017/18, slightly less than two-thirds of households in South Africa took less than half an hour to reach their nearest police station. For the same period, about 27% of households thought it took between thirty minutes and an hour on average to reach a police station.

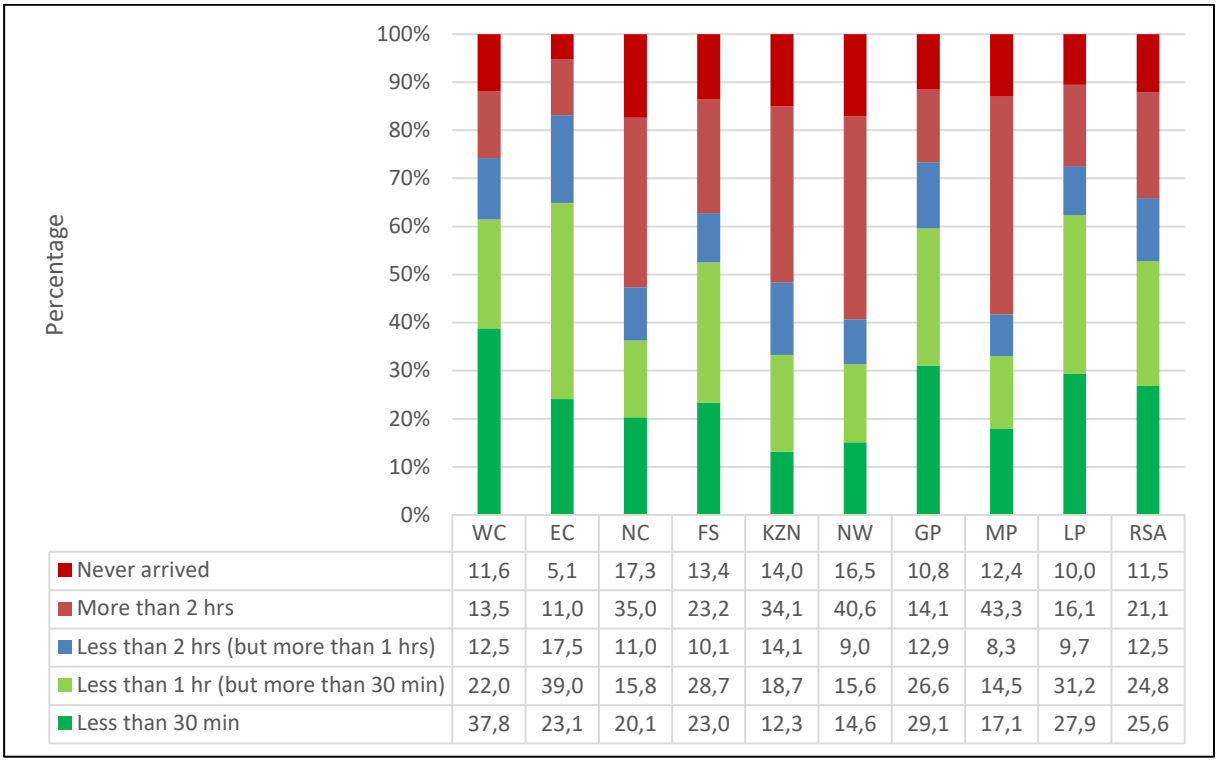
Figure 32: Percentage distribution of households' perceptions of the average length of time it takes to reach the nearest police station using their usual mode of transport by province, 2017/18



	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
More than 2 hrs	0,3	0,9	1,6	1,5	2,8	2,1	0,4	1,2	1,4	1,2
Less than 2 hrs (but more than 1 hr)	0,8	6,4	4,9	6,7	6,5	7,8	1,6	3,8	6,2	4,3
Less than 1 hr (but more than 30 min)	10,6	31,8	27,3	32,0	33,5	33,4	20,2	30,3	42,9	27,3
Less than 30 min	87,5	59,2	64,6	59,2	55,5	54,5	75,9	63,2	48,3	65,7

Figure 32 shows the provincial distribution of the average length of time it takes to reach the nearest police station. The figure indicates that the police stations that are relatively accessible to the public are situated in Western Cape (87,5%), followed by Gauteng (75,9%) and Northern Cape (64,6%), where households were able to reach a police station in less than 30 minutes.

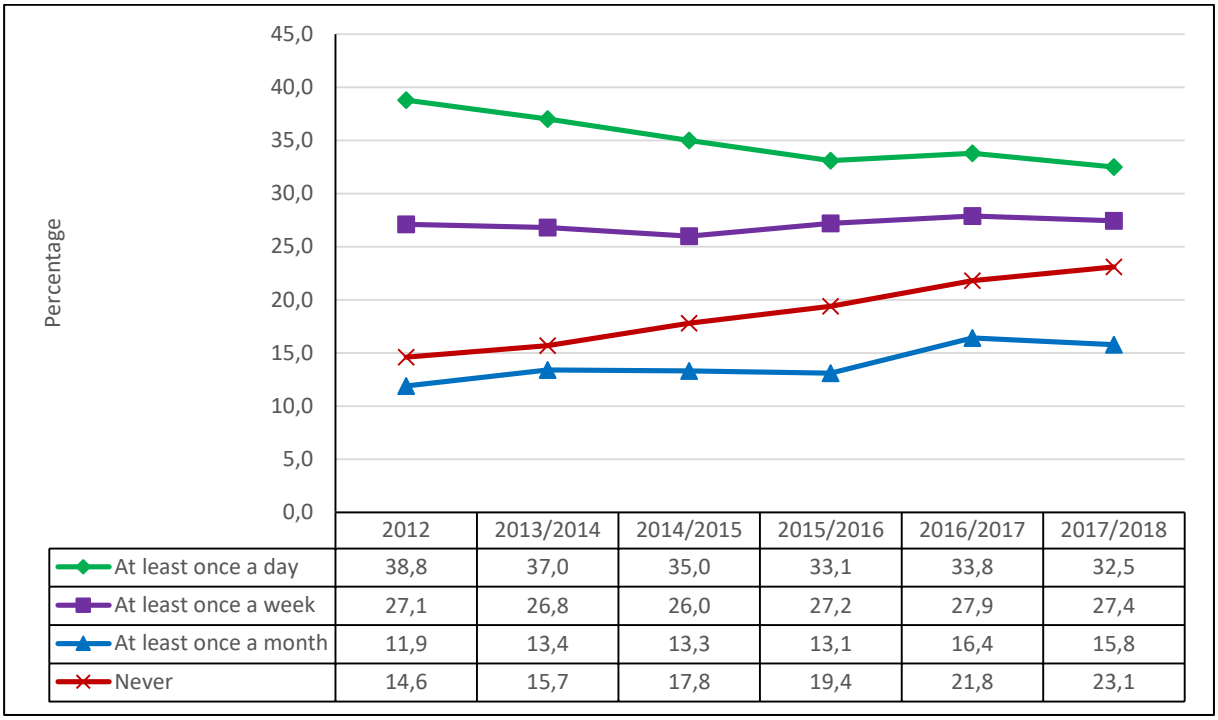
Figure 33: Percentage distribution of households' perceptions of the average length of time it takes the police to respond to an emergency call by province, 2017/18



	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
Never arrived	11,6	5,1	17,3	13,4	14,0	16,5	10,8	12,4	10,0	11,5
More than 2 hrs	13,5	11,0	35,0	23,2	34,1	40,6	14,1	43,3	16,1	21,1
Less than 2 hrs (but more than 1 hrs)	12,5	17,5	11,0	10,1	14,1	9,0	12,9	8,3	9,7	12,5
Less than 1 hr (but more than 30 min)	22,0	39,0	15,8	28,7	18,7	15,6	26,6	14,5	31,2	24,8
Less than 30 min	37,8	23,1	20,1	23,0	12,3	14,6	29,1	17,1	27,9	25,6

Figure 33 depicts the average length of time it takes the police to respond to an emergency call. Figure 33 showed that most police stations in Western Cape and Gauteng were less than thirty minutes away from most households, and Figure 33 confirms that Western Cape had one of the fastest police response times with 59,8% indicating a response time of less than an hour. However, the province with the highest percentage of responses within an hour was Eastern Cape (62,1%). Limpopo also had good response times with 59,1% reporting response times of less than an hour. It is also important to note that "Never arrived" is most problematic in Northern Cape (17,3%), North West (16,5%) and KwaZulu-Natal (14,0%).

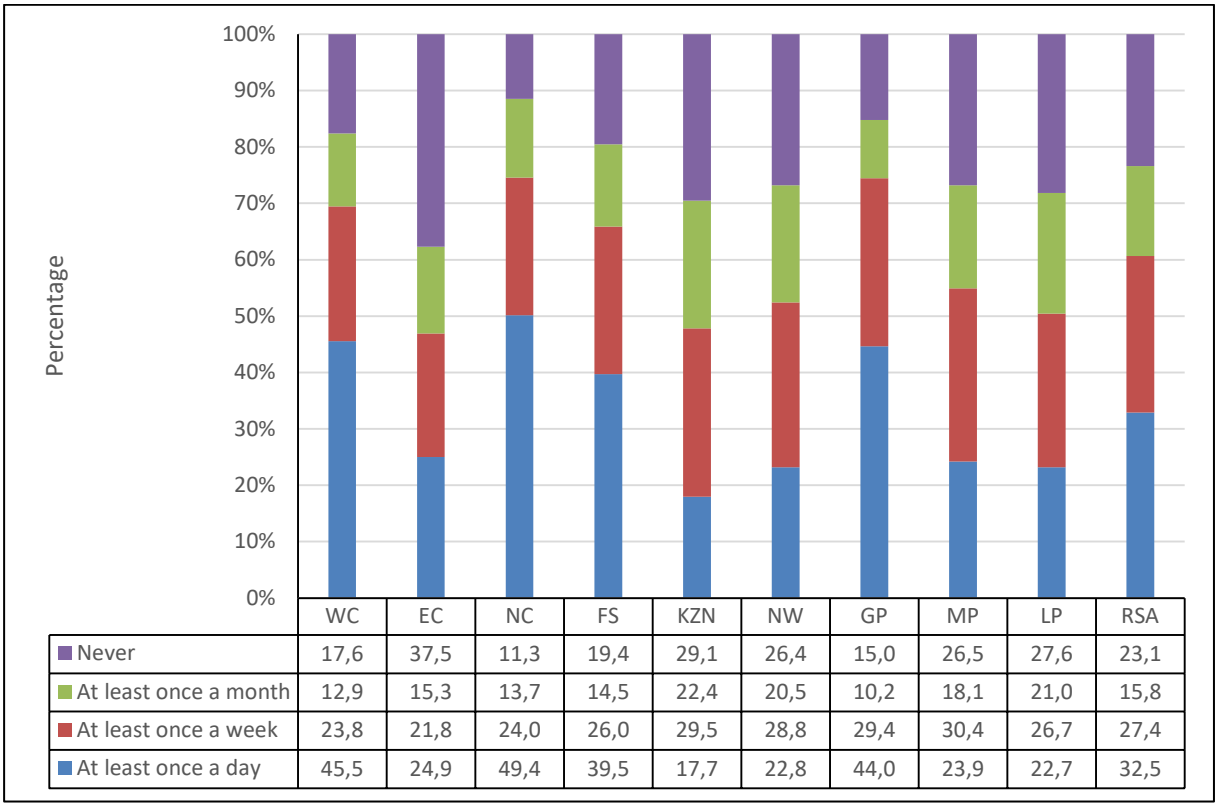
Figure 34: Percentage distribution of households who saw the police, in uniform and on duty, in their area of residence, 2012–2017/18



	2012	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
At least once a day	38,8	37,0	35,0	33,1	33,8	32,5
At least once a week	27,1	26,8	26,0	27,2	27,9	27,4
At least once a month	11,9	13,4	13,3	13,1	16,4	15,8
Never	14,6	15,7	17,8	19,4	21,8	23,1

Figure 34 represents a time series of police visibility from 2012 to 2017/18. The proportion of households who saw police in uniform in their neighbourhoods at least once a day declined over the reference period. The decline was accompanied by slight increases in seeing them at least once a week or month and an increase from 14,6% to 23,1% between 2012 and 2017/18 among households who say that they never see the police in their area.

Figure 35: Percentage distribution of households who saw the police, in uniform and on duty, in their area of residence by province, 2017/18



	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
Never	17,6	37,5	11,3	19,4	29,1	26,4	15,0	26,5	27,6	23,1
At least once a month	12,9	15,3	13,7	14,5	22,4	20,5	10,2	18,1	21,0	15,8
At least once a week	23,8	21,8	24,0	26,0	29,5	28,8	29,4	30,4	26,7	27,4
At least once a day	45,5	24,9	49,4	39,5	17,7	22,8	44,0	23,9	22,7	32,5

A provincial distribution of households who saw police, in uniform and on duty, in their area of residence is depicted in Figure 35. While data show that police stations are more accessible in Western Cape and Gauteng, Figure 35 shows that a larger proportion of households who saw police on duty, in their area of residence at least once a day were in Northern Cape (49,4%) and Western Cape (45,5%).

Figure 36: Percentage of households satisfied with police services in their area, 2013/14 – 2017/18

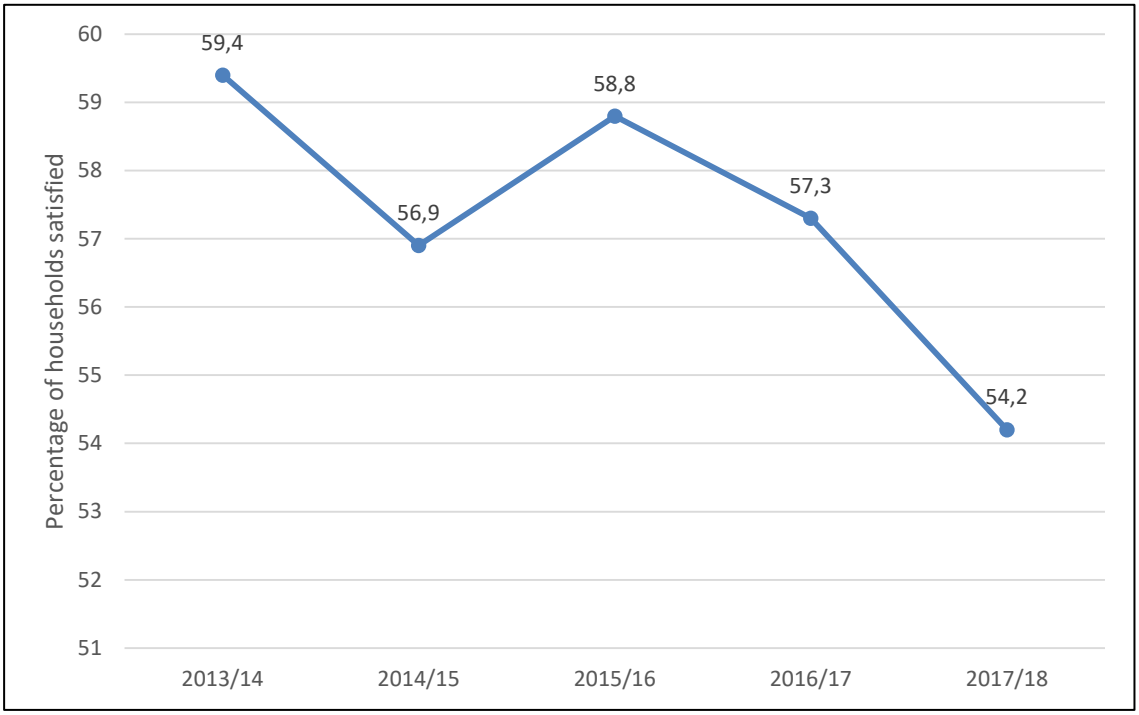
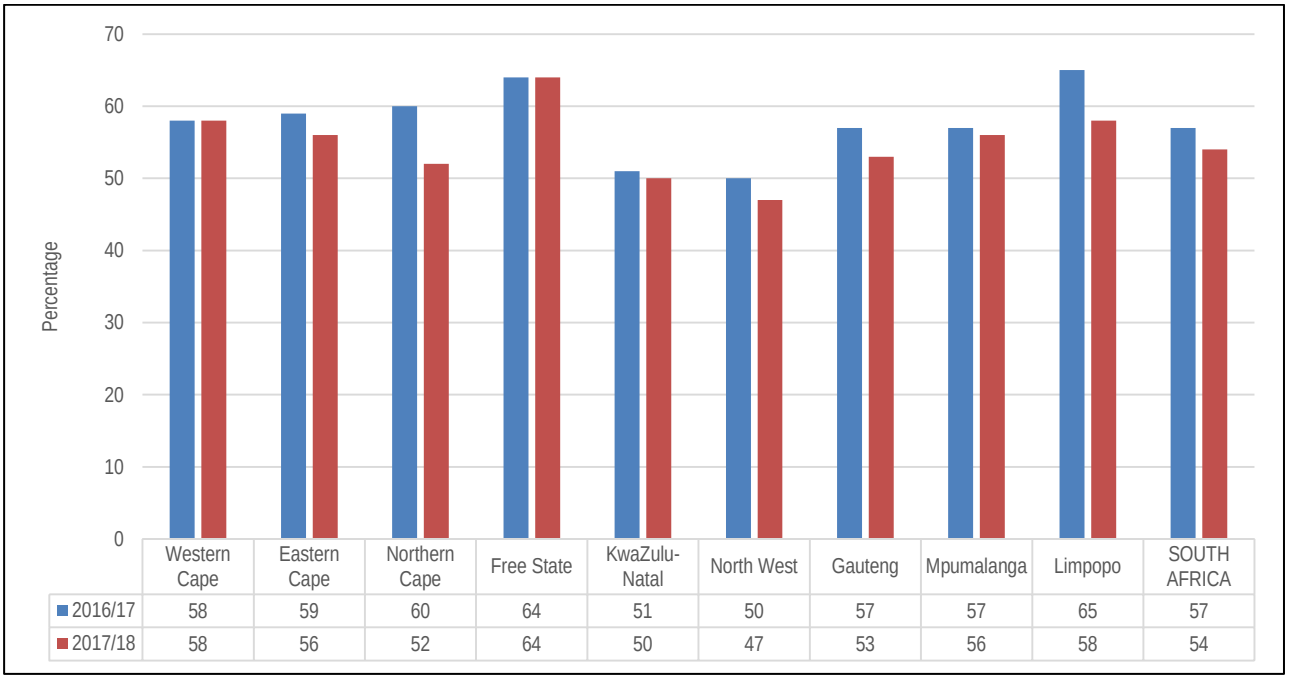


Figure 36 represents the proportions of households who are satisfied with the police in their area of residence. The figure shows that South African households' level of satisfaction with the police has been declining since 2013/14, with only a slight increase in 2015/16.

Figure 37: Percentage distribution of households who were satisfied with police in their area by province, 2016/17–2017/18

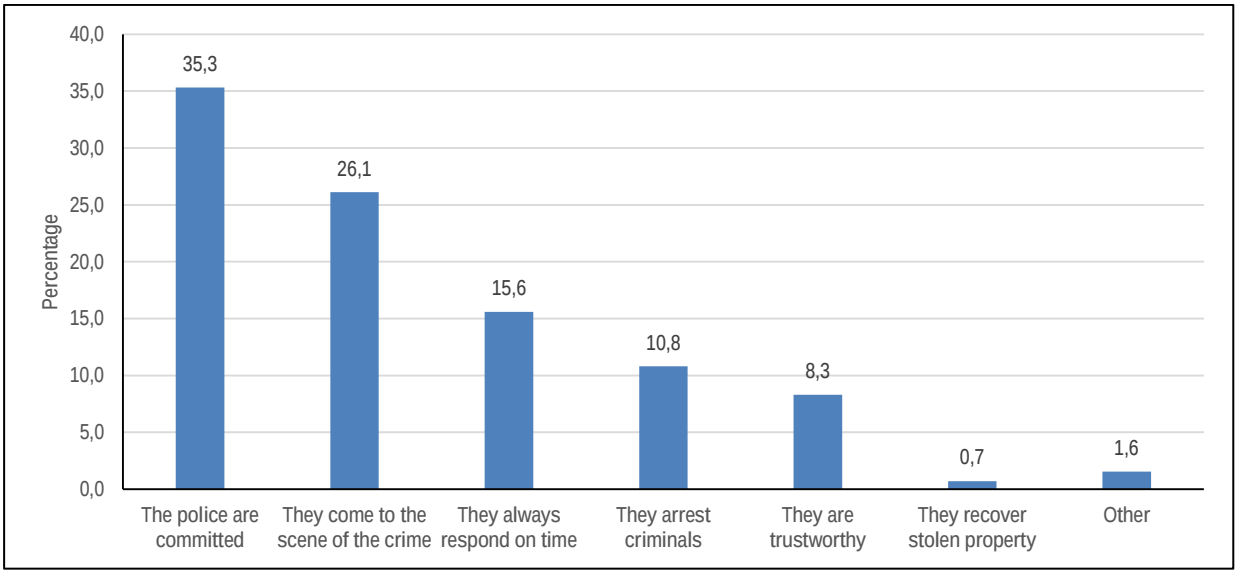


	Western Cape	Eastern Cape	Northern Cape	Free State	KwaZulu-Natal	North West	Gauteng	Mpumalanga	Limpopo	SOUTH AFRICA
2016/17	58	59	60	64	51	50	57	57	65	57
2017/18	58	56	52	64	50	47	53	56	58	54

The percentage of households satisfied with the police services in their area dropped in every province except the Western Cape and Free State.

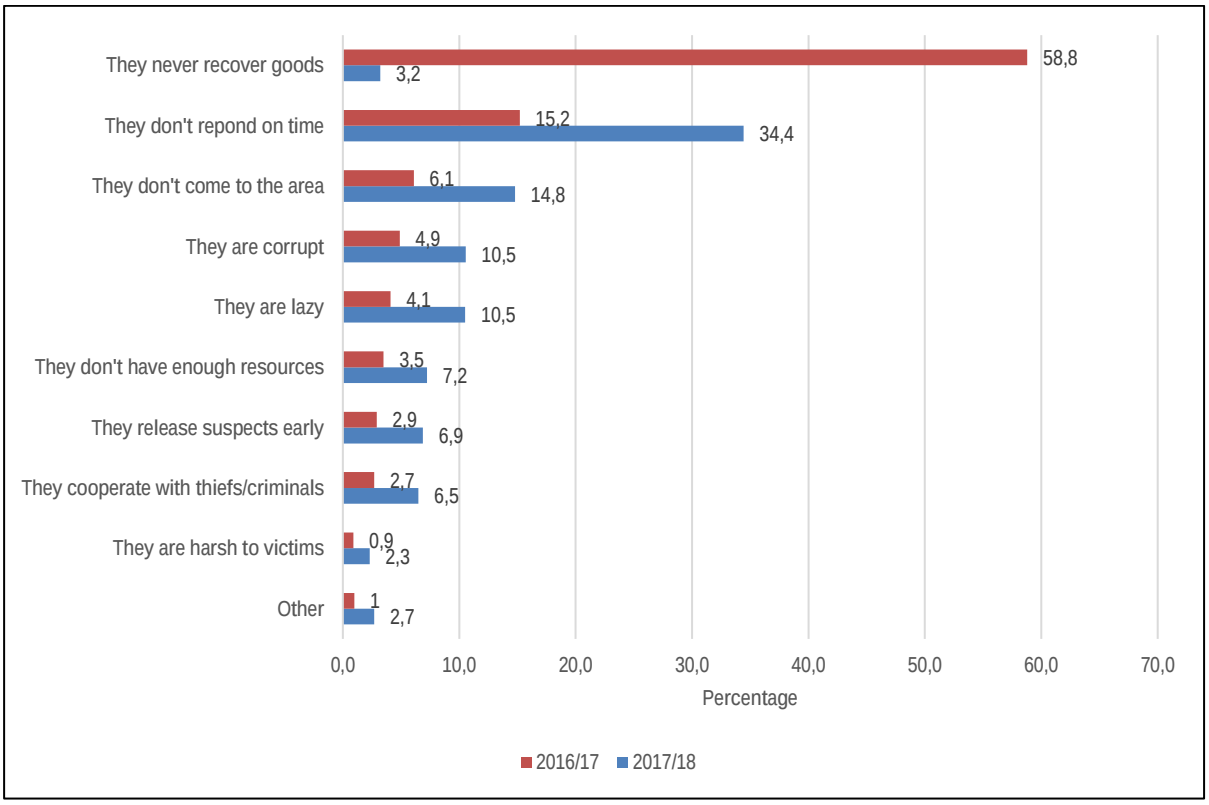
Figure 38 and Figure 39 summarise households' reasons for being satisfied/dissatisfied with the way in which the police deal with crime. It is worth noting that questions on police satisfaction in the VOCS 2017/18 were asked differently from the previous years. Readers are advised to exercise caution when comparing VOCS 2017/18 and data from preceding years. The category "Other" comprises a collation of reasons such as "They are disability sensitive/tolerant" and "They are gender sensitive/tolerant".

Figure 38: Distribution of households' reasons for being satisfied with the way the police deal with crime, 2017/18



More than a third of households (35,3%) who were satisfied with the police, were satisfied because they are committed and a further 26,1% are happy because they came to the scene of the crime. The reasons why households are dissatisfied are summarised in Figure 39 below.

Figure 39: Distribution of households' reasons for being dissatisfied with the way the police deal with crime, 2016/17–2017/18



Among households who were dissatisfied with the way in which the police deal with crime in their area, the majority (59%) felt that the police never recover their goods. The category "Other" comprises reasons such as "They are disability insensitive/intolerant" and "They are gender insensitive/intolerant".

8.5 Attitudes towards courts

Households were also asked in the VOCS about their satisfaction with the way in which courts generally deal with perpetrators, reasons for being satisfied, reasons for being dissatisfied, and their feelings about the appropriateness of sentences imposed on perpetrators of violent crime.

Figure 40: Percentage distribution of households' satisfaction with police services in their area and the way in which courts generally deal with perpetrators of crime, 2013/14 – 2017/18

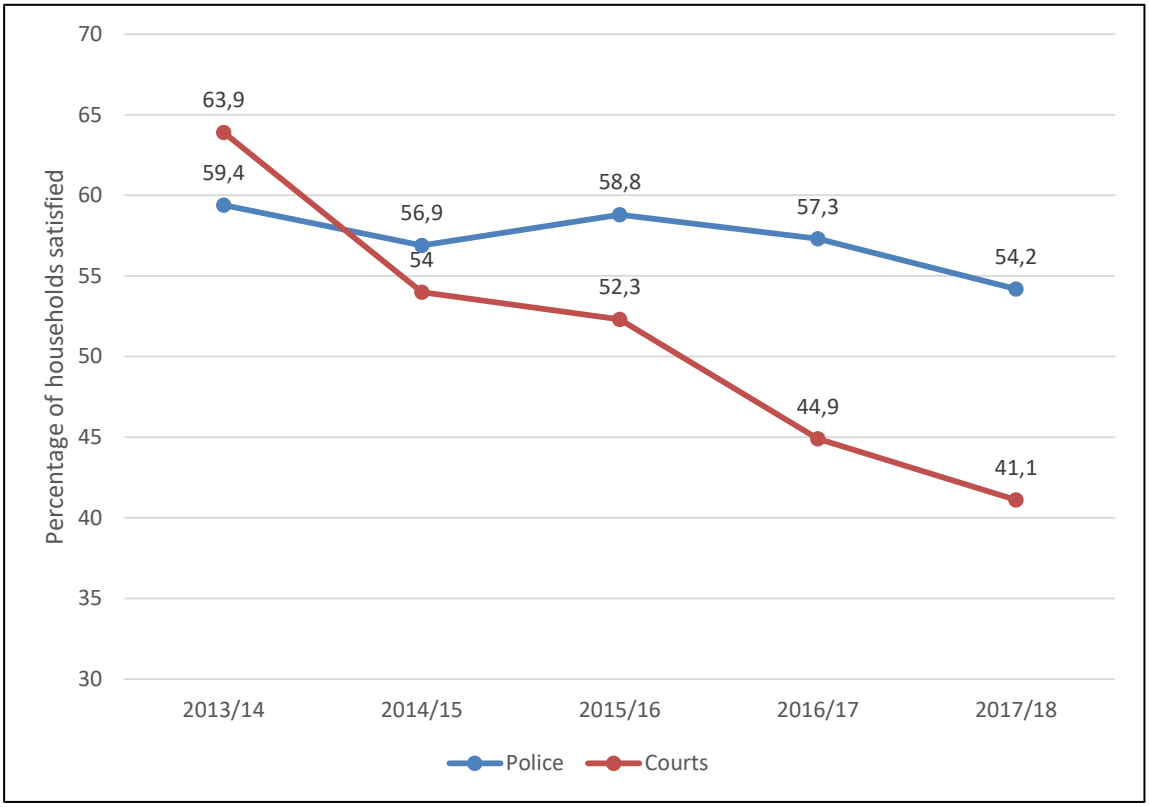
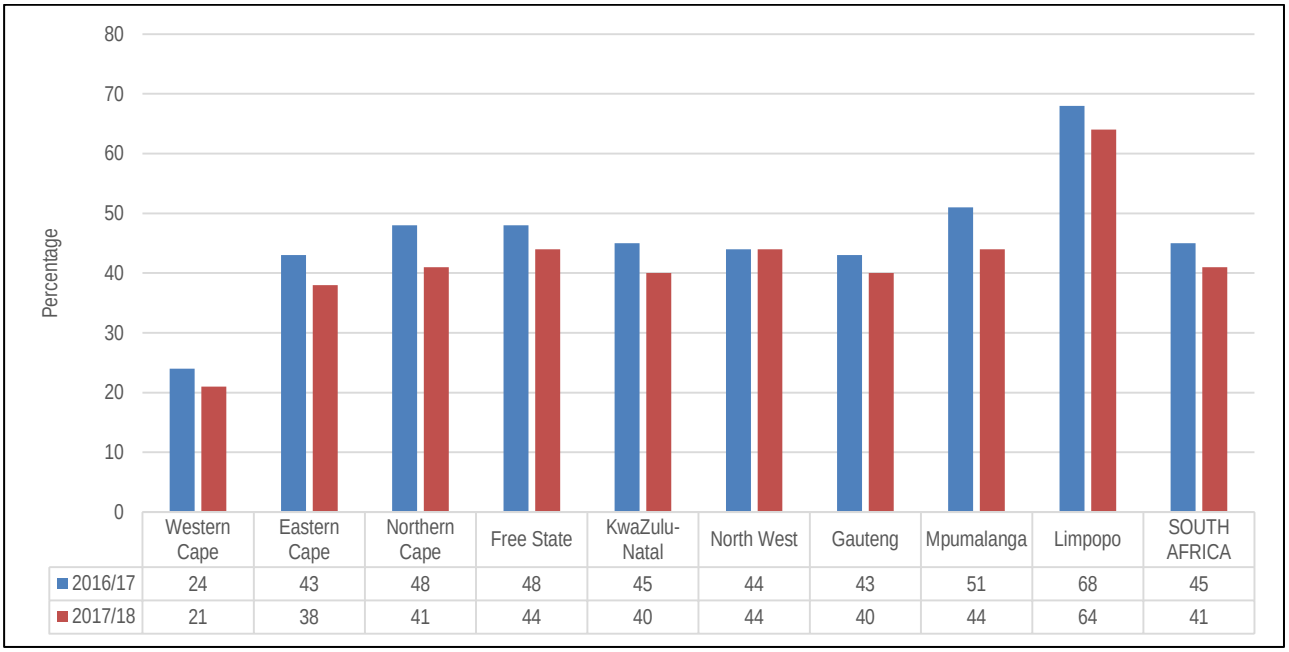


Figure 40 shows that satisfaction with courts, as perceived by South African households, has been declining more rapidly than satisfaction with the police during the period 2013/14 - 2017/18.

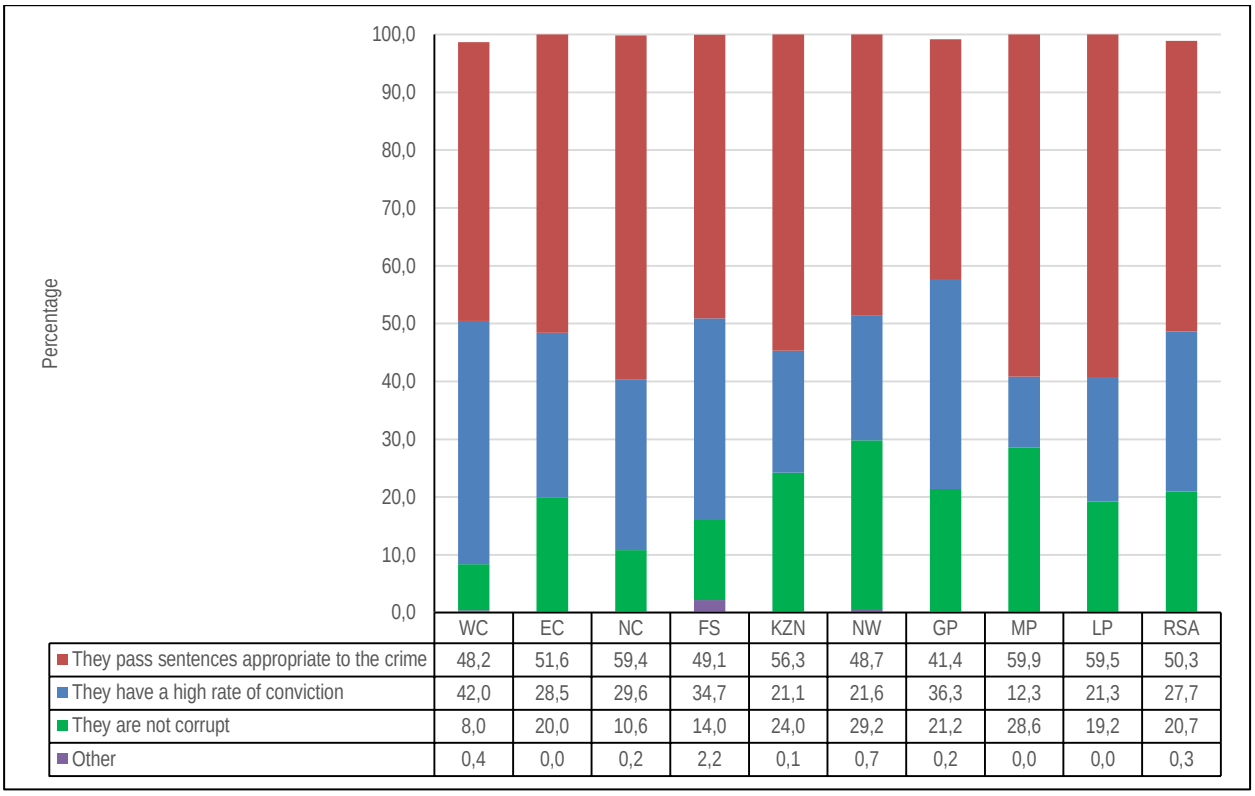
Figure 41: Percentage distribution of households' satisfaction with the way in which courts generally deal with perpetrators of crime by province, 2016/17–2017/18



	Western Cape	Eastern Cape	Northern Cape	Free State	KwaZulu-Natal	North West	Gauteng	Mpumalanga	Limpopo	SOUTH AFRICA
2016/17	24	43	48	48	45	44	43	51	68	45
2017/18	21	38	41	44	40	44	40	44	64	41

The percentage of households satisfied with the way in which courts generally deal with perpetrators of crime dropped in every province except the North West.

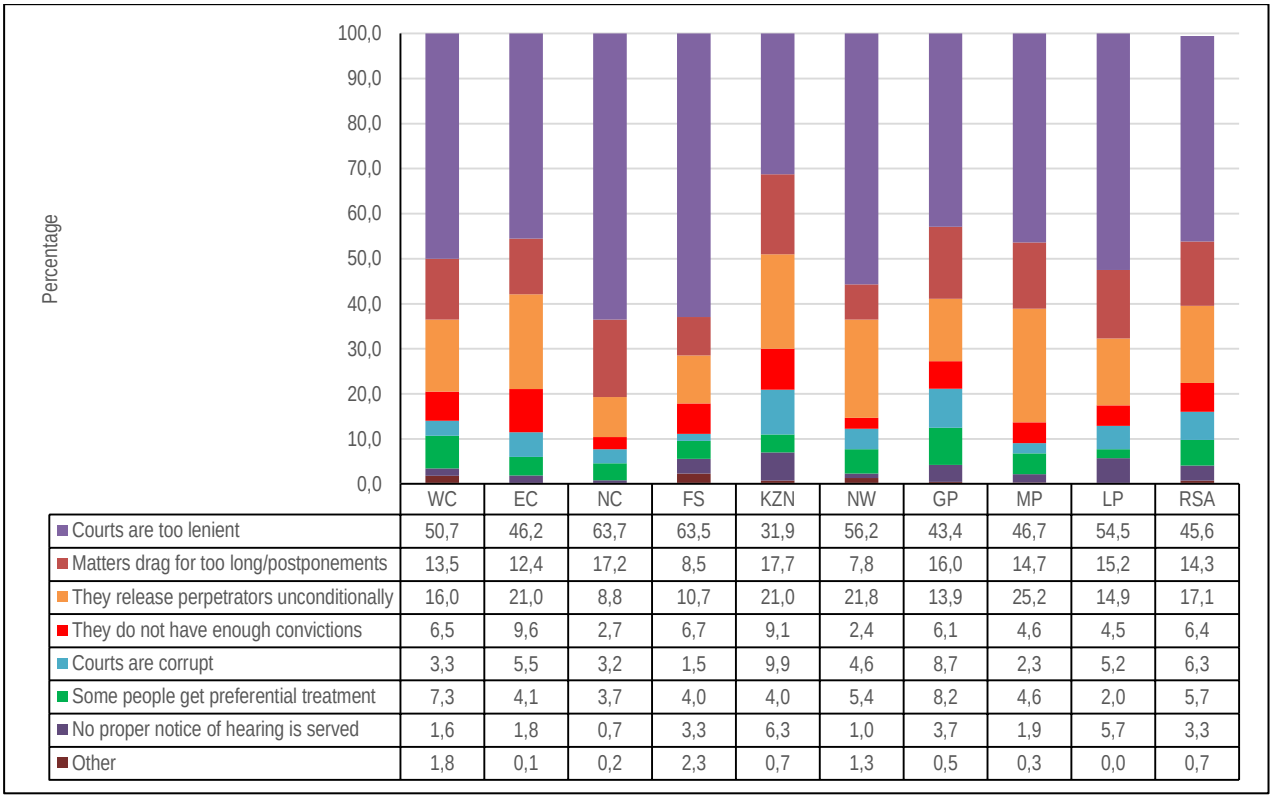
Figure 42: Percentage distribution of reasons for households being satisfied with the way in which courts generally deal with perpetrators of crime by province, 2017/18



	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
They pass sentences appropriate to the crime	48,2	51,6	59,4	49,1	56,3	48,7	41,4	59,9	59,5	50,3
They have a high rate of conviction	42,0	28,5	29,6	34,7	21,1	21,6	36,3	12,3	21,3	27,7
They are not corrupt	8,0	20,0	10,6	14,0	24,0	29,2	21,2	28,6	19,2	20,7
Other	0,4	0,0	0,2	2,2	0,1	0,7	0,2	0,0	0,0	0,3

Figure 42 summarises the reasons why households are satisfied with the way in which courts generally deal with the perpetrators of crime. The majority (50,3%) of those who were satisfied with the courts, thought that the courts passed sentences that were appropriate to the crimes committed, while 27,7% stated that courts had a high rate of conviction and 20,7% were of the opinion that courts were not corrupt. Mpumalanga (59,9%) had the highest percentage of households who were satisfied with the passing of appropriate sentences. Mpumalanga was followed by Limpopo (59,5%) and Northern Cape (59,4%).

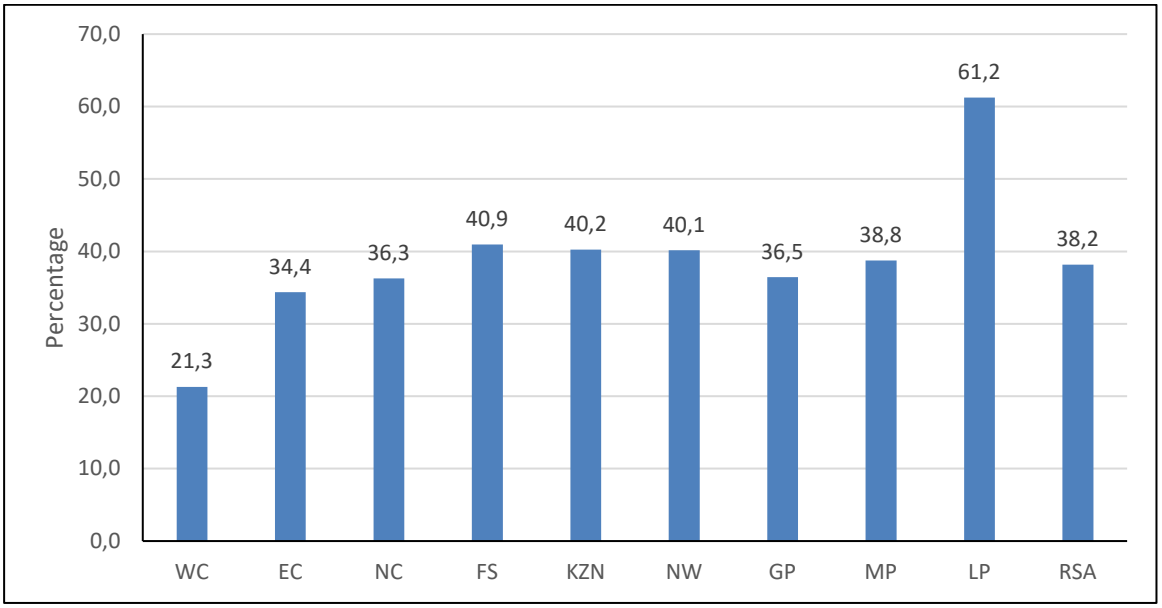
Figure 43: Percentage distribution of reasons for households being dissatisfied with the way in which courts generally deal with perpetrators of crime by province, 2017/18



	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
Courts are too lenient	50,7	46,2	63,7	63,5	31,9	56,2	43,4	46,7	54,5	45,6
Matters drag for too long/postponements	13,5	12,4	17,2	8,5	17,7	7,8	16,0	14,7	15,2	14,3
They release perpetrators unconditionally	16,0	21,0	8,8	10,7	21,0	21,8	13,9	25,2	14,9	17,1
They do not have enough convictions	6,5	9,6	2,7	6,7	9,1	2,4	6,1	4,6	4,5	6,4
Courts are corrupt	3,3	5,5	3,2	1,5	9,9	4,6	8,7	2,3	5,2	6,3
Some people get preferential treatment	7,3	4,1	3,7	4,0	4,0	5,4	8,2	4,6	2,0	5,7
No proper notice of hearing is served	1,6	1,8	0,7	3,3	6,3	1,0	3,7	1,9	5,7	3,3
Other	1,8	0,1	0,2	2,3	0,7	1,3	0,5	0,3	0,0	0,7

Figure 43 depicts the percentage distribution of reasons for being dissatisfied with the way courts generally deal with perpetrators of crime by province. Households were asked to give reasons why they were not satisfied with the performance of courts. The majority (45,6%) of the households indicated that the courts were too lenient on criminals when passing judgement. This was followed by households who felt that perpetrators are released unconditionally (17,1%) and that matters dragged for too long (14,3,1%). A high percentage of households who indicated that courts were too lenient on criminals was observed in Northern Cape (63,7%) and Free State (63,5%).

Figure 44: Percentage of households who thought that sentencing of violent crime was long enough to discourage people from committing these crimes, 2017/18



According to Figure 44, Limpopo had the greatest proportion of households (61,2%) who thought that the sentence for violent crimes is long enough to discourage people from committing crimes, followed by Free State (40,9%), KwaZulu-Natal (40,2%), North West (40,1%) and Mpumalanga (38,8%). Western Cape (21,3%) had a significantly lower percentage of households who thought that the sentence for violent crimes was long enough to discourage people from committing crimes when compared to other provinces.

8.6 Attitudes towards correctional services

This section presents findings on households' perceptions of the services provided by correctional services, households' willingness to welcome a former prisoner back in their community and their willingness to provide employment to a former prisoner.

Figure 45: Percentage distribution of households' perceptions about services provided by correctional services, 2017/18

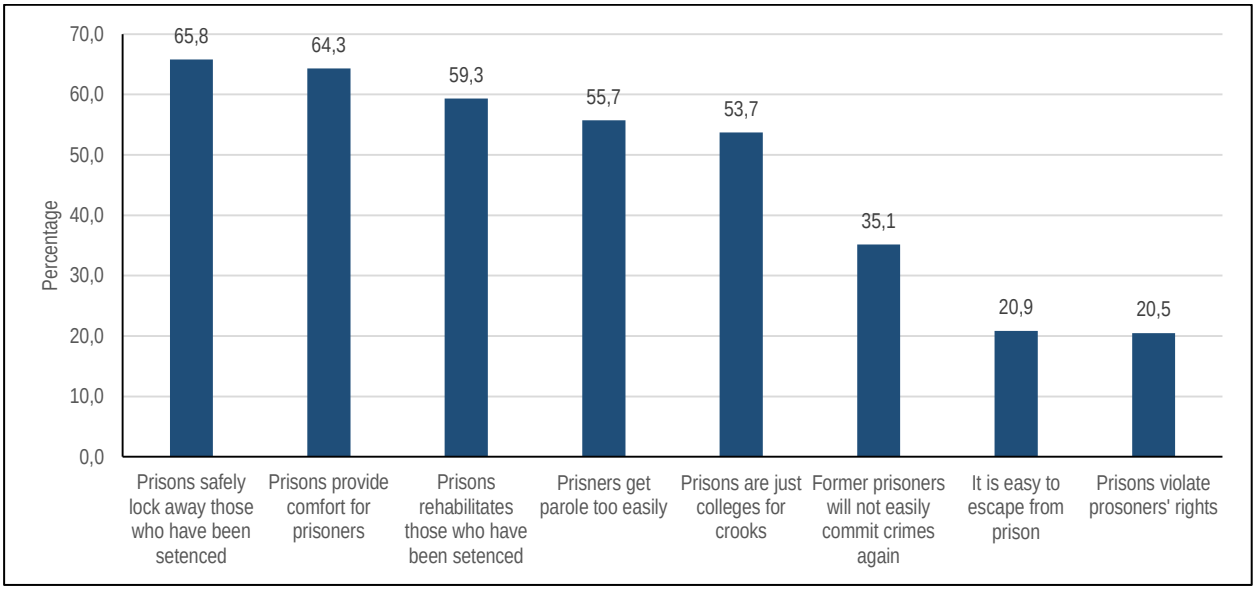
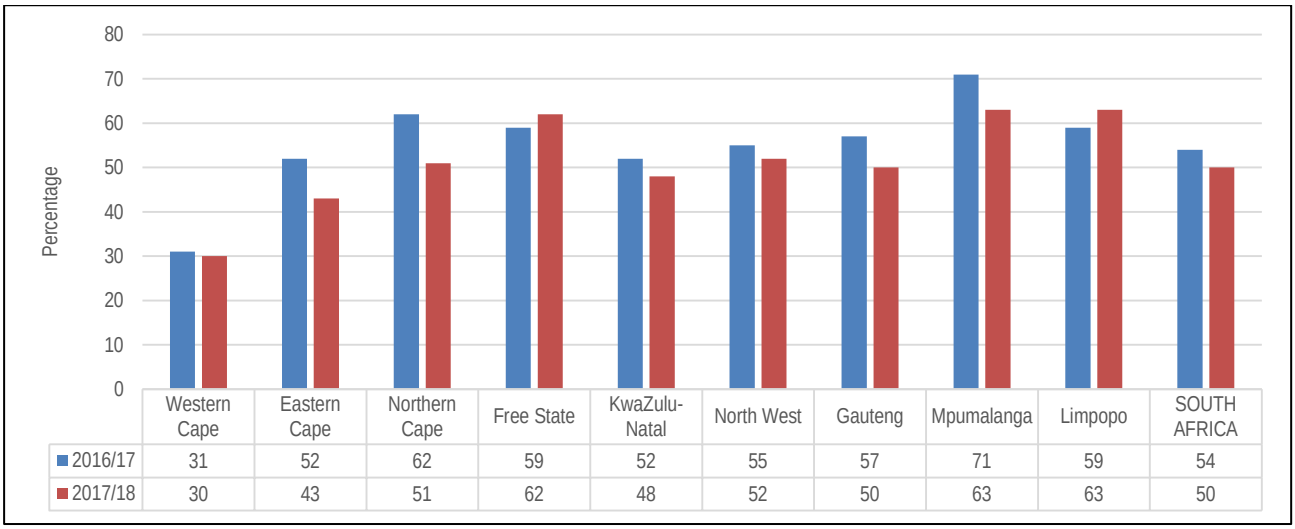


Figure 45 depicts the percentage distribution of the perceptions about services provided by correctional services. Households in South Africa were asked whether or not they agree with certain statements about the services that are provided by correctional services. The majority (65,8%) of households in the country were of the opinion that prisons safely lock away those who have been sentenced, while 20,5% agreed with the statement that prisons violate prisoners' rights. About two-thirds (64,3%) of households indicated that prisons provide comfort to prisoners. More than half of households (59,3%) indicated that prisons rehabilitate those who have been sentenced, and 55,7% were of the opinion that prisoners get parole too easily.

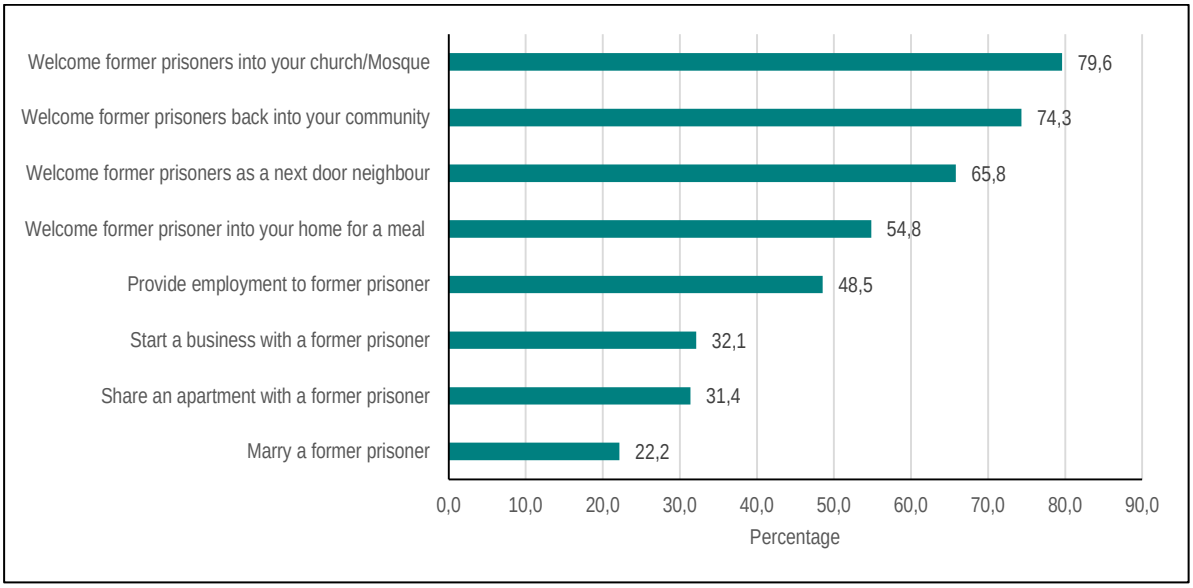
Figure 46: Percentage of households that are satisfied with services provided by correctional services, 2016/17–2017/18



	Western Cape	Eastern Cape	Northern Cape	Free State	KwaZulu-Natal	North West	Gauteng	Mpumalanga	Limpopo	SOUTH AFRICA
2016/17	31	52	62	59	52	55	57	71	59	54
2017/18	30	43	51	62	48	52	50	63	63	50

Only Free State and Limpopo showed an increase in the percentage of households satisfied with correctional services.

Figure 47: Percentage distribution of households willing to welcome a former prisoner back in their community, 2017/18



According to Figure 47, as many as 74,3% of households in South Africa were willing to welcome a former prisoner back in their community, and 79,6% would welcome them back into their mosque or church.

More than two-thirds of households (65,8%) would welcome former prisoners as a next-door neighbour, while less than half of households in South Africa (48,5%) indicated that they were willing to provide employment to a former prisoner.

Figure 48: Percentage distribution of households willing to provide employment or marry to a former prisoner by gender group, 2017/18

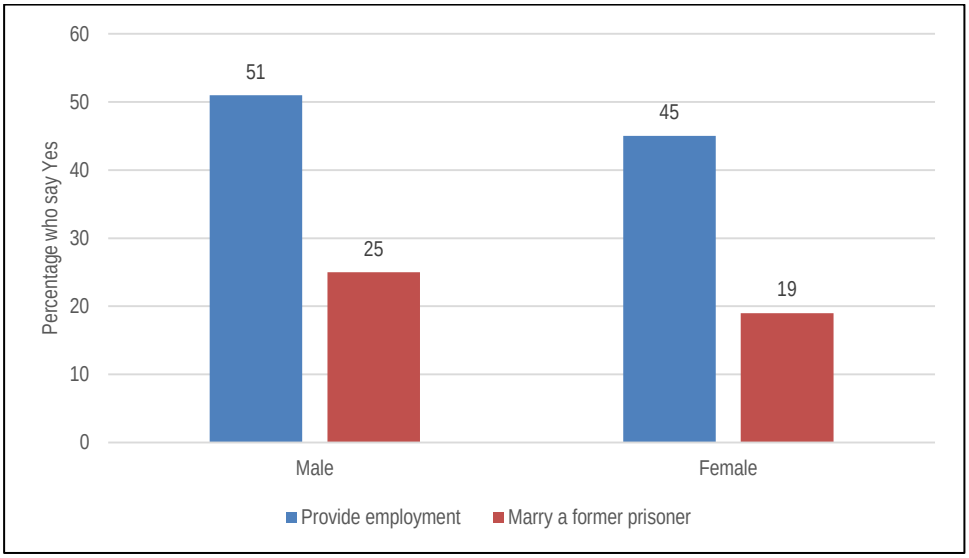
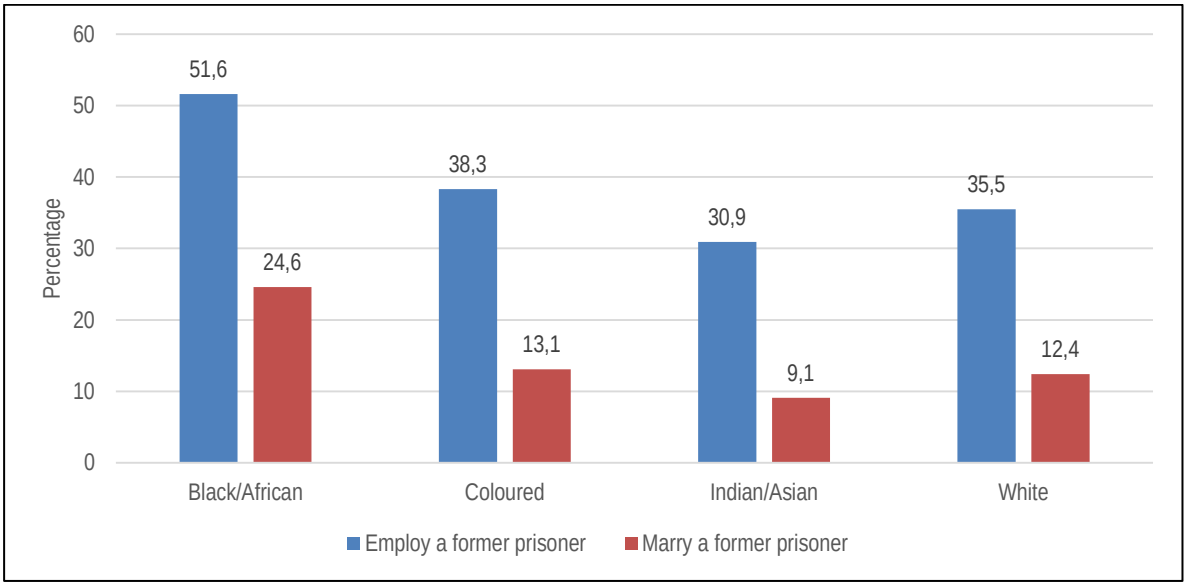


Figure 48 shows that males are more likely to offer employment and/or to marry former prisoners than females.

Figure 49: Percentage distribution of households willing to provide employment or marry a former prisoner by population group, 2017/18



According to Figure 49, black African households are more likely than any other population groups to be willing to employ and/or marry a former prisoner.

9. TECHNICAL NOTES

9.1 Survey requirements and design

The questionnaire design, testing of the questionnaire, sampling techniques, data collection, computer programming, data capture, and weighting constituted the research methodology used in this survey, as discussed below.

9.2 Questionnaire design

Stats SA has committed itself to the highest international standards of data collection. In this regard, without compromising South African values and concepts, the VOCS 2017/18 strives to bring the questionnaire content to international standards, so that comparative analyses with other countries can be undertaken. The VOCS 2017/18 questionnaire was developed based on the questions used in the International Crime Victim Survey (ICVS), previous VOCSs (both conducted by ISS and Stats SA) with modifications in some instances. The Stats SA questionnaire design standard for household surveys was also used as a normative reference. In order to minimise fieldworker and capturing errors, the questionnaire was largely pre-coded. Some minor changes and additions were made to the questionnaire for VOCS 2017/18.

Sections 10 to 20 of the questionnaire represent household crimes for which a proxy respondent (preferably household head or acting household head) answered on behalf of the household. All analyses done in this report that included demographic variables were done using the demographic characteristics of the household head or proxy.

Sections 21 to 28 of this questionnaire required that an individual be selected using the birthday section method to respond to questions classified as individual crimes. This methodology selects an individual who is 16 years or older, whose birthday was first to follow the survey date.

Table 85 summarises the details of the questions included in the VOCS questionnaire. The questions are covered in 28 sections, each focusing on a particular aspect.

Table 85: Contents of the VOCS 2017/18 questionnaire

Section	Number of questions	Details of each section
Cover page		Household information, response details, field staff information, result codes, etc.
Flap	10	Demographic information (name, sex, age, population group, etc.)
Section 1	10	Household-specific characteristics (education, economic activities and household income sources)
Section 2	13	General thinking/beliefs on crime
Section 3	6	Individual and community response to crime
Section 4	7	Victim support and other interventions
Section 5	4	Citizen interaction or community cohesion
Section 6	16	Perception of the police service
Section 7a	9	Perception of the courts
Section 7b	11	Perception of trafficking in persons
Section 8	4	Perception of correctional services
Section 9	4	Corruption experienced by the household
Section 10	4	Experience of household crime (screening table)
Section 11	21	Theft of car experienced by a household member(s) in the past 12 months
Section 12	23	Housebreaking or burglary when no one was at home in the past 12 months
Section 13	28	Home robbery (including robbery often around or inside the household's dwelling) experienced by a household member(s) in the past 12 months
Section 14	20	Theft of livestock, poultry and other animals in the past 12 months
Section 15	19	Theft of crops planted by the household in the past 12 months
Section 16	23	Murder experienced by a household member(s) in the past 12 months
Section 17	21	Theft out of the motor vehicle experienced by a household member(s) in the past 12 months
Section 18	20	Deliberate damaging/burning or destruction of dwelling experienced by a household member(s) in the past 12 months
Section 19	20	Motor vehicle vandalism or deliberate damage of a motor vehicle experienced by a household member(s) in the past 12 months
Section 20	17	Theft of bicycle experienced in the past 12 months
Section 21	7	Experience of individual crimes (screening table) in the past 5 years and in the past 12 months
Section 22	19	Theft of personal property experienced in the past 12 months
Section 23	30	Hijacking of motor vehicle (including attempted hijacking) experienced in the past 12 months
Section 24	27	Robbery (including street robberies and other non-residential robberies, excluding car or truck hijackings, and home robberies) experienced in the past 12 months
Section 25	28	Sexual offences (including rape) experienced in the past 12 months
Section 26	27	Assault experienced in the past 12 months
Section 27	18	Consumer fraud experienced by the individual in the past 12 months
Section 28	7	Corruption (when someone is in a position of authority fails to do something he/she is required to do and solicits a bribe)
Section 29	3	Survey officer to answer questions

9.3 Sample design

The VOCS 2017/18 uses the master sample frame that has been developed as a general-purpose household survey frame that can be used by all other Stats SA household-based surveys having design requirements that are reasonably compatible with the VOCS. The VOCS 2016/17 collection was based on the 2013 master sample. This master sample is based on information collected during the 2011 Census conducted by Stats SA. In preparation for Census 2011, the country was divided into 103 576

enumeration areas (EAs). The census EAs, together with the auxiliary information for the EAs, were used as the frame units or building blocks for the formation of primary sampling units (PSUs) for the master sample, since they covered the entire country and had other information that is crucial for stratification and creation of PSUs. There are 3 324 primary sampling units (PSUs) in the master sample with an expected sample of approximately 33 000 dwelling units (DUs). The number of PSUs in the current master sample (3 324) reflect an 8,0% increase in the size of the master sample compared to the previous (2008) master sample, which had 3 080 PSUs. The larger master sample of PSUs was selected to improve the precision (smaller coefficients of variation, known as CVs) of the VOCS estimates.

The master sample is designed to be representative at provincial level and within provinces at metro/non-metro levels. Within the metros, the sample is further distributed by geographical area. The three geographical areas are metro, rural and urban. This implies that within a metropolitan area, for example, the sample is representative of the different geographical areas that may exist within that metro.

The sample for the VOCS is based on a stratified two-stage design with probability proportional to size (PPS) sampling of PSUs in the first stage, and sampling of dwelling units (DUs) with systematic sampling in the second stage.

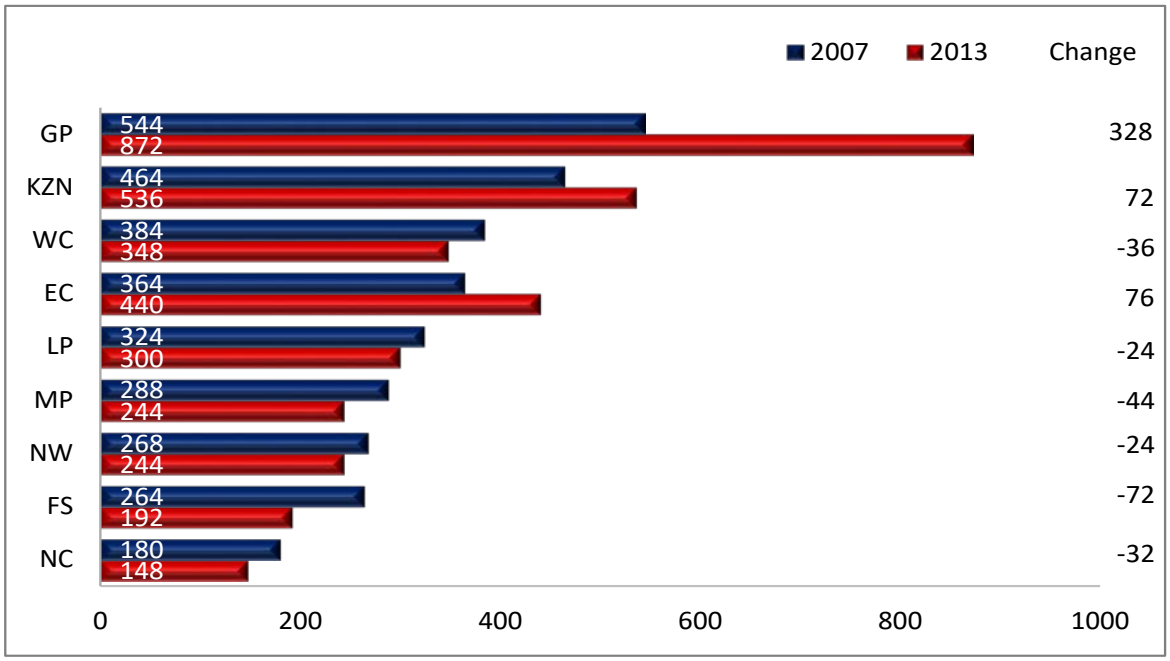
Table 86: Comparison between the 2007 (old) master sample and the new master sample (designed in 2013)

	2007 master sample (VOCS 2008–2014)	**2013 master sample (VOCS 2015/16 onwards)**
Design	Two-stage stratified design	Two-stage stratified design
Number of primary sampling units (PSUs)	3 080 PSUs	3 324 PSUs
Number of dwelling units (DUs)	Approximately 30 000 DUs	Approximately 33 000 DUs
Stratification	No stratification by geotype within metros/non-metros	Stratification by geotype within metros/non-metros
Geotypes	4 geotypes, namely urban formal, urban informal, tribal areas, and rural formal	3 geotypes, namely urban, traditional, and farms
Sample	Sample representative at national, provincial and metro levels, but estimates only produced to provincial level	Sample representative at national, provincial and metro levels Weights produced to publish estimates at metro level

There are a number of aspects in which the two master samples differ. The number of geotypes was reduced from 4 to 3 while the new master sample allows for the publication of estimates at metro level.

Primary stratification occurred at provincial and metro/non-metro levels, for mining, and geographical area, while the secondary strata were created within the primary strata based on the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of the population.

Figure 50: Distribution of primary sampling units by province, 2007 (old) master sample and the new master sample (designed in 2013)



Given the change in the provincial distribution of the South African population between 2001 and 2011, the master sample was adjusted accordingly. There was also an 8% increase in the sample size of the master sample of PSUs to improve the precision of the VOCS estimates. In particular, the sample sizes increased most notably in Gauteng, Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

9.4 Data collection

Stats SA conducted the fifth annual Victims of Crime Survey in close collaboration with other role players in the safety and security cluster from April 2016 to March 2017. Since 2013, the Victims of Crime Survey, the Domestic Tourism Survey (DTS) and the General Household Survey (VOCS) have adopted the continuous data collection (CDC) methodology. The Victims of Crime Survey conducts data collection from April to March. In the long run, this methodology will enable data collection to coincide with the financial year and the reporting cycle of administrative data related to crime.

Data collection took place from April 2016 to March 2017 with a moving reference period of 12 months. This is different from the 2011 and 2012 collections, which were done from January to March and had a fixed reference period from January to December of the previous year. The sample has been distributed evenly over the whole collection period in the form of quarterly allocations. This will provide a guarantee against possible seasonal effects in the survey estimates. It will, in future, provide an opportunity for the production of rolling estimates relating to any desired time period. It has been noted that the change of data collection methodology may cause concerns over the survey estimates, particularly upon comparisons of years before and after the change. Victimisation questions referred to the twelve calendar months ending with the month before the interview.

Statistics South Africa is committed to meeting the highest ethical standards in its data collection processes. In addition to being bound to the Statistics Act, the Victims of Crime Survey, due to its sensitive nature, required additional measures to ensure that the integrity and well-being of the households are protected.

9.5 Editing and imputation

All questionnaires were scanned, and the data were sent to the post-capture process for editing and imputation. At each stage of checking, data were edited to ensure consistency. Data editing is concerned with the identification and, if possible, the correction of erroneous or highly suspect survey data. Data were checked for valid range, internal logic and consistency.

The focus of the editing process was on clearing up skip violations and ensuring that each variable only contains valid values. Very few limits to valid values were set and data were largely released as it was received from the field.

When dealing with internal inconsistencies, logical imputation was used, i.e. information from other questions was compared with the inconsistent information. If other evidence was found to back up either of the two inconsistent viewpoints, the inconsistency was resolved accordingly. If the internal consistency remained, the question subsequent to the filter question was dealt with by either setting it to missing and imputing its value or printing a message of edit failure for further investigation, decision-making and manual editing. Hot-deck imputation was used to impute for missing age.

9.6 Construction of household sample weights

The household sample weights for VOCS 2011 to 2017/18 were constructed in such a manner that the responses from the respondent households could be properly expanded to represent the household population. The sample weights therefore are a product of several factors, including the original selection probabilities (design weights), adjustments for PSUs that were subsampled or segmented, excluded population from the sampling frame, non-response, weight trimming and benchmarking to known household estimates.

The base weights for the household weighting process are the same as those for the person weighting process. The adjustments applied to the base weights to obtain the adjusted base weights for household weighting. In the final step of constructing the household sample weights, the adjusted base weights were calibrated such that the aggregate totals match with the independently derived (by Stats SA Demography Division) household estimates by the household head's age, population group and gender at national and provincial levels. The calibrated weights are constructed with a lower bound on the calibrated weights of 50 within the StatMx software from Statistics Canada.

The household estimates used in the calibration of the adjusted base weights for VOCS 2011 to 2017/18 were the Mid-November 2010, Mid-November 2011, Mid-May 2013 and Mid-May 2015 population estimates, respectively, based on the 2016 mid-year population model. The household estimates were used in benchmarking to two sets of control totals:

- National level totals that were defined by the cross-classification of age, population group and gender of the household head. Age represents four age groups, namely 0–34, 35–49, 50–64 and 65+. Population group represents four groups, namely black African, coloured, Indian/Asian and white. Gender represents two groups, namely male and female. The cross-classification resulted in 32 calibration cells at national level.
- Provincial level totals were defined within the provinces by age of household head. The country has nine provinces; Age represents the four age groups (0–34, 35–49, 50–64 and 65+). The cross-classification of the areas with age resulted in 36 calibration cells.

9.7 Individual sample weights

The final survey weights were constructed by calibrating the non-response-adjusted design weights to the known population estimates as control totals using the Integrated Household Weighting method.

The VOCS 2017/18 sample was calibrated using the population estimates of Mid-May 2016 (based on the 2016 series). The final weights were benchmarked to the known population estimates of 5-year age groups by population group and by gender at national level, and broad age groups at provincial level. The 5-year age groups are: 0–4, 5–9, 10–14, 15–19, 20–24, 25–29, 30–34, 35–39, 40–44, 45–49, 50–54, 55–59, 60–64, 65–69,70–74, and 75 and older. The provincial-level age groups are 0–14, 15–34, 35–64; and 65 years and older. The calibrated weights are constructed such that all persons in a household would have the same final weight.

The VOCS 2017/18 had an extra level of selection where one person, 16 years or older, was selected per household to complete sections 21 to 28 of the questionnaire. The individual weights were benchmarked to an estimated national population of age 16 and older in mid-May 2016. Records for which the age, population group or gender had item non-response could not be weighted and were therefore excluded from the dataset. No additional imputation was done to retain these records.

9.8 Estimation

The final survey weights were used to obtain the estimates for various domains of interest at household level, for example, victimisation level in South Africa, households' perceptions of crime levels in the country, etc. The following is the R code used to obtain estimates of totals, proportions and ratios:

Table 1

```
svyby(~HoCrime, by=~prov, des1,vartype="cvpct", svytotal)
svyby(~HoCrime, by=~prov, denominator=~one, des1,vartype="cvpct", svyratio)
y <- svytotal(~HoCrime, des1, vartype="cvpct")
cv(y)
y <- svyratio(~HoCrime, denominator=~one, des1,vartype="cvpct")
cv(y)
```

Table 2

```
svyby(~HoCrimeN, by=~gender, des1,vartype="cvpct",svytotal)
svyby(~HoCrime, by=~gender, denominator=~one, des1,vartype="cvpct",svyratio)
svyby(~HoCrimeN, by=~gender, des1,vartype="cvpct",svytotal)
svyby(~HoCrime, by=~gender, denominator=~one, des1,vartype="cvpct",svyratio)
svyby(~HoCrimeN, by=~race, des1,vartype="cvpct",svytotal)
svyby(~HoCrime, by=~race, denominator=~one, des1,vartype="cvpct",svyratio)
```

Table 7

```
y <- svytotal(~CarTheftN, subset(des1,K_MOTORIS==1), vartype="cvpct")
cv(y)
y <- svyratio(~CarTheftN, denominator=~CarTheft, subset(des1,K_MOTORIS==1),,vartype="cvpct")
cv(y)
```

With minor changes, the above code was used to obtain results other than those in tables mentioned above.

9.9 Reliability of the survey estimates

The survey estimates for questions related to perceptions of crime and the criminal justice system are reliable and provide good estimates at provincial level and even at lower levels in some cases. However, statistics related to specific types of crime should be used with caution. Crimes that are relatively rare – such as murder – resulted in very few cases from the sample, resulting in large standard errors. In the past, guidelines given to determine the quality of estimates were based on rule of thumb. In this report, for every estimate a coefficient of variation was calculated and presented together with the estimate. The quality of every estimate is based on the interval range within which the CV falls. The methodology chapter at the beginning of this report describes the four quality intervals.

9.10 Comparability with previous surveys

The VOCS 2017/18 is comparable to the previous VOC surveys in that several questions have remained unchanged over time. Where comparisons were possible, it was indicated in the report. The current survey can provide more accurate estimates at provincial level. Caution should be exercised when running cross-tabulation of different crimes by province and other variables. For several crimes, the reported experienced cases were too few to allow for extensive analysis. This is due to the survey being the first in the series of continuous data collection methodology that was applied.

9.11 Sampling and the interpretation of the data

Caution must be exercised when interpreting the results of the VOCS at low levels of disaggregation. The sample and reporting are based on the provincial boundaries as defined in 2011. These new boundaries resulted in minor changes to the boundaries of some provinces, especially Gauteng, North West, Mpumalanga, Limpopo and Eastern and Western Cape. In previous reports, the sample was based on the provincial boundaries as defined in 2006, and there will therefore be slight comparative differences in terms of provincial boundary definitions.

9.12 Limitations of crime victimisation surveys

Victimisation surveys are likely to produce higher crime estimates than police-recorded administrative data. This is because many crimes are not reported to the police. Victim surveys deal with incidents that not necessarily match the legal definition of crime. Although data from crime victim surveys are likely to elicit better disclosure of criminal incidents than data from police records, they can also be subject to undercounting, as some victims may be reluctant to disclose information, particularly for incidents of a sensitive nature, such as sexual offences.

The accuracy of statistics is influenced by the ability of people to recall past victimisations. The longer the elapsed time period, the less likely it is that an incident will be recalled accurately. Surveys are also subject to sampling and non-sampling errors. The survey is also limited by not involving a monthly cycle of fieldwork, and the sample of each month being a random subset of the annual sample. Currently, the survey sample is randomly distributed per quarter.

9.13 Differences between victim surveys and police-reported data

The most basic difference between the two types of crime measurement is the method of data collection. Police-reported statistics obtain data from police administrative records. In contrast, victim surveys collect both household and personal information about their victimisation experiences, through face-to-face interviews. The survey covers victims' experiences of crime at microdata level, including the impact of crime on victims.

Police-reported statistics normally collate information on all incidents reported to a variety of police stations. Victim surveys ask a sample of the population about their experiences and, if well designed, this sample should be representative of the population as a whole. Although police statistics and victim surveys normally cover comparable geographic areas, if appropriately nationally representative, victim surveys may exclude some categories of victims, such as very young children or persons residing in institutions such as a prisons, hospitals, care centres or military barracks. The reference period for the police-recorded statistics is April 2016 to March 2017, whereas the reference period of the VOCS 2017/18 estimates is April 2016 to February 2017.

10. DEFINITION OF TERMS

Acting household head – any member of the household acting on behalf of the head of the household.

Arson – unlawful and intentional damaging of an immovable structure which is suitable for human occupation or the storing of goods and which belongs to another, by setting fire to it with the intention to prejudice the owner.

Assault – direct or indirect application of force to the body of another person.
Note: Includes domestic violence.

College for crooks – a place where people learn how to become crooks/criminals or how to become even better crooks/criminals.

Consumer fraud – deceptive practices that result in financial losses for consumers during seemingly legitimate business transactions. Also includes cases where someone provides misleading information and tricks a person into buying something or signing documents.

Court – an official public forum established by lawful authority to adjudicate disputes and dispense civil, labour, administrative and criminal justice under law.

Hijacking of motor vehicle – unlawful and intentional forceful removal and appropriation of a motor vehicle from the occupant(s).

Household – a group of persons who live together and provide themselves jointly with food and/or other essentials for living, or a single person who lives alone.
Note: The persons basically occupy a common dwelling unit (or part of it) for at least four nights in a week on average during the past four weeks prior to the survey interview, sharing resources as a unit. Other explanatory phrases can be 'eating from the same pot' and 'cook and eat together'.

Household head – the main decision-maker, or the person who owns or rents the dwelling, or the person who is the main breadwinner.

Housebreaking/burglary – unlawful and intentional breaking into a building or similar structure, used for human habitation, and entering or penetrating it with part of the body or with an instrument, with the intention to control something on the premises, intending to commit a crime on the premises, where there is no contact between the victim(s) and the perpetrator(s).

Home robbery – unlawful and intentional forceful removal and appropriation of tangible property from residential premises of another person while there is contact between the victim(s) and perpetrator(s).

Imputation – a procedure for entering a value for a specific data item where the response is missing or unusable.

Individual crime – crime affecting a single person rather than an entire household.

Deliberate damage of dwellings – unlawful and intentional damaging of dwellings

Motor vehicle vandalism – unlawful and intentional to a vehicle or parts of a vehicle

Murder – unlawful and intentional killing of another human being.

Multiple households – occurs when two or more households live in the same dwelling unit.

Note: If there are two or more households in the selected dwelling unit and they do not share resources, all households are to be interviewed. The whole dwelling unit has been given one chance of selection and all households located there were interviewed using separate questionnaires.

Panga – a large cutting knife with a broad blade.

Parole – early release of a prisoner who is then subject to continued monitoring as well as compliance with certain terms and conditions for a specified period.

Perpetrator – person(s) who committed the crime.

Personal property – asset(s) belonging to an individual rather than a group of persons.

Physical force – bodily power, strength, energy or might.

Note: In the context of this survey, physical force includes actions where the human body is used to compel/force someone to do something or to hurt or kill someone. It can include actions such as pushing, pressing, shoving, hitting, kicking, throttling, etc.

Police station – building or converted shipping container from which the police force operates and police officers do their duties.

Prison – a building in which a person is legally held as a punishment for crime he/she has committed or while awaiting trial.

Property crime – unlawful appropriation of property belonging to other(s).

Prosecutor/state advocate – legal specialist (lawyer/advocate) whose job it is to make a case on behalf of the State against someone accused of criminal behaviour.

Robbery involving force – unlawfully obtaining property with use of force or threat of force against a person with intent to permanently or temporarily to withhold it form a person.

Sexual offences (including sexual assault, rape and domestic sexual abuse) – refers to grabbing, touching someone's private parts or sexually assaulting or raping someone.

Note: In terms of the Sexual Offences Act (Act No. 32 of 2007), section 5, (1) A person ('A') who unlawfully and intentionally sexually violates a complainant ('B'), without the consent of B, is guilty of the offence of sexual assault. (2) A person ('A') who unlawfully and intentionally inspires the belief in a complainant ('B') that B will be sexually violated is guilty of the offence of sexual assault.

Stick/club – a long bar or stick made of wood, plastic or other material and used as a weapon.

Theft – unlawful taking or obtaining of property with the intent to permanently deprive it from a person or organisation without consent and without the use of force, threat of force or violence, coercion or deception.

Theft of motor vehicles (excluding hijacking) – unlawful taking or obtaining of vehicles with an engine, including cars, buses, lorries, construction and agricultural vehicles (excluding motorcycles) with the intent to permanently deprive it from a person or organization without consent and without the use of force, threat of force or violence, coercion or deception.

Threat – an intentional behaviour that causes fear of injury or harm.

Vandalism – deliberate damage to property belonging to someone else.

Violent crime – crime where a person was threatened, injured, or killed.

Weapon – an instrument used to cause harm or death to human beings or other living creatures.
Note: Includes knives, guns, pangas and knobkerries, metal or wooden bars/rods, broken glass, rocks, bricks, etc.

11. GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

CDC	Continuous data collection
CJS	Criminal Justice System
CV	Coefficient of Variation
DCS	Department of Correctional Services
DoJ & CD	Department of Justice and Constitutional Development
DPME	Department of Monitoring and Evaluation
DSD	Department of Social Development
DTS	Domestic Tourism Survey
DU	Dwelling unit
EA	Enumeration area
EC	Eastern Cape
FS	Free State
GCIS	Government Communication and Information System
GHS	General Household Survey
GP	Gauteng
HSRC	Human Sciences Research Council
ICVS	International Crime Victims Survey
ISS	Institute for Security Studies
JCPS	Justice and Crime Prevention and Security
KZN	KwaZulu-Natal
LP	Limpopo
MP	Mpumalanga
MRC	Medical Research Council
MS	Master sample
MTSF	Medium Term Strategic Framework
MVI	Multiple victimisation index
NC	Northern Cape
NDP	National Development Plan
NHTS	National Household Travel Survey
NPC	National Planning Commission
NW	North West
PPS	Probability proportional to size
PSU	Primary sampling unit
RVI	Repeat victimisation index
SA	South Africa
SAPS	South African Police Service
SASQAF	South African Statistical Quality Assurance Framework
Stats SA	Statistics South Africa
VOCS	Victims of Crime Survey
WC	Western Cape

ANNEXURE A: SAPS AND VOCS CRIME TYPES

SAPS crime category	Type of crime – SAPS	Type of crime – VOCS
1. Crime against a person	Murder	Murder
	Attempted murder	
	Sexual offences	Sexual offences
	Assault with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm	
	Common assault	Assault (excludes sexual assault)
	Common robbery	
	Robbery with aggravating circumstances	Robbery (excludes home robbery and car/truck hijackings)
2. Sexual offences	Rape	
	Sexual assault	
	Attempted sexual offences	
	Contact sexual offences	
3. Trio crimes	Carjacking	Hijacking of motor vehicle
	Truck hijacking	
	Robbery of cash-in-transit	
	Bank robbery	
	Robbery at residential premises	Home robbery
	Robbery at non-residential premises	
4. Property related crime	Burglary at residential premises	House breaking
	Theft of motor vehicle & motorcycle	Theft of motor vehicle
	Theft out of or from motor vehicle	Theft out of motor vehicle
	Stock theft	Theft of livestock/poultry and other animals
		Theft of personal property
5. Other property related crimes	Arson	Deliberate damage/burning/destruction of dwellings
	Malicious damage of residential premises	
		Theft of bicycle
		Theft of crops
6. Crime detected as a result of police action	Drug related crime	
	Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs	
	Sexual offences detected as a result of police action	
7. Other crimes	All theft not mentioned elsewhere	Corruption
	Commercial crimes	Consumer fraud
	Illegal possession of firearms or ammunition	

ANNEXURE B: SAPS AND VOCS DEFINITIONS OF CRIME

SAPS	VOCS
Murder Murder consists in the unlawful and intentional killing of another human being.	**Murder** Unlawful and intentional killing of another human being.
Sexual offences Rape, compelled rate, sexual assault, compelled sexual assault, compelled self-sexual assault, incest, bestiality, sexual act with corpse, acts of consensual sexual penetration with certain children (statutory rape), acts of consensual sexual violation with certain children (statutory sexual assault).	**Sexual offences** Refers to grabbing, touching someone's private parts or sexually assaulting or raping someone. Note: In terms of the Sexual Offences Act No 32 of 2007 section 5, (1) A person ('A') who unlawfully and intentionally sexually violates a complainant ('B'), without the consent of B, is guilty of the offence of sexual assault. (2) A person ('A') who unlawfully and intentionally inspires the belief in a complainant ('B') that B will be sexually violated is guilty of the offence of sexual assault.
Assault with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm Assault with the intent to cause grievous bodily harm is the unlawful and intentional direct or indirect application of force to the body of another person with the intention of causing grievous bodily harm to that person.	**Assault (excludes sexual assault)** Unlawful and intentional damaging of an immovable structure which is suitable for human occupation or the storing of goods and which belongs to another, by setting fire to it with the intention to prejudice the owner
Common assault Assault is the unlawful and intentional — (a) direct or indirect application of force to the body of another person, or (b) threat of application of immediate personal violence to another, in circumstances in which the threatened person is prevailed upon to believe that the person who is threatening him has the intention and power to carry out his threat.	
Common robbery Robbery is the unlawful and intentional forceful removal and appropriation of movable tangible property belonging to another.	
Robbery with aggravating circumstances Robbery with aggravating circumstances is the unlawful and intentional forceful removal and appropriation in aggravating circumstances of movable tangible property belonging to another.	**Robbery (excludes home robbery and car/truck hijackings)** Unlawfully obtaining property with use of force or threat of force against a person with intent to permanently or temporarily to withhold it form a person.
Hijacking Robbery of a motor vehicle is the unlawful and intentional forceful removal and appropriation of a motor vehicle (excluding a truck) belonging to another.	**Hijacking of motor vehicle** Unlawful and intentional forceful removal and appropriation of a motor vehicle from the occupant(s).
Truck hijacking Robbery of a truck is the unlawful and intentional forceful removal and appropriation of a truck (excluding a light delivery vehicle) belonging to another.	
Robbery of cash-in-transit Cash-in-transit robbery is the unlawful and intentional forceful removal and appropriation of money or containers for the conveyance of money, belonging to another while such money or containers for the conveyance of money are being transported by a security company on behalf of the owner thereof.	
Robbery at residential premises House robbery is the unlawful and intentional forceful removal and appropriation of property from the residential premises of another person.	**Home robbery** Unlawful and intentional forceful removal and appropriation of tangible property from residential premises of another person while there is contact between the victim(s) and perpetrator(s).

SAPS	VOCS
Robbery at non-residential premises Business robbery is the unlawful and intentional forceful removal and appropriation of property from the business of another person.	
Burglary at residential premises Housebreaking (residential premises) is committed by a person who unlawfully and intentionally breaks into a building or similar structure, used for human habitation, and enters or penetrates it with part of his or her body or with an instrument with which he or she intends to control something on the premises, with the intention to commit a crime on the premises.	**House breaking** Unlawful and intentional breaking into a building or similar structure, used for human habitation, and entering or penetrating it with part of the body or with an instrument, with the intention to control something on the premises, intending to commit a crime on the premises, where there is no contact between the victim(s) and the perpetrator(s).
Theft of motor vehicle & motorcycle Theft of a motor vehicle consists of the stealing of a motor vehicle belonging to another person.	**Theft of motor vehicle** Unlawful taking or obtaining of vehicles with an engine, including cars, buses, lorries, construction and agricultural vehicles (excluding motorcycles) with the intent to permanently deprive it from a person or organisation without consent and without the use of force, threat of force or violence, coercion or deception
Theft out of or from motor vehicle Theft out of a motor vehicle consists of the unlawful and intentional removal of articles in or on the vehicle from the vehicle, with the intention of permanently depriving the owner thereof of control over such articles taken from the vehicle.	**Theft out of motor vehicle** Theft out of a motor vehicle occurs when a person gains access to the interior of a motor vehicle, by force or otherwise, when the owner is not present and takes valuable items.
Stock theft Stock theft consists of the stealing of stock or produce belonging to another person	**Theft of livestock/poultry and other animals**
	Theft Stealing of property belonging to someone else while they are not aware.
	Theft of personal property See theft.
Arson Arson is the unlawful and intentional setting of fire to immovable property belonging to another or to one's own immovable insured property, in order to claim the value of the property from the insurer.	
Malicious damage of residential premises Malicious injury to property consists in the unlawful and intentional damaging of property belonging to another or one's own insured property, with the intention to claim the value of the property from the insurer.	**Deliberate damage/burning/destruction of dwellings** Unlawful and intentional damaging of dwellings.
	Theft of bicycle See theft.
	Theft of crops See theft.
All theft not mentioned elsewhere	**Corruption**
Commercial crimes	**Consumer fraud** Deceptive practices that result in financial losses for consumers during seemingly legitimate business transactions. Also includes cases where someone provides misleading information and tricks a person into buying something or signing documents.