



New Zealand
Crime and Victims **survey**

HELP CREATE SAFER COMMUNITIES

Key findings

Descriptive statistics

May 2020

Results drawn from Cycle 2
(2018/19) and pooled data of the
New Zealand Crime and Victims
Survey

Foreword



I am delighted to present the main report of the New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey (NZCVS) 2019.

Last year 8038 New Zealanders over the age of 15 were personally interviewed about their experience of crime in the last 12 months.

This is the second year of interviewing, which means over 16,000 people have had their experiences of crime conveyed in these reports. The data captured by this increasing pool of respondents will make it possible to both increase the accuracy of the survey results and to analyse changes in the volume and structure of victimisation in New Zealand.

This survey is New Zealand's largest crime survey. Without the survey we would have much less reliable information on New Zealanders' experiences with crime, as only 25% of crime is reported to the Police. The results from the survey will help government agencies to create safer neighbourhoods and communities.

Many people made this survey possible. Thank you to the research and evaluation staff at the Ministry of Justice who designed and analysed it, Statistics New Zealand, the Police, Department of Corrections and Oranga Tamariki who reviewed it, and other government and non-governmental organisations that provided input. I would also like to acknowledge Victoria University of Wellington for their expert advice.

Thank you to CBG Public Sector Surveying for their analytic work and the hundreds of interviewers for their commitment and very professional contribution. Finally, to the 8038 people who told us the story of their experience of crime, a very heartfelt thank you from us. The gift of insight and information you have given us to help our community is very precious.

It's also worth noting that the data reflected in this report was captured before the COVID-19 pandemic began, so doesn't reflect any impact the virus had on crime and victimisation in New Zealand. This data will be captured in future reports.

Ngā mihi.



Andrew Kibblewhite

Key findings

| Topic | Key findings | More details in |
|--|--|------------------|
| <p>How much crime is there in New Zealand (NZ)?</p> | <p>Overall, about 1,713,000 incidents of crime occurred over the last 12 months, including 1,139,000 personal offences and 574,000 household offences.</p> <hr/> <p>On average, over the last 12 months there were 29 personal offences per 100 adults and 31 household offences per 100 households.</p> <hr/> <p>About 1,207,000 adults (30% of adult population) experienced at least one personal or household offence over the last 12 months.</p> <hr/> <p>About 20% of households experienced one or more household offences over the last 12 months.</p> <hr/> <p>The most common offences over the last 12 months were burglary (16 incidents per 100 households) and fraud and deception (8 incidents per 100 adults).</p> <hr/> <p>There was no statistically significant difference between the volumes of victimisation in Cycle 1 (2018) and Cycle 2 (2018/19) of the NZCVS.</p> | <p>Section 3</p> |
| <p>Who is experiencing offences?</p> | <p>Māori (38%) were significantly more likely to experience crime and Chinese people (22%) were significantly less likely to experience crime compared with the NZ average (30%).</p> <hr/> <p>Our analysis shows that the youthful age structure of the Māori population and the social and economic deprivation around where many Māori live, makes it more likely that they will be a victim of crime.</p> <hr/> <p>Adults who were never married or in a civil union (36%) were significantly more likely to experience crime.</p> <hr/> <p>Adults living in sole-parent households (37%) were significantly more likely to experience crime while adults living in couple-only households (26%) were significantly less likely to experience crime</p> <hr/> <p>When factors such as age were considered, disabled adults were significantly more likely to experience crime (40%).</p> <hr/> <p>Adults with higher levels of psychological distress were significantly more likely to experience crime. About 43% of adults with a moderate level and 51% of adults with a high level of psychological distress experienced crime over the last 12 months, compared with the NZ average of 30%.</p> <hr/> <p>Adults who were not employed and not actively seeking work were significantly more likely to experience crime (43%), while retired people were significantly less likely to experience crime (25%).</p> | <p>Section 4</p> |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Violent interpersonal crime | Overall, 284,000 adult New Zealanders experienced 677,000 interpersonal violence incidents over the last 12 months. | Section 5.1 |
| | Adults with a high level of psychological distress were four times more likely than the NZ average to experience violent interpersonal crime. | |
| | Students (aged 15 years and above) were twice as likely as the NZ average to experience violent interpersonal crime. | |
| | There was no statistically significant change in violent interpersonal offences in Cycle 1 (2018) and Cycle 2 (2018/19) of the NZCVS. | |
| | Victims were injured in 56% of physical offences (non-sexual assaults and robberies). | |
| Offences committed by family members | Sole parents with children were almost four times more likely than the NZ average to experience offences committed by family members (including ex-partners). | Section 5.2 |
| | Forty-seven percent of offenders were under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. | |
| | Forty-four percent of victims experienced anxiety/panic attack and 40% of victims experienced depression as the result of the offence. | |
| | Victims of offences by family members were injured in 26% of incidents. | |
| Lifetime experience of intimate partner violence (IPV) and sexual violence | Over a million adult New Zealanders (29% of the entire adult population) experienced either IPV or sexual violence at some point during their life. | Section 5.3 |
| | In total, 563,000 (16% of adults) experienced IPV, and 938,000 (24%) experienced sexual violence. | |
| | Women were almost 2.5 times more likely than men to experience IPV and 3 times more likely to experience sexual violence. | |
| | Thirty-five percent of separated/divorced adults experienced IPV, and 36% experienced sexual violence at some point during their life. | |
| Other offence types | Pacific people were half as likely as the NZ average to experience theft and damage offences. | Section 5.4 Section 5.5 Section 5.6 |
| | Over 320,000 adults (8%) experienced 420,000 fraud and cybercrime incidents over the last 12 months. | |
| | Adults with household income of \$150,000 or more experienced significantly higher rates of fraud and cybercrime offences compared with the NZ average. | |
| | Sole-parent households were more likely to experience burglary and trespass than the NZ average, while households in the least deprived areas were less likely. | |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------|
| Reporting to the Police | <p>Overall, 25% of all crime incidents were reported to the Police. Motor vehicle thefts (94%) had the highest likelihood of being reported.</p> <hr/> <p>There were no significant changes in reporting patterns between Cycle 1 (2018) and Cycle 2 (2018/19) of the NZCVS.</p> <hr/> <p>Adults were significantly more likely to report an incident if they viewed the incident as a crime or if they perceived the incident to be more serious.</p> <hr/> <p>People living in the least deprived areas were significantly less likely to report incidents to the Police.</p> <hr/> <p>The most common reasons for not reporting an incident were “Too trivial/no loss or damage/not worth reporting” (48%) and “Police couldn’t have done anything” (27%).</p> <hr/> <p>Common reasons for not reporting offences by family members were “Private/personal/family or whānau matter”, “Dealt with the matter myself/ourselves”, “Shame/embarrassment/further humiliation” and “Fear of reprisals/would make matters worse”.</p> | Section 6 |
| Distribution of crime | <p>Thirty-seven percent of victims experienced two or more crime incidents within the last 12 months.</p> <hr/> <p>Six percent of adults experienced 52% of all crime incidents; 2% of adults experienced one third of all crime incidents.</p> <hr/> <p>Interpersonal violence was the most repeated type of offence. Almost three quarters of all interpersonal violence incidents occurred as a chain of repeating offences. One percent of adults experienced over half of all interpersonal violence incidents.</p> <hr/> <p>Vehicle offences were the most common one-off incidents (82%).</p> | Section 7 |
| Perceptions of crime | <p>Interpersonal violence – sexual assault (82%), threats and damages (34%), and assault/robbery (34%) – was the most common offence type perceived by victims as driven by discrimination, compared with 25% of offences overall.</p> <hr/> <p>Twenty-three percent of Asian victims felt the incidents that happened to them were driven by race/ethnicity/nationality discrimination, compared with 7% of victims overall.</p> <hr/> <p>Two thirds of all incidents were described by victims as a crime, but only one third of interpersonal violence offences were considered as crime.</p> <hr/> <p>Perceived seriousness of sexual assaults is slightly lower than for other forms of interpersonal violence. Only 15% of victims of sexual assault believed it was a crime.</p> | Section 8 |

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2. This report contains highly aggregated data. No identifiable personal data is included in the report.
3. Estimates in the text (including percentages) are rounded to the nearest thousands, hundreds or whole numbers. Graphs and tables provide accuracy to two decimal places.

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This document is available at <https://www.justice.govt.nz/justice-sector-policy/research-data/nzcvs/resources-and-results/>



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Acknowledgements

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Survey participants

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Service provider

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Contributors

All writing and analysis for this report was performed by Dr Michael Slyuzberg, Tianying Chu, Kate Preston and Dr Tadhg E Daly. All contributors were employed by the Ministry of Justice Research and Evaluation team at the time of publication.

External experts

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NZCVS Project Team

1 About NZCVS

The New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey (NZCVS) is a nationwide, face-to-face, annual, random-sample survey asking adults living in private dwellings and aged 15 and over about incidents of crime they experienced in New Zealand over the last 12 months. This includes incidents reported to the Police and unreported incidents.

1.1 Survey objectives

The key research objectives of the NZCVS are to:

- measure the extent and nature of reported and unreported crime across New Zealand
- understand who experiences crime and how they respond
- identify the groups at above-average risk of victimisation
- facilitate a better understanding of victims' experiences and needs
- provide a measure of crime trends in New Zealand
- provide timely and adequate information to support strategic decisions
- significantly shorten the period between data collection and reporting compared with previous victimisation surveys
- match survey data with relevant administrative records to reduce information gaps in the decision- and policy-making process.

1.2 Survey scope

While the NZCVS delivers the best estimate currently available about a wide range of personal and household offences that are not captured elsewhere, it still does not report the total amount of crime in New Zealand. This is because the NZCVS is a sample survey¹ subject to sample errors, and also it does not cover every type of crime that someone might experience (see Table 1.1).

¹ A sample survey means that not every adult gives information about their experiences; it's not a census of the population. Also, not all survey respondents may want to talk about their experiences, remember the incidents that they have experienced, and/or provide accurate information about incidents (deliberately or due to imperfect recall).

Table 1.1: Scope of crimes/offences covered in the NZCVS

| Scope | Description |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Covered in the NZCVS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> personal offences, either reported to the Police or not, where the survey respondent was the victim of the crime household offences, either reported to the Police or not, where the survey respondent's household was offended |
| Not covered in the NZCVS* | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> manslaughter and murder abduction crimes against children 14-years-old and under "victimless crime" where a victim cannot be identified (such as drug offences) commercial crime/white-collar crime/crimes against businesses or public-sector agencies crimes against people who do not live in permanent private dwellings crimes against people living in institutions[†] |

* Particular groups of offences are excluded from the NZCVS, including those that are not directly experienced by an interviewee (e.g., manslaughter, murder), have a very small sample size not supporting meaningful statistical analysis (e.g., abductions), have additional legal restrictions for data collection (e.g., crimes against children, crimes against people living in institutions) or require development of different survey tools (e.g., crimes against businesses).

[†] Those living in care facilities, prisons, army barracks, boarding schools and other similar institutions or non-private dwellings are excluded from the NZCVS sampling and interviewing process.

1.3 Reporting survey results

A number of resources are already available on the [Ministry of Justice website](#) to help access the results from the NZCVS, interpret findings, and understand the research.

The NZCVS reporting framework is presented in Figure 1.1.

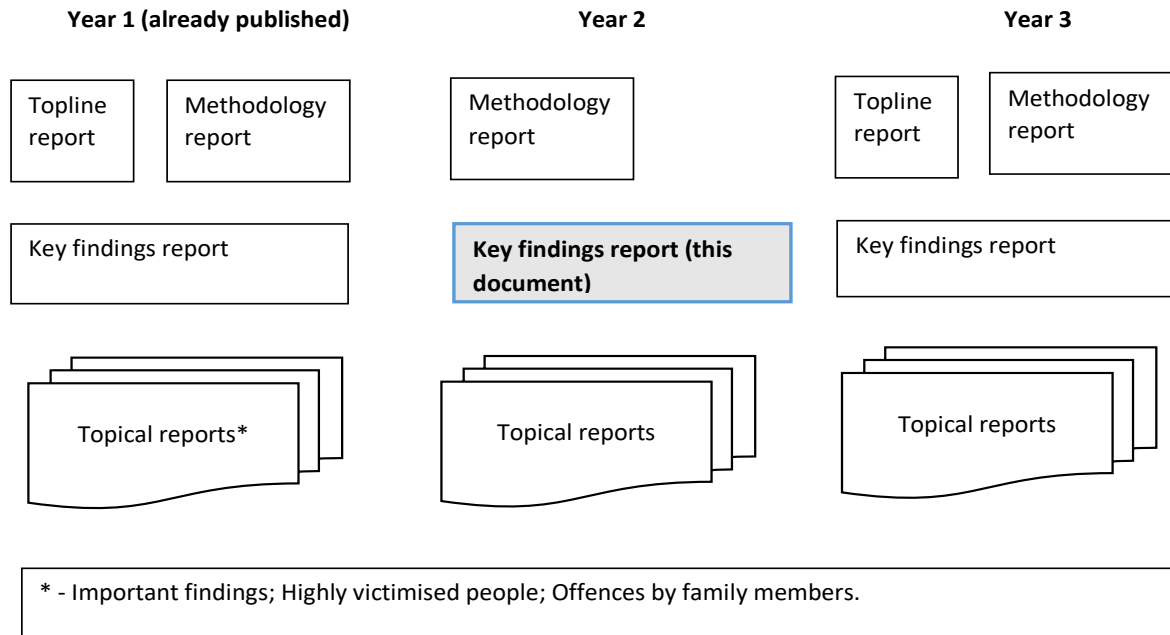


Figure 1.1: NZCVS reporting framework

Note: A topline report was not produced for Year 2.

2 About this report

2.1 Purpose

This report provides detailed insights and analysis of the results of Cycle 2 (2018/19) of the NZCVS. It also compares these results with the Cycle 1 (2018) outcomes released in May 2019. Where relevant, this report combines the Cycle 1 and Cycle 2 results to obtain more robust assessments.

Where are the “why’s”?

This report contains mostly descriptive statistics. It does not include analysis of relationships between variables, nor it attributes causation.

This report does not include survey methodology and metadata. These technical aspects are discussed in detail in the NZCVS [methodological report](#).

The results vary from year to year due to either real changes in crime volumes or to random statistical variation. This report focuses on statistically significant changes – that is, those unlikely to have occurred by chance.

This report is based on the second year of interviewing. It will be followed by another annual report in early 2021. This will make it possible to both increase the accuracy of the survey results and to analyse changes in the volume and structure of victimisation in New Zealand.

Consistency of the NZCVS results

Throughout all population groups and all offence types the Cycle 2 results are consistent with those obtained after Cycle 1. This consistency supports the view that the NZCVS is using a vigorous and statistically robust methodology which delivers reliable outcomes.

We consider this report as part of the annual report series (see Figure 1.1).

We will provide other reports and resources on the NZCVS pages of the Ministry of Justice website. We plan a series of follow-up reports on specific topics, such as Māori victimisation, consequences of crime, reporting to Police, and more. These reports will continue the series of topical reports already published on the Ministry of Justice website and provide in-depth analysis on the above topics (including relations between variables). These reports may use confidentialised data from Stats NZ’s Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI).

The NZCVS is a new survey with some significant improvements in design compared with its predecessor, the New Zealand Crime and Safety Survey (NZCASS). Methodological

differences between the surveys mean that direct comparison of NZCVS results with NZCASS is potentially misleading, even within similar offence types. This is discussed in detail in section 2.6.

The NZCVS results are also not comparable with Police crime statistics. The main reason for this is that more than three quarters of crime incidents collected by the NZCVS were not reported to the Police (see section 6), and the proportion of incidents reported to the Police varies significantly depending on the offence type. The NZCVS timeframe is also different from that in the Police administrative data (see section 2.5).

2.2 Using this report

The report starts from the list of the most significant findings. This list includes references to the relevant sections of the report where more detailed information may be found.

The report contains many graphs and infographics that help to visualise key facts and findings. Only those graphs that support the key findings are included. In most graphs and infographics, the colour orange indicates values with a statistically significant difference from the national average (on 95% confidence level), and grey indicates the New Zealand average.

All observations and graphs in the report are based on data tables available from the separate Excel document located on the Ministry of Justice website (see <https://www.justice.govt.nz/justice-sector-policy/research-data/nzcvcs/resources-and-results/>).

Estimates in the text and graphs (including percentages) are rounded to the nearest thousands, hundreds or whole numbers. The one exception is when it is essential to recognise the smaller differences between the prevalence rates in different groups. In this case, we round the percentages to one decimal point.

Formal statistical tests of differences in estimates across population groups are not provided in this report. Confidence intervals (at the 95% level) are provided to show the uncertainty of estimates. When confidence intervals of two estimates are not overlapping, it can be concluded that there is a statistically significant difference. However, when the intervals do overlap, the difference is unlikely to be statistically significant.

Throughout the report, the word “significance” always means “statistical significance”. Note that statistical significance depends not only on the difference between the estimates but also on a sample size and variance. This may result in the situations when smaller differences are statistically significant while larger differences are not.

Colour coding in graphs showing statistical significance

This report contains a large number of graphs to visualise key findings. In some graphs in which significance testing relative to the national average was carried out, the following colour scheme is used to highlight statistical significance.

| | |
|--|---|
| | New Zealand average |
| | No statistically significant difference from the New Zealand average (at 95% confidence level) |
| | Statistically significant difference from the New Zealand average (at 95% confidence level) |

Note: Statistical testing is based on overlapping confidence intervals and not formal tests, as described above.

Some sections of the report are using multivariate analysis the relationship between variables while controlling for other variables. NZCVS methodological report provides more information about this technique.

This document also provides information about accuracy of the estimates. Please be aware that some estimates should be used with caution due to small sample size – this is clearly stated in relevant spreadsheets. As a rule, we advise using caution with all count estimates with a relative sample error (RSE) between 20% and 50% and all percentage estimates with the margin of error (MOE) between 10 and 20 percentage points. All estimates with a relative sample error more than 50% or a margin of error higher than 20 percentage points are either suppressed or aggregated. Ratio-based estimates are also suppressed or aggregated if their numerators or denominators have a relative sample error more than 50%.

Pooled data

Sometimes when the NZCVS sample is too small to provide sufficiently accurate data about crimes with a smaller incidence or prevalence, the usefulness of the survey can be improved by combining two years of survey data in a new dataset called **pooled data**. The pooled dataset is using its own set of weights to make analytical results consistent with the Cycle 1 and Cycle 2 outcomes. More information is provided in the **NZCVS methodological report**.

Answers to frequently asked questions may be found on the Ministry of Justice website – see <https://www.justice.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/NZCVS-FAQs.pdf>

If you have any feedback or questions about NZCVS results, please email us on nzcvcs@justice.govt.nz

2.3 Key terms and definitions

The following key terms and definitions are used in this report.

Table 2.1: Key terms and definitions (in alphabetical order)

| Key terms | Definitions |
|---------------------------|--|
| Adults | Refers to people aged 15 or over. |
| Crime | A general description of an act or omission that constitutes an offence and is punishable by law. |
| Decile | In statistics, one of ten equal parts that a set of objects is divided into when you are comparing a particular feature relating to them. |
| Deprivation index | The New Zealand Index of Deprivation 2013 (NZDep2013) groups deprivation scores into deciles (or quintiles), where 1 represents the areas with the least deprived scores, and 10 (or 5) represents the areas with the most deprived scores. |
| Family member | Family members include a current partner (husband, wife, partner, boyfriend or girlfriend), ex-partner (previous husband, wife, partner, boyfriend or girlfriend), or other family member (parent or step-parent; parent's partner, boyfriend or girlfriend; son or daughter including in-laws; sibling or step-sibling; other family members including extended family). |
| Financial pressure | The NZCVS measures financial pressure using two different questions. Level of financial pressure 1 assesses the ability to afford an attractive but non-essential item for \$300. Level of financial pressure 2 assesses the ability to afford an unexpected \$500 of extra spending within a month without borrowing. |
| Household offences | In the NZCVS, household offences include the following offence types: burglary; theft of/unlawful takes/converts motor vehicle; theft from motor vehicle; unlawful interference/getting into motor vehicle; damage to motor vehicles; unlawful takes/converts/interferes with bicycle; property damage (household); theft (except motor vehicles – household); and trespass. |
| Imputation | The process of replacing missing data with estimated values. |
| Incidence | An estimated total number of offences. |

| | |
|--|---|
| Incidence rate | <p>An average number of offences per 100 adults and/or per 100 households.</p> <p>Note: Incidence rates take into account that one adult and one household may be victimised more than once, but they do not take into account that victimisation is unevenly distributed across the population.</p> |
| Incident | <p>A situation that happened at a specific place and time where one or more offences were committed.</p> <p>Note: If an incident includes more than one offence, in most cases only the most serious offence is coded. For example, an assault with property damage would just be coded as assault. The only exception when two offences will be registered is the situation where the primary offence is burglary and the secondary offence is theft of/unlawful takes/converts motor vehicle. This approach reflects current Police practice.</p> |
| Interpersonal violence | <p>In the NZCVS, interpersonal violence includes the following offence types: robbery and assault (except sexual assault); sexual assault; harassment and threatening behaviour; and household and personal property damage where the offender is known to the victim.</p> |
| Intimate partner violence (IPV) | <p>In the NZCVS, IPV includes robbery; assault (including sexual assault); harassment and threatening behaviour; and damage to motor vehicles and property damage provided the offender is a current partner or ex-partner.</p> |
| Offence | <p>A specific crime that has been coded according to the legislation and Police practice.</p> |
| Offences by family members | <p>In the NZCVS, offences by family members include the following offence types: robbery and assault (except sexual assault); sexual assault; harassment and threatening behaviour; and damage to motor vehicles and property damage provided the offender is a family member.</p> <p>Note: The above definition is different from that of family violence used in many other contexts and is not the definition used in the Family Violence Act 2018. Offences by family members considered in this report are a subset of experiences of family violence by adults in New Zealand.</p> |
| Offender | <p>A person who committed an offence. An offender may or may not have been convicted of an offence.</p> |
| Personal offences | <p>In the NZCVS, personal offences include the following offence types: theft and property damage (personal); robbery and assault (except sexual assault); fraud and deception; cybercrime; sexual assault; and harassment and threatening behaviour.</p> |
| Pooled data | <p>Analytical dataset combining two years of survey data (in this document, Cycle 1 and Cycle 2). The pooled dataset is using its own set of weights to make analytical results consistent with the Cycle 1 and Cycle 2 outcomes.</p> |

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Prevalence | The number of adults and/or households that were victims of crime. Note: Prevalence does not take into account that some people and/or households may be victimised more than once. |
| Prevalence rate | The percentage of the adults and/or households that experienced criminal offences. |
| Psychological distress | In the NZCVS, psychological distress is measured by the Kessler-6 (K6) scale. This short six-item scale screens for non-specific psychological distress in the general population. It was designed for population health screening surveys and has previously been used in the New Zealand Attitudes and Values Study. The long form version (the Kessler-10, or K10) is used in the New Zealand Health Survey. |
| Psychological violence | Psychological violence includes multiple types of occurrences such as forcing a victim to stop contacting family or friends; following or keeping track of a victim; controlling a victim's access to phone, internet or transport; preventing a victim's access to healthcare; and pressing a victim into paid work or preventing a victim from doing paid work. Note: At the beginning of the data collection period (October 2018) these actions were not formally considered as crime and therefore were not included in our crime volume calculations. This approach may be reviewed in line with legislative changes. |
| Quintile | In statistics, one of five equal parts that a set of objects is divided into when you are comparing a particular feature relating to them. |
| Standardisation | Analytical technique to control for extraneous variables in survey analysis. The goal of standardisation is to allow better comparison between analysed values. |

2.4 Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used in this report.

Table 2.2: List of abbreviations

| Abbreviation | Meaning |
|--------------|---|
| CAPI | Computer-assisted personal interviewing |
| CASI | Computer-assisted self-interviewing |
| CJS | Criminal justice system |
| e.g. | For example |
| Hhold | Household |
| ie | That is |
| IPV | Intimate partner violence |

| | |
|------------------|---|
| MOE | Margin of error (also used in the data tables) |
| NZ | New Zealand |
| NZCASS | New Zealand Crime and Safety Survey |
| NZCVS | New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey |
| NZDep2013 | New Zealand Deprivation Index 2013 |
| RSE | Relative sample error (also used in the data tables) |

2.5 Time periods covered by an NZCVS cycle

It is important to understand what time periods are covered by each NZCVS cycle. The NZCVS questionnaire asks about crime experienced by a survey respondent within the 12-month period preceding the interview. Information provided by each survey respondent relates to their “personal” last year rather than the calendar year. Therefore, each cycle covers the period beginning 12 months before the first interview and ending at the date of the last interview.

For example, Cycle 1 interviews, which were undertaken between 1 March 2018 and 30 September 2018, cover crime incidents experienced between 1 March 2017 and 30 September 2018. However, if a participant was interviewed on 1 May 2018, their answers related to the period between 1 May 2017 and 1 May 2018.

This is very different to administrative data collected by Police and related to a calendar year. While Police administrative data may answer the question “How many crime incidents were **reported** in 2019?”, NZCVS data is not calendar year specific and may answer the question “How many crime incidents were **experienced** by victims interviewed in 2019 within last 12 months prior to the interview?” These are very different questions, and that’s why NZCVS data is not directly comparable with administrative data.

Another important thing to understand is that the NZCVS is a continuous survey that collects data every day without interruptions. Therefore, there is a significant overlap in the time periods covered by each NZCVS cycle.

Table 2.3 explains this in more detail.

Table 2.3: Time periods covered by the first three NZCVS cycles

| NZCVS cycle | Period of data collection | Time period covered by data |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Cycle 1 | 1 March 2018 – 30 September 2018 | 1 March 2017 – 30 September 2018 |
| Cycle 2 | 1 October 2018 – 30 September 2019 | 1 October 2017 – 30 September 2019 |
| Cycle 3 (not yet finalised) | 1 October 2019 – 30 September 2020 | 1 October 2018 – 30 September 2020 |

Note: This report also uses a pooled dataset combining Cycle 1 and Cycle 2. The pooled dataset covers the period between 1 March 2017 and 30 September 2019.

Starting from Cycle 2, each cycle will cover a time period of two years with a one-year overlap with the previous cycle. Still, the NZCVS will report on one year of each victim's experience.

2.6 Comparison with previous victimisation surveys

The NZCVS is a new survey with some significant improvements in design compared with its predecessors, such as the New Zealand Crime and Safety Survey (NZCASS). In particular, the NZCVS:

- has a slightly different approach to selecting an interviewed person within the household
- uses a different approach to coding offences that is more consistent with the Police approach to categorising offences
- applies a different approach to incidents' capping
- covers additional offence types (e.g., fraud, cybercrime, trespass)
- employs a different approach for collecting data from people who experienced multiple crime incidents (allowing similar incidents to be reported as a group)
- applies a much lower level of data imputations.

Examples of incorrect comparisons

1. *The NZCVS assessed that over the last 12 months adults experienced approximately 1,713,000 offences. The 2013 NZCASS assessed the total number of offences as approximately 1,872,000. Does it mean that the number of offences reduced over the last five years?*

Answer. No, this is inconclusive. On the one hand, the NZCVS includes more offence types than the NZCASS. But on the other hand, if an incident involves multiple offences, the NZCASS counts two main offences while the NZCVS in most cases counts only the

major one, which is in line with Police practice. In addition, the NZCASS uses many more statistical imputations to assess the total number of offences while the NZCVS is mostly using the actual responses. Finally, the NZCVS is using different approaches to limit the influence of statistical outliers (capping), which is more aligned with international practice.

2. *According to the NZCVS, 25% of offences were reported to the Police. This is 6 percentage points lower than the 31% found by the NZCASS. Does it mean that the level of reporting to the Police decreased over the last five years?*

Answer. No, this is inconclusive. The NZCVS incorporates three new offence types – cybercrime, fraud and trespass – all with a very low proportion of reporting to the Police. This will affect the average reporting to the Police proportion.

3. *The NZCVS assessed that 87,000 adults experienced more than 250,000 incidents of violence by family members over the last 12 months. This is significantly less than the 229,000 adults and 781,000 offences reported by the 2013 NZCASS. Does it mean that the volume of violence by family members in New Zealand significantly decreased?*

Answer. No, these numbers are not comparable for many reasons. The NZCVS is using a different approach to coding offences (closer to the Police practice), a different incident capping methodology (aligned with leading overseas surveys), a different approach for collecting data from highly victimised people and recording multiple incidents (introducing “cluster” victim forms), and fewer data imputations. All the above may significantly affect the accuracy of the comparison, especially when it relates to a reasonably small sample size. Analysis of the family violence trends will be possible after publishing further NZCVS reports.

3 How much crime is there in New Zealand?

The NZCVS provides a larger picture of crime in New Zealand than administrative data because it captures incidents of crime that may not have been recorded elsewhere.

The key question people usually ask is: “How much crime is there?” To answer this question, we can think about the “amount of crime” in different ways. Sometimes we think about the number of incidents committed, while other times we think about the number of people or households that were the victims of crime. In the NZCVS we have looked at four main measures of crime:

1. the number of incidents of crime experienced by adults (15 years of age or older) in a given year (incidence of crime)
2. the average number of offences for every 100 adults or 100 households (incidence rate)
3. the number of adults and/or households victimised once or more (prevalence of crime)
4. the percentage of adults and/or households that were victimised once or more (prevalence rate).

This section estimates the crime volume and the extent of victimisation over the last 12 months (Cycle 2). The findings² were compared with the equivalent results from Cycle 1.

3.1 Number of incidents

The estimated number of incidents reported in the NZCVS is a key measure of the volume of crime in New Zealand. Overall, about **1,713,000** incidents of crime occurred over the last 12 months, including **1,139,000** personal offences and **574,000** household offences. There were no statistically significant changes in the number of incidents between Cycle 1 and Cycle 2.

Fraud and deception is the most common type of offence over the last 12 months. The estimated total number (incidence) of fraud and deception offences is 310,000, which makes up 18% of all incidents and 27% of personal incidents.

Burglary accounted for just over half of all household offences over the last 12 months. Overall, it is the second most common type of offence. The estimated total number (incidence) of burglaries is 295,000, which makes up 17% of all incidents and 51% of household incidents.

² See [data tables](#) for more details.

Harassment and threatening behaviour is the third most common type of offence (228,000 incidents), which makes up 13% of all incidents and 20% of personal incidents.

Table 3.1 shows the number of personal offences by offence type, and Table 3.2 shows the number of household offences by offence type.

Table 3.1: Number of personal offences by offence types

| Offence type | Number of personal offences (000s) | |
|---|------------------------------------|---------|
| | Cycle 2 | Cycle 1 |
| Theft and property damage (personal) | 76 | 83 |
| Robbery and assault (except sexual assault) | 225 | 233 |
| Fraud and deception | 310 | 273 |
| Cybercrime | 111 | 119 |
| Sexual assault | 189 | 193 |
| Harassment and threatening behaviour | 228 | 300 |
| All personal offences | 1139 | 1200 |

Table 3.2: Number of household offences by offence types

| Offence type | Number of household offences (000s) | |
|--|-------------------------------------|---------|
| | Cycle 2 | Cycle 1 |
| Burglary | 295 | 312 |
| Theft of/unlawful takes/converts motor vehicle | 31 | 29 |
| Theft (from motor vehicle) | 38 | 35 |
| Unlawful interference/getting into motor vehicle | 10 | 11 |
| Damage to motor vehicles | 46 | 42 |
| Unlawful takes/converts/interferes with bicycle | 8 | 9 |
| Property damage (household) | 48 | 45 |
| Theft (except motor vehicles – household) | 50 | 53 |
| Trespass | 49 | 41 |
| All household offences | 574 | 577 |

3.2 Number of offences per 100 adults or 100 households (incidence rates)

The estimated number of incidents discussed previously does not account for population size. As such, we also use “incidence rates” to measure crime. Incidence rates provide a better measure of the volume of crime over time because the total number of households or adults (aged 15 years and over) in the New Zealand population is considered. It is important to keep in mind that incident rates simply reflect the average number of incidents per 100 households or adults, and do not take into account that victimisation is not distributed evenly across the population.



As demonstrated in Figure 3.1 and Figure 3.2, the top three incidence rates over the last 12 months were for:

1. Burglary (16 offences per 100 households)
2. Fraud and deception (8 offences per 100 adults)
3. Harassment and threatening behaviour (6 offences per 100 adults).

We found no statistically significant change in incidence rates from Cycle 1 for either personal or household offences.

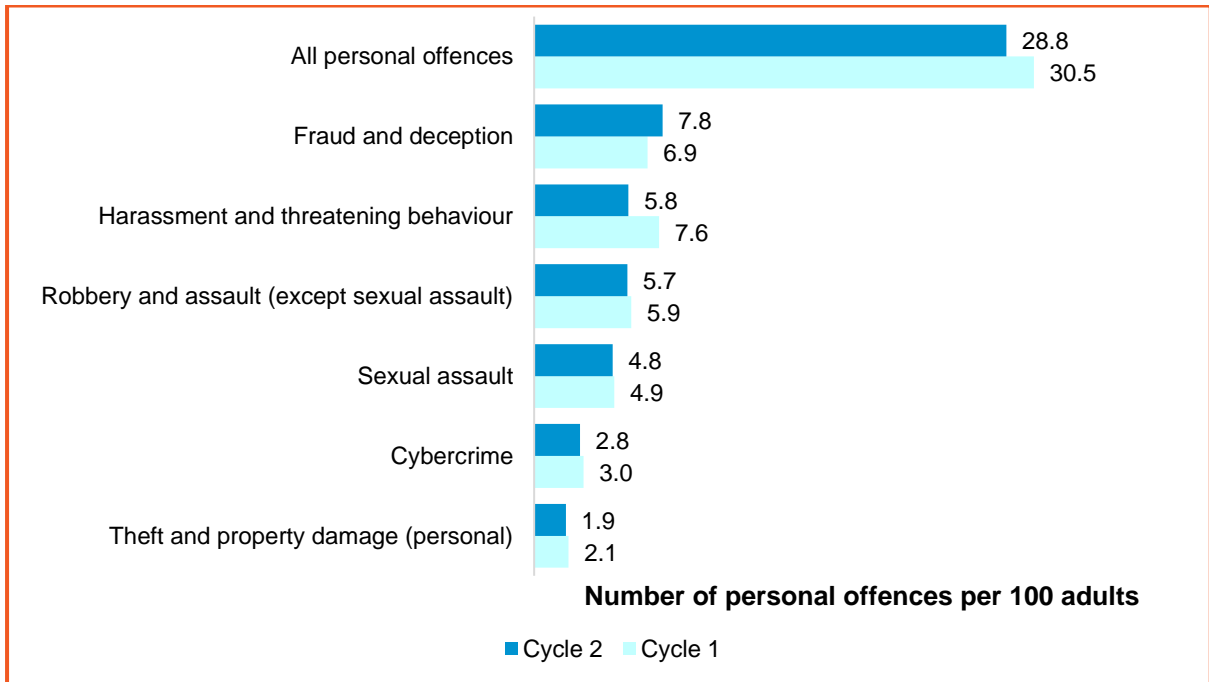


Figure 3.1: Number of personal offences per 100 adults, by personal offence types

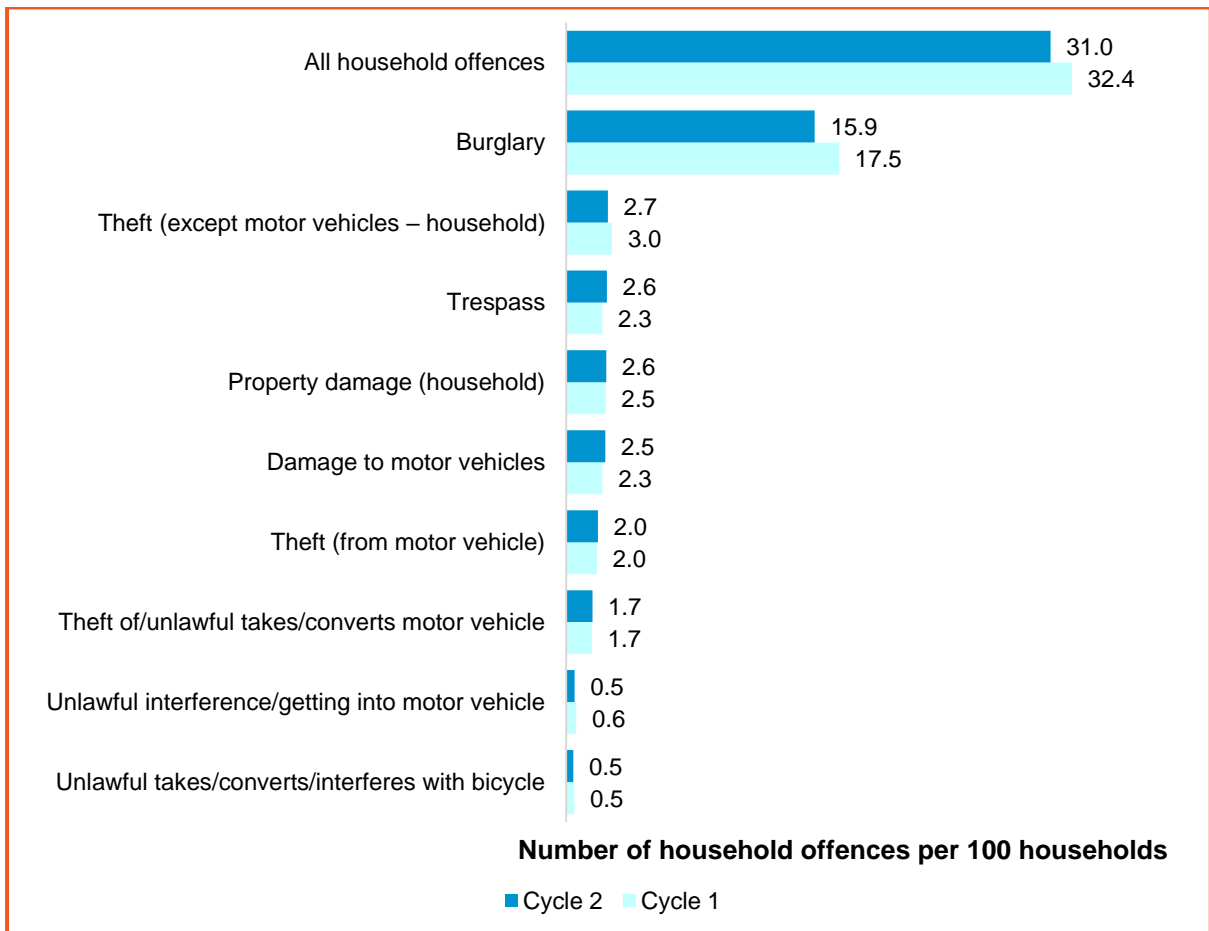


Figure 3.2: Number of household offences per 100 households, by household offence types

3.3 Number of households and adults victimised (prevalence)

To understand how victimisation is distributed across the population, we estimated the number of households and adults who were victims of crime. This measure is called prevalence. Prevalence as a measure of crime does not take into account that some people and/or households may be victimised more than once.

The estimated total number of adults who experienced at least one personal or household offence within the 12 months before the date of an interview is **1,207,000**. This estimate relates to offences experienced by adults who were victims of a personal offence or lived in a household that was a victim of a household offence.

When we look at household and personal offences separately, about **378,000** households experienced one or more household offences, and about **593,000** adults experienced one or more personal offences over the last 12 months.

Table 3.3 shows the number of adult New Zealanders victimised once or more by offence type, and Table 3.4 shows the number of households victimised once or more by offence type.

Table 3.3: Number of adults victimised once or more, by personal offence types

| Offence type | Number of adults victimised once or more (000s) | |
|--|---|---------|
| | Cycle 2 | Cycle 1 |
| Theft and property damage (personal) | 69 | 65 |
| Robbery and assault (except sexual assault) | 118 | 111 |
| Fraud and deception | 256 | 207 |
| Cybercrime | 85 | 101 |
| Sexual assault | 81 | 87 |
| Harassment and threatening behaviour | 104 | 118 |
| All personal offences | 593 | 575 |

Table 3.4: Number of households victimised once or more, by household offence types

| Offence type | Number of households victimised once or more (000s) | |
|--|---|------------|
| | Cycle 2 | Cycle 1 |
| Burglary | 213 | 215 |
| Theft of/unlawful takes/converts motor vehicle | 30 | 27 |
| Theft (from motor vehicle) | 37 | 33 |
| Unlawful interference/getting into motor vehicle | 9 | 9 |
| Damage to motor vehicles | 43 | 37 |
| Unlawful takes/converts/interferes with bicycle | 7 | 8 |
| Property damage (household) | 36 | 34 |
| Theft (except motor vehicles – household) | 35 | 36 |
| Trespass | 37 | 31 |
| All household offences | 378 | 355 |

Comparing the results of Cycle 2 with those found in Cycle 1, there were no significant changes in the number of households or the number of adults victimised once or more. The apparent increase in the numbers (3 percent for personal offences and 6 percent for household offences) did not reach statistical significance.

3.4 Percentage of adults or households victimised (prevalence rate)

The percentage of households or adults who experienced one or more incidents in a given year is known as the “prevalence rate”. This measure does not tell us the number of incidents that occurred or the number of offences each household or adult experienced, but it does tell us the extent of victimisation.

Overall, 30% of adults experienced one or more personal or household offences over the last 12 months. While three out of every ten adults experienced one or more household or personal incidents, on the other hand, seven out of ten adults experienced no crime.

Looking at household and personal offences separately, we found that over the last 12 months about 15% of adults experienced one or more personal offences, and 20% of households experienced one or more household offences.

The most common types of offences are burglaries (experienced by 12% of households) and fraud and deception (experienced by 6% of adults).

As demonstrated in Figure 3.3 and Figure 3.4, we found no statistically significant change in the prevalence rate from Cycle 1 for either household or personal offences.

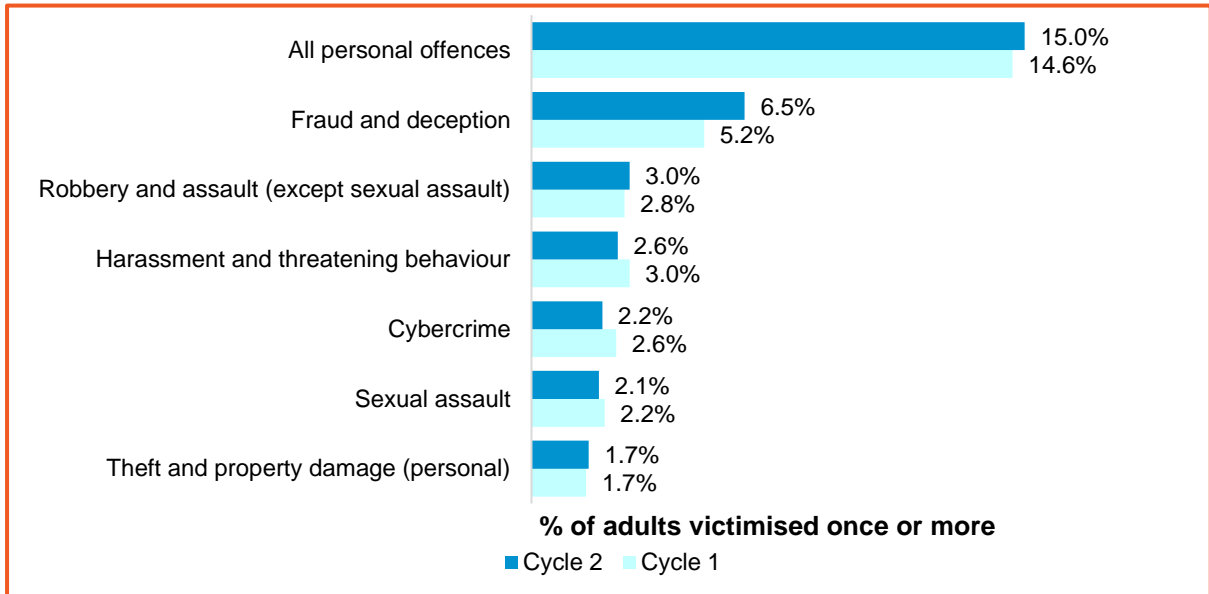


Figure 3.3: Percentage of adults who were victimised once or more, by personal offence types

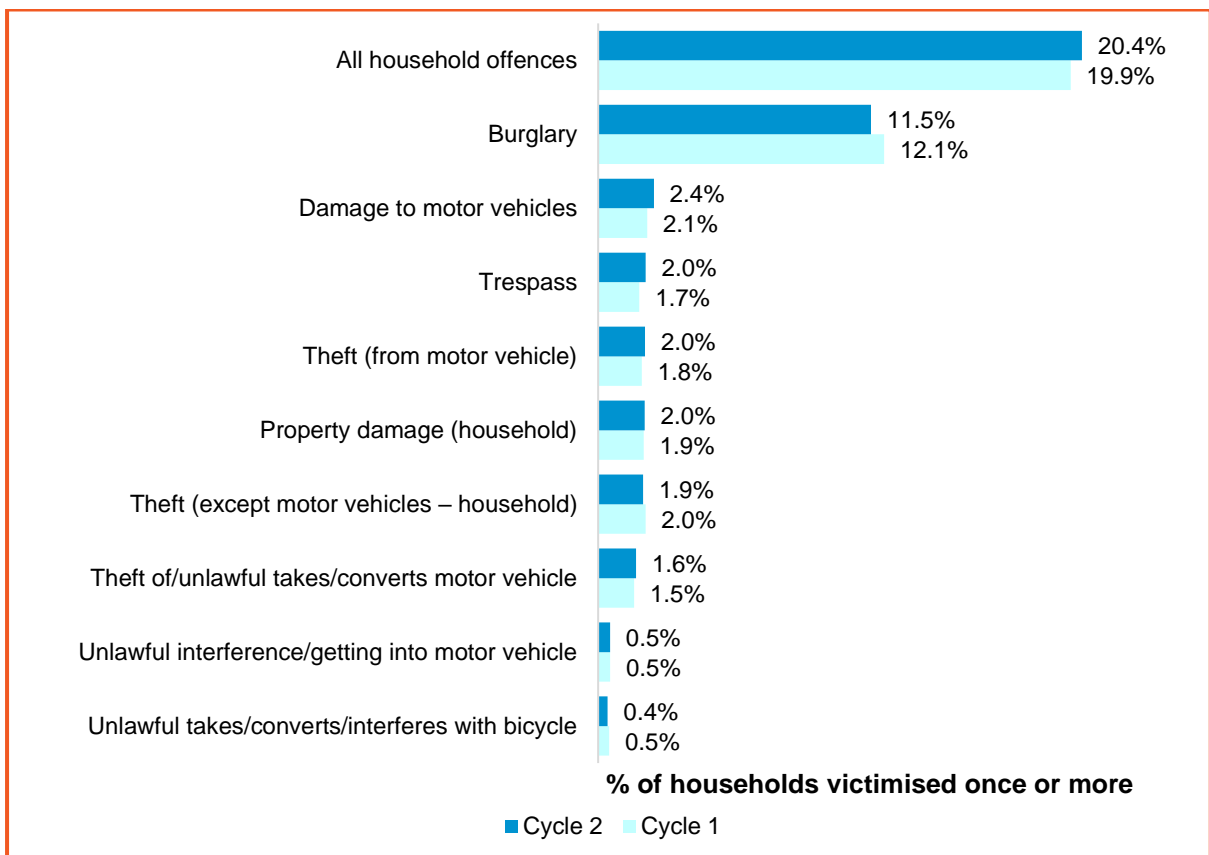


Figure 3.4: Percentage of households that were victimised once or more, by household offence types

4 Who is experiencing offences?

What is included in this section?

In this section we look at experiences of crime by demographic factors. Specifically, we look at various demographic and socioeconomic factors such as sex, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, mental health, employment status, income, financial pressure, life satisfaction, feeling of safety, household ownership and household composition. We also look at geographical areas (based on regional council boundaries) such as deprivation index mesh-blocks, to link offences with where people live. We look at these relationships across all offences, and where relevant, personal offences and household offences separately.

We look at each factor against the two key measures of crime: the **prevalence rate** and the **incidence rate**. For each demographic variable, we look at the Cycle 2 results (section 4.1), changes over time (section 4.2) and overall differences from the New Zealand average (section 4.3). In the graphs and infographics, all statistically significant differences are highlighted in orange.

4.1 Victimisation by population groups

This section analyses Cycle 2 results.

What did we find?

- Overall, there was no significant difference in the likelihood of victimisation between women and men.
- Māori (38%) were significantly more likely to experience crime and Chinese people (22%) were significantly less likely to experience crime compared with the NZ average (30%).
- People aged 20–29 years old (37%) and 40–49 years old (36%) were significantly more likely to experience crime, whereas people aged 65 years old and over (20%) were significantly less likely to experience crime.
- People who were never married or in a civil union (36%) were significantly more likely to experience crime, whereas people who were widowed (17%) were significantly less likely to experience crime compared with the NZ average.
- People with a moderate (43%) or high (51%) level of psychological distress were significantly more likely to experience crime compared with the NZ average.

- Those who rate their life satisfaction and feeling of safety as low (between 0 and 7 out of 10) were significantly more likely to experience crime, whereas those who rate their life satisfaction and feeling of safety as high (10 out of 10) were significantly less likely to experience crime.
- People living in sole-parent households (37%) were significantly more likely to experience crime, whereas people living in couple-only households (26%) were significantly less likely to experience crime compared with the NZ average (30%).
- People renting government accommodation (40%) were significantly more likely to experience crime compared with the NZ average.
- People living in the most deprived areas (NZDep2013 quintile 5) were significantly more likely to experience crime, whereas people living in the least deprived areas (NZDep2013 quintile 1) were significantly less likely to experience crime.
- People living in Southland, Tasman, and generally more rural areas are significantly less likely to experience crime.
- People who were not employed and not actively seeking work (43%) were significantly more likely to experience crime, whereas retired people (25%) were significantly less likely to experience crime compared with the NZ average.
- People experiencing greater financial pressure were significantly more likely to experience crime, whereas those not under financial pressure were significantly less likely to experience crime compared with the NZ average.

Victimisation is associated with multiple factors

Overall, in Cycle 2, several different groups of factors were associated with either significantly higher likelihoods or significantly lower likelihoods of victimisation when compared with the NZ average (see Figure 4.1 and Figure 4.2 below³).

As demonstrated in Figure 4.1, factors associated with a significantly higher likelihood of victimisation in Cycle 2 include being younger (aged 20–29), Māori, never married, not employed, renting government accommodation, living in a sole-parent household, living in a more deprived area, being under high financial pressure, having a moderate or high level of psychological distress, having low life satisfaction, and having a low feeling of safety.

In contrast, as shown in Figure 4.2, factors associated with a significantly lower likelihood of victimisation include being older (aged 65 years and over), Chinese, retired, widowed, living in a couple-only household, living in a less deprived or rural area, having low financial stress, having high life satisfaction, and having a high feeling of safety.

³ Note that factors influencing the level of victimisation may be, in turn, inter-dependant. In-depth analysis of this inter-dependency is out of scope of this document but will be addressed in future reports.

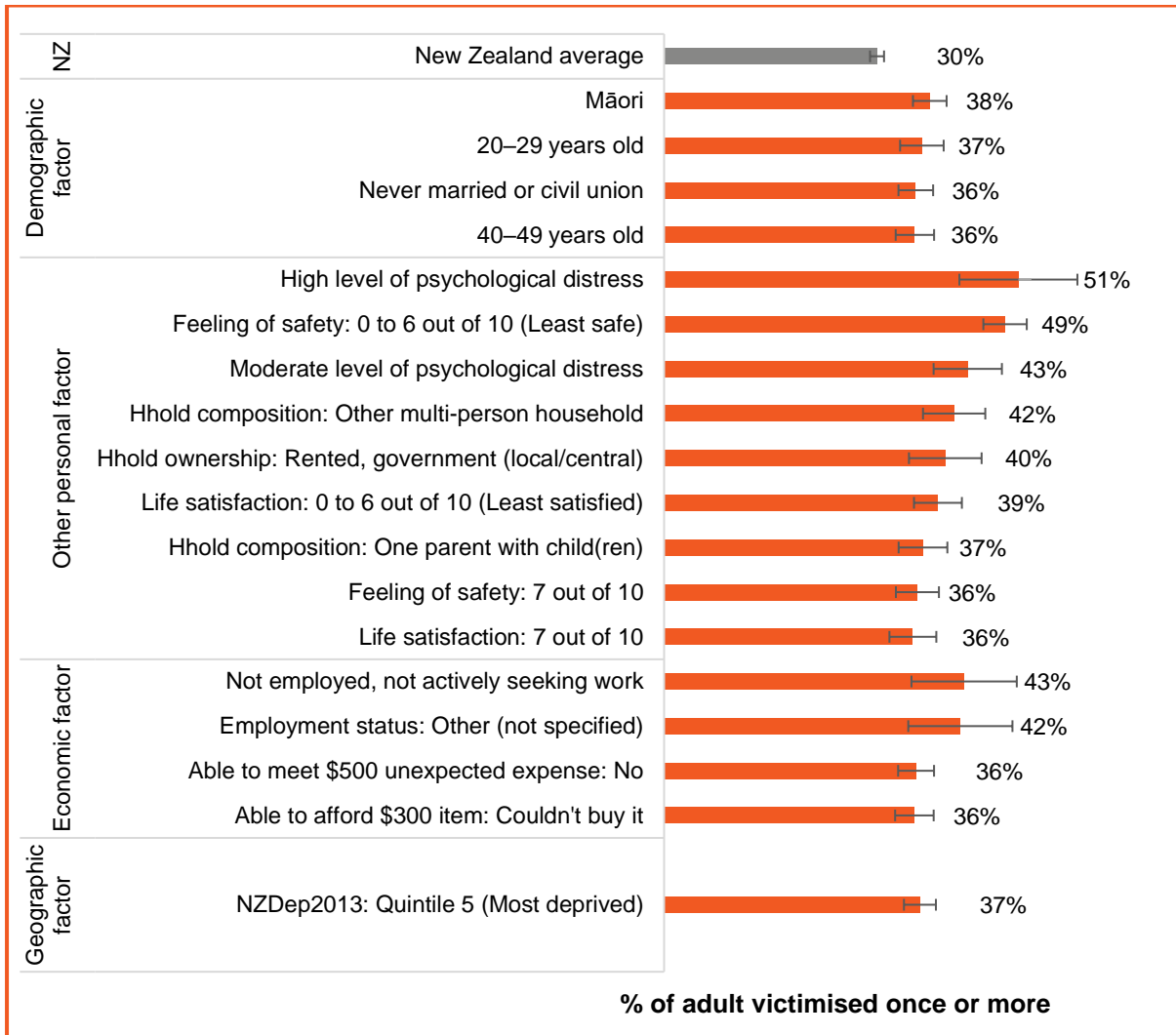


Figure 4.1: Proportion of adults victimised significantly more than the NZ average, by population groups

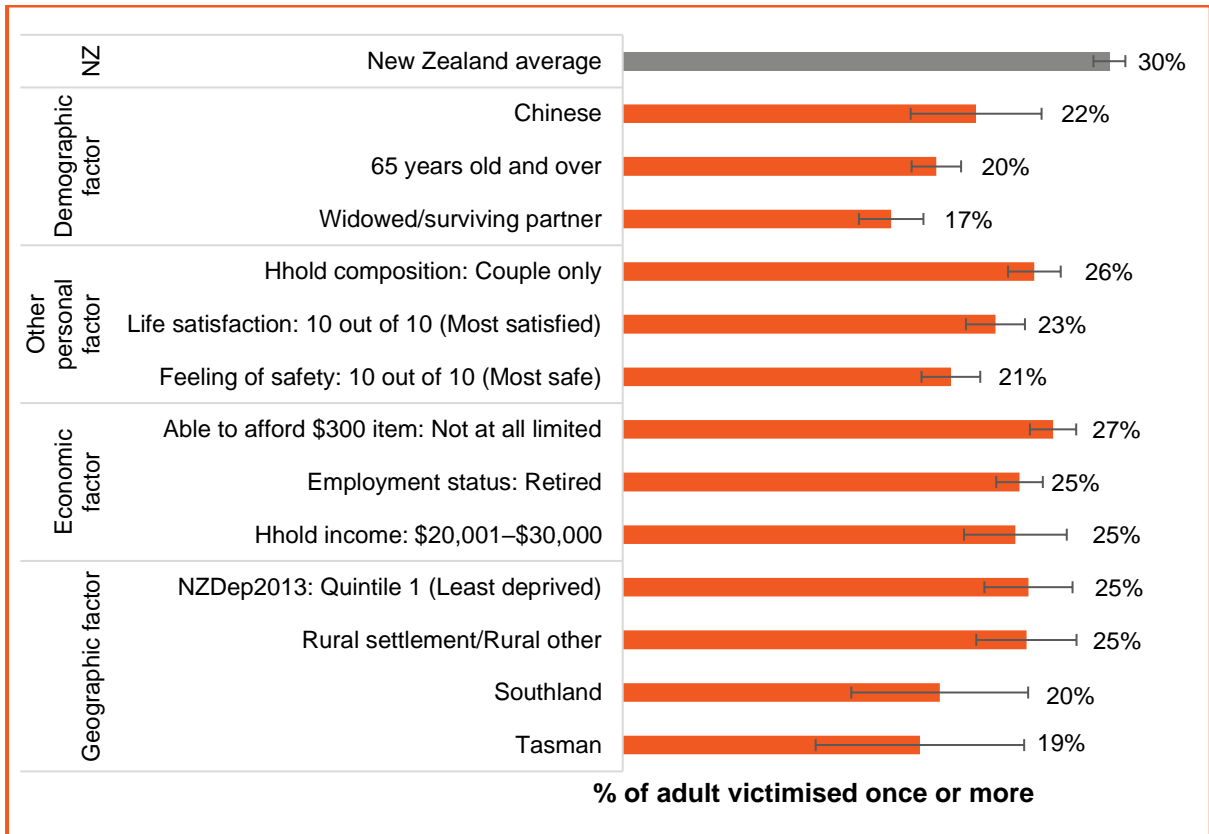


Figure 4.2: Proportion of adults victimised significantly less than the NZ average, by population groups

4.2 Changes in victimisation by population groups over time

This section compares the results from Cycle 1 and Cycle 2. Generally, for most population groups there were no significant changes in victimisation between Cycle 1 and Cycle 2. The few statistically significant changes that did occur between Cycle 1 and 2 were as follows.

What did we find?

- People renting government accommodation saw a 10 percentage point increase in the likelihood of experiencing a personal offence (from 14% to 24%).
- Asian people saw a 6 percentage point increase in the likelihood of experiencing a personal offence (from 7% to 13%) and an 82% increase in the incidence rate of personal offences experienced (from 11 per 100 adults to 20 per 100 adults).
- Major urban areas saw a 3 percentage point increase in the likelihood of offences towards households (from 21% to 24%).

- Households with an annual income between \$20,001 and \$30,000 saw a 40% decrease in the incidence rate of household offences (from 38 per 100 households to 23 per 100 households).
- People with a non-specified employment status saw a 16 percentage point increase in the likelihood of experiencing any offence (from 26% to 42%).

Note: Although the above changes are statistically significant, many of them are based on relatively small population groups and need to be treated with caution due to relatively high variance.



Asian people saw a **6 percentage point** increase in the likelihood of experiencing a personal offence and an **82%** increase in the number of personal offences experienced per 100 adults.

4.3 Victimisation by demographic characteristics (pooled data)

Because there were few significant changes in victimisation by demographics, the remaining demographic analyses in this section are all comparisons with the NZ average using pooled data from Cycles 1 and 2. Using pooled data reduces error for our demographic estimates and helps to show more clearly which demographic factors are significantly associated with victimisation.

The next subsections look more closely at the relationships between specific demographic factors and victimisation to provide more information about the nature of these relationships. Specifically, we look at whether these relationships are more specific to personal or household offences, the rate of victimisation experienced, and in some cases whether these relationships still exist when controlling for other demographic factors.

Victimisation by personal factors

Sex

Overall, men and women were equally likely to be victims of crime when compared with the NZ average. This pattern is also observed for overall personal offences and overall household offences. However, it is different for certain offence types.

Sexual orientation

- Overall, gay, lesbian and bisexual people were significantly more likely to experience crime across all offences and personal offences but not household offences.

- Gay, lesbian and bisexual people also experienced a significantly higher rate of personal offences, with gay/lesbian people experiencing 55 personal crimes per 100 adults and bisexual people experiencing 126 personal crimes per 100 adults compared with the NZ average of 30 (see Figure 4.3).

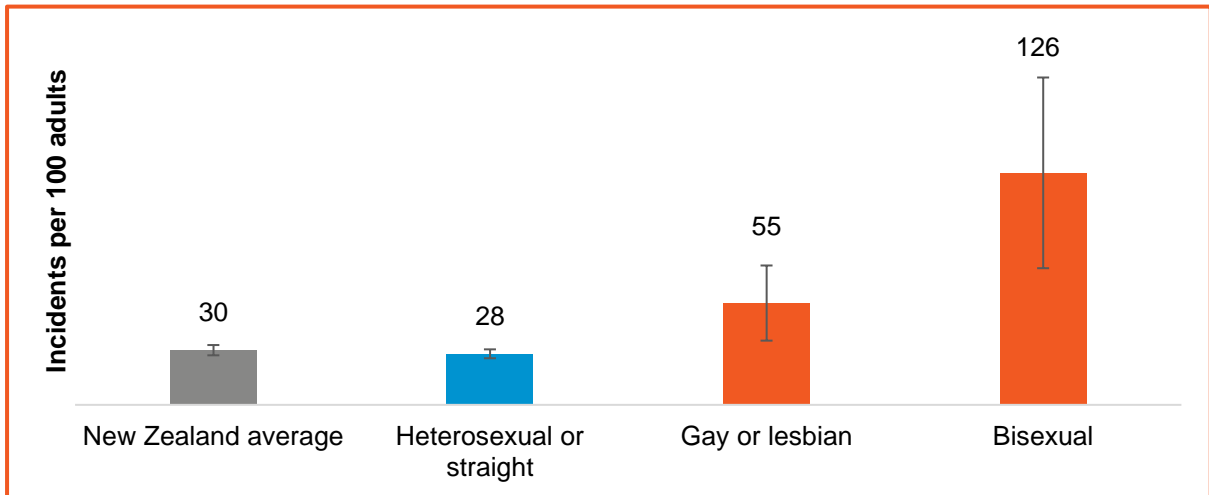


Figure 4.3: Incident rates by sexual orientation – personal offences



Bisexual people experienced **over four times** as many personal offences per 100 adults when compared to the **New Zealand average**.

Age

- Overall, younger adults (aged 15–29) were significantly more likely to experience crime and older people (aged 65 years and over) were significantly less likely to experience crime across all offences, personal offences and household offences (see Figure 4.4).

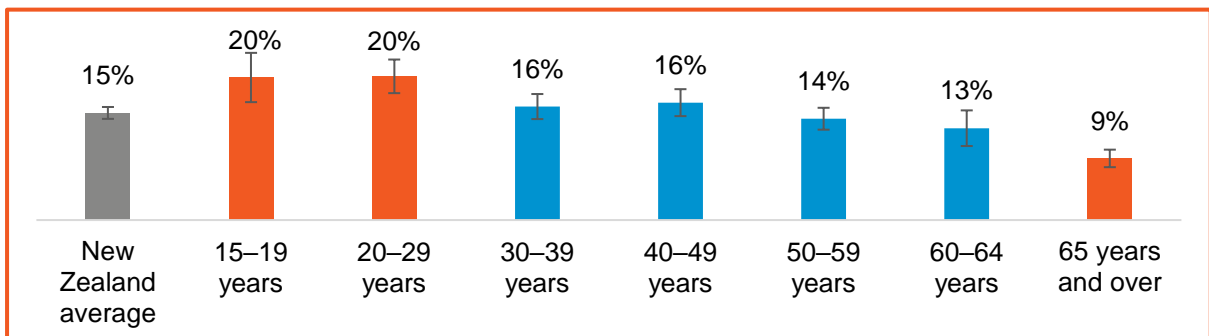


Figure 4.4: Prevalence rates by age group – personal offences

- This pattern was consistent for both the percentage of people/households that experienced crime and the rate of personal and household offences experienced.
- Outside of this general pattern, people aged 40–49 were more likely to experience household offences, whereas people aged 15–19 were neither more nor less likely to experience household offences compared with the NZ average.

Ethnicity

- Overall, NZ Europeans, Pacific peoples, Indians and other ethnic groups (except Māori and Chinese) are equally likely to be victims of crime when compared with the NZ average.
- Māori are significantly more likely to experience crime across all offences, household offences and personal offences (see Figure 4.5).
- Chinese people are significantly less likely to experience crime across all offences, personal offences and household offences.
- Pacific peoples are significantly more likely to experience offences towards their households (24%) compared with the NZ average (20%).

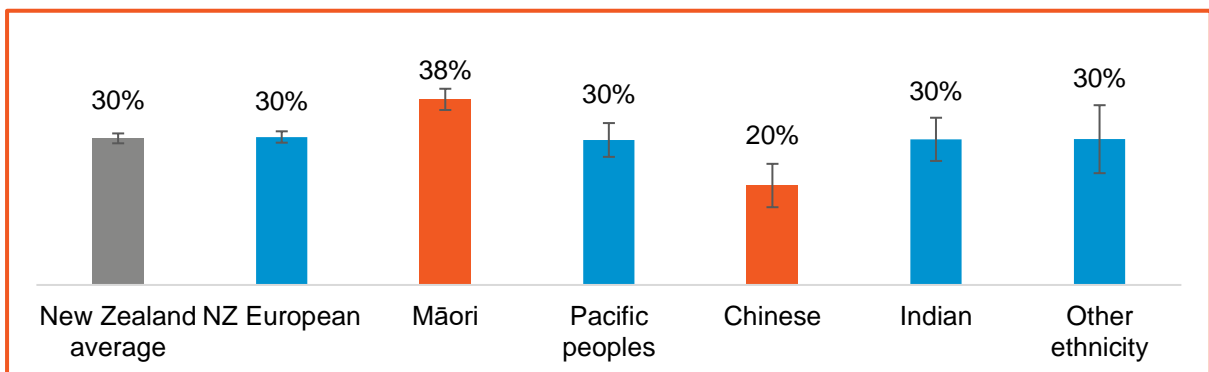


Figure 4.5: Prevalence rates by ethnicity – all offences

Ethnic differences may be explained by demographic and socioeconomic factors

Statistical control is a technique that helps to separate the effect of one or more particular factors from the remaining factors. We attempted to look at ethnic data while considering differences between ethnic groups in average age and economic position described by NZDep2013. This approach resulted in the following observations. More analysis using this technique will be done in our follow-up topical reports.

- When controlling for both age and the level of deprivation, Māori are 3% more likely to be victims of crime compared with the NZ average. This difference is not statistically significant. This suggests that the higher overall rates of victimisation observed for Māori are partly due to there being higher proportions of young Māori and higher proportions of Māori in high deprivation areas (see Figure 4.6).
- When controlling for age and the level of deprivation, both separately and combined, Pacific peoples were less likely to experience crime compared with the NZ average. The

difference between these reduced likelihoods and the NZ average was not statistically significant.

- When controlling for age and the level of deprivation, both separately and combined, Asian people, especially Chinese, were still significantly less likely to experience crime compared with the NZ average. This suggests that the lower overall rates of victimisation observed for Asian people are not due to differences in age or deprivation.

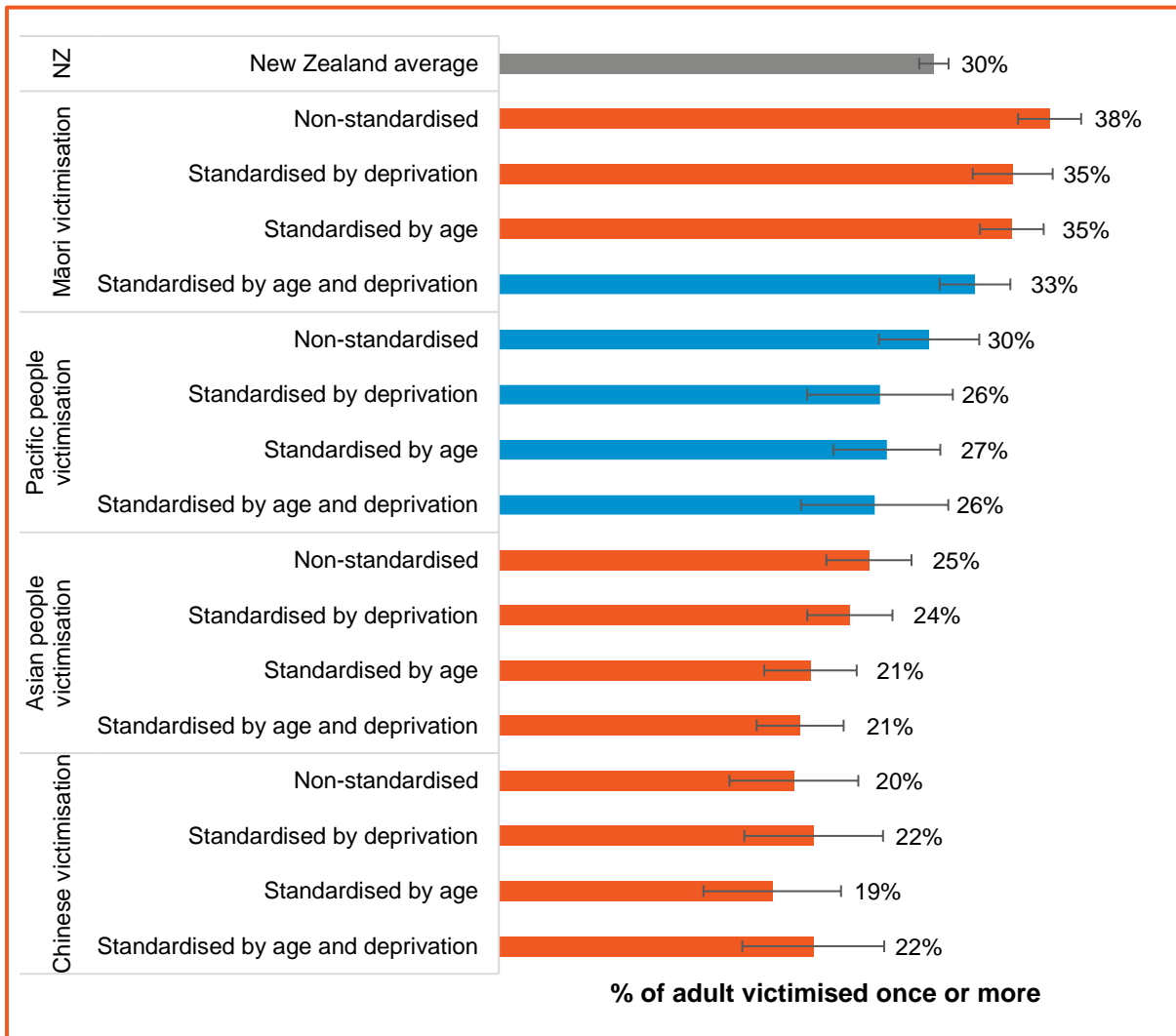


Figure 4.6: Prevalence rates before and after standardisations by age and deprivation

Marital status

- People who have never been married or in a civil union were significantly more likely to experience crime across all offences, personal offences and household offences (Figure 4.7).
- People who are separated/divorced were significantly more likely to experience crime across all offences (35%) and personal offences but not household offences.

- People in legally registered relationships (married/civil union/de facto relationship) were significantly less likely (28%) to experience crime across all offences and personal offences but not household offences.
- Widows/surviving partners were significantly less likely (19%) to experience crime across all offences, personal offences and household offences.

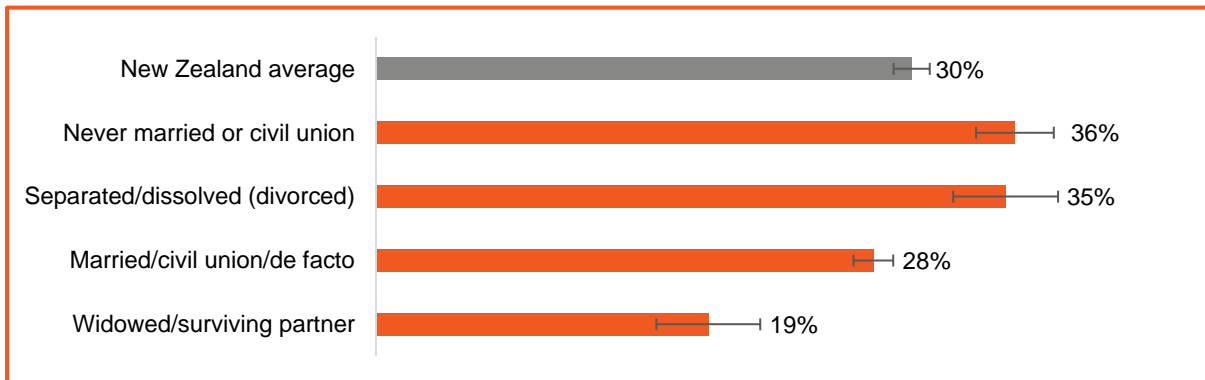


Figure 4.7: Prevalence rates by marital status – all offences

Disability

Overall, there was no significant difference in victimisation between disabled and non-disabled people. However, when differences in average age were considered, disabled people were significantly more likely to experience crime when compared with non-disabled people (see Figure 4.8).

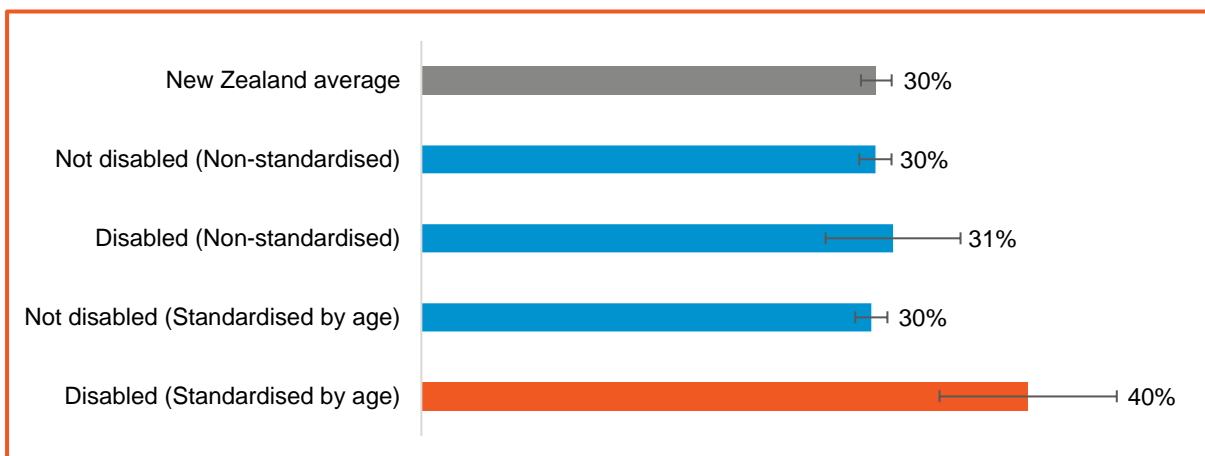


Figure 4.8: Prevalence rates by disability before and after age standardisation – all offences

Psychological distress

- People rated as having a moderate or high level of psychological distress were significantly more likely to experience crime across all offences, personal offences and household offences (see Figure 4.9).

- People rated as having a low level of psychological distress were significantly less likely to experience personal offences.

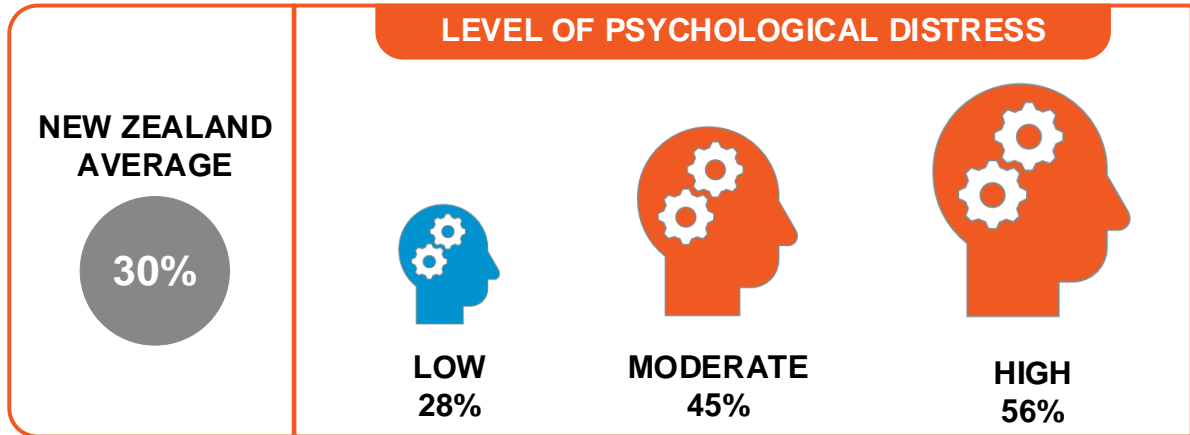


Figure 4.9: Prevalence rates by level of psychological distress – all offences

Life satisfaction and perceptions of safety

- There is a clear and consistent relationship between people’s rating of their life satisfaction and perceptions of safety, and their experiences of crime (see Figure 4.10).

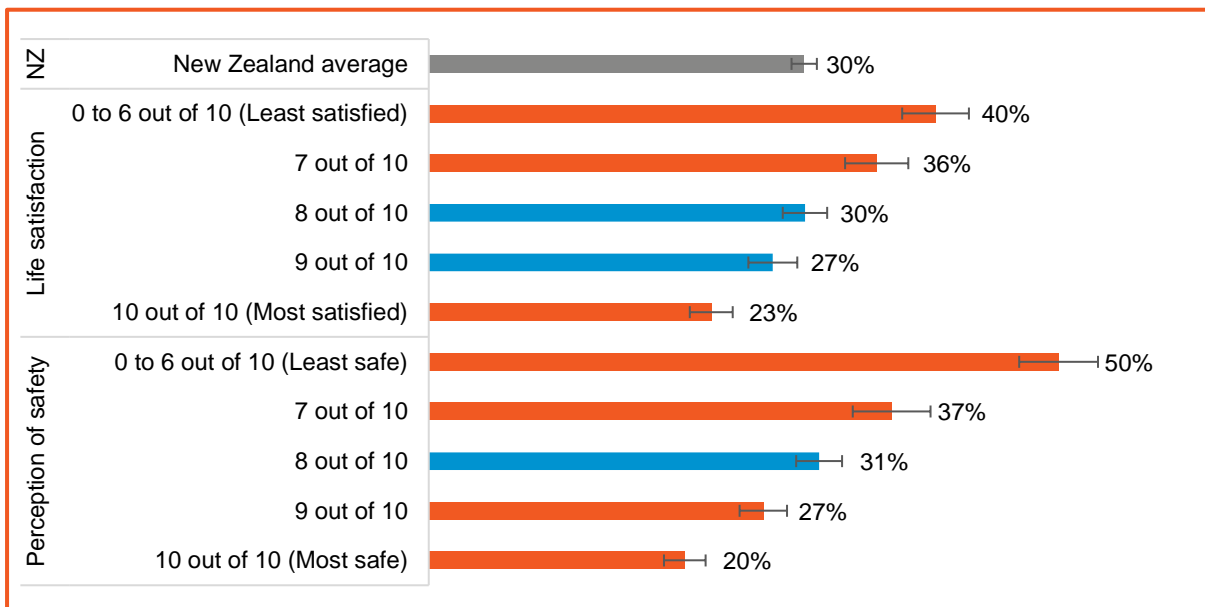


Figure 4.10: Prevalence rates by life satisfaction and perception of safety – all offences


- People who rate their life satisfaction or feeling of safety between 9 and 10 out of 10 are significantly less likely to experience crime across all offences, personal offences and household offences.

- People who rate their life satisfaction or feeling of safety between 0 and 7 out of 10 are significantly more likely to experience crime across all offences, personal offences and household offences.

Household composition, household size and number of children

- People living in sole-parent households were significantly more likely to experience crime, whereas people living in couple-only households were significantly less likely to experience crime across all offences, personal offences and household offences (Table 4.1).

Table 4.1: Prevalence rates of all offences, personal offences and household offences by household composition

| Household composition | All offences | Personal offences | Household offences |
|---|--------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| New Zealand average | 30% | 15% | 20% |
|  One parent with child(ren) | 39%* | 19%* | 29%* |
|  Couple only | 25%* | 12%* | 16%* |

Note: * marks statistically significant difference from the NZ average at the 95% confidence level.

- Households with more five or more people living in them were significantly more likely to experience household offences, whereas two-person households were significantly less likely to experience household offences.
- The likelihood of experiencing household offences increases with number of children living in the household. Households with one or more children are all significantly more likely to experience a household offence (see Figure 4.11).

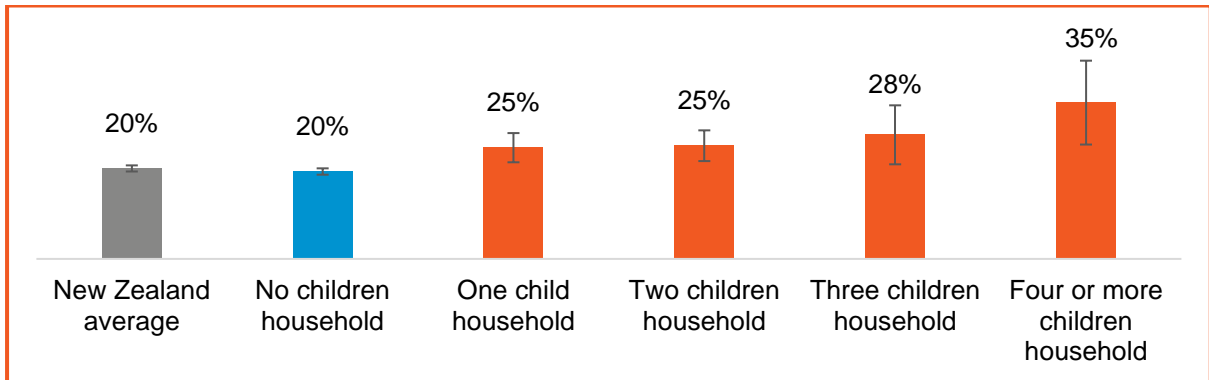


Figure 4.11: Prevalence rates by number of children living in the household – household offences

Victimisation by geographic factors

Location

- People from two regions, Bay of Plenty and Taranaki, were significantly less likely to experience crime across all offences.
- People from Nelson were significantly less likely to experience personal offences.
- Households in Otago, Southland, Tasman and Bay of Plenty were significantly less likely to experience household offences (see Figure 4.12).

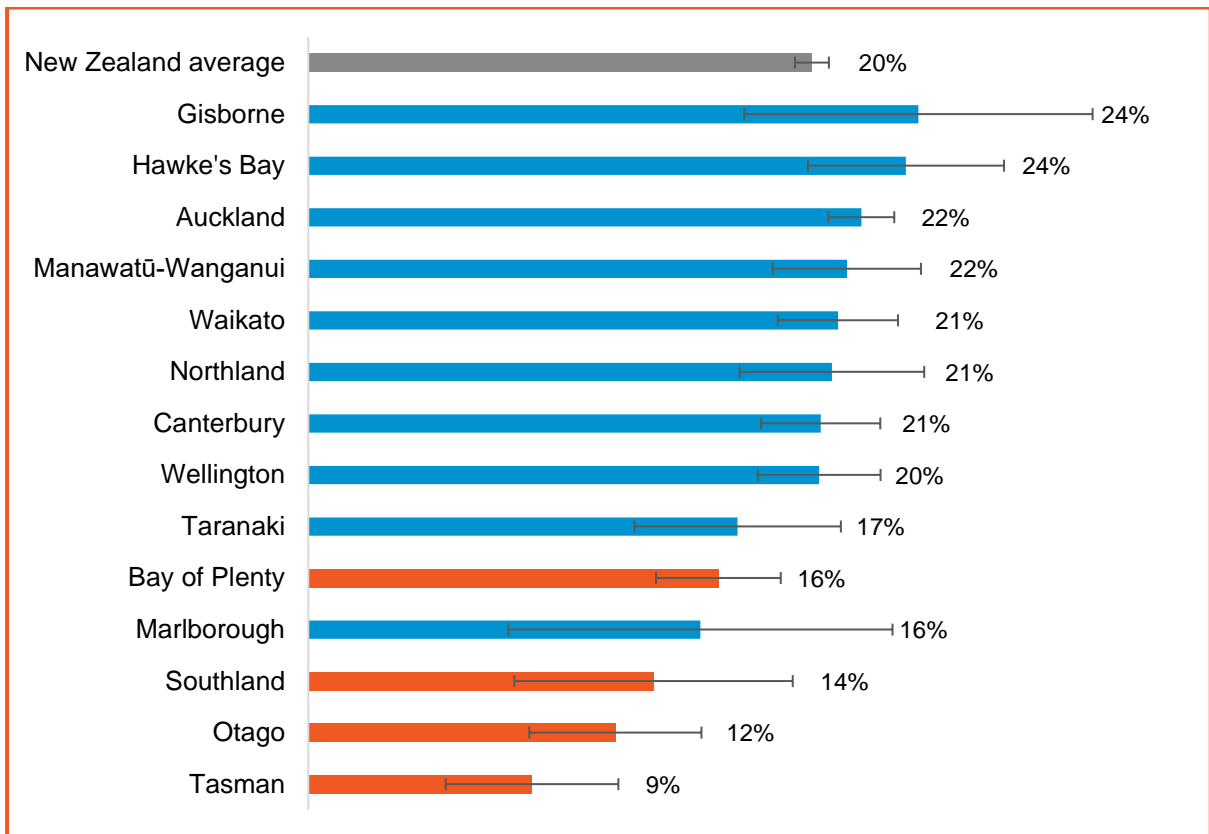


Figure 4.12: Prevalence rates by region – household offences

Urbanisation

- Overall, there was a trend for households in more urban areas⁴ to experience a higher proportion of household offences, and households in less urban/more rural areas to experience less household offences (Figure 4.13).
- Specifically, people living in rural settlements were significantly less likely to experience crime across all offences.
- Households in major urban areas were significantly more likely to experience household offences, whereas households in medium urban areas and rural settlements were significantly less likely to experience household offences.

⁴ Urban/rural classification is done in line with the Stats NZ approach – see <http://archive.stats.govt.nz/methods/classifications-and-standards/urban-rural-profile-experimental-class-categories.aspx>



Figure 4.13: Prevalence rates by urban area – household offences

Deprivation level

The New Zealand Index of Deprivation 2013 (NZDep2013) groups deprivation scores into deciles, where 1 represents the areas with the least deprived scores and 10 the areas with the most deprived scores. A value of 10 therefore indicates the most deprived 10% of areas in New Zealand.

- Overall, across all offences, adults who live in more deprived areas were significantly more likely to experience crime, while adults who live in less deprived areas were significantly less likely.
- This relationship appears to be driven by offences towards households, with households in decile 9 and 10 areas significantly more likely to experience household offences, and households in decile 1, 2, 4 and 5 areas significantly less likely to experience household offences (see Figure 4.14)

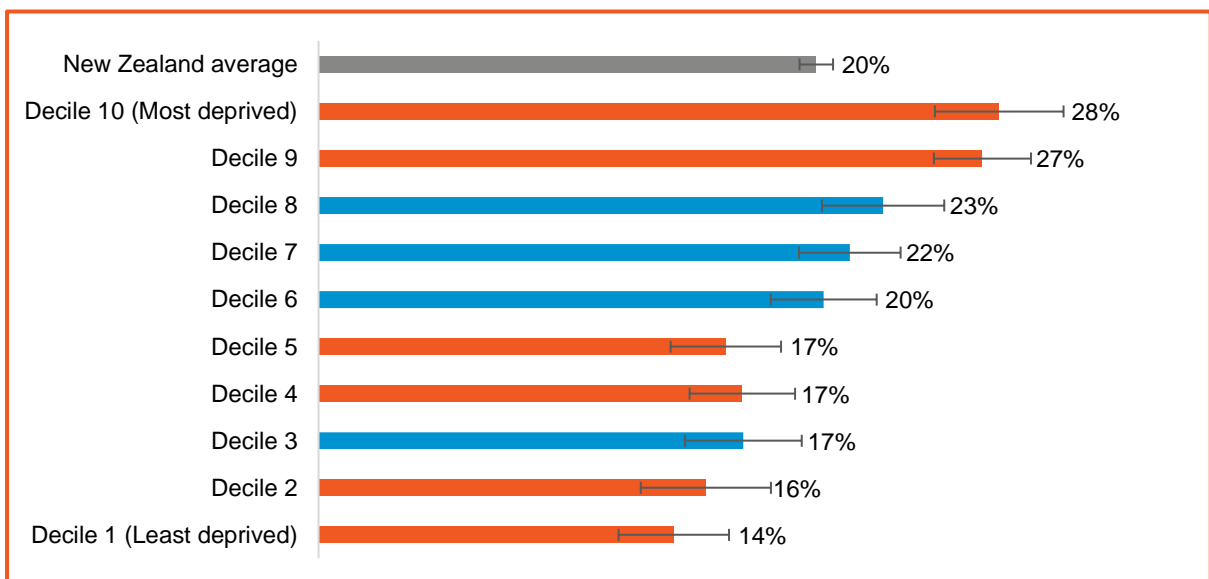


Figure 4.14: Prevalence rates by deprivation deciles – household offences

- There were no significant relationships between area level deprivation and personal offences.



Households in more deprived areas were significantly more likely to experience **household offences**, but **people** who live in more deprived areas were as likely as the NZ average to experience **personal offences**.

Victimisation by economic factors

Employment status

- Retired people are significantly less likely to experience crime across all offences, personal offences and household offences (Figure 4.15).
- People who are studying are significantly more likely to experience crime across all offences and personal offences, but not household offences.

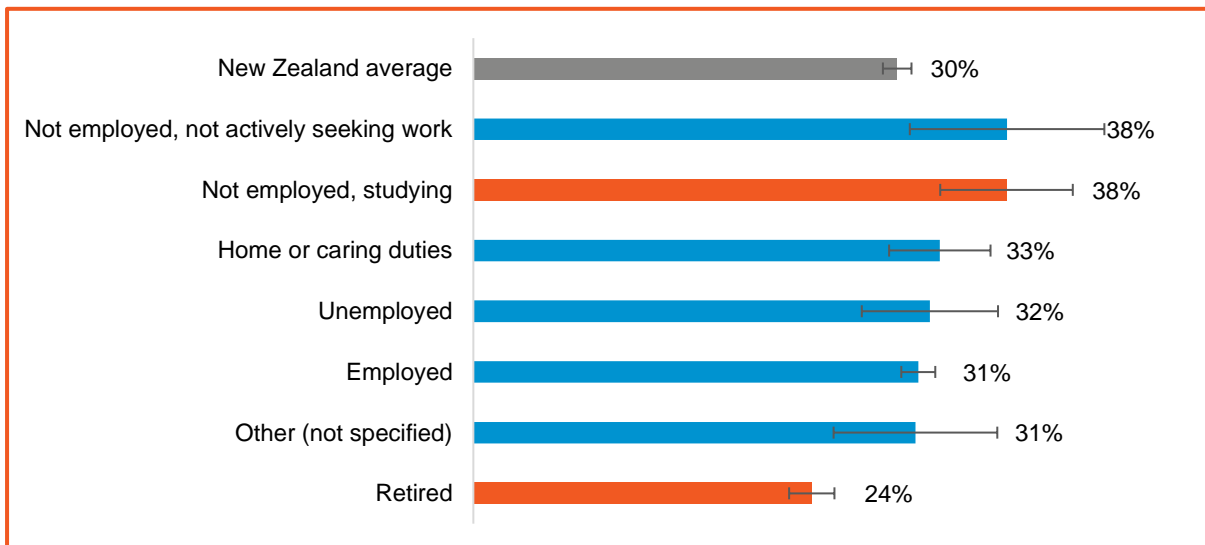


Figure 4.15: Prevalence rates by employment status – all offences

Note: The reason for “Not employed, studying” population group to be significantly different from the NZ average and “Not employed, not actively seeking work” population group to be not significantly different from the NZ average while having the same likelihood of experiencing crime, is that these two groups have a different sample size.

Household ownership

Households that were owned by the occupant were significantly less likely to experience household offences, whereas households that were rented by the occupants were significantly more likely to experience household offences (Figure 4.16).

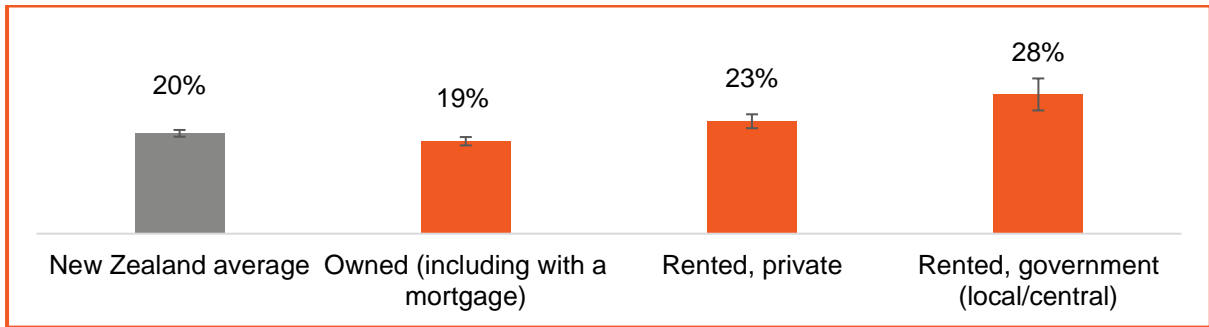


Figure 4.16: Prevalence rates by household ownership – household offences

Personal and household income

Overall, personal income was unrelated to the likelihood of experiencing crime. There was also no clear relationship between household income and victimisation.

Financial pressure

The NZCVS measures financial pressure using two different questions (see Figure 4.17):

- the ability to afford an attractive but non-essential item for \$300
- the ability to afford an unexpected \$500 of extra spending within a month without borrowing.

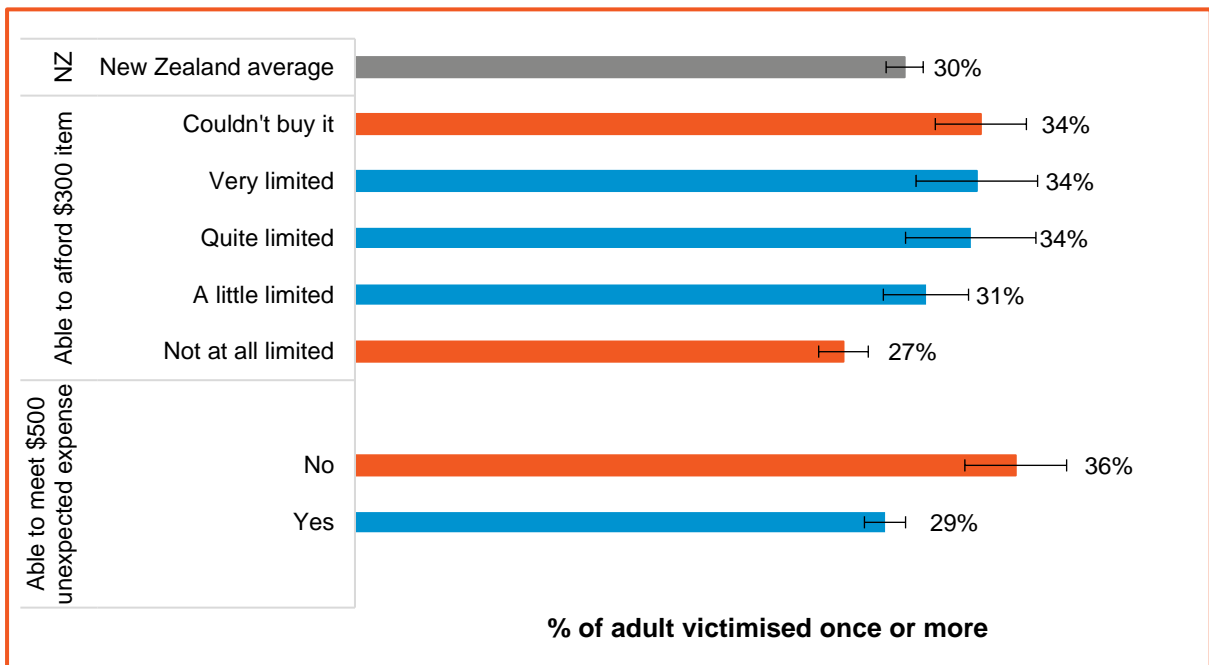


Figure 4.17: Prevalence rates by financial pressure – all offences

People who are under more financial pressure were significantly more likely to experience crime, whereas people not under financial pressure were significantly less likely across all offences, personal offences and household offences.

5 Types of offences

This section provides more detailed findings about the types of offence covered by the NZCVS. Offences often need to be grouped together rather than output as individual offence types. Table 5.1 shows how individual offence types are grouped together for this section.

Table 5.1: Broad offence grouping

| Individual offence types | Broad offence grouping | |
|--|---------------------------------|--|
| Fraud and deception | Fraud and cybercrime offences | |
| Cybercrime | | |
| Sexual assault | Violent interpersonal offences* | |
| Harassment and threatening behaviour | | |
| Other assault | | |
| Robbery | | |
| Property damage (personal) | | |
| Property damage (household) | Theft and damage offences† | |
| Theft (except motor vehicles – personal) | | |
| Theft (except motor vehicles – household) | | |
| Unlawful takes/converts/interferes with bicycle | | |
| Burglary | Burglary | |
| Trespass | Trespass | |
| Theft of/unlawful takes/converts motor vehicle | Vehicle offences | |
| Theft (from motor vehicle) | | |
| Unlawful interference/getting into motor vehicle | | |
| Damage to motor vehicles | | |

* “Violent interpersonal offences” is a group combining sexual assault, other assault, harassment and threatening behaviour, robbery, and damage of personal or household property if the offender is known to the victim.

† “Theft and damage offences” is a group combining theft (except motor vehicle theft); damage of household and personal property if the offender is unknown to the victim; and unlawful takes, converts or interference with bicycle.

When assessing the types of offence, this section looks at:

- violent interpersonal offences
- offences committed by family members
- lifetime experience of partner and sexual violence
- theft and damage offences
- fraud and cybercrime offences
- burglary, trespass and vehicle offences.

5.1 Violent interpersonal offences

Our analysis of violent interpersonal offences is looking at:

- violent interpersonal offences by offence type and the victim’s relationship to the offender
- factors that help to describe the characteristics and circumstances of those who are likely to experience violent interpersonal offences using pooled data.

Where “violent interpersonal offences” are reported, it means that the survey respondent has been the victim of one or more of the following:

- sexual assault
- other assault
- robbery
- harassment and threatening behaviour
- damage to personal or household property, where the offender is known to the victim.

Due to the small sample size for some of these groups, for analysis purposes we combined other assault with robbery (“physical violence”), and harassment and threatening behaviour with property damage (“threats and damage”).

Another aspect to violent interpersonal offences is the type of relationship the victim had with the offender. The NZCVS asked what their relationship to the offender was at the time the offence happened. Figure 5.1 shows how relationship types are grouped.⁵

⁵ See the [methodology report](#) for more detail.

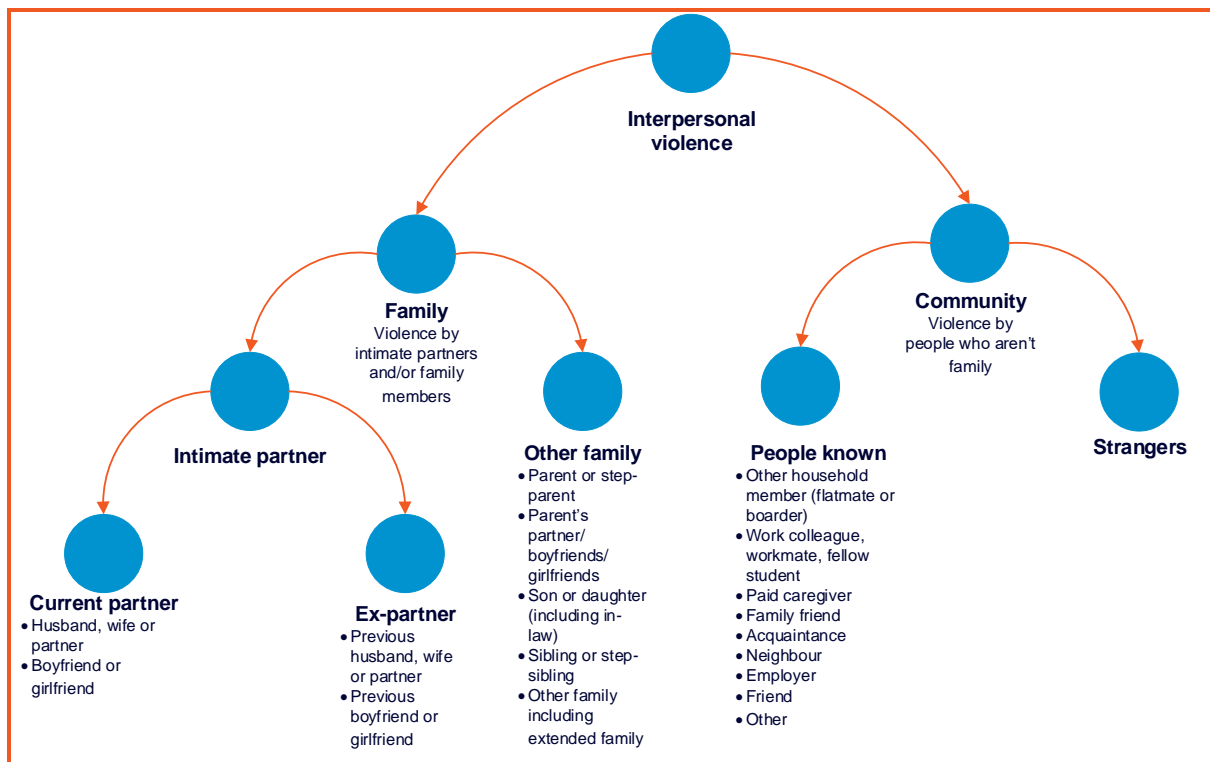


Figure 5.1: Interpersonal violence relationship to offender framework

We looked at various factors with pooled data that help us understand the types of people who are likely to experience interpersonal violence. The estimates for each factor have then been compared with the NZ average and tested to see which ones are statistically above or below the national average.

What did we find?

- Overall, 284,000 adults experienced 677,000 interpersonal violence incidents over the last 12 months.
- There was no statistically significant change in violent interpersonal offences between Cycle 1 and Cycle 2.
- A third (33%) of interpersonal violence incidents related to physical violence (other assaults and robberies), and over a quarter (28%) of incidents related to sexual assaults.
- Māori were almost twice as likely to be victims of interpersonal violence than the NZ average, while Asian people were less likely.
- Gay, lesbian, bisexual or other gender adults were almost three times as likely as the NZ average to experience violent interpersonal offences.
- Adults with a high level of psychological distress were over four times more likely than the NZ average to experience violent interpersonal offences.
- Students were more than twice as likely as the NZ average to experience violent interpersonal offences.

- An increasing level of violent interpersonal victimisation is associated with a decreasing level of life satisfaction. A similar trend was found for the feeling of safety.
- Adults who were single or not in a legally registered relationship were about twice as likely as the NZ average to experience interpersonal violence incidents. Adults in a legally registered relationship were less likely than the NZ average to experience violent interpersonal offences.
- People under financial pressure were more likely than the NZ average to experience violent interpersonal offences, while people not under financial pressure were less likely.
- A weapon was involved in one in seven assaults (not including sexual assault).
- Almost a quarter of interpersonal violence incidents resulted in victims being injured.

Violent interpersonal offences over time

Looking at the different crime rates for violent interpersonal offences, there were no statistically significant changes between Cycle 1 and Cycle 2 (see Table 5.2).

Table 5.2: Crime volumes for violent interpersonal offences over time

| Crime measures | Cycle 2 | Cycle 1 |
|--|---------|---------|
| Total number of offences (000s) | 677 | 748 |
| Number of offences per 100 adults | 17 | 19 |
| Total number of adults victimised once or more (000s) | 284 | 295 |
| Percentage of adults who were victimised once or more (%) | 7.2 | 7.5 |

The apparent decrease in the numbers did not reach statistical significance. Composition of violent and non-violent crime across Cycle 1 and Cycle 2 shows that the percentage of violent interpersonal offences is slightly lower in Cycle 2 (Figure 5.2). Again, this decrease is not statistically significant.

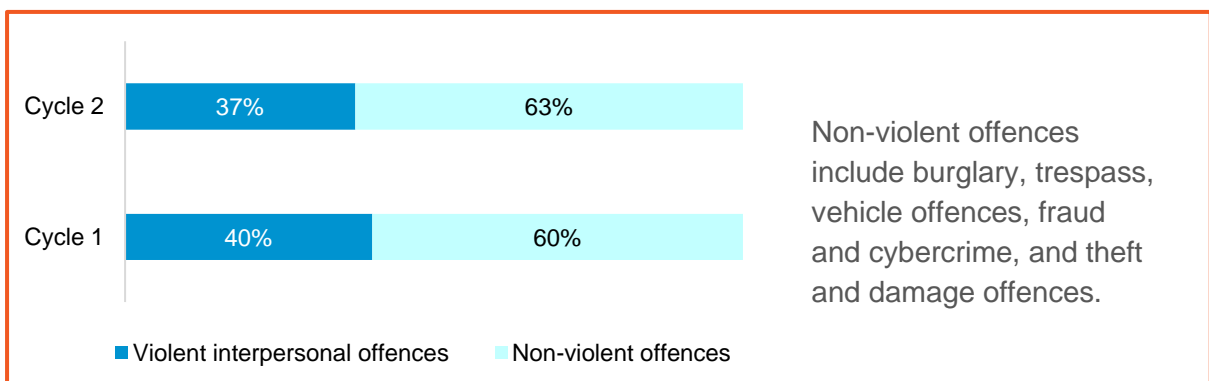


Figure 5.2: Profile of incidents by violent interpersonal offences compared with non-violent offences, by cycle

No statistically significant changes in victimisation between Cycle 2 and Cycle 1 were seen across both offence types and the relationship to offender

Almost 40% of interpersonal violence is threats and damage incidents, followed by physical violence incidents (33%) and sexual assault incidents (28%). There were no statistically significant changes between Cycle 1 and Cycle 2 (Figure 5.3).

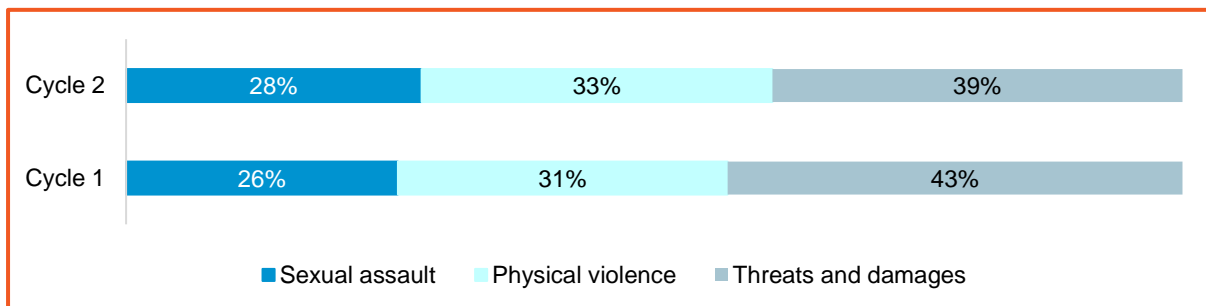


Figure 5.3: Profile of violent interpersonal offences, by offence types and cycle

Analysis of the number of violent interpersonal offences by the victim’s relationship to the offender shows that community members (people who aren’t family) commit the largest number of offences.

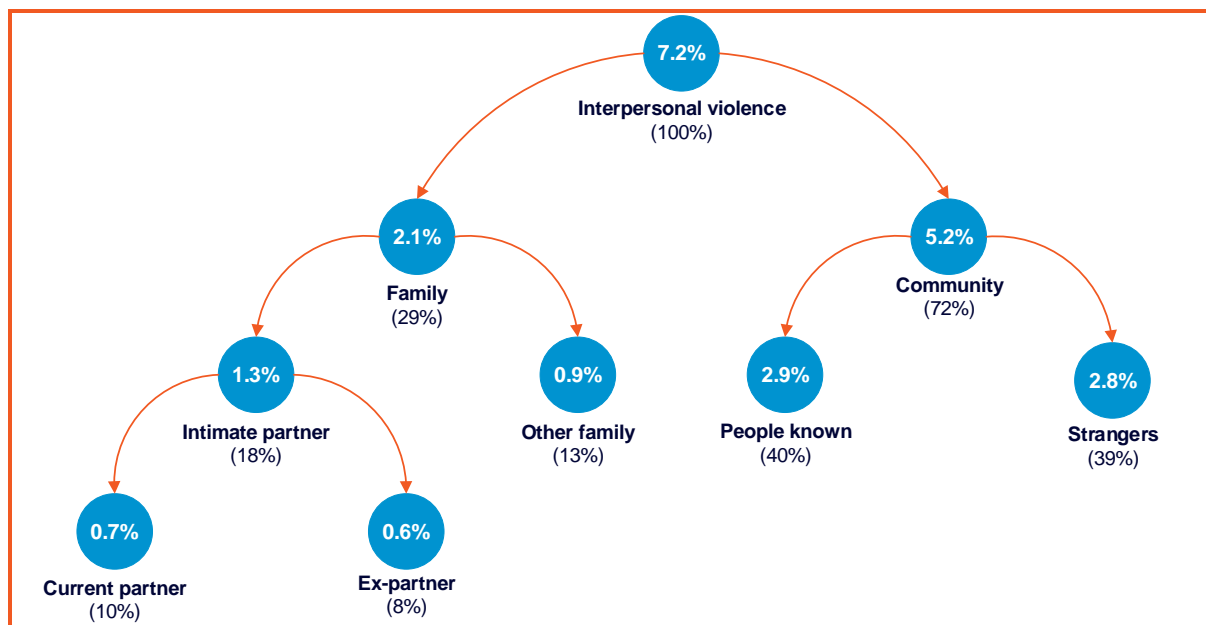


Figure 5.4: Percentage of adults who were victimised once or more by relationship to the offender (in brackets – percentage of the overall prevalence of interpersonal violence)

As shown in Figure 5.4, 2.1% of adults experienced a violent interpersonal offence by a family member, and 5.2% by a community member. There were no statistically significant changes between Cycle 1 and Cycle 2.

Of all adult New Zealanders, 3.2% were the victim of one or more threats or damage offences, 3.0% were the victim of one or more physical violence offences, and 2.1% were the victim of one or more sexual assault. There were no statistically significant changes between Cycle 1 and Cycle 2.

Figure 5.5 shows the percentage of adult New Zealanders who were the victim of one or more violent interpersonal offence by offence type and broad relationship to the offender in Cycle 2.

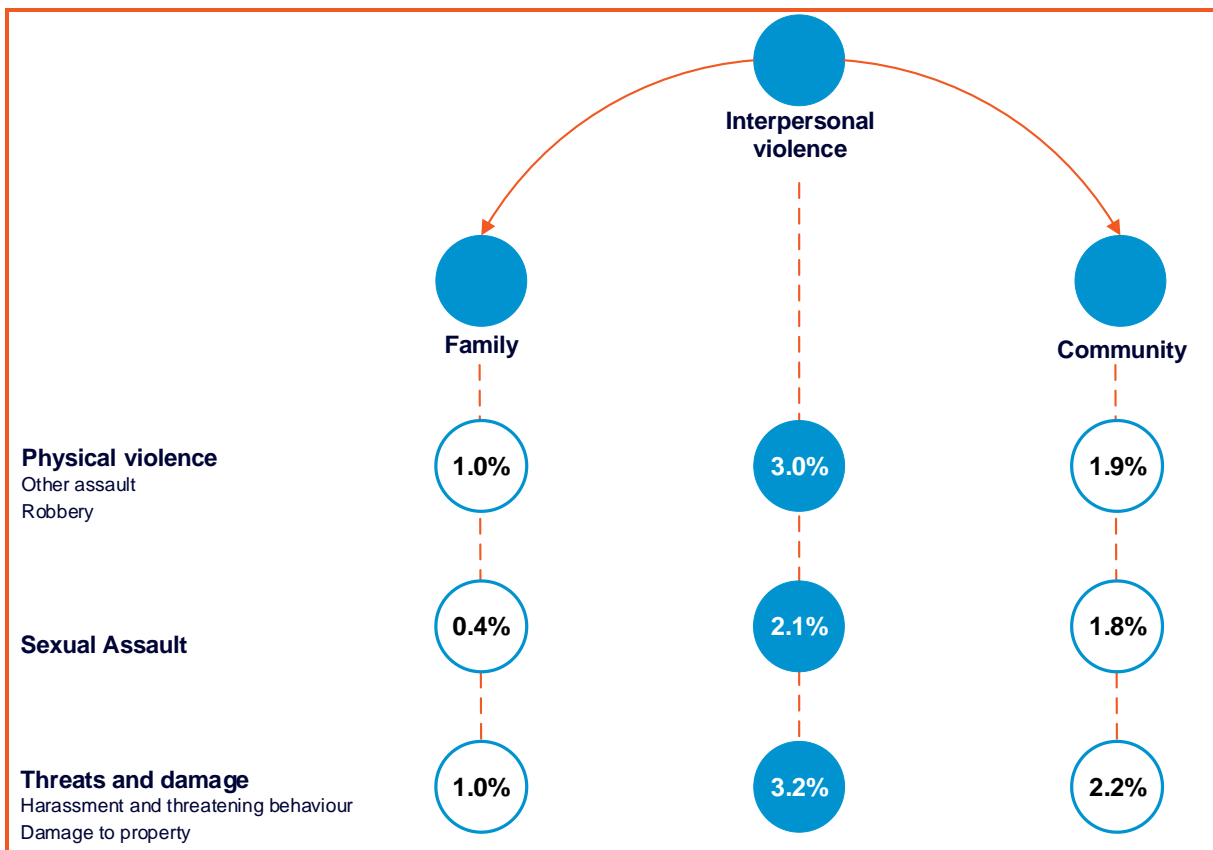


Figure 5.5: Percentage of adults who were the victim of one or more offences, by offence types and broad relationship to the offender

Adults with a high level of psychological distress were over four times more likely than the NZ average to experience violent interpersonal offences

This section describes which groups of people are more likely to experience violent interpersonal offences. The results for different factors were compared against the NZ average (7%). As shown in Figure 5.6, using pooled data, victimisation was concentrated amongst some groups.

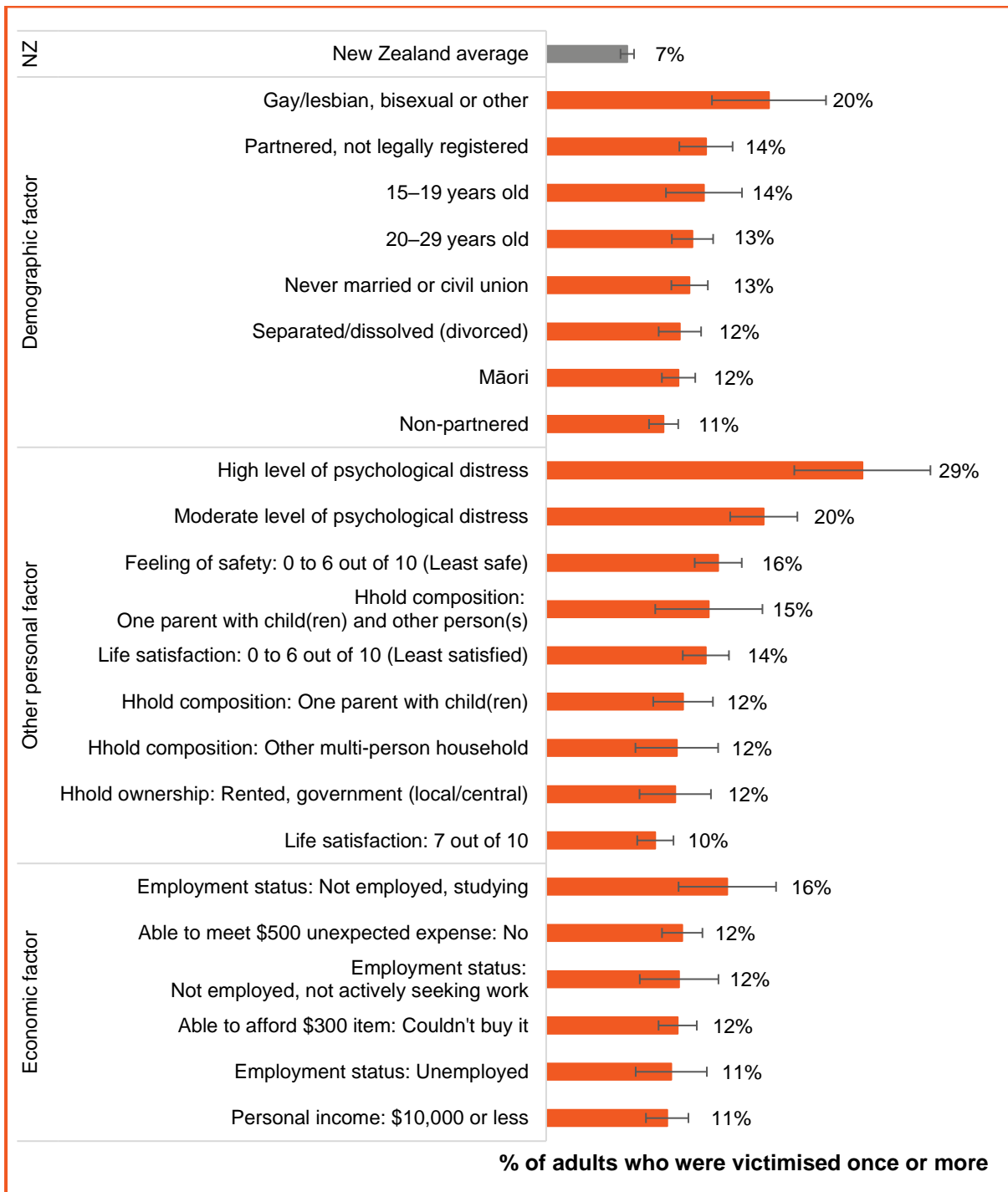


Figure 5.6: Groups that were significantly more likely than the NZ average to experience violent interpersonal offences (pooled data)

The groups significantly more likely to experience violent interpersonal offences were:

- younger (aged 15–29 years)
- Māori
- gay/lesbian, bisexual or other sexual orientation

- either single or not in a legally registered relationship
- having low life satisfaction and a low feeling of safety
- experiencing a moderate or high level of psychological distress
- students who were not employed
- not employed and not actively seeking work
- low income earners (\$10,000 or less) and under financial pressure (couldn't afford a \$300 non-essential item, couldn't meet a \$500 unexpected expense without borrowing)
- living in a sole-parent household (with or without other person(s)) or other multi-person household
- living in a local/central government social housing property.



Figure 5.7: Groups that were significantly less likely than the NZ average to experience violent interpersonal offences (pooled data)

As shown in Figure 5.7, the groups significantly less likely to experience violent interpersonal offences were:

- older (aged 60 years or more)
- Asian

- in a legally registered relationship or widowed
- having high life satisfaction and a high feeling of safety
- experiencing a low level of psychological distress
- retired
- managing well financially with reasonable income
- living in a household containing a couple with or without child(ren) at home.

One in seven assaults involved a weapon

Results indicate that a weapon was involved in one in seven assaults (14%) (not including sexual assault) (Figure 5.8). Incidents of assault against Māori adults were more likely to involve weapons (18%) than assaults against NZ European adults (10%), but the difference is not statistically significant. The rate of use of weapons during assault was similar for female victims (13%) and male victims (14%).

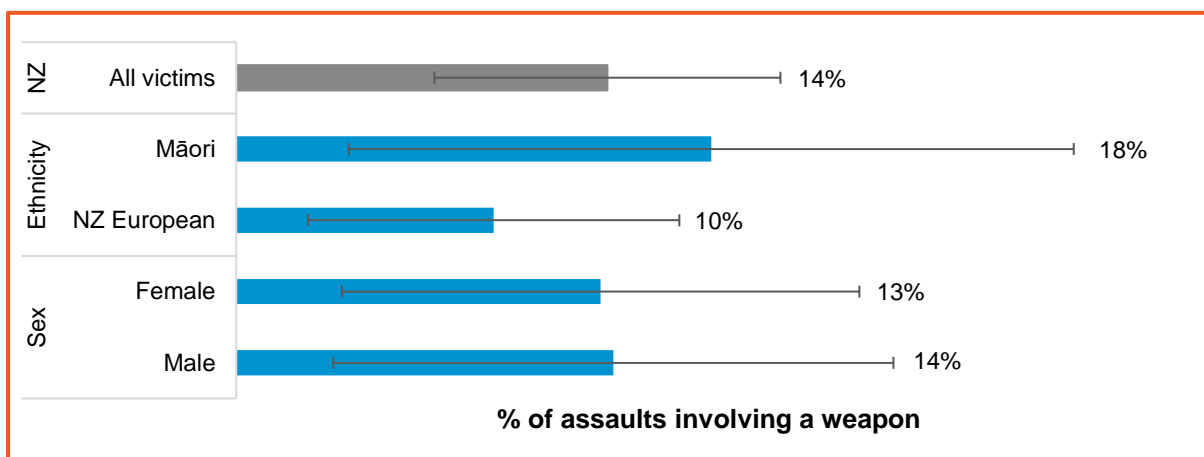


Figure 5.8: Percentage of assaults (not including sexual assault) involving a weapon, by victim population group (pooled data)

More than half of physical offences led to injury

Victims reported that one in four incidents of interpersonal violence offences (23%) resulted in them being injured. The rate is higher for physical offences (56%), which include assault (except sexual assault) and robbery. These estimates are based on pooled data.



The victim was **injured** in **56%** of physical offences (non-sexual assaults and robbery).

5.2 Offences committed by family members

The offences considered in this section as offences by family members include physical assault, sexual assault, harassment and threatening behaviour, damage to personal or household property, damage to motor vehicles, and robbery.⁶ These offences, when committed by a family member, are forms of family violence. This is in line with offence coding used by the Police.

The above definition is different from that of family violence used in many other contexts and is not the definition used in the Family Violence Act 2018. The definition used does not include all behaviours that may be considered family violence, such as economic abuse, abuse of pets of importance to someone, or other psychological violence. Nor is violence towards children (14 and under) covered. Therefore, the offences by family members considered here are only a subset of experiences of family violence by adults.

What did we find?

- Over the last 12 months, victims experienced more than 250,000 incidents of offences by family members, which equated to an incidence rate of 6 per 100 adults.
- Overall, 87,000 adults (2.2%) were victims of offences by family members. Of those adults, 53,000 experienced offending by an intimate partner, and 37,000 experienced offending by other family members.⁷
- There was no statistically significant change in offences by family members between Cycle 1 and Cycle 2.
- Sole parents with children were almost four times more likely than the NZ average to experience offences by family members.
- Women were more than twice as likely as men to experience offences by family members.
- Adults with a high level of psychological distress were far more likely to experience offences by family members than the NZ average (by about six-fold).
- Young adults (aged 15–29 years) were almost twice as likely as the NZ average to experience offences by family members.
- People under financial pressure were more likely than the NZ average to experience offences by family members, while people not under financial pressure were less likely.
- Adults with low life satisfaction and a low feeling of safety were significantly more likely to experience offences by family members, while those with high life satisfaction and a high

⁶ The types of offences included here are not the same as those under violent interpersonal crime. In addition to interpersonal violence committed by a family member, damage to motor vehicles by a family member is also included.

⁷ The sum of the different relationship groups does not equal the total because multiple offenders could have been involved.

feeling of safety were significantly less likely to experience offences by family members when compared against the NZ average.

- Argument was the most commonly identified factor relating to offences by family members (44%), followed closely by jealousy and possessiveness (43%).
- Victims reported that they were under the influence of alcohol and/or other drugs in almost one in six incidents (16%) of offences by family members, while the offender was under the influence of alcohol and/or other drugs in almost half of the incidents (47%).
- Forty percent of victims reported they experienced depression as a result of offences by family members, and many were affected a great deal by the incidents they experienced.
- Victims of offences by family members were injured in over a quarter (26%) of incidents.

Overall, 2.2% of adults experienced offending by family members

Looking at the different crime rates for offences committed by family members, there were no statistically significant changes between Cycle 1 and Cycle 2 (see Table 5.3).

Table 5.3: Crime volumes for offences committed by family members over time

| Crime measures | Cycle 2 | Cycle 1 |
|--|---------|---------|
| Total number of offences (000s) | 251 | 191 |
| Number of offences per 100 adults | 6.3 | 4.9 |
| Total number of adults victimised once or more (000s) | 87 | 79 |
| Percentage of adults who were victimised once or more (%) | 2.2 | 2.0 |

Figure 5.9 shows the number and percentage of adults who reported offences committed by family members, by offender relationship.

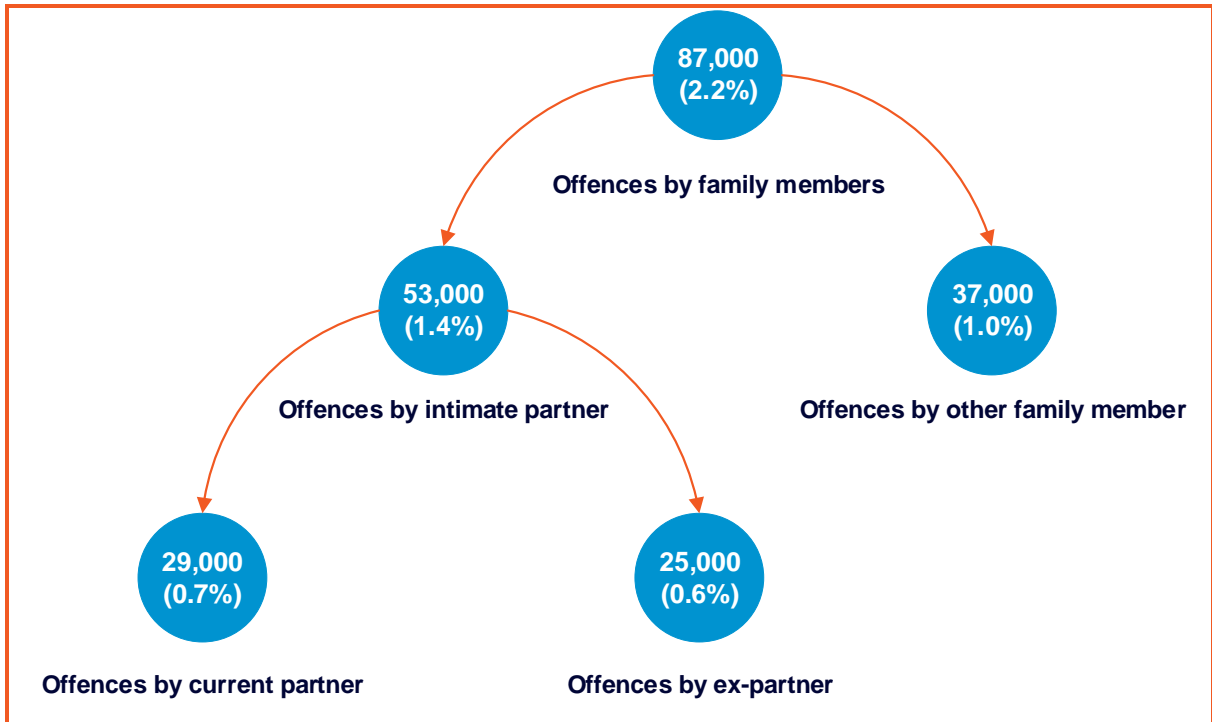


Figure 5.9: Number and percentage of adults who experienced offences by family members, by offender relationship

Sole parents with children were almost four times more likely than the NZ average to experience offences committed by family members

Here, we focus on the percentage of adults who experienced offending by family members by a range of factors. The results for different population groups using pooled data were compared against the NZ average (2.1%). As shown in Figure 5.10, victimisation was concentrated amongst some groups more than others.

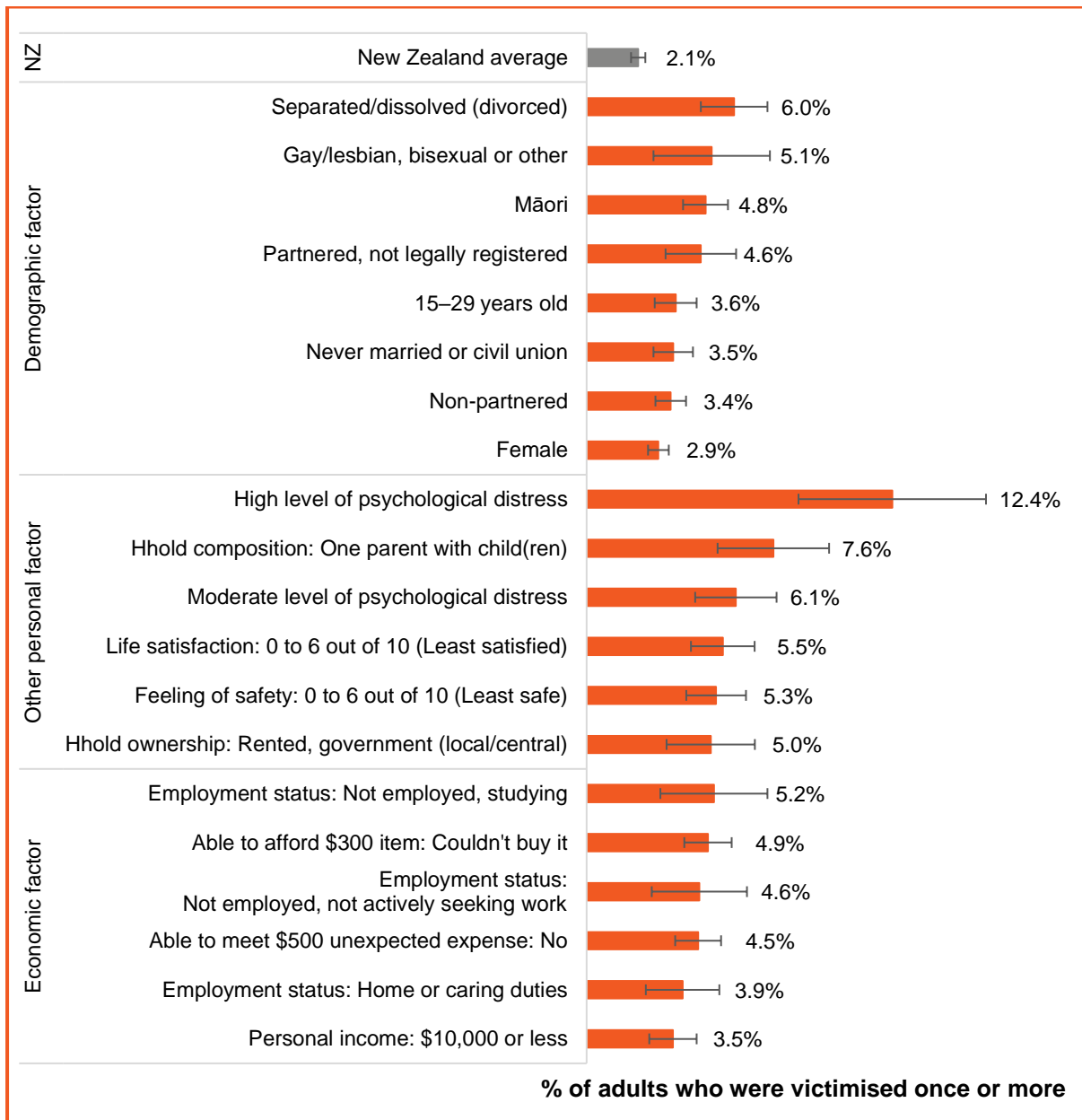


Figure 5.10: Groups that were significantly more likely than the NZ average to experience offences committed by family members (pooled data)

As shown in Figure 5.10, the groups significantly more likely to experience offences committed by family members were:

- younger (aged 15–29 years)
- female
- Māori
- gay/lesbian, bisexual or other
- either single or not in a legally registered relationship
- having low life satisfaction and a low feeling of safety

- experiencing a moderate or high level of psychological distress
- students who were not employed
- not employed and not actively seeking work
- undertaking home or caring duties
- low income earners (\$10,000 or less) and struggling financially (couldn't afford a \$300 non-essential item, couldn't meet a \$500 unexpected expense without borrowing)
- living in a sole-parent household
- living in a local/central government social housing property.

The profiles of those who experienced violent interpersonal offences and offences committed by family members are very similar, as categories analysed here are part of wider interpersonal violence except for damage to motor vehicles.

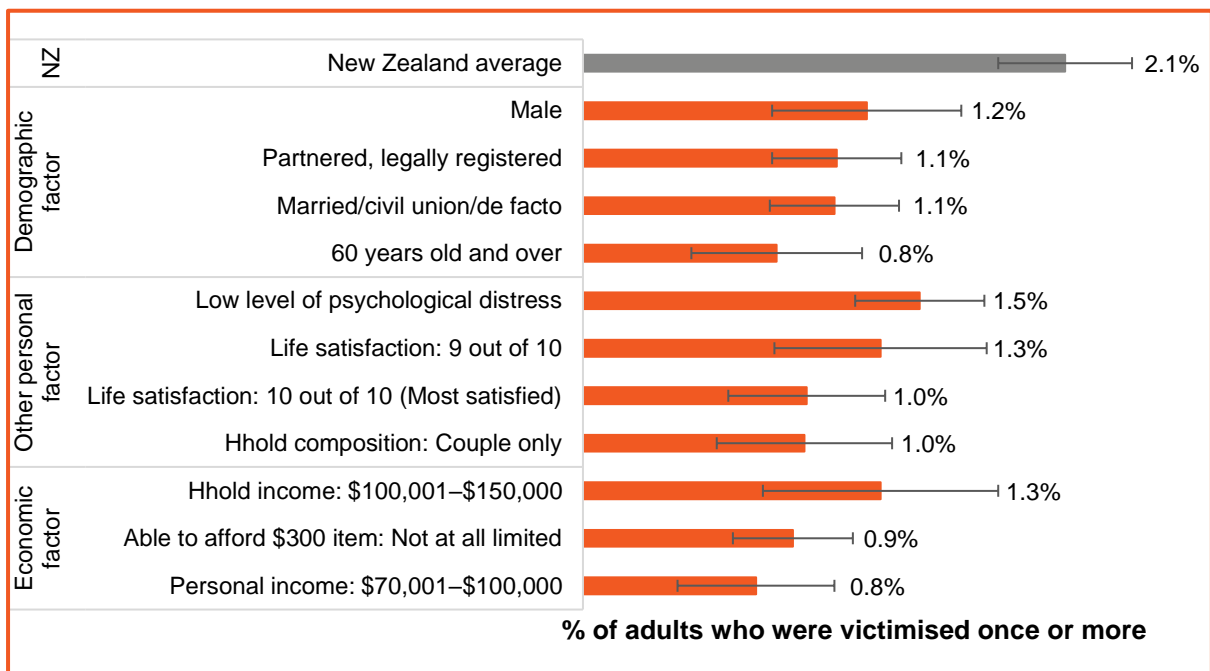


Figure 5.11: Groups that were significantly less likely than the NZ average to experience offences committed by family members (pooled data)

As shown in Figure 5.11, the groups significantly less likely to experience offences committed by family members were:

- older (aged 60 years or more)
- male
- in a legally registered relationship
- having high life satisfaction
- experiencing a low level of psychological distress
- not under financial pressure, with reasonable income
- living in a couple-only household.

Two in five incidents related to an argument

Victims of offences by family members were asked if the incidents they experienced related to any of a number of factors. The most commonly identified factors are illustrated in Figure 5.12, which shows that argument was a factor relating to almost half (44%) of offences by family members, as was jealousy or possessiveness (43%).

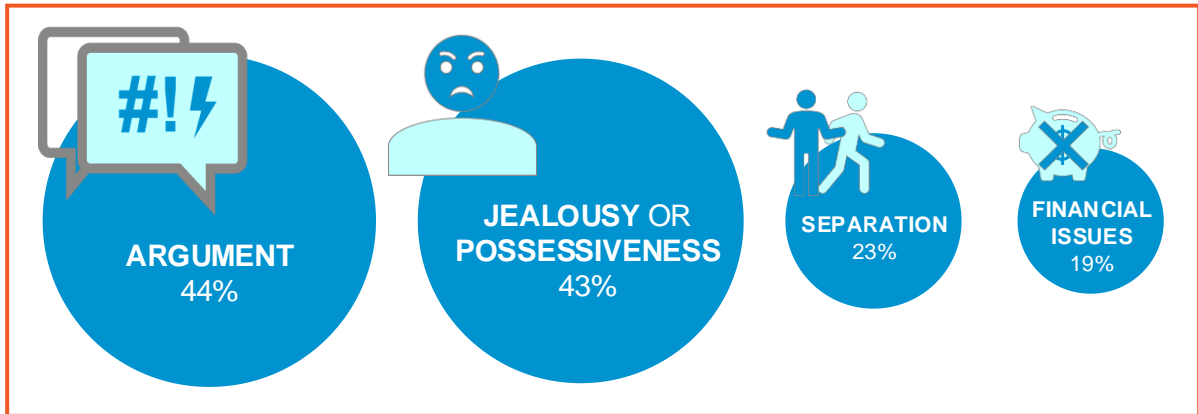


Figure 5.12: Percentage of offences by family members by most commonly reported factors (pooled data)

Involvement of alcohol and/or other drugs in offences by family members

Survey respondents were asked to state whether they were under the influence of alcohol and/or other drugs at the time offences by family members took place, and whether the person committing the offence was under the influence. Victims reported that they were under the influence of alcohol and/or other drugs in 16% of offences by family members, and the offender was under the influence in almost half (47%) of incidents (Figure 5.13).



Figure 5.13: Involvement of alcohol and/or other drugs at the time of offences by family members (pooled data)

Impacts of offending by family members – 40% of victims reported they experienced depression as a result

In this section we examine reactions that victims reported they experienced as a result of offences by family members. Figure 5.14 shows that three in four incidents (75%) led to anger/annoyance, and more than half (53%) resulted in crying/tears. In a high proportion of cases, experiencing this type of offending led to negative impacts on mental health, including anxiety/panic attacks (44%) and depression (40%).

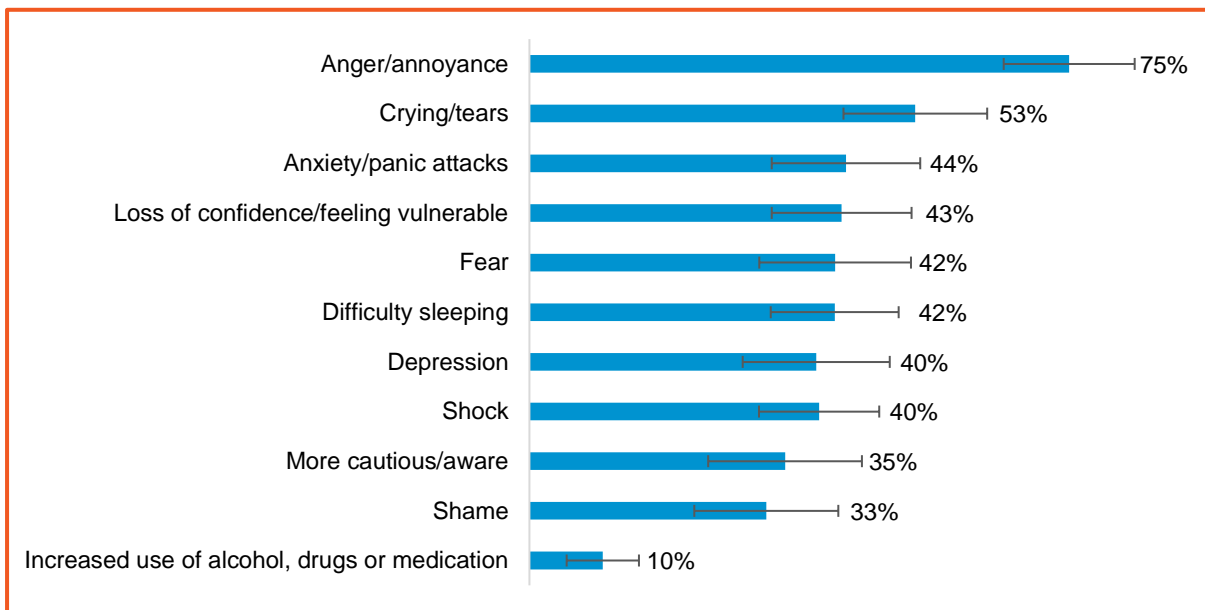


Figure 5.14: Victim reactions to offences by family members (pooled data)

Experiences of offending by intimate partners were more likely to lead to the impacts of shame, loss of confidence/feeling vulnerable, depression, and anxiety/panic attacks than offences by other family members (Figure 5.15).

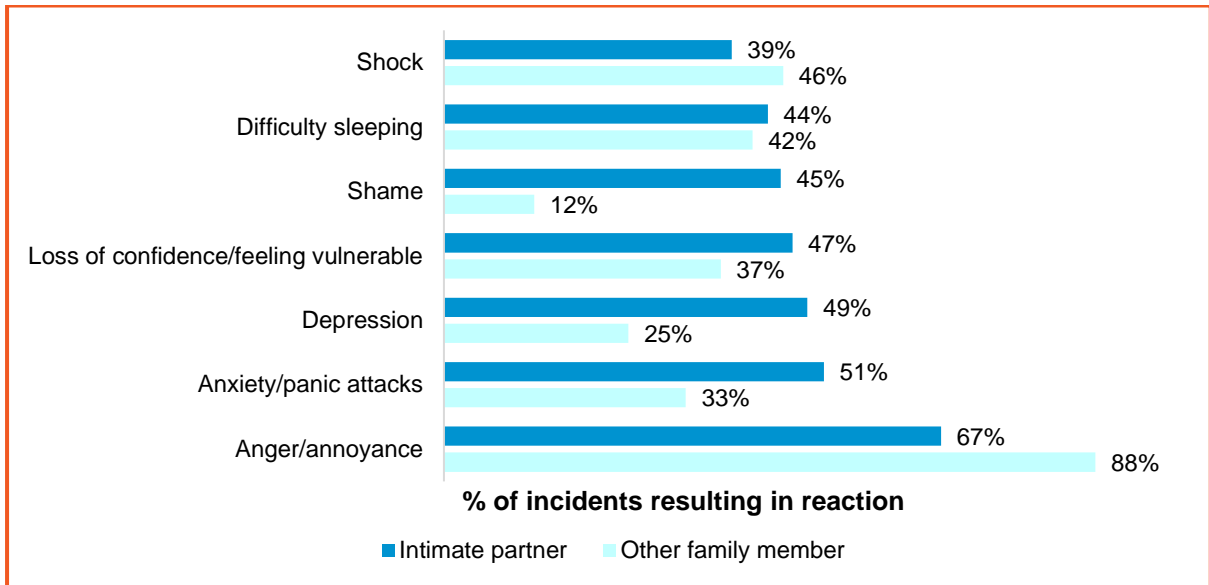


Figure 5.15: Victim reactions to offences by intimate partners vs other family members (pooled data)

Level of effect by family members' offences

Victims of offences by family members tended to say they were affected a great deal by the incidents they experienced. On a scale of 0 (Not affected at all) to 10 (Very affected), more than three quarters of victims (77%) said they were affected at the level of 5 or more, and one quarter (26%) said they were affected at the highest possible level (Figure 5.16).

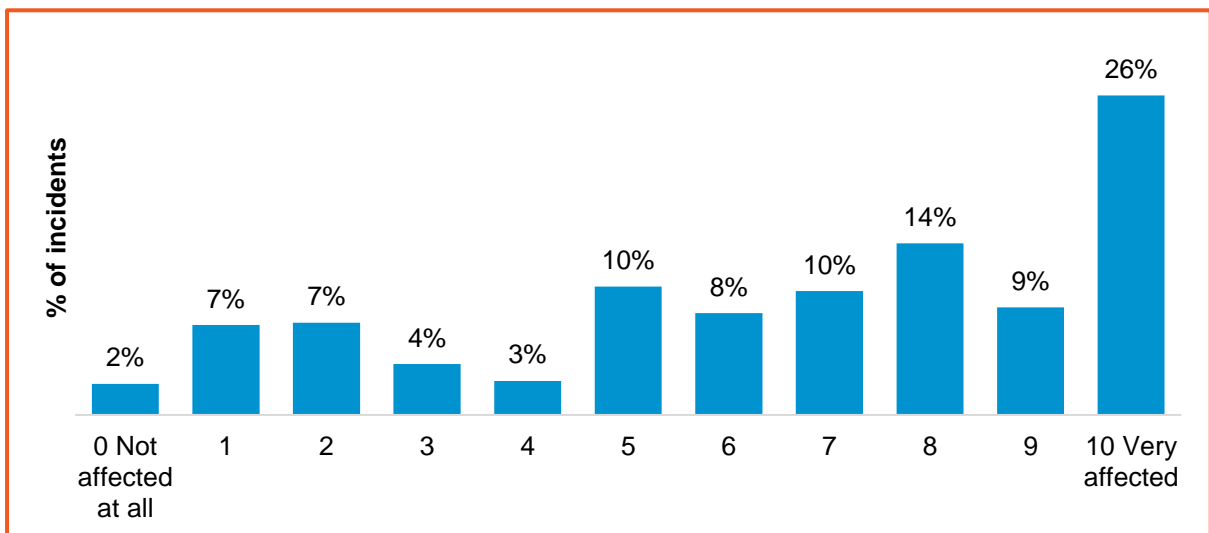


Figure 5.16: Level that victims were affected by offences by family members (pooled data)

Injury and medical attention in offences by family members

The NZCVS asks victims of offences by family members whether they were injured,⁸ and whether they received any medical attention – for physical health or mental health – in relation to the incident(s) that happened to them. We assess this information using pooled data due to small sample sizes.

Victims of offences by family members were injured in one quarter (26%) of incidents. Medical attention was received in relation to one in eight incidents of offences by family members (12%), increasing to one in five incidents that resulted in injury (20%).



Victims of offences by family members were **injured** in **26%** of incidents.

5.3 Lifetime experience of intimate partner violence and/or sexual violence

The NZCVS asked whether someone had ever experienced intimate partner violence (IPV) and/or sexual violence at some point during their lives (lifetime prevalence).⁹ With sensitive questions like these, survey respondents may not want to admit that an incident has taken place, even when these questions are answered confidentially by survey respondents entering their own responses. They may choose to put “don’t know” or “don’t wish to answer” as their responses. As such, we have included people who said “yes”, “don’t know” and “don’t wish to answer” in these estimates.

What did we find?

- Over a million (1,131,000) adults experienced either IPV or sexual violence (or both) at some point during their life, which equated to almost 30% of the entire adult population.
- Of those adults, 563,000 (16% of the adult population) experienced one or more incidents of IPV at some point during their lives, and 938,000 (24% of the adult population) experienced one or more incidents of sexual assault at some point during their lives.

⁸ Injuries may include bruises, black eye, cuts, grazes, broken bones, internal injuries or other injuries.

⁹ The IPV question was only for those who have ever had a partner. The questionnaire did not explicitly ask about either current partners or ex-partners at the time of the incident.

- Women were almost 2.5 times more likely than men to have experienced IPV and 3 times more likely to have experienced sexual violence at some point during their lives.
- Gay, lesbian or bisexual adults were more than twice as likely as the NZ average to experience IPV and/or sexual violence at some point during their lives.
- Māori were more likely to be victims of IPV and/or sexual violence than the NZ average, while Asian people were less likely.
- People living in Auckland were less likely than the NZ average to experience IPV and/or sexual violence at some point during their lives. However, people living in Wellington were more likely than the NZ average to experience sexual violence at some point during their lives.
- People under financial pressure were more likely than the NZ average to experience IPV and/or sexual violence at some point during their lives, while people not under financial pressure were less likely than the NZ average.

Almost one in every six adult New Zealanders experienced IPV at some point during their lives

Table 5.4 shows the total number of adults who experienced one or more incidents of IPV at some point during their lives and the corresponding prevalence rate (percentage of adults who were victimised once or more in their lifetime).

Table 5.4: Lifetime experience of IPV

| | Total number of adults victimised once or more | Prevalence rate |
|--|--|-----------------|
| Deliberately used force or violence | 465,000 | 13% |
| Threat to use force or violence | 441,000 | 12% |
| Any IPV | 563,000 | 16% |

As shown in Figure 5.17, victimisation was more common amongst some groups than others. The groups significantly more likely to experience IPV at some point during their lives compared with the NZ average using pooled data were:

- aged 40–59 years
- female
- Māori
- gay/lesbian or bisexual
- either single or separated
- having low life satisfaction and a low feeling of safety
- experiencing a moderate or high level of psychological distress
- physically disabled

- not employed and not actively seeking work
- undertaking home or caring duties
- having low household income (\$10,001–\$20,000) and struggling financially (very limited ability/couldn't afford a \$300 non-essential item, couldn't meet a \$500 unexpected expense without borrowing)
- living alone or in a sole-parent household
- renting either a local/central government social housing property or a private property.

As shown in Figure 5.18, the groups significantly less likely to experience IPV at some point during their lives compared with the NZ average using pooled data were:

- aged either under 20 or 65 and over
- male
- Asian
- in a legally registered relationship
- having high life satisfaction and a high feeling of safety
- experiencing a low level of psychological distress
- not under financial pressure (not at all limited to buy a \$300 non-essential item, earning \$70,001 to \$150,000)
- residing in a large household or in a household containing a couple with or without children
- living in the least deprived areas of the country or living in Auckland.

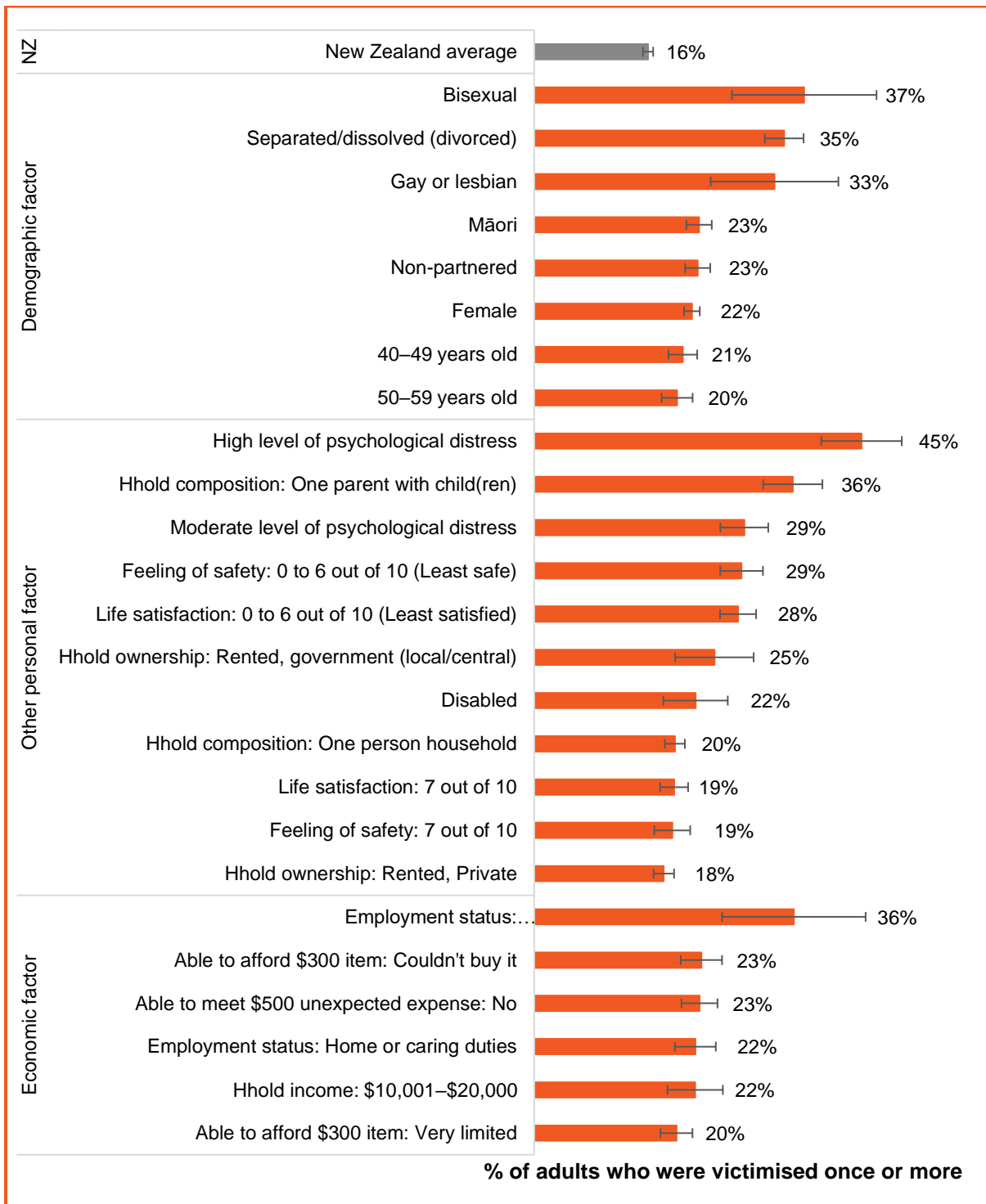


Figure 5.17: Groups with significantly higher rates of lifetime experience of IPV than the NZ average (pooled data)

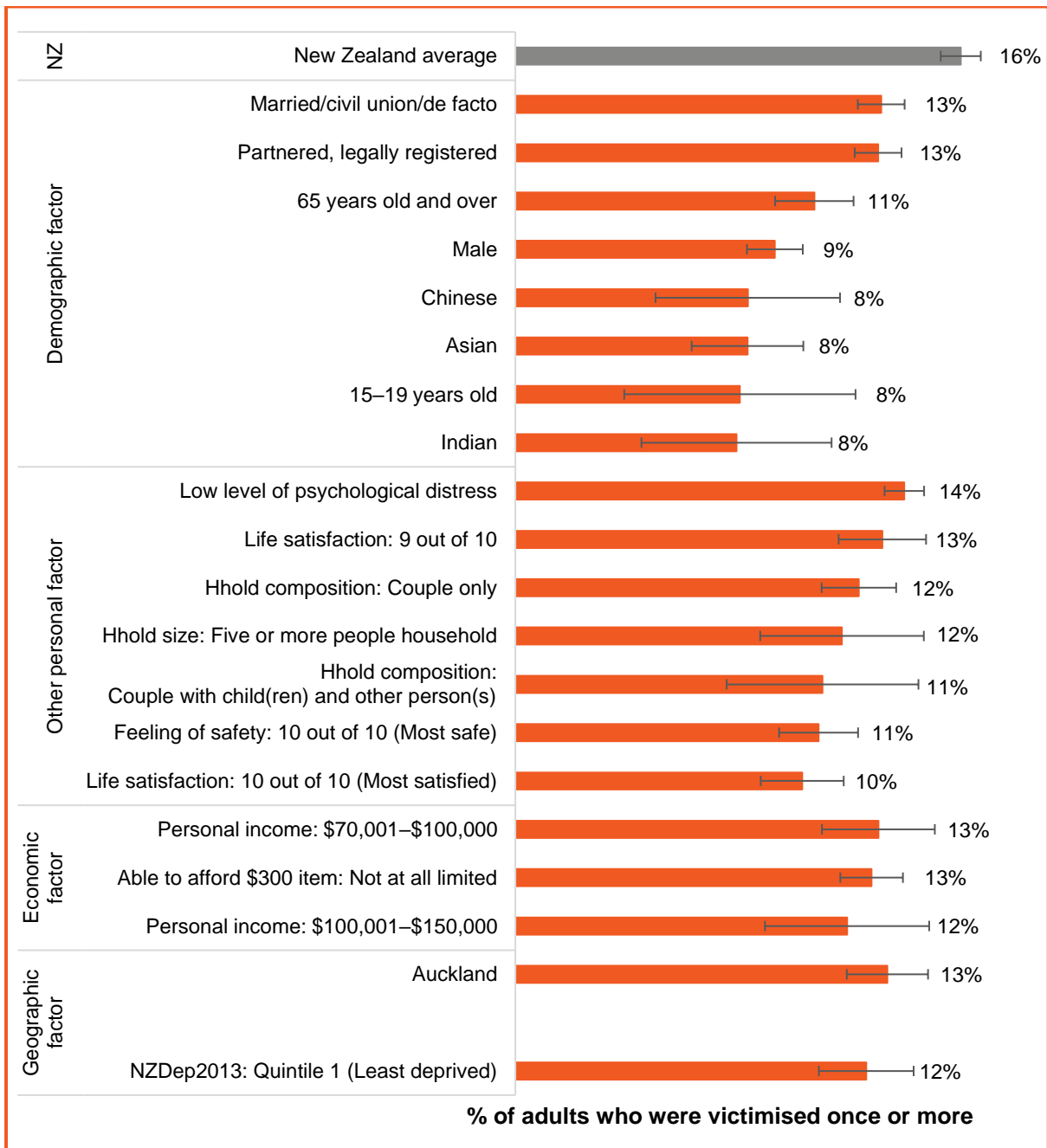


Figure 5.18: Groups with significantly lower rates of lifetime experience of IPV than the NZ average (pooled data)

Almost a quarter of adults experienced sexual violence at some point during their lives

Table 5.5 shows the total number of adults who experienced one or more incidents of sexual violence at some point during their lives and the corresponding prevalence rate (percentage of adults who were victimised once or more in their lifetime).

Table 5.5: Lifetime experience of sexual violence

| | Total number of adults victimised once or more | Prevalence rate |
|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Forced intercourse | 547,000 | 14% |
| Non-consensual sexual touches | 929,000 | 24% |
| Any sexual violence | 938,000 | 24% |

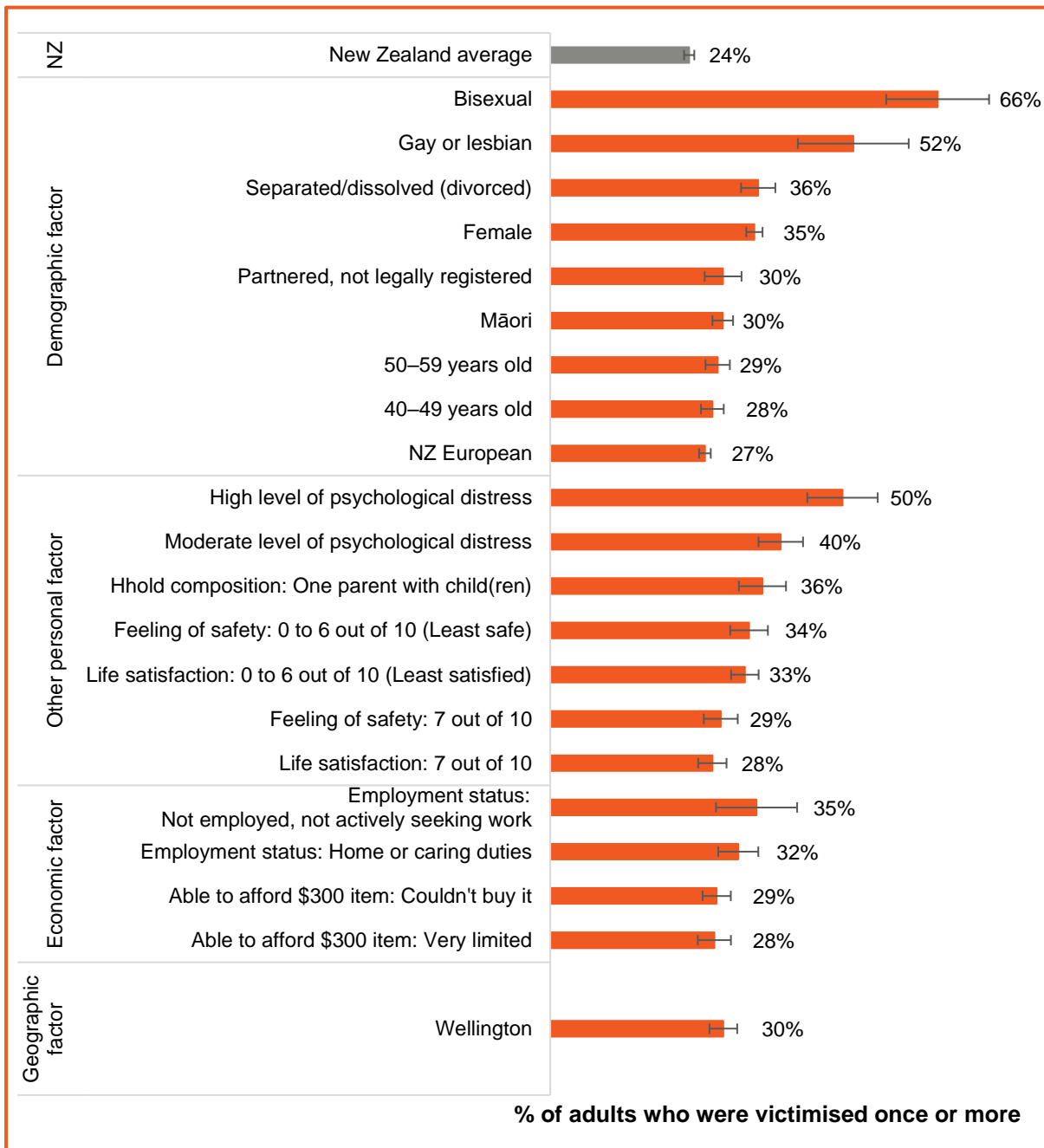


Figure 5.19: Groups with significantly higher rates of lifetime experience of sexual violence than the NZ average (pooled data)

As shown in Figure 5.19, the groups significantly more likely to experience sexual violence at some point during their lives compared with the NZ average were:

- aged 40–59 years
- female
- either NZ European or Māori
- gay/lesbian or bisexual
- either separated or partnered but not legally registered
- having low life satisfaction and a low feeling of safety
- experiencing a moderate or high level of psychological distress
- physically disabled
- not employed and not actively seeking work
- undertaking home or caring duties
- struggling financially (very limited ability/couldn't afford a \$300 non-essential item, couldn't meet a \$500 unexpected expense without borrowing)
- living in a sole-parent household
- living in Wellington.

Figure 5.20 shows the groups with significantly lower rates of lifetime experience of sexual violence than the NZ average using pooled data (24%).

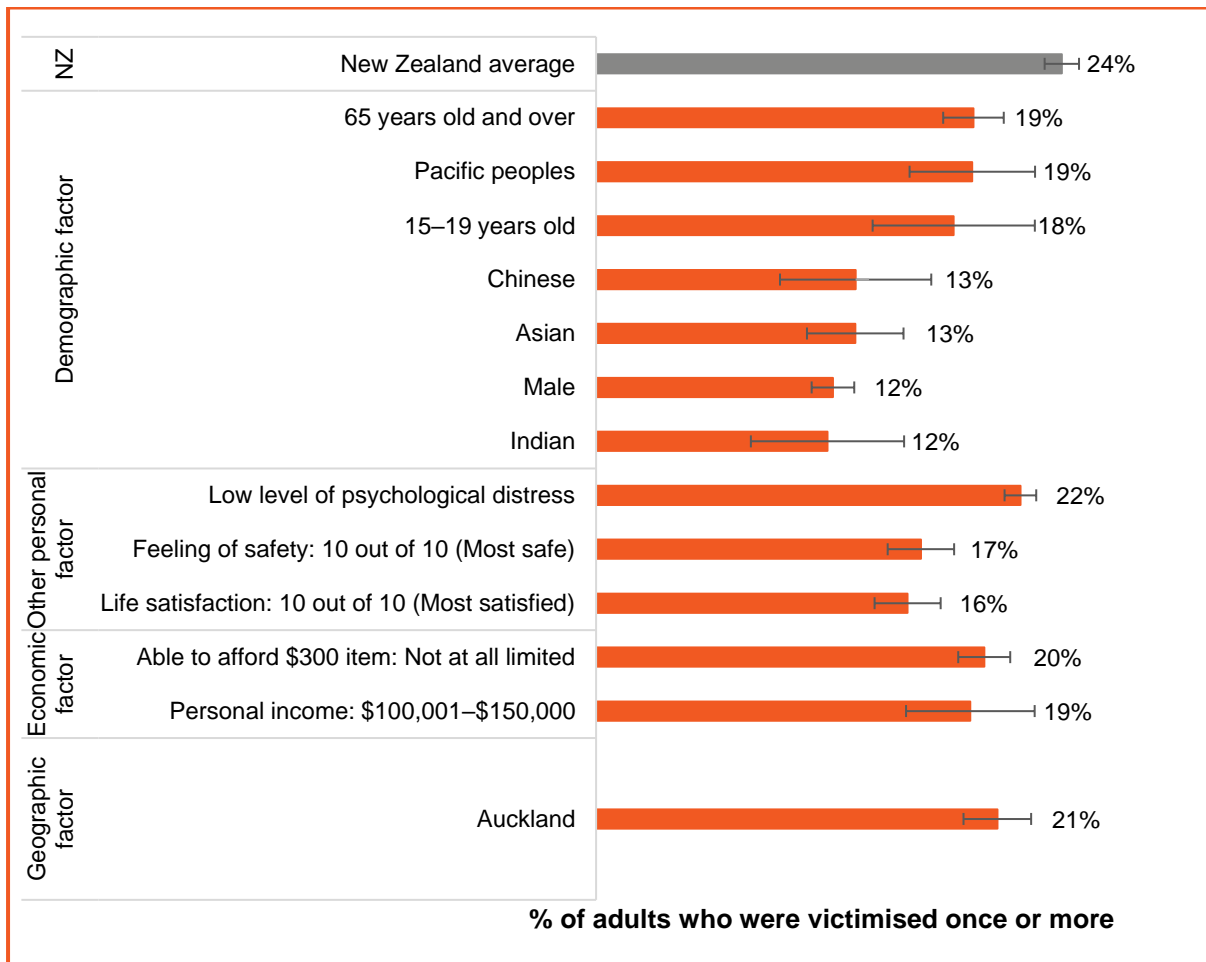


Figure 5.20: Groups with significantly lower rates of lifetime experience of sexual violence than the NZ average (pooled data)

The groups significantly less likely to experience sexual violence at some point during their lives compared with the NZ average were:

- aged either under 20 or 65 and over
- male
- either Pacific or Asian
- having high life satisfaction and a high feeling of safety
- experiencing a low level of psychological distress
- managing well financially (not at all limited to buy a \$300 non-essential item, earning \$100,001 to \$150,000)
- living in Auckland.

5.4 Theft and damage offences

Theft and damage offences is a group combining both personal and household theft (except motor vehicle theft); damage of personal and household property if the offender is unknown

to the victim; and unlawfully takes, converts or interferes with bicycle. Estimates of theft and damage offences are calculated using personal weights¹⁰ as this offence group includes both personal and household level offences.

What did we find?

- About 195,000 adults experienced 250,000 theft and damage incidents over the last 12 months, which equated to a prevalence rate of 5% and an incidence rate of six theft and damage incidents per 100 adults.
- Pacific people were half as likely as the NZ average to experience theft and damage offences. Asian people were also less likely than the NZ average to experience theft and damage offences. Māori, on the other hand, were more likely than the NZ average.
- Adults with a high level of psychological distress were over twice as likely as the NZ average to experience theft and damage offences.
- Whether people have experienced theft and damage incidents is not related to their location. No statistically significant difference in victimisation was found between regions or urbanisation areas and the NZ average.
- Adults with low life satisfaction and a low feeling of safety were significantly more likely than the NZ average to experience theft and damage incidents, while adults with high life satisfaction and a high feeling of safety were significantly less likely.
- Older people (aged 65 and over), retired people or widowed people were less likely than the NZ average to experience theft and damage offences.
- People struggling financially were more likely than the NZ average to experience theft and damage offences.
- There was no statistically significant change in theft and damage offences between Cycle 1 and Cycle 2.

Pacific people were half as likely as the NZ average to experience theft and damage offences

The estimated number of theft and damage offences reported in the NZCVS over the last 12 months is 250,000, which equated to an incidence rate of six theft and damage offences per 100 adults. The estimated total number of adults who experienced one or more theft and damage offence over the last 12 months is 195,000, which equated to a prevalence rate of 5%. These high-level findings in Cycle 2 do not reveal any significant shifts in theft and damage offences reporting from Cycle 1.

To work out who are more or less likely to experience theft and damage offences, we looked at various factors that help to describe the general characteristics and circumstances of the

¹⁰ When analysing items on different levels, the smaller unit takes priority, hence people take priority over households.

adults. Figure 5.21 shows the groups with significantly higher rates of theft and damage offences victimisation than the NZ average (5%) using pooled data, and Figure 5.22 shows the groups with significantly lower rates than the NZ average.

The groups significantly more likely to experience theft and damage offences were:

- aged 40–49 years
- Māori
- single (never married or civil union, or non-partnered)
- having low life satisfaction and a low feeling of safety
- experiencing a moderate or high level of psychological distress
- physically disabled
- under financial pressure (couldn't afford a \$300 non-essential item, couldn't meet a \$500 unexpected expense without borrowing)
- living in a sole-parent household, or living in a three-person household
- living in the 20% most deprived areas of the country (NZDep2013 quintile 5).

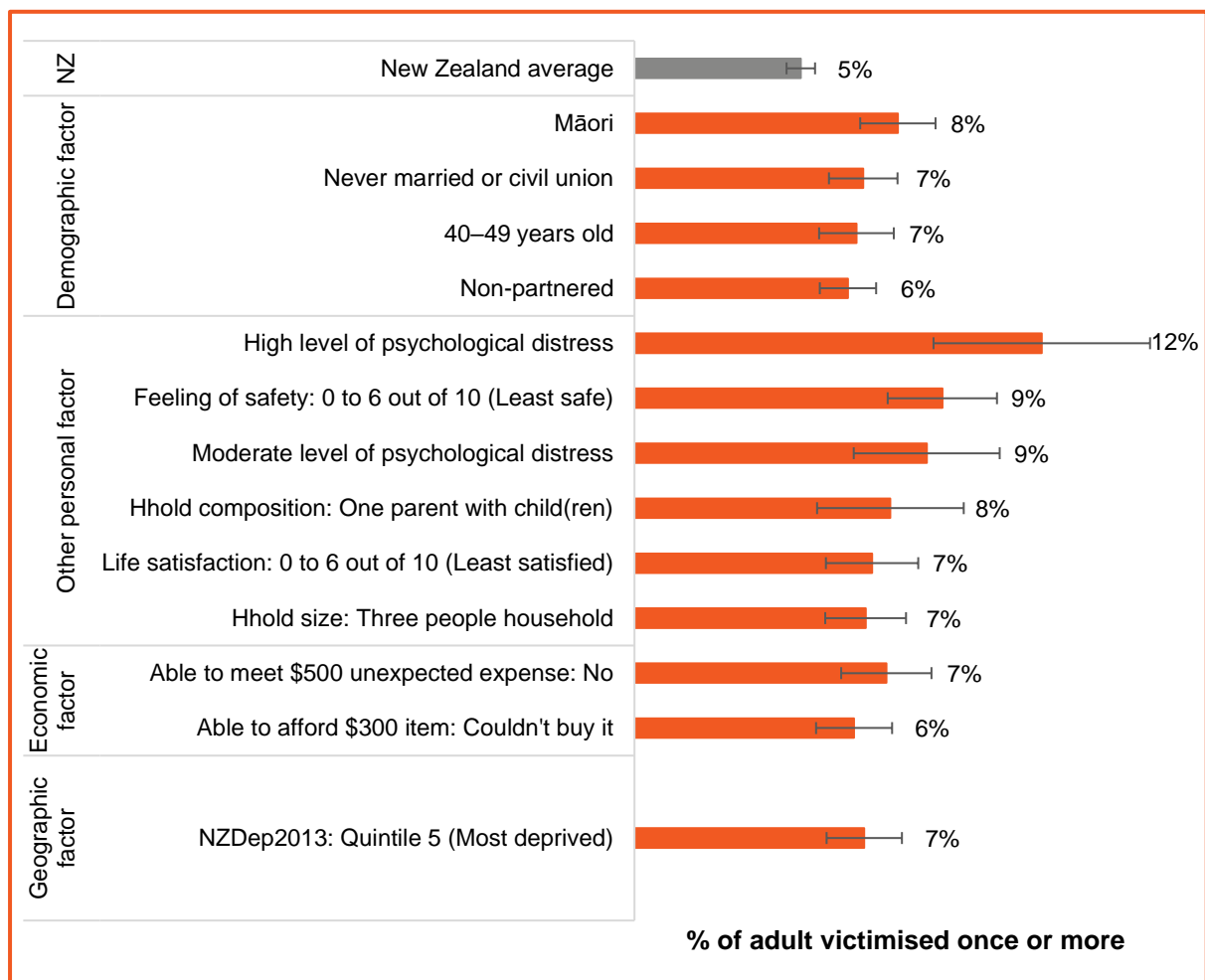


Figure 5.21: Groups that were significantly more likely than the NZ average to experience theft and damage offences (pooled data)

The groups significantly less likely to experience theft and damage offences were:

- older (aged 65 and over)
- either Pacific or Asian
- widowed
- retired
- having high life satisfaction and a high feeling of safety
- living in a couple-only household.



Figure 5.22: Groups that were significantly less likely than the NZ average to experience theft and damage offences (pooled data)

5.5 Fraud and cybercrime offences

Fraud and cybercrime offences include two offence types: fraud and deception, and cybercrime.

What did we find?

- Over 320,000 people (8% of adults) experienced one or more incidents of fraud and cybercrime over the last 12 months.
- These people collectively experienced over 420,000 fraud and cybercrime incidents (11 per 100 adults) over the last 12 months.

- The percentage of adults victimised once or more with a moderate (11%) or high (18%) level of psychological distress is significantly higher than the NZ average.
- Asian people, especially Chinese, were about half as likely as the NZ average to experience fraud and cybercrime offences.
- People with very high household income (\$150,001 or more) experienced a significantly higher rate of fraud and cybercrime offences when compared with the NZ average.
- The percentage of adults who experienced fraud and cybercrime incidents was negatively associated with the level of life satisfaction and feeling of safety. Adults with low life satisfaction and a low feeling of safety were significantly more likely to experience fraud and cybercrime incidents, while those with high life satisfaction and a high feeling of safety were significantly less likely to experience fraud and cybercrime incidents.
- Older people (aged 65 and over), retired people and widowed people were less likely than the NZ average to experience fraud and cybercrime offences.
- There was no statistically significant change in fraud and cybercrime volumes between Cycle 1 and Cycle 2.

Asian people, especially Chinese, were about half as likely as the NZ average to experience fraud and cybercrime offences

The estimated number of fraud and cybercrime offences reported in the NZCVS over the last 12 months is 421,000, which equated to an incidence rate of 11 fraud and cybercrime offences per 100 adults. The estimated total number of adults who experienced one or more fraud and cybercrime offences over the last 12 months is 328,000, which equated to a prevalence rate of 8%. These high-level findings in Cycle 2 do not reveal any significant shifts in fraud and cybercrime reporting from Cycle 1.

To work out who are more or less likely to experience fraud and cybercrime, we looked at various factors that help to describe the general characteristics and circumstances of the adults.

As shown in Figure 5.23, the groups significantly more likely than the NZ average to experience fraud and cybercrime offences were:

- having low life satisfaction and a low feeling of safety
- experiencing a moderate or high level of psychological distress
- having high household income (\$150,001 or more).



Figure 5.23: Groups that were significantly more likely than the NZ average to experience fraud and cybercrime offences (pooled data)

As shown in Figure 5.24, the groups significantly less likely to experience fraud and cybercrime offences were:

- older (aged 65 and over)
- Asian (especially Chinese)
- widowed
- retired
- having high life satisfaction and a high feeling of safety
- having household income between \$30,001 to \$40,000.

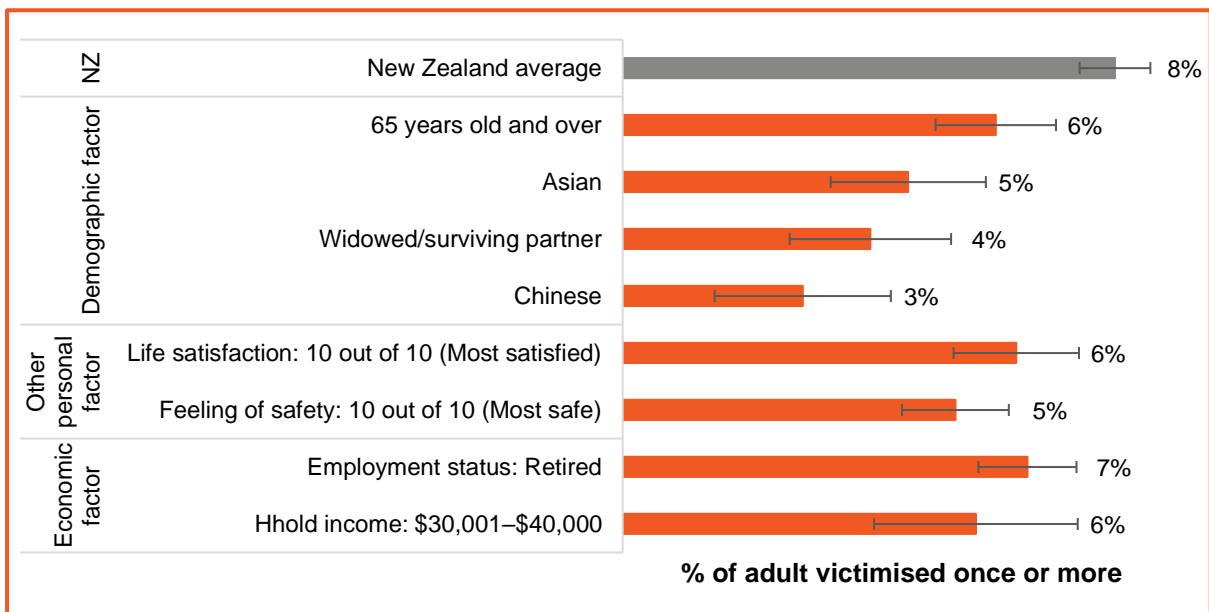


Figure 5.24: Groups that were significantly less likely than the NZ average to experience fraud and cybercrime offences (pooled data)

5.6 Burglary, trespass and vehicle offences

This section looks at burglary, trespass and vehicle offences, including theft of and from motor vehicles, unlawful motor vehicle interference, and damage to motor vehicles.

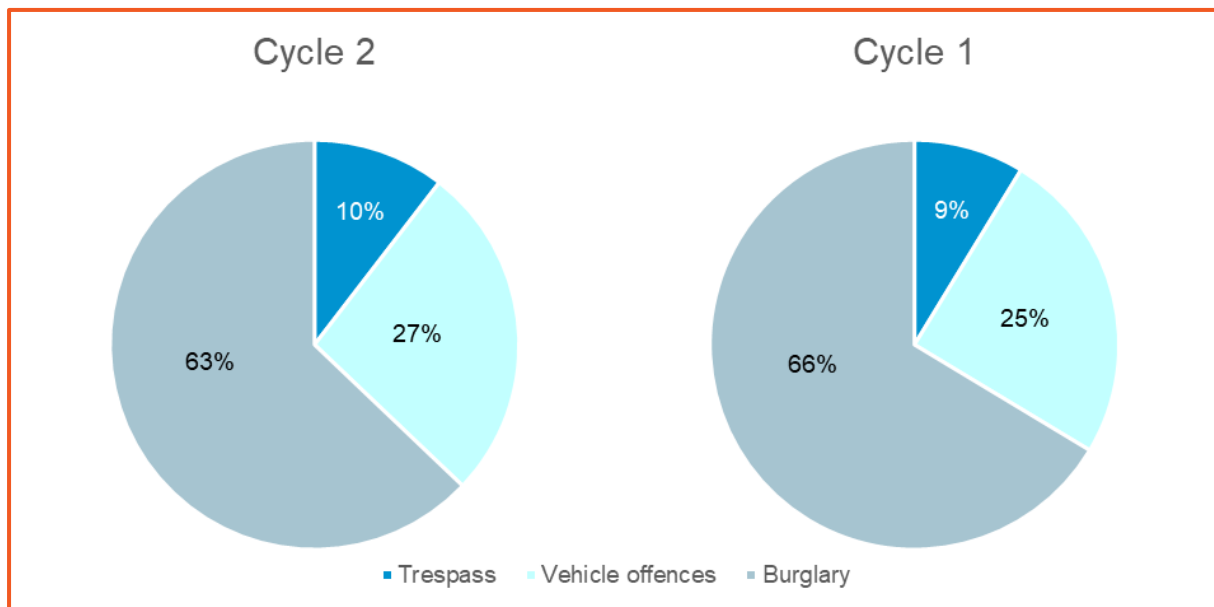


Figure 5.25: Composition of burglary, trespass and vehicle offences, by cycle

As shown in Figure 5.25, burglary is the most common offence type in this group, accounting for over 60%, followed by vehicle offences, then trespass. The composition of these offence types was comparable in Cycle 2 and Cycle 1.

What did we find?

Looking across the results, we found that:

- Sole-parent households were more likely to experience burglary and trespass than the NZ average.
- Households that were in the least deprived areas of the country were significantly less likely to experience burglaries and trespasses compared with the NZ average.
- Families with four or more children were more than twice as likely as the NZ average to experience burglaries. As the number of children in the household increases, the rate of burglary victimisation also increases.
- Households in rural areas of the country were less likely than the NZ average to experience burglaries.
- South Island (except Canterbury) households were half as likely as the NZ average to experience burglaries.

- Government social housing properties were almost twice as likely as the NZ average to experience burglaries, while owner-occupied households were less likely than the NZ average.
- Damage to motor vehicles and theft (from motor vehicle) collectively made up almost 70% of all vehicle offences.
- Larger households were more likely than the NZ average to experience vehicle offences, while smaller households were less likely.
- Households located in the most urbanised parts of the country were more likely than the NZ average to experience vehicle offences.
- Privately rented households were more likely than the NZ average to experience vehicle offences.
- There was no statistically significant change in any types of household offence between Cycle 1 and Cycle 2.

Households with four or more children were twice as likely as the NZ average to experience burglaries

The estimated number of burglaries reported in the NZCVS over the last 12 months is 295,000, which equated to an incidence rate of 16 burglaries per 100 households. The estimated total number of households that experienced one or more burglaries over the last 12 months is 213,000, which equated to a prevalence rate of 12%. These high-level findings in Cycle 2 do not reveal any significant shifts in burglary reporting from Cycle 1.

As shown in Figure 5.26, households significantly more likely to experience burglaries compared with the NZ average were those that:

- contained more than one child (as the number of children in the household increases, the rate of victimisation through burglary also increases)
- were in rented accommodation, especially local/central government social housing properties
- contained a sole parent
- were in the 20% most deprived areas of the country (NZDep2013 quintile 5)
- were located in Auckland.

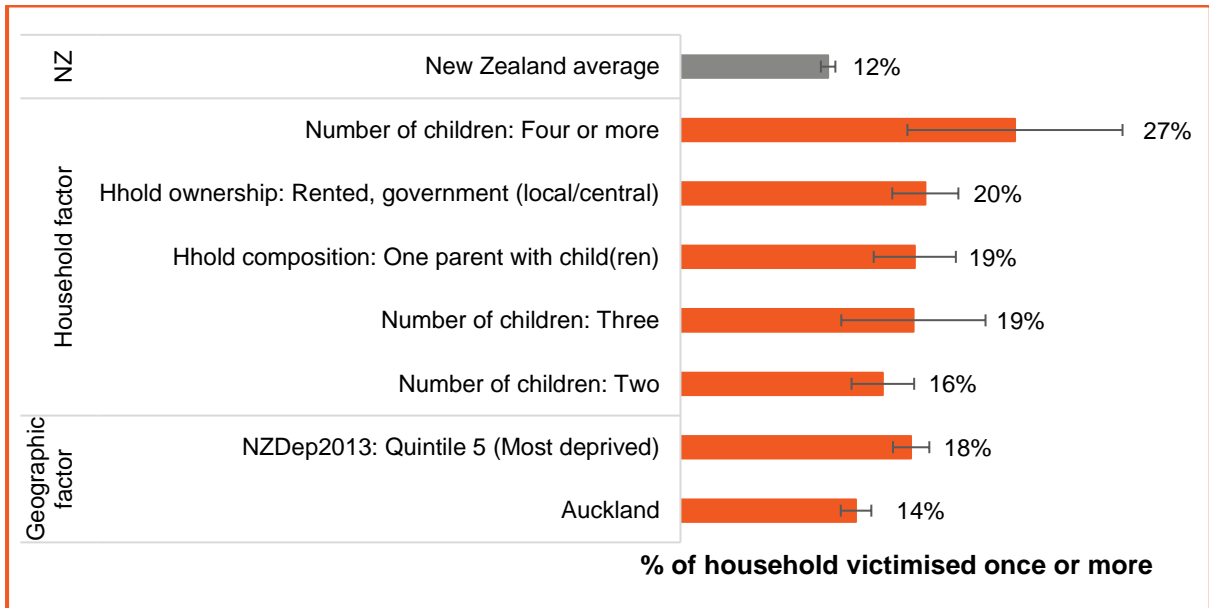


Figure 5.26: Groups that were significantly more likely than the NZ average to experience burglaries (pooled data)

As shown in Figure 5.27, households significantly less likely to experience burglaries compared with the NZ average were those that:

- were owner occupied
- contained two people or a couple only without children
- were in the least deprived areas of the country (NZDep2013 quintiles 1 and 2)
- located in Wellington or the South Island except Canterbury
- were in rural areas of the country.

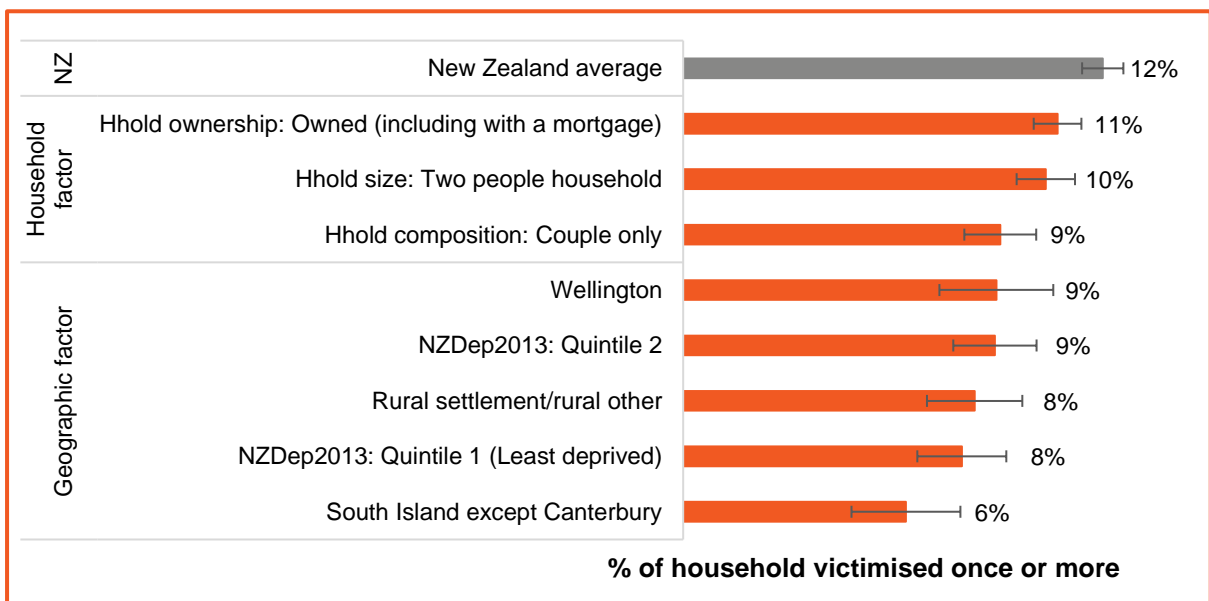


Figure 5.27: Groups that were significantly less likely than the NZ average to experience burglaries (pooled data)

Sole-parent households were almost twice as likely as the NZ average to experience trespass

The estimated number of trespasses reported in the NZCVS over the last 12 months is 49,000, which equated to an incidence rate of 3 trespasses per 100 households. The estimated total number of households that experienced one or more trespasses over the last 12 months is 37,000, which equated to a prevalence rate of 2%. Again, these high-level findings in Cycle 2 do not reveal any significant shifts in trespass reporting from Cycle 1.

Using the pooled data,¹¹ we found that households significantly more likely to experience trespasses compared with the NZ average (1.9%) were those that contained a sole parent (3.6%) and were in more deprived areas (NZDep2013 quintile 4) of the country (2.8%). Households that were in the least deprived areas (NZDep2013 quintile 1) of the country (1.1%) are significantly less likely to experience trespasses compared with the NZ average.

Damage to motor vehicles and theft (from motor vehicle) collectively made up almost 70% of all vehicle offences

The NZCVS only counts incidents against domestic vehicles.¹² Vehicle offences included:

- theft of/unlawful takes/converts motor vehicle
- theft from motor vehicle
- unlawful interference/getting into motor vehicle
- damage to motor vehicles.

Vehicles included cars, motorcycles, vans, trucks, caravans, camper vans, quad bikes, tractors and trailers.

The estimated number of vehicle offences reported in the NZCVS over the last 12 months is 125,000, which equated to an incidence rate of 7 vehicle offences per 100 households. The estimated total number of households that experienced one or more vehicle offences over the last 12 months is 113,000, which equated to a prevalence rate of 6%. These high-level findings in Cycle 2 do not reveal any significant shifts in vehicle offences reporting from Cycle 1.

As shown in Figure 5.28: Composition of vehicle offences, Cycle 2, damage to motor vehicles is the most common type of vehicle offence, accounting for 37% of all vehicle offences over the last 12 months, while theft from a motor vehicle made up 30%, followed by

¹¹ Estimates measured in percentages in this section are rounded to one decimal place, as it is deemed important to show more detail.

¹² Incidents against commercial vehicles were excluded from the NZCVS counts. However, if the respondent did not explicitly state their vehicle was used for commercial purposes, it has been included in the NZCVS counts.

theft of/unlawful takes/converts motor vehicle (25%), and unlawful interference/getting into motor vehicle (8%).

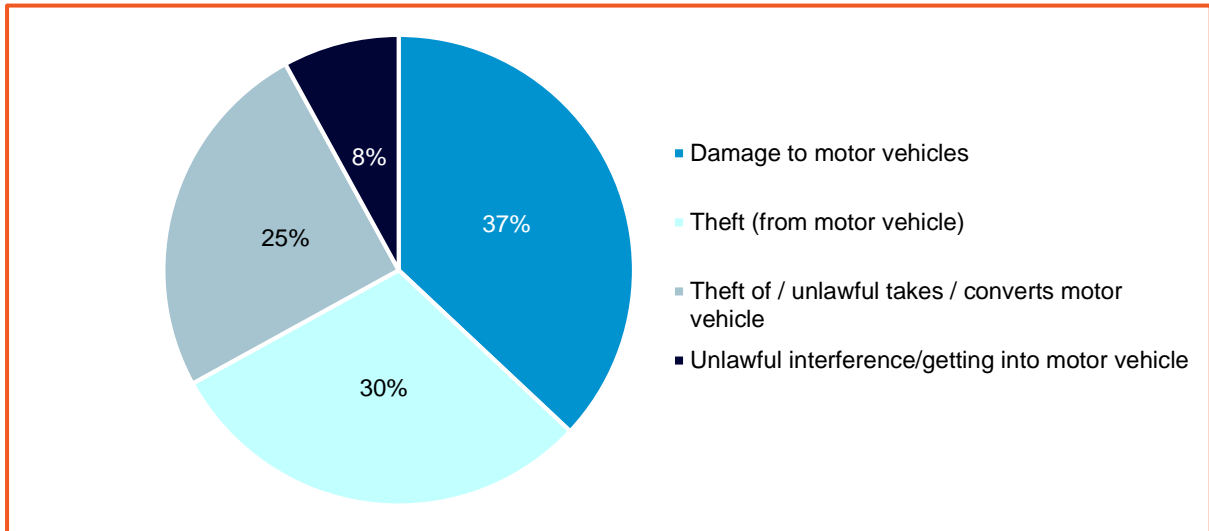


Figure 5.28: Composition of vehicle offences, Cycle 2

As shown in Figure 5.29, households significantly more likely to experience vehicle offences compared with the NZ average were those that:

- were multiple-family or other multi-person households
- contained more than three people
- were privately rented
- were located in the most urbanised parts of the country (major urban areas).

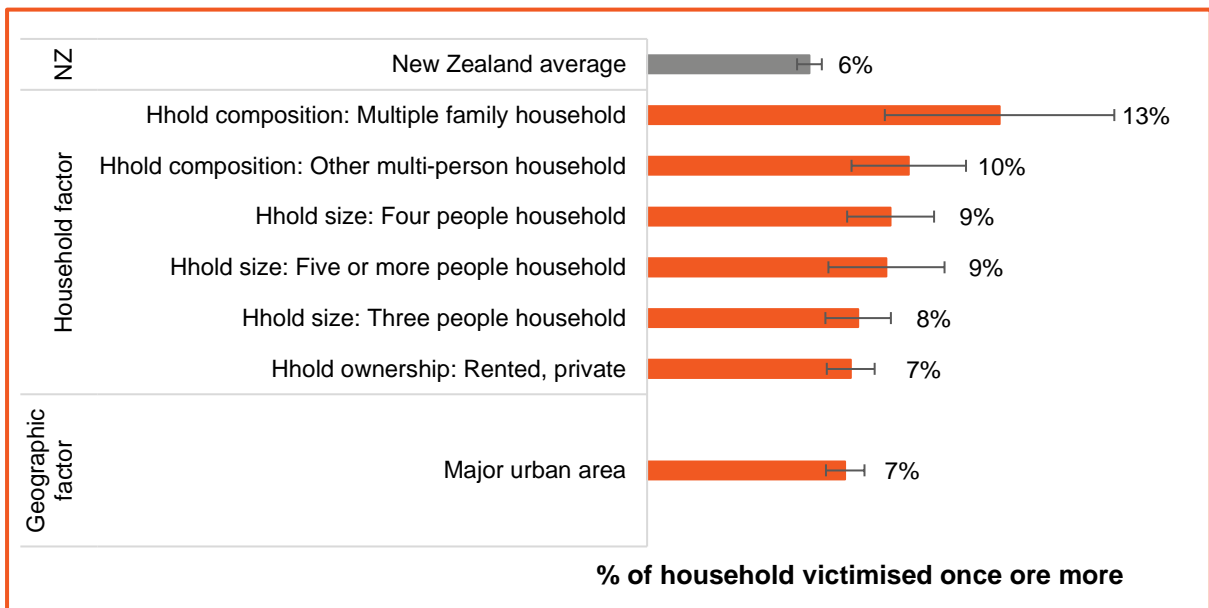


Figure 5.29: Groups that were significantly more likely than the NZ average to experience vehicle offences (pooled data)

Households significantly less likely to experience vehicle offences compared with the NZ average were those that:

- were in less urbanised parts of the country (e.g., medium urban areas, small urban areas, and rural areas)
- were one-person or couple-only households.

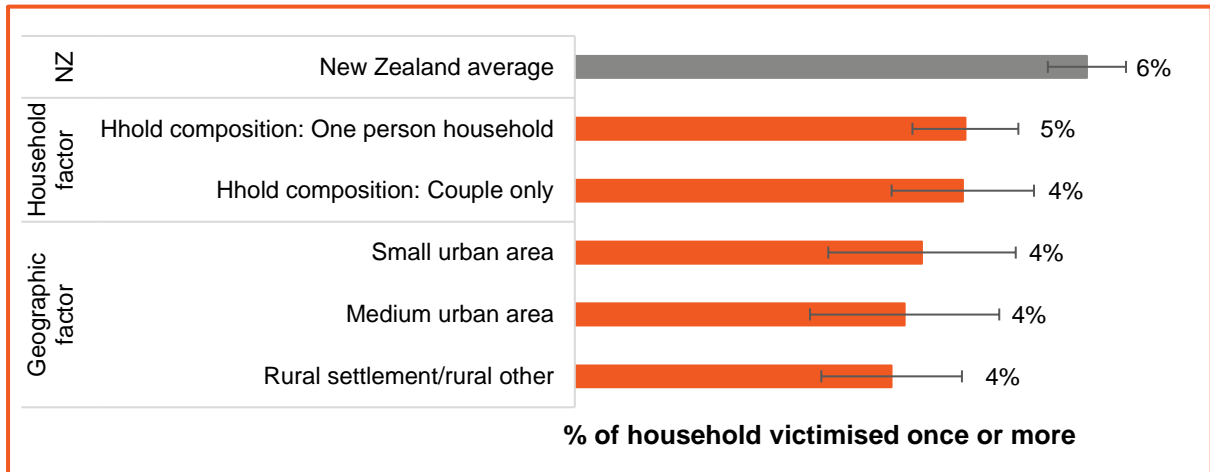


Figure 5.30: Groups that were significantly less likely than the NZ average to experience vehicle offences (pooled data)

6 Reporting to the Police

What is included in this section?

In the NZCVS, where someone experienced an incident of crime, they are asked whether the incident became known to the Police.¹³

The next section looks at reporting to the Police by types of offence, and changes in reporting over time. We also look at reporting by victim demographics, relationship to offender, and offence perceptions. Finally, we look at reasons for not reporting to the Police.

In some cases, when we were unable to report statistics due to a high level of error, we looked at rates of non-reporting to provide a more in-depth picture on reporting patterns.

What did we find?

Cycle 2 data

- Overall, 25% of all crime incidents were reported to the Police.
- Household offences (37%) were significantly more likely to be reported to the Police and were twice as likely to be reported when compared with personal offences (18%).
- Motor vehicle thefts (94%) had the highest likelihood of being reported to the Police.
- The most common reason given for not reporting an incident to the Police was “Too trivial/no loss or damage/not worth reporting” (48%); the second most common reason was “Police couldn’t have done anything” (27%).
- There were no significant changes in reporting patterns and reasons for not reporting incidents to the Police between Cycle 1 and Cycle 2.

Pooled data

- Based on non-reporting estimates, sexual offences (94%) were significantly more likely to go unreported compared with the national average (75%).
- Bisexual people were significantly less likely to report incidents to the Police.
- People living in the least deprived areas (NZDep2013 quintile 1) were significantly less likely to report incidents to the Police.
- People were significantly more likely to report an incident to the Police if they viewed the incident as a crime or if they perceived the incident to be more serious.

¹³ Incidents found out by the Police include where the victim or a member of the victim’s household reported the incident to the Police, or where the victim knew that the Police had found out about the incident in some way.

- The reason “Too trivial/no loss or damage/not worth reporting” was significantly more likely to be given for not reporting household offences like burglary, trespass and vehicle offences.
- The reasons “Shame/embarrassment/further humiliation”, “Dealt with matter myself/ourselves” and “Fear of reprisals/would make matters worse” were significantly more likely to be given for not reporting interpersonal violence and sexual assault incidents.

6.1 Reporting to the Police, Cycle 2

Overall, looking at Cycle 2 we estimated that 25% of all crimes were reported to the Police (see Figure 6.1).

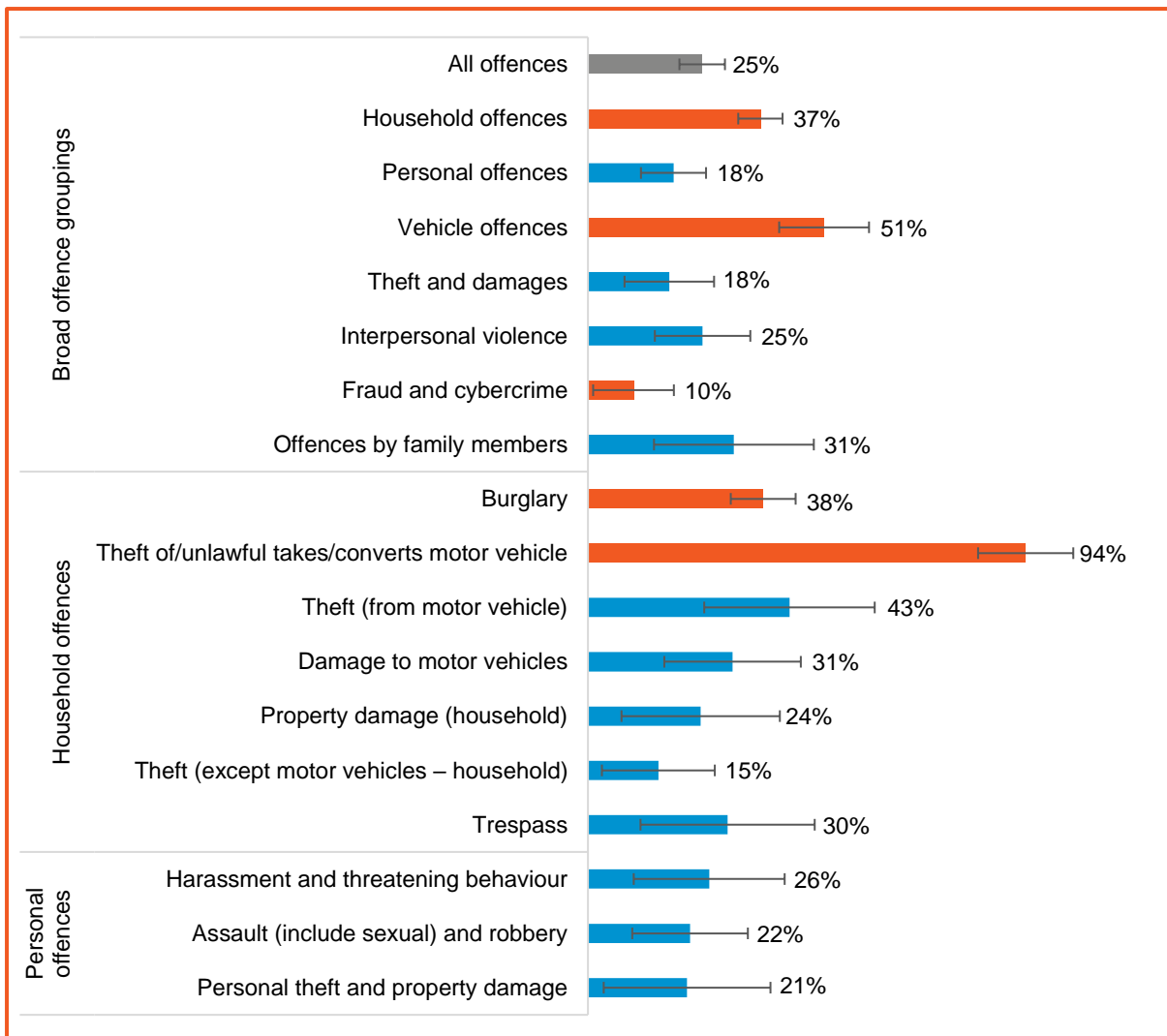


Figure 6.1: Reporting rate to the Police, by offence type

Household offences (37%) were significantly more likely to be reported to the Police and twice as likely to be reported when compared with personal offences (18%).

Across broad offence types, vehicle offences (51%) were significantly more likely to be reported to the Police, whereas fraud and cybercrime offences were significantly less likely (10%).

Within household offences, burglary (38%) and theft of/unlawful takes/converts motor vehicle (94%) were significantly more likely to be reported to the Police, with the latter offence having the highest overall likelihood of being reported.

6.2 Changes in reporting over time

Overall, there were no significant changes in reporting to the Police between Cycle 1 and Cycle 2. This includes no significant changes in overall reporting, and no significant changes in reporting by different types of offence.

For broad offence groups, there was a 10 percentage point decrease in reporting of theft and damage offences, from 28% in Cycle 1 to 18% in Cycle 2.

There was also a 6 percentage point increase in reporting of offences by family members, from 25% in Cycle 1 to 31% in Cycle 2. However, no changes in reporting were statistically significant (see Figure 6.2).

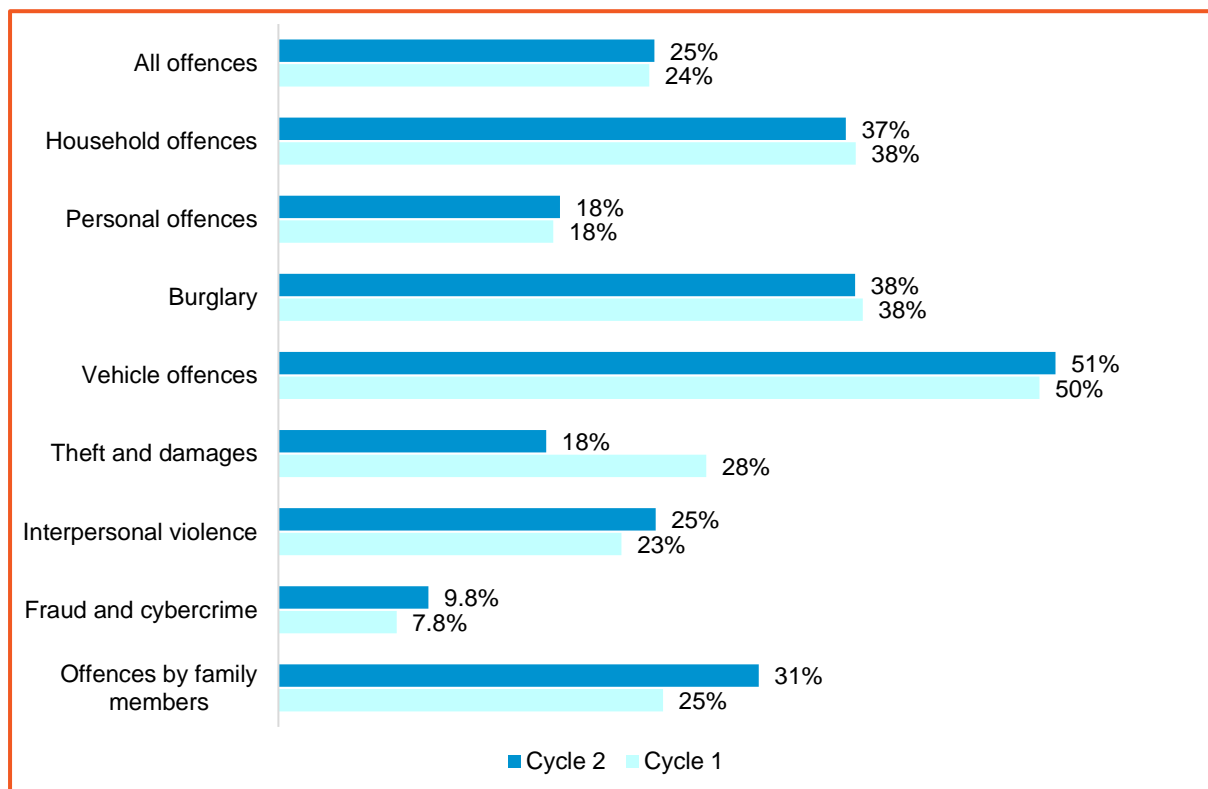


Figure 6.2: Reporting rate to the Police, by offence type over time (Cycle 1 – Cycle 2)

6.3 Non-reporting to the Police (pooled data)

In order to provide reporting statistics that are otherwise suppressed, we looked at reporting patterns across offence types using our pooled data from Cycle 1 and Cycle 2. In some cases, results were suppressed, but the non-reporting rate – the percentage of incidents *not* reported to Police – is able to be shown instead.

There was no significant difference in non-reporting for interpersonal violence compared with all offences. However, within interpersonal violence, sexual assaults were significantly more likely to be unreported (94%) than the NZ average for all offences (see Figure 6.3).

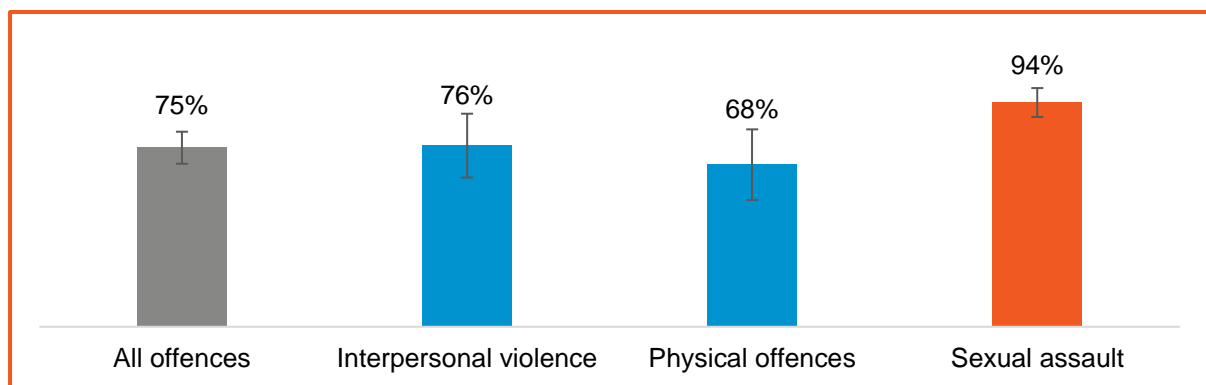


Figure 6.3: Non-reporting rate to the Police, by interpersonal violence

Note: The non-reporting rate to the Police for threats and damages is suppressed due to high margin of error. However, the reporting rate for this offence type was 29%.

Offences by family members (29%) were more likely to be reported to Police than offences overall (25%), though the difference was not statistically significant. Looking at offences by family members, there was little difference in the reporting rate by offender relationship (see Figure 6.4).

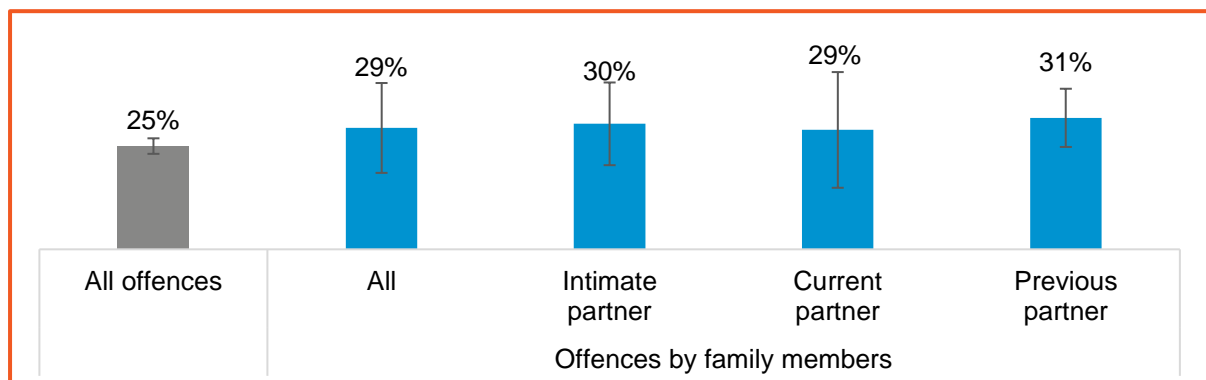


Figure 6.4: Offences by family members not reported to the Police, by familial relationship



Across Cycle 1 and Cycle 2, **94% of sexual assaults** were not reported to the police

6.4 Reporting to the Police by population groups (pooled data)

The next subsection looks at reporting to the Police by population groups. Because there were no significant changes in overall reporting between Cycle 1 and Cycle 2, we used pooled data to reduce error and better identify demographic differences in reporting behaviour. As with the previous section, non-reporting statistics are used in cases where reporting statistics would otherwise be suppressed.

Overall, there were no significant differences in reporting with regard to sex, ethnicity, regions, life satisfaction, perception of safety, disability, psychological distress, household size, personal income, household income and financial pressure.

Bisexual people were significantly less likely to report incidents to the Police compared with the NZ average (see Figure 6.5).

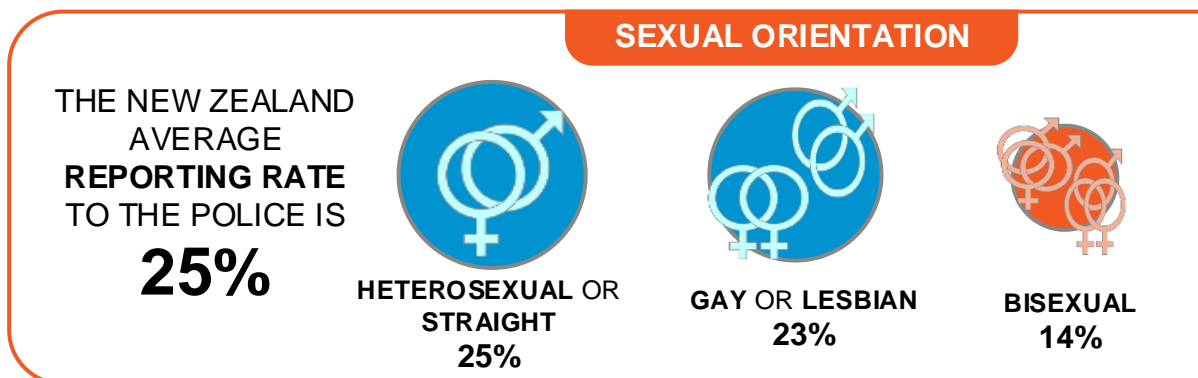


Figure 6.5: Reporting rate to the Police, by sexual orientation

The likelihood of reporting incidents to the Police increased with the level of area deprivation. Those living in the least deprived areas (NZDep2013 quintile 1) were significantly less likely to report incidents to the Police (see Figure 6.6).

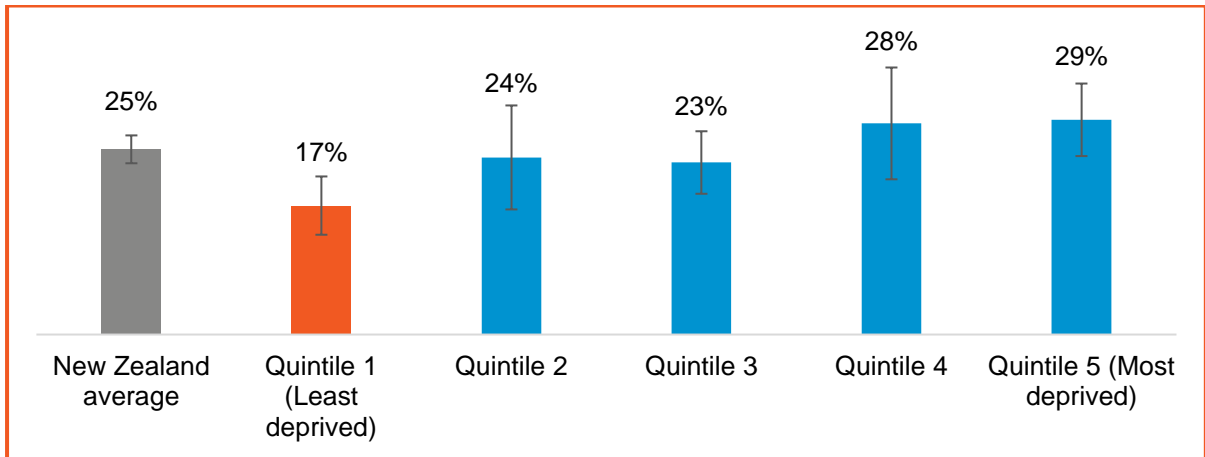


Figure 6.6: Reporting rate to the Police, by deprivation quintile

Incidents that were viewed as a crime were significantly more likely to be reported to the Police, whereas incidents that were not viewed as a crime were significantly less likely to be reported (see Figure 6.7).

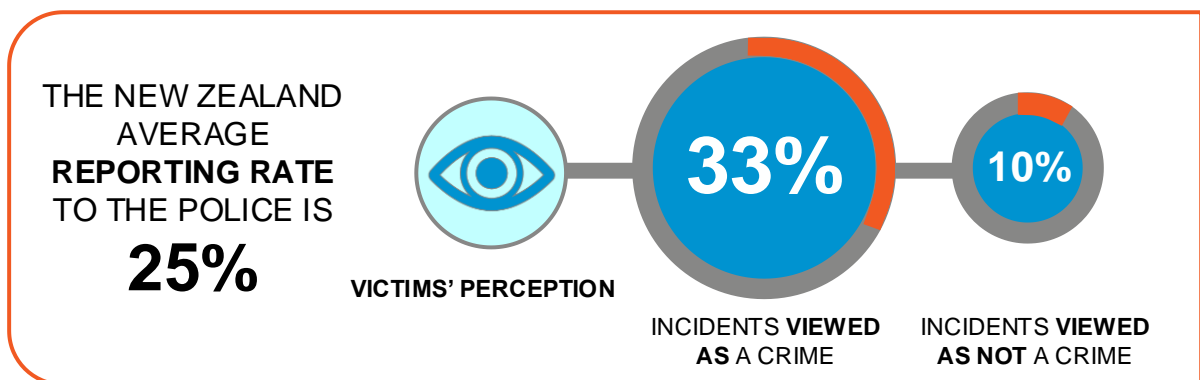


Figure 6.7: Reporting rate to the Police, by perception of the incident's criminality

Reporting likelihood was positively correlated with the perceived seriousness of the incident. Offences perceived as more serious were significantly more likely to be reported to the Police, while offences perceived as less serious were significantly less likely to be reported (see Figure 6.8).

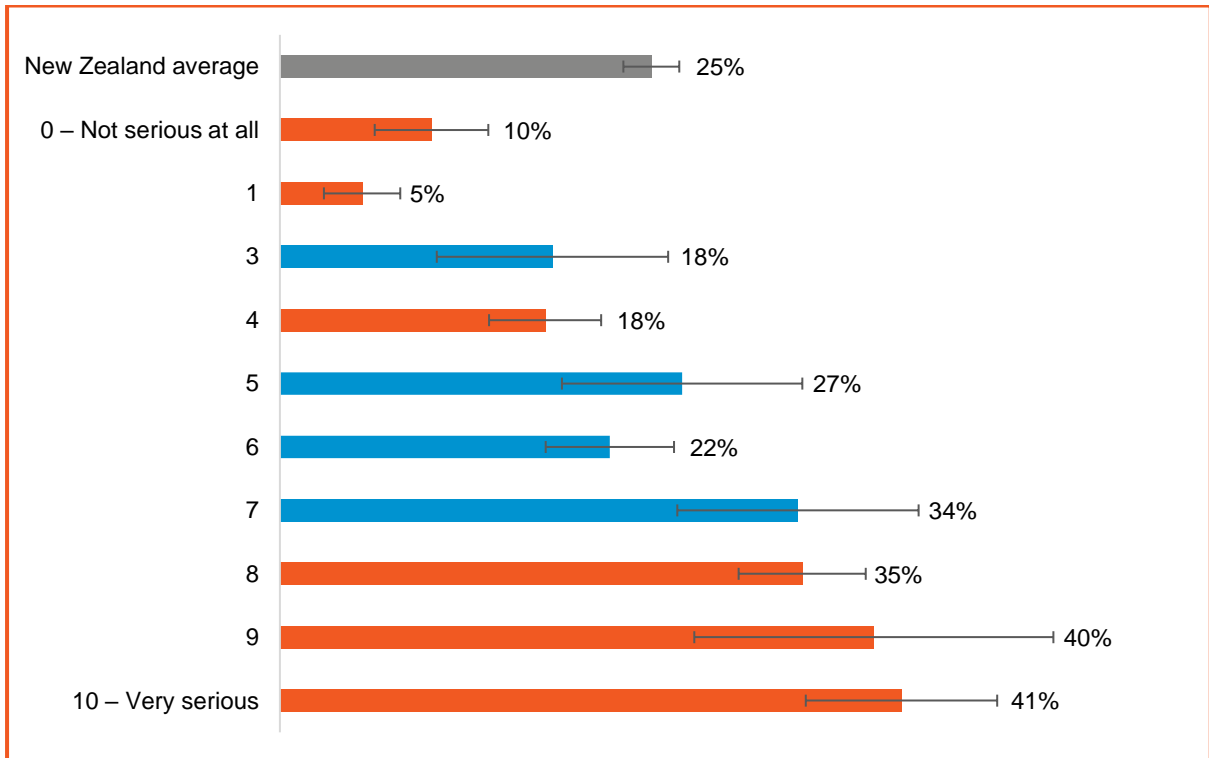


Figure 6.8: Reporting rate to the Police, by perception of the incident’s seriousness

Note: The reporting rate for incidents perceived as seriousness level 2 is suppressed due to high margin of error.

Young people (aged 15–29 years old) were significantly less likely (20%) to report incidents to the Police than adults overall (25%) (see Figure 6.9).

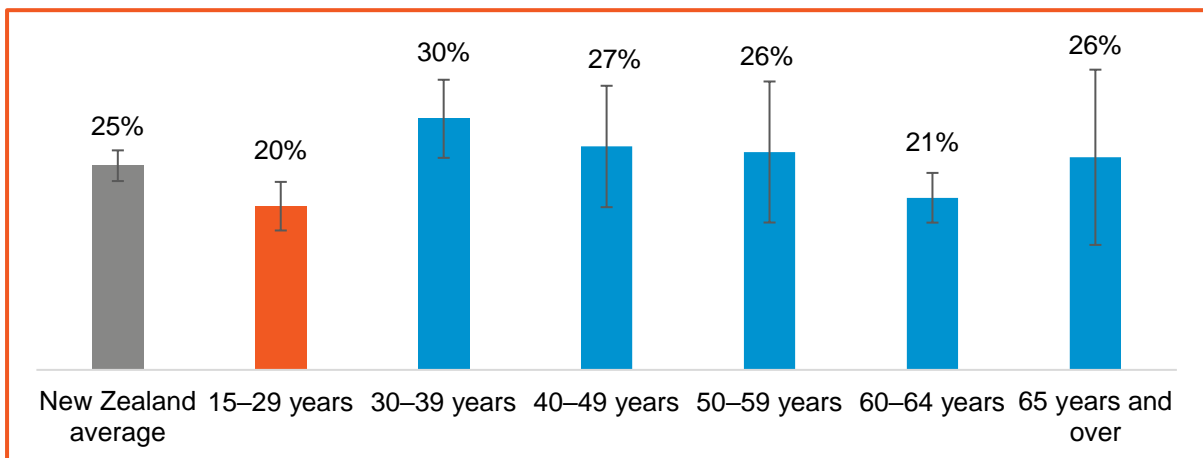


Figure 6.9: Reporting rate to the Police, by age

6.5 Reasons for not reporting offences to the Police

Those who did not report incidents to the Police were asked why they didn't report the incidents. The next subsection provides statistics on the reasons people gave for not reporting, whether these reasons have changed over time, and whether the reasons differ by offence type.

Reasons for not reporting to the Police over the last 12 months

Overall, the most common reason given for not reporting an incident to the Police was that the incident was “too trivial/no loss or damage/not worth reporting” (48%), with the second most common reason being “Police couldn't have done anything” (27%).

The next most common reasons given (between 13% and 15%) were “Dealt with matter myself/ourselves”, “Reported to other authorities (e.g., superiors, security staff)”, “Police would not have bothered/not been interested”, “Didn't have enough evidence to report it”, and “No particular reason/other/don't know”.

The least common reasons given for not reporting an incident to the Police (between 5% and 7%) were “Fear of reprisals/would make matters worse”, “Attempted crime was unsuccessful” and “Didn't want to get offender into trouble” (see Figure 6.10).

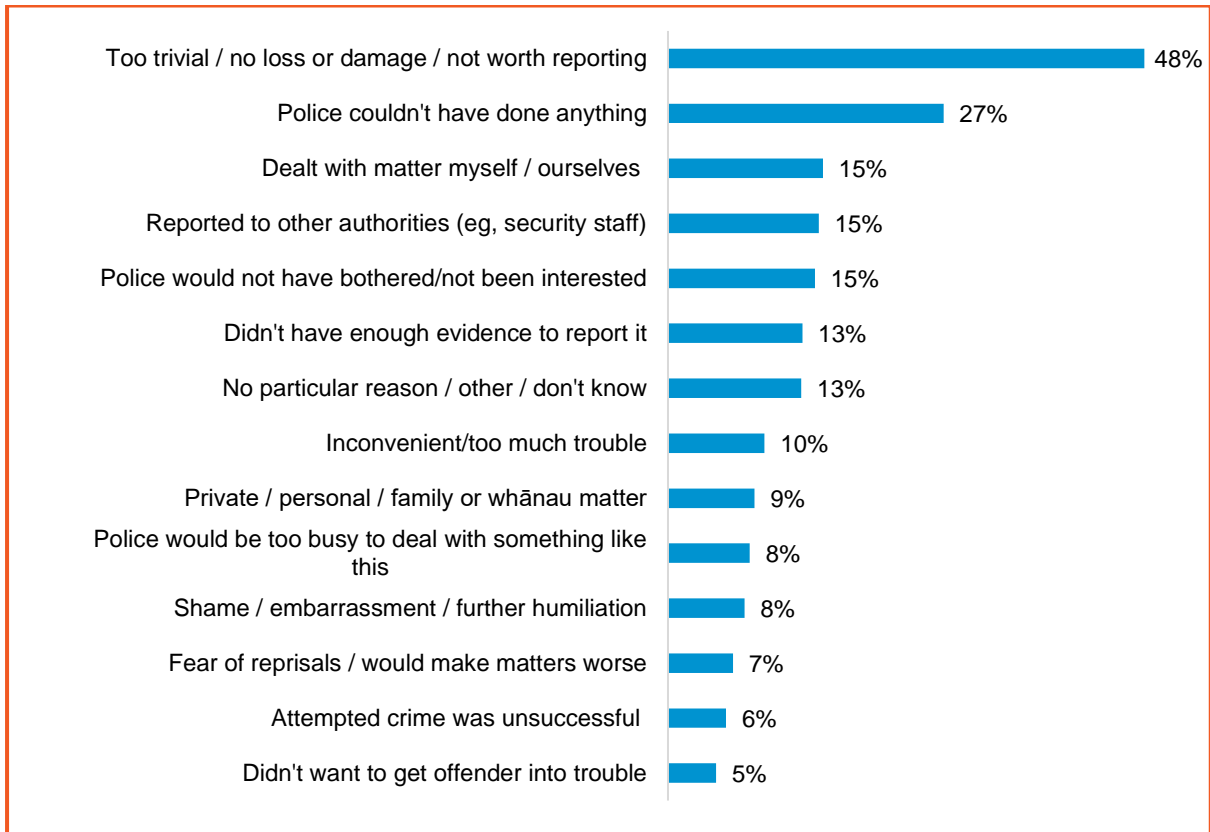


Figure 6.10: Reasons for not reporting incidents to the Police – all offences



The most common reason given for not reporting an incident to the police was that the incident was **“Too trivial/no loss or damage/not worth reporting”**.

Changes in reasons for not reporting over time

As shown in Figure 6.11, for all offences, there were no significant changes in reasons for not reporting incidents to the Police between Cycle 1 and Cycle 2.

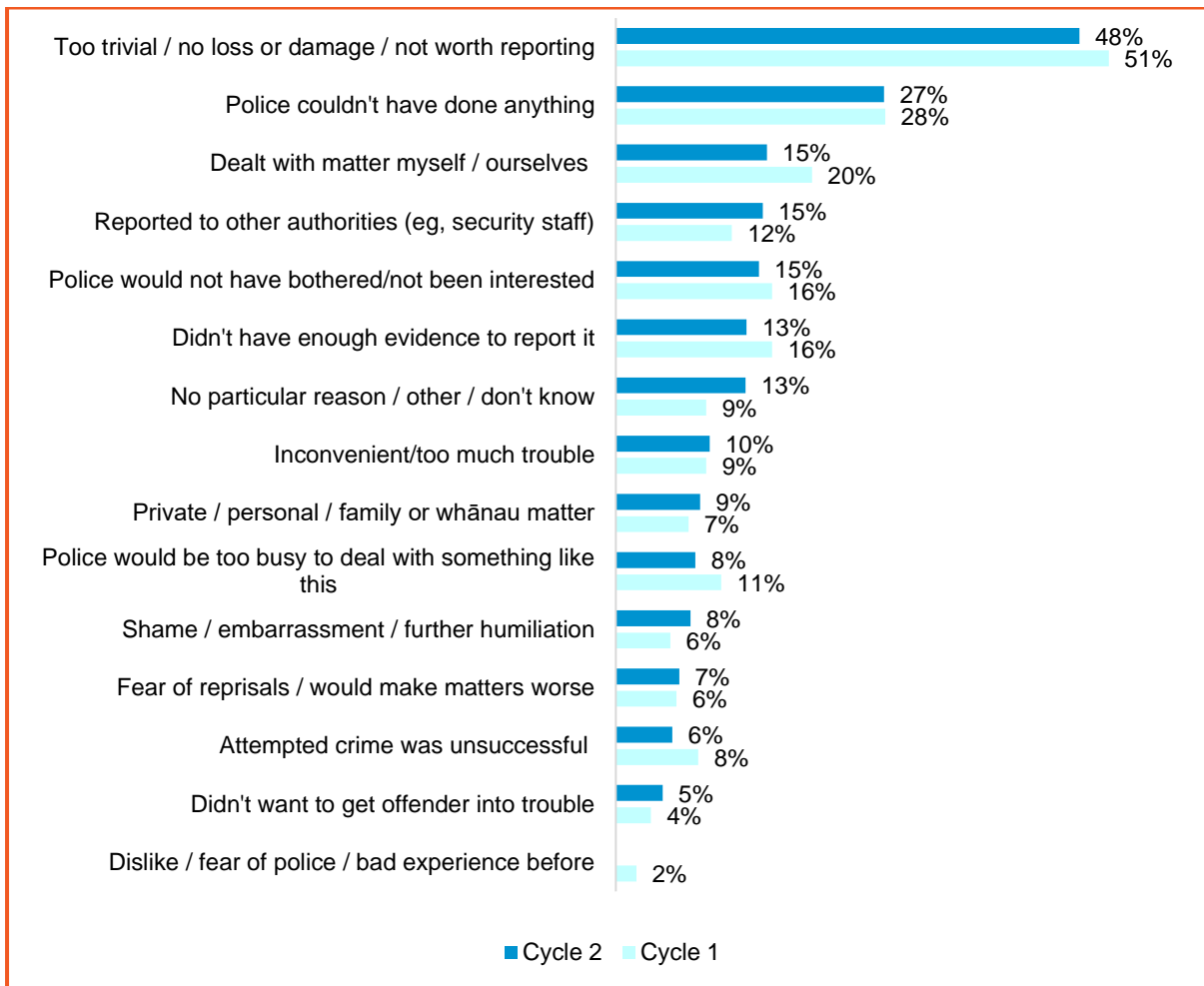


Figure 6.11: Reasons for not reporting incidents to the Police over time – all offences

However, there were significant decreases in reasons for not reporting fraud and cybercrime incidents; specifically, people were less likely to cite reasons “Too trivial/no loss or damage/not worth reporting”, “Attempted crime was unsuccessful” and “Dealt with matter myself/ourselves” in Cycle 2 compared with Cycle 1 (see Figure 6.12).

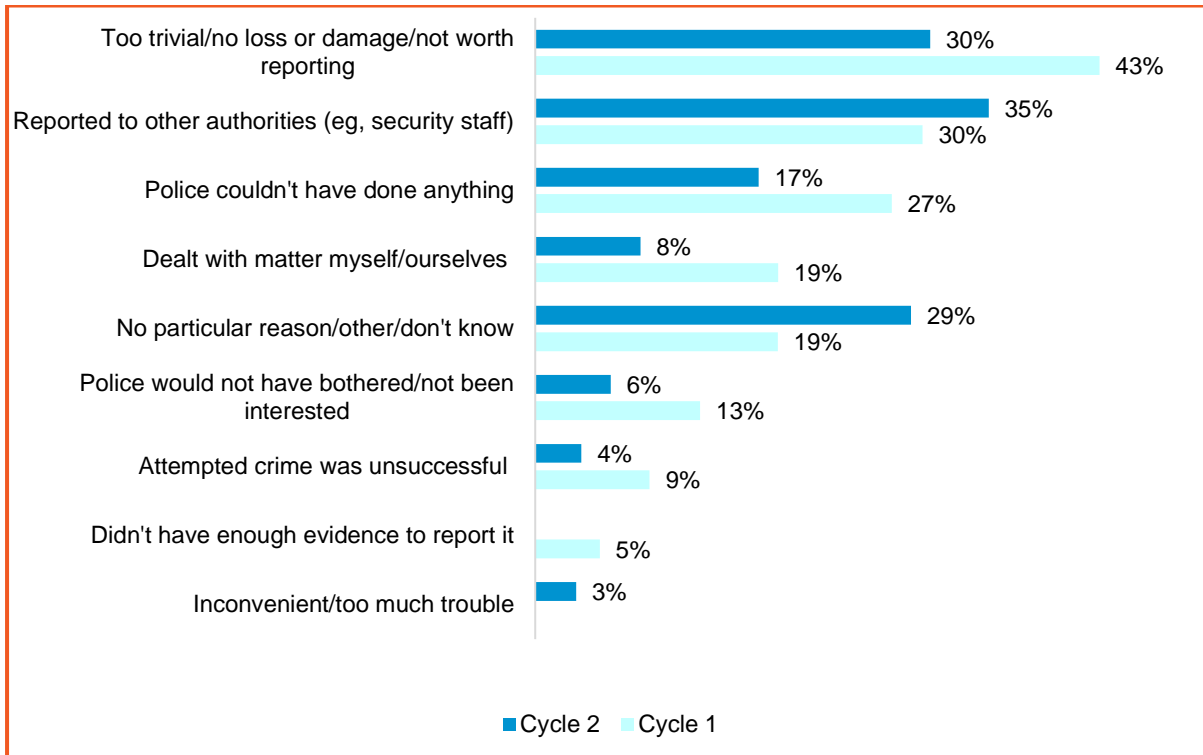


Figure 6.12: Reasons for not reporting incidents to the Police over time – fraud and cybercrime

Reasons for not reporting to the Police by offence type (pooled data)

Because there was little overall difference between cycles, we looked at reasons for reporting by offence type using pooled data to more clearly show differences in reasons for not reporting by offence type.

For all offence types, the most common reason for not reporting incidents to the Police was “Too trivial/no loss or damage/not worth reporting”. This reason was significantly more likely to be used for not reporting vehicle offences, burglary, trespass and theft and damage offences (see Figure 6.13).¹⁴

¹⁴ Note that statistical significance depends not only on the difference between estimates but also on the sample size, so the same difference may be statistically significant for more frequent offences (e.g., burglary) and not statistically significant for less frequent offences (e.g., sexual assault).

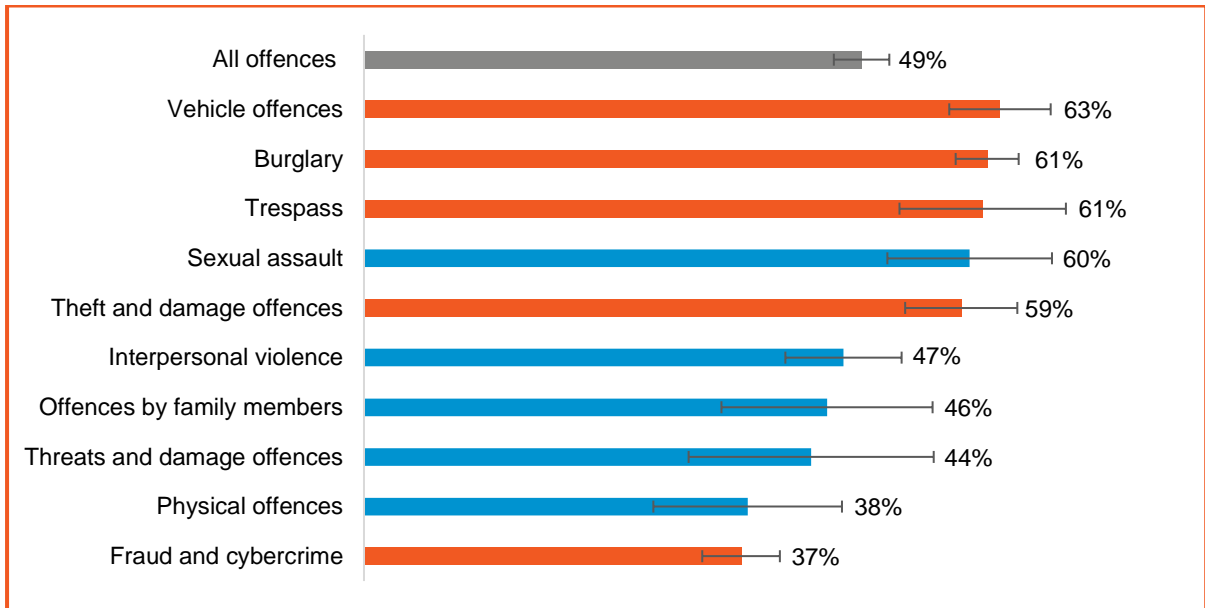


Figure 6.13: Percentage of incidents that were not reported to the Police because they were “Too trivial/no loss or damage/not worth reporting”, by offence type

The reasons “Police couldn’t have done anything” and “Didn’t have enough evidence to report it” were also significantly more likely to be used for not reporting vehicle offences and burglary offences (see Figure 6.14 and Figure 6.15).

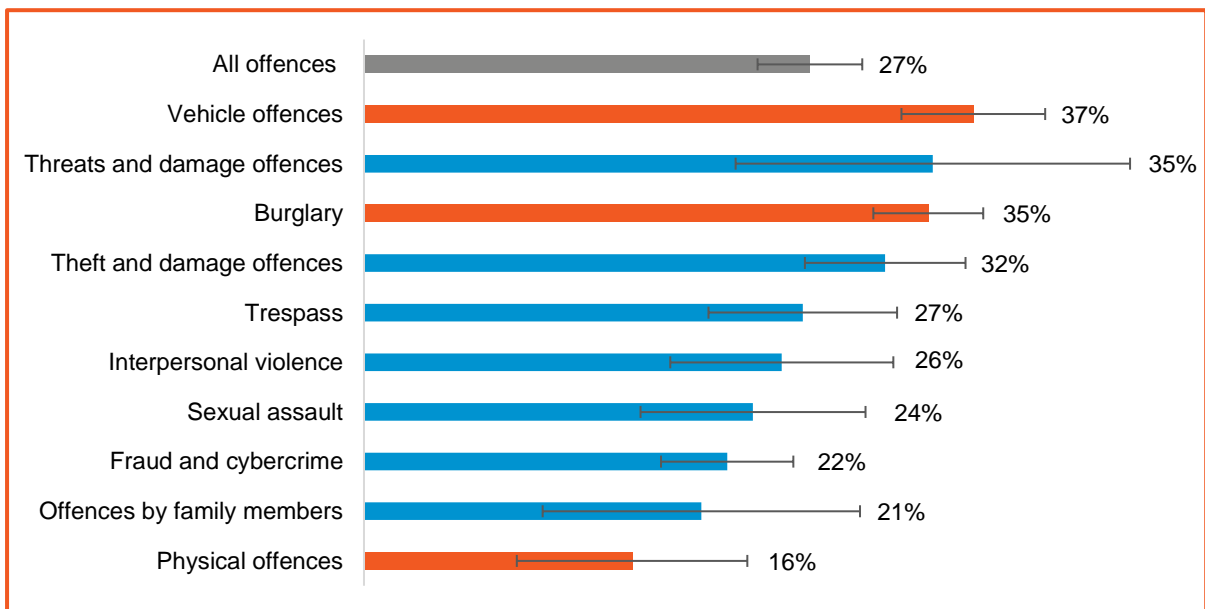


Figure 6.14: Percentage of incidents that were not reported to the Police because “Police couldn’t have done anything”, by offence type

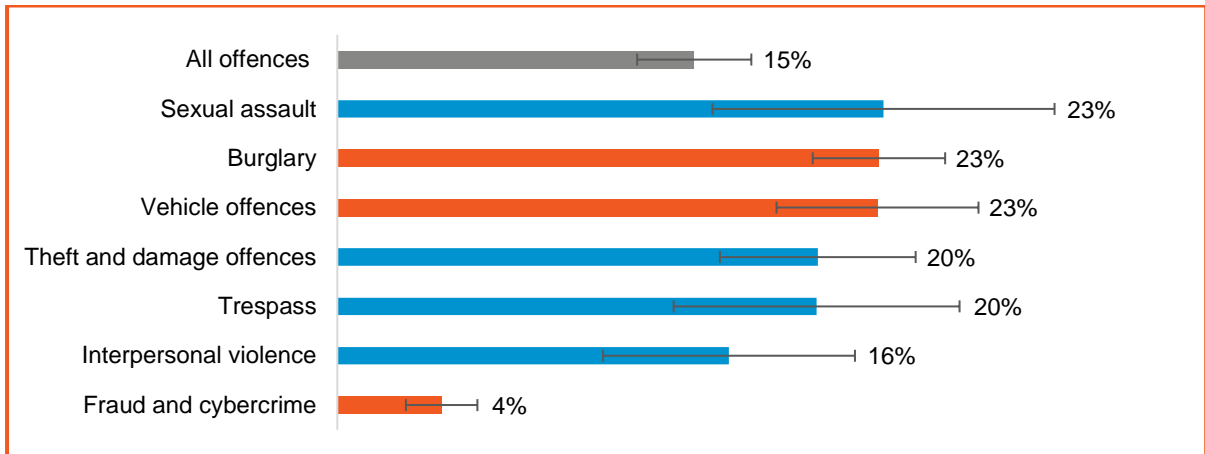


Figure 6.15: Percentage of incidents that were not reported to the Police because the victim “Didn’t have enough evidence to report it”, by offence type

In contrast, the reasons “Shame/embarrassment/further humiliation”, “Dealt with matter myself/ourselves” and “Fear of reprisals/would make matters worse” were significantly more likely to be given for not reporting interpersonal violence and sexual assault incidents (see Figure 6.16, Figure 6.17 and Figure 6.18).

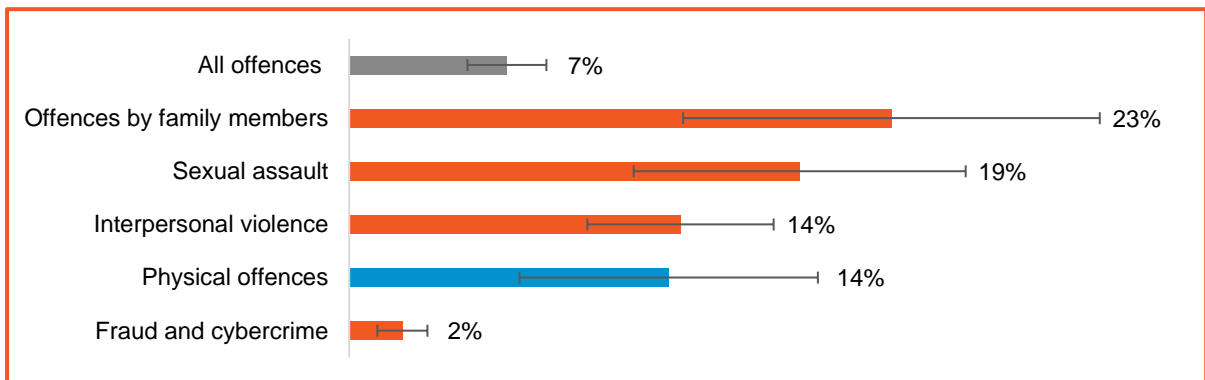


Figure 6.16: Percentage of incidents that were not reported to the Police because of “Shame/embarrassment/further humiliation”, by offence type

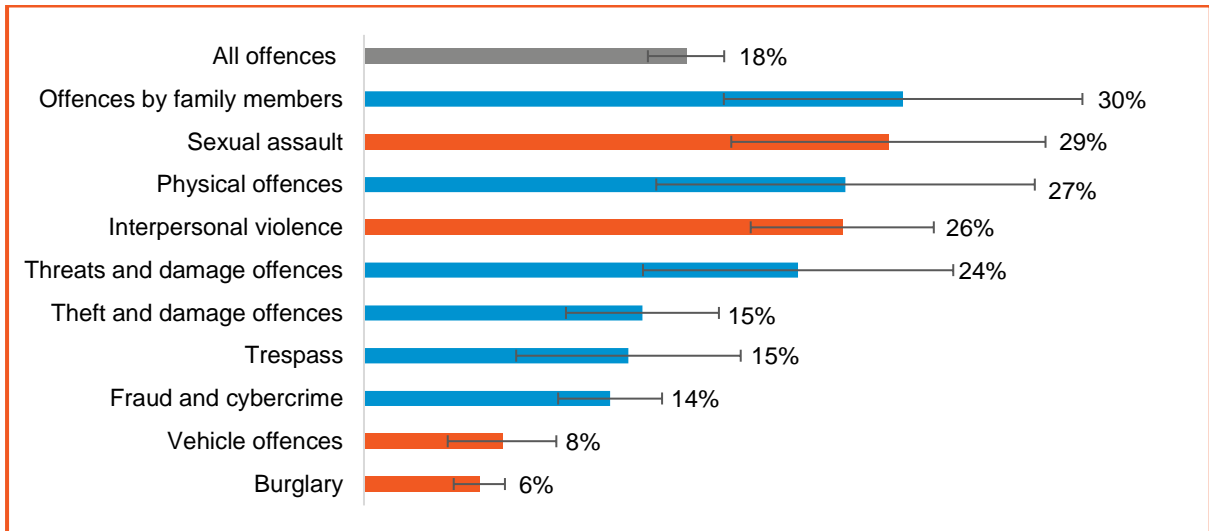


Figure 6.17: Percentage of incidents that were not reported to the Police because the victim “Dealt with matter myself/ourselves”, by offence type

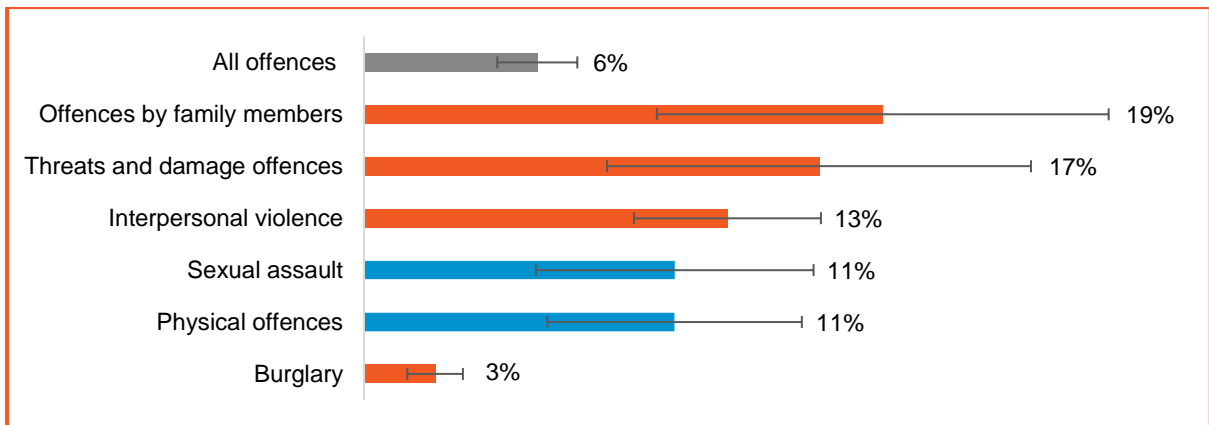


Figure 6.18: Percentage of incidents that were not reported to the Police because of “Fear of reprisals/would make matters worse”, by offence type

The reason “Reported to other authorities (e.g., superiors, company security staff)” was significantly more likely to be given for not reporting fraud and cybercrime incidents (see Figure 6.19).

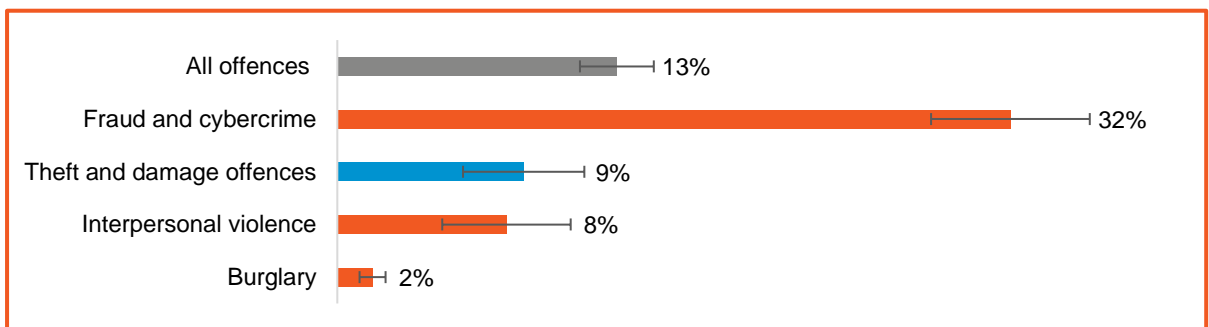


Figure 6.19: Percentage of incidents that were not reported to the Police because they were “Reported to other authorities (e.g., superiors, security staff)”, by offence type

The second most common cited reason for not reporting offences by family members was “Private/personal/family or whānau matter”, followed by “Dealt with matter myself/ourselves”, “Shame/embarrassment/further humiliation”, “Police couldn’t have done anything”, “Fear of reprisals/would make matters worse” and “Didn’t want to get offender into trouble” (see Figure 6.20).



Figure 6.20: Reasons for not reporting offences by family members to the Police

7 Distribution of crime

What is included in this section?

This section discusses the distribution of crime – that is, how much crime was experienced by how many people. These analyses can tell us whether crime is distributed evenly across victims or whether some victims experience a disproportionate amount of crime. We measure the distribution of crime in two ways: by the level of multiple victimisation and the level of repeat victimisation.

Multiple victimisation occurs when someone has been the victim of crime more than once regardless of the type of offence (for example, someone might have been assaulted, had their car stolen and had their house burgled all within the same 12 months).

Repeat victimisation is when someone has been the victim of the same offence more than once (for example, two or more burglaries).

In this section we look at multiple and repeat victimisation for Cycle 2 (2018/19), changes in multiple or repeat victimisation over time, and the demographic factors associated with high levels of victimisation.

What did we find?

- Thirty-seven percent of victims experienced two or more incidents within the last 12 months.
- Victims who experienced multiple incidents within the last 12 months experienced the majority (70%) of all crime incidents.
- Two percent of New Zealand adults experienced one third of all crime incidents.
- There was little difference in the percentage of adults or victims who experienced two or more incidents across all levels of multiple victimisation between Cycle 1 and Cycle 2. No statistically significant difference was observed.
- People who experienced five or more incidents within 12 months experienced a lower overall proportion of incidents in Cycle 2 (33%) compared with Cycle 1 (40%).
- Interpersonal violence was the most repeated type of offence, with 74% of all interpersonal violence incidents occurring as part of a chain of two or more incidents within a 12-month period.
- Vehicle offences were the most common one-off incidents, with 82% of vehicle offence incidents occurring as one-off events.
- One percent of New Zealand adults experienced over half of all interpersonal violence incidents.

- Across Cycle 1 and Cycle 2, the groups significantly more likely to be highly victimised (i.e., experience four or more crimes within a 12-month period) were:
 - younger (aged 20–29)
 - Māori
 - living in a sole-parent household
 - living in the most deprived areas (NZDep2013 decile 10)
 - experiencing high levels of financial pressure
 - experiencing a moderate or high level of psychological distress
 - having low life satisfaction
 - having a low feeling of safety.
- Across Cycles 1 and 2, the groups significantly less likely to be highly victimised were:
 - older (aged 65 years and over)
 - Asian
 - living in a couple-only household
 - not experiencing financial stress
 - not psychologically distressed
 - experiencing high levels of life satisfaction
 - experiencing a high feeling of safety.

7.1 Multiple victimisation

As shown in Table 7.1, in Cycle 2 most New Zealand adults (70%) did not experience any crimes within the last 12 months, whereas 30% experienced one incident or more.

Of those 30% who experienced crime, the majority (63%) experienced one incident, with the remaining 37% experiencing two or more incidents.

Those who experienced multiple incidents experienced the majority (70%) of all crime incidents, whereas those who experienced one incident experienced 30% of all crime incidents.

Table 7.1: Number of New Zealand adults, percentage of adults, percentage of victims and percentage of overall incidents by the number of incidents experienced

| Number of victimisations | Number of adults 000s | % of adults | % of victims | % of incidents |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|
| None | 2752 | 70 | | |
| One | 765 | 19 | 63 | 30 |
| Two | 225 | 6 | 19 | 18 |
| Three | 100 | 3 | 8 | 12 |
| Four | 37 | 1 | 3 | 6 |
| Five or more | 81 | 2 | 7 | 33 |

As shown in Figure 7.1 and Figure 7.2, those who experienced five or more incidents make up 2% of adults (or 7% of victims) but experienced 33% of all crime incidents.

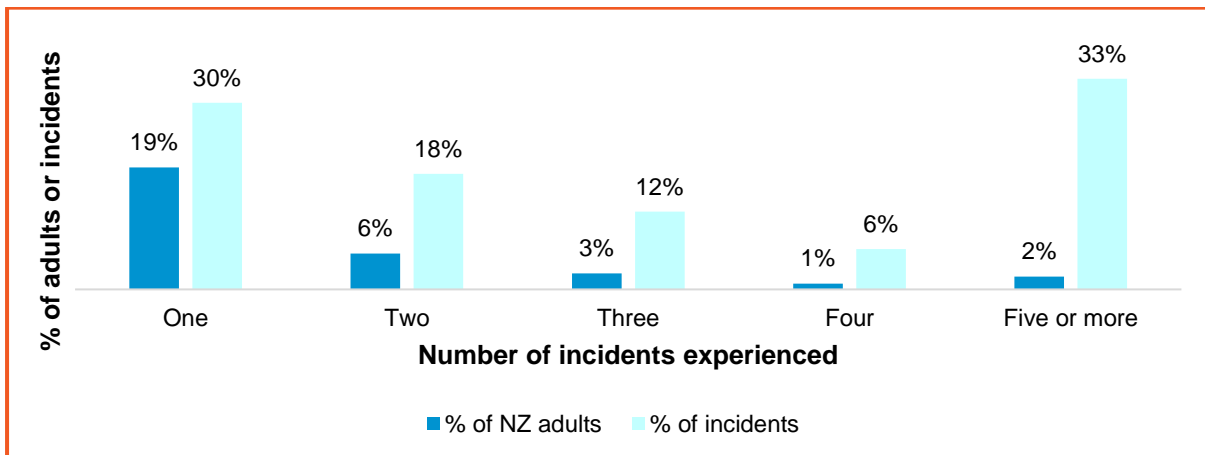


Figure 7.1: Percentage of New Zealand adults and percentage of incidents experienced, by number of times victimised

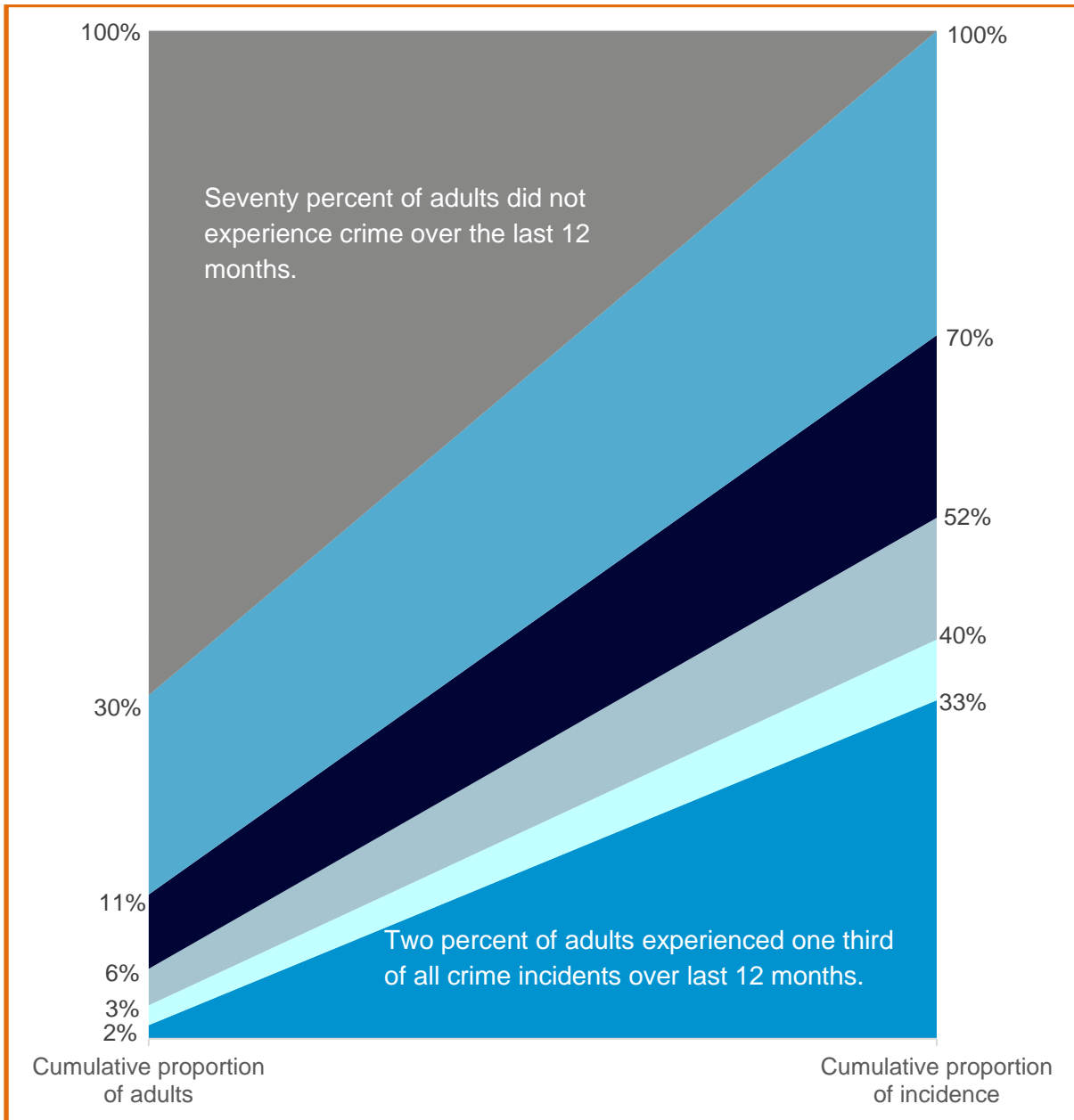


Figure 7.2: Concentration of victimisation in New Zealand

7.2 Changes in multiple victimisation between Cycle 1 and Cycle 2

Across the two cycles there was little difference in the percentage of adults who experienced two or more incidents within the last 12 months across all levels of multiple victimisation (see Figure 7.3). No statistically significant differences were observed.

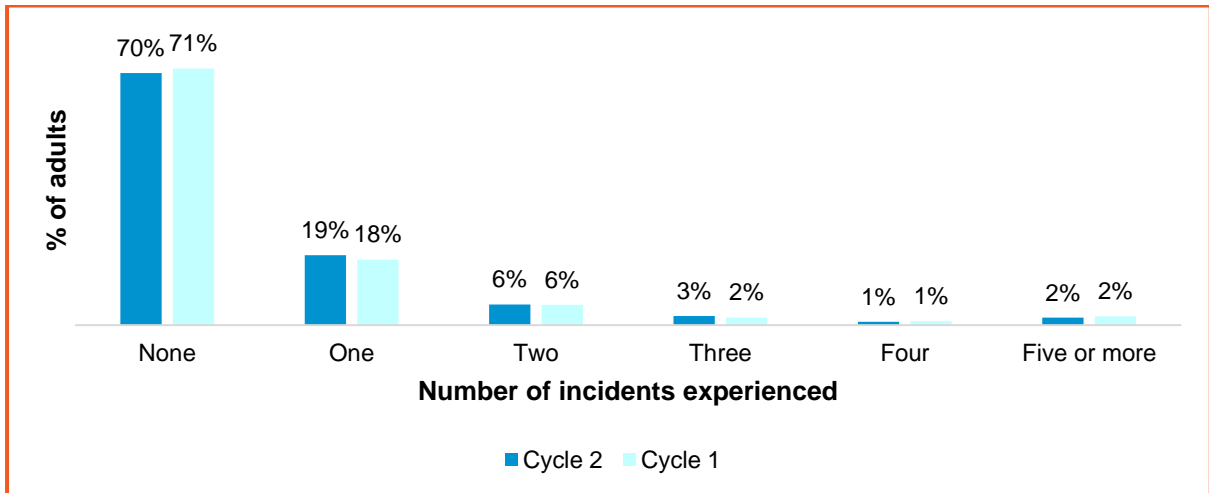


Figure 7.3: Percentage of New Zealand adults, by number of victimisations across Cycle 1 and Cycle 2

Similarly, there was little difference in the percentage of victims who experienced two or more incidents across all levels of multiple victimisation (see Figure 7.4).

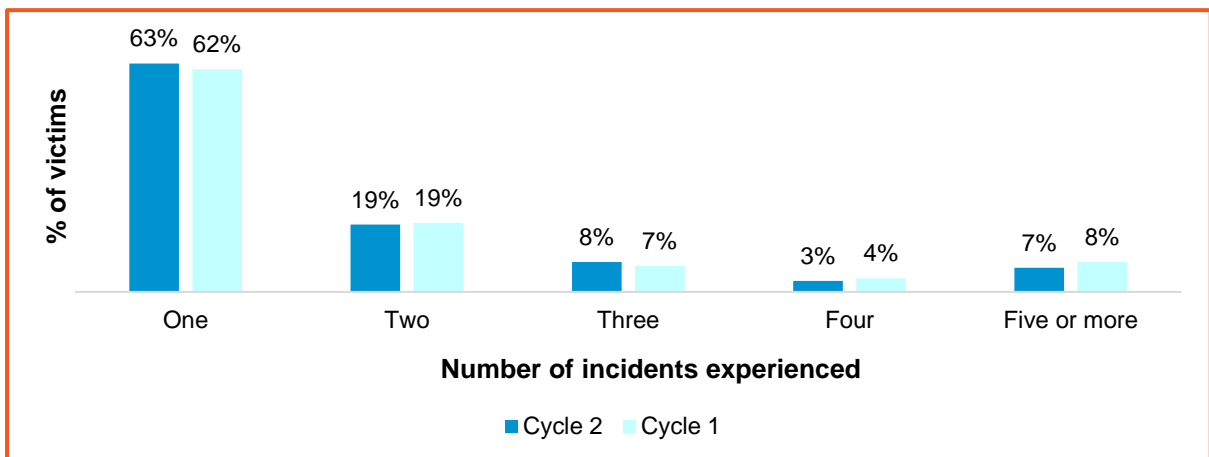


Figure 7.4: Percentage of victims, by number of victimisations across Cycle 1 and Cycle 2

There was a small decrease in the overall proportion of multiple victimisations, from 73% in Cycle 1 to 70% in Cycle 2 (see Figure 7.5).

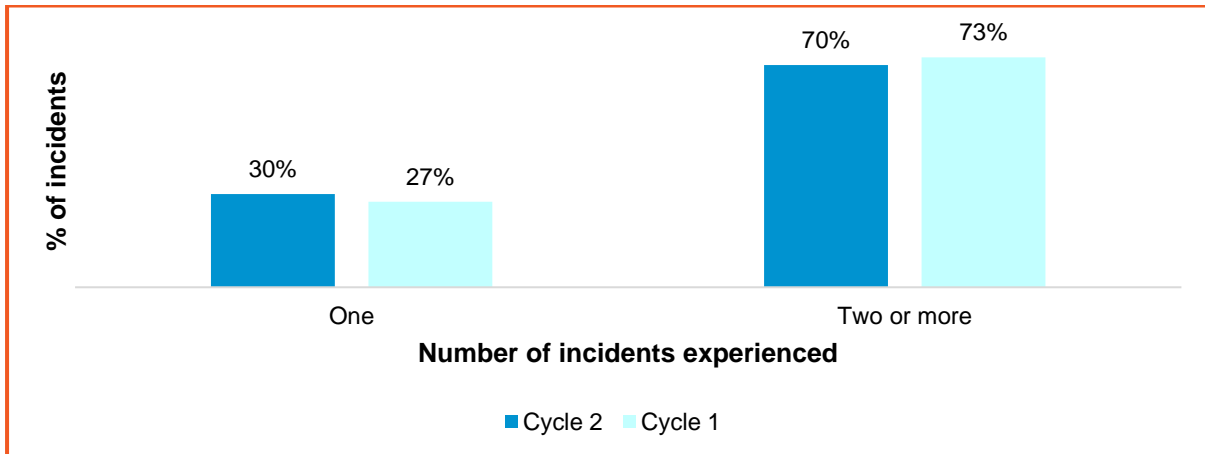


Figure 7.5: Percentage of multiple victimisation incidents, across Cycle 1 and Cycle 2

This overall decrease between cycles mostly resulted from the decrease in the highest level of multiple victimisation, with those who experienced five or more incidents experiencing a lower proportion of incidents in Cycle 2 (33%) compared with Cycle 1 (40%).

In contrast, those who experienced between one and three incidents experienced a higher proportion of incidents in Cycle 2 (60%) compared with Cycle 1 (53%). None of these changes were statistically significant (see Figure 7.6).

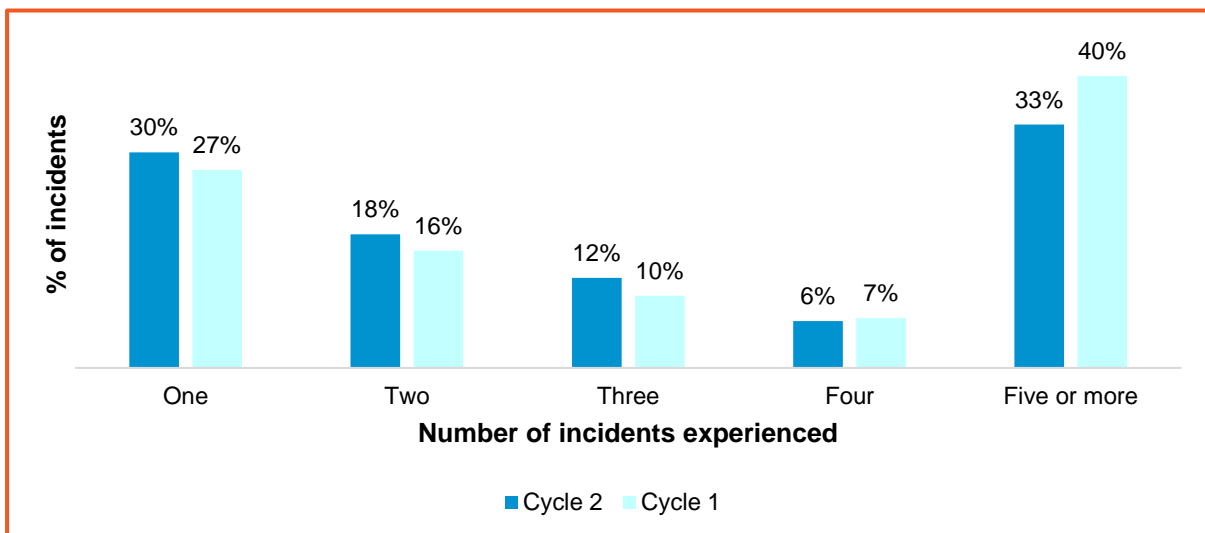



Figure 7.6: Percentage of incidents, by number of victimisations across Cycle 1 and Cycle 2



The **most highly victimised** adults saw a **7%** decrease in the proportion of incidents experienced between Cycle 1 and Cycle 2.

7.3 Repeat victimisation

Interpersonal violence was the most repeated type of offence, with 74% of interpersonal violence incidents occurring as part of a chain of two or more incidents within a 12-month period, whereas the other 26% of interpersonal violence incidents were one-off events (see Figure 7.7).

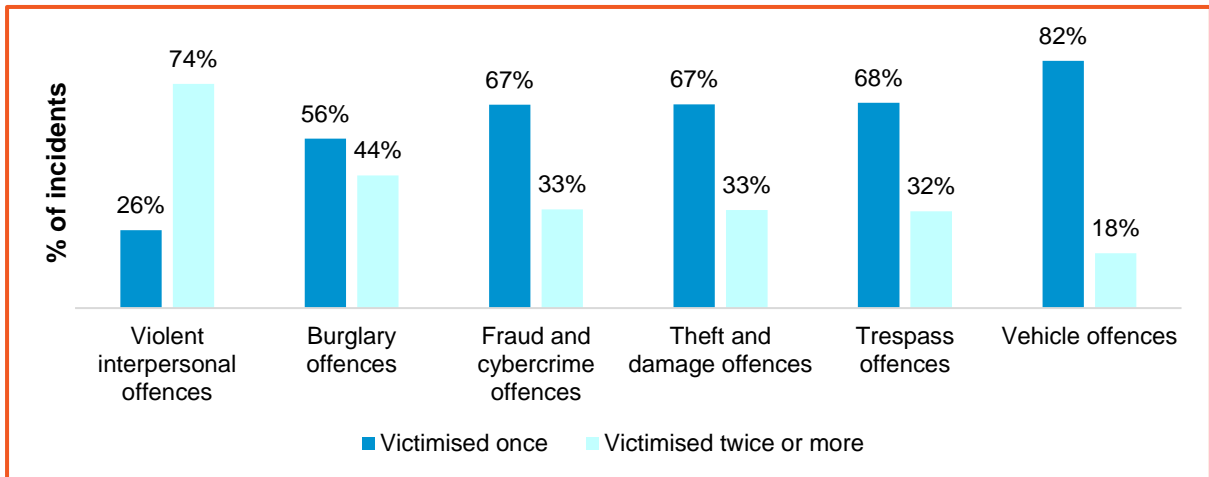
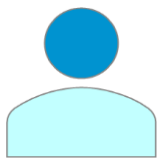


Figure 7.7: Percentage of incidents, by number of victimisations across broad offence types

Over half (53%) of interpersonal violence incidents occurred as part of a chain of four or more incidents within a 12-month period.

Burglary was the second most repeated type of offence, with 44% of burglaries occurring as part of a chain of two or more incidents and 56% occurring as one-off events (see Figure 7.7).

Vehicle offences were the most common type of one-off incidents, with 82% of vehicle offence incidents occurring as one-off events and 18% occurring as part of a chain of two or more incidents.



One percent of New Zealand adults experienced **over half** of all interpersonal violence incidents.

7.4 Changes in repeat victimisation between Cycle 1 and Cycle 2

As shown in Figure 7.8, patterns of repeat victimisation were consistent across cycles. Although Cycle 1 had higher proportions of repeat victimisation compared with Cycle 2 for all broad offence types, the difference is not statistically significant.

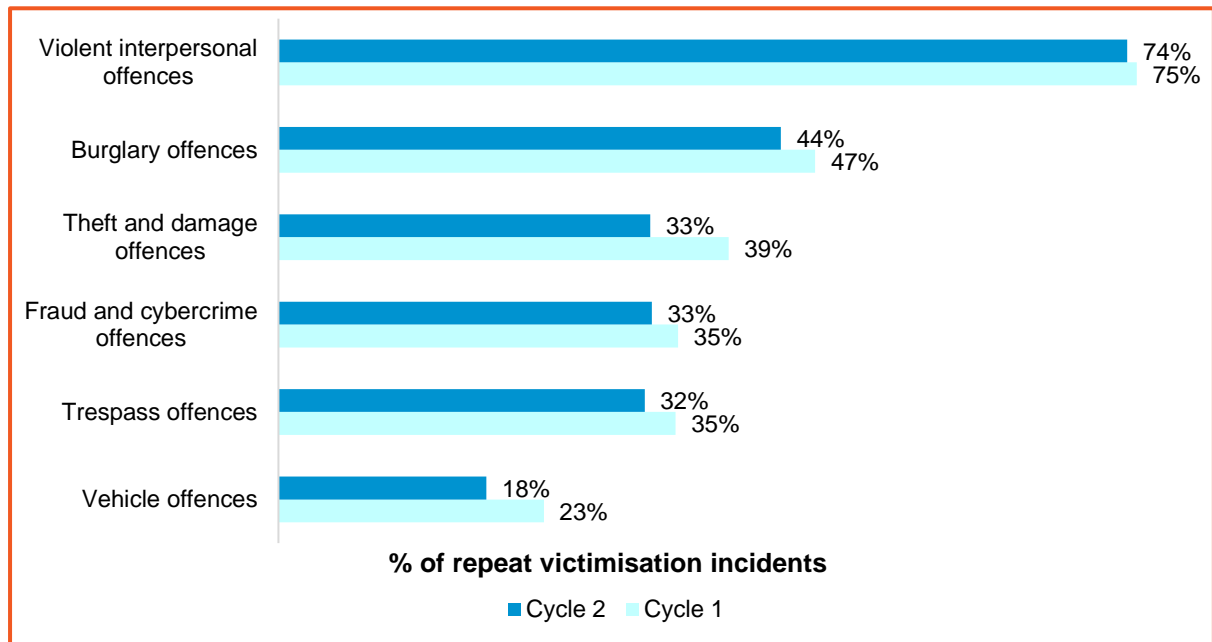


Figure 7.8: Percentage of repeat incidents, by broad offence type across Cycle 1 and Cycle 2

7.5 Multiple victimisation by demographic factors

Because there was little overall difference in the proportion of adults/victims who experienced multiple incidents between cycles, we looked at demographic differences in multiple victimisation using pooled data to reduce error and better identify demographic differences in multiple victimisation. Because victimisation patterns were reasonably consistent across all levels of multiple victimisation, this subsection will mostly focus on the demographics of those who were the most highly victimised: those who experienced four or more incidents within a 12-month period.

As shown in Figure 7.9, several demographic factors were significantly associated with being highly victimised. Specifically, the groups significantly more likely to be highly victimised were:

- younger (aged 20–29)
- Māori

- living in a sole-parent household
- living in the most deprived areas (NZDep2013 decile 10)
- experiencing high levels of financial pressure
- having a moderate or high level of psychological distress
- having low life satisfaction and a low feeling of safety.



Figure 7.9: Proportion of adults highly victimised significantly more than the NZ average, by demographic factors

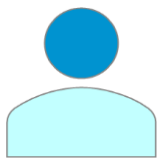
In contrast, as shown in Figure 7.10, the groups significantly less likely to be highly victimised were:

- older (aged 65 and over)
- Asian
- living in a couple-only household

- not under financial pressure
- not psychology distressed
- having high life satisfaction and a high feeling of safety.



Figure 7.10: Proportion of adults highly victimised significantly less than the NZ average, by demographic factors.



Māori were **more than twice** as likely to be highly victimised compared to the New Zealand average.

8 Perceptions of crime

In this section we examine the perceptions of survey respondents as to whether the incidents that happened to them were driven by discrimination, whether they would describe the incident as a crime, and how serious they viewed the incident to be.

What did we find?

- Interpersonal violence – sexual assault (82%), threats and damages (34%), and physical offences (assault and robbery) (34%) – were the most common offence types to be considered by the victim as having been driven by discrimination, compared with 25% of offences overall.
- Victims within some population groups were significantly more likely to report that incidents were driven by discrimination. For example, 23% of victims of Asian ethnicity felt the incidents that happened to them were driven by discrimination towards their race, ethnicity or nationality, compared with 7% of victims overall.
- Two thirds (65%) of all incidents were described by the victim as a crime, but only one third (35%) of interpersonal violence offences were considered as crime.
- The perceived seriousness of sexual assaults is slightly more skewed towards a low level of seriousness than other forms of interpersonal violence.

8.1 One quarter of offences were seen as driven by discriminatory attitudes

The NZCVS asks survey respondents whether they believe the incidents they experienced happened, at least partly, because the offender's attitudes towards the following attributes of themselves:

- race, ethnicity or nationality
- sexuality or sexual orientation
- age
- sex
- religious/ethical beliefs or political opinion
- disability (if applicable).

In data pooled from Cycle 1 (2018) and Cycle 2 (2019) of the NZCVS, these discriminatory attitudes were perceived to have driven 25% of all incidents, 32% of personal incidents, and 9% of household incidents. For this section of the report, results are drawn from pooled data from two cycles of the NZCVS to reduce the margin of error, enabling breakdowns by form of discrimination and population groups. There was no statistical difference in the overall rate of discrimination between cycles.



One third of personal offences were thought to have been motivated by **discriminatory attitudes**.

Survey respondents were more likely to report that the incident was driven by discrimination for some offence types than others (Figure 8.1). The three offence types that make up interpersonal violence – sexual assault (80%), threats and damages (40%) and physical offences (36%) – were those most likely to be seen as driven by discrimination.

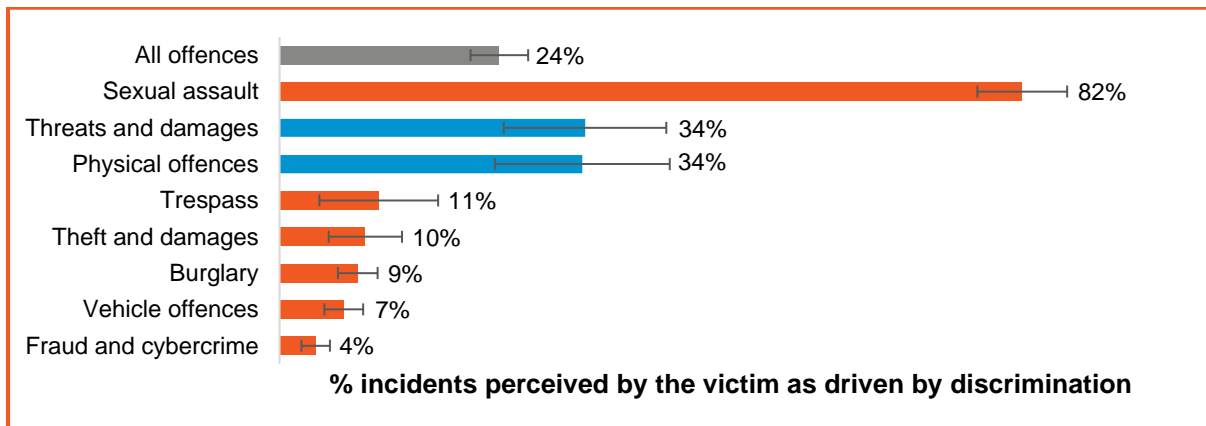


Figure 8.1: Percentage of incidents perceived by the victim as driven by discrimination, by offence type (pooled data)

Victims were most likely to feel that incidents happened because of the offender’s attitudes towards their sex (14%), followed by attitudes towards their race and/or religion (9%) (Figure 8.2). These results are for all victims, but perceived discrimination towards different personal characteristics is more common for some victim groups than others.

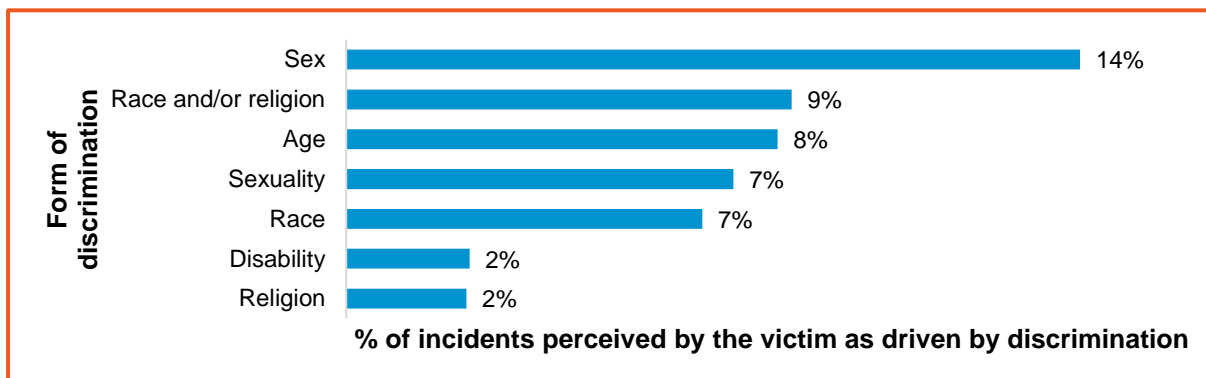


Figure 8.2: Percentage of incidents perceived by the victim as driven by discrimination, by form of discrimination (pooled data)

Note: The category labelled as sexuality refers to sexuality or sexual orientation; race refers to race, ethnicity or nationality; and religion refers to religious/ethical beliefs or political opinion.

As noted above, four in five incidents of sexual assault (82%) were motivated by discriminatory attitudes. Much of this was driven by discrimination towards their sex (68%) or their sexuality or sexual orientation (41%).

Some forms of discrimination were significantly more common drivers of crime among particular groups of victims. Victims in the youngest (15–19 and 20–29 years) and oldest (65 years and over) age groups were the most likely to perceive the incidents they experienced as driven by discrimination towards their age, although only two groups (40–49 years old and 60–64 years old) demonstrated significant difference with the overall level (Figure 8.3).

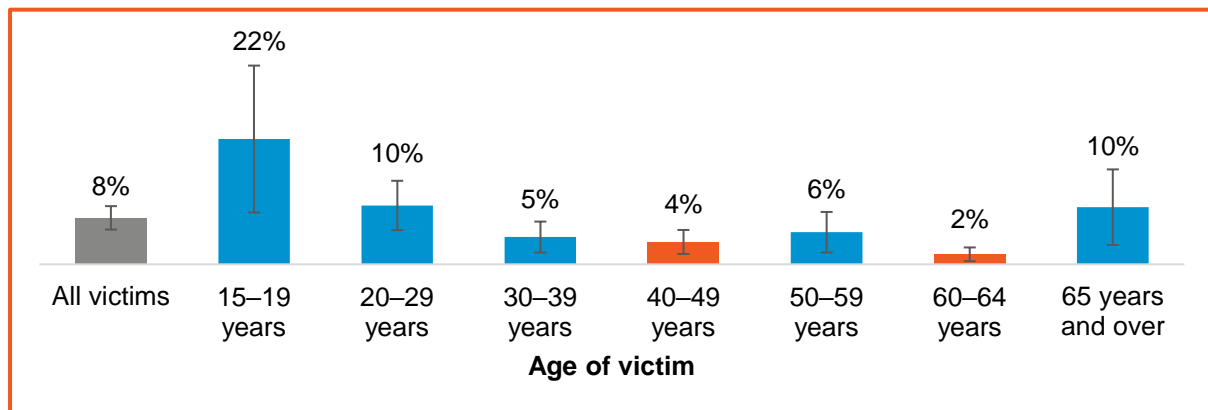


Figure 8.3: Percentage of incidents perceived by the victim as driven by discrimination towards their age, by age of victim (pooled data)

Victims of Asian ethnicity said the offender’s attitude towards their race, ethnicity or nationality was a driver in 23% of incidents compared with 7% of incidents experienced by all victims (

Figure 8.4). Though not significantly different from victims overall, Pacific peoples (13%) were significantly more likely than NZ Europeans (5%) to report that discrimination towards their race, ethnicity or nationality was a driver of the incidents they experienced.

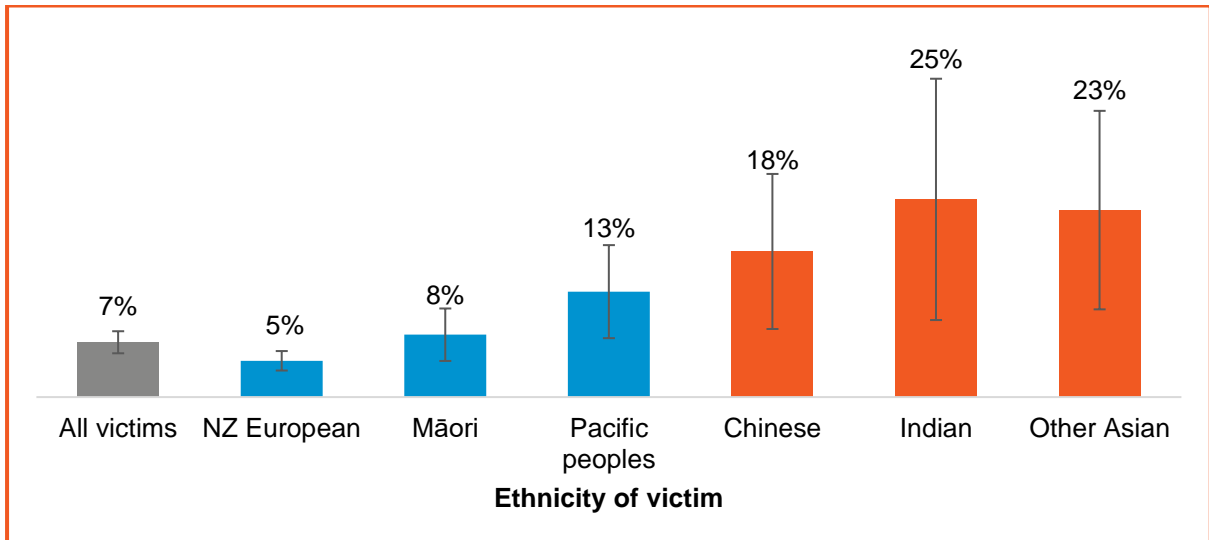


Figure 8.4: Percentage of incidents perceived by the victim as driven by discrimination towards their race, ethnicity or nationality, by victim ethnicity (pooled data)

The feeling that the incident happened because of the offender’s attitude towards their sex was more commonly reported by female victims (20%) than male victims (6%) (Figure 8.5). Gay, lesbian, bisexual, and other non-heterosexual victims said the offender’s attitude towards their sexuality or sexual orientation was a driver in one third (31%) of incidents that happened to them, compared with 7% of victims overall (Figure 8.6).

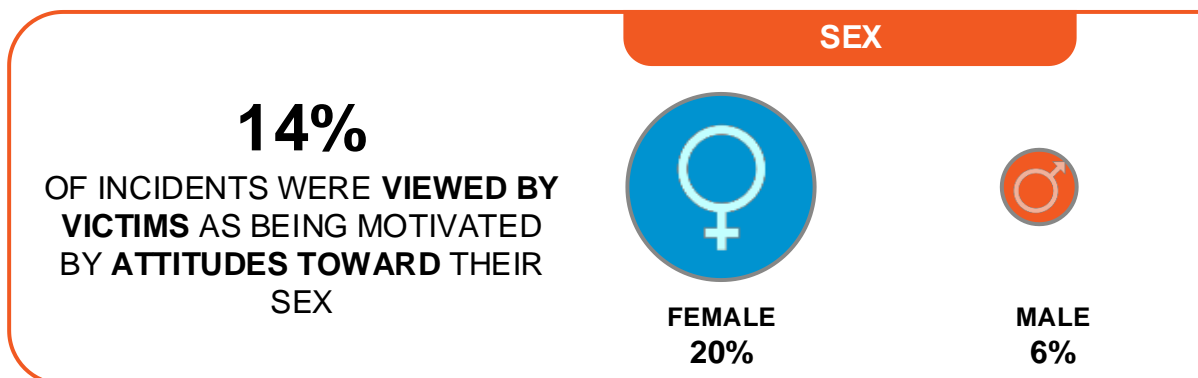


Figure 8.5: Percentage of incidents perceived by the victim as driven by discrimination towards their sex, by sex of victim (pooled data)

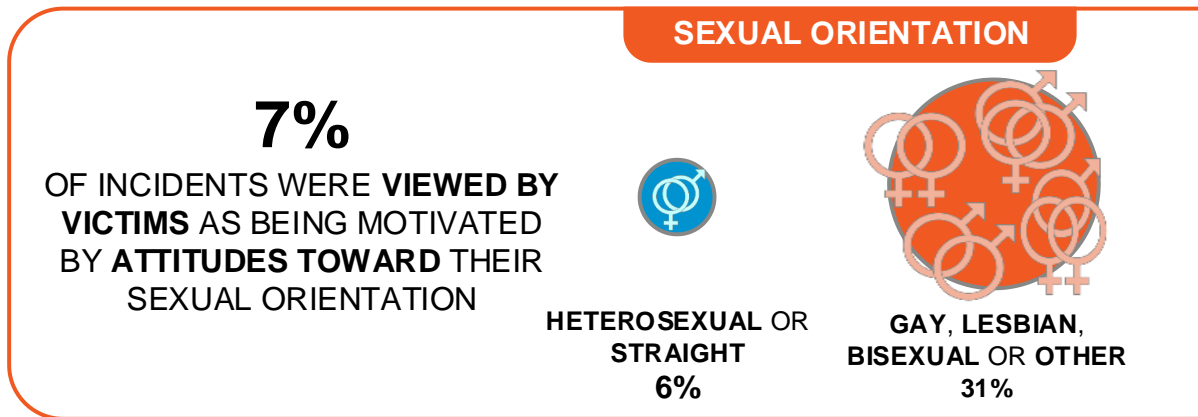


Figure 8.6: Percentage of incidents perceived by the victim as driven by discrimination towards their sexuality or sexual orientation, by sexual orientation of victim (pooled data)

The above results show that victims in some population groups were much more likely to feel that the crime they experienced was driven by discriminatory attitudes towards them.

8.2 Views of crime – in one third of incidents, the victim would not describe it as a crime

The NZCVS asks survey respondents whether they would describe the incidents they experienced as:

- a) a crime
- b) wrong, but not a crime, or
- c) just something that happens.

Note that all incidents included in our analysis are criminal offences according to the Crimes Act 1961. Here, we are examining the extent to which the victims recognised their experiences as crime. Results in this section are drawn from Cycle 2 (2019) of the NZCVS unless otherwise stated.

In two thirds of incidents, the victim described the incident as a crime. On the other hand, the incident was considered “wrong, but not a crime” in 19% of cases and “just something that happens” in 16% of cases (Figure 8.7).

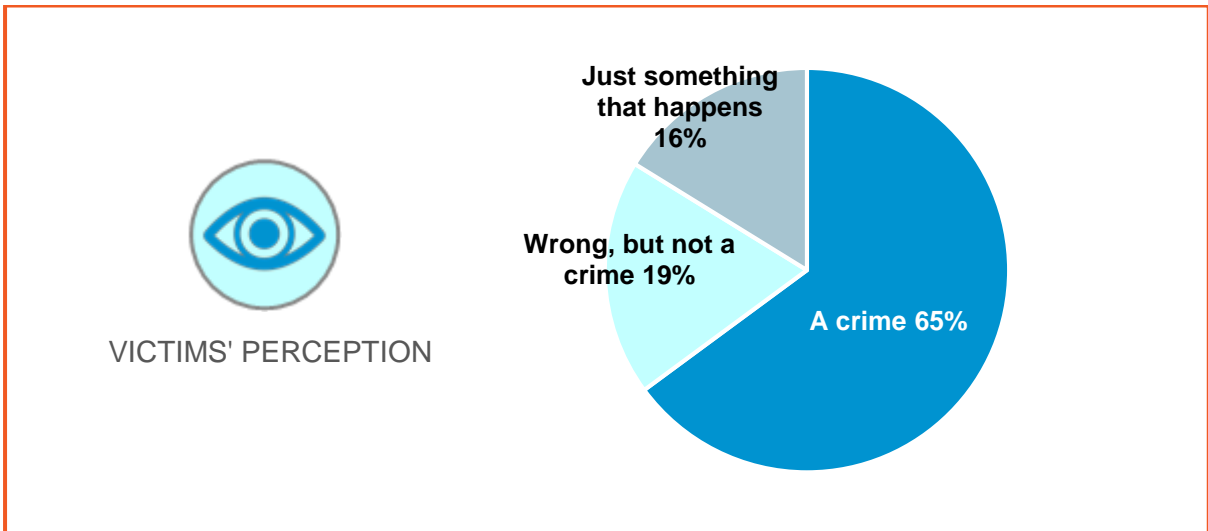


Figure 8.7: Perceptions of crime (Cycle 2)

No significant difference was observed in the views of crime in Cycle 2 compared with the previous NZCVS survey.

There were strong differences in the extent to which different types of offences were viewed as crime (Figure 8.8). Fraud and cybercrime was the offence group most commonly recognised by the victim as a crime (89%), followed by vehicle offences (87%) and burglary (85%). On the other hand, interpersonal violence offences were described as crime in only one third (35%) of incidents.

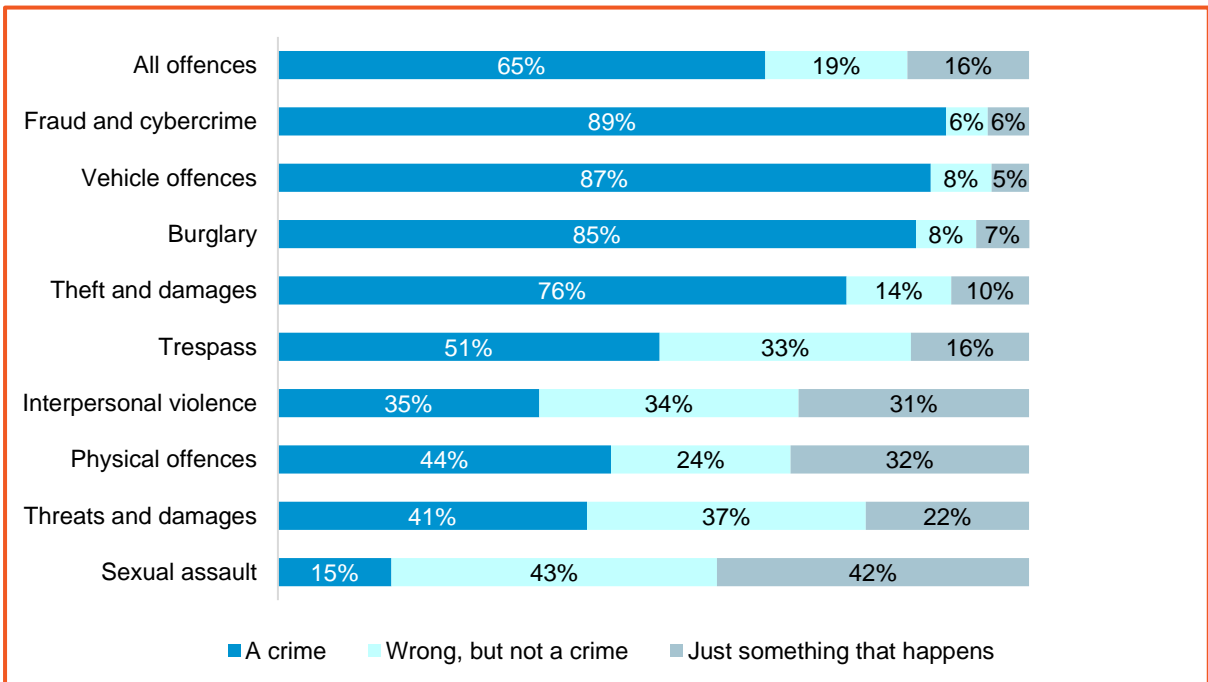


Figure 8.8: Victim perceptions of crime, by offence type (Cycle 2)

Victims' views of different interpersonal violence offences are summarised in Figure 8.9. Only 15% of sexual assaults were described by the victim as a crime. In contrast, 43% were considered “wrong, but not a crime” and a further 42% considered “just something that happens”.

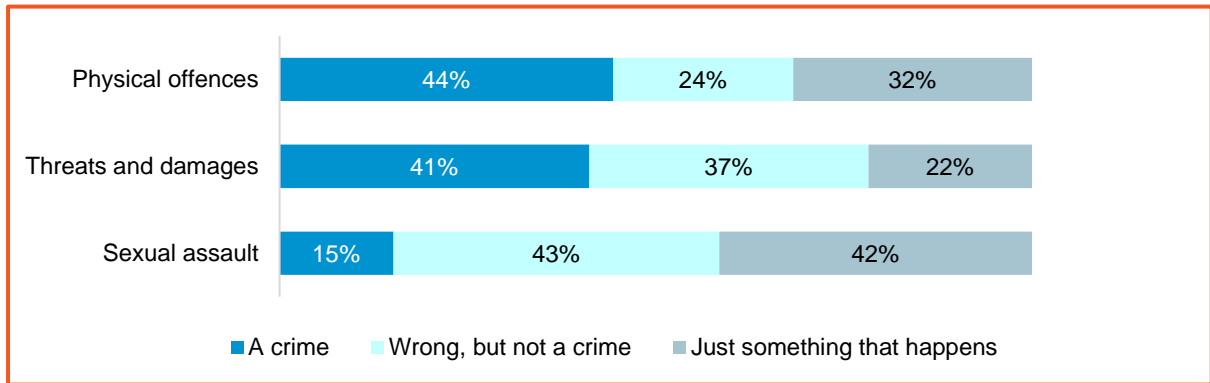
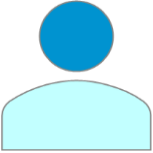


Figure 8.9: Victim perceptions of interpersonal violence offences, by offence type (Cycle 2)



4 in 10 sexual assaults were described by the victim as just something that happens.

Incidents that happened online or over the phone (80%) were more than twice as likely to be thought of as a crime than those that happened in the community (29%) (Figure 8.10). This result will be partially driven by the differences in the types (and severity) of crime that tend to happen in different locations.

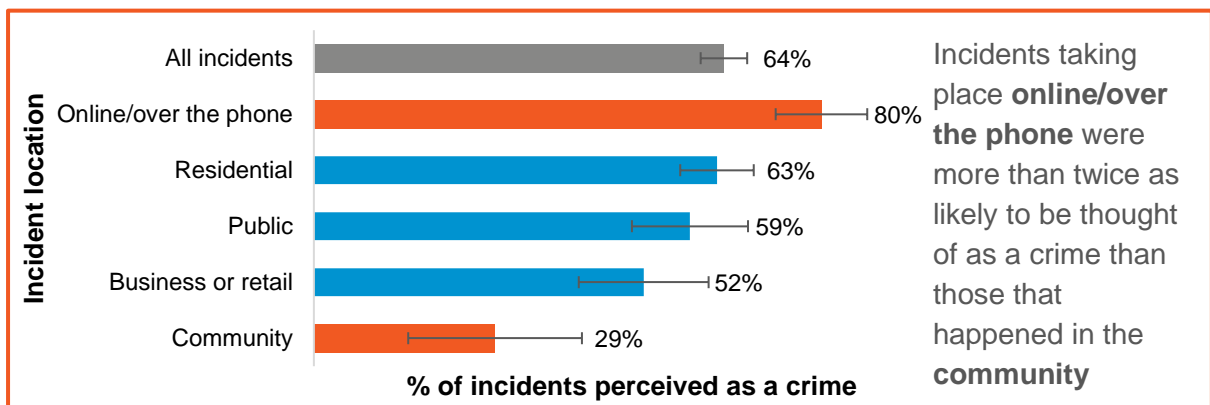


Figure 8.10: Percentage of incidents perceived as a crime, by incident location (Cycle 2)

The following graph (Figure 8.11) is based on pooled data (Cycle 1 and Cycle 2) of the NZCVS because of high margin of error on estimates for categories with small sample sizes.

This figure shows that survey respondents were more than twice as likely to describe incidents committed by an ex-partner as a crime than incidents committed by a current partner). This result may partly be driven by differences in the types (and severity) of offences that tend to take place in these different scenarios. However, the result could also reflect a tendency for victims to be more tolerant of offending by a current partner than a previous partner. Note that only incidents where the victim had contact with the offender or found out who the offender was can be attributed to an offender relationship.



Figure 8.11: Percentage of incidents perceived as a crime, by offender relationship (pooled data)

8.3 Perceived seriousness of crime – no strong differences across offence types

Survey respondents are asked to rank the seriousness of the incidents they experienced from 0 (not serious at all) to 10 (most serious). Figure 8.12 shows that 10% of incidents were perceived as not serious at all, and 17% of incidents are perceived as the most serious possible level.

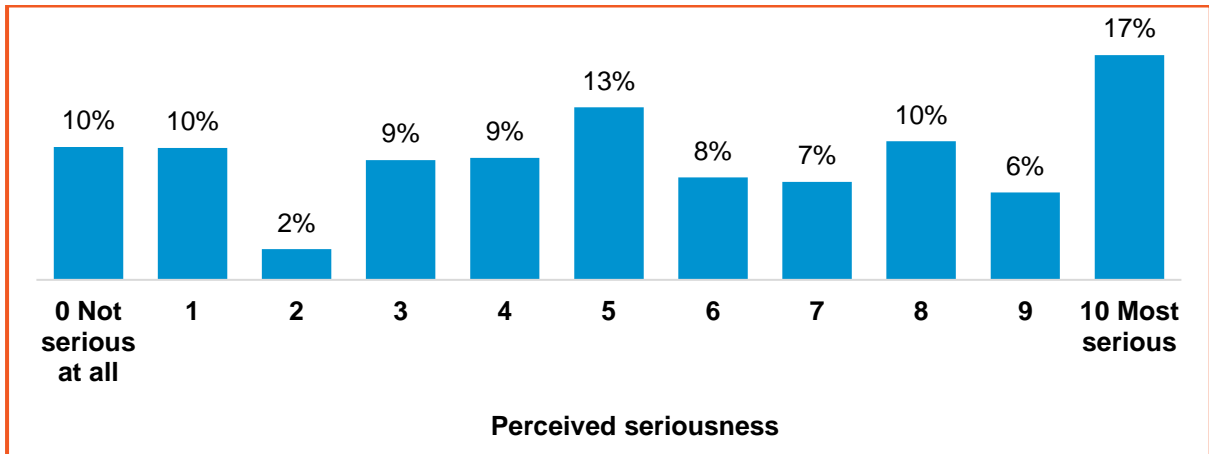


Figure 8.12: Perceived seriousness of incidents of crime (Cycle 2)

In general, we find little difference in the distribution of the perceived seriousness of incidents across offence types, though this could be because of different reference points people use when assessing the seriousness of different types of offences. Because of the challenge in presenting the distribution of seriousness across the 0–10 scale for all offence types, we present only the percentage of incidents perceived as “10 – Most serious” in Figure 8.13.

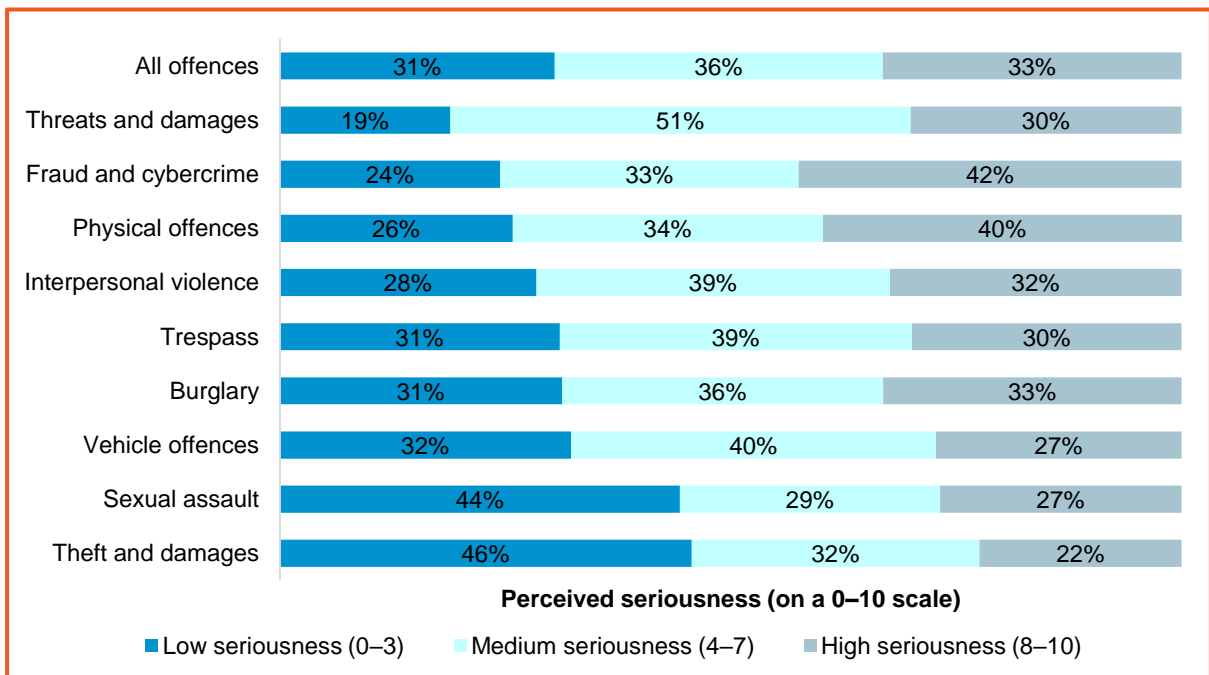


Figure 8.13: Perceived seriousness of incidents viewed by the victim (on a 0–10 scale) (Cycle 2)

Physical offences (assault (except sexual assault) and robbery) (22%) were the most likely offence type to be rated by the victim as “10 – Most serious”, followed by threats and damages (20%). On the other hand, theft and damages (10%) and vehicle offences (10%)

were the least likely offence types to be rated “10 – Most serious”. Figure 8.14 shows the full distribution of the perceived seriousness of interpersonal violence, by offence type.

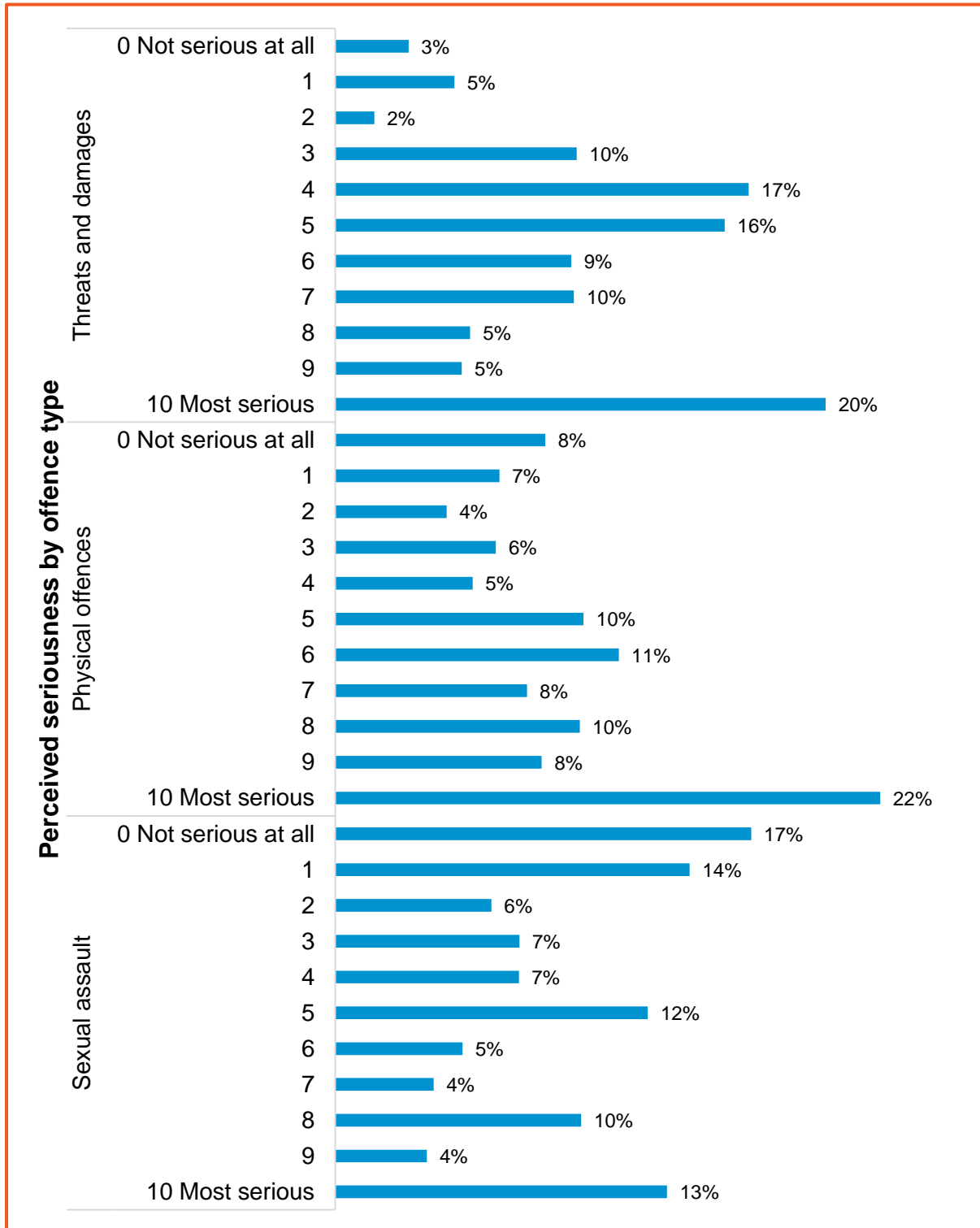


Figure 8.14: Perceived seriousness of interpersonal violence offences, by offence type (Cycle 2)

The perceived seriousness of sexual assaults is slightly more skewed towards a low level of seriousness than either threats and damages or physical offences. Seventeen percent of sexual assaults were rated as “0 – Not serious at all” compared with 3% of threats and damages and 8% of physical offences. This is in line with the finding above that sexual assaults were significantly less likely to be described by the victim as a crime, and more likely to be described as “just something that happens”. These findings, coupled with high rates of lifetime sexual violence reported in section 5.3, provide evidence of sexual violence behaviour being normalised in New Zealand communities.

Appendix: Brief survey methodology

Below is an overview of the key methodological aspects of the NZCVS. More details about how the NZCVS was conducted in 2018 can be found in the NZCVS methodology report.¹⁵

Table A1: Key features of the NZCVS methodology

| Key feature | Description |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Overview | Nationwide, face-to-face random probability survey, with one survey respondent selected per household using multistage stratified cluster sampling methods. |
| Target population | Total usually resident, non-institutionalised, civilian population of New Zealand aged 15 and over. |
| Sampled areas | North Island, South Island and Waiheke Island. |
| Dwellings included | Permanent, private dwellings. |
| Sample composition | Two samples were drawn as part of the NZCVS: a general or “main sample” and a Māori booster sample that aimed to increase sample size for Māori. |
| Sample size | Main sample: 5,515 |
| | Māori booster sample: 2,523 |
| | Total sample: 8,038 |
| Response rates | Main sample: 80% |
| | Māori booster sample: 79% |
| | Total sample: 80% |
| Interviewing period | 7 October 2018 to 30 September 2019 |
| Average interview length | 30 minutes and 57 seconds |
| Recall period | 12 months preceding the date of the interview ¹⁶ |

¹⁵ See the [methodology report](#).

¹⁶ While most questions use the recall period 12 months preceding the date of the interview, there were some that referred to a different period (e.g., the in-depth module questions on lifetime prevalence of sexual assault and offences by a partner).

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Coding crimes/offences | <p>In the NZCVS, questions were asked about different things (incidents) that might have happened to the survey respondent or their household. These incidents were then coded by legal experts to determine whether or not the incident was a crime, and what type of offence (or offences) occurred.</p> <p>Important: The NZCVS does not directly ask survey respondents about crimes that happened to them. This is because people don't always view some things that happen as crimes, and they may not know what acts are legally considered crimes and what aren't.</p> |
| Weighting | Two key types of weighting were applied: household weights and person weights. |
| Imputation | Missing income data was imputed using the nearest neighbour hot deck algorithm. Missing victim forms were imputed from the distribution of offence codes associated with the scenario that generated the incident. |

Survey structure and questionnaire

The NZCVS consists of a core module that includes crime and victimisation questions that repeat every year, and additional in-depth modules on different topical subjects that change from year to year. A family violence in-depth module was selected for Cycle 1, and a social wellbeing and institutional trust in-depth module was selected for Cycle 2. The survey design was developed after extended consultations with key stakeholders.

Depending on the sensitivity of the questions, the answers may be collected either through computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI), where interviewers enter respondents' answers into a laptop, or through computer-assisted self-interviewing (CASI), where respondents are handed the laptop and can enter their own responses. CASI is used for highly sensitive questions and CAPI for less sensitive ones.

The following table provides an outline of the questionnaire sections and the topics covered in each section.

Table A2: Topics covered in the NZCVS questionnaire

| Section | Questions | Interviewing mode |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Initial demographics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sex • age • partnership status • marital status • life satisfaction/feeling of safety | CAPI |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| CAPI victim screener questions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> household and personal offences screener questions (excludes interpersonal violence (including sexual violence), harassment and threatening behaviour) | CAPI |
| CASI victim screener questions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> interpersonal violence (includes sexual violence), harassment and threatening behaviour | CASI |
| Lifetime prevalence | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> lifetime experience of sexual assault/IPV | CASI |
| General victim form questions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> same/series of offences date of offence incident description location of offence contact with the offender existence of Protection, Restraining, or Police Safety Orders offender's attitude towards victim's race, sexuality, age, sex, religion and disability cost of crime insurance time off work reporting to Police injury and weapon use perceptions of seriousness of incident | CAPI for incidents relating to CAPI screeners and CASI for incidents relating to CASI screeners |
| Social wellbeing and institutional trust in-depth module | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> social wellbeing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> social connectedness social trust perceived safety neighbourhood/local area institutional trust (criminal justice system (CJS)) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> system legitimacy trust in the CJS confidence in the CJS values and purpose of the CJS contact with the CJS | CAPI |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>Main demographics</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gender identity • sexual identity • income • financial stress • household composition • ethnicity • functional difficulties • psychological distress • employment status • housing and tenure | <p>CAPI (with the exception of gender and sexual identity and income, which are administered CASI)</p> |
| <p>Exit and re-contact questions</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • re-contact for audit • future research consent • data linking • interviewer observations • respondent burden assessment | <p>CAPI</p> |

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