

## CRIME AND SAFETY, QUEENSLAND, APRIL 1995

### MAIN FEATURES

#### Notes

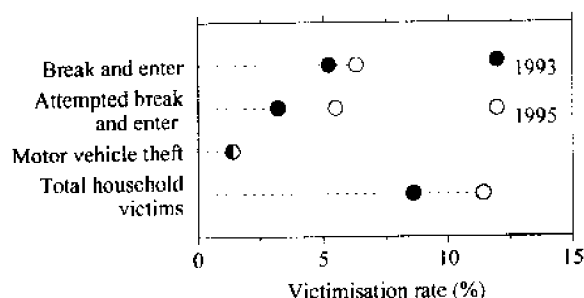
The Queensland Crime and Safety Survey covered only selected types of household and personal crimes. Household crimes covered in the survey were break and enter, attempted break and enter and motor vehicle theft. Personal crimes covered in the survey were robbery, assault and sexual assault.

The responses obtained in this survey are based on respondents' perceptions of having been the victim of an offence. The terms used summarise the wording of questions asked of the respondent and may not necessarily correspond with the legal or police definitions. Victims are counted once only for each type of offence, regardless of the number of incidents of that type. Explanatory and Technical Notes for these data are located on pages 6 to 8.

#### Household crime

During the 12 months to April 1995, an estimated 136,900 (11.4%) of households in Queensland were victims of at least one break and enter, attempted break and enter or motor vehicle theft offence.

**VICTIMS OF HOUSEHOLD CRIME BY TYPE OF OFFENCE,  
QUEENSLAND, 12 MONTHS TO APRIL**



Household victimisation rates ranged from 9.7% for households comprised of a couple only to 15.6% for a one parent household.

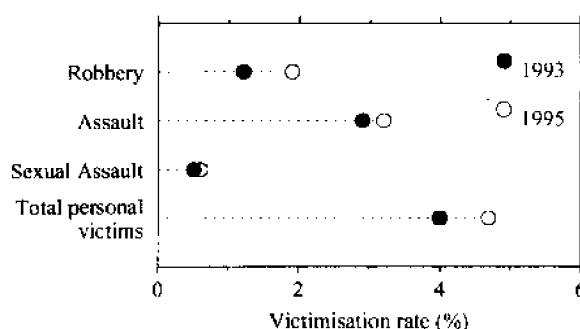
Households in the Brisbane Statistical Division had a higher victimisation rate (14.2%) than the balance of Queensland (9.1%).

The household victimisation rate in Queensland rose from 8.6% in 1993 to 11.4% in 1995.

#### Personal crime

During the 12 months to April 1995, there were an estimated 116,100 (4.7% victimisation rate) victims of personal crimes (robbery, assault, sexual assault) in Queensland. This compared with a 4.0% victimisation rate in the corresponding period for 1993.

**VICTIMS OF PERSONAL CRIME BY TYPE OF OFFENCE,  
QUEENSLAND, 12 MONTHS TO APRIL**



The victimisation rate for males was higher than that for females, being 5.9% and 3.6%, respectively.

For both males and females the victimisation rate was greatest in the 15 to 24 years age group (10.4% for males and 7.0% for females).

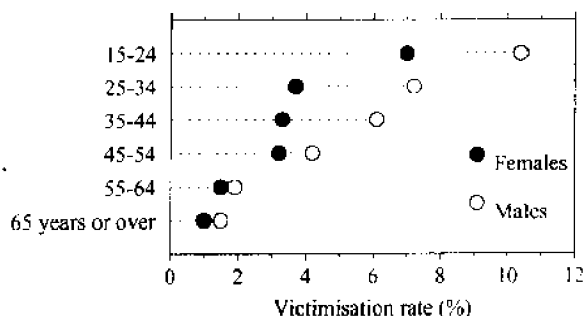
#### INQUIRIES

- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Tania Ponniah on Brisbane (07) 3222 6305 or any ABS State office.
- for information about other ABS statistics and services telephone the Inquiry Service on Brisbane (07) 3222 6351 (fax (07) 3229 6042) or write to Information Inquiries, Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), GPO Box 9817, Brisbane Q 4001.

## MAIN FEATURES — *continued*

The risk of victimisation decreases with increasing age for both males and females.

**VICTIMS OF PERSONAL CRIME BY AGE AND SEX,  
QUEENSLAND, 12 MONTHS TO APRIL 1995**



People who were unemployed had approximately twice the crime victimisation rate of those employed or not in the labour force.

### Multiple victims

In the 12 months to April 1995, approximately 32% of household victims and 40% of victims of personal crime were victims on more than one occasion.

Nearly 43% of victims of assault experienced more than one assault during the 12 months to April 1995.

### Reporting to police

The reporting rates of the last incident for household victims were 77.6% for break and enter, 28.6% for attempted break and enter and 94.1% for motor vehicle theft.

The proportion of robbery victims who reported the last incident to police was 55.0% while the reporting rate for assault was 36.5%.

### Sexual assault

For females aged 18 years and over in April 1995, approximately 0.6% were victims of at least one sexual assault in the 12 months prior to the survey.

### Perception of crime or public nuisance problems

An estimated 1,277,800 persons or 51.8% thought that there were problems from crime or people creating a public nuisance in their neighbourhood. Housebreaking/burglaries/theft from home was thought to be the main problem by an estimated 565,800 persons. Dangerous or noisy driving was the next most frequently listed main problem, being identified by an estimated 256,700 persons.

313 Adelaide Street  
BRISBANE Q 4000  
9 October 1995

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**R. A. Crockett**  
**DEPUTY COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN**

TABLE 1 — VICTIMS AND NON-VICTIMS OF CRIME (a) BY TYPE OF OFFENCE, QUEENSLAND, 12 MONTHS TO APRIL

Type of offence	1995		Victimisation rate (b)	
	Victims	Non-victims	1993	1995
	'000	'000	%	%
<b>Households</b>				
Break and enter	75.5	1,125.7	5.2	6.3
Attempted break and enter	65.6	1,135.7	3.2	5.5
Break and enter or attempted break and enter (c)	124.0	1,077.3	7.5	10.3
Motor vehicle theft	16.5	1,184.8	1.3	1.4
<b>All household victims/non-victims (c)</b>	<b>136.9</b>	<b>1,064.3</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>11.4</b>
<b>Persons</b>				
Robbery	46.1	2,415.7	1.2	1.9
Assault	77.6	2,384.1	2.9	3.2
Sexual assault (d)	6.6	1,164.5	0.5	0.6
<b>All personal victims/non-victims (c)</b>	<b>116.1</b>	<b>2,345.7</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.7</b>

(a) Refers to households or persons who were victims of any of the types of offence specified. (b) Of all households/persons. (c) Because an individual household or person could be a victim of two or more types of offence, figures given for individual offence types do not sum to the totals in these rows. (d) Sexual assault questions were asked only of females aged 18 years and over.

TABLE 2 — VICTIMS AND NON-VICTIMS OF HOUSEHOLD CRIME (a): SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS, QUEENSLAND, 12 MONTHS TO APRIL 1995

Selected characteristics	Victims	Non-victims	Total	Victimisation rate (b)
	'000	'000	'000	%
<b>Major statistical region</b>				
Brisbane	78.3	475.1	553.4	14.2
Balance of Queensland	58.6	589.2	647.9	9.1
<b>Household type</b>				
Couple with child(ren)	43.1	380.1	423.2	10.2
Couple only	31.0	289.2	320.2	9.7
One parent household	14.8	80.3	95.1	15.6
Person living alone	27.1	190.5	217.5	12.4
Other households	20.9	124.3	145.2	14.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>136.9</b>	<b>1,064.3</b>	<b>1,201.2</b>	<b>11.4</b>

(a) Break and enter, attempted break and enter or motor vehicle theft. (b) Of households.

TABLE 3 — VICTIMS AND NON-VICTIMS OF HOUSEHOLD CRIME (a): MEMBERSHIP OF NEIGHBOURHOOD OR RURAL WATCH, QUEENSLAND, 12 MONTHS TO APRIL 1995

Membership	Victims	Non-victims	Total	Victimisation rate (b)
	'000	'000	'000	%
Member of neighbourhood or rural watch	20.3	177.1	197.5	10.3
Not a member of neighbourhood or rural watch	97.4	763.1	860.5	11.3
Don't know	19.3	124.1	143.3	13.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>136.9</b>	<b>1,064.3</b>	<b>1,201.2</b>	<b>11.4</b>

(a) Break and enter, attempted break and enter or motor vehicle theft. (b) Of households.

**TABLE 4 — VICTIMS AND NON-VICTIMS OF PERSONAL CRIME (a): SEX BY AGE GROUP, QUEENSLAND,  
12 MONTHS TO APRIL 1995**

<i>Age group</i>	<i>Victims</i>	<i>Non-victims</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Victimisation rate (b)</i>
	'000	'000	'000	%
<b>MALES</b>				
15-24 years	26.7	229.0	255.7	10.4
25-34 years	17.6	226.1	243.7	7.2
35-44 years	14.5	222.7	237.2	6.1
45-54 years	8.4	192.5	200.8	4.2
55-64 years	*2.5	126.7	129.2	*1.9
65 years or over	*2.2	151.6	153.9	*1.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>71.8</b>	<b>1,148.6</b>	<b>1,220.5</b>	<b>5.9</b>
<b>FEMALES</b>				
15-24 years	17.2	228.4	245.6	7.0
25-34 years	9.3	241.4	250.7	3.7
35-44 years	7.9	234.5	242.5	3.3
45-54 years	6.3	186.6	192.8	3.2
55-64 years	*1.9	124.8	126.6	*1.5
65 years or over	*1.8	181.3	183.1	*1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>44.3</b>	<b>1,197.0</b>	<b>1,241.3</b>	<b>3.6</b>
<b>PERSONS</b>				
15-24 years	43.9	457.5	501.3	8.7
25-34 years	26.9	467.5	494.4	5.4
35-44 years	22.4	457.2	479.6	4.7
45-54 years	14.6	379.1	393.7	3.7
55-64 years	*4.3	251.5	255.8	*1.7
65 years or over	*4.0	332.9	337.0	*1.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>116.1</b>	<b>2,345.7</b>	<b>2,461.8</b>	<b>4.7</b>

(a) Robbery, assault or sexual assault. (b) Of persons.

**TABLE 5 — VICTIMS AND NON-VICTIMS OF PERSONAL CRIME (a): SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS, QUEENSLAND,  
12 MONTHS TO APRIL 1995**

<i>Selected characteristics</i>	<i>Victims</i>	<i>Non-victims</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Victimisation rate (b)</i>
	'000	'000	'000	%
<b>Major statistical region</b>				
Brisbane	63.9	1,084.5	1,148.4	5.6
Balance of Queensland	52.2	1,261.2	1,313.4	4.0
<b>Labour force status</b>				
Employed	73.7	1,431.6	1,505.3	4.9
Unemployed	14.8	126.3	141.1	10.5
Not in the labour force	27.6	787.8	815.4	3.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>116.1</b>	<b>2,345.7</b>	<b>2,461.8</b>	<b>4.7</b>

(a) Robbery, assault or sexual assault. (b) Of persons.

**TABLE 6 — PERCEPTIONS OF CRIME OR PUBLIC NUISANCE PROBLEMS IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD (a) BY REGION, QUEENSLAND, APRIL 1995**

<i>Problems perceived in neighbourhood</i>		<i>Brisbane</i>	<i>Balance of Queensland</i>	<i>Total</i>
Persons who perceived crime or public nuisance problems	('000)	716.6	561.3	1,277.8
Persons who perceived no crime or public nuisance problems	('000)	431.8	752.1	1,184.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>('000)</b>	<b>1,148.4</b>	<b>1,313.4</b>	<b>2,461.8</b>
		<i>% (b)</i>	<i>% (b)</i>	<i>% (b)</i>
<b>Main crime or public nuisance problem perceived</b>				
Housebreaking/burglaries/theft from home		48.4	39.0	44.3
Car theft		2.8	1.2	2.1
Other theft		0.9	2.6	1.7
Louls/youth gangs		11.1	10.6	10.9
Prowlers/loiterers		2.1	2.6	2.3
Vandalism/graffiti		7.6	5.6	6.7
Dangerous/noisy driving		19.2	21.2	20.1
Illegal drugs		1.7	7.2	4.1
Sexual assault		*0.4	**0.1	*0.3
Other assault		*0.4	*0.5	0.4
Problems with neighbours/domestic problems		3.4	5.8	4.5
Other perceived problems		2.0	3.5	2.7
<b>Total</b>		<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) The interpretation of the term neighbourhood was left up to respondents. No definition was supplied. (b) Of all persons in the specified region who perceived a problem.

**TABLE 7 — VICTIMS OF CRIME (a): NUMBER OF INCIDENTS EXPERIENCED BY TYPE OF OFFENCE, QUEENSLAND, 12 MONTHS TO APRIL 1995**

<i>Type of offence</i>	<i>One</i>	<i>Two</i>	<i>Three or more</i>	<i>Total victims</i>	<i>One</i>	<i>Two</i>	<i>Three or more</i>
	<i>'000</i>	<i>'000</i>	<i>'000</i>	<i>'000</i>	<i>% (b)</i>	<i>% (b)</i>	<i>% (b)</i>
<b>Households</b>							
Break and enter	59.3	12.8	*3.4	75.5	78.5	17.0	*4.4
Attempted break and enter	45.1	11.8	8.6	65.6	68.9	18.0	13.2
Break and enter or attempted break and enter (c)	83.3	23.5	17.1	124.0	67.2	19.0	13.8
Motor vehicle theft	14.2	*1.6	**0.7	16.5	86.1	*9.9	**4.0
<b>Total (c)</b>	<b>93.3</b>	<b>24.9</b>	<b>18.7</b>	<b>136.9</b>	<b>68.1</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>13.7</b>
<b>Persons</b>							
Robbery	34.8	5.3	6.0	46.1	75.5	11.5	13.0
Assault	44.4	18.7	14.5	77.6	57.2	24.1	18.7
Sexual assault (d)	*4.6	**1.0	**1.0	6.6	69.3	**15.7	**15.1
<b>Total (c)</b>	<b>69.7</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>24.1</b>	<b>116.1</b>	<b>60.0</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>20.7</b>

(a) Refers to households or persons who were victims of any of the types of offence specified. (b) Of total household/person victims of the listed offence. (c) Because an individual household or person could be a victim of two or more types of offence, figures given for individual offence types do not sum to the totals in these rows. (d) Sexual assault questions were asked only of females aged 18 years and over.

**TABLE 8 — VICTIMS OF CRIME (a): WHETHER TOLD POLICE ABOUT LAST INCIDENT BY TYPE OF OFFENCE, QUEENSLAND, 12 MONTHS TO APRIL 1995**

<i>Type of offence</i>	<i>Police told</i>	<i>Police not told</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Police told</i>
	<i>'000</i>	<i>'000</i>	<i>'000</i>	<i>% (b)</i>
<b>Households</b>				
Break and enter	58.6	16.9	75.5	77.6
Attempted break and enter	18.7	46.8	65.6	28.6
Motor vehicle theft	15.5	**1.0	16.5	94.1
<b>Persons</b>				
Robbery	25.4	20.7	46.1	55.0
Assault	28.4	49.3	77.6	36.5
Sexual assault (c)	**1.1	5.6	6.6	**16.2

(a) Refers to households or persons who were victims of any of the types of offence specified. (b) Of total household/person victims of the listed offence. (c) Sexual assault questions were asked only of females aged 18 years and over.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### Introduction

This publication contains results from a Crime and Safety survey which was conducted throughout Queensland in April 1995 as a supplement to the ABS Monthly Population Survey (MPS). The survey was conducted at the request of the Queensland Police Service.

2. Information was collected from individuals and households about their perceptions of crime and public nuisance in their neighbourhood, experience of selected crimes, reporting behaviour and households' membership of Neighbourhood or Rural Watch programs.

3. The survey was conducted using seven-eighths of the private dwellings included in the MPS, with the exception of private dwellings containing only visitors. The MPS was conducted during the 2 weeks commencing Monday, 10 April 1995.

4. Information was obtained from 7,844 persons (80.2% response rate). Data pertaining to households were obtained from 3,808 households (80.3% response rate).

5. For a detailed outline of the monthly population survey design, scope and coverage, readers should obtain a copy of any recent edition of the ABS publication *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

6. The monthly population survey is made up of the labour force survey and for most months of the year, a supplementary topic.

### Scope

7. The survey was conducted for all persons aged 15 years and over who were usual residents of private dwellings, except:

- (a) members of the permanent defence forces;
- (b) certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from censuses and surveys;
- (c) overseas residents in Australia and
- (d) members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia.

8. Residents of non-private dwellings such as hospitals, motels and jails (included in the MPS) were excluded from this survey.

### Coverage

9. In the survey, coverage rules were applied which aimed to ensure that each person was associated with only

one dwelling and hence had only one chance of selection in the survey.

10. Crime and Safety questionnaires were delivered to the selected households by MPS interviewers for completion by respondents and return by mail. One questionnaire per household contained questions relating to the household as a whole. In addition, all persons in the scope of the survey were provided with a questionnaire relating to their personal experiences of crime. All females aged 18 years or over were provided with an additional questionnaire relating to their personal experiences of sexual assault only.

### Comparisons with police statistics

11. It should be emphasised that the responses obtained in this survey are based on respondents' perceptions of having been the victim of an offence. The terms used summarise the wording of the questions asked of the respondent and may not necessarily correspond with the legal or police definitions which are used for each offence.

### Definitions

12. *Household*: A group of residents of a dwelling who share common facilities and meals or who consider themselves to be a household. It is possible for a dwelling to contain more than one household, for example, where regular provision is made for groups to take meals separately and where persons consider their households to be separate.

13. *Neighbourhood (or Rural) Watch*: A community-based crime prevention program mainly aimed at preventing break and enter offences.

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14. *Offence*: Indicates crimes which persons or households reported had been committed against them.

15. *Break and enter offence*: An incident where the respondent's home had been broken into. The respondent's home was defined to include their garage or shed, but break and enter offences relating to their car or garden were excluded.

16. *Attempted break and enter offence*: An incident where an attempt was made to break into the respondent's home.

17. *Motor vehicle theft*: An incident where a registered motor vehicle was stolen from any member of

## EXPLANATORY NOTES — continued

the household. It included privately owned motor vehicles as well as business/company vehicles used exclusively by any members of the household.

18. *Robbery:* An incident where someone had stolen something from a respondent by threatening or attacking them.

19. *Assault:* An incident other than a robbery where the respondent was threatened with force or attacked.

20. *Sexual assault:* An incident which was of a sexual nature involving physical contact, including rape, attempted rape, indecent assault and assault with intent to sexually assault. Sexual harassment (that did not lead to an assault) was excluded. Only females aged 18 years and over were asked sexual assault questions.

21. *Victim:* A person or a household reporting one or more of the offences listed above. Victims were counted once only for each type of offence, regardless of the number of incidents of that type.

22. *Crime or public nuisance problems:* Anything perceived by the respondent to be problems arising from crime or people creating a public nuisance.

23. *Neighbourhood:* Respondents were asked about crime problems in their neighbourhood. The precise definition of this term was left to the respondent.

### Related publications

24. The ABS produces a wide range of publications of social and demographic statistics. Other ABS publications which relate to this survey topic include:

*Crime and Safety, New South Wales, April 1995* (4509.1)

*Crime and Safety, Victoria, April 1995* (4509.2)

*Crime and Safety, South Australia, April 1995* (4509.4)

*Crime and Safety, Australian Capital Territory, April 1995* (4509.8)

*Crime and Safety, Australia, April 1993* (4509.0)

*National Crime Statistics, January-December 1993* (4510.0)

### Symbols and other usages

\* estimate is subject to a relative standard error of between 25% and 50%.

\*\* estimate is subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes (more than 50%). Refer to the Technical Notes on data reliability.

## TECHNICAL NOTES

### Estimation procedure

The figures contained in this publication are estimates based on a sample of 7,844 responding persons and 3,808 household responses.

2. Estimates are derived from the monthly population survey by use of a complex ratio estimation procedure, which ensures that the survey conforms to an independently estimated distribution of the population by age and sex, rather than to the age and sex distribution within the sample itself.

### Reliability of estimates

3. Estimates in this publication are subject to non-sampling and sampling errors.

#### Non-sampling error

4. Non-sampling error may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or a sample. Non-sampling error can be introduced through: inadequacies in the questionnaire, non-response, inaccurate reporting by

respondents, errors in the application of survey procedures, incorrect recording of answers and errors in data entry and processing.

5. It is difficult to measure the size and extent of non-sampling errors. These errors could vary considerably in significance from survey to survey and from question to question. However, every effort is made to reduce non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers and efficient operating procedures.

#### Sampling errors

6. Sampling error is the error which occurs by chance because the data were only obtained from a sample, not the entire population.

#### Estimates of sampling error

7. One measure of the variability of estimates which occurs as a result of surveying only a sample of the population is the standard error (SE) (table on Page 8).

# TECHNICAL NOTES — continued

8. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included and about 19 chances in 20 that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

9. Linear interpolation should be used to calculate the standard error of estimates falling between the sizes of estimates listed in the table below.

10. The standard error can also be expressed as a percentage of the estimate and this is known as the relative standard error (RSE). For example, if an estimate of 5,500 persons has a standard error of 1,300, then the estimate has a relative standard error of  $1,300/5,500 \times 100 = 23.6\%$ . The relative standard error is a useful measure in that it provides an immediate indication of the percentage errors likely to have occurred due to sampling and thus avoids the need to refer also to the size of the estimate.

11. Proportions and percentages formed from the ratio of two estimates are also subject to sampling error. The size of the error depends on the accuracy of both the numerator and the denominator. The formula for the relative standard error of a proportion or percentage is -

$$RSE(x/y) = \sqrt{[RSE(x)]^2 + [RSE(y)]^2}$$

12. For all tables in this publication, only estimates with relative standard errors of 25% or less, and percentages based on such estimates, are considered sufficiently

reliable for most purposes. However, estimates and percentages with relative standard errors between 25% and 50% have been included, preceded by the symbol \* to indicate that they are subject to high standard errors and should be used with caution. Estimates with relative standard errors greater than 50% should not be regarded as reliable and are indicated by the symbol \*\*.

13. A more detailed explanation of standard errors can be found in the Technical Notes of *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES OF PERSONS AND HOUSEHOLDS, CRIME AND SAFETY SURVEY, QUEENSLAND, APRIL 1995

Size of estimate	Standard error	Relative standard error (%)
1,000	580	57.6
1,500	700	46.8
2,000	810	40.3
2,500	900	35.9
3,000	980	32.6
3,500	1,050	30.0
4,000	1,100	28.0
4,500	1,200	26.3
5,000	1,250	24.8
6,000	1,350	22.5
8,000	1,550	19.2
10,000	1,700	17.0
20,000	2,300	11.5
50,000	3,400	6.8
100,000	4,500	4.5
200,000	5,900	2.9
500,000	8,300	1.7
1,000,000	10,700	1.1

