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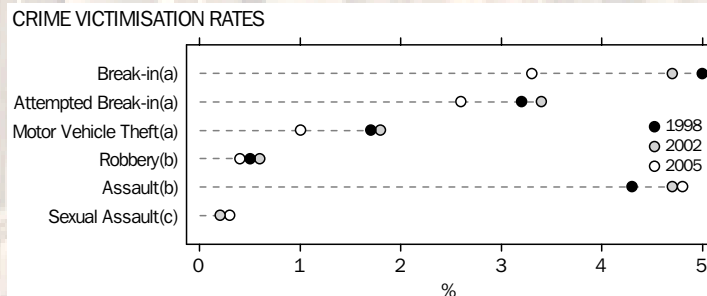
### CRIME AND SAFETY, AUSTRALIA, 2005 (cat. no. 4509.0)

The publication *Crime and Safety, Australia 2005 (cat. no. 4509.0)*, was released on 26 April 2006. This publication reports on selected types of household and personal crimes, using information collected from people about their experiences of crime in the 12 months prior to the April survey.

The proportion of households that had experienced either a break-in, attempted break-in or motor vehicle theft in the previous 12 months had fallen to 6%, down from 9% for the corresponding period in 2002. An estimated 259,800 households were victims of at least one break-in during the 2005 reference period, down 27% from 354,500 in 2002. Similarly, 44% fewer households were victims of motor vehicle theft in 2005 than in 2002, with 74,800 households having had at least one vehicle stolen compared to 134,300 in 2002.

Rates of household crime victimisation varied across states and territories. Victoria and Tasmania shared the lowest level of victimisation, with 5% of households experiencing at least one break-in, attempted break-in or motor vehicle theft. Northern Territory had the highest level of victimisation at 13%.

An estimated 5% of people were victims of personal crime, with most of these victimisations being assault.



(a) Households.  
(b) Persons aged 15 years and over.  
(c) Persons aged 18 years and over.

Source: *Crime and Safety, Australia 2005 (cat. no. 4509.0)*

Over two and a half million (2,613,400) incidents of assault were experienced by 770,600 victims, with over half of the victims reporting having been assaulted more than once in the 12 month period. The most common location for assaults to occur was at the victim's home (31% of assault victims), followed by their place of work or study (26%). An estimated 63% of victims knew one or more of the offenders in their most recent assault.

The survey also showed that some types of crime were more likely to be reported to police than others. Motor vehicle theft (90%) was the most likely crime to be reported to police, with attempted break and enter and assault (both 31%) the least likely.

Further data from the Crime and Safety Survey are available through the ABS Information Consultancy Service, which can provide a wide range of data tailored to meet individual needs. This service is available to the whole community on a fee for service basis

Further data are also available through a Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) via the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL). CURF microdata are the most detailed statistical information that the ABS can make available, allowing users to undertake complex analysis of confidentialised survey data. For further detail on the Information Consultancy Service or the CURF, see the ABS website <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>.

### CRIME AND JUSTICE ON THE WEB

For more information about Crime and Justice statistics, look for our newly updated [Crime and Justice theme page](#) on the ABS website. These pages include information about recent NCCJS events and releases and are a centralised source that links all ABS information on crime and justice related areas in the one place.

ABS Crime and Justice publications are now all free of charge on the ABS website. They can be found listed under sub-section 45 'Crime and Justice' of the 'Publications' section of the AusStats menu. Printed copies of the publications can be ordered from the website, but will incur a charge. A number of electronic tables in spreadsheet or data cube format have also been made available free of charge.

### PERSONAL SAFETY SURVEY (cat. no. 4906.0)

Results of the Personal Safety Survey, the first national survey to present information about women's and men's experiences of violence, were released in August 2006. It expands on the 1996 Women's Safety Survey by broadening the scope of the survey to include men, and enables analysis of the relative changes in women's personal safety over time, based on the comprehensive national benchmark provided by the Women's Safety Survey. *Personal Safety, Australia (cat. no. 4906)* presents information about men's and women's experiences of physical or sexual assault or threat by male and female perpetrators.

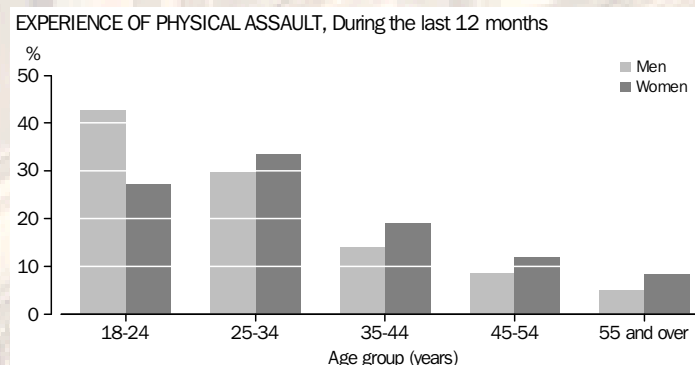
Over the 10 years since the women's safety survey was conducted, women's reported feelings of safety in selected situations have improved. In 2005, 15% (1,165,400) of women felt safe using public transport alone after dark, compared to 11% (721,600) in 1996. Of those who did not use public transport alone after dark in 2005, 25% (1,477,000) did not use it because they felt unsafe, compared to 30% (1,737,500) in 1996.

There were distinct differences in the feelings of safety for men and women. In 2005, more than 19% (1,477) of women did not use public transport alone after dark because they felt unsafe, compared to only 5% (333) of men. Similarly, only 29% (2,257) of women felt safe walking in their local area after dark, compared to 61% (4,581) of men. Of women who were at home alone in the evening or night, 13% (1,029) reported feeling unsafe, compared to 4% of men in the same situation.

Both men and women were more likely to have been victims of physical than sexual violence in the 12 months prior to the survey. Approximately 5% (363,000) of women had experienced physical violence, compared to 2% (126,100) that had been victims of sexual violence. In contrast, 10% (779,800) of men had been victims of physical violence, whilst less than 1% (46,700) had experienced sexual violence.

Overall, men and women had different experiences of physical assault in the 12 months prior to the survey. Of those women who were physically assaulted, 15% (35,500) were physically assaulted by a male stranger, whereas 65% (316,700) of men were physically assaulted by a male stranger. Assaults by a current and/or previous partner accounted for 31% (73,800) of females' physical assaults, and 4% (21,200) of males' physical assaults.

Of women who were physically assaulted, 27% (65,800) were aged 18-24 years, whilst the comparison for men was 43% (207,100). Conversely, across all other age groups, a higher proportion of women were physically assaulted compared to men.



Source: Personal Safety Survey (cat. no. 4906.0)

The location of assaults in the 12 months prior to the survey varied between men and women. Of women who experienced physical assault by a male perpetrator, 64% (125,100) of incidents occurred in a home. In contrast, of the men who experienced physical assault by a male perpetrator, 35% (148,900) of incidents occurred in the open, and 34% (145,300) at a licensed premises.

People who experienced violence from their current partner were more likely to experience physical, rather than sexual, violence. Since the age of 15, 2% (160,100) of women and 1% (68,100) of men had experienced current partner violence. Of those women that had experienced current partner violence, 10% (16,100) had a violence order issued against their current partner as a result of the violence.

Additional products are available to complement *Personal Safety, Australia*. These include the:

- [User Guide](#), a reference for understanding the PSS. It contains information about the background, design and content of the survey, the sample and estimation, collection and processing, and issues relating to quality. A complete list of output data items and associated material is also included;
- [State Tables](#), a selection of tables of data for New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia in spreadsheet format that are available for download
- [Confidentialised Unit Record File \(CURF\)](#), available through the RADL; and
- [ABS Information Consultancies](#), available on a fee for service basis



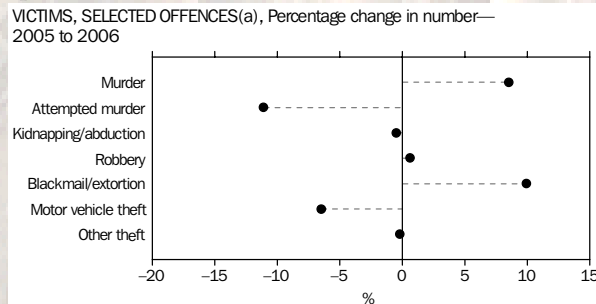
## Publications

Issue 20, July 2007

### RECORDED CRIME VICTIMS - AUSTRALIA (cat. no. 4510.0)

The 2006 *Recorded Crime - Victims, Australia (cat. no. 4510.0)* was released on 6 June 2007. This publication presents statistics on incidents of victimisation for a selected range of offences that came to the attention of police and were recorded by them for the period 1 January to 31 December 2006. Experimental statistics on the Indigenous status of victims are also presented for three states and territories.

Compared to 2005, the personal offence category recording the largest decline was attempted murder (down 11% to 1.2 victims per 100,000 people). Conversely, there were increases in the number of victims of blackmail/extortion (up 10% to 2.1 victims per 100,000 people) and murder (up by 8% to 1.4 victims per 100,000 people).



Source: *Recorded Crime - Victims, Australia (cat. no. 4510.0)*

Note: for robbery and extortion, a victim can be a person or an organisation

Selected household crimes continued a declining trend in victimisation; motor vehicle theft (365 victims per 100,000 population) had the lowest rate since national reporting began in 1993. The victimisation rate for other theft was the lowest rate since national reporting began for that offence in 1995 (2,512 victims per 100,000 population).

In 2006, more males than females were victims of attempted murder (78% of victims were male), murder (66%), robbery (74%) and blackmail/extortion (66%). For kidnapping/abduction, more females were victims than males (62%). Over 40% of victims of murder (119 people) and 52% of attempted murder victims (124 people) were aged 25-44 years. A further 29% (81 people) of murder victims were aged 45 years and over.

Over half (61%) of the murders occurred in a residential dwelling, and nearly half (45%) of the robberies occurred on a street or footpath. Half of the victims (50%) of kidnapping/abduction were taken from a community location, and a further 35% taken were from a residential location. Retail locations accounted for the highest proportion (30%) of other theft.

In 2006, a weapon was used in 74% of attempted murders, 63% of murders and 44% of robberies. Over one third (34%) of victims of robbery and 10% of kidnapping/abduction victims were subjected to an offence involving a knife. A firearm was involved in a quarter of the offences (25%) of attempted murder, 17% of murder and 7% of robbery offences.

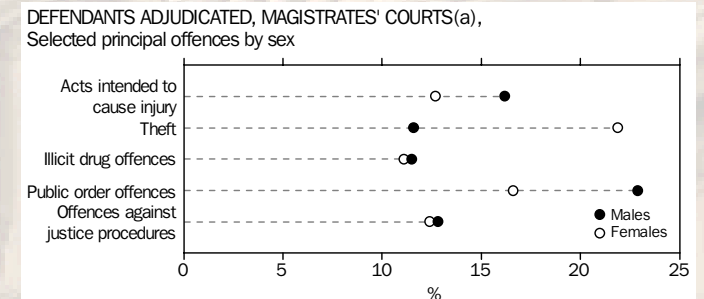
### CRIMINAL COURTS AUSTRALIA, 2005-06 (cat. no. 4513.0)

*Criminal Courts, Australia, 2005-06 (cat. no. 4513.0)* was released by the ABS on 28 March 2007. This publication presents nationally comparable statistics relating to the criminal jurisdiction of the Higher (Supreme and Intermediate) and Magistrates' Courts across Australia for the period 1 July 2005-30 June 2006. Children's Criminal Courts data are also provided on an experimental basis. The statistics describe the characteristics of defendants, including information on the offences and sentences associated with those defendants.

In 2005-06, there were 586,202 defendants finalised in the Higher and Magistrates' Courts in Australia, an increase of 2% (10,774) on the number of defendants finalised in 2004-05. Of defendants finalised in 2005-06, 3% (16,319) were finalised in the Higher Courts and 97% (569,883) were finalised in the Magistrates' Courts.

Almost four in five (77%) defendants adjudicated were male, with over three in five (62%) defendants adjudicated aged less than 35 years.

Defendants were more likely to be adjudicated in the Higher Courts for offences of acts intended to cause injury (22% of defendants adjudicated) and illicit drug offences (17% of defendants adjudicated). Defendants were more likely to be adjudicated in the Magistrates' Courts for road traffic and motor vehicle regulatory offences (44% of those adjudicated) and public order offences (10% of those adjudicated).



(a) Excludes defendants with a principal offence in ASOC Division 14 (Road traffic and motor vehicle regulatory offences) and Subdivision 041 (Dangerous or negligent operation of a vehicle).  
Source: *Criminal Courts Australia, 2005-06 (cat. no. 4513.0)*

Most defendants (501,298 or 95%) were proven guilty (guilty plea or declared guilty). Defendants proven guilty in the Higher Courts were more likely to have received a custodial sentence in a correctional institution or the community than those found guilty in the Magistrates' Court (56% and 5% respectively).

### PRISONERS IN AUSTRALIA, 2006 (cat. no. 4517.0)

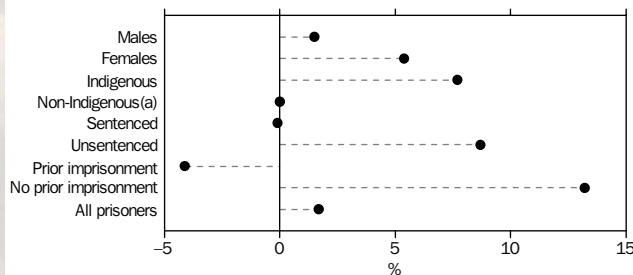
On 14 December 2006, the ABS released *Prisoners in Australia, 2006* (cat. no. 4517.0). This publication uses data collected through a National Prisoner Census to provide indicators on the characteristics of prisoners, sentence lengths, and offences for which offenders are imprisoned, whilst providing a basis for measuring change over time.

At 30 June 2006 there were 25,790 prisoners (sentenced and unsentenced) in Australian prisons, an increase of 2% (437 prisoners) from 30 June 2005. This represented an imprisonment rate of 163 prisoners per 100,000 adult population.

Of these prisoners, 22% (5,581) were unsentenced. Most prisoners (57%) had served a sentence in an adult prison prior to the current episode. Prisoners most commonly had an offence or charge of acts intended to cause injury, with 18% of prisoners having this as their most serious offence/charge.

Of the total prisoner population, 7% (1,827) were female and 24% (6,091) were Indigenous. The median age of all prisoners was 33 years.

CHANGE IN PRISONER NUMBERS BETWEEN 30 JUNE 2005 AND 30 JUNE 2006



(a) Includes unknown Indigenous status.

Source: *Prisoners in Australia, 2006* (cat. no. 4517.0)

Half (or 10,154) of all sentenced prisoners were sentenced in the 12 months preceding 30 June 2006, and of these, 61% had a record of prior imprisonment. Prisoners sentenced in the last 12 months were most likely to have a most serious offence of acts intended to cause injury (19%), offences against justice procedures, government security and operations (16%), unlawful entry with intent (13%) or road traffic and related offences (12%).

### CORRECTIVE SERVICES, AUSTRALIA (cat. no. 4512.0)

The March quarter 2007 issue of *Corrective Services, Australia* (cat. no. 4512.0) was released on 21 June 2007. This publication presents time series information on persons in custody and community-based corrections. Details are provided by state/territory on prisoner counts by type of custody, legal status and Indigenous status.

For the March quarter 2007, there were 77,481 persons under the authority of corrective services (excluding those in periodic detention). The average number of prisoners in full-time custody on the first day of the three months in the March quarter 2007 was 25,801, an increase of 6% from the March quarter 2006. Of these, the average number of unsentenced prisoners was 5,971 (23%).

In the March quarter 2007, there were 51,680 persons in community-based corrections. These are non-custodial orders under the authority of corrective services and include restricted movement, fine option, community service, parole, bail and sentenced probation. This sees a decrease of less than 1% (138 persons) from the December quarter 2006 and a decrease of 1% (692 persons) from the March quarter 2006.

### CRIME & JUSTICE DEVELOPMENTS

#### PERSONAL FRAUD VICTIMISATION SURVEY

The ABS has undertaken to conduct a survey of Personal Fraud victimisation in Australia on behalf of the Australasian Consumer Fraud Taskforce. The questions aim to answer data needs relating to the prevalence and impact of identity theft and scams in Australia, such as phishing, lotteries, pyramid schemes and chain letters.

The Personal Fraud dress rehearsal was conducted in February-March 2007, and the survey will be in the field between 1 July and 31 December 2007. Preliminary data are scheduled for release by the end of March 2008, with final data expected for release by mid-2008.

#### CRIME VICTIMISATION SURVEYS

The NCCJS is in the process of reviewing the ABS' current crime victimisation surveys.

Input from users at both national and state and territory levels has been obtained as part of the crime victimisation survey consultation process, and this information will feed into a future model for ABS crime victimisation surveys.

Users have indicated that their preferred model would comprise an annual survey that measures 'headline indicators', and a less frequent survey to provide more detailed information on the characteristics of certain types of crimes. Users have also specified their preferred content. A new model for crime and safety surveys has therefore been proposed, which would replace the existing three yearly survey with an annual headline indicators survey.

The ABS is also embarking on a review of all of its household surveys to determine priorities for future surveys as part of its forward work program. Feedback was sought from users as to priorities for ABS household surveys during March/April 2007.



## Developments in Statistics

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### NATIONAL CRIME RECORDING STANDARD

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is working with police agencies to develop a National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS), to further improve the national comparability of the Recorded Crime Victims collection. The standard aims to develop a uniformly implemented set of guidelines and scenarios to further improve consistency in recording across jurisdictions.

Since the start of the collection there has been further development of the standards to improve national comparability, including additional classifications and counting rules for use during and post extraction of crime victims data from each jurisdiction. However, over time there have also been significant changes in police crime recording systems, business rules and legislation resulting in potential differences between the national and state recording of crime statistics. To ensure that the level of comparability within the national crime victims collection is maintained, this new classification is being developed to guide consistent recording of criminal incidents.

Since November 2005, state and territory police services and the ABS have been collaborating to produce a set of counting rules and a manual of scenarios to guide the consistency. These agreed rules and manual were presented in September 2006 to the National Crime Statistics Unit Board of Management, along with assessments by each state and territory of the estimated cost and timing impacts of introducing the NCRS.

Bilateral meetings between the ABS and liaison officers in each jurisdiction have since been conducted to further understand issues in relation to implementing the NCRS. A number of jurisdictions are also conducting separate assessments and the outcomes of these will be provided to the Board at its next meeting in September 2007.

### NATIONAL INFORMATION DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The release of the *Information paper: National Information Development Plan for Crime and Justice Statistics (cat. no. 4520.0)* on 21 June 2005 marked a step towards the expansion and improvement of statistical information that is directly linked to stakeholders' needs.

The NIDP provides an agreed understanding of Australia's statistical priorities as they relate to the field of crime and justice, and establishes a shared responsibility between the ABS and major users and data custodians for collaborative work to meet these priorities. The Plan also provides for progress to be reviewed annually by a Steering Committee. The first NIDP Steering Committee meeting in November 2005 resulted in the formation of two working groups to progress family and domestic violence statistical information (Priority 7.2) and national spatial data requirements (Priority 12.2).

The family/domestic violence working group has explored opportunities for collaborative work across the health and welfare and crime and justice fields to improve statistical information available for policy and research. The group are gathering information about the national data needs of policy makers and are developing a conceptual framework to inform the development of statistics in the field of family/domestic violence. Following this, an inventory of data sources will be collated. The short term goal of this work is to identify the gaps in available statistical information and to make recommendations that will improve the evidence base.

A working group met in June 2006 to consider national spatial data requirements. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the main areas of interest in relation to spatial data for the Crime sector and to identify strategies to meet those needs. The group decided to proceed towards the production of materials to demonstrate potential benefits to crime prevention if nationally comparable data were to be made available at smaller geographic areas, such as local government areas.

The second NIDP steering committee meeting was held in November 2006. Members agreed that, for 2007, the priority is to progress statistical developments that commenced in 2006 in the areas of family/domestic violence, recidivism indicators and spatial data.

The NCCJS is also continuing work to further the other activities of the 72 identified in the Plan.

### CRIMINAL COURTS DATA DICTIONARY

The NCCJS released the *National Criminal Courts Data Dictionary, 2006 (cat. no. 4527.0)* on the ABS website on 1 February 2007. The data dictionary is endorsed by the National Criminal Courts Statistics Unit (NCCSU) Board of Management. This version updates the National Criminal Courts Data Dictionary previously released on the National Statistical Service (NSS) website <<http://www.nss.gov.au>> in October 2005. The vast majority of the content in the 2006 publication remains consistent with the 2005 publication, with changes made to reflect ABS publishing standards.

The data dictionary is a reference document that aims to maximise comparability within and across individual collections of criminal courts data and provide a resource for agencies seeking to align their statistical input. It defines national data items and outlines methods for the use of 27 data elements and concepts that underpin the ABS and Council of Australian Governments (COAG) criminal courts collections. The COAG criminal court collection contributes to the Justice Chapter of the annual Report on Government Services produced by the Steering Committee for the Review of Government, Service Provision.



## Developments in Statistics

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### JUVENILE JUSTICE IN AUSTRALIA

On 26 March 2007 the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) released a report on *Juvenile justice in Australia 2004-05*, based on data from the Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set (JJNMDS).

The scope of the JJNMDS is restricted to young people under juvenile justice department supervision and management, including pre-sentence and sentenced supervision both within the community and in detention. Elements of the juvenile justice system that do not require juvenile justice supervision (such as police and court actions) are not included in the scope of the JJNMDS. Data about persons adjudicated under the Criminal Children's Court can be found in the ABS publication *Criminal Courts, Australia* (cat. no. 4513.0).

The JJNMDS is a project run, under the auspices of the Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators (AJJA), by the AIHW, which brings together state and territory juvenile justice data into a national dataset. The JJNMDS aims to be a common resource that can facilitate comparison of juvenile justice policies across states and territories. The ABS is involved in this project through membership of the Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set Subcommittee.

This is the second report on the collection and presents data for 2004-05, as well as analyses of trends in community-based supervision and detention over the five years since 2000-01. It includes data on the characteristics of young people under supervision such as age, sex and indigenous status, and their patterns of supervision.

In 2004-05 there were 12,649 young people under some kind of supervision within the Australian juvenile justice system - a 7% drop since 2000-01. The report also found that the younger people were when they entered supervision the more likely they were to re-enter the juvenile justice system during subsequent years.

### CHILDREN'S COURTS

Children's Courts data are provided on an experimental basis in the 2004-05 and 2005-06 *Criminal Courts, Australia* (cat. no. 4513.0) publications. These statistics describe the main characteristics of defendants finalised in the Children's Courts, including information on the offences and sentences associated with those defendants. Children's Courts data are now published for all states and territories except New South Wales.

Data on the characteristics of defendants finalised in the Australian Capital Territory were included in the 2005-06 issue for the first time.

Further development work will be undertaken in conjunction with each state and territory in order to address and improve quality and coverage issues of the Children's Courts statistics. For more information on the status of the Children's Courts Collection Development, queries may be sent to <[crime.justice@abs.gov.au](mailto:crime.justice@abs.gov.au)>.

### CONFIDENTIALITY

The *Census and Statistics Act, 1905* provides the authority for the ABS to collect statistical information, and requires that statistical output shall not be published or disseminated in a manner that is likely to enable the identification of a particular person or organisation. As part of the ABS, NCCJS outputs are subject to the requirements of the Act.

On 16 February 2006 the ABS released Research Paper: *Research Paper: A Review of Confidentiality Protections for Statistical Tables (Methodology Advisory Committee), Jun 2005, (cat. no. 1352.0.55.072)*. This paper describes the threat to confidentiality posed by table differencing, and reviews and comments on a number of techniques that could be used to develop a tabular confidentiality system that protects against differencing.

### ELECTRONIC DISSEMINATION

**Crime and Justice News** will no longer be produced in hard-copy format, in line with recent policy changes to ABS dissemination practices that now make all ABS publications available free of charge on the web. You can subscribe to this newsletter if you are not already on our electronic mailing list by sending an email with your details to [crime.justice@abs.gov.au](mailto:crime.justice@abs.gov.au). The newsletter can also be viewed through the [ABS website](#) or from the [Crime and Justice theme page](#).

### NCCJS CONTACT POINTS

#### FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE FULL RANGE OF ABS DATA:

National Information and Referral Service  
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Fax: 1300 135 211

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE NCCJS AND ITS ACTIVITIES:

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