



HOME SECURITY PRECAUTIONS

NEW SOUTH WALES

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- For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information Service on 1300 135 070 or Eric Morris on Sydney 02 9268 4551.

NOTES

INTRODUCTION

This publication contains results from the October 1999 State Supplementary Survey, Home Security Precautions, New South Wales. It presents information on aspects of Home Security in NSW households including the presence and use of a range of home security devices, reasons for installing home security items and estimated expenditure on home security. The survey aims to present information which identifies the extent of responsibility households take for their own security. For a list of the security items and definitions included in the survey, refer to the Glossary.

ROUNDING

Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals. Published percentages are calculated prior to rounding of the figures and therefore some discrepancy may occur between these percentages and those that could be calculated from the rounded figures.



ABBREVIATIONS

- A Area
- ABS Australian Bureau of Statistics
- C City
- e.g. for example
- etc. et cetera
- MSR Major Statistical Region
- NSW New South Wales
- RSE Relative standard error
- SR Statistical Region
- SRS Statistical Region Sector

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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

SUMMARY

For the purposes of this survey, a dwelling is considered secured when,

- It has a burglar alarm, or
- It has deadlocks or security screen doors on all doorways *and* locks, bars, grilles or shutters on all windows, or
- It is in a security block of flats, units or apartments, i.e. The whole block is protected by a security intercom; swipe card entry or a lock on the main entrance; or a permanent on-site security guard.

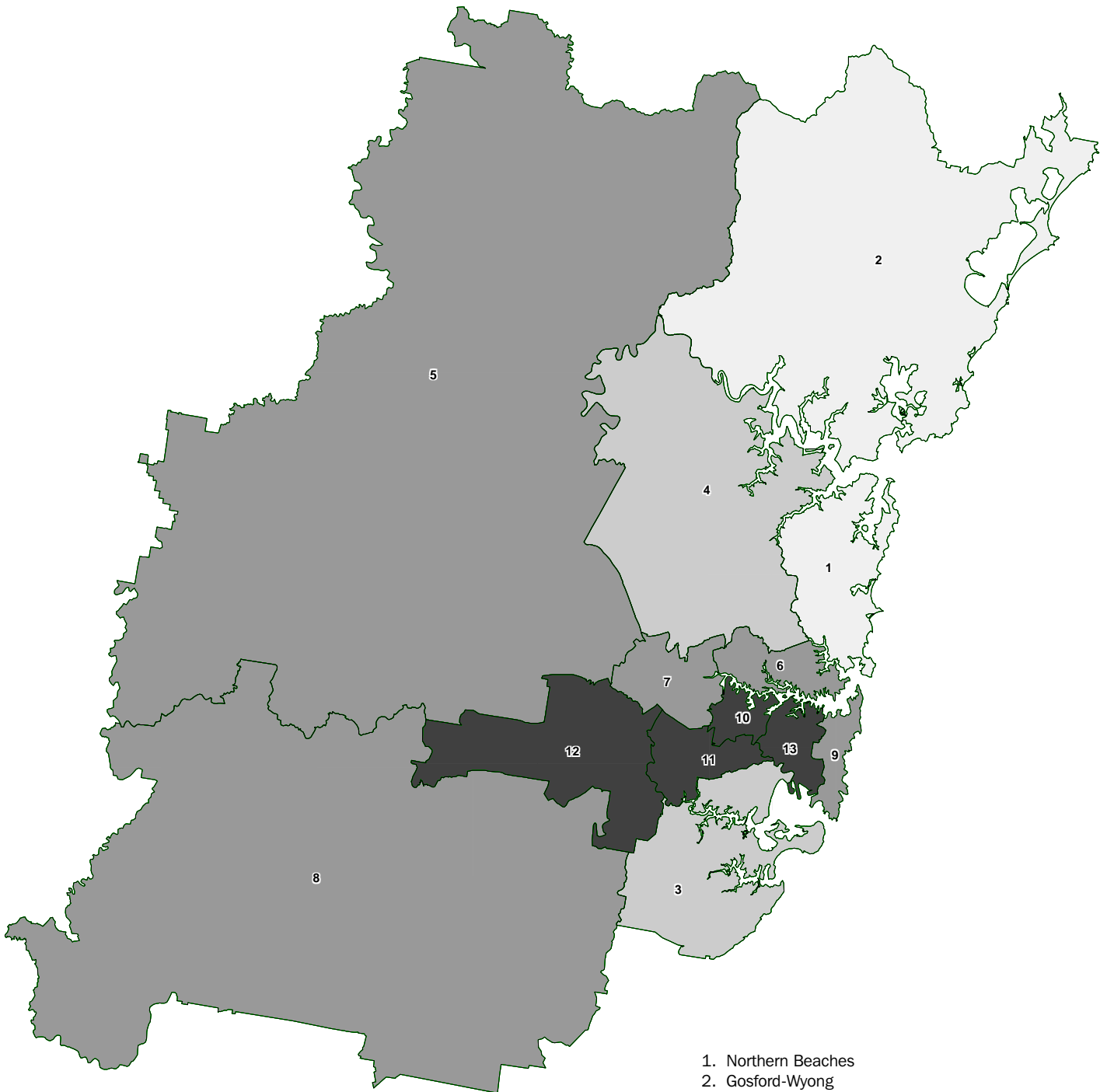
For details of the specified security items, refer to the glossary at the back of this publication.

At the time of interviewing, which occurred in October 1999:

- There were 1,135,900 (47%) NSW dwellings in which all entrances could be secured.
- Lone parent households and persons living alone were the household types least likely to live in a dwelling in which all entrances could be secured.
- Within Sydney, regions found in the inner suburbs generally contained the highest proportion of dwellings in which all entrances could be secured.
- Outside of Sydney, the Illawarra and South Eastern NSW region contained the highest proportion of dwellings in which all entrances could be secured.
- There were 216,700 (9%) NSW dwellings at which no home security items were present.
- 35% of households living in dwellings at which no home security items were present, stated that living in a low crime area was the main reason for not obtaining any security items.

Secured Dwellings by Region

Sydney Major Statistical Region



Dwellings: All entrances secured
Percent

- 70% or more
- 60% – 69%
- 50% – 59%
- Less than 50%

0 30

Kilometres

1. Northern Beaches
2. Gosford-Wyong
3. St George-Sutherland
4. Hornsby-Ku-ring-gai & Baulkham Hills
5. Outer Western Sydney & Blacktown
6. Lower Northern Sydney
7. Central Western Sydney
8. Outer South Western Sydney
9. Eastern Suburbs
10. Inner Western Sydney
11. Canterbury-Bankstown
12. Fairfield-Liverpool
13. Inner Sydney

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

Levels of home security, Household Characteristics

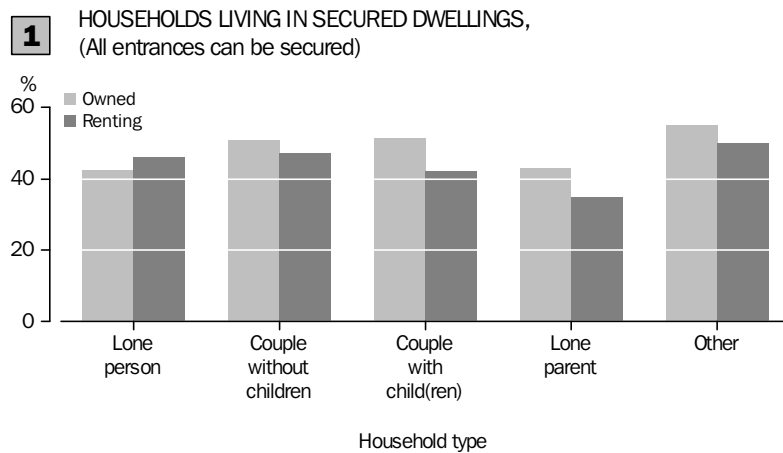
An estimated 1,135,900 (47%) NSW households lived in dwellings in which all entrances could be secured.

TYPE OF HOUSEHOLD

Of all household types, couple households were most likely to live in a dwelling at which all entrances could be secured. This pattern was consistent regardless of the type of dwelling in which they lived. Almost half (49%) of the 1,359,400 couple households in NSW (with or without children), lived in dwellings in which all entrances could be secured. This compares with 44% of lone person households and 39% of lone parent households.

DWELLING TYPE AND NATURE OF OCCUPANCY

There were 745,900 households living in a dwelling which was not owned or being bought by the household. The proportion of these households in dwellings at which all entrances could be secured, was consistently lower than the corresponding percentage for households which either owned or were buying their home (1,650,300) across the range of dwelling types. Those households most likely to have all entrances secured were living in a flat or apartment which they either owned or were buying. Of these 85,300 households, 72% had a level of security at which all entrances could be secured.



AREA OF RESIDENCE

An estimated 897,700 (61%) Sydney households lived in a dwelling at which all entrances could be secured. This compares with 238,300 (26%) households in the remainder of NSW. Within Sydney, regions found in the inner suburbs generally contained the highest proportion of dwellings at which all entrances could be secured. Outside of Sydney, the Illawarra and South Eastern NSW region contained the highest proportion of dwellings at which all entrances could be secured (35%).

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

Types of Home security

SECURITY FOR DOORS

For the purposes of this survey, a doorway which could be used as an entrance to the home was defined as secured when it was equipped with either a deadlock and/or a security screen door. An estimated 1,562,200 (65%) NSW households had at least one of these items fitted to every doorway.

SECURITY FOR WINDOWS

For the purposes of this survey, a window was defined as secured when it was fitted with either key operated locks, lockable security shutters and/or window bars or grilles. An estimated 914,600 (38%) NSW homes had at least one of these items fitted to every window in the dwelling. The proportion of dwellings at which all windows were secure varied between dwelling types, (33% of flats or apartments, 38% of separate houses and 53% of semidetached, town house style dwellings).

BURGLAR ALARMS

Burglar alarms were installed at 473,600 (20%) dwellings in NSW. The most common type of dwelling with a burglar alarm was a separate house. Of the 1,793,600 households living in a separate house, 23% had a burglar alarm. This compares with 6% of households living in a flat or apartment.

Household Perceptions

REASONS FOR INSTALLING HOME SECURITY ITEMS

An estimated 1,216,800 NSW households had installed home security items since moving into their current dwelling. Altogether, 27% of households that installed security items had done so for crime related reasons. Households in Sydney were more likely than those in the remainder of NSW to have installed security items as a result of a break and enter or an attempted break and enter, (19% compared with 12% in the remainder of NSW). Households in the remainder of NSW were more likely to install security items because of their perceptions of a high level of crime in the area (15% compared with 8% in Sydney).

SPENDING

An estimated 285,400 (12%) NSW households had spent money on home security in the 12 months to October 1999. Of these, 57% spent less than \$500. Spending varied with respect to whether the dwelling was owned or rented. Security items were purchased by 15% of households that owned their home and 5% of households living in a dwelling which they did not own. Of the 36,900 households which purchased security items and lived in a dwelling which they did not own, 28% spent \$500 or more. Of the 248,500 households which purchased security items and lived in a dwelling which they owned, 45% spent \$500 or more.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

REASONS FOR NOT INSTALLING HOME SECURITY ITEMS

There were 216, 700 NSW households living in dwellings in which no home security items had been installed. Over one third (35%) of these households gave 'living in a low crime area' as their main reason for having no home security items. Reasons varied according to household type, with the cost of security items being a significant factor for lone parent households. Of the 24,100 lone parent households with no home security, 32% gave 'cost' as the main reason for not having security. This compares with 14% of couple households (with or without children) and 12% of lone person households.

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HOUSEHOLDS, Level of Home Security—by Type of Dwelling and Nature of Occupancy

	<i>Owned/Being Bought</i>		<i>Rented(a)</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	(000's)	%	(000's)	%	(000's)	%
Separate house						
All entrances secured(b)	671.4	46.7	118.3	33.2	789.8	44.0
Not all entrances secured(c)	766.1	53.3	237.7	66.8	1 003.8	56.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>1 437.5</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>356.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>1 793.5</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Semi-detached, row or terrace house						
All entrances secured(b)	55.9	59.1	44.0	43.0	100.0	50.8
Not all entrances secured(c)	38.7	40.9	58.1	57.0	96.8	49.2
<i>Total</i>	<i>94.6</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>102.1</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>196.8</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Flat/Unit/Apartment						
All entrances secured(b)	85.3	72.2	161.0	56.0	246.2	60.7
Not all entrances secured(c)	32.9	27.8	126.8	44.0	159.7	39.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>118.2</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>287.8</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>405.9</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Total						
All entrances secured(b)	812.6	49.2	323.3	43.3	1 135.9	47.4
Not all entrances secured(c)	837.7	50.8	422.6	56.7	1 260.3	52.6
Total Households	1 650.3	100.0	745.9	100.0	2 396.2	100.0

- (a) Includes other types of occupancy.
- (b) A dwelling is considered secured when all entrances are protected by specified home security items. For details, refer to the glossary at the back of this publication.
- (c) Includes dwellings at which there are no home security items installed.

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HOUSEHOLDS, Level of Home Security—by Type of Household

	<i>All entrances secured</i>		<i>Some entrances secured</i>		<i>No entrances secured</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	(000's)	%	(000's)	%	(000's)	%	(000's)	%
WHETHER ALL ENTRANCES TO THE DWELLING ARE SECURED(a)								
Lone person	240.7	43.5	250.9	45.3	61.9	11.2	553.5	100.0
Couple with no children	253.2	49.8	218.9	43.1	35.9	7.1	507.9	100.0
Couple with children	418.4	49.1	376.7	44.2	56.4	6.6	851.5	100.0
Lone parent	83.3	38.5	110.5	51.2	22.3	10.3	216.1	100.0
Other	140.4	52.5	106.5	39.8	20.3	7.6	267.2	100.0
Total Households	1 135.9	47.4	1 063.5	44.4	196.8	8.2	2 396.2	100.0

- (a) A dwelling is considered secured when all entrances are protected by specified home security items. For details, refer to the glossary at the back of this publication.

HOUSEHOLDS, Level of Home Security—by Region of Residence

WHETHER ALL ENTRANCES TO THE DWELLING
ARE SECURED(a)

	<i>All Entrances Secured</i> . .		<i>Not all entrances secured</i> . .		<i>Total</i>	
	(000's)	%	(000's)	%	(000's)	%
Inner Sydney and Inner Western Sydney (SRs)	137.6	71.2	55.7	28.8	193.3	100.0
Eastern Suburbs (SR)	69.5	68.7	31.7	31.3	101.2	100.0
St George-Sutherland (SR)	90.7	57.8	66.2	42.2	156.9	100.0
Canterbury-Bankstown (SR)	77.4	70.0	33.1	30.0	110.5	100.0
Fairfield-Liverpool and Outer South Western Sydney (SRs)	135.1	69.6	59.1	30.4	194.2	100.0
Central Western Sydney (SR)	67.0	62.0	41.2	38.0	108.2	100.0
Outer Western Sydney (SR) and Blacktown (C)	119.6	60.8	77.0	39.2	196.6	100.0
Lower Northern Sydney (SR)	69.1	61.1	44.0	38.9	113.1	100.0
Hornsby-Ku-ring-gai (SR) and Baulkham Hills (A)	62.8	50.4	61.9	49.6	124.7	100.0
Northern Beaches (SR)	28.2	35.2	51.9	64.8	80.1	100.0
Gosford-Wyong (SR)	40.7	40.6	59.4	59.4	100.1	100.0
<i>Sydney (MSR)</i>	<i>897.7</i>	<i>60.7</i>	<i>581.1</i>	<i>39.3</i>	<i>1 478.8</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Hunter (SR)	57.5	27.2	153.7	72.8	211.2	100.0
Illawarra and South Eastern NSW (SRs)	79.5	35.3	145.9	64.7	225.4	100.0
Richmond-Tweed and Mid North Coast (SRs)	47.5	25.9	135.6	74.1	183.1	100.0
Northern, Far West-North Western and Central West (SRs)	37.2	19.7	151.3	80.3	188.5	100.0
Murray-Murrumbidgee (SR)	16.6	15.2	92.7	84.8	109.3	100.0
<i>Balance of NSW (MSR)</i>	<i>238.3</i>	<i>26.0</i>	<i>679.2</i>	<i>74.0</i>	<i>917.5</i>	<i>100.0</i>
NEW SOUTH WALES	1 135.9	47.4	1 260.3	52.6	2 396.2	100.0

(a) A dwelling is considered secured when all entrances are protected by specified home security items. For details, refer to the glossary at the back of this publication.

HOUSEHOLDS, Type of Home Security—by Type of Dwelling

	<i>Separate House . . .</i>		<i>Semi-detached, row or terrace house</i>		<i>Flat/Unit/ Apartment</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	(000's)	%	(000's)	%	(000's)	%	(000's)	%
Security item for doors								
All doors secured(a)	1 180.5	65.8	139.6	71.0	242.1	59.6	1 562.2	65.2
Not all doors secured	613.1	34.2	57.1	29.0	163.8	40.4	834.0	34.8
Security items for windows								
All windows secured(b)	674.9	37.6	104.6	53.2	135.2	33.3	914.6	38.2
Not all windows secured	1 118.7	62.4	92.1	46.8	270.7	66.7	1 481.6	61.8
Burglar alarm								
Has a burglar alarm	411.9	23.0	36.8	18.7	24.9	6.1	473.6	19.8
Does not have a burglar alarm	1 381.7	77.0	159.9	81.3	381.0	93.9	1 922.6	80.2
Other Security(c)								
Has other security	58.2	3.2	9.7	4.9	25.9	6.4	93.8	3.9
Does not have other security	1 735.4	96.8	187.0	95.1	380.0	93.6	2 302.4	96.1
Total Households	1 793.6	100.0	196.7	100.0	405.9	100.0	2 396.2	100.0

(a) A door is considered secured when it is equipped with either a deadlock and/or a security screen door.

(b) A window is considered secured when it is fitted with either key operated locks, lockable security shutters and/or window bars or grilles.

(c) Includes such items as door/window bolts and chains, warning signs; and security cameras.

HOUSEHOLDS WITH HOME SECURITY(a), Whether installed home security items(b)

NATURE OF OCCUPANCY

Whether installed home security items	Separate house		Semi-detached, row or terrace house		Flat/Unit/ Apartment		Total	
	(000's)	%	(000's)	%	(000's)	%	(000's)	%
Owned/Being Bought								
Has installed security items	939.6	71.0	57.2	61.0	55.5	49.1	1 052.3	68.8
Has not installed security items(c)	383.8	29.0	36.5	39.0	57.6	50.9	477.9	31.2
<i>Total</i>	<i>1 323.4</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>93.7</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>113.1</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>1 530.2</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Rented								
Has installed security items	96.0	31.0	25.6	27.4	42.9	17.4	164.5	25.3
Has not installed security items(c)	214.1	69.0	67.6	72.6	203.2	82.6	484.9	74.7
<i>Total</i>	<i>310.1</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>93.2</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>246.1</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>649.4</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Total								
Has installed security items	1 035.6	63.4	82.8	44.3	98.4	27.4	1 216.8	55.8
Has not installed security items(c)	597.9	36.6	104.1	55.7	260.7	72.6	962.8	44.2
Total Households with home security items	1 633.4	100.0	186.9	100.0	359.2	100.0	2 179.6	100.0

- (a) Households living in a dwelling at which home security items were present at the time of interview in October 1999.
 (b) Households living in a dwelling at which they had installed home security items since moving in.
 (c) Includes households which did not know whether any security items had been installed.

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HOUSEHOLDS WHICH INSTALLED HOME SECURITY ITEMS(a)

<i>Main Reason for installing security items</i>	AREA OF RESIDENCE					
	Sydney . . .		Balance of NSW . . .		NSW	
	(000's)	%	(000's)	%	(000's)	%
Victim of break and enter into/attempted break and enter/ intruder	149.4	19.4	53.6	12.0	203.0	16.7
Occurrence of crime in the local area	62.6	8.1	66.3	14.8	128.8	10.6
Insurance reasons(b)	43.4	5.6	*7.7	*1.7	51.1	4.2
Felt a need for more security	326.8	42.5	166.0	37.1	492.8	40.5
Other reasons(c)	75.4	9.8	55.9	12.5	131.4	10.8
Not prompted by any specific event/incident/reason	111.4	14.5	98.3	22.0	209.7	17.2
Total households which installed security items	768.9	100.0	447.9	100.0	1 216.8	100.0

* subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes

(a) Households living in dwellings at which they had installed home security items since moving in.

(b) The household could not insure the dwelling unless home security was improved or cheaper insurance was offered if home security was improved.

(c) For example, households which installed security items as a result of a promotion or advertising.

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HOUSEHOLDS, Amount Spent on Home Security(a)—by Nature of Occupancy

<i>Amount spent</i>	NATURE OF OCCUPANCY					
	Owned/Being Bought . . .		Rented(b) .		Total	
	(000's)	%	(000's)	%	(000's)	%
Up to \$499	137.0	8.3	26.7	3.6	163.7	6.8
\$500 or more	111.5	6.8	10.2	1.4	121.7	5.1
No spending on home security	1 281.6	77.7	612.5	82.1	1 894.1	79.0
Does not have any home security	120.1	7.3	96.5	12.9	216.7	9.0
Total households	1 650.3	100.0	745.9	100.0	2 396.2	100.0

(a) Refers to spending in the 12 months prior to interview in October 1999.

(b) Includes other types of occupancy.

HOUSEHOLDS WITH NO HOME SECURITY ITEMS(a)

Main reason for not installing security items	TYPE OF HOUSEHOLD							
	Lone person .		Couple(b) . .		Lone parent .		Total(c) . . .	
	(000's)	%	(000's)	%	(000's)	%	(000's)	%
Low crime area	23.9	33.5	39.1	39.2	*6.7	*27.9	76.0	35.1
Costs too much to purchase security items	8.8	12.3	13.6	13.6	*7.7	*31.8	33.1	15.3
No household members have been affected by crime	*4.2	*5.8	9.9	9.9	*2.0	*8.2	16.0	7.4
Landlord's responsibility to purchase security items	9.7	13.7	12.6	12.7	*2.9	*11.9	29.7	13.7
Other reason(d)	14.9	20.9	16.2	16.3	*2.9	*11.9	36.9	17.0
Reason not known	9.8	13.7	8.3	8.3	*2.0	*8.4	24.9	11.5
Total households with no home security items	71.3	100.0	99.7	100.0	24.1	100.0	216.7	100.0

* subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes

(a) Includes households living in a flat/unit/apartment which had some form of security protecting the whole block of flats/units/apartments.

(b) Includes couples with children and couples without children.

(c) Total includes a small percentage of other types of households where applicable. Row sub-totals will not add to totals.

(d) For example, households which didn't feel any need for security; those which are currently renovating and those which are in temporary accommodation.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 This publication contains results from the 1999 NSW State Supplementary Survey, Home Security Precautions. The survey was conducted throughout NSW during the two weeks commencing Monday 11 October 1999, as a supplement to the ABS Monthly Population Survey.

2 The Monthly Population Survey is a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings and non-private dwellings (hotels, motels, caravan parks, etc.). Information is obtained from the occupants of selected dwellings by specially trained interviewers.

3 For details of the design, scope and coverage of the Monthly Population Survey, readers should refer to any recent edition of the ABS publication, *Labour Force, Australia* (Cat. no. 6203.0) and the Information Paper: *Labour Force Survey Sample Design* (Cat. no. 6269.0).

SCOPE

4 Information was collected by either face-to-face or telephone interview from one responsible adult per household. This survey was conducted using seven-eighths of the full sample of private dwellings in New South Wales that were included in the Monthly Population Survey and excluded:

- visitors to the household;
- members of the permanent defence forces;
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from censuses and surveys;
- overseas residents in Australia; and
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia; and
- residents of non-private dwellings such as hospitals and motels.

5 Information was sought from approximately 6,100 households in scope for this survey. Of these, approximately 5,600 (92%) responded.

COVERAGE

6 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.

EFFECTS OF ROUNDING

7 Estimates have been rounded and discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

DATA INTERPRETATION

8 Some of the tables in this publication include a column or row which is headed 'Other'. These contain respondent answers which could not be entered into any of the pre-coded response categories. The 'Other' categories are generally made up of widely varying responses given by a small proportion of the survey population. Wherever possible, a summarised content of the 'Other' category is footnoted at the end of each relevant table. Further information is available from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) contact on the front cover of this publication.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

9 Australian Bureau of Statistics publications draw extensively on information provided freely by individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated: without it, the wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

10 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, NSW, April 1999 (Cat.no.4509.1)*
- *Crime and Safety, Australia, April 1998 (Cat.no.4509.0)*
- *Crime and Safety, Australia, April 1993 (Cat.no.4509.0)*
- *Recorded Crime, Australia, 1998 (Cat.No.4510.0)*
- *Population Survey Monitor, Australia, (Cat. no. 4103.0)* (Quarterly publication)

APPENDIX ADDITIONAL DATA

INTRODUCTION

In addition to data in this publication, there is a range of other characteristics by which household home security can be cross-classified. Upon request, the ABS can produce customised tables cross-classifying any of the information listed below. Full details on the availability of unpublished variables can be obtained through the contact person shown at the front of this publication. Information collected in the survey included:

Demographic

Type of household, e.g. person living alone, married couple, etc.
Population, Sydney/ balance of state
Age/Sex of survey respondent

Dwelling characteristics

Type of dwelling
Nature of occupancy
Whether dwelling is at street level (flats only)

Amount household has spent on home security: (in the 12 months to October 1999)

Up to \$99
\$100 to \$499
\$500 to \$999
\$1000 or more

Level of home security present

All entrances protected
Some entrances protected
No entrances protected

Importance of existing security in the households decision to live in the dwelling

A major factor
A factor
Not a factor

Whether Household installed security items after moving into the dwelling

All and Main reason(s) for installing home security items
All and Main reason(s) for not installing home security items

Home Security Items

BLOCKS OF FLATS/APARTMENTS

Intercom System
Key/Swipe-card entry to the whole building
Permanent on-site security guard

SEPARATE HOUSES, ROW OR TERRACE HOUSES, TOWNHOUSES ETC.

Sensor lights
Locked gates

ALL DWELLINGS

Security screen door(s) or deadlock(s)
Key operated window locks
Lockable security shutters on windows
Bars or grilles on windows
Burglar alarm
Watchdog/guard dog

TECHNICAL NOTE SAMPLING VARIABILITY

ESTIMATION PROCEDURE

1 Estimates derived from this survey were obtained using a post-stratification estimation procedure. This procedure ensured that the survey estimates conformed to an independently estimated distribution of population, by the number of adults and children within the household, and part of state, rather than to the distribution among respondents.

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

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

Non-sampling errors

3 Non-sampling errors may arise as a result of errors in the reporting, recording or processing of the data and can occur even if there is a complete enumeration of the population. Non-sampling errors 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.

4 It is difficult to measure the size of the non-sampling errors and the extent of these errors could vary considerably in significance from survey to survey and from question to question. However, every effort is made in the design of the survey and development of survey procedures to minimise the effect of these errors

Sampling errors

5 Sampling error is the error which occurs by chance because the data were obtained from a sample and not the entire population.

ESTIMATES OF SAMPLING ERROR

6 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).

7 There are about two chances in three (67%) that a survey estimate is within one standard error of the figure that would have been obtained if all persons had been included in the survey. There are about nineteen chances in twenty (95%) that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

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

9 The standard error can also be expressed as a percentage of the estimate and this is known as the relative standard error (RSE). The RSE is determined by dividing the standard error of an estimate $SE(x)$ by the estimate x and expressing

it as a percentage. That is—
$$RSE(x) = \frac{100SE(x)}{x}$$
 (where x is the estimate). The relative standard error is a useful measure in that it provides an indication of the percentage errors likely to have occurred due to sampling.

10 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—

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

11 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.

TECHNICAL NOTE SAMPLING VARIABILITY *continued*

STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES OF NSW
HOUSEHOLDS—October 1999

<i>No. of households</i>	<i>Standard Error</i>	<i>Relative standard error</i>
	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>
1 000	666	66.6
1 500	837	55.8
2 000	982	49.1
2 500	1 109	44.4
3 000	1 224	40.8
3 500	1 330	38.0
4 000	1 428	35.7
5 000	1 607	32.1
8 000	2 052	25.6
10 000	2 299	23.0
20 000	3 246	16.2
30 000	3 948	13.2
50 000	5 021	10.0
100 000	6 880	6.9
200 000	9 304	4.7
300 000	11 034	3.7
500 000	13 594	2.7
1 000 000	17 839	1.8
2 000 000	23 107	1.2

GLOSSARY

- Burglar alarm** A system which detects intruders to the home. It should cover all main entry points and can have a number of intruder detection features, including motion sensors and back to base monitoring. When activated, the alarm may have a siren and/or strobe lighting.
- Entrances to a dwelling** For the purposes of this survey, entrances to a dwelling were defined as "all windows, and doors which lead into the dwelling".
- Secured Doors** When all doors are equipped with either a deadlock and/or security screen door, the dwellings doors are considered secured. For this survey, a door is defined as an entrance which leads directly into the home and could be used to enter the home, this includes balcony doors. A security screen door is lockable and is designed to provide extra security to an entrance to the home. A deadlock is a locking device which is opened by key from the outside and a turn-knob from the inside.
- Secured Dwelling** For the purposes of this survey, a dwelling is considered secured when,
- it has a burglar alarm, or
 - it has deadlocks or security screen doors on all doorways and locks, bars, grilles or shutters on all windows, or
 - it is in a security block of flats, units or apartments, i.e. The whole block is protected by a security intercom; swipe card entry or a lock on the main entrance; or a permanent on-site security guard.
- Secured Windows** When all windows are equipped with either key operated locks, lockable security shutters, bars or grilles then the dwellings windows are considered secured. Key operated locks are designed to restrict movement of windows by pinning two frames, or the frame and sill together. Lockable security shutters are affixed to the outside of the window. They should be able to be locked in place, either in an open or shut position. They are also called block-out roller shutters. Window bars or grilles are available in a variety of types including fixed grilles, hinged grilles and key-locked removable bars and grilles. They can be fitted inside or outside the window.

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