

Main Features

Rate changes between 1998 and 2002 Crime and Safety Survey:

Personal Crime Victimisation Rate:

Queensland	↓	0.4% point
Australia	↑	0.5% point

Robbery Victimisation Rate:

Queensland		no change
Australia	↑	0.1% point

Assault Victimisation Rate:

Queensland	↓	0.4% point
Australia	↑	0.4% point

Sexual Assault Victimisation Rate:

Queensland		not available
Australia		not available

Household Crime Victimisation Rate:

Queensland	↑	0.5% point
Australia	↓	0.1% point

Break & Enter (including attempted) Victimisation Rate:

Queensland	↕	0.3% point
Australia	↓	0.2% point

Motor Vehicle Theft Victimisation Rate:

Queensland	↑	0.2% point
Australia	↑	0.1% point

Commentary

Personal crime

Nationally, Queensland had the lowest *personal crime* victimisation prevalence rate in 2002 at 4.7% compared with the national rate of 5.3%. Since the 1998 Crime and Safety Survey the victimisation rate in Queensland has decreased by 0.4% point whereas nationally the rate increased by 0.5% point.

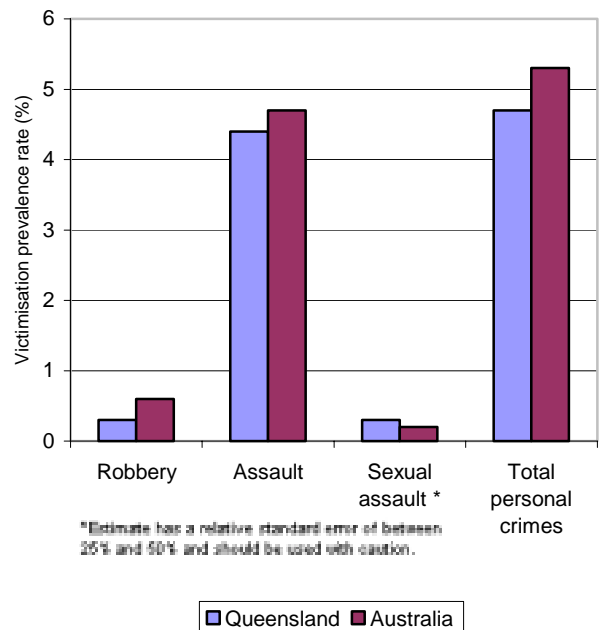
In Queensland in the 2002 survey an estimated 8,700 persons were victims of *robbery*, representing 0.3% point of the population. There was no change in the victimisation rate since the 1998 survey.

Nationally, Queensland had the lowest *assault* victimisation prevalence rate in 2002 at 4.4% compared with the national rate of 4.7%. An estimated 123,400

persons were victims of *assault*. The victimisation rate in Queensland decreased by 0.4% point since the last survey, whereas the national rate increased by 0.4% point. Males represented just over half the total number of assault victims nationally. Both males and females aged 25 to 34 years had the highest incidence rates, with 22% of male and 28% of female victims in this age group. Only 43.8% of male *assault* victims were assaulted by a person(s) known to them in the most recent incident, compared with 72.4% of females.

An estimated 6,700 persons aged 18 years and over were victims of *sexual assault* in Queensland, or a victimisation prevalence rate of 0.3% point of the State's population. However, it should be noted that the estimated number of victims has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution. Nationally, 48.1% of all *sexual assault* victims were in the 18–24 years age group. Also, the majority of *sexual assault* victims were female and not married. Of female victims, 7.0% reported the use of a weapon and 58.1% knew the offender(s) in the most recent incident.

Figure 1: Personal crime victimisation prevalence rate, 2002



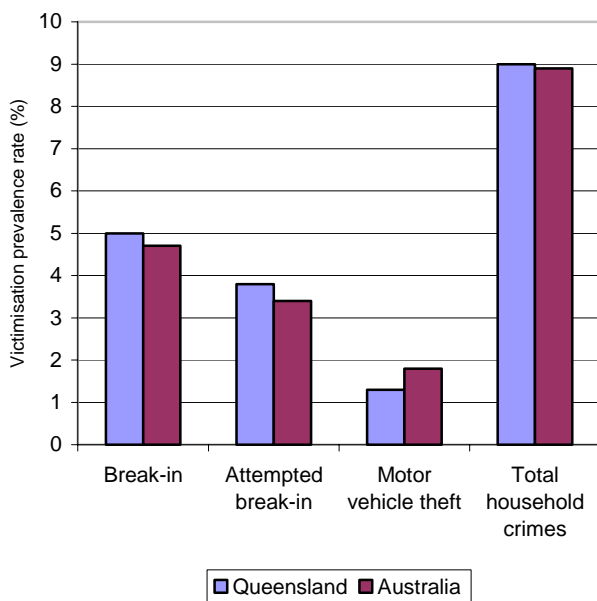
Household crime

The survey found that 9.0% of all Queensland households were victims of *household crime* in 2002, compared with a total of 8.9% Australia-wide. Nationally, Queensland has the fourth lowest victimisation rate for *household crime*.

An estimated 114,200 Queenslanders were victims of *break and enter (including attempted)* in 2002, or 8.0% of the state's population, marginally higher than the 7.7% of persons in 1998. The Australian rate was 7.4% in 2002, which was 0.6% point less than the Queensland victimisation prevalence rate.

Nationally, Queensland has the second lowest victimisation rate for *motor vehicle theft* in Australia. In Queensland in 2002, 1.3% of persons were victims of *motor vehicle theft*, or an estimated 19,100 persons, marginally lower than the 1.4% in 1998. The Australian rate was 1.8% in 2002, which was marginally higher than the victimisation rate in 1998.

Figure 2: Household crime victimisation prevalence rate, 2002



Reported to police

Across the states and territories 90.4% of victims of *robbery* considered the most recent incident a crime. However, only 50.2% actually reported the incident to police. Almost half of those victims who did not report the incident felt there was nothing police could or would do.

Nationally, 69.2% of *assault* victims did not report the most recent incident to police. Of these, 19.9% thought the incident too trivial/unimportant and 16.9% felt the incident was a personal matter they would take care of themselves.

Across the states and territories 80.2% of female *sexual assault* victims did not tell police about the most recent incident, despite 77.3% of those victims considering the incident a crime.

Of the estimated 72,100 *break-in (excluding attempted)* victims in Queensland in 2002, 74.9% reported the offence to police, representing virtually no change in reporting rates since 1993. Reporting of *attempted break-ins* increased 4.0% points to 31.4% between 1998 and 2002 in Queensland.

In Queensland, 91.0% of the estimated 19,100 victims of *motor vehicle theft* reported the incident to police, compared with 97.5% in 1998 and 95.0% nationally in 2002.

Feelings of safety at home

In the 2002 survey, 82.5% of persons in Queensland indicated they felt safe or very safe when at home alone during the day. Compared with all other states and territories more Queenslanders felt safe or very safe when at home alone during the day.

About three-quarters (73.0%) of persons in Queensland indicated in the 2002 survey they felt safe or very safe when at home alone after dark. Again, nationally, more Queenslanders felt safe or very safe when at home alone after dark.

Across the states and territories, 77.6% of males compared to 60.9% of females felt safe or very safe when at home alone after dark.

Perceived problems in the neighbourhood

Nationally, approximately three quarters of persons 15 years and over perceived that there were problems with crime and/or public nuisance issues within their neighbourhoods. In Queensland, 70% of persons had this perception.

Housebreaking/burglary/theft from homes was perceived by 39.4% of Queenslanders to be the biggest problem, followed closely by *dangerous/noisy driving* (34.0%). These two problems were also the highest concerns nationally.

Figure 3: Perceived problems in neighbourhood, 2002

