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Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS)

9GFGS: Session VI: Violence against women and girls

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CD: Social Statistics



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About the GPSJS and its objectives

- 1** Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) conducted a Victims of Crime Survey (VOCS) in 1998. The Institute for Security Studies (ISS) conducted the 2003 and 2007 versions of the VOCS.
- 2** Stats SA resumed the survey from 2011 – 2017/18, based on a total sample size of approximately 30 000 households across 9 provinces of SA. CAPI Face-to-face interviews were conducted.
- 3** In 2017 VOCS was redesigned to make room for new information demands on governance. The redesigned survey is called **Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS)**. GPSJS retains most of the VOCS content.
- 4** Provide an overview of the level and trend of crime experienced by households and individuals in SA and explore public perceptions on issues of safety and general perceptions of individuals on gender norms and societal issues
- 5** Complement SAPS crime statistics by providing estimates for quantities that cannot be measured at police stations

The **South African**

population in 2022
is estimated at ...



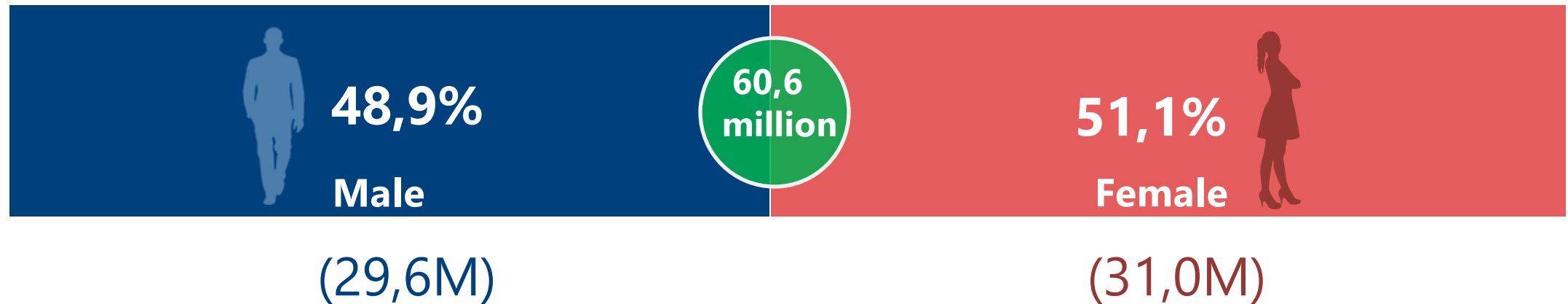
60,6
Million



up by **640 074** (*annual rate of growth 1,06%*)
from 2021 estimates

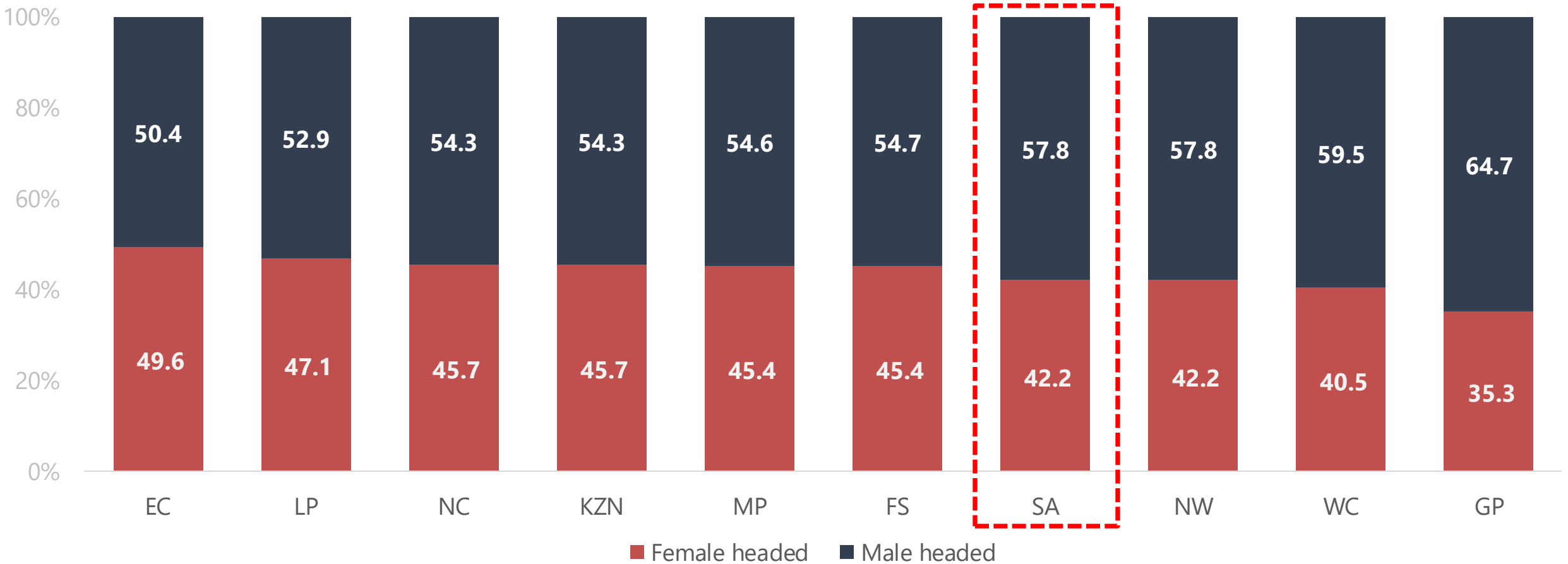
Approximately 51,1% (31,0 million) of the population is female.

South Africa's population by sex, 2022



About 42,2% of the households in South Africa were headed by females.

Percentage of households by sex, 2022



Household experience of crime



The Victim of Crime modules in GPSJS consists of **7 types of household crimes** :
Housebreaking, home robbery, theft of motor vehicles, murder, assault, sexual
offence and deliberate damaging of dwellings

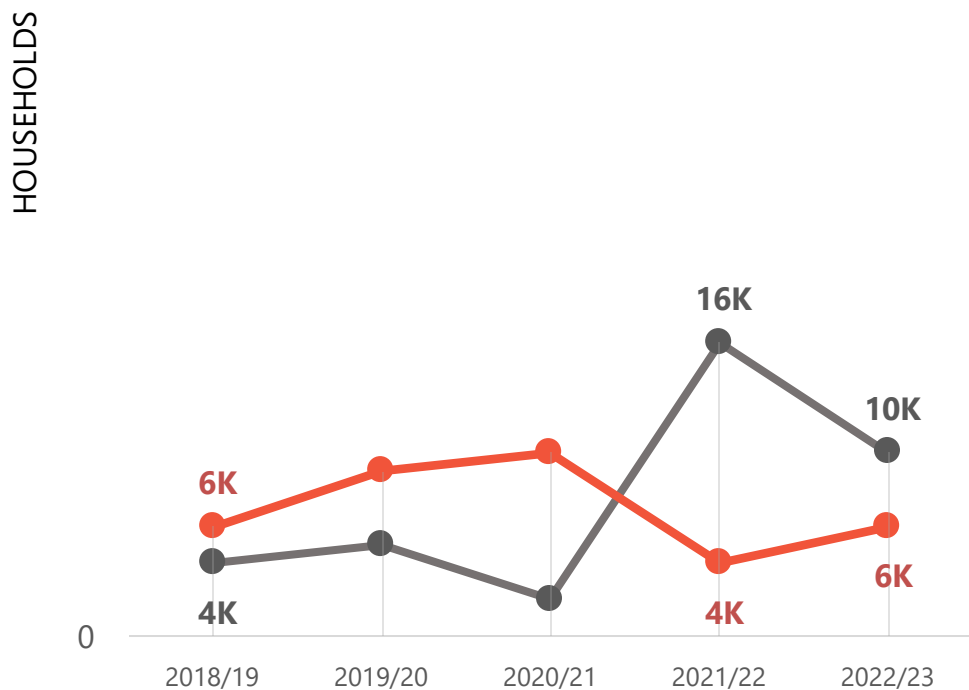


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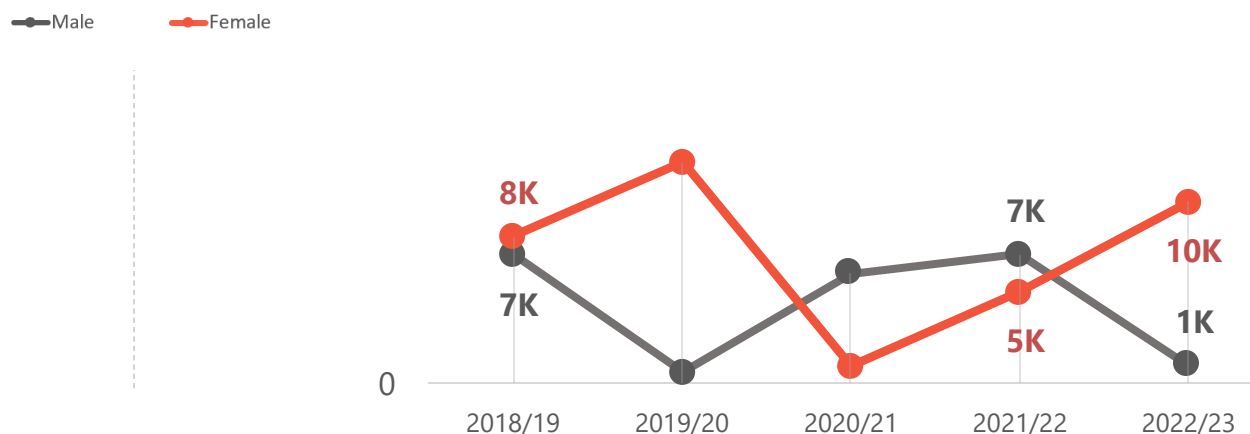
Around **6 000 female headed** households experienced **Murder** during the **past 12 months**. *The experience of murder has increased by 50% from the previous year.*

Based on question "Have you or your household experienced murder **during the past 12 months**"



Around **10 000 female headed** households experienced **Sexual Offence** during the **past 12 months**. *The experience of sexual offence has increased by 98% from the previous year.*

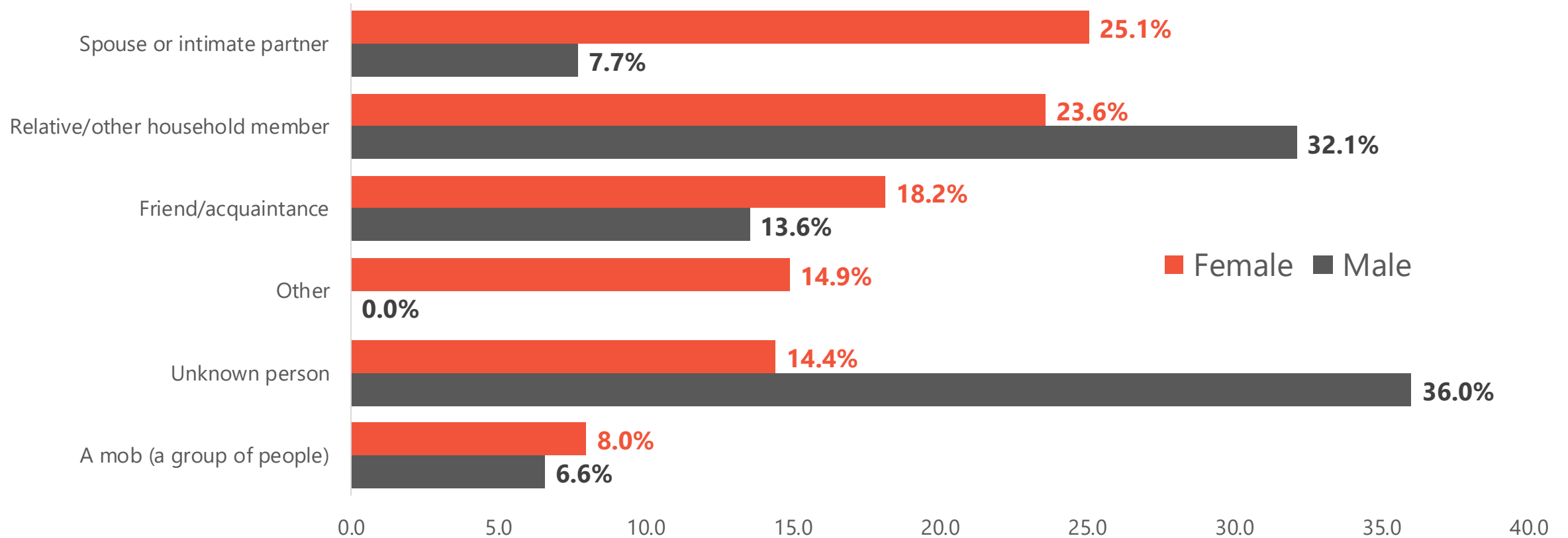
Based on question "Have you or your household experienced sexual offence **during the past 12 months**"



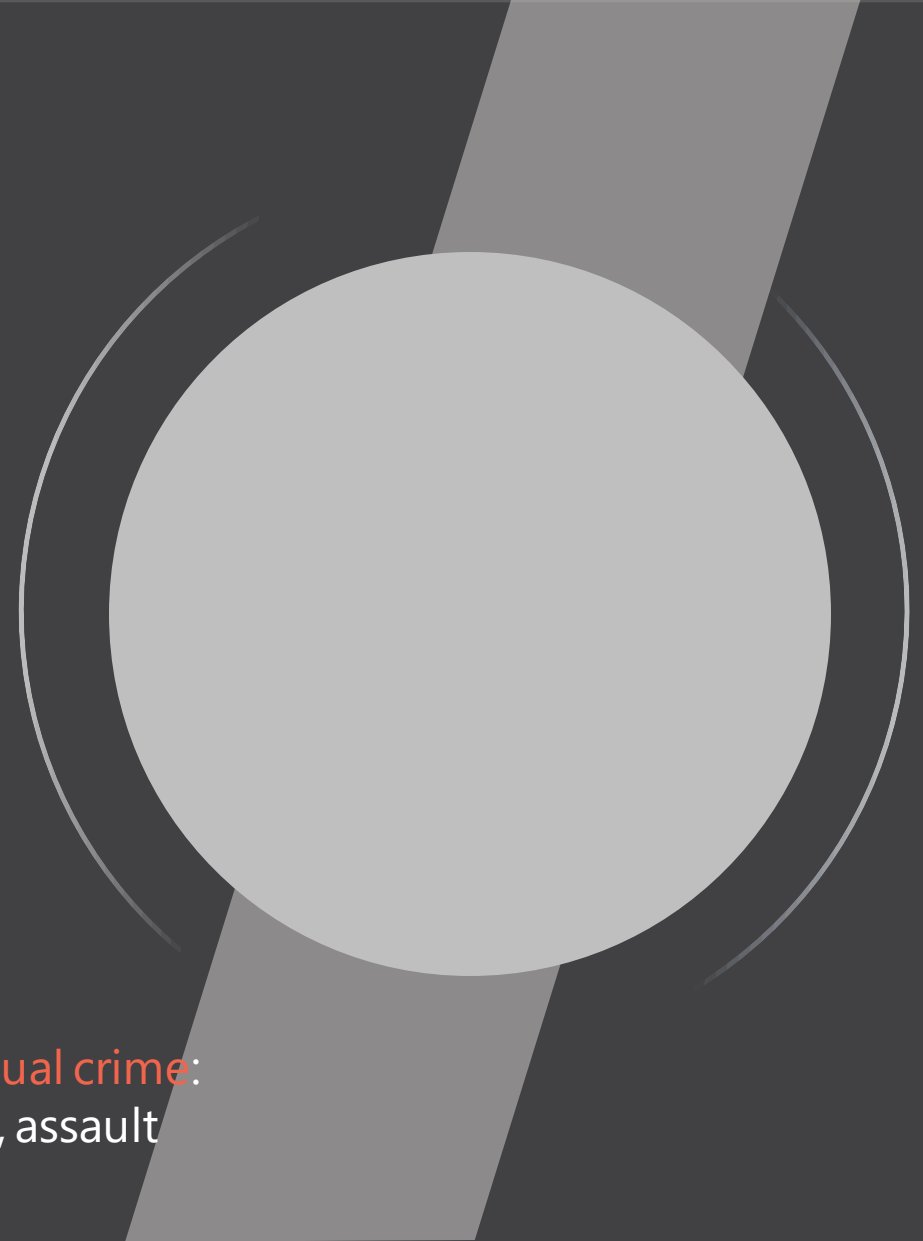
About 25% of female-headed households reported that a **spouse or intimate partner** was the perpetrator of assault.

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Percentage of perpetrators of assault, 2022/23



Individual Experience of Crime



The Victim of Crime modules in GPSJS consists of 6 types of individual crime: Theft of personal property, street robbery, hijacking, sexual offence, assault and consumer fraud.

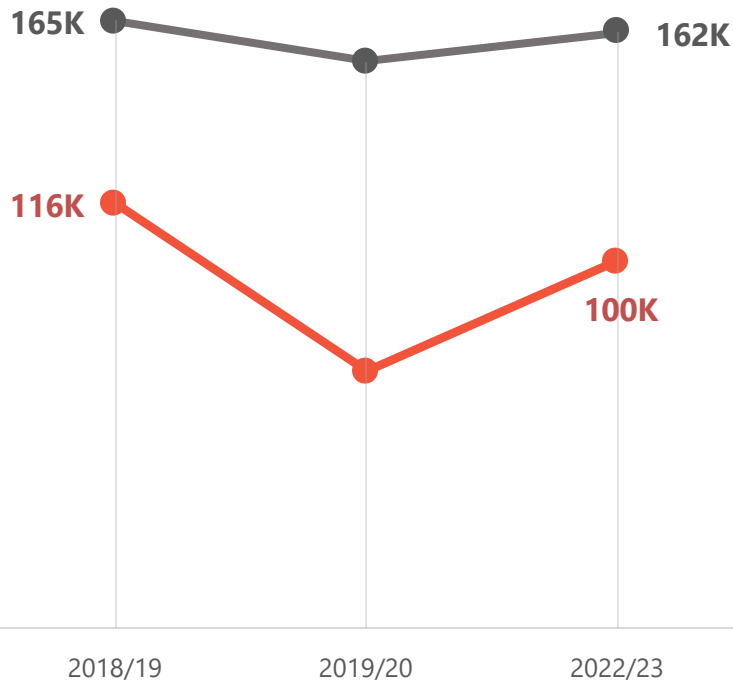


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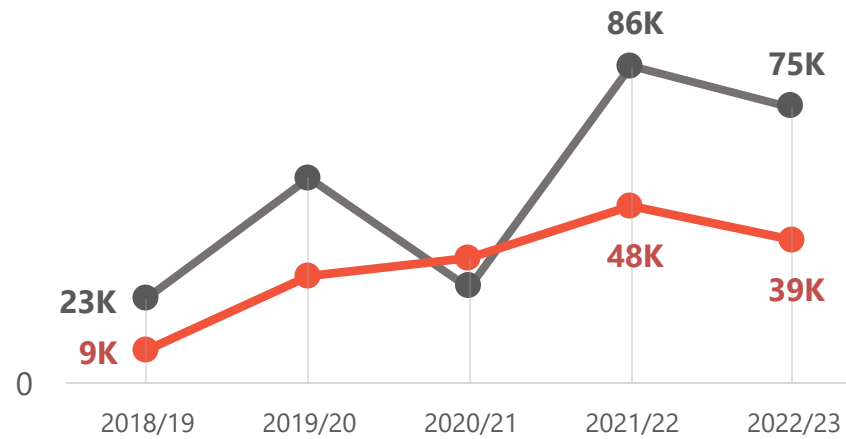
100 000 female individuals experienced **assault** during the past 12 months. The experience of assault has increased by 43% from the previous reporting period in 2019/20.

Number of individuals aged 16 and older that experienced assault **during the past 12 months**



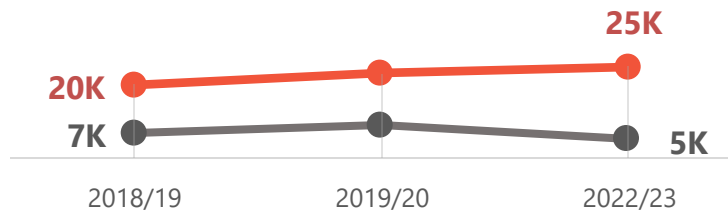
39 000 female individuals experienced **hijacking during the past 12 months**. The experience of hijacking has decreased by 18% from the previous year.

Number of individuals aged 16 and older that experienced hijacking **during the past 12 months**



25 000 female individuals experienced **sexual offence** during the past 12 months. The experience of sexual offence has increased by 9% from the previous reporting period in 2019/20.

Number of individuals aged 16 and older that experienced Sexual offence **during the past 12 months**



Individual perceptions of their safety



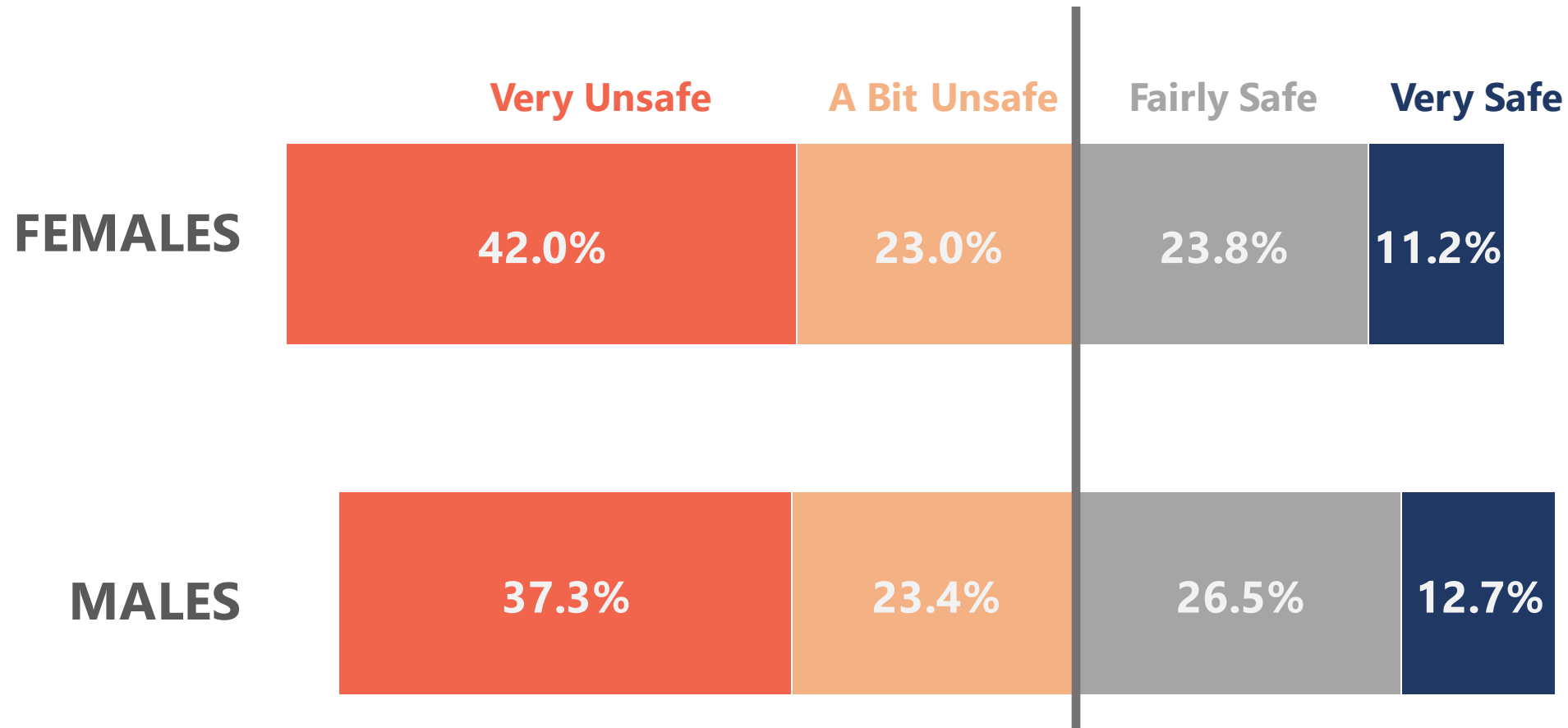
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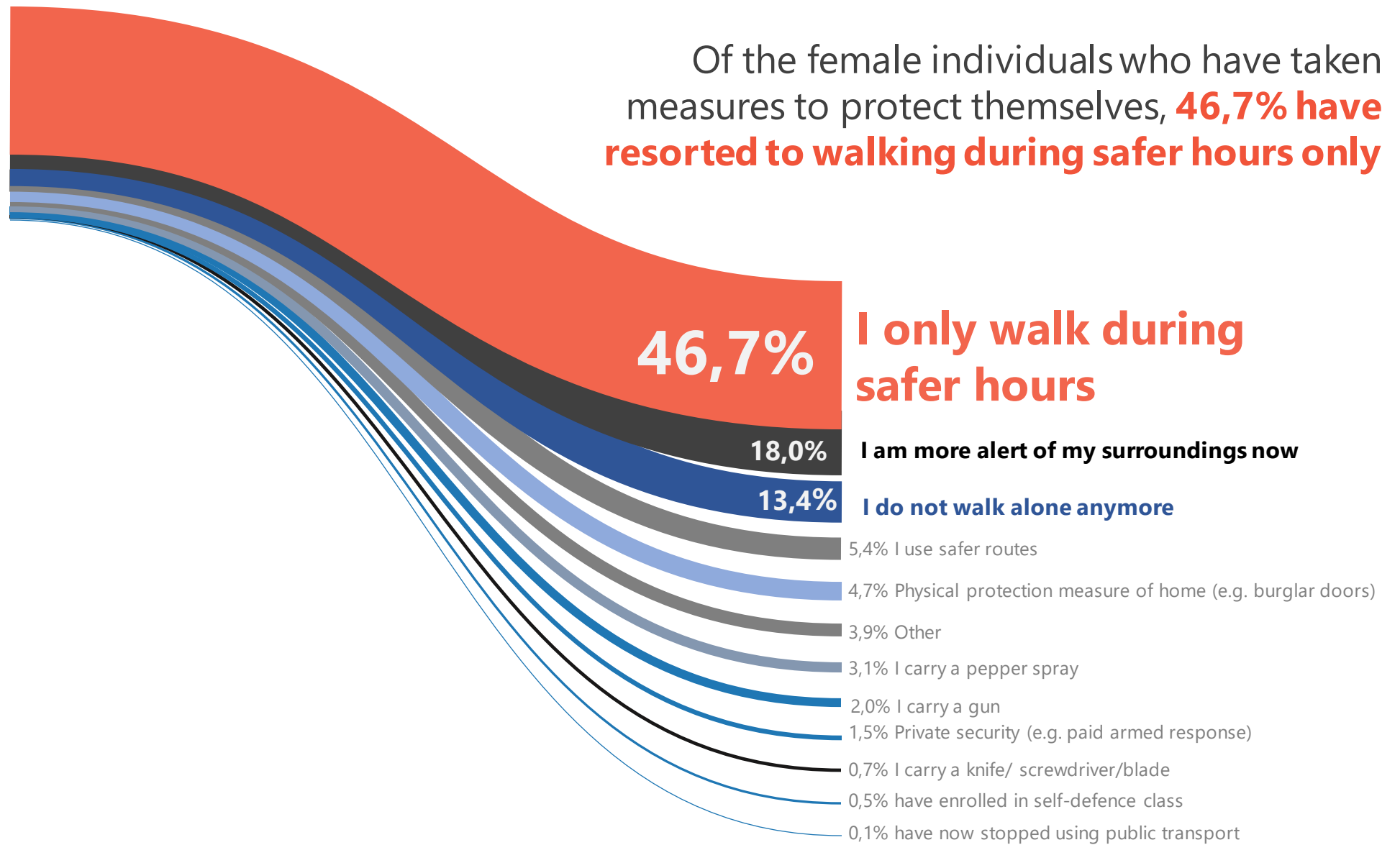
Individuals regardless of their sex **felt unsafe walking alone** at night in their neighbourhoods.

Percentage of persons aged 16 years and above: Feelings of safety when walking alone in their areas of residence when it is dark by sex, 2022/23



30,1% of Female individuals are doing something to protect themselves against crime

Of the female individuals who have taken measures to protect themselves, **46,7% have resorted to walking during safer hours only**



I only walk during safer hours

I am more alert of my surroundings now

I do not walk alone anymore

5,4% I use safer routes

4,7% Physical protection measure of home (e.g. burglar doors)

3,9% Other

3,1% I carry a pepper spray

2,0% I carry a gun

1,5% Private security (e.g. paid armed response)

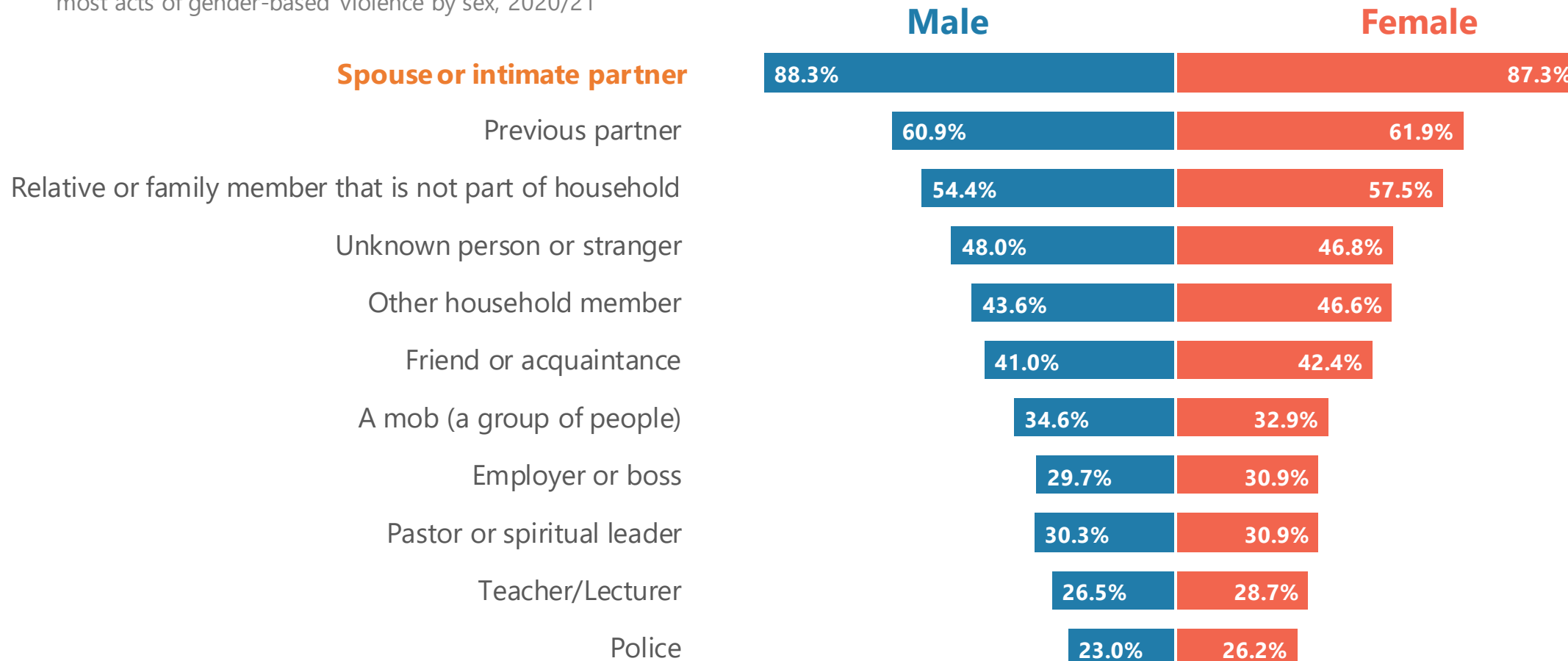
0,7% I carry a knife/ screwdriver/blade

0,5% have enrolled in self-defence class

0,1% have now stopped using public transport

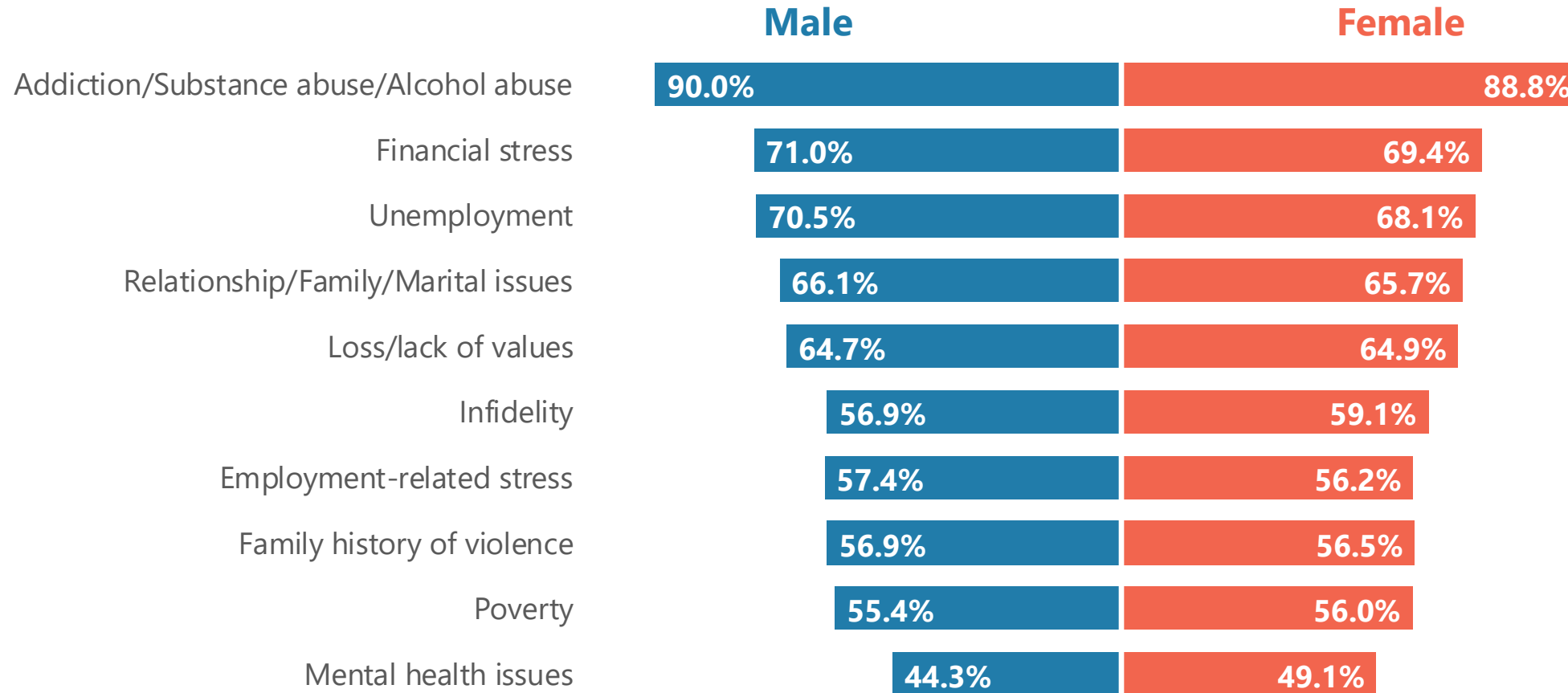
Both **males (88,3%)** and **females (87,3%)** think that the spouse or intimate partners commit the most acts of gender-based violence.

Percentage of persons aged 16 years and above by whom they think commits the most acts of gender-based violence by sex, 2020/21



More than 80% of all persons, irrespective of their sex, said **addictions/substance and alcohol abuse are the cause of violence** against women and children.

Percentage of persons aged 16 years and above by what they think causes violence against women and children by sex, 2020/21



Crime Statistics: South African Police Service

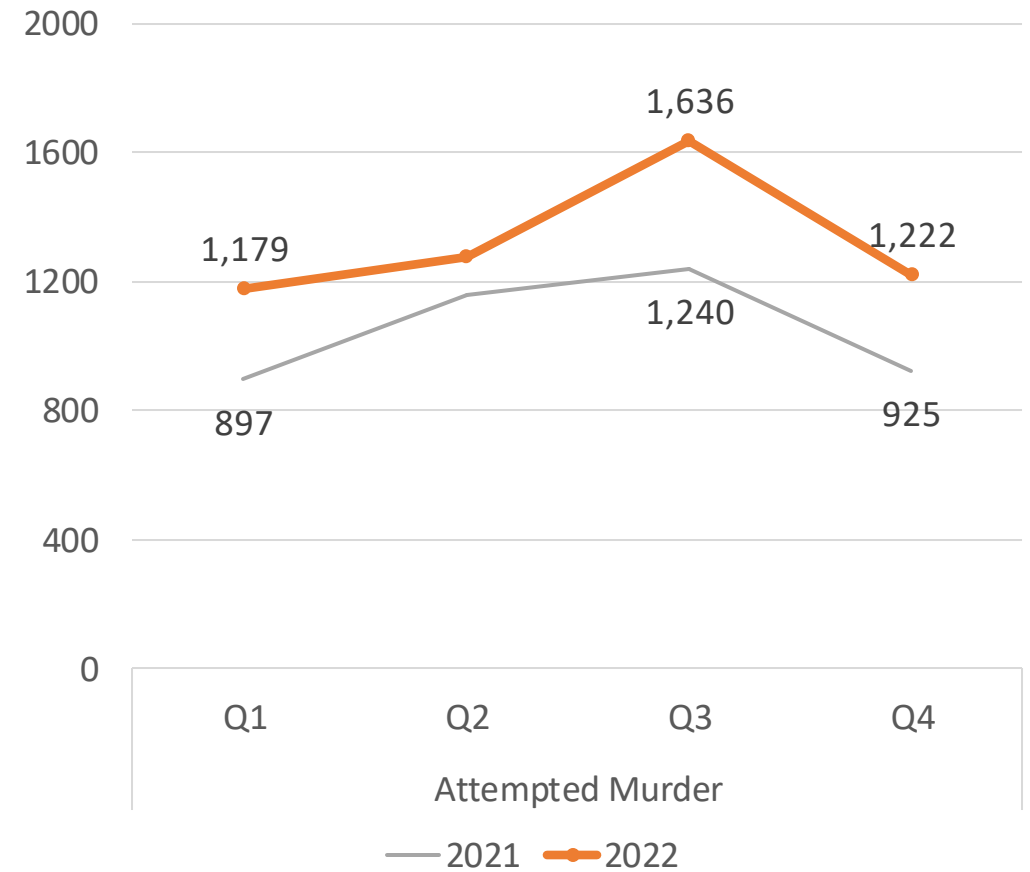
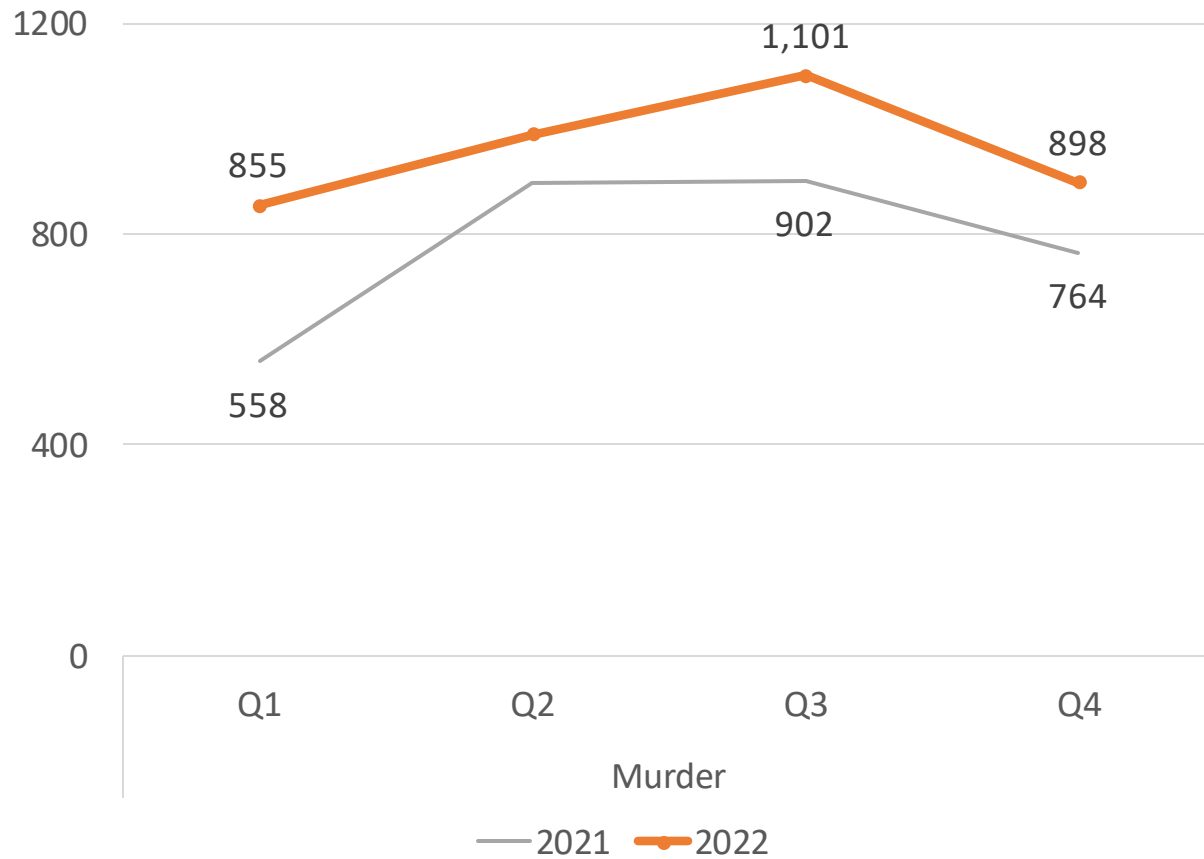


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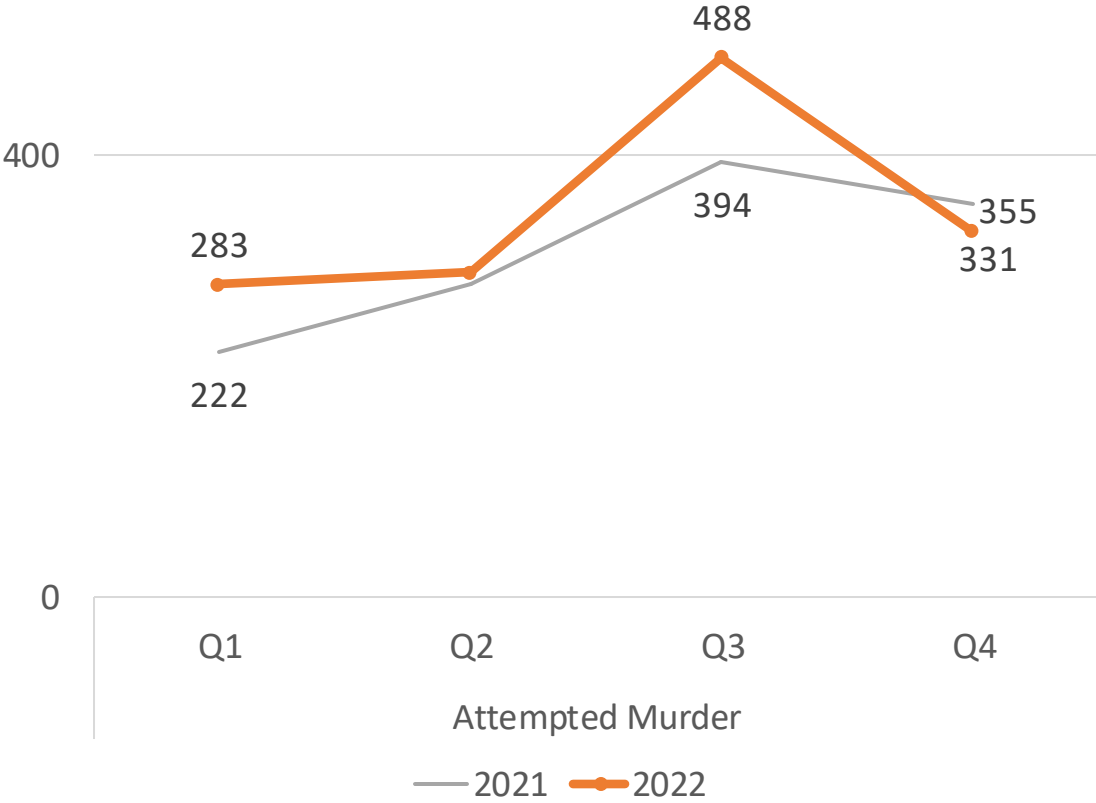
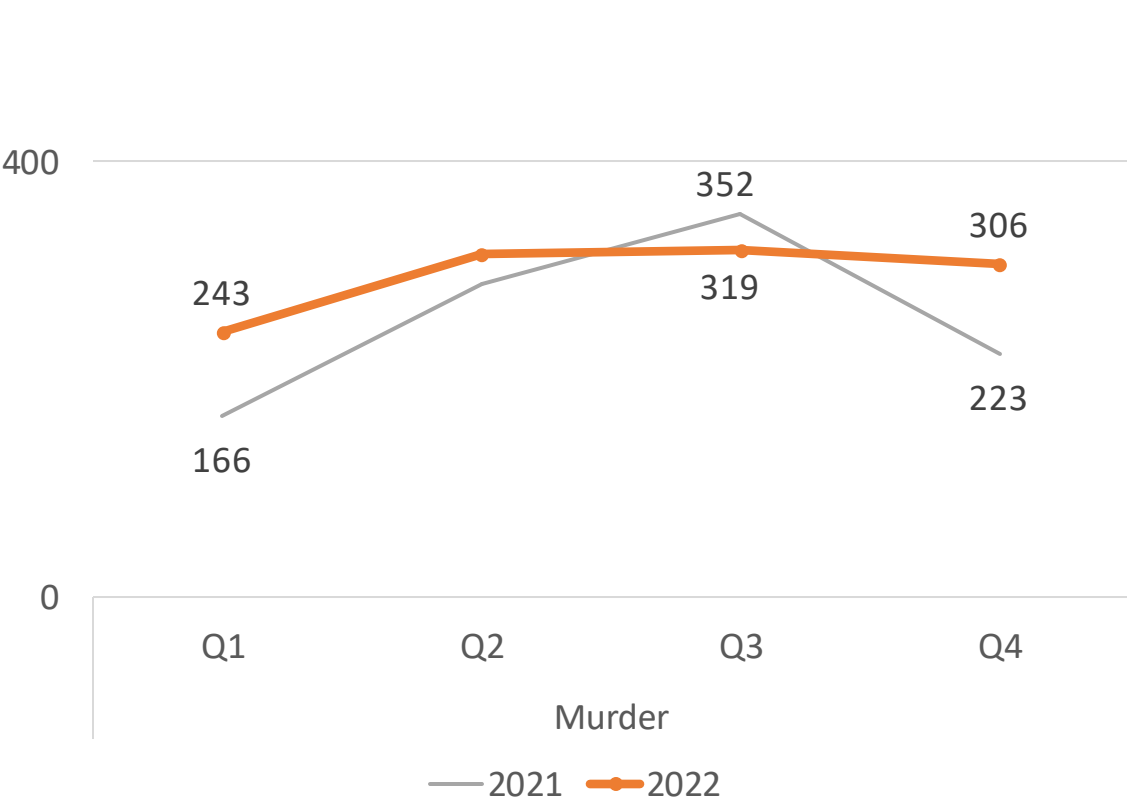


Selected Contact Crimes Against Women (18+ Years)



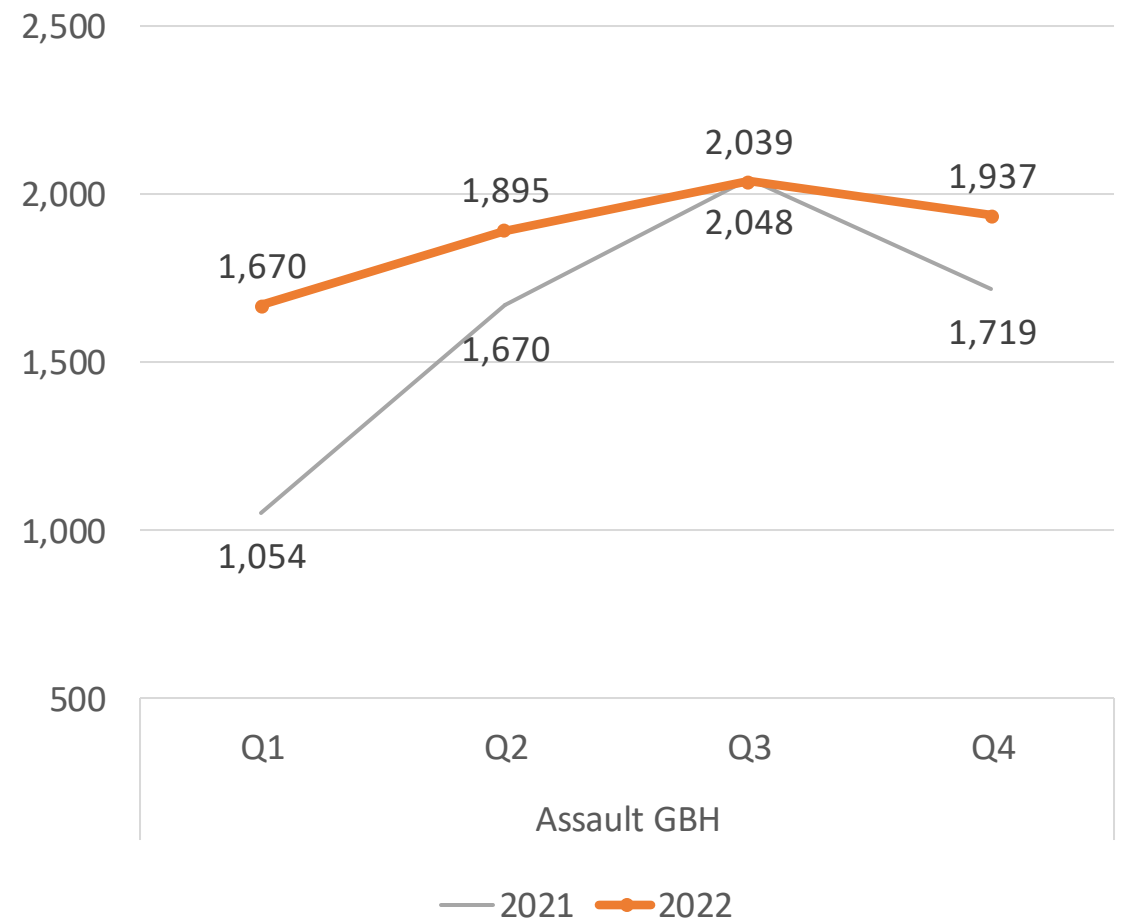
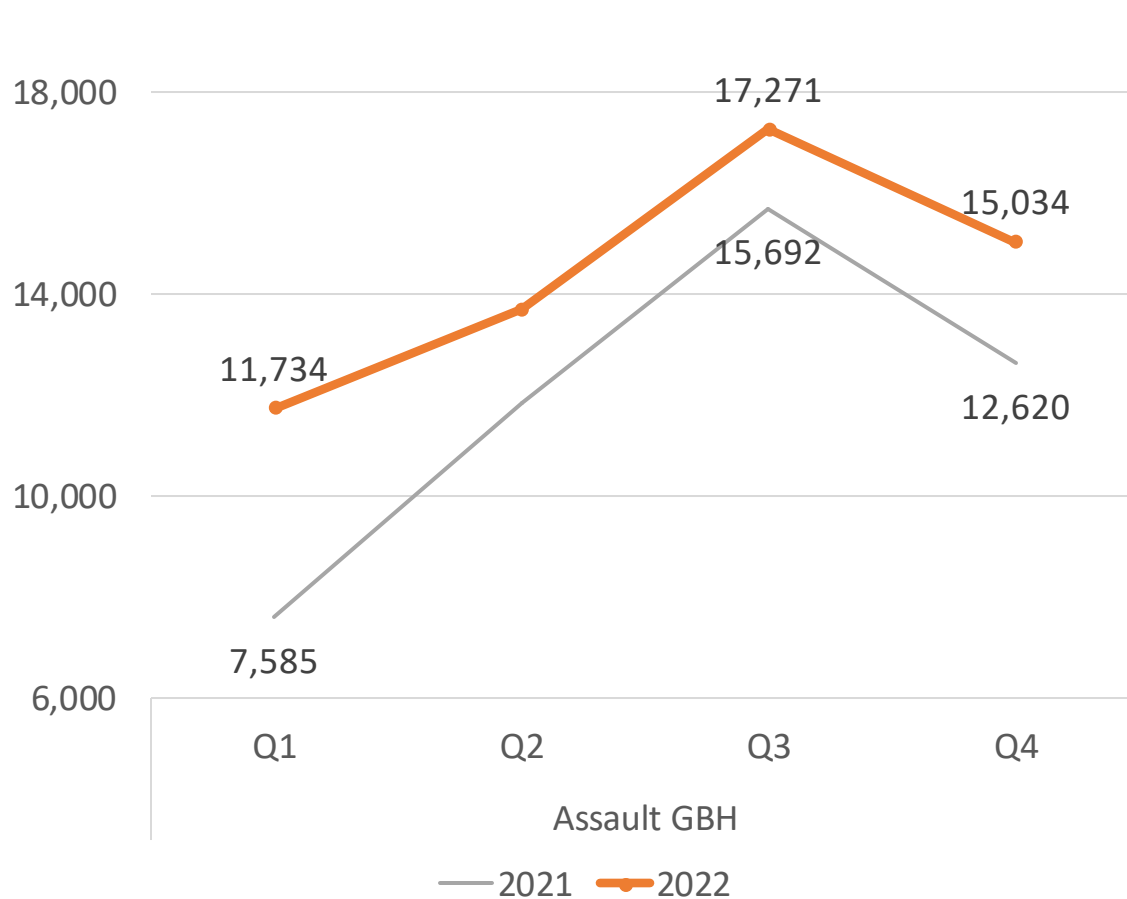
Q1: April – June 2022
 Q2: July – September 2022
 Q3: October – December 2022
 Q4: January – March 2022

Selected Contact Crimes Against Children (0 to 17 Years)



Q1: April – June 2022
 Q2: July – September 2022
 Q3: October – December 2022
 Q4: January – March 2022

Assault - Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH) Against Women (18+ Years) and Children (0-17)



Q1: April – June 2022
 Q2: July – September 2022
 Q3: October – December 2022
 Q4: January – March 2022

Conclusion

- ❖ The crime statistics produced from the GPSJS complement crime statistics from SAPS since it measures some of the indicators that SAPS cannot measure.
 - ❖ To assist in identifying aspects of crime and victimisation that the administrative sources could not easily capture.
 - ❖ Public attitudes in relation to crime, level of reporting of crime and feelings of safety.
- ❖ Collecting data on certain indicators, such as sexual offences, assault and murder, can be challenging due to various factors, e.g.
 - Low response rates, the use of proxy respondents, the sensitivity of the questions, the potential presence of the perpetrator during the interview, and the stigma attached to sexual offences.
- ❖ These challenges make it impossible to disaggregate the estimates by demographic and geographical variables.
- ❖ Additionally, there is a lack of production statistics regarding violence against children, older females, and persons with disabilities.
- ❖ Despite these challenges, GPSJS generates long-term time series and is increasingly valuable for measuring trends and impact, both within and outside of government, as a gauge of success or failure in reducing crime.




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Q/A

Thank You

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P0341 Victims of Crime


GOVERNANCE, PUBLIC SAFETY, AND JUSTICE
SURVEY
GPSJS 2022/23

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<https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0341/P03412023.pdf>



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