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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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. 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. 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. 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. 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.
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.
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.

Percentage of perpetrators of assault, 2022/23

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perpetrator Type</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spouse or intimate partner</td>
<td>25.1%</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relative/other household member</td>
<td>23.6%</td>
<td>32.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friend/acquaintance</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown person</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
<td>36.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A mob (a group of people)</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.
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.

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

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.
Individual perceptions of their safety
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

**FEMALES**
- Very Unsafe: 42.0%
- A Bit Unsafe: 23.0%
- Fairly Safe: 23.8%
- Very Safe: 11.2%

**MALES**
- Very Unsafe: 37.3%
- A Bit Unsafe: 23.4%
- Fairly Safe: 26.5%
- Very Safe: 12.7%
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**

- **46.7%** I only walk during safer hours
- **18.0%** I am more alert of my surroundings now
- **13.4%** 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

In all, 30.1% of female individuals are taking some measure to protect themselves against crime.
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

- **Spouse or intimate partner**
  - Male: 88.3%
  - Female: 87.3%
- Previous partner
  - Male: 60.9%
  - Female: 61.9%
- Relative or family member that is not part of household
  - Male: 54.4%
  - Female: 57.5%
- Unknown person or stranger
  - Male: 48.0%
  - Female: 46.8%
- Other household member
  - Male: 43.6%
  - Female: 46.6%
- Friend or acquaintance
  - Male: 41.0%
  - Female: 42.4%
- A mob (a group of people)
  - Male: 34.6%
  - Female: 32.9%
- Employer or boss
  - Male: 29.7%
  - Female: 30.9%
- Pastor or spiritual leader
  - Male: 30.3%
  - Female: 30.9%
- Teacher/Lecturer
  - Male: 26.5%
  - Female: 28.7%
- Police
  - Male: 23.0%
  - Female: 26.2%
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentages of persons aged 16 years and above by what they think causes violence against women and children by sex, 2020/21</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Addiction/Substance abuse/Alcohol abuse</td>
<td>90.0%</td>
<td>88.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial stress</td>
<td>71.0%</td>
<td>69.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>70.5%</td>
<td>68.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relationship/Family/Marital issues</td>
<td>66.1%</td>
<td>65.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss/lack of values</td>
<td>64.7%</td>
<td>64.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infidelity</td>
<td>56.9%</td>
<td>59.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment-related stress</td>
<td>57.4%</td>
<td>56.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family history of violence</td>
<td>56.9%</td>
<td>56.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty</td>
<td>55.4%</td>
<td>56.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental health issues</td>
<td>44.3%</td>
<td>49.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Crime Statistics: South African Police Service
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

Q1 2021: 7,585
Q2 2021: 11,734
Q3 2021: 17,271
Q4 2021: 12,620

Q1 2022: 11,054
Q2 2022: 15,034
Q3 2022: 17,271
Q4 2022: 15,034

Assault GBH 2021 vs 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.
Thank You


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