

# Victims of Crime Survey 2017/18

Risenga Maluleke  
Statistician-General  
11 October 2018

#Crime

# Why do we need crime statistics?



## Safety

Crime creates anxiety in society and this has a negative **effect on the quality of life** and economic development.

Its reduction is therefore a priority on the national agenda

## NDP and MTSF

Chapter 12 of the National Development Plan lists crime reduction as a strategic priority.

The NDP envisions that people feel safe at home, at school and at work and live without fear.

One of the broad strategic outcomes of the MTSF (2014-2019) is:  
**"All People in South Africa are, and feel safe"**

## Statistics

In order to **achieve the national strategic outcomes** on crime, it is important to measure the levels, trends and patterns of crime and victimisation in SA

The South African Police Service and VOCS data provide complementary official sources of crime statistics in SA

# ABOUT THIS SURVEY

**01**

VOCS is a household-based survey that examines crime from the point of view of the victims. Focus is on peoples' perceptions and experiences of crime.

**02**

Conducted by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) in 1998. The Institute for Security Studies (ISS) conducted the 2003 and 2007 versions of the VOCS.

**03**

Stats SA continued to run the survey from 2011 onwards, based on a sample size of approximately 30 000 private households in all 9 provinces of SA.

**04**

This is the last report of VOCS as conducted from 2011. From April this year a new survey called Governance, Public Safety and Justice (GPSJS) began. GPSJS has some VOCS content plus new content on governance public safety and justice.

# OBJECTIVES OF THE SURVEY

1

Explore the views households and crime victims have about crime

2

Explore public perceptions of the activities of the police, prosecutors, courts and correctional services

3

Provide complementary data on the level of crime in South Africa

# VENTURING TO ALIGN CRIME STATS

- We present VOCS and SAPS statistics side-by-side as a first step towards aligning the two major sources of crime statistics.
- Different definitions of crime categories is one of the obstacles that would need to be addressed.
- International Classification of Crime for Statistical purposes (ICCS) project is a step in the right direction.
- VOCS produces estimates of the actual number of incidents of crime experienced by households and individuals while SAPS statistics are derived from crime reported at police stations.
- VOCS and SAPS statistics represent different measurements so the numbers would differ even if identical definitions were used.

# CAUTIONARY REMARKS

- VOCS covers only thirteen household crimes and seven individual crimes.
- Some SAPS crime categories are not reported by VOCS e.g. crime on businesses, drug related crimes, illegal possession of firearms, e.t.c.



## Household crimes

Generally impacts on the household

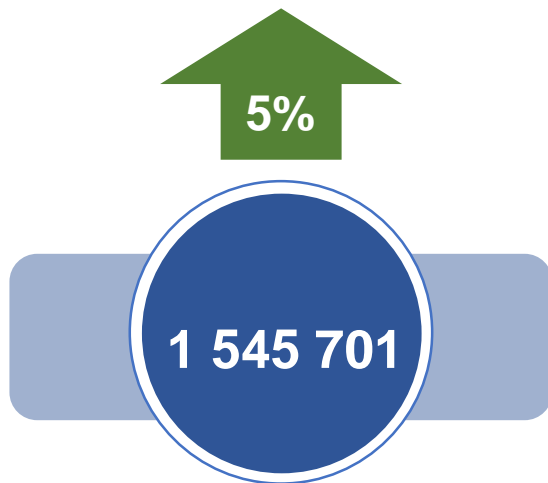


## Individual crimes

Impacts on one individual in the household



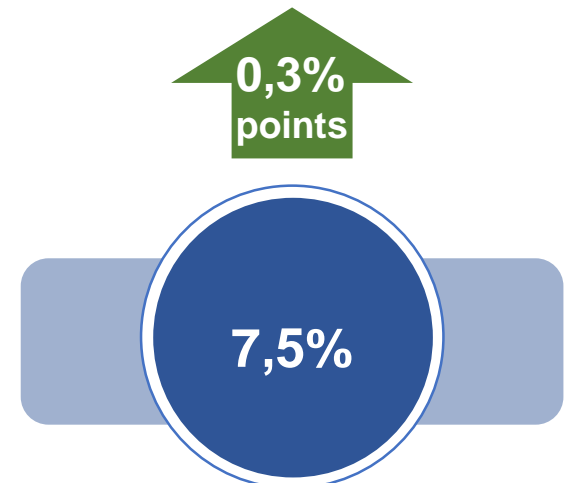
# GENERAL EXPERIENCE OF **HOUSEHOLD** **CRIME** IN SOUTH AFRICA



Estimated total  
number of crime  
incidences



Estimated number of  
households that  
experienced crime



Estimated percentage of  
households that  
experienced crime

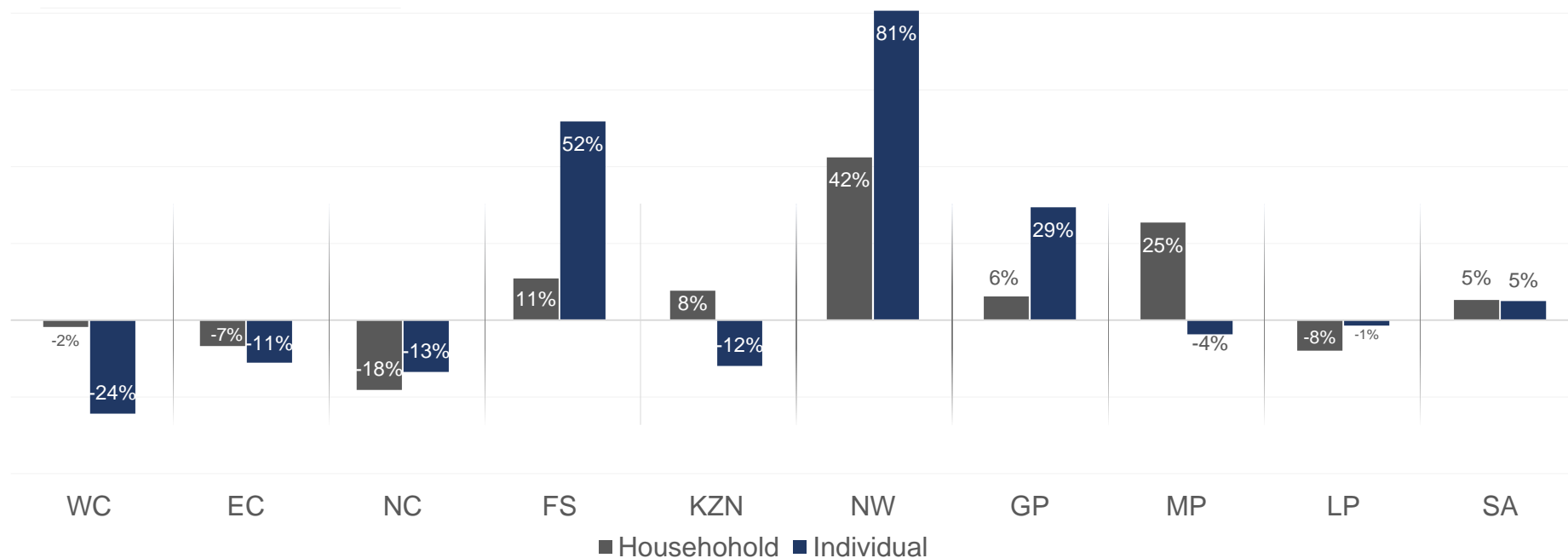


# GENERAL EXPERIENCE OF INDIVIDUAL CRIME IN SOUTH AFRICA *for persons aged 16 and above*



**NORTH WEST EXPERIENCED THE HIGHEST INCREASE OF BOTH HOUSEHOLD AND INDIVIDUAL CRIME.** FS, NW and GP experienced an increase of both household and individual crime. WC, EC, NC and LP experienced a decrease of both household and individual crime.

Percentage change of household and individual crime levels by province, 2016/17 - 2017/18

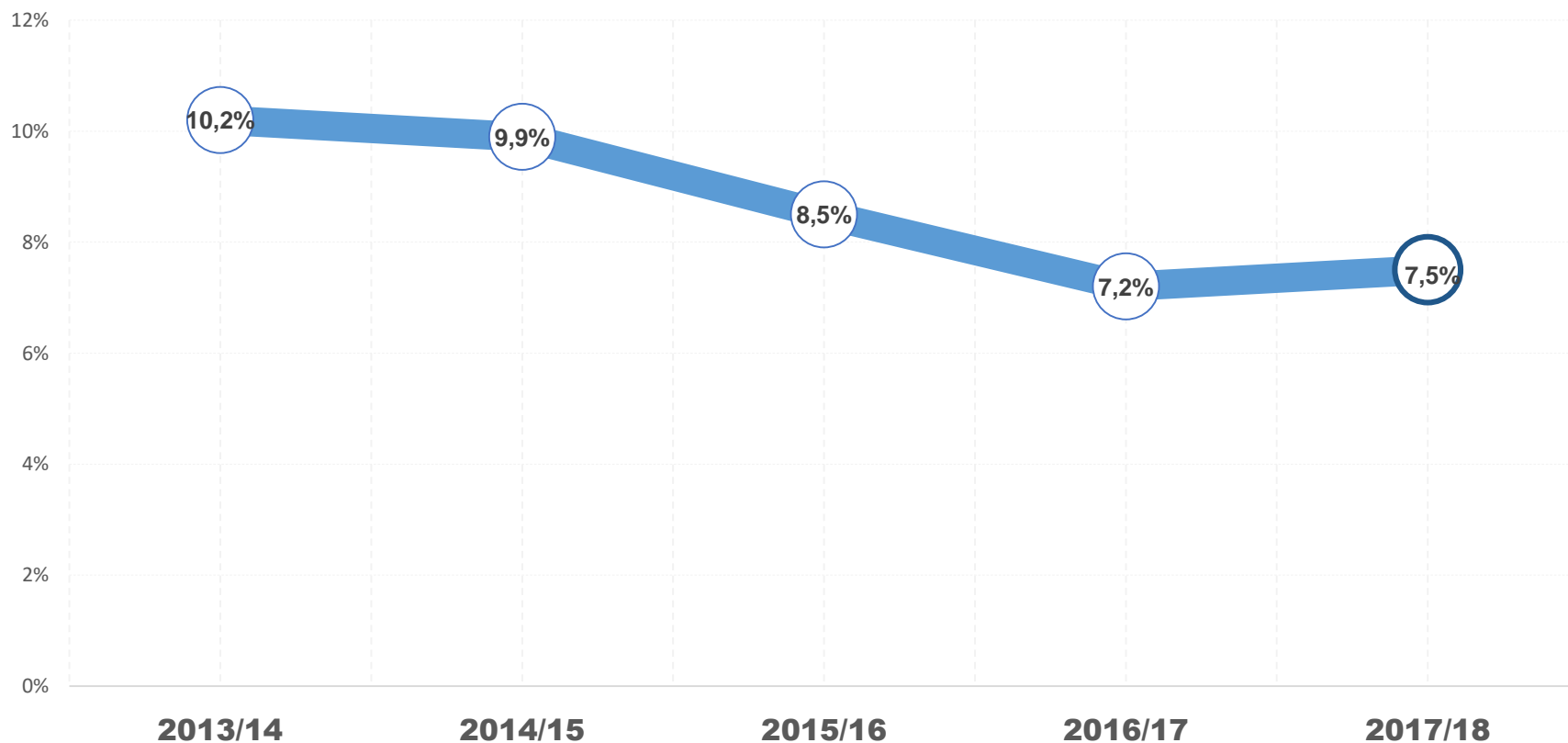


# HOUSEHOLD CRIME



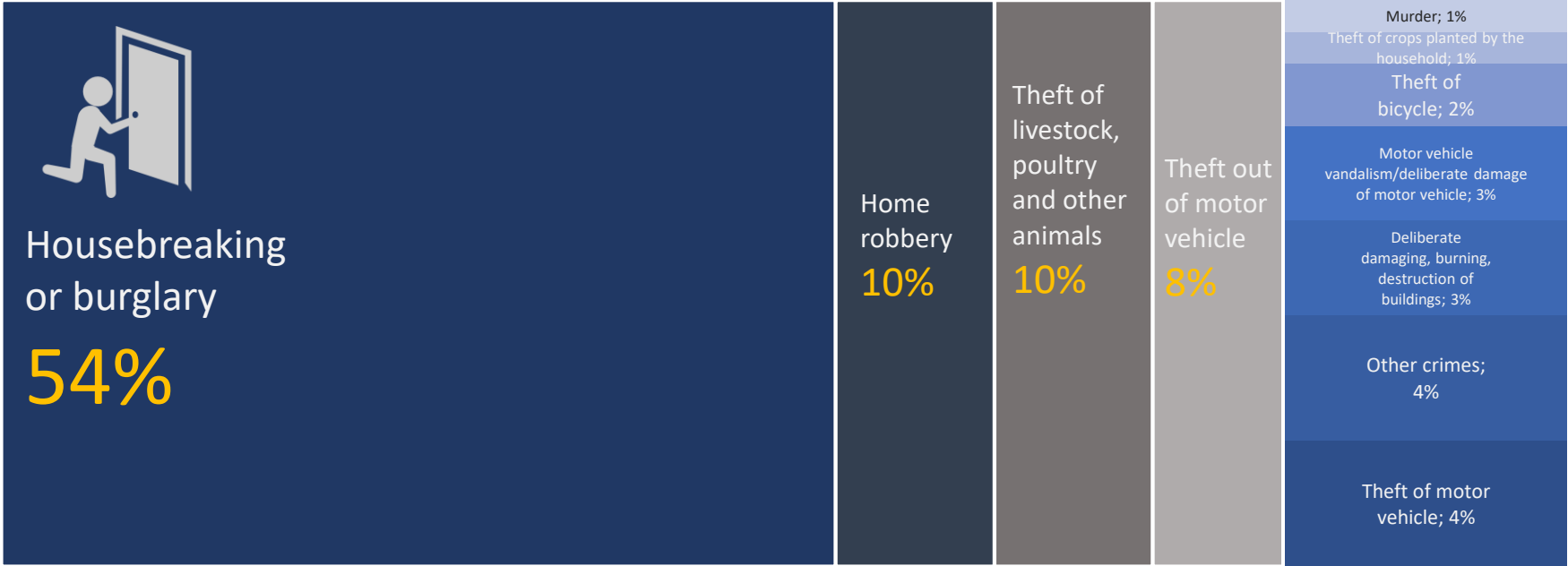
**BETWEEN 2013/14 AND 2016/17, THERE WAS A DECLINING TREND OF THE PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS IN SOUTH AFRICA THAT EXPERIENCED AT LEAST ONE INCIDENT OF CRIME.** *However there was an increase between 2016/17 and 2017/18.*

*Household crime trend:  
2013/14 – 2017/18*



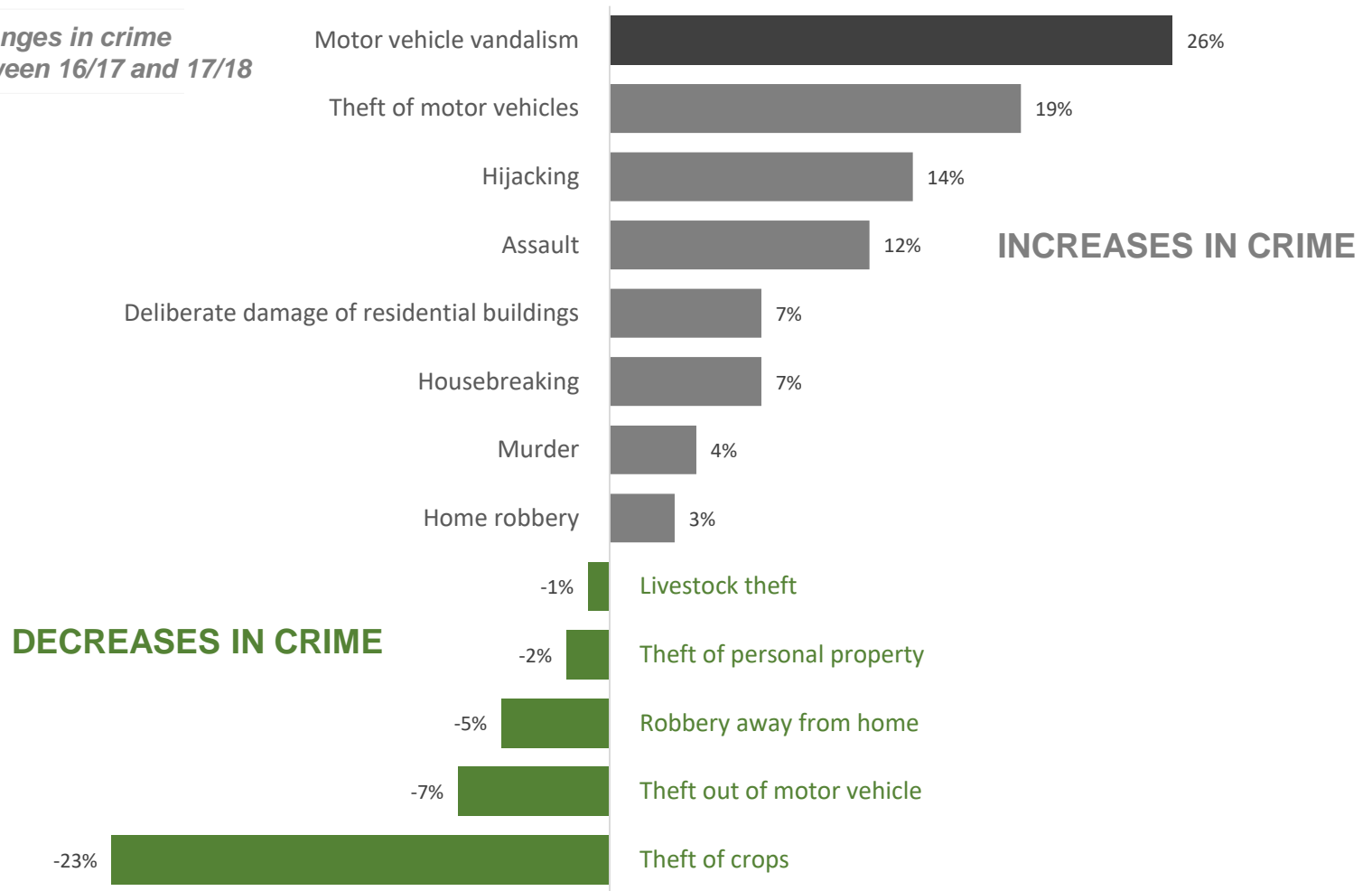
# HOUSEBREAKING OR BURGLARY WAS AGAIN THE DOMINANT HOUSEHOLD CRIME IN 2017/18 ACCOUNTING FOR ABOUT 54% OF ALL HOUSEHOLD CRIMES.

## Household experience of crime, 2017/18



## MOTOR VEHICLE VANDALISM SHOWED THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN CRIME.

*Percentage changes in crime categories between 16/17 and 17/18*



# BOTH VOCS ESTIMATES OF THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS OF HOUSEBREAKING AND SAPS STATISTICS ON REPORTED BURGLARY DECLINED DURING THE PERIOD 2013/14 AND 2016/17.

Household experience of  
Housebreaking/ burglary, 2017/18

**832 122**  
**INCIDENTS**

7%  


**4,25%**

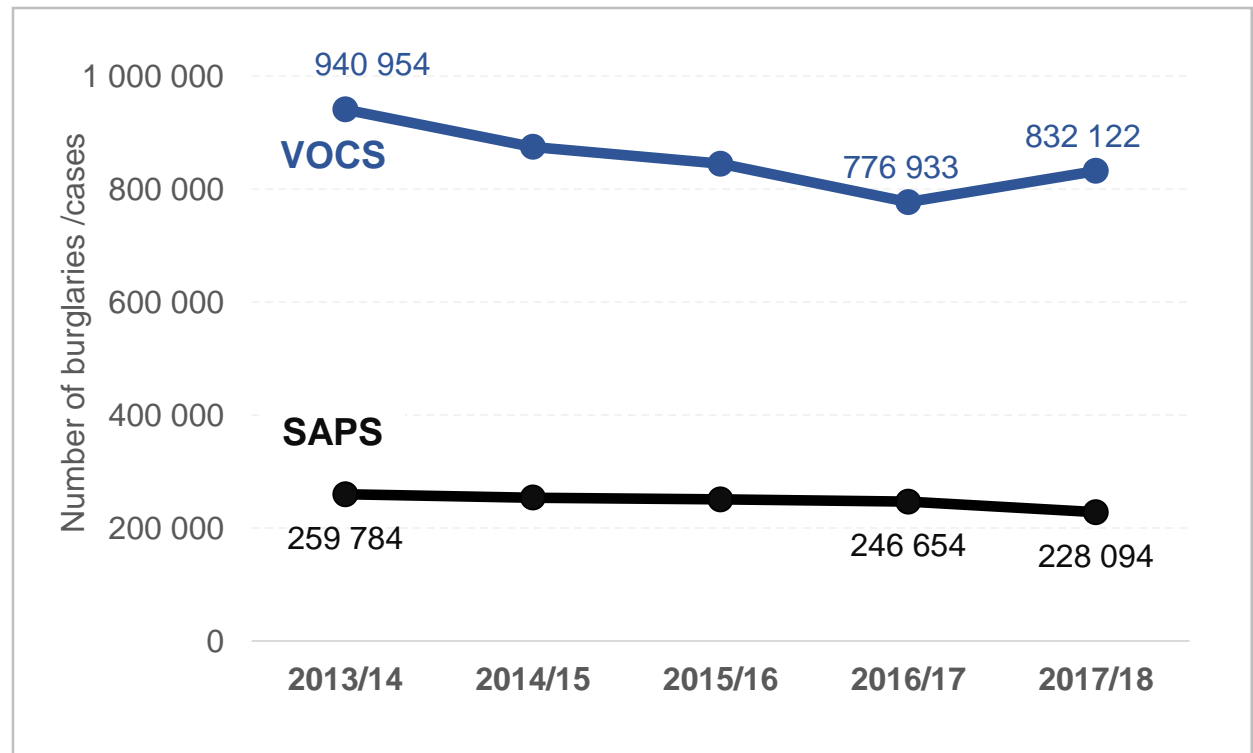
0,51%  
Points  


Percentage of  
households that  
experienced burglary

**51%**

No change

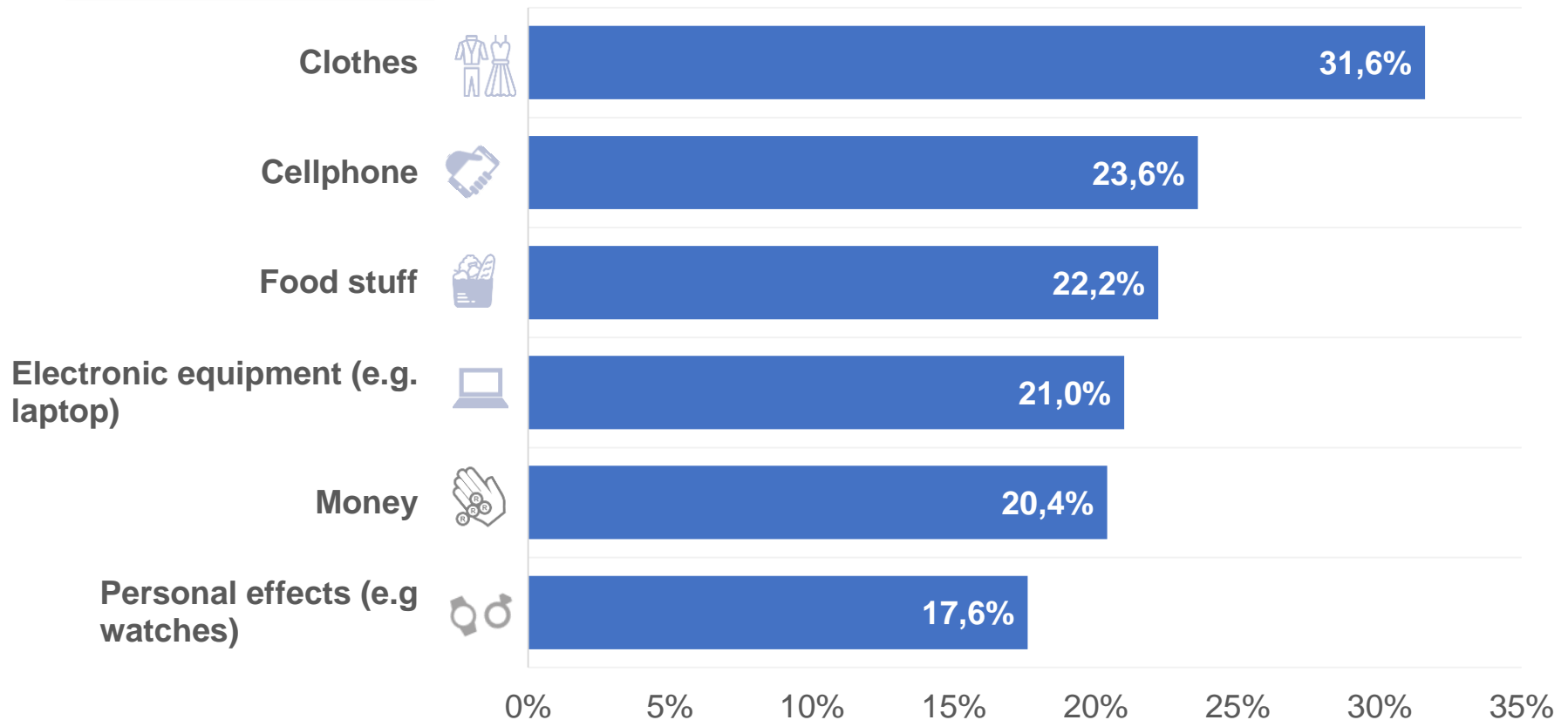
Percentage of burglary  
victims who reported to  
the police



## HOUSEHOLDS LOST CLOTHES IN ABOUT A THIRD OF ALL HOUSEBREAKINGS.

*Cell phones and food stuffs were taken in about a quarter of all recorded housebreakings in 2017/18.*

*Items stolen during housebreaking*



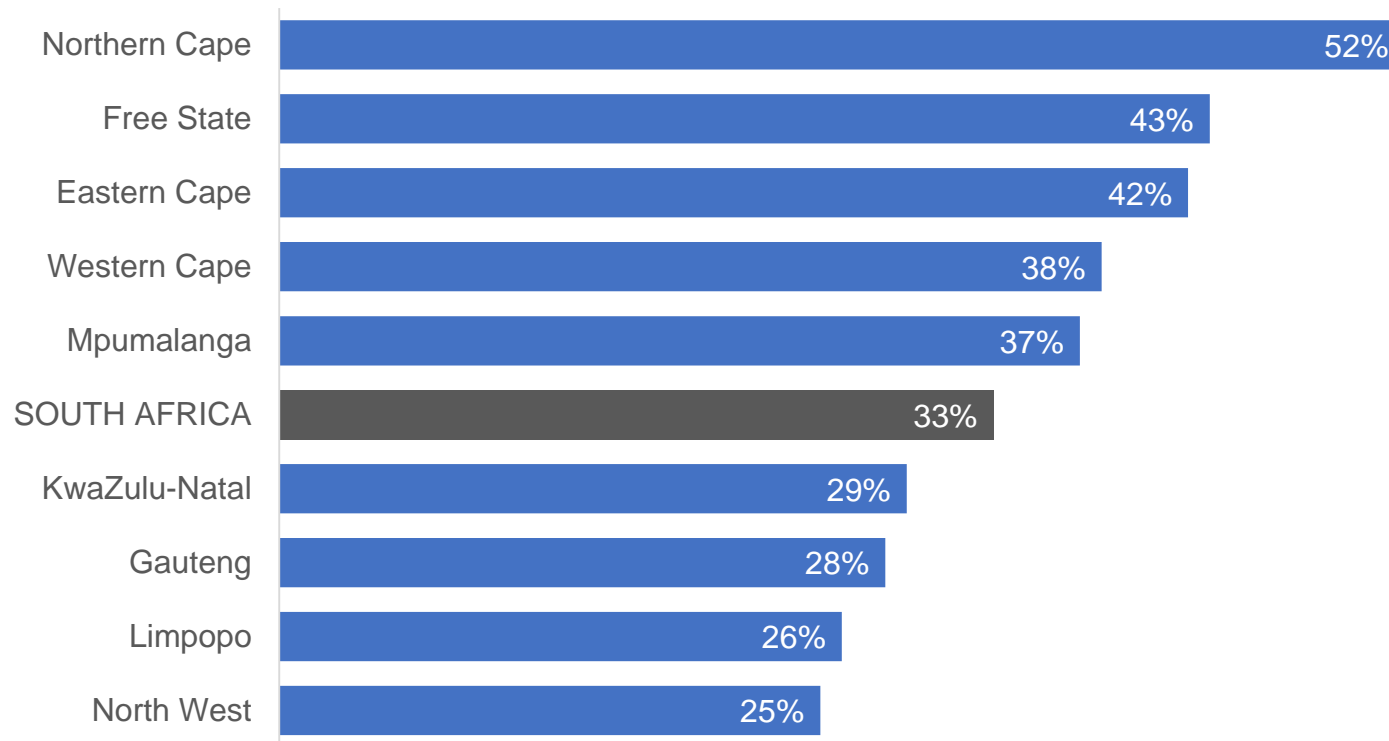


# SATISFACTION WITH POLICE RESPONSE TO HOUSEBREAKING

- About 33% of households that reported housebreaking were satisfied with police response.
- Male and female-headed households were equally likely to be satisfied with police response.
- The white population group had the highest percentage (53%) of households satisfied with police response to housebreaking reporting
- Black African and coloured population groups had the lowest percentage (30%) of households satisfied with police response

## NORTHERN CAPE HAD THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS SATISFIED WITH POLICE RESPONSE TO HOUSEBREAKING.

*Satisfaction with police response by province*



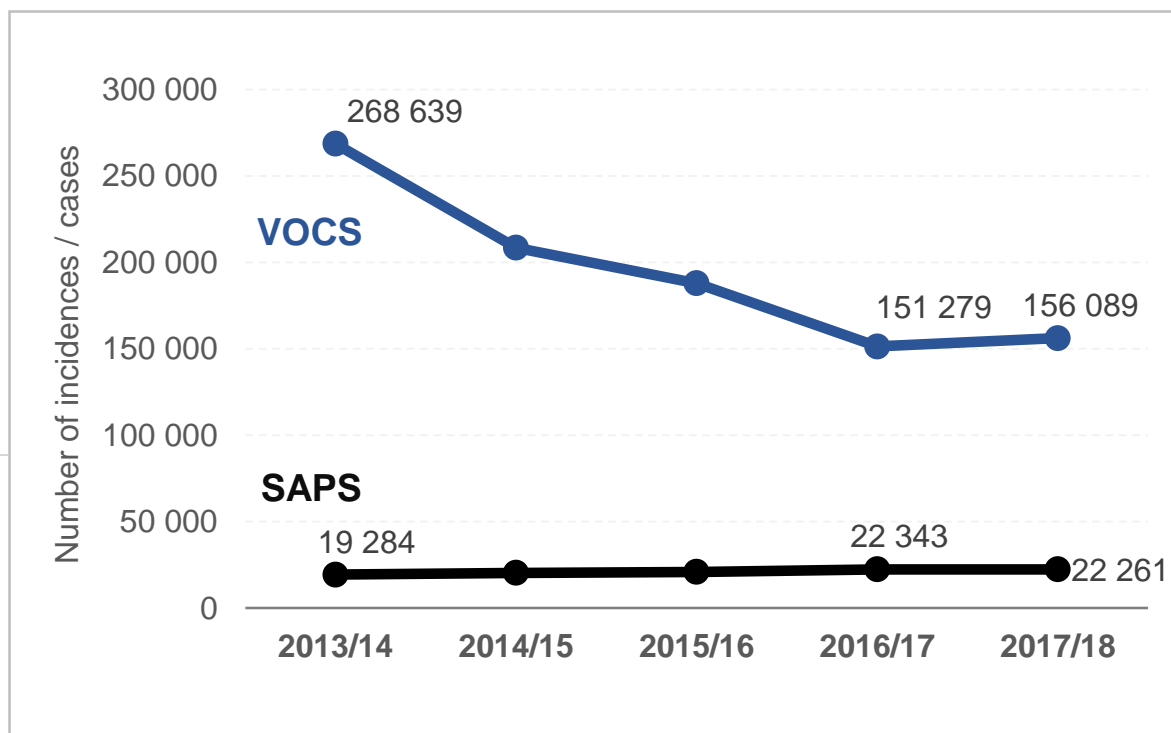
# VOCS ESTIMATES OF THE NUMBER OF HOME ROBBERY INCIDENTS DECREASED RAPIDLY BETWEEN 2013/14 AND 2016/17. SAPS reported cases of home robbery slightly increased between 2013/14 and 2016/17

Home robbery estimates for  
2017/18

**156 089**  
**INCIDENCES**  **3%**

**0,8%** *No change*  
**Percentage of households  
that experienced home  
robbery**

**59%**  **6%  
Points**  
**Percentage of home robbery  
victims who reported to the  
police**



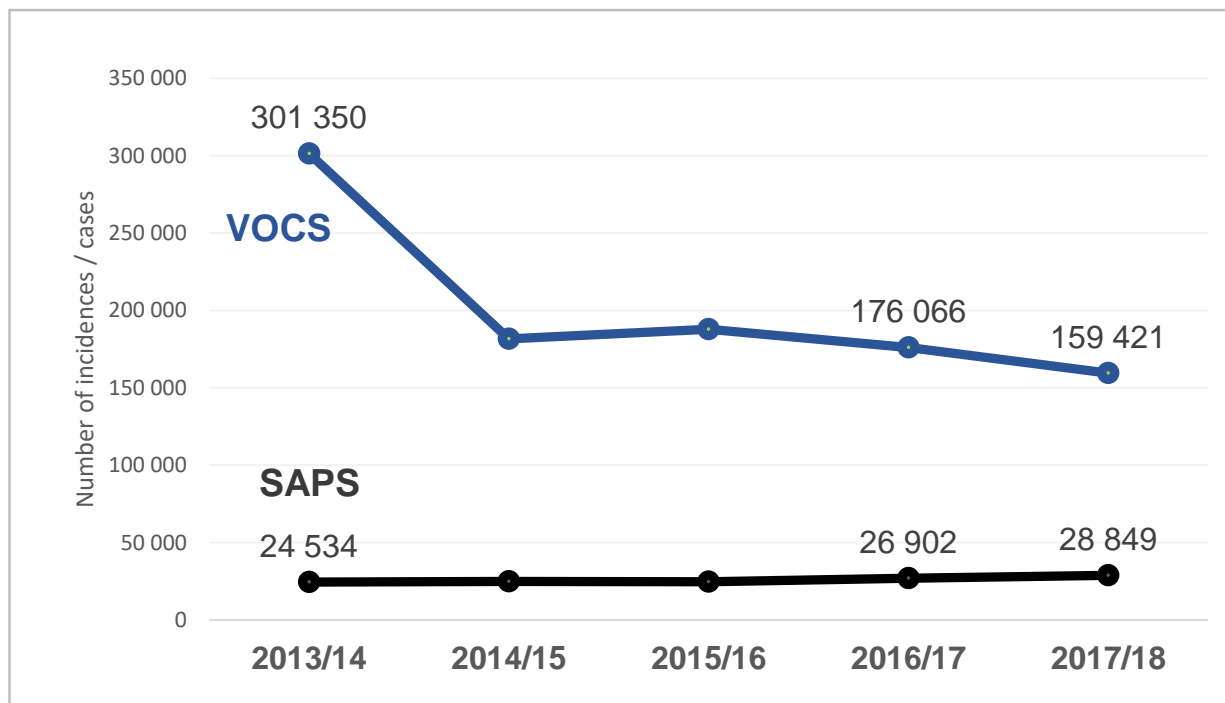
# THE NUMBER OF INCIDENCES OF THEFT OF LIVESTOCK, POULTRY AND OTHER ANIMALS DECLINED DURING THE PERIOD 2013/14 AND 2017/18. *SAPS statistics for stock theft increased during that period*

*Livestock theft estimates for 2017/18*

**159 421**  
**INCIDENCES**  1%

**0,77%**  0,04%  
Percentage of households that experienced livestock theft  
% Points

**29%**  0,03%  
Percentage of livestock theft victims who reported to the police  
Points



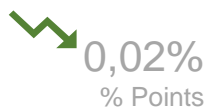
# VOCS ESTIMATED MURDER INCIDENCES DECLINED BETWEEN 2013/14 AND 2015/16 AND THEN FOLLOWED AN INCREASING TREND. *SAPS murder plus culpable homicide increased steadily since 2013/14*

Murder estimates for  
2017/18

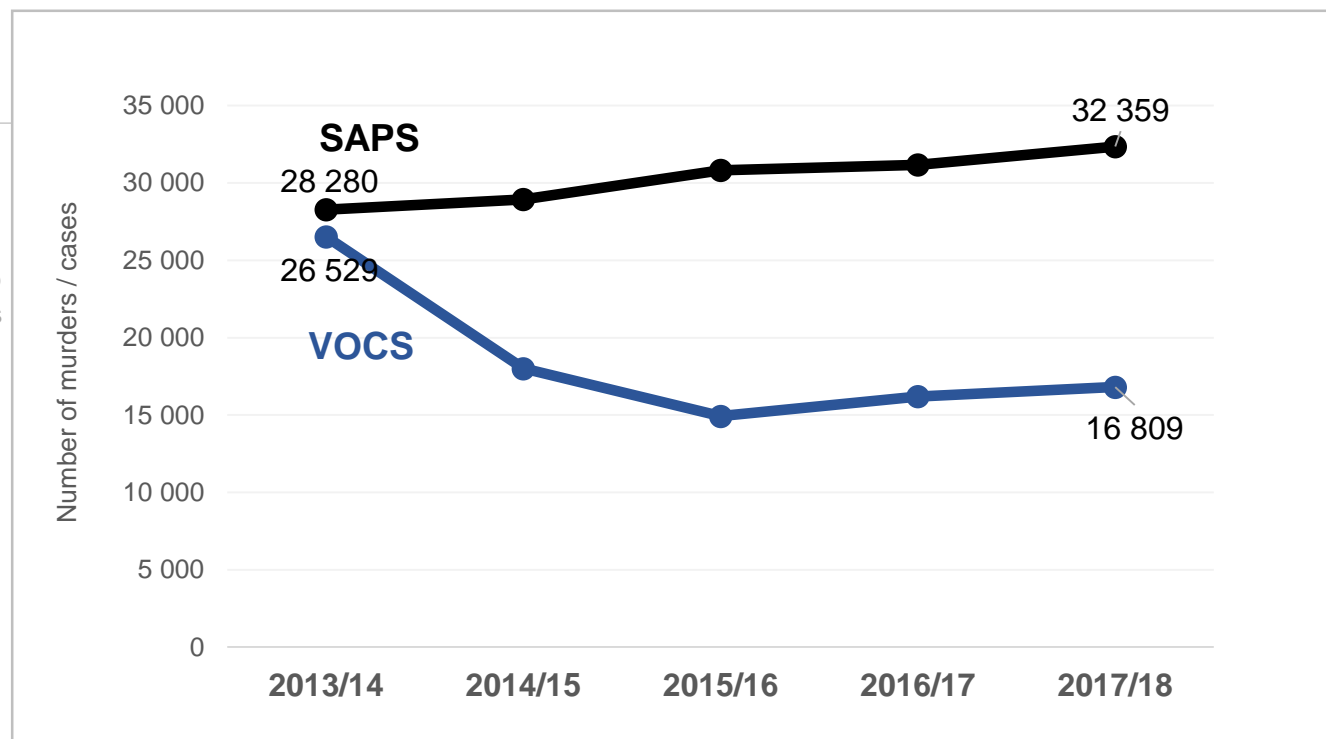
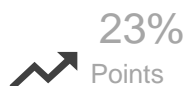
**16 809**  
**INCIDENCES**



**0,08%**  
Percentage of  
households that  
experienced murder



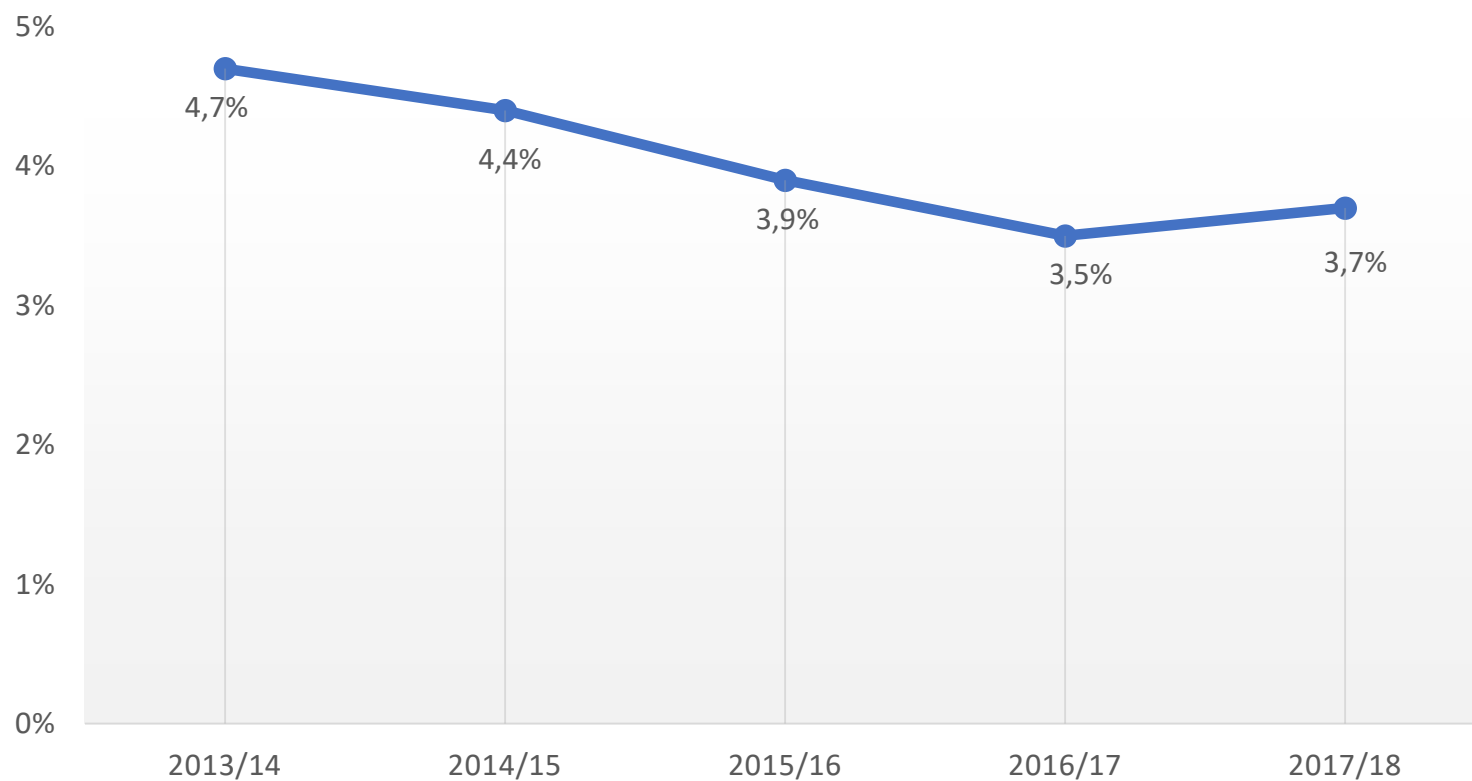
**89%**  
Percentage of  
households that reported  
murder to the police



# Individual Experience of Crime

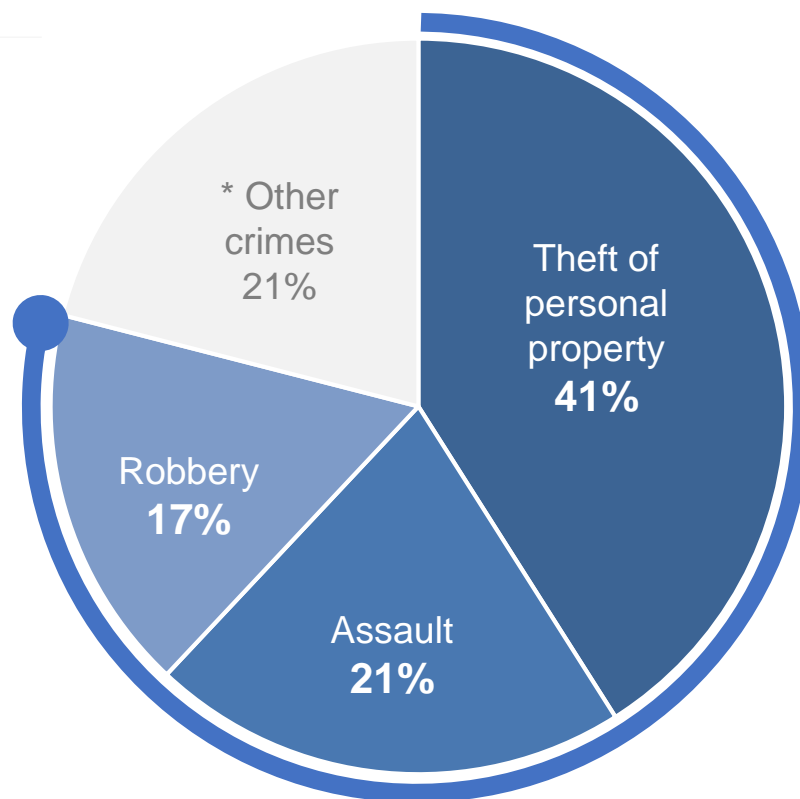
## THE PERCENTAGE OF INDIVIDUALS AGED 16 AND ABOVE WHO EXPERIENCED CRIME DECREASED STEADILY BETWEEN 2013/14 AND 2016/17 THEN INCREASED SLIGHTLY IN 2017/18

*Individual crime trends*  
2013/14 – 2017/18



# THEFT OF PERSONAL PROPERTY, ROBBERY OUTSIDE HOME AND ASSAULT ACCOUNTED FOR 79% OF CRIME EXPERIENCED BY INDIVIDUALS 16 YEARS AND ABOVE.

*Distribution of individual crime experienced, 2017/18*



\* Numbers have been rounded and may not total 100%

\* Other includes: Hijacking of motor vehicles, sexual offences, consumer fraud and corruption



# CELLPHONES DOMINATED THE LIST OF ITEMS LOST THROUGH THEFT OF PERSONAL PROPERTY AFFECTING 69,1% OF THE VICTIMS.

*Theft of personal property,  
2017/18, percentage of  
persons 16 years and older*

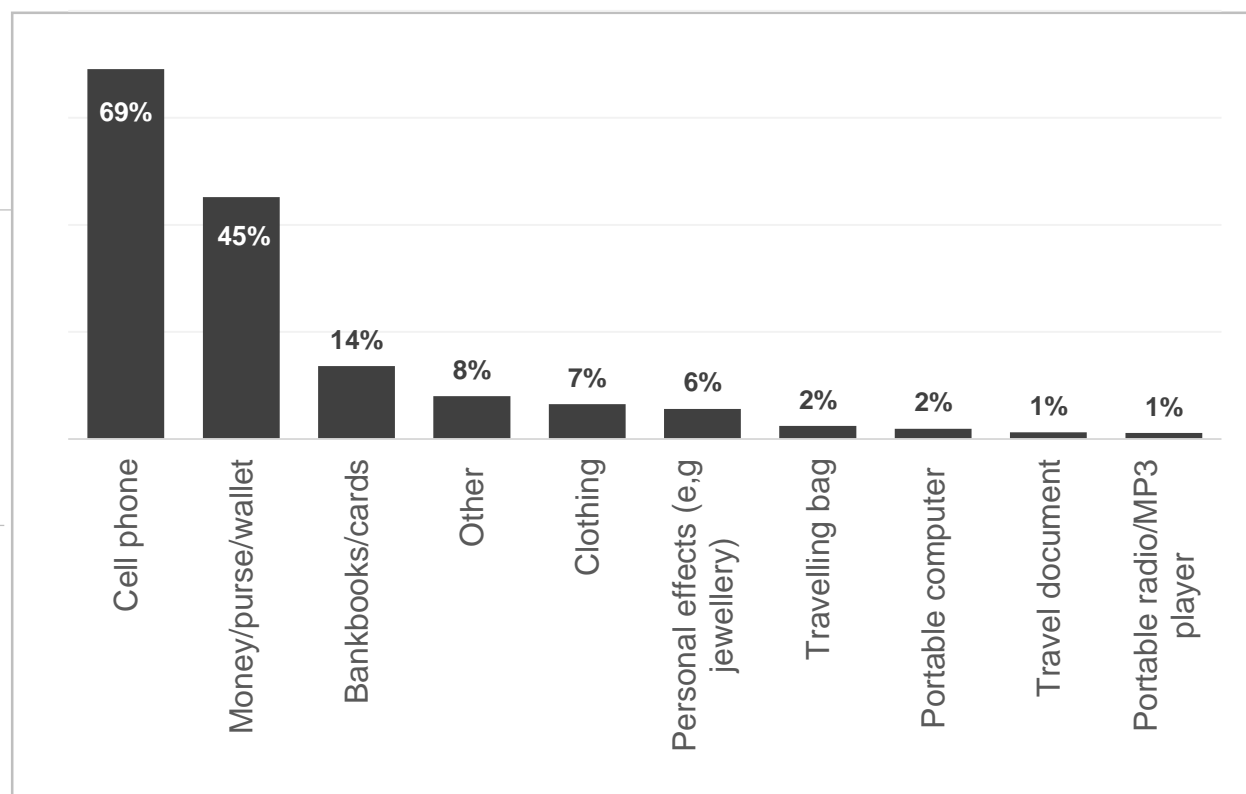
**693 219**  **2%**  
**INCIDENTS**

**1,72%**  **0,04%**  
**Points**

**Individuals aged 16 and  
above who experienced  
theft of personal property**

**24%**  **8%**  
**Points**

**Individuals aged 16 and  
above who reported to  
the police**




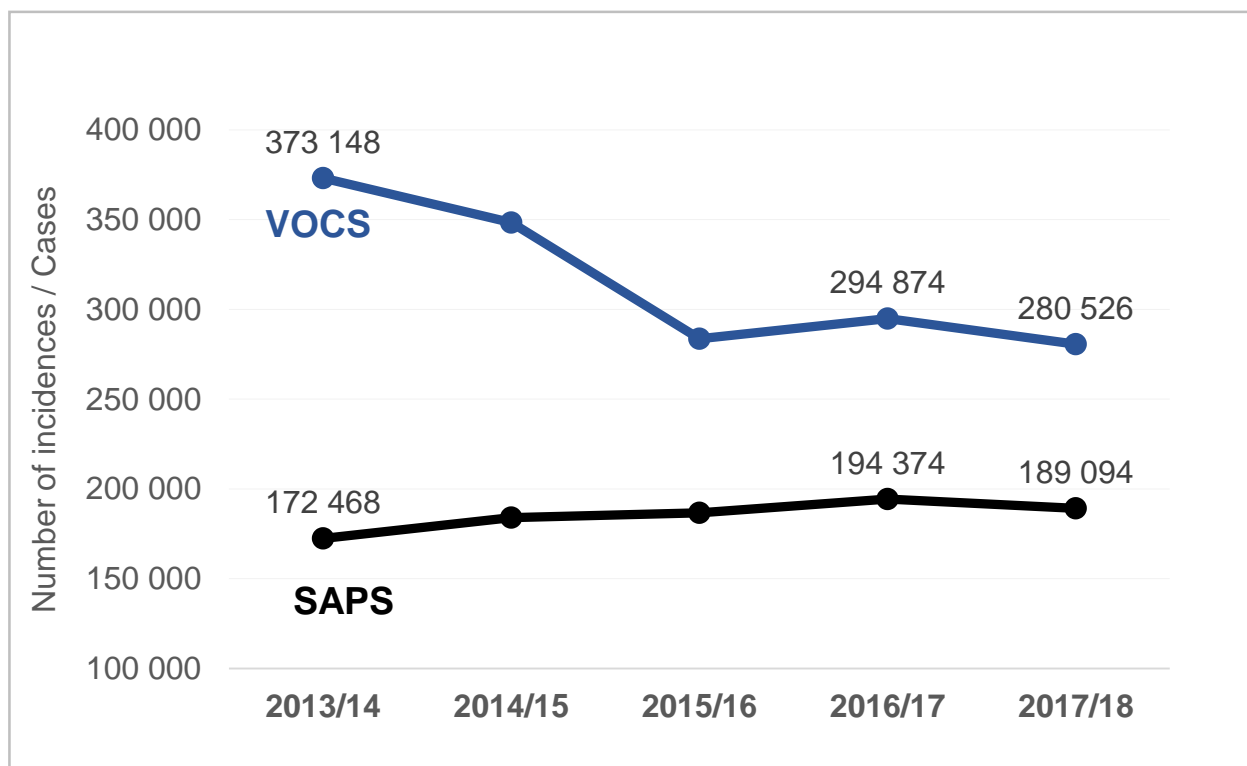
# VOCS ESTIMATED ROBBERY OUTSIDE HOME INCIDENCES DECLINED BETWEEN 2013/14 AND 2017/18. Saps reported robbery plus robbery with aggravating circumstances increased for the most part during that period

Robbery outside home  
estimates for 2017/18

**280 526**  
**INCIDENCES**  5%

**0,67%**  0,04%  
Points  
Percentage of individuals  
aged 16 years and above  
who experienced robbery  
outside home

**36%**  3%  
Points  
Percentage of assault  
victims who reported to  
the police



## ROBBERY AWAY FROM HOME : QUICK FACTS

- Most victims (65,4%) are robbed in the streets in the residential area
- Males are almost twice as likely to be victims of robbery as females
- 31,5% resist robbery
- 25,8% injured during robbery
- There is evidence of association between resisting robbery and sustaining injury during robbery

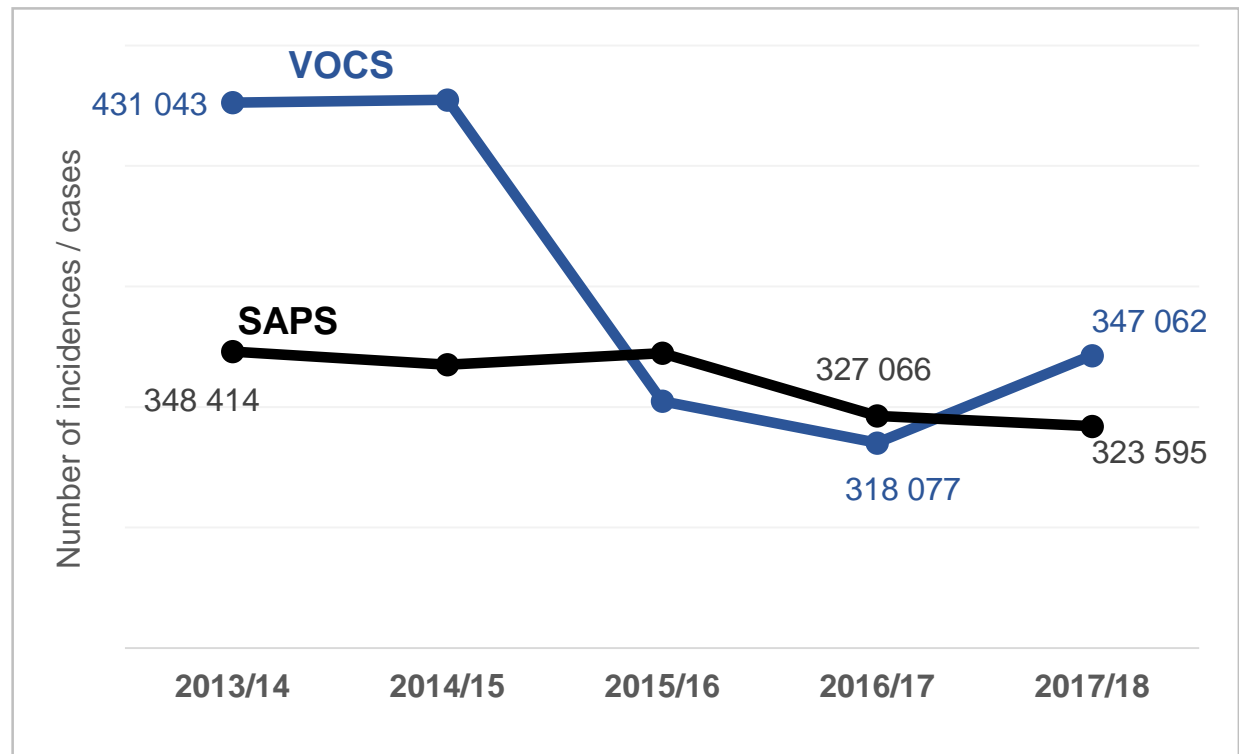
## BOTH SAPS STATISTICS AND VOCS ESTIMATES SHOW DECLINING TRENDS OF ASSAULT FOR MOST OF THE PERIOD 2013/14 AND 2016/17.

Assault estimates for  
2017/18

**355 739**  
**INCIDENCES**  12%

**0,72%**  0,01%  
Points  
Percentage of individuals  
aged 16 years and above  
who experienced assault

**47%**  1%  
Points  
Percentage of assault  
victims who reported to  
the police



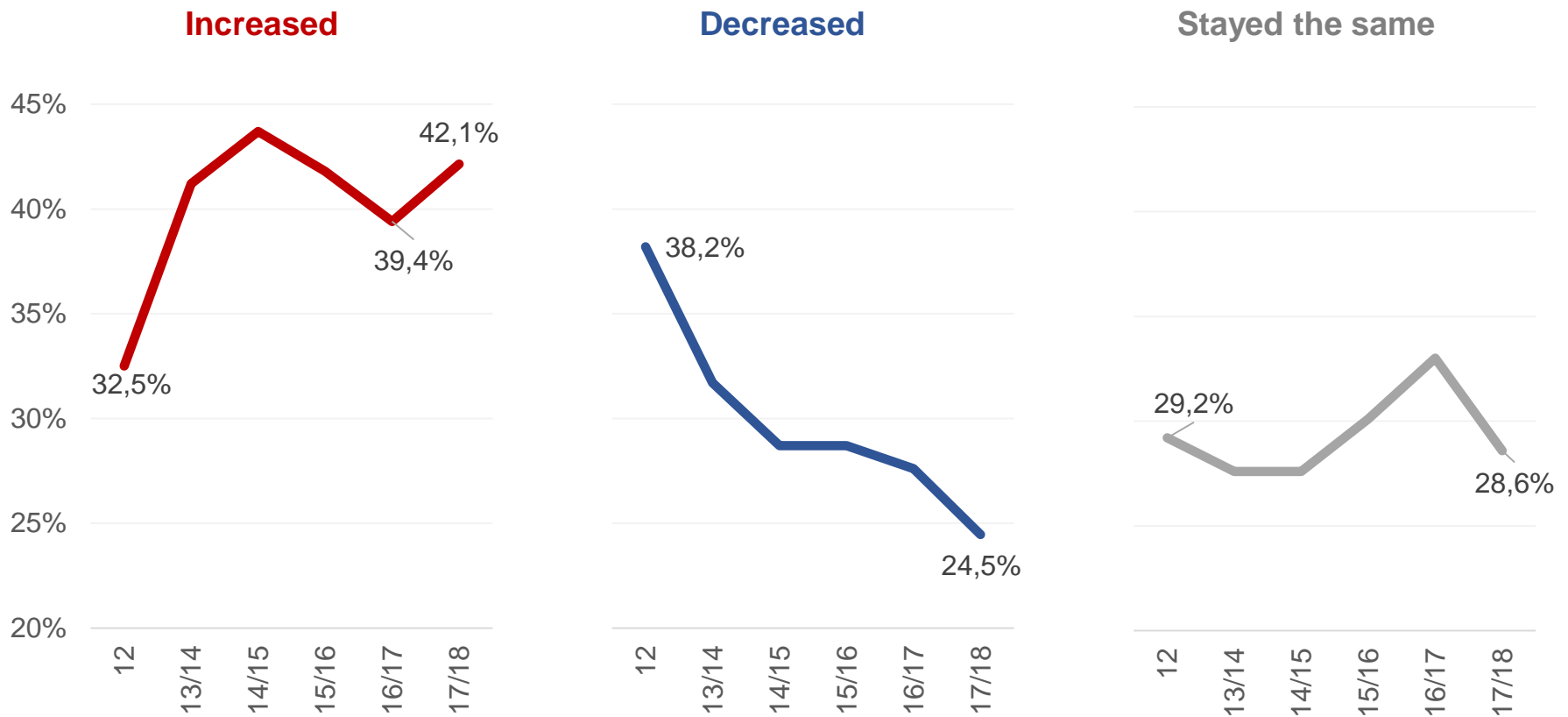
# ASSAULT: QUICK FACTS

- Number of incidents: 355 739
- Males more likely to be victims than females
- Females are more likely to report assault to the police than males
- Most assaults occur at home

# Household's Feelings About Crime And Their Safety

# PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS WHO THOUGHT THAT VIOLENT CRIME INCREASED DURING THE PAST 3 YEARS, INCREASED BETWEEN 2016/17 AND 2017/18.

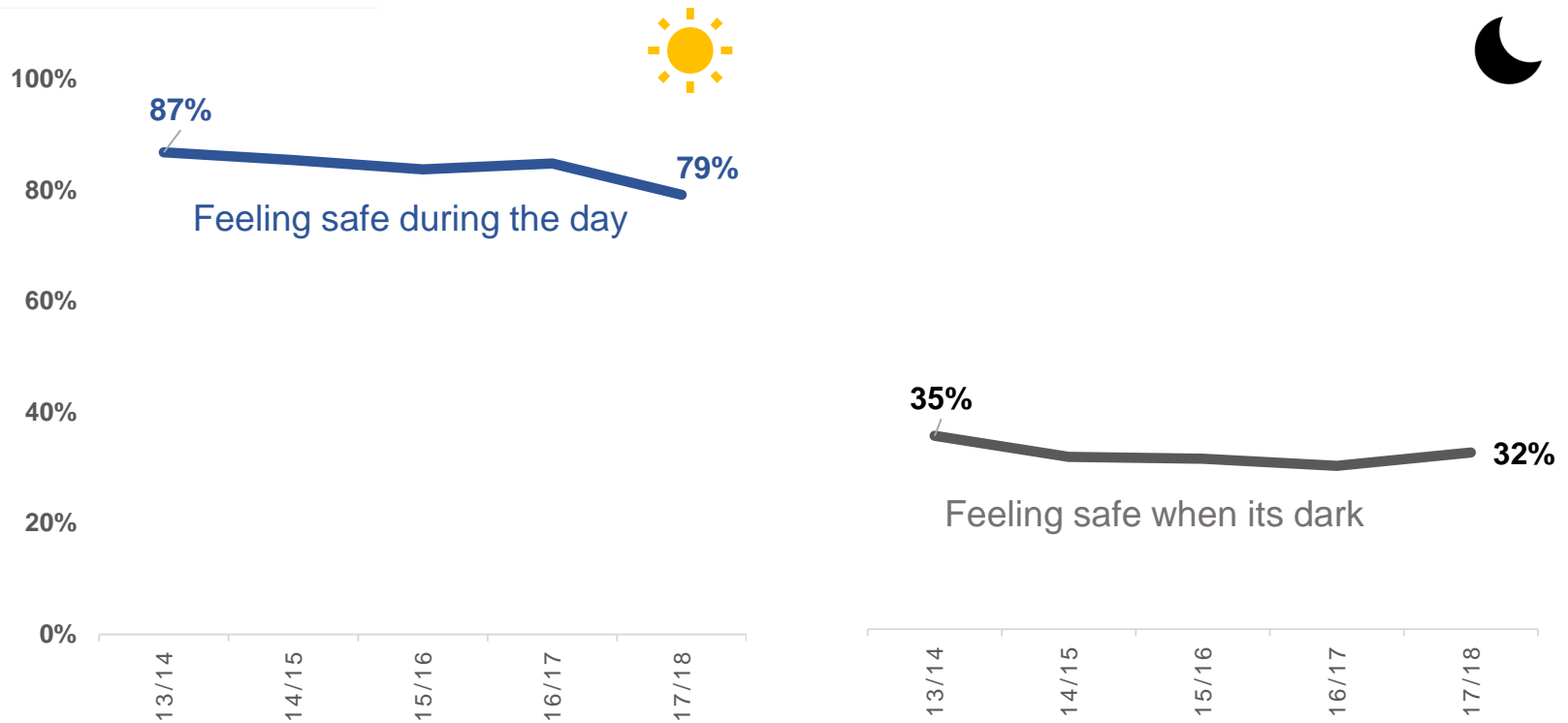
*Household perceptions on violent crime in their areas of residence, 2012-2017/18*





## HOUSEHOLDS THAT FELT SAFE TO WALK (DAY AND NIGHT) IN THEIR NEIGHBOURHOODS DECLINED FOR MOST OF THE PERIOD 2013/14 TO 2017/18

*Household feelings of safety during the day and when it is dark, 2013/14-2017/18*



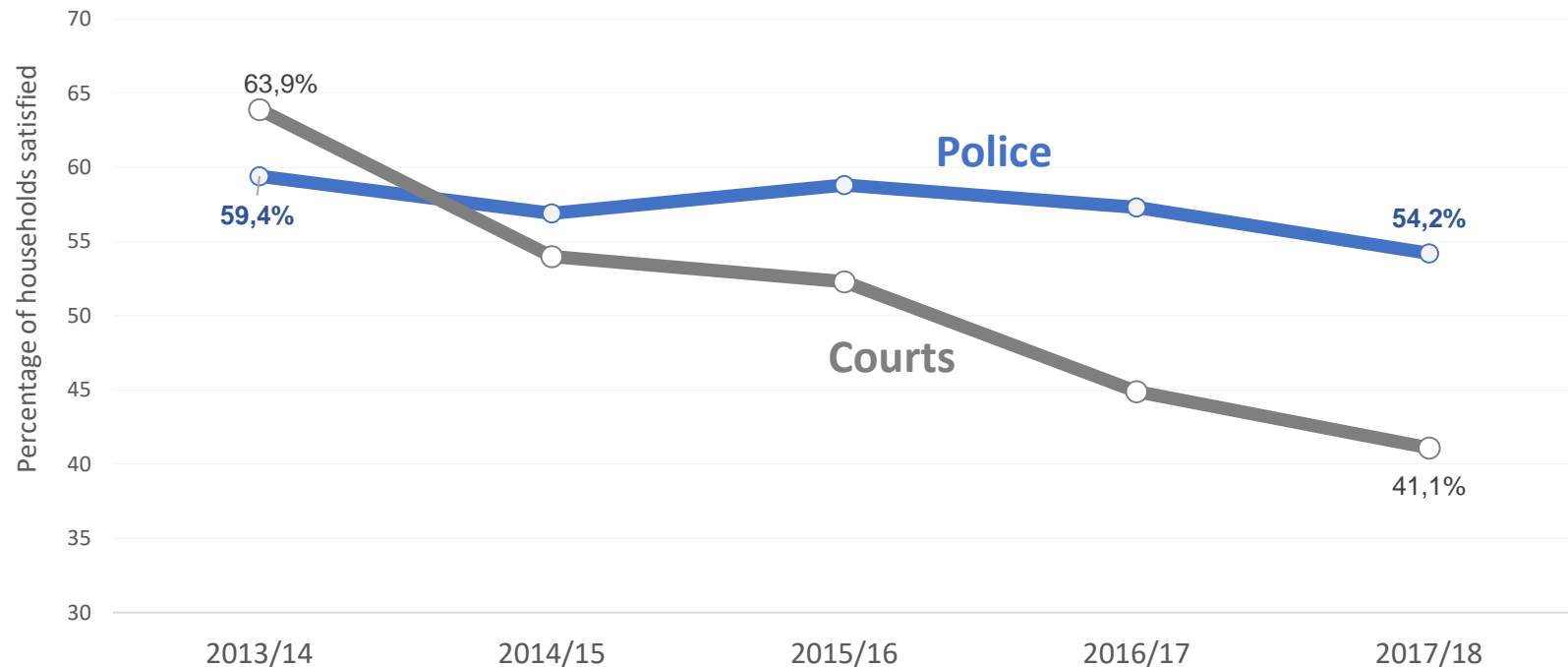


# Satisfaction with the police and the court



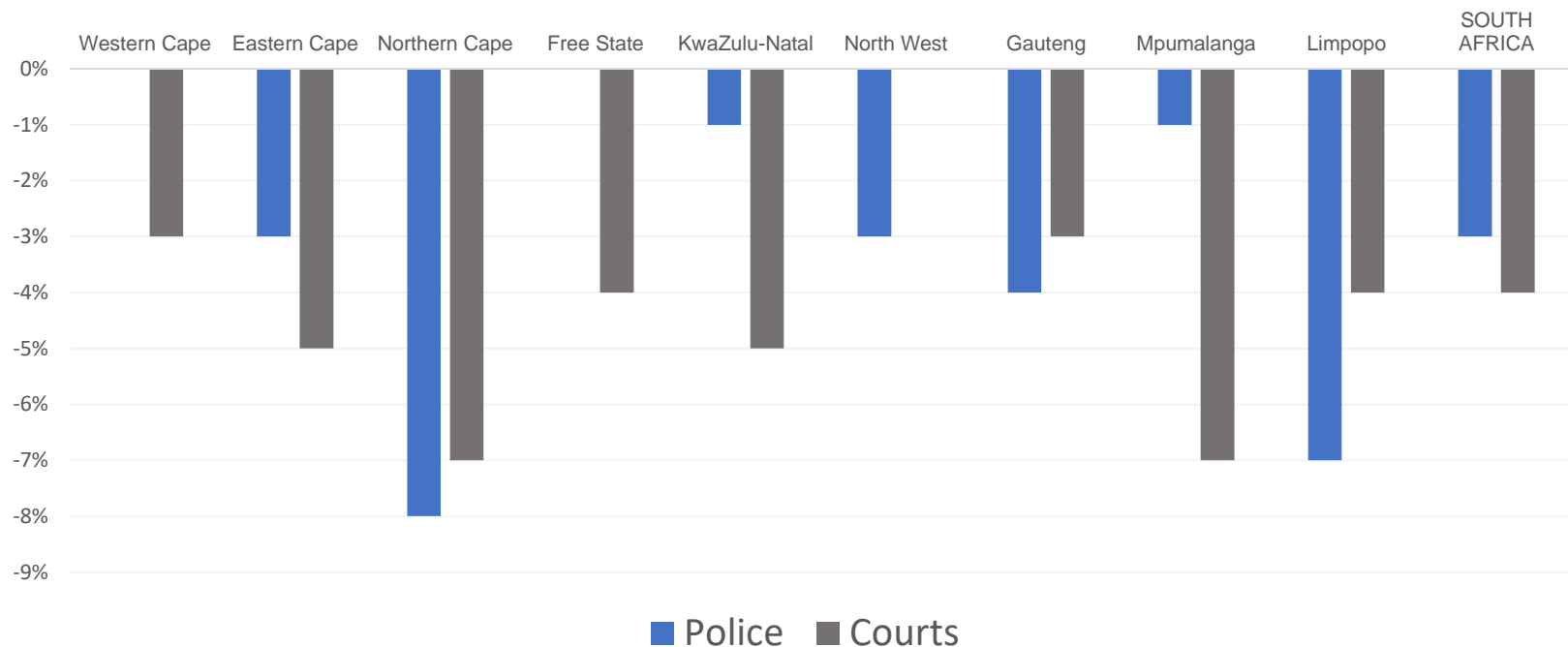
# WIDENING GULF IN HOUSEHOLDS SATISFACTION BETWEEN POLICE SERVICES AND HOW COURTS GENERALLY DEAL WITH PERPETRATORS OF CRIME

*Percentage of households satisfied with the police or the courts*



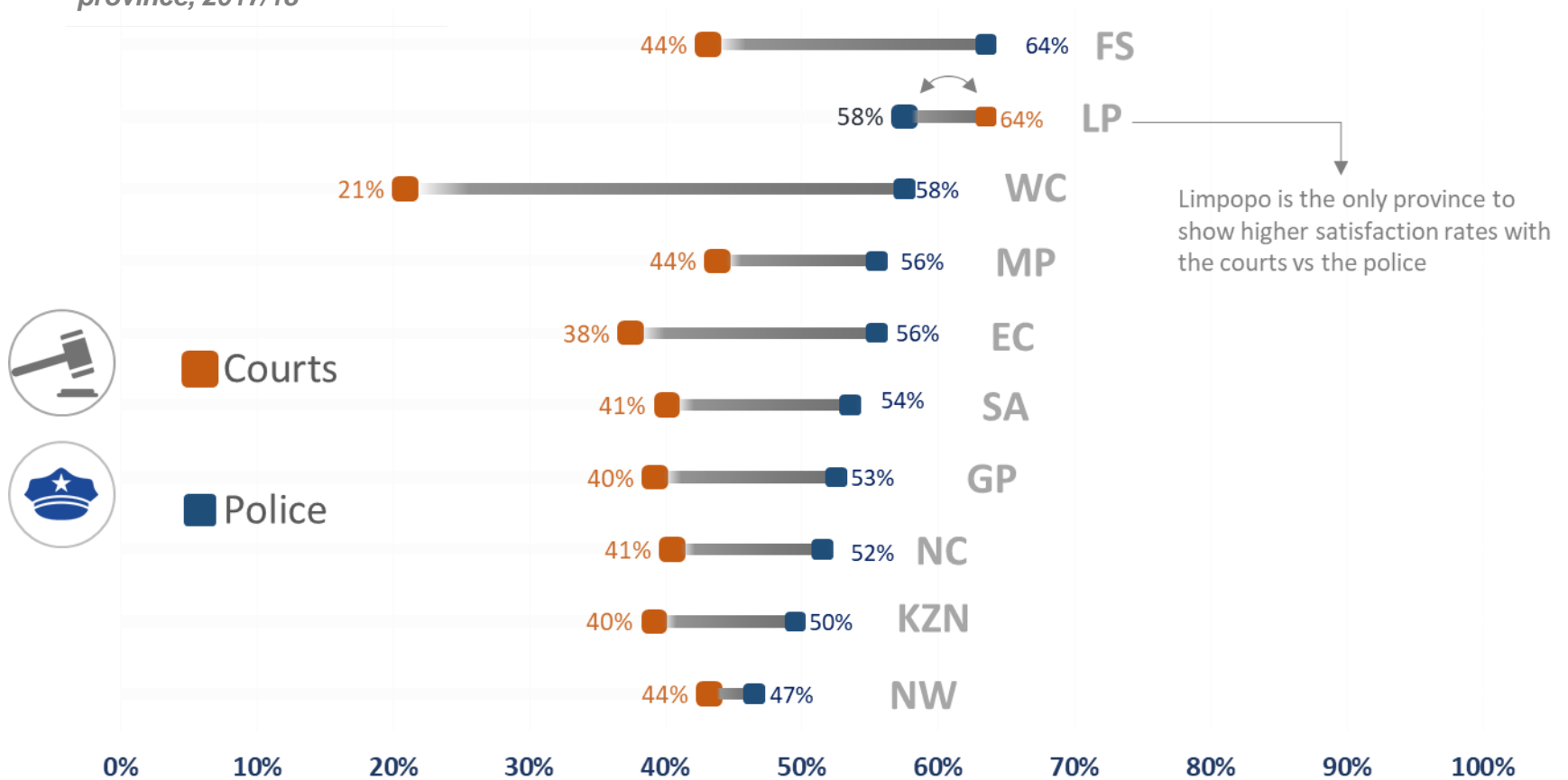
## NC SHOWED RELATIVELY LARGE DECLINES IN BOTH SATISFACTION LEVELS WITH POLICE AND COURTS BETWEEN 2016/17 AND 2017/18

*Percentage change in general satisfaction with the police and courts between 2016/17 and 2017/18 by province*



# LIMPOPO IS THE ONLY PROVINCE TO SHOW A HIGHER SATISFACTION RATE WITH THE COURTS VS THE POLICE.

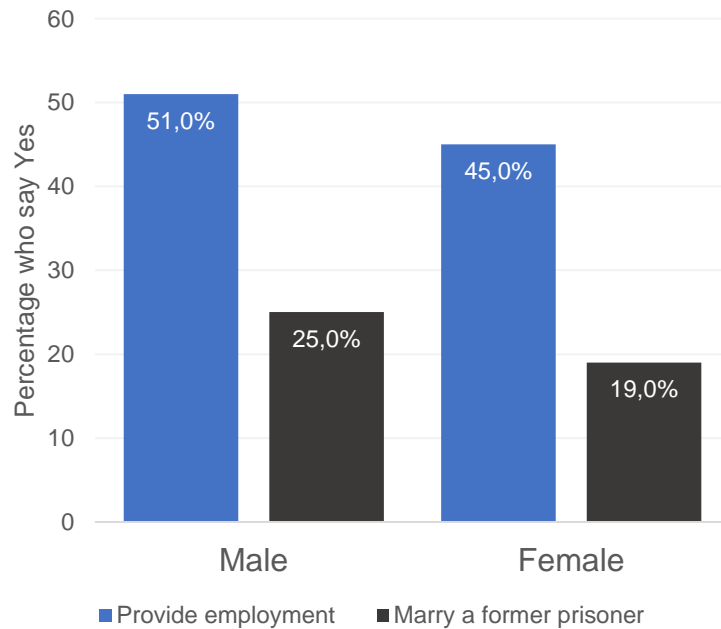
Household satisfaction with the courts vs the police, by province, 2017/18



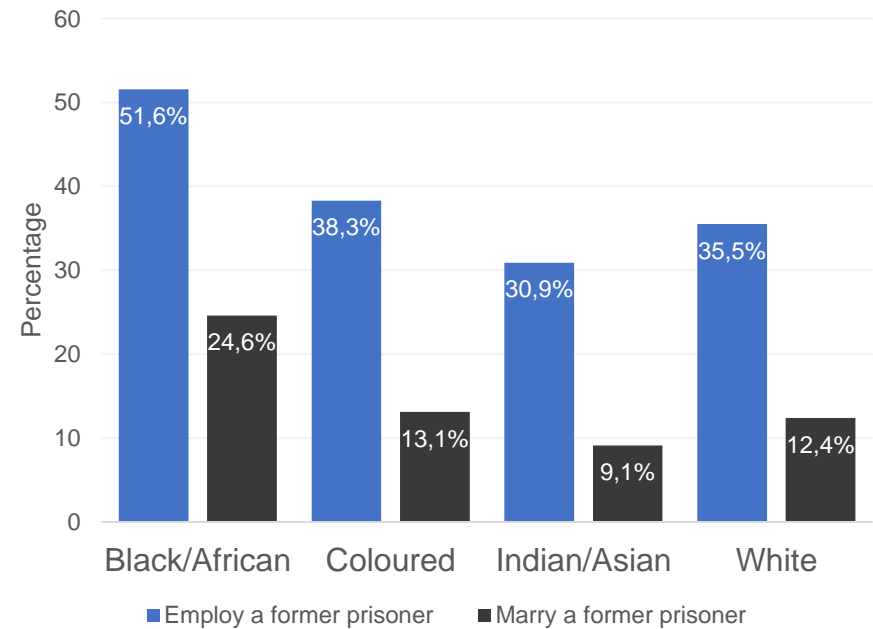
# Households' perceptions of effectiveness of correctional services

# CORRECTIONAL SERVICES EFFECTIVENESS

Males have more trust in the effectiveness of correctional services than women



Black Africans have more trust in the effectiveness of correctional services than other population groups





# RECAP

VOCS  
2017/2018

## General Level of Crime



The general level of crime as estimated by VOCS has been declining during the past five years but increased in 2016/17 and 2017/18.

## Feelings of Safety



The percentage of households who feel safe walking in their neighbourhoods during the day continued to decline.

## Murder



Murder increased during the past three years both in terms of the total number of incidences (VOCS) and the number of cases reported to the police (SAPS).

## Perceptions of violent crime



Greater percentage of households, in 2017/18 compared to 2016/17, think that the levels of violent and property crimes increased during the past three years.



# *Ndzi Hela Kwala!*