



**stats sa**

Department:  
Statistics South Africa  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

## **Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS)**

# **Victims of Crime 2020/21**

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## ABOUT THE GPSJS AND ITS OBJECTIVES



Conducted by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) 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.



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

# COVID-19 Impact on Data Collection



- ❖ Stats SA **suspended face-to-face data collection** for all its surveys on 19 March 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and restricted movement.
- ❖ Mode of data collection **changed from face-to-face CAPI** (Computer Assisted Personal Interviews) **to CATI** (Computer Assisted Telephonic Interviews) to facilitate data collection during successive phases of COVID.
- ❖ Households that provided **usable telephone numbers** in 2019 were called. The sample, therefore, **excluded** households that were **out-of-scope**, or who could not participate in 2019, as well as those where telephone numbers were incorrect or have changed, or where households have moved.
- ❖ Conducted Bias-Adjustment to adjust for possible differences in the characteristics of households that provided contact details, and those that did not.
- ❖ GPSJS 2020/21 calibrated to the **2018 series Mid-Year Population Estimates** for 2020.



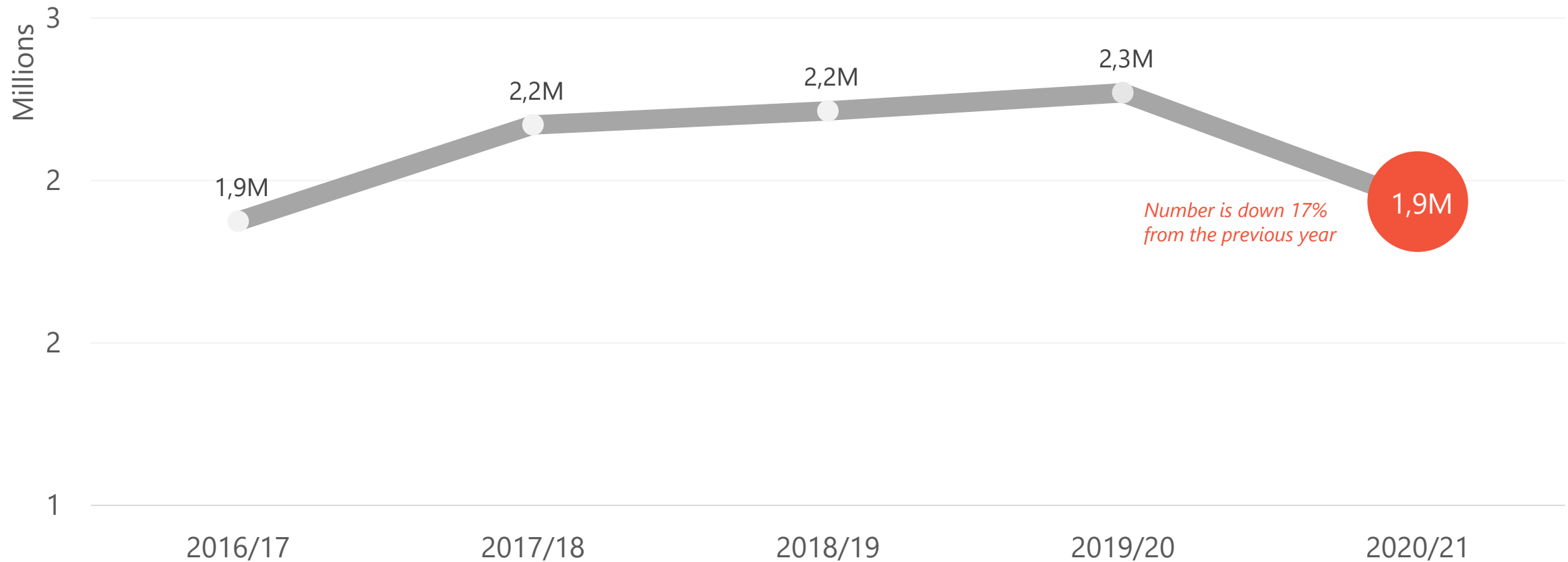
The Victim of Crime modules in GPSJS consists of 6 types of household crimes : Housebreaking, home robbery, theft of motor vehicles, murder, assault and sexual offence

# HOUSEHOLD EXPERIENCE OF CRIME

Around **1,9M** households experienced **housebreaking/burglary** during the **past 5 years**.



Based on question "Have you or your household experienced housebreaking/burglary during the past 5 years"

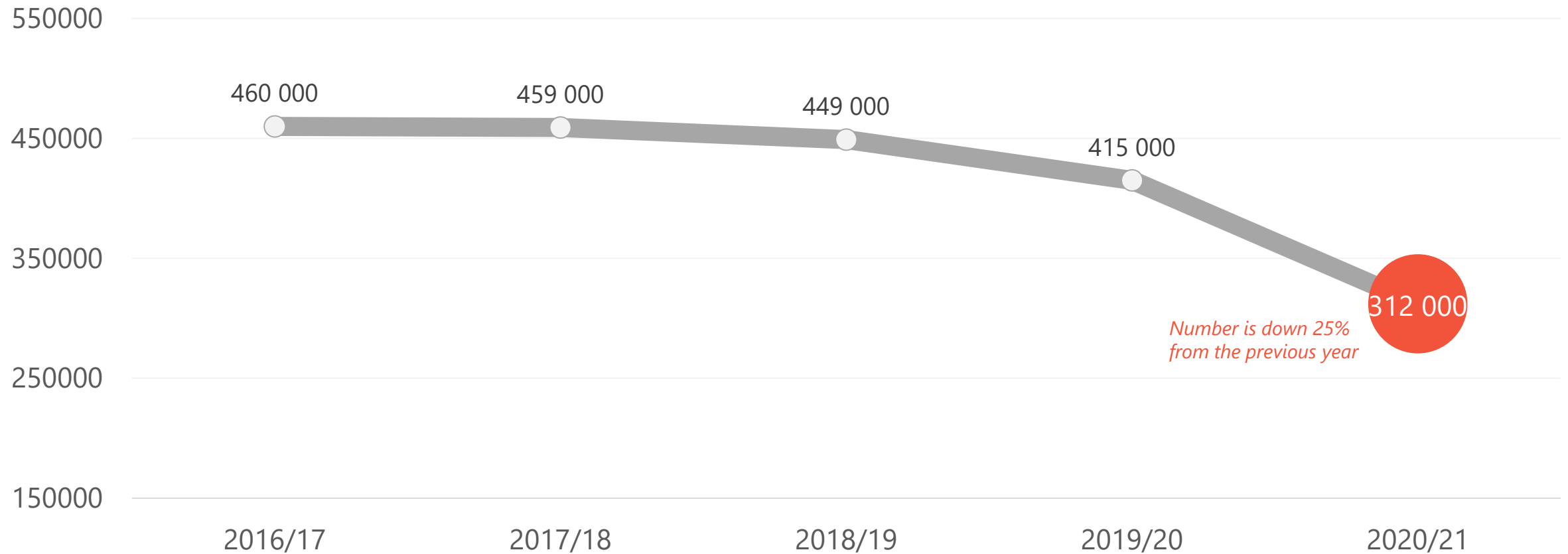


*Number is down 17% from the previous year*

1,9M

# Around **312 000 households** experienced **Home robbery** during the **past 5 years**

Based on question "Have you or your household experienced Home robbery during the past 5 years"

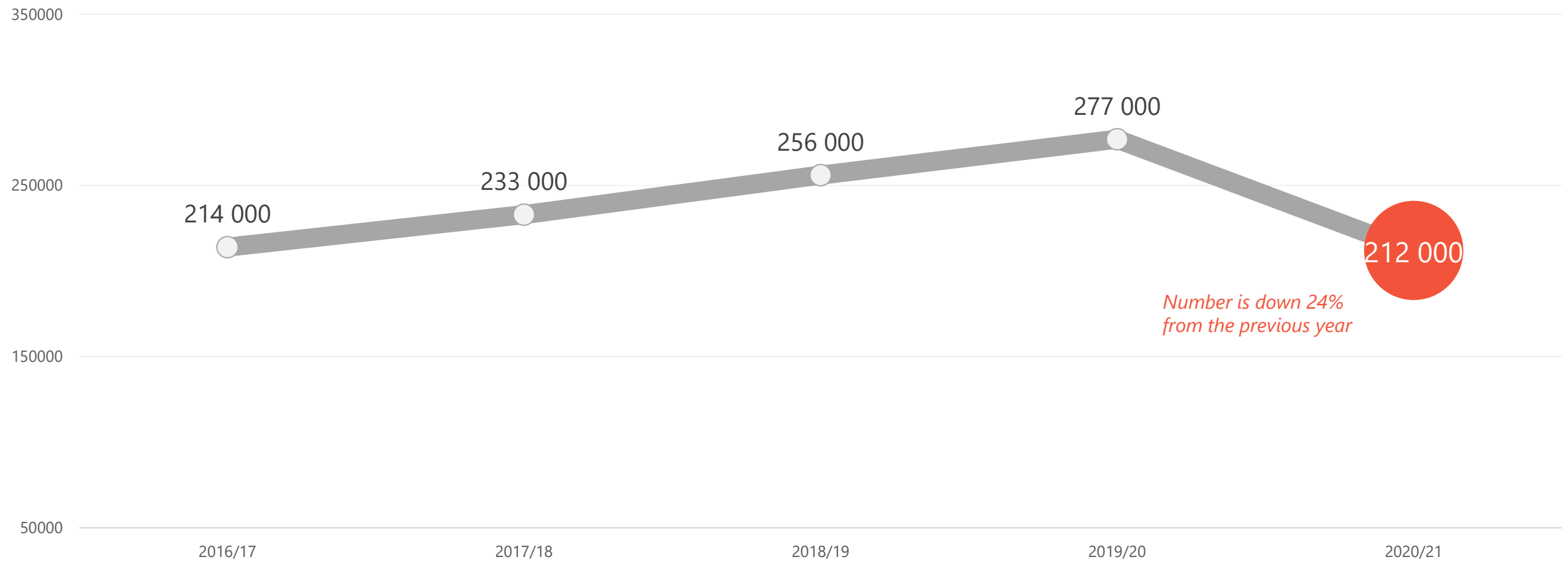


*Number is down 25% from the previous year*

**312 000**

# Around **212 000 households** experienced **Car Theft** during the **past 5 years**

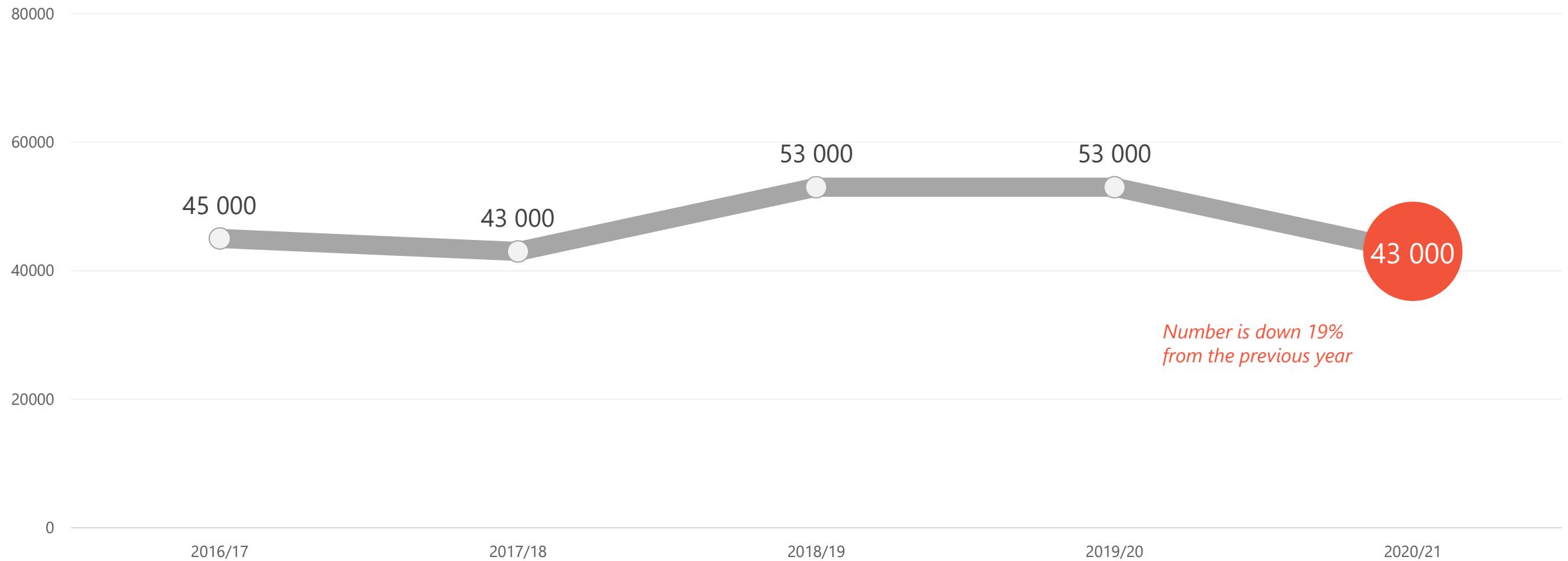
Based on question "Have you or your household experienced housebreaking/burglary during the past 5 years"



*Number is down 24%  
from the previous year*

# Around **43 000** households experienced **Murder** during the **past 5 years**

Based on question "Have you or your household experienced housebreaking/burglary during the past 5 years"

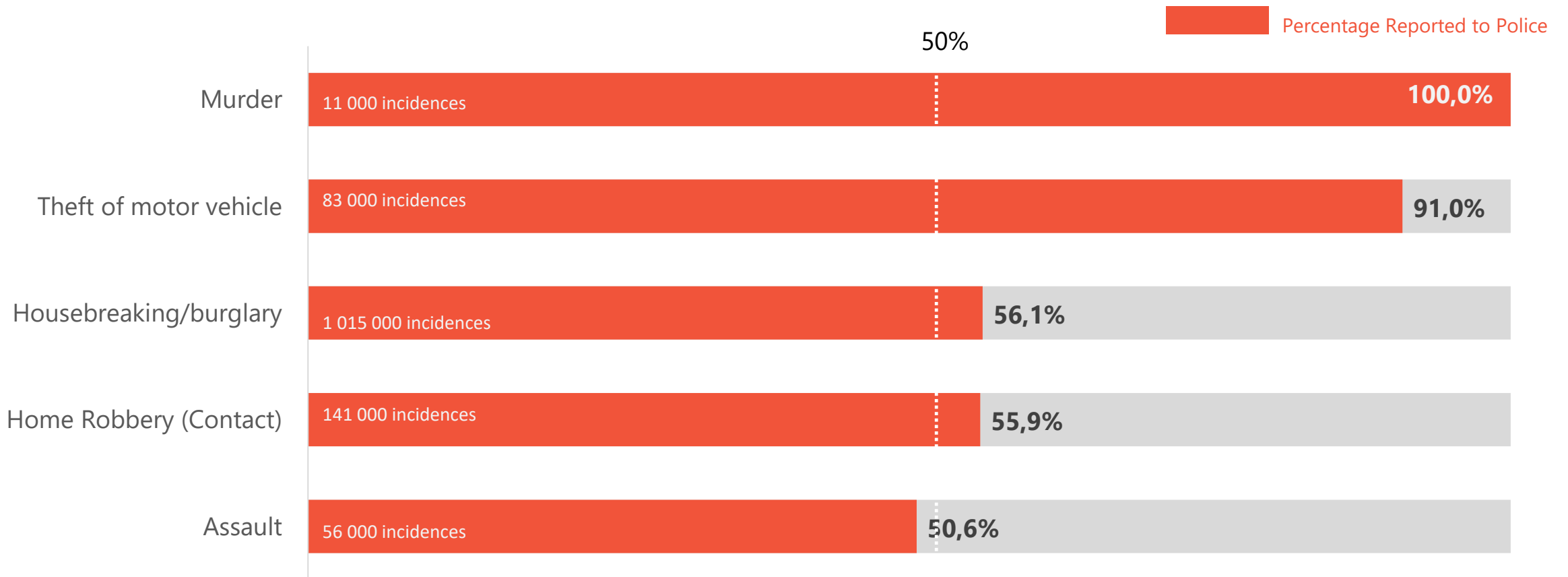


*Number is down 19%  
from the previous year*



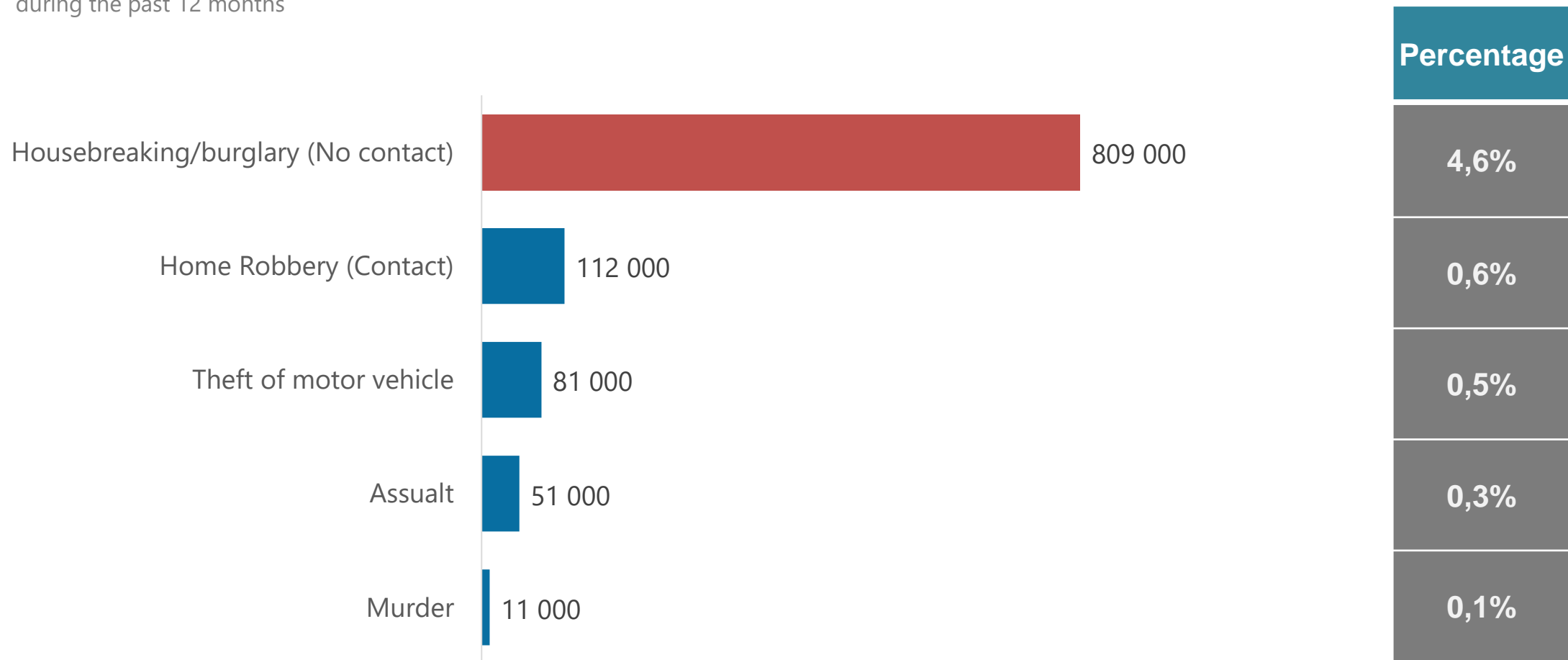
# About **91% of households** that experienced **Theft of Motor Vehicle** reported some or all incidences to the police

Percentage of households that reported incidences of specified type of crime to the police in the 12 months preceding the survey



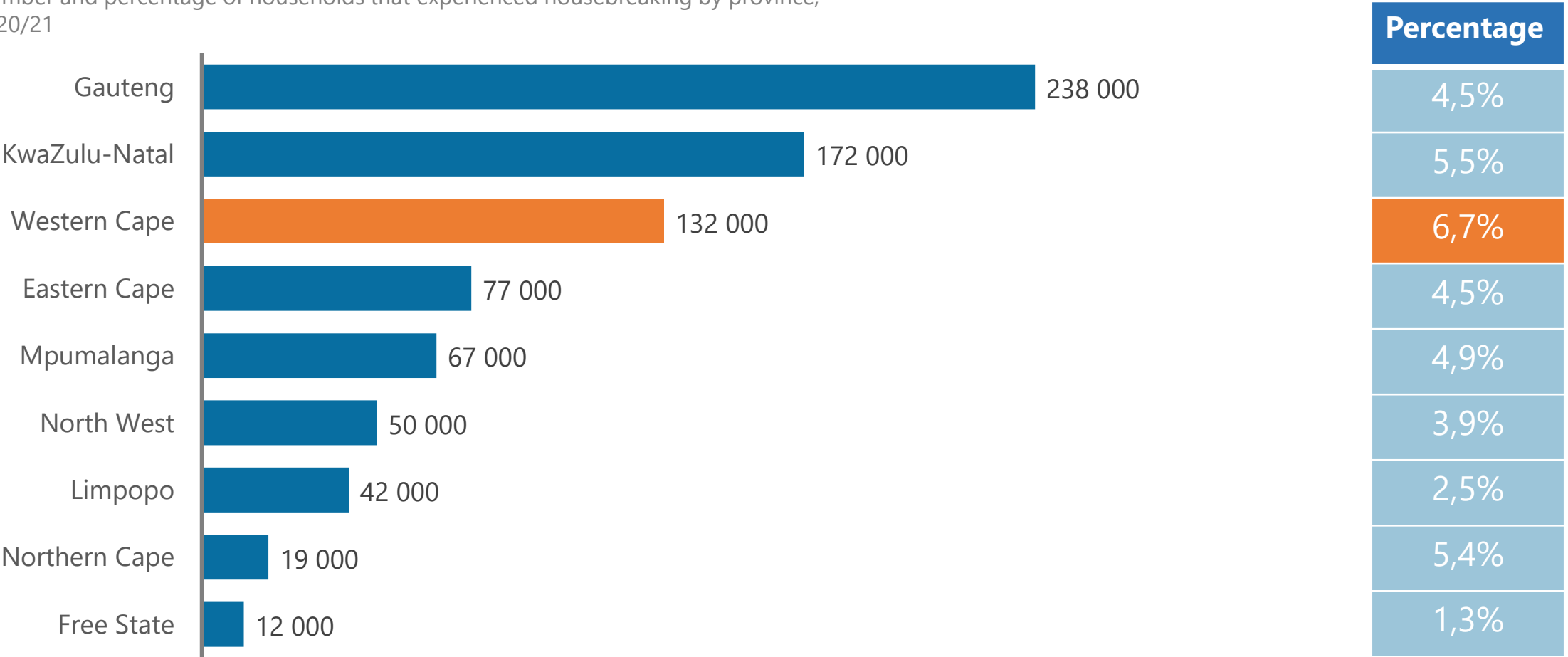
About **809 000 households** experienced housebreaking/burglary in 2020/21. This was **4,6% of the households** in South Africa.

Number and percentage of households that experienced specified types of crime during the past 12 months



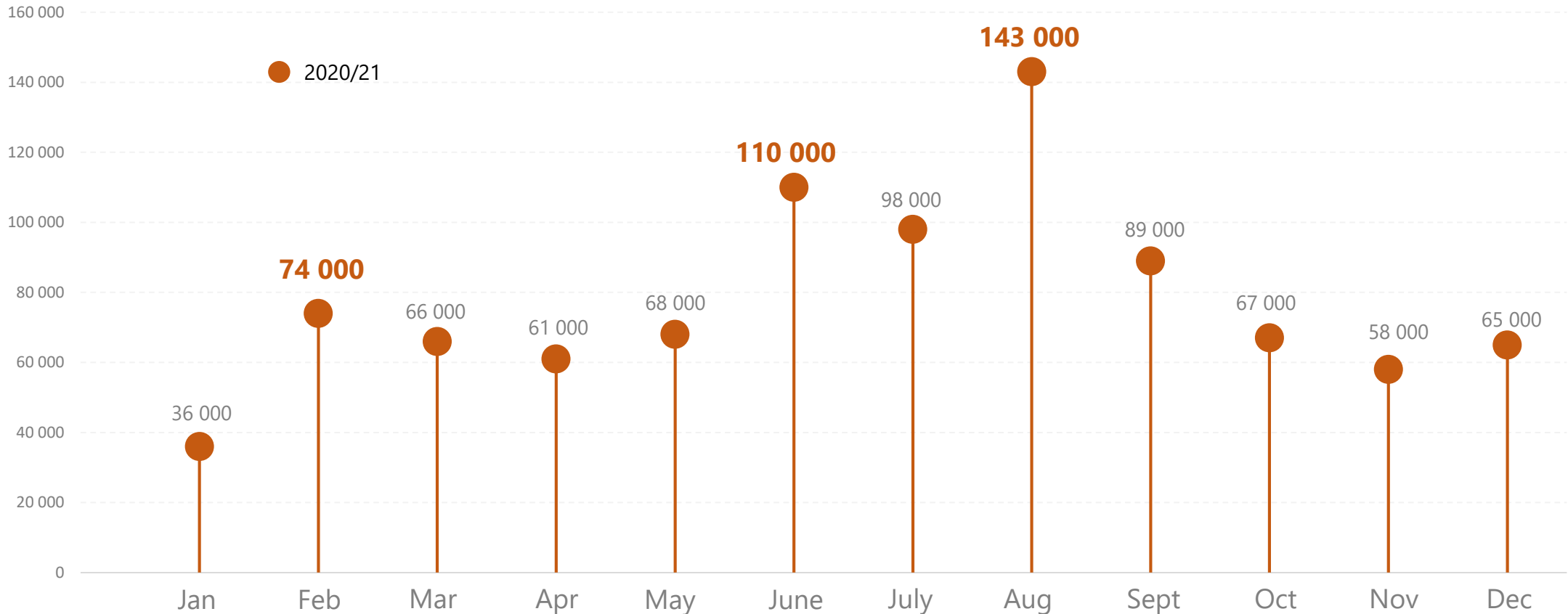
The **highest proportion** (6,7%) of households that experienced **housebreaking** was in the Western Cape. Free State experienced the lowest proportion (1,3%) of households that experienced housebreaking.

Number and percentage of households that experienced housebreaking by province, 2020/21



# Incidences of housebreaking peaked in February, June and August in 2020/21.

Number of incidences of Housebreaking by month, 2020/21



The Victim of Crime modules in GPSJS consists of 4 types of individual crime: Theft of personal property, street robbery, hijacking and consumer fraud.

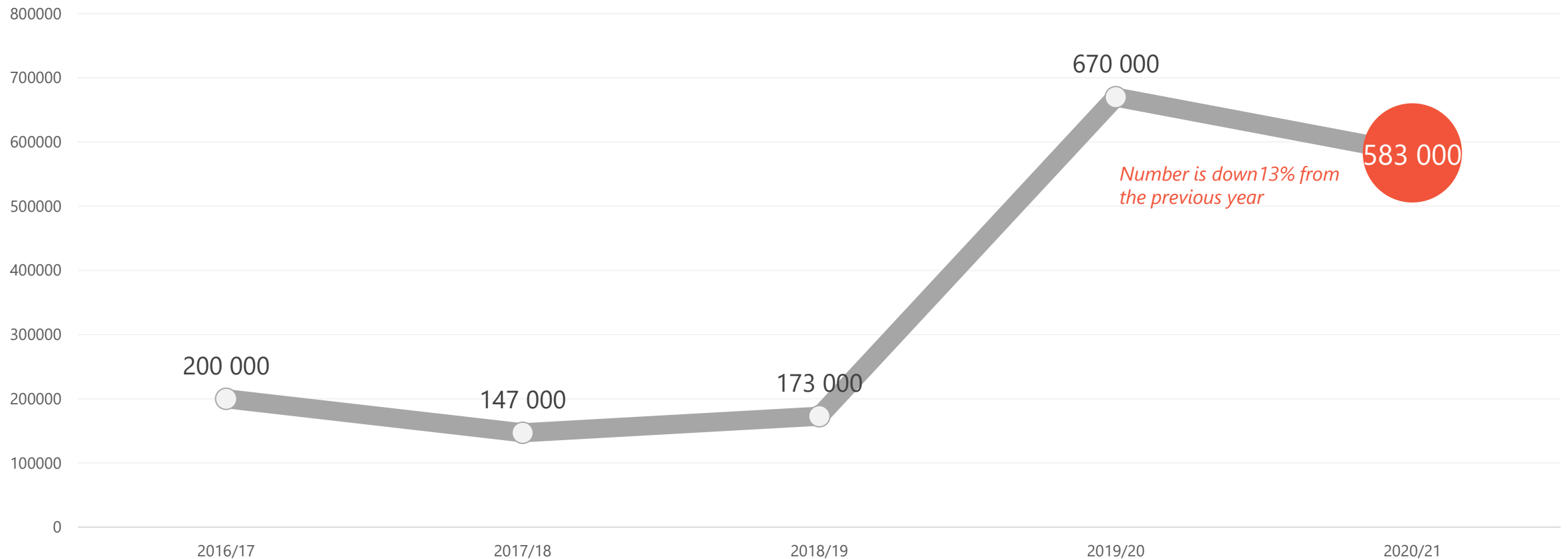


# INDIVIDUAL EXPERIENCE OF CRIME



In 2020/21 583 000 individuals (16+) experienced consumer fraud during the past 5 years. Consumer fraud includes advance-fee fraud (e.g. R99 debit/credit card scam, 419 scams, online shopping).

Number of individuals aged 16 and older that experienced consumer fraud during the past 5 years

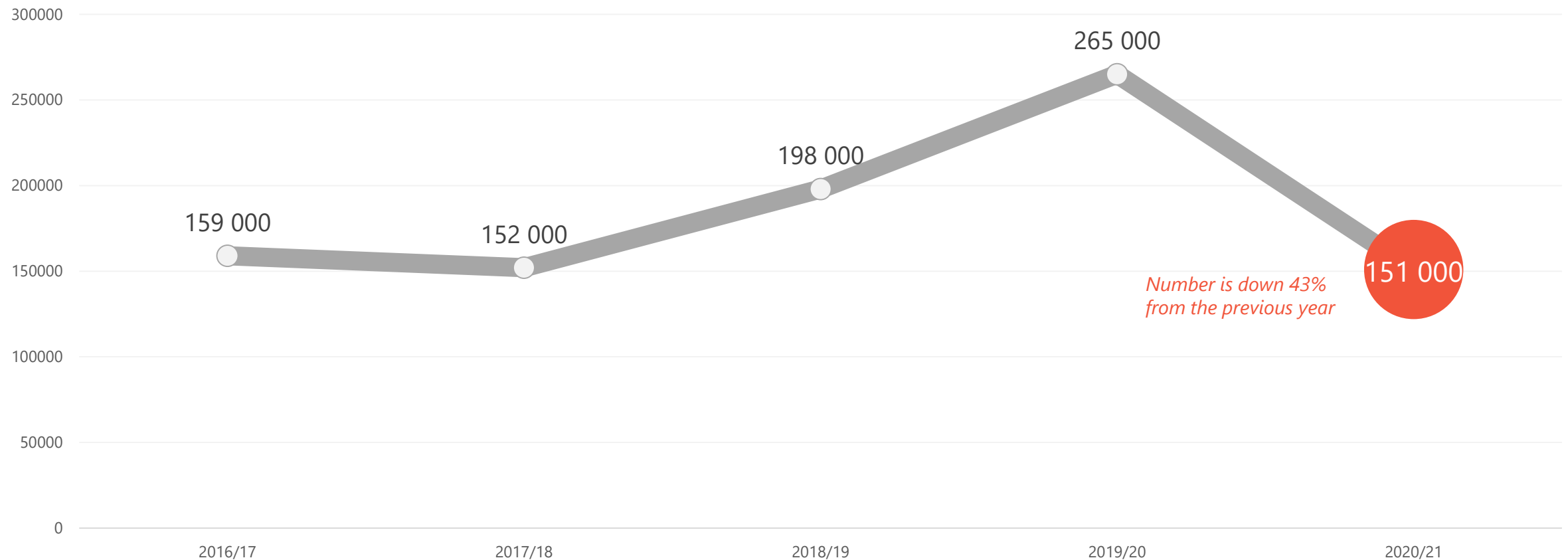


Number is down 13% from the previous year

583 000

# There is a significant decrease in hijacking between 2016/17 and 2020/21, with 151 000 persons experiencing hijacking during the past 5 years

Number of individuals aged 16 and older that experienced hijacking during the past 5 years

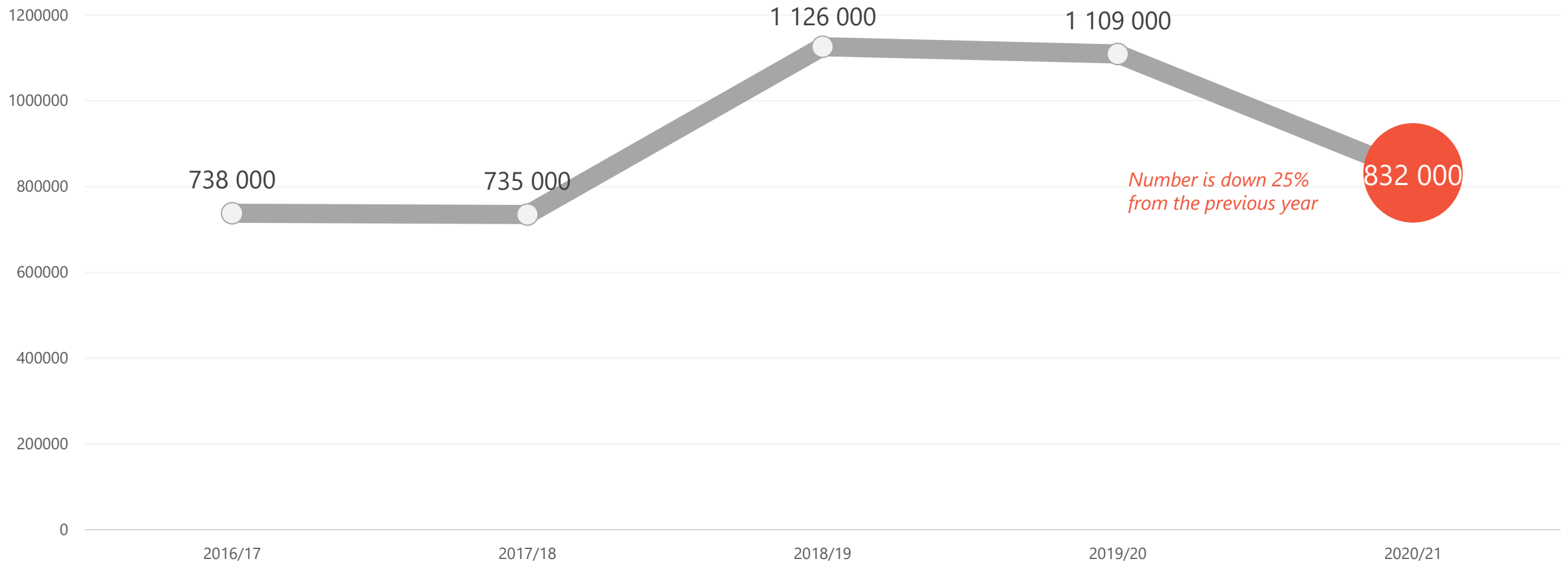


*Number is down 43% from the previous year*

151 000

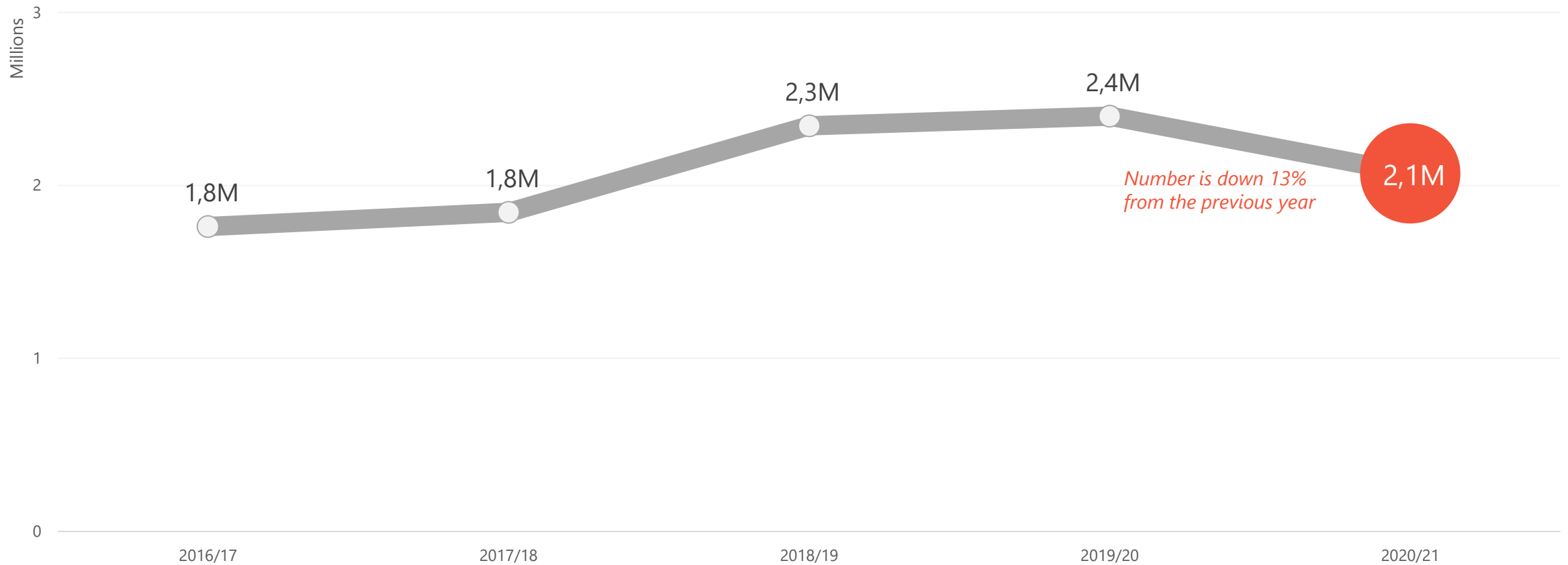
# In 2020/21 832 000 individuals experienced street robbery during the last 5 years

Number of individuals aged 16 and older that experienced street robbery during the past 5 years



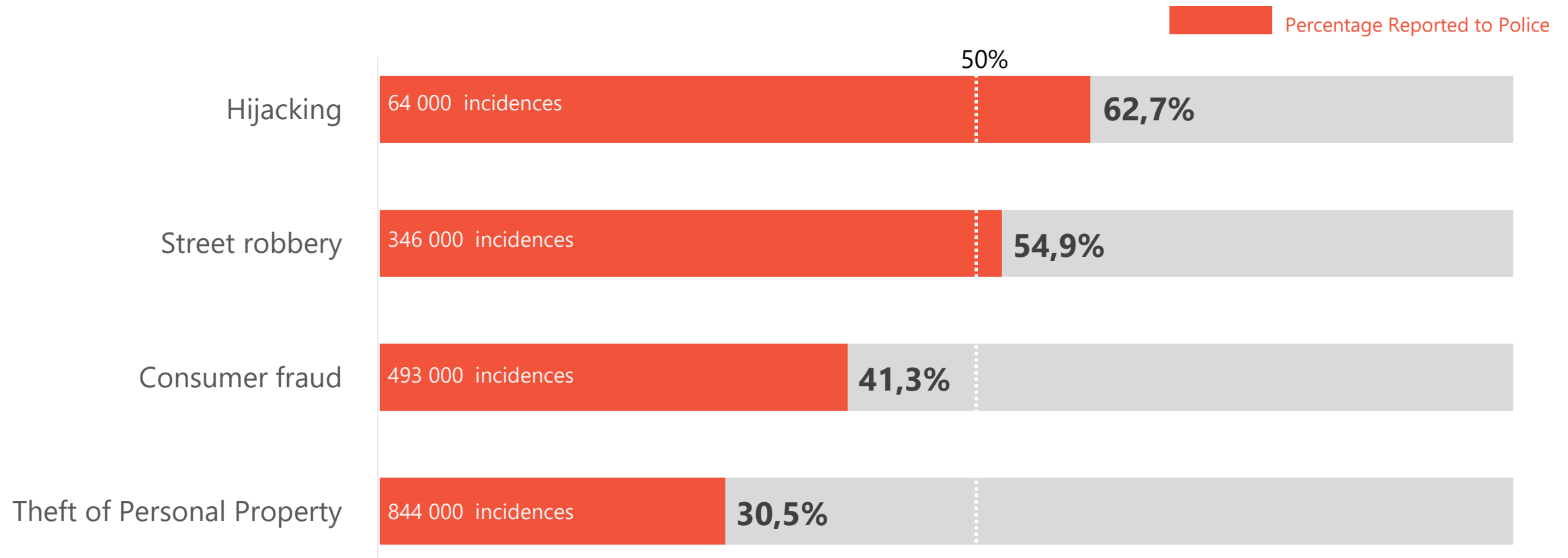
In 2020/21 **2,1 Million individuals** experienced **theft of personal property** during the last 5 years.

Number of individuals aged 16 and older that experienced theft of personal property during the past 5 years



About **62,7% of individuals** that experienced **Hijackings** reported some or all incidences of to the police.

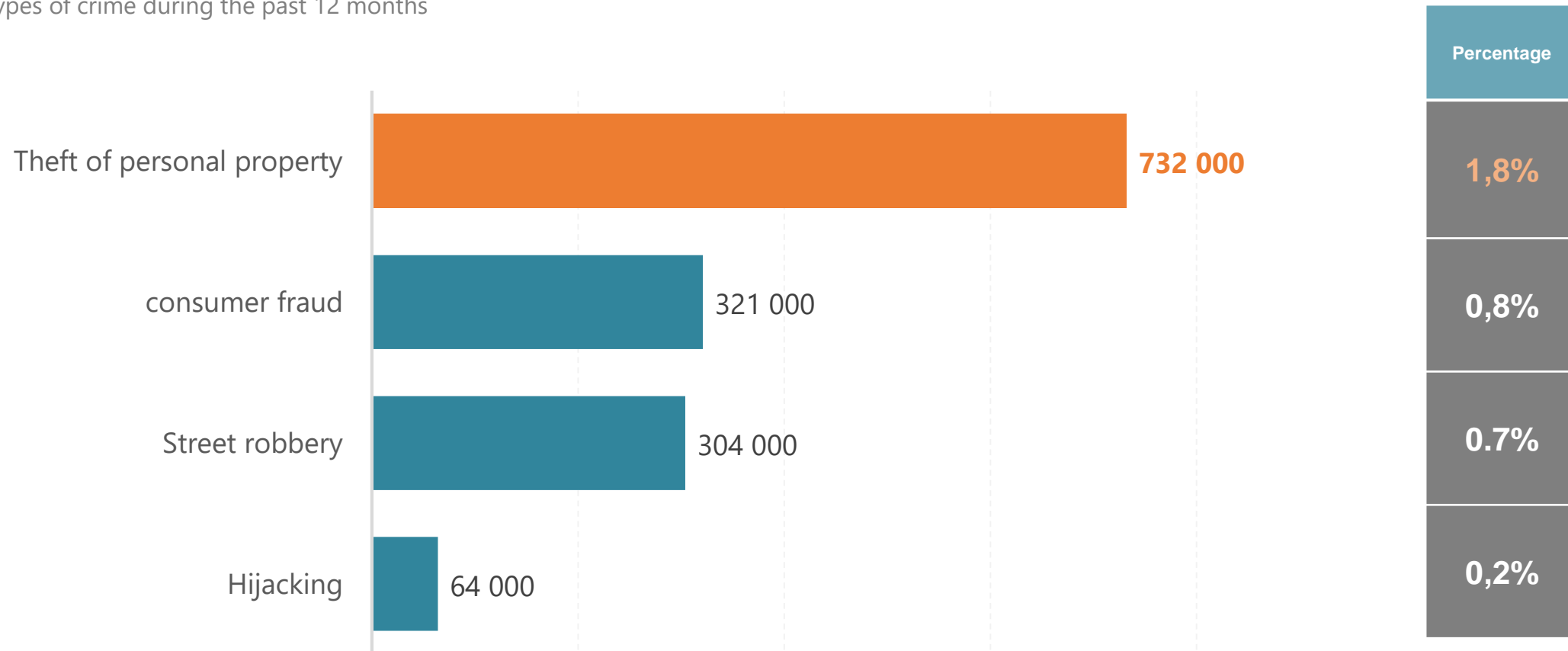
Percentage of individuals aged 16 years and older that reported incidences of specified type of crime to the police in the 12 months preceding the survey





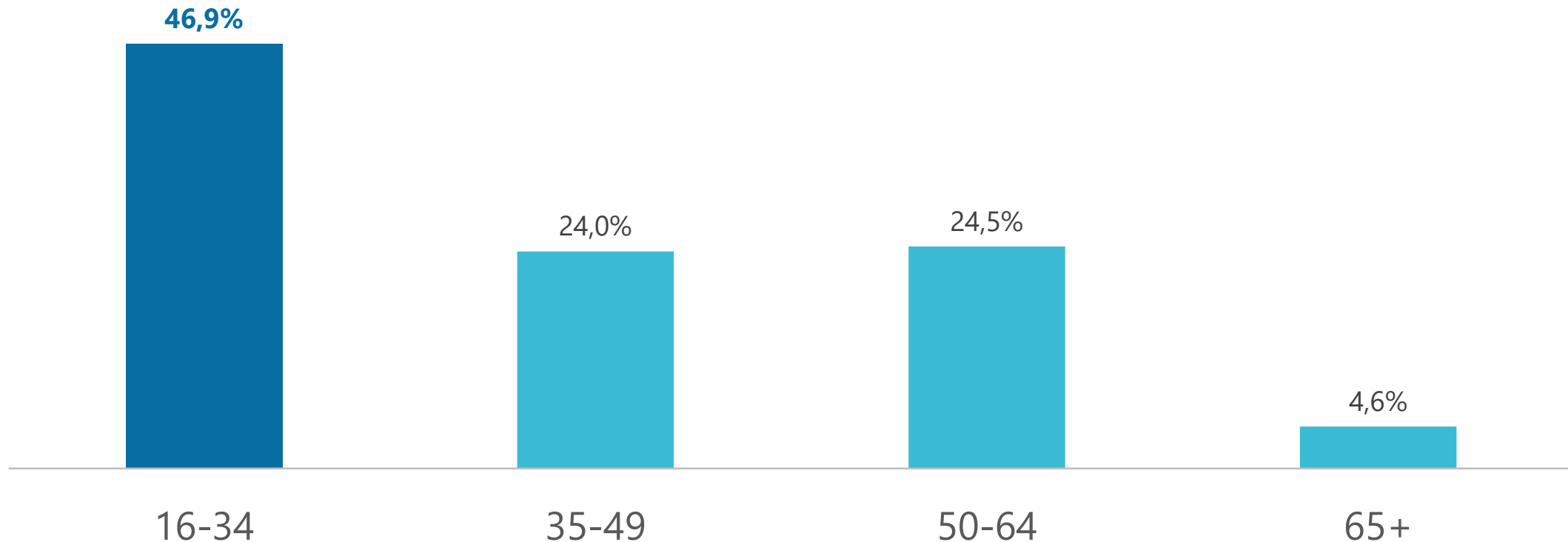
About **732 000** persons aged 16 and older experienced theft of personal property in 2020/21. This was 1,8% of the population of persons aged 16 and older.

Number and percentage of individuals aged 16 and older who experienced specified types of crime during the past 12 months



**The young (aged 16-34)** were most likely to lose personal property through theft. There is a relationship between age and vulnerability to theft of personal property.

Percentage of victims of theft of personal property in different age groups, 2020/21

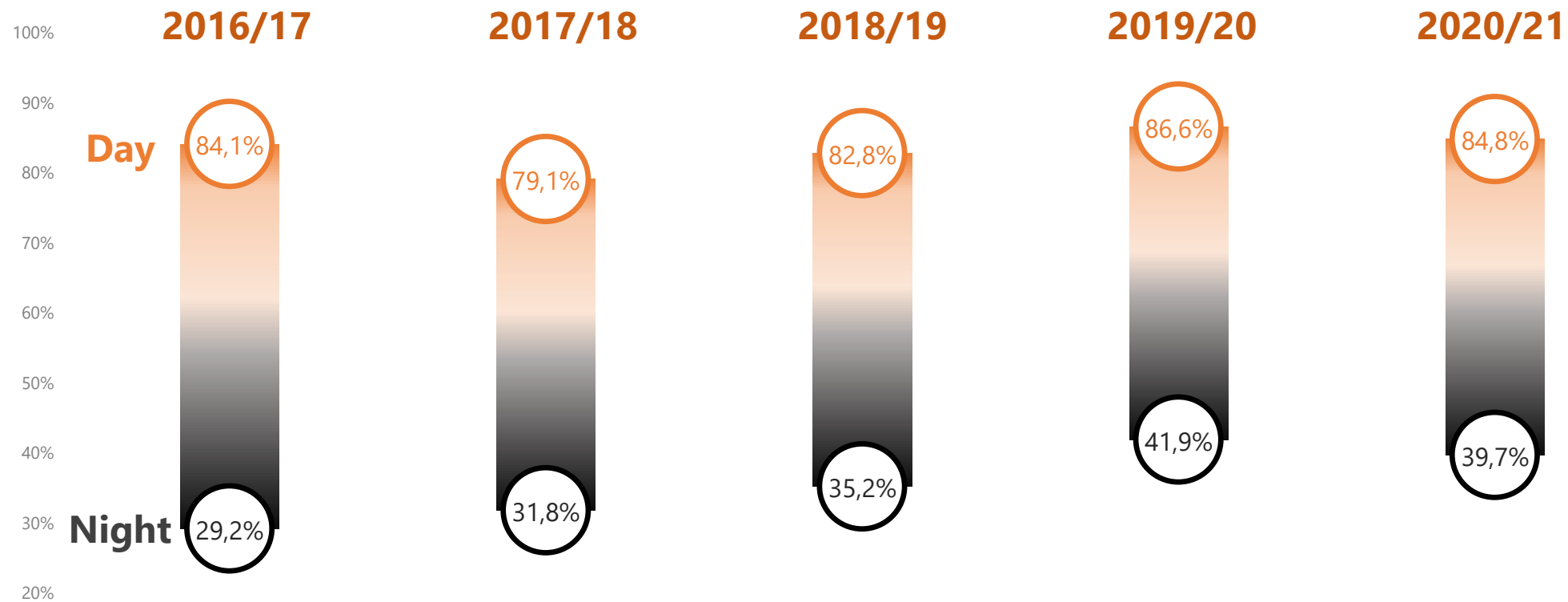


Household and individual perceptions of their safety



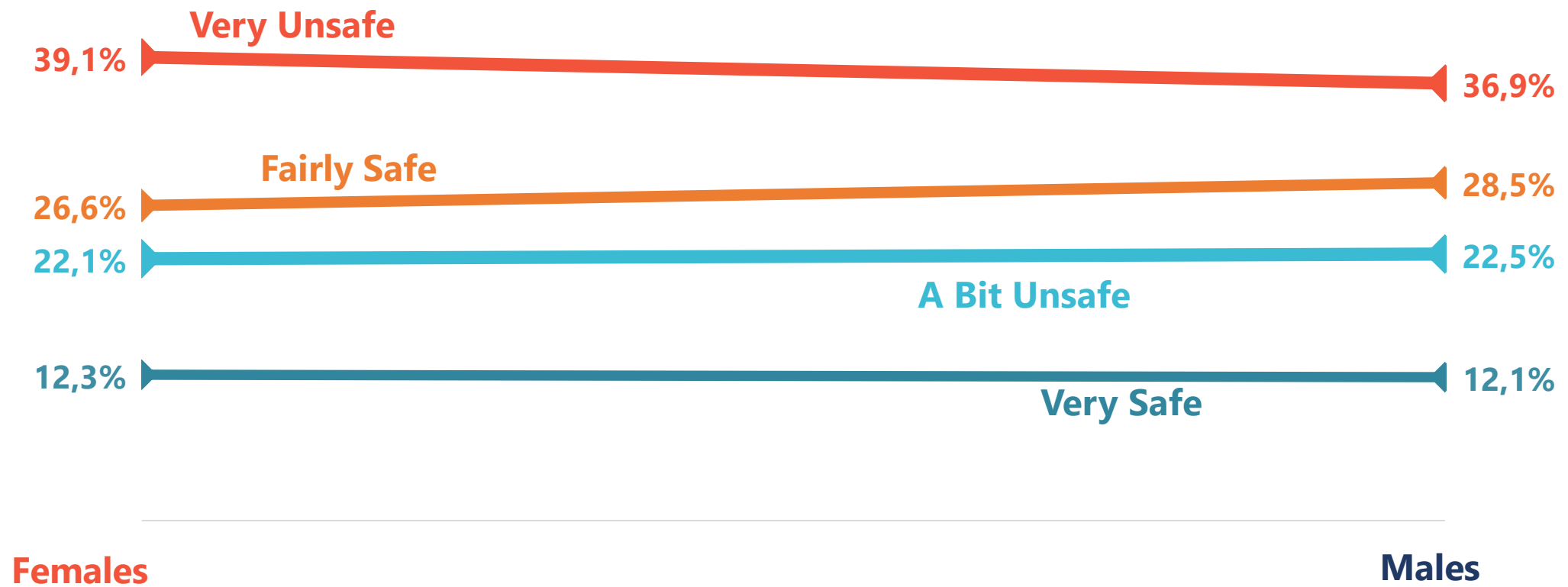
Individuals who felt safe walking alone in their neighbourhoods during the **day** decreased from 86,6% in 2019/20 to **84,8% in 2020/21**. Those who felt safe walking alone **at night** decreased from 41,9% in 2019/20 to 39,7% in 2020/21.

Percentage of individuals who felt safe ("Very safe" and "Fairly safe") walking alone in their neighbourhood during day time vs during the night.



A larger proportion of **females felt unsafe walking alone** at night in their neighbourhoods compared to males.

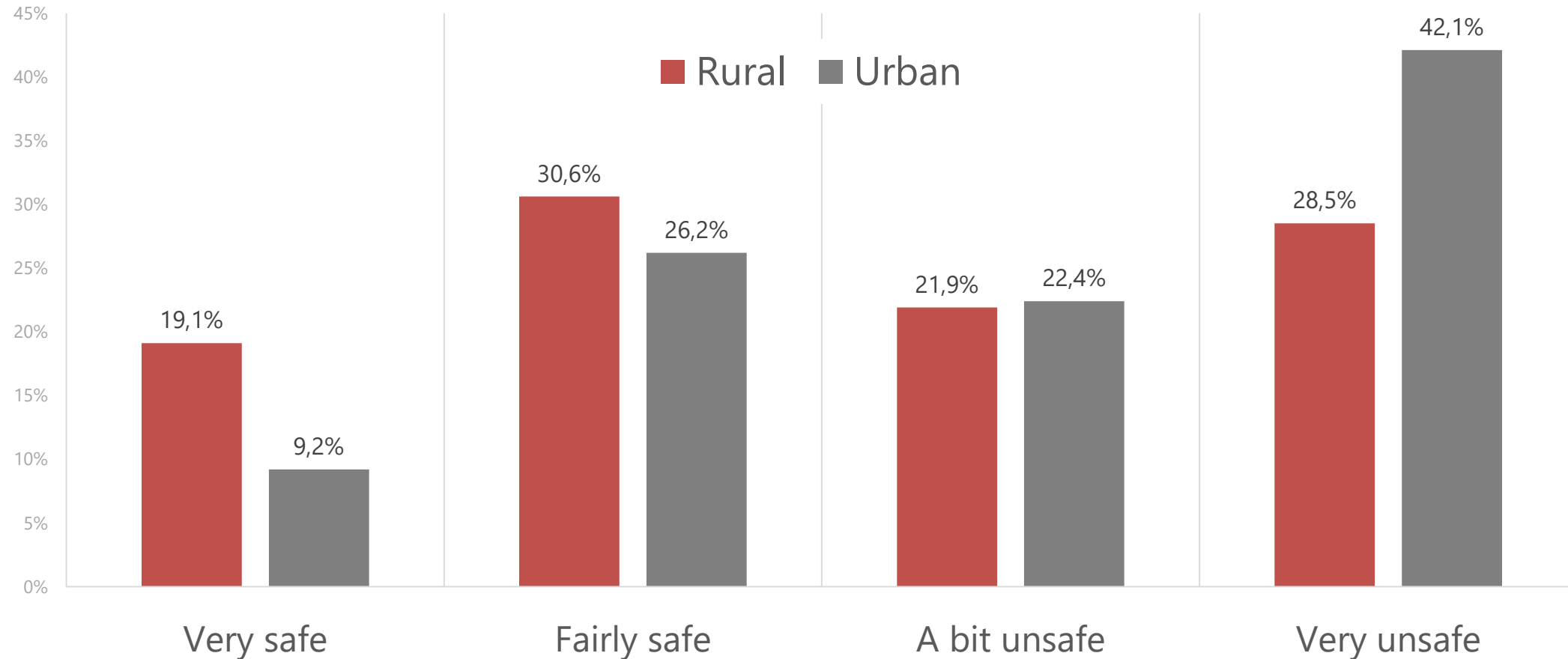
*Feelings of safety when walking alone in areas of residence when it is dark, by sex*





# A larger proportion of **people in rural areas felt safe** walking alone at night in their neighbourhoods compared to people in urban areas

Feelings of safety when walking alone in their areas of residence when it is dark by geographical location, 2020/21





# General individual perceptions on gender norms and societal issues

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GPSJS 2020/2021

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS

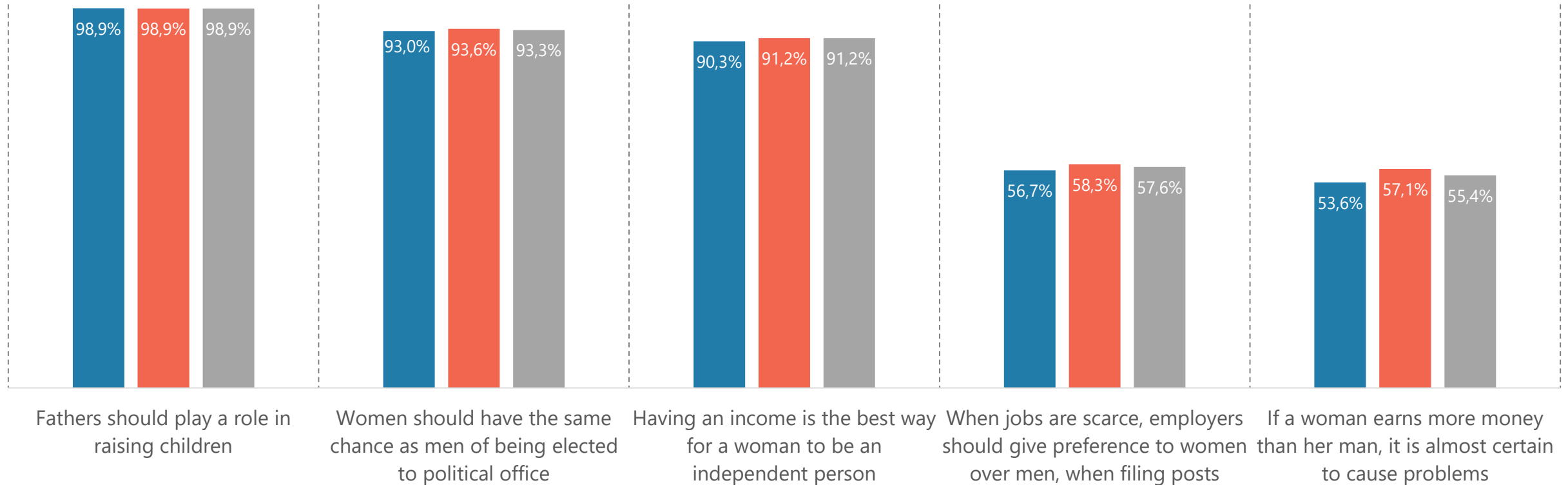


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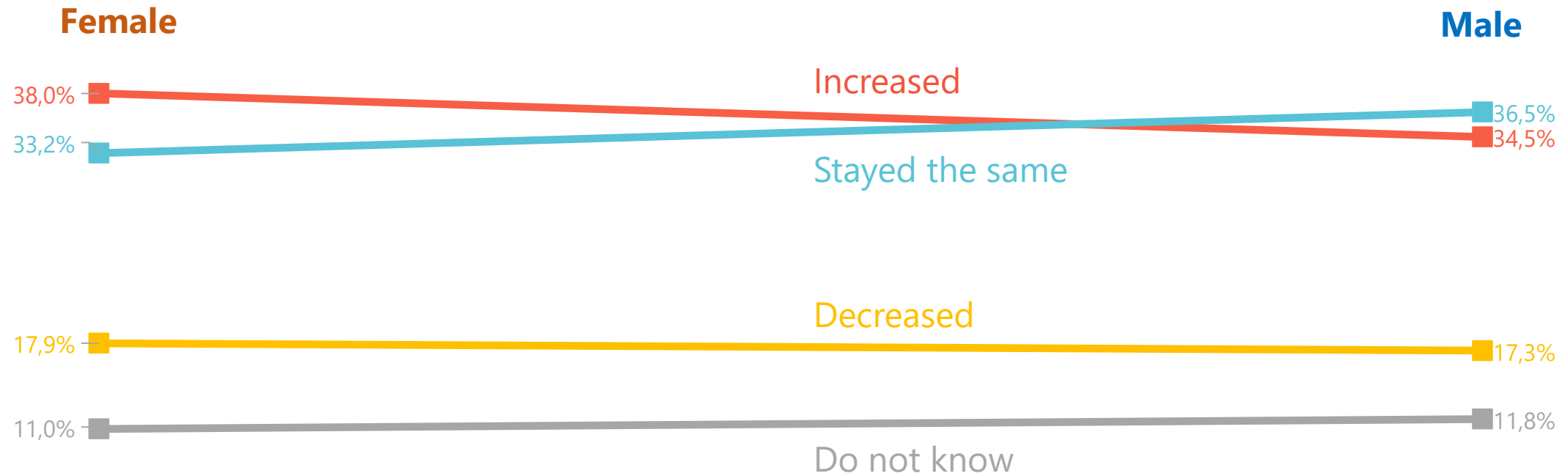
# More than 50% of both males and females believe that a woman earning more money than her man it is almost certain to cause problems. Generally, there is public support for women's empowerment and gender equality among those 16 years and above.

Percentage of persons aged 16 years and above who agree/ strongly agree with the following statements on gender roles and equality by sex, 2020/21



# A larger proportion of **females** are of the opinion that **gender-based violence** has increased in their areas.

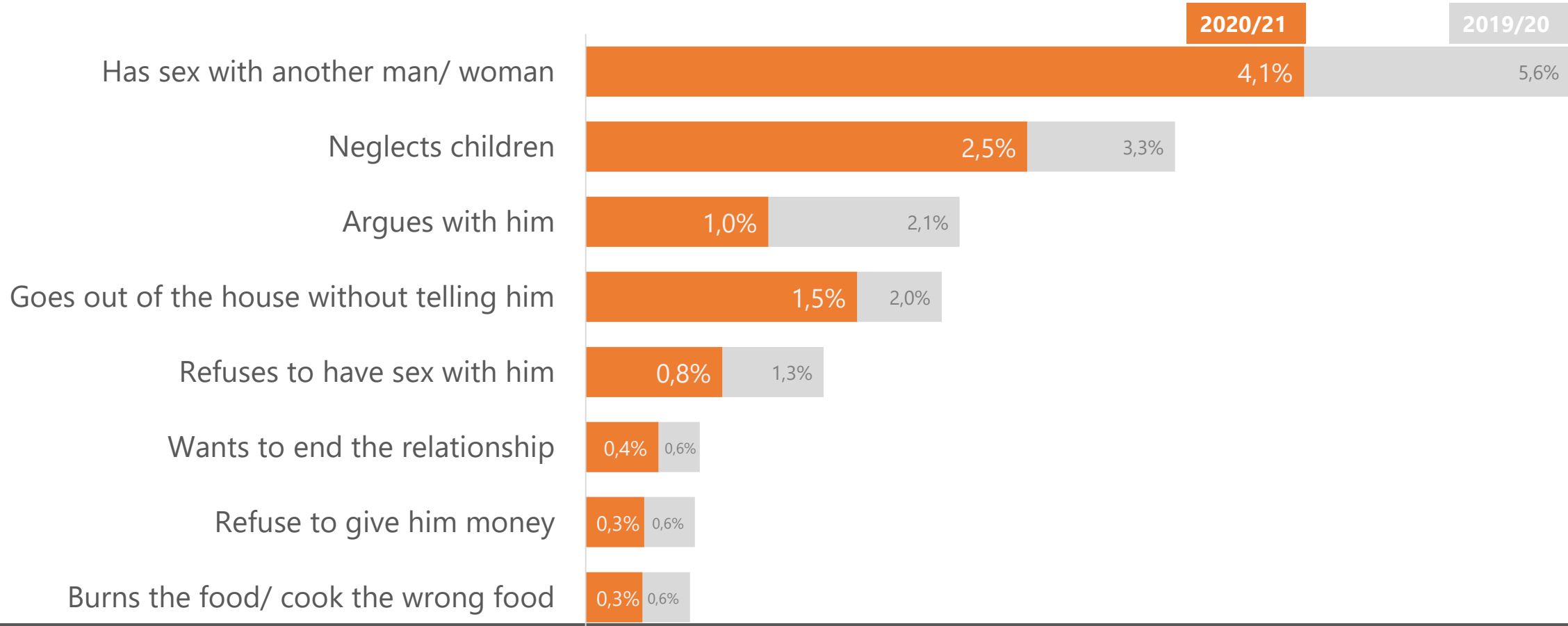
Percentage of persons aged 16 years and above by whether gender-based violence has increased, decreased or remained the same in their area by sex, 2020/21





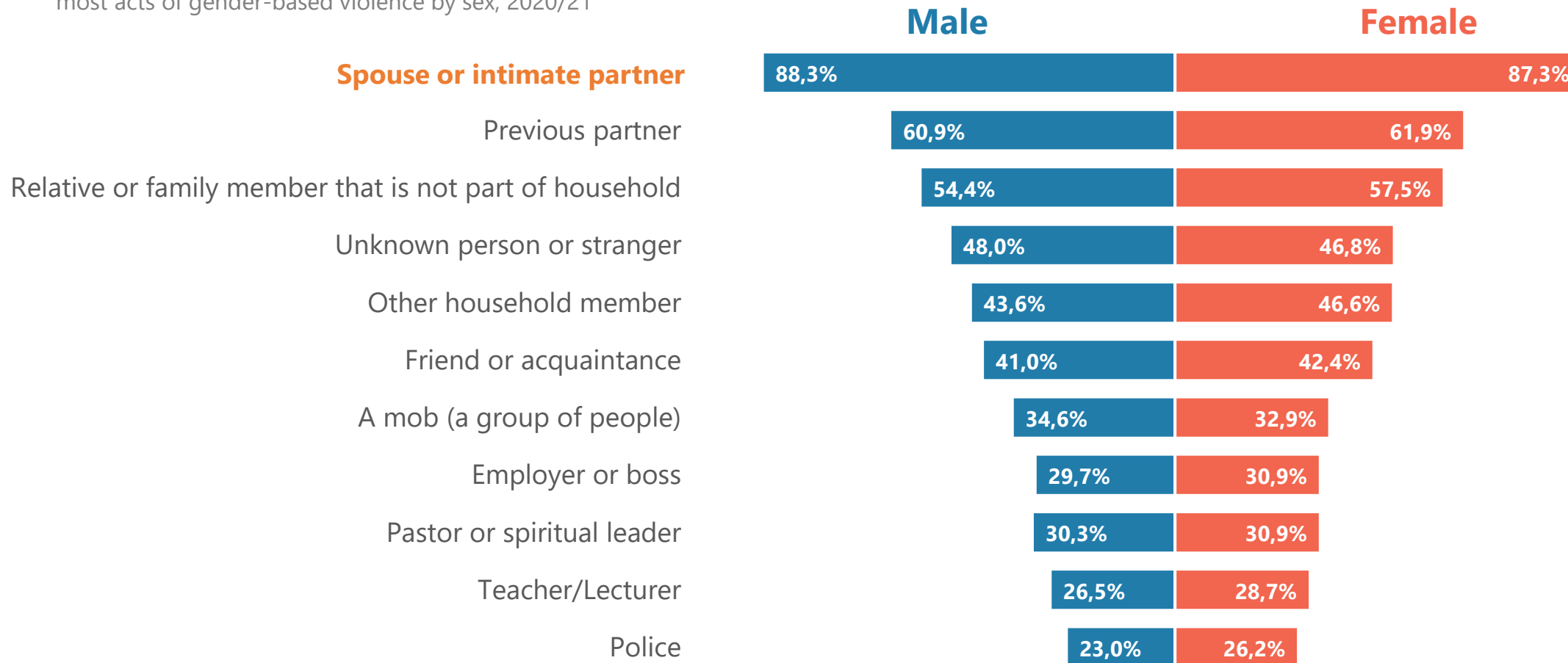
# Overall, the proportion of persons aged 16 years and above who believe it is **acceptable for a man/husband to hit or beat his woman/wife has decreased over time.**

Perceptions and attitudes of persons aged 16 years or older on whether it is acceptable for a man/ husband to hit or beat his woman/ wife under certain situations, 2019/20 and 2020/21



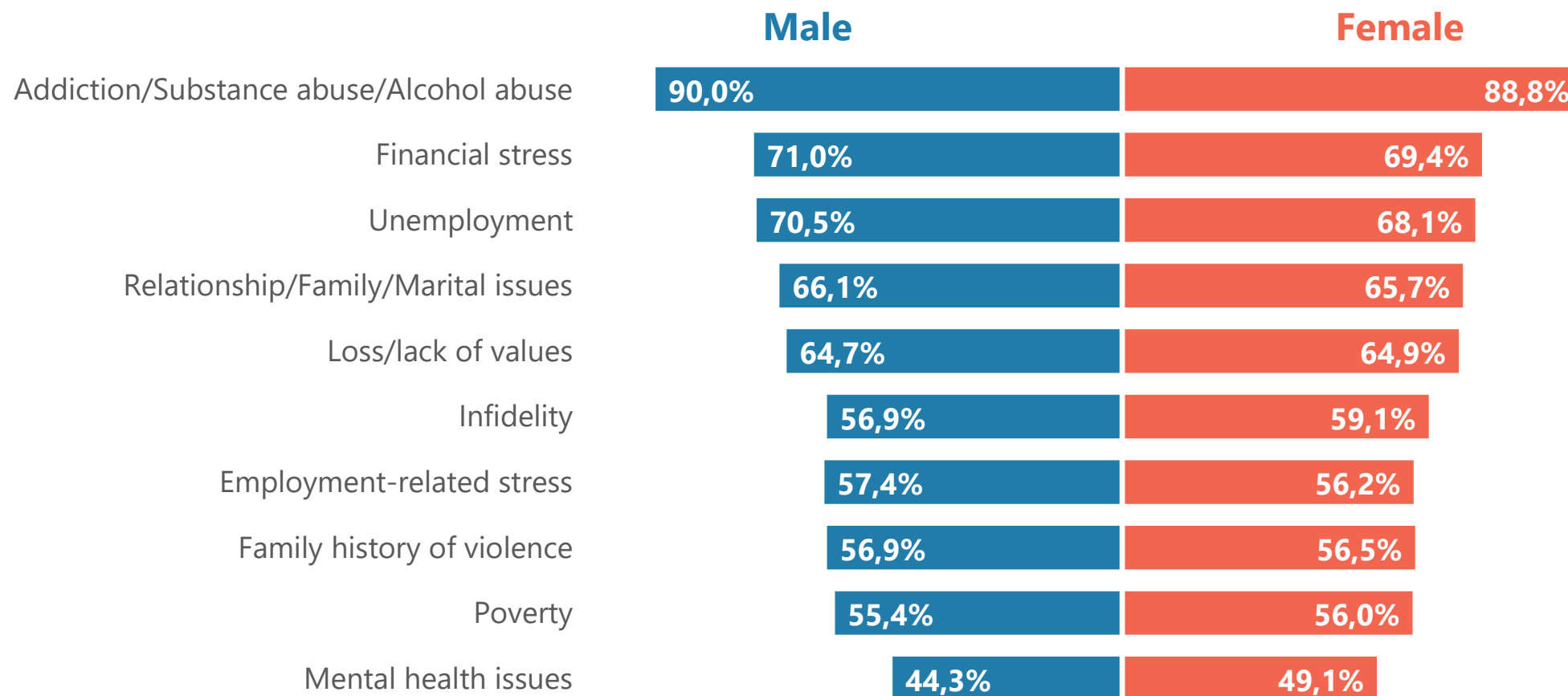
Both **males (88,3%)** and **females (87,3%)** think that the spouse or intimate partners commit the most acts of gender-based violence.

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.

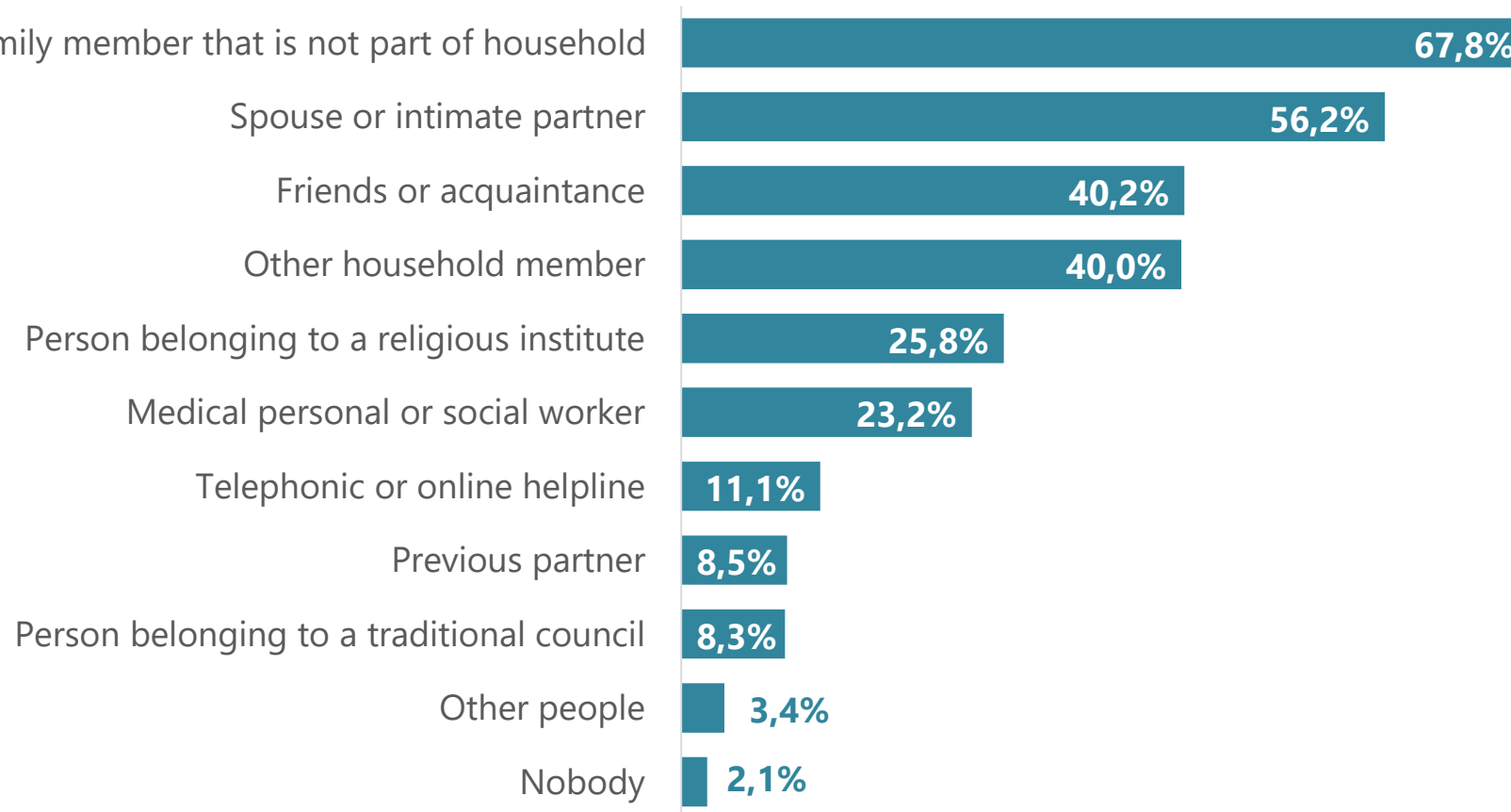
Percentage of persons aged 16 years and above by what they think causes violence against women and children by sex, 2020/21





More than two-thirds (67,8%) of persons aged 16 years and above said they **confide in relatives or family members** that are not part of the household when they have personal or family problems.

Percentage of persons aged 16 years and above by whom they confide in when they have personal or family problems, 2020/21



# RECAP: GPSJS 2020/21

## Household level crime

- ❖ The proportion of households that experienced housebreaking/burglary between 2019/20 and 2020/21 has decreased from 5,3% of all households to 4,6% of all households, with an estimated 1,0 million incidences.
- ❖ The proportion of households that experienced home robbery between 2019/20 and 2020/21 has decreased.

## Individual level crime

- ❖ An estimated 844 000 incidences of theft of personal property occurred in 2020/21, affecting 732 000 individuals aged 16 years and older.
- ❖ A total of 304 000 of adults aged 16 and older experienced street robbery in a total of 346 000 incidences.

## Feelings of safety

- ❖ About 85% of the population felt safe walking alone in their neighbourhood during the day while 40,0% felt safe walking alone in their neighbourhood during the night.

## GBV

- ❖ In general, there has been a decrease in the proportions between 2019/20 and 2020/21 for those who believe that it is justifiable for a man to beat his woman/wife for any reason.
- ❖ About 4,1% of the population believes that it is justifiable for a man or husband to hit or beat his woman/wife if she has sex with another man or woman.
- ❖ Both males (88,3%) and females (87,3%) think that the spouse or intimate partners commit the most acts of gender based violence.



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