



stats sa

Department:  
Statistics South Africa  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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

# Victims of Crime 2021/22

---

**Risenga Maluleke**  
Statistician-General



[statssa.gov.za](http://statssa.gov.za)



[twitter.com/StatsSA](https://twitter.com/StatsSA)



[facebook.com/StatsSA](https://facebook.com/StatsSA)

# 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

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Telephonic interviews were continued in the period of 2021/22. A slight respite allowed Stats SA to conduct short visits to households without telephone numbers to gather usable contact details.
- ❖ GPSJS 2021/22 calibrated to the **2018 series Mid-Year Population Estimates**
  - ❖ Stats SA is guided by **international best practice** in the production of its official statistics.
  - ❖ In order to provide the public with quality statistics, the GPSJS data is subjected to **numerous quality checks** at different stages of the production process.



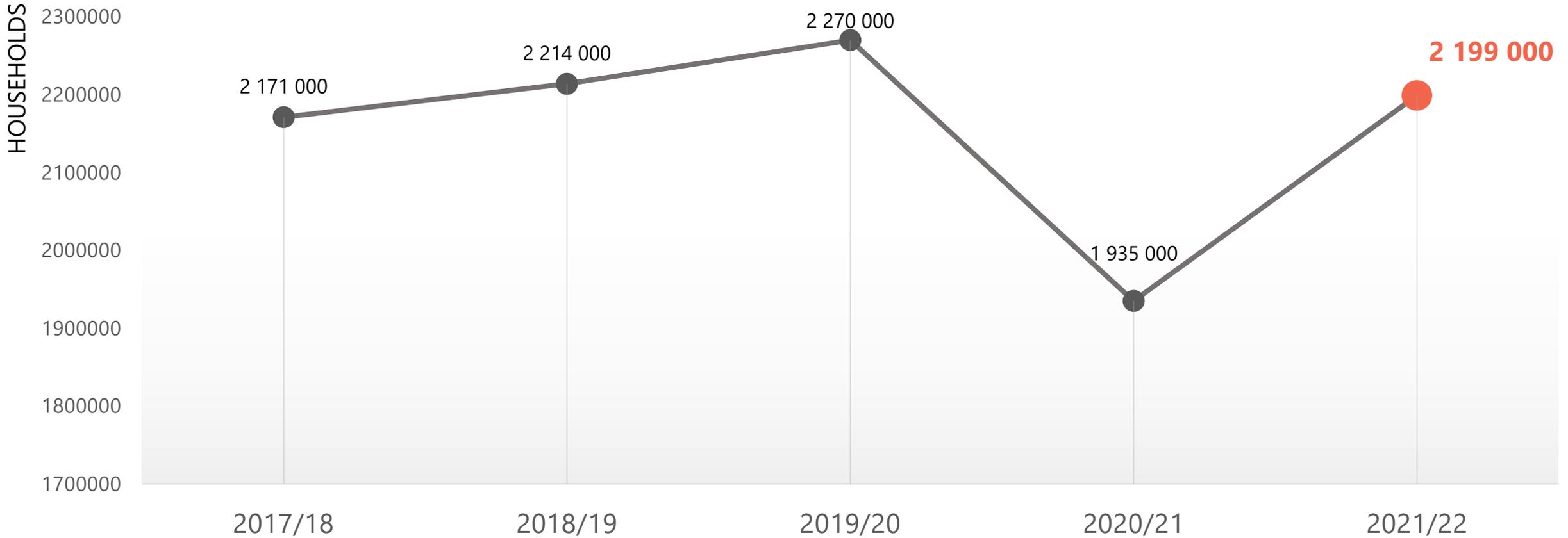
The Victim of Crime modules in GPSJS consists of 6 types of household crimes : Housebreaking, home robbery, theft of motor vehicles, murder, assault and sexual offence

# HOUSEHOLD EXPERIENCE OF CRIME

Around **2,2M** households experienced **housebreaking/burglary** during the **past 5 years**.  
The experience of housebreaking has increased by 14% from the previous year.



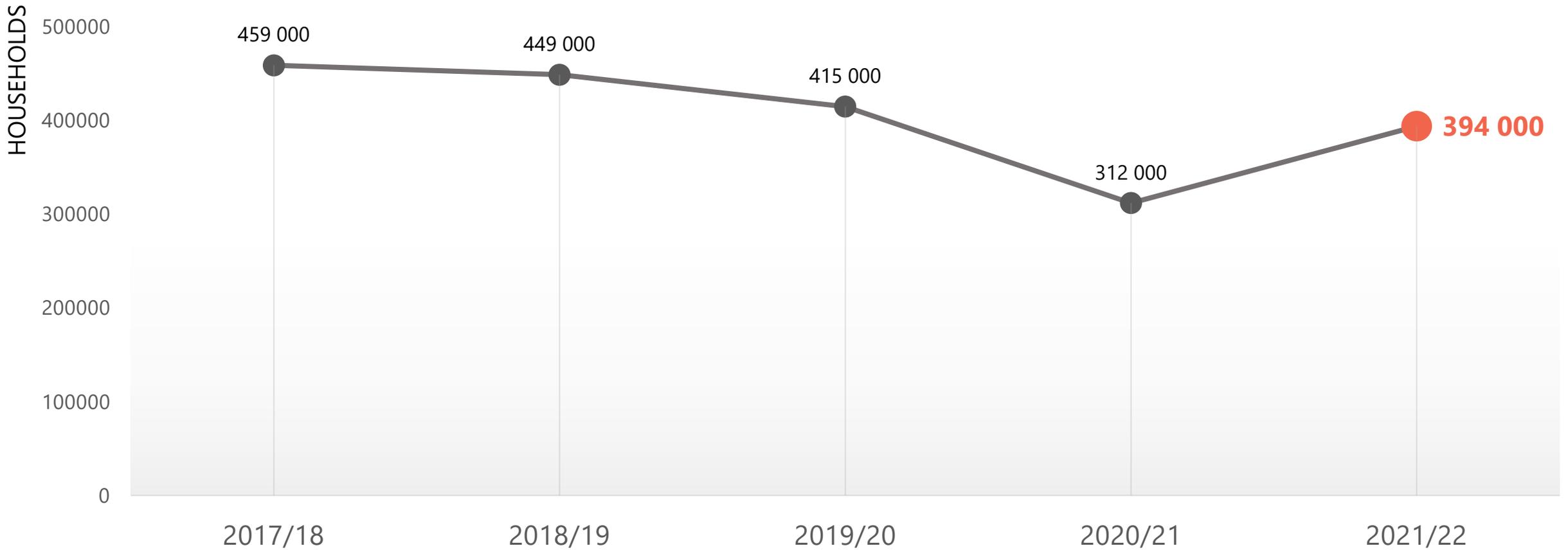
Based on question "Have you or your household experienced housebreaking/burglary **during the past 5 years**"



Around **394 000 households** experienced **Home robbery** during the **past 5 years**. The experience of Home Robbery increased by 26% from the previous year.



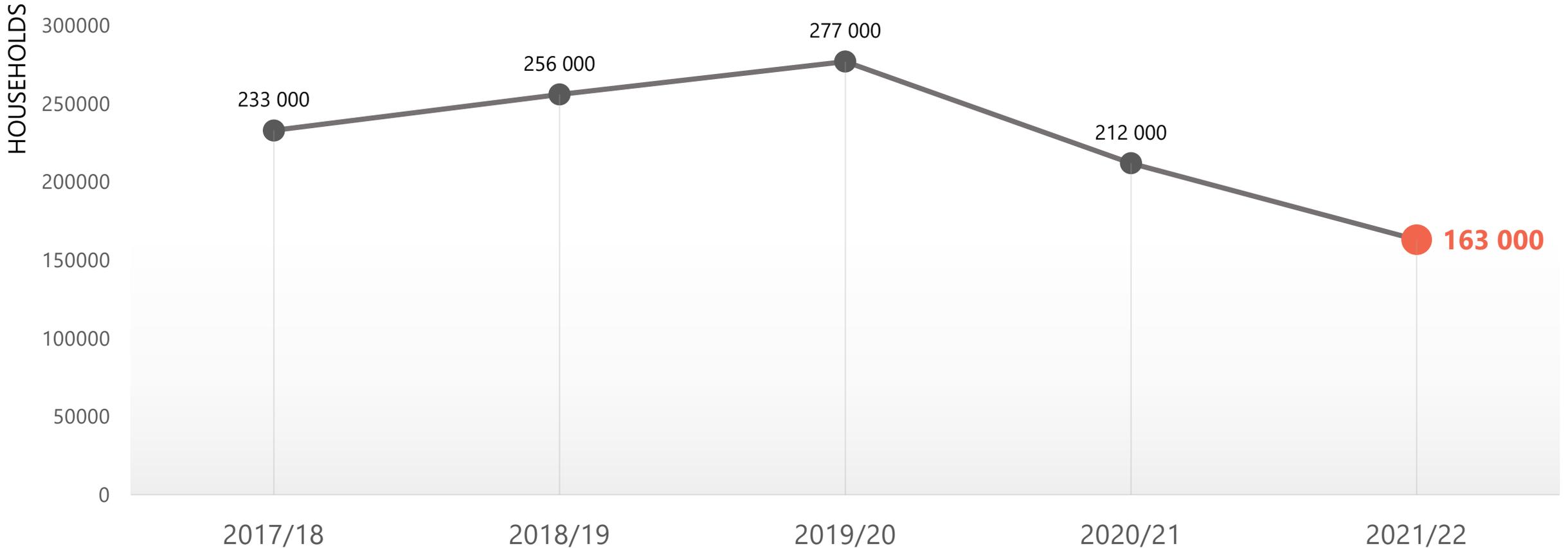
Based on question "Have you or your household experienced Home robbery **during the past 5 years**"



Around **163 000 households** experienced **Car Theft** during the **past 5 years**.  
The experience of car theft has decreased by 23% from the previous year.



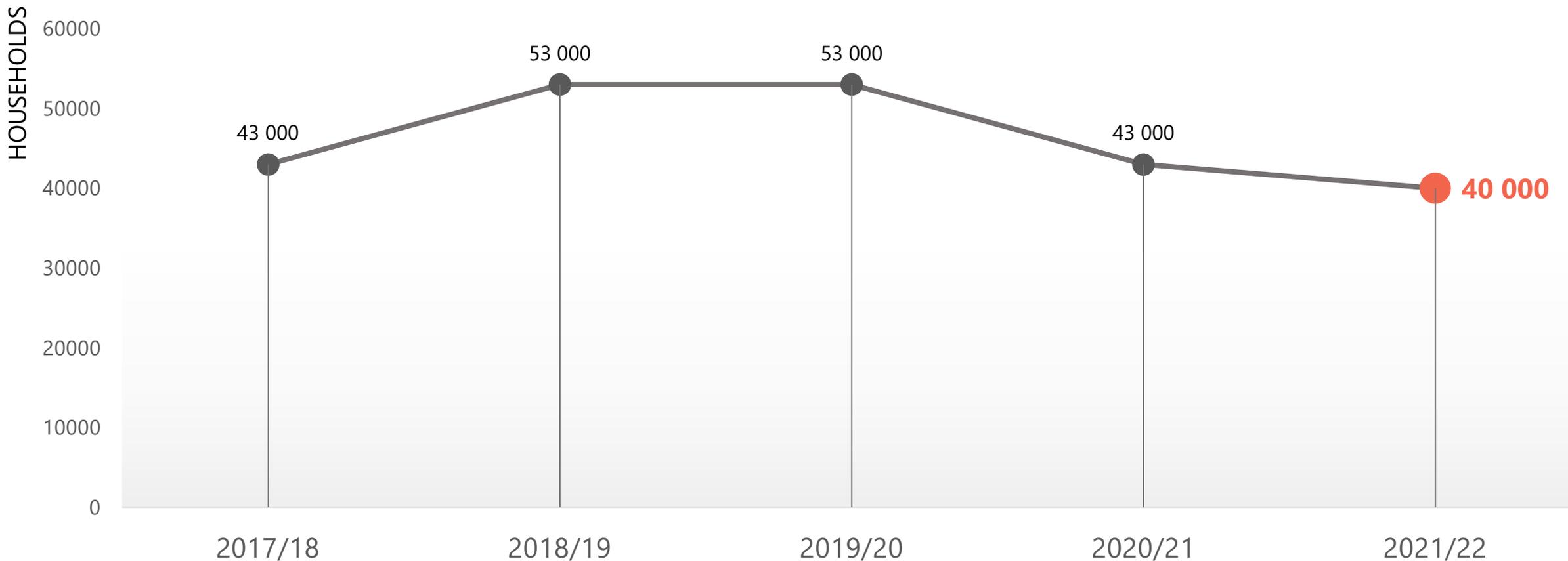
Based on question "Have you or your household experienced car theft **during the past 5 years**"



Around **40 000** households experienced **Murder** during the **past 5 years**  
*The experience of murder has decreased by 7% from the previous year.*



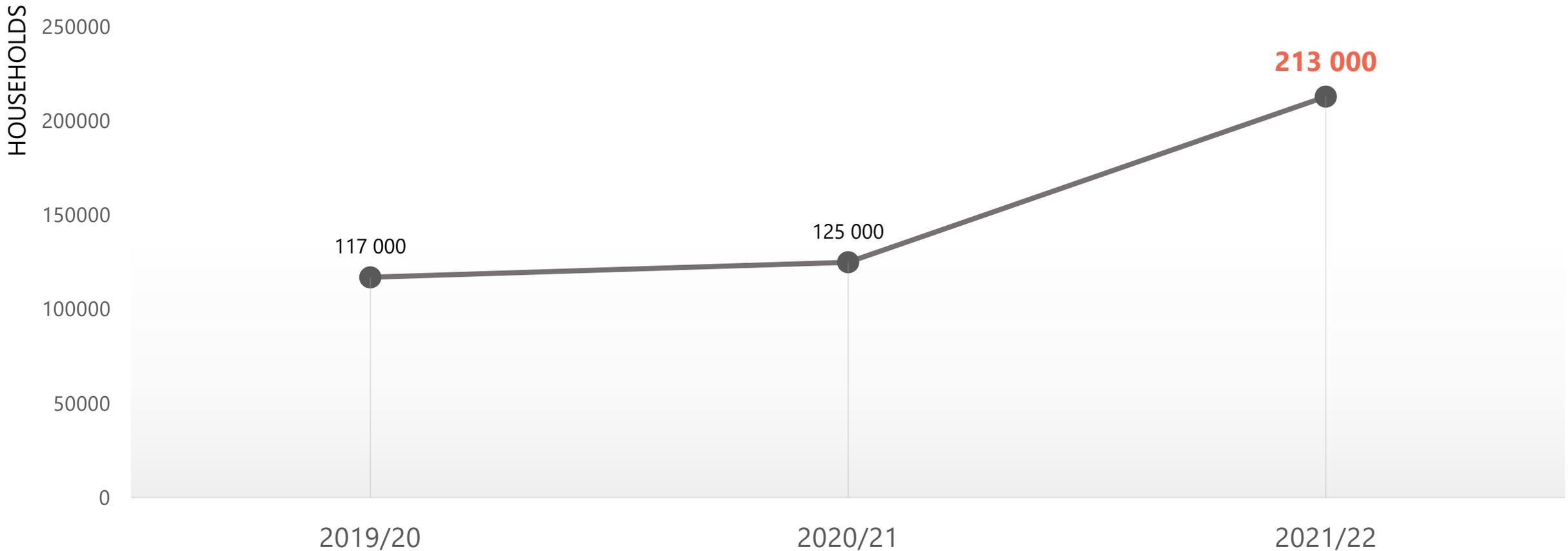
Based on question "Have you or your household experienced murder **during the past 5 years**"



Around **213 000 households** experienced **Assault** during the **past 5 years**.  
The experience of assault has increased by 70% from the previous year.



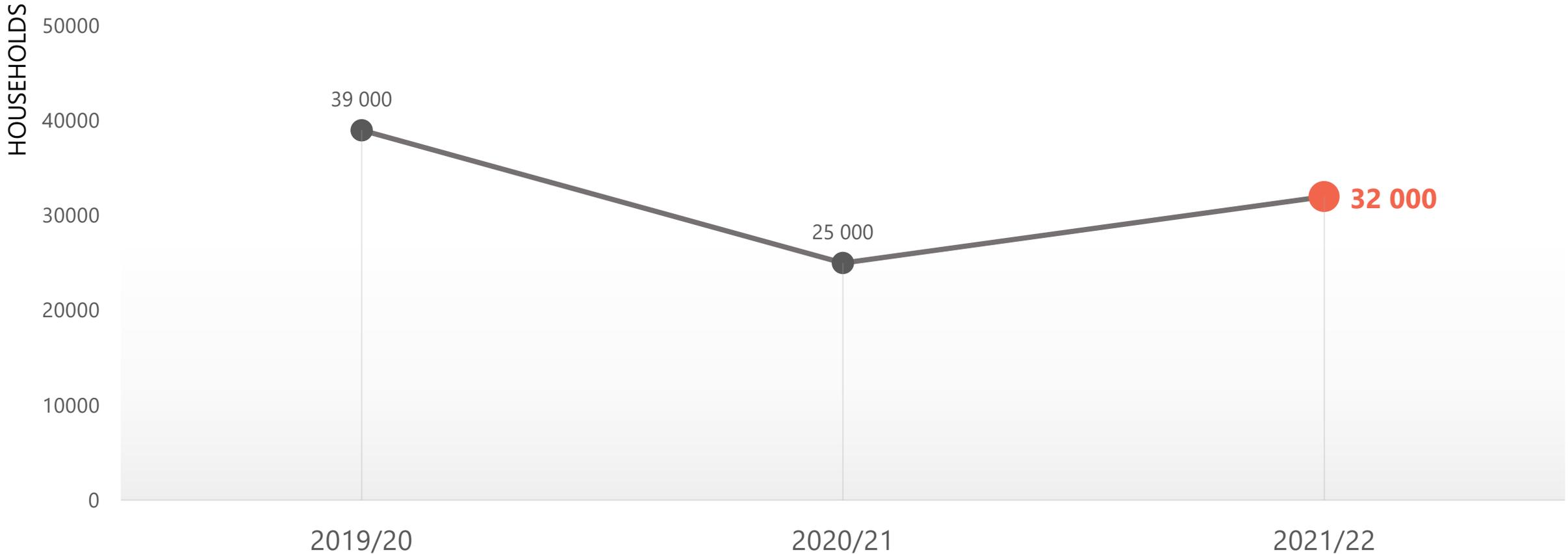
Based on question "Have you or your household experienced assault **during the past 5 years**"



Around **32 000** households experienced **Sexual Offence** during the **past 5 years**  
*The experience of sexual offence has increased by 28% from the previous year.*



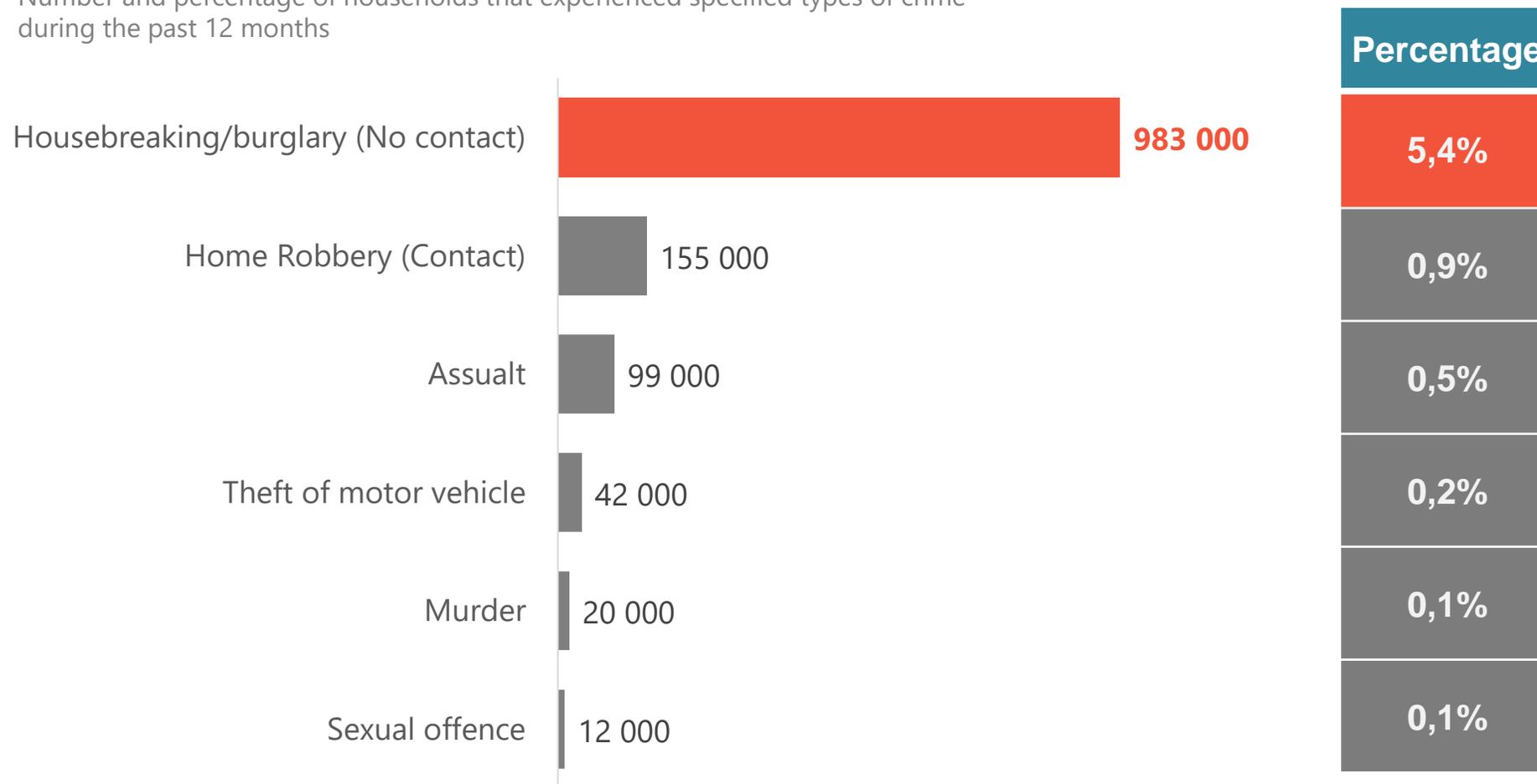
Based on question "Have you or your household experienced sexual offence **during the past 5 years**"



About **983 000 households** experienced Housebreaking/burglary in 2021/22. This was **5,4% of the households** in South Africa.

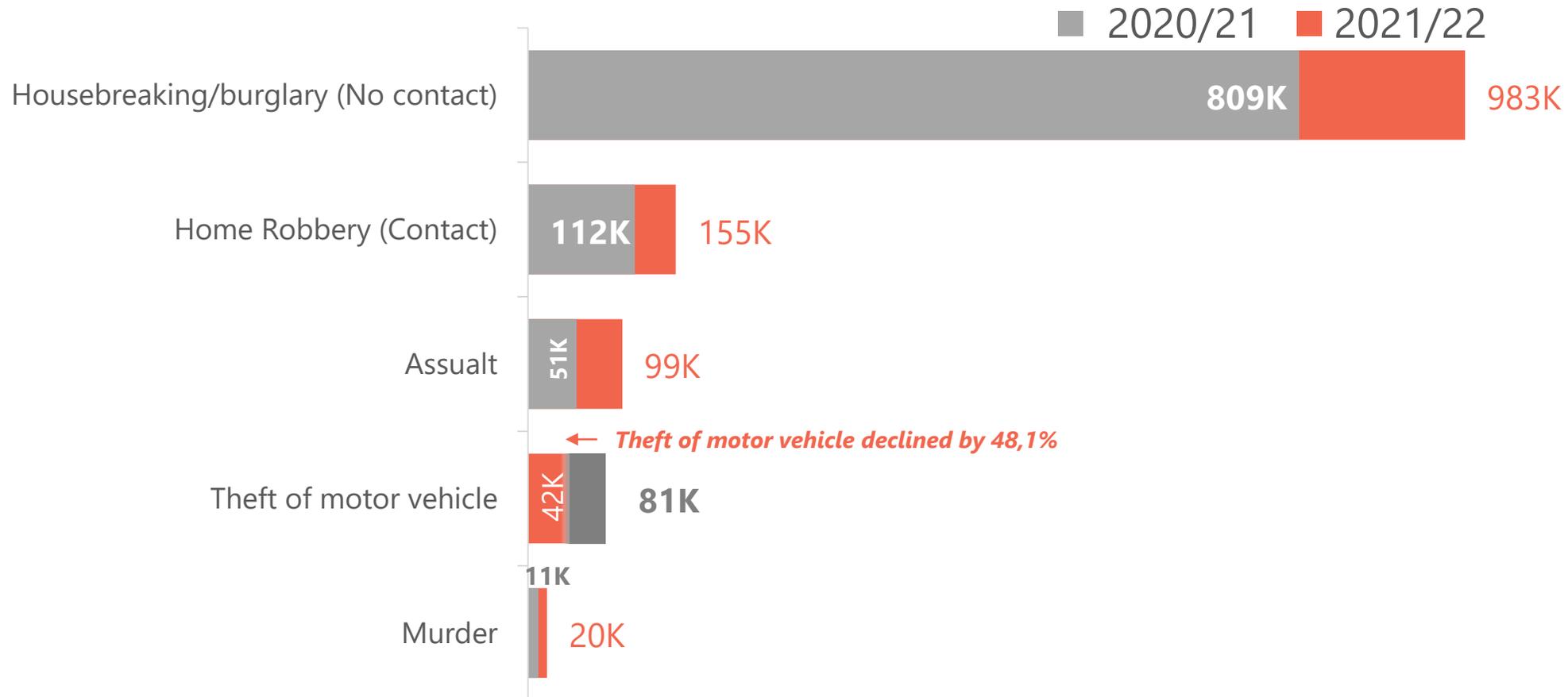
PAST **12 M**

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



# Households that experienced Housebreaking **increased** by **21,5%** in 2021/22 period

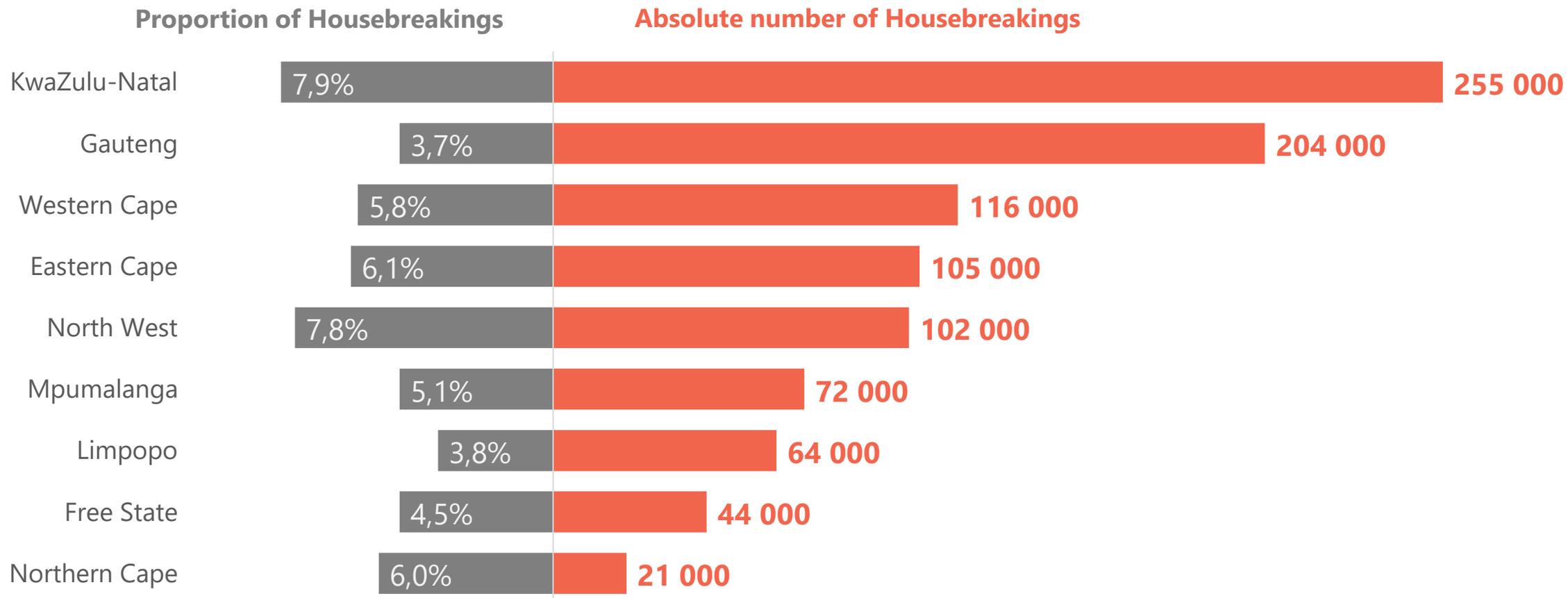
Number and percentage of households that experienced specified types of crime between 2020/21 and 2021/22



The highest proportion (**7,9%**) of households that experienced housebreaking was in KwaZulu-Natal. *Limpopo province had the lowest proportion (3,8%) of households that experienced housebreaking.*

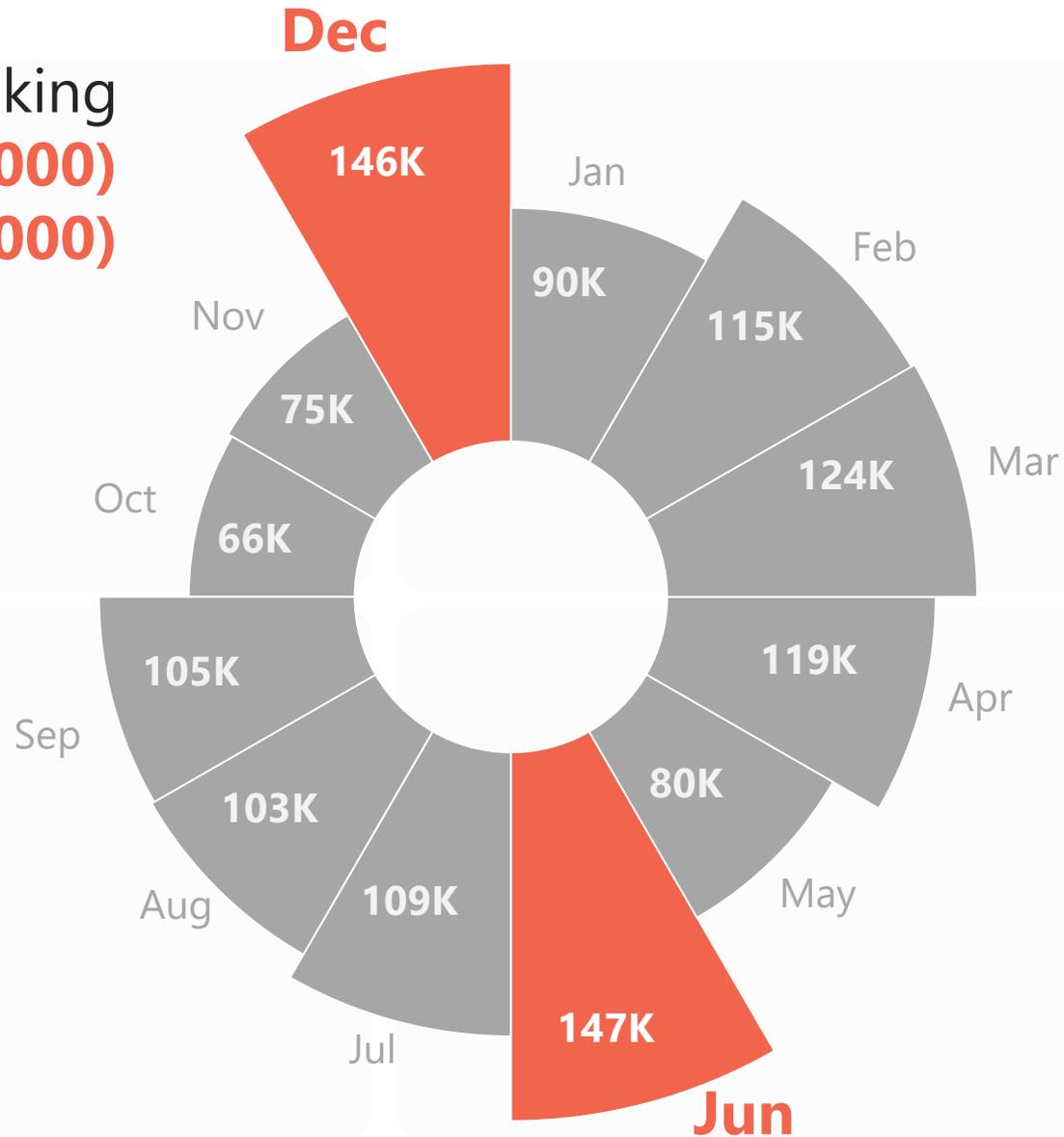


Number and percentage of households that experienced housebreaking by province (proportion & absolute) 2021/22



# Incidences of housebreaking peaked in December (146 000) and June (147 000)

Number of incidences of Housebreaking by month, 2021/22

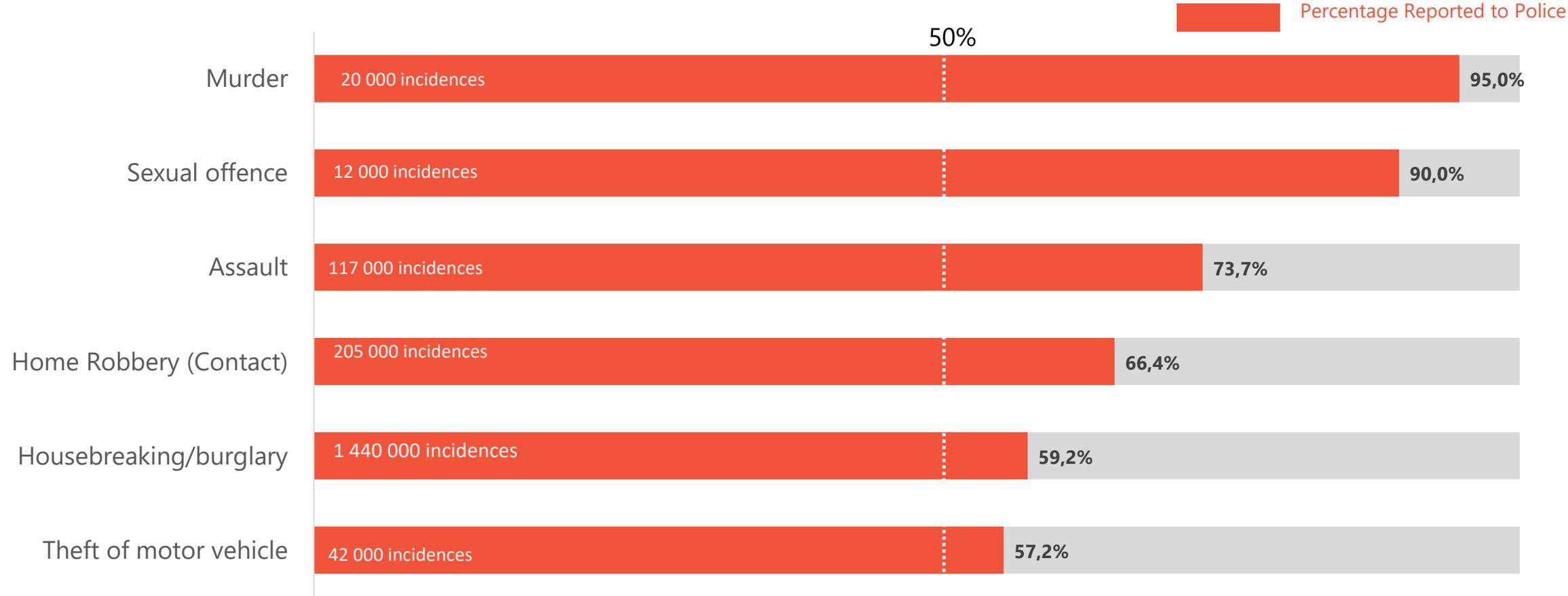


PAST 12 M

About **95% of households** that experienced **Murder** reported some or all incidences to the police. A total of 1,4M incidences of housebreaking occurred in 2021/22 period.



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



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

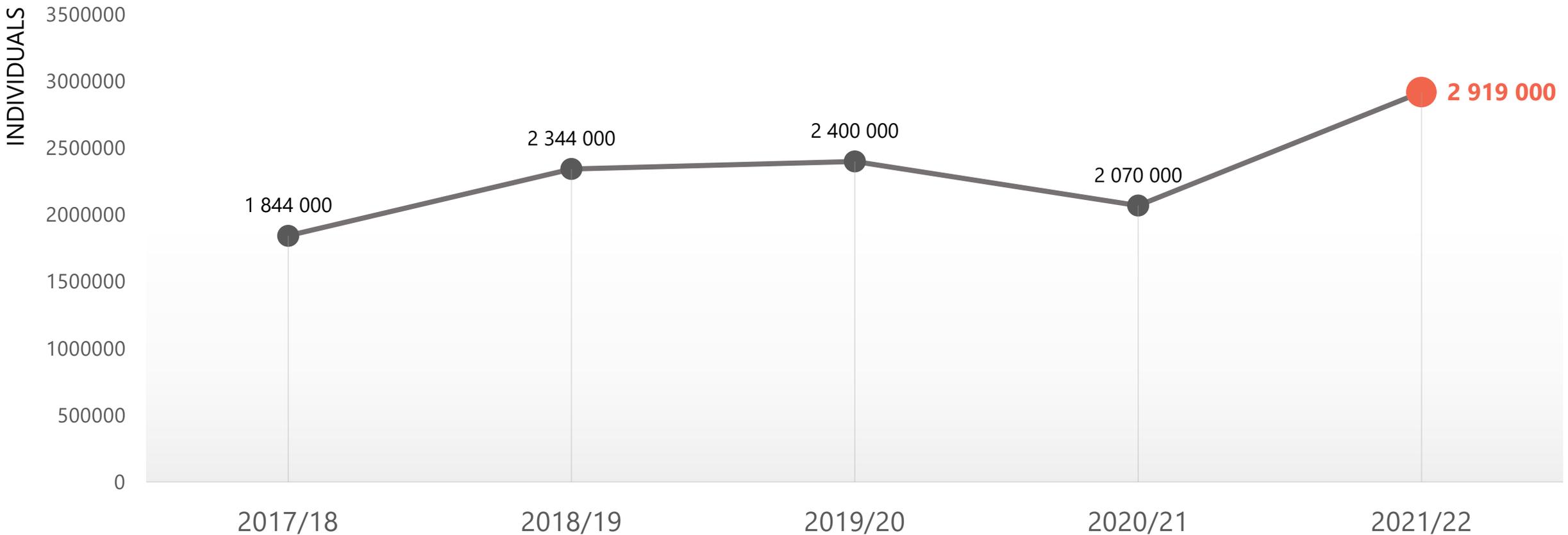


# INDIVIDUAL EXPERIENCE OF CRIME

**2,9 Million individuals** experienced **theft of personal property** during the past 5 years. The experience of theft of personal property has increased by 41% from the previous year.



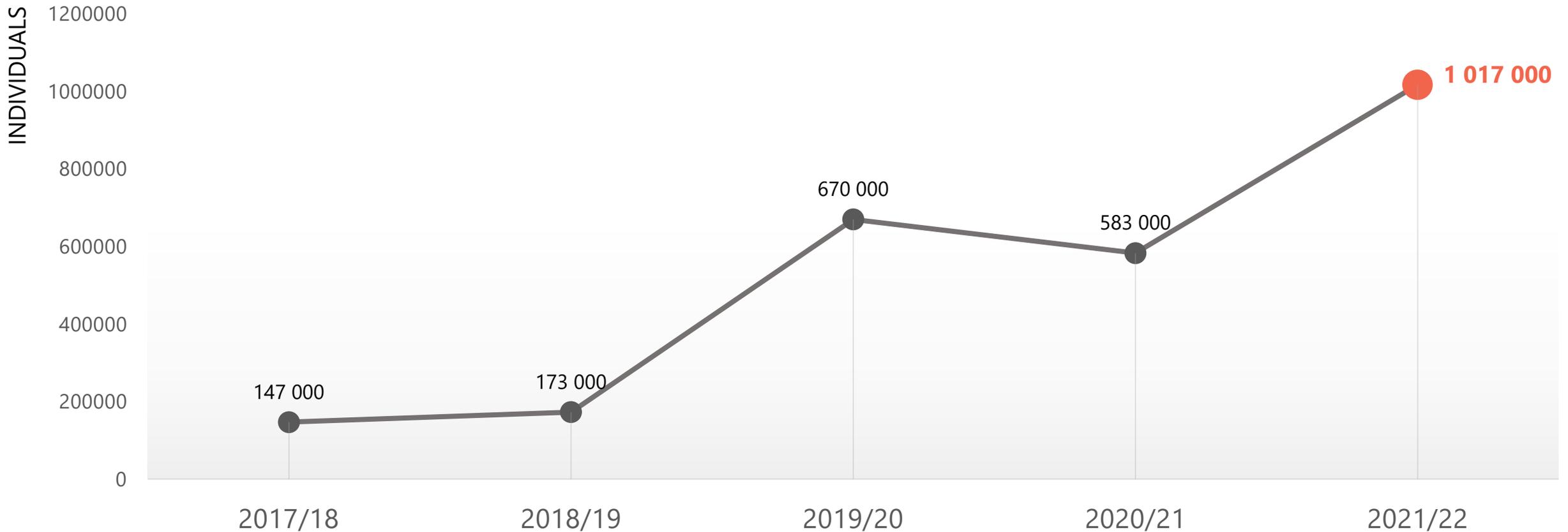
Number of individuals aged 16 and older that experienced theft of personal property **during the past 5 years**



**1,0M 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). Consumer fraud increased by 74,4% from the previous period.*

PAST  
5 Y

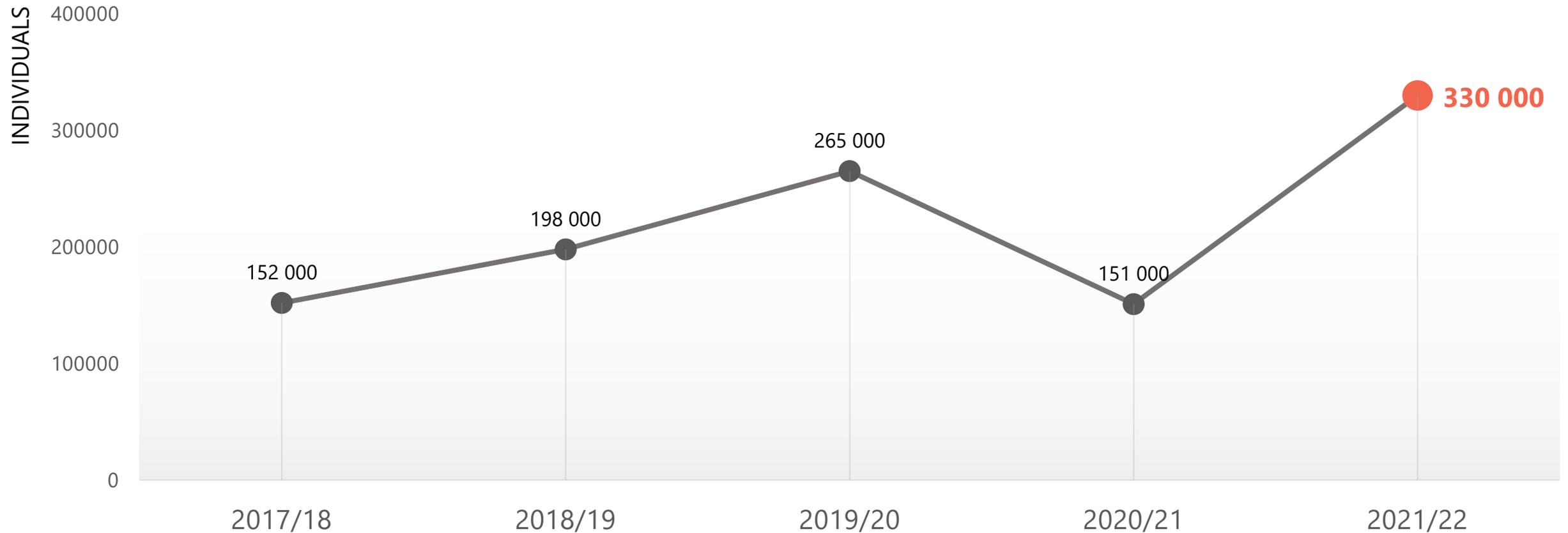
Number of individuals aged 16 and older that experienced consumer fraud **during the past 5 years**



# There is a **significant increase in hijacking between 2020/21 and 2021/22**, with around **330 000 persons** experiencing **hijacking during the past 5 years**



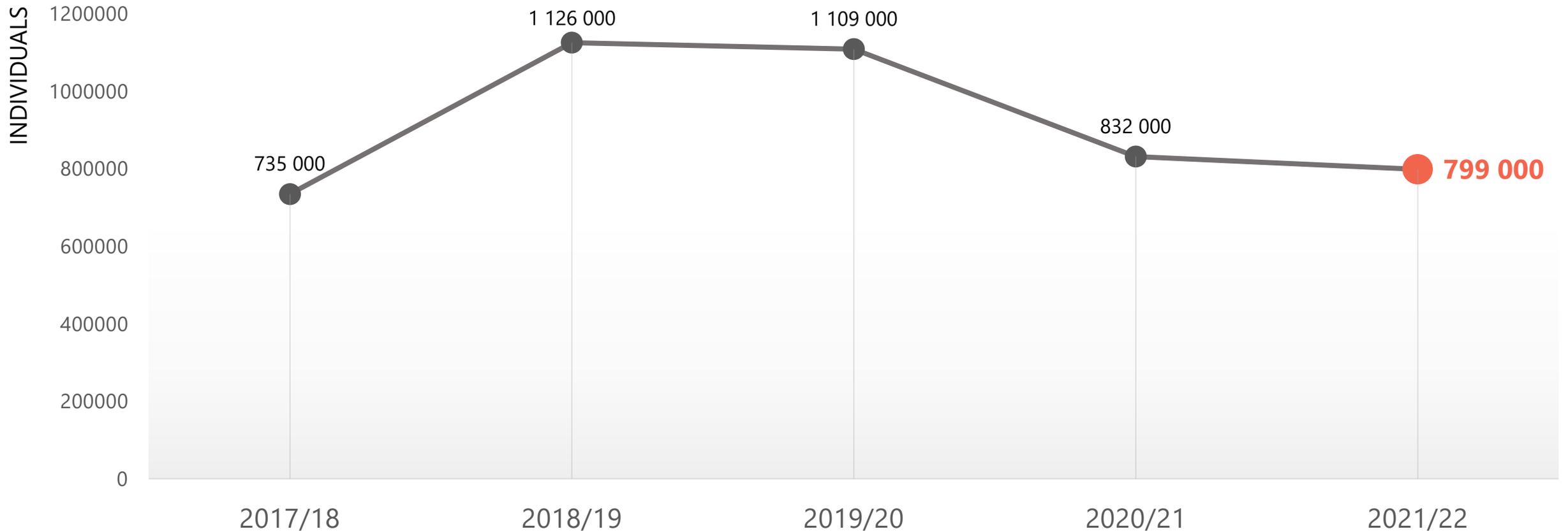
Number of individuals aged 16 and older that experienced hijacking **during the past 5 years**



**799 000 individuals** experienced **street robbery** during the past 5 years. The experience of street robbery has decreased by 4,0% from the previous reporting period.



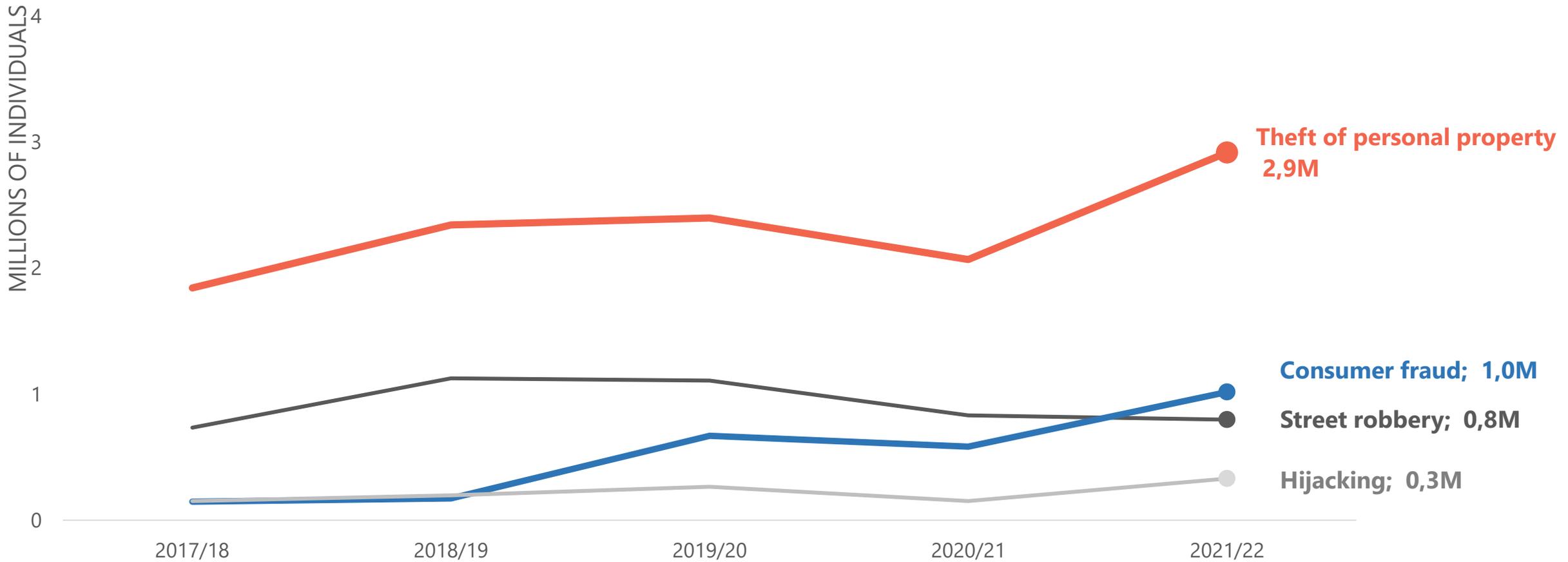
Number of individuals aged 16 and older that experienced street robbery **during the past 5 years**



# In 2021/22 **Consumer Fraud** overtook Street Robbery with **1 million individuals experiencing this crime during the past 5 years**



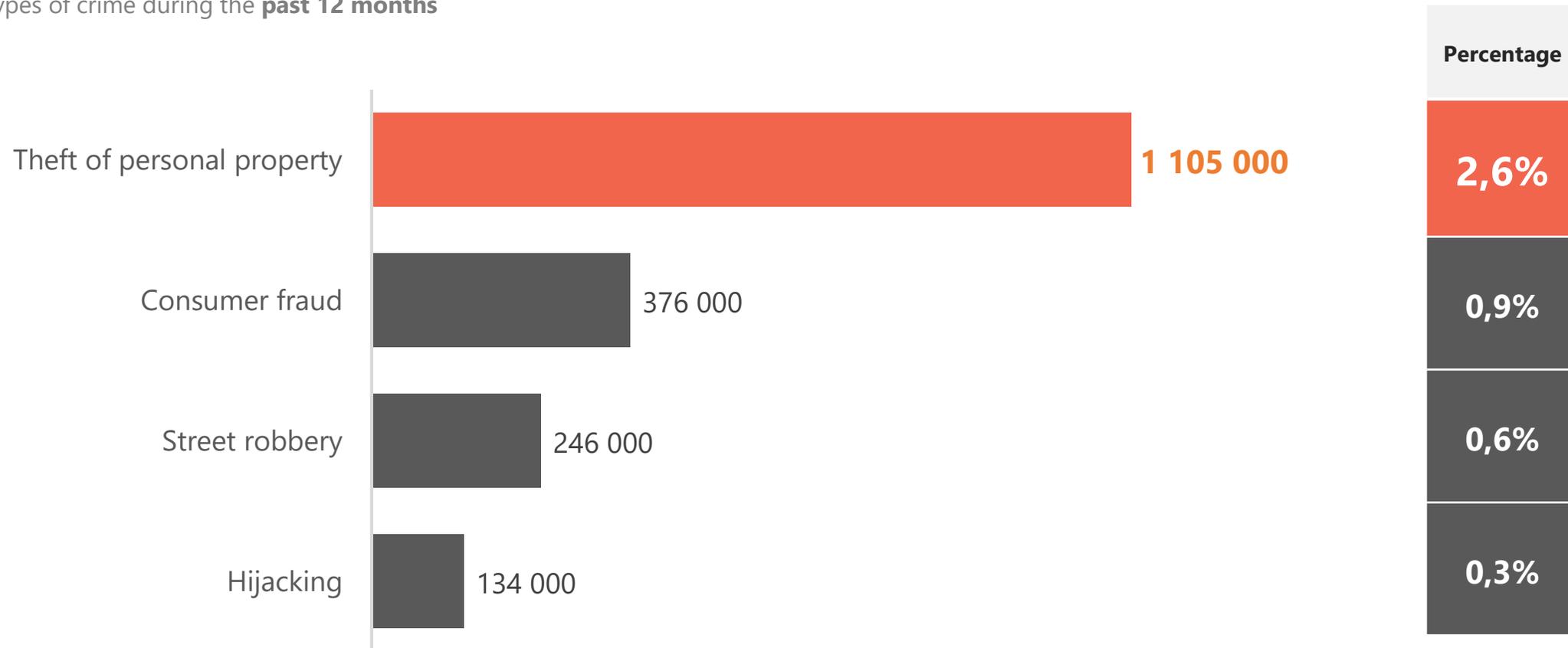
Number of individuals aged 16 and older that experienced various crimes **during the past 5 years**



About **1,1M** persons aged 16 and older experienced theft of personal property in 2021/22. This was 2,6% of the population of persons aged 16 and older.

PAST  
12 M

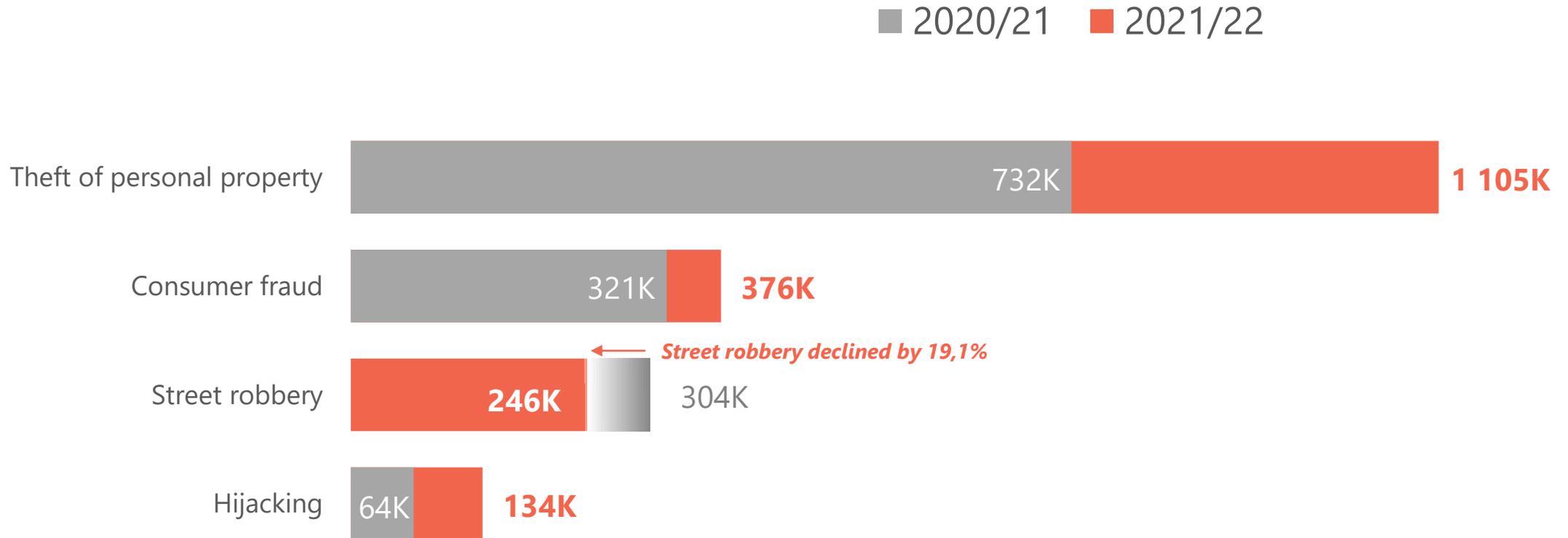
Number and percentage of individuals aged 16 and older who experienced specified types of crime during the **past 12 months**



# Individuals that experienced **Theft of Personal Property increased by 51%** in 2021/22 period

Comparison of Number of individuals that experienced crime 2020/21 - and 2021/22

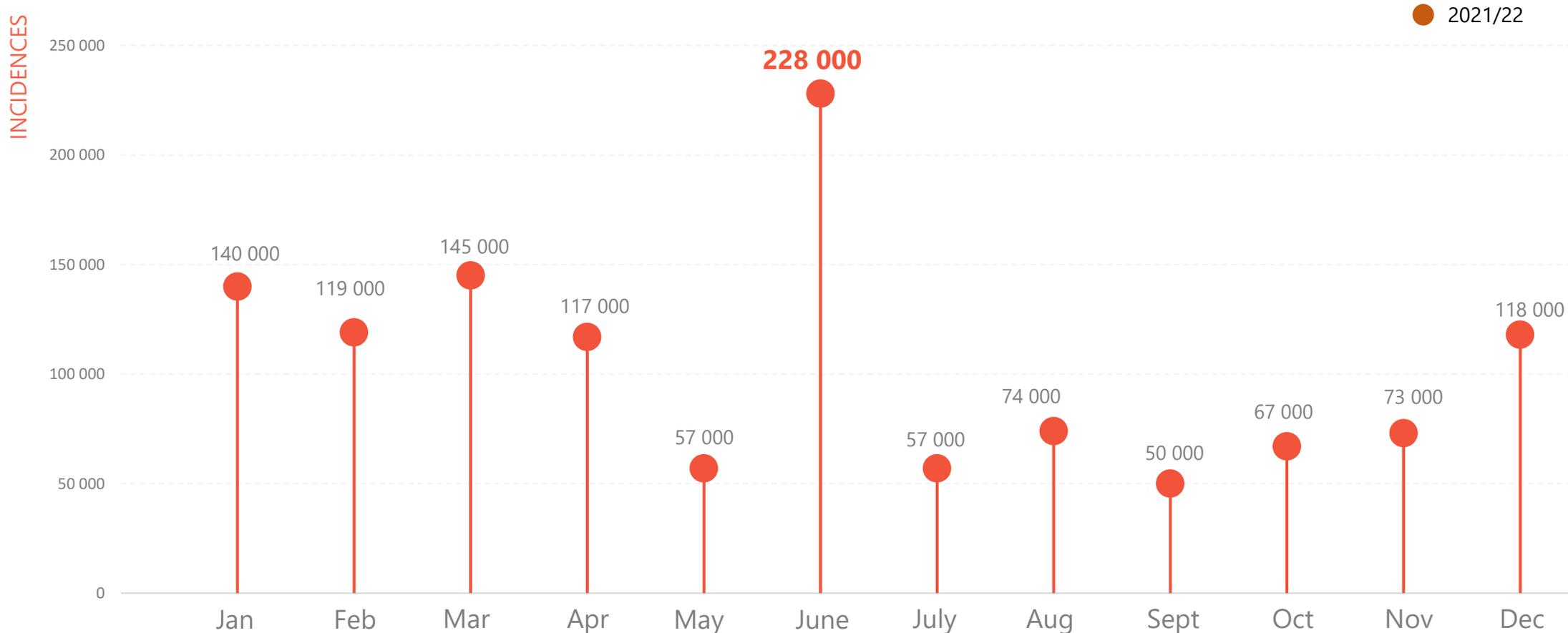
PAST  
12 M



# Incidences of theft of personal property **peaked in June** with 228 000 incidences

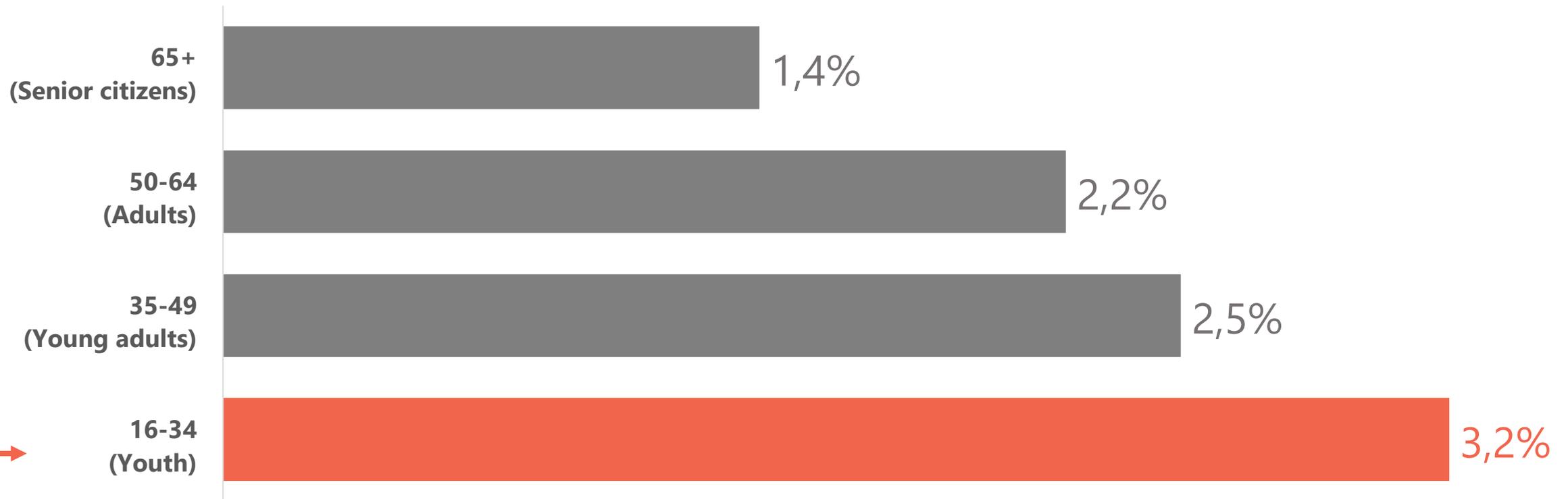
PAST  
12 M

Number of incidences of **Theft of Personal Property** by month, 2021/22



**3,2% of the youth (aged 16-34)** experienced loss of personal property through theft. *There is a relationship between age and vulnerability to theft of personal property.*

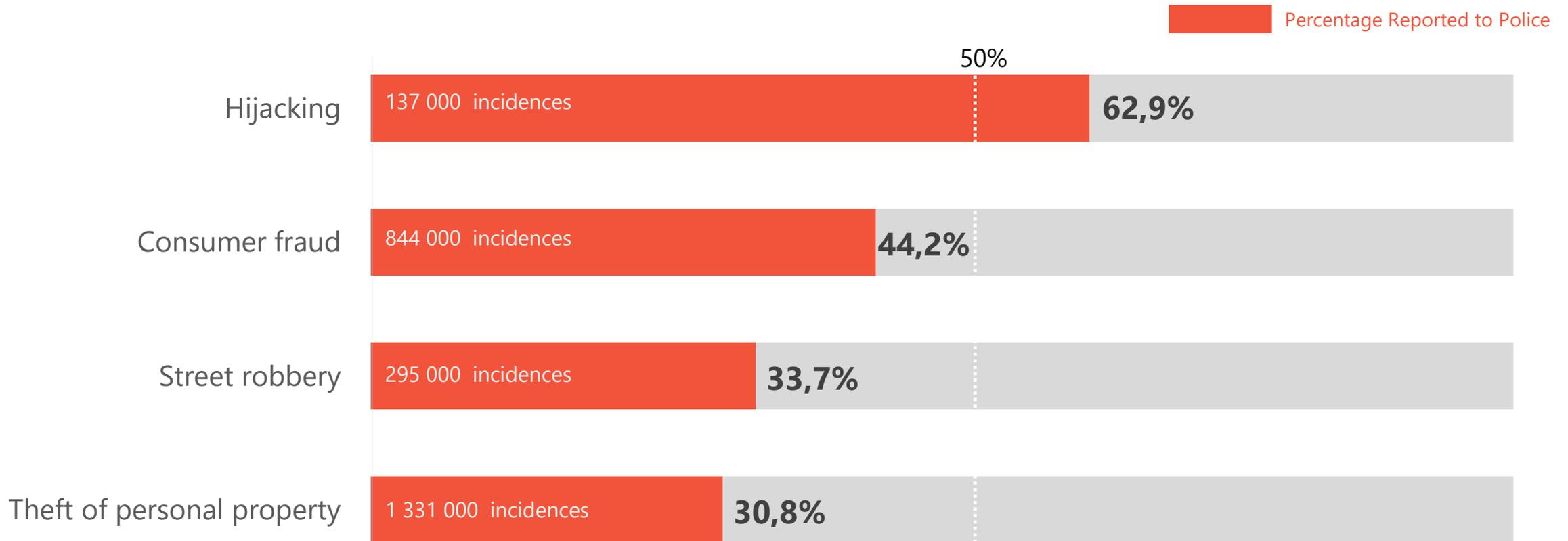
Percentage of victims of theft of personal property in different age groups, 2021/22



About **62,9% of individuals** that experienced **Hijackings** reported some or all incidences to the police. A total of 1,3M incidences of theft of personal property occurred in 2021/22.

PAST  
12 M

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**



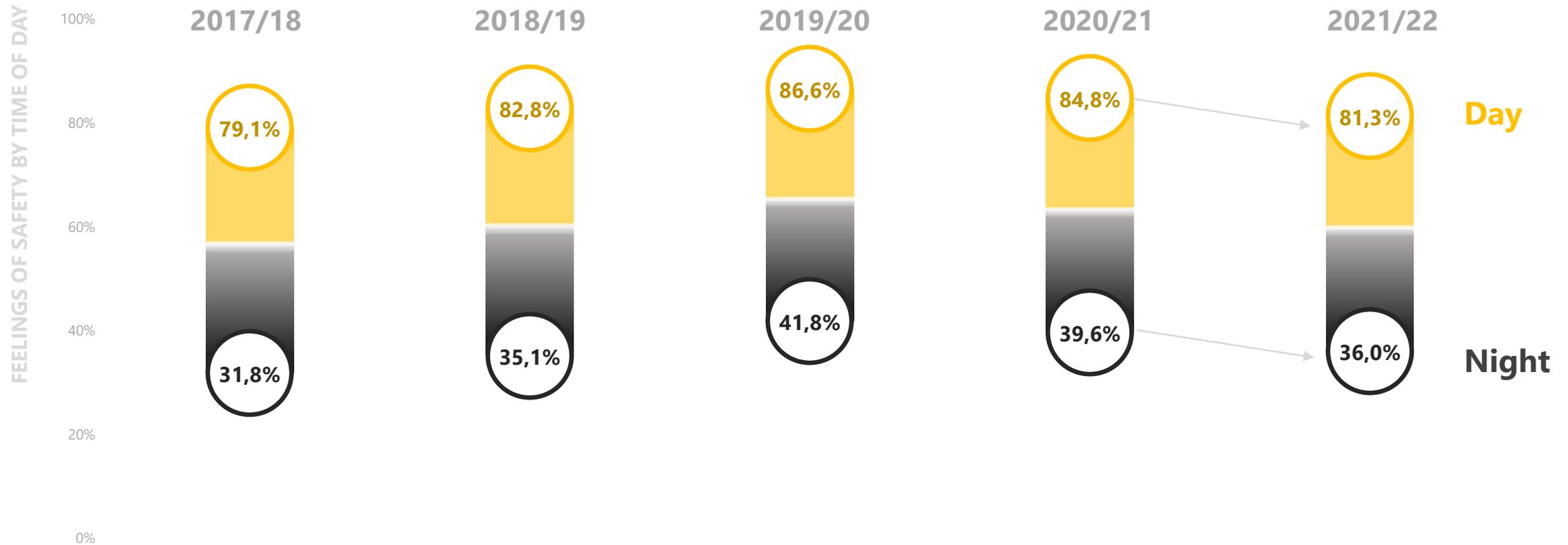
A photograph of a person walking away from the camera on a cobblestone street at night. The person is in silhouette, wearing a dark jacket and pants. The street is illuminated by warm, orange-toned streetlights, creating a bokeh effect in the background. A blurred car is visible on the left side of the street. In the top left corner, there is a small orange horizontal bar.

Individual  
perceptions of  
their safety

---

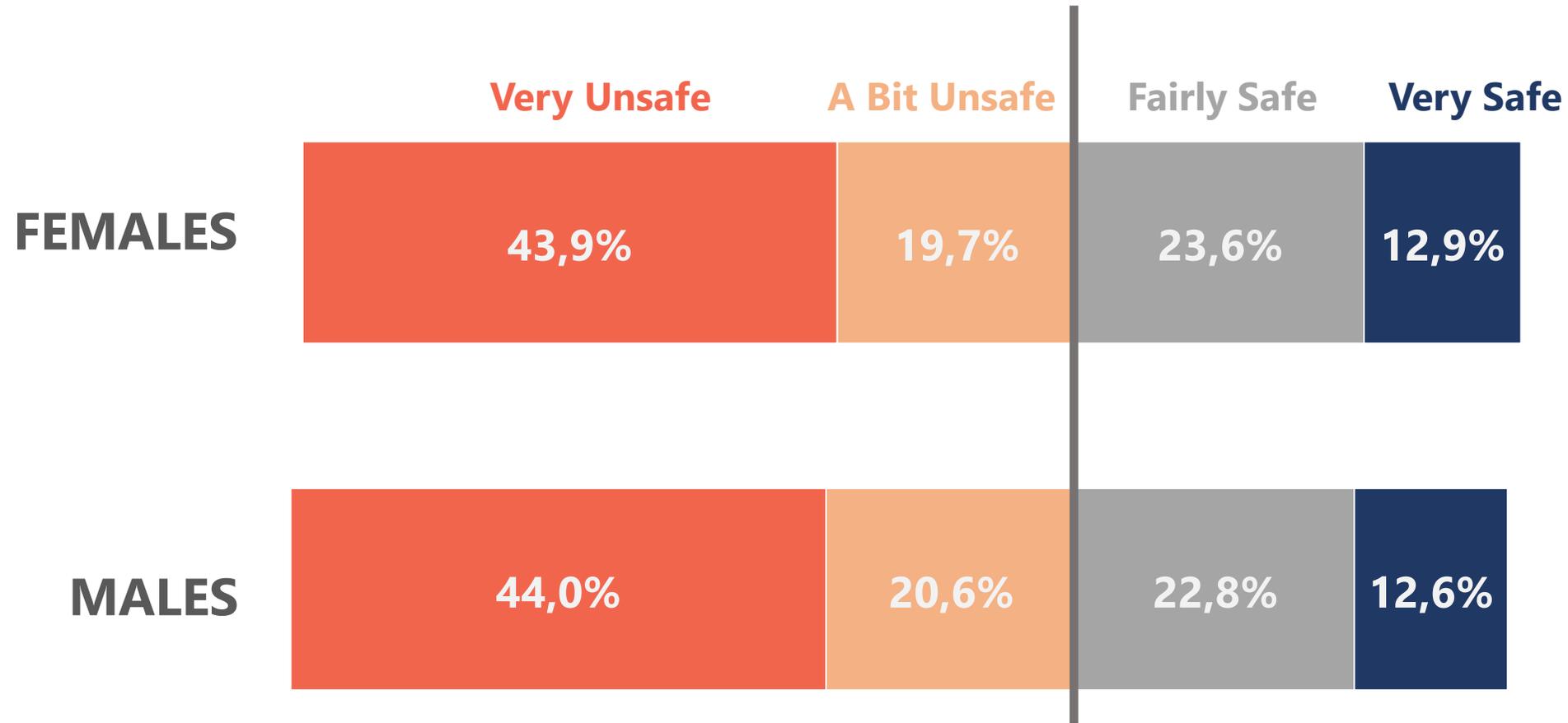
Individuals who **felt safe walking alone** in their neighbourhoods during the **day** decreased from **84,8% in 2020/21 to 81,3% in 2021/22**. Those who felt safe walking alone **at night** decreased from **39,6% in 2020/21 to 36,0%**.

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



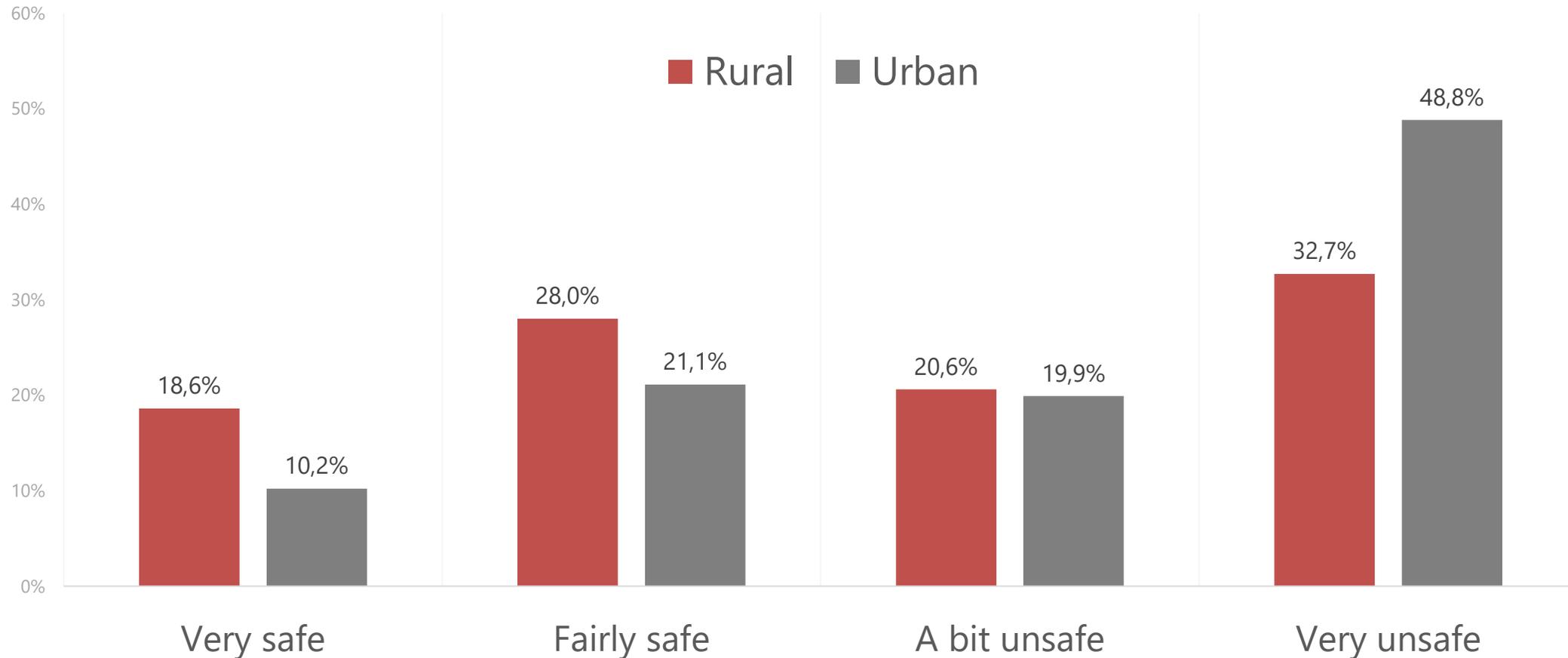
# Individuals aged 16+ regardless of their sex **felt unsafe walking alone** at night in their neighbourhoods.

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, 2021/22



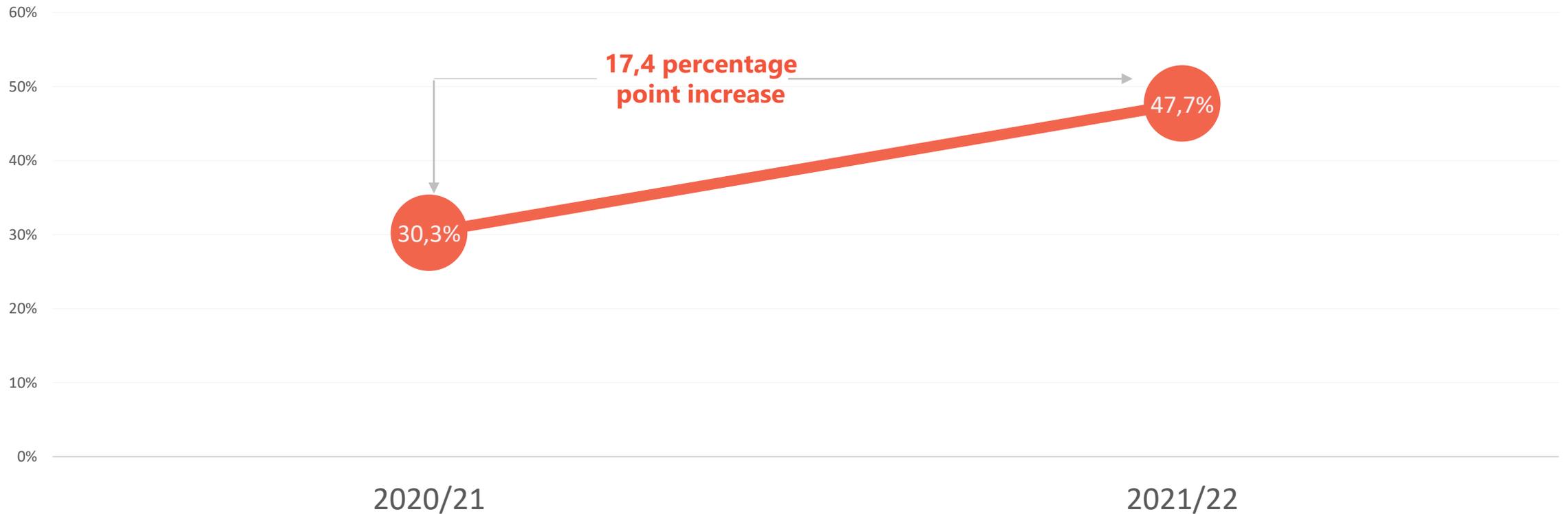
# A larger proportion of **people in rural areas felt safe** walking alone at night in their neighbourhoods compared to people in urban areas

Percentage of persons aged 16 years and above: Feelings of safety when walking alone in their areas of residence when it is dark by geographical location, 2021/22



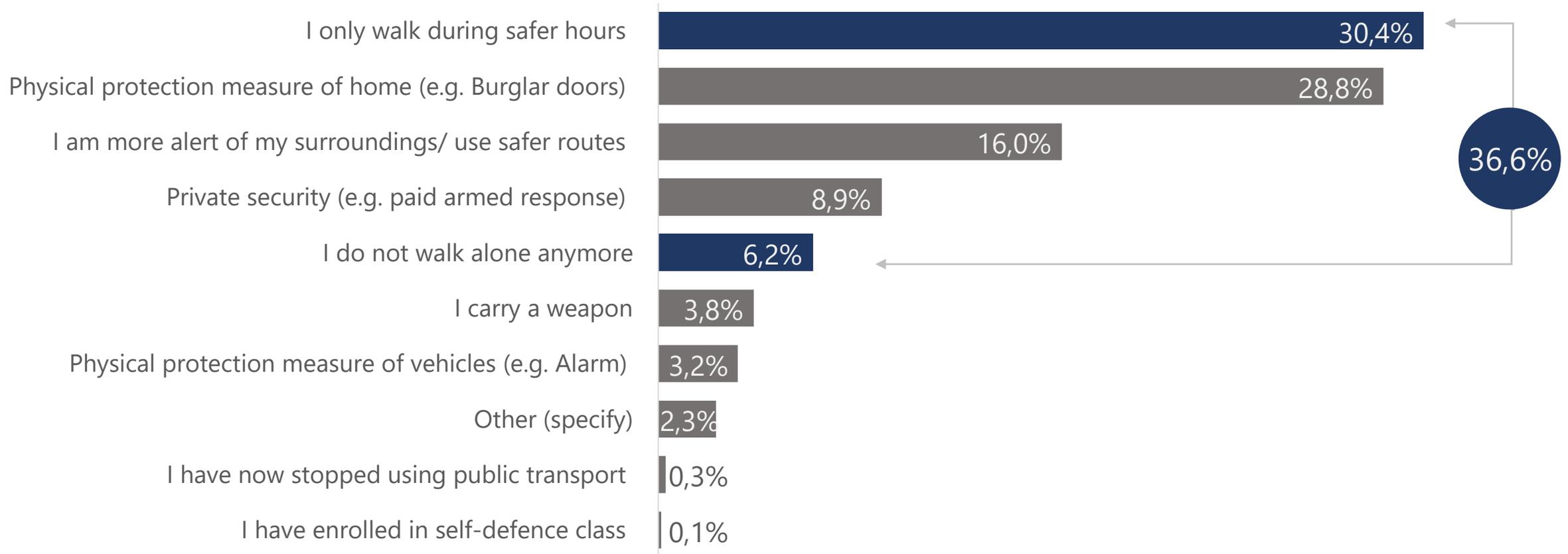
# More individuals **(47,7%)** are now doing something to protect themselves against crime

Percentage of persons aged 16 years and above by whether they have done something to protect themselves against crime



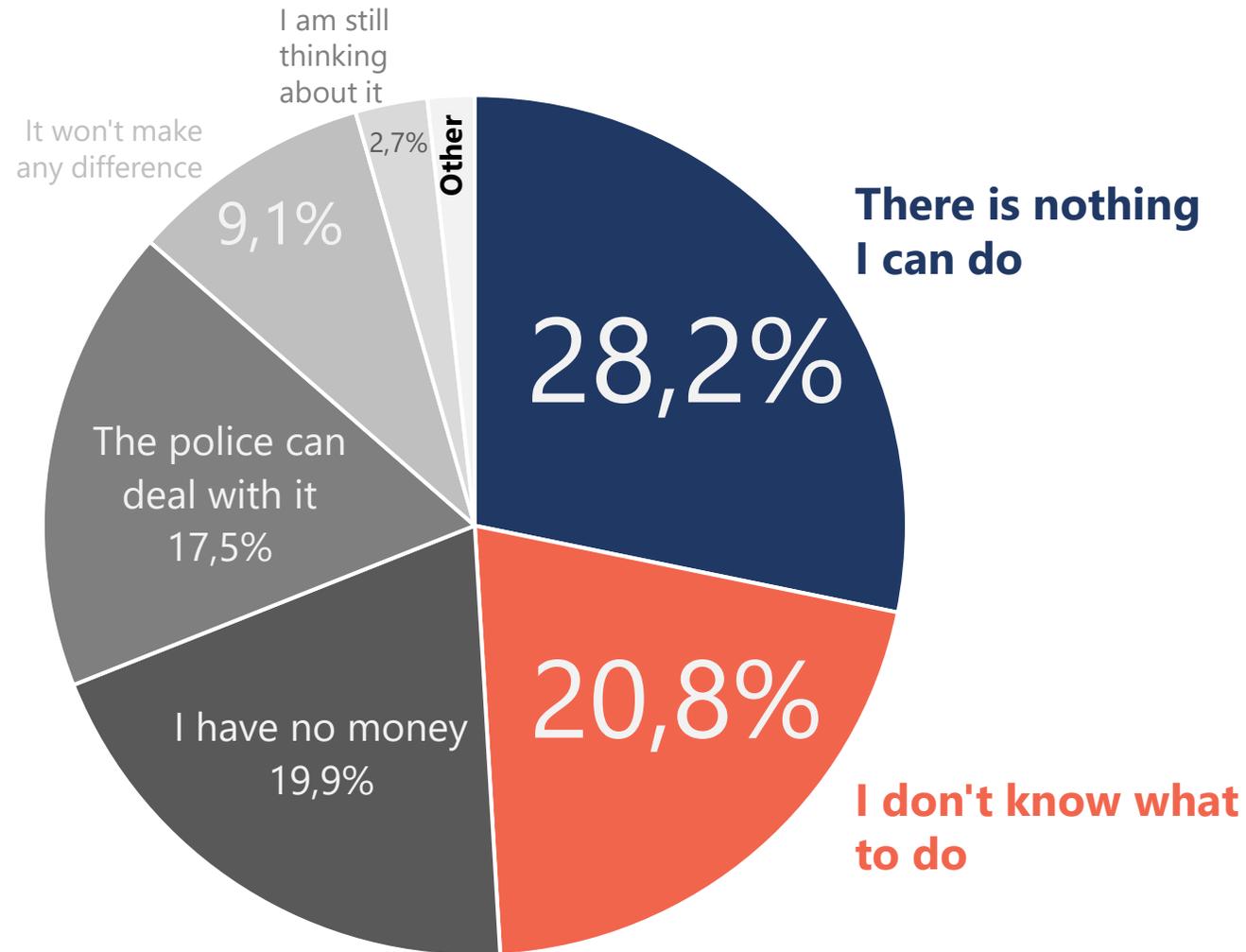
# Of the individuals who have taken measures to protect themselves, **36,6% have altered their walking patterns**

Persons aged 16 years or older on what they have done to protect themselves against crime



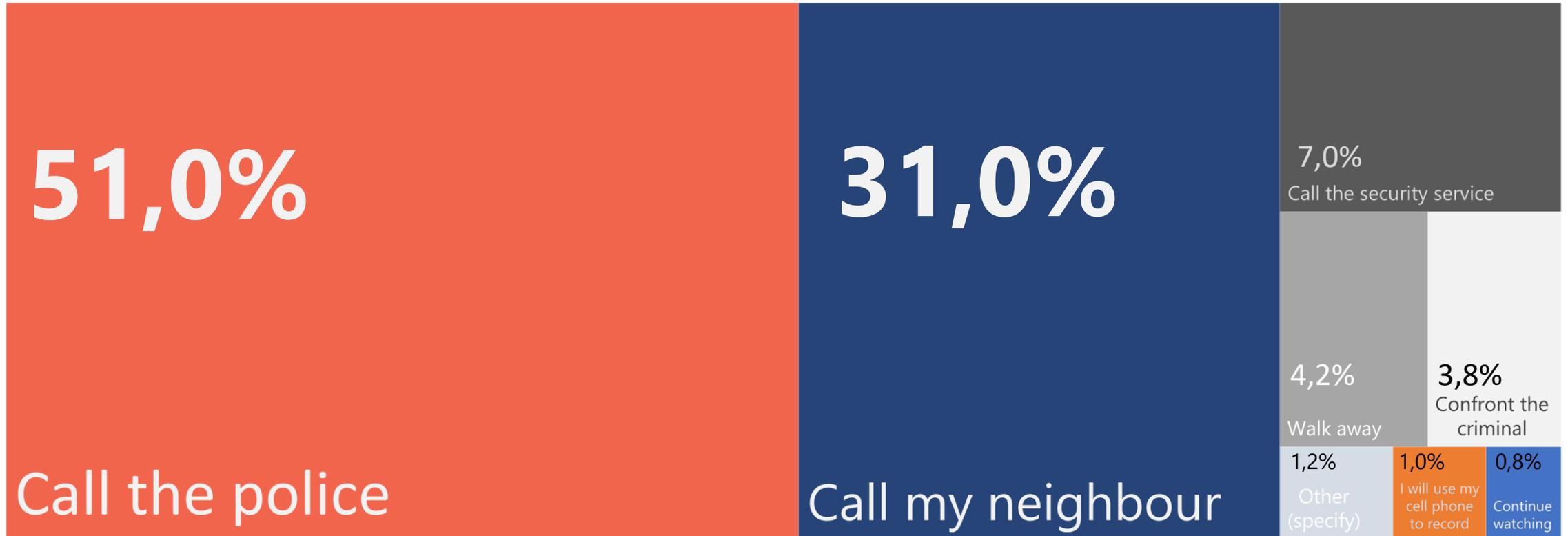
# Nearly half of Individuals who have **not** taken measures to protect themselves say there is either **Nothing they can do (28%)** or **Don't know what to do (21%)**

Persons aged 16 years or older on why did not do anything to protect themselves against crime



When seeing a person commit a crime around **51% said they will call the police** and 31,0% said they will call the neighbour.

Percentage of persons aged 16 years or older by the first thing they will do when they see a person committing a crime



# RECAP: GPSJS 2021/22

## Household level crime

- ❖ An estimated 1,4 million incidences of housebreaking occurred in 2021/22, affecting 983 000 households in South Africa. About 59% of households that experienced housebreaking reported some or all incidences to the police.
- ❖ An estimated 205 000 incidences of home robberies occurred, affecting 155 000 households in 2021/22. About 66% of households that experienced home robbery reported some or all incidences to the police.

## Individual level crime

- ❖ An estimated 1,3M incidences of theft of personal property occurred in 2021/22, affecting 1,1M individuals aged 16 years and older. About 31% of individuals who experienced theft of personal property reported some or all incidences to the police.
- ❖ A total of 246 000 (0,6% of adults aged 16 and older) individuals experienced street robbery in a total of 295 000 incidences. About 34% of the victims reported some or all incidences to the police.
- ❖ A total of 376 000 (0,9% of adults aged 16 and older) individuals experienced customer fraud in a total of 844 000 incidences. Results show that 44,2% of the victims reported some or all incidences to the police.

## Feelings of safety

- ❖ About 81% of the population felt safe walking alone in their neighbourhood during the day while 36,0% felt safe walking alone in their neighbourhood during the night. Both figures decreased from 2020/21.
- ❖ Similarly, rural residents had a greater feeling of safety walking alone in their areas when it is dark than residents in urban areas. About 48% indicated that they have done something to protect themselves against crime.
- ❖ About 30,4% of the population indicated that they only walk during safer hours and 28,8 % indicated they have taken physical protection measures for their home as the main thing they have done to protect themselves against crime. Only 3,8% indicated they carry a weapon as the main thing they have done to protect themselves against crime



# NOW IN THE FIELD

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN

**CENSUS 2022**

- Geospatial Information Frame
- Quarterly Labour Force Survey ( Collected quarterly)
- General Household Survey ( January – December)
- Domestic Tourism Survey ( January – December)
- Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (April 2022 - March 2023)
- Consumer Price Index

**Upcoming Survey**  
**Income and Expenditure Survey for 12 months**  
**(November 2022 –November 2023)**



GPSJS

2021/2022

Ndzi hela kwala!



[statssa.gov.za](http://statssa.gov.za)



[twitter.com/StatsSA](https://twitter.com/StatsSA)



[facebook.com/StatsSA](https://facebook.com/StatsSA)

