

Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS)

Victims of Crime 2023/24

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IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS



About the GPSJS and its objectives

Victims of Crime Survey (VOCS)

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

Sample size

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.

New information demands on governance

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.

Levels, trends and perceptions about crime in SA

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

Complement SAPS crime statistics by providing estimates for quantities that cannot be measured at police stations.



Household experience of crime



The Victims 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



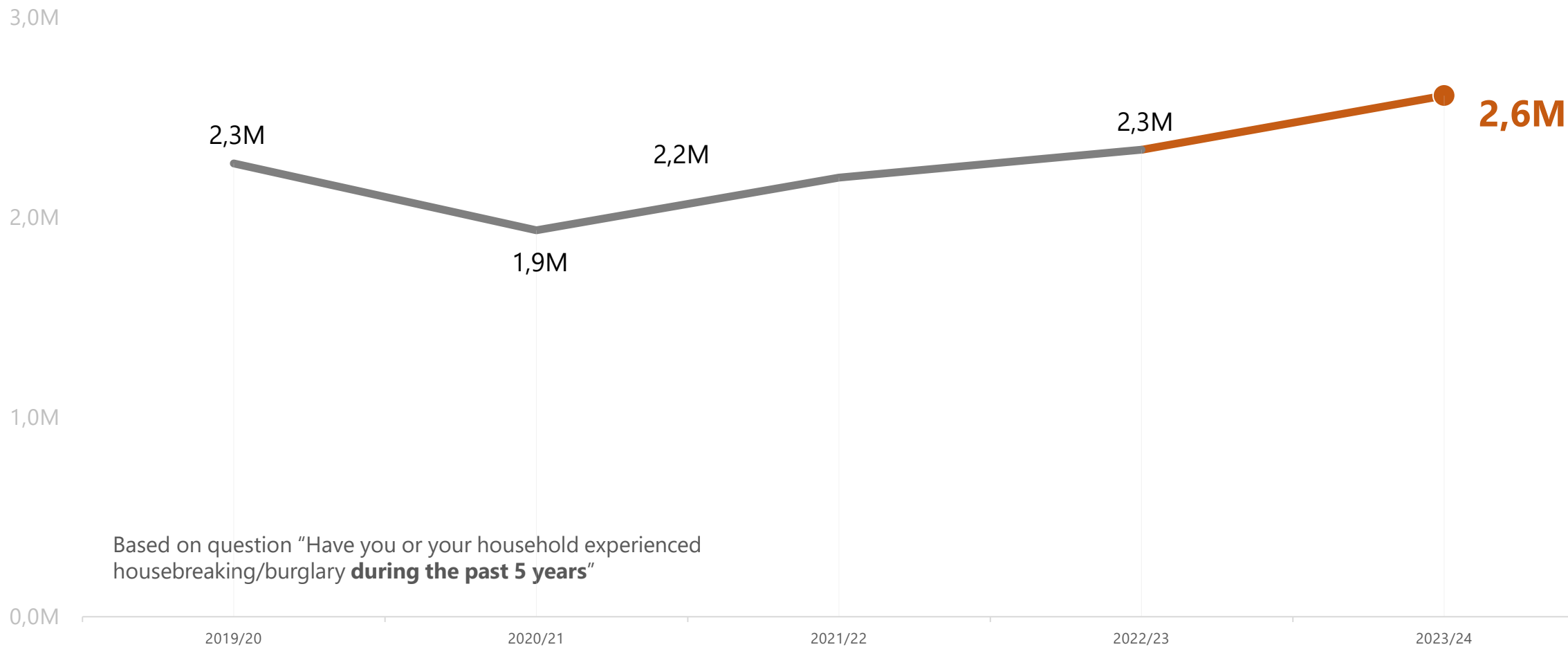
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Around **2,6M** households experienced **housebreaking/burglary** during the **past 5 years**.
The experience of housebreaking has **increased by 12% from the previous year**.

Trends in housebreaking/burglary, 2019/20–2023/24

HOUSEHOLDS



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

GPSJS 2023/24



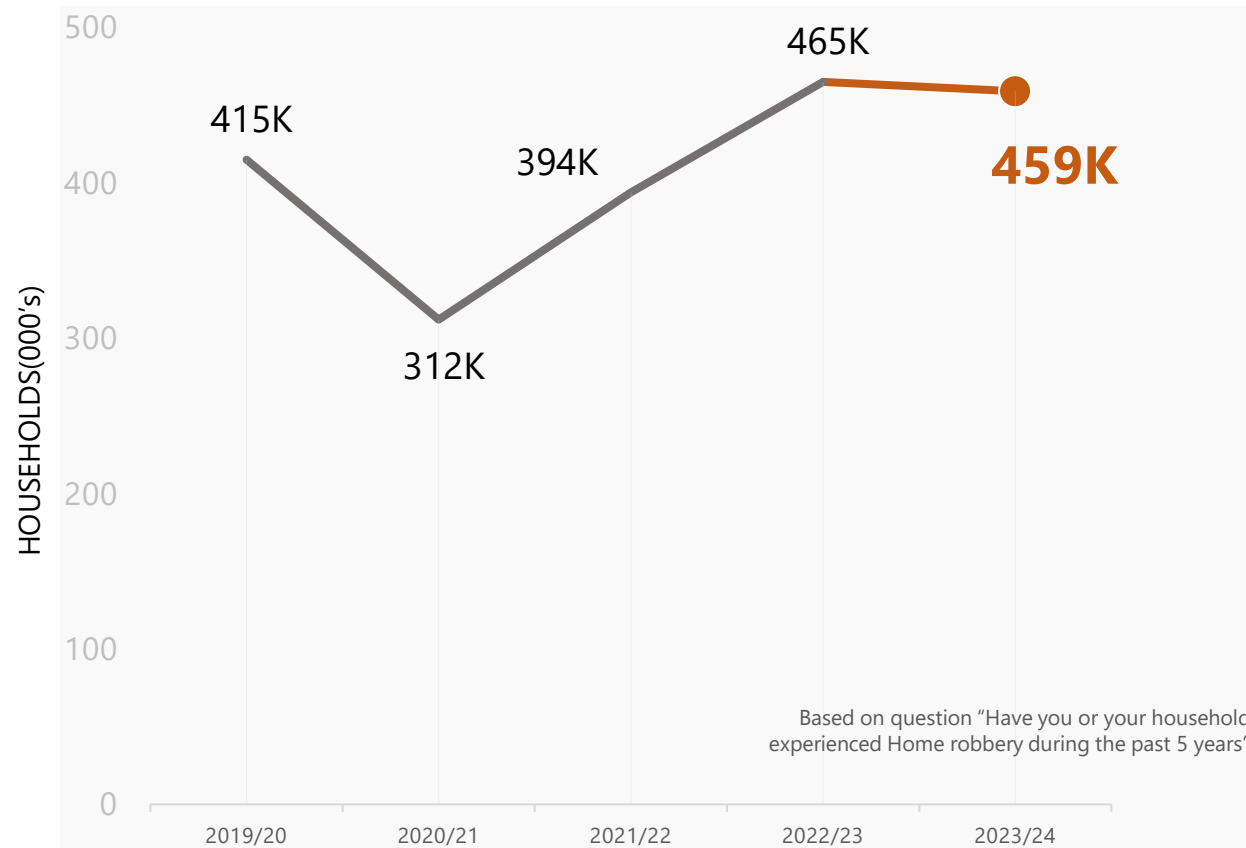
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Around **459 000 households** experienced **Home Robbery** during the **past 5 years**.

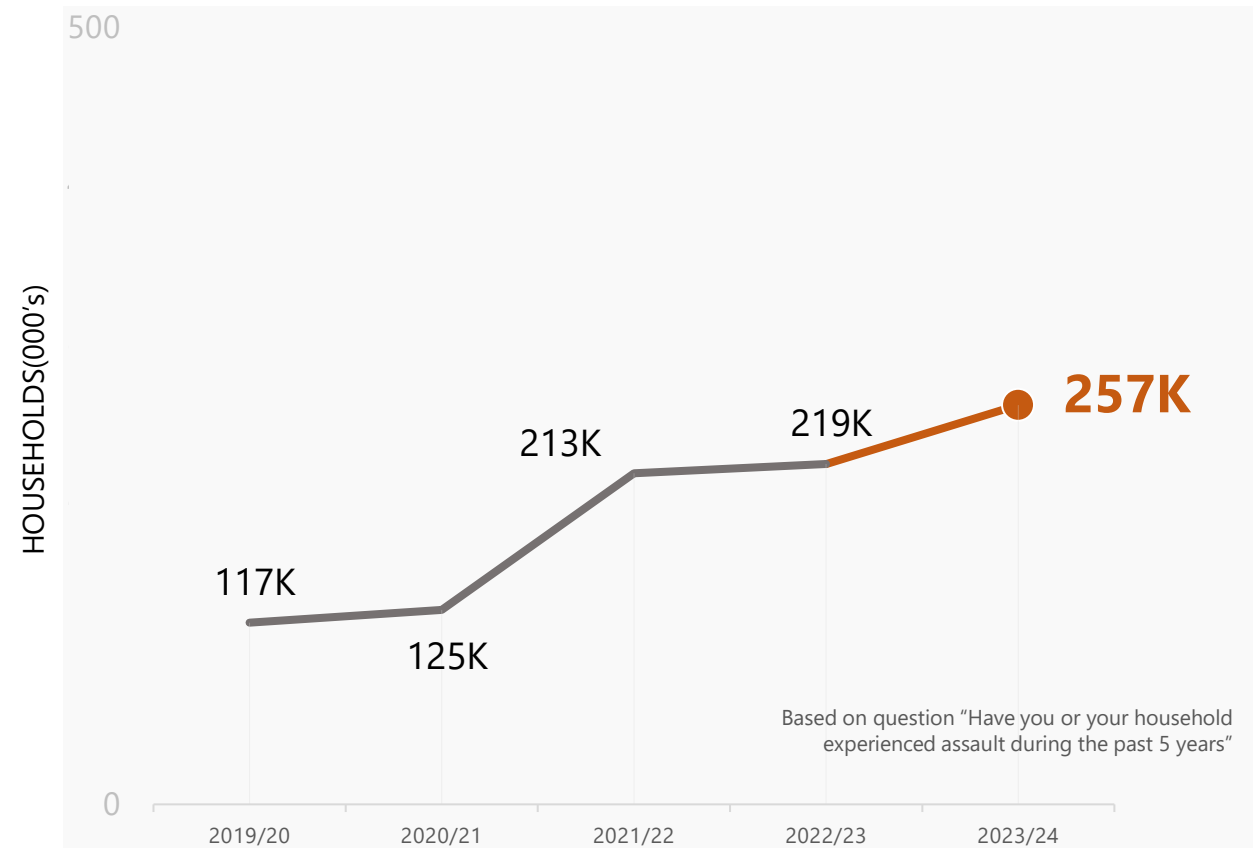
Trends in home robbery, 2019/20–2023/24



The **experience of Home Robbery decreased by 1%** from the previous year.

Around **257 000 households** experienced **Assault** during the **past 5 years**.

Trends in assault, 2019/20–2023/24

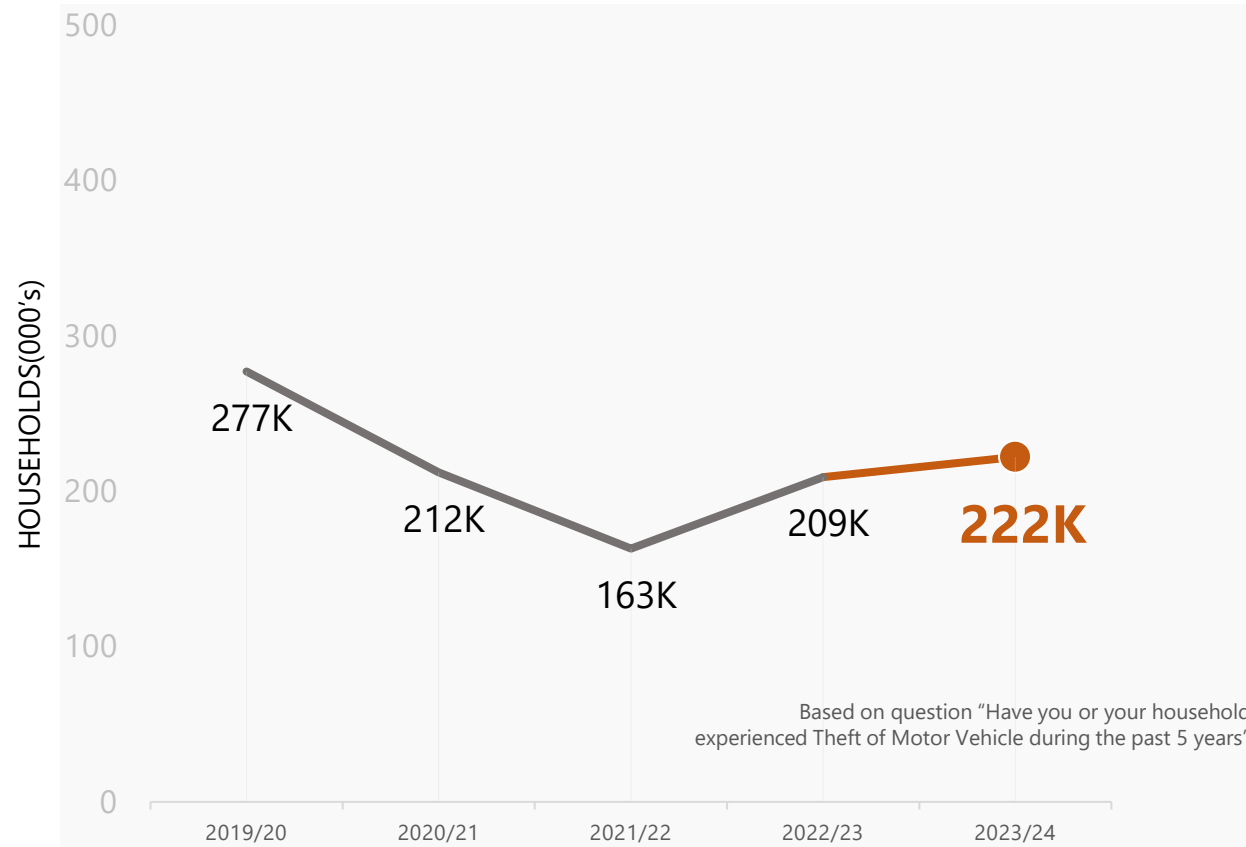


The **experience of Assault has increased by 17%** from the previous year.

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Around **222 000 households** experienced **Theft of Motor Vehicle** during the **past 5 years**.

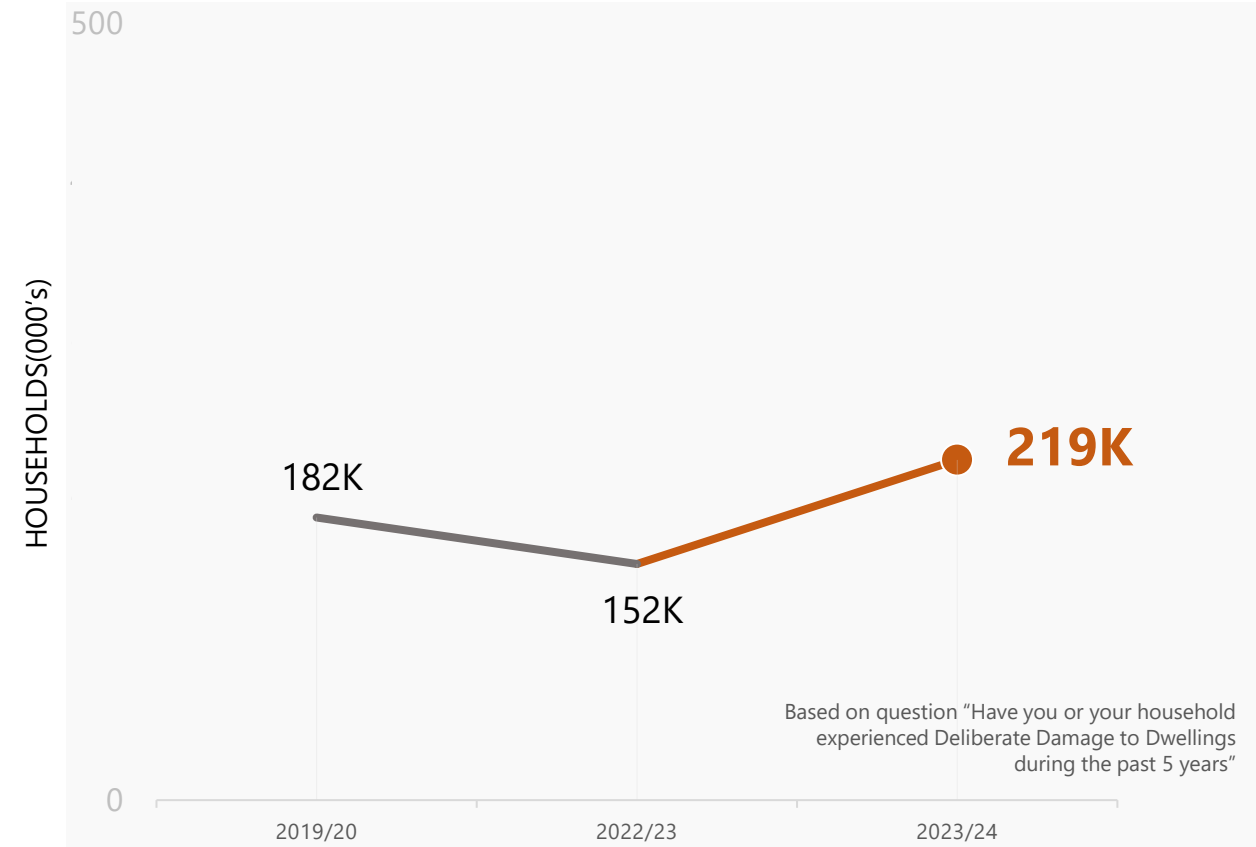
Trends in theft of a motor vehicle, 2019/20–2023/24



The experience of **Theft of Motor Vehicle** has increased **by 6%** from the previous year.

Around **219 000 households** experienced **Deliberate damaging of dwellings** during the **past 5 years**.

Trends in Deliberate damaging/burning/destruction of dwelling , 2019/20–2023/24

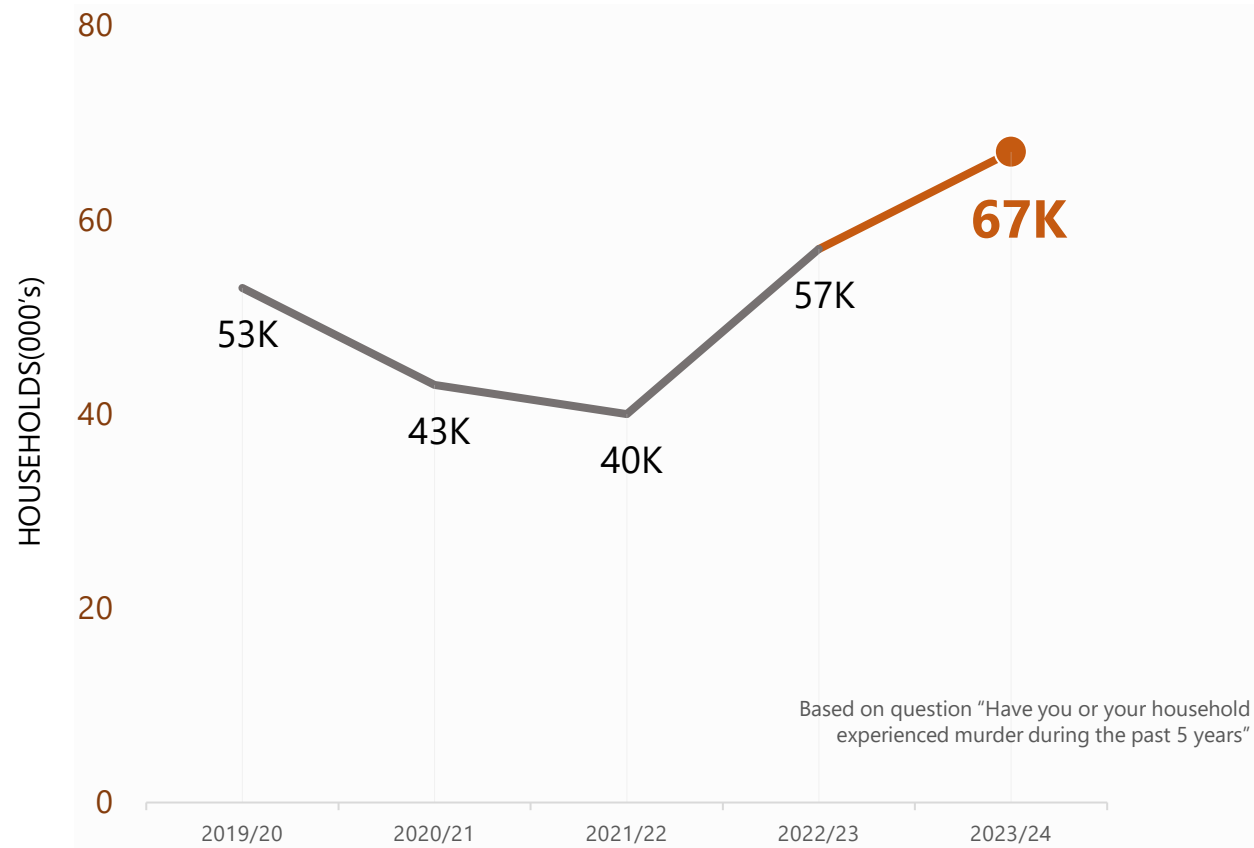


The **experience of Deliberate Damage to Dwellings** has increased **by 44%** from the previous reporting period.

GPSJS 2023/24

Around **67 000 households experienced Murder** during the past 5 years.

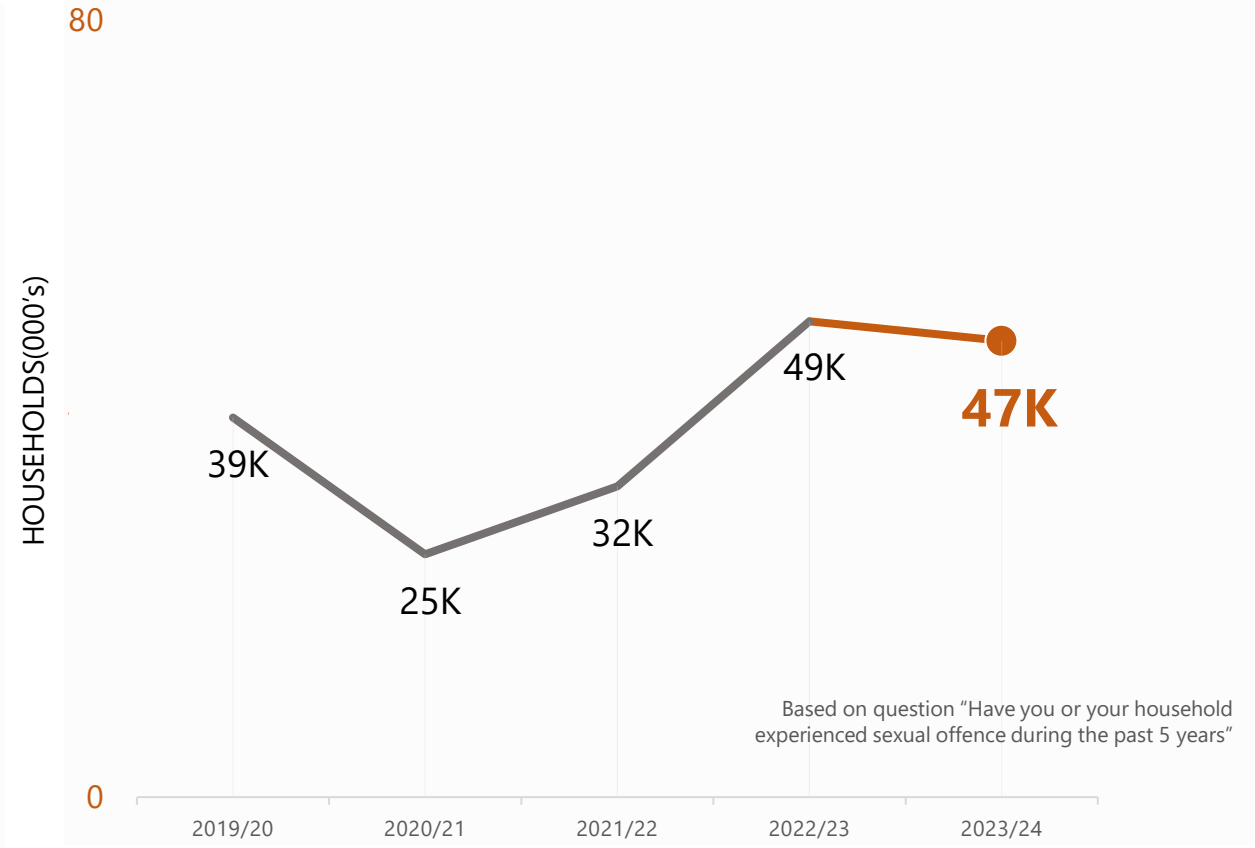
Trends in murder, 2019/20–2023/24



The experience of **murder has increased by 18%** from the previous year.

Around **47 000 households experienced Sexual Offence** during the **past 5 years**.

Trends in sexual offences, 2019/20–2023/24



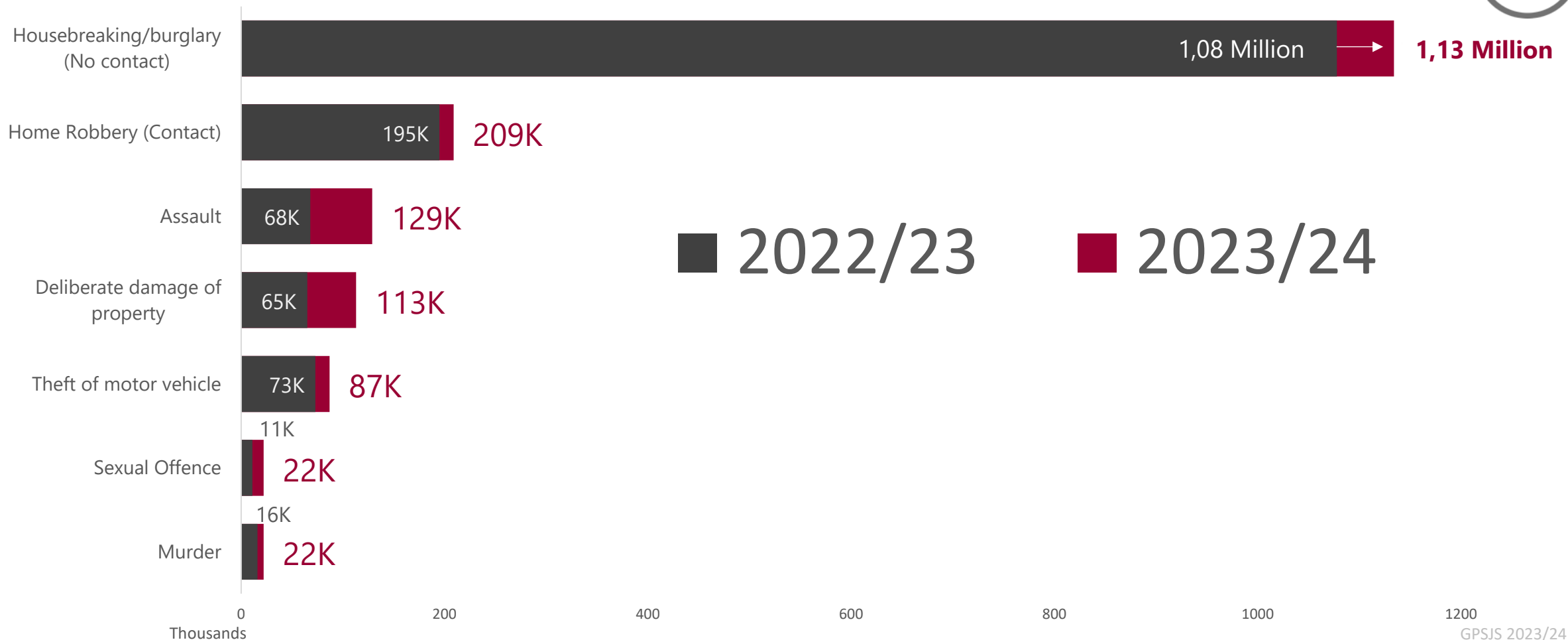
The experience of **sexual offence has decreased by 4%** from the previous year.

GPSJS 2023/24

Households that experienced Housebreaking **increased** by **5%** in 2023/24 period

Number of households that experienced specified types of crime between 2022/23 and 2023/24

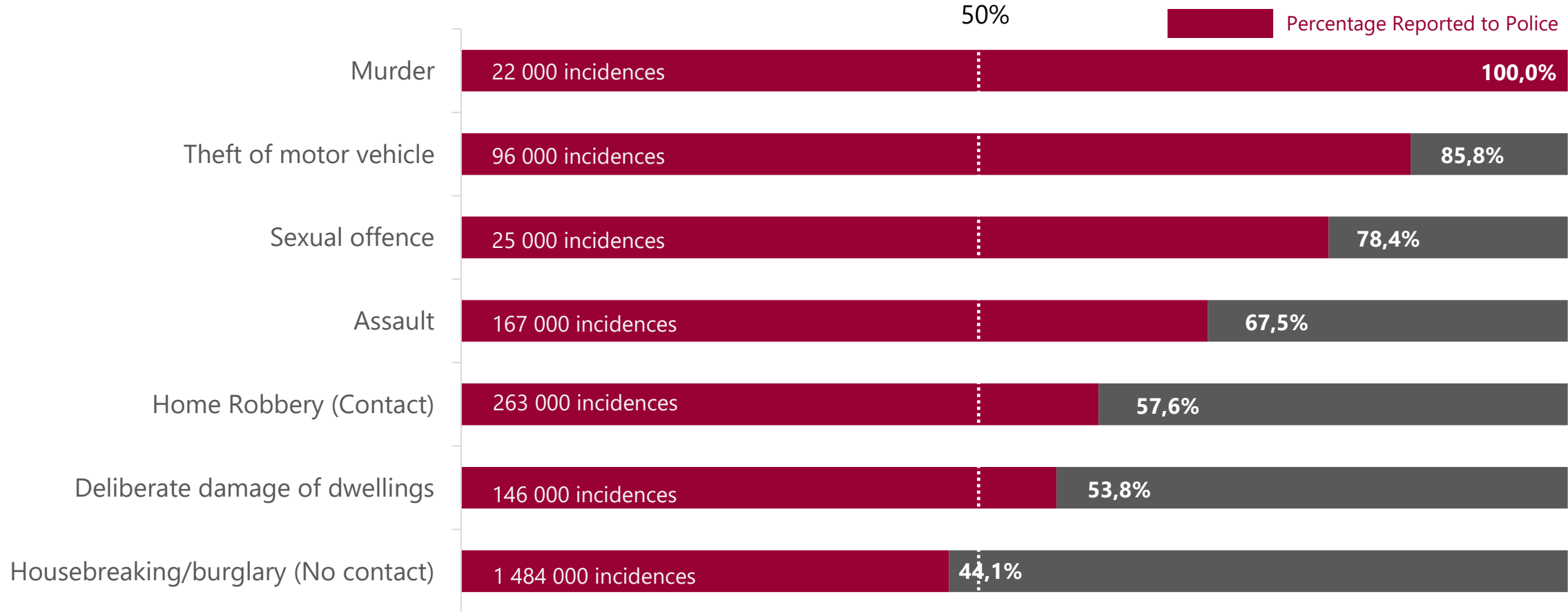
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About **100% of households** that experienced **Murder** reported all incidences to the police. Less than **50%** of Housebreaking incidents were reported to the police.

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Percentage of households that reported incidences of specified type of crime to the police in the 12 months preceding the survey, 2023/24



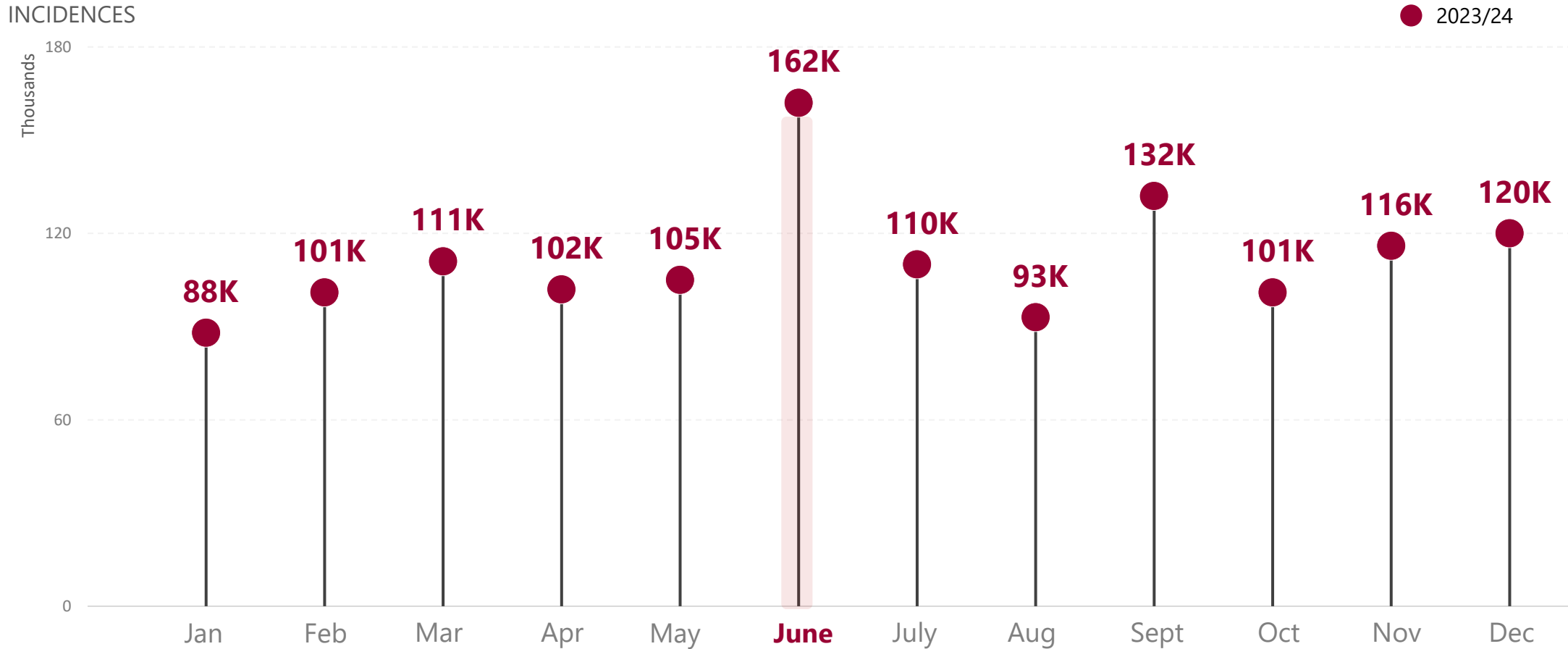
GPSJS 2023/24

Housebreaking peaked in June with 162 000 incidences

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Number of incidences of **Housebreaking** by month, 2023/24

INCIDENCES



GPSJS 2023/24



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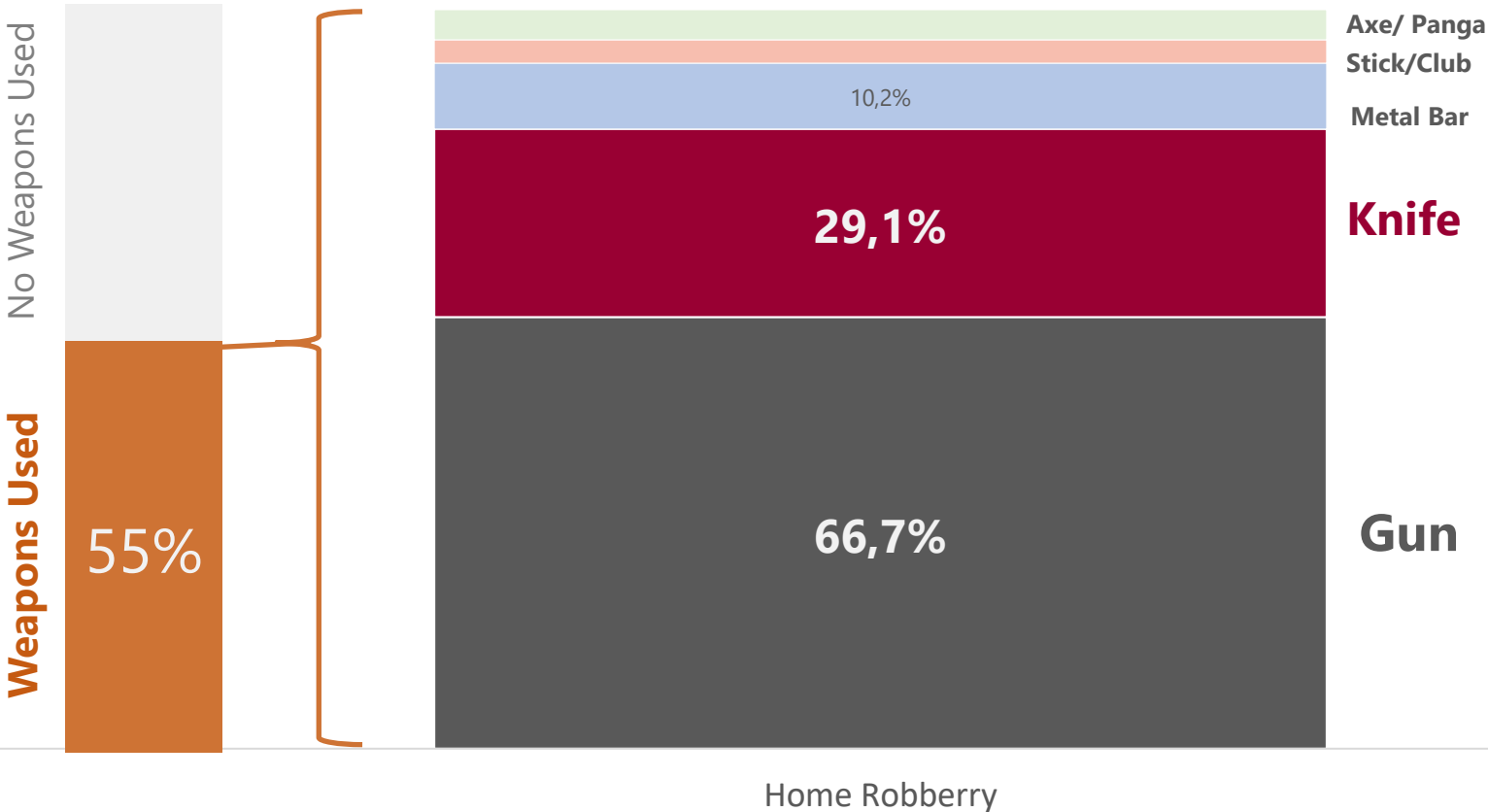
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Of the 55% of households that indicated weapons were used during an incident of **Home Robbery**, **66,7% reported that a gun was used.**

Percentage of households that indicated weapons were used during a home robbery, 2023/24

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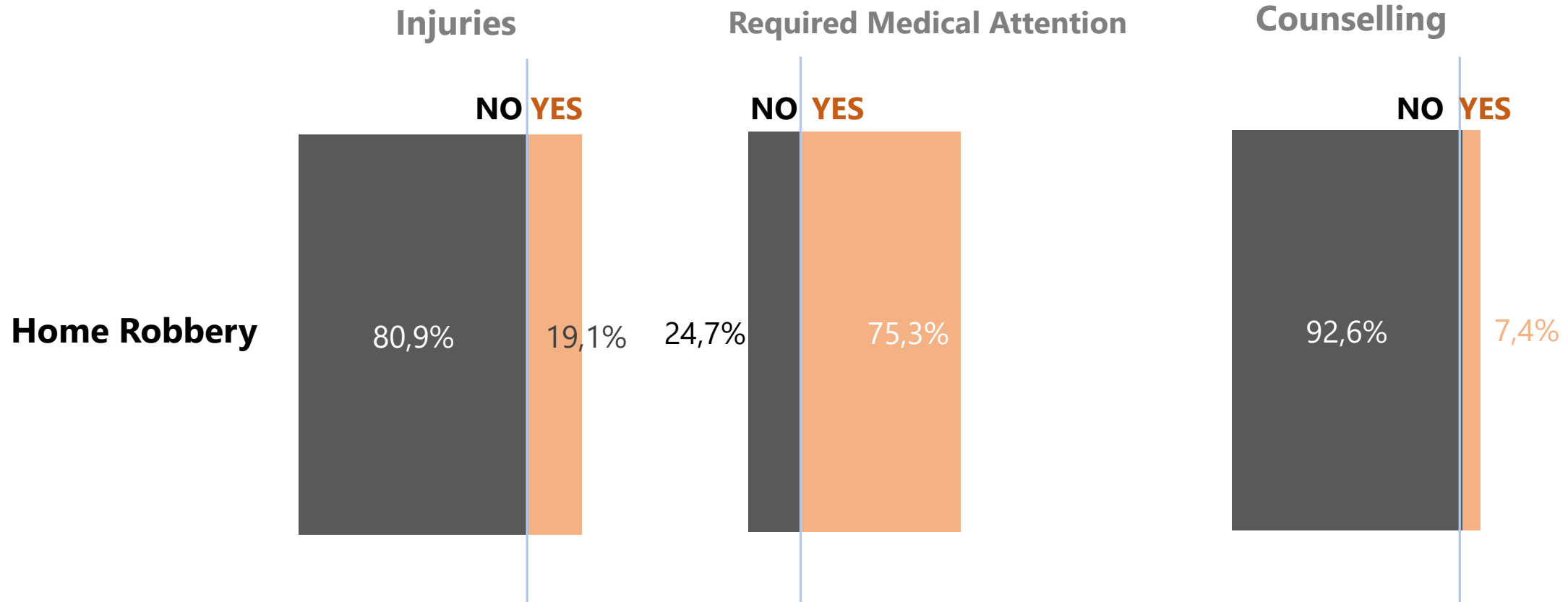


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Around **7,4%** of those who experienced home robbery received counselling.

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Percentage of households that indicated they were injured, required medical attention and counselled during an incident of home robbery, 2023/24



GPSJS 2023/24

Individual Experience of Crime



The Victims of Crime modules in GPSJS consist of **7 types of individual crime**: Theft of personal property, street robbery, hijacking, sexual offence, assault, psychological violence and consumer fraud.

GPSJS 2023/24

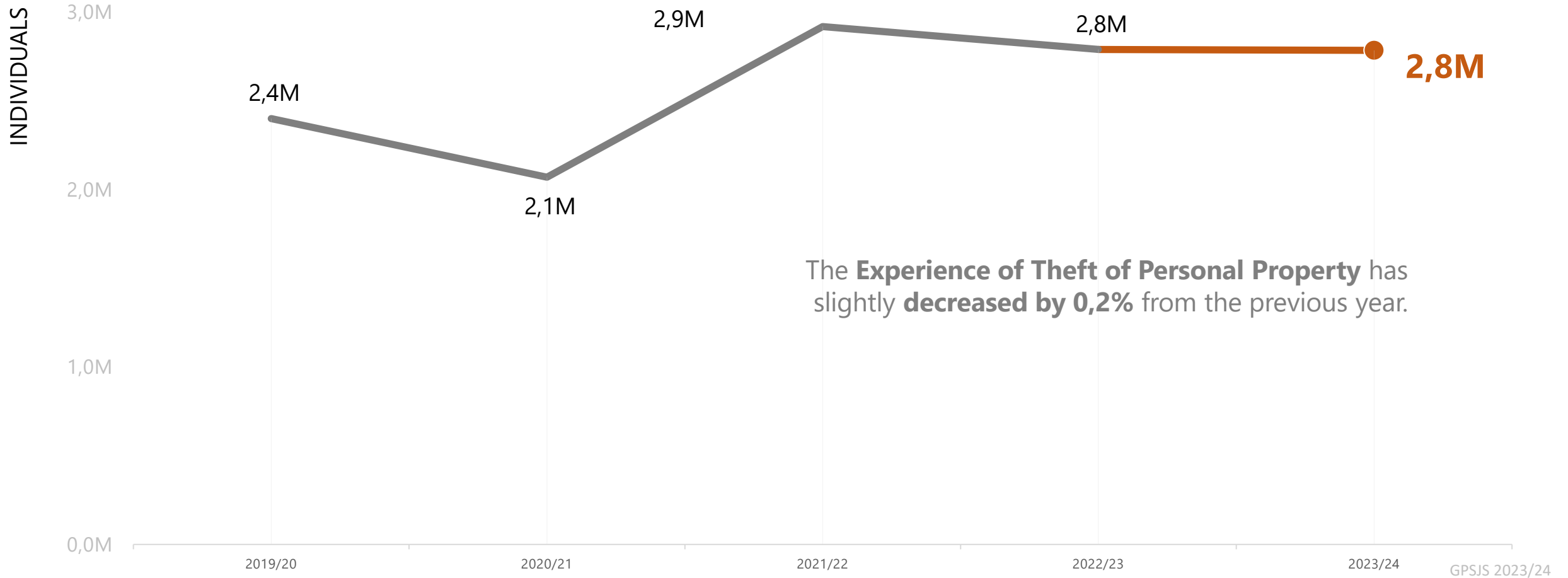


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2,8 Million individuals experienced theft of personal property during the past 5 years.

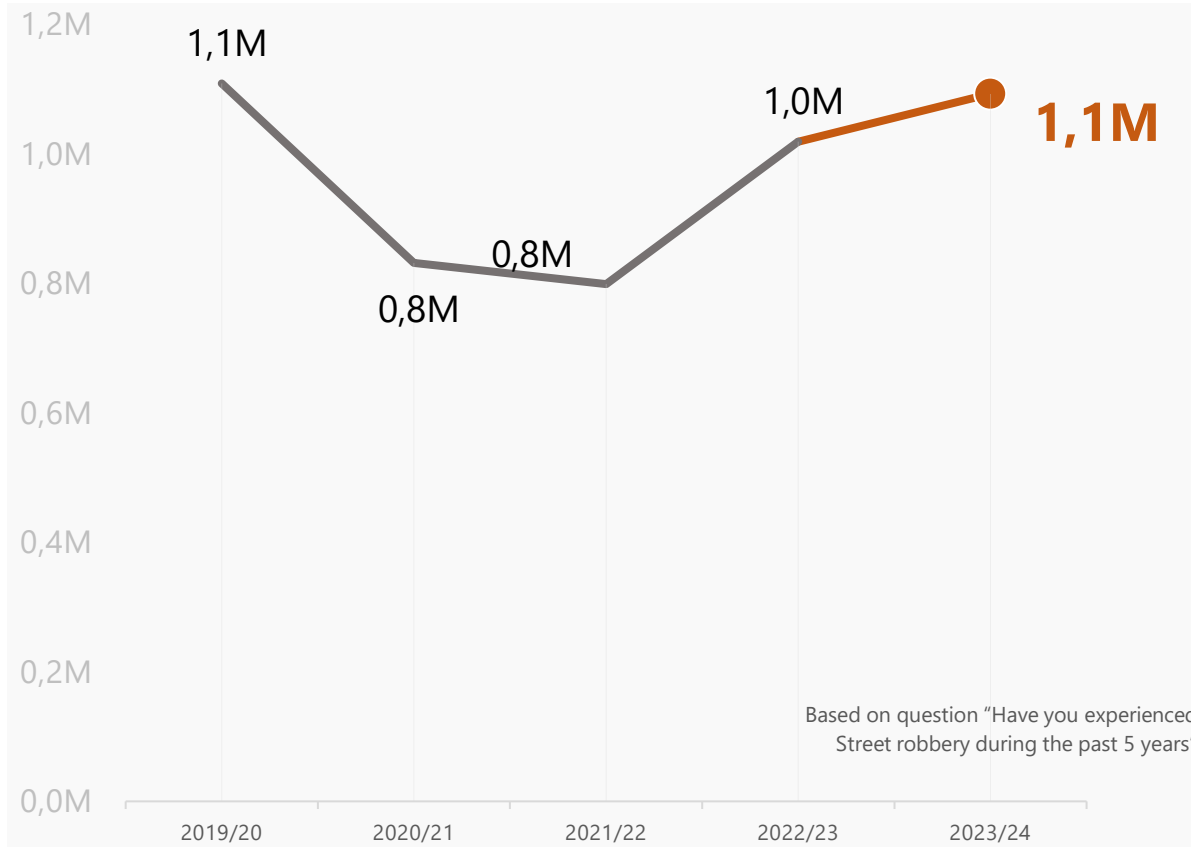
Number of individuals aged 16 and older that experienced theft of personal property **during the past 5 years**



The **Experience of Theft of Personal Property** has slightly **decreased by 0,2%** from the previous year.

1,1M individuals experienced **Street Robbery** during the past 5 years.

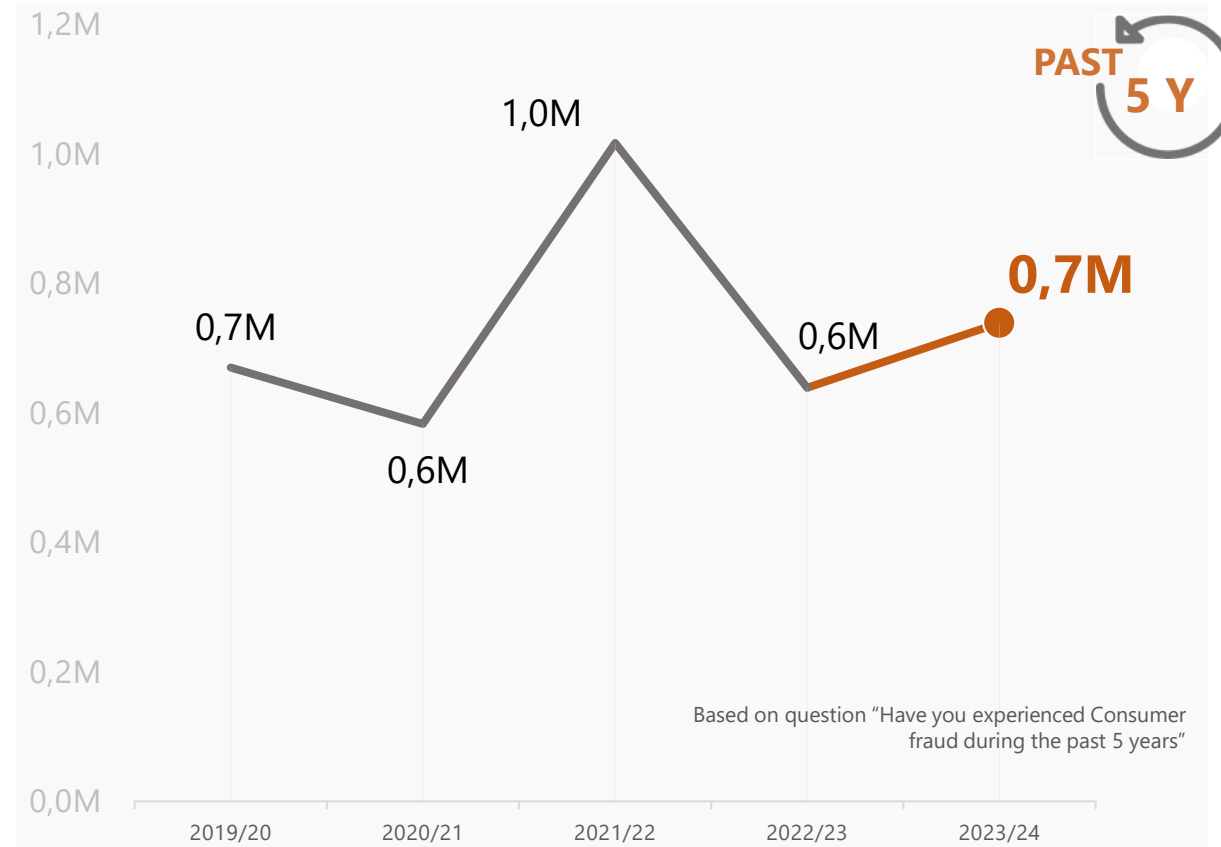
Number of individuals aged 16 and older that experienced street robbery **during the past 5 years**



The experience of **street robbery** has increased by **7%** from the previous reporting period.

0,7M individuals experienced **Consumer Fraud** during the past 5 years.

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



Consumer fraud increased by **16%** from the previous period.

GPSJS 2023/24



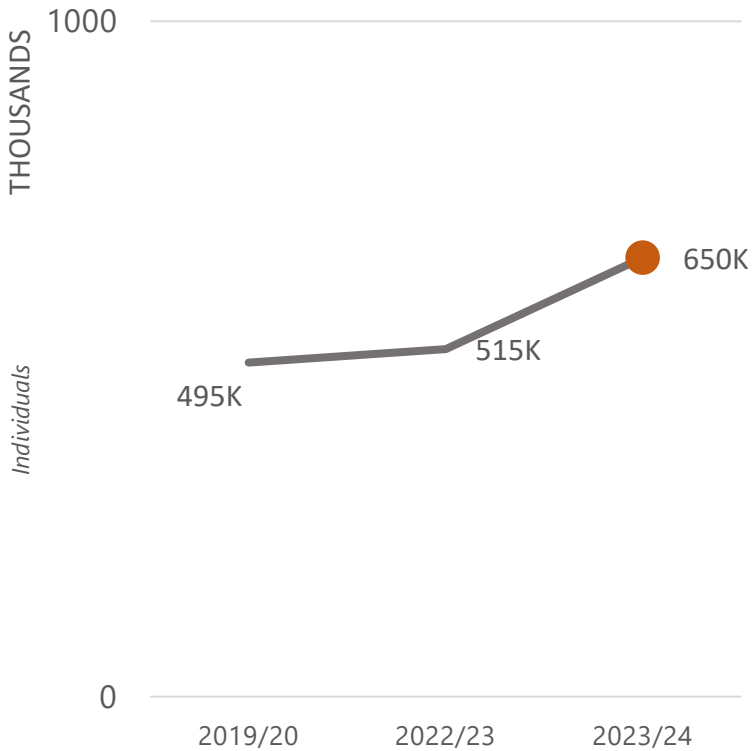
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650 000 individuals experienced **assault** during the past 5 years.

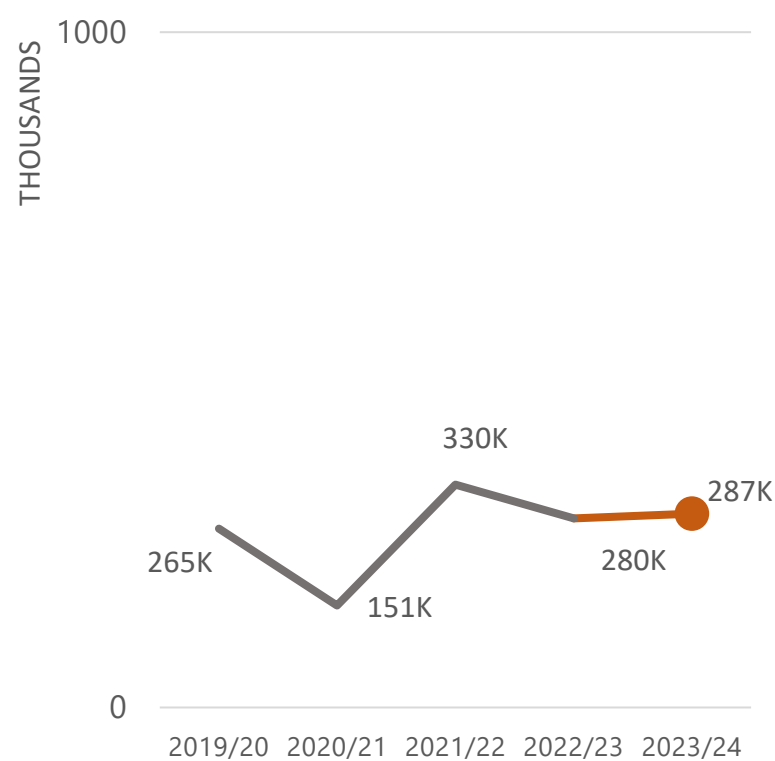
Number of individuals aged 16 and older that experienced assault during the past 5 years



The experience of **assault has increased by 26%** from the previous reporting period in 2022/23.

287 000 individuals experienced **hijacking during the past 5 years.**

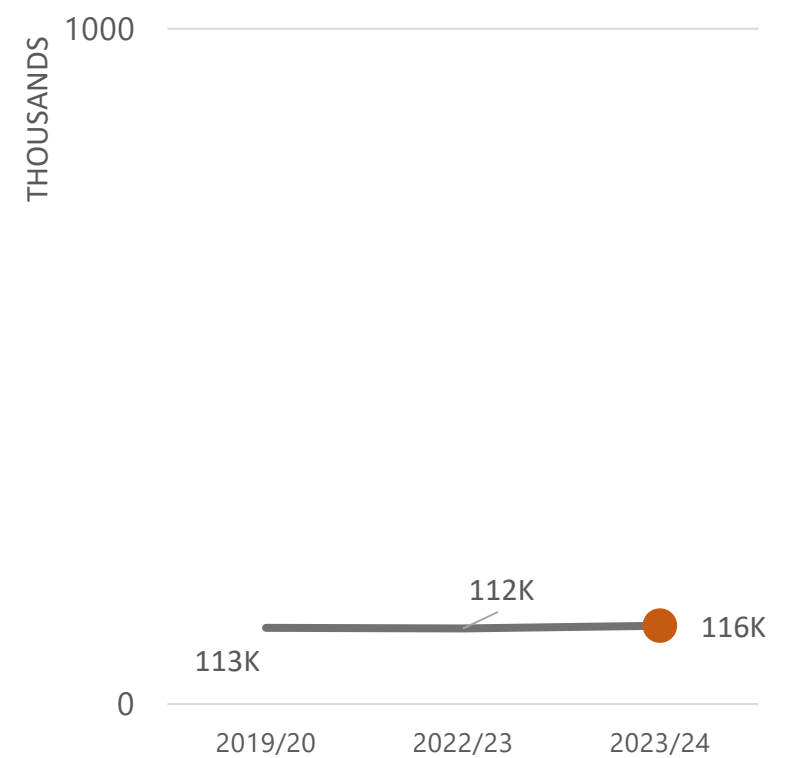
Number of individuals aged 16 and older that experienced hijacking during the past 5 years



The experience of **hijacking has increased by 2,5%** from the previous year.

116 000 individuals experienced **sexual offence** during the past 5 years.

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



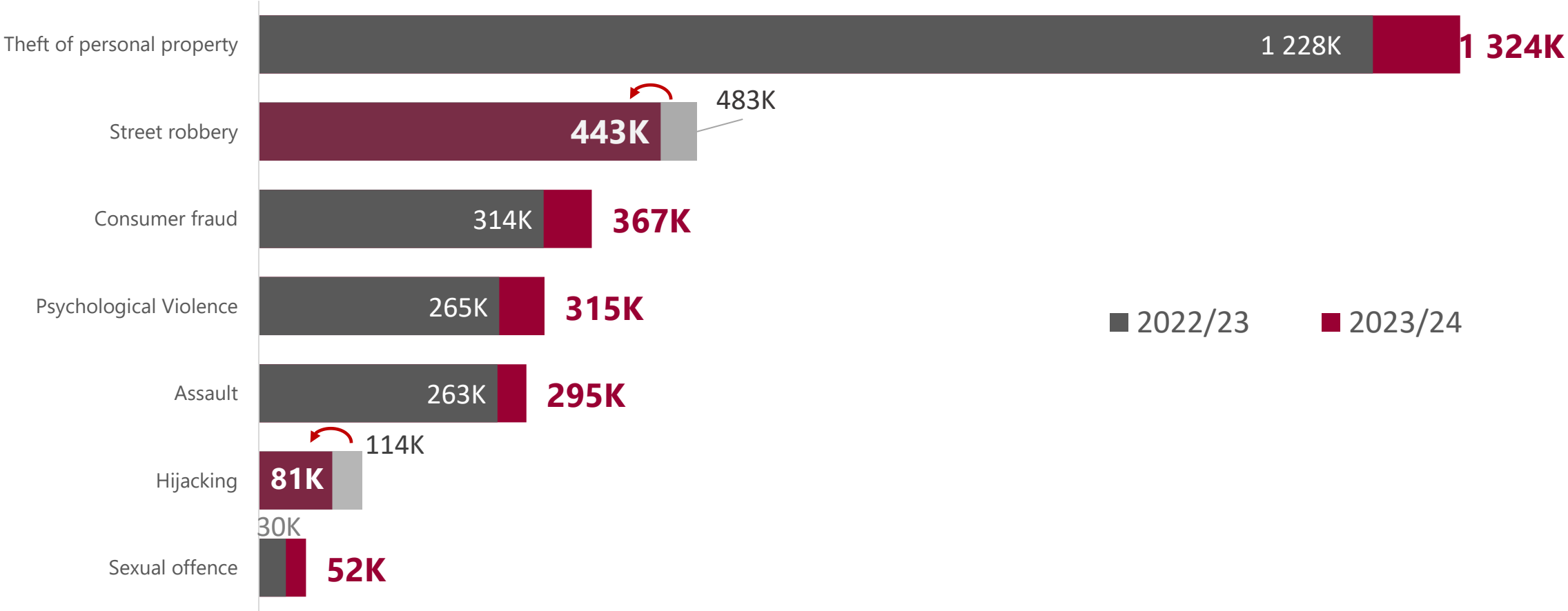
The experience of **sexual offence has increased by 3,6%** from the previous reporting period in 2022/23.

GPSJS 2023/24

Individuals that experienced **Theft of Personal Property increased** by 8% in 2023/24 period.

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Comparison of Number of individuals that experienced crime between 2022/23 and 2023/24

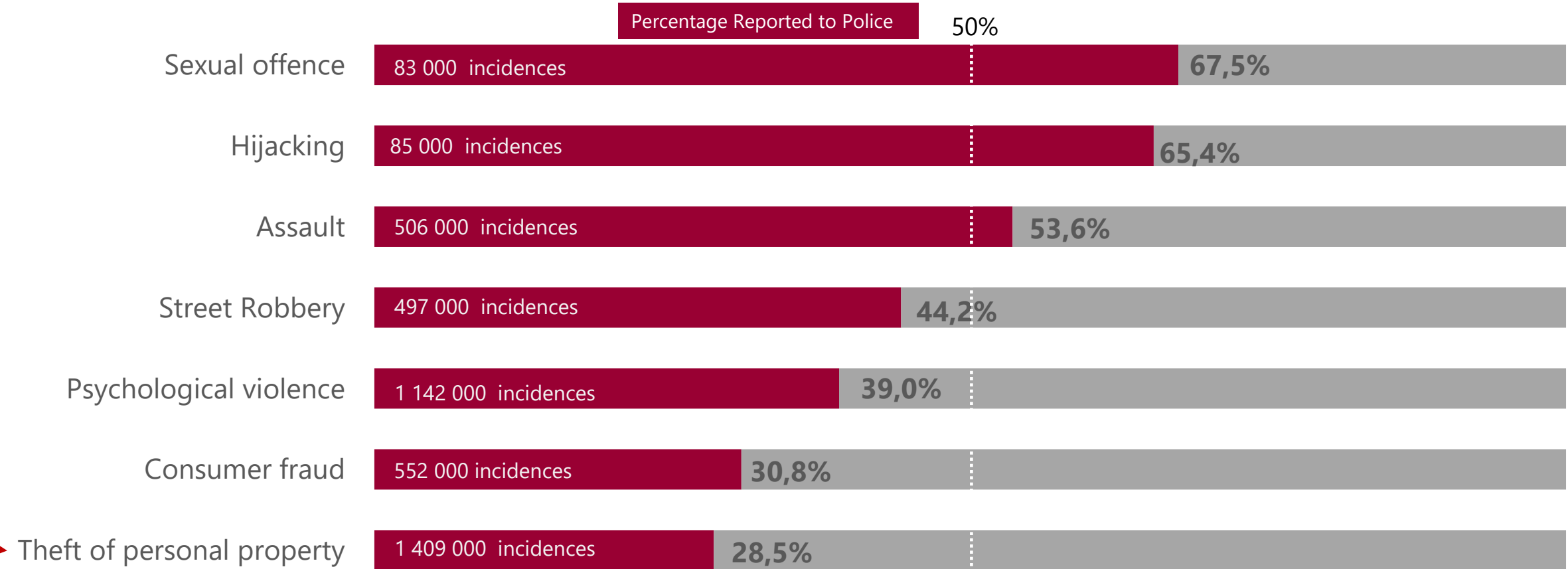


GPSJS 2023/24

Only **28,5% of individuals** that experienced **Theft of Personal Property** reported some or all incidences to the police. A total of 1,4M incidences of theft of personal property occurred in 2023/24.

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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**

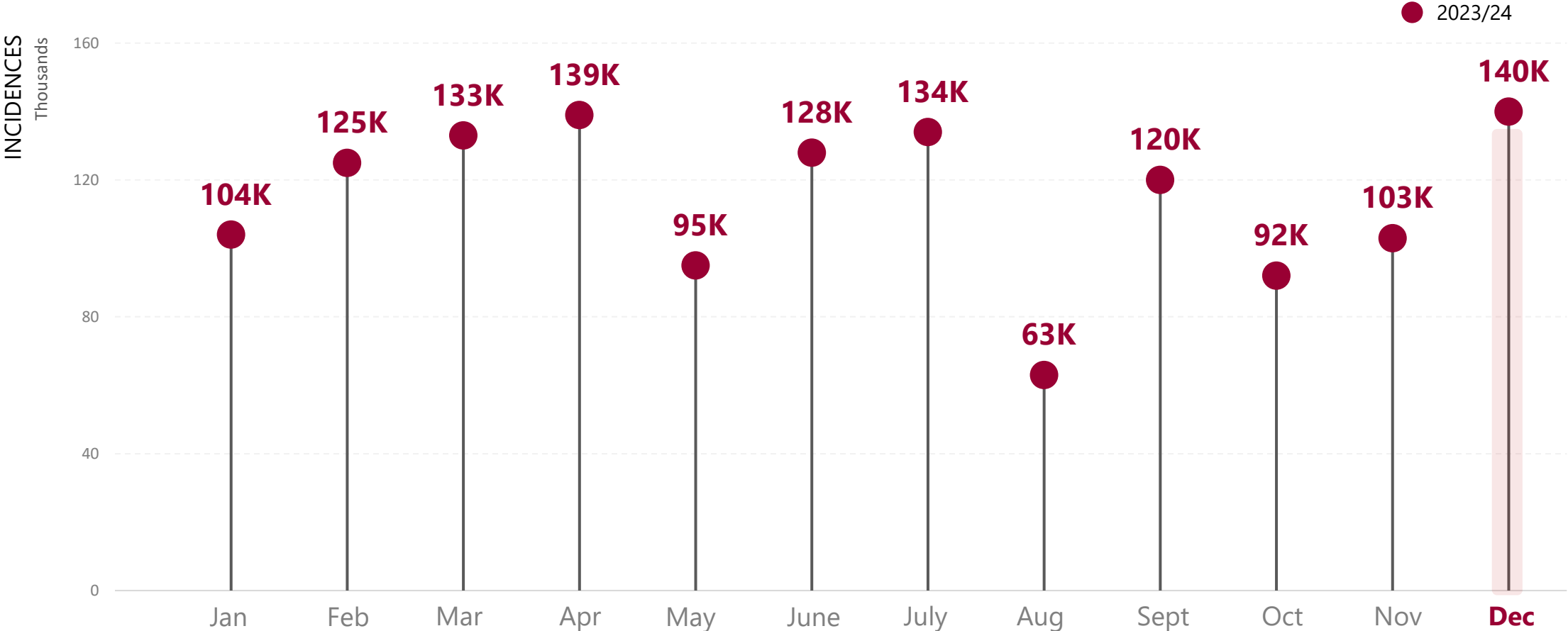


GPSJS 2023/24

Theft of Personal Property **peaked in December** with **140 000** incidences

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Number of incidences of **Theft of Personal Property** by month, 2023/24

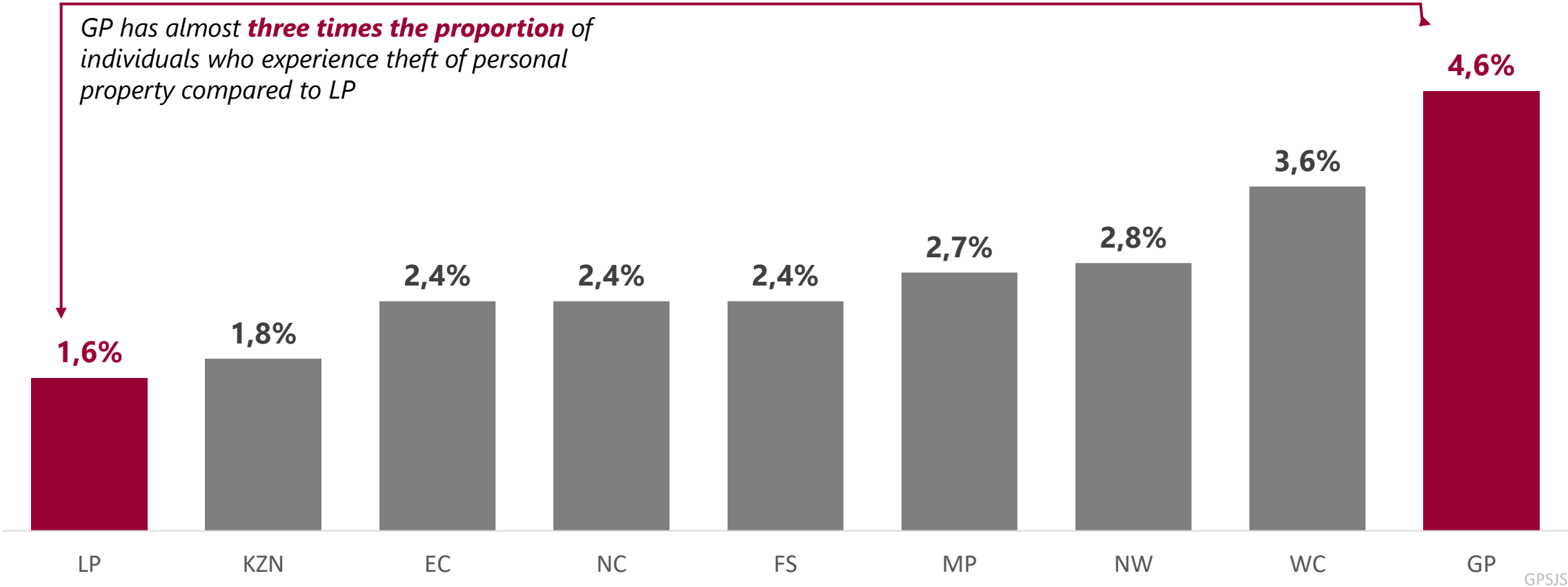


GPSJS 2023/24



Gauteng province has the highest proportion of individuals that experienced theft of personal property, and **Limpopo** has the lowest proportion.

Percentage of individuals who experience theft of personal property by province, 2023/24



GPSJS 2023/24

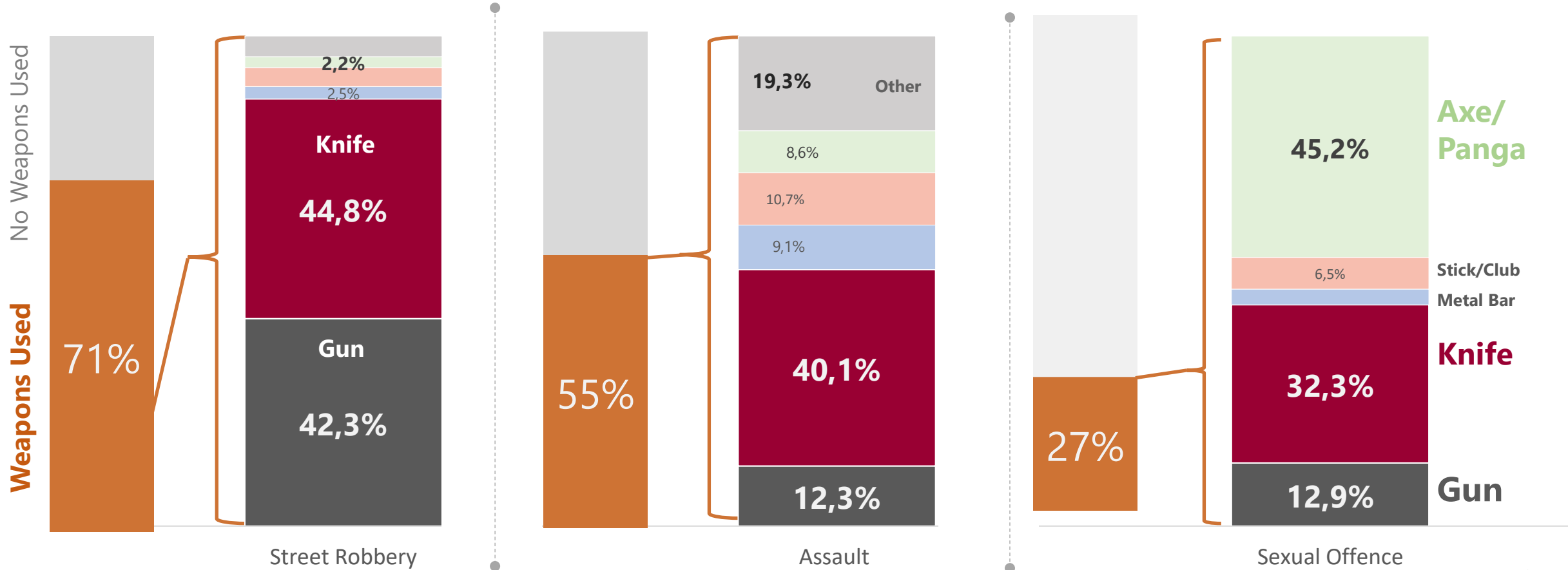


Of the 71% that indicated weapons were used during an incident of **Street Robbery**, **44,8%** reported that a **knife was used**.

Percentage of individuals that indicated weapons were used during an incident of Street Robbery/Assault/Sexual offence, 2023/24

Of the 55% that indicated weapons were used during an incident of **Assault**, **40,1%** reported that a **knife was used**.

Of the 27% that indicated weapons were used during an incident of **Sexual Offence**, **45,2%** reported that an **axe/panga was used**.



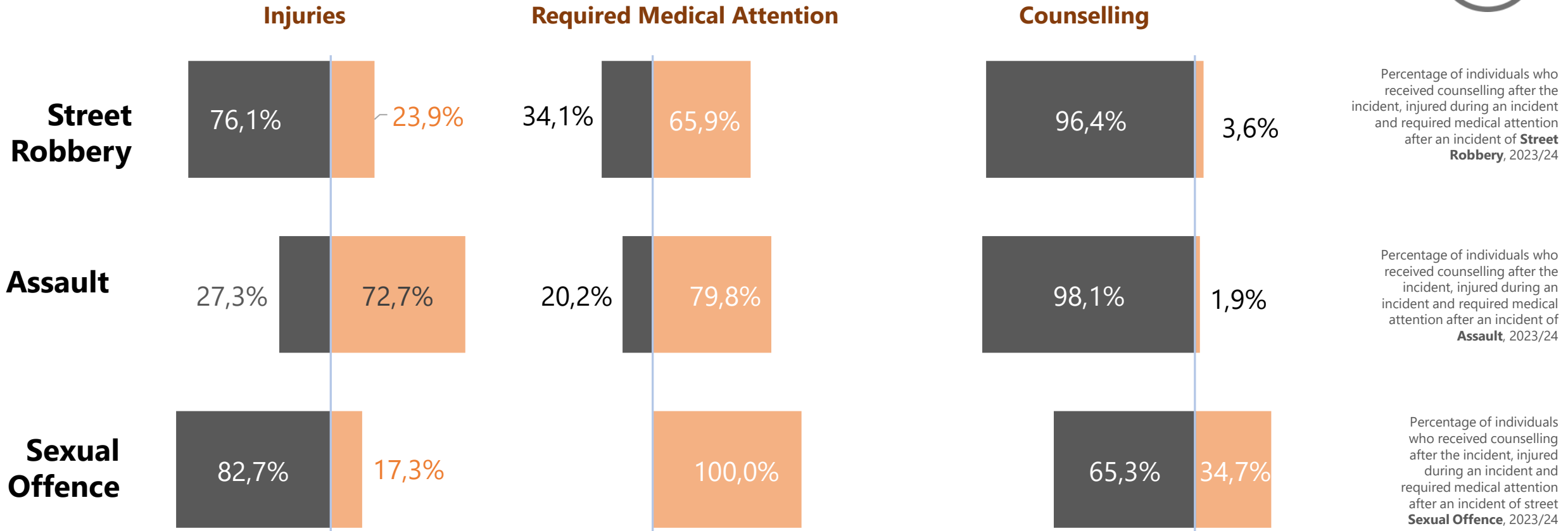
GPSJS 2023/24

Most injuries occurred during an incident of Assault (72,7%). Around **3,6% of those who experienced street robbery** received counselling.

Percentage of individuals that indicated they were injured, required medical attention and received counselling during an incident of street robbery/assault and sexual offence, 2023/24

■ NO ■ YES

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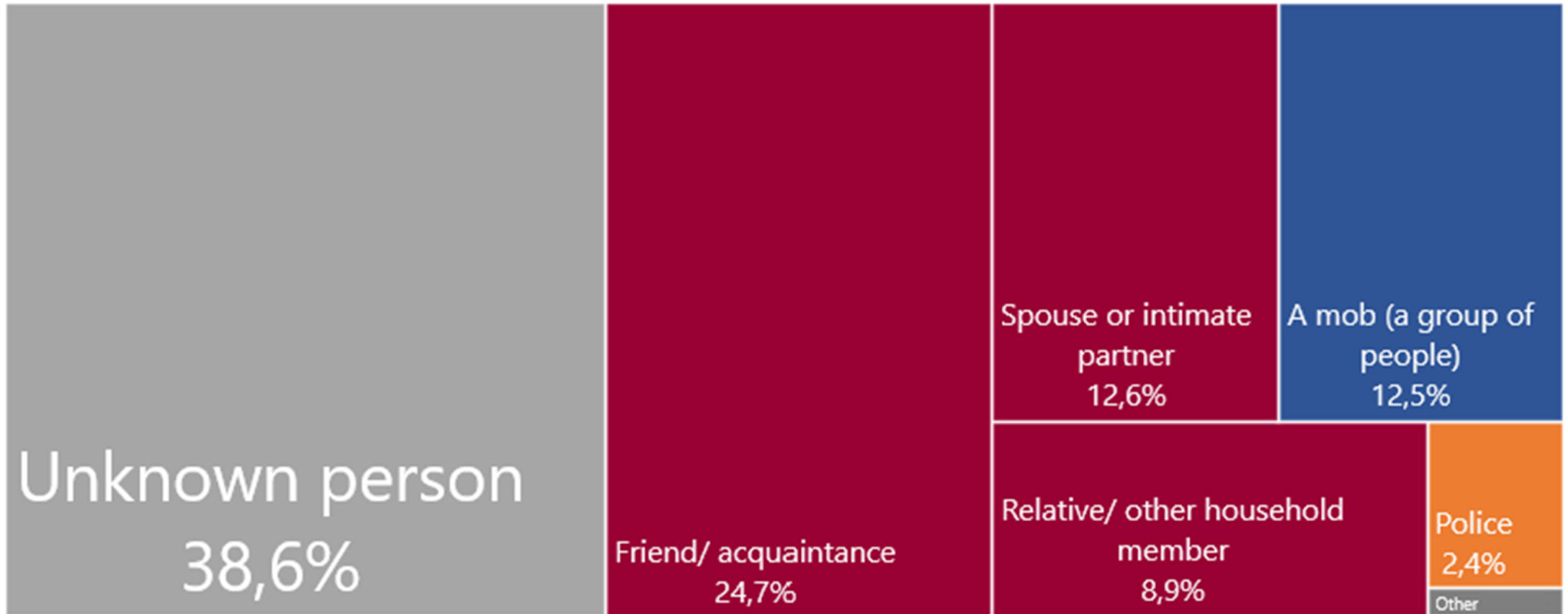
GPSJS 2023/24

About 46% of individuals reported that a **known person** was the perpetrator of assault.

(Friend/acquaintance, Spouse or intimate partner, Relative/ other household member)

Percentage of perpetrators of assault experienced by individuals aged 16 years and older, 2023/24

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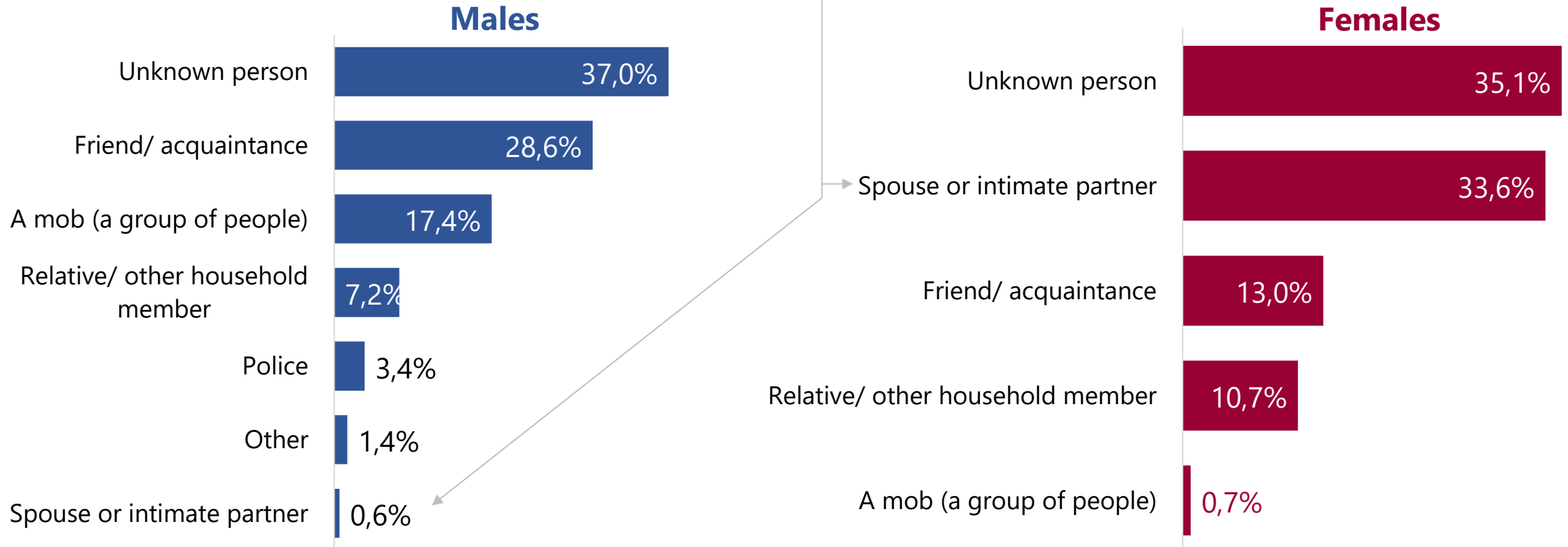


GPSJS 2023/24

About 34% of female individuals reported that **a spouse or intimate partner** was the perpetrator of assault. 57,3% of female individuals reported that a known person was the perpetrator of assault (*Friend/acquaintance, Spouse or intimate partner, Relative/ other household member*)

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Percentage of perpetrators of assault experienced by the individuals 16 years and older, 2023/24

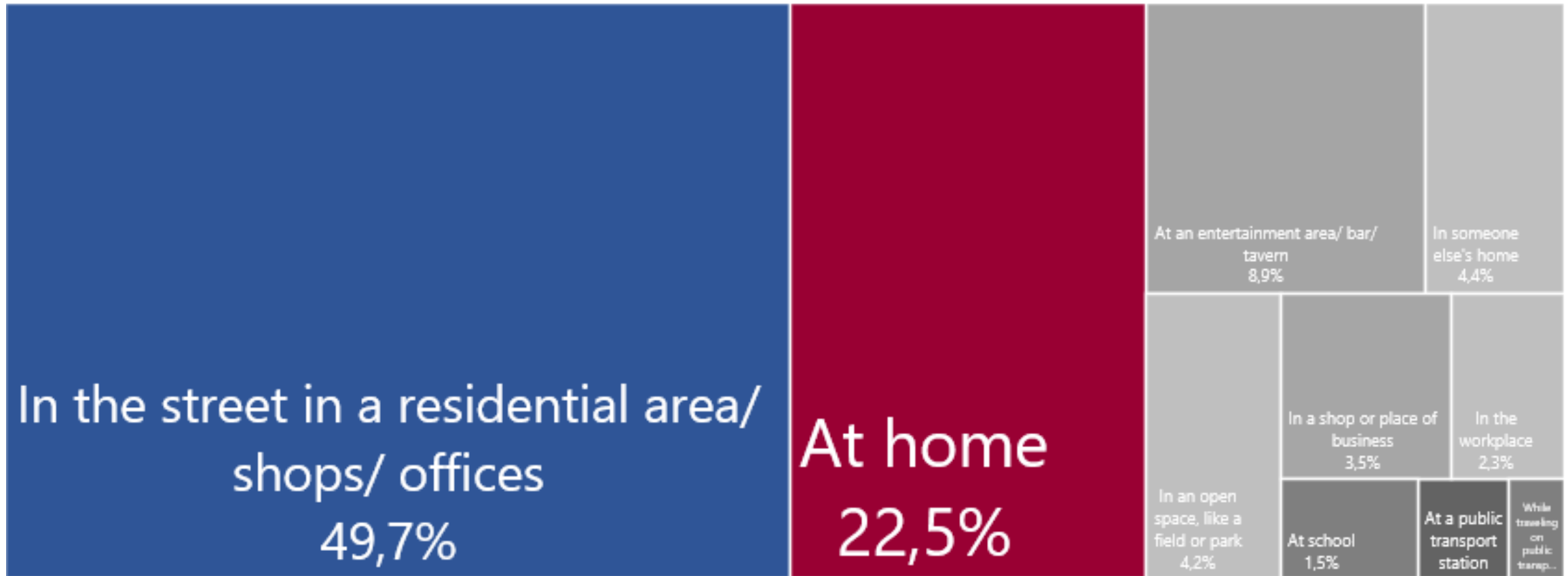


GPSJS 2023/24

Almost 23% of individuals reported that an incident of **Assault occurred at home.**

Place where the assault incident occurred, 2023/24

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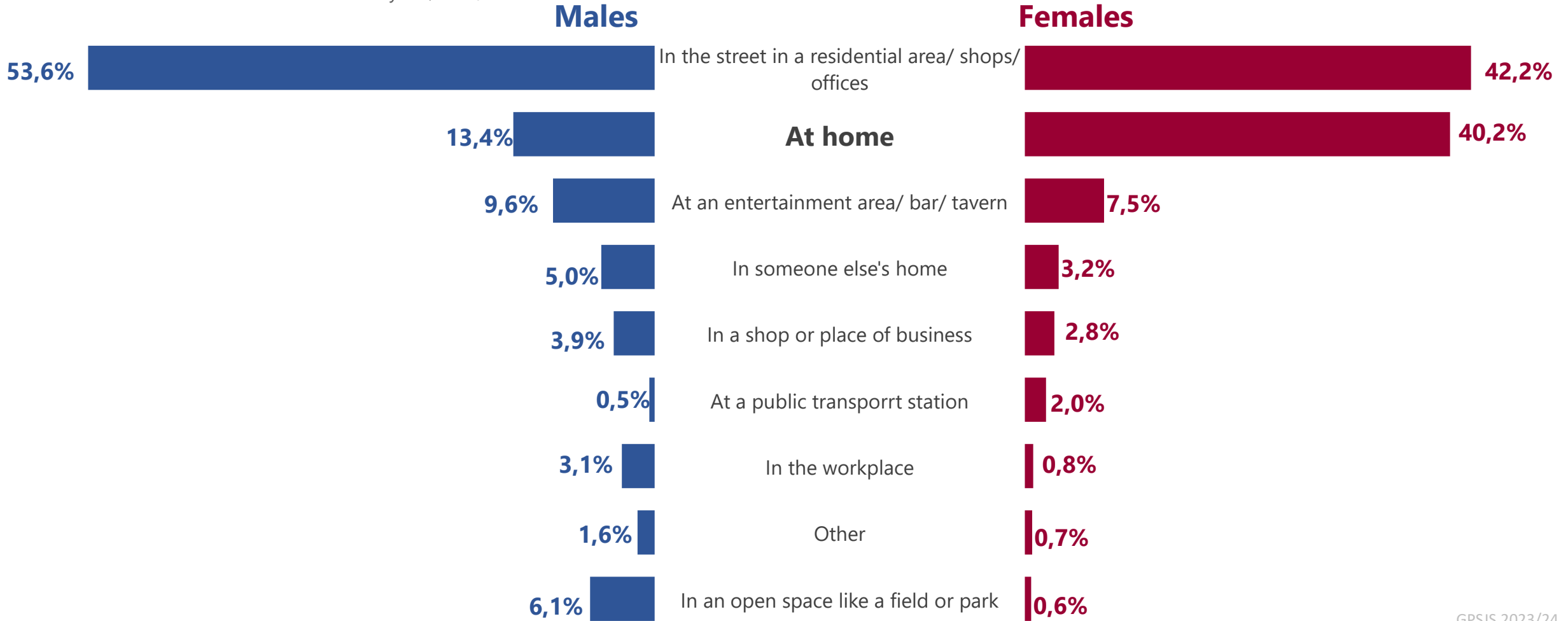


GPSJS 2023/24

About 40% of **female** individuals reported that **an incident of Assault occurred at home**.
 Only 13,4% of male individuals reported that an incident of assault occurred at home

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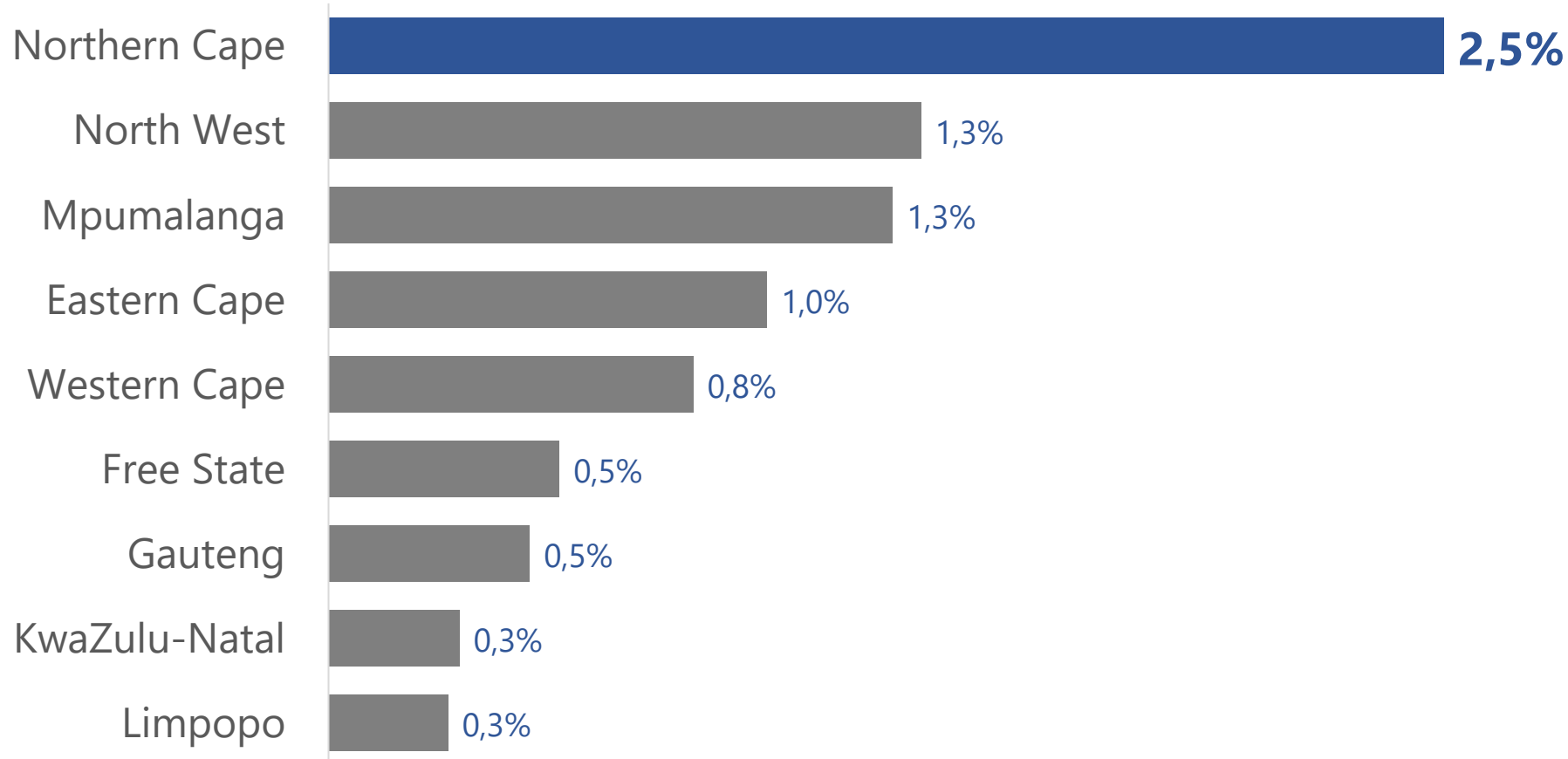
Place where the assault incident occurred by sex, 2023/24



GPSJS 2023/24

A larger proportion of **persons in Northern Cape province** experienced assault compared to people in other provinces

Percentage of individuals aged 16 years and older who experienced assault, 2023/24



GPSJS 2023/24

Psychological violence was measured for the first time in the GPSJS 2022/23

It involves **non-physical harassment**, if somebody made offensive, threatening or humiliating comments to you, insulting or calling you names.



Psychological violence **peaked in May, April and February.**

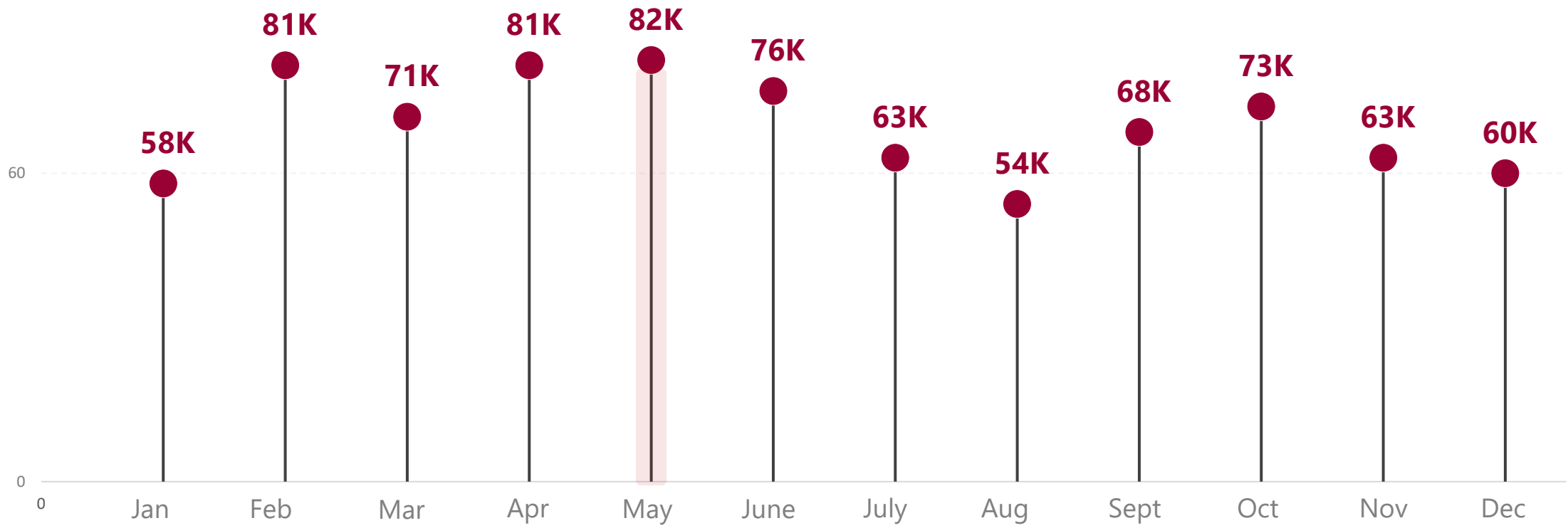
Number of incidences of **psychological violence** by month, 2023/24

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INCIDENCES

● 2023/24

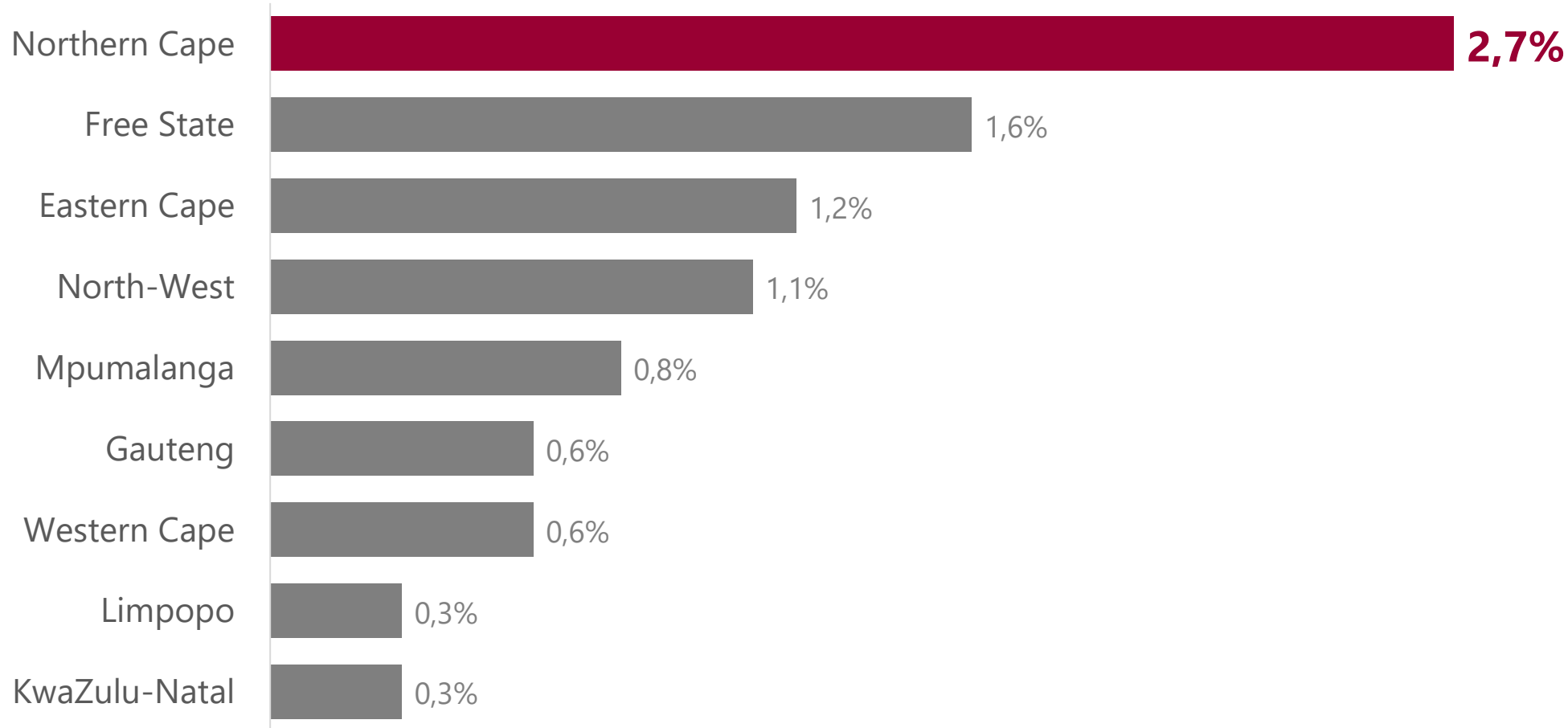
Thousands



GPSJS 2023/24

A larger proportion of **persons in Northern Cape province** experienced psychological violence compared to people in other provinces

Percentage of persons aged 16 years and older who experienced psychological violence, 2023/24



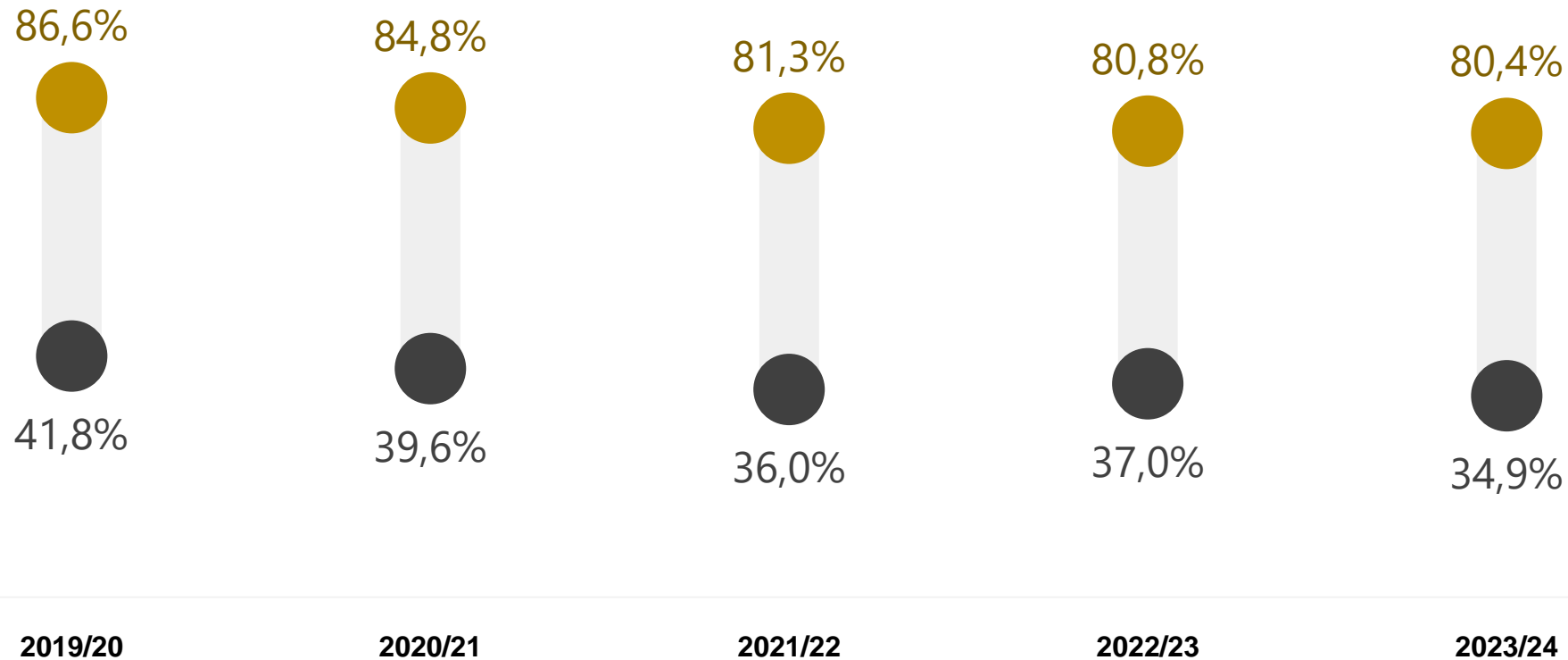
GPSJS 2023/24

Individual perceptions of their safety



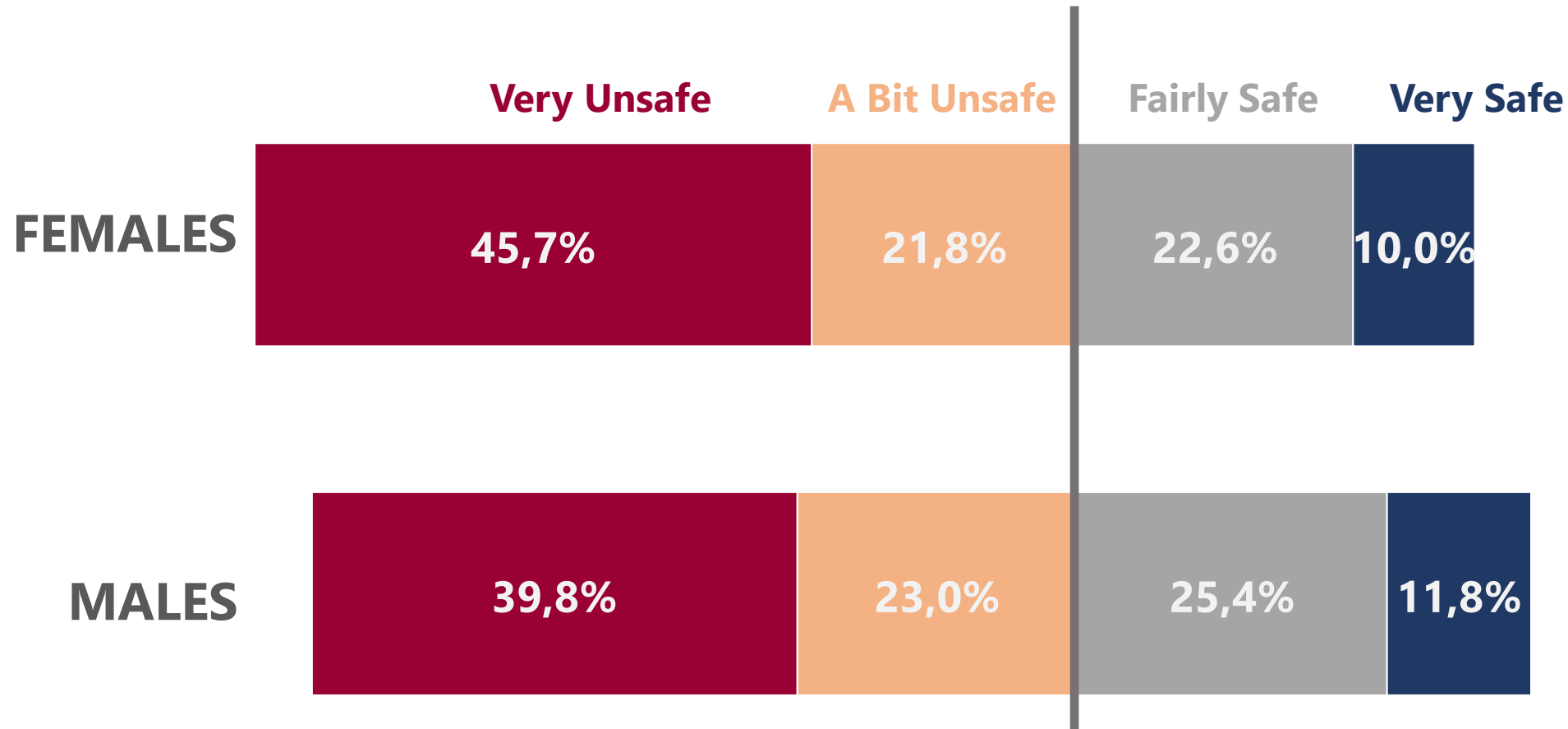
Individuals who felt safe walking alone in their neighbourhoods **during the day** decreased from 80,8% in 2022/23 to 80,4% in 2023/24. Those who felt safe walking alone **at night** decreased from 37,0% in 2022/23 to 34,9% in 2023/24.

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



More females (45,7%) felt very unsafe walking alone at night in their neighbourhood compared to males.

Percentage of individuals aged 16 years and older: Feelings of safety when walking alone in their areas of residence when it is dark by sex, 2023/24

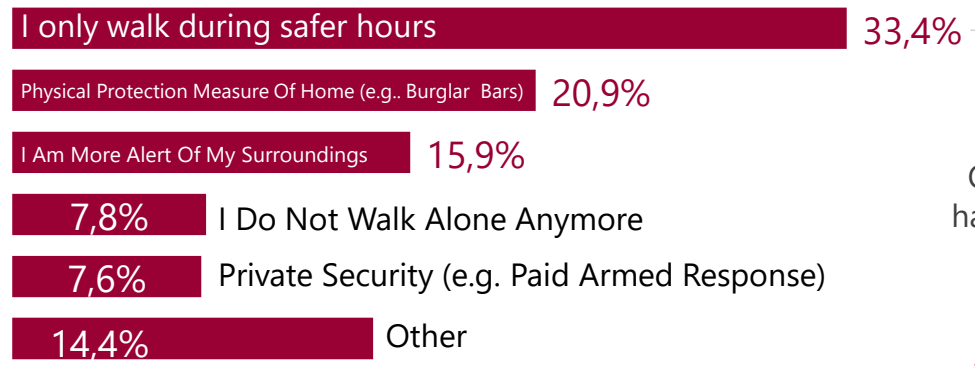
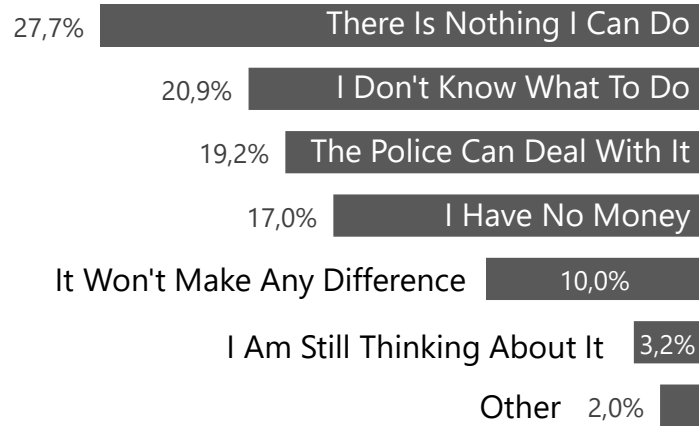


GPSJS 2023/24

39,9% individuals aged 16 years and older have done something to protect themselves against crime in 2023/24

Individuals aged 16 years and older on what they have done to protect themselves against crime, 2023/24

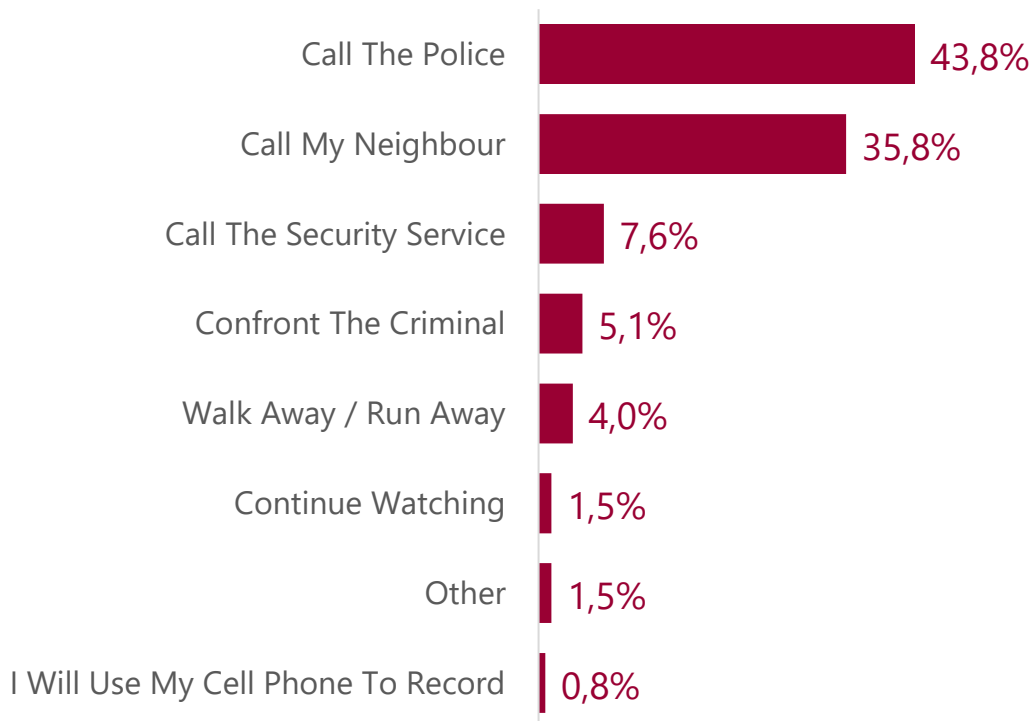
27,7% of the persons aged 16 years and older stated that there is nothing they can do to protect themselves against crime



Of the individuals who have taken measures to protect themselves against crime, **33,4%** have resorted to walking during safer hours only

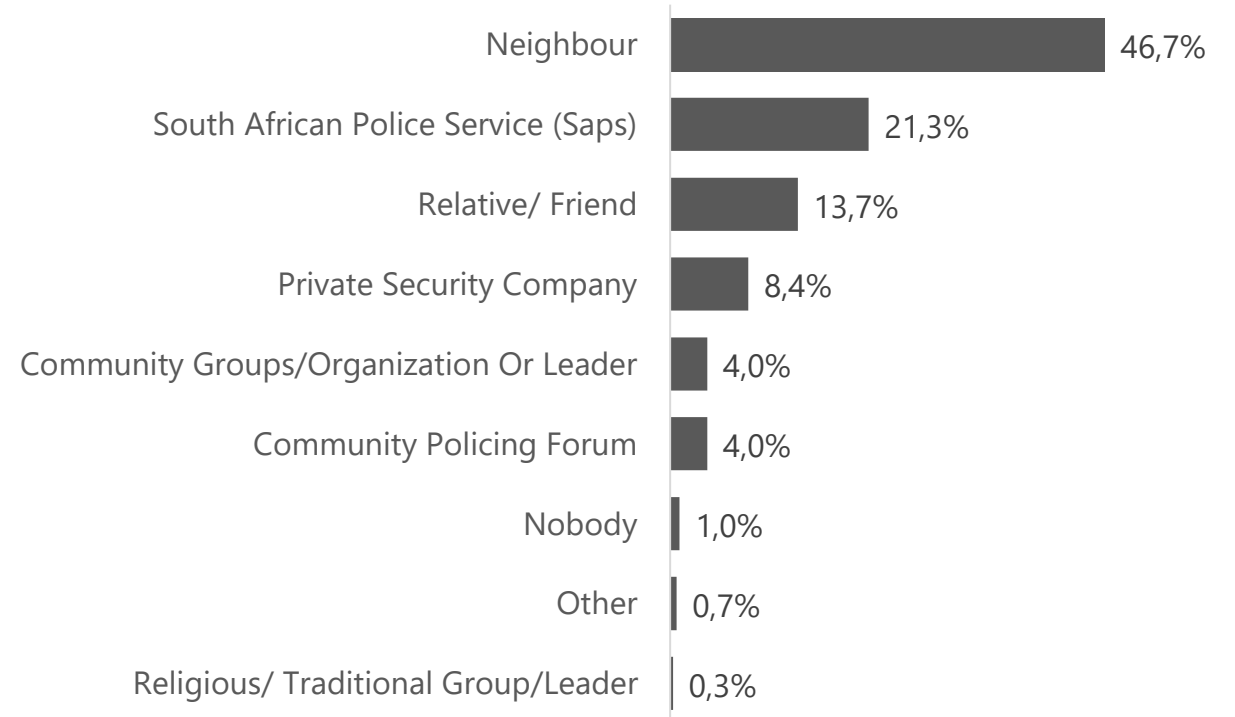
43,8% of persons aged 16 years and older indicated the first thing they will do **if they see** a person **committing crime** is to call the police

Percentage of individuals aged 16 years and older: First thing they will do if they **see a person** committing a crime, 2023/24



46,7% of individuals aged 16 years and older indicated they will contact their neighbour first **if they suspect** they may be victims of crime.

First person to be contacted to come to the rescue if individuals aged 16 years and older **suspect** that they or their household member may become a **victim of crime**, 2023/24



Recap: GPSJS 2023/24

Household level crime

An estimated 1,5 million incidences of housebreaking occurred in 2023/24, affecting 1,1 million households in South Africa.

Individual level crime

An estimated 1,4 million incidences of theft of personal property occurred in 2023/24, affecting 1,3 million individuals aged 16 years and older. The number of affected individuals represents 3,0% of the population.

Feelings of safety

About 80,4% of the population felt safe walking alone in their neighbourhood during the day while 34,9% felt safe walking alone in their neighbourhood at night.



GPSJS

2023/24

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