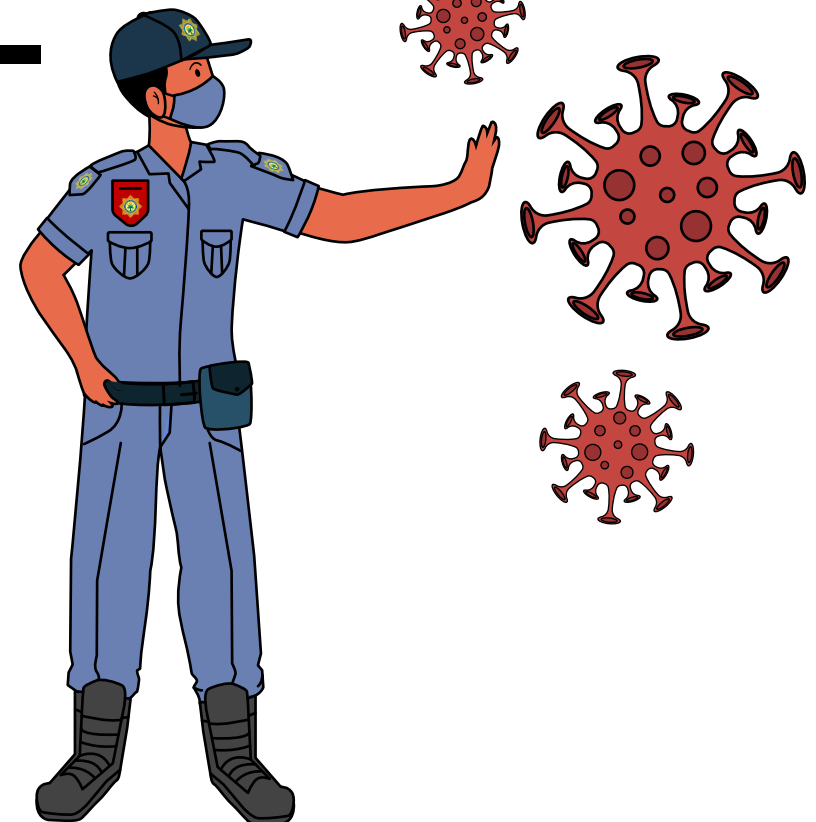


# SAFETY & POLICING DURING LOCKDOWN

A survey conducted by the  
Institute for Security Studies  
and Western Cape Government

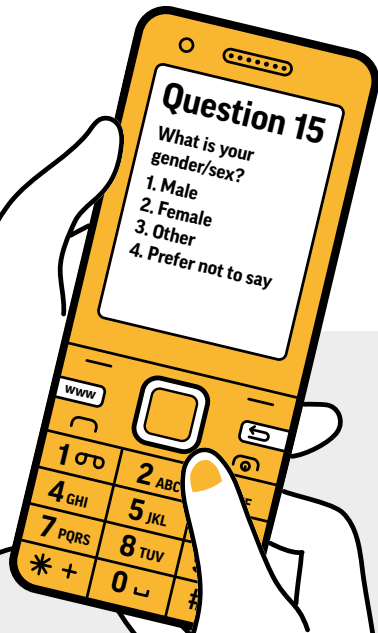


Bayerische Staatskanzlei



# OVERVIEW

This document presents the results of a cell phone-based survey carried out to explore experiences of crime, policing and safety during the first two months of South Africa's COVID-19 lockdown. It was conducted in three high-violence communities in Cape Town – Delft, Khayelitsha and Philippi.



The survey ran from 15 - 30 June 2020 and elicited responses from 5 794 respondents in the three policing areas.

This data and analysis is intended to support research, violence prevention and policing as part of the Western Cape Government's Safety Plan.

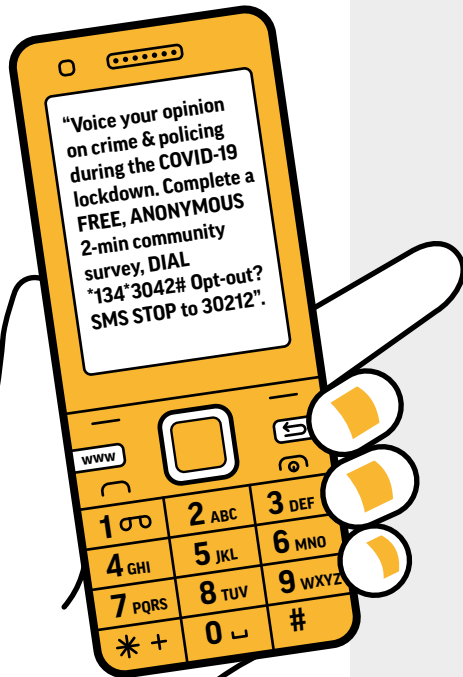
The survey was carried out as part of a partnership between the Western Cape Government and Institute for Security Studies, and was funded by the Hanns Seidel Foundation and Bavarian State Chancellery.



Bayerische Staatskanzlei



# METHODOLOGY



The 20-question survey was broadcast via SMS to all MTN and Vodacom subscribers in the Khayelitsha, Philippi and Delft policing areas from 15- 30 June 2020.

Subscribers received the message, "Voice your opinion on crime & policing during the COVID-19 lockdown. Complete a FREE, ANONYMOUS 2-min community survey, DIAL \*134\*3042# Opt-out? SMS STOP to 30212".

Those who chose to proceed received the message, "Western Cape Government & Institute for Security Studies care about your safety during the lockdown & beyond. Please share your experiences."

Respondents could complete the survey in English or Afrikaans.

Respondents did not bear any financial costs for their participation.

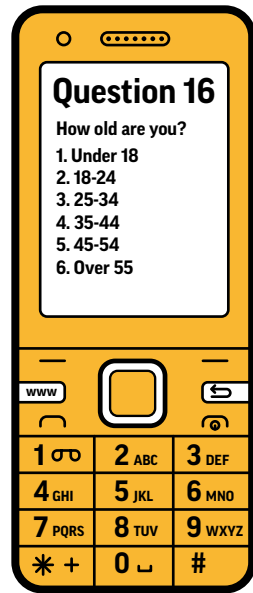
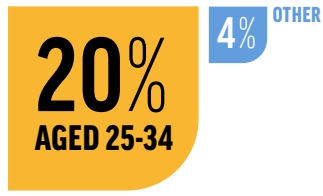
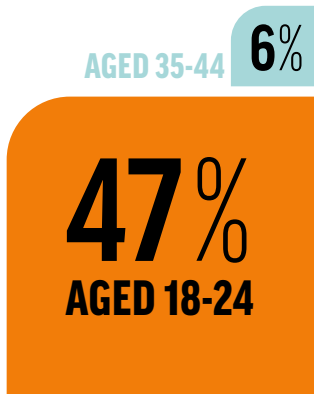
Respondents were provided with the contact information of support services on completion of the survey.

The survey received ethical approval from the ISS's Ethics Committee.

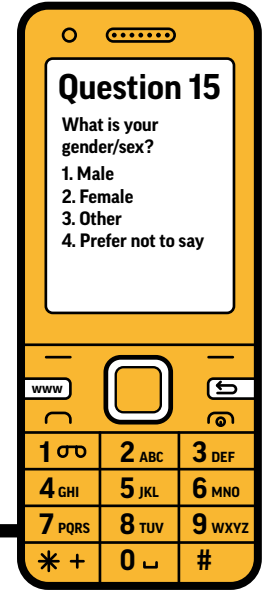
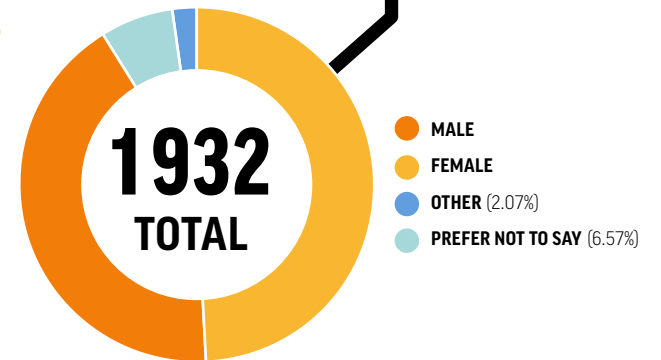
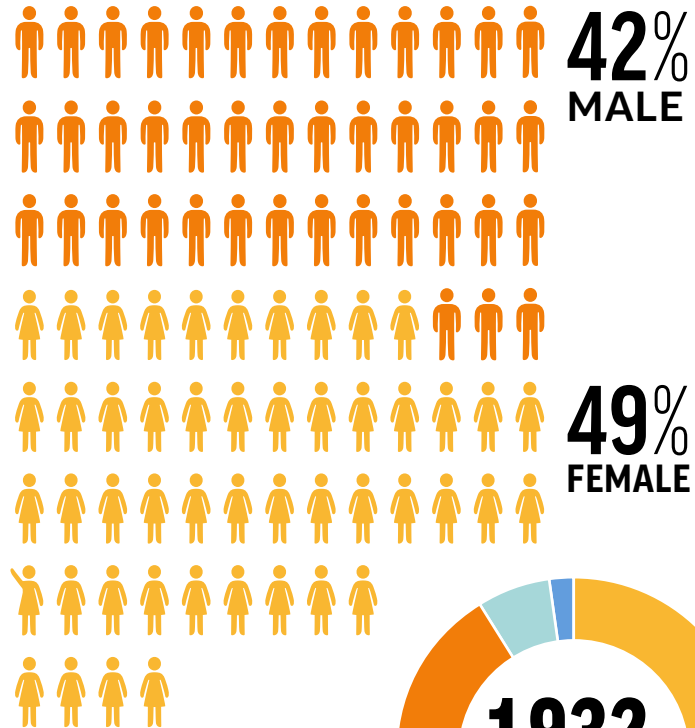
# SAMPLE DEMOGRAPHICS

5 794 people responded to some or all of the survey. Of those who provided responses to questions about age and sex, the breakdown was as follows:

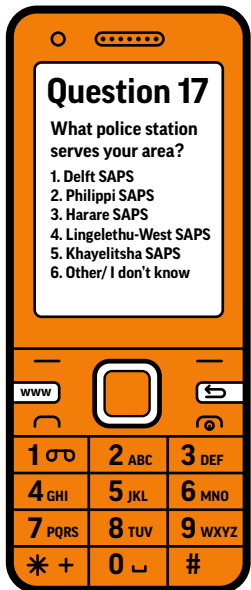
**AGE**  
OF RESPONDENTS



# 5 794 RESPONDENTS

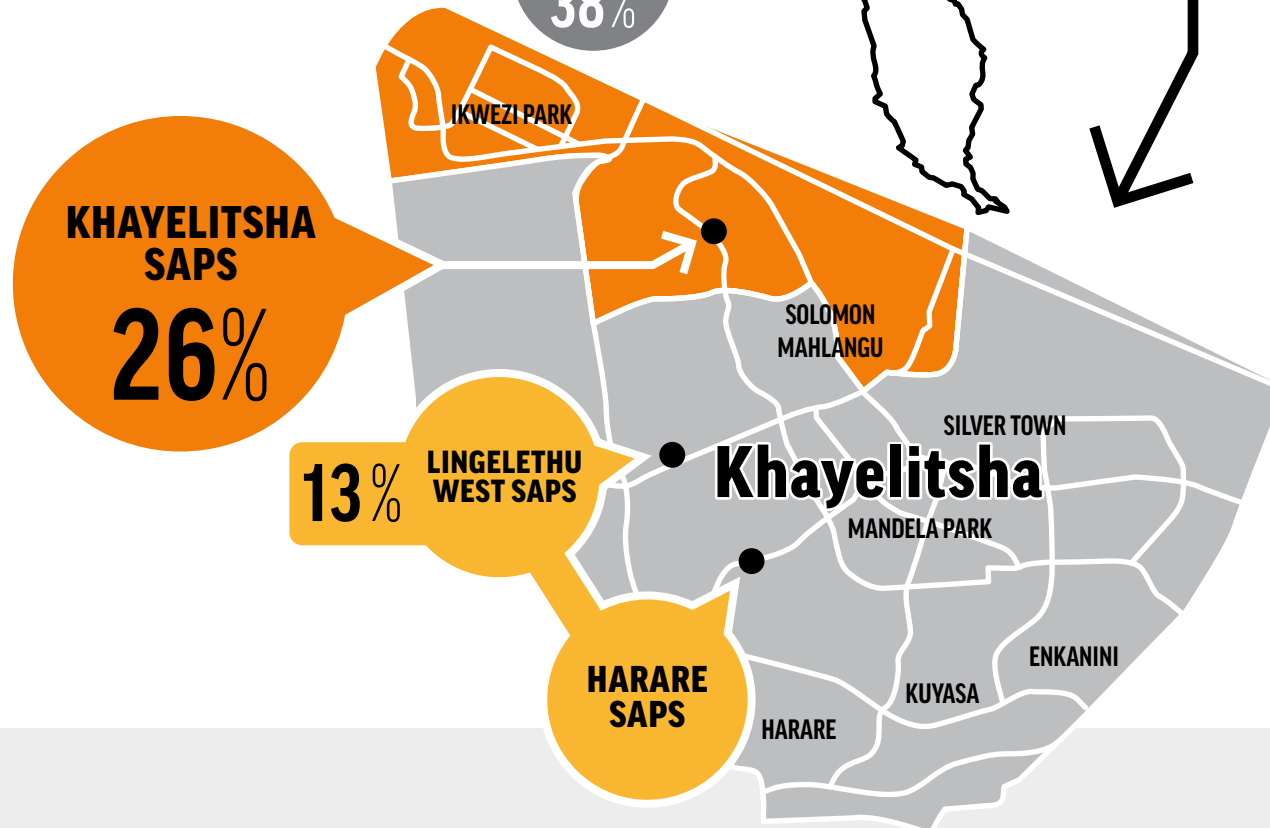
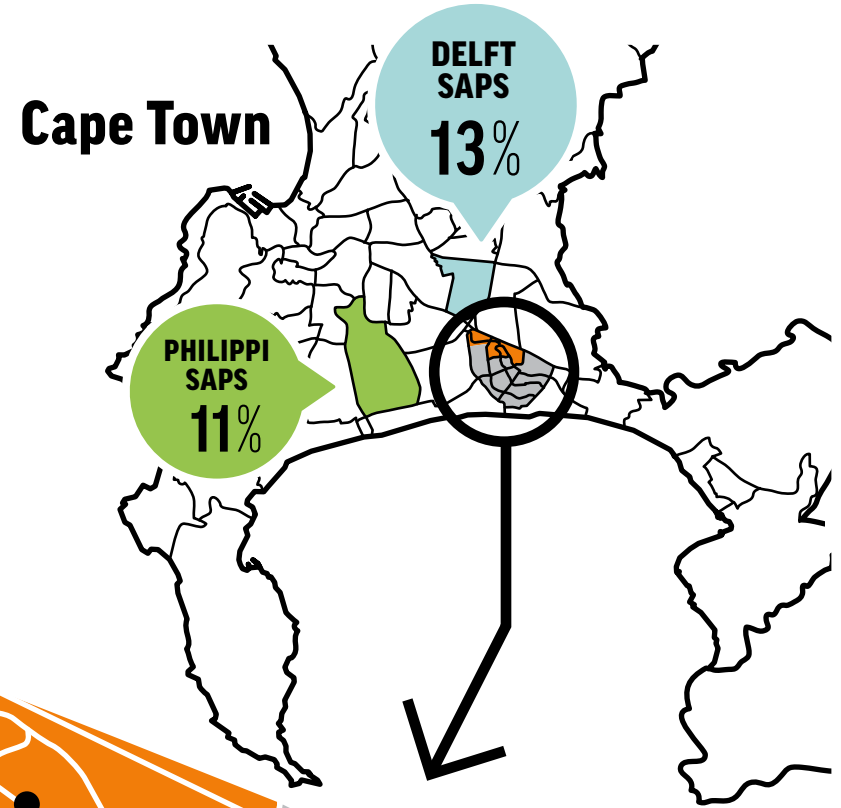


# WHICH POLICE AREAS WERE RESPONDENTS FROM?



38% didn't know which station served their area, or were from other areas. These respondents may have predominantly been Khayelitsha-based, as Greater Khayelitsha is served by three stations. They may also have been Philippi-based but believed that they were served by Philippi-East or another nearby station.

Cape Town

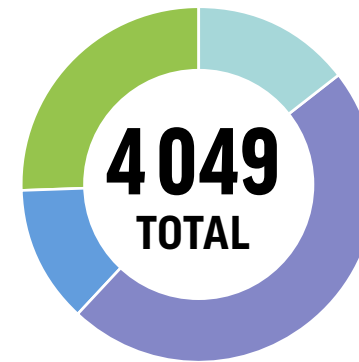


# VISIBILITY OF POLICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

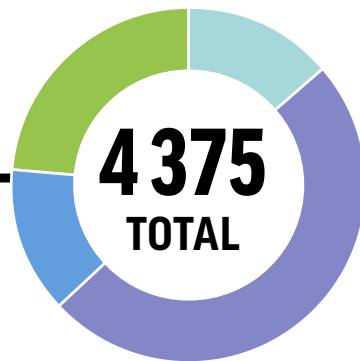
There was little difference in reported police visibility before and during lockdown.



- LESS THAN ONCE A MONTH (14.5%)
- ONCE A DAY (47.5%)
- ONCE A MONTH (12.5%)
- ONCE A WEEK (25.5%)



- LESS THAN ONCE A MONTH (13.8%)
- ONCE A DAY (49.4%)
- ONCE A MONTH (13.4%)
- ONCE A WEEK (23.4%)



**+50%**

of respondents saw police once a day before and during lockdown

**+25%**

of respondents saw police once a week before and during lockdown

# APPROVAL OF LOCKDOWN ENFORCEMENT



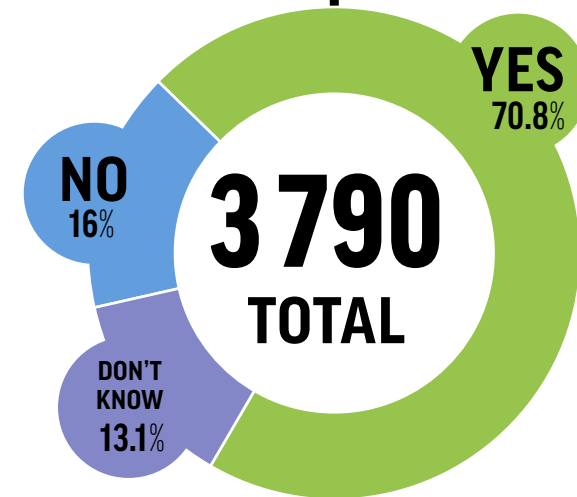
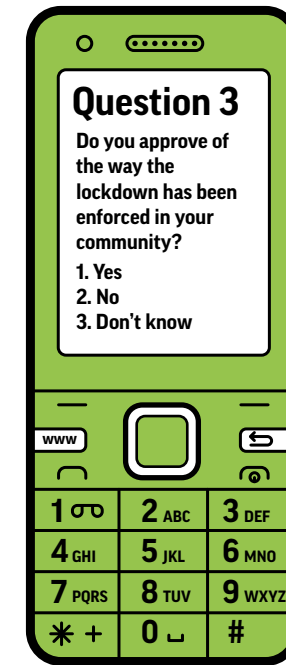
Most respondents (70%) approved of the way the lockdown had been enforced in their community.



Only 16% did not approve of the way lockdown was enforced.

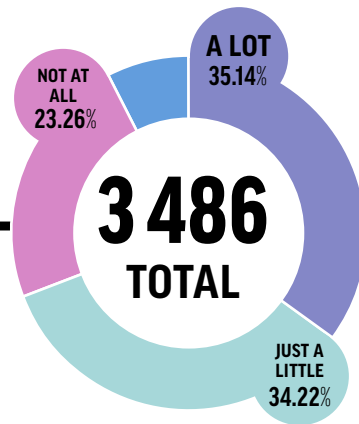
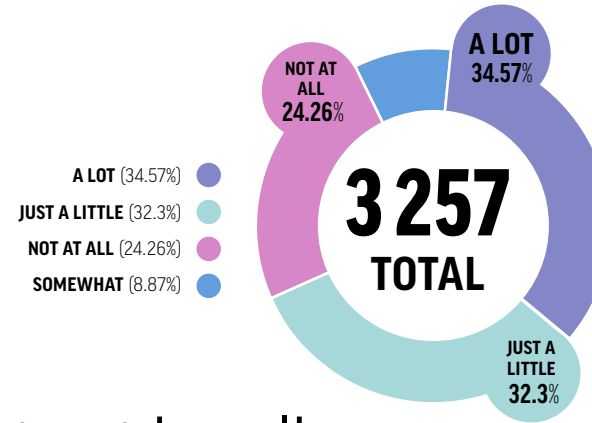
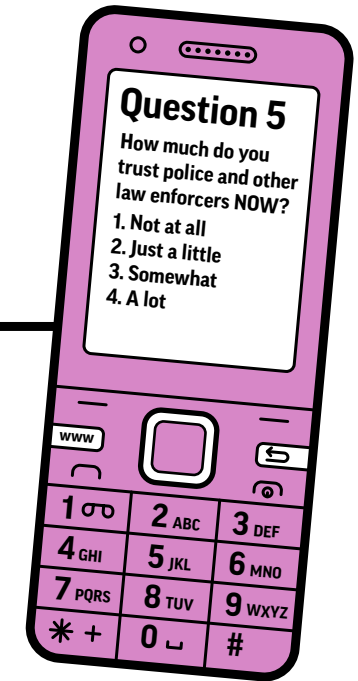


13% did not know whether they approved or not.



# TRUST IN POLICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

There was little difference in reported trust in police and law enforcement before or during lockdown.



- A LOT (35.14%)
- JUST A LITTLE (34.22%)
- NOT AT ALL (23.26%)
- SOMEWHAT (7.37%)

**+35%**

of respondents reported having 'a lot' of trust in police and law enforcement before and during lockdown

**+24%**

reported having no trust 'at all' in police and law enforcement before and during lockdown



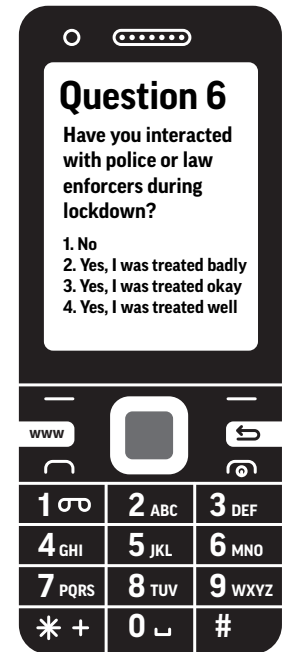
# INTERACTION WITH POLICE AND LAW ENFORCERS

A significant percentage of respondents (61%) reported having interacted with police or law enforcement during the lockdown.

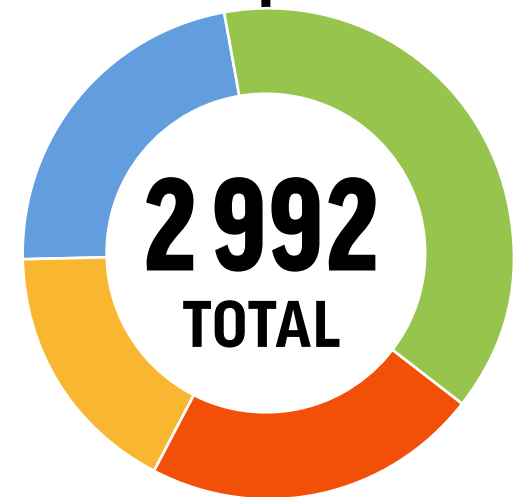
Of those who interacted with police:

 **64%** Reported being treated 'okay' or 'well' (39% of question sample)

 **36%** Reported being treated 'badly' (22% of question sample)



NO (38.6%)  
YES, I WAS TREATED BADLY (22.1%)  
YES, I WAS TREATED OKAY (16.9%)  
YES, I WAS TREATED WELL (22.4%)

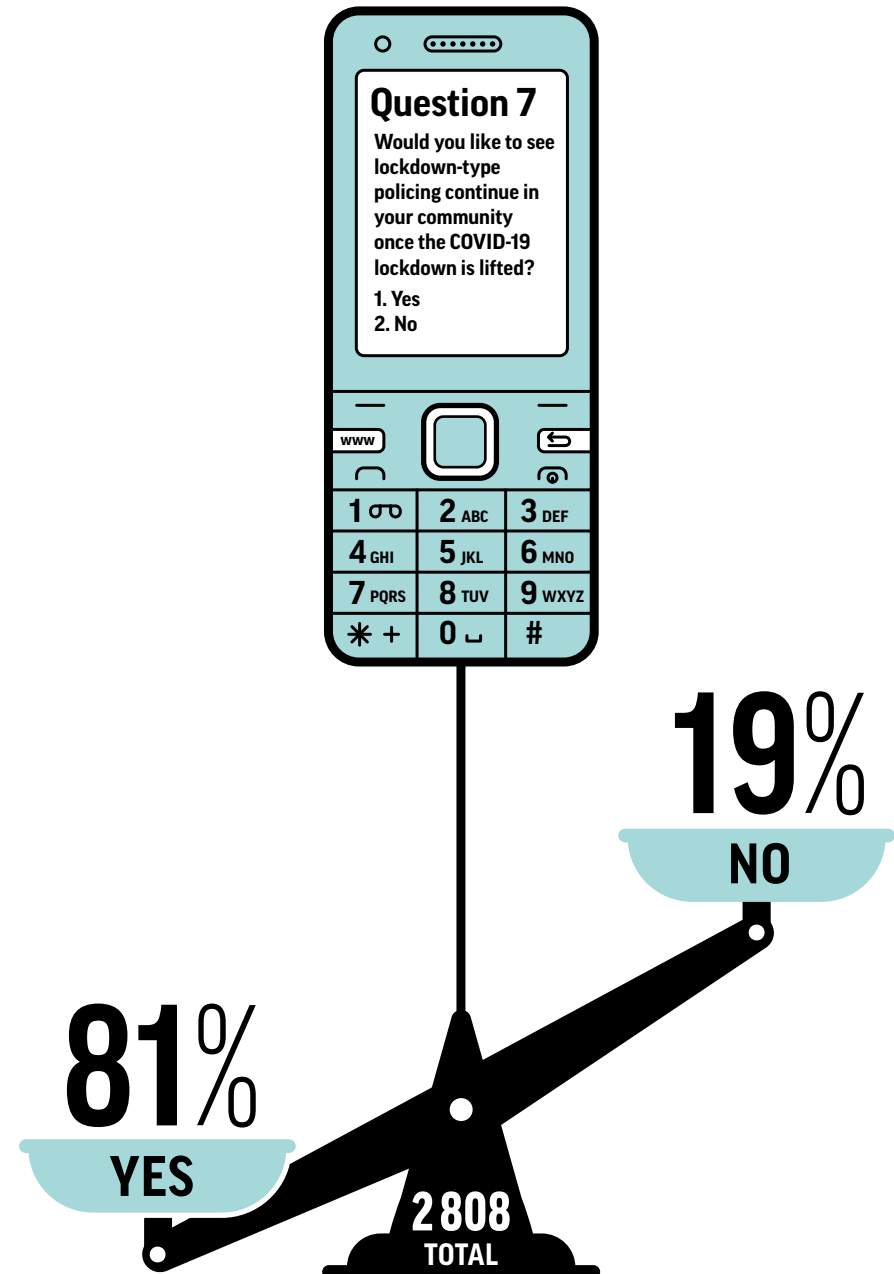


# CONTINUING LOCKDOWN POLICING

Most respondents (81%) reported that they would like to see lockdown-type policing continue beyond the lockdown.

Considering that there was little reported difference in police visibility or trust in police before and during lockdown this may reflect:

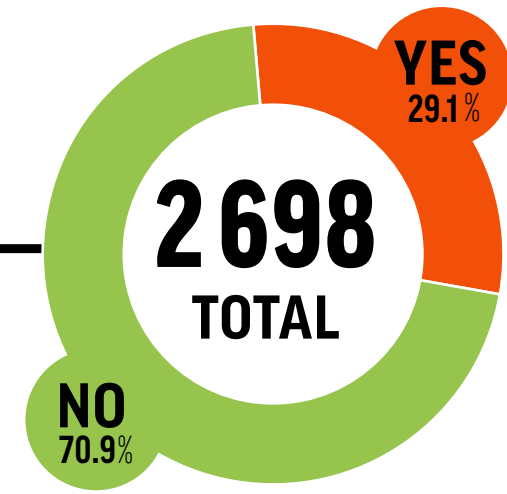
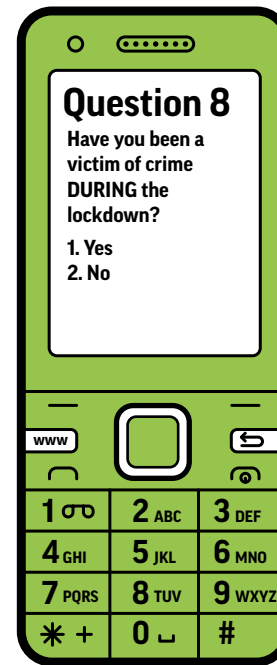
- Contentment with the status quo;
- The appeal of the idea of more policing;
- A desire for the retention of the SANDF



# EXPERIENCES OF CRIME DURING LOCKDOWN

Of the 47% of respondents who reported whether they had been a victim of crime during lockdown, 29% said they had and 71% said they had not.

The high rate of victimisation over just 2-3 months may reflect the state of the precincts, and/or the nature of individuals inclined to respond to the survey (i.e. victims more likely than non-victims).



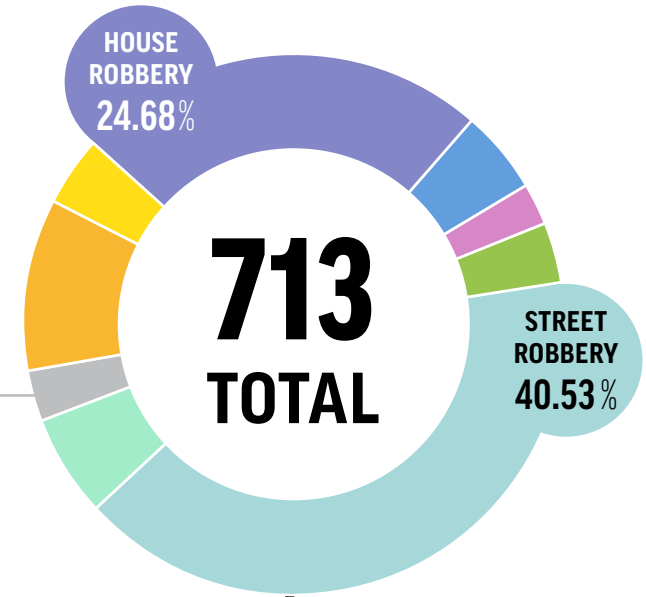
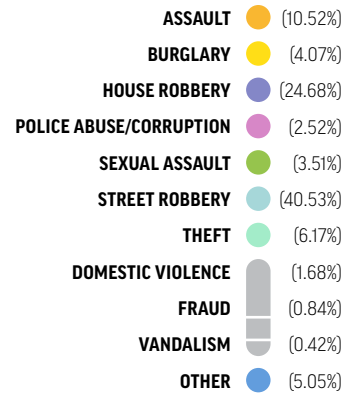
#### NATIONALLY:

In 2018/19, between 0.25 and 6% of individuals experienced theft, robbery, assault, fraud, hijacking or a sexual offence (StatsSA, 2019).

#### WESTERN CAPE:

5% of individuals and 9% of households experienced crime in 2017/18. (StatsSA, 2018)

# EXPERIENCES OF CRIME DURING LOCKDOWN [continued]



The most commonly reported crime among victims:

**41%** Street robbery

**25%** House robbery

**11%** Assault

**NOTE:**

It is possible that some 'house robberies' were in fact burglaries, but that respondents confused or conflated the two.

Domestic violence had a low reported frequency:

**2%** Domestic violence

0,2% of survey sample.



**Question 8 A(1)**

What was the crime?

1. Street Robbery
2. House Robbery
3. Burglary
4. Theft
5. Assault
6. Next

**Question 8 A(2)**

What was the crime?

1. Domestic Violence
2. Sexual assault
3. Vandalism
4. Fraud
5. Police abuse/corruption
6. Other
7. Back

# REPORTING OF CRIMES TO POLICE

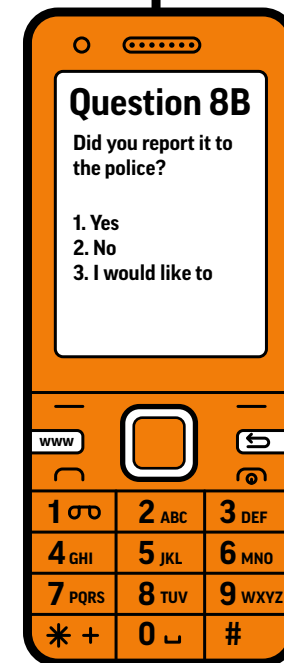
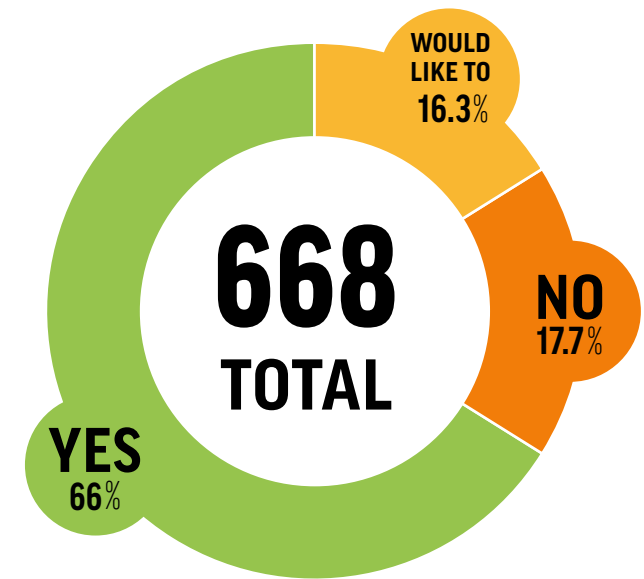
Of those who experienced crime during lockdown,

 **66%** reported the incident to police

 **16%** said they would like to report it

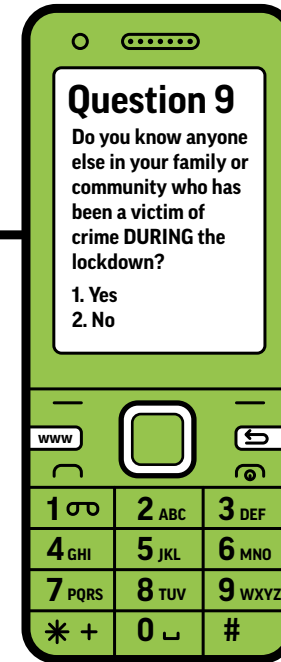
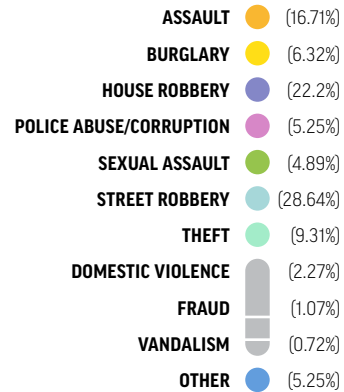
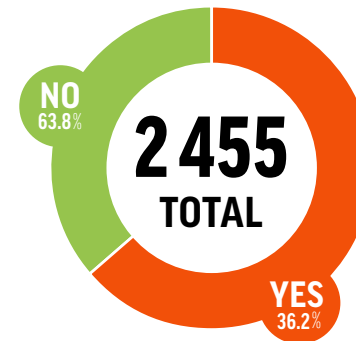
These figures are slightly higher than national data showing that 47% of assault victims, 51% of burglary victims and 59% of house robbery victims reported crimes to police in 2017/18 (Stats SA, 2018).

The reporting rate may indicate confidence in police and/or be shaped by the youth of the respondents.

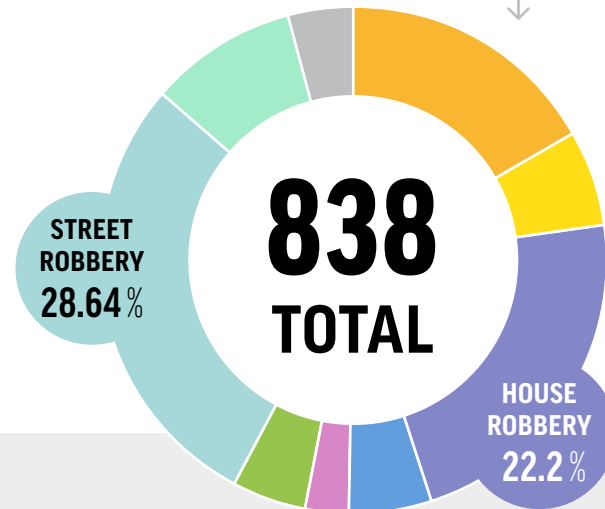


# KNOWLEDGE OF OTHER CRIME DURING LOCKDOWN

36% of respondents reported that they knew of someone else in their family or community who had been a victim of crime during the lockdown.



**Question 9 A(2)**  
What was the crime?  
1. Domestic Violence  
2. Sexual assault  
3. Vandalism  
4. Fraud  
5. Police abuse/corruption  
6. Other  
7. Back



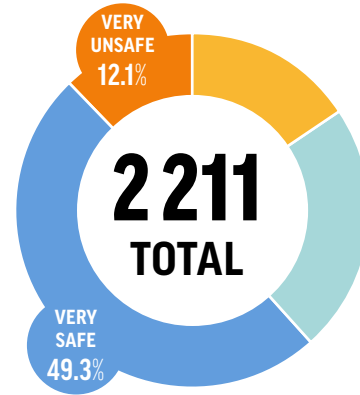
The crimes most common among respondents' familial and community networks were the same as those experienced by respondents who were victims themselves. Street robbery was most common (29%) followed by house robbery (22%) and assault (17%).

Again, it is possible that some 'house robberies' were in fact burglaries, but that respondents confused or conflated the two.

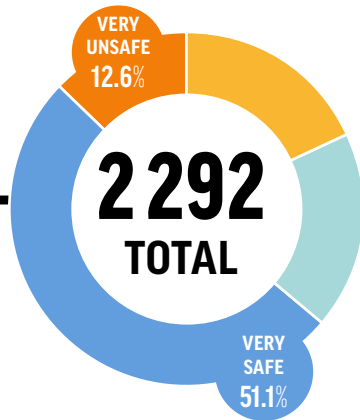
Again, 2% of occurrences were reported as domestic violence.

# FEELINGS OF SAFETY BEFORE AND DURING LOCKDOWN

Respondents' feelings of safety in their community did not differ significantly before and during lockdown.



- VERY SAFE (49.3%)
- FAIRLY SAFE (22.8%)
- A BIT UNSAFE (15.8%)
- VERY UNSAFE (12.1%)



- VERY SAFE (51.1%)
- FAIRLY SAFE (18.3%)
- A BIT UNSAFE (18.1%)
- VERY UNSAFE (12.6%)

**50%**

Felt 'very safe' before and during lockdown

**12%**

Felt 'very unsafe' before and during lockdown

**4%**

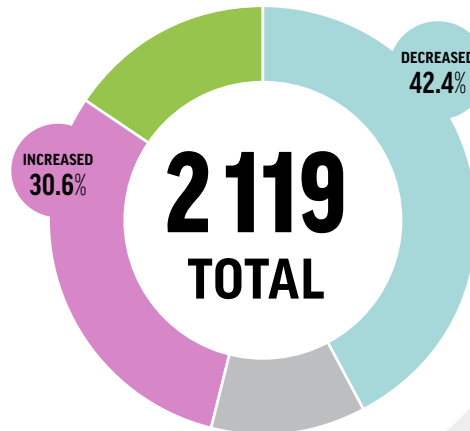
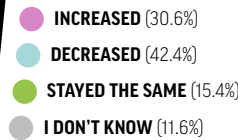
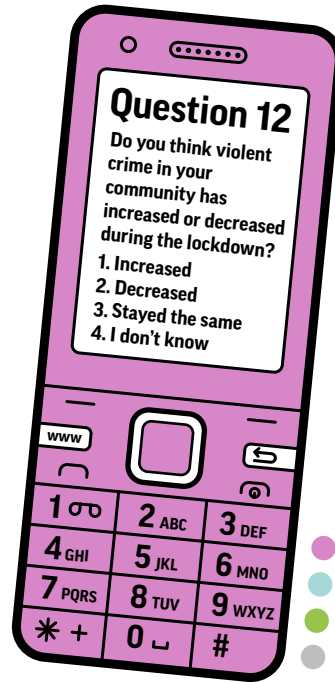
Felt 'fairly safe' during lockdown compared to before lockdown

# PERCEPTIONS OF VIOLENT CRIME

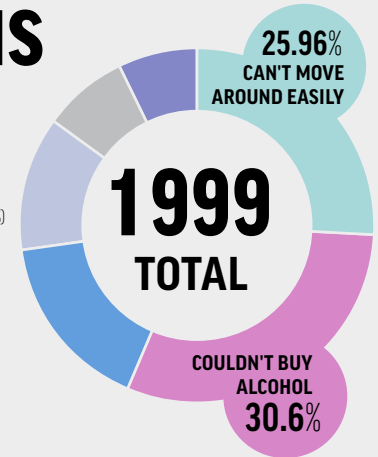
42% of respondents thought that violent crime had decreased in their community during lockdown.

Almost as many (31%) felt it had increased, while 12% said they didn't know.

15% of respondents thought that violent crime had remained the same.



## REASONS WHY:



Asked why they thought violent crime had 'changed', 31% thought it was due to the alcohol ban while 26% put it down to restricted movement and 16% to more policing. These likely relate to perceived declines in violence.

On the other hand, 12% reported that poverty and 7% that stress were the drivers of change, which likely referred to perceived increases in violence.

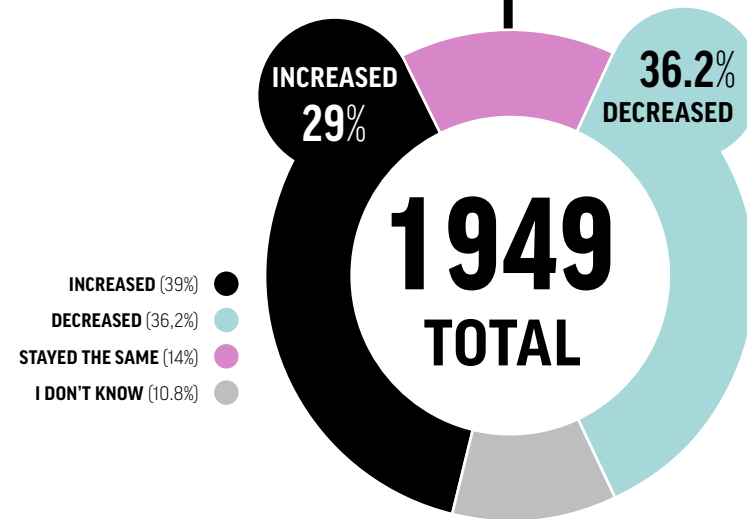
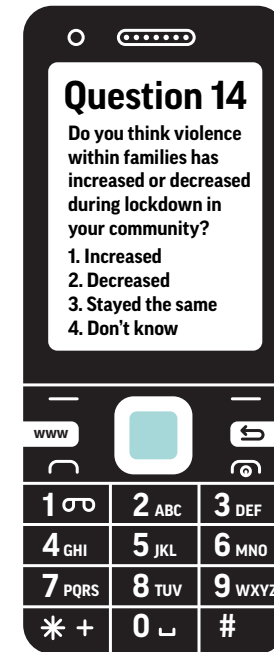


# PERCEPTIONS OF FAMILY/ DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Slightly more respondents believed that violence within families had increased than thought it had decreased during lockdown:

▲ **39%** Believed that violence within families had increased

▼ **36%** Believed that violence within families had decreased



# COMPARING SAPS AND SURVEY DATA

It is useful to consider these survey findings in relation to the SAPS' reported crime data for the period 1 April – 30 June 2020:

## WESTERN CAPE AS A WHOLE

- Murder -27% (767)
- Aggravated robbery -43% (3547)
- Sexual offences -38% (990)
- Residential burglary -33% (6190)
- Non-residential burglary +8% (2838)

## PHILIPPI SAPS

- Murder -43% (16)
- Aggravated robbery -23% (50)
- Sexual offences -0% (12)
- Residential burglary -9% (49)
- Non-residential burglary +31% (17)

## DELFT SAPS

- Murder -49% (38)
- Aggravated robbery -55% (99)
- Sexual offences -2% (52)
- Residential burglary -56% (101)
- Non-residential burglary +5% (22)

## KHAYELITSHA SAPS

- Murder -29% (53)
- Aggravated robbery -53% (180)
- Sexual offences -38% (990)
- Residential burglary -33% (6190)
- Non-residential burglary +8% (2838)

Cape Town

# SUMMARY

5794

people responded to  
some or all of the survey



- 90% of respondents were younger than 34.
- Khayelitsha generated at least twice as many responses as either Delft or Philippi.
- There was little difference in reported police visibility before and during lockdown, with 50% reporting daily visibility and 25% reporting weekly visibility.
- Most respondents (70%) approved of the way the lockdown was enforced in their community.
- There was little difference in reported trust in police and law enforcement before and during lockdown, with roughly 35% trusting them 'a lot' and 24% 'not at all'.
- 61% of respondents interacted with police or law enforcement during the lockdown, with 64% of these reporting being treated 'well' or 'okay', compared to 36% who reported being treated 'badly'.
- Most respondents (81%) reported that they would like to see lockdown-type policing continue beyond the lockdown.

CONTINUED →

# SUMMARY

CONTINUED

## 81%

of respondents reported that they would like to see lockdown-type policing continue beyond the lockdown

## 29%

reported being a victim of crime during lockdown

29% of respondents reported being a victim of crime during lockdown, most commonly street (41%) and house robbery (25%), and assault (11%). 66% of victims reported the crime to police.

36% of respondents reported knowing someone else in their family or community who had been a victim of crime during the lockdown, most commonly street (29%) and house robbery (22%) and assault (17%).

There was little difference in respondents' feelings of safety in their community before or during lockdown, with roughly 50% feeling 'very safe' and 12% 'very unsafe'.

42% of respondents thought that violent crime had decreased in their community during lockdown while 31% thought it had increased. 31% thought the change was due to the alcohol ban while 26% put it down to restricted movement and 16% to increased policing.

Slightly more respondents believed that violence within families had increased (39%) than thought it had decreased (36%) during lockdown.