

# Burglary

## What this is about...

Burglary is an indicator of attitude towards personal property and influences community perceptions of safety.

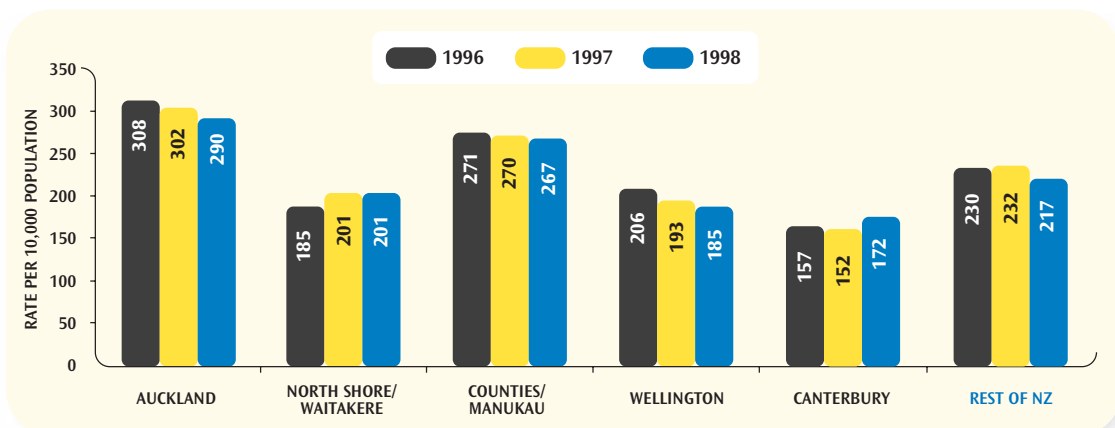
The rate of reported burglary of dwellings and commercial buildings per 10,000 of population is described in this indicator.<sup>143</sup> Data is based on Police Districts, not city boundaries. Burglary is a useful indicator because:

- It is more likely than some other offences to be reported - victims are perhaps more likely to report a burglary than domestic violence.
- Perpetuators of burglary may go on to commit more serious types of crime, therefore it may indicate future crime patterns.
- It affects a large proportion of the population (i.e. not only victims but also their families and neighbours) and is therefore likely to influence perceptions of safety.

## What did we find ?

- The rate of burglary of both dwellings and commercial buildings is highest in Auckland, followed by Counties/Manukau Police District. NZ Police indicate that half of the offenders who are arrested for burglary in Auckland reside outside the city, which highlights that for this indicator, city boundaries are blurred within the regional context.
- Overall, the rate of recorded burglaries within most police districts has generally decreased between 1996 and 1998. This is also reflected in national statistics, which show a drop of 5.1% in total recorded crime for the year ending December 1999, and a 5.5% drop for burglary, representing 4,300 fewer offences.<sup>144</sup> This compared well to the year ending December 1998 when there was 2.7% fewer burglaries. The national decline in burglary has been attributed to police strategies in place around the country, and work by the justice sector and local community groups such as Neighbourhood Watch. In addition, Safer Community Councils have been set up throughout the country through partnerships with the Crime Prevention Unit and local authorities to implement crime prevention programmes. These involve communities taking ownership of solutions to crime and developing local initiatives targeting offenders and potential offenders.

RATE OF RECORDED BURGLARIES PER 10,000 POPULATION, BY POLICE DISTRICT (1996 TO 1998)<sup>145</sup>



Data Source: New Zealand Police

143 Victims do not always report burglaries as they may perceive that the Police can not help to retrieve the stolen goods.

144 New Zealand Police. 20 April 2000. Media Release "Continued downward trend in crime".

145 Rate calculated using 1996 Census data.