Recorded Crime - Victims User Manual

2016

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FOREWORD

On 28 November 2014 New Zealand Police, in collaboration with Statistics New Zealand, began publishing a new statistical collection on victims of crime – the New Zealand Recorded Crime Victims Statistics (NZ RCVS). This new statistical collection is based on the equivalent Australian standard, managed by The National Crime Statistics Unit (NCSU) within the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The NCSU operates under the auspices of the Australasian Police Ministers' Council, and is responsible for coordinating the production and publication of national crime statistics in Australia.

The scope of Australia's Recorded Crime – Victims Statistics (RCVS) collection, together with the national definitions for data items and the national counting rules, were developed in consultation with the National Crime Statistics Advisory Group, the NCSU Board of Management and the Police Statisticians Group. These groups include representatives from the police forces of the states and territories of Australia. The NZ Police Chief Data Scientist is a member of the Police Statisticians Group, and the NZ Police Commissioner attends NCSU Board of Management meetings in an ex-officio capacity.

This manual has been prepared by the NZ Police Data Analytics team for users of NZ RCVS, to help them understand and correctly interpret statistical information in this collection. It documents the classifications and counting rules used in the collection. These give meaning to the data.

NZ RCVS is consistent with Australia's RCVS to the extent that the data allows. Specifically, the counting-rules are identical. The only differences are (a) classification differences with some of the data items in the collection, (b) some data items from Australia's RCVS and RCOS are omitted from NZ RCVS and RCOS because they are not relevant to New Zealand, and (c) NZ RCVS and RCOS contain additional data items, and greater detail on geospatial location. Additionally, Australia only publishes RCVS and RCOS data annually; New Zealand publishes every month. These differences are detailed in this manual.

To ensure statistical information is meaningful, it is also necessary to have standard documented recording rules. The Australian standard recording rules are documented in Australia's National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS), which is maintained by the NCSU. The NZ Police standard recording rules are documented in the National Recording Standard (NRS), which is maintained as a chapter of the NZ Police Manual. The NRS was heavily influenced by Australia's NCRS.

The Data Analytics team wishes to thank those who have contributed to all of the above standards, which have enabled NZ Police and the New Zealand Official Statistics System to have a high quality statistical collection that is comparable with Australia.

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VERSION CONTROL

Version	Released	Contents
1.0	November 2014	Initial specification of NZ RCVS, which is similar to Australia's RCVS. Differences between these standards are identified. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) catalogue number for RCVS is 4510.0. Statistics and descriptive information on RCVS are available from the ABS website.
1.1	January 2015	Minor editorial changes. Revised to reflect additional detail in the Outcome of Investigation
1.2	November 2016	Update to reflect change from publication on Statistics NZ's website to policedata.nz, including adding new variables available: Occurrence day of week, occurrence hour of day, local government boundary, meshblock and use of weapon which are available in a new report available on policedata.nz. Revised Population Derivation to account for Burglary victims being the premises, rather than the people or organisations affected. Also included minor editorial changes.

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to this Statistical Collection

Historically, crime statistics produced by individual police jurisdictions were not always comparable due to the use of different criminal codes, classification systems, recording practices, counting methodologies, practices and procedures. While it was possible within a jurisdiction to monitor trends over time, it was not possible to accurately look at differences between the various jurisdictions at a single point in time or to look at recorded crime levels or changes across different jurisdictions.

In November 1987, the Australasian Police Ministers' Council (APMC) established the National Uniform Crime Statistics (NUCS) subcommittee to investigate user requirements, identify appropriate data items, address problems of data comparability, and advise on arrangements for the production and publication of national crime statistics. The APMC was interested in statistics relating to offences, victims, and offenders. The work of the NUCS subcommittee culminated in the report *Measuring Crime* that was endorsed by the APMC in May 1989. The report recommended the establishment of a jointly funded National Crime Statistics Unit (NCSU) within the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) with responsibility for coordinating the production and publication of national uniform crime statistics.

In November 1990 an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) was made between the Commonwealth and the states and territories concerning the establishment of the NCSU as a National Common Police Service, with a role to initiate, co-ordinate, and oversee the development and production of national uniform crime statistics. The IGA also set out the reporting requirements of the NCSU, financial provisions, and the establishment, functions, and structure of the National Crime Statistics Board of Management and the National Crime Statistics Advisory Group.

Relevance to New Zealand Police

To ensure the NCSU is successful in achieving its purposes, the NCSU convenes a Police Statisticians Group (PSG) consisting of the chief statistician in each police jurisdiction. This group works with the NCSU to review standards and practices that ensure the NCSU is supplied with meaningful data for the collections it publishes.

In 2003, the New Zealand Police Statistics Manager joined the PSG, and embarked on a pathway to bring Australian and New Zealand police statistics into alignment. Through the PSG, New Zealand Police has been able to contribute to developments in standards for Australian statistical collections, and thereby ensure they were relevant to New Zealand. As a result, when Australia developed in 2007 a National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS), New Zealand Police quickly followed in 2008 with the New Zealand Police National Recording Standard (NRS) which aligns closely with the NCRS.

In 2010, the New Zealand Justice sector adopted the Australian Standard Offence Classification (ASOC), which was subsequently renamed the Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification (ANZSOC).

In 2014, New Zealand Police is introduced RCVS, which broadly aligns with Australian standards. Furthermore, the New Zealand collection goes beyond the Australian standard, in that it provides greater detail, and publication is more frequent and timely than RCVS in Australia.

This initiative responds to recommendations in the *Review of Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics (2009)*, and is part of a broad review of Tier-1 Statistics that was led by Statistics New Zealand, culminating in cabinet approval in 2012.

1.2 Purpose of this Manual

The primary objective of this manual is to assist users to understand the content and meaning of data in the collection.

1.3 Further Assistance

The NZ Police Data Analytics team acknowledges that this collection provides a wealth and complexity of information. Where difficulties arise please contact the Data Analytics team.

For queries relating to the content or use of this manual, please contact the Data Analytics team (contact details below).

1.4 Data Analytics Team Contact Details

Enquiries	Data Analytics team service desk Police National Headquarters 180 Molesworth Street PO Box 3017, Wellington 6140 New Zealand	Ph: (04) 4602999 Email: data@police.govt.nz

1.5 Key Dates

Data in the NZ RCVS collection relate to offences recorded by NZ Police as prescribed in the NZ Police National Recording Standard (NRS), where the matter came to Police attention (File Reported Date) on or after 1 July 2014.

NZ RCVS includes two types of populations: **victimisations** and **unique victims**. The term 'population' refers to what is being counted. 'Victimisations' count each instance of a person, organisation or premises being victimised for one or more offences; the 'unique victims' population only counts each victim once irrespective of how many times they have been victimised during the reference period.

Publication of the **victimisations** population commenced in November 2014. However, publication of the **unique victims** populations commenced July 2015, as it was necessary to accumulate data for a 12 month period to avoid under-count.

Data are extracted on the eighth day of each month about victimisations reported to Police during the preceding month.

Data are published on policedata.nz on the last working day of every month.

1.6 Policy for Revising Recorded Crime – Victims Statistics

For infrequently published statistics that are published many weeks or months after the end of the period being reported on, it is common practice not to update previously published figures unless there has been a significant change in data relating to that period. This practice is not followed for NZ RCVS.

NZ RCVS is published every month within one month of the end of the period being reported on. This is possible because the publication process is largely automated, and because associated recording and counting standards are designed to ensure data become relatively stable quickly. Because of the level of detail in the collection and the frequency of publication, it is impractical to implement an ad-hoc adjustment mechanism. Instead, the latest available data are published every month, replacing figures for previously published periods. NZ RCVS will always contain the latest available data for every period.

CHAPTER 2: RECORDED CRIME – VICTIMS FRAMEWORK

2.1 Scope and Coverage

The RCVS collection counts victims recorded by police as prescribed in the NZ Police National Recording Standard (NRS). Victims can be people, organisations or premises.

Differences between Australian and New Zealand Standards

The relevant Australian and New Zealand standards apply identical counting rules. However, some differences exist between the two collections. For example, Australia's RCVS differs from NZ RCVS in that:

- Australia's RCVS includes some homicide and related offences. NZ RCVS does not include any homicide and related offences;

- for some types of offences, Australia's RCVS considers the victim to be a motor vehicle;

- NZ RCVS includes a number of additional data items not found in Australia's RCVS;

- although classifications for data items have been harmonised, some differences exist. These are explained in Section 3, together with the description of each data item.

The NZ RCVS collection includes:

- substantive offences (e.g. robbery, assault);

- attempted offences (e.g. attempted robbery).

Exclusions

The scope of the NZ RCVS collection excludes the following offences:

- offences that Police are able to deal with by issuing an infringement notice;

- offences that come under the authority of agencies other than NZ Police, such as Customs, Worksafe New Zealand, Inland Revenue, ACC, Ministry for Primary Industries, etc.;

- offences that do not generally have specific identifiable victims (e.g. drugs offences, public order offences);

- conspiracy offences;

- aid and abet offences.

'*Offence*' refers to any act or omission by a person/organisation or persons/organisations for which a penalty could be imposed by the New Zealand legal system. Offences in this collection are defined by the 2011 edition of the Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification (ANZSOC).

In the context of the Recorded Crime - Victims collection, the following key definitions apply:

A '*criminal incident*' consists of one or more offences (and their related victims and offenders) that are committed by the same person/organisation or groups of persons/organisations and if:

- they are part of actions committed simultaneously or in sequence over a short period of time at the same place;

- they are part of interrelated actions, that is, where one action leads to the other or where one is the consequence of the other(s); or

- they involve the same action(s) repeated over a long period of time against the same victim(s) and only come to the attention of police at one point in time.

'*Offender*' refers to a person or organisation Police apprehend because Police allege the person or organisation has

perpetrated a criminal incident involving one or more offences.

'Victimisation' refers to an instance of a person, organisation or premises being victimised for a given type of offence. The precise definition of this is given in section 2.2 below.

'Unique Victim' refers to a unique person, organisation or premises recorded within the reference period as being a victim of a given type of offence. The precise definition of this is given in Section 2.2 below.

A range of data items related to demographic information about a victim is also collected. Chapter 3 contains details about each of the data items.

2.2 Populations in RCVS

RCVS consists of two types of population:

> the **victimisation** population

> the **unique victim** population

The **victimisation** population is the measure involving counting a person, organisation or premises once within each criminal incident for each ANZSOC Division in which they are recorded as being a victim of an offence.

The **unique victim** population is the measure involving counting a person, organisation or premises once in a given 12 month reference period for each ANZSOC Division in which they are recorded as being a victim of an offence regardless of how many times they may have been victimised.

The data for both populations is updated on the last working day of every month.

See Chapter 4 for further information on these populations, including counting rules and principal offence derivation rules for each population.

Differences between Australian and NZ Standards

Australia does not yet have a unique victim population, but is considering adding it.

CHAPTER 3: DATA ITEMS

3.1 Data Records

The following table lists the published data items in the NZ RCVS collection. Detailed information on the data items follows in sections 3.2 to 3.10.

Data Item
Month and Year
Occurrence Day of Week
Occurrence Hour of Day
Location
Police Boundary
Local Government Boundary
Meshblock
Offence
Age
Sex
ROV
Ethnicity
Outcome of Investigation
Use of Weapon

The following table lists the published measures in the NZ RCVS victimisation collection.

Measure
Count as at 7 days from report date
Count as at 30 days from report date
Count as at 90 days from report date
Count as at 180 days from report date

The unique victim collection only includes the count as at 30 days from report date.

3.2 Month and Year

Description

For the victimisation population, this is the year in which the offence is reported or becomes known to police.

For the unique victim population, this is the last month of the 12-month reference period during which the victimisation is reported or becomes known to Police.

Classification Structure

Year/Month (e.g. 2014/07)

Differences between Australian and NZ Standards

Australia's RCVS data is annual, monthly data is not currently available. Australia also does not yet have a unique victim population.

3.3 Occurrence Day of Week

Description

Day of week when the offence occurred.

Classification Structure

Full name of a weekday ("Monday", "Tuesday", "Wednesday" etc.).

Missing value

If the date of the occurrence cannot be determined accurately, Occurrence Day of Week is set to "UNKNOWN".

Notes

An example of a situation where the date may not be determined is when a householder discovers signs of a break-in on returning from vacation.

Differences between Australian and NZ Standards

This item does not appear in the Australian collection.

3.4 Occurrence Hour of Day

Description

Hour of day when the offence occurred.

Classification Structure

Number 0 - 23 where 0 includes midnight up to 00:59:59, 1 includes 01:00:00 to 01:59:59 etc.

Missing value

If the time of the occurrence cannot be determined accurately, Occurrence Hour of Day is set to 99.

Differences between Australian and NZ Standards

This item does not appear in the Australian collection.

3.5 Location

Description

Type of location where the offence occurred.

Note: The Location data item is only available for ANZSOC Division 07 – UNLAWFUL ENTRY WITH INTENT/BURGLARY, BREAK AND ENTER in the core RCVS demographic report.

Division	Location description
1	**RESIDENTIAL LOCATION**
2	**COMMUNITY LOCATION**
3	**OTHER LOCATION**
4	**UNSPECIFIED LOCATION**
8	**NOT APPLICABLE**

Differences between Australian and NZ Standards

The Australian data collection includes location data for all offences.

3.6 Police Boundary

Description

The Police Boundary geospatial hierarchy identifies the geographical location of the scene of an offence in terms of Police District, Police Area and Police Station. There are twelve Police Districts within New Zealand.   The hierarchy below displays Police District and Police Area. Police Station is not included in the core RCVS demographic report and there are too many to display in a complete hierarchy below.

Classification Structure

Police District	Police Area
Auckland City District	Auckland Central Area
	Auckland East Area
	Auckland West Area
Bay of Plenty District	Eastern Bay of Plenty Area
	Rotorua Area
	Taupo Area
	Western Bay of Plenty Area
Canterbury District	Canterbury Metro Area
	Mid / South Canterbury Area
Central District	Manawatu Area
	Taranaki Area
	Whanganui Area
Counties/Manukau District	Counties Manukau Central Area
	Counties Manukau East Area
	Counties Manukau South Area
	Counties Manukau West Area
Eastern District	Hawkes Bay Area
	Tairawhiti Area
Northland District	Far North Area
	Whangarei Area
Southern District	Otago Coastal Area
	Otago Lakes Central Area
	Southland Area
Tasman District	Marlborough Area
	Nelson Bays Area
	West Coast Area
Waikato District	Hamilton City Area
	Waikato East Area
	Waikato West Area
Waitemata District	Auckland Motorways Area
	North Shore Area
	Rodney Area
	Waitakere Area
Wellington District	Hutt Valley Area
	Kapiti-Mana Area
	Wairarapa Area
	Wellington Area

Not Specified	Not Specified

Differences between Australian and NZ Standards

This hierarchy appears in the NZ data collection only.

3.7 Local Government Boundary

Description

The Local Government Boundary geospatial hierarchy identifies the geographical location of the scene of an offence in terms of local government boundaries.

Classification Structure of Local Government Boundary

The classification contains two levels; Territorial Authority, and Area Unit. Territorial Authorities are the broadest areas in the classification and Area Unit the most specific.

The structure is hierarchical in nature, with each Area Unit forming part of a unique Territorial Authority. The structure is published by Statistics NZ. The descriptions and classifications for Territorial Authorities and Area Units is available on Statistics New Zealand's website.

Differences between Australian and NZ Standards

This item does not appear in the Australian collection.

3.8 Meshblock

Description

The geographical location where the offence occurred. A meshblock is the smallest geographic unit for which Statistics New Zealand collects and processes data. Meshblocks underlie both the Local Government Boundary and Police Boundary hierarchies: an Area Unit contains one or more meshblocks, and likewise a Police Station Boundary contains one or more meshblocks. More information can be found on Statistics New Zealand's website.

Classification Structure

7 digit number with leading zeros (0001204, 0161701 etc.).

Differences between Australian and NZ Standards

This item does not appear in the Australian collection.

3.9 Offence

Description

The nature of the offence is described using the ANZSOC Group classification, a four digit code which groups offences into a hierarchy of related categories. The first two digits divide offences into broad categories known as divisions, and the third and fourth digits identify an offence more precisely within those divisions. Documentation on the ANZSOC hierarchy can be found at http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1234.0/ .

Classification Structure

Offences categorised in the following ANZSOC Groups[1] are within scope:

Group	Description
0211	Serious assault resulting in injury
0212	Serious assault not resulting in injury
0213	Common assault
0311	Aggravated sexual assault
0312	Non-aggravated sexual assault
0511	Abduction and kidnapping
0611	Aggravated robbery
0612	Non-aggravated robbery
0621	Blackmail and extortion
0711	Unlawful entry with intent, burglary, breaking and entering
0811	Theft of motor vehicle
0812	Illegal use of motor vehicle
0813	Theft of motor vehicle parts / contents
0821	Theft from person, excl. by force
0823	Theft from retail premises
0829	Theft (excl. motor vehicle) n.e.c.[2]
0841	Illegal use of property (excl. motor vehicles)

Note: n.e.c. = not elsewhere classified.

The full list of ANZSOC Groups can be found at
http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/5CE97E870F7A29EDCA2578A200143125/$File/12340_2011.pdf

Differences between Australian and NZ Standards

ANZSOC division 1 (Homicide and Related Offences) is included in the Australian data collection, however it has been excluded from the NZ data collection.

See Chapter 6 below.

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[1] ANZSOC Group is the lowest level of categorical grouping of offences within the ANZSOC offence hierarchy. The ANZSOC hierarchy order is Division, Sub-Division, Group.

[2] n.e.c. = not elsewhere classified

3.10 Age

Description

The age group of the victim at the time the offence was reported to Police. Ages are grouped into five year bands.

Note: The Age data item is not applicable for ANZSOC Division 07 – UNLAWFUL ENTRY WITH INTENT/BURGLARY, BREAK AND ENTER

Classification structure

Age Code	Age / Age Group
0	0 - 4 years inclusive
...	...
75	75 - 79 years inclusive
Any multiple of five indicates a five year range starting at that number, except for 80 which indicates 80 and over.	
80	80 years or over
88	Not Applicable (This can be used where the victim is an Organisation.)
99	Not Specified (includes Unknown and Not Stated/Inadequately Described)

Missing values

This field is set to 99 where the date of birth of the victim is unknown.

Differences between Australian and NZ Standards

The Australian data collection age groups are generally broader than in the NZ data collection. See Chapter 6 below.

In Australia the victim of Motor Vehicle Theft is regarded as the vehicle, so the age in such cases is Not Applicable. In NZ the victim is regarded as the owner of the vehicle, so age is populated accordingly.

3.11 Sex

Description

The biological characteristics of a person are used to classify the sex of a victim. A victim should have the same sex for each of their associated records in the dataset.

Note: The Sex data item is not applicable for ANZSOC Division 07 – UNLAWFUL ENTRY WITH INTENT/BURGLARY, BREAK AND ENTER

Classification Structure

Sex is classified as one of four categories. In addition to 'Male' and 'Female', there is a 'Not Applicable' category for where the victim may be an organisation, and a 'Not Stated/Inadequately Described' category for instances where the "sex" is unknown or indeterminate.

Code	Sex
1	Male
2	Female
3	Not Applicable
9	Not stated / Inadequately described.

Missing values

All missing values for "sex" have a code of 9.

Differences between Australian and NZ Standards

In Australia the victim of Motor Vehicle Theft is regarded as the vehicle, so the sex of the victim in such cases is 3 - Not Applicable. In NZ the victim is regarded as the owner of the vehicle, so sex of the victim is 1, 2, 3 or 9 as appropriate.

3.12 Relationship of Offender to Victim

Description

The Relationship of Offender to Victim (ROV) represents the relationship

- from the perspective of the victim, and

- at the time of the offence, not at the date of apprehension or proceeding.

So, Parent assaults child is recorded as ROV 112 - Parent.

Note: The ROV data item is not applicable for ANZSOC Division 07 – UNLAWFUL ENTRY WITH INTENT/BURGLARY, BREAK AND ENTER.

Classification Structure

The classification contains three levels: ROV Division, ROV Subdivision, and ROV Group. ROV Divisions are the broadest categories in the classification and ROV Groups the most specific.

ROV Division	ROV Sub division	ROV Group	Relationship
1			**KNOWN TO VICTIM**
	10	100	KNOWN TO VICTIM; N.F.D.
	11		FAMILY MEMBER
		110	Family member; n.f.d.
		111	Partner
		112	Parent / Step parent
		113	Child / stepchild
		114	Sibling
		115	Boy / Girlfriend
		118	Parent or Child; undetermined
		119	Other relative n.e.c.
	12		NON FAMILY MEMBER
		120	Non family member; n.f.d.
		121	Ex-Partner
		122	Ex-Boy / Girlfriend
		129	Known to each other n.e.c.
2	20	200	**STRANGER**
4	40	400	**NO OFFENDER IDENTIFIED (NO LINK)**
8	80	800	**NOT APPLICABLE**
9	90	999	**NOT STATED / INADEQUATELY DESCRIBED**

Note: n.f.d. = not further defined; n.e.c. = not elsewhere classified.

Notes

Groups 111 and 121 are used for couples who are, or have been, living together; Groups 115 and 122 are used for couples who are not living together and have not done so in the past. Group 118 is documented in Chapter 6 below.

Missing values

All missing values for ROV Group are set to 999.

Definition of Offender

The definition of an offender is a person apprehended by police for the offence.

Differences between Australian and NZ Standards

In Australia the victim of Motor Vehicle Theft is regarded as the vehicle, so the ROV in such cases is 800 - Not Applicable. In NZ the victim is regarded as the owner of the vehicle, so ROV is populated accordingly.

NZ Police record as an offender any person or organisation that Police apprehend for an offence. In Australia, ROV information is initially recorded as the relationship as perceived by the victim at the time of the offence, with some jurisdictions updating this data item as the investigation progresses.

3.13 Ethnicity

Description

The ethnic group of the victim, where possible self-identified by the victim, as recorded by Police.

Note: The Ethnicity data item is not applicable for ANZSOC Division 07 – UNLAWFUL ENTRY WITH INTENT/BURGLARY, BREAK AND ENTER

Classification Structure

Ethnicity is classified by using one of the categories below.

Values

Code	Ethnicity
11	African
12	Asian
13	European
14	Indian
15	Latin American/Hispanic
16	Maori
17	Middle Eastern
18	Pacific Island
19	Organisation
79	Not Elsewhere Classified
88	Not Applicable
99	Not Stated / Inadequately Described

Missing values

All missing values for Ethnicity are set to 99. This may include both persons and organisations.

Differences between Australian and NZ Standards

This data item appears in the NZ data collection only.

3.14 Outcome of Investigation

Description

The outcome of investigation shows the status of a police investigation at a set time. Data are recorded 7, 30, 90, and 180 days after the date the offence is reported or becomes known to police.

Classification Structure for outcome of investigation

The classification contains two levels: Category and Sub-category, which enable coding to the broad, or more specific level, depending on the amount of detail provided by the data source.

Values

CATEGORY	SUB-CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION
216		**No Crime**
V		**Victimisation**
	1	Investigation not finalised, n.f.d.
	2	Finalised - no offender proceeded against, n.f.d.
	31	Finalised - Court action, n.f.d.
	32	Finalised - Non-court action, n.f.d.

Note: n.f.d. = not further defined.

No crime

This refers to instances where it is clear that the incident did not constitute an offence. That is, a crime report is considered to have no foundation after police investigation, or the informant[1] admits to making a false report, or there is evidence to suggest the informant made a false report.

Victimisation

This refers to instances where either an incident is still under investigation, or the investigation concludes that an offence took place

1 Investigation Not Finalised n.f.d.

This description applies to offences that have not been finalised and where no offender has been proceeded against at the reference date (7, 30, 90, or 180 days after the date the offence is reported or becomes known to police). Outcome 1 indicates that the investigation was still active at the reference date.

2 Investigation Finalised – No Offender Proceeded Against n.f.d.

This applies to those cases where an investigation has been finalised, but no offender has been formally proceeded against. This includes instances where a person is given an informal caution or informal warning, and instances where there is no proceeding due to:

- no offender is identified, or

- because there is not sufficient evidence to pursue prosecution, or

- the circumstances of the alleged offender(s), or

- because police are prevented from pursuing prosecution (eg. for statutory reasons), or

- because the offence could not be verified, or

- police decide not to continue the investigation for any other reason.

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[1] The informant is the person who reported the offence to Police.

31 Finalised - Court Action n.f.d.

This describes a police action against a person to facilitate their court appearance to answer charges, including instances where "Diversion" is subsequently offered.

32 Finalised - Non-Court Action n.f.d.

A police action against a person to finalise an investigation into an alleged offence, not involving facilitation of a court appearance to answer charges. This includes instances where a person is given a formal caution or formal warning.

Missing values

Not applicable.

Differences between Australian and NZ Standards

The Australian data collection reports on outcome of investigation as at 30 days.

3.15 Use of Weapon

Description

This data item provides information on whether the offences committed involved the use, or threat of use, of a weapon.

Classification structure

Two digit code.

Division	Subdivision	Description
1		**WEAPON USED**
	10	Weapon used n.f.d.
	11	Firearm n.f.d.
	12	Sharp weapon n.f.d.
	13	Blunt instrument n.f.d.
	19	Other Weapon
2	**20**	**UNKNOWN**
8	**80**	**NOT APPLICABLE**
9	**99**	**NOT STATED**

Note: n.f.d. = not further defined.

Missing value

All missing values for Use of Weapon have a code of 99.

Differences between Australian and NZ Standards

Certain weapons, such as "Syringe", are recorded in Australia but not routinely in NZ. The NZ classification is designed so that, where practical, the higher level categories (division and subdivision) are comparable between Australia and NZ. See Chapter 6 below.

CHAPTER 4: POPULATION DERIVATION

4.1 Victimisation Population

The victimisation population contains a record for each instance of a person, organisation or premises being victimised for one or more offences; the 'unique victim' population only records each victim once irrespective of how many times they have been victimised during the reference period.

A person, organisation or premises may be recorded as a victim of multiple offences in a single report to police.

For ANZSOC Division 07 (Unlawful Entry With Intent/Burglary, Break and Enter) differs from other types of crime in that the type of location is reported, instead of demographic attributes of victims. This is because in this type of crime the premises is targeted, and many people may reside or work at that premises.

In all other ANZSOC Divisions, the victim is counted as the person or organisation.

Counting rule: For each victim within a criminal incident count the principal offence within each ANZSOC Division.

Rules to derive the principal offence for the victimisation population

- Where a victim is linked to only one offence in a given ANZSOC Division in a criminal incident, that offence is the principal offence.

- Where a victim is linked to multiple offences in a given ANZSOC Division in the criminal incident, one offence is selected as the principal offence.

- The selection of the principal offence is determined by the relative rankings of the offences (coded to the ANZSOC), as assigned by the National Offence Index (NOI). The NOI is applied to all offences processed, and the offence with the highest ranking (i.e. with the ranking closest to 1) is selected as the principal offence.[1]

- If the NOI ranking does not identify a unique principal offence, the tie-breaking rule is to take the offences with the lower ANZSOC group within the highest ranking; then if necessary take the **first** such offence for which Police proceed.

4.2 Unique Victim Population

Counting rule for the unique victim population

The Unique Victim ID uniquely identifies a person, organisation or premises and enables the derivation of the unique victim population for a given reference period. A person organisation or premises may be victimised on different occasions for offences recorded for different criminal incidents during the reference period. All of these data records will have the same Unique ID.

Counting rule:

- For ANZSOC Divisions other than 07 (Unlawful Entry With Intent/Burglary, Break and Enter), count each **person/organisation** once within the reference period in which they are a victim, regardless of how many times they may have been victimised during the reference period.

- For ANZSOC Division 07, count each **premises** once within the reference period in which it was the location of an offence, regardless of how many offences were reported during the reference period.

Rules to derive the unique victim population

To derive the unique victim population, records strings are consolidated to represent a single Victimisation ID by

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[1] Counting only the most serious offence within each ANZSOC division creates greater stability in the data and greater comparability with common international practice; particularly in Australia.

applying the following rules:

- Where there is only one victimisation of a given victim in a given ANZSOC Division in the reference period, the offence of that victimisation is the principal offence.

- Where a given victim was victimised for more than one offence within in a given ANZSOC Division, one offence is selected as the principal offence.

- The selection of the principal offence is determined by the relative rankings of the offences (coded to the ANZSOC), as assigned by the National Offence Index (NOI). The NOI is applied to all offences processed and the offence with the highest ranking (i.e. with the ranking closest to 1) is selected as the principal offence.

- If the NOI ranking does not identify a unique principal offence, the tie-breaking rule is to take the offence(s) with the lower ANZSOC group within the highest ranking; then if necessary take the most recent such offence for which Police proceed.

Note: While some ANZSOC codes do not appear in the NOI, every ANZSOC Group within scope for RCVS has an NOI ranking.

Data items for a Unique ID are the ones associated with the principal offence.

CHAPTER 5: GLOSSARY

Age

> The age of a person at the date the offence was reported to police.

ABS

> Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification (ANZSOC)

> The ANZSOC (previously known as the Australian Standard Offence Classification or ASOC) is a hierarchical classification developed by the ABS for use in the collection and publication of crime and justice statistics. It provides a classificatory framework for the comparison of statistics on offences across Australia. Within the classificatory structure of ANZSOC, Divisions represent the broadest categories of offences. The Subdivision and Group levels provide increasingly detailed dissections of the broad categories. The latest version of ANZSOC was published in 2011 (ABS cat. no. 1234.0), and is used to classify offence data for the RCVS collection.

National Offence Index (NOI)

> The National Offence Index, or NOI, is a seriousness ranking of the ANZSOC codes that is used to determine a principal offence where a person is proceeded against for more than one offence type. Offences are allocated a ranking and the highest ranking offence (i.e. ranking closest to 1) is selected as the principal offence.

Offence

> Any act or omission by a person or persons for which a penalty could be imposed by the legal system. For court methods of proceeding the offence is the charge, as initially recorded by police.

Offender

> A person or organisation Police apprehend because Police allege the person or organisation has perpetrated a criminal incident involving one or more offences.

Outcome of Investigation

> The status of a police investigation at a particular time after an offence is reported to or otherwise becomes known to police. The status is recorded 7, 30, 90, and 180 days after the offence becomes known.

Principal offence

> The offence category, based on the ANZSOC that describes the most serious offence type that a person has been proceeded against by police during the reference period. The Principal offence is determined by the rankings in the NOI. (see Chapter 4)

Reported date

> The date the offence is reported or becomes known to police

Sex

The sex of a person, as recorded by police, is determined by their biological characteristics.

Unique victim population

The measure involving counting a person, organisation or premises once in a given 12 month reference period for each ANZSOC Division in which they are recorded as being a victim of an offence regardless of how many times they may have been victimised.

Victimisation population

The measure involving counting a person, organisation or premises once within each criminal incident for each ANZSOC Division in which they are recorded as being a victim of an offence.

CHAPTER 6: DIFFERENCES IN RCVS BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

This chapter details differences between RCVS in Australia and RCVS in New Zealand. Most of these differences relate to additional information being included in the NZ RCVS.

The counting-rules applied in New Zealand RCVS are identical to those applied in Australia's RCVS. Furthermore, most of the data items in Australia's RCVS are identical to New Zealand RCVS.

This chapter is divided into the following sections:

- 6.1 discusses data items in Australia's RCVS that differ from those in New Zealand RCVS

- 6.2 details additional data items in the New Zealand RCVS statistical collection

- 6.3 details data items in Australia's RCVS that do not appear in New Zealand RCVS

- 6.4 details additional data items in the dataset behind New Zealand RCVS, but that are excluded from the publicly available RCVS collection in order to protect privacy of individuals.

6.1 Differing data items

Location (3.5)
Australia's RCVS classifies Location in greater detail than NZ Police and includes location data for all offences.

Offence (3.9)
ANZSOC division 1 (Homicide and Related Offences) is included in the Australian data collection, however it has been excluded from the NZ data collection. Instead, NZ Police will annually publish a Homicide Victims Report.

Age (3.10)
In the Australian data collection age groups are generally broader than in the NZ data collection. In particular, the Australian collection places all victims aged 65 and over in a single group.

Age / Age Group (Australia)	Age Code	Age / Age Group (NZ)
Not used	0	0 - 4 inclusive
0 - 9 inclusive	09	Not used
Not used	5	5 - 9 inclusive
10-14 inclusive	10	10 - 14 inclusive
15 - 19 inclusive	15	15 - 19 inclusive
20 - 24 inclusive	20	20 - 24 inclusive
25 - 34 inclusive	25	25 - 29 inclusive
Not used	30	30 - 34 inclusive
35 - 44 inclusive	35	35 - 39 inclusive
Not used	40	40 - 44 inclusive
45 - 54 inclusive	45	45 - 49 inclusive
Not used	50	50 - 54 inclusive
55 - 64 inclusive	55	55 - 59 inclusive
Not used	60	60 - 64 inclusive
65 and over	65	65 - 69 inclusive
Not used	70	70 - 74 inclusive
Not used	75	75 - 79 inclusive
Not used	80	80 and over
Not applicable	88	Not applicable

Age / Age Group (Australia)	Age Code	Age / Age Group (NZ)
Not specified / unknown	99	Not specified / unknown

ROV (3.12)
When the relationship "Parent" or "Child" is recorded, the relative ages of the victim and offender are used wherever possible to confirm whether the offender is the victim's parent (ROV Group 112) or the victim's child (113). If the age of one or both is unknown, and thus the relationship cannot be confirmed, ROV Group is set to 118. This Group includes both birth parents and step parents.

Outcome of Investigation (3.14)
The Australian data collection reports on outcome of investigation as at 30 days.

Use of Weapon (3.15)
The following weapons are recorded differently in Australia and NZ:

Description	Australia (Code)	NZ (Subdivision)
Weapon used n.f.d.	1000	10
Firearm including replica	1100	11
Knife	1210	12
Syringe	1220	19
Bottle / Glass	1230	12
Bat/Bar/Club	1240	13
Chemical	1250	19
Sharp instrument n.e.c.	1299	12
Blunt instrument n.f.d.	1299	13
Bludgeon, Cosh, Striking Instrument	1240/1299	13

6.2 Additional data items in NZ RCVS

The following data items are in the NZ RCVS data collection but not the Australian data collection:

Occurrence Day of Week
Occurrence Hour of Day
Police Boundary
Local Government Boundary
Meshblock
Ethnicity
Outcome of Investigation (7, 90 and 180 days)

6.3 Data items not in NZ RCVS

The following data items in the Australian RCVS data collection are not relevant or not recorded in NZ, and so will not appear in the NZ data collection:

State
Indigenous Status

6.4 Data items not publicly disclosed

For reasons of confidentiality, under the Privacy Act 1993, these items are not disclosed in Tier 1 statistics:

Unique Person / Organisation / Premises ID
Name
Date of Birth