

THE STATE OF CRIME AND SAFETY IN THE CITY OF JOBURG

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DEFINITIONS OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF CRIMES

- The South African Police Service (SAPS) regularly publishes statistics on crimes recorded at the 1153 police stations within the country. The crimes include those reported by victims, witnesses or third parties, as well as those detected by the police.
- Crime types are grouped into various broader categories, listed below. These are the types and categories of crimes for which official figures are currently released for public use, and **not** an exhaustive list of all crimes recorded by the police.



**CRIMES DEPENDENT
ON POLICE ACTION
FOR DETECTION**



Illegal possession of firearms and ammunition



Drug-related crimes



Driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs



Sexual offences detected as a result of police action



**COMMUNITY-REPORTED
SERIOUS CRIMES**

CONTACT CRIMES

 Murder, attempted murder, assault with intent to inflict GBH, common assault, sexual offences (rape, sexual assault, attempted sexual offences, contact sexual offences)

 Contact-related crimes (arson, malicious damage to property)

PROPERTY-RELATED CRIMES

 Burglary at residential and non-residential premises

 Stock theft

OTHER SERIOUS CRIMES

 All theft not mentioned elsewhere

 Commercial crime

 Common robbery, robbery with aggravating circumstances (including truck hijacking, bank robbery, cash-in-transit robbery, SAPS-designated priority crimes of carjacking, robbery at residential and at non-residential premises)

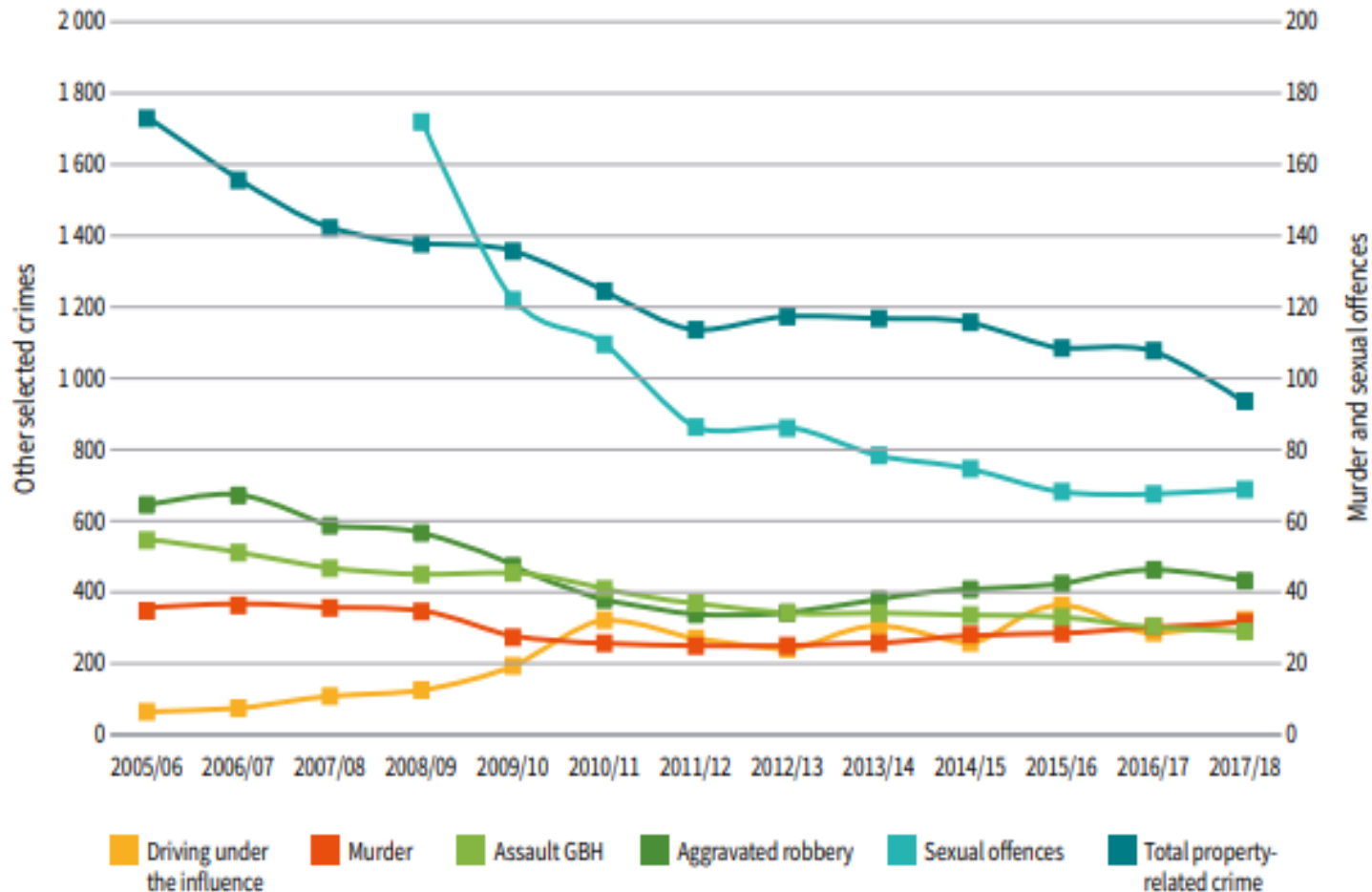
 Theft of motor vehicles and motorcycles

 Theft out of motor vehicles

 Shoplifting

PREVALENCE OF CRIME IN JOBURG

Selected crime rates per 100 000 in Johannesburg, 2005/06-2017/18

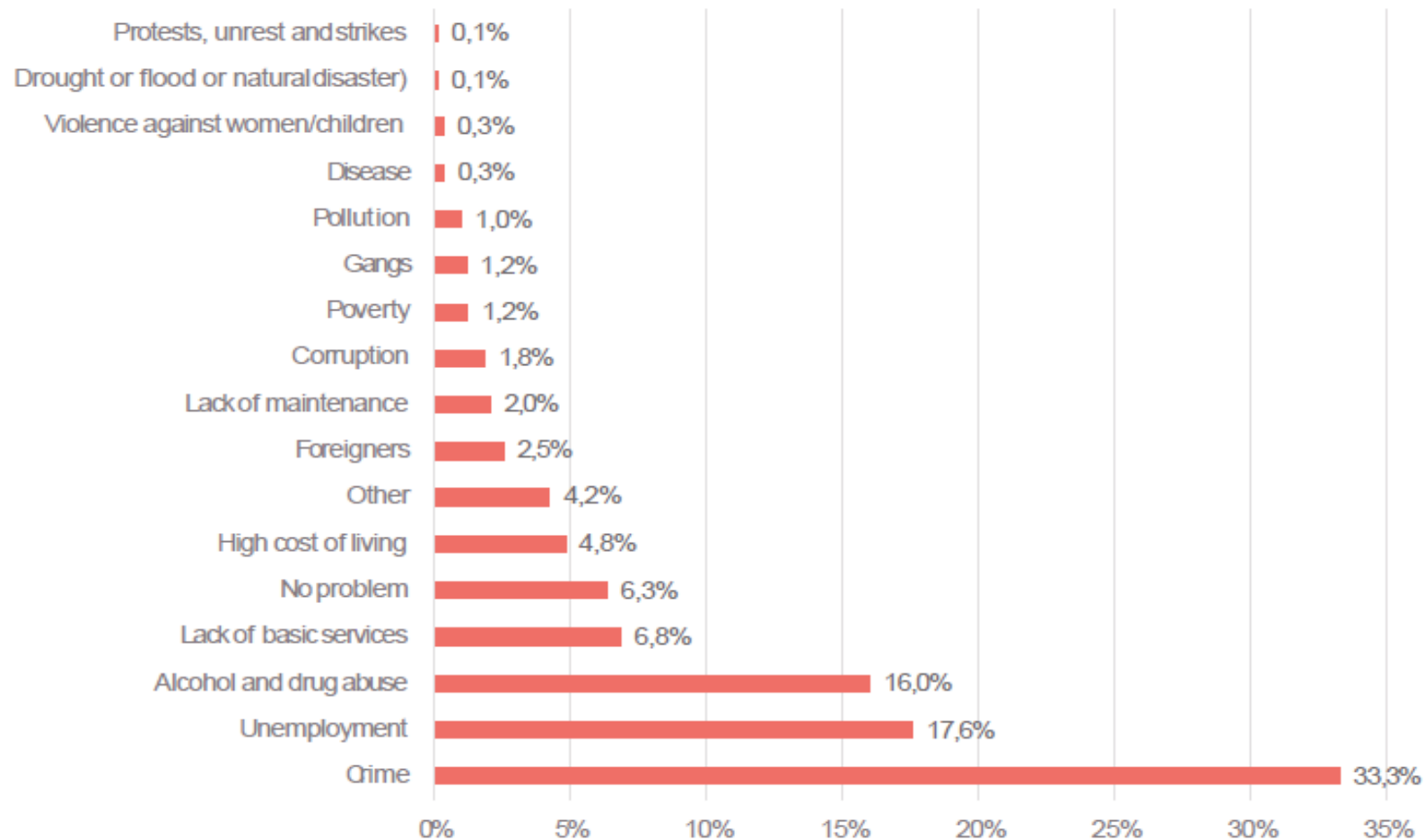


This graph shows the following crime trends in Joburg over the past 13 years:

- Recorded rates of **assault with intent to inflict Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH)** have **decreased** by over 40%.
- Sexual offences** have **decreased** by 60% since 2008/09.
- Non-violent property-related crimes** have also been **declining** fairly steadily, down 34% over the last 10 years and 13% in the last year.
- Aggravated robbery rates** have decreased since 2005/06 but have **increased** by 26% over the last five years, with the exception of 2017/18 which saw a **decrease** of 6%.
- Recorded rates of **driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs** have **fluctuated** but show a strong upward trend, **increasing** by 10% in 2017/18.

PREVALENCE OF CRIME IN JOBURG

According to the GCRO's 2017/18 Quality of Life (QoL V) survey, one of the **biggest community problems** cited by residents in Johannesburg is crime (33%). Despite the official statistics, crime remains a major concern for Johannesburg residents.



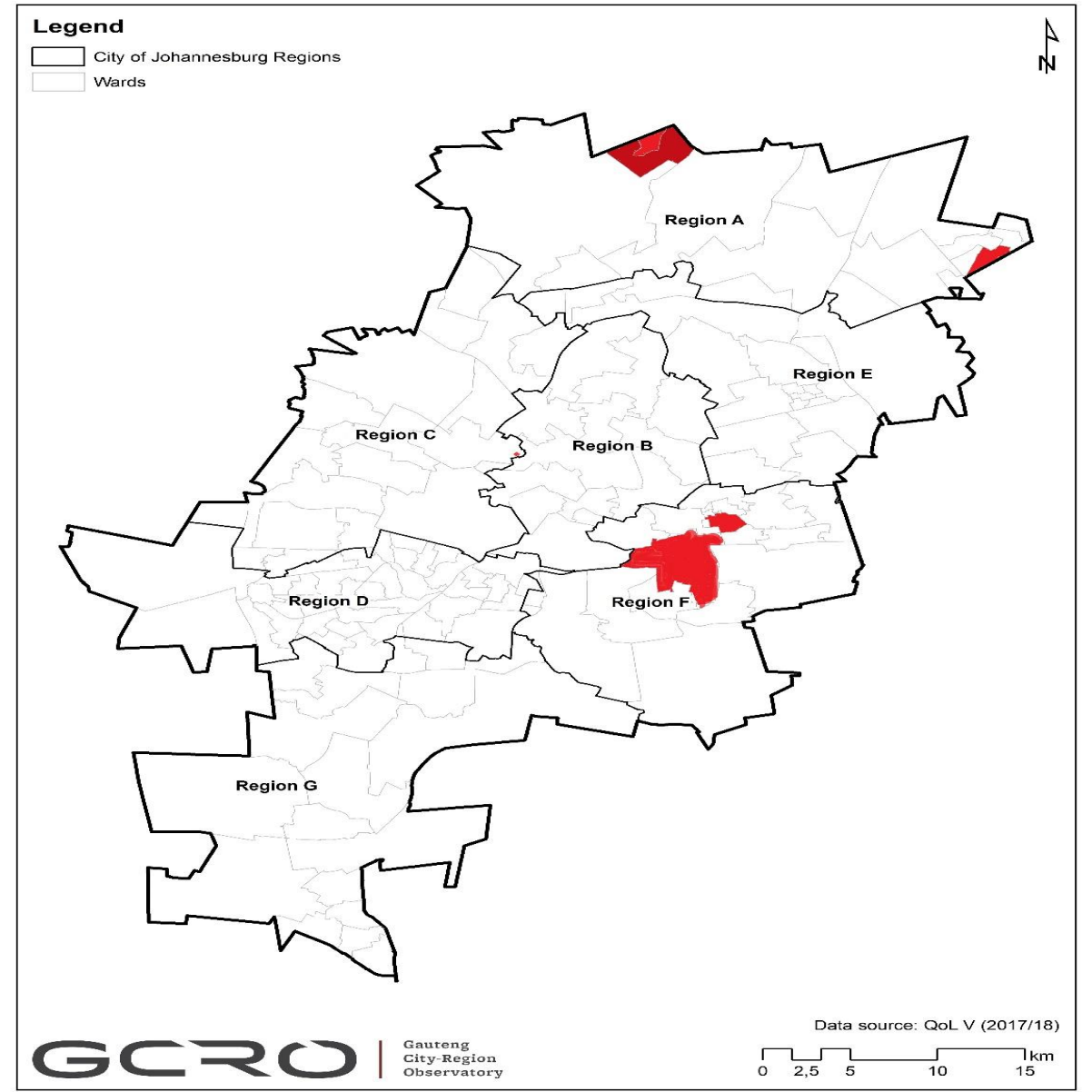
Crime hotspots

The greatest reports of crime being a problem came from **region A (ward 113)** where **52%** of people noted that **crime** was the **biggest problem** facing their community. Most crime hotspots are in **region F**.

Region A comprises the following areas: Diepsloot, Kya Sands, Midrand, Lanseria, Fourways, Dainfern etc.

Region F is made up of the greater inner city as well as Johannesburg South

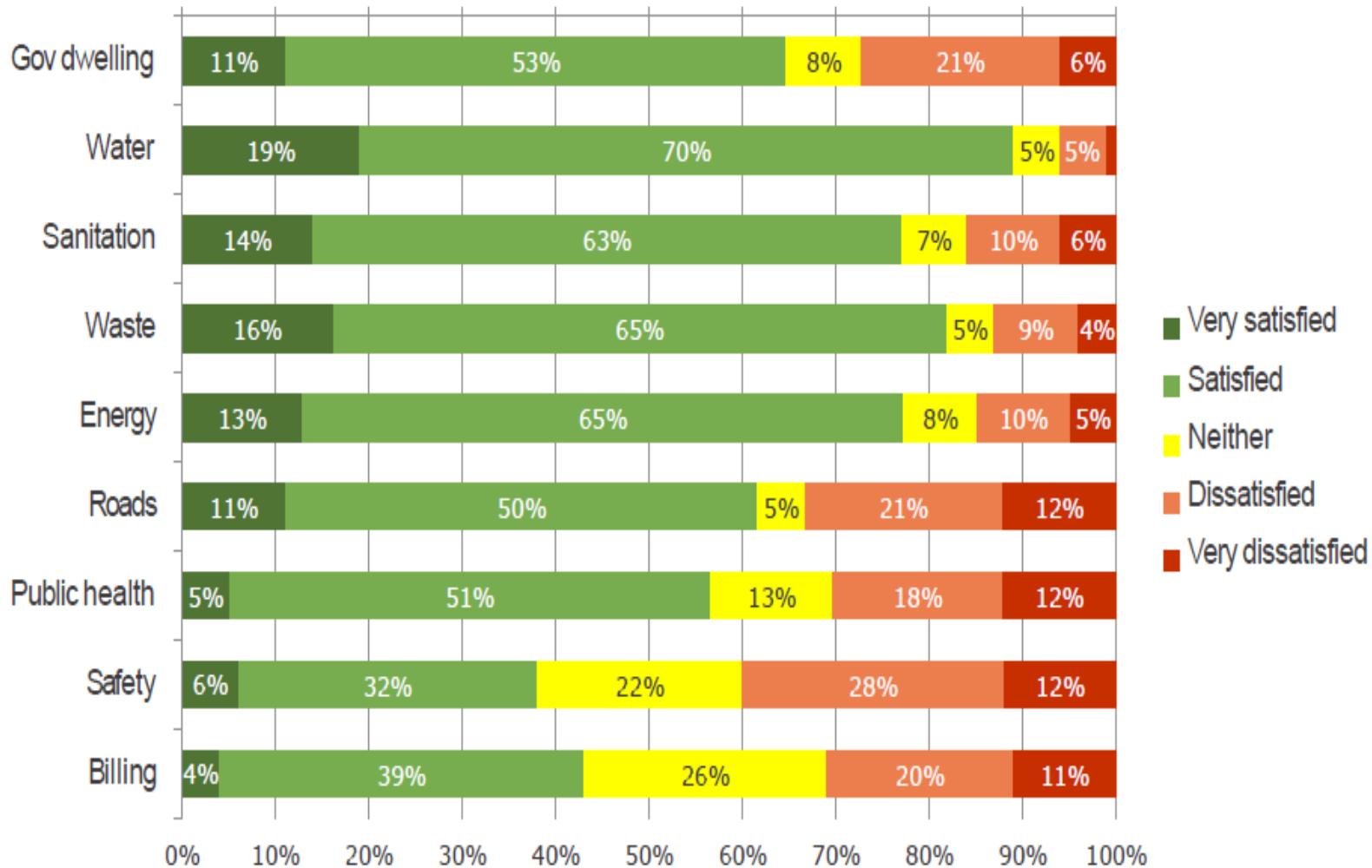
Dissatisfaction with crime and safety is more prevalent in **lower income wards** relative to high income wards.



Crime hotspots

- 44% of Johannesburg residents feel that crime has gotten worse in the last year.
- Of those who feel that crime has gotten worse, the sentiment is concentrated most strongly in region A around Diepsloot (wards 95, 113) and Ivory Park (ward 78); and region F Hillbrow (ward 123) and Johannesburg (ward 124).
- Interestingly, besides being a dissatisfaction hotspot, region A (ward 113), also registered as a hotspot where improvement in policing was perceived. This could indicate that existing crime fighting efforts in this area are seen to be having an impact and should be maintained and strengthened.

THE STATE OF SAFETY IN THE CITY



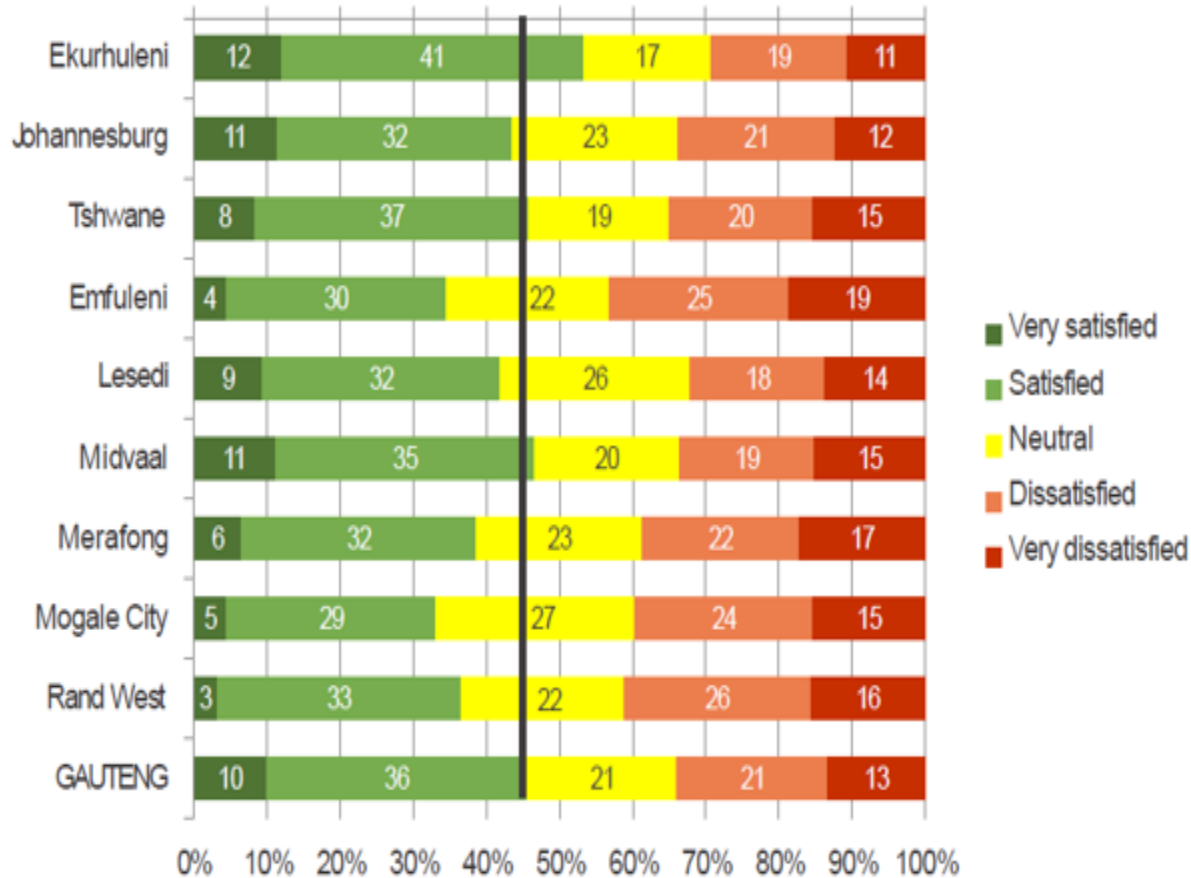
Only **38%** of residents in Johannesburg reported being satisfied with the levels of safety in the city in 2017/18. This is despite the improvement in police roadblock activity and overall police presence in the city (SACN, 2018/19).

This is demonstrated by the increase in satisfaction with metro police as shown in the next slide.

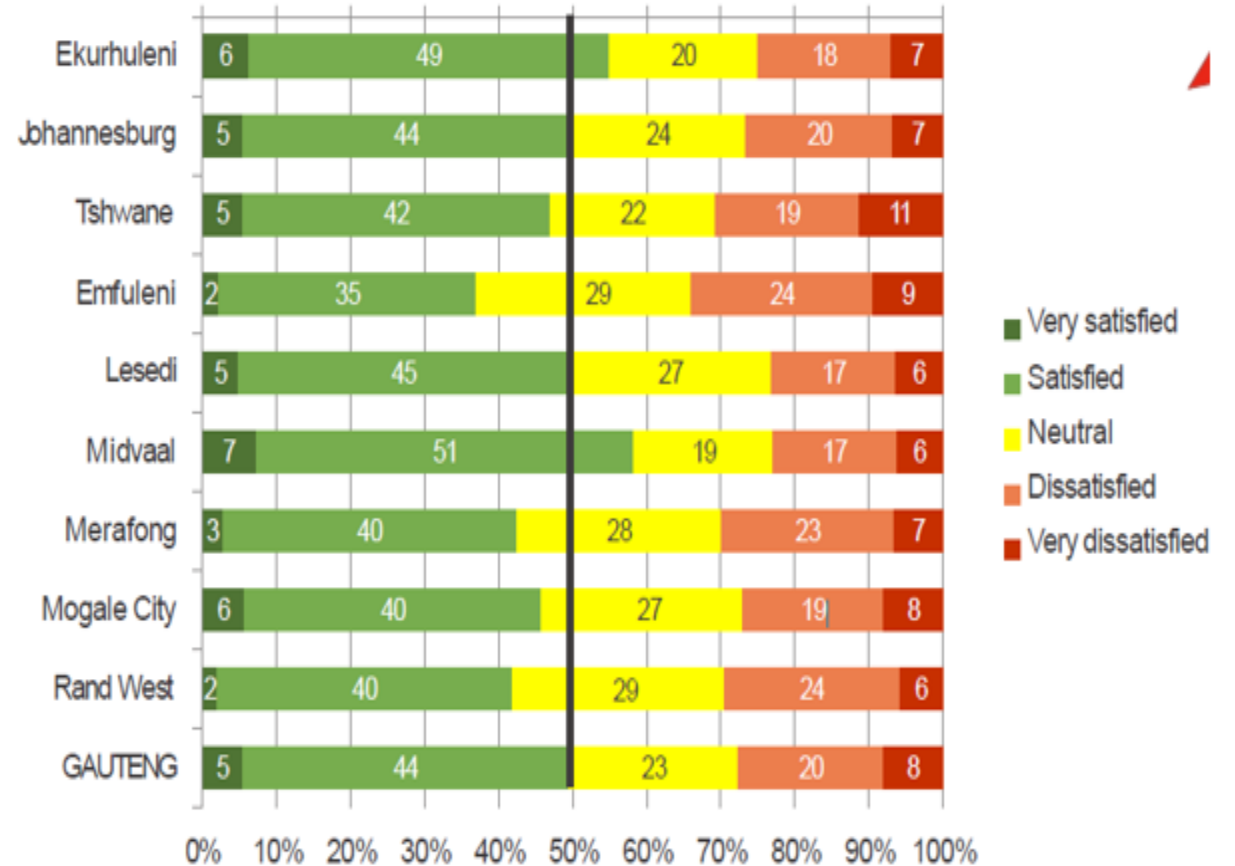
Satisfaction with metro/traffic police

Satisfaction with metro/traffic police in Joburg **increased** from **43%** in 2015/16 to **49%** in 2017/18

Satisfaction with Metro/traffic police in 2015/16



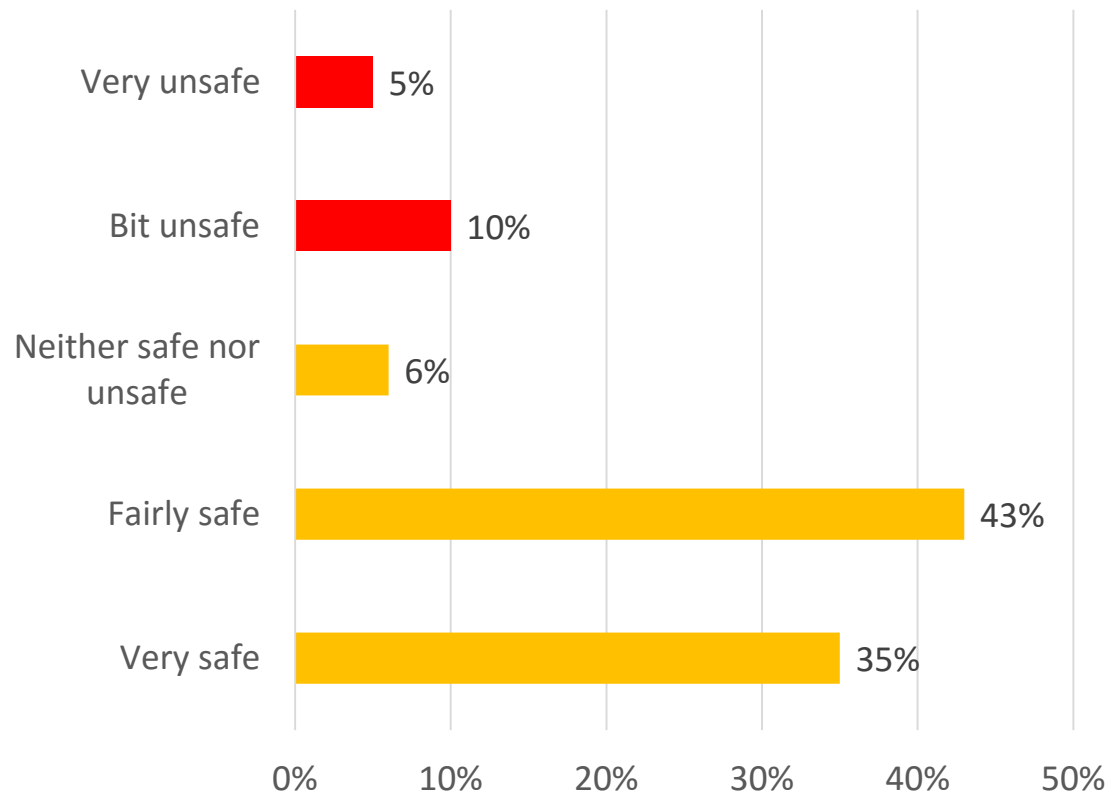
Satisfaction with Metro/traffic police in 2017/18



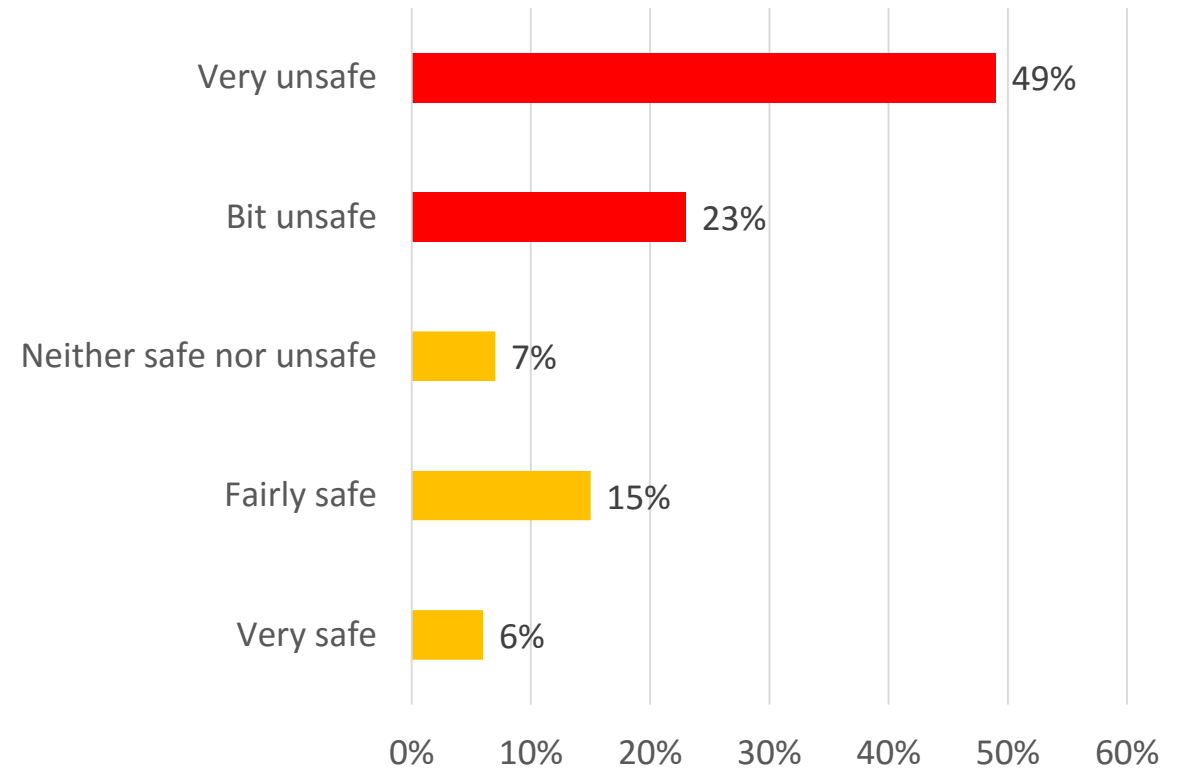
State of safety during the day

The **majority** of Joburg residents feel **unsafe** when walking at **night (72%)**, while only **15%** feel **unsafe** walking during the **day**

% Residents who feel safe walking during the day

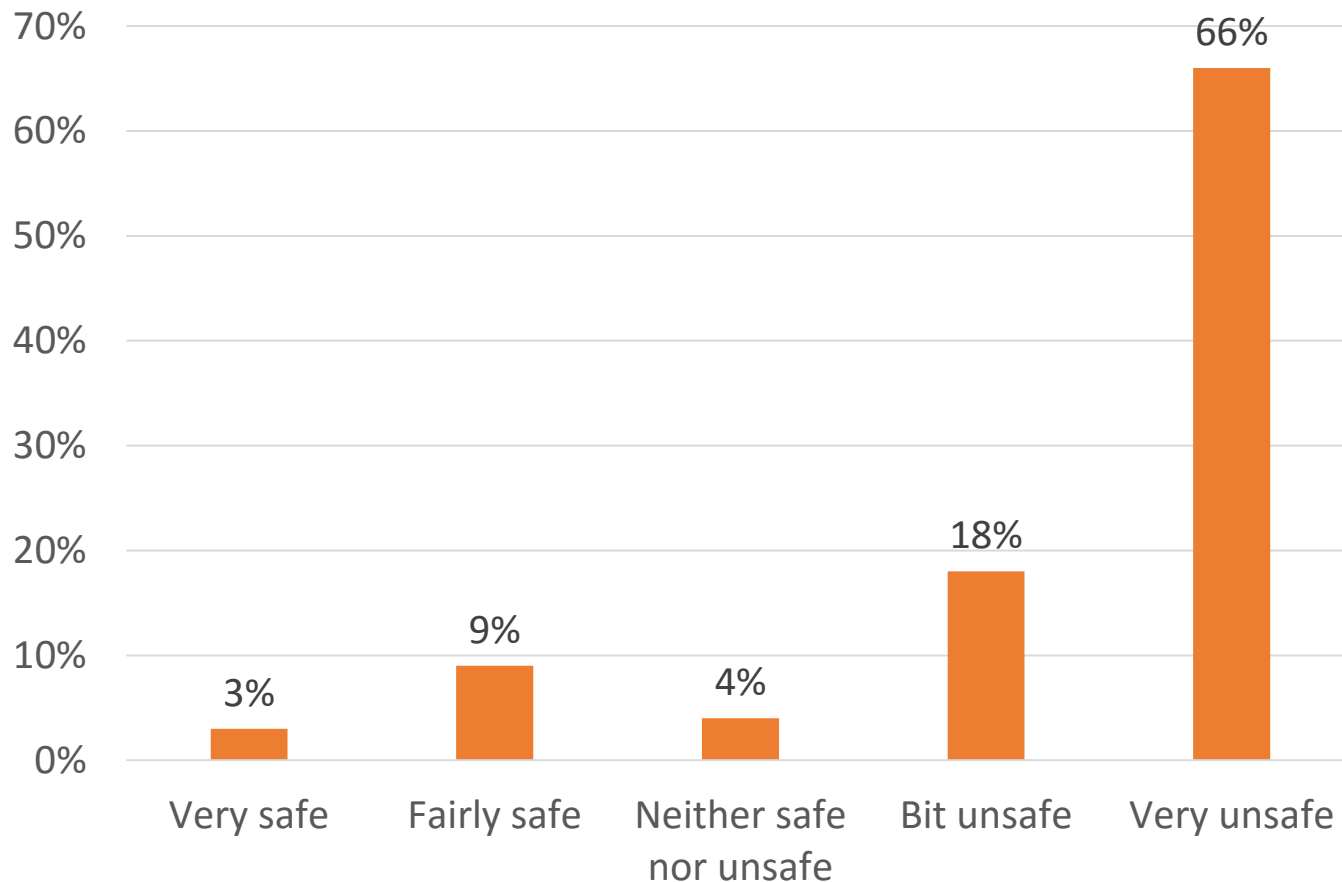


% Residents who feel safe walking during the day



State of safety at night

% Victims of crime that do not feel safe walking at night



- As expected, an alarming majority (**84%**) of Joburg residents that were **victims of crime** in the past year feel **unsafe** walking in the city at night.
- Only 3% of residents that were victims of crime in 2016 reported to feel very safe walking at night.

DRIVERS OF CRIME AND SAFETY CHALLENGES

- According to the SACN's State of Urban Safety in South Africa Report 2018/2019, the main drivers of crime in Joburg can be attributed to the following: Rapid population growth, population density, social incoherence. Income inequality also further exacerbates poverty and crime.
- There is also a high correlation between unemployment and crime. Unemployment means people do not earn an income, and in the absence of income people are more likely to commit crimes in order to obtain income (Gauteng Treasury, Quarterly Bulletin, 2010)
- Education is identified in the literature as another determinant of crime. Empirical evidence suggests that individuals are more likely to engage in criminal activity if they drop out of school before obtaining formal education. Furthermore, the proportion of the prison population with incomplete secondary education is higher than that of the general population (Bhorat, et al. DPRU working paper, 201704).

RECOMMENDATIONS

From the research, it is evident that crime, although moderate compared to other major cities in the country is still a persisting problem. Recommended solutions to the crime challenges in the city include the following:

- Increase the number of metro police officers and visible policing efforts especially in region A (wards 78, 95, 113) and region F (wards 123, 124) where high rates of crime have been identified.
- There is evidence that suggests that bright lighting reduces crime. A solution in this regard would be to ensure all streets are always lit at night in order to deter criminals from engaging in criminal activity.
- Enhance security in the Inner City, for example. A suggestion in this regard would be to install security cameras in high crime hotspot areas. These should be monitored and maintained regularly.
- Of all the cities surveyed in the 2018/19 State of Urban Safety Report, the City of Johannesburg had the highest level of police activity targeting people driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. As a result of this intervention, recorded rates of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs increased by 10% in 2017. This strategy seems to be working and should therefore be maintained.

CONCLUSION

- Between 2005/06–2015/16), the City of Johannesburg has seen major improvement in its objective crime indicators, with a decline in all crime rates except for driving under the influence. Murder rates were down by 12%, sexual offences by 47%, assault GBH by 35%, aggravated robbery by 30% and property-related crime by 33% (SACN, 2017).
- There is also evidence that suggests that compared to the other cities, the City of Johannesburg's crime rates are low to moderate, except for robbery where it ranks second. Therefore, robbery should be a key focus of city crime prevention efforts.
- Despite this, residents' **perception** on crime in the city has gotten worse overtime. There is therefore a need to emphasize improving residents' perceptions and feelings about crime.
- The State of Urban Safety Report (SACN, 2016) highlighted rapid urbanisation as one of the most significant community safety challenge faced by the City of Johannesburg. The City should thus focus much of its policy attention on reducing the negative effects of urbanisation and inequality.