

# Press Release

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SOUTH AFRICAN  
INSTITUTE OF  
RACE RELATIONS

South Africa's Leading Research and Policy Organisation

[www.sairr.org.za](http://www.sairr.org.za)

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## **Over half of crimes go unreported**

Over 3.3 million crimes occur every year but half of them go unreported, according to the latest *South Africa Survey*, published by the South African Institute of Race Relations in Johannesburg.

In 2011 South African households and individuals experienced at least 3.3 million crimes, according to the data obtained from Statistics South Africa (Stats SA). Some 1.7 million, or 52% of total crimes experienced, were not reported to the police in that year.

These figures include 82 000 unreported cases of house robbery and 8 000 unreported car hijackings.

One thousand murder cases went unreported in that year, which is three every day.

'Expenditure on private security rose from R2bn in the 1990s to an estimated R50 billion in 2011, and incidents of vigilantism continue to occur in South Africa's less affluent areas. All these facts taken together signify a lack of confidence in the police by some sections of the population,' said Kerwin Lebone of the Institute's research department.

Unlike information from the South African Police Service (SAPS), which is based on actual cases reported, the Stats SA data is a sample survey of 31 000 private households (including workers' hostels) in all provinces. Mr Lebone said, however, that the victim survey was an important document that complemented the annual SAPS statistics as it captures the extent to which people do not report crime.

**Ends**

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