

The following analysed trends are taken from reading Mandy Wiener's and Barry Bateman's "[Behind the Door – The Oscar Pistorius and Reeva Steenkamp Story](#)". They quote South African crime analyst, Gareth Newman (from the Institute for Security Studies [ISS]), who says the following about the 2012/13 crime statistics (pages 453 to 455). Although this analysis is from five years ago, I believe that it still reflects the current realities of crime in South Africa. Namely, that one's chances of being a victim of violent crime in a middle-class community are quite small, whereas violent crime affects poorer people at a far greater rate. Furthermore, that one's chances of falling victim to residential burglary and robbery is still relatively small in middle income suburbs. Read on.....

"Overall crime has come down, and violent crime has come down by about 25 per cent. Crime in South Africa, as recorded by the South African Police Service (SAPS), peaked in 2002/2003. About 2,1 million crimes were reported to the SAPS – it's dropped to about 1,6 million in the most recent figures. So we've seen quite a big shift."

Wiener and Bateman then go on to summarise ISS data trends, that while overall crime had come down, certain types of crime had increased in frequency. These were housebreaking or burglary, crimes that people feared the most. In actual fact, based on reported incidents, "housebreaking/burglary was the most common crime experienced at least once by 5,4 per cent of the households. It was followed by home robbery (1,5 per cent) and theft of livestock (1,3 per cent). In 2012/13 34,3 households out of 100 000 households fell victim to residential robberies.

In total in 2012/13 there were eight to 10 million houses in South Africa, with about 17 000 house robberies annually. Therefore, the likelihood of being a target was fairly low, although those in wealthy areas were more likely to be targets. In almost 90 per cent of the time the victims were physically unharmed. In about two per cent of the cases, there was a murder and in about four per cent of the cases there was a rape.