Scottish Crime and Justice Survey 2018/19: Main Findings

A National Statistics publication for Scotland

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Comments and suggestions

We are committed to continual improvement and would welcome any comments or suggestions on how the SCJS Main Findings Report could be improved or adapted in future.

If you have enquiries on aspects of the survey development then we welcome your opinions and questions. Please contact the SCJS Project Team via scjs@gov.scot.

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Executive summary

The 2018/19 Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) confirms that Scotland has become a safer place over the last decade or so, following large falls in both the overall level of crime and the likelihood of being a victim of crime since 2008/09. The amount of overall crime has decreased by 20% since 2016/17, though has remained stable compared to the last survey in 2017/18. People were also more likely to feel safe in their communities and less likely to be worried about most types of crime in 2018/19 compared to 2008/09.

This report contains a wide-range of evidence about experiences and perceptions of crime, the police and justice system in Scotland. The summary below outlines some key headline results and trends emerging from the survey, with more detail and context presented in each specific report chapter.

What does the survey tell us about trends in overall crime?

The survey finds the volume of crime in Scotland, including incidents not reported to the police, has fallen by 45% over the last decade or so – from an estimated 1,045,000 incidents in 2008/09 to 573,000 in 2018/19.

The SCJS estimates that the police became aware of 36% of crime in 2018/19, a similar proportion to previous years. However, when examining categories of crime which are comparable across the SCJS and police recorded crime statistics, both show a long-term and sustained decrease in the level of crime experienced in Scotland.

Furthermore, the survey estimates that the number of incidents experienced in 2018/19 was down by 20% compared to 2016/17. This suggests there is no clear evidence yet that the decreasing trend in overall crime, as evidenced by the SCJS over the last decade or so, has ended.

Most adults (87.6%) were not victims of any crime in 2018/19 and victimisation has become less common over the last decade – the proportion of adults experiencing crime decreased from one-in-five (20.4%) to one-in-eight (12.4%) between 2008/09 and the latest year. The SCJS detected no change in the likelihood of being a victim of crime between 2017/18 and 2018/19.

However, despite the large reduction in overall crime in Scotland over the years, victimisation rates continued to vary among the population in 2018/19. For example, the likelihood of experiencing any crime was higher among those living in the 15% most deprived areas and urban areas of Scotland, and lower for those aged 60 and over.

As in previous years, crime was concentrated among victims of multiple victimisation – just under one-in-ten adults (8.9%) experienced one crime in 2018/19, while 3.5% of adults were victims of two or more incidents, accounting for over half (55%) of all crime in the year.

The overall crime victimisation rate produced by the SCJS also enables a broad comparison with the equivalent rate in England and Wales. As with the previous year, adults in Scotland were less likely to have experienced crime than those in England and Wales during 2018/19, with victimisation rates of 12.4% and 14.9% respectively.

What does the survey tell us about violent and property crime?

As in previous years, violent crime (accounting for 29% of all crime) was less common than property crime (71%) in 2018/19, with the long-term decrease in overall crime underpinned by large falls in both categories.

Violent crime

Violent crime has almost halved since 2008/09 (down by 48%), whilst the proportion of adults experiencing any violence has fallen from 4.1% in 2008/09 to 2.2% in 2018/19. This suggests that violent victimisation in Scotland has remained relatively uncommon since 2008/09, and has become an even less prevalent experience over the last decade. The fall in the volume of violent crime over the last decade has been mostly driven by decreases between 2008/09 and 2010/11, with broad stability seen in more recent years.

Consistent with previous years, the majority of violent incidents were cases of minor assault resulting in no or negligible injury (60%), with instances of serious assault (7%) and robbery (3%) remaining relatively uncommon.

There was no difference in the proportion of men and women experiencing violence in 2018/19, but victimisation rates did vary by other characteristics. For example, despite a fall in the violent victimisation rate for 16 to 24 year olds since 2008/09, this group has re-emerged in the 2018/19 survey as the cohort most likely to be victims of violence, in contrast to findings in the last couple of years.

Unlike in previous years, the SCJS detected no difference in the likelihood of experiencing violence in 2018/19 between adults living in the 15% most deprived areas of Scotland and those living elsewhere (3.2% and 2.0%, respectively). As a newly emerged finding for 2018/19, this will be an area to review in future surveys to see if this trend continues.

The concentration of violent crime among repeat victims (those experiencing two or more violent crimes) was also particularly pronounced. Whilst this affected fewer than one-in-every-hundred adults (0.7%), their experiences accounted for three-fifths (60%) of violent crime in 2018/19.

Consistent with previous years, the 2018/19 results show that most violent crimes involved offenders who were male, under the age of 40 and known (or previously seen) by the victim. Offenders being under the influence of alcohol or drugs continued to be fairly common factors in violent crime in 2018/19, though the presence of weapons was relatively uncommon and has fallen since 2010/11 (when this data was first collected in its current format).

Property crime

The proportion of adults experiencing property crime has fallen from 18.0% in 2008/09 to 10.9% in 2018/19, with the estimated number of incidents occurring down by 44% over the same period. Both the volume of property crime and victimisation rate have shown stability since the previous survey in 2017/18.

Vandalism continued to be the most common form of property crime experienced in Scotland (accounting for 38% of incidents) but has more than halved in volume since 2008/09. Personal theft (24%) and other household theft (including bicycle theft) (23%) were the next largest categories.

Similar to overall crime victimisation rates, experiences of property crime in 2018/19 were more common among people living in the 15% most deprived areas and urban locations, whilst people aged 60 and over were least likely to be victims. Females (12.1%) were more likely than males (9.8%) to have been victims of property crime in 2018/19, the first time such a difference by gender has been detected by the survey. Again, as a newly-emerged finding, this will be an area to monitor in the coming years.

What does the survey tell us about perceptions of the police and justice system?

Perceptions of the police

The majority of adults (56%) said the police in their local area do an excellent or good job. This figure has been stable in the last few years, but has fallen from 61% in 2012/13. Victims of crime and those living in the 15% most deprived areas were less likely to feel this way about the police than comparator groups.

The survey also looks at attitudes towards and experiences of more specific elements of policing, covering a variety of issues. For example, the 2018/19 results show that adults were generally confident in the ability of the local police to take forward different aspects of police activity covered in the survey.

The proportion of adults aware of the police regularly patrolling their area has fallen from 56% in 2012/13 to 38% in 2018/19. However, questions on perceptions of community engagement and fairness find that people generally hold favourable views on the approach of the police in their local area.

Perceptions of the justice system

Consistent with previous years, the majority of adults knew little about the criminal justice system but were fairly confident about its operation. For example, three-quarters (76%) of adults were confident that it allows those accused of crimes to get a fair trial regardless of who they are, with the same proportion confident that it makes sure everyone has access to the justice system if they need it. However, adults were less confident on other measures, for example, 37% were confident that it gives sentences which fit the crime, with 58% saying they were not confident.

What does the survey tell us about perceptions of crime and safety?

Just under three-quarters of respondents thought that the local crime rate had stayed the same or reduced in the two years prior to interview (73%), up from 69% in 2008/09 and unchanged from last year.

People were more likely to feel safe in their communities than they were a decade ago – the proportions reporting feeling safe when walking alone in their local area or on their own at home during the night were higher in 2018/19 than in 2008/09.

Despite general improvements in perceptions of crime and feelings of safety since 2008/09, differences remain in the population. For example, women, people in deprived areas and victims of crime were less likely to feel safe, more likely to be worried about specific types of crime, and more likely to think they would experience crime in the coming year.

What is new in the 2018/19 SCJS?

This year's SCJS also includes analysis of new questions on cyber fraud and computer misuse, providing information on people's experiences of these types of crime. Whilst findings should be interpreted with a degree of caution due to the limited nature of the questions and how respondents may have engaged with them, the initial results suggest that cyber fraud and computer misuse were issues encountered by a sizeable minority of the population in 2018/19, and that most people did not bring such experiences to the attention of the police.

Summary infographics

Key findings from SCJS 2018/19 on

Overview of crime in Scotland

The total number of crimes is estimated to have fallen by over two fifths since 2008/09, though showing no change since 2017/18.

Similarly, the proportion of adults experiencing crime has fallen from around one in five in 2008/09 to one-in-eight in 2018/19.

The likelihood of experiencing crime in 2018/19 was higher for those in urban areas and those in the most deprived areas, with those aged 60 and over least likely to be victims.

A small number of victims experienced a high proportion of all crime. The 3.5% of adults who are multiple victims experienced just over half of all crime.

573,000
Crimes were experienced by adults in Scotland in 2018/19

↓ **45%**
decrease in overall level of crime experienced in Scotland since 2008/09

12.4%
of adults experienced crime in 2018/19

↓ **8** percentage point
decrease of adults experiencing crime in Scotland since 2008/09

▶ **How much crime was there?**

Incidents of crime (000's)

- - - Lower estimate ——— Best estimate – – – Upper estimate
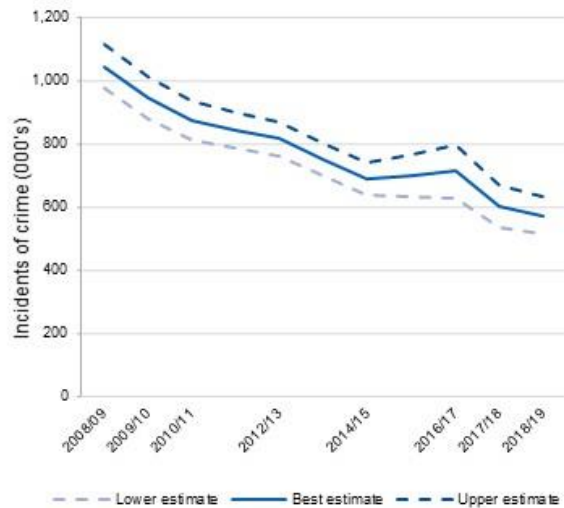
▶ **What type of crime was experienced?**

71%
PROPERTY CRIME

Of all property crime, **vandalism** (38%), **personal theft** (24%), **other household theft** (23%), **motor vehicle theft** (9%) and **housebreaking** (6%).

29%
VIOLENT CRIME

Of all violent crime, the majority was **minor assault with no /negligible injury** (60%).

Other violent crime comprises **minor assault with injury** (22%), **attempted assault** (8%), **serious assault** (7%) and **robbery** (3%).

36% of crimes were reported to the police

Justice Analytical Services

▶ **A small number of victims experienced a high proportion of all crime.**

No crime: 87.6% / 0%
One crime: 8.9% / 45%
Two (+) crimes: 3.5% / 55%

■ % of adult population
▨ % of all SCJS crimes
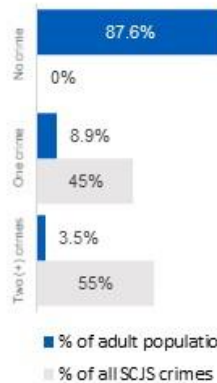
No Crime: **Most adults did not experience any crime** in 2018/19.

One Crime: **8.9% of adults experienced one crime**, corresponding to over two fifths of all crime in 2018/19.

Two (+) Crimes: **3.5% of adults experienced two or more crimes.** These victims experienced over half of all crime in 2018/19. However this rate of multiple victimisation has more than halved from 8.2% in 2008/09.

▶ **12.4%** of adults experienced crime. This rate varied across the population.

60+
Those aged 60 and over were less likely than other age groups to experience crime

People living in the most deprived areas were more likely than those living elsewhere in Scotland to experience crime

People living in urban areas were more likely than those living in rural areas to experience crime

No difference between men and women in likelihood of experiencing crime

Focus on violent crime

The total number of violent crimes is estimated to have fallen by almost half since 2008/09, mostly driven by decreases between 2008/09 and 2010/11, but has been more stable in recent years.

The proportion of adults experiencing violent crime has fallen since 2008/09.

The majority of violent crimes were minor assault with no or negligible injury (60%). Other violent crime comprises minor assault with injury (22%), attempted assault (8%), serious assault (7%) and robbery (3%).

Experiences varied across the population with 0.7% of adults experiencing three-fifths of violent crime.

165,000
Violent crimes were experienced by adults in Scotland in 2018/19

↓ **48%**
decrease in violent crimes in Scotland since 2008/09, but no change since 2017/18

2.2%
of adults experienced violent crime in 2018/19

↓ **1.9** percentage point decrease in adults experiencing violent crime in Scotland since 2008/09 but no change since 2017/18

▶ **How much violent crime was there?**

- - - Upper estimate   —— Best estimate   - - - Lower estimate
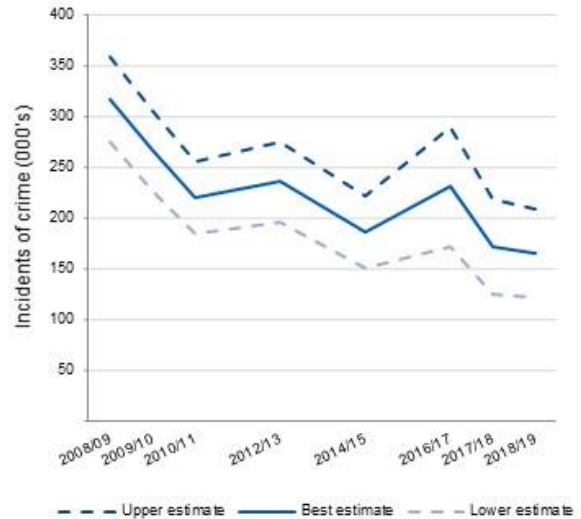
Facts about VIOLENT CRIME in 2018/19

Around half of violent crimes took place in public settings *(46%)*

Almost four-in-five violent crimes were committed by male offenders *(79%)*

Offenders were believed to be under the influence of alcohol in three-in-five violent crimes *(59%)*

Violent crime in 2018/19 did not commonly involve the presence or use of weapons *(13%)*

40% of violent crimes were reported to the police

▶ **A small number of victims experienced a high proportion of violent crime**

■ % of adult population
■ % of all SCJS crimes

No Crime: **Most adults did not experience any violent crime** in 2018/19.

One Crime: **1.5% of the population experienced one violent crime,** corresponding to two-fifths of all violent crime in 2018/19.

Two (+) Crimes: **0.7% of adults experienced two or more violent crimes. These victims experienced three-fifths of all violent crime** in 2018/19. However this rate of repeat victimisation has fallen from 1.6% in 2008/09.

▶ **2.2%** of adults experienced violent crime. This rate varied across age groups.

60+

People aged 60 and over were less likely than other age groups to experience violent crime

No difference between men and women in likelihood of experiencing violent crime

No difference between those living in the most deprived areas and elsewhere in Scotland in likelihood of experiencing violent crime

No difference between urban and rural areas in likelihood of experiencing violent crime

Justice Analytical Services

Focus on property crime

The total number of property crimes is estimated to have fallen by over two-fifths since 2008/09, but is unchanged since 2017/18.

The proportion of adults experiencing property crime fell from 18.0% in 2008/09 to 10.9% in 2018/19.

The most common types of property crimes were vandalism, personal theft, and other household theft.

A small number of victims experienced a high proportion of property crime. The 2.5% of adults who were repeat victims experienced 45% of all property crime.

408,000
Property crimes were experienced by adults in Scotland in 2018/19

↓44%
decrease in property crime experienced in Scotland since 2008/09, but no change since 2017/18

10.9%
of adults experienced property crime in 2018/19

↓7.1 percentage point decrease in adults experiencing property crime in Scotland since 2008/09

▶ **How much property crime was there?**

- - - Upper estimate ——— Best estimate — - — Lower estimate
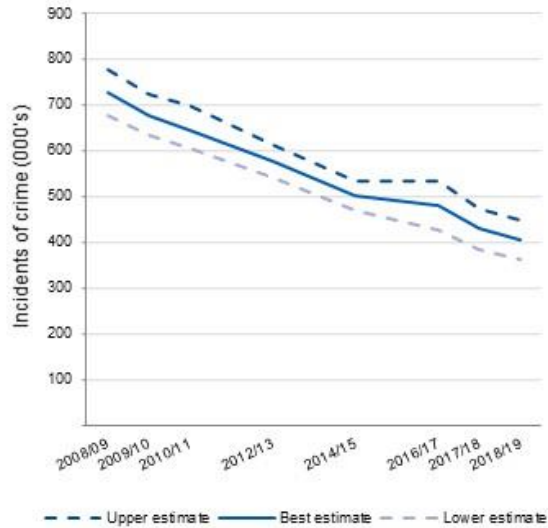
PROPERTY CRIME in 2018/19

38%
Vandalism

24%
Personal theft

23%
Other Household theft (including bicycle)

9%
Motor vehicle related theft

6%
Housebreaking

34% of crimes were reported to the police

▶ **A small number of victims experienced a high proportion of property crime.**

89.1% No crime
0%

8.3% One crime
55%

2.5% Two (+) crimes
45%

■ % of adult population
▨ % of all SCJS crimes
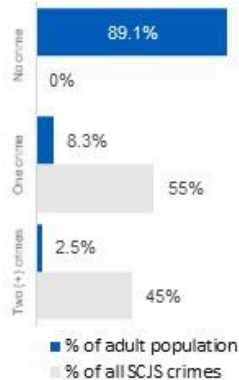
No Crime: Most adults did not experience any property crime in 2018/19.

One Crime: 8.3% of adults experienced one property crime, corresponding to over half of all property crime in 2018/19.

Two (+) Crimes: 2.5% of adults experienced two or more property crimes. These victims experienced 45% of all property crime in 2018/19. However this rate of repeat victimisation has more than halved from 6.4% in 2008/09.

▶ **10.9%** of adults experienced property crime. This rate varied across the population.

60+

Women were more **likely** than men to experience property crime

People aged 60 and over were less **likely** than other age groups to experience property crime

People living in the most deprived areas were more likely than those living elsewhere in Scotland to experience property crime

People living in urban areas were more likely than those living in rural areas to experience property crime

Justice Analytical Services

Public perceptions of the police

The majority of adults in Scotland (56%) believed the police in their local area were doing an excellent or good job in 2018/19 (unchanged from 2017/18 but down from 61% in 2012/13)

How confident were people in the ability of the police?

► **Adults were generally confident in the police across a range of different aspects of policing**

► **The proportion of adults confident in each of these aspects has increased since 2008/09**

► **Proportion of adults who strongly / tend to agree that:**

Prevent crime
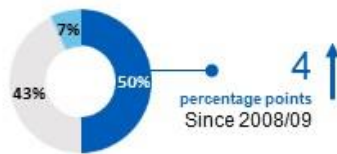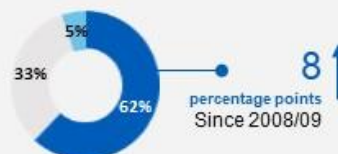
7%
43%
50%

4 ↑
percentage points
Since 2008/09

Respond quickly

5%
33%
62%

8 ↑
percentage points
Since 2008/09

Deal with incidents

5%
30%
65%

7 ↑
percentage points
Since 2008/09

Investigate incidents

7%
24%
70%

6 ↑
percentage points
Since 2008/09

Solve crimes

10%
29%
63%

6 ↑
percentage points
Since 2008/09

Catch criminals

8%
33%
60%

5 ↑
percentage points
Since 2008/09

Very / fairly confident ●   Not very/not at all confident ○   Don't know ●

The police in this area would treat you with respect if you had contact with them for any reason
87%

Police in this area can be relied on to be there when you need them
63%

The police in this area treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are
62%

The police in this area listen to the concerns of local people
50%

Overall, people have a lot of confidence in the police in this area
42%

Community relations with the police in this local area are poor
24%

Police in this area are not dealing with the things that matter to people in this community
22%
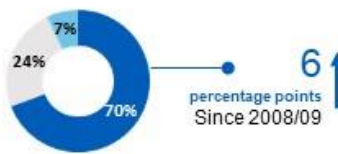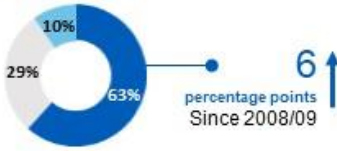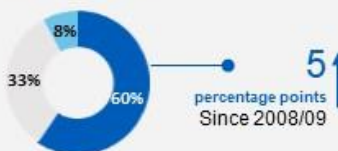
► **Victims of crime and those living in the 15% most deprived areas were less likely than non-victims and those living in the rest of Scotland to say the police were doing an excellent or good job.**

Victim status

■ Victims of crime — 50%
■ Non-victims — 56%

Area deprivation

■ 15% most deprived areas of Scotland — 50%
■ Rest of Scotland — 57%

Justice Analytical Services

Public perceptions of crime

Perceptions of local/national crime rate

LOCAL CRIME

73%

Thought the local crime rate had **stayed the same or reduced**

↑ **4 percentage points** since 2008/09

↔ **No change** since 2017/18

22%

thought that the local crime rate had **increased**

NATIONAL CRIME

44%

Thought that the national crime rate **stayed the same or reduced**

↑ **4 percentage points** since 2009/10

↓ **4 percentage points** since 2017/18

46%

thought that the national crime rate had **increased**

► **Fear of crime**

78%

Of adults felt safe walking alone after dark

↑ **12 percentage points** Since 2008/09   ↔ **No change** Since 2017/18

70% of **victims of crime** felt safe walking alone after dark

64% of **people living in the most deprived areas** felt safe walking alone after dark

66% 👤   **89%** 👤

Females were less likely than males to feel safe walking alone after dark

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► **Of a range of crimes asked about, people were most commonly worried about fraud.**

50%

Of adults were worried that someone would use their credit card or bank details

41%

Of adults were worried that their identity would be stolen

► **Across a range of crimes, a greater proportion of adults thought that they were likely to experience crime (over the next year) than the proportion who were actually victims in 2018/19.**

| | You will be mugged or robbed | Your home will be broken into | You will be physically assaulted or attacked in a public place | Your home will be damaged by vandals |

■ Proportion who thought they were likely to experience crime in the next year

■ Proportion who did experience crime in 2018/19

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14
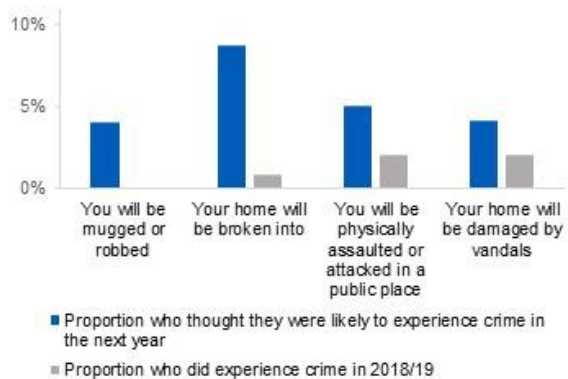
1. Introduction and background to the SCJS

What is the SCJS and what purpose does it serve?

The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) is a large-scale social survey which asks people about their experiences and perceptions of crime. It is completed face-to-face in the homes of respondents, with sections on more sensitive topics completed by the respondent themselves using the interviewer's laptop or tablet as part of the main interview.

This report presents the results for the eighth SCJS, with interviews conducted between April 2018 and May 2019. The 2018/19 survey is based on around 5,500 face-to-face interviews with adults (aged 16 or over) living in private households in Scotland.

The main aims of the SCJS are to:

- enable the Scottish population to tell us about their experiences of, and attitudes to, a range of issues related to crime, policing and the justice system; including crime not reported to the police

- provide a valid and reliable measure of adults' experience of crime, including services provided to victims of crime

- examine trends over time in the number and nature of crimes in Scotland, providing a complementary measure of crime to police recorded crime statistics

- examine the varying risk and characteristics of crime for different groups of adults in the population

Findings from crime surveys in Scotland have been used by policy makers across the public sector, academia and third sector to help understand the nature of crime in Scotland, target resources and monitor the impact of initiatives since the 1980s. The results of this survey provide evidence to inform progress against the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework (NPF)[1] and a range of other metrics used across the justice system.

What do I need to know when reading this report?

Detailed information about the history, design and methodology of the SCJS is provided in the accompanying Technical Report to help you understand the strengths and limitations of the survey's results. Annex D also provides guidance on how to interpret the charts and tables contained in this report. The sections below provide summary information on: the background to the SCJS, the reliability of survey estimates and how uncertainty around results is explained, as well as an overview of the content of this report and other SCJS supporting outputs.

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[1] The framework measures Scotland's progress against the National Outcomes. To do this, it uses 'National Indicators'. The SCJS informs three National Indicators: Crime victimisation, Perceptions of local crime rate and Access to justice.

Who is included and what does the SCJS cover?

The SCJS does not aim to provide an absolute estimate for all crime and has some notable exclusions.

▸ **Who takes part in the survey?**	around **5,500** adults *(aged 16 & over)*	In private households (incl rented accomodation)	Across Scotland
▸ **Who does not take part in the survey**	Children	Those living in group, residences, institutions or those without a fixed address	Commercial or public sector bodies

The SCJS is a survey of adults living in private residential households (including private and social rented housing) and therefore does not provide information on crimes against adults living in other circumstances (for example tourists and those living in institutions or communal residences, such as prisons or hospitals, military bases and student accommodation). The survey also excludes people under the age of 16 and crimes against businesses. Further details on the sampling approach is outlined in the accompanying Technical Report.

The SCJS is primarily a victimisation survey which captures information on adults' experiences of violent crime and property crime, including those not reported to the police. However, it does not capture data on all crimes – for example, crimes with no direct or specific victim to interview (e.g. speeding, drug possession and homicide). Experiences of sexual offences are not included in the main estimates and are instead collected in the self-completion section and reported separately.

What is covered by the survey

▶ Experiences of being a victim of:

Violent Crime
Including:
• Assault
• Robbery

Property Crime
Including:
• Vandalism
• Personal theft
• Other household theft

What is not covered by the survey

• Crime without a specific victim (e.g. drug possession, speeding)
• Crimes against business (e.g.shoplifting)
• Crime without a victim to interview (e.g.homicide)

▶ Public perceptions of:

Crime

The Police

The Justice system

Respondents also self-complete a questionnaire that covers drug use, partner abuse, sexual victimisation & stalking

Throughout the report, the term 'crime' is used to refer to any in-scope incident recorded by the survey, occurring during the interview reference period and in Scotland, in which the respondent or their household as a whole was the victim.

The survey also explores perceptions of the police, the justice system and safety in Scotland.

How is the survey delivered?

1 A sample of households are randomly selected.

2 An interviewer visits the respondent's home.

3 Participation is voluntary, but is important in helping us make representative estimates for Scotland.

4 Interviews last approximately 40 minutes.

5 The main survey questions are answered verbally and the interviewer inputs information into a computer.

6 An additional section on sensitive issues (such as drug use) is completed privately on a tablet computer.

The design of the 2018/19 SCJS was broadly similar to the approach used since 2008/09. Therefore, when examining changes over time, this report generally compares the latest findings to those in 2008/09 and the last SCJS in 2017/18.

Other summary points to note on the methodology are outlined below.

- **Survey frequency:** Since 2008/09 the frequency of the SCJS has varied a little. In 2016/17, the SCJS reverted to being conducted on an annual basis. The 2018/19 SCJS is the latest annual survey.

- **Sample:** The sample is designed to be representative of all private residential households across Scotland. A systematic random selection of private residential addresses was produced from the Royal Mail's Postcode Address File (PAF) and allocated in batches to interviewers. Interviewers called at each address and then

selected one adult (aged 16 or over) at random from the household members for interview.

- **Questionnaire:** The questionnaire consists of a modular design completed by the interviewer using Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) and a self-completion section covering sensitive crimes using Computer-Assisted Self Interviewing (CASI). Annex C gives an overview of the questionnaire structure and general topics, and the most recent questionnaire is available on the SCJS website.

- **Fieldwork:** Interviews were conducted on a rolling basis between April 2018 and May 2019, with roughly an equal number of interviews conducted across most months.

- **Interviews:** 5,537 face-to-face interviews were conducted in respondents' homes by professional interviewers from an original target of 6,000. The achieved response rate was 63.4%, against a target of 68%. This was similar to the achieved response rate in 2016/17 (63.2%) and 2017/18 (62.4%), but lower than the 67.7% achieved in 2012/13.

- **Interview Length:** An average interview lasted around 40 minutes, though there was variation in interview length, depending on the respondent's reported experience of crime.

- **Time period covered:** Respondents were asked about incidents experienced in the 12 months prior to the month of interview (the reference period). The time period covered by the data on experiences of crime included in this report extends over 25 months (from the start of April 2017 to the end of April 2019) so is not directly comparable with any calendar year.

- **Weighting:** The results obtained were weighted to correct for the unequal probability of selection for interview caused by the sample design and for differences in the level of response among groups of individuals.

Further information about the design and methodology is contained in the accompanying Technical Report.

How reliable are SCJS results?

The SCJS gathers information from a sample rather than from the whole population and, although the sample is designed carefully, survey results are always estimates, not precise figures. This means that the results are subject to a margin of error which can have an impact on how changes in the numbers should be interpreted, especially in the short-term.

To indicate the extent of uncertainty, this report presents key results on the extent and prevalence of crime using both best estimates and lower/upper estimates. The best estimate is the mean figure drawn from the sample. The lower and upper estimates are for the 95% confidence interval. Aside from these key findings, the majority of the analysis provided in the report focuses on best estimates.

Because of sampling variation, changes in reported estimates between survey years or between population sub-groups may occur by chance. We therefore use standard statistical tests to examine whether differences are likely to be due to chance. Only differences that are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level are described as differences or changes within this report.

Where no statistically significant change has been found between two estimates, this has been described as showing 'no change' (or equivalent). The presentation of uncertainty and change in this report reflect best practice guidance produced by the Government Statistical Service (GSS)[2].

Uncertainty can be particularly high around some crime incidence estimates, often where experiences are less common and incident numbers are derived from the experiences of a relatively small number of victims in the sample. We assessed the uncertainty for crime incidence figures in this report by computing the relative standard error (RSE) around the results and have flagged results which have RSE values greater than 20%[3]. We recommend that such results are used with caution.

What findings are included in this report and where can I access additional results?

The report is split into sections which focus on presenting data for the majority of topics covered by the survey questionnaire including: the extent, prevalence and nature of crime in Scotland; perceptions of the police and justice system; and consideration of how evidence from the SCJS compares to and complements police recorded crime statistics in Scotland. The report does not include in-depth, multivariate statistical analysis that would explore the more complex underlying relationships within the data.

This report contains a range of demonstration tables and charts within the body of each chapter. Further information on how to interpret charts, tables and data presented in this report is provided in Annex D. Many of these tables and charts include breakdowns by respondent characteristics such as age, gender, deprivation, urban/rural and victim status. Further detail on many of these tables, for example with additional breakdowns, and full time series results, are provided in the data tables presented in Annex A.

We have also released a more comprehensive set of SCJS data tables alongside this report which present further breakdowns of results, from a wide range of survey questions, by geographic, demographic, attitudinal or experiential characteristics of respondents.

The raw survey data files and survey documentation will be available soon after publication of this report from the UK Data Service.

Data collected by the self-completion element of the SCJS (on drug use, stalking and harassment, partner abuse and sexual victimisation) is collated over two survey years and published biennially. Key findings on each of the self-completion topics from SCJS interviews conducted in 2016/17 and 2017/18 can be found in the 2017/18 Main Findings Report. Supporting data tables have also been published to provide additional findings from these questionnaire sections. Key findings on each of the self-completion topics will next be available in the 2019/20 Main Findings Report.

SCJS results provided to Police Division level are available biennially (as they have been since 2012/13), with two survey years' worth of data combined to increase the sample size and precision around results with effect from 2016/17. Key results at Police Division level covering the period 2016/17 – 2017/18 are available alongside the 2017/18 Main Findings

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[2] GSS (2018) Communicating quality, uncertainty and change: Guidance for producers of official statistics

[3] The relative standard error is equal to the standard error of a survey estimate divided by the survey estimate, multiplied by 100. For more information, see the Technical Report.

Report[4]. Findings released include perceptions of the police, as well as wider SCJS results such as victimisation rates, within each Division. They are most easily accessed in the SCJS interactive data tool which has been developed to enable divisional results to be compared over time, as well as against each other and the national average for each survey year[5]. Police Division level results for 2018/19 and 2019/20 combined will be provided alongside the 2019/20 Main Findings Report. Further information on the SCJS reporting structure is available on the SCJS website.

How can I find out more about the SCJS?

Scottish Crime and Justice Survey - User Engagement

The SCJS is used in multiple ways and by a range of users across government, public services, academia and third sector. Engaging effectively with users is important in ensuring that the SCJS meets their needs.

If you want to find out more about the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey or any other work undertaken by the Scottish Government Statistics Group, you can access information through the following ways:

SCJS User Group

The SCJS team have established a user group to ensure that user engagement is an on-going part of each survey cycle. Members are drawn from government, academia, the justice system and third sector. The user group is an essential way to ensure that the survey remains relevant and able to respond to changing needs - for example, in helping to determine and design questionnaire content. If you would like to become involved in the user group, please contact us.

ScotStat

Register with ScotStat: a network for users and providers of Scottish Official statistics. It aims to improve communication amongst those interested in particular statistics and facilitate the setting up of working groups on specific statistical issues. For example, we provide updates about up-coming publications and on-going questionnaire development work via ScotStat.

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[4] As the Police Division level results for 2016/17 – 2017/18 combine two survey years' of data, the national average figure in those outputs has been produced on the same basis for comparative purposes. It is recommended that the single year figures presented in each individual survey years' outputs are used if national level figures are being reported in isolation.

[5] Key 2016/17 – 2017/18 results have also been published in data tables for users who prefer to access findings in this way.

2. Overview of crime in Scotland

In this report, *overall crime* measured by the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) is a product of two distinct groups being combined – violent and property crime[6] (see box below).

> **SCJS Crime Groups**
>
> Violent crime includes the following distinct groups:
>
> - Assault (includes serious assault, minor assault with injury, minor assault with no or negligible injury, and attempted assault)
> - Robbery
>
> Property crime includes the following distinct groups:
>
> - Housebreaking
> - Personal theft (excluding robbery)
> - Other household theft (including bicycle theft)
> - All motor vehicle related theft (including theft and attempted theft of and from a vehicle)
> - Vandalism (including motor vehicle and property vandalism)
>
> Further details on each of these groups is provided in the Technical Report.

What was the extent and prevalence of crime in Scotland in 2018/19?

There were an estimated 573,000 crimes experienced by adults in Scotland in 2018/19.

The SCJS provides an estimate of the number of crimes (or incidence) occurring within Scotland, rounded to the nearest 1,000 crimes. Taking property and violent crime together, the SCJS estimates that overall there were 573,000 crimes experienced by adults in Scotland in 2018/19.

As a sample survey of the general public, SCJS results are estimated values with margins of error, rather than exact counts. Further information on the process used to calculate estimates is contained within the Technical Report. Taking into account confidence intervals, the SCJS estimates that there were between 512,000 and 634,000 incidents of crime in Scotland in 2018/19. The analysis which follows below is focused on the best estimates across each survey year[7].

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[6] Throughout this report the types of violent and property crime are listed in accordance with the priority ladder in the SCJS Offence Coding Manual.

[7] Please see the Introduction for definitions of best, upper and lower estimates.

The overall level of crime experienced in Scotland has fallen by 45% since 2008/09.

The SCJS estimates that the level of crime experienced in Scotland has fallen by 45% since 2008/09. Figure 2.1 displays the trend in the estimated number of SCJS crimes since 2008/09, highlighting a marked decline in crime over the last decade[8]. It also shows the relevant upper and lower estimates for SCJS crime and the best estimates for violent crime and property crime, which are discussed in more detail in later chapters.

Figure 2.1: Estimated number of incidents of SCJS crime, 2008/09 to 2018/19
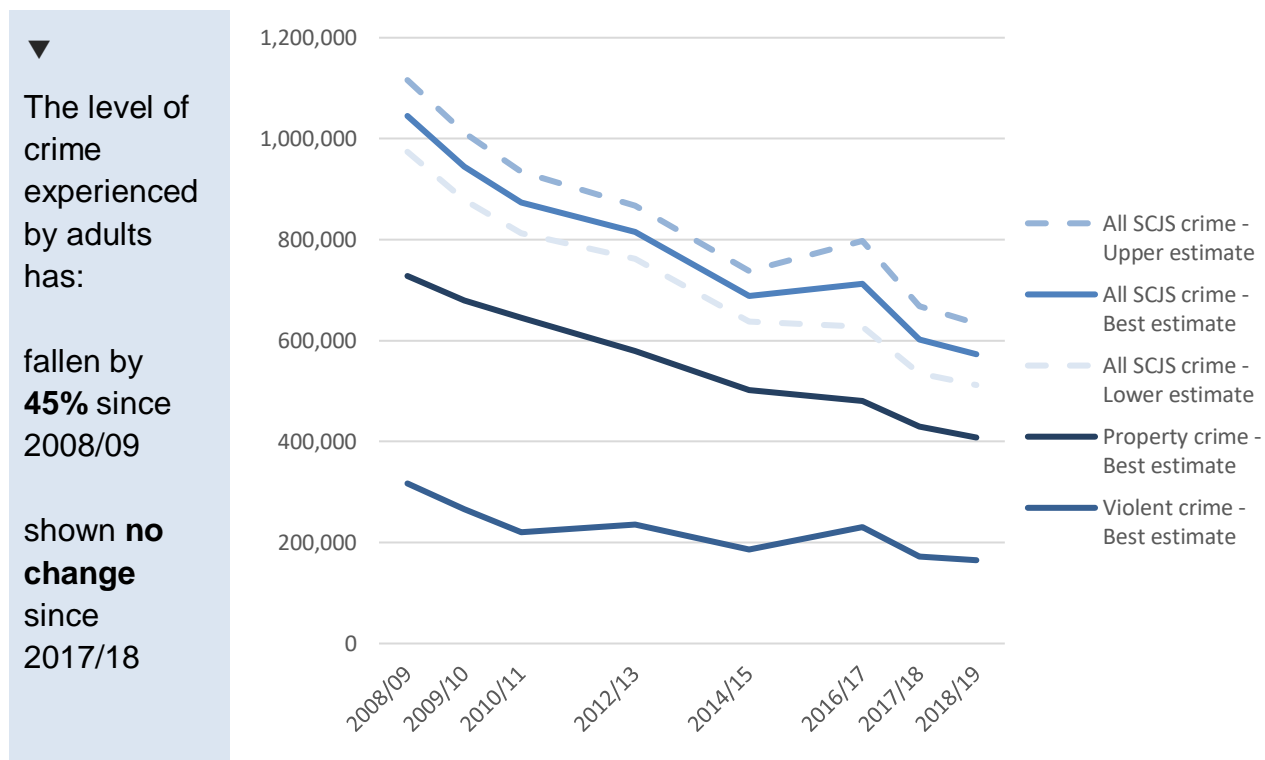
▼

The level of crime experienced by adults has:

fallen by **45%** since 2008/09

shown **no change** since 2017/18

Base: SCJS 2008/09 (16,000); 2009/10 (16,040); 2010/11 (13,010); 2012/13 (12,050); 2014/15 (11,470); 2016/17 (5,570); 2017/18 (5,480); 2018/19 (5,540). Variable: INCSURVEYCRIME

Table 2.1 looks at results from key comparator years[9] more closely and shows that the estimated number of incidents of overall crime experienced by adults:

- decreased by 45% between 2008/09 and 2018/19, from 1,045,000 to 573,000 – an estimated decrease of around 472,000 incidents

- has shown no change since the last SCJS in 2017/18 – the apparent decrease from 602,000 incidents is not statistically significant

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[8] The increase in confidence interval shown by the greater difference between the lower and upper estimates from 2016/17 onwards is due to a reduction in the target survey sample size. More information is provided in the Technical Report.

[9] Annex table A1.2 provides best estimates of the number of incidents of crime for each SCJS year since 2008/09.

Table 2.1: Estimated number of incidents of SCJS crime (2008/09, 2017/18, 2018/19)

Number of SCJS crimes	2008/09	2017/18	2018/19	Change since 2008/09	Change since 2017/18
Best estimate	**1,045,000**	**602,000**	**573,000**	⇩ by 45%	No change
Lower estimate	974,000	535,000	512,000		
Upper estimate	1,116,000	668,000	634,000		
Number of respondents	*16,000*	*5,570*	*5,540*		

Base: SCJS 2008/09 (16,000); 2017/18 (5,480); 2018/19 (5,540). Variable: INCSURVEYCRIME

While no change was found in overall crime since 2017/18, this is not an unusual finding from an annual survey like the SCJS. Where crime estimates are based on the experiences of a relatively small number of people, it can often be challenging to detect significant changes between adjacent survey years. That said, where they exist, the SCJS can often identify significant changes and trends over the medium and longer-term.

Looking over a slightly longer period, the estimated number of incidents of overall crime experienced by adults has decreased by 20% since 2016/17, falling from 712,000 incidents to 573,000 in 2018/19. The estimated number of incidents of SCJS crime was lower in 2018/19 than all years between 2008/09 and 2016/17, suggesting there is no clear evidence yet that the decreasing trend in overall crime, as evidenced by the SCJS over the last decade or so, has ended.

The proportion of adults in Scotland experiencing crime has fallen since 2008/09 – from one-in-five to one-in-eight.

Consistent with previous years, the SCJS results show that most adults were not victims of any crime in 2018/19, with 12.4% estimated to have experienced at least one SCJS (property or violent) crime.

As with incident numbers, crime prevalence rates are also estimates derived from a sample survey of the population with associated margins of error around them. Taking into account these confidence intervals, between 11.4% and 13.5% of the adult population were estimated to have experienced at least one SCJS crime in 2018/19, with 12.4% representing the best estimate[10]. Again, as with incident counts, analysis from this point onwards will focus on the best estimates for results across the survey for each year[11].

The proportion of adults experiencing crime has fallen from 20.4% in 2008/09 to 12.4% in 2018/19. In other words, one-in-eight adults were victims of crime in 2018/19 compared to one-in-five in 2008/09.

Since the last SCJS, the proportion of adults experiencing crime has shown no change – the apparent slight decrease from 12.5% in 2017/18 shown in Figure 2.2 is not statistically significant.

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[10] Please see the Introduction for definitions of best, upper and lower estimates.

[11] Confidence intervals around other survey results can be derived using the data tables and users statistical testing tool available on the SCJS website.

Looking slightly further back, the proportion of adults experiencing crime has fallen from 14.5% in 2014/15 to 12.4% in 2018/19 and is now lower than in all years between 2008/09 and 2014/15.

Figure 2.2: Proportion of adults experiencing any SCJS crime by year
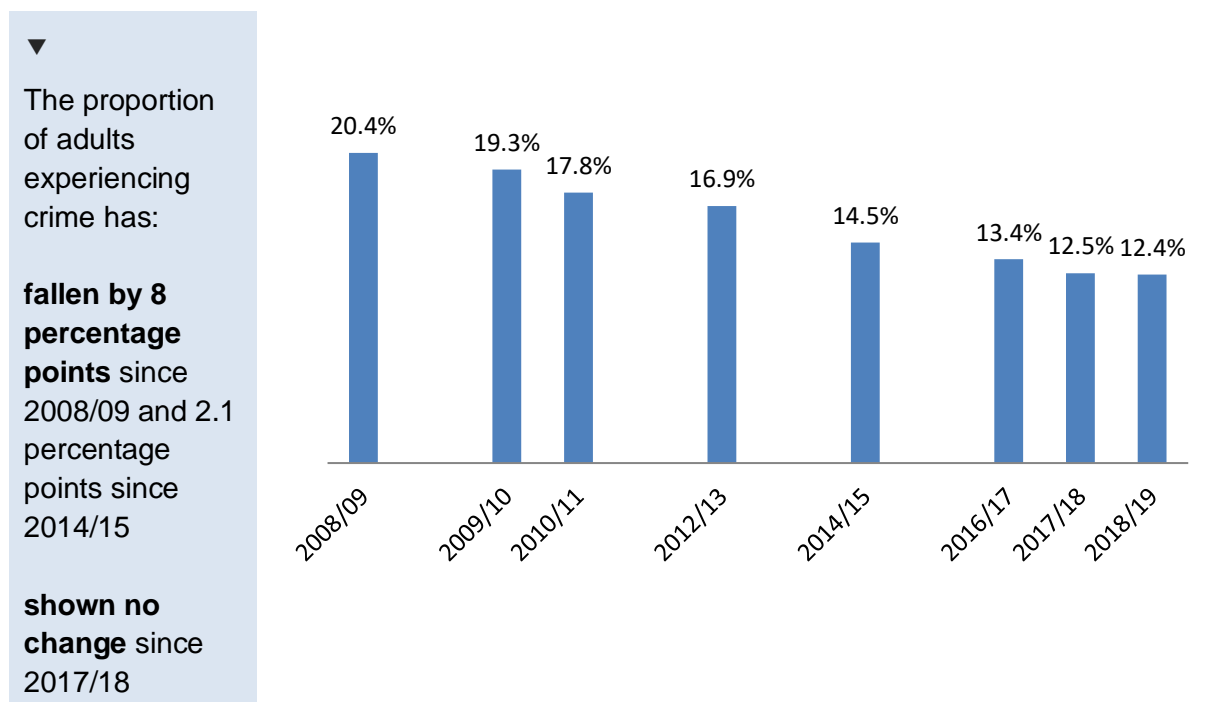
▼

The proportion of adults experiencing crime has:

fallen by 8 percentage points since 2008/09 and 2.1 percentage points since 2014/15

shown no change since 2017/18

Base: SCJS 2008/09 (16,000); 2009/10 (16,040); 2010/11 (13,010); 2012/13 (12,050); 2014/15 (11,470); 2016/17 (5,570); 2017/18 (5,480); 2018/19 (5,540). Variable: PREVSURVEYCRIME

What type of crime was experienced in Scotland in 2018/19?

As in previous years, most crime in 2018/19 was property-related.

The SCJS collects data on the adult population's experiences of two main types of crime – property and violent crime. It is estimated that 71% of all crime measured by the survey in 2018/19 was property-related, with the remaining 29% being violent incidents – unchanged from 2017/18.

Figure 2.3 below shows the proportion of all crime accounted for by key sub-categories of property and violent crime. Vandalism accounted for just over one-quarter (27%) of all crime measured by the 2018/19 SCJS, with minor assault with no or negligible injury representing just under a fifth of all incidents (17%). Other forms of violence represented relatively small proportions of all crime in Scotland.

Figure 2.3: Categories of crime as proportions of all SCJS crime in 2018/19

Category	Percentage	
Housebreaking	4%	**Property crime accounted for 71% of all crime.**
Personal theft	17%	
Other household theft including bicycle	16%	
All motor vehicle related theft	6%	
Vandalism	27%	
Serious assault	2%	**Violent crime accounted for 29% of all crime.**
Minor assault with injury	6%	
Minor assault with no/negligible injury	17%	
Attempted assault	2%	
Robbery	1%	

Base: 2018/19 (5,540). Variable: Prevalence (PREV) variables

The SCJS has also consistently shown that adults in Scotland are much more likely to have experienced property crime than violent crime in any given year. It is estimated that 10.9% of adults were victims of property crime in 2018/19, whilst 2.2% experienced violent crime. The prevalence of both property crime and violent crime have fallen since 2008/09.

More detailed results about the extent, prevalence and nature of violent and property crime experienced in Scotland in 2018/19, including how experiences varied across the population and trends over time are provided in the respective 'Focus on violent crime' and 'Focus on property crime' chapters of this report.

How did the likelihood of experiencing crime in 2018/19 vary across the population?

The likelihood of experiencing crime in 2018/19 was higher for those living in deprived areas and people in urban locations. Those aged 60 and over were least likely to be victims.

The proportion of adults who were victims of any SCJS crime in 2018/19 varied according to demographic and geographic characteristics. For instance, as shown in Figure 2.4, the likelihood of experiencing crime in 2018/19:

- was lowest for those aged 60 and over
- was greater for adults in the 15% most deprived areas compared to those living in the rest of Scotland
- was higher in urban areas compared to rural locations

There was no significant difference in the proportion of men and women who were victims of SCJS crime in 2018/19, at 11.5% and 13.4% respectively.

Figure 2.4: Proportion of adults experiencing any crime measured by SCJS in 2018/19
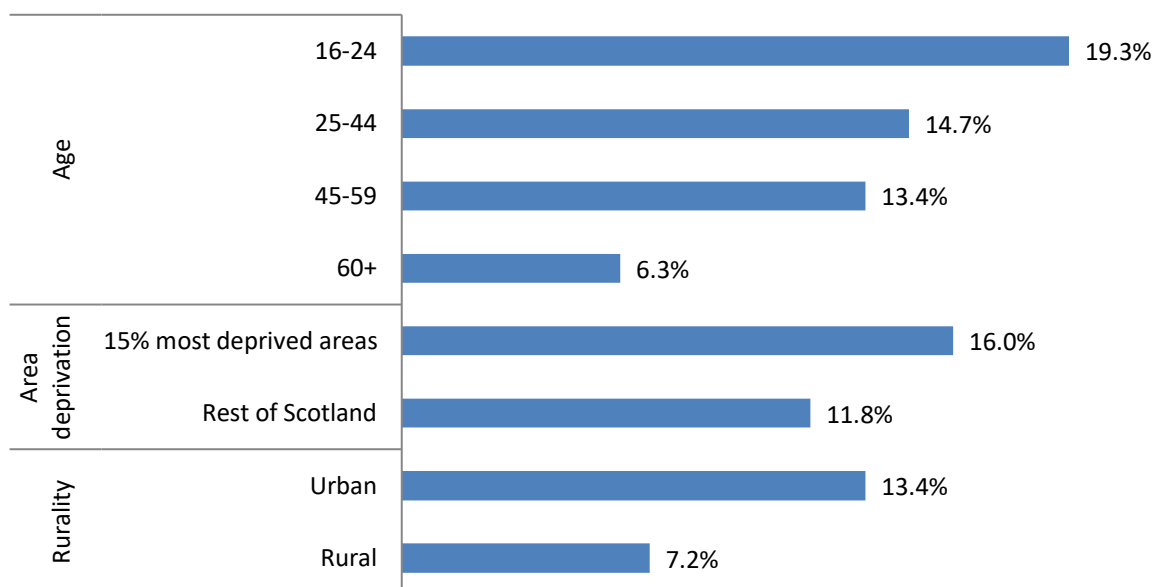
Base: 2018/19 (5,540). Variable: PREVSURVEYCRIME, QDAGE, SIMD_TOP, URBRUR.

The proportion of adults experiencing crime has fallen since 2008/09 across many population groups.

The crime victimisation rate has decreased since 2008/09 across many key groups in the population - including both males and females; all age groups shown above; those living in the most deprived areas as well as those living elsewhere in Scotland; and adults in both urban and rural locations[12].

For example, the proportion of those in the 15% most deprived areas experiencing crime has fallen from 26.0% in 2008/09 to 16.0% in 2018/19 . Over the same period, the prevalence rate for those living elsewhere in Scotland dropped from 19.4% to 11.8%.

In line with the national average, the SCJS detected no change compared to 2017/18 in the overall likelihood of being a victim of crime amongst the demographic sub-groups outlined above.

What can the SCJS tell us about multiple victimisation?

The SCJS also enables us to further explore how experiences varied amongst victims and examine the concentration of crime, including what proportion of victims experienced more than one crime (of any type) during the year. This is known as 'multiple victimisation'. Further information about the approach taken to process and derive SCJS results, including on multiple victimisation, is provided in the Technical Report.

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[12] Please see Annex table A1.6 for relevant results and the SCJS supporting data tables for additional breakdowns.

3.5% of adults experienced multiple victimisation in 2018/19, accounting for just over half (55%) of all SCJS crime.

As discussed above, the majority of adults (87.6%) did not experience any crime measured by the SCJS in 2018/19, and conversely 12.4% were victims of at least one property or violent crime.

Examining the volume of crime experienced by individual victims more closely reveals that just under one-in-ten adults (8.9%) were victims of a single incident of SCJS crime in 2018/19, accounting for 45% of all crime.

It is therefore estimated that multiple victimisation affected 3.5% of the adult population in 2018/19, and that this group experienced just over half (55%) of all SCJS crime during the year. These victims are estimated to have experienced two crimes each on average.

Table 2.2 highlights these results in more detail.

Table 2.2: Proportion of all SCJS crime experienced by victims, by number of crimes experienced in 2018/19

▼ 0.5% of adults experienced five or more crimes during 2018/19. Taken together, their experiences accounted for 15% of all SCJS crime over the year.	Number of crimes	% of population	% of SCJS crime
	None	**87.6%**	**0%**
	One	8.9%	45%
	Two	2.0%	21%
	Three	0.7%	13%
	Four	0.3%	6%
	Five or more	0.5%	15%
	Two or more	**3.5%**	**55%**

Base: SCJS 2018/19 (5,540). Variable: INCSURVEYCRIME, PREVSURVEYCRIME.

The likelihood of experiencing multiple victimisation has fallen since 2008/09.

Figure 2.5 explores trends in single and multiple victimisation over time. It highlights that between 2008/09 and 2018/19 there were decreases in the proportion of adults experiencing:

- single incidents of SCJS crime – from 12.2% to 8.9%

- multiple victimisation (two or more incidents of SCJS crime) – from 8.2% to 3.5%

- high frequency multiple victimisation (five or more incidents of SCJS crime) – from 1.5% to 0.5%

The fall in the various levels of victimisation since 2008/09 has occurred alongside a fall in the overall SCJS crime victimisation rate[13] over this period, as discussed previously.

Since the last SCJS in 2017/18, there has been no change in the proportion of adults experiencing single or multiple victimisation – any apparent differences shown in Figure 2.5 are not statistically significant.

Figure 2.5: Proportion of adults experiencing number of SCJS crimes
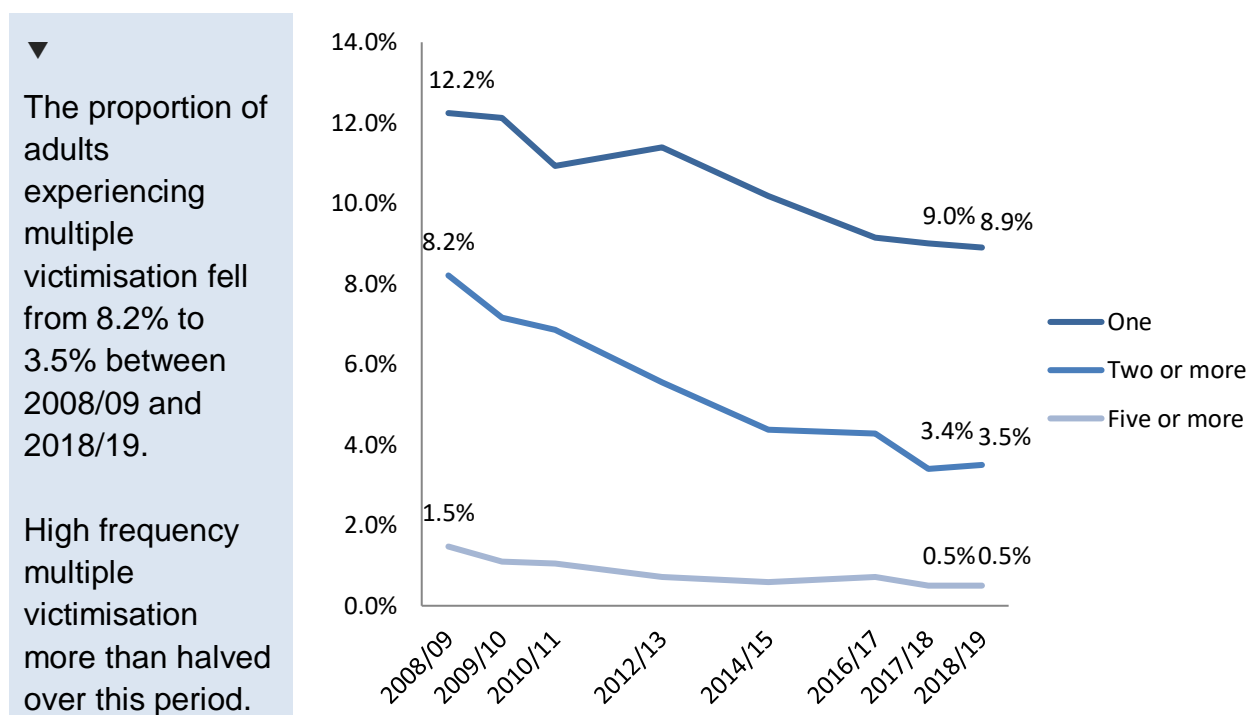
▼

The proportion of adults experiencing multiple victimisation fell from 8.2% to 3.5% between 2008/09 and 2018/19.

High frequency multiple victimisation more than halved over this period.

Base: SCJS 2008/09 (16,000); 2009/10 (16,040); 2010/11 (13,010); 2012/13 (12,050); 2014/15 (11,470); 2016/17 (5,570); 2017/18 (5,480); 2018/19 (5,540). Variable: INCSURVEYCRIME, PREVSURVEYCRIME.

In summary these findings show that, compared to 2008/09, adults in 2018/19 were less likely to be victims of:

- *at least* one SCJS crime

- one SCJS crime specifically

- more than one SCJS crime

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[13] i.e. the proportion of adults experiencing at least one crime over the year.

What proportion of crime was reported to the police in 2018/19?

It is estimated that the police became aware of 36% of crime in 2018/19, a similar proportion to previous years.

One of the key strengths of the SCJS is that it provides evidence on the extent of crime experienced by the population, including incidents which are not reported to the police. For this reason, the SCJS and police recorded crime statistics are complementary sources that, together, present a fuller picture of crime in Scotland. The 'Bringing together crime statistics' chapter of this report explores the differences and similarities between the SCJS and recorded crime (including trends over time) in more detail.

The SCJS estimates that 36% of all SCJS (property and violent) crime in 2018/19 came to the attention of the police. This proportion has shown no change since 2008/09. It is estimated that 34% of property crimes were reported to the police in 2018/19, compared to 40% of violent incidents – although this apparent difference in reporting rates is not statistically significant. Further information on the reporting rates and the reasons behind non-reporting are presented in the 'Focus on violent crime' and 'Focus on property crime' chapters.

How did the likelihood of experiencing crime in Scotland compare to England and Wales?

Victimisation surveys take place in many jurisdictions across the world to obtain information on the relevant population's experience of crime. However comparisons between surveys can often be challenging due to methodological differences.

That said, the SCJS is similar to the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW), with both surveys following on from the British Crime Survey (BCS). Although there are some differences between the surveys, for example the coding of crimes varies between the SCJS and the CSEW to reflect the different criminal justice systems in which they operate, the overall results on the proportion of adults experiencing crime have offered a broad comparison point over the years.

Following recent updates to the methodology used in the CSEW to produce estimates for the volume of crime experienced by the adult population, we assess that the results on the overall victimisation rate remain broadly comparable between the two surveys. A short methodological paper is available which confirms the approach currently taken to produce crime estimates in the SCJS and its relative strengths and limitations.

Further information on the similarities and differences between the SCJS and CSEW are provided in the SCJS 2018/19 Technical Report.

In 2018/19, adults in Scotland were less likely to have experienced crime than those in England and Wales.

Looking at the overall crime victimisation rates, the proportion of adults estimated to have experienced crime in 2018/19 was lower in Scotland (12.4%) than in England and Wales (14.9%).

This continues the finding from 2017/18 and is a change to the position in 2016/17 – where no significant difference was detected between the victimisation rates in Scotland and England and Wales. However, as shown by Figure 2.6, the prevalence rate has been lower in Scotland

in the past. It will be important to continue monitoring these figures going forward, to help determine if trends between the two jurisdictions are diverging.

Figure 2.6: Proportion of adults experiencing crime measured by SCJS and CSEW
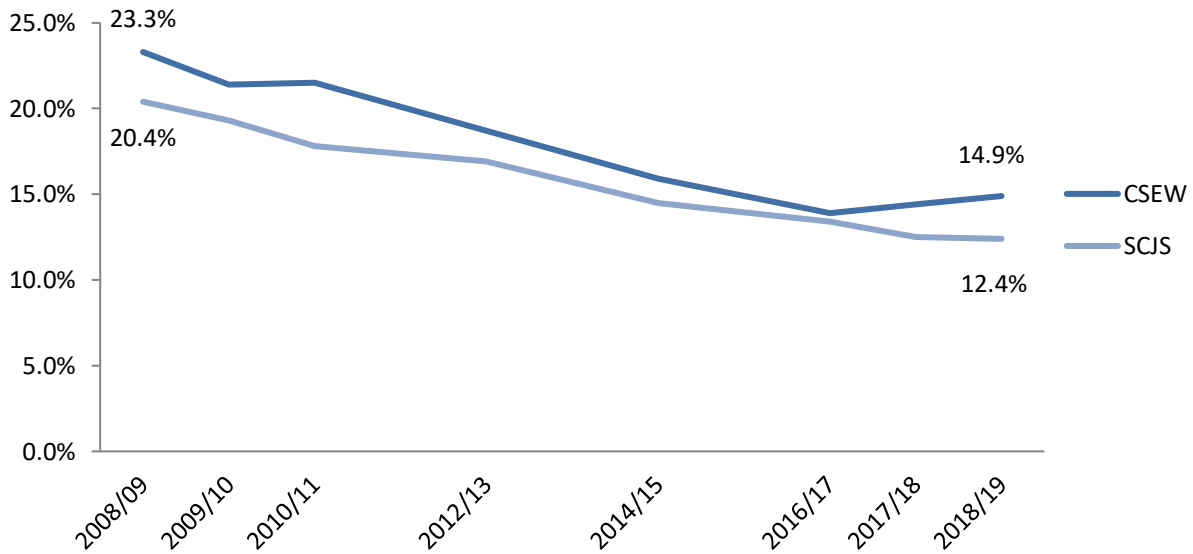
SCJS prevalence – Base: 2008/09 (16,000); 2009/10 (16,040); 2010/11 (13,010); 2012/13 (12,050); 2014/15 (11,470); 2016/17 (5,570); 2017/18 (5,480); 2018/19 (5,540). Variable: PREVSURVEYCRIME.
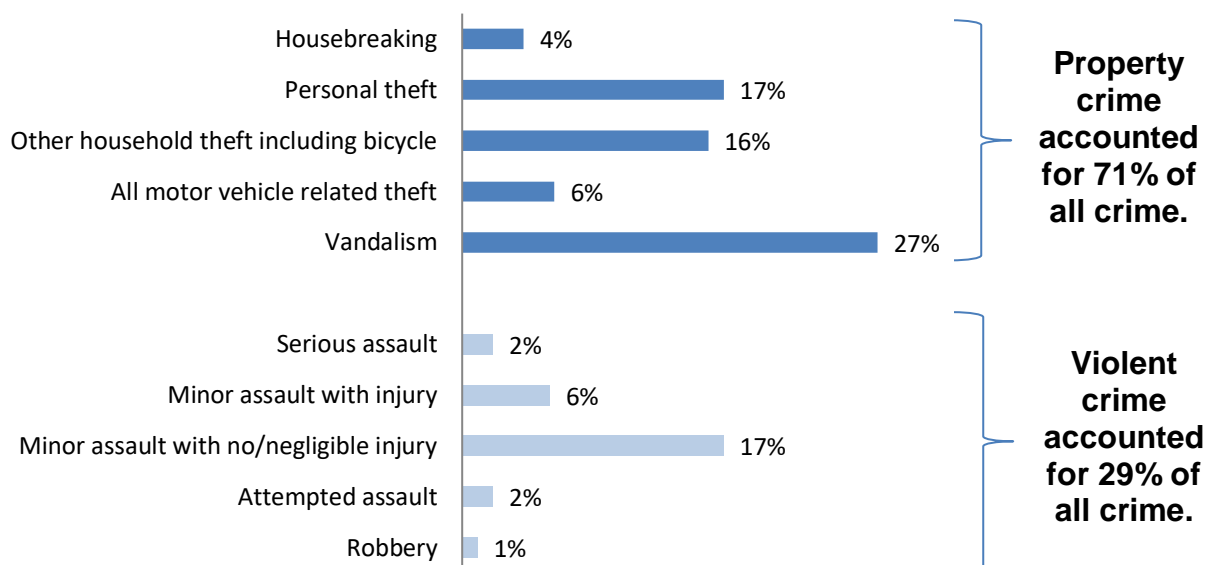
CSEW prevalence – Base: 2018/19 (34,160).

3. Focus on violent crime

What was the extent and prevalence of violent crime in Scotland in 2018/19?

There were an estimated 165,000 violent crimes in 2018/19, representing around three out of every ten crimes experienced by adults during the year.

The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) estimates that 165,000 incidents[14] of violent crime[15] were experienced by adults in Scotland in 2018/19. This figure accounts for 29% of all crime measured by the SCJS in 2018/19; with the remainder being property-related.

As a sample survey of the general public, SCJS results on the extent of violence are estimated values which have relatively wide margins of error around them, rather than exact counts. Further information on the process used to calculate estimates is contained within the Technical Report. Taking into account these margins of error, the SCJS estimates that there were between 121,000 and 209,000 incidents of violent crime in Scotland in 2018/19. The following analysis is focused on the best estimates for each year of the survey.

The estimated level of violent crime in Scotland has almost halved since 2008/09.

The SCJS estimates that the number of violent crimes in Scotland has fallen by 48% since 2008/09. Figure 3.1 displays the number of violent incidents estimated to have taken place by each year of the SCJS since 2008/09, demonstrating a large fall over the past decade[16].

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[14] Crime estimates are rounded to the nearest 1,000 crimes.

[15] Details on the specific crimes within the violence group are outlined in the 'Overview of crime' chapter.

[16] The increase in confidence interval shown by the greater difference between the lower and upper estimates from 2016/17 onwards is due to reduction in the target survey sample size. Please see the Introduction for definitions of best, upper and lower estimates.

Figure 3.1: Estimated number of violent incidents, 2008/09 to 2018/19
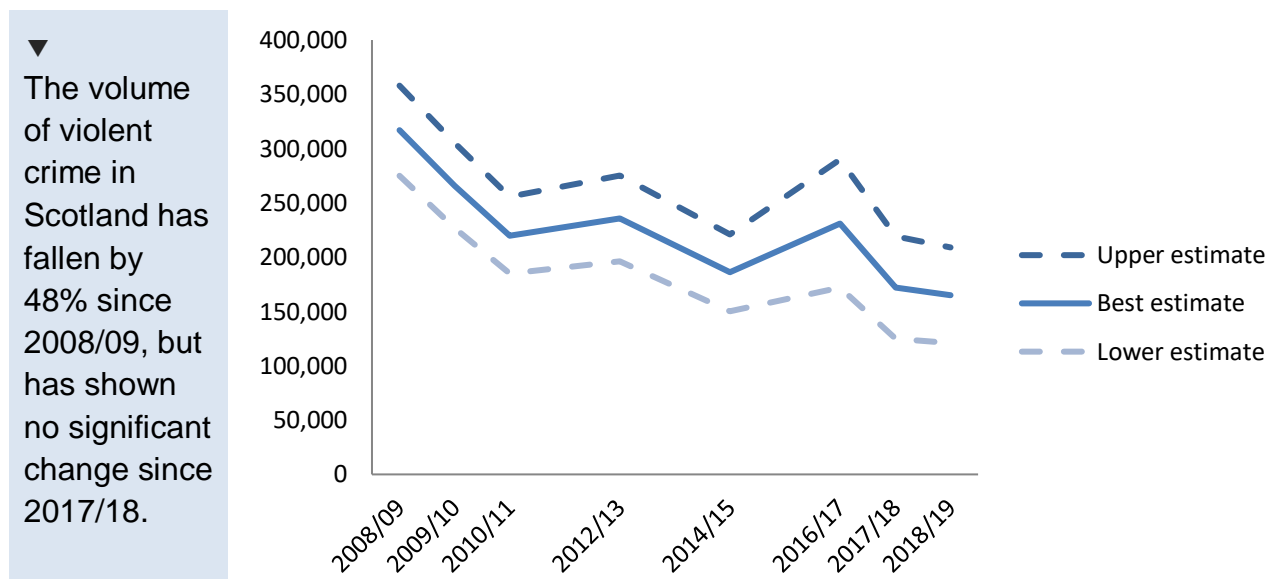
▼ The volume of violent crime in Scotland has fallen by 48% since 2008/09, but has shown no significant change since 2017/18.

Base: SCJS 2008/09 (16,000); 2009/10 (16,040); 2010/11 (13,010); 2012/13 (12,050); 2014/15 (11,470); 2016/17 (5,570); 2017/18 (5,480); 2018/19 (5,540). Variable: INCVIOLENT

Table 3.1 examines results from key comparator years[17] and shows that the estimated amount of violent crime experienced by adults:

- has fallen by 48% since the 2008/09 baseline, from 317,000 to 165,000 incidents in 2018/19

- has shown no change since the last SCJS in 2017/18 – the apparent decrease from 172,000 violent incidents is not statistically significant

Table 3.1: Estimated of number of violent crimes (2008/09, 2017/18, 2018/19)

Number of violent crimes	2008/09	2017/18	2018/19	Change since 2008/09	Change since 2017/18
Best estimate	**317,000**	**172,000**	**165,000**	⇩ by 48%	No change
Lower estimate	275,000	125,000	121,000		
Upper estimate	358,000	219,000	209,000		
Number of respondents	*16,000*	*5,480*	*5,540*		

Variable: INCVIOLENT

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[17] Annex table A1.2 provides best estimates of the number of incidents of violent crime for each year of the SCJS since 2008/09.

The fall in violent crime over the last decade has been mostly driven by decreases between 2008/09 and 2010/11.

Violent crime estimates derived from the SCJS are based on a relatively small number of respondents who disclose experiences of such issues in the survey in any given year[18]. As a result, analysis of findings between adjacent surveys are often less likely to identify statistically significant changes. For example, all of the apparent fluctuations shown from year to year since 2010/11 in Figure 3.1 are not statistically significant.

However, where they exist, the SCJS can often identify significant changes and trends over the longer-term (such as since 2008/09 as discussed above). Taking this into account, a more detailed examination of changes in the level of violent crime over the last decade finds that the estimated number of violent incidents:

- fell markedly (by 30%) between 2008/09 and 2010/11, and has remained below the 2008/09 baseline since then

- has been more stable in recent years - for instance, the apparent fall in violence from 2010/11 to 2018/19 is not statistically significant

When looking at intermediate years, although the decrease from 2012/13 to 2018/19 is statistically significant, the wider trend and lack of significant change seen in recent years suggests this may represent fluctuation in the data. Therefore, overall the SCJS suggests that the level of violence experienced by adults in Scotland has been relatively stable since 2010/11.

The vast majority of adults in Scotland did not experience violent crime in 2018/19 and the likelihood of experiencing violent crime has almost halved since 2008/09.

Looking at the victimisation rate[19], the SCJS estimates that 2.2% of adults were victims of at least one violent crime in 2018/19. In comparison, an estimated 10.9% of adults experienced property crime over the same period.

However, like incident numbers, it is worth noting crime prevalence rates are also estimates with associated margins of error around them as they are derived from a sample survey of the population. Taking into account these confidence intervals, between 1.7% and 2.7% of the adult population were estimated to have experienced violent crime in 2018/19, with 2.2% representing the best estimate[20]. Again, as with incident counts, analysis from this point onwards will focus on the best estimates for results across the survey for each survey year[21].

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[18] For instance, 109 respondents in 2018/19.

[19] Whilst the SCJS produces crime estimates which make it possible to examine trends in the *volume of crime* experienced over time, a particular strength of the survey is its ability to provide findings on the *proportion of adults* (also known as the victimisation rate) experiencing crime in any one year with a good level of precision.

[20] Please see the Introduction for definitions of best, upper and lower estimates.

[21] Confidence Intervals around other survey results can be derived using the data tables and users statistical testing tool available on the SCJS website.

Looking at trends over time, the proportion of adults experiencing violent crime has fallen from 4.1% in 2008/09 to 2.2% in 2018/19. Overall, this suggests that violent victimisation in Scotland has been relatively uncommon since 2008/09 and has become an even less prevalent experience over the last decade.

Since the last SCJS in 2017/18 there has been no change detected in the proportion of adults experiencing violent crime. The apparent decrease from 2.3% in 2017/18 to 2.2% in 2018/19, as shown in Figure 3.2, is not statistically significant.

However, as noted earlier, the SCJS is often better able to identify trends and changes, where they exist, over longer time periods. For example, looking further back reveals that the proportion of adults experiencing violence in 2018/19 (2.2%) was lower than the 3.1% in 2012/13 (and preceding years).

Figure 3.2: Proportion of adults experiencing violent crime (2008/09, 2017/18, 2018/19)

▼

The proportion of adults experiencing violent crime has:

Almost halved since 2008/09.

Shown no change since 2017/18.

4.1%

2.3%

2.2%

2008/09   2017/18   2018/19
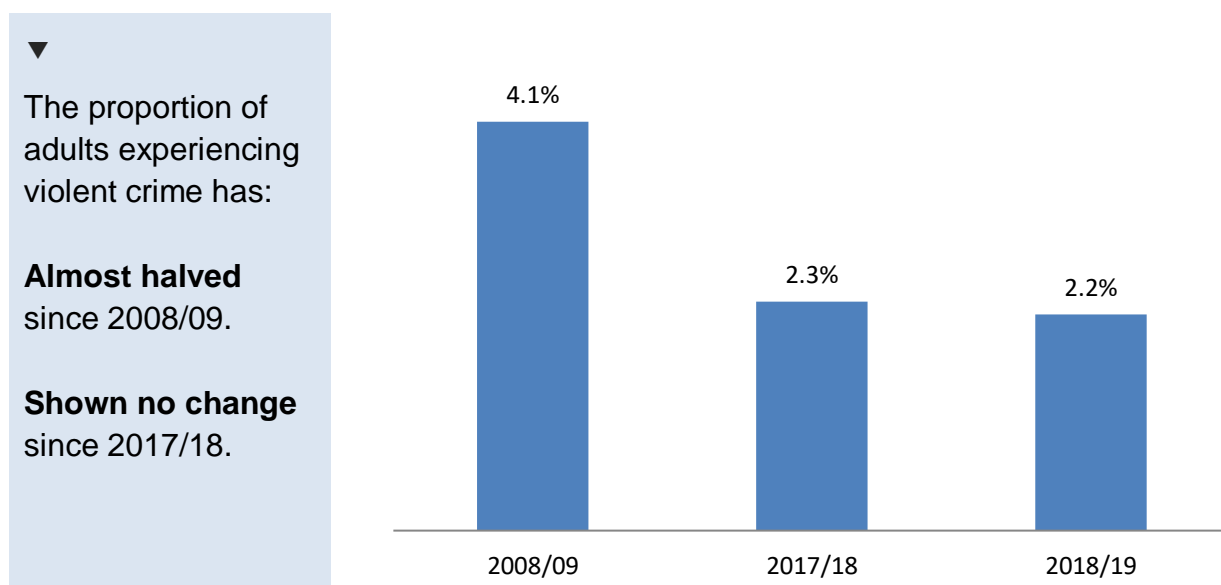
Base: SCJS 2008/09 (16,000); 2017/18 (5,480); 2018/19 (5,540). Variable: PREVVIOLENT

What types of violent crime were most commonly experienced in 2018/19?

As in previous years, the majority of violent crimes in 2018/19 were incidents of minor assault resulting in no or negligible injury.

Three-fifths of violent incidents in 2018/19 (60%) were cases of minor assault with no or negligible injury to the victim, as shown in Figure 3.3. By comparison, 7% of violent incidents in 2018/19 were serious assaults and 3% were robberies. Taken together, all categories of assault accounted for 97% of violent crime.

Figure 3.3: Categories of crime as proportions of violent crime overall

Category	Percentage
Minor assault with no / negligible injury	60%
Minor assault with injury	22%
Attempted assault	8%
Serious assault	7%
Robbery	3%
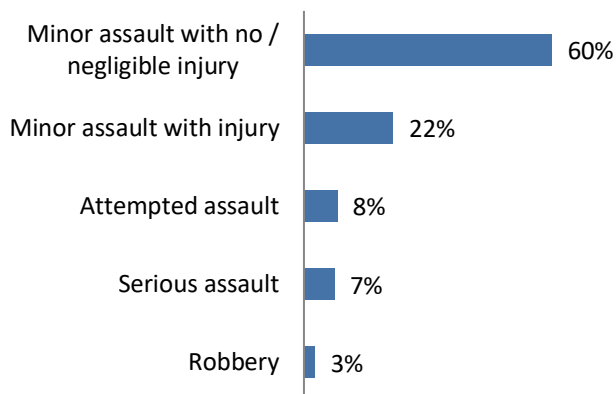
Base: 2018/19 (120). Variable: INCMINORASSNOINJURY; INCMINORASSINJURY; INCATTEMPTASSAULT; INCSERASSAULT; INCROB.

Between 2008/09 and 2018/19, the SCJS has consistently estimated that assaults (including attempted, minor and serious assaults) have accounted for around 95% of violent crime experienced by adults. As such, trends over time in the number of assaults very closely mirror wider trends in violence. The number of assaults has fallen by 46% since 2008/09 (from an estimated 297,000 incidents to 161,000), similar to overall violent crime which has fallen by 48% in the same time period.

The strength of the SCJS lies in looking at the prevalence of rare events, such as robbery and serious assault, rather than estimating the number of incidents.

Whilst sub-categories of violent crime such as robbery and serious assault are significant events for victims, these crimes represent small proportions of violence overall and are experienced by small proportions of the population (and therefore of the SCJS sample), and so this means they have relatively large degrees of error around them[22].

As such, for crime types which occur in lower volume (but which may often result in more severe physical injuries) like serious assault, the strength of the SCJS is in examining how prevalent such experiences are in the population (i.e. demonstrating that a relatively small proportion of the population are affected), rather than estimating the number of incidents of these types of crime that occur in a single year or over time. Therefore, the main body of the SCJS report focuses on the prevalence of such crimes. Estimates of the extent of these crimes are provided in the Annex tables (see Annex Table A1.2).

As (minor) assaults account for the vast majority of violent crime, it is worth noting that the later sections, which look at the characteristics of violent crime in general, will also be mainly driven by the nature of these incidents i.e. higher volume crimes that often result in less severe or no physical injuries.

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[22] For example, the relative standard error (RSE) around the 2018/19 robbery estimate is 46%. For more on the relative standard error, please see the Technical Report.

Expanding the evidence on violent crime

To enhance the wider evidence base on serious assault and robbery, Scottish Government statisticians have carried out two further in-depth studies. The first, published in 2018, examined a random sample of almost 1,000 police recorded crimes of robbery, providing insights into how the characteristics of robbery have changed in Scotland between 2008/09 and 2017/18. Full details and findings can be found on the Scottish Government website.

The second, published in 2019, used a similar approach to explore the changing characteristics of police recorded attempted murder and serious assault between 2008/09 and 2017/18. This report can be accessed via the Scottish Government website.

To collate the evidence on violent crime in Scotland, the Scottish Government published a report on non-sexual violence in Scotland. This report brought together official data from a range of Scottish sources – both Criminal Justice and Health (including SCJS and police recorded crime data) – to better understand the current profile and problem of non-sexual violence in Scotland. The report was published in September 2019 and, as such, features 2017/18 SCJS data, although many of the key findings will remain unchanged with the latest SCJS data.

The likelihood of experiencing assault and robbery have both fallen since 2008/09.

Returning to SCJS findings, as in previous years, the prevalence rate for different categories of violent crime varied. An estimated 2.1% of adults were victims of any sort of assault in 2018/19, whilst 0.1% experienced robbery.

Examining trends over time, the SCJS finds that the prevalence of assault has fallen from 3.8% in 2008/09, again demonstrating a similar trend to violence overall. The proportion of adults experiencing robbery has fallen from 0.4% over the same period, as shown in Figure 3.4.

Figure 3.4: Proportion of adults experiencing types of violent crime (2008/09, 2017/18, 2018/19)

▼

The proportion of adults experiencing assault has:

Fallen by 1.7 percentage points since 2008/09.

Shown no change since 2017/18 – the apparent decrease is not statistically significant.
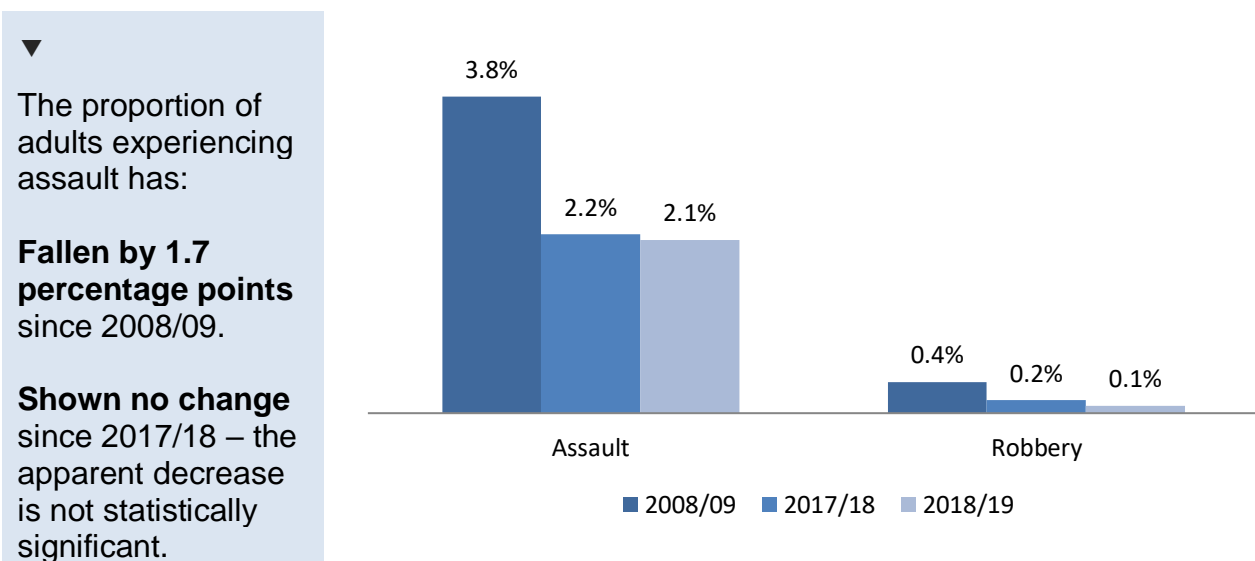
Base: SCJS 2008/09 (16,000); 2017/18 (5,480); 2018/19 (5,540). Variables: PREVASSAULT; PREVROB.

Whilst a small proportion of adults were victims of any sort of assault in 2018/19, experiences of more serious forms of violence were rarer still. This is in line with the finding that the vast majority of violent crime was accounted for by minor assaults. For instance, a greater proportion of adults experienced minor assault with no or negligible injury (1.4%) than minor assault resulting in injury (0.4%) or serious assault (0.2%).

How did experiences of violent crime vary across the population?

Those aged 16 to 24 were most likely to be victims of violence in 2018/19.

The SCJS enables us to examine how experiences of violent crime varied across the population by demographic and geographic characteristics. As shown in Figure 3.5, the likelihood of experiencing violence decreased with age (although there was no significant difference between the two middle age categories). For example those aged 16 to 24 were most likely to be victims of violent crime in 2018/19, with just over 1 in 20 experiencing violence in this age group, compared to fewer than 1 in 100 of those aged 60 and over.

The finding that those aged 16 to 24 were most likely to be a victim of violent crime is a re-emergence of earlier SCJS results – whereas in both 2016/17 and 2017/18 no significant difference was found in the likelihood of being a victim for those aged 16 to 24 and 25 to 44. The 2019/20 SCJS will shed further light on whether this represents the beginning of a sustained change.

Figure 3.5: Proportion of adults experiencing violent crime, by age
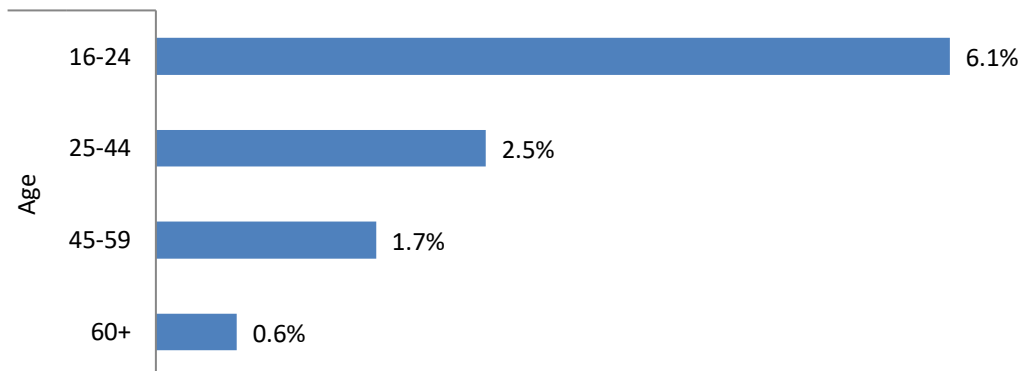
Base: 2018/19 (5,540). Variable: INCSURVEYCRIME, QDAGE.

The proportion of adults experiencing violent crime has dropped for all but the oldest age group since 2008/09; the proportion of younger adults experiencing violent crime has almost halved over this time.

Looking at trends over time, the proportion of 16 to 24, 25 to 44, and 45 to 59 year olds who were victims of violence have all decreased since 2008/09. As shown in Figure 3.6, the biggest decrease has been for 16 to 24 year olds with the proportion falling from 12.0% to 6.1% in 2018/19.

In contrast the prevalence rates for those aged 60 and over has shown no change since 2008/09.

Figure 3.6: Proportion of adults experiencing violent crime by age over time
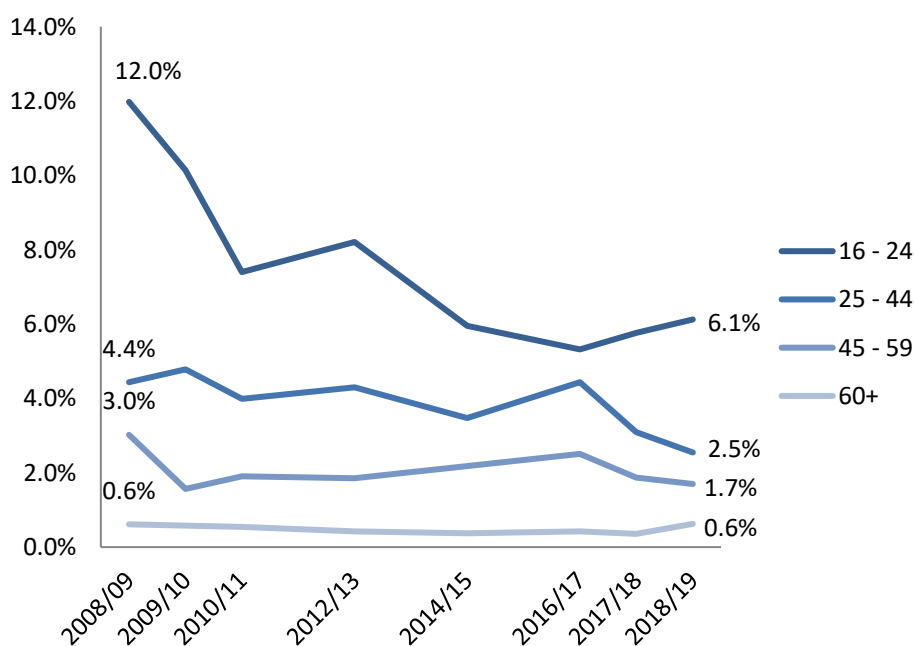
Base: SCJS 2008/09 (16,000); 2009/10 (16,040); 2010/11 (13,010); 2012/13 (12,050); 2014/15 (11,470); 2016/17 (5,570); 2017/18 (5,480); 2018/19 (5,540). Variable: PREVVIOLENT, QDAGE.

Following decreases in victimisation over the last decade, there was no difference in the likelihood of being a victim of violence by deprivation, gender, or rurality in 2018/19.

Although the victimisation rate for both those living in the 15% most deprived areas[23] of Scotland and the rest of Scotland have decreased since 2008/09, there was a greater decrease for those living in deprived areas in Scotland. This means that, unlike in previous years, the SCJS detected no difference in the likelihood of experiencing violence between adults living in the 15% most deprived areas and the rest of Scotland in 2018/19 (3.2% and 2.0%, respectively). As this finding has only emerged in the latest year, it will be important to monitor this in future to see if the similarity in prevalence is continued.

Since 2008/09, the proportion of males and those in urban areas experiencing violence have fallen, whilst the prevalence rates for females and those in rural areas have shown no change. Continuing trends seen in previous years, this means that in 2018/19 the SCJS detected no difference in the likelihood of having experienced violence by gender (2.4% compared to 2.0%, respectively), or by whether the respondent lived in an urban or rural area (2.2% compared to 1.9%, respectively).

Figure 3.7 below demonstrates how prevalence rates between these comparator groups have narrowed over the last decade – the apparent differences shown between groups in 2018/19 are not statistically significant, nor is the apparent change since 2008/09 in the prevalence rate for females, or those in rural areas.

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[23] Additional breakdowns are provided in Annex table A1.7 and the SCJS supporting data tables. For example, age within gender, disability status, and tenure.

Figure 3.7: Violent victimisation rate by deprivation, gender, and rurality over time
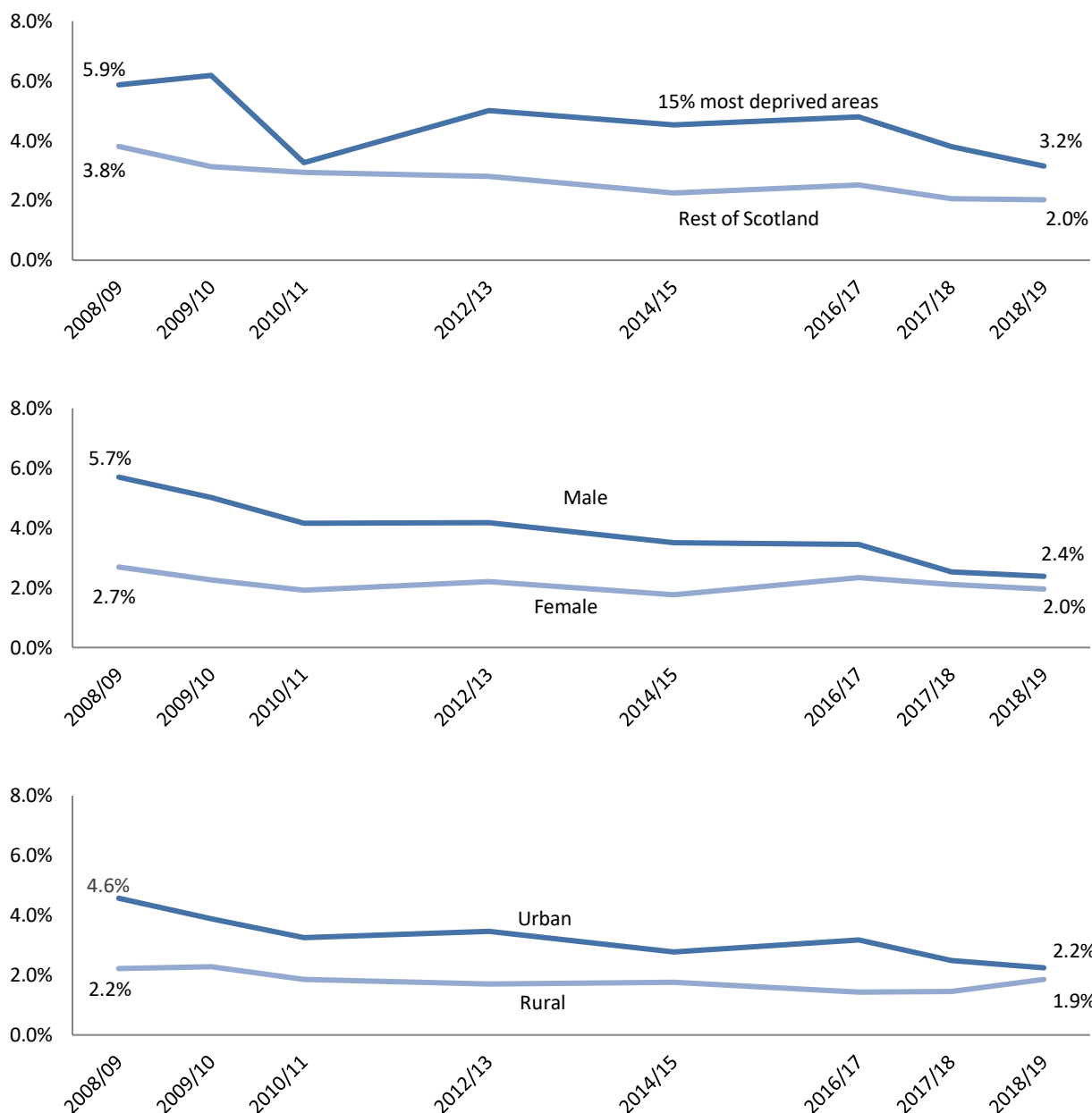
Base: SCJS 2008/09 (16,000); 2009/10 (16,040); 2010/11 (13,010); 2012/13 (12,050); 2014/15 (11,470); 2016/17 (5,570); 2017/18 (5,480); 2018/19 (5,540). Variable: PREVVIOLENT, TABQDGEN; SIMD_TOP ; TABURBRUR.

When considering findings by gender, it is important to note that victims of partner abuse may not report such experiences through the face-to-face element of the SCJS which produces the main survey prevalence rates – including on violence. As such, questions on experiences of partner abuse (covering both physical and psychological abuse) are answered in a self-completion element of the survey – with the latest key findings on this topic from 2016/17 and 2017/18 combined presented in the 2017/18 Main Findings Report. The figures showed that in the 12 month period prior to interview, experiences of partner abuse were more common for women than men (3.6% and 2.3%, respectively). The next partner abuse findings for 2018/19 and 2019/20 combined are due to be published in the 2019/20 Main Findings Report.

Looking at more recent changes in victimisation since 2017/18, there have been no statistically significant changes in the violent victimisation rate across any of the sub-population groups discussed above (including age), which is in line with the national average.

What can the SCJS tell us about repeat victimisation?

The SCJS estimates that most adults did not experience violent crime in 2018/19, whilst 2.2% of the population were victims of at least one violent crime.

However, the survey also enables us to further explore how experiences varied amongst victims and examine the concentration of crime, including what proportion of victims experienced a particular type of crime more than once during the year[24]. This is known as 'repeat victimisation'.

Further information about the approach taken to process and derive SCJS results, including on repeat victimisation, is provided in the Technical Report.

Less than 1 in every 100 adults were victims of repeated incidents of violence, but their experiences accounted for three-fifths of violent crime in 2018/19.

Table 3.2 explores the volume of crime experienced by victims in more detail to outline the extent of repeat victimisation and further unpack the concentration of violent crime amongst the adult population. It shows that 1.5% of adults were victims of a single violent incident over the year, with a smaller proportion of the population (0.7%) experiencing repeat victimisation (two or more violent crimes). These repeat victims are estimated to have experienced on average 3.1 violent crimes each during 2018/19, whilst together this group of adults are estimated to have experienced three-fifths (60%) of all violent crime committed against adults over this period. The table also highlights that an even smaller proportion of the population (0.2%) were high frequency repeat victims who experienced five or more incidents each.

Table 3.2: Proportion of violent crime experienced by victims, by number of crimes experienced in 2018/19

▼ Three-fifths of all violent crime was experienced by repeat victims, who experienced an average of 3.1 incidents each.	Number of crimes	% of population	% of violent crime
	None	97.8%	0%
	One	1.5%	40%
	Two	0.4%	20%
	Three	0.1%	9%
	Four	0.1%	8%
	Five or more	0.2%	23%
	Two or more	0.7%	60%

Base: SCJS 2018/19 (5,540). Variable: PREVVIOLENT, INCVIOLENT.

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[24] i.e. two or more experiences of violent crime.

The proportion of victims experiencing two or more violent crimes was lower in 2018/19 than in 2008/09.

Figure 3.8 shows trends in single and repeat violent victimisation over time. It highlights that the proportion of adults experiencing only one incident of violence, and those experiencing two or more incidents, were both lower in 2018/19 than in 2008/09. Whilst this means repeat violent victimisation for two or more incidents was less prevalent in 2018/19 than a decade ago, findings comparing single years should be interpreted with caution and be considered in the context of broader trends over that period.

Looking more closely, with the exception of 2016/17, the proportion experiencing two or more violent crimes has been below the 2008/09 baseline (1.6%) since 2010/11. In 2016/17 the 1.1% estimate was not significantly different to the 2008/09 figure. This finding adds to the evidence from 2017/18 that the 2016/17 figure may have been an outlier in an otherwise declining trend[25].

On the other hand, the proportion of adults experiencing five or more incidents in 2018/19 has shown no significant change since 2008/09. This is different to last year which found that 2017/18 was significantly lower than 2008/09. This suggests the 2017/18 figure may have been an outlier in an otherwise stable trend.

All levels of violent victimisation have shown no change since 2017/18 – the apparent differences shown in Figure 3.8 are not statistically significant.

Figure 3.8: Proportion of adults experiencing a number of violent crimes
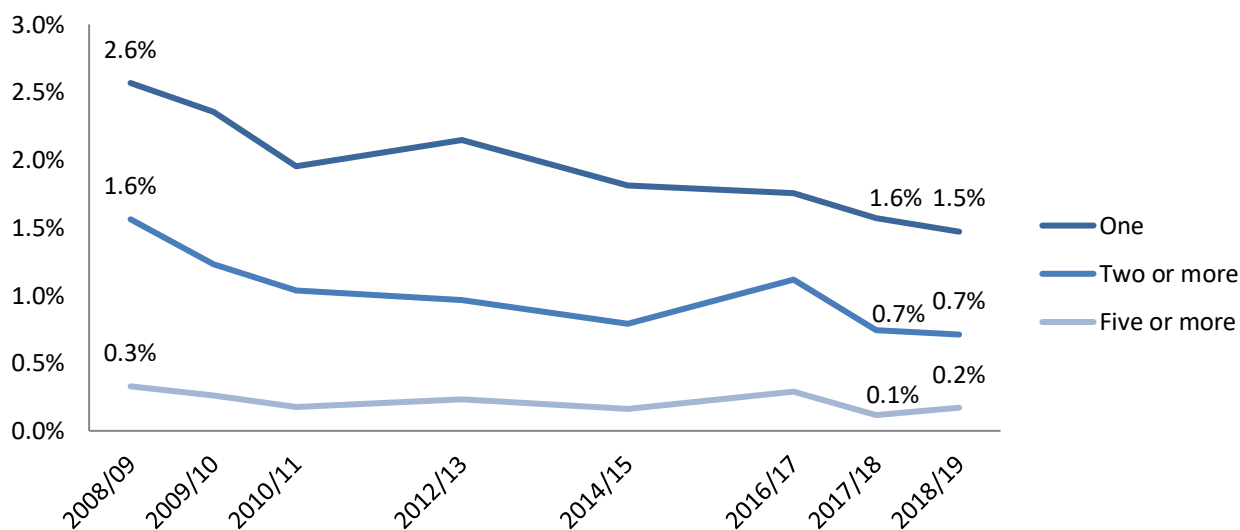
Base: SCJS 2008/09 (16,000); 2009/10 (16,040); 2010/11 (13,010); 2012/13 (12,050); 2014/15 (11,470); 2016/17 (5,570); 2017/18 (5,480); 2018/19 (5,540). Variable: PREVVIOLENT, INCVIOLENT.

Note: the 'five or more' category is a sub-set of the 'two or more' category.

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[25] It is also worth noting that this change coincided with a reduction in the SCJS sample size, which increases the confidence intervals around results and can therefore make it more challenging to identify statistically significant differences.

Expanding the evidence on repeat violent victimisation

The Scottish Government published a rapid evidence review on repeat violent victimisation in April 2019, which informed the commissioning of a qualitative study to better understand repeat violent victimisation in Scotland, in late 2019. The research is intended to inform effective, appropriate and proportionate policy responses, as well as service responses to support victims, tailored to the needs of those who experience the highest levels of violent victimisation in Scottish society. More information on the study can be found on the University of Glasgow website.

What were the characteristics of violent crime?

A similar proportion of violent crime took place in public and private settings in 2018/19.

When locations are combined into broader categories, the SCJS estimates that there was no difference in the proportion of violent crimes taking place in a public and a private space[26] in 2018/19 (46% and 54%, respectively). This is different to SCJS findings in previous years which have found that violent crimes are more likely to take place in public settings. This change is mainly driven by an increase in the proportion of incidents taking place within respondents' homes, which has increased to 33% in 2018/19 after remaining unchanged over the last decade (18% in 2017/18). As this finding differs from previous years, it will be important to monitor this in future to establish if 2018/19 is an outlier or if the nature of where respondents say crime is happening is changing.

Figure 3.9 looks at particular locations more closely and demonstrates that violent crime was experienced in a variety of settings in 2018/19, with the respondent's home the most commonly cited specific location – accounting for almost a third of violent crimes.

Figure 3.9: Proportion of violent crime incidents occurring in different locations

Location	%
Inside victim's home	33%
In / near victim's place of work	17%
Immediately outside home	11%
At the home of a friend or relative	10%
In / around a pub / bar / nightclub	9%
In / around a football ground or other sports ground	5%
In / around a shop / supermarket / shopping centre	3%
While travelling or near transport facilities	1%
In / around a place of entertainment	0.4%
Some other place	10%
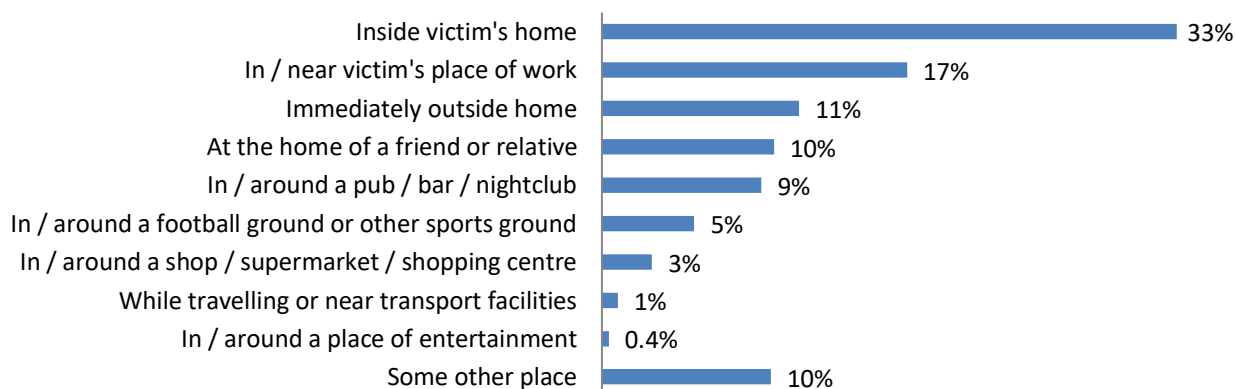
Base: Violent crime incidents (120); Variable: QWH1 / QWH3 / QWH5 / QWH7

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[26] For the purposes of analysis, 'private space' includes the respondent's home, immediately outside their home (includes gardens, driveways, sheds and the street) and the homes of friends and relatives. The definition of outside the victim's home may mean that some of these crimes could be viewed as taking part in a public setting instead – although it is not possible to separate those cases. 'Public space' refers to incidents taking place elsewhere.

A similar proportion of violent crime took place during the week and at the weekend.

Where respondents provided details about when an incident occurred[27], around three-fifths of violent crimes (57%) happened at the weekend, with 43% taking place during the week[28].

Most violent crime was not believed to be motivated by any discriminatory factor.

Although the SCJS did not ask directly about hate crime, respondents who had experienced violent crime were asked if they believed the incident was, or might have been, motivated by a range of motivating factors[29]. The majority (89%) of violent crimes were thought to have been motivated by none of these factors. Harassment and discrimination is discussed in more detail in Section 8.2.

Most violent crime did not involve a cyber element.

In 2018/19, respondents who had experienced violent crime were asked for the first time if the incident involved the internet, any type of online activity or an internet enabled device. Only 1% of violent crime incidents involved a cyber element. Cyber crime is discussed in more detail in Section 8.1.

What do we know about perpetrators of violent crime?

In 97% of violent incidents reported in 2018/19, respondents were able to provide some information about the offender. The section below presents headline results on the details provided[30]. All findings are proportions of cases where respondents were able to say something about the person or people who carried out the offence, unless otherwise stated.

Almost four-in-five violent crimes were committed by male offenders.

The SCJS results highlight that the majority of violent crimes in 2018/19 (79%) were carried out by male offenders only – a consistent finding over the years. A further 17% of incidents involved female offenders only, whilst in 4% of cases both men and women were responsible.

Violent incidents most commonly involved offenders under the age of 40.

Figure 3.10 shows that violent crimes involved people from a range of age groups, but only 14% involved any offenders aged 40 or over, suggesting that perpetrators tend to be from younger cohorts[31]. This finding is consistent with previous years, though the proportion of incidents involving people from the individual age categories tends to show fluctuation from year to year.

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[27] i.e. excluding those who said don't know or refused to give a time, which was the case for 9% of violent crime in 2018/19.

[28] Weekends were defined as 6pm on Friday to Sunday midnight.

[29] These motivating factors were their ethnic origin/race; religion; sectarianism; gender/gender identity or perception of this; disability/condition they have; sexual orientation; age; and pregnancy/maternity or perception of this.

[30] Additional results are available in the supporting data tables. The analysis presented is based on a relatively small number of incidents (n=116). As such, results have relatively large margins of error around them meaning that they should be interpreted with caution.

[31] It is important to note that individual incidents may have involved offenders from different age groups. For instance, a proportion of the 36% of cases involving offenders aged 16-24 may have also involved perpetrators from other age groups.

Figure 3.10: Percentage of violent crime incidents involving offenders of each age group
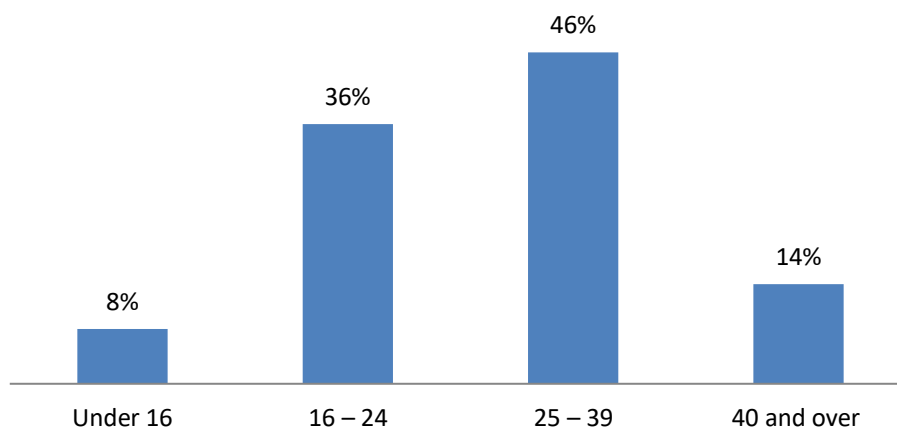
Violent crimes often involved offenders who victims knew or had seen before.

Most violent incidents (72%) in 2018/19 were committed by people who the victims knew or had seen before. Where offenders were known by the victim, just under two-thirds of incidents (63%) were said to have involved people 'known well'.

Those who said they knew the offender in some way were asked their relationship with the offender[32]. Figure 3.11 shows the range of relationships between victims and offenders.

Figure 3.11: Relationship of offender to respondent as a proportion of violent incidents where the offender is known in some way
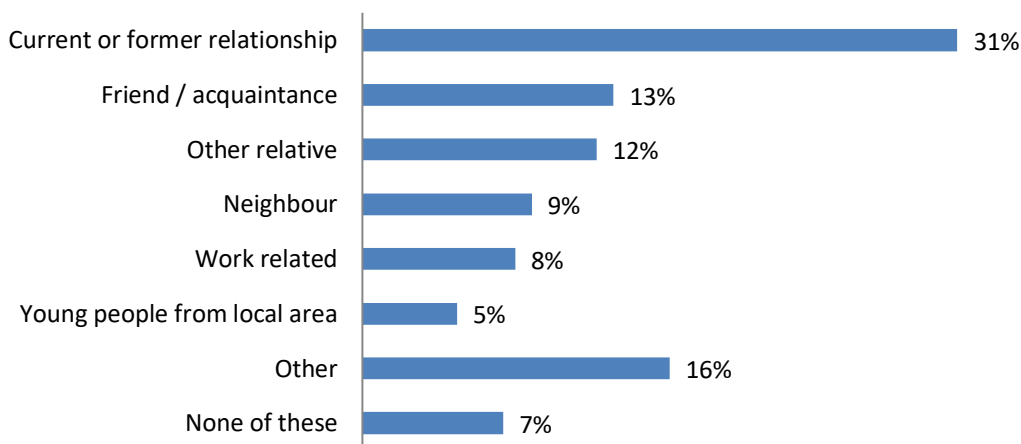
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[32] An amendment was made to the questionnaire in 2018/19 which meant this question was asked of all respondents who said they knew the offender, whereas previously just those who said they were 'known well' were asked this question.

When considering these findings, it is important to note that victims of partner abuse may not report such experiences through the face-to-face element of the SCJS. As such, questions on experiences of partner abuse (covering both physical and psychological abuse) are answered in a self-completion element of the survey – with the latest key findings on this topic from 2016/17 and 2017/18 combined presented in the 2017/18 Main Findings Report. The next partner abuse findings for 2018/19 and 2019/20 combined are due to be published in the 2019/20 Main Findings Report.

What do we know about the role of alcohol, drugs and weapons in violent crime?

Three-in-five violent crimes involved offenders under the influence of alcohol in 2018/19.

Offenders were believed to be under the influence of alcohol in 59% of violent incidents where victims were able to say something about the offender in 2018/19. This figure is not significantly different from the estimate in 2008/09 (63%) or 2017/18 (46%), but is higher than 2016/17 (42%). This suggests that alcohol remains a factor in a sizeable proportion of violent incidents.

Figure 3.12[33]: Proportion of violent crime offenders under the influence of alcohol

■ Alcohol related
■ Not alcohol related
■ Don't know
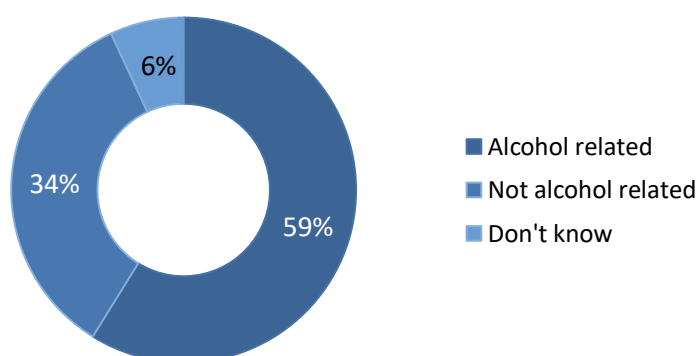
Base: Violent crime incidents where respondent could say something about offender (110); Variable: QAL

For wider context on the role of alcohol in violent crime, victims reported having consumed alcohol immediately before the incident in 32% of cases of all violent crime in 2018/19.

Relatedly, victims reported that just over two-in-five violent crimes (44%) involved offenders who were thought to be under the influence of drugs in 2018/19, up from 29% in 2008/09 and unchanged from 2017/18.

Combining this data, in 2018/19 it was found that offenders were believed to be under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs in over three-quarters (78%) of violent incidents where the victims were able to say something about the offender. This is an increase on the proportion in 2017/18 (62%) but no change since 2008/09.

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[33] These findings are based only on incidents where the respondent could say something about the offender(s). This follows an updated analytical approach first adopted in 2016/17 to focus only on incidents where victims could provide information about the perpetrator(s) and has been applied to the full time-series.

Violent crime in 2018/19 did not commonly involve the presence of weapons.

Where a violent incident involved someone seeing or hearing what was going on (i.e. the victim themselves or another witness, which was the case in 97% of incidents), further questions were asked about the presence of a weapon. In 2018/19, 13% of such incidents were said to have involved perpetrators with weapons, down from 25% in 2010/11 (when the wording of this question was updated to its current format).

When combining categories (in a similar way to the police recorded crime statistics) the SCJS found that bladed/pointed articles[34] were used in 4% of violent incidents where someone saw or heard what was happening. This is unchanged from 2017/18, although due to the small sample sizes, the sub-groups of this category are prone to fluctuations. For example whilst in 2017/18 the SCJS found 7% of these crimes involved a knife, no such crimes were detected in 2018/19.

Expanding the evidence on knife crime

Over the past ten years there has been a reduction in the prevalence of weapon-carrying or the use of weapons to commit violent crime in Scotland. Despite an increase in recent years, police recorded crimes of possessing, but not using, an offensive weapon were around half the levels in 2018/19 than they were in 2008/09.

A specific study into police recorded crime found that reductions in the type of violence that typically results in more severe physical injuries, have been driven in part by fewer cases involving the use of a weapon. For example, for both Attempted murder & serious assault and Robbery, the estimated number of crimes that involved the use of a weapon fell by more between 2008/09 and 2017/18, than those that did not involve any weapon. More information can be found in the Scottish Government report on non-sexual violence in Scotland.

In addition to police recorded crime, the number of hospital admissions due to assault with a sharp object have fallen by over half (53% or 750 cases), from 1,415 in 2008/09 to 665 in 2018/19.

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[34] Bladed/pointed articles includes knives, screwdrivers and syringes.

What was the impact of violent crime?

Around half of violent incidents resulted in injury, although serious injuries were relatively uncommon.

Where violent crime resulted in some sort of injury (56% of incidents), the most common injury sustained was minor bruising or a black eye (57%). More serious injuries like broken bones and head injuries occurred much less frequently, as shown in Figure 3.13[35].

Figure 3.13: Type of injuries sustained as a proportion of violent incidents resulting in injury

▼

The injuries commonly reported by victims are consistent with the finding that the majority of violent incidents are cases of minor assault resulting in no or negligible injury.

Minor bruising or black eye	57%
Severe bruising	34%
Severe cuts, gashes, tears or punctures to skin	26%
Scratches or minor cuts	25%
Broken / cracked / fractured bones	8%
Broken nose	5%
Head injury	2%
Dislocation of joints	0.5%
Broken / chipped / lost teeth	0.5%
Other	15%

Base: Violent crime incidents where respondent was injured (60); Variable: QINW

Almost half of respondents reported feeling anger as an emotional reaction they felt towards the violent crime they experienced.

In just under half of incidents, the emotional impacts reported by victims of violent crime in 2018/19 were anger (reported in 46% of violent incidents) and annoyance (45%), whilst in 42% of incidents respondents felt shock. Victims in just over a tenth of incidents (11%) said they experienced no emotional impacts, similar to the level in 2008/09 (10%) but down from 27% in 2017/18.

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[35] Other injuries are collected as open text responses to capture injuries like bite marks, sore hands and scraped knuckles which cannot be coded under existing categories.

What proportion of violent crime was reported to the police?

The majority of violent incidents in 2018/19 were not reported to the police, a finding consistent with earlier survey years.

The 2018/19 SCJS estimates that two-fifths of violent incidents (40%) were brought to the attention of the police. The reporting rate in 2018/19 was not significantly different from the rate in any SCJS year since 2008/09 (for example, 43% in 2008/09 and 39% in 2017/18) and not significantly different from the reporting rate for property crime in 2018/19 (34%).

There can be a range of factors which influence whether or not an individual reports a crime to the police, not least how the victim views their own experience. The SCJS finds that in around two-fifths of violent incidents in 2018/19 (43%) victims thought their experience should be described as 'a crime' as shown in Figure 3.14 below. Three-fifths (60%) of incidents which victims considered to be a crime were brought to the attention of the police in 2018/19.

Figure 3.14: Victim's description of violent crime incidents experienced
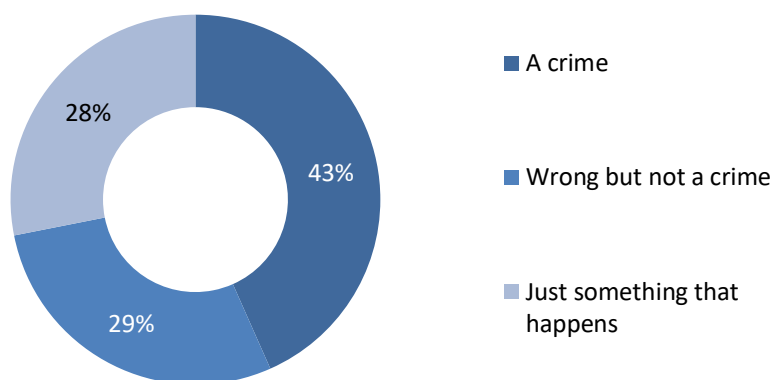
Base: Violent crime incidents (120); Variable: QCRNO

When asked directly why they did not report their experience to the police, victims cited a range of reasons. These included that:

- the experience was too trivial or not worth reporting (25%)
- the issue was considered a private, personal or family matter (23%)
- the belief that the police could have done nothing (16%)

In addition to the options listed in the survey, 'other' reasons were cited in 19% of cases.

Where incidents did come to the attention of the police, victims received information or assistance about the investigation and the case (where relevant) from the police in over half of instances (55%). This is unchanged from 2017/18, but up from 2008/09 (32%). Respondents received information or assistance from the Witness Service/Victim Support Scotland in relation to 31% of incidents, from the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service/Victim Information and Advice service in 18%, and from Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service in 5%. Victims said they had not received information or assistance from any organisation in 13% of cases, whilst a further 19% of incidents were not investigated according to the victim. Respondents' views of the police and the justice system are discussed in more detail in the Public perceptions of the police and the justice system chapter.

What consequences did victims believe offenders should have faced?

About half of victims of violent crime thought the offender should have gone to court, but views varied on what action would have been appropriate.

Regardless of whether the incident was reported to the police, victims in 50% of violent crimes thought the offender should have been prosecuted in court. This proportion has shown no significant change since 2008/09 or in the latest year, and is similar to the proportion of property crime victims in 2018/19 who thought offenders should have been prosecuted in court (51%).

A third (33%) of those who did not think court was appropriate thought the offender should have apologised for what they had done, whilst 30% said nothing should have happened to the offender. Only 3% thought offenders should have been given some kind of help to stop them offending, down from 25% in 2017/18 and unchanged from 2008/09 (8%). Respondents' views of the criminal justice system are discussed in more detail in Chapter 6.

4. Focus on property crime

What was the extent and prevalence of property crime in 2018/19?

There were an estimated 408,000 property crimes in Scotland in 2018/19, representing around 70% of all crime experienced by adults.

The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) estimates that 408,000 incidents[36] of property-related crime[37] were experienced by adults in Scotland in 2018/19. This represents 71% of all crime measured by the SCJS in 2018/19; the remainder being violent incidents.

As a sample survey of the general public, SCJS results are estimated values with margins of error, rather than exact counts of criminal incidents. Further information on the process used to calculate estimates is contained within the Technical Report. Taking into account confidence intervals, the SCJS estimates that there were between 365,000 and 451,000 incidents of property crime in Scotland in 2018/19. Analysis from this point onwards will focus on the best estimates for results across the survey for each survey year.

The amount of property crime experienced by adults in Scotland has shown a substantial decrease since 2008/09.

Looking at trends over time, the SCJS finds that the number of property crime incidents has decreased by 44% since 2008/09. Figure 4.1 displays the number of property incidents estimated to have taken place by each year of the SCJS since 2008/09, demonstrating a large fall over the past decade[38].

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[36] Crime estimates are rounded to the nearest 1,000 crimes.

[37] Details on the specific crimes included within the property crime group are outlined in the 'Overview of crime' chapter.

[38] The increase in confidence interval shown by the greater difference between the lower and upper estimates from 2016/17 onwards is due to a reduction in the target survey sample size. Please see the Introduction for definitions of best, upper and lower estimates.

Figure 4.1: Estimated number of property crime incidents, 2008/09 to 2018/19
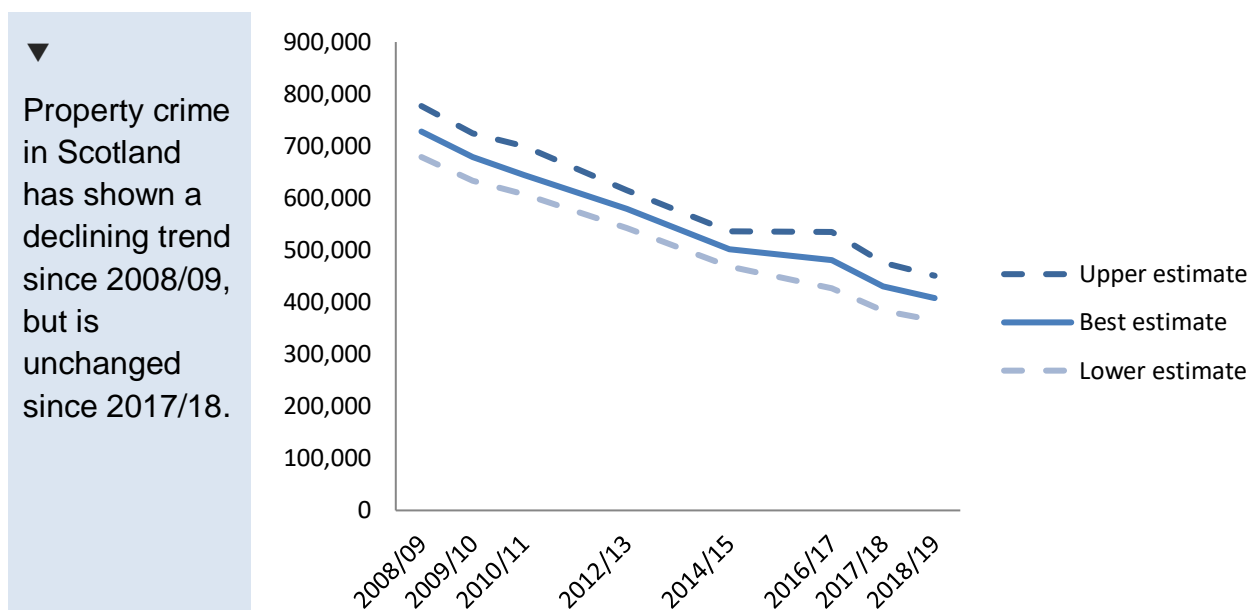
▼

Property crime in Scotland has shown a declining trend since 2008/09, but is unchanged since 2017/18.

Base: SCJS 2008/09 (16,000); 2009/10 (16,040); 2010/11 (13,010); 2012/13 (12,050); 2014/15 (11,470); 2016/17 (5,570); 2017/18 (5,480); 2018/19 (5,540). Variable: INCPROPERTY

Table 4.1 examines results from key comparator years[39] more closely and shows that the estimated number of incidents of property crime experienced by adults has:

- reduced by 44% since 2008/09, from 728,000 to 408,000 – the decrease of over 320,000 incidents is statistically significant

- shown no change since the last SCJS in 2017/18 – the apparent decrease from 430,000 in 2017/18 is not statistically significant

Table 4.1: Estimated of number of property crimes (2008/09, 2017/18, 2018/19)

Crime type	2008/09	2017/18	2018/19	Change since 2008/09	Change since 2017/18
Best estimate	**728,000**	**430,000**	**408,000**	⇩ by 44%	No change
Lower estimate	679,000	384,000	365,000		
Upper estimate	777,000	476,000	451,000		
Number of respondents	*16,000*	*5,480*	*5,540*		

Variable: INCPROPERTY.

Whilst the SCJS has detected no change in the level of property crime in the last year, it does find evidence that property crime has continued to fall in recent years with a significant decrease of 15% detected between 2016/17 and 2018/19. Given that it is often more challenging to find significant changes between adjacent survey years, this decrease over the last few years provides some indication that property crime has remained on a declining trend despite the lack of change detected since the 2017/18 SCJS.

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[39] Annex Table A1.2 provides best estimates of the number of incidents of property crime for each year of the SCJS since 2008/09.

The proportion of adults experiencing property crime has also fallen since 2008/09.

The SCJS results show that, as in previous years, most adults were not victims of any crime in 2018/19, with 10.9% experiencing property crime. Adults were around five times more likely to have experienced property crime than violent crime in 2018/19, which was experienced by 2.2% of the population.

As with incident numbers, crime prevalence rates are also estimates derived from a sample survey of the population which have associated margins of error around them. Taking into account this margin of error, between 9.9% and 11.9% of the adult population were estimated to have experienced property crime in 2018/19, with 10.9% representing the best estimate[40]. Again, as with incident counts, analysis from this point onwards will focus on the best estimates for results across the survey for each survey year[41].

Looking at trends over time, the proportion of adults who were victims of property crime has fallen in the last decade from 18.0% in 2008/09 to 10.9% in 2018/19, as shown in Figure 4.2.

The SCJS detects no change in experiences of property crime comparing results for 2018/19 with the 2016/17 and 2017/18 surveys. Although it is often more difficult to find significant changes between adjacent years of the SCJS, the fact that there was also no significant change between 2016/17 and 2018/19 suggests that the level of property crime victimisation is seeing more stability in recent years.

Figure 4.2: Proportion of adults experiencing property crime (2008/09, 2017/18, 2018/19)

▼

The proportion of adults experiencing property crime has:

Fallen by 7.1 percentage points since 2008/09.

Shown no change since 2017/18.

Base: SCJS 2008/09 (16,000); 2017/18 (5,480); 2018/19 (5,540). Variable: PREVPROPERTY

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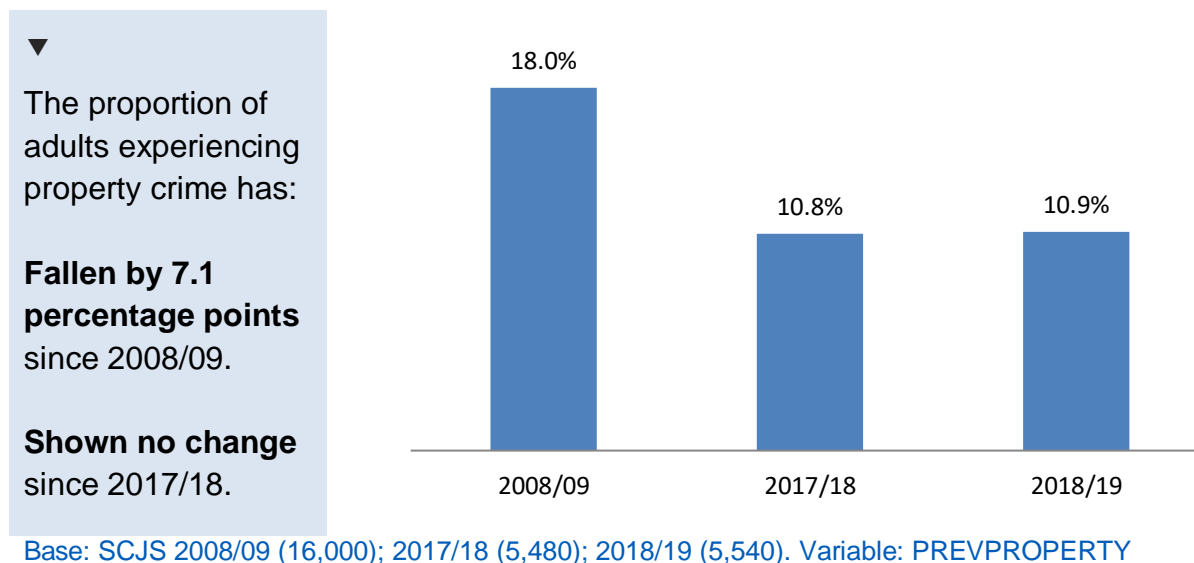
[40] Please see the Introduction for definitions of best, upper and lower estimates.

[41] Confidence Intervals around other survey results can be derived using the data tables and users statistical testing tool available on the SCJS website.

What types of property crime were most commonly experienced?

Vandalism continues to be the most common form of property crime experienced in Scotland, but has more than halved in volume since 2008/09.

As shown in Figure 4.3, a range of different types of property crime[42] were experienced in Scotland in 2018/19. As in previous years, incidents of vandalism accounted for the largest proportion of property crime incidents (38%), followed by personal theft (24%) and other household theft (including bicycle theft) (23%)[43].

Figure 4.3: Categories of crime as proportions of property crime overall

There have been notable reductions in the number of incidents of vandalism, other household theft and motor vehicle related theft since 2008/09, as Table 4.2 below outlines. For example, the SCJS finds that the amount of vandalism in Scotland has more than halved since 2008/09, from an estimated 350,000 incidents to 155,000.

Since 2017/18, the estimated amount of other household theft (including bicycle) has fallen by just over a quarter, whilst all other categories of property crime have shown no change in the number of incidents over the short-term.

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[42] Throughout this chapter the types of property crime are listed in accordance with the priority ladder in the SCJS offence coding manual.

[43] Further details on the categories of property crime are provided in the Introduction and the Technical Report.

Table 4.2: Estimated number of incidents of types of property crime (2008/09, 2017/18, 2018/19)

Crime type	2008/09	2017/18	2018/19	Change since 2008/09	Change since 2017/18
PROPERTY CRIME	**728,000**	**430,000**	**408,000**	⇩ by 44%	No change
Housebreaking	**25,000**	**25,000**	**25,000**	No change	No change
Personal theft	**110,000**	**93,000**	**99,000**	No change	No change
Other household theft including bicycle	**173,000**	**125,000**	**93,000**	⇩ by 46%	⇩ by 25%
All motor vehicle related theft	**70,000**	**24,000**	**35,000**	⇩ by 49%	No change
Vandalism	**350,000**	**163,000**	**155,000**	⇩ by 56%	No change
Number of respondents	*16,000*	*5,480*	*5,540*		

Variables: INCPROPERTY; INCHOUSEBREAK; INCPERSTHEFT; INCOTHERHOUSEHOLDTHEFTCYCLE; INCALLMVTHEFT; INCVAND.

Looking at the prevalence of different categories of property crime reveals that some sub-types were more commonly experienced than others in 2018/19, as outlined in Figure 4.4[44].

Similar to the estimated number of incidents, the prevalence rates for vandalism, other household theft and motor vehicle related theft have all fallen since 2008/09, whilst the likelihood of experiencing personal theft and housebreaking have not changed. For example, like the incident count, the prevalence rate for vandalism almost halved between 2008/09 and 2018/19 (from 8.9% to 4.5%).

The prevalence rate for all sub-categories of property crime were unchanged between 2017/18 and 2018/19.

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[44] It is worth noting that prevalence rates for sub-categories of property crime (e.g. vandalism) are considered to be 'household crimes' and are presented as proportions of households victimised. The one exception is personal theft which is a 'personal crime' and therefore relates to the proportion of adults affected.

Figure 4.4: Proportion of adults/households experiencing types of property crime

▼

Just under 1 in 20 households (4.5%) experienced vandalism in 2018/19, whilst fewer than 1 in 100 (0.9%) were victims of housebreaking.
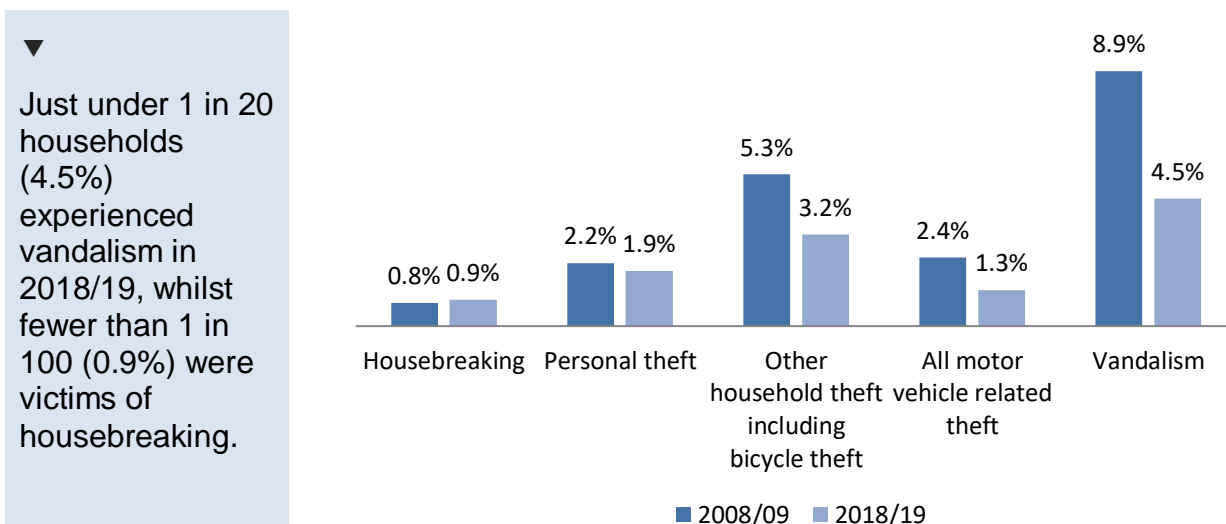
Base: SCJS 2008/09 (16,000); 2018/19 (5,540). Variables: PREVHOUSEBREAK; PREVPERSTHEFT; PREVOTHERHOUSETHEFTCYCLE; PREVALLMVTHEFT; PREVVAND.

Note: Prevalence rates for vandalism, other household theft, motor vehicle related theft and housebreaking are presented as proportions of households experiencing each crime type.

How did experiences of property crime vary across the population?

Women were more likely to experience property crime in 2018/19, as well as those under 60, people in the most deprived areas of Scotland, and those living in urban locations.

The SCJS enables us to examine how experiences of property crime in 2018/19 varied across the population according to demographic and area characteristics. For example, as shown in Figure 4.5, the likelihood of being a victim of property crime in 2018/19 was:

- greater for women than men

- lowest for those aged 60 and over – with no differences detected amongst different categories of younger adults

- greater for those living in the 15% most deprived areas in Scotland

- greater for adults living in urban locations than rural locations

Since the SCJS started in its current format in 2008/09, this is the first time that there has been a difference in the likelihood of experiencing property crime by gender, with females found to have a higher likelihood (12.1%) than males (9.8%). Both males and females have seen a decrease in the likelihood of being a victim of property crime since 2008/09, although differences in the magnitude of the decrease has caused this difference between the genders to emerge in the latest year.

Figure 4.5: Proportion of adults experiencing property crime, by demographic and area characteristics
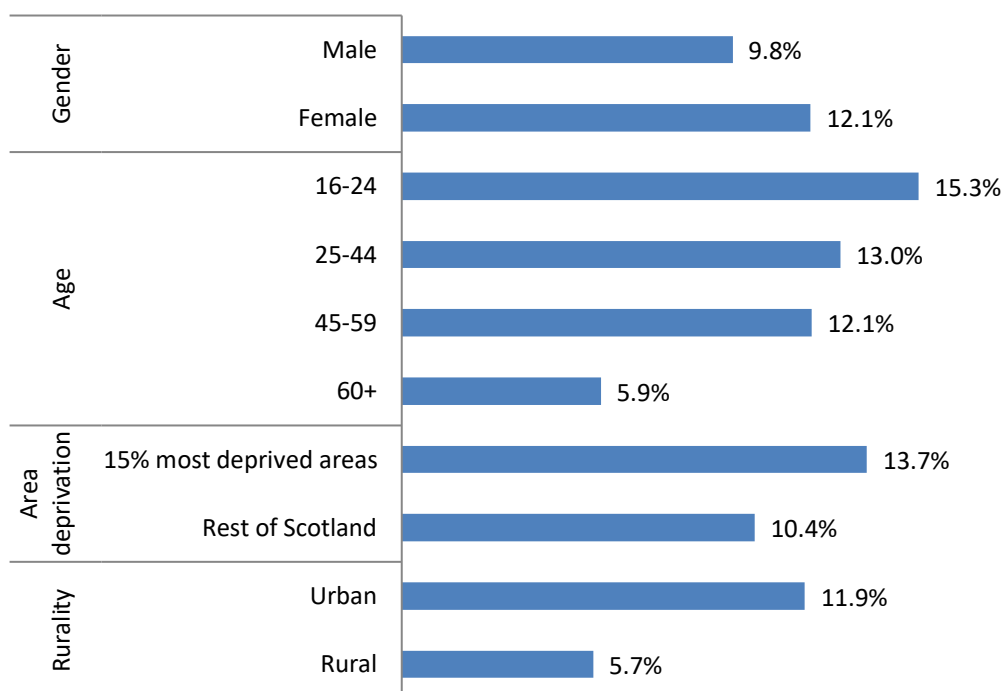
Base: 2018/19 (5,540). Variable: PREVPROPERTY; QDGENQDAGE; SIMD_TOP; URBRUR.

Although some inequalities remain, the likelihood of experiencing property crime has fallen for most groups since 2008/09.

Looking at trends over time reveals that the prevalence of property crime victimisation has decreased significantly since 2008/09 across many key groups in the population – including across all the demographic and area characteristics discussed above[45].

The SCJS detected no change in the prevalence rates for any of the above population groups between 2017/18 and 2018/19.

What can the SCJS tell us about repeat victimisation?

As outlined previously, the SCJS estimates that the majority of adults did not experience any crime in 2018/19 and 10.9% of the population were victims of at least one property crime. However, the survey also enables us to further explore how experiences varied amongst victims and examine the concentration of crime, including what proportion of victims experienced a particular type of crime more than once during the year[46]. This is known as 'repeat victimisation'.

Further information about the approach taken to process and derive SCJS results, including on repeat victimisation, is provided in the Technical Report.

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[45] Please see the Annex tables for relevant results and the SCJS supporting data tables for additional breakdowns.

[46] i.e. two or more experiences of property crime.

2.5% of adults experienced two or more property crimes in 2018/19, accounting for almost half of all property crime.

Looking at the volume of crime experienced by individual victims in more detail shows that 8.3% of adults were victims of one property crime only and 2.5% were repeat victims of property crime.

Table 4.3 highlights the extent of different levels of repeat property victimisation and the proportion of property crime accounted for by each group. For instance, 45% of all property crime in Scotland in 2018/19 was experienced by the 2.5% of the population who were repeat victims. On average this group is estimated to have experienced 1.6 property crimes each over the year.

Table 4.3: Proportion of property crime experienced by victims, by number of crimes experienced in 2018/19

▼ Over a fifth of all property crime (22%) was experienced by just 0.8% of the adult population who were victims of three or more incidents over the year.	Number of crimes	% of population	% of property crime
	None	**89.1%**	**0%**
	One	8.3%	55%
	Two	1.7%	23%
	Three	0.4%	10%
	Four	0.2%	4%
	Five or more	0.2%	8%
	Two or more	**2.5%**	**45%**

Base: SCJS 2018/19 (5,540). Variable: PREVPROPERTY, INCPROPERTY.

The likelihood of experiencing repeat victimisation has fallen since 2008/09.

Figure 4.6 displays trends in single and repeat property crime victimisation over time. It shows that between 2008/09 and 2018/19 there were decreases in the proportion of adults experiencing:

- single incidents of property crime – from 11.6% to 8.3%

- repeat victimisation (two or more incidents of property crime) – from 6.4% to 2.5%

- high frequency repeat victimisation (five or more incidents of property crime) – from 0.9% to 0.2%

The fall in the various levels of victimisation since 2008/09 have occurred in line with a decrease in the overall property crime victimisation rate[47] over the same period, as discussed previously.

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[47] i.e. the proportion of adults experiencing *at least* one property crime over the year.

Figure 4.6: Proportion of adults experiencing a number of property crimes
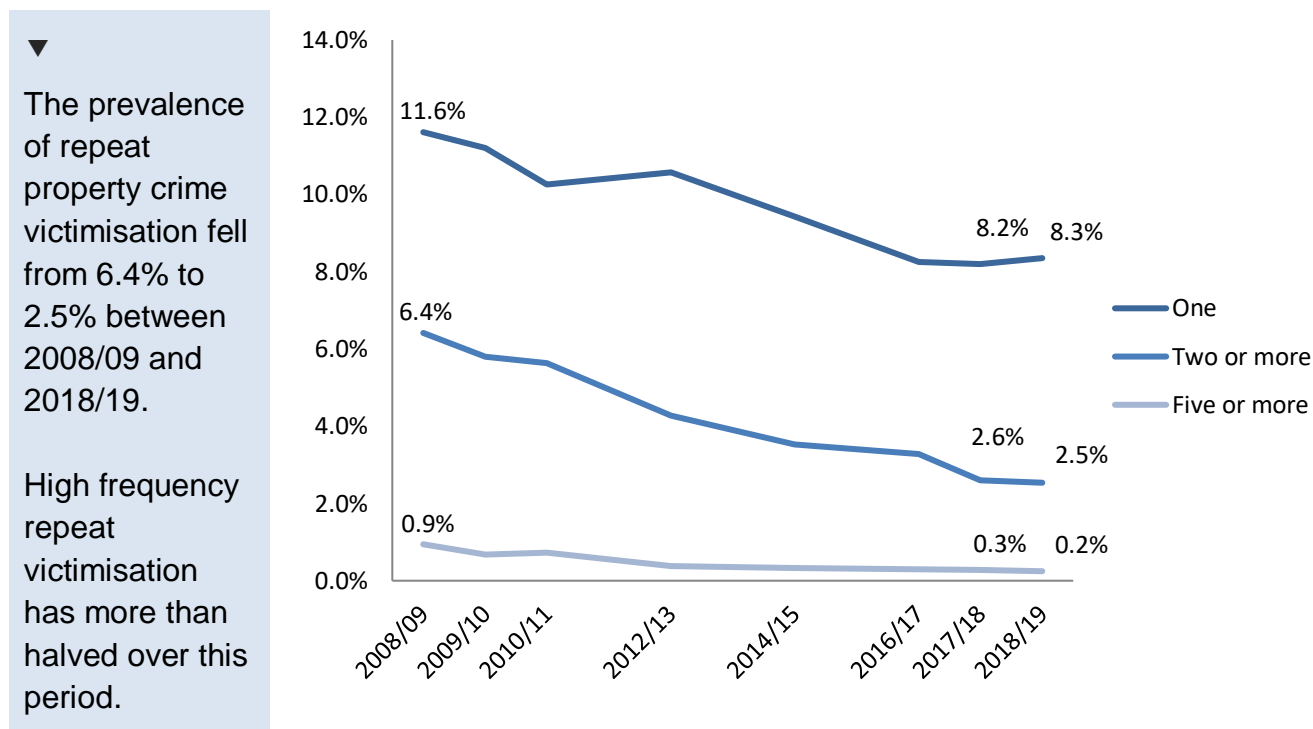
> ▼
>
> The prevalence of repeat property crime victimisation fell from 6.4% to 2.5% between 2008/09 and 2018/19.
>
> High frequency repeat victimisation has more than halved over this period.

Note: the 'five or more' category is a sub-set of the 'two or more' category.

Since the last SCJS in 2017/18, there has been no change in the level of single, repeat or high frequency repeat property crime victimisation – any apparent falls shown in Figure 4.6 are not statistically significant.

What do we know about the characteristics of property crime?

Most property crime incidents occurred in or near the home of the victim.

Consistent with previous years, the majority of property crime incidents in 2018/19 (67%) took place in and around the victim's home. The most common specific location was immediately outside the respondent's home[48], representing around half of all property crime in 2018/19 (53%).

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[48] Immediately outside the respondent's home includes gardens, sheds, driveways and the street outside the respondents' home.

Figure 4.7: Proportion of property crime incidents occurring in different locations
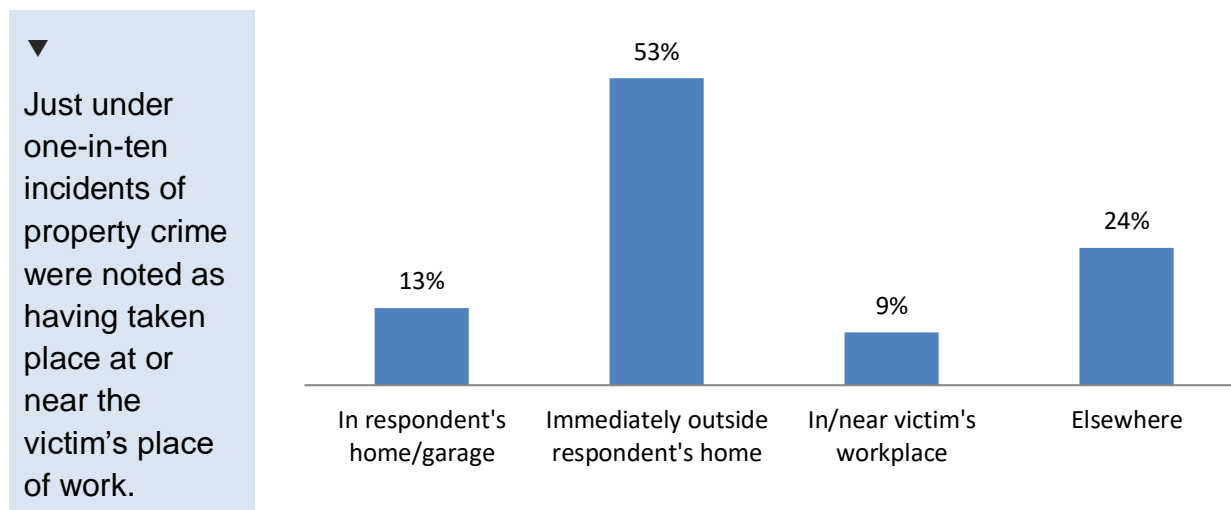
▼

Just under one-in-ten incidents of property crime were noted as having taken place at or near the victim's place of work.

The majority of property crime incidents took place on weekdays.

Where respondents provided details about when an incident occurred[49], over half of all property crimes in 2018/19 (59%) were said to have taken place during the week, with 41% occurring at weekends[50].

Most property crime did not involve a cyber element.

In 2018/19, respondents who had experienced property crime were asked for the first time if the incident involved the internet, any type of online activity or an internet enabled device. Only 2% of property crime incidents involved a cyber element. Cyber crime is discussed in more detail in Section 8.1.

What do we know about the perpetrators of property crime?

Victims were unable to provide any details about the offender(s) in most instances.

Compared to violent crime incidents, victims of property crime are generally much less likely to report being able to say something about the offender in the incident(s) they experience. Respondents were able to provide any relevant information about the offender for just one-third of incidents (32%) in 2018/19, compared to 97% of violent incidents.

As such, the section below presents a summary of the sort of information provided by victims, although these findings should be interpreted with caution as they are not necessarily representative of all property crime incidents. This is particularly the case if comparing with findings from previous years[51]. Further results are available in the supporting data tables.

Where respondents were able to say something about the person or people who carried out the offence, victims noted that property crimes in 2018/19:

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[49] i.e. excluding those who said don't know or refused to give a time.

[50] Weekends were defined as 6pm on Friday to Sunday midnight.

[51] Where a similarly low proportion of respondents were able to tell us about offenders involved in property crimes. Further information on the SCJS in previous years is available in the Technical Report, whilst results from previous years are accessible on the SCJS website.

Were mostly committed by males

64% of incidents involved male offenders only, while 19% involved female only perpetrators, and 12% involved perpetrators of both sexes. In 6% of incidents the respondent did not know the gender of the offenders.

Most commonly involved offenders under the age of 40

Whilst property crimes were committed by people from a range of age categories, only 21% of incidents were noted as having involved offenders aged 40 or over.

Often involved perpetrators known by the victims

Most incidents (55%) were committed by offenders who the victims knew or had seen before. Where offenders were known by the victim, two-fifths of incidents (40%) were said to have involved people 'known well'.

Respondents who said that someone saw or heard what was going on, or had some form of contact with the offender (the case in 21% of property crime incidents) were asked additional questions about their experience, including the presence of weapons. In 2018/19, 5% of such incidents[52] were said to have involved perpetrators who possessed weapons.

What was the impact of property crime?

Direct financial costs resulting from property crime were typically of relatively low value – but the impact of such costs will vary for each victim.

Victims of property crime where something was stolen (54% of property crimes) were asked to provide the approximate value of the items concerned. As Figure 4.8 shows, in almost two-thirds of incidents (65%) where the victim was able to provide an estimate, the total value of items stolen was £100 or less. The total value was over £1,000 in just over one-in-twenty incidents.

Figure 4.8: Financial impact of property crime where respondents could estimate cost
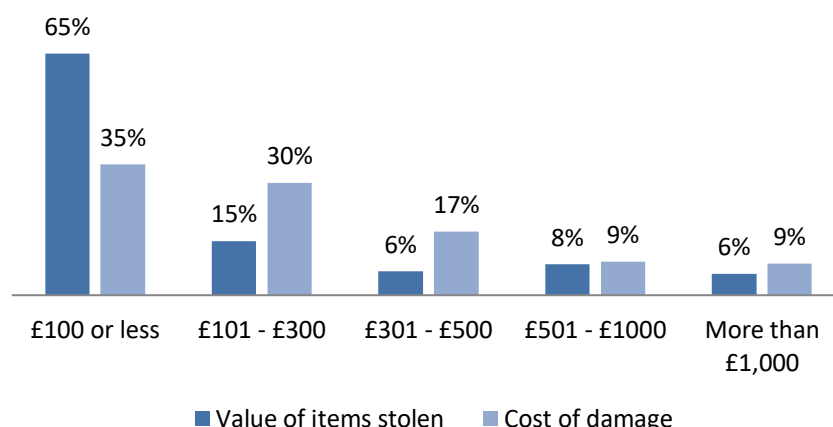
Base: Property crime incidents where something was stolen (310) or damaged (220); Variables: QSVAB; QDVAB. Excludes those who said 'don't know' or 'refused' to the value of items lost or cost of damage.

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[52] i.e. incidents where someone saw or heard what was happening or had contact with the offender.

Considering incidents where property was damaged (46% of property incidents), victims said the total cost of the damage was £100 or less in 35% of incidents where they were able to provide an estimate. Looking at instances of more costly damage, just under one-in ten incidents (9%) led to damages totalling more than £1,000.

The most frequent emotional responses to experiences of property crime were annoyance and anger.

Consistent with previous years, victims of property crime most commonly reported being annoyed or angered by their experience (in 63% and 53% of incidents, respectively).

What proportion of property crime was reported to the police?

Although most instances of property crime in 2018/19 were considered by victims to be criminal incidents, as in previous years only one-third of cases were reported to the police.

Victims of property crime described their experience as 'a crime' in two-thirds of incidents (67%), with 19% of incidents said to be 'wrong but not a crime' and 14% viewed as 'just something that happens'. These results are shown in Figure 4.9. Property crime incidents were more likely to be viewed as criminal by the victims compared to experiences of violent crime in 2018/19 (of which 43% of incidents were considered to be 'a crime').

However, the SCJS estimates that only around one-in-every-three property crimes (34%) were reported to the police in 2018/19. The reporting rate for property crime has remained constant over the last decade with no change shown since 2008/09 (36%) and was not significantly different from the reporting rate for violent crime in 2018/19 (40%).

Figure 4.9: Victim's description of property crime incidents experienced
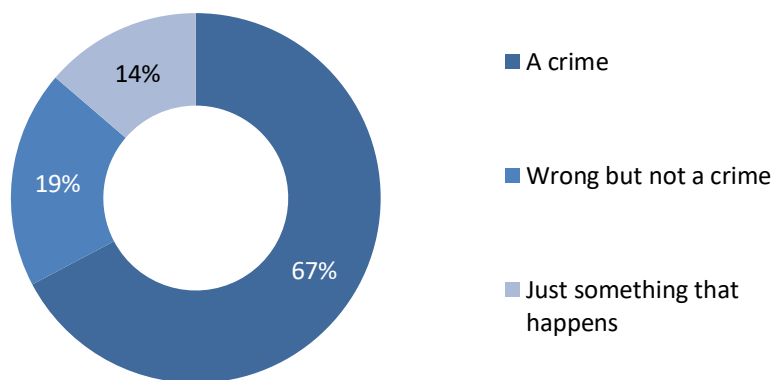
Base: Property crime incidents (650); Variable: QCRNO

Incidents were more likely to be reported if any damaged or stolen goods were insured (50%), compared to around a quarter of cases (26%) where items were not covered.

Victims often considered incidents to be too trivial to report to the police.

The most common reasons given by victims for not reporting their experience to the police was that the incident was perceived to be too trivial or not worth reporting (37% of incidents) and that it was believed the police could have done nothing about the incident (33% of incidents).

Where crimes were brought to the attention of the police, victims received information or assistance about the investigation and the case (where relevant) from the police in relation to around half of all incidents (46%). Information or assistance was provided by the Witness Service/Victim Support Scotland in 8% of such cases, whilst in over a quarter of incidents (29%) victims said they did not receive information or assistance from any organisation.

What consequences did victims believe property crime offenders should have faced?

Victims believed the majority of cases should have been prosecuted in court, although prison sentences were not considered appropriate in most incidents.

Regardless of whether their experience was reported to the police, victims in half of all incidents of property crime in 2018/19 (51%) thought the offender should have been prosecuted in court, which has decreased since 2017/18 (60%). This decrease means that, unlike in previous years, this is a similar proportion to the equivalent figure for violent crime in 2018/19 (50%).

Where victims thought an incident should have resulted in a court prosecution, a prison sentence was only considered a suitable outcome in relation to one-in-every-ten cases (12%), which is lower than that for violent crimes (29%).

Respondents who did not think property crime offenders should have been prosecuted in court (and those who were not sure) were asked about alternatives to prosecution and whether any other course of action should have taken place. The most frequent responses provided by victims were that offenders:

- should have apologised for their actions (cited in relation to 22% of such incidents)
- should have been given some kind of warning (18%)
- should have been made to pay the victim(s) compensation (16% of incidents)

Notably, victims said that 'nothing should have happened' in relation to only 6% of these property crime incidents (i.e. where they did not think the offender should have been prosecuted in court). This compares to 30% of violent incidents (where prosecution in court was deemed unnecessary by victims).

5. Bringing together crime statistics

Why are there two sources of crime statistics?

This chapter compares the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) and police recorded crime to help assess whether and to what extent they show consistent trends. It examines the scale of the difference between the volume of crime that is recorded by the police and the level of crime that is estimated by the survey to be experienced by the adult population living in households in Scotland. This builds on an analytical paper published in 2014.

A range of information is provided based on analysis of a sub-set of comparable crimes[53]. The two sources of crime statistics are reviewed briefly first, then the chapter looks at trends in these two sources over time, including a specific focus on three broadly comparable sub-groups: violent crime, acquisitive crime and vandalism[54]. Finally this chapter compares police recorded crime with the proportion of SCJS crime estimated to have been reported to the police.

The SCJS and police recorded crime are essential, complementary evidence sources that, when considered together, present a fuller picture of crime in Scotland.

Police recorded crime captures a broad range of crimes that are recorded by the police. It provides a good measure of crimes that are well-recorded and reported to the police and is particularly useful for lower-volume crimes that are challenging for sample surveys of the population to capture. Police recorded crime is used to develop and evaluate measures put in place to reduce crime, and to assess the performance of policing and criminal justice organisations. However, this data is sensitive to changes in recording practices and police activity, and does not include information about crimes that are not reported, or recorded by, the police.

Crime surveys allow a wider assessment of the overall level of crime and likelihood of experiencing crime. They also provide a range of additional information, for example on the characteristics of crime, the relative likelihood of experiencing crime across the population and on repeat victimisation. However, surveys are often not as good at picking up some rarer crimes, crimes where there is no specific victim, or where the victim is not covered by the survey sample (for example, crimes against businesses and children).

As well as these differences, the SCJS and police recorded crime also cover different timescales. The 2018/19 Recorded Crime results cover crimes recorded during the 2018/19 financial year. Whereas the 2018/19 SCJS includes crimes experienced by SCJS respondents over a 25-month 'reference period'[55].

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[53] This sub-set should not be used to assess the overall level of crime in Scotland.

[54] Chapters 8 and 12 of the Technical Report provide more information about the crime groups used in this report, including the comparable crime sub-set.

[55] Respondents were asked about incidents experienced in the 12 months prior to the month of interview (the reference period). The time period covered by the data included in this report extends over 25 months (from start of April 2017 to end of April 2019) so is not directly comparable with any calendar year. However, results in the 2014 analytical paper showed consistent results using different methods to make comparisons over time.

Overall, the two sources each feature relative strengths and limitations, making them more appropriate in different contexts and for different purposes[56]. Taking account of these differences, comparisons between recorded crime and SCJS data can be made by examining a broadly comparable sub-set of crimes which are covered by each source. This sub-set of crimes are made up of those crimes that are coded in the survey in approximately the same way as they would be recorded by the police[57]. Almost two-thirds (64%) of 'all SCJS crime', as measured by the 2018/19 SCJS, fall into categories that can be compared with police recorded crime.

What are the trends in comparable SCJS and police recorded crime?

There is relatively good consistency in the trends in overall comparable SCJS and police recorded crime, particularly over the longer term, with both showing large decreases.

Of the 573,000 crimes estimated by the 2018/19 SCJS, almost two-thirds (366,000) can be compared with police recorded crimes. Figure 5.1 demonstrates the scale of the difference between the two series of crime statistics. In 2018/19, the police recorded 125,953 crimes and offences in the comparable sub-set, representing approximately 34% of the number of crimes in the SCJS comparable sub-set.

Figure 5.1: Comparable recorded crime and SCJS estimates, 2008/09 to 2018/19[58]

▼ Both key sources of crime statistics in Scotland find large decreases in the level of crime since 2008/09.
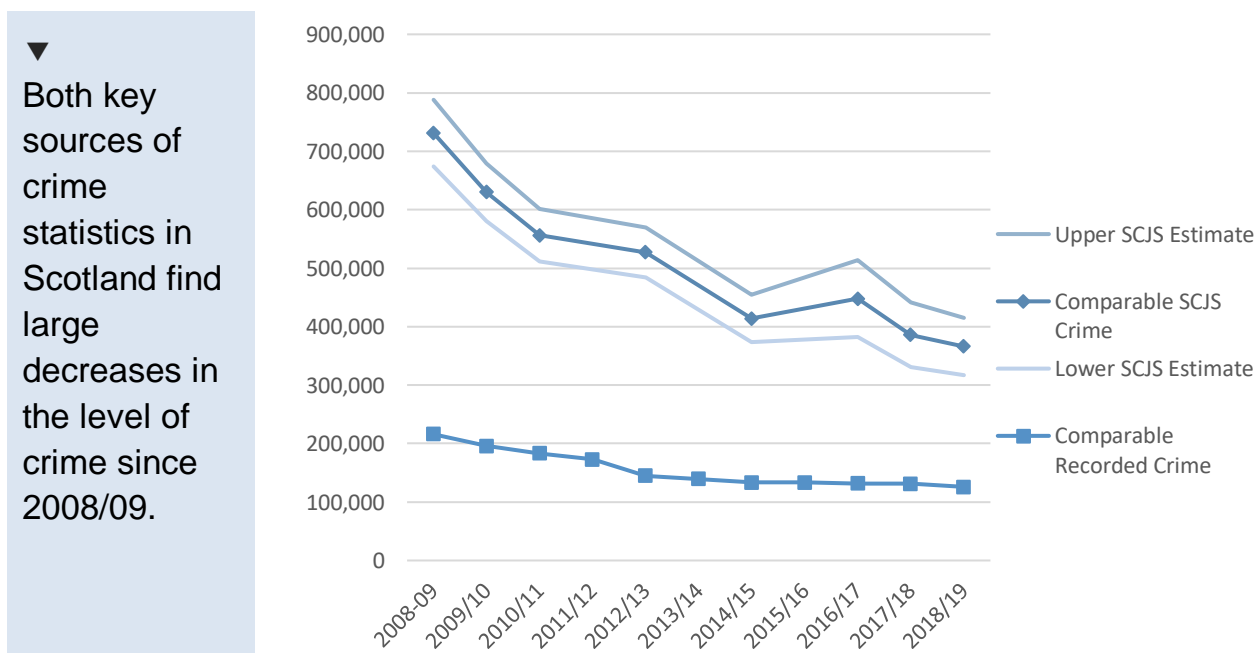
Sources: SCJS, Police recorded crime.

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[56] Annex B provides an overview of the main differences to bear in mind when making comparisons between the two sources.

[57] Please see the Technical Report for more information on offence codes and crime groups.

[58] The change to a smaller SCJS sample of around 6,000 with effect from 2016/17 compared to around 12,000 in 2014/15 means a larger range of uncertainty around the point estimate for all comparable crime from 2016/17 onwards, as shown by the larger divergence between lower and upper estimates in Figure 5.1.

There are a number of reasons for these differences, including that SCJS estimates tend to be higher than recorded crime figures, even in the comparable category, because the survey is able to capture crime which does not come to the attention of the police. Overall, from the answers given by respondents in the survey when asked if the police came to know about an incident, the 2018/19 SCJS estimates that 41% of all crime in the comparable sub-set came to the attention of the police.

Both the SCJS and police recorded crime provide evidence of large decreases in crime in Scotland over the last decade or so. As shown in Table 5.1, the SCJS estimates that the volume of comparable crime fell by 50% between 2008/09 and 2018/19, whilst comparable recorded crime is down by 42% over the same period.

Table 5.1: Comparable crime group estimates, 2008/09 to 2018/19

	2008/09	2017/18	2018/19	% change since 2008/09	% change since 2017/18
All comparable crime					
Comparable SCJS Crime	731,000	386,000	366,000	-50%	No change
Comparable Recorded Crime	215,901	130,418	125,953	-42%	-3%
Acquisitive crime					
SCJS Acquisitive Crime	64,000	51,000	46,000	-28%	No change
Recorded Acquisitive Crime	27,527	17,867	16,644	-40%	-7%
Violent crime					
SCJS Violent Crime	317,000	172,000	165,000	-48%	No change
Recorded Violent Crime	82,855	63,835	63,771	-23%	-0.1%
Vandalism					
SCJS Vandalism	350,000	163,000	155,000	-56%	No change
Recorded Vandalism	105,519	48,716	45,538	-57%	-7%

Sources: SCJS; Police recorded crime; SCJS Base: 2008/09 (16,000); 2016/17 (5,570); 2017/18 (5,480); 2018/19 (5,540).

Note: changes in SCJS results specified where statistically significant.

Since 2017/18, the SCJS found no change in the level of comparable crime, whilst comparable recorded crime fell by 3%.

In 2016, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) published an audit of incidents and crimes recorded by Police Scotland. This audit found no systematic data quality issues around the recording of crimes and offences, with the resulting report stating that 'the quality of most incident and crime recording decisions by Police Scotland is good'[59].

The following section looks at comparable acquisitive crime, violent crime and vandalism in more detail.

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[59] The next HMICS Crime Audit is due to take place in 2020, with the results included in the Recorded Crime in Scotland 2019-20 National Statistics bulletin.

Acquisitive Crime

The acquisitive comparable crime group includes bicycle theft, housebreaking and theft of a motor vehicle. In 2018/19 the SCJS estimated that there were 46,000 acquisitive crimes (+/- 11,000, meaning that the true number of acquisitive crimes experienced by the population is estimated to be between 35,000 and 57,000[60]). The police recorded 16,644 acquisitive crimes in 2018/19.

Both SCJS estimates and recorded acquisitive crime figures decreased between 2008/09 and 2018/19 (by 28% and 40% respectively). Since 2017/18 police recorded acquisitive crime has decreased by 7%, while the SCJS found no change in acquisitive crime. This is likely to be due in part to the smaller sample sizes involved, which means it can be more challenging to identify significant changes between adjacent survey years[61].

Violent Crime

Violent comparable crime includes serious assault, minor assault[62] and robbery. In 2018/19 the SCJS estimated that there were 165,000 violent crimes[63] (+/- 44,000, meaning that the true number of violent crimes experienced by the population is estimated to be between 121,000 and 209,000), while the police recorded 63,771 violent crimes.

Table 5.1 shows that the two sources of comparable violent crime data both show large decreases over the longer term, but broadly stable figures since 2017/18. Between 2008/09 and 2018/19, both SCJS estimates and police recorded violent crime figures have shown a decrease (by 48% and 23% respectively)[64]. Since 2017/18, comparable police recorded violent crime has shown a small decrease of 64 incidents, while the SCJS has found no change in violent crime.

Vandalism

The vandalism comparable crime group includes motor vehicle vandalism and property vandalism. In 2018/19 the SCJS estimated that there were 155,000 instances of vandalism (+/- 24,000, meaning that the true number of vandalism crimes experienced by the population is estimated to be between 130,000 and 179,000). The police recorded 45,538 vandalism crimes in 2018/19.

The trends in comparable crimes of vandalism across both the SCJS and police recorded crime between 2008/09 and 2018/19 are very similar – with the SCJS showing a decrease of 56% and police recorded crime showing a decrease of 57%. Since 2017/18 there has been no change in the SCJS estimate of vandalism, while crimes of vandalism recorded by the police have fallen by 7%.

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[60] Upper and lower estimates are calculated on unrounded figures, then rounded when presented.

[61] Comparable acquisitive crime is rarer than vandalism and violent crime (estimates of acquisitive crime are based on 87 victim forms in the 2018/19 SCJS sample, compared to 116 violent crime victim forms and 251 vandalism victim forms). Consequently, there is greater uncertainty around the SCJS estimate of acquisitive crime and less power to identify significant changes over time.

[62] The crime of 'minor assault' discussed here, is referred to as 'common assault' within the Recorded Crime in Scotland National Statistics.

[63] Further information on SCJS violent crime is provided in the 'Focus on violent crime' chapter.

[64] Violent crime estimates are based on a relatively small number of respondents who disclosed experiences of 116 violent crimes in 2018/19.

An alternative approach to investigating the relationship between the two sources is to examine the amount of police recorded crime against the volume of SCJS crime estimated to have been reported to the police.

SCJS respondents are asked whether the police 'came to know about' the crime, either from them or somebody else. This allows comparisons to be made between comparable crime estimated to have been reported to the police in the SCJS (i.e. a sub-set of comparable crime), and police recorded crime figures.

The previously cited analytical paper, published in 2014, outlined two methods for calculating this: the first, comparing the (at that time) biennial SCJS to annual recorded crime figures and the second comparing the (at that time) biennial SCJS against two reporting years of averaged police recorded crime data. This section updates the information using the first method, to compare now annual SCJS estimates to annual recorded crime figures[65]. Although it is not possible to determine on an individual basis whether a crime that the police 'came to know about' was captured in police recorded crime data, this type of analysis can give an indication of the level of crime that goes unreported, and the broad relationship between police recorded crime figures and SCJS estimates.

Figures from the 2018/19 SCJS indicate that of the 366,000 crimes in the overall comparable sub-set, around 149,000 incidents (41%) were estimated to have been reported to police. Figure 5.2 displays the difference by volume between SCJS comparable crimes estimated to be reported to the police (as a sub-set of all SCJS crime) and police recorded crime for all years since 2008/09.

Figure 5.2: Recorded crime, SCJS crime and SCJS crime reported to the police, in the sub-set of comparable crimes, 2008/09 to 2018/19
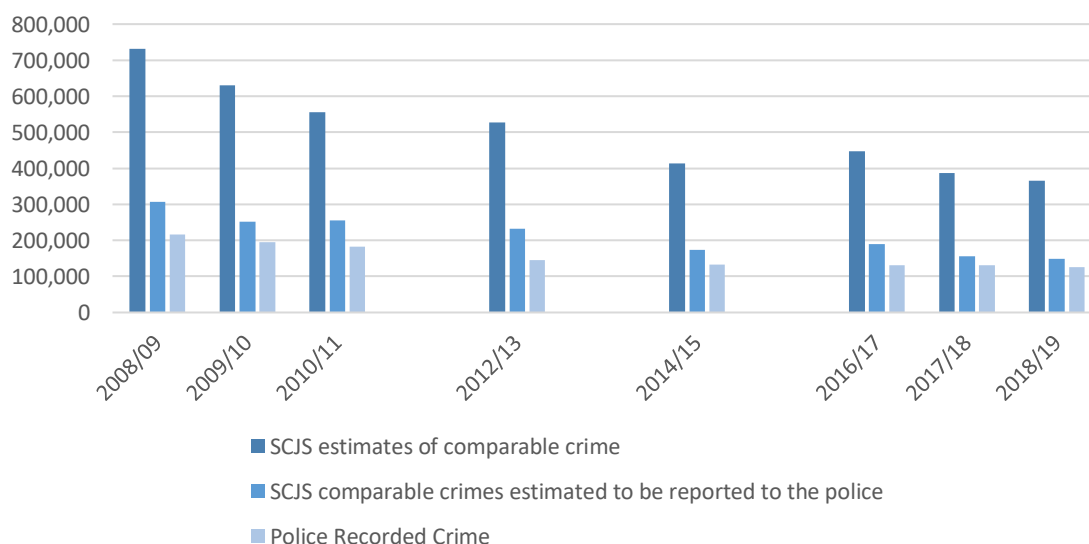
Sources: SCJS; Police recorded crime.

In 2018/19, the police recorded 125,953 crimes in the comparable category. It is therefore estimated that around 85% of comparable crime estimated to be reported to the police was recorded by the police in 2018/19. Figure 5.3 shows how this figure has varied over time.

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[65] A comparison of the two methods highlights a *lag effect*, suggesting that when using the second method, the difference between recorded crime and SCJS crime estimated to be reported to the police is likely to be less than that derived from using the first method presented here.

Figure 5.3: Proportion of comparable crime estimated to be reported to the police recorded by the police, 2008/09 to 2018/19
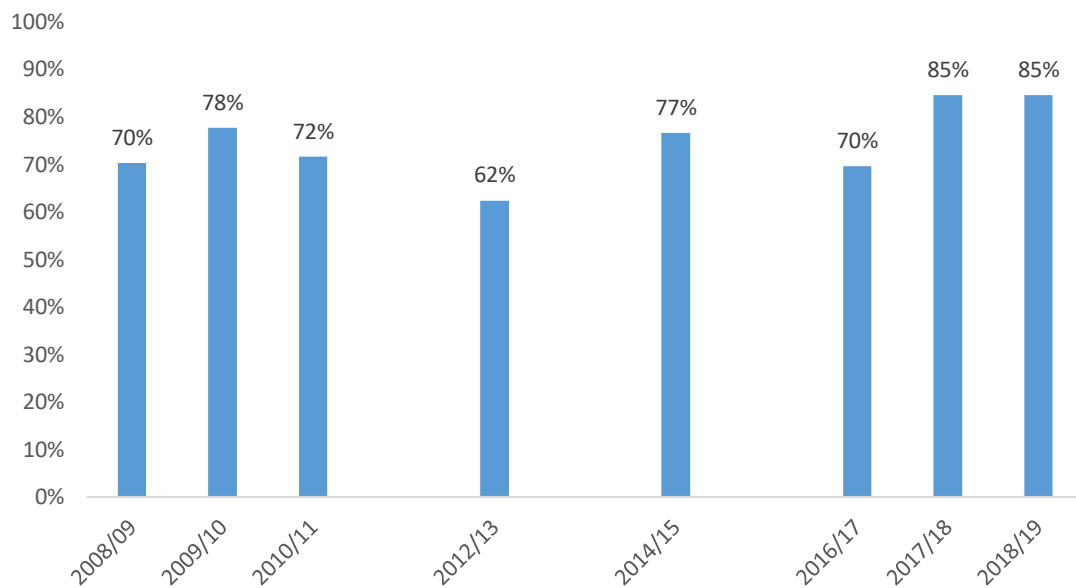
This type of analysis can be extended across the comparable crime sub-groups, where similar results are found. For example, around 67,000 violent crimes are estimated to have been reported to the police in 2018/19 (or 40% of the number of violent crimes estimated by the SCJS), while the police recorded 63,771 violent crimes. It is therefore estimated that almost all (95%) of comparable violent crime estimated to be reported to the police was recorded by the police in 2018/19.

6. Public perceptions of the police and the justice system

This chapter reports on public confidence in, and attitudes towards, the police and criminal justice system in Scotland. The majority of this chapter focuses on the perceptions of the general public about policing, with some results on those who have had direct contact with the police and their satisfaction with relevant encounters in the latter part of the section. The chapter then explores knowledge of, and attitudes towards, the wider criminal justice system in Scotland.

Perceptions of the police

This report typically assesses how Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) results in 2018/19 compare to findings from the 2008/09 and 2017/18 results. However, when considering time trends across the SCJS, this chapter also presents findings in comparison to 2012/13 as the last survey prior to the formation of Police Scotland. As such, where key changes are detected as having occurred between 2012/13 and 2018/19, they are also highlighted within this chapter[66].

As well as national level results, this chapter provides key findings broken down for demographic and area characteristics (including deprivation and urban/rural status).

In 2019, the Scottish Government's Justice Analytical Services worked in collaboration with a range of stakeholders to develop the public confidence in policing module. This module development involved significant stakeholder engagement informed by a desk-based review of the strengths and weakness of the SCJS in measuring public confidence in the police. This review compared the SCJS with other surveys internationally (including Northern Ireland, New Zealand, Canada and England and Wales), and presented options and opportunities to develop the policing module. Final changes are summarised within this SCJS questionnaire development update; page 6 outlines changes to the public confidence in the police module.

Results at Police Division level and other geographies

SCJS results at Police Division level are available biennially (as they have been since 2012/13), with two survey years of data combined to increase the sample size and precision around results with effect from 2016/17. The most recent findings available at this level are from 2016/17-2017/18[67], and include perceptions of the police, as well as wider SCJS results such as victimisation rates, within each Division. These results can be accessed via the data tables. Alternatively, Police Division level data is available through the SCJS interactive data tool which allows divisional results to be compared over time, against each other, and against the national average for each year of the survey. Further information on the SCJS reporting structure is also available on the SCJS website.

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[66] Annex tables A1.15 to A1.22 present key results on policing from each SCJS since 2008/09.

[67] Data at Police Division level from the combined 2018/19 and 2019/20 surveys will be published alongside the 2019/20 Main Findings Report.

SCJS measures on confidence in the ability of the police also formed part of the Scottish Surveys Core Questions (SSCQ) between 2012 and 2017, which combines selected data from the three large Scottish Government population surveys[68] to offer larger sample sizes to facilitate further analysis for smaller geographies and population sub-groups. Further details about the SSCQ are available on the [Scottish Government website](#).

Understanding and measuring confidence in the police

The SCJS includes a range of questions to capture public perceptions of different aspects of policing.

Views on overall confidence in the police can be examined using a single measure asking people about how they would rate the performance of their local police, with confidence itself being driven in part by perceptions and experiences of particular aspects of policing. Particularly prominent factors influencing overall confidence (and captured within the SCJS) have been shown to be perceptions of:

- the ability or effectiveness of the police
- their level of community engagement
- how fair the police are when carrying out duties

This chapter initially focuses on the overall confidence measure and confidence in the *effectiveness* of the police. Following this, there is a focus on perceptions of aspects of *community engagement* and *fairness*, recognising their importance in driving wider confidence. A list of selected publications on factors that drive public confidence in the police is available at the [end of this section](#).

What did the public think about the overall performance of the police?

Most people (56%) said their local police were doing an 'excellent' or 'good' job in 2018/19. This proportion was lower than the position in 2012/13.

The majority of adults in Scotland (56%) believed the police in their local area were doing an 'excellent' or 'good' job in 2018/19, unchanged from 2017/18. Following a decrease from 61% in 2012/13[69] to 58% in 2014/15, this proportion has remained stable since, as shown in Figure 6.1 – the apparent decreases shown since 2014/15 are not statistically significant.

Just under one-third (31%) thought the police were doing a 'fair' job in 2018/19, unchanged from 2017/18. Around one-in-ten (9%) said the police were doing a poor or very poor job.

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[68] These surveys are: The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey, The Scottish Household Survey and The Scottish Health Survey

[69] This question (QRATPOL) was first included in the 2012/13 SCJS.

Figure 6.1: Views on the overall performance of the police in the local area

Legend: ■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Fair ■ Poor / Very poor ■ Don't know / refused

Year	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor / Very poor	Don't know / refused
2012/13	10%	51%	29%	8%	3%
2014/15	10%	49%	30%	8%	3%
2016/17	10%	49%	31%	8%	3%
2017/18	10%	47%	31%	8%	3%
2018/19	9%	47%	31%	9%	4%
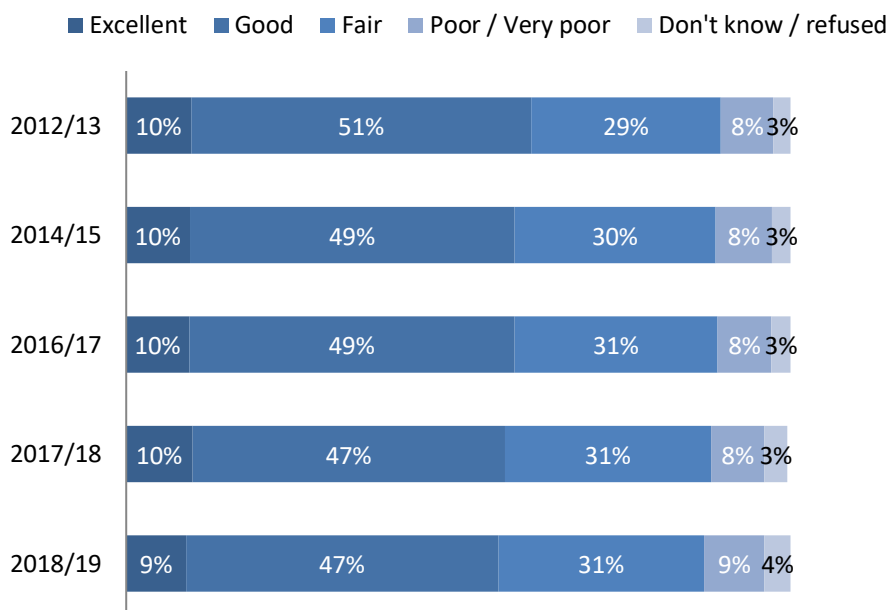
Base: All adults (2012/13: 12,050; 2014/15: 11,470; 2016/17: 5,570; 2017/18: 5,480; 2018/19: 5,540); Variable: QRATPOL.

In 2018/19, victims of crime were less likely than non-victims to say the police were doing a good or excellent job (50% compared with 56% respectively). Likewise, a smaller proportion of those living in the 15% most deprived areas of Scotland described the local police's performance as good or excellent compared to adults in the rest of Scotland (50% compared with 57% respectively).

Looking at this measure over time, there has been a decrease in the proportion saying the police are doing an excellent or good job across a range of demographic groups since 2012/13. Specifically, at a national level, confidence decreased among the following groups:

- people in both urban and rural areas
- both men and women
- people who were *not* a victim of crime in the year prior to interview
- people aged 45-59
- people aged 60 and over

Other than the category of those aged 60 and over (which has decreased from 64% in 2012/13 to 51% in 2018/19), all of the other decreases mentioned have been around 5 percentage points and are similar levels to the national average.

Further details of these changes in confidence levels over time can found in Annex table A1.15.

There was no change in the levels of confidence in the police for victims of crime or those living in the most deprived areas of Scotland between 2012/13 and 2018/19.

Since 2009/10, SCJS respondents have also been asked to what extent they agree that 'people in their area have a lot of confidence in the police'. In 2018/19, 42% of adults agreed with this statement, unchanged from 2009/10 but down from a peak of 49% in 2012/13. This result has been stable since 2014/15 – mirroring the trend in the overall police rating measure in recent years.

Taking these findings together, it would appear that in general people were more likely to *personally* say the police were doing an excellent or good job, than think that others *in their local area* would be confident in the police. Further research, such as a qualitative approach, could explore these differences.

How confident were people in the ability of the police?

This section considers public perceptions in the *effectiveness* of the police, by asking respondents how confident they were in the ability of the police in their local areas to undertake six particular components of work:

- prevent crime

- respond quickly to appropriate calls and information from the public

- deal with incidents as they occur

- investigate incidents after they occur

- solve crimes

- catch criminals

For convenience, these results are often referred to as 'effectiveness measures' below.

Overall, the public have confidence in the police, with levels remaining higher than the 2008/09 baseline. However, there has been a decreasing trend since police reform in 2013 across some measures.

Most adults in Scotland were confident in the ability of the police across the range of effectiveness measures in 2018/19, as shown in Figure 6.2, with at least three-fifths of adults saying they were very or fairly confident for five of the six indicators. Confidence in the ability of the police to carry out the six aspects of police work has increased since the SCJS first collected these data in 2008/09, as shown below. However, confidence was lower in 2018/19 compared to 2012/13 on four of the measures (with no change in the measures on solving crime and catching criminals).

Figure 6.2: Proportion of adults who were confident in the ability of the local police to carry out various aspects of police work

Prevent crime

50%
43%
7%

08/09: ⇧ from 46%
12/13: ⇩ from 56%
17/18: ⇩ from 53%

Respond quickly

62%
33%
5%

08/09: ⇧ from 54%
12/13: ⇩ from 66%
17/18:   No change

Deal with incidents

65%
30%
5%

08/09: ⇧ from 58%
12/13: ⇩ from 68%
17/18:   No change

Investigate incidents

70%
24%
7%

08/09: ⇧ from 64%
12/13: ⇩ from 73%
17/18:   No change

Solve crimes

63%
29%
10%

08/09: ⇧ from 57%
12/13:   No change
17/18:   No change

Catch criminals

60%
33%
8%

08/09: ⇧ from 55%
12/13:   No change
17/18:   No change

■ Very / fairly confident   ■ Not very / not at all confident   ■ Don't know

Base: All adults (5,540); Variables: QPOLCONF_01 – QPOLCONF_06

Looking more closely at the trends over time for each indicator reveals that generally confidence in the ability of the police:

- increased in the years between 2008/09 and 2012/13
- decreased marginally across some measures between 2012/13 and 2014/15 (but remained above the 2008/09 baseline)
- has since stabilised or fluctuated a little around the 2014/15 level

The only measure to show any change between 2017/18 and 2018/19 was confidence in the ability of the police to prevent crime, which fell from 53% to 50%. This aspect of policing has consistently shown the lowest level of confidence across the six measures over the years. This measure should continue to be monitored in the coming years as results have decreased from a peak of 57% in 2014/15, although they remain above the 2008/09 baseline of 46%.

Did the public feel the police conducted their work fairly and were engaged with their community?

In 2018/19 adults in Scotland were generally positive about the way the police in their local area carried out their work and engaged with the public.

As well as looking at confidence in the ability of the police, the SCJS explores whether respondents believe the police treat people fairly and with respect, and whether the service is focused on the issues which matter to particular communities.

Respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with a series of statements about the police in their area, with adults in 2018/19 mostly providing positive responses or saying they did not have a strong view, as shown in Figure 6.3 below. These have been grouped into measures which can be considered to be related to perceptions of how engaged the police are with the community and how fair the police are when carrying out duties respectively (hereafter generally referred to as *'fair treatment'* or *'fairness'* and *'community engagement'*). Overall, these findings suggest that largely people hold favourable views on the approach of their local police, and this is in line with the finding that the majority of adults are confident in the police and views on the effectiveness of the police are generally positive.

Figure 6.3: Attitudes towards the police in 2018/19
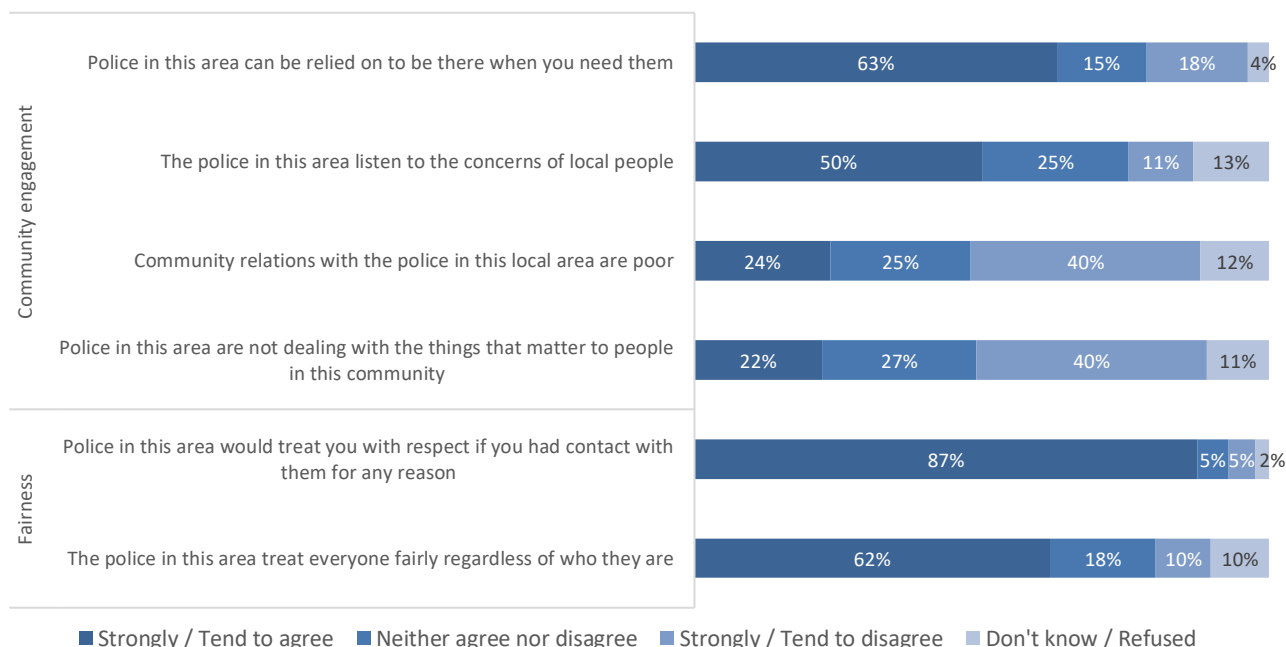
Base: Adults who are not a serving police officer, married to or living with serving police officer (5410); Variables: POLOPREL – POLOPCOM

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Views on how fair and engaged the police are have generally improved since 2009/10, although perceptions on some elements of community engagement have worsened a little since 2012/13.

Compared to 2009/10 (when these questions were first included in the survey) the public held more positive views in 2018/19 across most of the above measures which examine perceptions of fair treatment and community engagement. Improvements generally occurred between 2009/10 and 2012/13, with more stability and short-term fluctuation shown in the years since then.

The SCJS finds that in 2018/19 adults in Scotland were more likely to believe that their local police:

- treat individuals fairly, and with respect
- focus on issues of importance to them

The section below presents these fair treatment and community engagement measures in turn.

Public confidence in the police to treat individuals fairly

Views on the two fair treatment measures have both improved since these questions were first asked in 2009/10[70] with:

- 87% in 2018/19 agreeing with the statement that the police would treat you with respect, up from 83% in 2009/10
- 62% in 2018/19 agreeing that the police treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are, up from 58% in 2009/10

These results can be seen in full in Annex table A1.22.

Public confidence in the police to engage with the community

Turning to community engagement measures[71], since their introduction in 2009/10 results on these measures have been generally positive. However, since 2012/13 some aspects of community engagement have shown trends which are worth monitoring. For example:

- the proportion of people who think that the police listen to the concerns of local people has fallen from 54% in 2012/13 to 50% in 2018/19; this is in line with the 2009/10 baseline
- there has been a small increase in the percentage of people who agree that community relations with the police are poor (from 22% in 2012/13 to 24% in 2018/19), although this remains lower than the 2009/10 baseline

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[70] The results presented above relate only to adults who are not in the police themselves, and who are not married to or living with a serving police officer.

[71] In 2019, the Scottish Government's Justice Analytical Services, in collaboration with stakeholders, conducted a review of the public confidence in the police module. This review identified two measures in this grouping which spoke to public perceptions of the police generally, rather than being explicitly linked to confidence in the police's ability to engage with communities. These measures were: overall, people have a lot of confidence in the police in this area and community relations with the police in this local area are poor. This report maintains previous groupings, however we will review this approach and consider amending future reports to reflect the findings of the questionnaire development review.

Whilst there has been a small improvement in the proportion of people thinking that the police are *not* dealing with issues which matter to the community since 2012/13 (when 25% of people felt this way), just over one-fifth still thought this was the case in 2018/19 (22%).

These findings are particularly notable given that only 11% of respondents disagreed with the statement that 'the police in this area listen to the concerns of local people' – suggesting that views on different aspects of community engagement can be varied and complex.

These results also suggest that some aspects of community engagement should continue to be monitored into the future, although like the other measures of perceptions of the police, the picture remains positive in the wider and longer-term context. All indicators on aspects of fair treatment and community engagement showed no change between 2017/18 and 2018/19.

How did perceptions of the police vary amongst the population?

The SCJS enables us to examine how views on the ability of the police, their level of community engagement and fairness in their approach varied across the population according to demographic and geographic characteristics, as well as whether individuals had experienced crime or not in the year prior to interview. The section below explores results for selected breakdowns, with key results and additional breakdowns presented in more detail in the Annex tables (for effectiveness measures) and online data tables.

Whilst the majority of adults in 2018/19 generally held favourable views on the police across the range of indicators, those in deprived areas and victims of crime were often less positive.

Overall, in line with the national average, views on the police were positive amongst population sub-groups in 2018/19 across the range of effectiveness, community engagement and fairness measures.

However, notwithstanding the overall positive perceptions of the police, views in 2018/19 varied between those in the most deprived areas (compared to those living elsewhere) and victims of crime (compared to non-victims). These two groups held less positive opinions on the police across a selection of the metrics looking at effectiveness, community engagement and fairness. Significant differences are outlined in Figure 6.4 below, with all other measures showing no difference between these comparator groups.

Figure 6.4: Variation in perceptions of the police by victim status and deprivation

▼

Area deprivation
Confidence in the ability of the police to prevent crime was lower in deprived areas, where a greater proportion of adults also experienced crime in 2018/19.

Effectiveness

Confident in the ability of the police to investigate incidents — 65% / 70%

Confident in the ability of the police to solve crimes — 57% / 63%

Confident in the ability of the police to prevent crime — 46% / 51%

Community engagement

The police in this area listen to the concerns of local people — 43% / 51%

Agree that community relations with the police in this area are poor — 32% / 22%

Agree the police are not dealing with the things that matter to people in this community — 28% / 21%

Fairness

Agree the police would treat you with respect if you had contact with them for any reason — 84% / 88%

Agree the police in this area treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are — 54% / 63%

■ 15% most deprived areas ■ Rest of Scotland

▼

Victim status
Views on the police were less positive amongst victims of crime across a number of indicators, whilst remaining largely positive in an absolute sense.

Effectiveness

Confident in the ability of the police to catch criminals — 52% / 61%

Confident in the ability of the police to solve crimes — 55% / 64%

Confident in the ability of the police to prevent crime — 40% / 52%

Community engagement

Agree the police are not dealing with the things that matter to people in this community — 29% / 21%

Agree that community relations with the police in this area are poor — 31% / 23%

Agree the police can be relied on to be there when you need them — 58% / 64%

■ Victims ■ Non-victims

Base: Effectiveness: Victims (630); Non-victims (4,900); 15% most deprived areas (790); Rest of Scotland (4,750). Community engagement/fairness: Victims (610); Non-victims (4,800); 15% most deprived areas (770); Rest of Scotland (4,640). Variables: QPOLCONF_01 – QPOLCONF_06; POLOPREL – POLOPCOM

It is notable that confidence in the ability of the police amongst those living in the most deprived areas (who were more likely to have experienced crime in 2018/19) was lower in relation to the ability of the police to prevent crime.

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Adults in the two youngest age categories were more likely to be confident in the police across effectiveness measures in comparison with adults aged 45-59 and 60 or over.

Looking at confidence in the police by age, 2018/19 reveals the two youngest categories (i.e. those aged 16 to 24 and 25 to 44) had higher levels of confidence across the six effectiveness measures than adults aged 45-59 and 60 or over. People aged 16 to 24 and 25 to 44 were also more likely to say the police were doing an excellent or good job.

Detailed breakdowns by age groups in 2018/19 and over time can be found in the online data tables.

Turning to views on fair treatment and community engagement by age, there is a less clear picture. For example:

- adults aged 16 to 24 were more confident in the ability of the police to be relied upon to be there when you need them (76% compared to 68% of those aged 25-44 years old, 56% of those aged 45-59 years old, and 58% of those aged 60 or over)

- 16 to 24 year olds were also more confident in the ability of the police to listen to the concerns of local people (58% compared to 51% of those aged 25-44 years old, 47% of those aged 45-59 years old, and 49% of those aged 60 or over)

- people aged 60 or over were more confident than all other age groups in the ability of the police to treat you with respect if you had contact with them for any reason (90% compared with 86% of those aged 16-24, 85% of those aged 25-44 years old, and 88% of those aged 45-59 years old)

There was no clear pattern in views when looking at results by rurality and gender.

While views across many indicators were fairly similar in urban and rural areas, those in urban areas had more confidence than those in rural areas in effectiveness of the police (see Figure 6.5 below).

By contrast, particular aspects of fairness and community relations were more positive in rural areas, also shown in Figure 6.5 below.

Additionally, it is worth noting that there was no difference between those in urban and rural areas in the proportions who thought the police were doing a good or excellent job in 2018/19 (55% and 56% respectively).

Figure 6.5: Variation in perceptions of the police by rurality
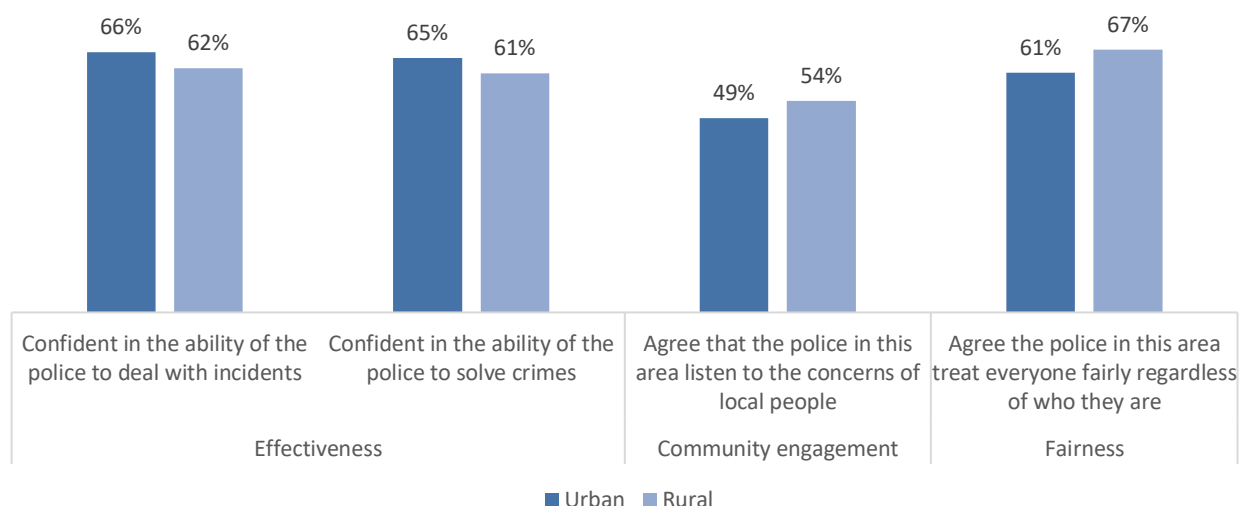
There were also differences across some of these measures between men and women, but the pattern was not consistent. In 2018/19, women were more likely than men to be confident across three measures exploring the perceived effectiveness of the police (respond quickly, solve crimes and catch criminals). On the other hand, men were more likely to think the police would treat you with respect if you had contact with them and they would treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are.

Perceptions of the police have improved amongst many population groups since 2008/09.

Looking at trends over time the SCJS finds that perceptions of the police have improved since 2008/09 (or 2009/10 where relevant) for many key groups in the population.

For instance, the proportion of adults who felt very or fairly confident in the ability of the police to take forward each of the six components of police work in terms of effectiveness was higher in 2018/19 compared to 2008/09 amongst: both men and women; people living in the most deprived areas of Scotland and adults living elsewhere; victims of crime and those who had not experienced crime. These results are shown in full in Annex Tables A1.16 to A1.21[72]. The tables also show that results have been broadly stable since 2017/18, with only a few significant changes.

Figure 6.6 provides a closer look at perceptions amongst people in the most deprived areas by way of example. It outlines how confidence in the ability of the police has increased over time between 2008/09 and 2018/19, although the apparent increase shown below in confidence in the ability of the police to prevent crime is not statistically significant.

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[72] These results are also available for further breakdowns, such as tenure, for each SCJS year since 2008/09 in supplementary data tables, along with the results on perceptions of community engagement and fairness.

Measures looking at perceptions of community engagement and fairness have also generally shown significant improvements in the most deprived areas of Scotland since 2009/10[73].

Figure 6.6: Proportion of adults who were very/fairly confident in the ability of the police in the 15% most deprived areas of Scotland, 2008/09 and 2018/19
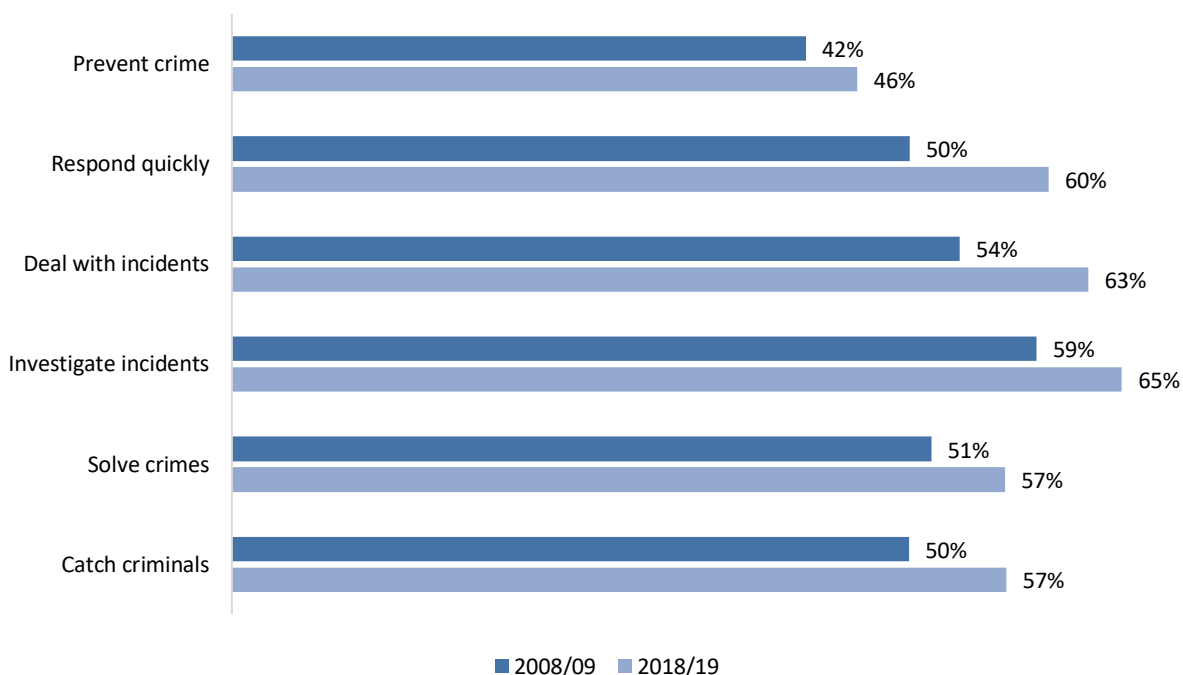
Base: Adults living in 15% most deprived areas (2008/09: 2,440; 2018/19: 790); Variables: QPOLCONF_01 – QPOLCONF_06

Note: the apparent increase in confidence in the ability of the police to prevent crime in Figure 6.6 is not statistically significant.

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[73] The only measure not to show improvement was the proportion agreeing that the police listen to the concerns of local people, which showed no change.

Confidence in the ability of the police in rural areas has not shown the same improvement as in urban areas since 2008/09.

Whilst the majority of people in urban and rural areas were positive about the police in 2018/19, perceptions in urban and rural areas have shown differing trends over the longer term – with views generally improving in urban areas, but showing more stability in rural locations overall. Table 6.1 below shows results from the six effectiveness measures in both rural and urban areas, comparing changes over time.

The full time-series showing fluctuations from year to year in results for urban and rural areas are shown in Annex tables A1.16 to A1.21.

Table 6.1: Confidence in the ability of the police in urban and rural areas

Proportion of adults who were very or fairly confident in the police to:	Urban		Rural	
	2018/19	Change since 2008/09	2018/19	Change since 2008/09
Prevent crime	**50%**	⇧ from 42%	**53%**	⇧ from 48%
Respond quickly to appropriate calls and information from the public	**63%**	⇧ from 54%	**61%**	⇧ from 56%
Deal with incidents as they occur	**66%**	⇧ from 57%	**62%**	No change
Investigate incidents after they occur	**70%**	⇧ from 63%	**68%**	No change
Solve crimes	**62%**	⇧ from 53%	**61%**	No change
Catch criminals	**62%**	⇧ from 54%	**59%**	No change
Number of respondents	*4,560*		*980*	

Variables: QPOLCONF_01 – QPOLCONF_06

By contrast, looking at measures on perceptions of community engagement and fairness in both urban and rural areas these remained unchanged between 2009/10[74] and 2018/19.

What did the public think about the level of police presence locally?

The SCJS includes a series of questions which explore the public's views on the importance and awareness of police patrolling respondents' local area[75].

The proportion of adults aware of the police regularly patrolling their area continued to fall in 2018/19.

Whilst the vast majority (91%) of adults in 2018/19 considered it very or fairly important to have local police officers who know and patrol their local area, the proportion who said they were aware that their area was regularly patrolled[76] fell to 38% in 2018/19. As shown in Figure 6.7, this result is down from a peak of 56% in 2012/13 and 40% in 2017/18.

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[74] The survey within which these questions were first introduced.

[75] The results presented below relate only to adults who are not in the police themselves, and who are not married to or living with a serving police officer.

[76] Either by foot, bike or car.

Figure 6.7: Proportion of adults aware of regular police patrol in their area
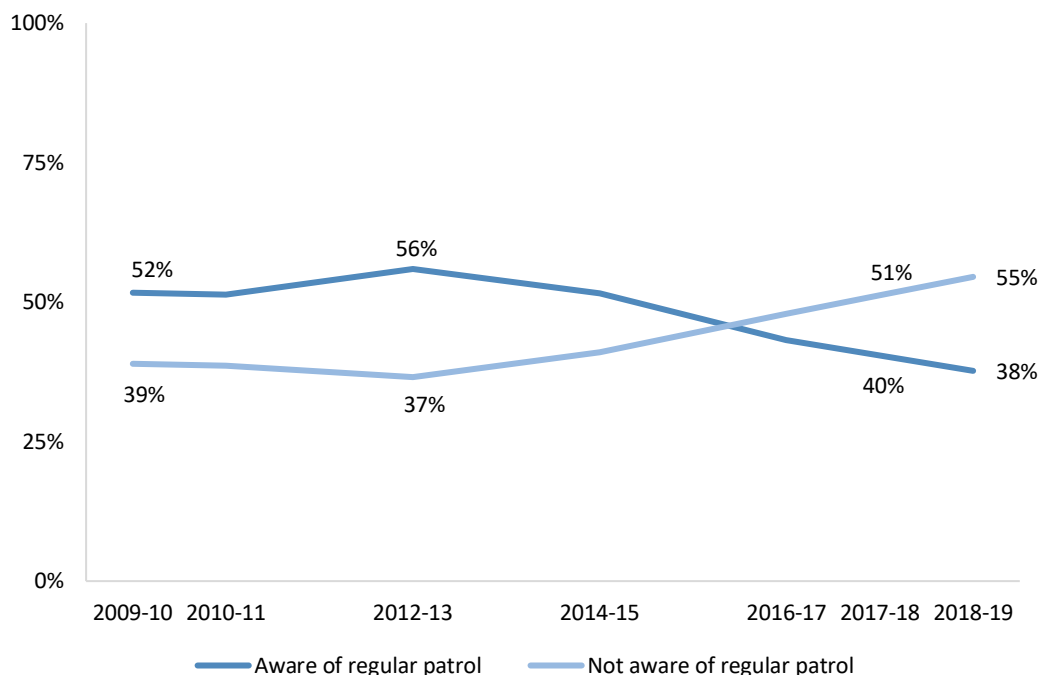
As in previous years, Table 6.2 shows that adults living in the 15% most deprived areas were more likely than those in the rest of Scotland to report being aware of their area being patrolled regularly.

Table 6.2: Public awareness of police patrolling in the local area

Percentage of respondents aware of police patrol (inlcuding how patrolled)	15% most deprived areas	Rest of Scotland
Yes	**48%**	**36%**
On foot	20%	9%
By bicycle	6%	3%
By car	41%	34%
No	**45%**	**56%**
Number of respondents	*790*	*4,750*

Note: results from 'don't know' responses are not included within this table but have been included within the analysis relating to public awareness of police patrolling in the local area

At a national level, amongst those aware of the police patrolling their area by foot or bike, just over a quarter (27%) reported noticing such activity at least every couple of days, if not daily. Around a further quarter (24%) said they had seen the police at least once a week.

There was no difference between urban and rural areas in the proportion of adults reporting awareness of regular police patrols.

In 2018/19 the population remained divided about whether the police presence in their area was sufficient.

When asked about whether they thought the local police presence was sufficient, 43% of adults in 2018/19 believed it was 'about right', while 51% said it was 'not enough'. Very few respondents typically report there is 'too much' of a police presence – for example, 0.6% in 2018/19.

The proportion of adults who felt the level of police presence was insufficient ('not enough') fell from 56% in 2009/10 to 46% in 2012/13, but has increased again in recent years whilst remaining below the 2009/10 baseline.

Those living in the 15% most deprived areas of Scotland were less likely to believe that the police presence in their local area was 'about right', with 38% feeling this way compared to 44% in the rest of Scotland. Likewise, victims of crime were less likely to be positive about the current level of presence (38% compared to 43% of non-victims).

Despite there being no difference in the level of awareness of regular police patrols between urban and rural areas, those in rural locations were more likely to feel that the level of police presence was 'about right' (49% compared to 42% in urban areas). This may suggest that rural communities have different experiences and expectations of local policing.

Opinions on the level of police presence are most commonly informed by personal experience of seeing the police, underlying perceptions of what patrolling should involve and views on the prevalence of crime.

At a national level, the most frequently cited reasons mentioned by those who thought that the level of police presence was insufficient were related to respondents not personally seeing the police, believing that there should be (and possibly previously were) more police around, and that they should patrol more regularly, particularly by foot rather than just by car.

In contrast, the most common reasons for saying the level of police presence was 'about right' related to a (perceived) lack of crime in the area, with some respondents also feeling reassured by seeing the police at the current regularity and being content with seeing them in cars.

How satisfied were people with their interactions with the police?

The majority of people who have come into contact with the police in recent years reflect positively on their experience.

As noted in this chapter's introduction, there has been a focus on the perceptions of the general public about policing. In this section, results from those who have had direct contact with the police are presented.

The SCJS explores experiences of contact respondents have had with the police in the last year. Follow-up questions to understand how individuals feel they were treated during their engagement are asked of respondents whose most recent contact with the police involved:

- reporting a crime
- contact through work
- being approached by the police while they carried out routine enquiries

- being questioned or searched

- reporting other matters

As with general attitudes towards the police, the quality of any contact with the police and individuals' perceptions of whether they have been treated appropriately are amongst the factors which are likely to influence the level of confidence held in the police.

In 2018/19, the majority of people were fairly positive about their engagement with the police in relation to their most recent contact with the service. For example:

- 94% said they were dealt with in a very or fairly polite manner[77]

- 88% felt they were treated fairly

- 73% believed the police showed as much interest as they should have in what respondents had to say

- 70% were very or quite satisfied with the way the police handled the matter

These results are consistent with previous years, showing no change from 2017/18.

Police Scotland also conduct a User Satisfaction Survey (USS) with a large number people who have contacted the police to report a crime or incident. Although results are not directly comparable, USS results in recent years have shown the majority of respondents are satisfied with the response received and that they had been treated fairly and with respect, similar to the SCJS. More information on results from the USS can be found: here (page 16).

Selected publications on factors that drive public confidence in the police

Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (2019), Questionnaire Development: Policing Review for a concise summary of how public confidence in the police is understood across relevant literature.

Bradford, B. and Myhill, A. (2015). Triggers of change to public confidence in the police and criminal justice system: Findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales panel experiment. Criminology and Justice, 15(1), pp. 23-43.

Bradford, B., Jackson, J. and Stanko, E.A., (2009). Contact and confidence: Revisiting the impact of public encounters with the police. Policing & society, 19(1), pp. 20-46.

Stanko, E.A., Bradford, B. (2009). Beyond Measuring 'How good a job' Police are Doing: The MPS Model of Confidence in Policing. In Policing. Volume 3. Number 4, pp. 322-330.

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[77] This question is asked of all respondents with any contact with the police in the last year.

Perceptions of the criminal justice system

The SCJS also collects information on public knowledge of and attitudes towards the criminal justice system in Scotland, as well as people's contact with different organisations operating within the system[78].

What did the public think about the criminal justice system in Scotland?

Consistent with previous years, the majority of adults in 2018/19 knew little about the criminal justice system but were fairly confident about its operation.

Consistent with previous SCJS results, in 2018/19 around three-quarters (76%) of adults said they did not know very much or anything at all about the criminal justice system. By contrast, only 3% said they knew a lot.

Regardless of their self-reported knowledge, respondents were asked about their confidence in the criminal justice system as a whole through a range of statements about the operation and performance of the system. As shown in Figure 6.8 below, the majority of people were either very or fairly confident about the delivery of the criminal justice system across a range of considerations.

For example, more than three-quarters of adults were confident that the system allows all those accused of crimes to get a fair trial and that everyone is able to access the justice system if required (both 76%).

However, less than half (45%) were confident about the efficiency of the system and that appropriate sentences are given which fit the crime (37% confident).

Notwithstanding wording changes in the latter measure in recent years, it is important to note that confidence in both these indicators has increased since they were first included in the survey. For example, in 2008/09, 35% were confident the system deals with cases promptly and efficiently, compared to 45% in 2018/19.

Likewise, in 2012/13, 32% were confident that the system gives *punishments* which fit the crime, compared to 39% in 2016/17. When the wording was changed to *'sentences'* in 2017/18 the proportion of adults who were confident was 38%, with the 2018/19 finding showing no statistically significant difference from this figure. It is important to note that the specific wording used in this question does not directly confirm whether respondents who said they were not confident believe that sentences are too lenient or severe, which revised wording or a follow-up question would be required to confirm. This could be considered for the SCJS questionnaire in future.

More generally, Figure 6.8 shows the proportions who said they were confident or not confident in the criminal justice system, as well as those who responded don't know – which represents a sizeable minority of respondents for some questions.

The full time-series showing fluctuations from year to year in results for confidence in the justice system are shown in Annex table A1.23.

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[78] Relatedly, Section 8.3 also presents data on the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS).

Figure 6.8: Confidence in the operation of the criminal justice system in 2018/19

Statement	Confident	Not confident	Don't know / Refused
Allows all those accused of crimes to get a fair trial regardless of who they are	76%	18%	6%
Makes sure everyone has access to the justice system if they need it	76%	16%	8%
Makes fair, impartial decisions based on the evidence available	72%	21%	8%
Treats those accused of crime as innocent until proven guilty	72%	22%	7%
Allows all victims of crime to seek justice regardless of who they are	67%	25%	8%
Is effective in bringing people who commit crimes to justice	62%	34%	4%
Makes sure the system isn't different depending on where you live in Scotland	63%	23%	15%
Adequately takes into account the circumstances surrounding a crime when it hands out sentences	60%	30%	10%
Provides witnesses with the services and support they need	58%	25%	18%
Provides victims of crime with the services and support they need	55%	32%	14%
Deals with cases promptly and efficiently	45%	45%	10%
Gives sentences which fit the crime	37%	58%	5%

■ Confident ■ Not confident ■ Don't know / Refused

Base: All adults (5,540); Variables: QDCONF_01 – QDCONF_15

As with the examples outlined above, it shows that generally confidence in the criminal justice system was stronger across the range of measures in 2018/19 than it was the first time each question was asked[79].

The level of confidence that the system makes sure everyone has access to the justice system if they need it was adopted as a National Indicator in the Scottish Government's refreshed National Performance Framework in 2018. The proportion of adults confident in this element of the justice system has increased from 70% in 2008/09 to 76% in 2018/19, with the latest result unchanged from the position in 2017/18.

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[79] Four of the current measures were first asked in 2008/09, the rest have only been asked in their current form since 2012/13, with one further amendment in 2017/18. These changes are visible within Annex table A1.23.

Older adults and those living in the most deprived areas of Scotland were generally less confident in the justice system in 2018/19.

For most of the measures exploring views on the justice system, younger adults (those aged 16 to 24) were more likely to be confident than those aged 60 and over. For example, 70% of those aged 16 to 24 were confident that the system is not different depending on where you live, in comparison to 59% of those aged 60 or over.

Across about half of the measures, those living in the 15% most deprived areas of Scotland (compared to those living elsewhere) were less likely to be confident. For instance, 61% of adults living in the 15% most deprived areas were confident that the justice system makes fair, impartial decisions based on the evidence available compared to 74% of those living elsewhere.

In 2018/19, victims of crime generally felt less confident in the justice system in comparison to non-victims.

In 2018/19, there were differences between the levels of confidence in the criminal justice system amongst victims of crime compared to non-victims. Victims had less confidence than non-victims across the majority of SCJS measures. For example:

- 57% of victims were confident that the system is effective in bringing people who commit crimes to justice, compared to 63% of non-victims

- 40% of victims were confident that the system deals with cases promptly and efficiently, compared to 45% of non-victims

- 66% of victims were confident that the system makes fair and impartial decisions based on the evidence available, compared with 73% of non-victims

These results align with findings from previous years which have tended to detect lower confidence in the criminal justice system amongst victims of crime compared to non-victims. A notable exception were the 2017/18 results which showed little variation between these two groups and their confidence in the justice system.

How did the public view the prison system and community sentences?

The SCJS also gathers information on attitudes towards prisons and community sentences to understand what the public thinks about processes to sentence and rehabilitate offenders. The specific wording used over time has changed in a number of the questions on this topic, limiting the ability to examine some trends over time[80].

In addition, it is important to note that questions on attitudes towards prisons and community sentences within the SCJS are asked without reference to specific crime circumstances or offender backgrounds which may influence opinions about what constitutes a suitable sentence or approach. For example, findings from a Scottish Sentencing Council (2019) report on Public Perceptions of Sentencing showed how individuals' awareness of mitigating circumstances or specific offences can shape how punitive a respondent is when asked about sentencing[81].

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[80] Results from each year of the SCJS are available in data tables, whilst questionnaire documentation available online also outlines the specific questions asked. This section has not provided results by comparator groups, full breakdowns are also available within these data tables.

[81] Full results and additional breakdowns by group are presented in more detail within the online data tables.

The public generally thought that prisons should provide support to help prisoners address problem behaviours and integrate with the community.

The SCJS has previously sought to understand the public's confidence in the effectiveness of prisons, however these questions were updated with effect from 2017/18 to now explore attitudes about what adults in Scotland believe prisons should do.

Table 6.3 shows that in 2018/19 the vast majority of adults agreed that prisons should provide support to prisoners to help them address any underlying issues, reduce re-offending and help them fit back into the community. Just over half (52%) agreed that only those who commit the most serious crimes should be put in prison. These results showed no change compared to 2017/18.

Table 6.3: Attitudes towards the role of prisons

Proportion of adults	Strongly/ Slightly agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Strongly/ Slightly disagree	Don't know / Refused
Only those who have committed the most serious crimes should be put in prison	**52%**	10%	36%	1%
Prisons should help prisoners change their behaviour rather than just punish them	**90%**	4%	5%	1%
Prisons should provide support in order to prevent people committing more crime	**92%**	4%	3%	1%
Prisons should work with other organisations in the community to help prisoners fit back into the community	**89%**	6%	4%	1%
Homeless prisoners should be helped to find a place to live after they leave prison	**89%**	6%	4%	1%

Base: All adults (1,380); Variables: QPRIS3_01 – QPRIS3_05

Adults were generally supportive of community sentences, although almost a quarter believed that they put the public at risk of crime.

The current questions on whether respondents agreed or disagreed with a series of statements relating to the purpose and operation of community sentences were developed in 2017/18. Results in 2018/19 show that:

- the vast majority of adults (90%) believed that people serving community sentences should be given support (such as help with addiction or mental health problems, or numeracy or literacy difficulties) to reduce the likelihood of them committing more crime in the future

- most people (84%) believed that people helping their community as part of a community sentence is an appropriate response for a minor offence rather than a short prison sentence

- almost three-quarters (77%) believed that people who do not comply with the terms of their community sentence will be held to account

- around a quarter (23%) of adults believed that people who serve community sentences put the public at risk of crime

Relatively few people were aware of unpaid work placements being carried out in their local area as part of community sentences.

Respondents were also asked about their awareness and perceptions of unpaid work placements which can be completed as part of a community sentence. Just 14% adults were aware of unpaid work placements being carried out in their area, although amongst those who were aware of them, 71% agreed that their area had benefitted. Further research could explore public awareness of unpaid work placements.

7. Public perceptions of crime and safety

In addition to measuring the extent and prevalence of crime, the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) also enables us to understand public perceptions of crime and safety and how these have changed over time. It is important to note that a variety of factors will influence perceptions of crime in local communities and the country as a whole, so opinions or concerns may not reflect wider trends in victimisation. Moreover, what respondents consider when asked about crime may go beyond the categories of victimisation captured by the SCJS.

How did the public think the level of crime in their local area had changed in recent years?

In 2018/19, just under three-quarters of adults thought the local crime rate had been stable or fallen in the previous two years, an improvement since 2008/09 and unchanged since 2017/18.

One of the indicators in the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework is the public's perception of the crime rate in their local area. The SCJS is used to evidence this indicator which tracks the proportion of adults who believe that the crime rate has *stayed the same or reduced[82] in the past two years in their local area[83]*.

73% of adults in 2018/19 said that the crime rate in their local area had decreased or stayed the same over the last couple of years. This figure has risen from 69% in 2008/09 and is consistent with the finding in 2017/18, as shown in Figure 7.1 below.

Looking more closely at trends over time reveals that the growth in the 'less or same' combined measure over the last decade has been driven by more people believing the crime rate in their local area has 'stayed the same' which has consistently accounted for most of this group, rising from 60% of adults in 2008/09 to 65% in 2018/19. On the other hand, in the latest survey just under one-in-ten (8%) thought the crime rate had decreased, in line with the position in 2008/09.

Taken together, these findings mean that fewer people thought the amount of crime in their local area had increased in the two years prior to interview in 2018/19 (22%) than in 2008/09 (28%), again unchanged from 2017/18.

However, whilst the longer term picture is positive, comparing the latest results to the position in 2016/17 reveals a rise in people thinking crime has increased (from 19% to 22%), with fewer believing crime has fallen in the two years prior to interview. Therefore, this data will be important to monitor in the coming years.

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[82] The 'reduced' category combines those saying there has been a 'little less' or a 'lot less' crime, whilst the 'increased' group contains those who thought there was a 'little more' or 'lot more' crime.

[83] The question is only asked of adults who have lived in their local area for two or more years at the time of interview (n=4,820).

Figure 7.1: Proportion of adults holding views on changes in the local crime rate in the last two years
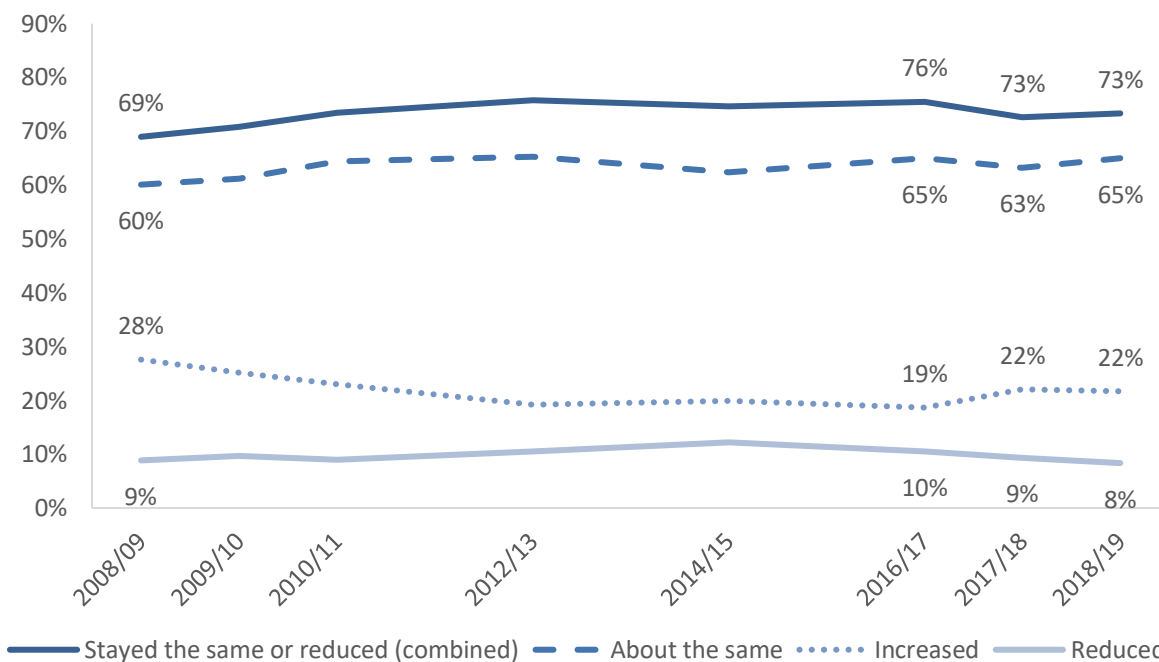
A smaller proportion of females, victims of crime and those in deprived areas than those in comparator groups believed the local crime rate had been stable or fallen.

In 2018/19, most adults (typically around 70% or greater) in each population group thought the volume of local crime had stayed the same or reduced in the previous two years. However, the proportion in each group holding this view did vary – for instance:

- a greater proportion of men than women (78% compared to 69%)
- fewer victims of crime than non-victims (62% compared to 75% respectively)

Further breakdowns and time-series analyses are provided in Annex table A1.11. It reveals improvements in perceptions since 2008/09 across a number of population breakdowns, although the latest survey results were unchanged from the baseline position for those in the most deprived areas, victims of crime, those in rural locations and people aged 25 to 44 years old.

More recently, figures showed no change across most population groups between 2017/18 and 2018/19. However, there has been a decrease in the proportion of people believing the local crime rate had stayed the same or fallen in the 15% most deprived areas of Scotland (from 73% to 67%). This fall also means that in 2018/19 people in the most deprived areas were less likely to think the local crime rate was stable or had fallen than those living elsewhere (74%).

How did views on local and national crime trends differ in 2018/19?

As in previous years, adults were more likely to think crime had risen across the country as a whole than in their local area in the two years prior to interview.

Whilst the previous section looked at views on crime rates in respondents' local area, the SCJS also collects data on perceptions of national crime trends.

In 2018/19, almost half of adults in Scotland (46%) believed that crime had increased across the country as a whole in the two years prior to interview, whilst the SCJS estimates that the [overall level of crime in Scotland](#) has fallen by 20% since 2016/17.

The proportion of adults who thought crime had increased in the latest survey was smaller than the 52% who felt this way in 2009/10[84]. However, this proportion has increased over the last few years – for example, from a low of 34% in 2014/15 and 41% in 2017/18 (Table 7.1).

Table 7.1: Public perceptions on how the national crime rate has changed in two years prior to interview

Percentage of adults holding view on change in national crime rate:	2018/19	Change since 2009/10	Change since 2017/18
A lot more / a little more	**46%**	⇩ from 52%	⇧ from 41%
About the same	**36%**	No change	⇩ from 40%
A lot less / a little less	**7%**	⇧ from 4%	No change
Don't know / Refused	**10%**	⇧ from 8%	No change
Combined: Less or same	**44%**	⇧ from 40%	⇩ from 48%
Number of respondents	*5,540*	*16,040*	*5,480*

Variable: QS2AREAS

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[84] The question on the national crime rate was first included in 2009/10.

Comparing local and national perceptions, the proportion of adults believing crime had increased in Scotland overall (46%) was much greater than the 22% in 2018/19 who thought the level of crime in their local area had grown in recent years[85]. In other words, people were much less likely to say crime had been stable or fallen nationally (44%) than in their local area (73%). This variation in perceptions across geographic levels has been identified consistently by the SCJS over the years and by other surveys across the UK – most notably the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) and the Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey (NISCS).

Looking more closely, Figure 7.2 highlights that the difference in those believing crime has increased is mostly accounted for by people being much less likely to think the crime rate has been stable in Scotland overall.

Figure 7.2: Perceptions of changes in the crime rate locally and nationally in the two years prior to interview
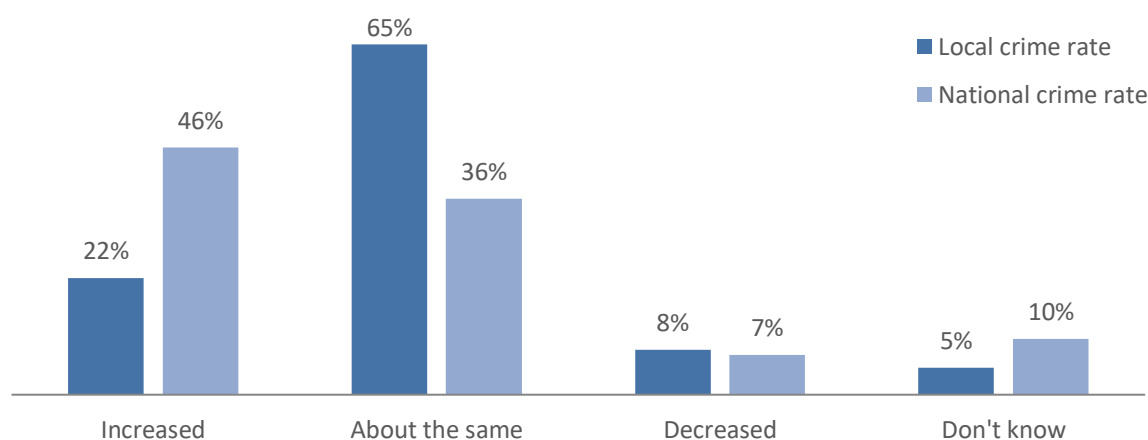
Base: Local crime rate: All adults who have lived in local area for two years or more (4,820); National crime rate: All adults (5,540); Variables: QS2AREA; QS2AREAS.

Views on the national crime rate also varied by demographic characteristics. For example, groups less likely to think crime had been stable or fallen across the country as a whole in recent years included:

- women (39% compared to 48% of men) – similar to the pattern in views on the local crime rate

- those aged 60 and over (33% compared to 52% of 16 to 24 year olds, 52% of those aged 25 to 44, and 43% of those in the 45 to 59 age group)

In contrast to perceptions of the local crime rate, the 2018/19 SCJS detected no difference in views on the trend in the national crime rate between victims and non-victims. This was also true when looking at the combined proportions saying the crime rate was stable or had fallen by area deprivation (42% in the 15% most deprived areas compared to 44% of those living elsewhere). However, a closer look at the results reveals that a greater proportion in the most deprived areas thought the national crime rate had fallen (10% compared to 7% of those in

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[85] Only those who have lived at their current address at least two years are asked for their views on the local crime rate. Analysis of the national crime rate data for only those resident at their address for at least two years indicates a fairly small impact on the comparison between local and national crime perceptions, compared to using the full sample for such figures, therefore the full sample is used. For example, looking at only those living in the local area for the last two years, 49% thought crime had increased nationally compared to 46% using the full sample.

the rest of Scotland), whilst more people living elsewhere said it had stayed the same in recent years (37% compared to 32% of people in the most deprived areas).

Further breakdowns and trends within groups over time are provided in Annex table A1.12.

How safe did the public feel in 2018/19?

More adults felt safe when walking alone in their local area or on their own at home during the night in 2018/19 than a decade ago.

To aid understanding about public perceptions of safety and fears about crime, SCJS respondents were asked how safe they felt when walking alone in their local area after dark. This question has also been used elsewhere, such as in the Crime Survey for England and Wales, to explore similar issues. An additional question also asked respondents how they feel when on their own at home at night.

In 2018/19, the majority of adults in Scotland said they felt very or fairly safe walking alone in their local area after dark (78%) and when in their home alone at night (96%). Both these measures of feelings of safety have increased from their 2008/09 baseline position, as shown in Figure 7.3 below. Over the shorter-term, a closer examination of the data shows that:

- the proportion feeling safe walking in their local area when alone increased from 2008/09 to 2016/17, but has been stable over the last couple of years

- although the vast majority continue to feel safe in their home at night, this proportion has fallen slightly but significantly since 2016/17, but has not changed since the 2017/18 SCJS

The Crime Survey for England and Wales found a similar proportion of adults (78%) felt safe walking alone at night in 2018/19 using the same measure as the SCJS[86].

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[86] Office for National Statistics: Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) 2018/19

The CSEW typically excludes don't know and refusal responses from analysis, whereas the SCJS does not. However, it is worth noting that only 1% of respondents said don't know or refused in the 2018/19 SCJS, so the impact on the comparison highlighted would be minimal.

Figure 7.3: Proportion of adults feeling very / fairly safe in local area and at home alone, 2008/09 to 2018/19

▼
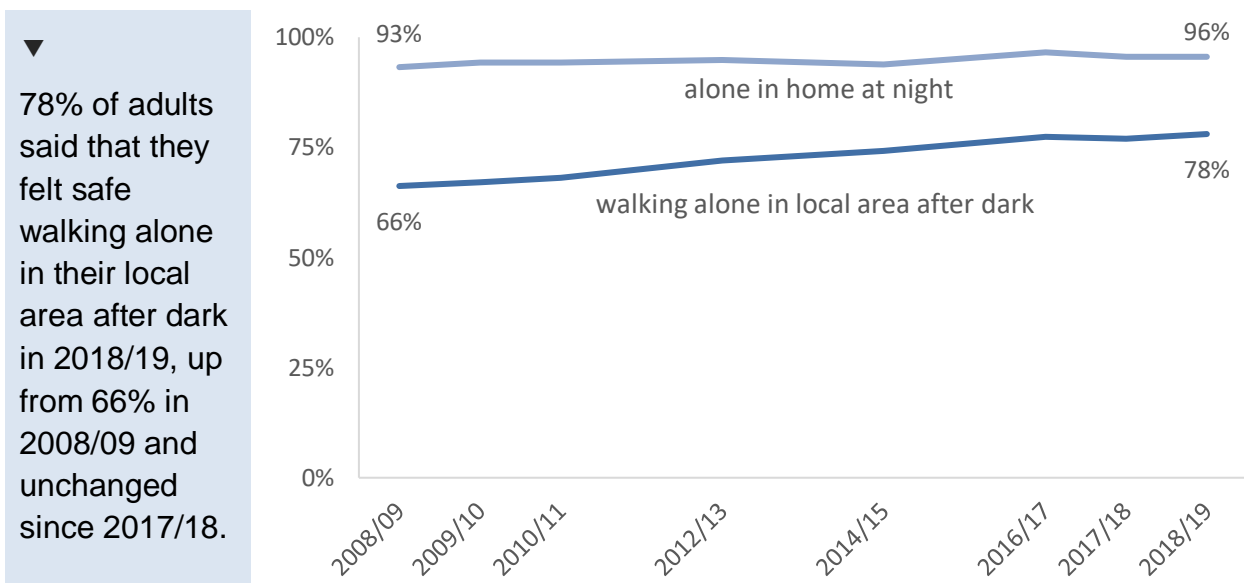
78% of adults said that they felt safe walking alone in their local area after dark in 2018/19, up from 66% in 2008/09 and unchanged since 2017/18.

alone in home at night

walking alone in local area after dark

Base: All adults - SCJS 2008/09 (16,000); 2009/10 (16,040); 2010/11 (13,010); 2012/13 (12,050); 2014/15 (11,470); 2016/17 (5,570); 2017/18 (5,480); 2018/19 (5,540). Variable: QSFDARK; QSFNIGH.

Despite perceptions improving over the last decade, feelings of safety continued to vary by factors such as gender, age and area deprivation in 2018/19.

As shown in Figures 7.4 and 7.5 below, in 2018/19 the majority of adults in the population sub-groups examined reported feeling safe when walking alone in their local area after dark. There have also been improvements in feelings of safety *within* such groups since 2008/09 (such as in both deprived areas and elsewhere, as well as amongst victims and non-victims).

However, notwithstanding generally positive trends in groups over time, in 2018/19 there continued to be notable differences in *relative* feelings of safety amongst population groups as depicted. For example, whilst more women and people living in the most deprived areas of Scotland felt safe in 2018/19 than a decade ago, they were still less likely to feel safe than men and people living in the rest of Scotland respectively.

Furthermore, as improved perceptions have been experienced fairly equally amongst the population since 2008/09, the size of the relative gap in feelings of safety between comparator groups has typically shown little change over the last decade.

Figure 7.4: Feelings of safety when walking alone in the local area after dark by demographic and area characteristics, 2008/09 to 2018/19
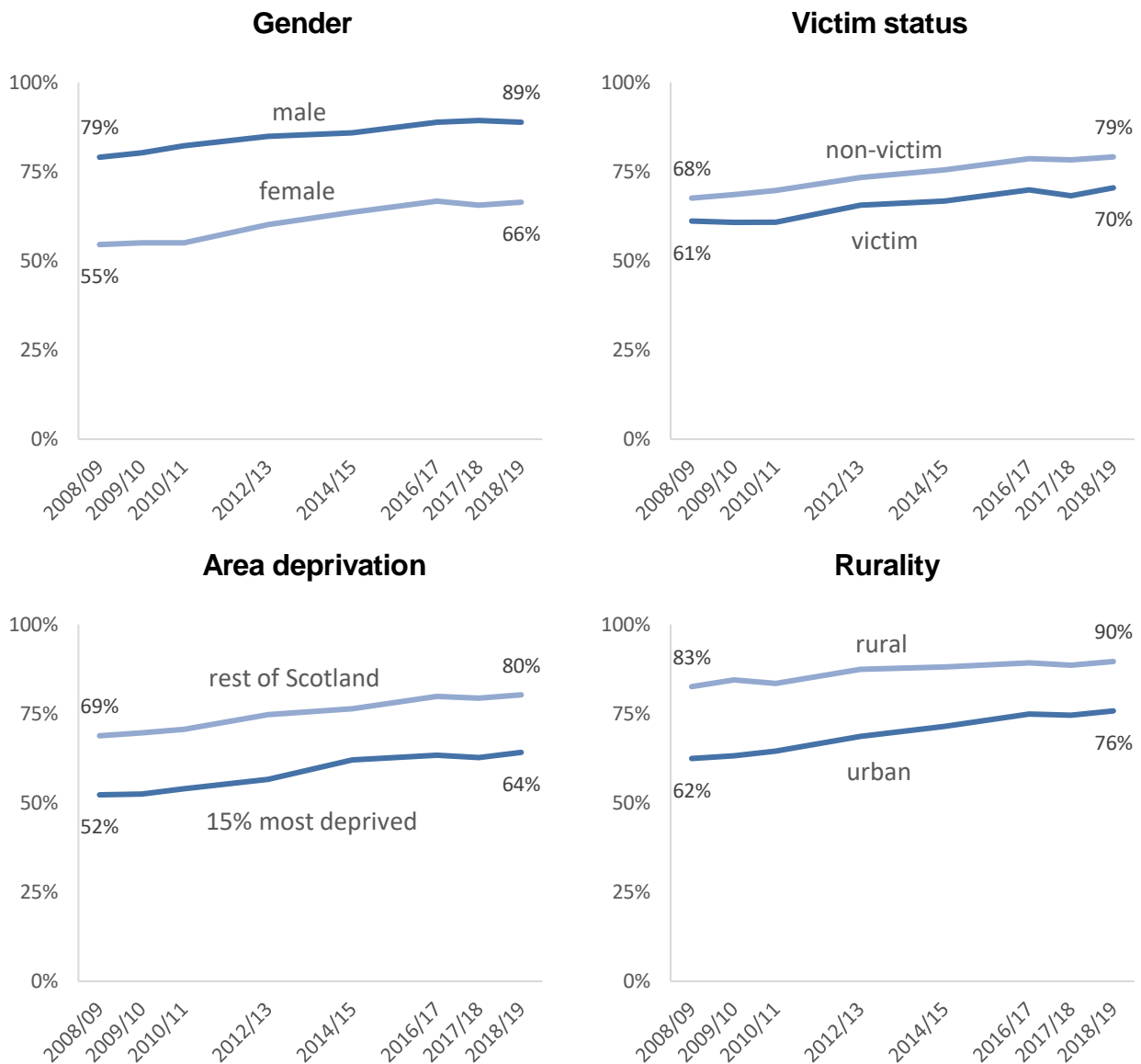
Gender

Victim status

Area deprivation

Rurality

Base: All adults - SCJS 2008/09 (16,000); 2009/10 (16,040); 2010/11 (13,010); 2012/13 (12,050); 2014/15 (11,470); 2016/17 (5,570); 2017/18 (5,480); 2018/19 (5,540) Variable: QSFDARK

Turning to results by age, those aged 60 and over remained less likely to report feeling safe than those in other age categories in 2018/19. However, in contrast to the trend seen in other categories, the gap between this cohort and those in younger age groups has almost halved in size since 2008/09, as Figure 7.5 shows. In other words, feelings of safety when walking alone after dark have improved amongst older people at a faster rate than the rest of the population over the last decade.

Figure 7.5: Feelings of safety when walking alone in the local area after dark by age, 2008/09 to 2018/19
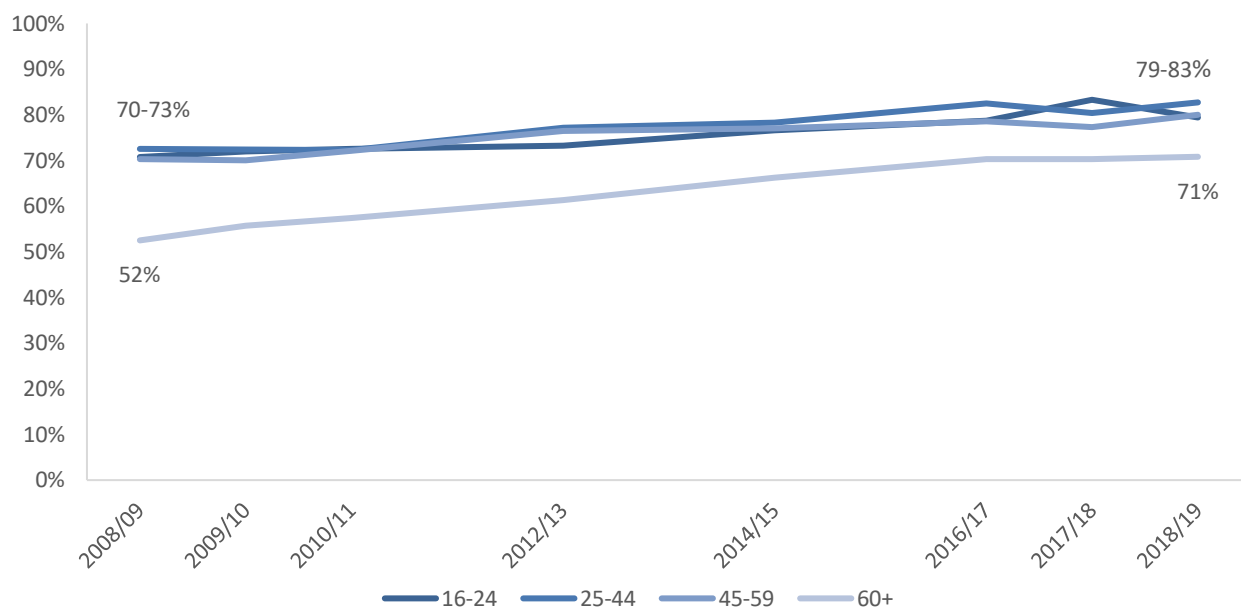
Looking at perceptions when home alone at night, although more than nine-in-ten adults across all demographic and geographic categories reported feeling safe, again some differences exist amongst the population. For example, 91% of those living in the 15% most deprived areas reported feeling safe in their home alone (compared to 96% of adults living elsewhere in Scotland), as did 93% of women (compared to 98% of men). Unlike the measure exploring views when walking alone after dark, no difference was found between different age groups in relation to feeling safe when home alone.

Over the shorter-term, the SCJS detected no change in either measure of perceived safety between 2017/18 and 2018/19 amongst the population groups discussed above. Full results for both questions with breakdowns for key groups, including over time, are provided in Annex tables A1.13 and A1.14.

Using feelings of safety as an analytical variable

Responses to the question about whether adults feel safe walking alone in their local area after dark can also be used to categorise respondents into a group who felt 'safe' and another of those who felt 'unsafe'. These groups can then be used as an analytical breakdown for exploring other measures around perceptions of crime to understand how wider feelings of safety are associated with more specific concerns and opinions. Key findings utilising this breakdown are presented in the sections which follow and this analytical variable is also featured in all SCJS online data tables.

How common were specific crimes believed to be?

Most adults did not think a range of issues were common in their local area in 2018/19, with violence, anti-social behaviour and knife-carrying seen as less prevalent than around a decade ago.

As well as being asked about the local and national crime rates, respondents were asked how common they thought a range of crimes and behaviours were in their area. Table 7.2 shows the issues asked about and the results for 2018/19.

Overall, adults did not consider each issue to be a common occurrence in 2018/19, though some problems were seen as prevalent by a greater proportion of the population than others. Consistent with SCJS findings in recent years, drug dealing and drug abuse was the problem most frequently noted as being very or fairly common, with 42% of adults believing this to be the case in 2018/19. Around three-in-ten (31%) thought people behaving in an anti-social manner was common. In comparison, violence between individuals or gangs and people being physically assaulted were seen as frequent issues by around one-in-ten adults (both 11%).

Table 7.2 also indicates that adults were generally less likely to report problems as common in 2018/19 than when views were first collected on each matter, with perceptions showing stability since the previous SCJS in 2017/18[87]. The most notable outlier in this trend is the perceived prevalence of drug dealing and abuse, which has shown an increase since the 2017/18 SCJS, with the latest figure in line with the 2008/09 position. The proportion viewing sexual assault as common in their local area was also unchanged compared to 2008/09, remaining at fewer than one-in-thirty (3%).

> Another Scottish Government population survey, the Scottish Household Survey (SHS), also collects information on perceptions of a range of neighbourhood issues including further types of anti-social and nuisance behaviour, alongside a suite of measures exploring wider opinions on the local area. Relevant results are available in the SHS Annual Report and have also found a relationship between increasing area deprivation and an apparent higher prevalence of neighbourhood problems, for example. As questions are asked in a different survey context, any similar measures should not be directly compared to SCJS findings.

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[87] Annex table A1.24 outlines the full time series of results.

Table 7.2: Perceived prevalence of various crime types in the local area

Percentage of adults who thought issue was very or fairly common in their local area	2018/19	Change since 2008/09	Change since 2017/18
Drug dealing and drug abuse	**42%**	No change	⇧ from 37%
People behaving in an anti-social manner in public	**31%**	⇩ from 46%	No change
People having things stolen from their car or other vehicles	**12%**	⇩ from 20%	No change
People being physically assaulted or attacked in the street or other public places	**11%**	⇩ from 19%	No change
Violence between groups of individuals or gangs	**11%**	⇩ from 26%	No change
People having their car or other vehicles stolen	**8%**	⇩ from 15%	No change
People being mugged or robbed	**7%**	⇩ from 10%	No change
People being physically attacked because of their skin colour, ethnic origin or religion	**5%**	⇩ from 7%	No change
People being sexually assaulted	**3%**	No change	No change

Percentage of adults who thought issue was very or fairly common in their local area	2018/19	Change since 2009/10	Change since 2017/18
People carrying knives	**11%**	⇩ from 22%	No change

Percentage of adults who thought issue was very or fairly common in their local area	2018/19	Change since 2012/13	Change since 2017/18
Deliberate damage to cars or other vehicles	**17%**	⇩ from 25%	No change
Deliberate damage to people's homes by vandals	**9%**	⇩ from 14%	No change

Percentage of adults who thought issue was very or fairly common in their local area	2018/19	Change since 2016/17	Change since 2017/18
People buying or selling smuggled or fake goods	**12%**	No change	No change

Base: All adults - SCJS 2008/09 (4,030); 2009/10 (4,000); 2012/13 (3,020); 2016/17 (1,390); 2017/18 (1,380); 2018/19 (1,400). Variable: QACO.

How concerned were the public about crime?

The SCJS also captures data on how worried the public are about specific types of crime and how likely they think they are to experience them. Whilst the analysis below summarises key findings from the questions on these topics, it is important to note that the impact of 'worry' and the perceived likelihood of victimisation will vary from one individual to another. Moreover, even if someone claims they are not worried about a particular crime or do not think they are likely to be a victim, it does not necessarily mean they believe that they are at no risk.

Fraud remained the crime the public were most commonly worried about in 2018/19, although worry about a range of different crime types has fallen in the last decade.

In line with findings in previous years, in 2018/19 the crimes which the public were most likely to say they were very or fairly worried about (from those asked about) were fraud-related issues[88]. More specifically, half (50%) of adults said they were worried about someone using their credit or bank details to obtain money, goods or services, whilst 41% were worried about their identity being stolen. By comparison, just under a fifth (17%) were worried about being physically assaulted or attacked in the street or other public place, whilst around a tenth (11%) were concerned about being sexually assaulted.

Figure 7.6 (and Annex table A1.25) presents the results on worry about different crimes over time. It highlights that the proportion of adults who were very or fairly worried about experiencing each specific issue was lower in 2018/19 than the 2008/09 baseline. Looking more recently, all measures have been stable since the last SCJS in 2017/18.

Figure 7.6: Proportion of adults worried about experiencing each issue, 2008/09 and 2018/19
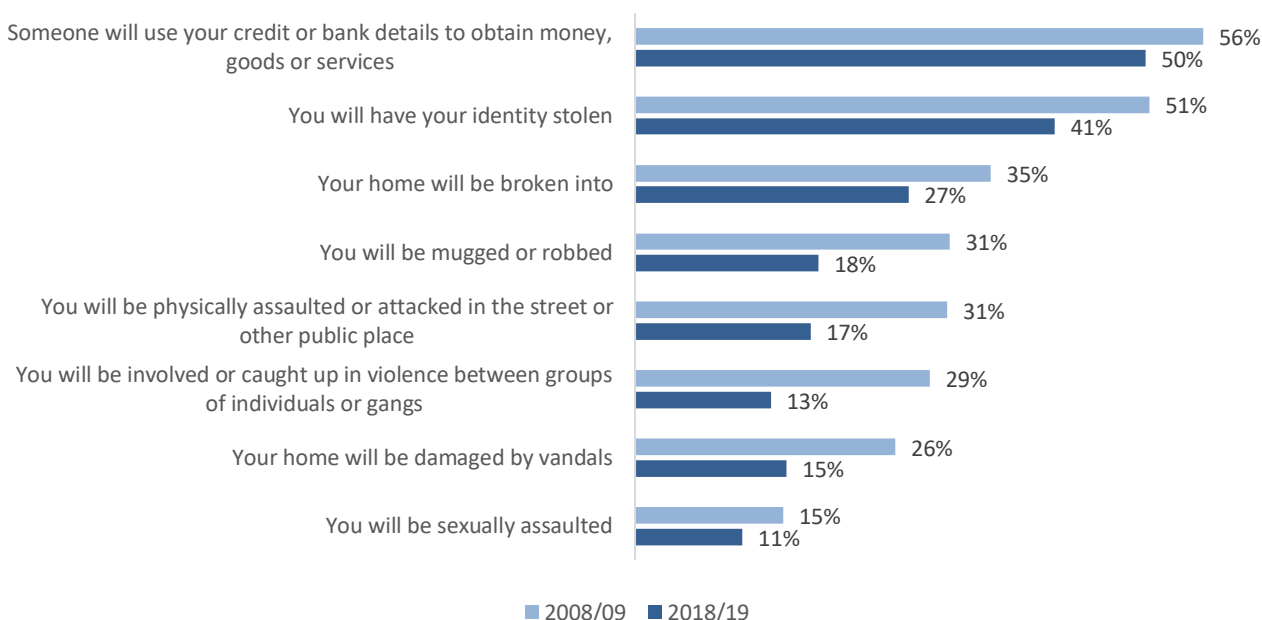
Base: All adults (5,540); Variables: QWORR_04 – QWORR_11

In addition to the results shown in Figure 7.6 in relation to all adults, the survey also explores worry about vehicle-related crime amongst adults in households with access to a vehicle. The 2018/19 SCJS found that:

- 31% of adults (in vehicle-owning households) were worried about their car or other vehicle being damaged by vandals

- 22% were worried about things being stolen from their car or other vehicle

- 21% were worried about their car or other vehicle being stolen

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[88] Findings in relation to perceptions but also experiences of fraud are also discussed in the 'Cyber Crime in Scotland' section of the report.

A small change to questionnaire routing and the response options[89] for the questions relating to worry about vehicle crime in 2016/17 means that this year now forms the baseline for these questions, with all three measures unchanged from this point. Prior to this questionnaire update, the three indicators had shown decreasing levels of worry between 2008/09 and 2014/15, as Annex table A1.25 shows.

Whilst half of all adults did not think they were likely to experience any crime in the year after interview, a quarter thought it was likely they would be victims of banking or credit fraud.

Building on the questions exploring worry about crime, SCJS respondents were also asked which of the issues covered, if any, they thought they were likely to experience in the following 12 months. In 2018/19, 50% of adults did not think they were likely to experience any of the crimes covered in the next 12 months, up from 48% in 2008/09 and unchanged from 2017/18.

This means that 47% of adults in 2018/19 thought they would experience at least one of the listed crimes in the year following their interview[90].

Looking at specific issues, the crime type which adults thought they were most likely to experience was someone using their bank or card details to obtain money, goods or services, echoing the pattern seen in the results on worry about crime. Around one-in-four (26%) thought this would happen to them in the next year. This is up from 14% in 2008/09, though has been stable since 2016/17. Relatedly, 15% of adults thought they would have their identity stolen, an increase from 12% in 2008/09.

To put perceptions about fraud into context, looking ahead to the year following interview:

- around one-in-seven adults (15%) thought their car or other vehicle would be damaged by vandals[91]

- one-in-twenty (5%) thought they would be physically assaulted in the street or other public place

- one-in-fifty (2%) thought it was likely that they would be sexually assaulted

Annex table A1.26 presents results on expectations around experiencing different crimes over time. It shows that (notwithstanding increased concerns about fraud), the proportion of adults who said it was likely that their home would be damaged by vandals, they would be mugged or robbed, or that they would experience violence in a public place has fallen since 2008/09. That said, there has also been a small but statistically significant increase in the proportion who thought it was likely they would experience sexual assault, from 1% in 2008/09 to 2% in 2018/19.

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[89] The 'not applicable' response option to the worry questions, previously included as a possible response, was removed with effect from 2016/17, with the questions now only asked of respondents from households with access to a vehicle. As such, results up to 2014/15 and from 2016/17 onwards are not directly comparable. See Annex table A1.25 for more information.

[90] The remaining proportion is accounted for by the small number of respondents who refused to answer or said they did not know.

[91] This figure only relates to respondents living in vehicle-owning households.

It is possible to contrast the results on the proportions who thought they would experience each issue in the year following interview with the crime victimisation rates from the 2018/19 SCJS. Whilst these results are not directly comparable (with one being forward and the other being backwards looking), they do offer some insight into the difference between concerns about crime and actual experiences of crime over a broadly similar period. Figure 7.7 shows that generally a larger proportion of people thought they were likely to experience each crime individually than the proportion of adults or households who were actually victims of such incidents.

For example, 5.1% thought it was likely that they would be attacked in the street in the next year, yet the prevalence rate for all assaults (including those which happened in public places, but also elsewhere) in the 2018/19 survey was 2.1%.

Figure 7.7: Perceived likelihood of victimisation in next year in the context of the victimisation rate from the 2018/19 SCJS

Your home will be broken into (compared to housebreaking prevalence): 8.8% / 0.9%

You will be physically assaulted or attacked in the street or other public place (compared to assault prevalence): 5.1% / 2.1%

Your home will be damaged by vandals (compared to property vandalism prevalence): 4.2% / 2.1%

You will be mugged or robbed (compared to robbery prevalence): 4.1% / 0.1%

■ Proportion who thought likely to experience crime type in 12 months after interview

■ Victimisation rate in 2018/19 SCJS

Base: All adults (5,540). Variables: QHAPP; PREVHOUSEBREAK; PREVMOTOVVAND; PREVASSAULT; PREVROB; PREVTHEFTOFMV; PREVTHEFTFROMMV; PREVPROPVAND.

Note: Estimates are shown to one decimal place to facilitate a comparison between prevalence rate for different crime types (proportion of adults/households who were victims) and the perceived likelihood of becoming a victim (usually presented as a rounded figure).

How did perceptions of crime vary amongst the population?

Women, people in deprived areas and victims of crime were among key groups who were relatively more likely to be concerned about crime and perceive issues to be prevalent in their neighbourhood.

This section brings together data on the perceived prevalence of crime, worry about specific crime and respondents' views on how likely they are to experience particular issues in the 12 months following interview to explore whether and how findings differ amongst population groups. In summary, it outlines that, where differences were detected, concerns about crime:

- were generally higher amongst women, people in deprived areas, victims of crime, adults in urban areas and people who felt unsafe when walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark than direct comparator groups
- showed a more complicated picture with regards to differences by age group

Each demographic and area breakdown is explored in more detail below.

Gender

Women had higher levels of concern about crime than men.

Where a difference was detected, women generally displayed a greater level of concern about crime than men in 2018/19, which is in line with the finding highlighted previously that females were less likely to feel safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark.

For example, more women than men were worried about experiencing all of the specific crimes respondents were asked about, with the exception of theft of items from a vehicle where no difference was found. Statistically significant differences are outlined in Figure 7.8 below.

Figure 7.8: Proportion of adults worried about each crime type by gender

Someone will use your credit or bank details to obtain money, goods or services — Male 46%, Female 55%
You will have your identity stolen — Male 38%, Female 44%
Your car or other vehicle will be damaged by vandals — Male 29%, Female 33%
Your home will be broken into — Male 23%, Female 31%
You will be mugged or robbed — Male 13%, Female 24%
Your car or other vehicle will be stolen — Male 19%, Female 23%
You will be physically assaulted or attacked in the street or other public place — Male 13%, Female 22%
You will be sexually assaulted — Male 3%, Female 19%
Your home will be damaged by vandals — Male 13%, Female 17%
You will be involved or caught up in violence between groups of individuals or gangs — Male 11%, Female 16%

■ Male ■ Female

Base: Questions on vehicle theft/damage only asked of those who have access to or own vehicle – male (1,980), female (2,180); all other questions asked of all adults – male (2,510), female (3,030); Variables: QWORR_04 – QWORR_14

Additionally, a greater proportion of women than men thought it was *likely* their home would be broken into (10% compared to 7% of men), they would be mugged or robbed (5% compared to 3% of men) and that they would be sexually assaulted (4% compared to less than 0.1% of men).

Fewer differences were found with respect to the perceived prevalence of different types of crime in the local area. However, women were more likely to consider people being mugged (9% compared to 6% of men), people being physically attacked in a public place, and people behaving in an anti-social manner in public as common issues.

Age

The 2018/19 SCJS found perceptions of crime and safety showed a complex pattern with respect to views by age groups across the range of issues explored.

Although those aged 60 and over were much less likely than other age groups to report feeling safe walking alone in their local area after dark as highlighted earlier, the relationship between age and concerns about specific crime types was more complex.

The 2018/19 SCJS did not find a particularly strong relationship between age and worry about most specific types of crime. That said, there were some differences in particular areas. For example, worry about sexual assault was highest amongst 16 to 24 year olds (19%) and around double that of other age groups, as shown in Figure 7.9 below. On the other hand, worry about fraud and identity theft:

- was lowest amongst 16 to 24 year olds

- increased with age to peak in the 45 to 59 age group

- fell again amongst those over 60 (but remained higher than the worry levels of those under the age of 45)

Figure 7.9: Proportion of adults worried about experiencing each issue by age
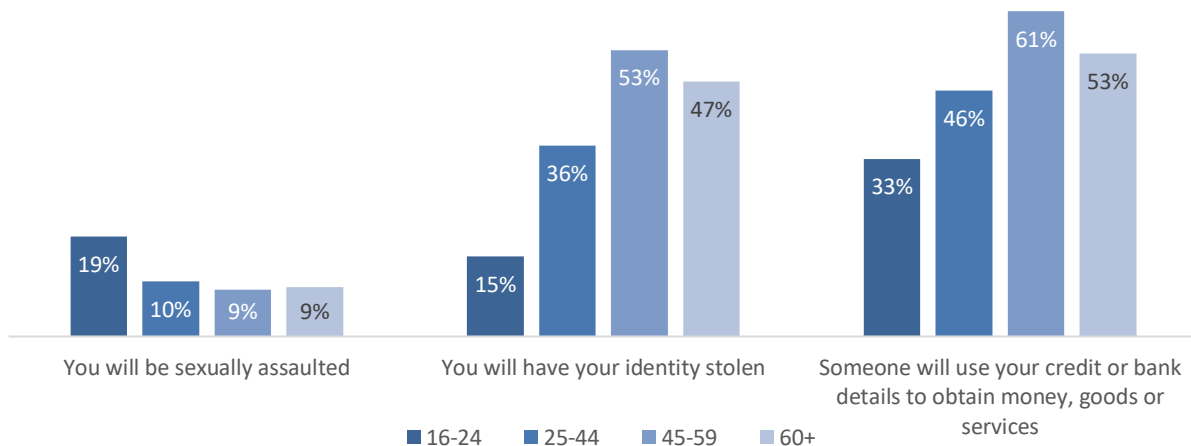
Base: 16-24 (360), 25-44 (1,560), 45-59 (1,410), 60+ (2,220); Variables: QWORR_09 – QWORR_11

Results also varied with respect to age across some issues when we turn to respondents' perceived likelihood of experiencing crime in the coming year, but not in all cases. For example, those aged 16 to 24 were more likely than those aged 45 to 59 and 60 and over to think they would experience physical assault (in the street or other public place) and vehicle vandalism, but again less likely than these groups to think they would be victims of fraud or identity theft.

Again following the trend seen in the data around worry about crime, people aged 16 to 24 years old were also most likely to believe it was likely they would experience sexual assault in the year after interview, with one-in-twenty (5%) thinking this would happen compared to 2% of those aged 25 to 44 and 1% of both the 45 to 59 and 60 and over age groups.

On the other hand, no difference was detected across the age groups in relation to the perceived likelihood of being a victim of housebreaking, vandalism to the home, or being mugged or robbed.

Finally, those aged 60 and over were often the group least likely to view crimes and related issues as common occurrences in their local area, with generally no difference found between those in younger age categories. For example, a smaller proportion of people aged 60 and over thought issues such as vandalism to houses and vehicles, violence, anti-social behaviour and drug dealing and abuse were prevalent issues in their neighbourhoods, compared to those in other age groups.

Area deprivation

Reported awareness of and concerns about crime were generally more common amongst adults in the most deprived areas of Scotland.

Where difference was detected, those living in the 15% most deprived areas were typically found to have higher levels of concern about crime than people living elsewhere in Scotland and were more likely to consider issues to be common in their local area.

For example, greater proportions of people in the most deprived areas were *worried* about experiencing physical violence, being mugged or robbed, and their vehicle being damaged. Those in deprived areas were also more likely to view these matters as *common* occurrences in their neighbourhood and think they were *likely to experience* them in the coming year. Figures 7.10 and 7.11 show the results.

Figure 7.10: Proportion of adults holding view on each issue by area deprivation
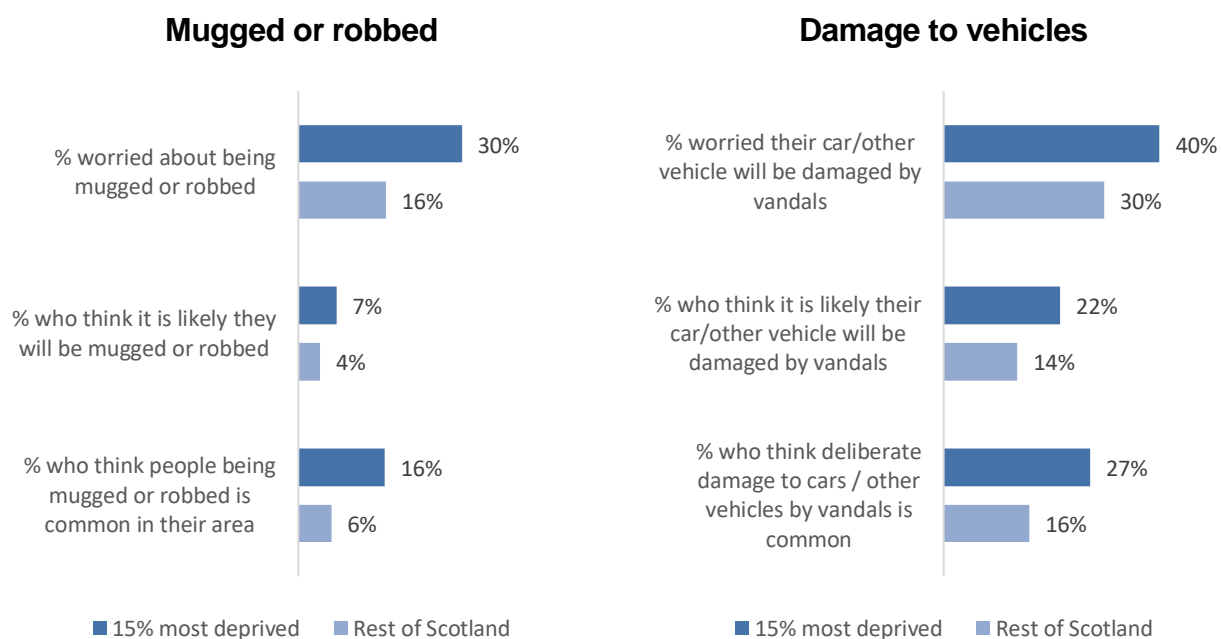
Base: Worry and likelihood – Robbery - all adults: 15% most deprived (790), Rest of Scotland (4,750); Vehicle damage – vehicle owners: 15% most deprived (420), Rest of Scotland (3,740); Perceived commonness – all adults: 15% most deprived (200), Rest of Scotland (1,200); Variables: QWORR_06, 14; QHAPP; QACO_05, 13.

Figure 7.11: Proportion of adults holding view on violence issues by area deprivation
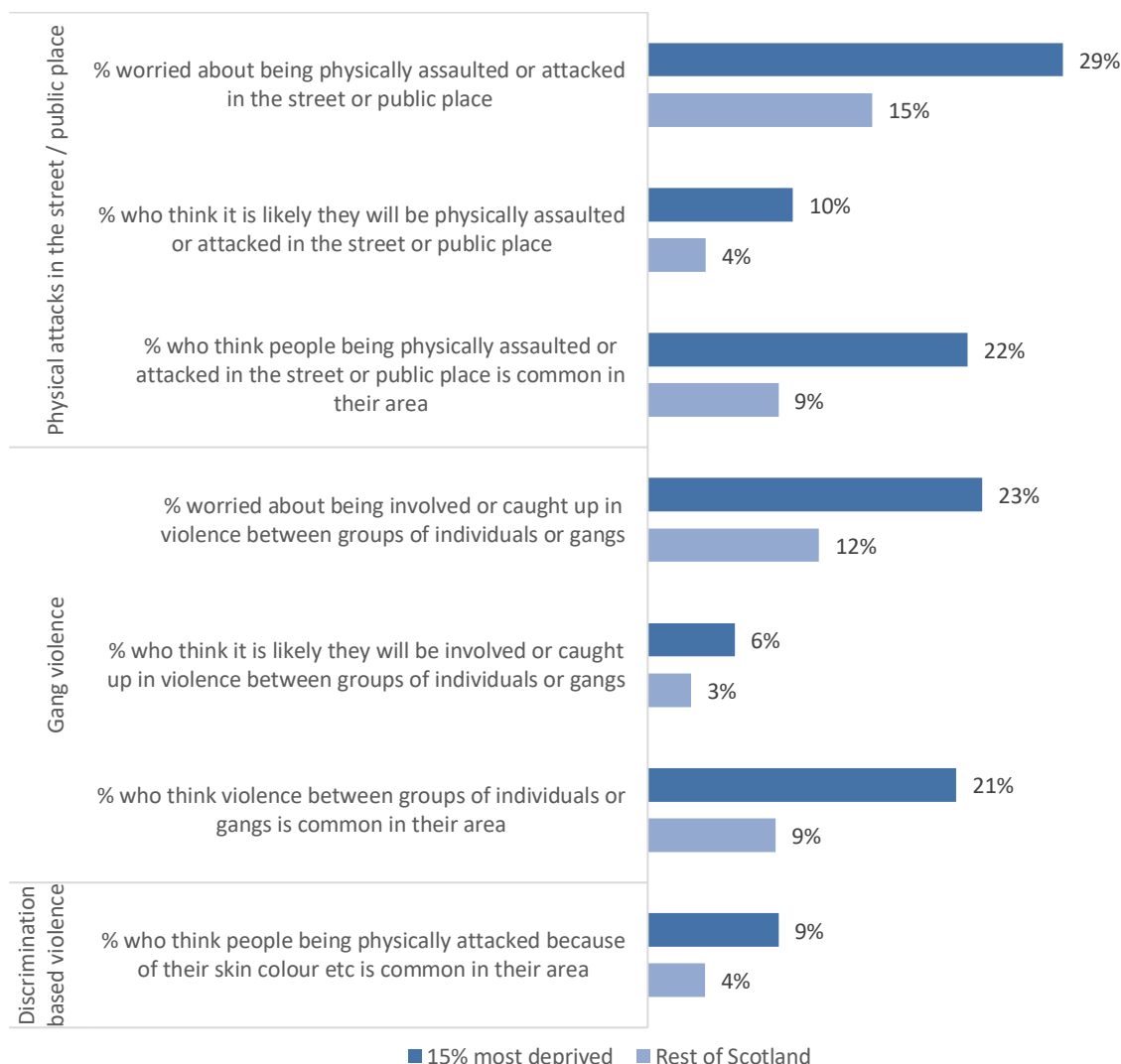
Base: Worry and likelihood – all adults: 15% most deprived (790), Rest of Scotland (4,750); Perceived commonness – all adults: 15% most deprived (200), Rest of Scotland (1,200); Variables: QWORR_07, 08; QHAPP; QACO_06, 07, 11.

However, there were some exceptions to the general trend of greater concern and awareness of crime being associated with increased deprivation, for instance in relation to:

- identity theft – where worry was no different between areas but the perceived likelihood of victimisation was higher in the rest of Scotland

- banking or credit fraud – where both the worry about the matter and the perceived likelihood of victimisation was higher outside the 15% most deprived areas

Furthermore, whilst the level of worry was greater in deprived areas, there was no difference in the reported commonness in the local area or perceived likelihood of experiencing sexual assault or motor vehicle related theft by area deprivation.

Looking at the perceived prevalence of wider issues in the neighbourhood, more than half of those living in the most deprived areas (53%) considered people behaving in an anti-social manner in public to be a prevalent issue. This was almost double the proportion of people living elsewhere in Scotland who believed this to be a common problem (27%). Likewise, drug dealing and abuse (64% compared to 38%) and knife-carrying (23% compared to 9%) were

believed to be more prevalent in local neighbourhoods amongst those living in the 15% most deprived areas.

Rurality

Where differences were found, the perceived prevalence of and worry about specific crimes was higher in urban areas.

Respondents living in urban areas were more worried than those in rural locations about experiencing the range of crimes listed, with the exception of identity theft (which was of more concern to people in rural places) and banking fraud (where no difference was detected). Likewise, greater proportions of people in urban areas tended to think various crimes and problems were common issues in their local area. For instance, issues such as drug dealing and abuse (44% compared to 29%), people behaving in an anti-social manner in public (34% compared to 14%), and people being mugged or robbed (8% compared to 2%) were all seen as more common by people living in urban areas than in rural locations respectively.

Turning to the perceived likelihood of experiencing crime in the year after interview, similar amounts of people in both urban and rural areas thought they would not be victims of any of the issues covered (50% and 54% respectively – this apparent difference is not statistically significant). However, whilst this similarity held for views on the chances of experiencing fraud, identity theft, housebreaking and vehicle-related theft, those in urban areas thought they were more likely to experience some of the other issues listed, including violent crime and their home being vandalised. For example, in urban areas:

- 5% thought it was likely they would be mugged or robbed, compared to 2% of those living in rural areas

- 6% believed it was likely they would be physically assaulted or attacked in the street or another public place, compared to 3% of rural dwellers

- 4% said they thought they would be involved or caught up in violence between groups of individuals or gangs, compared to 1% of adults in rural locations

Victim status

Recent victims of crime were typically more likely to be worried about experiencing crime again in the future and think they were likely to do so, as well as view issues as common in their local area.

Across the range of measures those who had experienced crime in the 12 months prior to interview were generally more likely than non-victims to report worry about crime and that problems were common in their area. The one notable area where there was no difference between victims and non-victims in relation to worry about crime was in relation to concern about experiencing identity theft or banking fraud.

Recent prior victimisation also had a strong association with views on the likelihood of experiencing crime in future, with each comparison shown in Table 7.3 below representing a statistically significant difference. For example, whilst 53% of non-victims in 2018/19 said they did not think they would experience any of the listed crimes in the coming year, this was true for only 31% of victims. In other words, the majority people who had been victims of crime in the previous 12 months, expected to become victims (of some sort of crime) again in the following year.

Table 7.3: Proportion of adults who thought it was likely they would experience each issue in 12 months after interview, by victim status in 2018/19

Percieved likelihood of experiencing crime type	Victim in 2018/19 SCJS	Non-victim in 2018/19 SCJS
Your car or other vehicle will be damaged by vandals	35%	12%
Someone will use your credit or bank details to obtain money, goods or services	31%	25%
You will have your identity stolen	19%	14%
Things will be stolen from your car or other vehicle	17%	6%
Your home will be broken into	15%	8%
Your car or other vehicle will be stolen	12%	6%
You will be physically assaulted	11%	4%
Your home will be damaged by vandals	11%	3%
You will be mugged or robbed	8%	4%
You will be involved or caught up in violence between groups of individuals or gangs	6%	3%
You will be sexually assaulted	3%	2%
None of the above	**31%**	**53%**

Base: Results on vehicle theft/damage only includes respondents in households with access their own vehicle – victims (470), non-victims (3,700); all other results shown for all adults – victims (630), non-victims (4,910); Variables: QHAPP

Wider perceptions of safety

Feeling unsafe walking in the local area after dark was strongly associated with being more likely to consider specific crimes as regular occurrences in their neighbourhood and increased levels of concern about becoming a victim.

The SCJS found a strong association between more general anxieties about safety (measured by whether people felt safe or unsafe walking alone in their local area after dark, as discussed previously) and concern about specific types of crime.

Those who said they felt unsafe walking alone in their local area after dark were much more likely to worry about experiencing each issue covered by the SCJS than those who felt safe. For example, 42% worried about being mugged or robbed (compared to 12% of those feeling safe), whilst almost 4 times as many were worried about being physically assaulted or attacked in the street or other public place (41% compared to 11%).

Similarly, people who felt unsafe were typically more likely to view each issue as prevalent in their neighbourhood and were more prone to think they would experience specific types of crimes in the 12 months after interview. For instance, 15% of those who felt unsafe thought it was likely their home would be broken into during the following year, compared to 7% of those who reported feeling safe. That said, there was no difference in the perceived commonness or likelihood of experiencing fraud or identity theft between the 'safe' and 'unsafe' groups, whilst

similar proportions also viewed people being sexually assaulted as a prevalent issue in their local area.

It is interesting however to note that despite those aged 60 years old and over being more likely to feel unsafe, they were often less likely to worry about or see criminal issues as prominent. The relationship would appear to be more consistent for women, those in deprived areas and victims of crime, as noted above.

How were people affected by their concerns about crime?

Most adults said their concerns about crime did not prevent them from doing things they wanted to do.

Following on from exploring worry about and perceptions of crime, the SCJS gathers information on the impact of such feelings on individual behaviour in order to help put findings in context.

Of those who reported being worried about experiencing some sort of crime, around three-fifths (62%) reported that it did not prevent them from doing things they otherwise wanted to do ('at all'). This has fallen from 66% in 2017/18, but is in line with the baseline position when this measure was first collected in 2012/13 (60%).

In the latest survey, three-in-ten (29%) said they were prevented from doing things 'a little', whilst 6% said it affected them 'quite a lot'. Only 2% said that it affected them doing things 'a great deal'.

Some groups were more likely than others to be affected. For example, women (57%), those in urban locations (60%), victims of crime (55%) and people living in the 15% most deprived areas of Scotland (50%) were all less likely than comparator groups to say that their concerns had not prevented them from doing things they wanted to. Likewise, whilst 71% of those who said they felt safe walking alone in their local area after dark reported their concerns did not prevent them doing things at all, this figure halved to 35% amongst those who said they felt unsafe.

What steps did people take to reduce their chances of experiencing crime?

The majority of adults took some sort of action in 2018/19 to reduce their risk of being a victim of crime, although take up of different precautions varied.

Respondents were asked which precautions (from a list of potential options) they had taken or had in place in the last year to reduce their risk of becoming a victim of crime, with results shown in Figure 7.12 below.

Three-quarters of adults (75%) reported adopting at least one preventative action in 2018/19, with 60% taking two or more actions. Just over a fifth (22%) said they had taken five or more of the listed actions, whilst around a quarter (24%) said they had not taken any of the listed actions.

As in previous years, the most commonly adopted precautions were concealing valuables to make them less visible (reported by 41%) and not leaving their home empty or leaving a light on (reported by 37%).

Figure 7.12: Actions taken to reduce the risk of experiencing crime in the last year

Action	%
Concealed valuables to make them less visible	41%
Not left home empty / left a light on / on a timer	37%
Requested official identification before allowing entry to home	31%
Avoided certain areas / types of place	28%
Been careful about where car is parked / parked off-street	24%
Used taxi / car (instead of walking)	22%
Security device for home (e.g. alarm, window locks)	20%
Security device for car (e.g. alarm, steering lock)	18%
Not gone out at night / unaccompanied at night	17%
Have a dog as a deterrent	10%
Security marked property	4%
Actively participated in Neighbourhood Watch scheme	3%
Carried a personal alarm	3%
Carried some means of self-defence / a weapon	1%
None of these	24%

Base: All adults (1,400); Variable: QDONE

The proportion of adults reporting taking each action has been very stable in the last couple of years, although some actions are more commonly adopted than they were in 2012/13 when figures were first collected. For example, since 2012/13 there have been increases in the proportion of adults reporting:

- concealing valuables (from 27% to 41%)

- avoiding certain places (from 23% to 28%)

- not leaving their home empty or leaving a light on (from 26% to 37%)

- asking to see identification before allowing people into their home (from 21% to 31%)

What did people think about their local community and the collective effort to prevent crime in their neighbourhood?

People generally held positive views about the people in their local area and their contribution to help maintain a safe environment.

Respondents were also asked a series of questions which explored perceptions of neighbourhood cohesion and community support in relation to potential crime and safety issues in the local area.

As shown in Table 7.4 below, most adults gave a positive account of people in their area and their efforts to prevent crime. For example, the majority of respondents indicated they had people nearby they could rely on to keep an eye on their home and that people would call the police if someone was acting suspiciously.

Table 7.4: Adults' views on people and support in local area

Percentage of adults	Agree (strongly/ slightly)	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree (slightly/ strongly)	Don't know / refused
If my home was empty, I could count on one of my neighbours or other people in this area to keep an eye on it	87%	3%	9%	1%
I have neighbours or other people in my local area I feel I could turn to for advice or support	81%	6%	12%	1%
The people who live in my local area can be relied upon to call the police if someone is acting suspiciously	81%	8%	8%	4%
People in this local area pull together to prevent crime	57%	22%	15%	6%
People in my local area cannot be trusted	14%	14%	69%	3%

Base: All adults (1,400); Variable: LCPEOP_01 – LCPEOP_05

Results for different demographic and area breakdowns are provided in the online data tables. They show, for example, that those in deprived areas were less likely to hold positive views than those living elsewhere across most of the indicators.

The Scottish Household Survey report chapter exploring perceptions of neighbourhood problems cited earlier also contains a range of information about views on community cohesion and similar matters which may be of interest for wider evidence in this area.

A further SCJS question asked respondents whether they thought broken glass in a park or playground would be removed fairly quickly. In 2018/19, 45% thought this would be the case with 30% disagreeing, and the remainder (25%) giving no clear view or saying don't know. However, whilst respondents are asked to consider how such a problem would be dealt with 'either by local agencies such as the council or residents', the question does not provide information on who respondents feel should be primarily responsible for dealing with this and therefore who they think should be responsible for maintaining or improving the situation described. The proportion agreeing in 2018/19 was in line with the baseline position from 2012/13 and the 2017/18 result.

How would people respond to witnessing crime?

The vast majority of people said they would phone the police and help to identify the perpetrator if they saw someone being robbed.

To explore potential individual level responses to witnessing crime and subsequent actions, survey respondents were asked how they would act in a scenario where they saw a man pushed to the ground and his wallet stolen.

Over nine-in-ten adults said they would be likely to call the police (94%) and willing to identify the person who had done it (91%) were they to witness such an event. A slightly smaller proportion, but still the vast majority, of people would be willing to give evidence against the

accused in court (85%). All of these findings were unchanged compared to 2012/13, when these questions were first included, and 2017/18.

Though again most people gave positive responses, those living in the most deprived areas were relatively less likely than those living elsewhere in Scotland to say they would call the police (89% compared to 95%) or be prepared to identify the perpetrator (85% compared to 92%).

8. SCJS topical reports

In addition to exploring the extent and prevalence of crime, perceptions of the police, criminal justice system and crime more generally, the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) also collects data on a range of other justice related topics.

This chapter first provides an overview of the evidence available through the SCJS on cyber crime, including findings from the newly developed set of cyber fraud and computer misuse questions first included in the 2018/19 SCJS.

It then presents key findings from the 2018/19 SCJS on:

- Harassment and discrimination
- Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service
- Civil law

8.1 Cyber crime in Scotland

What is cyber crime?

Cyber crime can be understood as either cyber-enabled or cyber-dependent crime.

Defining cyber crime is complex, with no agreed upon definition of the term. The main debate centres around the extent to which cyber technology[92] needs to be involved for the crime to be termed 'cyber crime'.

For the purposes of the SCJS and the results in this section of the report, a broad definition of cyber crime is adopted that includes crimes in which cyber technology is in any way involved. This ranges from offences which would not be possible without the use of cyber technology, known as 'cyber-dependent crimes' (such as the spreading of computer viruses), to 'traditional' offences which can be facilitated by the use of cyber technology, known as 'cyber-enabled' crimes (such as online harassment).

How did the 2018/19 SCJS collect data about cyber crime in Scotland?

Internet users were asked about what types of cyber fraud and computer misuse they had experienced in the previous 12 months and a 'cyber flag' was added to questions capturing characteristics of violent and property crime.

The 2018/19 SCJS questionnaire contained a new set of cyber fraud and computer misuse questions, which are listed below. Detailed information on the new questions can be found in the documentation related to the review and development of the questionnaire for 2018/19. It is important to note that the findings from these new questions are not included in the main SCJS crime estimates, and are not comparable with them. However, they represent an important step in developing the cyber crime evidence base in Scotland. Only SCJS respondents who had accessed the internet in the 12 months prior to the survey were asked about their experiences of cyber fraud and computer misuse (87% of respondents).

Respondents were asked about what *types* (not how many individual incidents) of cyber fraud and computer misuse they had experienced in the previous 12 months while accessing their own internet-enabled devices (thus excluding, for example, workplace-owned devices). Up to three types of cyber fraud and computer misuse were recorded per individual and it is possible that certain crimes might relate to the same experience: for example, a specific incident could involve *both* a scam email and a virus.

Furthermore, when collecting information about people's experiences of cyber fraud and computer misuse, the survey does not seek to capture instances in which a crime was only attempted in a very broad sense (for example, when a scam email was received but the person simply deleted it).

A new 'cyber flag' question was also added in the victim form section of the questionnaire. This is central to understanding what proportion of property and violent crime has a cyber element.

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[92] Technology relating to computers, computer networks such as the Internet and/or other forms of Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

Finally, the SCJS also collects information about stalking and harassment, which may also include a cyber element.

Drawing on the data collected across the survey, this section of the report presents results from the 2018/19 SCJS on the extent to which cyber technology is involved in a wide range of offences in Scotland. It is divided into four main sections:

- Fraud and computer misuse

- Cyber elements in property and violent crime

- Cyber elements in stalking and harassment

- Widening the focus: How does wider analytical work complement the evidence provided by the SCJS on cyber crime?

It is important to note that the data presented in this section comes from the analysis of SCJS results. Police Scotland is also collecting data about cyber crime. More information on the police's recording of cyber crime can be found towards the end of this section.

New cyber fraud and computer misuse questions

Respondents were asked if any of the following had happened to them in the previous 12 months:

- They had their personal details (e.g. their name, address, date of birth or National Insurance number) stolen online and used by someone else to open bank/credit accounts, get a loan, claim benefits, obtain passport/driving license etc., hereafter defined as "personal details stolen online"

- They had their devices infected by a malicious software, such as a virus or other form of malware, hereafter defined as "virus"

- They had their social media, email or other online account accessed by someone without their consent for fraudulent or malicious purposes, hereafter defined as "online account accessed for fraudulent purposes"

- They were locked out of their computer, laptop or mobile device and asked to make a payment to have it unlocked (known as ransomware), hereafter defined as "ransomware"

- They had their credit card, debit card or bank account details (e.g. account number, sort code) stolen online and used to make one or more payments, hereafter defined as "card/bank account details stolen online"

- They received a scam email claiming to be from their bank or another organisation (e.g. HMRC), asking to providing their bank details or making a payment as a result, hereafter defined as a "scam email"

- They received a phone call or message from someone claiming there was a problem with their computer or mobile device, and let them access their device and/or paying them a fee, only to find out it was a scam, hereafter defined as "phone scam"

- They were victim of online dating fraud (e.g. sending money to someone they had been chatting to, or were in a relationship with, online but then discovering that their dating profile was fake, or never heard from them again), hereafter defined as "online dating fraud"

Fraud and computer misuse

Fraud involves a person dishonestly and deliberately deceiving a victim for personal gain of property or money, or causing loss or risk of loss to another[93]. While 'traditional', face-to-face fraud persists, a large number of incidents of fraud have moved online in recent years, with new types of fraud having been developed which can only be carried out online, such as some types of email scams. On the other hand, computer misuse crimes always include the use of cyber technology, and are set out in the Computer Misuse Act 1990. They include offences such as the spread of malicious software.

Most types of cyber crime covered by the new SCJS questions are types of fraud, with the exception of the questions relating to malware and ransomware, which are types of computer misuse.

This section first explores fraud and computer misuse in Scotland through the analysis of the new cyber crime questions. It then explores fraud levels from another perspective, by presenting the analysis of the already-established questions in the SCJS about identity and card theft. While it may be reasonable to assume that a large proportion of identity and card theft happen online[94], the extent of cyber involvement is unknown in these latter questions.

How common were experiences of cyber fraud or computer misuse in 2018/19?

One-in-five adults who use the internet said they had experienced one or more types of cyber fraud and computer misuse in the year 2018/19, with one-in-twenty having been victims of more than one type.

The new questions introduced in 2018/19 show that over three-quarters (79.2%) of internet users in Scotland did not experience cyber fraud or computer misuse in 2018/19. When asked about their experiences, 20.4% said they had experienced at least one type of cyber fraud or computer misuse in the year 2018/19[95], with 5.2% having been a victim of more than one type[96].

For context, the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) estimates that 3.8% of adults were victims of cyber fraud and that 1.8% were victim of computer misuse in the year ending March 2019[97]. However, the CSEW and SCJS data are not directly comparable, as the two surveys ask notably different questions and follow different processes.

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[93] Office for National Statistics: Overview of fraud statistics: year ending March 2016 (latest release at time of publishing)

[94] The CSEW estimated that around half of fraud crimes in the year ending March 2019 were cyber-related.

[95] 0.4% of respondents said 'Don't know' and 0.1% refused to answer this question.

[96] Respondents were asked about what types, but not how many individual incidents of cyber fraud and computer misuse they had experienced. Up to three types of cyber fraud and computer misuse were recorded per individual and it is possible that certain crimes might relate to the same experience: for example, a specific incident could involve both a scam email and a virus.

[97] Nature of fraud and computer misuse in England and Wales: Appendix tables

For example, the CSEW captures detailed information about specific incidents, which enables them to be examined by specially trained coders and recorded as a crime in a similar way to how other crimes are recorded by each survey.

In contrast, the cyber fraud and computer misuse questions in the SCJS are new and designed to provide relatively high level and indicative information about the extent of reported victimisation in order to start building up evidence on cyber crime in Scotland (they do not include detailed follow up questions). This means that, for example, some incidents might be included where only an attempt was made, where it involved a work device or where the incident occurred prior to the 12 month period asked about.

Which types of cyber fraud and computer misuse were most common?

In 2018/19, the type of cyber fraud and computer misuse that people were most likely to have experienced was having their device being infected by a virus. However, overall, cyber frauds were more common than computer misuse offences.

The type of cyber fraud and computer misuse that people were most likely to have experienced in 2018/19 was having their device being infected by a virus (experienced by 8.0% of internet users). This is in contrast with ransomware, another type of computer misuse offence, which was reported much less frequently, having been experienced by 0.8% of respondents.

Other relatively common types of cyber fraud and computer misuse experienced by internet users in Scotland were having someone access their online accounts for fraudulent purposes (4.8%) and having their card/bank account details stolen online (4.5%). When it comes to scams, 4.5% of internet users said they had been a victim of a scam email, while 4.1% reported having been a victim of a scam phone call. This means that overall, when combining categories into fraud or computer misuse[98], online fraud was a more common occurrence than computer misuse offences (Figure 8.1).

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[98] Computer misuse include virus and ransomware; all other categories are types of online fraud.

Figure 8.1: Percentage of people having experienced types of cyber fraud and computer misuse in 2018/19

Type	Percentage
Virus	8.0%
Online account accessed for fraudulent purposes	4.8%
Card or bank account details stolen online	4.5%
Scam e-mail	4.5%
Scam phone call	4.1%
Ransomware	0.8%
Personal details stolen online	0.7%
Online dating fraud	0.2%
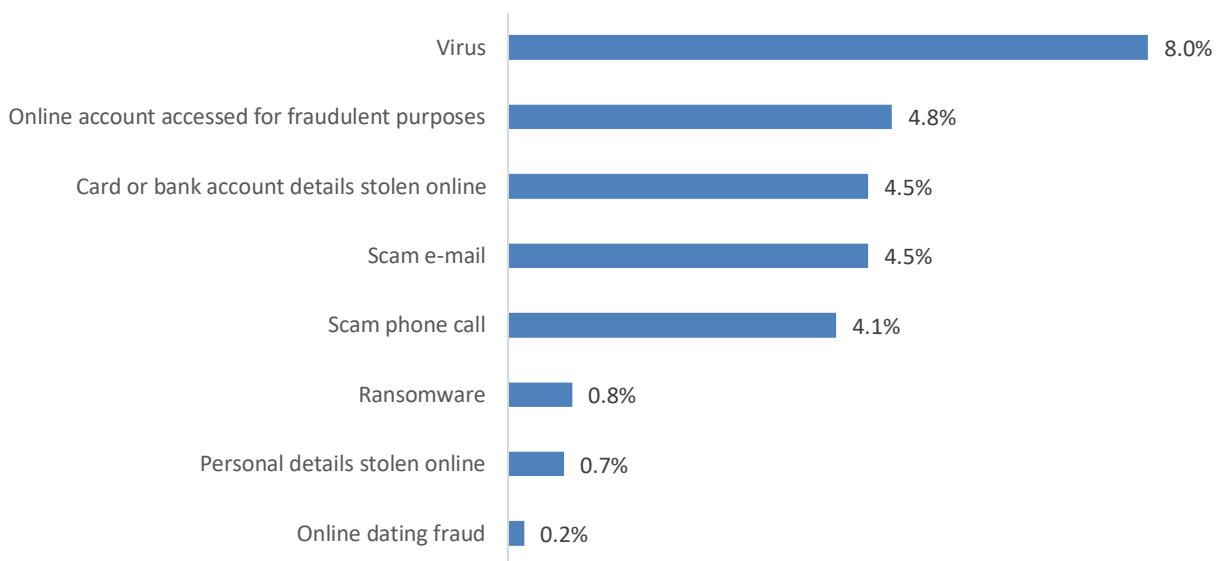
Base: All internet users. 2018/19 (4,560) Variable: CYBER2.

How did experiences of cyber fraud and computer misuse vary amongst the population?

The likelihood of experiencing any type of cyber fraud or computer misuse was lower for those aged 60 and over, but there is variation in victimisation rates when looking at particular types of cyber fraud and computer misuse.

Overall, the likelihood of being a victim of any type of cyber fraud or computer misuse in 2018/19 was lowest for those aged 60 and over, with no differences detected amongst the different categories of younger adults (to illustrate, 16.7% of those aged 60 and over compared to 23.1% of 16 to 24 year olds).

However, when looking at specific types of cyber fraud and computer misuse, the SCJS found variation in the likelihood of experiencing different types by age. For example, internet users in the youngest age group (16 to 24 years old) were more likely (7.9%) than users aged 60 and over (2.4%) to report someone had accessed their online account for fraudulent purposes. There were also differences between the two younger age groups, with 16 to 24 year olds being more likely (7.3%) than 25 to 44 year olds (3.9%) to be a victim of a scam email. Figure 8.2 shows how each type of cyber fraud and computer misuse experienced varied by age. The relationship between age and specific types of cyber fraud and computer misuse appears to be a complex one.

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Figure 8.2: Percentage of people having experienced each type of cyber fraud and computer misuse in 2018/19 by age

The likelihood of experiencing cyber fraud or computer misuse overall did not vary according to gender, but there are variations when looking at particular crime types.

The 2018/19 SCJS found that there was no difference between male and female internet users saying they had been a victim of any type of cyber fraud or computer misuse. However, the SCJS did find a gender element in some cases:

- male internet users were more likely than females to have had their devices infected by a virus (9.4% and to 6.5%)

- male internet users were less likely than females to say they had their card or bank account details stolen online (3.7% and 5.4%)

The 2018/19 SCJS found no difference in experiences of cyber fraud and computer misuse between those living in urban and rural areas, or by area deprivation, with the exception, respectively, of email and phone scams.

Rurality and area deprivation were not found to impact on the likelihood of becoming a victim of cyber fraud or computer misuse. However, looking at specific types of cyber crime:

- internet users in rural areas were more likely to be a victim of a scam email than people living in urban areas (8.0% and 3.9%)

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- internet users living in the 15% most deprived areas of Scotland were less likely to be a victim of a phone scam, compared to internet users living in the rest of the country (2.3% and 4.3%)

What impact did cyber fraud and computer misuse have on victims, and how did experiences affect their online behaviours?

Most victims said that cyber fraud and computer misuse incidents had no impact on them, but they reported having changed some of their online behaviours as a result.

Victims were asked about the impact of their experience of cyber fraud and/or computer misuse crime, and whether the incident led to them modifying their online behaviours. The impacts and behaviour changes asked about in the survey are listed below.

Respondents were presented with a list of possible impacts and behaviour changes, and were able to choose more than one option. The section below presents figures for each type of cyber fraud and computer misuse[99].

The survey found that in 2018/19 a large proportion of cyber fraud and computer misuse victims said their experience had no impact on them[100] (48% of virus victims; 55% of people who had their online account accessed for fraudulent purposes; 74% of scam email victims; 87% of scam phone call victims). The most notable outlier was in the case of people who had their card or bank account stolen online, with more than three-quarters (78.1%) saying that the incident led to them losing their money, but that they were able to get it back in full.

Figure 8.3 below presents commonly reported impacts for each type of cyber fraud and computer misuse, alongside commonly reported behaviour changes. The results for the full list of reported impact and behaviour changes can be found in the online data tables.

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[99] Due to the nature of the way the cyber fraud and computer misuse questions are asked, and the fact that follow up questions are only asked for a maximum of three types of cyber fraud and computer misuse experienced, it is not meaningful to create an overall figure for cyber fraud and computer misuse experiences for the follow up questions in the survey.

[100] By choosing the "none of these" option from the list of potential impacts.

Impact of cyber fraud and computer misuse:

You lost money, which you did not get back or did not get back in full

You lost money, but you were able to get it back in full

You had to pay for something new (e.g. a replacement PC)

You had to take time off from work/studying/other responsibilities

You lost your job

You were unable to access your computer, laptop, mobile device, or the internet

Your relationships with others suffered

Your mental health was affected e.g. anxiety, depression etc.

You were afraid you might be intimidated or physically threatened

Your physical health was affected

You lost sleep or had trouble sleeping

You lost confidence in going online/using the internet

Other (specify)

None of these

Behaviour changes as a result of cyber fraud and computer misuse:

No longer use the internet

Less likely to buy goods online

Only buy goods from websites with the padlock symbol

Less likely to bank online

Less likely to give personal information on websites generally

Only visit websites you know and trust

Only use your own computer / mobile device to access the internet

Installed anti-virus software

Automatically update systems and software when prompted to do so

More likely to back up data

Less likely to click on links to unknown websites (e.g. in adverts, emails etc.)

Less likely to share/send links to friends etc.

Do not open emails from people you don't know

Use different passwords for different websites

Regularly change your passwords

Took steps to learn more about online safety

Other (specify)

None of these

Figure 8.3: Reported impact and behaviour changes of cyber fraud and computer misuse in 2018/19

Impact   **Behaviour change**

Virus victims

Impact	
No impact	48%
Unable to access device or the internet	32%
Lost confidence using the internet	13%

Behaviour change	
Installed anti-virus software	52%
No longer open emails from people not known	46%
Less likely to click on links to unknown websites	43%

Victims whose card/bank account details were stolen online

Impact	
Lost money, but able to get it back in full	78%
Lost confidence in using the internet	17%
No impact	11%

Behaviour change	
Less likely to click on links to unknown websites	33%
No behaviour change	33%
No longer open emails from people not known	30%

Victims whose online account was accessed for fraudulent purposes

Impact	
No impact	55%
Lost confidence using the internet	20%
Mental health was affected	11%

Behaviour change	
Use different passwords for different websites	40%
Regularly change passwords	36%
No longer open emails from people not known	30%

Scam email victims

No impact	74%
Lost confidence using the internet	12%
Lost money, but able to get it back in full	9%

No behaviour change	45%
No longer open emails from people not known	28%
Use different passwords for different websites	25%

Scam phone call victims

No impact	87%
Lost confidence using the internet	5%
Unable to access device or the internet	2%

No behaviour change	50%
No longer open emails from people not known	19%
Less likely to click on links to unknown websites	18%

Base: All victims of: Device infected by malicious software (330); Card or bank account details stolen online (190); Someone accessed online account fraudulently (190); Scam email (190); Scam phone call (170); Variables: CYBER3_2; CYBER3_3; CYBER3_5; CYBER3_6; CYBER3_7; CYBER4_2; CYBER4_3; CYBER4_5; CYBER4_6; CYBER4_7.

Did victims report cyber fraud and computer misuse and to which authorities were the crimes reported to?

The majority of victims of most types of cyber fraud and computer misuse did not report the incident to the authorities. When the crime was reported, victims rarely turned to the police.

The new cyber fraud and computer misuse questions in the SCJS also asked victims whether they reported the crime they experienced, and if they did, to whom[101]. If people had experienced more than one incident of a particular issue, they were asked to answer in relation to the most recent incident of that type of cyber fraud or computer misuse.

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[101] Apart from the police, respondents were given the following options: Bank/building society/credit card company; Crimestoppers; Action Fraud; The National Crime Agency; Internet service provider; Email provider; Software provider Website/ App administrator (e.g. the retailer, social media platform etc.); Get Safe Online; Other (specify). Respondents were given the opportunity to choose more than one option, therefore the final percentages may not add up to 100%.

The SCJS found that, overall, the majority of victims of most types of cyber fraud and computer misuse did not report the incident they experienced. This was particularly true in the case of scam phone calls and viruses, with 84% and 79% of victims respectively not reporting such incidents to anyone. The only type of cyber fraud and computer misuse which was reported by most victims was the online theft of a bank card or bank account details (74%)[102].

Figure 8.4: Percentage of cyber fraud and computer misuse reported to anyone in 2018/19
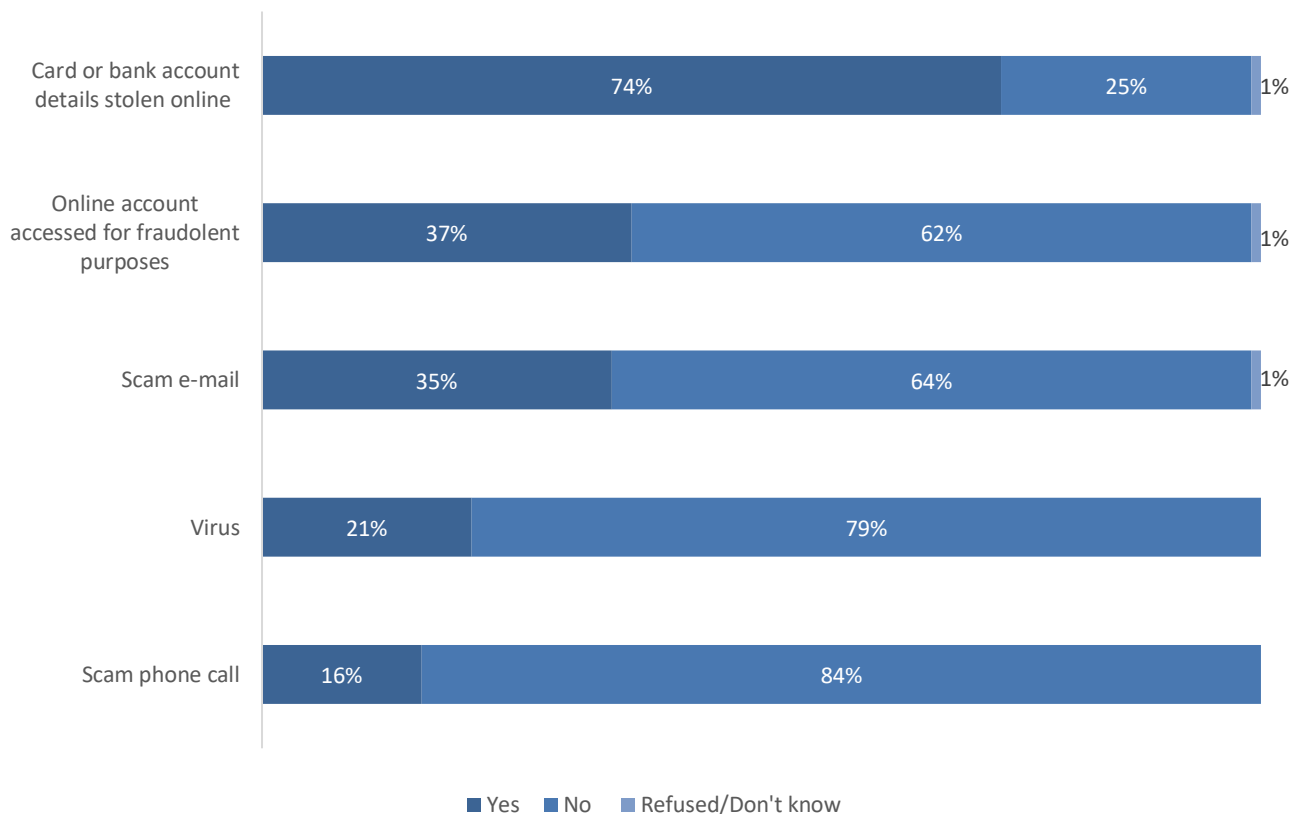
Base: All victims of: Someone accessed online account fraudulently (190); Card or bank account details stolen online (190); Scam email (190); Device infected by malicious software (330); Scam phone call (170); Variables: CYBER5_2; CYBER5_3; CYBER5_5; CYBER5_6; CYBER5_7.

As shown in Figure 8.5, only a small proportion of victims reported these crimes to the police.

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[102] Note that the responses of victims of online dating fraud, online theft of personal details and ransomware are not shown, as the samples are too small to allow further breakdowns.

Figure 8.5: Percentage of victims who reported cyber fraud and computer misuse to the police in 2018/19

Victims turned to a number of other authorities when it came to reporting cyber fraud and computer misuse, as shown in Figure 8.6[103].

Figure 8.6: Authorities to which victims of cyber fraud and computer misuse who reported the incident turned to, by crime type

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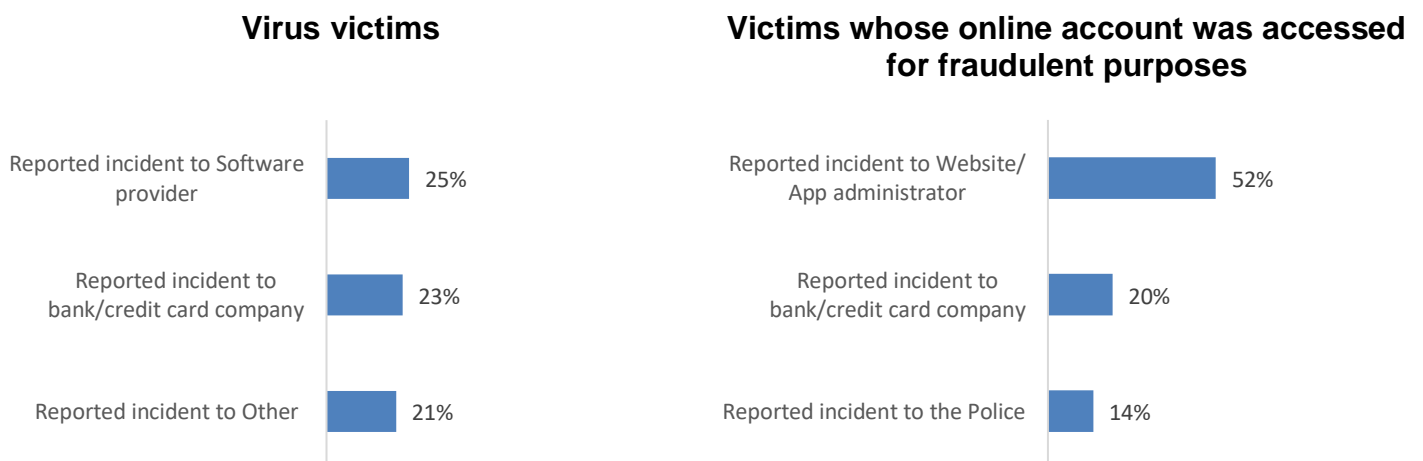
[103] Note that the responses of victims of online dating fraud, online theft of personal details, ransomware and phone scams are not shown, as the samples are too small to allow further breakdowns.

Victims whose card/bank account details were stolen online

Reported incident to bank/credit card company	95%
Reported incident to the Police	8%
Reported incident to Website/ App administrator	7%
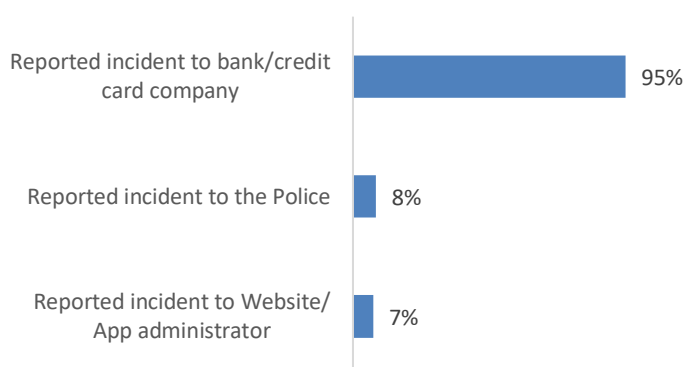
Victims of scam emails[104]

Reported incident to bank/credit card company	65%
Reported incident to Other	14%
Reported incident to Website/ App administrator	13%
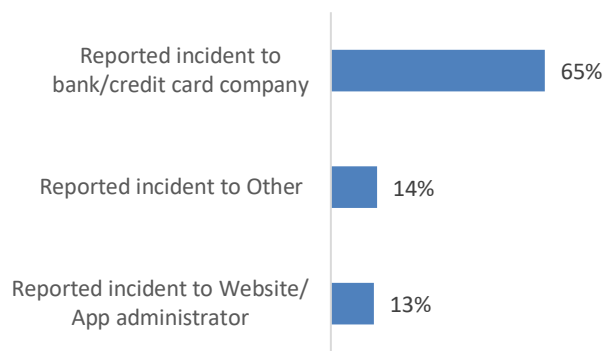
Base: All cyber crime victims who reported the crime themselves: Device infected by malicious software (70); Someone accessed online account fraudulently (70); Card or bank account details stolen online (140); Scam email (70). Variables: CYBER6_2; CYBER6_3; CYBER6_5; CYBER6_6.

Why did most victims of cyber fraud and computer misuse not report the incident to the police?

Most victims did not report cyber fraud or computer misuse to the police because they dealt with it themselves, or because they felt that it was too trivial and not worth reporting. However, victims whose card details were stolen online often thought or were told that the first authority they reported the crime to would contact the police.

When asked why they did not report the incident to the police, victims of cyber fraud and computer misuse tended to provide the same main reasons:

- because they dealt with the issue themselves (44% of people who had their devices infected by a virus; 34% of victims of fraudulent access to their online accounts; 31% of scam email victims; 36% of phone scams victims)

- because they felt the matter was too trivial and not worth reporting (30% of victims who had their devices infected by a virus; 37% of victims of fraudulent access to their online accounts; 30% of scam email victims; 24% of phone scam victims)

On a different note, the most cited reasons for not reporting their card or bank account details being stolen to the police was that victims thought (26%) or were told (17%) that the incident would be reported to the police by the first authority they had turned to[105], or that the victim thought that the police do not deal with this sort of incident (21%). This is in line with the finding that almost all of the victims of card and bank account fraud who reported the experience turned to their bank only, as presented in Figure 8.6 above.

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[104] Victims also equally selected: Reported incident to Internet service provider (13%).

[105] With the "other authority" being the Bank, Action Fraud, the website administrator, the software provider, the Internet service provider, or "other".

Figure 8.7: Reasons for not reporting to the police by cyber crime

Virus

- Dealt with matter myself: 44%
- Too trivial/not worth reporting: 30%
- Did not think the Police dealt with this sort of incident: 22%

Online account accessed for fraudulent purposes

- Too trivial/not worth reporting: 37%
- Dealt with matter myself: 34%
- Police could not have done anything: 17%

Card/bank account details stolen online

- Thought incident would be reported by other authority: 26%
- Did not think the Police dealt with this sort of incident: 21%
- Was told the incident would be reported by other authority: 17%

Scam email

- Dealt with matter myself: 31%
- Too trivial/not worth reporting: 30%
- Did not think the Police dealt with this sort of incident: 13%

Scam phone call

- Dealt with matter myself: 36%
- Too trivial/not worth reporting: 24%
- Police could not have done anything: 15%

Base: All cyber crime victims who did not report the crime to the police: Online account accessed for fraudulent purposes (180); Scam email (180); Card or bank account details stolen online (170); Virus (320); Scam phone call (170). Variables: CYBER7_2; CYBER7_3; CYBER7_5; CYBER7_6; CYBER7_7.

What else can the SCJS tell us about fraud in 2018/19?

Indicative findings suggest that 5.8% of adults had their credit/bank card details stolen and 0.9% had their identity stolen, however the extent of cyber involvement is unknown.

In addition to the new cyber fraud and computer misuse questions, since 2008/09 the SCJS has captured evidence on people's experiences of certain types of fraud, as well as their perceptions of fraud using wider measures. It is important to note that, unlike the new cyber fraud and computer misuse questions, these are asked to all adults, not only to internet users.

These questions provide indicative findings only, as respondents are not asked for full details of the incidents that would enable them to be coded into valid/invalid[106] SCJS crimes in the way that they are with other 'traditional' SCJS crime incidents. Nevertheless, the data remains valuable for time-series analysis purposes. It is reasonable to assume that a number of the fraud experiences being recorded by the SCJS have a cyber component, however, the extent to which this is the case is unknown.

SCJS analysis shows that 5.8% of adults in 2018/19 reported that they had their credit or bank card details used fraudulently in the previous 12 months. This is unchanged from 2017/18, and has increased from 3.6% in 2008/09. Identity theft was less common, with 0.9% of adults reporting experiences of such incidents in 2018/19, unchanged from both 2017/18 and 2008/09[107].

Although the findings from the SCJS are only indicative, it is notable that the CSEW finds relatively similar results on prevalence using a more expansive set of questions added in recent years to robustly capture experiences of fraud. The CSEW figures for the year ending March 2019[108] show incidents of fraud (excluding computer misuse) were experienced by 6.8% of adults in England and Wales.

What can the 2018/19 SCJS tell us about concerns about fraud?

As in recent years, respondents in 2018/19 were most likely to report being worried about acts of fraud, as well as thinking these were likely to happen to them in the next year, compared to other types of crime.

The SCJS also asks respondents which crime types they worry about happening, or think are likely to happen to them.

In 2018/19, half (50%) of adults in Scotland were worried about their bank/credit card details being used to obtain money, goods or services[109]. As in previous years, the next most worried about crime type was identity theft[110] with 41% of adults worrying about this issue in 2018/19. Levels of worry about these two types of fraud were higher than for all other crime types

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[106] Valid crimes are incidents which occurred in Scotland, during the reference period and concern crimes that are within the scope of the SCJS. Any incident that does meet any of these criteria is invalid. More details on this are available in the [Technical Report](#).

[107] Variable names: CARDVIC2 and IDTHEF3. Base: 2018/19 (5,540), 2017/18 (5,480), 2008/09 (3,980). These questions have changed slightly since 2008/09 but results are still broadly comparable.

[108] [Crime in England and Wales, Year ending March 2019. Appendix tables, Table A3](#)

[109] Variable name: QWORR. Base: 2018/19 (5,540), 2017/18 (5,480), 2008/09 (16,000)

[110] Where criminals obtain personal information e.g. name, date of birth, address without consent in order to steal a person's identity, they often use these details to take out bank accounts, credit cards, loans etc.

asked about in 2018/19. Looking over time, worry about both types of fraud has fallen since 2008/09 but has not shown any change compared to 2017/18.

As in previous years, worry about both of these acts in 2018/19 varied by demographic characteristics. The SCJS found that women were more likely to be worried about fraud (55% worried about their credit or bank details being used fraudulently, 44% worried about identity theft) than men (46% and 38% respectively).

People between the ages of 16 and 24 were also less worried than all other age groups about having their identity stolen (15%) and about someone using their credit or bank details fraudulently (33%)[111].

In 2018/19, half of respondents (50%) did not think it was likely that they would experience any of the crimes listed in the next 12 months[112]. However, the crime that respondents most commonly thought would happen to them was someone using their credit card/bank details fraudulently (26%). As with worry about crime, this was followed by people thinking their identity would be stolen (15%). The perceived likelihood of both of these types of fraud happening was unchanged from 2017/18, but has increased from 2008/09. Worry and the perceived likelihood of experiencing a range of other crimes is discussed in more detail in Chapter 7.

While there was no difference in perceived likelihood of being a victim of identity theft between women and men, a higher proportion of women than men thought it was likely they would have their credit/bank details stolen (28% compared to 24%).

Age also played a major role in defining people's beliefs about the likelihood of being the target of fraud, with young people least likely to report thinking they would become a victim of identity theft (4%) or of card/bank account fraud (18%)[113].

Respondents living in the 15% most deprived areas of Scotland were less likely than respondents in the rest of Scotland to think that their credit/bank card details would be used to fraudulently buy goods/services (19% and 27%) and that their identity would be stolen (11% and 16%) in the next year.

It is interesting to note that while the perceived likelihood of becoming a victim of fraud has increased over time, worry about fraud has decreased over the same period as shown in Figure 8.8 below. Please note that the extent to which people's levels of concern for fraud relate to cyber fraud incidents is unknown.

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[111] For detailed breakdowns and figures for other age groups see the data tables.

[112] Variable name: QHAPP. Base: 2018/19 (5,540), 2017/18 (5,480), 2008/09 (16,000)

[113] For detailed breakdowns and figures for other age groups see the data tables.

Figure 8.8: Proportion of adults concerned about fraud and identity theft, 2008/09 to 2018/19

▼
The perceived likelihood of experiencing fraud has increased since 2008/09, while worry about fraud has decreased since 2008/09.
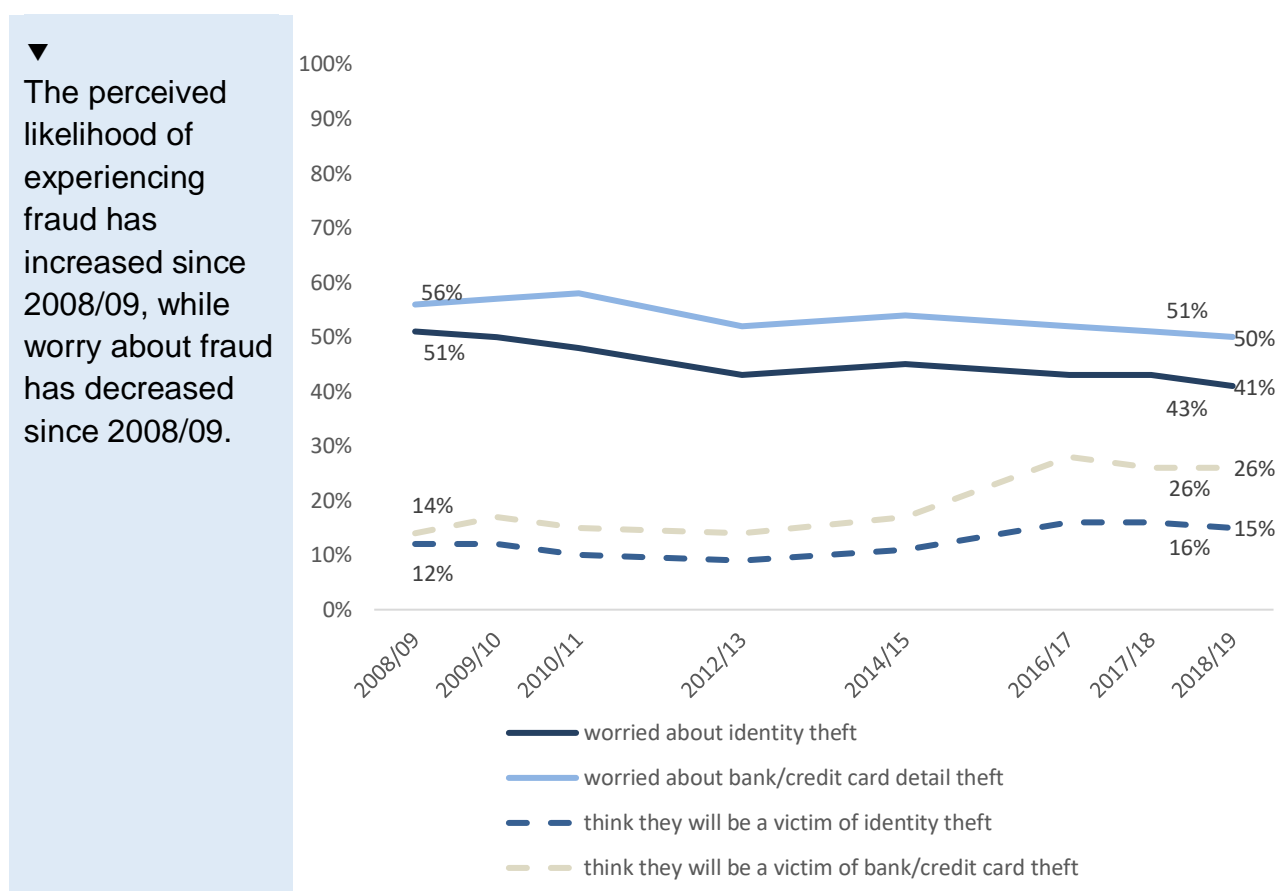
Base: All adults 2008/09 (16,000), 2009/10 (16,040), 2010/11 (13,010), 2012/13 (QWORR identity theft: 12,010; card theft: 12,020; QHAPP: 12,050), 2014/15 (11,470), 2016/17 (5,570), 2017/18 (5,480), 2018/19 (5,540). Variables: QWORR; QHAPP.

Cyber elements in property and violent crime

To what extent did property and violent crimes have a cyber element in 2018/19?

Only a small proportion of property and violent crime in 2018/19 had a cyber element.

A 'cyber flag'[114] was added to the 2018/19 survey in order to enable the SCJS to examine the proportion of property and violent crime traditionally picked up by the survey with a cyber *element*[115]. Analysis shows that only 2% of property crime and 1% of violent crime in 2018/19 had a cyber element.

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[114] The following 'cyber flag' question was added to the victim form section of the questionnaire: 'As far as you are aware, was the internet, any type of online activity or any internet enabled device related to any specific aspect of the offence?'

[115] A similar approach is used by the CSEW, which found that 3.6% of robberies, 0.2% of theft offences and 0.1% of criminal damage incidents were flagged as being cyber-related in the year ending March 2018. Proportion of incidents of crime, by type, which were flagged as cyber and non-cyber crimes, year ending March 2018, Crime Survey for England and Wales

The SCJS also asks victims of violent crime whether the crime was recorded for instance on a mobile phone or camera, or by CCTV[116]. In 2018/19, 11% of violent crimes experienced by adults were recorded on a device, unchanged from the previous year.

Cyber elements in stalking and harassment

The SCJS asks respondents about their experiences of being stalked or harassed. A quarter of the whole sample are asked if they have been insulted, pestered or intimidated in any way by someone outwith their household in the year prior to interview, by what means, what it involved, where the incidents happened and what, if anything, might have motivated the incident. More detailed findings for the year 2018/19 are provided in the Focus on Harassment and Discrimination section.

The whole sample is then invited to complete the self-completion module on stalking and harassment[117], which collects data on arguably more severe examples of stalking and harassment. Respondents are asked whether they have experienced any of six forms of stalking and harassment more than once in the previous 12 months. Then, for the latest incident they experienced, who the offender was and what their relationship with the respondent was, whether the incident was reported to the police, and how the incident made them feel. Data collected by the self-completion element of the survey is published biennially[118]. The latest available data which covers 2016/17 and 2017/18 was combined (2016/18) and published in the 2017/18 SCJS Main Findings Report.

To what extent were people insulted or harassed online in 2018/19?

Most adults did not experience being insulted, pestered, or intimidated in 2018/19, but among those who did encounter such behaviour, experiences in person continued to be more common than online.

In 2018/19, 13% of adults said they had been insulted, pestered or intimated in any way by someone outwith their household. This was unchanged from 2017/18[119]. Of those adults that said they experienced harassment in the year prior to interview, the vast majority (87%) were insulted, pestered or intimidated 'in person', whilst 16% (equal to 2% of all adults) encountered such behaviour 'in writing via text, email, messenger or posts on social media sites'[120] (unchanged from 2017/18[121]).

Repeated incidences of stalking and harassment are most commonly experienced by electronic means, including online.

Turning to findings from the 2016/18 self-completion module, the SCJS found that in the 12 months prior to interview, 11.1% of adults experienced at least one type of stalking and harassment. The most common type of stalking and harassment which was experienced repeatedly by victims was being sent unwanted messages by text, email, messenger or posts

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[116] Variable name: QFOREC. Base: 2018/19 (120), 2017/18 (110).

[117] Due to the sensitive nature of questions in the self-completion module, participation is voluntary.

[118] See the Technical Report for further details around the self-completion module.

[119] Variable name: QAINSUL2. Base: 2018/19 (1,370), 2017/18 (1,385).

[120] Respondents were given the opportunity to choose more than one option, therefore the final percentages may not add up to 100%.

[121] Variable name: QATHME2. Base: 2018/19 (150), 2017/18 (170).

on social media sites. This was experienced by two-thirds (67%) of all those who had experienced at least one form of stalking and harassment. A further 4% of respondents who had experienced at least one incident of stalking and harassment in the 12 months prior to interview said that the perpetrator shared intimate pictures of them – a crime which is also likely to have a cyber element. The combined self-completion data for 2018/19 and 2019/20 will be reported on in the 2019/20 Main Findings Report.

Widening the focus: How does wider analytical work complement the evidence provided by the SCJS on cyber crime?

A number of recently published strategies emphasise the challenges and risks of cyber crime, including Scottish Government's Justice Vision and Priorities, its Cyber Resilience Strategy and Policing 2026.

To inform this on-going strategic work, a range of analytical work is being carried out with the aim of developing the evidence base around cyber crime. The sections below briefly highlight where the Scottish Government's Cyber Crime Evidence Review, the Crime Survey for England and Wales and Police Scotland's cyber marker can tell us more about the involvement of cyber technology in sexual crimes, computer misuse and police recorded crime.

Sexual crimes in the Scottish Government's cyber crime evidence review

While the SCJS provides evidence on the prevalence of sexual victimisation in Scotland, the survey does not currently collect data which enables an assessment of whether sexual crimes involved an online element.

The Scottish Government recently published an evidence review of cyber crime, exploring existing evidence (such as the SCJS, CSEW and recorded crime data) and literature in order to assess the scale, nature and impact of cyber crime on individuals and businesses in Scotland.

This review includes reference to research undertaken by Scottish Government analysts which studied a sample of police records from 2013/14 and 2016/17 and included consideration of the influence of cyber technology on sexual crime in Scotland[122]. This research found that both the scale and nature of sexual crime has been impacted by cyber technology in Scotland in recent years. For example:

- the research estimated that a rise in cyber enabled 'other sexual crimes' has contributed to around half of the growth in all police recorded sexual crimes in Scotland between 2013/14 and 2016/17

- it is estimated that the internet was used as a means to commit at least 20% of all sexual crimes recorded by the police in 2016/17

- when the specific 'other sexual crimes' of 'communicating indecently' and 'cause to view sexual activity or images' are cyber-enabled, victims and offenders tend to be younger (three-quarters of victims aged under 16 and more than half of offenders under 20) and are more likely to know of one another

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[122] Recorded crime in Scotland: 'Other sexual crimes', 2013-2014 and 2016-2017.

Computer misuse and fraud in the Crime Survey for England and Wales

As discussed previously, the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) has developed and included a substantial module to robustly capture experiences of fraud and computer misuse since October 2015. The questions provide estimates on the incidence, prevalence and nature of these crimes and also the proportion of fraud and computer misuse incidents that are cyber related.

The CSEW estimates that, in the year ending in March 2019, just under 1 million incidents of computer misuse were experienced by 1.8% of adults in England and Wales.

Recorded crime from Police Scotland's cyber marker

Since the introduction of cyber crime markers on crime recording systems in April 2016, Police Scotland has continued to develop its marking practices across other Police Scotland recording systems and databases. This activity is being undertaken by the Cybercrime Capability Programme under Police Scotland's 'Policing 2026 Strategy'. According to a recent Police Scotland report, the tagging, marking, and logging of cyber crime has risen significantly in April-December 2018/19 compared to the same period last year, mostly as a result of the "Tag it, Mark it, Log it" campaign launched in October 2018 with the aim of improving Police Scotland's ability to identify occurrences of cyber crime. As this marker becomes fully embedded across Police Scotland systems, it should provide a valuable evidence source of police recorded crimes involving a cyber element.

What's next?

The new cyber fraud and computer misuse questions, reported for the first time in the 2018/19 SCJS, represent an important step in developing the cyber crime evidence base in Scotland. We welcome feedback from users on this data, the role it can play in the wider cyber crime evidence base, and areas for potential future development.

> **Scottish Crime and Justice cyber crime section – provide feedback**
>
> We welcome feedback at any time. Please contact us if you have any comments or suggestions. For more general queries on evidence and data around cyber crime beyond the SCJS, please contact justice_analysts@gov.scot

8.2 Focus on harassment and discrimination

This section reports on adults' experiences of harassment and discrimination, by examining whether they had any incidents in which they were insulted, pestered or intimidated in any way (in person or some other means[123]) by someone outwith their household in the year prior to interview[124].

These findings are based on questions asked to one-quarter of the overall sample. As agreed with SCJS users, quarter-sample results are generally not broken down within the report for population sub-groups. However, some breakdowns are presented here for illustration. All results for demographic and area characteristics are provided in the 2018/19 SCJS online data tables.

How common were experiences of harassment in Scotland in 2018/19?

Most adults did not experience being insulted, pestered, or intimidated in 2018/19.

In 2018/19, 13% of adults said that they had been insulted, pestered or intimidated in the previous year, in line with the proportion of respondents who experienced such incidents in 2008/09 and 2017/18.

Younger adults were more likely to have experienced harassment than older adults (27% of 16-24 year olds compared to 15% of 25-44 year olds, 12% of 45-59 year olds and 6% of people aged 60 and over).

What can the SCJS tell us about the nature of harassment?

Generally experiences of harassment in 2018/19 took place in person, with verbal abuse the most common behaviour encountered.

Of those who said they had experienced harassment in the year prior to interview the vast majority (87%) were insulted, pestered or intimidated 'in person', whilst 16% said this happened 'in writing via text, email, messenger or posts on social media'[125]. This suggests that 'offline' experiences of harassment remain much more common than 'online'. However electronic communication does play a role in a sizeable proportion of such cases. Further details on the insight the 2018/19 SCJS is able to shed on the relationship between the internet and crime are outlined in the 'Cyber crime in Scotland' section.

Most people who had experienced harassment (69%), said it had happened on more than one occasion in the previous year, with 29% reporting only one incident. 14% said they experienced harassing behaviour too many times to remember.

Verbal abuse was the most common type of harassment in 2018/19, experienced by 78% of the victims. Other types of harassment, particularly those involving physical contact, were much less commonly experienced, as shown in Figure 8.9. More in-depth analysis about the

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[123] Some other means includes writing and electronic communications.

[124] The SCJS also collects details about experiences of stalking and harassment through a self-completion module. Results from the self-completion module are published biennially, with the last figures published in 2017/18 covering the period 2016/18. The section here focuses on key findings on this topic from the main (face-to-face) survey.

[125] Respondents were given the opportunity to choose more than one option, therefore the final percentages may not add up to 100%.

extent and nature of violent incidents in 2018/19 is provided in the ['Focus on violent crime' chapter](#).

Figure 8.9: Proportion of harassment victims experiencing different kinds of behaviour in previous 12 months
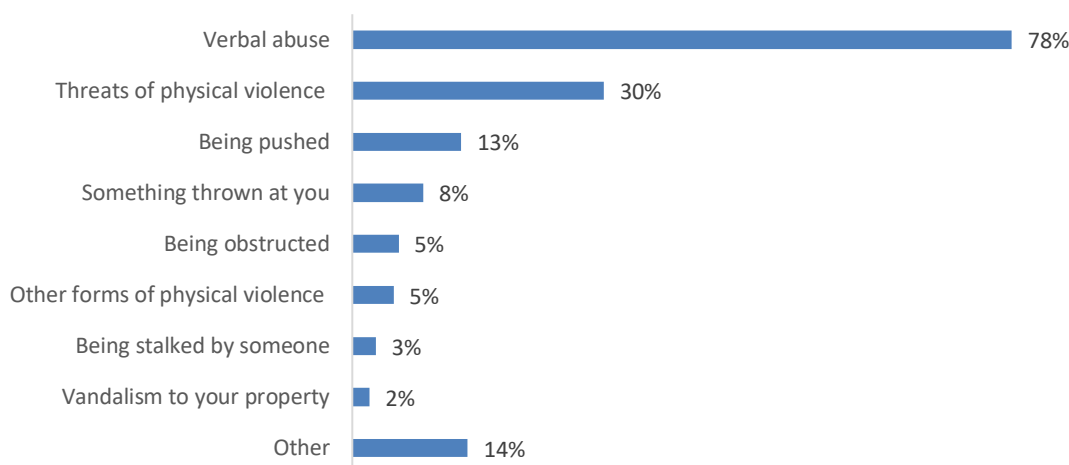
Behaviour	Percentage
Verbal abuse	78%
Threats of physical violence	30%
Being pushed	13%
Something thrown at you	8%
Being obstructed	5%
Other forms of physical violence	5%
Being stalked by someone	3%
Vandalism to your property	2%
Other	14%

Base: All respondents who had been insulted, pestered or intimidated in previous 12 months (150); Variable: QHWHAT2

Most experiences of harassment were not perceived to have any particular motivating factor.

To explore whether incidents may have been related to discrimination, respondents who experienced harassment in the previous 12 months were asked whether they thought any particular - perceived or actual - characteristic they hold may have motivated the offender in any encounters. The proportions citing a range of possible reasons in relation to their most recent (or only) experience are outlined in Figure 8.10 below.

For example, around three-in-five (61%) did not think any of their characteristics were an influencing factor in their most recent (or only) experience of harassment. 14% thought that their gender, gender identity or perception of this was a possible motivating factor, while 12% believed their ethnic origin or race was a possible influence.

Since 2012/13[126], there has been an increase in the proportion citing their gender, gender identity or perception of this as a possible motivating factor, from 5% in 2012/13 to 14% in 2018/19, while the other possible motivating factors showed no change.

Since the last SCJS in 2017/18, there has been no change across all possible motivating factors.

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[126] This question (QHDISCRIM1) was first asked in 2012/13. However, the option 'pregnancy/maternity or perception of this' was first included in 2016/17. Therefore it is not possible to comment on changes since 2012/13 for this option and for the option 'none of these'. Since 2016/17, the proportions citing 'pregnancy/maternity' and 'none of these' have remained stable.

Figure 8.10: What respondents thought their most recent (or only) experience of harassment in last year was or may have been motivated by
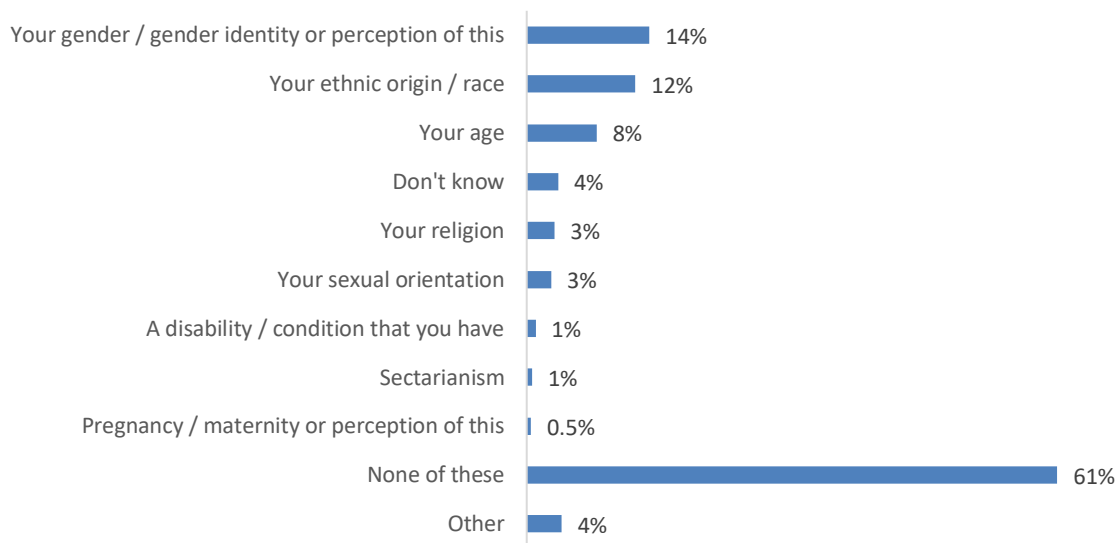
Base: All respondents who had been insulted, pestered or intimidated in previous 12 months (150). Variable: QHDISCRIM1

8.3 Focus on Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service

[The Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS)](#) is the independent public prosecution service for Scotland and one of the organisations which form the Scottish Criminal Justice System.

This section provides results on adults' reported awareness of COPFS, any contact they had with the organisation, and their level of satisfaction with the way they were treated.

These findings are based on questions asked of one-quarter of the overall SCJS sample. As agreed with SCJS users, these results are generally not broken down within the report for population sub-groups. However, some breakdowns are presented here for illustration. All results for demographic and area characteristics are provided in the 2018/19 SCJS online [data tables](#).

Did the public report knowing about the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service?

Most people were aware of the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service in 2018/19, but most did not know much about its work.

The 2018/19 SCJS estimates that almost three-quarters (72%) of adults in Scotland had heard of COPFS, with younger adults less likely to have heard of COPFS than older adults (39% of 16-24 year olds compared to 68% of 25-44 year olds, 84% of 45-59 year olds and 78% of people aged 60 and over).

Of those who were aware of COPFS, around two-thirds (63%) reported not knowing very much about its work, with a further 13% knowing nothing at all. One-in-five (20%) reported knowing a fair amount and only 4% reported knowing a lot.

Whilst many people correctly identified roles carried out by COPFS, almost half thought COPFS covered a broader range of responsibilities than it does.

The roles and responsibilities of COPFS are to investigate, prosecute and disrupt crime; establish the cause of sudden, unexplained or suspicious deaths; and investigate allegations of criminal conducts against police officers[127].

Adults who said they were aware of COPFS were asked to indicate what roles they believed are carried out by COPFS, choosing multiple answers from a list of four options (where two were correct and two incorrect)[128]. Almost three-quarters (74%) identified the correct role of COPFS in investigating and prosecuting crime and almost half (47%) identified the correct role in investigating sudden and unexpected deaths. However, almost half said they though

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[127] Detailed description of COPFS's values and objectives available at: https://www.copfs.gov.uk/about-us/about-us

[128] 'Investigating allegations of criminal conduct against police officers' was not included in the list of options in the 2018-19 questionnaire. As a result the impact on the proportion of adults correctly identifying the roles of COPFS caused by including this role in the list of possible answers cannot be assessed.

COPFS decided on sentences for those found guilty of crime (47%) and represented the victims of crime in court (42%), neither of which are responsibilities of COPFS.

For illustration, when looking at victims of crimes in comparison to non-victims, a higher proportion of victims (85%) identified the correct role of investigating and prosecuting crime than non-victims (73%).

Have people had contact with COPFS, and how satisfied were they with the way COPFS dealt with them?

A quarter of adults have had contact with COPFS at some point, with the nature of the contact varying by gender.

Respondents were asked if they had personally ever had any contact with COPFS, including for professional reasons.

25% of adults that had heard of COPFS said they have had contact with COPFS at some point. This proportion was almost double for victims (41%) than non-victims (22%).

The most common ways in which adults had contact with COPFS included:

- as a witness of crime (28%)
- as the accused (25%)
- in another professional capacity (24%)
- as a victim of crime (17%)

Other ways in which contact was made are shown in Figure 8.11 below.

Figure 8.11: Ways in which people had contact with COPFS

As a witness of crime — 28%
As the accused — 25%
In another professional capacity — 24%
As a victim of crime — 17%
As a bereaved relative in a deaths investigation — 10%
As a relative/friend of a victim or witness of crime — 6%
As a criminal justice partner — 4%
As a relative/friend of the accused — 2%
Other — 8%
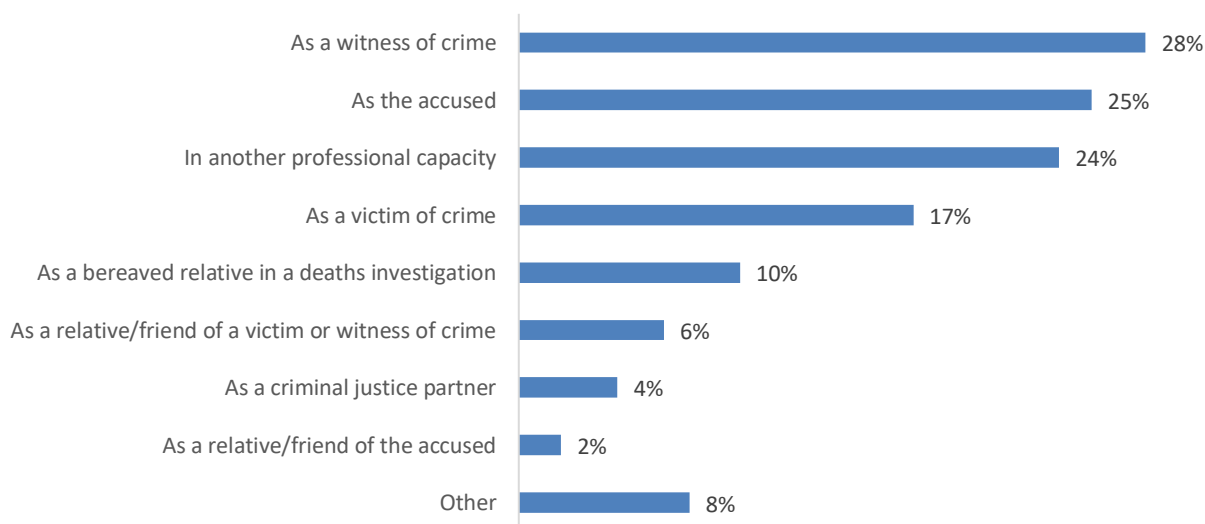
Base: All adults who have had contact with COPFS (250); Variable: QCOP5

Of those who have had contact with COPFS at some point, females were more likely to have had contact as a victim of crime than males (24% compared to 12%), as a relative or friend of a victim or witness of crime (11% compared to 2%) and as a bereaved relative in a deaths investigation (16% compared to 5%). Males were more likely than females to have had contact with COPFS as the accused (36% compared to 11%) and as a criminal justice partner (8% compared to 0%).

Overall, people were satisfied with the way COPFS dealt with them the last time they had contact.

Adults who have had contact with COPFS were also asked about how satisfied or dissatisfied they were in the way COPFS dealt with them *the last time* they had contact.

Over two-thirds (68%) of respondents said they were satisfied with the way COPFS dealt with them the last time they had contact, 16% were dissatisfied and 15% were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.

8.4 Focus on civil law

This section provides results on adults' experience of problems in different areas of their life, referred to as civil law problems, and their response to such problems.

These findings are based on questions asked of one-quarter of the overall SCJS sample. As agreed with SCJS users, these results are generally not broken down within the report for population sub-groups. However, some breakdowns are presented here for illustration. All results for demographic and area characteristics are provided in the 2018/19 SCJS online data tables.

More details on civil justice in Scotland, including data on civil law cases and information on court procedures, is provided in the Civil Justice Statistics publication.

How common were experiences of civil law problems?

Three-in-ten adults experienced civil law problems in the three years prior to interview.

Adults were asked if they had experienced one or more of a range of possible civil law problems in the three years prior to interview. The problem areas covered were:

- home or family living arrangements
- money, finances or anything paid for
- unfair treatment
- health and well-being

The 2018/19 SCJS estimates that around three-in-ten (29%) adults in Scotland experienced at least one civil law problem in the previous three years. This is in line with the proportions who experienced such problems in 2008/09[129] and 2017/18.

This proportion varied amongst certain population sub-groups. For example, victims of crime were more likely to have experienced civil law problems (42%) compared to non-victims (27%). Those who lived in the 15% most deprived areas in Scotland were more likely to have experienced civil law problems (37%) than those in the rest of Scotland (28%), and there was also a difference between those who lived in urban areas (30%) compared to those in rural areas (22%).

Problems around home or family living arrangements were the most common, and among these, problems with neighbours were the most prominent issue reported.

Overall, problems around home or family living arrangements were the most common, experienced by one-in-five adults (20%). This was followed by problems with money, finances or anything paid for (9%), unfair treatment (6%), and problems around health and well-being (also 6%).

Each of these broad categories contain a range of more specific individual problems, as shown in Figure 8.12 below. Consistent with previous years, the most common single problem

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[129] There have been some question updates and additional answer options in the questionnaires since 2008/09, however the results are still broadly comparable.

involved issues to do with neighbours[130]. In 2018/19, 14% of adults said they had encountered such issues in the three years prior to interview, in line with the proportions in 2008/09 and 2017/18.

Figure 8.12: Experience of civil law problems in the last three years
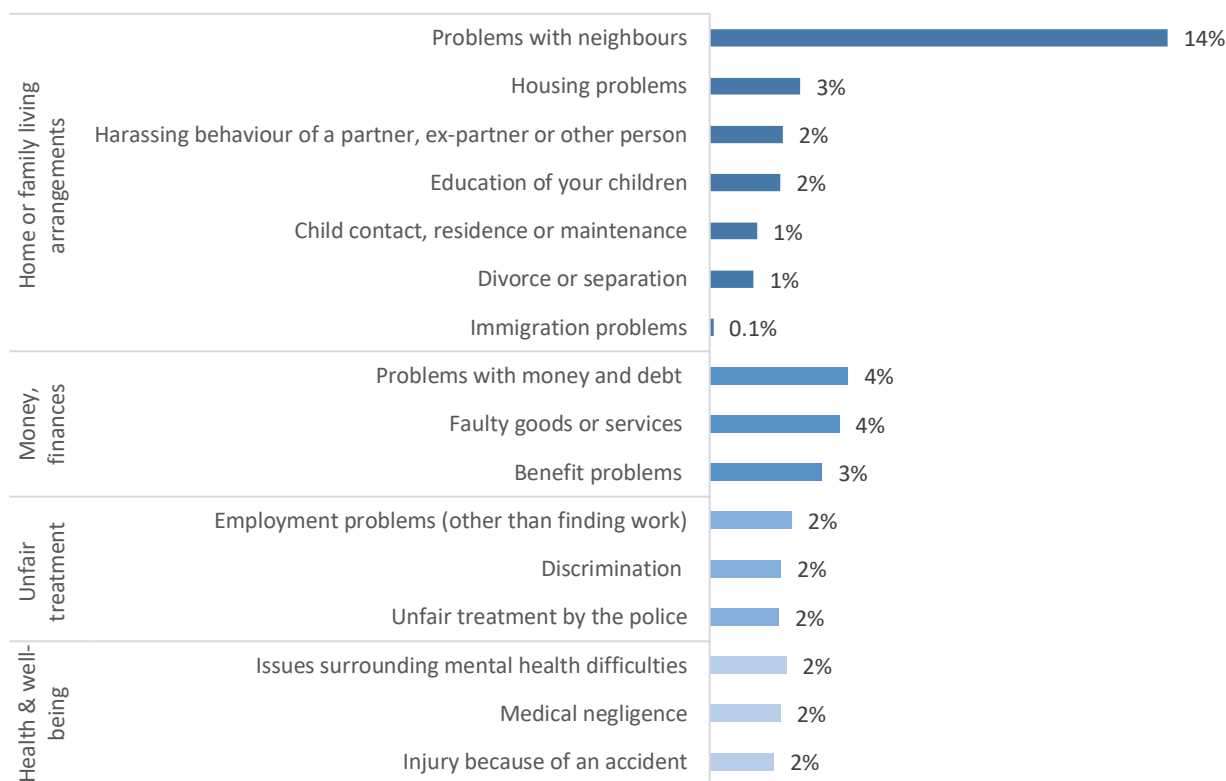
Among those who had experienced at least one civil law problem in the last three years, over a third (36%) said that a problem concerning neighbours was their most important (or only) problem to solve.

How long had problems lasted and what steps did people report having taken to resolve matters?

Almost half had solved the problem, while a third were still trying to solve it.

Once respondents had identified their most important (or only) civil law problem, they were asked when it started and whether they have attempted to solve it.

A third (33%) of these problems began less than a year ago, and 17% started over a year but less than two years ago. The remainder of these problems were older, with 15% starting over two years but less than three years ago and 35% starting over three years ago.

Just over two-fifths of adults (44%) had solved the problem, while a third (33%) were still trying to solve it. One-in-ten (10%) had tried to solve the problem but had to give up and a similar proportion (11%) were not planning to do anything about it.

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[130] Problems with neighbours include for example noise, boundary or parking disagreements.

Annex A: Data tables

The following tables provide data for some of the key measures of the survey, including trend data for past crime surveys in Scotland. Information on how to read and interpret these tables is presented below.

Tables displaying different groupings of crime (e.g. Table A 1.1) have the following structure[131]:

ALL SCJS CRIME includes all crimes measured by the survey except threats and sexual offences.

PROPERTY CRIME comprises the following groups:

- Vandalism
- All motor vehicle theft related incidents
- Housebreaking
- Other household thefts (including bicycle theft)
- Personal theft (excluding robbery)

VIOLENT CRIME comprises the following groups:

- Assault
- Robbery

Further sub-groups are also shown - for example vandalism is further broken down into motor vehicle vandalism and property vandalism.

For analysts using the SPSS data files (which will be available from the UK Data Archive), variable names which correspond to the crime groups displayed in the data tables are provided in Annex 10 of the Technical Report.

COMPARABLE CRIME is a sub-set of all SCJS crime that can be compared with police recorded crime statistics. This comparable sub-set comprises vandalism, acquisitive crime and violent crime. Just under two-thirds (64%) of crime was classed as comparable with police recorded crime statistics, as discussed in Chapter 5. Further details about police recorded crime statistics are included in Chapter 12 of the Technical Report.

Notes

1. Upper and lower estimates are based on 95% confidence intervals.

2. In Table A1.3 and Table A1.4 rates are quoted per 10,000 adults for the following crime groups: all SCJS crime, property crime, personal theft (excluding robbery), theft from the person, other personal theft, violent crime, assault, serious assault, and robbery. For all other crime groups rates are quoted per 10,000 households.

3. Columns showing percentage change or percentage point change for SCJS results over time only present statistically significant changes, using up and down arrows to demonstrate the direction of change. Where an apparent increase or decrease over time is not statistically significant, this is described as 'No change'.

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[131] See the Technical Report for more information on the groupings of crime.

4. Figures in the tables are presented as integers (with exception of Tables A1.5 to A1.8). Percentage point changes are calculated on the unrounded figures.

5. 'N/A' denotes where data is unavailable (e.g. Table A1.24 displays some categories that were included after the 2008/09 SCJS).

6. The tables detail the overall base size number of respondents. Base sizes for demographic and geographic breakdowns are available in the SCJS online data tables.

Table A1.1: Estimates of the extent of crime in Scotland (2018/19)

Estimated number of crimes	Best estimate	Lower estimate	Upper estimate
ALL SCJS CRIME	**573,000**	**512,000**	**634,000**
PROPERTY CRIME	**408,000**	**365,000**	**451,000**
Vandalism	155,000	130,000	179,000
Motor vehicle vandalism	80,000	65,000	96,000
Property vandalism	74,000	56,000	92,000
All motor vehicle related theft	35,000	25,000	46,000
Theft of motor vehicle	4,000[#]	1,000	8,000
Theft from motor vehicle	26,000	17,000	34,000
Attempted theft of/from motor vehicle	6,000[#]	2,000	9,000
Housebreaking	25,000	17,000	33,000
Other household theft inc. bicycle theft	93,000	77,000	109,000
Other household theft	77,000	62,000	92,000
Bicycle theft	16,000	10,000	22,000
Personal theft (exc. Robbery)	99,000	74,000	124,000
Other theft	75,000	52,000	97,000
Theft from the person	24,000[#]	14,000	35,000
VIOLENT CRIME	**165,000**	**121,000**	**209,000**
Assault	161,000	117,000	204,000
Serious assault	12,000[#]	1,000	23,000
Robbery	4,000[#]	-[1]	8,000
COMPARABLE CRIME	**366,000**	**317,000**	**415,000**
Vandalism	155,000	130,000	179,000
Acquisitive crime	46,000	35,000	57,000
Violent crime	165,000	121,000	209,000

Number of respondents: 5,540

Use with caution - the count estimate has a relative standard error (RSE) greater than 20%.
[1] Figures in this table are rounded to the nearest 1,000. '-' here denotes a figure lower than 1,000.

Table A1.2: Estimates of the extent of crime in Scotland, 2008/09 to 2018/19

Estimated number of crimes	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Percentage change since 2008/09	Percentage change since 2017/18
ALL SCJS CRIME	1,045,000	945,000	874,000	815,000	688,000	712,000	602,000	573,000	⇩ by 45%	No change
PROPERTY CRIME	728,000	679,000	654,000	579,000	502,000	481,000	430,000	408,000	⇩ by 44%	No change
Vandalism	350,000	303,000	275,000	219,000	179,000	166,000	163,000	155,000	⇩ by 56%	No change
Motor vehicle vandalism	183,000	161,000	146,000	129,000	112,000	82,000	102,000	80,000	⇩ by 56%	No change
Property vandalism	168,000	142,000	130,000	90,000	67,000	84,000	61,000	74,000	⇩ by 56%	No change
All motor vehicle related theft	70,000	64,000	58,000	50,000	40,000	38,000	24,000	35,000	⇩ by 49%	No change
Theft of motor vehicle	7,000	6,000#	4,000#	4,000#	3,000#	2,000#	3,000#	4,000#	No change#	No change#
Theft from motor vehicle	54,000	49,000	47,000	40,000	34,000	34,000	21,000	26,000	⇩ by 52%	No change
Attempted theft of/from motor vehicle	9,000	10,000#	7,000#	6,000#	4,000#	1,000#	1,000#	6,000#	No change#	⇧ by 933%#
Housebreaking	25,000	29,000	28,000	35,000	22,000	26,000	25,000#	25,000	No change	No change
Other household theft inc. bicycle theft	173,000	153,000	169,000	169,000	158,000	128,000	125,000	93,000	⇩ by 46%	⇩ by 25%
Other household theft	142,000	127,000	141,000	135,000	133,000	104,000	101,000	77,000	⇩ by 46%	No change
Bicycle theft	31,000	27,000	29,000	34,000	25,000	23,000#	23,000	16,000	⇩ by 47%	No change
Personal theft (exc. Robbery)	110,000	130,000	124,000	106,000	103,000	124,000	93,000	99,000	No change	No change
Other theft	90,000	101,000	92,000	80,000	81,000	82,000	63,000	75,000	No change	No change
Theft from the person	20,000	29,000	31,000	26,000	23,000	41,000#	31,000	24,000#	No change#	No change#
VIOLENT CRIME	317,000	266,000	220,000	236,000	186,000	231,000	172,000	165,000	⇩ by 48%	No change
Assault	297,000	247,000	208,000	225,000	179,000	223,000	161,000	161,000	⇩ by 48%	No change
Serious assault	26,000#	20,000	16,000#	18,000#	8,000#	17,000#	8,000#	12,000#	No change#	No change#
Robbery	20,000	19,000#	12,000#	11,000#	7,000#	8,000#	11,000#	4,000#	⇩ by 78%#	No change#
COMPARABLE CRIME	731,000	630,000	556,000	527,000	414,000	448,000	386,000	366,000	⇩ by 50%	No change
Vandalism	350,000	303,000	275,000	219,000	179,000	166,000	163,000	155,000	⇩ by 56%	No change
Acquisitive crime	64,000	61,000	61,000	73,000	49,000	51,000	51,000	46,000	⇩ by 28%	No change
Violent crime	317,000	266,000	220,000	236,000	186,000	231,000	172,000	165,000	⇩ by 48%	No change
Number of respondents	*16,000*	*16,040*	*13,010*	*12,050*	*11,470*	*5,570*	*5,480*	*5,540*		

Use with caution - the count estimate has a relative standard error (RSE) greater than 20%. This also applies to considering change over time using such figures. In particular, please note the apparent large increase in attempted theft of/from motor vehicle since 2017/18 which should be treated with caution.

Table A1.3: Rates of crime in Scotland, per 10,000 households/adults, 2018/19

Crime rates per 10,000 households/adults (to nearest 10)	Best estimate	Lower estimate	Upper estimate
ALL SCJS CRIME	**1,830**	**1,640**	**2,020**
PROPERTY CRIME	**1,460**	**1,310**	**1,620**
Vandalism	620	530	720
Motor vehicle vandalism	320	260	390
Property vandalism	300	230	370
All motor vehicle related theft	140	100	180
Theft of motor vehicle	20	0	30
Theft from motor vehicle	100	70	140
Attempted theft of/from motor vehicle	20	10	40
Housebreaking	100	70	130
Other household theft inc. bicycle theft	380	310	440
Other household theft	310	250	370
Bicycle theft	70	40	90
Personal theft (exc. Robbery)	220	160	270
Other theft	170	120	220
Theft from the person	50	30	80
VIOLENT CRIME	**370**	**270**	**460**
Assault	360	260	450
Serious assault	30	-[1]	50
Robbery	10	-[1]	20
COMPARABLE CRIME	**1,180**	**1,020**	**1,330**
Vandalism	620	530	720
Acquisitive crime	190	140	230
Violent crime	370	270	460

Number of respondents: 5,540

Rates are calculated using NRS 2018 Households estimates and NRS Mid-2018 adult (aged 16 and over) population estimates.
[1] Figures in this table are rounded to the nearest 10. '-' here denotes a figure lower than 10.

Table A1.4: Rates of crime in Scotland, per 10,000 households/adults, 2008/09 to 2018/19

Rates of crime in Scotland, per 10,000 households/adults (to nearest 10)	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15	2016/17	2017/18[1]	2018/19
ALL SCJS CRIME	**3,660**	**3,270**	**3,050**	**2,780**	**2,330**	**2,250**	**1,950**	**1,830**
PROPERTY CRIME	**2,910**	**2,650**	**2,540**	**2,240**	**1,910**	**1,730**	**1,570**	**1,460**
Vandalism	1,500	1,290	1,170	930	750	680	660	620
Motor vehicle vandalism	780	690	620	540	470	330	410	320
Property vandalism	720	610	550	380	280	340	250	300
All motor vehicle related theft	300	270	250	210	170	160	100	140
Theft of motor vehicle	30	30	20	20	10	10	10	20
Theft from motor vehicle	230	210	200	170	140	140	80	100
Attempted theft of/from motor vehicle	40	40	30	20	20	10	-[2]	20
Housebreaking	110	120	120	150	90	110	100	100
Other household theft inc. bicycle theft	740	650	720	710	660	520	510	380
Other household theft	610	540	600	570	560	430	410	310
Bicycle theft	130	110	120	140	110	90	90	70
Personal theft (exc. Robbery)	260	300	290	250	230	280	210	220
Other theft	210	240	210	180	180	180	140	170
Theft from the person	50	70	70	60	50	90	70	50
VIOLENT CRIME	**740**	**620**	**510**	**540**	**420**	**510**	**380**	**370**
Assault	700	580	480	520	400	500	360	360
Serious assault	60	50	40	40	20	40	20	30
Robbery	50	40	30	30	20	20	20	10
Comparable crime								
Vandalism	1,500	1,290	1,170	930	750	680	660	620
Acquisitive crime	270	260	260	310	210	210	210	190
Violent crime	740	620	510	540	420	510	380	370
Number of respondents	*16,000*	*16,040*	*13,010*	*12,050*	*11,470*	*5,570*	*5,480*	*5,540*

[1] 2017/18 figures have been revised to reflect use of NRS 2017 household estimates and NRS Mid-2017 adult (aged 16 and over) population estimates.
[2] Figures in this table are rounded to the nearest 10. '-' here denotes a figure lower than 10.

Table A1.5: Proportion of adults who were victims of each type of crime, 2008/09 to 2018/19

Proportion of adults experiencing crime	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Percentage point change since 2008/09	since 2017/18
ALL SCJS CRIME	**20.4%**	**19.3%**	**17.8%**	**16.9%**	**14.5%**	**13.4%**	**12.5%**	**12.4%**	⇩ by 8.0	No change
PROPERTY CRIME	**18.0%**	**17.0%**	**15.9%**	**14.8%**	**13.0%**	**11.5%**	**10.8%**	**10.9%**	⇩ by 7.1	No change
Vandalism	8.9%	8.3%	7.2%	6.3%	5.1%	4.6%	4.7%	4.5%	⇩ by 4.5	No change
Motor vehicle vandalism	5.4%	5.1%	4.4%	4.1%	3.4%	2.6%	3.0%	2.5%	⇩ by 2.9	No change
Property vandalism	4.1%	3.7%	3.2%	2.4%	1.9%	2.2%	1.8%	2.1%	⇩ by 2.0	No change
All motor vehicle related theft	2.4%	2.1%	2.0%	1.8%	1.5%	1.3%	0.9%	1.3%	⇩ by 1.1	No change
Theft of motor vehicle	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	No change	No change
Theft from motor vehicle	1.8%	1.7%	1.6%	1.4%	1.3%	1.1%	0.8%	0.9%	⇩ by 0.8	No change
Attempted theft of/from motor vehicle	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.2%	No change	⇧ by 0.2
Housebreaking	0.8%	1.0%	1.1%	1.2%	0.8%	0.9%	0.8%	0.9%	No change	No change
Other household theft inc. bicycle theft	5.3%	5.0%	5.0%	5.3%	5.0%	3.9%	3.9%	3.2%	⇩ by 2.1	No change
Other household theft	4.4%	4.1%	4.2%	4.3%	4.1%	3.3%	3.1%	2.5%	⇩ by 1.8	No change
Bicycle theft	1.1%	1.1%	1.0%	1.2%	0.9%	0.7%	0.8%	0.7%	⇩ by 0.4	No change
Personal theft (exc. Robbery)	2.2%	2.5%	2.5%	2.2%	2.1%	2.2%	1.9%	1.9%	No change	No change
Other theft	1.8%	2.0%	1.8%	1.6%	1.7%	1.5%	1.2%	1.4%	No change	No change
Theft from the person	0.5%	0.6%	0.7%	0.6%	0.5%	0.8%	0.7%	0.5%	No change	No change
VIOLENT CRIME	**4.1%**	**3.6%**	**3.0%**	**3.1%**	**2.6%**	**2.9%**	**2.3%**	**2.2%**	⇩ by 1.9	No change
Assault	3.8%	3.4%	2.8%	2.9%	2.5%	2.8%	2.2%	2.1%	⇩ by 1.7	No change
Serious assault	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	⇩ by 0.2	No change
Minor assault	3.0%	2.7%	2.3%	2.4%	2.1%	2.4%	1.9%	1.7%	⇩ by 1.3	No change
Minor assault with injury	*N/A*	*0.5%*	*0.5%*	*0.4%*	*0.4%*	*0.4%*	*0.4%*	*0.4%*	*N/A*	No change
Minor assault with no / negligible injury	*N/A*	*2.2%*	*1.8%*	*2.0%*	*1.7%*	*2.0%*	*1.5%*	*1.4%*	*N/A*	No change
Attempted assault	0.7%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	⇩ by 0.5	No change
Robbery	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	⇩ by 0.3	No change
Number of respondents	*16,000*	*16,040*	*13,010*	*12,050*	*11,470*	*5,570*	*5,480*	*5,540*		

Table A1.6: Prevalence of SCJS crime by demographic variables, 2008/09 to 2018/19

Proportion of adults experiencing SCJS crime	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Percentage point change since 2008/09	since 2017/18
All	20.4%	19.3%	17.8%	16.9%	14.5%	13.4%	12.5%	**12.4%**	⇓ by 8.0	No change
Male	21.2%	20.4%	18.4%	18.2%	15.6%	13.9%	12.8%	**11.5%**	⇓ by 9.7	No change
Female	19.7%	18.2%	17.2%	15.8%	13.6%	13.0%	12.1%	**13.4%**	⇓ by 6.4	No change
16-24	32.2%	26.4%	25.6%	23.7%	20.4%	19.5%	16.0%	**19.3%**	⇓ by 12.9	No change
25-44	24.7%	25.1%	22.3%	21.6%	18.4%	17.3%	16.8%	**14.7%**	⇓ by 10.0	No change
45-59	20.1%	18.8%	17.6%	16.3%	15.3%	12.7%	13.6%	**13.4%**	⇓ by 6.6	No change
60+	9.5%	9.2%	8.7%	8.8%	6.8%	7.2%	5.3%	**6.3%**	⇓ by 3.2	No change
15% most deprived areas	26.0%	25.2%	21.3%	21.3%	21.2%	19.4%	18.0%	**16.0%**	⇓ by 10.0	No change
Rest of Scotland	19.4%	18.3%	17.2%	16.1%	13.4%	12.3%	11.5%	**11.8%**	⇓ by 7.6	No change
Urban	22.2%	20.9%	19.5%	18.6%	15.5%	14.8%	13.4%	**13.4%**	⇓ by 8.7	No change
Rural	13.0%	12.1%	10.2%	9.4%	9.9%	6.8%	8.2%	**7.2%**	⇓ by 5.8	No change
Overall number of respondents	*16,000*	*16,040*	*13,010*	*12,050*	*11,470*	*5,570*	*5,480*	***5,540***		

Table A1.7: Prevalence of violent crime by demographic variables, 2008/09 to 2018/19

Proportion of adults experiencing violent crime	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Percentage point change since 2008/09	since 2017/18
All	4.1%	3.6%	3.0%	3.1%	2.6%	2.9%	2.3%	**2.2%**	⇩ by 1.9	No change
Male	5.7%	5.0%	4.2%	4.2%	3.5%	3.4%	2.5%	**2.4%**	⇩ by 3.3	No change
Female	2.7%	2.3%	1.9%	2.2%	1.8%	2.3%	2.1%	**2.0%**	No change	No change
16-24	12.0%	10.1%	7.4%	8.2%	6.0%	5.3%	5.8%	**6.1%**	⇩ by 5.9	No change
25-44	4.4%	4.8%	4.0%	4.3%	3.5%	4.4%	3.1%	**2.5%**	⇩ by 1.9	No change
45-59	3.0%	1.6%	1.9%	1.9%	2.2%	2.5%	1.9%	**1.7%**	⇩ by 1.3	No change
60+	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	**0.6%**	No change	No change
15% most deprived areas	5.9%	6.2%	3.3%	5.0%	4.5%	4.8%	3.8%	**3.2%**	⇩ by 2.7	No change
Rest of Scotland	3.8%	3.1%	2.9%	2.8%	2.3%	2.5%	2.1%	**2.0%**	⇩ by 1.8	No change
Urban	4.6%	3.9%	3.3%	3.5%	2.8%	3.2%	2.5%	**2.2%**	⇩ by 2.3	No change
Rural	2.2%	2.3%	1.9%	1.7%	1.8%	1.4%	1.5%	**1.9%**	No change	No change
Overall number of respondents	*16,000*	*16,040*	*13,010*	*12,050*	*11,470*	*5,570*	*5,480*	***5,540***		

Table A1.8: Prevalence of property crime by area characteristics, 2008/09 to 2018/19

Proportion of adults experiencing property crime	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Percentage point change	
									since 2008/09	since 2017/18
All	18.0%	17.0%	15.9%	14.8%	13.0%	11.5%	10.8%	**10.9%**	⇩ by 7.1	No change
Male	18.1%	17.0%	15.8%	15.3%	13.4%	11.6%	10.9%	**9.8%**	⇩ by 8.3	No change
Female	18.0%	17.0%	16.0%	14.4%	12.6%	11.5%	10.7%	**12.1%**	⇩ by 5.9	No change
16-24	26.1%	19.7%	20.6%	18.1%	16.8%	16.8%	12.4%	**15.3%**	⇩ by 10.8	No change
25-44	21.9%	22.2%	19.9%	18.7%	16.5%	14.3%	14.5%	**13.0%**	⇩ by 8.9	No change
45-59	18.1%	17.8%	16.5%	15.2%	13.7%	10.9%	12.1%	**12.1%**	⇩ by 6.0	No change
60+	9.1%	8.8%	8.3%	8.5%	6.4%	6.8%	5.0%	**5.9%**	⇩ by 3.2	No change
15% most deprived areas	22.8%	21.7%	19.5%	18.0%	18.7%	16.5%	15.6%	**13.7%**	⇩ by 9.1	No change
Rest of Scotland	17.2%	16.2%	15.3%	14.3%	11.9%	10.6%	10.0%	**10.4%**	⇩ by 6.7	No change
Urban	19.6%	18.5%	17.5%	16.3%	13.9%	12.8%	11.6%	**11.9%**	⇩ by 7.7	No change
Rural	11.3%	10.5%	9.0%	8.2%	8.5%	5.8%	7.0%	**5.7%**	⇩ by 5.7	No change
Overall number of respondents	*16,000*	*16,040*	*13,010*	*12,050*	*11,470*	*5,570*	*5,480*	***5,540***		

Table A1.9: Proportion of crime reported to the police

Proportion of each crime type reported to the police	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Percentage point change	
									since 2008/09	since 2017/18
ALL SCJS CRIME	**38%**	**37%**	**39%**	**39%**	**38%**	**37%**	**35%**	**36%**	No change	No change
PROPERTY CRIME	**36%**	**36%**	**35%**	**35%**	**36%**	**34%**	**34%**	**34%**	No change	No change
Vandalism	40%	39%	40%	36%	37%	41%	36%	**38%**	No change	No change
All motor vehicle related theft	45%	45%	33%	44%	44%	30%	44%	**54%**	No change	No change
Housebreaking	64%	64%	62%	64%	62%	-[1]	-[1]	-[1]		
Other household theft inc. bicycle theft	22%	32%	26%	25%	28%	29%	28%	**23%**	No change	No change
Personal theft (exc. Robbery)	31%	26%	30%	37%	37%	27%	28%	**24%**	No change	No change
VIOLENT CRIME	**43%**	**38%**	**51%**	**48%**	**44%**	**43%**	**39%**	**40%**	No change	No change
COMPARABLE CRIME	**42%**	**40%**	**46%**	**44%**	**42%**	**42%**	**40%**	**41%**	No change	No change
Vandalism	40%	39%	40%	36%	37%	41%	36%	**38%**	No change	No change
Acquisitive crime	49%	57%	51%	55%	50%	45%	58%	**50%**	No change	No change
Violent crime	43%	38%	51%	48%	44%	43%	39%	**40%**	No change	No change
Overall number of respondents	*3,790*	*3,330*	*2,610*	*2,290*	*1,930*	*860*	*760*	*760*		

[1] Results based on fewer than 50 cases (incidents of crime) are suppressed and denoted here by '-'.

Table A1.10: Comparing SCJS estimates with police recorded crime figures

Comparable crime, SCJS and Police Recorded Crime	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Percentage change since 2008/09	Percentage change since 2017/18
Comparable SCJS Crime	731,000	630,000	556,000	527,000	414,000	448,000	386,000	**366,000**	⇩ by 50%	No change
Comparable Recorded Crime	215,901	195,728	183,117	144,662	133,170	131,566	130,418	**125,953**	⇩ by 42%	⇩ by 3%
SCJS Acquisitive Crime	64,000	61,000	61,000	73,000	49,000	51,000	51,000	**46,000**	⇩ by 28%	No change
Recorded Acquisitive Crime	27,527	26,146	26,478	21,834	21,000	18,295	17,867	**16,644**	⇩ by 40%	⇩ by 7%
SCJS Violent Crime	317,000	266,000	220,000	236,000	186,000	231,000	172,000	**165,000**	⇩ by 48%	No change
Recorded Violent Crime	82,855	79,769	78,263	66,076	62,578	63,246	63,835	**63,771**	⇩ by 23%	⇩ by <1%
SCJS Vandalism	350,000	303,000	275,000	219,000	179,000	166,000	163,000	**155,000**	⇩ by 56%	No change
Recorded Vandalism	105,519	89,813	78,376	56,752	49,592	50,025	48,716	**45,538**	⇩ by 57%	⇩ by 7%

Table A1.11: Perceptions of how crime rate has changed in respondents' local area over the past two years

Proportion of adults who thought the local crime rate was 'about the same', 'a little less' or 'a lot less'	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Percentage point change	
									since 2008/09	since 2017/18
All	69%	71%	73%	76%	75%	76%	73%	**73%**	⇧ by 4	No change
Male	73%	74%	76%	78%	77%	79%	76%	**78%**	⇧ by 5	No change
Female	65%	68%	71%	73%	72%	73%	69%	**69%**	⇧ by 3	No change
16-24	68%	77%	76%	80%	78%	81%	81%	**79%**	⇧ by 11	No change
25-44	72%	70%	73%	76%	72%	75%	72%	**73%**	No change	No change
45-59	68%	70%	73%	75%	75%	73%	69%	**72%**	⇧ by 4	No change
60+	68%	70%	73%	75%	76%	76%	73%	**74%**	⇧ by 6	No change
15% most deprived areas	64%	65%	67%	72%	74%	71%	73%	**67%**	No change	⇩ by 6
Rest of Scotland	70%	72%	75%	76%	75%	76%	72%	**74%**	⇧ by 4	No change
Urban	68%	69%	72%	75%	74%	74%	71%	**73%**	⇧ by 5	No change
Rural	74%	78%	80%	79%	78%	81%	78%	**77%**	No change	No change
Victim	58%	60%	62%	65%	63%	69%	62%	**62%**	No change	No change
Non-victim	72%	73%	76%	78%	77%	76%	74%	**75%**	⇧ by 3	No change
Overall number of respondents	*14,210*	*14,380*	*11,700*	*10,640*	*10,050*	*4,830*	*4,770*	***4,820***		

Table A1.12: Perceptions of how crime rate has changed in Scotland over the past two years

Proportion of adults who thought the national crime rate was 'about the same', 'a little less' or 'a lot less'	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Percentage point change since 2009/10	Percentage point change since 2017/18
All	40%	46%	46%	54%	50%	48%	**44%**	⇧ by 4	⇩ by 4
Male	45%	53%	53%	61%	57%	53%	**48%**	No change	⇩ by 5
Female	35%	40%	39%	48%	44%	43%	**39%**	⇧ by 4	⇩ by 4
16-24	46%	52%	52%	59%	60%	60%	**52%**	No change	No change
25-44	44%	51%	52%	59%	55%	55%	**52%**	⇧ by 7	No change
45-59	38%	45%	44%	55%	51%	45%	**43%**	⇧ by 5	No change
60+	33%	38%	38%	47%	40%	37%	**33%**	No change	⇩ by 4
15% most deprived areas	40%	46%	43%	52%	49%	47%	**42%**	No change	No change
Rest of Scotland	40%	46%	46%	55%	50%	48%	**44%**	⇧ by 4	⇩ by 4
Urban	40%	46%	46%	55%	51%	49%	**45%**	⇧ by 4	⇩ by 4
Rural	39%	44%	44%	53%	47%	42%	**40%**	No change	No change
Victim	34%	43%	45%	50%	52%	45%	**43%**	⇧ by 9	No change
Non-victim	41%	47%	46%	55%	50%	48%	**44%**	⇧ by 3	⇩ by 4
Overall number of respondents	*16,040*	*13,010*	*12,050*	*11,470*	*5,570*	*5,480*	***5,540***		

Table A1.13: Proportion of adults who felt safe walking alone after dark in their local area

Proportion of adults who felt 'very' or 'fairly' safe	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Percentage point change since 2008/09	since 2017/18
All	66%	67%	68%	72%	74%	77%	77%	**78%**	⇧ by 12	No change
Male	79%	80%	82%	85%	86%	89%	89%	**89%**	⇧ by 10	No change
Female	55%	55%	55%	60%	64%	67%	66%	**66%**	⇧ by 12	No change
16-24	71%	72%	72%	73%	77%	79%	83%	**79%**	⇧ by 9	No change
25-44	73%	72%	72%	77%	78%	83%	80%	**83%**	⇧ by 10	No change
45-59	70%	70%	72%	76%	77%	79%	77%	**80%**	⇧ by 10	No change
60+	52%	56%	57%	61%	66%	70%	70%	**71%**	⇧ by 18	No change
15% most deprived areas	52%	52%	54%	57%	62%	63%	63%	**64%**	⇧ by 12	No change
Rest of Scotland	69%	70%	71%	75%	76%	80%	79%	**80%**	⇧ by 11	No change
Urban	62%	63%	65%	69%	71%	75%	77%	**76%**	⇧ by 13	No change
Rural	83%	84%	84%	87%	88%	89%	88%	**90%**	⇧ by 7	No change
Victim	61%	61%	61%	66%	67%	70%	68%	**70%**	⇧ by 9	No change
Non-victim	68%	69%	70%	73%	76%	79%	78%	**79%**	⇧ by 12	No change
Overall number of respondents	*16,000*	*16,040*	*13,010*	*12,050*	*11,470*	*5,570*	*5,480*	***5,540***		

Table A1.14: Proportion of adults who felt safe alone in home at night

Proportion of adults who felt 'very' or 'fairly' safe	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Percentage point change since 2008/09	Percentage point change since 2017/18
All	93%	94%	94%	95%	94%	97%	96%	**96%**	⇧ by 2	No change
Male	96%	97%	98%	97%	97%	98%	98%	**98%**	⇧ by 2	No change
Female	90%	92%	91%	92%	91%	95%	93%	**93%**	⇧ by 3	No change
16-24	91%	93%	91%	92%	91%	95%	94%	**95%**	No change	No change
25-44	93%	94%	94%	95%	94%	96%	95%	**95%**	⇧ by 2	No change
45-59	94%	95%	95%	95%	94%	97%	96%	**96%**	⇧ by 2	No change
60+	93%	95%	95%	95%	95%	97%	97%	**96%**	⇧ by 3	No change
15% most deprived areas	88%	89%	90%	91%	90%	93%	92%	**91%**	No change	No change
Rest of Scotland	94%	95%	95%	95%	95%	97%	96%	**96%**	⇧ by 2	No change
Urban	93%	94%	94%	94%	93%	96%	95%	**95%**	⇧ by 3	No change
Rural	96%	96%	96%	97%	96%	98%	98%	**98%**	⇧ by 2	No change
Victim	90%	90%	89%	90%	90%	91%	91%	**92%**	No change	No change
Non-victim	94%	95%	95%	96%	94%	97%	96%	**96%**	⇧ by 2	No change
Overall number of respondents	*16,000*	*16,040*	*13,010*	*12,050*	*11,470*	*5,570*	*5,480*	***5,540***		

Table A1.15: Proportion of adults who said the police in their local area were doing an excellent or good job

Proportion of adults who said the police in their local area were doing an 'excellent' or 'good' job	2012/13	2014/15	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Percentage point change	
						since 2012/13	since 2017/18
All	61%	58%	58%	57%	**56%**	⇩ by 5	No change
Male	59%	57%	56%	54%	**54%**	⇩ by 5	No change
Female	62%	60%	61%	60%	**57%**	⇩ by 5	No change
16-24	63%	61%	66%	62%	**62%**	No change	No change
25-44	60%	58%	61%	58%	**60%**	No change	No change
45-59	58%	56%	53%	54%	**52%**	⇩ by 5	No change
60+	64%	60%	56%	57%	**51%**	⇩ by 13	⇩ by 6
15% most deprived areas	54%	53%	53%	53%	**50%**	No change	No change
Rest of Scotland	62%	59%	59%	58%	**57%**	⇩ by 6	No change
Urban	61%	58%	59%	57%	**56%**	⇩ by 5	No change
Rural	63%	60%	57%	58%	**55%**	⇩ by 7	No change
Victim	51%	47%	51%	50%	**50%**	No change	No change
Non-victim	63%	60%	60%	58%	**56%**	⇩ by 7	No change
Overall number of respondents	*12,050*	*11,470*	*5,570*	*5,480*	***5,540***		

Table A1.16: Proportion of adults who were very or fairly confident in the ability of the police in their local area to prevent crime

Proportion of adults who felt 'very' or 'fairly' confident in the ability of the police to prevent crime	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Percentage point change	
									since 2008/09	since 2017/18
All	46%	48%	50%	56%	57%	56%	53%	**50%**	⇧ by 5	⇩ by 3
Male	45%	47%	49%	56%	57%	56%	52%	**50%**	⇧ by 4	No change
Female	47%	49%	51%	56%	57%	56%	54%	**51%**	⇧ by 5	No change
16-24	50%	52%	56%	62%	64%	66%	62%	**60%**	⇧ by 10	No change
25-44	46%	48%	51%	58%	57%	59%	57%	**56%**	⇧ by 10	No change
45-59	42%	45%	47%	53%	54%	50%	49%	**45%**	No change	No change
60+	47%	48%	49%	54%	56%	52%	49%	**45%**	No change	⇩ by 4
15% most deprived areas	42%	40%	45%	52%	56%	50%	49%	**46%**	No change	No change
Rest of Scotland	47%	49%	51%	57%	57%	57%	54%	**51%**	⇧ by 5	⇩ by 3
Urban	45%	47%	50%	55%	57%	56%	53%	**50%**	⇧ by 5	⇩ by 3
Rural	48%	52%	50%	59%	57%	54%	53%	**52%**	No change	No change
Victim	37%	41%	44%	50%	46%	45%	47%	**40%**	No change	⇩ by 7
Non-victim	48%	50%	51%	57%	59%	57%	54%	**52%**	⇧ by 4	No change
Overall number of respondents	*16,000*	*16,040*	*13,010*	*12,050*	*11,470*	*5,570*	*5,480*	***5,540***		

Table A1.17: Proportion of adults who were very or fairly confident in the ability of the police in their local area to respond quickly

Proportion of adults who felt 'very' or 'fairly' confident in the ability of the police to respond quickly	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Percentage point change since 2008/09	since 2017/18
All	54%	58%	61%	66%	64%	64%	63%	**62%**	⇧ by 7	No change
Male	53%	56%	59%	65%	62%	61%	60%	**60%**	⇧ by 7	No change
Female	56%	59%	63%	67%	65%	66%	65%	**63%**	⇧ by 8	No change
16-24	59%	64%	70%	72%	76%	78%	73%	**79%**	⇧ by 20	No change
25-44	58%	61%	65%	70%	66%	69%	67%	**68%**	⇧ by 11	No change
45-59	50%	54%	56%	62%	59%	56%	59%	**56%**	⇧ by 6	No change
60+	52%	54%	56%	63%	60%	59%	57%	**53%**	No change	⇩ by 5
15% most deprived areas	50%	51%	56%	61%	60%	62%	62%	**60%**	⇧ by 10	No change
Rest of Scotland	55%	59%	62%	67%	64%	64%	63%	**62%**	⇧ by 7	No change
Urban	54%	57%	61%	66%	64%	66%	63%	**63%**	⇧ by 9	No change
Rural	56%	62%	62%	67%	62%	56%	61%	**57%**	No change	No change
Victim	49%	55%	55%	63%	58%	64%	59%	**62%**	⇧ by 12	No change
Non-victim	56%	59%	62%	67%	65%	64%	63%	**62%**	⇧ by 6	No change
Overall number of respondents	*16,000*	*16,040*	*13,010*	*12,050*	*11,470*	*5,570*	*5,480*	***5,540***		

Table A1.18: Proportion of adults who were very or fairly confident in the ability of the police in their local area to deal with incidents as they occur

Proportion of adults who felt 'very' or 'fairly' confident in the ability of the police to deal with incidents	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Percentage point change	
									since 2008/09	since 2017/18
All	58%	61%	65%	68%	66%	66%	65%	**65%**	⇧ by 7	No change
Male	57%	60%	64%	68%	65%	66%	63%	**65%**	⇧ by 8	No change
Female	59%	62%	66%	68%	66%	66%	67%	**66%**	⇧ by 7	No change
16-24	61%	64%	72%	72%	73%	78%	74%	**78%**	⇧ by 17	No change
25-44	60%	63%	68%	71%	68%	71%	68%	**71%**	⇧ by 11	No change
45-59	54%	58%	60%	65%	64%	59%	62%	**61%**	⇧ by 7	No change
60+	59%	59%	63%	67%	62%	61%	62%	**57%**	No change	⇩ by 4
15% most deprived areas	54%	56%	60%	64%	64%	63%	62%	**63%**	⇧ by 9	No change
Rest of Scotland	59%	62%	66%	69%	66%	67%	66%	**65%**	⇧ by 7	No change
Urban	57%	60%	65%	68%	66%	67%	66%	**66%**	⇧ by 8	No change
Rural	60%	64%	64%	71%	65%	60%	62%	**63%**	No change	No change
Victim	51%	56%	59%	64%	59%	62%	61%	**62%**	⇧ by 11	No change
Non-victim	60%	62%	66%	69%	67%	67%	66%	**66%**	⇧ by 6	No change
Overall number of respondents	*16,000*	*16,040*	*13,010*	*12,050*	*11,470*	*5,570*	*5,580*	***5,540***		

Table A1.19: Proportion of adults who were very or fairly confident in the ability of the police in their local area to investigate incidents

Proportion of adults who felt 'very' or 'fairly' confident in the ability of the police to investigate incidents	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Percentage point change since 2008/09	since 2017/18
All	64%	68%	71%	73%	70%	71%	69%	**70%**	⇧ by 6	No change
Male	64%	67%	70%	72%	69%	69%	67%	**69%**	⇧ by 5	No change
Female	64%	68%	71%	73%	71%	72%	71%	**70%**	⇧ by 6	No change
16-24	65%	68%	72%	73%	76%	79%	71%	**77%**	⇧ by 12	No change
25-44	66%	70%	74%	74%	71%	73%	72%	**74%**	⇧ by 8	No change
45-59	62%	68%	68%	73%	69%	69%	70%	**67%**	⇧ by 5	No change
60+	63%	65%	69%	71%	68%	67%	66%	**64%**	No change	No change
15% most deprived areas	59%	62%	66%	67%	67%	70%	67%	**65%**	⇧ by 6	No change
Rest of Scotland	65%	69%	71%	74%	71%	71%	70%	**70%**	⇧ by 5	No change
Urban	63%	67%	70%	72%	70%	72%	70%	**70%**	⇧ by 7	No change
Rural	68%	71%	73%	75%	71%	68%	68%	**68%**	No change	No change
Victim	57%	61%	63%	69%	64%	68%	63%	**66%**	⇧ by 9	No change
Non-victim	66%	69%	72%	74%	72%	72%	70%	**70%**	⇧ by 4	No change
Overall number of respondents	*16,000*	*16,040*	*13,010*	*12,050*	*11,470*	*5,570*	*5,480*	*5,540*		

Table A1.20: Proportion of adults who were very or fairly confident in the ability of the police in their local area to solve crimes

Proportion of adults who felt 'very' or 'fairly' confident in the ability of the police to solve crimes	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Percentage point change since 2008/09	Percentage point change since 2017/18
All	57%	60%	64%	64%	62%	65%	64%	**62%**	⇧ by 5	No change
Male	56%	58%	62%	63%	61%	64%	62%	**61%**	⇧ by 5	No change
Female	58%	61%	65%	64%	63%	66%	66%	**64%**	⇧ by 6	No change
16-24	59%	62%	68%	67%	67%	76%	71%	**70%**	⇧ by 11	No change
25-44	59%	63%	66%	65%	63%	67%	67%	**66%**	⇧ by 7	No change
45-59	55%	57%	61%	62%	61%	62%	61%	**60%**	⇧ by 5	No change
60+	56%	58%	61%	62%	60%	61%	61%	**57%**	No change	⇩ by 4
15% most deprived areas	51%	56%	59%	59%	58%	63%	62%	**57%**	⇧ by 5	No change
Rest of Scotland	58%	61%	64%	65%	63%	66%	64%	**63%**	⇧ by 5	No change
Urban	56%	59%	63%	63%	62%	66%	65%	**62%**	⇧ by 6	⇩ by 3
Rural	60%	62%	64%	66%	62%	62%	61%	**64%**	No change	No change
Victim	49%	53%	56%	58%	53%	60%	60%	**55%**	⇧ by 7	No change
Non-victim	59%	62%	65%	65%	64%	66%	65%	**63%**	⇧ by 4	No change
Overall number of respondents	*16,000*	*16,040*	*13,010*	*12,050*	*11,470*	*5,570*	*5,480*	***5,540***		

Table A1.21: Proportion of adults who were very or fairly confident in the ability of the police in their local area to catch criminals

Proportion of adults who felt 'very' or 'fairly' confident in the ability of the police to catch criminals	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Percentage point change	
									since 2008/09	since 2017/18
All	55%	57%	60%	61%	60%	63%	61%	**60%**	⇧ by 4	No change
Male	55%	56%	59%	60%	59%	62%	60%	**58%**	⇧ by 3	No change
Female	56%	58%	61%	62%	61%	64%	63%	**61%**	⇧ by 5	No change
16-24	56%	60%	66%	65%	64%	72%	66%	**68%**	⇧ by 12	No change
25-44	58%	59%	62%	62%	61%	67%	64%	**64%**	⇧ by 6	No change
45-59	52%	55%	56%	58%	58%	59%	59%	**57%**	⇧ by 5	No change
60+	55%	55%	59%	61%	58%	58%	58%	**54%**	No change	⇩ by 4
15% most deprived areas	50%	53%	57%	57%	57%	62%	59%	**57%**	⇧ by 7	No change
Rest of Scotland	56%	58%	61%	62%	60%	63%	62%	**60%**	⇧ by 4	No change
Urban	54%	56%	60%	61%	60%	63%	62%	**60%**	⇧ by 5	No change
Rural	59%	61%	60%	63%	60%	62%	59%	**58%**	No change	No change
Victim	47%	50%	50%	53%	50%	57%	54%	**52%**	No change	No change
Non-victim	57%	59%	62%	63%	62%	64%	62%	**61%**	⇧ by 3	No change
Overall number of respondents	*16,000*	*16,040*	*13,010*	*12,050*	*11,470*	*5,570*	*5,480*	***5,540***		

Table A1.22: Proportion of adults who agreed with statements about the police (perceptions of community engagement and fairness)

Proportion of adults who 'strongly or tend' to agree with each statement	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Percentage point change	
								since 2008/09	since 2017/18
Community engagement measures:									
Police in this area can be relied on to be there when you need them	58%	61%	66%	64%	65%	64%	**63%**	⇧ by 6	No change
The police in this area listen to the concerns of local people	48%	53%	54%	50%	52%	50%	**50%**	No change	No change
Community relations with the police in this local area are poor	28%	26%	22%	23%	23%	24%	**24%**	⇩ by 4	No change
Police in this area are not dealing with the things that matter to people in this community	31%	29%	25%	23%	21%	20%	**22%**	⇩ by 8	No change
Fairness measures:									
Police in this area would treat you with respect if you had contact with them for any reason	83%	86%	86%	85%	87%	88%	**87%**	⇧ by 4	No change
The police in this area treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are	58%	63%	61%	60%	62%	63%	**62%**	⇧ by 4	No change
Overall number of respondents	*3,890*	*3,180*	*11,520*	*11,180*	*5,420*	*5,360*	***5,410***		

Table A1.23: Proportion of adults who were very or fairly confident in aspects of the criminal justice system[1]

Proportion of adults who were 'very' or 'fairly' confident that the criminal justice system	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Percentage point change since 2008/09	Percentage point change since 2017/18
Is effective in bringing people who commit crimes to justice	53%	53%	56%	57%	60%	63%	62%	**62%**	⇧ by 9	No change
Deals with cases promptly and efficiently	35%	38%	42%	43%	43%	47%	44%	**45%**	⇧ by 10	No change
Makes sure everyone has access to the justice system if they need it	70%	71%	73%	76%	76%	75%	75%	**76%**	⇧ by 6	No change
Makes sure the system isn't different depending on where you live in Scotland	54%	55%	57%	64%	66%	63%	62%	**63%**	⇧ by 9	No change
Questions below only included since 2012/13 or question wording updated in 2012/13									Percentage point change since 2012/13	Percentage point change since 2017/18
Makes fair, impartial decisions based on the evidence available	N/A	N/A	N/A	70%	72%	73%	74%	**72%**	⇧ by 2	No change
Adequately takes into account the circumstances surrounding a crime when it hands out sentences	N/A	N/A	N/A	55%	57%	60%	61%	**60%**	⇧ by 4	No change
Allows all victims of crime to seek justice regardless of who they are	N/A	N/A	N/A	66%	68%	69%	68%	**67%**	No change	No change
Allows all those accused of crimes to get a fair trial regardless of who they are	N/A	N/A	N/A	77%	77%	78%	77%	**76%**	No change	No change
Provides victims of crime with the services and support they need	N/A	N/A	N/A	52%	55%	57%	56%	**55%**	⇧ by 3	No change
Provides witnesses with the services and support they need	N/A	N/A	N/A	55%	56%	59%	58%	**58%**	⇧ by 2	No change
Treats those accused of crime as innocent until proven guilty	N/A	N/A	N/A	74%	72%	72%	74%	**72%**	⇩ by 2	No change
Gives sentences which fit the crime	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	38%	**37%**	N/A	No change
Gives punishments which fit the crime	N/A	N/A	N/A	32%	36%	39%	N/A	**N/A**	N/A	N/A
Provides a good standard of service for victims of crime	38%	41%	45%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	**N/A**	N/A	N/A
Provides a good standard of service for witnesses	43%	45%	49%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	**N/A**	N/A	N/A
Overall number of respondents	*16,000*	*16,040*	*13,010*	*12,050*	*11,470*	*5,570*	*5,480*	*5,540*		

[1] Four of the current measures were first asked in 2008/09, the rest have only been asked in their current form since 2012/13, with one further amendment in 2017/18 (i.e. 'gives punishments which fit the crime' has become 'gives sentences which fit the crime' since 2017/18).

Table A1.24: Proportion of adults who thought issues were common in their area

Percentage of adults saying issue is 'very' or 'fairly' common in their area	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Percentage point change since 2008/09*	Percentage point change since 2017/18
Drug dealing and drug abuse	45%	48%	48%	44%	42%	36%	37%	**42%**	No change	⇧ by 5
People behaving in an anti-social manner in public	46%	47%	45%	41%	35%	29%	29%	**31%**	⇩ by 15	No change
Deliberate damage to cars or other vehicles	N/A	N/A	N/A	25%	20%	17%	19%	**17%**	⇩ by 7	No change
People having things stolen from their car or other vehicles	20%	21%	20%	16%	15%	10%	15%	**12%**	⇩ by 8	No change
People buying or selling smuggled or fake goods	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	13%	14%	**12%**	No change	No change
Violence between groups of individuals or gangs	26%	26%	24%	20%	14%	10%	12%	**11%**	⇩ by 16	No change
People carrying knives	N/A	22%	22%	16%	14%	10%	12%	**11%**	⇩ by 11	No change
People being physically assaulted or attacked in the street or other public places	19%	21%	21%	18%	15%	10%	10%	**11%**	⇩ by 8	No change
People having their car or other vehicles stolen	15%	13%	14%	8%	10%	8%	10%	**8%**	⇩ by 6	No change
Deliberate damage to people's homes by vandals	N/A	N/A	N/A	14%	11%	9%	10%	**9%**	⇩ by 5	No change
People being mugged or robbed	10%	13%	13%	11%	8%	6%	6%	**7%**	⇩ by 3	No change
People being physically attacked because of their skin colour, ethnic origin or religion	7%	8%	9%	7%	6%	5%	4%	**5%**	⇩ by 3	No change
People being sexually assaulted	3%	4%	4%	4%	4%	3%	4%	**3%**	No change	No change
Number of respondents	*4,030*	*4,000*	*3,220*	*3,020*	*2,850*	*1,390*	*1,380*	***1,400***		

* or first time question was included.

Table A1.25: Proportion of adults who were worried about experiencing different types of crime

Percentage of adults 'very' or' fairly' worried about crime happening	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Percentage point change since 2008/09	since 2017/18
Your car or other vehicle will be damaged by vandals	44%	44%	43%	39%	38%	31%	31%	**31%**	⇩ by 13	No change
Things will be stolen from your car or other vehicle	34%	33%	31%	28%	28%	23%	23%	**22%**	⇩ by 12	No change
Your car or other vehicle will be stolen	29%	29%	27%	24%	25%	21%	21%	**21%**	⇩ by 9	No change
Number of respondents [1]	*10,730**	*11,370*	*9,170**	*8,470*	*8,090*	*4,120*	*4,130*	***4,170***		
Someone will use your credit or bank details to obtain money, goods or services	56%	57%	58%	52%	54%	52%	51%	**50%**	⇩ by 6	No change
You will have your identity stolen	51%	50%	48%	43%	45%	43%	43%	**41%**	⇩ by 9	No change
Your home will be broken into	35%	34%	35%	32%	35%	28%	27%	**27%**	⇩ by 8	No change
You will be involved or caught up in violence between groups of individuals or gangs	29%	28%	25%	19%	17%	14%	13%	**13%**	⇩ by 16	No change
You will be mugged or robbed	31%	32%	31%	25%	24%	20%	18%	**18%**	⇩ by 13	No change
You will be physically assaulted or attacked in the street or other public place	31%	30%	28%	24%	23%	19%	18%	**17%**	⇩ by 13	No change
Your home will be damaged by vandals	26%	25%	24%	21%	21%	17%	16%	**15%**	⇩ by 11	No change
You will be sexually assaulted [3]	15%	15%	15%	13%	13%	11%	11%	**11%**	⇩ by 4	No change
Number of respondents	*16,000*	*16,040*	*13,010*	*12,010**	*11,470*	*5,570*	*5,480*	***5,540***		

[1] From 2016/17 only respondents in households with access to a vehicle have been asked questions on worry about vehicle crime rather than this filter being applied at the analysis phase. As such, the 'not applicable' response option to the worry questions, previously included as a possible response was removed with effect from 2016/17.

However, even when households without vehicles are filtered out of the analysis in results before 2016/17, a proportion of the remaining respondents still selected the 'not applicable' option (generally around 5%). As such, results up to 2014/15 and from 2016/17 onwards are not directly comparable.

[2] In 2012/13, a number of responses for these questions (QWORR_04 to QWORR_11) were previously coded as 'not applicable'. Figures for 2012/13 have been revised to exclude the 'non applicable' option.

* There are small variations in the sample of respondents for each of these questions. The table shows the lowest base size.

Table A1.26: Proportion of adults who thought they were likely to experience different types of crime in the next year
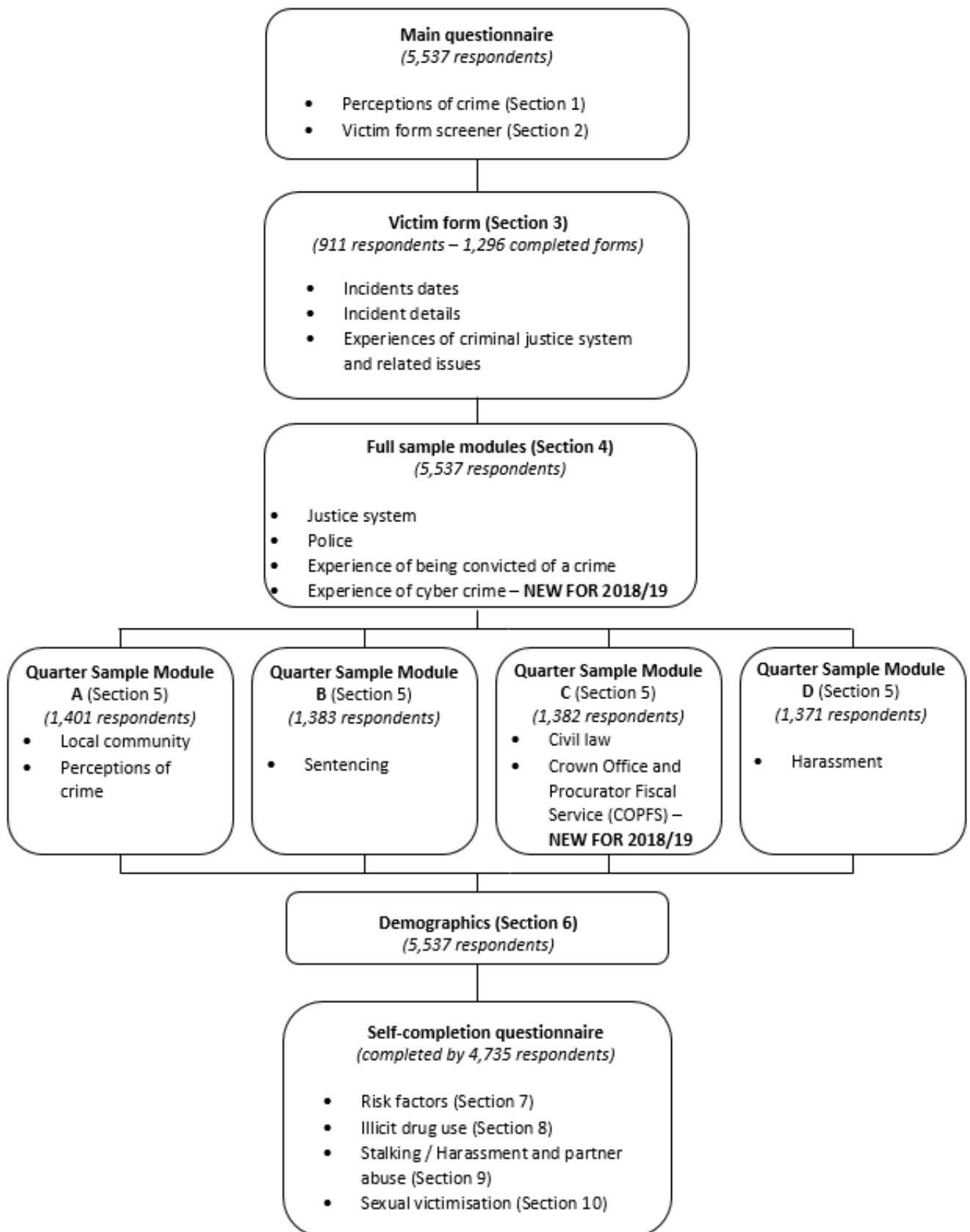
Percentage of adults who thought they were likely to experience each crime	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Percentage point change	
									since 2008/09	since 2017/18
Your car or other vehicle will be damaged by vandals	16%	17%	15%	13%	13%	13%	13%	**15%**	No change	No change
Things will be stolen from your car or other vehicle	8%	8%	6%	6%	7%	7%	7%	**7%**	No change	No change
Your car or other vehicle will be stolen	6%	7%	5%	5%	5%	6%	6%	**6%**	No change	No change
Number of respondents ¹	*11,190*	*11,790*	*9,450*	*8,710*	*8,420*	*4,120*	*4,130*	***4,170***		
Someone will use your credit or bank details to obtain money, goods or services	14%	17%	15%	14%	17%	28%	26%	**26%**	⇧ by 12	No change
You will have your identity stolen	12%	12%	10%	9%	11%	16%	16%	**15%**	⇧ by 3	No change
Your home will be broken into	9%	8%	6%	7%	8%	10%	9%	**9%**	No change	No change
You will be physically assaulted or attacked in the street or other public place	7%	7%	6%	5%	5%	6%	6%	**5%**	⇩ by 2	No change
Your home will be damaged by vandals	6%	6%	5%	4%	4%	5%	4%	**4%**	⇩ by 2	No change
You will be mugged or robbed	6%	6%	5%	4%	4%	5%	5%	**4%**	⇩ by 2	No change
You will be involved or caught up in violence between groups of individuals or gangs	7%	6%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	**3%**	⇩ by 3	No change
You will be sexually assaulted	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	**2%**	⇧ by 1	No change
None of the above	48%	49%	52%	57%	55%	50%	52%	**50%**	⇧ by 2	No change
Number of respondents	*16,000*	*16,040*	*13,010*	*12,050*	*11,470*	*5,570*	*5,480*	***5,540***		

¹ These questions have been filtered to display answers for respondents with at least one vehicle in the household.

Annex B: Overview of police recorded crime and the SCJS

	Recorded Crime	Scottish Crime and Justice Survey
Where do the data come from?	Administrative police records	Face to face interviews with residents from a nationally representative sample of the household population
Basis for inclusion	Crimes recorded to the police in Scotland, governed by the Scottish Crime Recording Standard	Trained coders determine whether experiences of victimisation in the last 12 months constitute a crime and assign an offence code
Frequency	Collected by financial year. Statistics released in an annual publication	Survey conducted annually for each financial year with reference period extending over 25 months. Results previously published biennially, now annually
Strengths	• Covers the full range of crimes and offences • Provides data at a local level • A good measure of rarer, more serious crimes that are well reported • Measure of long-term trends • Good measure of crime that the police are faced with	• Good measure of trends since 2008/09 • Captures further information about crimes that are and are not reported to the police (including sensitive issues such as domestic abuse or drug abuse) • Analyses crime for different demographic groups and victim-offender relationships • Provides information on multiple and repeat victimisation (up to 5 incidents in a series) • Provides attitudinal data (e.g. fear of crime or attitudes towards the criminal justice system)
Limitations	• Partially reliant on the public reporting crime • Reporting rates may vary by the type of crime (e.g. serious crime is more likely to be reported or housebreaking if a crime number is required for insurance purposes) • Trends can be affected by legislation; public reporting practices; police recording practices	• Does not cover all crimes (e.g. homicide or crimes without specific victims, such as speeding) • Does not cover the entire population (e.g. children, homeless people or people living in communal accommodation) • Less able to produce robust data at lower level geographies • Difficult to measure trends between survey years, especially in rarer forms of crime (such as more serious offences) • Estimates are subject to a degree of error (confidence intervals)
What other data are collected?	• Additional statistical bulletins published, including on homicides, firearm offences and domestic abuse incidents	• Public perceptions about crime • Worry about crime and the perceived likelihood of being a victim • Confidence in the police and the criminal justice system • Prevalence estimates on 'sensitive' topics (partner abuse, sexual victimisation, stalking and drug use). Reported on biennially

Annex C: 2018/19 SCJS questionnaire structure

Main questionnaire
(5,537 respondents)

- Perceptions of crime (Section 1)
- Victim form screener (Section 2)

Victim form (Section 3)
(911 respondents – 1,296 completed forms)

- Incidents dates
- Incident details
- Experiences of criminal justice system and related issues

Full sample modules (Section 4)
(5,537 respondents)

- Justice system
- Police
- Experience of being convicted of a crime
- Experience of cyber crime – **NEW FOR 2018/19**

Quarter Sample Module A (Section 5)
(1,401 respondents)
- Local community
- Perceptions of crime

Quarter Sample Module B (Section 5)
(1,383 respondents)
- Sentencing

Quarter Sample Module C (Section 5)
(1,382 respondents)
- Civil law
- Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) – **NEW FOR 2018/19**

Quarter Sample Module D (Section 5)
(1,371 respondents)
- Harassment

Demographics (Section 6)
(5,537 respondents)

Self-completion questionnaire
(completed by 4,735 respondents)

- Risk factors (Section 7)
- Illicit drug use (Section 8)
- Stalking / Harassment and partner abuse (Section 9)
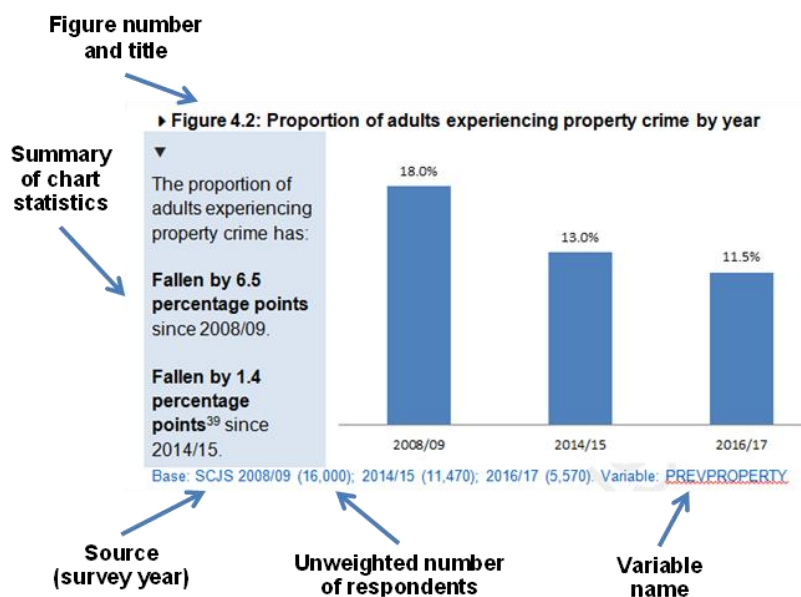- Sexual victimisation (Section 10)

Annex D: Interpreting charts, tables and figures in this report

What do I need to know to help me understand the charts and tables in this report?

The information provided alongside figures and tables includes a title, the data source (survey year etc.), a base definition and the unweighted number of respondents and, if relevant, a variable name. Unless otherwise stated the results are from 2018/19. Examples of a figure and a table are shown below. Changes which are statistically significant at the 95% level are highlighted with arrows as shown in the example below.

Figure

Table

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Unweighted Base

All SCJS percentages and rates presented in the figures and tables are based on weighted data (see Chapter 9 of the accompanying Technical Report for details on survey weighting). However, figures and tables show the unweighted base which represents the number of respondents/households in the specified group or the numbers of crimes that the analysis is based on[132]. In tables and figures these are rounded to the nearest multiple of 10 (unrounded numbers are provided in data tables released alongside this report).

Percentages & rounding

Most results presented in this report are rounded to whole numbers, but are available to multiple decimal places in the data tables released alongside this report. The prevalence estimate results presented in this report are provided to one decimal place which can sometimes be helpful where results are low. However, it should be noted that these results are estimates with associated ranges of uncertainty around them, which are taken account of in the statistical testing used in this report (and available more generally by using the users statistical testing tool published online alongside data tables).

Table row or column percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Percentages presented in tables and figures, where they refer to the percentage of respondents, households or crimes that have the attribute being discussed, may not sum to 100 per cent. Respondents have the option to refuse answering any question they did not wish to answer and the majority of questions have a 'don't know' option. Percentages for these response categories are generally not shown in tables and figures. In a small number of instances, to aid interpretation of the results, analysis is also presented based on data with 'don't know' and 'refused' responses removed.

A percentage may be quoted in the report text for a single category that is identifiable in the figures/tables only by summing two or more component percentages. In order to avoid rounding errors, the percentage has been recalculated for the single combined category and therefore may differ slightly (i.e. by one or two percentage points) from the sum of the percentages derived from the figures/tables shown.

Also, percentages quoted in the report may represent variables that allow respondents to choose multiple responses. These percentages will not sum to 100 per cent with the other percentages presented. They represent the percentage of the variable population that selected a certain response category.

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[132] i.e. this is generally how many people were asked the question for the results being discussed.

A National Statistics publication for Scotland

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be interpreted to mean that the statistics: meet identified user needs; are produced, managed and disseminated to high standards; and are explained well.

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How to access background or source data

The data collected for this statistical publication:
☒ are available via the UK Data Service
☒ may be made available on request, subject to consideration of legal and ethical factors. Please contact scjs@gov.scot for further information.
☐ cannot be made available by Scottish Government for further analysis as Scottish Government is not the data controller.

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ISBN 978-1-83960-807-0

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