



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot

# Scottish Crime and Justice Survey 2019/20: Main Findings



A National Statistics publication for Scotland

CRIME AND JUSTICE

## **Acknowledgements**

Thanks go to a number of people involved in the development, implementation and reporting of the 2019/20 Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS), in particular the 5,568 people across Scotland who took the time to provide their thoughts and opinions in the survey, as well as the interviewers and support staff who carried out the interviews. Thanks also go to colleagues at Ipsos MORI and ScotCen for their support and advice across all aspects of the survey management, and to staff in the Office of the Chief Statistician at the Scottish Government for methodological inputs.

## **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](mailto:scjs@gov.scot).

## Contents

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>Executive summary</b> .....  | <b>7</b>  |
| What does the survey tell us about trends in overall crime? .....   | 7         |
| What does the survey tell us about violent and property crime? .....  | 8         |
| What does the survey tell us about perceptions of the police and justice system?<br>.....                                       | 9         |
| What does the survey tell us about perceptions of crime and safety? .....   | 9         |
| What does the survey tell us about illicit drug use, stalking and harassment,<br>partner abuse, and sexual victimisation? ..... | 10        |
| <b>Summary infographics</b> .....   | <b>11</b> |
| <b>1. Introduction and background to the SCJS</b> .....   | <b>20</b> |
| What is the SCJS and what purpose does it serve? .....  | 20        |
| What do I need to know when reading this report? .....  | 20        |
| Who is included and what does the SCJS cover? .....   | 21        |
| How is the survey delivered?.....   | 22        |
| How reliable are SCJS results? .....  | 23        |
| What findings are included in this report and where can I access additional<br>results? .....                                   | 24        |
| How can I find out more about the SCJS? .....   | 26        |
| <b>2. Overview of crime in Scotland</b> .....   | <b>27</b> |
| What was the extent and prevalence of crime in Scotland in 2019/20? .....   | 27        |
| What type of crime was experienced in Scotland in 2019/20? .....  | 30        |
| How did the likelihood of experiencing crime in 2019/20 vary across the<br>population? .....                                    | 31        |
| What can the SCJS tell us about multiple victimisation? .....   | 32        |
| What proportion of crime was reported to the police in 2019/20? .....   | 35        |
| How did the likelihood of experiencing crime in Scotland compare to England and<br>Wales? .....                                 | 36        |
| <b>3. Focus on violent crime</b> .....  | <b>38</b> |
| What was the extent and prevalence of violent crime in Scotland in 2019/20? ..  | 38        |
| What types of violent crime were most commonly experienced in 2019/20? .....  | 41        |
| How did experiences of violent crime vary across the population? .....  | 44        |
| What can the SCJS tell us about repeat victimisation? .....   | 48        |
| What were the characteristics of violent crime? .....   | 50        |
| What do we know about perpetrators of violent crime?.....   | 52        |
| What do we know about the role of alcohol, drugs and weapons in violent crime?<br>.....   | 54        |

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| What was the impact of violent crime? .....  | 56         |
| What proportion of violent crime was reported to the police?.....  | 57         |
| What consequences did victims believe offenders should have faced?.....                                    | 58         |
| <b>4. Focus on property crime .....</b>  | <b>60</b>  |
| What was the extent and prevalence of property crime in 2019/20?.....                                      | 60         |
| What types of property crime were most commonly experienced? .....   | 63         |
| How did experiences of property crime vary across the population? .....                                    | 65         |
| What can the SCJS tell us about repeat victimisation? .....  | 66         |
| What do we know about the characteristics of property crime? .....   | 68         |
| What do we know about the perpetrators of property crime?.....   | 69         |
| What was the impact of property crime? .....   | 70         |
| What proportion of property crime was reported to the police?.....   | 71         |
| What consequences did victims believe property crime offenders should have<br>faced? .....                 | 72         |
| <b>5. Bringing together crime statistics .....</b>   | <b>74</b>  |
| Why are there two sources of crime statistics? .....   | 74         |
| What are the trends in comparable SCJS and police recorded crime?.....                                     | 75         |
| <b>6. Public perceptions of the police and the justice system .....</b>                                    | <b>81</b>  |
| Perceptions of the police .....  | 81         |
| Results at Police Division level and other geographies.....  | 81         |
| Understanding and measuring confidence in the police.....  | 82         |
| What did the public think about the overall performance of the police? .....                               | 82         |
| How confident were people in the ability of the police?.....   | 84         |
| Did the public feel the police conducted their work fairly and were engaged with<br>their community? ..... | 86         |
| How did perceptions of the police vary amongst the population? .....                                       | 88         |
| What did the public think about the level of police presence locally?.....                                 | 92         |
| How satisfied were people with their interactions with the police? .....                                   | 95         |
| Perceptions of the criminal justice system.....  | 96         |
| What did the public think about the criminal justice system in Scotland? .....                             | 96         |
| How did the public view the prison system and community sentences? .....                                   | 99         |
| <b>7. Public perceptions of crime and safety.....</b>  | <b>102</b> |
| How did the public think the level of crime in their local area had changed in<br>recent years? .....      | 102        |
| How did views on local and national crime trends differ in 2019/20? .....                                  | 104        |
| How safe did the public feel in 2019/20? .....   | 106        |

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| How common were specific crimes believed to be? .....  | 110        |
| How concerned were the public about crime? .....   | 111        |
| How did perceptions of crime vary amongst the population? .....  | 114        |
| How were people affected by their concerns about crime? .....  | 121        |
| What steps did people take to reduce their chances of experiencing crime? ...  | 122        |
| What did people think about their local community and the collective effort to prevent crime in their neighbourhood? .....           | 124        |
| How would people respond to witnessing crime? .....  | 125        |
| <b>8. SCJS topical reports .....</b>   | <b>126</b> |
| <b>8.1 Cyber crime in Scotland .....</b>   | <b>127</b> |
| What is cyber crime? .....   | 127        |
| How did the 2019/20 SCJS collect data about cyber crime in Scotland? .....   | 127        |
| Fraud and computer misuse .....  | 129        |
| How common were experiences of cyber fraud or computer misuse in 2019/20? .....  | 130        |
| Which types of cyber fraud and computer misuse were most common? .....   | 131        |
| How did experiences of cyber fraud and computer misuse vary amongst the population? .....  | 131        |
| What impact did cyber fraud and computer misuse have on victims, and how did these experiences affect their online behaviours? ..... | 132        |
| Did victims report cyber fraud and computer misuse and which authorities were the crimes reported to? .....                          | 135        |
| Why did most victims of cyber fraud and computer misuse not report the incident to the police? .....                                 | 137        |
| What else can the SCJS tell us about fraud in 2019/20? .....   | 137        |
| What can the 2019/20 SCJS tell us about concerns about fraud? .....  | 138        |
| Cyber elements in property and violent crime .....   | 140        |
| To what extent did property and violent crimes have a cyber element in 2019/20? .....  | 140        |
| Cyber elements in stalking and harassment .....  | 141        |
| To what extent were people insulted or harassed online in 2019/20? .....   | 141        |
| Widening the focus: How does wider analytical work complement the evidence provided by the SCJS on cyber crime? .....                | 142        |
| Sexual crimes in the Scottish Government's cyber crime evidence review .....   | 142        |
| Computer misuse and fraud in the Crime Survey for England and Wales .....  | 143        |
| Police recorded cyber crime .....  | 143        |
| What's next? .....   | 144        |

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| <b>8.2 Focus on harassment and discrimination .....</b>   | <b>145</b> |
| How common were experiences of harassment in Scotland in 2019/20? .....   | 145        |
| What can the SCJS tell us about the nature of harassment? .....   | 145        |
| <b>8.3 Focus on Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service .....</b>  | <b>148</b> |
| Did the public report knowing about the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service? .....                           | 148        |
| Have people had contact with COPFS and, if so, how satisfied were they with the way COPFS dealt with them? .....    | 149        |
| <b>8.4 Focus on civil law .....</b>   | <b>151</b> |
| How common were experiences of civil law problems? .....  | 151        |
| How long had problems lasted and what steps did people report having taken to resolve matters? .....                | 152        |
| <b>9. Summary findings on SCJS self-completion modules .....</b>  | <b>153</b> |
| <b>9.1 Illicit Drug Use .....</b>   | <b>154</b> |
| Drugs included.....   | 154        |
| What was the prevalence of drug use in Scotland in 2018/20? .....   | 155        |
| Are some population groups more likely to have used drugs? .....  | 158        |
| <b>9.2 Stalking and harassment .....</b>  | <b>161</b> |
| What can the 2018/20 SCJS results tell us about stalking and harassment in Scotland? .....                          | 162        |
| <b>9.3 Partner Abuse .....</b>  | <b>168</b> |
| What can the 2018/20 SCJS results tell us about partner abuse in Scotland? .  | 169        |
| How often do people experience partner abuse and who are the offenders? ...   | 172        |
| Are some population groups more likely to have experienced partner abuse? .   | 174        |
| What can the 2018/20 SCJS results tell us about the types partner abuse most commonly experienced? .....            | 177        |
| What can the SCJS tell us about the impact of partner abuse? .....  | 179        |
| What can the SCJS tell us about the circumstances in which partner abuse occurs and how often it is reported? ..... | 182        |
| <b>9.4 Sexual Victimization.....</b>  | <b>183</b> |
| Serious Sexual Assault.....   | 184        |
| What can the 2018/20 SCJS results tell us about serious sexual assault in Scotland? .....                           | 184        |
| What can the SCJS tell us about the nature, impact and reporting of serious sexual assault? .....                   | 187        |
| Are some population groups more likely to have experienced serious sexual assault? .....                            | 190        |

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Less Serious Sexual Assault .....   | 192        |
| What can the 2018/20 SCJS results tell us about less serious sexual assault in Scotland? .....                            | 192        |
| What can the 2018/20 SCJS results tell us about the types of less serious sexual assault most commonly experienced? ..... | 193        |
| Are some population groups more likely to have experienced less serious sexual assault? .....                             | 195        |
| <b>Annex A: Data tables.....</b>  | <b>198</b> |
| <b>Annex B: Overview of police recorded crime and the SCJS.....</b>   | <b>226</b> |
| <b>Annex C: 2019/20 SCJS questionnaire structure .....</b>  | <b>227</b> |
| <b>Annex D: Drug Categories and Classifications .....</b>   | <b>228</b> |
| <b>Annex E: Interpreting charts, tables and figures in this report .....</b>  | <b>229</b> |

# Executive summary

The 2019/20 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 21% since 2016/17, though has remained stable since 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 2019/20 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, as well as results from the survey's self-completion modules (covering drug use, stalking and harassment, partner abuse, and sexual victimisation). Results are also published [at Police Division level](#). 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 46% over the last decade or so – from an estimated 1,045,000 incidents in 2008/09 to 563,000 in 2019/20.

The SCJS estimates that the police became aware of 40% of crime in 2019/20, 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 decrease in the level of crime experienced in Scotland.

The survey estimates that the number of incidents experienced in 2019/20 was lower than all years between 2008/09 and 2016/17 however has shown no change compared to the years since (2017/18 and 2018/19), suggesting that in more recent survey years the decreasing trend in overall crime may have started to level off.

Most adults (88.1%) were not victims of any crime in 2019/20 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 (11.9%) between 2008/09 and the latest year. The SCJS detected no change in the likelihood of being a victim of crime between 2018/19 and 2019/20.

However, despite the large reduction in overall crime in Scotland over the years, victimisation rates continued to vary among the population in 2019/20. 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 lowest for those aged 60 and over.

As in previous years, crime was concentrated among victims of multiple victimisation – under one-in-ten adults (8.3%) experienced a single crime in 2019/20, while 3.6% of adults were victims of two or more incidents, accounting for over half (57%) 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 2019/20, with victimisation rates of 11.9% and 13.3% respectively.

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

As in previous years, violent crime (accounting for 34% of all crime) was less common than property crime (66%) in 2019/20, with the long-term decrease in overall crime underpinned by large falls in both categories.

### **Violent crime**

Violent crime has fallen by nearly two-fifths since 2008/09 (down by 39%), whilst the proportion of adults experiencing any violence has fallen from 4.1% in 2008/09 to 2.5% in 2019/20. 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 (73%), with instances of serious assault (6%) and robbery (5%) remaining relatively uncommon.

Men were more likely to experience violent crime in 2019/20, as well as people in the 15% most deprived areas of Scotland, and those living in urban locations. People aged 60 and over were less likely to be victims of violence in 2019/20. No significant difference was found in the likelihood of being a victim of violence between those aged 16 to 24 and 25 to 44.

The concentration of violent crime among repeat victims (those experiencing two or more violent crimes) was also particularly pronounced. Whilst this affected one-in-every-hundred adults (1.0%), their experiences of violence accounted for almost two-thirds (65%) of violent crime in 2019/20.

Consistent with previous years, the 2019/20 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 2019/20, though the presence of weapons remained relatively uncommon.

### **Property crime**

The proportion of adults experiencing property crime has fallen from 18.0% in 2008/09 to 10.0% in 2019/20, with the estimated number of incidents occurring down by 49% over the same period. Both the volume of property crime and victimisation rate have shown stability since the previous survey in 2018/19.

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. Other household theft (including bicycle theft) (27%) and personal theft (22%) were the next largest categories.

Similar to overall crime victimisation rates, experiences of property crime in 2019/20 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. The 2019/20 SCJS found no difference in the likelihood of experiencing property crime by gender.

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

### **Perceptions of the police**

The majority of adults (55%) 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 of Scotland 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 2019/20 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 37% in 2019/20. 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, around 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 they need it (77% and 75%, respectively). However, adults were less confident on other measures, for example, 35% were confident that it gives sentences which fit the crime, with 60% 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 2019/20 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 the 15% most deprived areas, those living in urban 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 does the survey tell us about illicit drug use, stalking and harassment, partner abuse, and sexual victimisation?**

This report also contains key findings on each of the self-completion topics, with the latest results covering 2018/19 and 2019/20 combined (described where relevant as 2018/20).

### **Illicit drug use**

During 2018/20, 13.5% of adults self-reported using one or more drugs during the 12 months prior to interview. This was an increase compared to 9.5% self-reporting the use of drugs in 2017/18. As the range of drug types asked about in the survey has changed since 2008/09, a measure of drug use over the longer term can only focus on types that are broadly comparable throughout the period. This narrower measure also shows an increase in self-reported drug use between 2008/09 and 2018/20.

The most commonly reported drug used in the 12 months prior to interview was cannabis.

### **Stalking and harassment**

In the 12 months prior to interview, almost one-in-eight adults (11.8%) experienced at least one type of stalking and harassment. The most common type of stalking and harassment reported in the SCJS was being sent unwanted messages by text, email, messenger or posts on social media sites.

### **Partner abuse**

In 2018/20, 16.5% of adults said they had experienced at least one incident of partner abuse since the age of 16. Experiences of partner abuse both since the age of 16 and in the 12 months prior to interview have decreased since 2008/09. However, three-in-ten respondents (31%) who experienced partner abuse within the 12 months prior to interview had experienced more than one incident. Experiences of partner abuse were more common for women than men.

### **Sexual victimisation**

The latest results show that whilst there has been no change since 2008/09 in the proportion of adults experiencing serious, or less serious, sexual assault since the age of 16, there have been some increases in the proportion of adults experiencing certain types of sexual victimisation. For example, since 2008/09 there has been an increase in the proportion of adults experiencing attempted forced sexual intercourse (from 1.5% to 2.0%), attempted other forced sexual activity (from 0.7% to 1.3%), and unwanted sexual touching (from 4.8% to 7.4%) since the age of 16. Most victims of forced sexual intercourse knew the offender in some way and just over a fifth (22%) of respondents said the police came to know about the most recent (or only) incident of forced sexual intercourse.

# Summary infographics

## Key findings from the 2019/20 SCJS on Overview of crime in Scotland

Total SCJS crime is estimated to have fallen by 46% since 2008/09, though showing no change since 2018/19.

Similarly, the proportion of adults experiencing crime has fallen from around one-in-five in 2008/09 to around one-in-eight in 2019/20.

The likelihood of experiencing crime in 2019/20 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 3.6% of adults who were multiple victims experienced over half of all crime.

**563,000**

SCJS crimes were experienced by adults in Scotland in 2019/20

**↓ 46%**

decrease in overall level of crime experienced in Scotland since 2008/09

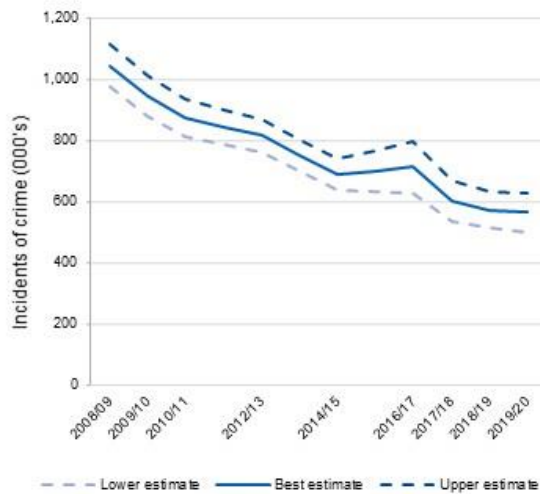
**11.9%**

of adults experienced crime in 2019/20

**↓ 8.5 percentage point**

decrease of adults experiencing crime in Scotland since 2008/09

### ► How much crime was there?



### ► What type of crime was experienced?

**66%**  
**PROPERTY CRIME**



Types of property crime are **vandalism** (38%), **other household theft** (27%), **personal theft** (22%), **motor vehicle theft** (8%) and **housebreaking** (6%).

**34%**  
**VIOLENT CRIME**



Of all violent crime, the majority was **minor assault with no / negligible injury** (73%).

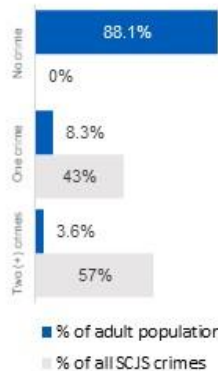
Other violent crime comprises **minor assault with injury** (10%), **attempted assault** (6%), **serious assault** (6%) and **robbery** (5%).

**40%** of crimes were reported to the police



Justice Analytical Services

### ► A small number of victims experienced a high proportion of all crime.



**No Crime:** Most adults did not experience any crime in 2019/20.

**One Crime:** 8.3% of adults experienced one crime, corresponding to over two-fifths of all crime in 2019/20.

**Two (+) Crimes:** 3.6% of adults experienced two or more crimes. These victims experienced over half of all crime in 2019/20. However this rate of multiple victimisation has more than halved from 8.2% in 2008/09.

### ► 11.9% 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 15 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 was found between men and women in the likelihood of experiencing crime



## Key findings from the 2019/20 SCJS on Focus on violent crime

The total number of violent crimes is estimated to have fallen by nearly two-fifths 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 (73%). Other violent crime comprises minor assault with injury (10%), attempted assault (6%), serious assault (6%) and robbery (5%).

Experiences varied across the population with 1.0% of adults experiencing nearly two-thirds of violent crime.

### 194,000

violent crimes were experienced by adults in Scotland in 2019/20

### ↓ 39%

decrease in violent crimes in Scotland since 2008/09. No statistically significant change since 2018/19

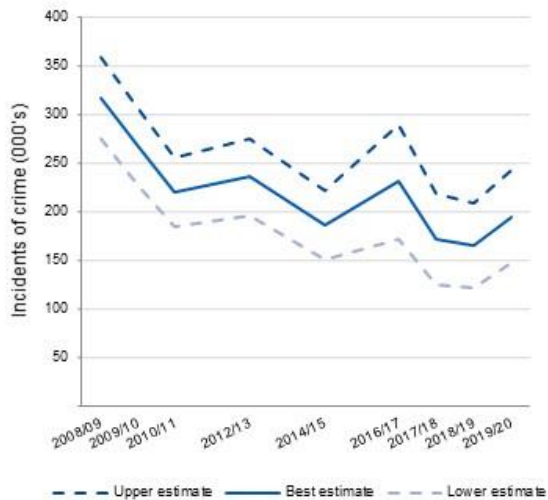
### 2.5%

of adults experienced violent crime in 2019/20

### ↓ 1.6 percentage point

decrease in adults experiencing violent crime in Scotland since 2008/09

### ► How much violent crime was there?



### Violent crime in 2019/20



Over three-fifths of violent crimes took place in public settings (63%)



Almost three-in-four violent crimes were committed by male offenders only (73%)



Offenders were believed to be under the influence of alcohol in over two-fifths of violent crimes (44%)



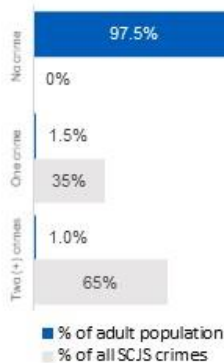
Violent crime in 2019/20 did not commonly involve the presence or use of weapons (19%)

### 48%

of violent crimes were reported to the police



### ► A small number of victims experienced a high proportion of violent crime.



**No Crime:** Most adults did not experience any violent crime in 2019/20.

**One Crime:** 1.5% of the population experienced one violent crime, corresponding to over a third of all violent crime in 2019/20.

**Two (+) Crimes:** 1.0% of adults experienced two or more violent crimes. These victims experienced almost two-thirds of all violent crime in 2019/20. However this rate of repeat victimisation has fallen from 1.6% in 2008/09.

### ► 2.5% of adults experienced violent crime. This rate varied across the population.

#### 60+

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



Men were more likely than women to experience violent crime



People living in the 15% most deprived areas were more likely than those living elsewhere in Scotland to experience violent crime



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



## Key findings from the 2019/20 SCJS on Focus on property crime

The total number of property crimes is estimated to have almost halved since 2008/09, but is unchanged since 2018/19.

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

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

A small number of victims experienced a high proportion of property crime. The 2.4% of adults who were repeat victims experienced 45% of all property crime.

### 369,000

property crimes were experienced by adults in Scotland in 2019/20

### ↓ 49%

decrease in property crime experienced in Scotland since 2008/09

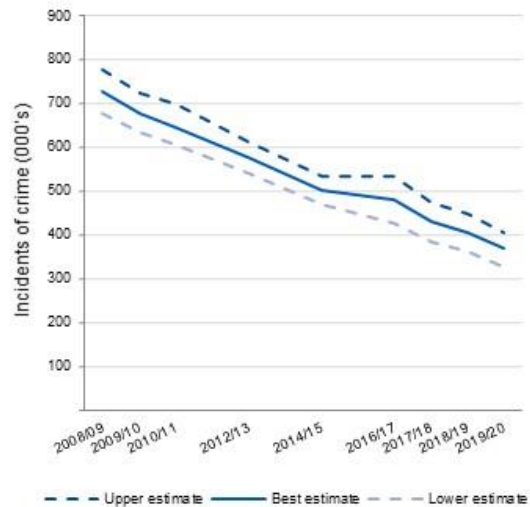
### 10.0%

of adults experienced property crime in 2019/20

### ↓ 8.0

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

### ► How much property crime was there?



### Property crime in 2019/20



### 38%

Vandalism



### 27%

Other Household theft (including bicycle)



### 22%

Personal theft



### 8%

All motor vehicle related theft



### 6%

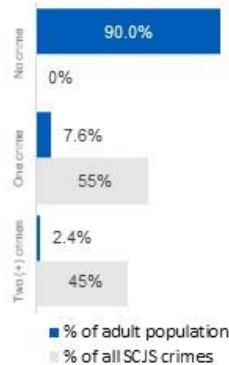
Housebreaking

### 36%

of crimes were reported to the police



### ► A small number of victims experienced a high proportion of property crime.



**No Crime:** Most adults did not experience any property crime in 2019/20.

**One Crime:** 7.6% of adults experienced one property crime, corresponding to over half of all property crime in 2019/20.

**Two (+) Crimes:** 2.4% of adults experienced two or more property crimes. These victims experienced 45% of all property crime in 2019/20. However this rate of repeat victimisation has more than halved from 6.4% in 2008/09.

### ► 10.0% of adults experienced property crime. This rate varied across the population.

60+

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



People living in the 15% 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



No difference was found between men and women in the likelihood of experiencing property crime



## Key findings from the 2019/20 SCJS on Public perceptions of the police

Most adults in Scotland (55%) believed the police in their local area were doing an 'excellent' or 'good' job in 2019/20 (unchanged from 2018/19 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 most of these aspects has increased since 2008/09.



#### ► Proportion of adults who agree that:

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

89%

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

65%

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

63%

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%

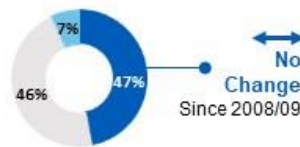
Community relations with the police in this local area are poor

23%

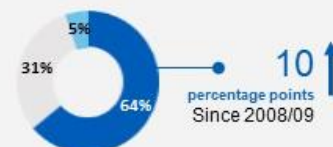
Police in this area are not dealing with the things that matter to people in this community

22%

#### Prevent crime



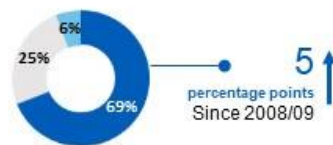
#### Respond quickly



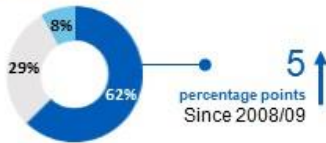
#### Deal with incidents



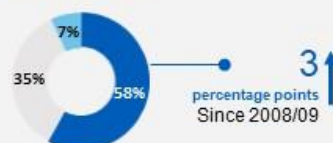
#### Investigate incidents



#### Solve crimes



#### Catch criminals



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

- 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



#### Area deprivation





## Key findings from the 2019/20 SCJS on Public perceptions of crime

### Perceptions of local and national crime rate

#### LOCAL CRIME

**73%**

thought that the local crime rate had **stayed the same or reduced**

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

↔ **No change**  
since 2018/19



**23%**

thought that the local crime rate had **increased**  
(unchanged since 2018/19)

#### NATIONAL CRIME

**45%**

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

↑ **5 percentage points**  
since 2009/10

↔ **No change**  
since 2018/19



**45%**

thought that the national crime rate had **increased**  
(unchanged since 2018/19)

#### ► Fear of crime

**77%**

of adults felt safe walking alone after dark



↑ **11 percentage points**  
since 2008/09

↔ **No change**  
since 2018/19

**65%**

of victims of crime felt safe walking alone after dark

**63%**

of people living in the **15% most deprived areas** felt safe walking alone after dark

**65%**



women were less likely than men to feel safe walking alone after dark

**90%**



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

**50%**



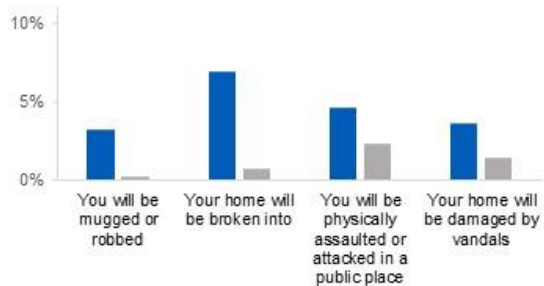
of adults were worried that someone would use their credit card or bank details

**39%**



of adults were worried that their identity would be stolen

#### ► Across a range of crimes, a much larger proportion of people thought they were likely to experience crime (over the next year) than the proportion of adults or households who were actually victims in 2019/20.



■ Proportion who thought they were likely to experience crime in the next year  
■ Victimisation rate in 2019/20 SCJS





## Key findings from the 2018/20 SCJS on Illicit drug use

### ► In the 12 months prior to interview

**13.5%** of adults had taken drugs

**4.0** percentage point increase since 2017/18

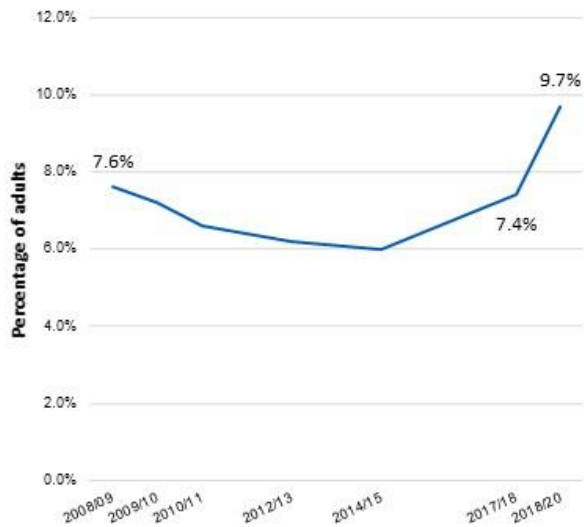
### ► Trends over time

In order to have a more comparable measure since 2008/09, the 2018/20 figure below excludes poppers, glues, solvents, gas or aerosol and prescription only painkillers not prescribed to the respondent.

**9.7%** of adults had taken drugs when looking at comparable measures

**2.3** percentage point increase since 2017/18 (the most recent comparable year)

**2.1** percentage point increase since 2008/09



### ► Cannabis was the most commonly taken drug in the 12 months prior to interview.

|  |  |
|--|--|
| 7.9%<br>cannabis   |  |
| 5.1%<br>prescription only painkillers that were not prescribed to them |  |
| 3.0%<br>cocaine  |  |
| 1.6%<br>ecstasy  |  |
| 1.2%<br>poppers  |  |

### ► Class B drugs were the most commonly taken amongst those who had taken any drug in the 12 months prior to interview.

| A   | B   | C   |
|-----|-----|-----|
| 30% | 61% | 11% |

### ► The proportion of adults taking drugs varied across the population.



**Men** were more likely than women to have taken drugs

**16-24**

People aged 16-24 were more likely than other age groups to have taken drugs



People living in the 15% most deprived areas were more likely to have taken drugs than those living in the rest of Scotland

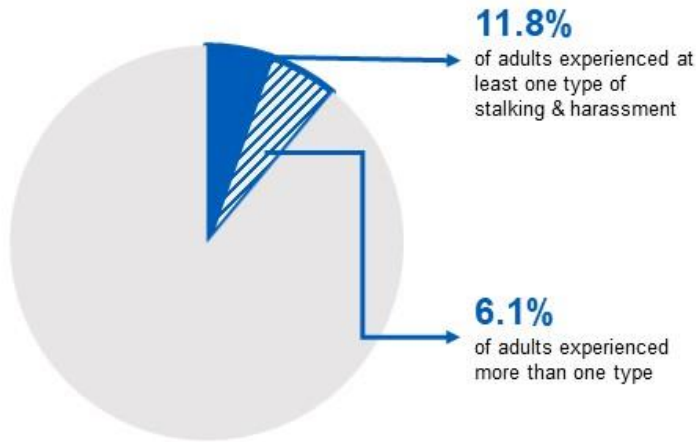


People living in urban areas were more likely than those living in rural areas to have taken drugs



## Key findings from the 2018/20 SCJS on Stalking & harassment

### ► In the 12 months prior to interview



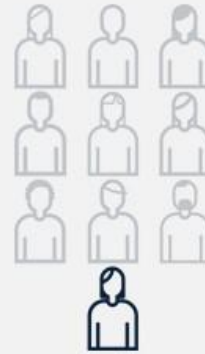
### ► Of those who experienced stalking & harassment in the 12 months prior to interview



The most common type of stalking & harassment was having received unwanted messages by text, email, messenger, or posts on social media sites



### ► In the most recent incident



Just under **1 in 10** victims informed the police about the most recent incident



**44%** of victims said they knew the offender in some way



**42%** of victims said the offender was someone they had never met



Experiences of stalking & harassment were highest amongst **people aged 16 to 24**, especially women of this age.

**26% women | 16% men**



## Key findings from the 2018/20 SCJS on Partner abuse

### ► Since the age of 16

# 16.5%

of adults experienced at least one incident of partner abuse since the age of 16  
(unchanged since 2016/18 and down since 2008/09)

More women experienced partner abuse than men

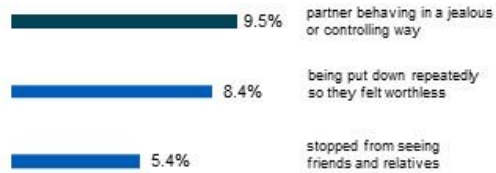


62% of respondents who reported experiencing partner abuse reported having had one abusive partner only

11% reported having had two abusive partners

12% reported having had three or more

The most commonly reported type of psychological abuse was a partner behaving in a jealous or controlling way



The most commonly reported types of physical abuse were being kicked, beaten, or hit, being pushed or held down, and having something thrown at them with the intention of causing harm



### ► In the 12 months prior to interview

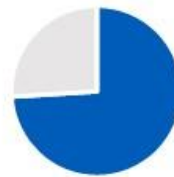
# 3.2%

of adults experienced at least one incident of partner abuse in the 12 months prior to interview  
(unchanged since 2016/18 and down since 2008/09)

More women experienced partner abuse than men in the 12 months prior to interview



Of those experiencing at least one incident of partner abuse:



74% experienced at least one psychological effect



34% experienced at least one physical effect

### ► Latest (or only) incident in the 12 months prior to interview





## Key findings from the 2018/20 SCJS on Sexual victimisation

### Serious sexual assault

► Since the age of 16



**3.6%**

of adults experienced at least one type of serious sexual assault

**1.6%**

of adults experienced more than one type

Serious sexual assault includes:

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| forced sexual intercourse    | attempted forced sexual intercourse    |
| forced other sexual activity | attempted forced other sexual activity |

**More women have experienced serious sexual assault than men**



6.1% women



0.8% men

**Over 1/2**

experienced the first (or only) incident when aged between 16 and 20 years



► **Forced sexual intercourse**

Of those who had experienced forced sexual intercourse since the age of 16

**62%**

experienced more than one incident



**28%**

too many incidents to count



**51%**

said the offender was their partner



**22%**

said the police were informed about the most recent (or only) incident



### Less serious sexual assault

► Since the age of 16

**10.1%**

of adults experienced at least one type of less serious sexual assault

**3.1%**

of adults experienced more than one type

**More women than men experienced each of the three types of less serious sexual assault**

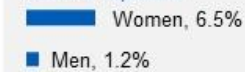
*Unwanted sexual touching*



*Sexual threats*



*Indecent exposure*



**The offender varied by type of less serious assault**

*Unwanted sexual touching*

**40%**

of victims said the offender was a stranger

*Sexual threats*

**42%**

of victims said the offender was their partner

*Indecent exposure*

**73%**

of victims said the offender was a stranger

# 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 ninth SCJS, with interviews conducted between April 2019 and March 2020. The 2019/20 survey is based on around 5,600 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 people in Scotland 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)<sup>1</sup> 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 E](#) also provides guidance on how to interpret the figures 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.

---

<sup>1</sup> 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.

|   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| <p>► Who takes part in the survey?</p>        | <br>around <b>5,600</b> adults (aged 16 & over) | <br>In private households (incl rented accommodation)                                | <br>Across Scotland                    |
| <p>► Who does not take part in the survey</p> | <br>Children                                    | <br>Those living in group, residences, institutions or those without a fixed address | <br>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. For more information on the questionnaire content and structure please refer to the [Technical Report](#).

## 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



► Public perceptions of:



Crime



The Police



The Justice system



### What is not covered by the survey

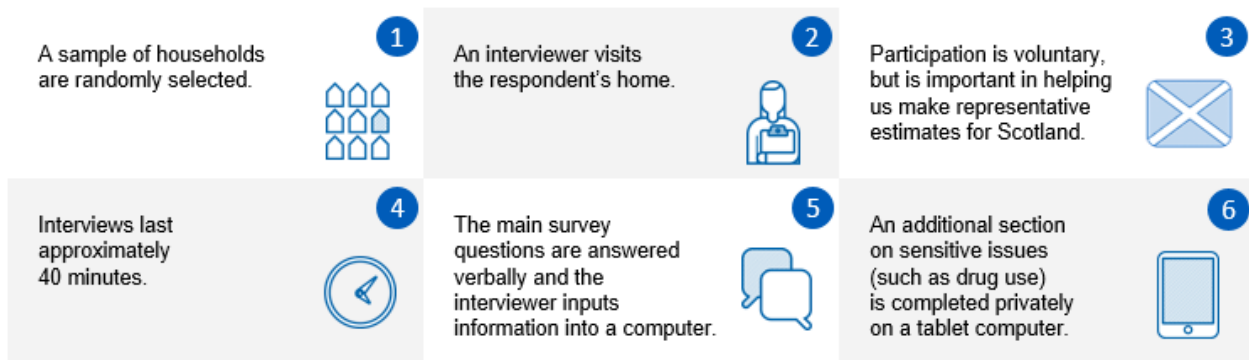
- Crime without a specific victim (e.g. drug possession, speeding)
- Crimes against business (e.g. shoplifting)
- Crime without a victim to interview (e.g. homicide)

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

Throughout the report, the term 'SCJS crime' (or just '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?



The design of the 2019/20 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 2018/19.

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 2019/20 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 2019 and March 2020, with roughly an equal number of interviews conducted across most months<sup>2</sup>.
- **Interviews:** 5,568 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%<sup>3</sup>, against a target of 68%. This was similar to the achieved response rate in 2017/18 (62.4%) and 2018/19 (63.4%), 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 23 months (from the start of April 2018 to the end of February 2020) 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

---

<sup>2</sup> Interviews were suspended on the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020 to help prevent the spread of coronavirus. For more information, please see the [Technical Report](#).

<sup>3</sup> Please refer to the [Technical Report](#) for more information on survey response rate and how this has been impacted by the face-to-face interviewing suspension due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



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)<sup>4</sup>.

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%<sup>5</sup>. 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 divided into chapters 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 figures within the body of each chapter. Further information on how to interpret figures, tables and data presented in this report is provided in [Annex E](#). Many of these tables and figures include breakdowns by respondent characteristics such as gender, age, victim status (where available), area deprivation<sup>6</sup> and rurality. 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 online [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.

---

<sup>4</sup> [GSS \(2018\) Communicating quality, uncertainty and change: Guidance for producers of official statistics](#)

<sup>5</sup> 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](#).

<sup>6</sup> Uses the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD).

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. This report also therefore contains [key findings on each of the self-completion topics](#) from SCJS interviews conducted in 2018/19 and 2019/20 (described where relevant as 2018/20). Supporting online [data tables](#) have also been published to provide additional findings from these questionnaire sections.

SCJS results provided to Police Division level are available biennially (as they have been since 2012/13), with two survey years combined to increase the sample size and precision around results with effect from 2016/17. Therefore, key results at Police Division level from SCJS interviews conducted in 2018/19 and 2019/20 have also been released alongside this report<sup>7</sup>. 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 show divisional results relative to the national average for a chosen year or over time<sup>8</sup>.

---

<sup>7</sup> As the Police Division level results for 2018/19-2019/20 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.

<sup>8</sup> Key 2018/19-2019/20 results have also been published in data tables for users who prefer to access findings in this way.

## 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 in 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.

## 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<sup>9</sup> (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 2019/20?

**There were an estimated 563,000 crimes experienced by adults in Scotland in 2019/20.**

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 563,000 crimes experienced by adults in Scotland in 2019/20.

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 501,000 and 625,000 incidents of crime in Scotland in 2019/20. The analysis which follows below is focused on the best estimates across each survey year<sup>10</sup>.

---

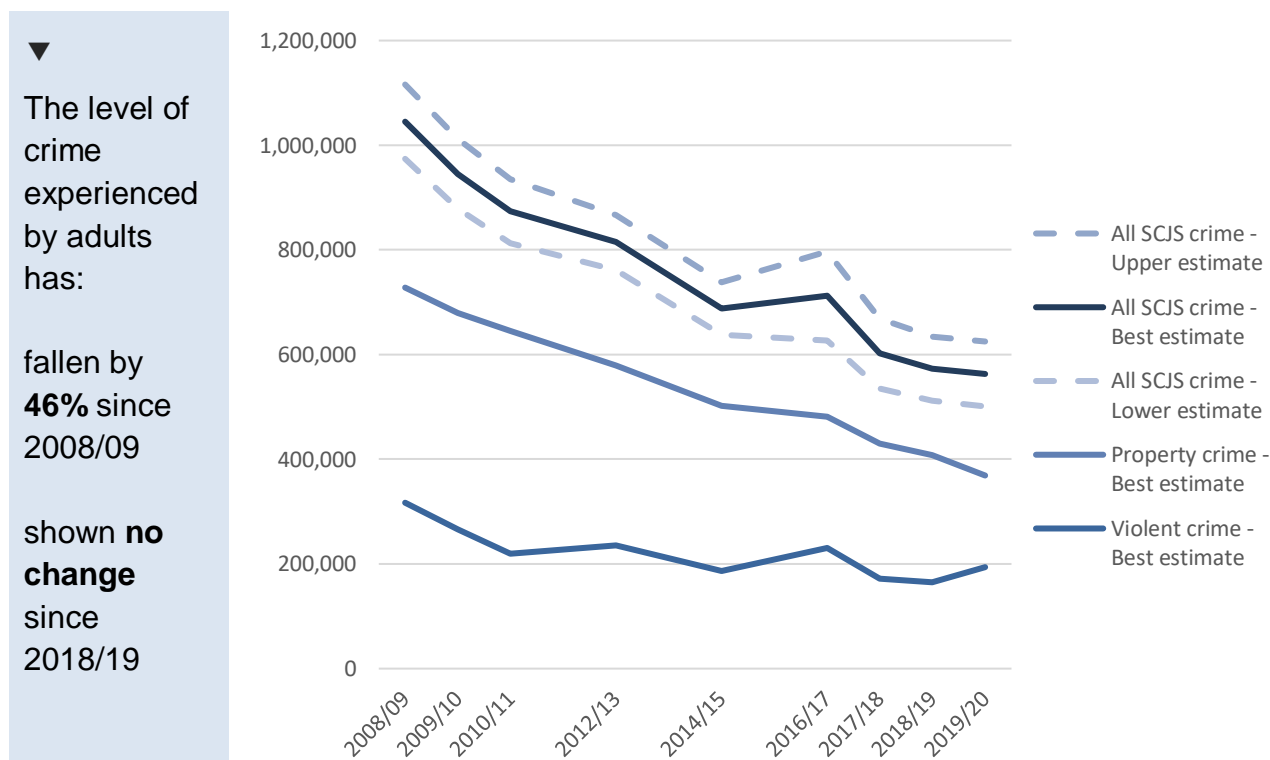
<sup>9</sup> Throughout this report the types of violent and property crime are listed in accordance with the priority ladder in the SCJS [Offence Coding Manual](#).

<sup>10</sup> Please see the [Introduction](#) for definitions of best, upper and lower estimates.

**The overall level of crime experienced in Scotland has fallen by 46% since 2008/09.**

The SCJS estimates that the level of crime experienced in Scotland has fallen by 46% 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<sup>11</sup>. 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 2019/20**



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); 2019/20 (5,570). Variable: INCSURVEYCRIME.

Table 2.1 looks at results from key comparator years<sup>12</sup> more closely and shows that the estimated number of incidents of overall crime experienced by adults:

- decreased by 46% between 2008/09 and 2019/20, from 1,045,000 to 563,000 – an estimated decrease of around 482,000 incidents
- has shown no change since the last SCJS in 2018/19 – the apparent decrease from 573,000 incidents is not statistically significant

<sup>11</sup> 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](#).

<sup>12</sup> [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, 2018/19, 2019/20)**

| Number of SCJS crimes        | 2008/09          | 2018/19        | 2019/20        | Change since 2008/09 | Change since 2018/19 |
|------------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Best estimate</b>         | <b>1,045,000</b> | <b>573,000</b> | <b>563,000</b> | ↓ by 46%             | No change            |
| Lower estimate               | 974,000          | 512,000        | 501,000        |                      |                      |
| Upper estimate               | 1,116,000        | 634,000        | 625,000        |                      |                      |
| <i>Number of respondents</i> | <i>16,000</i>    | <i>5,540</i>   | <i>5,570</i>   |                      |                      |

Base: SCJS 2008/09 (16,000); 2018/19 (5,540), 2019/20 (5,570). Variable: INCSURVEYCRIME.

While no change was found in overall crime since 2018/19, 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 21% since 2016/17, falling from 712,000 incidents to 563,000 in 2019/20. The estimated number of incidents of SCJS crime was lower in 2019/20 than all years between 2008/09 and 2016/17 however has shown no change compared to the years since (2017/18 and 2018/19), suggesting that in more recent survey years the decreasing trend in overall crime may have started to level off.

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

Consistent with previous years, the SCJS results show that most adults were not victims of any crime in 2019/20, with 11.9% 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 10.9% and 13.0% of the adult population were estimated to have experienced at least one SCJS crime in 2019/20, with 11.9% representing the best estimate<sup>13</sup>. Again, as with incident counts, analysis from this point onwards will focus on the best estimates for results across the survey for each year<sup>14</sup>.

The proportion of adults experiencing crime has fallen from 20.4% in 2008/09 to 11.9% in 2019/20. In other words, around one-in-eight adults were victims of crime in 2019/20 compared to one-in-five in 2008/09.

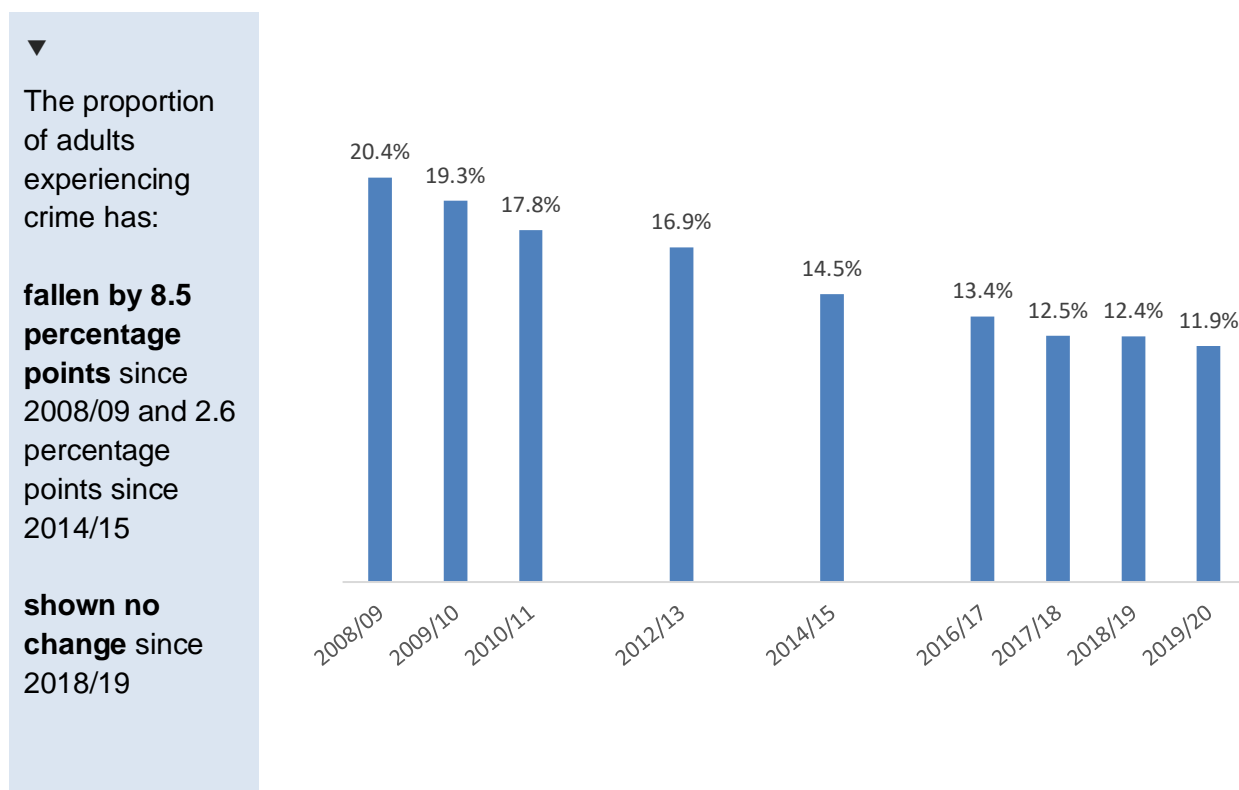
<sup>13</sup> Please see the [Introduction](#) for definitions of best, upper and lower estimates.

<sup>14</sup> Confidence intervals around other survey results can be derived using the [data tables](#) and the [statistical testing tool](#) available on the SCJS website.

Since the last SCJS, the proportion of adults experiencing crime has shown no change – the apparent decrease from 12.4% in 2018/19 shown in Figure 2.2 is not statistically significant.

Looking slightly further back, the proportion of adults experiencing crime has fallen from 14.5% in 2014/15 to 11.9% in 2019/20 and is now lower than in all years between 2008/09 and 2014/15.

**Figure 2.2: Proportion of adults experiencing any SCJS crime, 2008/09 to 2019/20**



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); 2019/20 (5,570). Variable: PREVSURVEYCRIME.

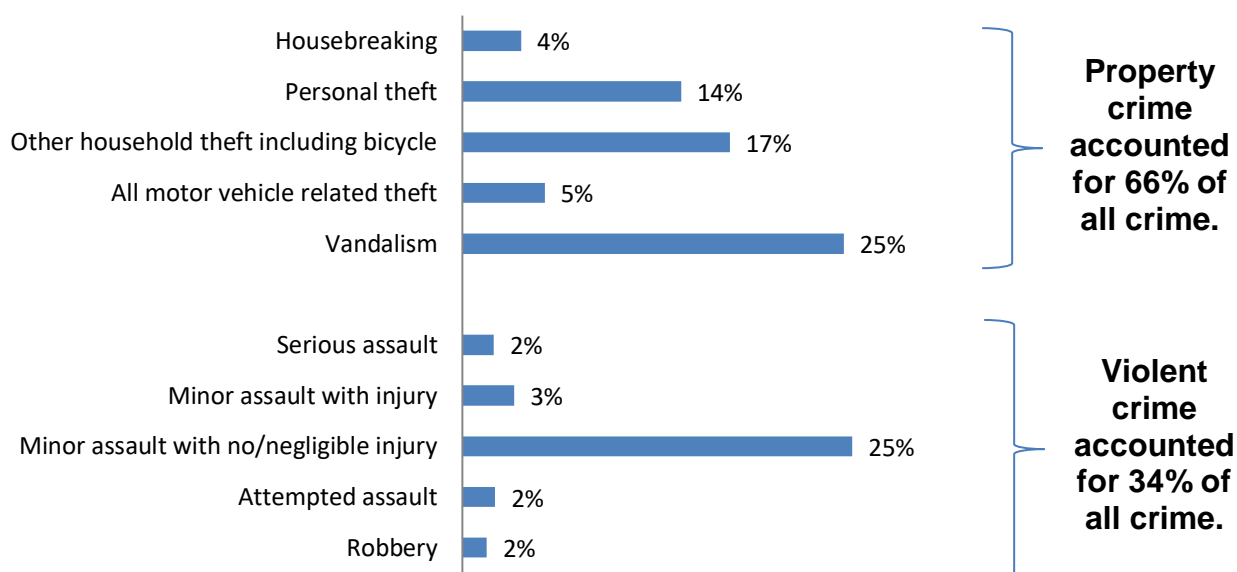
## What type of crime was experienced in Scotland in 2019/20?

### As in previous years, most crime in 2019/20 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 66% of all crime measured by the survey in 2019/20 was property-related, with the remaining 34% being violent incidents. This compares to 71% and 29%, respectively, in 2018/19. These proportions have varied slightly over the survey years, with the proportions in 2019/20 being similar to those in 2016/17 (68% and 32%, respectively). The majority of violent incidents are from ‘lower-harm’ categories.

Figure 2.3 below shows the proportion of all crime accounted for by key sub-categories of property and violent crime. Vandalism accounted for one-quarter (25%) of all crime measured by the 2019/20 SCJS, with minor assault with no or negligible injury also representing one-quarter (25%). 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**



Base: 2019/20 (5,570). 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 10.0% of adults were victims of property crime in 2019/20, whilst 2.5% 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 2019/20, 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 2019/20 vary across the population?**

**The likelihood of experiencing crime in 2019/20 was higher for those living in deprived areas and people in urban locations. Those aged 60 and over were least likely to be victims.**

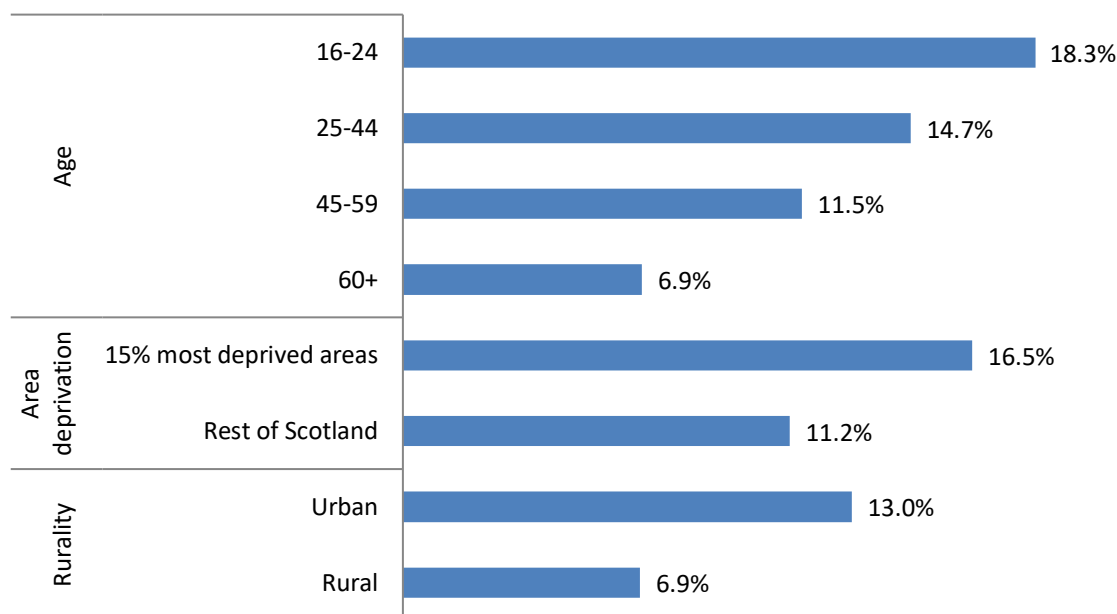
The proportion of adults who were victims of any SCJS crime in 2019/20 varied according to demographic and geographic characteristics. For instance, as shown in Figure 2.4, the likelihood of experiencing crime in 2019/20:

- 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 2019/20, at 11.6% and 12.3% respectively.



**Figure 2.4: Proportion of adults experiencing any crime measured by the SCJS, by demographic and area characteristics**



Base: 2019/20 (5,570). Variables: 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<sup>15</sup>.

For example, the proportion of those in the 15% most deprived areas experiencing crime has fallen from 26.0% in 2008/09 to 16.5% in 2019/20. Over the same period, the prevalence rate for those living elsewhere in Scotland dropped from 19.4% to 11.2%.

In line with the national average, the SCJS detected no change compared to 2018/19 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](#).

<sup>15</sup> Please see [Annex table A1.6](#) for relevant results and the SCJS supporting [data tables](#) for additional breakdowns.

### **What is multiple and repeat victimisation?**

Multiple victimisation examines the proportion of the population which experienced two or more property crimes or two or more violent crimes (known as repeat victimisation), or have been victims of both crime types (i.e. two or more incidents of any crime).

Repeat victimisation is a sub-set of multiple victimisation, the proportion of adults who have been the victim of the same type of crime more than once (e.g. repeat property crimes). Findings on the extent of repeat victimisation for violent and property crime are presented separately in the relevant [‘Focus on violent crime’](#) and [‘Focus on property crime’](#) chapters of this report.

### **3.6% of adults experienced multiple victimisation in 2019/20, accounting for over half of all SCJS crime.**

As discussed [above](#), the majority of adults (88.1%) did not experience any crime measured by the SCJS in 2019/20, and conversely 11.9% were victims of at least one property or violent crime.

Examining the volume of crime experienced by individual victims more closely reveals that under one-in-ten adults (8.3%) were victims of a single incident of SCJS crime in 2019/20, accounting for 43% of all crime.

It is therefore estimated that multiple victimisation affected 3.6% of the adult population in 2019/20, and that this group experienced over half (57%) of all SCJS crime during the survey 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**

|  | Number of crimes    | % of population | % of SCJS crime |
|--|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <p>▼</p> <p>0.4% of adults experienced five or more crimes during 2019/20.</p> <p>Taken together, their experiences accounted for 12% of all SCJS crime over the year.</p> | <b>None</b>         | <b>88.1%</b>    | <b>0%</b>       |
|  | <b>One</b>          | 8.3%            | 43%             |
|  | <b>Two</b>          | 2.3%            | 27%             |
|  | <b>Three</b>        | 0.7%            | 12%             |
|  | <b>Four</b>         | 0.2%            | 5%              |
|  | <b>Five or more</b> | 0.4%            | 12%             |
|  | <b>Two or more</b>  | <b>3.6%</b>     | <b>57%</b>      |

Base: SCJS 2019/20 (5,570). Variables: 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 2019/20 there were decreases in the proportion of adults experiencing:

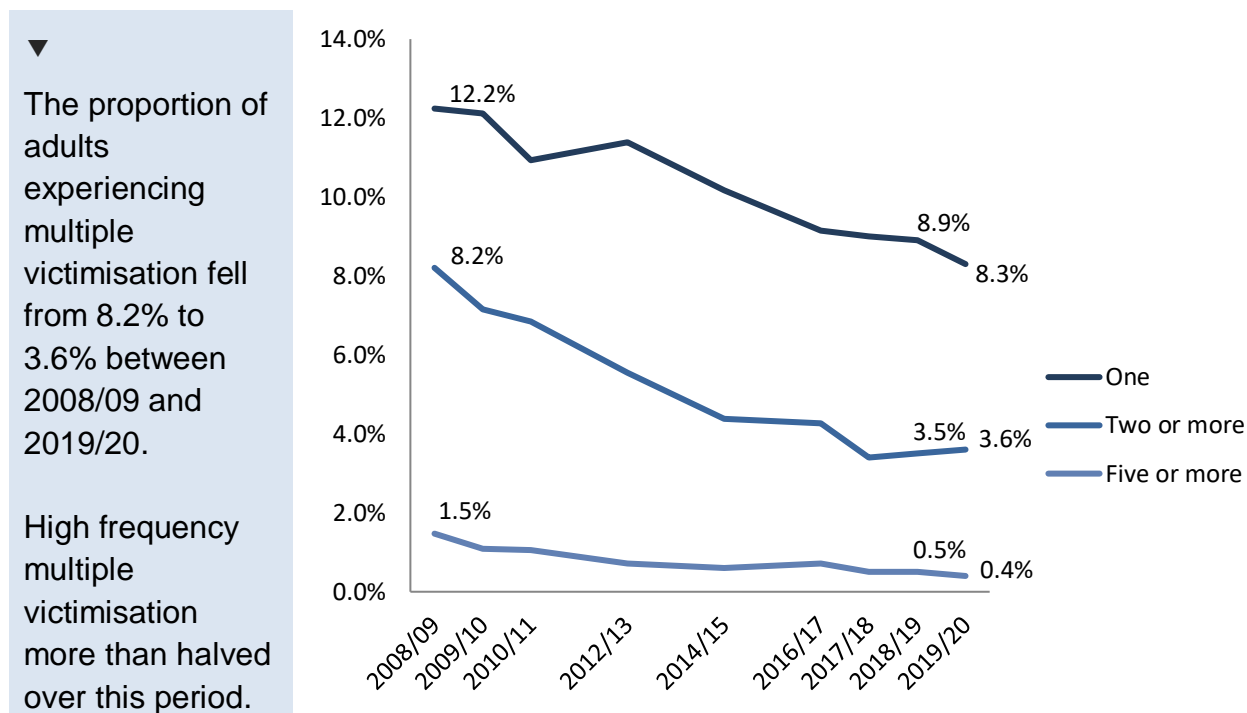
- single incidents of SCJS crime – from 12.2% to 8.3%
- multiple victimisation (two or more incidents of SCJS crime) – from 8.2% to 3.6%
- high frequency multiple victimisation (five or more incidents of SCJS crime) – from 1.5% to 0.4%

The fall in the various levels of victimisation since 2008/09 has occurred alongside a fall in the overall SCJS crime victimisation rate<sup>16</sup> over this period, as discussed [previously](#).

Since the last SCJS in 2018/19, 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.

<sup>16</sup> i.e. the proportion of adults experiencing at least one crime over the year.

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



▼  
 The proportion of adults experiencing multiple victimisation fell from 8.2% to 3.6% between 2008/09 and 2019/20.  
 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), 2019/20 (5,570). Variables: INCSURVEYCRIME, PREVSURVEYCRIME.

In summary these findings show that, compared to 2008/09, adults in 2019/20 were less likely to be victims of:

- at least one SCJS crime
- one SCJS crime specifically
- more than one SCJS crime

### What proportion of crime was reported to the police in 2019/20?

**It is estimated that the police became aware of 40% of crime in 2019/20, 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 40% of all SCJS (property and violent) crime in 2019/20 came to the attention of the police. This proportion has shown no change since 2008/09. It is estimated that 36% of property crimes were reported to the police in 2019/20, compared to 48% of violent incidents – showing a greater difference in reporting rates between property and violent incidents than seen in recent years. 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)<sup>17</sup>. 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 [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 2019/20 [Technical Report](#).

### **In 2019/20, adults in Scotland were less likely to have experienced crime than those in England and Wales.**

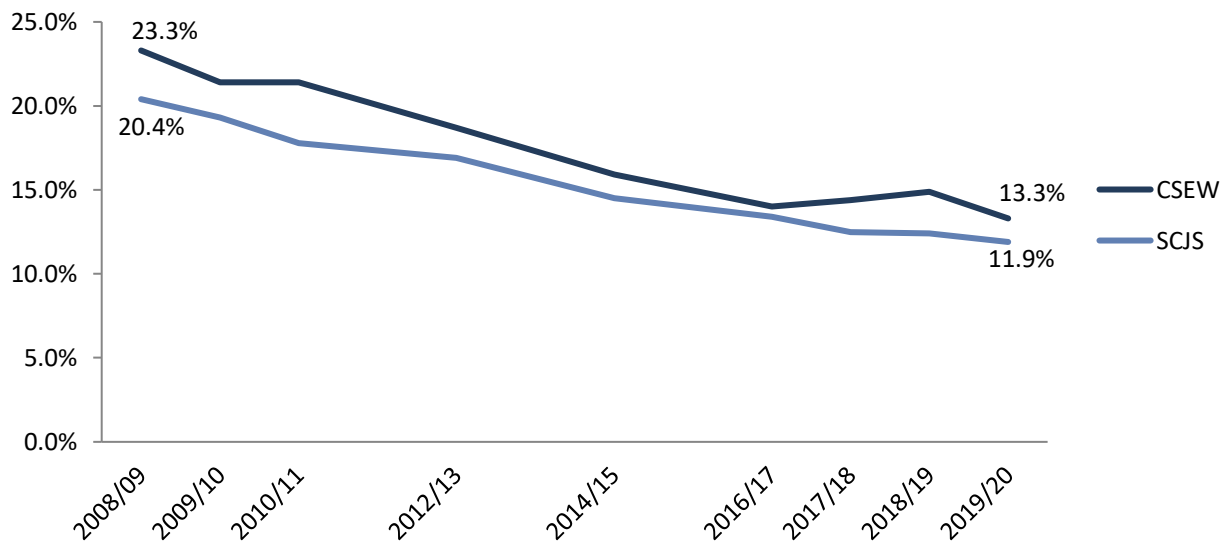
Looking at the overall crime victimisation rates, the proportion of adults estimated to have experienced crime in 2019/20 was lower in Scotland (11.9%) than in England and Wales (13.3%).

This continues the finding from 2018/19 and 2017/18, but 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.

---

<sup>17</sup> The British Crime Survey (BCS) was launched in 1982 and covered England, Wales and central and southern Scotland. The BCS ceased to include Scotland in its sample in the late 1980s, when a separate survey for Scotland was introduced. From 2012, the BCS has been known as the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) to better reflect its geographical coverage. For more information on the history of crime surveys in Great Britain refer to the [SCJS User Guide](#).

**Figure 2.6: Proportion of adults experiencing crime measured by SCJS and CSEW, 2008/09 to 2019/20**



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); 2019/20 (5,570). Variable: PREVSURVEYCRIME.

[CSEW prevalence](#) – Base: 2019/20 (33,740).

### 3. Focus on violent crime

#### What was the extent and prevalence of violent crime in Scotland in 2019/20?

**There were an estimated 194,000 violent crimes in 2019/20, representing around one-in-three crimes experienced by adults during the year.**

The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) estimates that 194,000 incidents<sup>18</sup> of violent crime<sup>19</sup> were experienced by adults in Scotland in 2019/20. This figure accounts for 34% of all crime measured by the SCJS in 2019/20; 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 147,000 and 242,000 incidents of violent crime in Scotland in 2019/20. The following analysis is focused on the best estimates for each year of the survey.

**The estimated level of violent crime in Scotland has fallen by nearly two-fifths since 2008/09.**

The SCJS estimates that the number of violent crimes in Scotland has fallen by 39% 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, and shows a downward trend over the longer-term<sup>20</sup>.

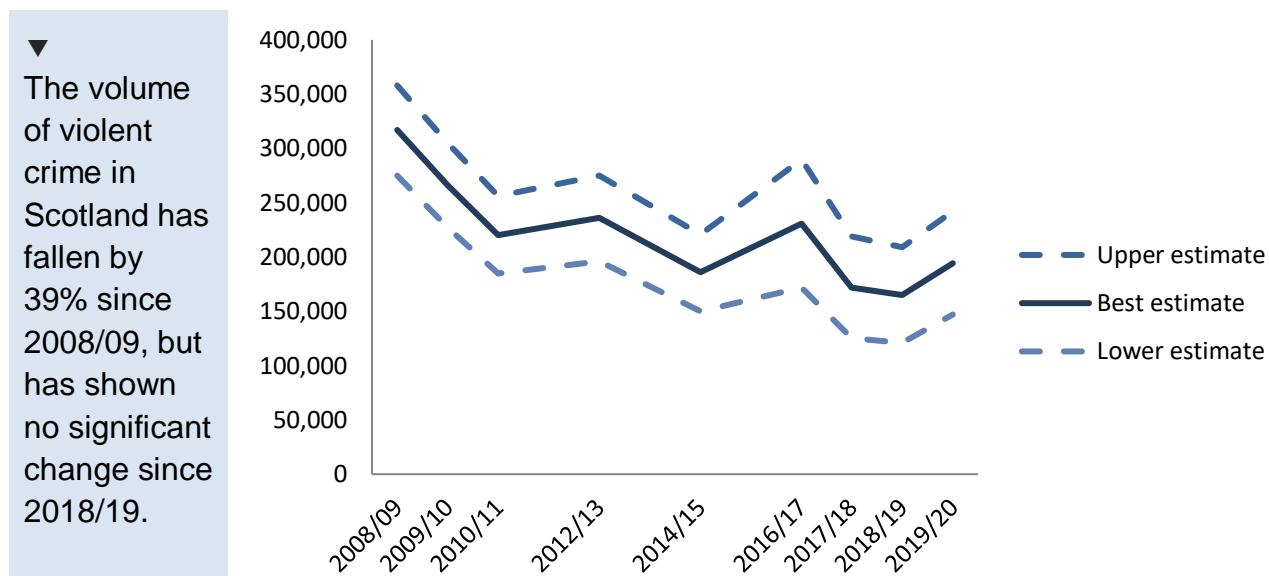
---

<sup>18</sup> Crime estimates are rounded to the nearest 1,000 crimes.

<sup>19</sup> Details on the specific crimes within the violence group are outlined in the [‘Overview of crime’ chapter](#).

<sup>20</sup> 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 2019/20**



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); 2019/20 (5,570). Variable: INCVIOLENT.

Table 3.1 examines results from key comparator years<sup>21</sup> and shows that the estimated amount of violent crime experienced by adults:

- has fallen by 39% since the 2008/09 baseline, from 317,000 to 194,000 incidents in 2019/20
- has shown no change since the last SCJS in 2018/19 – the apparent increase from 165,000 violent incidents is not statistically significant

**Table 3.1: Estimated number of violent crimes (2008/09, 2018/19, 2019/20)**

| Number of violent crimes     | 2008/09        | 2018/19        | 2019/20        | Change since 2008/09 | Change since 2018/19 |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Best estimate</b>         | <b>317,000</b> | <b>165,000</b> | <b>194,000</b> | ↓ by 39%             | No change            |
| Lower estimate               | 275,000        | 121,000        | 147,000        |                      |                      |
| Upper estimate               | 358,000        | 209,000        | 242,000        |                      |                      |
| <i>Number of respondents</i> | <i>16,000</i>  | <i>5,540</i>   | <i>5,570</i>   |                      |                      |

Variable: INCVIOLENT.

<sup>21</sup> [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<sup>22</sup>. 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 falls in violence from 2010/11 and 2012/13 to 2019/20 are not statistically significant

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 2019/20 and the likelihood of experiencing violent crime has decreased since 2008/09.**

Looking at the victimisation rate<sup>23</sup>, the SCJS estimates that 2.5% of adults were victims of at least one violent crime in 2019/20. In comparison, an estimated [10.0% 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 2.0% and 3.0% of the adult population were estimated to have experienced violent crime in 2019/20, with 2.5% representing the best estimate<sup>24</sup>. 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<sup>25</sup>.

Looking at trends over time, the proportion of adults experiencing violent crime has fallen from 4.1% in 2008/09 to 2.5% in 2019/20. 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.

---

<sup>22</sup> For instance, 119 respondents in 2019/20.

<sup>23</sup> 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.

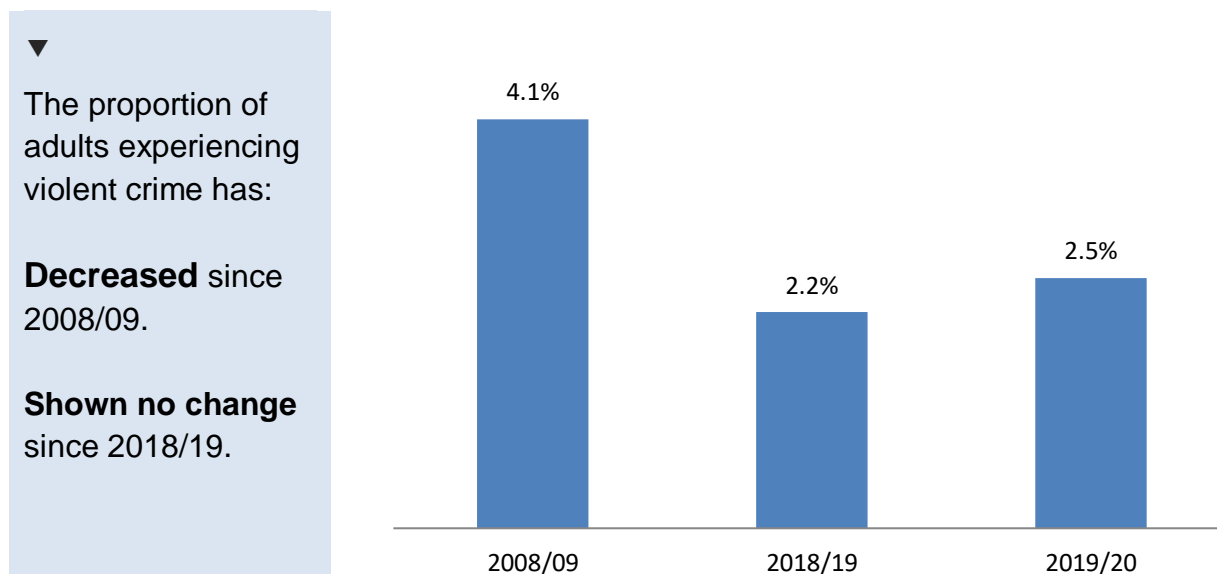
<sup>24</sup> Please see the [Introduction](#) for definitions of best, upper and lower estimates.

<sup>25</sup> Confidence Intervals around other survey results can be derived using the [data tables](#) and [user statistical testing tool](#) available on the SCJS website.

Since the last SCJS in 2018/19 there has been no change detected in the proportion of adults experiencing violent crime. The apparent increase from 2.2% in 2018/19 to 2.5% in 2019/20, 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 2019/20 (2.5%) was lower than the 3.6% in 2009/10 (and 2008/09), but has been more stable since then.

**Figure 3.2: Proportion of adults experiencing violent crime (2008/09, 2018/19, 2019/20)**



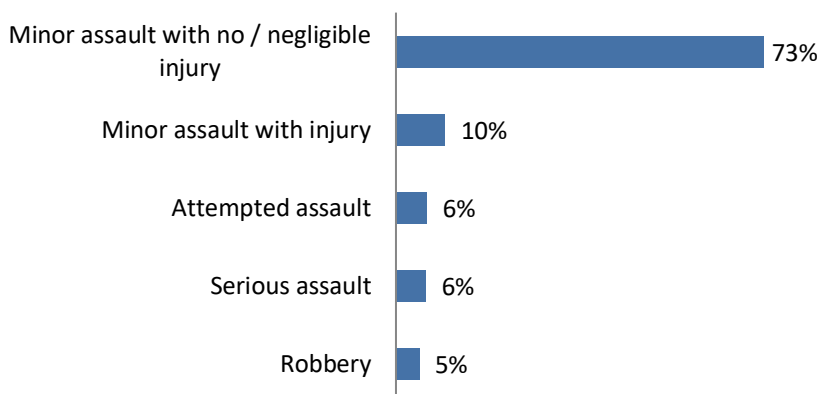
Base: SCJS 2008/09 (16,000); 2018/19 (5,540); 2019/20 (5,570). Variable: PREVVIOLENT.

### What types of violent crime were most commonly experienced in 2019/20?

**As in previous years, the majority of violent crimes in 2019/20 were incidents of minor assault resulting in no or negligible injury.**

Almost three-quarter (73%) of violent incidents in 2019/20 were cases of minor assault with no or negligible injury to the victim, as shown in Figure 3.3. By comparison, 6% of violent incidents in 2019/20 were serious assaults and 5% were robberies. Taken together, all categories of assault accounted for 95% of violent crime.

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



Base: 2019/20 (130). Variables: INCMINORASSNOINJURY; INCMINORASSINJURY; INCATTEMPTASSAULT; INCSEARASSAULT; INCROB.

Between 2008/09 and 2019/20, 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 38% since 2008/09 (from an estimated 297,000 incidents to 185,000), similar to overall violent crime which has fallen by 39% 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 important 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<sup>26</sup>.

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.

<sup>26</sup> For example, the relative standard error (RSE) around the 2019/20 serious assault estimate is 36%. 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.

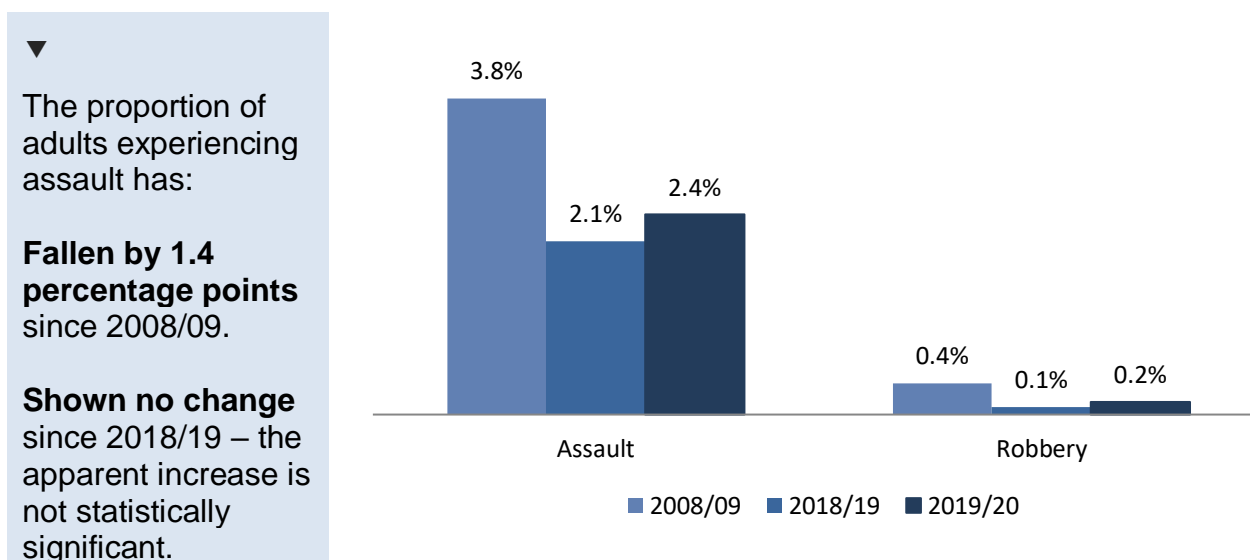
Two reports on violence prevention have recently been published – [What Works to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls: A Summary of the Evidence](#) and [What Works to Prevent Youth Violence: A Summary of the Evidence](#).

## **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 2.4% of adults were victims of any sort of assault in 2019/20, whilst 0.2% 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, 2018/19, 2019/20)**



▼  
The proportion of adults experiencing assault has:

**Fallen by 1.4 percentage points** since 2008/09.

**Shown no change** since 2018/19 – the apparent increase is not statistically significant.

Base: SCJS 2008/09 (16,000); 2018/19 (5,540); 2019/20 (5,570). Variables: PREVASSAULT; PREVROB.

Whilst a small proportion of adults were victims of any sort of assault in 2019/20, 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 (1.8%) than minor assault resulting in injury (0.3%) or serious assault (0.2%).

### How did experiences of violent crime vary across the population?

**Men were more likely to experience violent crime in 2019/20, as well as people in the most deprived areas of Scotland, and those living in urban locations. People aged 60 and over were least likely to be victims of violence in 2019/20.**

The SCJS enables us to examine how experiences of violent crime varied across the population by demographic and area characteristics. As shown in Figure 3.5, the likelihood of experiencing violence in 2019/20 was:

- greater for men than women
- lowest for those aged 60 and over
- greater for those living in the 15% most deprived areas in Scotland
- greater for adults living in urban locations than rural locations

This is the first time since the 2014/15 SCJS that there has been a difference in the likelihood of experiencing violent crime by gender, with males found to have a higher likelihood (3.1%) than females (2.0%).

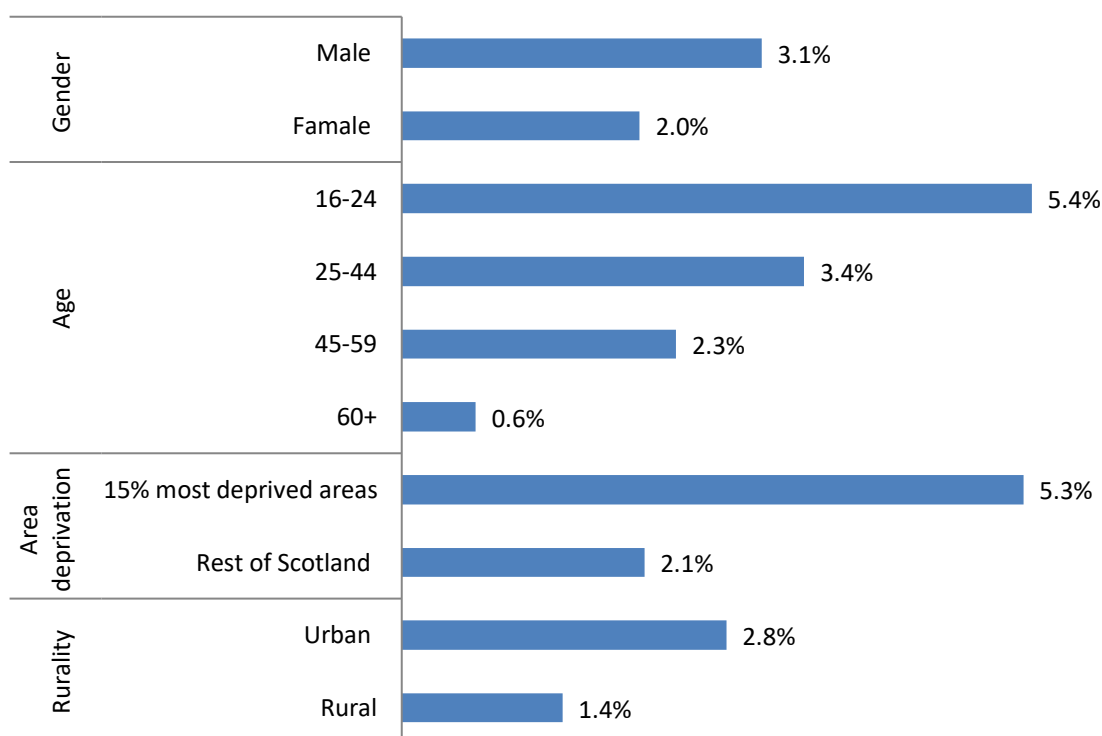
No significant difference was found in the likelihood of being a victim of violence between those aged 16 to 24 and 25 to 44. A significant difference between these groups had emerged in 2018/19, but the finding for 2019/20 is back in line with 2016/17 and 2017/18. Those aged 60 and over continued to be the age group least likely to be victims of violence however, with fewer than

1 in 100 experiencing violence in this age group, compared to around 1 in 20 of those aged 16 to 24.

The 2019/20 SCJS detected a difference in the likelihood of experiencing violence between adults living in the 15% most deprived areas (5.3%) and the rest of Scotland (2.1%). This contrasts with the 2018/19 finding, where no significance difference was found between these two groups, but is back in line with previous years' results.

The 2019/20 SCJS also found a difference in the likelihood of experiencing violence by rurality, with adults in urban areas more likely to experience violent crime (2.8%) than those in rural areas (1.4%). This contrasts with the 2018/19 and 2017/18 findings, where no significance difference was found between these two groups, but is consistent with the findings in previous years<sup>27</sup>.

**Figure 3.5: Proportion of adults experiencing violent crime, by demographic and area characteristics**



Base: 2019/20 SCJS (5,570). Variables: INCSURVEYCRIME; QDGEN; QDAGE; SIMD\_TOP; URBRUR.

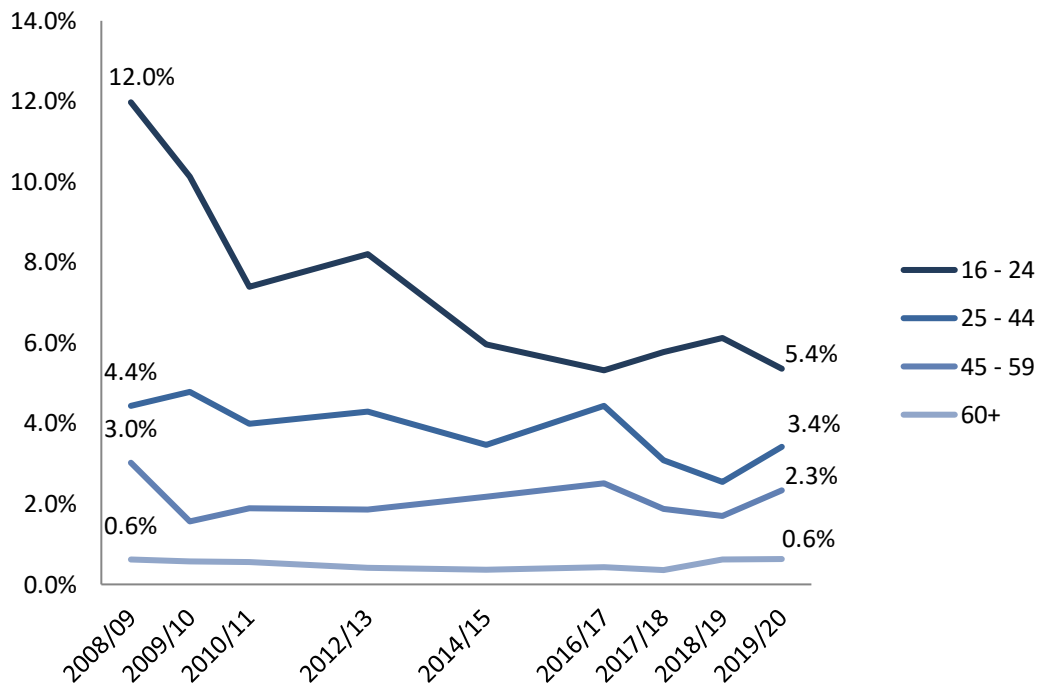
**Since 2008/09, the proportion of younger adults experiencing violent crime has more than halved, but has shown no change for females, those living in most deprived areas in Scotland and those in rural locations.**

Looking at trends over time, the proportion of those aged 16 to 24 who were victims of violence has more than halved since 2008/09, from 12.0% to 5.4% in 2019/20. In contrast, the prevalence

<sup>27</sup> Additional breakdowns are provided in [Annex table A1.7](#) and the SCJS supporting [data tables](#). For example, age within gender, disability status, and tenure.

rates for 25 to 44, 45 to 59 year olds and for those aged 60 and over have shown no change over this time (Figure 3.6).

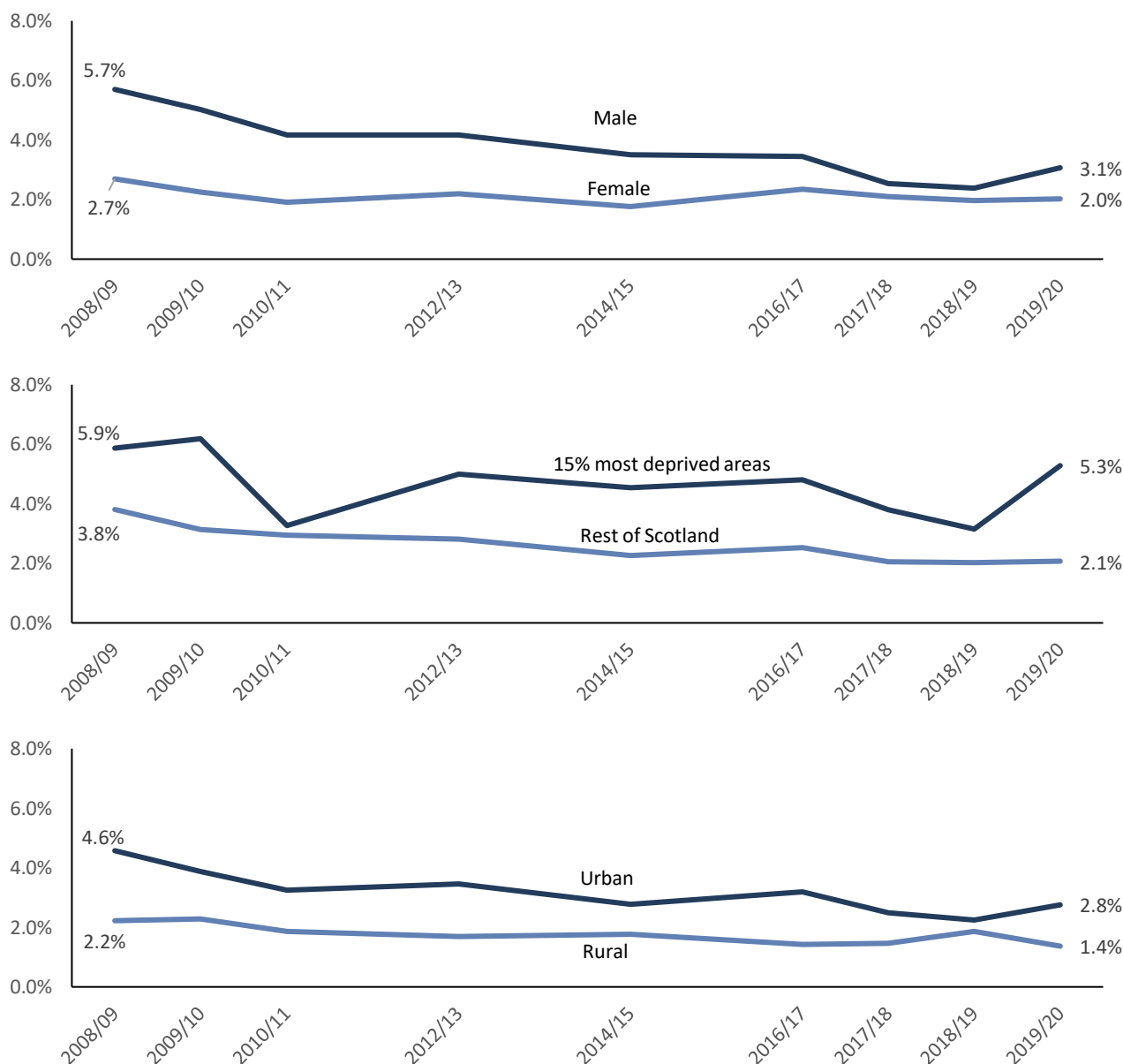
**Figure 3.6: Proportion of adults experiencing violent crime by age, 2008/09 to 2019/20**



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); 2019/20 (5,570). Variables: PREVVIOLENT; QDAGE.

Since 2008/09, the proportion experiencing violence has shown no change for females, adults living in the 15% most deprived areas and those in rural locations, but has fallen for males, adults living in the rest of Scotland and those in urban locations, as shown in Figure 3.7 below. The figure also shows statistically significant differences between these comparator groups in 2019/20, discussed [previously](#).

**Figure 3.7: Proportion of adults experiencing violent crime by gender, area deprivation and rurality, 2008/09 to 2019/20**



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); 2019/20 (5,570). Variables: 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 2018/19 and 2019/20 combined presented in [Section 9.3](#). The figures showed that in the 12 month period prior to interview, experiences of partner abuse were more common for women than men (3.7% and 2.6%, respectively).



Looking at more recent changes since 2018/19, there have been no statistically significant changes in the violent victimisation rate across any of the 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 2019/20, whilst 2.5% of the population were victims of at least one violent crime.**

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<sup>28</sup>. 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](#).

**1 in every 100 adults were victims of repeated incidents of violence, but their experiences accounted for almost two-thirds of violent crime in 2019/20.**

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 (1.0%) experiencing repeat victimisation (two or more violent crimes). These repeat victims are estimated to have experienced on average 2.7 violent crimes each during 2019/20, whilst together this group of adults are estimated to have experienced almost two-thirds (65%) of all violent crime committed against adults over this period. The table also highlights that an even smaller proportion of the population (0.1%) were high frequency repeat victims, who experienced five or more incidents each.

---

<sup>28</sup> i.e. two or more experiences of violent crime.

**Table 3.2: Proportion of violent crime experienced by victims, by number of crimes experienced**

| ▼   | Number of crimes    | % of population | % of violent crime |
|---|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Almost two-thirds of all violent crime was experienced by repeat victims, who experienced an average of 2.7 incidents each. | <b>None</b>         | 97.5%           | 0%                 |
|   | <b>One</b>          | 1.5%            | 35%                |
|   | <b>Two</b>          | 0.7%            | 33%                |
|   | <b>Three</b>        | 0.1%            | 8%                 |
|   | <b>Four</b>         | 0.1%            | 10%                |
|   | <b>Five or more</b> | 0.1%            | 14%                |
|   | <b>Two or more</b>  | 1.0%            | 65%                |

Base: SCJS 2019/20 (5,570). Variables: PREVIOLENT; INCVIOLENT.

**The proportion of victims experiencing two or more violent crimes was lower in 2019/20 than in 2008/09.**

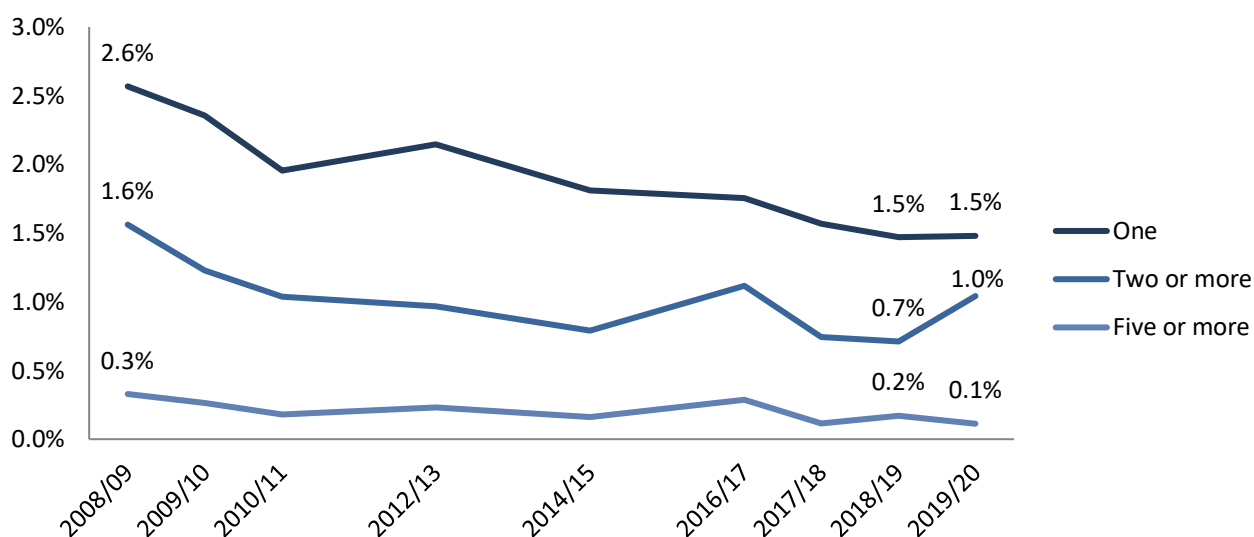
The proportion of adults experiencing only one incident of violence, those experiencing two or more incidents, and those experiencing five or more incidents were all lower in 2019/20 than in 2008/09. Whilst this means repeat violent victimisation for two or more incidents was less prevalent in 2019/20 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.

Although high frequency victimisation is consistently very rare, as stated above, the proportion of adults experiencing five or more incidents in 2019/20 was lower than in 2008/09. This is in line with the 2017/18 finding but a change from 2018/19, where this finding was not significantly lower than in 2008/09.

Figure 3.8 shows trends in single and repeat violent victimisation over time. It shows decreases since 2008/09, while the apparent differences since 2018/19 are not statistically significant.

**Figure 3.8: Proportion of adults experiencing a number of violent crimes, 2008/09 to 2019/20**



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); 2019/20 (5,570). Variables: PREVIOLENT; INCVIOLENT.

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

### 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. Given the face-to-face nature of this research, this study has not been able to continue during the pandemic. The research has been paused for a further six months, is due to resume in May 2021 and complete in April 2022. More information on the study can be found on the [University of Glasgow website](#).

### What were the characteristics of violent crime?

#### The majority of violent crime took place in public settings in 2019/20.

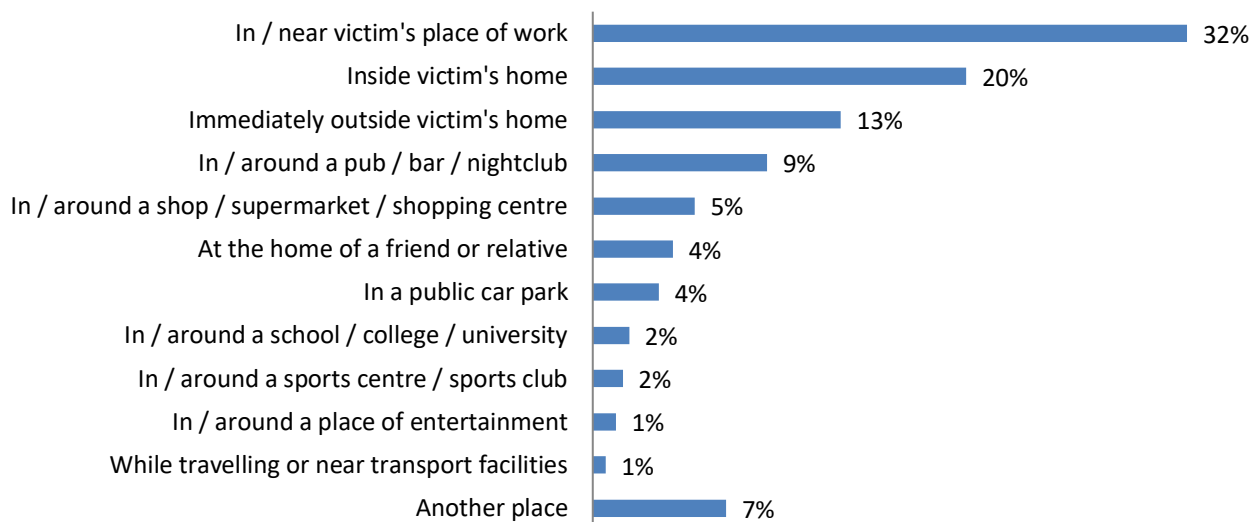
When locations are combined into broader categories<sup>29</sup>, the SCJS estimates that over three-fifths (63%) of violent incidents in 2019/20 occurred in a public setting, with the remainder taking place in a private space. This is similar to the finding in 2008/09 (67%), where violent incidents were also more likely to take place in public settings, but different to the finding in 2018/19 (46%) where no difference was detected in the proportion of violent crimes taking place in a public and a private

<sup>29</sup> 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.

space. The 2019/20 finding is back in line with findings for previous years, suggesting that the result from 2018/19 may have been an outlier in an otherwise stable trend.

Figure 3.9 looks at particular locations more closely and demonstrates that violent crime was experienced in a variety of settings in 2019/20.

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



Base: Violent crime incidents (130). Variables: QWH1 / QWH3 / QWH5 / QWH7.

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

Where respondents provided details about when an incident occurred<sup>30</sup>, a similar proportion occurred during the week and at the weekend<sup>31</sup> with just over half (53%) of violent crimes happened during the week and 47% taking place at the weekend.

**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<sup>32</sup>. The majority (86%) of violent crimes in 2019/20 were thought to have been motivated by none of these factors. Harassment and discrimination is discussed in more detail in [Section 8.2](#).

<sup>30</sup> 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 2019/20.

<sup>31</sup> Weekends were defined as 6 pm on Friday to Sunday midnight.

<sup>32</sup> 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.

### **Most violent crime did not involve a cyber element.**

Respondents who had experienced violent crime were asked if the incident involved the internet, any type of online activity or an internet enabled device. This question was first asked in the 2018/19 SCJS. In 2019/20, 6% of violent crime incidents involved a cyber element, higher than the proportion in 2018/19 (1%). It will be important to monitor this in the future. 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 2019/20, respondents were able to provide some information about the offender. The section below presents headline results on the details provided<sup>33</sup>. 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 three-in-four violent crimes were committed by male offenders.**

The SCJS results highlight that the majority of violent crimes in 2019/20 (73%) were carried out by male offenders only – a consistent finding over the years. A further 19% of incidents involved female offenders only, whilst in 8% of cases both men and women were responsible<sup>34</sup>.

#### **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 and suggests that perpetrators tend to be from younger cohorts<sup>35</sup>, while only 20% involved any offenders aged 40 or over. 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.

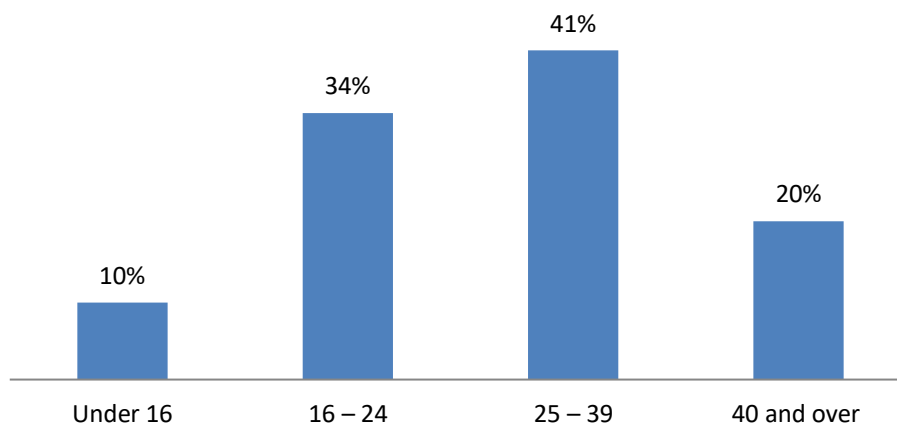
---

<sup>33</sup> Additional results are available in the supporting [data tables](#). The analysis presented is based on a relatively small number of incidents (n=133). As such, results have relatively large margins of error around them meaning that they should be interpreted with caution.

<sup>34</sup> 1% of respondents answered 'Don't know' to this question.

<sup>35</sup> It is important to note that individual incidents may have involved offenders from different age groups. For instance, a proportion of the 34% of cases involving offenders aged 16-24 may have also involved perpetrators from other age groups.

**Figure 3.10: Proportion of violent crime incidents involving offenders of each age group**



Base: Violent crime incidents where respondent could say something about offender (130). Variable: QDAGE.

**Violent crimes often involved offenders who victims knew or had seen before.**

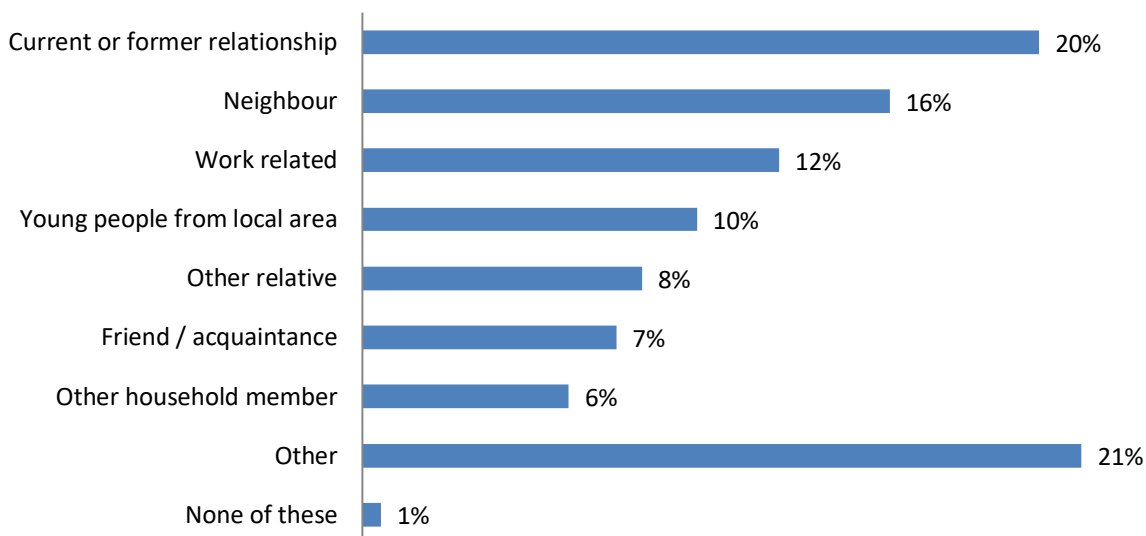
Most violent incidents (70%) in 2019/20 were committed by people who the victims knew or had seen before. Where offenders were known by the victim, just under two-thirds of incidents (63%) were said to have involved people ‘known well’.

Those who said they knew the offender in some way were asked about their relationship to the offender<sup>36</sup>. Figure 3.11 shows the range of relationships between victims and offenders.

---

<sup>36</sup> 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.

**Figure 3.11: Relationship of offender to victim as a proportion of violent incidents where the offender was known in some way**



Base: Violent crime incidents where respondent knew the offender (80). Variable: QRE2.

Note: 'Current or former partner' includes any current or former husband, wife, partner, boyfriend or girlfriend. 'Other relative' includes any son or daughter (in law) or other relative. 'Work related' includes any client or member of the public contacted through work, or a workmate/colleague.

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 2018/19 and 2019/20 combined presented in [Section 9.3](#).

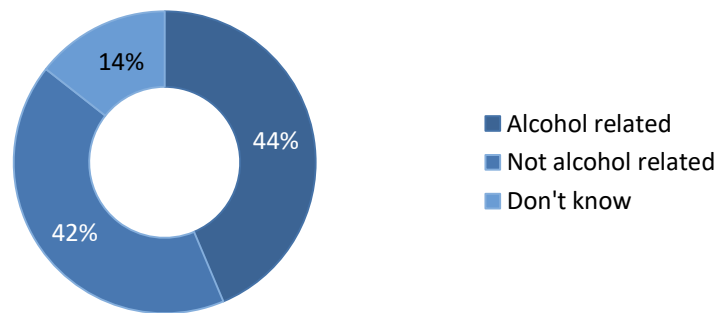
## What do we know about the role of alcohol, drugs and weapons in violent crime?

### Over two-fifths of violent crimes involved offenders under the influence of alcohol in 2019/20.

Offenders were believed to be under the influence of alcohol in 44% of violent incidents where victims were able to say something about the offender in 2019/20. This figure is lower than the estimate in 2008/09 (63%) and 2018/19 (59%). Alcohol remains a factor in a sizeable proportion of violent incidents and it will be important to monitor this in future to see if a similar trend is continued.

As shown in Figure 3.12 below, it should be noted that in 14% of violent incidents (where victims were able to say something about the offender) the victim did not know if the offender was under the influence of alcohol or not.

**Figure 3.12<sup>37</sup>: Proportion of violent crime with offenders perceived to be under the influence of alcohol**



Base: Violent crime incidents where respondent could say something about offender (130). Variable: QAL.

For wider context on the role of alcohol in violent crime, victims reported having consumed alcohol immediately before the incident in 20% of cases of all violent crime in 2019/20.

Relatedly, victims reported that just under one-in-three violent crimes (30%) involved offenders who were thought to be under the influence of drugs in 2019/20, unchanged from 2008/09 and 2018/19.

Combining this data, in 2019/20 it was found that offenders were believed to be under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs in just over half (55%) of violent incidents where the victims were able to say something about the offender. This is a decrease on both the proportion in 2008/09 (68%) and 2018/19 (78%). This will be an area to monitor in the future.

### **Violent crime in 2019/20 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 2019/20, 19% of such incidents were said to have involved perpetrators with weapons, unchanged from 2010/11 (when the wording of this question was updated to its current format) and from 2018/19.

When combining categories (in a similar way to the [police recorded crime statistics](#)) the SCJS found that bladed/pointed articles<sup>38</sup> were used in 5% of violent incidents where someone saw or heard what was happening, unchanged from 2018/19. However, due to the small sample sizes, the sub-groups of this category are prone to fluctuations. For example, whilst in 2018/19 the SCJS found 4% of these crimes involved a screwdriver, no such crimes were detected in 2019/20, and conversely, no knife crimes were detected in the 2018/19 SCJS, while 5% involved a knife in 2019/20.

<sup>37</sup> 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.

<sup>38</sup> Bladed/pointed articles includes knives, screwdrivers and syringes.



## 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 2019/20 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<sup>39</sup>.

## What was the impact of violent crime?

**Around three-fifths of violent incidents resulted in injury, although serious injuries were relatively uncommon.**

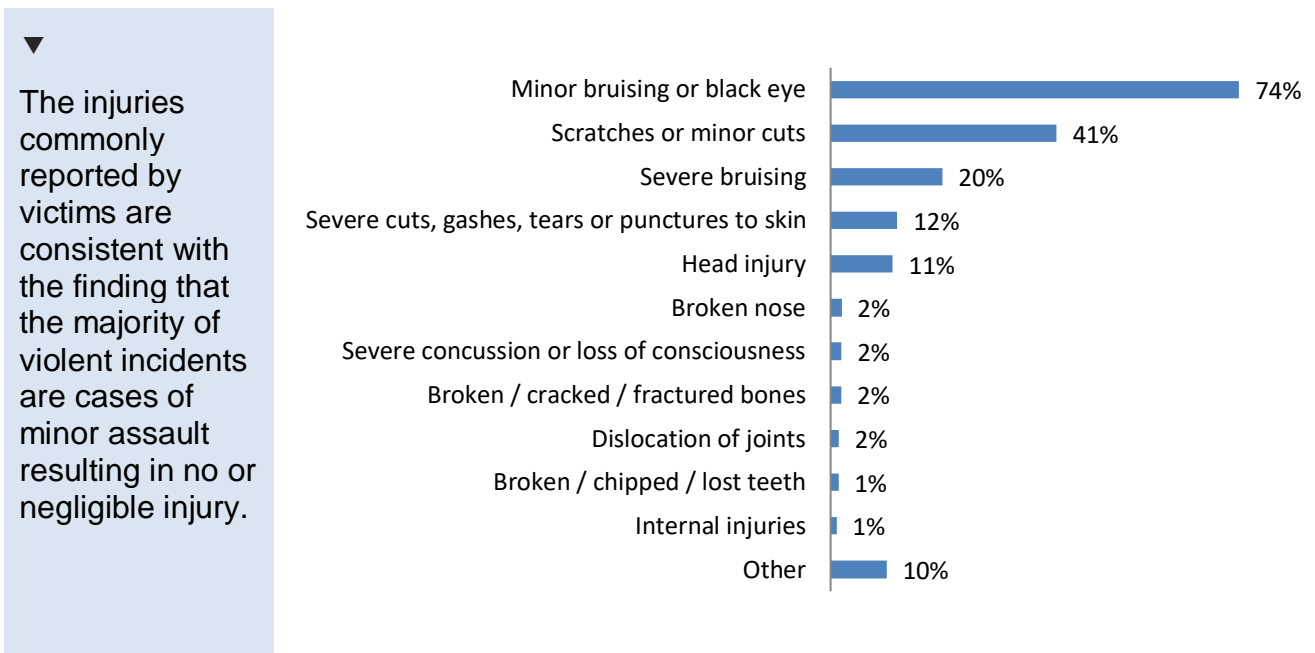
Where violent crime resulted in some sort of injury (62% of incidents), the most common injury sustained was minor bruising or a black eye (74%). More serious injuries like broken bones and internal injuries occurred much less frequently, as shown in Figure 3.13<sup>40</sup>.

---

<sup>39</sup> 2019/20 data is due to be published shortly after this report, on 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

<sup>40</sup> 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.

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



Base: Violent crime incidents where respondent was injured (70). Variable: QINW.

**Almost half of respondents reported feeling shock, annoyance and anger as emotional reactions towards the violent crime they experienced.**

In just under half of incidents, the emotional impacts reported by victims of violent crime in 2019/20 were shock (reported in 46% of violent incidents), annoyance (45%) and anger (44%). Victims in just over a tenth of incidents (12%) said they experienced no emotional impacts, similar to the level in 2008/09 (10%) and in 2018/19 (11%).

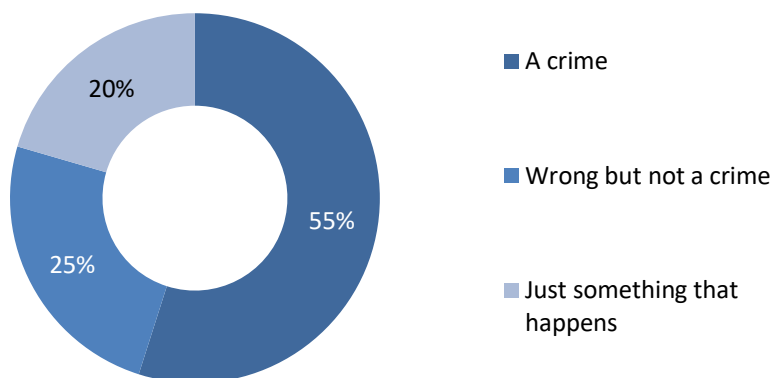
**What proportion of violent crime was reported to the police?**

**Just under half of violent incidents in 2019/20 were reported to the police.**

The 2019/20 SCJS estimates that almost half of violent incidents (48%) were brought to the attention of the police, whilst 52% were not. The reporting rate in 2019/20 was unchanged compared to the rate in any SCJS year since 2008/09, but higher than the [reporting rate for property crime](#) in 2019/20 (36%).

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 found that in just over half of violent incidents in 2019/20 (55%) victims thought their experience should be described as ‘a crime’, as shown in Figure 3.14 below. Almost three-quarters (71%) of incidents which victims considered to be a crime were brought to the attention of the police in 2019/20.

**Figure 3.14: Victim's description of violent crime incidents experienced**



Base: Violent crime incidents (130). 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 reported to other authorities/organisations (26%)
- the issue was considered a private, personal or family matter (22%)
- the matter was dealt with personally by the victim (21%)
- 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 almost three-fifths of instances (59%). This is unchanged from 2018/19, but up from 2008/09 (32%). Respondents received information or assistance from the Witness Service/Victim Support Scotland in relation to 12% of incidents, from the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service/Victim Information and Advice service in 9%. Victims said they had not received information or assistance from any organisation in 4% of cases, whilst a further 25% 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?**

**Just under 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 46% 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, but is lower than the [proportion of property crime victims](#) in 2019/20 who thought offenders should have been prosecuted in court (58%).

Just under a third (30%) of those who did not think court was appropriate said nothing should have happened to the offender, whilst one-in-four (25%) thought the offender should have apologised for what they had done. Only 5% thought offenders should have been given some kind of help to stop them offending. 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 2019/20?

**There were an estimated 369,000 property crimes in Scotland in 2019/20, representing around two-third of all crime experienced by adults.**

The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) estimates that 369,000 incidents<sup>41</sup> of property-related crime<sup>42</sup> were experienced by adults in Scotland in 2019/20. This represents 66% of all crime measured by the SCJS in 2019/20; 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 329,000 and 408,000 incidents of property crime in Scotland in 2019/20. 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 almost halved since 2008/09.**

Looking at trends over time, the SCJS finds that the number of property crime incidents has decreased by 49% 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 or so<sup>43</sup>.

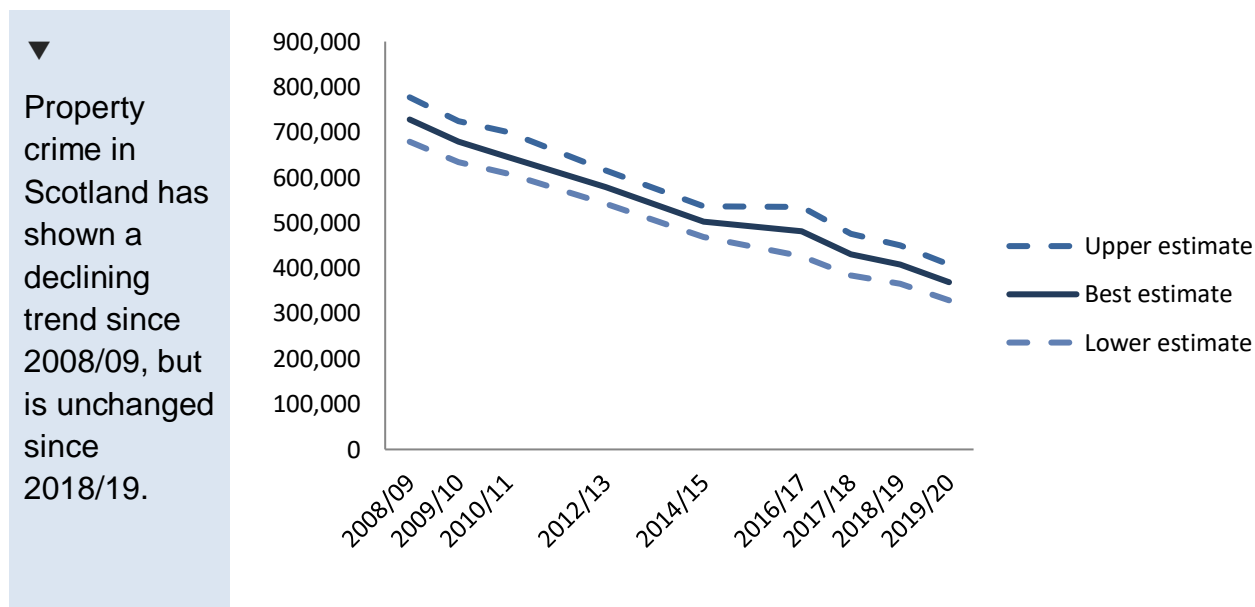
---

<sup>41</sup> Crime estimates are rounded to the nearest 1,000 crimes.

<sup>42</sup> Details on the specific crimes included within the property crime group are outlined in the [‘Overview of crime’ chapter](#).

<sup>43</sup> 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 2019/20**



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); 2019/20 (5,570). Variable: INCPROPERTY.

Table 4.1 examines results from key comparator years<sup>44</sup> more closely and shows that the estimated number of incidents of property crime experienced by adults has:

- almost halved (by 49%) since 2008/09, from 728,000 to 369,000 – the decrease of almost 360,000 incidents is statistically significant
- shown no change since the last SCJS in 2018/19 – the apparent decrease from 408,000 in 2018/19 is not statistically significant

**Table 4.1: Estimated number of property crimes (2008/09, 2018/19, 2019/20)**

| Crime type                   | 2008/09 | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | Change since 2008/09 | Change since 2018/19 |
|------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Best estimate                | 728,000 | 408,000 | 369,000 | ↓ by 49%             | No change            |
| Lower estimate               | 679,000 | 365,000 | 329,000 |                      |                      |
| Upper estimate               | 777,000 | 451,000 | 408,000 |                      |                      |
| <i>Number of respondents</i> | 16,000  | 5,540   | 5,570   |                      |                      |

Variable: INCPROPERTY.

Whilst the SCJS has detected no change in the level of property crime since 2018/19, it does find evidence that property crime has continued to fall in recent years with a significant decrease of 14% detected between 2017/18 and 2019/20. Given that it is often more challenging to find significant changes between adjacent survey years, this decrease over the last few years

<sup>44</sup> [Annex Table A1.2](#) provides best estimates of the number of incidents of property crime for each year of the SCJS since 2008/09.

provides some indication that property crime has remained on a declining trend despite the lack of change detected since the 2018/19 SCJS.

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

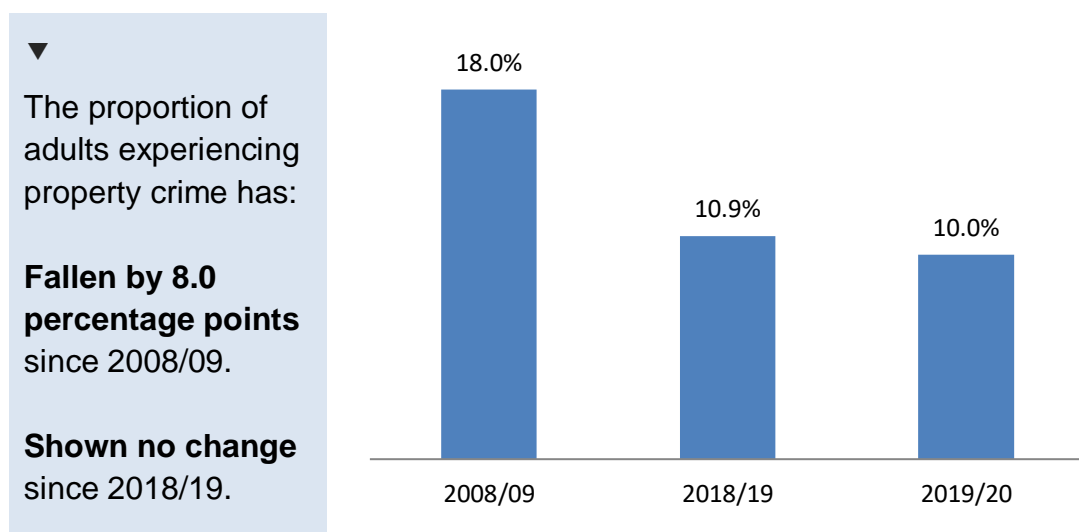
The SCJS results show that, as in previous years, most adults were not victims of any crime in 2019/20, with 10.0% experiencing property crime. Adults were around four times more likely to have experienced property crime than [violent crime](#) in 2019/20, which was experienced by 2.5% of the population.

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 9.0% and 10.9% of the adult population were estimated to have experienced property crime in 2019/20, with 10.0% representing the best estimate<sup>45</sup>. 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<sup>46</sup>.

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 10.0% in 2019/20, as shown in Figure 4.2.

The SCJS detected no change in experiences of property crime comparing results for 2019/20 with the 2017/18 and 2018/19 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 2017/18 and 2019/20 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, 2018/19, 2019/20)**



Base: SCJS 2008/09 (16,000); 2018/19 (5,540); 2019/20 (5,570). Variable: PREVPROPERTY.

<sup>45</sup> Please see the [Introduction](#) for definitions of best, upper and lower estimates.

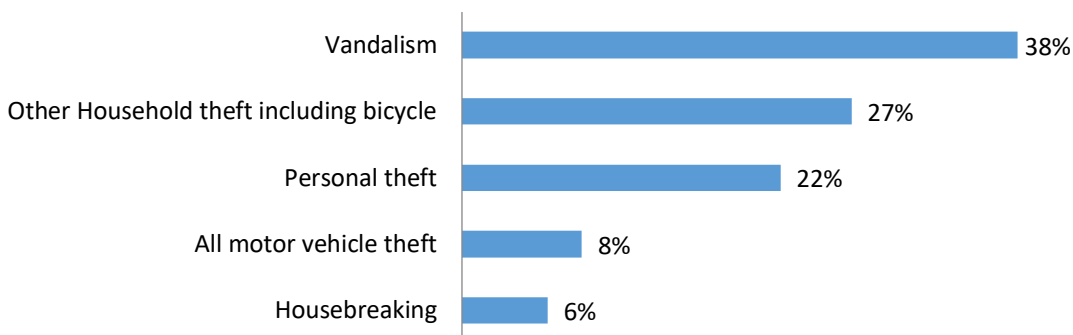
<sup>46</sup> Confidence Intervals around other survey results can be derived using the [data tables](#) and [users statistical testing tool](#) available on the SCJS website.

## 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<sup>47</sup> were experienced in Scotland in 2019/20. As in previous years, incidents of vandalism accounted for the largest proportion of property crime incidents (38%), followed by other household theft (including bicycle theft) (27%), and personal theft (22%)<sup>48</sup>.

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



Base: SCJS 2019/20 (590). Variables: INCVAND; INCPERSTHEFT; INCOTHERHOUSETHEFTCYCLE; INCALLMVTHEFT; INHOUSEBREAK.

There have been notable reductions in the number of incidents of vandalism, motor vehicle related theft, other household theft and personal 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 139,000.

Since 2018/19, all sub-categories of property crime have shown no change in the number of incidents.

<sup>47</sup> Throughout this chapter the types of property crime are listed in accordance with the priority ladder in the [SCJS offence coding manual](#).

<sup>48</sup> 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, 2018/19, 2019/20)**

| Crime type                              | 2008/09        | 2018/19        | 2019/20        | Change since 2008/09 | Change since 2018/19 |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>PROPERTY CRIME</b>                   | <b>728,000</b> | <b>408,000</b> | <b>369,000</b> | ↓ by 49%             | No change            |
| Housebreaking                           | 25,000         | 25,000         | 21,000         | No change            | No change            |
| Personal theft                          | 110,000        | 99,000         | 80,000         | ↓ by 27%             | No change            |
| Other household theft including bicycle | 173,000        | 93,000         | 98,000         | ↓ by 43%             | No change            |
| All motor vehicle related theft         | 70,000         | 35,000         | 30,000         | ↓ by 57%             | No change            |
| Vandalism                               | 350,000        | 155,000        | 139,000        | ↓ by 60%             | No change            |
| <i>Number of respondents</i>            | <i>16,000</i>  | <i>5,540</i>   | <i>5,570</i>   |                      |                      |

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

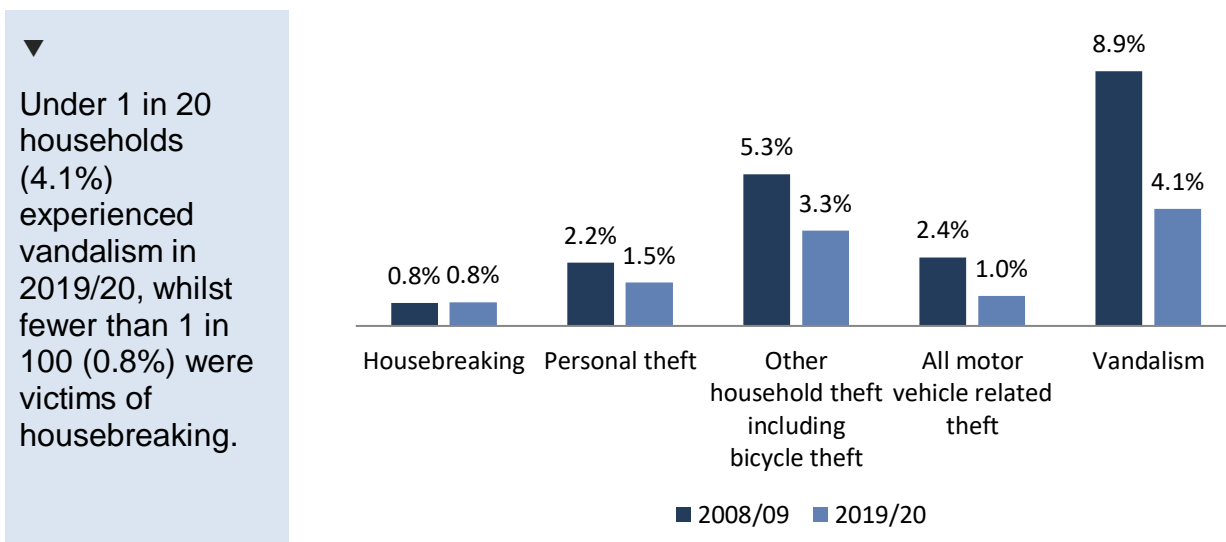
Looking at the prevalence of different categories of property crime reveals that some sub-types were more commonly experienced than others in 2019/20, as outlined in Figure 4.4<sup>49</sup>.

Similar to the estimated number of incidents, the prevalence rates for vandalism, other household theft, motor vehicle related theft and personal theft have all fallen since 2008/09, whilst the likelihood of experiencing housebreaking has not changed. For example, like the incident count, the prevalence rate for vandalism more than halved between 2008/09 and 2019/20 (from 8.9% to 4.1%).

The prevalence rate for all sub-categories of property crime were unchanged between 2018/19 and 2019/20.

<sup>49</sup> 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**



Base: SCJS 2008/09 (16,000); 2019/20 (5,570). 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?

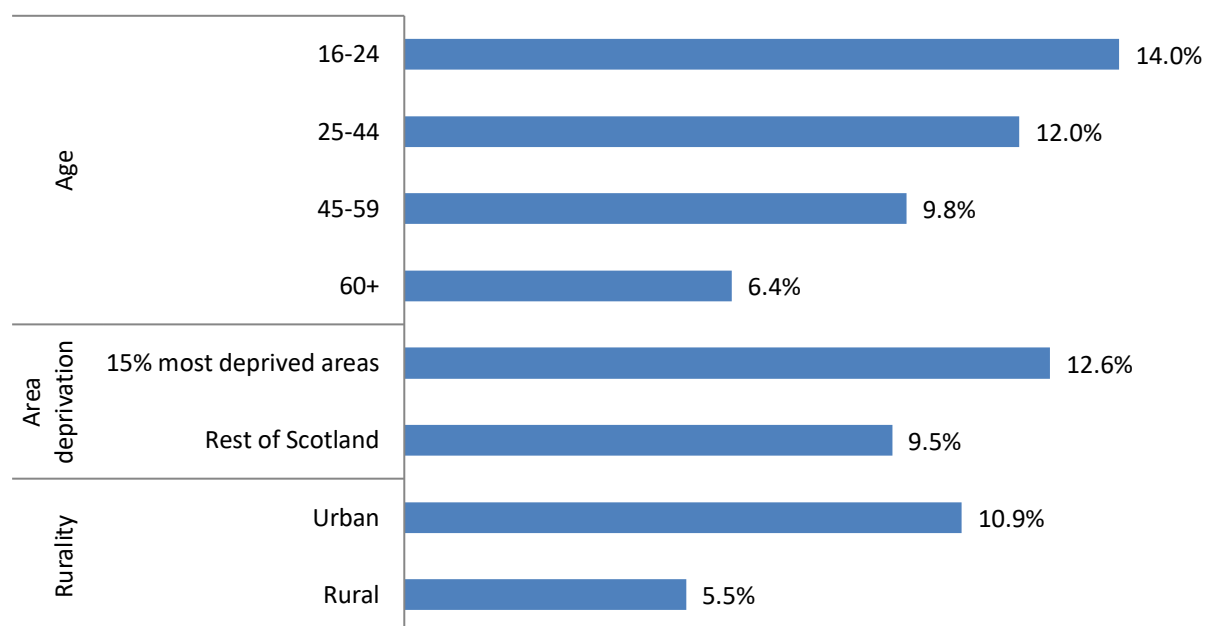
**People under the age of 60 were more likely to experience property crime in 2019/20, as well as those living in the most deprived areas of Scotland, and those living in urban locations.**

The SCJS enables us to examine how experiences of property crime in 2019/20 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 2019/20 was:

- 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

The 2019/20 found no difference in the likelihood of experiencing property crime by gender. This is back in line with previous survey years, however differs from the 2018/19 SCJS, where females were found to have a higher likelihood than males.

**Figure 4.5: Proportion of adults experiencing property crime, by demographic and area characteristics**



Base: 2019/20 (5,570). Variables: PREVPROPERTY; QDGEN; QDAGE; 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 most key groups in the population – including across all the demographic and area characteristics discussed above<sup>50</sup>.

The SCJS detected no change in the prevalence rates for any of the above population groups between 2018/19 and 2019/20.

**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 2019/20 and 10.0% 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<sup>51</sup>. 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](#).

<sup>50</sup> Please see the [Annex tables](#) for relevant results and the SCJS supporting [data tables](#) for additional breakdowns.

<sup>51</sup> i.e. two or more experiences of property crime.

**2.4% of adults experienced two or more property crimes in 2019/20, accounting for almost half of all property crime.**

Looking at the volume of crime experienced by individual victims in more detail shows that 7.6% of adults were victims of one property crime only and 2.4% 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, almost half (45%) of all property crime in Scotland in 2019/20 was experienced by the 2.4% of the population who were repeat victims. On average this group is estimated to have experienced 1.5 property crimes each over the year.

**Table 4.3: Proportion of property crime experienced by victims, by number of crimes experienced**

| ▼   | Number of crimes   | % of population | % of property crime |
|---|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| 6% of all property crime was experienced by just 0.2% of the adult population who were victims of five or more incidents over the year. | None               | 90.0%           | 0%                  |
|   | One                | 7.6%            | 55%                 |
|   | Two                | 1.6%            | 24%                 |
|   | Three              | 0.5%            | 9%                  |
|   | Four               | 0.2%            | 5%                  |
|   | Five or more       | 0.2%            | 6%                  |
|   | <b>Two or more</b> | <b>2.4%</b>     | <b>45%</b>          |

Base: SCJS 2019/20 (5,570). Variables: PREVPROPERTY; INCPROPERTY.

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

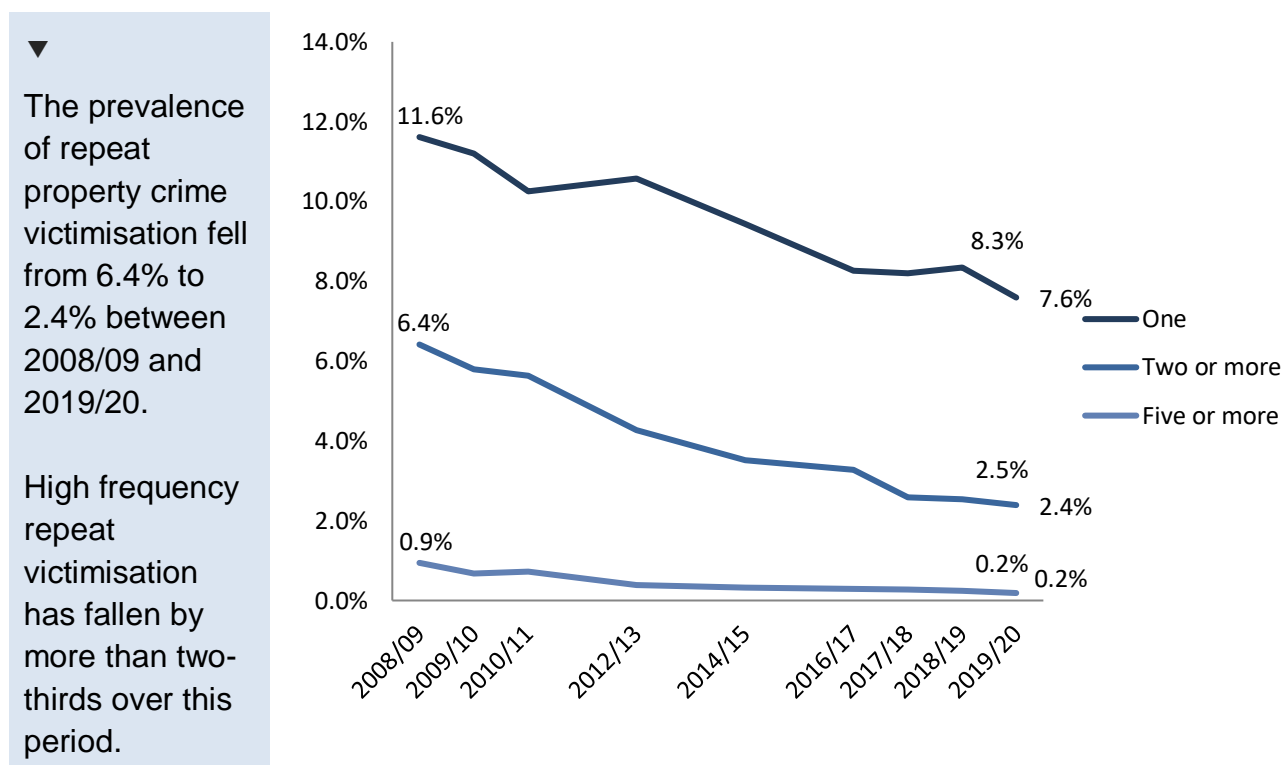
Figure 4.6 displays trends in single and repeat property crime victimisation over time. It shows that between 2008/09 and 2019/20 there were decreases in the proportion of adults experiencing:

- single incidents of property crime – from 11.6% to 7.6%
- repeat victimisation (two or more incidents of property crime) – from 6.4% to 2.4%
- 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<sup>52</sup> over the same period, as discussed [previously](#).

<sup>52</sup> 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, 2008/09 to 2019/20**



▼  
The prevalence of repeat property crime victimisation fell from 6.4% to 2.4% between 2008/09 and 2019/20.  
  
High frequency repeat victimisation has fallen by more than two-thirds 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); 2019/20 (5,570). Variables: INCSURVEYCRIME; PREVSURVEYCRIME.

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

Since the last SCJS in 2018/19, 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.

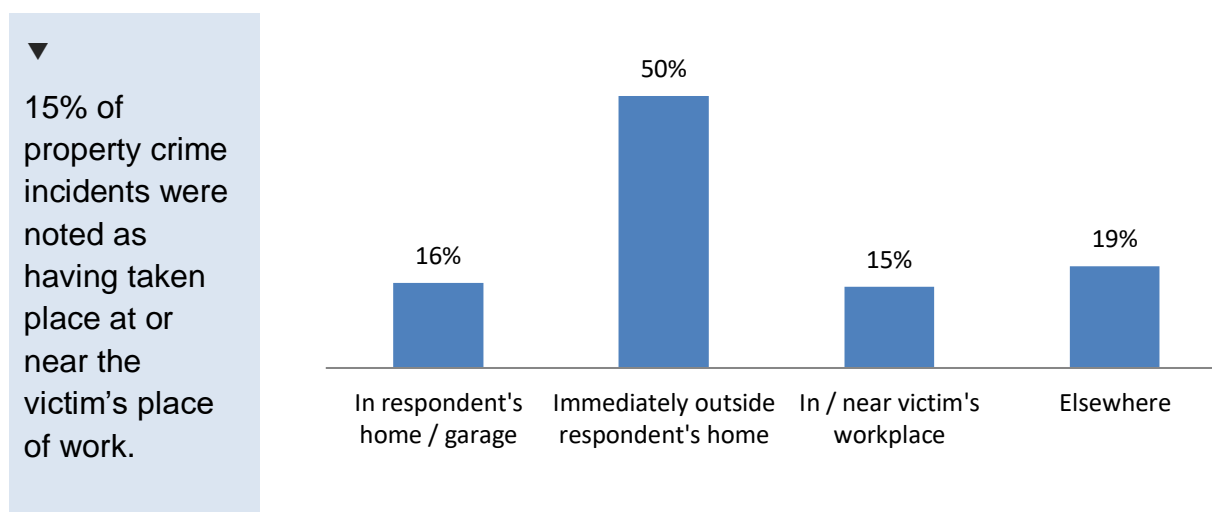
### What do we know about the characteristics of property crime?

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

Consistent with previous years, two-thirds of property crime incidents in 2019/20 (66%) took place in and around the victim's home. The most common specific location was immediately outside the respondent's home<sup>53</sup>, representing half of all property crime in 2019/20 (50%).

<sup>53</sup> 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**



Base: Property crime incidents (590). Variables: QWH1 / QWH3 / QWH5 / QWH7.

### **The majority of property crime incidents took place on weekdays.**

Where respondents provided details about when an incident occurred<sup>54</sup>, around two-thirds of all property crimes in 2019/20 (67%) were said to have taken place during the week, with the remainder (33%) occurring at weekends<sup>55</sup>.

### **Most property crime did not involve a cyber element.**

Respondents who had experienced property crime were asked if the incident involved the internet, any type of online activity or an internet enabled device. In 2019/20, only 1% of property crime incidents involved a cyber element, unchanged since 2018/19 (2%), when this question was asked for the first time. 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 less than one-third of incidents (30%) in 2019/20, 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<sup>56</sup>. Further results are available in the supporting [data tables](#).

<sup>54</sup> i.e. excluding those who said don't know or refused to give a time.

<sup>55</sup> Weekends were defined as 6pm on Friday to Sunday midnight.

<sup>56</sup> Where a similarly low proportion of respondents were able to tell us about offenders involved in property crimes. Results from previous years are accessible on the [SCJS website](#).

Where respondents were able to say something about the person or people who carried out the offence, victims noted that property crimes in 2019/20:

### **Were mostly committed by males**

71% of incidents involved male offenders only, while 15% involved female only perpetrators, and 11% involved perpetrators of both sexes. In 3% 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 12% of incidents were noted as having involved offenders aged 40 or over.

### **Often involved perpetrators known by the victims**

Most incidents (53%) were committed by offenders who the victims knew or had seen before. Where offenders were known by the victim, almost half of incidents (46%) 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 2019/20, 7% of such incidents<sup>57</sup> were said to have involved perpetrators who possessed weapons.

## **What was the impact of property crime?**

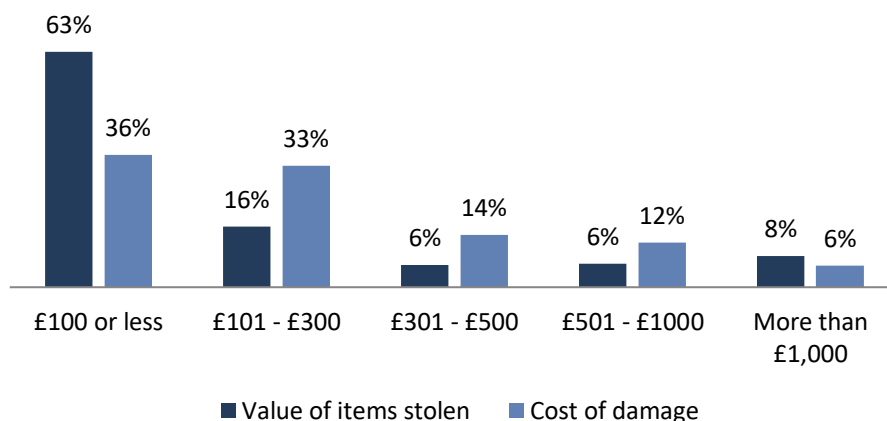
### **Direct financial costs resulting from property crime were typically of relatively low value – but the impact of such costs will vary for each victim.**

Victims of property crime where something was stolen (55% 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 (63%) 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 less than one-in-ten (8%) of incidents.

---

<sup>57</sup> i.e. incidents where someone saw or heard what was happening or had contact with the offender.

**Figure 4.8: Financial impact of property crime where victims could estimate cost**



Base: Property crime incidents where something was stolen (290) or damaged (210); Variables: QSVAB; QDVAB. Excludes those who said 'don't know' or 'refused' to the value of items lost or cost of damage.

Considering incidents where property was damaged (47% of property incidents), victims said the total cost of the damage was £100 or less in 36% of incidents where they were able to provide an estimate. Looking at instances of more costly damage, just over one-in twenty incidents (6%) 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 55% of incidents, respectively).

**What proportion of property crime was reported to the police?**

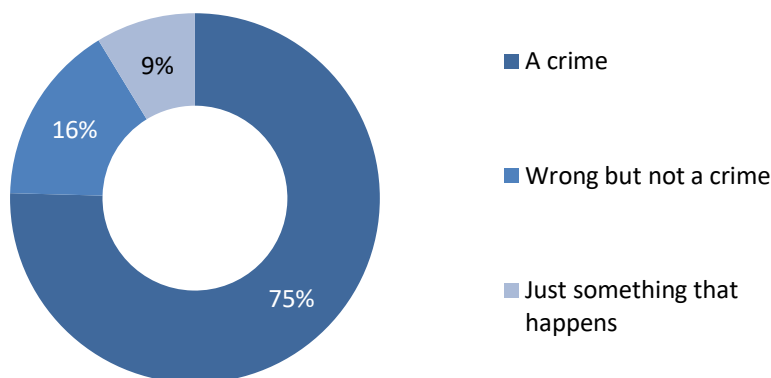
**Although most instances of property crime in 2019/20 were considered by victims to be criminal incidents, only around one-third of cases were reported to the police, similar to previous years.**

Victims of property crime described their experience as 'a crime' in three-quarters of incidents (75%), with 16% of incidents said to be 'wrong but not a crime' and 9% 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 2019/20 (of which 55% of incidents were considered to be 'a crime').

However, the SCJS estimates that only just over one-in-every-three property crimes (36%) were reported to the police in 2019/20. The reporting rate for property crime has shown no change since 2008/09 (36%), but was significantly lower than the [reporting rate for violent crime](#) in 2019/20 (48%).



**Figure 4.9: Victim's description of property crime incidents experienced**



Base: Property crime incidents (590); Variable: QCRNO

Incidents were more likely to be reported if any damaged or stolen goods were insured (46%), compared to cases (30%) where items were not covered.

**Victims often considered incidents to be too trivial to report to the police or thought the police could have done nothing about it.**

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 and that it was believed the police could have done nothing about the incident (both 40% 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 over two-fifth of all incidents (44%). Information or assistance was provided by the Witness Service/Victim Support Scotland in 9% of such cases, whilst in just over one-in-five incidents (21%) 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 almost three-fifths (58%) of incidents of property crime in 2019/20 thought the offender should have been prosecuted in court; this represents an increase since 2018/19 (51%), but is in line with earlier years. This is a higher proportion to the equivalent figure for [violent crime](#) in 2019/20 (46%).

Where victims thought an incident should have resulted in a court prosecution, a prison sentence was considered a suitable outcome in relation to just under one-in-every-five cases (19%), similar to the proportion for violent crimes (28%).

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. Victims mentioned a range of alternatives, including that offenders should have:

- been given some kind of warning (29% of such incidents)
- apologised for their actions (cited in relation to 19% of such incidents)
- been made to pay the victim(s) compensation (18% of incidents)

Notably, victims said that 'nothing should have happened' in relation to only 1% 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<sup>58</sup>. 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<sup>59</sup>. 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 reported to and recorded by 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 to, 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 (for example, speeding), 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 2019/20 Recorded Crime](#) results cover crimes recorded during the 2019/20 financial year. Whereas the 2019/20 SCJS includes crimes experienced by SCJS respondents over a 23-month 'reference period'<sup>60</sup>.

---

<sup>58</sup> This sub-set should not be used to assess the overall level of crime in Scotland.

<sup>59</sup> 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.

<sup>60</sup> 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 SCJS in 2019/20 extends over 23 months (from start of April 2018 to end of February 2020) 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<sup>61</sup>. 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. Around two-thirds (67%) of 'all SCJS crime', as measured by the 2019/20 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 a downward trend.**

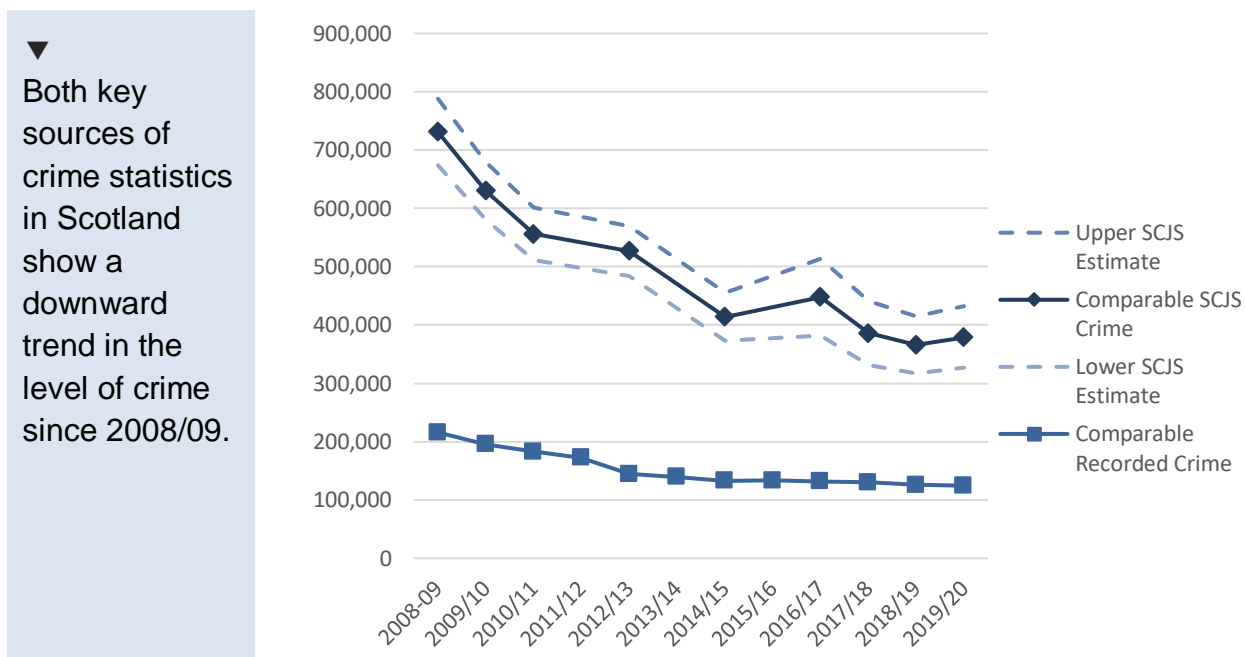
Of the 563,000 crimes estimated by the 2019/20 SCJS, around two-thirds (379,000) can be compared with police recorded crimes. Figure 5.1 demonstrates the scale of the difference between the two series of crime statistics. In 2019/20, the police recorded 124,496 crimes and offences<sup>62</sup> in the comparable sub-set, representing approximately one-third (33%) of the number of crimes in the SCJS comparable sub-set.

---

<sup>61</sup> [Annex B](#) provides an overview of the main differences to bear in mind when making comparisons between the two sources.

<sup>62</sup> Please see the [Technical Report](#) for more information on offence codes and crime groups.

**Figure 5.1: Comparable recorded crime and SCJS estimates, 2008/09 to 2019/20<sup>63</sup>**



Sources: SCJS, Police recorded crime.

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 2019/20 SCJS estimates that around half (48%) 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 48% between 2008/09 and 2019/20, whilst comparable recorded crime is down by 42% over the same period.

<sup>63</sup> 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](#).

**Table 5.1: Comparable crime group estimates (2008/09, 2018/19, 2019/20)**

|                             | 2008/09 | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | % change since 2008/09 | % change since 2018/19 |
|-----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>All comparable crime</b> |         |         |         |                        |                        |
| Comparable SCJS Crime       | 731,000 | 366,000 | 379,000 | -48%                   | No change              |
| Comparable Recorded Crime   | 215,901 | 125,953 | 124,496 | -42%                   | -1%                    |
| <b>Acquisitive crime</b>    |         |         |         |                        |                        |
| SCJS Acquisitive Crime      | 64,000  | 46,000  | 46,000  | -28%                   | No change              |
| Recorded Acquisitive Crime  | 27,527  | 16,644  | 15,919  | -42%                   | -4%                    |
| <b>Violent crime</b>        |         |         |         |                        |                        |
| SCJS Violent Crime          | 317,000 | 165,000 | 194,000 | -39%                   | No change              |
| Recorded Violent Crime      | 82,855  | 63,771  | 63,417  | -23%                   | -1%                    |
| <b>Vandalism</b>            |         |         |         |                        |                        |
| SCJS Vandalism              | 350,000 | 155,000 | 139,000 | -60%                   | No change              |
| Recorded Vandalism          | 105,519 | 45,538  | 45,160  | -57%                   | -1%                    |

Sources: SCJS; Police recorded crime; SCJS Base: 2008/09 (16,000); 2018/19 (5,540); 2019/20 (5,570).

Note: changes in SCJS results specified where statistically significant.

Since 2018/19, the SCJS found no change in the level of comparable crime, whilst comparable recorded crime fell by 1%.

In March 2021, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) published the results from their 2020 [audit of incidents and crimes recorded by Police Scotland](#), with the report stating that 'the results show that compliance is generally good, however there is still room for improvement'.

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

### Acquisitive Crime

The acquisitive comparable crime group includes bicycle theft, housebreaking and theft of a motor vehicle. In 2019/20 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<sup>64</sup>). The police recorded 15,919 acquisitive crimes in 2019/20.

Both SCJS estimates and recorded acquisitive crime figures decreased between 2008/09 and 2019/20 (by 28% and 42% respectively). Since 2018/19 police recorded acquisitive crime has decreased by 4%, while the SCJS found no change in acquisitive crime. Where SCJS estimates

<sup>64</sup> Upper and lower estimates are calculated on unrounded figures, then rounded when presented.

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<sup>65</sup>.

## Violent Crime

Violent comparable crime includes serious assault, minor assault<sup>66</sup> and robbery. In 2019/20 the SCJS estimated that there were 194,000 violent crimes<sup>67</sup> (+/- 47,000, meaning that the true number of violent crimes experienced by the population is estimated to be between 147,000 and 242,000), while the police recorded 63,417 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 2018/19. Between 2008/09 and 2019/20, both SCJS estimates and police recorded violent crime figures have shown a decrease (by 39% and 23% respectively)<sup>68</sup>. Since 2018/19, comparable police recorded violent crime has shown a small decrease (-1%), while the SCJS has found no change in violent crime.

## Vandalism

The vandalism comparable crime group includes motor vehicle vandalism and property vandalism. In 2019/20 the SCJS estimated that there were 139,000 instances of vandalism (+/- 23,000, meaning that the true number of vandalism crimes experienced by the population is estimated to be between 117,000 and 162,000). The police recorded 45,160 vandalism crimes in 2019/20.

The trends in comparable crimes of vandalism across both the SCJS and police recorded crime between 2008/09 and 2019/20 are very similar – with the SCJS showing a decrease of 60% and police recorded crime showing a decrease of 57%. Since 2018/19 there has been no change in the SCJS estimate of vandalism, while crimes of vandalism recorded by the police have fallen by 1%.

## **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.

---

<sup>65</sup> Comparable acquisitive crime is rarer than vandalism and violent crime (estimates of acquisitive crime are based on 87 victim forms in the 2019/20 SCJS sample, compared to 133 violent crime victim forms and 230 vandalism victim forms). Consequently, there is greater uncertainty around the SCJS estimate of acquisitive crime and less power to identify significant changes over time.

<sup>66</sup> The crime of ‘minor assault’ discussed in this report is referred to as ‘common assault’ within the [Recorded Crime in Scotland National Statistics](#).

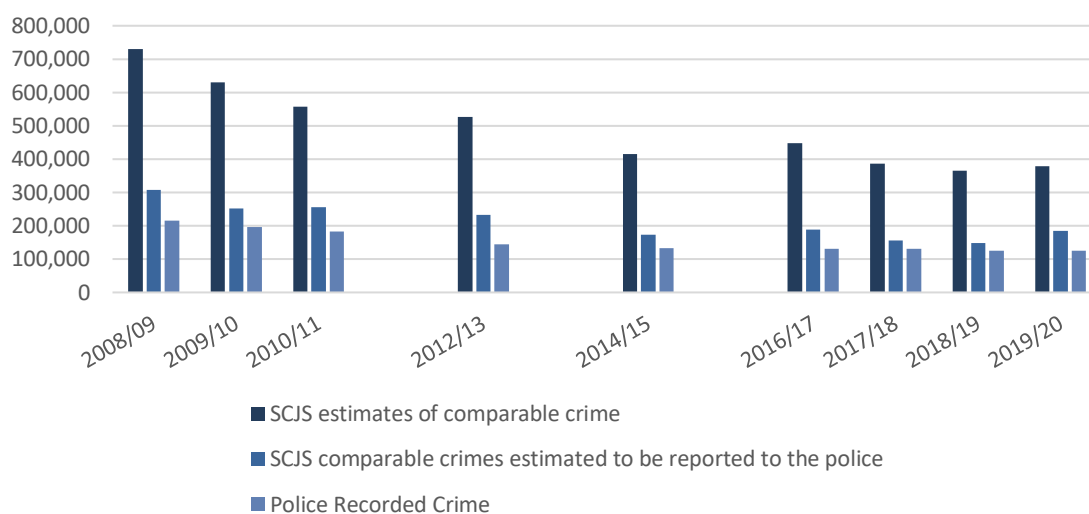
<sup>67</sup> Further information on SCJS violent crime is provided in the [‘Focus on violent crime’](#) chapter.

<sup>68</sup> Violent crime estimates are based on a relatively small number of respondents (119) who disclosed experiences of violent crimes in 2019/20.

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 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<sup>69</sup>. 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 unrecorded, and the broad relationship between police recorded crime figures and SCJS estimates.

Figures from the 2019/20 SCJS indicate that of the 379,000 crimes in the overall comparable sub-set, around 184,000 incidents (48%) 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 2019/20**



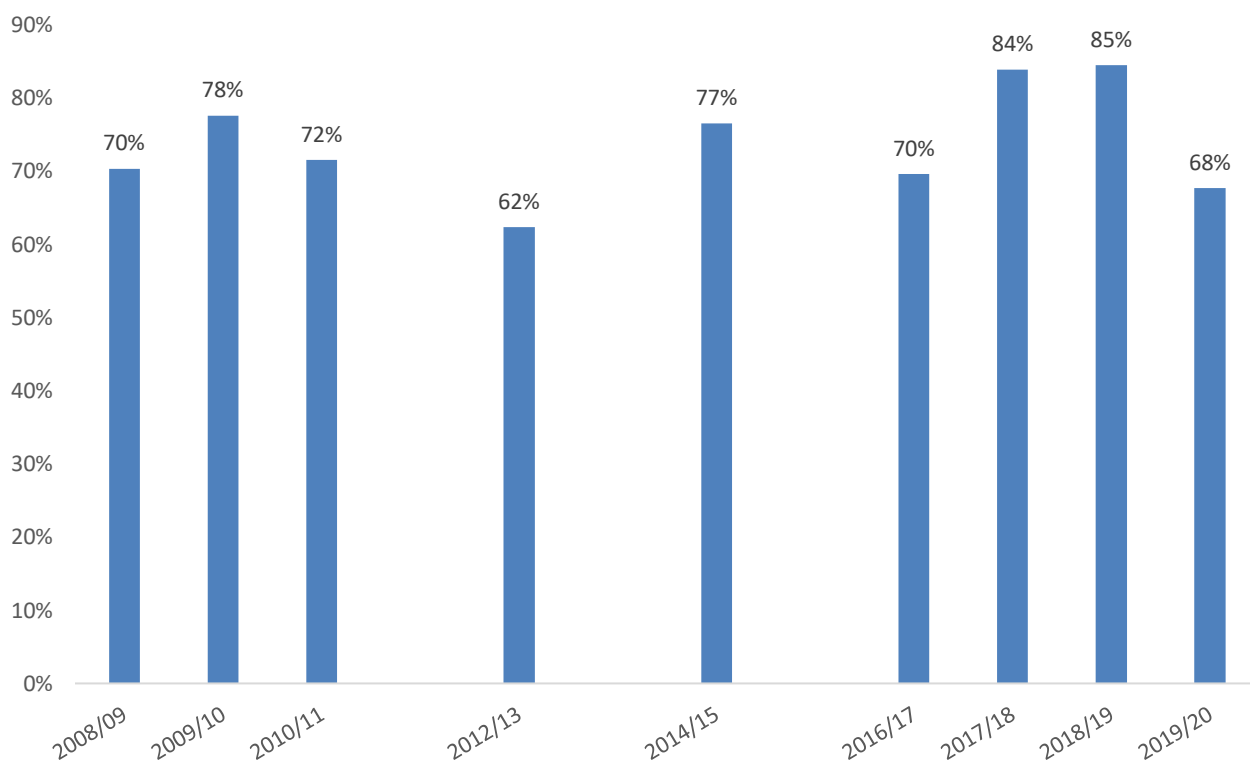
Sources: SCJS; Police recorded crime.

In 2019/20, the police recorded 124,496 crimes in the comparable category. It is therefore estimated that around two-thirds (68%) of comparable crime estimated to be reported to the police was recorded by the police in 2019/20. Figure 5.3 shows how this figure has varied over time.

<sup>69</sup> 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 in this section.



**Figure 5.3: Proportion of comparable crime estimated to be reported to the police recorded by the police, 2008/09 to 2019/20**



Sources: SCJS; Police recorded crime.

This type of analysis can be extended across the comparable crime sub-groups, where similar results are found. For example, around 92,000 violent crimes are estimated to have been reported to the police in 2019/20 (48% of the [number of violent crimes estimated](#) by the SCJS), while the police recorded 63,417 violent crimes. It is therefore estimated that 69% of comparable violent crime estimated to be reported to the police was recorded by the police in 2019/20.

## 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 2019/20 compare to findings from the 2008/09 (or the first year the question was asked in the survey) and 2018/19 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 2019/20, they are also highlighted within this chapter<sup>70</sup>.

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. These changes do not apply to the 2019/20 SCJS.

### 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. Therefore, key results at Police Division level covering the period 2018/19-2019/20 have also been released alongside this report. The findings 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 has been developed to show divisional results relative to the national average for a chosen year or over time.

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

---

<sup>70</sup> [Annex tables A1.15 to A1.22](#) present key results on policing from each SCJS since 2008/09.

large Scottish Government population surveys<sup>71</sup> 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 (55%) said their local police were doing an ‘excellent’ or ‘good’ job in 2019/20. This proportion was lower than the position in 2012/13.**

The majority of adults in Scotland (55%) believed the police in their local area were doing an ‘excellent’ or ‘good’ job in 2019/20. This is a decrease from 61% in 2012/13<sup>72</sup> but unchanged since 2018/19 (56%).

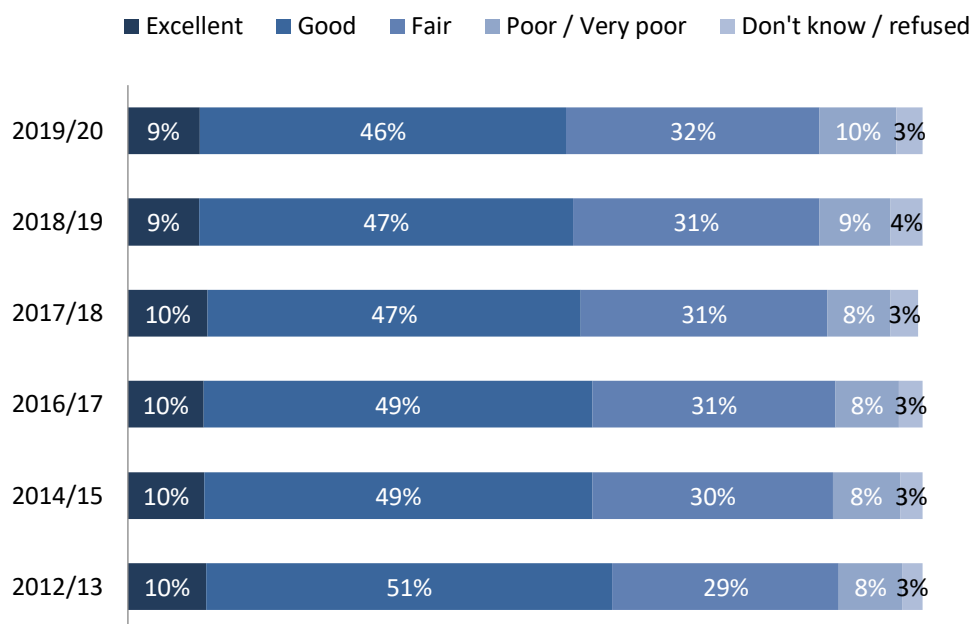
Just under one-third (32%) thought the police were doing a ‘fair’ job in 2019/20, whilst one-in-ten (10%) said the police were doing a poor or very poor job. These categories have both shown no change in the latest year, but have increased since 2012/13 (from 29% and 8%, respectively).

---

<sup>71</sup> These surveys are: [The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey](#), [The Scottish Household Survey](#) and [The Scottish Health Survey](#).

<sup>72</sup> 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**



Base: All adults (2012/13: 12,050; 2014/15: 11,470; 2016/17: 5,570; 2017/18: 5,480; 2018/19: 5,540; 2019/20: 5,570); Variable: QRATPOL.

In 2019/20, victims of crime were less likely than non-victims to say the police were doing a good or excellent job (49% 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 (49% compared with 56%, 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:

- both men and women
- people aged 45-59 and people aged 60 and over
- people who were not a victim of crime in the year prior to interview
- people in both the 15% most deprived areas and the rest of Scotland
- people in both urban and rural areas

Other than the category of those aged 60 and over (which has decreased from 64% in 2012/13 to 52% in 2019/20), all of the other decreases mentioned have been around 5 percentage points and are of similar levels to the national average.

Further details of these changes in confidence levels over time can be found in [Annex table A1.15](#).

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 2019/20, 42% of adults agreed with this statement, unchanged from 2009/10 but down from a peak of 49% in 2012/13.

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 of 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:

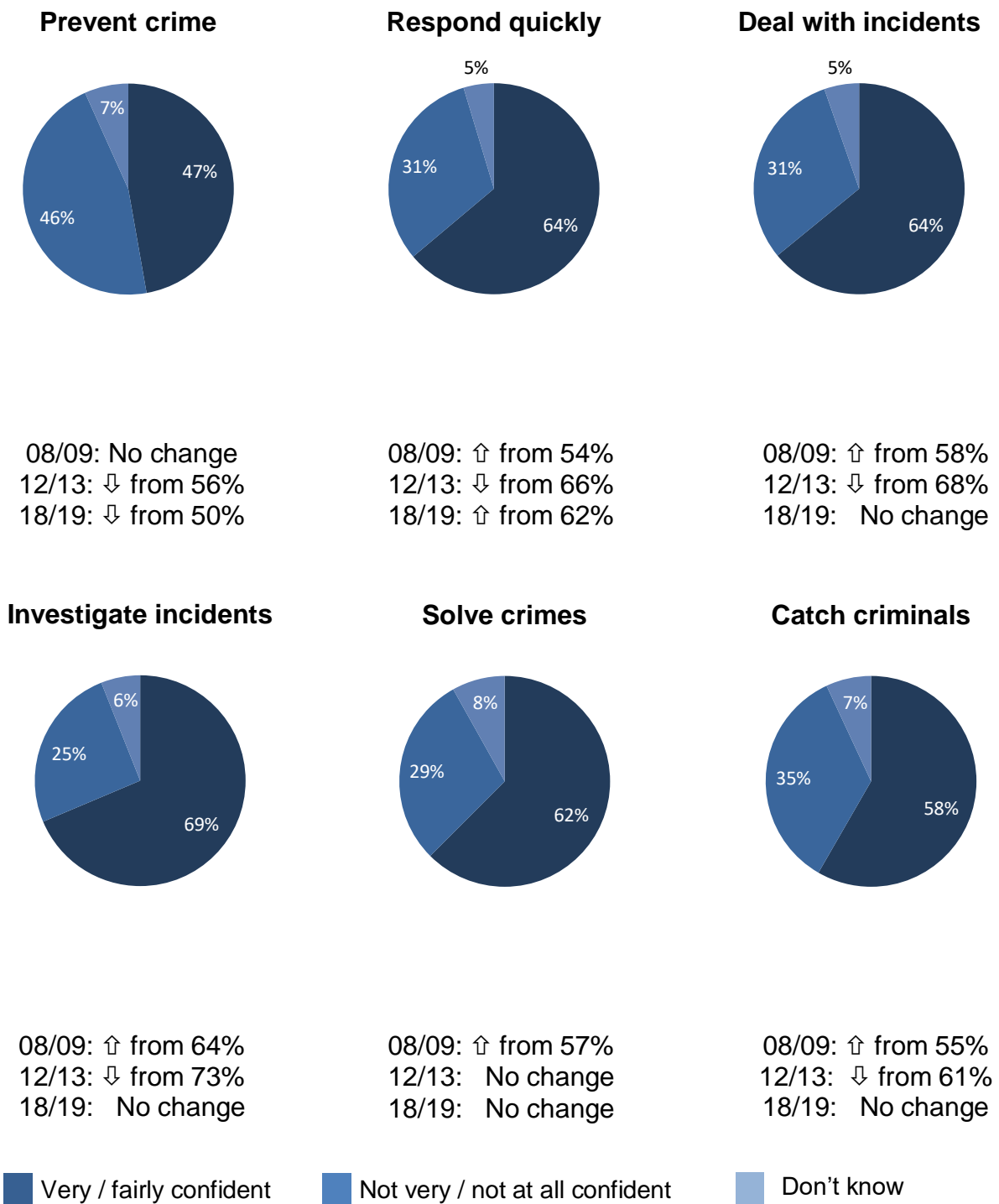
- prevent crime
- respond quickly to appropriate calls and information from the public
- deal with incidents as they occur
- investigate incidents after they occur
- solve crimes
- catch criminals

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

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

The majority adults in Scotland were confident in the ability of the police for all the effectiveness measures in 2019/20, other than in the police's ability to prevent crime where 47% of adults were very or fairly confident. Figure 6.2, shows that at least three-fifths of adults said they were very or fairly confident for four of the six indicators. Five of the six measures of confidence in the police were lower in 2019/20 compared to 2012/13 (with no change in the measures on solving crime).

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



Base: All adults (5,570); 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 decreased

The confidence in the ability of the police to prevent crime was the only measure to show a decrease between 2018/19 and 2019/20 (from 50% to 47%). This aspect of policing has consistently shown the lowest level of confidence across the six measures over the years. The measure has decreased from a peak of 57% in 2014/15, and is now in line with the 2008/09 baseline of 46%. This should continue to be monitored in future.

On the other hand, confidence in the ability of the police to respond quickly was the only measure to show an increase between 2018/19 and 2019/20 (62% to 64%), which now brings this measure back to a similar level to 2014/15.

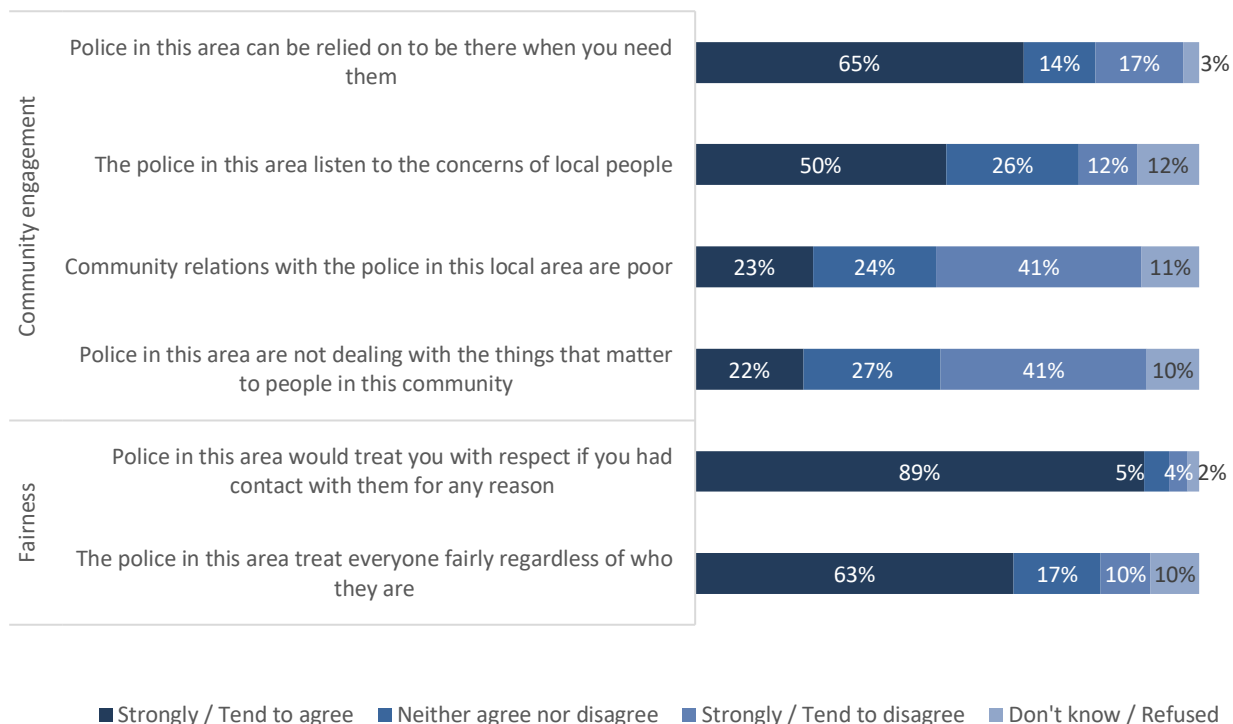
## **Did the public feel the police conducted their work fairly and were engaged with their community?**

**In 2019/20 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 2019/20 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**



Base: Adults who are not a serving police officer, married to or living with serving police officer (5,450); Variables: POLOPREL – POLOPCOM.

**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 2019/20 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 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<sup>73</sup>, and one measure has also increased in the latest year, with:

- 89% in 2019/20 agreeing with the statement that the police would treat you with respect, up from 83% in 2009/10 and 87% in 2018/19
- 63% in 2019/20 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](#).

<sup>73</sup> 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.



## Public confidence in the police to engage with the community

Turning to community engagement measures<sup>74</sup>, 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 fell from 54% in 2012/13 to 50% in 2014/15 and has remained stable since then (50% in 2019/20); 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 23% in 2019/20), although this remains lower than the 2009/10 baseline

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 2019/20 (22%).

These findings are particularly notable given that only 12% 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 community engagement showed no change between 2018/19 and 2019/20.

## 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 2019/20 generally held favourable views on the police across the range of indicators, 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 2019/20 across the range of effectiveness, community engagement and fairness measures.

However, notwithstanding the overall positive perceptions of the police, views in 2019/20 varied between victims of crime and non-victims. Victims of crime held less positive opinions on the

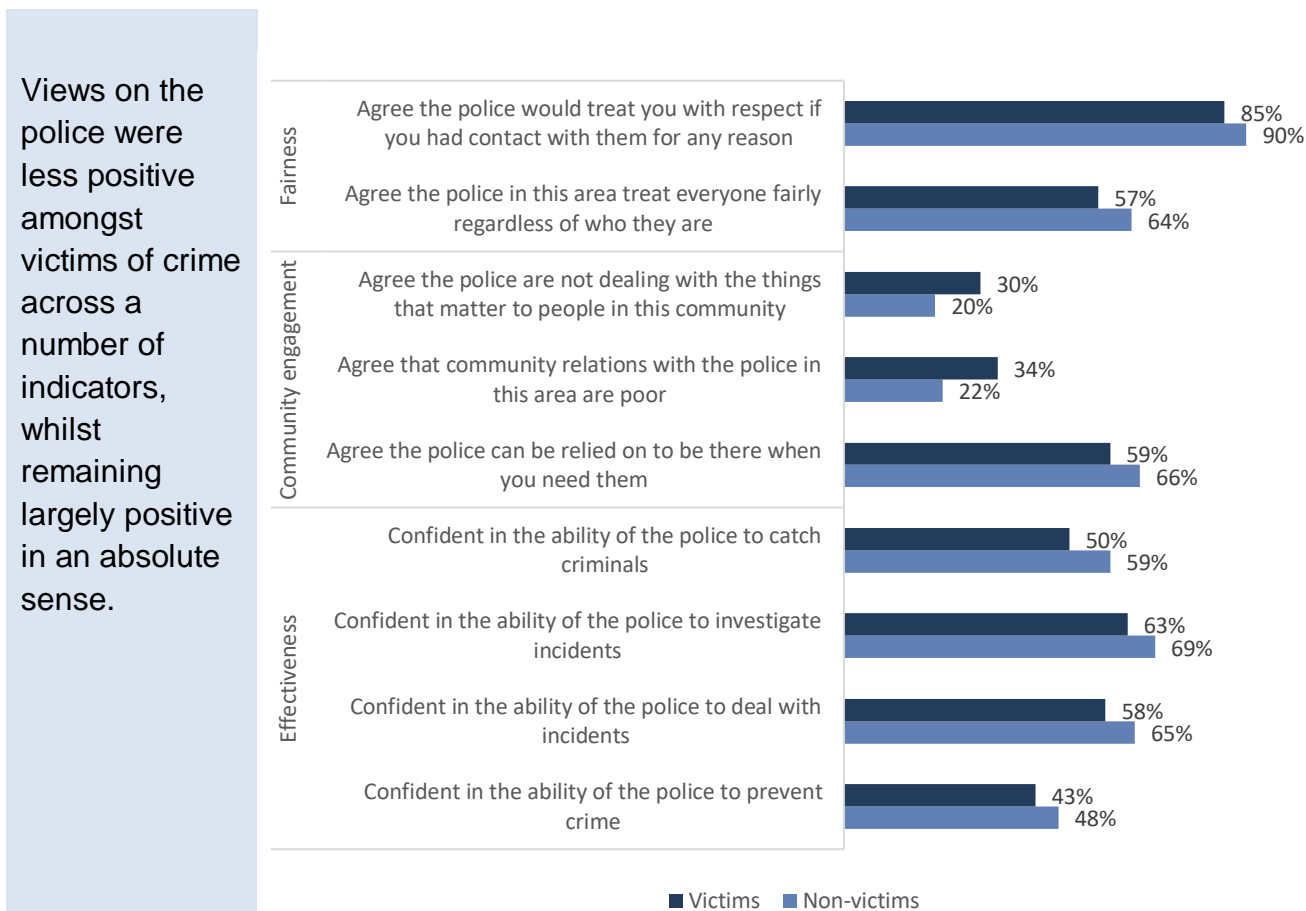
---

<sup>74</sup> 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.

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**



Base: Effectiveness: Victims (600); Non-victims (4,970). Community engagement/fairness: Victims (580); Non-victims (4,860). Variables: QPOLCONF\_01 – QPOLCONF\_06; POLOPREL – POLOPCOM.

**Those in deprived areas had similar views to those living in the rest of Scotland in their confidence in the police across all effectiveness measures.**

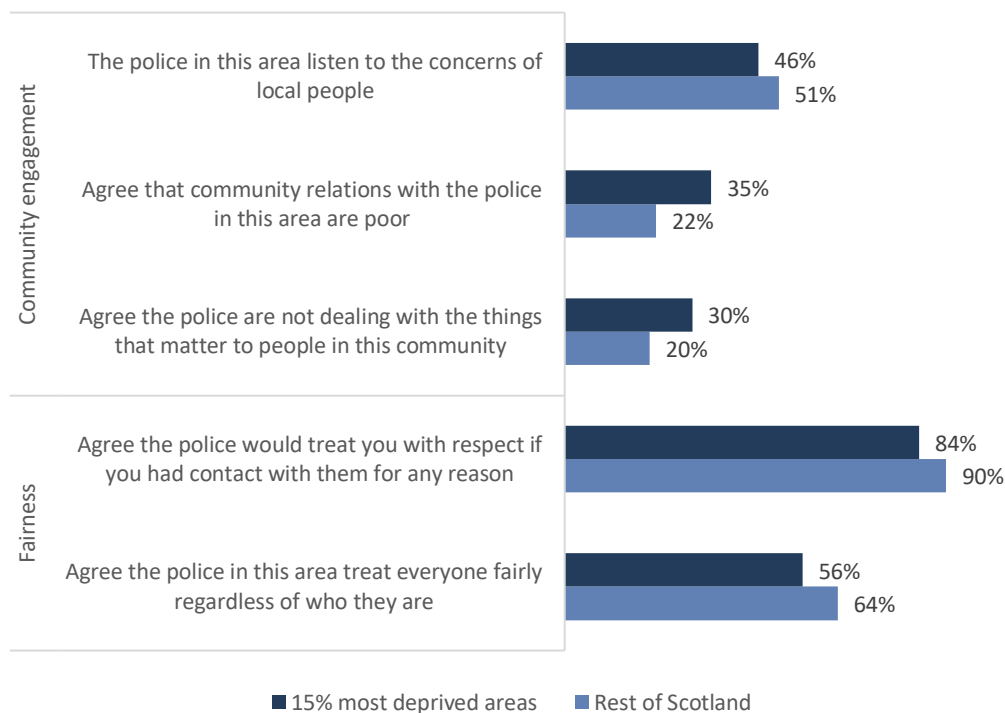
In previous years the SCJS has seen differing views between those in the most deprived areas (compared to those living elsewhere) when looking at community engagement measures. However, in 2019/20 there were no significant differences identified between those living in the 15% most deprived areas and the rest of Scotland in their confidence in the police across all effectiveness measures.

Those living in the 15% most deprived areas of Scotland did tend to hold less positive opinions on the police across a selection of community engagement and fairness measures however.

Significant differences are outlined in Figure 6.5 below, with all other measures showing no difference between these comparator groups.

**Figure 6.5: Variation in perceptions of the police, by area deprivation**

Those living in the 15% most deprived areas of Scotland tended to hold less positive opinions on the police across a selection of community engagement and fairness measures in 2019/20.



Base: Community engagement/fairness: 15% most deprived areas (790); Rest of Scotland (4,650). Variables: QPOLCONF\_01 – QPOLCONF\_06; POLOPREL – POLOPCOM.

**In general, adults in the two youngest age categories were more likely to be confident in the police across effectiveness measures in comparison with older adults.**

Looking at confidence in the police by age, in 2019/20 those aged 16 to 24 had higher levels of confidence across the six effectiveness measures than adults aged 45-59 and 60 or over. They also had higher confidence in four of the six measure than those aged 25 to 44 years old. People aged 25 to 44 were more likely than those aged 60 or over to have higher confidence levels across all six effectiveness measure which suggests that in general those in the younger two age categories (16 to 24 and 25 to 44) had more confidence in the police than older adults (45 to 59 and 60 or over).

People aged 16 to 24 and 25 to 44 were also more likely than those aged 60 or over to say the police were doing an excellent or good job, with 16 to 24 year olds also having more positive views than those aged 45 to 59.

Detailed breakdowns by age groups in 2019/20 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 (80% compared to 69% of those aged 25-44 years old, and 60% of both those aged 45-59 and 60 and over)
- 16 to 24 year olds were also more confident in the ability of the police to listen to the concerns of local people (60% compared to 49% of those aged 25-44 years old, 48% of those aged 45-59 years old, and 49% of those aged 60 and over)

### **Results were very similar when comparing by rurality and gender.**

Views across the majority of indicators were similar in urban and rural areas, however those in urban areas had more confidence than those in rural areas that the police would respond quickly (65% compared to 60%, respectively) but less confident that the police in their area listen to concerns of local people (48% compared to 57%, respectively).

Only one indicator found a difference in the views between men and women in 2019/20. The SCJS found that men were more likely than women to think that police in their area treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are (65% compared to 61%, respectively).

Additionally, it is worth noting that there was no difference both between those in urban and rural areas and between men and women in the proportions who thought the police were doing a good or excellent job in 2019/20 (55% and 56%, and 54% and 56%, respectively).

### **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.

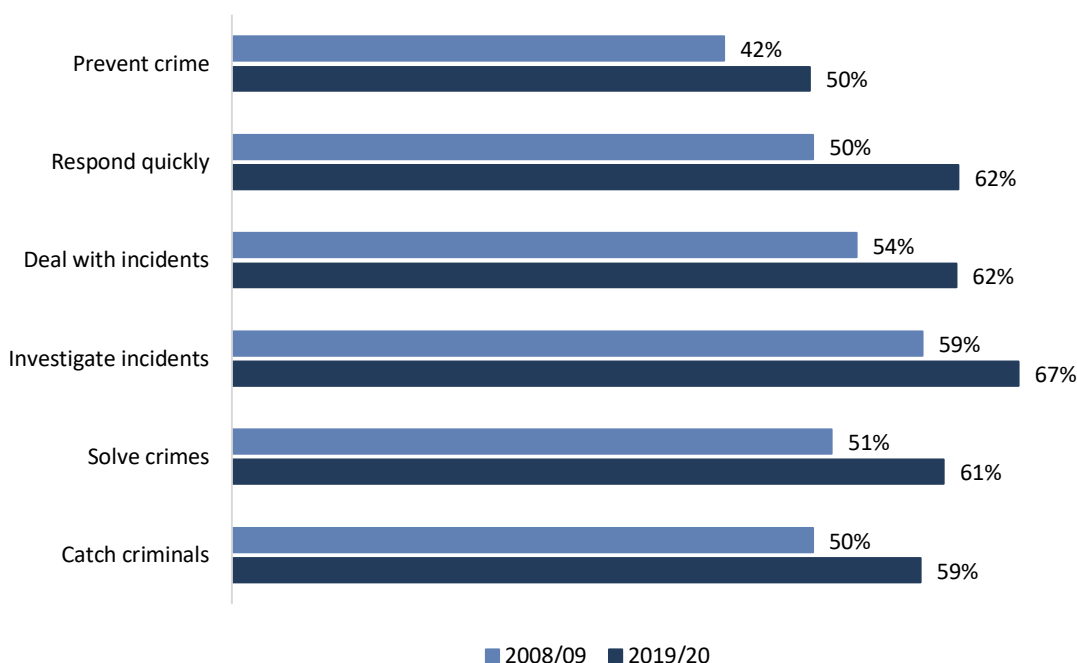
For instance, the proportion of adults who felt very or fairly confident in the ability of the police to take forward each of the six components of police work in terms of effectiveness was higher in 2019/20 compared to 2008/09 amongst those aged 16 to 24 and 25 to 44, people living in the most deprived areas of Scotland and people living in urban areas. These results are shown in full in [Annex Tables A1.16 to A1.21](#)<sup>75</sup>. The tables also show that results have been broadly stable since 2018/19, 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 2019/20.

---

<sup>75</sup> 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.

**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 2019/20**



Base: Adults living in 15% most deprived areas (2008/09: 2,440; 2019/20: 800); Variables: QPOLCONF\_01 – QPOLCONF\_06.

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<sup>76</sup>.

Across all six effectiveness measures, views improved in urban areas between 2008/09 and 2019/20, however views in rural locations showed no change.

This is similar to the trends in the perceptions of community engagement and fairness which improved across five of the six measures in urban areas, but only two of the measures in rural areas between 2009/10<sup>77</sup> and 2019/20.

### 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<sup>78</sup>.

<sup>76</sup> 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.

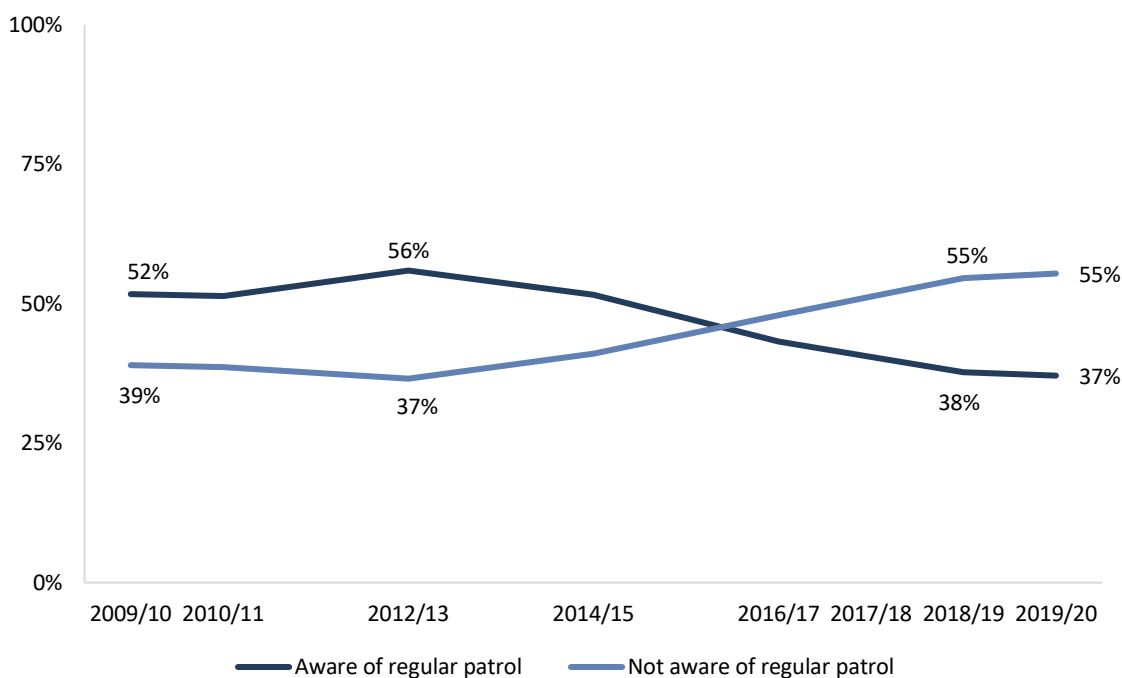
<sup>77</sup> The survey within which these questions were first introduced.

<sup>78</sup> 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.

## Under two-fifths of adults are aware of the police regularly patrolling their area in 2019/20.

Whilst the vast majority (91%) of adults in 2019/20 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<sup>79</sup> has fallen from a peak of 56% in 2012/13 to 37% in 2019/20 (unchanged from 2018/19), as shown in Figure 6.7.

**Figure 6.7: Proportion of adults who said they were aware of regular police patrol in their area, 2009/10 to 2019/20**



Base: Adults who are not a serving police officer, married to or living with serving police officer (2009/10: 3,890; 2010/11: 3,180; 2012/13: 11,520; 2014/15: 11,180; 2016/17: 5,420; 2017/18: 5,360; 2018/19: 5,410; 2019/20: 5,450); Variable: POLPATR.

As in previous years, Table 6.1 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.

<sup>79</sup> Either by foot, bike or car.

**Table 6.1: Public awareness of police patrolling in the local area**

| Percentage of respondents aware of police patrol (including how patrolled) | 15% most deprived areas | Rest of Scotland |
|--|-------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Yes</b>   | <b>47%</b>              | <b>35%</b>       |
| On foot  | 12%                     | 7%               |
| By bicycle   | 4%                      | 2%               |
| By car   | 45%                     | 34%              |
| <b>No</b>  | <b>47%</b>              | <b>57%</b>       |
| <i>Number of respondents</i>   | 790                     | 4,650            |

Base: Adults who are not a serving police officer, married to or living with serving police officer; Variable: POLPATR.

Note: results from 'don't know' responses are not shown 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, 29% reported noticing such activity at least every couple of days, if not daily. Around a further fifth (22%) said they had seen the police at least once a week.

**In 2019/20 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, 44% of adults in 2019/20 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, 0.5% in 2019/20.

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 45% in the rest of Scotland. Likewise, victims of crime were less likely to be positive about the current level of presence (36% compared to 45% 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' (51% 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 being content with seeing them in cars and feeling reassured by seeing the police at the current regularity.

## 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 2019/20, 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<sup>80</sup>
- 85% felt they were treated fairly
- 70% believed the police showed as much interest as they should have in what respondents had to say
- 61% were very or quite satisfied with the way the police handled the matter

These results are consistent with previous years, showing no change from 2018/19.

---

<sup>80</sup> This question is asked of all respondents with any contact with the police in the last year.



Police Scotland also conduct a [User Experience Survey](#) (UES) – previously the User Satisfaction Survey (USS) – with a large number of people who have contacted the police to report a crime or incident. Although results are not directly comparable, 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 UES can be found in the [Quarter 4 Performance report from Police Scotland](#).

### **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.

## **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<sup>81</sup>.

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

**Consistent with previous years, the majority of adults in 2019/20 knew little about the criminal justice system but were fairly confident about its operation.**

Consistent with previous SCJS results, in 2019/20 three-quarters (75%) of adults said they did not know very much or anything at all about the criminal justice system in Scotland. 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.

---

<sup>81</sup> Relatedly, [Section 8.3](#) also presents data on the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS).

For example, around 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 (77% and 75%, respectively).

However, less than half (41%) were confident about the efficiency of the system and that appropriate sentences are given which fit the crime (35% confident).

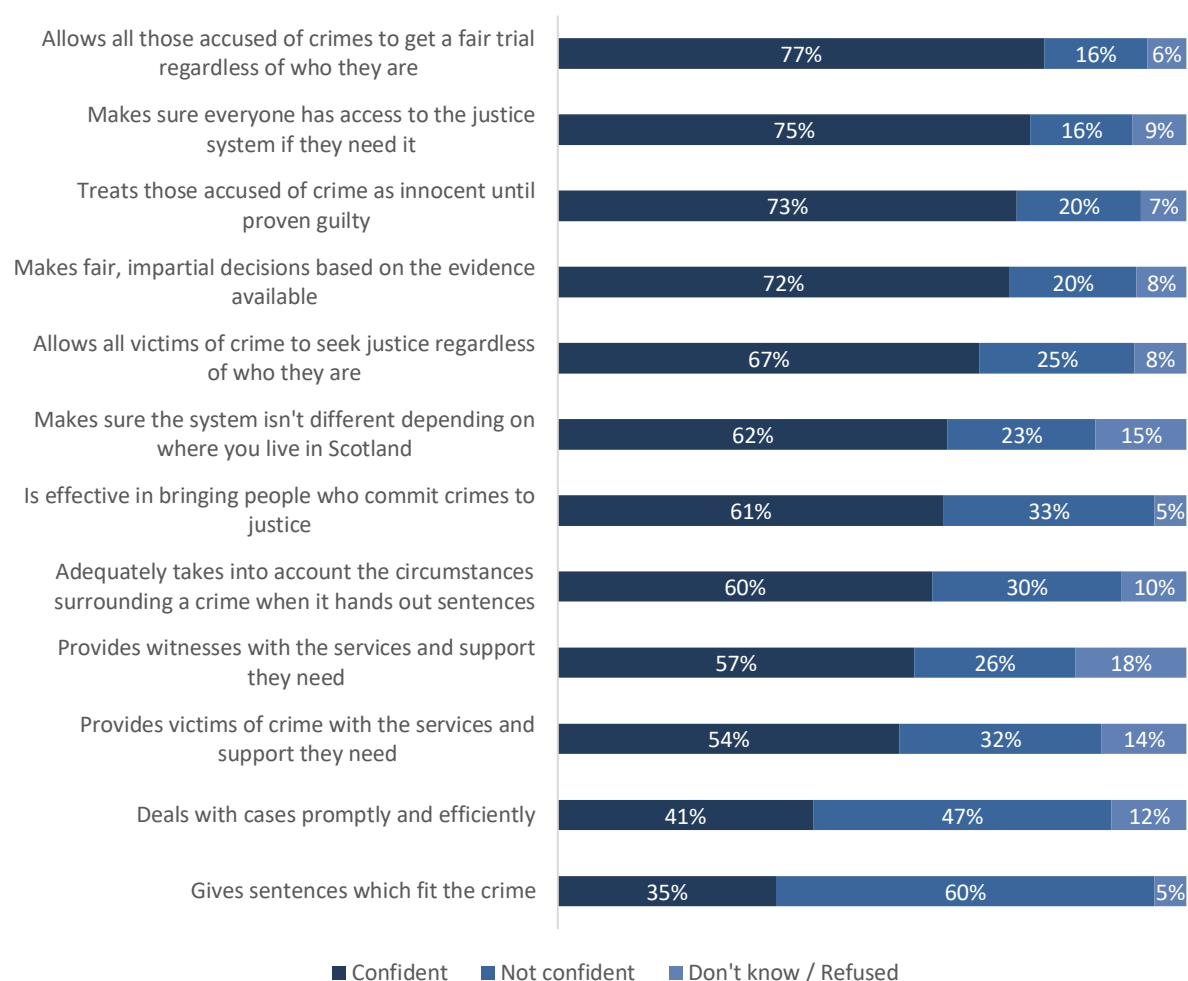
Notwithstanding wording changes in the latter measure in recent years, it is important to note that confidence in both these indicators has increased since they were first included in the survey. For example, in 2008/09, 35% were confident the system deals with cases promptly and efficiently, compared to 41% in 2019/20.

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%, which has since decreased to 35% in 2019/20. 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](#).

**Figure 6.8: Confidence in the operation of the criminal justice system**



Base: All adults (5,570); Variables: QDCONF\_01 – QDCONF\_15

Confidence in the criminal justice system was stronger across most of the measures in 2019/20, or had otherwise shown no change (with the exception of the criminal justice system giving sentences which fit the crime as mentioned above) compared to the first time each question was asked<sup>82</sup>.

The level of confidence that 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 75% in 2019/20, with the latest result unchanged from the position in 2018/19.

<sup>82</sup> 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 2019/20. Women were also less confident than men on a number of measures.**

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, 84% of those aged 16 to 24 were confident that the system makes sure everyone has access to the justice system if they need it, in comparison to 70% of those aged 60 or over.

Those living in the 15% most deprived areas of Scotland (compared to those living elsewhere) were less likely to be confident in the justice system. For instance, 63% 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 73% of those living elsewhere.

Women were also less likely to be confident in the justice system than men, with a lower proportion who said they were confident on six of the twelve measures.

**In 2019/20, there was little difference in the confidence of the criminal justice system between victims of crime and non-victims.**

In 2019/20, only three of the twelve confidence questions related to the criminal justice system showed any difference between victims of crime and non-victims. In these measures victims had less confidence than non-victims.

These results differ from findings in previous years which have tended to detect lower confidence in the criminal justice system amongst victims of crime compared to non-victims, however these findings are in line with those of 2017/18 which also 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<sup>83</sup>.

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<sup>84</sup>.

---

<sup>83</sup> 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.

<sup>84</sup> 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 6.2 shows that in 2019/20 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 under half (48%) agreed that only those who commit the most serious crimes should be put in prison.

The proportion agreeing that only those who commit the most serious crimes should be put in prison decreased between 2018/19 and 2019/20 (from 52% to 48%) and a higher proportion of adults agreed that prisons should provide support in order to prevent people committing more crime (94% in 2019/20 compared to 92% in 2018/19). The other results showed no change compared to 2018/19.

**Table 6.2: Attitudes towards the role of prisons**

| Proportion of adults  | Strongly/<br>Slightly<br>agree | Neither<br>agree nor<br>disagree | Strongly/<br>Slightly<br>disagree | Don't<br>know /<br>Refused |
|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Only those who have committed the most serious crimes should be put in prison                               | 48%                            | 12%                              | 39%                               | 2%                         |
| Prisons should help prisoners change their behaviour rather than just punish them                           | 92%                            | 4%                               | 3%                                | 1%                         |
| Prisons should provide support in order to prevent people committing more crime                             | 94%                            | 3%                               | 2%                                | 1%                         |
| Prisons should work with other organisations in the community to help prisoners fit back into the community | 91%                            | 5%                               | 3%                                | 1%                         |
| Homeless prisoners should be helped to find a place to live after they leave prison                         | 89%                            | 5%                               | 5%                                | 1%                         |

Base: All adults (1,420); 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 2019/20 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 (83%) 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

- over three-quarters (78%) believed that people who do not comply with the terms of their community sentence will be held to account
- around a quarter (24%) 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 13% adults were aware of unpaid work placements being carried out in their area, although amongst those who were aware of them, 77% 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 2019/20, 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 2018/19.**

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*<sup>85</sup> in the past two years in their local area<sup>86</sup>.

73% of adults in 2019/20 said that the crime rate in their local area had decreased or stayed the same over the last couple of years. This figure has improved from 69% in 2008/09 and is unchanged from 2018/19, as shown in Figure 7.1.

Looking more closely at trends over time reveals that the growth in the 'stayed the same or reduced' 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, improving from 60% of adults in 2008/09 to 65% in 2019/20. On the other hand, in the latest survey just under one-in-ten (8%) thought the crime rate had decreased, lower than the position in 2008/09 (9%).

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 2019/20 (23%) than in 2008/09 (28%), again unchanged from 2018/19.

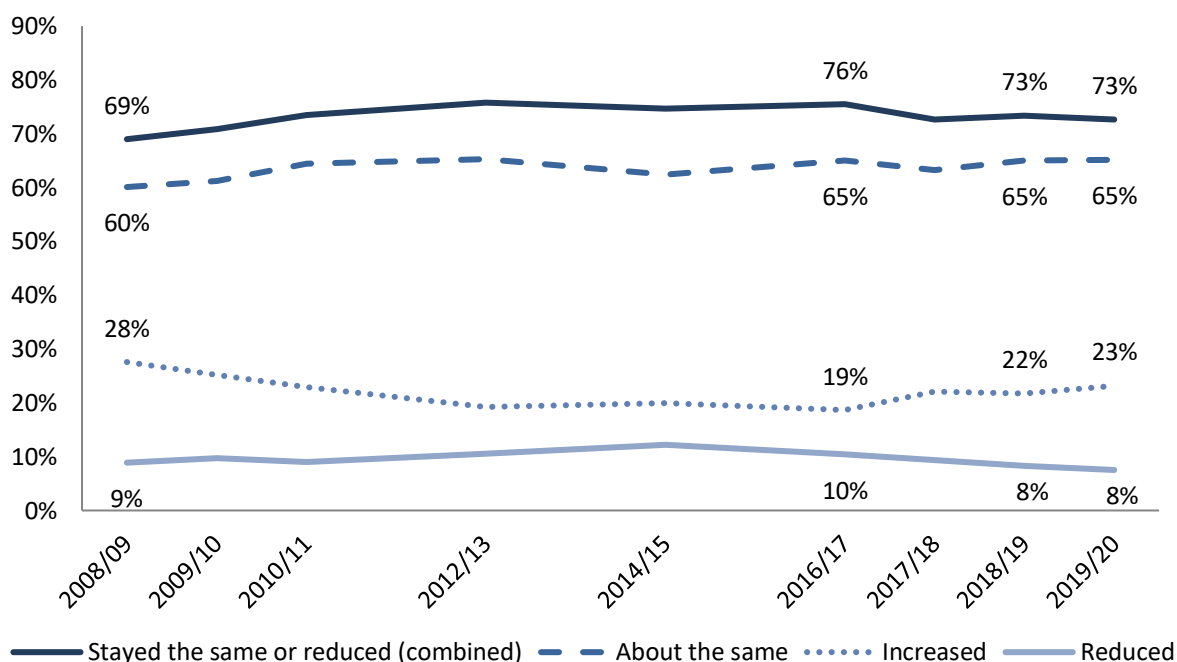
However, whilst the longer term picture is positive, comparing the latest results to the position in 2016/17 reveals a rise in people thinking crime has increased (from 19% to 23%), with fewer believing crime has fallen in the two years prior to interview. Therefore, this data will be important to monitor in the coming years.

---

<sup>85</sup> 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 a 'lot more' crime.

<sup>86</sup> 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=4,920).

**Figure 7.1: Proportion of adults holding views on changes in the local crime rate in the last two years, 2008/09 to 2019/20**



Base: All adults who have lived in local area for two years or more – SCJS 2008/09 (14,210); 2009/10 (14,380); 2010/11 (11,700); 2012/13 (10,640); 2014/15 (10,050); 2016/17 (4,830); 2017/18 (4,770); 2018/19 (4,820); 2019/20 (4,920); Variable: QS2AREA

**A smaller proportion of females, victims of crime, those in deprived areas and those in urban areas believed the local crime rate had been stable or fallen compared to comparator groups.**

In 2019/20, 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:

- fewer women than men (69% compared to 76%)
- fewer victims of crime than non-victims (59% compared to 74%)

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 people aged 25 to 44 years old, victims of crime, those in the most deprived areas, and those in rural locations.

More recently, figures showed no change across most population groups between 2018/19 and 2019/20.



## Scottish Surveys Core Questions

Whilst the SCJS is the preferred source for national results on perceptions of the local crime rate, this question is currently part of the Scottish Surveys Core Questions (SSCQ) which sees a selection of measures collected in the same way across the three large household surveys in Scotland – the Scottish Health Survey (SHeS), the Scottish Household Survey (SHS), and the SCJS. Results from the three surveys on the core questions are pooled together each year to offer a larger sample size, enabling more precise and granular breakdowns of results for equality groups and at local level. More on the SSCQ, including the latest results available on the local crime rate indicator from the three surveys combined, can be found on the [SSCQ website](#).

## How did views on local and national crime trends differ in 2019/20?

**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 areas, the SCJS also collects data on perceptions of national crime trends.

In 2019/20, almost half of adults in Scotland (45%) 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 shown no change since 2017/18.

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<sup>87</sup>. However, this proportion has increased from a low of 34% in 2014/15 and 41% in 2017/18, but has remained unchanged from 2018/19 (Table 7.1).

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

| Percentage of adults holding view on change in national crime rate: | 2019/20 | Change since 2009/10 | Change since 2018/19 |
|---|---------|----------------------|----------------------|
| A lot more / a little more  | 45%     | ↓ from 52%           | No change            |
| About the same  | 39%     | ↑ from 36%           | ↑ from 36%           |
| A lot less / a little less  | 6%      | ↑ from 4%            | No change            |
| Don't know / Refused  | 9%      | No change            | No change            |
| Combined: Less or same  | 45%     | ↑ from 40%           | No change            |
| <i>Number of respondents</i>  | 5,570   | 16,040               | 5,540                |

Variable: QS2AREAS.

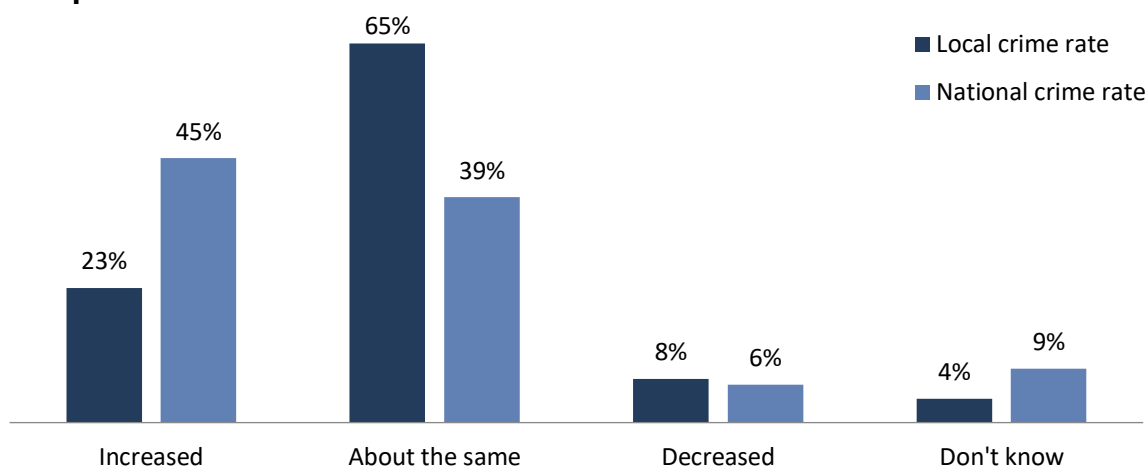
Comparing local and national perceptions, the proportion of adults in 2019/20 believing crime had increased in Scotland overall (45%) was much greater than the 23% who thought the level of

<sup>87</sup> The question on the national crime rate was first included in 2009/10.

crime in their local area had grown in recent years<sup>88</sup>. In other words, people were much less likely to say crime had been stable or fallen nationally (45%) 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 (4,920); National crime rate: All adults (5,570); Variables: QS2AREA; QS2AREAS.

Views on the national crime rate also varied by demographic characteristics. For example, women were less likely to think crime had been stable or fallen across the country as a whole than men (39% compared to 52%, respectively). This finding is similar to the pattern in views on the local crime rate.

The perception of the national crime rate also varied with age, with older people less likely to believe it had been stable or fallen in the last two years (for example 35% of those aged 60 and over compared to 59% of those aged 16 to 24).

In contrast to perceptions of the local crime rate, the 2019/20 SCJS detected no difference in views on the trend in the national crime rate between victims of crime and non-victims, and those living in the most deprived areas of Scotland compared to the rest of Scotland.

Those in urban areas were more likely than those in rural areas to believe the national crime rate had been stable or fallen in the last two years (46% compared to 40%, respectively), despite

<sup>88</sup> 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 45% using the full sample.

being less likely to think the local crime rate had been stable or fallen in the last two years (72% compared to 76%, respectively).

Further breakdowns and trends within groups over time are provided in [Annex table A1.12](#).

## How safe did the public feel in 2019/20?

### **More adults felt safe when walking alone in their local area or on their own at home during the night in 2019/20 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 2019/20, the majority of adults in Scotland said they felt very or fairly safe walking alone in their local area after dark (77%) 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:

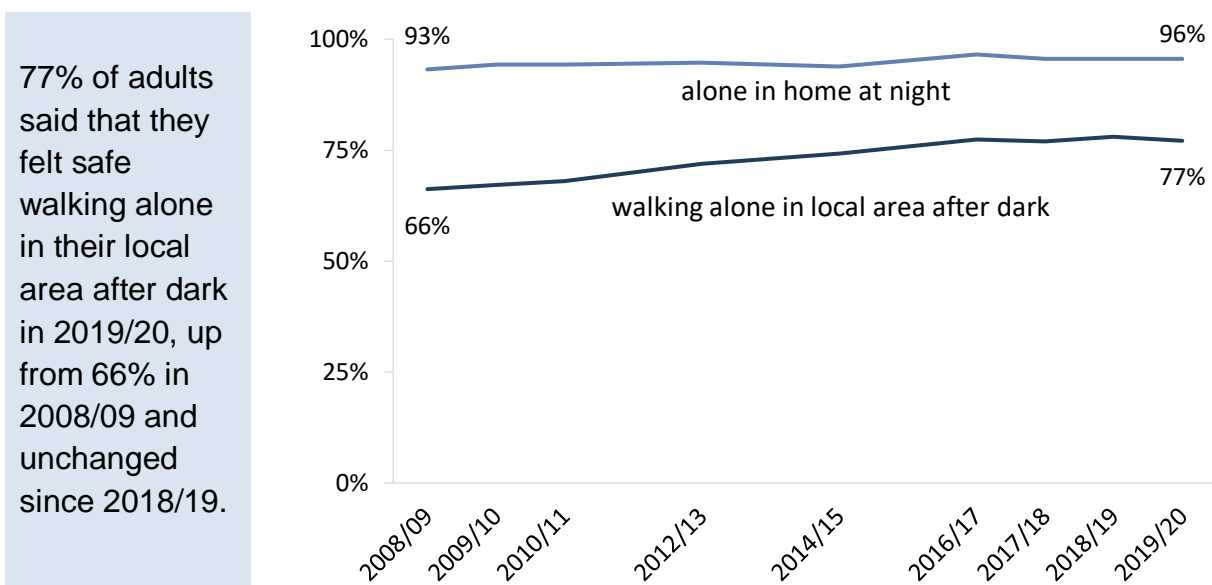
- the proportion feeling safe walking in their local area when alone increased from 2008/09 to 2016/17, but has been stable over the last few years
- although the vast majority continue to feel safe in their home at night, this proportion has fallen slightly but significantly since 2016/17, but has not changed since the 2017/18 or 2018/19 SCJS

The Crime Survey for England and Wales found a similar proportion of adults (78%) felt safe walking alone at night in 2019/20 using the same measure as the SCJS<sup>89</sup>.

---

<sup>89</sup> [Office for National Statistics: Crime Survey for England and Wales \(CSEW\) 2019/20](#). 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 2019/20 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 2019/20**



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); 2019/19 (5,570). Variable: QSFDARK; QSFNIGH.

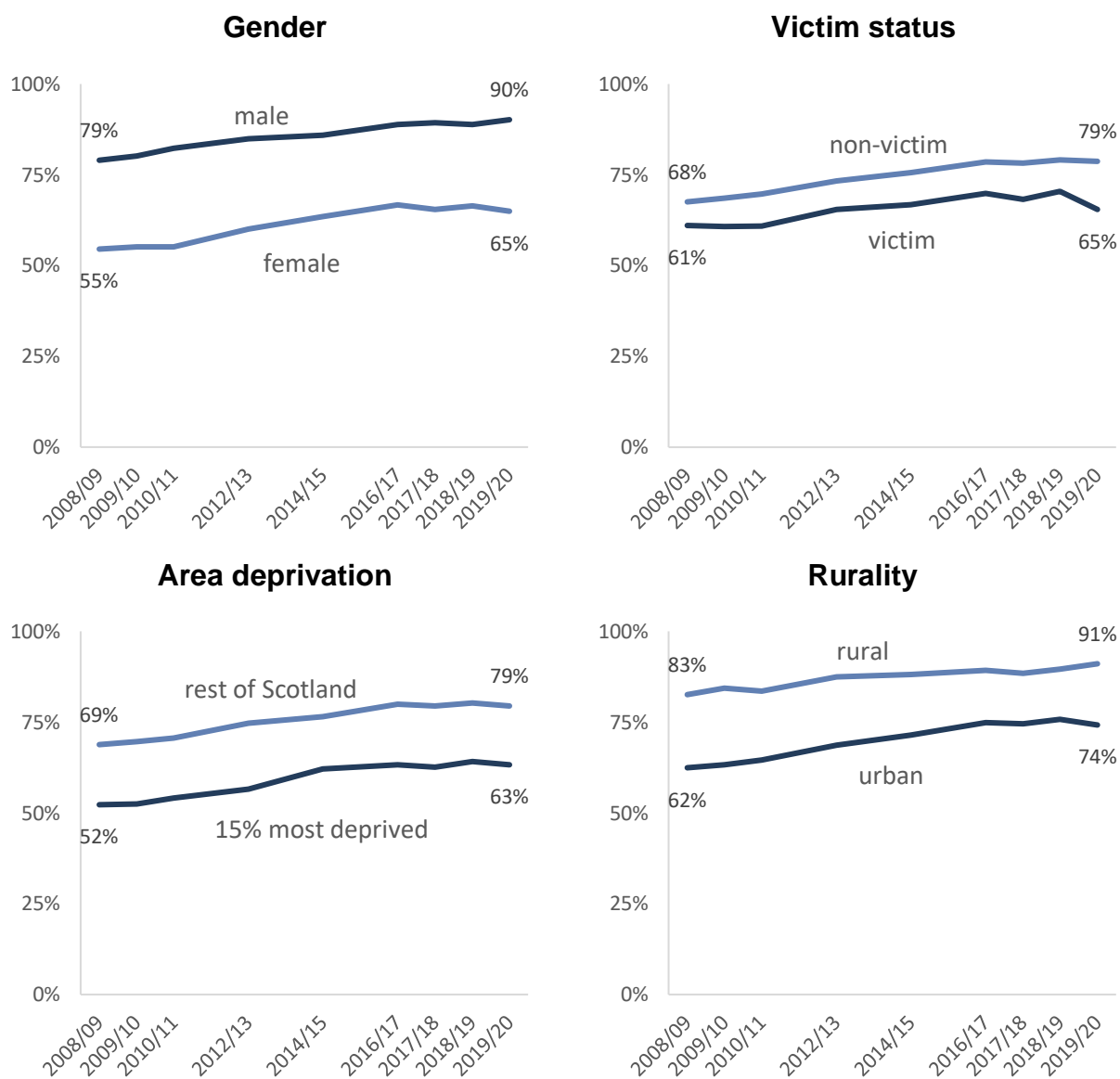
**Despite perceptions improving over the last decade, feelings of safety continued to vary by factors such as gender, age, area deprivation, and rurality in 2019/20.**

As shown in Figures 7.4 and 7.5, in 2019/20 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* most groups since 2008/09, with the exception of victims (where the apparent increase from 61% to 65% is not significant). No apparent changes in the latest year on the charts below are statistically significant.

However, notwithstanding generally positive trends in groups over time, in 2019/20 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 2019/20 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.

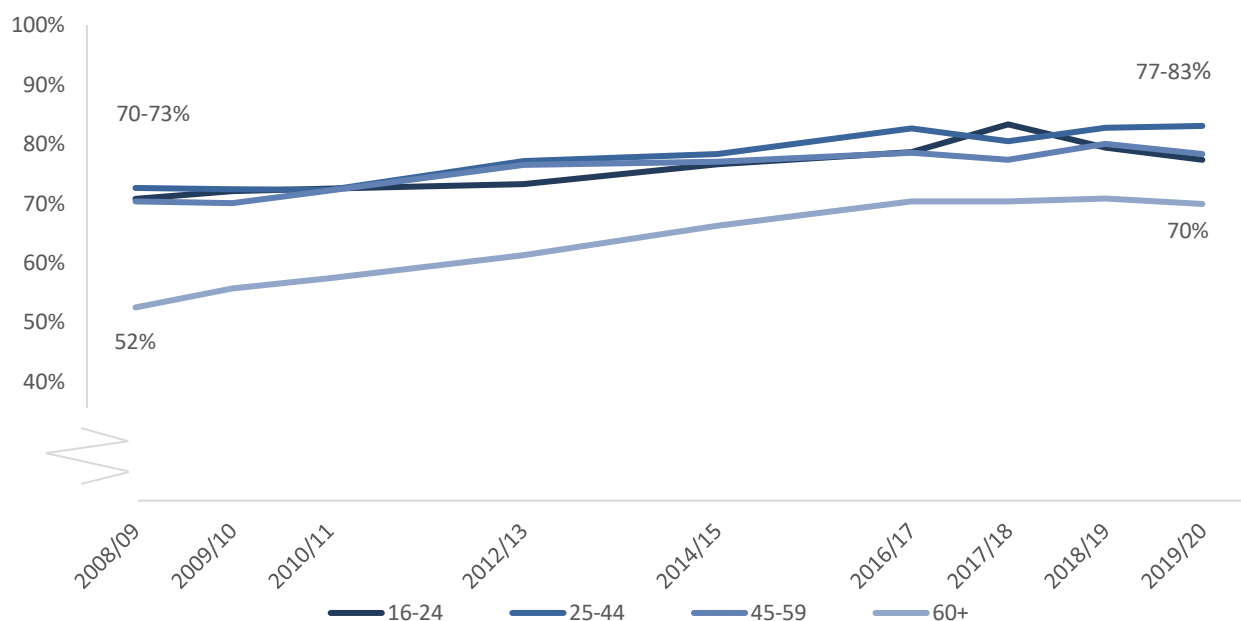
**Figure 7.4: Feelings of safety when walking alone in the local area after dark by demographic and area characteristics, 2008/09 to 2019/20**



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); 2019/20 (5,570). 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 2019/20. 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 2019/20**



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); 2019/20 (5,570). Variable: QSFDARK

Looking at perceptions when home alone at night, although generally over nine-in-ten adults across all demographic and geographic categories reported feeling safe, again some differences exist amongst the population. For example, 87% of victims reported feeling safe in their home alone (compared to 97% of non-victims), 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 most different age groups in relation to feeling safe when home alone, although those aged 60 and over reported feeling safer than those aged 25 to 44 (97% compared to 95%, respectively).

Over the shorter-term, the SCJS detected no change in either measure of perceived safety between 2018/19 and 2019/20 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 2019/20, 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 2019/20.

Overall, adults did not consider each issue to be a common occurrence in 2019/20, 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 45% of adults believing this to be the case in 2019/20. A third of adults (33%) 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 2019/20 than when views were first collected on each matter, with perceptions showing stability since the previous SCJS in 2018/19<sup>90</sup>. The most notable outlier in this trend is the perceived prevalence of sexual assault, which has shown an increase since the 2018/19 and 2008/09 SCJS.

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.

---

<sup>90</sup> [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     | 2019/20 | Change since 2008/09 | Change since 2018/19 |
|--|---------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Drug dealing and drug abuse  | 45%     | No change            | No change            |
| People behaving in an anti-social manner in public                                       | 33%     | ↓ from 46%           | No change            |
| People having things stolen from their car or other vehicles                             | 13%     | ↓ 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   | 9%      | ↓ from 15%           | No change            |
| People being mugged or robbed  | 6%      | ↓ 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  | 5%      | ↑ from 3%            | ↑ from 3%            |
| Percentage of adults who thought issue was very or fairly common in their local area     | 2019/20 | Change since 2009/10 | Change since 2018/19 |
| People carrying knives   | 12%     | ↓ from 22%           | No change            |
| Percentage of adults who thought issue was very or fairly common in their local area     | 2019/20 | Change since 2012/13 | Change since 2018/19 |
| Deliberate damage to cars or other vehicles  | 18%     | ↓ 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     | 2019/20 | Change since 2016/17 | Change since 2018/19 |
| People buying or selling smuggled or fake goods  | 13%     | 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); 2019/20 (1,440). Variable: QACO.

Note: comparisons are made to the year in which questions were first asked.

## 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 in this section 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.

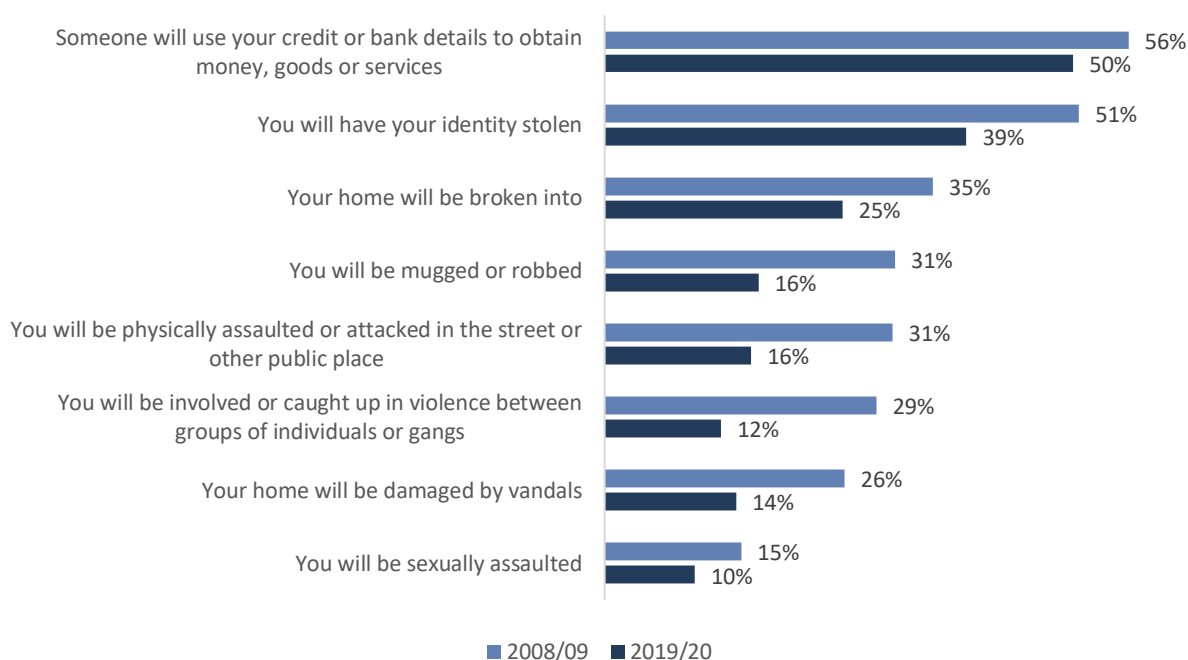


**Fraud remained the crime the public were most commonly worried about in 2019/20, although worry about a range of different crime types has fallen in the last decade.**

In line with findings in previous years, in 2019/20 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<sup>91</sup>. 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 39% were worried about their identity being stolen. By comparison, under a fifth (16%) of adults were worried about being physically assaulted or attacked in the street or other public place, whilst a tenth (10%) 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 2019/20 than the 2008/09 baseline. Looking more recently, all measures have been stable or decreased since the last SCJS in 2018/19.

**Figure 7.6: Proportion of adults worried about experiencing each issue, 2008/09 and 2019/20**



Base: All adults - SCJS 2008/09 (16,000); 2019/20 (5,570); 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 2019/20 SCJS found that:

- 29% of adults (in vehicle-owning households) were worried about their car or other vehicle being damaged by vandals
- 20% were worried about things being stolen from their car or other vehicle

<sup>91</sup> Findings in relation to perceptions but also experiences of fraud are also discussed in the ['Cyber Crime in Scotland' section](#) of the report.

- 19% were worried about their car or other vehicle being stolen

A small change to questionnaire routing and the response options<sup>92</sup> 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 remaining unchanged or decreased 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 the majority of adults did not think they were likely to experience any crime in the year after interview, almost 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 2019/20, 57% 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 50% in 2018/19.

This means that 41% of adults in 2019/20 thought they would experience at least one of the listed crimes in the year following their interview<sup>93</sup>.

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 (23%) thought this would happen to them in the next year. This is up from 14% in 2008/09, though has decreased since 2018/19 (26%). Relatedly, 13% of adults thought they would have their identity stolen, unchanged from 2008/09 but down from 15% in 2018/19.

To put perceptions about fraud into context, looking ahead to the year following interview:

- around one-in-eight adults (12%) thought their car or other vehicle would be damaged by vandals<sup>94</sup>
- 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 car or home would be damaged by vandals, their home would be broken into, they would be mugged or robbed, they would experience violence in a public place, or that they would get caught up in violence from gangs has fallen since 2008/09. That said, there

---

<sup>92</sup> 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.

<sup>93</sup> The remaining proportion is accounted for by the small number of respondents who refused to answer or said they did not know.

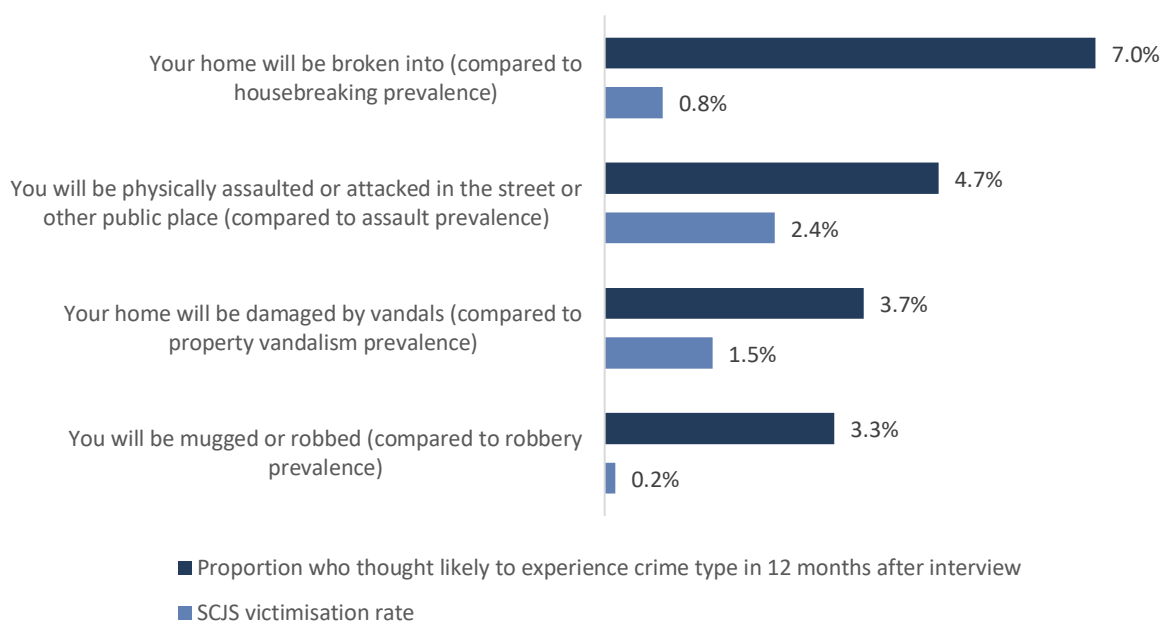
<sup>94</sup> This figure only relates to respondents living in vehicle-owning households.

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 2019/20.

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 2019/20 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 much 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, 4.7% 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 2019/20 survey was 2.4%.

**Figure 7.7: Perceived likelihood of victimisation in next year in the context of the victimisation rate from the 2019/20 SCJS**



Base: All adults (5,570). Variables: QHAPP; PREVHOUSEBREAK; PREVMOTOVAND; 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, victims of crime and people in deprived areas 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, victims of crime, people in deprived areas, 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

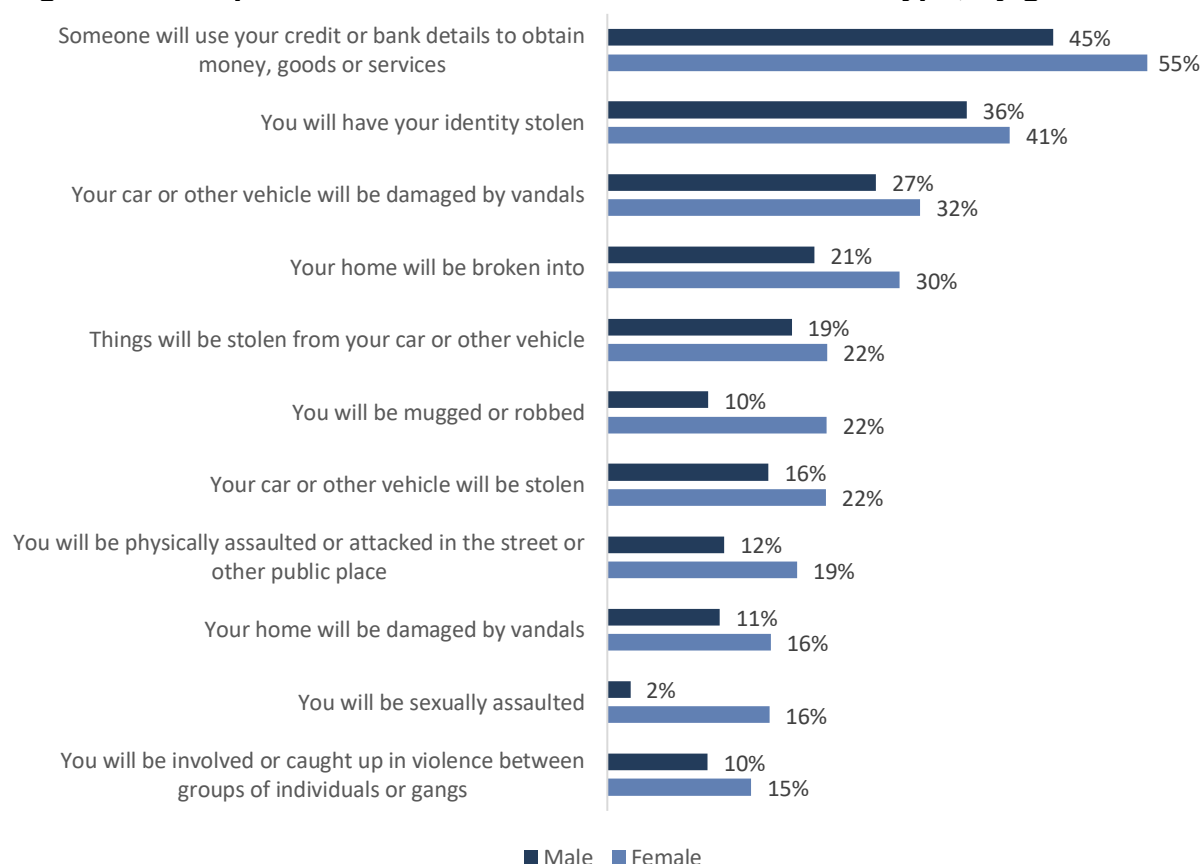
Each demographic and area breakdown is explored in more detail below.

## Gender

### Women had higher levels of concern about crime than men.

Women were more worried than men about experiencing all of the specific crime types which respondents were asked about in 2019/20. This is in line with the finding highlighted previously that [females were less likely to feel safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark](#). These results are shown in Figure 7.8.

**Figure 7.8: Proportion of adults worried about each crime type, by gender**



Base: Questions on vehicle theft/damage only asked of those who have access to or own vehicle – male (2,050), female (2,140); all other questions asked of all adults – male (2,570), female (3,000); Variables: QWORR\_04 – QWORR\_14.

Additionally, a greater proportion of women than men thought it was *likely* someone would use their bank details to obtain money, goods, or services (25% compared to 21% of men), their home would be broken into (8% compared to 6% of men), their home would be damaged by

vandals (4% compared to 3% of men), they would be mugged or robbed (4% compared to 2% of men) and that they would be sexually assaulted (3% compared to less than 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 having their vehicle stolen and violence between group of individuals or gangs as common issues.

## Age

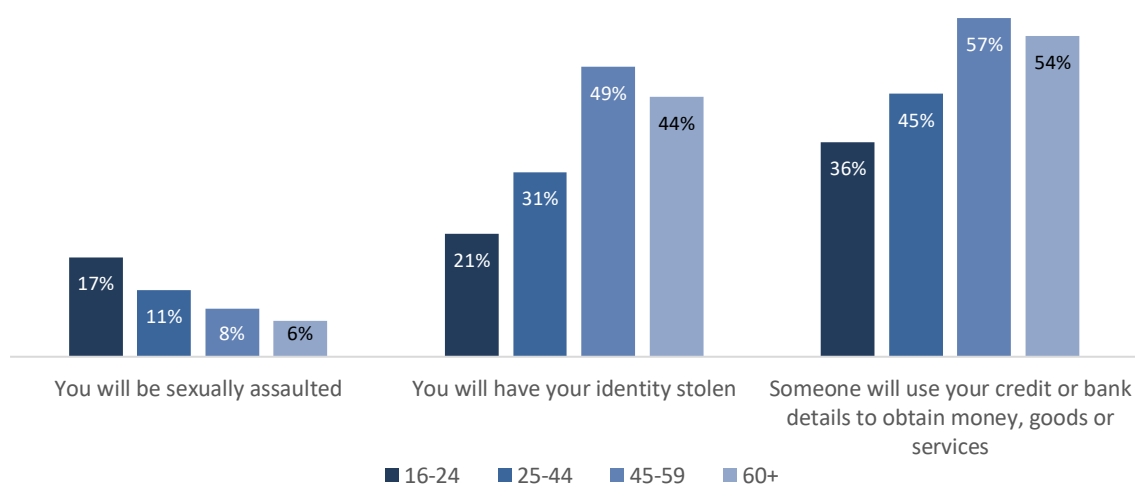
**The 2019/20 SCJS found perceptions of crime and safety showed a complex pattern with respect to views by age groups across the range of issues explored.**

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 2019/20 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 (17%), 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 the 45 to 59 age group
- either remained similar or 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 (390), 25-44 (1,580), 45-59 (1,420), 60+ (2,190); 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) or that they would be

sexually assaulted, but again less likely than these groups to think they would be victims of fraud or identity theft.

On the other hand, no difference was detected across the age groups in relation to the perceived likelihood of 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 violence between individuals or gangs, anti-social behaviour and drug dealing and abuse were prevalent issues in their neighbourhoods, compared to those in other age groups.

Similar to the trends of worry and perceived likelihood, those aged 16 to 24 were more likely than all other age groups to believe that being sexually assault was common in their area (14%, compared to 5% of 25 to 44 year olds, 3% of 45 to 59 year olds and 2% of those aged 60 and over).

### **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 to 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, think that they were likely to experience types of 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 and perceived likelihood of experiencing the crime was identity theft.

Table 7.3 below shows how recent prior victimisation had a strong association with views on the likelihood of experiencing crime in future, with each comparison shown representing a statistically significant difference. For example, whilst 60% of non-victims in 2019/20 said they did not think they would experience any of the listed crimes in the coming year, this was true for only 33% of victims. In other words, the majority of 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 the 12 months after interview, by victim status**

| Perceived likelihood of experiencing crime type                                      | Victim in 2019/20 SCJS | Non-victim in 2019/20 SCJS |
|--|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Someone will use your credit or bank details to obtain money, goods or services      | 29%                    | 23%                        |
| Your car or other vehicle will be damaged by vandals                                 | 29%                    | 10%                        |
| Your home will be broken into  | 16%                    | 6%                         |
| You will be physically assaulted   | 16%                    | 3%                         |
| Things will be stolen from your car or other vehicle                                 | 15%                    | 5%                         |
| Your car or other vehicle will be stolen   | 14%                    | 4%                         |
| Your home will be damaged by vandals   | 13%                    | 2%                         |
| You will be involved or caught up in violence between groups of individuals or gangs | 11%                    | 2%                         |
| You will be mugged or robbed   | 10%                    | 2%                         |
| You will be sexually assaulted   | 6%                     | 1%                         |
| <b>None of the above</b>   | <b>33%</b>             | <b>60%</b>                 |

Base: Results on vehicle theft/damage only includes respondents in households with access their own vehicle – victims (450), non-victims (3,740); all other results shown for all adults – victims (600), non-victims (4,970); Variables: QHAPP.

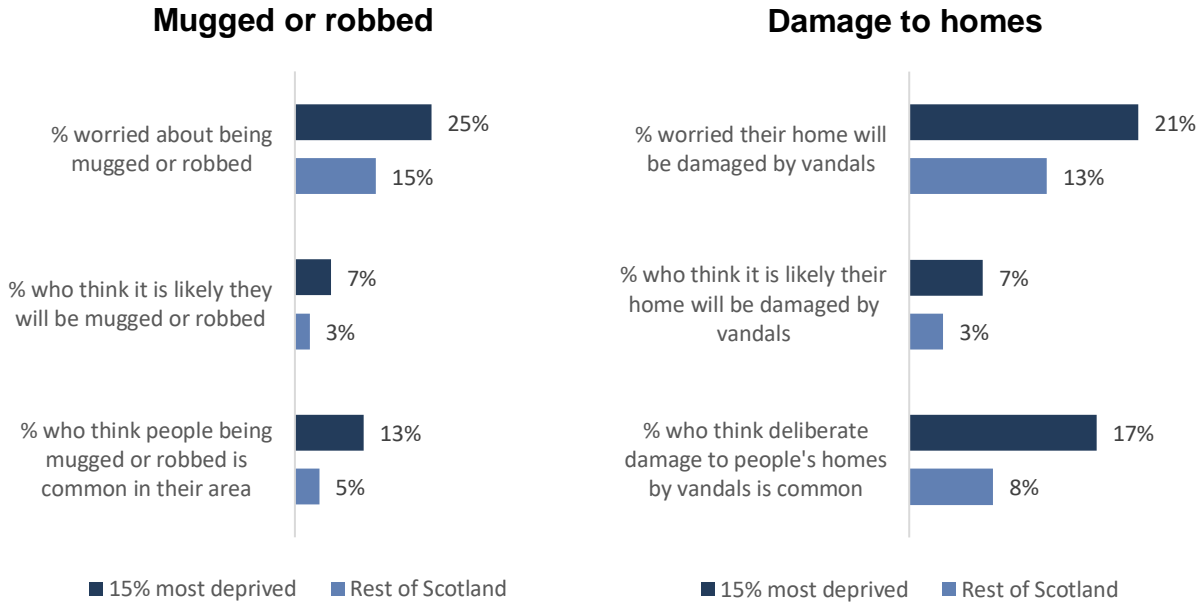
## Area deprivation

### Reported awareness of and concerns about crime were generally more common amongst adults in the most deprived areas of Scotland.

Where differences were 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.

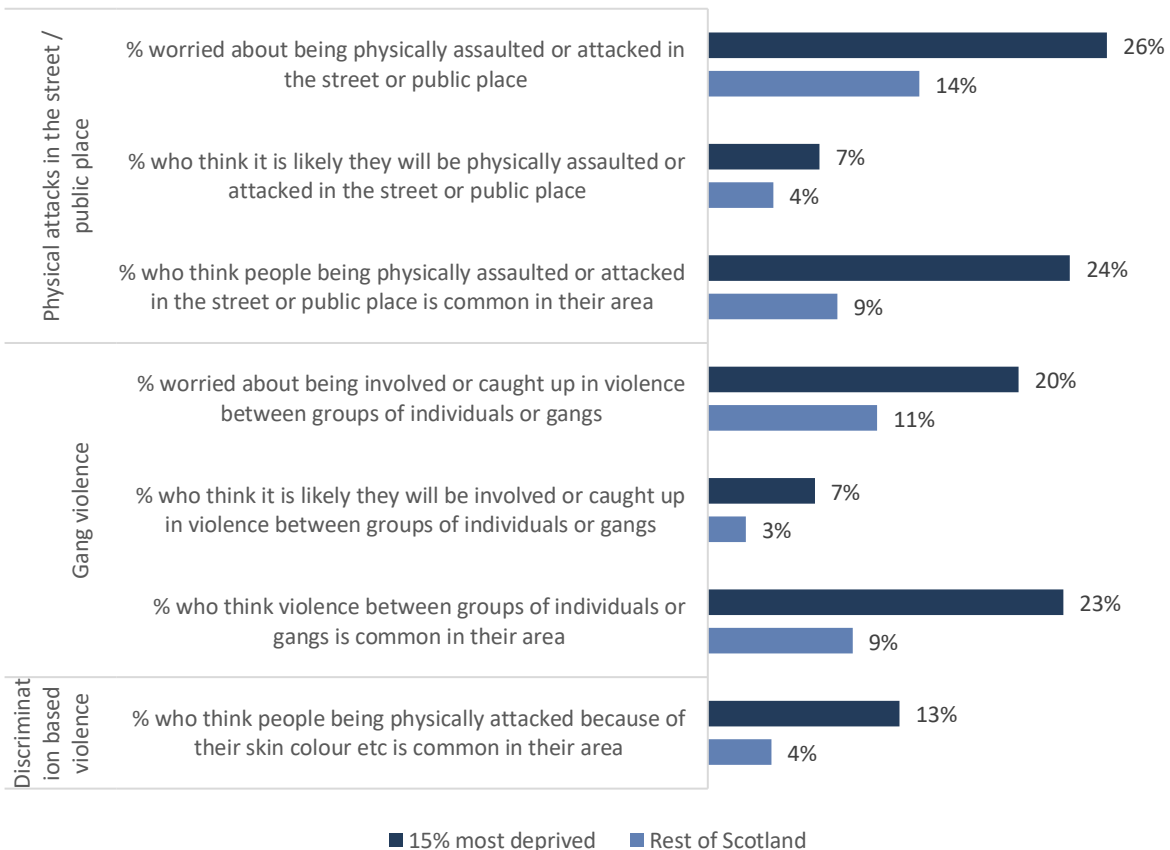
For example, greater proportions of people in the most deprived areas were *worried* about experiencing physical violence, being mugged or robbed, and their home being damaged. Those in deprived areas were also more likely to view these matters as *common* occurrences in their neighbourhood and think 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 - all adults: 15% most deprived (800), Rest of Scotland (4,770); Perceived commonness - all adults: 15% most deprived (200), Rest of Scotland (1,240); Variables: QWORR\_04, 06; QHAPP; QACO\_05, 14.

**Figure 7.11: Proportion of adults holding view on violence issues, by area deprivation**



Base: Worry and likelihood – all adults: 15% most deprived (800), Rest of Scotland (4,770); Perceived commonness – all adults: 15% most deprived (200), Rest of Scotland (1,240); 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 there was no difference in worry, perceived likelihood or commonness in the local area that their/other people's car or other vehicle would be stolen.

Looking at the perceived prevalence of wider issues in the neighbourhood, almost two-thirds of those living in the most deprived areas (63%) considered people behaving in an anti-social manner in public to be a prevalent issue. This was more than double the proportion of people living elsewhere in Scotland who believed this to be a common problem (29%). Likewise, drug dealing and abuse (71% compared to 41%) and knife-carrying (25% compared to 10%) 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 (48% compared to 31%), people behaving in an anti-social manner in public (36% compared to 19%), and people being mugged or robbed (6% 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, a higher proportion of people in rural areas compared to those in urban areas thought they would not be victims of any of the issues covered (62% compared to 56%, respectively). Those in urban areas thought they were more likely to experience some of the particular issues listed, including physical violent crime and their home being broken into or vandalised. For example, in urban areas:

- 5% believed it was likely they would be physically assaulted or attacked in the street or another public place, compared to 3% of rural dwellers
- 3% said they thought they would be involved or caught up in violence between groups of individuals or gangs, compared to 2% of adults in rural locations

## **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 the 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, 41% worried about being mugged or robbed (compared to 10% of those feeling safe), whilst almost four times as many were worried about being physically assaulted or attacked in the street or other public place (37% compared to 10%).

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 most specific types of crimes in the 12 months after interview. For instance, 14% of those who felt unsafe thought it was likely their home would be broken into during the following year, compared to 5% of those who reported feeling safe. That said, there was no difference in the perceived commonness or likelihood of having things stolen from their car or the perceived likelihood of experiencing identity theft between the 'safe' and 'unsafe' groups, whilst similar proportions also viewed people being physically assaulted because of their skin colour 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 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 (61%) reported that it did not prevent them from doing things they otherwise wanted to do ('at all'). This is in line with the baseline position when this measure was first collected in 2012/13 (60%) and unchanged from 2018/19 (62%).

In the latest survey, three-in-ten (31%) 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 (56%), those in urban locations (58%), victims of crime (45%) and people living in the 15% most deprived areas of Scotland (46%) were all less likely than comparator groups to say that their concerns had not prevented them from doing things they wanted to. Likewise, whilst 72% of those who said they felt safe walking alone in their local area after dark reported that 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?

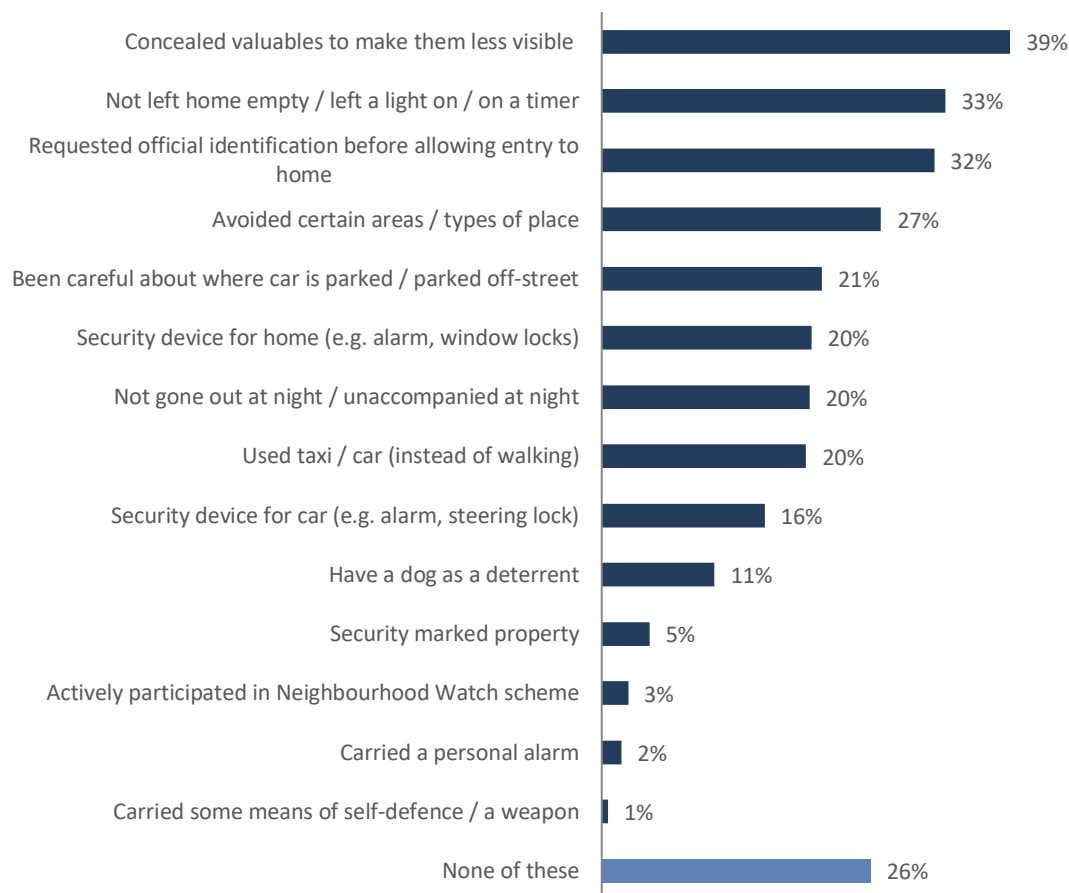
**The majority of adults took some sort of action in 2019/20 to reduce their risk of being a victim of crime, although take up of different precautions varied.**

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.

Almost three-quarters of adults (74%) reported adopting at least one preventative action in 2019/20, with 58% taking two or more actions. Just over a fifth (19%) said they had taken five or more of the listed actions, whilst around a quarter (26%) said they had not taken any of the listed actions.

As in previous years, the most commonly adopted precaution was concealing valuables to make them less visible (reported by 39%).

**Figure 7.12: Actions taken to reduce the risk of experiencing crime in the last year**



Base: All adults (1,440); 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 39%)
- not leaving their home empty or leaving a light on (from 26% to 33%)
- asking to see identification before allowing people into their home (from 21% to 32%)
- avoiding certain places (from 23% to 27%)

## 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 | 85%                        | 4%                         | 11%                           | 1%                   |
| The people who live in my local area can be relied upon to call the police if someone is acting suspiciously  | 81%                        | 8%                         | 7%                            | 4%                   |
| I have neighbours or other people in my local area I feel I could turn to for advice or support               | 80%                        | 8%                         | 12%                           | 1%                   |
| People in this local area pull together to prevent crime  | 56%                        | 22%                        | 14%                           | 7%                   |
| People in my local area cannot be trusted   | 14%                        | 14%                        | 69%                           | 3%                   |

Base: All adults (1,440); 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 all of the indicators.

The [Scottish Household Survey report chapter](#) cited earlier, which explores perceptions of neighbourhood problems, 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 2019/20, 45% thought this would be the case with 29% disagreeing, and the remainder (26%) 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 2019/20 was in line with the baseline position from 2012/13 and the 2018/19 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 (90%) 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 (83%). The proportion of adults who said they would be willing to give evidence in court against the accused has decreased since 2012/13 (89%). However the rest of these findings were all unchanged compared to 2012/13, when the questions were first included, and all have shown no change since 2018/19.

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 be prepared to identify the perpetrator (81% compared to 92%) or that they would be willing to give evidence in court (74% compared to 84%).

## 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 presents key findings from the 2019/20 SCJS on:

- [Cyber crime](#)
- [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<sup>95</sup> 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 2019/20 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. Additionally, violent and property crimes which involved online activity or internet-enabled devices were marked with a 'cyber flag'.**

The SCJS asked respondents about their experiences of a range of different types of cyber fraud and computer misuse, which are listed below. These questions were asked for the first time in 2018/19 following a [review and development of the questionnaire](#).

As this is only the second year these questions have been included in the survey, any changes between years should be treated with caution as no trend can be identified at this stage.

It is important to note that the findings from these 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 their interview 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.

---

<sup>95</sup> Technology relating to computers, computer networks such as the Internet and/or other forms of Information and Communication Technology (ICT).



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 (for example, when a scam email was received but the person simply deleted it).

A 'cyber flag' question was also first added to the victim form section of the questionnaire in 2018/19. This is central to understanding what proportion of property and violent crime involved the internet, any type of online activity, or an internet-enabled device.

Finally, the SCJS also collects information about stalking and harassment, which may also include a cyber element, for example if taking place on a social media website, or via email.

Drawing on the data collected across the survey, this section of the report presents results from the 2019/20 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 the SCJS results. Police Scotland also collect data about cyber crime. More information on the police's recording of cyber crime can be found towards the [end of this section](#).

## Cyber fraud and computer misuse questions

Respondents were asked if any of the following had happened to them in the previous 12 months:

- 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”**
- had their devices infected by a malicious software, such as a virus or other form of malware, hereafter defined as **“virus”**
- 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”**
- 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”**
- 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”**
- received a scam email claiming to be from their bank or another organisation (e.g. HMRC), asking to provide their bank details or make a payment as a result, hereafter defined as a **“scam email”**
- 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”**
- 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<sup>96</sup>. 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.

---

<sup>96</sup> [Office for National Statistics: Overview of fraud statistics: year ending March 2016 \(latest release at time of publishing\)](#)

Most types of cyber crime covered by the 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 newer cyber crime questions. It then explores fraud levels from another perspective, by presenting the analysis of the longer-standing 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<sup>97</sup>, the extent of cyber involvement is unknown in these latter questions.

## **How common were experiences of cyber fraud or computer misuse in 2019/20?**

**Just over one-in-ten adults who use the internet said they had experienced one or more type of cyber fraud and computer misuse in 2019/20, with less than one-in-twenty having been victims of more than one type.**

The 2019/20 SCJS found that over four-fifths (85.9%) of internet users in Scotland did not experience cyber fraud or computer misuse in the 12 months prior to interview. When asked about their experiences, 13.9% said they had experienced at least one type of cyber fraud or computer misuse in 2019/20<sup>98</sup>, down from 20.4% in 2018/19. Of those, 3.0% experienced more than one type<sup>99</sup>.

As this is only the second year these questions have been included in the survey any changes between years should be treated with caution as no trend can be identified.

For context, the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) estimates that 3.6% of adults were victims of cyber fraud and that 1.6% were victim of computer misuse in the year ending March 2020<sup>100</sup>. However, the CSEW and SCJS data are not directly comparable, as the two surveys ask notably different questions and follow different processes.

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 newer 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

---

<sup>97</sup> [The CSEW estimated that around half of fraud crimes in the year ending March 2020 were cyber-related.](#)

<sup>98</sup> 0.2% of respondents said 'Don't know' in answer to this question.

<sup>99</sup> 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.

<sup>100</sup> [Crime Survey England and Wales property crime tables](#)

where only an attempt was made, where it involved a workplace-owned device or where the incident occurred prior to the 12 month period asked about.

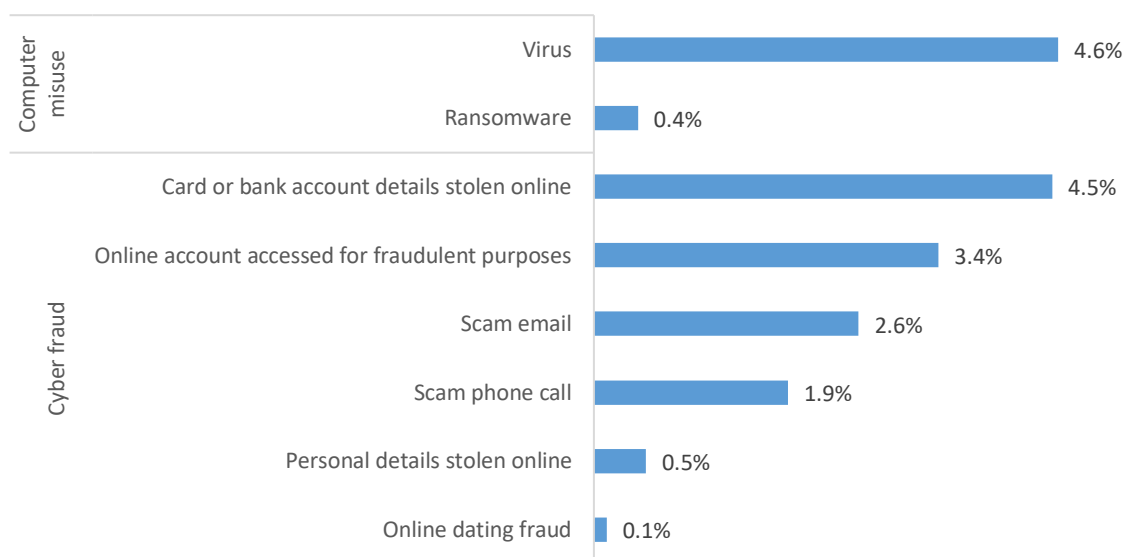
## Which types of cyber fraud and computer misuse were most common?

**In 2019/20, the types of cyber fraud and computer misuse that people were most likely to have experienced were having their device infected by a virus and having their card or bank account details stolen online.**

The 2019/20 SCJS found that the types of cyber fraud and computer misuse that people were most likely to have experienced were having their device infected by a virus (experienced by 4.6% of internet users) and having their card or bank account details stolen online (experienced by 4.5% of internet users).

Figure 8.1 shows the proportion of people experiencing each type of cyber fraud and computer misuse. Overall, when combining categories into fraud or computer misuse<sup>101</sup>, online fraud was a more common occurrence than computer misuse offences.

**Figure 8.1: Proportion of people having experienced types of cyber fraud and computer misuse**



Base: All internet users (4,670) Variable: CYBER2.

## How did experiences of cyber fraud and computer misuse vary amongst the population?

**Men were more likely than women to experience computer misuse.**

The 2019/20 SCJS found that men were more likely than women to experience cyber fraud or computer misuse overall (15.3% compared to 12.6%, respectively). When looking at individual types of cyber fraud and computer misuse, men were more likely than women to experience both

<sup>101</sup> Computer misuse includes virus and ransomware; all other categories are types of online fraud.

types of computer misuse (viruses and ransomware). There were no differences in the likelihood of experiencing any of the types of cyber fraud asked about in the SCJS.

### **There was no clear pattern when looking at the likelihood of experiencing any type of cyber fraud and computer misuse by age.**

Overall, variation in the likelihood of being a victim of any type of cyber fraud or computer misuse with age did not show a clear pattern in 2019/20. This is in contrast to 2018/19 where the SCJS found that those aged 60 and over were least likely to experience cyber fraud and computer misuse. As mentioned above, however, it is not advisable to draw conclusions on trends over time, as these questions were only first asked in 2018/19.

When looking at specific types of cyber fraud and computer misuse, the SCJS found that victims of phone scams were most likely to be aged 60 and over.

### **The 2019/20 SCJS found no difference in experiences of cyber fraud or computer misuse overall by area deprivation, or between those living in urban and rural areas.**

Area deprivation and rurality were not found to impact on the likelihood of becoming a victim of cyber fraud or computer misuse overall. However, internet users in less deprived areas and urban areas of Scotland were more likely to experience online dating fraud (although less than 0.2% of adults experienced this type of fraud in these areas). Those *not* living in the 15% most deprived areas of Scotland were also more likely to be a victim of having personal details stolen online, ransomware, and phone scams.

## **What impact did cyber fraud and computer misuse have on victims, and how did these 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 computer misuse crime, and whether the incident led to them modifying their online behaviours.

Respondents were presented with a list of possible impacts and behaviour changes, and were able to choose more than one option. These impacts and behaviour changes are listed below. This section presents figures for each type of cyber fraud and computer misuse individually<sup>102</sup>.

The survey found that in 2019/20 a large proportion of cyber fraud and computer misuse victims said their experience had no impact on them<sup>103</sup> (41% of virus victims; 64% of people who had their online account accessed for fraudulent purposes; 73% of scam email victims; 85% of scam phone call victims). The most notable outlier was in the case of people who had their card or

---

<sup>102</sup> 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. Personal details stolen online, ransomware, and online dating fraud are not included due to small sample sizes.

<sup>103</sup> By choosing the “none of these” option from the list of potential impacts.

bank account stolen online, with almost three-quarters (72%) saying that the incident led to them losing their money, but that they were able to get it back in full.

Figure 8.2 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](#).

**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

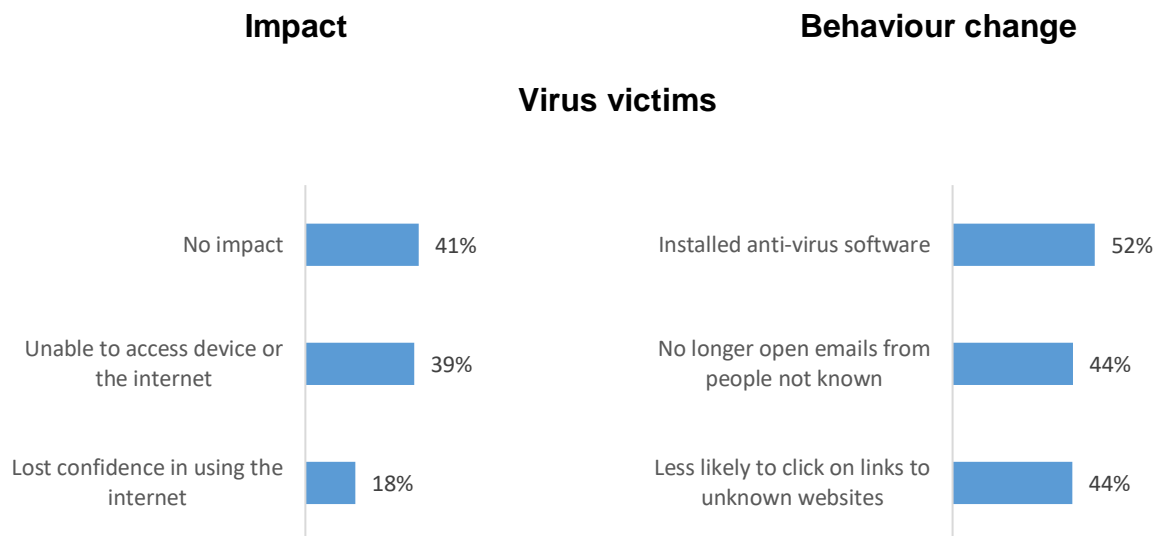
Regularly change your passwords

Took steps to learn more about online safety

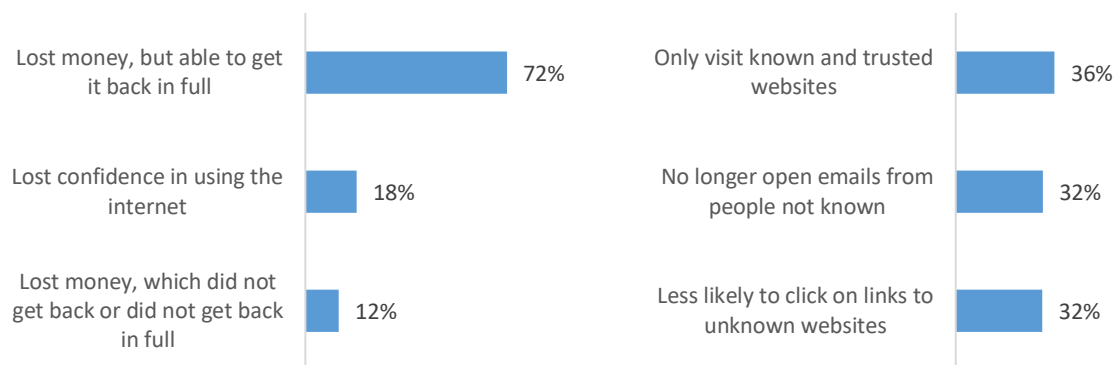
Other (specify)

None of these

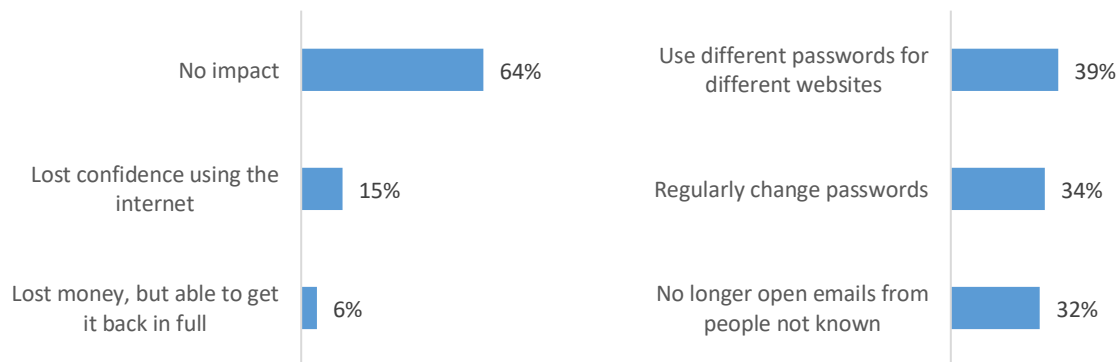
**Figure 8.2: Reported impact and behaviour changes following experience of cyber fraud and computer misuse**



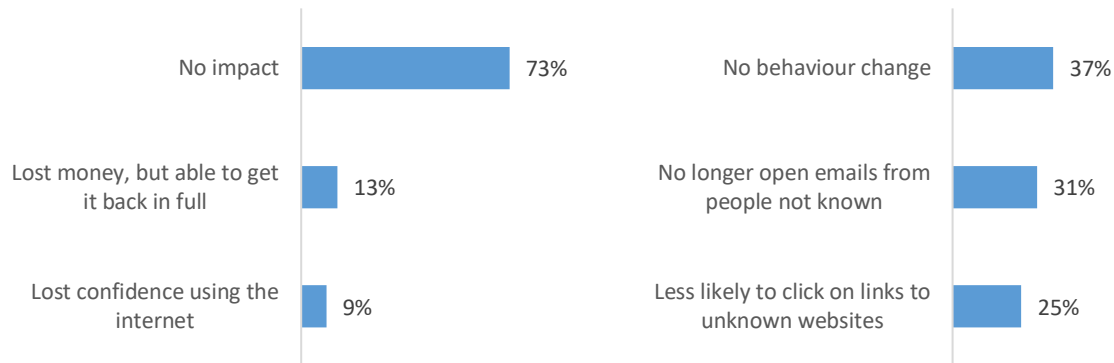
**Victims whose card/bank account details were stolen online**



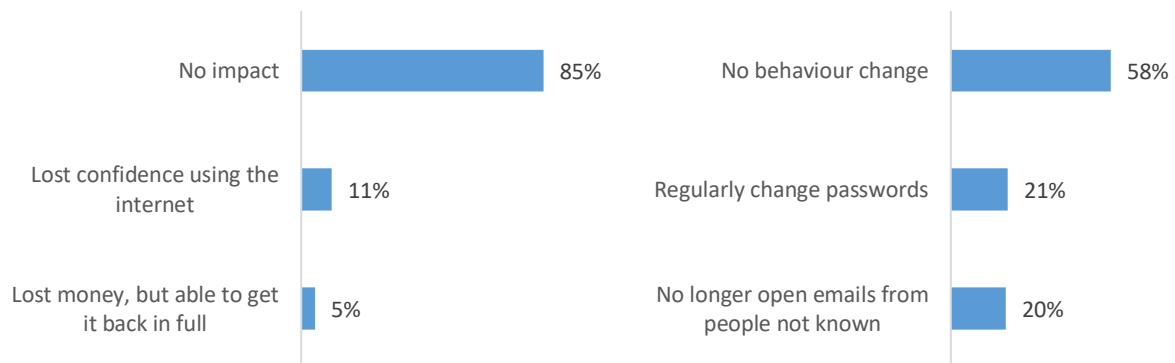
**Victims whose online account was accessed for fraudulent purposes**



### Scam email victims



### Scam phone call victims



Base: All victims of: virus (190); card or bank account details stolen online (200); someone accessed online account fraudulently (140); scam email (120); Scam phone call (90). 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 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 incident was reported, victims rarely turned to the police.**

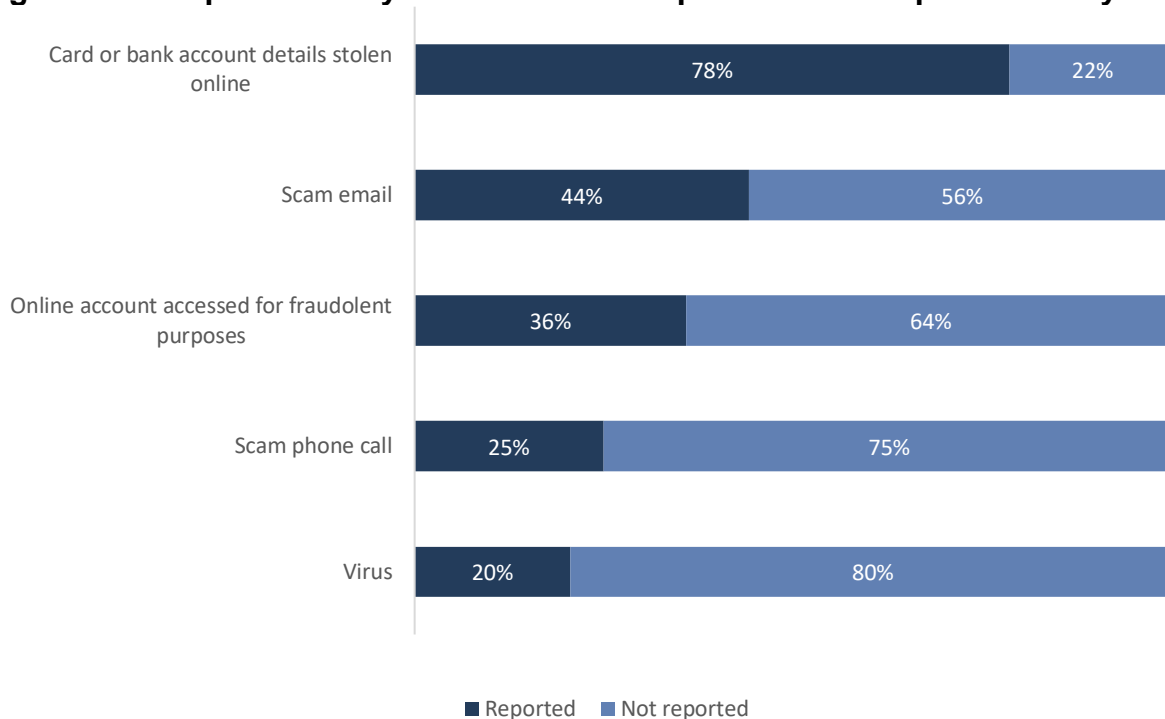
The SCJS also asked victims whether they reported the incident they experienced, and if they did, to whom<sup>104</sup>. If people had experienced more than one incident of a particular issue, they were asked to answer in relation to the most recent incident of that type of cyber fraud or computer misuse.

<sup>104</sup> 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%.



Overall, the majority of victims of most types of cyber fraud and computer misuse did not report the incident they experienced. 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 (reported by 78% of victims)<sup>105</sup>.

**Figure 8.3: Proportion of cyber fraud and computer misuse reported to anyone**



Base: All victims of: card or bank account details stolen online (200); scam email (120); online account accessed for fraudulent purposes (140); scam phone call (90); virus (190). Variables: CYBER5\_2; CYBER5\_3; CYBER5\_5; CYBER5\_6; CYBER5\_7.

Only a small proportion of victims reported the incidents to the police (5% of those having their card or bank account details stolen online and scam phone calls, and 1% of those who had experienced a virus, scam email or having their online account accessed for fraudulent purposes).

A full breakdown of other authorities that victims reported incidents of cyber fraud and computer misuse can be found in the online [data tables](#).

<sup>105</sup> Note that the responses of victims of online dating fraud, online theft of personal details and ransomware are not shown in this section, as the samples are too small to allow further breakdowns.

## Why did most victims of cyber fraud and computer misuse not report the incident to the police?

**Many victims did not report cyber fraud or computer misuse to the police because they dealt with the issue themselves. However, victims whose card details were stolen online often thought 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 say it was because they dealt with the issue themselves (45% of people who had their devices infected by a virus; 39% of phone scams victims; 32% of victims of fraudulent access to their online accounts; 32% of scam email victims).

The most commonly cited reason for not reporting their card or bank account details being stolen to the police was that victim thought that the incident would be reported to the police by the first authority<sup>106</sup> they had turned to (40%). This is in line with the finding that the majority (74%) of victims of card or bank account fraud who reported the incident turned to their bank.

A full list of the reasons why incidents were not reported to the police can be found in the [data tables](#).

## What else can the SCJS tell us about fraud in 2019/20?

**Indicative findings suggest that just over one-in-twenty adults had their credit/bank card details stolen and around one-in-one-hundred had their identity stolen, however the extent of cyber involvement is unknown.**

In addition to the 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.

It is important to note that, unlike the cyber fraud and computer misuse questions, these are asked to all adults, not only to internet users. Furthermore, 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<sup>107</sup> SCJS crimes in the way that other 'traditional' SCJS crime incidents are. 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.

The SCJS found that 6.0% of adults in 2019/20 reported that they had their credit or bank card details used fraudulently in the previous 12 months. This is unchanged from 2018/19, and has

---

<sup>106</sup> With the "other authority" being the Bank, Action Fraud, the website administrator, the software provider, the Internet service provider, or "other".

<sup>107</sup> 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 not meet all of these criteria is invalid. More details on this are available in the [Technical Report](#).

increased from 3.6% in 2008/09. Identity theft was less common, with 1.1% of adults reporting experiences of such incidents in 2019/20, unchanged from both 2018/19 and 2008/09<sup>108</sup>.

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 2020<sup>109</sup> show incidents of fraud (excluding computer misuse) were experienced by 6.6% of adults in England and Wales.

## **What can the 2019/20 SCJS tell us about concerns about fraud?**

**As in recent years, respondents in 2019/20 were most likely to report being worried about acts of fraud, as well as thinking these incidents 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 2019/20, half (50%) of adults in Scotland were worried about their bank/credit card details being used to obtain money, goods or services<sup>110</sup>. As in previous years, the next most worried about crime type was identity theft<sup>111</sup> with 39% of adults worrying about this issue in 2019/20. Levels of worry about these two types of fraud were higher than for all other crime types asked about in 2019/20. Looking over time, worry about both types of fraud has fallen since 2008/09, and worry about identity theft has also decreased since 2018/19 (worry about someone using their credit or bank details fraudulently has shown no change).

As in previous years, worry about both of these acts in 2019/20 varied by demographic characteristics. The SCJS found that women were more likely to be worried about fraud than men (55% of women worried about their credit or bank details being used fraudulently, compared to 45% of men, and 41% of women worried about identity theft, compared to 36% of men).

People between the ages of 16 and 24 were also less worried than all other age groups about having their identity stolen (21%) and about someone using their credit or bank details fraudulently (36%)<sup>112</sup>.

In 2019/20, over half of respondents (57%) did not think it was likely that they would experience any of the crimes listed in the next 12 months<sup>113</sup>. However, the crime that respondents most commonly thought would happen to them was someone using their credit card/bank details fraudulently (23%). As with worry about crime, this was followed by people thinking their identity would be stolen (13%). The perceived likelihood of credit card/bank details being used

---

<sup>108</sup> Variable names: CARDVIC2 and IDTHEF3. Base: 2019/20 (5,570), 2018/19 (5,540), 2008/09 (3,980). These questions have changed slightly since 2008/09 but results are still broadly comparable.

<sup>109</sup> [Crime in England and Wales: Appendix tables, Year ending March 2020.](#)

<sup>110</sup> Variable name: QWORR. Base: 2019/20 (5,570), 2018/19 (5,540), 2008/09 (16,000).

<sup>111</sup> 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.

<sup>112</sup> For detailed breakdowns and figures for other age groups see the [data tables](#).

<sup>113</sup> Variable name: QHAPP. Base: 2019/20 (5,570), 2018/19 (5,540), 2008/09 (16,000).

fraudulently has decreased since 2018/19 but has increased since 2008/09, whereas the perceived likelihood of experiencing identity theft has decreased since 2018/19 and is now back in line with the 2008/09 level. 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 (25% compared to 21%).

Age also played a 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 (6%) or of card/bank account fraud (15%)<sup>114</sup>.

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 (16% and 25%) and that their identity would be stolen (9% and 13%) in the next year.

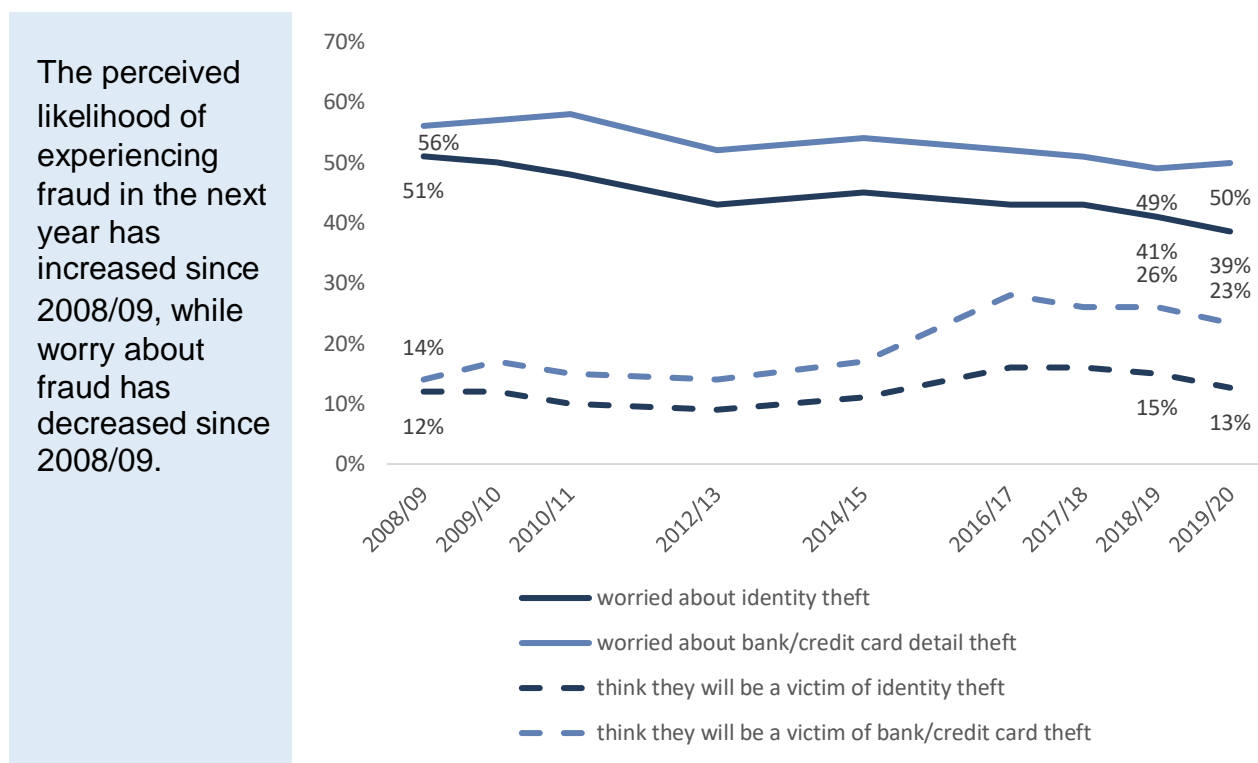
There were no differences between those living in urban and rural locations in the perceived likelihood of experiencing these two types of fraud in the next year.

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 8.4. Please note that the extent to which people's levels of concern for fraud related to cyber fraud incidents is unknown.

---

<sup>114</sup> For detailed breakdowns and figures for other age groups see the [data tables](#).

**Figure 8.4: Proportion of adults concerned about fraud and identity theft, 2008/09 to 2019/20**



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), 2019/20 (5,570). Variables: QWORR; QHAPP.

## Cyber elements in property and violent crime

### To what extent did property and violent crimes have a cyber element in 2019/20?

**Only a small proportion of property and violent crime in 2019/20 had a cyber element.**

In 2018/19, a 'cyber flag'<sup>115</sup> was added to the survey questionnaire 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*<sup>116</sup>.

The 2019/20 SCJS found that 6% of violent crime and 1% of property crime had a cyber element. The proportion of violent crime with a cyber element has increased from 1% in 2018/19, whereas it is unchanged for property crime.

<sup>115</sup> 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?'

<sup>116</sup> 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<sup>117</sup>. In 2019/20, 6% 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. Firstly, in the main survey 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. More detailed findings for the year 2019/20 are provided in the [Focus on harassment and discrimination](#) section.

Later, the whole sample is invited to complete the self-completion module on stalking and harassment<sup>118</sup>, which asks respondents if they have experienced any of the following behaviours more than once: the receiving of unwanted letters or cards; receiving of unwanted messages by text, email, messenger or posts on social media sites; receiving unwanted phone calls; loitering outside their home or workplace; being followed; and/or having intimate pictures of them shared without consent, for example by text, on a website, or on a social media site<sup>119</sup>. More detailed findings are provided in [Chapter 9](#).

## To what extent were people insulted or harassed online in 2019/20?

**Most adults did not experience being insulted, pestered, or intimidated in 2019/20, but among those who did encounter such behaviour, in-person experiences continued to be more common than online.**

In 2019/20, 13% of adults said they had been insulted, pestered or intimidated in any way by someone outwith their household. This was unchanged from 2018/19<sup>120</sup>. Of those adults that said they experienced harassment in the year prior to interview, the vast majority (88%) were insulted, pestered or intimidated 'in person', whilst 13% encountered such behaviour 'in writing via text, email, messenger or posts on social media sites'<sup>121</sup> (unchanged from 2018/19<sup>122</sup>).

---

<sup>117</sup> Variable name: QFOREC. Base: 2019/20 (150), 2018/19 (120).

<sup>118</sup> Due to the sensitive nature of questions in the self-completion module, participation is voluntary.

<sup>119</sup> Having intimate pictures of them shared without consent does not have to have happened more than once to be included.

<sup>120</sup> Variable name: QAINSUL2. Base: 2019/20 (1,340), 2018/19 (1,370).

<sup>121</sup> Respondents were given the opportunity to choose more than one option, therefore the final percentages may not add up to 100%.

<sup>122</sup> Variable name: QATHME2. Base: 2019/20 (160), 2018/19 (150).

## **Incidents of stalking and harassment are most commonly experienced by electronic means, including online.**

The SCJS also collects data on arguably more severe examples of stalking and harassment through the self-completion element of the survey. In 2018/20<sup>123</sup>, 11.8% of adults experienced at least one type of stalking and harassment, unchanged from 2016/18<sup>124</sup>.

The most common type of stalking and harassment which was experienced by victims was being sent unwanted messages by text, email, messenger or posts on social media sites. This was experienced by over two-thirds (70%) of all those who had experienced at least one form of stalking and harassment, whilst 5% 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.

## **Widening the focus: How does wider analytical work complement the evidence provided by the SCJS on cyber crime?**

A number of published strategies emphasise the challenges and risks of cyber crime, including the [Strategic Framework for a Cyber Resilient Scotland](#) and [Policing 2026](#). Scotland's Scams Prevention, Awareness & Enforcement Strategy is also due to be published later in March 2021.

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.

In 2018, the Scottish Government 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<sup>125</sup>. 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:

---

<sup>123</sup> The latest stalking/harassment figures featured in this report combine data collected from the two years 2018/19 and 2019/20. This is referred to throughout the report as 2018/20. For more information, see the [Technical Report](#).

<sup>124</sup> 2016/17 and 2017/18 data combined.

<sup>125</sup> [Recorded crime in Scotland: 'Other sexual crimes', 2013-2014 and 2016-2017](#).

- 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

## 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 2020, just under 1 million (876,000) incidents of computer misuse were experienced by 1.6% of adults in England and Wales<sup>126</sup>.

## Police recorded cyber crime

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 [Police Scotland report](#) in 2020, the tagging, marking, and logging of cyber crime has risen significantly in April-December 2019/20 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.

The [Recorded Crime in Scotland 2018/19 bulletin](#) included a topical analysis of police recorded fraud. It was found that an estimated 28% of fraud recorded in 2018/19 was cyber enabled (i.e. the internet was used as a means to commit the crime).

To enhance the wider evidence base on cyber crime, Scottish Government statisticians will conduct a further study this year based on a sample of police recorded crimes. The findings will be published in the Recorded Crime in Scotland 2020/21 bulletin in Autumn 2021, and will include an estimate of the volume of cyber enabled crime recorded by the police in 2019/20 and 2020/21, and further information on the types of crime this includes.

---

<sup>126</sup> [Crime in England and Wales: Appendix tables, Year ending March 2020](#).



## What's next?

The 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](mailto: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 by some other means<sup>127</sup>) by someone outwith their household in the year prior to interview.

These findings are based on questions asked to one-quarter of the overall sample<sup>128</sup>. 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 2019/20 SCJS online [data tables](#).

Additional information on other experiences of stalking and harassment are captured in the self-completion element of the SCJS and reported on in [Chapter 9](#) of this report, with the below summary focusing on key findings on this topic from the main (face-to-face) survey.

### How common were experiences of harassment in Scotland in 2019/20?

#### **Most adults did not experience being insulted, pestered or intimidated in 2019/20.**

In 2019/20, 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 2018/19.

Across most of the population sub-groups focussed on in this report there was no differences in the proportion that said they had been insulted, pestered or intimidated in the previous year, however the proportion was higher among victims than non-victims (30% compared to 10%, respectively).

### What can the SCJS tell us about the nature of harassment?

#### **Generally experiences of harassment in 2019/20 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 (88%) were insulted, pestered or intimidated 'in person', whilst 13% said this happened 'in writing via text, email, messenger or posts on social media'<sup>129</sup>. 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 cases of harassment. Further details on the insight the 2019/20 SCJS is able to shed on the relationship between the internet and crime are outlined in the ['Cyber crime in Scotland' section](#).

---

<sup>127</sup> Some other means includes writing and electronic communications.

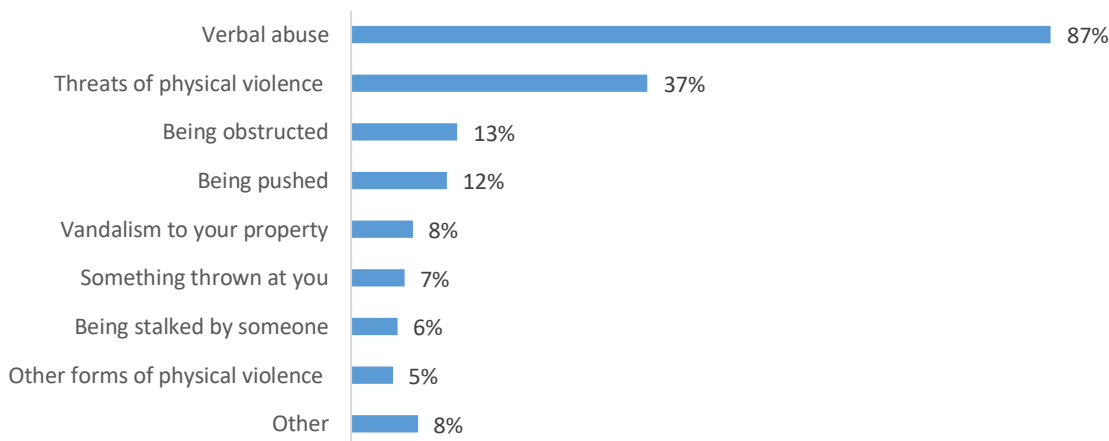
<sup>128</sup> In 2019/20, 1,342 respondents answered the harassment and discrimination module of the survey. For more information on the questionnaire content and structure, please see the [Technical Report](#).

<sup>129</sup> Respondents were given the opportunity to choose more than one option, therefore the final percentages may not add up to 100%.

Most people who had experienced harassment said it had happened on more than one occasion in the previous year (63%), with 36% reporting only one incident. A fifth (20%) of people said they experienced harassing behaviour too many times to remember.

Verbal abuse was the most common type of harassment in 2019/20, experienced by 87% of the victims. Other types of harassment, particularly those involving physical contact, were much less commonly experienced, as shown in Figure 8.5. More in-depth analysis about the extent and nature of violent incidents in 2019/20 is provided in the [‘Focus on violent crime’ chapter](#).

**Figure 8.5: Proportion of harassment victims experiencing different kinds of behaviour in previous 12 months**



Base: All respondents who had been insulted, pestered or intimidated in previous 12 months (160). 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. A range of possible reasons in relation to the most recent (or only) experience are outlined in Figure 8.6 below.

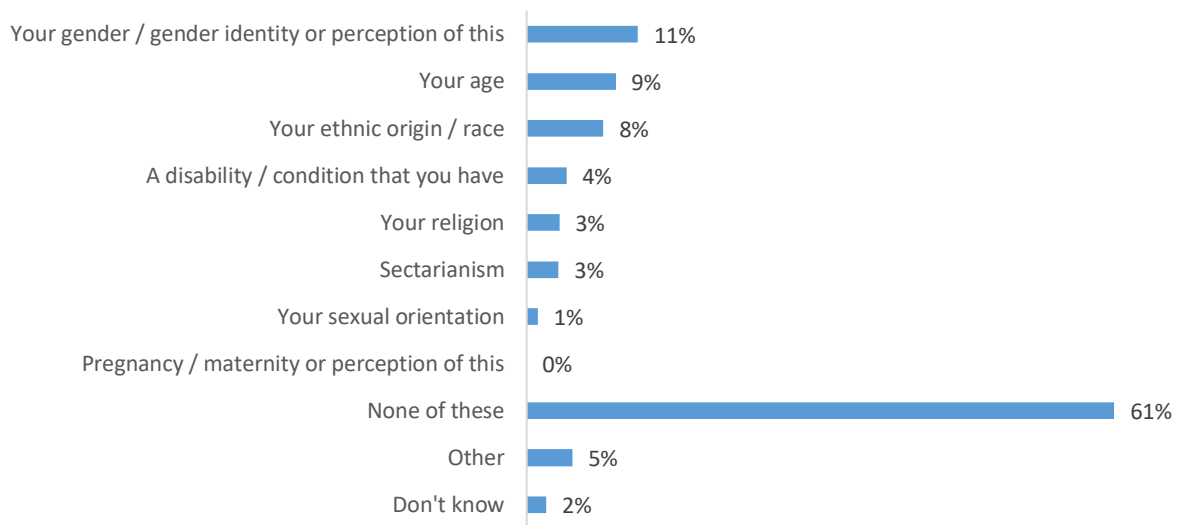
Around three-in-five (61%) did not think any of their characteristics were an influencing factor in their most recent (or only) experience of harassment. 11% thought that their gender, gender identity or perception of this was a possible motivating factor, while 9% believed their age and 8% believed their ethnic origin or race was a possible influence.

Since 2012/13<sup>130</sup>, 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 11% in 2019/20, while the other possible motivating factors showed no change.

Since the last SCJS in 2018/19, there has been no change across all possible motivating factors.

<sup>130</sup> 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 8.6: What victims 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 (160). 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<sup>131</sup>. 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 2019/20 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 2019/20, but most did not know much about its work.**

The 2019/20 SCJS estimates that almost three-quarters (73%) of adults in Scotland had heard of COPFS, with younger adults less likely to have heard of COPFS than older adults (48% of 16-24 year olds compared to 67% of 25-44 year olds, 87% of 45-59 year olds and 78% of people aged 60 and over).

Of those who were aware of COPFS, around three-fifths (59%) reported not knowing very much about its work, with a further 16% knowing nothing at all. Just over one-in-five (22%) reported knowing a fair amount and only 3% 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<sup>132</sup>.

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)<sup>133</sup>. Almost three-quarters (71%) identified the correct role of COPFS in investigating and prosecuting crime and almost half (48%) identified the correct role in

---

<sup>131</sup> In 2019/20, 1,364 respondents answered the COPFS module of the survey. For more information on the questionnaire content and structure, please see the [Technical Report](#).

<sup>132</sup> Detailed description of COPFS's values and objectives available on the [COPFS website](#).

<sup>133</sup> 'Investigating allegations of criminal conduct against police officers' was not included in the list of options in the 2018/19 or 2019/20 questionnaire. As a result the impact on the proportion of adults correctly identifying the roles of COPFS which may have been caused by including this role in the list of possible answers cannot be assessed.

investigating sudden and unexpected deaths. However, almost half said they thought COPFS decided on sentences for those found guilty of crime (47%) and 41% thought COPFS represented the victims of crime in court, neither of which are responsibilities of COPFS.

## Have people had contact with COPFS and, if so, how satisfied were they with the way COPFS dealt with them?

**Just under 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.

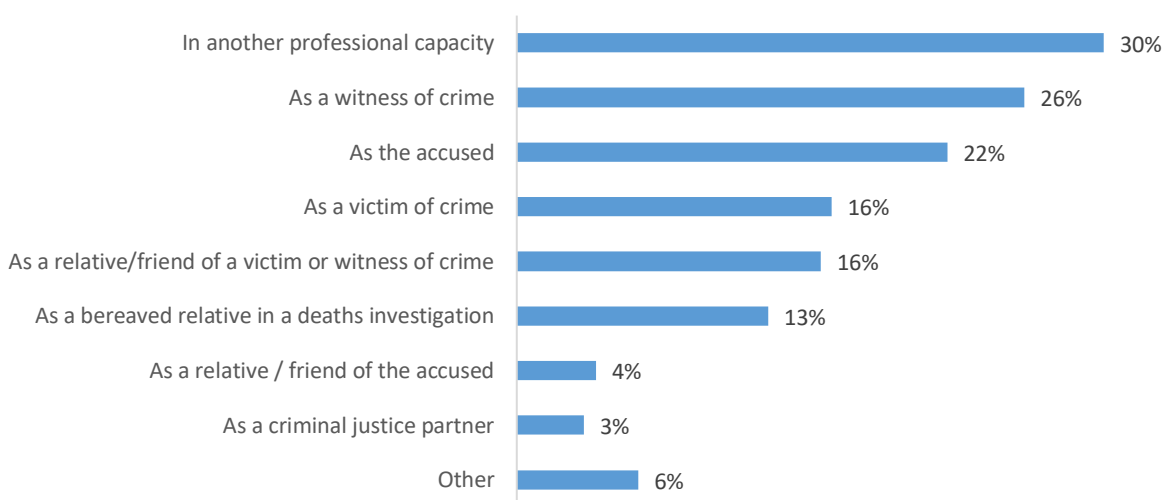
23% of adults that had heard of COPFS said they have had contact with COPFS at some point.

The most common ways in which adults had contact with COPFS included:

- in another professional capacity (30%)<sup>134</sup>
- as a witness of crime (26%)
- as the accused (22%)

Other ways in which contact was made are shown in Figure 8.7.

**Figure 8.7: Ways in which people had contact with COPFS**



Base: All adults who have had contact with COPFS (230); 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 (22% compared to 10%). Conversely, males were more likely than females to have had contact with COPFS as the accused (41% compared to 4%).

<sup>134</sup> 'Another professional capacity' refers to someone who was involved in a professional capacity but not as a criminal justice partner.

**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.

Around two-thirds (65%) of respondents said they were satisfied with the way COPFS dealt with them the last time they had contact, 16% were dissatisfied and 19% 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 to one-quarter of the overall SCJS sample<sup>135</sup>. 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 2019/20 SCJS online [data tables](#).

More details on civil justice statistics 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?

**Around 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 2019/20 SCJS estimates that around three-in-ten (28%) 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<sup>136</sup> and 2018/19.

This proportion varied amongst certain population sub-groups. For example, victims of crime were more likely to have experienced civil law problems than non-victims (40% compared to 26%, respectively). Those aged 60 and over were less likely than the other age categories to have experienced civil law problems (17%, compared to 34% of both 16-24 year olds and 25-44 year olds and 32% of 45-59 year olds).

**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 17% of adults. This was followed by problems with money, finances or anything paid for (10%), unfair treatment (7%), and problems around health and well-being (5%).

Each of these broad categories contain a range of more specific individual problems, as shown in Figure 8.8. Consistent with previous years, the most common single problem involved issues to

---

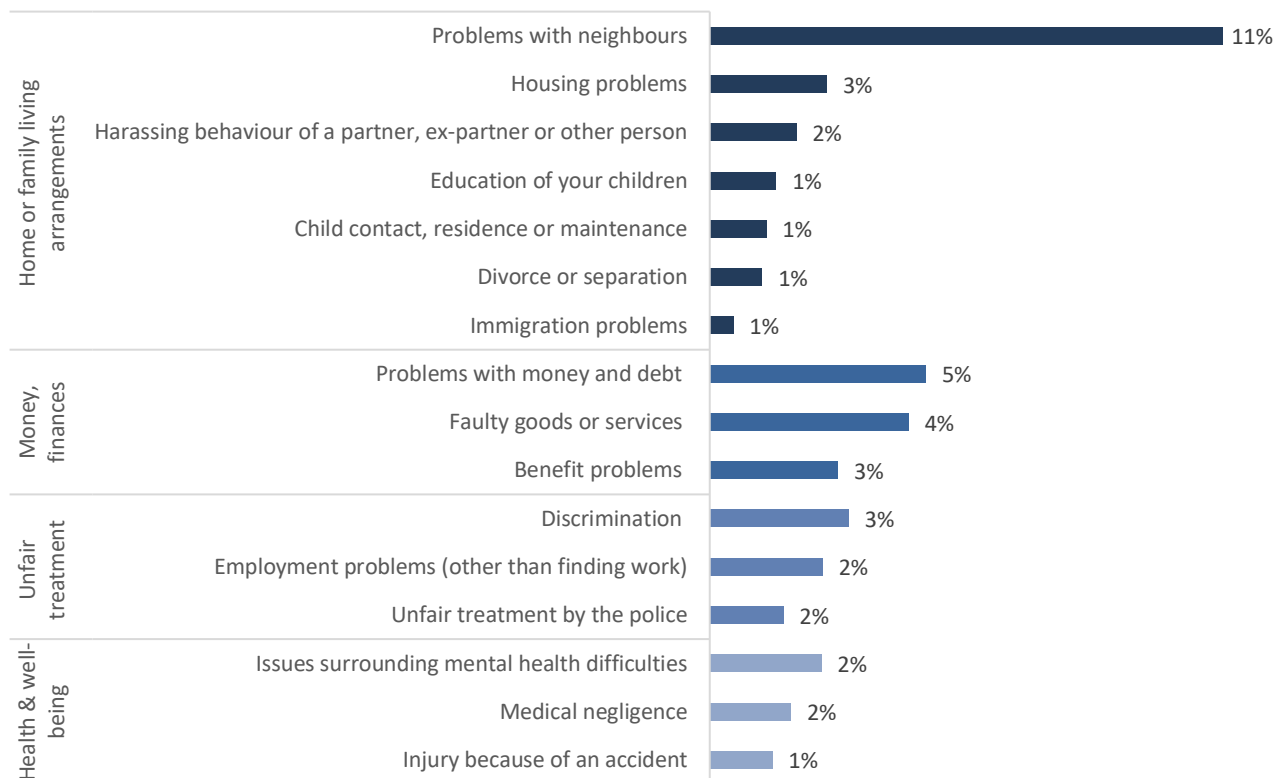
<sup>135</sup> In 2019/20, 1,363 respondents answered the civil law module of the survey. For more information on the questionnaire content and structure, please see the [Technical Report](#).

<sup>136</sup> There have been some question updates and additional answer options in the questionnaires since 2008/09, however the results are still broadly comparable.



do with neighbours<sup>137</sup>. In 2019/20, 11% of adults said they had encountered such issues in the three years prior to interview, in line with the proportions in 2008/09 and 2018/19.

**Figure 8.8: Experience of civil law problems in the last three years**



Base: All adults (1,360); Variable: QVJUS1 – QVJUS4

Among those who had experienced at least one civil law problem in the last three years, 29% 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?

**Just under two-fifths had solved the problem, while over 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.

28% of these problems began less than a year ago, and 16% started over a year but less than two years ago. The remainder of these problems were older, with 22% starting over two years but less than three years ago and 34% starting over three years ago.

Just under two-fifths of adults (39%) had solved the problem, while just over a third (34%) were still trying to solve it. 17% had tried to solve the problem but had to give up and 9% were not planning to do anything about it.

<sup>137</sup> Problems with neighbours include for example noise, boundary or parking disagreements.

## 9. Summary findings on SCJS self-completion modules

This chapter of the report presents results from the self-completion modules of the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey. These modules cover topics of a more sensitive nature and are therefore completed by the interviewee privately, without the interviewer knowing the responses. In a small proportion of cases, if the respondent was unable or unwilling to complete the questionnaire themselves but was happy to answer the questions, the interviewer administered (at least some of) the questionnaire on their behalf (see the [Technical Report](#) for more detail).

The topics covered in the self-completion modules, and in this section of the report, are:

- [illicit drug use](#)<sup>138</sup>
- [stalking and harassment](#)
- [partner abuse](#)
- [sexual victimisation](#)

As some respondents choose to not complete the self-completion questionnaire, the response rate and sample size is lower than the overall survey. In order to provide suitable sample sizes, the self-completion results have been published biennially since the 2017/18 SCJS, with two years of data combined to carry out the analysis. The latest figures cover 2018/19 and 2019/20 and are referred to as 2018/20 throughout the self-completion results. Where relevant, examination of changes over time compares the latest findings with 2008/09 and the last self-completion results in 2016/18<sup>139</sup>.

Tables on the data covered in this report, and some additional findings, can be found on the SCJS webpages.

---

<sup>138</sup> The majority of drugs covered in this section are illicit, however some drugs which are not illegal to use are also included.

<sup>139</sup> 2016/17 and 2017/18 data combined. Note, however the last illicit drug use data is for 2017/18 only (more information is available in the [2017/18 Technical Report](#)).

## 9.1 Illicit Drug Use

The aim of the illicit drug use section of the questionnaire is to provide an insight into the prevalence of drug use in Scotland amongst those aged 16 and over. The results in this section focus on drug use in the 12 months prior to interview<sup>140</sup>.

The latest results presented below are from two survey years of the SCJS combined (2018/19 and 2019/20). This is referred to throughout the section as 2018/20. Note however that the illicit drugs data for previous years refers to individual years (the last being 2017/18). For more information, see the [Technical Report](#).

### Drugs included

Respondents were asked about their usage of 19 drugs<sup>141</sup>. The majority of these drugs were illicit at the time of the survey, but the list also included some drugs which were not controlled. These were namely poppers, glues, solvents, gas or aerosol. These have been included in analysis of adults reporting drug use in Scotland. Any analysis that excludes the drugs which are not illicit clearly states so.

The drugs are categorised in some of the analysis by composite group in accordance with the Drugs Wheel<sup>142</sup>: cannabinoids, stimulants, opioids, depressants, psychedelics, dissociatives, empathogens, and an additional category of steroids; and by their classification: Class A, B or C (as defined in the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971). A full list of the drugs and their categorisations can be found in [Annex D](#).

It is important to note that drug use is a dynamic area with new substances appearing on the market and relatively frequent changes to legal classification. This is reflected in the survey questionnaire design.

For example, most novel psychoactive substances (sometimes known as 'legal highs') are now covered by the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016, with some explicitly listed under the Misuse of Drugs Act. Other drugs, such as ketamine, have been reclassified within the Misuse of Drugs Act. These changes in classification have the potential to impact on overall rates of illicit drug use.

New drugs which were not previously widely available have also been included in the survey, for example GHB/GBL was included for the first time in the 2017/18 survey but was not in the preceding survey years. Most new drugs included only account for a small proportion of reported drug usage, for example in 2018/20 0.2% of respondents reported ever taking GHB/GBL. Alternatively, some drugs which were previously asked about in the survey are no longer

---

<sup>140</sup> The drugs section of the questionnaire was reduced in 2018/19 and so no longer asks respondents about drug use in the month prior to interview and since the age of 16. The number of follow up questions about respondents' drug use was also reduced. For a full list of the questions asked in 2018/19 and 2019/20, see the [questionnaire documentation](#).

<sup>141</sup> A full list of the drugs included in the survey can be found in [Annex D](#).

<sup>142</sup> [The Drugs Wheel](#) was developed in tandem with UK Drugwatch, an informal association of charities, organisations and individuals who share an interest in establishing a robust early warning system in the UK for all types of drugs.

included. Therefore, any comparisons made with previous years in this section should be treated with caution.

## What was the prevalence of drug use in Scotland in 2018/20?

**Between 2017/18 and 2018/20, self-reported drug use has increased from 9.5% to 13.5%.**

The drugs listed in the survey questionnaire<sup>143</sup> have remained the same since 2017/18, which allows for direct comparisons to be made between the two time periods.

In 2018/20, 13.5% of respondents reported taking one or more of these drugs in the 12 months prior to interview. This has increased from 9.5% in 2017/18.

Eleven of the 19 drugs asked about in the survey have seen increases since 2017/18 in the proportion of respondents having taken them in the 12 months prior to interview. These included prescription only painkillers that were not prescribed to the respondent (increased from 3.3% to 5.1%), cannabis (6.6% to 7.9%), and cocaine (1.8% to 3.0%). Figures on the proportion of adults who reported using each individual listed drug in the 12 months prior to interview are available in the supporting online [data tables](#).

**Looking at comparable measures, where the drug types included in the survey are generally consistent over time, drug use has increased since 2008/09 and 2017/18.**

In order to have a more comparable measure over the longer time period (since 2008/09), the 2018/20 figures in this section exclude prescription only painkillers that were not prescribed to the respondent<sup>144</sup>. Non-illicit drugs (poppers, glues, solvents, gas and aerosols) are also excluded.

In 2018/20, 9.7% of respondents reported taking one or more of these drugs in the 12 months prior to interview. This has increased from 7.6% in 2008/09 and 7.4% in 2017/18, as shown in Table 9.1.

**Table 9.1: Proportion of adults reporting use of comparable illicit drugs, 2008/09 to 2018/20**

| Time period                  | 2008/09     | 2009/10     | 2010/11     | 2012/13     | 2014/15     | 2017/18     | 2018/20     | Percentage point change |                      |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
|                              |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | Change since 2008/09    | Change since 2017/18 |
| <b>In the last 12 months</b> | <b>7.6%</b> | <b>7.2%</b> | <b>6.6%</b> | <b>6.2%</b> | <b>6.0%</b> | <b>7.4%</b> | <b>9.7%</b> | ↑ by 2.1                | ↑ by 2.3             |
| <i>Number of respondents</i> | 10,960      | 13,410      | 10,980      | 10,220      | 9,970       | 4,880       | 9,590       |                         |                      |

Variable: Q12M\_ANY.

<sup>143</sup> Note that not all drugs listed in the survey are illicit. For a list of the drugs in the survey, including their categorisations, see [Annex D](#).

<sup>144</sup> It is important to note that some drugs included in the 'prescription only painkillers that were not prescribed to you' category may include variants which are of such low strength they are exempt from almost all controlled drug requirements.

**The most commonly reported drug used in the 12 months prior to interview was cannabis.**

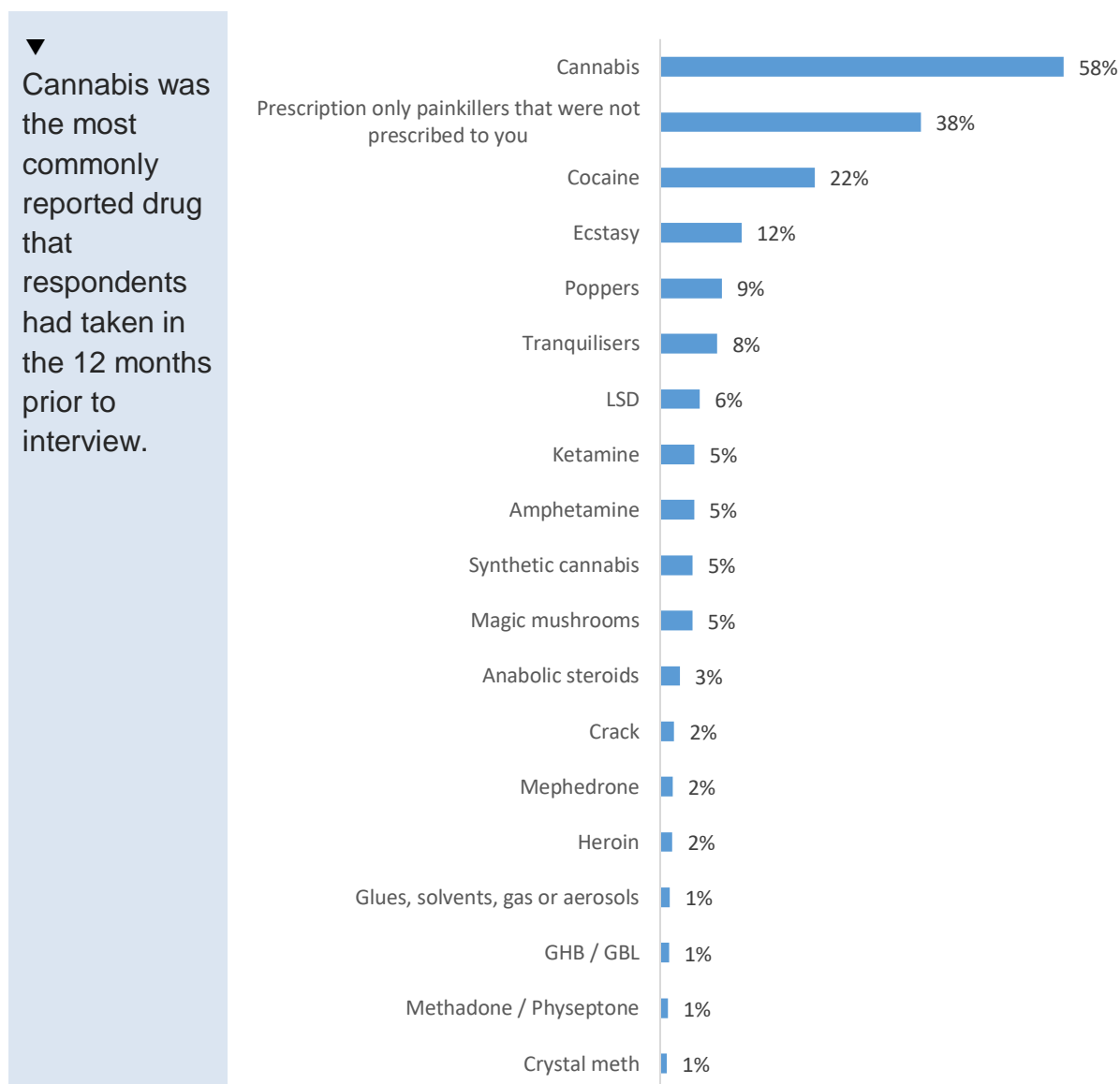
Fewer than one-in-ten respondents (7.9%) said they had taken cannabis in the 12 months prior to interview. Of those respondents who reported taking drugs in the 12 months prior to interview, over half (58%) said they had taken cannabis. This is a decrease from 70% in 2017/18.

Of those who had taken cannabis in the 12 months prior to interview, just under half (49%) had not taken any other drugs in the same time period. This is a decrease from 59% in 2017/18.

The survey also provides the estimates on use of synthetic cannabis (also known as 'spice'). Of those who had taken drugs in the 12 months prior to interview, 5% said they had taken synthetic cannabis, unchanged from 2017/18.

Figure 9.1 below shows the drugs taken in the 12 months prior to interview as a proportion of those who had taken any drug in the same time period.

**Figure 9.1: Proportion of adults who had taken any drug in the 12 months prior to interview, taking each drug type in the 12 months prior to interview**



Base: All respondents taking drugs in the 12 months prior to interview (1,120). Variable: Q12M.

The percentages total to more than 100% as respondents could select multiple answers.

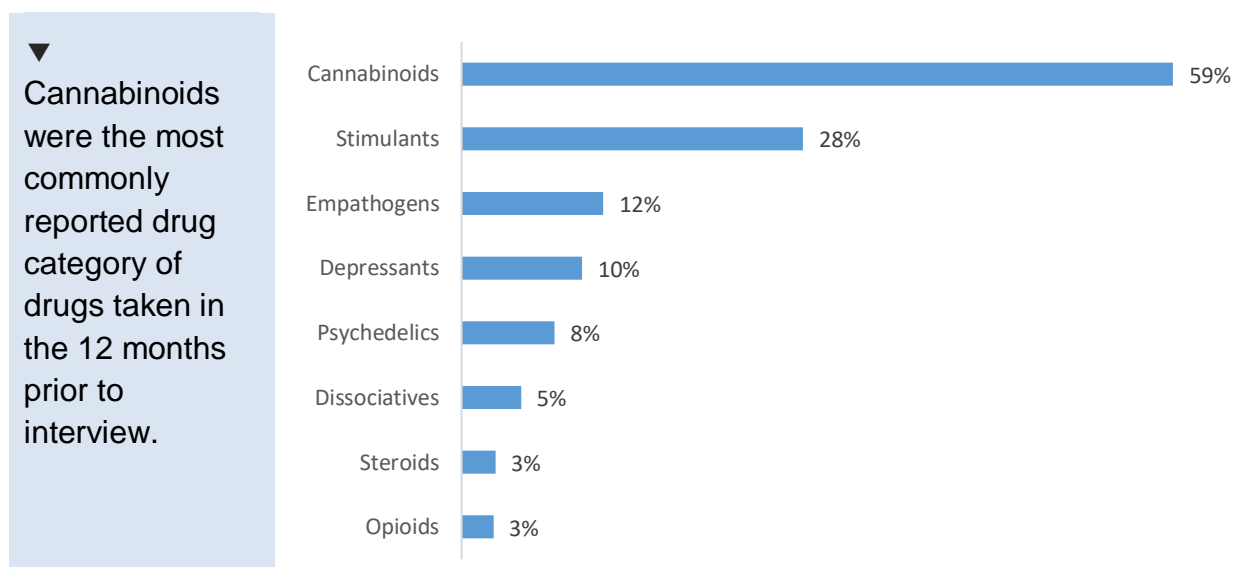
### **Cannabinoids were the most common category of drug taken.**

Drugs included in the survey were grouped into categories using the Drugs Wheel<sup>145</sup>; more information of these groups, and drug classes, is outlined in [Annex D](#).

Of those who reported taking drugs in the 12 months prior to interview, the most common category of drug taken was cannabinoids (59%). Figure 9.2 shows the percentages who reported taking each category of drug in the 12 months prior to interview.

<sup>145</sup> [The Drugs Wheel](#) was developed in tandem with UK Drugwatch, an informal association of charities, organisations and individuals who share an interest in establishing a robust early warning system in the UK for all types of drugs.

**Figure 9.2: Proportion of adults taking drugs in each category in the 12 months prior to interview, of those who had taken any drug in the 12 months prior to interview**



Base: All respondents taking drugs in the 12 months prior to interview (1,120). Variable: Q12M.

### **Class B were the most common class of drug taken.**

Class B (which includes cannabis) were the most commonly taken class of drugs in the 12 months prior to interview, with 61% of respondents who had taken any drug in the 12 months prior to interview having taken a Class B drug; 30% of respondents a Class A drug; and 11% a Class C drug. Although not presented in this summary report, if comparing changes in the use of different classes of drugs over time, it is important to note that the classifications of certain drugs (for example ketamine) have changed over time, which may contribute to changes in the different class groups over time.

### **2.6% of respondents reported taking ‘legal highs’ in their lifetime.**

Respondents were also asked if they had ever taken ‘legal highs’<sup>146</sup>, known as novel psychoactive substances (NPS), even if it was a long time ago. Out of all respondents, 2.6% reported that they had. This was higher amongst men (3.5% compared to 1.6% of women) and those aged between 16 and 24 and 25 and 44 (4.9% and 5.0%, respectively) than those aged 45 to 59 and 60 and over (1.4% and 0.1%, respectively).

### **Are some population groups more likely to have used drugs?**

The percentage of respondents who reported taking drugs in the 12 months prior to interview varied by characteristics of the respondents such as their gender, age, victim status<sup>147</sup>, area deprivation and rurality. Table 9.2 below shows the percentage of all respondents who reported taking drugs in the 12 months prior to interview, by these characteristics.

<sup>146</sup> These are a range of substances which were previously described by some as ‘legal highs’, ‘designer drugs’, or ‘new drugs’ that have the same effects as drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, or cocaine. They are herbal or synthetic substances that people take to get ‘high’. In May 2016, the Psychoactive Substances Act came into force, which intends to restrict the production, sale, and supply of novel psychoactive substances.

<sup>147</sup> A victim is defined as a respondent who reported crimes or offences in the main questionnaire (excluding sexual offences and threats) that are within the scope of the survey, took place in Scotland, and occurred within the reference period. For more information please refer to the Technical Report.

Note the figures in this section exclude prescription only painkillers that were not prescribed to the respondent to enable better comparability to previous years. Non-illicit drugs (poppers, glues, solvents, gas and aerosols) are also excluded. A breakdown of the characteristics, including these drugs, is available in the online [data tables](#).

**Table 9.2: Proportion of adults taking drugs in the 12 months prior to interview, by demographic and area characteristics**

|                  | Characteristics   | % of adults | Base  |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------|-------|
| Gender           | Male              | 13.1%       | 4,360 |
|                  | Female            | 6.5%        | 5,230 |
| Age              | 16-24             | 23.5%       | 680   |
|                  | 25-44             | 14.7%       | 2,750 |
|                  | 45-59             | 6.8%        | 2,520 |
|                  | 60 and over       | 1.6%        | 3,650 |
| Victim status    | Victim            | 14.0%       | 1,060 |
|                  | Non-victim        | 9.1%        | 8,530 |
| Area deprivation | 15% most deprived | 15.1%       | 1,310 |
|                  | Rest of Scotland  | 8.9%        | 8,280 |
| Rurality         | Urban             | 10.4%       | 7,820 |
|                  | Rural             | 6.1%        | 1,770 |
| All adults       |                   | 9.7%        | 9,590 |

Variable: Q12M.

Note: these figures exclude poppers, glues, solvents, gas or aerosols and prescription only painkillers that were not prescribed to the respondent.

## Gender

A higher percentage of male respondents than female respondents reported taking one or more illicit drug in the 12 months prior to interview (13.1% compared to 6.5%, respectively).

Both of these measures have increased since 2008/09, with the proportion of men reporting having taken drugs in the 12 months prior to interview also increasing since 2017/18 (whereas women showed no change).

## Age

The proportion of respondents taking drugs in the 12 months prior to interview decreased with age. Over one-in-five (23.5%) 16 to 24 year olds reported taking drugs in the 12 months prior to interview compared to around one-in-fifty of those aged 60 and over (1.6%).

Those aged 16 to 24 have shown no change in the proportion taking drugs in the 12 months prior to interview since 2008/09 and 2017/18, whereas those aged 45 to 59 and 60 and over have



seen increased proportions reporting taking drugs in the 12 months prior to interview since 2017/18.

### **Victim status**

Of those who were victims of SCJS crime in the main SCJS survey, 14.0% reported having taken illicit drugs in the 12 months prior to interview. This is higher than the 9.1% of those who were not classified as victims of SCJS crime.

Drug use amongst victims of crime has remained unchanged since 2008/09 and 2017/18, however drug use amongst non-victims has increased since 2008/09 and since 2017/18.

### **Area deprivation**

Those living in the 15% most deprived areas of Scotland were more likely to report having taken illicit drugs in the 12 months prior to interview (15.1%), than those who lived in the rest of Scotland (8.9%).

Both those living in the 15% most deprived areas and the rest of Scotland have seen increases in the proportion of adults reporting taking drugs in the 12 months prior to interview since 2017/18.

### **Rurality**

Those living in urban areas were more likely to report having taken illicit drugs in the 12 months prior to interview (10.4%), than those who lived in rural areas (6.1%).

The proportion of adults taking drugs in urban areas has increased since 2017/18 whereas the proportion in rural areas was unchanged. Both measures have seen increases since 2008/09 however.

## 9.2 Stalking and harassment

Respondents of the SCJS are asked about their experiences of stalking and harassment in the 12 months prior to interview, including victim-offender relationships and reporting to the police.

Further results on experiences of harassment and discrimination (based on questions in the main survey about being insulted, pestered or intimidated) are provided in an [earlier section](#) of this report.

The stalking and harassment self-completion module of the SCJS asks respondents if they have experienced, more than once, one or more of the following types of incidents:

- being sent unwanted letters or cards on a number of occasions
- being sent unwanted messages by text, emails, messenger or posts on social media sites on a number of occasions
- receiving a number of unwanted phone calls
- having someone loitering outside their home or workplace on more than one occasion
- being followed on more than one occasion

The SCJS also asks respondents if anyone has shared intimate images of them without their consent for example, by text, on a website, or on a social media site – sometimes known as ‘revenge porn’<sup>148</sup>.

The questions in the SCJS differ from the official legislation which defines stalking as an offence<sup>149</sup>. This chapter however provides information on the behaviours outlined above, each of which can be viewed as a form of stalking and harassment. The data does not show whether respondents themselves viewed their experiences as stalking or harassment; some respondents may also have included incidents which would not be classed as stalking and harassment, for example, potentially, receiving cold-calling sales phone calls.

The figures in this section refer to the two years 2018/19 and 2019/20 combined. This is referred to throughout the chapter as 2018/20. For more information, see the [Technical Report](#).

The stalking and harassment questions in the SCJS were updated with effect from 2016/17 in order to improve the quality of the data collected, and make the data more useful for capturing the different types of stalking and harassment that people experience. Where relevant, examination of

---

<sup>148</sup> In 2018/19 ‘revenge porn’ was made a separate question (SH\_03) so that it no longer needs to be experienced ‘more than once’ to be considered a type of stalking and harassment.

<sup>149</sup> In Scotland, the [Criminal Justice and Licensing \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#) legislates for the offence of stalking. Under the Act, an offence occurs when a person engages in a course of conduct on at least two separate occasions, which causes another person to feel fear or alarm, where the accused person intended, or knew or ought to have known, that their conduct would cause fear and alarm.

Unlike more clear-cut types of crime (for example, house-breaking or assault), the classification of stalking is more subjective, insofar as the offence is dependent on whether or not the victim felt afraid.

changes over time compares the latest findings with the last self-completion results from 2016/18<sup>150</sup>.

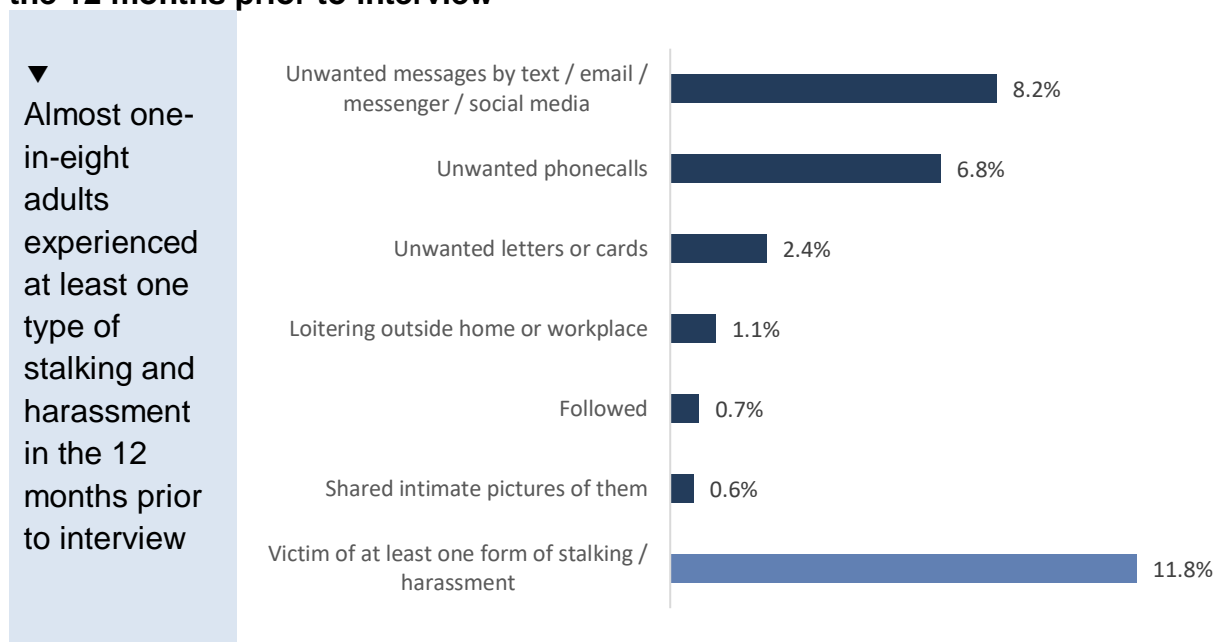
## What can the 2018/20 SCJS results tell us about stalking and harassment in Scotland?

**In the 12 months prior to interview, 11.8% of adults experienced at least one type of stalking and harassment.**

Almost one-in-eight adults (11.8%) experienced at least one type of stalking and harassment in the year prior to interview, unchanged from 2016/18. Over the same period 6.1% experienced more than one type.

Figure 9.3 below shows the percentage of respondents who experienced the different forms of stalking and harassment in the 12 months prior to interview in 2018/20.

**Figure 9.3: Proportion of adults reporting experiencing stalking and harassment in the 12 months prior to interview**



Base: All respondents (9,600). Variables: SH\_02; SH\_03.

## What can the 2018/20 SCJS results tell us about the types of stalking and harassment most commonly experienced?

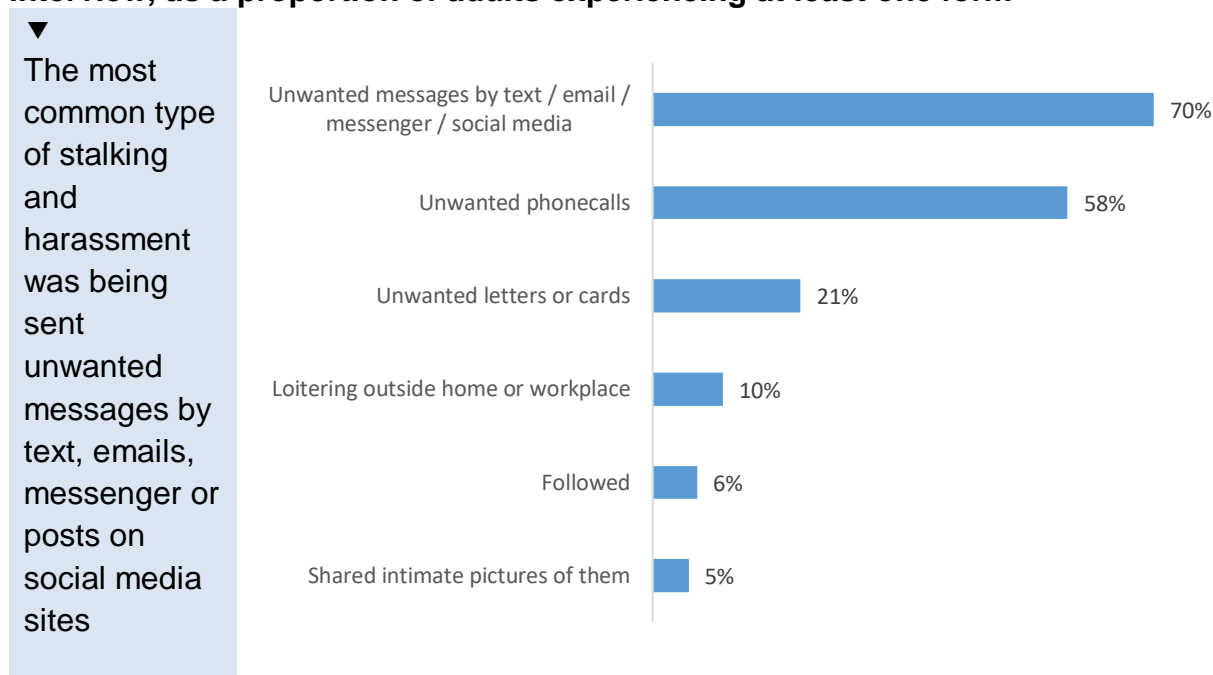
**The most common type of stalking and harassment reported in the SCJS was being sent unwanted messages by text, email, messenger or posts on social media sites.**

Figure 9.4 shows the distribution of different types of stalking and harassment amongst those who experienced at least one form of stalking and harassment. The most common type involved being sent unwanted messages by text, email, messenger or posts on social media sites. This was

<sup>150</sup> 2016/17 and 2017/18 data combined.

experienced by 70% of all those who had experienced at least one form of stalking and harassment, unchanged from 2016/18.

**Figure 9.4: Type of stalking and harassment experienced in the 12 months prior to interview, as a proportion of adults experiencing at least one form**



Base: All respondents experiencing at least one type of stalking & harassment in the 12 months prior to interview (1,050). Variables: SH\_02; SH\_03.

### Over two-fifths of victims knew the offender in some way.

The relationship between victims and offenders is not always straightforward. Over two-fifths (44%) of respondents who experienced at least one form of stalking and harassment in the 12 months prior to interview reported having known the offender(s) in some way. This is a decrease from 50% in 2016/18. A similar proportion (42%) in 2018/20 said the offender was someone they had never seen before.

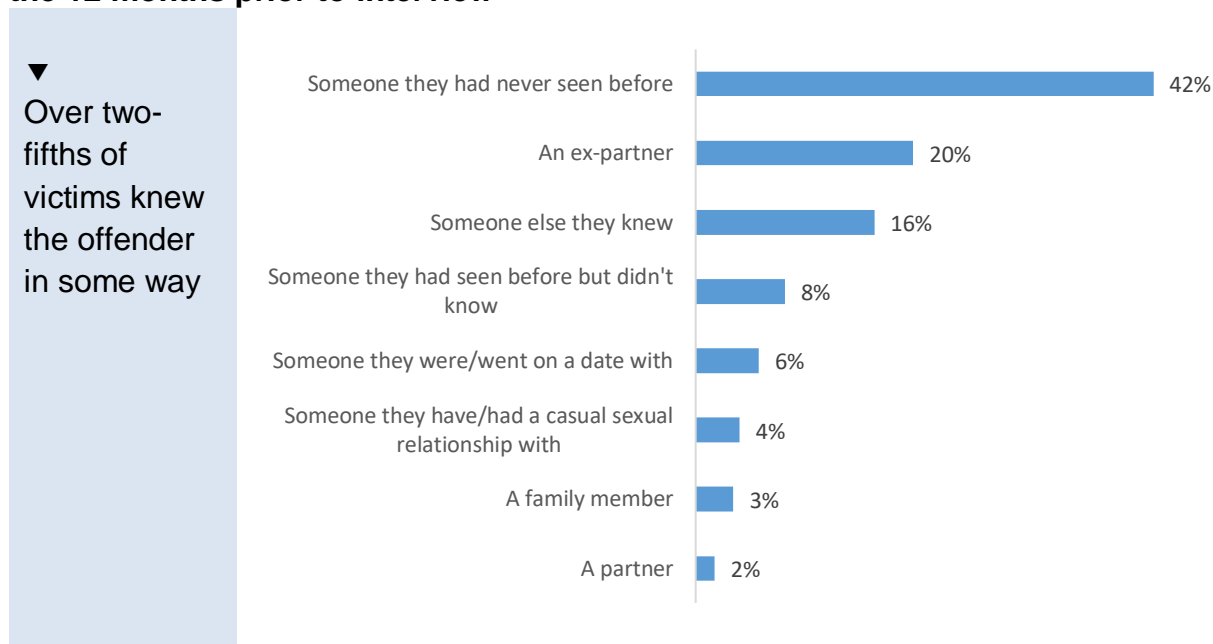
One of the most common ways in which an offender was known to a victim was because they were their ex-partner (20%).

‘Ex-partner’ was included in the questionnaire for the first time as a separate category of relationship between the victim and offender(s) in 2018/19. Therefore, it is advised that these results should not be compared to the 2016/18 figures (other than the category of ‘someone I had never seen before’ and the derived measure of ‘known in some way’ which are unaffected by the question change). This will be monitored in future, with the 2018/20 results from the updated question used as a baseline for comparisons.

Of those who had experienced more than one form of stalking and harassment in the 12 months prior to interview, 36% said that the same offender was involved, unchanged from 2016/18.

Figure 9.5 below shows the relationship between the victim and offender(s) in relation to the most recent incident of stalking or harassment in the 12 months prior to interview.

**Figure 9.5: Relationship of the offender to the victim for the most recent incident in the 12 months prior to interview**



Base: All respondents experiencing at least one type of stalking & harassment in the 12 months prior to interview (1,050). Variable: SH\_2.

**The police were informed about the most recent incident in around one-in-ten cases.**

Respondents who had experienced at least one incident of stalking and harassment in the 12 months prior to interview were asked if the police were informed about the most recent incident<sup>151</sup>. Of these respondents, just under one-in-ten (9%) said that the police came to know about the most recent incident, unchanged from 2016/18.

Women were almost twice as likely than men to report the most recent incident to the police (12% and 6%, respectively). This is a change compared to the position in 2016/18 where there was no significant difference detected between the proportion of men and women who reported the most recent incident to the police.

The most common reason for not reporting the most recent incident to the police was that the respondent felt the incident was too trivial/not worth reporting (44%), followed by the victim dealing with the incident themselves (29%), unchanged from 2016/18.

<sup>151</sup> Not all types of stalking and harassment asked about in the survey would be classified as a crime and therefore would not necessarily be expected to be reported to the police. The survey does not ask which type of stalking and harassment the most recent incident was and so it is not possible to access what types of stalking and harassment are being reported to the police and hence, whether or not the criminal forms asked about in the survey are being reported more commonly.

## Are some population groups more likely to have experienced stalking and harassment?

Experiences of stalking and harassment varied by age group and victim status in the main questionnaire<sup>152</sup>. Table 9.3 below shows the varying proportion of respondents experiencing at least one form of stalking and harassment in the 12 months prior to interview, by respondent characteristics. Any statistically significant changes between 2016/18 and 2018/20 are commented below, however for the majority of groups there was no change.

**Table 9.3: Experience of stalking and harassment, by demographic and area characteristics**

|                  | Characteristics   | % of adults | Base  |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------|-------|
| Gender           | Male              | 11.4%       | 4,360 |
|                  | Female            | 12.1%       | 5,240 |
| Age              | 16-24             | 20.9%       | 680   |
|                  | 25-44             | 13.8%       | 2,750 |
|                  | 45-59             | 10.2%       | 2,520 |
|                  | 60 and over       | 7.4%        | 3,650 |
| Victim status    | Victim            | 17.7%       | 1,060 |
|                  | Non-victim        | 11.0%       | 8,540 |
| Area deprivation | 15% most deprived | 12.4%       | 1,310 |
|                  | Rest of Scotland  | 11.7%       | 8,280 |
| Rurality         | Urban             | 11.9%       | 7,830 |
|                  | Rural             | 10.8%       | 1,770 |
| All adults       |                   | 11.8%       | 9,600 |

Variables: SH\_02, SH\_03.

### Gender

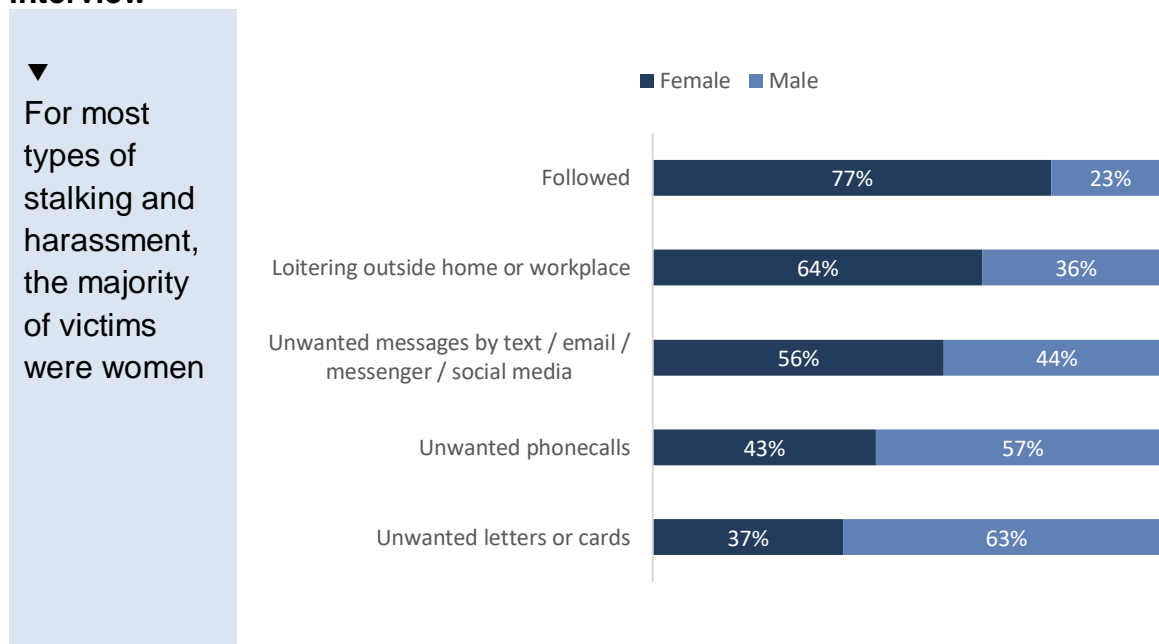
The survey found no difference in the proportion experiencing stalking and harassment in the 12 months prior to interview for men and women (11.4% and 12.1%, respectively).

Looking at the gender split by type of stalking and harassment, more women than men reported being followed (1.1% compared to 0.3%, respectively) or receiving unwanted messages by text, email, messenger or posts on social media sites (9.0% compared to 7.4%, respectively). Conversely, more men than women reported receiving unwanted letters or cards (3.2% compared to 1.7%, respectively) or unwanted phone calls (8.0% compared to 5.7%, respectively).

<sup>152</sup> A victim is defined as a respondent who reported crimes or offences in the main questionnaire (excluding sexual offences and threats) that are within the scope of the survey, took place in Scotland, and occurred within the reference period. For more information please refer to the [Technical Report](#).

Figure 9.6 below shows the gender split of those who experienced each of the types stalking and harassment<sup>153</sup>.

**Figure 9.6: Gender of victims of types of stalking and harassment, as a proportion of those experiencing that type of stalking and harassment in the 12 months prior to interview**



Base: All respondents, in the 12 months prior to interview, experiencing loitering outside their home or workplace (120); being followed (70); unwanted phone calls made (620); sent unwanted letters or cards (220); sent you unwanted messages by text, email, messenger, or posts on social media sites (710).  
Variable: SH\_02.

Note that having intimate pictures of themselves shared online without their consent is not included in this due to the small number of respondents reporting this.

## Age

Experiences of at least one form of stalking and harassment were higher amongst those aged 16 to 24 (20.9%) than any other age group.

The results have also been broken down by both age and gender together, as notable differences in experience of stalking and harassment between genders within different age groups were expected. These figures can be found in full in the online [data tables](#) (for this finding and a range of other measures across the survey).

Experiences of stalking and harassment were higher among women aged 16 to 24 (25.6%), compared to men of the same age (16.3%).

<sup>153</sup> Note that having intimate pictures of themselves shared online without their consent is not included in this due to the small number of respondents reporting this.

**Victim status**

Those who reported being a victim of a crime in the main survey were more likely to report having experienced stalking and harassment. 17.7% of those who reported being a victim in the main survey also experienced stalking and harassment, compared to 11.0% of those who did not report themselves as victims in the main survey.

**Area deprivation**

There was no difference in the proportion experiencing stalking and harassment between those living in the 15% most deprived areas and the rest of Scotland (12.4% and 11.7%, respectively).

**Rurality**

There was no difference detected in the likelihood of experiencing stalking and harassment by urban and rural locations (11.9% and 10.8%, respectively), although the proportion of respondents in rural areas increased between 2016/18 and 2018/20 (from 8.1% to 10.8%).



## 9.3 Partner Abuse

Respondents to the SCJS are asked about their experiences of partner<sup>154</sup> abuse since the age of 16 and in the 12 months prior to interview, both psychological and physical.

Partner abuse in the SCJS is defined as ‘any form of physical, non-physical or sexual abuse, which takes place within the context of a close relationship, committed either in the home or elsewhere. This relationship will be between partners (married, co-habiting or otherwise) or ex-partners’. This definition is consistent with the definition adopted by Police Scotland in recording domestic violence<sup>155</sup>.

The definition of partner abuse in Scotland also includes psychological abuse in accordance with the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018<sup>156</sup>. The types of psychological abuse asked about in the survey capture some elements of this. However stakeholder engagement is ongoing to review the partner abuse section of the survey and considering whether the question set should be updated.

The definition of partner abuse is not introduced at the start of the survey and the terms ‘partner abuse’ or ‘domestic abuse’ are not used in the survey until the final question of the section. Rather, respondents are asked to identify which, if any, of the following psychological and physical abusive behaviours they have experienced since the age of 16, and in the 12 months prior to interview:

### Psychological partner abuse

Has any partner or ex-partner ever done any of the following things to you:

- stopped you having your fair share of the household money or taken money from you
- stopped you from seeing friends and relatives
- repeatedly put you down so that you felt worthless
- behaved in a jealous or controlling way
- forced you to view material which you considered to be pornography
- threatened to kill or attempted to kill themselves as a way of making you do something or stopping you from doing something
- threatened to, attempted to or actually hurt themselves as a way of making you do something or stopping you from doing something
- threatened you with a weapon, for example, a knife, an ashtray or a bottle
- threatened to hurt you

---

<sup>154</sup> In the SCJS, a ‘partner’ is defined as any husband, wife, boyfriend, girlfriend, or civil partner.

<sup>155</sup> Police Scotland and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) have a shared definition of domestic abuse available on the Police Scotland website.

<sup>156</sup> [Domestic Abuse \(Scotland\) Act 2018](#).

- threatened to hurt someone close to you, such as your children, family members, friends or pets
- threatened to hurt your other/previous partner
- threatened to kill you

### Physical partner abuse

Has any partner or ex-partner ever done any of the following things to you:

- pushed you or held you down
- kicked, bitten, or hit you
- thrown something at you with the intention of causing harm
- choked or tried to strangle/smother you
- used a weapon against you, for example, a knife, an ashtray or a bottle
- forced you or tried to force you to have sexual intercourse when you did not want to
- forced you or tried to force you to take part in another sexual activity when you did not want to

There may be some overlap between the incidents of partner abuse presented in this section, and the incidents of [stalking and harassment](#) and [sexual victimisation](#) discussed elsewhere in this report, as these experiences can involve similar behaviours. It is also possible that some partner abuse incidents presented in this section constituted sexual victimisation and/or stalking and harassment but were not viewed or reported during the survey as such by respondents.

The figures in this section refer to the two survey years 2018/19 and 2019/20 combined. This is referred to throughout the section as 2018/20. For more information, see the [Technical Report](#).

## **What can the 2018/20 SCJS results tell us about partner abuse in Scotland?**

### **In 2018/20, 16.5% of adults said they had experienced at least one incident of partner abuse since the age of 16.**

Overall, 16.5% of respondents<sup>157</sup> said they experienced at least one form of partner abuse, either psychological or physical, since the age of 16. This is a decrease since 2008/09 (18.2%), but unchanged since 2016/18 (15.6%).

Table 9.4 shows the time series since 2008/09. As this is a lifetime measurement, it would not be expected to change much, if at all, over this relatively short period of time, therefore it is recommended any changes are interpreted with caution.

There have been no statistically significant changes between 2016/18 and 2018/20 in the proportion of respondents experiencing any types of partner abuse since the age of 16.

---

<sup>157</sup> Note that in the SCJS respondents are only asked the questions relating to partner abuse if they have had at least one partner since the age of 16, hence the base size for respondents in this section is 8,845.

**Table 9.4: Proportion of adults experiencing types of partner abuse since the age of 16, 2008/09 to 2018/20<sup>158</sup>**

| Abuse type                                   | 2008/09 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2012/13 | 2014/15 | 2016/18 | 2018/20      | Percentage point change since 2008/09 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Psychological abuse</b>                   | 15.1%   | 13.4%   | 13.4%   | 12.0%   | 12.2%   | 13.8%   | <b>14.6%</b> | No change                             |
| <b>Physical abuse</b>                        | 13.2%   | 11.9%   | 12.0%   | 9.2%    | 9.6%    | 10.2%   | <b>10.7%</b> | ↓ by 2.5                              |
| <b>Both psychological AND physical abuse</b> | 10.0%   | 8.9%    | 9.1%    | 7.4%    | 7.7%    | 8.4%    | <b>8.8%</b>  | ↓ by 1.2                              |
| <b>Any psychological OR physical abuse</b>   | 18.2%   | 16.4%   | 16.3%   | 13.8%   | 14.1%   | 15.6%   | <b>16.5%</b> | ↓ by 1.8                              |
| <i>Number of respondents</i>                 | 10,110  | 12,730  | 10,400  | 9,650   | 9,310   | 8,110   | 8,850        |                                       |

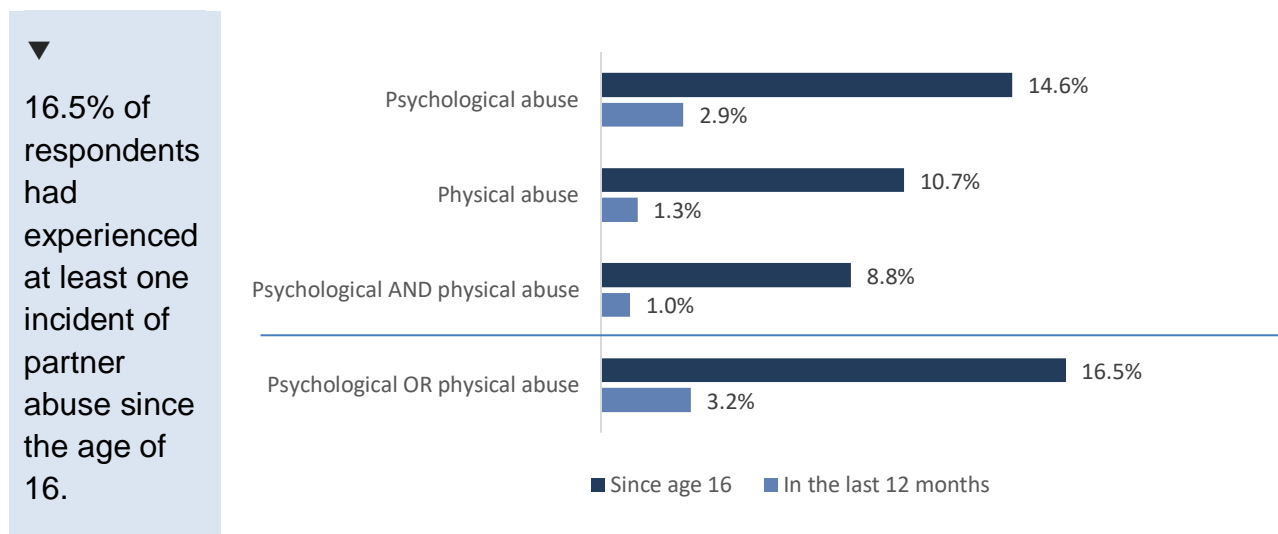
Base: All respondents who have had a partner since the age of 16. Variables: DA\_1i; DA\_1ii; DA1iii; DA\_1iv.

The proportion of respondents who said they had experienced at least one incident of psychological abuse since the age of 16 (14.6%) was higher than those reporting having experienced at least one incident of physical abuse (10.7%). 8.8% of respondents experienced both psychological and physical abuse.

Of respondents who had a partner or contact with an ex-partner in the 12 months prior to interview, 3.2% experienced at least one incident of partner abuse in the 12 months prior to interview; 2.9% had experienced psychological abuse; 1.3% had experienced physical abuse, and 1.0% had experienced both psychological and physical abuse. A higher proportion of respondents had experienced psychological abuse than physical abuse (Figure 9.7).

<sup>158</sup> The SCJS asks respondents if they have experienced a range of abusive physical behaviour. In 2012/13, the wording ‘thrown something at you’ was changed to ‘thrown something at you with the intention of causing harm’. This change may have contributed to a fall in the proportion of respondents reporting experience of this type of physical abuse.

**Figure 9.7: Proportion of adults experiencing types of partner abuse since the age of 16 and in the 12 months prior to interview**



Base: All respondents who have had a partner since the age of 16 (8,850); all respondents who have had a partner or contact with an ex-partner in the 12 months prior to interview (6,550). Variables: DA\_1i; DA\_1iii.

**Experiences of partner abuse in the 12 months prior to interview have decreased since 2008/09.**

Table 9.5 below shows the trend in experiencing partner abuse in the 12 months prior to interview between 2008/09 and 2018/20.

Between 2008/09 and 2018/20, the proportion of respondents who had a partner, or contact with an ex-partner, in the 12 months prior to interview who experienced any partner abuse decreased from 4.2% to 3.2%. Looking at the two categories of partner abuse, the proportion experiencing psychological abuse remained stable (the apparent decrease from 3.4% to 2.9% is not statistically significant), whilst the proportion experiencing physical abuse decreased from 2.2% to 1.3%.

There have been no statistically significant changes between 2016/18 and 2018/20 in the proportion of respondents experiencing any types of partner abuse in the 12 months prior to interview.

**Table 9.5: Proportion of adults experiencing types of partner abuse in the 12 months prior to interview, 2008/09 to 2018/20<sup>159</sup>**

| Abuse type                                   | 2008/09 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2012/13 | 2014/15 | 2016/18     | 2018/20     | Percentage point change since 2008/09 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Psychological abuse</b>                   | 3.4%    | 2.9%    | 2.4%    | 2.3%    | 2.5%    | <b>2.6%</b> | <b>2.9%</b> | No change                             |
| <b>Physical abuse</b>                        | 2.2%    | 1.7%    | 1.7%    | 1.5%    | 1.5%    | <b>1.3%</b> | <b>1.3%</b> | ↓ by 0.9                              |
| <b>Both psychological AND physical abuse</b> | 1.4%    | 1.1%    | 1.1%    | 1.0%    | 1.0%    | <b>0.9%</b> | <b>1.0%</b> | No change                             |
| <b>Any psychological OR physical abuse</b>   | 4.2%    | 3.5%    | 3.1%    | 2.8%    | 2.9%    | <b>3.0%</b> | <b>3.2%</b> | ↓ by 1.0                              |
| <i>Number of respondents</i>                 | 6,750   | 9,470   | 7,650   | 7,180   | 6,930   | 6,040       | 6,550       |                                       |

Base: All respondents who have had a partner or contact with an ex-partner in the 12 months prior to interview.  
Variables: DA\_1i; DA\_1ii; DA1iii; DA\_1iv.

## How often do people experience partner abuse and who are the offenders?

### Partner abuse is often experienced on multiple occasions.

Around two-thirds (67%) of those who experienced an incident of partner abuse in the 12 months prior to interview also experienced at least one incident prior to this period.

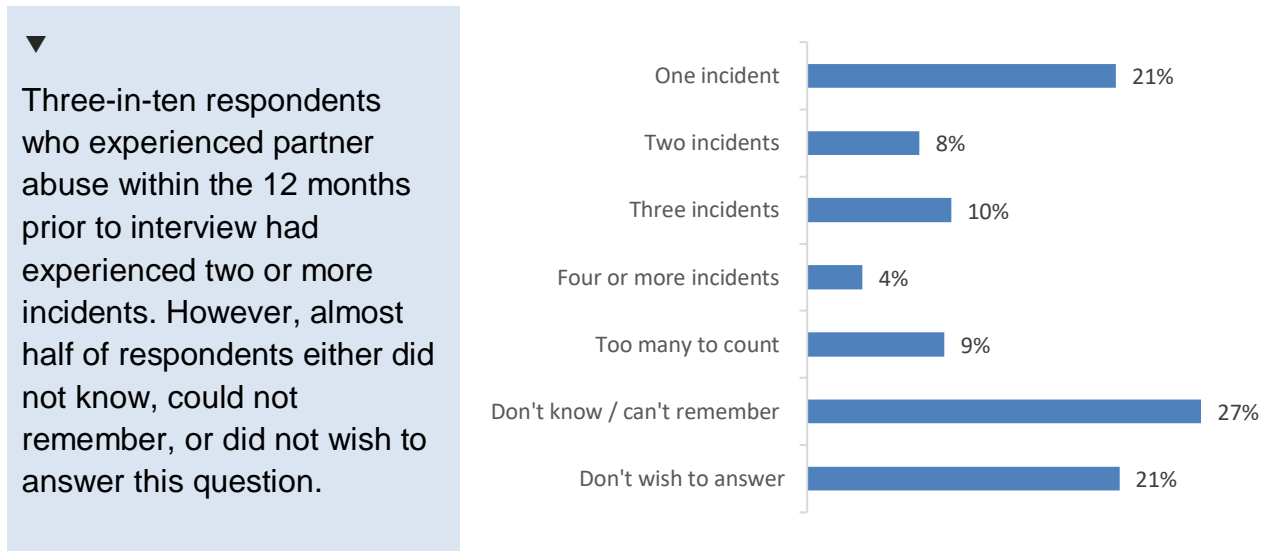
Respondents who experienced partner abuse within the 12 months prior to interview were asked how many incidents of abuse they had experienced within this time period. Three-in-ten respondents (31%) who experienced partner abuse within the 12 months prior to interview had experienced more than one incident. Excluding those who responded “don’t know/can’t remember” or who did not wish to answer, around three-in-five respondents (59%) had experienced more than one incident.

Overall, 21% had experienced one incident, 8% experienced two incidents, 10% experienced three incidents, and 4% experienced four or more incidents. A further 9% said that there were too

<sup>159</sup> The SCJS asks respondents if they have experienced a range of abusive physical behaviour. In 2012/13, the wording ‘thrown something at you’ was changed to ‘thrown something at you with the intention of causing harm’. This change may have contributed to a fall in the proportion of respondents reporting experience of this type of physical abuse.

many incidents to count. Just over one-in-four respondents (27%) said that they either did not know or could not remember and just over one-in-five (21%) refused to answer this question (Figure 9.8).

**Figure 9.8: Number of incidents of partner abuse experienced in the 12 months prior to interview**



▼  
 Three-in-ten respondents who experienced partner abuse within the 12 months prior to interview had experienced two or more incidents. However, almost half of respondents either did not know, could not remember, or did not wish to answer this question.

Base: All respondents experiencing at least one type of partner abuse in the 12 months prior to interview (200).  
 Variable: DA\_6.

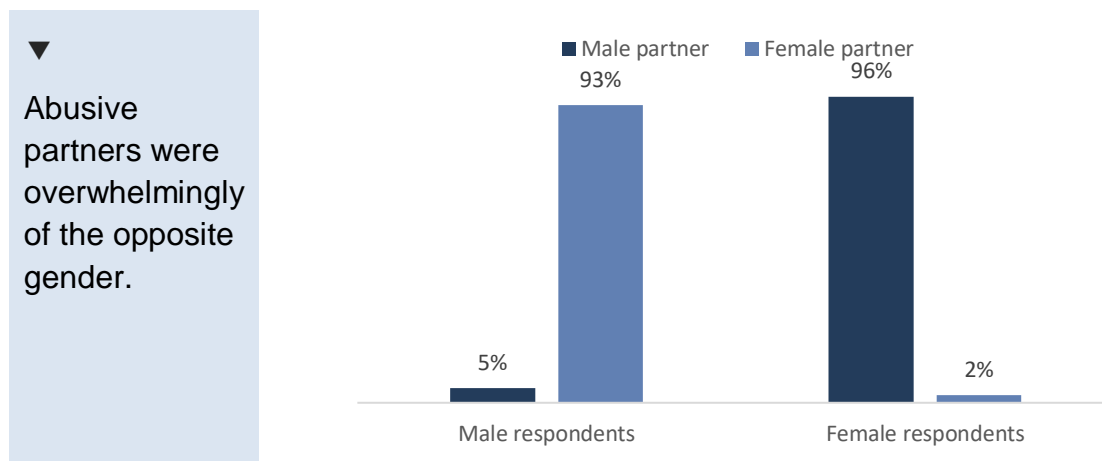
**Almost two-thirds of respondents reported having one abusive partner.**

Of those who had experienced at least one incident of partner abuse since the age of 16, 62% reported having one abusive partner only. A further 11% reported that they had two abusive partners since they were 16, and 12% reported having had three or more abusive partners. The remaining respondents either did not wish to answer (9%) or did not know (7%).

Respondents were asked to state the gender of any abusive partners. Of those who had experienced partner abuse since the age of 16, 66% said the abuser was male, while 32% said the abuser was female. Less than 1% stated that both male and female partners had perpetuated abuse.

Breaking this down by the gender of respondents, Figure 9.9 shows that abusive partners were overwhelmingly of the opposite gender.

**Figure 9.9: Gender of perpetrator of partner abuse, by gender of respondent**



Base: All respondents experiencing at least one type of partner abuse since aged 16 (1,500). Variable: DA\_1vi.

## Are some population groups more likely to have experienced partner abuse?

This section examines the relationship between gender, age, victim status<sup>160</sup>, area deprivation and rurality on experience of partner abuse, both since the age of 16 and in the 12 months prior to interview.

When looking at age, the results have also been broken down by both age and gender, as there are notable differences in partner abuse between genders within different age groups.

Changes over time are also discussed below where they have occurred, however most groups have shown no significant change in the longer term and none of the groups have shown any change since 2016/18.

### Gender

Table 9.6 below shows how the proportion of respondents experiencing partner abuse varied by gender.

Since the age of 16, women were almost twice as likely as men to have experienced partner abuse (21.2% and 11.2% respectively), similar to the position in previous years. A higher proportion of women than men reported psychological abuse, physical abuse, and both psychological and physical abuse since the age of 16.

When looking at experiences of types of partner abuse in the 12 month period prior to interview, experiences of partner abuse were more common for women than men (3.7% and 2.6% respectively). This has been the case since 2014/15. Women were more likely to experience psychological abuse than men (3.4% and 2.4% respectively). However, the proportion who experienced physical abuse did not vary between women and men (1.5% and 1.0% respectively).

<sup>160</sup> A victim is defined as a respondent who reported crimes or offences in the main questionnaire (excluding sexual offences and threats) that are within the scope of the survey, took place in Scotland, and occurred within the reference period. For more information please refer to the [Technical Report](#).

**Table 9.6: Proportion of adults experiencing types of partner abuse since the age of 16 and in the 12 months prior to interview, by gender**

|  | Since age 16 |              | In the 12 months prior to interview |             |
|--|--------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
|  | Male         | Female       | Male                                | Female      |
| Psychological abuse                        | 9.3%         | 19.3%        | 2.4%                                | 3.4%        |
| Physical abuse                             | 6.7%         | 14.4%        | 1.0%                                | 1.5%        |
| Both psychological AND physical abuse      | 4.8%         | 12.5%        | 0.8%                                | 1.3%        |
| <b>Any psychological OR physical abuse</b> | <b>11.2%</b> | <b>21.2%</b> | <b>2.6%</b>                         | <b>3.7%</b> |

Base: All male respondents who have had a partner since age 16 (3,980); all female respondents who have had a partner since age 16 (4,860); all male respondents who have had a partner or contact with an ex-partner in the 12 months prior to interview (3,130); all female respondents who have had a partner or contact with an ex-partner in the 12 months prior to interview (3,420). Variables: DA\_1i; DA\_1ii; DA1iii; DA\_1iv.

## Age

Table 9.7 below shows how the proportion of respondents who experienced partner abuse, varied with age. As in previous years (with exception of 2012/13), experience of partner abuse in the 12 months prior to interview was highest amongst the 16 to 24 year age-group (9.4%).

**Table 9.7: Proportion of adults experiencing partner abuse since the age of 16 and in the 12 months prior to interview, by age**

|                   | Since age 16 | In the 12 months prior to interview |
|-------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| 16 to 24 years    | 21.6%        | 9.4%                                |
| 25 to 44 years    | 21.3%        | 4.3%                                |
| 45 to 59 years    | 18.5%        | 2.2%                                |
| 60 years and over | 8.1%         | 0.5%                                |

Base: All respondents who have had a partner since age 16 aged 16-24 (500); 25-44 (2,600); 45-59 (2,380); 60+ (3,370); all respondents who have had a partner or contact with an ex-partner in the 12 months prior to interview aged 16-24 (410); 25-44 (2,230); 45-59 (1,880); 60+ (2,040). Variables: DA\_1i; DA\_1ii; DA1iii; DA\_1iv.

Table 9.8 below shows experience of partner abuse broken down further, by age within gender. As in previous years, since the age of 16, women were more likely to have experienced partner abuse than men for all the age categories. Within the 12 months prior to interview women aged 16 to 24 were more likely than any other age group of women to have experienced partner abuse (10.2%). Within this time period there was no significant difference between men and women aged 16 to 24.



**Table 9.8: Proportion of adults experiencing types of partner abuse since the age of 16 and in the 12 months prior to interview, by age and gender**

|                          | Since age 16 |              | In the 12 months prior to interview |             |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
|                          | Male         | Female       | Male                                | Female      |
| <b>16 to 24 years</b>    | 16.9%        | 25.7%        | 8.4%                                | 10.2%       |
| <b>25 to 44 years</b>    | 14.6%        | 27.6%        | <b>3.7%</b>                         | <b>4.9%</b> |
| <b>45 to 59 years</b>    | 13.2%        | <b>23.3%</b> | 2.2%                                | <b>2.2%</b> |
| <b>60 years and over</b> | 3.9%         | <b>11.6%</b> | 0.2%                                | <b>0.7%</b> |

Base: All male respondents who have had a partner since age 16 aged 16-24 (210); 25-44 (1,130); 45-59 (1,090); 60+ (1,550); all female respondents who have had a partner since age 16 aged 16-24 (290); 25-44 (1,470); 45-59 (1,280); 60+ (1,820); all male respondents who have had a partner or contact with an ex-partner in the 12 months prior to interview aged 16-24 (160); 25-44 (960); 45-59 (880); 60+ (1,130); all female respondents who have had a partner or contact with an ex-partner in the 12 months prior to interview aged 16-24 (250); 25-44 (1,270); 45-59 (1,000); 60+ (910). Variables: DA\_1i; DA\_1ii; DA1iii; DA\_1iv.

### Victim status

Experience of partner abuse was associated with other types of victimisation. Over a quarter (28.1%) of those who were classified as victims<sup>161</sup> in the main SCJS survey<sup>162</sup> had experienced partner abuse since the age of 16, and 14.9% of non-victims, in line with previous years. Of those who had experienced at least one type of partner abuse in the 12 months prior to interview, 7.0% were classified as victims of crime in the main SCJS survey, compared to 2.6% of those who were not classified as victims, consistent with previous years.

### Area deprivation

As has been the case in previous years, experience of partner abuse since the age of 16 varied significantly in terms of area deprivation. Over one-in-five (21.6%) of those living in the 15% most deprived areas of Scotland reported abuse since age 16, compared to 15.7% of those living in the rest of Scotland. No difference was found in 2018/20 by area deprivation in experience of partner abuse in the 12 months prior to interview (3.6% and 3.1% respectively).

<sup>161</sup> A victim is defined as a respondent who reported crimes or offences in the main questionnaire (excluding sexual offences and threats) that are within the scope of the survey, took place in Scotland, and occurred within the reference period.

<sup>162</sup> In the 2016/18 and 2018/20 survey years.

## **Rurality**

No difference was detected in the likelihood of having experienced partner abuse by urban and rural location, both since the age of 16 (16.6% and 15.6%, respectively) and in the 12 months prior to interview (3.2% and 3.0%, respectively).

## **What can the 2018/20 SCJS results tell us about the types partner abuse most commonly experienced?**

To capture experiences of partner abuse as fully as possible, this section focuses on partner abuse experienced since the age of 16.

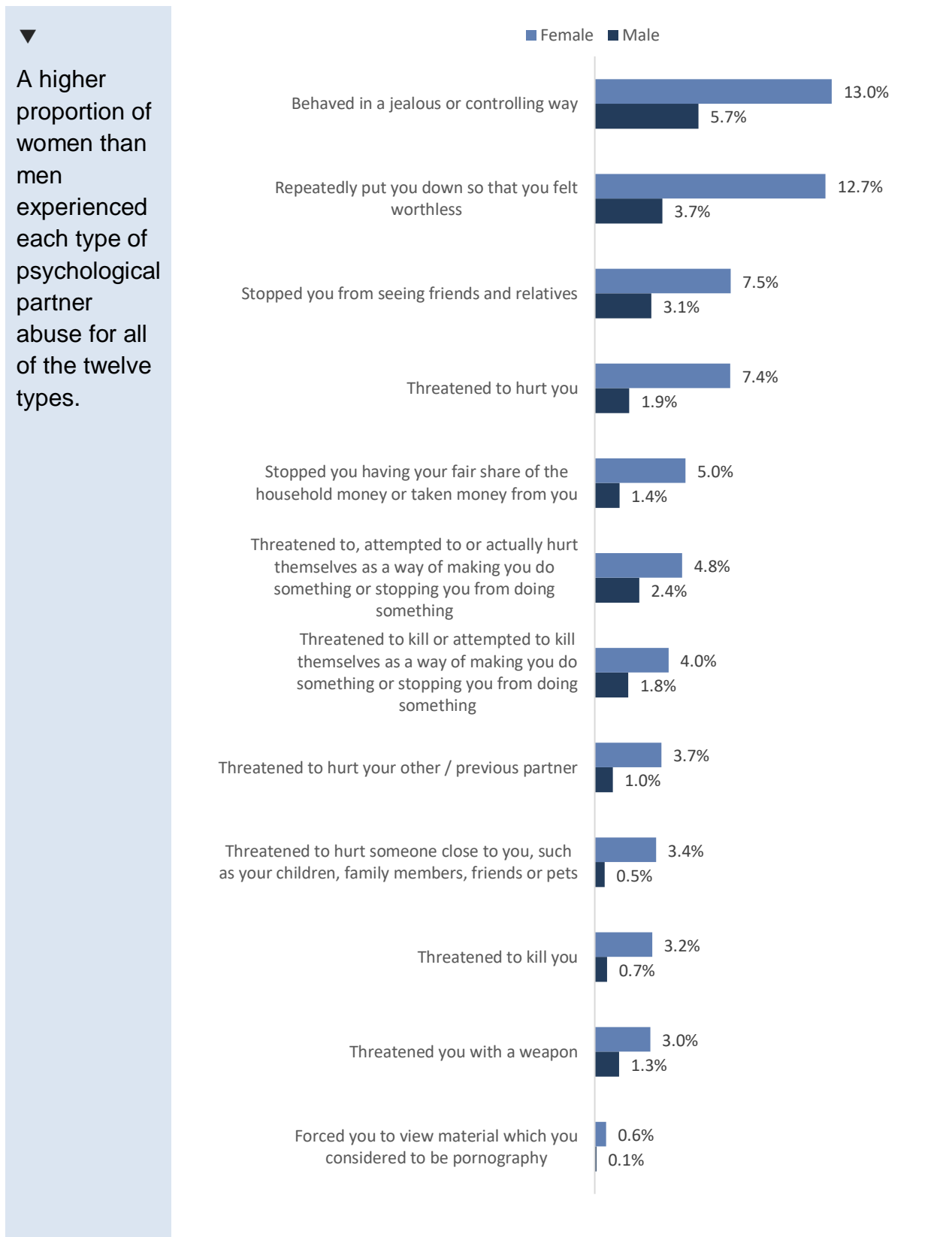
### **The most commonly reported type of psychological abuse experienced was a partner acting in a jealous or controlling way.**

Respondents were asked if they had experienced twelve different types of psychological abuse since the age of 16, as outlined earlier.

Overall, the most commonly reported form of psychological abuse was a partner behaving in a jealous or controlling way (9.5%), followed by repeatedly put down so made to feel worthless (8.4%). A further 5.4% stated that a partner had stopped them from seeing friends and relatives, and 4.8% also said that a partner had threatened to hurt them.

However, these findings differed by gender of the respondent, with the proportion of women reporting abuse higher than the proportion of men for each of the twelve types. Figure 9.10 shows the percentage of respondents experiencing different types of psychological abuse since the age of 16, broken down by gender.

**Figure 9.10: Type of psychological partner abuse experienced since the age of 16, by gender**



Base: All male respondents who have had a partner since age of 16 (3,980); all female respondents who have had a partner since age 16 (4,860). Variable: DA\_1i.

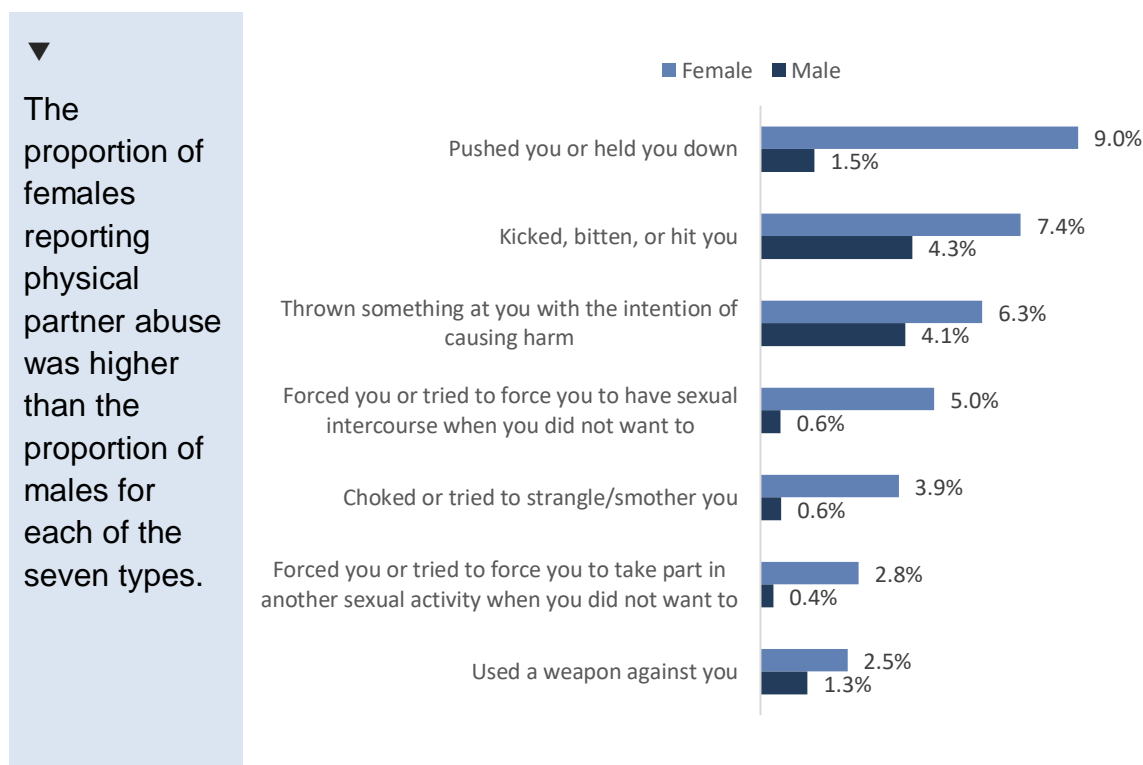
**The most commonly reported types of physical partner abuse experienced were being kicked, bitten or hit, being pushed or held down, and having something thrown at them with the intention of causing harm.**

Respondents were asked if they had experienced seven different types of physical abuse since the age of 16, as outlined [earlier](#).

Overall, the most commonly reported forms of physical partner abuse experienced by respondents were being kicked, bitten or hit (5.9%), being pushed or held down (5.5%), and having something thrown at them with the intention of causing harm (5.3%).

However, these findings differed by gender, with the proportion of women reporting abuse higher than the proportion of men for each of the seven types. Figure 9.11 below shows the percentage of respondents experiencing different types of physical abuse since the age of 16, broken down by gender.

**Figure 9.11: Type of physical partner abuse experienced since the age of 16, by gender**



Base: All male respondents who have had a partner since age of 16 (3,980); all female respondents who have had a partner since age 16 (4,860). Variable: DA\_1iii.

### What can the SCJS tell us about the impact of partner abuse?

Respondents who experienced at least one incident of partner abuse in the 12 months prior to interview were asked if they had experienced a range of effects, both psychological and physical, as a result of the most recent (or only) incident of abuse.

**Three-in-four of those experiencing partner abuse had at least one psychological effect as a result of the most recent (or only) incident of abuse in the 12 months prior to interview.**

Three-in-four adults (74%) with experience of partner abuse in the 12 months prior to interview reported psychological effects of some sort, with no significant difference found between men and women.

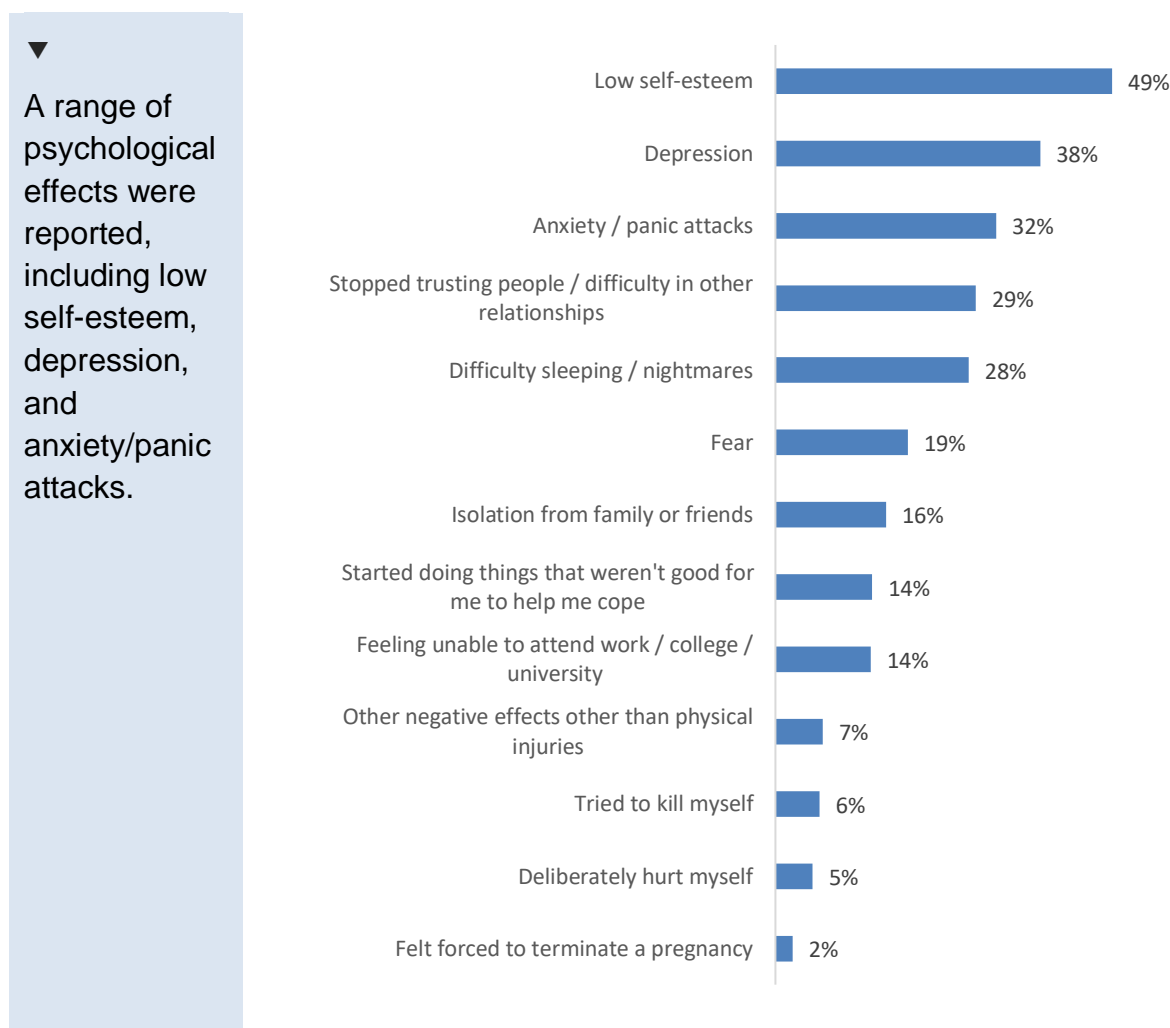
A range of psychological effects were reported, including low self-esteem (49%), depression (38%), and anxiety/panic attacks (32%).

Women were more likely than men to have experienced three of the twelve effects:

- anxiety/panic attacks (42% of women, compared to 17% of men)
- fear (25% compared to 10%)
- isolation from family or friends (21% compared to 9%)

As most differences by gender in the 12 months prior to interview are not statistically significant, Figure 9.12 below shows the psychological effects experienced for all adults. Results split by gender, along with other demographic and area breakdowns, are provided in the online [data tables](#).

**Figure 9.12: Psychological effects of partner abuse as a result of the most recent (or only) incident of partner abuse in the 12 months prior to interview**



Base: All respondents who experienced at least one type of partner abuse in the 12 months prior to interview (200). Variable: DA\_9

**Just over a third of those experiencing partner abuse (either physical or psychological) in the 12 months prior to interview had at least one physical effect of the abuse as a result of the most recent (or only) incident.**

Physical impacts were reported by just over one-third (34%) of adults experiencing partner abuse in the 12 months prior to interview. There was no statistically significant difference between the proportion of men (38%) and women (32%) who reported at least one physical effect of the most recent (or only) incident of partner abuse.

A range of physical effects were reported, including minor bruising or black eye (17%), scratches or minor cuts (14%) and severe bruising (7%).

**46% of those who had experienced at least one incident of partner abuse since age 16 considered themselves to have ever been a victim of domestic abuse.**

Almost half (46%) of adults with experience of partner abuse since the age of 16 assessed that they had been a victim of domestic abuse.

Of those who experienced physical abuse in the 12 months prior to interview, almost half (45%) viewed this as a crime, compared to 24% who viewed their experiences of psychological abuse (in the 12 months prior to interview) as a crime.

## **What can the SCJS tell us about the circumstances in which partner abuse occurs and how often it is reported?**

Respondents who experienced partner abuse in the 12 months prior to interview were asked about the circumstances of the most recent (or only) incident of partner abuse and who, if anyone, they had told about their experience. The section below presents a high-level summary of some of the information provided by respondents. Further results are available in the supporting [data tables](#). It is important to note that the latest incident might not be the most serious and also may not be representative of all incidents of partner abuse a respondent experienced.

### **41% were living with the partner at the time of the incident.**

- Of those, just over two-fifths (42%) said they were still living with the abusive partner at the time of the survey interview.

### **Around a third said that children were living in their household when the incident took place.**

- Of those who reported children were living in the household (32%), 71% said that the children were present (in or around the house or close by) during the most recent incident.

### **Over two-thirds (68%) had told at least one person or organisation about the most recent incident, unchanged from 2016/18.**

- A higher proportion of women than men had told at least one person or organisation about their experiences of abuse (76% and 55%, respectively).
- There are a range of different people and services that those who have experienced partner abuse reported engaging with. Respondents were most likely to have told friends (45%) and relatives (21%) about the most recent incident of abuse. Around three-in-ten respondents (29%) said they had told none of the people or organisations asked about, whilst around one-in-ten reported the incident to the police, or told a doctor (11% and 10%, respectively). These percentages are not statistically different from 2016/18.

### **The police came to know about under one-in-five of the most recent incidents of partner abuse.**

- 16% said that the police came to know about the most recent (or only) incident of partner abuse somehow, unchanged from 2016/18. This differs from the 11% figure in the paragraph above, as it includes incidents the police came to know about through any means, including via neighbours and relatives, not just reported by the respondent themselves.

## 9.4 Sexual Victimisation

SCJS respondents are asked about their experiences of serious sexual assault and less serious sexual assault, since the age of 16 and in the 12 months prior to interview.

The survey asks respondents if they have experienced one or more of the following types of serious and less serious sexual assault<sup>163</sup>:

### Serious sexual assault

- Forced sexual intercourse
- Attempted forced sexual intercourse
- Forced other sexual activity (for example, oral sex)
- Attempted forced other sexual activity

### Less serious sexual assault

- Unwanted sexual touching
- Indecent exposure
- Sexual threats

There may be some overlap between the incidents of sexual victimisation presented in this section, and the incidents of [stalking and harassment](#) and [partner abuse](#) discussed elsewhere in this report, as these experiences can involve similar behaviours. It is also possible that some sexual victimisation incidents presented in this section constituted partner abuse and/or stalking and harassment but were not viewed or reported during the survey as such by respondents.

The figures in this section refer to the two survey years 2018/19 and 2019/20 combined. This is referred to throughout the section as 2018/20. For more information, see the [Technical Report](#).

---

<sup>163</sup> These terms are used for ease of reference and do not relate to the seriousness of the impact on the individual.



## **Serious Sexual Assault**

This section focuses mainly on respondents who reported at least one form of serious sexual assault since the age of 16, however prevalence of sexual assault in the 12 months prior to interview is also covered.

### **What can the 2018/20 SCJS results tell us about serious sexual assault in Scotland?**

#### **3.6% of adults in Scotland have experienced at least one type of serious sexual assault since the age of 16.**

Overall, 3.6% of adults said they had experienced at least one type of serious sexual assault since the age of 16, whilst 1.6% of respondents had experienced more than one type of serious sexual assault.

Table 9.9 below shows the percentage of respondents who said they had experienced serious sexual assault since the age of 16 over time.

The latest results show there has been no change since 2008/09 in the proportion of respondents reporting experience of at least one type of serious sexual assault. When looking at the types of serious sexual assault experienced however, there has been an increase in the proportion of adults experiencing attempted forced sexual intercourse (from 1.5% to 2.0%) and attempted other forced sexual activity (from 0.7% to 1.3%). There was no statistically significant change in the proportion reporting the other two types.

There have been no statistically significant changes between 2016/18 and 2018/20 across any of the types of serious sexual assault.

**Table 9.9: Proportion of adults experiencing types of serious sexual assault since the age of 16, 2008/09 to 2018/20**

| Type of serious sexual assault                     | 2008/09 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2012/13 | 2014/15 | 2016/18 | 2018/20     | Percentage point change since 2008/09 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Forced sexual intercourse</b>                   | 1.7%    | 1.5%    | 1.4%    | 1.6%    | 1.6%    | 1.9%    | 2.0%        | No change                             |
| <b>Attempted forced sexual intercourse</b>         | 1.5%    | 1.2%    | 1.3%    | 1.1%    | 1.2%    | 1.6%    | 2.0%        | ↑ by 0.5                              |
| <b>Other forced sexual activity</b>                | 0.6%    | 0.5%    | 0.6%    | 1.1%    | 0.7%    | 0.8%    | 0.9%        | No change                             |
| <b>Attempted other forced sexual activity</b>      | 0.7%    | 0.7%    | 0.7%    | 0.6%    | 0.8%    | 1.4%    | <b>1.3%</b> | ↑ by 0.5                              |
| <b>At least one form of serious sexual assault</b> | 3.2%    | 2.7%    | 2.8%    | 2.5%    | 2.7%    | 3.6%    | <b>3.6%</b> | No change                             |
| <i>Number of respondents</i>                       | 10,970  | 13,420  | 11,000  | 10,240  | 9,990   | 8,820   | 9,600       |                                       |

Base: All respondents. Variable: SA\_0.

**Less than 1% of adults in Scotland have experienced at least one type of serious sexual assault in the 12 months prior to interview.**

0.3% of adults said they had experienced at least one type of serious sexual assault in the 12 months prior to interview.

This proportion, and the proportion of adults experiencing each type of serious sexual assault, have shown no change since 2008/09 and since 2016/18.

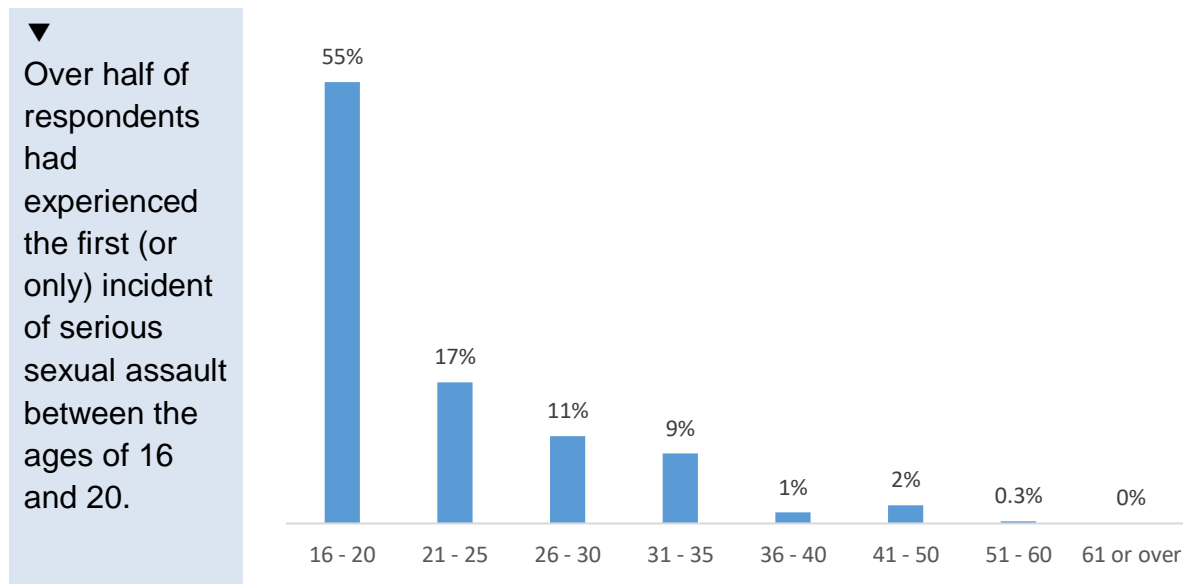
As there were only a small number of respondents who experienced serious sexual assault in the 12 months prior to interview<sup>164</sup>, the rest of the analysis in this section focuses on experiences since the age 16.

<sup>164</sup> Only 25 respondents said they experienced serious sexual assault in the 12 months prior to interview.

**The first (or only) incident occurred between the ages of 16 and 20 for more than half of those who experienced serious sexual assault.**

Respondents who experienced at least one incident of serious sexual assault since the age of 16 were asked at what age the first (or only) incident took place. Figure 9.13 below shows that the majority (55%) of respondents said the first (or only) incident took place between the ages of 16 and 20.

**Figure 9.13: Age when first (or only) incident of serious sexual assault happened**



▼  
Over half of respondents had experienced the first (or only) incident of serious sexual assault between the ages of 16 and 20.

Base: All respondents who experienced at least one type of serious sexual assault since the age of 16 (370).  
Variable: SA\_1.

**Victims of serious sexual assault were likely to have experienced more than one incident.**

Respondents who experienced a type of serious sexual assault were then asked how many incidents of that specific type they had experienced since the age of 16. Table 9.10 shows the incidence of serious sexual assault since the age of 16 for the four types of serious sexual assault.

It shows, for example, that of those respondents who had experienced forced sexual intercourse since the age of 16, 62% said they had experienced more than one incident. Just under half of those who had experienced more than one incident said they had experienced too many incidents to count (28% of all respondents who had experienced forced sexual intercourse since the age of 16).

**Table 9.10: Number of incidents of serious sexual assault experienced since the age of 16, by type of serious sexual assault**

| Number of incidents          | Forced sexual intercourse | Attempted forced sexual intercourse | Other forced sexual activity | Attempted other forced sexual activity |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| <b>One</b>                   | <b>25%</b>                | <b>22%</b>                          | <b>14%</b>                   | <b>19%</b>                             |
| <b>More than one</b>         | <b>62%</b>                | <b>61%</b>                          | <b>64%</b>                   | <b>51%</b>                             |
| <b>Two</b>                   | 15%                       | 16%                                 | 9%                           | 12%                                    |
| <b>Three</b>                 | 10%                       | 11%                                 | 6%                           | 2%                                     |
| <b>Four</b>                  | 4%                        | 3%                                  | 3%                           | 6%                                     |
| <b>Five</b>                  | 4%                        | 4%                                  | 5%                           | 3%                                     |
| <b>Six and over</b>          | 1%                        | 1%                                  | 2%                           | 0.4%                                   |
| <b>Too many to count</b>     | 28%                       | 26%                                 | 40%                          | 27%                                    |
| <i>Number of respondents</i> | 220                       | 200                                 | 90                           | 130                                    |

Base: All respondents who had experienced each form of serious sexual assault since age 16. Variables: FS\_2EVER, AFS\_2EVER, OS\_2EVER, AOS\_2EVER.

Note: 'don't know/can't remember' and 'don't wish to answer' responses are not shown.

## What can the SCJS tell us about the nature, impact and reporting of serious sexual assault?

This section mainly focuses on experiences of forced sexual intercourse, however results for each of the four types of serious sexual assault can be found in the online [data tables](#).

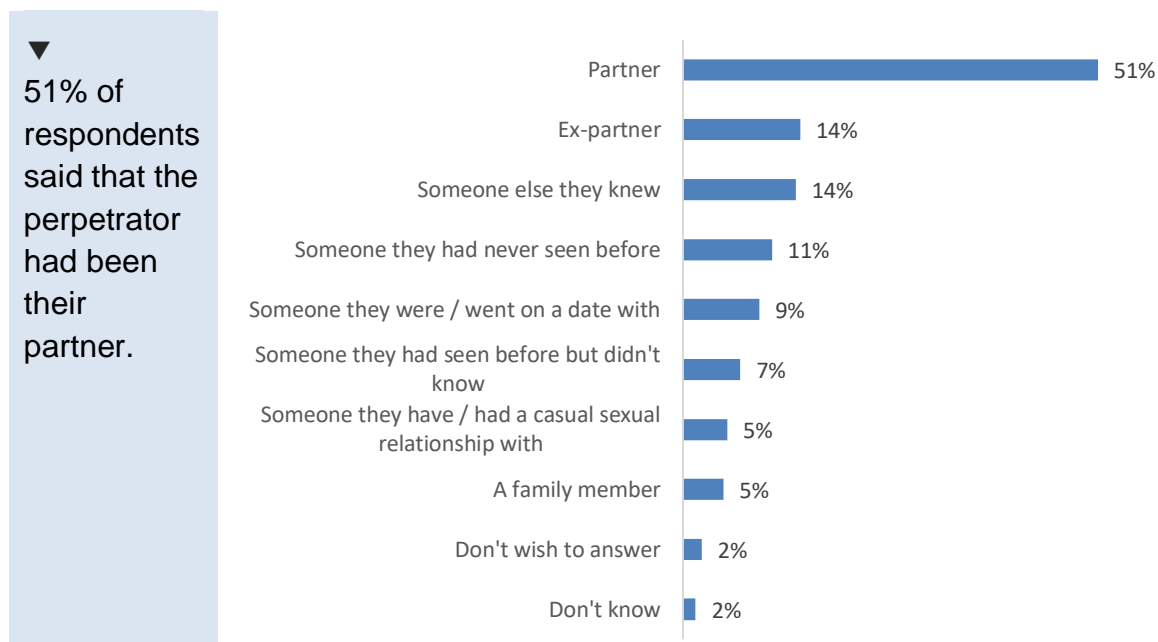
### Most victims knew the offender in some way.

Respondents who had experienced each type of serious sexual assault were asked what their relationship to the perpetrator(s) had been at the time of the incident for all experiences since the age of 16. If there had been more than one perpetrator, the respondent was asked to record all of them.

Of those respondents who had experienced forced sexual intercourse since the age of 16, half (51%) said that the perpetrator had been their partner, whilst 14% said the perpetrator was an ex-partner<sup>165</sup>. Figure 9.14 below shows the results.

<sup>165</sup> Ex-partner was included as a separate option in the questionnaire for the first time in 2018/19 therefore it is advised that results should not be compared to previous years.

**Figure 9.14: Relationship of offender to victim of forced sexual intercourse, since the age of 16**



▼  
51% of respondents said that the perpetrator had been their partner.

Base: All respondents who experienced forced sexual intercourse since the age of 16 (210). Variables: FS\_3B4; FS\_3.

**The majority of those who had experienced forced sexual intercourse said that the latest (or only) incident had resulted in some form of physical impact.**

Respondents who had experienced at least one incident of serious sexual assault since the age of 16, were asked about the physical impact of the latest (or only) incident.

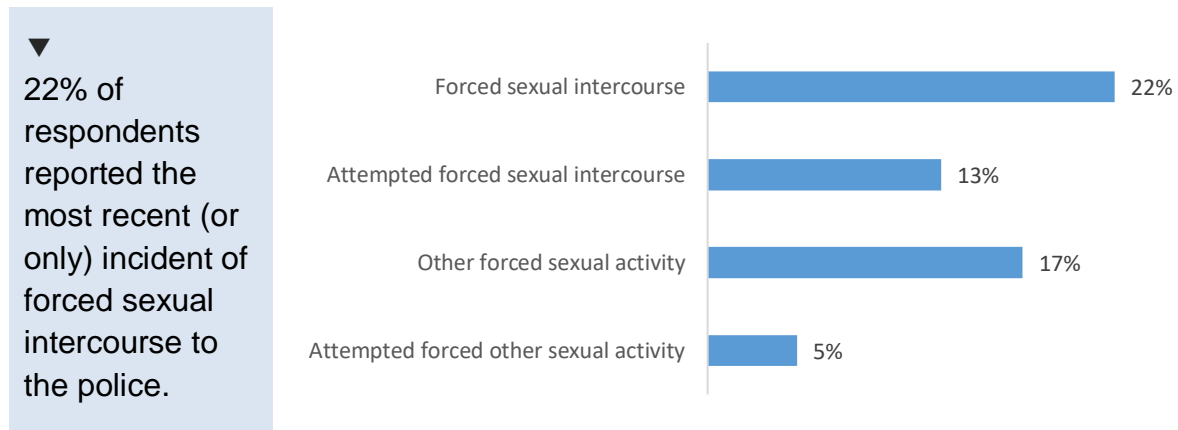
Of those who had experienced forced sexual intercourse, 67% said that the last (or only) incident had resulted in some form of physical impact; either minor (37%), serious but not treated by a medical professional (22%) or serious and treated by a medical professional (13%). Just under one-in-ten (9%) said that the last (or only) incident had resulted in pregnancy.

**In most cases, the most recent (or only) incident of serious sexual assault was not reported to the police.**

Respondents who had experienced serious sexual assault since the age of 16 were asked if the police were informed about the most recent (or only) incident. Just over a fifth (22%) of respondents said the police came to know about the most recent (or only) incident of forced sexual intercourse.

Figure 9.15 shows reporting rates for the four types of serious sexual assault. Note that this is not the proportion of crimes reported in 2018/20 as the incident may have happened, and been reported to the police, at an earlier time. Compared to 2016/18, there was no significant change for any type of serious sexual assault.

**Figure 9.15: Proportion of adults reporting the most recent (or only) incident of serious sexual assault (since the age of 16) to the police, by type of serious sexual assault**

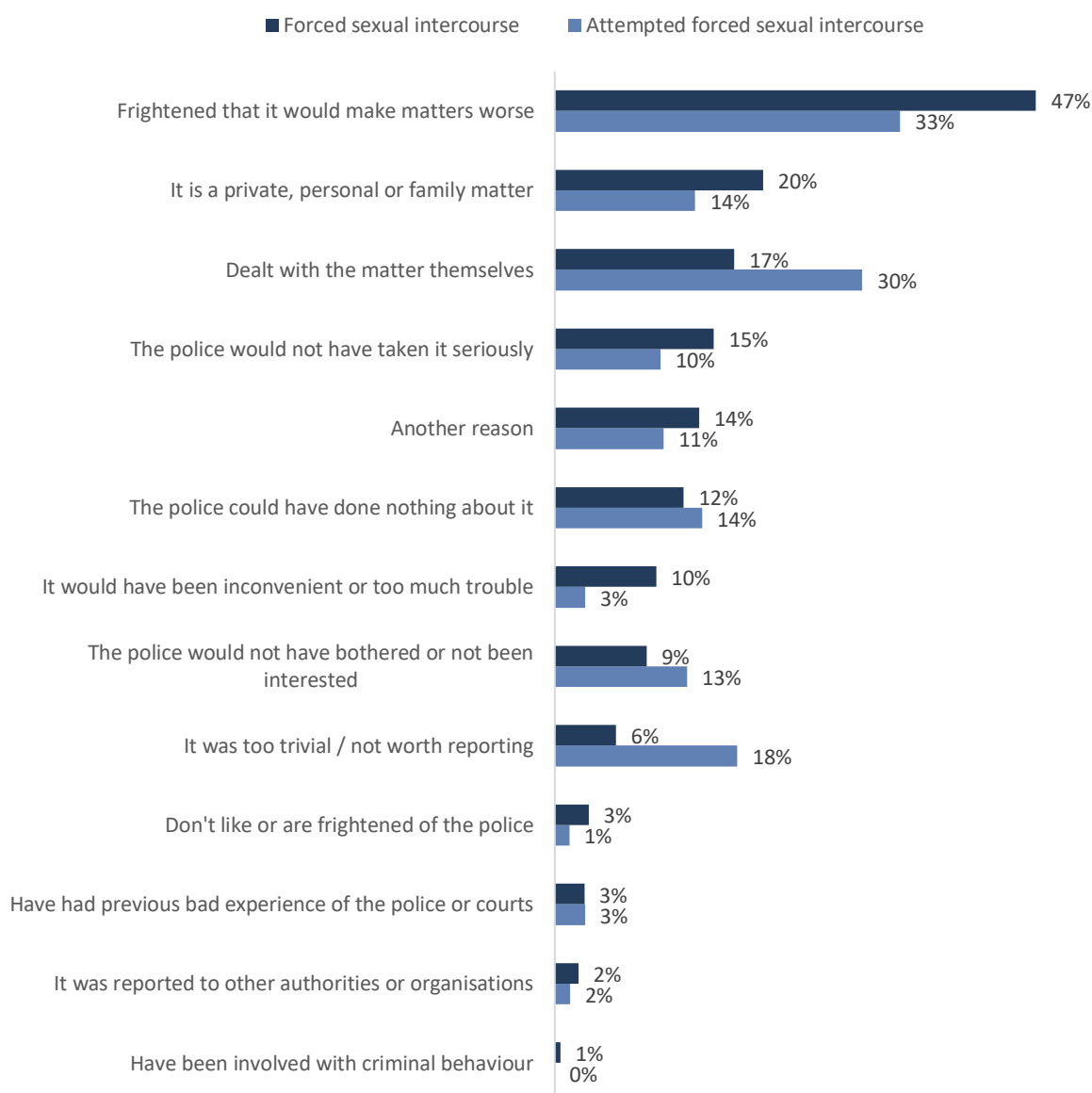


Base: All experiencing forced sexual intercourse since the age of 16 (210); all experiencing attempted forced sexual intercourse since the age of 16 (180); all experiencing other forced sexual activity since the age of 16 (70); all experiencing attempted other forced sexual activity since the age of 16 (100). Variables: FS\_7; AFS\_7; OS\_7; AOS\_7.

Respondents who said the police did not come to know about the most recent (or only) incident of serious sexual assault, since the age of 16, were asked the reasons for this. Figure 9.16 below shows the reasons for forced and attempted forced sexual intercourse (the two largest categories of serious sexual assault).

The most common reason for not informing the police of forced sexual intercourse was fear of making matters worse (47%), whilst the most common reasons for not reporting attempted forced sexual intercourse were fear of making matters worse (33%) and that they dealt with the matter themselves (30%).

**Figure 9.16: Reasons for not reporting the most recent (or only) incident of forced sexual intercourse or attempted forced sexual intercourse to the police**



Base: All experiencing forced sexual intercourse since the age of 16 where police did not come to know about the most recent incident (160); all experiencing attempted forced sexual intercourse since the age of 16 where police did not come to know about the most recent incident (150). Variables: FS\_7i; AFS\_7i.

## Are some population groups more likely to have experienced serious sexual assault?

Experience of serious sexual assault since the age of 16 varied by gender, age, and victim status<sup>166</sup>. Table 9.11 below shows the varying proportion of respondents reporting experience of at least one form of serious sexual assault since the age 16, by their characteristics.

<sup>166</sup> A victim is defined as a respondent who reported crimes or offences in the main questionnaire (excluding sexual offences and threats) that are within the scope of the survey, took place in Scotland, and occurred within the reference period. For more information please refer to the [Technical Report](#).

Changes since 2008/09 are also discussed below where they have occurred, however most groups have shown no change and none of the groups have shown any change since 2016/18.

**Table 9.11: Experience of serious sexual assault (since the age of 16), by demographic and area characteristics**

|                  | Characteristics   | % of adults | Base  |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------|-------|
| Gender           | Male              | 0.8%        | 4,360 |
|                  | Female            | 6.1%        | 5,240 |
| Age              | 16-24             | 4.8%        | 680   |
|                  | 25-44             | 4.8%        | 2,750 |
|                  | 45-59             | 3.4%        | 2,520 |
|                  | 60 and over       | 2.0%        | 3,650 |
| Victim status    | Victim            | 7.1%        | 1,060 |
|                  | Non-victim        | 3.1%        | 8,540 |
| Area deprivation | 15% most deprived | 4.9%        | 1,310 |
|                  | Rest of Scotland  | 3.4%        | 8,280 |
| Rurality         | Urban             | 3.6%        | 7,830 |
|                  | Rural             | 3.3%        | 1,770 |
|                  | All adults        | 3.6%        | 9,600 |

Base: All respondents. Variable: SA\_0.

### Gender

A greater proportion of women than men have experienced serious sexual assault both since the age of 16 (6.1% compared with 0.8%) and in the 12 months prior to interview (0.4% compared with 0.1%).

### Age

Respondents aged 60 and over were less likely to report having experienced serious sexual assault than all other age groups. However the proportion of those aged 60 and over experiencing serious sexual assault since the age of 16 has increased between 2008/09 and 2018/20 (from 1.2% to 2.0%). All other age groups have shown no change.

### Victim status

Despite an increase in the proportion of non-victims experiencing serious sexual assault between 2008/09 and 2018/20 (from 2.5% to 3.1%), as in previous years victims of other types of crime remain more likely to be a victim of serious sexual assault. In 2018/20, of those who were classified as victims in the main SCJS survey, 7.1% had experienced at least one serious sexual assault since the age of 16, compared to 3.1% of non-victims.



## **Area deprivation**

Those living in the 15% most deprived areas of Scotland were more likely to experience serious sexual assault than those living in the rest of Scotland (4.9%, compared to 3.4%).

## **Rurality**

There was no statistically significant difference in the proportion who experienced serious sexual assault since the age of 16 depending on whether they lived in urban or rural areas. This is a consistent finding with previous results.

## **Less Serious Sexual Assault**

This section focuses mainly on respondents who reported at least one form of less serious sexual assault since the age of 16, however it also includes some analysis of experiences in the 12 months prior to interview.

## **What can the 2018/20 SCJS results tell us about less serious sexual assault in Scotland?**

### **One-in-ten adults have experienced at least one type of less serious sexual assault since the age of 16.**

Respondents were asked if they had experienced three types of less serious sexual assault since the age of 16; these were unwanted sexual touching; indecent exposure; and sexual threats.

10.1% of all adults said they had experienced at least one type of less serious sexual assault since the age of 16, whilst 3.1% of respondents had experienced more than one type.

Since both 2008/09 and 2016/18, the SCJS has detected no change in the proportion of adults who said they have experienced at least one form of less serious assault since the age of 16.

Breaking the results down by type of sexual assault experienced, the latest results show an increase in the proportion of respondents reporting unwanted sexual touching between 2008/09 and 2018/20 (from 4.8% to 7.4%), with no change in the prevalence of sexual threats and a decrease in experiences of indecent exposure (from 5.0% to 3.9%). Table 9.12 below shows the results.

**Table 9.12: Proportion of adults experiencing types of less serious sexual assault since the age of 16, 2008/09 to 2018/20**

| Type of sexual assault                                  | 2008/09     | 2009/10     | 2010/11     | 2012/13     | 2014/15     | 2016/18     | 2018/20      | Percentage point change |                      |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
|   |             |             |             |             |             |             |              | Change since 2008/09    | Change since 2016/18 |
| Unwanted sexual touching                                | 4.8%        | 4.1%        | 4.6%        | 4.3%        | 4.8%        | 6.4%        | 7.4%         | ↑ by 2.6                | ↑ by 1.0             |
| Indecent exposure                                       | 5.0%        | 5.1%        | 4.2%        | 4.0%        | 4.3%        | 4.1%        | 3.9%         | ↓ by 1.0                | No change            |
| Sexual threats  | 2.1%        | 1.9%        | 1.9%        | 1.8%        | 2.1%        | 2.6%        | 2.7%         | No change               | No change            |
| <b>At least one form of less serious sexual assault</b> | <b>9.4%</b> | <b>8.8%</b> | <b>8.3%</b> | <b>7.6%</b> | <b>8.3%</b> | <b>9.3%</b> | <b>10.1%</b> | <b>No change</b>        | <b>No change</b>     |

*Number of respondents* 10,970 13,420 11,000 10,240 9,990 8,820 9,600

Base: All respondents. Variable: SV\_0.

**In the 12 months prior to interview, 1.6% of respondents had experienced at least one form of less serious sexual assault.**

1.6% of adults had experienced at least one form of less serious sexual assault in the 12 months prior to interview.

This proportion, and the proportion of adults experiencing each type of less serious sexual assault, have shown no change since 2016/18.

As there were only a small number of respondents who experienced less serious sexual assault in the 12 months prior to interview, the rest of the analysis in this section focuses on experiences since the age 16.

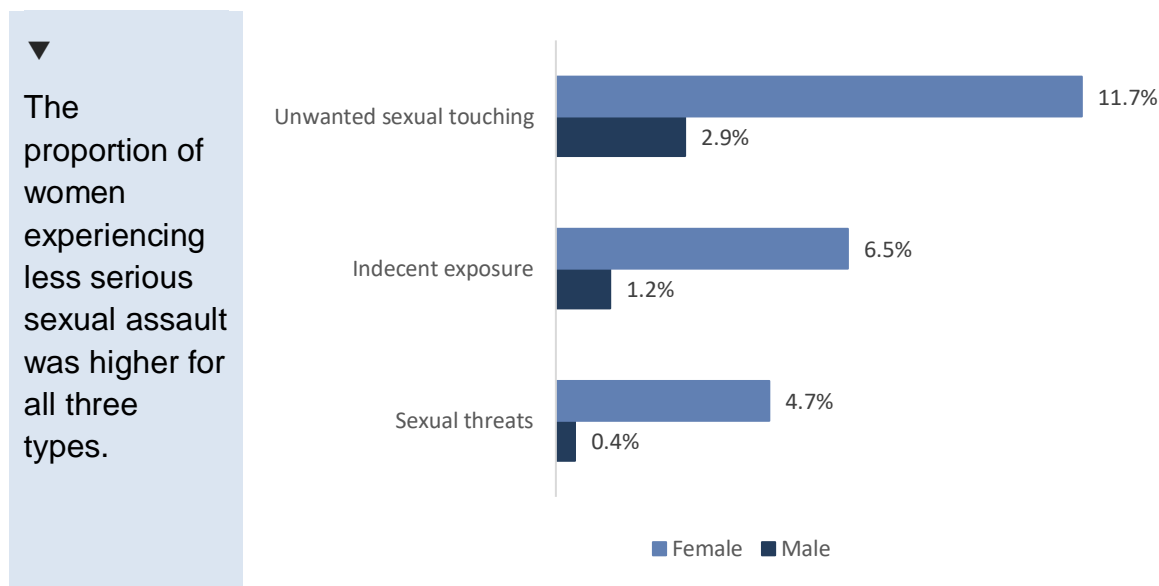
**What can the 2018/20 SCJS results tell us about the types of less serious sexual assault most commonly experienced?**

**Unwanted sexual touching was the most commonly experienced type of less serious sexual assault.**

Overall, the most commonly experienced form of less serious sexual assault was unwanted sexual touching (7.4%), followed by indecent exposure (3.9%), and being subject to sexual threats (2.7%).

Women were more likely than men to have experienced each type since the age of 16, as shown in Figure 9.17 below.

**Figure 9.17: Proportion of adults experiencing types of less serious sexual assault since the age of 16, by gender**



Base: All male respondents (4,360); all female respondents (5,240). Variable: SV\_0.

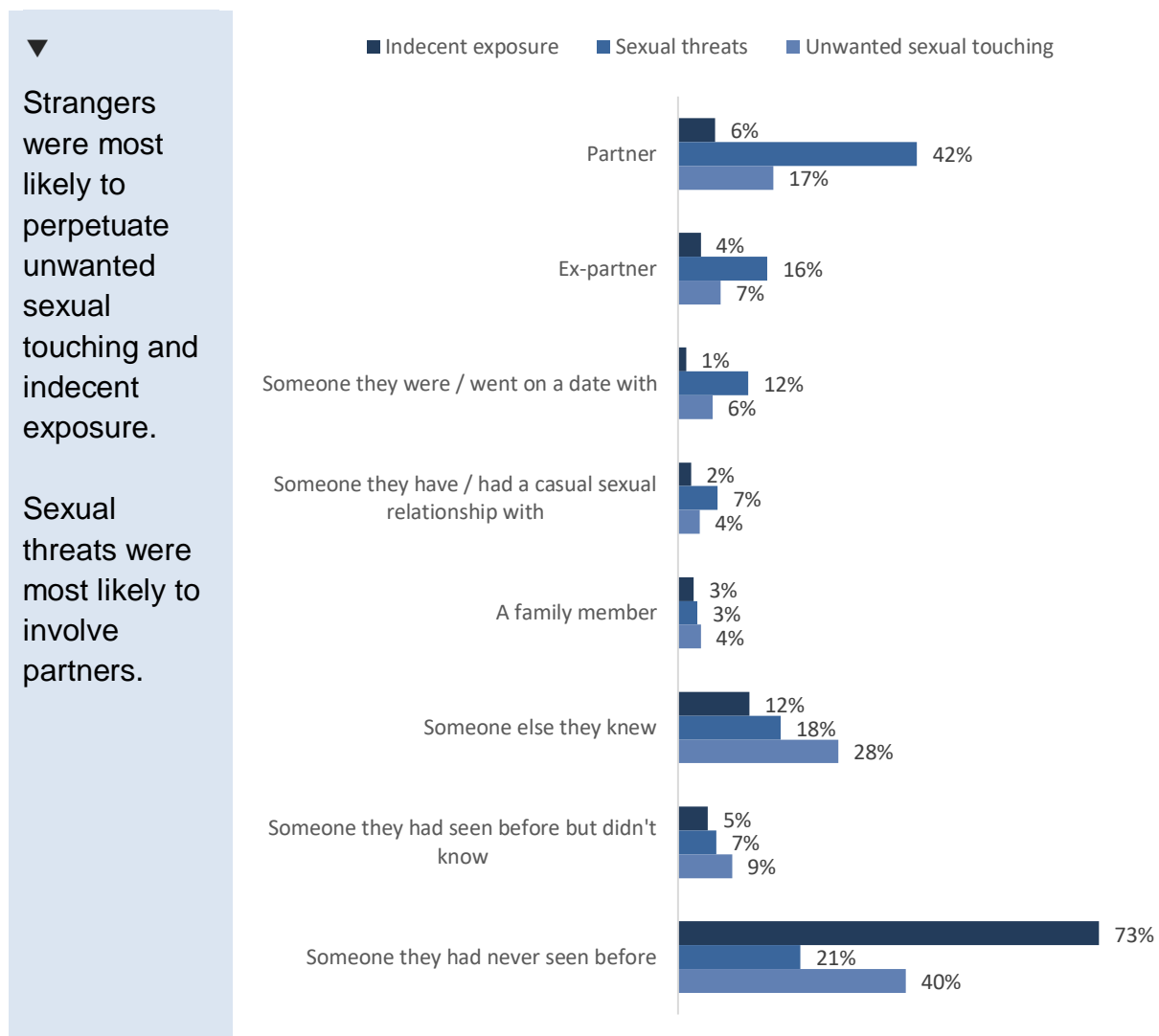
**The relationship between victims and offenders differs by type of less serious sexual assault.**

Of those who had experienced indecent exposure since the age of 16, 73% said that the offender was someone they had never seen before. Strangers were also most likely to perpetuate unwanted sexual touching (40%). Indecent exposure and unwanted sexual touching were less likely to involve partners (6% and 17%, respectively) and ex-partners (4% and 7%, respectively).

In contrast, partners were most likely to be the perpetrators of sexual threats, with over two-fifths (42%) of those who had experienced sexual threats since the age of 16 saying the offender was their partner. 16% said the perpetrator had been an ex-partner<sup>167</sup>.

<sup>167</sup> Ex-partner was included as a separate option in the questionnaire for the first time in 2018/19 therefore it is advised that results should not be compared to previous years.

**Figure 9.18: Relationship of offender to victim since the age of 16, by type of less serious sexual assault**



Base: All respondents who experienced unwanted sexual touching since the age of 16 (660); all respondents who experienced sexual threats since the age of 16 (260); all respondents who experienced indecent exposure since the age of 16 (380). Variables: TS\_3; TS\_5; ST\_3; ST\_5; INEX\_3; INEX\_5.

## Are some population groups more likely to have experienced less serious sexual assault?

The proportion of respondents who reported experience of at least one form of less serious sexual assault since the age of 16 varied by age, gender and victim status<sup>168</sup> of the respondent.

### Gender

Women were more likely than men to have experienced less serious sexual assault since the age of 16 (16.2% compared with 3.6%) and in the 12 months prior to interview (2.5% compared with

<sup>168</sup> A victim is defined as a respondent who reported crimes or offences in the main questionnaire (excluding sexual offences and threats) that are within the scope of the survey, took place in Scotland, and occurred within the reference period. For more information please refer to the [Technical Report](#).

0.8%). The finding that women are more likely to experience less serious sexual assault than men is in line with the findings from 2008/09 and 2016/18.

The proportion of men and women experiencing each of the three types of less serious sexual assault also varied, as discussed [earlier in this section](#).

## Age

The proportion of those who had experienced less serious sexual assault both since the age of 16 and in the 12 months prior to interview decreased with age, as shown in Table 9.13, although there was no statistically significant difference between the two youngest age groups when looking at experiences since the age of 16.

These proportions have shown no change over time (both since 2008/09 and 2016/18).

**Table 9.13: Proportion of adults experiencing less serious sexual assault since the age of 16 and in the 12 months prior to interview, by age**

| Age               | Since age 16 | In the 12 months prior to interview | Base  |
|-------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|-------|
| 16 to 24          | 14.1%        | 6.9%                                | 680   |
| 25 to 44          | 12.6%        | 1.9%                                | 2,750 |
| 45 to 59          | 9.9%         | 0.8%                                | 2,520 |
| 60 years and over | 6.2%         | 0.1%                                | 3,650 |

Base: All respondents who have experienced at least one type of less serious sexual assault since age 16; all respondents who have experienced at least one type of less serious sexual assault in the 12 months prior to interview by age group. Variable: SV\_0.

## Victim status

Those who were classified as victims in the main SCJS survey were more likely to have experienced less serious sexual assault since the age of 16 than non-victims (16.0% compared with 9.3%). This is a consistent finding with the 2008/09 and 2016/18 results, despite an increase in the proportion of non-victims experiencing less serious sexual assault since 2008/09 (8.2%).

## Area deprivation

As in previous years, there was no statistically significant difference in the proportion of respondents who had experienced less serious sexual assault since the age of 16 in terms of area deprivation.

However, the likelihood of experiencing less serious sexual assault for those living outside the 15% most deprived areas has increased between 2016/18 and 2018/20 (from 9.1% to 10.4%).

## **Rurality**

There was no statistically significant difference in the proportion of respondents who had experienced less serious sexual assault since the age of 16 between those living in urban and rural areas. This is a consistent finding with previous results.

# 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<sup>169</sup>:

**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. Around two-thirds (67%) 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

---

<sup>169</sup> See the [Technical Report](#) for more information on the groupings of crime.

direction of change. Where an apparent increase or decrease over time is not statistically significant, this is described as 'No change'.

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 are 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, 2019/20**

| Estimated number of crimes                      | Best estimate       | Lower estimate      | Upper estimate      |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>ALL SCJS CRIME</b>                           | <b>563,000</b>      | <b>501,000</b>      | <b>625,000</b>      |
| <b>PROPERTY CRIME</b>                           | <b>369,000</b>      | <b>329,000</b>      | <b>408,000</b>      |
| <b>Vandalism</b>                                | 139,000             | 117,000             | 162,000             |
| Motor vehicle vandalism                         | 85,000              | 68,000              | 102,000             |
| Property vandalism                              | 54,000              | 40,000              | 69,000              |
| <b>All motor vehicle related theft</b>          | 30,000              | 21,000              | 39,000              |
| Theft of motor vehicle                          | 5,000 <sup>#</sup>  | 1,000 <sup>#</sup>  | 9,000 <sup>#</sup>  |
| Theft from motor vehicle                        | 22,000              | 14,000              | 29,000              |
| Attempted theft of/from motor vehicle           | 3,000 <sup>#</sup>  | -.1                 | 6,000 <sup>#</sup>  |
| <b>Housebreaking</b>                            | 21,000              | 15,000              | 28,000              |
| <b>Other household theft inc. bicycle theft</b> | 98,000              | 80,000              | 115,000             |
| Other household theft                           | 78,000              | 62,000              | 94,000              |
| Bicycle theft                                   | 19,000              | 12,000              | 26,000              |
| <b>Personal theft (exc. Robbery)</b>            | 80,000              | 58,000              | 102,000             |
| Other theft                                     | 55,000              | 36,000              | 74,000              |
| Theft from the person                           | 25,000 <sup>#</sup> | 15,000 <sup>#</sup> | 35,000 <sup>#</sup> |
| <b>VIOLENT CRIME</b>                            | <b>194,000</b>      | <b>147,000</b>      | <b>242,000</b>      |
| <b>Assault</b>                                  | 185,000             | 138,000             | 232,000             |
| Serious assault                                 | 12,000 <sup>#</sup> | 3,000 <sup>#</sup>  | 20,000 <sup>#</sup> |
| <b>Robbery</b>                                  | 9,000 <sup>#</sup>  | 3,000 <sup>#</sup>  | 15,000 <sup>#</sup> |
| <b>COMPARABLE CRIME</b>                         | <b>379,000</b>      | <b>327,000</b>      | <b>432,000</b>      |
| Vandalism                                       | 139,000             | 117,000             | 162,000             |
| Acquisitive crime                               | 46,000              | 35,000              | 57,000              |
| Violent crime                                   | 194,000             | 147,000             | 242,000             |

*Number of respondents: 5,570*

<sup>#</sup> Use with caution - the count estimate has a relative standard error (RSE) greater than 20%.

<sup>1</sup> Figures in this table are rounded to the nearest 1,000. '-' here denotes a figure lower than 500.

**Table A1.2: Estimates of the extent of crime in Scotland**

| Estimated number of crimes                      | 2008/09             | 2009/10             | 2010/11             | 2012/13             | 2014/15            | 2016/17             | 2017/18             | 2018/19             | 2019/20             | Percentage change      |                        |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
|   |                     |                     |                     |                     |                    |                     |                     |                     |                     | since 2008/09          | since 2018/19          |
| <b>ALL SCJS CRIME</b>                           | <b>1,045,000</b>    | <b>945,000</b>      | <b>874,000</b>      | <b>815,000</b>      | <b>688,000</b>     | <b>712,000</b>      | <b>602,000</b>      | <b>573,000</b>      | <b>563,000</b>      | ↓ by 46%               | No change              |
| <b>PROPERTY CRIME</b>                           | <b>728,000</b>      | <b>679,000</b>      | <b>654,000</b>      | <b>579,000</b>      | <b>502,000</b>     | <b>481,000</b>      | <b>430,000</b>      | <b>408,000</b>      | <b>369,000</b>      | ↓ by 49%               | No change              |
| <b>Vandalism</b>                                | 350,000             | 303,000             | 275,000             | 219,000             | 179,000            | 166,000             | 163,000             | 155,000             | 139,000             | ↓ by 60%               | No change              |
| Motor vehicle vandalism                         | 183,000             | 161,000             | 146,000             | 129,000             | 112,000            | 82,000              | 102,000             | 80,000              | 85,000              | ↓ by 53%               | No change              |
| Property vandalism                              | 168,000             | 142,000             | 130,000             | 90,000              | 67,000             | 84,000              | 61,000              | 74,000              | 54,000              | ↓ by 68%               | No change              |
| <b>All motor vehicle related theft</b>          | 70,000              | 64,000              | 58,000              | 50,000              | 40,000             | 38,000              | 24,000              | 35,000              | 30,000              | ↓ by 57%               | No change              |
| Theft of motor vehicle                          | 7,000               | 6,000 <sup>#</sup>  | 4,000 <sup>#</sup>  | 4,000 <sup>#</sup>  | 3,000 <sup>#</sup> | 2,000 <sup>#</sup>  | 3,000 <sup>#</sup>  | 4,000 <sup>#</sup>  | 5,000 <sup>#</sup>  | No change <sup>#</sup> | No change <sup>#</sup> |
| Theft from motor vehicle                        | 54,000              | 49,000              | 47,000              | 40,000              | 34,000             | 34,000              | 21,000              | 26,000              | 22,000              | ↓ by 59%               | No change              |
| Attempted theft of/from motor vehicle           | 9,000               | 10,000 <sup>#</sup> | 7,000 <sup>#</sup>  | 6,000 <sup>#</sup>  | 4,000 <sup>#</sup> | 1,000 <sup>#</sup>  | 1,000 <sup>#</sup>  | 6,000 <sup>#</sup>  | 3,000 <sup>#</sup>  | ↓ by 63% <sup>#</sup>  | No change <sup>#</sup> |
| <b>Housebreaking</b>                            | 25,000              | 29,000              | 28,000              | 35,000              | 22,000             | 26,000              | 25,000 <sup>#</sup> | 25,000              | 21,000              | No change              | No change              |
| <b>Other household theft inc. bicycle theft</b> | 173,000             | 153,000             | 169,000             | 169,000             | 158,000            | 128,000             | 125,000             | 93,000              | 98,000              | ↓ by 43%               | No change              |
| Other household theft                           | 142,000             | 127,000             | 141,000             | 135,000             | 133,000            | 104,000             | 101,000             | 77,000              | 78,000              | ↓ by 45%               | No change              |
| Bicycle theft                                   | 31,000              | 27,000              | 29,000              | 34,000              | 25,000             | 23,000 <sup>#</sup> | 23,000              | 16,000              | 19,000              | ↓ by 37%               | No change              |
| <b>Personal theft (exc. Robbery)</b>            | 110,000             | 130,000             | 124,000             | 106,000             | 103,000            | 124,000             | 93,000              | 99,000              | 80,000              | ↓ by 27%               | No change              |
| Other theft                                     | 90,000              | 101,000             | 92,000              | 80,000              | 81,000             | 82,000              | 63,000              | 75,000              | 55,000              | ↓ by 39%               | No change              |
| Theft from the person                           | 20,000              | 29,000              | 31,000              | 26,000              | 23,000             | 41,000 <sup>#</sup> | 31,000              | 24,000 <sup>#</sup> | 25,000 <sup>#</sup> | No change <sup>#</sup> | No change <sup>#</sup> |
| <b>VIOLENT CRIME</b>                            | <b>317,000</b>      | <b>266,000</b>      | <b>220,000</b>      | <b>236,000</b>      | <b>186,000</b>     | <b>231,000</b>      | <b>172,000</b>      | <b>165,000</b>      | <b>194,000</b>      | ↓ by 39%               | No change              |
| <b>Assault</b>                                  | 297,000             | 247,000             | 208,000             | 225,000             | 179,000            | 223,000             | 161,000             | 161,000             | 185,000             | ↓ by 38%               | No change              |
| Serious assault                                 | 26,000 <sup>#</sup> | 20,000              | 16,000 <sup>#</sup> | 18,000 <sup>#</sup> | 8,000 <sup>#</sup> | 17,000 <sup>#</sup> | 8,000 <sup>#</sup>  | 12,000 <sup>#</sup> | 12,000 <sup>#</sup> | ↓ by 55% <sup>#</sup>  | No change <sup>#</sup> |
| <b>Robbery</b>                                  | 20,000              | 19,000 <sup>#</sup> | 12,000 <sup>#</sup> | 11,000 <sup>#</sup> | 7,000 <sup>#</sup> | 8,000 <sup>#</sup>  | 11,000 <sup>#</sup> | 4,000 <sup>#</sup>  | 9,000 <sup>#</sup>  | ↓ by 54% <sup>#</sup>  | No change <sup>#</sup> |
| <b>COMPARABLE CRIME</b>                         | <b>731,000</b>      | <b>630,000</b>      | <b>556,000</b>      | <b>527,000</b>      | <b>414,000</b>     | <b>448,000</b>      | <b>386,000</b>      | <b>366,000</b>      | <b>379,000</b>      | ↓ by 48%               | No change              |
| Vandalism                                       | 350,000             | 303,000             | 275,000             | 219,000             | 179,000            | 166,000             | 163,000             | 155,000             | 139,000             | ↓ by 60%               | No change              |
| Acquisitive crime                               | 64,000              | 61,000              | 61,000              | 73,000              | 49,000             | 51,000              | 51,000              | 46,000              | 46,000              | ↓ by 28%               | No change              |
| Violent crime                                   | 317,000             | 266,000             | 220,000             | 236,000             | 186,000            | 231,000             | 172,000             | 165,000             | 194,000             | ↓ by 39%               | No change              |
| <i>Number of respondents</i>                    | <i>16,000</i>       | <i>16,040</i>       | <i>13,010</i>       | <i>12,050</i>       | <i>11,470</i>      | <i>5,570</i>        | <i>5,480</i>        | <i>5,540</i>        | <i>5,570</i>        |                        |                        |

<sup>#</sup> 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.

**Table A1.3: Rates of crime in Scotland, per 10,000 households/adults, 2019/20**

| Crime rates per 10,000 households/adults (to nearest 10) | Best estimate | Lower estimate | Upper estimate |
|--|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>ALL SCJS CRIME</b>                                    | <b>1,770</b>  | <b>1,580</b>   | <b>1,960</b>   |
| <b>PROPERTY CRIME</b>                                    | <b>1,340</b>  | <b>1,200</b>   | <b>1,490</b>   |
| <b>Vandalism</b>   | 560           | 470            | 650            |
| Motor vehicle vandalism                                  | 340           | 270            | 410            |
| Property vandalism                                       | 220           | 160            | 280            |
| <b>All motor vehicle related theft</b>                   | 120           | 90             | 160            |
| Theft of motor vehicle                                   | 20            | 10             | 40             |
| Theft from motor vehicle                                 | 90            | 60             | 120            |
| Attempted theft of/from motor vehicle                    | 10            | - <sup>1</sup> | 20             |
| <b>Housebreaking</b>                                     | 90            | 60             | 110            |
| <b>Other household theft inc. bicycle theft</b>          | 390           | 320            | 470            |
| Other household theft                                    | 320           | 250            | 380            |
| Bicycle theft  | 80            | 50             | 110            |
| <b>Personal theft (exc. Robbery)</b>                     | 180           | 130            | 220            |
| Other theft  | 120           | 80             | 160            |
| Theft from the person                                    | 50            | 30             | 80             |
| <b>VIOLENT CRIME</b>                                     | <b>430</b>    | <b>320</b>     | <b>530</b>     |
| <b>Assault</b>   | 410           | 300            | 510            |
| Serious assault  | 30            | 10             | 40             |
| <b>Robbery</b>   | 20            | 10             | 30             |
| <b>COMPARABLE CRIME</b>                                  | <b>1,180</b>  | <b>1,010</b>   | <b>1,340</b>   |
| Vandalism  | 560           | 470            | 650            |
| Acquisitive crime  | 190           | 140            | 230            |
| Violent crime  | 430           | 320            | 530            |

*Number of respondents: 5,570*

Rates are calculated using [NRS 2018 Households estimates](#) and [NRS Mid-2019 adult \(aged 16 and over\) population estimates](#).

<sup>1</sup> Figures in this table are rounded to the nearest 10. '-' here denotes a figure lower than 5.

**Table A1.4: Rates of crime in Scotland, per 10,000 households/adults**

| 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        | 2018/19      | 2019/20      |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>ALL SCJS CRIME</b>  | <b>3,660</b>  | <b>3,270</b>  | <b>3,050</b>  | <b>2,780</b>  | <b>2,330</b>  | <b>2,250</b> | <b>1,950</b>   | <b>1,830</b> | <b>1,770</b> |
| <b>PROPERTY CRIME</b>  | <b>2,910</b>  | <b>2,650</b>  | <b>2,540</b>  | <b>2,240</b>  | <b>1,910</b>  | <b>1,730</b> | <b>1,570</b>   | <b>1,460</b> | <b>1,340</b> |
| <b>Vandalism</b>   | 1,500         | 1,290         | 1,170         | 930           | 750           | 680          | 660            | 620          | 560          |
| Motor vehicle vandalism  | 780           | 690           | 620           | 540           | 470           | 330          | 410            | 320          | 340          |
| Property vandalism   | 720           | 610           | 550           | 380           | 280           | 340          | 250            | 300          | 220          |
| <b>All motor vehicle related theft</b>                                   | 300           | 270           | 250           | 210           | 170           | 160          | 100            | 140          | 120          |
| Theft of motor vehicle   | 30            | 30            | 20            | 20            | 10            | 10           | 10             | 20           | 20           |
| Theft from motor vehicle   | 230           | 210           | 200           | 170           | 140           | 140          | 80             | 100          | 90           |
| Attempted theft of/from motor vehicle                                    | 40            | 40            | 30            | 20            | 20            | 10           | - <sup>1</sup> | 20           | 10           |
| <b>Housebreaking</b>   | 110           | 120           | 120           | 150           | 90            | 110          | 100            | 100          | 90           |
| <b>Other household theft inc. bicycle theft</b>                          | 740           | 650           | 720           | 710           | 660           | 520          | 510            | 380          | 390          |
| Other household theft  | 610           | 540           | 600           | 570           | 560           | 430          | 410            | 310          | 320          |
| Bicycle theft  | 130           | 110           | 120           | 140           | 110           | 90           | 90             | 70           | 80           |
| <b>Personal theft (exc. Robbery)</b>                                     | 260           | 300           | 290           | 250           | 230           | 280          | 210            | 220          | 180          |
| Other theft  | 210           | 240           | 210           | 180           | 180           | 180          | 140            | 170          | 120          |
| Theft from the person  | 50            | 70            | 70            | 60            | 50            | 90           | 70             | 50           | 50           |
| <b>VIOLENT CRIME</b>   | <b>740</b>    | <b>620</b>    | <b>510</b>    | <b>540</b>    | <b>420</b>    | <b>510</b>   | <b>380</b>     | <b>370</b>   | <b>430</b>   |
| <b>Assault</b>   | 700           | 580           | 480           | 520           | 400           | 500          | 360            | 360          | 410          |
| Serious assault  | 60            | 50            | 40            | 40            | 20            | 40           | 20             | 30           | 30           |
| <b>Robbery</b>   | 50            | 40            | 30            | 30            | 20            | 20           | 20             | 10           | 20           |
| <b>Comparable crime</b>  |               |               |               |               |               |              |                |              |              |
| Vandalism  | 1,500         | 1,290         | 1,170         | 930           | 750           | 680          | 660            | 620          | 560          |
| Acquisitive crime  | 270           | 260           | 260           | 310           | 210           | 210          | 210            | 190          | 190          |
| Violent crime  | 740           | 620           | 510           | 540           | 420           | 510          | 380            | 370          | 430          |
| <i>Number of respondents</i>   | <i>16,000</i> | <i>16,040</i> | <i>13,010</i> | <i>12,050</i> | <i>11,470</i> | <i>5,570</i> | <i>5,480</i>   | <i>5,540</i> | <i>5,570</i> |

<sup>1</sup> Figures in this table are rounded to the nearest 10. '-<sup>1</sup>' here denotes a figure lower than 5.

**Table A1.5: Proportion of adults who were victims of each type of crime**

| Proportion of adults experiencing crime         | 2008/09      | 2009/10      | 2010/11      | 2012/13      | 2014/15      | 2016/17      | 2017/18      | 2018/19      | 2019/20      | Percentage point change |               |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|---------------|
|   |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | since 2008/09           | since 2018/19 |
| <b>ALL SCJS CRIME</b>                           | <b>20.4%</b> | <b>19.3%</b> | <b>17.8%</b> | <b>16.9%</b> | <b>14.5%</b> | <b>13.4%</b> | <b>12.5%</b> | <b>12.4%</b> | <b>11.9%</b> | ↓ by 8.5                | No change     |
| <b>PROPERTY CRIME</b>                           | <b>18.0%</b> | <b>17.0%</b> | <b>15.9%</b> | <b>14.8%</b> | <b>13.0%</b> | <b>11.5%</b> | <b>10.8%</b> | <b>10.9%</b> | <b>10.0%</b> | ↓ by 8.0                | No change     |
| <b>Vandalism</b>                                | 8.9%         | 8.3%         | 7.2%         | 6.3%         | 5.1%         | 4.6%         | 4.7%         | 4.5%         | 4.1%         | ↓ by 4.9                | No change     |
| Motor vehicle vandalism                         | 5.4%         | 5.1%         | 4.4%         | 4.1%         | 3.4%         | 2.6%         | 3.0%         | 2.5%         | 2.6%         | ↓ by 2.8                | No change     |
| Property vandalism                              | 4.1%         | 3.7%         | 3.2%         | 2.4%         | 1.9%         | 2.2%         | 1.8%         | 2.1%         | 1.5%         | ↓ by 2.5                | No change     |
| <b>All motor vehicle related theft</b>          | 2.4%         | 2.1%         | 2.0%         | 1.8%         | 1.5%         | 1.3%         | 0.9%         | 1.3%         | 1.0%         | ↓ by 1.3                | No change     |
| Theft of motor vehicle                          | 0.3%         | 0.2%         | 0.2%         | 0.2%         | 0.1%         | 0.1%         | 0.1%         | 0.1%         | 0.2%         | No change               | No change     |
| Theft from motor vehicle                        | 1.8%         | 1.7%         | 1.6%         | 1.4%         | 1.3%         | 1.1%         | 0.8%         | 0.9%         | 0.8%         | ↓ by 1.0                | No change     |
| Attempted theft of/from motor vehicle           | 0.3%         | 0.3%         | 0.2%         | 0.2%         | 0.1%         | 0.1%         | 0.0%         | 0.2%         | 0.1%         | ↓ by 0.2                | No change     |
| <b>Housebreaking</b>                            | 0.8%         | 1.0%         | 1.1%         | 1.2%         | 0.8%         | 0.9%         | 0.8%         | 0.9%         | 0.8%         | No change               | No change     |
| <b>Other household theft inc. bicycle theft</b> | 5.3%         | 5.0%         | 5.0%         | 5.3%         | 5.0%         | 3.9%         | 3.9%         | 3.2%         | 3.3%         | ↓ by 2.0                | No change     |
| Other household theft                           | 4.4%         | 4.1%         | 4.2%         | 4.3%         | 4.1%         | 3.3%         | 3.1%         | 2.5%         | 2.7%         | ↓ by 1.7                | No change     |
| Bicycle theft                                   | 1.1%         | 1.1%         | 1.0%         | 1.2%         | 0.9%         | 0.7%         | 0.8%         | 0.7%         | 0.7%         | ↓ by 0.4                | No change     |
| <b>Personal theft (exc. Robbery)</b>            | 2.2%         | 2.5%         | 2.5%         | 2.2%         | 2.1%         | 2.2%         | 1.9%         | 1.9%         | 1.5%         | ↓ by 0.7                | No change     |
| Other theft                                     | 1.8%         | 2.0%         | 1.8%         | 1.6%         | 1.7%         | 1.5%         | 1.2%         | 1.4%         | 1.0%         | ↓ by 0.8                | No change     |
| Theft from the person                           | 0.5%         | 0.6%         | 0.7%         | 0.6%         | 0.5%         | 0.8%         | 0.7%         | 0.5%         | 0.5%         | No change               | No change     |
| <b>VIOLENT CRIME</b>                            | <b>4.1%</b>  | <b>3.6%</b>  | <b>3.0%</b>  | <b>3.1%</b>  | <b>2.6%</b>  | <b>2.9%</b>  | <b>2.3%</b>  | <b>2.2%</b>  | <b>2.5%</b>  | ↓ by 1.6                | No change     |
| <b>Assault</b>                                  | 3.8%         | 3.4%         | 2.8%         | 2.9%         | 2.5%         | 2.8%         | 2.2%         | 2.1%         | 2.4%         | ↓ by 1.4                | No change     |
| Serious assault                                 | 0.4%         | 0.4%         | 0.3%         | 0.3%         | 0.1%         | 0.2%         | 0.1%         | 0.2%         | 0.2%         | No change               | No change     |
| Minor assault                                   | 3.0%         | 2.7%         | 2.3%         | 2.4%         | 2.1%         | 2.4%         | 1.9%         | 1.7%         | 2.0%         | ↓ by 1.0                | No change     |
| Minor assault with injury                       | N/A          | 0.5%         | 0.5%         | 0.4%         | 0.4%         | 0.4%         | 0.4%         | 0.4%         | 0.3%         | 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%         | 1.8%         | N/A                     | No change     |
| Attempted assault                               | 0.7%         | 0.4%         | 0.4%         | 0.4%         | 0.3%         | 0.2%         | 0.2%         | 0.2%         | 0.2%         | ↓ by 0.4                | No change     |
| <b>Robbery</b>                                  | 0.4%         | 0.3%         | 0.2%         | 0.2%         | 0.1%         | 0.2%         | 0.2%         | 0.1%         | 0.2%         | ↓ by 0.2                | No change     |
| <i>Number of respondents</i>                    | 16,000       | 16,040       | 13,010       | 12,050       | 11,470       | 5,570        | 5,480        | 5,540        | 5,570        |                         |               |

**Table A1.6: Prevalence of SCJS crime, by demographic and area characteristics**

| Proportion of adults experiencing SCJS crime | 2008/09       | 2009/10       | 2010/11       | 2012/13       | 2014/15       | 2016/17      | 2017/18      | 2018/19      | 2019/20             | Percentage point change |               |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
|  |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                     | since 2008/09           | since 2018/19 |
| All  | 20.4%         | 19.3%         | 17.8%         | 16.9%         | 14.5%         | 13.4%        | 12.5%        | 12.4%        | <b>11.9%</b>        | ↓ by 8.5                | No change     |
| Male   | 21.2%         | 20.4%         | 18.4%         | 18.2%         | 15.6%         | 13.9%        | 12.8%        | 11.5%        | <b>11.6%</b>        | ↓ by 9.7                | No change     |
| Female                                       | 19.7%         | 18.2%         | 17.2%         | 15.8%         | 13.6%         | 13.0%        | 12.1%        | 13.4%        | <b>12.3%</b>        | ↓ by 7.4                | No change     |
| 16-24  | 32.2%         | 26.4%         | 25.6%         | 23.7%         | 20.4%         | 19.5%        | 16.0%        | 19.3%        | <b>18.3%</b>        | ↓ by 13.9               | No change     |
| 25-44  | 24.7%         | 25.1%         | 22.3%         | 21.6%         | 18.4%         | 17.3%        | 16.8%        | 14.7%        | <b>14.7%</b>        | ↓ by 10.0               | No change     |
| 45-59  | 20.1%         | 18.8%         | 17.6%         | 16.3%         | 15.3%         | 12.7%        | 13.6%        | 13.4%        | <b>11.5%</b>        | ↓ by 8.5                | No change     |
| 60+  | 9.5%          | 9.2%          | 8.7%          | 8.8%          | 6.8%          | 7.2%         | 5.3%         | 6.3%         | <b>6.9%</b>         | ↓ by 2.6                | No change     |
| 15% most deprived areas                      | 26.0%         | 25.2%         | 21.3%         | 21.3%         | 21.2%         | 19.4%        | 18.0%        | 16.0%        | <b>16.5%</b>        | ↓ by 9.5                | No change     |
| Rest of Scotland                             | 19.4%         | 18.3%         | 17.2%         | 16.1%         | 13.4%         | 12.3%        | 11.5%        | 11.8%        | <b>11.2%</b>        | ↓ by 8.2                | No change     |
| Urban  | 22.2%         | 20.9%         | 19.5%         | 18.6%         | 15.5%         | 14.8%        | 13.4%        | 13.4%        | <b>13.0%</b>        | ↓ by 9.2                | No change     |
| Rural  | 13.0%         | 12.1%         | 10.2%         | 9.4%          | 9.9%          | 6.8%         | 8.2%         | 7.2%         | <b>6.9%</b>         | ↓ by 6.1                | No change     |
| <i>Overall number of respondents</i>         | <i>16,000</i> | <i>16,040</i> | <i>13,010</i> | <i>12,050</i> | <i>11,470</i> | <i>5,570</i> | <i>5,480</i> | <i>5,540</i> | <b><i>5,570</i></b> |                         |               |

**Table A1.7: Prevalence of violent crime, by demographic and area characteristics**

| Proportion of adults experiencing violent crime | 2008/09       | 2009/10       | 2010/11       | 2012/13       | 2014/15       | 2016/17      | 2017/18      | 2018/19      | 2019/20             | Percentage point change |               |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
|   |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                     | since 2008/09           | since 2018/19 |
| All   | 4.1%          | 3.6%          | 3.0%          | 3.1%          | 2.6%          | 2.9%         | 2.3%         | 2.2%         | <b>2.5%</b>         | ↓ by 1.6                | No change     |
| Male  | 5.7%          | 5.0%          | 4.2%          | 4.2%          | 3.5%          | 3.4%         | 2.5%         | 2.4%         | <b>3.1%</b>         | ↓ by 2.6                | No change     |
| Female  | 2.7%          | 2.3%          | 1.9%          | 2.2%          | 1.8%          | 2.3%         | 2.1%         | 2.0%         | <b>2.0%</b>         | No change               | No change     |
| 16-24   | 12.0%         | 10.1%         | 7.4%          | 8.2%          | 6.0%          | 5.3%         | 5.8%         | 6.1%         | <b>5.4%</b>         | ↓ by 6.6                | No change     |
| 25-44   | 4.4%          | 4.8%          | 4.0%          | 4.3%          | 3.5%          | 4.4%         | 3.1%         | 2.5%         | <b>3.4%</b>         | No change               | No change     |
| 45-59   | 3.0%          | 1.6%          | 1.9%          | 1.9%          | 2.2%          | 2.5%         | 1.9%         | 1.7%         | <b>2.3%</b>         | No change               | No change     |
| 60+   | 0.6%          | 0.6%          | 0.6%          | 0.4%          | 0.4%          | 0.4%         | 0.4%         | 0.6%         | <b>0.6%</b>         | No change               | No change     |
| 15% most deprived areas                         | 5.9%          | 6.2%          | 3.3%          | 5.0%          | 4.5%          | 4.8%         | 3.8%         | 3.2%         | <b>5.3%</b>         | No change               | No change     |
| Rest of Scotland                                | 3.8%          | 3.1%          | 2.9%          | 2.8%          | 2.3%          | 2.5%         | 2.1%         | 2.0%         | <b>2.1%</b>         | ↓ by 1.7                | No change     |
| Urban   | 4.6%          | 3.9%          | 3.3%          | 3.5%          | 2.8%          | 3.2%         | 2.5%         | 2.2%         | <b>2.8%</b>         | ↓ by 1.8                | No change     |
| Rural   | 2.2%          | 2.3%          | 1.9%          | 1.7%          | 1.8%          | 1.4%         | 1.5%         | 1.9%         | <b>1.4%</b>         | No change               | No change     |
| <i>Overall number of respondents</i>            | <i>16,000</i> | <i>16,040</i> | <i>13,010</i> | <i>12,050</i> | <i>11,470</i> | <i>5,570</i> | <i>5,480</i> | <i>5,540</i> | <b><i>5,570</i></b> |                         |               |

**Table A1.8: Prevalence of property crime, by demographic and area characteristics**

| Proportion of adults experiencing property crime | 2008/09       | 2009/10       | 2010/11       | 2012/13       | 2014/15       | 2016/17      | 2017/18      | 2018/19      | 2019/20             | Percentage point change |               |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
|  |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                     | since 2008/09           | since 2018/19 |
| All  | 18.0%         | 17.0%         | 15.9%         | 14.8%         | 13.0%         | 11.5%        | 10.8%        | 10.9%        | <b>10.0%</b>        | ↓ by 8.0                | No change     |
| Male   | 18.1%         | 17.0%         | 15.8%         | 15.3%         | 13.4%         | 11.6%        | 10.9%        | 9.8%         | <b>9.2%</b>         | ↓ by 8.9                | No change     |
| Female   | 18.0%         | 17.0%         | 16.0%         | 14.4%         | 12.6%         | 11.5%        | 10.7%        | 12.1%        | <b>10.7%</b>        | ↓ by 7.3                | No change     |
| 16-24  | 26.1%         | 19.7%         | 20.6%         | 18.1%         | 16.8%         | 16.8%        | 12.4%        | 15.3%        | <b>14.0%</b>        | ↓ by 12.1               | No change     |
| 25-44  | 21.9%         | 22.2%         | 19.9%         | 18.7%         | 16.5%         | 14.3%        | 14.5%        | 13.0%        | <b>12.0%</b>        | ↓ by 9.8                | No change     |
| 45-59  | 18.1%         | 17.8%         | 16.5%         | 15.2%         | 13.7%         | 10.9%        | 12.1%        | 12.1%        | <b>9.8%</b>         | ↓ by 8.3                | No change     |
| 60+  | 9.1%          | 8.8%          | 8.3%          | 8.5%          | 6.4%          | 6.8%         | 5.0%         | 5.9%         | <b>6.4%</b>         | ↓ by 2.7                | No change     |
| 15% most deprived areas                          | 22.8%         | 21.7%         | 19.5%         | 18.0%         | 18.7%         | 16.5%        | 15.6%        | 13.7%        | <b>12.6%</b>        | ↓ by 10.2               | No change     |
| Rest of Scotland                                 | 17.2%         | 16.2%         | 15.3%         | 14.3%         | 11.9%         | 10.6%        | 10.0%        | 10.4%        | <b>9.5%</b>         | ↓ by 7.6                | No change     |
| Urban  | 19.6%         | 18.5%         | 17.5%         | 16.3%         | 13.9%         | 12.8%        | 11.6%        | 11.9%        | <b>10.9%</b>        | ↓ by 8.7                | No change     |
| Rural  | 11.3%         | 10.5%         | 9.0%          | 8.2%          | 8.5%          | 5.8%         | 7.0%         | 5.7%         | <b>5.5%</b>         | ↓ by 5.8                | No change     |
| <i>Overall number of respondents</i>             | <i>16,000</i> | <i>16,040</i> | <i>13,010</i> | <i>12,050</i> | <i>11,470</i> | <i>5,570</i> | <i>5,480</i> | <i>5,540</i> | <b><i>5,570</i></b> |                         |               |



**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        | 2019/20        | Percentage point change |               |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------|---------------|
|  |              |              |              |              |              |                |                |                |                | since 2008/09           | since 2018/19 |
| <b>ALL SCJS CRIME</b>                                | <b>38%</b>   | <b>37%</b>   | <b>39%</b>   | <b>39%</b>   | <b>38%</b>   | <b>37%</b>     | <b>35%</b>     | <b>36%</b>     | <b>40%</b>     | No change               | No change     |
| <b>PROPERTY CRIME</b>                                | <b>36%</b>   | <b>36%</b>   | <b>35%</b>   | <b>35%</b>   | <b>36%</b>   | <b>34%</b>     | <b>34%</b>     | <b>34%</b>     | <b>36%</b>     | No change               | No change     |
| Vandalism  | 40%          | 39%          | 40%          | 36%          | 37%          | 41%            | 36%            | 38%            | <b>45%</b>     | No change               | No change     |
| All motor vehicle related theft                      | 45%          | 45%          | 33%          | 44%          | 44%          | 30%            | 44%            | 54%            | <b>41%</b>     | No change               | No change     |
| Housebreaking  | 64%          | 64%          | 62%          | 64%          | 62%          | - <sup>1</sup> | - <sup>1</sup> | - <sup>1</sup> | - <sup>1</sup> |                         |               |
| Other household theft inc. bicycle theft             | 22%          | 32%          | 26%          | 25%          | 28%          | 29%            | 28%            | 23%            | <b>29%</b>     | No change               | No change     |
| Personal theft (exc. Robbery)                        | 31%          | 26%          | 30%          | 37%          | 37%          | 27%            | 28%            | 24%            | <b>15%</b>     | ↓ by 16                 | No change     |
| <b>VIOLENT CRIME</b>                                 | <b>43%</b>   | <b>38%</b>   | <b>51%</b>   | <b>48%</b>   | <b>44%</b>   | <b>43%</b>     | <b>39%</b>     | <b>40%</b>     | <b>48%</b>     | No change               | No change     |
| <b>COMPARABLE CRIME</b>                              | <b>42%</b>   | <b>40%</b>   | <b>46%</b>   | <b>44%</b>   | <b>42%</b>   | <b>42%</b>     | <b>40%</b>     | <b>41%</b>     | <b>48%</b>     | ↑ by 6                  | No change     |
| Vandalism  | 40%          | 39%          | 40%          | 36%          | 37%          | 41%            | 36%            | 38%            | <b>45%</b>     | No change               | No change     |
| Acquisitive crime                                    | 49%          | 57%          | 51%          | 55%          | 50%          | 45%            | 58%            | 50%            | <b>62%</b>     | No change               | No change     |
| Violent crime  | 43%          | 38%          | 51%          | 48%          | 44%          | 43%            | 39%            | 40%            | <b>48%</b>     | No change               | No change     |
| <i>Overall number of respondents</i>                 | <i>3,790</i> | <i>3,330</i> | <i>2,610</i> | <i>2,290</i> | <i>1,930</i> | <i>860</i>     | <i>760</i>     | <i>760</i>     | <i>730</i>     |                         |               |

<sup>1</sup> Results based on fewer than 50 cases (incidents of crime) are suppressed and denoted here by '-<sup>1</sup>'.

**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 | 2019/20        | Percentage change |               |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
|  |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |                | since 2008/09     | since 2018/19 |
| Comparable SCJS Crime                            | 731,000 | 630,000 | 556,000 | 527,000 | 414,000 | 448,000 | 386,000 | 366,000 | <b>379,000</b> | ↓ by 48%          | No change     |
| Comparable Recorded Crime                        | 215,901 | 195,728 | 183,117 | 144,662 | 133,170 | 131,566 | 130,418 | 125,953 | <b>124,496</b> | ↓ by 42%          | ↓ by 1%       |
| SCJS Acquisitive Crime                           | 64,000  | 61,000  | 61,000  | 73,000  | 49,000  | 51,000  | 51,000  | 46,000  | <b>46,000</b>  | ↓ by 28%          | No change     |
| Recorded Acquisitive Crime                       | 27,527  | 26,146  | 26,478  | 21,834  | 21,000  | 18,295  | 17,867  | 16,644  | <b>15,919</b>  | ↓ by 42%          | ↓ by 4%       |
| SCJS Violent Crime                               | 317,000 | 266,000 | 220,000 | 236,000 | 186,000 | 231,000 | 172,000 | 165,000 | <b>194,000</b> | ↓ by 39%          | No change     |
| Recorded Violent Crime                           | 82,855  | 79,769  | 78,263  | 66,076  | 62,578  | 63,246  | 63,835  | 63,771  | <b>63,417</b>  | ↓ by 23%          | ↓ by 1%       |
| SCJS Vandalism                                   | 350,000 | 303,000 | 275,000 | 219,000 | 179,000 | 166,000 | 163,000 | 155,000 | <b>139,000</b> | ↓ by 60%          | No change     |
| Recorded Vandalism                               | 105,519 | 89,813  | 78,376  | 56,752  | 49,592  | 50,025  | 48,716  | 45,538  | <b>45,160</b>  | ↓ by 57%          | ↓ by 1%       |

**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      | 2019/20             | Percentage point change |               |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
|   |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                     | since 2008/09           | since 2018/19 |
| All   | 69%           | 71%           | 73%           | 76%           | 75%           | 76%          | 73%          | 73%          | <b>73%</b>          | ↑ by 4                  | No change     |
| Male  | 73%           | 74%           | 76%           | 78%           | 77%           | 79%          | 76%          | 78%          | <b>76%</b>          | ↑ by 3                  | No change     |
| Female  | 65%           | 68%           | 71%           | 73%           | 72%           | 73%          | 69%          | 69%          | <b>69%</b>          | ↑ by 4                  | No change     |
| 16-24   | 68%           | 77%           | 76%           | 80%           | 78%           | 81%          | 81%          | 79%          | <b>76%</b>          | ↑ by 8                  | No change     |
| 25-44   | 72%           | 70%           | 73%           | 76%           | 72%           | 75%          | 72%          | 73%          | <b>72%</b>          | No change               | No change     |
| 45-59   | 68%           | 70%           | 73%           | 75%           | 75%           | 73%          | 69%          | 72%          | <b>72%</b>          | ↑ by 4                  | No change     |
| 60+   | 68%           | 70%           | 73%           | 75%           | 76%           | 76%          | 73%          | 74%          | <b>73%</b>          | ↑ by 5                  | No change     |
| 15% most deprived areas   | 64%           | 65%           | 67%           | 72%           | 74%           | 71%          | 73%          | 67%          | <b>65%</b>          | No change               | No change     |
| Rest of Scotland  | 70%           | 72%           | 75%           | 76%           | 75%           | 76%          | 72%          | 74%          | <b>74%</b>          | ↑ by 4                  | No change     |
| Urban   | 68%           | 69%           | 72%           | 75%           | 74%           | 74%          | 71%          | 73%          | <b>72%</b>          | ↑ by 4                  | No change     |
| Rural   | 74%           | 78%           | 80%           | 79%           | 78%           | 81%          | 78%          | 77%          | <b>76%</b>          | No change               | No change     |
| Victim  | 58%           | 60%           | 62%           | 65%           | 63%           | 69%          | 62%          | 62%          | <b>59%</b>          | No change               | No change     |
| Non-victim  | 72%           | 73%           | 76%           | 78%           | 77%           | 76%          | 74%          | 75%          | <b>74%</b>          | ↑ by 3                  | No change     |
| <i>Overall number of respondents</i>  | <i>14,210</i> | <i>14,380</i> | <i>11,700</i> | <i>10,640</i> | <i>10,050</i> | <i>4,830</i> | <i>4,770</i> | <i>4,820</i> | <b><i>4,920</i></b> |                         |               |

**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      | 2019/20      | Percentage point change    |               |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------------|---------------|
|  |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |              | since 2009/10 <sup>1</sup> | since 2018/19 |
| All  | 40%           | 46%           | 46%           | 54%           | 50%          | 48%          | 44%          | <b>45%</b>   | ↑ by 5                     | No change     |
| Male   | 45%           | 53%           | 53%           | 61%           | 57%          | 53%          | 48%          | <b>52%</b>   | ↑ by 6                     | ↑ by 3        |
| Female   | 35%           | 40%           | 39%           | 48%           | 44%          | 43%          | 39%          | <b>39%</b>   | ↑ by 4                     | No change     |
| 16-24  | 46%           | 52%           | 52%           | 59%           | 60%          | 60%          | 52%          | <b>59%</b>   | ↑ by 13                    | No change     |
| 25-44  | 44%           | 51%           | 52%           | 59%           | 55%          | 55%          | 52%          | <b>52%</b>   | ↑ by 7                     | No change     |
| 45-59  | 38%           | 45%           | 44%           | 55%           | 51%          | 45%          | 43%          | <b>43%</b>   | ↑ by 5                     | No change     |
| 60+  | 33%           | 38%           | 38%           | 47%           | 40%          | 37%          | 33%          | <b>35%</b>   | No change                  | No change     |
| 15% most deprived areas  | 40%           | 46%           | 43%           | 52%           | 49%          | 47%          | 42%          | <b>45%</b>   | No change                  | No change     |
| Rest of Scotland   | 40%           | 46%           | 46%           | 55%           | 50%          | 48%          | 44%          | <b>45%</b>   | ↑ by 5                     | No change     |
| Urban  | 40%           | 46%           | 46%           | 55%           | 51%          | 49%          | 45%          | <b>46%</b>   | ↑ by 6                     | No change     |
| Rural  | 39%           | 44%           | 44%           | 53%           | 47%          | 42%          | 40%          | <b>40%</b>   | No change                  | No change     |
| Victim   | 34%           | 43%           | 45%           | 50%           | 52%          | 45%          | 43%          | <b>43%</b>   | ↑ by 9                     | No change     |
| Non-victim   | 41%           | 47%           | 46%           | 55%           | 50%          | 48%          | 44%          | <b>46%</b>   | ↑ by 4                     | No change     |
| <i>Overall number of respondents</i>   | <i>16,040</i> | <i>13,010</i> | <i>12,050</i> | <i>11,470</i> | <i>5,570</i> | <i>5,480</i> | <i>5,540</i> | <i>5,570</i> |                            |               |

<sup>1</sup> This question was first included in the 2009/10 SCJS.

**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      | 2019/20             | Percentage point change |               |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
|   |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                     | since 2008/09           | since 2018/19 |
| All   | 66%           | 67%           | 68%           | 72%           | 74%           | 77%          | 77%          | 78%          | <b>77%</b>          | ↑ by 11                 | No change     |
| Male  | 79%           | 80%           | 82%           | 85%           | 86%           | 89%          | 89%          | 89%          | <b>90%</b>          | ↑ by 11                 | No change     |
| Female  | 55%           | 55%           | 55%           | 60%           | 64%           | 67%          | 66%          | 66%          | <b>65%</b>          | ↑ by 10                 | No change     |
| 16-24   | 71%           | 72%           | 72%           | 73%           | 77%           | 79%          | 83%          | 79%          | <b>77%</b>          | ↑ by 7                  | No change     |
| 25-44   | 73%           | 72%           | 72%           | 77%           | 78%           | 83%          | 80%          | 83%          | <b>83%</b>          | ↑ by 10                 | No change     |
| 45-59   | 70%           | 70%           | 72%           | 76%           | 77%           | 79%          | 77%          | 80%          | <b>78%</b>          | ↑ by 8                  | No change     |
| 60+   | 52%           | 56%           | 57%           | 61%           | 66%           | 70%          | 70%          | 71%          | <b>70%</b>          | ↑ by 17                 | No change     |
| 15% most deprived areas                               | 52%           | 52%           | 54%           | 57%           | 62%           | 63%          | 63%          | 64%          | <b>63%</b>          | ↑ by 11                 | No change     |
| Rest of Scotland                                      | 69%           | 70%           | 71%           | 75%           | 76%           | 80%          | 79%          | 80%          | <b>79%</b>          | ↑ by 11                 | No change     |
| Urban   | 62%           | 63%           | 65%           | 69%           | 71%           | 75%          | 77%          | 76%          | <b>74%</b>          | ↑ by 12                 | No change     |
| Rural   | 83%           | 84%           | 84%           | 87%           | 88%           | 89%          | 88%          | 90%          | <b>91%</b>          | ↑ by 9                  | No change     |
| Victim  | 61%           | 61%           | 61%           | 66%           | 67%           | 70%          | 68%          | 70%          | <b>65%</b>          | No change               | No change     |
| Non-victim  | 68%           | 69%           | 70%           | 73%           | 76%           | 79%          | 78%          | 79%          | <b>79%</b>          | ↑ by 11                 | No change     |
| <i>Overall number of respondents</i>                  | <i>16,000</i> | <i>16,040</i> | <i>13,010</i> | <i>12,050</i> | <i>11,470</i> | <i>5,570</i> | <i>5,480</i> | <i>5,540</i> | <b><i>5,570</i></b> |                         |               |

**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      | 2019/20             | Percentage point change |               |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
|   |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                     | since 2008/09           | since 2018/19 |
| All   | 93%           | 94%           | 94%           | 95%           | 94%           | 97%          | 96%          | 96%          | <b>96%</b>          | ↑ by 2                  | No change     |
| Male  | 96%           | 97%           | 98%           | 97%           | 97%           | 98%          | 98%          | 98%          | <b>98%</b>          | ↑ by 2                  | No change     |
| Female  | 90%           | 92%           | 91%           | 92%           | 91%           | 95%          | 93%          | 93%          | <b>93%</b>          | ↑ by 3                  | No change     |
| 16-24   | 91%           | 93%           | 91%           | 92%           | 91%           | 95%          | 94%          | 95%          | <b>94%</b>          | No change               | No change     |
| 25-44   | 93%           | 94%           | 94%           | 95%           | 94%           | 96%          | 95%          | 95%          | <b>95%</b>          | No change               | No change     |
| 45-59   | 94%           | 95%           | 95%           | 95%           | 94%           | 97%          | 96%          | 96%          | <b>96%</b>          | ↑ by 2                  | No change     |
| 60+   | 93%           | 95%           | 95%           | 95%           | 95%           | 97%          | 97%          | 96%          | <b>97%</b>          | ↑ by 3                  | No change     |
| 15% most deprived areas                               | 88%           | 89%           | 90%           | 91%           | 90%           | 93%          | 92%          | 91%          | <b>92%</b>          | ↑ by 3                  | No change     |
| Rest of Scotland                                      | 94%           | 95%           | 95%           | 95%           | 95%           | 97%          | 96%          | 96%          | <b>96%</b>          | ↑ by 2                  | No change     |
| Urban   | 93%           | 94%           | 94%           | 94%           | 93%           | 96%          | 95%          | 95%          | <b>95%</b>          | ↑ by 2                  | No change     |
| Rural   | 96%           | 96%           | 96%           | 97%           | 96%           | 98%          | 98%          | 98%          | <b>98%</b>          | ↑ by 2                  | No change     |
| Victim  | 90%           | 90%           | 89%           | 90%           | 90%           | 91%          | 91%          | 92%          | <b>87%</b>          | No change               | No change     |
| Non-victim  | 94%           | 95%           | 95%           | 96%           | 94%           | 97%          | 96%          | 96%          | <b>97%</b>          | ↑ by 3                  | No change     |
| <i>Overall number of respondents</i>                  | <i>16,000</i> | <i>16,040</i> | <i>13,010</i> | <i>12,050</i> | <i>11,470</i> | <i>5,570</i> | <i>5,480</i> | <i>5,540</i> | <b><i>5,570</i></b> |                         |               |

**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      | 2019/20             | Percentage point change    |               |
|--|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
|  |               |               |              |              |              |                     | since 2012/13 <sup>1</sup> | since 2018/19 |
| All  | 61%           | 58%           | 58%          | 57%          | 56%          | <b>55%</b>          | ↓ by 6                     | No change     |
| Male   | 59%           | 57%           | 56%          | 54%          | 54%          | <b>54%</b>          | ↓ by 6                     | No change     |
| Female   | 62%           | 60%           | 61%          | 60%          | 57%          | <b>56%</b>          | ↓ by 6                     | No change     |
| 16-24  | 63%           | 61%           | 66%          | 62%          | 62%          | <b>62%</b>          | No change                  | No change     |
| 25-44  | 60%           | 58%           | 61%          | 58%          | 60%          | <b>57%</b>          | No change                  | No change     |
| 45-59  | 58%           | 56%           | 53%          | 54%          | 52%          | <b>53%</b>          | ↓ by 4                     | No change     |
| 60+  | 64%           | 60%           | 56%          | 57%          | 51%          | <b>52%</b>          | ↓ by 12                    | No change     |
| 15% most deprived areas  | 54%           | 53%           | 53%          | 53%          | 50%          | <b>49%</b>          | ↓ by 5                     | No change     |
| Rest of Scotland   | 62%           | 59%           | 59%          | 58%          | 57%          | <b>56%</b>          | ↓ by 6                     | No change     |
| Urban  | 61%           | 58%           | 59%          | 57%          | 56%          | <b>55%</b>          | ↓ by 6                     | No change     |
| Rural  | 63%           | 60%           | 57%          | 58%          | 55%          | <b>56%</b>          | ↓ by 7                     | No change     |
| Victim   | 51%           | 47%           | 51%          | 50%          | 50%          | <b>49%</b>          | No change                  | No change     |
| Non-victim   | 63%           | 60%           | 60%          | 58%          | 56%          | <b>56%</b>          | ↓ by 7                     | No change     |
| <i>Overall number of respondents</i>   | <i>12,050</i> | <i>11,470</i> | <i>5,570</i> | <i>5,480</i> | <i>5,540</i> | <i><b>5,570</b></i> |                            |               |

<sup>1</sup> This question was first included in the 2012/13 SCJS.

**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      | 2019/20      | Percentage point change |               |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|---------------|
|  |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |              | since 2008/09           | since 2018/19 |
| All  | 46%           | 48%           | 50%           | 56%           | 57%           | 56%          | 53%          | 50%          | <b>47%</b>   | No change               | ↓ by 3        |
| Male   | 45%           | 47%           | 49%           | 56%           | 57%           | 56%          | 52%          | 50%          | <b>47%</b>   | No change               | No change     |
| Female   | 47%           | 49%           | 51%           | 56%           | 57%           | 56%          | 54%          | 51%          | <b>48%</b>   | No change               | ↓ by 4        |
| 16-24  | 50%           | 52%           | 56%           | 62%           | 64%           | 66%          | 62%          | 60%          | <b>59%</b>   | ↑ by 9                  | No change     |
| 25-44  | 46%           | 48%           | 51%           | 58%           | 57%           | 59%          | 57%          | 56%          | <b>50%</b>   | ↑ by 4                  | ↓ by 6        |
| 45-59  | 42%           | 45%           | 47%           | 53%           | 54%           | 50%          | 49%          | 45%          | <b>43%</b>   | No change               | No change     |
| 60+  | 47%           | 48%           | 49%           | 54%           | 56%           | 52%          | 49%          | 45%          | <b>43%</b>   | ↓ by 4                  | No change     |
| 15% most deprived areas  | 42%           | 40%           | 45%           | 52%           | 56%           | 50%          | 49%          | 46%          | <b>50%</b>   | ↑ by 7                  | No change     |
| Rest of Scotland   | 47%           | 49%           | 51%           | 57%           | 57%           | 57%          | 54%          | 51%          | <b>47%</b>   | No change               | ↓ by 4        |
| Urban  | 45%           | 47%           | 50%           | 55%           | 57%           | 56%          | 53%          | 50%          | <b>48%</b>   | ↑ by 2                  | No change     |
| Rural  | 48%           | 52%           | 50%           | 59%           | 57%           | 54%          | 53%          | 52%          | <b>45%</b>   | No change               | ↓ by 7        |
| Victim   | 37%           | 41%           | 44%           | 50%           | 46%           | 45%          | 47%          | 40%          | <b>43%</b>   | ↑ by 6                  | No change     |
| Non-victim   | 48%           | 50%           | 51%           | 57%           | 59%           | 57%          | 54%          | 52%          | <b>48%</b>   | No change               | ↓ by 4        |
| <i>Overall number of respondents</i>   | <i>16,000</i> | <i>16,040</i> | <i>13,010</i> | <i>12,050</i> | <i>11,470</i> | <i>5,570</i> | <i>5,480</i> | <i>5,540</i> | <i>5,570</i> |                         |               |



**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      | 2019/20      | Percentage point change |               |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|---------------|
|  |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |              | since 2008/09           | since 2018/19 |
| All  | 54%           | 58%           | 61%           | 66%           | 64%           | 64%          | 63%          | 62%          | <b>64%</b>   | ↑ by 10                 | ↑ by 2        |
| Male   | 53%           | 56%           | 59%           | 65%           | 62%           | 61%          | 60%          | 60%          | <b>63%</b>   | ↑ by 10                 | No change     |
| Female   | 56%           | 59%           | 63%           | 67%           | 65%           | 66%          | 65%          | 63%          | <b>65%</b>   | ↑ by 9                  | No change     |
| 16-24  | 59%           | 64%           | 70%           | 72%           | 76%           | 78%          | 73%          | 79%          | <b>79%</b>   | ↑ by 20                 | No change     |
| 25-44  | 58%           | 61%           | 65%           | 70%           | 66%           | 69%          | 67%          | 68%          | <b>68%</b>   | ↑ by 10                 | No change     |
| 45-59  | 50%           | 54%           | 56%           | 62%           | 59%           | 56%          | 59%          | 56%          | <b>60%</b>   | ↑ by 10                 | No change     |
| 60+  | 52%           | 54%           | 56%           | 63%           | 60%           | 59%          | 57%          | 53%          | <b>57%</b>   | ↑ by 5                  | ↑ by 4        |
| 15% most deprived areas  | 50%           | 51%           | 56%           | 61%           | 60%           | 62%          | 62%          | 60%          | <b>62%</b>   | ↑ by 12                 | No change     |
| Rest of Scotland   | 55%           | 59%           | 62%           | 67%           | 64%           | 64%          | 63%          | 62%          | <b>64%</b>   | ↑ by 9                  | No change     |
| Urban  | 54%           | 57%           | 61%           | 66%           | 64%           | 66%          | 63%          | 63%          | <b>65%</b>   | ↑ by 11                 | No change     |
| Rural  | 56%           | 62%           | 62%           | 67%           | 62%           | 56%          | 61%          | 57%          | <b>60%</b>   | No change               | No change     |
| Victim   | 49%           | 55%           | 55%           | 63%           | 58%           | 64%          | 59%          | 62%          | <b>65%</b>   | ↑ by 15                 | No change     |
| Non-victim   | 56%           | 59%           | 62%           | 67%           | 65%           | 64%          | 63%          | 62%          | <b>64%</b>   | ↑ by 8                  | No change     |
| <i>Overall number of respondents</i>   | <i>16,000</i> | <i>16,040</i> | <i>13,010</i> | <i>12,050</i> | <i>11,470</i> | <i>5,570</i> | <i>5,480</i> | <i>5,540</i> | <i>5,570</i> |                         |               |

**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      | 2019/20             | Percentage point change |               |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
|  |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                     | since 2008/09           | since 2018/19 |
| All  | 58%           | 61%           | 65%           | 68%           | 66%           | 66%          | 65%          | 65%          | <b>64%</b>          | ↑ by 6                  | No change     |
| Male   | 57%           | 60%           | 64%           | 68%           | 65%           | 66%          | 63%          | 65%          | <b>64%</b>          | ↑ by 7                  | No change     |
| Female   | 59%           | 62%           | 66%           | 68%           | 66%           | 66%          | 67%          | 66%          | <b>64%</b>          | ↑ by 6                  | No change     |
| 16-24  | 61%           | 64%           | 72%           | 72%           | 73%           | 78%          | 74%          | 78%          | <b>75%</b>          | ↑ by 15                 | No change     |
| 25-44  | 60%           | 63%           | 68%           | 71%           | 68%           | 71%          | 68%          | 71%          | <b>66%</b>          | ↑ by 6                  | ↓ by 5        |
| 45-59  | 54%           | 58%           | 60%           | 65%           | 64%           | 59%          | 62%          | 61%          | <b>62%</b>          | ↑ by 8                  | No change     |
| 60+  | 59%           | 59%           | 63%           | 67%           | 62%           | 61%          | 62%          | 57%          | <b>60%</b>          | No change               | No change     |
| 15% most deprived areas  | 54%           | 56%           | 60%           | 64%           | 64%           | 63%          | 62%          | 63%          | <b>62%</b>          | ↑ by 9                  | No change     |
| Rest of Scotland   | 59%           | 62%           | 66%           | 69%           | 66%           | 67%          | 66%          | 65%          | <b>64%</b>          | ↑ by 6                  | No change     |
| Urban  | 57%           | 60%           | 65%           | 68%           | 66%           | 67%          | 66%          | 66%          | <b>65%</b>          | ↑ by 7                  | No change     |
| Rural  | 60%           | 64%           | 64%           | 71%           | 65%           | 60%          | 62%          | 63%          | <b>62%</b>          | No change               | No change     |
| Victim   | 51%           | 56%           | 59%           | 64%           | 59%           | 62%          | 61%          | 62%          | <b>58%</b>          | ↑ by 7                  | No change     |
| Non-victim   | 60%           | 62%           | 66%           | 69%           | 67%           | 67%          | 66%          | 66%          | <b>65%</b>          | ↑ by 5                  | No change     |
| <i>Overall number of respondents</i>   | <i>16,000</i> | <i>16,040</i> | <i>13,010</i> | <i>12,050</i> | <i>11,470</i> | <i>5,570</i> | <i>5,580</i> | <i>5,540</i> | <b><i>5,570</i></b> |                         |               |

**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 after they occur**

| 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      | 2019/20             | Percentage point change |               |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
|  |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                     | since 2008/09           | since 2018/19 |
| All  | 64%           | 68%           | 71%           | 73%           | 70%           | 71%          | 69%          | 70%          | <b>69%</b>          | ↑ by 5                  | No change     |
| Male   | 64%           | 67%           | 70%           | 72%           | 69%           | 69%          | 67%          | 69%          | <b>68%</b>          | ↑ by 5                  | No change     |
| Female   | 64%           | 68%           | 71%           | 73%           | 71%           | 72%          | 71%          | 70%          | <b>69%</b>          | ↑ by 5                  | No change     |
| 16-24  | 65%           | 68%           | 72%           | 73%           | 76%           | 79%          | 71%          | 77%          | <b>76%</b>          | ↑ by 11                 | No change     |
| 25-44  | 66%           | 70%           | 74%           | 74%           | 71%           | 73%          | 72%          | 74%          | <b>70%</b>          | ↑ by 4                  | No change     |
| 45-59  | 62%           | 68%           | 68%           | 73%           | 69%           | 69%          | 70%          | 67%          | <b>69%</b>          | ↑ by 7                  | No change     |
| 60+  | 63%           | 65%           | 69%           | 71%           | 68%           | 67%          | 66%          | 64%          | <b>64%</b>          | No change               | No change     |
| 15% most deprived areas  | 59%           | 62%           | 66%           | 67%           | 67%           | 70%          | 67%          | 65%          | <b>67%</b>          | ↑ by 8                  | No change     |
| Rest of Scotland   | 65%           | 69%           | 71%           | 74%           | 71%           | 71%          | 70%          | 70%          | <b>69%</b>          | ↑ by 4                  | No change     |
| Urban  | 63%           | 67%           | 70%           | 72%           | 70%           | 72%          | 70%          | 70%          | <b>69%</b>          | ↑ by 6                  | No change     |
| Rural  | 68%           | 71%           | 73%           | 75%           | 71%           | 68%          | 68%          | 68%          | <b>68%</b>          | No change               | No change     |
| Victim   | 57%           | 61%           | 63%           | 69%           | 64%           | 68%          | 63%          | 66%          | <b>63%</b>          | ↑ by 7                  | No change     |
| Non-victim   | 66%           | 69%           | 72%           | 74%           | 72%           | 72%          | 70%          | 70%          | <b>69%</b>          | ↑ by 4                  | No change     |
| <i>Overall number of respondents</i>   | <i>16,000</i> | <i>16,040</i> | <i>13,010</i> | <i>12,050</i> | <i>11,470</i> | <i>5,570</i> | <i>5,480</i> | <i>5,540</i> | <b><i>5,570</i></b> |                         |               |

**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      | 2019/20      | Percentage point change |               |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|---------------|
|   |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |              | since 2008/09           | since 2018/19 |
| All   | 57%           | 60%           | 64%           | 64%           | 62%           | 65%          | 64%          | 62%          | <b>62%</b>   | ↑ by 5                  | No change     |
| Male  | 56%           | 58%           | 62%           | 63%           | 61%           | 64%          | 62%          | 61%          | <b>62%</b>   | ↑ by 6                  | No change     |
| Female  | 58%           | 61%           | 65%           | 64%           | 63%           | 66%          | 66%          | 64%          | <b>63%</b>   | ↑ by 5                  | No change     |
| 16-24   | 59%           | 62%           | 68%           | 67%           | 67%           | 76%          | 71%          | 70%          | <b>75%</b>   | ↑ by 16                 | No change     |
| 25-44   | 59%           | 63%           | 66%           | 65%           | 63%           | 67%          | 67%          | 66%          | <b>64%</b>   | ↑ by 5                  | No change     |
| 45-59   | 55%           | 57%           | 61%           | 62%           | 61%           | 62%          | 61%          | 60%          | <b>60%</b>   | ↑ by 6                  | No change     |
| 60+   | 56%           | 58%           | 61%           | 62%           | 60%           | 61%          | 61%          | 57%          | <b>57%</b>   | No change               | No change     |
| 15% most deprived areas   | 51%           | 56%           | 59%           | 59%           | 58%           | 63%          | 62%          | 57%          | <b>61%</b>   | ↑ by 10                 | No change     |
| Rest of Scotland  | 58%           | 61%           | 64%           | 65%           | 63%           | 66%          | 64%          | 63%          | <b>63%</b>   | ↑ by 5                  | No change     |
| Urban   | 56%           | 59%           | 63%           | 63%           | 62%           | 66%          | 65%          | 62%          | <b>63%</b>   | ↑ by 6                  | No change     |
| Rural   | 60%           | 62%           | 64%           | 66%           | 62%           | 62%          | 61%          | 64%          | <b>61%</b>   | No change               | No change     |
| Victim  | 49%           | 53%           | 56%           | 58%           | 53%           | 60%          | 60%          | 55%          | <b>59%</b>   | ↑ by 11                 | No change     |
| Non-victim  | 59%           | 62%           | 65%           | 65%           | 64%           | 66%          | 65%          | 63%          | <b>63%</b>   | ↑ by 4                  | No change     |
| <i>Overall number of respondents</i>  | <i>16,000</i> | <i>16,040</i> | <i>13,010</i> | <i>12,050</i> | <i>11,470</i> | <i>5,570</i> | <i>5,480</i> | <i>5,540</i> | <b>5,570</b> |                         |               |

**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      | 2019/20      | Percentage point change |               |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|---------------|
|  |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |              | since 2008/09           | since 2018/19 |
| All  | 55%           | 57%           | 60%           | 61%           | 60%           | 63%          | 61%          | 60%          | <b>58%</b>   | ↑ by 3                  | No change     |
| Male   | 55%           | 56%           | 59%           | 60%           | 59%           | 62%          | 60%          | 58%          | <b>58%</b>   | No change               | No change     |
| Female   | 56%           | 58%           | 61%           | 62%           | 61%           | 64%          | 63%          | 61%          | <b>59%</b>   | ↑ by 3                  | No change     |
| 16-24  | 56%           | 60%           | 66%           | 65%           | 64%           | 72%          | 66%          | 68%          | <b>68%</b>   | ↑ by 12                 | No change     |
| 25-44  | 58%           | 59%           | 62%           | 62%           | 61%           | 67%          | 64%          | 64%          | <b>62%</b>   | ↑ by 5                  | No change     |
| 45-59  | 52%           | 55%           | 56%           | 58%           | 58%           | 59%          | 59%          | 57%          | <b>55%</b>   | No change               | No change     |
| 60+  | 55%           | 55%           | 59%           | 61%           | 58%           | 58%          | 58%          | 54%          | <b>53%</b>   | No change               | No change     |
| 15% most deprived areas  | 50%           | 53%           | 57%           | 57%           | 57%           | 62%          | 59%          | 57%          | <b>59%</b>   | ↑ by 9                  | No change     |
| Rest of Scotland   | 56%           | 58%           | 61%           | 62%           | 60%           | 63%          | 62%          | 60%          | <b>58%</b>   | No change               | No change     |
| Urban  | 54%           | 56%           | 60%           | 61%           | 60%           | 63%          | 62%          | 60%          | <b>58%</b>   | ↑ by 4                  | No change     |
| Rural  | 59%           | 61%           | 60%           | 63%           | 60%           | 62%          | 59%          | 58%          | <b>58%</b>   | No change               | No change     |
| Victim   | 47%           | 50%           | 50%           | 53%           | 50%           | 57%          | 54%          | 52%          | <b>50%</b>   | No change               | No change     |
| Non-victim   | 57%           | 59%           | 62%           | 63%           | 62%           | 64%          | 62%          | 61%          | <b>59%</b>   | ↑ by 2                  | No change     |
| <i>Overall number of respondents</i>   | <i>16,000</i> | <i>16,040</i> | <i>13,010</i> | <i>12,050</i> | <i>11,470</i> | <i>5,570</i> | <i>5,480</i> | <i>5,540</i> | <i>5,570</i> |                         |               |

**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      | 2019/20             | Percentage point change |               |
|--|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
|  |              |              |               |               |              |              |              |                     | since 2009/10           | since 2018/19 |
| <i>Community engagement measures:</i>  |              |              |               |               |              |              |              |                     |                         |               |
| Police in this area can be relied on to be there when you need them                          | 58%          | 61%          | 66%           | 64%           | 65%          | 64%          | 63%          | <b>65%</b>          | ↑ by 8                  | No change     |
| The police in this area listen to the concerns of local people                               | 48%          | 53%          | 54%           | 50%           | 52%          | 50%          | 50%          | <b>50%</b>          | No change               | No change     |
| Community relations with the police in this local area are poor                              | 28%          | 26%          | 22%           | 23%           | 23%          | 24%          | 24%          | <b>23%</b>          | ↓ by 5                  | 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%          | <b>22%</b>          | ↓ by 9                  | No change     |
| <i>Fairness measures:</i>  |              |              |               |               |              |              |              |                     |                         |               |
| 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%          | <b>89%</b>          | ↑ by 6                  | ↑ by 2        |
| The police in this area treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are                     | 58%          | 63%          | 61%           | 60%           | 62%          | 63%          | 62%          | <b>63%</b>          | ↑ by 5                  | No change     |
| <i>Number of respondents</i>   | <i>3,890</i> | <i>3,180</i> | <i>11,520</i> | <i>11,180</i> | <i>5,420</i> | <i>5,360</i> | <i>5,410</i> | <b><i>5,450</i></b> |                         |               |

<sup>1</sup> These questions were first included in the 2009/10 SCJS.

**Table A1.23: Proportion of adults who were very or fairly confident in aspects of the criminal justice system<sup>1</sup>**

| 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 | 2019/20      | Percentage point change |               |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------|-------------------------|---------------|
|   |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |              | since 2008/09*          | since 2018/19 |
| Is effective in bringing people who commit crimes to justice                                    | 53%     | 53%     | 56%     | 57%     | 60%     | 63%     | 62%     | 62%     | <b>61%</b>   | ↑ by 8                  | No change     |
| Deals with cases promptly and efficiently   | 35%     | 38%     | 42%     | 43%     | 43%     | 47%     | 44%     | 45%     | <b>41%</b>   | ↑ by 6                  | ↓ by 4        |
| Makes sure everyone has access to the justice system if they need it                            | 70%     | 71%     | 73%     | 76%     | 76%     | 75%     | 75%     | 76%     | <b>75%</b>   | ↑ 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%     | <b>62%</b>   | ↑ by 8                  | No change     |
| Makes fair, impartial decisions based on the evidence available                                 | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | 70%     | 72%     | 73%     | 74%     | 72%     | <b>72%</b>   | ↑ 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%     | <b>60%</b>   | ↑ 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%     | <b>67%</b>   | 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%     | <b>77%</b>   | 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%     | <b>54%</b>   | ↑ by 3                  | No change     |
| Provides witnesses with the services and support they need                                      | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | 55%     | 56%     | 59%     | 58%     | 58%     | <b>57%</b>   | No change               | No change     |
| Treats those accused of crime as innocent until proven guilty                                   | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | 74%     | 72%     | 72%     | 74%     | 72%     | <b>73%</b>   | No change               | No change     |
| Gives sentences which fit the crime   | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | 38%     | 37%     | <b>35%</b>   | ↓ by 4                  | No change     |
| Gives punishments which fit the crime   | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | 32%     | 36%     | 39%     | N/A     | N/A     | <b>N/A</b>   | 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     | <b>N/A</b>   | 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     | <b>N/A</b>   | N/A                     | N/A           |
| <i>Number of respondents</i>  | 16,000  | 16,040  | 13,010  | 12,050  | 11,470  | 5,570   | 5,480   | 5,540   | <b>5,570</b> |                         |               |

<sup>1</sup> Some of these questions were only included since 2012/13 or the question wording was updated in 2012/13. One further amendment was made in 2017/18 (i.e. 'gives punishments which fit the crime' has become 'gives sentences which fit the crime' since 2017/18).

\* or first time the question was included.

**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 | 2019/20      | Percentage point change |               |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------|-------------------------|---------------|
|  |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |              | since 2008/09*          | since 2018/19 |
| Drug dealing and drug abuse  | 45%     | 48%     | 48%     | 44%     | 42%     | 36%     | 37%     | 42%     | <b>45%</b>   | No change               | No change     |
| People behaving in an anti-social manner in public                                       | 46%     | 47%     | 45%     | 41%     | 35%     | 29%     | 29%     | 31%     | <b>33%</b>   | ↓ by 13                 | No change     |
| Deliberate damage to cars or other vehicles  | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | 25%     | 20%     | 17%     | 19%     | 17%     | <b>18%</b>   | ↓ by 7                  | No change     |
| People having things stolen from their car or other vehicles                             | 20%     | 21%     | 20%     | 16%     | 15%     | 10%     | 15%     | 12%     | <b>13%</b>   | ↓ by 7                  | No change     |
| People buying or selling smuggled or fake goods  | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | 13%     | 14%     | 12%     | <b>13%</b>   | No change               | No change     |
| Violence between groups of individuals or gangs  | 26%     | 26%     | 24%     | 20%     | 14%     | 10%     | 12%     | 11%     | <b>11%</b>   | ↓ by 15                 | No change     |
| People carrying knives   | N/A     | 22%     | 22%     | 16%     | 14%     | 10%     | 12%     | 11%     | <b>12%</b>   | ↓ by 10                 | No change     |
| People being physically assaulted or attacked in the street or other public places       | 19%     | 21%     | 21%     | 18%     | 15%     | 10%     | 10%     | 11%     | <b>11%</b>   | ↓ by 9                  | No change     |
| People having their car or other vehicles stolen   | 15%     | 13%     | 14%     | 8%      | 10%     | 8%      | 10%     | 8%      | <b>9%</b>    | ↓ by 5                  | No change     |
| Deliberate damage to people's homes by vandals   | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | 14%     | 11%     | 9%      | 10%     | 9%      | 9%           | ↓ by 5                  | No change     |
| People being mugged or robbed  | 10%     | 13%     | 13%     | 11%     | 8%      | 6%      | 6%      | 7%      | <b>6%</b>    | ↓ by 5                  | No change     |
| People being physically attacked because of their skin colour, ethnic origin or religion | 7%      | 8%      | 9%      | 7%      | 6%      | 5%      | 4%      | 5%      | <b>5%</b>    | ↓ by 2                  | No change     |
| People being sexually assaulted  | 3%      | 4%      | 4%      | 4%      | 4%      | 3%      | 4%      | 3%      | <b>5%</b>    | ↑ by 2                  | ↑ by 2        |
| <i>Number of respondents</i>   | 4,030   | 4,000   | 3,220   | 3,020   | 2,850   | 1,390   | 1,380   | 1,400   | <b>1,440</b> |                         |               |

\* or first time the 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 | 2019/20      | Percentage point change |               |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------|-------------------------|---------------|
|  |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |              | since 2008/09           | since 2018/19 |
| Your car or other vehicle will be damaged by vandals                                 | 44%     | 44%     | 43%     | 39%     | 38%     | 31%     | 31%     | 31%     | <b>29%</b>   | ↓ by 14                 | No change     |
| Things will be stolen from your car or other vehicle                                 | 34%     | 33%     | 31%     | 28%     | 28%     | 23%     | 23%     | 22%     | <b>20%</b>   | ↓ by 13                 | No change     |
| Your car or other vehicle will be stolen   | 29%     | 29%     | 27%     | 24%     | 25%     | 21%     | 21%     | 21%     | <b>19%</b>   | ↓ by 10                 | No change     |
| <i>Number of respondents</i> <sup>1</sup>  | 10,730* | 11,370  | 9,170*  | 8,470   | 8,090   | 4,120   | 4,130   | 4,170   | <b>4,190</b> |                         |               |
| Someone will use your credit or bank details to obtain money, goods or services      | 56%     | 57%     | 58%     | 52%     | 54%     | 52%     | 51%     | 50%     | <b>50%</b>   | ↓ by 6                  | No change     |
| You will have your identity stolen   | 51%     | 50%     | 48%     | 43%     | 45%     | 43%     | 43%     | 41%     | <b>39%</b>   | ↓ by 12                 | ↓ by 3        |
| Your home will be broken into  | 35%     | 34%     | 35%     | 32%     | 35%     | 28%     | 27%     | 27%     | <b>25%</b>   | ↓ by 10                 | 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%     | <b>12%</b>   | ↓ by 17                 | No change     |
| You will be mugged or robbed   | 31%     | 32%     | 31%     | 25%     | 24%     | 20%     | 18%     | 18%     | <b>16%</b>   | ↓ by 15                 | No change     |
| You will be physically assaulted or attacked in the street or other public place     | 31%     | 30%     | 28%     | 24%     | 23%     | 19%     | 18%     | 17%     | <b>16%</b>   | ↓ by 15                 | ↓ by 2        |
| Your home will be damaged by vandals   | 26%     | 25%     | 24%     | 21%     | 21%     | 17%     | 16%     | 15%     | <b>14%</b>   | ↓ by 12                 | No change     |
| You will be sexually assaulted   | 15%     | 15%     | 15%     | 13%     | 13%     | 11%     | 11%     | 11%     | <b>10%</b>   | ↓ by 5                  | No change     |
| <i>Number of respondents</i> <sup>2</sup>  | 16,000  | 16,040  | 13,010  | 12,010* | 11,470  | 5,570   | 5,480   | 5,540   | <b>5,570</b> |                         |               |

<sup>1</sup> 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.

\* 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**

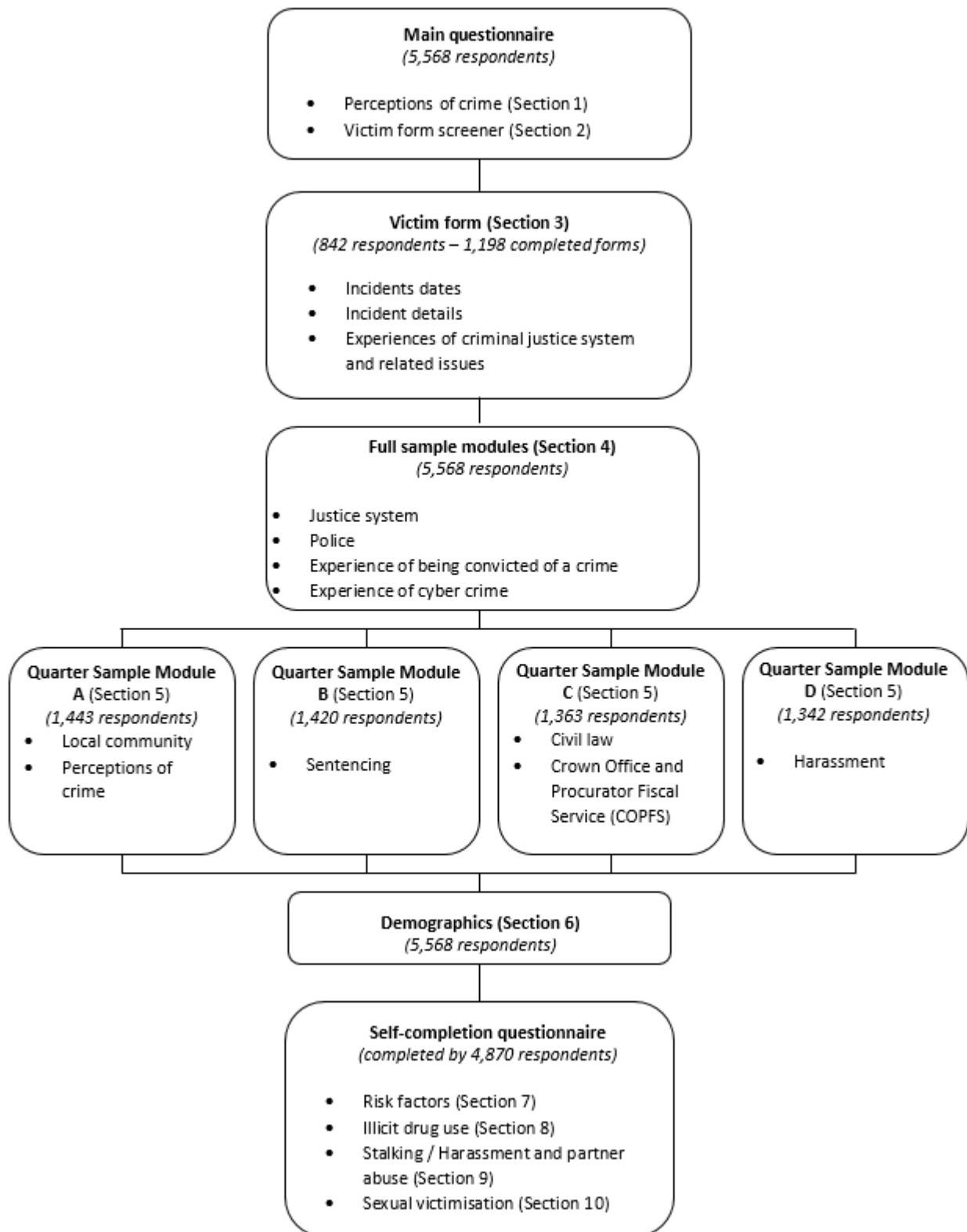
| Percentage of adults who thought they were likely to experience each crime           | 2008/09 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2012/13 | 2014/15 | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | Percentage point change |               |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------------------------|---------------|
|  |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         | since 2008/09           | since 2018/19 |
| Your car or other vehicle will be damaged by vandals                                 | 16%     | 17%     | 15%     | 13%     | 13%     | 13%     | 13%     | 15%     | 12%     | ↓ by 4                  | ↓ by 2        |
| Things will be stolen from your car or other vehicle                                 | 8%      | 8%      | 6%      | 6%      | 7%      | 7%      | 7%      | 7%      | 6%      | No change               | No change     |
| Your car or other vehicle will be stolen   | 6%      | 7%      | 5%      | 5%      | 5%      | 6%      | 6%      | 6%      | 5%      | No change               | No change     |
| <i>Number of respondents</i> <sup>1</sup>  | 11,190  | 11,790  | 9,450   | 8,710   | 8,420   | 4,120   | 4,130   | 4,170   | 4,190   |                         |               |
| Someone will use your credit or bank details to obtain money, goods or services      | 14%     | 17%     | 15%     | 14%     | 17%     | 28%     | 26%     | 26%     | 23%     | ↑ by 10                 | ↓ by 3        |
| You will have your identity stolen   | 12%     | 12%     | 10%     | 9%      | 11%     | 16%     | 16%     | 15%     | 13%     | No change               | ↓ by 2        |
| Your home will be broken into  | 9%      | 8%      | 6%      | 7%      | 8%      | 10%     | 9%      | 9%      | 7%      | ↓ by 2                  | ↓ by 2        |
| You will be physically assaulted or attacked in the street or other public place     | 7%      | 7%      | 6%      | 5%      | 5%      | 6%      | 6%      | 5%      | 5%      | ↓ by 2                  | No change     |
| Your home will be damaged by vandals   | 6%      | 6%      | 5%      | 4%      | 4%      | 5%      | 4%      | 4%      | 4%      | ↓ by 2                  | No change     |
| You will be mugged or robbed   | 6%      | 6%      | 5%      | 4%      | 4%      | 5%      | 5%      | 4%      | 3%      | ↓ by 2                  | ↓ by 1        |
| You will be involved or caught up in violence between groups of individuals or gangs | 7%      | 6%      | 4%      | 4%      | 4%      | 4%      | 4%      | 3%      | 3%      | ↓ by 3                  | No change     |
| You will be sexually assaulted   | 1%      | 2%      | 1%      | 1%      | 1%      | 2%      | 2%      | 2%      | 2%      | ↑ by 1                  | No change     |
| <b>None of the above</b>   | 48%     | 49%     | 52%     | 57%     | 55%     | 50%     | 52%     | 50%     | 57%     | ↑ by 9                  | ↑ by 7        |
| <i>Number of respondents</i>   | 16,000  | 16,040  | 13,010  | 12,050  | 11,470  | 5,570   | 5,480   | 5,540   | 5,570   |                         |               |

<sup>1</sup> 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 around 25 months. Results previously published biennially, now annually  |
| Strengths                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Covers the full range of crimes and offences</li> <li>Provides data at a local level</li> <li>A good measure of rarer, more serious crimes that are well reported</li> <li>Measure of long-term trends</li> <li>Good measure of crime that the police are faced with</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good measure of trends since 2008/09</li> <li>Captures further information about crimes that are and are not reported to the police (including sensitive issues such as domestic abuse or drug abuse)</li> <li>Analyses crime for different demographic groups and victim-offender relationships</li> <li>Provides information on multiple and repeat victimisation (up to 5 incidents in a series)</li> <li>Provides attitudinal data (e.g. fear of crime or attitudes towards the criminal justice system)</li> </ul> |
| Limitations                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partially reliant on the public reporting crime</li> <li>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)</li> <li>Trends can be affected by legislation; public reporting practices; police recording practices</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does not cover all crimes (e.g. homicide or crimes without specific victims, such as speeding)</li> <li>Does not cover the entire population (e.g. children, homeless people or people living in communal accommodation)</li> <li>Less able to produce robust data at lower level geographies</li> <li>Difficult to measure trends between survey years, especially in rarer forms of crime (such as more serious offences)</li> <li>Estimates are subject to a degree of error (confidence intervals)</li> </ul>       |
| What other data are collected? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional statistical bulletins published, including on homicides, firearm offences and domestic abuse incidents</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public perceptions about crime</li> <li>Worry about crime and the perceived likelihood of being a victim</li> <li>Confidence in the police and the criminal justice system</li> <li>Prevalence estimates on 'sensitive' topics (partner abuse, sexual victimisation, stalking and drug use). Reported on biennially</li> </ul>  |

# Annex C: 2019/20 SCJS questionnaire structure



## Annex D: Drug Categories and Classifications

| 2018/20 Drugs  | Drugs Wheel Category <sup>170</sup> | Drugs Class <sup>171</sup>    |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Amphetamine  | Stimulants                          | B <sup>172</sup>              |
| Cannabis   | Cannabinoids                        | B                             |
| Synthetic cannabis   | Cannabinoids                        | B                             |
| Cocaine  | Stimulants                          | A                             |
| Crack  | Stimulants                          | A                             |
| Ecstasy  | Empathogens                         | A                             |
| Heroin   | Opioids                             | A                             |
| LSD  | Psychedelics                        | A                             |
| Magic mushrooms  | Psychedelics                        | A                             |
| Methadone / Physeptone without prescription                    | Opioids                             | A                             |
| Anabolic steroids without prescription                         | Steroids <sup>173</sup>             | C                             |
| Poppers  | Stimulants                          | Not classified <sup>174</sup> |
| Crystal meth   | Stimulants                          | A                             |
| Ketamine   | Dissociatives                       | B                             |
| Glues, solvents, gas or aerosols                               | Depressants                         | Not classified <sup>175</sup> |
| Mephedrone   | Stimulants                          | B                             |
| Tranquillisers: Benzodiazepines without prescription           | Depressants                         | C                             |
| Prescription only painkillers that were not prescribed for you | Combined <sup>176</sup>             | Combined <sup>177</sup>       |
| GHB/GBL  | Depressants                         | C                             |

<sup>170</sup> Categories based on [The Drugs Wheel Version 2.0.8](#).

<sup>171</sup> A full list of drugs currently classified under the Misuse of Drugs Act can be found in this [Guidance](#).

<sup>172</sup> Amphetamines are a class B drug but move up to a Class A status if prepared for injection. The SCJS does not collect details of whether amphetamine was prepared for injection or in powdered form. All self-reported amphetamine use is included in Class B in the analysis that follows Methamphetamine (Crystal Meth) is a Class A drug and grouped separately on this list.

<sup>173</sup> Steroids are not included in the drugs wheel but should be categorised as a separate category.

<sup>174</sup> Poppers are not classified under the misuse of drugs act. However there are some controls on the sale of these items.

<sup>175</sup> Solvents are not classified under the misuse of drugs act. However there are some controls on the sale of these items.

<sup>176</sup> Prescription only painkillers can include a range of drug types including opioids (e.g. Morphine, Codeine, co-codamol, tramadol) and depressants (e.g. Gabapentinoids), therefore they are reported separately here.

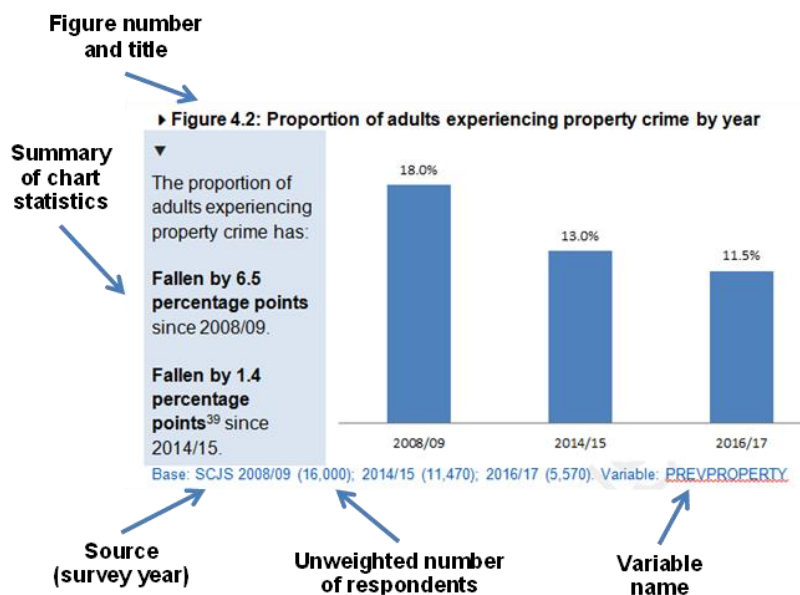
<sup>177</sup> Prescription only painkillers can include a range of drug which have different classifications.; including Class A (e.g. morphine and Oxycodone), Class B (some codeine based drugs), Class C (e.g. Tramadol) and currently unclassified (e.g. Gabapentinoids). Some of the drugs which may be recorded in this category are exempt from virtually all Controlled Drug requirements because of their low strength.

# Annex E: 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 rounded (to the nearest 10) number of respondents and, if relevant, a variable name. Unless otherwise stated the results are from 2019/20 or for 2018/20 (2018/19 and 2019/20 combined) in the self-completion sections. 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

#### 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<sup>178</sup>. 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

<sup>178</sup> i.e. this is generally how many people were asked the question for the results being discussed.

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.

**Table number and title** → **Source (survey year)**

► **Table 4.2: Estimated number of incidents of types of property crime (2008/09, 2014/15, 2016/17)**

| Crime type                              | 2008/09 | 2014/15 | 2016/17 | Change since 2008/09 | Change since 2014/15 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|----------------------|----------------------|
| PROPERTY CRIME                          | 728,000 | 502,000 | 481,000 | ↓ by 34%             | No change            |
| Vandalism                               | 350,000 | 179,000 | 166,000 | ↓ by 53%             | No change            |
| Other household theft including bicycle | 173,000 | 158,000 | 128,000 | ↓ by 26%             | ↓ by 19%             |
| Personal theft                          | 110,000 | 103,000 | 124,000 | No change            | No change            |
| All motor vehicle related theft         | 70,000  | 40,000  | 38,000  | ↓ by 45%             | No change            |
| Housebreaking                           | 25,000  | 22,000  | 26,000  | No change            | No change            |
| Number of respondents                   | 16,003  | 11,472  | 5,567   |                      |                      |

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

**Unweighted number of respondents** → **Variable name(s)** → **Statistical testing to detect whether any apparent change is statistically significant change or not**

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%.

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. It is not possible to sum these categories when a respondent can choose multiple options. These percentages will not sum to 100% with the other percentages presented. They represent the percentage of the variable population that selected a certain response category.

## **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.

Correspondence and enquiries

For enquiries about this publication please contact:

Anna Saunders,  
Justice Analytical Services, The Scottish Government,  
Telephone: 0131 244 3012,  
email: [anna.saunders@gov.scot](mailto:anna.saunders@gov.scot)

For general enquiries about Scottish Government statistics please contact:

Office of the Chief Statistician, Telephone: 0131 244 0442,  
email: [statistics.enquiries@gov.scot](mailto:statistics.enquiries@gov.scot)

### **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](mailto:scjs@gov.scot) for further information.
- cannot be made available by Scottish Government for further analysis as Scottish Government is not the data controller.

### **Complaints and suggestions**

If you are not satisfied with our service or have any comments or suggestions, please write to the Chief Statistician, 3WR, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG. Telephone: (0131) 244 0302, email: [statistics.enquiries@gov.scot](mailto:statistics.enquiries@gov.scot).

If you would like to be consulted about statistical collections or receive notification of publications, please register your interest at [www.gov.scot/scotstat](http://www.gov.scot/scotstat)  
Details of forthcoming publications can be found at [www.gov.scot/statistics](http://www.gov.scot/statistics)

ISBN 978-1-80004-765-5

### **Crown Copyright**

You may use or re-use this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. See: [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/)

APS Group Scotland, 21 Tennant Street, Edinburgh EH6 5NA  
PPDAS870206 (04/21)