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Scottish Crime and Justice Survey 2016/17: Main Findings



A National Statistics publication for Scotland

CRIME AND JUSTICE

Scottish Crime and Justice Survey 2016/17: Main Findings

Acknowledgements

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Comments and suggestions

We are committed to continual improvement and would welcome any comments or suggestions on how the SCJS Main Findings Report could be improved or adapted in future. We will also consult users in the months after publication to gather their views on changes introduced in the 2016/17 report and outputs.

If you have any enquiries on any aspects of the survey development then we welcome your opinions and questions. Please contact the SCJS Project Team.

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Executive Summary

Key Findings from the 2016/17 Scottish Crime and Justice Survey

This summary presents a range of key findings from the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey 2016/17. These findings and others are also presented visually in [summary graphics](#) and further results and context are provided in the [report chapters](#). Additional findings on cyber-crime, harassment & discrimination, workplace abuse and fake/smuggled goods are presented in [SCJS topical reports](#).

Overview of crime

What was the extent and prevalence of crime in Scotland in 2016/17?

- There were an estimated 712,000 crimes experienced by adults in Scotland in 2016/17, down by nearly a third (32%) since 2008/09 (but no change detected since 2014/15).
- The SCJS indicates that most adults did not experience crime in 2016/17 (86.6%). Therefore, the SCJS estimates that 13.4% of adults were victims of at least one crime, down from 20.4% in 2008/09 (but no change since 2014/15).
- The 2016/17 SCJS estimates that around one third of crime was violent crime (32%) and just over two-thirds was property crime (68%).
- It is estimated that almost four in ten crimes were reported to the police in 2016/17 (37%).

Focus on violent crime

What was the extent and prevalence of violent crime in Scotland in 2016/17?

- There were an estimated 231,000 violent crimes in 2016/17, representing a decrease of 27% since 2008/09, but unchanged since 2014/15.
- The likelihood of experiencing violent crime in Scotland is relatively small (2.9%); it has fallen from 4.1% in 2008/09 but is unchanged since 2014/15.
- Consistent with previous SCJS findings, the majority of violent crime incidents in 2016/17 were cases of minor assault resulting in no or negligible injury (72%). Other violent crimes comprised minor assault with injury (13%), serious assault (7%), attempted assault (4%) and robbery (3%).

Experiences and characteristics of violent crime

- Whilst 2.9% of adults were victims of violence in 2016/17, victimisation rates were higher amongst some groups including: adults aged 16-24 (5.3%), people in the most deprived areas of Scotland (4.8%) and those living in urban locations (3.2%).
- The proportion of younger adults experiencing violent crime has more than halved from 12.0% in 2008/09 to 5.3% in 2016/17, but similar improvements have not been experienced by all groups over this period
- A small number of victims experienced a high proportion of violent crime. Most adults did not experience violent crime in 2016/17 (97.1%). 1.8% of

adults experienced one violent crime and 1.1% of adults were repeat victims, experiencing two or more violent crime. These repeat victims experienced around two-thirds of all violent crime in 2016/17.

- Between 2008/09 and 2016/17, the proportion of adults experiencing one incident of violence in a year fell (from 2.6% to 1.8%), however no change was detected in the likelihood of experiencing more than one violent crime.
- The proportion of violent crimes involving offenders under the influence of alcohol has fallen from 63% in 2008/09 to 42% in 2016/17.
- Violent crime in 2016/17 did not commonly involve the presence or use of weapons (15%).

Focus on property crime

What was the extent and prevalence of property crime in Scotland in 2016/17?

- There were an estimated 481,000 property crimes in 2016/17, representing a decrease of 34% since 2008/09, but unchanged since 2014/15.
- The likelihood of adults experiencing property crime in Scotland was 11.5% in 2016/17, down from 18.0% in 2008/09 and from 13.0% in 2014/15.
- As in previous years, incidents of vandalism accounted for the largest proportion of property crime incidents (34%), followed by other household theft (including bicycle theft) (27%), personal theft (26%), all motor vehicle theft (8%) and housebreaking (5%).

Experiences and characteristics of property crime

- Whilst 11.5% of adults were victims of property crime in 2016/17, victimisation rates were higher amongst some groups including: adults aged 16-24 (16.8%), people in the most deprived areas of Scotland (16.5%) and those living in urban locations (12.8%).
- A small number of victims experienced a high proportion of property crime. Most adults did not experience property crime in 2016/17 (88.5%). 8.3% of adults experienced one property crime and 3.3% of adults were repeat victims, experiencing two or more property crime. These repeat victims experienced more than half of all property crime in 2016/17. However, repeat property crime victimisation has almost halved from 6.4% in 2008/09.

Comparing the SCJS with Police Recorded Crime

- A comparable subset of crime is used to enable comparisons to be made between recorded crime and SCJS estimates. Between 2008/09 and 2016/17, police recorded crime and SCJS in the comparable subset both fell by 39%.

Public perceptions of the police and the justice system

Public perceptions of the police

- The majority of adults (58%) said that the police were doing a good or excellent job in their local area, unchanged since 2014/15 but down from 61% in 2012/13.

- The majority of adults were very or fairly confident in their local police force across [the six measures of confidence](#) asked about in this survey.
- Since 2008/09, there have been increases in confidence across all six measures, while two measures have increased since 2014/15 (confidence in the police to solve crime and catch criminals).
- Whilst generally the majority in all groups were confident in the police, the level of confidence was lower on some measures amongst victims of crime, those living in deprived areas and those in rural locations.
- Confidence in the police has improved amongst many population sub-groups over time, however across five of the six measures confidence in rural areas in 2016/17 was at a similar level as in 2008/09.

Public perceptions of the justice system

- Most adults said they did not know a lot about the criminal justice system (61%) and another 16% said they knew nothing at all.
- Generally the public were fairly confident about the operation of the justice system, for example, 78% were confident that it allows those accused of crimes to get a fair trial regardless of who they are and 75% were confident that it makes sure everyone has access to the justice system if they need it. However, adults were less confident on other measures, for example, 39% were confident that it gives punishments which fit the crime.
- The public had mixed views on the effectiveness of prisons in tackling crime and rehabilitating offenders. For instance, whilst around three-quarters (76%) of adults were very or fairly confident that prisons played an important role in protecting the public from crime, more than half (52%) were not very or not at all confident in the ability of prisons to deter people from offending.
- There were also mixed views on the effectiveness of community sentences. For example, whilst the majority of people (77%) believed that community sentencing is an effective way of dealing with certain crimes, around two-fifths of adults (42%) agreed that people who complete their community sentences have made amends for the harm they have caused.

Public perceptions of crime and safety

- Three quarters (76%) thought that the local crime rate had stayed the same or reduced, unchanged from 2014/15 and up from 65% in 2006.
- Over three-quarters (77%) of adults said they felt very or fairly safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark, up from 74% in 2014/15 and from 66% in 2008/09.

Summary Infographics

Key findings from SCJS 2016/17 on

Overview of crime in Scotland

The overall level of crime has fallen by nearly a third since 2008/09, but is unchanged since 2014/15.

Similarly, the proportion of adults experiencing crime has fallen from around one in five in 2008/09 to fewer than one in seven in 2016/17.

The likelihood of experiencing crime in 2016/17 was higher for young adults, those in urban areas and those in the most deprived areas.

A small number of victims experienced a high proportion of all crime. The 4.3% of adults who are multiple victims experienced more than 60% of all crime.

712,000

Crimes committed against adults in Scotland in 2016/17

↓ 32%

decrease in overall level of crime experienced in Scotland since 2008/09 but no change since 2014/15

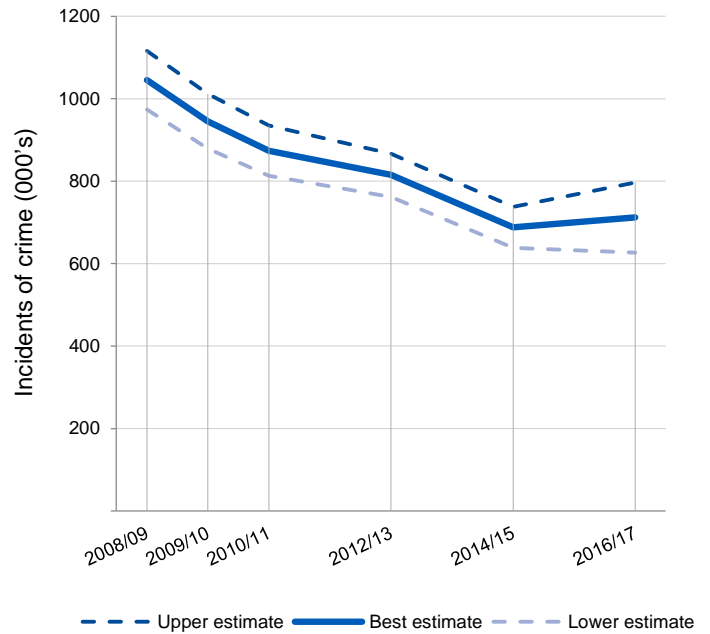
13.4%

of adults experienced crime in 2016/17

↓ 7 percentage pts

decrease of adults experiencing crime in Scotland since 2008/09

► How much crime was there?



► What type of crime was experienced?

68%

PROPERTY CRIME



Of all property crime, **vandalism** (34%), **other household theft** (27%), **personal theft** (26%), **motor vehicle theft** (8%) and **housebreaking** (5%).

32%

VIOLENT CRIME



Of all violent crime, the majority was **minor assault with no /negligible injury** (72%).

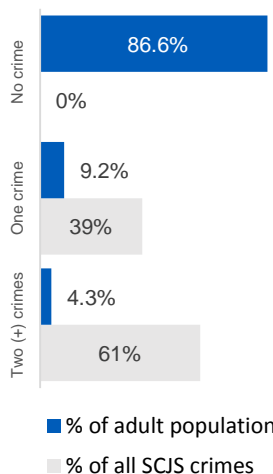
Other violent crime comprises **minor assault with injury** (13%), **serious assault** (7%), **attempted assault** (4%) and **robbery** (3%).

37%

of crimes were reported to the police



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



No Crime: Most adults did not experience any crime in 2016/17.

One Crime: 9.2% of adults experienced one crime, corresponding to almost 40% of all crime in 2016/17.

Two (+) Crimes: 4.3% of adults experienced two or more crimes. These victims experienced more than 60% of all crime in 2016/17. However this rate of multiple victimisation has almost halved from 8.2% in 2008/09.

► 13.4% of adults experienced crime. Some people were more likely to experience crime than others.

19.5%

Young people (aged 16-24)

19.4%

People living in the most deprived areas

14.8%

People living in urban areas

Key findings from SCJS 2016/17 on Focus on violent crime

The total number of violent crimes is estimated to have fallen by more than a quarter since 2008/09, but is unchanged since 2014/15.

The proportion of adults experiencing violent crime fell from 4.1% in 2008/09 to 2.9% in 2016/17.

Almost three quarters of violent crimes were minor assault with no or negligible injury (72%). Other violent crime comprises minor assault with injury (13%), serious assault (7%), attempted assault (4%) and robbery (3%).

Experiences varied across the population with 1.1% of adults experiencing around two-thirds of violent crime.

231,000

Violent crimes committed against adults in Scotland in 2016/17

↓ 27%

decrease in violent crimes in Scotland since 2008/09, but no change since 2014/15

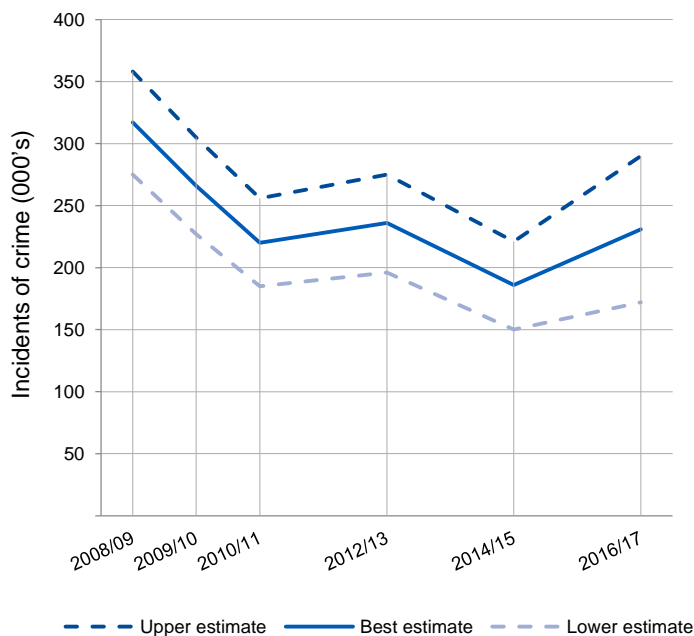
2.9%

of adults experienced violent crime in 2016/17

↓ 1.3 percentage pts

decrease in adults experiencing violent crime in Scotland since 2008/09 but no change since 2014/15

► How much violent crime was there?



Facts about VIOLENT CRIME in 2016/17



Nearly three quarters of violent crime took place in public settings (73%)



More than four in five violent crimes were committed by male offenders (84%)



Offenders were believed to be under the influence of alcohol in just over two-fifths (42%)



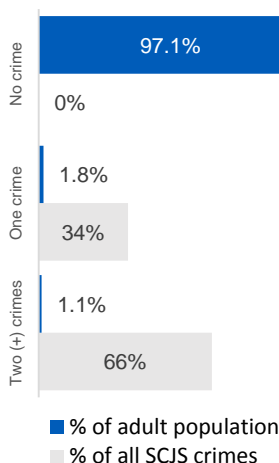
Violent crime in 2016/17 did not commonly involve the presence or use of weapons (15%)

43%

of 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 2016/17.

One Crime: 1.8% of the population experienced one violent crime, corresponding to around a third of all violent crime in 2016/17.

Two (+) Crimes: 1.1% of adults experienced two or more violent crimes. These victims experienced around two-thirds of all violent crime in 2016/17.

► 2.9% of adults experienced violent crime. Some people were more likely to experience this than others.

5.3%

Young people (aged 16-24).

4.8%

People living in the most deprived areas

3.2%

People living in urban areas

Key findings from SCJS 2016/17 on Focus on property crime

The total number of property crimes is estimated to have fallen by around a third since 2008/09, but is unchanged since 2014/15.

The proportion of adults experiencing property crime fell from 18.0% in 2008/09 to 11.5% in 2016/17.

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 3.3% of adults who were repeat victims experienced 53% of property crime.

481,000

Property crime committed against adults in Scotland in 2016/17

↓ 34%

decrease in property crime experienced in Scotland since 2008/09, but no change since 2014/15

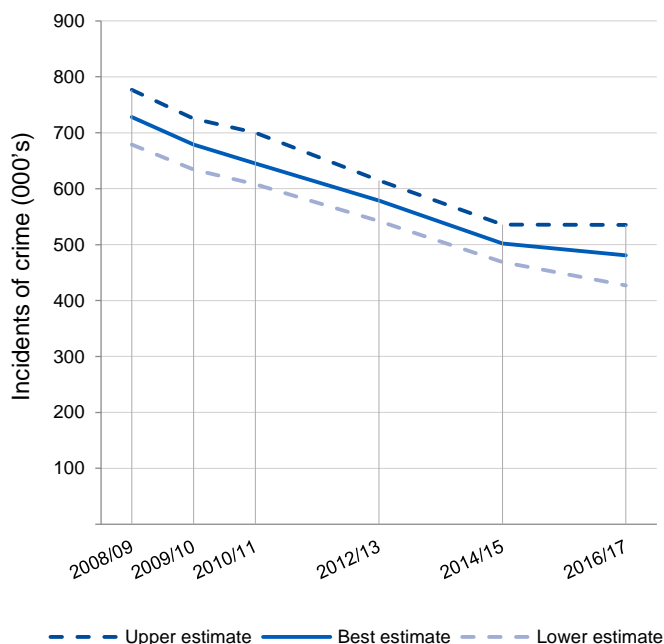
11.5%

of adults experienced property crime in 2016/17

↓ 6.5 percentage pts

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

▶ How much property crime was there?



PROPERTY CRIME in 2016/17



34%
Vandalism



27%
Other Households theft (including bicycle)



26%
Personal Theft



8%
Motor vehicle related



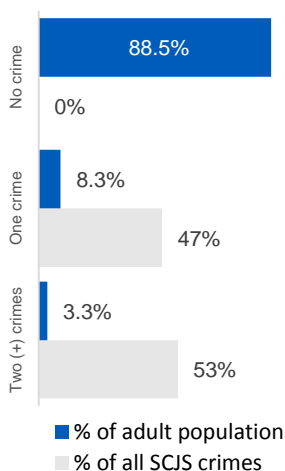
5%
Housebreaking

34%

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 2016/17.

One Crime: 8.3% of adults experienced one property crime, corresponding to almost half all property crime in 2016/17.

Two (+) Crimes: 3.3% of adults experienced two or more property crimes. These victims experienced 53% of all property crime in 2016/17. However this rate of repeat victimisation has almost halved from 6.4% in 2008/09.

▶ 11.5% of adults experienced property crime. Some people were more likely to experience this than others.

16.8%

Young people (aged 16-24)

16.5%

People living in the most deprived areas

12.8%

People living in urban areas

Public perceptions of the police

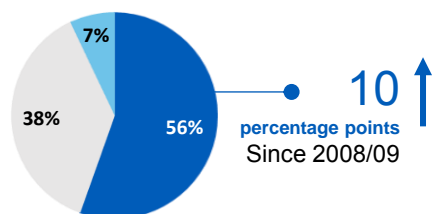
The majority of adults in Scotland (58%) believed the police in their local area were doing an excellent or good job in 2016/17 (unchanged since 2014/15 but down from 61% in 2012/13)

How confident were people in the ability of the police?

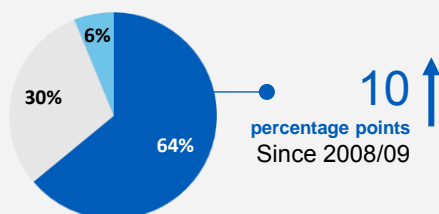
- ▶ The majority of adults are confident in the police across each of six different aspects of policing

- ▶ The proportion of adults confident in each of these aspects has increased since 2008/09

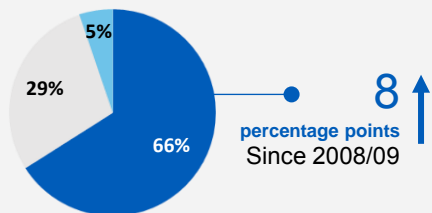
Prevent crime



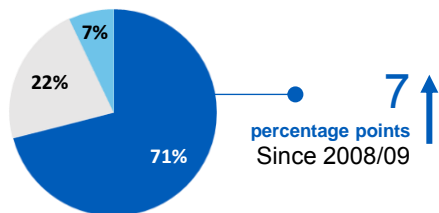
Respond quickly



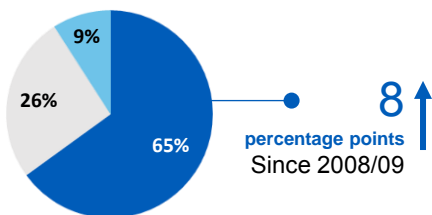
Deal with incidents



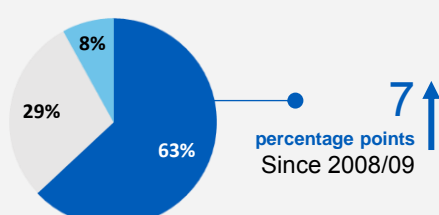
Investigate incidents



Solve crimes



Catch criminals



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



▶ Proportion of adults who strongly agree / agree that:

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

87%

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

65%

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

62%

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

52%

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

46%

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

21%



- ▶ The majority of people in both urban and rural areas were confident across each of these six aspects of policing in 2016/17.
- ▶ Since 2008/09:
 - in urban areas confidence has increased across all six aspects of policing
 - in rural areas confidence is unchanged in five aspects, and has increased in one (prevent crime)

Key findings from SCJS 2016/17 on Public perceptions of crime

Perceptions of local/national crime rate

LOCAL CRIME

76%

Thought the local crime rate had stayed the same or reduced

↑ 11 percentage points since 2006

↔ No change since 2014/15



19%

thought that the local crime rate had increased

NATIONAL CRIME

50%

Thought that the national crime rate stayed the same or reduced

↑ 10 percentage points since 2009/10

↓ Down 4 percentage points since 2014/15



37%

thought that the national crime rate had increased

► Fear of crime

77%

Of adults felt safe walking alone after dark



↑ 11 percentage points Since 2008/09

↑ 3 percentage points Since 2014/15

70%

of victims of crime felt safe walking alone after dark

63%

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

67%



89%

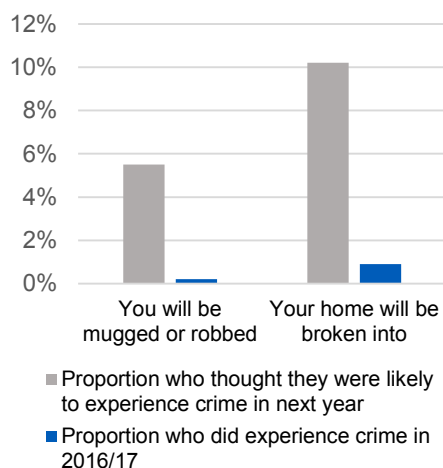


Females were less likely than males to feel safe walking alone after dark



Of a range of crimes asked about, people were most commonly worried that someone would use their credit card or bank details (52%) or that their identity would be stolen (43%)

Across a range of crimes, a greater proportion of adults thought that they were likely to experience crime (over the next year) than the proportion who were actually victims in 2016/17. For example:



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. The 2016/17 survey is based on around 5,600 face-to-face interviews with adults (aged 16 or over) living in private households in Scotland. Crime and victimisation surveys have been carried out in Scotland since the early 1980s; however, this report presents the results for the sixth SCJS, with interviews conducted between April 2016 and May 2017.







The main aims of the SCJS are to:

- Enable the Scottish population to tell us about their experiences of, and attitudes to, a range of issues related to crime, policing and the justice system; including crime not reported to the police;
- Provide a valid and reliable measure of adults' experience of crime, including services provided to victims of crime;
- Examine trends, over time, in the number and nature of crimes in Scotland, providing a complementary measure of crime to police recorded crime statistics;
- Examine the varying risk and characteristics of crime for different groups of adults in the population.

The findings from the SCJS are used by policy makers across the public sector in Scotland to help understand the nature of crime in Scotland, target resources and monitor the impact of initiatives to target crime. The results of this survey provide evidence to inform national outcomes and justice outcomes.

Who takes part in the SCJS and what topics does it 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> |  <p>around 5,600 adults (aged 16 & over)</p> |  <p>In private households (incl rented accomodation)</p> |  <p>Across Scotland</p> |
| <p>► Who does not take part in the survey</p> |  <p>Children</p> |  <p>Those living in group, residences, institutions or those without a fixed address</p> |  <p>Commercial or public sector bodies</p> |

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 persons 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 and, as such, 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 without a direct victim (e.g. speeding and drug possession), and some high harm but relatively lower-volume offences, such as homicide and sexual offences, which are not included in the main estimates. Whilst details of threats are collected in the survey, they are not currently included in the crime statistics as it is difficult to establish whether or not an offence has been committed. Experiences of sexual offences are collected in the self-completion section and reported separately.

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

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

How far back does the SCJS time-series data go?

While crime and victimisation surveys have been carried out in Scotland since the early 1980s, the geographical coverage, sample size, method and fieldwork and reference periods have varied.

A history of crime and victimisation surveys in Scotland

1982, 1988: British Crime Survey (BCS) included coverage of central and southern Scotland only (c. 5,000 interviews).

1993: First independent Scottish Crime Survey (SCS) launched, based on BCS and covering the whole of Scotland (c. 5,000 interviews).

1996, 2000, 2003: Further sweeps of the SCS (c. 5,000 interviews).

2004, 2006: Scottish Crime and Victimisation Survey (SCVS) (c. 27,000 interviews in 2004, c. 5,000 interviews in 2006).

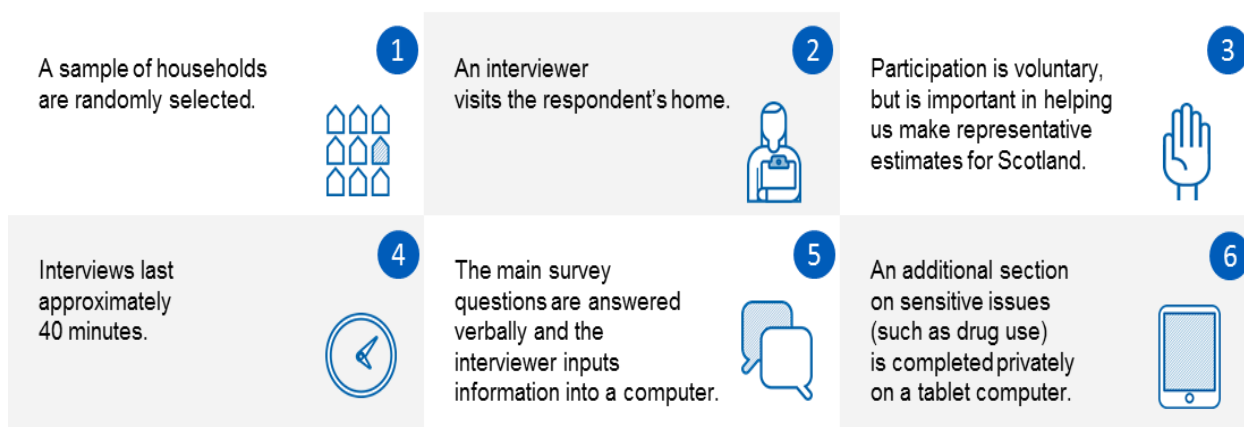
2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11: Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) conducted annually (c. 16,000 interviews 2008/09 and 2009/10, c. 13,000 interviews in 2010/11).

2012/13, 2014/15: Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) conducted biennially (c. 12,000 interviews in 2012/13, 11,500 interviews in 2014/15).

2016/17 onwards: Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) conducted annually (c. 5,570 interviews in 2016/17, from target of 6,000)

Time series comparisons in this report are generally made to 2008/09 and to 2014/15. Prior to 2008, victimisation surveys were intermittent and had smaller sample sizes (around 5,000 interviews). Surveys were administered using paper questionnaires by interviewers and early surveys did not cover the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. In 2003, the McCaig review (2003)¹ of the design, content and management of the survey found the survey was unable to produce trends, had high margins of error around results (especially around less common crimes) and was unable to report findings below the national level. In 2008, the sample size increased, and surveying moved to fieldwork throughout the financial year and used a rolling reference period for the victimisation module.

How is the survey delivered?



The design of the 2016/17 SCJS was broadly similar to the design of the SCJS from 2008/09 to 2014/15:

¹ McCaig, E and Leven, T (2003) *Fundamental review of the Scottish Crime Survey*, Edinburgh, Scottish Executive

- **Survey frequency:** From 2012/13 the survey was conducted biennially. Therefore, no survey ran in 2015/16, with the last SCJS being in 2014/15. In 2016/17, the SCJS reverted to being conducted on an annual basis.
- **Sample:** the sample is designed to be representative of all private residential households across Scotland (with the exception of some of the smaller islands). A systematic random selection of private residential addresses across Scotland was produced from the Royal Mail 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 2016 and May 2017, with roughly an equal number of interviews conducted across most months. Challenges in fieldwork delivery were experienced and as a result, the fieldwork period was extended to increase the achieved sample size.
- **Interviews:** 5,567 face-to-face interviews were conducted in respondents' homes by professional interviewers from an original target of 6,000. The achieved response rate was 63.2%, against a target of 68%. This shortfall was similar to the achieved response rate in 2014/15, 63.8%, (but lower than the 67.7% achieved in 2012/13). Additional information about the impact of the fieldwork challenges is provided in the [Technical Report](#).
- **Interview Length:** Interviews lasted on average around 40 minutes, though there was variation in interview length, depending on the respondent's reported experience.
- **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 included in this report extends over 25 months (April 2015 to May 2017) 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](#).

What results does this report include and where can I find them?

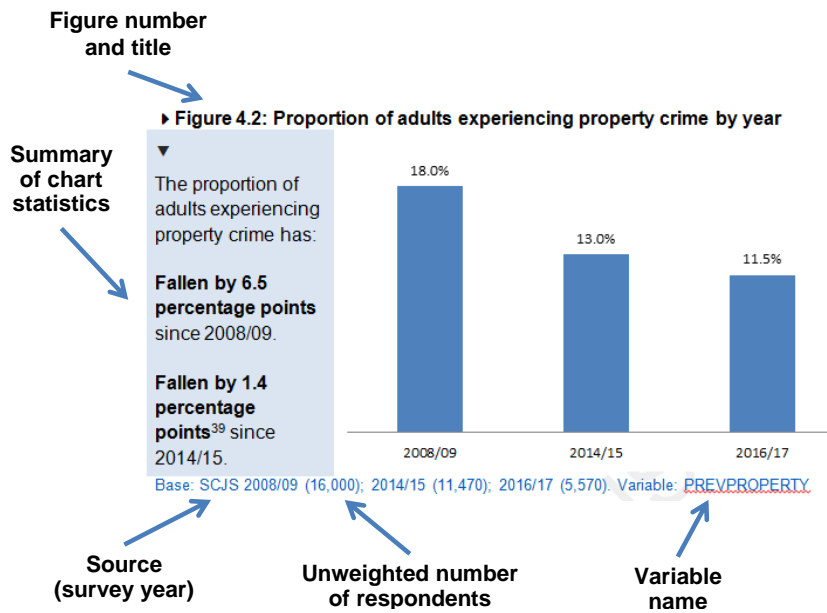
The report is split into seven main chapters, presenting data for the majority of topics covered by the survey questionnaire and is supported by summary [Annex Data Tables](#). The report does not include in-depth, multivariate statistical analysis that would explore the more complex underlying relationships within the data.

- [‘Overview of crime in Scotland’](#) examines the extent and prevalence of crime in Scotland. It estimates how many crimes were experienced by adults in Scotland and how this has changed over time. The chapter outlines the proportions of different types of crime within the overall group. Finally, it compares the victimisation rate in Scotland against results from the Crime Survey for England and Wales.
- [‘Focus on violent crime’](#) presents key results on the extent and prevalence of violent crime experienced by adults in Scotland. It explores how experiences of crime varied amongst different population groups. The chapter also examines the characteristics of violent crime in 2016/17 and what proportion of incidents were reported to the police.
- [‘Focus on property crime’](#) presents key results on the extent and prevalence of property crime experienced by adults in Scotland. It explores how experiences of crime varied amongst different population groups. The chapter also examines the characteristics of property crime in 2016/17 and what proportion of incidents were reported to the police.
- [‘Bringing together crime statistics’](#) examines the relationship and makes comparisons between SCJS estimates and police recorded crime figures.
- [‘Public perceptions of the police and the justice system’](#) explores confidence in and attitudes towards the police, trends in those measures over time and differences amongst the population. It then examines attitudes towards the criminal justice system in Scotland, including on elements such as prisons and community sentences.
- [‘Public perceptions of crime and safety’](#) provides information on adults’ views of crime in their local area and nationally. It explores how safe people felt in their local area and their home in 2016/17, and how worried the population were about experiencing crime.
- The [‘SCJS Topical Reports’](#) provide summaries of key findings from other aspects of the survey in 2016/17. They include a brief overview of SCJS results relating to [‘Cyber-crime in Scotland’](#) and wider developments being taken forward on this topic. Short summaries are also provided on the population’s experiences of [harassment and discrimination](#), [workplace abuse](#), and being offered [fake and smuggled goods](#).
- The [Annex tables](#) provide detailed data tables of the key crime data discussed in the report, including incidence and prevalence statistics, as well as tables on confidence in the police and the criminal justice system.

What do I need to know to help me understand the charts and tables?

The information provided alongside figures and tables includes a title, the data source (survey year etc.), a base definition and the unweighted number of respondents and, if relevant, a variable name. Unless otherwise stated the results are from 2016/17. Examples of a figure and a table are shown below. Changes which are statistically significant at the 95% level are highlighted in tables with arrows as shown in example below.

Figure



Table

Table number and title

► **Table 4.2: Estimated number of incidents of types of property crime (2008/09, 2014/15, 2016/17)**

Source (survey year)

| 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 |
| <i>Number of respondents</i> | 16,003 | 11,472 | 5,567 | | |

Unweighted number of respondents

Variable name(s)

Statistical testing to detect whether any apparent change is statistically significant change or not

Variables: INCPROPERTY; INCVAND; INCOTHERHOUSEHOLDTHEFTCYCLE; INCPPERSTHEFT; INCALLMVTHEFT; INCHOUSEBREAK

Unweighted Base

All SCJS percentages and rates presented in the figures and tables are based on weighted data (see Chapter 4 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 on². 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 three decimal places in the [data tables](#) released alongside this report. The prevalence estimates results presented in this report are provided to one decimal place which can sometimes be helpful where results are low. However, it should be noted that these results are estimates with associated ranges of uncertainty around them, which are taken account of in the statistical testing used in this report (and available more generally by using our [Users Statistical Testing Tool](#)).

Table row or column percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Percentages presented in tables and figures where they refer to the percentage of respondents, households or crimes that have the attribute being discussed may not sum to 100 per cent. Respondents have the option to refuse answering any question they did not wish to answer and the majority of questions have a 'don't know' option. Percentages for these response categories are generally not shown in tables and figures. In a small number of instances, to aid interpretation of the results, analysis is also presented based on data with 'don't know' and 'refused' responses removed.

A percentage may be quoted in the report text for a single category that is identifiable in the figures / tables only by summing two or more component percentages. In order to avoid rounding errors, the percentage has been recalculated for the single combined category and therefore may differ slightly (i.e. by one or two percentage points) from the sum of the percentages derived from the figures/tables shown.

Also, percentages quoted in the report may represent variables that allow respondents to choose multiple responses. These percentages will not sum to 100 per cent with the other percentages presented. They represent the percentage of the variable population that selected a certain response category.

How reliable are SCJS results?

2016/17 was the first year that the survey interviews were administered by new contractors and interviewers. However, the approach to delivering the survey and analysing the results has remained consistent and the vast majority of the questionnaire is also very consistent to previous years. We also worked closely with the contractor to code survey crimes consistently with previous years to ensure that the results from the survey remain comparable with those from previous years.

There may be errors in the recall of participants as to when certain incidents took place, resulting in some crimes being wrongly included in, or excluded from, the reference period. A number of steps in the design of the questionnaire are taken to ensure, as far as

² i.e. this is generally how many people were asked the question for the results being discussed.

possible, that this does not happen, for example repeating key date questions in more detail.

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. If the experiences of those who cannot be contacted, or who refuse to take part, are different from those who are interviewed, and this cannot be corrected by weighting, then the survey will not reflect the experiences of the adults of Scotland as a whole. 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 a range of results with best estimates and also lower and upper estimates. The best estimate is the mean figure drawn from the sample. The lower and upper estimates are for the 95% confidence interval. The difference between these lower and upper estimates, the confidence intervals, are bands within which the 'true' value lies (i.e. that value which would be obtained if a census of the entire population was undertaken). These confidence intervals are calculated to the 95% level, meaning that we would expect the survey data to lie within this range 95 times if the survey were to be repeated 100 times, each with a different randomly selected sample of adults. For example, when we examine [incidence and prevalence of all crime](#), there is 95% certainty that the underlying incidence and prevalence figures lie between the lower and upper estimates.

Because of sampling variation, changes in reported estimates between survey years or between population subgroups may occur by chance. In other words, the change may simply be due to which respondents were randomly selected for interview. Whether this is likely to be the case has been assessed using standard statistical tests to examine whether differences are likely to be due to chance or represent a real difference. Only differences that are statistically significant at the 95% significance level are described as differences within this report.

In addition, it is often challenging to identify significant differences and changes for particularly rare events, for instance violent crime. For example, the prevalence of high frequency violent crime ([reported in Chapter 3](#)) would have to have fallen to below around 0.15% in 2016/17 (from 0.3% in 2008/09) for it to have been identified as a significant change.

Where no statistically significant change has been found between two estimates, this has been described as showing 'no change'. The presentation of uncertainty and change in this report reflect best practice guidance produced by the Government Statistical Service (GSS)³.

Uncertainty can be particularly high around some estimates, often where experiences are rare. We assessed this for crime incidence figures in this report by computing the relative standard error around the results (RSE), which is equal to the standard error of a survey estimate divided by the survey estimate multiplied by 100. We have flagged results which have RSE values > 20% are due to the higher levels of uncertainty around the figures we recommend that such results are used with caution.

³ GSS (2014) Communicating Uncertainty and Change: Guidance for official statistics producers-
<https://gss.civilservice.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Communicating-uncertainty-and-change-v1.pdf>

Where can I find more information and results?

This report contains a range of *demonstration tables* with the body of each of the main report chapters. Many of these tables include breakdowns by respondent characteristics such as age, gender, deprivation, rural/urban and victim status. Further detail on many of these tables, for example with additional breakdowns, and full time series results, are provided in the data tables presented in [Annex A](#).

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

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

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 multiple users across government, public services, academia and third sector. Engaging effectively with users is important in ensuring that the SCJS meets the needs of users.

If you want to find out more about work relating to the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey or any other facet of the work of the Scottish Government Statistics Group, you can through the following ways:

SCJS User Group

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

2018/19 Questionnaire Review

Our consultation inviting user feedback on the SCJS questionnaire for the 2018/19 survey has recently closed. The survey content has now been finalised with fieldwork commencing in early April 2017. More information on the review process, including the consultation paper and an outcomes report, can be found [here](#).

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.

2. Overview of crime in Scotland

In this report, *overall crime* measured by the SCJS is a product of two distinct groups being combined, violent and property crime.

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:

- Vandalism (including motor vehicle and property vandalism)
- All motor vehicle related theft (including theft and attempted theft of and from a vehicle)
- Housebreaking
- Other household theft (including bicycle theft)
- Personal theft (excluding robbery)

Further details on each of these groups is provided in the [Technical Report](#).

This chapter presents results on overall crime, with findings for each of the two main crime groups provided in the bespoke chapters on [violent](#) and [property](#) crime.

What was the extent and prevalence of crime in Scotland in 2016/17?

There were an estimated 712,000 crimes experienced by adults in Scotland in 2016/17.

The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (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 712,000 crimes committed against adults in Scotland in 2016/17.

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 627,000 and 797,000 incidents of crime in Scotland in 2016/17. The following analysis is focused on the best estimates derived for results across each sweep of the survey⁴.

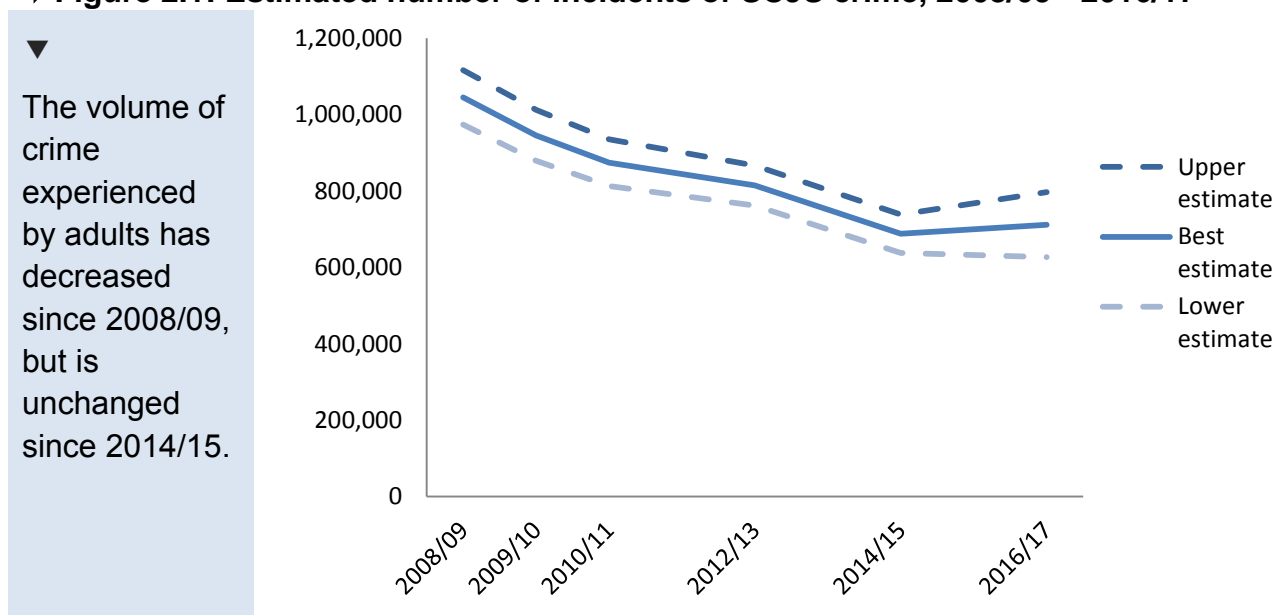
The overall level of crime experienced in Scotland has fallen by nearly a third since 2008/09, but has shown no change since 2014/15.

Figure 2.1⁵ displays the trend in the estimated number of SCJS crimes since 2008/09 and shows a declining trend over the longer-term.

⁴ Please see the [Introduction](#) for definitions of best, upper and lower estimates.

⁵ The increase in confidence interval shown by the greater difference between the lower and upper estimates in 2016/17 is due to a reduction in the target survey sample size in 2016/17.

► **Figure 2.1: Estimated number of incidents of SCJS crime, 2008/09 - 2016/17**



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). Variable: INCSURVEYCRIME

Table 2.1 looks at results from key comparator years⁶ more closely and reveals that the estimated number of incidents of crime experienced by adults:

- decreased by almost a third (32%) between 2008/09 and 2016/17, from 1,045,000 to 712,000 – a estimated decrease of just over 330,000 incidents;
- has shown no change since the last SCJS – the apparent increase from 688,000 incidents in 2014/15 is not statistically significant.

► **Table 2.1: Estimated number of all SCJS crimes (2008/09, 2014/15, 2016/17)**

| Number of SCJS crimes | 2008/09 | 2014/15 | 2016/17 | Change since 2008/09 | Change since 2014/15 |
|------------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Best estimate | 1,045,000 | 688,000 | 712,000 | ↓ by 32% | No change |
| Lower estimate | 974,000 | 638,000 | 627,000 | | |
| Upper estimate | 1,116,000 | 738,000 | 797,000 | | |
| <i>Number of respondents</i> | <i>16,000</i> | <i>11,470</i> | <i>5,570</i> | | |

Base: SCJS 2008/09 (16,000); 2014/15 (11,470); 2016/17 (5,570). Variable: INCSURVEYCRIME

⁶ Annex table A1.2 provides best estimates of the number of incidents of crime for each SCJS sweep since 2008/09.

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

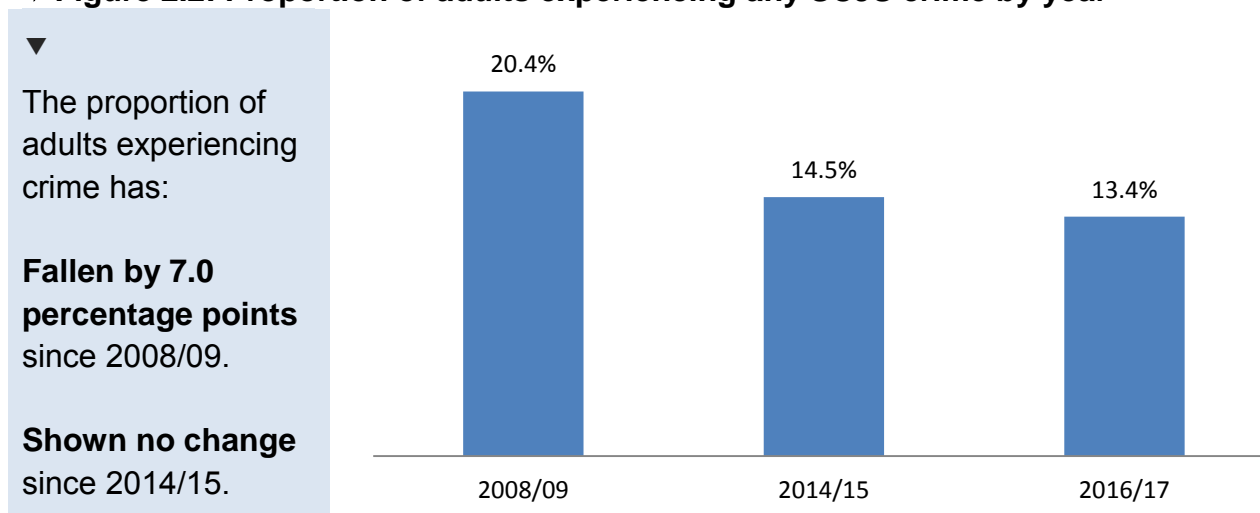
Consistent with previous years, the SCJS results show that most adults were not victims of any crime in 2016/17, with 13.4% estimated to have experienced at least one SCJS (property or violent) crime.

As with incident numbers, crime prevalence rates are also estimates derived from a sample survey of the population with associated margins of error around them. Taking into account these confidence intervals, between 12.4% and 14.5% of the adult population were estimated to have experienced at least one SCJS crime in 2016/17, with 13.4% representing the best estimate⁷. Again, as with incident counts, analysis from this point onwards will focus on the best estimates for results across the survey for each sweep⁸.

The proportion of adults experiencing crime has fallen from 20.4% in 2008/09 to 13.4% in 2016/17. In other words, the level of victimisation has dropped from around one in every five adults experiencing crime to fewer than one in seven, between 2008/09 and 2016/17.

Since the last SCJS, the proportion of adults who were the victim of crime has shown no change – the apparent fall from 14.5% in 2014/15 to 13.4% in 2016/17, shown in Figure 2.2, is not statistically significant.

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



Base: SCJS 2008/09 (16,000); 2014/15 (11,470); 2016/17 (5,570). Variable: PREVSURVEYCRIME

What sort of crime was experienced in Scotland in 2016/17?

Property crime incidents accounted for the majority of all crime in 2016/17.

The SCJS collects data on the adult population's experiences of two main types of crime – property and violent crime. In 2016/17, the SCJS estimates that just over two-thirds of all crimes (68%) were property-related, with the remaining 32% being violent incidents.

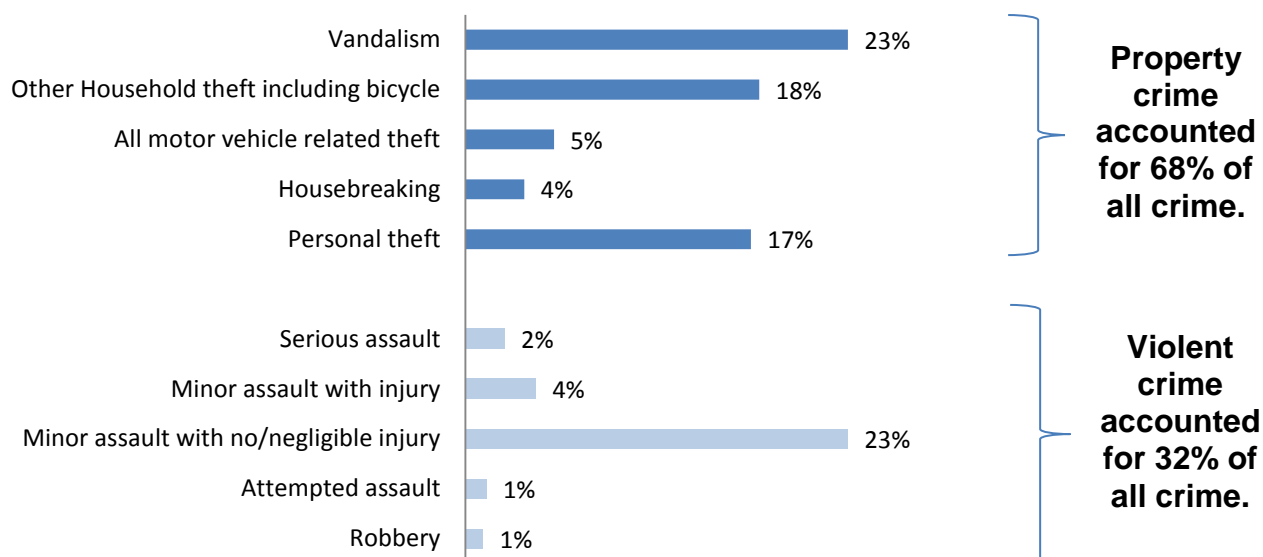
⁷ Please see the [Introduction](#) for definitions of best, upper and lower estimates.

⁸ Confidence Intervals around other survey results can be derived using the data tables and users statistical testing tool available on the SCJS website:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/Datasets/SCJS>

Figure 2.3 below shows a breakdown of the proportion of all crime accounted for by key sub-categories of property and violent crime. It shows that vandalism and minor assault resulting in no or negligible injury each accounted for just under one-quarter of all crimes measured by the SCJS in 2016/17 (23% each respectively). Other forms of violence in particular represented small proportions of all crime in Scotland.

► **Figure 2.3: Categories of crime as proportions of all SCJS crime in 2016/17**



Base: 2016/17 (5,570). Variable: Prevalence (PREV) variables

In line with property crime being much more common than violence, when we look at prevalence rates, the SCJS has consistently shown that adults in Scotland are much more likely to have experienced property crime than violent crime in any given year. The SCJS estimates that 11.5% of adults were victims of property crime in 2016/17, whilst 2.9% 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 property and violent crime experienced in Scotland in 2016/17, 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 2016/17 vary across the population?

The likelihood of experiencing crime in 2016/17 was higher amongst younger adults, those living in deprived areas and people from urban locations.

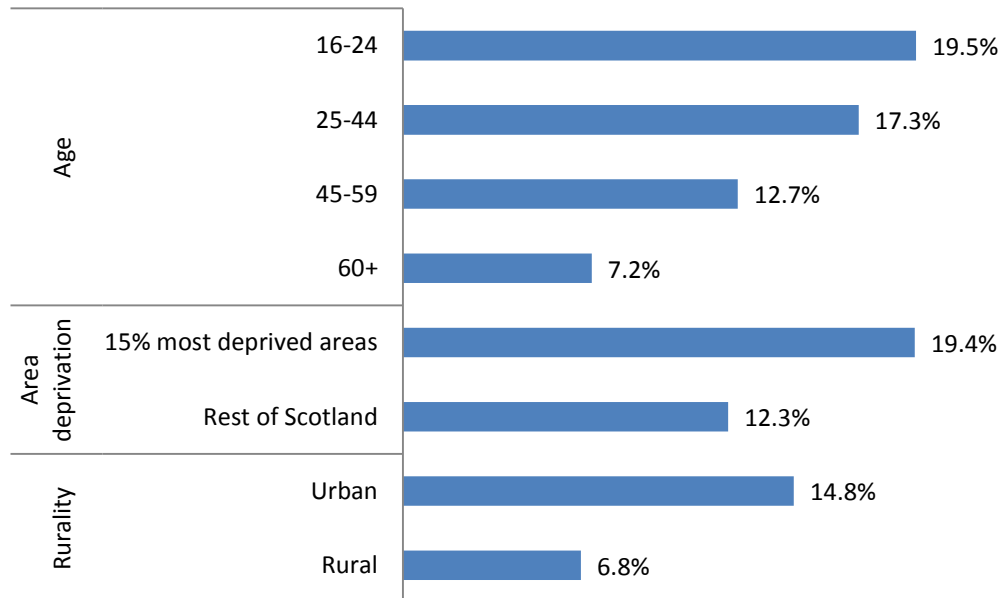
The proportion of adults who were victims of any SCJS crime in 2016/17 varied according to demographic and geographic characteristics. For instance, as shown in Figure 2.4, the likelihood of experiencing crime in 2016/17:

- Decreased with age.
- 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 2016/17, at 13.9% and 13.0% respectively.

► **Figure 2.4: Proportion of adults experiencing any crime measured by SCJS in 2016/17**



Base: 2016/17 (5,570). Variable: PREVSURVEYCRIME, QDAGE, SIMD_TOP, URBRUR.

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

Looking at trends over time reveals that the crime victimisation rate has decreased since 2008/09 across many key groups in the population - including both males and females; all age groups; those living in the most deprived areas as well as those living elsewhere in Scotland; and adults in both urban and rural locations⁹.

For example, the proportion of those in the 15% most deprived areas experiencing SCJS crime has fallen from just over one-in-four (26.0%) to just under one-in-five (19.4%) since 2008/09. Over the same period, the prevalence rate for those living elsewhere in Scotland fell from 19.4% to 12.3%.

In line with the national average, most groups have experienced no change in the overall likelihood of being a victim of crime since 2014/15. That said, the prevalence rate did fall from 9.9% to 6.8% for adults living in rural areas over this period.

⁹ Please see Annex table A1.6 for relevant results and the SCJS supporting [data tables](#) for additional breakdowns.

What can the SCJS tell us about multiple victimisation?

As outlined previously, the SCJS estimates that 13.4% of the population were victims of at least one property or violent crime in 2016/17, meaning that the majority of adults did not experience any crime during the year. 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 more than one crime (of any type) during the year, 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](#).

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 subset 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 property and violent crime are presented separately in the relevant '[Focus on property crime](#)' and '[Focus on violent crime](#)' sections of this report.

4.3% of adults experienced two or more crimes in 2016/17, accounting for more than 60% of all SCJS crime.

As discussed [above](#), the majority of adults (86.6%) did not experience any crime measured by the SCJS in 2016/17, and conversely 13.4% were victims of at least one property or violent crime.

Examining the volume of crime experienced by individual victims more closely reveals that just under one in ten adults (9.2%) were victims of a single incident of SCJS crime in 2016/17, accounting for 39% of all crime.

It is therefore estimated that multiple victimisation affected 4.3% of the adult population in 2016/17, and that this group experienced more than three-fifths of all SCJS crime (61%) during the year. These victims are estimated to have experienced 2.3 crimes each on average.

Table 2.2 highlights these results in more detail. It shows the proportion of adults who experienced single incidents of crime and different levels of multiple victimisation over the year, and the proportion of SCJS crime overall experienced by each group.

► **Table 2.2: Proportion of all SCJS crime experienced by multiple victims, by number of crimes experienced (2016/17)**

| | Number of crimes | % of population | % of SCJS crime |
|---|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| ▼ 0.7% of adults experienced five or more crimes during 2016/17. Taken together, their experiences accounted for 23% of all SCJS crime over the year. | None | 86.6% | 0% |
| | One | 9.2% | 39% |
| | Two | 2.4% | 20% |
| | Three | 0.7% | 10% |
| | Four | 0.5% | 9% |
| | Five or more | 0.7% | 23% |
| | Two or more | 4.3% | 61% |

Base: SCJS 2016/17 (5,570). Variable: INCSURVEYCRIME, PREVSURVEYCRIME.

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

Figure 2.5 explores trends in single and multiple victimisation over time. It highlights that between 2008/09 and 2016/17 there were decreases in the proportion of adults experiencing:

- single incidents of SCJS crime – from 12.2% to 9.2%;
- multiple victimisation (two or more incidents of SCJS crime) – from 8.2% to 4.3%; and
- high frequency multiple victimisation (five or more incidents of SCJS crime) – from 1.5% to 0.7%.

The fall in the various levels of victimisation since 2008/09 has occurred alongside a fall in the overall SCJS crime victimisation rate¹⁰ over this period, as discussed [previously](#).

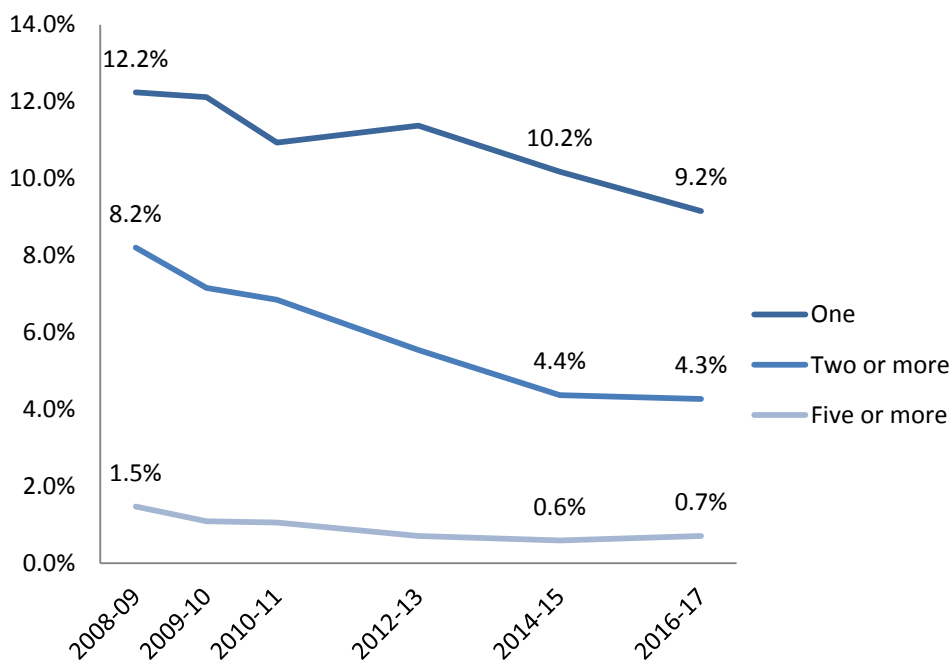
Since the last SCJS in 2014/15, there has been no change in the proportion of adults experiencing single or multiple victimisation – the apparent differences shown in Figure 2.5 are not statistically significant.

¹⁰ 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 4.3% between 2008/09 and 2016/17.

High frequency multiple victimisation has 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). Variable: INCSURVEYCRIME, PREVSURVEYCRIME.

In summary these findings show that, compared to 2008/09, adults in 2016/17 were less likely to be victims of:

- at least one crime SCJS crime,
- one SCJS crime specifically, and
- more than one SCJS crime.

What proportion of crime was reported to the police in 2016/17?

It is estimated that the police became aware of 37% of SCJS crime in 2016/17, 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.

Looking at the headline rate of crime reported to the police, the SCJS estimates that 37% of all SCJS (property and violent) crime in 2016/17 came to the attention of the police. This proportion has shown no change since 2008/09. It is estimated that 34% of property crime was reported to the police in 2016/17, compared to 43% of violent incidents – although this apparent difference in reporting rates is not statistically significant. Further information on the reporting rates and the reasons behind non-reporting are presented in the respective '[Focus on violent crime](#)' and '[Focus on property crime](#)' chapters.

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

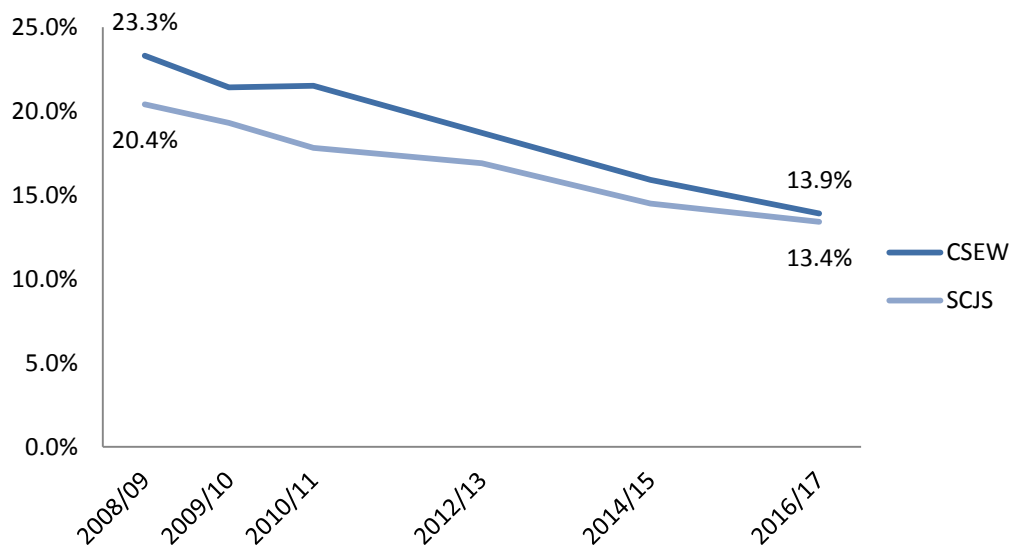
A similar proportion of adults experienced crime in both Scotland and England & Wales in 2016/17.

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 are often challenging due to methodological differences.

That said, the SCJS is similar to the [Crime Survey for England and Wales](#) (CSEW), with both surveys following on from the British Crime Survey (BCS). Although there are some differences between the surveys, for example the coding of crimes varies between the SCJS and the CSEW to reflect the different criminal justice systems in which they operate, the overall results on the proportion of adults experiencing crime are broadly comparable. Further information on the similarities and differences between the SCJS and CSEW are provided in the SCJS 2016/17 [Technical Report](#).

Looking at the overall crime victimisation rates, in previous years, such as 2014/15, the proportion of adults estimated to have experienced crime was lower in Scotland than in England and Wales. However, as depicted in Figure 2.6, in 2016/17 there was estimated to have been no statistically significant difference between the 13.4% victimisation rate in Scotland and the 13.9% rate in England and Wales.

► **Figure 2.6: Proportion of adults experiencing crime measured by SCJS and CSEW over time**



Base: SCJS 2008/09 (16,000); 2009/10 (16,040); 2010/11 (13,010); 2012/13 (12,050); 2014/15 (11,470); 2016/17 (5,570). SCJS prevalence - Variable: PREVSURVEYCRIME.CSEW prevalence - <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/crimeinenglandandwalesbulletintables>

3. Focus on violent crime

What was the extent and prevalence of violent crime in Scotland in 2016/17?

There were an estimated 231,000 violent crimes experienced by adults in 2016/17, representing about a third of all crime.

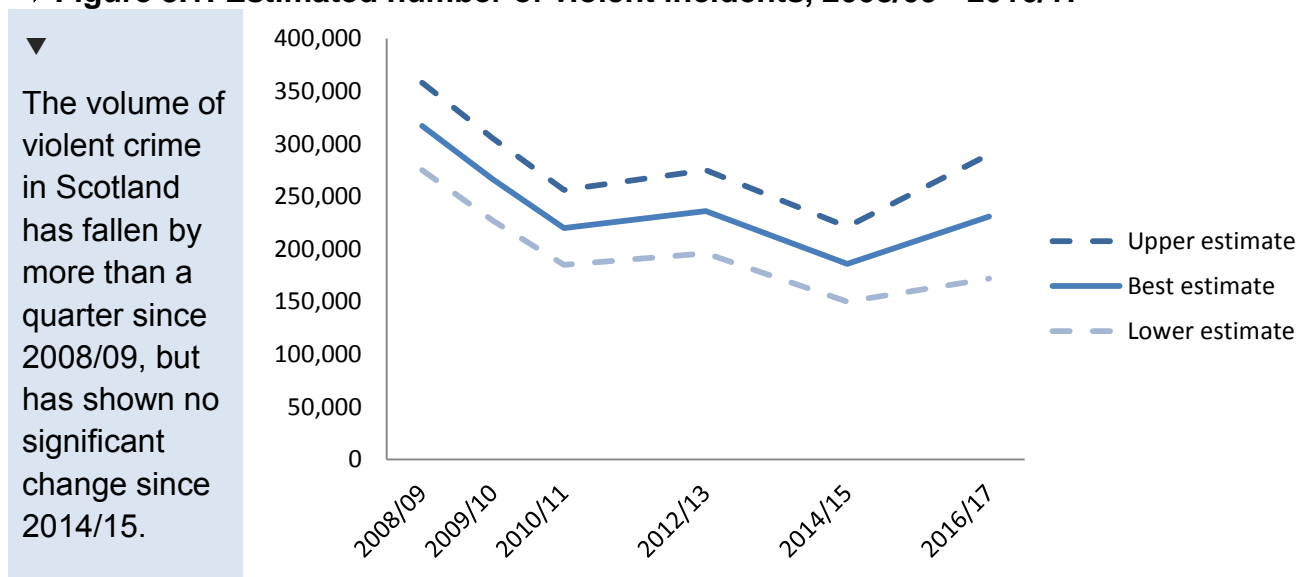
The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey estimates that 231,000 violent crimes were experienced by adults in Scotland in 2016/17^{11 12}. This figure accounts for 32% of all crime measured by the SCJS in 2016/17, with the remainder being property-related.

As a sample survey of the general public, SCJS results are estimated values with 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 confidence intervals, the SCJS estimates that there were between 172,000 and 290,000 incidents of violent crime in Scotland in 2016/17. The following analysis is focused on the best estimates for each sweep of the survey.

The level of violent crime in Scotland has fallen by more than a quarter since 2008/09.

Figure 3.1 displays the number of violent incidents estimated to have taken place by each sweep of the SCJS since 2008/09, and shows a downward trend over the longer-term¹³.

► **Figure 3.1: Estimated number of violent incidents, 2008/09 - 2016/17**



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). Variable: INCVIOLENT

¹¹ Crime estimates are rounded to the nearest 1,000 crimes.

¹² Details on the specific crimes within the violence group are outlined in the '[Overview of crime](#)' chapter.

¹³ The increase in confidence interval shown by the greater difference between the lower and upper estimates in 2016/17 is due to reduction in the target survey sample size in 2016/17. Please see the [Introduction](#) for definitions of best, upper and lower estimates.

Table 3.1 examines results from key comparator years¹⁴ more closely and shows that the estimated amount of violent crime experienced by adults:

- fell by 27% between 2008/09 and 2016/17 from 317,000 to 231,000 incidents;
- has shown no real change since the last SCJS in 2014/15 – the apparent increase from 186,000 violent incidents in 2014/15 is not statistically significant.

► **Table 3.1: Estimated of number of violent crimes (2008/09, 2014/15, 2016/17)**

| Number of violent crimes | 2008/09 | 2014/15 | 2016/17 | Change since 2008/09 | Change since 2014/15 |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Best estimate | 317,000 | 186,000 | 231,000 | ↓ by 27% | No change |
| Lower estimate | 275,000 | 150,000 | 172,000 | | |
| Upper estimate | 358,000 | 221,000 | 290,000 | | |
| <i>Number of respondents</i> | <i>16,000</i> | <i>11,470</i> | <i>5,570</i> | | |

Base: SCJS 2008/09 (16,000); 2014/15 (11,470); 2016/17 (5,570). Variable: INCVIOLENT

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 year¹⁵. As a result, analysis of findings between adjacent surveys are often less likely to identify statistically significant changes. However, where they exist, the SCJS can often identify significant changes and trends over the longer-term (such as since 2008/09).

The likelihood of experiencing violent crime is relatively small and has fallen significantly since 2008/09 alongside a reduction in the number of incidents.

In line with survey results in previous years, the vast majority of adults in Scotland did not experience violent crime in 2016/17. The SCJS estimates that 2.9% of adults were victims of at least one violent crime in 2016/17. In comparison, an estimated 11.5% of adults experienced property crime in 2016/17.

As with incident numbers, 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 2.3% and 3.4% of the adult population were estimated to have experienced violent crime in 2016/17, with 2.9% representing the best estimate¹⁶. Again, as with incident counts, analysis from this point onwards will focus on the best estimates for results across the survey for each sweep¹⁷.

¹⁴ Annex table A1.2 provides best estimates of the number of incidents of violent crime for each SCJS sweep since 2008/09.

¹⁵ For instance, 144 respondents in 2016/17.

¹⁶ Please see [Introduction](#) for definitions of best, upper and lower estimates.

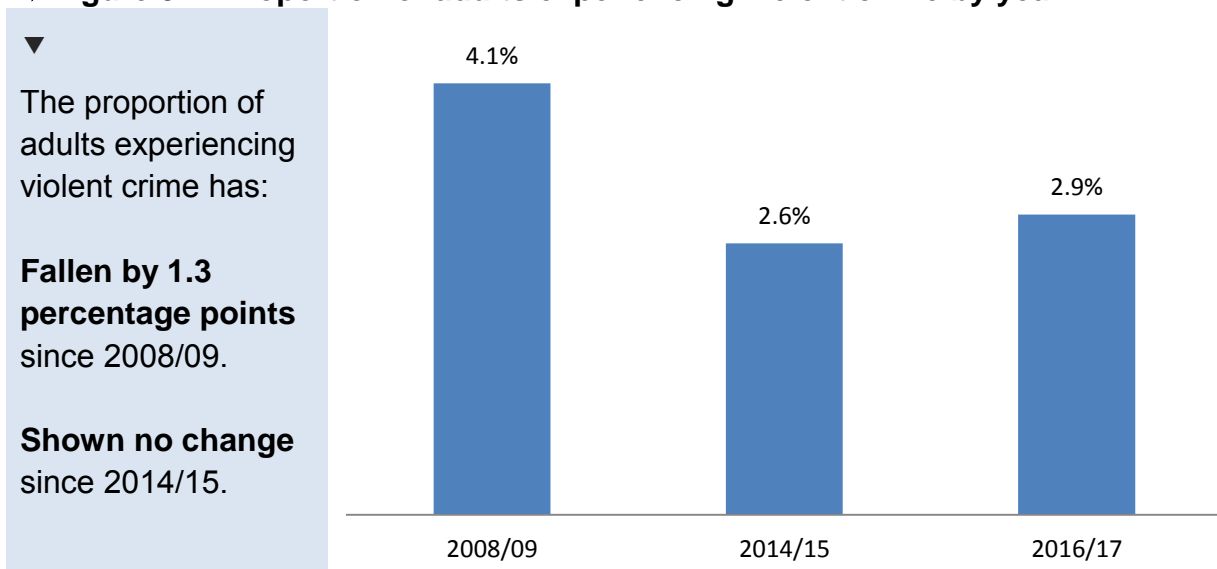
¹⁷ Confidence Intervals around other survey results can be derived using the data tables and users statistical testing tool available on the SCJS website:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/Datasets/SCJS>

Looking at trends over time, the proportion of adults experiencing violent crime has fallen from 4.1% in 2008/09 to 2.9% in 2016/17. Overall, this suggests that violent crime victimisation in Scotland has been relatively uncommon over recent years and is becoming a rarer experience still.

That said, since the last SCJS in 2014/15 there has been no real change detected in the proportion of the adults experiencing violent crime. The apparent increase from 2.6% in 2014/15 to 2.9% in 2016/17 is not statistically significant, as noted in Figure 3.2. This reflects the finding that the estimated number of violent incidents has also shown no change since 2014/15, however as noted above, the SCJS is often better able to identify trends and changes, where they exist, over longer time periods.

► **Figure 3.2: Proportion of adults experiencing violent crime by year**



Base: SCJS 2008/09 (16,000); 2014/15 (11,470); 2016/17 (5,570). Variable: PREVVIOLENT

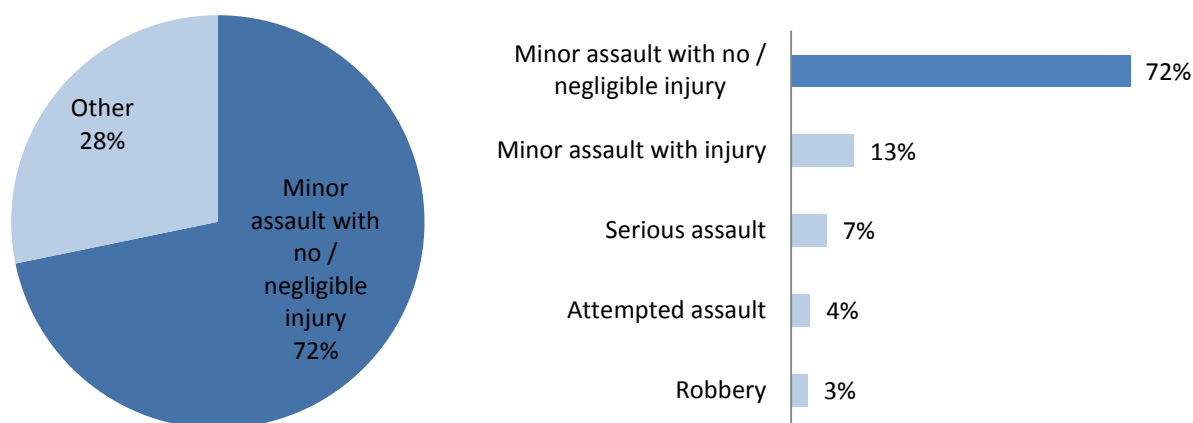
What types of violent crime were most commonly experienced in 2016/17?

The majority of violent crimes in 2016/17 were incidents of minor assaults resulting in no or negligible injury.

Almost three-quarters of violent incidents in 2016/17 (72%) were cases of minor assault with no or negligible injury to the victim, as shown in Figure 3.3.

By comparison, fewer than one in ten violent incidents (7%) in 2016/17 were serious assaults, whilst less than one in twenty (3%) were robberies. Taken together, all categories of assault accounted for 97% of violent crime.

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



Base: 2016/17 (5,570). Variable: INCSERASSAULT, INCMINORASSINJURY, INCMINORASSNOINJURY, INCATTEMPTASSAULT INCROB.

Whilst assaults continue to be the most common form of violence experienced, the number of incidents and proportion of adults affected has fallen greatly since 2008/09.

Considering the two main categories of violent crime (assault and robbery) the SCJS finds that there have been notable reductions in the number of incidents across both groups since 2008/09 – leading to decreases in violent crime overall. For instance, as shown in Table 3.2, it is estimated that there were almost 75,000 fewer assaults in 2016/17 than in 2008/09. The estimated number of robberies has more than halved over this period¹⁸.

► **Table 3.2: Estimated number of incidents of types of violent crime**

| Crime type | 2008/09 | 2014/15 | 2016/17 | Change since 2008/09 | Change since 2014/15 |
|--|----------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| VIOLENT CRIME | 317,000 | 186,000 | 231,000 | ↓ by 27% | No change |
| Assault (inc. attempted, minor and serious) | 297,000 | 179,000 | 223,000 | ↓ by 25% | No change |
| Serious assault ¹⁹ | 26,000 | 8,000 | 17,000 [#] | No change | No change |
| Robbery | 20,000 | 7,000 | 8,000[#] | ↓ by 59% | No change |
| <i>Number of respondents</i> | <i>16,000</i> | <i>11,470</i> | <i>5,570</i> | | |

Variables: INCVIOLENT; INCASSAULT; INCSERASSAULT; INCROB.

#: Use with caution – the estimate has a relative standard error of greater than 20%.

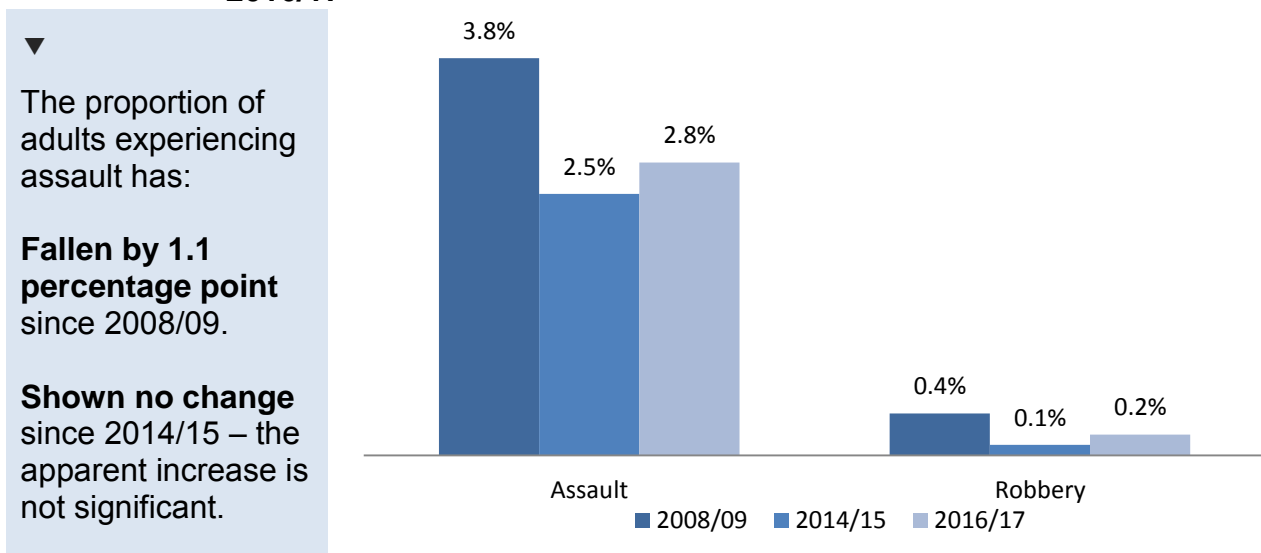
¹⁸ These results should be used with caution – the robbery estimate has a relative standard error of greater than 20%. Further information is provided in the [Introduction](#).

¹⁹ Included within overall assault estimates.

As in previous years, the prevalence rate for different categories of violent crime varied greatly in 2016/17. Despite still being a relatively rare experience, adults were around fourteen times more likely to have been victims of assault in 2016/17 than robbery (experienced by 2.8% and 0.2% respectively), as shown in Figure 3.4.

Examining trends over time, the SCJS finds that the prevalence of assault fell between 2008/09 and 2016/17 from 3.8% to 2.8%, whilst the likelihood of experiencing robbery did not show any significant change over the same period²⁰.

► **Figure 3.4: Proportion of adults experiencing types of violent crime, 2008/09 – 2016/17**



▼
The proportion of adults experiencing assault has:
Fallen by 1.1 percentage point since 2008/09.
Shown no change since 2014/15 – the apparent increase is not significant.

Base: SCJS 2008/09 (16,000); 2014/15 (11,470); 2016/17 (5,570). Variables: PREVASSAULT; PREVROB.

Whilst a small proportion of adults were victims of any sort of violence in 2016/17, 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 (2.0%) than minor assault resulting in injury (0.4%) or serious assault (0.2%).

How did experiences of violent crime vary across the population?

Younger adults, people in the most deprived areas of Scotland and those living in urban locations were more likely to be victims of violent crime in 2016/17.

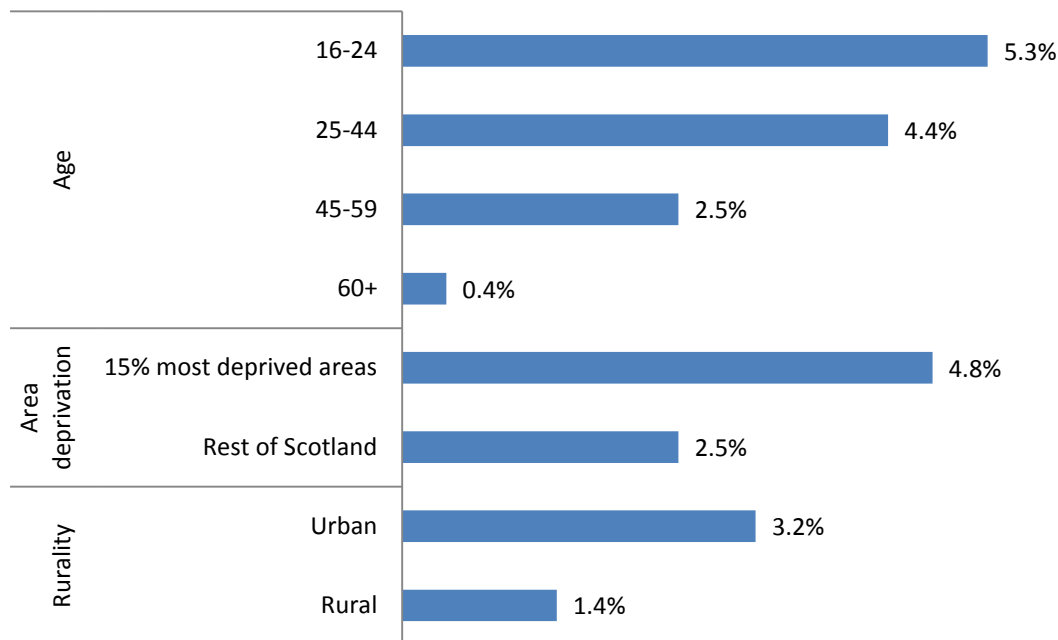
The SCJS enables us to examine how experiences of violent crime varied across the population by demographic and geographic characteristics. As shown in Figure 3.5, and similar to [property crime](#), the likelihood of being a victim of violent crime in 2016/17:

- Decreased with age;
- Was greater for those living in the 15% most deprived areas in Scotland; and
- Was greater for adults living in urban locations.

²⁰ It should be noted that can often be challenging to identify changes for rarer events, as outlined in the [Introduction](#).

Unlike results in previous years, the SCJS did not detect a significant difference in the proportion of males and females who experienced violent crime in 2016/17 (3.4% and 2.3% respectively)²¹.

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



Base: 2016/17 (5,570). Variable: INCSURVEYCRIME, QDAGE, SIMD_TOP, URBRUR.

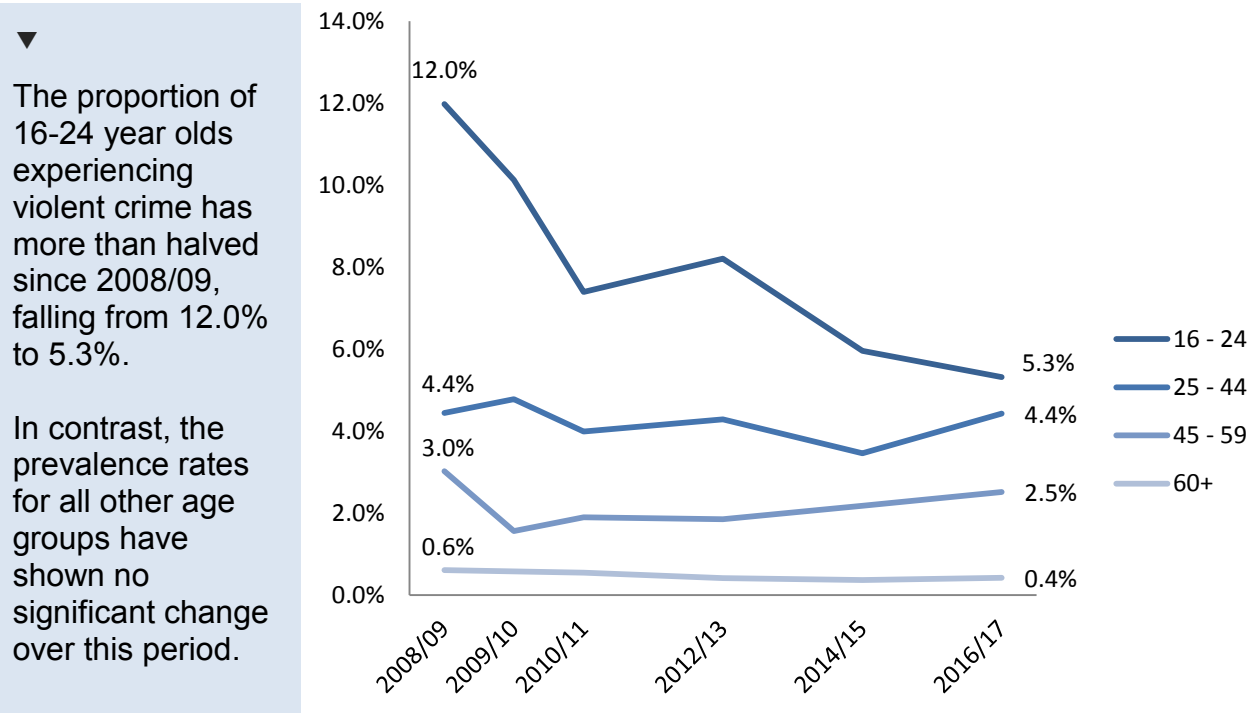
Examined in more detail, these results show that just over 1 in 20 adults aged 16-24 (5.3%) were victims of violent crime in 2016/17, compared to around 1 in 200 of those aged 60 and over (0.4%). Looking at area deprivation, those living in the 15% most deprived areas were almost twice as likely to experience violent crime in 2016/17 as those living in the rest of Scotland.

The proportion of younger adults experiencing violent crime has more than halved since 2008/09, but similar improvements have not been experienced by all groups over this period.

Considering trends in victimisation over time, the SCJS finds that since 2008/09 changes in the prevalence of violent crime have not been experienced evenly across the population. For example, Figure 3.6 shows the differing trends experienced by different age groups between 2008/09 and 2016/17.

²¹ Additional breakdowns are provided in Annex table A1.7 and the SCJS supporting [data tables](#), for example age within gender, disability status and tenure.

► **Figure 3.6: Proportion of adults experiencing violent crime by age over time**



Base: SCJS 2008/09 (16,000); 2009/10 (16,040); 2010/11 (13,010); 2012/13 (12,050); 2014/15 (11,470); 2016/17 (5,570). Variable: PREVVIOLENT, QDAGE.

That said, while trends in the victimisation rate have varied by different age groups since 2008/09, younger adults remained the group most likely to have been victims of violence in 2016/17.

Examining changes in the victimisation rate since 2008/09 for other demographic and geographic breakdowns²² reveals:

- the likelihood of experiencing violence has decreased for those living in urban areas (from 4.6% to 3.2%), but has shown no change in rural areas;
- the proportion of males experiencing violent crime has fallen by 2.3 percentage points (from 5.7% to 3.4%), but the prevalence rate for females has shown no change; and
- the prevalence rate for adults living in the 15% most deprived areas has not shown any significant change since 2008/09, whereas the rate has reduced for those living in the rest of Scotland (from 3.8% to 2.5%).

Since 2014/15, in line with the national average, there has been no statistically significant change in the violent crime victimisation rate across any of these key sub-population groups.

²² Please see Annex table A1.7 for relevant results. The SCJS supporting [data tables](#) provide further breakdowns.

What can the SCJS tell us about repeat victimisation?

The SCJS estimates that most adults did not experience violent crime in 2016/17, whilst 2.9% of the population were victims of at least one violent crime. However, the survey also enables us to further explore how experiences varied amongst victims and examine the concentration of crime, including what proportion of victims experienced a particular type of crime more than once during the year²³, 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](#).

Relatively few adults suffered from repeat victimisation in 2016/17, but their experiences accounted for two-thirds of all violent crime.

Table 3.3 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 reveals that 1.8% of adults were victims of a single violent incident over the year, with a smaller proportion of the population (1.1%) experiencing repeat victimisation (two or more violent crimes). These repeat victims are estimated to have experienced on average three violent crimes each during 2016/17, whilst together this group of adults are estimated to have experienced two-thirds (66%) of all violent crime committed against adults over this period. The table also highlights that an even smaller proportion of the population (0.3%) were high frequency repeat victims experiencing five or more incidents each.

► **Table 3.3: Proportion of violent crime experienced by repeat victims, by number of crimes experienced (2016/17)**

| ▼ | Number of crimes | % of population | % of violent crime |
|--|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| More than a quarter (28%) of all violent crime in 2016/17 was experienced by just 0.3% of adults who were victims of five or more violent incidents during the year. | None | 97.1% | 0% |
| | One | 1.8% | 34% |
| | Two | 0.6% | 25% |
| | Three | 0.1% | 6% |
| | Four | 0.1% | 7% |
| | Five or more | 0.3% | 28% |
| | Two or more | 1.1% | 66% |

Base: SCJS 2016/17 (5,570). Variable: PREVVIOLENT, INCVIOLENT.

The SCJS has not detected any change in the proportion of adults experiencing repeat and high frequency repeat violent crime victimisation since 2008/09.

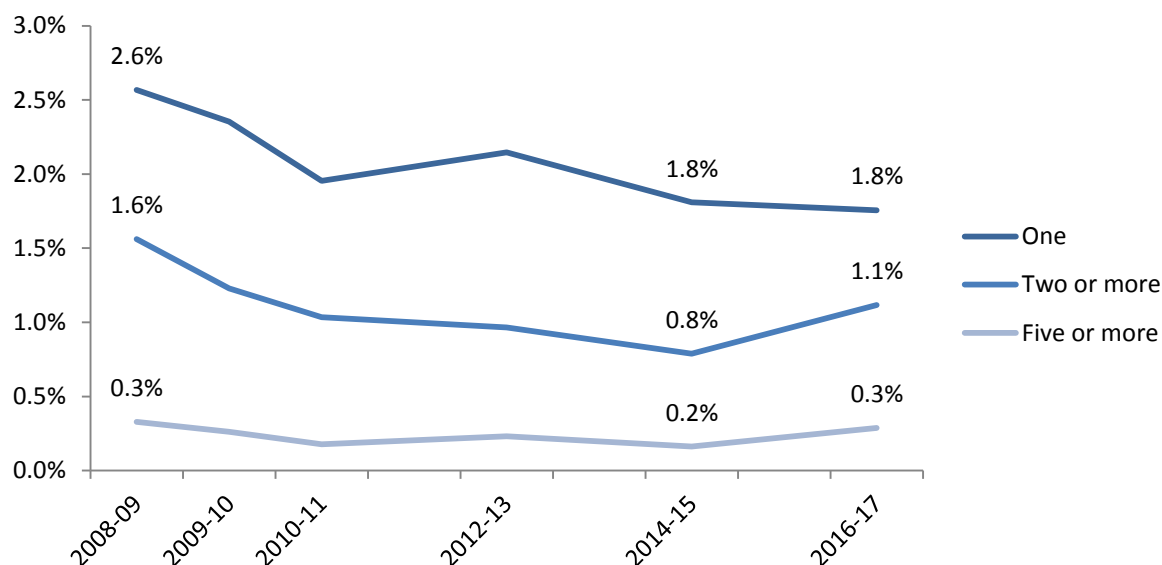
Figure 3.7 shows trends in single and repeat violent crime victimisation over time. It highlights that the proportion of adults experiencing only one incident of violence fell between 2008/09 and 2016/17 (from 2.6% to 1.8%). In contrast, notwithstanding the

²³ i.e. two or more experiences of violent crime.

difficulties associated with identifying significant changes for relatively rare experiences²⁴, since 2008/09 the SCJS has detected no change in the proportion of adults experiencing:

- repeat victimisation (two or more incidents of violence) – the apparent decrease from 1.6% to 1.1% is not significant;
- or high frequency repeat victimisation (five or more incidents of violence) – which had a prevalence rate of 0.3% in each year.

► **Figure 3.7: Proportion of adults experiencing number of violent crimes**



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

All levels of violent crime victimisation have shown no change since 2014/15.

The SCJS estimates that the proportion of adults experiencing *at least* one incident, one incident specifically, and two or more incidents of violent crime did not change between 2014/15 and 2016/17 - the apparent differences shown in Figure 3.7 are not statistically significant.

What were the characteristics of violent crime?

Nearly three-quarters of violent crime took place in public settings in 2016/17.

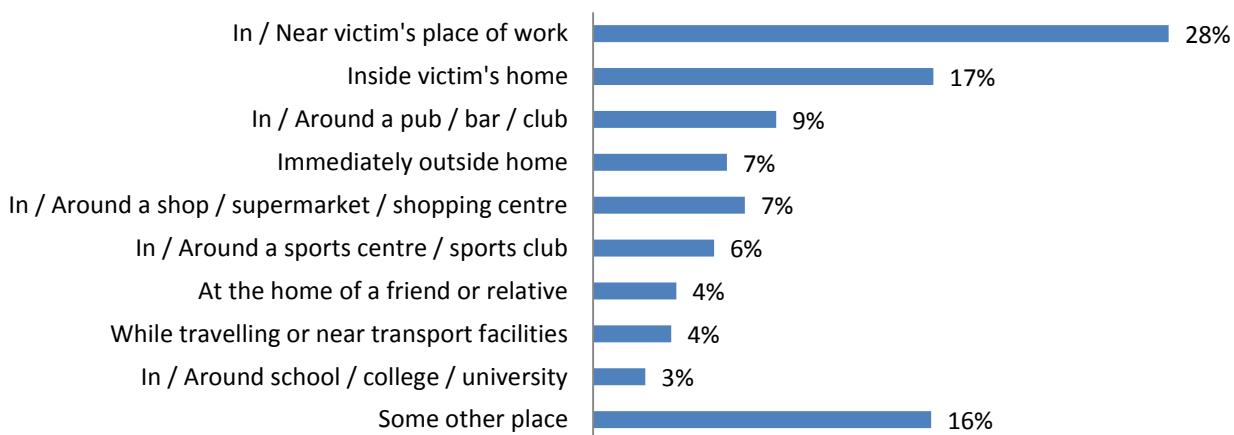
When locations are combined into broader categories, the SCJS estimates that just under three-quarters of violent incidents in 2016/17 (73%) occurred in a public setting, with the remainder taking place in a private space²⁵.

Figure 3.8 looks at particular locations more closely and demonstrates that violent crime was experienced in a variety of settings in 2016/17, with the respondent's place of work (28%) the most commonly cited specific location.

²⁴ As outlined in the [Introduction](#).

²⁵ 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.

► **Figure 3.8: Proportion of violent crime incidents occurring in different locations**



Base: Violent crime incidents (160); Variable: QWH1 / QWH3 / QWH5 / QWH7

The proportion of violent incidents estimated to have taken place in or around a pub or bar has fallen from 18% in 2008/09 and 17% in 2014/15 to 9% in 2016/17.

Although a higher proportion of violent crimes took place during the week, the incidence per day was greater at weekends.

Where respondents provided details about when an incident occurred²⁶, just over half of violent crime incidents (54%) happened during the week, with 46% taking place at weekends²⁷. However, taking into account the number of days within each category means that the incidence of violent crime per day was higher at weekends.

What do we know about perpetrators of violent crime?

In 87% of violent crime incidents reported in 2016/17, respondents were able to provide some information about the offender²⁸. The section below presents headline results on the details provided²⁹. All findings are proportions of cases where respondents were able to say something about the person or people who carried out the offence, unless stated otherwise.

More than four in five violent crimes were committed by male offenders.

The SCJS results highlight that the vast majority of violent crimes in 2016/17 (84%) were carried out by males only – a consistent finding over the years.

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

Figure 3.9 shows that violent crimes involved people from a range of age groups, but only around one in four incidents involved any offenders over the age of 40, suggesting that

²⁶ I.e. excluding those who said don't know or refused to give a time.

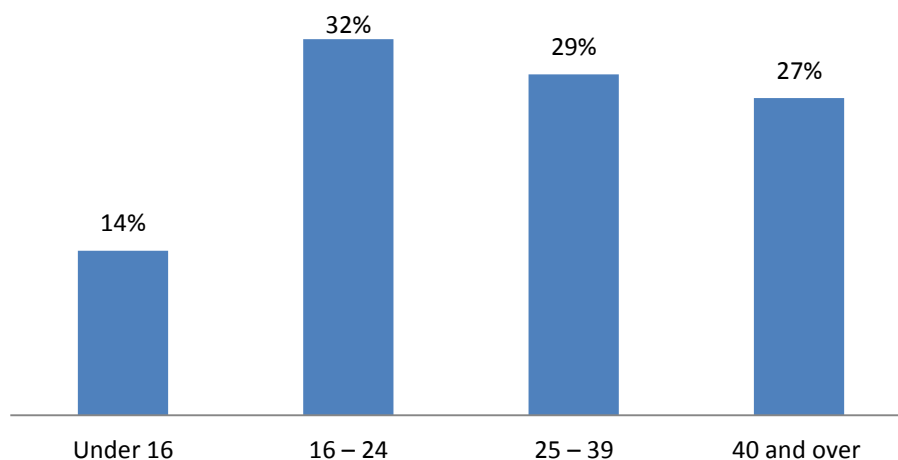
²⁷ Weekends were defined as 6pm on Friday to Sunday midnight.

²⁸ This has fallen from 98% in 2014/15.

²⁹ Additional results are available in the supporting [data tables](#). The analysis presented is based on a relatively small number of incidents (n=140). As such, results have relatively large margins of error around them meaning that they should be interpreted with caution.

perpetrators tend to be from younger cohorts³⁰. That said, the proportion of cases involving offenders aged 40 and over has increased from 12% in 2008/09.

► **Figure 3.9: Percentage of violent crime incidents involving offenders of each age group**



Base: Violent crime incidents where respondent could say something about offender (140); Variable: QAGE

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

Most incidents (71%) in 2016/17 were committed by people who the victims knew or had seen before. Where offenders were known by the victim, four out of five incidents (79%) were said to have involved people ‘known well’.

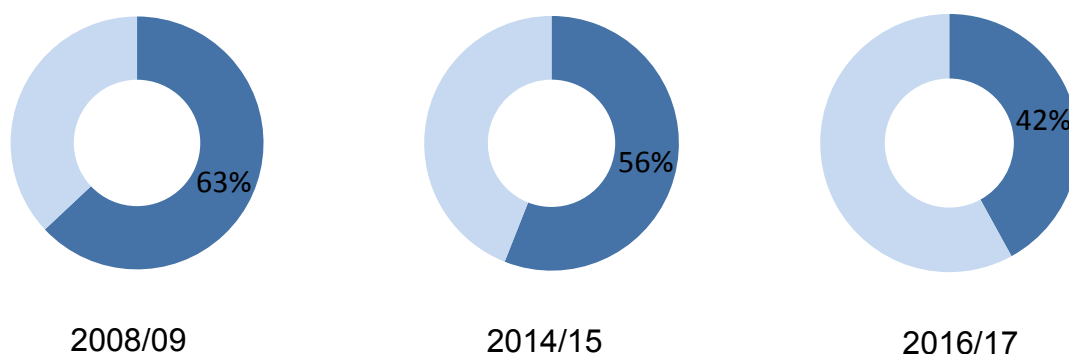
What do we know about the role of alcohol and weapons in violent crime?

The proportion of violent crimes involving offenders under the influence of alcohol has fallen from just over three-in-five in 2008/09 to around two in five in 2016/17.

Offenders were believed to be under the influence of alcohol in just over two-fifths (42%) of violent crime incidents where victims were able to say something about the offender in 2016/17. As Figure 3.10 shows, this proportion has decreased significantly over recent years.

³⁰ It is important to note that individual incidents may have involved offenders from different age groups. For instance, a proportion of the 32% of cases involving offenders aged 16-24 may have also involved perpetrators from other age groups.

► **Figure 3.10³¹: Proportion of violent crime offenders under the influence of alcohol**



Base: Violent crime incidents where respondent could say something about offender (140); Variable: QAL
 These findings coupled with a decline in the number of incidents said to have taken place in and around pubs and bars may suggest that alcohol is decreasing in prominence as a factor in violent crime overall – although it remains a factor in a sizeable proportion of incidents. It will be important to monitor these results into the future. For context, in relation to all incidents of violent crime in 2016/17, victims reported having consumed alcohol immediately before the incident in 22% of cases.

Relatedly, victims reported that just over one in five violent crimes (22%) involved offenders who were thought to be under the influence of drugs in 2016/17.

Violent crime in 2016/17 did not commonly involve the presence or use of weapons.

Victims who said that someone saw or heard what was going on (96% of violent incidents) were asked additional questions about their experience, including the presence of weapons. 15% of such incidents³² in 2016/17 were said to have involved perpetrators with weapons; no change was detected since 2010/11 (when this wording of this question was updated). A knife was reported as being present in 6% of violent incidents where someone saw or heard what was happening.

What was the impact of violent crime?

Three-fifths of violent incidents resulted in injury, although serious injuries were relatively rare.

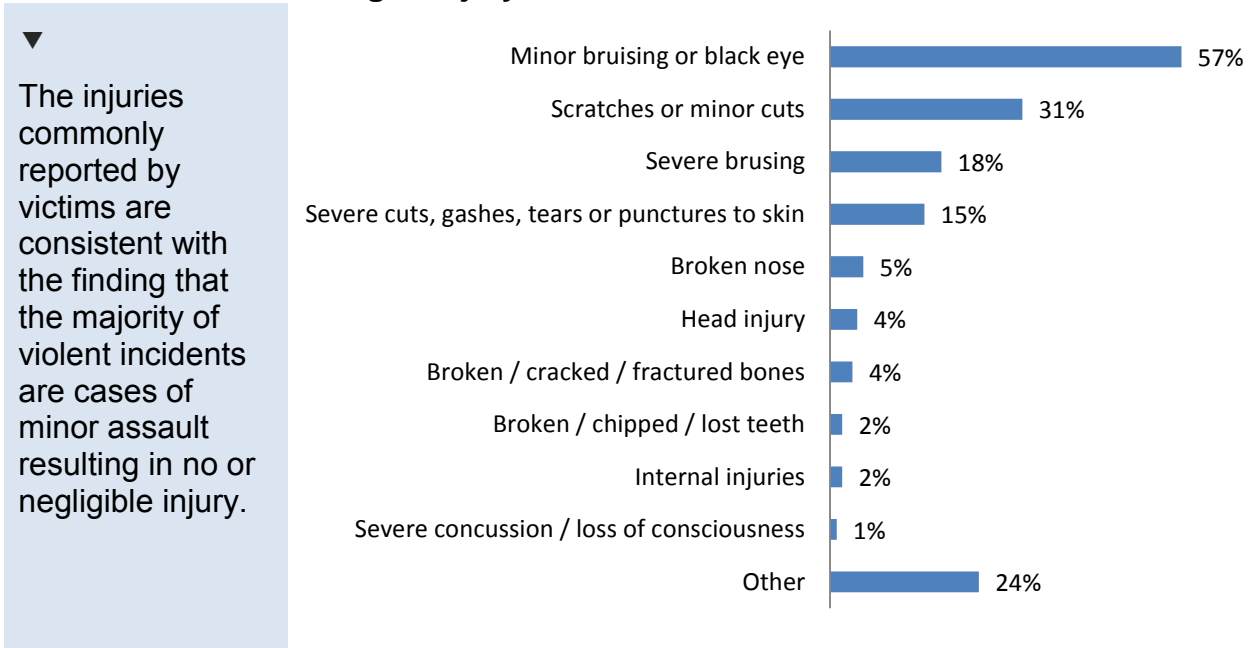
Where violent crime resulted in injury (59% of incidents), the most common injuries sustained in incidents were minor bruising or a black eye (57%%) and scratches or minor cuts (31%). More serious injuries like head injuries and broken bones occurred much less frequently, as shown in Figure 3.11³³

³¹ These findings are based only on incidents where the respondent could say something about the offender(s). This is an updated analytical approach to focus only on incidents where victims could provide information about the perpetrator(s) – 87% of incidents in 2016/17. Findings from 2008/09 and 2014/15 have been reproduced on this updated basis, so may differ from results published in previous SCJS reports (which were based on all violent crime incidents – regardless of whether respondents could provide info about the perpetrator).

³² Incidents where someone saw or heard what was going on.

³³ Other injuries were collected as open text responses and includes things like bite marks, sore hands and scraped knuckles which could not be coded under existing categories.

► **Figure 3.11: Type of injuries sustained as a proportion of violent incidents resulting in injury**



Base: Violent crime incidents where respondent was injured (80); Variable: QINW

Anger, annoyance and shock were the most common emotional reactions to violent crime.

Consistent with previous years, the emotional impacts most commonly reported by victims of violent crime in 2016/17 were anger (reported in 52% of violent incidents), annoyance (51%) and shock (50%).

Victims of violent crime were also more likely than victims of property crime to experience other strong negative emotional responses such as feeling depressed, losing confidence and having difficulty sleeping. For instance, 28% of violence victims said they had lost confidence or felt vulnerable compared to 12% of property crime victims.

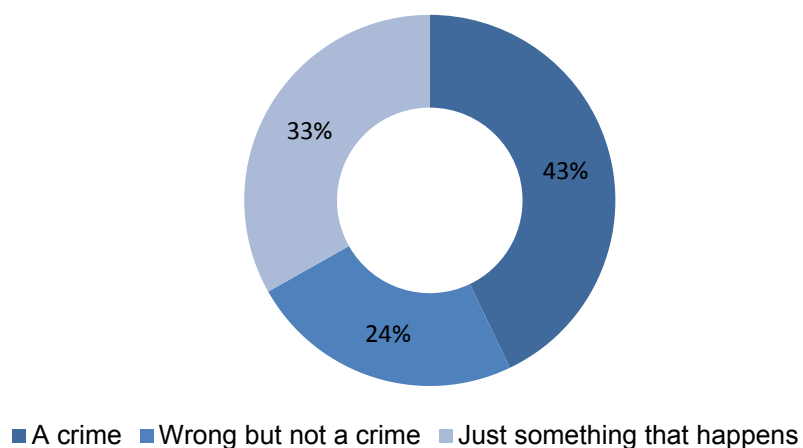
What proportion of violent crime was reported to the police?

Most violent incidents in 2016/17 were not considered to be crimes by the victims and more than half were not reported to the police.

The 2016/17 SCJS estimates that just over two-fifths of violent crime incidents (43%) were brought to the attention of the police. The reporting rate in 2016/17 was similar to that in both 2008/09 and 2014/15 (43% and 44% respectively), and not significantly different from the report rate for property crime in 2016/17 (34%).

There can be a range of factors which influence whether or not an individual reports an issue to the police, not least how the victim views their own experience. For instance, the SCJS finds that in just over two-fifths of violent crime incidents in 2016/17 (43%) victims thought their experience should be described as ‘a crime’ as shown in Figure 3.12 below. Almost two-thirds (64%) of incidents which victims considered to be a crime were brought to the attention of the police in 2016/17.

► **Figure 3.12: Victim's description of violent crime incidents experienced**



Base: Violent crime incidents (160); Variable: QCRNO

When asked directly why they did not report their experience, as in previous years, victims cited a range of reasons. The most common explanations provided by victims were that:

- they dealt with the matter themselves (47% of unreported violent crime incidents);
- the issue was considered a private, personal or family matter (24%);
- the matter was reported to other organisations or authorities (21%); or
- the experience was too trivial or not worth reporting (21%).

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 about a third of instances (32%). In just under a quarter of such incidents (23%) respondents received information or assistance from the Witness Service/Victim Support Scotland, and from the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service in slightly more than a tenth (12%). In a little over a third of cases (35%) victims said they had not received information or assistance from any organisation.

What consequences did victims believe offenders should have faced?

Most violent crime victims did not think the offender should have gone to court, but views varied greatly on what action would have been appropriate.

Regardless of whether the incident was reported to the police, victims in just under two-fifths (39%) of all violent crime thought the offender should have been prosecuted in court. This proportion has fallen from 52% in 2008/09, and is lower than the proportion of property crime victims in 2016/17 who thought offenders should have been prosecuted in court (52%).

More than two-fifths (42%) of those who did not think court was appropriate said nothing should have happened to the offender, whilst 23% thought they should have been made to apologise for their actions. On the other hand, half (50%) of those who thought the offender should have gone to court believed they should have received a prison sentence.

4. Focus on property crime

What was the extent and prevalence of property crime in 2016/17?

There were an estimated 481,000 property crimes in Scotland in 2016/17, representing just over two-thirds of all crime experienced by adults.

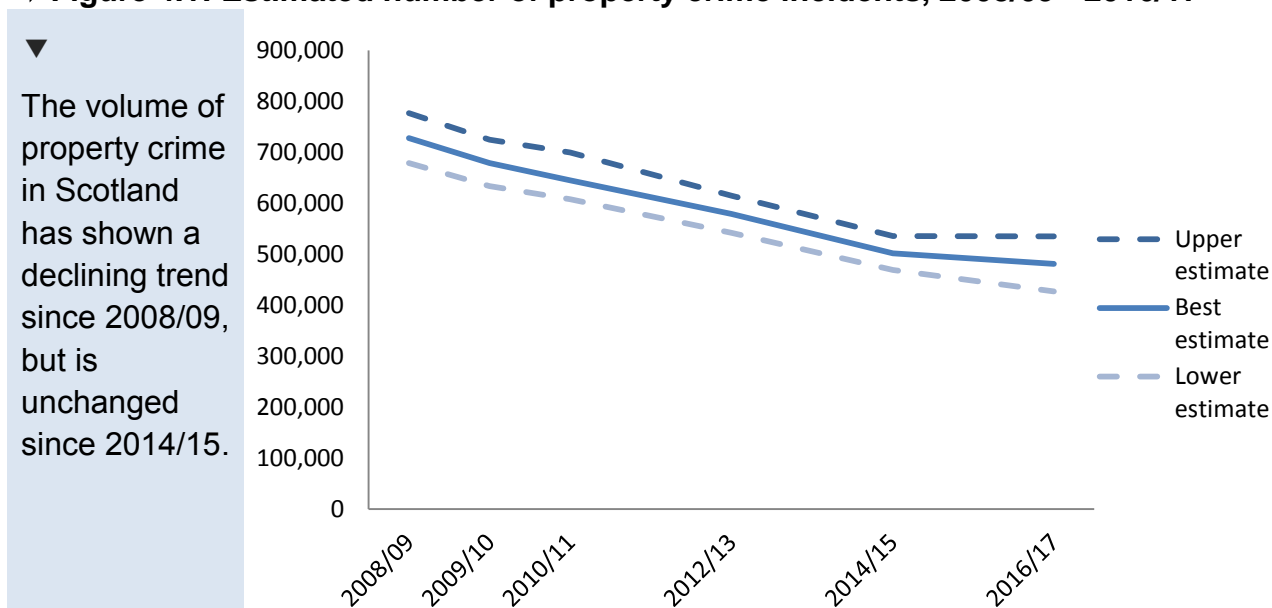
The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey estimates that 481,000 incidents³⁴ of property-related crime³⁵ were experienced by adults in Scotland in 2016/17. This represents around 68% of all crime measured by the SCJS in 2016/17, the remainder being incidents of violence.

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 427,000 and 535,000 incidents of property crime in Scotland in 2016/17. Analysis from this point onwards will focus on the best estimates for results across the survey for each sweep.

The amount of property crime experienced by adults in Scotland has fallen greatly since 2008/09, but shown no change since 2014/15.

Looking at trends over time, the SCJS finds that the number of property crime incidents has decreased markedly since 2008/09, as shown in Figure 4.1³⁶.

► **Figure 4.1: Estimated number of property crime incidents, 2008/09 - 2016/17**



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). Variable: INCPROPERTY

³⁴ Crime estimates are rounded to the nearest 1,000 crimes.

³⁵ Details on the specific crimes included within the property crime group are outlined in the [‘Overview of crime’](#) chapter.

³⁶ The increase in confidence interval shown by the greater difference between the lower and upper estimates in 2016/17 is due to a reduction in the target survey sample size in 2016/17. Please see [Introduction](#) for definitions of best, upper and lower estimates.

Table 4.1 examines results from key comparator years³⁷ more closely and shows that the estimated number of incidents of property crime experienced by adults has:

- reduced by 34% since 2008/09, from 728,000 to 481,000. This decrease of almost a quarter of a million incidents is statistically significant;
- shown no change since the last SCJS in 2014/15 – the apparent decrease from 502,000 in 2014/15 is not statistically significant.

► **Table 4.1: Estimated of number of property crimes (2008/09, 2014/15, 2016/17)**

| Crime type | 2008/09 | 2014/15 | 2016/17 | Change since 2008/09 | Change since 2014/15 |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Best estimate | 728,000 | 502,000 | 481,000 | ↓ by 34% | No change |
| Lower estimate | 679,000 | 469,000 | 427,000 | | |
| Upper estimate | 777,000 | 536,000 | 535,000 | | |
| <i>Number of respondents</i> | <i>16,000</i> | <i>11,470</i> | <i>5,570</i> | | |

Variable: INCPROPERTY.

As well as the number of incidents falling, the proportion of adults experiencing property crime has also decreased since 2008/09.

The SCJS results show that, as in previous years, most adults were not victims of any crime in 2016/17, with 11.5% experiencing property crime. Adults were nearly four times as likely to have been victims of property crime as violent crime in 2016/17, which was experienced by 2.9% of the population.

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 10.5% and 12.6% of the adult population were estimated to have experienced property crime in 2016/17, with 11.5% representing the best estimate³⁸. Again, as with incident counts, analysis from this point onwards will focus on the best estimates for results across the survey for each sweep³⁹.

The proportion of adults who were victims of property crime has fallen from 18.0% in 2008/09 and 13.0% in 2014/15 to 11.5% in 2016/17, as shown in Figure 4.2.

³⁷ Annex table A1.2 provides best estimates of the number of incidents of property crime for each SCJS sweep since 2008/09.

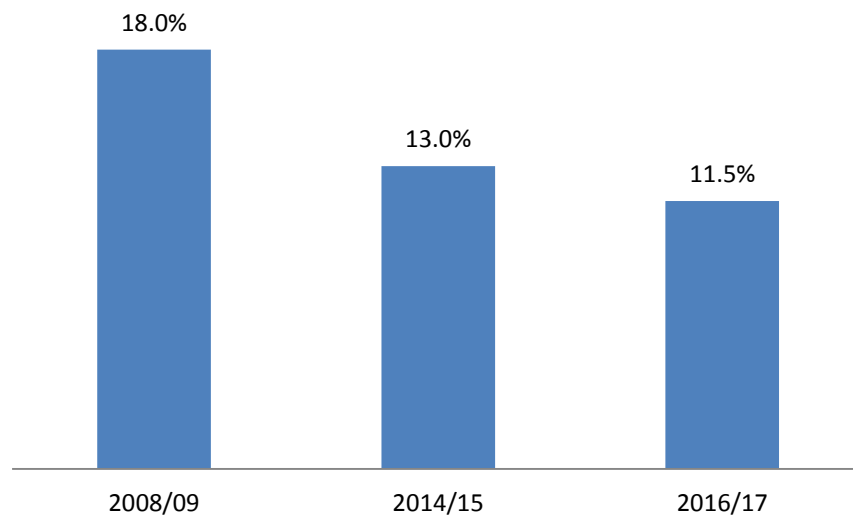
³⁸ Please see [Introduction](#) for definitions of best, upper and lower estimates.

³⁹ Confidence Intervals around other survey results can be derived using the data tables and users statistical testing tool available on the SCJS website:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/Datasets/SCJS>

► **Figure 4.2: Proportion of adults experiencing property crime by year**

▼
 The proportion of adults experiencing property crime has:
Fallen by 6.5 percentage points since 2008/09.
Fallen by 1.4 percentage points⁴⁰ since 2014/15.



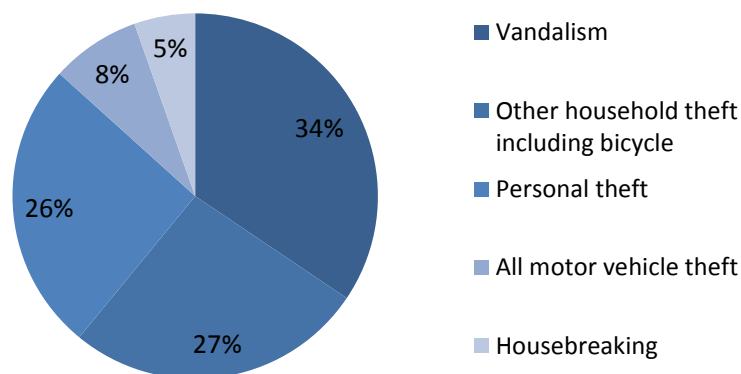
Base: SCJS 2008/09 (16,000); 2014/15 (11,470); 2016/17 (5,570). Variable: PREVPROPERTY

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 reduced markedly since 2008/09.

As shown in figure 4.3, a range of different types of property crime were experienced by adults in Scotland in 2016/17. As in previous years, incidents of vandalism accounted for the largest proportion of property crime incidents (34%) closely followed by 'other household theft (including bicycle theft)' (27%) and 'personal theft' (26%)⁴¹.

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



Base: SCJS 2016-17 (5,570). Variables: INCVAND, INCOTHERHOUSETHEFTCYCLE, INCALLMVTHEFT, INCHOUSEBREAK, INCPERSTHEFT.

There have been notable reductions in the number of incidents of vandalism, other household theft and motor vehicle related theft since 2008/09, as Table 4.2 below outlines.

⁴⁰ Using unrounded estimates to measure change shows a difference of 1.4 percentage points.

⁴¹ Further details on the categories of property crime are provided in the [Introduction](#) and the 2016/17 [Technical Report](#).

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 166,000.

Since 2014/15, the amount of other household theft has fallen by around a fifth, whilst all other categories of property crime have shown no real change in the number of incidents over the short-term.

► **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 |
| <i>Number of respondents</i> | <i>16,003</i> | <i>11,472</i> | <i>5,567</i> | | |

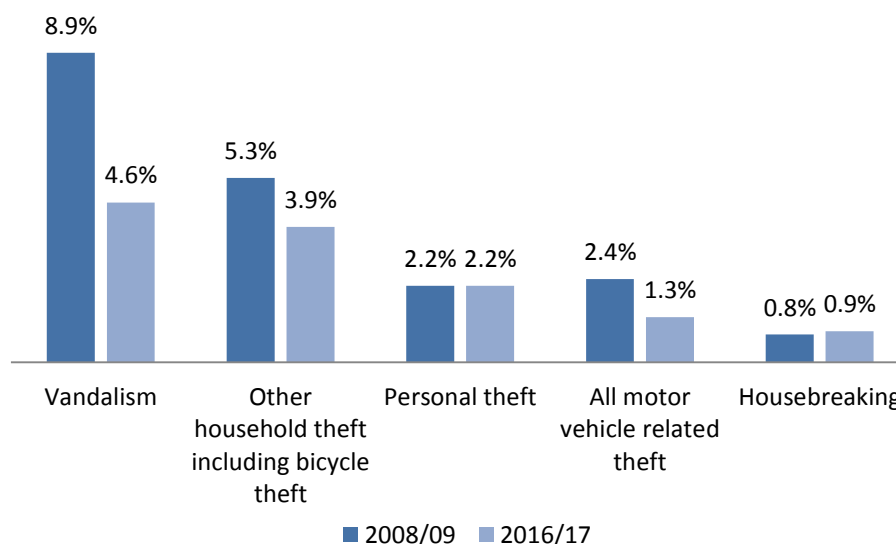
Variables: [INCPROPERTY](#); [INCVAND](#); [INCOTHERHOUSEHOLDTHEFTCYCLE](#); [INCPERSTHEFT](#); [INCALLMVTHEFT](#); [INCHOUSEBREAK](#)

Looking at the prevalence of different categories of property crime reveals that some sub-types were more commonly experienced than others in 2016/17, as outlined in Figure 4.4.

Similar to the estimated number of incidents, the proportion of the population experiencing vandalism, other household theft and motor vehicle related theft has decreased significantly since 2008/09. In particular, like the incident count, the prevalence rate for vandalism almost halved between 2008/09 and 2016/17 (from 8.9% to 4.6%).

► **Figure 4.4: Proportion of adults experiencing types of property crime over time**

Just under 1 in 20 adults (4.6%) experienced vandalism in 2016/17, whilst around 1 in 100 (0.9%) were victims of housebreaking.



Base: SCJS 2008/09 (16,000); 2016/17 (5,570). Variables: PREVVAND; PREVOTHERHOUSETHEFTCYCLE; PREVPERSTHEFT; PREVALLMVTHEFT; PREVHOUSEBREAK.

Since 2014/15, the prevalence of other household theft has fallen from 5.0% to 3.9%, whilst the victimisation rate for other categories of property crime have shown no change.

How did experiences of property crime vary across the population?

Younger adults, people in the most deprived areas of Scotland and those living in urban locations were more likely to experience property crime in 2016/17.

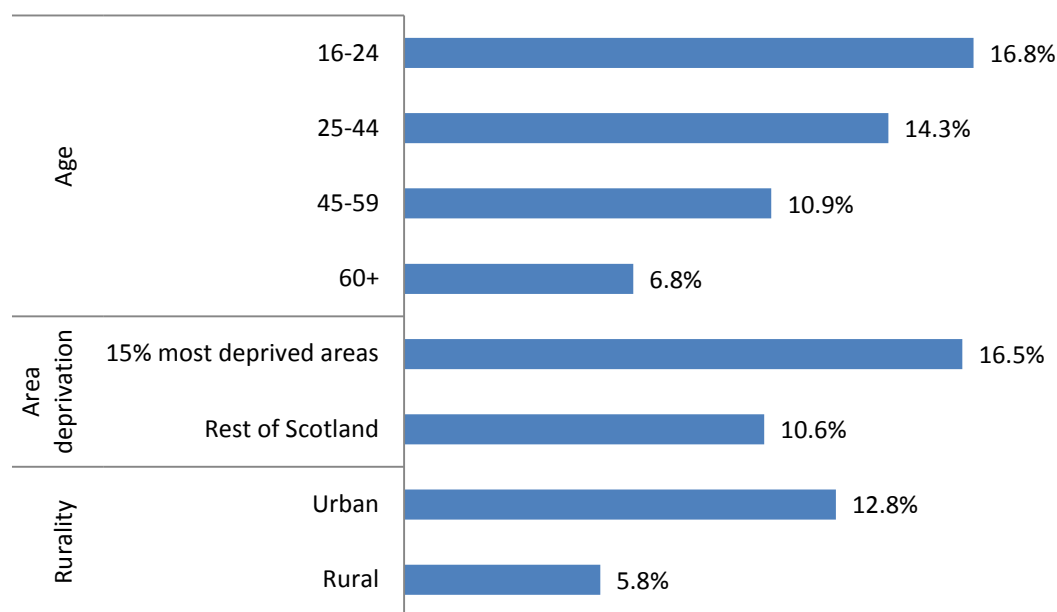
The SCJS also enables us to examine how experiences of property crime in 2016/17 varied across the population according to demographic and area characteristics. For example, as shown in Figure 4.5, the likelihood of being a victim of property crime in 2016/17:

- Decreased with age;
- Was greater for those living in the 15% most deprived areas in Scotland; and
- Was greater for adults living in urban locations.

Similar to violent crime, the likelihood of experiencing property crime in 2016/17 did not vary according to gender, with males and females found to have very similar prevalence rates (11.6% and 11.5% respectively)⁴².

⁴² Results broken down by demographic and area characteristics are provided in Annex table A1.8. The SCJS supporting [data tables](#), for example tenure, disability status and age within gender.

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



Base: 2016/17 (5,570). Variable: PREVPROPERTY, QDAGE, SIMD_TOP, URBRUR.

The likelihood of experiencing property crime has fallen for many groups since 2008/09.

Looking at trends over time reveals that the prevalence of property crime victimisation has decreased significantly since 2008/09 across many key groups in the population - including both males and females; all age groups; those living in the most deprived areas as well as those living elsewhere in Scotland; and adults in both urban and rural locations⁴³. For example, the proportion of both males and females experiencing property crime has fallen by 6.5 percentage points since 2008/09 (to 11.6% and 11.5% respectively in 2016/17).

Despite a fall in property crime victimisation since 2014/15 at a national level, change in these sub-population groups over the shorter-term was less common. Across these key breakdowns, the only groups where statistically significant changes in prevalence were detected between 2014/15 and 2016/17 were amongst 45-59 year olds (fall from 13.7% to 10.9%) and adults in rural areas (down from 8.5% to 5.8%).

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 2016/17 and 11.5% 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 year⁴⁴, known as 'repeat victimisation'.

⁴³ Please see [Annex tables](#) for relevant results and the SCJS supporting [data tables](#) for additional breakdowns.

⁴⁴ i.e. two or more experiences of property crime; or separately two or more experiences of violent crime.

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

3.3% of adults experienced two or more property crimes in 2016/17, accounting for more than half of all property crime.

Looking at the volume of crime experienced by individual victims in more detail shows that 8.3% of adults were victims of one property crime only, therefore 3.3% were repeat victims of property crime⁴⁵.

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, more than half of all property crime in Scotland in 2016/17 (53%) was experienced by 3.3% of the population who were repeat victims. On average, this group is estimated to have experienced 1.7 property crimes each over the year.

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

| | Number of crimes | % of population | % of property crime |
|---|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| ▼ More than a tenth of all property crime (12%) was experienced by just 0.3% of the adult population who were victims of five or more incidents over the year. | None | 88.5% | 0% |
| | One | 8.3% | 47% |
| | Two | 2.1% | 25% |
| | Three | 0.6% | 11% |
| | Four | 0.3% | 5% |
| | Five or more | 0.3% | 12% |
| | Two or more | 3.3% | 53% |

Base: SCJS 2016/17 (5,570). Variable: PREVPROPERTY, INCPROPERTY.

Overall, just over one quarter of all victims of property crime were repeat victims (28%), although this varied by crime group – ranging from 13% for housebreaking to 24% for vandalism.

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 2016/17 there were decreases in the proportion of adults experiencing:

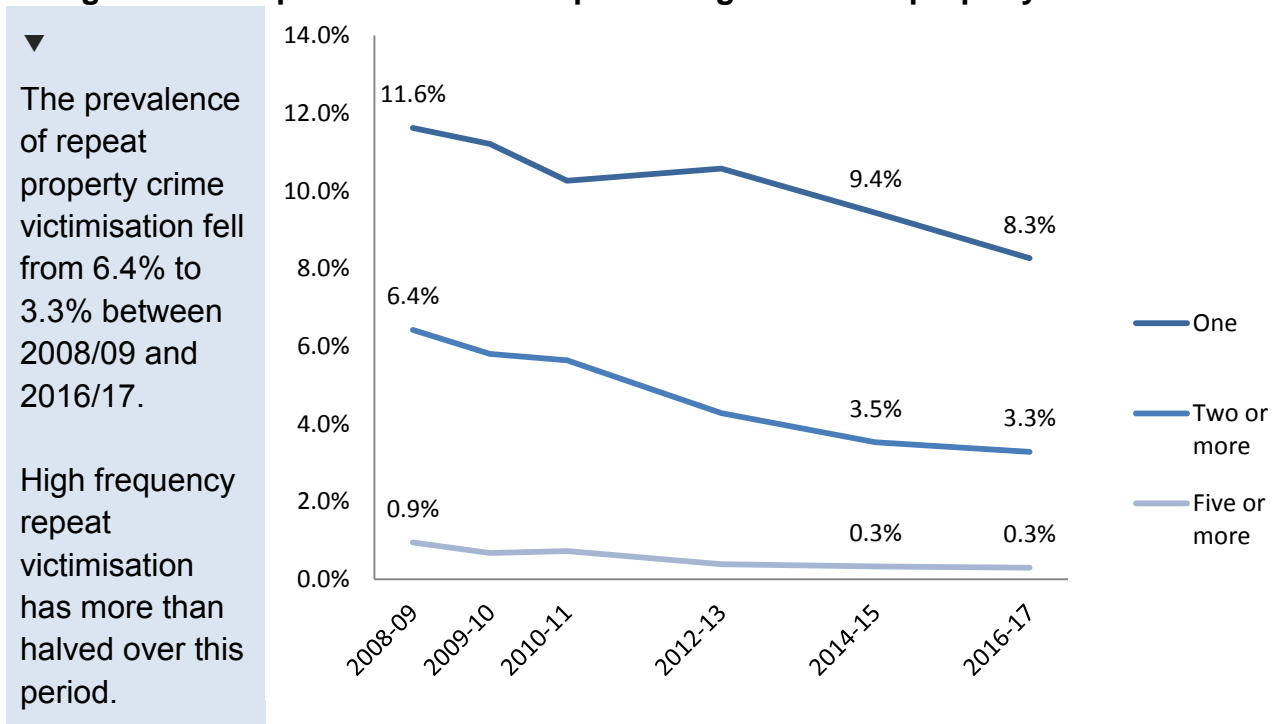
- single incidents of property crime – from 11.6% to 8.3%;
- repeat victimisation (two or more incidents of property crime) – from 6.4% to 3.3%; and

⁴⁵ Unrounded estimates sum to 11.5%.

- high frequency repeat victimisation (five or more incidents of property crime) – from 0.9% to 0.3%.

The fall in the various levels of victimisation since 2008/09 have occurred in line with a decrease in the overall property crime victimisation rate⁴⁶ over the same period, as discussed [previously](#).

► **Figure 4.6: Proportion of adults experiencing number of property crimes**



Base: SCJS 2016/17 (5,570). Variable: PREVPROPERTY, INCPROPERTY.

Over the shorter term, the level of repeat victimisation has shown no change whilst single incident victimisation has continued to fall.

Since the last SCJS in 2014/15, the proportion of adults experiencing single incidents of property crime has fallen, from 9.4% to 8.3% in 2016/17. However, over this period, there has been no change in the prevalence of repeat victimisation – the apparent fall from 3.5% to 3.3% shown in Figure 4.6 above is not statistically significant.

What do we know about the characteristics of property crime?

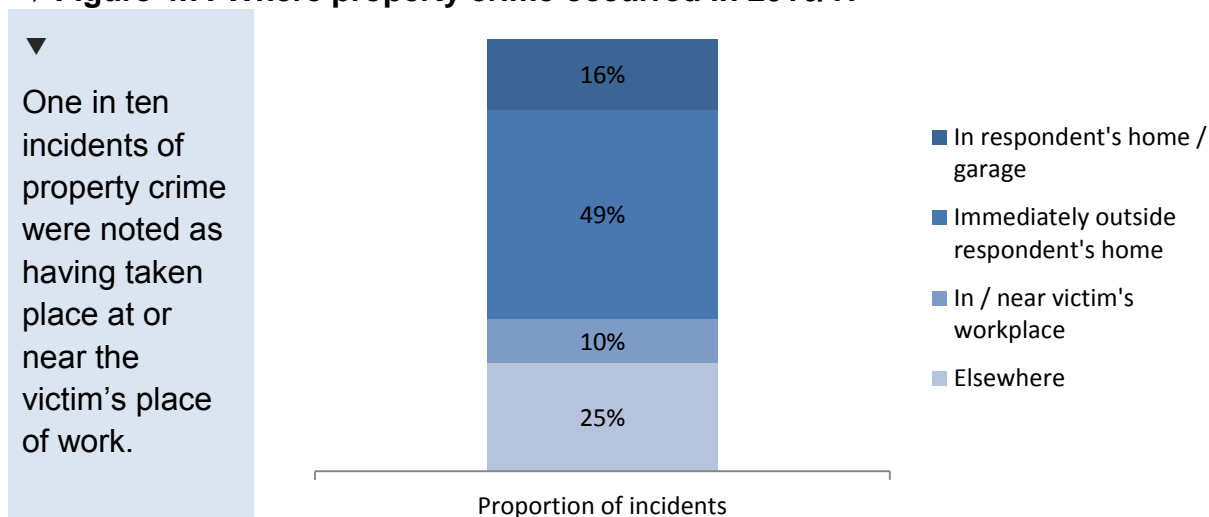
Most property crime incidents occurred in or near the home of the victim.

Consistent with previous years, the majority of property crime incidents in 2016/17 (65%) took place in and around the victim's home. The most common specific location was immediately outside the respondent's home⁴⁷ representing around half of all property crime in 2016/17 (49%).

⁴⁶ i.e. the proportion of adults experiencing *at least* one property crime over the year.

⁴⁷ Immediately outside the respondent's home includes gardens, sheds, driveways and the street outside the respondents home.

► **Figure 4.7: Where property crime occurred in 2016/17**



Base sizes: Property crime incidents (700); Variable: QWH1 / QWH3 / QWH5 / QWH7

The majority of property crime incidents took place on weekdays.

Where respondents provided details about when an incident occurred⁴⁸, more than three-fifths of all property crimes in 2016/17 (62%) were said to have taken place during the week, with 38% occurring at weekends⁴⁹. However, this suggests that the incidence per day was greater at weekends.

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 were much less likely to report being able to say something about the offender in their experience. Indeed, respondents were only able to provide any relevant information for just under one-third of incidents (31%) in 2016/17.

As such, the section below presents a high-level 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 years⁵⁰. Further results are available in the supporting [data tables](#).

Where respondents were able to say something about the person or people who carried out the offence, victims noted that property crimes in 2016/17:

- **Were mostly committed by males.**
69% of incidents involved only male offenders.
- **Most commonly involved offenders under the age of 40.**

⁴⁸ I.e. excluding those who said don't know or refused to give a time.

⁴⁹ Weekends were defined as 6pm on Friday to Sunday midnight.

⁵⁰ Where a similarly low proportion of respondents were able to tell us about offenders involved in property crimes. Further information on the SCJS in previous years is available in the [Technical Report](#), whilst results from previous years are accessible on the [SCJS website](#).

Whilst property crimes were committed by people from a range of age categories, only 17% of incidents were noted as having involved offenders aged 40 or over.

- **Often involved perpetrators known by the victims.**

Almost two-thirds of incidents (64%) were committed by offenders who the victims knew or had seen before. Where offenders were known by the victim, two-fifths of incidents (42%) were said to have involved people ‘known well’.

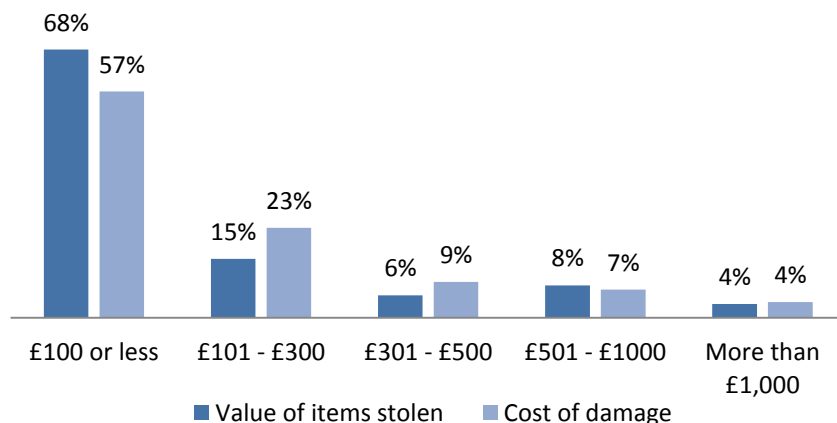
Similarly, victims said that someone saw or heard what was going on or had some form of contact with the offender in 21% of property crime incidents. These respondents were asked additional questions about their experience, including the presence of weapons. 10% of such incidents⁵¹ in 2016/17 were said 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 lower value – but the impact of such costs will vary for each victim.

Victims of property crime where something was stolen (58% of property crimes) were asked to provide the approximate value of the items concerned. As Figure 4.8 shows, in more than two-thirds of incidents (68%) where victims were able to provide an estimate, the total value of items stolen was £100 or less. The total value was over £500 in 12% of incidents.

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



Base: Property crime incidents where something was stolen (348) or damaged (220); Variables: QSVAB; QDVAB. Excludes those who said don't know to value of items lost or cost of damage.

Considering incidents where property was damaged (44% of property incidents), where victims were able to provide an estimate, victims said the total cost of the damage was £100 or less in 57% of incidents. Looking at instances of more costly damage, 11% of incidents led to damages totalling more than £500.

⁵¹ I.e. incidents where someone saw or heard what was happening or had contact with the offender.

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 61% and 59% of incidents respectively).

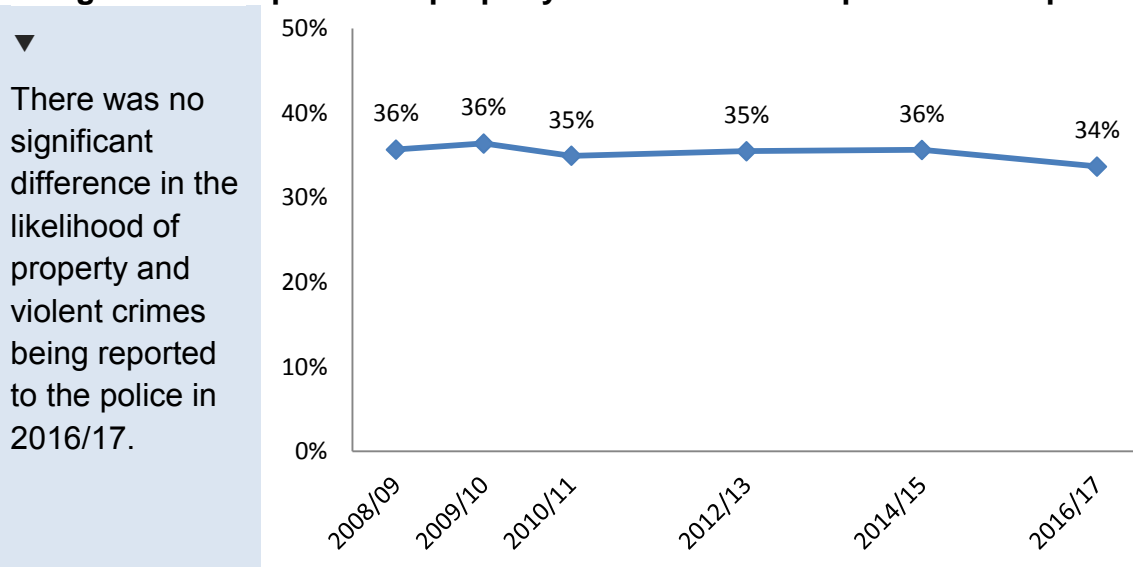
What proportion of property crime was reported to the police?

Although most instances of property crime in 2016/17 were considered by victims to be criminal incidents, only one-third of cases were reported to the police.

Victims of property crime described their experience as ‘a crime’ in almost two-thirds of incidents (65%), with 18% of incidents said to be ‘wrong but not a crime’ and 16% viewed as ‘just something that happens’. Property crime incidents were more likely to be viewed as criminal by the victims compared to experiences of violent crime in 2016/17 (of which 43% of incidents were considered to be ‘a crime’).

However, the SCJS estimates that only around one in every three property crimes (34%) were reported to the police in 2016/17. The reporting rate for property crime has shown no change since 2008/09, as depicted in Figure 4.9, and was not significantly different from the reporting rate for violent crime in 2016/17 (43%).

► **Figure 4.9: Proportion of property crime incidents reported to the police**



Base: Property crime incidents (700); Variable: QPOL

The proportion of crimes brought to the attention of the police varied according to the type of property crime – for instance, whilst 41% of vandalism incidents in 2016/17 were reported, only 27% of personal theft cases were.

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

The most common reason 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 (46% of incidents). Other commonly cited reasons for not reporting incidents included that the police could not have done anything (28%) and the victim believed the police would not have been interested (20%).

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 just

over half of all instances (54%). Information or assistance was provided by the Witness Service/Victim Support Scotland in one tenth of such cases, whilst in just over one-fifth of incidents (22%) victims said they did not receive information or assistance from any organisation.

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

Victims were fairly evenly divided over whether they believed the perpetrator should have been prosecuted in court for their actions.

Regardless of whether their experience was reported to the police, victims in just over half of all incidents of property crime in 2016/17 (52%) thought the offender should have been prosecuted in court. This proportion has fallen from 60% in 2014/15, but is significantly higher than the equivalent figure for violent crime in 2016/17 where victims thought prosecution in court was appropriate in 39% of incidents.

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

- should have apologised for their actions (cited in relation to 26% of such incidents);
- should have been made to pay the victim(s) compensation (24% of incidents); and
- should have been given some kind of warning (17%).

Notably, victims said that 'nothing should have happened' in relation to only 7% of these property crime incidents (i.e. where they did not think the offender should have been prosecuted in court). This compares to 42% of violent incidents (where prosecution in court was deemed unnecessary by victims), again adding to the notion that those who experienced property crime were generally more likely to believe perpetrators should have faced some sort of consequences.

5. Bringing together crime statistics

Why are there two sources of crime statistics?

This chapter compares police recorded crime and the SCJS to help assess 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 in Scottish households. It builds on an [analytical paper](#), published in 2014 (and updated in the 2014/15 SCJS report) and uses a subset of comparable crime to compare SCJS estimates with police recorded crime figures⁵².

A range of information is provided based on analysis of this comparable subset of crime. The two sources of crime statistics are reviewed briefly first, then the chapter looks at trends in these two sources over time and trends in three broadly comparable sub-groups over time (violent crime, acquisitive crime and vandalism⁵³). 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 sources that, together, present a fuller picture of crime in Scotland

Crimes recorded by the police provide information on crimes that the police face and are important because they can help to evaluate measures in place to reduce crime, assess the performance of policing and criminal justice organisations and also allow them to use evidence to adequately target resources. However, crime recording is sensitive to changes in public reporting practices, police recording practices and, in part, police deployment and activity. In addition, not all crimes come to the attention of the police.

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

In summary, the SCJS and Police Recorded Crime cover different crime and offence groups, different populations and also different timescales. The 2016/17 Recorded Crime results cover crimes recorded in the financial year 2016/17; the 2016/17 SCJS includes crimes experienced by SCJS respondents over a 23-month 'recall period'⁵⁴. They each feature relative strengths and limitations, making them more appropriate in different contexts and for different purposes⁵⁵

Taking account of these differences, comparisons between recorded crime and SCJS data can be made by examining a *broadly* comparable subset of crimes which are covered by

⁵² This subset should not be used to assess the overall level of crime in Scotland.

⁵³ Chapters 9 and 12 of the SCJS 2016/17 [Technical Report](#) provide more information about the crime groups used in this report, including the comparable crime subset.

⁵⁴ Results in the 2014 [analytical paper](#) showed consistent results using different methods to make comparisons over time.

⁵⁵ Annex B provides an overview of the main differences to bear in mind when making comparisons between the two sources.

each source, and can be coded in the survey in approximately the same way as they would be recorded by the police. Almost two-thirds (63%) of 'all SCJS crime' as measured by the SCJS 2016/17 falls into categories that can be compared with crimes recorded by the police. The SCJS 2016/17 estimated 42% of comparable SCJS crime was reported to the police.

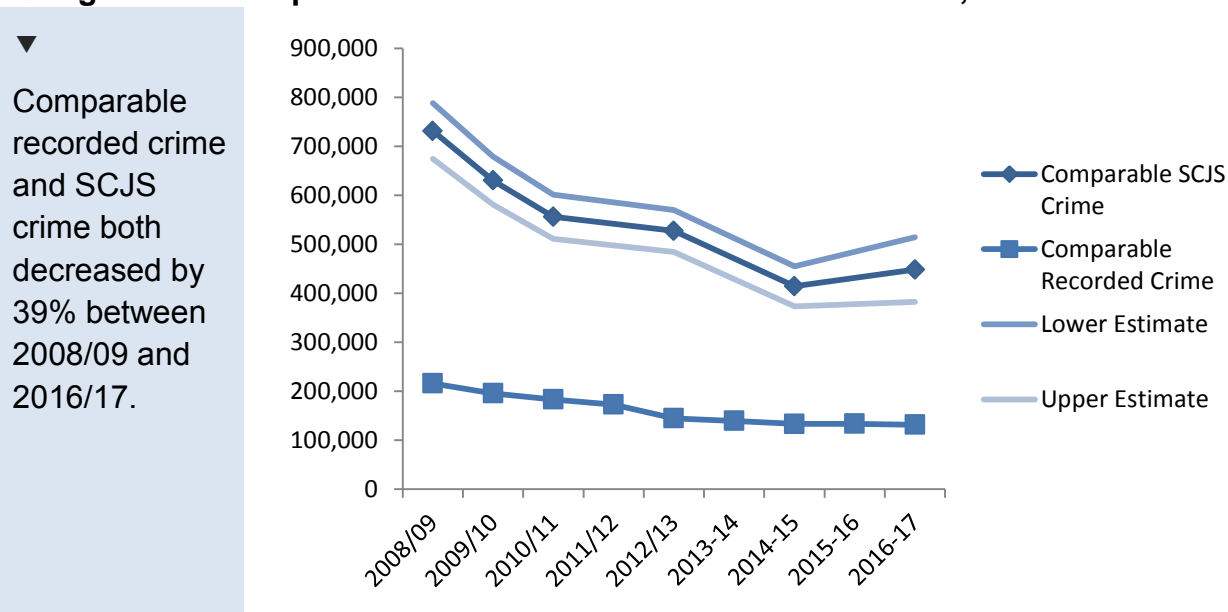
What are the trends in comparable SCJS and police recorded crime?

There is good consistency in the trends in comparable SCJS and police recorded crime, particularly over the longer term.

Of the 712,000 crimes estimated by the 2016/17 SCJS, almost two-thirds (448,000) can be compared with police recorded crimes. Figure 5.1 demonstrates the scale of the difference between the two series of crime statistics. In 2016/17, the police recorded 131,566 crimes and offences in the comparable subset, representing 29% of the number of crimes in the SCJS comparable subset (Table 5.1 below).

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 the 2016/17 SCJS estimates that 42% of all crime in the comparable subset came to the attention of the police⁵⁶.

► **Figure 5.1: Comparable recorded crime and SCJS estimates, 2008/09 to 2016/17**



Sources: SCJS, Police recorded crime.

As shown in the table, SCJS comparable crime fell by 39% between 2008/09 and 2016/17 however this has not changed since 2014/15. Comparable recorded crime has also fallen by 39% since 2008/09 and by 1% since 2014/15. It is notable that Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland ([HMICS](#))'s auditing of incidents and crimes

⁵⁶ The smaller SCJS sample of around 6,000 in 2016/17 compared to around 12,000 in 2014/15 means a larger range of uncertainty around the 2016/17 point estimate for all comparable crime in 2016/17, as shown by the larger divergence between lower and upper estimates in Figure 5.1.

recorded by Police Scotland indicates that police compliance in recording is generally good overall.

► **Table 5.1: Comparable crime group estimates, 2008/09 to 2016/17**

| | 2008/09 | 2014/15 | 2016/17 | % change since 2008/09 | % change since 2014/15 |
|----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Comparable SCJS Crime | 731,000 | 414,000 | 448,000 | -39% | No change |
| Comparable Recorded Crime | 215,901 | 133,170 | 131,566 | -39% | -1% |
| SCJS Acquisitive Crime | 64,000 | 49,000 | 51,000 | No change | No change |
| Recorded Acquisitive Crime | 27,527 | 21,000 | 18,295 | -34% | -13% |
| SCJS Violent Crime | 317,000 | 186,000 | 231,000 | -27% | No change |
| Recorded Violent Crime | 82,855 | 62,578 | 63,246 | -24% | 1% |
| SCJS Vandalism | 350,000 | 179,000 | 166,000 | -53% | No change |
| Recorded Vandalism | 105,519 | 49,592 | 50,025 | -53% | 0% |

Sources: SCJS; Police recorded crime; SCJS Base: 2008/09 (16,000); 2014/15 (11,470), 2016/17 (5,570)

Note: changes specified where statistically significant.

Acquisitive Crime

The acquisitive comparable crime group includes bicycle theft, housebreaking and theft of a motor vehicle. In 2016/17, the SCJS estimated that there were 51,000 acquisitive crimes (+/- 16,000, meaning that the true number of acquisitive crimes in the underlying population is estimated to be between 36,000 and 67,000). The police recorded 18,295 acquisitive crimes in 2016/17.

Recorded acquisitive crime fell by 34% between 2008/09 and 2016/17 and by 13% between 2014/15 and 2016/17. No statistically significant changes were identified in SCJS acquisitive crime across either of these time periods, however this is likely in part due to the smaller sample sizes involved.⁵⁷

Violent Crime

Violent comparable crime includes serious assault, minor assault and robbery. In 2016/17, the SCJS estimated that there were 231,000 violent crimes (+/- 59,000, meaning that the true number of violent crimes in the underlying population is estimated to be between 172,000 and 290,000), while the police recorded 63,246 violent crimes⁵⁸.

Table 5.1 shows that there is greater consistency between trends in the two sources of comparable violent crime data over the longer term. Between 2008/09 and 2016/17, both SCJS estimates and recorded crime violent crime figures have shown a decrease (by 27% and 24% respectively)⁵⁹. Since 2014/15, recorded violent crime has increased by 1%, while the SCJS has shown no change in violent crime.

⁵⁷ Comparable acquisitive crime is rarer than vandalism and violent crime (estimates of acquisitive crime are based on 84 incidents in the 2016/17 SCJS sample, compared to 156 violent crime incidents and 263 vandalism incidents). Consequently, there is greater uncertainty around the SCJS estimate of acquisitive crime and less power to identify significant changes over time.

⁵⁸ Further information on SCJS violent crime is provided in the '[Focus on violent crime](#)' chapter.

⁵⁹ Violent crime estimates are based on a relatively small number of respondents who disclosed experiences of 156 violent crimes in 2016/17.

Vandalism

The vandalism comparable crime group includes motor vehicle vandalism and property vandalism. In 2016/17, the SCJS estimated that there were 166,000 instances of vandalism (+/- 27,000, meaning that the true number of vandalism crimes in the underlying population is estimated to be between 139,000 and 192,000). The police recorded 50,025 vandalism incidents in 2016/17.

There has been relative consistency in the trends in comparable vandalism crime across both SCJS and police recorded crime between 2008/09 and 2016/17. Since 2014/15, there has been no statistically significant change in the SCJS estimate of vandalism, while crimes of vandalism recorded by the police have also remained unchanged. Over the longer term, both SCJS estimates and recorded crime figures have been on a downward trend (each decreasing by 53% since 2008/09).

The number of SCJS crimes estimated to have been reported to the police is similar to, but slightly greater than, the number of police recorded crimes.

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 crime estimated to have been reported to the police in the SCJS, and police recorded crime figures. Although it is not possible to determine on an individual basis whether a crime that the police 'came to know about' was captured in police recorded crime data, this type of analysis can give an indication of the level of crime that goes unreported, and the broad relationship between police recorded crime figures and SCJS estimates. This section looks at this relationship in two ways, by comparing absolute numbers of crimes and then by examining the ratio between the two series.

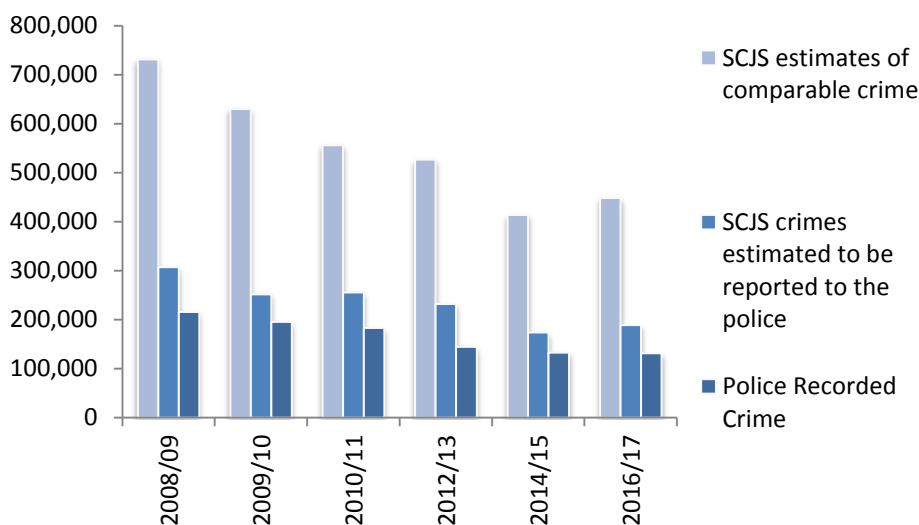
Figures from the 2016/17 SCJS indicate that of the 448,000 crimes in the overall comparable subset, around 189,000 incidents (42%) were estimated to have been reported to police. In 2016/17, the police recorded 131,566 crimes in the comparable category. It is therefore estimated that around 70% of comparable crime estimated to be reported to the police was recorded by the police in 2016/17. This is similar to the equivalent proportions in recent years.

In addition, as a proportion of all SCJS comparable crimes, the number of comparable crimes estimated to have been reported to the police, and not recorded in police statistics, has been broadly consistent in recent years; 13% in 2016/17 and varying between 9% in 2009/10 and 17% in 2012/13.

While this analysis indicates that a number of crimes which survey respondents say are reported to the police, are not captured and recorded by the police, it is important to note that such comparisons are based on survey estimates over a longer recall period and as such are broadly indicative, rather than directly comparable.

This type of analysis can be extended across the comparable crime sub-groups, where similar results are found. For example, around 98,000 (or 43%) of violent crimes are estimated to have been reported to the police in 2016/17, while the police recorded 63,246 violent incidents. It is therefore estimated that almost two-thirds (64%) of comparable violent crime estimated to be reported to the police was recorded by the police in 2016/17.

► **Figure 5.2: Recorded crime, SCJS crime and SCJS crime reported to the police, in the set of comparable crimes, 2008/09 to 2016/17**

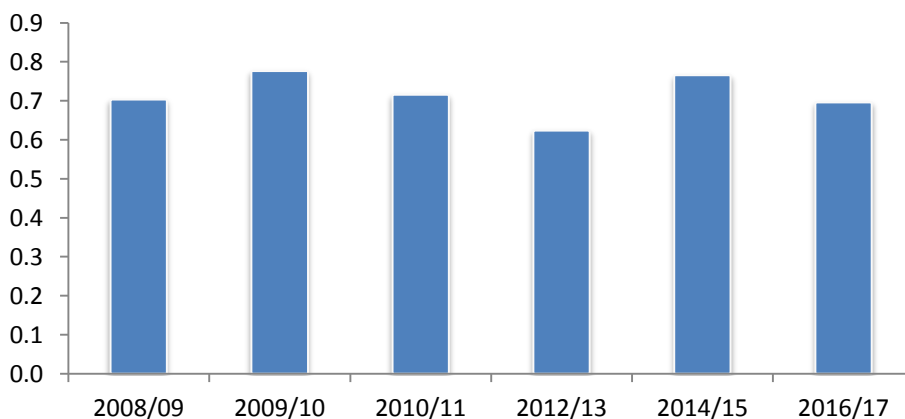


Sources: SCJS; Police recorded crime.

An alternative approach to investigating the relationship between the two sources is to examine the ratio of police recorded crime to the volume of SCJS crime estimated to have been reported to the police. The [analytical paper](#), published in 2014, outlined two methods for calculating this: the first, comparing the biennial SCJS to annual recorded crime figures and the second comparing the biennial SCJS against two financial years of averaged police recorded crime data. This section updates the information using the first method, to compare the now annual SCJS to annual recorded crime figures⁶⁰.

Figure 5.3 shows the ratio between police recorded crime and SCJS crime estimated to have been reported to the police was 70% in 2016/17. Over recent years, this ratio has varied between 62% in 2012/13 and 78% in 2009/10.

► **Figure 5.3: Ratio between police recorded crime and SCJS crime estimated to have been reported to the police 2008/09 to 2016/17**



Sources: SCJS; Police recorded crime.

⁶⁰ A comparison of the two methods highlights a *lag effect*, suggesting that using the second method, the difference between recorded crime and SCJS crime estimated to be reported to the police is likely to be less than that derived from using the first method presented here.

6. Public perceptions of the police and the justice system

This chapter reports on public confidence in and attitudes towards the police in the local area, both in 2016/17 and over time where possible. It then explores knowledge of and attitudes towards the criminal justice system in Scotland more generally.

Perceptions of the police

SCJS time trends in this report typically assess if and how results in 2016/17 differed from 2008/09 and 2014/15. However, the last SCJS prior to the formation of Police Scotland was in 2012/13, so in presenting findings on policing this chapter also examines some key changes which have occurred between 2012/13 and 2016/17, where any are detected⁶¹.

As well as national level results, this chapter provides findings broken down for demographic and area characteristics (including deprivation and urban/rural status). SCJS results provided to Police Division level will be available biennially from 2017/18 onwards (as they have been since 2012/13), with two sweeps worth of data combined to increase the sample size and precision around results⁶². Further information on the SCJS reporting structure is available on the [SCJS website](#).

The results presented in this chapter are based only on SCJS data from 2008/09 to 2016/17. However, data on confidence in the police also formed part of the [Scottish Surveys Core Questions](#) (SSCQ) between 2012 and 2017, which combines selected data from the three SG population surveys to offer larger sample sizes to facilitate further analysis for lower geographies and population sub-groups. Further details about the SSCQ, and some experimental analysis using the 2014 SSCQ police confidence data, are available on the [Scottish Government website](#).

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

Most people were positive about the work of their local police, but the level of support was relatively weaker amongst adults in the most deprived areas and victims of crime.

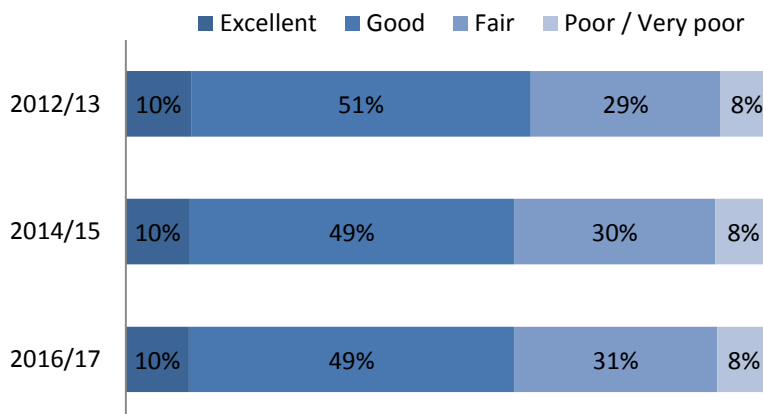
The majority of adults in Scotland (58%) believed the police in their local area were doing an 'excellent' or 'good' job in 2016/17. This is similar to the result in the 2014/15 SCJS but lower than the 61% who felt this way in 2012/13⁶³ as shown in Figure 6.1. Just under one-third (31%) thought the police were doing a 'fair' job in 2016/17.

⁶¹ The data tables in this chapter focus on changes since 2008/09 and 2014/15, however the annex tables A1.14 to A1.19 present key results on policing from each SCJS sweep since 2008/09.

⁶² A regional variable (North, East and West) will be included in the dataset available through the UK Data Services for further analysis to enable analysis at lower geographies using the 2016/17 data.

⁶³ This question (QRATPOL) was first included in the 2012/13 SCJS.

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



Base: All adults (5,570); Variable: QRATPOL

However, consistent with SCJS findings in previous years, victims of crime were less likely than non-victims to say the police were doing a good or excellent job (51% compared with 60% 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 (53% compared with 59% respectively). However, people in rural areas were just as likely as those in urban areas to think the police were doing a good or excellent job in 2016/17 (57% and 59% respectively).

How confident were people in the ability of the police?

Overall, the public were confident in the ability of the police to perform key functions and confidence has increased since 2008/09.

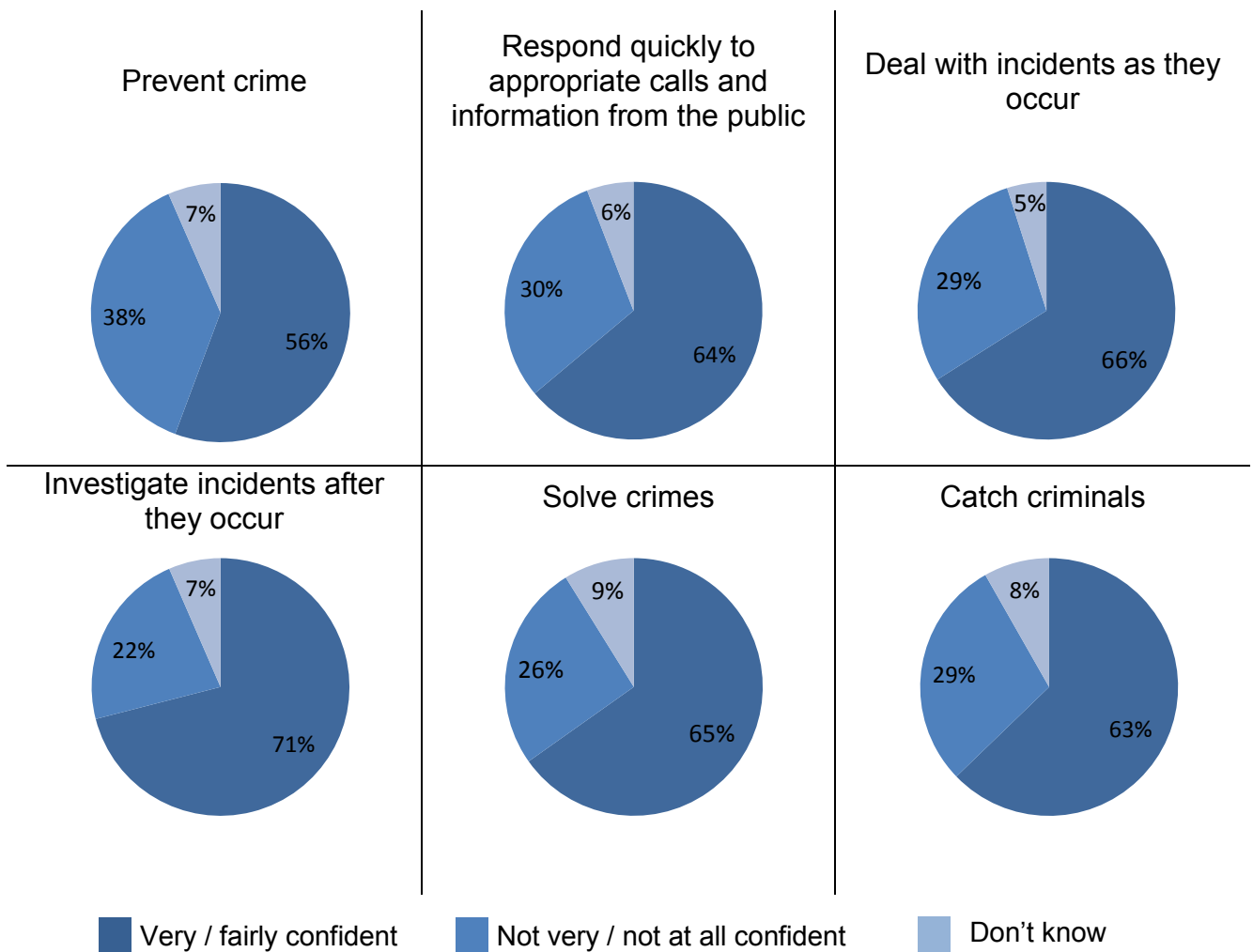
Respondents were asked how confident they were in the ability of the police in their local areas to undertake six particular components of work:

- 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

Most adults in Scotland had confidence in the police in their local area across all six measures in 2016/17, as shown in Figure 6.2.



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

Whilst confidence in the police to carry out the six aspects of police work in 2016/17 was relatively strong, it was also higher than it was when the SCJS first collected these data in 2008/09. Table 6.1 looks at trends in confidence over time and shows there have been significant improvements across all measures asked about in the survey since 2008/09.

► **Table 6.1: Confidence in the police over time**

| Percentage of adults very/fairly confident in the ability of the local police to: | 2016/17 | Change since 2008/09 | Change since 2014/15 |
|---|---------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Prevent crime | 56% | ↑ from 46% | No change |
| Respond quickly to appropriate calls and information from the public | 64% | ↑ from 53% | No change |
| Deal with incidents as they occur | 66% | ↑ from 58% | No change |
| Investigate incidents after they occur | 71% | ↑ from 64% | No change |
| Solve crimes | 65% | ↑ from 57% | ↑ from 62% |
| Catch criminals | 63% | ↑ from 55% | ↑ from 60% |

Base: All adults (2016/17: 5,570; 2008/09: 16,000; 2014/15: 11,470); Variables: QPOLCONF_01 – QPOLCONF_06

Statistically significant changes over the shorter-term have been less common, although comparing 2016/17 SCJS results to the 2012/13 and 2014/15 does highlight some fluctuations in results. More specifically, the results in 2016/17 were:

- Higher than 2014/15 on two measures (solve crimes and catch criminals) – as shown in Table 6.1 above; and
- Lower than 2012/13 on two measures: respond quickly (down from 66% in 2012/13) and deal with incidents (down from 68% in 2012/13).

Analysis of trends over longer periods can sometimes smooth out shorter-term (and often not statistically significant) variation and enables an assessment to be made of the longer term trajectories in experiences or public perceptions. With this in mind, it is again worth highlighting that confidence on all six measures has improved since 2008/09, and even on those measures which have fallen since 2012/13 almost two-thirds of the public are still very or fairly confident in the ability of the police to perform these functions. That said, it will be important to monitor these findings into the future to assess whether the long-term trend of improvement continues given more recent fluctuations.

How did confidence in the police vary amongst the population?

Whilst generally the majority in all groups were confident in the police, the level of confidence was lower on some measures amongst victims of crime, those living in deprived areas and those in rural locations.

The SCJS enables us to examine how confidence in the ability of the police varied across the population according to demographic and geographic characteristics, as well as whether individuals had experienced crime or not in 2016/17.

Across the vast majority of categories, most adults (i.e. more than 50%) in each group were very or fairly confident in the ability of the local police to perform each of the six aspects of work. For example, across all six measures, the majority of adults were confident when results are broken down by gender, age, deprivation and urban/rural status as shown in Annex tables A1.14 to A1.19. Indeed, looking at the breakdowns provided in

these tables, the only result where less than half of relevant respondents said they were confident was amongst victims of crime in 2016/17 where 45% said they were confident in the ability of the police to prevent crime.

However, notwithstanding the overall positive perceptions of the police, the level of confidence held in 2016/17 did vary amongst comparator groups. For example, as highlighted in Figure 6.3⁶⁴ below, confidence on some measures was weaker amongst:

- Victims of crime in 2016/17, compared to non-victims;
- Adults living in the 15% most deprived areas; and
- Those living in rural locations.

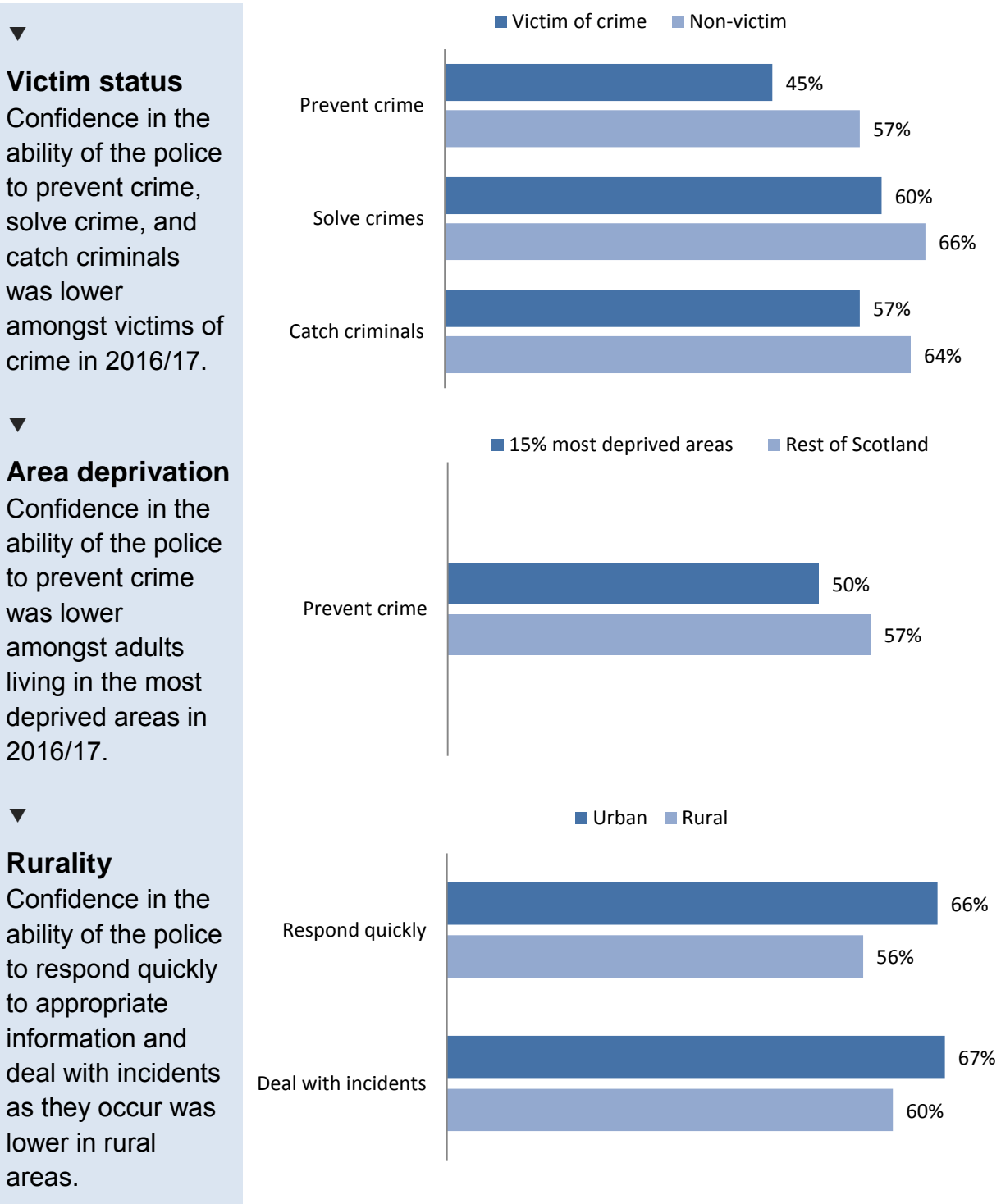
It is interesting to note that the measures where confidence was lower amongst victims of crime and those living in the 15% most deprived area (who were [more likely to have experienced crime in 2016/17](#)) are related to the prevention and clearing-up of crimes. In contrast, those in rural areas (who were less likely to have experienced crime in 2016/17 than those in urban areas) had lower confidence on measures relating to the speed of the police response to incidents.

In addition, confidence across the six measures was higher amongst younger adults (aged 16-24) compared to older cohorts. For instance, 78% of 16-24 year olds were confident in the ability of the police to respond quickly to calls and information, whilst this was the case for 69% of those aged 25-44; 56% of people between the ages of 45 and 59; and 59% of those aged 60 and over.

The level of confidence amongst men and women was generally similar across the range of measures in 2016/17, although females were more likely to have confidence in the ability of the police to respond quickly (66% compared to 61% of males).

⁶⁴ Only measures where a statistically significant difference amongst comparator groups was detected are shown in the figure.

► **Figure 6.3: Variation in the proportion of adults who were very/fairly confident in the police to perform key functions by experience and area characteristics**



Base: Victims (700); Non-victims (4,870); 15% most deprived areas (800); Rest of Scotland (4,760); Urban (4,500); Rural (1,070). Variables: QPOLCONF_01 – QPOLCONF_06

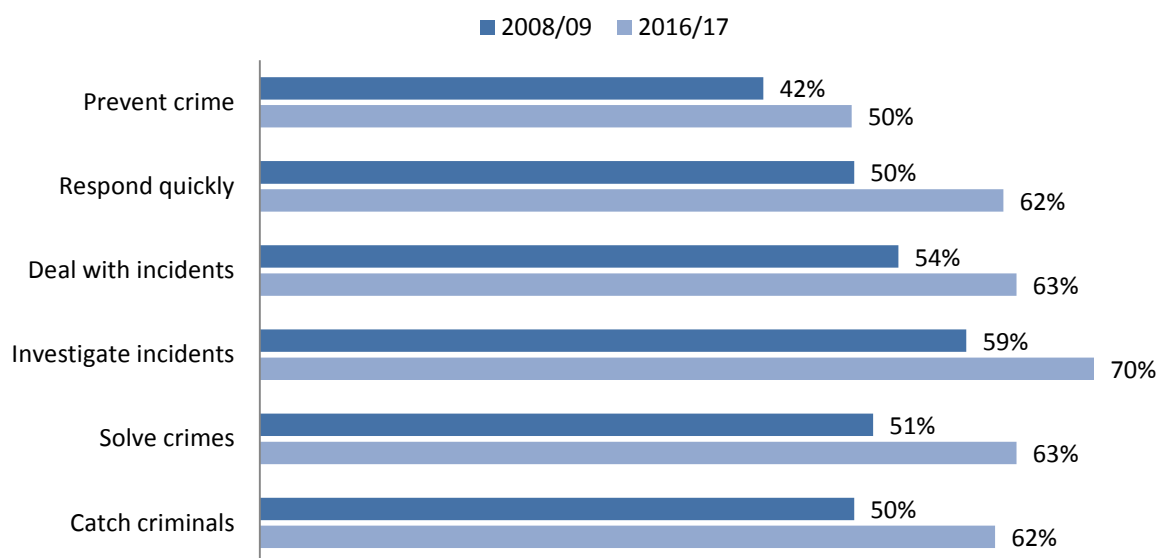
Confidence in the police has improved amongst many groups since 2008/09.

Whilst differences persist amongst population sub-categories, looking at trends over time across the six measures of public confidence in the police, the SCJS finds that perceptions have improved since 2008/09 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 asked about in the survey was higher in 2016/17 compared to 2008/09 amongst: both men and women; those living in the most deprived areas of Scotland and adults living elsewhere; victims of crime and those who had not experienced crime.

By way of example, Figure 6.4 below provides an indication of how results have improved in the 15% most deprived areas of Scotland over time. These results are shown in full in Annex Tables A1.14 to A1.19, along with the breakdowns highlighted above and others⁶⁵. Statistically significant changes since 2014/15 have been less common, although the Annex tables also highlight where these have been detected for each group.

► **Figure 6.4: Proportion of adults who were very/fairly confident in the ability of the police in the 15% most deprived areas of Scotland, 2008/09 - 2016/17**



Base: Adults living in 15% most deprived areas (2008/09: 2,440; 2016/17: 800); Variables: QPOLCONF_01 – QPOLCONF_06

Despite confidence in the police improving amongst many population groups over time, confidence in rural areas in 2016/17 was at a similar level as in 2008/09.

While we see some fluctuations in interim years between 2008/09 and 2016/17, Table 6.2 outlines how public confidence in the police amongst those in urban and rural areas in 2016/17 compared to 2008/09 (when these questions were first introduced). It shows that in rural areas the only measure where a statistically significant change is detected when 2016/17 results are compared to the 2008/09 baseline is in the proportion of adults who were confident in the ability of the police to prevent crime, which has increased from 48% to 54%. In contrast, and [in line with the national average](#), amongst adults living in urban areas confidence in the police has increased across all six measures since 2008/09.

⁶⁵ These results are also available for further breakdowns, such as tenure, for each SCJS sweep since 2008/09 in supplementary [data tables](#).

Overall, this suggests that public confidence amongst adults in rural areas may have shown a different trend to the perceptions of the population overall (and those in urban areas) since 2008/09.

Table 6.2 also shows how results in 2016/17 compare against the position in 2014/15, whilst the full time-series showing fluctuations from year to year in results for urban and rural areas, as well as other breakdowns, are shown in Annex tables A1.14 to A1.19.

► **Table 6.2: Confidence in the police in urban and rural areas.**

| Proportion of adults who were very or fairly confident in the police to: | Urban areas | | | Rural areas | | |
|--|-------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | 2016/17 | Change since 2008/09 | Change since 2014/15 | 2016/17 | Change since 2008/09 | Change since 2014/15 |
| Prevent crime | 56% | ↑ from 45% | No change | 54% | ↑ from 48% | No change |
| Respond quickly to appropriate calls and information from the public | 66% | ↑ from 54% | No change | 56% | No change | ↓ from 62% |
| Deal with incidents as they occur | 67% | ↑ from 57% | No change | 60% | No change | ↓ from 65% |
| Investigate incidents after they occur | 72% | ↑ from 63% | No change | 68% | No change | No change |
| Solve crimes | 66% | ↑ from 56% | ↑ from 62% | 62% | No change | No change |
| Catch criminals | 63% | ↑ from 54% | ↑ from 60% | 62% | No change | No change |
| <i>Number of respondents</i> | 4,500 | 12,420 | 9,240 | 1,070 | 3,580 | 2,240 |

Variables: QPOLCONF_01 – QPOLCONF_06

Notwithstanding the trends over time in confidence, it is worth noting that the majority of people in rural areas were very or fairly confident in the ability of the police to take forward the six aspects asked about in 2016/17. Additionally, people in rural areas were just as likely as those in urban areas to think the police were doing a good or excellent job in 2016/17 (57% and 59% respectively).

Overall, as with the national level findings on confidence, it will be important to monitor these measures amongst adults in rural areas into the future to assess how the long and shorter-term trends develop.

What else can the SCJS tell us about attitudes towards the police?

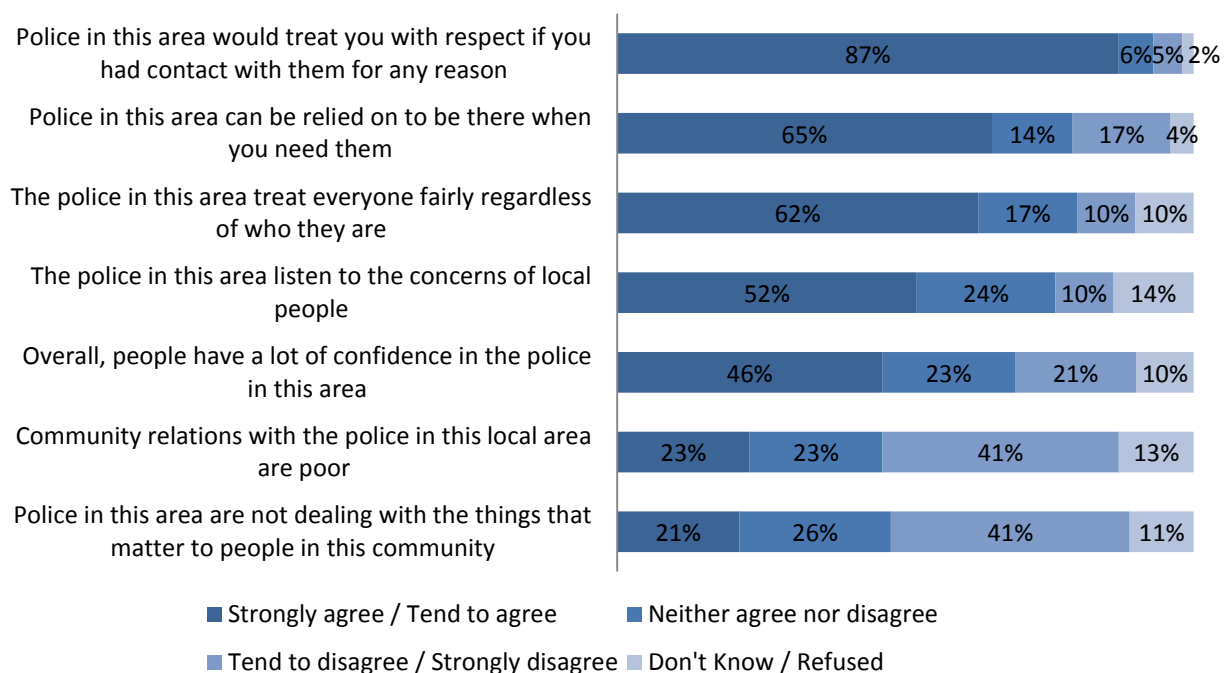
In 2016/17 adults in Scotland were generally positive about the way the police in their local area carried out their work and engaged with the public.

As well as looking at confidence in the ability of the police, the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey monitors the population's perceptions of the way the police take forward their work and engage with individuals and communities in Scotland. For instance, the survey seeks

to explore whether individuals believe the police treat people fairly and with respect, and whether the service is focused on the issues which matter to particular communities. These factors are likely to influence and be related to the public's confidence in the police, and so help to contextualise the results presented earlier.

Respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with a series of statements about the police in their area, with respondents mostly providing positive responses or saying they did not have a strong view, as shown in Figure 6.5 below. This is in line with the finding that [confidence in the police is generally strong](#). That said, almost a quarter of adults (23%) thought community relations with the police in their area were poor, and a fifth (21%) believed that the police were not dealing with the important issues in their community. These findings are interesting given that only 10% disagreed with the statement that 'the police in this area listen to the concerns of local people'.

► **Figure 6.5: Attitudes towards the police in 2016/17**



Base: Adults who are not a serving police officer, married to or living with serving police officer (5,420); Variables: POLOPREL – POLOPOVER

Attitudes towards the police have improved since 2009/10.

Since 2009/10 (when these questions were first included in the survey) there have been improvements in public attitudes towards the operation of the police. Overall, in 2016/17 the Scottish population were more likely to believe that the local police treat individuals fairly and with respect, are listening to communities in Scotland and focusing on issues of importance to them than they were in 2009/10 – as shown in Table 6.3 below.

► **Table 6.3: Public attitudes towards the police over time**

| Proportion of adults who said strongly / tend to agree: | 2016/17 | Change since 2009/10 | Change since 2014/15 |
|--|---------|----------------------|----------------------|
| The police in this area would treat you with respect if you had contact with them for any reason | 87% | ↑ from 83% | ↑ from 85% |
| Police in this area can be relied on to be there when you need them | 65% | ↑ from 58% | No change |
| The police in this area treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are | 62% | ↑ from 58% | ↑ from 60% |
| The police in this area listen to the concerns of local people | 52% | ↑ from 48% | No change |
| Overall, people have a lot of confidence in the police in this area | 46% | ↑ from 43% | No change |
| Community relations with the police in this local area are poor | 23% | ↓ from 28% | No change |
| Police in this area are not dealing with the things that matter to people in this community | 21% | ↓ from 31% | No change |

Base: Adults who are not a serving police officer, married to or living with serving police officer (2016/17: 5,420; 2009/10: 3,890; 2014/15: 11,180); Variables: POLOPREL – POLOPOVER

Since the last SCJS in 2014/15, most measures have shown no change, however the proportion of adults who thought the police would treat them with respect and generally treat everyone else fairly has increased.

Despite the positive longer-term trajectory of perceptions since 2009/10, trends in public attitudes across the different elements of police practice examined by the SCJS have shown fluctuations when results from 2016/17 are compared to the position in 2012/13. For example, since 2012/13, the proportion of adults who agreed that:

- ‘The police in the area listen to local people’s concerns’ has fallen – from 54% to 52%;
- ‘Community relations with the police in this area are poor’ has increased slightly – from 22% to 23%;
- ‘Overall, people have a lot of confidence in the police in this area’ has decreased – from 49% to 46%.

However, alongside this, it should be noted that between 2012/13 and 2016/17 there was an increase in the proportion who thought the police would treat them with respect (up from 86% to 87%). Likewise fewer adults now think the police do not deal with the issues that matter in their community (down from 25% in 2012/13 to 21% in 2016/17).

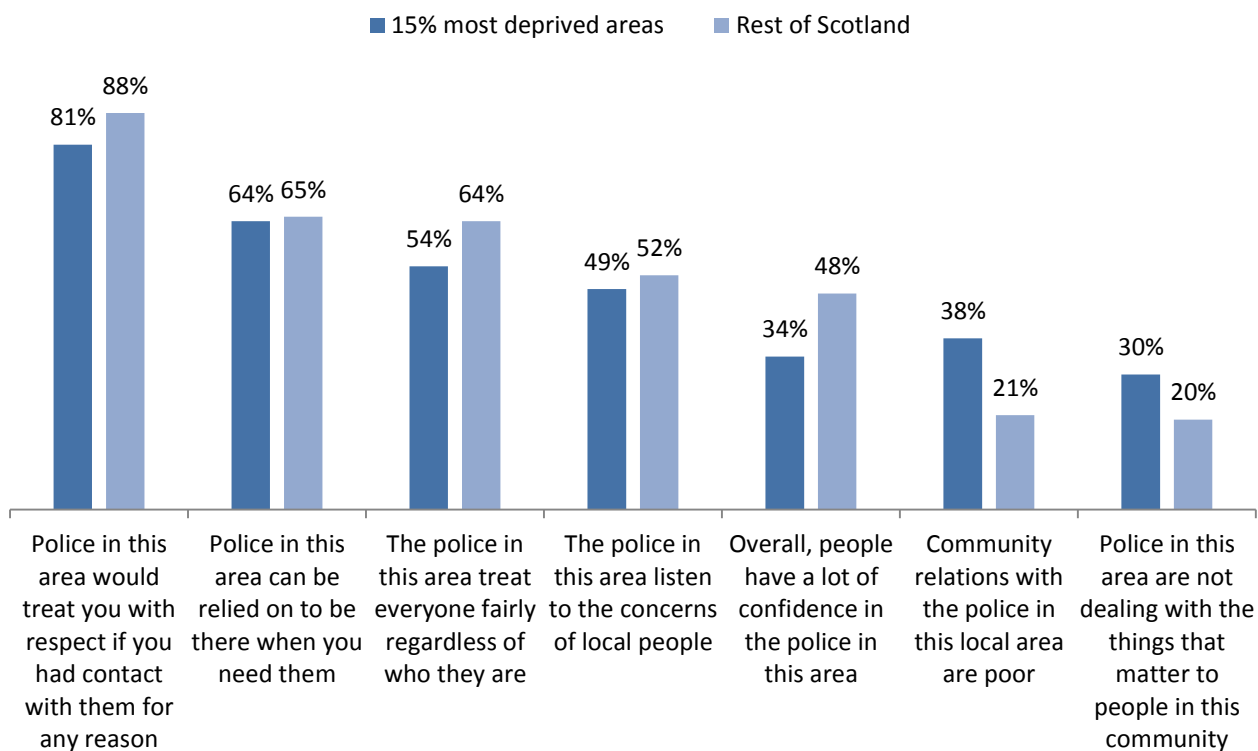
Attitudes vary by demographic and area characteristics, such as deprivation.

Results on public attitudes towards the police broken down by demographic and area characteristics, including over time, are available in the [SCJS data tables](#). To provide an

example of the findings available when results are examined in greater detail, Figure 6.6 compares results by area deprivation in 2016/17. It shows that, compared to those living elsewhere in Scotland, adults in the 15% most deprived areas were:

- Less likely to agree that the police in their area would treat them with respect and treat everyone fairly; and
- More likely to believe that the police are not dealing with the issues of importance to their community, and that community relations with the police are poor.

► **Figure 6.6: Attitudes towards the police by area deprivation**



Base: Adults who are not a serving police officer, married to or living with serving police officer (15% most deprived areas: 780; rest of Scotland: 4,630); Variables: POLOPREL – POLOPOVER

There was no significant difference detected in the proportions of adults in deprived areas and the rest of Scotland who believed the police could be ‘relied upon to be there when needed’ and that the ‘police listen to the concerns of local people’.

However, those living in the most deprived communities of Scotland were also less likely to think that generally *people in their area* have a lot of confidence in the police, with just over one-third (34%) holding this view. That said, as noted [earlier](#), when asked directly about *their own* thoughts about ability of the police, confidence in deprived areas would appear to be fairly strong and has increased since 2008/09. This highlights the impact of question wording on the nature of results obtained, and the importance of viewing attitudinal findings in broader context (such as change over time and perceptions across a wider suite of measures). With this in mind, it is helpful to note that the proportion of adults in the most deprived areas believing that people in their area have confidence in the police has increased from 27% in 2009/10 to 34% in 2016/17.

Looking at trends over time in the most deprived areas for the other measures of attitudes towards the police, there was an increase between 2009/10 and 2016/17 in the proportion

of adults agreeing that the police can be relied on to be there when needed (from 48% to 64%). There has also been a reduction of 12 percentage points (from 42% to 30%) in the proportion who believe the police do not deal with the things that matter to their community. All other measures have shown no significant change comparing 2009/10 with 2016/17.

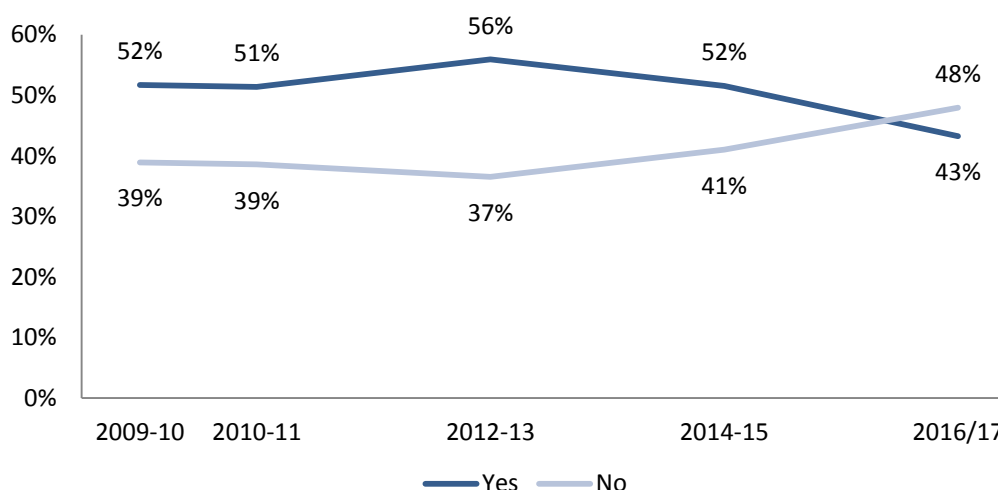
What did the public think about the level of police presence locally?

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

The majority of adults were aware of the police regularly patrolling their local area in each survey from 2009/10 to 2014/15, however this fell to 43% in 2016/17.

Whilst the vast majority (93%) of adults in 2016/17 considered it very or fairly important to have local police officers who know and patrol their local area, only 43% said they were aware that their area was regularly patrolled in 2016/17 (either on foot, by bike or by car). This is lower than the level of awareness recorded in 2009/10⁶⁶ (52%), 2012/13 (56%) and 2014/15 (52%), as shown in Figure 6.7.

► **Figure 6.7: Proportion of adults aware of regular police patrol in their area**



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); Variable: POLPATR

As in previous years, Table 6.4 shows that those living in the 15% most deprived areas were more likely than adults in the rest of Scotland to report being aware of their area being patrolled regularly. This could in part be related to the finding that people in the most deprived areas were more likely to be victims of both [property](#) and [violent](#) crime in 2016/17 than those living elsewhere, and therefore reflect police operational decisions.

⁶⁶ When the question was first asked.

► **Table 6.4: 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 | Scotland |
|--|-------------------------|------------------|------------|
| Yes | 53% | 41% | 43% |
| On foot | 24% | 13% | 14% |
| By bicycle | 10% | 4% | 5% |
| By car | 47% | 38% | 40% |
| No | 40% | 49% | 48% |
| <i>Number of respondents</i> | 780 | 4,630 | 5,420 |

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

At a national level, amongst those aware of the police patrolling their area by foot or bike, just under a third (32%) reported noticing such activity at least every couple of days, if not daily. Around a further quarter (24%) said they had seen the police at least once a week.

The population continues to be divided about whether the level of police presence in their area is sufficient, with those in deprived areas more likely to believe it is ‘not enough’.

Respondents were asked whether they thought the level of police presence in their area was sufficient. Over the last few sweeps of the SCJS the population has consistently been fairly evenly divided between those who believe the local police presence is ‘about right’ (46% in 2016/17) or ‘not enough’ (49% in 2016/17). Very few respondents in each sweep have felt there is ‘too much’ of a police presence (1% in 2016/17).

Over the longer term, there has been an increase in the proportion of adults describing the level of presence as ‘about right’ (up from 38% in 2009/10 when the question was first asked). However, the figure in 2016/17 (46%) represents a fall from a peak of 49% in 2012/13.

More than half (55%) of those living in the 15% most deprived areas of Scotland in 2016/17 thought that the police presence in their local area was ‘not enough’, compared to 48% in the rest of Scotland. Likewise, victims of crime were more likely to think the police presence was not sufficient (56% compared to 48% of non-victims).

How do people reflect on 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.

The SCJS explores respondents’ experiences of contact 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; complaining or providing feedback; reporting to a police station; being stopped (in the street or car) and questioned or searched; or arrested or charged. 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 factors which are likely to influence the level of confidence held in the police.

In 2016/17, 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;
- 85% felt they were treated fairly;
- 70% believed the police showed as much interest as they should have in what respondents had to say; and
- 66% were very or quite satisfied with the way the police handled the matter.

Perceptions of the criminal justice system

The SCJS also collects information on public knowledge of and attitudes towards the criminal justice system in Scotland⁶⁷, as well as contact with different organisations operating within the system.

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

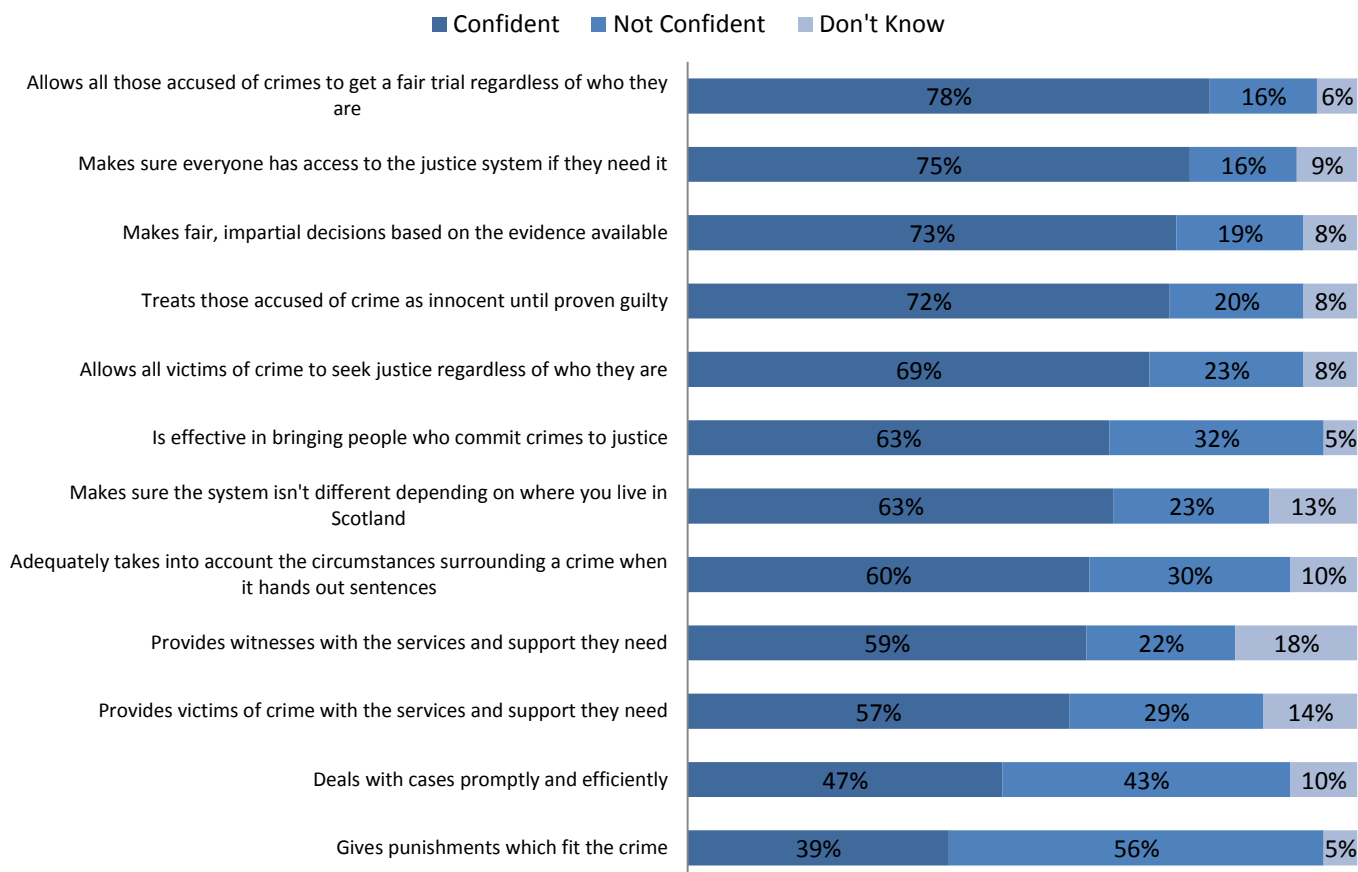
The majority of adults in 2016/17 knew little about the criminal justice system but generally the public were fairly confident about its operation.

Consistent with previous sweeps of the SCJS, in 2016/17 a large proportion of the Scottish population claimed to know not very much (61%) or nothing at all (16%) about the Scottish criminal justice system in general. Expressed another way, more than three-quarters of adults said they did not have much knowledge of the criminal justice system.

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.

⁶⁷ The criminal justice system was defined to respondents:

► **Figure 6.8: Confidence in the operation of the criminal justice system in 2016/17**



Base: All adults (5,570); Variables: QDCONF_01 – QDCONF_14

For example, nearly four out of five adults (78%) were confident that the system allows all those accused of crimes to get a fair trial, whilst three-quarters (75%) had confidence that everyone is able to access the justive system if required. However, less than half of the population were confident about the efficiency of the system (47% confident) and whether appropriate punishments are given to offenders (39% confident).

Across a range of these categories, victims of crime (compared to non-victims) and those living in the 15% most deprived areas of Scotland (compared to those living elsewhere) were less likely to be confident in the operation of the justice system. For instance:

- 55% of respondents who were victims of crime in 2016/17 were confident that the system is effective in bringing people who commit crimes to justice, in comparison to 64% of non-victims; and
- 67% of adults living in the 15% most deprived areas were confident that the criminal justice system makes fair, impartial decisions based on the evidence available, compared to 74% of those living elsewhere.

Full-time series results for these attitudinal measures are shown in Annex table A1.20. It shows that generally confidence in the criminal justice system was stronger across the range of measures in 2016/17 than it was the first time each question was asked (four of the current measures were first asked in 2008/09, the rest have only been asked in their current form since 2012/13). For example, the proportion of adults who were very or fairly

confident that the system is effective at bringing people who commit crimes to justice increased from 53% in 2008/09 to 63% in 2016/17.

How effective did the public think prisons and other forms of sentencing in Scotland were?

The SCJS also gathers information on attitudes towards prisons and community sentencing to understand what the public thinks about processes to punish 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 time⁶⁸. In addition, it is important to note that questions on attitudes towards prisons and community sentences are asked without reference to specific crime circumstances or offender backgrounds which may influence opinions about what constitutes a suitable sentence or approach.

The public had mixed views on the effectiveness of prisons in tackling crime and rehabilitating offenders in 2016/17.

As shown in Table 6.5, the response provided to a series of statements designed to measure confidence in the performance of the prison system in Scotland was varied. For instance, whilst around three-quarters (76%) of adults were very or fairly confident that prisons played an important role in protecting the public from crime, slightly more than half (52%) were not very or not at all confident in the ability of prisons to deter people from offending in the first place. Overall, two-thirds of people (66%) were confident that prison was an effective punishment for people who have been convicted of a crime.

► **Table 6.5: Confidence in the effectiveness of prisons**

| Proportion of adults who were confident that: | Very confident | Fairly confident | Not very confident | Not at all confident | Don't know |
|---|----------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------|
| Prison is an effective punishment for people who have been convicted of a crime. | 17% | 49% | 21% | 9% | 3% |
| Prison is effective at addressing issues which increase the risk of someone committing a crime. | 7% | 36% | 36% | 11% | 10% |
| Prison is effective at deterring people from offending. | 8% | 37% | 37% | 15% | 3% |
| Prison is effective at protecting the public from crime. | 21% | 56% | 16% | 5% | 3% |

Base: All adults (1,360); Variables: QPRIS2_01 – QPRIS2_04

Knowledge of community payback orders and awareness of their use in respondents' local area was relatively low.

Respondents were also asked about their awareness and perceptions of community payback orders (CPOs) – a community sentence designed to punish offenders in a way that benefits the community whilst helping offenders to address and change their

⁶⁸ Results from each sweep of the SCJS are available in [data tables](#), whilst questionnaire documentation available online also outlines the specific questions asked in each sweep.

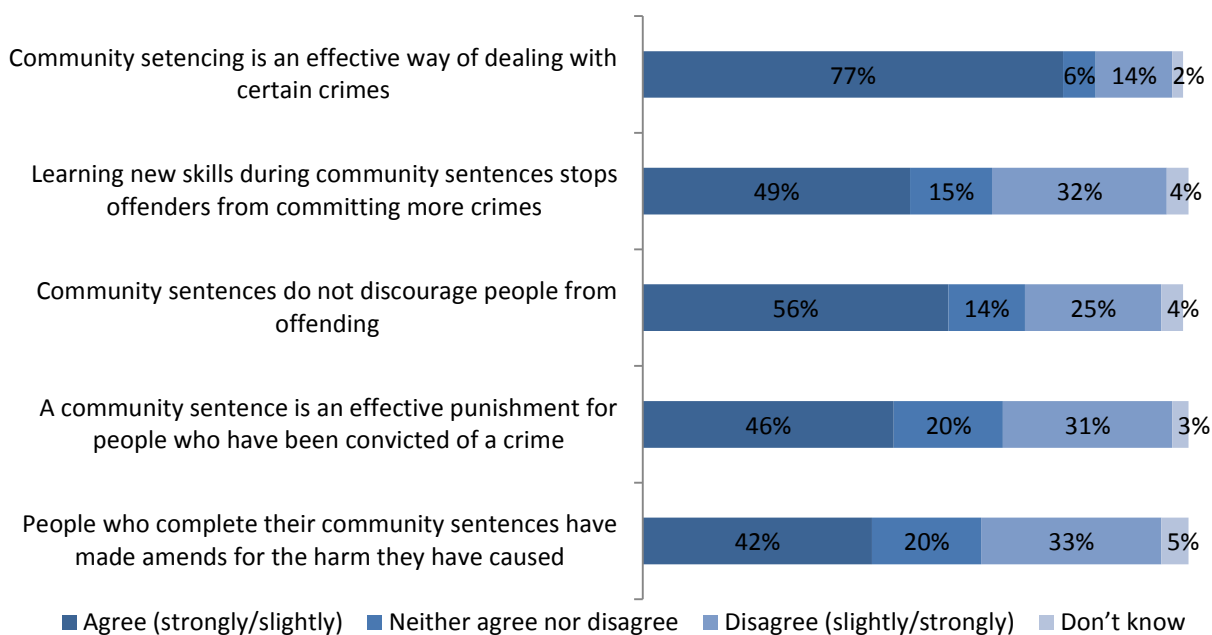
behaviour. Two-fifths (38%) of the population said they were aware of CPOs, and of those, just over one in six (17%) were aware of them having been carried out in their area.

Whilst the vast majority agreed that community sentences can be effective in particular circumstances, opinions varied about the rationale behind such initiatives and whether they successfully meet their aims.

Figure 6.9 provides the results to a series of statements which respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with in relation to the objectives and delivery of community sentences.

It shows that whilst the majority of people (77%) believed that community sentencing is an effective way of dealing with certain crimes, the population provided less assured responses to the other questions posed, with many respondents providing no clear view in relation to a number of the statements. For example, whilst around two-fifths of adults (42%) agreed with the statement that ‘people who complete their community sentences have made amends for the harm they have caused’, one-third of respondents (33%) disagreed with this notion, whilst the remaining quarter (25%) provided no strong view or said they did not know.

► **Figure 6.9: Proportion of adults agreeing with statements about community sentencing**



Base: All adults (1,360); Variables: QDISATT2_03; QDISATT2_03; QDISATT2_04; QDISATT2_08; QDISATT2_09; QDISATT2_10

7. Public perceptions of crime and safety

In addition to measuring the extent and prevalence of crime, the SCJS also enables us to understand public perceptions of crime and safety, including how these have changed over time. This chapter presents key findings from 2016/17.

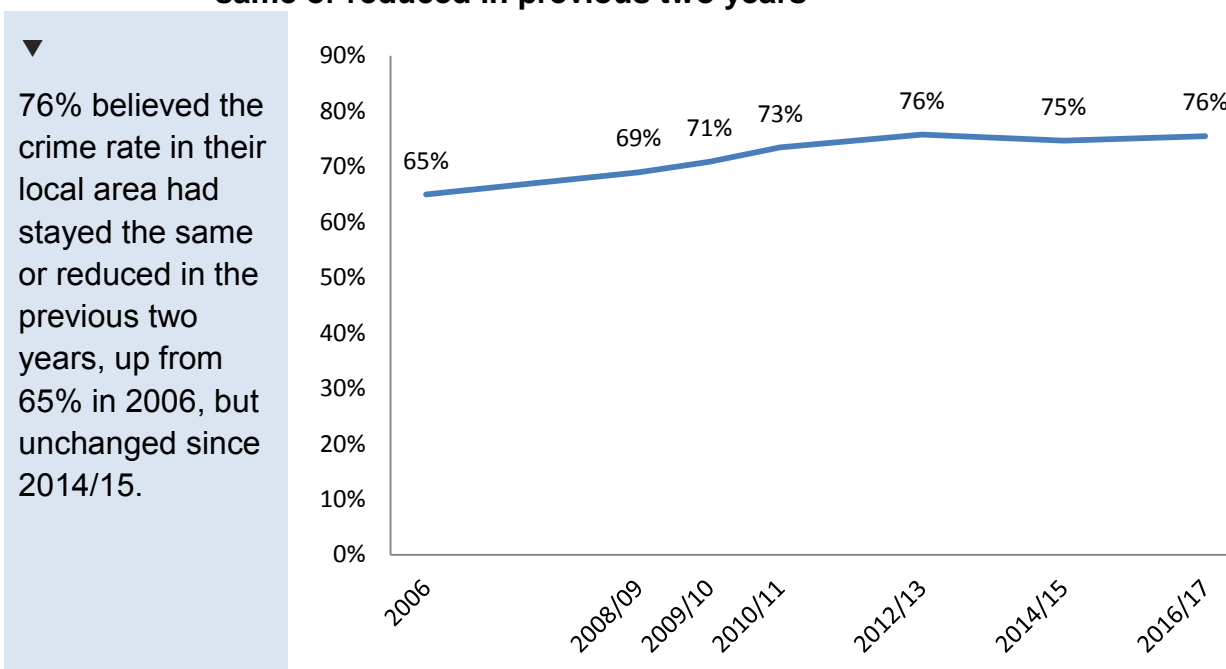
How did the public think the crime rate in their local area had changed in recent years?

One of the key indicators in the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework, '[Scotland Performs](#)', is the public's perception of the crime rate in their 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*⁶⁹ in the past two years in their local area. The baseline year for the indicator is 2006.

Three-quarters of adults believe that the local crime rate has stayed the same or reduced in the last two years⁷⁰.

The proportion holding this view has increased from the 65% in 2006, although the indicator has stabilised around the 75% level since 2012/13, as shown in Figure 7.1. In 2016/17 65% of adults said the local crime rate had stayed the same, whilst 10% said it had fallen.

► **Figure 7.1: Proportion of adults who believed local crime rate had stayed the same or reduced in previous two years**



Base: All adults who have lived in local area for two years or more (4,830); Variable: QS2AREA

⁶⁹ The 'reduced' category combines those saying the crime rate is a 'little less' and a 'lot less'.

⁷⁰ 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=4,830).

Examining changes in perceptions over time in more detail reveals that the proportion of adults who thought the local crime rate had increased in the previous two years has fallen from around one-in-three (32%) in 2006, and just over one-in-four (28%) in 2008/09, to fewer than one-in-five (19%) in 2016/17.

Views on the local crime rate in 2016/17 were fairly positive across all key demographic and geographic groups, although some relative differences were evident amongst comparator groups.

The SCJS enables us to explore how views on the local crime rate varied by demographic and geographic characteristics. In 2016/17, most adults (generally around 70% or more) across a range of groups considered the rate to have stayed the same or reduced in the previous two years, although some groups were comparatively more likely to hold this view. For instance, a greater proportion of men felt this way (79% compared to 73% of women), whilst victims of crime were also generally less likely to have provided this response (69% compared to 76% of non-victims).

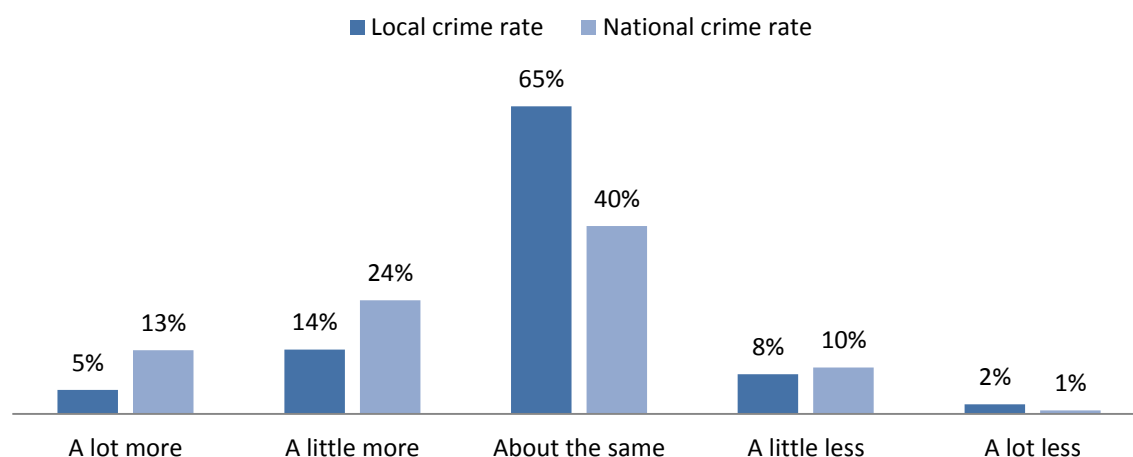
Looking at trends over time reveals improvements in perceptions since 2008/09 across a range of population groups, including for example both males and females, people living in the most deprived areas and elsewhere, and amongst victims of crime and non-victims. In line with the national average, perceptions have shown no change since 2014/15 across the majority of groups, although the proportion of victims of crime who thought the local crime rate had stayed the same or reduced did increase from 63% in 2014/15 to 69% in 2016/17. The breakdowns and time-series analyses are provided in Annex table A1.11.

Did public perceptions on the national crime rate and the local crime differ?

Consistent with findings in previous years, adults were more likely to think the national crime rate had increased than the level of crime locally.

Respondents were also asked about how they thought the crime rate had changed in Scotland as a whole in the previous two years. Consistent with previous survey sweeps, the 2016/17 SCJS found that adults were more likely to think the national crime rate had increased in recent years compared to the local crime rate, as shown in Figure 7.2.

► **Figure 7.2: Perceptions of changes in the crime rate locally and nationally in the previous two years**



Base: Local crime rate: All adults who have lived in local area for two years or more (4,830); National crime rate: All adults (5,570); Variables: QS2AREA; QS2AREAS

Perceptions on the national crime rate have improved since 2009/10.

Since 2009/10⁷¹, the proportion of adults believing the national crime rate stayed the same or reduced in the previous two years has increased (from 40% in 2009/10 to 50% in 2016/17). Adults were also less likely to say the crime rate was increasing in 2016/17 (37%) than they were in 2009/10 (52%), however this proportion has increased from 2014/15 (34%), as outlined in Table 7.1. It will be important to monitor these results into the future to assess how public perceptions develop and whether the longer-term positive trend continues.

► **Table 7.1: Public perceptions on how the national crime rate has changed**

| Percentage of adults holding view on change in crime rate nationally since two years ago: | 2016/17 | Change since 2009/10 | Change since 2014/15 |
|---|---------|----------------------|----------------------|
| A lot more / a little more | 37% | ↓ from 52% | ↑ from 34% |
| About the same | 40% | ↑ from 36% | No change |
| A lot less / a little less | 11% | ↑ from 4% | ↓ from 15% |
| <i>Number of respondents</i> | 5,570 | 16,040 | 11,470 |

Variable: QS2AREAS

⁷¹ Opinions on the national crime rate were first recorded by the SCJS in 2009/10.

How common were different crimes perceived to be?

The majority of people did not think a range of crimes were common in their local area in 2016/17, and many issues were considered to be less prevalent than they were in 2008/09.

As well as being asked about perceived changes in the local and national crime rates, respondents were asked how common they thought a range of crimes and behaviours were in their area. For example, respondents were asked how prevalent they thought drug dealing and abuse, anti-social behaviour, violent incidents and a range of property related crimes were.

Overall, the majority of people did not think each individual issue was a common occurrence in their area. Consistent with SCJS findings in recent years, drug dealing and drug abuse was considered to be the most prevalent problem in 2016/17 (from those asked about), noted as being very or fairly common by just over a third of respondents (36%). One in ten (10%) thought violence between groups of individuals or gangs was common, with the same proportion also believing that people being physically assaulted or attacked in the street or another public place was very or fairly common issue in their area. Fewer than one in twenty (3%) thought people being sexually assaulted was a prevalent issue in 2016/17 in their area.

Annex table A1.21 provides detailed results on the proportion of adults who thought each issue was very or fairly common in their area in 2016/17 and how figures have changed over time. It shows that, for issues where relevant comparator data is available, in 2016/17 most issues were perceived as being less prevalent than they were in 2008/09. For example, the proportion of people who thought that physical assaults and attacks in the street or other public places were common almost halved between 2008/09 and 2016/17 (falling from 19% to 10% over this period).

Since 2014/15, the proportion of adults who thought each issue was common has shown no change or fallen.

How safe did the public feel in 2016/17?

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.

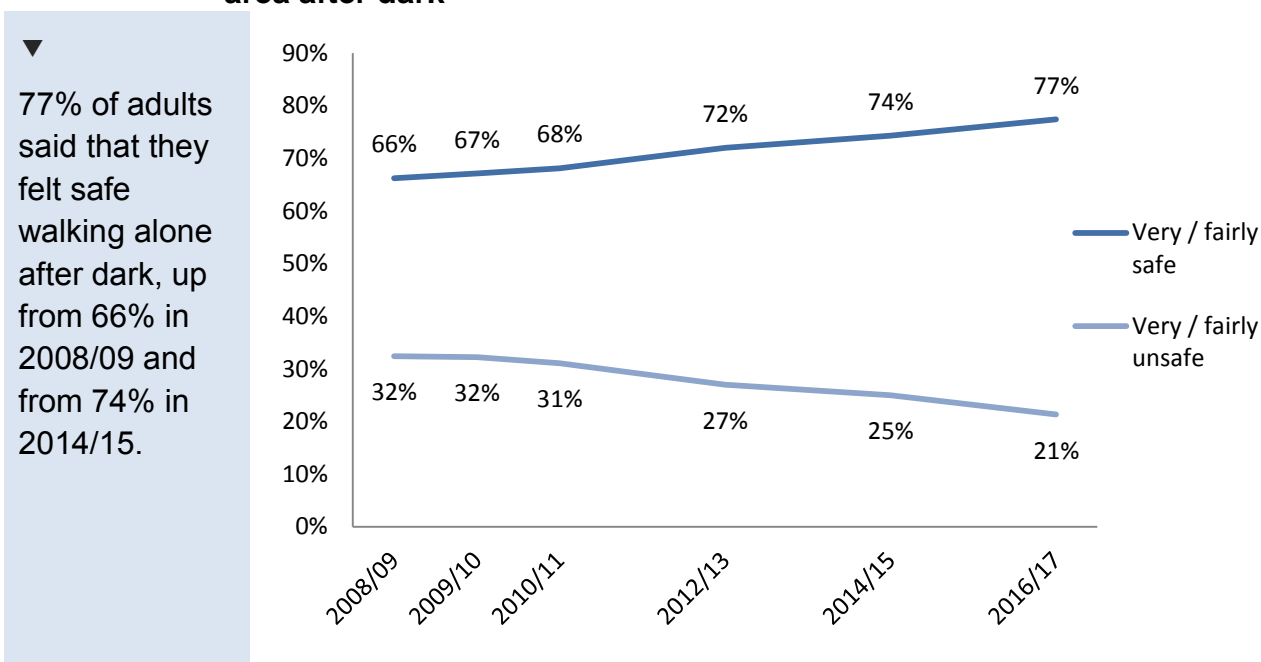
People were more likely to report feeling safe in their local area and around their home at night in 2016/17 than they were in 2008/09.

In 2016/17, the vast majority of adults in Scotland (77%) said they felt very or fairly safe walking alone in their local area after dark. The proportion of adults feeling safe has increased from 66% in 2008/09, and 74% in 2014/15, as shown in Figure 7.3. The latest results mean that feelings of safety are at the highest level ever measured by the SCJS⁷².

⁷² Since the SCJS has operated in its current format since 2008/09.

The most recently published figures for England and Wales⁷³ showed a similar proportion of adults (75%) felt safe walking alone at night.

► **Figure 7.3: Proportion of adults who felt safe/unsafe walking alone in the local area after dark**



▼
77% of adults said that they felt safe walking alone after dark, up from 66% in 2008/09 and from 74% in 2014/15.

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). Variable: QSFDARK

Feelings of safety have improved across most population groups in recent years, yet some relative differences in perceptions remain between comparator groups.

Whilst the majority of adults in all groups felt safe walking alone in their local areas after dark in 2016/17, the proportions did vary notably amongst different demographic and geographic categories. For instance, as shown in Table 7.2, females, those living in the 15% most deprived areas of Scotland, and victims of crime were less likely to report feeling safe in 2016/17 than comparator groups. However, feelings of safety have improved across all groups considered below since 2008/09⁷⁴.

⁷³ CSEW 2015/16

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/adhocs/006255feelingunsaferwalkinghomeandbeinghomealoneafterdarkbyageandsextheeffectoffearofcrimeonqualityoflifeyearendingmarch2016>

⁷⁴ Full time series results are shown in Annex tables A1.12.

► **Table 7.2: Feelings of safety when walking alone in the local area after dark by demographic and area characteristics**

| Percentage of adults who felt very or fairly safe walking alone after dark | 2016/17 | Change since 2008/09 | Change since 2014/15 |
|--|---------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Male | 89% | ↑ from 79% | ↑ from 86% |
| Female | 67% | ↑ from 55% | ↑ from 64% |
| Aged 16-24 | 79% | ↑ from 71% | No change |
| Aged 25-44 | 83% | ↑ from 73% | ↑ from 78% |
| Aged 45-59 | 79% | ↑ from 70% | No change |
| Aged 60+ | 70% | ↑ from 52% | ↑ from 66% |
| 15% most deprived areas | 63% | ↑ from 52% | No change |
| Rest of Scotland | 80% | ↑ from 69% | ↑ from 76% |
| Victim of crime | 70% | ↑ from 61% | No change |
| Non-victim | 79% | ↑ from 68% | ↑ from 76% |

Base: Full sample - 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). Variable: QSFDARK.

Respondents were also asked how safe they felt when alone in their home at night as an alternative measure of feelings of safety. In 2016/17, 97% of adults said they felt very or fairly safe alone in their home at night, an increase from 93% in 2008/09 and 94% in 2014/15.

Although more than nine-in-ten adults across all demographic and geographic categories reported feeling safe and improvements have been seen across many groups since 2008/09, again some differences exist amongst the population. For example, 93% of those living in the 15% most deprived areas reported feeling safe in their home alone, in comparison to 97% of adults living elsewhere in Scotland.

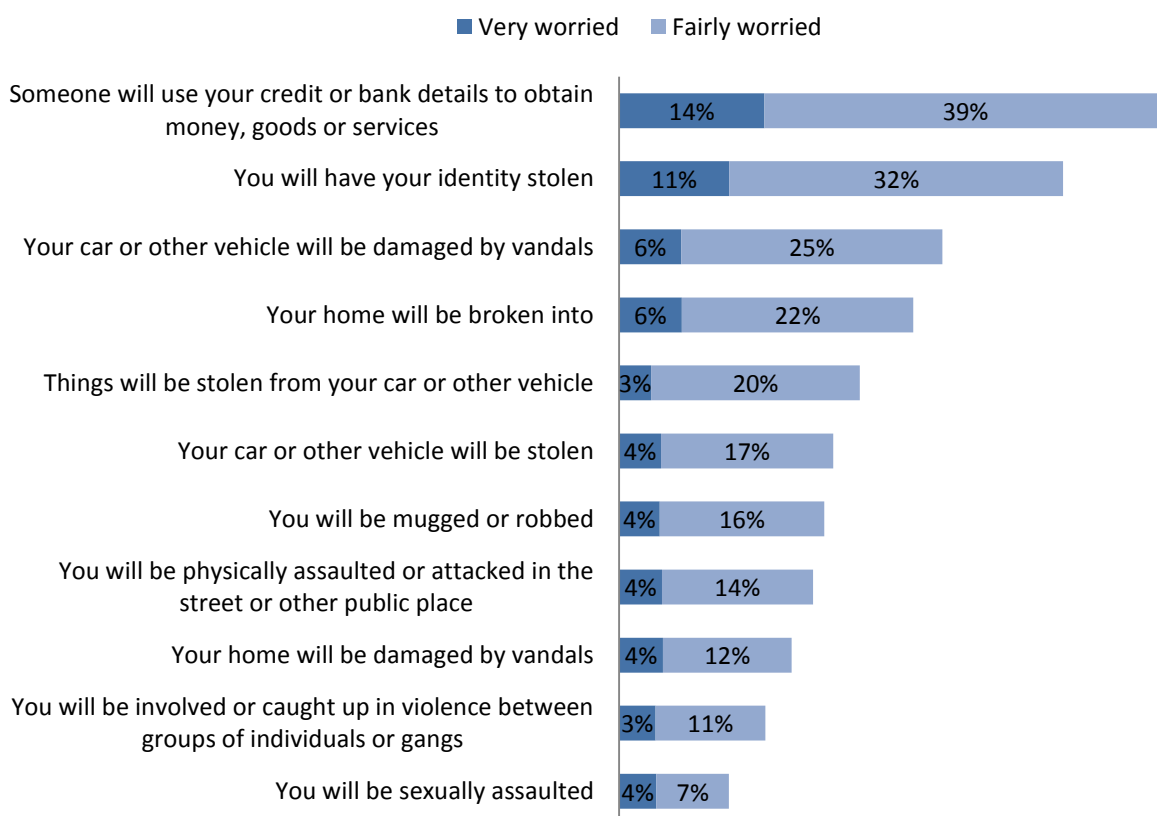
How concerned were the public about specific types of crime in 2016/17?

As well as measuring the perceived prevalence of different crimes and general feelings of safety, the SCJS also captures data on how worried the public are about specific types of crime and how likely they think they are to experience them. Whilst the analysis below summarises key findings from the questions on these topics, the results should be interpreted with caution as the impact of 'worry' and perceptions of likelihood will vary from one individual to another. Moreover, it is important to note that even if someone claims they are not worried about a 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 2016/17, although the proportion of adults concerned about fraud and a range of other issues has reduced since 2008/09.

In line with findings in previous years, in 2016/17 the crimes (from those asked about) which the public were most likely to say they were very or fairly worried about were fraud⁷⁵ related issues. More specifically, 52% of adults said they were worried about someone using their credit or bank details to obtain money, goods or services, whilst 43% were worried about their identity being stolen. Fraudulent use of bank details was the only issue which more than half of all adults were worried about in 2016/17, although sizeable minorities remain worried about the range of other issues, as shown in Figure 7.4. For example, by way of comparison, just under a fifth (19%) were worried about being physically assaulted or attacked in the street or other public place, whilst around a tenth (11%) were concerned about being sexually assaulted.

► **Figure 7.4: Proportion of adults worried about experiencing each issue**



Base: Questions on vehicles theft/damage only asked of those who have access to or own vehicle (4,120); all other questions asked of all adults (5,570); Variables: QWORR_04 – QWORR_14

Annex table A1.22 presents the results on worry about different crimes over time and highlights significant changes where these have been detected. It highlights that the proportion of adults who were very or fairly worried about experiencing each specific crime was lower in 2016/17 than the 2008/09 baseline, with worry about the majority of measures also having fallen since the last SCJS in 2014/15.

For example, whilst remaining the issue most commonly worried about, the proportion who were very or fairly worried about their credit or bank details being used for fraudulent

⁷⁵ Findings in relation to fraud are also discussed in the later section '[Cyber-crime in Scotland](#)'.

purposes has fallen from 56% in 2008/09 to 52% in 2016/17. The proportion of adults worried about being mugged or robbed has fallen from around one-in-three in 2008/09 (31%), and one-in-four in 2014/15 (24%), to one-in-five in 2016/17 (20%).

Whilst half of all adults did not think they were likely to experience any crime in the next year, around three-in-ten thought they were likely to be victims of banking or credit fraud.

SCJS respondents were also asked which of the issues, if any, they thought they were likely to experience in the next 12 months. 50% of adults did not think they were likely to experience any of the crimes covered in the next 12 months. This figure has fallen from 55% in 2014/15, but is not significantly different from the 48% who felt this way in 2008/09.

In line with worry about fraud, the crime type which the largest proportion of adults thought they were likely to experience was someone using their bank or card details to obtain money, goods or services, which 28% thought would happen to them in the next year. This proportion has increased from 14% in 2008/09 and 17% in 2014/15. Taken together with the level of worry about fraud, and notwithstanding the fact that the proportion worried has decreased since 2008/09, the SCJS results suggest that fraud continues to be an issue of concern for the public.

To put the perceptions about the likelihood of experiencing fraud into context, one-in-ten (10%) thought their car would be damaged by vandals, around one-in-twenty (6%) thought they would be physically assaulted in the street or other public place, whilst one-in-fifty (2%) thought it was likely that they would be sexually assaulted.

Annex table A1.23 presents these results over time and highlights significant changes where these have been detected. It shows that when 2016/17 results are compared with 2008/09 and 2014/15 a range of relatively small but statistically significant changes are detected in the proportion of adults who thought they were likely to experience different crime types. For example:

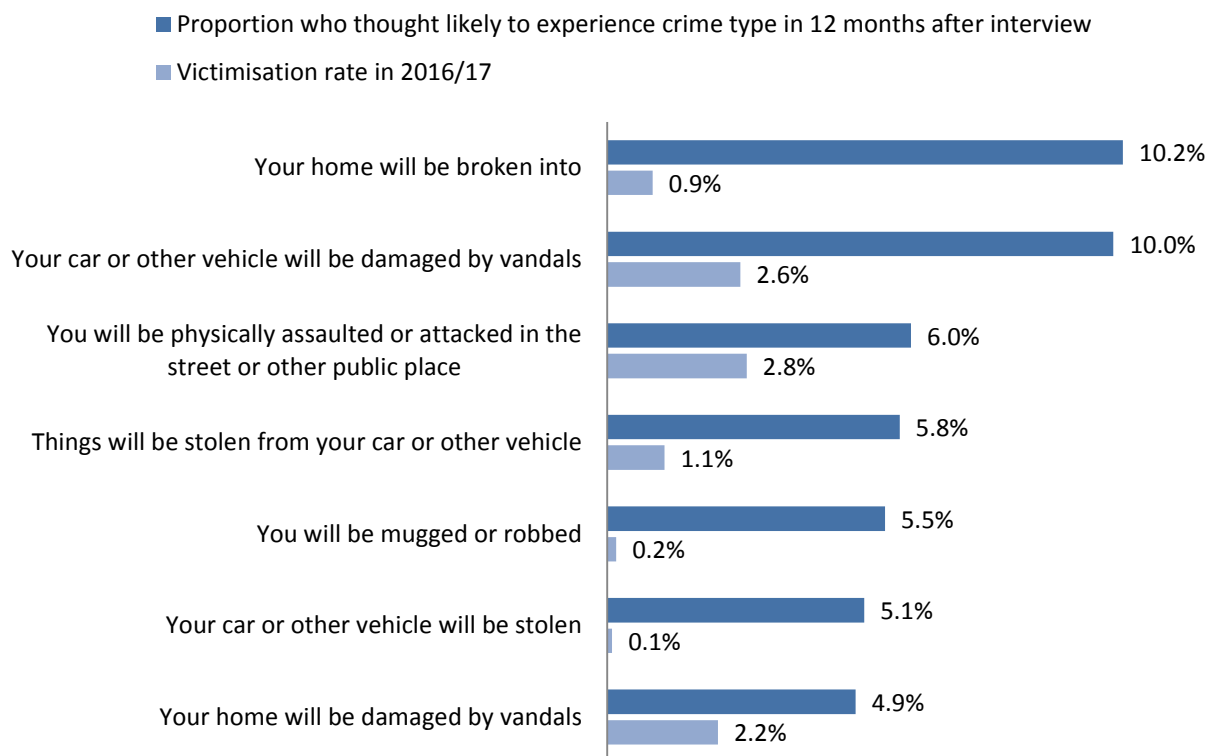
- The proportion of adults who thought they were likely to be involved or caught up in violence between groups of individuals or gangs has fallen from 7% in 2008/09 to 4% in 2016/17;
- The proportion who thought their home would be broken into has increased from 9% in 2008/09 to 10% in 2016/17.

Across a range of crime types, the actual victimisation rate in 2016/17 was notably lower than the proportion of adults who think they are likely to experience the issue.

Figure 7.5 below compares the proportion who thought they were likely to experience each issue in the next 12 months, against the estimated victimisation rate for that crime type in 2016/17. It shows that generally a much larger proportion of adults thought they were likely to experience each crime than the proportion who were actually victims of such incidents in 2016/17.

For example, 6.0% 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 2016/17 was 2.8%.

► **Figure 7.5: Perceived likelihood of victimisation in next year in context of 2016/17 victimisation rate**⁷⁶



Base: All adults (5,570); Variables: QHAPP; PREVHOUSEBREAK; PREVMOTOVAND; PREVASSAULT; PREVATTTHEFTMV; PREVROB; PREVTHEFTOFMV; PREVPROPVAND.

What was the impact of concerns about crime?

Most adults did not allow their concerns about crime to prevent them doing things they otherwise wanted to.

Following on from exploring worry about and perceptions of crime, it is helpful to consider the impact of such feelings on individual behaviour to help put findings in context. Of those who reported being worried about experiencing some sort of crime, two-thirds (65%) reported that it did not ('at all') prevent them from doing things they would otherwise want to do. 28% of adults worried about being a victim of crime 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' in 2016/17.

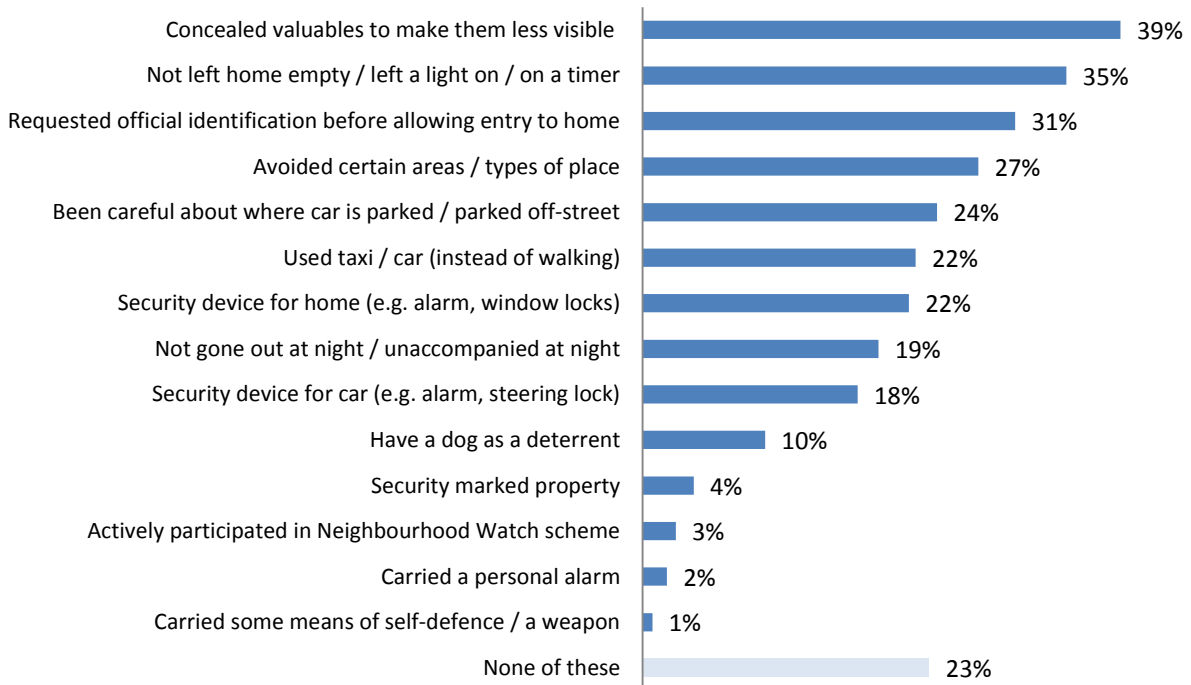
Most adults reported taking some sort of action in 2016/17 to reduce their risk of being a victim of crime.

Figure 7.6 highlights some of the precautions that SCJS respondents reported having done or having in place in the last year to try to reduce the risk of becoming a victim of crime. The majority of adults (77%) reported adopting at least one preventative action in 2016/17 and since 2014/15 the proportion of adults reporting that they did not adopt any of the potential precautions has fallen from 30% to 23%.

⁷⁶ Estimates in this figure are shown to one decimal place to facilitate a comparison between prevalence rate (generally shown to one decimal place) and perceived likelihood of being a victim (generally shown to round number).

As in the last two survey sweeps, the most common behaviours adopted by adults were not leaving their home empty or leaving a light on (reported by 35% in 2016/17), and concealing valuables on their person, in their car or at home to make them less visible (reported by 39%).

► **Figure 7.6: Actions taken to reduce the risk of experiencing crime in the last year**



Base: All adults (1,390); Variable: QDONE

8. SCJS topical reports

In addition to exploring the extent and prevalence of crime, and perceptions of the police, criminal justice system and crime more generally, the SCJS also collects data on a range of other justice related topics.

In recognition of the level of interest in the topic, the following section first provides an overview of the evidence available through the SCJS on [cyber-crime](#) and an update on wider developments being taken forward by the Scottish Government and others on this topic.

It then presents key findings from the 2016/17 SCJS on:

- [Harassment and discrimination](#);
- [Workplace abuse](#); and
- [Fake and smuggled goods](#).

8.1 Cyber-crime in Scotland

What is cyber-crime?

Defining cyber-crime is complex and there is no single definition. The main debate centres around the extent to which the internet and cyber technologies need to be involved for the crime to be termed 'cyber-crime'. This ranges from activities which would not be possible without the use of a computer, computer networks or other forms of ICT (e.g. spread of viruses, hacking etc.) to traditional crimes where the internet and cyber technologies have a minor involvement (e.g. a precursor to the crime).

There is therefore a spectrum of different types of incidents that can involve a cyber-element. This chapter presents a range of results, from the SCJS and elsewhere, on the extent to which the internet and cyber technology was involved in certain incidents. This includes where cyber technologies can be used as a locus for crime (for example, internet fraud) and other results where cyber-technologies can be involved more indirectly (for example video recordings of more traditional types of offences).

The section below first presents SCJS results relating to some online experiences of survey respondents and then outlines results on fraud (including perceptions of fraud and indicative findings on the extent of some types of fraud). It then briefly highlights new questions on cyber-crime which will be added to the 2018/19 SCJS and also provides some additional context by highlighting related results from the Crime Survey for England and Wales. As the following summary of SCJS findings related to cyber-crime brings together data from different sections of the survey, base sizes and variable names are generally provided in the footnote to highlight the survey questions which relevant findings are derived from.

Key findings from the 2016/17 SCJS: Cyber-crime

To what extent was crime occurring online?

The SCJS does not find many 'traditional' crimes that happen online/via the internet, however this is likely due to the way the questions are currently asked.

Where it is offered as a possible response for location of crime, online/internet is virtually never selected by respondents when they are asked to best describe where the crime happened.

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) use a 'cyber flag' approach (coding 'traditional crimes' that are cyber-related) to show in their [latest findings](#) that 0.2% of violent incidents were identified as a cyber-crime⁷⁷.

The SCJS will include this 'cyber flag' in 2018/19.

Notwithstanding these findings, the SCJS does indicate that cyber technology may be involved in some traditional crimes. As reported in the [Focus on violent crime](#) chapter, there were an estimated 231,000 violent crimes experienced by adults in Scotland in 2016/17. Of these crimes 6% included incidents where the force/violence used was

⁷⁷ Crime in England and Wales, Year ending September 2016.

recorded (e.g. on a mobile phone, camera, CCTV etc.)⁷⁸. Although it is not possible to look at the specific methods of recording, it is likely this will have included incidents where cyber technology and/or networks were involved.

To what extent were people being insulted, pestered or intimidated online?

In person experiences of being insulted, pestered or intimidated are much more common than those carried out in writing via electronic means.

In 2016/17 14% of adults were insulted, pestered or intimidated in anyway, by someone outwith their household in the year prior to interview, up from 9% in 2014/15 but unchanged from 2008/09⁷⁹. More findings on harassment in general are reported in the later section on [harassment and discrimination](#),

Of those who experienced this, 15% encountered such behaviour 'in writing via text, email, messenger or posts on social media' (unchanged from 2014/15⁸⁰⁸¹), compared to 88% who experienced incidents in person in 2016/17.

What role was the internet playing in the selling of fake or smuggled goods?

The selling of fake or smuggled clothes or tobacco/cigarettes was more likely to take place via 'traditional' means rather than 'on the internet'.

In the year prior to interview, the vast majority of adults (86%) were not offered any of the fake and/or smuggled goods asked about, whilst the most common fake or smuggled good offered was cigarettes/tobacco (6%), followed by clothes (4%)⁸². When adults were offered fake or smuggled clothes or cigarettes/tobacco, this occurred 'on the internet', in 26% and 8% of instances respectively. Findings on fake and smuggled goods more generally are covered by a later [section](#) of this report.

Key findings from the 2016/17 SCJS: Fraud

Fraud can take many (sometimes related) forms and centres around a person dishonestly and deliberately deceiving a victim for personal gain. Although not confined to occurring online, the rise of the internet has offered potential new means for fraud to be committed.

The SCJS does not count crimes of fraud, however it does examine people's perceptions of fraud and their experiences of certain types of fraud (in the form of 'Victim Form Screener' questions)⁸³. These screener questions provide indicative findings only. This is

⁷⁸ Variable name: QFORH.

⁷⁹ Variable name: QAINSUL2. Base: 2016/17 1,430. 2014/15: 5,750. 2008/09: 4,000.

⁸⁰ Variable name: QATHME2. Base: 2016/17: 190. 2014/15: 470.

⁸¹ In 2014/15 'texts/emails' and 'in writing via the internet' were two separate categories. Statistical significance tested for change using the 2016/17 finding and the combined 2014/15 data for these two categories (14%).

⁸² Variable names: QFSSELL and QFSWHR. Base: Fake and smuggled goods offered (1,390). It is not possible to look at the location of where other types of goods were offered due to base sizes.

⁸³ Section 2 of the 2016/17 SCJS questionnaire.

because respondents are not asked for full details of the incidents in the way that they are with other traditional SCJS crime incidents (which enables those incidents to be coded into valid/invalid SCJS crimes⁸⁴).

To what extent were people experiencing fraud in 2016/17?

5% of adults reported that they had their credit or bank cards/card details used fraudulently, whilst 1% reported that their identity had been stolen.

The SCJS asks respondents if in the year prior to interview, they experienced credit and bank fraud or had their identity stolen for fraudulent purposes. The questions provide indicative findings only (and do not cover whether it occurs online).

Notwithstanding these caveats, analysis shows that 5% of adults reported that they had their credit or bank cards/card details used fraudulently in 2016/17⁸⁵. This is unchanged from 2014/15 but is up from 3% in 2008/09.

Identity theft was less common, with 1% of adults reporting experience of such incidents in 2016/17 in the 12 months before the survey, unchanged from 2014/15 and 2008/09.

Although, as noted above, the SCJS only provides indicative findings here, it is notable that the CSEW⁸⁶ finds similar results where respondents were asked about plastic card fraud. For example, the latest figures for the year ending September 2017 show that 5.7% of plastic card owners were victims of card fraud, compared to a similar level of 5.3% for the previous year.⁸⁷

How concerned were people about fraud in 2016/17?

As in recent years, respondents in 2016/17 were most likely to report being worried about acts of fraud rather than other types of crime.

One aspect of fraud is where criminals use a person's credit or bank details in order to obtain money or buy goods and services. In 2016/17, 52% of adults in Scotland were worried that this would happen to them⁸⁸. This finding is similar to 2014/15 but has declined from 56% recorded in 2008/09. Across the time series adults were most likely to report worrying about this type of crime. In 2016/17 as with other years, this was followed by another aspect of fraud, identity theft⁸⁹. In 2016/17 43% of adults were worried about

⁸⁴ Valid crimes are incidents which occurred in Scotland, during the reference period and concern crimes that are within the scope of the SCJS. Any incident that does meet any of these criteria is invalid.

⁸⁵ Variable names: CARDVIC2 and IDTHEF3. Base: 2016/17 (5,570), 2014/15 (11,470), 2008/09 (3,980).

⁸⁶ This question existed before introduction of fraud module in October 2015 and was removed from the survey in October 2017.

⁸⁷ Overview of fraud and computer misuse statistics for England and Wales:
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/overviewoffraudandcomputer misusestatisticsforenglandandwales/2018-01-25>

⁸⁸ Variable name: QWORR. Base: 2016/17 (5,570), 2014/15 (11,470), 2008/09 (16,000)

⁸⁹ 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.

having their identity stolen. This is similar to the 2014/15 finding but is down from 51% in 2008/09.

In 2016/17, for both of these fraudulent acts, worry varied according to demographic groups, for example women were more likely to be worried (57% worried about their credit or bank details being used fraudulently, 45% worried about identity theft) than men (47% credit or bank details, 40% identity theft).

In 2016/17, levels of worry about these two types of fraud were higher than for all other types of crime asked about. For example 31% of adults with a motor vehicle in the household were worried about this being damaged by vandals, whilst 28% of adults were worried about their home being broken into and 11% of adults were worried that they would be sexually assaulted.

Adults thought they were more likely to experience fraud than other types of crime.

The SCJS also asked respondents about crimes they thought they were likely to experience in the next year. In 2016/17, of the crimes asked about, respondents thought that someone using their credit card/bank details was the crime most likely to happen to them in the next year (28%), an increase from 17% in 2014/15 and 14% in 2008/09. In 2016/17 women were more likely to be of this view (30%) than men (26%).⁹⁰ As with the above findings on worry about crime, this was followed by having their identity stolen; 16% of adults thought this was likely to happen in the next 12 months, up from 11% in 2014/15 and 12% in 2008/09.

Respondents were more likely to think they would experience either of these crimes in the next 12 months compared to any of the other crime types asked about. For example, in 2016/17, 10% thought it likely their home would be broken into, whilst for sexual assault the figure stood at 2%, the lowest of any crime type included. However it is worth noting that half of respondents in 2016/17 (50%) did not think it likely that they would experience any of crimes listed in the next 12 months.

Developing the cyber-crime evidence base

A number of recently published strategies emphasise the challenges and risks of cyber-crime, including Scottish Government's Justice Vision and Priorities, Cyber Resilience Strategy and Policing 2026. To inform this on-going strategic work, a range of analytical work is being carried out with the aim of developing the evidence base around cyber-crime.

Future SCJS questions

Questions on cyber-crime/online behaviours have been developed in conjunction with internal and external colleagues and been cognitively tested. The questions will be included in the SCJS questionnaire from 2018/19 onwards. In addition, a 'cyber flag' question will be included in the victim form section of the 2018/19 questionnaire. This is a similar approach to that adopted by the CSEW and will enable us to examine the proportion of property and violent crime (currently included in the SCJS) that have a cyber-element. The first findings from these questions will be available in late 2019 / early 2020. They will not be included in the main SCJS crime estimates, however they represent an important step in developing the SCJS evidence in this area. More information, including

⁹⁰ Variable name: QHAPP. Base: 2016/17 (5,570), 2014/15 (11,470), 2008/09 (16,000).

the areas the questions cover is available in the SCJS 2018/19 Questionnaire Review Paper⁹¹.

Wider analytical work in Scotland

The Scottish Government has undertaken a review of cyber-crime, including exploring existing evidence (e.g. 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. The review is available on the [Scottish Government's website](#) and will help inform next steps for developing the cyber-crime evidence base in the SCJS and more generally.

In addition, it is notable that other organisations are also developing their data. For example, from April 2016 there has been a requirement in the crime recording systems throughout Police Scotland to identify and record instances of cyber-crime using a defined marker. As this becomes fully embedded it should provide a valuable evidence source of police recorded crimes involving a cyber-dimension.

Crime Survey for England and Wales

It is also notable that the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) has included and developed a module on fraud and computer misuse⁹² since October 2015. The questions provide estimates on the incidence, prevalence and nature of these crimes and are included in the main crime survey estimates. These questions provide an estimate of the proportion of fraud and computer misuse incidents that are cyber-related.

The headline findings for the [year ending March 2017](#) show⁹³:

- 3.4 million incidents of fraud were experienced by 6.0% of adults in England and Wales.
- Over half (57%) of fraud incidents were cyber-related, amounting to approx. 1.9 million incidents.
- 1.8 million incidents of computer misuse were experienced by 3.0% of adults.
- The vast majority (97%) of computer misuse incidents were cyber-related, amounting to approximately 1.75 million incidents.
- Comparing these two crimes to other crime types in the CSEW suggests they are amongst the most numerous crimes experienced.

These findings are discussed in more detail in the Scottish Government's cyber-crime evidence review. The SCJS team is in regular contact with our CSEW counterparts about the development and implementation of cyber related questions. While we cannot and do not use crime data from other countries to predict underlying crime trends in Scotland there is no reason to necessarily expect that the extent of such online cyber-crimes would be markedly different in Scotland.

⁹¹ <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/crime-and-justice-survey/consultation/1819QR>

⁹² Computer viruses and unauthorised access to personal information, including hacking.

⁹³ Crime in England and Wales, Year ending March 2017, <https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/crimeinenglandandwalesyearendingmarch2017>

Additional tables on fraud and computer misuse. Published as experimental statistics.

8.2 Focus on harassment and discrimination

The following section presents national level findings on experiences of harassment and discrimination. In line with the general [SCJS reporting structure](#) agreed with SCJS users, these results are not broken down within the report for population sub-groups as these findings are based on questions asked to one-quarter of the overall sample. However, these results broken down by demographic and area characteristics are provided in the 2016/17 SCJS [data tables](#).

How common were experiences of harassment in Scotland in 2016/17?

Most adults did not experience any form of harassing or intimidating behaviour in 2016/17.

The SCJS also asked respondents whether they had experienced any incidents in which they were insulted, pestered or intimidated in any way (in person or some other means⁹⁴) by someone outwith their household in the year prior to interview⁹⁵.

In 2016/17 such experiences were reported by 14% of adults, up significantly from 9% in 2014/15 but similar to the proportion of respondents who were victims of such incidents in 2008/09 (14%).

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

Experiences of harassment in 2016/17 generally took place in person, with verbal threats the most common behaviour encountered.

Looking at details provided by victims on their experience of harassment in 2016/17 (n=190) reveals that:

- the vast majority (88%) encountered some sort of issue 'in person', whilst only 15% reported that they were insulted, pestered or intimidated in writing 'via text, e-mail, messenger or posts on social media'. This suggests that electronic communication does play a role in a proportion of harassment incidents, although 'offline' experiences remain much more common⁹⁶.
- most claimed to have experienced harassing behaviour on more than one occasion over the year with only one-in-four victims (24%) reporting only one incident. Notably, a similar proportion (24%) reported experiencing harassing behaviour on more than ten occasions or too many times to remember in the previous year.
- verbal abuse was the most common type of harassment experienced in 2016/17 – reported by 86% of victims. Other types of harassment, particularly those involving

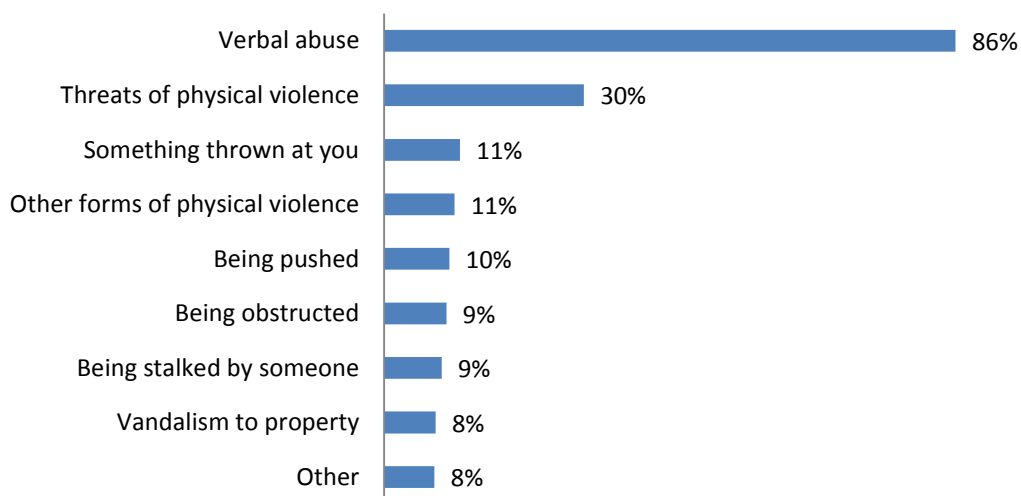
⁹⁴ Some other means includes writing and electronic communications.

⁹⁵ The SCJS also collects details about experiences of stalking and harassment through a self-completion module. Further details on plans and timescales to publish those results are provided on the SCJS website in the information on the [future SCJS reporting structure](#).

⁹⁶ Further details on the insight the 2016/17 SCJS is able to shed on the relationship between the internet and crime and safety are outlined in Section 8.1.

physical contact, were much less commonly experienced - each form of behaviour suffered by around one-in-ten victims as shown in Figure 8.1⁹⁷.

► **Figure 8.1: 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 (190); Variable: QHWHAT2

Most experiences of harassment were not perceived to have any particular motivating factor.

In order to explore whether incidents may have been related to discrimination, respondents who experienced harassment in 2016/17 were asked whether they thought any particular (perceived or actual) characteristic they hold may motivated the offender in any encounters. The proportions citing a range of possible reasons are outlined in Figure 8.2.

It shows that just under one-in-eight victims of harassment (12%) thought that their gender, gender identity or perception of this was a possible motivating factor – the most commonly suggested influence. However, the apparent increase in respondents believing this was a reason from 6% in 2014/15 is not statistically significant. More than half of harassment victims in 2016/17 (57%) did not think any of their characteristics were an influencing factor⁹⁸ in their encounters.

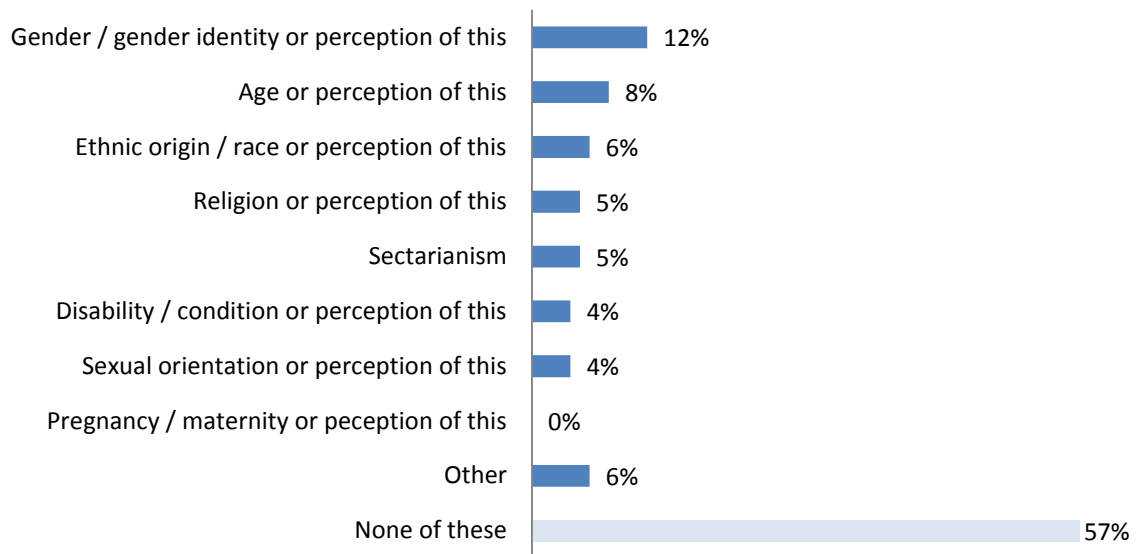
Regardless of whether they had experienced harassment in 2016/17 or not, the overwhelming majority of respondents⁹⁹ claimed they were not worried about being insulted, pestered or intimidated on the basis of a range of potential characteristics which could be motivating factors.

⁹⁷ More in-depth analysis about the extent and nature of violent incidents in 2016/17 is provided in the '[Focus on violence](#)' chapter, whilst an overview of [verbal and physical abuse encountered in the workplace](#) by public facing workers in 2016/17 is also provided in a bespoke section.

⁹⁸ Whilst this figure has fallen from 69% in 2014/15, changes in some response options and the addition of new options in 2016/17 mean that results are not directly comparable across sweeps.

⁹⁹ 95% and over for all possible motivating factors.

► **Figure 8.2: What respondents thought any experiences of harassment in last year were or may have been motivated by**



Base: All respondents who had been insulted, pestered or intimidated in previous 12 months (190). Variable: QHDISCRIM2

8.3 Focus on workplace abuse

What was the extent and nature of abuse experienced by adults employed in public facing roles in Scotland?

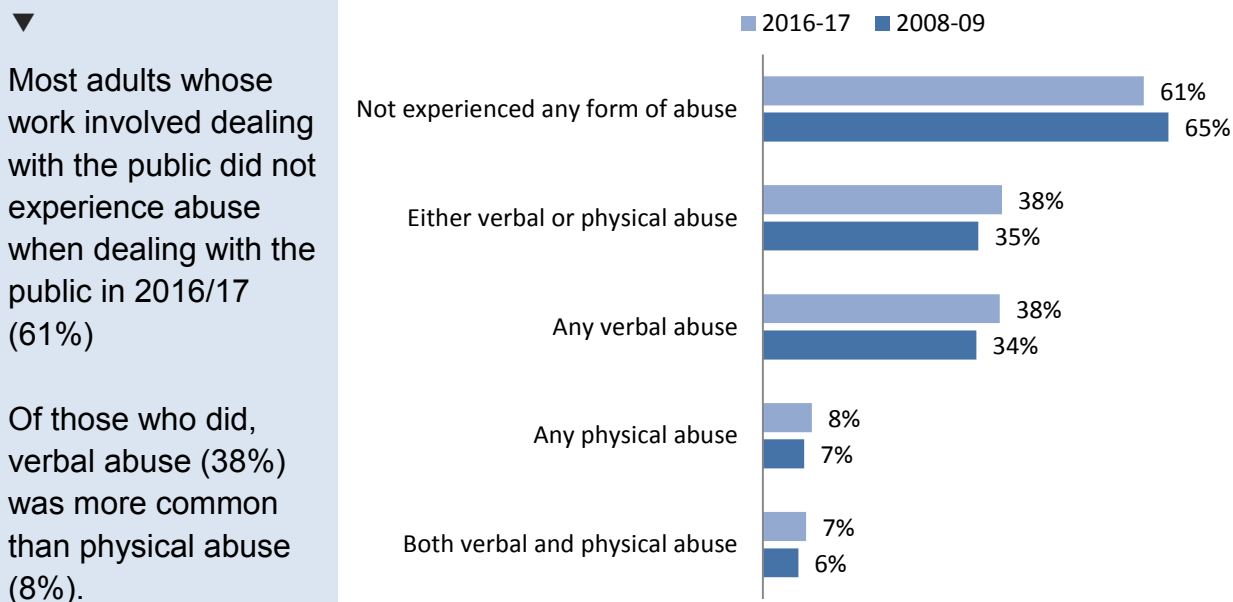
This section considers the experiences of adults in Scotland who spend time dealing with the general public while at work. The 2016/17 SCJS estimates that around three-quarters (73%) of adults in employment spent some time dealing with the general public during the course of their work, either face-to-face or over the telephone.

Most adults did not experience abuse when dealing with the public while at work in 2016/17. Of those who did, verbal abuse (38%) was more common than physical abuse (8%)

As shown below in Figure 8.3, most adults did not experience verbal or physical abuse when dealing with the public while at work in 2016/17 (61%). However, when they did experience abuse, verbal abuse was more common than physical abuse. In 2016/17, of those who dealt with the public at work, it is estimated that 38% of adults had experienced verbal abuse compared to 8% of adults who had experienced physical abuse.

These results from the 2016/17 SCJS on workplace abuse are similar to the results of the 2008/09 SCJS (when these questions were last included), as demonstrated in Figure 8.3. Each of the apparent differences are not statistically significant.

► **Figure 8.3: Proportion of adults who have contact with the public at work who experienced abuse while dealing with the general public**



Base: Adults who have contact with the public at work (2008/09: 1,530; 2016/17: 540). Variable: QDVERB; QDPHYS.

The low prevalence of physical abuse in the 2016/17 SCJS means that no further analysis of physical abuse at work is possible in this chapter. However, the [‘Focus on violent crime’](#) chapter includes information on violent crimes, including those experienced at work; in

fact, *in or near the place of work* (28%) is the option most frequently selected by respondents when they are asked about the location of the incident.

Further analysis is possible in this chapter on the circumstances of those who experienced verbal abuse while at work while dealing with the public¹⁰⁰.

- Just over a third of adults (34%) experiencing verbal abuse from the general public at work said they experienced at least one verbal abuse incident per week (this was unchanged from 2008/09).
- 36% of adults who had experienced verbal abuse said they did not report the latest incident to their employer. The most common reason for not reporting verbal abuse to their employer was “it’s not worth the bother” (27%), and “incidents such as these are just part of the job” (58%).
- 71% of adults who experienced only verbal abuse said their last incident occurred during the week with 23% of incidents occurring at the weekend. The most common time of day to experience verbal abuse during the week was between noon and 6pm (41%).
- Of those who had experienced this type of abuse at work, when asked about what might have motivated the latest incident 7% said it was or may have been motivated by their ethnic origin / race and 5% said it was motivated by their gender. Most people said it was not motivated by any of the following reasons, their: ethnic origin, religion, sectarianism, gender disability, sexual orientation or age (76%).

Most adults were not worried about experiencing workplace abuse, however a small proportion worried a lot about this.

Eight-five per cent of all employed adults said they did not worry much or at all about verbal or physical abuse happening at work. Two per cent of adults worried a lot, and 12% worried a little about it. Similar results are found when looking at only those adults employed in public facing roles, where 82% said they did not worry much or at all about verbal or physical abuse happening at work, 3% worried a lot, and 15% worried a little about it.

More than half of employees in public facing roles had not received training or support to deal with abuse.

Just over half of adults (54%) who worked in roles dealing with the public said they had not had any formal training or assistance at work to help deal with a situation where people are behaving aggressively towards them. 40% of adults said they had had formal training at work, while 9% had received other assistance at work to help deal with these situations.

¹⁰⁰ The 2016/17 SCJS found just 33 respondents who had experienced physical abuse at work, but 193 respondents who had experienced verbal abuse at work (while dealing with the public). These are sufficient to present results on verbal abuse, but not, for example, to break down results by type of employment.

8.4 Focus on fake and smuggled goods

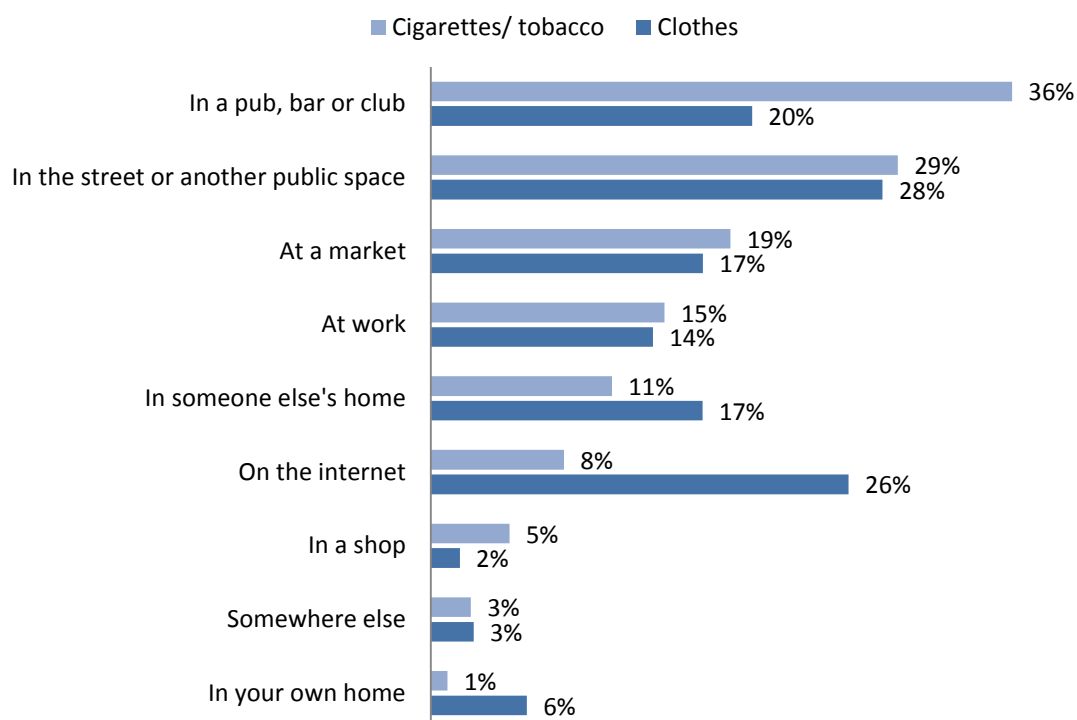
How common was the selling of fake or smuggled goods in 2016/17?

Around six in seven adults in Scotland said that they had not been offered a range of fake or smuggled goods over the last year.

14% of adults said they had been offered any of the following fake or smuggled goods: cigarettes/tobacco, alcohol, DVDs/video games, jewellery, clothes, accessories, electrical goods, children's toys, medicine or something else.

The most common types of fake or smuggled goods offered to adults in Scotland were cigarettes/tobacco (6%) and clothes (4%). Figure 8.4 shows where the most common places cigarettes/tobacco and clothes were offered to respondents.

► **Figure 8.4: Places where respondents had been offered cigarettes/tobacco and clothes**



Base: Adults offered cigarettes/tobacco (90); Adults offered clothes (51). Variable: QFKWHR.

Around three in five adults thought that the selling of fake and smuggled goods was common across Scotland, compared to around one in five adults when they were asked the same question about their local area.

In a similar way to when respondents are asked about their [perception of the extent of crime in their local area and across Scotland](#), respondents were more likely to think that the selling of fake and smuggled goods was more common across Scotland as a whole (60%) rather than in their local area (20%). Most believed that there had been no change in the selling of fake or smuggled goods over the last year in their local area (66%), while 13% thought it was more common and 7% said it was less common than a year ago.

Annex A: Data tables

The following data tables provide data for some of the key measures of the survey, including trend data for past crime surveys in Scotland. Notes on how to read and interpret these tables follow.

Tables displaying different groupings of crime (e.g. Table A 1.5) have the following structure where each crime group represents a subset of the crime group above (see Section 9.3 of the [Technical Report](#) for more information on the groupings of crime displayed in this report):

ALL SCJS CRIME includes all crimes measured by the survey except threats and sexual offences.

PROPERTY CRIME comprises the following exclusive groups:

- Vandalism
- All motor vehicle theft related incidents
- Housebreaking
- Other household thefts (including bicycle theft)
- Personal theft (excluding robbery)

VIOLENT CRIME comprises the following exclusive groups:

- Assault
- Robbery

Further subgroups 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 Service), variable names which correspond to the crime groups displayed in the data tables are provided in Annex 8 of the [Technical Report](#).

COMPARABLE CRIME is a subset of all SCJS crime that can be compared with police recorded crime statistics. This comparable subset comprises vandalism, acquisitive crime and violent crime. Just under two-thirds (63%) of crime was classed as comparable with police recorded crime statistics (as discussed in the ['Bringing together crime statistics'](#) chapter). Further details about police recorded crime statistics are included in Section 12.2 of the Technical Report.

Notes

1. Upper and lower estimates are based on 95% confidence intervals.
2. For Table A 1.3 and Table A 1.4 (crime rates) for the following crime groups, rates are quoted per 10,000 adults: 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, where they exist, using arrows to

demonstrate the direction of change. Where an apparent increase or decrease over time is not statistically significant, this is described as 'No change'.

4. 'N/A' denotes where data is unavailable.

5. The annex 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 (2016/17)

| Estimated number of crimes | Best estimate | Lower estimate | Upper estimate |
|---|---------------------|----------------|----------------|
| ALL SCJS CRIME | 712,000 | 627,000 | 797,000 |
| PROPERTY CRIME | 481,000 | 427,000 | 535,000 |
| Vandalism | 166,000 | 139,000 | 192,000 |
| Motor vehicle vandalism | 82,000 | 65,000 | 99,000 |
| Property vandalism | 84,000 | 64,000 | 103,000 |
| All motor vehicle related theft | 38,000 | 28,000 | 48,000 |
| Theft of motor vehicle | 2,000 [#] | 0 | 5,000 |
| Theft from motor vehicle | 34,000 | 24,000 | 44,000 |
| Attempted theft of/from motor vehicle | 1,000 [#] | 0 | 3,000 |
| Housebreaking | 26,000 | 17,000 | 35,000 |
| Other household theft inc. bicycle theft | 128,000 | 105,000 | 150,000 |
| Other household theft | 104,000 | 86,000 | 123,000 |
| Bicycle theft | 23,000 [#] | 10,000 | 36,000 |
| Personal theft (exc. Robbery) | 124,000 | 92,000 | 156,000 |
| Other theft | 82,000 | 58,000 | 107,000 |
| Theft from the person | 41,000 [#] | 23,000 | 60,000 |
| VIOLENT CRIME | 231,000 | 172,000 | 290,000 |
| Assault | 223,000 | 165,000 | 281,000 |
| Serious assault | 17,000 [#] | 0 | 34,000 |
| Robbery | 8,000 | 1,000 | 15,000 |
| COMPARABLE CRIME | 448,000 | 382,000 | 514,000 |
| Vandalism | 166,000 | 139,000 | 192,000 |
| Acquisitive crime | 51,000 | 36,000 | 67,000 |
| Violent crime | 231,000 | 172,000 | 290,000 |

Number of respondents: 5,570

[#]: Use with caution – the count estimate has a relative standard error of greater than 20%.

Table A1.2: Estimates of the extent of crime in Scotland by year

| Estimated number of crimes | 2008/09 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2012/13 | 2014/15 | 2016/17 | Percentage change | |
|---|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| | | | | | | | since 2008/09 | since 2014/15 |
| ALL SCJS CRIME | 1,045,000 | 945,000 | 874,000 | 815,000 | 688,000 | 712,000 | ↓ by 32% | No change |
| PROPERTY CRIME | 728,000 | 679,000 | 654,000 | 579,000 | 502,000 | 481,000 | ↓ by 34% | No change |
| Vandalism | 350,000 | 303,000 | 275,000 | 219,000 | 179,000 | 166,000 | ↓ by 53% | No change |
| Motor vehicle vandalism | 183,000 | 161,000 | 146,000 | 129,000 | 112,000 | 82,000 | ↓ by 55% | ↓ by 27% |
| Property vandalism | 168,000 | 142,000 | 130,000 | 90,000 | 67,000 | 84,000 | ↓ by 50% | No change |
| All motor vehicle related theft | 70,000 | 64,000 | 58,000 | 50,000 | 40,000 | 38,000 | ↓ by 45% | No change |
| Theft of motor vehicle | 7,000 | 6,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 3,000 | 2,000[#] | ↓ by 67% | No change |
| Theft from motor vehicle | 54,000 | 49,000 | 47,000 | 40,000 | 34,000 | 34,000 | ↓ by 36% | No change |
| Attempted theft of/from motor vehicle | 9,000 | 10,000 | 7,000 | 6,000 | 4,000 | 1,000[#] | ↓ by 84% | No change |
| Housebreaking | 25,000 | 29,000 | 28,000 | 35,000 | 22,000 | 26,000 | No change | No change |
| Other household theft inc. bicycle theft | 173,000 | 153,000 | 169,000 | 169,000 | 158,000 | 128,000 | ↓ by 26% | ↓ by 19% |
| Other household theft | 142,000 | 127,000 | 141,000 | 135,000 | 133,000 | 104,000 | ↓ by 26% | ↓ by 21% |
| Bicycle theft | 31,000 | 27,000 | 29,000 | 34,000 | 25,000 | 23,000[#] | No change | No change |
| Personal theft (exc. Robbery) | 110,000 | 130,000 | 124,000 | 106,000 | 103,000 | 124,000 | No change | No change |
| Other theft | 90,000 | 101,000 | 92,000 | 80,000 | 81,000 | 82,000 | No change | No change |
| Theft from the person | 20,000 | 29,000 | 31,000 | 26,000 | 23,000 | 41,000[#] | ↑ by 108% | No change |
| VIOLENT CRIME | 317,000 | 266,000 | 220,000 | 236,000 | 186,000 | 231,000 | ↓ by 27% | No change |
| Assault | 297,000 | 247,000 | 208,000 | 225,000 | 179,000 | 223,000 | ↓ by 25% | No change |
| Serious assault | 26,000 | 20,000 | 16,000 | 18,000 | 8,000 | 17,000[#] | No change | No change |
| Robbery | 20,000 | 19,000 | 12,000 | 11,000 | 7,000 | 8,000[#] | ↓ by 59% | No change |
| COMPARABLE CRIME | 731,000 | 630,000 | 556,000 | 527,000 | 414,000 | 448,000 | ↓ by 39% | No change |
| Vandalism | 350,000 | 303,000 | 275,000 | 219,000 | 179,000 | 166,000 | No change | No change |
| Acquisitive crime | 64,000 | 61,000 | 61,000 | 73,000 | 49,000 | 51,000 | No change | No change |
| Violent crime | 317,000 | 266,000 | 220,000 | 236,000 | 186,000 | 231,000 | ↓ by 27% | 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> | | |

[#]: Use with caution – the count estimate has a relative standard error of greater than 20%.

Table A1.3: Rates of crime in Scotland, per 10,000 households/individuals (2016/17)

| Crime rates per 10,000 households/ individuals | Best estimate | Lower estimate | Upper estimate |
|---|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| ALL SCJS CRIME | 2,250 | 1,980 | 2,510 |
| PROPERTY CRIME | 1,730 | 1,540 | 1,920 |
| Vandalism | 680 | 570 | 780 |
| Motor vehicle vandalism | 330 | 270 | 400 |
| Property vandalism | 340 | 260 | 420 |
| All motor vehicle related theft | 160 | 110 | 200 |
| Theft of motor vehicle | 10 | 0 | 20 |
| Theft from motor vehicle | 140 | 100 | 180 |
| Attempted theft of/from motor vehicle | 10 | 0 | 10 |
| Housebreaking | 110 | 70 | 140 |
| Other household theft inc. bicycle theft | 520 | 430 | 610 |
| Other household theft | 430 | 350 | 500 |
| Bicycle theft | 90 | 40 | 150 |
| Personal theft (exc. Robbery) | 280 | 200 | 350 |
| Other theft | 180 | 130 | 240 |
| Theft from the person | 90 | 50 | 130 |
| VIOLENT CRIME | 510 | 380 | 650 |
| Assault | 500 | 370 | 630 |
| Serious assault | 40 | 0 | 80 |
| Robbery | 20 | 0 | 30 |
| COMPARABLE CRIME | 1,400 | 1,200 | 1,520 |
| Vandalism | 680 | 570 | 780 |
| Acquisitive crime | 210 | 150 | 270 |
| Violent crime | 510 | 380 | 650 |

Number of respondents: 5,570

Table A1.4: Rates of crime in Scotland, per 10,000 households/individuals by year

| Rates of crime in Scotland, per 10,000 households/individuals by year | 2008/09 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2012/13 | 2014/15 | 2016/17 |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| ALL SCJS CRIME | 3,660 | 3,270 | 3,050 | 2,780 | 2,330 | 2,250 |
| PROPERTY CRIME | 2,910 | 2,650 | 2,540 | 2,240 | 1,910 | 1,730 |
| Vandalism | 1,500 | 1,290 | 1,170 | 930 | 750 | 680 |
| Motor vehicle vandalism | 780 | 690 | 620 | 540 | 470 | 330 |
| Property vandalism | 720 | 610 | 550 | 380 | 280 | 340 |
| All motor vehicle related theft | 300 | 270 | 250 | 210 | 170 | 160 |
| Theft of motor vehicle | 30 | 30 | 20 | 20 | 10 | 10 |
| Theft from motor vehicle | 230 | 210 | 200 | 170 | 140 | 140 |
| Attempted theft of/from motor vehicle | 40 | 40 | 30 | 20 | 20 | 10 |
| Housebreaking | 110 | 120 | 120 | 150 | 90 | 110 |
| Other household theft inc. bicycle theft | 740 | 650 | 720 | 710 | 660 | 520 |
| Other household theft | 610 | 540 | 600 | 570 | 560 | 430 |
| Bicycle theft | 130 | 110 | 120 | 140 | 110 | 90 |
| Personal theft (exc. Robbery) | 260 | 300 | 290 | 250 | 230 | 280 |
| Other theft | 210 | 240 | 210 | 180 | 180 | 180 |
| Theft from the person | 50 | 70 | 70 | 60 | 50 | 90 |
| VIOLENT CRIME | 740 | 620 | 510 | 540 | 420 | 510 |
| Assault | 700 | 580 | 480 | 520 | 400 | 500 |
| Serious assault | 60 | 50 | 40 | 40 | 20 | 40 |
| Robbery | 50 | 40 | 30 | 30 | 20 | 20 |
| Vandalism | 1,500 | 1,290 | 1,170 | 930 | 750 | 680 |
| Acquisitive crime | 270 | 260 | 260 | 310 | 210 | 210 |
| Violent crime | 740 | 620 | 510 | 540 | 420 | 510 |
| <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> |

Table A1.5: Proportion of adults who were victims of each type of crime by year

| Proportion of adults experiencing crime | 2008/09 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2012/13 | 2014/15 | 2016/17 | Percentage point change | |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | | | | | | | since 2008/09 | since 2014/15 |
| ALL SCJS CRIME | 20.4% | 19.3% | 17.8% | 16.9% | 14.5% | 13.4% | ↓ by 7.0 | No change |
| PROPERTY CRIME | 18.0% | 17.0% | 15.9% | 14.8% | 13.0% | 11.5% | ↓ by 6.5 | ↓ by 1.4 |
| Vandalism | 8.9% | 8.3% | 7.2% | 6.3% | 5.1% | 4.6% | ↓ by 4.3 | No change |
| Motor vehicle vandalism | 5.4% | 5.1% | 4.4% | 4.1% | 3.4% | 2.6% | ↓ by 2.8 | ↓ by 0.7 |
| Property vandalism | 4.1% | 3.7% | 3.2% | 2.4% | 1.9% | 2.2% | ↓ by 1.9 | No change |
| All motor vehicle related theft | 2.4% | 2.1% | 2.0% | 1.8% | 1.5% | 1.3% | ↓ by 1.1 | No change |
| Theft of motor vehicle | 0.3% | 0.2% | 0.2% | 0.2% | 0.1% | 0.1% | ↓ by 0.2 | No change |
| Theft from motor vehicle | 1.8% | 1.7% | 1.6% | 1.4% | 1.3% | 1.1% | ↓ by 0.7 | No change |
| Attempted theft of/from motor vehicle | 0.3% | 0.3% | 0.2% | 0.2% | 0.1% | 0.1% | ↓ by 0.3 | No change |
| Housebreaking | 0.8% | 1.0% | 1.1% | 1.2% | 0.8% | 0.9% | No change | No change |
| Other household theft inc. bicycle theft | 5.3% | 5.0% | 5.0% | 5.3% | 5.0% | 3.9% | ↓ by 1.3 | ↓ by 1.0 |
| Other household theft | 4.4% | 4.1% | 4.2% | 4.3% | 4.1% | 3.3% | ↓ by 1.1 | ↓ by 0.8 |
| Bicycle theft | 1.1% | 1.1% | 1.0% | 1.2% | 0.9% | 0.7% | ↓ by 0.4 | No change |
| Personal theft (exc. Robbery) | 2.2% | 2.5% | 2.5% | 2.2% | 2.1% | 2.2% | No change | No change |
| Other theft | 1.8% | 2.0% | 1.8% | 1.6% | 1.7% | 1.5% | No change | No change |
| Theft from the person | 0.5% | 0.6% | 0.7% | 0.6% | 0.5% | 0.8% | ↑ by 0.4 | No change |
| VIOLENT CRIME | 4.1% | 3.6% | 3.0% | 3.1% | 2.6% | 2.9% | ↓ by 1.3 | No change |
| Assault | 3.8% | 3.4% | 2.8% | 2.9% | 2.5% | 2.8% | ↓ by 1.1 | No change |
| Serious assault | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.3% | 0.3% | 0.1% | 0.2% | No change | No change |
| Minor assault | 3.0% | 2.7% | 2.3% | 2.4% | 2.1% | 2.4% | No change | No change |
| Minor assault with injury | N/A | 0.5% | 0.5% | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.4% | No change | No change |
| Minor assault with no / negligible injury | N/A | 2.2% | 1.8% | 2.0% | 1.7% | 2.0% | No change | No change |
| Attempted assault | 0.7% | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.3% | 0.2% | ↓ by 0.5 | No change |
| Robbery | 0.4% | 0.3% | 0.2% | 0.2% | 0.1% | 0.2% | No change | No change |
| <i>Number of respondents</i> | 16,000 | 16,040 | 13,010 | 12,050 | 11,470 | 5,570 | | |

Table A1.6: Prevalence of SCJS crime by demographic variables over time

| Proportion of adults experiencing SCJS crime | 2008/09 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2012/13 | 2014/15 | 2016/17 | Percentage point change | |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | | | | | | | since 2008/09 | since 2014/15 |
| All | 20.4% | 19.3% | 17.8% | 16.9% | 14.5% | 13.4% | ↓ by 7.0 | No change |
| Male | 21.2% | 20.4% | 18.4% | 18.2% | 15.6% | 13.9% | ↓ by 7.3 | No change |
| Female | 19.7% | 18.2% | 17.2% | 15.8% | 13.6% | 13.0% | ↓ by 6.8 | No change |
| 16-24 | 32.2% | 26.4% | 25.6% | 23.7% | 20.4% | 19.5% | ↓ by 12.7 | No change |
| 25-44 | 24.7% | 25.1% | 22.3% | 21.6% | 18.4% | 17.3% | ↓ by 7.4 | No change |
| 45-59 | 20.1% | 18.8% | 17.6% | 16.3% | 15.3% | 12.7% | ↓ by 7.3 | No change |
| 60+ | 9.5% | 9.2% | 8.7% | 8.8% | 6.8% | 7.2% | ↓ by 2.3 | No change |
| 15% most deprived areas | 26.0% | 25.2% | 21.3% | 21.3% | 21.2% | 19.4% | ↓ by 6.5 | No change |
| Rest of Scotland | 19.4% | 18.3% | 17.2% | 16.1% | 13.4% | 12.3% | ↓ by 7.1 | No change |
| Urban | 22.2% | 20.9% | 19.5% | 18.6% | 15.5% | 14.8% | ↓ by 7.3 | No change |
| Rural | 13.0% | 12.1% | 10.2% | 9.4% | 9.9% | 6.8% | ↓ by 6.2 | ↓ by 3.1 |
| <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> | | |

Table A1.7: Prevalence of violent crime by demographic variables over time

| Proportion of adults experiencing violent crime | 2008/09 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2012/13 | 2014/15 | 2016/17 | Percentage point change since 2008/09 | Percentage point change since 2014/15 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| All | 4.1% | 3.6% | 3.0% | 3.1% | 2.6% | 2.9% | ↓ by 1.3 | No change |
| Male | 5.7% | 5.0% | 4.2% | 4.2% | 3.5% | 3.4% | ↓ by 2.3 | No change |
| Female | 2.7% | 2.3% | 1.9% | 2.2% | 1.8% | 2.3% | No change | No change |
| 16-24 | 12.0% | 10.1% | 7.4% | 8.2% | 6.0% | 5.3% | ↓ by 6.7 | No change |
| 25-44 | 4.4% | 4.8% | 4.0% | 4.3% | 3.5% | 4.4% | No change | No change |
| 45-59 | 3.0% | 1.6% | 1.9% | 1.9% | 2.2% | 2.5% | No change | No change |
| 60+ | 0.6% | 0.6% | 0.6% | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.4% | No change | No change |
| 15% most deprived areas | 5.9% | 6.2% | 3.3% | 5.0% | 4.5% | 4.8% | No change | No change |
| Rest of Scotland | 3.8% | 3.1% | 2.9% | 2.8% | 2.3% | 2.5% | ↓ by 1.3 | No change |
| Urban | 4.6% | 3.9% | 3.3% | 3.5% | 2.8% | 3.2% | ↓ by 1.4 | No change |
| Rural | 2.2% | 2.3% | 1.9% | 1.7% | 1.8% | 1.4% | No change | No change |
| <i>Overall number of respondents</i> | 16,000 | 16,040 | 13,010 | 12,050 | 11,470 | 5,570 | | |

Table A1.8: Prevalence of property crime by demographic variables over time

| Proportion of adults experiencing property crime | 2008/09 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2012/13 | 2014/15 | 2016/17 | Percentage point change | |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | | | | | | | since 2008/09 | since 2014/15 |
| All | 18.0% | 17.0% | 15.9% | 14.8% | 13.0% | 11.5% | ↓ by 6.5 | ↓ by 1.4 |
| Male | 18.1% | 17.0% | 15.8% | 15.3% | 13.4% | 11.6% | ↓ by 6.5 | No change |
| Female | 18.0% | 17.0% | 16.0% | 14.4% | 12.6% | 11.5% | ↓ by 6.5 | No change |
| 16-24 | 26.1% | 19.7% | 20.6% | 18.1% | 16.8% | 16.8% | ↓ by 9.3 | No change |
| 25-44 | 21.9% | 22.2% | 19.9% | 18.7% | 16.5% | 14.3% | ↓ by 7.6 | No change |
| 45-59 | 18.1% | 17.8% | 16.5% | 15.2% | 13.7% | 10.9% | ↓ by 7.2 | ↓ by 2.9 |
| 60+ | 9.1% | 8.8% | 8.3% | 8.5% | 6.4% | 6.8% | ↓ by 2.3 | No change |
| 15% most deprived areas | 22.8% | 21.7% | 19.5% | 18.0% | 18.7% | 16.5% | ↓ by 6.3 | No change |
| Rest of Scotland | 17.2% | 16.2% | 15.3% | 14.3% | 11.9% | 10.6% | ↓ by 6.5 | No change |
| Urban | 19.6% | 18.5% | 17.5% | 16.3% | 13.9% | 12.8% | ↓ by 6.8 | No change |
| Rural | 11.3% | 10.5% | 9.0% | 8.2% | 8.5% | 5.8% | ↓ by 5.5 | ↓ by 2.7 |
| <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> | | |

Table A1.9: Proportion of crime reported to the police by year

| Proportion of each crime type reported to the police | 2008/09 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2012/13 | 2014/15 | 2016/17 | Percentage point change since 2008/09 | Percentage point change since 2014/15 |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ALL SCJS CRIME | 38% | 37% | 39% | 39% | 38% | 37% | No change | No change |
| PROPERTY CRIME | 36% | 36% | 35% | 35% | 36% | 34% | No change | No change |
| Vandalism | 40% | 39% | 40% | 36% | 37% | 41% | No change | No change |
| Motor vehicle vandalism | 39% | 35% | 38% | 33% | 33% | 33% | No change | No change |
| Property vandalism | 41% | 43% | 42% | 40% | 44% | 48% | No change | No change |
| All motor vehicle related theft | 45% | 45% | 33% | 44% | 44% | 30% | No change | No change |
| Theft of motor vehicle | - | - | - | - | - | - | N/A | N/A |
| Theft from motor vehicle | 39% | 36% | 29% | 37% | 42% | 26% | No change | No change |
| Attempted theft of/from motor vehicle | 42% | - | - | - | - | - | N/A | N/A |
| Housebreaking | 64% | 64% | 62% | 64% | 62% | 50% | No change | No change |
| Other household theft inc. bicycle theft | 22% | 32% | 26% | 25% | 28% | 29% | No change | No change |
| Other household theft | 22% | 30% | 24% | 22% | 26% | 27% | No change | No change |
| Bicycle theft | 26% | 41% | 35% | 40% | 35% | - | N/A | N/A |
| Personal theft (exc. Robbery) | 31% | 26% | 30% | 37% | 37% | 27% | No change | No change |
| Other theft | 28% | 27% | 29% | 34% | 28% | 25% | No change | No change |
| Theft from the person | 47% | 24% | 34% | 46% | 33% | - | N/A | N/A |
| VIOLENT CRIME | 43% | 38% | 51% | 48% | 44% | 43% | No change | No change |
| Assault | 43% | 40% | 52% | 48% | 44% | 43% | No change | No change |
| Robbery | - | - | - | - | - | - | N/A | N/A |
| COMPARABLE CRIME | 42% | 40% | 46% | 44% | 42% | 42% | No change | No change |
| Vandalism | 40% | 39% | 40% | 36% | 37% | 41% | No change | No change |
| Acquisitive crime | 49% | 57% | 51% | 55% | 50% | 45% | No change | No change |
| Violent crime | 43% | 38% | 51% | 48% | 44% | 43% | No change | No change |
| <i>Overall number of respondents</i> | 16,000 | 16,040 | 13,010 | 12,050 | 11,470 | 5,570 | | |

Results based on fewer than 50 cases (incidents of crime) are suppressed and denoted by '-'.

Table A1.10: Comparing SCJS estimates with police recorded crime figures over time

| Comparable crime, SCJS and Police Recorded Crime, 2008/09 to 2016/17 | 2008/09 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2012/13 | 2014/15 | 2016/17 | Percentage change | |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------------------|---------------|
| | | | | | | | since 2008/09 | since 2014/15 |
| Comparable SCJS Crime | 731,000 | 630,000 | 556,000 | 527,000 | 414,000 | 448,000 | ↓ by 39% | No change |
| Comparable Recorded Crime | 215,901 | 195,728 | 183,117 | 144,662 | 133,170 | 131,566 | ↓ by 39% | ↓ by 1% |
| SCJS Acquisitive Crime | 64,000 | 61,000 | 61,000 | 73,000 | 49,000 | 51,000 | No change | No change |
| Recorded Acquisitive Crime | 27,527 | 26,146 | 26,478 | 21,834 | 21,000 | 18,295 | ↓ by 34% | ↓ by 13% |
| SCJS Violent Crime | 317,000 | 266,000 | 220,000 | 236,000 | 186,000 | 231,000 | ↓ by 27% | No change |
| Recorded Violent Crime | 82,855 | 79,769 | 78,263 | 66,076 | 62,578 | 63,246 | ↓ by 24% | ↑ by 1% |
| SCJS Vandalism | 350,000 | 303,000 | 275,000 | 219,000 | 179,000 | 166,000 | ↓ by 53% | No change |
| Recorded Vandalism | 105,519 | 89,813 | 78,376 | 56,752 | 49,592 | 50,025 | ↓ by 53% | ↑ 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 | Percentage point change | |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | | | | | | | since 2008/09 | since 2014/15 |
| All | 69% | 71% | 73% | 76% | 75% | 76% | ↑ by 7 | No change |
| Male | 73% | 74% | 76% | 78% | 77% | 79% | ↑ by 6 | No change |
| Female | 65% | 68% | 71% | 73% | 72% | 73% | ↑ by 7 | No change |
| 16-24 | 68% | 77% | 76% | 80% | 78% | 81% | ↑ by 13 | No change |
| 25-44 | 72% | 70% | 73% | 76% | 72% | 75% | No change | No change |
| 45-59 | 68% | 70% | 73% | 75% | 75% | 73% | ↑ by 6 | No change |
| 60+ | 68% | 70% | 73% | 75% | 76% | 76% | ↑ by 8 | No change |
| 15% most deprived areas | 64% | 65% | 67% | 72% | 74% | 71% | ↑ by 7 | No change |
| Rest of Scotland | 70% | 72% | 75% | 76% | 75% | 76% | ↑ by 6 | No change |
| Urban | 68% | 69% | 72% | 75% | 74% | 74% | ↑ by 7 | No change |
| Rural | 74% | 78% | 80% | 79% | 78% | 81% | ↑ by 6 | No change |
| Victim | 58% | 60% | 62% | 65% | 63% | 69% | ↑ by 12 | ↑ by 6 |
| Non-victim | 72% | 73% | 76% | 78% | 77% | 76% | ↑ by 4 | 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> | | |

Table A1.12: Proportion of adults who felt safe walking alone after dark in their local area, 2008/09 to 2016/17

| Proportion of adults who felt very or fairly safe | 2008/09 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2012/13 | 2014/15 | 2016/17 | Percentage point change | |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | | | | | | | since 2008/09 | since 2014/15 |
| All | 66% | 67% | 68% | 72% | 74% | 77% | ↑ by 11 | ↑ by 3 |
| Male | 79% | 80% | 82% | 85% | 86% | 89% | ↑ by 10 | ↑ by 3 |
| Female | 55% | 55% | 55% | 60% | 64% | 67% | ↑ by 12 | ↑ by 3 |
| 16-24 | 71% | 72% | 72% | 73% | 77% | 79% | ↑ by 8 | No change |
| 25-44 | 73% | 72% | 72% | 77% | 78% | 83% | ↑ by 10 | ↑ by 4 |
| 45-59 | 70% | 70% | 72% | 76% | 77% | 79% | ↑ by 8 | No change |
| 60+ | 52% | 56% | 57% | 61% | 66% | 70% | ↑ by 18 | ↑ by 4 |
| 15% most deprived areas | 52% | 52% | 54% | 57% | 62% | 63% | ↑ by 11 | No change |
| Rest of Scotland | 69% | 70% | 71% | 75% | 76% | 80% | ↑ by 11 | ↑ by 3 |
| Urban | 62% | 63% | 65% | 69% | 71% | 75% | ↑ by 12 | ↑ by 3 |
| Rural | 83% | 84% | 84% | 87% | 88% | 89% | ↑ by 7 | No change |
| Victim | 61% | 61% | 61% | 66% | 67% | 70% | ↑ by 9 | No change |
| Non-victim | 68% | 69% | 70% | 73% | 76% | 79% | ↑ by 11 | ↑ by 3 |
| <i>Overall number of respondents</i> | 16,000 | 16,040 | 13,010 | 12,050 | 11,470 | 5,570 | | |

Table A1.13: Proportion of adults who felt safe at home at night, 2008/09 to 2016/17

| Proportion of adults who felt very or fairly safe | 2008/09 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2012/13 | 2014/15 | 2016/17 | Percentage point change | |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | | | | | | | since 2008/09 | since 2014/15 |
| All | 93% | 94% | 94% | 95% | 94% | 97% | ↑ by 3 | ↑ by 3 |
| Male | 96% | 97% | 98% | 97% | 97% | 98% | ↑ by 2 | ↑ by 1 |
| Female | 90% | 92% | 91% | 92% | 91% | 95% | ↑ by 5 | ↑ by 4 |
| 16-24 | 91% | 93% | 91% | 92% | 91% | 95% | No change | No change |
| 25-44 | 93% | 94% | 94% | 95% | 94% | 96% | ↑ by 3 | ↑ by 3 |
| 45-59 | 94% | 95% | 95% | 95% | 94% | 97% | ↑ by 3 | ↑ by 3 |
| 60+ | 93% | 95% | 95% | 95% | 95% | 97% | ↑ by 4 | ↑ by 2 |
| 15% most deprived areas | 88% | 89% | 90% | 91% | 90% | 93% | ↑ by 4 | No change |
| Rest of Scotland | 94% | 95% | 95% | 95% | 95% | 97% | ↑ by 3 | ↑ by 3 |
| Urban | 93% | 94% | 94% | 94% | 93% | 96% | ↑ by 4 | ↑ by 3 |
| Rural | 96% | 96% | 96% | 97% | 96% | 98% | ↑ by 3 | ↑ by 2 |
| Victim | 90% | 90% | 89% | 90% | 90% | 91% | No change | No change |
| Non-victim | 94% | 95% | 95% | 96% | 94% | 97% | ↑ by 3 | ↑ by 3 |
| <i>Overall number of respondents</i> | 16,000 | 16,040 | 13,010 | 12,050 | 11,470 | 5,570 | | |

Table A1.14: 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 | Percentage point change | |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | | | | | | | since 2008/09 | since 2014/15 |
| All | 46% | 48% | 50% | 56% | 57% | 56% | ↑ by 10 | No change |
| Male | 45% | 47% | 49% | 56% | 57% | 56% | ↑ by 11 | No change |
| Female | 47% | 49% | 51% | 56% | 57% | 56% | ↑ by 9 | No change |
| 16-24 | 50% | 52% | 56% | 62% | 64% | 66% | ↑ by 16 | No change |
| 25-44 | 46% | 48% | 51% | 58% | 57% | 59% | ↑ by 13 | No change |
| 45-59 | 42% | 45% | 47% | 53% | 54% | 50% | ↑ by 8 | No change |
| 60+ | 47% | 48% | 49% | 54% | 56% | 52% | ↑ by 5 | ↓ by 4 |
| 15% most deprived areas | 42% | 40% | 45% | 52% | 56% | 50% | ↑ by 7 | ↓ by 6 |
| Rest of Scotland | 47% | 49% | 51% | 57% | 57% | 57% | ↑ by 10 | No change |
| Urban | 45% | 47% | 50% | 55% | 57% | 56% | ↑ by 11 | No change |
| Rural | 48% | 52% | 50% | 59% | 57% | 54% | ↑ by 6 | No change |
| Victim | 37% | 41% | 44% | 50% | 46% | 45% | ↑ by 8 | No change |
| Non-victim | 48% | 50% | 51% | 57% | 59% | 57% | ↑ by 9 | No change |
| <i>Overall number of respondents</i> | 16,000 | 16,040 | 13,010 | 12,050 | 11,470 | 5,570 | | |

Table A1.15: 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 | Percentage point change | |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | | | | | | | since 2008/09 | since 2014/15 |
| All | 54% | 58% | 61% | 66% | 64% | 64% | ↑ by 10 | No change |
| Male | 53% | 56% | 59% | 65% | 62% | 61% | ↑ by 8 | No change |
| Female | 56% | 59% | 63% | 67% | 65% | 66% | ↑ by 11 | No change |
| 16-24 | 59% | 64% | 70% | 72% | 76% | 78% | ↑ by 19 | No change |
| 25-44 | 58% | 61% | 65% | 70% | 66% | 69% | ↑ by 11 | No change |
| 45-59 | 50% | 54% | 56% | 62% | 59% | 56% | ↑ by 7 | No change |
| 60+ | 52% | 54% | 56% | 63% | 60% | 59% | ↑ by 6 | No change |
| 15% most deprived areas | 50% | 51% | 56% | 61% | 60% | 62% | ↑ by 13 | No change |
| Rest of Scotland | 55% | 59% | 62% | 67% | 64% | 64% | ↑ by 9 | No change |
| Urban | 54% | 57% | 61% | 66% | 64% | 66% | ↑ by 12 | No change |
| Rural | 56% | 62% | 62% | 67% | 62% | 56% | No change | ↓ by 6 |
| Victim | 49% | 55% | 55% | 63% | 58% | 64% | ↑ by 15 | ↑ by 6 |
| Non-victim | 56% | 59% | 62% | 67% | 65% | 64% | ↑ 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> | | |

Table A1.16: Proportion of adults who were very or fairly confident in the ability of the police in their local area to deal with incidents

| 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 | Percentage point change since | |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| | | | | | | | 2008/09 | 2014/15 |
| All | 58% | 61% | 65% | 68% | 66% | 66% | ↑ by 8 | No change |
| Male | 57% | 60% | 64% | 68% | 65% | 66% | ↑ by 9 | No change |
| Female | 59% | 62% | 66% | 68% | 66% | 66% | ↑ by 8 | No change |
| 16-24 | 61% | 64% | 72% | 72% | 73% | 78% | ↑ by 18 | No change |
| 25-44 | 60% | 63% | 68% | 71% | 68% | 71% | ↑ by 12 | No change |
| 45-59 | 54% | 58% | 60% | 65% | 64% | 59% | ↑ by 6 | ↓ by 5 |
| 60+ | 59% | 59% | 63% | 67% | 62% | 61% | No change | No change |
| 15% most deprived areas | 54% | 56% | 60% | 64% | 64% | 63% | ↑ by 10 | No change |
| Rest of Scotland | 59% | 62% | 66% | 69% | 66% | 67% | ↑ by 8 | No change |
| Urban | 57% | 60% | 65% | 68% | 66% | 67% | ↑ by 10 | No change |
| Rural | 60% | 64% | 64% | 71% | 65% | 60% | No change | ↓ by 5 |
| Victim | 51% | 56% | 59% | 64% | 59% | 62% | ↑ by 11 | No change |
| Non-victim | 60% | 62% | 66% | 69% | 67% | 67% | ↑ by 7 | 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> | | |

Table A1.17: Proportion of adults who were very or fairly confident in the ability of the police in their local area to investigate incidents

| Proportion of adults who felt very or fairly confident in the ability of the police to investigate incidents | 2008/09 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2012/13 | 2014/15 | 2016/17 | Percentage point change | |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | | | | | | | since 2008/09 | since 2014/15 |
| All | 64% | 68% | 71% | 73% | 70% | 71% | ↑ by 7 | No change |
| Male | 64% | 67% | 70% | 72% | 69% | 69% | ↑ by 6 | No change |
| Female | 64% | 68% | 71% | 73% | 71% | 72% | ↑ by 8 | No change |
| 16-24 | 65% | 68% | 72% | 73% | 76% | 79% | ↑ by 14 | No change |
| 25-44 | 66% | 70% | 74% | 74% | 71% | 73% | ↑ by 7 | No change |
| 45-59 | 62% | 68% | 68% | 73% | 69% | 69% | ↑ by 7 | No change |
| 60+ | 63% | 65% | 69% | 71% | 68% | 67% | ↑ by 4 | No change |
| 15% most deprived areas | 59% | 62% | 66% | 67% | 67% | 70% | ↑ by 11 | No change |
| Rest of Scotland | 65% | 69% | 71% | 74% | 71% | 71% | ↑ by 6 | No change |
| Urban | 63% | 67% | 70% | 72% | 70% | 72% | ↑ by 9 | No change |
| Rural | 68% | 71% | 73% | 75% | 71% | 68% | No change | No change |
| Victim | 57% | 61% | 63% | 69% | 64% | 68% | ↑ by 11 | No change |
| Non-victim | 66% | 69% | 72% | 74% | 72% | 72% | ↑ by 6 | No change |
| <i>Overall number of respondents</i> | 16,000 | 16,040 | 13,010 | 12,050 | 11,470 | 5,570 | | |

Table A1.18: 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 | Percentage point change | |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | | | | | | | since 2008/09 | since 2014/15 |
| All | 57% | 60% | 64% | 64% | 62% | 65% | ↑ by 8 | ↑ by 3 |
| Male | 56% | 58% | 62% | 63% | 61% | 64% | ↑ by 8 | ↑ by 3 |
| Female | 58% | 61% | 65% | 64% | 63% | 66% | ↑ by 8 | ↑ by 3 |
| 16-24 | 59% | 62% | 68% | 67% | 67% | 76% | ↑ by 17 | ↑ by 9 |
| 25-44 | 59% | 63% | 66% | 65% | 63% | 67% | ↑ by 8 | ↑ by 4 |
| 45-59 | 55% | 57% | 61% | 62% | 61% | 62% | ↑ by 7 | No change |
| 60+ | 56% | 58% | 61% | 62% | 60% | 61% | ↑ by 5 | No change |
| 15% most deprived areas | 51% | 56% | 59% | 59% | 58% | 63% | ↑ by 12 | ↑ by 6 |
| Rest of Scotland | 58% | 61% | 64% | 65% | 63% | 66% | ↑ by 7 | ↑ by 3 |
| Urban | 56% | 59% | 63% | 63% | 62% | 66% | ↑ by 9 | ↑ by 4 |
| Rural | 60% | 62% | 64% | 66% | 62% | 62% | No change | No change |
| Victim | 49% | 53% | 56% | 58% | 53% | 60% | ↑ by 12 | ↑ by 7 |
| Non-victim | 59% | 62% | 65% | 65% | 64% | 66% | ↑ by 7 | ↑ by 2 |
| <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> | | |

Table A1.19: 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 | Percentage point change | |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | | | | | | | since 2008/09 | since 2014/15 |
| All | 55% | 57% | 60% | 61% | 60% | 63% | ↑ by 7 | ↑ by 3 |
| Male | 55% | 56% | 59% | 60% | 59% | 62% | ↑ by 7 | No change |
| Female | 56% | 58% | 61% | 62% | 61% | 64% | ↑ by 8 | ↑ by 3 |
| 16-24 | 56% | 60% | 66% | 65% | 64% | 72% | ↑ by 16 | ↑ by 8 |
| 25-44 | 58% | 59% | 62% | 62% | 61% | 67% | ↑ by 9 | ↑ by 5 |
| 45-59 | 52% | 55% | 56% | 58% | 58% | 59% | ↑ by 6 | No change |
| 60+ | 55% | 55% | 59% | 61% | 58% | 58% | No change | No change |
| 15% most deprived areas | 50% | 53% | 57% | 57% | 57% | 62% | ↑ by 12 | No change |
| Rest of Scotland | 56% | 58% | 61% | 62% | 60% | 63% | ↑ by 7 | ↑ by 2 |
| Urban | 54% | 56% | 60% | 61% | 60% | 63% | ↑ by 9 | ↑ by 3 |
| Rural | 59% | 61% | 60% | 63% | 60% | 62% | No change | No change |
| Victim | 47% | 50% | 50% | 53% | 50% | 57% | ↑ by 9 | ↑ by 7 |
| Non-victim | 57% | 59% | 62% | 63% | 62% | 64% | ↑ by 6 | No change |
| <i>Overall number of respondents</i> | 16,000 | 16,040 | 13,010 | 12,050 | 11,470 | 5,570 | | |

Table A1.20: Proportion of adults who were very or fairly confident in aspects of the criminal justice system

| 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 | Percentage point change | |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | | | | | | | since 2008/09 | since 2014/15 |
| Is effective in bringing people who commit crimes to justice | 53% | 53% | 56% | 57% | 60% | 63% | ↑ by 10 | ↑ by 2 |
| Deals with cases promptly and efficiently | 35% | 38% | 42% | 43% | 43% | 47% | ↑ by 12 | ↑ by 3 |
| Makes sure everyone has access to the legal system if they need it | 70% | 71% | 73% | 76% | 76% | 75% | ↑ by 6 | No change |
| Makes sure the system isn't different depending on where you live in Scotland | 54% | 55% | 57% | 64% | 66% | 63% | ↑ by 9 | ↓ by 3 |
| <i>Questions below only included since 2012/13 or question wording updated in 2012/13</i> | | | | | | | Percentage point change | |
| | | | | | | | Since 2012/13 | Since 2014/15 |
| Provides a good standard of service for victims of crime | 38% | 41% | 45% | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Provides victims of crime with the services and support they need | N/A | N/A | N/A | 52% | 55% | 57% | ↑ by 5 | ↑ by 2 |
| Provides a good standard of service for witnesses | 43% | 45% | 49% | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Provides witnesses with the services and support they need | N/A | N/A | N/A | 55% | 56% | 59% | ↑ by 4 | ↑ by 3 |
| Makes fair, impartial decisions based on the evidence available | N/A | N/A | N/A | 70% | 72% | 73% | ↑ by 4 | No change |
| Gives punishments which fit the crime | N/A | N/A | N/A | 32% | 36% | 39% | ↑ by 7 | ↑ by 3 |
| Adequately takes into account the circumstances surrounding a crime when it hands out sentences | N/A | N/A | N/A | 55% | 57% | 60% | ↑ by 5 | ↑ by 2 |
| Allows all victims of crime to seek justice regardless of who they are | N/A | N/A | N/A | 66% | 68% | 69% | ↑ by 3 | 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% | No change | No change |
| Treats those accused of crime as innocent until proven guilty | N/A | N/A | N/A | 74% | 72% | 72% | ↓ by 2 | No change |
| <i>Overall number of respondents</i> | 16,000 | 16,040 | 13,010 | 12,050 | 11,470 | 5,570 | | |

A1.21: Proportion of adults who thought issues were common in their area, 2008/09 – 2016/17

| Percentage of adults saying issue is very or fairly common in their area | | | | | | | Percentage point change | |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | 2008/09 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2012/13 | 2014/15 | 2016/17 | since 2008/09 | since 2014/15 |
| Drug dealing and drug abuse | 45% | 48% | 48% | 44% | 42% | 36% | ↓ by 9 | ↓ by 6 |
| People behaving in an anti-social manner in public | 46% | 47% | 45% | 41% | 35% | 29% | ↓ by 18 | ↓ by 6 |
| Deliberate damage to cars or other vehicles | N/A | N/A | N/A | 25% | 20% | 17% | N/A | ↓ by 4 |
| People buying or selling smuggled or fake goods | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 13% | N/A | N/A |
| Violence between groups of individuals or gangs | 26% | 26% | 24% | 20% | 14% | 10% | ↓ by 16 | ↓ by 4 |
| People being physically assaulted or attacked in the street or other public places | 19% | 21% | 21% | 18% | 15% | 10% | ↓ by 9 | ↓ by 4 |
| People having things stolen from their car or other vehicles | 20% | 21% | 20% | 16% | 15% | 10% | ↓ by 10 | ↓ by 4 |
| People carrying knives | N/A | 22% | 22% | 16% | 14% | 10% | N/A | ↓ by 3 |
| Deliberate damage to people's homes by vandals | N/A | N/A | N/A | 14% | 11% | 9% | N/A | No change |
| People having their car or other vehicles stolen | 15% | 13% | 14% | 8% | 10% | 8% | ↓ by 6 | No change |
| People being mugged or robbed | 10% | 13% | 13% | 11% | 8% | 6% | ↓ by 4 | No change |
| People being physically attacked because of their skin colour, ethnic origin or religion | 7% | 8% | 9% | 7% | 6% | 5% | ↓ by 3 | No change |
| People being sexually assaulted | 3% | 4% | 4% | 4% | 4% | 3% | No change | No change |
| <i>Number of respondents</i> | 4,030 | 4,000 | 3,220 | 3,110 | 2,850 | 1,130 | | |

A1.22: Proportion of adults who were worried about experiencing different types of crime, 2008/09 – 2016/17

| Percentage of adults very or fairly worried about crime happening | 2008/09 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2012/13 | 2014/15 | 2016/17 | Percentage point change | |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | | | | | | | since 2008/09 | since 2014/15 |
| Your car or other vehicle will be damaged by vandals | 41% | 42% | 41% | 37% | 36% | 31% | ↓ by 10 | ↓ by 5 |
| Things will be stolen from your car or other vehicle | 32% | 31% | 30% | 27% | 27% | 23% | ↓ by 9 | ↓ by 4 |
| Your car or other vehicle will be stolen | 28% | 27% | 26% | 23% | 23% | 21% | ↓ by 7 | ↓ by 3 |
| <i>Number of respondents</i> ¹⁰¹ | 11,190 | 11,790 | 9,450 | 8,710 | 8,420 | 4,120 | | |
| Someone will use your credit or bank details to obtain money, goods or services | 56% | 57% | 58% | 52% | 54% | 52% | ↓ by 3 | No change |
| You will have your identity stolen | 51% | 50% | 48% | 43% | 45% | 43% | ↓ by 8 | ↓ by 2 |
| Your home will be broken into | 35% | 34% | 35% | 32% | 35% | 28% | ↓ by 7 | ↓ by 7 |
| You will be involved or caught up in violence between groups of individuals or gangs | 29% | 28% | 25% | 19% | 17% | 14% | ↓ by 15 | ↓ by 3 |
| You will be mugged or robbed | 31% | 32% | 31% | 25% | 24% | 20% | ↓ by 11 | ↓ by 5 |
| You will be physically assaulted or attacked in the street or other public place | 31% | 30% | 28% | 24% | 23% | 19% | ↓ by 12 | ↓ by 4 |
| Your home will be damaged by vandals | 26% | 25% | 24% | 21% | 21% | 17% | ↓ by 9 | ↓ by 4 |
| You will be sexually assaulted | 15% | 15% | 15% | 13% | 13% | 11% | ↓ by 4 | ↓ by 3 |
| <i>Number of respondents</i> | 16,000 | 16,040 | 13,010 | 12,050 | 11,470 | 5,570 | | |

¹⁰¹ Above questions only asked of households who own one or more vehicles.

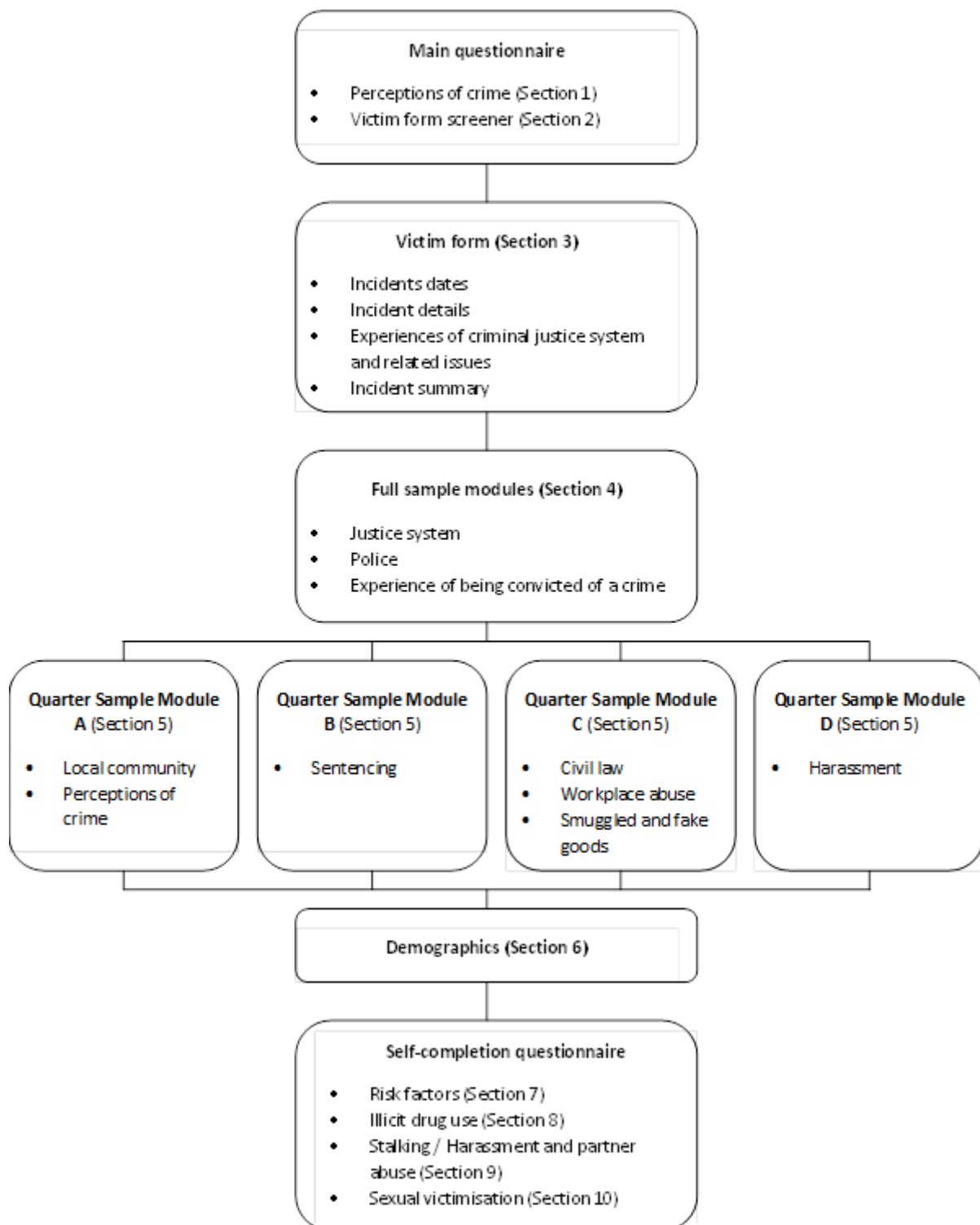
A1.23: Proportion of adults who thought they were likely to experience different types of crime in the next year

| Percentage of adults who thought they were likely to experience each crime | 2008/09 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2012/13 | 2014/15 | 2016/17 | Percentage point change since 2008/09 | Percentage point change since 2014/15 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Someone will use your credit or bank details to obtain money, goods or services | 14% | 17% | 15% | 14% | 17% | 28% | ↑ by 14 | ↑ by 11 |
| You will have your identity stolen | 12% | 12% | 10% | 9% | 11% | 16% | ↑ by 4 | ↑ by 5 |
| Your home will be broken into | 9% | 8% | 6% | 7% | 8% | 10% | ↑ by 1 | ↑ by 2 |
| Your car or other vehicle will be damaged by vandals | 12% | 13% | 11% | 10% | 10% | 10% | ↓ by 2 | No change |
| You will be physically assaulted or attacked in the street or other public place | 7% | 7% | 6% | 5% | 5% | 6% | ↓ by 1 | ↑ by 1 |
| Things will be stolen from your car or other vehicle | 6% | 6% | 5% | 4% | 5% | 6% | No change | No change |
| You will be mugged or robbed | 6% | 6% | 5% | 4% | 4% | 5% | No change | ↑ by 2 |
| Your car or other vehicle will be stolen | 5% | 5% | 4% | 4% | 4% | 5% | No change | ↑ by 1 |
| Your home will be damaged by vandals | 6% | 6% | 5% | 4% | 4% | 5% | ↓ by 1 | No change |
| You will be involved or caught up in violence between groups of individuals or gangs | 7% | 6% | 4% | 4% | 4% | 4% | ↓ by 3 | No change |
| You will be sexually assaulted | 1% | 2% | 1% | 1% | 1% | 2% | ↑ by 1 | No change |
| None of the above | 48% | 49% | 52% | 57% | 55% | 50% | No change | ↓ by 6 |
| <i>Number of respondents</i> | 16,000 | 16,040 | 13,010 | 12,050 | 11,470 | 5,570 | | |

Annex B: Overview of police recorded crime and 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 over 12 months, with recall period extending over 23 months. Results previously published biennially, now annually. |
| Strengths | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covers the full range of crimes and offences. Provides data at a local level. A good measure of rarer, more serious crimes that are well reported. Measure of long-term trends. Good measure of crime that the police are faced with. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good measure of trends since 2008-09. Captures further information about crimes that are and are not reported to the police (including sensitive issues such as domestic abuse or drug abuse). Analyses crime for different demographic groups and victim-offender relationships. Provides information on multiple and repeat victimisation (up to 5 incidents in a series). Provides attitudinal data (e.g. fear of crime or attitudes towards the criminal justice system). |
| Limitations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partially reliant on the public reporting crime. Reporting rates may vary by the type of crime (e.g. serious crime is more likely to be reported or housebreaking if a crime number is required for insurance purposes). Trends can be affected by legislation; public reporting practices; police recording practices. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not cover all crimes (e.g. homicide or crimes without specific victims, such as speeding). Does not cover the entire population (e.g. children, homeless people or people living in communal accommodation). Less able to produce robust data at lower level geographies. Difficult to measure trends between survey sweeps, especially in rarer forms of crime (such as more serious offences). Estimates are subject to a degree of error (confidence intervals). |
| What other data are collected? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional statistical bulletins published, including on homicides, firearm offences and domestic abuse incidents. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public perceptions about crime. Worry about crime and the perceived likelihood of being a victim. Confidence in the police and the criminal justice system. Prevalence estimates on 'sensitive' topics (partner abuse, sexual victimisation, stalking and drug use). |

Annex C: SCJS 2016/17 Questionnaire Structure



A National Statistics publication for Scotland

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