

Scottish Crime and Justice Survey 2017/18: Main Findings



A National Statistics publication for Scotland

CRIME AND JUSTICE

Scottish Crime and Justice Survey 2017/18: Main Findings

Acknowledgements

Thanks go to a number of people involved in the development, implementation and reporting of the 2017/18 SCJS. In particular the 5,475 people across Scotland who took the time to provide their thoughts and opinions in the survey, as well as the interviewers and support staff who carried out the interviews. Thanks also go to colleagues at Ipsos MORI and ScotCen for their support and advice across all aspects of the survey management, and to staff in the Office of the Chief Statistician at the Scottish Government for methodological inputs.

Comments and suggestions

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

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

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Executive Summary

Key Findings from the 2017/18 Scottish Crime and Justice Survey

This summary presents a range of key findings from the 2017/18 Scottish Crime and Justice Survey. 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 2017/18?

- There were an estimated 602,000 crimes experienced by adults in Scotland in 2017/18, down by more than two-fifths (42%) since 2008/09 and 16% since 2016/17.
- The SCJS indicates that most adults did not experience crime in 2017/18 (87.5%). Therefore, the SCJS estimates that 12.5% of adults were victims of at least one crime, down from 20.4% in 2008/09 (but no change since 2016/17). In other words, the proportion of adults in Scotland experiencing crime has fallen from around one-in-five to one-in-eight since 2008/09.
- The 2017/18 SCJS estimates that most crime (71%) was property related, with the remaining 29% being violent incidents.
- It is estimated that 35% of crime was reported to the police in 2017/18, unchanged from 2008/09.

Focus on violent crime

What was the extent and prevalence of violent crime in Scotland in 2017/18?

- There were an estimated 172,000 violent crimes experienced by adults in 2017/18, representing a decrease of 46% since 2008/09, but unchanged since 2016/17. The fall in violent crime over the last decade has been mostly driven by decreases between 2008/09 and 2010/11, with some fluctuations but broad stability seen since then.
- The likelihood of experiencing violent crime in Scotland is relatively small (2.3%); it has fallen from 4.1% in 2008/09 but is unchanged since 2016/17.
- Consistent with previous SCJS findings, the majority of violent crime incidents in 2017/18 were cases of minor assault resulting in no or negligible injury (62%). Other violent crimes comprised minor assault with injury (20%), attempted assault (7%), robbery (6%) and serious assault (5%).

Experiences and characteristics of violent crime

- Whilst 2.3% of adults were victims of violence in 2017/18, victimisation rates varied amongst some population groups. Those in deprived areas were more likely to be victims of violence in 2017/18 (3.8%), whilst such experiences were less likely for adults aged 60 and over (0.4%) compared to those in younger age groups. Following decreases in victimisation over the last

decade, there was no difference in the likelihood of being a victim of violence by gender or rurality in 2017/18.

- The proportion of younger adults experiencing violent crime has more than halved from 12.0% in 2008/09 to 5.8% in 2017/18, but similar improvements have not been experienced by all age groups over this period.
- A small number of victims experienced a high proportion of violent crime. Most adults did not experience violent crime in 2017/18 (97.7%). 1.6% of adults experienced one violent crime and 0.7% of adults were repeat victims, experiencing two or more violent crimes. These repeat victims experienced around three-fifths of all violent crime in 2017/18.
- Experiences of both single and repeat violent victimisation were lower in 2017/18 than in 2008/09, but fluctuations in the prevalence of repeat victimisation in recent years mean these findings should be monitored into the future.
- The proportion of violent crime involving offenders under the influence of alcohol has fallen from 63% in 2008/09 to 46% in 2017/18.
- Violent crime did not commonly involve the presence or use of weapons (12%).

Focus on property crime

What was the extent and prevalence of property crime in Scotland in 2017/18?

- There were an estimated 430,000 property crimes in 2017/18, representing a decrease of 41% since 2008/09, but unchanged since 2016/17.
- The proportion of adults experiencing property crime in Scotland was 10.8% in 2017/18. This is unchanged from 2016/17, but down from 18.0% in 2008/09.
- As in previous years, incidents of vandalism accounted for the largest proportion of property crime incidents (38%), followed by other household theft (including bicycle theft) (29%), personal theft (22%), all motor vehicle related theft (6%) and housebreaking (6%).

Experiences and characteristics of property crime

- Whilst 10.8% of adults were victims of property crime in 2017/18, victimisation rates varied amongst the population. Those under 60, people in the most deprived areas of Scotland and those living in urban locations were more likely to experience property crime in 2017/18 than comparator groups.
- A small number of victims experienced a high proportion of property crime. Most adults did not experience property crime in 2017/18 (89.2%). 8.2% of adults experienced one property crime and 2.6% of adults were repeat victims, experiencing two or more property crime. These repeat victims experienced almost half of all property crime in 2017/18 (49%). However, repeat property crime victimisation has fallen 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, with both sources showing

marked decreases over the past decade. Between 2008/09 and 2017/18, police recorded crime in the comparable subset fell by 40%, whilst the estimated number of incidents in the SCJS comparable crime group decreased by 47%.

Public perceptions of the police and the justice system

Public perceptions of the police

- The majority of adults (57%) said that the police were doing a good or excellent job in their local area in 2017/18, unchanged since 2016/17 but down from 61% in 2012/13.
- The majority of adults were very or fairly confident in the ability of the local police across [the six measures exploring perceptions of effectiveness](#) asked about in this survey.
- Since 2008/09, there have been increases in confidence across all six measures. Confidence in the ability of the police decreased marginally between 2012/13 and 2014/15 on some measures, but has broadly stabilised since and in 2017/18 remained above the 2008/09 baseline across all six indicators.
- The proportion of adults aware of the police regularly patrolling their area has fallen from 56% in 2012/13 to 40% in 2017/18. However, questions on perceptions of community engagement and fairness find that people generally hold favourable views on the approach of the police in their local area. Perceptions have also generally improved since 2009/10 (when relevant questions were first included in the survey).

Public perceptions of the justice system

- Most adults (76%) said they did not know very much or anything at all about the criminal justice system.
- Generally the public were fairly confident about the operation of the justice system. For example, 77% 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, 38% were confident that it gives sentences which fit the crime.
- The public generally thought that prisons should provide support to help prisoners address problem behaviours and integrate with the community. For example, 90% agreed that prisons should help prisoners change their behaviour rather than just punish them.
- Adults were generally supportive of community sentences. For instance, 84% agreed that people should help their community as part of a community sentence rather than spend a few months in prison for a minor offence, however, almost a quarter believed this puts the public at risk of crime.

Public perceptions of crime and safety

- Just under three-quarters of adults (73%) thought that the local crime rate had stayed the same or reduced in the two years prior to interview. This has increased from 65% in 2006 and 69% in 2008/09, but represents a fall from 76% in 2016/17.
- Over three-quarters (77%) of adults said they felt very or fairly safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark, up from 66% in 2008/09 and unchanged from 2016/17.

Key Findings from the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey self-completion sections, 2016/17-2017/18

This summary presents a range of key findings from the self-completion sections of the 2016/17 and 2017/18 sweeps of the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey. Self-completion data is merged over two years and published biennially, with findings therefore covering 2016/17-2017/18 (2016-18) unless otherwise stated. These findings are covered in more detail and wider context in the [sections of the report focusing on these topics](#).

Illicit Drug Use

- Looking at comparable measures, where drug type is generally consistent over time, the proportion of adults reporting drug use in the 12 months before interview increased from 6.0% in 2014/15 to 7.4% in 2017/18¹, but is unchanged since 2008/09.
- 9.5% of respondents reported having taken one or more of any of the listed drugs in the survey in the last 12 months.
- Cannabis was the most commonly reported drug taken in the last 12 months, with 70% of respondents who had taken any drugs in the last 12 months reporting they had taken cannabis.

Stalking & Harassment

- In the 12 months prior to interview, 11.1% of adults experienced at least one type of stalking and harassment.
- The most common type of stalking and harassment involved being sent unwanted messages by text, email, messenger or posts on social media sites, which was experienced by 7.5% of adults.
- 50% of respondents who experienced at least one form of stalking and harassment in the 12 months prior to interview reported having known the offender(s) in some way, whilst 41% said the offender was someone they had never met.
- The police were informed about the most recent (or only) incident in around one-in-ten cases (9%).

¹ All the latest drug use findings in this report are from the 2017/18 SCJS only. Please see the drugs section of the report for more information.

- Experiences of at least one form of stalking and harassment were higher amongst those aged 16 to 24 (19.0%), than any other age group, but there was no significant difference between men and women overall.
- Women were more likely than men to report being followed (1.6% compared to 0.6%, respectively) or receiving unwanted messages by text, email, messenger, or posts on social media (8.4% compared to 6.5%, respectively).

Partner Abuse

- Overall, 15.6% of respondents reported experiencing at least one form of partner abuse, either psychological or physical, since the age of 16, up from 14.1% in 2014/15 but down since 2008/09 (18.2%).
- Between 2008/09 and 2016/18, the proportion of respondents who reported experiencing partner abuse in the 12 months prior to interview decreased from 4.2% to 3.0%.
- Experiences of partner abuse in the 12 months prior to interview were more common for women than men (3.6% and 2.3%, respectively), and those aged 16 to 24 (8.5%).
- Of those who had experienced at least one incident of partner abuse since the age of 16, 62% reported having one abusive partner only. A further 13% reported that they had two abusive partners since they were 16, and 9% reported having had three or more abusive partners.
- The most commonly reported type of psychological abuse was a partner acting in a jealous or controlling way (9%); the most commonly reported type of physical abuse was being kicked, bitten or hit by a partner (6%).
- 19% said that the police came to know about the most recent (or only) incident of partner abuse somehow; either through themselves or other means, including via neighbours and relatives.

Sexual Victimization

Serious Sexual Assault

- Since the age of 16, 3.6% of adults in Scotland have experienced at least one type of serious sexual assault. A higher proportion of women than men reported experiencing at least one type of serious sexual assault (6.2% compared to 0.8%, respectively).
- Victims of serious sexual assault were likely to have experienced more than one incident. Of those who had experienced forced sexual intercourse since the age of 16, 62% said they had experienced more than one incident, around half of whom (31%) said they had experienced too many incidents to count.
- Almost a quarter (23%) said the most recent (or only) incident of forced sexual intercourse was reported to the police. The most common reason given for not reporting forced sexual intercourse was fear of making matters worse (38%).

Less Serious Sexual Assault

- Since the age of 16, 9.3% of adults experienced at least one type of less serious sexual assault. A higher proportion of women reported experience of less serious sexual assault since the age of 16 than men (15.5% and 2.5%, respectively).
- The most commonly experienced form of less serious sexual assault since the age of 16 was unwanted sexual touching (6.4%), followed by indecent exposure (4.1%), and being subject to sexual threats (2.6%).
- Of those who had experienced indecent exposure since the age of 16, 76% said that the offender was a stranger. Strangers were also most likely to perpetuate unwanted sexual touching (41%). In contrast, sexual threats were more likely to involve partners (52%).

Summary Infographics



Key findings from SCJS 2017/18 on Overview of crime in Scotland

The total number of crimes is estimated to have fallen by over two fifths since 2008/09, with a continued decrease of 16% since 2016/17.

Similarly, the proportion of adults experiencing crime has fallen from around one in five in 2008/09 to one in eight in 2017/18.

The likelihood of experiencing crime in 2017/18 was higher for those in urban areas and those in the most deprived areas, with those aged 60 and over least likely to be victims.

A small number of victims experienced a high proportion of all crime. The 3.4% of adults who are multiple victims experienced almost three-fifths of all crime.

602,000

Crimes committed against adults in Scotland in 2017/18

↓ 42%

decrease in overall level of crime experienced in Scotland since 2008/09 to the lowest level ever estimated by the SCJS

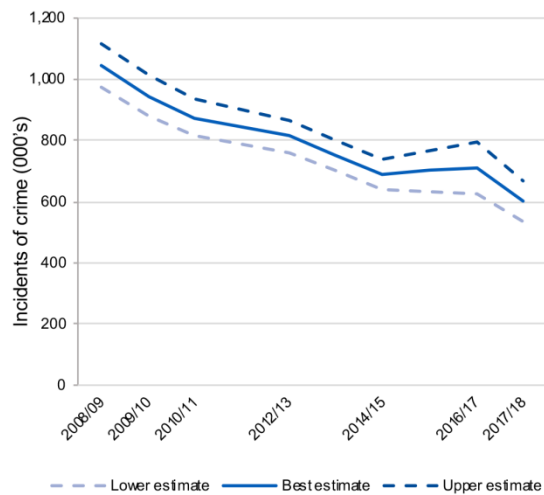
12.5%

of adults experienced crime in 2017/18

↓ 8

percentage pts decrease of adults experiencing crime in Scotland since 2008/09

► How much crime was there?



► What type of crime was experienced?

71%

PROPERTY CRIME



Of all property crime, **vandalism** (38%), **other household theft** (29%), **personal theft** (22%), **motor vehicle theft** (6%) and **housebreaking** (6%).

29%

VIOLENT CRIME



Of all violent crime, the majority was **minor assault with no / negligible injury** (62%).

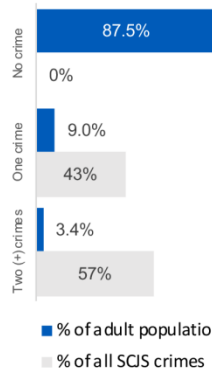
Other violent crime comprises **minor assault with injury** (20%), **attempted assault** (7%), **serious assault** (5%) and **robbery** (6%).

35%

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 2017/18.

One Crime: 9.0% of adults experienced one crime, corresponding to over two fifths of all crime in 2017/18.

Two (+) Crimes: 3.4% of adults experienced two or more crimes. These victims experienced almost three-fifths of all crime in 2017/18. However this rate of multiple victimisation has more than halved from 8.2% in 2008/09.

► 12.5% of adults experienced crime. This rate varied across the population.

5.3%

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

18.0%

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

13.4%

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



Key findings from SCJS 2017/18 on Focus on violent crime

The total number of violent crimes is estimated to have fallen by almost half since 2008/09, mostly driven by decreases between 2008/09 and 2010/11, with some fluctuations but broad stability seen since then.

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

The majority of violent crimes were minor assault with no or negligible injury (62%). Other violent crime comprises minor assault with injury (20%), attempted assault (7%), serious assault (5%) and robbery (6%).

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

172,000

Violent crimes committed against adults in Scotland in 2017/18

↓ 46%

decrease in violent crimes in Scotland since 2008/09, but no change since 2016/17

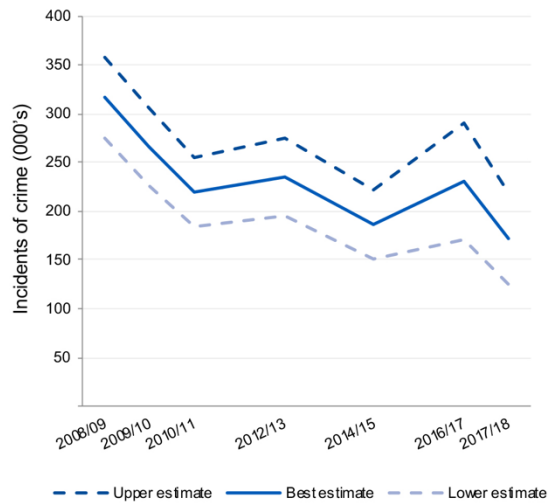
2.3%

of adults experienced violent crime in 2017/18

↓ 1.8

percentage pts decrease in adults experiencing violent crime in Scotland since 2008/09 but no change since 2016/17

► How much violent crime was there?



Facts about VIOLENT CRIME in 2017/18



Around three in every five violent crimes took place in public settings (62%)



Almost four-in-five violent crimes were committed by male offenders (78%)



Offenders were believed to be under the influence of alcohol in almost half of violent crime (46%)



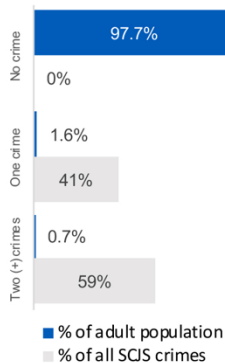
Violent crime in 2017/18 did not commonly involve the presence or use of weapons (12%)

39%

of violent crimes were reported to the police



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



No Crime: Most adults did not experience any violent crime in 2017/18.

One Crime: 1.6% of the population experienced one violent crime, corresponding to around two fifths of all violent crime in 2017/18.

Two (+) Crimes: 0.7% of adults experienced two or more violent crimes. These victims experienced almost three-fifths of all violent crime in 2017/18. However this rate of repeat victimisation has fallen from 1.6% in 2008/09.

► 2.3% of adults experienced violent crime. This rate varied across age groups and level of deprivation.

0.4%

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

3.8%

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



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



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



Key findings from SCJS 2017/18 on Focus on property crime

The total number of property crimes is estimated to have fallen by two-fifths since 2008/09, but is unchanged since 2016/17.

The proportion of adults experiencing property crime fell from 18.0% in 2008/09 to 10.8% in 2017/18.

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

A small number of victims experienced a high proportion of property crime. The 2.6% of adults who were repeat victims experienced almost half of property crime.

430,000

Property crime committed against adults in Scotland in 2017/18

↓ 41%

decrease in property crime experienced in Scotland since 2008/09, but no change since 2016/17

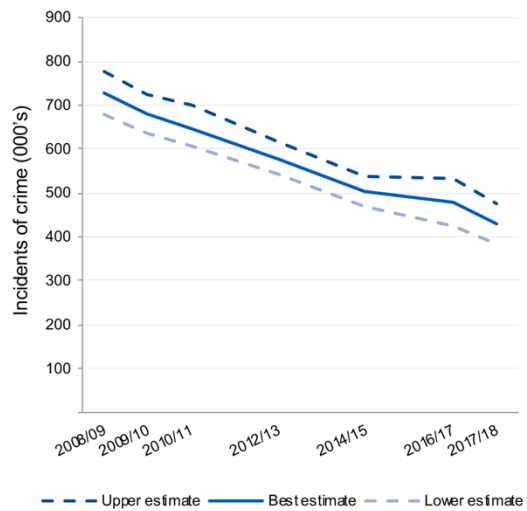
10.8%

of adults experienced property crime in 2017/18

↓ 7.2

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

► How much property crime was there?



PROPERTY CRIME in 2017/18



38%

Vandalism



29%

Other Households theft (including bicycle)



22%

Personal Theft



6%

Motor vehicle related theft



6%

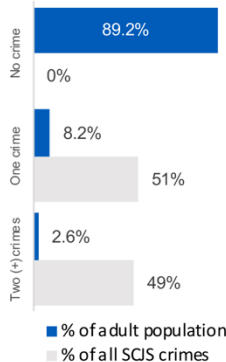
Housebreaking

34%

of crimes were reported to the police



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



No Crime: Most adults did not experience any property crime in 2017/18.

One Crime: 8.2% of adults experienced one property crime, corresponding to over half of all property crime in 2017/18.

Two (+) Crimes: 2.6% of adults experienced two or more property crimes. These victims experienced almost half of all property crime in 2017/18. However this rate of repeat victimisation has more than halved from 6.4% in 2008/09.

► 10.8% of adults experienced property crime. This rate varied across the population.

5.0%

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

15.6%

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

11.6%

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

Justice Analytical Services



Key findings from SCJS 2017/18 on

Public perceptions of the police

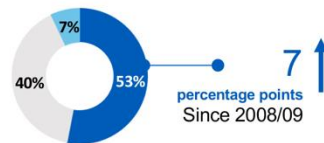
The majority of adults in Scotland (57%) believed the police in their local area were doing an excellent or good job in 2017/18 (unchanged from 2016/17 but down from 61% in 2012/13)

How confident were people in the ability of the police?

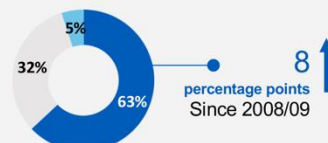
► The majority of adults are confident in the police across each of six different aspects of policing

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

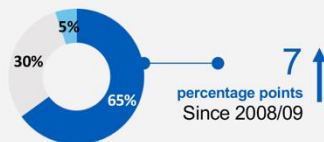
Prevent crime



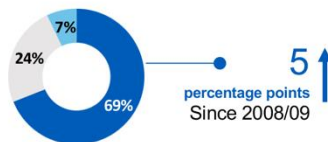
Respond quickly



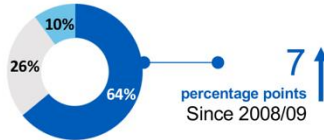
Deal with incidents



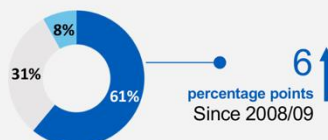
Investigate incidents



Solve crimes



Catch criminals



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



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

The police in this area would treat you with respect if you had contact with them for any reason **88%**

Police in this area can be relied on to be there when you need them **64%**

The police in this area treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are **63%**

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

Overall, people have a lot of confidence in the police in this area **45%**

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

Police in this area are not dealing with the things that matter to people in this community **20%**

► Victims of crime and those living in the 15% most deprived areas were less likely than non-victims and those living in the rest of Scotland to say the police were doing a good or excellent job.

Victim status



Area deprivation





Key findings from SCJS 2017/18 on Public perceptions of crime

Perceptions of local/national crime rate

LOCAL CRIME

73%

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

↑ **8 percentage points**
since 2006

↓ **3 percentage points**
since 2016/17



22%

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

NATIONAL CRIME

48%

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

↑ **8 percentage points**
since 2009/10

↓ **Down 3 percentage points**
since 2016/17



41%

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

↔ **No change**
Since 2016/17

68%

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

66%



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

89%



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

51%



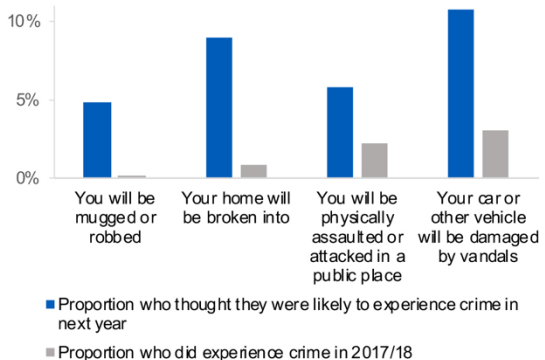
Of adults were worried that someone would use their credit card or bank details

43%



Of adults were worried that their identity would be stolen

► Across a range of crimes, a greater proportion of adults thought that they were likely to experience crime (over the next year) than the proportion who were actually victims in 2017/18.





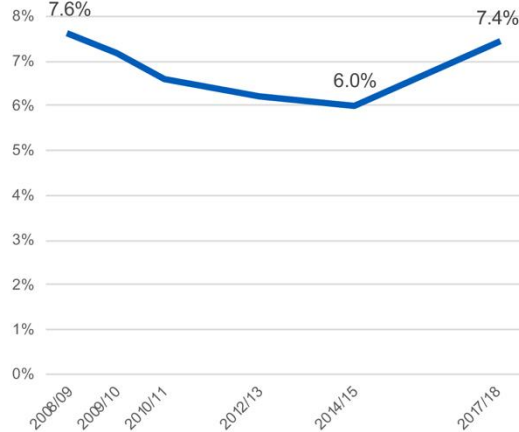
Key findings from SCJS 2017/18 on Illicit drug use

► In the last 12 months

7.4%
of adults had
taken drugs

1.4
percentage
point increase
since 2014/15

No change in
the proportion
of adults using
drugs since
2008/09



7.4%

Looking at comparable measures, drug use has increased since 2014/15, to 7.4%. (This figure excludes poppers, glues, solvents, gas or aerosol and prescription only painkillers not prescribed to them.)

9.5%

of respondents reposted having taken one or more of any of the listed drugs in the survey.

27.8%

of respondents reported that they had *ever* taken one or more of the comparable illicit drugs

This is an increase on 2014/15 (22.1%) and 2008/09 (25.6%).

► Cannabis was the most commonly taken drug in the last 12 months.

6.6%
cannabis



3.3%
prescription only
painkillers that were
not prescribed to them



1.8%
cocaine



1.2%
ecstasy



0.9%
poppers



► Class B drugs were the most commonly taken amongst those who had taken any drug in the last 12 months

A	B	C
26%	71%	7%

11.6%
of adults were offered
drugs in the last 12
months. Of those who
were offered drugs, 50%
took drugs.



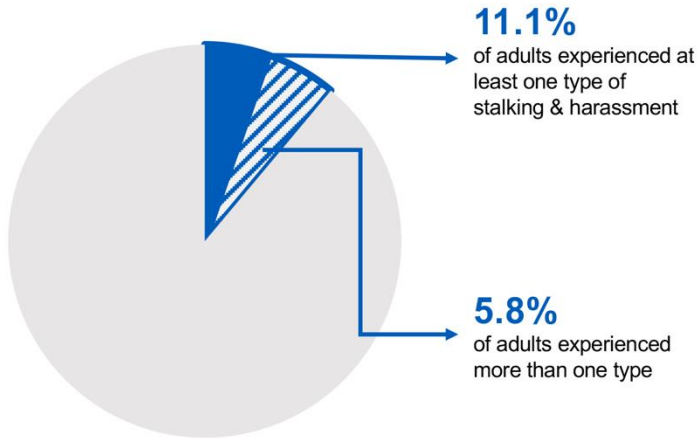
16 to 19
was the most
common age to
first try drugs





Key findings from SCJS 2016/18 on Stalking & Harassment

► In the 12 months prior to interview



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



The most common type of stalking & harassment was unwanted messages by text, email, or social media

Unwanted messages by text/email/social media **67%**

Unwanted phone calls **56%**

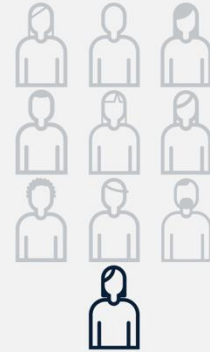
Unwanted letters or cards **23%**

Loitering outside home or workplace **11%**

Followed **10%**

Shared intimate pictures of them **4%**

► Most recent (or only) incident



1 in 10 respondents informed the police about the most recent (or only) incident

50% of victims said they knew the offender in some way

41% of victims said the offender was someone they had never met

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

27% women | 12% men

1/2 of those who had experienced stalking & harassment had also experienced **partner abuse**



Key findings from SCJS 2016/18 on Partner Abuse

► Since age 16

15.6%

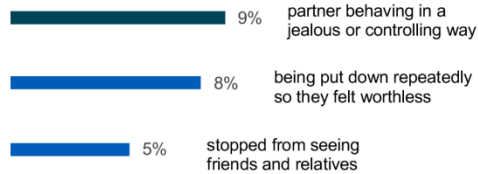
of adults experienced at least one incident of partner abuse since age 16
This is up from 14.1% in 2014/15, but down from 18.2% in 2008/09.

More women experienced partner abuse than men

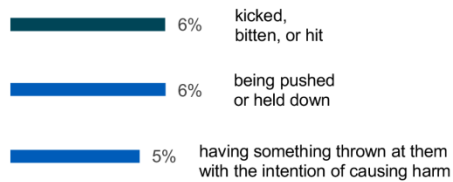


- 62%** of respondents who reported experiencing partner abuse reported having one abusive partner
- 13%** reported having had two abusive partners
- 9%** reported having had three or more.

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



The most common type of physical abuse was being kicked, beaten, or hit



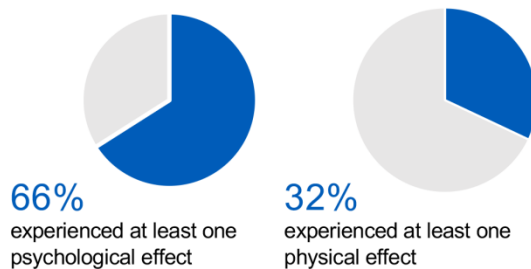
► In the 12 months prior to interview

3.0% of adults experienced at least one incident of partner abuse in the 12 months prior to interview
This is unchanged since 2014/15, but down from 4.2% in 2008/09.

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



Of those experiencing at least one incident of partner abuse



► Latest incident

In the 12 months prior to interview...



Justice Analytical Services



Key findings from SCJS 2016/18 on Sexual Victimization

More serious sexual assault

► Since age 16



3.6%

of adults experienced at least one type of serious sexual assault

1.3%

of adults experienced more than one type

More serious sexual assault include:

forced sexual intercourse	attempted forced sexual intercourse
forced other sexual activity	and attempted forced other sexual activity

More women have experienced serious sexual assault than men



6.2% women



0.8% men

Over 1/2

experienced the first (or only) incident when aged between 16 and 24 years



► Forced sexual intercourse

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

62%

experienced more than one incident



31%

too many incidents to count



56%

said the offender was their partner



23%

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



Less serious sexual assault

► Since age 16

9.3%

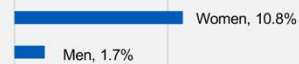
of adults experienced at least one type of less serious sexual assault

3.2%

of adults experienced more than one type

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

Unwanted sexual touching



Sexual threats



Indecent exposure



The offender varied by type of less serious assault

Unwanted sexual touching

41%

of victims said the offender was a stranger

Sexual threats

52%

of victims said the offender was their partner

Indecent exposure

76%

of victims said the offender was a stranger

1. Introduction and background to the SCJS

What is the SCJS and what purpose does it serve?

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

Crime and victimisation surveys have been carried out in Scotland since the early 1980s; however, this report presents the results for the seventh SCJS, with interviews conducted between April 2017 and May 2018. The 2017/18 survey is based on around 5,500 face-to-face interviews with adults (aged 16 or over) living in private households in Scotland.

The main aims of the SCJS are to:

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







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.

What do I need to know when reading this report?

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

Who is included and what does the SCJS cover?

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

<p>► Who takes part in the survey?</p>	 <p>around 5,500 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 which captures information on adults' experiences of violent crime and property crime, including those not reported to the police. However, it does not capture data on all crimes – for example crimes 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. Experiences of sexual offences are collected in the self-completion section and reported separately (although are contained within this report).

What is covered by the survey

► Experiences of being a victim of:

Violent Crime

- Including:
- Assault
 - Robbery



Property Crime

- Including:
- Vandalism
 - Personal theft
 - Other household theft



► Public perceptions of:



Crime



The Police



The Justice system



What is not covered by the survey

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

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

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

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

How is the survey delivered?



The design of the 2017/18 SCJS was broadly similar to the design of the SCJS from 2008/09 onwards. Therefore, this report generally compares the latest findings to those in 2008/09 and the last SCJS in 2016/17 when examining changes over time.

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

- **Survey frequency:** Since 2008/09 the frequency of the SCJS has varied a little. In 2016/17, the SCJS reverted to being conducted on an annual basis. The 2017/18 SCJS is the latest annual survey.
- **Sample:** the sample is designed to be representative of all private residential households across Scotland. A systematic random selection of private residential addresses 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 2017 and May 2018, 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 into May to increase the achieved sample size.
- **Interviews:** 5,475 face-to-face interviews were conducted in respondents' homes by professional interviewers from an original target of 6,000. The achieved response rate was 62.4%, against a target of 68%. This was similar to the achieved

response rate in 2014/15 (63.8%) and 2016/17 (63.2%), but lower than the 67.7% achieved in 2012/13.

- **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 2016 to May 2018) so is not directly comparable with any calendar year.
- **Weighting:** the results obtained were weighted to correct for the unequal probability of selection for interview caused by the sample design and for differences in the level of response among groups of individuals.

Further information about the design and methodology is contained in the accompanying [Technical Report](#).

How reliable are SCJS results?

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

To indicate the extent of uncertainty, this report presents key results on the extent and prevalence of crime 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 majority of the analysis in the report however focuses on best estimates.

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

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

Uncertainty can be particularly high around some 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% and we recommend that such results are used with caution.

² 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>

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

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

This report contains a range of *demonstration tables and charts* within the body of each chapter. Further information on how to interpret charts, tables and data presented in this report is provided in [Annex E](#). Many of these tables and charts 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](#).

Data collected by the self-completion element of the SCJS (on drug use, partner abuse, and sexual victimisation and stalking) is collated over two survey sweeps and published biennially. This report also therefore contains [key findings on each of the self-completion topics](#) from SCJS interviews conducted in 2016/17 and 2017/18 (described where relevant as 2016/18). Previously these modules have been reported in standalone topic reports. Supporting [data tables](#) have also been published to provide additional findings from these questionnaire sections.

SCJS results provided to Police Division level are available biennially (as they have been since 2012/13), with two sweeps of data combined to increase the sample size and precision around results with effect from 2016/17. Therefore, key results at Police Division level covering the period 2016/17 – 2017/18 have also been released alongside this report. Findings released include perceptions of the police, as well as wider SCJS results such as victimisation rates, within each Division. They are most easily accessed in the recently launched [SCJS interactive data tool](#) which has been developed to present these results in a user-friendly manner. This enables divisional results to be compared over time, as well as against each other and the national average for each sweep³⁴. Further information on the SCJS reporting structure is available on the [SCJS website](#).

³ As the Police Division level results for 2016/17 – 2017/18 combine two sweeps of data, the national average figure in those outputs has been produced on the same basis for comparative purposes. It is recommended that the single year figures presented in each individual sweep's outputs are used if national level figures are being reported in isolation.

⁴ Key 2016/17 – 2017/18 results have also been published in [excel tables](#) for users who prefer to access findings in this way.

How can I find out more about the SCJS?

Scottish Crime and Justice Survey - User Engagement

The SCJS is used in multiple ways and by 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](#).

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](#).

What was the extent and prevalence of crime in Scotland in 2017/18?

There were an estimated 602,000 crimes experienced by adults in Scotland in 2017/18.

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 602,000 crimes experienced by adults in Scotland in 2017/18.

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 535,000 and 668,000 incidents of crime in Scotland in 2017/18. The following analysis is focused on the best estimates derived for results across each sweep of the survey⁵.

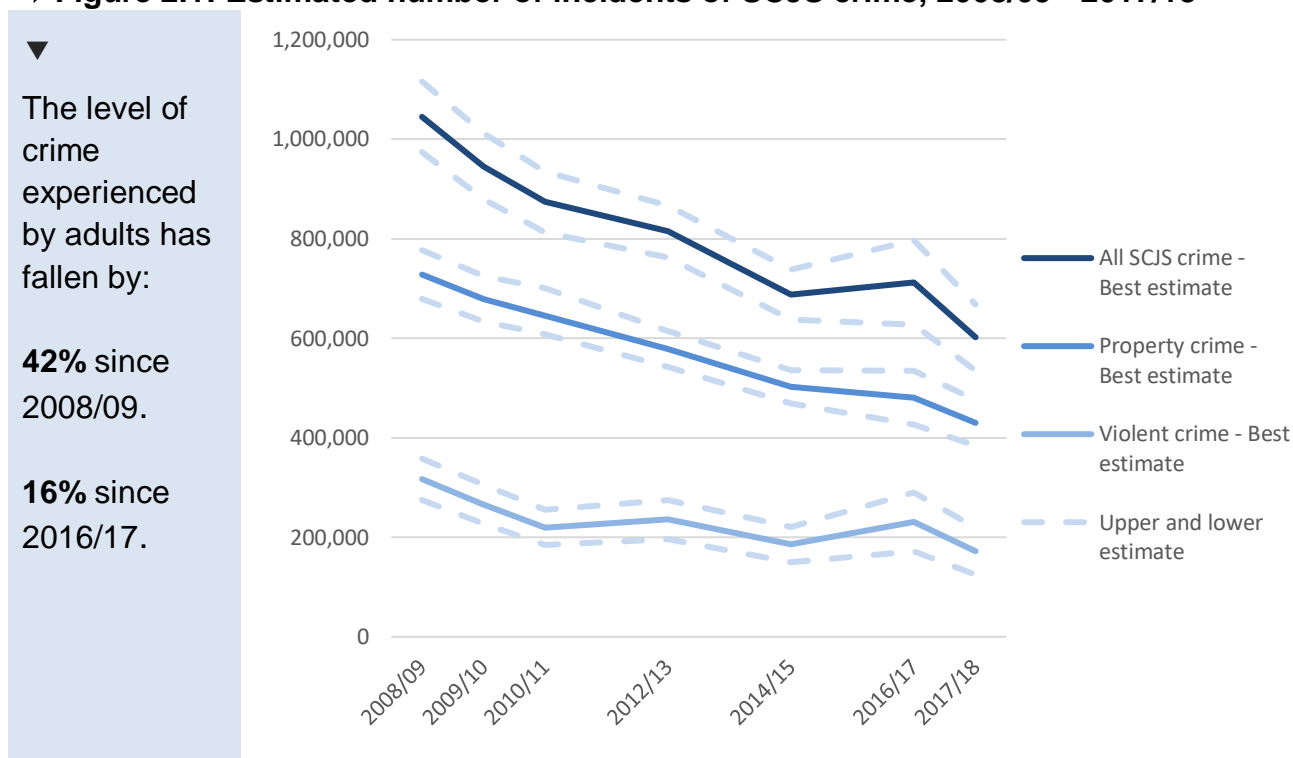
The overall level of crime experienced in Scotland has fallen by 42% since 2008/09 to the lowest level ever estimated by the SCJS.

Figure 2.1⁶ displays the trend in the estimated number of SCJS crimes since 2008/09, highlighting a marked decline in crime over the last decade which has continued over the last year. It also shows the best estimates for [violent crime](#) and [property crime](#), which are discussed in more detail in later chapters, and the relevant upper and lower estimates around each category over time.

⁵ Please see the [Introduction](#) for definitions of best, upper and lower estimates.

⁶ The increase in confidence interval shown by the greater difference between the lower and upper estimates from 2016/17 onwards is due to a reduction in the target survey sample size. More information is provided in the [Technical Report](#).

► **Figure 2.1: Estimated number of incidents of SCJS crime, 2008/09 - 2017/18**



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

Table 2.1 looks at results from key comparator years⁷ more closely and shows that the estimated number of incidents of overall crime experienced by adults:

- decreased by more than two-fifths (42%) between 2008/09 and 2017/18, from 1,045,000 to 602,000 – an estimated decrease of around 443,000 incidents;
- has fallen by 16% since the last SCJS in 2016/17, from 712,000 to 602,000 incidents.

► **Table 2.1: Estimated number of all SCJS crimes (2008/09, 2016/17, 2017/18)**

Number of SCJS crimes	2008/09	2016/17	2017/18	Change since 2008/09	Change since 2016/17
Best estimate	1,045,000	712,000	602,000	↓ by 42%	↓ by 16%
Lower estimate	974,000	629,000	535,000		
Upper estimate	1,116,000	795,000	668,000		
<i>Number of respondents</i>	<i>16,000</i>	<i>5,570</i>	<i>5,480</i>		

Base: SCJS 2008/09 (16,000); 2016/17 (5,570); 2017/18 (5,480). Variable: INCSURVEYCRIME

⁷ Annex table A1.2 provides best estimates of the number of incidents of crime for each SCJS sweep since 2008/09.

While the SCJS found a fall in overall crime since 2016/17, it did not detect a change in the extent of property or violent crime individually over the last year.

The fall in the estimated level of overall crime since 2016/17 is a result of the combined set of non-significant apparent decreases across various sub-categories of SCJS crime, with the 'all motor vehicle related theft' group (down by 36%) the only sub-category to show any significant change over this period.

Therefore, whilst the SCJS has detected a fall in the level of overall crime (i.e. property and violent crime combined), no statistically significant change was identified over the last year in the extent of property crime or violent crime as individual categories, where apparent decreases of 11% and 26% respectively were not statistically significant.

This is not an unusual finding from an annual survey like the SCJS. Where crime estimates are based on the experiences of a relatively small number of people (which is increasingly the case as more granular crime categories are examined), it can often be challenging to detect significant changes between adjacent sweeps. That said, where they exist, the SCJS can often identify significant changes and trends over the medium and longer-term. For example, this is demonstrated by looking at property crime which fell (significantly) by 14% between 2014/15 and 2017/18, despite no significant changes being detected between adjacent sweeps during this period. This finding is discussed in more detail and wider context in the '[Focus on Property Crime](#)' chapter.

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

Consistent with previous years, the SCJS results show that most adults were not victims of any crime in 2017/18, with 12.5% estimated to have experienced at least one SCJS (property or violent) crime.

As with incident numbers, crime prevalence rates are also estimates derived from a sample survey of the population with associated margins of error around them. Taking into account these confidence intervals, between 11.4% and 13.5% of the adult population were estimated to have experienced at least one SCJS crime in 2017/18, with 12.5% representing the best estimate⁸. Again, as with incident counts, analysis from this point onwards will focus on the best estimates for results across the survey for each sweep⁹.

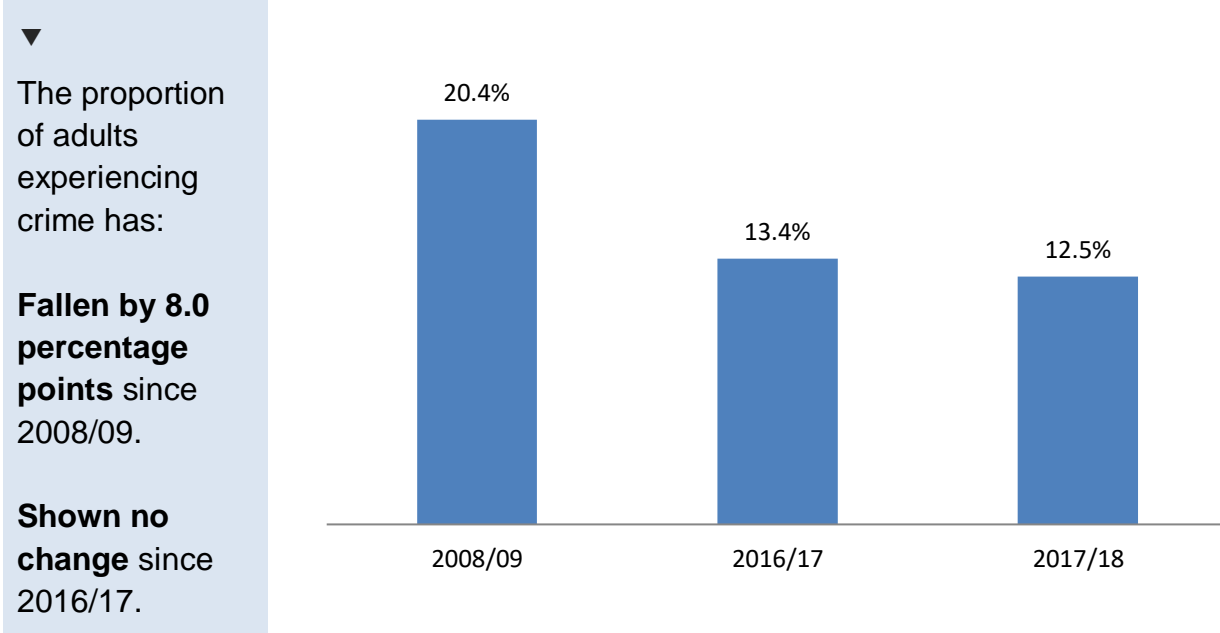
The proportion of adults experiencing crime has fallen from 20.4% in 2008/09 to 12.5% in 2017/18. In other words, one-in-eight adults were victims of crime in 2017/18 compared to one-in-five in 2008/09.

Since the last SCJS, the proportion of adults experiencing crime has shown no change – the apparent fall from 13.4% in 2016/17 shown in Figure 2.2 is not statistically significant.

⁸ Please see the [Introduction](#) for definitions of best, upper and lower estimates.

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



Base: SCJS 2008/09 (16,000); 2016/17 (5,570); 2017/18 (5,480) Variable: PREVSURVEYCRIME

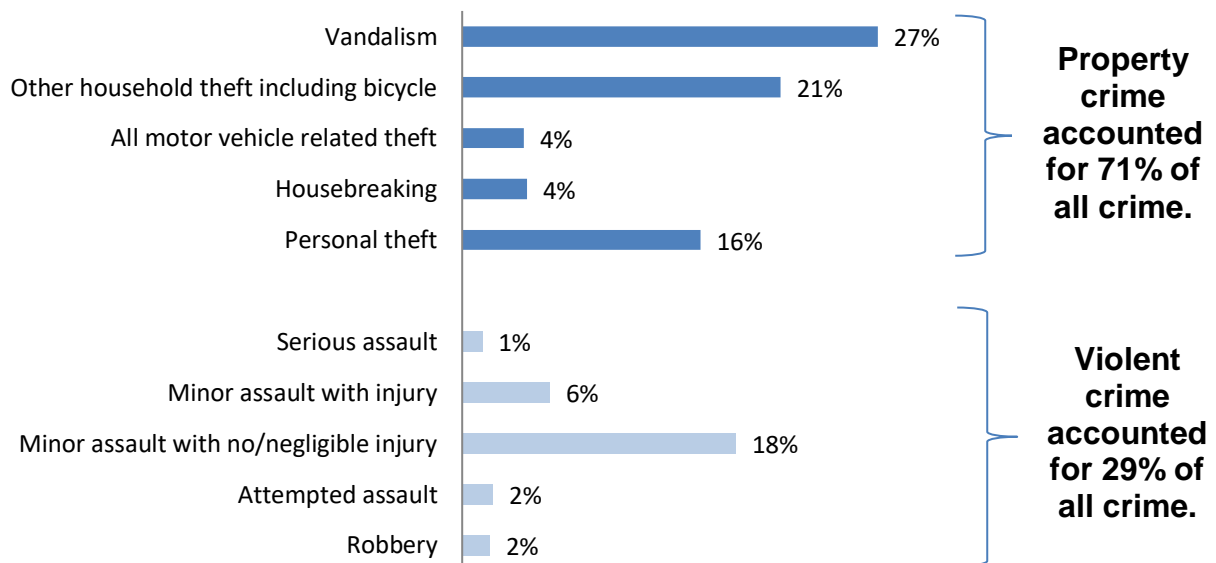
What type of crime was experienced in Scotland in 2017/18?

As in previous years, most crime in 2017/18 was property-related.

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

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 accounted for just over one-quarter (27%) of all crimes measured by the 2017/18 SCJS, with minor assault with no or negligible injury representing around a fifth of all incidents (18%). 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 2017/18**



Base: 2017/18 (5,480). Variable: Prevalence (PREV) variables

The SCJS has also consistently shown that adults in Scotland are much more likely to have experienced property crime than violent crime in any given year. The SCJS estimates that 10.8% of adults were victims of property crime in 2017/18, whilst 2.3% 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 2017/18, 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 2017/18 vary across the population?

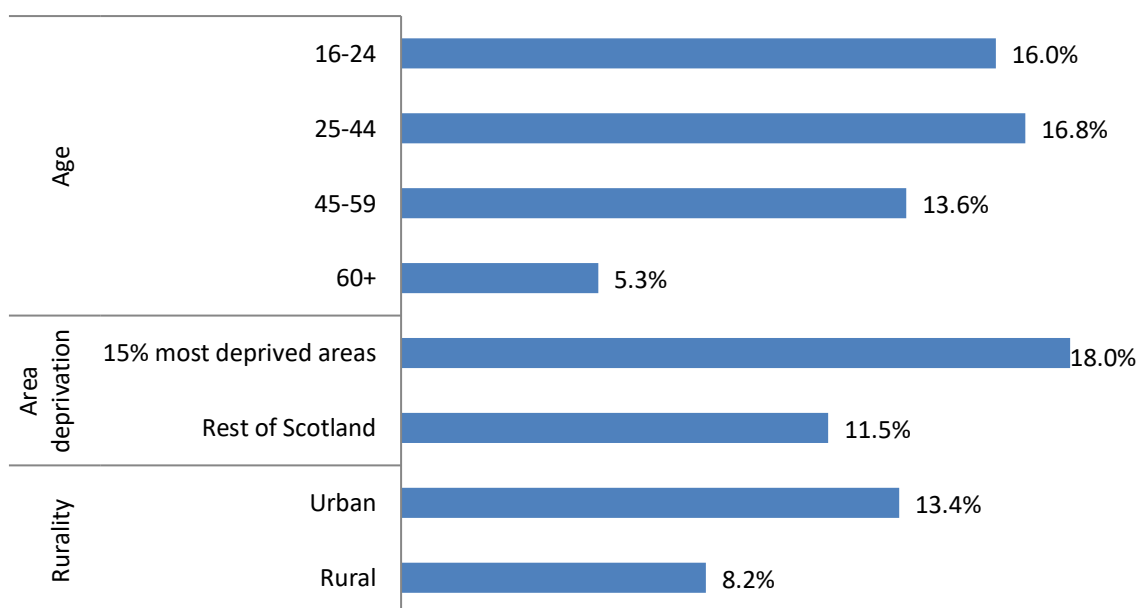
The likelihood of experiencing crime in 2017/18 was higher for those living in deprived areas and people in urban locations, with those aged 60 and over least likely to be victims.

The proportion of adults who were victims of any SCJS crime in 2017/18 varied according to demographic and geographic characteristics. For instance, as shown in Figure 2.4, the likelihood of experiencing crime in 2017/18:

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

There was no significant difference in the proportion of men and women who were victims of SCJS crime in 2017/18, at 12.8% and 12.1% respectively.

► **Figure 2.4: Proportion of adults experiencing any crime measured by SCJS in 2017/18**



Base: 2017/18 (5,480). Variable: PREVSURVEYCRIME, QDAGE, SIMD_TOP, URBRUR.

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

The crime victimisation rate has decreased since 2008/09 across many key groups in the population - including both males and females; all age groups shown above; those living in the most deprived areas as well as those living elsewhere in Scotland; and adults in both urban and rural locations¹⁰.

For example, the proportion of those in the 15% most deprived areas experiencing crime has fallen from just over one-in-four (26.0%) to fewer than one-in-five (18.0%) since 2008/09. Over the same period, the prevalence rate for those living elsewhere in Scotland dropped from 19.4% to 11.5%.

In line with the national average, the SCJS detected no change compared to 2016/17 in the overall likelihood of being a victim of crime amongst demographic sub-groups.

What can the SCJS tell us about multiple victimisation?

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

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.

3.4% of adults experienced two or more crimes in 2017/18, accounting for just under three-fifths of all SCJS crime.

As discussed [above](#), the majority of adults (87.5%) did not experience any crime measured by the SCJS in 2017/18, and conversely 12.5% 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 (9.0%) were victims of a single incident of SCJS crime in 2017/18, accounting for 43% of all crime.

It is therefore estimated that multiple victimisation affected 3.4% of the adult population in 2017/18, and that this group experienced just under three-fifths of all SCJS crime (57%)

¹⁰ Please see Annex table A1.6 for relevant results and the SCJS supporting [data tables](#) for additional breakdowns.

during the year. These victims are estimated to have experienced 2.2 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 (2017/18)**

▼	Number of crimes	% of population	% of SCJS crime
0.5% of adults experienced five or more crimes during 2017/18.	None	87.5%	0%
Taken together, their experiences accounted for 18% of all SCJS crime over the year.	One	9.0%	43%
	Two	1.9%	20%
	Three	0.8%	12%
	Four	0.4%	8%
	Five or more	0.5%	18%
		Two or more	3.4%

Base: SCJS 2017/18 (5,480). 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 2017/18 there were decreases in the proportion of adults experiencing:

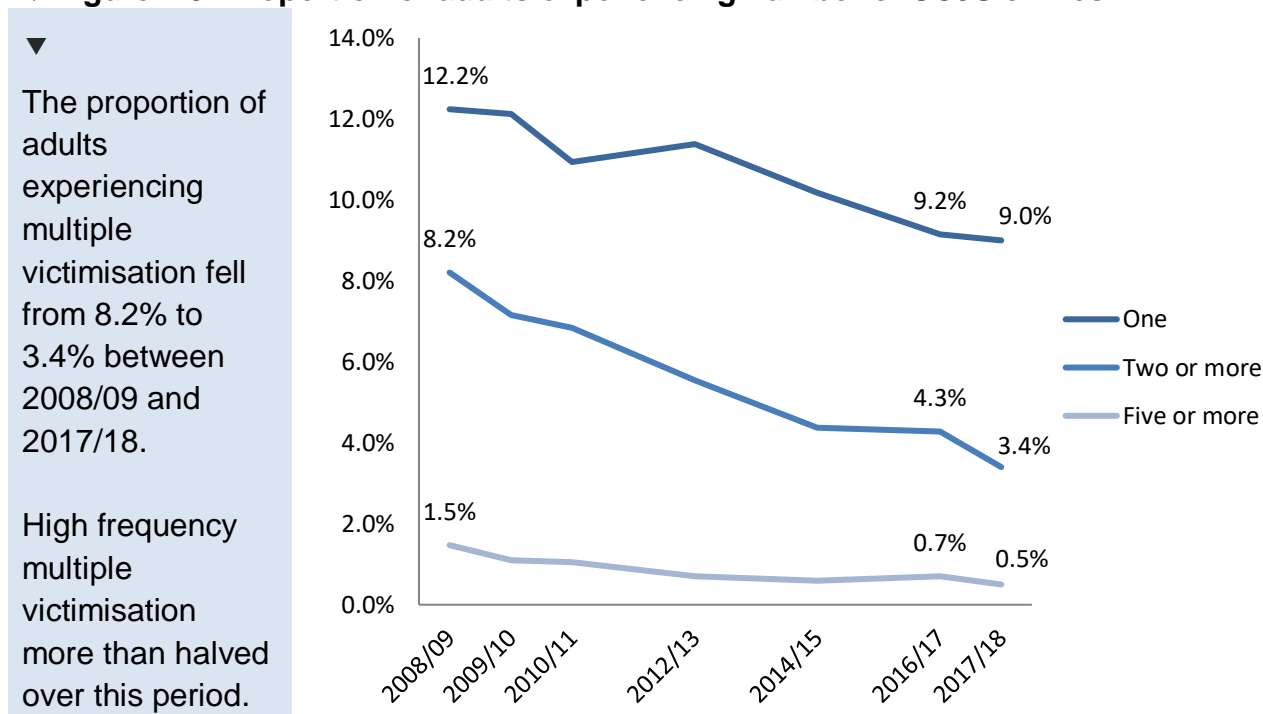
- single incidents of SCJS crime – from 12.2% to 9.0%;
- multiple victimisation (two or more incidents of SCJS crime) – from 8.2% to 3.4%; and
- high frequency multiple victimisation (five or more incidents of SCJS crime) – from 1.5% to 0.5 %.

The fall in the various levels of victimisation since 2008/09 has occurred alongside a fall in the overall SCJS crime victimisation rate¹¹ over this period, as discussed [previously](#).

Since the last SCJS in 2016/17, 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.

¹¹ 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**



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

In summary these findings show that, compared to 2008/09, adults in 2017/18 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 2017/18?

It is estimated that the police became aware of 35% of crime in 2017/18, a similar proportion to previous years.

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

The SCJS estimates that 35% of all SCJS (property and violent) crime in 2017/18 came to the attention of the police. This proportion has shown no change since 2008/09. It is estimated that 34% of property crimes were reported to the police in 2017/18, compared to 39% 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?

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 have offered a broad comparison point over the years.

Following [recent updates to the methodology](#) used in the CSEW to produce estimates for the *volume of crime* experienced by the adult population, we assess that the results on the *overall victimisation rate* remain broadly comparable between the two surveys. A short methodological paper¹² has been published alongside this report which confirms the approach currently taken to produce crime estimates in the SCJS and its relative strengths and limitations.

Further information on the similarities and differences between the SCJS and CSEW are provided in the SCJS 2017/18 [Technical Report](#).

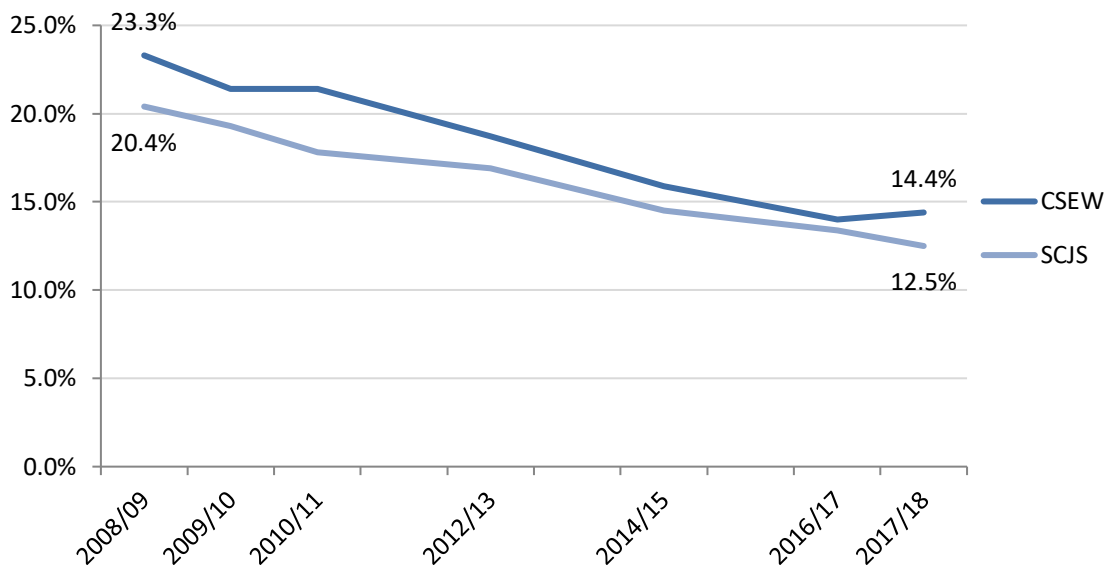
In 2017/18, adults in Scotland were less likely to have experienced crime than those in England and Wales.

Looking at the overall crime victimisation rates, the proportion of adults estimated to have experienced crime in 2017/18 was lower in Scotland (12.5%) than in England and Wales (14.4%).

This is a change compared to the position in 2016/17 where there was no significant difference detected between the victimisation rates in Scotland and England and Wales, although the prevalence rate has been lower in Scotland in the past as Figure 2.6 shows. Between 2016/17 and 2017/18, there was a non-significant decrease in the victimisation rate in Scotland and a non-significant increase in the rate in England and Wales, which cumulatively lead to a difference being detected when comparing the two 2017/18 figures. It will be important to monitor these figures going forward to examine if trends between the two jurisdictions are diverging.

¹² Available on the main [SCJS publications](#) page.

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



Base: SCJS 2008/09 (16,000); 2009/10 (16,040); 2010/11 (13,010); 2012/13 (12,050); 2014/15 (11,470); 2016/17 (5,570); 2017/18 (5,480). SCJS prevalence - Variable: PREVSURVEYCRIME.CSEW prevalence - <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/crimeinenglandandwalesappendixtables>

3. Focus on violent crime

What was the extent and prevalence of violent crime in Scotland in 2017/18?

There were an estimated 172,000 violent crimes in 2017/18, representing around three out of every ten crimes experienced by adults during the year.

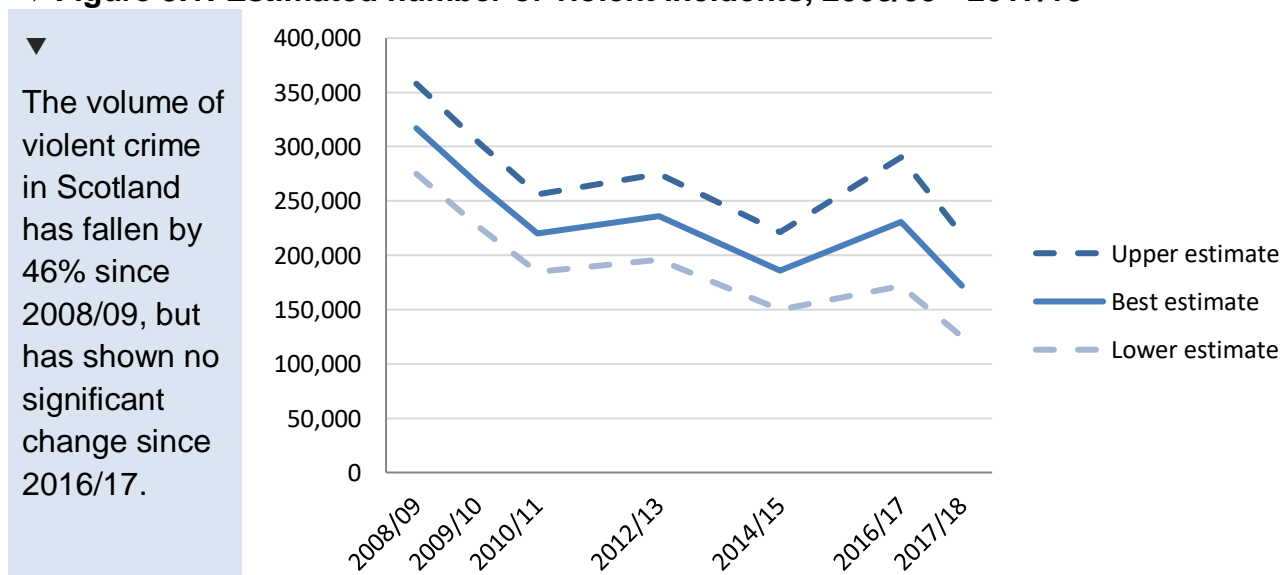
The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey estimates that 172,000 violent crimes were experienced by adults in Scotland in 2017/18^{13,14}. This figure accounts for 29% of all crime measured by the SCJS in 2017/18, with the remainder being property-related.

As a sample survey of the general public, SCJS results on the extent of violence are estimated values with relatively wide margins of error around them, rather than exact counts. Further information on the process used to calculate estimates is contained within the [Technical Report](#). Taking into account these confidence intervals, the SCJS estimates that there were between 125,000 and 219,000 incidents of violent crime in Scotland in 2017/18. The following analysis is focused on the best estimates for each sweep of the survey.

The level of violent crime in Scotland is estimated to have almost halved 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 large fall over the past decade¹⁵.

► **Figure 3.1: Estimated number of violent incidents, 2008/09 - 2017/18**



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

¹³ Crime estimates are rounded to the nearest 1,000 crimes.

¹⁴ Details on the specific crimes within the violence group are outlined in the [‘Overview of crime’](#) chapter.

¹⁵ The increase in confidence interval shown by the greater difference between the lower and upper estimates from 2016/17 onwards is due to reduction in the target survey sample size. Please see the [Introduction](#) for definitions of best, upper and lower estimates.

Table 3.1 examines results from key comparator years¹⁶ and shows that the estimated amount of violent crime experienced by adults:

- has fallen by 46% since the 2008/09 baseline, from 317,000 to 172,000 incidents in 2017/18;
- has shown no change since the last SCJS in 2016/17 – the apparent decrease from 231,000 violent incidents is not statistically significant.

► **Table 3.1: Estimated of number of violent crimes (2008/09, 2016/17, 2017/18)**

Number of violent crimes	2008/09	2016/17	2017/18	Change since 2008/09	Change since 2016/17
Best estimate	317,000	231,000	172,000	↓ by 46%	No change
Lower estimate	275,000	172,000	125,000		
Upper estimate	358,000	290,000	219,000		
<i>Number of respondents</i>	<i>16,000</i>	<i>5,570</i>	<i>5,480</i>		

Base: SCJS 2008/09 (16,000); 2016/17 (5,570); 2017/18 (5,480). Variable: INCVIOLENT

The fall in violent crime over the last decade has been mostly driven by decreases between 2008/09 and 2010/11, with some fluctuations but broad stability seen since then.

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 year¹⁷. As a result, analysis of findings between adjacent surveys are often less likely to identify statistically significant changes. For example, all of the apparent fluctuations shown from year-to-year since 2010/11 in Figure 3.1 are not statistically significant.

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

- fell markedly between 2008/09 and 2010/11, and has remained below the 2008/09 baseline since then; but
- has been more stable in recent years - for instance, the apparent fall in violence from 2010/11 to 2017/18 is not statistically significant.

When looking at intermediate years, although the decrease from 2012/13 to 2017/18 is statistically significant, the wider trend and lack of significant change seen in recent years suggests this may represent fluctuation in the data. Therefore, overall the SCJS suggests that the level of violence experienced by adults in Scotland has been relatively stable since 2010/11.

¹⁶ Annex table A1.2 provides best estimates of the number of incidents of violent crime for each SCJS sweep since 2008/09.

¹⁷ For instance, 108 respondents in 2017/18.

The likelihood of experiencing violent crime is relatively small and has fallen since 2008/09.

Whilst the SCJS produces crime estimates which make it possible to examine trends in the *volume of crime* experienced over time, a particular strength of the survey is its ability to provide findings on the *proportion of adults* experiencing crime in any one year with a relatively good level of precision.

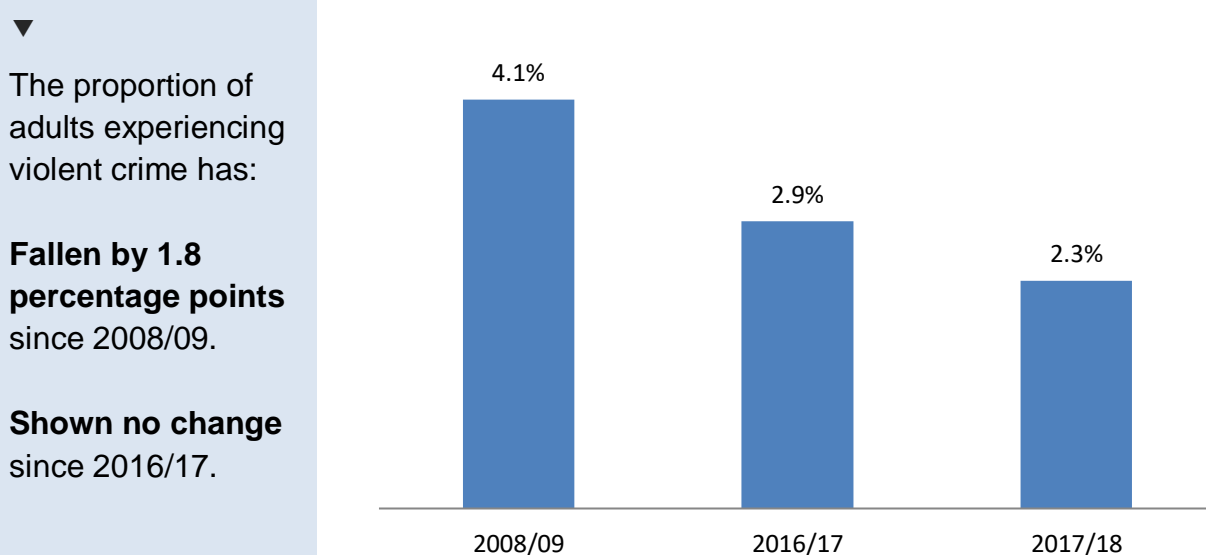
Looking at the victimisation rate, as in previous years the vast majority of adults in Scotland did not experience violent crime in 2017/18. The SCJS estimates that 2.3% of adults were victims of at least one violent crime in 2017/18. In comparison, an estimated [10.8% of adults experienced property crime](#) over the same period.

However, like incident numbers, it is worth noting crime prevalence rates are also estimates with associated margins of error around them as they are derived from a sample survey of the population. Taking into account these confidence intervals, between 1.8% and 2.8% of the adult population were estimated to have experienced violent crime in 2017/18, with 2.3% representing the best estimate¹⁸. Again, as with incident counts, analysis from this point onwards will focus on the best estimates for results across the survey for each sweep¹⁹.

Looking at trends over time, the proportion of adults experiencing violent crime has fallen from 4.1% in 2008/09 to 2.3% in 2017/18. Overall, this suggests that violent crime victimisation in Scotland has been relatively uncommon since 2008/09 and has become a rarer experience still over the last decade.

Since the last SCJS in 2016/17 there has been no change detected in the proportion of adults experiencing violent crime. The apparent decrease from 2.9% in 2016/17 to 2.3% in 2017/18 is not statistically significant, as shown in Figure 3.2.

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



Base: SCJS 2008/09 (16,000); 2016/17 (5,570); 2017/18 (5,480). Variable: PREVVIOLENT

¹⁸ Please see [Introduction](#) for definitions of best, upper and lower estimates.

¹⁹ 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>

However, as noted earlier, the SCJS is often better able to identify trends and changes, where they exist, over longer time periods. For example, looking further back reveals that the proportion of adults experiencing violence in 2017/18 (2.3%) was lower than the 3.1% in 2012/13 (and preceding years).

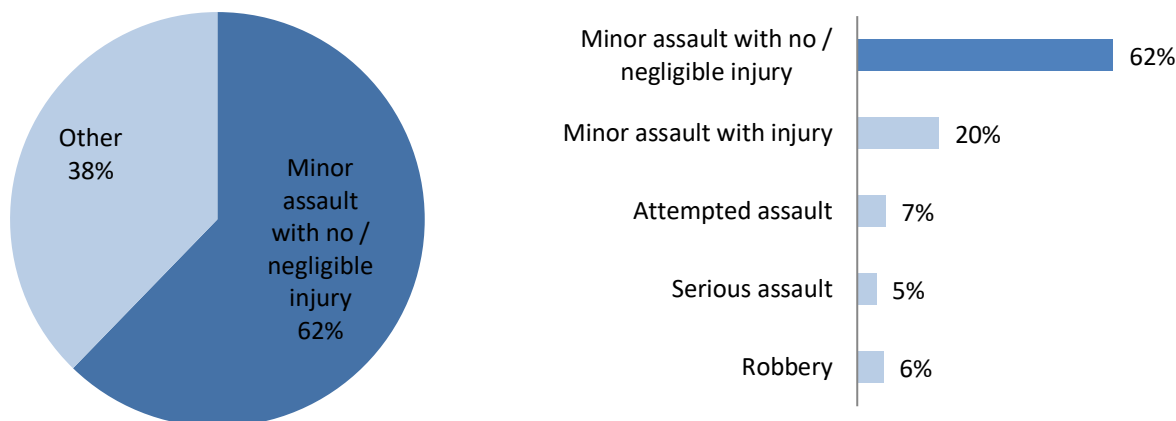
What types of violent crime were most commonly experienced in 2017/18?

As in previous years, the majority of violent crimes in 2017/18 were incidents of minor assault resulting in no or negligible injury.

Just over three-fifths of violent incidents in 2017/18 (62%) were cases of minor assault with no or negligible injury to the victim, as shown in Figure 3.3.

By comparison, one-in-twenty violent incidents (5%) in 2017/18 were serious assaults, whilst robberies accounted for 6% of all violence. Taken together, all categories of assault accounted for 94% of violent crime.

► **Figure 3.3: Categories of crime as proportions of violent crime overall in 2017/18**



Base: 2017/18 (5,480). Variable: INC SER ASSAULT, INC MINOR ASS INJURY, INC MINOR ASS NO INJURY, INC ATTEMPT ASSAULT INC ROB.

Between 2008/09 and 2017/18, the SCJS has consistently estimated that assaults (including attempted, minor and serious assaults) have accounted for around 95% of violent crime experienced by adults. As such, trends over time in the number of assaults very closely mirror wider trends in violence, having fallen by 46% since 2008/09 (from an estimated 297,000 incidents to 161,000).

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

SCJS reports have previously provided estimates of the number of robberies (the other main category of violent crime captured by the survey) and sub-categories of assault, such as serious assault. Whilst being significant events for victims, these crimes represent small proportions of violence overall and are experienced by small proportions of the population (and therefore the SCJS sample), so have relatively large degrees of error around them²⁰.

²⁰ For example, the relative standard error (RSE) around the 2017/18 robbery estimate is 74%. For more on the relative standard error, please see the [Introduction](#).

As such, for lower volume (although often higher harm) crime categories like serious assault, the strength of the SCJS is in examining how prevalent such experiences are in the population (i.e. demonstrating that a relatively small proportion of the population are affected), rather than estimating the number of incidents of these types of crime that occur in a single year or over time.

Therefore, with effect from 2017/18, the main body of the SCJS report will examine only the prevalence of such crimes. Estimates of the extent of these crimes will continue to be provided in Annex tables (see Annex Table A1.2) with advice on where such findings should be used with caution to help users interpret such results.

As (minor) assaults account for the vast majority of violence crime overall, it is worth noting that the later sections looking at the characteristics of violent crime in general are also mainly driven by the nature of these (higher volume, often lower harm) incidents. To enhance the wider evidence base on robbery and serious assault, Scottish Government statisticians and Police Scotland have carried out two studies into the characteristics of police recorded 'Robbery' and 'Attempted murder and serious assault'. These studies have involved examining a sample of police records (rather than all records) to provide a broad indication of the characteristics of the crime type.

The [report on robbery](#) was published in September 2018 and is based on a review of police recorded robberies from both 2008-09 and 2017-18 to explore the extent to which robbery committed more recently in Scotland may differ in its character to robbery committed 10 years ago. The second study, on the characteristics of 'Attempted murder and serious assault', will be published in Spring 2019, and will follow a similar format.

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

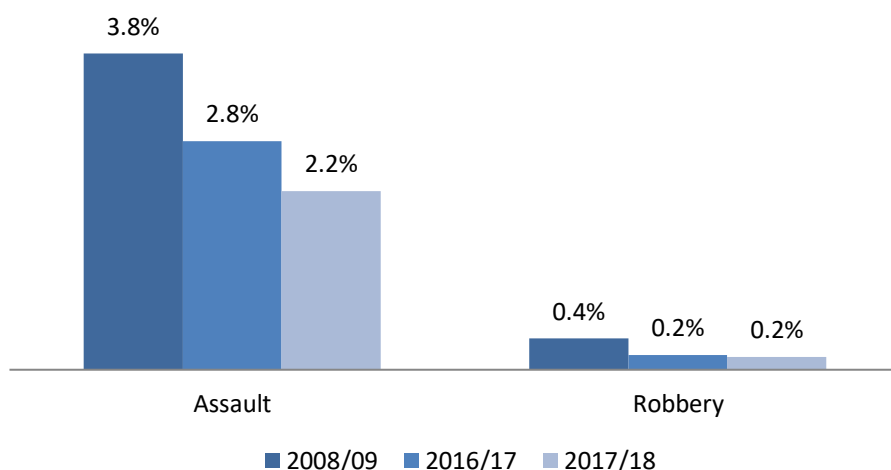
Returning to SCJS findings, as in previous years the prevalence rate for different categories of violent crime varied, with the SCJS estimating that 2.2% of adults were victims of assault in 2017/18, whilst 0.2% experienced robbery. In other words, despite still being a relatively rare experience, adults were more than ten times as likely to have been victims of assault in 2017/18 than robbery.

Examining trends over time, the SCJS finds that the prevalence of assault has fallen from 3.8% in 2008/09, again demonstrating a similar trend to violence overall. The proportion of adults experiencing robbery halved from 0.4% to 0.2%²¹ over the same period, as shown in Figure 3.4.

²¹ Note: the unrounded robbery prevalence estimate in 2017/18 differs from that in 2016/17, leading to a statistically significant change being detected between 2008/09 and 2017/18 where there was no difference in the previous SCJS report.

► **Figure 3.4: Proportion of adults experiencing types of violent crime, 2008/09 – 2017/18**

▼
 The proportion of adults experiencing assault has:
Fallen by 1.7 percentage points since 2008/09.
Shown no change since 2016/17 – the apparent decrease is not statistically significant.



Base: SCJS 2008/09 (16,000); 2016/17 (5,570); 2017/18 (5,480). Variables: PREVASSAULT; PREVROB.

Whilst a small proportion of adults were victims of any sort of assault in 2017/18, experiences of more serious forms of violence were rarer still. This is in line with the [finding](#) that the vast majority of violent crime was accounted for by minor assaults. For instance, a greater proportion of adults experienced minor assault with no or negligible injury (1.5%) than minor assault resulting in injury (0.4%) or serious assault (0.1%).

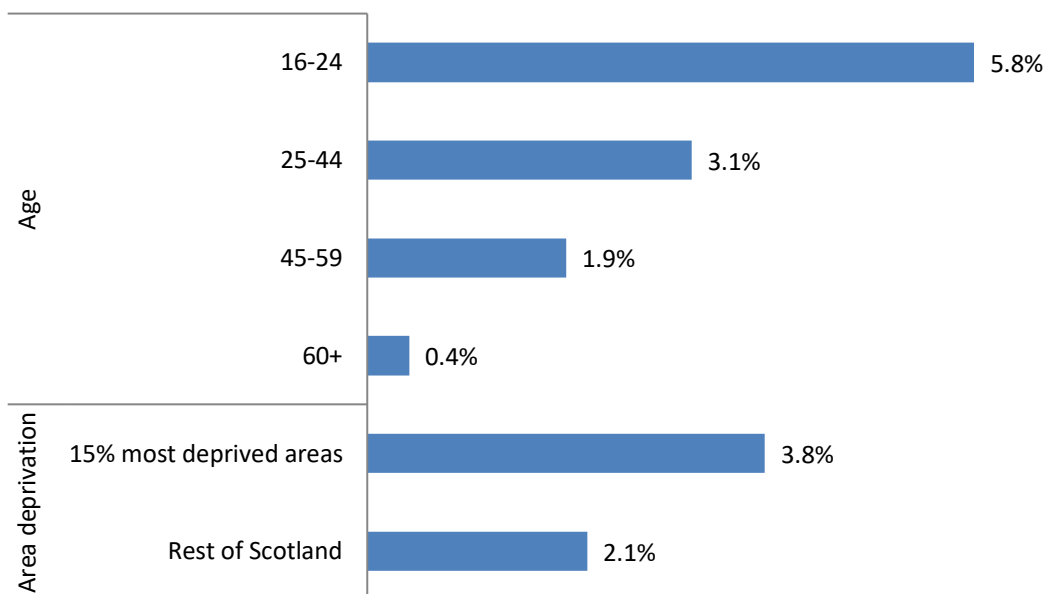
How did experiences of violent crime vary across the population?

Those in deprived areas were more likely to be victims of violence in 2017/18, whilst such experiences were less likely for adults aged 60 and over.

The SCJS enables us to examine how experiences of violent crime varied across the population by demographic and geographic characteristics. As shown in Figure 3.5:

- The likelihood of experiencing violence decreased with age - for example those aged 60+ were least likely to be victims of violent crime in 2017/18, with fewer than 1 in 200 experiencing violence in this age group, compared to just over 1 in 20 of those aged 16-24;
- Adults living in the 15% most deprived areas in Scotland were almost twice as likely to have been victims of violence than people living elsewhere.

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

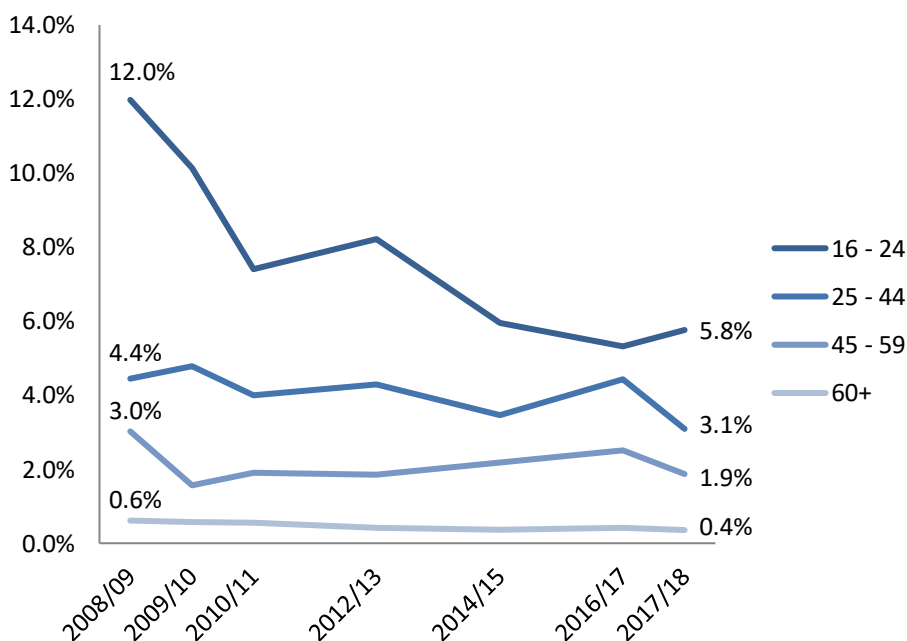


Base: 2017/18 (5,480). Variable: INCSURVEYCRIME, QDAGE, SIMD_TOP.

The proportion of younger adults experiencing violent crime has more than halved since 2008/09, whilst the prevalence rate for other age groups has been stable.

Looking at trends over time, the proportion of 16-24 year olds who were victims of violence has more than halved since 2008/09, falling from 12.0% to 5.8%, as shown in Figure 3.6. In contrast the prevalence rates for all other age groups showed no change over the same period – the apparent decreases shown are not statistically significant.

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



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

In contrast, the prevalence rate for adults living in the 15% most deprived areas (3.8% in 2017/18) has not shown any change since 2008/09, whereas the rate has reduced for those living in the rest of Scotland (from 3.8% to 2.1%).

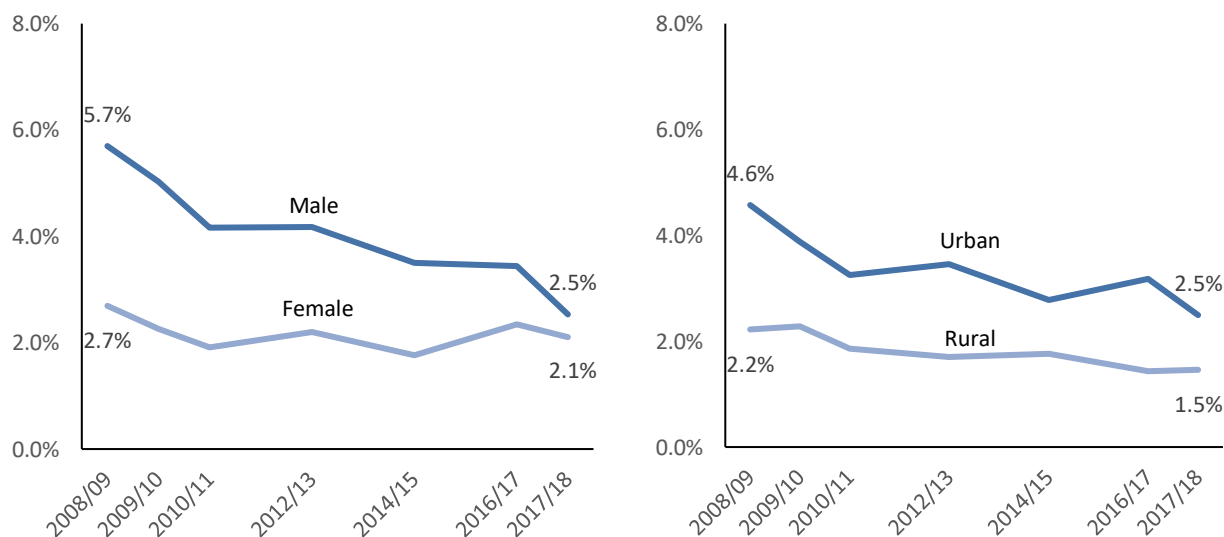
Following decreases in victimisation over the last decade, there was no difference in the likelihood of being a victim of violence by gender or rurality in 2017/18.

Since 2008/09, the proportion of males and those in urban areas experiencing violence have fallen, whilst the prevalence rates for females and those in rural areas have shown no change. Whilst females and those in rural areas have previously been less likely to have been victims of violence than direct comparator groups, the differing trends in victimisation over time mean that:

- unlike results in previous years, the 2017/18 SCJS did not detect a statistically significant difference in the likelihood of having experienced violence between those in urban and rural areas.
- the survey detected no difference in the proportion of males and females who experienced violent crime in 2017/18 (2.5% and 2.1% respectively) – continuing the finding from [2016/17](#) which also found no statistically significant difference in victimisation by gender²².

Figure 3.7 below demonstrates how prevalence rates between these comparator groups have narrowed over the last decade – the apparent differences shown between groups in 2017/18 are not statistically significant, nor are the apparent changes in the prevalence rates for females or those in rural areas since 2008/09.

► **Figure 3.7: Violent crime victimisation rate by gender and rurality over time**



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

²² Additional breakdowns are provided in Annex table A1.7 and the SCJS supporting [data tables](#), for example age within gender, disability status and tenure.

However, when considering findings by gender, it is important to note that victims of partner abuse may not report such experiences through the face-to-face element of the SCJS which produces the main survey prevalence rates – including on violence. As such, questions on experiences of partner abuse (covering both physical and psychological abuse) are answered in a self-completion element of the survey – with key findings on this topic from 2016/17-2017/18 presented in [Section 9.3](#). Nonetheless, the SCJS main survey estimates have been captured on a consistent basis since 2008/09, meaning trends in victimisation are useful measures of trends experienced by the population.

Looking at more recent changes in victimisation since 2016/17, in line with the national average, there have been no statistically significant changes in the violent crime victimisation rate across any of the sub-population groups discussed above (including age and deprivation).

What can the SCJS tell us about repeat victimisation?

The SCJS estimates that most adults did not experience violent crime in 2017/18, whilst 2.3% 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. This is known as ‘**repeat victimisation**’.

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

Fewer than 1 in every 100 adults were victims of repeated incidents of violence, but their experiences accounted for around three-fifths of violent crime in 2017/18.

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 shows that 1.6% of adults were victims of a single violent incident over the year, with a smaller proportion of the population (0.7%) experiencing repeat victimisation (two or more violent crimes). These repeat victims are estimated to have experienced on average around 3 violent crimes each during 2017/18, whilst together this group of adults are estimated to have experienced almost three-fifths (59%) of all violent crime committed against adults over this period. The table also highlights that an even smaller proportion of the population (0.1%) were high frequency repeat victims who experienced five or more incidents each.

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

► **Table 3.3: Proportion of violent crime experienced by repeat victims, by number of crimes experienced (2017/18)**

▼	Number of crimes	% of population	% of violent crime
More than half of all violent crime was experienced by repeat victims, who experienced an average of 3 incidents each.	None	97.7%	0%
	One	1.6%	41%
	Two	0.5%	26%
	Three	0.1%	4%
	Four	0.1%	9%
	Five or more	0.1%	20%
	Two or more	0.7%	59%

Base: SCJS 2017/18 (5,480). Variable: PREVVIOLENT, INCVIOLENT.

All levels of violent crime victimisation were lower in 2017/18 than in 2008/09, but recent fluctuations mean these findings should be monitored into the future.

Figure 3.8 shows trends in single and repeat violent crime victimisation over time. It highlights that the proportion of adults experiencing only one incident of violence, two or more incidents, and five or more incidents were all lower in 2017/18 than in 2008/09.

Whilst this means repeat violent victimisation (for both 2+ and 5+ incidents) was less prevalent in 2017/18 than a decade ago, findings comparing single years should be interpreted with caution and be considered in context of the broader trend over that period.

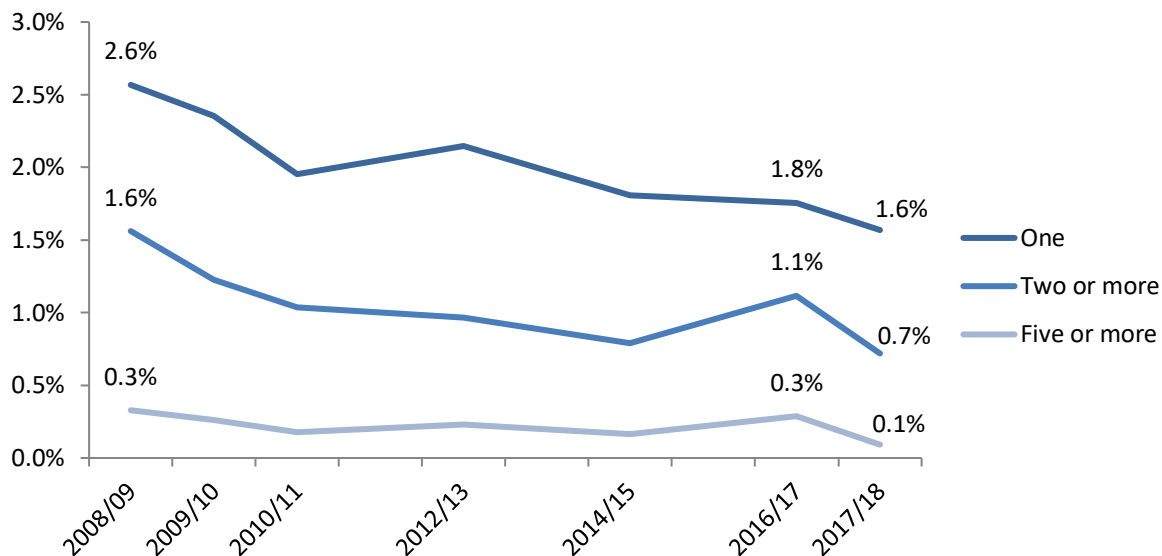
Looking more closely, the proportion experiencing two or more violent crimes has been below the 2008/09 baseline (1.6%) since 2010/11 with the exception of 2016/17 when the 1.1% estimate was not significantly different to the 2008/09 figure. The return to a significant decrease comparing 2008/09 and the latest figure suggests that the 2016/17 figure may have been an outlier in an otherwise declining trend²⁴.

On the other hand, although such victimisation is consistently very rare, the proportion of adults experiencing five or more violent crimes has shown a less consistent trend and has only been below the 2008/09 baseline figure (0.3%) in 2014/15 (0.2%) and 2017/18 (0.1%). As such it will be important to monitor these findings into the future to see whether the lower victimisation rate seen in 2017/18 is maintained.

All levels of violent crime victimisation have shown no change since 2016/17 – the apparent differences shown in Figure 3.8 are not statistically significant.

²⁴ It is also worth noting that this change coincided with a reduction in the SCJS sample size, which increases the confidence intervals around results and can therefore make it more challenging to identify statistically significant differences.

► **Figure 3.8: 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); 2017/18 (5,480). Variable: PREVIOLENT, INCVIOLENT.

Expanding the evidence on repeat violent victimisation

A rapid evidence review of the research on repeat violent victimisation is due to be published by the Scottish Government in Spring 2019. This review will assess the evidence on the extent and prevalence of repeat violent victimisation, the context and circumstances around this, and highlight the evidence on preventing repeat violent victimisation.

What were the characteristics of violent crime?

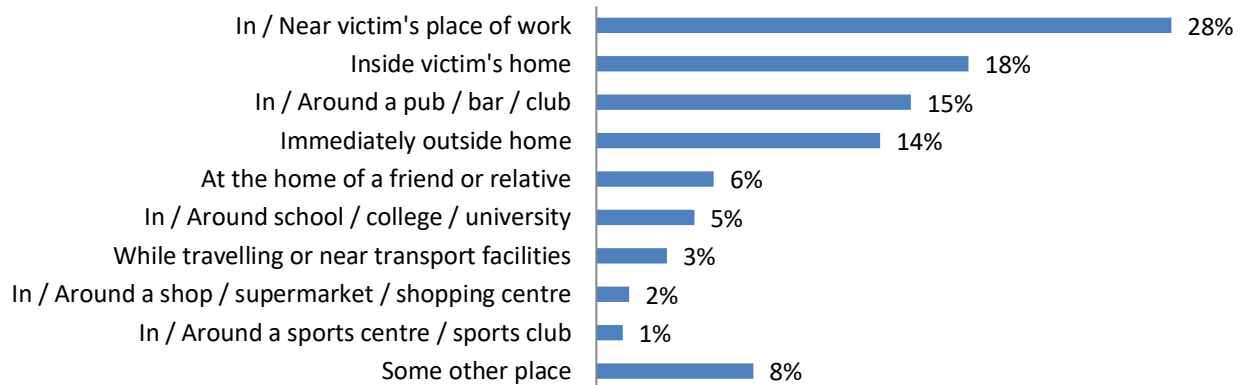
The majority of violent crime took place in public settings in 2017/18.

When locations are combined into broader categories, the SCJS estimates that just over three-fifths of violent incidents in 2017/18 (62%) occurred in a public setting, with the remainder taking place in a private space²⁵. This proportion is similar to the figures in 2008/09 (67%) and 2016/17 (72%) – the apparent differences are not significant.

Figure 3.8 looks at particular locations more closely and demonstrates that violent crime was experienced in a variety of settings in 2017/18, with the respondent’s place of work the most commonly cited specific location – accounting for almost three in every ten violent crimes (28%).

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



Base: Violent crime incidents (120); Variable: QWH1 / QWH3 / QWH5 / QWH7

The proportion of violent incidents estimated to have taken place in or around a pub or bar in 2017/18 was 15%, similar to the results in recent years.

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, around three-fifths of violent crimes (59%) happened during the week, with 41% 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 98% of violent incidents reported in 2017/18, 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 otherwise stated.

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

The SCJS results highlight that the vast majority of violent crimes in 2017/18 (78%) were carried out by male offenders only – a consistent finding over the years. 15% of incidents involved female offenders only, whilst in 7% of cases both men and women were responsible.

²⁶ I.e. excluding those who said don't know or refused to give a time, which was the case for 2% of violent crime in 2017/18.

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

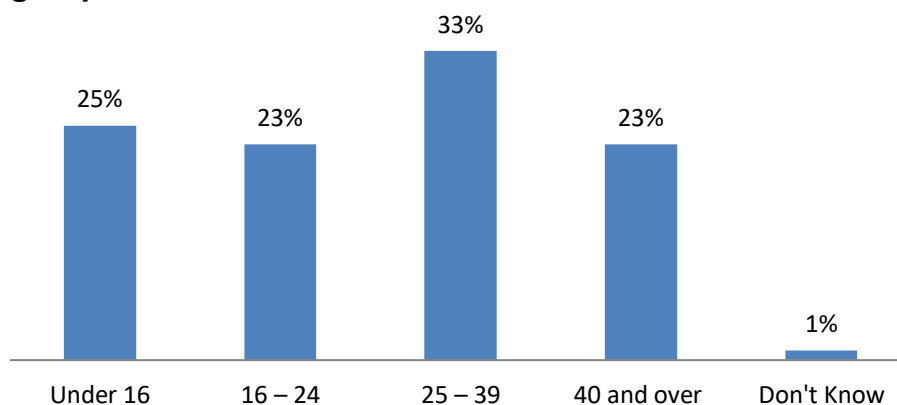
²⁸ This figure fell in 2016/17 to 87% from 98% in 2014/15. The return to 98% in 2017/18 is more in line with estimates in previous years.

²⁹ Additional results are available in the supporting [data tables](#). The analysis presented is based on a relatively small number of incidents (n=115). As such, results have relatively large margins of error around them meaning that they should be interpreted with caution.

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

Figure 3.10 shows that violent crimes involved people from a range of age groups, but only around one-in-four incidents involved any offenders over the age of 40, suggesting that 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 3.10: Percentage of violent crime incidents involving offenders of each age group**



Base: Violent crime incidents where respondent could say something about offender (120); Variable: QAGE

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

Most violent incidents (74%) in 2017/18 were committed by people who the victims knew or had seen before. Where offenders were known by the victim, more than two-thirds of incidents (68%) were said to have involved people 'known well'.

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

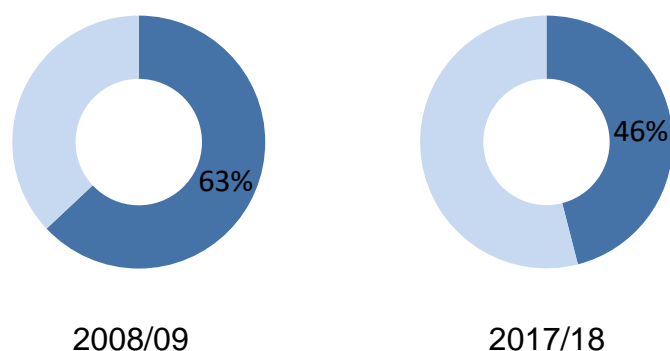
The proportion of violent crimes involving offenders under the influence of alcohol is estimated to have fallen from just over three-in-five in 2008/09 to fewer than half in 2017/18.

Offenders were believed to be under the influence of alcohol in 46% of violent incidents where victims were able to say something about the offender in 2017/18. This figure has fallen from 63% in 2008/09 but is not significantly different from the estimate in 2014/15 (56%) or 2016/17 (42%).

This suggests that alcohol has played a less prominent role in violent crime overall in recent years compared to a decade ago – although it remains a factor in a sizeable proportion of incidents.

³⁰ It is important to note that individual incidents may have involved offenders from different age groups. For instance, a proportion of the 23% of cases involving offenders aged 16-24 may have also involved perpetrators from other age groups.

► **Figure 3.11³¹: Proportion of violent crime offenders under the influence of alcohol**



Base: Violent crime incidents where respondent could say something about offender (2008/09: 570; 2017/18: 120); Variable: QAL

For wider context on the role of alcohol in violent crime, victims reported having consumed alcohol immediately before the incident in 25% of cases of *all violent crime* in 2017/18.

Relatedly, victims reported that just over one-in-three violent crimes (36%) involved offenders who were thought to be under the influence of drugs in 2017/18, up from 22% in 2016/17 but unchanged from the 2008/09 figure (29%).

Violent crime in 2017/18 did not commonly involve the presence of weapons.

Victims who said that someone saw or heard what was going on (98% of violent incidents) were asked additional questions about their experience, including the presence of weapons. 12% of such incidents³² in 2017/18 were said to have involved perpetrators with weapons, down from 25% in 2010/11 (when the wording of this question was updated to its current format). A knife was reported as being present in 7% of violent incidents where someone saw or heard what was happening.

What was the impact of violent crime?

Two-thirds of violent incidents resulted in injury, although serious injuries were relatively rare.

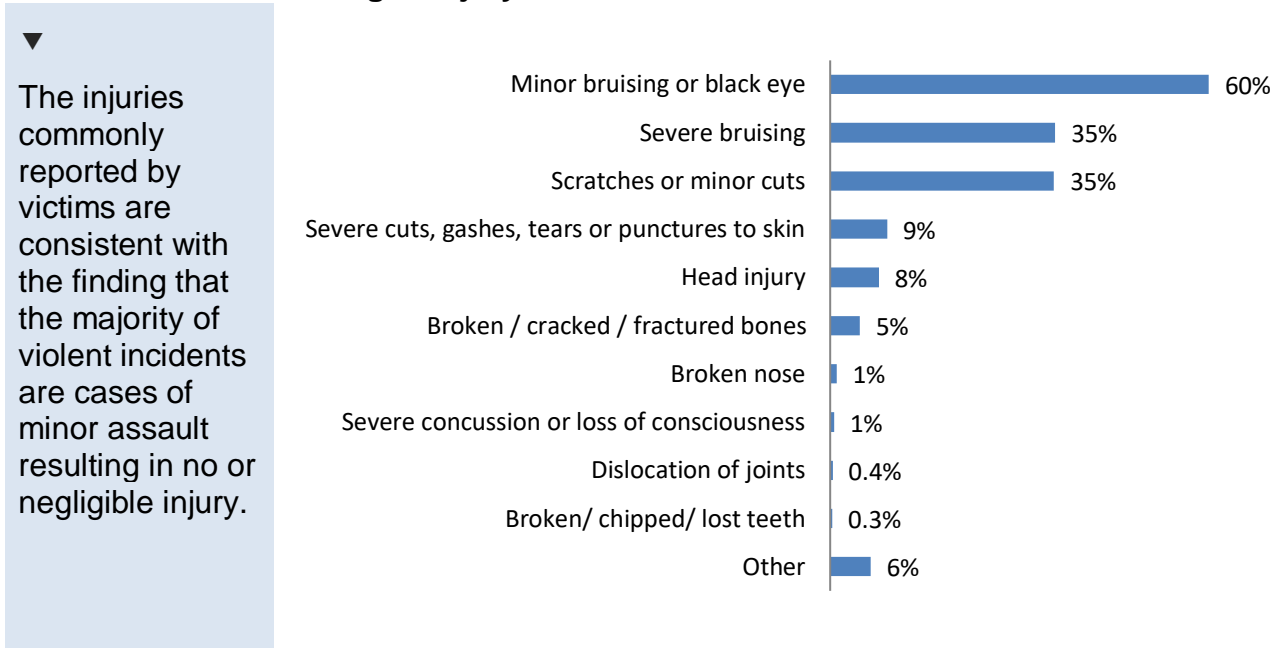
Where violent crime resulted in some sort of injury (66% of incidents), the most common injuries sustained were minor bruising or a black eye (60%), severe bruising (35%) and scratches or minor cuts (35%). More serious injuries like head injuries and broken bones occurred much less frequently, as shown in Figure 3.12³³

³¹ These findings are based only on incidents where the respondent could say something about the offender(s). This follows an updated analytical approach first adopted in 2016/17 to focus only on incidents where victims could provide information about the perpetrator(s) and has been applied to the full time-series.

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

³³ Other injuries are collected as open text responses to capture injuries like bite marks, sore hands and scraped knuckles which cannot be coded under existing categories.

► **Figure 3.12: Type of injuries sustained as a proportion of violent incidents resulting in injury**



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

Anger and annoyance 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 2017/18 were anger (reported in 45% of violent incidents) and annoyance (44%). Victims in just over a quarter of incidents (27%) said they experienced none of the listed emotional impacts, up from 10% in 2008/09 and 8% in 2016/17. In contrast, victims of property crime reported no emotional impact in only 3% of incidents in 2017/18.

However, victims of violent crime were more likely than victims of property crime to report experiencing fear (19% compared to 9%) and anxiety or panic attacks (23% compared to 10%) as a result of their experience.

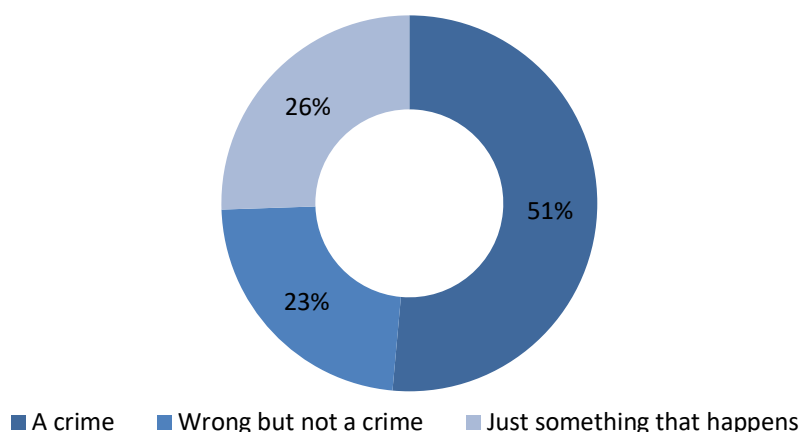
What proportion of violent crime was reported to the police?

The majority of violent incidents in 2017/18 were not reported to the police, although the reporting rate is no different to previous years.

The 2017/18 SCJS estimates that just under two-fifths of violent incidents (39%) were brought to the attention of the police. The reporting rate in 2017/18 was not significantly different from the rate in any SCJS sweep since 2008/09 (for example, 43% in both 2008/09 and 2016/17) and not significantly different from the [reporting rate for property crime](#) in 2017/18 (34%).

There can be a range of factors which influence whether or not an individual reports a crime to the police, not least how the victim views their own experience. For instance, the SCJS finds that in around half of violent incidents in 2017/18 (51%) victims thought their experience should be described as ‘a crime’ as shown in Figure 3.13 below. Just over three-fifths (62%) of incidents which victims considered to be a crime were brought to the attention of the police in 2017/18.

► **Figure 3.13: Victim's description of violent crime incidents experienced**



Base: Violent crime incidents (120); Variable: QCRNO

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

- they reported the matter to other authorities (35% of unreported violent crime);
- they dealt with the matter themselves (19%);
- the issue was considered a private, personal or family matter (13%);
- the experience was too trivial or not worth reporting (11%).

Additionally, 'other' reasons were cited in 24% of cases.

Where incidents did come to the attention of the police, victims received information or assistance about the investigation and the case (where relevant) from the police in almost three-quarters of instances (72%). Respondents received information or assistance from the Witness Service/Victim Support Scotland in relation to 16% of incidents, from the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service/Victim Information and Advice service in 9%, and from Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service in 7%. Victims said they had not received information or assistance from any organisation in only 6% of cases, whilst a further 15% of incidents were not investigated according to the victim.

What consequences did victims believe offenders should have faced?

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

Regardless of whether the incident was reported to the police, victims in just under two-fifths (39%) of 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 2017/18 who thought offenders should have been prosecuted in court (60%).

Just over a fifth (22%) of those who did not think court was appropriate said nothing should have happened to the offender, down from 42% in 2016/17 but similar to results in previous years. A quarter (25%) thought offenders should have been given help to stop them offending, whilst 23% thought they should have been made to apologise for their actions.

4. Focus on property crime

What was the extent and prevalence of property crime in 2017/18?

There were an estimated 430,000 property crimes in Scotland in 2017/18, representing just over 70% of all crime experienced by adults.

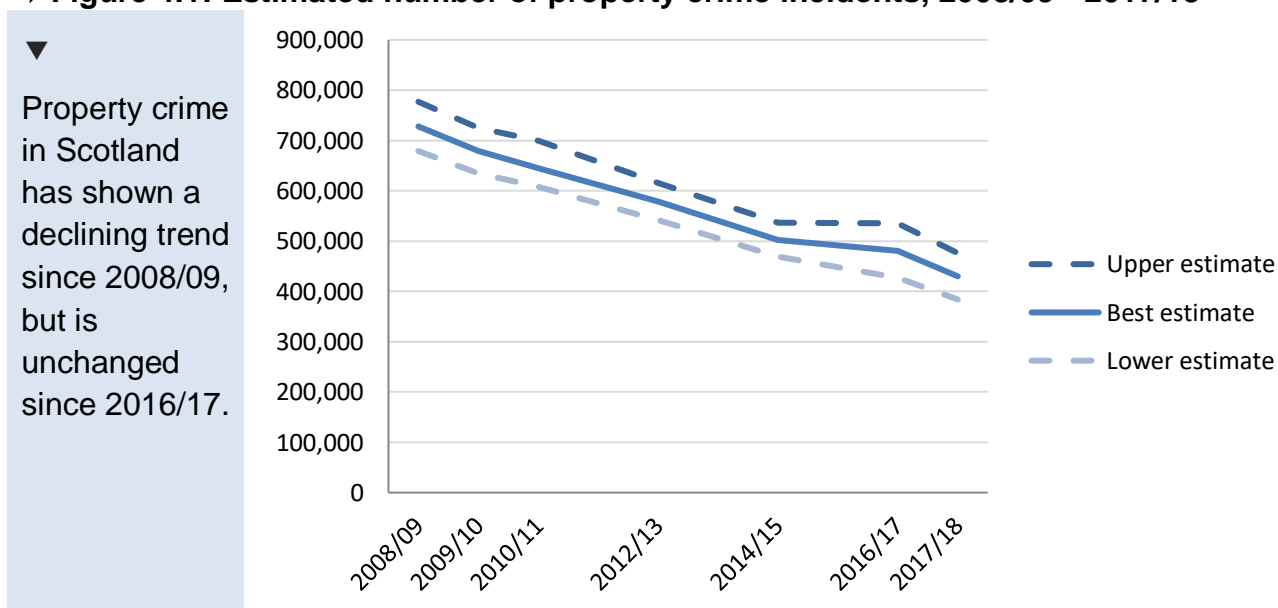
The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey estimates that 430,000 incidents³⁴ of property-related crime³⁵ were experienced by adults in Scotland in 2017/18. This represents 71% of all crime measured by the SCJS in 2017/18, the remainder being violent incidents.

As a sample survey of the general public, SCJS results are estimated values with margins of error, rather than exact counts of criminal incidents. Further information on the process used to calculate estimates is contained within the [Technical Report](#). Taking into account confidence intervals, the SCJS estimates that there were between 384,000 and 476,000 incidents of property crime in Scotland in 2017/18. 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 2016/17.

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 - 2017/18**



Base: SCJS 2008/09 (16,000); 2009/10 (16,040); 2010/11 (13,010); 2012/13 (12,050); 2014/15 (11,470); 2016/17 (5,570); 2017/18 (5,480) 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 41% since 2008/09, from 728,000 to 430,000. This decrease of almost 300,000 incidents is statistically significant.
- shown no change since the last SCJS in 2016/17 – the apparent decrease from 481,000 in 2016/17 is not statistically significant.

► **Table 4.1: Estimated of number of property crimes (2008/09, 2016/17, 2017/18)**

Crime type	2008/09	2016/17	2017/18	Change since 2008/09	Change since 2016/17
Best estimate	728,000	481,000	430,000	↓ by 41%	No change
Lower estimate	679,000	429,000	384,000		
Upper estimate	777,000	534,000	476,000		
<i>Number of respondents</i>	<i>16,000</i>	<i>5,570</i>	<i>5,480</i>		

Variable: INCPROPERTY.

Whilst the SCJS has detected no change in the level of property crime since the last sweep, it does find evidence that it has continued to fall in recent years with a significant decrease of 14% detected between 2014/15 and 2017/18. This is in contrast to [violent crime which has shown more stability over more recent years](#). Given that it is often more challenging to find significant changes between adjacent sweeps, this decrease over the last few years provides some indication that property crime has remained on a declining trend despite the lack of change detected since the 2016/17 SCJS.

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

The SCJS results show that, as in previous years, most adults were not victims of any crime in 2017/18, with 10.8% experiencing property crime. Adults were more than four times as likely to have been victims of property crime as violent crime in 2017/18, which was experienced by 2.3% 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 9.8% and 11.8% of the adult population were estimated to have experienced property crime in 2017/18, with 10.8% 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.

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

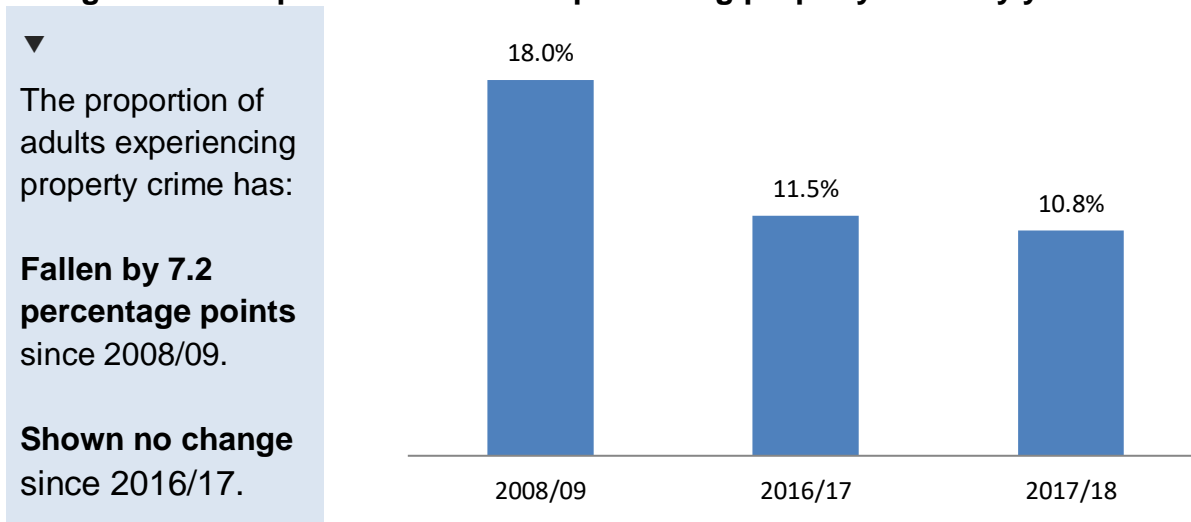
³⁸ Please see [Introduction](#) for definitions of best, upper and lower estimates.

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>

Looking at trends over time, the proportion of adults who were victims of property crime has fallen in the last decade from 18.0% in 2008/09 to 10.8% in 2017/18, as shown in Figure 4.2.

Although the SCJS detects no change in experiences of property crime since the last survey in 2016/17, the prevalence rate in 2017/18 was lower than the 2014/15 rate of 13.0% suggesting that there has been some reduction in victimisation in recent years as well as over the longer-term, mirroring the trend seen in the incident rate.

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



▼
The proportion of adults experiencing property crime has:

Fallen by 7.2 percentage points since 2008/09.

Shown no change since 2016/17.

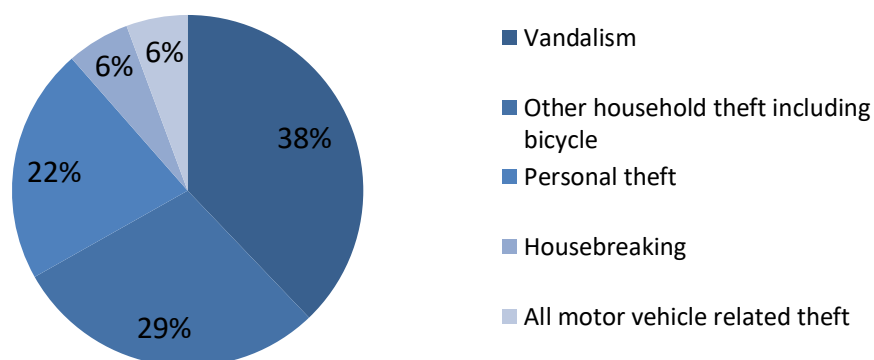
Base: SCJS 2008/09 (16,000); 2016/17 (5,570); 2017/18 (5,480) Variable: PREVPROPERTY

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 more than halved in volume since 2008/09.

As shown in Figure 4.3, a range of different types of property crime were experienced in Scotland in 2017/18. As in previous years, incidents of vandalism accounted for the largest proportion of property crime incidents (38%), followed by 'other household theft (including bicycle theft)' (29%) and 'personal theft' (22%)⁴⁰.

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



Base: SCJS 2017-18 (5,480). Variables: INCVAND, INCOTHERHOUSETHEFTCYCLE, INCALLMVTHEFT, INCHOUSEBREAK, INCPERSTHEFT.

⁴⁰ Further details on the categories of property crime are provided in the [Introduction](#) and the [Technical Report](#).

There have been notable reductions in the number of incidents of vandalism, other household theft and motor vehicle related theft since 2008/09, as Table 4.2 below outlines. For example, the SCJS finds that the amount of vandalism in Scotland has more than halved since 2008/09, from an estimated 350,000 incidents to 163,000.

Since 2016/17, the estimated amount of motor vehicle related theft has fallen by just over a third, whilst all other categories of property crime have shown no change in the number of incidents over the short-term.

► **Table 4.2: Estimated number of incidents of types of property crime (2008/09, 2016/17, 2017/18)**

Crime type	2008/09	2016/17	2017/18	Change since 2008/09	Change since 2016/17
PROPERTY CRIME	728,000	481,000	430,000	↓ by 41%	No change
Vandalism	350,000	166,000	163,000	↓ by 54%	No change
Other household theft including bicycle	173,000	128,000	125,000	↓ by 28%	No change
Personal theft	110,000	124,000	93,000	No change	No change
Housebreaking	25,000	26,000	25,000	No change	No change
All motor vehicle related theft	70,000	38,000	24,000	↓ by 65%	↓ by 36%
<i>Number of respondents</i>	<i>16,000</i>	<i>5,570</i>	<i>5,480</i>		

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

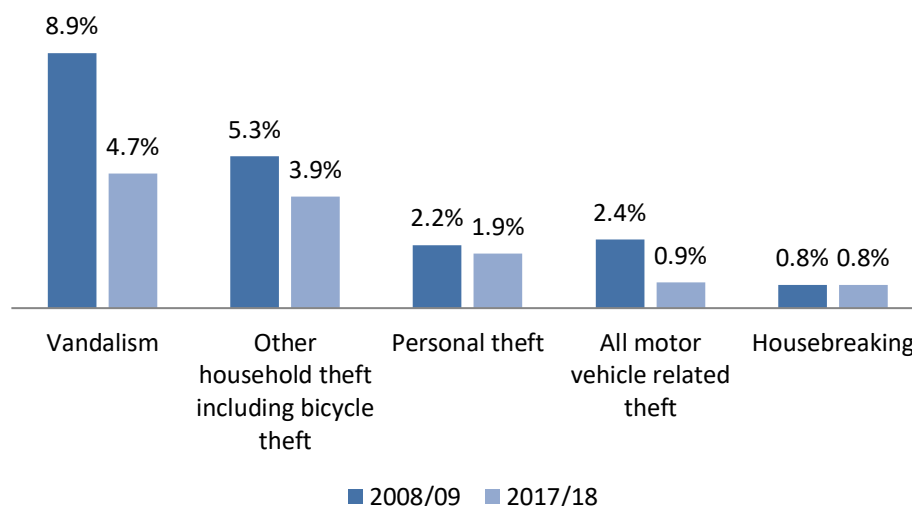
Looking at the prevalence of different categories of property crime reveals that some sub-types were more commonly experienced than others in 2017/18, as outlined in Figure 4.4. It is worth noting that prevalence rates for sub-categories of property crime (e.g. vandalism) are considered to be ‘household crimes’ and are presented as proportions of households victimised. The one exception is personal theft which is a ‘personal crime’ and therefore relates to the proportion of adults affected.

Similar to the estimated number of incidents, the prevalence rates for vandalism, other household theft and motor vehicle related theft have all fallen since 2008/09, whilst the likelihood of experiencing personal theft and housebreaking have not changed. For example, like the incident count, the prevalence rate for vandalism almost halved between 2008/09 and 2017/18 (from 8.9% to 4.7%).

The prevalence rate for all sub-categories of property crime were unchanged between 2016/17 and 2017/18.

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

▼
Just under 1 in 20 households (4.7%) experienced vandalism in 2016/17, whilst fewer than 1 in 100 (0.8%) were victims of housebreaking.



Note: Prevalence rates for vandalism, other household theft, motor vehicle related theft and housebreaking are presented as proportions of households experiencing each crime type.
Base: SCJS 2008/09 (16,000); 2017/18 (5,480). Variables: PREVAND; PREVOTHERHOUSETHEFTCYCLE; PREVPERSTHEFT; PREVALLMVTHEFT; PREVHOUSEBREAK.

How did experiences of property crime vary across the population?

Those under 60, people in the most deprived areas of Scotland and those living in urban locations were more likely to experience property crime in 2017/18.

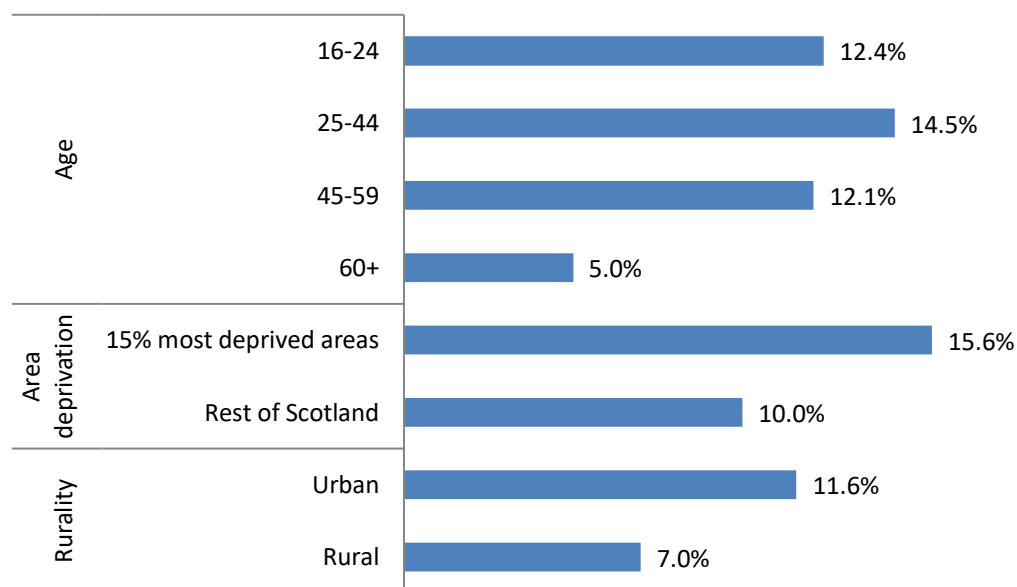
The SCJS also enables us to examine how experiences of property crime in 2017/18 varied across the population according to demographic and area characteristics. For example, as shown in Figure 4.5, the likelihood of being a victim of property crime in 2017/18:

- Was lowest for those aged 60 and over – with no differences detected *amongst* different categories of younger adults;
- 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 2017/18 did not vary according to gender, with males and females found to have very similar prevalence rates (10.9% and 10.7% respectively)⁴¹. However, unlike violent crime, this finding is not a new development as property crime victimisation rates have tended to be fairly similar amongst males and females over the years.

⁴¹ Results broken down by demographic and area characteristics are provided in Annex table A1.8. The SCJS supporting [data tables](#) provide further breakdowns, for example tenure, disability status and age within gender.

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



Base: 2017/18 (5,480). Variable: PREVPROPERTY, QDAGE, SIMD_TOP, URBRUR.

Although some inequalities remain, 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 locations⁴². For example, the proportion of those aged 16-24 experiencing property crime has more than halved in the past decade, falling from more than one-in-four (26.1%) to around one-in-eight (12.4%).

The SCJS detected no change in the prevalence rates for any of the above population groups between 2016/17 and 2017/18.

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 2017/18 and 10.8% 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 year⁴³. This is known as ‘repeat victimisation’.

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

⁴² Please see [Annex tables](#) for relevant results and the SCJS supporting [data tables](#) for additional breakdowns.

⁴³ i.e. two or more experiences of property crime; or separately two or more experiences of violent crime.

2.6% of adults experienced two or more property crimes in 2017/18, accounting for around half of all property crime.

Looking at the volume of crime experienced by individual victims in more detail shows that 8.2% of adults were victims of one property crime only, therefore 2.6% were repeat victims of property crime.

Table 4.3 highlights the extent of different levels of repeat property victimisation, and the proportion of property crime accounted for by each group. For instance, around half of all property crime in Scotland in 2017/18 (49%) was experienced by 2.6% of the population who were repeat victims. On average, this group is estimated to have experienced 1.8 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 (13%) was experienced by just 0.3% of the adult population who were victims of five or more incidents over the year.	None	89.2%	0%
	One	8.2%	51%
	Two	1.4%	19%
	Three	0.6%	12%
	Four	0.3%	6%
	Five or more	0.3%	13%
	Two or more	2.6%	49%

Base: SCJS 2017/18 (5,480). Variable: PREVPROPERTY, INCPROPERTY.

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

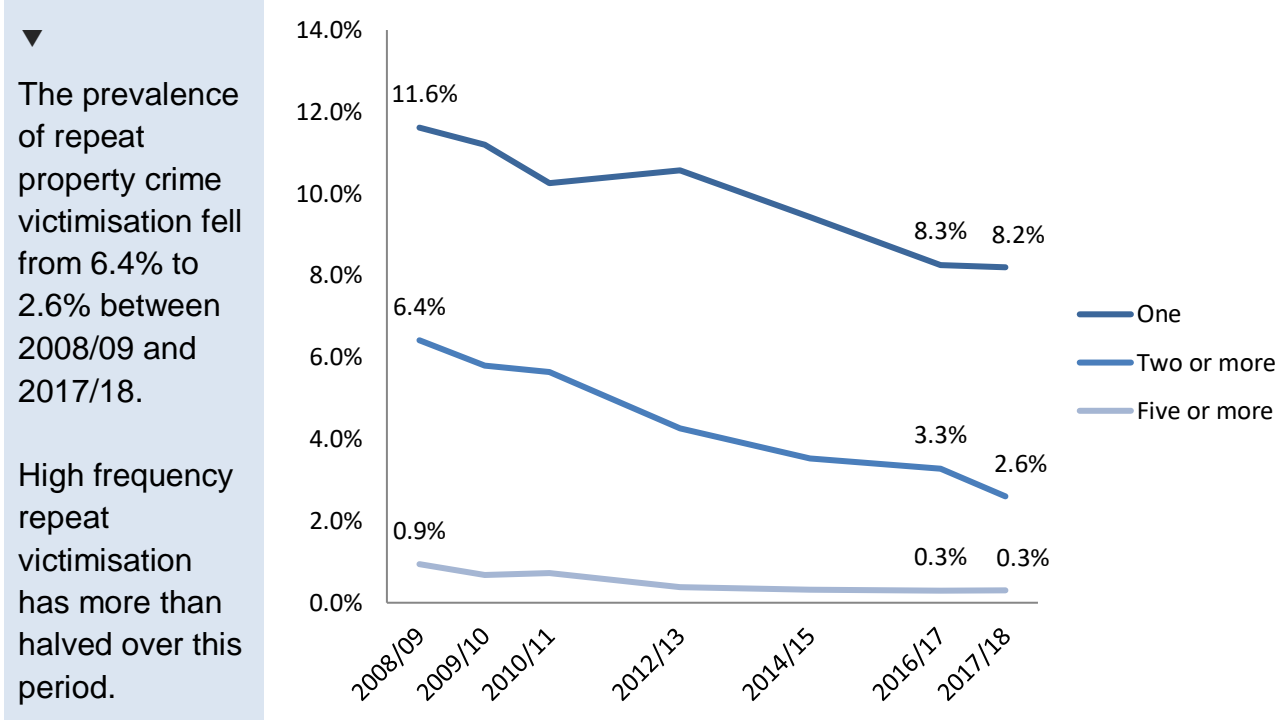
Figure 4.6 displays trends in single and repeat property crime victimisation over time. It shows that between 2008/09 and 2017/18 there were decreases in the proportion of adults experiencing:

- single incidents of property crime – from 11.6% to 8.2%;
- repeat victimisation (two or more incidents of property crime) – from 6.4% to 2.6%; and
- 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 rate⁴⁴ over the same period, as discussed [previously](#).

⁴⁴ i.e. the proportion of adults experiencing *at least* one property crime over the year.

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



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

Since the last SCJS in 2016/17, there has been no change in the level of single, repeat or high frequency repeat property crime victimisation – any apparent falls shown in Figure 4.6 are not statistically significant.

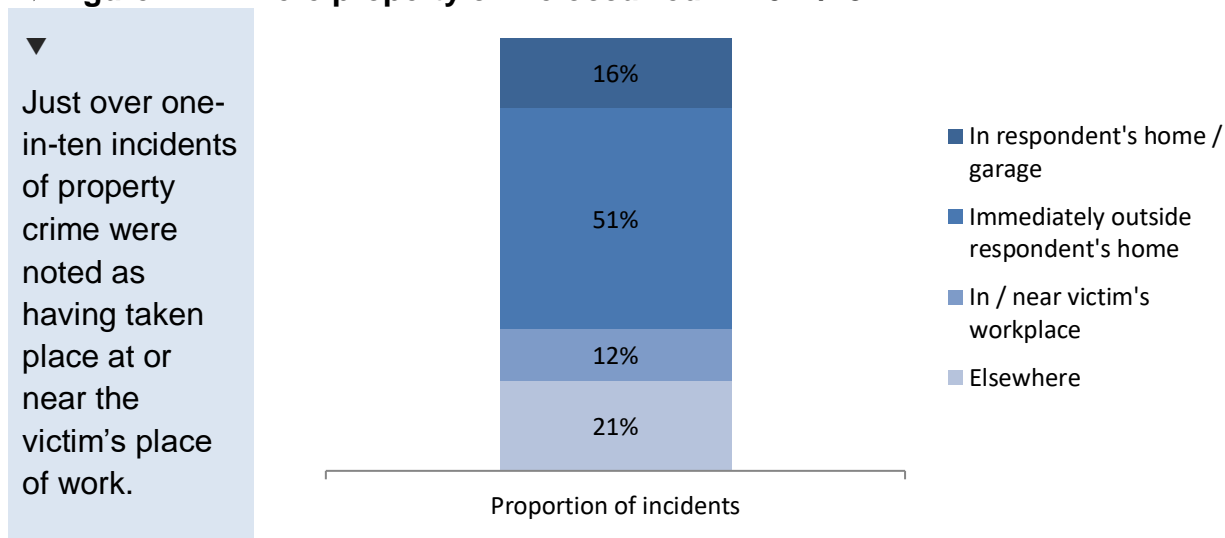
What do we know about the characteristics of property crime?

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

Consistent with previous years, the majority of property crime incidents in 2017/18 (67%) took place in and around the victim’s home. The most common specific location was immediately outside the respondent’s home⁴⁵ representing around half of all property crime in 2017/18 (51%).

⁴⁵ 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 2017/18**



Base sizes: Property crime incidents (640); Variable: QWH1 / QWH3 / QWH5 / QWH7

The majority of property crime incidents took place on weekdays.

Where respondents provided details about when an incident occurred⁴⁶, around two-thirds of all property crimes in 2017/18 (68%) were said to have taken place during the week, with 32% occurring at weekends⁴⁷. Incidence per day was therefore relatively similar across the week.

What do we know about the perpetrators of property crime?

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

Compared to violent crime incidents, victims of property crime are generally much less likely to report being able to say something about the offender in their experience. Respondents were able to provide any relevant information for just one-third of incidents (34%) in 2017/18.

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 years⁴⁸. 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 2017/18:

- **Were mostly committed by males.**

71% of incidents involved male offenders only.

⁴⁶ I.e. excluding those who said don't know or refused to give a time.

⁴⁷ Weekends were defined as 6pm on Friday to Sunday midnight.

⁴⁸ 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](#).

- **Most commonly involved offenders under the age of 40.**

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

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

Most incidents (55%) were committed by offenders who the victims knew or had seen before. Where offenders were known by the victim, just over two-fifths of incidents (44%) were said to have involved people ‘known well’.

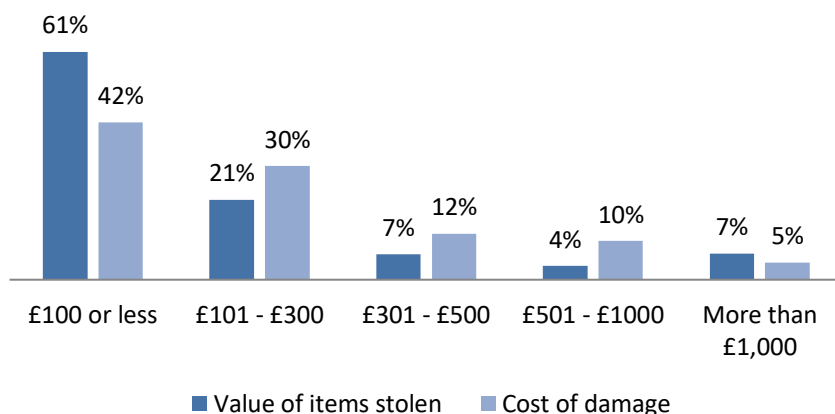
Similarly, victims said that someone saw or heard what was going on or had some form of contact with the offender in about a quarter (26%) of property crime incidents. These respondents were asked additional questions about their experience, including the presence of weapons. 13% of such incidents⁴⁹ in 2017/18 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 (53% of property crimes) were asked to provide the approximate value of the items concerned. As Figure 4.8 shows, in more than three-fifths of incidents (61%) where victim were able to provide an estimate, the total value of items stolen was £100 or less. The total value was over £500 in just over one-in-ten incidents.

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



Base: Property crime incidents where something was stolen (320) 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 (48% of property incidents), where victims were able to provide an estimate, victims said the total cost of the damage was £100 or less in 42% of incidents. Looking at instances of more costly damage, 15% of incidents led to damages totalling more than £500.

⁴⁹ 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 69% and 58% of incidents respectively).

What proportion of property crime was reported to the police?

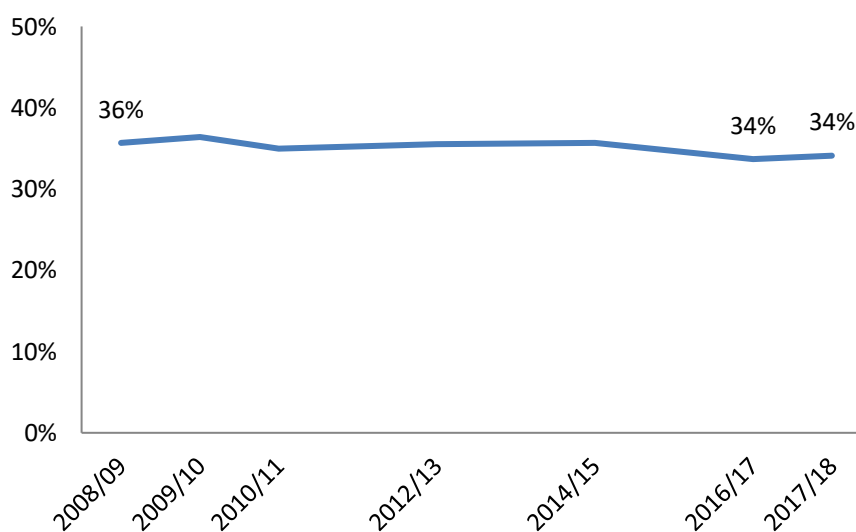
Although most instances of property crime in 2017/18 were considered by victims to be criminal incidents, as in previous years only one-third of cases were reported to the police.

Victims of property crime described their experience as ‘a crime’ in almost three-quarters of incidents (73%), with 14% of incidents said to be ‘wrong but not a crime’ and 12% 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 2017/18 (of which 51% 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 2017/18. 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 2017/18 (39%).

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

▼
There was no significant difference in the likelihood of property and violent crimes being reported to the police in 2017/18.



Base: Property crime incidents (640); Variable: QPOL

Incidents were more likely to be reported if any damaged or stolen goods were insured (45%), compared to a little over a quarter of cases (27%) where items were not covered.

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

As in previous years, 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 (44% of incidents). Other commonly cited reasons for not reporting incidents included that the police could not have done anything (29%) and the victim believing the police would not have been interested (18%).

Where crimes were brought to the attention of the police, victims received information or assistance about the investigation and the case (where relevant) from the police in relation to half of all incidents (49%). Information or assistance was provided by the Witness Service/Victim Support Scotland in 14% of such cases, whilst in a quarter of incidents (24%) victims said they did not receive information or assistance from any organisation.

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

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

Regardless of whether their experience was reported to the police, victims in three-fifths of all incidents of property crime in 2017/18 (60%) thought the offender should have been prosecuted in court. This is significantly higher than the equivalent figure for violent crime in 2017/18 where victims thought prosecution in court was appropriate in 39% of incidents.

Where victims thought an incident should have resulted in a court prosecution, a prison sentence was only considered a suitable outcome in relation to one in every five cases (20%).

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 27% of such incidents);
- should have been given some kind of warning (23%); and
- should have been made to pay the victim(s) compensation (18% of incidents).

Notably, victims said that 'nothing should have happened' in relation to only 5% of these property crime incidents (i.e. where they did not think the offender should have been prosecuted in court). This compares to 22% 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 uses a subset of comparable crime to compare SCJS estimates with police recorded crime figures⁵⁰.

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 vandalism⁵¹). Finally this chapter compares police recorded crime with the proportion of SCJS crime estimated to have been reported to the police.

The SCJS and police recorded crime are essential, complementary evidence sources that, 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 2017/18 Recorded Crime results cover crimes recorded in the financial year 2017/18; the 2017/18 SCJS includes crimes experienced by SCJS respondents over a 25-month 'recall period'⁵². They each feature relative strengths and limitations, making them more appropriate in different contexts and for different purposes⁵³.

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 each source, and can be coded in the survey in approximately the same way as they

⁵⁰ This subset should not be used to assess the overall level of crime in Scotland.

⁵¹ Chapters 9 and 12 of the [Technical Report](#) provide more information about the crime groups used in this report, including the comparable crime subset.

⁵² Results in the 2014 [analytical paper](#) showed consistent results using different methods to make comparisons over time.

⁵³ Annex B provides an overview of the main differences to bear in mind when making comparisons between the two sources.

would be recorded by the police. Almost two-thirds (64%) of ‘all SCJS crime’ as measured by the 2017/18 SCJS falls into categories that can be compared with crimes recorded by the police.

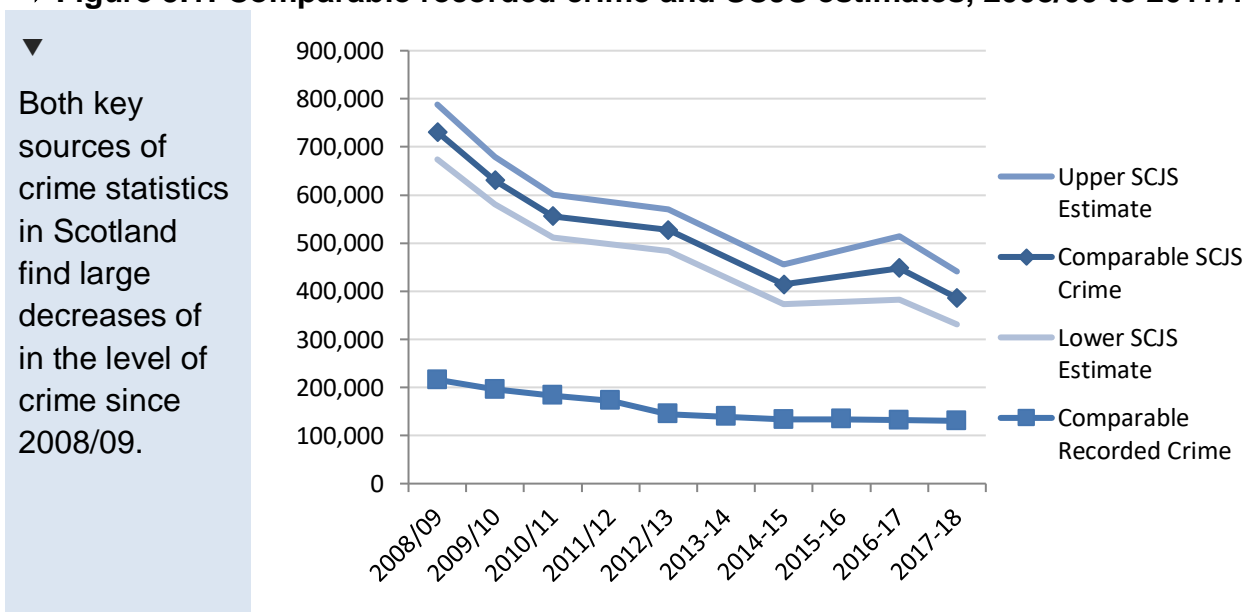
What are the trends in comparable SCJS and police recorded crime?

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

Of the 602,000 crimes overall estimated by the 2017/18 SCJS, almost two-thirds (386,000) can be compared with police recorded crimes. Figure 5.1 demonstrates the scale of the difference between the two series of crime statistics. In 2017/18, the police recorded 130,418 crimes and offences in the comparable subset, representing 34% 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 2017/18 SCJS estimates that 40% of all crime in the comparable subset came to the attention of the police.

► **Figure 5.1: Comparable recorded crime and SCJS estimates, 2008/09 to 2017/18**⁵⁴



Sources: SCJS, Police recorded crime.

At an overall level, both the SCJS and police recorded crime provide evidence of large decreases in crime in Scotland over the last decade. As shown in the table, SCJS comparable crime fell by 47% between 2008/09 and 2017/18, whilst comparable recorded crime is down by 40% over the same period. Since 2016/17, the SCJS found no change in the level of comparable crime, whilst comparable recorded crime fell by 1%. It is notable that Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland ([HMICS](#))’s auditing of

⁵⁴ The change to a smaller SCJS sample of around 6,000 with effect from 2016/17 compared to around 12,000 in 2014/15 means a larger range of uncertainty around the point estimate for all comparable crime from 2016/17 onwards, as shown by the larger divergence between lower and upper estimates in Figure 5.1.

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

► **Table 5.1: Comparable crime group estimates, 2008/09 to 2017/18**

	2008/09	2016/17	2017/18	% change since 2008/09	% change since 2016/17
Comparable SCJS Crime	731,000	448,000	386,000	-47%	No change
Comparable Recorded Crime	215,901	131,566	130,418	-40%	-1%
SCJS Acquisitive Crime	64,000	51,000	51,000	No change	No change
Recorded Acquisitive Crime	27,527	18,295	17,867	-35%	-2%
SCJS Violent Crime	317,000	231,000	172,000	-46%	No change
Recorded Violent Crime	82,855	63,246	63,835	-23%	1%
SCJS Vandalism	350,000	166,000	163,000	-54%	No change
Recorded Vandalism	105,519	50,025	48,716	-54%	-3%

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

Note: changes specified where statistically significant.

Acquisitive Crime

The acquisitive comparable crime group includes bicycle theft, housebreaking and theft of a motor vehicle. In 2017/18, the SCJS estimated that there were 51,000 acquisitive crimes (+/- 13,000, meaning that the true number of acquisitive crimes in the underlying population is estimated to be between 38,000 and 65,000⁵⁵). The police recorded 17,867 acquisitive crimes in 2017/18.

Recorded acquisitive crime fell by 35% between 2008/09 and 2017/18, and by 2% between 2016/17 and 2017/18. 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 which mean that it can be more challenging to identify significant differences over time.⁵⁶

Violent Crime

Violent comparable crime includes serious assault, minor assault and robbery. In 2017/18, the SCJS estimated that there were 172,000 violent crimes (+/- 47,000, meaning that the true number of violent crimes in the underlying population is estimated to be between 125,000 and 219,000), while the police recorded 63,835 violent crimes⁵⁷.

Table 5.1 shows that the two sources of comparable violent crime data both show large decreases over the longer term, but broadly stable figures since 2016/17. Between 2008/09 and 2017/18, both SCJS estimates and recorded crime violent crime figures have

⁵⁵ Upper and lower estimates are calculated on unrounded figures, then rounded when presented.

⁵⁶ Comparable acquisitive crime is rarer than vandalism and violent crime (estimates of acquisitive crime are based on 83 incidents in the 2017/18 SCJS sample, compared to 118 violent crime incidents and 250 vandalism incidents). Consequently, there is greater uncertainty around the SCJS estimate of acquisitive crime and less power to identify significant changes over time.

⁵⁷ Further information on SCJS violent crime is provided in the '[Focus on violent crime](#)' chapter.

shown a decrease (by 46% and 23% respectively)⁵⁸. Since 2016/17, recorded violent crime has increased by 1%, while the SCJS has found no change in violent crime.

Vandalism

The vandalism comparable crime group includes motor vehicle vandalism and property vandalism. In 2017/18, the SCJS estimated that there were 163,000 instances of vandalism (+/- 29,000, meaning that the true number of vandalism crimes in the underlying population is estimated to be between 134,000 and 192,000). The police recorded 48,716 vandalism crimes in 2017/18.

There is strong consistency in the trends in comparable vandalism crime across both SCJS and police recorded crime between 2008/09 and 2017/18 – with both showing decreases of 54% over this period. Since 2016/17, there has been no change in the SCJS estimate of vandalism, while crimes of vandalism recorded by the police have fallen by 3%.

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.

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

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

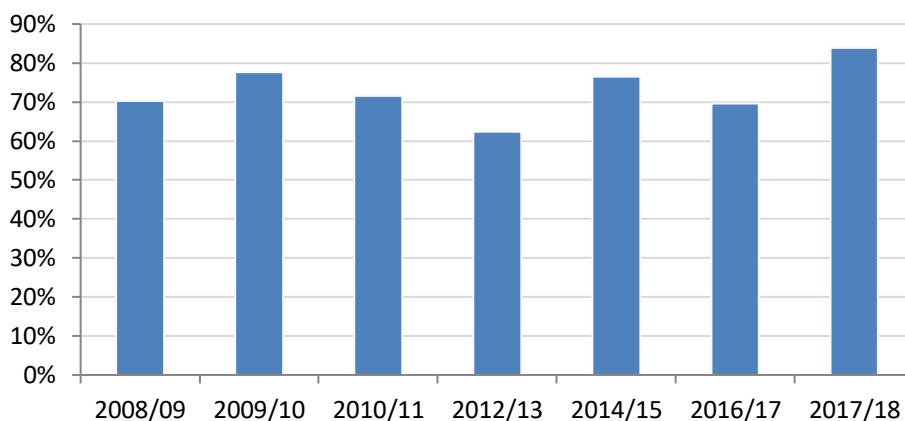
The [analytical paper](#), published in 2014, outlined two methods for calculating this: the first, comparing the biennial SCJS to annual recorded crime figures and the second comparing the biennial SCJS against two financial years of averaged police recorded crime data. This section updates the information using the first method, to compare now annual SCJS estimates to annual recorded crime figures⁵⁹. Although it is not possible to determine on an individual basis whether a crime that the police ‘came to know about’ was captured in police recorded crime data, this type of analysis can give an indication of the level of crime that goes unreported, and the broad relationship between police recorded crime figures and SCJS estimates.

Figures from the 2017/18 SCJS indicate that of the 386,000 crimes in the overall comparable subset, around 155,000 incidents (40%) were estimated to have been reported to police. In 2017/18, the police recorded 130,418 crimes in the comparable category. It is therefore estimated that around 84% of comparable crime estimated to be reported to the police was recorded by the police in 2017/18. This figure has varied over the last decade, ranging from 62% (in 2012/13) to 78% (in 2009/10) – with the 2017/18 figure therefore being the highest value to date.

⁵⁸ Violent crime estimates are based on a relatively small number of respondents who disclosed experiences of 118 violent crimes in 2017/18.

⁵⁹ 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.

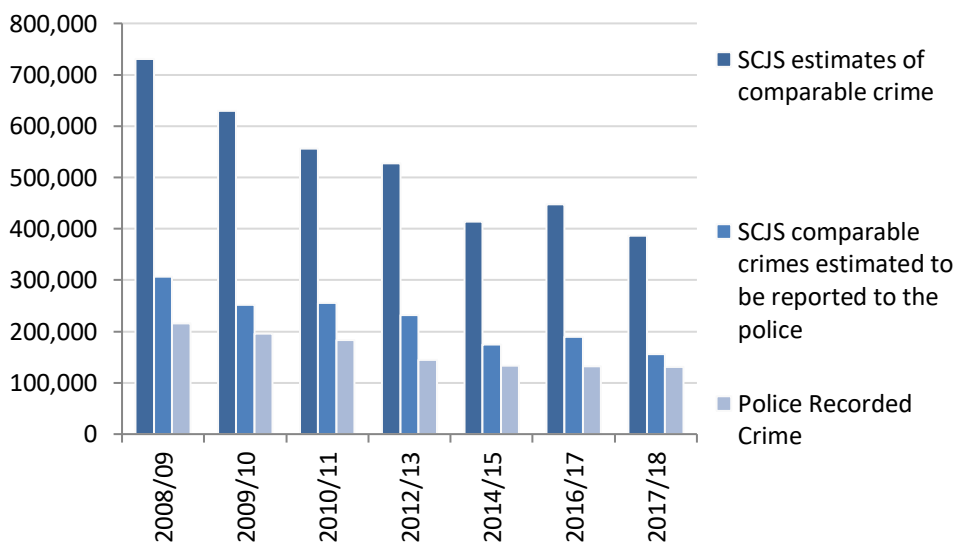
► **Figure 5.2: Ratio between police recorded crime and SCJS crime estimated to have been reported to the police 2008/09 to 2017/18**



Sources: SCJS; Police recorded crime.

In addition, as a proportion of all SCJS comparable crime, the amount of comparable crime estimated to have been reported to the police, and **not** recorded in police statistics, was 6% (or around 25,000 incidents) in 2017/18. This figure has varied a little in previous years, between 9% (in 2009/10) and 17% (in 2012/13) – although based on a different total figure for each year.

► **Figure 5.3: Recorded crime, SCJS crime and SCJS crime reported to the police, in the set of comparable crimes, 2008/09 to 2017/18**



Sources: SCJS; Police recorded crime.

This type of analysis can be extended across the comparable crime sub-groups, where similar results are found. For example, around 67,000 violent crimes are estimated to have been reported to the police in 2017/18 (or [39% of the number of violent crimes estimated by the SCJS](#)), while the police recorded 63,835 violent crimes. It is therefore estimated that almost all (96%) of comparable violent crime estimated to be reported to the police was recorded by the police in 2017/18. This figure has previously ranged from 58% (in 2012/13) to 79% (in 2009/10).

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 2017/18 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 – other sources and findings available

SCJS time trends in this report typically assess if and how results in 2017/18 differed from 2008/09 and 2016/17. 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 2017/18, where any are detected⁶⁰.

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

Results at Police Division level and other geographies

SCJS results provided to Police Division level are available biennially (as they have been since 2012/13), with two sweeps of data combined to increase the sample size and precision around results with effect from 2016/17. Therefore, key results at Police Division level covering the period 2016/17 – 2017/18 have also been released alongside this report. Findings released include perceptions of the police, as well as wider SCJS results such as victimisation rates, within each Division. They are most easily accessed in the recently launched [SCJS interactive data tool](#) which has been developed to present these results in a user-friendly manner. This enables divisional results to be compared over time, as well as against each other and the national average for each sweep^{61,62}. 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 2017/18. However, data on confidence in the ability of the police also formed part of the Scottish Surveys Core Questions (SSCQ) between 2012 and 2017, which combines selected data from the three Scottish Government 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](#).

Understanding and measuring confidence in the police

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

⁶⁰ Annex tables A1.14 to A1.21 present key results on policing from each SCJS sweep since 2008/09.

⁶¹ As the Police Division level results for 2016/17 – 2017/18 combine two sweeps of data, the national average figure in those outputs has been produced on the same basis for comparative purposes. It is recommended that the single year figures presented in each individual sweep's outputs are used if national level figures are being reported in isolation.

⁶² Key 2016/17 – 2017/18 results have also been published in [excel tables](#) for users who prefer to access findings in this way.

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

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

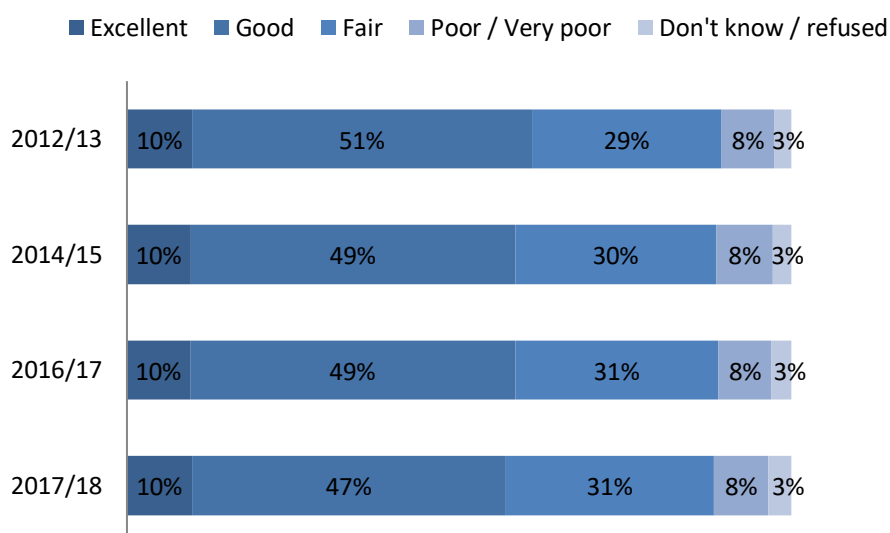
The approach to presenting findings on these factors has been updated for the 2017/18 report. As in previous years, it continues with the initial focus on the overall confidence measure and confidence in the *effectiveness* of the police, but also includes a more prominent focus on perceptions of aspects of *community engagement* and *fairness* than previous reports to recognise their importance in driving wider confidence.

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

Most people remained positive about the work of their local police in 2017/18, but the proportion providing a favourable view has fallen a little since 2012/13.

The majority of adults in Scotland (57%) believed the police in their local area were doing an ‘excellent’ or ‘good’ job in 2017/18. This proportion is unchanged from 2016/17 (the apparent fall from 58% is not significant) but is lower than the 61% who felt this way in 2012/13⁶³ as shown in Figure 6.1. Closer analysis shows that this percentage fell between 2012/13 and 2014/15, but has remained stable since. Just under one-third (31%) thought the police were doing a ‘fair’ job in 2017/18.

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



Base: All adults (5,480); Variable: QRATPOL. Note: unrounded figures sum to 100%

Victims of crime were less likely than non-victims to say the police were doing a good or excellent job (50% compared with 58% 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%

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

compared with 58% respectively). Views did not differ on this measure between urban and rural areas in 2017/18.

Since 2009/10, SCJS respondents have also been asked to what extent they agree that 'people in their area have a lot of confidence in the police'. 45% of adults agreed with this statement in 2017/18, unchanged from 2009/10 but down from a peak of 49% in 2012/13 and stable since 2014/15 – mirroring the trend in the overall police rating measure in the last five years. It is notable that in general people were more likely to personally say the police were doing an excellent or good job, than think that others in their local area would be confident in the police.

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.

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

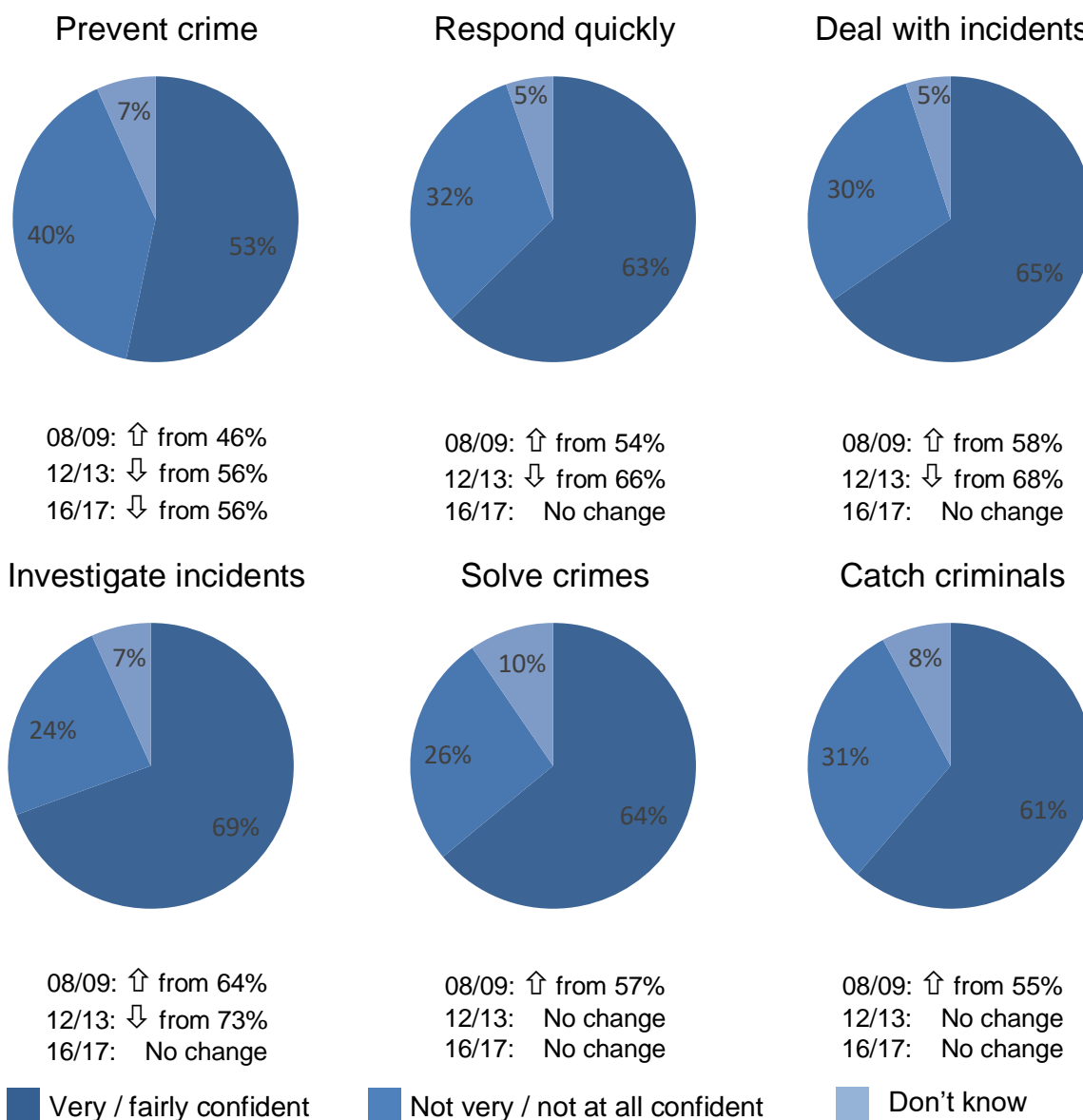
- Prevent crime
- Respond quickly to appropriate calls and information from the public
- Deal with incidents as they occur
- Investigate incidents after they occur
- Solve crimes
- Catch criminals

These results are often referred to as '*effectiveness*' measures for convenience below.

Most adults in Scotland were confident in the ability of the police across the range of effectiveness measures in 2017/18, as shown in Figure 6.2, with more than three-fifths (60%) saying they were very or fairly confident for five of the indicators.

Whilst confidence in the police to carry out the six aspects of police work in 2017/18 was strong in absolute terms, it has also increased since the SCJS first collected these data in 2008/09, as shown below. However, it is also notable that confidence was lower in 2017/18 compared to 2012/13 on four of the measures (with no change in the measures on solving crime and catching criminals).

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



Base: All adults (5,480); Variables: QPOLCONF_01 – QPOLCONF_06

Views on the effectiveness of the police worsened marginally between 2012/13 and 2014/15, but have stabilised and in 2017/18 remained above the 2008/09 baseline.

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

- Increased in the years between 2008/09 and 2012/13;
- Decreased marginally across some measures between 2012/13 and 2014/15 (but remained above the 2008/09 baseline);
- Has since stabilised or fluctuated a little around the 2014/15 level.

Overall the SCJS shows that the public are confident in the ability of the police and views in recent years have been consistently more positive than the position in 2008/09 despite shorter-term fluctuations since police reform in 2013.

The only measure to show any change between 2016/17 and 2017/18 was confidence in the ability of the police to prevent crime, which fell from 56% to 53%. This aspect of policing has consistently shown the lowest level of confidence across the six measures over the years. That said, it is worth noting that the other measures all showed non-significant apparent decreases in the last year. As such, it will be important to monitor these findings into the future to assess whether views have stabilised around the current level and we are seeing minor fluctuations in survey estimates or the apparent falls continue to build over time to create a new trend.

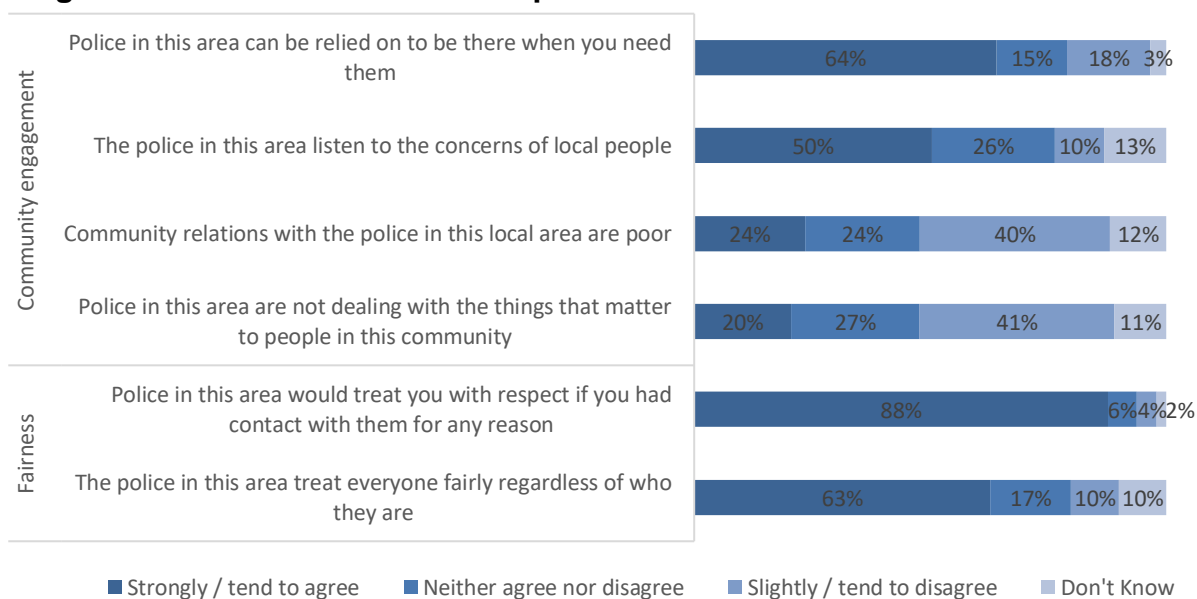
Did the public feel the police were engaged with their community and conducted their work fairly?

In 2017/18 adults in Scotland were generally positive about the way the police in their local area carried out their work and engaged with the public.

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

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

► **Figure 6.3: Attitudes towards the police in 2017/18**



Base: Adults who are not a serving police officer, married to or living with serving police officer (5,360); Variables: POLOPREL – POLOPCOM

That said, almost a quarter of adults (24%) thought community relations with the police in their area were poor, and a fifth (20%) believed that the police were not dealing with the important issues in their community. These findings are particularly notable given that only 10% disagreed with the statement that ‘the police in this area listen to the concerns of local people’ – suggesting that views on different aspects of community engagement can be varied and complex.

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

Compared to 2009/10 (when these questions were first included in the survey) the public held more positive views in 2017/18 across most of the above measures which examine perceptions of community engagement and fairness. Looking more closely shows improvements generally occurred between 2009/10 and 2012/13, with more stability and short-term fluctuation shown in the years since then. Taken together, the SCJS therefore finds that in 2017/18 adults in Scotland were more likely to believe that their local police treat individuals fairly and with respect, listen to communities in Scotland and focus on issues of importance to them than they were in 2009/10. These results can be seen in full in Annex table A1.21.

However, since 2012/13 the proportion of adults thinking the police listen to the concerns of local people has fallen from 54% to 50%, and this figure is now back in line with the 2009/10 baseline. Similarly, there has been a small increase in the percentage who agree that community relations with the police are poor (from 22% to 24%), although this remains more positive than the baseline position. This suggests that some aspects of community engagement should continue to be monitored into the future, although like the other measures of perceptions of the police, the picture remains positive in the wider and longer-term context. There has also been a small improvement in views on whether the police are dealing with issues which matter to the community since 2012/13, with the proportion thinking that this is not the case falling from 25% to 20%.

Views on the two fairness measures have both improved since 2009/10, with the proportion agreeing that the police would treat you with respect up since 2012/13 too (from 86% to 88%).

All indicators on community engagement and aspects of fairness showed no change between 2016/17 and 2017/18.

How did perceptions of the police vary amongst the population?

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

The SCJS enables us to examine how views on the ability of the police, their level of community engagement and fairness in their approach varied across the population according to demographic and geographic characteristics, as well as whether individuals had experienced crime or not in 2017/18. The section below explores results for selected breakdowns, with key results and additional breakdowns presented in more detail in the Annex tables (for effectiveness measures) and [online data tables](#).

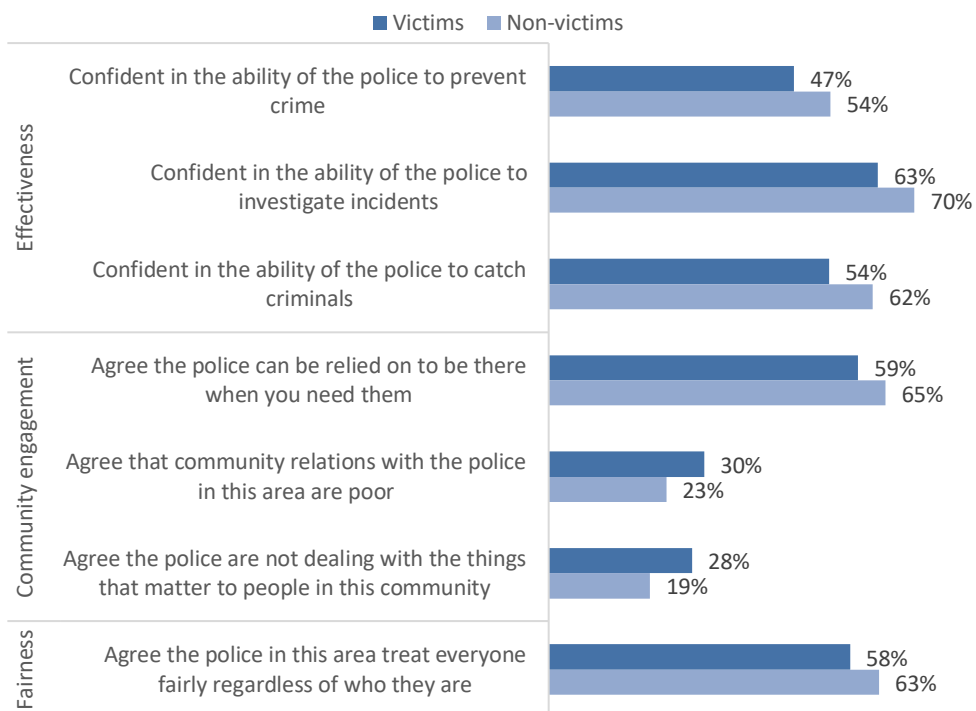
Overall, in line with the national average, views on the police were fairly positive amongst population sub-groups in 2017/18 across the range of effectiveness, community engagement and fairness measures. For example, when looking at the confidence in the ability of the police, most adults (i.e. more than 50%) in each group were confident across each the six measures. The one notable outlier was the measure looking at views on the ability of the police to prevent crime, where less than half of the people in several groups said they were very or fairly confident. This included victims of crime (of whom 47% were confident) and those in the most deprived areas (49%).

However, notwithstanding the overall positive perceptions of the police, views in 2017/18 did vary between comparator groups. For example, adults in the most deprived areas of Scotland (compared to those living elsewhere) and victims of crime in 2017/18 (compared to non-victims) held less positive opinions on the police across a selection of the metrics looking at effectiveness, community engagement and fairness. Significant differences are outlined in Figure 6.4 below, with all other measures showing no difference between these comparator groups.

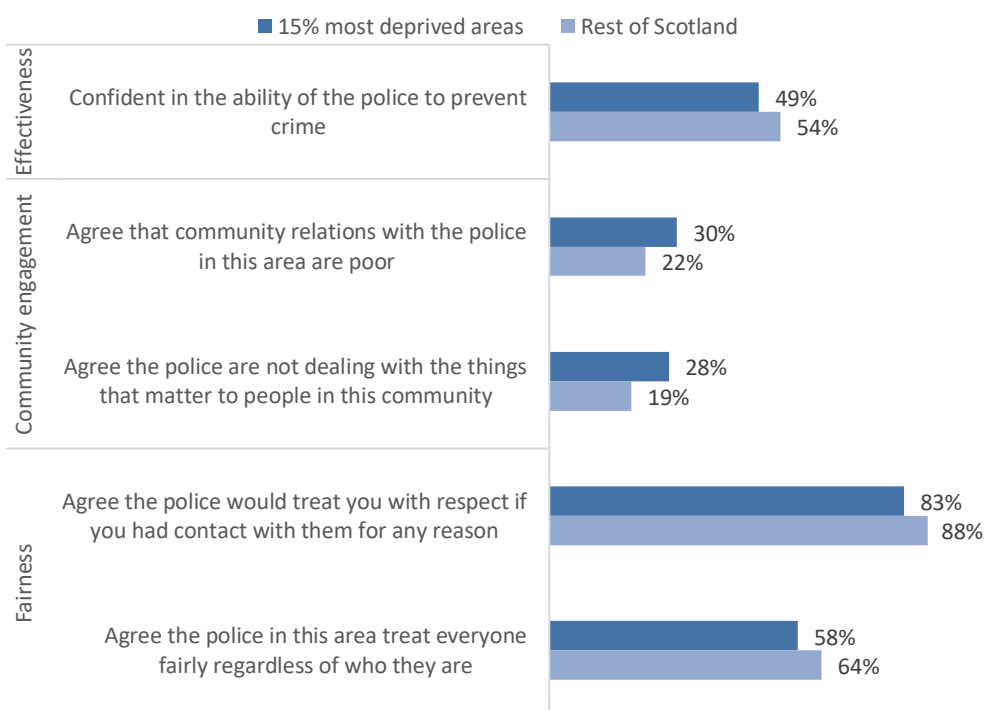
It is notable that confidence in the ability of the police amongst those living in the 15% most deprived area (who were [more likely to have experienced crime in 2017/18](#)) was lower in relation to the prevention of crime in particular, although there was no difference detected in views on the other effectiveness measures.

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

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



▼
Area deprivation
 Confidence in the ability of the police to prevent crime was lower in deprived areas, where a greater proportion of adults also experienced crime in 2017/18.



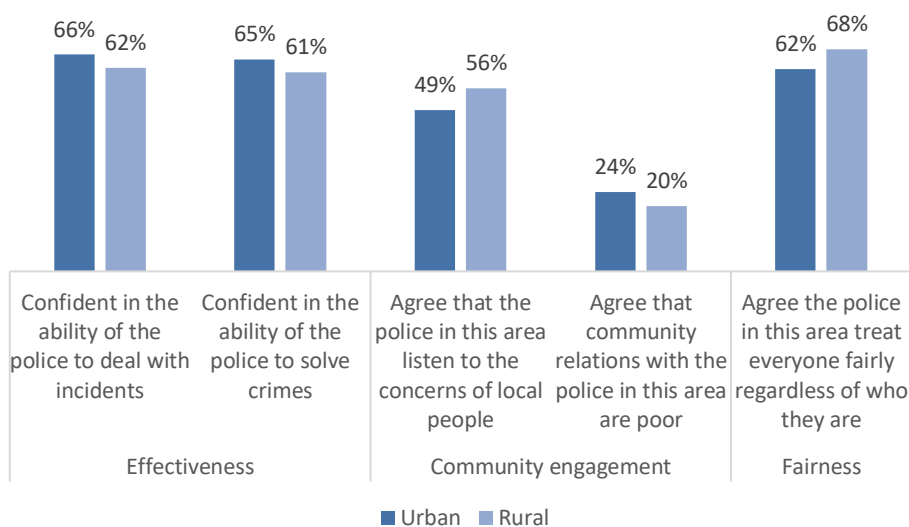
Base: Effectiveness: Victims (620); Non-victims (4,850); 15% most deprived areas (790); Rest of Scotland (4,680). Community engagement/fairness: Victims (600); Non-victims (4,860); 15% most deprived areas (780); Rest of Scotland (4,580). Variables: QPOLCONF_01 – QPOLCONF_06; POLOPREL – POLOPCOM

There was a less clear pattern in views when looking at results by rurality and gender.

Looking at perceptions amongst those in urban and rural areas reveals a mixed picture. Whilst views across many indicators were fairly similar, those in urban areas had more

confidence in the ability of the police to deal with incidents and solve crimes, whereas views on particular aspects of fairness and community relations were more positive in rural areas. Figure 6.5 below shows measures where views differed significantly.

► **Figure 6.5: Variation in perceptions of the police by rurality**



Base: Effectiveness: Urban (4,410); Rural (1,060). Community engagement/fairness: Urban (4,330); Rural (1,030). Variables: QPOLCONF_01 – QPOLCONF_06; POLOPREL – POLOPCOM

In 2017/18 females were more likely than males to be confident across four measures exploring the perceived effectiveness of the police (respond quickly, deal with incidents, investigate incidents and solve crimes). On the other hand, men were more likely to think the police treat everyone fairly and were less likely to agree that community relations with the police were poor.

Perceptions of the police have improved amongst many population groups over the last decade.

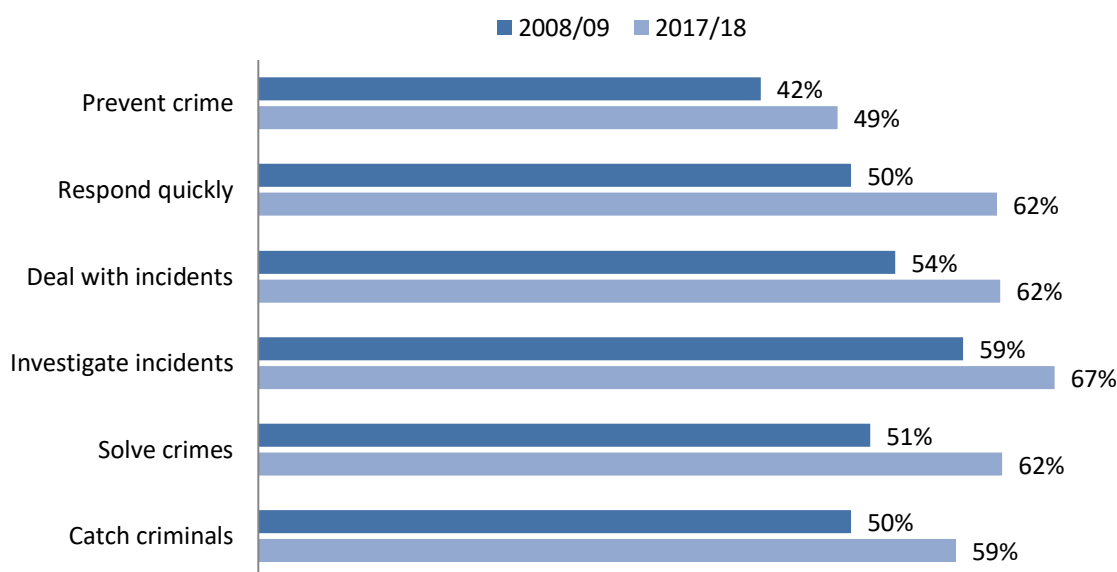
Whilst differences persist amongst population sub-categories, looking at trends over time the SCJS finds that perceptions have improved since 2008/09 (or 2009/10 where relevant) for many key groups in the population.

For instance, the proportion of adults who felt very or fairly confident in the ability of the police to take forward each of the six components of police work asked about in the effectiveness measures was higher in 2017/18 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. These results are shown in full in Annex Tables A1.15 to A1.20⁶⁴. Statistically significant changes since 2016/17 have been less common, although the Annex tables also highlight where these have been detected for each group.

By way of example, Figure 6.6 outlines how confidence in the ability of the police in the most deprived areas of Scotland has increased over time.

⁶⁴ These results are also available for further breakdowns, such as tenure, for each SCJS sweep since 2008/09 in supplementary [data tables](#), along with the results on perceptions of community engagement and fairness.

► **Figure 6.6: Proportion of adults who were very/fairly confident in the ability of the police in the 15% most deprived areas of Scotland, 2008/09 - 2017/18**



Base: Adults living in 15% most deprived areas (2008/09: 2,440; 2017/18: 790); Variables: QPOLCONF_01 – QPOLCONF_06

Measures looking at perceptions of community engagement and fairness have also generally shown significant improvements in the most deprived areas of Scotland since 2009/10⁶⁵.

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

Whilst the majority of people in rural areas were fairly positive about the police in 2017/18, perceptions in urban and rural areas have shown differing trends over the longer term – with views generally improving in urban areas, but showing more stability in rural locations.

For example, while we see some fluctuations in interim years between 2008/09 and 2016/17, Table 6.1 outlines how public confidence in the ability the police amongst those in urban and rural areas in 2017/18 compared to 2008/09. It shows that in rural areas only two measures have improved compared to the 2008/09 baseline. In contrast, and [in line with the national average](#), amongst adults living in urban areas confidence in the ability of the police has increased across all six effectiveness measures since 2008/09.

The full time-series showing fluctuations from year to year in results for urban and rural areas are shown in Annex tables A1.15 to A1.20.

⁶⁵ The only measure not to show improvement was the proportion agreeing that the police listen to the concerns of local people, which showed no change.

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

Proportion of adults who were very or fairly confident in the police to:	Urban		Rural	
	2017/18	Change since 2008/09	2017/18	Change since 2008/09
Prevent crime	53%	↑ from 45%	53%	↑ from 48%
Respond quickly to appropriate calls and information from the public	63%	↑ from 54%	61%	↑ from 56%
Deal with incidents as they occur	66%	↑ from 57%	62%	No change
Investigate incidents after they occur	70%	↑ from 63%	68%	No change
Solve crimes	65%	↑ from 56%	61%	No change
Catch criminals	62%	↑ from 54%	59%	No change
<i>Number of respondents</i>	4,410	12,420	1,060	3,580

Variables: QPOLCONF_01 – QPOLCONF_06

A similar variation in trend between urban and rural areas was seen across the community engagement and fairness metrics. There were improvements between 2009/10 and 2017/18 across all measures in urban areas but one (agreement that the police listen to local concerns which showed no change); whilst in rural areas the only measure to show improvement was a fall in the proportion thinking the police were not dealing with the issues that matter to their community. All measures on perceptions of community engagement and fairness in both urban and rural areas were unchanged between 2016/17 and 2017/18.

However, it is worth noting that 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 2017/18 (57% and 58% respectively), [as highlighted earlier](#).

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 area⁶⁶.

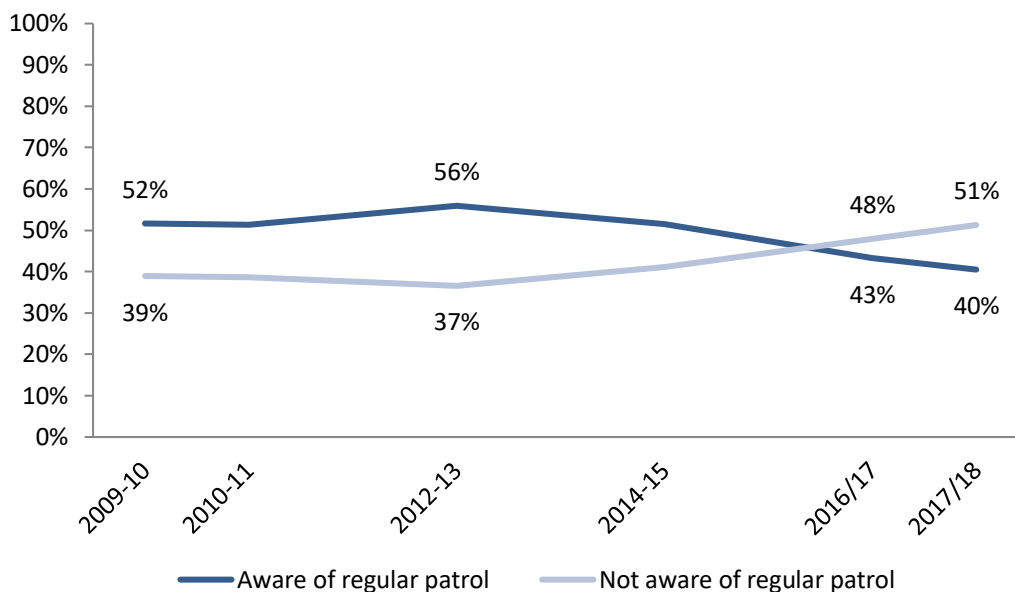
The proportion of adults aware of the police regularly patrolling their area continued to fall in 2017/18.

Whilst the vast majority (93%) of adults in 2017/18 considered it very or fairly important to have local police officers who know and patrol their local area, the proportion who said they were aware that their area was regularly patrolled⁶⁷ fell to 40% in 2017/18. This figure is down from a peak of 56% in 2012/13 and 43% in 2016/17.

⁶⁶ 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.

⁶⁷ Either by foot, bike or car.

► **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; 2017/18: 5,360); Variable: POLPATR

As in previous years, Table 6.2 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 2017/18 than those living in elsewhere, and therefore reflect police operational decisions.

► **Table 6.2: 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	50%	39%	40%
On foot	25%	11%	13%
By bicycle	9%	3%	4%
By car	45%	35%	37%
No	43%	53%	51%
<i>Number of respondents</i>	<i>780</i>	<i>4,580</i>	<i>5,360</i>

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

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

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 fifth (22%) said they had seen the police at least once a week.

The population continues to be divided about whether the police presence in their area is 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' (44% in 2017/18) or 'not enough' (50% in 2017/18). Very few respondents in each sweep have felt there is 'too much' of a police presence - for example, 0.3% in 2017/18.

The proportion of adults believing the level of police presence is insufficient fell from 56% in 2009/10 to 46% in 2012/13, but has increased again in recent years whilst remaining below the 2009/10 baseline.

Those living in the 15% most deprived areas of Scotland were less likely to believe that the police presence in their local area was 'about right' in 2017/18, with 39% feeling this way compared to 44% in the rest of Scotland. Likewise, victims of crime were less likely to be positive about the current level of presence (39% compared to 44% of non-victims).

Despite there being no difference in the level of awareness of regular police patrols between urban and rural areas, those in rural locations were more likely to feel that the level of police presence was 'about right' (51% compared to 42% in urban areas). This may suggest that rural communities have different experiences and expectations of local policing.

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

At a national level, the most frequently cited reasons mentioned by those who thought that the level of police presence was insufficient were related to respondents not personally seeing the police, believing that there should be (and possibly previously were) more police around, and that they should patrol more regularly particularly by foot rather than just by car. In contrast, the most common reasons for saying the level of police presence was 'about right' related to a (perceived) lack of crime in the area, with others also feeling reassured by seeing the police at the current regularity and being content with seeing them in cars.

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 experiences of contact respondents have had with the police in the last year. Follow-up questions to understand how individuals feel they were treated during their engagement are asked of respondents whose *most recent* contact with the police involved reporting a crime; 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 2017/18, 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:

- 95% said they were dealt with in a very or fairly polite manner⁶⁸;
- 86% felt they were treated fairly;
- 69% 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 Scotland, as well as contact with different organisations operating within the system.

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

Consistent with previous years, the majority of adults in 2017/18 knew little about the criminal justice system but were fairly confident about its operation.

Consistent with previous sweeps of the SCJS, in 2017/18 around three-quarters (76%) of adults said they did not know very much or anything at all about the criminal justice system. By contrast, only 3% said they knew a lot.

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

For example, more than three-quarters of adults (77%) 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 justice system if required. However, less than half of the population were confident about the efficiency of the system (44% confident) and that appropriate sentences⁶⁹ are given which fit the crime (38% confident).

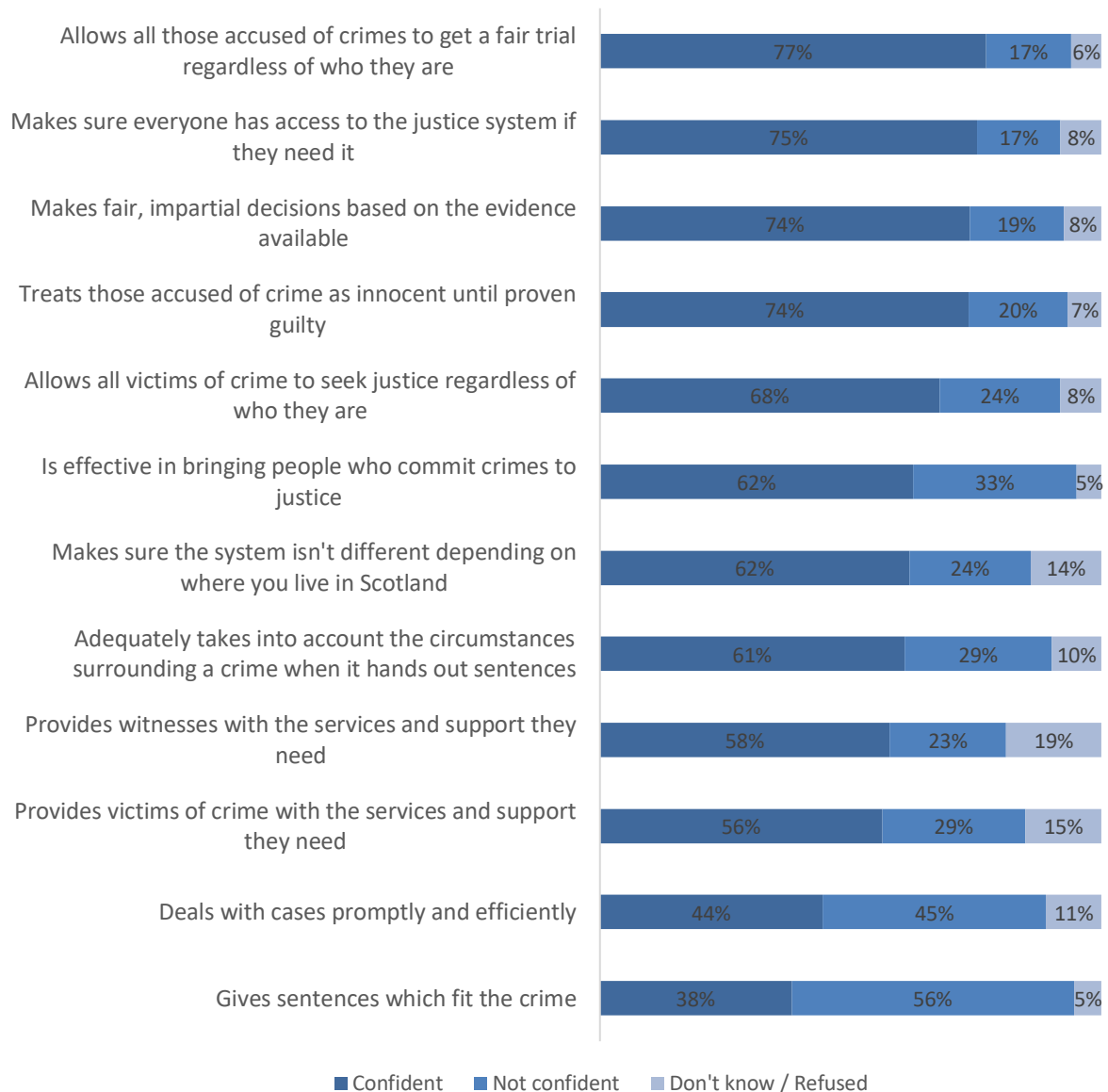
Notwithstanding wording changes in the latter measure, it is important to note that confidence on both these indicators have increased since they were first included in the survey:

- In 2008/09, 35% were confident the system deals with cases promptly and efficiently, compared to 44% in 2017/18;
- In 2012/13, 32% were confident that the system gives *punishments* which fit the crime, compared to 39% in 2016/17. When the wording was changed to '*sentences*' in 2017/18 the proportion of adults who were confident was 38%.

⁶⁸ This question is asked of all respondents with *any contact* with the police in the last year.

⁶⁹ In 2017/18 this question was changed to refer to '*sentences*' rather than '*punishments*', although the latest result is fairly consistent with the finding of 39% in 2016/17.

► **Figure 6.8: Confidence in the operation of the criminal justice system in 2017/18**



Base: All adults (5,480); Variables: QDCONF_01 – QDCONF_15

Full-time series results for these attitudinal measures are shown in Annex table A1.22. As with the two examples outlined above, it shows that generally confidence in the criminal justice system was stronger across the range of measures in 2017/18 than it was the first time each question was asked⁷⁰.

It is also worth noting that the proportion of adults who were very or fairly confident that the system makes sure everyone has access to the justice system if they need it increased from 70% in 2008/09 to 75% in 2017/18. With effect from 2018, this measure has been adopted as a National Indicator in the Scottish Government’s refreshed [National Performance Framework](#). Since the last SCJS in 2016/17, all measures showed no change.

⁷⁰ Four of the current measures were first asked in 2008/09, the rest have only been asked in their current form since 2012/13, with one further amendment in 2017/18

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

For most of these measures, younger adults (those aged 16-24) were more likely to be confident than those aged 60 and over; whilst across about half of the measures, those living in the 15% most deprived areas of Scotland (compared to those living elsewhere) were less likely to be confident. For instance:

- 68% of those aged 16-24 were confident that the system is not different depending on where you live, in comparison to 57% of those aged 60 and over; and
- 71% of adults living in the 15% most deprived areas were confident that everyone has access to the justice system if they need it compared to 76% of those living elsewhere.

There was little variation in confidence in the justice system between victims and non-victims in 2017/18.

In previous years, the SCJS has detected lower confidence in the criminal justice system amongst victims of crime compared to non-victims. However, in 2017/18, only one measure showed a statistically significant difference between these groups – 56% of victims were confident that the system is effective in bringing people who commit crimes to justice, compared to 63% of non-victims. The lack of difference between the two groups in 2017/18 is influenced by a number of non-significant apparent increases in confidence amongst victims, coupled with non-significant apparent decreases across some measures for non-victims.

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

The SCJS also gathers information on attitudes towards prisons and community sentences to understand what the public thinks about processes to sentence and rehabilitate offenders. The specific wording used over time has changed in a number of the questions on this topic, limiting the ability to examine some trends over time⁷¹. 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 generally thought that prisons should provide support to help prisoners address problem behaviours and integrate with the community.

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

Table 6.3 shows that the vast majority of adults agreed that prisons should provide support to prisoners to help them address any underlying issues, reduce re-offending and help them fit back into the community. Just over half (53%) agreed that only those who commit the most serious crimes should be put in prison.

⁷¹ 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.

► **Table 6.3: Attitudes towards the role of prisons**

Proportion of adults	Strongly/ Slightly agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Strongly/ Slightly Disagree	Don't Know / Refused
Only those who have committed the most serious crimes should be put in prison	53%	11%	34%	1%
Prisons should help prisoners change their behaviour rather than just punish them	90%	5%	4%	1%
Prisons should provide support in order to prevent people committing more crime	92%	3%	3%	2%
Prisons should work with other organisations in the community to help prisoners fit back into the community	89%	6%	4%	1%
Homeless prisoners should be helped to find a place to live after they leave prison	87%	6%	5%	1%

Base: All adults (1,350); Variables: QPRIS3_01 – QPRIS3_05

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

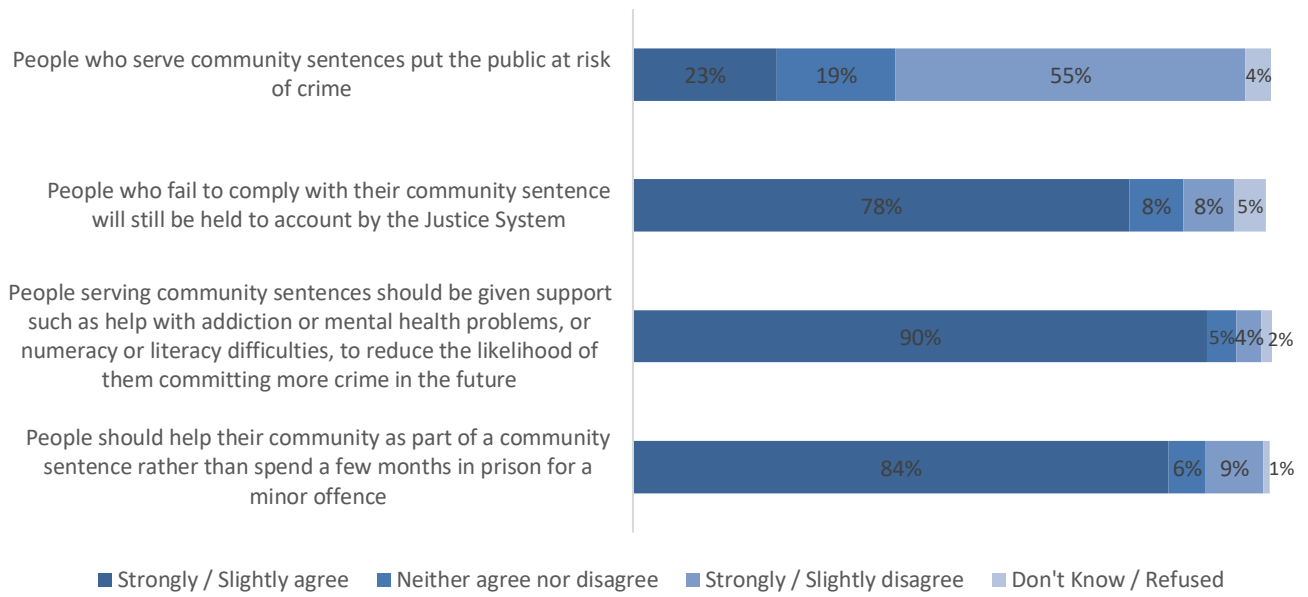
Respondents were also asked about their awareness and perceptions of unpaid work placements which can be completed as part of a community sentence. Just over a tenth (13%) of adults who had heard of community payback orders were aware of unpaid work placements being carried out in their area, although amongst those who were aware of them, 69% agreed that their area had benefitted.

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

Figure 6.9 provides the results to a series of statements which respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with in relation to community sentences. Like the questions on attitudes towards prisons, these were newly developed in 2017/18.

Whilst the majority of people (84%) believed that people helping their community as part of a community sentence is an appropriate response for a minor offence rather than a short prison sentence, around a quarter (23%) thought that community sentences put the public at risk of crime. That said, almost four-in-five (78%) agreed that people who do not comply with the terms of their community sentence will be held to account.

► **Figure 6.9: Proportion of adults agreeing with statements on community sentences**



Base: All adults (1,350); Variables: QCOMSENT_01 – QCOMSENT_04

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 2017/18.

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

One of the indicators in the Scottish Government's [National Performance Framework](#) 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*⁷² in the past two years in their local area. The baseline year for the indicator is 2006.

In 2017/18, just under three-quarters of adults felt that the local crime rate stayed the same or reduced in the previous two years – up from 2006 but down slightly since the last SCJS in 2016/17⁷³.

73% of SCJS respondents in 2017/18 said that the crime rate in their local area had decreased or stayed the same over the last couple of years. The proportion holding this view has increased over the last decade or so from 65% in 2006 and 69% in 2008/09. However, looking more recently, the figure has fallen from 76% in 2016/17 as shown in Figure 7.1 below.

As in previous years, the majority of the 'less or same' group is accounted for by people who thought the crime rate had stayed the same (63%). This proportion has increased from 60% in 2008/09. On the other hand, in 2017/18 just under one-in-ten (9%) thought the crime rate had decreased, unchanged since 2008/09. Therefore the improvement in this measure over the years has been driven by more people believing the crime rate in their local has stayed the same⁷⁴.

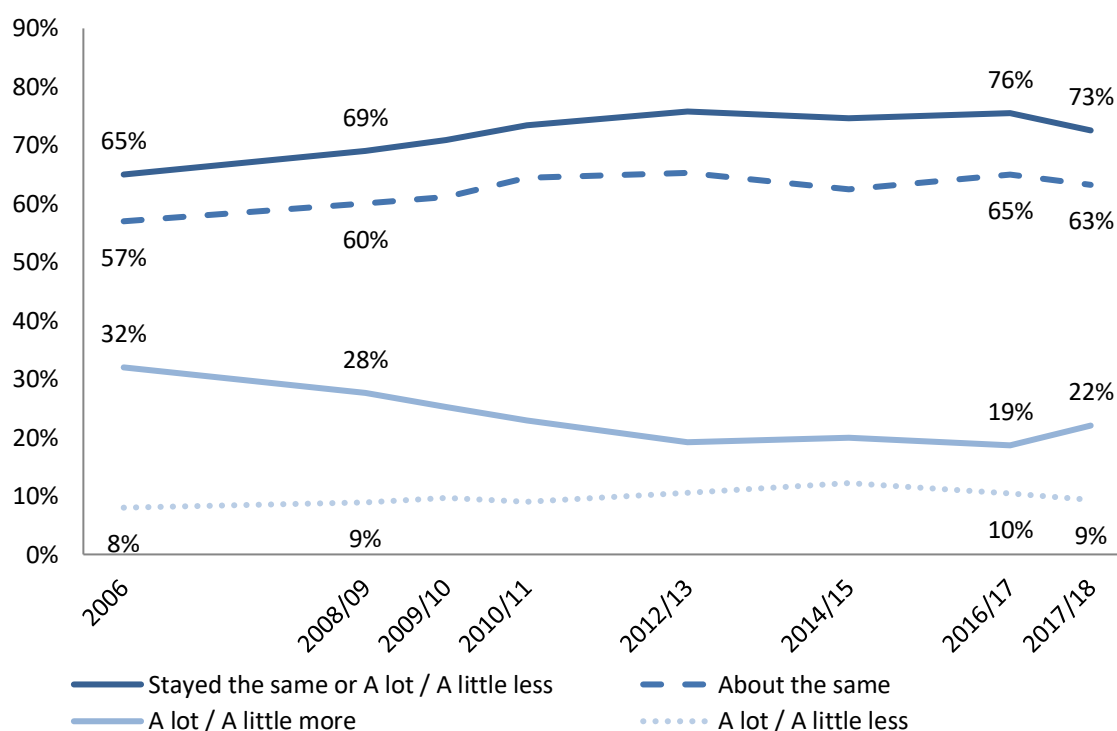
The proportion of adults who thought the local crime rate had increased in the previous two years has fallen from around one-in-three (32%) in 2006, and just over one-in-four (28%) in 2008/09, to just over one-in-five (22%) in 2017/18. However, despite the positive longer term trend, this figure has increased since the last SCJS in 2016/17 (19%).

⁷² The 'reduced' category combines those saying the crime rate is a 'little less' and a 'lot less'.

⁷³ 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=4,770).

⁷⁴ It is important to note that a variety of factors will influence perceptions of the crime rate in local communities and the country as whole, and these perceptions may not reflect wider trends in victimisation. Moreover, what respondents consider as crime may go beyond the categories of victimisation captured by the SCJS.

► **Figure 7.1: Proportion of adults holding view on changes in the local crime rate in the last two years**



Base: All adults who have lived in local area for two years or more (4,770); Variable: QS2AREA

Whilst views on the local crime rate were generally positive amongst population sub-groups in 2017/18, females and victims of crime were less likely to believe it had stayed the same or fallen than comparator groups.

The SCJS enables us to explore how views on the local crime rate varied by demographic and geographic characteristics. In 2017/18, most adults (generally around 70% or more) across a range of population 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 (76% compared to 69% of women). Victims of crime were also less likely than non-victims to have provided this response (62% compared to 74% respectively) – although the majority still felt the crime rate was unchanged or had fallen.

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.

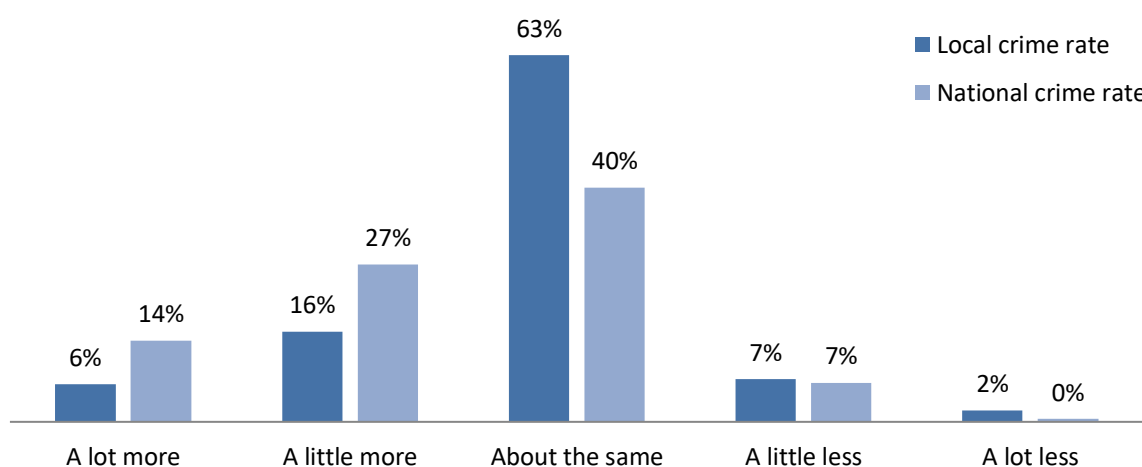
However, in line with the national average, some groups did see the proportion believing the crime rate had stayed the same or fallen decrease between 2016/17 and 2017/18. For example, the percentage of females providing this response fell from 73% to 69%. Full breakdowns and time-series analyses are provided in Annex table A1.11.

Did public perceptions on the national crime rate and the local crime rate 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 2017/18 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. This difference is mainly driven by fewer people believing the national crime rate has stayed the same.

► **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 (4,770); National crime rate: All adults (5,480); Variables: QS2AREA; QS2AREAS

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

Since 2009/10⁷⁵, 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 48% in 2017/18. However, this has fallen from 50% in 2016/17.

Adults were also less likely to say the crime rate was increasing in 2017/18 (41%) than they were in 2009/10 (52%), however this proportion has increased over their shorter term too – from 34% in 2014/15 and 37% in 2016/17. It will be important to monitor these results into the future to assess how public perceptions develop and whether the more recent changes mark a change in the longer-term positive trajectory.

⁷⁵ Opinions on the national crime rate were first recorded by the SCJS in 2009/10.

► **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:	2017/18	Change since 2009/10	Change since 2016/17
A lot more / a little more	41%	↓ from 52%	↑ from 37%
About the same	40%	↑ from 36%	No change
A lot less / a little less	7%	↑ from 4%	↓ from 11%
<i>Number of respondents</i>	5,480	16,040	5,570

Variable: QS2AREAS

How common were different crimes perceived to be?

Most adults did not think a range of crimes were common in their local area, and most crime types were thought to have become less prevalent over the last decade.

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 2017/18 (from those asked about), noted as being very or fairly common by 37% of adults. Around one-in-eight (12%) thought violence between groups of individuals or gangs was common, with a tenth of adults (10%) believing that people being physically assaulted or attacked in the street or another public place was a very or fairly common issue in their area. Fewer than one-in-twenty (4%) thought people being sexually assaulted was a prevalent issue in 2017/18.

Annex table A1.23 provides detailed results on the perceived commonality of each issue over time. It shows that, for issues where relevant comparator data is available, in 2017/18 most issues were seen to be less common than they were in 2008/09, but figures have been stable since the last SCJS in 2016/17. 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 2017/18 (falling from 19% to 10% over this period). Likewise, 22% of adults thought people carrying knives was common in 2009/10, but this has fallen to 12% over the last decade, whilst the perception of people behaving in an anti-social manner in public has fallen from 46% in 2008/09 to 29% in 2017/18.

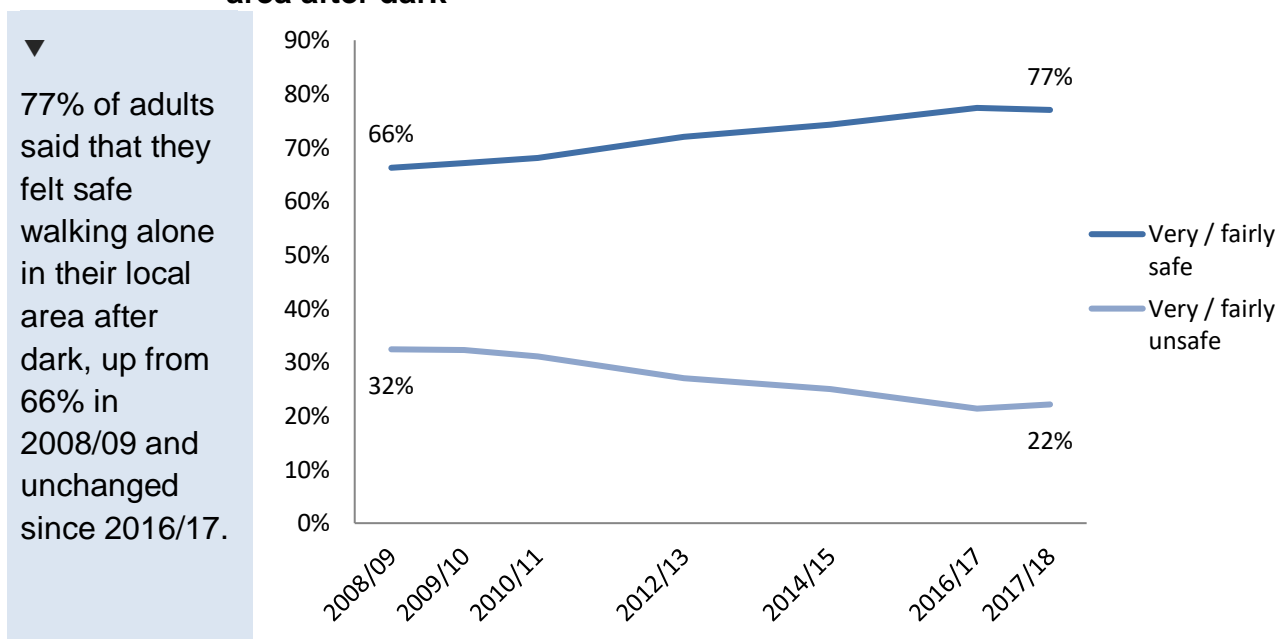
How safe did the public feel in 2017/18?

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.

The proportion of adults feeling safe in their local area and around their home at night has increased in the last decade.

In 2017/18, 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 is unchanged from 2016/17, as shown in Figure 7.3. The most recently published figures for England and Wales⁷⁶ 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 in their local area after dark, up from 66% in 2008/09 and unchanged since 2016/17.

Base: All adults - SCJS 2008/09 (16,000); 2009/10 (16,040); 2010/11 (13,010); 2012/13 (12,050); 2014/15 (11,470); 2016/17 (5,570); 2017/18 (5,480) Variable: QSFDARK

Respondents were also asked how safe they felt when alone in their home at night as an alternative measure of perceptions of safety. In 2017/18, 96% of adults said they felt very or fairly safe alone in their home at night, an increase from 93% in 2008/09 but down marginally from 97% in 2016/17.

Feelings of safety have improved across most population groups in recent years, although some groups continue to feel comparatively less safe.

Whilst the majority of adults in all groups felt safe walking alone in their local areas after dark in 2017/18, the proportions did vary 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, older adults and victims of crime were less likely to report feeling safe in 2017/18 than comparator groups. However, feelings of safety have improved across all groups considered below since 2008/09⁷⁷.

⁷⁶ CSEW 2015/16

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/adhocs/006255feelingunsafewalkinhomeandbeinghomealoneafterdarkbyageandsextheeffectoffearofcrimeonqualityoflifeyearendingmarch2016>

Note: this question was not included in the 2016/17 or 2017/18 CSEW.

⁷⁷ Full time series results are shown in Annex table 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	2017/18	Change since 2008/09	Change since 2016/17
Male	89%	↑ from 79%	No change
Female	66%	↑ from 55%	No change
Aged 16-24	83%	↑ from 71%	No change
Aged 25-44	80%	↑ from 73%	No change
Aged 45-59	77%	↑ from 70%	No change
Aged 60+	70%	↑ from 52%	No change
15% most deprived areas	63%	↑ from 52%	No change
Rest of Scotland	79%	↑ from 69%	No change
Victim of crime	68%	↑ from 61%	No change
Non-victim	78%	↑ from 68%	No change

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

Looking at feelings of safety when home alone, although more than nine-in-ten adults across all demographic and geographic categories reported feeling safe, again some differences exist amongst the population. For example, 92% of those living in the 15% most deprived areas reported feeling safe in their home alone, in comparison to 96% of adults living elsewhere in Scotland.

How concerned were the public about specific crimes in 2017/18?

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 the perceived likelihood of victimisation will vary from one individual to another. Moreover, it is important to note that even if someone claims they are not worried about a particular crime or do not think they are likely to be a victim, it does not necessarily mean they believe that they are at no risk.

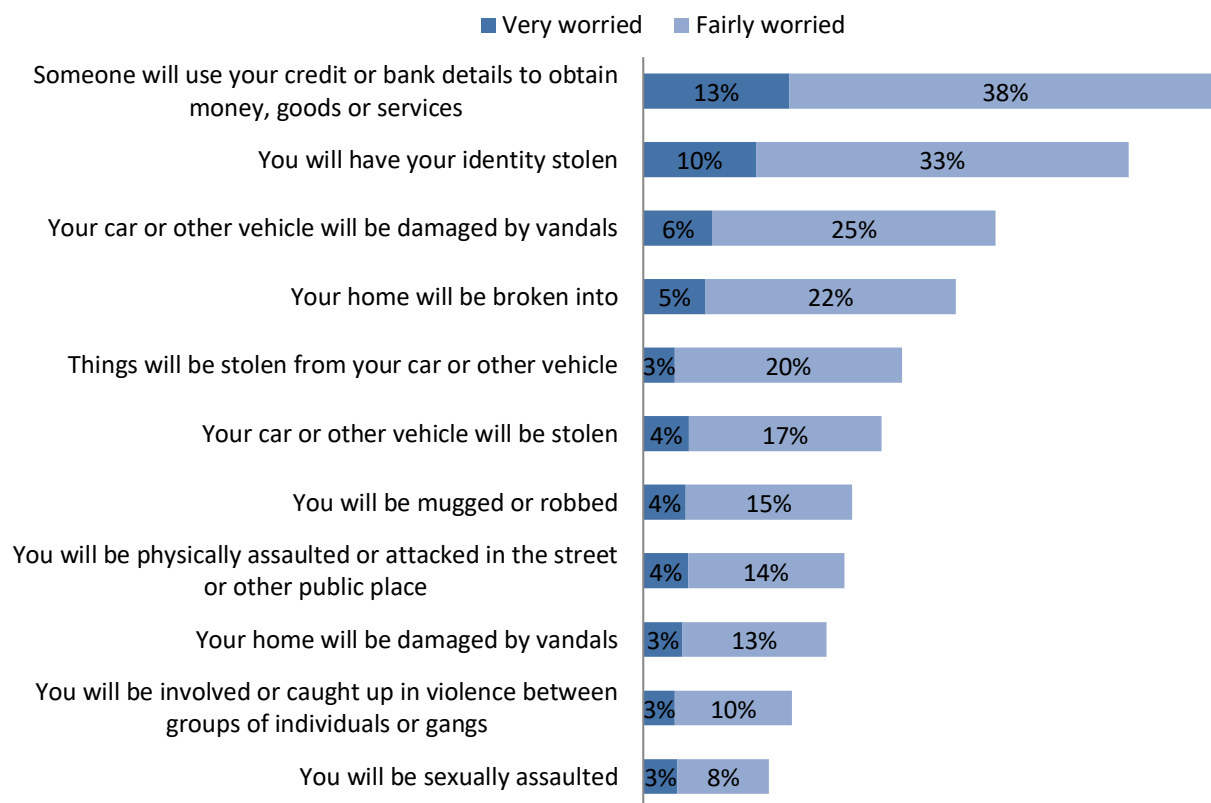
Fraud remained the crime the public were most commonly worried about in 2017/18, although generally concern about different crime types has fallen in the last decade.

In line with findings in previous years, in 2017/18 the crimes (from those asked about) which the public were most likely to say they were very or fairly worried about were fraud⁷⁸ related issues. More specifically, 51% of adults said they were worried about someone

⁷⁸ Findings in relation to fraud are also discussed in the later section '[Cyber-crime in Scotland](#)'.

using their credit or bank details to obtain money, goods or services, whilst 43% were worried about their identity being stolen. By comparison, just under a fifth (18%) 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 vehicle theft/damage only asked of those who have access to or own vehicle (4,130); all other questions asked of all adults (5,480); Variables: QWORR_04 – QWORR_14

Annex table A1.24 presents the results on worry about different crimes over time. It highlights that the proportion of adults who were very or fairly worried about experiencing each specific issue was lower in 2017/18 than the 2008/09 baseline, but all measures have been stable since the last SCJS in 2016/17.

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 purposes has fallen from 56% in 2008/09.

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. 52% of adults did not think they were likely to experience any of the crimes covered in the next 12 months, up from 48% in 2008/09.

In line with worry about fraud, the crime type which adults thought they were most likely to experience was someone using their bank or card details to obtain money, goods or services, which 26% thought would happen to them in the next year. This proportion has increased from 14% in 2008/09.

To put the perceptions about the likelihood of experiencing fraud into context, one-in-ten (11%) 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.

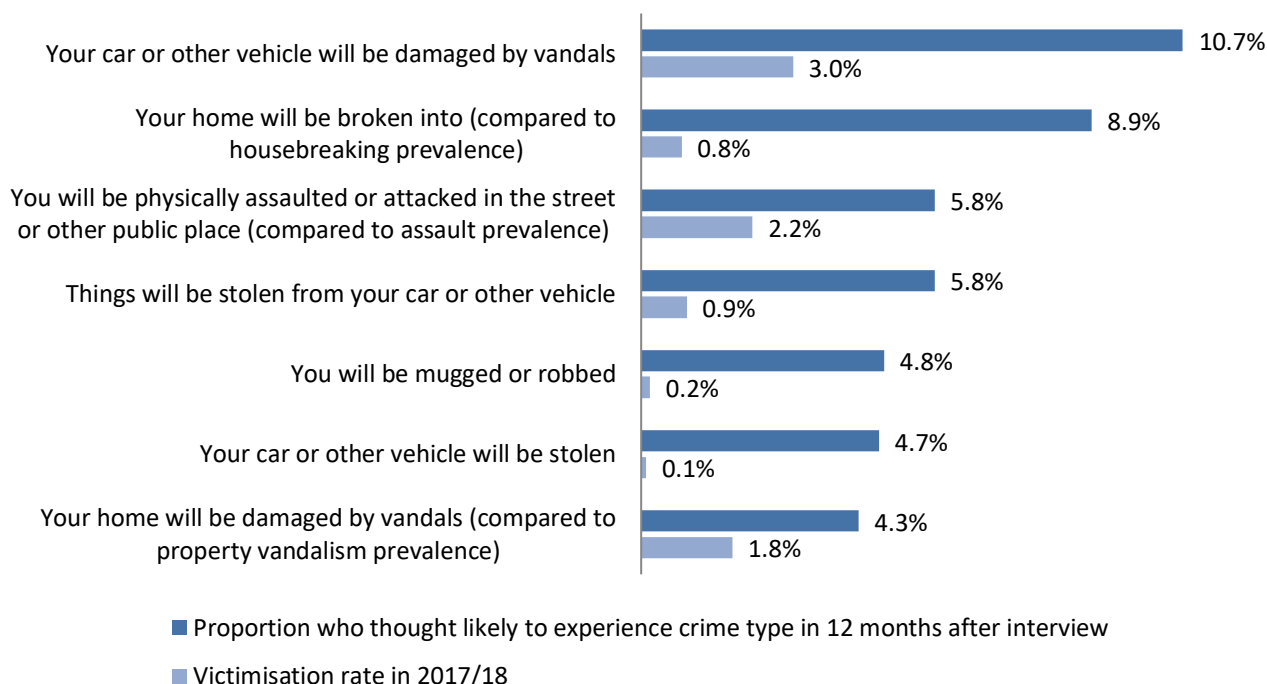
Annex table A1.25 presents these results over time. It shows that whilst concern about fraud and identity theft have increased since 2008/09, lower proportions of adults now believe it is likely that their home will be damaged by vandals, they will be mugged or robbed, or that they will experience violence in a public place.

Across a range of crime types, the actual victimisation rate in 2017/18 was notably lower than the proportion of adults who think they are likely to experience the issue.

Figure 7.5 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 2017/18. It shows that generally a larger proportion of adults thought they were likely to experience each crime than the proportion who were actually victims of such incidents in 2017/18.

For example, 5.8% 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 2017/18 was 2.2%.

► **Figure 7.5: Perceived likelihood of victimisation in next year in context of 2017/18 victimisation rate⁷⁹**



Base: All adults (5,480); Variables: QHAPP; PREVHOUSEBREAK; PREVMOTOVVAND; PREVASSAULT; PREVATTTHEFTMV; PREVROB; PREVTHEFTOFMV; PREVPROPVAND.

⁷⁹ Estimates in this figure are shown to one decimal place to facilitate a comparison between prevalence rate for different crime types (proportion of adults/households who were victims) and the perceived likelihood of becoming a victim (usually presented as a rounded figure).

What was the impact of concerns about crime?

Most adults said their concerns about crime have not prevented them from doing things they have wanted to do.

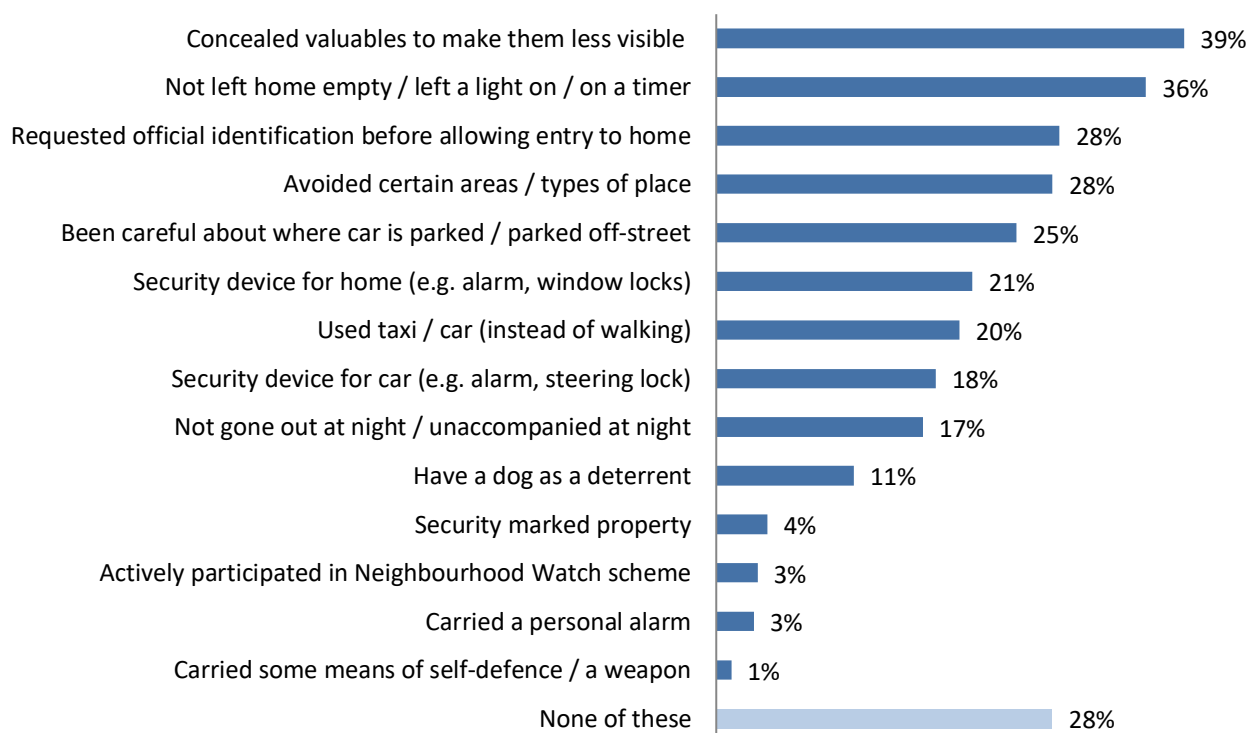
Following on from exploring worry about and perceptions of crime, it is helpful to consider the impact of such feelings on individual behaviour to in order to help put findings in context. Of those who reported being worried about experiencing some sort of crime, two-thirds (66%) reported that it did not ('at all') prevent them from doing things they would otherwise want to do. A quarter (26%) of adults who worried about being a victim of crime said they were prevented from doing things 'a little', whilst 5% said it affected them 'quite a lot'. Only 2% said that it affected them doing things 'a great deal' in 2017/18.

Almost three-quarters of adults reported taking some sort of action in 2017/18 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 (72%) reported adopting at least one preventative action in 2017/18, with 28% saying they took none of the actions highlighted.

As in previous years, the most common behaviours adopted by adults were concealing valuables to make them less visible (reported by 39%) and not leaving their home empty or leaving a light on (reported by 36%).

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



Base: All adults (1,380); 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 2017/18 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 not an agreed upon definition. The main debate centres around the extent to which cyber technology⁸⁰ needs to be involved for the crime to be termed 'cyber-crime'. For the purposes of the SCJS and this topical report, a broad definition of cyber-crime is adopted that includes crimes in which cyber technology is in any way involved. This ranges from offences which would not be possible without the use of cyber technology (such as the spreading of computer viruses) to those with a more minor cyber element involved (such as uploading a video of a crime to the Internet).

This chapter therefore presents results available from the SCJS on the extent to which cyber technology is involved in a wide range of offences. The section below presents SCJS results relating to online experiences of violent crime, fraud (including perceptions of fraud and indicative findings on the extent of some types of fraud), the sale of fake/smuggled goods, the sourcing of drugs and stalking/harassment.

It then briefly highlights findings from other recent publications that add to this picture of cyber-crime, such as the Scottish Government's Cyber Crime Evidence Review, the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) and police recorded crime. Finally, it outlines the new questions on cyber-crime that were developed with users and added to the 2018/19 SCJS, which will be reported on in future years.

As the following summary of cyber-related SCJS findings 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.

To what extent was crime occurring online in 2017/18?

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

The SCJS currently asks respondents who have been victims of crime where these crimes happened, with 'online/via the Internet' as a possible response. In 2017/18, as with previous years, no respondents selected online/via the Internet as the best description of where a crime happened⁸¹. This is likely due to the survey's focus on victims of violent and property crime.

However, cyber elements may be involved in 'traditional' crimes in other ways, such as researching how to commit or conceal a crime. To enable the SCJS to examine the proportion of property and violent crime picked up by the survey that has a *cyber element*, a 'cyber flag'⁸² has been added to the 2018/19 survey. A similar approach is currently used by the CSEW, to show in their [latest findings](#) that 3.6% of robberies, 0.2% of theft offences and 0.1% of criminal damage incidents were flagged as being cyber-related in

⁸⁰ Technology relating to computers, computer networks such as the Internet and/or other forms of ICT.

⁸¹ Variable name: QWH7. Base: 760.

⁸² The following 'cyber flag' question is to be added to the victim form section of the questionnaire: As far as you are aware, was the internet, any type of online activity or any internet enabled device related to any specific aspect of the offence?

the year ending March 2018⁸³. The first results from the SCJS cyber flag will be included in the 2018/19 Main Findings report.

In the meantime, other questions in the SCJS do indicate some involvement of cyber technology in several types of 'traditional' crime. The following sections present these findings related to violent crime, fraud, the selling of fake/smuggled goods, the sourcing of drugs, and stalking and harassment.

What role is cyber technology playing in violent crime?

A small proportion of violent crime was recorded in 2017/18, but no victims of these crimes reported being aware of these recordings being distributed online.

The SCJS asks respondents if, in the year prior to interview, they have been victims of violent crime. It then asks respondents who have been victims of violent crime whether the crime was recorded and if they know of it being distributed online (such as the Internet, social networking sites or email).

In 2017/18, 12% of violent crimes experienced by adults were recorded, for instance on a mobile phone or camera, or by CCTV, unchanged from 2016/17. However, no respondents reported being aware that this recording was distributed online⁸⁴.

It should be noted that the SCJS can only capture instances where the victim is aware that recordings of violent crime have been distributed online. As such, this finding cannot pick up all cases of violent crime recordings being distributed online.

What can the SCJS tell us about experiences of and concerns about fraud⁸⁵ in 2017/18?

Indicative findings suggest that in 2017/18 5% of adults had their credit/bank card details stolen and 1% had their identity stolen, however the extent of cyber involvement is unknown.

The SCJS is currently unable to provide robust estimates on the volume or prevalence of fraud, however it does capture some evidence on people's experiences of certain types of fraud, in the form of 'Victim Form Screener' questions⁸⁶, as well as their perceptions of fraud. These screener questions provide indicative findings only, as respondents are not asked for full details of the incidents that would enable them to be coded into valid/invalid⁸⁷ SCJS crimes in the way that they are with other 'traditional' SCJS crime incidents.

⁸³ Crime Survey for England and Wales, Year ending March 2018.

⁸⁴ Variable name: QFOREC. Base: 2017/18 (110), 2016/17 (150).

⁸⁵ Fraud can take many forms and centres around a person dishonestly and deliberately deceiving a victim for personal gain.

⁸⁶ Section 2 of the 2017/18 SCJS questionnaire.

⁸⁷ Valid crimes are incidents which occurred in Scotland, during the reference period and concern crimes that are within the scope of the SCJS. Any incident that does not meet any of these criteria is invalid.

Notwithstanding these caveats, analysis shows that 5% of adults reported that they had their credit or bank card details used fraudulently in the 12 months prior to interview in 2017/18⁸⁸. This is unchanged from 2016/17 but has increased from 3.6%⁸⁹ in 2008/09.

Identity theft was less common, with 1% of adults reporting experiences of such incidents in 2017/18, unchanged from both 2016/17 and 2008/09.

Although these findings are only indicative, it is notable that the CSEW finds relatively similar results on prevalence using a more expansive set of questions added in recent years to robustly capture experiences of fraud (and computer misuse). The [latest figures](#) for the year ending September 2018⁹⁰ show an estimated 3.5 million incidents of fraud were experienced by 6.3% of adults in England and Wales. The CSEW questions also capture the extent to which cyber technology is involved in these incidents, finding that over half (56%) of fraud incidents were cyber-related, amounting to approximately 1.9 million incidents.

As in recent years, respondents in 2017/18 were most likely to report being worried about acts of fraud, as well as thinking these were likely to happen to them in the next year, compared to other types of crime.

The SCJS also asks respondents which crime types they worry about happening or think are most likely to happen to them.

In 2017/18, 51% of adults in Scotland were worried about their bank/credit card details being used to obtain money, goods or services⁹¹. As with other years, the next most worried about crime type was identity theft⁹² with 43% of adults worrying about this type of fraud in 2017/18. Levels of worry about these two types of fraud were higher than for all other crime types asked about in 2017/18. Looking over time, worry about both types of fraud has fallen since 2008/09 but has not shown any change since 2016/17.

As with previous years, worry about both of these fraudulent acts in 2017/18 varied by demographic characteristics. For example, women were more likely to be worried about fraud (54% worried about their credit or bank details being used fraudulently, 44% worried about identity theft) than men (47% credit or bank details, 41% identity theft).

In 2017/18, half of respondents (52%) did not think it was likely that they would experience any of the crimes listed in the next 12 months. However, the crime type respondents most commonly thought would happen to them was someone using their credit card/bank details fraudulently (26%). As with worry about crime, this was followed by people thinking their identity will be stolen (16%). The perceived likelihood of both of these types of fraud happening was unchanged from 2016/17, but has increased from 2008/09 and 2014/15.

⁸⁸ Variable names: CARDVIC2 and IDTHEF3. Base: 2017/18 (5,475), 2016/17 (5,570), 2008/09 (3,980).

⁸⁹ Note: the 2016/17 SCJS report erroneously quoted the 2008/09 figure as 3%.

⁹⁰ Crime in England and Wales, Year ending September 2018. Additional tables on fraud and computer misuse.

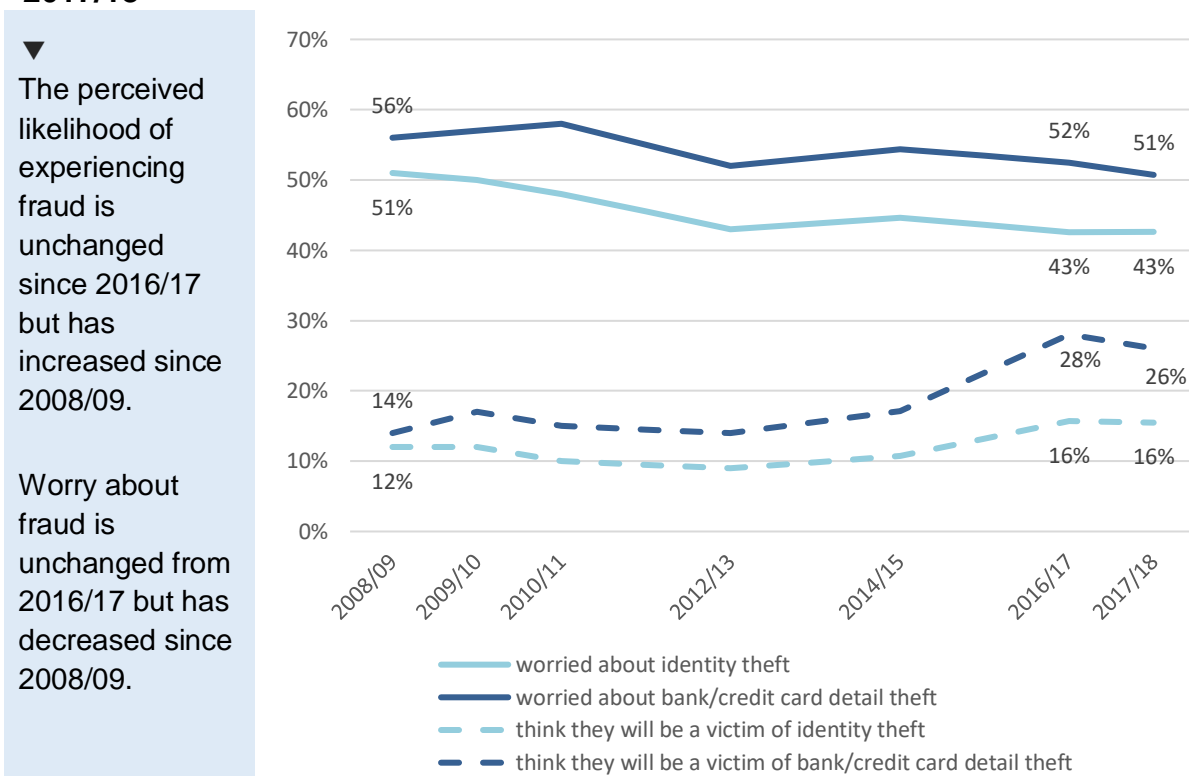
The latest findings from the year ending September 2018 were included to pick up on recent methodological updates in the CSEW.

⁹¹ Variable name: QWORR. Base: 2017/18 (5,480), 2016/17 (5,570), 2008/09 (16,000)

⁹² 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.

It is interesting to note that while the perceived likelihood of becoming a victim of fraud has increased over time, worry about fraud has decreased over the same period.

Figure 8.1: Proportion of adults concerned about fraud and identity theft, 2008/09 to 2017/18



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

Unlike findings in previous years, there was no difference in perceived likelihood of being a victim of fraud between women and men⁹³. However, people living in the 15% most deprived areas of Scotland were less likely (19%) than respondents in the rest of Scotland (27%) to think that their credit/bank card details would be used to fraudulently buy goods/services in the next year.

To what extent was the internet involved in the selling of fake/smuggled goods and the sourcing of drugs?

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

The SCJS asks respondents a series of questions about fake/smuggled goods.

In the year prior to interview, the vast majority of adults (84%) said they were not offered any of the fake and/or smuggled goods asked about. The most common fake or smuggled goods offered in 2017/18 were cigarettes/tobacco (7%), whilst just under one-in-twenty adults (4%) said they had been offered fake or smuggled clothes⁹⁴.

⁹³ Variable name: QHAPP. Base: female (2960), male (2520).

⁹⁴ Variable names: QFKSELL2 and QFKSELL. Base: 2017/18 (1,360).

Just under one-in-twenty those offered fake or smuggled cigarettes/tobacco in 2017/18 (6%), said it occurred 'on the internet'⁹⁵, unchanged from 2016/17. Findings on fake and smuggled goods more generally are covered by a later [section](#) of this report.

The SCJS finds that more traditional methods of obtaining drugs continue to dominate, but a small proportion of 'legal highs' are sourced via the internet.

The SCJS asks respondents about their use of illicit drugs and 'legal highs', including how they source these drugs.

In 2017/18, no SCJS respondents who reported using drugs in the last month reported sourcing their most frequently used substance online⁹⁶. This is unchanged from 2014/15⁹⁷. In contrast, 44% got the drug from someone outwith their family who is well known to them (the most common response), whilst 16% said they obtained it from a known dealer. 5% reported getting the drug from a shop.

The SCJS also asks respondents who have ever taken 'legal highs'⁹⁸ who or where they got them from. It was found that 8% of adults who had ever taken 'legal highs' sourced these from the internet⁹⁹. This compares to 52% who got the drug from someone outwith their family who is well known to them and 31% who got the drug from a shop.

The SCJS may find that a greater proportion of 'legal highs' than 'traditional' drugs are sourced online due to differences in how these questions are asked. Respondents are asked about their most frequently used 'traditional' drug and are asked about the sourcing of this drug in the last month, whereas the 'legal highs' asked about are not necessarily the most frequently used substance and need not have been taken in any specific time period.

Alternatively, these findings may reflect differing patterns in availability and sourcing across different types of substances, users and suppliers.

To what extent were people insulted or harassed online?

The SCJS asks respondents about their experiences of being stalked or harassed in various terms. Firstly, as part of the main survey it asks if they have been insulted, pestered or intimidated in any way by someone outwith their household in the year prior to interview.

Later, within the self-completion element of the survey, it asks if they have experienced any of the following behaviours more than once: the sending of unwanted letters or cards; sending of unwanted messages by text, email, messenger or posts on social media sites;

⁹⁵ Variable name: QFKWHR. Base: Cigarettes/tobacco (100).

⁹⁶ This question was not asked of all respondents in 2017/18 due to a scripting error, which meant that those who had reported taking synthetic cannabis, prescription only painkillers that were not prescribed to them or GHB/GBL as well as those who reported taking one of these as their most frequently taken substance were not asked where they sourced these from.

⁹⁷ Variable name: QDRDEAL. Base: 2017/18 (150), 2014/15 (260). It is not possible to compare this to data from 2016/17.

⁹⁸ There are a range of substances which were previously described by some as 'legal highs', 'designer drugs', or 'new drugs' that have the same effects as drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, or cocaine. These are herbal or synthetic substances that people take to get 'high'.

⁹⁹ Variable name: Q12MLWH. Base: 2017/18 (75).

receiving unwanted phone calls; loitering outside their home or workplace; being followed; and/or having intimate pictures of them shared without consent, for example by text, on a website, or on a social media site.

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

In 2017/18 14% of adults were insulted, pestered or intimidated in any way by someone outwith their household. This was unchanged from 2008/09 and 2016/17¹⁰⁰. More findings on harassment in general are reported in the later section on [harassment and discrimination](#).

Of those who experienced this, 16% encountered such behaviour 'in writing via text, email, messenger or posts on social media' (unchanged from 2016/17¹⁰¹), compared to 84% who experienced incidents in person in 2017/18.

Repeated incidences of stalking and harassment are most commonly experienced by electronic means, including online.

The SCJS also collects data on arguably more severe examples of stalking and harassment. In 2016/18¹⁰², 11.1% of adults had experienced at least one form of stalking/harassment as defined by the SCJS in the 12 months prior to interview. Changes to the stalking/harassment questions in 2016/17 mean that these figures cannot be directly compared to previous years.

Of those who experienced one or more of the kinds of stalking/harassment given on the list in 2016/18, 67% of people experienced this in the form of unwanted messages by text, email, messenger or posts on social media sites. New data collected in 2016/18 also found that 4% of those experiencing stalking/harassment reported someone sharing intimate pictures without their consent¹⁰³.

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

A number of recently published strategies emphasise the challenges and risks of cyber-crime, including Scottish Government's [Justice Vision and Priorities](#), its [Cyber Resilience Strategy](#) and [Policing 2026](#).

To inform this on-going strategic work, a range of analytical work is being carried out with the aim of developing the evidence base around cyber-crime. The sections below highlight where the Scottish Government's Cyber Crime Evidence Review, the Crime Survey for England and Wales and Police Scotland's cyber marker can tell us more about the involvement of cyber technology in sexual crimes, computer misuse and police recorded crime.

¹⁰⁰ Variable name: QAINSUL2. Base: 2017/18 (1,385), 2016/17 (1,430), 2008/09 (4,000).

¹⁰¹ Variable name: QATHME2. Base: 2017/18 (170), 2016/17 (190).

¹⁰² The latest stalking/harassment figures featured in this report combine data collected from the two years 2016/17 and 2017/18. This is referred to throughout the report as 2016/18. For more information, see the Technical Report.

¹⁰³ Variable name: SH_0_1. Base: Victims of stalking and harassment (930).

Sexual crimes in the Scottish Government's cyber-crime evidence review

While the SCJS provides evidence on the prevalence of sexual victimisation in Scotland, the survey does not currently collect data which enables an assessment of whether sexual crimes involved an online element.

The Scottish Government recently published an [evidence review](#) of cyber-crime, exploring existing evidence (such as the SCJS, CSEW and recorded crime data) and literature in order to assess the scale, nature and impact of cyber-crime on individuals and businesses in Scotland.

This review includes reference to [research](#) undertaken by Scottish Government analysts which studied a sample of police records from 2013/14 and 2016/17 and included consideration of the influence of cyber technology on sexual crime in Scotland¹⁰⁴. This research found that both the scale and nature of sexual crime has been impacted by cyber technology in Scotland in recent years. For example:

- The research estimated that a rise in cyber enabled 'other sexual crimes' has contributed to around half of the growth in all police recorded sexual crimes in Scotland between 2013/14 and 2016/17.
- It is estimated that the internet was used as a means to commit at least 20% of all sexual crimes recorded by the police in 2016/17.
- When the specific 'other sexual crimes' of 'communicating indecently' and 'cause to view sexual activity or images' are cyber-enabled, victims and offenders tend to be younger (three-quarters of victims aged under 16 and more than half of offenders under 20) and are more likely to know of one another.

Computer misuse and fraud in the Crime Survey for England and Wales

The current SCJS questions do not collect data on incidents of computer misuse¹⁰⁵, nor do they collect indicative findings on the prevalence of this crime like those collected on fraud.

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) has developed and included a substantial module to robustly capture experiences of fraud and computer misuse since October 2015. The questions provide estimates on the incidence, prevalence and nature of these crimes and also the proportion of fraud and computer misuse incidents that are cyber-related.

[Findings](#) from the year ending September 2018¹⁰⁶ show that an estimated 1 million incidents of computer misuse were experienced by 1.8% of adults in England and Wales. The vast majority (93%) of computer misuse incidents were cyber-related.

The SCJS team is in regular contact with 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 computer misuse would be markedly different in

¹⁰⁴ Recorded crime in Scotland: 'Other sexual crimes', 2013-2014 and 2016-2017.

¹⁰⁵ Computer viruses and unauthorised access to personal information, including hacking.

¹⁰⁶ Crime in England and Wales, Year ending September 2018. Additional tables on fraud and computer misuse. The latest findings from the year ending September 2018 were included to pick up on recent methodological updates in the CSEW.

Scotland. This is especially true given that the CSEW findings on the prevalence of fraud are relatively similar to those in the SCJS, as [noted earlier](#).

Recorded crime from Police Scotland's cyber marker

Since the introduction of cyber-crime markers on crime recording systems in April 2016, Police Scotland has continued to develop its marking practices across other Police Scotland recording systems and databases. This activity is being undertaken by the Cybercrime Capability Programme under Police Scotland's '[Policing 2026 Strategy](#)'. As this marker becomes fully embedded across Police Scotland systems, it should provide a valuable evidence source of police recorded crimes involving a cyber-element.

Police forces in England and Wales have also had to report on the proportion of crimes occurring online, either fully or partially, since 2015. The [latest police recorded crime findings](#) from the Home Office show that 49% of obscene publications, 32% of blackmail, 16% of child sexual offences and 15% of stalking and harassment were flagged as cyber in the year ending September 2018¹⁰⁷.

Developing the cyber-crime evidence base: Future SCJS questions

As previously mentioned, a 'cyber flag' question was added to the SCJS in 2018/19 in the victim form section of the 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 involves a cyber-element. The first findings from these questions will be available in the 2018/19 SCJS Main Findings report.

In addition to this, the 2018/19 SCJS questionnaire contains a new set of cyber-crime questions that cover people's experiences of specific cyber-crime activities, the impact/harm resulting from experience, resulting changes in online behaviours and reporting of cyber-crimes. These questions were developed in conjunction with stakeholders and been cognitively tested.

The findings from these new cyber-crime questions will not be included in the main SCJS crime estimates, however they represent an important step in developing the cyber-crime evidence base in Scotland. This will help to improve our understanding of experiences amongst the population and also identify future priorities in terms of action and evidence needs.

More information, including the areas the questions cover, is available in the SCJS [2018/19 Questionnaire Review Paper](#).

¹⁰⁷Crime in England and Wales, Year ending September 2018. 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, breakdowns for demographic and area characteristics are provided in the 2017/18 SCJS [data tables](#).

The SCJS asked respondents whether they had experienced any incidents in which they were insulted, pestered or intimidated in any way (in person or some other means¹⁰⁸) by someone outwith their household in the year prior to interview¹⁰⁹. Additional information on other experiences of stalking and harassment are captured in the self-completion element of the SCJS and reported on in a [later section of this report](#), with the below summary focusing on key findings on this topic from the main (face-to-face) survey.

How common were experiences of harassment in Scotland in 2017/18?

Most adults did not experience any form of harassing or intimidating behaviour in 2017/18.

In 2017/18 such experiences were reported by 14% of adults, similar to the proportion of respondents who were victims of such incidents in 2008/09 and 2016/17.

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

Experiences of harassment in 2017/18 generally took place in person, with verbal abuse the most common behaviour encountered.

Looking at details provided by victims on their experience of harassment in 2017/18 (n=168) reveals that:

- the vast majority (84%) encountered some sort of issue 'in person', whilst only 16% 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 common¹¹⁰.
- most of those affected said they had experienced harassing behaviour on more than one occasion over the year with 37% reporting only one incident. One-in-five (20%) victims of harassment reported experiencing harassing behaviour on more than ten occasions or too many times to remember in the previous year.

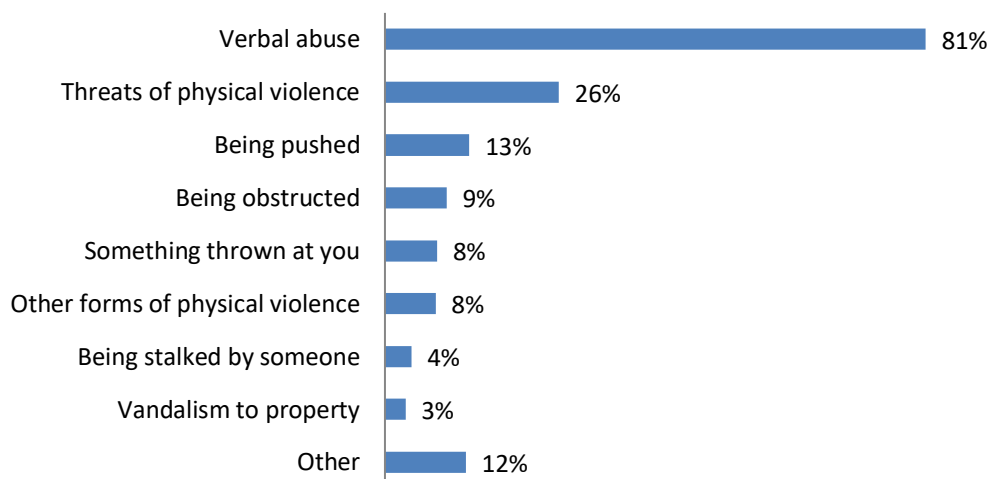
¹⁰⁸ Some other means includes writing and electronic communications.

¹⁰⁹ 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](#).

¹¹⁰ Further details on the insight the 2017/18 SCJS is able to shed on the relationship between the internet and crime and safety are outlined in the [earlier section focusing on cyber-crime](#).

- verbal abuse was the most common type of harassment experienced in 2017/18 – reported by 81% of victims. Other types of harassment, particularly those involving physical contact, were much less commonly experienced - each form of behaviour suffered by around one-in-ten victims as shown in Figure 8.2¹¹¹.

► **Figure 8.2: 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 (170); Variable: QHWHAT2

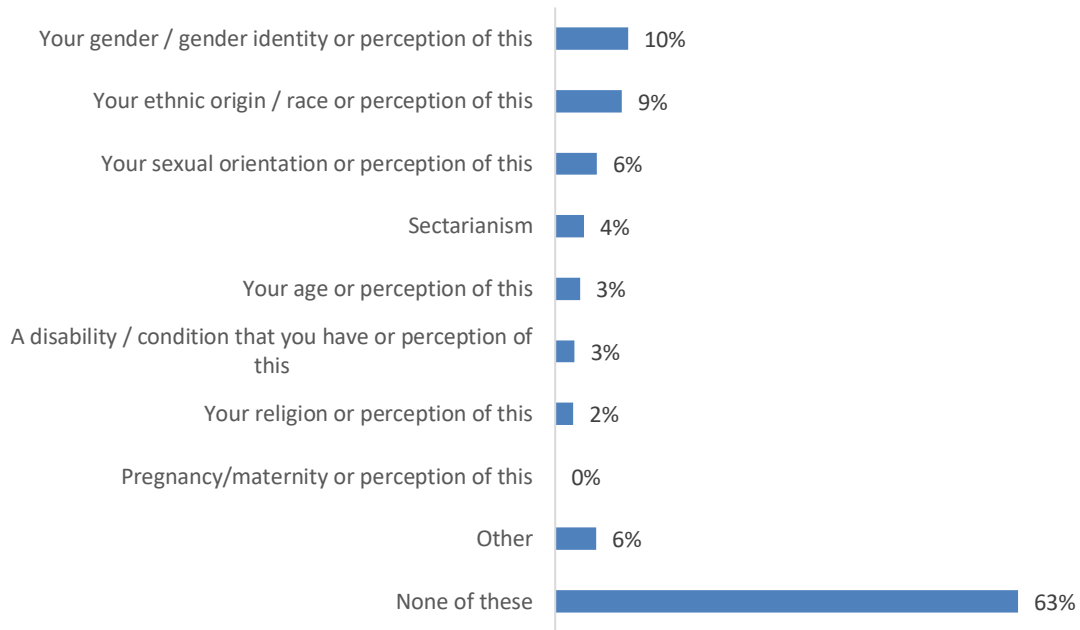
Most experiences of harassment were not perceived to have any particular motivating factor.

In order to explore whether incidents may have been related to discrimination, respondents who experienced harassment in 2017/18 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 in relation to their most recent (or only) experience are outlined in Figure 8.3.

It shows that one-in-ten victims of harassment (10%) thought that their gender, gender identity or perception of this was a possible motivating factor, with 9% believing their ethnic origin or race was an influence. Around two-thirds of harassment victims in 2017/18 (63%) did not think any of their characteristics were an influencing factor in their most recent experience.

¹¹¹ More in-depth analysis about the extent and nature of violent incidents in 2017/18 is provided in the [‘Focus on violent crime’](#) chapter, whilst an overview of [verbal and physical abuse encountered in the workplace](#) by public facing workers in 2017/18 is also provided in a bespoke section.

► **Figure 8.3: What respondents thought their most recent (or only) experience of harassment in last year was or may have been motivated by**



Base: All respondents who had been insulted, pestered or intimidated in previous 12 months (170). Variable: QHDISCRIM1

8.3 Focus on workplace abuse

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

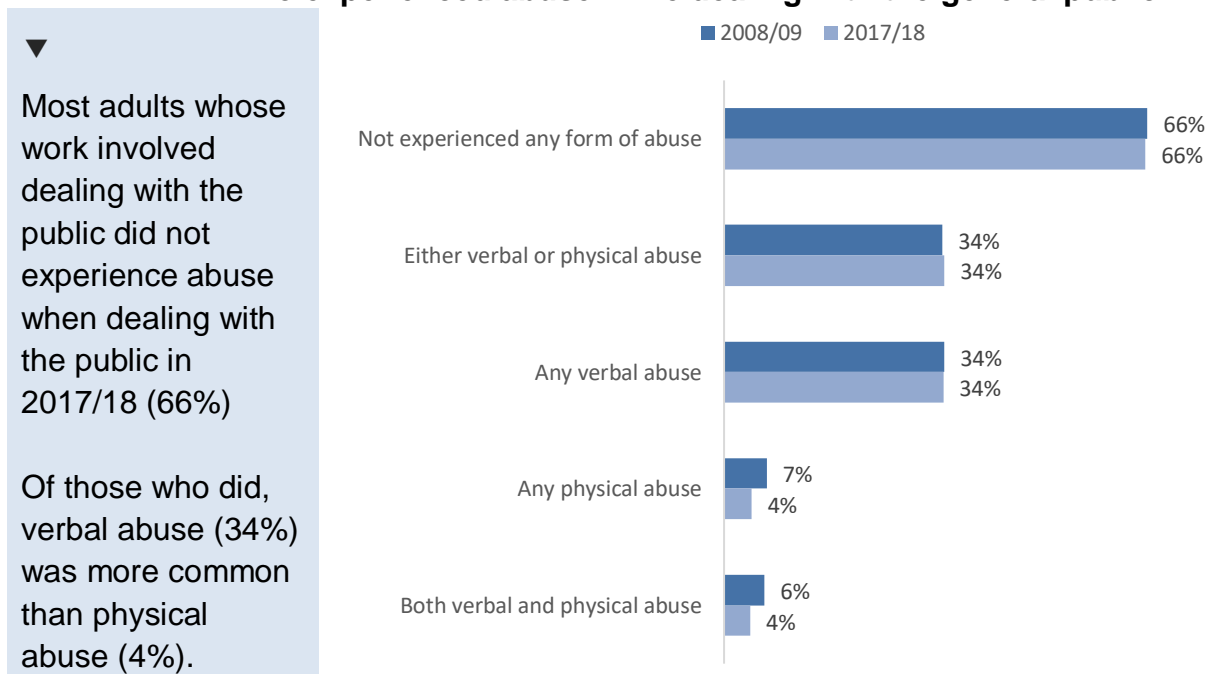
This section considers the experiences of adults in Scotland who spend time dealing with the general public while at work. The 2017/18 SCJS estimates that around three-quarters (73%) of adults in employment spent some time dealing with the general public during the course of their work, either face-to-face or over the telephone.

Most adults did not experience abuse when dealing with the public while at work in 2017/18. Of those who did, verbal abuse (34%) was more common than physical abuse (4%).

As shown below in Figure 8.4, most adults did not experience verbal or physical abuse when dealing with the public while at work in 2017/18 (66%). However, when abuse was encountered, verbal abuse was more common than physical abuse. In 2017/18, of those who dealt with the public at work, it is estimated that 34% of adults had experienced verbal abuse compared to 4% of adults who had experienced physical abuse.

These results from the 2017/18 on workplace abuse are similar to the results of the 2008/09 SCJS (when these questions were first included), as demonstrated in Figure 8.4. Each of the apparent differences are not statistically significant¹¹².

► **Figure 8.4: Proportion of adults who have contact with the public at work who experienced abuse while dealing with the general public**



Most adults whose work involved dealing with the public did not experience abuse when dealing with the public in 2017/18 (66%)

Of those who did, verbal abuse (34%) was more common than physical abuse (4%).

Base: Verbal abuse: adults who have contact with the public at work (2008/09: 1,530; 2017/18: 530). Physical abuse and either/both: adults who have face to face contact with the public (2008/09: 1,390; 2017/18: 490). Variables: QDVERB; QDPHYS.

¹¹² Figures for 2008/09 have been updated marginally since the 2016/17 SCJS report.

The relatively low prevalence of physical abuse in the 2017/18 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. This shows that *in or near the place of work* (28%) was the option most frequently selected by respondents in 2017/18 when they were 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 public¹¹³.

- Just under a third of adults (32%) experiencing verbal abuse from the general public at work said they experienced at least one verbal abuse incident per week, similar to 2008/09. 7% reported experiencing verbal abuse every day.
- 45% of adults who had experienced verbal abuse said they did not report the latest incident to their employer. The most common reasons for not reporting verbal abuse to their employer were "incidents such as these are just part of the job" (68%) and "it's not worth the bother" (30%).
- 65% of adults who experienced only verbal abuse said their last incident occurred during the week with 26% of incidents occurring at the weekend. The most common time of day to experience verbal abuse during the week was between noon and 6pm (33%)
- Of those who had experienced this type of abuse at work, 7% said it was or may have been motivated by their ethnic origin / race (or perception of this) and 6% 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 (79%).

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

Eighty-nine 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 9% worried a little about it. Similar results are found when looking at only those adults employed in public facing roles, where 87% said they did not worry much or at all about verbal or physical abuse happening at work, 2% worried a lot, and 12% worried a little.

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. 41% of adults said they had had formal training at work, while 7% had received other assistance at work to help deal with these situations.

¹¹³ The 2017/18 SCJS found just 23 respondents who had experienced physical abuse at work, but 182 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

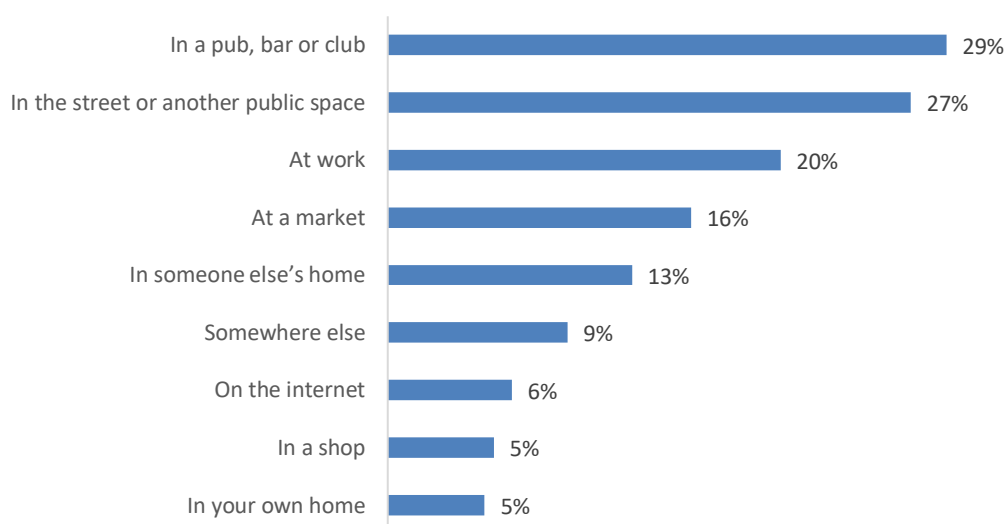
How common was the selling of fake or smuggled goods in 2017/18?

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

12% of adults said they had been offered any of the following fake or smuggled goods items: 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 (7%) and clothes (4%). Figure 8.5 shows where the most common places cigarettes/tobacco were offered to respondents¹¹⁴.

► **Figure 8.5: Places where respondents had been offered cigarettes/tobacco**



Base: Adults offered cigarettes/tobacco (100). Variable: QFKWHR.

Around three-in-five adults thought that the selling of fake and smuggled goods was common across Scotland, compared to just under 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 (19%). 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.

¹¹⁴ The relatively small number of respondents reporting being offered other types of goods means it is not possible to provide analysis on location for these items.

9. Summary chapters on SCJS self-completion modules

This section of the report presents results from the self-completion modules of the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey. These modules cover topics of a more sensitive nature and are therefore completed by the interviewee privately, without the interviewer knowing the responses. In a small proportion of cases, if the respondent was unable or unwilling to complete the questionnaire themselves but was happy to answer the questions, the interviewer administered (at least some of) the questionnaire on their behalf (see the [Technical Report](#) for more detail).

The topics covered in the self-completion modules, and in this section of the report, are:

- [illicit drug use](#)¹¹⁵;
- [stalking and harassment](#);
- [partner abuse](#); and
- [sexual victimisation](#).

As some respondents choose to not complete the self-completion questionnaire, the response rate and sample size is lower than the overall survey. In order to provide suitable sample sizes, 2016/17 and 2017/18 data has been combined to carry out analysis. The time period for the latest figures are referred to as 2016/18 throughout the self-completion results. Where relevant, examination of changes over time compares the latest findings with 2008/09 and the last self-completion results from 2014/15.

Due to a change in the survey in 2016/17, there were some issues with scripting and data collection. This has meant that the Illicit Drug Use chapter only covers data from 2017/18, and the other self-completion sections present results derived from data from 2016/17 Quarter 2 (July to September) up to the end March 2018 (so exclude data collected from April to June 2016). More details on these issues and an explanation of why these mitigating steps were taken can be found in the [Technical Report](#), however it should be noted that the underlying data used to derive the results presented in the report has been assessed to be robust.

Tables on the data covered in this report, and some additional findings, can be found on the [SCJS webpages](#).

¹¹⁵ The majority of drugs covered in this section are illicit, however some drugs which aren't illegal to use are also included.

9.1 Illicit Drug Use

The aim of the illicit drug use questionnaire is to provide an insight into the prevalence of drug use in Scotland amongst those aged 16 or over.

Three different time periods are considered: whether respondents have used drugs at some point in their lives (ever), in the last 12 months, and in the last month (prior to answering the survey). Reported behaviour 'in the last 12 months'¹¹⁶ is considered to be the most stable measure of drug use, especially when comparing use over time, and so this reference period is used most throughout this chapter.

The figures in this chapter refer to the results of interviews with almost 5,000 respondents in 2017/18¹¹⁷. Further details on why 2016/17 data is not included can be found in the [Technical Report](#).

Drugs included

Respondents were asked about their usage of 19 drugs. The majority of these drugs were illicit at the time of the survey, but the list also included some drugs which were not controlled. These were namely poppers, glues, solvents, gas or aerosol. These have been included in analysis of adults reporting drug use in Scotland. Any analysis that excludes the drugs which are not illicit clearly states so.

The drugs are categorised in some of the analysis by composite group in accordance with the Drugs Wheel¹¹⁸: Cannabinoids, Stimulants, Opioids, Depressants, Psychedelics, Dissociatives, Empathogens, and an additional category of Steroids; and by their classification: Class A, B or C (as defined in the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971). A full list of the drugs and their categorisations can be found in [Annex D](#).

It is important to note that drugs is a dynamic area with new substances appearing on the market and relatively frequent changes to legal classification. This is reflected in the survey design.

For example, most novel psychoactive substances (sometimes known as 'legal highs') are now covered by the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016, with some explicitly listed under the Misuse of Drugs Act. Other drugs, such as Ketamine, have been reclassified within the Misuse of Drugs Act. These changes in classification have the potential to impact on overall rates of illicit drug use.

New drugs which were not previously widely available have also been included in the survey, for example GHB/GBL was included in the 2017/18 survey but was not in the preceding sweeps. Most new drugs included only account for a small proportion of reported drug usage, for example in 2017/18 0.4% of respondents reported ever taking GHB/GBL. Alternatively, some drugs which were previously asked about in the survey are

¹¹⁶ The 12 months prior to interview for each survey sweep.

¹¹⁷ This is due to issues with the illicit drug use section in the 2016/17 questionnaire which meant the categorisation and groupings of drugs was incorrect, and therefore the results were not accurate or comparable with previous years. This issue was resolved for the 2017/18 questionnaire.

¹¹⁸ <http://www.thedrugswheel.com/>

no longer included. Therefore, any comparisons made with previous years' in this chapter should be treated with caution.

What was the prevalence of drug use in Scotland in 2017/18?

Looking at comparable measures¹¹⁹, where the drug types included in the survey are generally consistent over time, drug use has increased since 2014/15 from 6.0% to 7.4%, but is unchanged since 2008/09.

In 2017/18, 7.4% of respondents reported taking one or more of these drugs in the last 12 months. This has increased from 6.0% in 2014/15, but is unchanged since 2008/09 (7.6%).

Table 9.1 shows the percentage of respondents reporting drug use in the three time periods; ever, in the last 12 months, and in the last month. It is important to note that some drugs included in the 'prescription only painkillers that were not prescribed to you' category may include variants which are of such low strength they are exempt from almost all controlled drug requirements. As they were included in the survey for the first time in 2017/18, for comparability, the figures in Table 9.1 below exclude non-illicit drugs and prescription only painkillers that were not prescribed to the respondent.

► **Table 9.1: Percentage reporting use of comparable illicit drugs, 2008/09 to 2017/18**

Time period	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15	2017/18	Percentage point change	
							Change since 2008/09	Change since 2014/15
Ever	25.6%	25.2%	23.7%	23.0%	22.1%	27.8%	↑ by 2.2	↑ by 5.7
In the last 12 months	7.6%	7.2%	6.6%	6.2%	6.0%	7.4%	No change	↑ by 1.4
In the last month	4.4%	4.2%	3.5%	3.3%	3.3%	3.6%	No change	No change
<i>Number of respondents</i>	10,960	13,410	10,980	10,220	9,970	4,890		

Variables: QEVE_ANY; Q12M_ANY; Q1M_ANY

The percentage of respondents reporting that they had ever taken one or more comparable illicit drug (27.8%) is an increase on the percentage in 2014/15 (22.1%) and in 2008/09 (25.6%). This increase is predominately driven by an increase in respondents [reporting taking cannabis](#). However, it is recommended these changes are interpreted with caution as this is a lifetime measurement so would not be expected to change much, if at all, over this relatively short period of time. As well as a potentially true increase in usage in the underlying adult population, there a number of other factors which may contribute to this increase in the overall figure. For example, public and media focus on the debate around legalisation of some drugs, such as cannabis, may have affected views on acceptable usage and willingness to report personal use of drugs in surveys such as this. It will be important to monitor this in the future.

¹¹⁹ Excludes poppers, glues, solvents, gas and aerosols, and prescription only painkillers that were not prescribed to you.

9.5% of respondents reported having taken one or more of any of the listed drugs in the last 12 months.

Of these listed drugs¹²⁰, however, not all are illicit. When excluding non-illicit drugs¹²¹, 9.3% of respondents reported having taken one or more illicit drug in the last 12 months. Figures on the proportion of adults who reported using each individual listed drug in the 12 months prior to interview, as well as ever, are available in the supporting [data tables](#).

11.6% of adults reported that someone had offered to give or sell them at least one type of listed drug in the last 12 months.

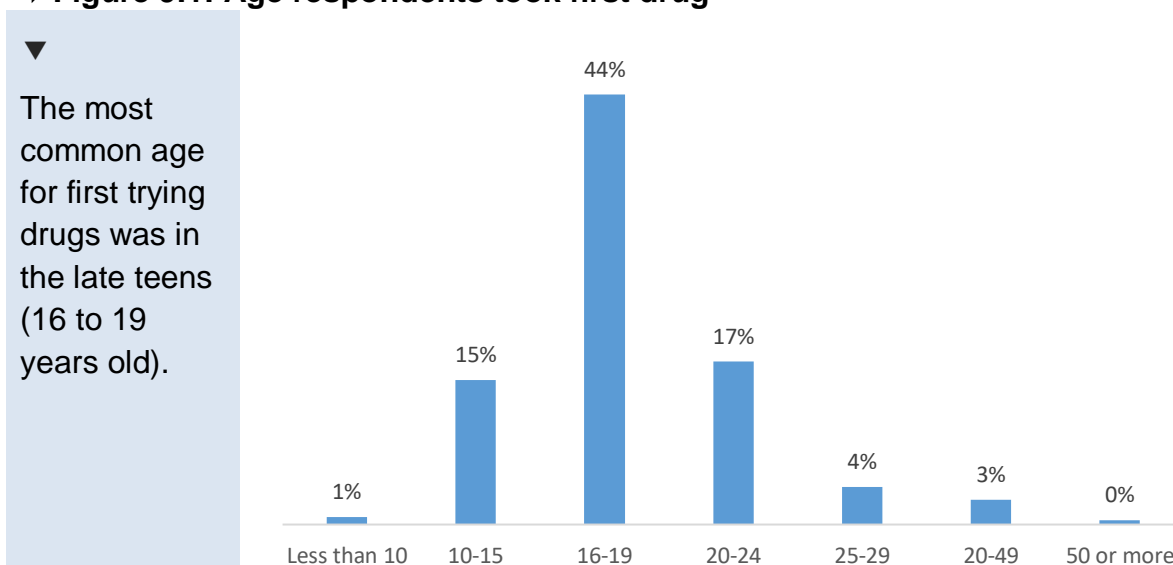
Just over one-in-ten adults (11.6%) reported being offered drugs in the 12 months prior to interview in 2017/18. This has decreased from 13.7% in 2008/09. The most common drug respondents stated they had been offered in the last 12 months was cannabis (8.5%).

Around half (50%) of respondents who had been offered drugs in the last 12 months had taken at least one of the drugs asked about in the survey in the year prior to interview. Of those who had not taken drugs in the last 12 months, 6% said they had been offered drugs in that time period.

The most common age for first trying drugs was in the late teens (16 to 19 years old).

Over two-fifths (44%) of respondents who reported having ever taken drugs said that they were aged between 16 and 19 when they took their first drug, as shown in Figure 9.1.

► **Figure 9.1: Age respondents took first drug**



Base: All respondents ever taking drugs (1,380). Variable: QDRAGE

What types of drugs were most commonly used in 2017/18?

The most commonly reported drug used in the last 12 months was cannabis.

Respondents who reported taking drugs in the last 12 months were asked what drugs they had taken in that time period. Cannabis was the most commonly reported drug, with 70%

¹²⁰ This figure includes poppers, glues, solvents, gas or aerosols, and prescription only painkillers that were not prescribed to you. For a list of the drugs included in the survey, see [Annex D](#).

¹²¹ Poppers, glues, solvents, gas or aerosols.

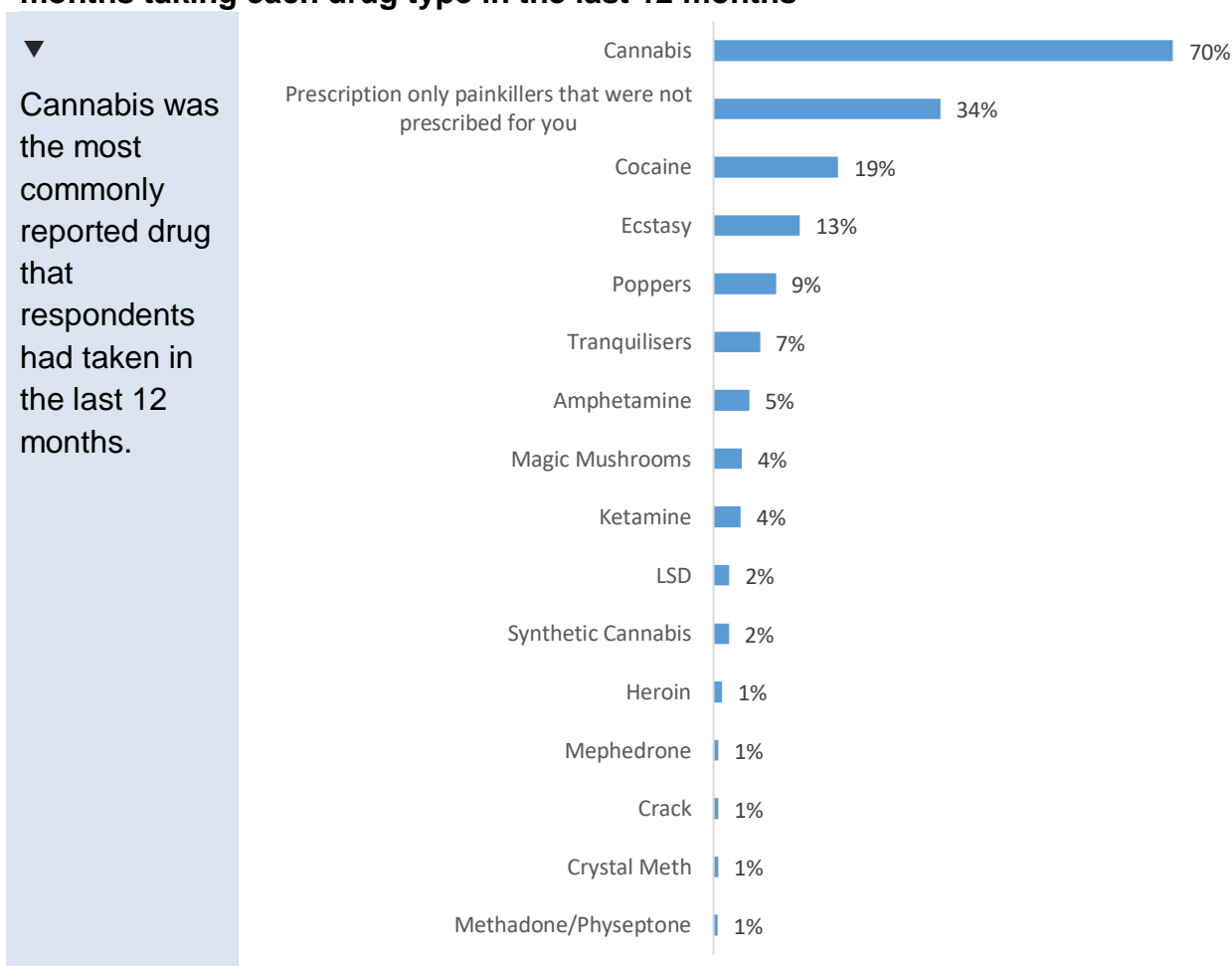
of respondents who had taken any drugs in the last 12 months reporting they had taken cannabis.

Of those who had taken cannabis in the last 12 months, over half (59%) had not taken any other drugs in the same time period. Just over a quarter (28%) said it was something they 'only tried once or twice', 60% said they had taken cannabis 'more than once or twice but would not or did not have difficulty giving up', and 10% said it was something they needed or were dependent on at some point in the last 12 months.

The 2017/18 survey also provides the first estimates on use of synthetic cannabis (also known as 'spice'). Of those who had taken drugs in the last 12 months, 2% said they had taken synthetic cannabis.

Figure 9.2 below shows the drugs taken in the last 12 months reported (by those who have taken any drugs in the last 12 months).

► **Figure 9.2: Percentage of respondents who had taken any drug in the last 12 months taking each drug type in the last 12 months**



Base: All respondents taking drugs in the last 12 months (370). Variable: Q12M

Note: drugs reported by less than 1% have been omitted from this chart. These are glues, solvents, gas or aerosols; anabolic steroids; and GHB/GBL.

The percentages total to more than 100% as respondents could select multiple answers.

Cannabis was the drug which respondents most commonly reported taking in their lifetime.

Around a quarter (25.5%) of all respondents reported having ever taken cannabis, up from 22.9% in 2008/09. This was significantly more than the proportion of respondents who reported having taken any of the other drugs asked about, with the next commonly reported being prescription only painkillers that were not prescribed to you (9.1%), Ecstasy (8.7%) and Cocaine (8.6%).

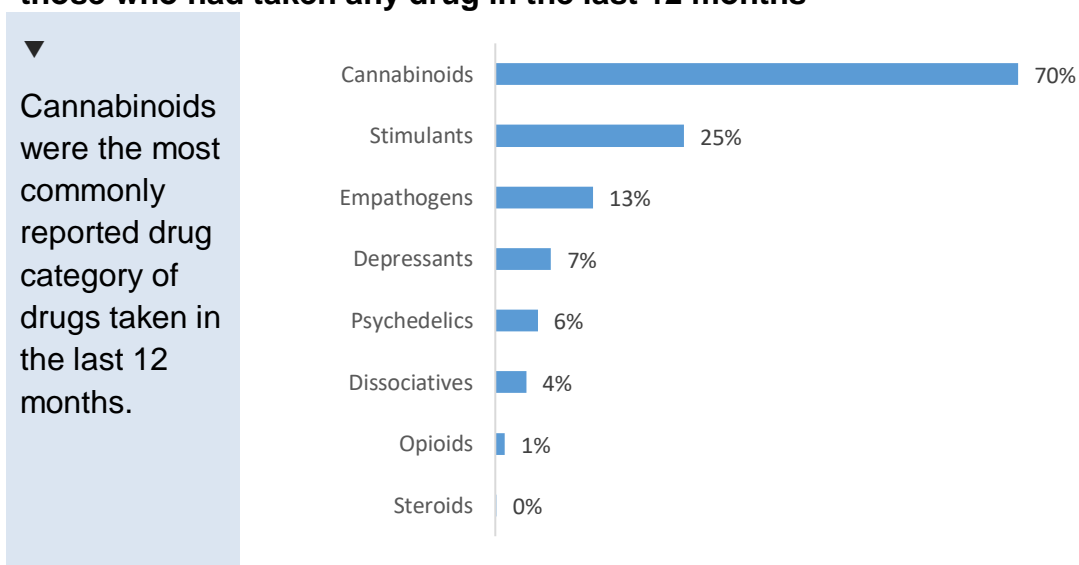
Respondents are also asked if they had ever taken ‘legal highs’¹²², known as Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS), even if it was a long time ago. Out of all respondents, 1.8% reported that they had. This was higher amongst those aged between 25 and 44 than those aged 45 to 59 and 60 or over, with 4.3% of them having tried ‘legal highs’ compared to 0.7% and 0.2%, respectively. There was no difference between the proportion of those aged 16 to 24 and 25 to 44 having taken legal highs.

Cannabinoids were the most common category of drug taken.

Drugs included in the survey were grouped into categories using the Drugs Wheel¹²³; more information of these groups, and drug classes, is outlined in [Annex D](#).

Of those who reported taking drugs in the last 12 months, the most common type of drug taken in the last 12 months were cannabinoids (70%). Figure 9.3 shows the percentages who reported taking each type of drug in the last 12 months.

► Figure 9.3: Percentage taking drugs in each category in the last 12 months, of those who had taken any drug in the last 12 months



Base: All respondents taking drugs in the last 12 months (370). Variable: Q12M

Class B were the most common class of drug taken.

Class B (which includes Cannabis) were the most commonly taken class of drugs in the last 12 months, with 71% of respondents who had taken any drug in the last 12 months

¹²² These are a range of substances which were previously described by some as ‘legal highs’, ‘designer drugs’, or ‘new drugs’ that have the same effects as drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, or cocaine. They are herbal or synthetic substances that people take to get ‘high’. In May 2016, the Psychoactive Substances Act came into force, which intends to restrict the production, sale, and supply of novel psychoactive substances.

¹²³ <http://www.thedrugswheel.com/>

having taken a Class B drug; 26% of respondents a Class A drug; and 7% a Class C drug. Although not presented in this summary report, if comparing changes in the use of different classes of drugs over time, it is important to note that the classifications of certain drugs (for example Ketamine) have changed over time, which may contribute to changes in the different class groups over time.

Are some population groups more likely to have used drugs?

The percentage of respondents who reported taking drugs in the last 12 months varied by characteristics of the respondents such as their gender, age, victim status (whether a victims of a crime in the main SCJS questionnaire) and by area deprivation (SIMD). Table 9.2 below shows the percentage of all respondents who reported taking drugs in the last 12 months, by these characteristics. Findings on drug use 'ever' by such breakdowns are provided in online [data tables](#).

► **Table 9.2: Percentage taking drugs in each category in the last 12 months, by demographic and area characteristics**

	Characteristics	% of adults	Base
Gender	Male	9.4%	2,250
	Female	5.5%	2,640
Age-group	16-24	19.2%	380
	25-44	12.3%	1,370
	45-59	3.4%	1,270
	60 or over	0.5%	1,870
Victim status in main questionnaire	Victim	14.2%	560
	Non-victim	6.4%	4,320
Socio-economic deprivation	15% most deprived	10.4%	670
	Rest of Scotland	6.9%	4,210
All adults		7.4%	4,880

Variable: Q12M. Note: these figures exclude poppers, glues, solvents, gas or aerosols and prescription only painkillers that were not prescribed to the respondent to enable comparability between years¹²⁴.

Gender

A higher percentage of male respondents than female respondents reported taking one or more illicit drug, both in the last 12 months and ever (9.4% compared to 5.5%, and 34.1% compared to 22.0%, respectively).

¹²⁴ A breakdown of the characteristics including these drugs is available in the [online data tables](#).

Age

Those aged 16 to 24 were most likely to have taken drugs in the last 12 months, with almost one-in-five (19.2%) in this category reporting use compared to around one-in-two-hundred of those aged 60 and over (0.5%).

Victim status

Of those who were victims of SCJS crime¹²⁵ in the main SCJS survey, 14.2% reported having taken illicit drugs in the last 12 months. This is higher than the 6.4% of those who were not classified as victims of SCJS crime.

Almost two-fifths (40%) of those who classified as victims in the main survey reported having ever taken illicit drugs, compared to 26% of those who were not classified as victims.

Deprivation

Those living in the 15% most deprived areas of Scotland were more likely to report having taken illicit drugs in the last 12 months (10.4%), than those who lived in the rest of Scotland (6.9%).

When looking at those who reported ever taking drugs however, there was no significant difference between those living in more and less deprived areas.

¹²⁵ A victim is defined as a respondent who reported crimes or offences in the main questionnaire (excluding sexual offences and threats) that are within the scope of the survey, took place in Scotland, and occurred within the reference period.

9.1 Stalking and Harassment

Respondents of the SCJS are asked about their experiences of stalking and harassment in the 12 months prior to interview, including victim-offender relationships and reporting to the police.

Further results on experiences of harassment and discrimination (based on questions in the main survey about being insulted, pestered or intimidated) are provided in an [earlier section of this report](#).

The Stalking and Harassment self-completion module of the SCJS asks respondents if they have experienced, more than once, one or more of the following types of incidents:

- Being sent unwanted letters or cards on a number of occasions
- Being sent unwanted emails or text messages or posts on social media sites on a number of occasions
- Receiving a number of unwanted phone calls
- Having someone waiting outside their home or workplace on more than one occasion
- Being followed around on more than one occasion
- Having intimate pictures of them shared without their consent, for example by text, on a website, or on a social media site on more than one occasion

The stalking and harassment questions in the SCJS were updated with effect from 2016/17 in order to improve the quality of the data collected, and make the data more useful for capturing the different types of stalking and harassment that people experience. The experience question was changed to include the term 'more than once' which may also have an effect on the results. Due to these changes in the questionnaire, **it is advised that users do not directly compare these results with previous years**. This will be monitored in upcoming years, with the 2016/18 results from the updated question used as a baseline for future comparisons.

The question in the SCJS differs from the official legislation which defines stalking as an offence¹²⁶. This chapter however provides information on the six behaviours outlined above, each of which can be viewed as a form of stalking and harassment. The data do not show whether respondents themselves viewed their experiences as stalking or harassment; some respondents may also have included incidents which would not be classed as stalking and harassment, for example, potentially, receiving cold-calling sales phone calls.

¹²⁶ In Scotland, the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010 legislates for the offence of stalking. Under the Act, an offence occurs when a person engages in a course of conduct on at least two separate occasions, which causes another person to feel fear or alarm, where the accused person intended, or knew or ought to have known, that their conduct would cause fear and alarm.

Unlike more clear-cut types of crime (for example, house-breaking or assault), the classification of stalking is more subjective, insofar as the offence is dependent on whether or not the victim felt afraid.

The figures in this section refer to the two years 2016/17 and 2017/18 combined. This is referred to throughout the chapter as 2016/18. For more information, see the [Technical Report](#).

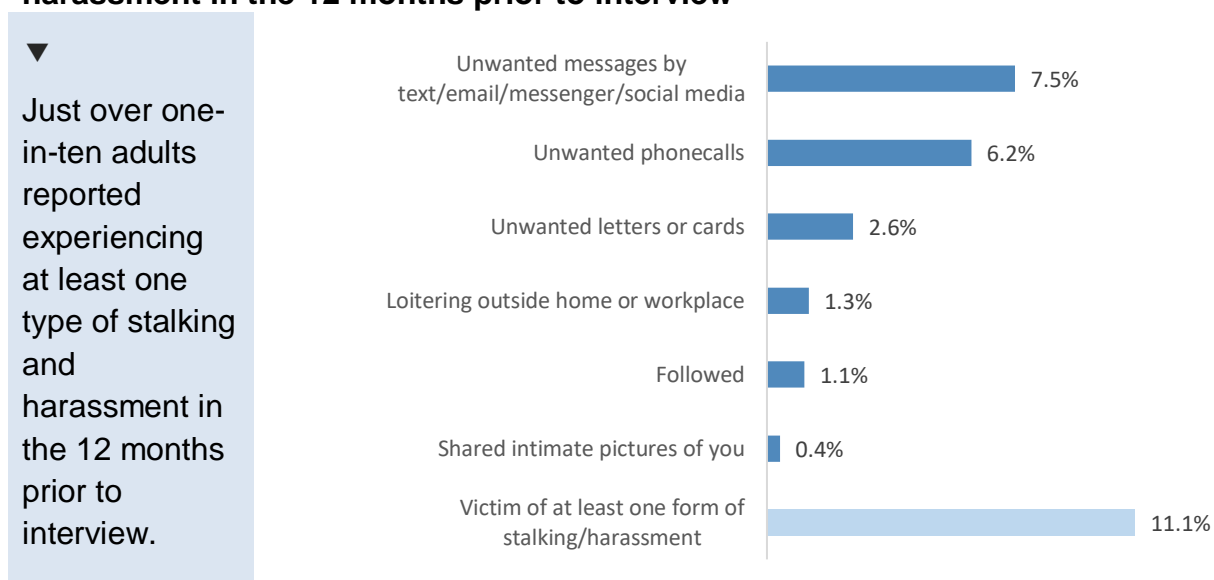
What can the 2016/18 SCJS results tell us about stalking and harassment in Scotland?

In the 12 months prior to interview, 11.1% of adults experienced at least one type of stalking and harassment.

Just over one-in-ten adults (11.1%) reported experiencing at least one type of stalking and harassment in the year prior to interview. Over the same period 5.8% reported experiencing more than one type.

Figure 9.4 below shows the percentage of respondents who reported experiencing the different forms of stalking and harassment in the 12 months prior to interview in 2016/18.

► **Figure 9.4: Percentage of respondents reporting experiencing stalking and harassment in the 12 months prior to interview**



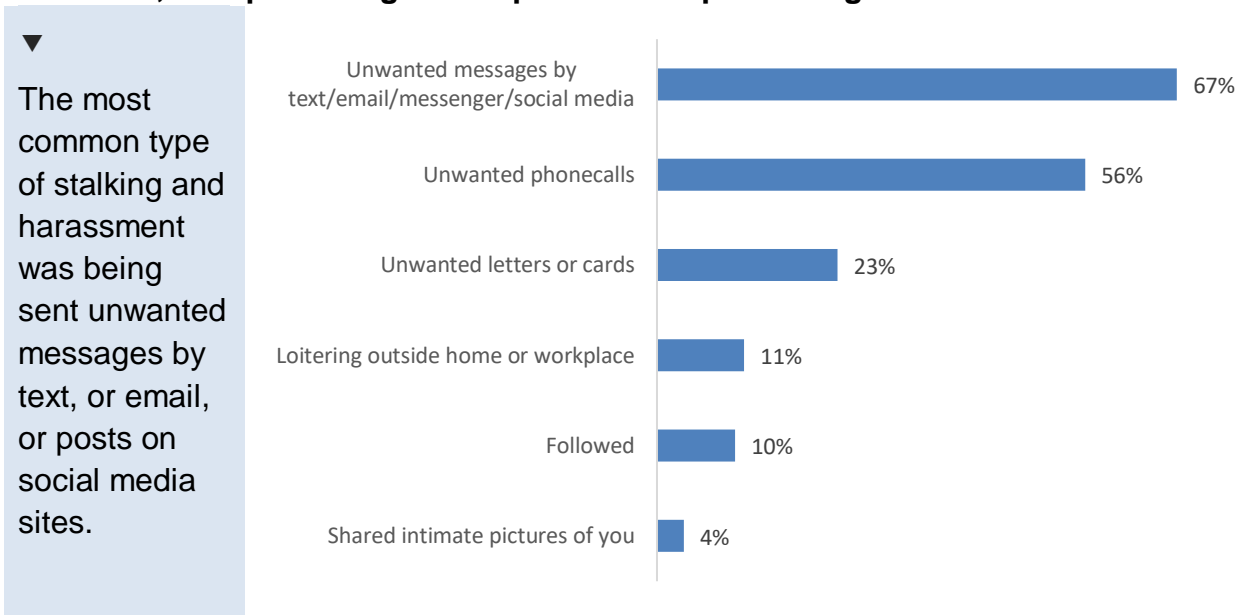
Base: All respondents (8,830). Variable: SH_0

What can the 2016/18 SCJS results tell us about the types stalking and harassment most commonly experienced?

The most common type of stalking and harassment reported in the SCJS was being sent unwanted messages by text, or email, or posts on social media sites.

Figure 9.5 below shows the distribution of different types of stalking and harassment amongst those who experienced at least one form of stalking and harassment. The most common type of stalking and harassment involved being sent unwanted messages by text, email, messenger or posts on social media sites. This was experienced by 67% of all those who had experienced at least one form of stalking and harassment.

► **Figure 9.5: Type of stalking and harassment experienced in the 12 months prior to interview, as a percentage of respondents experiencing at least one form**



Base: All respondents experiencing at least one type of stalking & harassment in the 12 months prior to interview (930). Variable: SH_0

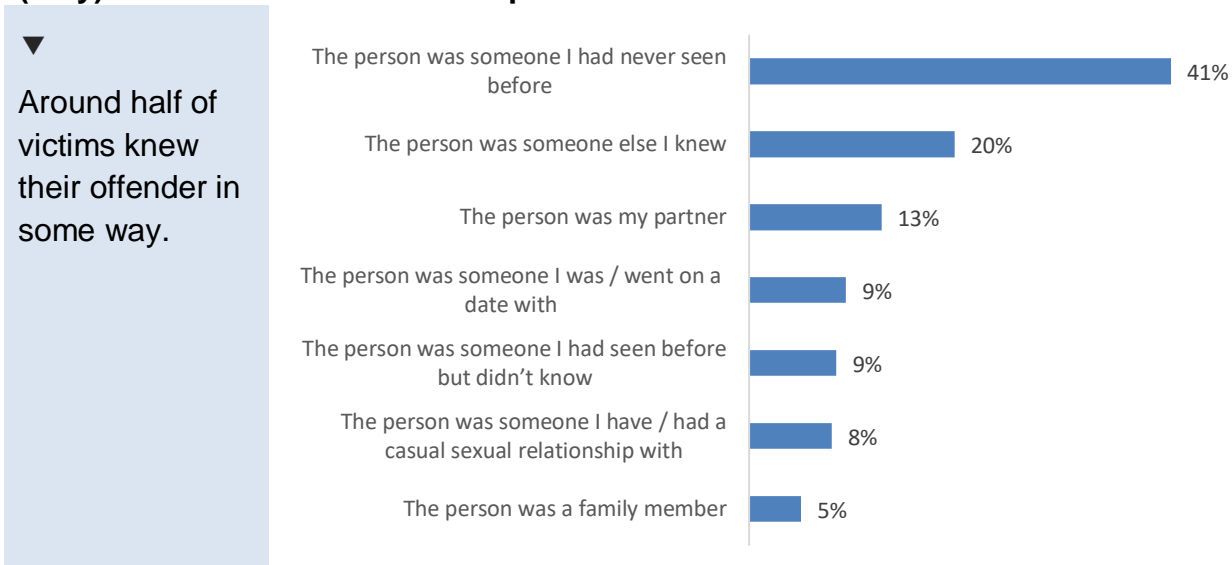
Around half of victims knew the offender in some way.

The relationship between victims and offenders is not always straightforward. Around half (50%) of respondents who experienced at least one form of stalking and harassment in the 12 months prior to interview reported having known the offender(s) in some way, while 13% said the offender was their partner. Just over two-fifths (41%) of respondents said the offender was someone they had never seen before.

Of those who had experienced more than one form of stalking and harassment in the 12 months prior to interview, 37% said that the same offender was involved.

Figure 9.6 below shows the relationship between the victim and offender(s) in relation to the most recent (or only) incident of stalking or harassment in the 12 months prior to interview.

► **Figure 9.6: The relationship of the offender to the respondent for the most recent (only) incident in the 12 months prior to interview**



Base: All respondents experiencing at least one type of stalking & harassment in the 12 months prior to interview (930). Variable: SH_2

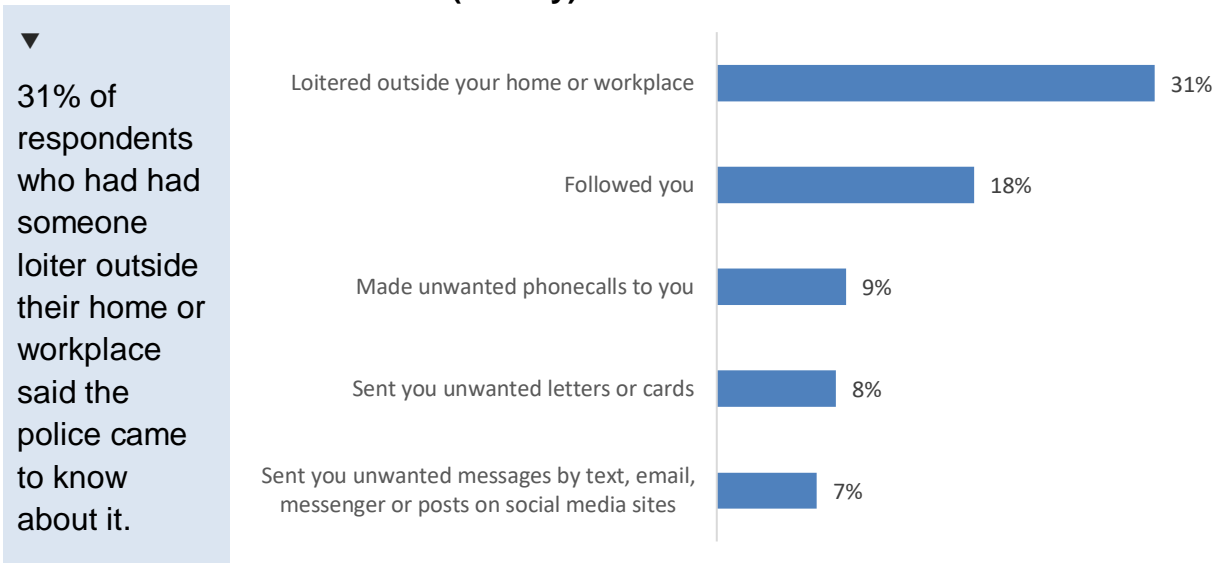
The police were informed about the most recent incident in around one-in-ten cases.

Respondents who had experienced at least one incident of stalking and harassment in the 12 months prior to interview were asked if the police were informed about the most recent (or only) incident. Of these respondents, just under one-in-ten (9%) said that the police came to know about the most recent incident.

There was no significant difference between the proportion of men and women who reported the most recent incident to the police (11% and 7%, respectively).

Reporting behaviour to the police varied according to the type of stalking and harassment, with reporting rates highest amongst those who had someone loitering outside their home or workplace. Figure 9.7 below shows the results for the types of stalking and harassment. Note that having intimate pictures of themselves without their consent is not included in this due to the small number of respondents reporting this.

► **Figure 9.7: Percentage of respondents who had experienced each type of stalking & harassment, in the 12 months prior to interview, who reported the police came to know about the most recent (or only) incident**



▼
31% of respondents who had had someone loiter outside their home or workplace said the police came to know about it.

Base: All respondents experiencing, in the 12 months prior to interview, loitering outside their home or workplace (110); being followed (90); unwanted phone calls made (520); sent unwanted letters or cards (230); sent you unwanted messages by text, email, messenger, or posts on social media sites (610).
Variable: SH_6

The most common reason for not reporting the most recent (or only) incident to the police was that the respondent felt the incident was too trivial/not worth reporting (44%), followed by the victim dealing with the incident themselves (30%).

Are some population groups more likely to have experienced stalking and harassment?

Experiences of stalking and harassment varied by age group and victim status in the main questionnaire¹²⁷. Table 9.3 below shows the varying proportion of respondents experiencing at least one form of stalking and harassment in the 12 months prior to interview, by respondent characteristics.

¹²⁷ A victim is defined as a respondent who reported crimes or offences in the main questionnaire (excluding sexual offences and threats) that are within the scope of the survey, took place in Scotland, and occurred within the reference period.

► **Table 9.3: Experience of stalking and harassment by demographic and area characteristics**

Characteristics		% of adults	Base
Gender	Male	10.5%	4,050
	Female	11.6%	4,780
Age-group	16-24	19.0%	690
	25-44	13.9%	2,480
	45-59	8.7%	2,390
	60 or over	6.7%	3,260
Victim status in main questionnaire	Victim	19.1%	1,020
	Non-victim	9.9%	7,800
Socio-economic deprivation	15% most deprived	13.3%	1,220
	Rest of Scotland	10.7%	7,610
All adults		11.1%	8,830

Variable: SH_0

Gender

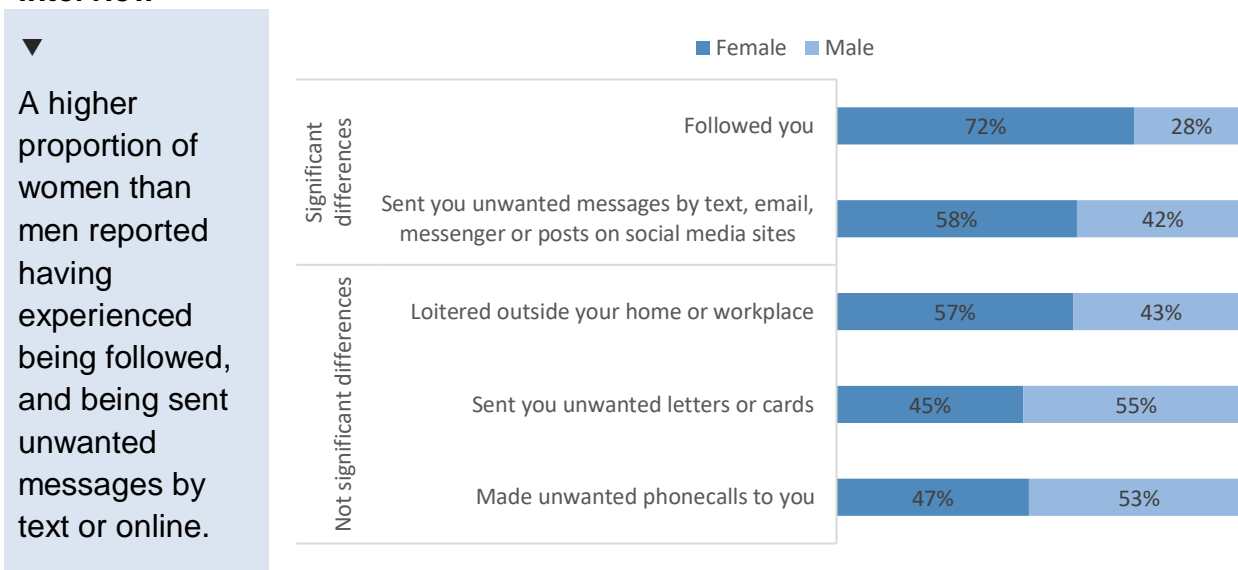
Table 9.3 shows that the survey found no difference in the proportion experiencing stalking and harassment in the 12 months prior to interview for men and women (10.5% and 11.6%, respectively).

Looking at the gender split by type of stalking and harassment, more women than men reported being followed (1.6% compared to 0.6%, respectively) or receiving unwanted messages by text, email, messenger, or posts on social media (8.4% compared to 6.5%, respectively).

Figure 9.8 below shows the gender split of those who reported experiencing each of the types stalking and harassment¹²⁸.

¹²⁸ Note that having intimate pictures of themselves shared online without their consent is not included in this due to the small number of respondents reporting this.

► **Figure 9.8: Gender of victims of types of stalking & harassment, as a proportion of those experiencing that type of stalking & harassment in the 12 months prior to interview**



Base: All respondents, in the 12 months prior to interview, experiencing loitering outside their home or workplace (110); being followed (90); unwanted phone calls made (520); sent unwanted letters or cards (230); sent you unwanted messages by text, email, messenger, or posts on social media sites (610).
Variable: SH_6

Age

Experiences of at least one form of stalking and harassment were higher amongst those aged 16 to 24 (19.0%), than any other age group.

The results have also been broken down by both age and gender together, as notable differences in experience of stalking and harassment between genders within different age groups were expected. These figures can be found in full in the [online data tables](#) (for this finding and a range of other measures across the survey).

Experiences of stalking and harassment were higher among women aged 16 to 24 (26.9%), compared to men of the same age (12.1%).

Victim Status

Those who reported being a victim of a crime in the main survey were more likely to report having experienced stalking and harassment. Almost a fifth (19.1%) of those who reported being a victim in the main survey also reported experiencing stalking and harassment, compared to 9.9% of those who did not report themselves as victims in the main survey.

Around half (50%) of those who had experienced partner abuse in the 12 months prior to interview had also experienced stalking and harassment in the same period.

Deprivation

There was no difference in the proportion experiencing stalking and harassment between those living in the 15% most deprived areas and the rest of Scotland.

9.3 Partner Abuse

Respondents to the SCJS are asked about their experiences of partner¹²⁹ abuse since the age of 16 and in the 12 months prior to interview, both psychological and physical.

Partner abuse in the SCJS is defined as ‘any form of physical, non-physical or sexual abuse, which takes place within the context of a close relationship, committed either in the home or elsewhere. This relationship will be between partners (married, co-habiting or otherwise) or ex-partners.’ This definition is consistent with the definition adopted by Police Scotland in recording domestic violence.

The definition of partner abuse in Scotland in the future will also include psychological abuse in accordance with the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018¹³⁰. The types of psychological abuse asked about in the survey already capture some elements of this, however stakeholder engagement will be taking place over the next year to review the partner abuse section of the survey and consider whether the question set should be updated.

The definition of partner abuse is not introduced at the start of the survey and the terms ‘partner abuse’ or ‘domestic abuse’ are not used in the survey until the final question of the section. Rather respondents are asked to identify which, if any, of the following psychological and physical abusive behaviours they have experienced since the age of 16, and in the 12 months prior to interview:

Psychological partner abuse

- Stopped you having your fair share of the household money or taken money from you
- Stopped you from seeing friends and relatives
- Repeatedly put you down so that you felt worthless
- Behaved in a jealous or controlling way
- Forced you to view material which you considered to be pornography
- Threatened to kill or attempted to kill themselves as a way of making you do something or stopping you from doing something
- Threatened to, attempted to or actually hurt themselves as a way of making you do something or stopping you from doing something
- Threatened you with a weapon, for example an ashtray or a bottle
- Threatened to hurt you
- Threatened to hurt someone close to you, such as your children, family members, friends or pets
- Threatened to hurt your other/previous partner

¹²⁹ A ‘partner’ is defined in the SCJS is defined to be any husband, wife, boyfriend, girlfriend, or civil partner.

¹³⁰ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2018/5>

- Threatened to kill you

Physical partner abuse

- Pushed you or held you down
- Kicked, bitten, or hit you
- Thrown something at you with the intention of causing harm
- Choked or tried to strangle/smother you
- Used a weapon against you, for example an ashtray or a bottle
- Forced you or tried to force you to have sexual intercourse when you did not want to
- Forced you or tried to force you to take part in another sexual activity when you did not want to

There may be some overlap between the incidents of partner abuse detailed in this chapter, and the incidents of [stalking and harassment](#) and [sexual victimisation](#) detailed in elsewhere in this report which are asked about in separate parts of the self-completion questionnaire. Given that sexual victimisation and partner abuse can involve similar behaviours and experiences, it is possible that some incidents detailed in this report are duplicated in the sexual victimisation chapter. It is also possible that some partner abuse detailed in this report constituted sexual victimisation and/or stalking and harassment, but were not viewed or reported as such by respondents.

It is important to note that the results presented in this chapter are respondent's self-reported views of incidents.

The latest results presented below are from two sweeps of the SCJS combined (2016/17 and 2017/18). This is referred to throughout the chapter as 2016/18. For more information, see the [Technical Report](#).

What can the 2016/18 SCJS results tell us about partner abuse in Scotland?

15.6% of adults have experienced at least one incident of partner abuse since the age of 16.

Overall, 15.6% of respondents¹³¹ reported experiencing at least one form of partner abuse, either psychological or physical, since the age of 16. This is an increase on the 2014/15 figure (14.1%), but a decrease since 2008/09 (18.2%). Table 9.4 shows the time series since 2008/09. However, it is recommended these changes are interpreted with caution as this is a lifetime measurement so would not be expected to change much, if at all, over this relatively short period of time.

¹³¹ Note that in the SCJS respondents are only asked the questions relating to partner abuse if they have had at least one partner since the age of 16, hence the base size for respondents in this section is 8,110.

► **Table 9.4: Percentage of respondents experiencing types of partner abuse since the age of 16, 2008/09 to 2016/18¹³²**

Abuse type	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15	2016/18	Percentage point change	
							Change since 2008/09	Change since 2014/15
Psychological abuse	15.1%	13.4%	13.4%	12.0%	12.2%	13.8%	No change	↑ by 1.6
Physical abuse	13.2%	11.9%	12.0%	9.2%	9.6%	10.2%	↓ by 3.0	No change
Both psychological AND physical abuse	10.0%	8.9%	9.1%	7.4%	7.7%	8.4%	↓ by 1.6	No change
Any psychological OR physical abuse	18.2%	16.4%	16.3%	13.8%	14.1%	15.6%	↓ by 2.8	↑ by 1.5
<i>Number of respondents</i>	10,110	12,730	10,400	9,650	9,310	8,110		

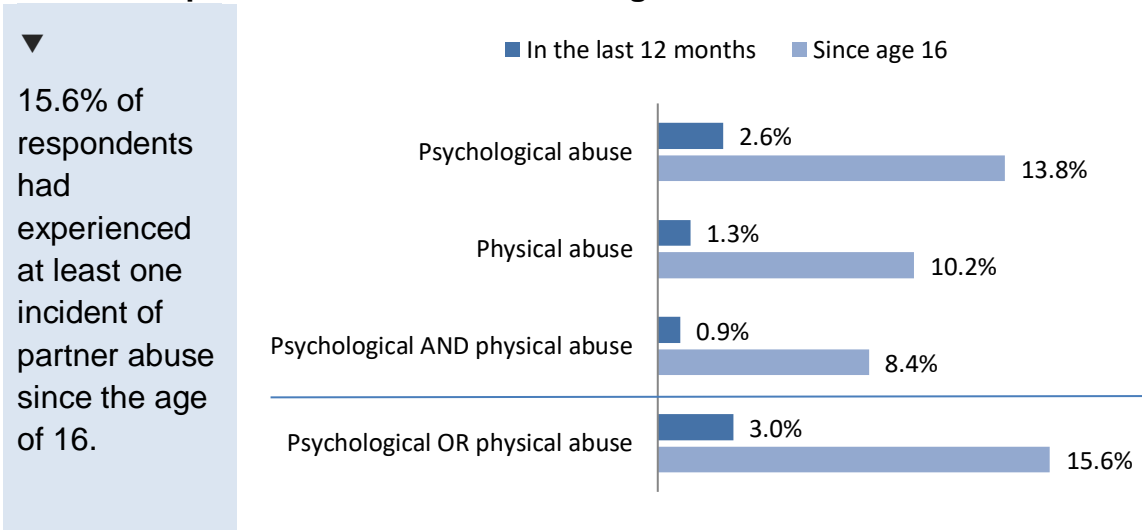
Base: All respondents who have had a partner since the age of 16. Variables: DA_1i; DA_1ii; DA1iii; DA_1iv

The proportion of respondents reporting having experienced at least one incident of psychological abuse since the age of 16 (13.8%) was higher than those reporting having experienced at least one incident of physical abuse (10.2%). 8.4% of respondents reported experiencing both psychological and physical abuse.

Of respondents who had a partner or contact with an ex-partner in the 12 months prior to interview, 3.0% experienced at least one incident of partner abuse in the 12 months prior to interview; 2.6% had experienced psychological abuse; 1.3% had experienced physical abuse; and 0.9% had experienced both psychological and physical abuse. More respondents had experienced psychological abuse than physical abuse. Figure 9.9 below shows these results.

¹³² The SCJS asks respondents if they have experienced a range of abusive physical behaviour. In 2012/13, the wording ‘thrown something at you’ was changed to ‘thrown something at you with the intention of causing harm’. This change may have contributed to a fall in the proportion of respondents reporting experience of this type of physical abuse.

► **Figure 9.9: Percentage of respondents experiencing types of partner abuse in the 12 months prior to interview and since age 16**



Base: All respondents who have had a partner since the age of 16 (8,110); all respondents who have had a partner or contact with an ex-partner in the 12 months prior to interview (6,040).
 Variables: DA_1i; DA_1iii

Experiences of partner abuse in the 12 months prior to interview have decreased since 2008/09.

Table 9.5 below shows the trend in experiencing partner abuse in the 12 months prior to interview between 2008/09 and 2016/18.

Between 2008/09 and 2016/18, the proportion of respondents who had a partner, or contact with an ex-partner, in the 12 months prior to interview who reported experiencing any partner abuse decreased from 4.2% to 3.0%. Looking at the two categories of partner abuse, the proportion experiencing psychological abuse decreased from 3.4% to 2.6%, and the proportion experiencing physical abuse decreased from 2.2% to 1.3%. There were no significant changes in any of the categories between 2014/15 and 2016/18.

► **Table 9.5: Percentage of respondents experiencing types of partner abuse in the 12 months prior to interview, 2008/09 to 2016/18¹³³**

Abuse type	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15	2016/18	Percentage point change	
							Change since 2008/09	Change since 2014/15
Psychological abuse	3.4%	2.9%	2.4%	2.3%	2.5%	2.6%	↓ by 0.8	No change
Physical abuse	2.2%	1.7%	1.7%	1.5%	1.5%	1.3%	↓ by 0.9	No change
Both psychological AND physical abuse	1.4%	1.1%	1.1%	1.0%	1.0%	0.9%	No change	No change
Any psychological OR physical abuse	4.2%	3.5%	3.1%	2.8%	2.9%	3.0%	↓ by 1.2	No change
<i>Number of respondents</i>	6,750	9,470	7,650	7,180	6,930	6,040		

Base: All respondents who have had a partner or contact with an ex-partner in the 12 months prior to interview. Variables: DA_1i; DA_1ii; DA1iii; DA_1iv

How often do people experience partner abuse and who are the offenders?

Partner abuse is often experienced on multiple occasions.

Just under two-thirds (63%) of those who reported an incident of partner abuse in the 12 months prior to interview also reported at least one incident prior to this period.

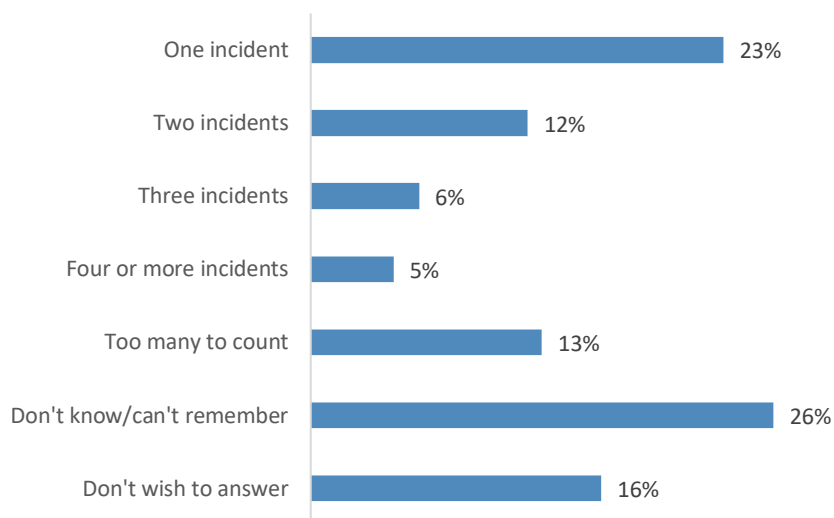
Respondents who reported partner abuse within the 12 months prior to interview were asked how many incidents of abuse they had experienced within this time period. Excluding those who responded “don’t know/can’t remember” or who did not wish to answer, around three in five respondents (61%) had experienced more than one incident.

Overall, 23% had experienced one incident, 12% experienced two incidents, 6% experienced three incidents, and 5% experienced four or more incidents. A further 13% said that there were too many incidents to count. Around a quarter of respondents said that they either didn’t know or couldn’t remember (26%) and 16% said they didn’t want to answer. Figure 9.10 below presents the findings.

¹³³ The SCJS asks respondents if they have experienced a range of abusive physical behaviour. In 2012/13, the wording ‘thrown something at you’ was changed to ‘thrown something at you with the intention of causing harm’. This change may have contributed to a fall in the proportion of respondents reporting experience of this type of physical abuse.

► **Figure 9.10: Number of incidents of partner abuse experienced in the 12 months prior to interview**

▼
23% of respondents who reported partner abuse within the 12 months prior to interview had experienced one incident only.



Base: All respondents experiencing at least one type of partner abuse in the 12 months prior to interview (180). Variable: DA_6

Almost two-thirds of respondents reported having one abusive partner.

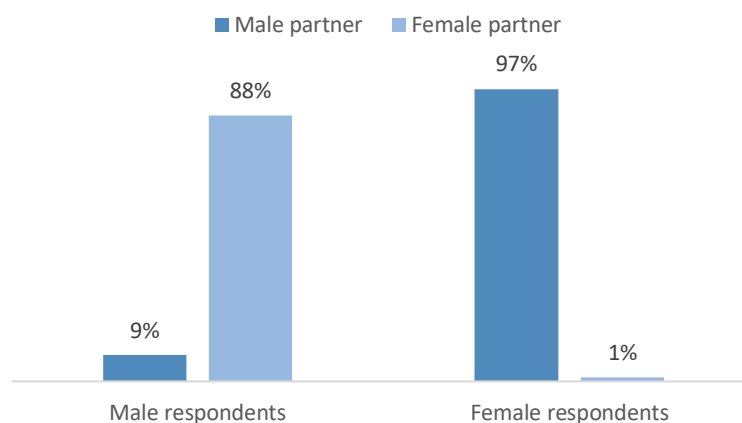
Of those who had experienced at least one incident of partner abuse since the age of 16, 62% reported having one abusive partner only. A further 13% reported that they had two abusive partners since they were 16, and 9% reported having had three or more abusive partners. The remaining respondents either did not wish to answer (9%) or did not know (7%).

Respondents were asked to state the gender of any abusive partners. Of those who had experienced partner abuse since the age of 16, 67% said the abuser was male, and 30% said the abuser was female. Less than 1% stated that both male and female partners had perpetuated abuse.

Breaking this down by the gender of respondents, Figure 9.11 shows that abusive partners were overwhelmingly of the opposite gender. That said, however, male respondents were more likely to be victims of a male perpetrator than female respondents were to be victims of a female perpetrator.

► **Figure 9.11: Gender of perpetrator of partner abuse, by gender of respondent**

▼
Abusive partners were overwhelmingly of the opposite gender.



Base: All respondents experiencing at least one type of partner abuse since aged 16 (1,320). Variable: DA_1vi

Are some population groups more likely to have experienced partner abuse?

This section examines the relationship between gender, age, victim status¹³⁴ and deprivation on experience of partner abuse, both since the age of 16 and in the 12 months prior to interview.

Within the age section, the results have also been broken down by age and gender, as notable differences in partner abuse between genders within different age groups were expected.

Gender

Table 9.6 below shows how the proportion of respondents experiencing partner abuse varied by gender.

When looking at experiences of types of partner abuse, in the 12 month period prior to interview, experiences of partner abuse were more common for women than men (3.6% and 2.3%, respectively). Women were more likely to experience psychological abuse than men (3.5% and 1.8%, respectively). However, the proportion who experienced physical abuse did not vary between women and men (1.3% and 1.2%, respectively).

Since the age of 16, women were almost twice as likely as men to have experienced partner abuse (20.0% and 10.9%, respectively). A higher proportion of women than men reported psychological abuse; physical abuse; and both psychological and physical abuse since the age of 16.

► **Table 9.6: Percentage of respondents experiencing types of partner abuse in the 12 months prior to interview and since age 16, by gender**

	In the 12 months prior to interview		Since age 16	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Psychological abuse	1.8%	3.5%	8.7%	18.6%
Physical abuse	1.2%	1.3%	6.5%	13.7%
Both psychological AND physical abuse	0.7%	1.2%	4.3%	12.3%
Any psychological OR physical abuse	2.3%	3.6%	10.9%	20.0%

Base: All male respondents who have had a partner or contact with an ex-partner in the 12 months prior to interview (2,950); all female respondents who have had a partner or contact with an ex-partner in the 12 months prior to interview (3,090); all male respondents who have had a partner since age 16 (3,700); all female respondents who have had a partner since age 16 (4,410). Variables: DA_1i; DA_1ii; DA1iii; DA_1iv

¹³⁴ A victim is defined as a respondent who reported crimes or offences in the main questionnaire (excluding sexual offences and threats) that are within the scope of the survey, took place in Scotland, and occurred within the reference period.

Age

Table 9.7 below shows how the proportion of respondents who experienced partner abuse, both within the 12 months prior to interview and since the age of 16, varied with age. Experience of partner abuse in the 12 months prior to interview was highest amongst 16 to 24 year age-group (8.5%).

► **Table 9.7: Percentage of respondents experiencing partner abuse in the 12 months prior to interview and since age 16, by age**

	In the 12 months prior to interview	Since age 16
16 to 24 years	8.5%	20.9%
25 to 44 years	3.8%	19.9%
45 to 59 years	2.3%	17.3%
60 years or over	0.4%	7.7%

Base: All respondents who have had a partner or contact with an ex-partner in the 12 months prior to interview aged 16-24 (400), 25-44 (1,990), 45-59 (1,790), 60+ (1,850); all respondents who have had a partner since age 16 aged 16-24 (510), 25-44 (2,330), 45-59 (2,260), 60+ (3,010). Variables: DA_1i; DA_1ii; DA1iii; DA_1iv

Table 9.8 below shows experience of partner abuse broken down further, by age within gender. Within the 12 months prior to interview women aged 16 to 24 were more likely than any other age group of women to have experienced partner abuse (9.9%). Within this time period there was no significant difference between men and women aged 16 to 24. Since the age of 16, women were more likely to have experienced partner abuse than men for all the age categories.

► **Table 9.8: Percentage of respondents experiencing types of partner abuse in the 12 months prior to interview and since age 16, by age and gender**

	In the 12 months prior to interview		Since age 16	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
16 to 24 years	7.3%	9.9%	13.9%	28.5%
25 to 44 years	3.3%	4.3%	16.1%	23.4%
45 to 59 years	1.5%	3.2%	10.9%	23.4%
60 years or over	0.2%	0.5%	4.2%	10.8%

Base: All male respondents who have had a partner or contact with an ex-partner in the 12 months prior to interview aged 16-24 (180), 25-44 (890), 45-59 (880), 60+ (1,010); all female respondents who have had a partner or contact with an ex-partner in the 12 months prior to interview aged 16-24 (220), 25-44 (1,110), 45-59 (910), 60+ (850); all male respondents who have had a partner since age 16 aged 16-24 (240), 25-44 (1,040), 45-59 (1,080), 60+ (1,350); all female respondents who have had a partner since age 16 aged 16-24 (280), 25-44 (1,290), 45-59 (1,180), 60+ (1,660). Variables: DA_1i; DA_1ii; DA1iii; DA_1iv

Victim status

Experience of partner abuse was associated with other types of victimisation. Over a quarter (26.2%) of those who were classified as victims¹³⁵ in the main SCJS survey¹³⁶ had experienced partner abuse since the age of 16, compared to 14.1% of non-victims. Of those who had experienced at least one type of partner abuse in the 12 months prior to interview, 7.2% were classified as victims of crime in the main SCJS survey, compared to 2.3% of those who were not classified as victims.

Deprivation

Experience of partner abuse both since the age of 16, and in the 12 months prior to interview varied significantly in terms of neighbourhood deprivation. Around one-in-five (19.8%) of those living in the 15% most deprived areas of Scotland reported abuse since age 16, compared to 14.9% of those living in the rest of Scotland. Similarly, 4.5% of those living in the 15% most deprived areas reported abuse in the 12 months prior to interview, compared to 2.7% of those living in the rest of Scotland.

What can the 2016/18 SCJS results tell us about the types partner abuse most commonly experienced?

To capture experiences of partner abuse as fully as possible, this section focuses on partner abuse experienced since the age of 16.

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

Respondents were asked if they had experienced twelve different types of psychological abuse since the age of 16, as outlined earlier.

Overall, the most commonly reported form of psychological abuse was a partner behaving in a jealous or controlling way (9.5%), followed by being put down repeatedly and made to feel worthless (8.1%). A further 5.3% stated that a partner had stopped them from seeing friends and relatives, and 4.7% also said that a partner had threatened to hurt them.

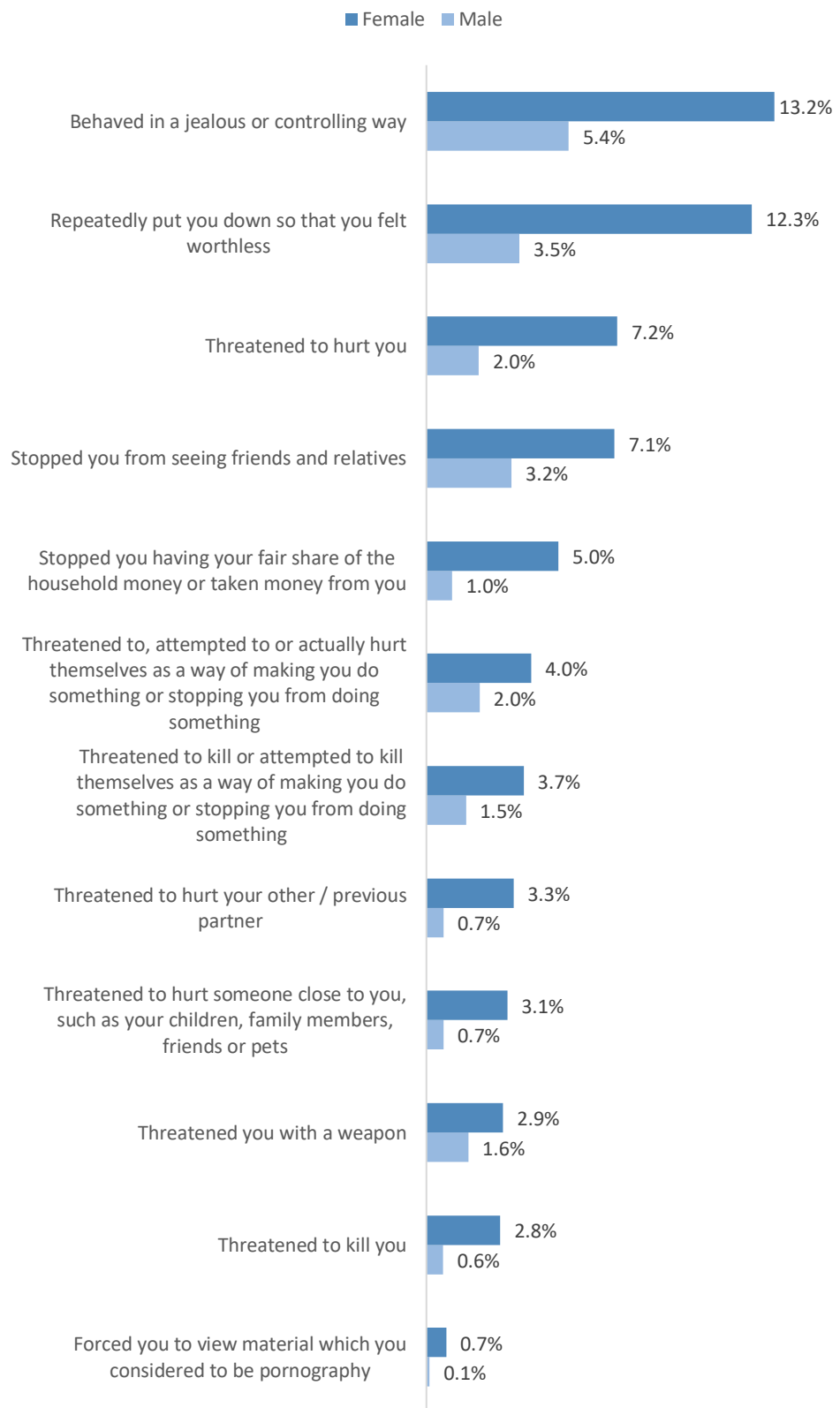
However, these findings differed by gender of the respondent, with the proportion of women reporting abuse higher than the proportion of men for each of the twelve types. Figure 9.12 shows the percentage of respondents experiencing different types of psychological abuse since the age of 16, broken down by gender.

¹³⁵ A victim is defined as a respondent who reported crimes or offences in the main questionnaire (excluding sexual offences and threats) that are within the scope of the survey, took place in Scotland, and occurred within the reference period.

¹³⁶ In the 2016/17 and 2017/18 sweeps.

► **Figure 9.12: Type of psychological partner abuse experienced since age 16, by gender**

▼
 A higher proportion of women than men reported experiencing each type of partner abuse for all of the twelve types.



Base: All male respondents who have had a partner since age of 16 (3,700); all female respondents who have had a partner since age 16 (4,410). Variable: DA_1i

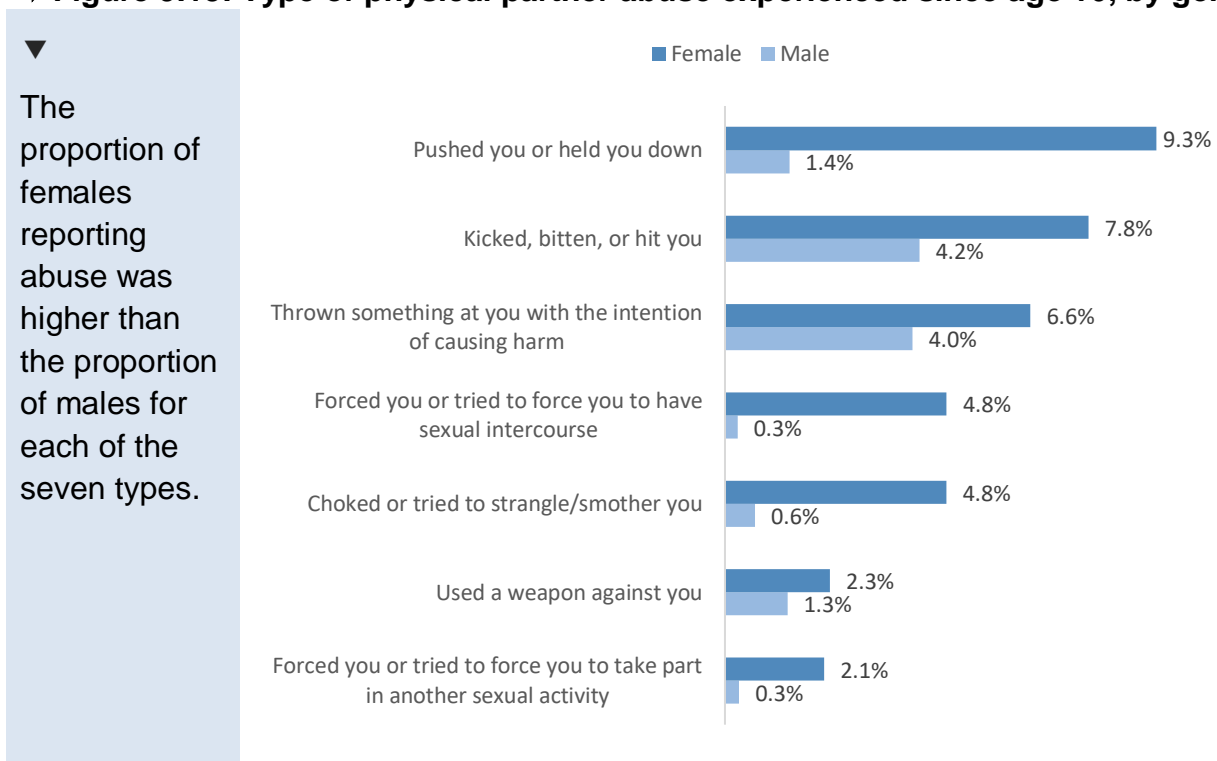
The most commonly reported type of physical abuse experienced was being kicked, bitten or hit by a partner.

Respondents were asked if they had experienced seven different types of physical abuse since the age of 16.

Overall, the most commonly reported forms of physical abuse experienced by respondents were being kicked, bitten or hit by a partner (6.1%), followed by being pushed or held down (5.5%), and having something thrown at them with the intention of causing harm (5.4%).

However, these findings differed by gender, with the proportion of women reporting abuse higher than the proportion of men for each of the seven types. Figure 9.13 below shows the percentage of respondents experiencing different types of physical abuse since the age of 16, broken down by gender.

► **Figure 9.13: Type of physical partner abuse experienced since age 16, by gender**



Base: All male respondents who have had a partner since age of 16 (3,700); all female respondents who have had a partner since age 16 (4,410). Variable: DA_1iii

What can the SCJS tell us about the impact of partner abuse?

Respondents who reported experiencing at least one incident of partner abuse in the 12 months prior to interview were asked if they had experienced a range of effects, both psychological and physical, as a result of the most recent (or only) incident of abuse.

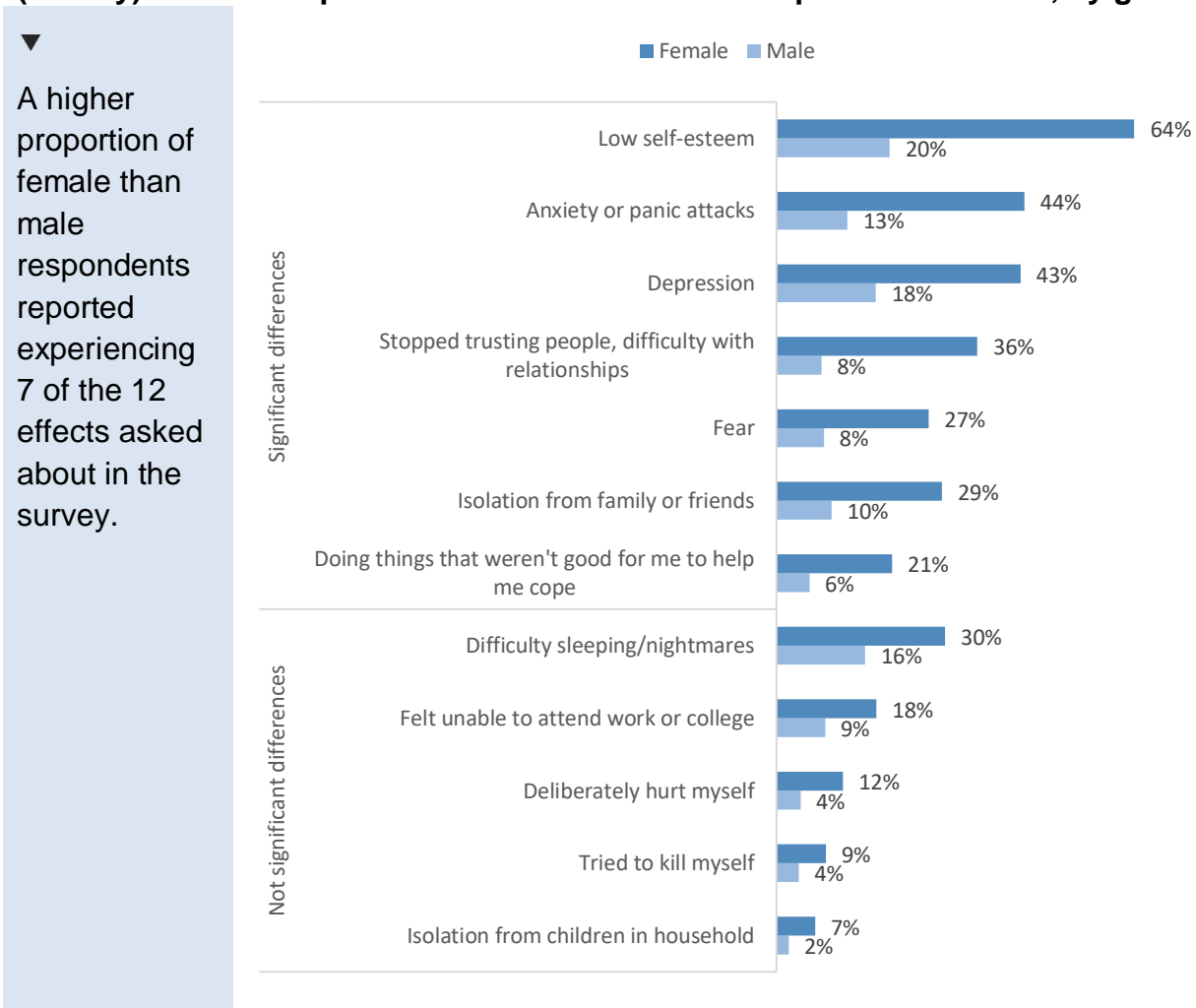
66% of those experiencing partner abuse had at least one psychological effect as a result of the most recent (or only) incident of abuse in the 12 months prior to interview.

Two-thirds (66%) of adults with experience of partner abuse in the 12 months prior to interview reported psychological impacts of some sort, with women more likely than men to report such effects. Of those who reported partner abuse in the 12 months prior to

interview, 80% of women reported at least one psychological effect, compared to 44% of men.

The most common psychological impact was low self-esteem, which was reported by 46% of respondents. The psychological impacts experienced, split by gender, are shown in Figure 9.14 below (with significant differences highlighted). A higher proportion of women experienced seven of the twelve effects; for example low self-esteem (64% of women, compared to 20% of men).

► **Figure 9.14: Psychological impacts of partner abuse as a result of the most recent (or only) incident of partner abuse in the 12 months prior to interview, by gender**



▼
A higher proportion of female than male respondents reported experiencing 7 of the 12 effects asked about in the survey.

Base: All male respondents who experienced at least one type of partner abuse in the 12 months prior to interview (60); all female respondents who experienced at least one type of partner abuse in the 12 months prior to interview (120). Variable: DA_9

32% of those experiencing partner abuse (either physical or psychological) in the 12 months prior to interview had at least one physical effect of the abuse as a result of the most recent (or only) incident.

Physical impacts were reported by just under one-third (32%) of adults experiencing partner abuse in the 12 months prior to interview. There was no statistically significant difference between the proportion of men (39%) and women (27%) who reported at least one physical effect of the most recent (or only) incident of partner abuse.

The most common physical effects reported were scratches or minor cuts (17%), followed by minor bruising or a black eye (15%).

46% of those who had experienced at least one incident of partner abuse since age 16 considered themselves to have ever been a victim of domestic abuse.

Over two-fifths (46%) of adults with experience of partner abuse since the age of 16 assessed that they had been a victim of domestic abuse.

Over two-fifths of respondents (42%) viewed their experiences of physical abuse (in the 12 months prior to interview) as a crime, compared to 24% who viewed their experiences of psychological abuse as a crime.

What can the SCJS tell us about the circumstances in which partner abuse occurs and how often it is reported?

Respondents who experienced partner abuse in the 12 months prior to interview were asked about the circumstances of the most recent (or only) incident of partner abuse and who, if anyone, they had told about their experience. The section below presents a high-level summary of some of the information provided by respondents. It is important to note that the latest incident might not be the most serious and also may not be representative of all incidents of partner abuse a respondent experienced.

- **38% were living with the partner at the time of the incident.**

Of those, two-fifths (41%) said they were still living with the abusive partner at the time of the survey interview.

- **40% said that children were living in their household when the incident took place.**

Of those who reported children were living in the household, 62% said that the children were present (in or around the house or close by) during the most recent incident.

- **Over two-thirds (68%) had told at least one person or organisation about the most recent incident, unchanged from 2014/15.**

There was no significant difference between the proportion of women who had told at least one person or organisation about their experiences of abuse (72%), compared to men (62%).

There are a range of different people and services that those who have experienced partner abuse reported engaging with. Respondents were most likely to have told friends (35%) and relatives (28%) about the most recent incident of abuse. Over a quarter of respondents (28%) said they had told no one; whilst 14% told a doctor, and 9% reported the incident to the police. The percentage reporting the most recent incident to the police is not statistically different that in 2014/15 (12%).

- **The police came to know about just under one-in-five of the most recent incidents of partner abuse.**

19% said that the police came to know about the most recent (or only) incident of partner abuse somehow. This is unchanged from 2014/15 (19%). This differs from the 9% figure above, as it includes incidents the police came to know about through any means, including via neighbours and relatives, not just reported by the respondent themselves.

9.4 Sexual Victimisation

SCJS respondents are asked about their experiences of serious sexual assault and less serious sexual assault, since the age of 16 and in the 12 months prior to interview.

The survey asks respondents if they have experienced one or more of the following types of serious and less serious sexual assault¹³⁷:

Serious sexual assault

- Forced sexual intercourse
- Attempted forced sexual intercourse
- Forced other sexual activity (for example, oral sex)
- Attempted forced other sexual activity

Less serious sexual assault

- Unwanted sexual touching
- Indecent exposure
- Sexual threats

There may be some overlap between the incidents of sexual victimisation (both serious and less serious) detailed in this chapter, and the incidents of [stalking and harassment](#) and [partner abuse](#) detailed elsewhere in this report, respectively, which are asked about in separate parts of the self-completion questionnaire. Given that sexual victimisation and partner abuse can involve similar behaviours and experiences, it is possible that some incidents detailed in this report are duplicated in the partner abuse chapter. It is also possible that some sexual victimisation detailed in this report constituted partner abuse and/or stalking and harassment, but were not viewed or reported as such by respondents.

The latest results presented below are from two sweeps of the SCJS combined (2016/17 and 2017/18). This is referred to throughout the chapter as 2016/18. For more information, see the [Technical Report](#).

Serious Sexual Assault

This chapter focuses mainly on respondents who reported at least one form of serious sexual assault since the age of 16¹³⁸.

¹³⁷ These terms are used for ease of reference and do not relate to the seriousness of the impact on the individual.

¹³⁸ This is because the lower base number of respondents who experienced serious sexual assault in the 12 months prior to interview (17 respondents) prevents more detailed analysis.

What can the 2016/18 SCJS results tell us about serious sexual assault in Scotland?

3.6% of adults in Scotland have experienced at least one type of serious sexual assault since the age of 16.

A higher proportion of women than men reported experiencing at least one type of serious sexual assault (6.2% compared to 0.8%, respectively). Since the age of 16, 1.3% of respondents had experienced more than one type of serious sexual assault.

Table 9.9 below shows how the percentage of respondents reporting experience of serious sexual assault since the age of 16 in the SCJS has varied over time. The latest results show there has been no change since 2008/09 in the proportion of respondents reporting experience of serious sexual assault. Although, since 2014/15 the proportion reporting experience of at least one type since the age of 16 has increased. However, as this is a lifetime measurement it would not be expected to change much, if at all, between years. As well as a potentially true increase in prevalence, this increase may also be influenced by changes in perceptions of historical incidents. This will continue to be monitored in future.

Breaking the results down by type of serious sexual assault experienced, the latest results show the proportion of adults reporting attempted other forced sexual acts has increased since 2014/15 (from 0.8% to 1.4%). There was no significant change in the proportion reporting the other three types of serious sexual assault.

► **Table 9.9: Percentage of respondents experiencing types of serious sexual assault since age 16, 2008/09 to 2016/18**

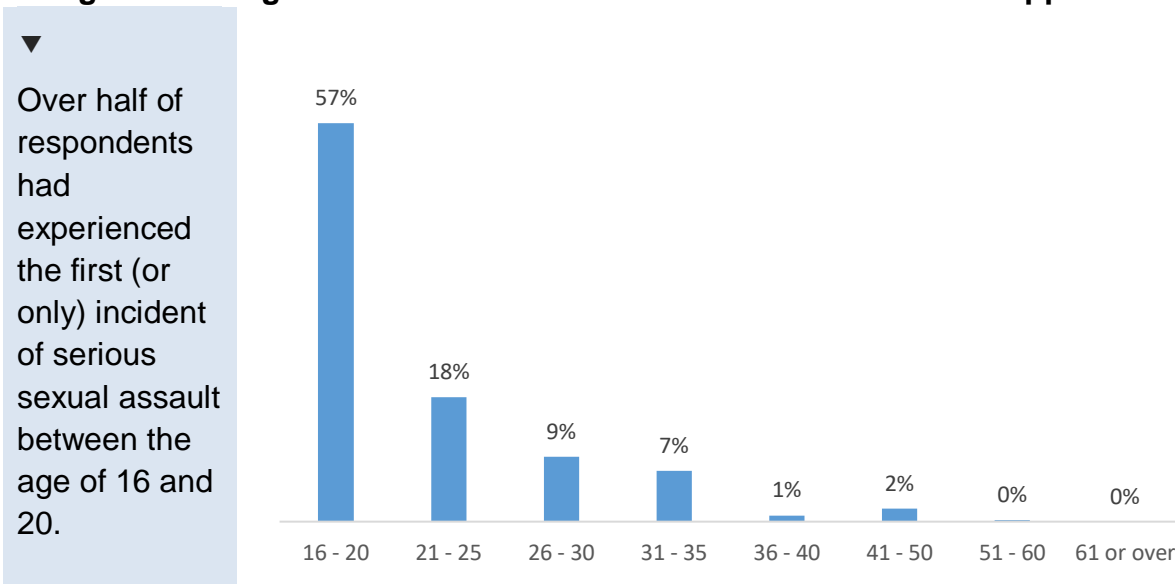
Type of serious sexual assault	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15	2016/18	Percentage point change	
							change since 2008/09	change since 2014/15
Forced sexual intercourse	1.7%	1.5%	1.4%	1.6%	1.6%	1.9%	No change	No change
Attempted forced sexual intercourse	1.5%	1.2%	1.3%	1.1%	1.2%	1.6%	No change	No change
Other forced sexual activities	0.6%	0.5%	0.6%	1.1%	0.7%	0.8%	No change	No change
Attempted other forced sexual activities	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.6%	0.8%	1.4%	↑ by 0.7	↑ by 0.6
At least one form of serious sexual assault	3.2%	2.7%	2.8%	2.5%	2.7%	3.6%	No change	↑ by 0.9
<i>Number of respondents</i>	10,970	13,420	11,000	10,240	9,990	8,820		

Base: All respondents. Variables: SA_0

The first (or only) incident occurred between the age of 16 and 20 for more than half of those with experience of serious sexual assault.

Respondents who reported experiencing at least one incident of serious sexual assault were asked at what age the first (or only) incident took place. Figure 9.15 below shows that the majority (57%) of respondents reported the first (or only) incident took place between the ages of 16 and 20.

► **Figure 9.15: Age when first incident of serious sexual assault happened**



Base: All respondents who experienced at least one type of serious sexual assault since the age of 16 (310). Variable: SA_1

Victims of serious sexual assault were likely to have experienced more than one incident.

Respondents who reported experiencing each type of serious sexual assault were then asked how many incidents of that type of serious sexual assault they had experienced since the age of 16. Table 9.10 shows the incidence of serious sexual assault since the age of 16 for the four types of serious sexual assault.

It shows, for example, that of those respondents who had experienced forced sexual intercourse since the age of 16, 62% said they had experienced more than one incident, around half of whom (31%) said they had experienced too many incidents to count.

► **Table 9.10: Number of incidents of serious sexual assault experienced since age 16, by type of serious sexual assault**

Number of incidents	Forced sexual intercourse	Attempted forced sexual intercourse	Other forced sexual activities	Attempted other forced sexual activities
One	29%	24%	9%	27%
More than one	62%	61%	81%	47%
Two	12%	10%	6%	8%
Three	6%	7%	6%	6%
Four	3%	3%	7%	5%
Five	7%	6%	4%	2%
Six and over	3%	1%	2%	1%
Too many to count	31%	33%	56%	25%
<i>Number of respondents</i>	180	150	80	110

Base: All respondents who had experienced each form of serious sexual assault since age 16. Variables: SA_0

Note: 'don't know/can't remember' and 'don't wish to answer' responses are not shown.

What can the SCJS tell us about the nature, impact and reporting of more serious sexual assault?

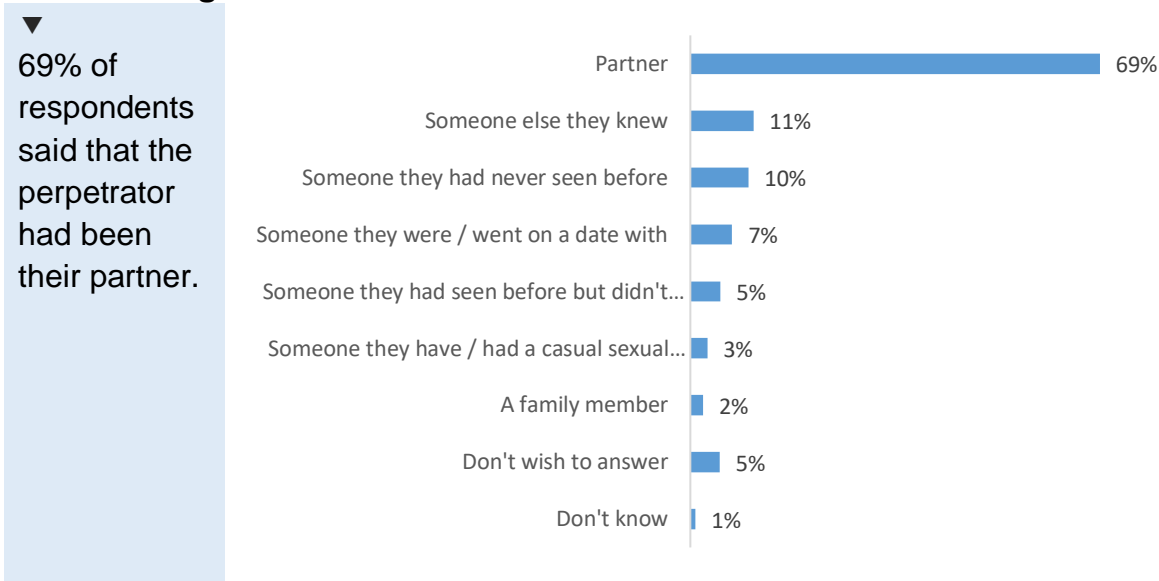
Due to the small number of respondents reporting some types of serious sexual assault, this section looks mainly at forced sexual intercourse.

Most victims knew the offender in some way.

Respondents who had experienced each type of serious sexual assault were asked what their relationship to the perpetrator(s) had been at the time of the incident for all experiences since the age of 16. If there had been more than one perpetrator, the respondent was asked to record all of them.

Of those respondents who had experienced forced sexual intercourse since the age of 16, over half (69%) said that the perpetrator had been their partner. Figure 9.16 below shows the results.

► **Figure 9.16: Relationship of offender to victim of forced sexual intercourse, since the age of 16**



Base: All respondents who experienced forced sexual intercourse since the age of 16 (160).
Variables: FS_3B4; FS_3

Over three-quarters of those who had experienced forced sexual intercourse said that the latest (or only) incident had resulted in some form of physical impact.

Respondents who had experienced at least one incident of serious sexual assault, since the age of 16, were asked about the physical impact of the latest (or only) incident.

For each of the four types of serious sexual assault the most common impact reported was 'minor impact which did not require medical treatment (such as minor cuts or bruising)'.

Of those who had experienced forced sexual intercourse, 77% said that the last (or only) incident had resulted in some form of physical impact; either minor (41%), serious but not treated by a medical professional (20%) or serious and treated by a medical professional (17%). 8% said that the last (or only) incident had resulted in pregnancy.

In most cases, the most recent (or only) incident of serious sexual assault was not reported to the police.

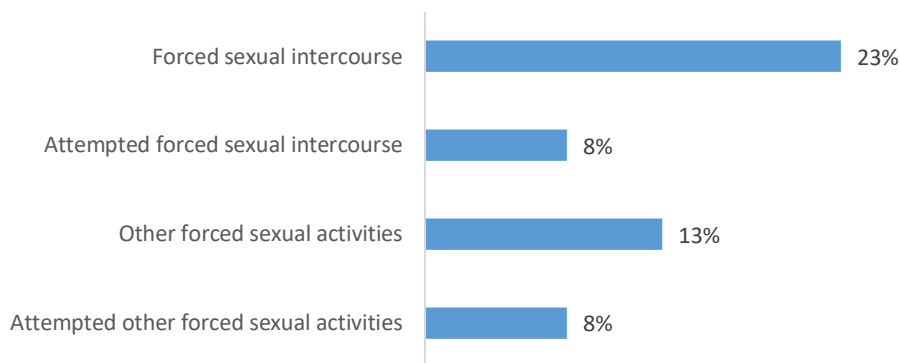
Respondents who had experienced serious sexual assault since the age of 16 were asked if the police were informed about the most recent (or only) incident.

Figure 9.17 shows reporting rates for the four types of serious sexual assault¹³⁹. Compared to 2014/15, there was no significant change for any type of serious sexual assault.

¹³⁹ Note that this is not the proportion of crimes reported in 2016/18. The incident may have happened and been reported to the police at an earlier time.

► **Figure 9.17: Percentage of respondents reporting the most recent (or only) incident of serious sexual assault (since age 16) to the police, by type of serious sexual assault**

▼
23% of respondents reported the most recent (or only) incident of forced sexual intercourse to the police.

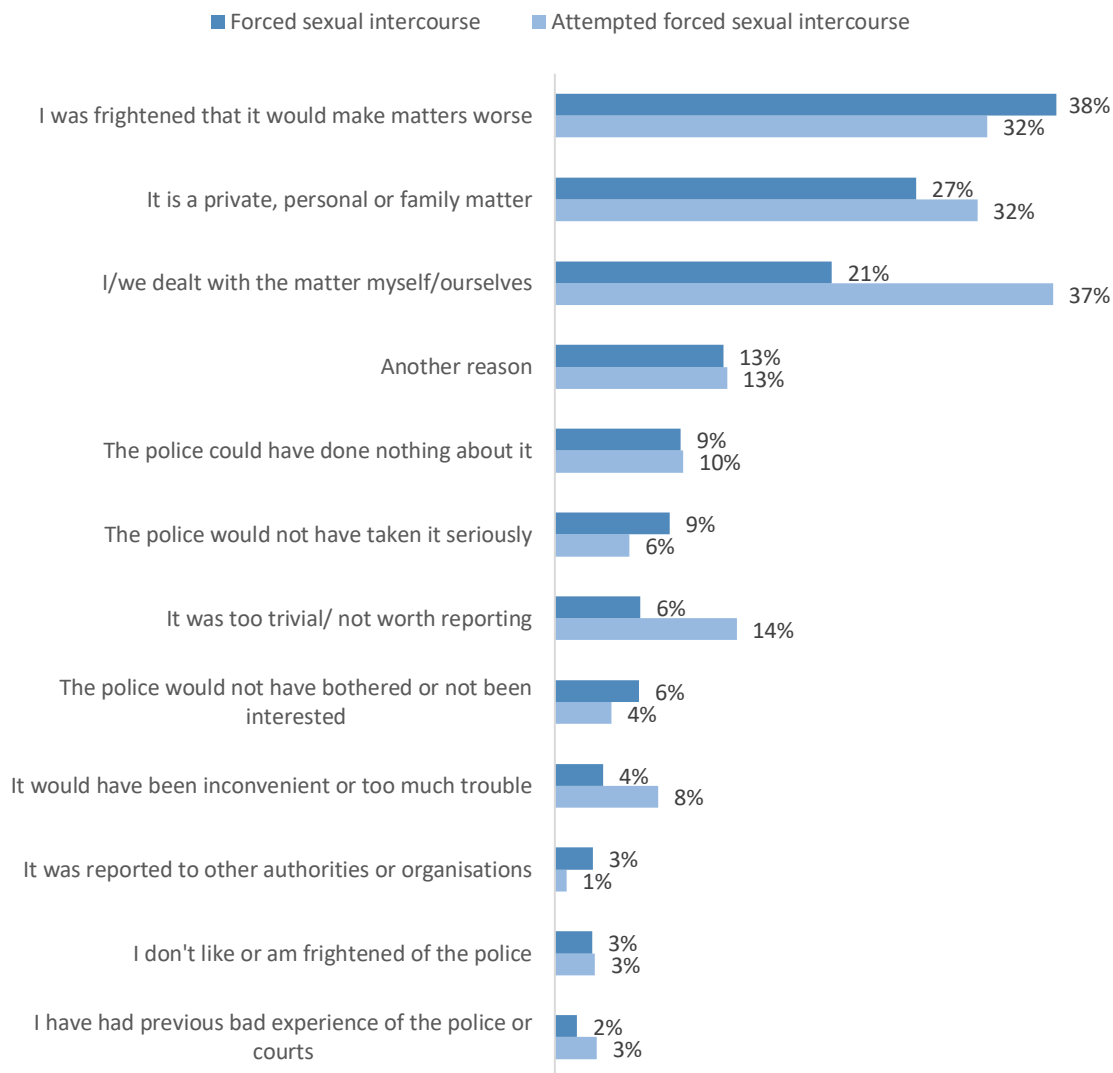


Base: All experiencing forced sexual intercourse since the age of 16 (160); all experiencing attempted forced sexual intercourse since the age of 16 (140); all experiencing other forced sexual activities since the age of 16 (70); all experiencing attempted other forced sexual activities since the age of 16 (100). Variables: FS_7; AFS_7; OS_7; AOS_7

Respondents who said the police did not come to know about the most recent (or only) incident of serious sexual assault, since the age of 16, were asked the reasons for this. Figure 9.18 below shows the reasons for forced and attempted forced sexual intercourse (the two largest categories of serious sexual assault).

The most common reason for not informing the police of forced sexual intercourse was fear of making matters worse (38%), whereas the most common reason for not reporting attempted forced sexual intercourse was that the matter was dealt with themselves (37%).

► **Figure 9.18: Reason for not reporting the most recent (or only) incident of forced sexual intercourse or attempted forced sexual intercourse to the police**



Base: All experiencing forced sexual intercourse since the age of 16 where police did not come to know about the most recent incident (120); All experiencing attempted forced sexual intercourse since the age of 16 where police did not come to know about the most recent incident (120).
Variables: FS_7i; AFS_7i

Are some population groups more likely to have experienced serious sexual assault?

Experience of serious sexual assault varied by gender, age, and victim status (based on information derived from the main SCJS questionnaire). Table 9.11 below shows the varying proportion of respondents reporting experience of at least one form of serious sexual assault since the age 16, by their characteristics.

► **Table 9.11: Experience of serious sexual assault by demographic and area characteristics**

	Characteristics	% of adults	Base
Gender	Male	0.8%	4,050
	Female	6.2%	4,770
Age-group	16-24	5.7%	690
	25-44	4.1%	2,480
	45-59	4.1%	2,390
	60 or over	1.7%	3,260
Victim status in main questionnaire	Victim	7.3%	1,020
	Non-victim	3.1%	7,790
Socio-economic deprivation	15% most deprived	4.4%	1,220
	Rest of Scotland	3.5%	7,600
All adults		3.6%	8,820

Base: All respondents. Variables: SA_0

Gender

A greater proportion of women have experienced serious sexual assault since the age of 16 than men (6.2% and 0.8% respectively).

Age

Respondents aged 60 or over were less likely to report having experienced serious sexual assault than all other age groups. Note the apparent difference between the other age groups are not statistically significant.

Victim Status

Experiences of at least one serious sexual assault varied with other types of victimisation. Of those who classified as victims¹⁴⁰ in the main SCJS survey, 7.3% had experienced at least one serious sexual assault since the age of 16. This compares to 3.1% of those who were not classified as victims.

Deprivation

There was no statistically significant difference in the proportion who experienced serious sexual assault since the age of 16 in terms of neighbourhood deprivation.

¹⁴⁰ A victim is defined as a respondent who reported crimes or offences in the main questionnaire (excluding sexual offences and threats) that are within the scope of the survey, took place in Scotland, and occurred within the reference period.

Less Serious Sexual Assault

This section focuses mainly on respondents who reported at least one form of less serious sexual assault since the age of 16, however it also includes some analysis of experiences in the 12 months prior to interview.

What can the 2016/18 SCJS results tell us about less serious sexual assault in Scotland?

9.3% of adults have experienced at least one type of less serious sexual assault since the age of 16.

Respondents were asked if they had experienced three types of less serious sexual assault since the age of 16; these were unwanted sexual touching; indecent exposure; and sexual threats.

Just under a tenth (9.3%) of all adults reported that they had experienced at least one type of less serious sexual assault since the age of 16. A higher proportion of women reported experience of less serious sexual assault since the age of 16 than men (15.5% and 2.5%, respectively). 3.2% of respondents had experienced more than one type.

Since both 2008/09 and 2014/15, the SCJS has detected no change in the proportion of adults reporting experience of less serious assault since the age of 16.

Breaking the results down by type of sexual assault experienced, the latest results show an increase in the proportion of respondents reporting unwanted sexual touching between 2008/09 and 2016/18 (from 4.8% to 6.4%), with no change in the prevalence of sexual threats and a decrease in experiences of indecent exposure. Table 9.12 below shows the results.

► **Table 9.12: Percentage of respondents experiencing types of less serious sexual assault since age 16, 2008/09 to 2016/18**

Type of sexual assault	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15	2016/18	Percentage point change	
							Change since 2008/09	Change since 2014/15
Unwanted sexual touching	4.8%	4.1%	4.6%	4.3%	4.8%	6.4%	↑ by 1.6	↑ by 1.6
Indecent exposure	5.0%	5.1%	4.2%	4.0%	4.3%	4.1%	↓ by 0.9	No change
Sexual threats	2.1%	1.9%	1.9%	1.8%	2.1%	2.6%	No change	No change
At least one form of less serious sexual assault	9.4%	8.8%	8.3%	7.6%	8.3%	9.3%	No change	No change
<i>Number of respondents</i>	10,970	13,420	11,000	10,240	9,990	8,820		

Base: All respondents. Variables: SV_0

In the 12 months prior to interview, 1.6% of respondents had experienced at least one form of less serious sexual assault.

Women were more likely than men to have experienced less serious sexual assault in the 12 months prior to interview (2.5% compared to 0.6%, respectively).

As there were only a small number of respondents who reported experiencing less serious sexual assault in the 12 months prior to interview, the rest of the analysis in this chapter focuses on experiences since the age 16.

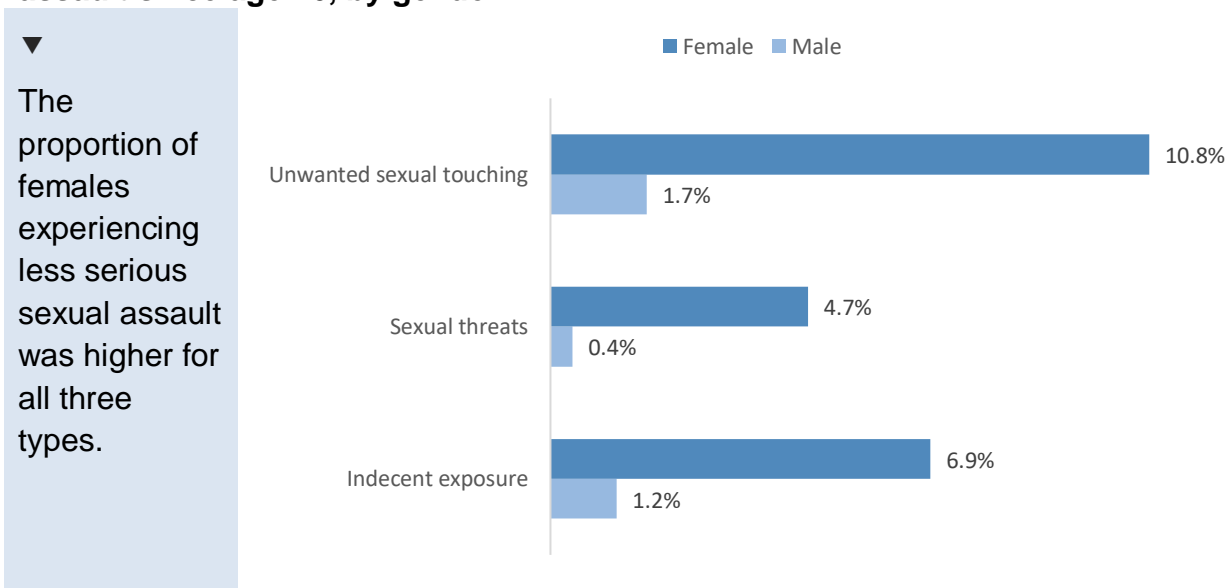
What can the 2016/18 SCJS results tell us about the types less serious sexual assault most commonly experienced?

The most commonly reported type of less serious sexual assault was unwanted sexual touching.

Overall, the most commonly experienced form of less serious sexual assault was unwanted sexual touching (6.4%), followed by indecent exposure (4.1%), and being subject to sexual threats (2.6%).

Women are more likely than men to have experienced each type since the age of 16, as shown in Figure 9.19 below.

► **Figure 9.19: Percentage of respondents experiencing types of less serious sexual assault since age 16, by gender**



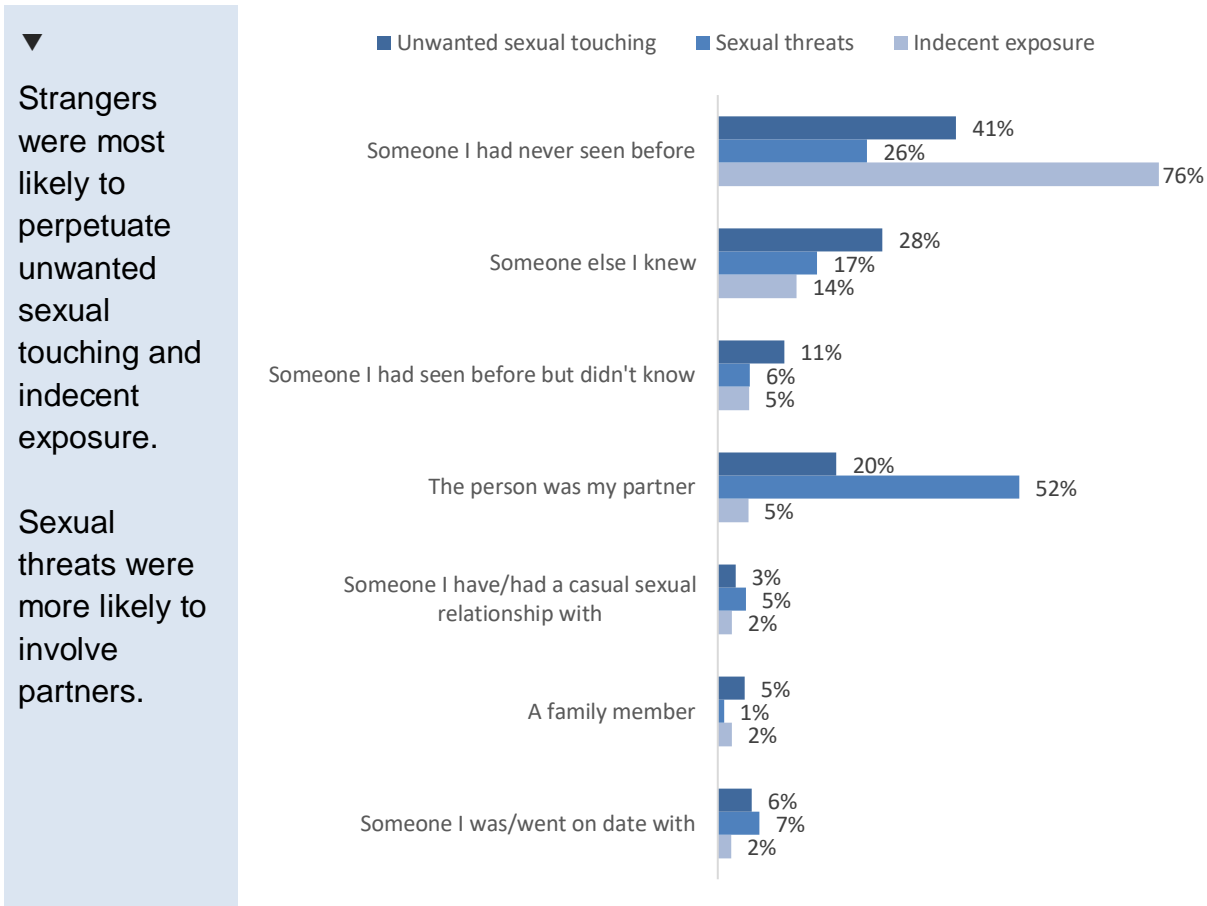
Base: All male respondents (4,050); all female respondents (4,770). Variables: SV_0

The relationship between victims and offenders differs by type of sexual assault.

Of those who had experienced indecent exposure since the age of 16, 76% said that the offender was a stranger. Strangers were also most likely to perpetuate unwanted sexual touching (41%), followed by 'someone else' the victim knew (28%). Indecent exposure and unwanted sexual touching were less likely to involve partners, at 5% and 20% respectively.

In contrast, sexual threats were more likely to involve partners. Of those who had experienced sexual threats since the age of 16, 52% said the offender was their partner. Note that this finding is consistent with the proportion of forced sexual intercourse (since the age of 16) carried out by partners (56%) as shown in Figure 9.16 earlier.

► **Figure 9.20: Relationship of offender to victim since the age of 16, by type of less serious sexual assault**



Base: All respondents who experienced unwanted sexual touching since the age of 16 (540); all respondents who experienced sexual threats since the age of 16 (230); all respondents who experienced indecent exposure since the age of 16 (360). Variables: TS_3; TS_5; ST_3; ST_5; INEX_3; INEX_5

Are some population groups more likely to have experienced less serious sexual assault?

The proportion of respondents who reported experience of at least one form of less serious sexual assault since the age 16 varied by respondent characteristics. The differences in experience of less serious sexual assault by gender are outlined at the [start of this section of the report](#) alongside the national prevalence rate.

Age

When looking at the relationship between age and experience of sexual assault in the 12 months prior to interview, Table 9.13 shows the proportion of respondents who reported experience of less serious sexual assault was highest amongst the 16 to 24 years age group (6.2%).

► **Table 9.13: Percentage of respondents experiencing less serious sexual assaults in the 12 months prior to interview, by age**

	Since age 16	In the 12 months prior to interview	Base
16 to 24 years	12.9%	6.2%	690
25 to 44 years	11.5%	1.5%	2,480
45 to 59 years	8.8%	0.7%	2,390
60 years or over	5.8%	0.4%	3,260

Base: All respondents who have experienced at least one type of less serious sexual assault since age 16; all respondents who have experienced at least one type of less serious sexual assault in the 12 months prior to interview by age group. Variables: SV_0

Victim Status

Experience of at least one less serious sexual assault varied with other types of victimisation. Of those who classified as victims¹⁴¹ in the main SCJS survey, 14.4% had experienced at least one less serious sexual assault since the age of 16. This compares to 8.5% of those who were not classified as victims.

Deprivation

There was no statistically significant difference in the proportion of respondents who had experienced less serious sexual assault since the age of 16 in terms of neighbourhood deprivation. Around one-in-ten respondents reported experiencing at least one less serious sexual assault since the age of 16, regardless of whether they lived in the 15% most deprived areas of Scotland (10.4%) or in the rest of Scotland (9.1%).

¹⁴¹ A victim is defined as a respondent who reported crimes or offences in the main questionnaire (excluding sexual offences and threats) that are within the scope of the survey, took place in Scotland, and occurred within the reference period.

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 the Annex Tables 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 (64%) 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 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 (2017/18)

Estimated number of crimes	Best estimate	Lower estimate	Upper estimate
ALL SCJS CRIME	602,000	535,000	668,000
PROPERTY CRIME	430,000	384,000	476,000
Vandalism	163,000	134,000	192,000
Motor vehicle vandalism	102,000	82,000	121,000
Property vandalism	61,000	44,000	78,000
All motor vehicle related theft	24,000	17,000	32,000
Theft of motor vehicle	3,000 [#]	1,000	6,000
Theft from motor vehicle	21,000	14,000	27,000
Attempted theft of/from motor vehicle	1,000 [#]	0	2,000
Housebreaking	25,000 [#]	15,000	35,000
Other household theft inc. bicycle theft	125,000	103,000	146,000
Other household theft	101,000	82,000	121,000
Bicycle theft	23,000	14,000	32,000
Personal theft (exc. Robbery)	93,000	71,000	115,000
Other theft	63,000	43,000	82,000
Theft from the person	31,000	20,000	41,000
VIOLENT CRIME	172,000	125,000	219,000
Assault	161,000	116,000	205,000
Serious assault	8,000 [#]	1,000	15,000
Robbery	11,000 [#]	0	27,000
COMPARABLE CRIME	386,000	331,000	441,000
Vandalism	163,000	134,000	192,000
Acquisitive crime	51,000	38,000	65,000
Violent crime	172,000	125,000	219,000

Number of respondents: 5,480

[#]: Use with caution – the count estimate has a relative standard error of greater than 20%. This also applies to considering change over time using such figures.

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	2017/18	Percentage change	
								since 2008/09	since 2016/17
ALL SCJS CRIME	1,045,000	945,000	874,000	815,000	688,000	712,000	602,000	↓ by 42%	↓ by 16%
PROPERTY CRIME	728,000	679,000	654,000	579,000	502,000	481,000	430,000	↓ by 41%	No change
Vandalism	350,000	303,000	275,000	219,000	179,000	166,000	163,000	↓ by 54%	No change
Motor vehicle vandalism	183,000	161,000	146,000	129,000	112,000	82,000	102,000	↓ by 44%	No change
Property vandalism	168,000	142,000	130,000	90,000	67,000	84,000	61,000	↓ by 64%	No change
All motor vehicle related theft	70,000	64,000	58,000	50,000	40,000	38,000	24,000	↓ by 65%	↓ by 36%
Theft of motor vehicle	7,000	6,000	4,000	4,000	3,000	2,000 [#]	3,000 [#]	↓ by 56% [#]	No change [#]
Theft from motor vehicle	54,000	49,000	47,000	40,000	34,000	34,000	21,000	↓ by 62%	↓ by 40%
Attempted theft of/from motor vehicle	9,000	10,000	7,000	6,000	4,000	1,000 [#]	1,000 [#]	↓ by 94% [#]	No change [#]
Housebreaking	25,000	29,000	28,000	35,000	22,000	26,000	25,000 [#]	No change [#]	No change [#]
Other household theft inc. bicycle theft	173,000	153,000	169,000	169,000	158,000	128,000	125,000	↓ by 28%	No change
Other household theft	142,000	127,000	141,000	135,000	133,000	104,000	101,000	↓ by 29%	No change
Bicycle theft	31,000	27,000	29,000	34,000	25,000	23,000 [#]	23,000	No change	No change [#]
Personal theft (exc. Robbery)	110,000	130,000	124,000	106,000	103,000	124,000	93,000	No change	No change
Other theft	90,000	101,000	92,000	80,000	81,000	82,000	63,000	↓ by 30	No change
Theft from the person	20,000	29,000	31,000	26,000	23,000	41,000 [#]	31,000	No change	No change [#]
VIOLENT CRIME	317,000	266,000	220,000	236,000	186,000	231,000	172,000	↓ by 46%	No change
Assault	297,000	247,000	208,000	225,000	179,000	223,000	161,000	↓ by 46%	No change
Serious assault	26,000	20,000	16,000	18,000	8,000	17,000 [#]	8,000 [#]	↓ by 69% [#]	No change [#]
Robbery	20,000	19,000	12,000	11,000	7,000	8,000 [#]	11,000 [#]	No change [#]	No change [#]
COMPARABLE CRIME	731,000	630,000	556,000	527,000	414,000	448,000	386,000	↓ by 47%	No change
Vandalism	350,000	303,000	275,000	219,000	179,000	166,000	163,000	↓ by 54%	No change
Acquisitive crime	64,000	61,000	61,000	73,000	49,000	51,000	51,000	No change	No change
Violent crime	317,000	266,000	220,000	236,000	186,000	231,000	172,000	↓ by 46%	No change
<i>Number of respondents</i>	<i>16,000</i>	<i>16,040</i>	<i>13,010</i>	<i>12,050</i>	<i>11,470</i>	<i>5,570</i>	<i>5,480</i>		

[#]: Use with caution – the count estimate has a relative standard error of greater than 20%. This also applies to considering change over time using such figures.

Table A1.3: Rates of crime in Scotland, per 10,000 households/individuals (2017/18)

Crime rates (to nearest 10) per 10,000 households / individuals	Best estimate	Lower estimate	Upper estimate
ALL SCJS CRIME	2,010	1,790	2,230
PROPERTY CRIME	1,620	1,450	1,800
Vandalism	680	560	800
Motor vehicle vandalism	430	340	510
Property vandalism	260	180	330
All motor vehicle related theft	100	70	130
Theft of motor vehicle	10	0	30
Theft from motor vehicle	90	60	110
Attempted theft of/from motor vehicle	0	0	10
Housebreaking	100	60	150
Other household theft inc. bicycle theft	520	430	610
Other household theft	420	340	510
Bicycle theft	100	60	130
Personal theft (exc. Robbery)	210	160	260
Other theft	140	100	190
Theft from the person	70	50	90
VIOLENT CRIME	390	280	500
Assault	360	260	460
Serious assault	20	0	30
Robbery	20	0	60
COMPARABLE CRIME	1,290	1,100	1,470
Vandalism	680	560	800
Acquisitive crime	210	160	270
Violent crime	390	280	500

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 (to nearest 10), per 10,000 households/individuals by year	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15	2016/17	2017/18
ALL SCJS CRIME	3,660	3,270	3,050	2,780	2,330	2,250	2,010
PROPERTY CRIME	2,910	2,650	2,540	2,240	1,910	1,730	1,620
Vandalism	1,500	1,290	1,170	930	750	680	680
Motor vehicle vandalism	780	690	620	540	470	330	430
Property vandalism	720	610	550	380	280	340	260
All motor vehicle related theft	300	270	250	210	170	160	100
Theft of motor vehicle	30	30	20	20	10	10	10
Theft from motor vehicle	230	210	200	170	140	140	90
Attempted theft of/from motor vehicle	40	40	30	20	20	10	0
Housebreaking	110	120	120	150	90	110	100
Other household theft inc. bicycle theft	740	650	720	710	660	520	520
Other household theft	610	540	600	570	560	430	420
Bicycle theft	130	110	120	140	110	90	100
Personal theft (exc. Robbery)	260	300	290	250	230	280	210
Other theft	210	240	210	180	180	180	140
Theft from the person	50	70	70	60	50	90	70
VIOLENT CRIME	740	620	510	540	420	510	390
Assault	700	580	480	520	400	500	360
Serious assault	60	50	40	40	20	40	20
Robbery	50	40	30	30	20	20	20
Comparable crime							
Vandalism	1,500	1,290	1,170	930	750	680	680
Acquisitive crime	270	260	260	310	210	210	210
Violent crime	740	620	510	540	420	510	390
<i>Number of respondents</i>	16,000	16,040	13,010	12,050	11,470	5,570	5,480

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

Proportion of adults / households experiencing crime								Percentage point change	
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15	2016/17	2017/18	since 2008/09	since 2016/17
ALL SCJS CRIME	20.4%	19.3%	17.8%	16.9%	14.5%	13.4%	12.5%	⇩ by 8.0	No change
PROPERTY CRIME	18.0%	17.0%	15.9%	14.8%	13.0%	11.5%	10.8%	⇩ by 7.2	No change
Vandalism	8.9%	8.3%	7.2%	6.3%	5.1%	4.6%	4.7%	⇩ by 4.3	No change
Motor vehicle vandalism	5.4%	5.1%	4.4%	4.1%	3.4%	2.6%	3.0%	⇩ by 2.4	No change
Property vandalism	4.1%	3.7%	3.2%	2.4%	1.9%	2.2%	1.8%	⇩ by 2.3	No change
All motor vehicle related theft	2.4%	2.1%	2.0%	1.8%	1.5%	1.3%	0.9%	⇩ by 1.5	No change
Theft of motor vehicle	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	No change	No change
Theft from motor vehicle	1.8%	1.7%	1.6%	1.4%	1.3%	1.1%	0.8%	⇩ by 1.0	No change
Attempted theft of/from motor vehicle	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	⇩ by 0.3	No change
Housebreaking	0.8%	1.0%	1.1%	1.2%	0.8%	0.9%	0.8%	No change	No change
Other household theft inc. bicycle theft	5.3%	5.0%	5.0%	5.3%	5.0%	3.9%	3.9%	⇩ by 1.4	No change
Other household theft	4.4%	4.1%	4.2%	4.3%	4.1%	3.3%	3.1%	⇩ by 1.3	No change
Bicycle theft	1.1%	1.1%	1.0%	1.2%	0.9%	0.7%	0.8%	No change	No change
Personal theft (exc. Robbery)	2.2%	2.5%	2.5%	2.2%	2.1%	2.2%	1.9%	No change	No change
Other theft	1.8%	2.0%	1.8%	1.6%	1.7%	1.5%	1.2%	⇩ by 0.7	No change
Theft from the person	0.5%	0.6%	0.7%	0.6%	0.5%	0.8%	0.7%	No change	No change
VIOLENT CRIME	4.1%	3.6%	3.0%	3.1%	2.6%	2.9%	2.3%	⇩ by 1.8	No change
Assault	3.8%	3.4%	2.8%	2.9%	2.5%	2.8%	2.2%	⇩ by 1.7	No change
Serious assault	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	⇩ by 0.2	No change
Minor assault	3.0%	2.7%	2.3%	2.4%	2.1%	2.4%	1.9%	⇩ by 1.1	No change
Minor assault with injury	N/A	0.5%	0.5%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	N/A	No change
Minor assault with no / negligible injury	N/A	2.2%	1.8%	2.0%	1.7%	2.0%	1.5%	N/A	No change
Attempted assault	0.7%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	⇩ by 0.5	No change
Robbery	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	⇩ by 0.2	No change
<i>Number of respondents</i>	16,000	16,040	13,010	12,050	11,470	5,570	5,480		

Table A1.6: Prevalence of SCJS crime by demographic and area characteristics over time

Proportion of adults experiencing SCJS crime								Percentage point change	
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15	2016/17	2017/18	since 2008/09	since 2016/17
All	20.4%	19.3%	17.8%	16.9%	14.5%	13.4%	12.5%	↓ by 8.0	No change
Male	21.2%	20.4%	18.4%	18.2%	15.6%	13.9%	12.8%	↓ by 8.4	No change
Female	19.7%	18.2%	17.2%	15.8%	13.6%	13.0%	12.1%	↓ by 7.6	No change
16-24	32.2%	26.4%	25.6%	23.7%	20.4%	19.5%	16.0%	↓ by 16.2	No change
25-44	24.7%	25.1%	22.3%	21.6%	18.4%	17.3%	16.8%	↓ by 7.9	No change
45-59	20.1%	18.8%	17.6%	16.3%	15.3%	12.7%	13.6%	↓ by 6.4	No change
60+	9.5%	9.2%	8.7%	8.8%	6.8%	7.2%	5.3%	↓ by 4.2	No change
15% most deprived areas	26.0%	25.2%	21.3%	21.3%	21.2%	19.4%	18.0%	↓ by 8.0	No change
Rest of Scotland	19.4%	18.3%	17.2%	16.1%	13.4%	12.3%	11.5%	↓ by 7.9	No change
Urban	22.2%	20.9%	19.5%	18.6%	15.5%	14.8%	13.4%	↓ by 8.8	No change
Rural	13.0%	12.1%	10.2%	9.4%	9.9%	6.8%	8.2%	↓ by 4.8	No change
<i>Overall number of respondents</i>	<i>16,000</i>	<i>16,040</i>	<i>13,010</i>	<i>12,050</i>	<i>11,470</i>	<i>5,570</i>	<i>5,480</i>		

Table A1.7: Prevalence of violent crime by demographic and area characteristics over time

Proportion of adults experiencing violent crime								Percentage point change	
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15	2016/17	2017/18	since 2008/09	since 2016/17
All	4.1%	3.6%	3.0%	3.1%	2.6%	2.9%	2.3%	↓ by 1.8	No change
Male	5.7%	5.0%	4.2%	4.2%	3.5%	3.4%	2.5%	↓ by 3.2	No change
Female	2.7%	2.3%	1.9%	2.2%	1.8%	2.3%	2.1%	No change	No change
16-24	12.0%	10.1%	7.4%	8.2%	6.0%	5.3%	5.8%	↓ by 6.2	No change
25-44	4.4%	4.8%	4.0%	4.3%	3.5%	4.4%	3.1%	No change	No change
45-59	3.0%	1.6%	1.9%	1.9%	2.2%	2.5%	1.9%	No change	No change
60+	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.4%	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%	3.8%	No change	No change
Rest of Scotland	3.8%	3.1%	2.9%	2.8%	2.3%	2.5%	2.1%	↓ by 1.8	No change
Urban	4.6%	3.9%	3.3%	3.5%	2.8%	3.2%	2.5%	↓ by 2.1	No change
Rural	2.2%	2.3%	1.9%	1.7%	1.8%	1.4%	1.5%	No change	No change
<i>Overall number of respondents</i>	16,000	16,040	13,010	12,050	11,470	5,570	5,480		

Table A1.8: Prevalence of property crime by demographic and area characteristics over time

Proportion of adults experiencing property crime	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15	2016/17	2017/18	Percentage point change since 2008/09	Percentage point change since 2016/17
All	18.0%	17.0%	15.9%	14.8%	13.0%	11.5%	10.8%	↓ by 7.2	No change
Male	18.1%	17.0%	15.8%	15.3%	13.4%	11.6%	10.9%	↓ by 7.2	No change
Female	18.0%	17.0%	16.0%	14.4%	12.6%	11.5%	10.7%	↓ by 7.3	No change
16-24	26.1%	19.7%	20.6%	18.1%	16.8%	16.8%	12.4%	↓ by 13.7	No change
25-44	21.9%	22.2%	19.9%	18.7%	16.5%	14.3%	14.5%	↓ by 7.3	No change
45-59	18.1%	17.8%	16.5%	15.2%	13.7%	10.9%	12.1%	↓ by 6.0	No change
60+	9.1%	8.8%	8.3%	8.5%	6.4%	6.8%	5.0%	↓ by 4.1	No change
15% most deprived areas	22.8%	21.7%	19.5%	18.0%	18.7%	16.5%	15.6%	↓ by 7.2	No change
Rest of Scotland	17.2%	16.2%	15.3%	14.3%	11.9%	10.6%	10.0%	↓ by 7.2	No change
Urban	19.6%	18.5%	17.5%	16.3%	13.9%	12.8%	11.6%	↓ by 8.0	No change
Rural	11.3%	10.5%	9.0%	8.2%	8.5%	5.8%	7.0%	↓ by 4.3	No change
<i>Overall number of respondents</i>	<i>16,000</i>	<i>16,040</i>	<i>13,010</i>	<i>12,050</i>	<i>11,470</i>	<i>5,570</i>	<i>5,480</i>		

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	2017/18	Percentage point change	
								since 2008/09	since 2016/17
ALL SCJS CRIME	38%	37%	39%	39%	38%	37%	35%	No change	No change
PROPERTY CRIME	36%	36%	35%	35%	36%	34%	34%	No change	No change
Vandalism	40%	39%	40%	36%	37%	41%	36%	No change	No change
All motor vehicle related theft	45%	45%	33%	44%	44%	30%	44%	No change	No change
Housebreaking	64%	64%	62%	64%	62%	-	-	N/A	N/A
Other household theft inc. bicycle theft	22%	32%	26%	25%	28%	29%	28%	No change	No change
Personal theft (exc. Robbery)	31%	26%	30%	37%	37%	27%	28%	No change	No change
VIOLENT CRIME	43%	38%	51%	48%	44%	43%	39%	No change	No change
COMPARABLE CRIME	42%	40%	46%	44%	42%	42%	40%	No change	No change
Vandalism	40%	39%	40%	36%	37%	41%	36%	No change	No change
Acquisitive crime	49%	57%	51%	55%	50%	45%	58%	No change	No change
Violent crime	43%	38%	51%	48%	44%	43%	39%	No change	No change
<i>Overall number of SCJS crimes</i>	<i>3,790</i>	<i>3,300</i>	<i>2,600</i>	<i>2,300</i>	<i>1,930</i>	<i>860</i>	<i>760</i>		

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	2017/18	Percentage change	
								since 2008/09	since 2016/17
Comparable SCJS Crime	731,000	630,000	556,000	527,000	414,000	448,000	386,000	↓ by 47%	No change
Comparable Recorded Crime	215,901	195,728	183,117	144,662	133,170	131,566	130,418	↓ by 40%	↓ by 1%
SCJS Acquisitive Crime	64,000	61,000	61,000	73,000	49,000	51,000	51,000	No change	No change
Recorded Acquisitive Crime	27,527	26,146	26,478	21,834	21,000	18,295	17,867	↓ by 35%	↓ by 2%
SCJS Violent Crime	317,000	266,000	220,000	236,000	186,000	231,000	172,000	↓ by 46%	No change
Recorded Violent Crime	82,855	79,769	78,263	66,076	62,578	63,246	63,835	↓ by 23%	↑ by 1%
SCJS Vandalism	350,000	303,000	275,000	219,000	179,000	166,000	163,000	↓ by 54%	No change
Recorded Vandalism	105,519	89,813	78,376	56,752	49,592	50,025	48,716	↓ by 54%	↓ by 3%

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'								Percentage point change since	
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15	2016/17	2017/18	2008/09	2016/17
All	69%	71%	73%	76%	75%	76%	73%	↑ by 4	↓ by 3
Male	73%	74%	76%	78%	77%	79%	76%	↑ by 3	No change
Female	65%	68%	71%	73%	72%	73%	69%	↑ by 4	↓ by 3
16-24	68%	77%	76%	80%	78%	81%	81%	↑ by 13	No change
25-44	72%	70%	73%	76%	72%	75%	72%	No change	No change
45-59	68%	70%	73%	75%	75%	73%	69%	No change	No change
60+	68%	70%	73%	75%	76%	76%	73%	↑ by 5	No change
15% most deprived areas	64%	65%	67%	72%	74%	71%	73%	↑ by 9	No change
Rest of Scotland	70%	72%	75%	76%	75%	76%	72%	↑ by 3	↓ by 4
Urban	68%	69%	72%	75%	74%	74%	71%	↑ by 4	↓ by 3
Rural	74%	78%	80%	79%	78%	81%	78%	↑ by 4	No change
Victim	58%	60%	62%	65%	63%	69%	62%	↑ by 4	↓ by 8
Non-victim	72%	73%	76%	78%	77%	76%	74%	↑ by 2	No change
<i>Overall number of respondents</i>	14,210	14,380	11,700	10,640	10,050	4,830	4,770		

Table A1.12: Proportion of adults who felt safe walking alone after dark in their local area, 2008/09 to 2017/18

Proportion of adults who felt very or fairly safe	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15	2016/17	2017/18	Percentage point change since 2008/09	Percentage point change since 2016/17
All	66%	67%	68%	72%	74%	77%	77%	↑ by 11	No change
Male	79%	80%	82%	85%	86%	89%	89%	↑ by 10	No change
Female	55%	55%	55%	60%	64%	67%	66%	↑ by 11	No change
16-24	71%	72%	72%	73%	77%	79%	83%	↑ by 13	No change
25-44	73%	72%	72%	77%	78%	83%	80%	↑ by 8	No change
45-59	70%	70%	72%	76%	77%	79%	77%	↑ by 7	No change
60+	52%	56%	57%	61%	66%	70%	70%	↑ by 18	No change
15% most deprived areas	52%	52%	54%	57%	62%	63%	63%	↑ by 10	No change
Rest of Scotland	69%	70%	71%	75%	76%	80%	79%	↑ by 11	No change
Urban	62%	63%	65%	69%	71%	75%	75%	↑ by 12	No change
Rural	83%	84%	84%	87%	88%	89%	88%	↑ by 6	No change
Victim	61%	61%	61%	66%	67%	70%	68%	↑ by 7	No change
Non-victim	68%	69%	70%	73%	76%	79%	78%	↑ by 11	No change
<i>Overall number of respondents</i>	<i>16,000</i>	<i>16,040</i>	<i>13,010</i>	<i>12,050</i>	<i>11,470</i>	<i>5,570</i>	<i>5,480</i>		

Table A1.13: Proportion of adults who felt safe at home at night, 2008/09 to 2017/18

Proportion of adults who felt very or fairly safe	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15	2016/17	2017/18	Percentage point change	
								since 2008/09	since 2016/17
All	93%	94%	94%	95%	94%	97%	96%	↑ by 2	↓ by 1
Male	96%	97%	98%	97%	97%	98%	98%	↑ by 2	No change
Female	90%	92%	91%	92%	91%	95%	93%	↑ by 3	↓ by 2
16-24	91%	93%	91%	92%	91%	95%	94%	No change	No change
25-44	93%	94%	94%	95%	94%	96%	95%	No change	No change
45-59	94%	95%	95%	95%	94%	97%	96%	↑ by 2	No change
60+	93%	95%	95%	95%	95%	97%	97%	↑ by 3	No change
15% most deprived areas	88%	89%	90%	91%	90%	93%	92%	↑ by 4	No change
Rest of Scotland	94%	95%	95%	95%	95%	97%	96%	↑ by 2	↓ by 1
Urban	93%	94%	94%	94%	93%	96%	95%	↑ by 3	No change
Rural	96%	96%	96%	97%	96%	98%	98%	↑ by 2	No change
Victim	90%	90%	89%	90%	90%	91%	91%	No change	No change
Non-victim	94%	95%	95%	96%	94%	97%	96%	↑ by 2	↓ by 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>	<i>5,480</i>		

Table A1.14: Proportion of adults who said the police in their local area were doing an excellent or good job

Proportion of adults who said the police in their local area were doing an excellent or good job	2012/13	2014/15	2016/17	2017/18	Percentage point change	
					since 2012/13	since 2016/17
All	61%	58%	58%	57%	↓ by 4	No change
Male	59%	57%	56%	54%	↓ by 5	No change
Female	62%	60%	61%	60%	↓ by 3	No change
16-24	63%	61%	66%	62%	No change	No change
25-44	60%	58%	61%	58%	No change	No change
45-59	58%	56%	53%	54%	No change	No change
60+	64%	60%	56%	57%	↓ by 7	No change
15% most deprived areas	54%	53%	53%	53%	No change	No change
Rest of Scotland	62%	59%	59%	58%	↓ by 4	No change
Urban	61%	58%	59%	57%	↓ by 4	No change
Rural	63%	60%	57%	58%	↓ by 4	No change
Victim	51%	47%	51%	50%	No change	No change
Non-victim	63%	60%	60%	58%	↓ by 5	No change
<i>Overall number of respondents</i>	<i>12,050</i>	<i>11,470</i>	<i>5,570</i>	<i>5,480</i>		

Table A1.15: Proportion of adults who were very or fairly confident in the ability of the police in their local area to prevent crime

Proportion of adults who felt very or fairly confident in the ability of the police to prevent crime	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15	2016/17	2017/18	Percentage point change since	
								2008/09	2016/17
All	46%	48%	50%	56%	57%	56%	53%	↑ by 7	↓ by 2
Male	45%	47%	49%	56%	57%	56%	52%	↑ by 7	No change
Female	47%	49%	51%	56%	57%	56%	54%	↑ by 8	No change
16-24	50%	52%	56%	62%	64%	66%	62%	↑ by 12	No change
25-44	46%	48%	51%	58%	57%	59%	57%	↑ by 11	No change
45-59	42%	45%	47%	53%	54%	50%	49%	↑ by 7	No change
60+	47%	48%	49%	54%	56%	52%	49%	No change	No change
15% most deprived areas	42%	40%	45%	52%	56%	50%	49%	↑ by 6	No change
Rest of Scotland	47%	49%	51%	57%	57%	57%	54%	↑ by 7	↓ by 3
Urban	45%	47%	50%	55%	57%	56%	53%	↑ by 8	↓ by 3
Rural	48%	52%	50%	59%	57%	54%	53%	↑ by 5	No change
Victim	37%	41%	44%	50%	46%	45%	47%	↑ by 10	No change
Non-victim	48%	50%	51%	57%	59%	57%	54%	↑ by 6	↓ by 3
<i>Overall number of respondents</i>	16,000	16,040	13,010	12,050	11,470	5,570	5,480		

Table A1.16: Proportion of adults who were very or fairly confident in the ability of the police in their local area to respond quickly

Proportion of adults who felt very or fairly confident in the ability of the police to respond quickly	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15	2016/17	2017/18	Percentage point change	
								since 2008/09	since 2016/17
All	54%	58%	61%	66%	64%	64%	63%	↑ by 8	No change
Male	53%	56%	59%	65%	62%	61%	60%	↑ by 7	No change
Female	56%	59%	63%	67%	65%	66%	65%	↑ by 9	No change
16-24	59%	64%	70%	72%	76%	78%	73%	↑ by 14	No change
25-44	58%	61%	65%	70%	66%	69%	67%	↑ by 9	No change
45-59	50%	54%	56%	62%	59%	56%	59%	↑ by 9	No change
60+	52%	54%	56%	63%	60%	59%	57%	↑ by 5	No change
15% most deprived areas	50%	51%	56%	61%	60%	62%	62%	↑ by 12	No change
Rest of Scotland	55%	59%	62%	67%	64%	64%	63%	↑ by 8	No change
Urban	54%	57%	61%	66%	64%	66%	63%	↑ by 9	No change
Rural	56%	62%	62%	67%	62%	56%	61%	↑ by 5	No change
Victim	49%	55%	55%	63%	58%	64%	59%	↑ by 9	No change
Non-victim	56%	59%	62%	67%	65%	64%	63%	↑ by 8	No change
<i>Overall number of respondents</i>	16,000	16,040	13,010	12,050	11,470	5,570	5,480		

Table A1.17: Proportion of adults who were very or fairly confident in the ability of the police in their local area to deal with incidents as they occur

Proportion of adults who felt very or fairly confident in the ability of the police to deal with incidents as they occur								Percentage point change	
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15	2016/17	2017/18	since 2008/09	since 2016/17
All	58%	61%	65%	68%	66%	66%	65%	↑ by 7	No change
Male	57%	60%	64%	68%	65%	66%	63%	↑ by 6	No change
Female	59%	62%	66%	68%	66%	66%	67%	↑ by 8	No change
16-24	61%	64%	72%	72%	73%	78%	74%	↑ by 14	No change
25-44	60%	63%	68%	71%	68%	71%	68%	↑ by 8	No change
45-59	54%	58%	60%	65%	64%	59%	62%	↑ by 9	No change
60+	59%	59%	63%	67%	62%	61%	62%	No change	No change
15% most deprived areas	54%	56%	60%	64%	64%	63%	62%	↑ by 9	No change
Rest of Scotland	59%	62%	66%	69%	66%	67%	66%	↑ by 7	No change
Urban	57%	60%	65%	68%	66%	67%	66%	↑ by 9	No change
Rural	60%	64%	64%	71%	65%	60%	62%	No change	No change
Victim	51%	56%	59%	64%	59%	62%	61%	↑ by 10	No change
Non-victim	60%	62%	66%	69%	67%	67%	66%	↑ by 6	No change
<i>Overall number of respondents</i>	<i>16,000</i>	<i>16,040</i>	<i>13,010</i>	<i>12,050</i>	<i>11,470</i>	<i>5,570</i>	<i>5,480</i>		

Table A1.18: Proportion of adults who were very or fairly confident in the ability of the police in their local area to investigate incidents

Proportion of adults who felt very or fairly confident in the ability of the police to investigate incidents	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15	2016/17	2017/18	Percentage point change since	
								2008/09	2016/17
All	64%	68%	71%	73%	70%	71%	69%	↑ by 5	No change
Male	64%	67%	70%	72%	69%	69%	67%	↑ by 4	No change
Female	64%	68%	71%	73%	71%	72%	71%	↑ by 7	No change
16-24	65%	68%	72%	73%	76%	79%	71%	No change	↓ by 8
25-44	66%	70%	74%	74%	71%	73%	72%	↑ by 6	No change
45-59	62%	68%	68%	73%	69%	69%	70%	↑ by 8	No change
60+	63%	65%	69%	71%	68%	67%	66%	No change	No change
15% most deprived areas	59%	62%	66%	67%	67%	70%	67%	↑ by 8	No change
Rest of Scotland	65%	69%	71%	74%	71%	71%	70%	↑ by 5	No change
Urban	63%	67%	70%	72%	70%	72%	70%	↑ by 7	No change
Rural	68%	71%	73%	75%	71%	68%	68%	No change	No change
Victim	57%	61%	63%	69%	64%	68%	63%	↑ by 7	No change
Non-victim	66%	69%	72%	74%	72%	72%	70%	↑ by 4	No change
<i>Overall number of respondents</i>	<i>16,000</i>	<i>16,040</i>	<i>13,010</i>	<i>12,050</i>	<i>11,470</i>	<i>5,570</i>	<i>5,480</i>		

Table A1.19: Proportion of adults who were very or fairly confident in the ability of the police in their local area to solve crimes

Proportion of adults who felt very or fairly confident in the ability of the police to solve crimes	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15	2016/17	2017/18	Percentage point change	
								since 2008/09	since 2016/17
All	57%	60%	64%	64%	62%	65%	64%	↑ by 7	No change
Male	56%	58%	62%	63%	61%	64%	62%	↑ by 6	No change
Female	58%	61%	65%	64%	63%	66%	66%	↑ by 8	No change
16-24	59%	62%	68%	67%	67%	76%	71%	↑ by 12	No change
25-44	59%	63%	66%	65%	63%	67%	67%	↑ by 8	No change
45-59	55%	57%	61%	62%	61%	62%	61%	↑ by 7	No change
60+	56%	58%	61%	62%	60%	61%	61%	↑ by 5	No change
15% most deprived areas	51%	56%	59%	59%	58%	63%	62%	↑ by 11	No change
Rest of Scotland	58%	61%	64%	65%	63%	66%	64%	↑ by 6	No change
Urban	56%	59%	63%	63%	62%	66%	65%	↑ by 8	No change
Rural	60%	62%	64%	66%	62%	62%	61%	No change	No change
Victim	49%	53%	56%	58%	53%	60%	60%	↑ by 12	No change
Non-victim	59%	62%	65%	65%	64%	66%	65%	↑ by 5	No change
<i>Overall number of respondents</i>	<i>16,000</i>	<i>16,040</i>	<i>13,010</i>	<i>12,050</i>	<i>11,470</i>	<i>5,570</i>	<i>5,480</i>		

Table A1.20: Proportion of adults who were very or fairly confident in the ability of the police in their local area to catch criminals

Proportion of adults who felt very or fairly confident in the ability of the police to catch criminals	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15	2016/17	2017/18	Percentage point change	
								since 2008/09	since 2016/17
All	55%	57%	60%	61%	60%	63%	61%	↑ by 6	No change
Male	55%	56%	59%	60%	59%	62%	60%	↑ by 5	No change
Female	56%	58%	61%	62%	61%	64%	63%	↑ by 7	No change
16-24	56%	60%	66%	65%	64%	72%	66%	↑ by 9	No change
25-44	58%	59%	62%	62%	61%	67%	64%	↑ by 7	No change
45-59	52%	55%	56%	58%	58%	59%	59%	↑ by 7	No change
60+	55%	55%	59%	61%	58%	58%	58%	↑ by 3	No change
15% most deprived areas	50%	53%	57%	57%	57%	62%	59%	↑ by 7	No change
Rest of Scotland	56%	58%	61%	62%	60%	63%	62%	↑ by 5	No change
Urban	54%	56%	60%	61%	60%	63%	62%	↑ by 7	No change
Rural	59%	61%	60%	63%	60%	62%	59%	No change	No change
Victim	47%	50%	50%	53%	50%	57%	54%	↑ by 6	No change
Non-victim	57%	59%	62%	63%	62%	64%	62%	↑ by 5	No change
<i>Overall number of respondents</i>	<i>16,000</i>	<i>16,040</i>	<i>13,010</i>	<i>12,050</i>	<i>11,470</i>	<i>5,570</i>	<i>5,480</i>		

Table A1.21: Proportion of adults who agreed with statements about the police (perceptions of community engagement and fairness)

Proportion of adults who strongly or tend to agree with each statement	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15	2016/17	2017/18	Percentage point change since	
							2009/10	2016/17
<i>Community engagement measures:</i>								
Police in this area can be relied on to be there when you need them	58%	61%	66%	64%	65%	64%	↑ by 6	No change
The police in this area listen to the concerns of local people	48%	53%	54%	50%	52%	50%	No change	No change
Community relations with the police in this local area are poor	28%	26%	22%	23%	23%	24%	↓ by 4	No change
Police in this area are not dealing with the things that matter to people in this community	31%	29%	25%	23%	21%	20%	↓ by 10	No change
<i>Fairness measures:</i>								
Police in this area would treat you with respect if you had contact with them for any reason	83%	86%	86%	85%	87%	88%	↑ by 4	No change
The police in this area treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are	58%	63%	61%	60%	62%	63%	↑ by 5	No change
<i>Overall number of respondents</i>	3,890	3,180	11,520	11,180	5,420	5,360		

Table A1.22: 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	2017/18	Percentage point change	
								since 2008/09	since 2016/17
Is effective in bringing people who commit crimes to justice	53%	53%	56%	57%	60%	63%	62%	↑ by 10	No change
Deals with cases promptly and efficiently	35%	38%	42%	43%	43%	47%	44%	↑ by 9	No change
Makes sure everyone has access to the legal system if they need it	70%	71%	73%	76%	76%	75%	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%	62%	↑ by 8	No change
<i>Questions below only included since 2012/13 or question wording updated in 2012/13</i>								Percentage point change	
								Since 2012/13	Since 2016/17
Provides a good standard of service for victims of crime	38%	41%	45%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Provides victims of crime with the services and support they need	N/A	N/A	N/A	52%	55%	57%	56%	↑ by 4	No change
Provides a good standard of service for witnesses	43%	45%	49%	N/A	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%	58%	↑ by 3	No change
Makes fair, impartial decisions based on the evidence available	N/A	N/A	N/A	70%	72%	73%	74%	↑ by 4	No change
Gives punishments which fit the crime	N/A	N/A	N/A	32%	36%	39%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Gives sentences which fit the crime	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	38%	N/A	N/A
Adequately takes into account the circumstances surrounding a crime when it hands out sentences	N/A	N/A	N/A	55%	57%	60%	61%	↑ by 6	No change
Allows all victims of crime to seek justice regardless of who they are	N/A	N/A	N/A	66%	68%	69%	68%	No change	No change
Allows all those accused of crimes to get a fair trial regardless of who they are	N/A	N/A	N/A	77%	77%	78%	77%	No change	No change
Treats those accused of crime as innocent until proven guilty	N/A	N/A	N/A	74%	72%	72%	74%	No change	No change
<i>Overall number of respondents</i>	16,000	16,040	13,010	12,050	11,470	5,570	5,480		

A1.23: Proportion of adults who thought issues were common in their area, 2008/09 – 2017/18

Percentage of adults saying issue is very or fairly common in their area	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15	2016/17	2017/18	Percentage point change since 2008/09*	Percentage point change since 2016/17
Drug dealing and drug abuse	45%	48%	48%	44%	42%	36%	37%	↓ by 8	No change
People behaving in an anti-social manner in public	46%	47%	45%	41%	35%	29%	29%	↓ by 17	No change
Deliberate damage to cars or other vehicles	N/A	N/A	N/A	25%	20%	17%	19%	↓ by 6	No change
People having things stolen from their car or other vehicles	20%	21%	20%	16%	15%	10%	15%	↓ by 5	↑ by 4
People buying or selling smuggled or fake goods	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	13%	14%	N/A	No change
Violence between groups of individuals or gangs	26%	26%	24%	20%	14%	10%	12%	↓ by 14	No change
People carrying knives	N/A	22%	22%	16%	14%	10%	12%	↓ by 10	No change
People being physically assaulted or attacked in the street or other public places	19%	21%	21%	18%	15%	10%	10%	↓ by 9	No change
People having their car or other vehicles stolen	15%	13%	14%	8%	10%	8%	10%	↓ by 5	No change
Deliberate damage to people's homes by vandals	N/A	N/A	N/A	14%	11%	9%	10%	↓ by 4	No change
People being mugged or robbed	10%	13%	13%	11%	8%	6%	6%	↓ by 4	No change
People being physically attacked because of their skin colour, ethnic origin or religion	7%	8%	9%	7%	6%	5%	4%	↓ by 3	No change
People being sexually assaulted	3%	4%	4%	4%	4%	3%	4%	No change	No change
<i>Number of respondents</i>	4,030	4,000	3,220	3,110	2,850	1,390	1,380		

*or first time question was included.

A1.24: Proportion of adults who were worried about experiencing different types of crime, 2008/09 – 2017/18

Percentage of adults very or fairly worried about crime happening	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15	2016/17	2017/18	Percentage point change	
								since 2008/09	since 2016/17
Your car or other vehicle will be damaged by vandals	41%	42%	41%	37%	36%	31%	31%	↓ by 10	No change
Things will be stolen from your car or other vehicle	32%	31%	30%	27%	27%	23%	23%	↓ by 9	No change
Your car or other vehicle will be stolen	28%	27%	26%	23%	23%	21%	21%	↓ by 7	No change
<i>Number of respondents¹⁴²</i>	11,190	11,790	9,450	8,710	8,420	4,120	4,130		
Someone will use your credit or bank details to obtain money, goods or services	56%	57%	58%	52%	54%	52%	51%	↓ by 5	No change
You will have your identity stolen	51%	50%	48%	43%	45%	43%	43%	↓ by 8	No change
Your home will be broken into	35%	34%	35%	32%	35%	28%	27%	↓ by 8	No change
You will be involved or caught up in violence between groups of individuals or gangs	29%	28%	25%	19%	17%	14%	13%	↓ by 16	No change
You will be mugged or robbed	31%	32%	31%	25%	24%	20%	18%	↓ by 13	No change
You will be physically assaulted or attacked in the street or other public place	31%	30%	28%	24%	23%	19%	18%	↓ by 13	No change
Your home will be damaged by vandals	26%	25%	24%	21%	21%	17%	16%	↓ by 9	No change
You will be sexually assaulted	15%	15%	15%	13%	13%	11%	11%	↓ by 4	No change
<i>Number of respondents</i>	16,000	16,040	13,010	12,050	11,470	5,570	5,480		

¹⁴²Above questions only asked of households who own one or more vehicles.

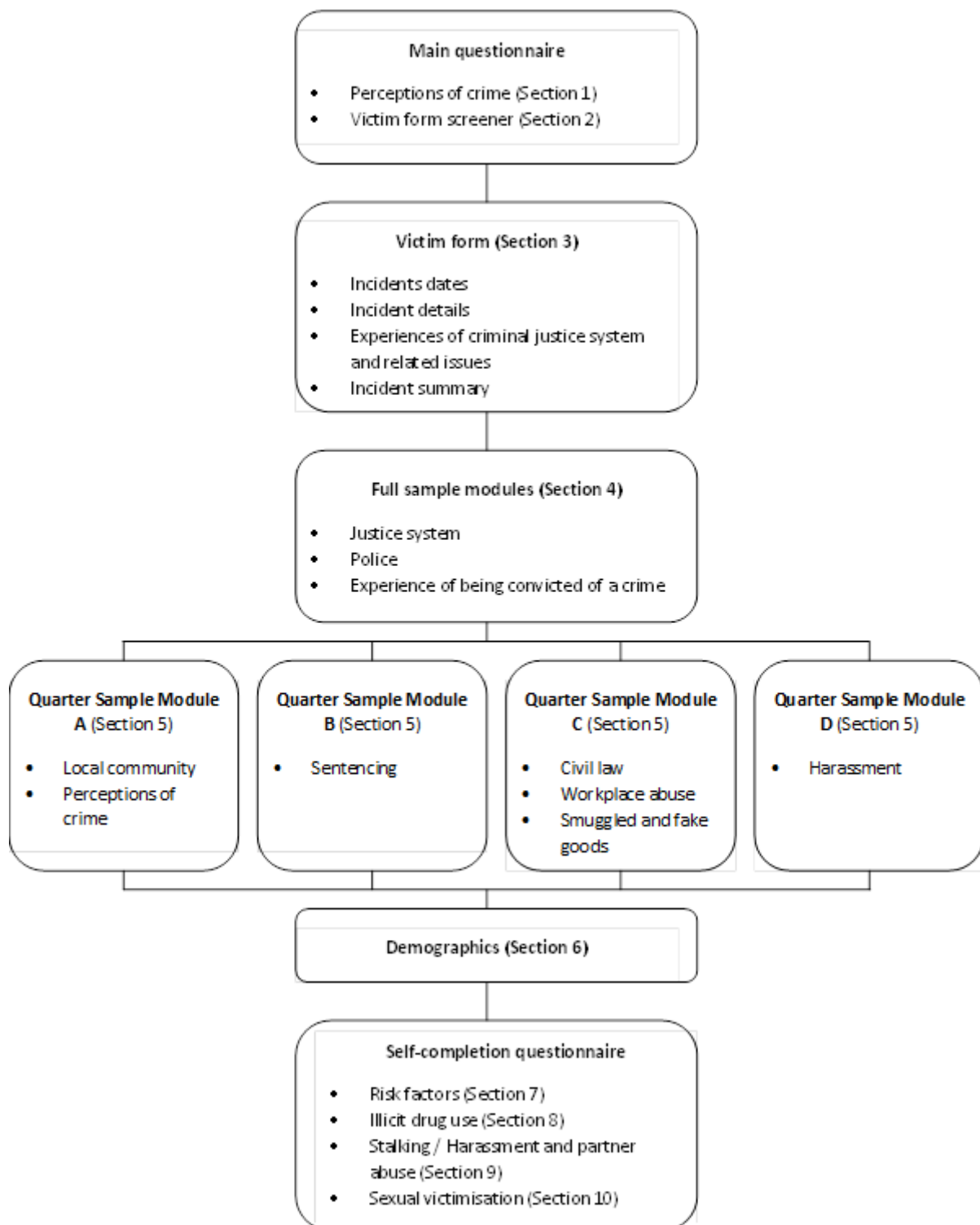
A1.25: Proportion of adults who thought they were likely to experience different types of crime in the next year

Percentage of adults who thought they were likely to experience each crime	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2014/15	2016/17	2017/18	Percentage point change since 2008/09	Percentage point change since 2016/17
Someone will use your credit or bank details to obtain money, goods or services	14%	17%	15%	14%	17%	28%	26%	↑ by 12	No change
You will have your identity stolen	12%	12%	10%	9%	11%	16%	16%	↑ by 4	No change
Your car or other vehicle will be damaged by vandals	12%	13%	11%	10%	10%	10%	11%	No change	No change
Your home will be broken into	9%	8%	6%	7%	8%	10%	9%	No change	No change
Things will be stolen from your car or other vehicle	6%	6%	5%	4%	5%	6%	6%	No change	No change
You will be physically assaulted or attacked in the street or other public place	7%	7%	6%	5%	5%	6%	6%	No change	No change
You will be mugged or robbed	6%	6%	5%	4%	4%	5%	5%	↓ by 1	No change
Your car or other vehicle will be stolen	5%	5%	4%	4%	4%	5%	5%	No change	No change
Your home will be damaged by vandals	6%	6%	5%	4%	4%	5%	4%	↓ by 2	No change
You will be involved or caught up in violence between groups of individuals or gangs	7%	6%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	↓ by 3	No change
You will be sexually assaulted	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	No change	No change
None of the above	48%	49%	52%	57%	55%	50%	52%	↑ by 4	No change
<i>Number of respondents</i>	16,000	16,040	13,010	12,050	11,470	5,570	5,480		

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 annually for each financial year with recall period extending over 25 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 2017/18 Questionnaire Structure



Annex D: Drug Categories and Classifications

2017/18 Drugs	Drugs Wheel Category ¹⁴³	Drugs Class ¹⁴⁴
AMPHETAMINE	Stimulants	B ¹⁴⁵
CANNABIS	Cannabinoids	B
SYNTHETIC CANNABIS	Cannabinoids	B
COCAINE	Stimulants	A
CRACK	Stimulants	A
ECSTASY	Empathogens	A
HEROIN	Opioids	A
LSD	Psychedelics	A
MAGIC MUSHROOMS	Psychedelics	A
METHADONE / PHYSEPTONE WITHOUT PRESCRIPTION	Opioids	A
ANABOLIC STEROIDS WITHOUT PRESCRIPTION	Steroids ¹⁴⁶	C
POPPERS	Stimulants	Not classified ¹⁴⁷
CRYSTAL METH	Stimulants	A
KETAMINE	Dissociatives	B
GLUES, SOLVENTS, GAS OR AEROSOLS	Depressants	Not classified ¹⁴⁸
MEPHEDRONE	Stimulants	B
TRANQUILISERS: BENZODIAZEPINES WITHOUT PRESCRIPTION	Depressants	C
PRESCRIPTION ONLY PAINKILLERS THAT WERE NOT PRESCRIBED FOR YOU	Combined ¹⁴⁹	Combined ¹⁵⁰
GHB/GBL	Depressants	C

¹⁴³ Categories based on The Drugs Wheel Version 2.0.7 <http://www.thedrugswheel.com/>

¹⁴⁴ A full list of drugs currently classified under the Misuse of Drugs Act can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/controlled-drugs-list--2/list-of-most-commonly-encountered-drugs-currently-controlled-under-the-misuse-of-drugs-legislation>

¹⁴⁵ Amphetamines are a class B drug but move up to a Class A status if prepared for injection. The SCJS does not collect details of whether amphetamine was prepared for injection or in powdered form. All self-reported amphetamine use is included in Class B in the analysis that follows. Methamphetamine (Crystal Meth) is a Class A drug and grouped separately on this list.

¹⁴⁶ Steroids are not included in the drugs wheel but should be categorised as a separate category.

¹⁴⁷ Poppers are not classified under the misuse of drugs act. However there are some controls on the sale of these items.

¹⁴⁸ Solvents are not classified under the misuse of drugs act. However there are some controls on the sale of these items.

¹⁴⁹ Prescription only painkillers can include a range of drug types including opioids (e.g. Morphine, Codeine, co-codamol, tramadol) and depressants (e.g. Gabapentinoids), therefore they are reported separately here.

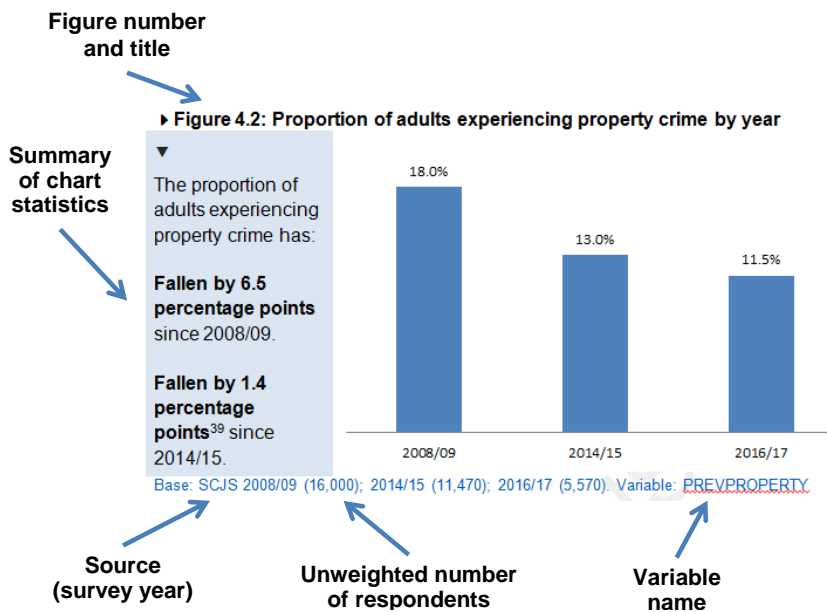
¹⁵⁰ Prescription only painkillers can include a range of drug which have different classifications.; including Class A (e.g. morphine and Oxycodone), Class B (some codine based drugs), Class C (e.g. Tramadol) and currently unclassified (e.g. Gabapentinoids). Some of the drugs which may be recorded in this category are exempt from virtually all Controlled Drug requirements because of their low strength.

Annex E: Interpreting charts, tables and figures in this report

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

The information provided alongside figures and tables includes a title, the data source (survey year etc.), a base definition and the unweighted number of respondents and, if relevant, a variable name. Unless otherwise stated the results are from 2017/18. Examples of a figure and a table are shown below. Changes which are statistically significant at the 95% level are highlighted with arrows as shown in the example below.

Figure



Table

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

Unweighted number of respondents

Variable name(s)

Number of respondents: 16,003, 11,472, 5,567

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

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

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 on¹⁵¹. 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 the [Users Statistical Testing Tool](#) published online alongside data tables).

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

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

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

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

¹⁵¹ i.e. this is generally how many people were asked the question for the results being discussed.

A National Statistics publication for Scotland

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be interpreted to mean that the statistics: meet identified user needs; are produced, managed and disseminated to high standards; and are explained well.

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may be made available on request, subject to consideration of legal and ethical factors.

Please contact scjs@gov.scot for further information.

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ISBN 978-1-78781-669-5 (web only)

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