Scottish Crime and Justice Survey

Latest Findings and Future Developments
Overview

• Brief introduction to the SCJS – and recent changes
• Latest findings
• On-going work
• Future plans
A short history of victimisation surveys in Scotland

- Prior to 2008, victimisation surveys were intermittent and had smaller sample sizes (around 5,000 interviews).

- SCJS launched in 2008/09 with a larger sample size. Biennial from 2010/11. (12,000 – 16,000 respondents)

- 2016/17: Return to an annual survey, with a smaller sample size (c. 6,000).
The SCJS is a large-scale social survey, run by the Scottish Government, which asks people about their experiences and perceptions of crime. The survey is important because it provides a picture of crime in Scotland, including crimes that haven’t been reported to, or recorded by the police.

**Who takes part?**
- **6,000 adults** (over 16) in private households across Scotland

**Who isn’t included?**
- Children
- Those living in group residences, institutions or those without a fixed address.
- Commercial or public sector bodies
How are the data collected?

A sample of households are randomly selected.

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

Interviews last approximately 40 minutes.

The main survey questions are answered verbally.

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

What does the survey cover?

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**

Respondents also self-complete a questionnaire that covers sensitive topics including **drug use, partner abuse, sexual victimisation & stalking**.
SCJS 2014/15 - Findings

• Main Findings report published in March 2016

• Three Supplementary reports:
  – Sexual Victimisation and Stalking
  – Partner Abuse
  – Drug Use

• Infographic summaries
Key Findings

Crime in Scotland is falling

- **688,000** crimes were committed against adults in 2014/15
  - Since 2008/09: 34%
  - Since 2012/13: 16%

- **502,000** property crimes were committed against adults in 2014/15
  - Since 2008/09: 31%
  - Since 2012/13: 13%

- **186,000** violent crimes were committed against adults in 2014/15
  - Since 2008/09: 41%
  - Since 2012/13: no change
Comparing with / contextualising recorded crime

Just under two-thirds of SCJS crime can be compared with police recorded crime.

Crime can be compared when it is covered by both sources.

Trends in the comparable crime groups are consistent since 2008/09.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Violent Crime</th>
<th>Acquisitive Crime</th>
<th>Vandalism</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCJS 41%</td>
<td>SCJS 23%</td>
<td>SCJS 49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recorded Crime 24%</td>
<td>Recorded Crime 24%</td>
<td>Recorded Crime 53%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What sort of crime are people experiencing?

Most crime was property crime in 2014/15

Vandalism is the most experienced property crime.

Most violent crime is minor assault with no/negligible injury.

- Personal theft (excl. robbery): 21%
- Other theft (inc. bicycles): 31%
- Housebreaking: 4%
- Vandalism: 36%
- All motor vehicle theft related incidents: 8%
- Serious Assault:
  - Robbery: 4%
  - Attempted Assault: 16%
  - Minor Assault with negligible injury: 12%
- Minor Assault with no/negligible injury: 64%
The risk of being a victim of crime is reducing

Most people didn’t experience crime

Overall, the risk of being a victim of crime in Scotland is falling

Since 2008/09

Since 2012/13

5.9 percentage pts.

2.4 percentage pts.

14.5% of people were victims of crime

- 13% of people were victims of **property crime**
  (down 5pp since 2008/09; down 1.8 pp since 2012/13)

- 2.6% of people were victims of **violent crime**
  (down 1.5 pp since 2008/09; no change since 2012/13)
Generally, some people are more likely to experience crime than others.

Young People were more likely to experience crime.

More men than women were victims of crime.

More people living in deprived areas were victims of crime.
Those in deprived areas do not have the same experience as those living in the rest of Scotland.

More people living in deprived areas were victims of crime.

Overall, the risk of being a victim of crime in Scotland is falling:
- Since 2008/09: 5.9 percentage pts.
- Since 2012/13: 2.4 percentage pts.

but people in deprived areas are not experiencing the same fall since 2012/13:
- Since 2008/09: 4.8 percentage pts.
- Since 2012/13: no change
People are feeling safer in their communities

74% of adults feel safe walking alone after dark

- 8 percentage pts. Since 2008/09
- 2 percentage pts. Since 2012/13

67% of victims of crime felt safe walking alone after dark.

62% of people living in deprived areas felt safe walking alone after dark.

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

86%
The perceived risk of being a victim of crime was generally two or three times higher than the actual risk – but for some crimes was many times higher.
### Inequality – repeat and multiple victimisation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ALL</th>
<th>PROPERTY CRIME</th>
<th>VIOLENT CRIME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ONE CRIME</td>
<td>10.2% of adults experienced</td>
<td>9.4% of adults exp. one property crime</td>
<td>1.8% of adults exp. one violent crime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>ONE CRIME</strong></td>
<td><strong>property crime</strong></td>
<td><strong>violent crime</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXPERIENCED &gt;1</td>
<td>4.4% of adults experienced</td>
<td>3.5% of adults experienced &gt; 1</td>
<td>0.8% of adults experienced &gt; 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRIME</td>
<td>(58% of all crime)</td>
<td>(50% of property crime)</td>
<td>(57% of violent crime)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:**
- **ALL CRIME**: Total crime statistics.
- **PROPERTY CRIME**: Crime affecting property.
- **VIOLENT CRIME**: Crime of a violent nature.
On-going work

• 2016/17 SCJS in the field
  – working with contractors to ensure consistency in approach, or improvements (e.g. increase self-completion participation and ‘true’ self-completion)
  – Coding / data processing work underway

• Future reporting – frequency, content, format

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCJS 2014/15</th>
<th>SCJS 2016/17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>12,000</strong> adults take part every two years</td>
<td><strong>6,000</strong> adults take part every year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Results available every two years</td>
<td>Some results available annually?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Preparations for 2017-18 sweep and questionnaire development
Future plans

• **Continuing to improve our analysis to focus on victims**
  – Repeat and multiple victimisation
  – Types of victim
  – Impact / harm
  – Risk factors / drivers

• **Enhancing use of the survey data**
  – Over time
  – Multi-year pooled data set (2008/09 to 2014/15)
  – Across survey sections (main survey and self-completion, attitudinal modules)

• **Alternative methodologies/approaches to analysis**

• Grant funds potentially available
SCJS data, reports and contacts

Access data and results

SCJS website: http://www.gov.scot/SCJS

Data tables – breakdowns by demographics / geography

Reports – Main Findings, Technical, Topic reports – Sexual Victimisation, Partner Abuse, Drug Use

Datasets – available from the UKDS - https://www.ukdataservice.ac.uk/ (2014/15 data submitted soon)

Stats TV: https://vimeo.com/130097950

Get in touch

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Questions?