

Crime Surveying during the Pandemic:

Scottish Victimisation Telephone Survey 2020

Policing and the Pandemic - the Scottish Experience

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Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

Structure







Scottish Crime and Justice Survey

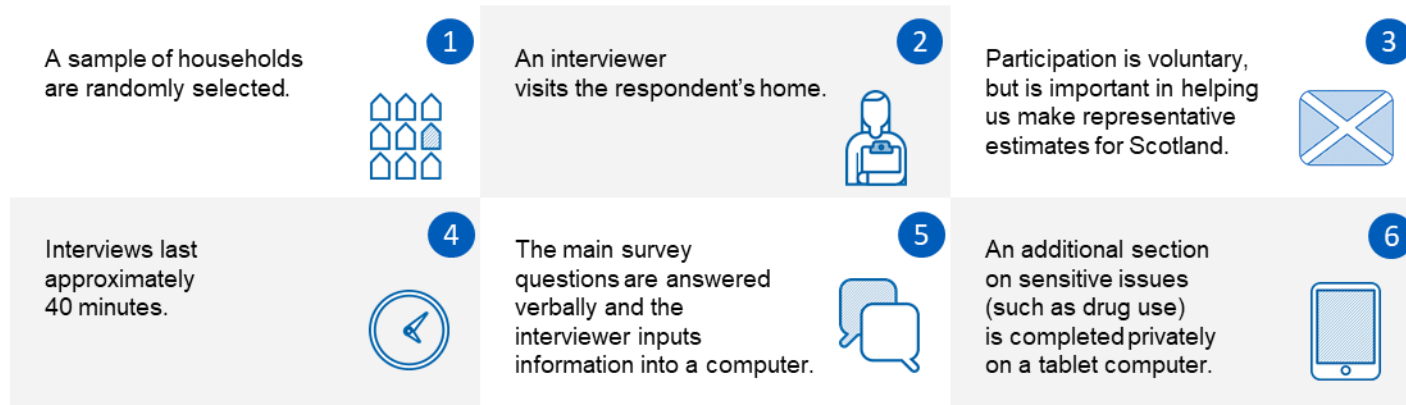
Scottish Victimisation Telephone Survey 2020

- Background
- Why are SVTS and SCJS results not comparable?
- Results

Next steps for crime surveys in Scotland

The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey

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



The Scottish Crime and Justice 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

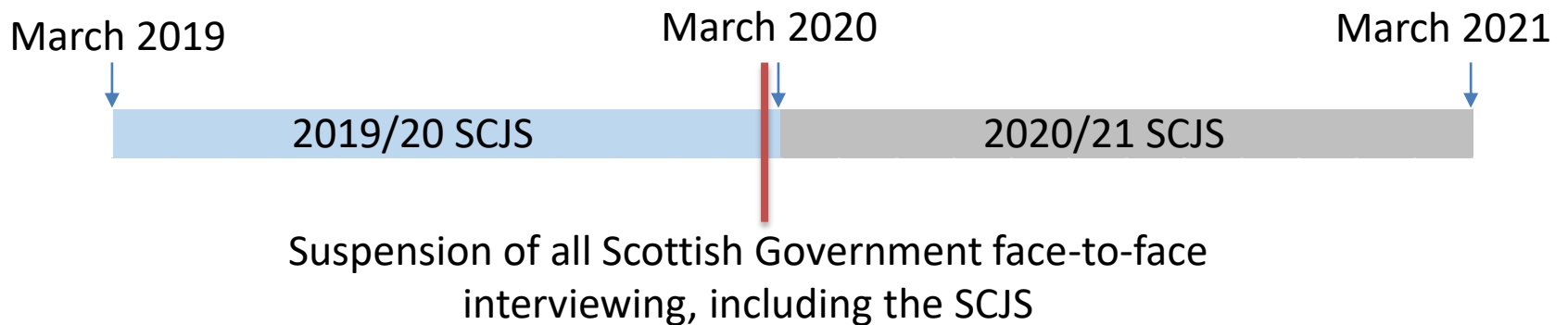


What is not covered by the survey

- 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

The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey



- 2019/20 SCJS results published in March 2021: [Scottish Crime and Justice Survey - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)
- No 2020/21 SCJS

What is the Scottish Victimisation Telephone Survey and why was it developed?

- The Scottish Victimisation Telephone Survey (SVTS) 2020 is a social survey which asked people about their experiences and perceptions of crime, safety and policing during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Developed to collect evidence while the SCJS is suspended due to COVID-19.
- The SVTS is a discrete and additional collection to the SCJS, providing a unique snap-shot in time during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Why are SVTS and SCJS results not comparable?

- **Mode effects:** differences in survey mode can affect how people answer questions, and the detail which they are willing to divulge
- **Sample size:** the SVTS is more limited in its ability to produce detailed breakdowns on the characteristics of crime
- **Questionnaire length and content:** due to a shorter interview time, a smaller number of questions were asked, several of which were unique to this survey (for example, those that make reference to the pandemic)

What does the SVTS tell us about crime in Scotland?

The SVTS found that between September 2019 and September 2020...

445,000

crimes were experienced by adults in Scotland

9%

of adults experienced crime

▶ What type of crime was experienced?

67% 
PROPERTY CRIME

33% 
VIOLENT CRIME

41% 
of crimes were reported to the police

▶ 9% of adults experienced crime. This rate varied across the population.

60+

Those aged 60 and over were least likely to experience crime

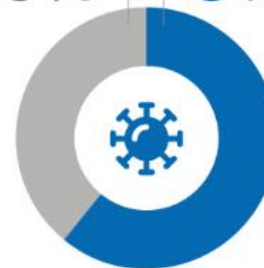


People living in urban areas were more likely than those living in rural areas to experience crime



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

39% 61%



39% of SVTS crime occurred after the start of the UK's first national lockdown on 23rd March 2020, and 61% in the period before the lockdown

This means that crime fell significantly after the start of the first lockdown

It is estimated that the volume of overall crime, including incidents not reported to the police, **fell significantly since the start of the UK's first national lockdown (by around 35%).**

Perceptions of crime, safety and policing since the virus outbreak

Adults were more likely to think that there had been a change in the level of crime nationally than in their local area since the virus outbreak

LOCAL CRIME

23%

thought that the local crime rate had gone down



15%

thought that the local crime rate had gone up

NATIONAL CRIME

34%

thought that the national crime rate had gone down



21%

thought that the national crime rate had gone up

Just over half of people (**54%**) felt that crime in their local area had **stayed about the same** since the start of the UK's first national lockdown on the 23rd March.

Perceptions of crime, safety and policing since the virus outbreak



Some sub-groups were less likely to feel safe and more likely to worry than their comparator groups:



- 87% of adults reported **no change in how safe they felt walking alone in their local area after dark since the virus outbreak.**
- More than nine-in-ten (91%) adults said that the COVID-19 pandemic had not changed how worried they felt about being a victim of crime.
- However, **previous victims of crime felt more worried about being a victim of crime since the virus outbreak (19%) compared with just 5% of non-victims**

Perceptions of crime, safety and policing since the virus outbreak

60%

of people believed the police in their local area were doing an 'excellent' or 'good' job



74%

of people were satisfied with the way the police in their local area were responding to the virus outbreak



Some population groups were more likely to be dissatisfied with the police

- Victims (19%, compared to 7% of non-victims)
- People who felt unsafe walking in their local area after dark (17%, compared to 6%)
- People who were worried they might be a victim of a crime (16% compared to 7%)
- Those living in urban areas (9%, compare to 4%)

Next steps for crime surveying in Scotland

- Aim to recommence SCJS in November 2021
- Results published mid-2023
- Re-procuring the SCJS contract

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