The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey: Consistency and Change

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What I’ll cover today…

- Background to SCJS
- SCJS – aims and approach
- Users and uses
- Results (a little old now – but next due in Mar 2014)
- Procurement
- Set up
What is the SCJS?

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.

An interviewer visits the respondents’ home.

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?

- Vandalism
- All motor vehicle theft
- Personal theft (excl robbery)
- Serious Assault
- Minor Assault with injury
- Robbery
- Property Crime
- Other h'hold theft (inc cycles)
- Housebreaking
- Assault
- Attempted assault
- Minor Assault with no/negligible injury
- Violent Crime
- All SCJS crime
A brief history of Scottish Crime Surveys...

- Crime & victimisation surveys in Scotland have a wee bit of history.

- Pre-2008 survey intermittent with sample size c.5000. Surveys were administered using paper questionnaires by interviewers on smaller samples (c. 5,000 interviews), and early surveys did not cover the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

- **McCaig review (2003)** of the design, content and management of the survey found the survey unable to produce trends, high margin of error (esp. around lower incidence crimes), unable to report findings below the national level.

- The SCJS represents a major departure in survey design, methodology and sample size
  - 2008/09 (c. 16,000 interviews)
  - 2009/10 (c. 16,000 interviews)
  - 2010/11 (c. 13,000 interviews)
  - 2012/13 (c. 12,000 interviews)
SCJS Aims

- 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, and services provided to victims of crime;
- 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 compared with police recorded crime statistics;
- Examine the varying risk and characteristics of crime for different groups of adults in the population.
Crime statistics come from two sources

**Police Recorded Crime stats**

Crimes that are *reported* to and *recorded* by the police

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**SCJS**

A large *survey* of a representative sample of people aged 16 and over living in private households
How is the survey used?

- **Publish reports** biennially on main findings and 3 self-completion modules
- Populate the **Justice Dashboard**
- **National Indicator 31** ‘to reduce crime victimisation rates’
- **National Indicator 29** to ‘improve people’s perceptions of crime in their local area’
- To provide **evidence** for policymakers and contributes to a range of **Scottish Government** measures.

- By wider **research communities and interest groups** through the **UK data archive**
- By **JAS analytical staff** to respond to **ad-hoc requests**
- By third sector organisations to inform policies and for lobbying and funding applications
- By the **media** to **inform the public** about crime
The latest SCJS results...

The SCJS measured **814,639** crimes in 2012/13

The SCJS estimates that **crime in Scotland has fallen by 22% since 2008/09.**

![Graph showing crime rates from 1992 to 2012/13]

**39%** of crime was reported to the police

Victims didn’t report crime because they felt that the police couldn’t have done anything, it was too trivial or the police wouldn’t be interested.

When crime was reported, two thirds of victims were satisfied with how the police handled the matter.

one in six adults was a victim of crime however...

The risk of property crime was higher than violent crime

the risk of crime was higher for those living in the 15% most deprived areas.

the risk of crime decreased with age

the risk of crime was slightly higher for men.
### 3.1% of adults were the victim of violent crime

89% of violent crimes were minor assaults, 2% were serious assaults & 1% was robbery

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4%</td>
<td>Men were twice as likely to be the victim of violent crime</td>
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<tr>
<td>2%</td>
<td>Young men (aged 16-24) had the highest risk of violent crime</td>
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<tr>
<td>~33.3%</td>
<td>Almost one in three violent crimes happened between 9pm and 3am on a weekend</td>
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<tr>
<td>59%</td>
<td>The offender was under the influence of alcohol in 59% of violent crimes</td>
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<tr>
<td>58%</td>
<td>Injuries were sustained in 58% of violent crime*</td>
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<tr>
<td>48%</td>
<td>48% of violent crime was reported to the police*</td>
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*Of these, three-fifths sustained minor bruising or a black eye

*23% were not reported because the victim dealt with the matter themselves
14.8% of adults were the victim of **property crime**

27% of property crime was vandalism, 21% was other household theft, 13% was personal theft, 6% was motor vehicle-related theft & 4% was housebreaking

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14%</td>
<td>25-44 year olds had the highest risk of property crime</td>
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<tr>
<td>15%</td>
<td>The risk of property crime was almost equal for men and women</td>
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<td>8%</td>
<td>Over 60’s had the lowest risk of property crime</td>
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<tr>
<td>51%</td>
<td>51% of victims estimated the value of damaged property to be less than £1300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78%</td>
<td>78% of victims estimated the value of stolen property to be less than £1300</td>
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<tr>
<td>35%</td>
<td>35% of property crime was reported to the police*</td>
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<tr>
<td>64%</td>
<td>Housebreaking was the most reported crime</td>
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*43% was not reported because the incident was considered to be trivial*
More people think that *crime in their neighbourhood* has stayed the same or decreased, up from 69% in 2008/09.

- Thought that *crime in their neighbourhood had stayed the same or reduced* in the last two years: 76%
- Thought that *crime in their neighbourhood had increased* in the last two years: 20%

**Perceptions of crime in Scotland.**

- Thought that *crime in Scotland had stayed the same or reduced* in the last two years: 46%
- Thought that *crime in Scotland had increased* in the last two years: 44%

**Fear of crime in Scotland.**

- 72% felt safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark. But this varied by gender.
  - 95% felt safe home alone after dark.
  - Young females (16-24) are most likely to feel unsafe at home alone after dark.
- 38% of women felt unsafe walking alone at night.
- 15% of men felt unsafe walking alone at night.
The 2014/15 Survey

- 2014/15 fieldwork finished in May 2015, following a two-month extension.
- Publication set for March 2016 for the Main Findings report.
- Engagement with users on how we report has led to a range of planned improvements, including:
  - More streamlined reporting
  - Graphic summaries
  - More information on equalities groups, comparisons with police recorded crime
  - Improved dissemination of results (including on social media)
Procuring the SCJS (2016/17 onwards)

- For 2012/13 and 2014/15, the SCJS was biennial, with a sample size of around 12,000.
- Experienced challenges in fieldwork delivery, trend analysis, comparability with police recorded crime, flexibility and timeliness with biennial design.
- A new survey has been procured, following an extensive options appraisal and competitive procurement process.
- Considered a range of options for taking the survey forward. Decision-making including meeting with contractors, expert input and balancing decisions with user needs and budgetary constraints.
- Approaches were assessed against a range of criteria, including cost, precision, timeliness, ability to compare to Police Recorded Crime, ability to provide sub-national data and an overall ability to meet the aims of the survey.
The contract has been awarded to a consortium of **Ipsos MORI** and **NatCen Social Research**

- Contract will run from 2016/17 until 2019/20, with a possible 2 year extension.
- From 2016/17, the SCJS will become a continuous survey with a sample size of around 6,000 adults each year
What’s the difference?

Care has been taken to ensure that the survey, at it’s core, remains consistent with previous iterations of the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey.

**SCJS 2014/15**

- 12,000 adults take part every two years
- Results available every two years

**SCJS 2016/17**

- 6,000 adults take part every year
- Some results available annually (e.g. perceptions data)
Where are we now?

- Working with our new contractors to set up the 2016/17 survey.
- We have carried out a **Questionnaire Review** to consider what to include in the 2016/17 survey. (Find out more here- [http://ow.ly/VjueZ](http://ow.ly/VjueZ))
- Making some improvements in how we carry out our fieldwork (e.g. improved advance materials).
- Working with our users to understand how to best meet their needs as the survey changes.
Plans for the 2016/17 Questionnaire

• Maintaining consistency is very important, however, it is important to make some changes to ensure that the survey best meets users needs.

• A range of minor changes to ensure that the survey continues to collect the most relevant and up-to-date information (e.g. police contact question to include ‘call 101’, list of substances in drug use).

• Updating how we collect information on harassment to better capture online forms of harassment.

• Some more substantive changes, including considering questions on:
  • Serious and Organised Crime
  • Workplace Abuse
  • Public expectations of police

• Continuing to develop options on capturing information on cyber crime through the survey (considering planned changes to CSEW).

• Annual survey allows us to begin making plans for future surveys.
SCJS access and contacts

Access data and results


Data tables - breakdowns by demographics

Reports - Main, Technical, Sexual Victimization, Domestic Abuse, Drug Use

Datasets - available from the UKDS - [http://ukdataservice.ac.uk/](http://ukdataservice.ac.uk/)

StatsTV - [ow.ly/RnNns](http://ow.ly/RnNns)

Get in touch

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Follow us on Twitter: @SGJusticeAnalys
Questions?