Getting the maximum value from the SCJS: past, present and future

Crime Surveys User Conference 2014

Neil Grant,
Justice Analytical Services

8 Dec 2014

@SGJusticeAnalys

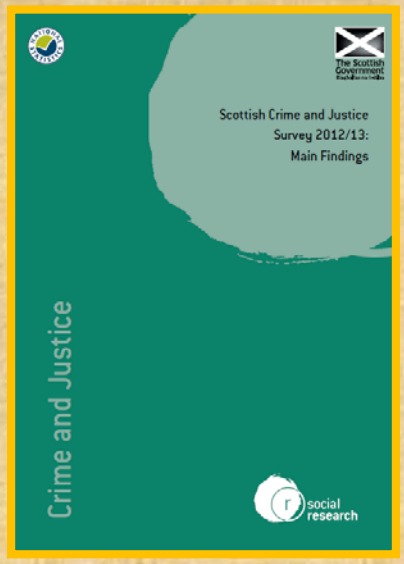
What I'll cover…

- What is the SCJS?
- What does it tell us?
- What we've being doing recently
- What are our plans for future work?
- How can we work together improve the content, structure, analysis and dissemination of SCJS?

What is the SCJS?

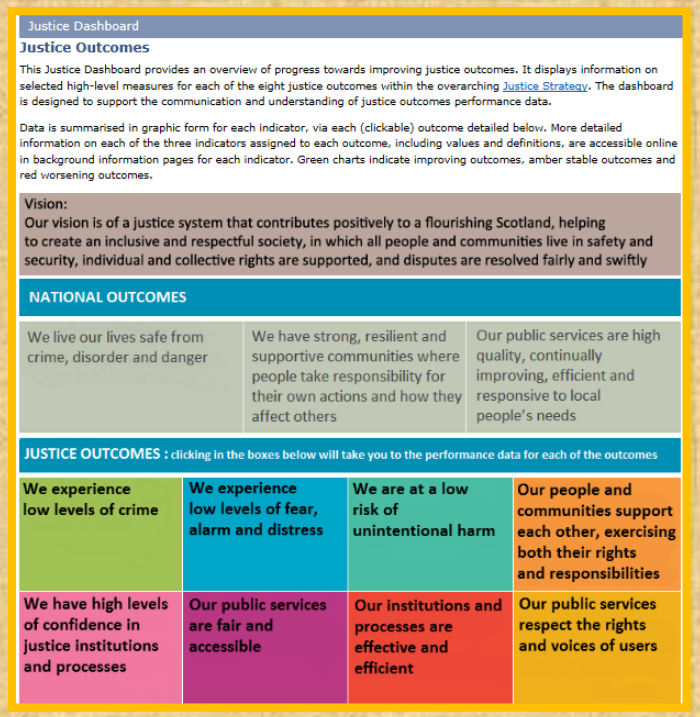
- **Victimisation survey**
- **Experienced 'crime' in the past year**
- **Includes crime <u>not reported to Police</u>**
- **It also collects information on other topics, e.g.**
  - Attitudes and experience of Criminal Justice System
  - Perceptions about crime
  - Civil law
  - Community sentencing
  - Self-report drug use
- **Complementary measures to police recorded crime**
- **Main report, additional reports on partner abuse, sexual victimisation, drug use**

How is the survey used?



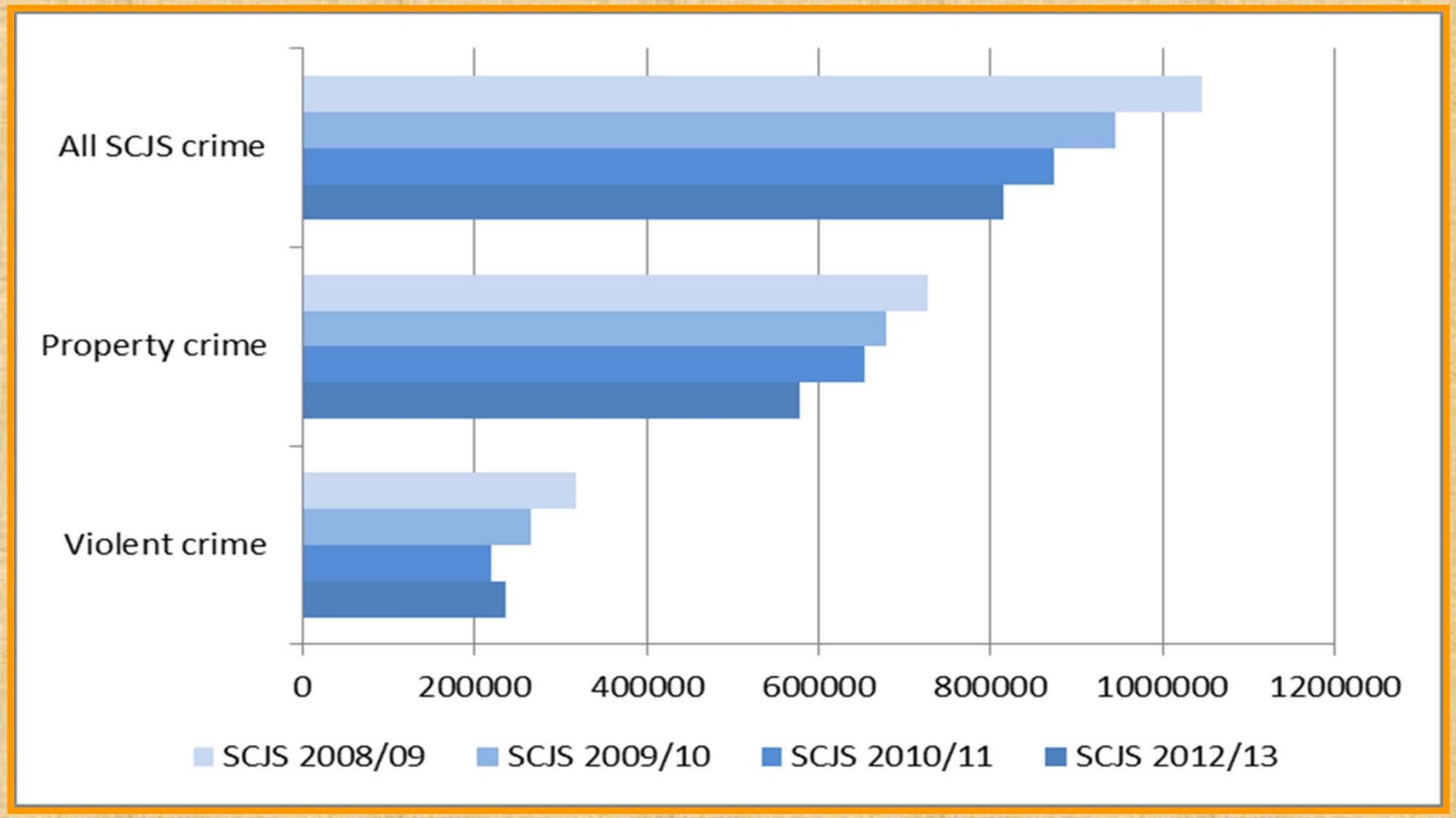
- **Publish reports** biennially on main findings and 3 self-completion modules
- To derive **National** and **Justice Dashboard** indicators
- **National Indicator 31** 'to reduce crime victimisation rates'
- **National Indicator 29** to 'improve people's perceptions of crime in their local area'
- 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



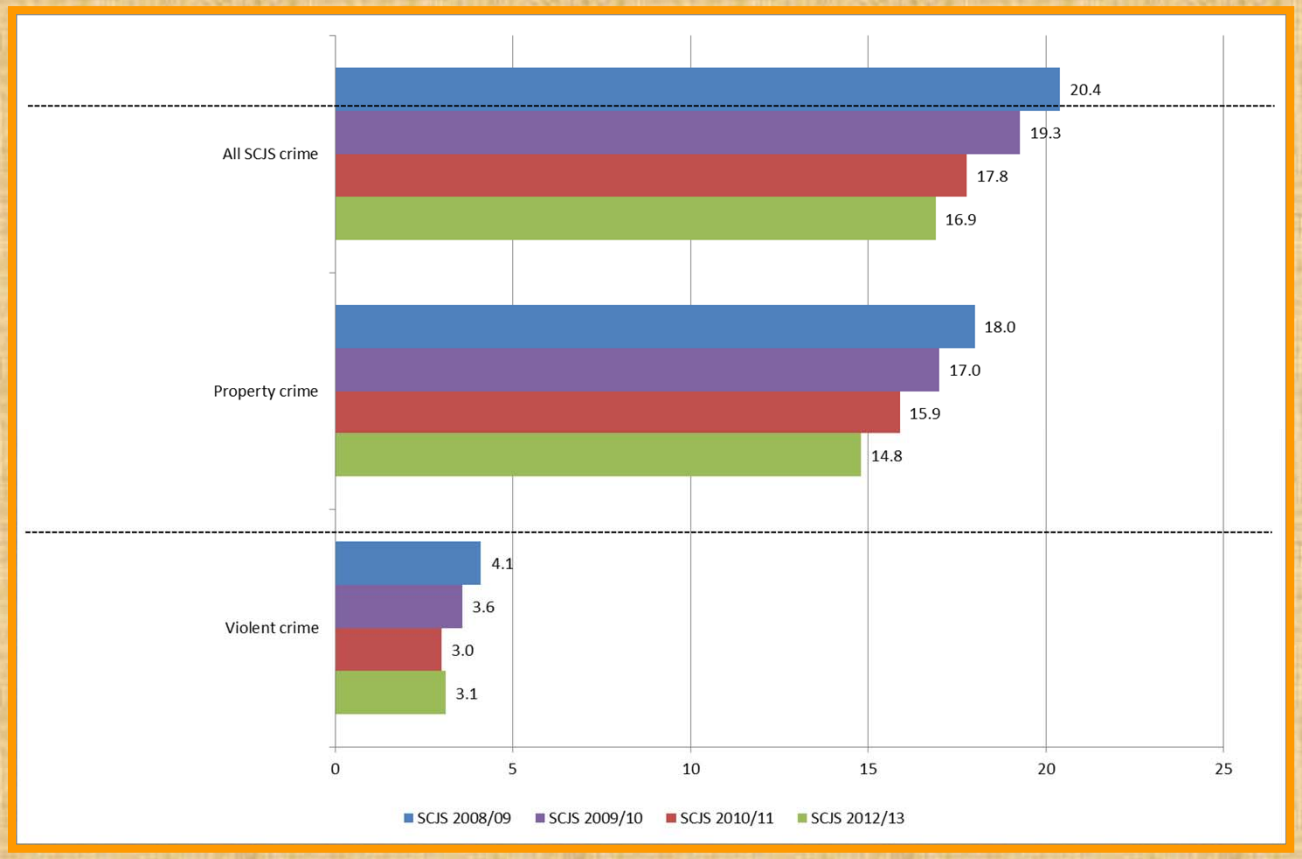
Extent of crime

- 815,000 SCJS crimes in 2012/13, down 22% since 2008/09



Risk of crime

- 16.9% risk of being a victim of crime in 2012/13
  - 14.8% property, 3.1% violent
- Fall from 20.4% in 2008/09



Perceptions of crime

- 76% think **local** crime rate improved/stayed same in 2012/13
- Continuing improvement from 69% in 2008/09

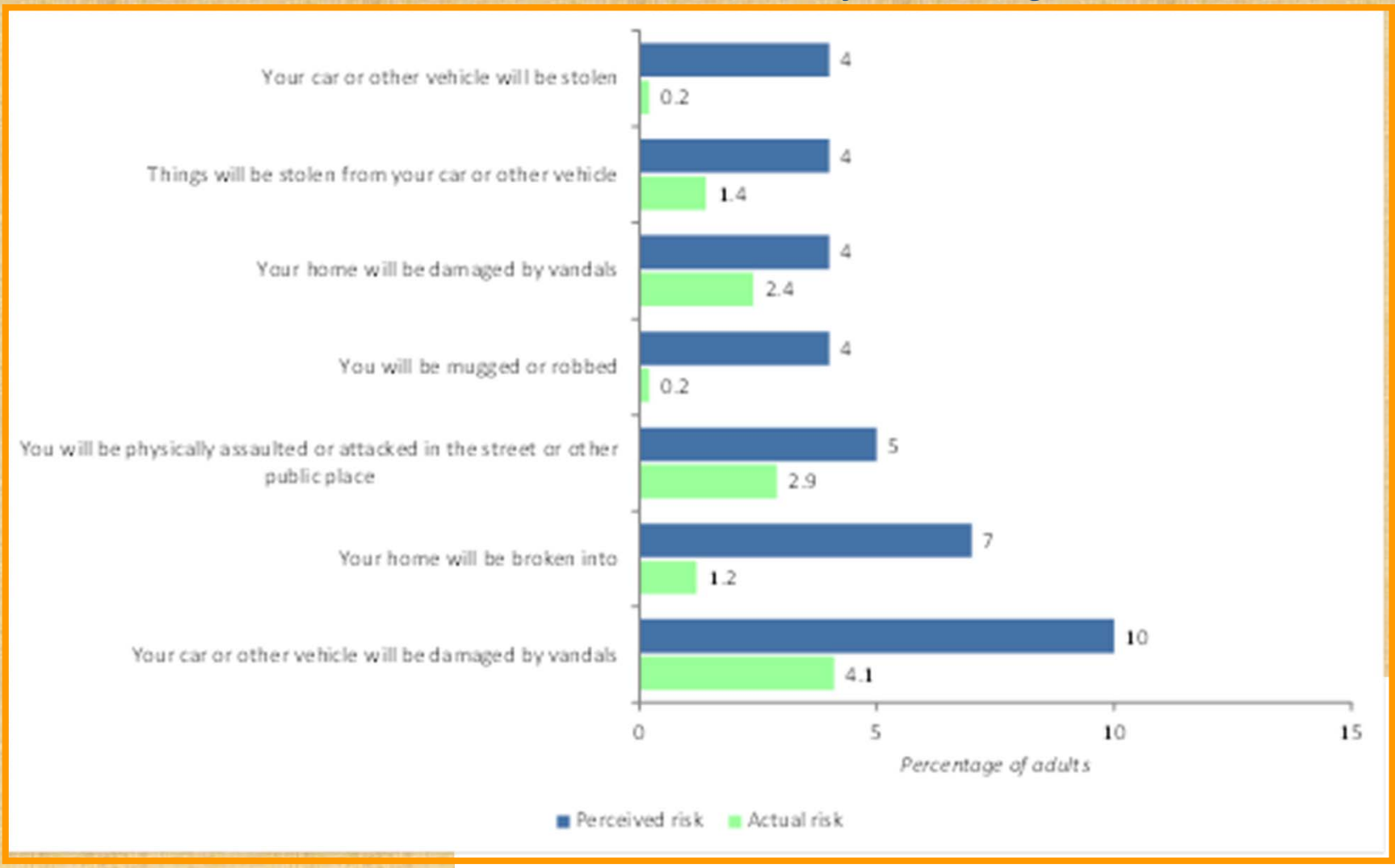
- 46% think **national** crime rate improved/stayed same in 2012/13
- Maintaining 46% from 2010/11

'Fear of Crime'

- 72% felt safe walking alone after dark in 2012/13
- Increase from 66% in 2008/09

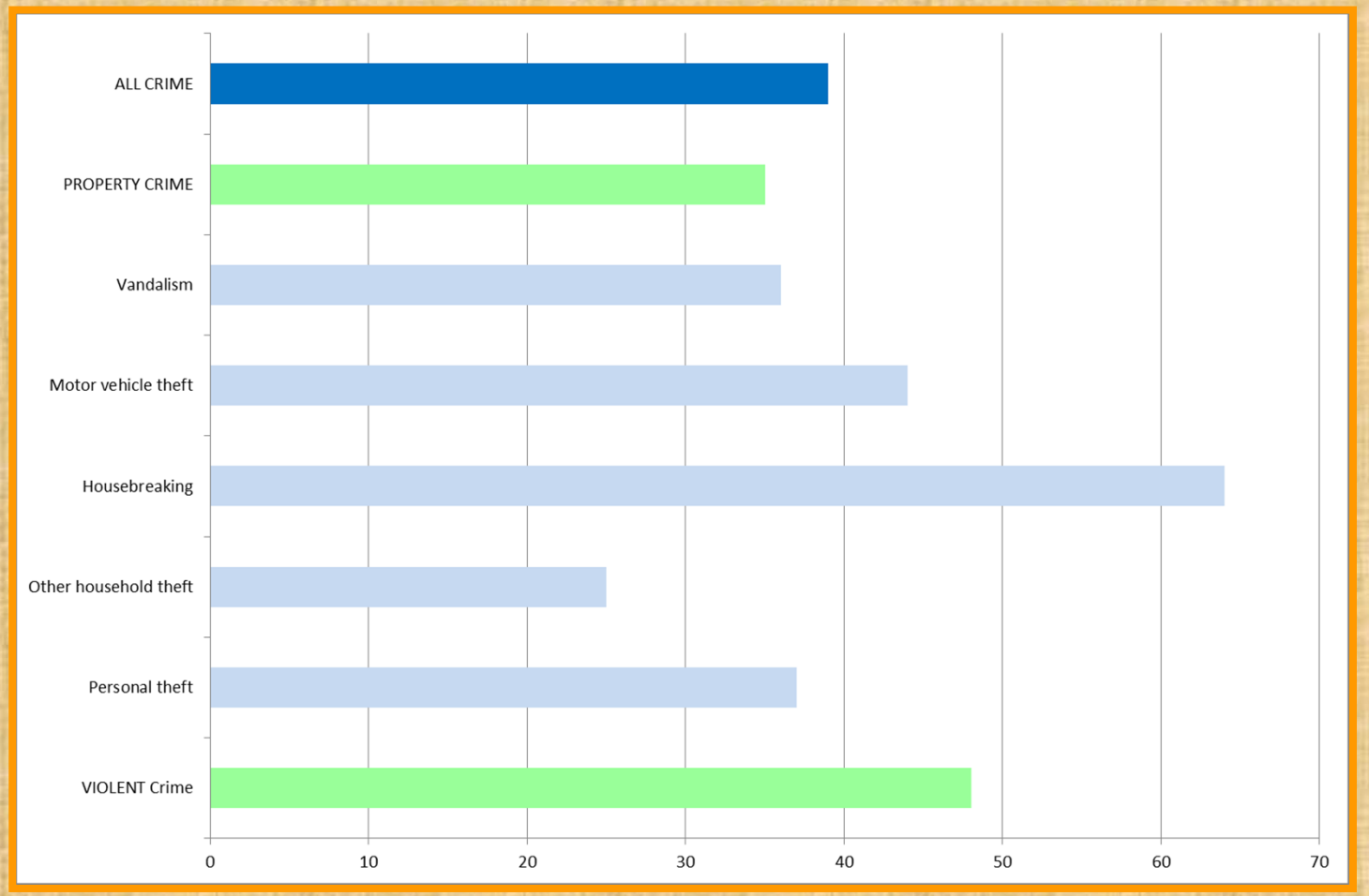
Perceived risk ‘v’ actual risk

- Perceived risk of being victim of crime generally 2 or 3 times higher than actual risk. For some crimes many times higher.



Reporting Crime

- 39% of crimes reported to police in 12/13 (39% 2010/11)
- For violent crime unreported - *dealt with themselves* (9%), *personal or family matter* (14%)



Range of other SCJS topics

- Police
- Justice system
- Prisons Sentencing
- Community Sentencing
- Civil Law
- 3 self-completion sections:
  - Drug Use, Partner Abuse, Sexual Victimisation

Bringing Together Scotland's Crime Statistics

Police recorded crime captures crimes that are reported to, and recorded by, the police.

The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey, a large survey of people aged 16 and over living in private households.

273,053

Crimes and offences recorded by police in 2012/13

815,000

Incidents of crime estimated by the SCJS in 2012/13

Making Comparisons

- **Unable to 'match' survey responses to recorded crime records.**
- **Changing survey methodology.** Consistent crime survey data available since 2008/09.
- **Timescales.** SCJS is a continuous survey, published biennially whereas recorded crime is released annually.
- **Population covered.** SCJS is adults leaving in private households.
- **Crimes and offences covered.** Wider range of recorded crimes.
- **Uncertainty** around SCJS estimates.

- **Publications:**
  - **2013/14 Police Recorded Crime**

  http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRecordedCrime
  - **Bringing together SCJS and recorded crime - analytical paper**

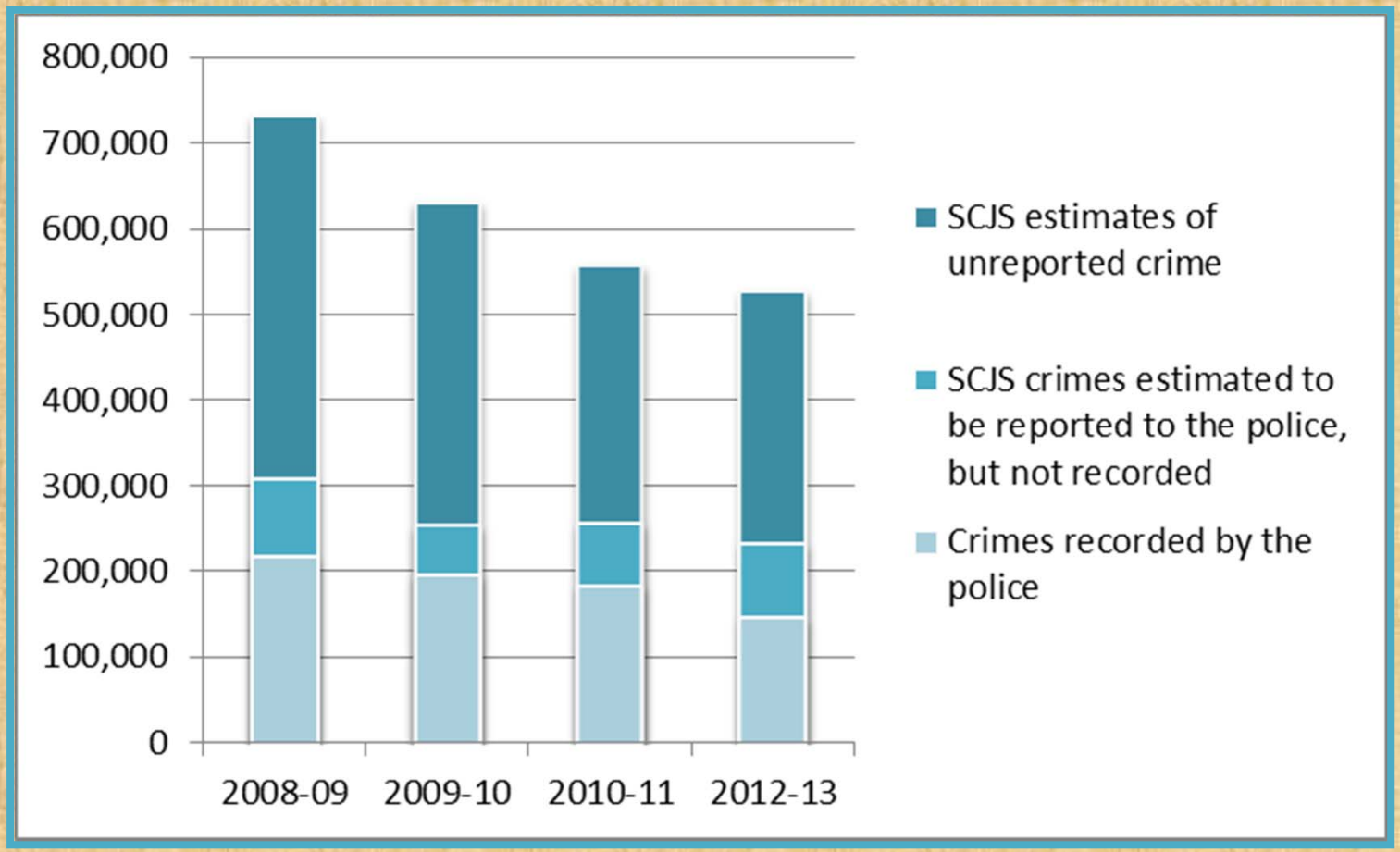
  http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/crime-and-justice-survey/publications/SCJSPRCanalyticalpaper

What can the comparable subset tell us?

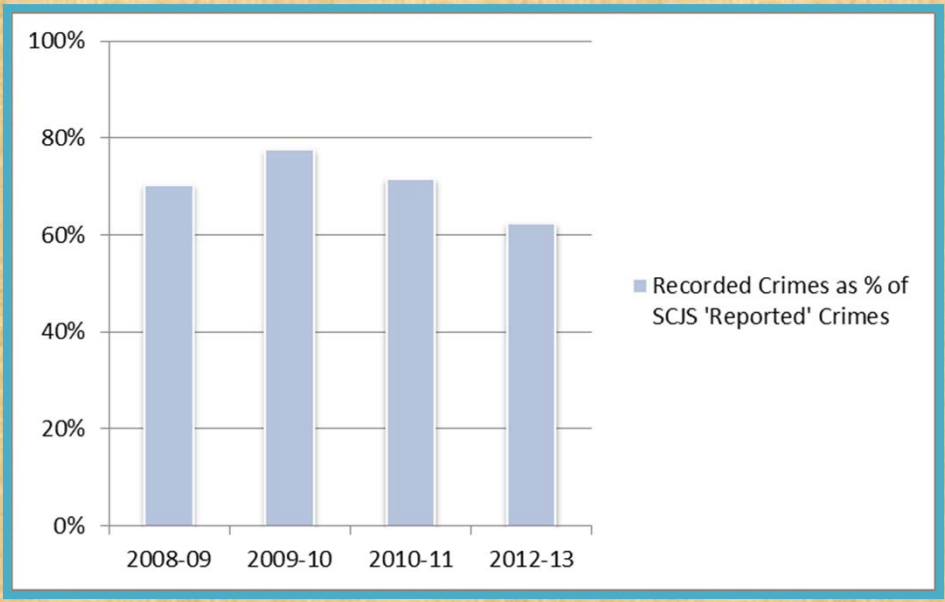
- Recorded crime figures and SCJS estimates both show downward trends in the extent of crime since 2008/09 (-33% and -28% respectively).
- Uncertainty around SCJS estimates.

“Did the police come to know about this?”

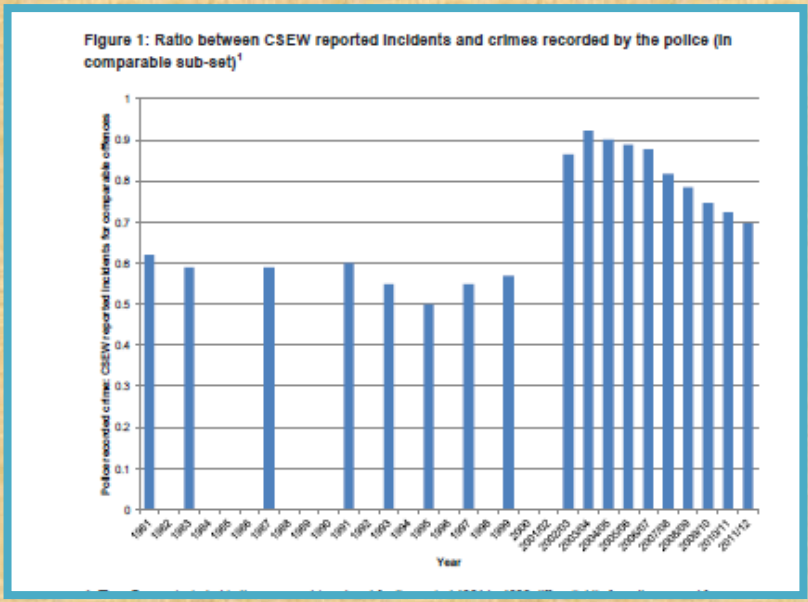
- Comparing crime estimated to have been reported to the police in the SCJS, and police recorded crime data



“Did the police come to know about this?”



Scotland



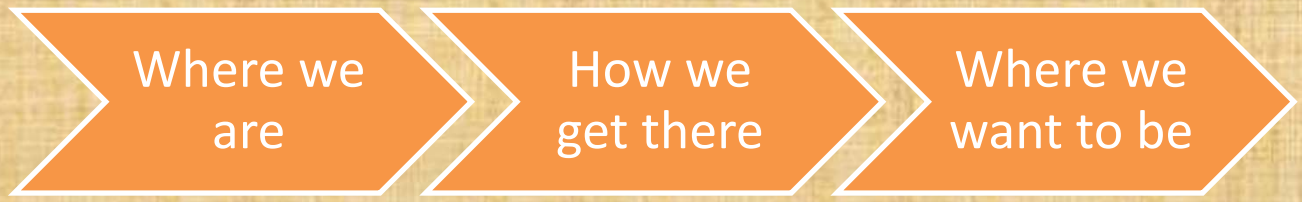
England and Wales

(in)conclusions

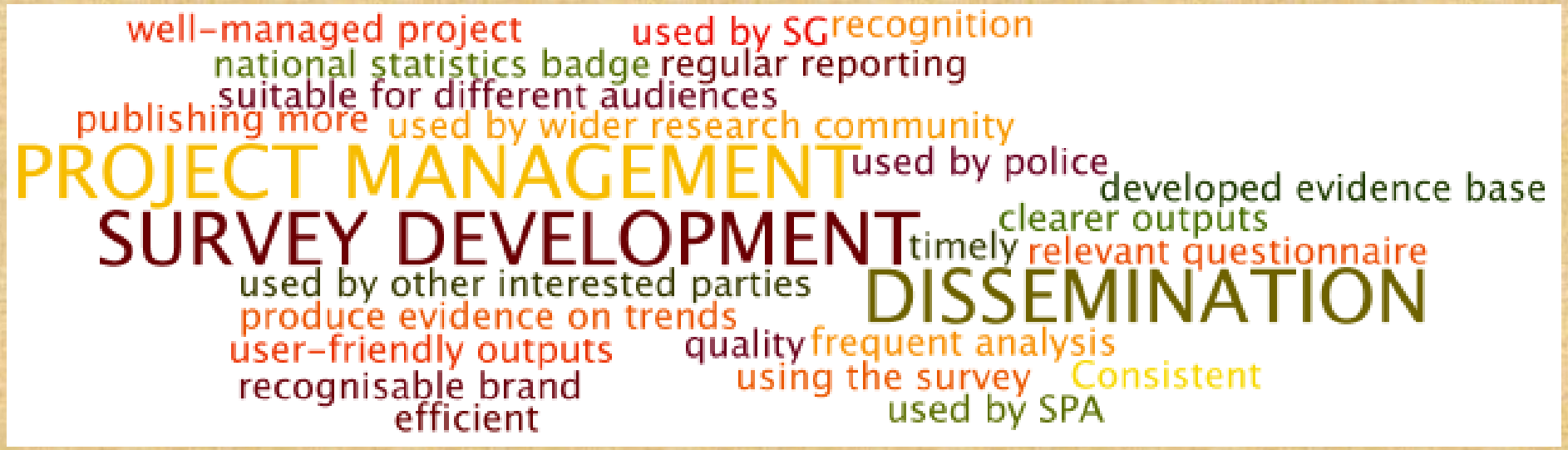
- We need two sources of crime statistics to help present a fuller picture of crime in Scotland.
- Relatively early stages of developing analysis of comparable crimes in the coming years.
- Limited conclusions can be drawn with only **four survey sweeps** and with **uncertainty** around changes between sweeps.
- **New section** in annual recorded crime statistical bulletin that brings together SCJS & RC and supporting analytical paper.
- Plans to continue this analysis in future.

Developing a Forward Work Plan

We completed an internal review of the SCJS by considering a series of key questions



Where would we like to be?



Improving the SCJS

We're currently working on a range of projects to improve the outputs and increase the usage of the survey, while retaining the integrity of the resource.

Ensure effective day-to-day project management of the survey by

- Creating an overarching and detailed **project plan**
- Creating a detailed set of **desk instructions**

A **Technical Advisory Group**

Review **UKSA requirements and recommendations** on its previous review of SCJS and other related products

Survey Development

Increase user engagement to **review** the content and structure of the **current questionnaire**

Consider **sampling needs & survey future**, in particular annual surveying

Develop more coherent picture of **how SCJS relates to Recorded Crime statistics**

Develop more coherent information on **how SCJS data compares to the Crime Surveys of England and Wales, and NI**

Consider publication of **additional analytical papers** on SCJS topics and trends

Review how the SCJS survey is currently used (internally/externally)

Plan SCJS follow-up **engagement activity** with justice agencies

Establish a SCJS **user group** to advise and share ideas

Develop **new graphics/improved presentation** of SCJS data and results

Improve the current **website**

Develop presence on **social media**

What do you think?

- Have we captured the correct projects for developing the SCJS?
- Is there anything missing?
- Are there some things that we:
  - are currently doing that we should **STOP**
  - should **START** that would improve the SCJS
  - are currently doing with the SCJS that should **CONTINUE**
  - are currently doing with the SCJS that should **CHANGE**

SCJS access and contacts

SCJS website :

http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/crime-and-justice-survey

Data tables - breakdowns by demographics

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

Datasets - available from the UKDS - http://ukdataservice.ac.uk/ (2012/13 data currently being disclosure controlled)

SCJS Mailbox: SCJS@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Neil Grant, SCJS Director - neil.grant@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Trish Campbell, SCJS Project Manager - patricia.campbell@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Questions ?