

# Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) update

## Crime Surveys User Conference 2021

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# SCJS - overview

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# SCJS - who takes part?

<p>▶ Who takes part in the survey?</p>	 around <b>5,500</b> adults (aged 16 & over)	 In private households (incl rented accomodation)	 Across Scotland
<p>▶ Who does not take part in the survey</p>	 Children	 Those living in group, residences, institutions or those without a fixed address	 Commercial or public sector bodies

# SCJS - how is the information collected?

A sample of households are randomly selected.



1

An interviewer visits the respondent's home.



2

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



3

Interviews last approximately 40 minutes.



4

The main survey questions are answered verbally and the interviewer inputs information into a computer.



5

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



6

# SCJS - what topics are covered?

► 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*

# How COVID-19 affected the SCJS

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# The Scottish Victimisation Telephone Survey (SVTS)

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- Main aim to capture victimisation
- Telephone survey of re-contact SCJS sample
- 20 minute interview (compared to 40 minute SCJS)
- Interviews ran in September through to October 2020, with 2,654 interviews completed
- Response rate of 39%
- Not comparable to SCJS

# 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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



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



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

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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



# The return of the SCJS

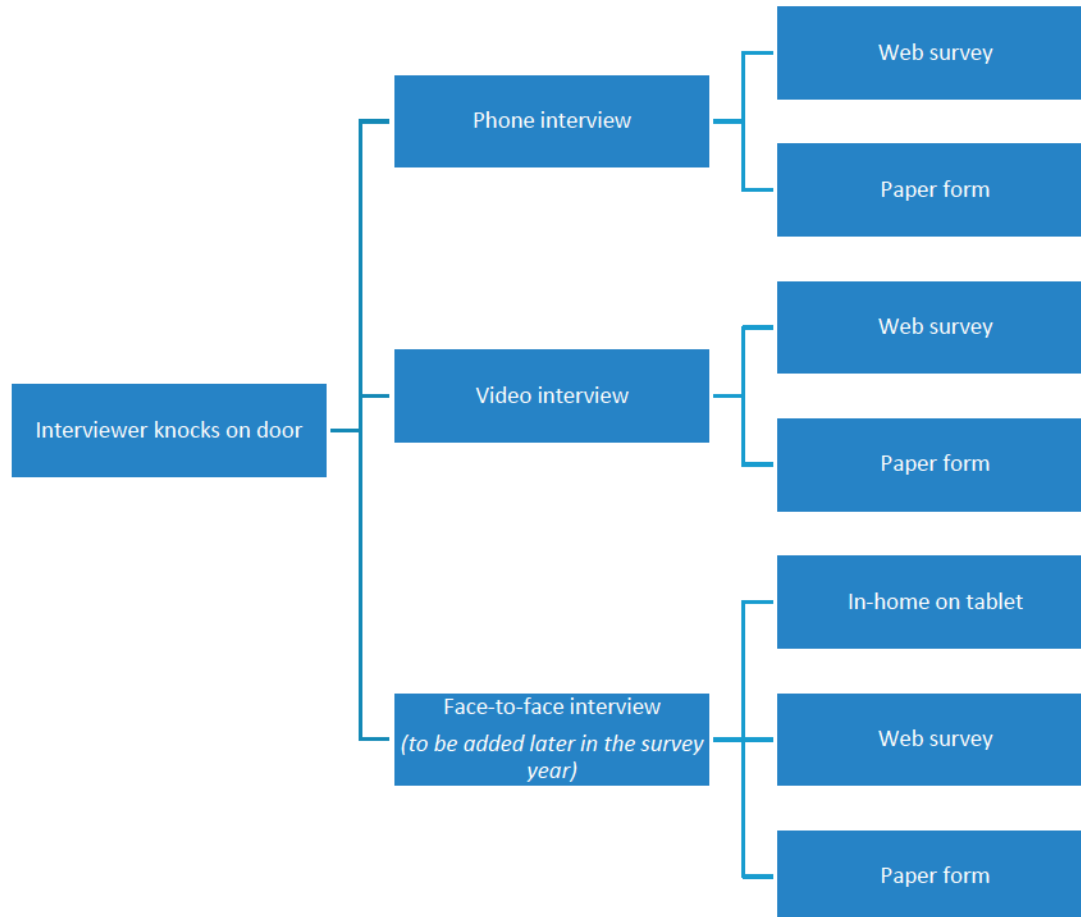
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# Mixed-mode format

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# Self-completion



- Questions on:
  - Stalking and harassment
  - Partner abuse
  - Sexual victimisation
  - Illicit drug use
- Slimmed down questionnaire
- Number of safe-guarding steps in place

# Re-Procurement of the SCJS

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		Current Contract	New Contract
2021	D	F i e l d w o r k	
2022	J		
	F		
	M		
	A		
	M		T E N D E R
	J		
	J		
	A		
	S		
	O	LET	
	N	P r e p	
2023	D	A n a l y s i s	
	J		
	F		
	M		
	A		
	M		F i e l d w o r k
	J		
	J		
	A		
	S		
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	N		
	D		
	J		
	F		
	M		

# Re-Procurement Journey

- Last year of surveying under current contract with Ipsos Mori & NatCen. Significant lead time for a re-procurement of this size, started work on this project in summer.
- Going out to Tender in Spring 2022, letting the Contract in October and suppliers beginning fieldwork in Spring 2023. First survey under new contract will be published in early 2025.
- Our goal is for this re-procurement process to be transparent and publicised; informed by evidence, including expert opinion and advice; to respond to the needs of users and to align with the priorities of the Scottish Government.



# Consultation: Themes for Feedback

## 1. Survey Aims

- How might the current survey aims be adapted or extended?

## 2. Function as a Crime Survey

- How might the survey improve how it evidences 3 National Indicators (*perceptions of crime in the local area, crime victimisation & access to justice*)?
- How can the survey better complement the Police Recorded Crime Statistics?

## 3. Sample & Frequency

- Comments on the survey's sample and frequency?

## 4. New Question Topics

- New Topics?
- Modules to be rotated out or removed?

## 5. Definition of 'SCJS Crime'

- Should the 'SCJS Crime' definition be widened/changed?

## 6. Comparisons with CSEW

- Comments/feedback on the comparisons made between the SCJS and the CSEW.

## 7. SCJS & Further Research

- How can the SCJS be more conducive to further research?

## 8. Future Proofing

- Comments/feedback on how we might 'future proof' the SCJS.

# User Workshops

There are three clear themes arising from the initial consultation responses and associated discussion events. Our workshops, due to take place in January, aim to unpack these themes further so future actions are well informed.

**i) Options Appraisal.** This workshop will discuss a variety of ways in which the survey might be carried out in its new iteration. The discussion, which will focus on the merits and limitations of each option, will inform the SG decision of a preferred design.

**ii) User Engagement Strategies.** This workshop will centre around ongoing user engagement strategies. We hope that the discussion will centre on how we might improve our engagement with those who use the SCJS, specifically what information we share with users, how often we share this and in what form.

**iii) Questionnaire Development.** This workshop will contain an overview of the feedback and input we have received on this topic thus far, our plans for our upcoming questionnaire development phase as well as providing an opportunity for further input and questions from users.

# Stay Involved

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- For any questions or comments please get in touch at [SCJS@gov.scot](mailto:SCJS@gov.scot)
- Hear about future events on Twitter [@SGJusticeAnalys](https://twitter.com/SGJusticeAnalys) or via [ScotStat](#).
- To take part in the upcoming SCJS User Workshops email [jocelyn.hickey@gov.scot](mailto:jocelyn.hickey@gov.scot).
- To submit a response to our Consultation visit our [Citizen Space](#).