

Scottish Crime and Justice Survey: Update on latest findings and future developments

Crime surveys user conference 2026



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Introduction and background

The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) has been running in its current form since 2008/09

5,000 adults sample size	Covers a range of crime topics	Latest findings in June 2025	Results published yearly	Results now include fraud and computer misuse
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Headline findings for 2023/24

Crime increased since the last survey (between 2021/22 and 2023/24)

The level of crime has returned to the position seen pre-covid in 2019/20

Crime is still down significantly in the long term

Results now include crimes of fraud and computer misuse

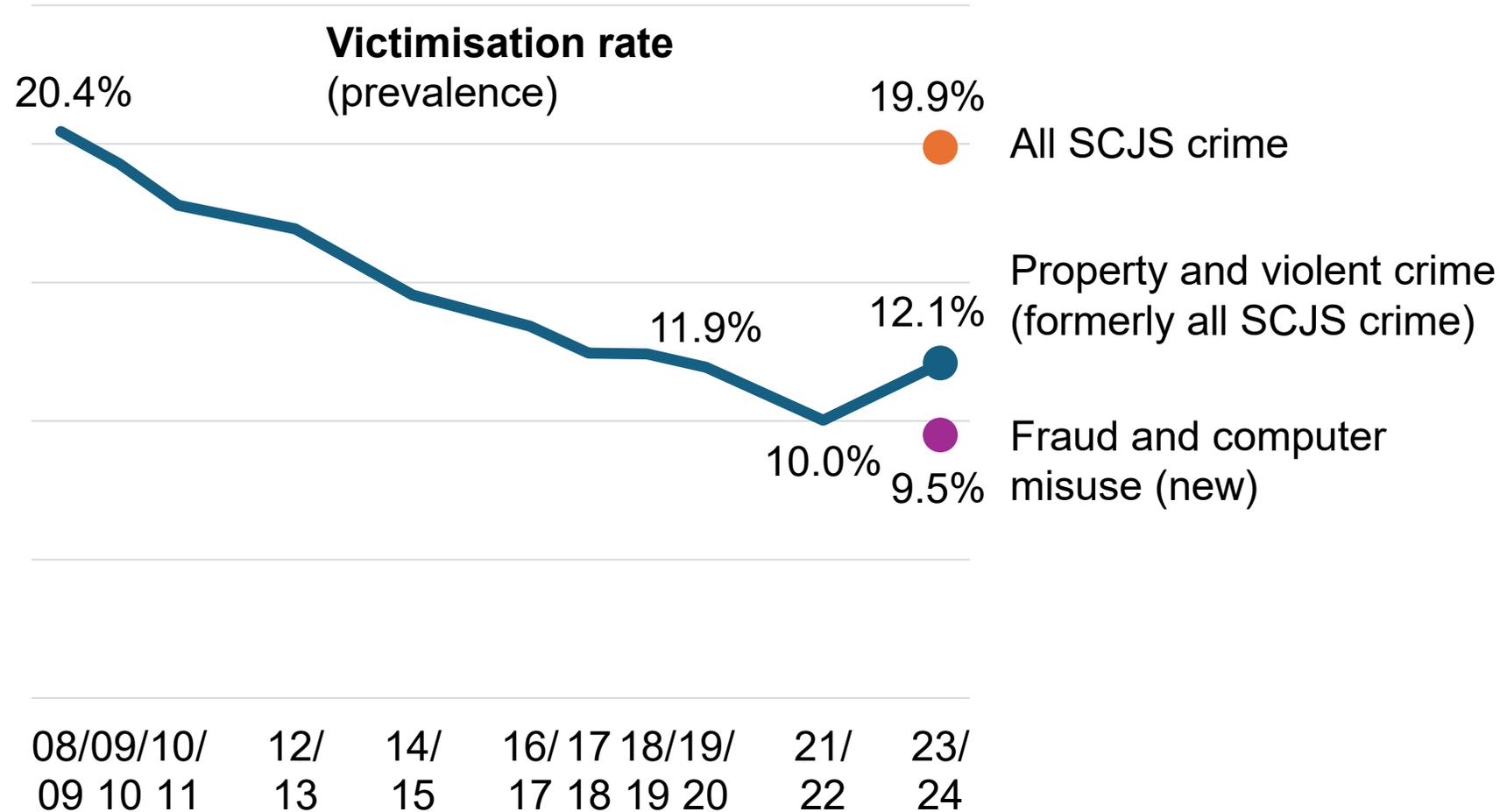
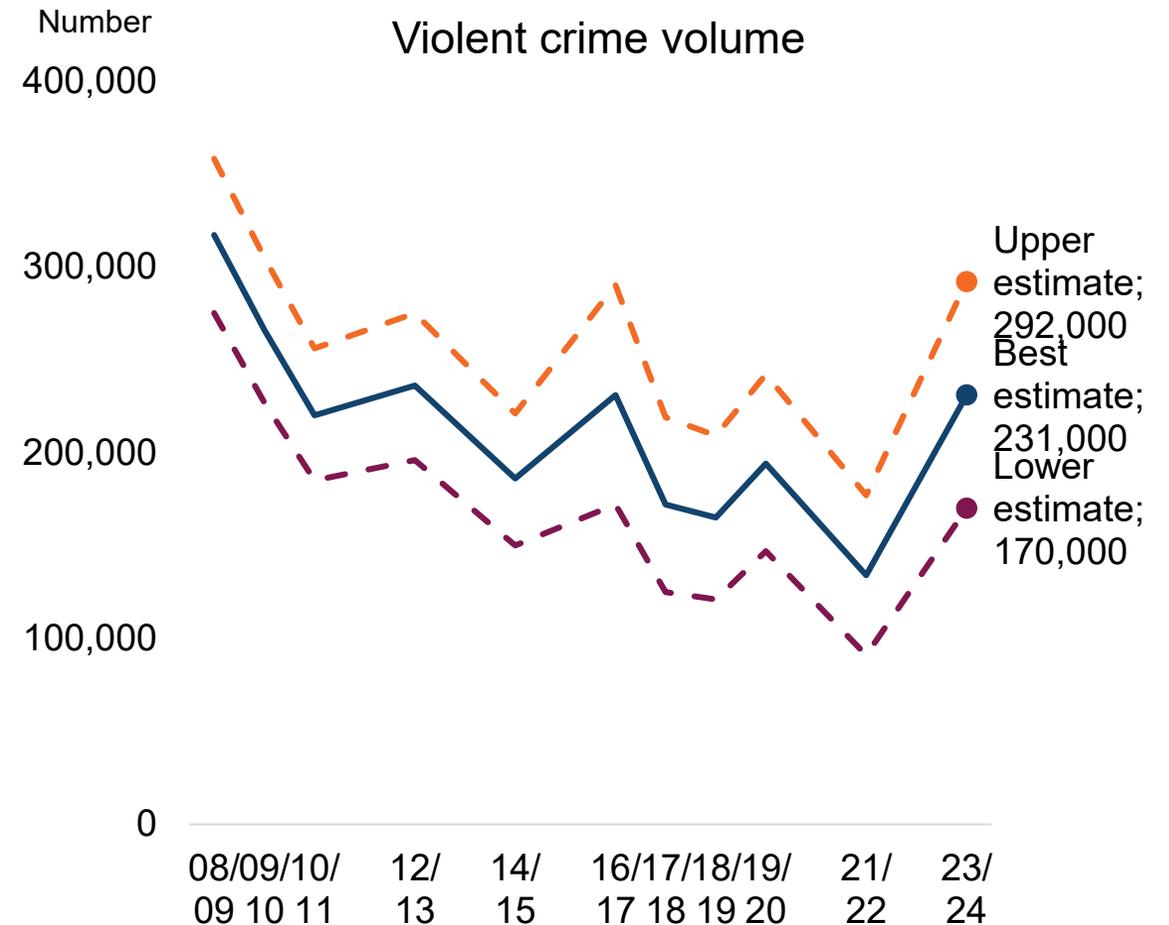
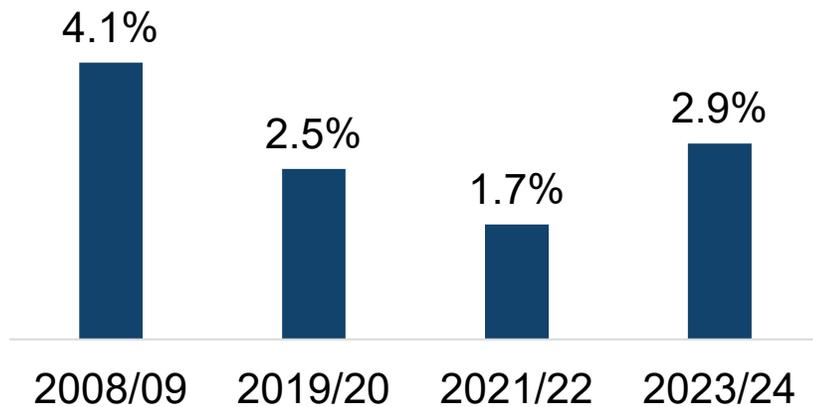


Chart created by Stuart Napier using Microsoft Excel.
Data Source: The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey 2023/24.

Violent crime

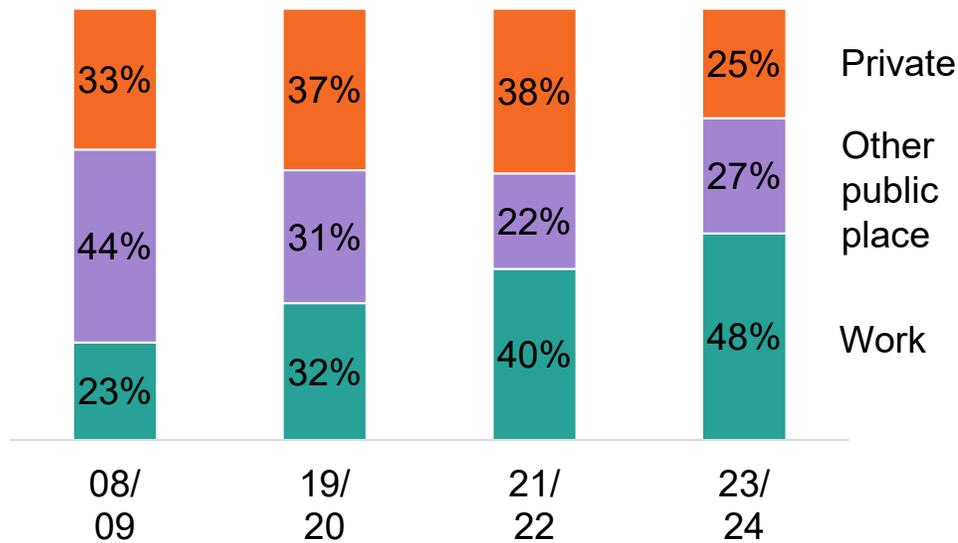
- **Number of incidents is up since 2021/22 by 73%**
- Change since 2019/20 is not statistically significant
- 27% lower than 2008/09
- Change in victimisation rate is more modest than change in volume

Violent crime victimisation

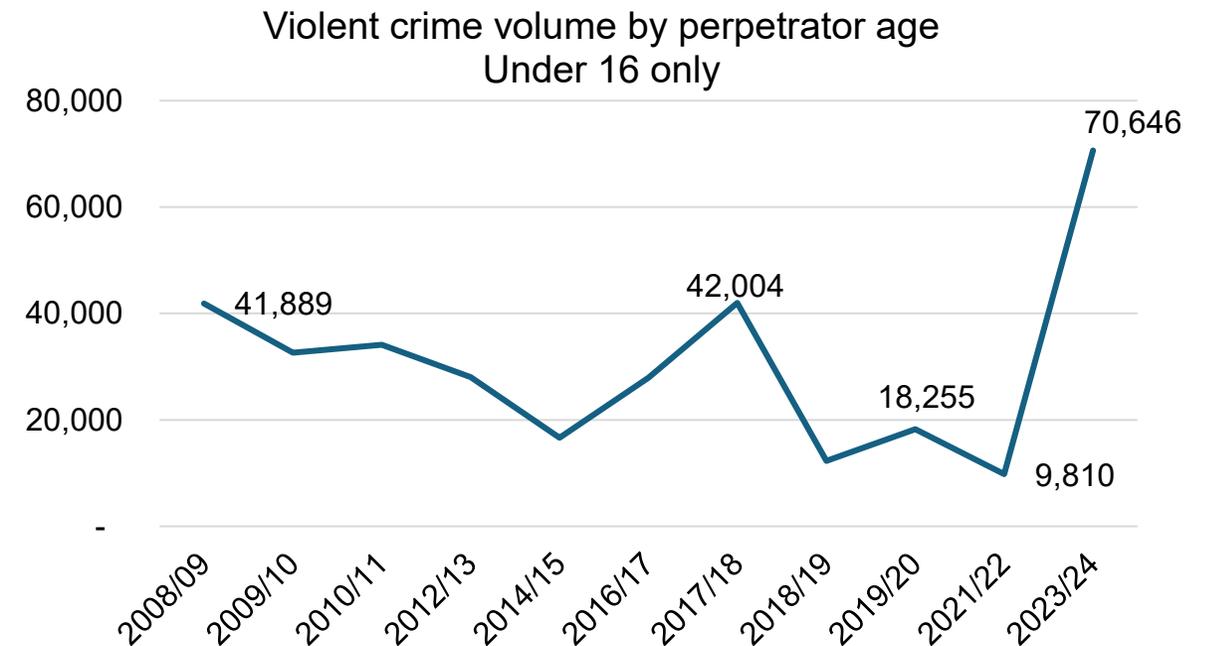


Changes in violent crime: location and age

- **The proportion of violence taking place in the workplace has increased in the long term** – from less than a quarter in 2008/09 to almost half in 2023/24
- Meanwhile the proportion of violence taking place in other public places is lower than it was in 2008/09



- Large increase in youth violence
- Nearly 1 in 3 of all violence in 23/24
- Victims often at work but small sample size



Charts created by Stuart Napier using Microsoft Excel. Data Source: The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey 2023/24.

Fraud and computer misuse

These results were published in Scotland for the first time in 2023/24

Key facts about fraud detected by the SCJS:



Nearly half was banking fraud



Fraud is rarely reported to the police (10%)



The majority is instead reported to banks (80%)

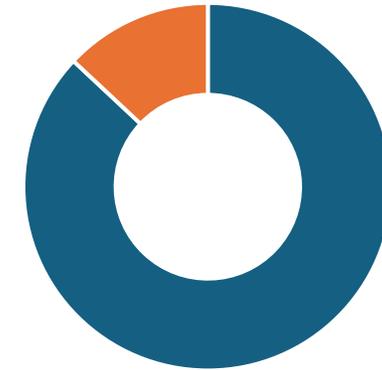


Nearly half of victims lost less than £100

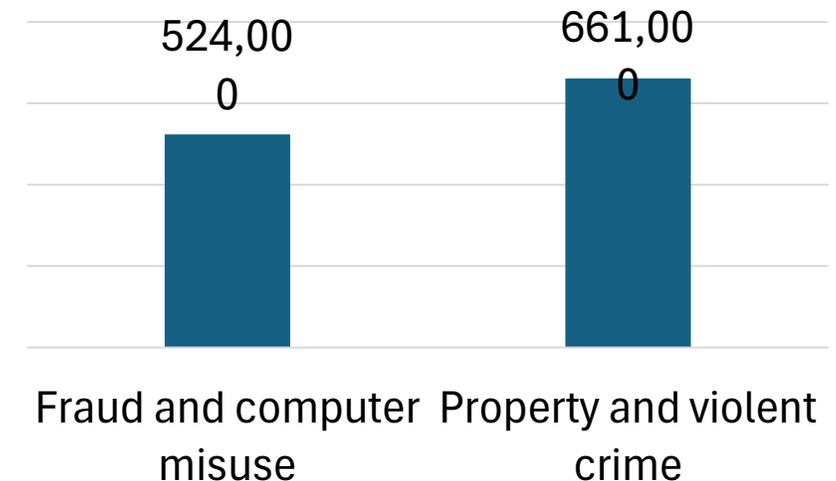


Most victims received a full (70%) or partial refund (7%)

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■ Fraud ■ Computer misuse



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Data Source: The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey 2023/24.

Police reporting

21%
of all SCJS
crimes were
reported to the
police in
2023/24

44%
of violent
crimes were
reported to
the police

24%
of property
crimes were
reported to the
police

10%
of fraud and
computer misuse
crimes were
reported to the
police

When looking at **property and violent crimes** (as they can be tracked over time):

- 31% of crimes were reported to the police
- unchanged from the position in 2021/22
- down from 40% in 2019/20.

Fraud

- Has lowest reporting to the police
- Instead, in 80% of fraud crimes the victim reported the incident to their bank, building society or credit card company and where they had lost money

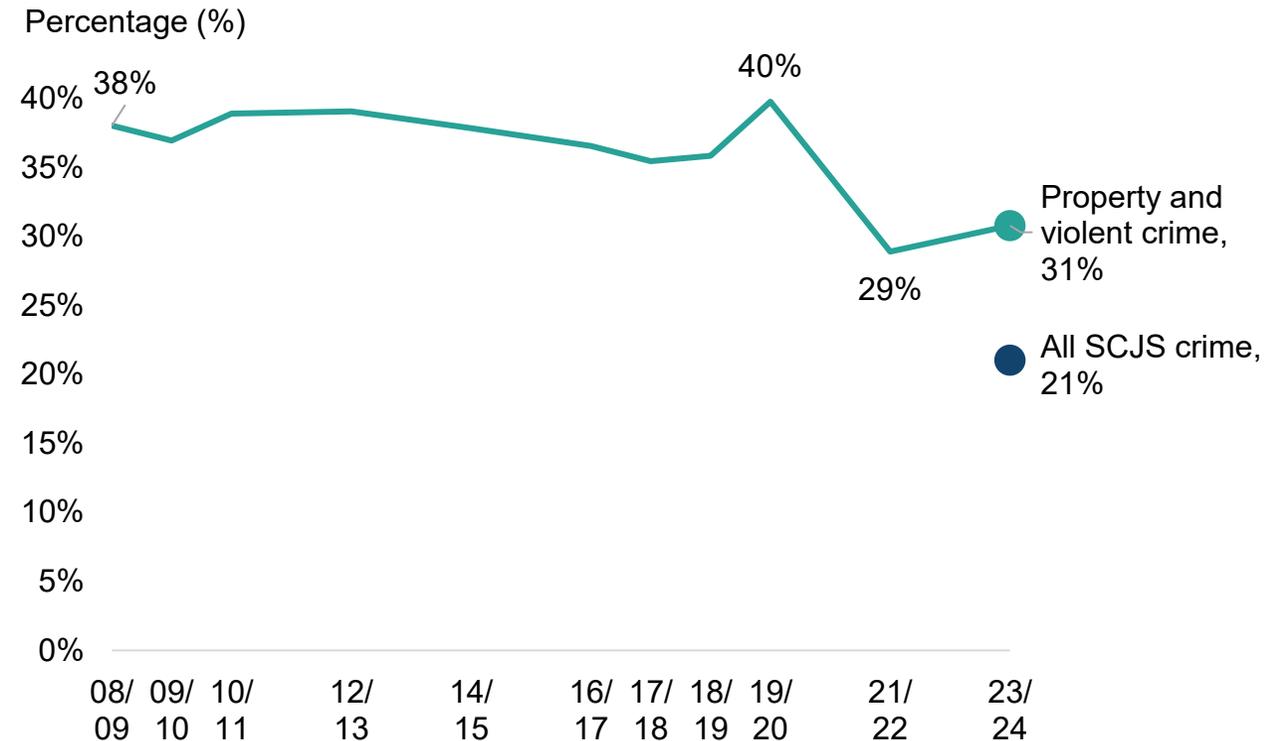
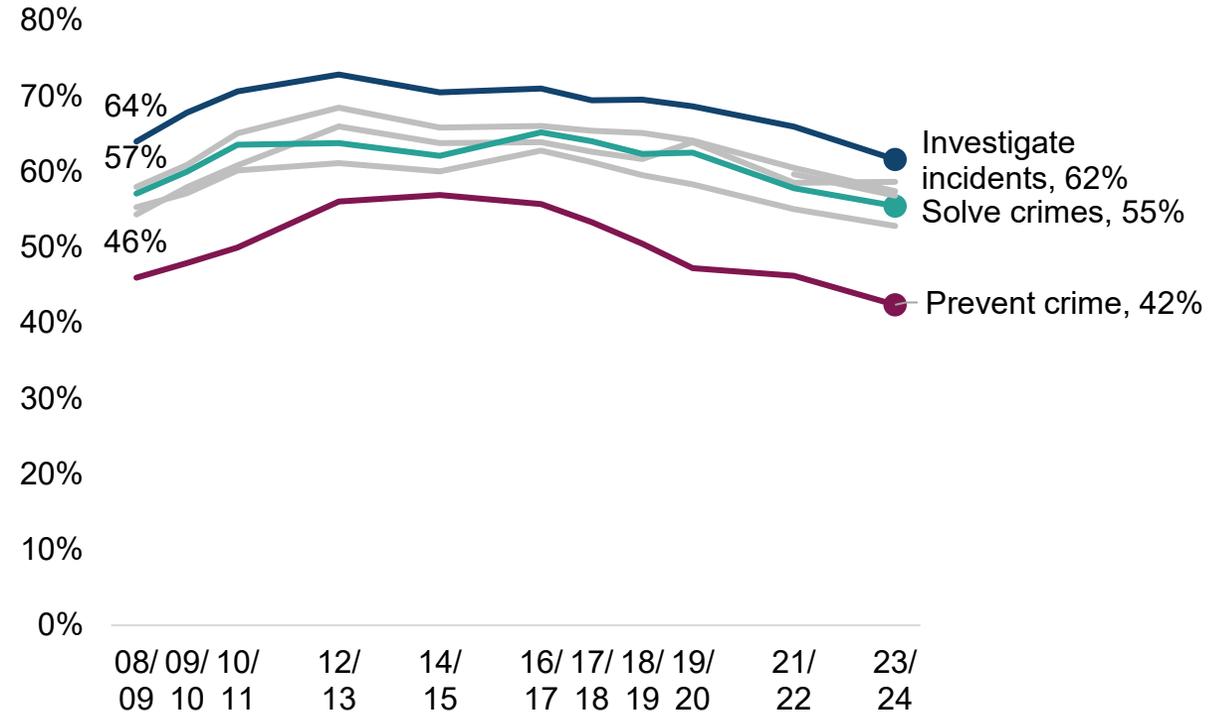
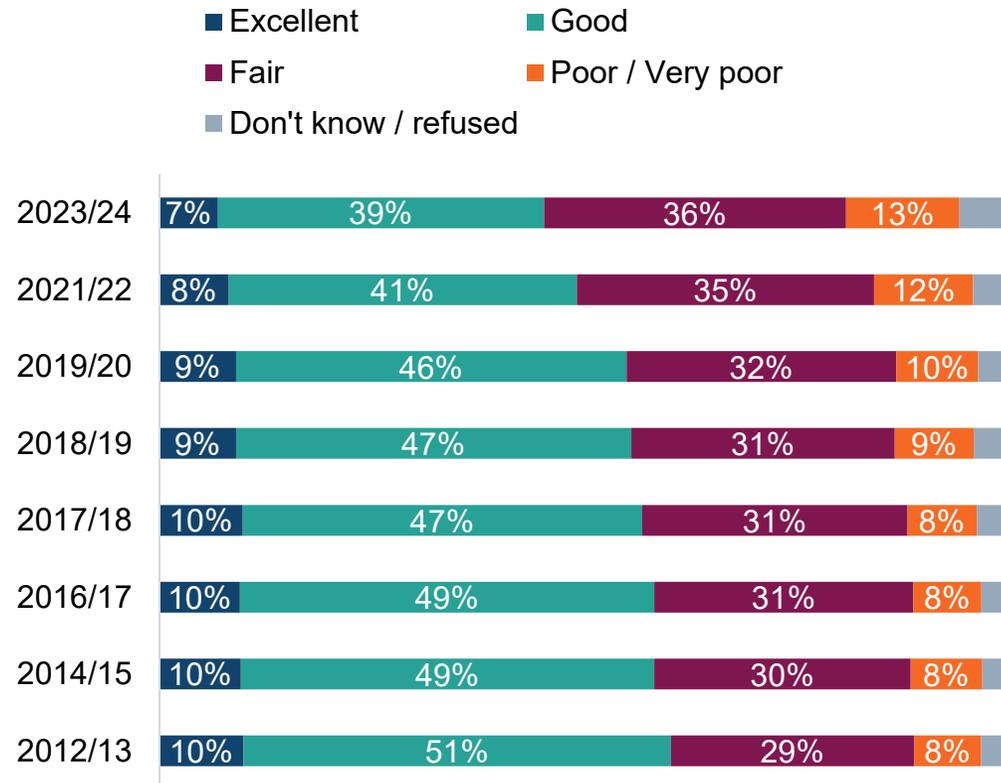


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Public Perception: Police

Views on the performance of the police have declined since 2012/13. This is a continuing trend from the 2021/22 report. Similar falls seen in views of the wider criminal justice system.



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Future plans and developments

Publication of 2024/25 results

- Being released on 17th March 2026
- Continuing time series of SCJS main findings
- Second year of publishing fraud and computer misuse data
- Later in 2026 results by police division geography will be released, covering two-year combined period 2023/25

Self-completion data published later in 2026

- Covers sexual victimisation, partner abuse and stalking & harassment
- Will cover the combined two-year period 2023/25
- First findings published for 5 years, where last results covered 2018/20
- Features newly developed partner abuse model, an update which brings it in line with the latest legislation – Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018
- Captures experience of coercive control and covers themes of abuse (financial, physical, sexual etc.) reflecting the legislation
- Start of a new time series for this self-completion module
- SCJS no longer covers illicit drug use – the Scottish Health Survey (SHeS) is now the source of official statistics for this

Future plans and developments

Questionnaire development

2025/26

- Addition of questions on non-fatal strangulation in self-completion section
- Developed in response to growing public concern, increased media interest and engagement from victim support organisations and other stakeholders
- Questions will capture
 - Prevalence of experiences across the population
 - Whether coercion was involved
 - Harm resulting from these experiences

2026/27

- Expanding questions on anti-social behaviour (ASB)
- To strengthen evidence base and support recommendations from Independent working group on ASB
- Broader types of ASB covered
- Captures personal experience of ASB issues
- Questions on life satisfaction
- Enables analysis of how crime victimisation impacts wellbeing

Future plans and developments

Review of SCJS methodology

SCJS methods have been consistent since the first survey in 2008/09.

However, since then the landscape has changed.

- Less crime (20.4% → 12.1% of adults experiencing crime a property or violent crime)
- Lower response rates (71% → 46%)
- Lower sample size (16,000 → 5,000)

Considering plans to review existing methods in light of the above and what improvements could be made to ensure the SCJS continues to be a valuable resource.

Areas being considered for review:

- Sample design
- Weighting implementation / incident capping
- Presentation of results/analysis