

# Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) update

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# This presentation

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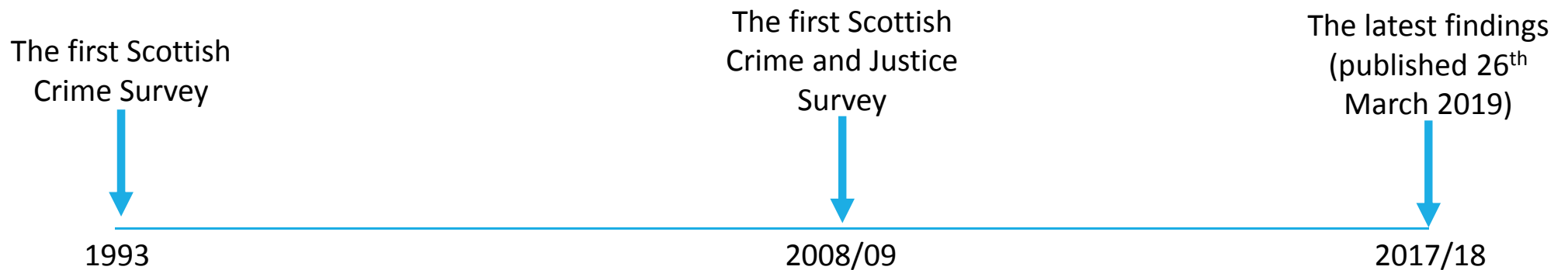
- Overview of the survey
- Key findings from 2017/18
- Outputs and dissemination
- Survey impact
- What's next
- Links and contact details

# Overview

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# History of the SCJS

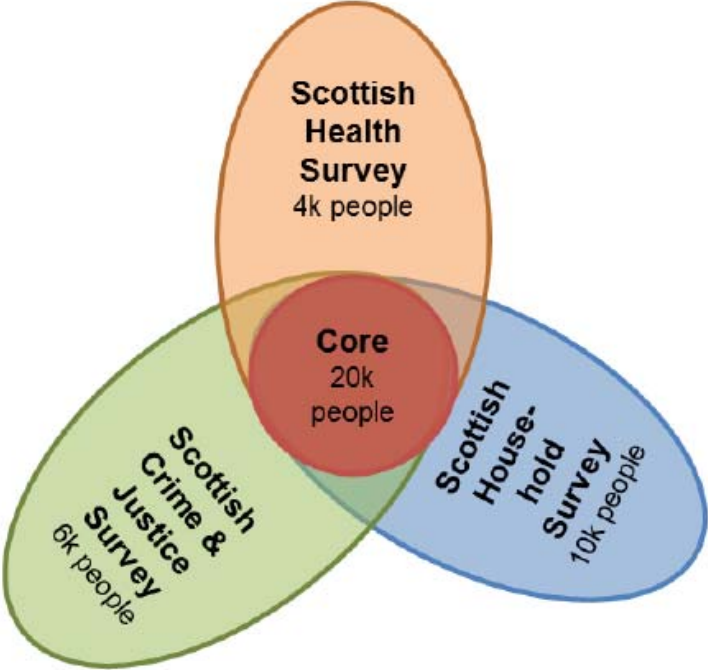
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- Now an annual survey, with a smaller sample size (6,000 adults)
- Comparisons are made to the previous year and 2008/09

# Population surveys in Scotland

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# Who takes part?

▶ Who takes part in the survey?



around **5,600**  
adults (*aged 16 & over*)



In private  
households  
(incl rented  
accomodation)



Across  
Scotland

▶ Who does not take part in the survey



Children



Those living in group,  
residences, institutions or  
those without a fixed  
address



Commercial or public  
sector bodies

# How is the information collected?

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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

# What topics are covered by the 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*



# Key findings from 2017/18

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# How much crime was there?

**602,000**

Crimes committed against adults in Scotland in 2017/18

**↓ 42%**

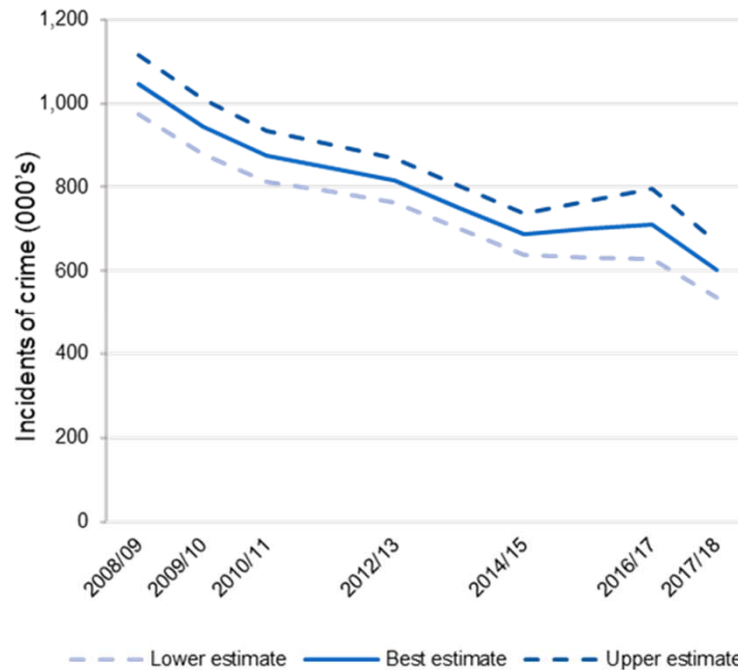
decrease in overall level of crime experienced in Scotland since 2008/09 to the lowest level ever estimated by the SCJS

**12.5%**

of adults experienced crime in 2017/18

**↓ 8**

percentage pts decrease of adults experiencing crime in Scotland since 2008/09



As in previous years, most crime was property related:

**71%**  
PROPERTY CRIME

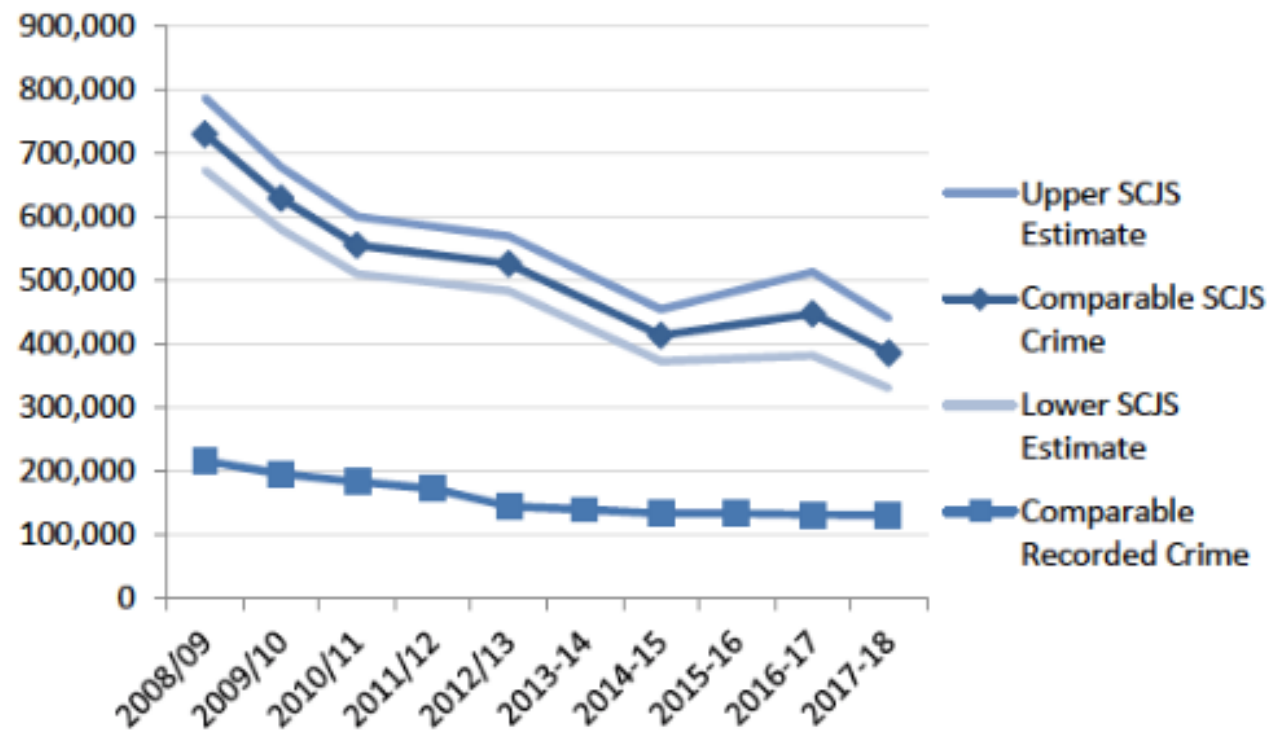


**29%**  
VIOLENT CRIME



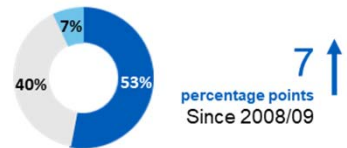
# Comparing to police recorded crime

▼  
Both key sources of crime statistics in Scotland find large decreases of in the level of crime since 2008/09.

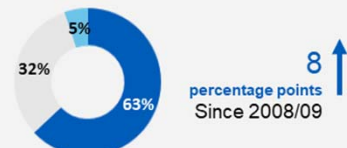


# Police confidence and perceptions

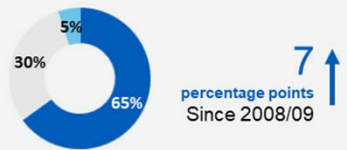
## Prevent crime



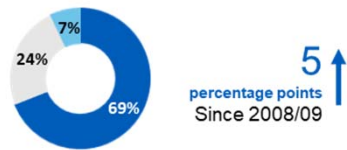
## Respond quickly



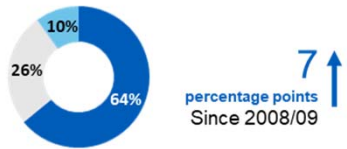
## Deal with incidents



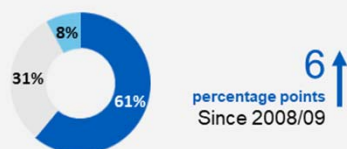
## Investigate incidents



## Solve crimes



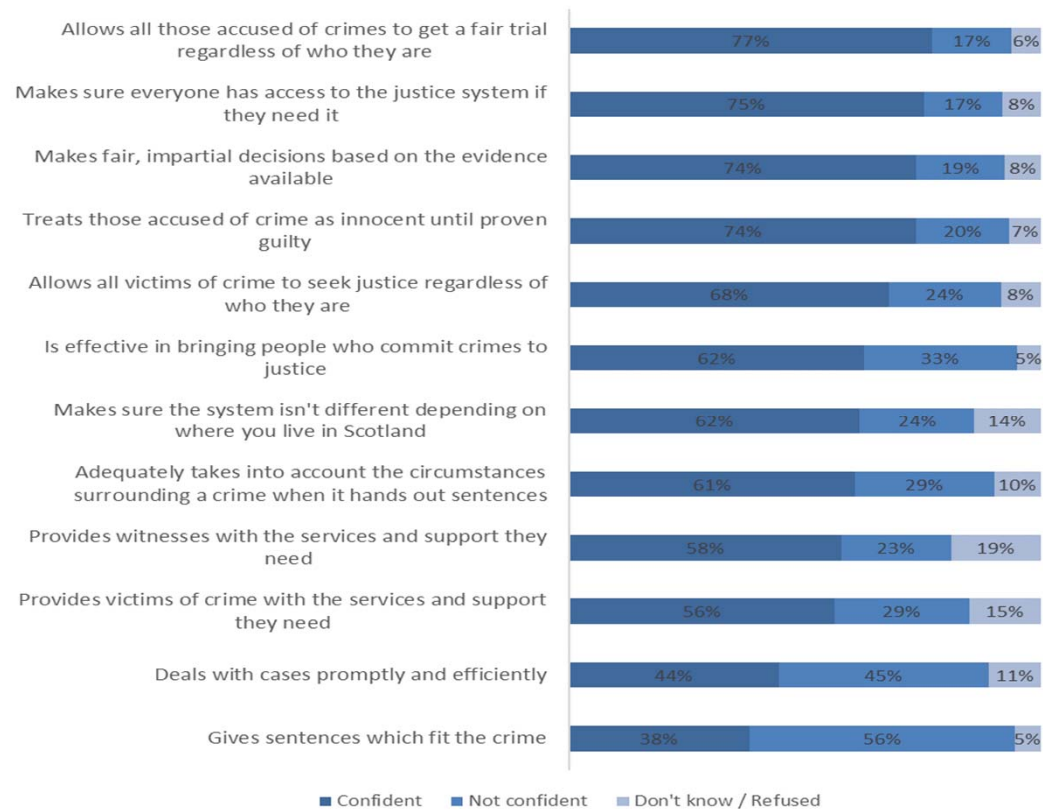
## Catch criminals



Very / fairly confident ● Not very/not at all confident ○ Don't know ●

The majority of adults in Scotland (57%) believed the police in their local area were doing an **excellent or good** job in 2017/18.

# Confidence in the Justice System



# Fear of crime

## ► Fear of crime

77%

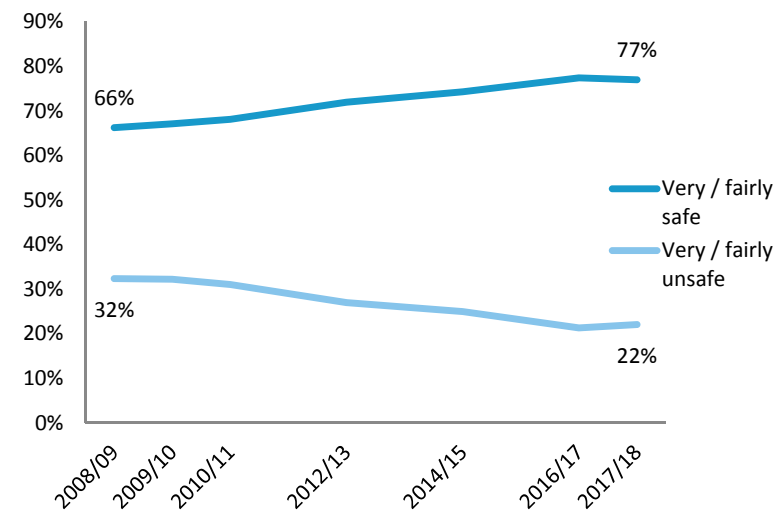
Of adults felt safe walking alone after dark



↑ 11 percentage points  
Since 2008/09

↔ No change  
Since 2016/17

- People feel safer than they did a decade ago



# Outputs and dissemination

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PROMOTING MORE AND BETTER USE OF THE SCJS



# Outputs and dissemination

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- Improved infographics, report structure, look and feel
- Including self-completion results in main report and making more supplementary data available
- Considering further improved report summary section or document, and other supporting outputs
- Facilitating, encouraging and leading further use of the SCJS findings in the delivery of government and stakeholder activity beyond the production of the main survey outputs
- R Shiny interactive app

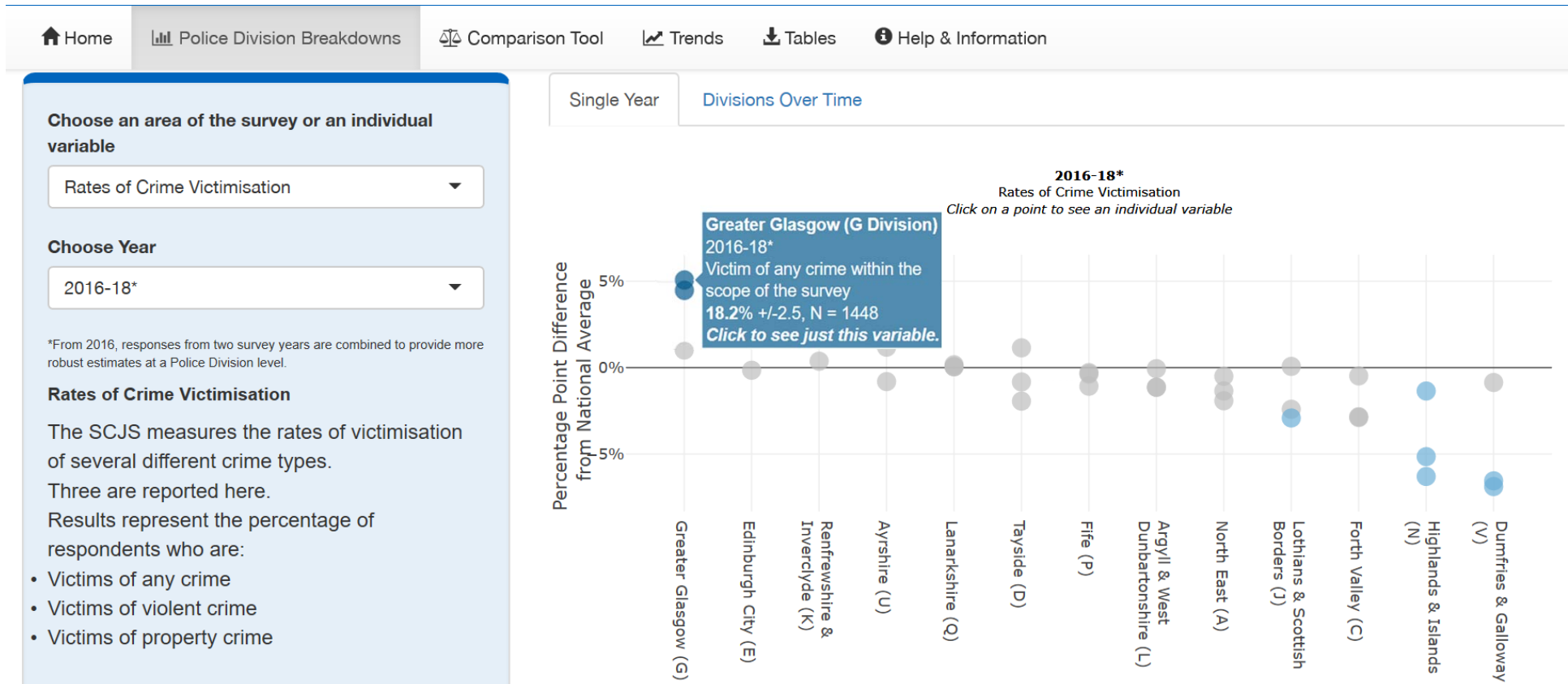


# 'R Shiny' interactive app

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- Lots of data never makes it into our report, and despite our best intentions and publishing in (hundreds of) online static tables, some results are tricky to find and use
- Created an interactive app to present our biennial data at Police Division level to facilitate easier manipulation and exploration by end-users (user interest, but also proof of concept)
- Includes being able to:
  - Isolate results for a particular area more easily
  - Look at time series results, with ability to change comparator year
  - Look at results between areas and compared to national average
  - Produce and download bespoke tables of proportions and base sizes

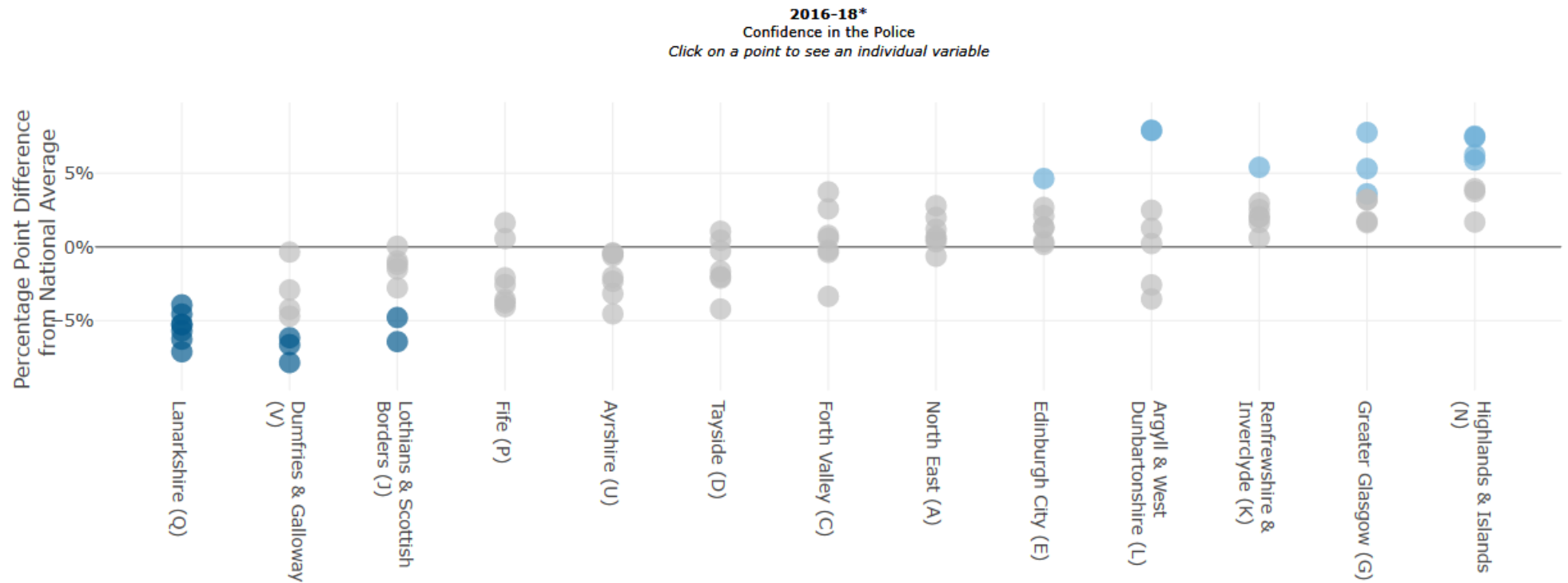
# Example: Findings across areas compared to average



# Example: findings across areas (many indicators)

Single Year

Divisions Over Time



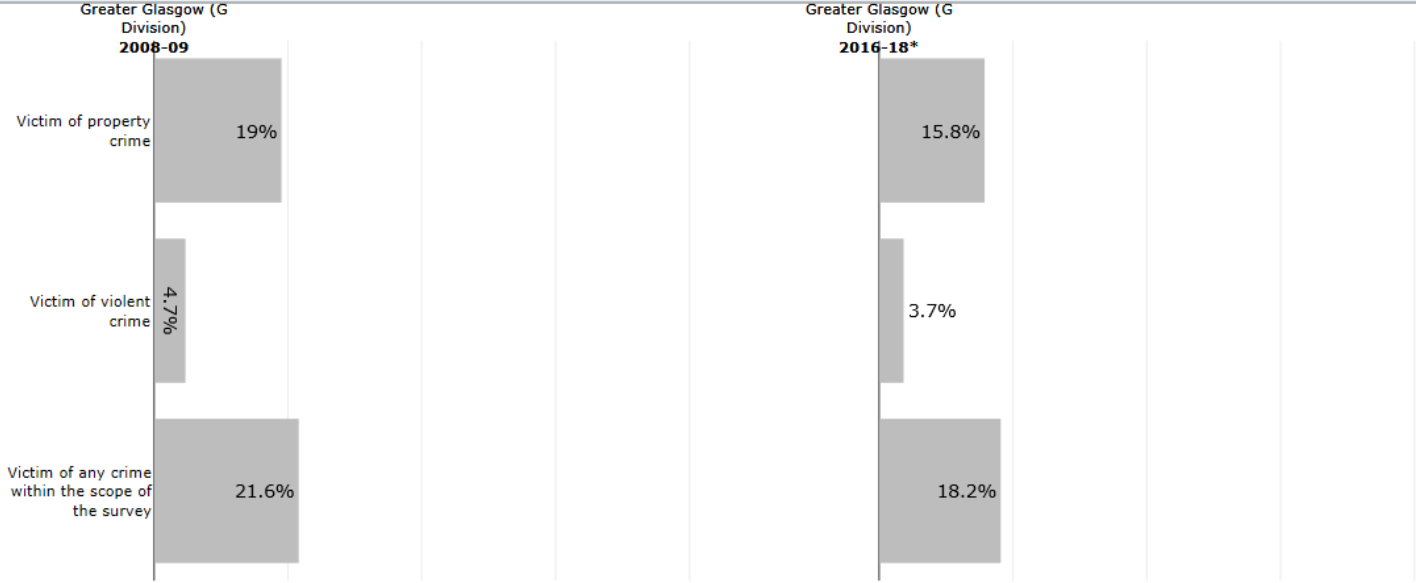
# Example: comparing over time (no change)

Greater Glasgow (G Division)  Compared to Greater Glasgow (G Division)

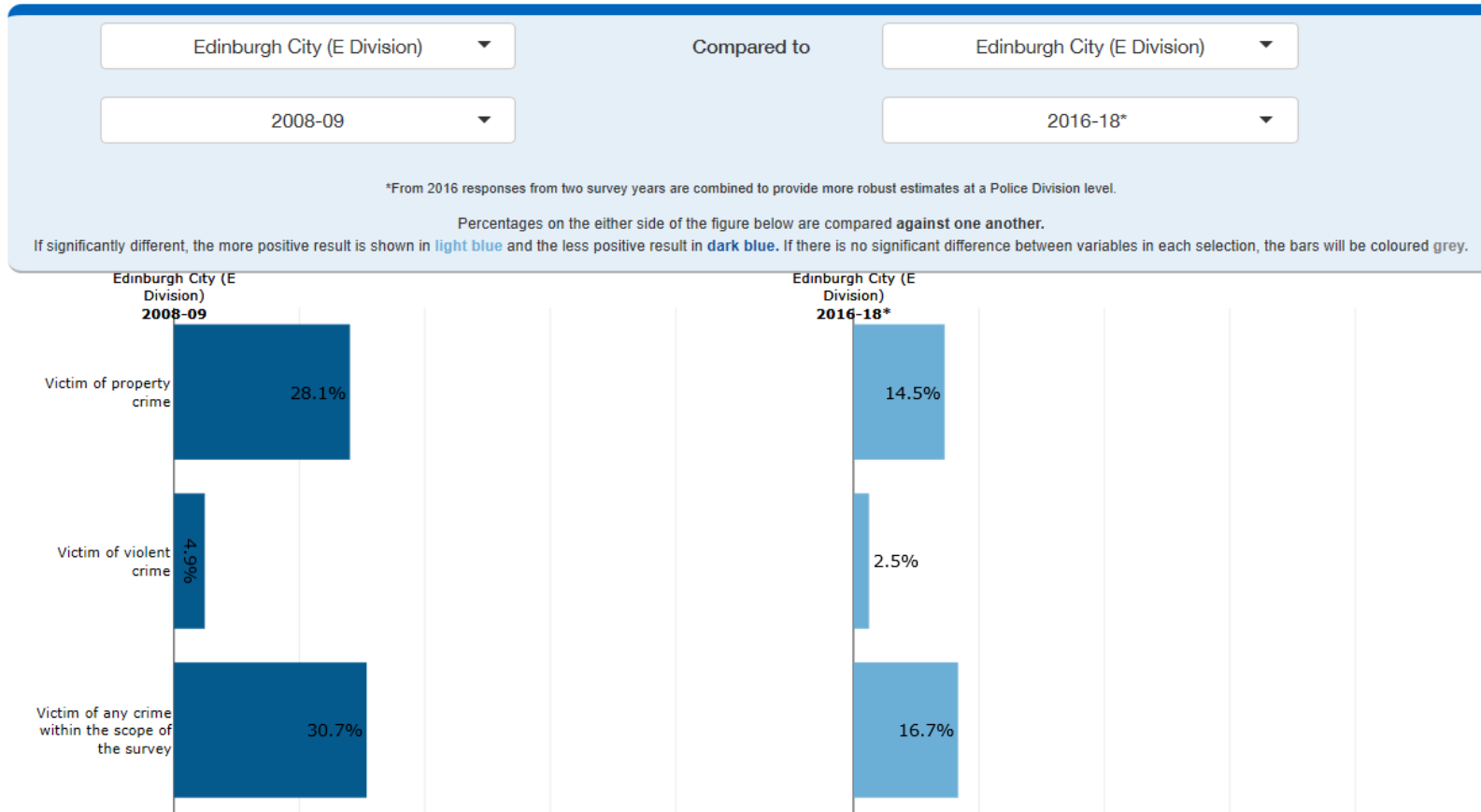
2008-09  2016-18\*

\*From 2016 responses from two survey years are combined to provide more robust estimates at a Police Division level.

Percentages on the either side of the figure below are compared **against one another**.  
If significantly different, the more positive result is shown in **light blue** and the less positive result in **dark blue**. If there is no significant difference between variables in each selection, the bars will be coloured grey.



# Example: comparing over time (change)



# Example: comparing areas within year

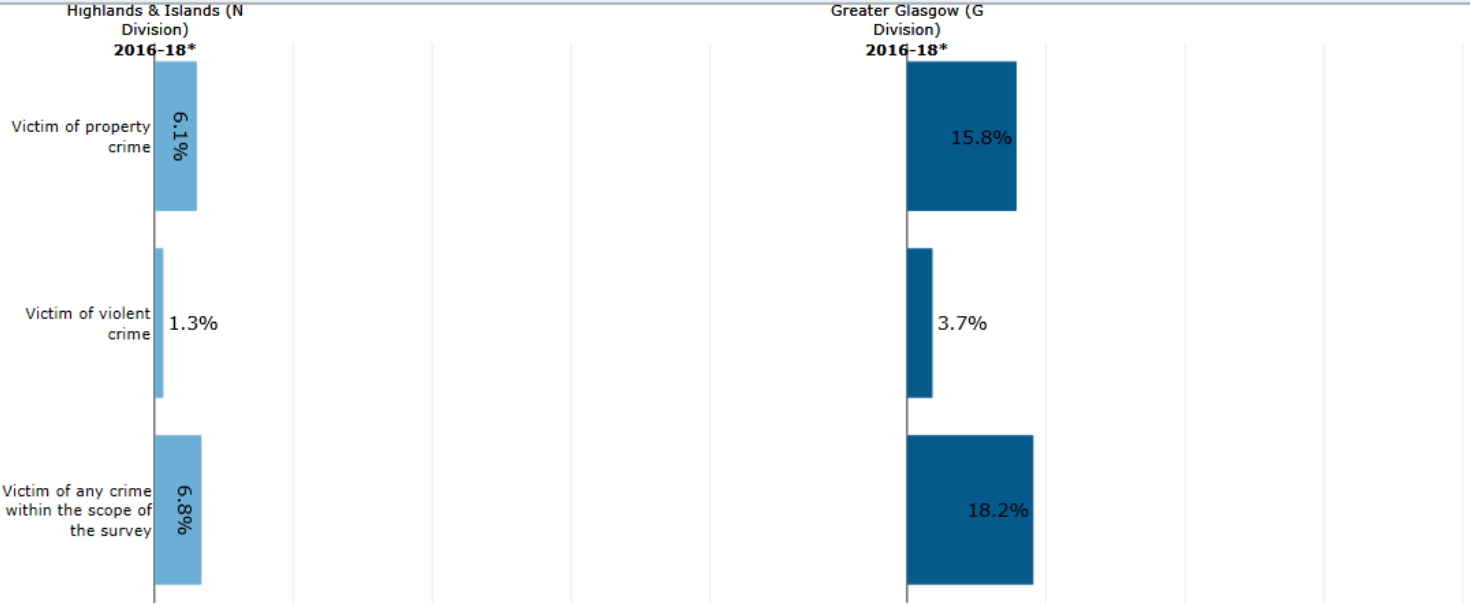
Highlands & Islands (N Division) ▼      Compared to      Greater Glasgow (G Division) ▼

2016-18\* ▼      2016-18\* ▼

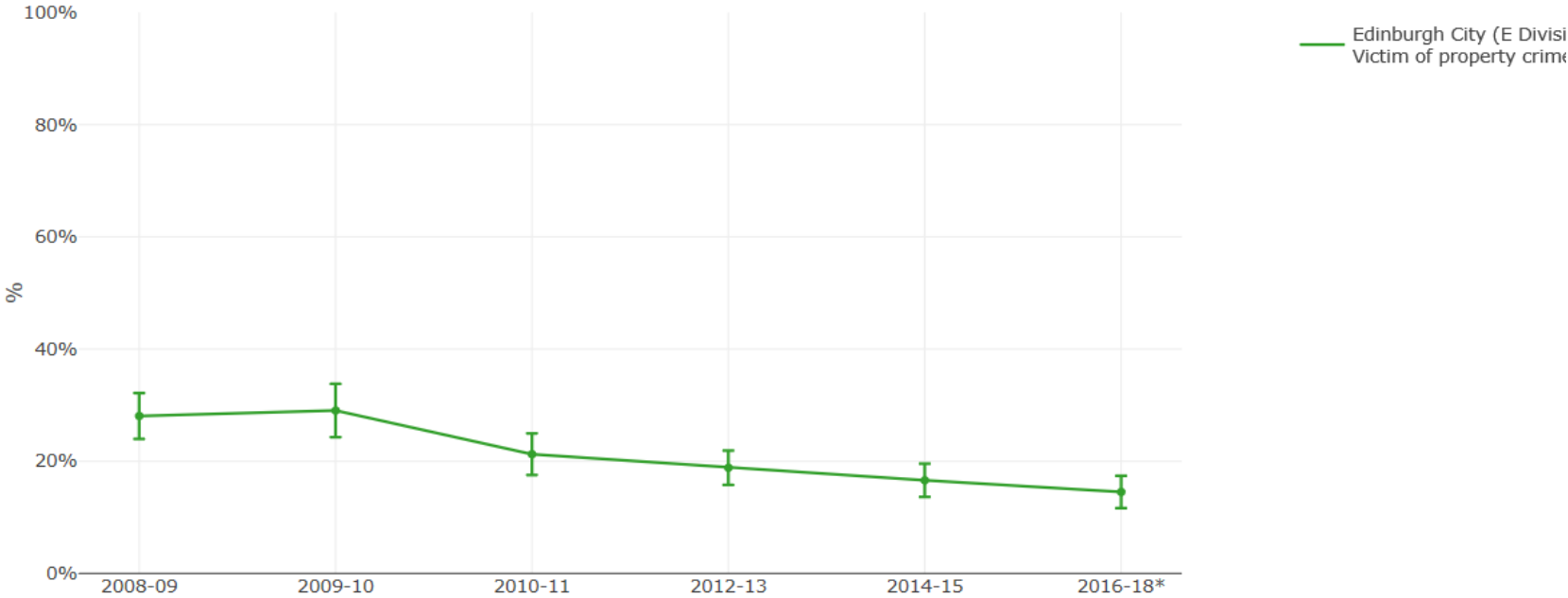
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# Example: understanding trends over time



\*From 2016, responses from two survey years are combined to provide more robust estimates at a Police Division level.

Hover over the cursor over a point to see more information.

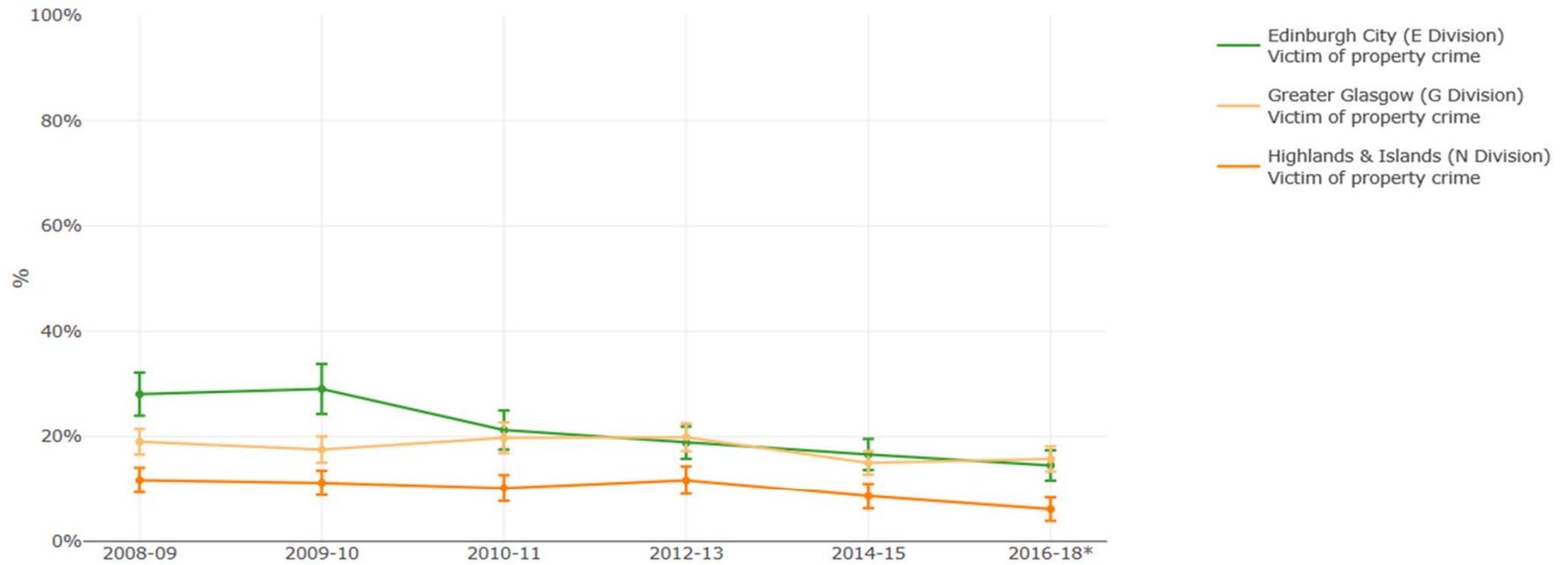
Y-axis Zoom

Show Legend

Show 95% Confidence Intervals

Reset plot

# Example: understanding trends over time



\*From 2016, responses from two survey years are combined to provide more robust estimates at a Police Division level.

Hover over the cursor over a point to see more information.

Y-axis Zoom

Show Legend

Show 95% Confidence Intervals

Reset plot





# Example: producing bespoke tables with sig testing

Choose Section of Survey: Rates of Crime Victimization

Choose Police Divisions: Edinburgh City (E Division), Ayrshire (U Division)

Choose 2 years to test: 2008-09, 2016-18\*

Download, Reset

Percentages, Sample Sizes

Variable	Police_Division	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2012-13	2014-15	2016-18*	Significant change from 2008-09 to 2016-18*
Victim of property crime	Ayrshire (U Division)	20.6	18.2	16.8	16.3	13.7	13.3	Yes
Victim of violent crime	Ayrshire (U Division)	6.6	3.8	3.7	4.1	2.8	1.8	Yes
Victim of any crime within the scope of the survey	Ayrshire (U Division)	23.8	20.4	19.4	18.2	15.6	14.3	Yes
Victim of property crime	Edinburgh City (E Division)	28.1	29.0	21.3	18.8	16.6	14.5	Yes
Victim of violent crime	Edinburgh City (E Division)	4.9	5.5	3.5	4.1	2.8	2.5	Yes
Victim of any crime within the scope of the survey	Edinburgh City (E Division)	30.7	32.1	23.1	21.4	17.9	16.7	Yes

# 'R Shiny' interactive app – learning and benefits

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- Lots of effort up front to scope, design, test:
  - What should tool do? Who is the audience? How should it look and feel?
  - Preparing data – binary categories and questionnaire changes over time
  - Messaging and explanatory notes
- But, now that is done:
  - Can add new variables/breakdowns fairly easily (*but should they be presented in the same way?*)
  - Can add next sweep of data easily
  - Can share code / structure – other surveys in Scotland have used our code to very quickly produce their own apps – providing efficiency saving and consistent look and feel for end users too
  - Helps with answering requests, report writing and thinking about summary messages so wider impact beyond output itself

# Survey Impact


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HOW DOES THE SCJS INFORM POLICY AND PRACTICE TO IMPROVE LIVES?



# Why do we survey the population?

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- Evidence national performance
  - Inform and influence debate, public opinion and behaviours
  - Contextualise (and challenge?) other data sources
  - Inform, monitor, improve policy and service design and delivery
  - Highlight gaps and stimulate further research
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# Why do we survey the population?

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- **Evidence national performance**
- **Inform and influence debate, public opinion and behaviours**
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# Evidencing national performance

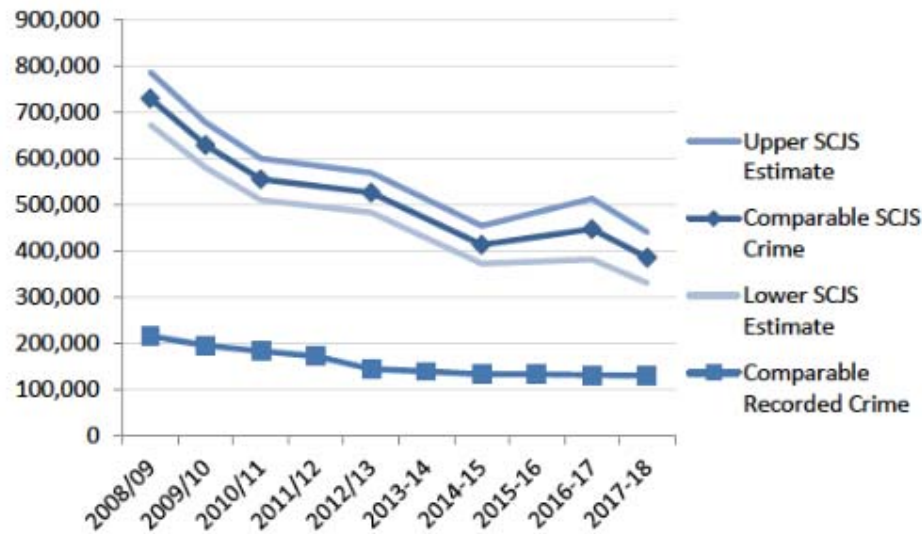
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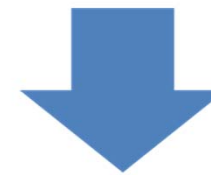
- SCJS provides 3 of 81 National Performance Framework indicators
- Essentially a way of transparently judging the performance of the country
- Also used for measuring progress against Justice Outcomes and UN Sustainable Development Goals

# Informing debate and opinion

▼  
Both key sources of crime statistics in Scotland find large decreases of in the level of crime since 2008/09.



Overall, the proportion of adults experiencing crime in Scotland has fallen over the last decade



**From  
1 in 5 (20%)  
to  
1 in 8 (12.5%)**

So the survey confirms that Scotland is a safer place...

# Informing debate and opinion

## ► Fear of crime

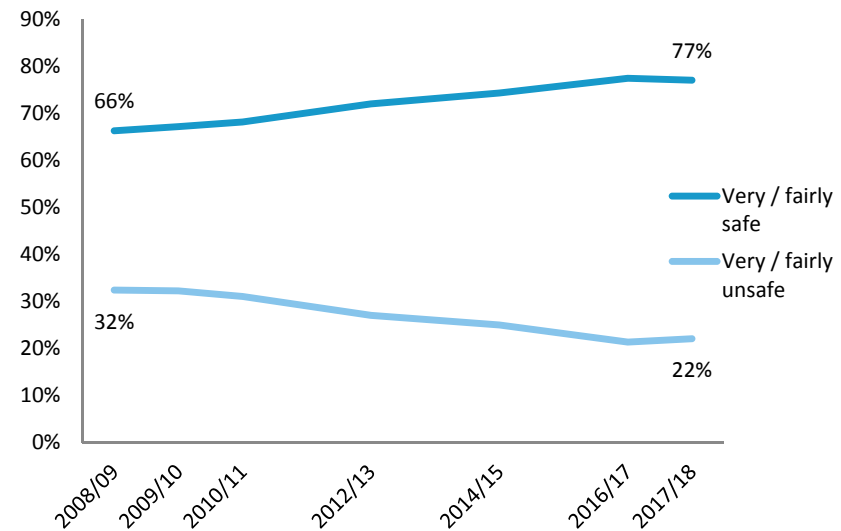
77%

Of adults felt safe walking alone after dark



↑ 11 percentage points  
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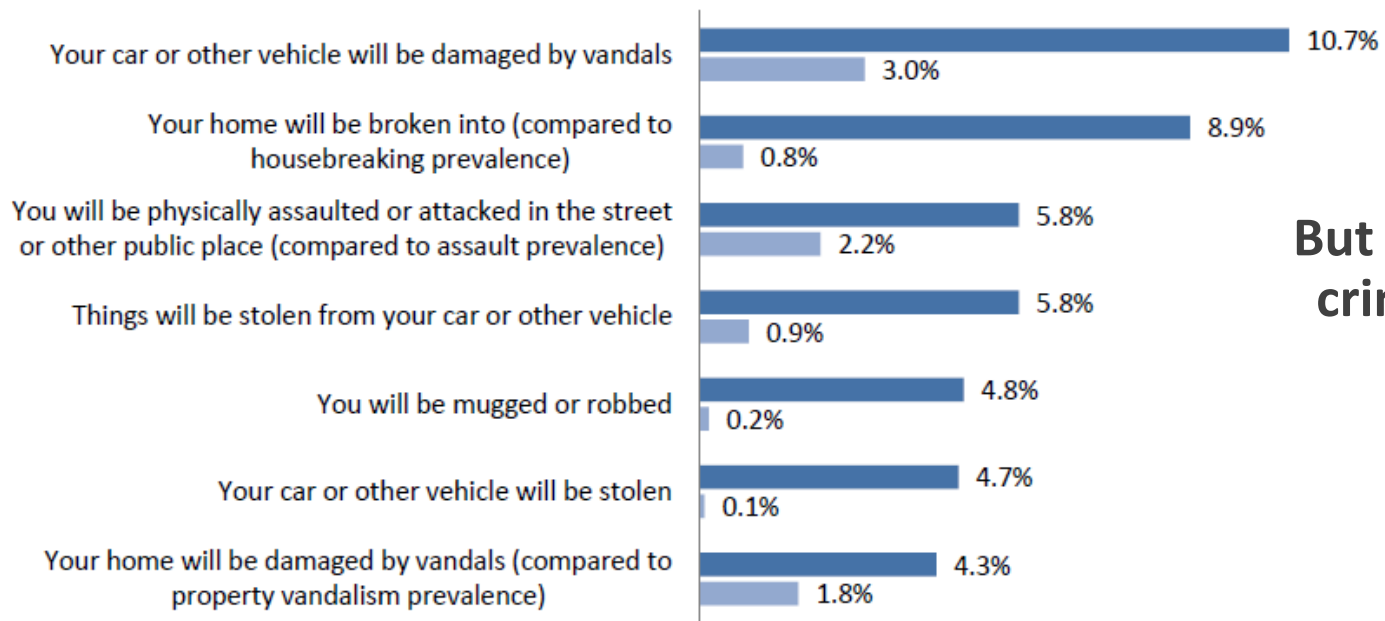
↔ No change  
Since 2016/17



...and that people *feel safer* than they did a decade ago



# Informing debate and opinion??



■ Proportion who thought likely to experience crime type in 12 months after interview  
■ Victimisation rate in 2017/18

**But more to do as worry about crime still much greater than victimisation rates?**

# Why do we survey the population?

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- Evidence national performance
- Inform and influence debate, public opinion and behaviours
- **Inform, monitor, improve policy and service design and delivery**
- **Contextualise (and challenge?) other data sources**
- **Highlight gaps and stimulate further research**

Recent examples include: updating our understanding of violent crime and using the SCJS to explore and monitor public confidence in the police

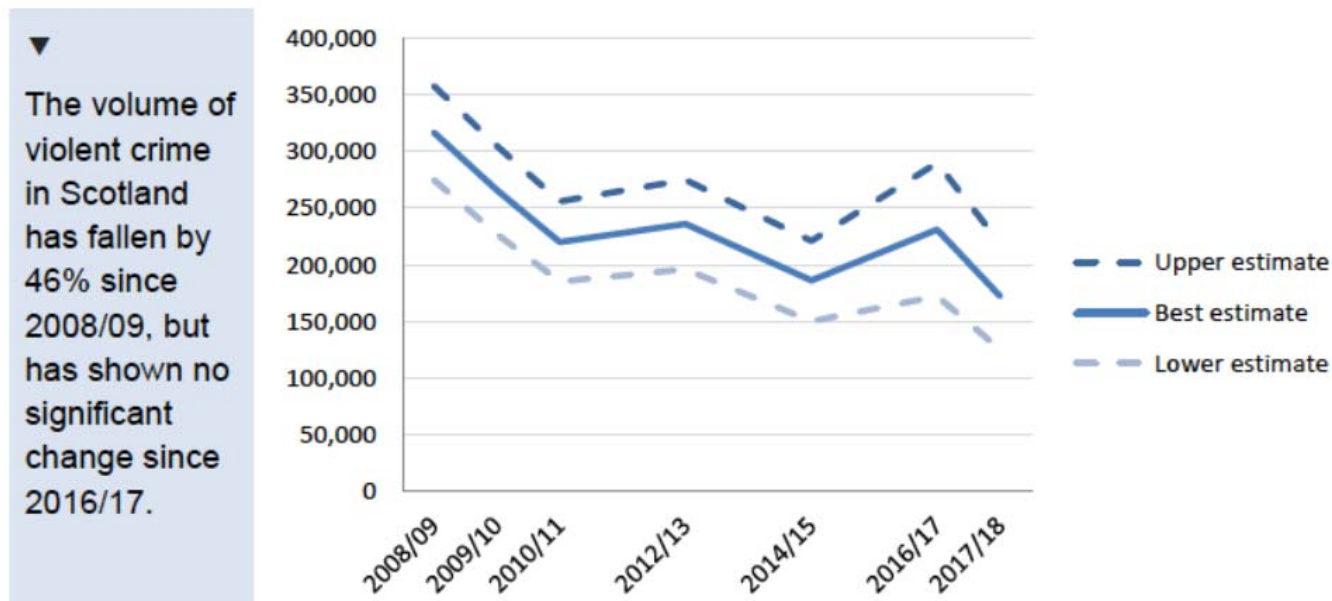
# Recent and regular survey use

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- [Report](#) to Cabinet Secretary-chaired 'Victims Taskforce' on experiences of crime and views of justice system by equality breakdowns
- Supporting and influencing policy development around priorities for policing, hate crime, and work to support victims of sexual crime in the health system
- Providing evidence to support the monitoring of strategies to improve community safety, reduce violence against women and girls, and understand/tackle gender inequality
- Supporting end users including third sector bodies, academics, students and media to draw on best available evidence in their work

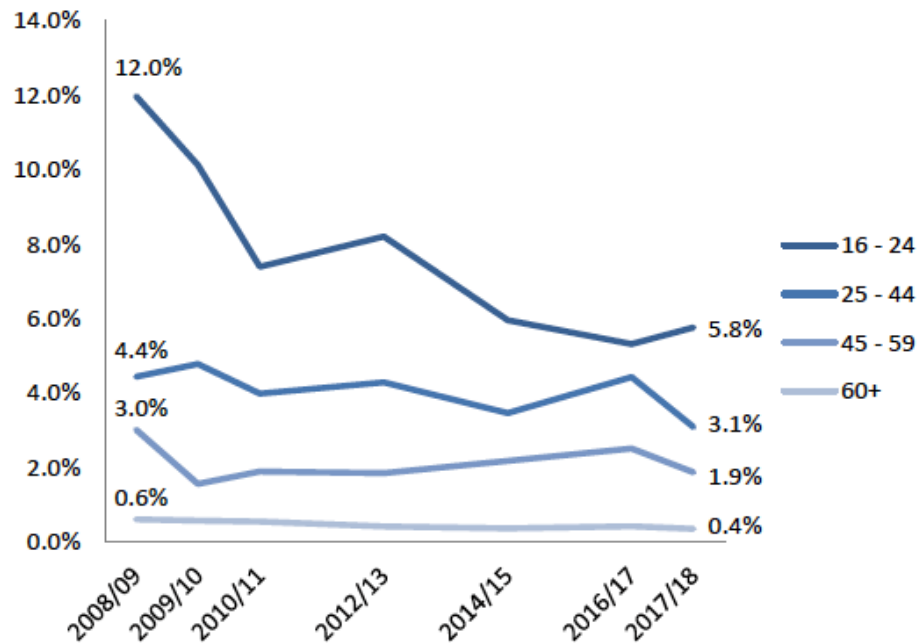
# More specific examples: Understanding violent crime

Fall in early years of last decade, broad stability since



# Understanding violent crime

## Demographic and geographic differences – successes and challenges



The proportion of **younger adults** experiencing violent crime has more than halved since 2008/09

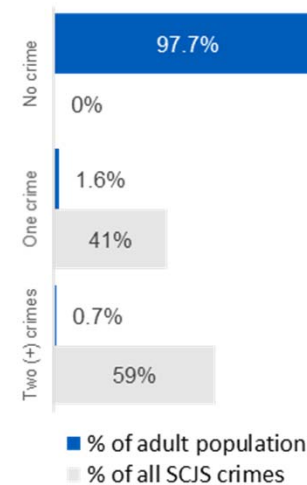
**BUT**

Prevalence rate for adults living in the **15% most deprived areas** has not shown any change since 2008/09, whilst the rate has reduced for those living in the rest of Scotland (from 3.8% to 2.1%).

# Understanding violent crime

- Contextualise and contrast to police recorded crime and hospital admissions data
- Understand the changing (or not) characteristics of violence
- Identify and highlight the (on-going) importance of repeat victimisation...*and relative lack of understanding about who this affects and what experiences look like*

▶ **A small number of victims experienced a high proportion of violent crime**



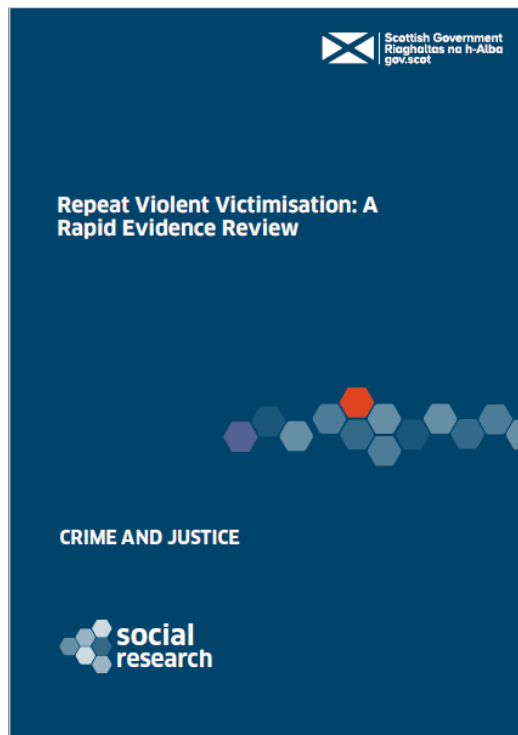
**No Crime:** Most adults did not experience any violent crime in 2017/18.

**One Crime:** 1.6% of the population experienced one violent crime, corresponding to around two fifths of all violent crime in 2017/18.

**Two (+) Crimes:** 0.7% of adults experienced two or more violent crimes. These victims experienced almost three-fifths of all violent crime in 2017/18. However this rate of repeat victimisation has fallen from 1.6% in 2008/09.

# Stimulating further research: repeat victimisation

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- Small sample size in any one year – building pooled sample to look at victims and characteristics of incidents
- Wider evidence review conducted
- Engaging with academia and other crime analysts to understand what evidence they hold
- Commissioned large-scale qualitative research project (being led by Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research)

# More specific examples: Monitoring and improving perceptions of the police

Working with Police Scotland and a range of partners to improve the awareness and presentation of our data, to facilitate its use in understanding confidence in the police and differences amongst population



## Annual Police Plan 2019/20

- Our vision** | Sustained excellence in service and protection
- Our purpose** | To improve the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities in Scotland
- Our values** | Fairness | Integrity | Respect | Human Rights

### Priorities for policing

**Protecting vulnerable people**  
Supporting people considered vulnerable and working with partners to reduce harm

**Tackling cyber related crime**  
Building capability to address the threat from cyber related crime

**Working with communities**  
Engaging with the public and communities to build resilience and prevent crime

**Support for operational policing**  
Delivering change that enables our people to deliver an effective and sustainable service

### Objectives





# Monitoring and improving perceptions of the police

## Executive Summary

### TOTAL CRIME

#### Overall Crime

Overall crime\* during the April to December 2018 period has continued to fall when compared to the same period last year. This continues the declining trend in overall crime over the last five years which has fallen by **2.5% (4,842 crimes)** compared to the five-year mean. The detection rate for overall crime has risen by **0.6%** compared to last year and stands at **50.4%**.

#### TOTAL CRIME (Group 1 - 5)

 **659 less  
(0.4%)**

Total Crime (Group 1-5) has reduced by **0.4% (659 crimes)** when compared to April to December 2017 and is down **2.5% (4,842 crimes)** on the five-year

### USER SATISFACTION

#### Public Confidence

Across Scotland confidence in policing remains strong with **58%** of respondents to the last Scottish Crime and Justice Survey indicating that the police are doing a good or excellent job. User satisfaction remains high with **81.4%** of respondents satisfied with the way Police Scotland dealt with their incidents.

Levels of satisfaction with the way Police Scotland dealt with incidents has increased to **81.4%** which is an increase of **1.4%** compared to this time last year.

Up **1.4%**



**81.4%**

Satisfied with the way  
Police Scotland dealt  
with incident.

**Survey data now presented alongside measure of total crime in Police Scotland performance updates.**

**Service keen to consider how SCJS data can be better understood and explored, utilised and triangulated with other sources to provide a richer picture to inform policy and practice.**

# What next?

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ON-GOING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SCJS TEAM



# Pooled-sample

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- **Aim:** To create an additional resource from existing survey data to enable larger sample sizes of minority groups that would not be possible from a single year
- Combining multiple years of survey data into one dataset
- Identify the characteristics of those who are victims of violence, in particular those experiencing repeat victimisation

# Risk factor analysis

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- **Aim:** carry out further analysis on the annual SCJS data to identify what factors are most associated with, and the best predictor of, victimisation
- Uses machine learning techniques to build a multi-level model
- In future, it could be used to identify high-risk groups and communities, as well as what types of crimes a given group is likely to experience

# Questionnaire development

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- Policing chapter – *updates to be included in 2020/21 survey*
- Partner abuse section – *updates to be included in 2021/22 survey*
- Self-reported drug use questions to be rotated out, with a view to supporting a transition towards them being included in the Scottish Health Survey rather than the SCJS into the future

We welcome feedback and suggestions on the survey at any time.

Comments on proposals or suggestions for the 2020/21 SCJS must be received by

**13th December 2019** to enable time for our consideration

<https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/crime-and-justice-survey/consultation/QnaireDevelopment>

# Links and contact details

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- SCJS webpage: <https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/crime-and-justice-survey/publications>
- 2017/18 (latest) main report: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-crime-justice-survey-2017-18-main-findings/>
- R shiny app for police division level data: <https://scotland.shinyapps.io/sg-scottish-crime-justice-survey/>
- ScotStat: <http://register.scotstat.org/Subscribe/Step1>
- SCJS mailbox: [scjs@gov.scot](mailto:scjs@gov.scot)
- SCJS project team contact details: <https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/crime-and-justice-survey/contact>

# Any questions?

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AND THANK YOU FOR LISTENING

A solid blue horizontal bar spans the width of the slide at the bottom.