

AQMeN PhD event: Data Collection Seminar 12 May 2010

Scottish Crime and Justice Survey 2008/09

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Overview

- Survey methodology
- Why the SCJS was commissioned
- What the data are used for
- Summary results
- Sampling
- Questionnaire
- Offence coding
- Datasets
- Ethical issues

Survey Methodology

- Large-scale continuous survey measuring people's experience & perceptions of crime in Scotland
- **16,003** face-to-face interviews with Scottish adults (aged 16+) in private households



Large sample size:

- More accurate measurement of less prevalent crimes e.g. serious assault
- Sub-national estimates at police force area & community justice authority area
- Questionnaire split into modules, extending topic coverage while retaining reliable reporting at national level

SCJS 2008/09 - QUESTIONNAIRE STRUCTURE

Full sample module (16,000 respondents)

Main screener

Victim form

Community sentencing

Scottish criminal justice system

Split sample modules (4,000 respondents each)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fear of crime• Workplace abuse | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Criminal justice system• Insulted, pestered, intimidated | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Card and Identity fraud• Civil justice | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Civil justice• Safety cameras |
|---|---|---|--|

Self completion section (asked of 16,000 respondents, completed by 10,974)

Drugs

Partner abuse and sexual victimisation

Limitations of the SCJS

- Coverage - excludes businesses, < 16yrs, institutions (e.g. student accommodation) 'victimless' crimes (e.g. speeding)
- Respondent recall error
- Sampling error – indicated by confidence intervals

Why was the survey commissioned?

- Estimate household & personal crime in Scotland
- Perception & attitudinal data on Justice-related subjects, e.g. victims experiences of the Criminal Justice System & public perceptions of 'fear of crime'
- Complements police recorded statistics:
 - More comprehensive picture of victimisation (e.g. less serious crime which may be less likely to be reported)
 - Contextual data (e.g. experience of victimisation)

What are the data used for?

- To inform policy
- National Performance Framework

(i) To inform policy
e.g. Illicit drug use

- Only source of national drug prevalence amongst the general population of adults in Scotland
- Supports the Ministerial commitment to tackling illicit drug use in Scotland



- Used to inform policy, e.g. Cocaine awareness campaign – SCJS shows that cocaine use is most dominant amongst 16–24 year olds, therefore campaigns developed to tackle use in this age group
- Information on use of new, synthetic drugs, e.g. Mephedrone, which we know very little about (will report in January 2012)

(ii) National Performance Framework



National Indicator 30: *Reduce overall crime victimisation rates by 2 percentage points by 2011*

What is the proportion of people in Scotland who have been a victim of crime?

- A) 1 in 10 people
- B) 1 in 5 people
- C) 1 in 3 people
- D) 1 in 2 people

National Indicator 35: *Increase positive public perception of the general crime rate in the local area*

- **69%** of adults perceived the general crime rate in their local area to have stayed the same or reduced in the past 2 years (SCJS 2008/09)
 - 65% in 2005/06
 - Performance is “improving”
- Fewer adults (28%) thought the crime rate in their area had increased over the last 2 years
 - 32% in 2005/06

National indicators

<p>services delivered</p>	<p>entitled to settled accommodation by 2012</p>
<p>↔ Reduce the number of Scottish public bodies by 25% by 2011</p>	<p>↔ Reduce overall reconviction rates by 2 percentage points by 2011</p>
<p>⬆ Reduce the proportion of driver journeys delayed due to traffic congestion</p>	<p>↔ Reduce overall crime victimisation rates by 2 percentage points by 2011</p>
<p>↔ Increase the percentage of Scottish domiciled graduates from Scottish Higher Education Institutions in positive destinations</p>	<p>⬆ Increase the percentage of criminal cases dealt with within 26 weeks by 3 percentage points by 2011</p>
<p>● Improve knowledge transfer from research activity in universities</p>	<p>⬇ Increase the rate of new house building</p>
<p>⬇ Increase the proportion of school leavers (from Scottish publicly funded schools) in positive and sustained destinations (FE, HE, employment or training)</p>	<p>↔ Increase the percentage of adults who rate their neighbourhood as a good place to live</p>
<p>● Increase the proportion of schools receiving positive inspection reports</p>	<p>⬇ Decrease the estimated number of problem drug users in Scotland by 2011</p>
<p>⬆ Reduce number of working age people with severe literacy and numeracy problems</p>	<p>⬆ Increase positive public perception of the general crime rate in local area</p>
<p>● Child protection inspection findings: increase the overall proportion of local authority areas receiving positive inspection reports</p>	<p>↔ Reduce overall ecological footprint</p>

Survey sampling

- Random preselected sample
- Design: minimum 1,000 neff across 8 Police Force Areas (PFAs)
- Clustering
 - Rural areas = clustered
 - Urban areas = unclustered
- Delicate balance: financial costs vs. analysis cases

SCJS Questionnaire

- Primarily a victimisation survey
 - British Crime Survey, Northern Ireland Crime Survey
- Structured and modularised
- Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) and CASI

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Victim Form Screener

- Experience in previous 12 months
- 17 questions grouped into three areas
 - Vehicle related incidents
 - Household property incidents
 - Personal incidents
- How many times

Victim Form Screener

- Carefully worded:
 - And again, (apart from anything you have already mentioned), in that time has anyone deliberately **DAMAGED** or **DEFACED** your home or anything outside it (**IF YES AT CARDAMAG** ‘apart from a motor vehicle’) that belonged to **YOU** or **ANYONE ELSE** in your household?
 - Since **<INSERT DATE>**, (apart from anything you have already mentioned), was anything you were **CARRYING STOLEN** out of your hands or from your pockets or from a bag or case you were carrying?

Victim Form Screener

- Clever design
- Consistent over time (vs Police recording)
- ALL questions read out to respondent
- Single incident or series of incidents?

Victim Form Quest

- Up to 5 forms asked
- Triggered automatically in CAPI:
 - Priority order (top are rarer more serious incidents)
 - Chronologically (within incident type)

Victim Form Quest

Confirmation of exact dates

↳ Details of incident

↳ Respondent summary

↳ Key details

↳ Location

What time

Force or violence used

Offence Coding

- Specialised task at data processing stage
- Coding Manual: 50 page document
- C.60 offence codes which can be assigned
 - 32 of these are included in the SCJS ‘all crime’ measure
 - Comparable crime
- Priority lists determine which code should be assigned

Offence Coding

- Checking and validation:
 - Coders assigns certainty
 - Supervisor checks uncertain and codes
 - SG check uncertain and 10%
 - Any issues resolved and manual updated
- All variables which show history are included on the dataset
- ‘Valid’ cases for analysis and statistics

Datasets

- SPSS files
 - Respondent File
 - Victim Form File
 - Self Completion File
- Computer tabulations
- Weighted data

Ethical Issues

- Interview length
- Reissues
- Sensitive topics
 - CASI: drugs, partner abuse, sexual victimisation
- Caps: 5 victim forms
- Disclosure risk
- Permission to re-contact

Websites

- Scotland Performs:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/About/scotPerforms>

- SCJS Publications, data tables, questionnaire on SG website:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/Publications/publications>

- Full data sets are available to download on the UK Data Archive:

<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/findingData/scsTitles.asp>

- Technical report (sampling, weighting, quest guide) on both sites



Questions?

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