Small area statistics on perceptions of local crime rates - MySSCQ

How much would you say the crime rate in your local area has changed since two years ago?

In this paper we present statistics on the perception crime has increased (by a little or a lot) at geographical areas smaller than local authority. Note that these results relate to perceptions of crime only, and often run counter to statistics on rates of victimisation and recorded crime.

In 2012/13 and 2014/15, the Scottish Crime & Justice Survey found 20% of respondents perceived an increase in crime in their areas. \(^1\)

The table below contains links to tables and maps of statistics on perceptions of crime generated by the statistics.gov.scot open data publishing platform.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geography</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Council Areas, Electoral Wards (2007-2016 boundaries)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Table</td>
<td>Map</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council Areas, Scottish &amp; UK Parliamentary Constituencies</td>
<td></td>
<td>Table</td>
<td>Map</td>
<td>Table</td>
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<tr>
<td>Council Areas, Health Boards</td>
<td>Table</td>
<td>Table</td>
<td>Table</td>
<td>Table</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Annual SSCQ council area statistics (linked in the table above) include data on a range of subgroups, including gender, disability and household tenure. Full details of the pooling and weighting methodology across multiple years of data are provided in the accompanying technical paper, available from the SSCQ website\(^2\).


Perceptions of Crime: Background and context

The Scottish Crime & Justice Survey is used to monitor the national indicator 'improve people's perceptions of the crime rate in their area'\(^3\).

The national indicator is measured by the percentage of adults who believe that crime has **stayed the same or reduced** in the past two years in their local area. There is a clear increasing trend in this indicator\(^4\).

**Experience of crime** (rather than perception of crime rate) as estimated by the SCJS show a long-term reduction at national level. Over the period 2008/09 to 2014/15\(^5\), there was 43% reduction in the estimated number of crimes measured by the SCJS, while the proportion of adults experiencing crime fell from around one in five in 2008/09 (20.4%) to around one in seven in 2014/15 (14.5%).

Statistics on recorded crime show that, between 2015-16 and 2016-17, recorded crime fell nationally by 3% – the continuation of a long-term trend. Recorded crime is at its lowest level since 1974\(^6\).

Between 2007-08 and 2016-17 (a period including the 2012-2015 collection of MySSCQ, plus the two year period to which the question relates) all local authorities show a decrease in recorded crime, varying from 13% in Midlothian to 61% in Na h-Eileanan Siar\(^7\).

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\(^3\) SCJS 2014/15 Main Findings, Chapter 7: [http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/03/5269/11](http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/03/5269/11)

\(^4\) This paper concerns the reciprocal rates to the national indicator, where people report their perception that crime in their area has increased (a little or a lot). However, both groupings are available through the online tables and maps linked on page 1.

\(^5\) SCJS 2014/15 Main Findings, Chapter 3: [http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/03/5269/7](http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/03/5269/7)


\(^7\) Ibid. Chart4
Electoral Wards: 2012-2015

The proportion who reported that crime had increased in their area compared with the 2 previous years ranges between 2.4% and 44.3% across 353 electoral wards over the period 2012-2015. This range is shown in Figure 2. 30 wards had a level above the national average, and 59 had levels below the national average.

Note that since the question relates to a period starting two years before the survey, annual changes will not be evident. The data will show the smoothed tendency of each electoral ward.

Figure 1: Electoral Ward-level estimates (blue circles) and 95% confidence intervals (red lines) of adults perceiving an increase in crime in their area, 2012-15

The wards with the five highest and lowest levels are listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Five highest wards</th>
<th>Five lowest wards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midlothian South</td>
<td>Sgire an Rubha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penicuik</td>
<td>Loch a Tuath</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Kintyre</td>
<td>Na Hearadh agus Ceann a Deas nan Loch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rutherglen Central and North</td>
<td>Beinn na Foghla agus Uibhist a Tuath</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraserburgh and District</td>
<td>Sgir’Uige agus Ceann a Tuath nan Loch</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table of statistics at electoral ward level for the period 2012-2015 are available on the Scottish Government website. The platform also provides an interactive map of council areas and electoral wards (2007-2016 boundaries).

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8 statistics.gov.scot: https://goo.gl/tnyDV7
9 statistics.gov.scot: https://goo.gl/EV3DUS
Scottish Parliament Constituencies: 2012-2013

The proportion who reported that crime had increased in their area compared with 2 years previous ranges between 6.3% and 29.1% across 73 constituencies over the period 2012-2013. This range is shown in Figure 2. 7 areas had levels above the national average, and 9 had levels below the national average.

![Chart showing the proportion of people perceiving an increase in crime in their area.](chart.png)

Figure 2: Scottish Parliamentary Constituency-level estimates (blue circles) and 95% confidence intervals (red lines) of adults perceiving an increase in crime in their area, 2012-13

The table of statistics at Scottish Parliament constituency level for the period 2012-2013 are available on the Scottish Government website\textsuperscript{10}. This platform also provides an interactive map\textsuperscript{11}.

\textsuperscript{10} statistics.gov.scot: \url{https://goo.gl/TX9uFp}
\textsuperscript{11} statistics.gov.scot: \url{https://goo.gl/zQjoom}

The proportion who reported that crime had increased in their area compared with 2 years previous ranges between 5.3% and 29.9% across 73 constituencies over the period 2014-2015. This range is shown in Figure 3. 10 areas had levels above the national average, and 18 had levels below the national average.

Figure 3: Scottish Parliamentary Constituency-level estimates (blue circles) and 95% confidence intervals (red lines) of adults perceiving an increase in crime in their area, 2014-15

The table of statistics at Scottish Parliament constituency level for the period 2014-2015 are available on the Scottish Government website\(^\text{12}\). This platform also provides an interactive map\(^\text{13}\).

Scottish Parliament Constituencies: Changes over time

A number of Parliamentary Constituencies showed statistically significant changes in level between the periods 2012-2013 and 2014-2015, listed in the table below. These have been categorised in terms of their position relative to the national average in the first and second period and mapped on the following page.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>+</th>
<th>Edinburgh Southern</th>
<th>(+14.2)</th>
<th>+</th>
<th>Paisley</th>
<th>(-9.4)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>Edinburgh Pentlands</td>
<td>(+11.6)</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley</td>
<td>(-8.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>Edinburgh Eastern</td>
<td>(+11.1)</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>Argyll and Bute</td>
<td>(-8.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>Aberdeenshire West</td>
<td>(+8.5)</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>Airdrie and Shotts</td>
<td>(-7.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>Edinburgh Western</td>
<td>(+8.2)</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>East Kilbride</td>
<td>(-7.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>Falkirk West</td>
<td>(+5.6)</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>Glasgow Shetleston</td>
<td>(-6.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>+</td>
<td>Cumbernauld and Kilsyth</td>
<td>(-6.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>+</td>
<td>Perthshire South and Kinross-shire</td>
<td>(-6.9)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^{12}\) statistics.gov.scot: [https://goo.gl/D55PCB](https://goo.gl/D55PCB)

\(^{13}\) statistics.gov.scot: [https://goo.gl/J1xTB9](https://goo.gl/J1xTB9)
*Crime in my area has increased*

Change 2012/13 to 2014/15
- White: Change not statistically significant
- Dark green: Fell below national average
- Green: Fell to average level
- Yellow: Increase but still around average
- Light yellow: Increased from below to average
- Orange: Increased from average to above
- Red: Increased from below to above average

Scottish Parliamentary Constituencies
MySSQ: Significant changes in the proportion reporting that crime has increased "a little" or "a lot" in the past two years
UK Parliamentary Constituencies: 2012-2013

The proportion who reported that crime had increased in their area compared with 2 years previous ranges between 6.3% and 27.9% over the period 2012-2013 across the 59 UK Parliamentary Constituencies in Scotland. This range is shown in Figure 4. 5 areas had levels above the national average over this period, and 8 had levels below that average.

Figure 4: UK Parliamentary Constituency-level estimates (blue circles) and 95% confidence intervals (red lines) of adults perceiving an increase in crime in their area, 2012-13

The table of statistics at UK Parliamentary Constituencies level for the period 2012-2013 are available on the Scottish Government Statistics website. This platform also provides an interactive map.

The proportion who reported that crime had increased in their area compared with 2 years previous ranges between 5.3% and 33.6% over the period 2014-2015 across 59 UK Parliamentary Constituencies. This range is shown in Figure 5. 9 areas had levels above the national average over this period, and 11 had levels below the national average.

Figure 5: UK Parliamentary Constituency-level estimates (blue circles) and 95% confidence intervals (red lines) of adults perceiving an increase in crime in their area, 2014-15

Statistics at UK Parliamentary Constituencies level for the period 2014-2015 are available on the Scottish Government website12. This platform also provides an interactive map13.

UK Parliament Constituencies: Changes over time

A number of Parliamentary Constituencies showed statistically significant changes in level between the periods 2012-2013 and 2014-2015, listed in the table below.

| 🧔‍♂️ Edinburgh South       (+21.0) | 🪝 Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (-7.6) |
| 🧔‍♂️ Edinburgh West        (+11.0) | 🪝 Airdrie and Shotts (-7.2) |
| 🧔‍♂️ Edinburgh South West  (+8.4) | 🪝 Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East (-7.1) |
| 🧔‍♂️ West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine (+7.2) | 🪝 East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow (-6.9) |
| 🧔‍♂️ Aberdeen North        (+6.5) | 🪝 Inverclyde (-6.8) |
| 🧔‍♂️ Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock (-6.3) | 🪝 Paisley and Renfrewshire North (-6.5) |
| 🧔‍♂️ West Dunbartonshire   (-6.0) | 🪝 Argyll and Bute (-6.0) |
| 🧔‍♂️ Glasgow North         (-5.6) | 🪝 Paisley and Renfrewshire South (-5.3) |
| 🧔‍♂️ Ochil and South Perthshire (-4.5) |
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e-mail: statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

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☐ cannot be made available by Scottish Government for further analysis as Scottish Government is not the data controller.

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