

# **Scottish Victimisation Telephone Survey 2020**

## **Technical Report**

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# 1 BACKGROUND

## This chapter includes:

- An introduction to the Scottish Victimization Telephone Survey (SVTS)
- Details on the development of the SVTS, including its strengths and limitations
- A summary of outputs from the SVTS
- Details on the structure of the Technical Report, with an overview of the content of each chapter

## 1.1 Overview of the Scottish Victimization Telephone Survey

The 2020 Scottish Victimization Telephone Survey (SVTS) is a survey of public experiences and perceptions of crime in Scotland during the COVID-19 pandemic. The survey is based on the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) which has been conducted since 2008/09 using face-to-face interviews with adults aged 16 or over who live in private residential addresses in Scotland. However, it is different in a number of crucial aspects which means that, whilst the SVTS provides accurate data for adults' experience of crime in Scotland over the period from the beginning of September 2019 to the end of September 2020, the data cannot be compared with the SCJS time-series from 2008/09 onwards.

These methodological differences include:

- The sample for the SVTS comes from those adults who agreed to be re-contacted for the purposes of further research after having taken part in a face-to-face SCJS interview conducted in 2018/19 or 2019/20 (i.e. between April 2018 and March 2020, at which point fieldwork for the 2019/20 SCJS was suspended to prevent the spread of COVID-19). The SVTS data are weighted to correct for the likelihood that certain types of people are likely to have taken part in the original survey, to have provided recontact details, and to have taken part in the SVTS. Further details of the weighting are provided in [Chapter 9](#).
- The interviews for the SVTS were conducted by telephone rather than face-to-face. Differences in survey mode can affect how people answer questions, and the detail which they are willing to divulge over the telephone may vary from circumstances where an interviewer is present in their home at the time of interview.
- The questionnaire for the SVTS was shorter, and whilst the great majority of those questions which collect information to allow the accurate measurement of adults' experience of crime are retained, there are otherwise few questions which are the same on the SCJS and the SVTS.

- The SVTS fieldwork was conducted in September and October 2020, covering incidents of crime occurring between the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 and the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020, a 13-month period termed the survey 'reference period'. This is compared to an approximate 25-month reference period for the SCJS<sup>1</sup>.

The main aims of the SVTS are to:

- Collect data covering the period of the COVID-19 pandemic whilst face-to-face interviewing on the SCJS was not possible
- Enable the Scottish population to tell us about their experiences of, and attitudes to, crime, safety and policing, including crime not reported to the police
- Provide a valid and reliable measure of adults' experience of crime
- Examine the varying risk and characteristics of crime for different groups of adults in the population
- Examine any changes in crime between the pre-COVID-19 period (September 2019 to 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 when the first full national lockdown was introduced), and the period following this up to the end of September 2020
- Provide a complementary measure of crime to compare with police recorded crime statistics of the same period
- Allow comparison – where possible – with data collected in England and Wales as part of the Telephone-operated Crime Survey for England and Wales (TCSEW)<sup>2</sup>
- Provide information on public perceptions of crime and safety issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic

The statistics produced from victimisation surveys provide a picture of the level of crime in Scotland. SVTS respondents are asked directly about their experience of incidents which have happened to them, irrespective of whether or not they reported them to the police<sup>3</sup>. The survey provides a record of peoples' experiences of crime, which is unaffected by variations in reporting behaviour of victims or changes in police practices of recording crime. However, the SVTS and police recorded crime statistics should be seen as a complementary series, which together provide a more complete picture of crime than could be obtained from either series alone.

The survey uses a victim form questionnaire to collect extensive details about the nature of each incident that respondents report, such as what happened, where it occurred, details about the offenders and other relevant information. This allows classification and hence counts of specific crimes in Scotland.

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<sup>1</sup> Given the seasonality effect on the propensity of crime (some crimes are more likely to occur at certain times of the year), the fact that they SVTS interviews were only conducted across a two month period rather than the 13 month period of the SCJS may interact with reduced respondent re-call of crimes occurring at the start of the 12-month reference period (as opposed to those occurring nearer to the date of interview) to mean that certain types of crime could be under-represented in the SVTS.

<sup>2</sup> More information on comparability of SVTS with TCSEW is provided in [Section 12.2](#).

<sup>3</sup> For more information on police recorded crime, see the Scottish Government [website](#).

The SVTS only collects data on incidents occurring in Scotland during the reference period (i.e. the 12 months prior to the month of interview). Incidents which happen abroad, including in England and Wales, are not covered by the survey (termed non-valid incidents).

Incidents which meet the above criteria and which are identified as crimes within the scope of the survey ([Chapter 8](#)) are used to produce the 'all SVTS crime' statistics which are published in the [SVTS Main Findings report](#).

The remit of the SVTS was wider than just recording the number and prevalence of crimes in Scotland. The survey also collects socio-demographic information from respondents which allows consideration of the nature of crime in Scotland and variation in experiences of victimisation among subgroups of the population. The survey also collects attitudinal information on issues related to crime, safety and policing as well as the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on perceptions of these issues.

Whilst not comparable to the SVTS for the reasons explained above, background information on the long-standing SCJS and the history of crime and victimisation surveys in Scotland is available in the SCJS Technical Report.

Despite changes in the design of crime surveys in Scotland over time, the wording of the questions that are asked to elicit experiences of victimisation have generally been consistent. In addition to the non-comparability of SVTS findings with the SCJS time-series, care must always be taken when comparing different surveys, both those conducted in Scotland and other UK surveys, and users should be careful to read the relevant technical documentation to ensure that like-for-like comparisons are being made<sup>4</sup>.

## **1.2 Development of the Scottish Victimisation Telephone Survey**

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, all Scottish Government face-to-face interviewing, including the SCJS, was suspended on the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

Due to the suspension of the SCJS an evidence gap on the extent and prevalence of crime in Scotland during the pandemic emerged with particular challenges for assessing crime not reported to the police. Therefore the new SVTS was introduced to complement evidence from police recorded crime statistics, using a Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) survey mode<sup>5</sup>. The scheduled 2020/21 SCJS did not start.

The Scottish Government introduced the SVTS as a discrete and additional collection to the SCJS. As such it should not be viewed as a replacement to the SCJS.

Rather than attempt to invite a fresh sample to take part in the SVTS, the survey invited those adults who had taken part in either the 2018/19 or 2019/20 SCJS and who had agreed to be invited to take part in related research at the end of their original interview.

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<sup>4</sup> An attempt to look at the differences between the Scottish Crime and Victimisation Survey (SCVS) and other UK surveys was made by Norris and Palmer (2010).

<sup>5</sup> A web survey was also considered, since respondents to the SCJS willing to be re-contacted also provided email addresses, but due to a variety of factors, including the complexity and unusual nature of the victim form questionnaire, and fewer email addresses being available compared to telephone numbers, this survey mode was ruled out.



This not only enabled a quicker start to the fieldwork and a shorter fieldwork period relative to alternate designs<sup>6</sup>, but also meant that the questionnaire did not have to re-collect some information which would have increased the interview length (for example, address details if a respondent had not moved in intervening period). Since those invited to take part in the SVTS were already familiar with the nature of the interview it was also hoped that the response rate would be higher than contacting a fresh sample. Furthermore, because the sample was already based on a random selection of addresses and adults, and knowing the characteristics of both those who had taken part in the original SCJS interview but who had not agreed to take part in further research, and those who had, but who did wish to take part in the SVTS (or could not be re-contacted) meant that adjustments to the data to reflect the Scottish adult population could be made at the survey weighting stage. More information on the SVTS weighting procedures is provided in [Chapter 9](#).

The principal aim of the SVTS questionnaire was to robustly measure respondents' experience of crime. A secondary aim was to collect attitudinal information on issues related to crime, safety and policing, including the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on these issues. The content of the SVTS questionnaire was limited by several factors:

1. The requirement to collect detailed information on incidents of crime to allow the offence coding of incidents consistent with the offence coding manual to enable comparisons with police recorded crime statistics<sup>7</sup>. The detailed questions required meant that, where respondents had experienced an incident of crime in the reference period, a large portion of the interview was taken up by these questions.
2. Telephone interviews generally need to be shorter than equivalent face-to-face interviews as it is easier for respondents to become distracted or disengage from the interview and terminate it before it is complete. The industry standard is a maximum of 30 minutes in length. Once the estimated length of the victim form element of the questionnaire was factored in, along with other essential elements – such as establishing whether the respondent was still living at the same address as they had previously been interviewed at, collecting demographic information such as health and work status etc. – there was limited time to include further questions.
3. Following ethical guidelines and due to concerns around safeguarding, questions on more sensitive topics, normally asked in the self-completion elements of the SCJS, including the prevalence of drug use, sexual victimisation, stalking and harassment, and partner abuse, were not included in the SVTS. Detail on the SVTS questionnaire content is provided in [Chapter 4](#).

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<sup>6</sup> An alternative design, such that as used for the Scottish Government 2020 Scottish Health Survey (SHeS) would be a telephone survey with new addresses selected from the Royal Mail Postcode Address File (PAF) sent a letter inviting them to take part and to get in touch to provide a telephone number.

<sup>7</sup> The SVTS uses the SCJS offence coding manual since only very minor changes were made to the victim form questions used for offence coding.

### 1.3 Outputs from the SVTS

The data collected from the SVTS are reported by the Scottish Government in a number of different formats:

1. The [SVTS Main Findings report](#) is available online in HTML format from the SVTS website and as a downloadable PDF. The questionnaire and other documentation are also provided on the [SVTS website](#). The [offence coding manual](#) is available from the SCJS website.
2. Online [data tables](#) are downloadable on the SVTS website. Further information on how to read them is described in the 'Introduction' worksheets within the files.
3. SPSS datasets will be available from the [UK Data Archive](#).

Due to the achieved sample size for the SVTS, results by Police Division are not available.

### 1.4 Purpose and Structure of the Technical Report

This report provides a range of technical details on the SVTS. Further contextual information, including background on the long-standing SCJS series (whilst not comparable to SVTS), accessing and using survey data in SPSS format and examples of analysis are provided in the [2008/09 SCJS User Guide](#)<sup>8</sup>.

This report documents how the SVTS was designed, the way in which it was conducted and the how the survey data are produced, and should be read when using data from the survey. In common with most victimisation surveys, the SVTS is a complex study with data organised at different levels (households, individuals, and incidents).

[Chapter 2](#) sets out the survey **sample design**.

[Chapter 3](#) provides information on **survey response** and fieldwork outcomes.

[Chapter 4](#) provides a summary of the structure and content of the **survey questionnaire**.

[Chapter 5](#) examines **fieldwork** procedures.

[Chapter 6](#) provides details and practicalities of the **interview** itself.

[Chapter 7](#) provides information on **data processing**, including the offence coding process and quality assurance of data.

[Chapter 8](#) looks at the **offence coding process** in more detail, including all offence codes, survey statistics, and crime groups used.

[Chapter 9](#) sets out the process for creating and applying **survey weights**, including information on non-response modelling used to model non-response behaviour.

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<sup>8</sup> The User Guide is structured around the SCJS, but the information contained in it in relation to analysing and manipulating the data are also applicable to the SVTS.

[Chapter 10](#) provides information on **statistical significance** and confidence intervals for the results.

[Chapter 11](#) provides information on **data outputs**, including the structure of the SVTS SPSS data files and conventions used in them.

[Chapter 12](#) presents guidance for comparing the SVTS data with **other sources** of data about crime.

The [Annexes](#) referred to in this report are included at the end of the report.

## 2 SAMPLE DESIGN

### This chapter includes:

- Information on the source of the SVTS sample
- Information on the composition of the SVTS sample compared to the original Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) sample
- Procedures for sample selection

### 2.1 Sample source

The sample source for the 2020 SVTS was those respondents to the 2018/19 and 2019/20 SCJS who had agreed to be re-contacted for the purposes of further research<sup>9</sup>. The exact question used was:

*The Scottish Government may want to run follow-up social research among particular groups of people who have taken part in this survey, to improve public policies and services.*

*Are you willing to have your name, contact details and any relevant answers you have given during the interview passed on to the Scottish Government or other research agencies acting on behalf of, or in collaboration with, the Scottish Government for this purpose?*

*Your information will only be released for social research carried out by reputable research organisations and any findings or results made public will be anonymous so that individual participants can't be identified.*

*If you are invited to take part in any future studies you will be free to refuse if you do not want to take part.*

*You can cancel this permission at any time in the future by contacting Ipsos MORI/ScotCen on <telephone number>. This number is given on the "Scottish Crime and Justice Survey" leaflet.*

Those respondents who had agreed, and who had provided a usable telephone number were then approached to take part in the SVTS.

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<sup>9</sup> The SCJS contains two recontact questions, one for the main elements of the survey and one for the self-completion element. The SVTS is based on the recontact for the main elements of the survey.

## 2.2 Sample composition

A total of 11,105 respondents participated in the 2018/19 or 2019/20 SCJS surveys, amongst whom 65% (n=7,184) consented to be re-contacted for the purposes of further research. A small proportion of these respondents provided an unusable phone number (6%, n=407)<sup>10</sup>, meaning the final issued SVTS sample included 6,777 respondents (61% of the 2018/19 or 2019/20 SCJS respondents). Table 2.1 below shows the proportion of the original SCJS respondents who were issued as part of the SVTS sample broken down by demographics and victim status.

**Table 2.1: Issued SVTS sample profile and achieved 2018/19 & 2019/20 SCJS sample profile**

		Unweighted proportions (%)	
		SCJS Y3/4 achieved	SVTS issued sample
Age	16 - 24	6.7	7.1
	25 - 44	28.2	29.9
	45 - 59	25.4	26.6
	60+	39.7	36.4
Gender	Male	45.7	46.1
	Female	54.3	53.9
Rurality	Urban	82.2	81.7
	Rural	17.8	18.3
Area deprivation	15% most	14.3	13.4
	Other	85.7	86.6
Victim status (all SCJS crime)	Victim	10.9	12.1
	Non-victim	89.9	87.9
<i>Bases:</i>		<i>11,105</i>	<i>6,777</i>

<sup>10</sup> Phone number provided was incorrect length or format.

[Chapter 3](#) provides details on the survey response, and [Chapter 9](#) process for creating and applying survey weights, including information on non-response modelling used to model non-response behaviour.

The original SCJS sample design was designed by the Scottish Government and coordinated with the sample designs for the Scottish Health Survey (SHeS) and the Scottish Household Survey (SHS)<sup>11</sup> for the purposes of the Scottish Survey Core Questions<sup>12</sup>.

## 2.3 Sample selection

The SVTS sample consisted of named people with a telephone number and address. Since the original SCJS had already made a random selection of one adult at an address (and, where necessary, one dwelling at an address) then no respondent selection was necessary. No substitutions for the named person on the SVTS sample were allowed.

All pieces of sample available were issued to maximise the achieved sample size. No selection was made based on, for example, area or any demographic characteristics.

At the start of the interview respondents were asked if they still lived at the address at which they had been previously interviewed at. If they did not, then they were asked if they still lived in Scotland, and if so their address details recollected<sup>13</sup>. If the respondent now lived outside of Scotland then the interview was terminated.

Information on the original SCJS sample design and procedures for respondent selection are available in the SCJS Technical Report.

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<sup>11</sup> Further information on the sample designs and the methodology used is available on the Scottish Government [website](#). Specific information on the design of the SCJS sample is available in the SCJS Technical Report.

<sup>12</sup> Scottish Survey Core Questions is a result of a harmonised design across the three major Scottish Government household surveys, envisaged in the Long-Term Survey Strategy. Further information on SSCQ is available on the Scottish Government [website](#).

<sup>13</sup> Address details were recollected for the purposes of matching administrative data (such as Local Authority, Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) etc.) on to the final data for analytical purposes.

## 3 SURVEY RESPONSE

### This chapter includes:

- Information on the survey response from the sampled addresses

### 3.1 Introduction

This section presents the SVTS fieldwork outcomes for the sampled addresses. Survey response is an important indicator of survey quality as non-response can introduce bias into survey estimates. Information on calibration weighting to correct for non-response bias is provided in [Chapter 9](#).

### 3.2 SVTS response rate

Table 3.1 below shows a detailed breakdown of the SVTS response for all issued addresses.

**Table 3.1: Fieldwork outcomes<sup>14</sup>**

<i>Fieldwork outcome</i>	<i>Sample</i>	<i>Percentage issued</i>
<b>Responding</b>	<b>2,654</b>	<b>39.2</b>
<b>Refused</b>		
Office refusal	59	1
Refusal at introduction/before interview	961	14.2
Abandoned/disconnected – no recontact	641	9.5
Broken appointment – no recontact	47	0.7
<b>Total refused</b>	<b>1,708</b>	<b>25.4</b>
<b>Non-contact</b>		
No answer	1,909	28.2
Contact made but not with named respondent	136	2
<b>Total non-contact</b>	<b>2,045</b>	<b>30.2</b>
<b>Other non-response</b>		
Wrong number (number did not belong to named person/named person's household)	210	3.1
Number not in use	20	0.3
Business/fax number	11	0.2
Language barrier	6	0.1
Poor phone signal – no recontact	123	1.8
<b>Total other non-response</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>5.5</b>
<b>All issued addresses</b>	<b>6,777</b>	<b>100</b>

<sup>14</sup> Due to rounding, percentages in Table 3.1 may not add up to the sum totals shown.

**The overall response rate<sup>15</sup> for the 2020 SVTS was 39.2%.**

Interviewers were unable to make contact with the named respondent for 28.2% of calls<sup>16</sup>. On average each number in the sample was called 4.4 times.

Where contact was made, refusals were the most common reason for not obtaining an interview, accounting for 14.2% of calls.

A further 1.9% of calls were categorised as 'other non-response', including when the interviewer experienced language barriers (0.1%), or where communication difficulties were experienced due to poor phone signal quality (1.8%).

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<sup>15</sup> The response rate was calculated as the proportion of total number of completed interviews (2,654) out of the total number of issued addresses (6,777).

<sup>16</sup> Non-contact included: i) No answer and ii) Contact made but not with the target respondent.



## 4 QUESTIONNAIRE CONTENT

### This chapter includes:

- A narrative description of the SVTS questionnaire content providing an overview of how the questionnaire works
- The SVTS questionnaire, available on the [survey website](#), should be consulted for more details on how the questions were asked and of whom
- The questionnaire consists of two elements: the main survey questionnaire, and the victim form questionnaire
- Amendments made to the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) questions to account for the SVTS Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) mode

### 4.1 Structure and coverage of the questionnaire

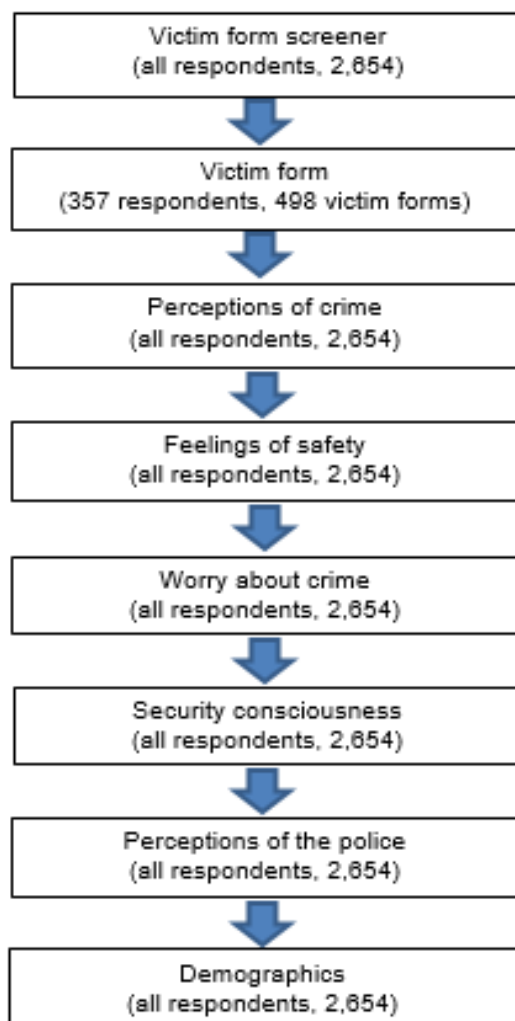
The SVTS questionnaire comprises two elements:

- **the main questionnaire** which consists of a set of questions asked of the whole sample, including demographics, and
- **a victim form** which collects details about the incidents a respondent may have experienced during the reference period (the 12 months prior to interview). This victim form can be repeated up to five times; the number of victim forms completed depends on the number and nature of incidents a respondent has experienced in the 12-month reference period

Users should familiarise themselves with the questionnaire itself before starting analysis to ensure they are clear on how questions have been asked and of whom. The SVTS questionnaire is available from the [survey website](#) and via the [UK Data Archive](#).

The basic structure of the questionnaire is shown in Figure 4.1 below.

**Figure 4.1: SVTS 2020 questionnaire structure<sup>17</sup>**



## **4.2 Main questionnaire**

The structure and content of the SVTS questionnaire is explained in detail below. However, as noted above, data users should also familiarise themselves with the questionnaire itself for relevant sections before conducting any analysis.

### **4.2.1 Address check**

The survey begins with a question to establish whether the respondent is at the same address as that at which they were living when they were interviewed as part of the 2018/19 or 2019/20 SCJS. If they are not, then they are asked if their current address is in Scotland, and what this new address is. If they are not living in Scotland then the interview is brought to a close.

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<sup>17</sup> The sample sizes in the diagram refer to the number of respondents for the first question of each section. Any subsequent questions which are relevant only to a subset of the sample will have lower sample sizes accordingly. The online [data tables](#) provide the sample sizes for each question.

## 4.2.2 Vehicle ownership

Respondents were asked how many motor vehicles or bicycles that they have regular use of in order to route the questions on vehicle crimes.

## 4.2.3 Victim form screener

Respondents were asked whether they have experienced certain incidents since the beginning of the reference period. These questions are used to trigger the victim form questionnaire.

The screener questions are separated into three broad groups:

- *vehicle related incidents*, including theft of a vehicle, theft from a vehicle, damage to a vehicle and bicycle theft
- *household property incidents*, including whether the home or outbuildings were broken into and things stolen or damaged, or an attempt was made accordingly, or whether any property outside of the home was stolen or damaged
- *personal incidents*, including whether any personal property was stolen, or an attempt was made accordingly, whether any personal property was damaged, and whether the respondent had been a victim of force or violence (including from another household member) or threats

All respondents were asked a maximum of 17 victim form screener questions<sup>18</sup>. The wording of the screener questions was kept consistent with past Scottish crime surveys. They are designed to ensure that all incidents within the scope of the SVTS, including relatively minor ones, are mentioned. The screener questions deliberately avoid using terms such as burglary, robbery, or assault, all of which have a precise definition that respondents would not be expected to know. This is consistent with the design of the SCJS and Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) questionnaires.

The focus of the victim form screener questions switches between incidents experienced *by the household* and those experienced *by the individual* respondent.

All vehicle (including bicycles) and household property incidents are classified in the questionnaire as household incidents. Respondents are asked about whether anyone currently residing in the household has experienced any incidents within the reference period. A typical example of a household incident is criminal damage to a car (owned or used by someone in the household). It is assumed that the respondent will be able to recall these incidents and provide information even in cases where they were not present.

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<sup>18</sup> Questions relating to vehicle incidents were asked only if the household has had use of the relevant vehicle in the reference period. The question relating to violence from another household member (variable HHLDVIO) is asked only if there has been more than one adult (aged 16 or over) resident in the household within the reference period (variable ADULTHH). Two questions relating to card fraud or identity theft (variables CARDVIC2 and IDTHEF3) which are included in the SCJS (but do not trigger a victim form) were excluded from the SVTS due to questionnaire time constraints.

Personal incidents refer to all crimes against the individual and are asked only in relation to incidents that have happened to the respondent personally (e.g. a personal assault), and not to any other people in the household<sup>19</sup>.

The distinction between household and personal incidents also affects how the data are analysed ([Section 8.2.1](#)).

The questions are also designed in a way that avoids the respondent mentioning the same incident more than once (though this does happen in a small number of cases and hence duplicate victim forms can occur – for information on how such cases are handled see [Section 8.1.3](#))<sup>20</sup>.

At the end of the victim form screener questions, the interviewer is shown a list of all incidents recorded. The interviewer checks this list with the respondent to ensure that all incidents they or their household have experienced in the reference period have been recorded and nothing has been counted twice. If this is not the case, the information is corrected before proceeding. Responses to the screener questions then trigger the victim form questionnaire if a respondent has experienced at least one incident.

### **4.3 Victim form ordering and classification**

Up to five incidents identified by the victim form screener questions are explored in much more detail through the victim form questionnaire. The victim form questionnaire is designed to elicit all of the relevant details of an incident, irrespective of what incident the victim form was triggered by<sup>21</sup>. This then allows the coders to assign the correct offence code to the incident (see [Section 7.1](#) for details of the offence coding process).

Respondents are asked to report all incidents that they or their household experienced in the reference period. However, regardless of the number of incidents the respondent reports, the survey collects detailed information on up to five of these only. Incidents are covered in a specific priority order as explained below. This priority order is consistent with the SCJS.

#### **4.3.1 Identification and ordering of incidents for victim forms**

Where a respondent had experienced more than one incident in the reference period, the CATI programme automatically determines which of the incidents are followed up with a detailed victim form questionnaire, and the order in which the incidents are asked about. Neither the interviewer nor the respondent has any choice about which incidents are

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<sup>19</sup> To illustrate, if the respondent and another household member were the victims of a combined assault from an offender in the same incident, the details of what happened to the other household member would not be recorded (for example, they may have been injured in the assault while the respondent was not). The offence would be coded according to the crime experienced by the respondent (which may not be the same as the experience of the other household member).

<sup>20</sup> It is possible that two or more types of incident may occur at the same time (i.e. actually be the same incident); for example, an incident of something being taken from a victim may also involve the offender using force or violence against the victim. All screener questions are therefore prefaced with “Apart from anything you have already mentioned” and interviewers are briefed thoroughly on this section to avoid duplication as far as possible.

<sup>21</sup> For example, if a respondent has answered yes in the screener section to having experienced an incident where something they were carrying was stolen, and as part of that same incident they were also deliberately hit by the offender, then the victim form would collect detail about the theft and assault.

followed up with the victim form questionnaire (with the exception of incidents of violence<sup>22</sup>) or which order they are asked in. The priority ordering used by the script is as follows:

1. **according to incident type:** victim forms are asked in reverse order to the victim form screener questions. Broadly speaking this means that all personal incidents are asked before household incidents. Within household incidents, property-related incidents are asked before vehicle-related incidents
2. **chronologically within each type of crime:** if a respondent reports more than one incident of the same type, victim forms are asked in chronological order with the most recent incident first<sup>23</sup>

If a respondent has experienced five or fewer incidents identified at the victim form screener section, then a victim form questionnaire is asked for all incidents (with the order based on the priority ordering above). If the respondent has experienced more than five separate incidents (single incidents or series of incidents) in the reference period, only five victim forms are asked (with the incidents and order based on the schema set out above). As a result, the survey does not collect details about all incidents which a respondent may have experienced in such cases.

The priority ordering means that the incidents which are not asked about are likely to be incidents that tend to be more common. For example, criminal damage to vehicles is one of the lowest priority crime types in the victim form order, but one of the most common crimes.

[Section 6.2](#) provides information on the numbers of victim forms that were completed in the 2020 SVTS.

#### 4.3.2 Series of incidents

The victim form screener section also determines how many times the respondent has experienced a particular incident within the reference period. Most victim forms represent a single incident. However, in a minority of cases a respondent may have experienced the same type of incident (i.e. one of those asked about in the victim form screener) a number of times in succession. If more than one incident is reported, the respondent is asked whether these incidents represented a 'series' or not. A series is defined as:

*the same thing, done under the same circumstances and probably by the same people*

If a respondent regularly experiences incidents where the same thing is done under the same circumstances by the same type of people, this is recorded as a series of incidents

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<sup>22</sup> In the case of incidents of violence (recorded in the victim form screener section at DELIBVIO or HHLDVIO), the interviewer asks the respondent if they are happy to be asked questions about this (WINTRO). The respondent can skip the victim form if they wish. This is to prevent forcing the respondent to divulge personal and sensitive information which may embarrass or endanger them in front of someone else who may be present during the call. In the SVTS 2020 there were 8 cases of a victim form being skipped for this reason (variable WINTRO in the victim form SPSS data file).

<sup>23</sup> Chronological ordering is used only where respondents have experienced more than one of the same type of incident and it is applied only after the incident type ordering has been applied.

(or 'series incident') rather than separate incidents. This is consistent with the SCJS and CSEW<sup>24</sup>. For example, this could happen in a work situation, in instances where groups such as patients or the general public might be involved.

Where a series of incidents is identified, only a single victim form is completed for the series, and this relates to the most recent occurrence.

In common with other victimisation surveys such as the SCJS and CSEW, asking only about the most recent incident where a series of similar incidents has occurred yields three practical advantages:

- many (although not all) incidents classified as a series tend to be minor incidents (e.g. vandalism). Asking only about the most recent incident avoids asking a respondent the victim form questionnaire several times over when the detail of the incidents recorded will be very similar, therefore decreasing the likelihood that the respondent will terminate the interview or refuse to answer repetitive detailed questions about what can be very similar incidents
- it avoids using up the limit of five victim forms on similar incidents (and may therefore minimise respondent burden)
- respondent's recall of the incident detail is likely to be more accurate for more recent incidents, and less so with earlier incidents

In the 2020 SVTS, 82% (410) of all victim forms (498) related to single incidents and 18% (88) related to a series of incidents<sup>25</sup>.

In rare cases where respondents have experienced a mixture of single incidents and a series of incidents of the same type, the interview program has a complex routine which handles the sequence of individual and series incidents. This allows the priority ordering of the victim forms to be allocated, based on the date of the incidents with the most recent first.

#### **4.4 Victim form questionnaire content**

The victim form contains a description and details of the incident itself, including some details of the offender(s) if known. Unlike the SCJS, there is no follow-up of the incident with regard to the victim's experience of the criminal justice system and related issues due to the constraint on the length of interview for the CATI mode.

Key data variables are provided in capitals in brackets in the following sections.

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<sup>24</sup> To illustrate, a care worker who was regularly threatened and verbally abused by patients as part of their job, would count these as a series incident. If, however, they were also physically attacked, then this would count as a separate incident (as the incident is of a different type to the cases of threats and verbal abuse).

<sup>25</sup> These are unweighted figures and include all victim forms, including those which are assigned an out-of-scope offence code. Data are based in the variable PINCI in the victim form SPSS data file.

#### 4.4.1 Incident dates

Once a victim form is triggered, before any of the detailed questions are asked, the date of the incident within the reference period is confirmed. For individual incidents, the respondent is asked to provide the month the incident happened in (MTHINC2). If they are unsure of the exact month, they are asked to provide the quarter in which the incident occurred (e.g. between nine and 12 months prior to the month of interview) (QTRINCID), or, if they are unsure, to confirm if the incident happened in the 12-month reference period (YRINCIB) ([Section 6.1](#)).

For the SVTS, two new questions (COVINC and COVRECIN) were included to establish, for incidents occurring in March 2020<sup>26</sup>, whether this was before or after the lockdown restrictions brought into force to combat the COVID-19 pandemic:

*“Can I just check, did the incident take place before or after 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020, when coronavirus lockdown restrictions began in the UK?”*

In the CATI questionnaire, reference dates (months, quarters and the start of the reference period) are automatically calculated based on the date of interview and appropriate text substitution is used to ensure that the questions always refer to the correct reference period ([Section 6.3.2](#)). Because the 12-month reference period changes depending on the month of interview (September or October 2020), many date-related questions in the victim form have different text each month to reflect this changing reference period.

In some cases, respondents may report an incident in the victim form screener section as having happened within the reference period, which later turns out to be before the start of the reference period (and therefore outside the survey’s coverage). In such cases, after this has been confirmed, the victim form is terminated and the questionnaire moves on to the next victim form (or the next section of the main questionnaire if the respondent has not experienced any further incidents). The victim form would be assigned the non-valid offence code 95 ([Section 8.1](#)). If the incident is in the month of interview, then details are collected (and an offence code assigned as normal), but the incident is not included in the survey statistics as it is outside the reference period ([Section 6.1](#)).

For incidents that were part of a series, respondents are asked how many incidents occurred in each quarter of the reference period (DATESER and NQUART questions) and the month in which the most recent incident occurred (MTHRECIN)<sup>27</sup>. If the most recent incident in the series occurred in the month of interview the victim form is still completed, but the number of incidents in the series is adjusted accordingly to include only those that happened in the reference period ([Section 6.1.1](#))<sup>28</sup>. If there are no incidents in the reference period or the month of interview then the victim form is terminated in the same way as for single incidents (and would also be assigned the non-valid offence code 95).

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<sup>26</sup> Where a respondent only provided the quarter in which an incident occurred, these questions were asked where a quarter contained the month of March 2020.

<sup>27</sup> In the same manner as single incidents are treated, if the respondent cannot remember the exact month of the latest incident then they are asked what the corresponding quarter was (QTTRECIN) or to confirm that the incident happened within the reference period (YRINC).

<sup>28</sup> Variables NSERIES and NUMINC in the victim form SPSS data file show the number of incidents in the series, uncapped and capped respectively.

## 4.4.2 Incident details

The victim form is key to estimating victimisation in Scotland and collects two vital pieces of information about incidents to allow offence coding: the respondent's description of the incident (DESCRINC); and key details of the incident.

### The respondent's description of the incident

At the start of the victim form, respondents are asked to describe the incident, with the interviewer probing for where it happened, who the victim was, who the perpetrator was and what they did (DESCRINC). The interviewer then summarises these in an open-ended text entry. This summary description is vital to the accurate offence coding of incidents when used in combination with the series of pre-coded questions which ask about key details of the incident (see [Section 7.1](#) for further detail of the offence coding process).

### Important details of the incident

Respondents are then questioned about details of the incident, including some basic characteristics of the offender(s), if known.

Examples of the sort of information collected include where the incident took place; whether anything was stolen or damaged and if so, what; whether force or violence was used and if so, the nature of this and any injuries sustained.

The SVTS only records details of incidents which happen within Scotland (QSCO). For an incident occurring online to be included (QWHERE), the respondent must have been living in Scotland at the time of the incident. If an incident occurred outside of Scotland, then the victim form questionnaire terminates and the questionnaire moves on to the next victim form (or the start of the next section of the main questionnaire if the respondent has not experienced any further incidents). The victim form would be assigned the non-valid offence code 98 ([Chapter 8](#)). The key questions within the victim form have remained largely unchanged from the SCJS versions of the survey.

The victim form also contains a number of questions which are designed to help explain inconsistent answers which may arise within the questionnaire (for example, if a victim form was triggered because of an incident of theft in the victim form screener questions but nothing is recorded as having been stolen).

Several questions are included to allow the interviewer to terminate the victim form if the incident being recorded is a duplicate of a previous victim form ([Chapter 8](#)).

At the end of the victim form, respondents are asked whether the Police came to know about the incident (QPOL); whether the offender(s) should have been prosecuted in court (QCOU), and if not, why not (QNCO).

## 4.4.3 Incident summary

At the end of each victim form, the open-ended description is reviewed, along with the answers to some of the key pre-coded questions (INCSUM). By presenting this information on a single screen, interviewers have the chance to confirm with respondents that the



information is correct and consistent. If the respondent and / or interviewer wish to add or clarify any information they have the opportunity to do so at this stage (QEND).

## **4.5 Main questionnaire continued: attitudinal questions**

After the victim form screener (or victim form, where the respondent has experienced an incident in the 12-month reference period) has been completed, the main questionnaire continues with several short sections with attitudinal questions before the demographics section. None of these questions were piloted or cognitively tested prior to the SVTS fieldwork, all questions were taken from or adapted from the SCJS and Telephone-operated Crime Survey for England and Wales (TCSEW) survey.

All of the questions referring to 'the virus outbreak' include the following statement to be provided if respondents asked for clarification:

*"You may wish to consider the outbreak as since the 23rd March when the UK went into lockdown because of the coronavirus outbreak."*

### **4.5.1 Perceptions of crime**

The first of two questions on perceptions of crime asks:

*"What do you think has happened to crime in Scotland as a whole since the virus outbreak? Would you say it has gone up, gone down or remained the same?"*

The second asks:

*"What do you think has happened to crime in your local area since the virus outbreak? By your local area I mean within 15 minutes' walk from your home. Would you say it has gone up, gone down or remained the same?"*

### **4.5.2 Feelings of safety**

The four questions on feelings of safety are prefaced with the instruction:

*"These next questions are about feelings of safety. We are not referring to safety from the coronavirus but safety more generally."*

Two questions ask about feeling safe or unsafe in the home, generally and then since the virus outbreak. A further two questions in the same format then following in relation to feelings of safety walking alone in the local area after dark.

### **4.5.3 Worry about crime**

Two questions are asked, the first about how worried that they may be the victim of a crime, with the instruction:

*"I mean how worried are you about it HAPPENING, not how worried would you be if it DID happen."*

and the second whether they are more or less worried about being a victim of crime since the virus outbreak.

#### **4.5.4 Security consciousness**

Two questions are asked:

*“There are ways of being security conscious in your day to day behaviour, such as being careful to lock doors, leaving lights on when you are out, or checking who is at the door before opening it.*

*Since the virus outbreak, would you say that in your DAY TO DAY behaviour you have become more or less security conscious around the home or has there been no real change?”*

The second asks:

*“Since the virus outbreak would you say that in your DAY TO DAY behaviour you have become more or less conscious about your personal security when out and about, or has there been no real change? Again, we are not referring to security in terms of the coronavirus but security more generally.”*

#### **4.5.5 Perceptions of the police**

The two questions on perceptions of the police are prefaced with the statement:

*“I am now going to ask you some questions about the police in your local area. Again, by local area I mean within 15 minutes’ walk from your home.”*

The first question asks:

*“Taking everything into account, how good a job do you think the police IN YOUR LOCAL AREA are doing at the moment? Would you say it was ... excellent, good, fair, poor or very poor?”*

The second question asks:

*“Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way the police IN YOUR LOCAL AREA are responding to the virus outbreak?”*

#### **4.6 Demographics section**

A variety of demographic information is collected from all respondents including:

- household composition in relation to how many adults and children (aged under 16) live in the household and the age and gender of each adult (aged 16+) in the household
- tenure and accommodation / property type

- questions on work status<sup>29</sup>, including whether this has changed since the COVID-19 outbreak and how, and key worker status<sup>30</sup>
- health status
- whether household income has changed since the COVID-19 outbreak and ability to afford an unexpected expense

As part of this section, the household reference person (HRP) is established<sup>31</sup>. This standard classification is used on most government surveys and is based on the following criteria:

The HRP is the member of the household in whose name the accommodation is owned or rented, or is otherwise responsible for the accommodation.

- in households with a sole householder, that person is the HRP
- in households with joint householders (for example, two or more people's name on the mortgage) the person with the highest income is taken as the HRP
- if both householders have exactly the same income, the older is taken as the HRP
- If one or more responsible person do not live in the household then the HRP is:
  - in households with a sole person living, that person is the HRP
  - in household with multiple persons are living, the person with the highest income is the HRP
  - if both have exactly the same income, the older is taken as the HRP

At the end of the interview respondents are asked whether they are willing to provide their contact details and survey answers to the Scottish Government or research organisations who are acting on their behalf for the purpose of further research.

Finally, at the end of the interview, where the interviewer felt it might be necessary, they provided contact details for Victim Support Scotland, Samaritans, Scottish Women's Aid and a range of other organisations that provide support for victims of crime.

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<sup>29</sup> The detailed questions on work-status asked on the SCJS (which allow ONS [Standard Occupational Classification](#) and [National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification](#)) were not included in the SVTS questionnaire due to interview length constraints.

<sup>30</sup> Key worker status (question CVKEYWORK) was defined as "A job defined by the government as critical for the response to the Coronavirus outbreak".

<sup>31</sup> Variable HRP in the respondent SPSS data file records which member of the household is the HRP. Information on the SPSS data files is provided in [Chapter 11](#).

## 5 FIELDWORK

### This chapter includes:

- Information on the data collection process for the SVTS 2020
- When fieldwork took place – between the 12<sup>th</sup> September – 26<sup>th</sup> October 2020 and was continuous over this period
- The briefing of telephone interviewers before fieldwork started
- Quality control procedures
- Fieldwork procedures and materials

### 5.1 Briefing of interviewers before fieldwork

All interviewers working on the survey attended a briefing before the fieldwork started. This covered an overview of the objectives of the survey and the structure of the questionnaire, followed by detailed guidance on how to complete the victim form. Interviewers were also provided with hard copy instructions on how to administer the survey.

There was no piloting or cognitive testing of those questions which were not already part of the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) survey since they were either copies of questions asked on the SCJS or Telephone-operated Crime Survey for England and Wales (TCSEW) or adapted from them.

### 5.2 Supervision and quality control

All interviews were conducted by trained Ipsos MORI telephone interviewers. In addition to the survey briefings, several methods were used to ensure the quality and validity of the data collection operation through implementing the following checks:

- **Data checking was undertaken throughout** fieldwork to monitor interviewer performance. These checks involved checking DESCRINC (the open text summary description of the crime in the victim form) to ensure interviewers were collecting sufficient detail to allow accurate coding of the crime.
- **Interviewer training:** All Ipsos MORI telephone interviewers are subject to a rigorous recruitment, training and monitoring process. Modules covered in training include Data Protection and Information Security compliance. Specifically, the telephone interviewers all passed a 3-stage training process: (1) telephone interview to assess telephone manner, clarity of speech, previous experience, computer skills, confidence and ability to listen (40-50% fail this stage); (2) training assessment day, including mock interview (10% fail); (3) probationary period and assessment before joining the panel (3-4% fail).
- **Interview quality and validation checks:** Interview monitoring was carried out on a daily basis to ensure compliance with ISO20252 & ISO27001 Quality & Information Security standards. With the respondent's permission, calls were

recorded for quality purposes. 10% of all interviews (265) were monitored using both aural and visual methods: live or recorded listening-in, telephone supervisors and reviewing individual interviewers' response rates, refusal rates and call patterns.

In addition to these validation checks at the end of the interview permission to re-contact the respondent is obtained for the purposes of additional quality assurance if required.

In the event of any poor validation results or poor-quality work, an interviewer's manager was informed and instructed to raise and discuss the issues with them. Depending on the nature of the issues, subsequent follow up actions included some or all of: arranging further accompaniment; re-briefing; retraining; more frequent validation; or disciplinary warnings.

- **Interviewer support.** Given the potential sensitivity of some of the victimisation issues covered in the survey, specific guidance was provided to interviewers on how to deal with distressed respondents. The interviewers are trained to be alert to any signs of distress when speaking with participants, so that they can offer to pause or end the call if necessary.

Interviewers are also offered support in the case that they find an interview distressing. Ipsos MORI have Mental Health First Aiders within the telephone team and interviewers are able to contact them via multiple channels.

### **5.3 Fieldwork dates and fieldwork management**

Fieldwork was carried out between 12<sup>th</sup> September and 26<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

The recontact sample comprised 6,777 telephone numbers. Calls were carried out during mornings, afternoons and evenings, seven days a week. Each number was called a minimum of eight times (including at least one call each in the evening and the weekend) before a final outcome was recorded.

### **5.4 Fieldwork procedures and documents**

#### **5.4.1 Advance letter**

All of the issued sample cases were sent a letter from the Scottish Government a week in advance of the start of fieldwork.

The letter invited the named person to take part in the SVTS, and reminded them that they had taken part in the SCJS, prompting them with the month and year of their SCJS interview. It also provided background information on the survey, informed the named person that a telephone interviewer from Ipsos MORI would be calling in the next few weeks, and provided details of data confidentiality. The letter also provided a Scottish Government contact telephone number, as well as an Ipsos MORI freephone telephone number and email address to allow potential respondents to find out more about the survey, make an appointment for interview, or opt out.

The reverse of letter also tried to answer some questions that potential respondents might have. A copy of the advance letter can be found in [Annex 1](#).

An email was also sent out on the 6<sup>th</sup> October to respondents with whom no contact had been made prior to this point. The email was based on the advanced letter.

Participation in the survey was entirely voluntary and the interview was not incentivised in any way.

#### **5.4.2 Telephone contact record**

Fieldwork management systems record the days and times that telephone calls were made and the outcome, enabling a tailored calling strategy based on this and providing a record of all the outcomes achieved from calls.

## 6 THE INTERVIEW

### This chapter includes:

- Information on the survey interview. All SVTS interviews were conducted by telephone and were administered by professional interviewers working for Ipsos MORI using Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI)
- Information on the following elements:
  - o Survey reference period
  - o Number of victim forms completed
  - o Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI)
  - o Interview length

### 6.1 Survey reference period

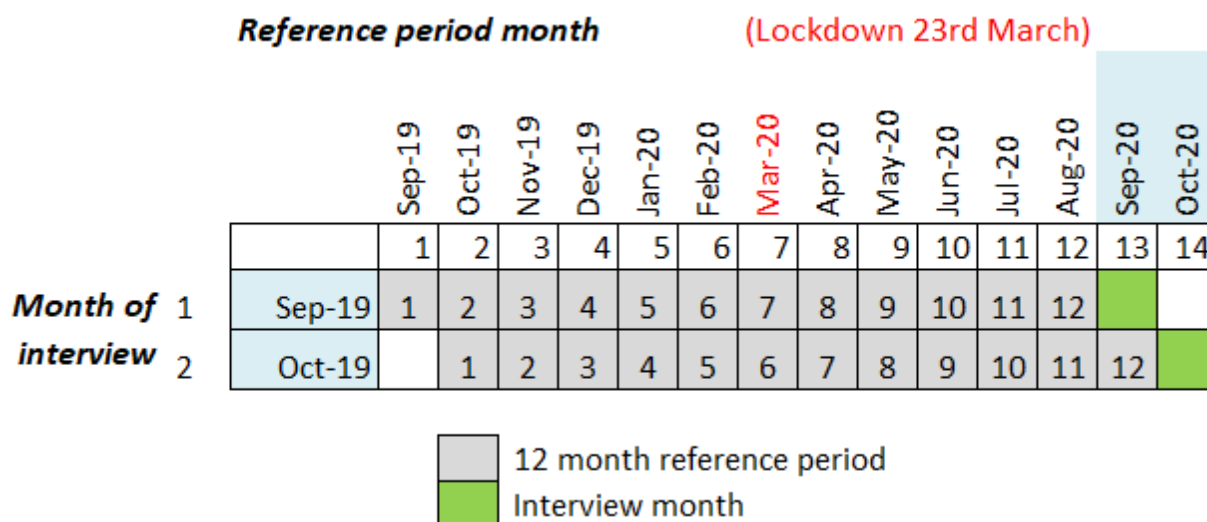
Respondents were asked about their experience of crime within a defined period of time known as the 'reference period'. Questions about exactly when incidents happened were asked at the start of the victim form. The survey statistics are based only on incidents which happened in the 12 calendar months prior to the month of interview. For example, in an interview conducted on the 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020, the survey statistics would include incidents which the respondent had experienced between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 and the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020. The reference period therefore covered an equal length of time (12 calendar months) for each respondent, irrespective of when they were interviewed during the fieldwork months of September and October 2020. Incidents which fall outside this reference period are not included in crime counts.

Incidents which happened in the *month of interview* (in the example above, incidents happening in the 15 days between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020) are *not* included in the reference period (and therefore any of the data reported). However, both for the sake of simplicity with regard to the administration of the interview and for ethical reasons, respondents *are* asked about incidents which happened in the period of time since the start of the reference period; the victim form screener questions are phrased in the following way "Since the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019, have ...", where '1<sup>st</sup> September 2019' is the start of the reference period in this example (the reference period dates change based on what month the interview is conducted in – see below). Full details of incidents occurring in the month of interview are retained in the SPSS data files for use by analysts if necessary (though these cases are marked as non-valid and the incident weight in the victim form is set to zero).

The reference period 'rolled' forward for each of the two fieldwork months. Compared to the example above, respondents interviewed on the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020 were asked about incidents which occurred in the reference period 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019 to the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020. The total reference period for interviews conducted from September 2020 through to

October 2020 is therefore a 13 month period from the start of September 2019 through to the end of September 2020. This is illustrated in Figure 6.1 below.

**Figure 6.1: Survey reference period**



### 6.1.1 Series incidents and the reference period

Where respondents had experienced series incidents, if incidents in the series occurred in the month of interview (that is, outside of the reference period), the number of incidents in the series (capped at five) was reduced by the number of incidents that occurred in the month of interview.

Variables NSERIES and NUMINC (uncapped and capped count of series incidents, respectively) in the victim form SPSS data file for all ValidSVTS forms are calculated based on the number of incidents in the 12-month reference period only and do not include incidents which happened in the month of interview.

### 6.1.2 Assigning incidents to pre- or post-lockdown categories

One of the main aims of the SVTS was to examine any changes in crime between the pre-COVID-19 period covered by the survey (1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 to 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 when the UK’s first national lockdown was introduced), and the period following this up to the end of September 2020. To allow the measurement of pre- and post-lockdown crime, two new questions were inserted into the victim form questionnaire section recording when incidents occurred ([Section 4.4.1](#), COVINIC for single incidents and COVRECIN for series incidents). These sought to establish – for incidents occurring in March 2020<sup>32</sup> – whether this was before or after the lockdown restrictions brought into force to combat the COVID-19 pandemic:

*“Can I just check, did the incident take place before or after 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020, when coronavirus lockdown restrictions began in the UK?”*

<sup>32</sup> Where a respondent only provided the quarter in which an incident occurred, these questions were asked where a quarter contained the month of March 2020.



The pre- and post-lockdown crime were defined within the survey reference period ([Section 6.1](#)) on the following basis:

- **Single incidents** where the month of the incident was recorded (MTHINC2):
  - occurring from September 2019 to February 2020 were assigned as pre-lockdown.
  - occurring in March 2020 were defined by the response to COVINC. Where COVINC was refused or not known, then these incidents were allocated to the pre-lockdown period (on the basis that the probability of the incidents occurring before the 23<sup>rd</sup> March was greater than it being afterwards).
  - occurring between April 2020 and September 2020 were assigned as post-lockdown
- **Single incidents** where only the reference period quarter in which the incident happened was recorded (QTRINCID) were assigned on the same basis. There were only 2 cases of single incidents where the respondent could not specify what month or quarter the incident occurred. One of these cases was randomly assigned to the pre- and the other the post-lockdown period<sup>33</sup>.

For **series incidents**, the process of assigning incidents and numbers of incidents was more complicated. The new COVRECIN question only applied to the *most recent* of the incidents in the series<sup>34</sup>. This meant that the following assumptions were used to allocate numbers of incidents in a series to pre- or post-lockdown:

- Series incidents with *all* incidents occurring from September 2019 to March 2020 had the respective number of incidents assigned as pre-lockdown<sup>35</sup>.
- Series incidents with *all* incidents occurring from April 2020 to September 2020 had the respective numbers of incidents assigned as post-lockdown.
- Series incidents with incidents both pre-and post-lockdown had the capped number of incidents (maximum five) allocated in proportion to the uncapped numbers of incidents within each period<sup>36</sup>.

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<sup>33</sup> This assignment was made to ensure that pre- and post-lockdown data summed to the overall total. The 12-month survey reference period fell with approximately 6 months pre-lockdown and 6 months post-lockdown.

<sup>34</sup> Asking respondents to provide exact details of how many incidents in a series were before or after the lockdown would have required amending some very complex CATI scripting as well as introducing additional burden on respondents in terms of added interview length. Given the quick-turnaround for the survey set-up and the concern over long interview putting off respondents from taking part or finishing the survey, the decision was taken not to ask this level of detail.

<sup>35</sup> There were no cases within these where the most recent incident occurred post-lockdown (as defined at COVRECIN).

<sup>36</sup> There were only 3 cases of series incidents with both pre- and post-lockdown incidents where the uncapped number of incidents (NSERIES) was greater than 5.

- Where it was only known that the series incidents happened within the 12-month reference period (and not when within that) then the incidents were allocated equally between pre- and post-lockdown periods<sup>37</sup>.

## 6.2 Numbers of victim forms

In total 498 victim forms were triggered for 357 respondents. 13.5% of respondents had one or more victim forms. 10.2% of respondents had a single victim form only, while just 0.3% had five victim forms (the maximum allowed) (Table 6.1).

In the victim form SPSS data file each record represents a victim form ([Section 11.1.2](#)), with each record being labelled as victim form one to five for each respondent (variable VICNO). Therefore the data file contains 498 cases.

**Table 6.1: Number of victim forms**

VFs completed	No. of Respondents	% of Respondents	% of those with 1 or more VF	Total VFs
<b>None</b>	2,297	86.5%	-	-
<b>1</b>	272	10.2%	76.2%	272
<b>2</b>	52	2.0%	14.6%	104
<b>3</b>	19	0.7%	5.3%	57
<b>4</b>	5	0.2%	1.4%	20
<b>5</b>	9	0.3%	2.5%	45
<b>1 or more</b>	357	13.5%		498
<b>Total</b>	2,654			

Not all victim forms are used in the production of the SVTS statistics, for example some may refer to incidents which are outside the reference period ([Section 6.1](#)) or to crimes which are outside the scope of the survey ([Section 8.1](#)). Table 6.2 provides details of how many of the 498 victim forms were assigned non-valid or out-of-scope offence codes.

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<sup>37</sup> There was only a single instance of this, consisting of a series of two incidents.

**Table 6.2: Classification of non-valid and out-of-scope victim forms**

Category	No. of VFs	% total VFs
Form terminated by respondent as covers violence*	8	1.6%
Incident(s) occurred outside reference period**	38	7.6%
Incident(s) occurred in month of interview (outside of reference period)	19	3.8%
Incident(s) occurred outside Scotland	15	3.0%
Duplicate victim form	18	3.6%
No crime <sup>1</sup>	37	7.4%
Not enough information to code	2	0.4%
Non-valid SVTS offence codes	63	12.7%
Threat offences (not included in survey statistics) <sup>2</sup>	68	13.7%
Sexual offences (not included in survey statistics) <sup>2</sup>	1	0.2%
<i>Total 'valid SVTS' victim forms</i>	<i>229</i>	<i>46.0%</i>
<i>Total victim forms</i>	<i>498</i>	<i>100.0%</i>

\* In cases of violence recorded in the victim form screener section, respondents have the option to skip the victim form (variable WINTRO) ([Section 4.3.1](#)).

\*\* This includes incidents which occurred in the month of interview and which are therefore outside of the reference period but may have a valid offence code.

<sup>1</sup> A number of victim forms are coded as 'no crime occurred' (code 96).

<sup>2</sup> These offences are not included in the calculation of 'all SVTS crime' statistics for the reasons outlined in [Section 8.1.2](#).

## 6.3 Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing

The use of Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) presents various opportunities for improving the quality of data collected and the efficiency of the survey, including:

- plausibility and consistency checks within the interview
- automated text substitution and calculation (especially important for using the correct reference period)
- automated links between questionnaire sections

The SVTS used the same software and script as the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS), with some adaptation for telephone delivery for example, where showcards could not be used (and therefore answer categories were read out to the respondent).

### 6.3.1 Plausibility and consistency checks

CATI allows plausibility and consistency checks to be incorporated into the interview process, improving data quality. A full list of plausibility and consistency checks are provided in [Annex 2](#).

### **6.3.2 Text substitution and date calculations**

Text substitutions and date calculations were used throughout the questionnaire. Text substitution is where different text is read out by the interviewer depending on answers given to previous questions.

Date calculations were made automatically by the CATI script for the reference period and other questions where a specific time period was required. All of the date variables in the SPSS data files (for example, DATESER variables, QTRRECIN, and MTHINC2 in the victim form SPSS data file) are given values according to the actual month / time period in question.

### **6.3.3 Don't know and refused codes**

Almost every question in the CATI questionnaire for the SVTS had a 'Don't know' and 'Refused' option.

## **6.4 Length of interview**

Time stamps were placed throughout the CATI script to allow timing of questionnaire sections. It is not always possible to derive meaningful time stamps from every interview using CATI systems. For example, if an interviewer has to temporarily stop or suspend an interview for a period of time and fails to come out of the questionnaire in the intervening period the time stamps can show an interview with an erroneously increased length. Table 6.3 shows the average mean timings by number of victim forms completed. To exclude rogue values, the top and bottom 1% of timings were discounted from the analysis.

**Table 6.3: Average timings in minutes and seconds by number of victim forms completed**

Questionnaire section	Number of victim forms completed:					
	0	1+	1	2	3+	All
Full survey	15:26	29:52	26:37	36:20	48:47	17:13
Introduction	00:27	00:28	00:28	00:32	00:32	00:27
Address check & vehicles	01:10	01:11	01:11	01:11	01:19	01:10
Victim form screener	04:02	05:31	05:11	06:10	07:32	04:15
Victim form	00:00	11:20	08:44	17:14	26:22	01:28
Perceptions of crime	00:55	01:02	01:02	00:58	01:41	00:56
Feeling of safety	00:58	01:04	01:04	01:10	01:07	00:59
Worry about crime	00:25	00:28	00:28	00:26	00:34	00:26
Security consciousness	00:46	00:49	00:49	00:47	00:52	00:47
Perceptions of the police	00:41	00:43	00:43	00:43	00:05	00:04
Demographics: Hhld grid	01:03	01:03	01:02	01:05	01:19	01:04
Tenure	00:47	00:49	00:49	00:52	00:53	00:05
Employment	00:41	00:44	00:43	00:50	00:43	00:04
Health&Caring	00:34	00:04	00:04	00:37	00:37	00:34
Income	00:32	00:32	00:32	00:35	00:32	00:32
Outro	02:14	03:02	02:55	03:10	04:35	02:23
N	2,297	357	272	52	33	2,654

The average (mean) total interview length across the respondents with usable timestamp data was 17 minutes and 13 seconds. The number of victim forms completed was a factor in total interview length. The average total interview length for those not completing any victim forms was 15 minutes and 26 seconds, compared to 29 minutes and 52 seconds for those who completed one or more victim forms.

## 7 DATA PROCESSING

### This chapter includes:

- An overview of data processing, which involves the manipulation of the data collected during the interviews
- The offence coding process, including quality assurance. Specific information on all the offence codes is available in [Chapter 8](#)
- All data processing was undertaken by ScotCen Social Research in consultation with Scottish Government analysts, including offence coding and quality assurance
- Information on the quality control checks carried out during the final survey stages (data checking, editing and cleaning)

### 7.1 Offence coding

#### 7.1.1 Offence coding process

The SVTS offence coding system is designed to match as closely as possible the way incidents would be classified by the police in Scotland to aid comparison between statistics from the SVTS and police recorded crime statistics. The system is tailored for the Scottish justice system and is based on that developed for the 1982 British Crime Survey (BCS)<sup>38</sup>.

A key priority of the SVTS questionnaire design was to retain all essential questions used in the offence coding process. In addition, the established and well-developed process for offence coding, including the software systems, processes and the offence coding manual used for the SVTS remained the same as those used for the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS)<sup>39</sup>. A small number of minor questionnaire changes impacted the data available for offence coding. The [offence coding manual](#) is available on the SCJS website.

All victim forms are reviewed by specially trained ScotCen coders in order to determine what offence code should be assigned to the crime. Every victim form has an offence code assigned to it. The process determines whether what has been reported in the interview represents a crime or not<sup>40</sup>. All data for the survey was coded consistently using agreed principles set down in the offence coding manual.

The offence coding manual has a 'priority' ladder which determines what offence codes are assigned if the incident involves multiple aspects. This is then built into the coding

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<sup>38</sup> The recorded crime statistics for Scotland are collected on the basis of the Scottish Crime Recording Standard (SCRS), which specifies the approach for counting the number of crimes that should be recorded as a result of a single incident. While this is similar to the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) for England & Wales, there are various differences in the two systems. For example, an incident where an intruder breaks into a home and assaults the sole occupant would be recorded as two crimes in Scotland, while in England & Wales it would be recorded as one crime (the most serious one).

<sup>39</sup> The SVTS uses the SCJS offence coding manual since only very minor changes were made to the victim form questions used for offence coding. Therefore, it was not necessary to produce an offence coding manual specific to the SVTS, and the same software systems and processes could also be used.

<sup>40</sup> Note that the term 'offence' code does not mean a crime was committed.

system. For example, if an incident involves an offender breaking into someone's house, assaulting them, breaking some of their belongings and then stealing their car, the offence coding process needs to sort out which of these offences takes priority (i.e. should the crime be coded as housebreaking, assault, vandalism or theft of a motor vehicle?).

There are a number of scenarios in which different elements of the incident are both deemed too serious for one to take priority over the other. In these situations, the incidents should use the 'double-barrelled' codes, which capture both elements of the event. This is the case for serious assault, rape or serious assault with sexual motive occurring during a housebreaking, for which there are double-barrelled codes that can be used to capture both elements of the incident (codes 15, 37, and 38). There is also a double-barrelled code for serious assault and fire raising (code 14)<sup>41</sup>.

The priority ladder can be summarised as below, with the highest priority being rape or serious assault:

- Rape or Serious Assaults
- Robbery
- Housebreaking
- Theft
- Minor Assault
- Vandalism
- Threats

Further information is available in the offence coding manual.

The offence coding system provides the responses to key questions in the victim form and other relevant parts of the questionnaire to those involved in the offence coding process electronically using IBMDC software.

The process of offence coding consisted of the following steps, involving coders, supervisors and Scottish Government researchers:

1) **Initial coding:** a ScotCen coder reviewed the answers to the questions for each case in the coding system and, consulting the offence coding manual, assigned offence and applicable codes. They also completed a certainty record for each victim form showing whether they were certain or uncertain that the code(s) assigned was correct (for example in cases where there was no specific guidance in the offence coding manual or the information in the victim form was inconclusive). The certainty record for each victim form determined the quality assurance checking process it went through.

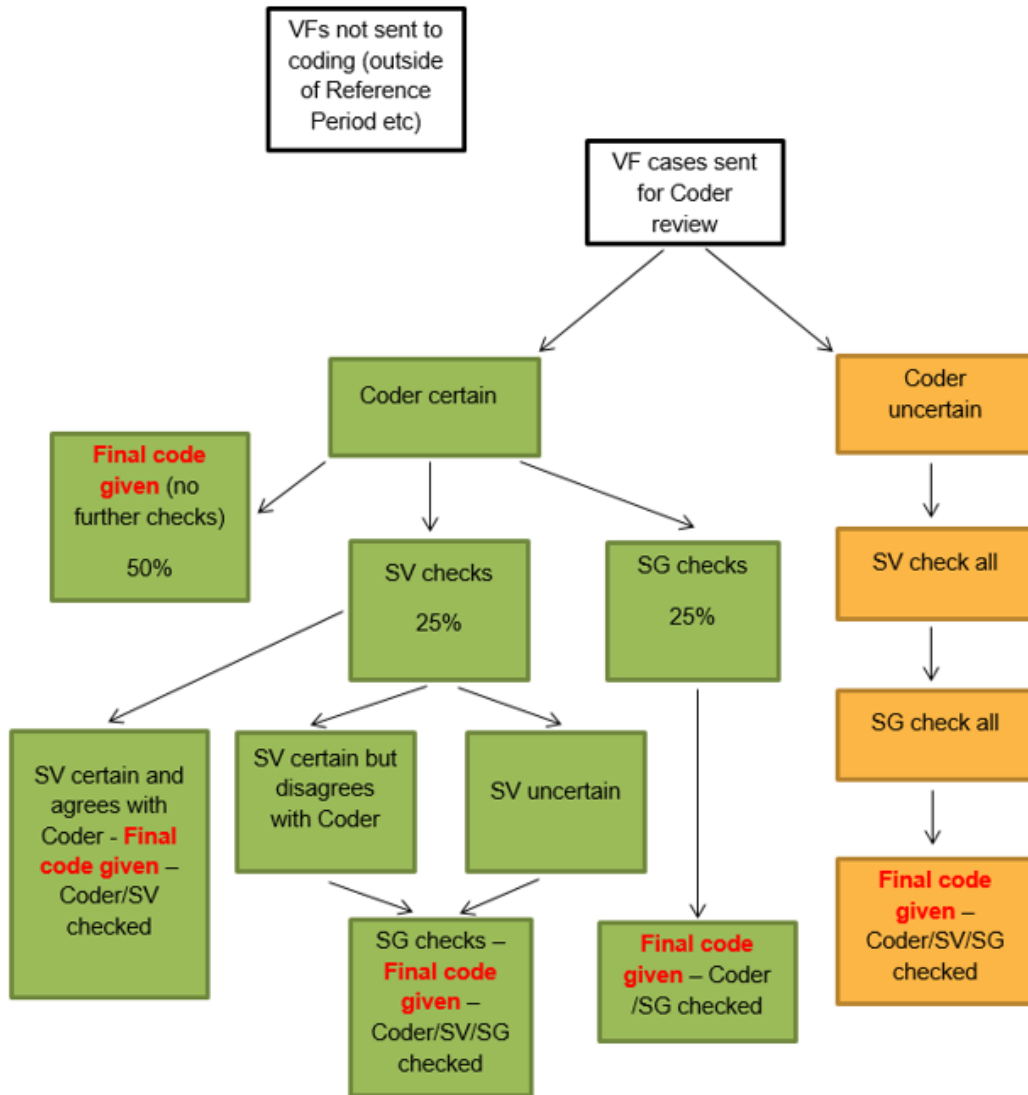
2) **Quality assurance:** all forms recorded as *uncertain* by the original coder were checked firstly by a ScotCen coding supervisor, and then by at least one researcher at the Scottish Government. Of those forms recorded as *certain*, 25% were checked by the Scottish Government, and a further 25% by ScotCen coding supervisors. Any victim forms

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<sup>41</sup> Crimes that require a double-barrelled code tend to occur rarely. There were no cases of these in the SVTS.

where the coder and supervisor gave a different outcome code, or where the supervisor recorded as uncertain were subsequently checked again by the Scottish Government, as were cases where there was not enough information to code, no crime and offence codes with two aspects. This process is outlined in figure 7.1 below.

**Figure 7.1 – Offence code checking process**



As a result of this process every victim form had a final offence code assigned to it, as well as a record of any codes assigned at the intermediate steps as outlined above.

When more than one offence code was selected by the coder, the software automatically applied the priority ladder to determine the code.

All supervisor and Scottish Government coding was completed using a “blind coding” approach using the coding system. This stipulates that supervisors and Scottish Government completed their coding without knowledge of the codes and certainty record given to a victim form by previous coders. This prevented each coding stage being influenced by previous stages.



Where Scottish Government coders did not agree with the code assigned by the coder or supervisor, a further dialogue was opened until a conclusion was reached.

At the end of the offence coding process, cases where coders and supervisors or Scottish Government researchers disagreed were reviewed, and any consistent issues were logged. This log was used to set precedents for future decisions, and to provide feedback and guidance to the coders and supervisors.

### **7.1.2 Offence coding quality assurance**

A number of measures were in place to ensure a high quality of coding. Firstly, all of the coders working on the SVTS had previously worked on the SCJS. Secondly, all the coders working on the survey were briefed by the research team at ScotCen, with feedback provided based on analysis of the offence coding from the previous SCJS survey year and a review of the small number of victim form questionnaire changes relating to offence coding in the SVTS compared to the SCJS. Finally, as coding progressed, researchers at ScotCen analysed data, to monitor: agreement between coder assigned codes and Scottish Government assigned codes, proportion of certainty / uncertainty among coders, and agreement between coders and Scottish Government when certain / uncertain.

Overall, ScotCen coders / supervisors assigned the same code as the final Scottish Government code in 83% of cases which were validated by the Scottish Government. When coders marked their coding as “Certain” (73% of victim forms), consistency with Scottish Government – where these cases were checked (32%) – was 89%, and when “Uncertain” (27% of victim forms), consistency was 78%. All cases where the coder was uncertain were checked by Scottish Government.

To aid with offence coding quality assessment and interviewer briefing, the offence coding system included flags for where the coders felt that the information contained in the victim form was of a poor quality.

### **7.1.3 Offence code history**

The SPSS data files delivered to the Scottish Government include all the offence codes that have been assigned to each victim form at each stage of the offence coding process. This allows a complete history of each case to be viewed.

The final offence code is derived using a priority ordering system, whereby the Scottish Government code takes priority over the coding supervisor, who takes priority over the original coder (where applicable). The variables in the victim form SPSS data file which detail this are:

- VOFFENCE: code assigned by the original coder
- SOFFENCE: code assigned by the supervisor
- FINLOFFC: code assigned by the initial Scottish Government coder
- FINLOFFC2: final code assigned by the Scottish Government
- OFFENCE: final offence code assigned

The final offence codes for each victim form are also contained in the respondent SPSS data file in the VICFORM variables (one for each victim form completed).

### 7.1.4 Standard coding

In addition to the survey specific offence coding all questions where an 'Other SPECIFY' category was over 10% of answers were reviewed. The aim of this exercise was to see whether new codes could be added and other similar 'Other – specify' answers could be added into this new code. No questions included other responses over 10%.

## 7.2 Data checking

Data quality control is a continuous process which is undertaken throughout the survey life cycle, from survey inception to the provision of a final clean dataset. Specifically, quality control is undertaken during each of the following core survey stages:

- sample preparation
- questionnaire design
- survey administration (e.g. interviewer training)
- telephone data collection (by interviewers)
- data checking, editing and cleaning

This section focuses on the quality control checks undertaken during the final survey stages, that is of data checking, editing and cleaning. These stages were undertaken by ScotCen in full consultation with (and in the latter stages, verification by) the Scottish Government research team.

Details of the methods used for the quality assurance of the remainder of the elements listed above are detailed in the relevant section of this report. The offence coding manual also provides further information on the offence coding process and the generation of the survey statistics.

After data collection the data checking and cleaning tasks are carried out. This involves a number of stages as detailed below, for both the SPSS data files and the online data tables. The SPSS is generated before the data tables are produced since most of the key checks can only be performed using the SPSS data.

In addition to the plausibility and consistency checks which were programmed as part of the Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) script ([Section 6.3.1](#)), a number of other checks were undertaken as part of the data processing.

### 7.2.1 SPSS data checking

These included:

- early data checks during fieldwork to identify and amend potential scripting errors
- checks on fieldwork records and between raw data, telephone centre records and SPSS data to ensure there are no discrepancies
- initial checks on completed interviews: identifying and removing duplicated or incomplete or corrupt interviews from the raw dataset
- checks of the raw CATI (topline) data compared to data in SPSS

- checking the content and formatting of the SPSS data files: checking the specifications for the SPSS data file against the content and formatting of the SPSS
- specific checking of new or amended variables to ensure that they are correct and no errors have been made in the specification of these
- checking the data in the SPSS data files to ensure the total number of responses in the base for each variable matches the total respondents eligible to respond
- checking variable and value labels are clear and meaningful, consistent with questionnaire documentation
- comparing the content, structure and data frequencies against the 2019/20 SCJS data
- coding data: checks of the final coding specification for 'open end' and 'Other SPECIFY' questions
- SPSS derived, summary and weighting variable checks: checked by recreating the variables in SPSS and then comparing them to the existing variables, or to the source data
- checking all variables required are present and no surplus variables

### **7.2.2 Data table checking**

Once the SPSS is complete and correct, the online data tables are produced. The data tables are generated using SPSS but present the data in an easier to read and publishable format (Excel) which does not require any specialist software. Two sets of data tables are produced, one for reporting purposes (for Scottish Government use only) and one for publication which suppresses the data where the number of respondents providing an answer is 50 or below.

- Checking the content and formatting of the tables: specifications for the tables checked against the content and formatting of tables themselves
- Data tables and SPSS frequencies match
- Data tables summary codes: the data tables often contain summary codes which combine certain responses in a summary (for example, 'agree' code combining 'agree strongly' and 'agree slightly' codes, which are separate in the SPSS). Since these appear only in the data tables these are checked using the tables themselves, or by recreating them in SPSS
- Data tables cross-breaks: the specification, data and labelling for the cross-breaks are checked against the SPSS to ensure these are correct and clearly labelled
- Logic checks of key demographic and factual responses
- Victim form data tables: where applicable, the published (and reported) victim form data are based only on those forms which are marked as valid SVTS crimes.

### **7.2.3 Offence coding and survey statistics checking**

The survey statistics (incidence and prevalence figures) are produced from the offence coding data. The offence coding process and validation is described at the beginning of

this section, and in the offence coding manual which describes how offence codes are assigned and what they comprise.

The production of the SVTS survey statistics from the offence coding is carried out to an agreed specification consistent with that which has been used on all years of the SCJS and the surveys which preceded this (for example the Scottish Crime and Victimization Survey). This defines what offence codes are within the scope of the survey and which are not, as well as how these should be counted and what weighting should be applied. An annotated SPSS syntax file is used to produce all of the survey statistics (how many incidents are counted, whether the incident was in the reference period etc.). The syntax follows a logical process through which forms are assigned as valid SVTS or not (based on being completed forms, within the reference period and having a valid SVTS offence code).

The Scottish Government check the survey statistics by independently replicating the key statistics using annotated SAS syntax file.

Prior to the generation of the survey statistics, a number of stages during the data processing are undertaken:

- checks are performed to compare the number of victim forms in the data against previous SCJS survey years, and checking against the raw topline data. Checks are also made to ensure that all of the victim forms are complete
- once the offence coding is complete then the data are incorporated into the data processing software and outputs – checks are made to ensure that all the victim forms have an offence code and that there are no duplicates
- Logic checks are made to review the data compared to previous SCJS survey years:
  - checking the number of single vs series incidents
  - checking the number of forms which are coded as “Not enough information to code”
  - checking the number of forms which are outside of the reference period
  - the number of valid and valid SVTS forms

Frequencies are then run to compare the number of victim forms with each offence code to previous SCJS survey years.

Once these stages are complete data are then copied from the victim form SPSS (where each record represents a victim form) into the respondent SPSS, where it is summarised on a respondent basis and grouped into different categories of crime. The variables are then run with the correct weighting and compared to those in the original SPSS file. More information on the different data files is provided in [Chapter 11](#).

## 8 OFFENCE CODES, SURVEY STATISTICS AND CRIME GROUPS

### This chapter includes:

- The offence codes used in the survey and how they are grouped and defined
- Offence codes in and out of scope for the SVTS crime calculations and what 'incidence' and 'prevalence' mean in the SVTS context
- Definition of in-scope codes used in the calculation of 'all SVTS crime', and out-of-scope codes ('sexual offence or threat codes' and 'non-valid codes') which are not included in the published survey statistics. A detailed list of all offence codes is provided in [Annex 3](#)
- Information on multiple victimisation, repeat victimisation and the capped number of crimes (up to five)

### 8.1 Crime types / offence codes

The [offence coding manual](#) contains the range of offence codes that are assigned to every victim form which is triggered as a result of the victim form screener section ([Section 4.2.2](#))<sup>42</sup>. Therefore, even incidents classified as non-valid because they occurred outside of the reference period or outside of Scotland are given an offence code (i.e. an out-of-scope non-valid code as detailed below).

The offence codes can be split into two groups: in-scope and out-of-scope codes.

**In-scope codes:** 33 offence codes were used in the calculation of 'all SVTS crime' and therefore the incidence and prevalence statistics from the survey.

**Out-of-scope codes:** these can be grouped into two categories, neither of which are included in the published survey statistics:

- **Sexual offence or threat codes:** 12 offence codes related to sexual offences or threats which were not included in the 'all SVTS crime' statistics produced by the survey
- **Non-valid codes:** the offence coding manual also contained 21 offence codes for classifying incidents recorded in the victim form which were non-valid incidents (outside of Scotland or the reference period, duplicate incidents), where not enough information was collected to make an accurate classification, where the respondent or household was not the victim or the victim form was skipped. As with the sexual offence or threat codes, these 21 codes were not included in the 'all SVTS crime' statistics produced by the survey. Included in the non-valid out-of-scope codes is

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<sup>42</sup> As noted in [Section 7.1.1](#), the SVTS used the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) offence coding manual, processes and systems.

code 97 which is assigned where there is insufficient information to code the offence

Details of the offence codes and the incidents that they cover are provided in the offence coding manual. The variable OFFENCE in the victim form SPSS data file and the VICFORM variables in the respondent SPSS data file show the offence code assigned to each victim form.

### **8.1.1 A note on crime types excluded from the scope of the survey**

The SVTS only collects information about incidents which occurred within Scotland (or, if an incident happened online, if the respondent was living in Scotland at the time) and within the reference period ([Section 6.1](#)).

In addition, the SVTS does not collect data about all types of crime occurring in Scotland and has notable exclusions:

- Crimes against adults living in circumstances other than private households (for example, adults living in institutions, such as prisons or hospitals, or other shared accommodation, such as military bases and student halls of residence – [Section 2.3](#))<sup>43</sup>
- Crimes against children and young people (aged under 16)
- Crimes against businesses<sup>44</sup>
- Crimes where there is no direct or specific victim to interviews (e.g. speeding, possession of drugs), or crime where the victim cannot be interviewed (e.g. homicide)

### **8.1.2 Sexual offences and threats**

The victim form was used to collect information on threats and, where respondents provided information, sexual offences. Coders assigned offence codes to incidents of these crimes in the normal way. However, the 'all SVTS crime' statistics ([Section 8.1.4](#)) produced from the survey, including the estimates of incidence and prevalence, do not include these crimes for the reasons outlined below.

#### **Sexual offences**

The victim form screener did not include questions specifically on sexual assault for two reasons:

1. Sexual assault victims are often reluctant to disclose information on these sensitive crimes in an interviewer administered interview and therefore that surveys using methods other than self-completion data collection tend to under-represent them

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<sup>43</sup> Since the SVTS is a follow-up for respondents who took part in the SCJS, then there is a possibility that respondents may have moved into accommodation other than private households. However, even if this was the case, the survey is not representative of people living in these circumstances, so this caveat on the coverage of the SVTS data remains.

<sup>44</sup> The Commercial Victimization Survey (CVS) conducted for the Home Office provides data on this for England and Wales, but a separate survey is not conducted in Scotland. More information on the CVS, last conducted in 2017, is available from the Home Office [website](#).

2. On ethical grounds, it was important to identify respondents' experiences of sexual assault (and to gather limited key information about them) in as sensitive a way as possible without putting them in an uncomfortable position (either by having an interviewer asking questions or asking lots of detailed questions)

The SVTS did not have a separate self-completion questionnaire (due to the survey mode and issues around safeguarding) and therefore no data are reported on sexual victimisation as part of the SVTS.

Details of sexual offences were recorded in the victim form where the respondent did provide details of the incident, and the relevant offence code assigned, but, as noted in [Section 6.2](#) only one such incident was recorded.

## Threats

Following established practice in previous crime surveys in Scotland, threats, although assigned offence codes, were not included in the estimates of crime due to the difficulty of establishing whether or not a crime actually occurred (Anderson and Leitch, 1996).

### 8.1.3 Duplicate victim forms

Duplicate victim forms can occur where the same actual incident is recorded in two separate victim forms or the victim form is part of a series of the same type of incident. This can occur for two reasons:

1. Firstly, if the incident contains two or more different types of incidents described in the victim form screener section (for example, an incident of where something is taken from a victim may also involve the offender using force or violence against the victim) the respondent may not have understood or misheard the qualifier to the victim form screener question: "*Apart from anything you have already mentioned*"<sup>45</sup>. If the respondent mentions the same incident in two separate victim form screener sections, then this may only become apparent after the victim form has been triggered.
2. Secondly, a series of incidents may not be correctly identified / disclosed in the victim form screener section and separate victim forms triggered for very similar incidents.

Duplicate victim forms are recorded as 'same duplicate' (code 3) or 'series duplicate' (code 4) according to why the duplicate form has been marked ([Section 8.1.3](#)). The victim form questionnaire contains questions at several points which allow interviewers to code the form as a duplicate. However, relatively few victim forms are coded as duplicates ([Section 6.2](#)).

### 8.1.4 List of in-scope offence codes

The list of the 33 in-scope SVTS offence codes (crimes) which were included in the 'all SVTS crime' incidence and prevalence statistics produced from the survey is shown in [Annex 3](#). It also shows the SPSS value code for each offence code as well as the crime

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<sup>45</sup> Victim form screener questions identify incidents which will be followed up in the victim form.

groups used in the SVTS Main Findings report into which each in-scope offence code is grouped ([Section 8.3](#))

## 8.2 Survey statistics

The SVTS produces two key measures of crime: incidence (the numbers of crimes) and prevalence (the risk of being a victim of crime or the victimisation rate). It also provides data on repeat and multiple victimisation. These are all presented in the [SVTS Main Findings report](#).

Incidence and prevalence statistics were estimated for Scotland using population data supplied by National Records of Scotland (NRS); 2020 projections from the [Household Projections for Scotland, 2018-based](#), 2018 and [Mid-2019 Population Estimates Scotland](#).

Variable	Sum of Weights
Household	2,509,426
Individual	4,541,903

### 8.2.1 Household and personal crimes

All of the 33 in-scope offence codes which are assigned in the SVTS relate either to crimes against the individual respondent (such as assault) or to crimes experienced by the respondent's household (such as housebreaking). With regard to crimes against individuals (personal crimes), respondents were asked to only provide information about incidents in which they themselves were the victim: if other household members had experienced personal crimes then this was not recorded in the survey.

This important distinction between personal and household crimes affects how the survey statistics were calculated ([Sections 8.2.2 and 8.2.3](#)) and how the data are analysed, reported on and presented in tables of prevalence, for example, with demographic breakdowns only available for personal crimes. [Annex 4](#) provides detail of which crimes are classified as household crimes and should therefore be analysed using the household weights ([Section 9.5](#)).

### 8.2.2 Incidence and incidence rate

Incidence is defined as:

*The number of crimes experienced per household or adult.*

To calculate incidence, the number of crimes experienced by respondents or their household was aggregated together for each offence code, based on up to five separate victim forms, and on the number of incidents in a 'series' (capped at five) recorded in the victim forms.

The incidence *rate* can also be calculated for key crime groups. This is calculated as the gross number of incidents multiplied by the product of 10,000 divided by the population (households or adults aged 16 and over depending whether the crime group contains



household or personal crimes) to give an incidence rate per 10,000. The incidence rate enables comparison between areas with differing populations.

Incidence and incidence rates are estimated using incidence weights which include a grossing factor based on population estimates for the household and adult populations depending on whether the crime was classified as a household or personal crime.

Incidence variables are present in the respondent SPSS data file and begin with INC. Users of the SPSS data files should note that the incidence figures for the crime groups 'all SVTS crime' (INCSURVEYCRIME), 'property crime' (INCPROPERTY) and 'comparable crime' (INCCOMPARCRIME) are produced by *summing* the component incidence figures rather than running the weighted frequencies for the relevant incidence variables since these groups include both personal and household crimes.

### 8.2.3 Prevalence

Prevalence is defined as:

*The proportion of the population who were victims of at least one crime in the specified period.*

Prevalence takes account of whether a household or person was a victim of a specific crime once or more in the reference period, not the number of times they were victimised. These figures were based on information from the victim form which was used to designate respondents and / or their households as victims, or non-victims.

The SVTS technically consists of two highly related, but separate surveys; at various times in the survey the respondent provides information on behalf of the household as a whole and on behalf of themselves as an individual. The overall crime prevalence rate relates only to the experience of the respondent, not to other victims within a household. The analytical approach to the survey assumes that the risk of victimisation for those adults not interviewed in a household is determined by the experiences of those other respondents to the survey with whom they share a similar profile (i.e. in terms of age, gender and location).

The percentage of households or individuals in the population that were victims provides the prevalence. This equates to the *rate* or *likelihood* of victimisation. Prevalence was estimated using population estimates for the household and adult populations depending on whether the crime was classified as a household or personal crime.

Where crimes are grouped together in a way that includes both household and personal crime, prevalence was calculated using the population estimates for adults. This follows the practice adopted by the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) and includes:

- Property crime
- Comparable crime
- 'All SVTS crime' (crime overall)

Prevalence variables are included in the respondent SPSS data file ([Section 11.1.1](#)) and begin with PREV.

## 8.2.4 Multiple victimisation

The SVTS classifies multiple victimisation as the experience of being the victim of a crime of any type more than once during the 12-month reference period. This includes those who have been victims of more than one crime of the same type within the last 12 months (repeat victimisation) and also those who have been victims of more than one SVTS crime of any type within the last 12 months (i.e. multiple victimisation includes those who have been a victim of more than one personal crime, or have been resident in a household that was a victim of more than one household crime, or have been a victim of both types of crime).

As noted above, the overall crime prevalence rate, relates only to the experience of the respondent, not to other victims within a household. The analytical approach to the survey assumes that the risk of victimisation for those adults not interviewed in a household is determined by the experiences of those other respondents to the survey with whom they share a similar profile (i.e. in terms of age, gender and location).

To enable an estimation of overall multiple victimisation, the statistics are derived using the individual weight, by summing the weights associated with those experiencing multiple crimes (i.e. two crimes, three crimes and so on). This means that the statistics relate to crimes against adults where they were a victim of a personal crime or who lived in a household that was a victim of a household crime.

## 8.2.5 Repeat victimisation

Repeat victimisation is a subset of multiple victimisation. The SVTS classifies *repeat victimisation as the experience of being the victim of the same crime more than once in the 12-month reference period*. If all victims had only been the victim of one crime in the reference period, incidence and prevalence would be the same. Repeat victimisation accounts for differences between incidence and prevalence. Higher levels of repeat victimisation mean there is a relatively lower prevalence compared with incidence.

Repeat victimisation is calculated as a percentage of household or adult victims according to the crime group. Where both household and personal crimes are grouped together, repeat victimisation is calculated as a percentage of the population of adult victims. Repeat victimisation variables are included in the respondent SPSS data file ([Section 11.1.1](#)) and begin with REP.

The Scottish Government published a rapid [evidence review paper on repeat violent victimisation](#) in April 2019, which informed the commissioning of a qualitative study to better understand repeat violent victimisation in Scotland, in late 2019. The research is intended to inform effective, appropriate and proportionate policy responses, as well as service responses to support victims, tailored to the needs of those who experience the highest levels of violent victimisation in Scottish society. The paper is available on the Scottish Government [website](#).

## 8.2.6 Capped series of crimes

The total number of incidents that occurred in a series in the reference period is capped at five incidents. Therefore, as up to five victim forms are completed, a respondent can have a maximum of 25 incidents included in the survey statistics.

The restriction / cap to the first five incidents of a crime in a series has been applied consistently throughout the SVTS, Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) and earlier crime surveys in Scotland. The cap ensures that survey estimates of incidence are not affected by a very small number of respondents who report an extremely high number of incidents. Relatively few respondents report large numbers of crime in a series: in the SVTS six victim forms comprised a valid SVTS series of incidents capped at five incidents. A more detailed discussion of the reasons for applying the cap is available in the [SCJS Technical Report](#).

### 8.2.7 Population grossing totals

The SVTS (and the SCJS surveys) does not include a small subset of the adult population who do not reside in private households, who for example, live in group residences (for example, student's hall of residences) or other institutions (prisons), or who are homeless. As part of the weighting process, overall SVTS crime estimates have been calculated using the total adult population, rather than adults living in private households. This assumes that the sub-set of the adult population not captured in the SVTS experience the same level of victimisation as adults in the household resident population. In reality, this is unlikely to be true, and it may be speculated that some of the groups not included in the survey experience a higher risk of crime than those captured in the survey. However, it is notable that methodological work on this issue completed on the CSEW in 2014 concluded that 'the effects of the weighting updates on the post-1999 CSEW estimates are minimal and have not altered any trends'<sup>46</sup>.

## 8.3 Crime groups

'All SVTS crime' (overall crime) can be broken down into various subgroups of crimes for analysis purposes. There are a total of 13 subgroups as shown in Figure 8.1 below.

The two principal crime groups are property crime and violent crime. The level of prevalence associated with these groups of crimes differs, along with the characteristics of the crimes, and victims' experience and perception of them. These two principal groups can also be further broken down into seven groups and three further subgroups are also shown for vandalism and assault. All of these crime groups are discussed in more detail below. [Annex 3](#) also shows how each of these groups is composed of the 33 individual in-scope offence codes.

As well as these crime groups, the respondent SPSS data file also includes a number of other crime group variables which have been used or analysis of past Scottish crime surveys ([Section 11.1.1](#)).

Each of the crime groups has a variable for incidence and one for prevalence (with the variable names beginning with INC and PREV respectively).

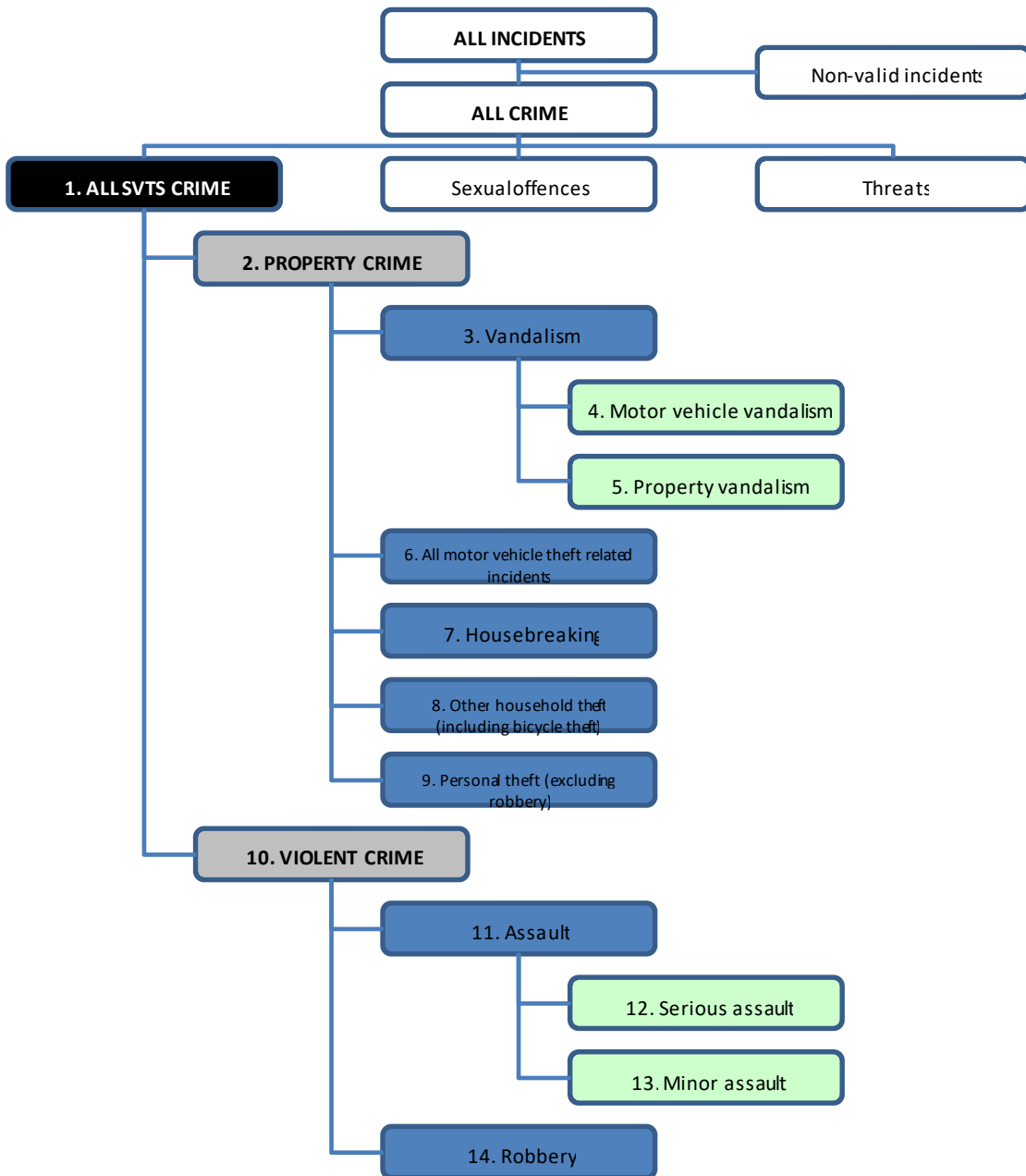
Users of the SVTS data should note that, due to the smaller sample size of the SVTS, some crime groups are rare in the SVTS data. The relevant variables are retained in the data files, but user should treat the data with caution. As a result, not all of the categories

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<sup>46</sup> CSEW Methodological amendments: [Presentational and methodological improvements to National Statistics on the Crime Survey for England and Wales](#)

of crime which are defined here are published in the [SVTS Main Findings report](#) or the accompanying online [data tables](#).

**Figure 8.1: Crime groups used in the SVTS**



### 8.3.1 Crime group descriptions

The descriptions of the crime groups below follow the basic order of Figure 8.1 above. Descriptions for comparable crime groups are also included. Variable names are provided in square brackets after the heading for each crime group<sup>47</sup>.

#### 1. **'All SVTS crime'** [variable *surveycrime*]

'All SVTS crime' includes all property crime and all violent crime, but excludes threats and sexual offences.

'All SVTS crime' is used throughout the [SVTS Main Findings report](#) and all of the other crime groups are subgroups of 'all SVTS crime'. Estimates of overall incidence and prevalence of crime in Scotland are calculated using 'all SVTS crime'. As 'all SVTS crime' includes both household and personal crimes, and the associated statistics for prevalence and repeat victimisation are calculated based on the adult population. Users of the SPSS data files should note that the figures for incidence for 'all SVTS crime' are produced by summing the incidence figures for property and violent crime.

#### 2. **Property crime** [variable *property*]

This crime group includes vandalism; all motor vehicle theft related incidents; housebreaking; other household theft (including bicycle theft); and personal theft (excluding robbery).

Property crime is one of the main crime groups used in the [SVTS Main Findings report](#). As property crime includes both household and personal crimes, prevalence and repeat victimisation are calculated based on the adult population. Users of the SPSS data files should note that the figures for incidence for property crime are produced by summing the incidence figures for these component crime groups.

#### 3. **Vandalism** [variable *vand*]

Vandalism is a subgroup of property crime, which involves intentional and malicious damage to property (including houses and vehicles). In the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 1980, vandalism became a separate offence defined as wilful or reckless destruction or damage to property belonging to another. Cases which involve only nuisance without actual damage (for example, letting down car tyres) are not included. Where criminal damage occurs in combination with housebreaking, robbery or violent offences it is these latter crimes that take precedence.

#### 4. **Motor vehicle vandalism** [variable *motovvand*]

This crime group is a subgroup of vandalism which includes any intentional and malicious damage to a motor vehicle such as scratching a coin down the side of a car, or denting a car roof. It does not, however, include causing deliberate damage to a car by fire. These incidents are recorded as fire-raising and therefore included in vandalism to other property. The SVTS only covers vandalism against vehicles belonging to private households (i.e.

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<sup>47</sup> Variables in the SPSS data files will be prefaced by INC for incidence variables and PREV for prevalence variables.

cars, vans, motorcycles, scooters and mopeds which are either owned or regularly used by anyone in the household). Lorries, heavy vans, tractors, trailers and towed caravans were generally excluded from the coverage of the SVTS as these are usually the property of an employer and not for personal use.

#### **5. Property vandalism** [variable *propvand*]

Vandalism to the home and other property is a subgroup of vandalism which involves intentional or malicious damage to doors, windows, fences, plants and shrubs for example. Vandalism to other property also includes arson where there is any deliberate damage to property belonging to the respondent or their household (including vehicles) caused by fire, regardless of the type of property involved.

#### **6. All motor vehicle theft related incidents** [variable *allmvtheft*]

All motor vehicle theft related incidents are a subgroup of property crime. The SVTS covers three main categories of vehicle theft: 'theft of motor vehicles' referring to the theft or unauthorised taking of a vehicle, where the vehicle is driven away illegally (whether or not it is recovered); 'theft from motor vehicles' which includes the theft of vehicle parts, accessories or contents; and 'attempted thefts of or from motor vehicles', where there is clear evidence that an attempt was made to steal the vehicle or something from it (e.g. damage to locks). If parts or contents of the motor vehicle are stolen in addition to the vehicle being moved, the incident is classified as theft of a motor vehicle. Included in this category are cars, vans, motorcycles, scooters and mopeds which are either owned or regularly used by anyone in the household. Lorries, heavy vans, tractors, trailers and towed caravans were generally excluded from the coverage of the SVTS as these are usually the property of an employer and not for personal use.

#### **7. Housebreaking** [variable *housebreak*]

In Scottish law, the term 'burglary' has no meaning although in popular usage it has come to mean breaking into a home in order to steal the contents. Scottish law refers to this as 'theft by housebreaking'. Housebreaking is a subgroup of property crime.

Respondents who reported that someone had broken into their home with the intention of committing theft (whether the intention was carried out or not) were classified as victims of housebreaking. Entry must have been by forcing a door or via a non-standard entrance. Thus, entry through unlocked doors or by using false pretences, or if the offender had a key, were not housebreaking (they would fall into 'other household theft').

#### **8. Other household theft (including bicycle theft)** [variable *otherhousetheftcycle*]

Other household theft (including bicycle theft) is a subgroup of property crime. This crime group includes actual and attempted thefts from domestic garages, outhouses and sheds that are not directly linked to the dwelling. The term also includes thefts from gas and electricity prepayment meters and thefts from outside the dwelling (excluding thefts of milk bottles etc. from the doorstep). 'Thefts in a dwelling' are also included in this group; these are thefts committed inside a home by somebody who did not force their way into the home, and who entered through a normal entrance (examples include guests at parties,

workmen with legitimate access, people who got in using false pretences, or if the respondent left a door open or unlocked). Theft of a bicycle is also included.

**9. Personal theft** (excluding robbery) [variable *perstheft*]

Personal theft is a subgroup of property crime, which includes actual and attempted 'snatch theft', 'theft from the person' where the victim's property is stolen directly from the person of the victim but without physical force or threat of force and 'other personal theft' which refers to theft of personal property outside the home where there was no direct contact between the offender and the victim.

**10. Violent crime** [variable *violent*]

Violent crime is one of the main crime groups used in the [SVTS Main Findings report](#) (together with property crime). The coverage of violent crime consists of actual and attempted minor assault, serious assault and robbery. Sexual offences are not included ([Section 8.1.2](#)).

**11. Assault** [variable *assault*]

Assault is a subgroup of violent crime. In the SVTS, the term assault refers to two categories:

- Serious assaults, comprising incidents of assault which led to an overnight stay in hospital as an in-patient or which resulted in specific injuries regardless of whether or not the victim stayed in hospital overnight
- Minor assaults, which are actual or attempted assaults resulting either in minor assault with injury, or in minor assault with no or negligible injury

**12. Serious assault** [variable *serassault*]

An assault is classified as serious if the victim sustained an injury resulting in an overnight stay in hospital as an in-patient or any of the following injuries whether or not they was detained in hospital: fractures, internal injuries, severe concussion, loss of consciousness, lacerations requiring sutures which may lead to impairment or disfigurement or any other injury which may lead to impairment or disfigurement. Serious assault is a subgroup of assault.

**13. Robbery** [variable *rob*]

This term refers to actual or attempted theft of personal property or cash directly from the person, accompanied by force or the threat of force. Robbery should be distinguished from other thefts from the person which involve speed or stealth. Robbery is a subgroup of violent crime.

### 8.3.2 Comparable crime group descriptions

Comparable crime groups are used to compare SVTS data with police recorded crime statistics ([Section 12.1](#)).

#### **Comparable crime** [variable comparcrime]

Only certain categories of crime covered by the SVTS are directly comparable with police recorded crime statistics ([Section 12.1](#)). These categories are collectively referred to as comparable crime. Comparable crime can be broken down into the following three crime groups:

- Acquisitive crime: comprising housebreaking, theft of a motor vehicle and bicycle theft
- Vandalism: including both vehicle and property vandalism
- Violent crime: comprising assault and robbery

[Section 8.3.1](#) above provides definitions of vandalism and violent crime. Acquisitive crime is defined below.

#### **Acquisitive crime** [variable acquis]

Acquisitive crime consists of three crime groups / offence codes: housebreaking, theft of a motor vehicle and bicycle theft. Housebreaking is defined above in [Section 8.3.1](#) and theft of a motor vehicle is part of the all motor vehicle theft related incidents crime group. Bicycle theft is defined as theft of a bicycle from outside a dwelling. Almost all bicycles were stolen in this way. Bicycle thefts which take place inside the home by someone who is not trespassing at the time are counted as theft in a dwelling (a subgroup of other household theft including bicycle theft); and thefts of bicycles from inside the home by a trespasser are counted as housebreaking.



## 9 SURVEY WEIGHTING

### This chapter includes:

- Information on the weighting procedures applied to the SVTS data
- Weighting procedures for survey data are often required to correct for unequal probabilities of selection and variations in response rates from different groups
- The weighting procedures for the SVTS use a combination of non-response modelling and calibration weighting to correct for non-response bias. Non-response modelling uses regression analysis to model non-response behaviour and generates weights based on predicted probabilities of response. Calibration weighting derives weights such that the weighted survey totals match known population totals
- Useful information for users who are interested in the different weights available when conducting analysis on different SVTS data (i.e. for households or individuals)

### 9.1 Introduction

This chapter presents information on the weighting procedures applied to the survey data. The procedures for the implementation of the weighting methodology were developed by ScotCen statisticians working with the Scottish Government.

Weighting procedures for survey data are often required to correct for unequal probabilities of selection and variations in response rates from different groups. The weighting procedures for the SVTS use a combination of model-based and calibration weighting to correct for non-response bias.

Logistic regression models were used to model non-response behaviour to different stages of the SVTS. Two models were run; the first to model the likelihood that an individual who completed the original Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) gave permission to be re-contacted for further research and was issued for SVTS, the second was to model the likelihood that an issued individual completed the SVTS interview. For both models, a binary outcome variable indicated the individual's response status and the predictor variables included a range of area-level, household, and individual characteristics. The weights were derived from the predicted probabilities of response that were produced by each model. These weights were combined, before a final adjustment was made using calibration weighting techniques.

Calibration weighting derives weights such that the weighted survey totals match known population totals. For the SVTS the population totals used were the National Records of Scotland's (NRS) [Mid-2019 Population Estimates Scotland](#) and for households the [NRS Estimates of Households and Dwellings in Scotland, 2020 and Household Projections for Scotland, 2018-based](#) (the latest available at the time of weighting the data). The calibration weighting was run using the 'calibrate' command in Stata version 15.

The final outputs were a set of household and individual weights. Details of appropriate application of the weights are presented in [Section 9.5](#) below.

## **9.2 Individual weight**

The individual weight was generated in the following steps:

1. Logistic regression was used to model the likelihood that an individual who completed the 2018/19 or 2019/20 SCJS had given permission to be re-contacted for further research and was issued for the SVTS. The model was used to generate, for each original individual, their predicted probability of being issued. A weight for each issued individual is derived from these predicted probabilities as the inverse of their predicted probability.
2. Logistic regression was used to model the likelihood that an issued individual completed the SVTS interview. The predicted probabilities of response were saved and used to derive weights for responding individuals, again, as the inverse of the predicted probability.
3. The weights from both models, and the individual weights taken from the combined 2018/19 and 2019/20 SCJS dataset were multiplied together to form a combined weight. This combined weight was calibrated to population totals of age and gender within Police Division to produce the final individual weights.

Further details about each step are outlined below.

### **9.2.1 Modelling selection of individuals for the SVTS sample**

A logistic regression model was used to generate the predicted probability that an individual who took part in the 2018/19 or 2019/20 SCJS had given permission to be re-contacted for research and was issued for the SVTS. The model had a binary outcome where 1 = Individual gave permission to be re-contacted and was issued for the SVTS, and 0 = Individual did not give permission to be re-contacted or was not issued.

The predictor variables were a range of area-level, household, and individual characteristics. Table 9.1 lists the variables that were included.

**Table 9.1: SCJS variables included in the non-response modelling**

SPSS variable name	Label
TABAGE	Respondent's age banded (4 categories)
TABAGEGEN	Respondent's gender and age banded
TABQDGEN	Gender
URBRUR	Scottish Government 8-fold Urban Rural Classification
SIMD_QUINT	Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2020 Quintiles
SIMD_15MOST	SIMD 2020 Top 15% most deprived
TABTEN	Tenure
ACCTYPE	Accommodation type summary
TABQDISAB	Disability
QHSTAT	General health status
TABVICFLAG3	Victim status (valid SCJS crimes)
QSFDARK	Fear of crime
HHCMP	Household Composition
HRP_AGE	Age (numeric) of Household Reference Person (HRP) (banded)
QSYAREA	Number of years lived in local area
QBIRTH	Country of birth?
QDETH3	Respondent's cultural or ethnic background
QRELIG	Respondent's religion, religious body or denomination
QDINC2	Total annual household income
ILOCLASS	Current basic economic activity (ILO)
QEVJOB	Ever had a paid job
TABNSSEC	Socio-economic group (NS-SEC)
QDLEGS	Marital status
QDCOUP	Living as a couple with someone in household
HIQUAL	Highest qualification (derived from QQUAL_01-QQUAL_12)

Prior to their inclusion in the model, the variables in Table 9.1 were reviewed. Any variables with a small number of cases with missing information had the missing cases recoded to the modal category to ensure such cases were retained in the model and given a weight. Similarly, any variables with small categories (such as ethnicity and religion) had their categories collapsed to ensure sufficient cell size for the modelling.

The model used a stepwise procedure to select the variables from Table 9.1 that were most strongly associated with the likelihood that an individual was issued for the SVTS. Only those variables significantly related to the outcome were retained in the final model; variables that are not significantly related to response behaviour were dropped. The non-response model was run on data weighted by the combined 2018/19 and 2019/20 SCJS individual weight to ensure the model was summarising patterns of non-response around permission to re-contact and being issued for the SVTS, rather than differences in sample composition that have already been corrected for by the combined 2018/19 and 2019/20 SCJS weights, such as unequal selection probabilities.

The model summarises the behaviour of the individuals who gave permission to be re-contacted and was used to generate, for each individual, the predicted probability that they were issued for the SVTS, given their individual, household, and area characteristics. The following variables were significantly related to the likelihood that an individual was issued for the survey, and were therefore included in the final model:

- Respondent's gender and age banded
- Urban Rural Classification (collapsed)
- Accommodation type summary
- Victim status
- Household Composition
- Household Reference Person (HRP) age (grouped)
- Country of birth (collapsed)
- Ethnicity (collapsed)
- Total annual HH income (collapsed)
- Basic economic activity (ILO)
- Socio-economic group (NS-SEC)
- Living as a couple with someone in household
- Whether anyone in household owned or had regular use of a motor vehicle
- Highest formal qualification

Each individual that was issued for the SVTS was given a weight equal to the inverse of their predicted probability of being issued. These weights were checked for outliers and the top 0.5% of weights were trimmed to remove large weights.<sup>48</sup> These weights were then combined with their individual weights from the combined 2018/19 and 2019/20 SCJS data file. These weights adjust the SVTS issued sample to make it more representative of the Scottish population

### **9.2.2 Modelling response of individuals to the SVTS survey**

A second logistic regression model was used to generate the predicted probability that an individual who was issued for the SVTS provided a complete interview. The binary outcome for this model was 1 = An individual provided a completed interview, 0 = Otherwise. Individuals who were not issued for interview are excluded from this model. As with the first model, the socio-demographic and area-level variables listed in Table 9.1 were used as a starting pool of variables and a stepwise procedure was used to identify the variables most strongly associated with the likelihood of giving a completed SVTS interview. Again, only variables significantly related to response were retained in the final model; variables that are not significantly related to response behaviour were dropped. This led to a different set of variables in the second model to the first, since the nature of

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<sup>48</sup> Large weights can inflate the standard errors which has a detrimental impact on sample efficiency. Trimming, or capping, involves reducing the size of the largest weights by replacing the largest weights with a lower value. In this instance, all weights larger than the 99.5<sup>th</sup> percentile were given the value of the 99.5<sup>th</sup> weight.

response behaviour differed slightly at each stage. The following variables were significantly related to the likelihood that an individual who had been issued for SVTS completed an interview:

- Respondent's gender and age banded
- Urban Rural Classification (collapsed)
- Tenure
- Accommodation type summary
- HRP age (grouped)
- Ethnicity (collapsed)
- Whether anyone in household has owned or had regular use of a motor vehicle
- Highest formal qualification

The model was run on data weighted by the combined weight from the first model and the combined 2018/19 and 2019/20 SCJS individual weight.

Each individual that completed a SVTS interview was given a weight equal to the inverse of their predicted probability from the model. These weights were checked for outliers and, as before, the top 0.5% of weights were trimmed to remove large weights. These weights were then combined with the combined weight from the first model and the combined 2018/19 and 2019/20 SCJS individual weight. These weights will bring the profile of the individuals with completed interviews closer to that of the overall population.

The final step in the process was to calibrate this individual weight to population totals by age and gender within Police Division<sup>49</sup>.

### **9.2.3 Individual calibration**

The individual weights generated thus far were used as starting weights in a final calibration step. This combined pre-weight was applied to the survey data for individuals. The execution of the calibration step then modified the pre-weights so that the weighted totals of individuals matched NRS Mid-2019 Population Estimates Scotland totals for age and gender within each of the 13 Police Division areas. Note that generally five-year age breaks are used in the SCJS, however, wider age categories were used for the SVTS owing to the smaller sample size. Table 9.2 shows the overall, marginal distributions by age and gender and by Police Division. It compares the population to the pre-calibrated sample (the sample weighted by the individual combined 2018/19 and 2019/20 SCJS weight and model weights), to the post-calibration adjustment final weight.

Table 9.2 shows how response was lower amongst younger people. The pre-calibration weight (the combined 2018/19 and 2019/20 SCJS weight combined with the weights from the non-response models) brings the sample profile closer to that of the population, the calibration step then ensures the two are in exact alignment

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<sup>49</sup> This stage was required since the SCJS sample, from which the SVTS sample was sourced, was stratified at Police Division level.

**Table 9.2: Pre- and post-calibrated individual weights**

Gender / age & Police Division	Population	SVTS respondents weighted by:		
		SCJS Y3/Y4 weight *	Pre-calibration weight	Post-calibration weight
M 16-29	10.6%	6.3%	9.0%	10.6%
M 30-44	11.3%	8.5%	10.9%	11.3%
M 45-59	12.3%	14.5%	12.3%	12.3%
M 60-69	6.9%	9.5%	7.4%	6.9%
M 70+	7.2%	10.5%	8.3%	7.2%
F 16-29	10.4%	6.2%	8.4%	10.4%
F 30-44	11.7%	9.9%	12.2%	11.7%
F 45-59	13.1%	15.6%	13.2%	13.1%
F 60-69	7.3%	9.5%	8.3%	7.3%
F 70+	9.2%	9.4%	9.9%	9.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Argyll & W. Dunbartonshire	3.2%	3.2%	3.1%	3.2%
Ayrshire	6.8%	6.2%	5.9%	6.8%
Dumfries and Galloway	2.8%	3.4%	3.4%	2.8%
Edinburgh	9.8%	10.5%	10.2%	9.8%
Fife	6.8%	7.4%	7.7%	6.8%
Forth Valley	5.6%	5.4%	5.5%	5.6%
Greater Glasgow	15.4%	14.5%	15.2%	15.4%
Highland and Islands	5.7%	6.6%	6.2%	5.7%
Lanarkshire	12.0%	10.7%	11.9%	12.0%
North East	10.7%	11.2%	10.5%	10.7%
Renfrewshire & Inverclyde	4.7%	4.3%	4.0%	4.7%
Tayside	7.7%	7.9%	7.2%	7.7%
Lothian Scottish Borders	8.9%	8.7%	9.1%	8.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

\* Note that the figures in this table for SCJS Y3/Y4 weight are for the issued SVTS sample, not the achieved Y3/Y4 SCJS sample, hence these figures do not match the population proportions.

### 9.3 Household weight

The starting point for the household weight was the combined weight from the non-response modelling. This individual-level weight was adjusted using up to date information on household size taken from the SVTS to create a household-level weight. This step

effectively ‘undoes’ the correction contained in the combined 2018/19 and 2019/20 SCJS weights for unequal probabilities of selection of individuals within households<sup>50</sup>.

The adjusted weight was then calibrated to a set of household-level information, namely; age of Household Reference Person (HRP), household type, and urban/rural<sup>51</sup>, each within Police Division.

### 9.3.1 Household calibration

The calibration step corrected for unequal probabilities of response across geographic areas and amongst different groups. The adjusted combined weight was applied to the data to act as the entry weight for the calibration. The execution of the calibration step modified these entry weights so that the weighted household totals match the following estimates:

- Household type
- Age of HRP
- Urban/rural areas
- Each of these within Police Division

These variables were included as weighting targets as they are related to levels of crime and victimisation.

NRS publishes household projection tables which provide Local Authority (LA) level data for household type and age of the head of household.<sup>52</sup> The smaller sample size of the SVTS meant the weighting targets were adjusted slightly to ensure there was sufficient sample; for household type the single parent households were combined with the two adults with children households, wider age categories were used for age of HRP, and the urban/rural adjustment was made within Police Division, rather than LA.

The following household types were used:

- One adult, no children
- One or more adults, one or more children
- Two or more adults, one or more children

There were three groups for the age of the HRP:

- 16 to 39
- 40 to 59

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<sup>50</sup> In the SCJS one adult (aged 16+) individual was selected for interview at random from the adults (aged 16+) in each household. Their probability of being selected was inversely proportional to the number of adults within a household – i.e. in a single adult household the only adult resident must be selected but in a three adult household each adult only has a one in three chance of being selected for interview.

<sup>51</sup> For the SCJS the household calibration targets include urban/rural within Local Authority (LA), rather than Police Division. However, the smaller sample size of the SVTS meant this step was done within Police Division.

<sup>52</sup> [Estimates of Households and Dwellings in Scotland, 2020 \(2018-based projections\)](#)

- 60 and over

The Scottish Government's 6-fold Urban Rural Classification was used to assign addresses from the sample frame from the original SCJS sample frames in 2018/19 and 2019/20 (the Postcode Address File – PAF) to urban (categories 1 and 2) or rural (categories 3 to 6). The proportion of urban and rural addresses were then applied to NRS's Estimates of Households and Dwellings in Scotland 2020 at LA level to estimate the total number of urban and rural households in each LA. These figures were then used to generate totals for Police Division.

Table 9.3 shows the population distribution, pre-calibration weight, post-calibration weight, and final weight. Again, these are shown for the marginal distributions of household type, HRP age, urban/rural, and Police Division.

The table shows how non-response was higher amongst households with younger HRPs and couple households without children. It shows how the pre-calibration weight (the combined 2018/19 and 2019/20 SCJS weight combined with the weights from the non-response models and adjusted for household size) brings the sample profile closer to that of the population, and how the calibration step brings the sample and population profiles into exact alignment.



**Table 9.3: Pre- and post-calibrated household weights**

Police Division and demographics	Population	SVTS respondents weighted by:		
		SCJS Y3/Y4 weight*	Pre-calibration weight	Post-calibration weight
Argyll & W. Dunbartonshire	3.4%	3.4%	3.3%	3.4%
Ayrshire	6.9%	6.3%	6.0%	6.9%
Dumfries and Galloway	2.8%	3.5%	3.3%	2.8%
Edinburgh	9.6%	10.4%	10.8%	9.6%
Fife	6.8%	7.5%	7.4%	6.8%
Forth Valley	5.5%	5.3%	5.1%	5.5%
Greater Glasgow	15.3%	14.7%	15.8%	15.3%
Highland and Islands	5.7%	6.7%	6.0%	5.7%
Lanarkshire	12.0%	9.8%	11.2%	12.0%
North East	10.5%	11.6%	11.1%	10.5%
Renfrewshire & Inverclyde	5.0%	4.3%	3.9%	5.0%
Tayside	7.8%	7.8%	6.9%	7.8%
Lothians & Scottish Borders	8.9%	8.7%	9.1%	8.9%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>Household type</b>				
1 adult, no children	36.4%	31.4%	37.6%	36.4%
1+ adult with children	23.8%	21.1%	22.7%	23.8%
>1 adult, no children	39.8%	47.5%	39.7%	39.8%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>HRP age</b>				
16-39	26.2%	19.5%	27.0%	26.2%
40-59	37.0%	37.4%	34.5%	37.0%
60+	36.7%	43.0%	38.5%	36.7%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>Urban/rural</b>				
Urban	31.2%	32.9%	28.1%	31.2%
Rural	68.8%	67.1%	71.9%	68.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

\* Note that the figures in this table for SCJS Y3/Y4 weight are for the issued SVTS sample, not the achieved Y3/Y4 SCJS sample, hence these figures do not match the population proportions.

## 9.4 Victim form weight (incidence weight)

Most victim forms collect details of only a single occurrence of an incident. However, respondents can also experience series of incidents, where the same thing was done under the same circumstances and probably by the same people.

In these cases, only one victim form is completed, collecting details of the *latest incident only*. The total number of incidents that occurred in the series in the reference period is recorded and this number, capped at five incidents, is used in the incidence statistics produced from the survey.

Weighted incident values were calculated for each victim form. The values are the products of the appropriate household or individual weight and the number of incidents (the incident count), capped at five, represented by that victim form<sup>53</sup>. This methodology has been used for the SCJS and earlier crime surveys in Scotland (see [Section 8.2.6](#) for more details)<sup>54</sup>.

This weight should be applied when analysing incident details in the victim form SPSS data file – for example, when analysing who the offender(s) were for ‘all SVTS crime’ and any subgroups of ‘all SVTS crime’ so that data from series incidents are represented in the correct proportion of incidents overall.

Respondents could complete up to five victim forms. The incident count differed according to the characteristics of each victim form:

- whether the incident detailed in the victim form was assigned an in-scope offence code (i.e. the incident was in Scotland, in the reference period and given one of the 33 offence codes included in the ‘all SVTS crime’ definition)
- whether the victim form represented a single incident or a series of incidents

The following rules were applied:

1. where the victim form was not assigned an in-scope offence code, the household or individual weight was multiplied by zero
2. where the victim form was for a single incident, the appropriate weight was multiplied by one
3. where the victim form represented a series of incidents, the appropriate weight was multiplied by the number of incidents represented, up to a maximum of five<sup>55</sup>

In the cases where the multiplier was zero, the number of weighted incidents clearly also became zero, effectively removing those cases from weighted analysis of ‘all SVTS crime’. This enabled estimates of the incidence of ‘all SVTS crime’, and of specific types of crimes within that, to be calculated. Further information is provided in [Section 8.2](#).

## 9.5 Summary of weights

The SVTS technically consists of two highly related, but separate surveys. At various times in the survey, the respondent provides information on behalf of the *household as a whole* and on behalf of themselves as an *individual*. In addition, the victim form (and associated data file) records incidents of victimisation.

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<sup>53</sup> Therefore, a respondent can only have a maximum of 25 incidents included in the survey statistics (five victim forms, each recording up to five incidents in a series).

<sup>54</sup> A similar approach is taken in other victimisation surveys such as the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) and National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) in the USA. For further updates on recent updates to the approach taken in CSEW see [Section 7.2.6](#).

<sup>55</sup> The victim form SPSS data file variable providing the incident count (used to multiply the household or individual weights to produce the incident weight) is NUMINC. The uncapped NUMINC is the variable NSERIES.

There are three main units of analysis used on the SVTS:

1. Households
2. Individuals
3. Incidents of victimisation

Different weights are used depending upon the unit of analysis (and what data file is being analysed):

1. **Household weights** were constructed for use with variables where the *household* is the main unit of analysis. Some crimes are considered household crimes (e.g. housebreaking, vandalism to household property, theft of and from a car – see [Section 8.2.1](#) for further information) and therefore the main unit of analysis is the household. Similarly, analysis for certain questions in the survey is also conducted at the household level (for example, accommodation type or household income – see [Annex 4](#)). In these cases the household weight would apply. The household weight is present in the respondent SPSS data file ([Section 11.1.1](#)).
2. **Individual weights** were constructed for use with variables where the *individual* is the main unit of analysis. The individual weight would also be used when analysing personal feelings of safety when walking alone after dark in the local area and other questions where the respondent is asked for their personal opinion or information about themselves. Analysis of crimes which are considered personal crimes (assault, robbery etc. – [Section 8.2.1](#)) is undertaken using the individual weight. The individual weight is present in the respondent SPSS data file ([Section 11.1.1](#)).
3. **Incident weights** are used when analysing the characteristics of *incidents* of crime. The incident weight is only present in the victim form SPSS data file ([Section 11.1.2](#)). The incident weight is based on the corresponding household and individual weight (depending on whether the crime is classed as a household or personal crime) and additionally incorporates an expansion factor reflecting whether incidents in the victim form reflect a single or a series incident ([Section 9.5.1](#) below). The incident weights are used for all analysis conducted on the victim form SPSS data file if 'all SVTS crime' is being analysed or any of the published statistics are being analysed.

The variable names used for each weight and their descriptions are presented below in [Section 9.5.1](#) and in [Annex 4](#) with details of which variables the household weights are used to analyse.

### 9.5.1 Weighting and expansion variables in SPSS data files

Table 9.4 below lists the weighting variables which are contained in the SVTS SPSS data files.

There are two sets of weights – grossed weights and scaled weights. Grossed weights include an expansion factor so that data can be expressed as a number of the population of Scotland. When using the gross weight to analyse individual based data for a question

asked of the entire sample, the weighted sample size would be 4,541,903 (the total number of adults in Scotland).

**Table 9.4: Grossed weighting variables in the SVTS SPSS data files**

Weighting variable name	SPSS data file <sup>1</sup>	Description
WGTGHHD	Respondent	Household weight
WGTGINDIV	Respondent	Individual weight
WTGTINC_SVTS	Victim form	Gross incident weight for all SVTS crime

<sup>1</sup> Respondent SPSS data file and victim form SPSS data file – see [Section 11.1](#) for details.

When using the scaled weight to analyse individual based data for a question asked of the entire sample, the weighted sample size would be 2,654 (the total number of respondents interviewed). The scaled versions of the household and individual weights are denoted by the addition of `_SCALE` at the end of the weighting variable names. The scaled weights are not suitable to analyse INC variables. They will provide incorrect crime volume proportions. More information on scaled weights is provided in the [2008/09 SCJS User Guide](#)<sup>56</sup>.

When analysing the respondent SPSS data file, individual weights should be used as respondents provide details of their own circumstances, experiences, attitudes and opinions. In a small number of cases, respondents are asked to provide information on behalf of the entire household (for example, the way in which the household occupies the accommodation, whether anyone in the household has owned or had regular use of a car etc.). These questions / variables are listed in [Annex 4](#), and the household weight should be used when conducting analysis of these questions / variables.

In addition, when analysing incidence and prevalence variables for household crimes or crime groups ([Section 8.2.1](#)) in the respondent SPSS data file the household weight should be used. A list of household crimes is provided in [Annex 4](#). Users should note that, following conventions used on the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW), where crime groups containing both household and personal crimes, the individual weights are used in the calculation of published prevalence rates<sup>57</sup>.

<sup>56</sup> The User Guide is structured around the SCJS, but the information contained in it in relation to analysing and manipulating the data are also applicable to the SVTS.

<sup>57</sup> i.e. for PROPERTYCRIME, SURVEYCRIME and COMPARCRIME. For example, property crime includes a mixture of crimes committed against households and individuals, and therefore, for example, prevalence data for property crime in the SVTS Main Findings report is quoted as the percentage of adults experiencing at least one property crime.

## 9.5.2 Calculating rates per 10,000 statistics

This data can be created by users if necessary by using the following syntax which simply divides the gross weights by the total population (household or individual) divided by 10,000:

```
compute WGTGINDIVRATE=WGTGINDIV/(4,541,903 /10,000)
```

```
compute WGTGHHDRATE=WGTGHHHD /(2,509,426 /10,000)
```

Rates per 10,000 statistics for key crime groups are provided in [Section 10.2.3](#).

# 10 STATISTICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND CONFIDENCE INTERVALS

## This chapter includes:

- The concepts of statistical significance and confidence intervals in the SVTS context
- The importance of having a representative sample of the population to draw conclusions on the whole population
- When a finding is statistically significant – when it can be demonstrated that the probability of obtaining such a difference (e.g. when comparing two estimates against each other) by chance only is relatively low
- What the survey design factor is – a measure of survey efficiency that adjusts the estimates because of design features

## 10.1 Statistical significance

The SVTS estimates are based on a representative sample of the population of Scotland aged 16 or over living in private households<sup>58</sup>. A sample is a small-scale representation of the population from which it has been drawn.

Any sample survey may produce estimates that differ from the values that would have been obtained if the whole population had been interviewed. The magnitude of these differences is related to the size and variability of the estimate, and the design of the survey, including sample size.

It is possible to calculate a range of values between which the population figures are estimated to lie; known as the confidence interval (also referred to as margin of error). At the 95% confidence level, when assessing the results of a single survey it is assumed that there is a one in 20 chance that the true population value will fall outside the 95% confidence interval range calculated for the survey estimate. Similarly, over many repeats of a survey under the same conditions, one would expect that the confidence interval would contain the true population value 95 times out of 100.

Changes in observed estimates (for example between population subgroups or pre- and post-lockdown crime levels) may occur due to sampling variation. In other words, even when there are no real differences in population values, differences might be observed from survey samples. These changes may simply be due to which respondents took part in the interview.

Whether this is likely to be the case can be assessed using standard statistical tests. These tests indicate whether differences are likely to be due to chance or represent a real

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<sup>58</sup> The SVTS is a recontact study based on the re-interviewing of those who agreed to be re-contacted after having completed the 2018/19 or 2019/20 SCJS ([Section 2.1](#)).

difference in population figures. In general, only differences that are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level (and are therefore likely to be real as opposed to occurring by chance) are described as differences in the published reports.

The SVTS website provides a [Users Statistical Significance Testing Tool](#), where estimates can be tested against each other to determine whether the differences are likely to be due to chance or represent a real difference. However, it should be noted that the published testing tool may provide indications on significance that differ from the results provided in the [SVTS Main Findings report](#). In the tool, the standard error is calculated assuming a simple random sample and then multiplied by the generic (or averaged) survey design factor to provide the confidence interval<sup>59</sup>. This was done in order to allow users to easily carry out significance testing themselves. Whilst using a generic (or averaged) design factor makes the significance testing less accurate, it provides a reasonable and often conservative estimate of the design factor for most estimates from the survey (see [Section 10.2.2](#)).

### **Relative Standard Error**

Uncertainty can be particularly high around some crime incidence estimates, often where experiences are less common and incident numbers are derived from the experiences of a relatively small number of victims in the sample. The uncertainty for crime incidence figures is assessed by computing the relative standard error (RSE) around the results.

The RSE is equal to the standard error of a survey estimate divided by the survey estimate, multiplied by 100. Estimates with a RSE value greater than 20% are subject to high sampling error and should be used with caution. Table 10.1 below shows the RSEs for the SVTS estimates for key crime groups.

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<sup>59</sup> The significance testing in the SVTS Main Findings report was completed using SPSS which calculates the design factor for each test rather than using the generic design factor. Additionally the SPSS testing uses the complex standard error rather than that based on a simple random sample.

**Table 10.1: SVTS Relative Standard Error (RSE) for key crime groups**

Crime group	RSE
<b>ALL SVTS CRIME</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>PROPERTY CRIME</b>	<b>12%</b>
<b>Vandalism</b>	<b>16%</b>
Motor vehicle vandalism	23%
Property vandalism	21%
<b>All motor vehicle theft related crime</b>	<b>35%</b>
Theft of motor vehicle	100%
Theft from motor vehicle	37%
Attempted theft of / from motor vehicle <sup>60</sup>	n/a
<b>Housebreaking</b>	<b>41%</b>
<b>Other household theft (incl.bicycle theft)</b>	<b>20%</b>
Other household theft	23%
Bicycle theft	38%
<b>Personal theft (excluding robbery)</b>	<b>39%</b>
Other personal theft	47%
Theft from the person	59%
<b>VIOLENT CRIME</b>	<b>26%</b>
<b>Assault</b>	<b>27%</b>
Serious assault	77%
<b>Robbery</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>COMPARABLE CRIME</b>	<b>14%</b>
Acquisitive crime	29%
Vandalism	16%
Violent crime	26%

\* The SVTS recorded no incidents of attempted theft of / from a motor vehicle

## 10.2 Confidence intervals

The SVTS is a recontact study based on the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) sample ([Section 2.1](#))<sup>61</sup>. The SCJS sample design is unclustered but stratified and weighted. Stratification and weighting both affect the precision of survey estimates, as measured by standard errors and confidence intervals. Specific statistical packages are needed to accurately calculate the standard errors and confidence intervals. Complex standard errors and confidence intervals were therefore calculated using SPSS. The calculation of the survey design factor (a measure of survey efficiency) was based upon the stratification and survey weighting. To take account of these sample design features, the standard error for an equivalent simple random sample was approximated by calculating the standard error on the unstratified and unweighted sample (which although

<sup>60</sup> The SVTS recorded no incidents of attempted theft of / from a motor vehicle.

<sup>61</sup> Based on the re-interviewing of respondents who agreed to be re-contacted after having completed the 2018/19 or 2019/20 SCJS.



not a true simple random sample, provides a practical approximation to such, given the more complex design of the actual survey sample).

### **10.2.1 All SVTS crime**

Statistical significance for change in estimates for all SVTS crime (surveycrime) cannot be calculated in the same way as for other estimates. This is because there is an extra stage of sampling used in the individual crime rate (selecting the adult respondent for interview) compared with the household crime rate (where the respondent represents the whole household). Technically these are estimates from two different, though highly related, surveys. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) methodology group has provided an approximation method to use to overcome this problem. This method is also used by the Telephone-operated Crime Survey for England and Wales (TCSEW) and Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW).

The approach involves producing population-weighted variances associated with two approximated estimates for overall crime. The first approximation is derived by apportioning household crime equally among adults within the household (in other words, converting households into adults). The second apportions individual crimes to all household members (converting adults into households).

The variances are calculated in the same way as for the standard household or individual crime rates (i.e. taking into account the complex sample design and weighting). An average is then taken of the two estimates of the population-weighted variances. The resulting approximated variance is then used in the calculation of confidence intervals for the estimate of all SVTS crime. It is then used in the calculation of the sampling error around changes in estimates of all SVTS crime. This enables the determination of whether such differences are statistically significant.

This method incorporates the effect of any covariance between household and individual crime. By taking an average of the two approximations, it also counteracts any possible effect on the estimates of differing response rates by household size.

### **10.2.2 Survey design factors**

If confidence intervals are not provided in the report for a variable of interest, then an approximation may be used. The standard error should be calculated assuming a simple random sample and the value multiplied by an appropriate design factor to provide the confidence interval. Design factors will differ for different types of crime and characteristics. Examination of the SVTS data indicates that the factors for most (nine out of 12) crimes types have values of less than 1.89. This suggests that the use of 1.89 would provide a reasonable and often conservative estimate of the design factor for most estimates from the survey.

### **10.2.3 Summary of confidence intervals around key survey results**

Table 10.2 below shows the best estimates for incidence rates per 10,000 adults / households, along with the lower estimates and upper estimates (i.e. the lower and upper limits of the confidence intervals) for each crime. The design factors are also provided.

Rates are quoted per 10,000 adults for the following crime groups: Personal theft (excluding robbery), theft from the person, other personal theft, violent crime, assault, serious assault, and robbery. The rates for all SVTS crime, property crime and comparable crime rates are combinations of household and individual crimes ([Section 9.5.1](#)). For all other crime groups rates are quoted per 10,000 households.

**Table 10.2: Rates, confidence intervals and design factors for key crime groups (per 10,000)**

Crime rates per 10,000 households/adults	Best estimate	Lower estimate	Upper estimate	Design factor
<b>ALL SVTS CRIME</b>	1,410	1,040	1,780	1.749
<b>PROPERTY CRIME</b>	1,090	830	1,340	1.528
<b>Vandalism</b>	460	310	610	1.297
Motor vehicle vandalism	230	130	330	1.394
Property vandalism	230	140	330	1.207
<b>All motor vehicle related theft</b>	70	20	110	1.220
Theft of motor vehicle	>5	0	10	0.967
Theft from motor vehicle	60	20	110	1.228
Attempted theft of / from motor vehicle*	-	-	-	-
<b>Housebreaking</b>	50	10	90	1.051
<b>Other household theft including bicycle theft</b>	380	230	530	1.695
Other household theft	270	150	400	1.509
Bicycle theft	100	30	180	2.942
<b>Personal theft (exc. robbery)</b>	130	30	230	2.778
Other theft	100	10	200	2.974
Theft from the person	30	0	60	1.834
<b>VIOLENT CRIME</b>	320	150	490	2.135
<b>Assault</b>	320	150	480	2.170
Serious assault	20	0	40	2.427
<b>Robbery</b>	>5	0	10	0.583
<b>COMPARABLE CRIME</b>	940	680	1,200	1.585
Acquisitive crime	160	70	240	1.902
Vandalism	460	310	610	1.297
Violent crime	320	150	490	2.135

Rates are rounded to the nearest 10.

\*The SVTS recorded no incidents of attempted theft of / from a motor vehicle

# 11 DATA OUTPUTS

## This chapter includes:

- Information on the SVTS data outputs
- Useful information to understand data available, what the data covers and what analysis can be carried out using such data
- It refers to the [UK Data Archive](#), where data files are deposited after undergoing a disclosure control review
- Details on the data conventions used in the files published in the UK Data Archive to assist with correct interpretation of variable names and categories

## 11.1 Introduction

The outputs provided to the Scottish Government are two SPSS data files (the respondent SPSS data file and the victim form SPSS data file) as well as two accompanying sets of online [data tables](#) in Excel format which are published on the Scottish Government SVTS website. The two SPSS data files are also deposited on the [UK Data Archive](#) after undergoing a disclosure review ([Section 11.3](#) below). This section provides detail of the content and structure of the data outputs and the conventions used in them.

Users of the SPSS data files on the UK Data Archive should note that the structure of the data files and, for the victim form SPSS data file, the variable sets relating to the dates of the incidents follow that of the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) data files. This consistency has been retained in order to facilitate analysis using syntax which has been used on the SCJS series of SPSS data files. However, as noted in [Section 1.1](#), the SVTS data cannot be compared with the SCJS time-series.

### 11.1.1 Respondent SPSS data file

The respondent SPSS data file is produced at the level of the individual respondent and contains all questionnaire data and associated variables, excluding information that is collected in the victim form. The file also contains additional variables such as geo-demographic variables from the sample data (for example Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation – SIMD) and the derived variables for incidence and prevalence measures based on data collected in the victim form section of the questionnaire. Data for all respondents who took part in the survey are provided in the respondent SPSS data file, irrespective of whether they are classified as victims or non-victims according to their victim form responses.

### 11.1.2 Victim form SPSS data file

The victim form SPSS data file is produced at the level of the individual incident (single or series) and contains all the data collected in the victim form questionnaire for each incident. Thus, an individual respondent who reported three separate incidents and completed three victim forms would have three separate records in the victim form SPSS data file.

All victim forms are included in the file; including cases where the incident occurred outside of the reference period or outside of Scotland. These records were not used for analysis and contain very little information (the victim form questionnaire is terminated in these cases but are retained on the file for use by researchers who may wish to examine this data). Similarly, victim forms which were assigned a non-valid offence code (and therefore were not used in the production of the 'all SVTS crime' statistics from the survey) are also retained ([Section 8.1](#)).

It should also be noted that some victim forms were completed for incidents which happened in the month of interview (i.e. outside of the reference period): these victim forms may have a valid offence code assigned to them but are assigned a zero incident weight and not included in the published survey statistics (and are marked as non-valid at the variables VALID and VALIDSVTS in the victim form SPSS data file).

## 11.2 Content of SPSS data files

The SPSS data files delivered to the Scottish Government contain different types of variables<sup>62</sup>, including:

- Questionnaire variables. SPSS variable names correspond to question labels from the questionnaire documentation. Variable names are also repeated in variable labels
- Incidence and prevalence variables (respondent SPSS data file)
- Geo-demographic variables (both data files). All cases have a set of pre-specified geo-demographic variables attached to them, including 2020 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)<sup>63</sup> and 2016 Scottish Government Urban Rural Classification<sup>64</sup>
- Offence coding variables. On the victim form SPSS data file, a full set of offence codes, including the history, are attached as outlined in [Section 7.1.2](#). The respondent SPSS data file contains the final offence code assigned to each respondent's victim forms
- Derived variables. Many derived variables are also added to the files. There are two main types of derived variables:
  - Flag variables that identify, for example, a victim or non-victim etc. On the victim form SPSS data file, flag variables include whether an incident was assigned and in-scope or out-of-scope offence code ([Section 8.1](#)), whether it was a series or a single incident, and others
  - Classificatory variables derived from the data. These included standard classifications such as banded age groups, household composition, tenure, etc.

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<sup>62</sup> Note that the files available from the UK Data Archive may not include all of the variables discussed here.

<sup>63</sup> SIMD 2020 quintiles (SIMD\_QUINT) and the 15% most deprived (SIMD\_TOP). Scottish Government [website](#).

<sup>64</sup> Details of the 2016 Scottish Government Urban Rural Classification can be found on the Scottish Government [website](#).

- Weighting variables. See [Section 9.5](#) for further information on what these variables are and how they should be used

### 11.3 Disclosure control for datasets available from the UK Data Archive

The files which are deposited with the [UK Data Archive](#) undergo a disclosure review process to ensure that personal data are protected. This process uses the methods of variable removal, top- or bottom-coding and re-coding. Examples of these are provided below. The disclosure report for the SVTS files deposited on the UK Data Archive is available with the survey documentation on the Archive.

- Removed variables include sensitive variables (flags for sexual victimisation recorded in the victim form), geographic variables and some others relating to accommodation type and employment where these variables are summarised in separate variables
- Top-coded variables are those which have numeric values where only a small number of cases have these numbers – for example, number of cars in the household (NUMCAR)
- Re-coded variables include SIMD Quintiles (where a small number of unique data zones were removed)

### 11.4 Conventions used in SPSS data files

Consistency was retained between the SVTS and SCJS data files. In the majority of cases, SPSS variable names correspond to question labels from the questionnaire.

#### 11.4.1 Case identifiers

There are unique case identifiers at the start of both the respondent SPSS data file (where each individual case or record represents an individual respondent) and the victim form SPSS data file (where each individual case or record represents a victim form). The two data files can be linked using these case identifiers since the first six digits of the identifiers are the same. The [2008/09 SCJS User Guide](#)<sup>65</sup> provides details on how this is done.

#### 11.4.2 Don't know and refused values

Don't know and refused codes are standard on most questions. They have been assigned standard values in SPSS to aid data analysis:

- Don't Know: -1
- Refused: -2

For multicode variables in the SPSS data files, the variables relating to the don't know code are named ending 'dk' and for refused 'rf'.

#### 11.4.3 Multiple response variables

Multiple response variables were set up as a set of variables equal to the total number of answers possible (including Don't Know and Refused and any additional codes added in

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<sup>65</sup> The User Guide is structured around the SCJS, but the information contained in it in relation to analysing and manipulating the data are also applicable to the SVTS.

the coding process). Multiple response variables generally follow the format <question label><\_><01> with the underscore denoting a multiple response variable and the number incrementing with each additional variable. Each variable was then given a value of '1' or '0', depending on whether the respondent gave that particular answer or not.

An example of a multiple response variable where there are six possible answer categories, and so six separate variables, is shown below:

ASK IF OFFENDER DID NOT GET INSIDE HOME OR DK OR REF (QIN, CODES 1-3).

QNIN Did the person / people TRY to get inside your house or flat, or your garage, shed or other outbuilding at all during the incident? MULTICODE.

1	Yes – tried to get inside house or flat	[QNIN_01]
2	Yes – tried to get inside the garage	[QNIN_02]
3	Yes – tried to get inside shed or other outbuilding	[QNIN_03]
4	No	[QNIN_04]
	DK	[QNIN_DK]
	REF	[QNIN_RF]

## 11.5 Online data tables

The online [data tables](#) report the responses to questions in the survey, as well as some derived variables. Percentages are based on weighted survey data (so that the data are representative of the population of Scotland).

As well as displaying the aggregate answers given by all respondents (the 'Total' column), the data tables also show how answers to questions vary when respondents are grouped by certain geographic, demographic, attitudinal or experiential categories. These categories, known as the cross-breaks, are displayed along the top of the tables.

The data tables are split into two volumes: the main questionnaire tables (vol 1) and the victim form tables (vol 2). The questionnaire sections which the data tables are from are noted in the 'index' worksheet.

The main survey tables (vol 1) are broken down by age, gender, age within gender, validSVTS victim status (yes/no), fear of crime (feel safe/unsafe walking in local area alone after dark), worry about being a victim of crime, Scottish Government 2016 Urban Rural Classification (2-fold), tenure, the 2020 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD, top 15% deprived vs rest), ability of household to find £100 to meet an unexpected expense, current work-status, disability (long-term limiting illness, yes/no) and key worker status<sup>66</sup>. The victim form tables (vol 2) are broken down by all valid SVTS incidents (survey crimes), property and comparable crime. Only property and comparable crime are displayed in the data tables due to the small sample sizes of other crime groups ([Section 8.3](#)).

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<sup>66</sup> Key worker status (question CVKEYWORK) was defined as “A job defined by the government as critical for the response to the Coronavirus outbreak”.

The online [data tables](#), including guidance how they should be read and conventions used in them are available from the survey website.

# 12 COMPARING THE SVTS WITH OTHER DATA SOURCES

## This chapter includes:

- How SVTS statistics compare with police recorded crime statistics
- Why looking at both results from the SVTS and police recorded crime statistics is important to have a more complete picture of crime in Scotland
- What crime groups from the SVTS can be compared with police recorded crime statistics (i.e. Vandalism, Acquisitive crime and Violent crime)
- Information on comparing the SVTS and its sister survey in England and Wales, the Telephone-Operated Crime Survey for England and Wales (TCSEW)

## 12.1 Comparison with police recorded crime

The SVTS provides estimates of the level of crime in Scotland. It includes crimes that are not reported to or recorded by the police (as well as those that are), but is limited to crimes against adults resident in private households, crimes which occurred in Scotland (for example, not when on holiday) and also does not cover all crime types ([Section 8.1.1](#)).

[Police recorded crime](#) is a measure of those crimes reported to the police and recorded by them as a crime or offence.

In order to compare the estimates of crime from the SVTS and police recorded crime statistics, a comparable sub-set of crime was created for crimes covered by both measures and recorded in a consistent manner. Just over two-thirds (68%) of 'all SVTS crime' as measured by the SVTS falls into categories that can be compared with crimes recorded by the police. The variables which summarise the comparable group of crimes are the *comparcrime* incidence, prevalence and repeat variables (see Section 9.3).

It is possible to make comparisons between the SVTS and police recorded crime statistics for three crime groups:

- Vandalism (including motor vehicle vandalism and property vandalism)
- Acquisitive crime (including bicycle theft, housebreaking and theft of motor vehicles)
- Violent crime (including assault and robbery)

[Section 8.3.2](#) provides further information about these crime groups.

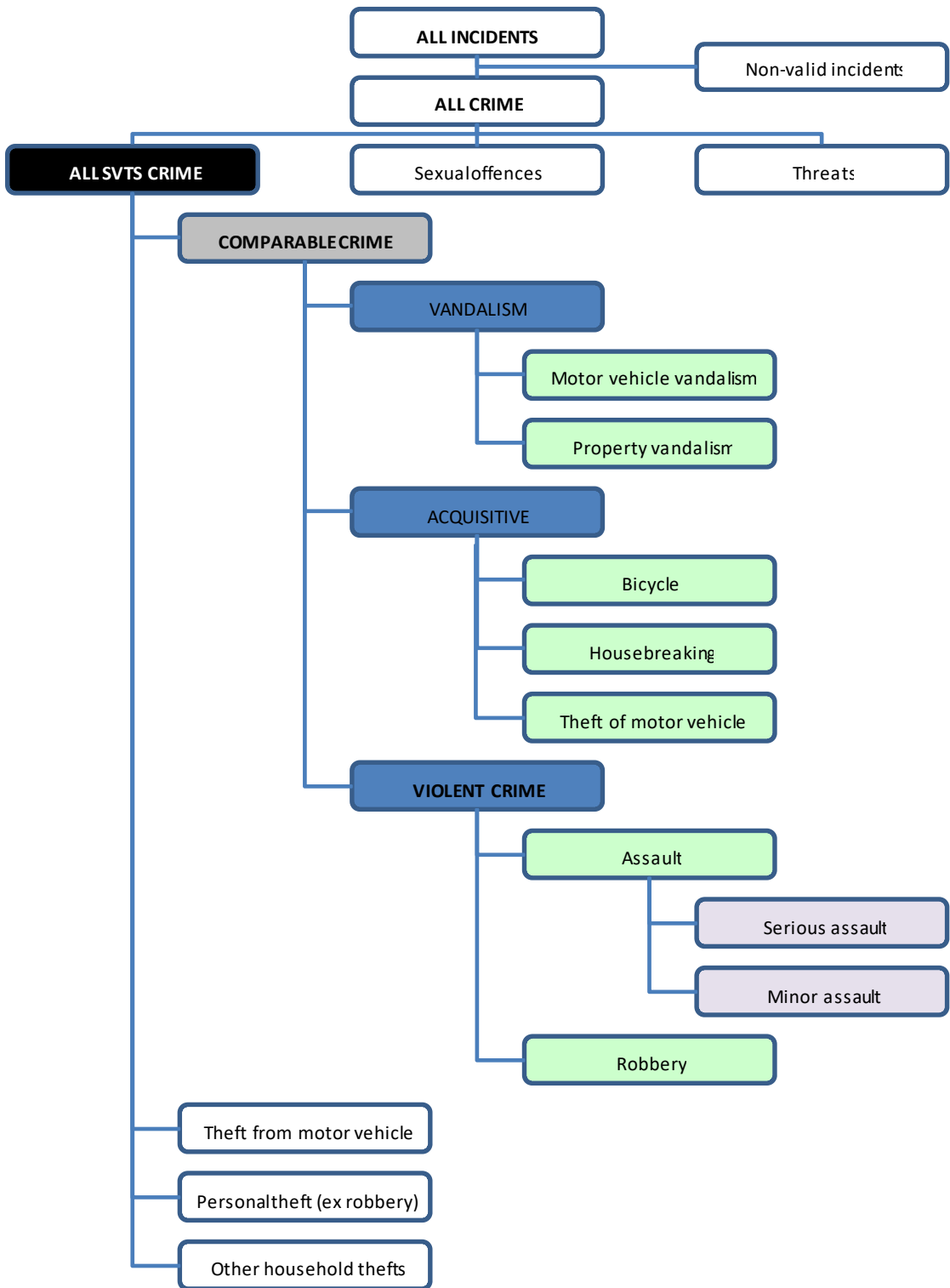
To enable comparison, estimates of the total number of comparable crimes in Scotland were obtained by grossing up the number of crimes identified in the SVTS using National Records of Scotland (NRS) population and household estimates ([Section 8.2](#)).

Police recorded crime statistics used in this report relate to crimes committed between September 2019 and September 2020. The comparable police recorded crime data for



September 2019 to March 2020 was sourced from the annual Recorded Crime in Scotland National Statistics, while the data for September 2019 and April to September 2020 was sourced from the monthly Recorded Crime in Scotland Official Statistics. More information on these series can be found on the Scottish Government [website](#).

**Figure 12.1: Comparable crime groups**



## 12.2 Comparisons with England and Wales

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW), like the SCJS, also had face-to-face fieldwork suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020. A new telephone survey – the [Telephone Operated Crime Survey for England and Wales \(TCSEW\)](#) – was launched, using a similar recontact sample design as the SVTS.

The two elements of comparison between the SVTS and TCSEW – that of comparing responses to attitudinal questions and that of comparing crime statistics – are detailed below. Users should consult TCSEW technical information before starting any analysis, to assess specific differences with SVTS which affect comparability.

### 12.2.1 Attitudinal data comparisons

Some of the questions in the SVTS were based on questions asked in the TCSEW to allow comparisons between Scotland and England and Wales (Table 12.1). TCSEW data for these questions is reported alongside the SVTS data in the [SVTS Main Findings report](#).

Data users should note that the TCSEW data for some of the comparable questions has slightly different fieldwork periods to that of the SVTS. Additionally, when calculating percentage responses to questions, TCSEW analysis excludes ‘Don’t know’ and ‘Refused’ answer categories from the calculations whereas the SVTS does not<sup>67</sup>.

**Table 12.1: SVTS questions which can be compared with TCSEW findings**

SVTS question label	Question text
CVWALKDARK	How safe do you feel walking alone in your local area after dark?
CVHOME	How safe or unsafe do you feel in your home?
CVWORRCHG	Since the virus outbreak would you say you have become more or less worried about being a victim of crime or has there been no real change?
CVSECBEHYR	Since the virus outbreak, would you say that in your DAY TO DAY behaviour you have become more or less security conscious around the home or has there been no real change?
CVPERSCON	Since the virus outbreak would you say that in your DAY TO DAY behaviour you have become more or less conscious about your personal security when out and about, or has there been no real change?

<sup>67</sup> The questions listed in Table 12.1 all have very low levels of “don’t know” and “refused” responses, accounting for less than 3.5% of responses, and thus TCSEW comparisons are made in the SVTS Main Findings report. See User guide to crime statistics for England and Wales - [User guide to crime statistics for England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#).

A further series of questions in the SVTS (Table 12.2) were based on questions asked in the TCSEW, but at the time of the publication of the SVTS Main Findings report, comparable TCSEW analysis including the 'Don't know' and 'Refused' answer categories was not available.

**Table 12.2: Additional SVTS questions which can be compared with TCSEW findings**

SVTS question label	Question text	SVTS don't know / refused %
CVCRIMES	What do you think has happened to crime in Scotland as a whole since the virus outbreak? Would you say it has gone up, gone down or remained the same? (TCSEW uses "England and Wales" instead of "Scotland".)	13%
CVCRIMELOC	What do you think has happened to crime in your local area since the virus outbreak? By your local area I mean within 15 minutes' walk from your home. Would you say it has gone up, gone down or remained the same?	7%
CVRATPOL	Taking everything into account, how good a job do you think the police IN YOUR LOCAL AREA are doing at the moment?	12%
CVPOLVIR	Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way the police IN YOUR LOCAL AREA are responding to the virus outbreak?	18%

### 12.2.2 Crime statistics comparisons

Crime statistics comparisons between Scotland and England and Wales are not made in the [SVTS Main Findings report](#). This is because it is not possible to accurately compare the rate of victimisation recorded by the SVTS with the rate of victimisation recorded by the TCSEW without further analysis. The reason for this is the difference in data collection periods of the two surveys. SVTS data was collected in September and October 2020, and thus captured incidents of crime which occurred between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020. TCSEW data was collected between May 2020 and November 2020, and thus captured incidents of crime which occurred between 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019 and 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020.

Any future comparisons need to also factor in differences in the classification of crimes between the surveys and in the legal system differences between the two countries, as detailed below.

### 12.2.3 Crime definition differences

The coding of crimes differs between the SVTS and the TCSEW (consistently with as it does for the SCJS and the CSEW) which reflects the different criminal justice systems in which they operate. These differences should be borne in mind if any comparisons are made between SVTS and TCSEW estimates in this report.

The SVTS differs from the TCSEW in that it prioritises assault over other crimes when coding offences. For example, if an incident includes both vandalism and assault, the assault component will be assumed to be more serious unless it is clear that the damage to property was the most serious aspect of the incident. This is not the case with the TCSEW where vandalism has priority over assault.

In addition, the intent of the offender to cause harm is not taken into consideration in the SVTS and the offence code given relies only on the injuries that the victim received. The intention of the offender is taken into consideration when assigning offence codes for assaults in the TCSEW.

The definition of burglary in England and Wales as measured by the TCSEW and the definition of housebreaking in Scotland as measured by the SVTS differ in two ways:

1. The mode of entry

In Scotland, housebreaking occurs when the offender has physically broken into the home by forced entry or come in the home through a non-standard entry point such as a window. Even if the offender pushed past someone to gain entry to the home, this would not be coded as housebreaking in Scotland<sup>68</sup>.

Burglary measured by the TCSEW in England and Wales does not necessarily involve forced entry; a burglar can walk in through an open door or gain access by deception.

2. The intention of the offender

Burglary from a dwelling in England and Wales as measured by the TCSEW includes any unauthorised entry into the respondent's dwelling, no matter what incident occurs once the offender is inside. If the offender does not have the right to enter a home, but does so, this will be classified as burglary.

In Scotland, the SVTS records the incident as housebreaking only if there is evidence of either theft from inside the home or an intention to steal in the case of attempted break-ins.

Another difference between the two surveys is that in the SVTS (and the SCJS) the total number of incidents that occurred in a series in the reference period is capped at five incidents. Changes in the CSEW methodology (which also apply to the TCSEW) and analysis in relation to comparing SCJS and CSEW data are presented in the [SCJS 2018/19 Technical Report](#).

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<sup>68</sup> If a theft occurred in this instance, it would be included in the other household theft crime group.

## References

Anderson, S. and Leitch, S. (1996); Main Findings from the 1993 Scottish Crime Survey; Edinburgh, Scotland; The Scottish Office.

Norris, P. and Palmer, J., (2010); Comparability of crime surveys in the UK. Online: Scottish Centre for Crime & Justice Research research paper. Available from the SCCJR website: <http://www.sccjr.ac.uk/pubs/Comparability-of-the-Crime-Surveys-in-the-UK-A-Comparison-of-Victimisation-and-Technical-Details/250>.

# ANNEX 1 - ADVANCE LETTER

All issued sample cases were sent a letter from the Scottish Government in advance of any telephone interviewer calling. [Section 5.4.1](#) provides further details of procedures relating to the advance letter. A copy of the information in the letter is available from the [SVTS website](#).



<First name><Surname> Serial number: <IDREF>  
<add\_line\_1>  
<add\_line\_2>  
<add\_line\_3>  
<add\_line\_4>  
<Pcode>

## Help tackle crime in Scotland

Dear <FIRST NAME>,

You may remember taking part in the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey in <MONTH, YEAR>, carried out by Ipsos MORI and ScotCen on behalf of the Scottish Government. At that time you expressed a willingness to be re-contacted about any follow-up research we might be conducting.

We are writing to you now to ask for your help with a new telephone survey we are carrying out with people across Scotland who recently took part in the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey. We hope we can count on your help.



### WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

The telephone survey will help us better understand and tackle crime in your area and across the country, and to see how the coronavirus has impacted on people's views and experiences in relation to crime. By taking part you will be playing an important role in supporting our work to make communities safer.



### WHAT NEXT?

A telephone interviewer from Ipsos MORI will call you in the next few weeks to take part in the study. So you know who is calling, their call identification number will be 0131 561 4532. We will do everything we can to make taking part as easy as possible for you, and we can call at a time that suits you. Call freephone 0800 238 6378 or email [crimesurvey@ipsos-mori.com](mailto:crimesurvey@ipsos-mori.com) if you have any questions or would like to arrange a convenient time for the interview.



### RESPECTING YOUR INFORMATION

We'll handle your data in accordance with data protection legislation and your answers will be used for statistical and research purposes only.



### ANY QUESTIONS?

For more information, please see the back of this letter or visit [www.gov.scot/collections/covid-18-crime-survey](http://www.gov.scot/collections/covid-18-crime-survey). Alternatively, please email [crimesurvey@ipsos-mori.com](mailto:crimesurvey@ipsos-mori.com) or call us free on 0800 238 6378. You can also contact the survey team at Scottish Government on 0131 244 3012 or email [sojs@gov.scot](mailto:sojs@gov.scot)

Yours faithfully,

Roger Halliday,  
Chief Statistician and Data Officer,  
Scottish Government



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot

## Frequently Asked Questions

### WHAT IS THE INTERVIEW ABOUT?

As in the last interview, the telephone survey will ask about your experiences of crime in the past year. There are also some questions about your perceptions of crime, safety and the police. All experiences and opinions are important, therefore we encourage you to take part whether you have been a victim of crime or not. The telephone survey will be shorter in length than the previous survey and will take, on average, around 20 minutes to complete.

### WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE INFORMATION I GIVE?

Once all the responses have been collated, the information is used by the Scottish Government and organisations like the police to help make important decisions which affect us all. This information is collected in the public interest to help us to understand who is most likely to experience crime, any changes over time and to check if current policies are working.

We will treat the information you give in accordance with data protection legislation. All responses are anonymised and stored securely only for research purposes by the Scottish Government and other authorised research institutes now and in the future.

No one looking at the findings will be able to identify you in any way. Personal details, like your name and address, will only be known to the survey team processing the survey results at ScotCen, Ipsos MORI and the Scottish Government. We won't pass on your details unless you say you are happy for us to do so, and this would only ever be to invite you to take part in further research.

### WHERE CAN I FIND OUT ABOUT MY RIGHTS?

Survey respondents have a number of rights. Most notably, if you choose to take part, you are free to withdraw at any time during the interview and you do not have to answer any question you do not wish to. Further information on your rights once you have taken part, as well as additional details on how your information will be used, is available on the Scottish Government's website: [www.gov.scot/publications/covid-18-crime-survey-interviewee-information](http://www.gov.scot/publications/covid-18-crime-survey-interviewee-information)

### WHO IS CARRYING OUT THE STUDY?

The study is carried out jointly by Ipsos MORI and ScotCen Social Research, on behalf of the Scottish Government. Ipsos MORI and ScotCen are impartial research institutes, independent of all government departments and political parties. For more information visit [www.scotcen.org.uk](http://www.scotcen.org.uk) or [www.ipsos-mori.com](http://www.ipsos-mori.com).

### USEFUL CONTACTS

If you have been the victim of crime, and want some support or information, you can get in touch with Victim Support Scotland: [victimsupportscot.org.uk](http://victimsupportscot.org.uk) ; freephone 0800 150 1985.

More information for interviewees, including details of other support organisations is available on the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey website:

[www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-crime-and-justice-survey-victim-support](http://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-crime-and-justice-survey-victim-support)

If you have any concerns about how your information is being used, you have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner's Office: [ico.org.uk/our-services/handling/](http://ico.org.uk/our-services/handling/)

To contact the Scottish Government's Data Protection and Information Assets team, please email: [dpa@gov.scot](mailto:dpa@gov.scot) or see: [gov.scot/about/contact-information/personal-data/](http://gov.scot/about/contact-information/personal-data/)



Ipsos MORI Scotland, 4 Murray Place, Edinburgh, EH3 8DH, Scotland

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## ANNEX 2 - PLAUSIBILITY AND CONSISTENCY CHECKS

A number of plausibility and consistency checks were included in the Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) script. These are detailed below:

### Main questionnaire

#### Section 2: Victim form screener

- NSEPCHK\_1 to \_20: The number of incidents in a series must be two or greater
- SEPDCHK\_1 to \_20: Date of earliest separate incident must be within the reference period
- CNUMSER\_1 to \_20: The number of incidents in a series cannot be greater than the total number of incidents
- LATCHK\_1 to \_20: The most recent incident in a series must be within the reference period
- INCXCHK\_1 to \_20: The total number of incidents in a series and as separate incidents cannot be greater than the total number of incidents

#### Victim form (Section 3): incident dates: series incidents

- DATESER: Dates of all incidents in a series cannot be before the reference period
- CHECK1: The sum of incidents occurring across all quarters in a series in the reference period cannot be less than the total number of incidents
- CHECK2: The sum of incidents occurring across all quarters in a series in the reference period cannot be greater than the total number of incidents
- MTHQCHK: The most recent month in which an incident in a series occurred should not be after the most recent quarter in which part of a series occurred
- MTHRECCK: The most recent month in which an incident in a series occurred in cannot be before the reference period
- QTRRECIN: The most recent quarter in which an incident in a series occurred cannot be before the reference period
- QQCK: The most recent quarter in which an incident in a series occurred should not be after the most recent quarter in which part of a series happened
- YRINC: The most recent incident in a series cannot be before the reference period

#### Victim form (Section 3): incident dates: single incidents

- MTHINC2: The month the incident occurred in cannot be before the reference period
- QTRINCID: The quarter the incident occurred in cannot be before the reference period
- YRINCIB: The incident cannot be before the reference period

#### Victim form (Section 3): incident details



- DESCRINC: The number of characters entered to describe the incident should be greater than 99 characters
- QCHK1: Reason why victim form is for theft but nothing has been recorded as stolen (QSTO, code 2)
- QCHK2: Reason why victim form is for attempted theft from person but no attempt made to steal anything (QTRY, code 2)
- QCHK3: Reason why victim form is for housebreaking but no attempt made to steal anything (QTRY, code 2)
- QCHK4: Reason why victim form is for vehicle damage / vandalism / damage to property but nothing damaged (QDAM, code 2)
- QCHKSEE: Reason why victim form is for assault / assault within household / threat of force or violence but respondent or anyone else did not have contact with offender (QSEE, code 2)
- QCHK5: Reason why victim form is for assault / assault within household but offender did not use force or violence (QFOR, code 2)
- QCHK6: Reason why victim form is for threats but offender did make threat (QTHR, code 2)

## ANNEX 3 - SVTS OFFENCE CODES AND CRIME GROUPS

33 in-scope offence codes were used in the calculation of 'all SVTS crime'. The table below shows these codes and how they relate to the key crime groups used in the [SVTS Main Findings report](#) and contained in the SPSS data files. It also shows additional crime groups included in the SPSS data files, though not referenced in the SVTS Main Findings report or online [data tables](#) (in the lower half of the table). All variable names in the SPSS data files are prefaced by either INC for incidence or PREV for prevalence.

Variable Name (inc or prev)	Offence Code Description	Offence Code Description																																		
		11	12	13	14	15	21	41	42	43	44	45	50	51	52	53	55	56	57	58	60	61	62	63	64	65	67	71	72	73	80	82	84	86		
		Ind	Ind	Ind	Ind	Ind	Ind	Ind	Ind	Ind	Ind	Ind	Ind	Ind	Ind	Ind	Ind	Ind	Ind	Ind	Ind	Ind	Ind	Ind	Ind	Ind	Ind	Ind	Ind	Ind	Ind	Ind	Ind	Ind	Ind	
<b>surveycrime</b>	<b>All SCJS crime</b>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
<b>property</b>	<b>Property crime</b>																																			
vand	Vandalism crime																																			
motovand	Motor vehicle vandalism																																			
propvand	Property vandalism																																			
allmvtheft	All mv theft related crimes																																			
theftfrommv	Theft from motor vehicle																																			
theftofmv	Theft of motor vehicle																																			
atthftmv	Attempted theft of / from mv																																			
otherhousetheftcycle	Other h'hold theft incidents (in. cycle)																																			
otherhousetheft	Other household theft																																			
bicycletheft	Bicycle theft																																			
housebreak	Housebreaking																																			
perstheft	Personal theft incidents (excl. robbery)																																			
theftfperson	Theft from the person																																			
othertheft	Other personal theft																																			
<b>violent</b>	<b>Violent crime</b>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
assault	Number of assault incidents	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
serassault	Serious assault	1																																		
rob	Robbery																																			
house	Household crime																																			
person	Person crime	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
comparcrime	Comparable crime	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
acquis	Acquisitive crime																																			
violent	Violent crime	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	

**Out-of-scope codes** can be grouped into two categories:

- **Sexual offence or threat codes:** 12 offence codes related to sexual offences or threats (not included in the 'all SVTS crime' statistics).
- **Non-valid codes:** 20 offence codes for classifying incidents recorded in the victim form which were non-valid incidents (outside of Scotland or the reference period, duplicate incidents), where not enough information was collected to make an accurate classification, where the respondent or household was not the victim or the victim form was skipped. As with the sexual offence or threat codes, these 20 codes were not included in the 'all SVTS crime' statistics produced by the survey.

Code / Description		Type
19	Other assault outside of the survey's coverage	<b>NON-VALID</b>
39	Sexual offence outside the survey's coverage	
48	Possibly theft but could have been loss / possibly attempted theft, but could have been innocent	
49	Other robbery or theft from the person outside the survey's coverage	
54	Possible attempted housebreaking (insufficient evidence to be sure)	
59	Other housebreaking, outside of the survey's coverage	
66	Theft of milk bottles from outside dwelling	
68	Possible theft, possible lost property	
69	Other theft / attempted theft outside of the survey's coverage	
87	Possibly vandalism / possibly accidental damage / nuisance with no damage	
88	Attempted vandalism (no damage actually achieved)	
89	Other vandalism outside of the survey's coverage	
99	Other threats / intimidation outside of the survey's coverage	
95	Incident outside of reference period	
96	No crime committed	
97	Insufficient information to code	
98	Incident occurred outside Scotland	
3	'SAME' DUPLICATE	<b>DUPE / SKIPPED</b>
4	'SERIES' DUPLICATE	
90	VICTIM FORM SKIPPED	

31	Rape	
32	Serious assault with sexual motive	
33	Assault with sexual motive	
34	Attempted rape	<b>SEXUAL</b>
35	Indecent assault	<b>OFFENCES</b> <sup>1</sup>
36	Indecent exposure	
37	Rape and housebreaking	
38	Serious assault with sexual motive and housebreaking	
91	Threat to kill / assault made against, but not necessarily to respondent	
92	Sexual threat made against, but not necessarily to respondent	
93	Other threat or intimidation made against, but not necessarily to respondent	<b>THREATS</b> <sup>2</sup>
94	Threats against others, made to the respondent	

<sup>1</sup> The incidence / prevalence variables SEXOFF in the respondent SPSS data file denote all sexual offences.

<sup>2</sup> The incidence / prevalence variables THREAT in the respondent SPSS data file denote all threats.

## ANNEX 4 - VARIABLES FOR ANALYSIS WITH HOUSEHOLD WEIGHTS

The following **questionnaire, derived and incidence / prevalence SPSS variables** should be analysed using household weights. All other variables use the individual weights.

<b>SPSS variable name</b>	<b>Description</b>
MOTORCYC	Whether anyone in h/hold has owned / had regular use of motorbike / scooter / moped during ref period
NUMMOT	How many motorcycles, scooters or mopeds does the household own or have regular use of now?
CAR	Whether anyone in h/hold has owned / had regular use of car / van / other motor vehicle during ref period
NUMCAR	How many cars, vans or other motor vehicles does the household own or have regular use of now?
OWNBIK2	Whether anyone in h/hold has owned a bicycle during ref period
NOWNBIK2	How many bicycles does the household own now?
MOTTHEFT	Has any car, van or other motor vehicle been stolen or driven away without permission?
NMOTTHEF	How many times has a motor vehicle been stolen?
MOTSTOLE	Whether anyone in h/hold has had anything stolen off vehicle or out of it
NMOTSTOL	How many times has anything been stolen off or out of vehicle?
CARDAMAG	Has the vehicle been tampered with or damaged by vandals or people out to steal?
NCARDAM	How many times has the vehicle been tampered with?
BIKTHEFT	Has a bicycle been stolen?
NBIKTHEF	How many times has a bicycle been stolen?
YRHOTHEF	Has anyone got into your home without permission and stolen or tried to steal anything?
NYRHOTHEF	How many times has anyone got into your home without permission and stolen anything?
YRHODAM	Whether anyone has got into home without permission and caused damage
NYRHODAM	How many times has anyone got into your home without permission and caused damage?
YRHOTRY	Has anyone tried to get in without permission to steal or to cause damage?
NYRHOTRY	How many times has someone has tried to get in without permission to steal or to cause damage?
YRHOSTOL	Whether anything was stolen out of the home by someone there with permission
NYRHOSTO	How many times has anything been stolen out of your home?
YROSID	Whether anything was stolen from outside the home

NYROSIDE	How many times has anything stolen from outside your home?
YRDEFACE	Has anyone deliberately damaged or defaced your home or anything outside it?
NYRDEFAC	How many times has anyone deliberately damaged or defaced your home or anything outside it?
QNADULTS	How many adults aged 16 or over live in your household, including yourself
QNCHILD	How many children under 16 live in this household
QDTENUR	Tenure of home
QDTIED	Does accommodation go with the job of anyone in household
QDRENT	Who property is rented from
QACCOM	Property type
QDETACH	House type
QFLAT	Flat type
QOTH	Other accommodation type
QENTRAN	Whether flat shares a common entrance with other people
QFLOOR	Lowest floor of respondent's flat
QDI100	Whether h/hold could find £100 to meet an unexpected expense

The following **derived variables** should be analysed using household weights.

<i>SPSS variable name</i>	<i>Description</i>
TENURE	Household tenure
ACCTYPE	Accommodation type summary
NPERSONS	How many people live in this household?
HHCOMP	Household composition

The **incidence, prevalence and repeat variables** should be analysed using household weights (variables are prefixed by INC, PREV or REP respectively).

<b>SPSS variable name</b>	<b>Description</b>
MOTOVAND	Motor vehicle vandalism
PROPVAND	Property vandalism
THEFTFROMMV	Theft from motor vehicle
ATTTHEFTMV	Attempted theft of / from motor vehicle
THEFTOFMV	Theft of motor vehicle
ALLMVTHEFT	All motor vehicle theft related crimes
BICYCLETHEFT	Bicycle theft
HOUSEBREAK	Housebreaking
OTHERHOUSETHEFT	Other household theft
OTHERHOUSETHEFTCYCLE	Other household theft (including bicycle theft)
VAND	Vandalism
HOUSE	Household crime
ACQUIS	Acquisitive crime

Note that the following *incidence* variables for SURVEYCRIME, COMPARCRIME and PROPERTY **cannot be run using weights** since these are the sum of other incidence variables which are separately weighted by household or individual weights. The prevalence variable versions for SURVEYCRIME, COMPARCRIME and PROPERTY must be run using the individual weights to correctly calculate their prevalence rates.

<b>SPSS variable name</b>	<b>Description</b>
SURVEYCRIME	All SVTS crime
COMPARCRIME	Comparable crime
PROPERTY	Property crime

Please note when using *incidence* variables for analysis the grossing weights should be used instead of the scaled weights as they are not suitable for calculating crime volume proportions.