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- 63% of those who had experienced forced sexual intercourse;
- 58% of those who had experienced attempted forced sexual intercourse;
- 61% of those who had experienced other forced sexual activities;
- 45% of those who had experienced attempted other forced sexual activities.

**Table 4.3: Relationship with the offender(s) – each form of serious sexual assault since the age of 16**

SCJS 2009/10.

Base: Adults who had experienced each form of serious sexual assault since the age of 16 (forced sex 228; attempted forced sex 188; other forced sexual activity 73;<sup>17</sup> attempted other forced sexual activity 103).

Variable name: *FS\_3B4 / FS\_3 / AFS\_3B4 / AFS\_3 / OS\_3B4 / OS\_3 / AOS\_3B4 / AOS\_3*.

	Forced sex %	Att. forced sex %	Other forced sexual acts %	Att. other forced sexual acts %
The person was my partner	63	58	61	45
Someone I was / went on date with	14	14	8	12
Someone I have / had a casual sexual relationship with	1	4	-	8
A family member	6	4	11	8
Someone else I knew	13	17	18	16
Someone I had seen before but didn't know	3	1	2	2
Someone I had never seen before	9	11	7	13
Don't wish to answer	1	1	3	1
Don't know	0	2	1	1

<sup>17</sup> The base size for those who had experienced other forced sexual activities (73) is subject to large confidence intervals so the figures quoted should be used with caution.

#### **4.7 Gender of the offender(s)**

Over nine in ten (91%) adults who had experienced serious sexual assault since the age of 16 said the offender(s) was male and seven per cent said the offender(s) was female. Two per cent said there were some male and some female offenders.

For women who had experienced serious sexual assault since the age of 16 the offender(s) was almost always male (98% said they were male, one per cent said they were female and one per cent said there were some male and some female offenders). Further analysis of the gender of the offender(s) for men who had experienced serious sexual assault was not possible because of the small numbers who had experienced this since the age of 16.<sup>18</sup>

#### **4.8 Reporting to the police<sup>19</sup>**

Respondents who had experienced serious sexual assault since the age of 16 were asked if the police came to know about the most recent or only incident they experienced.

The rate of reporting to the police varied by the form of serious sexual assault experienced:

- Almost two in ten (18%) adults who had experienced forced sexual intercourse since the age of 16 said the police were informed about the latest / only incident they experienced;
- 14% of adults who had experienced attempted forced sexual intercourse since the age of 16 said the police were informed about the latest / only incident;
- One in ten (10%) adults who had experienced other forced sexual activities since the age of 16 said the police were informed about the latest / only incident;
- Just over one in ten (11%) adults who had experienced attempted other forced sexual activities since the age of 16 said the police were informed about the latest / only incident.

Table 4.4 shows the reasons why the police did not come to know about the most recent / only incident of each of the forms of serious sexual assault experienced since the age of 16.

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<sup>18</sup> 34 male respondents said they had experienced serious sexual assault since the age of 16.

<sup>19</sup> Serious sexual assault reported to the police covers all incidents the police came to know about, including those reported by the respondent or someone else, and those where the police were there at the time of the incident or found out in some other way.

**Table 4.4: Reasons the police did not come to know about most recent / only incident experienced of each form of serious sexual assault since the age of 16 <sup>20</sup>**

SCJS 2009/10.

Base: Adults who had experienced each form of serious sexual assault since the age of 16 where police did not come to know about the most recent / only incident (forced sexual intercourse 188; attempted forced sexual intercourse 159; other forced sexual activities 61; attempted other forced sexual activities 87).

Variable name: *FS\_7i, AFS\_7i, OS\_7i, AOS\_7i*.

	Forced sex %	Att. forced sex %	Other forced sexual acts %	Att. other forced sexual acts %
Private, personal or family matter	24	23	16	20
Dealt with the matter myself / ourselves	24	35	34	18
Reported to other authorities / orgs.	5	2	2	1
Don't like / frightened of the police	3	2	4	2
Frightened would make matters worse	33	24	22	23
The police could have done nothing	11	7	12	4
The police would not have bothered or not been interested	7	10	3	5
The police would not have taken it seriously	6	6	10	7
Would have been inconvenient or too much trouble to report	7	13	5	3
Too trivial / not worth reporting	5	10	7	26
Had previous bad experience of police / courts	1	2	1	2
Have been involved with criminal behaviour	-	-	-	2
Another reason	9	5	13	11
Don't wish to answer	1	3	3	7
Don't know	2	1	1	1

<sup>20</sup> Base sizes for other forced sexual activities (61) and attempted other forced sexual activities (87), are relatively small and subject to large confidence intervals so the figures quoted should be used with caution.

## Reference

Morris, S; Anderson, S. and Murray, L. (2002); *Stalking and Harassment in Scotland*; Edinburgh, Scotland; Scottish Executive.



## Annex 1: Data Tables – Experience of Sexual Victimization and Stalking

The following data tables provide data for some of the key measures of sexual victimisation. Notes on how to read and interpret these tables follow.

### Notes:

1. 'Victim status' indicates whether a respondent was the victim of a crime as measured by the SCJS in 2009/10 (for further details of crimes included see Annex 3 of 2009/10 Scottish Crime and Justice Survey: Main Findings:  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/Publications/publications>).
2. 'Deprivation' is measured by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). Breakdowns are for those living in the 15% most deprived areas and those living in the rest of Scotland. See the Scottish Government website for further information:  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/SIMD>.
3. Table A1.2 estimates are based on 95% confidence intervals.
4. Definitions for table column headings are provided in the notes following the respective tables.

**Table A1.1: % who had experienced any stalking / harassment or sexual victimisation <sup>1</sup> since the age of 16 / in the last 12 months by demographic variables**

SCJS 2009/10.

Base: Adults (13,418).

Variable name: SH\_, SV\_, SA\_<sup>1</sup>

<i>Row percentages</i>	<b>ANY stalking &amp; h'ment in last 12 months</b>	<b>ANY less serious sexual assault since age 16</b>	<b>ANY less serious sexual assault in last 12 months</b>	<b>ANY serious sexual assault since age 16</b>	<b>ANY serious sexual assault in last 12 months</b>
<b>AGE</b>					
16-24	13	10	5	2	1
25-44	8	11	1	4	0
45-59	4	9	0	3	0
60 or over	1	5	0	1	0
<b>MALE (TOTAL)</b>					
16-24	10	6	4	1	0
25-44	7	3	0	1	0
45-59	3	2	0	0	-
60 or over	1	1	0	0	-
<b>FEMALE (TOTAL)</b>					
16-24	15	14	6	4	1
25-44	8	19	2	7	0
45-59	4	16	1	5	0
60 or over	2	7	0	2	0
<b>VICTIM STATUS <sup>2</sup></b>					
Victim	11	13	3	5	0
Non-victim	4	8	1	2	0
<b>DEPRIVATION <sup>2</sup></b>					
15% most deprived	7	9	2	4	0
Rest of Scotland	5	9	1	2	0
<b>ALL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>

1. See Table A1.3 for variable names and details of the question used to identify stalking and harassment; Table A1.4 for less serious sexual assault and Table A1.5 for serious sexual assault.
2. For definitions of victim status and deprivation see notes at the start of this annex.

**Table A1.2: Estimates of numbers (000s) <sup>1</sup> of adults who had experienced any stalking or sexual victimisation <sup>2</sup> since the age of 16 / in the 12 months by gender**

SCJS 2009/10.

Base: Adults (13,418).

Variable name: *SH\_*, *SV\_*, *SA\_*.<sup>2</sup>

<i>Numbers of incidents (000s)</i>	<b>Best estimate (000s)</b>	<b>Higher estimate (000s)</b>	<b>Lower estimate (000s)</b>
<b>EXPERIENCED STALKING AND HARASSMENT IN LAST 12 MONTHS (ALL)</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>218</b>
Male	102	118	87
Female	139	155	122
<b>EXPERIENCED LESS SERIOUS SEXUAL ASSAULT SINCE AGE 16 (ALL)</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>349</b>
Male	60	71	48
Female	318	342	293
<b>EXPERIENCED LESS SERIOUS SEXUAL ASSAULT IN LAST 12 MONTHS (ALL)</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>39</b>
Male	15	22	9
Female	34	43	26
<b>EXPERIENCED SERIOUS SEXUAL ASSAULT SINCE AGE 16 (ALL)</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>100</b>
Male	15	21	9
Female	100	113	87
<b>EXPERIENCED SERIOUS SEXUAL ASSAULT IN LAST 12 MONTHS (ALL)</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>
Male	2	3	0
Female	6	10	3

1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest thousand. They are derived by multiplying the prevalence rate by the population aged 16+. Population estimates were based on mid-2009 population estimate in Scotland produced by GROS of 4,281,650 adults aged 16+.
2. See Table A1.3 for variable names and details of the question used to identify stalking and harassment; Table A1.4 for less serious sexual assault and Table A1.5 for serious sexual assault.
3. Higher and lower estimates are derived using the 95% confidence interval.

**Table A1.3: % who had experienced stalking and harassment<sup>1</sup> in the last 12 months by demographic variables**

SCJS 2009/10.

Base: Adults (13,418). Variable names: *SHSENT*, *SHCALLS*, *SHLOIT*, *SHFOLL*.

<i>Row percentages</i>	<b>ANY stalking &amp; h'ment</b>	<b>Unw'ted corresp.</b>	<b>Unw'ted tel. calls</b>	<b>Anyone waiting outside</b>	<b>Watched / followed</b>
<b>AGE</b>					
16-24	13	6	6	2	4
25-44	8	4	3	1	1
45-59	4	2	2	1	1
60 or over	1	0	1	0	0
<b>MALE (TOTAL)</b>					
16-24	10	4	5	1	3
25-44	7	4	3	1	1
45-59	3	2	1	1	1
60 or over	1	0	0	-	0
<b>FEMALE (TOTAL)</b>					
16-24	15	8	7	2	5
25-44	8	4	4	2	2
45-59	4	2	2	1	0
60 or over	2	0	1	0	0
<b>VICTIM STATUS<sup>2</sup></b>					
Victim	11	6	6	2	3
Non-victim	4	2	2	1	1
<b>DEPRIVATION<sup>2</sup></b>					
15% most deprived	7	3	4	1	2
Rest of Scotland	5	3	2	1	1
<b>ALL</b>					
	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

- The following question was used to identify victims of stalking and harassment: "Since the 1<sup>st</sup> of <month>, has anyone ever done any of the following things to you? This may have been a partner, a family member, someone you knew casually, or a stranger". The response options and corresponding table headers are listed below:
  - Sent you a number of unwanted letters, emails, text messages or cards that were either obscene or threatening (shown as 'Unw'ted corresp.' in the table above);
  - Made a number of obscene, threatening, nuisance or silent phone calls to you (shown as 'Unw'ted tel. calls' in the table above);
  - Waited or loitered outside your home or workplace on more than one occasion (shown as 'Anyone waiting outside' in the table above);
  - Followed you around and watched you on more than one occasion (shown as 'Watched / followed' in the table above).
- For definitions of victim status and deprivation see notes at the start of this annex.

**Table A1.4: % who had experienced less serious sexual assault <sup>1</sup> since the age of 16 by demographic variables**

SCJS 2009/10.

Base: Adults (13,418). Variable names: *SVINEX*, *SVST*, *SVTS*.

<i>Row percentages</i>	<b>ANY less serious sexual assault</b>	<b>Indecent exposure</b>	<b>Unwanted sexual touching</b>	<b>Sexual threats</b>
<b>AGE</b>				
16-24	10	6	5	1
25-44	11	5	6	3
45-59	9	6	4	2
60 or over	5	3	1	1
<b>MALE (TOTAL)</b>				
	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
16-24	6	5	2	1
25-44	3	1	2	0
45-59	2	1	1	1
60 or over	1	1	1	0
<b>FEMALE (TOTAL)</b>				
	<b>14</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>
16-24	14	7	9	1
25-44	19	9	10	6
45-59	16	11	7	4
60 or over	8	6	2	1
<b>VICTIM STATUS <sup>2</sup></b>				
Victim	13	7	6	4
Non-victim	8	5	4	2
<b>DEPRIVATION <sup>2</sup></b>				
15% most deprived	9	4	4	3
Rest of Scotland	9	5	4	2
<b>ALL</b>				
	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>

- The following question was used to identify victims of less serious sexual assault: "Since the age of 16, has anyone ever done any of the following without your consent? This may have been someone you were in a relationship with, someone you knew or a stranger". The response options and corresponding table headers are listed below:
  - Indecently exposed themselves to you (i.e. flashing); (shown as 'Indecent exposure' in the table above);
  - Sexually threatened you (e.g. demanded sex when you did not want it, followed or cornered you in a sexually threatening way); (shown as 'Sexual threats' in the table above);
  - Touched you sexually when you did not want it (e.g. groping, touching of breasts, bottom, or genitals, unwanted kissing); (shown as 'Unwanted sexual touching' in the table above).
- For definitions of victim status and deprivation see notes at the start of this annex.

**Table A1.5: % who had experienced serious sexual assault <sup>1</sup> since the age of 16 by demographic variables**

SCJS 2009/10.

Base: Adults (13,418). Variable names: SAFS, SAAFS, SAOS, SAAOS.

<i>Row percentages.</i>	<b>ANY serious sexual assault</b>	<b>Forced sex</b>	<b>Att. forced sex</b>	<b>Forced other sexual activity</b>	<b>Att. forced other sexual activity</b>
<b>AGE</b>					
16-24	2	1	1	1	0
25-44	4	2	2	1	1
45-59	3	2	1	1	1
60 or over	1	1	0	0	0
<b>MALE (TOTAL)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
16-24	1	1	0	-	0
25-44	1	0	0	0	1
45-59	0	0	0	0	0
60 or over	0	0	0	0	0
<b>FEMALE (TOTAL)</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
16-24	4	1	2	1	1
25-44	7	4	3	1	2
45-59	5	3	2	1	2
60 or over	2	1	1	0	0
<b>VICTIM STATUS <sup>2</sup></b>					
Victim	5	3	2	1	1
Non-victim	2	1	1	0	1
<b>DEPRIVATION <sup>2</sup></b>					
15% most deprived	4	3	2	1	1
Rest of Scotland	2	1	1	0	1
<b>ALL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

See next page for notes.

1. The following question was used to identify victims of serious sexual assault: “Since the age of 16, has anyone ever done any of the following without your consent? This may have been someone you were in a relationship with, someone you knew or a stranger”. The response options and corresponding table headers are listed below:
  - a. Forced you (either physically or by threatening you) to have sexual intercourse(vaginal or anal) when you did not want to (shown as “Forced sex” in the table above);
  - b. Tried to force you (either physically or by threatening you) to have sexual intercourse (vaginal or anal) when you did not want to (shown as “Att. forced sex” in the table above);
  - c. Forced you (either physically or by threatening you) to take part in another sexual activity (for example, oral sex) when you did not want to (shown as “Forced other sexual activity” in the table above);
  - d. Tried to force you (either physically or by threatening you) to take part in another sexual activity (for example, oral sex) when you did not want to (shown as “Att. forced other sexual activity in the table above).
2. For definitions of victim status and deprivation see notes at the start of this annex.

## Annex 2: Self-completion Questionnaire Method

Crime and victimisation surveys have been carried out in Scotland since the early 1980s. The geographical coverage, sample size, method and reference period have varied across these surveys. The current survey was launched in April 2008 as the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) and it represented a major shift in design, methodology and sample size from previous surveys.

The design of the SCJS 2009/10 was the same as the 2008/09 survey, with the addition of further stratification by Local Authority (LA). The self-completion section of the questionnaire for sexual victimisation remains the same as the 2008/09 questionnaire with the exception of parts of the section on serious sexual assault where the time-period which some of the follow-up questions referenced was increased from the last 12 months to since the age of 16 (Section A2.3).

All respondents were asked to answer the self-completion section of the questionnaire – there were no limits on age.<sup>21</sup>

This annex provides more detail about aspects of the self-completion section questionnaire and specifically about the questions covering sexual victimisation and stalking. Details are also included about the self-completion interview and the weighting used on the data.

Further information about the design of the SCJS is contained in Annex 2 of 2009/10 Scottish Crime and Justice Survey: Main Findings and in the accompanying Technical Report to the survey.<sup>22</sup>

### **A2.1 The self-completion interview**

Interviews for the SCJS 2009/10 were conducted in the respondent's home using Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) and, for more sensitive questions in the self-completion section of the questionnaire such as those reported here, Computer Assisted Self-completion Interviewing (CASI). Interviews lasted 37 minutes on average in total, with the self-completion section taking just over 10 minutes on average to complete.

The results included in this report are based on interviews conducted by TNS-BMRB between 01 April 2009 and 31 March 2010. Respondents to the SCJS had the option of refusing to participate in the self-completion section which means this part of the questionnaire was not completed by all 16,036

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<sup>21</sup> The 2006 Scottish Crime and Victimization Survey (SCVS) only asked respondents aged 16 – 59 to answer the self-completion section of the questionnaire and the British Crime Survey (BCS) retains this design.

<sup>22</sup> Scottish Government website: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/Publications/publications>.



respondents to the main survey. 13,418 respondents agreed to participate in the self-completion questionnaire, a response rate of 84%.

The majority of respondents who answered the self-completion questions used the touch sensitive tablet PC on their own without any help from the interviewer (66%). Just over a third (34%) of respondents asked the interviewer to enter their answers for them. A dislike of computers was the most common reason why respondents asked the interviewer to enter their answers for them (mentioned by 66%), while running out of time was the most common reason given for respondents refusing to complete it (mentioned by 52%). Only six per cent of respondents refused to complete the self-completion questionnaire because of worries about confidentiality.<sup>23</sup>

As interviewing for the SCJS was continuous over the course of 12 months from April 2009 to the end of March 2010, the reported measure of 'in the last 12 months' covers a 12 month period which varies according to the date of the interview. More information on the survey 'reference period' is available in the Technical Report.

## ***A2.2 Non-response to the self-completion section***

Table A2.1 compares the profile of respondents who answered the self-completion section of the questionnaire (including those who did so where the interviewer administered the questionnaire) and those who did not answer it:

- Equal proportions of males and females answered the self-completion section (84%);
- The proportions of respondents who answered the self-completion section decreased as age increased (for example, 88% of 16-24 year olds answered the self-completion section compared with 79% of those aged 60 or over);
  - Similar proportions of males and females within age groups answered the self-completion section;
- A lower proportion of those living in the 15% most deprived areas answered the self-completion section compared with those living in the rest of Scotland (78% and 85% respectively);<sup>24</sup>
- There were only minor differences in response rates between those who had been a victim of crime, as identified by the SCJS 2009/10 and those who had not (85% and 83% respectively).

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<sup>23</sup> Data described in this paragraph are unweighted.

<sup>24</sup> Scottish Government website: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/SIMD/>.

**Table A2.1: % of respondents overall and in selected sub-groups who did and who did not answer the self-completion section** <sup>25</sup>

SCJS 2009/10.

Base: All respondents (16,036).

<i>Row percentages</i>	<b>Self-completion %</b>	<b>No self-completion %</b>
<b>AGE</b>		
16-24	87.7	12.3
25-44	86.7	13.3
45-59	86.0	14.0
60+	78.7	21.3
<b>MALE (TOTAL)</b>		
	<b>83.7</b>	<b>16.3</b>
16-24	86.8	13.2
25-44	86.4	13.6
45-59	85.3	14.7
60+	79.8	20.2
<b>FEMALE (TOTAL)</b>		
	<b>83.6</b>	<b>16.4</b>
16-24	88.5	11.5
25-44	87.0	13.0
45-59	86.6	13.4
60+	77.9	22.1
<b>VICTIM STATUS</b>		
Victim	85.2	14.8
Non-Victim	83.4	16.6
<b>DEPRIVATION</b>		
15% most deprived	77.9	22.1
Rest of Scotland	84.5	15.5
<b>ALL</b>	<b>83.7</b>	<b>16.3</b>

### ***A2.3 Questionnaire content***

The SCJS questionnaire has a complex structure, but basically consists of three elements:

- The **main questionnaire** consists of a set of core modules asked of the whole sample, including demographics; and a set of **quarter-sample modules**, containing questions on a variety of topics;

<sup>25</sup> Data displayed in the table are unweighted.

- A **victim form questionnaire** which collects details about the separate incidents a respondent may have experienced during the reference period. This victim form can be repeated up to five times. The number of victim forms completed depends on the number and nature of incidents respondents experienced;
- A **self-completion questionnaire** covering sensitive issues. All respondents were asked to complete a self-completion questionnaire, but had the option to refuse this due to the sensitive nature of the questions.

The questions on sexual victimisation and stalking were included in the self-completion questionnaire.

Respondents were first asked about whether they had been stalked or harassed in the 12 month reference period (including confirmation of whether this was via written correspondence; telephone calls; someone waiting outside their home or workplace; someone following them).

Subsequently they were asked about sexual victimisation. This included:

- Less serious sexual assault which included indecent exposure, sexual threats and being touched sexually when it was unwanted;
- Serious sexual assault which included forced sex or being forced into another sexual activity and attempts to do these.

Those who experienced stalking and harassment or less serious sexual assault were asked similar follow-up questions. These included who the offender(s) was and what their relationship to the respondent was. The respondent was also asked whether the police came to know about the incident, and if not, why not.

Those who experienced less serious sexual assault were also asked the gender of the offender(s); whether the incident happened in Scotland; when the incident(s) happened; how many times it happened in the last 12 months and how the incident was reported to the police (if it was reported).

The time-period which some of the follow-up questions for serious sexual assault asked about was increased compared to the 2008/09 survey from incidents occurring in the 12 month reference period to incidents occurring since the age of 16. This amendment to the questionnaire was made to increase the number of cases available as numbers in 2008/09 were too low to allow robust analysis.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> The accompanying Technical Report provides further information on this issue.

Broadly, the same follow-up questions that were asked for incidents of less serious sexual assault were asked for each type of serious sexual assault the respondent had been the victim of – these included:

- When the incidents(s) happened (in the last 12 months, longer ago or both); and how many times they occurred during the 12 month reference period and since the age of 16;
- What the relationship was between the respondent and the perpetrator(s) and the gender of the perpetrator(s) for all incidents and the latest incident both for those happening in the 12 month reference period and those happening prior to the 12 month reference period since the age of 16;
- For the latest incident (irrespective of when this was), whether it happened in Scotland; what, if any, physical injuries were sustained as a result of the assault; whether the police came to know about the incident; how it was reported or if it was not, then the reason why not; whether it was reported as a crime and if so, whether there was a prosecution and conviction;
- For the latest incident in the 12 month reference period, the location of the assault, the psychological impacts, whether the respondent perceived the incident as a crime or not, satisfaction with police handling of the matter and reasons for dissatisfaction (where applicable), people or organisations informed of the assault, and whether respondents or the offender(s) were under the influence / had been given drugs or alcohol at the time of the assault.

To avoid collecting incident details more than once, the self-completion questionnaire was linked to the victim form. If an incident of stalking and harassment or sexual victimisation had been mentioned in the victim form (as identified by the respondent) then details from this were incorporated into the self-completion data and are included in this report.<sup>27</sup>

#### **A2.4 Disclosure of sensitive information**

Given the sensitive nature of the questions, a separate ‘don’t wish to answer’ button was provided at the top of the screen at every question in the self-completion section of the questionnaire. At the start of the sexual victimisation questions, respondents were reminded that they could skip such sensitive questions that they did not want to answer:

*Although the questions may seem quite intrusive they are important in helping us understand more about these types of crime. If the questions upset you in any way you can just pass over them by pressing ‘Don’t wish to answer’. However, we hope you will continue to the end.*

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<sup>27</sup> See section 5.4 of the Technical Report for more details of how this was done.

For the three initial screening questions which established whether a respondent had experienced stalking and harassment, less serious sexual assault, or serious sexual assault, no more than two per cent of respondents said they did not wish to answer these questions.<sup>28</sup>

## **A2.5 Measuring sexual offences**

Sexual offences (including those measured in the self-completion section of the questionnaire) were *not* included in the overall crime measures produced by the SCJS due to the fact that specific detailed questions on sexual assault were not asked as part of the victim form questionnaire (the instrument which allows accurate offence coding to be undertaken in a manner comparable to how the police would record crimes).

A specific question on sexual assault was not included in the victim form screener questions for two reasons:

1. Victims are often reluctant to disclose information on these sensitive crimes in a face-to-face interview and therefore surveys using face-to-face data collection rather than self-completion tend to under represent them.<sup>29</sup> (Of course it is important to note that self-completion data collection is still likely to underestimate the number of actual sexual offences occurring as, even with a self-completion format, a degree of under-reporting would be expected.)
2. Ethically, a decision was taken that it was important to identify respondents' experiences of sexual assault (and to gather limited key information about the incidents) in as sensitive a way as possible without putting respondents in an uncomfortable position (either by asking questions face-to-face or asking lots of detailed questions).

As a result, sexual victimisation is reported separately in the current volume.

Incidents gathered in the self-completion questionnaire could not be assigned offence codes in the same way as those collected in the victim form as only a limited number of follow-up questions were asked about incidents (reflecting an ethical decision based on potential respondent distress at having to disclose information).

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<sup>28</sup> This percentage figure is based on weighted data.

<sup>29</sup> Details of sexual crimes were recorded in the victim form where the respondent mentioned them unprompted, but were not probed for specifically in the same way as they were in self-completion questionnaire.

## **A2.6 Weighting**

The results obtained in the SCJS 2009/10 were weighted to correct for the unequal probability of selection for interview caused by the sample design and for differences in the level of response among groups of individuals.

In view of the reduced response to the self-completion section (84% of respondents to the main survey answered the self-completion section) additional weighting was necessary for use when analysing this sub-sample. The self-completion weights were calculated in a similar way to the main individual and household weights but based only on respondents who had answered the self-completion section of the questionnaire.<sup>30</sup> The individual weight was applied to all of the questions included in this report as they all related to the experiences and opinions of individuals.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> Further detail of the weighting used in the survey and an explanation of when to use the different weights is provided in the accompanying Technical Report.

<sup>31</sup> Data is available on the UK Data Archive's website at: <http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>.

## A NATIONAL STATISTICS PUBLICATION FOR SCOTLAND

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This report has been produced by researchers from the respected independent social research organisation TNS-BMRB working with Scottish Government Researchers in the Justice Analytical Services Department.

### ***UK Statistics Authority - Assessment Report***

Under the provisions of the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007, the UK Statistics Authority has a statutory function to assess sets of statistics against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, with a view to determining whether it is appropriate for the statistics to be designated, or retain their designation, as National Statistics. Designation as National Statistics means that statistics are deemed to be compliant with the Code of Practice.

The statistics published from the *Scottish Crime and Justice Survey* have been assessed by the UK Statistics Authority and have been confirmed as National Statistics. The Scottish Government reported back to the Authority in January 2010 on some specific enhancements it was to make, as identified by the Authority. The Assessment Report, which was published in September 2009, can be accessed via the following link:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-12---scottish-crime-and-justice-survey--15-september-2009.pdf>.

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