https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-household-survey-2019-annual-report/

Key Findings**:** https://shs.theapsgroup.scot/2019/key-findings

Temporal analysis: https://shs.theapsgroup.scot/2019/summary-report/12/

Data Explorer: https://scotland.shinyapps.io/sg-scottish-household-survey-data-explorer/

The Scottish Household Survey is published every year and covers a wide range of topics and is designed to provide reliable and up-to-date information on the composition, characteristics, attitudes and behaviours of private households and individuals in Scotland, nationally and for local authorities, as well as on the physical condition of Scotland's homes. It covers a wide range of topics to allow links to be made between different policy areas.

The findings from the most recent Household Survey translate to community safety issues and this briefing aims to summarise findings that relate to community safety. Section 4 of the Household Survey is all about neighbourhoods and community, including how households rate their neighbourhood to live, how strongly people feel a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood, neighbourhood strengths, perception of problem areas, how safe people feel, whether people have experienced discrimination and experiences of harassment. There is a clear relationship between how safe people feel and how they rate their neighbourhood as a place to live. In addition, it is clear from the survey findings that people living in more deprived communities experience their home and community in very different terms than people living in more affluent areas.

The table below shows how some of the findings from the Scottish Household Survey relate to Community Safety as well as the potential implications for current and future practice.

Scottish Household Survey finding	Implications for community safety
Over three-quarters (78 per cent) of adults felt a very or fairly strong sense of belonging to their neighbourhood in 2019. This varied according to age, ethnic group and deprivation; sense of belonging was lower	Although overall the responses are positive, sense of belonging is lower for minority groups and those living in deprived areas, presenting risks relating to community safety such as loneliness, isolation and feelings of fear

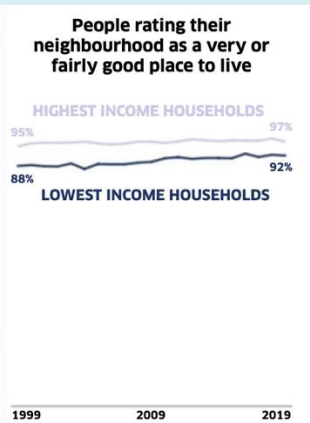for younger people, ethnic minorities and people living in deprived areas

People were more positive about the people-based features of their neighbourhood (such as kindness and trust) and less positive about the physical aspects of their neighbourhoods (such as the availability of places to socialise and meet new people)

Covid-19 restriction are now firmly in place for months to come. Will positive feelings about people-based features of neighbourhoods will increase of decrease in the upcoming months?

In 2019, the majority of adults in Scotland rated their neighbourhood as a very good place to stay.

This increased from 49% in 1999 to 57% in 2019.

In 1999, 58% of adults in the highest income group rated their neighbourhood as a very good place to live. This increased to 66 % in 2019.

For adults in the lowest income group, 46% rated their neighbourhood as a very good place to live in 1999 and this rose to 53% in 2019.

People rating their neighbourhood as a very or fairly good place to live

HIGHEST INCOME HOUSEHOLDS
95%   97%
88%   92%
LOWEST INCOME HOUSEHOLDS

1999   2009   2019

Although perceptions of neighbouhoods has improved over time, people from lower income households have a poorer preception of their neighbouhood as a safe place to live. From a community safety perspective, what more can be done by Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to encourage participation from members of the community in planning and developing neighbourhood plans? Achieving greater participation could help more deprived communitites to identify and enact solutions which in time could improve perceptions and feelings of safety.

Around one-in-five adults living in Scotland experienced feelings of loneliness in the last week, and this didn't vary by age. Although level of deprivation did not impact social isolation, as measured by the number of people meeting socially at least once a week, those living in the most deprived areas were almost twice as likely to experience feelings of loneliness as those living in the least deprived areas. Disabled people were more than twice as likely to experience loneliness as non-disabled people.

Loneliness can increase chances of illness and injury. Those living in deprived areas are more likely to experience loneliness. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, many public services and community programmes have closed, putting those at high risk in an even more tenuous position. This could have implications for community safety issues in the months to come.
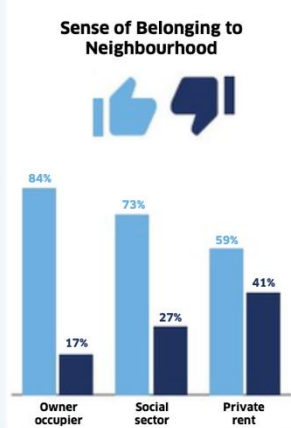
Those living in private rented accommodation are more likely to not feel a sense of belonging to their

Over three-quarters (78 per cent) of adults felt a very or fairly strong sense of belonging to their neighbourhood.

This differed across the different housing sectors. Among owner occupiers, 84% reported that they felt a very or fairly strong sense of belonging, while the equivalent number in the social rented sector was 73%.

In the private rented sector, only 59% reported that they felt a very or fairly strong sense of belonging.

Similarly, people living in less deprived areas were more likely to report a strong sense of belonging than those is more deprived areas.

Sense of Belonging to Neighbourhood

neighbourhood. How can CSPs and those working within community safety work with landlords and renters to understand why this is and what can be done to foster a stronger sense of community for this demographic.

Those living in the 20 per cent most deprived areas were more likely to experience neighbourhood problems. The neighbourhood problems that were perceived as most common were 'animal nuisance' (32 per cent) and 'rubbish or litter lying around' (31 per cent).

This rings true with the other findings in the survey, whereby people living in deprived neighbourhoods are more vulnerable to having negative experiences within their neighbourhood. Collaboration with citizens is key to achieving lasting change and co-producing solutions alongside communities.

A higher proportion of internet users who were older or were living in the 20% most deprived areas answered that they adopt very limited online security measures

In the wake of Covid-19, digital communication has become more prevelant. This is a potential risk for older adults who increasingly use technology, however, may not understand risks of online criminal activity and scams.

Adults in the 20% least deprived areas were more likely to rate their neighbourhood as a very good place to live than those in the 20% most deprived areas (77% in the least deprived areas, and 32% in the most deprived areas). This gap has remained stable over the last decade.

No improvement in this indicates that not enough is being done to work with communities in deprived areas to improve services and infrastructure, in turn increase perception of neighbourhoods. Community Safety Partnerships could play a key role in engaging community members from the most deprived areas.

There has been a steady increase in the proportion of adults viewing climate change as an immediate and urgent problem, from 46 percent in 2013 to 68 percent in 2019.

An increasing number of people are aware of the impact of climate change. Efforts should be made to understand the different scenarios in which climate change could affect community safety.

This is a high number and has huge implications for community safety.

One in 13 adults (8 per cent) reported that they had experienced discrimination and one in 17 (6 per cent) had experienced harassment in the last 12 months. Some groups were more likely than others to report having experienced discrimination or harassment in Scotland, for instance ethnic minorities, people who are gay/lesbian/bisexual and those who belong to a religion other than Christianity.	For example, with widening inequality and rising unemployment, rises in discrimination and hate crime could become more common in the upcoming months. Engaging minority groups such as the BAME community in Community Safety Partnerships and local planning could help provide targeted, sustainable solutions to complex issues.

Summary

The Scottish Household Survey covers many different issues and themes that translate in policy areas spanning housing to mental health to civic engagement. Community Safety covers a very broad policy landscape and the Household Survey can assist practitioners working within community safety to gain a broader understanding of national attitudes and experiences of community safety issues. More work needs to be done to unpick the experiences of different community groups in more detail. For example, the experiences of different groups from the BAME community, over 60s population, younger people and LGBTQ communities. By creating a strong and accurate narrative of community safety experiences for these groups, effective, person centred and responsive community safety activity can be planned and delivered in partnership.