

# Worksheet 1: How has crime changed in Scotland?

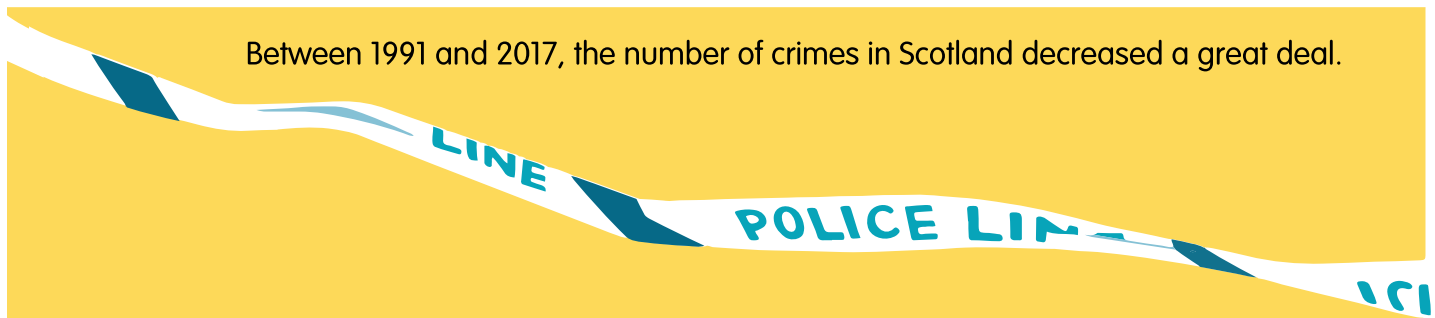


- L1 – To understand that the rates and types of crime committed in Scotland vary over time
- SC – Pupils can describe the changes in the rates and types of crime in Scotland over recent years
- SC – Pupils are able to suggest possible reasons for these changes

According to police statistics, the number of crimes in Scotland steadily increased between the 1950's and the 1990's.



Between 1991 and 2017, the number of crimes in Scotland decreased a great deal.



The number of property crimes (which includes stealing cars or stealing from people's homes) fell by 74% between 1991 and 2017.

The number of violent crimes (which includes assault and murder) fell by 60% between 2003 and 2015.



Property crime makes up 50% of all crimes.



Violent crime makes up 3% of all crimes.

This decrease in the number of crimes in Scotland is called 'the crime drop'. Lots of other countries also had a 'crime drop' including; England, Wales, Northern Ireland, the USA, Australia and New Zealand.

## Task

Using the information above, answer the following questions;

1. Describe the 'trend' in the amount of crime that has been committed in Scotland. Include figures and dates in your answer.
2. What types of crime have seen the biggest decrease?
3. Think about why crime rates have fallen in Scotland and other countries in recent years.

Scan the QR code for more info about these worksheets

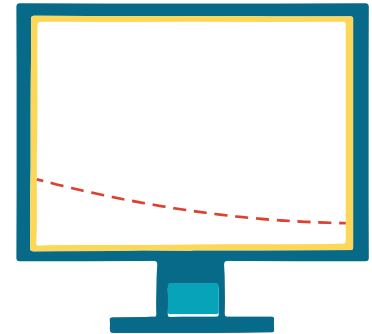
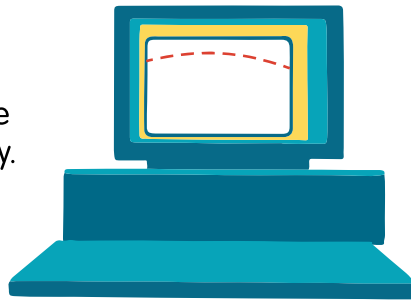


## Worksheet 2: Why has crime fallen?



LI – To understand that the type of crime committed in Scotland has changed over time  
SC – Pupils can describe the impact of new technology on the type of crime committed in Scotland  
SC – Pupils are able to suggest possible reasons for these changes

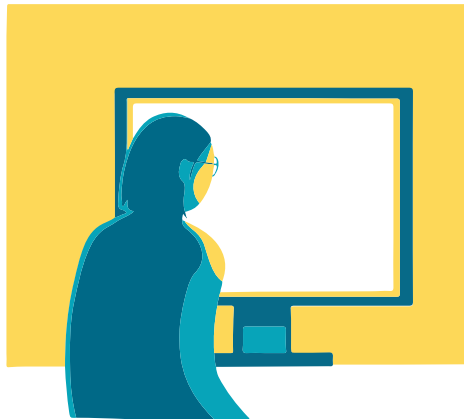
One of the main explanations for the global 'crime drop' is new technology.



New technology has made it harder to steal valuable items.

For example, cars have better alarms and immobilisers.

Also, some houses have smart security systems with cameras inside the house and even in the doorbell.



Young people are spending more time at home on screens and phones.

This means they spend less time hanging about street corners or in the park.

They are now less likely to be caught committing a crime or getting involved in trouble.



New technology can also cause crime.

The number of crimes that use new technology is increasing.

Some criminals use the internet to scam people and steal their savings. Others use fake credit cards to buy items and never pay for them.

### Task

Using the information above, answer the following questions;

1. Describe the ways in which smart security systems can protect a home or business.
2. Do you agree that new technology means young people commit less crimes? Explain your answer.
3. Can you describe the ways in which 'cyber-criminals' use the internet, social media and smart phone technologies to commit crimes?
4. What advice would you give to someone to prevent them from being a victim of a cyber-crime?

# Worksheet 3: Has crime fallen for everybody?



- LI – To understand that the likelihood of experiencing crime in Scotland is not the same for everyone
- SC – Pupils can describe the likelihood of being a victim of crime in Scotland
- SC – Pupils are able to suggest reasons why the likelihood of being a victim has reduced more for some people than others

The 'Scottish Crime and Justice Survey' tries to find out how many crimes happen by asking people living in Scotland if they have been a victim of crime



The survey measures more crime than police statistics because people often report crimes to the survey that they did not report to the police.

A study using data from the 'Scottish Crime and Justice Survey' found that there were four types of crime victims.

## Type 1

### Non-victim



Most people (82% of the population) were not a victim of crime.

The number of **non-victims** has been **increasing** every year.

## Type 2

### One-off victim



Some people (12% of the population) were only a victim of crime once. This usually involved a stolen car or a burglary.

The number of **one-off victims** has been **decreasing** every year.

## Type 3

### Multiple victim



A few people (5% of the population) were a victim of crime twice.

This involved different types of crime.

The number of **multiple victims** has been **decreasing** every year.

## Type 4

### Frequent victim



A tiny number of people (less than 1% of the population) were a victim of three or more crimes, mainly involving violence.

In fact, 1% of people experience 10% of all crime.

The number of **frequent victims** of crime has **stayed the same** every year.

## Task

Using the information above, answer the following questions;

1. Explain why you think the 'Scottish Crime and Justice Survey' measures crime more accurately than police statistics?
2. Are people in Scotland becoming safer or less safe every year? Explain your answer using evidence from the boxes above.
3. Explain why some people might become frequent victims of crime and others not.

# Worksheet 4: Has there been a 'crime-drop' for young people?



- LI – To understand the changes in criminal behaviour by young people over the last 20 years
- SC – To describe the changes in youth offending between 1999 and 2019
- SC – To describe the changing nature of crime associated with young people

Young people tend to be responsible for a large amount of all crime.

Two Scottish studies asked young people about their offending: The Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions and Crime (in 1999) and the Growing Up in Scotland study (in 2019).

Comparing the results of these studies shows that youth offending has gone down over time while use of technology has gone up.

In 1999, the Edinburgh Study showed that 71% of 12-year olds had committed at least one type of crime or anti-social behaviour.



It found that 53% of 12-year olds had assaulted and tried to hurt someone.

Also, 27% of 12-year olds had stolen something from a shop.

Finally, 53% of 12-year olds used a computer or played video games most days.

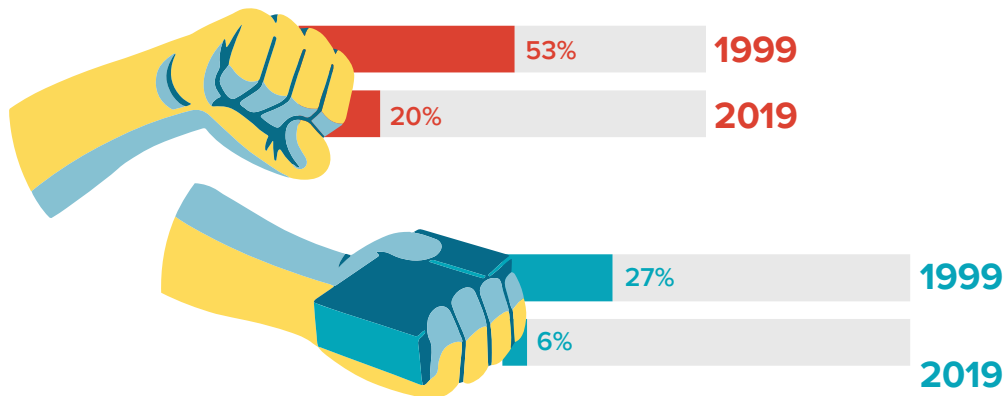
In 2019, the Growing Up in Scotland report showed that only 30% of 12-year olds had committed at least one type of crime or anti-social behaviour.



It found that 20% of 12-year olds had assaulted and tried to hurt someone.

Also, only 6% of 12-year olds had stolen something from a shop.

Finally, 90% of 12-year olds used a computer, games console or social media every day.



## Task

1. Describe the differences in the amount of crime committed by 12-year olds in 2019 compared to 1999.
2. What reasons can you suggest to explain why youth crime has reduced so much in twenty years?

LI – To understand cybercrime and cyberbullying

SC – Pupils can describe cybercrime and cyberbullying

SC – Pupils can explain why some people become involved in cybercrime and cyberbullying

## Cybercrime

(a crime committed using the internet)

Young people are spending more and more time online and on social media.

Most internet use is harmless and enjoyable, but there is more and more evidence that some young people are committing online crimes or are becoming victims of cybercrime.



## Cyberbullying

(bullying someone using the internet or social media)

In the UK, a study found that 28% of 11-16 year olds have been cyberbullied and 17% have admitted to cyberbullying someone else.

Also, 25% of people in the UK have been the victim of online hate crime because of their gender, ethnicity, sexuality, disability or because they were transgender.



Many young people become victims of cybercrime because they do not know enough about internet safety. For example:

- personal data can be stolen from a website if you don't protect your information
- clicking on links in emails or websites can lead to malware being installed on your computer
- cybercriminals trick you into handing over your bank details or providing access to your computer

Young people can also become cybercriminals because they do things that they don't realise are illegal. For example:

- accessing other people's computers or using their passwords (hacking)
- downloading copyrighted films or music without paying for it
- sharing or passing on indecent photographs of someone without their permission (even if you didn't take the photos)

## Task

1. Describe what a cybercrime is and write some examples of possible cybercrimes.
2. Describe what is meant by cyberbullying.
3. Describe what a person should do if they think they are a victim of cyberbullying.
4. Explain how and why young people might be involved in cybercrime, as a victim or an offender.
5. Describe the ways in which a person can protect themselves from being a victim of cybercrime.

# Worksheet 6: Young people and the police



- LI – To understand why some young people have contact with the police
- SC – Pupils can describe the individuals most likely to be involved with the police
- SC – Pupils can explain why some young people are more likely to have police contact than others

Most young people – even if they commit crimes - do not have any contact with the police, but a small proportion of young people have a lot of police contact.

1. Young people who commit crimes usually come to the attention of the police because of things they do when they are out in public places. Cybercrime is much harder for the police to find out about.

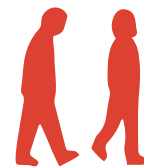


2. The police often patrol certain communities because they expect more crime to happen there. This means that young people living in these communities are more likely to come to the attention of the police.

3. The police often focus on 'the usual suspects' – young people they have had contact with before because of their bad behaviour or the behaviour of their friends.



4. A 15 year old is four times more likely to be approached by the police if they were already known to the police when they were younger.



Young people, aged between 12-17, are much more likely to have contact with the police if;

- They are drinking or taking drugs
- They are staying out extremely late
- They are not being looked after properly
- They are hanging out on the streets
- They are hanging about with people with a criminal record
- They live in a deprived area



## Task

1. Describe who the police are more likely to have contact with.
2. Explain why some young people are much more likely to have contact with the police than others.

## Worksheet 7: Young people, poverty and crime



LI – To understand the link between poverty and police contact

SC – Pupils can describe some of the causes of crime and the long-term consequences

SC – Pupils can explain why some people are more likely to become convicted of crime than others

Poverty means living on a low income compared to other families in Scotland. If a family has less than a certain amount of money to live on each week, they are said to be living in poverty.

Research has found a strong relationship between poverty and crime.



Young people who grow up in poverty are more likely to do less well at school, have health problems, drink too much alcohol, take drugs, have adverse childhood experiences, have poorer mental health and live in areas with higher rates of crime.

All of these issues mean that a young person living in poverty is more likely to end up being involved in crime.



The Edinburgh Study showed that young people living in poverty were more likely to become involved in violence than other young people. It found that violence helped some young people to feel a sense of power, to feel that others looked up to them and to feel more important.

It is often harder for young people from areas of poverty to feel able to walk away from violent or difficult situations.



The Edinburgh Study showed that young people in poverty, who become involved in violence, are more likely to be charged by the police and be dealt with by the Children's Hearing System.

It then becomes more difficult for these young people to find a job and, in the future, they are more likely to become involved in crime and arrested and charged by the police.

### Task

1. Describe the problems faced by some of the young people who live in poverty.
2. Explain why some young people are more likely to be attracted to violent crime than others.
3. Describe the possible life-long consequences of being involved in crime at an early age.

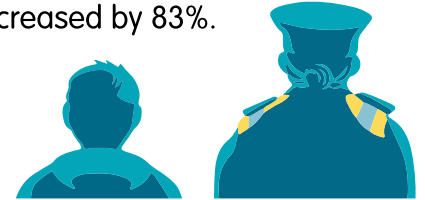


LI – To understand that the ways to deal with young people who break the law have changed  
SC – Pupils can describe the changes in the ways young people who break the law are dealt with  
SC – Pupils can explain why one approach may be more successful than another.

In Scotland, if a young person under the age of 16 is caught breaking the law, the police can send the case to the Children's Hearing System (CHS).

The number of young people sent to the CHS between 2006 and 2014 decreased by 83%. There are two main reasons for this decrease;

- Fewer young people were breaking the law
- Young people who break the law are now dealt with differently than before



1. In the early 2000's, the rules about how to deal with young people who broke the law were changed. This led to an increase of 63% more children being sent to the CHS.



2. A study found that young people who were sent to the CHS were much more likely to keep on breaking the law than young people who were helped in other ways.



3. In 2011, the Scottish Government said that young offenders should receive 'early and effective intervention' to prevent them going to the CHS.



4. Since 2011, far fewer young people who offend are sent to the CHS. This has helped to reduce youth offending and prevent people getting involved in the criminal justice system.



'Early and effective intervention' can involve lots of ways of helping young people who break the law so that they are less likely to get into trouble in the future. The type of help that can be given includes;

**Counselling** – this is when a young person can talk with a counsellor about all the things that are worrying them or upsetting them.

**Anger Management** – this is when a young person can get help controlling their anger and not losing their temper

**Behavioural Support** – this can help with a young person's alcohol or drug abuse and mental health

**Specialist Services** – this can include help for a young person's family.

## Task

1. What has changed in the ways in which we treat young people who break the law?
2. What evidence is there that Scotland is getting better at dealing with young offenders since 2011?
3. Explain the ways in which different types of help offered to young people might help them to not break the law in future.