



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt
Department of Justice

Criminal Justice Public Attitudes Survey 2022 Results

Research conducted on behalf of the Department of Justice by Behaviour and Attitudes

B&A



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Executive Summary

This report details the results of the Department of Justice's Criminal Justice Public Attitudes Survey 2022, the second wave of this survey series, with the first wave having been conducted in 2021. The nationally representative survey provides an overview of public confidence in the Irish criminal justice system¹ and perceptions of crime and community safety in Ireland.

A sample of 1,518 adults aged 18 and over in Ireland were interviewed through face-to-face interviews in December 2022 and January 2023. The survey sample was representative of the total Irish population based on gender, age, social class and region. Results have been analysed by key subgroups such as demographics, deprivation score² and previous interactions with the criminal justice system. When relevant, comparisons have been made with the 2021 results.

Understanding of the Criminal Justice System

The population's understanding of the various parts of the criminal justice system improved significantly from 2021 to 2022. Levels of understanding varied across the different parts of the justice system. More than two in three (68%) claimed to have a good understanding of how An Garda Síochána operates. Almost half (46%) had a good understanding of the Department of Justice, with more than two in five (42%) having a good understanding of the Courts Service. Claimed understanding was lower for the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (30%), the Irish Prisons Service (30%) and the Probation Service (24%).

Those who had previously interacted with the criminal justice system were significantly more likely to claim an understanding across most bodies/agencies. While understanding of the criminal justice system improved notably from 2021 to 2022 amongst those from more disadvantaged areas, understanding of the criminal justice system continued to be significantly higher amongst those living in more affluent areas.

Confidence in the Criminal Justice System

Overall half (50%) of the total survey population stated that they had a lot or some confidence in the effectiveness of the criminal justice system as a whole, significantly up from 45% in 2021. Confidence was higher amongst those in more affluent areas (67%), while lower amongst those with a recent interaction with the system (43%) and those with a lower understanding of the system (36%).

The survey looked at confidence levels concerning the roles and responsibilities of each criminal justice agency and the Department of Justice. Three in five (60%) had a lot or some confidence in

¹ For this survey the criminal justice system was defined as the Department of Justice, An Garda Síochána, the Irish Courts Service, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), the Irish Prison Service and the Probation Service.

² Based on the Pobal HP Deprivation Index, <https://www.pobal.ie/app/uploads/2018/06/The-2016-Pobal-HP-Deprivation-Index-Introduction-07.pdf>

An Garda Síochána being effective at solving crime, down from sixty-three per cent in 2021. 54% had confidence in An Garda Síochána responding quickly to crime, with a similar proportion (53%) having confidence in the effectiveness of crime prevention by An Garda Síochána.

Almost half (49%) were confident that the Department of Justice is effective in providing policies and legislation to help tackle and prevent crime. A similar proportion (47%) were confident that the Department of Justice understands the needs of the public concerning community safety, with over two in five (42%) being confident that they respond quickly to new crime problems.

47% of survey respondents were confident that the Courts Service is managed effectively, whilst more than two in five (42%) were confident that the Courts Service provides sufficient and accessible information to the public.

Almost half (49%) were confident that the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions is effective in delivering a fair and independent prosecution service, with more than two in five (43%) being confident that the Director of Public Prosecutions provides sufficient and accessible information about their service to the public.

More than half (51%) had confidence in the Prison Service providing safe and secure custody for offenders, while just one in three (34%) had confidence in the Prison Service being effective in rehabilitating offenders. A similar level (30%) in terms of rehabilitation was seen for the Probation Services.

The survey also explored confidence in various aspects of the system as a whole. Confidence was highest in people being treated as innocent until proven guilty (60%) and the impartiality of the system (60%). Almost three in five (57%) had a lot or some confidence that the system ensures everyone has access to justice. A similar proportion also had confidence that it takes into account the views of witnesses and victims (56%). Confidence was lowest (43%) in the supports available for witnesses and victims.

Perceptions of Crime and Community Safety

The survey also measured the public's perceptions of the prevalence of different types of crime in their local area and their levels of worry about being a victim of various types of crime.

Compared to the 2021 survey, more people considered different crime types to be a problem in their local area. Of the areas of crime listed, people using or dealing drugs was considered to be the biggest problem in people's local area with more than half (55%) perceiving this to be a problem, up from 51% in 2021. Almost half (45%) perceived burglary or theft to be a problem in their local area (up from 39%). 37% considered vandalism and other deliberate damages to be a problem in their local area, with a similar proportion (35%) reporting problems with drunken/rowdy behaviour in public places.

The survey also looked at levels of worry about being a victim of crime. Circa one in six (16%) were very or fairly worried about being burgled or having their car stolen/broken into. A similar proportion was seen for being physically attacked by a stranger (15%) and being mugged/robbed (14%). Those in rural areas were more worried about becoming a victim of crime.

In terms of location, people were most concerned about becoming a victim of a crime when outside, and not in their local area (36%), followed by outside in their local area (30%), on public

transport (25%) and in their home (21%).

The vast majority (94%) of those surveyed reported they would know how to contact An Garda Síochána or where to find their contact information. More than half (54%) agreed that An Garda Síochána are regularly seen in their local area.

When asked about factors that do or would contribute to people feeling safer in their community the presence of the Gardaí on the streets was the main factor, with three in four (75%) stating this. Almost two in five cited neighbourhood watch schemes (38%) and a similar proportion cited street lighting (37%) as other factors that would make them feel safer.

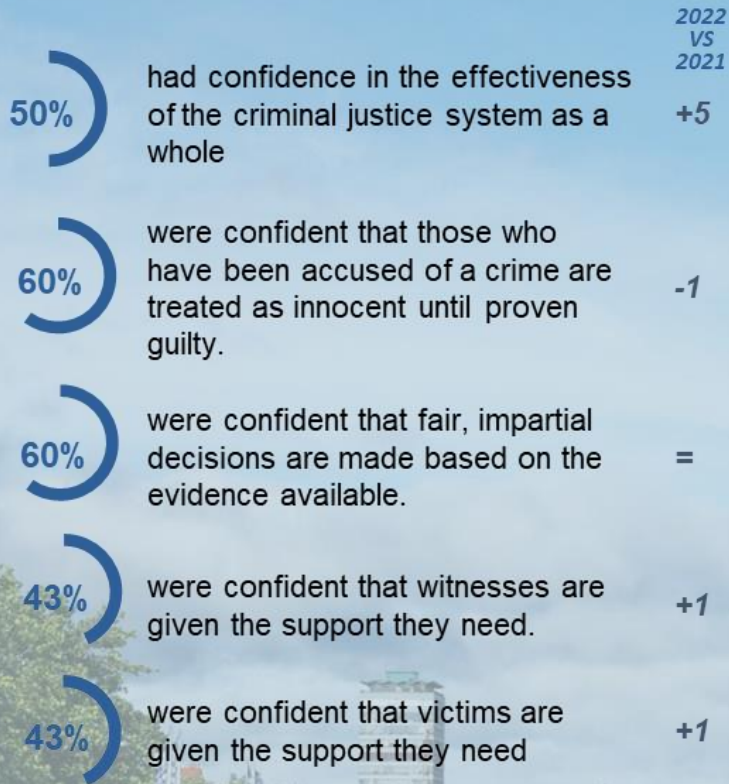
Personal Experiences of Crime

Circa one in five (18%) reported to having ever been a victim of crime, unchanged from 2021. One in ten (11%) had been a victim of some form of online crime/fraud, with online financial fraud being the most prevalent. The majority of victims of online crime/fraud (57%) reported the incident to their bank and one in three (33%) to the Gardaí. Almost one in five (18%) did not report it at all.

PUBLIC ATTITUDES

TO THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

CONFIDENCE

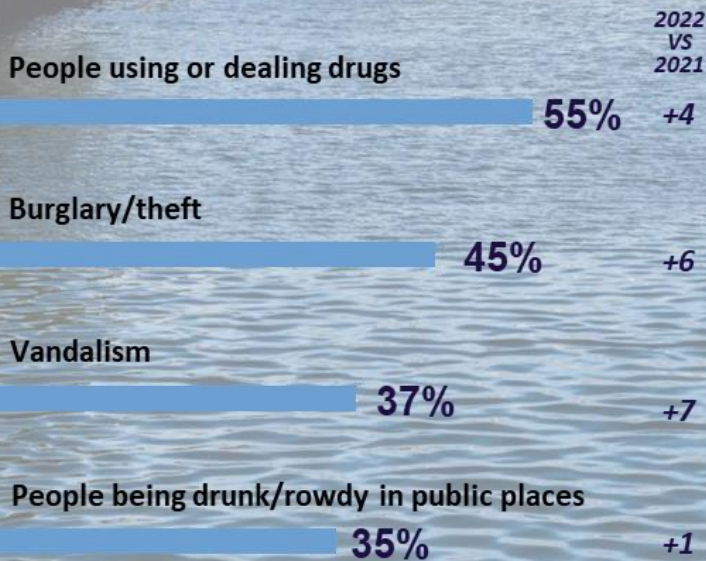


UNDERSTANDING



PERCEPTIONS OF CRIME

A problem in local areas



SAFER COMMUNITIES

Top three factors which do/would make people feel safe in their community

Gardaí on the streets



Street lighting



Neighbourhood watch scheme



1. Aims and Methodology

1.1 Aims and objectives

The overall aim of the Criminal Justice Public Attitude Survey is to provide the Department of Justice with insights into the experiences and perceptions of the general public regarding key areas of its remit. Including:

- Understanding of and confidence in the criminal justice system including the Department of Justice and the criminal justice agencies,
- Perceptions of crime, safety and local policing,
- Experience of crime, including online crime or fraud.

The survey was conducted for the first time in 2021. **This report covers the second wave of the survey, conducted in 2022.** Comparisons to 2021 are shown, when relevant.

1.2 Methodology and sampling

The research was undertaken by an independent Irish research agency, Behaviour and Attitudes. A nationally representative sample of 1,518 adults aged 18 and over in Ireland was collected with quotas placed on gender, age, social class and region. These quotas were based on the latest available Census data as well as Association of Irish Market Research Organisations (AIMRO)³ agreed figures for social class. Corrective weighting was applied to the final data by gender, age and socioeconomic status to ensure a fully representative sample.

Fieldwork was conducted through face to face interviews in December 2022 and January 2023. A multi-staged quota-controlled sampling procedure, with randomly selected starting points within geographically stratified primary sampling units was utilised. This involved identifying 188 sampling units, stratified by region and Electoral District. A target number of interviews was then assigned to each sampling unit with interviewers starting at an address randomly generated through the Geo Directory and then following a randomly assigned pattern visiting every n^{th} house after this.

1.3 Interpreting the results

Results are presented in percentage charts and tables. Results are shown by the total population and then comparisons are made across the different subgroups outlined in section 1.4.

For scaled questions, e.g. level of agreement or confidence, the top two or bottom two points of the scale have been summed, where this is done the reader will see 'Net' referring to the combined score.

A random sampling approach was taken so there will be a margin of error for any of the results shown. Where results are shown for the total population the margin of error at a 95% confidence interval is +/-2.5%, as such, we can be 95% confident that the true result lies within +/- 2.5% of the result shown. Caution is advised when looking at result by different sub groups as sample sizes are smaller and the margin of error therefore increases. Statistically significant differences in the results are shown in the report. Where a number is highlighted in green this indicates a result which is significantly higher than the results for the total population. Where a number is highlighted in red this indicates a result which is significantly lower than the result for the total

³ Association of Irish Market Research Organisations: <https://www.aimro.ie>

population.

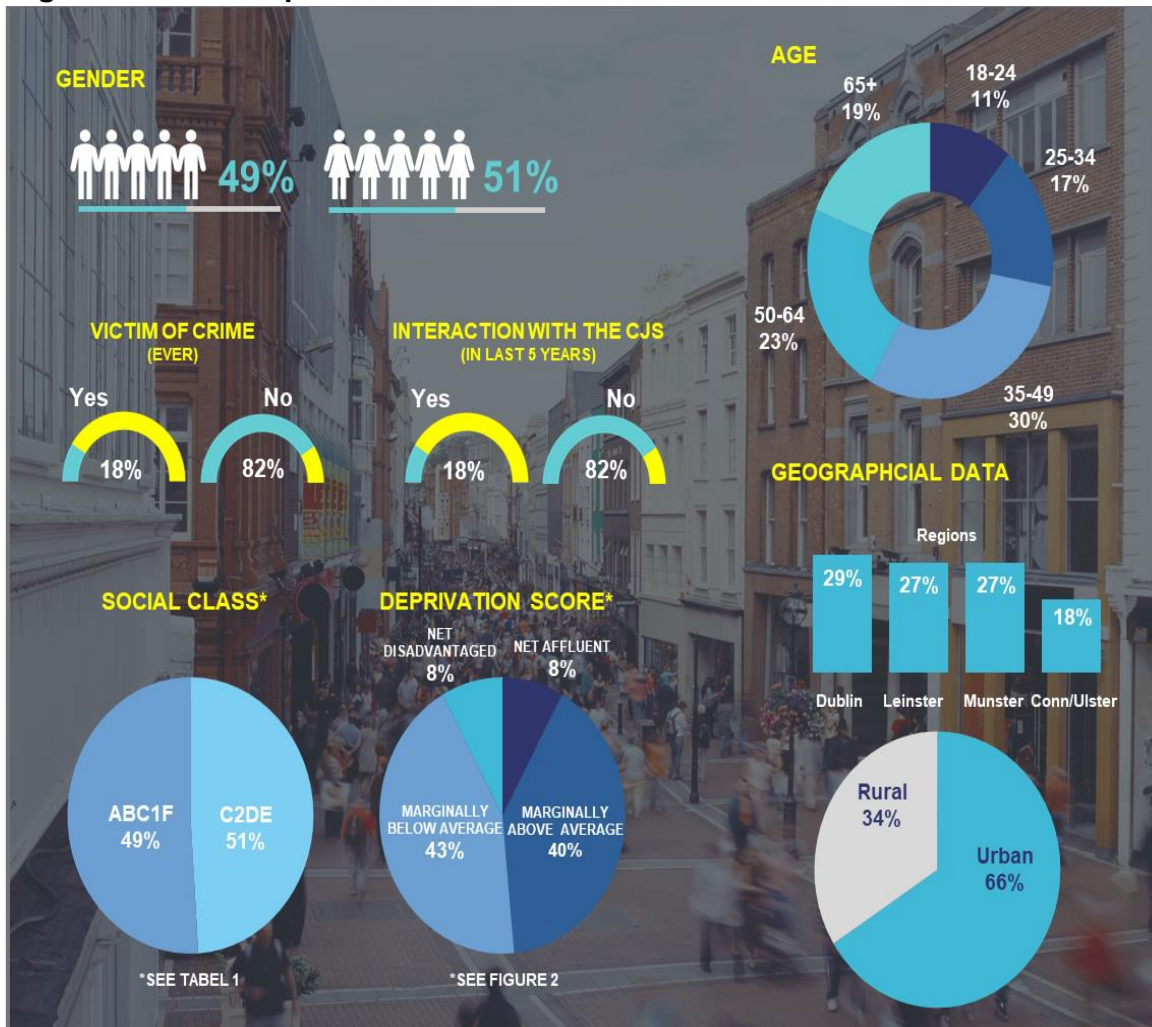
Some questions in the survey allowed respondents to choose multiple responses. These percentages will not sum to 100 percent with the other percentages presented. Where only one option could be selected in some cases the percentages will not add up to 100 percent due to rounding. This can also affect NET scores, e.g. Top 2 Box on a scale question.

Any Minor differences in figures featured in tables, charts and infographics presented in this report can be attributed to the application of corrective weighting on standard demographics post-fieldwork to ensure a nationally representative sample. While the base sizes indicate the actual number of interviews conducted, the percentages in various figures and tables have been adjusted using weighted values to compensate for any quota deviations in accordance with standard practice.

1.4 Sample profile

The profile of the sample achieved is shown below in figure 1. Analysis has been conducted on the subgroups; gender, age, region, deprivation index (see figure 2 for more detail), having had any interaction with the justice system in the last five years and ever been a victim of crime.

Figure 1: Total Sample Profile



The definitions for the social class groupings shown in figure 1 above are outlined in table 1 below.

Table 1 Social Class Groupings

Social Class Groupings	
A	Higher managerial, professional.
B	Intermediate managerial, professional, accountant.
C1	Supervisory or clerical, junior manager, Nurse, Teacher, sales representative, shop owner. Student.
C2	Skilled manual worker (e.g. Skilled Bricklayer, Carpenter, Plumber, Painter, Bus, Ambulance Driver, HGV driver, AA patrolman, publican), Hairdressers, fitter
D	Semi or unskilled manual work (e.g. Manual workers, all apprentices to be skilled trades, Caretaker, Park keeper, non-HGV driver, shop assistant), Postman, Barber, taxi driver, Bartender. Casual worker (not in permanent employment)
E	Housewife/homemaker. Retired and living on state pension. Unemployed or not working due to long-term illness. Full-time carer of other household member
F	Farmer

Throughout the report, the Pobal HP Deprivation Index⁴ has been used to highlight differences in attitudes based on level of affluence/disadvantage within each area. The Pobal HP Deprivation Index is based on Small Areas (SA) and 2016 Census data. It was constructed using a factor analytical approach, followed by a priori conceptualisation of the identified dimensions. Based on earlier deprivation indices for Ireland, as well as analyses from other countries, three dimensions of affluence/disadvantage have been identified and built into the model: Demographic Profile, Social Class Composition and Labour Market Situation.

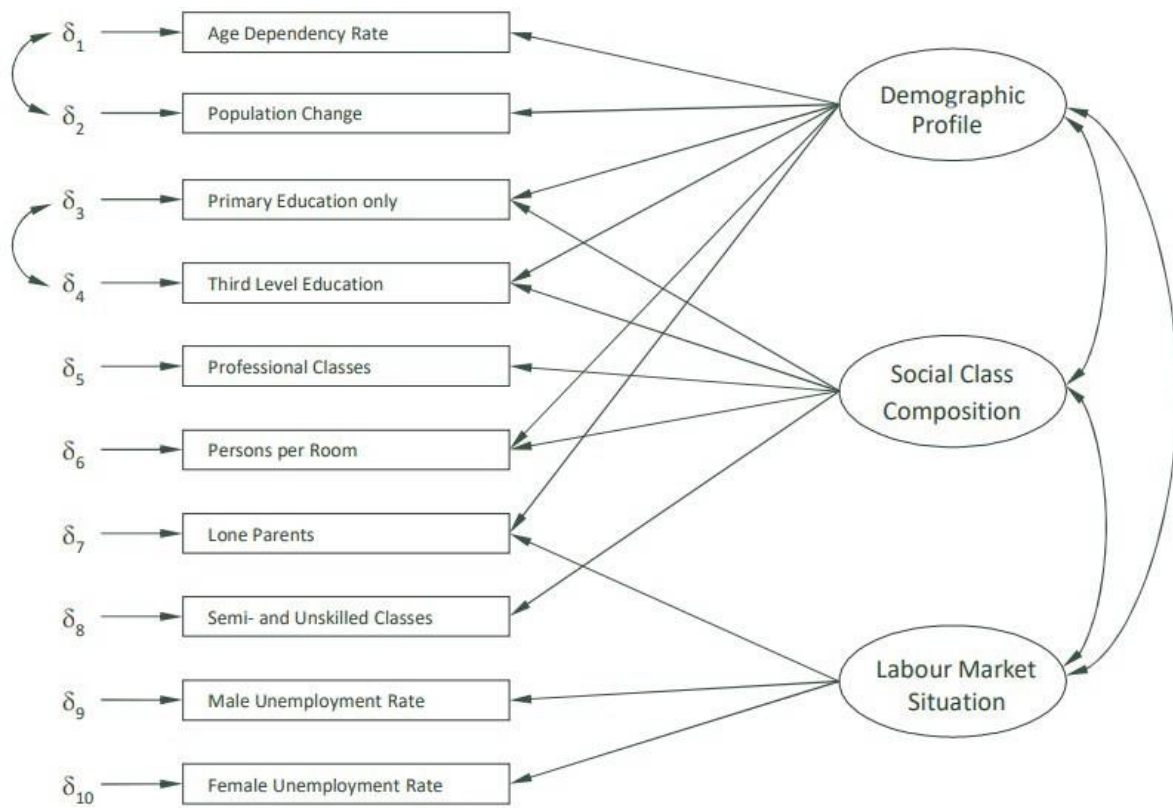
The following classification is used for the Deprivation Index:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| 1. Extremely Affluent | } | Merged in report due to small base size |
| 2. Very Affluent | | |
| 3. Affluent | | |
| 4. Marginally above average | } | Merged in report due to small base size |
| 5. Marginally below average | | |
| 6. Disadvantaged | } | Merged in report due to small base size |
| 7. Very disadvantaged | | |
| 8. Extremely disadvantaged | | |

To ensure large enough sample sizes for the purposes of analysis the above classifications have been combined into four groups: Net Affluent (8%); Marginally Above Average (40%); Marginally Below Average (43%) and Net Disadvantaged (8%).

⁴ Further details can be found here: <https://www.pobal.ie/app/uploads/2018/06/The-2016-Pobal-HP-Deprivation-Index-Introduction-07.pdf>

Figure 2: Basic Model for the Construction of the HP Deprivation Index



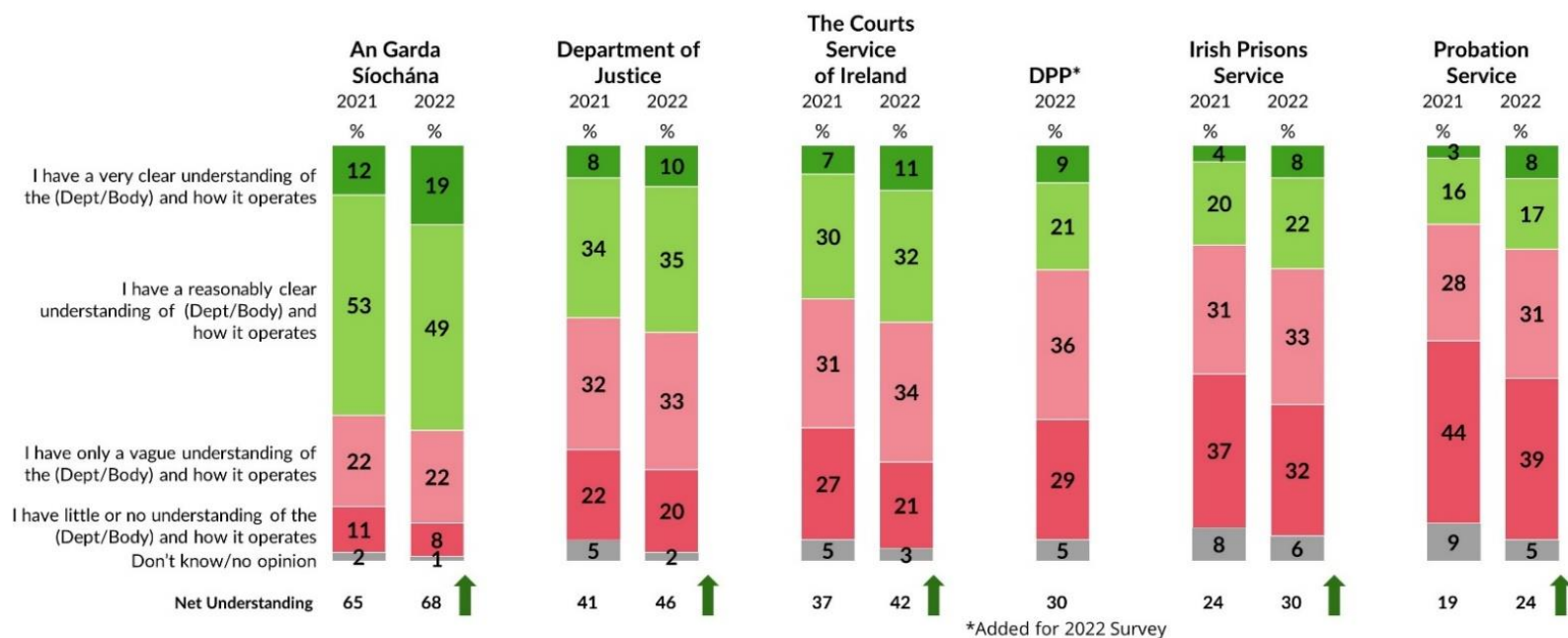


2. Understanding of the Criminal Justice System

Respondents were asked about their level of understanding of each part of the criminal justice system and how it operates. Across all agencies/bodies, the level of understanding increased significantly from 2021 to 2022. Highest understanding was seen for An Garda Síochána with more than two in three (68%) claiming to have a good understanding of how An Garda Síochána operates (up from 65% in 2021). Almost half (46%) had a good understanding of how the Department of Justice operates (up from 41%), while more than two in five (42%) had a good understanding of the Courts Service (up from 37%).

The lowest levels of understanding were reported for the operations of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (30%), the Irish Prisons Service (30%) and Probation Service (24%). Understanding was up for both the Irish Prisons Service and the Probation Service compared to 2021, while understanding of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions was not measured in the 2021 survey.

Figure 3: Understanding of the Irish criminal justice system and how it operates



Claimed understating of how the different parts of the criminal justice system operate was higher amongst those from more affluent areas, as determined by their deprivation score.

However, compared to 2021, understanding of the different parts of the criminal justice system increased notably amongst those in more disadvantaged areas, closing the gap up to those living in areas around the deprivation index average.

Those living in Connaught/Ulster and the youngest age group 18-24 years had a lower understanding of the criminal justice system compared to the rest of the country, while a higher understanding was reported by those living in Dublin.

Table 2: Understanding of the Irish criminal justice system and how it operates by demographics, region and deprivation score

	Total	Gender		Age					Region					Deprivation score			
		Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Dublin	Out-side Dublin	Leinster	Munster	Conn/ Ulster	NET Affluent	Marginally above average	Marginally below average	NET Disadvantaged
Base:	1518	719	799	129	230	480	368	311	453	1065	390	410	265	137	630	626	125
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
An Garda Síochána	68	71	66	57	66	72	70	71	72	67	66	69	66	79	66	69	66
Department of Justice	46	50	41	36	43	53	42	48	53	42	40	48	38	65	46	42	43
The Courts Service of Ireland	42	46	39	31	40	47	39	48	48	40	37	47	33	53	41	41	45
Director of Public Prosecution	30	33	28	20	26	32	31	35	35	28	24	35	24	46	28	29	31
Irish Prisons Service	30	31	29	23	23	35	27	34	34	28	27	30	25	42	29	27	33
Probation Service	24	25	23	22	21	26	23	28	30	22	22	26	16	37	21	23	31

As shown in table 3 those who had an interaction with the criminal justice system in the last five years were significantly more likely to claim that they understand the various parts of the criminal justice system.

Approximately three in four (74%) of this cohort claimed to understand An Garda Síochána versus circa two in three (68%) of the total population. Almost three in five (57%) of those who had interacted with the system claimed to understand how the Department of Justice operates versus 46% of the total population.

54% of those with a recent interaction with the system claimed to understand the Courts Service versus 42% of the total population. 34% claimed to understand the Probation Service versus 24% of the total population.

However, compared to 2021, understanding of the criminal justice system increased mostly among those with no recent interaction with the criminal justice system.

Higher understanding of how the Courts Service and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions were also seen among those who have been a victim of crime.

Table 3: Understanding of the Irish criminal justice system and how it operates by interaction with the system

	Total		No interaction with Criminal system		Any interaction with Criminal system		Victim of Crime Ever	
	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022
Base:	1511	1518	1271	1251	240	267	281	271
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
An Garda Síochána	65	68	62	67	78	74	74	74
Department of Justice	41	46	39	43	57	57	47	50
The Courts Service of Ireland	37	42	34	40	52	54	44	51
Director of Public Prosecutions	n/a	30	n/a	29	n/a	38	n/a	40
Irish Prisons Service	24	30	22	29	35	35	32	34
Probation Service	19	24	18	22	28	34	22	27

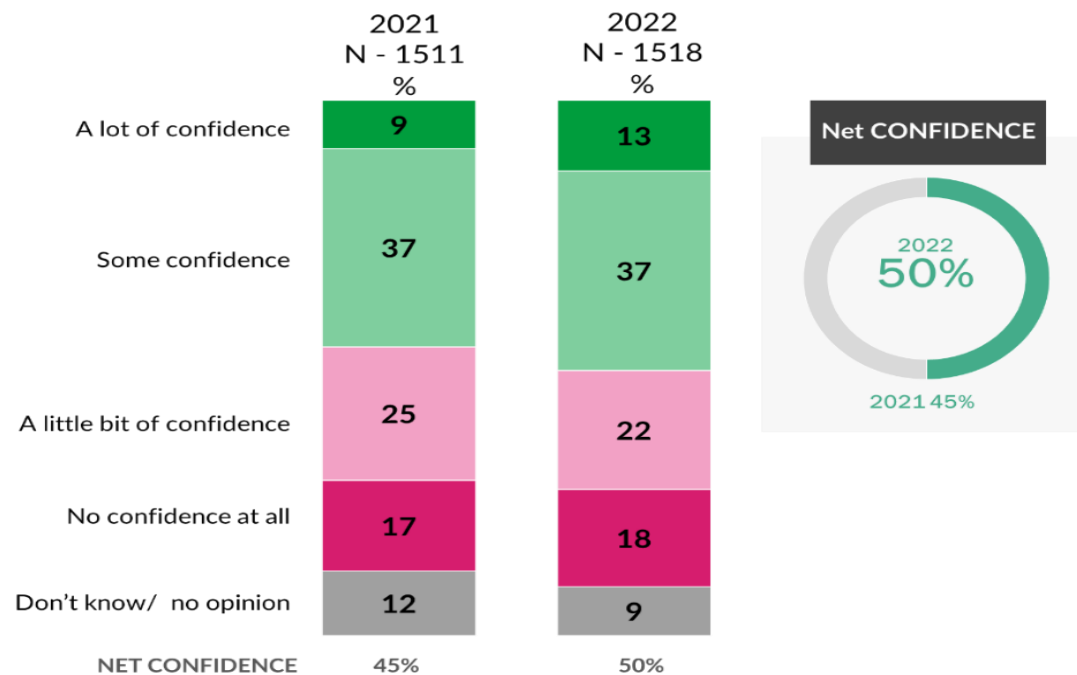
3. Confidence in the Criminal Justice System

3.1 Overall confidence in the effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System and its agencies/bodies

The survey looked at the level of confidence in the effectiveness of the justice system as a whole and for each of the justice organisations separately.

Overall, half of the total population stated that they have a lot or some confidence in the effectiveness of the criminal justice system as a whole. Confidence in the effectiveness of the criminal justice system increased significantly from 45% in 2021 to 50% in 2022. Less than one in five (18%) claimed to have no confidence at all, with circa one in ten (9%) having no opinion.

Figure 4: Confidence in effectiveness of the criminal justice system as a whole



As shown in table 4, reported confidence was higher amongst those from more affluent areas (67%) and those in Munster (65%). Higher confidence was also seen among those aged 65 years or older (56%), while there was no significant difference by gender. Compared to 2021, confidence increased amongst those living in more disadvantaged areas, closing the gap to those living in areas around the average of the deprivation index.

Table 4: Confidence in effectiveness of the criminal justice system as a whole by demographics, region and deprivation score

	Total	Gender		Age					Region					Deprivation score			
		Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Dublin	Out-side Dublin	Leinster	Munster	Conn/ Ulster	NET Affluent	Marginally above average	Marginally below average	NET Disadvantaged
Base	1511	722	789	128	220	469	399	295	445	1066	397	405	264	149	559	689	114
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
NET Confidence 2021	45	45	45	53	43	41	46	50	38	48	43	52	51	39	44	50	32
Base:	1518	719	799	129	230	480	368	311	453	1065	390	410	265	137	630	626	125
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
NET Confidence 2022	50	50	49	44	53	48	48	56	47	51	39	65	49	67	50	46	49

Confidence levels varied by respondents' previous level of interaction with the criminal justice system. Table 5 shows that those who had an interaction in the last five years were notably less likely to be confident in the effectiveness of the criminal justice system. Those who have been a victim of a crime also reported lower confidence, however not significantly.

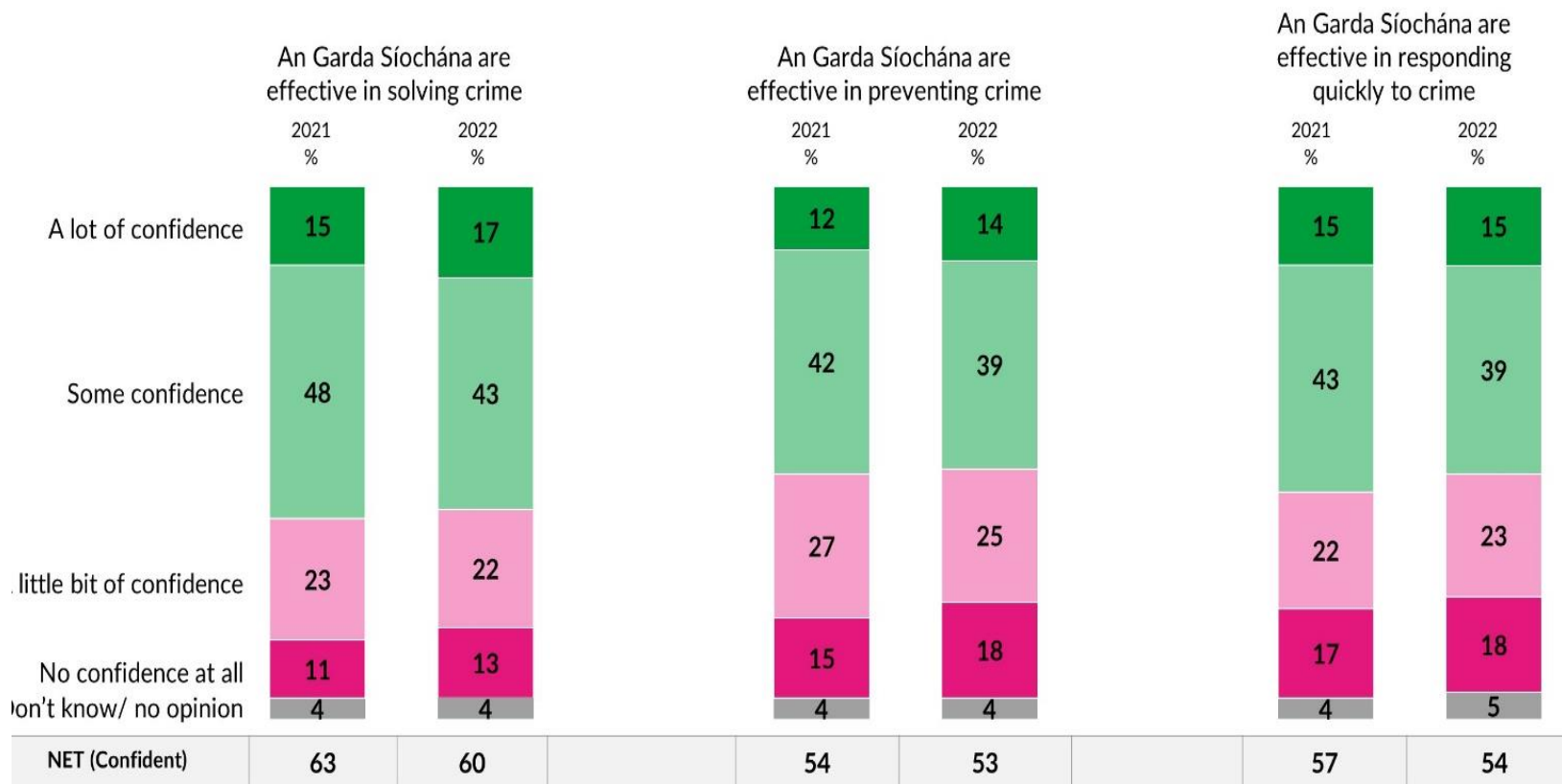
Table 5: Confidence in effectiveness of the criminal justice system as a whole by interaction with the system and level of understanding

Total	Interaction with criminal system (Last 5 Years)		Victim of Crime (Ever)	Understanding of any CJS organisation	
	None	Any	Yes	Yes	No
1518	1251	267	271	1138	380
%	%	%	%	%	%
50	51	43	44	54	36

Respondents were asked about their level of confidence in the effectiveness of each of the agencies/bodies listed in delivering on various aspects of their remit. Confidence was highest in the effectiveness of the An Garda Síochána to solve crime with three in five (60%) feeling confident (down from 63% in 2021).

54% felt confident in An Garda Síochána’s ability to respond effectively to crime (down from 57%). 53% had some or a lot of confidence in An Garda Síochána being effective in preventing crime.

Figure 5: Confidence in the effectiveness of An Garda Síochána



As shown in table 6 those living in Munster were more confident in the effectiveness of An Garda Síochána than the total population. 76% of those in Munster were confident in An Garda Síochána’s ability to solve crime versus 60% amongst the total population.

For confidence in preventing crime 66% of those in Munster were confident versus 53% of the total population, and for responding quickly to crime 68% of those in Munster were confident versus 54% of the total population.

Confidence in An Garda Síochána solving crime was also higher amongst those living in more affluent areas.

Table 6: Confidence in the effectiveness of An Garda Síochána by demographics, region and deprivation score

	Total	Gender		Age					Region					Deprivation score			
		Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Dublin	Out-side Dublin	Leinster	Munster	Conn/ Ulster	NET Affluent	Marginally above average	Marginally below average	NET Disadvantaged
Base	1518	719	799	129	230	480	368	311	453	1065	390	410	265	137	630	626	125
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Solving Crime	60	58	62	51	54	59	67	64	53	63	55	76	57	73	60	59	55
Preventing Crime	53	53	54	51	48	51	57	59	45	57	50	66	53	60	55	52	49
Responding quickly to crime	54	56	52	53	50	53	57	57	47	57	48	68	54	62	57	51	51

Victims of crime had lower levels of confidence versus the total population in An Garda Síochána’s effectiveness at solving crime (52% versus 60%) and preventing crime (45% versus 53%).

Confidence was also lower amongst those who have had an interaction with the criminal justice system in the past 5 years.

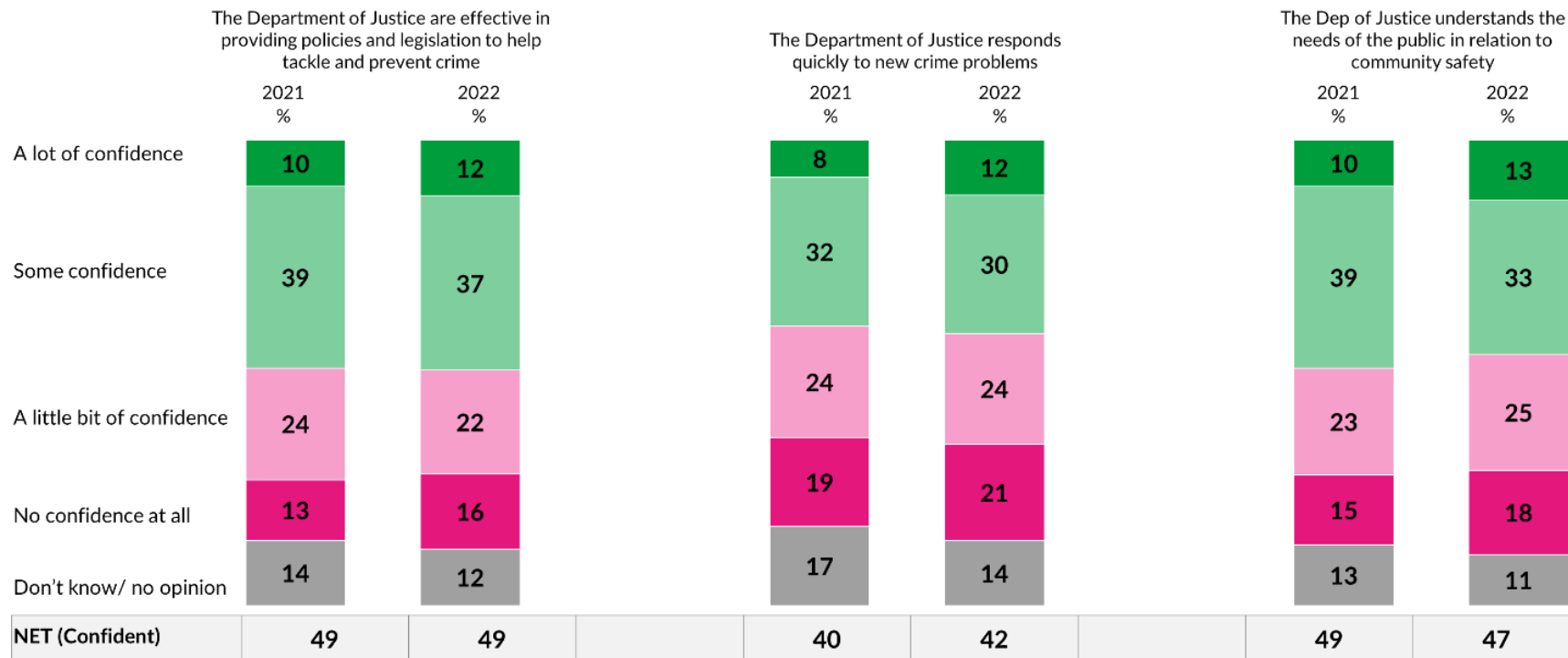
Table 7: Confidence in the effectiveness of An Garda Síochána by interaction with the system and level of understanding

	Total	Interaction with criminal system (Last 5 Years)		Victim of Crime (Ever)	Understanding of any CJS organisation	
		None	Any	Yes	Yes	No
Base	1518	1251	267	271	1138	380
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Solving Crime	60	62	50	52	63	52
Preventing Crime	53	56	41	45	56	46
Responding quickly to crime	54	56	46	49	56	48



Almost half (49%) were confident that the Department of Justice is effective in providing policies and legislation to help tackle and prevent crime. 47% were confident that the Department of Justice understands the needs of the public in relation to community safety, while 42% were confident that the Department of Justice responds quickly to new crime problems. There were no significant changes compared to the levels of confidence seen in 2021.

Figure 6: Confidence in the effectiveness of the Department of Justice



Those in Munster and those living in more affluent areas had more confidence in the effectiveness of the Department of Justice. 60% of those in Munster were confident that the Department of Justice is effective in providing policies and legislation to tackle and prevent crime compared to 49% in the total population. Those in the rest of Leinster (excluding Dublin) had the lowest confidence in the Department of Justice's effectiveness.

Table 8: Confidence in the effectiveness of the Department of Justice by demographics, region and deprivation score

	Total	Gender		Age					Region					Deprivation score			
		Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Dublin	Out-side Dublin	Leinster	Munster	Conn/ Ulster	NET Affluent	Marginally above average	Marginally below average	NET Disadvantaged
Base	1518	719	799	129	230	480	368	311	453	1065	390	410	265	137	630	626	125
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Providing policies and legislation to help tackle and prevent crime	49	50	49	48	51	47	49	54	47	50	41	60	50	65	49	47	48
Responds quickly to new crime problems	42	43	41	39	40	40	42	47	36	44	35	52	45	55	43	40	40
Understands the needs of the public in relation to community safety	47	45	48	46	45	45	47	50	46	47	39	55	47	58	49	42	47

Those who had recently interacted with the criminal justice system had lower confidence in the Department of Justice providing policies and legislation to help tackle and prevent crime.

Also amongst those who had been a victim of crime, lower confidence was reported for the Department of Justice quickly responding to new crime problems.

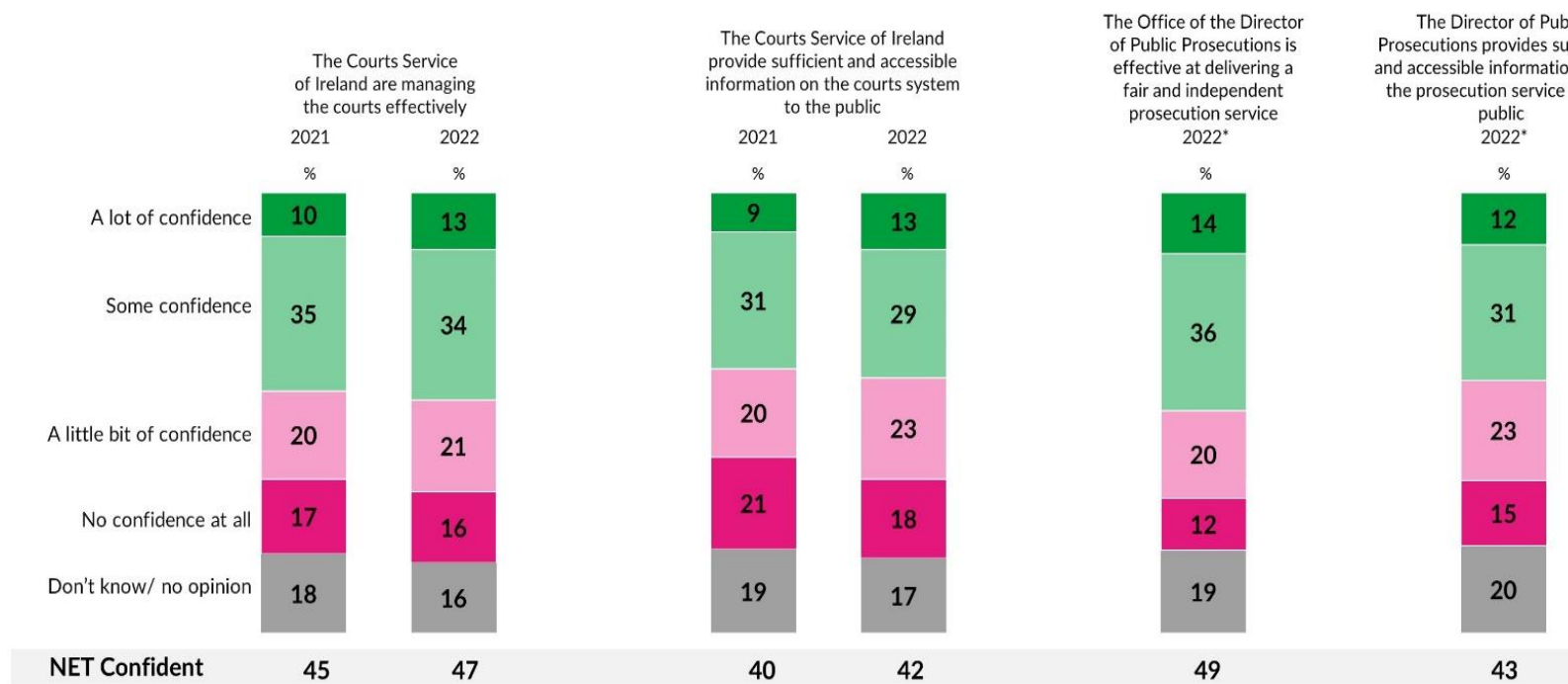
Table 9: Confidence in the effectiveness of the Department of Justice by interaction with the system and level of understanding

	Total	Interaction with criminal system (Last 5 Years)		Victim of Crime (Ever)	Understanding of any CJS organisation	
		None	Any	Yes	Yes	No
Base	1518	1251	267	271	1138	380
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Providing policies and legislation to help tackle and prevent crime	49	51	42	46	53	38
Responds quickly to new crime problems	42	43	36	31	45	33
Understands the needs of the public in relation to community safety	47	48	41	41	50	37

47% were confident that the Courts Service is managed effectively, whilst more than two in five (42%) were confident that the Courts Service provide sufficient and accessible information to the public.

Almost half (49%) were confident that the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions is effective in delivering a fair and independent prosecution service, with more than two in five (43%) being confident that the Director of Public Prosecutions provides sufficient and accessible information about their service to the public.

Figure 7: Confidence in the effectiveness of the Courts Service and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions



*Added for 2022 Survey

Confidence in the Courts Service and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions was higher amongst those living in Munster and those living in more affluent areas.

Table 10: Confidence in the effectiveness of the Courts Service and the Director of Public by demographics, region and deprivation score

	Total	Gender		Age					Region					Deprivation score			
		Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Dublin	Out-side Dublin	Leinster	Munster	Conn/ Ulster	NET Affluent	Marginally above average	Marginally below average	NET Disadvantaged
Base	1518	719	799	129	230	480	368	311	453	1065	390	410	265	137	630	626	125
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
The Courts Services are managing the courts efficiently	47	46	48	49	45	44	49	49	44	48	40	61	41	60	47	44	45
The Courts Service provides sufficient and accessible information on the courts system to the public	42	42	43	45	45	40	42	41	42	42	31	57	38	55	43	40	40
The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions is effective at delivering a fair and independent prosecution service	49	52	47	46	46	48	51	54	44	51	44	63	45	67	50	45	48
The Director of Public Prosecutions provides sufficient and accessible information about the prosecution service to the public	43	44	41	39	43	43	42	45	38	45	37	55	40	54	43	40	45

As shown in table 11, victims of crime, and those with a recent interaction with the criminal justice system had lower level of confidence in the Courts Service being managed effectively.

Table 11: Confidence in the effectiveness of the Courts Service and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions by interaction with the system and level of understanding

	Total	Interaction with criminal system (Last 5 Years)		Victim of Crime (Ever)	Understanding of any CJS organisation	
		None	Any	Yes	Yes	No
Base	1518	1251	267	271	1138	380
	%	%	%	%	%	%
The Courts Services are managing the courts efficiently	47	49	39	39	50	37
The Courts Service provides sufficient and accessible information on the courts system to the public	42	43	37	38	45	34
The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions is effective at delivering a fair and independent prosecution service	49	51	43	47	54	37
The Director of Public Prosecutions provides sufficient and accessible information about the prosecution service to the public	43	44	37	36	46	33

More than half (51%) had confidence in the Prison Service providing safe and secure custody for offenders, while just one in three (34%) had confidence in the Prison Service being effective in rehabilitating offenders.

A similar level (30%) in terms of rehabilitation was seen for the Probation Services. No significant changes in confidence levels were recorded from 2021 to 2022.

Figure 8: Confidence in the effectiveness of the Prison Service and Probation Service



Those living in Munster had more confidence in both the Prison Service and the Probation Service while those living in more affluent areas had more confidence in the Prison Service providing safe and secure custody for offenders. The lowest confidence was seen in the rest of Leinster (excluding Dublin).

Table 12: Confidence in the effectiveness of the Prison Service and Probation Service by Demographics

	Total	Gender		Age					Region					Deprivation score			
		Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Dublin	Out-side Dublin	Leinster	Munster	Conn/ Ulster	NET Affluent	Marginally above average	Marginally below average	NET Disadvantaged
Base	1518	719	799	129	230	480	368	311	453	1065	390	410	265	137	630	626	125
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
The Prison Service are effective in providing safe and secure custody for offenders who have been convicted of a crime	51	53	49	44	47	49	55	56	44	53	47	64	47	61	52	47	51
The Prison Service are effective at rehabilitating offenders who have been convicted of a crime	34	33	36	36	31	34	34	37	30	36	28	44	36	41	35	31	43
The Probation Service is effective at preventing criminals from reoffending	30	30	30	32	28	29	29	35	27	32	24	39	33	34	30	29	35

Lower confidence in the Prison and Probation Service was furthermore seen amongst those who had a recent interaction with the criminal justice system and those who had been a victim of a crime.

Table 13: Confidence in the effectiveness of the Prison Service and Probation Service by interaction with the system and level of understanding

	Total	Interaction with criminal system (Last 5 Years)		Victim of Crime (Ever)	Understanding of any CJS organisation	
		None	Any	Yes	Yes	No
Base	1518	1251	267	271	1138	380
	%	%	%	%	%	%
The Prison Service are effective in providing safe and secure custody for offenders who have been convicted of a crime	51	53	40	48	54	40
The Prison Service are effective at rehabilitating offenders who have been convicted of a crime	34	37	21	21	36	31
The Probation Service is effective at preventing criminals from re-offending	30	32	23	21	31	28

Respondents were presented with a series of statements about the criminal justice system in Ireland and asked to rate their level of confidence for each aspect on a scale from a lot of confidence to no confidence at all. Figure 9 presents the results for the total population based on the proportion who said they had a lot or some confidence for each statement. Just over half (53%) of the total population had a lot or some confidence that the criminal justice system as a whole is fair.

Confidence was highest for people being treated as innocent until proven guilty (60%) and that fair, impartial decisions are based on the evidence available (60%). Confidence was lower in the supports available for witnesses and victims (43% for both statements). However, more than half (56%) had a lot/some confidence that the system takes into account the views of witnesses and victims. No significant changes in levels of confidence from 2021 to 2022.

Figure 9: Confidence in various aspects of the criminal justice system



As shown in figure 10, those with a claimed understanding of some aspect of the criminal justice system were notably more likely to be confident in all aspects of the system versus those with no understanding. The biggest differences were for confidence that the system as a whole is fair (58% versus 41%) and that fair, impartial decisions are based on the evidence available (64% versus 49%).

Figure 10: Confidence in various aspects of the criminal justice system by understanding of the system



Those from more affluent areas and those living in Munster were significantly more likely to be confident across most of the statements asked about the criminal justice system.

Table 14: Confidence in various aspects of the criminal justice system by demographics, region and deprivation score

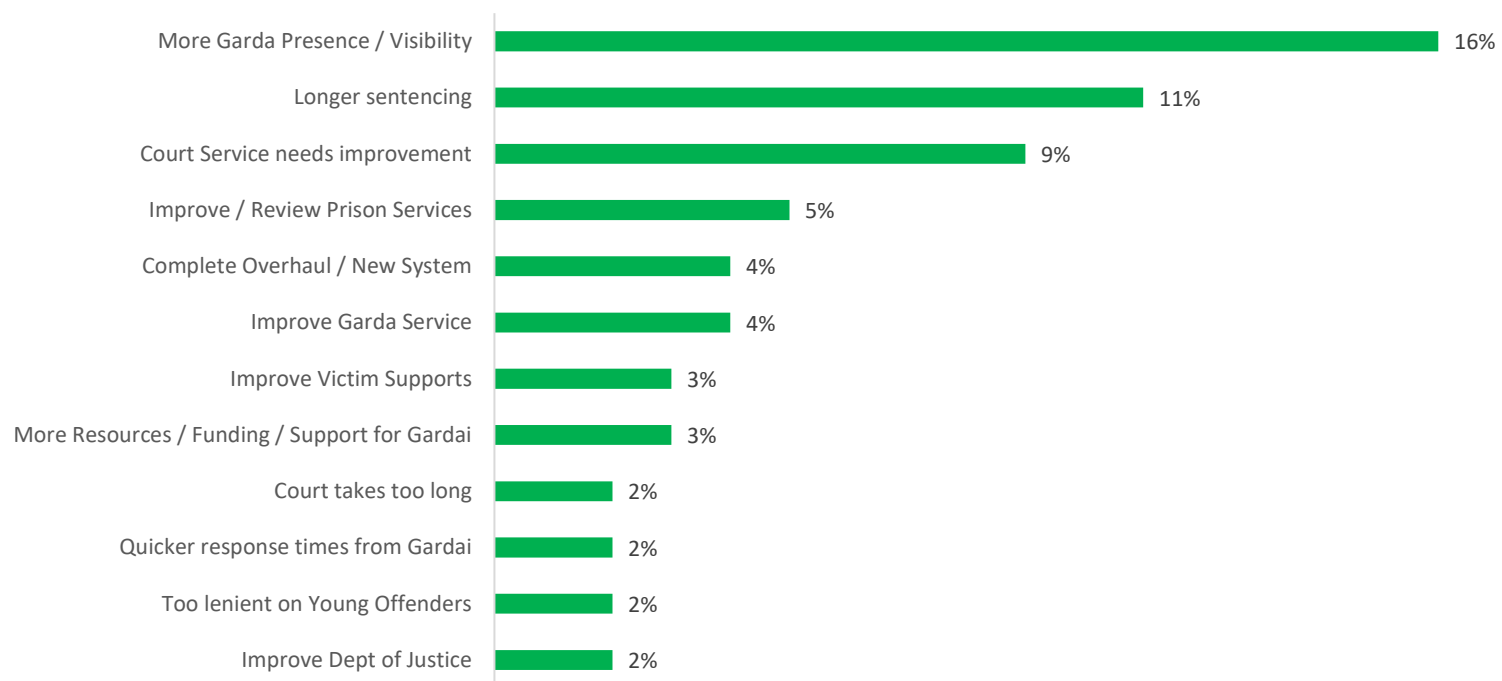
	Total	Gender		Age					Region					Deprivation score			
		Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Dublin	Out-side Dublin	Leinster	Munster	Conn/ Ulster	NET Affluent	Marginally above average	Marginally below average	NET Disadvantaged
Base	1518	719	799	129	230	480	368	311	453	1065	390	410	265	137	630	626	125
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
In Ireland those who have been accused of a crime are treated as innocent until proven guilty	60	62	58	55	56	58	63	66	56	62	54	73	56	66	62	58	54
In Ireland fair, impartial decisions are based on the evidence available	60	61	59	59	57	57	62	65	56	61	55	73	55	71	61	58	55
The system ensures everyone has access to justice	57	59	55	56	53	57	59	58	53	58	52	67	55	64	60	54	48
The system takes into account the views of victims and witnesses	56	57	56	59	52	55	58	58	55	57	49	67	54	69	58	53	57
In Ireland sentences take into account the circumstances surrounding a crime	54	54	53	58	49	51	54	59	52	55	44	66	53	67	54	50	56
The Criminal Justice System as a whole is fair?	53	57	51	48	52	50	55	62	49	55	47	68	50	66	55	50	52
In Ireland the correct balance is achieved between the rights of the offender and the rights of the victim	48	50	46	54	50	45	46	49	43	50	42	60	46	60	49	45	46
In Ireland witnesses are given the support they need	43	44	42	43	41	42	42	46	39	44	35	55	42	45	46	38	47
In Ireland victims are given the support they need	43	46	40	48	42	41	42	45	41	44	37	54	39	52	44	40	44

3.2 Aspect of the Irish criminal justice system in greatest need of improvement

Respondents were asked which specific aspects of the Irish criminal justice system they felt were in the greatest need of improvement. Responses to this question were spontaneous and no prompting was provided by interviewers. These responses were then coded into themes, the top mentions are summarised in figure 11.

A broad range of areas were identified as needing improvement. One in six (16%) stated that increasing Garda visibility was the main area that needed improving and one in ten (11%) stated the provision of longer sentences. One in four (24%) did not name any area of the system that needed improvement.

Figure 11: Aspects of the criminal justice system that need most improvement (spontaneous) % Mentions (Coded)





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4. Perceptions of Crime and Community Safety

4.1 Perception of crime in local area

Respondents were asked how much of a problem they felt various crimes were in their local area. Of the crimes listed⁵, the biggest problem in people's local areas was people using or dealing drugs, with more than half (55%) considering that to be a problem in their local area. A significant increase was seen from 51% in 2021 to 55% for 2022. Almost three in seven (29%) felt that people using or dealing drugs was a big problem in their local area.

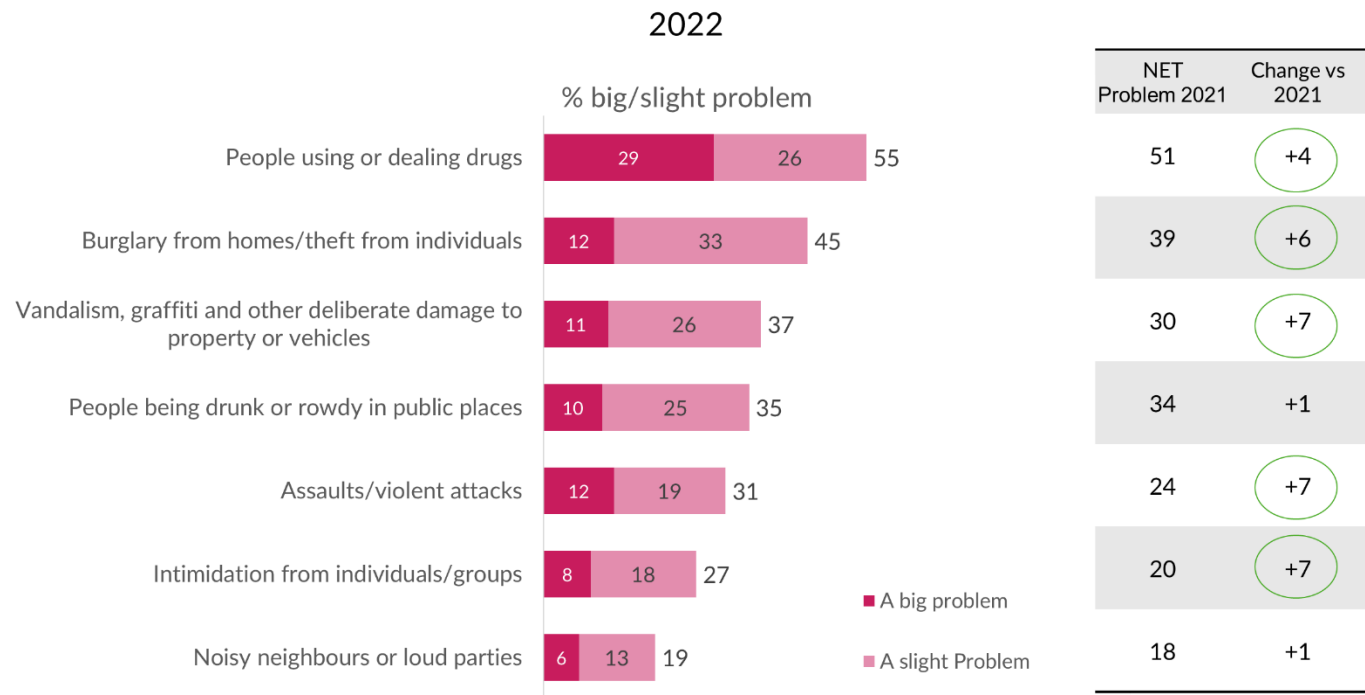
Almost half (45%) reported that burglary or theft was a problem in their local area, up from 39% in 2021. Almost two in five (37%) reported problems with vandalism or other deliberate damage, again up significantly from 2021 (30%).

More than one in three (35%) reported problems with people being drunk or rowdy in public places, while 31% reported that assault or violent attacks were a problem in their local area, again up significantly from 2021 (24%).

27% felt that intimidation was a problem in their local area, with one in five (19%) reporting problems with noisy neighbours/parties.

⁵ People using or dealing drugs, Burglary from homes/theft from individuals, People being drunk or rowdy in public places, Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property or vehicles, Assaults/violent attacks, Intimidation from individuals/groups, Noisy neighbours or loud parties

Figure 12: Perception of crime in local area



Perceptions of crime levels differed by deprivation score. Those in disadvantaged areas or areas marginally below the average were significantly more likely to state that drugs were a problem compared to the entire population.

Those in more disadvantaged areas were also significantly more likely to state problems with vandalism and other deliberate damage, drunken/rowdy behaviour and noisy neighbours/parties.

However, those living in more affluent areas were significantly more likely to claim problems with burglary/theft and drunken/rowdy behaviours compared to the total population. Those living in Dublin were more likely to report problems with burglary/theft, vandalism and drunken behaviour.

Table 15: Perceptions of crime in local area by region and deprivation score

% stating it is a big / slight problem	Total	Region					Deprivation score			
		Dublin	Out-side Dublin	Leinster	Munster	Conn/ Ulster	NET Affluent	Marginally above average	Marginally below average	NET Disadvantaged
Base	1518	453	1065	390	410	265	137	630	626	125
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
People using or dealing drugs	55	51	57	64	50	55	47	48	60	69
Burglary from home / theft from individuals	45	52	43	54	35	37	63	41	45	49
Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property or vehicles	37	45	33	39	31	29	42	34	35	53
People being drunk or rowdy in public places	35	40	33	35	30	32	45	31	34	44
Assaults / violent attacks	31	35	30	33	30	28	37	27	33	39
Intimidation from individuals / groups	27	30	25	31	22	21	34	24	26	32
Noisy neighbours or loud parties	19	23	17	18	16	20	26	18	16	30
NET Anti-Social Behaviour "see definition on previous slide"	64	65	64	72	57	64	67	59	67	76

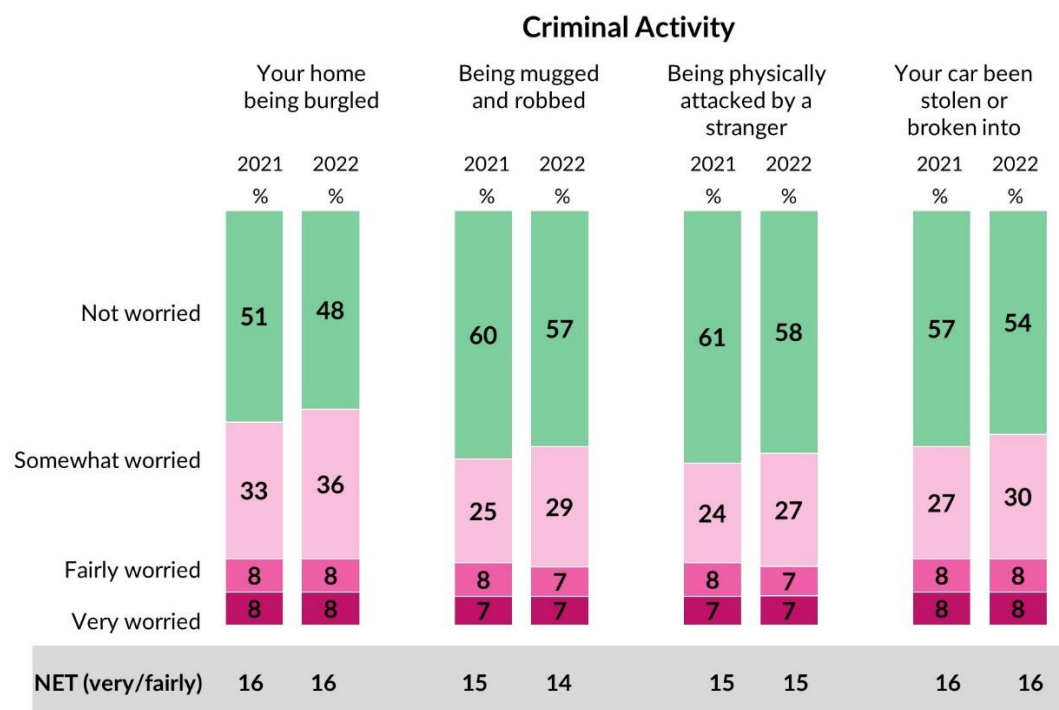
4.2 Worry of potential criminal activity

The extent to which people worry about being a victim of various types of crime was also ascertained.

The majority of the total population stated they were not worried about most of the types of crime presented. However, compared to 2021, the proportion who were not worried about the various crimes declined significantly.

Worry was highest for burglary from the home and for their car being stolen or broken into with circa one in six (16%) stating they were very/quite worried about either. Fifteen per cent were very/quite worried about being physically attacked by a stranger, with fourteen per cent being worried about being mugged or robbed.

Figure 13: Extent of worry about being a victim of crime



Those living in more rural areas and those living in Munster were more likely to worry about being a victim of crime compared to the total population. No significant differences were seen for gender and age.

Table 16: Extent of worry about being a victim of crime by demographics, region and deprivation score

	Total	Gender		Age					Region					Area		Deprivation score			
		Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Dublin	Out-side Dublin	Leinster	Munster	Conn/ Ulster	Urban	Rural	NET Affluent	Marginally above average	Marginally below average	NET Disadvantaged
Base	1518	719	799	129	230	480	368	311	453	1065	390	410	265	1006	512	137	630	626	125
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Your home being burgled	16	17	16	18	13	16	18	16	13	18	20	21	10	13	21	14	13	19	22
Your car been stolen or broken into	16	15	16	16	16	16	16	12	11	18	19	20	12	12	23	8	13	19	21
Being physically attacked by a stranger	15	12	17	19	13	15	15	13	11	16	19	19	8	12	23	7	13	17	17
Being mugged or robbed	14	12	16	14	13	14	16	13	10	16	17	20	8	11	21	9	12	16	18

As shown in table 17, those who had previously been a victim of crime were notably more likely to worry about crime.

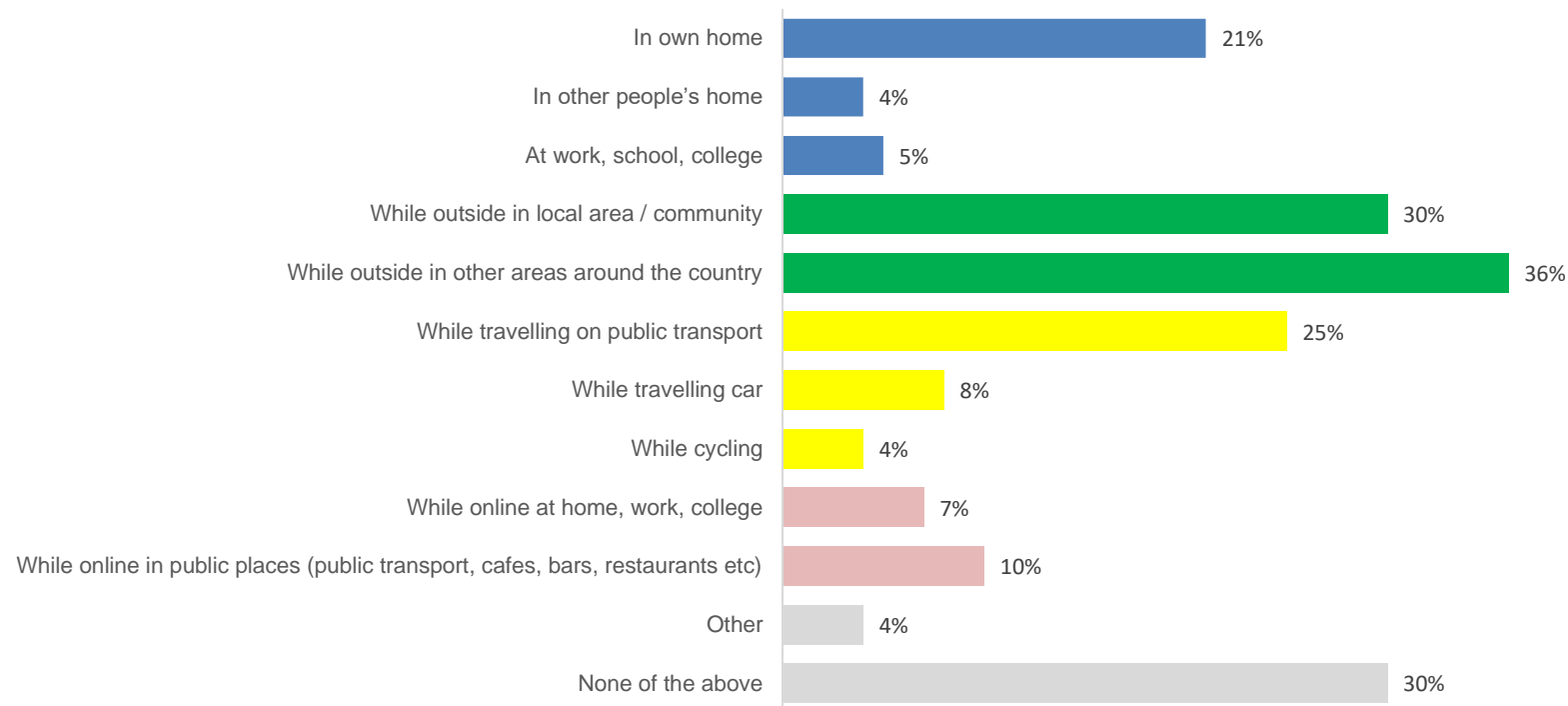
Table 17: Extent of worry about being a victim of crime by interaction with the system and level of understanding

	Total	Interaction with criminal system (Last 5 Years)		Victim of Crime (Ever)	Understanding of any CJS organisation	
		None	Any	Yes	Yes	No
Base	1518	1251	267	271	1138	380
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Your home being burgled	16	16	20	28	17	14
Your car been stolen or broken into	16	15	18	26	16	14
Being physically attacked by a stranger	15	14	17	24	16	13
Being mugged and robbed	14	14	14	20	15	12

Respondents were also asked where they felt vulnerable to becoming a victim of crime. Half felt vulnerable outside, with more saying they felt vulnerable when not in their local area (36%) versus when in their local area (30%). One in five (21%) felt vulnerable in their own home, with a quarter (25%) feeling vulnerable on public transport.

Feelings of vulnerability while online were lower with one in ten (10%) feeling vulnerable when online in public places and a similar proportion (7%) feeling vulnerable when online at home. Three in ten (30%) did not feel vulnerable to becoming a victim of crime in any of the places listed.

Figure 14: Areas feel particularly vulnerable to becoming a victim of crime



Those living in more affluent areas were generally less likely to feel vulnerable to crime across most locations. Two in five (40%) of those from affluent areas did not mention any locations where they would feel vulnerable versus thirty per cent in the total population. Females were more likely to feel vulnerable to crime than males when outside their local area. Very few significant differences were seen by age, but those in the older age cohort of 65 years or older were more likely to feel vulnerable to crime in their own home.

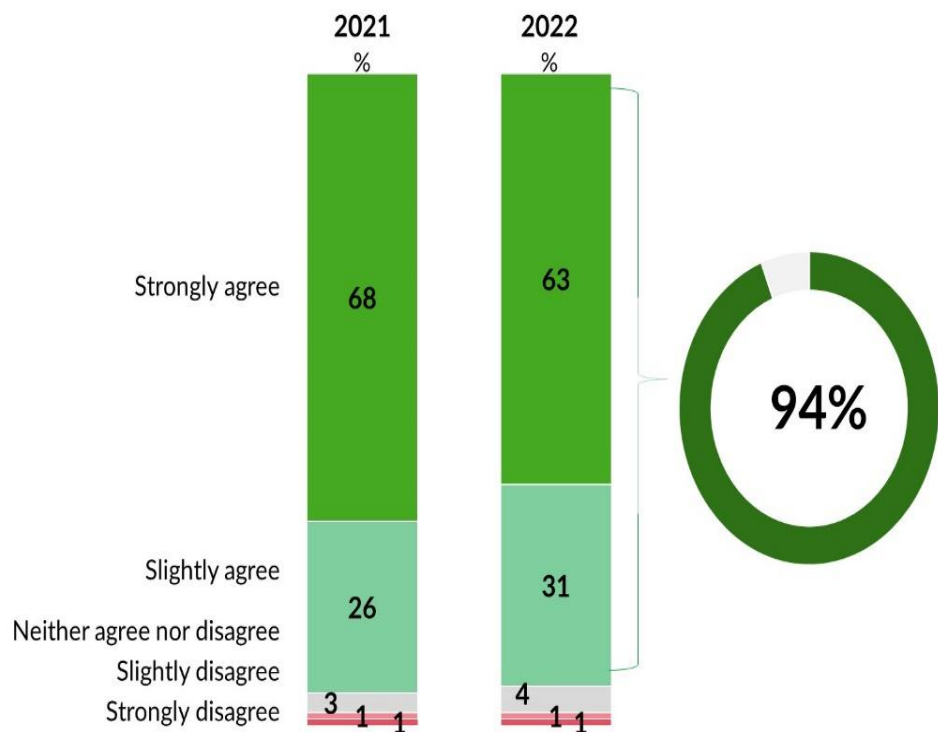
Table 18: Areas feel particularly vulnerable to becoming a victim of crime by demographics, region and deprivation score

	Total	Gender		Age					Region					Deprivation score			
		Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Dublin	Out-side Dublin	Leinster	Munster	Conn/ Ulster	NET Affluent	Marginally above average	Marginally below average	NET Disadvantaged
Base	1518	719	799	129	230	480	368	311	453	1065	390	410	265	137	630	626	125
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Any Outdoors	50	45	56	50	52	51	52	47	53	50	48	55	44	34	55	49	54
While outside in other areas around the country	36	32	41	32	40	37	37	33	41	34	31	38	33	21	43	34	31
While outside in local area / community	30	26	33	34	29	27	31	29	32	29	29	32	24	20	31	29	39
While travelling on public transport	25	21	28	23	27	26	25	21	31	22	29	21	12	31	25	23	22
In own home	21	21	21	15	16	17	24	31	13	24	20	28	25	6	23	23	17
While online in public places (public transport, cafes, bars, restaurants etc.)	10	9	11	15	9	11	9	7	9	11	13	10	7	6	9	11	15
While travelling car	8	7	8	8	8	7	8	8	5	9	10	9	7	2	10	7	5
While online at home, work, college	7	6	8	11	7	9	5	5	5	8	7	9	8	2	7	8	10
At work, school, college	5	5	5	13	5	5	3	1	3	5	5	6	6	1	5	5	4
In other people's home	4	5	4	7	6	3	5	4	5	4	3	5	6	2	5	4	5
While cycling	4	4	4	6	5	4	4	1	6	3	5	2	2	6	5	3	3
Other	4	5	3	3	5	5	3	3	6	3	3	4	0	8	3	4	3
None of the above	30	34	25	31	32	29	30	29	29	30	27	23	40	40	26	32	27

4.3 An Garda Síochána – Contact and Visibility

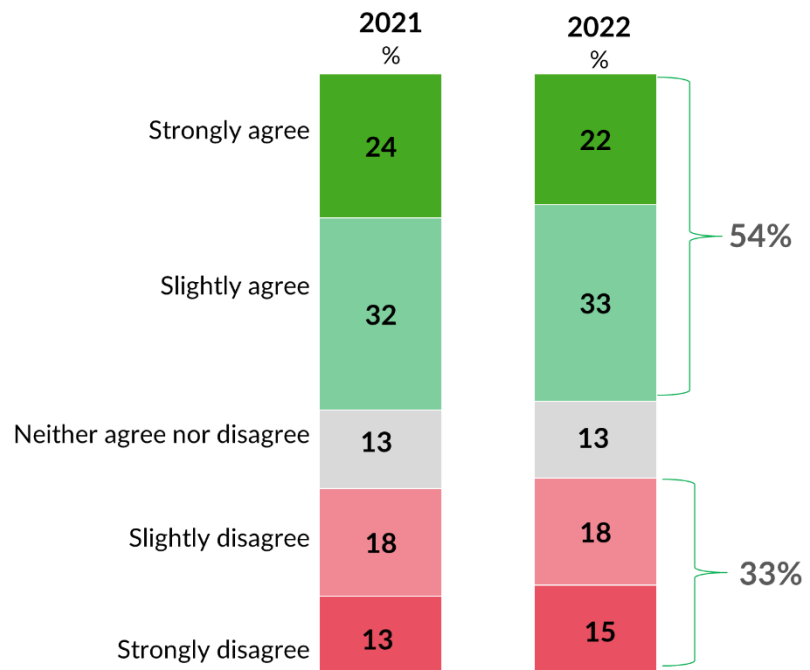
The vast majority (94%) of those surveyed stated that they would know how to contact An Garda Síochána or where to find their contact information. This level of agreement is unchanged compared to 2021.

Figure 15: Level of agreement that would know how to contact local Gardaí/where to find the contact information if needed



More than half (54%) agreed that An Garda Síochána are regularly seen in their local area with a third (33%) disagreeing with this statement.

Figure 16: Level of agreement that An Garda Síochána are regularly seen in the area



As shown in table 19, those from Munster and Connacht/Ulster were more likely to agree that the Gardaí are regularly seen in their local area, while lower agreement is seen among those living in the rest of Leinster (excluding Dublin). No significant differences were seen by the deprivation index.

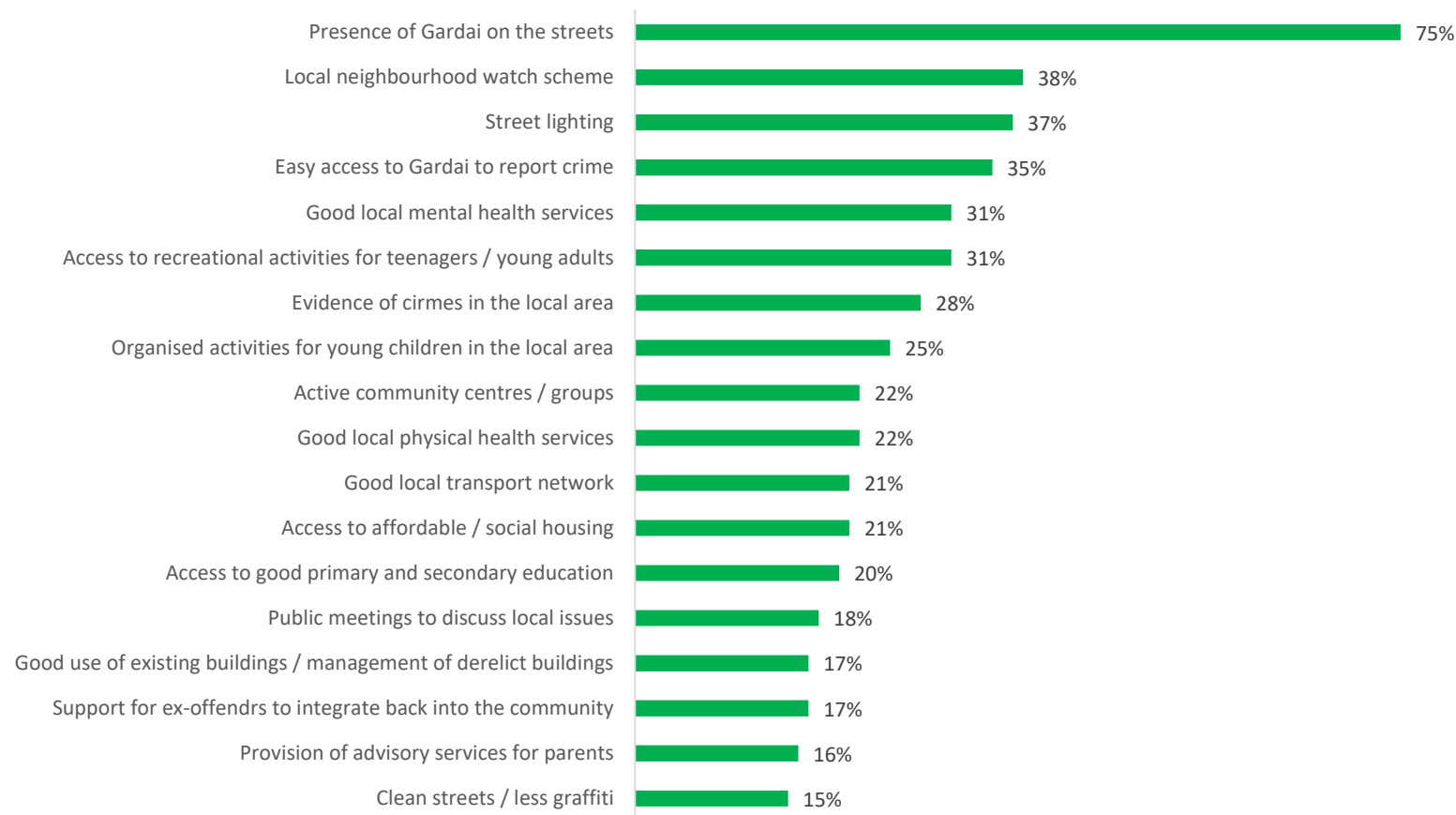
Table 19: Agreement that An Garda Síochána are regularly seen in the area by region, deprivation score and interaction level

Total	Region					Deprivation score				Interaction with criminal system (Last 5 Years)	
	Dublin	Out-side Dublin	Leinster	Munster	Conn/ Ulster	NET Affluent	Marginally above average	Marginally below average	NET Disadvantaged	None	Any
1518	453	1065	390	410	265	137	630	626	125	1251	267
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
54	51	56	48	60	61	58	54	52	59	55	50

4.4 Community Safety

The survey asked respondents about the services that do or would contribute to them feeling safer in their community. Three in four (75%) said the presence of the Gardaí on the streets would make them feel safer. Almost two in five cited neighbourhood watch schemes (38%) or street lighting (37%).

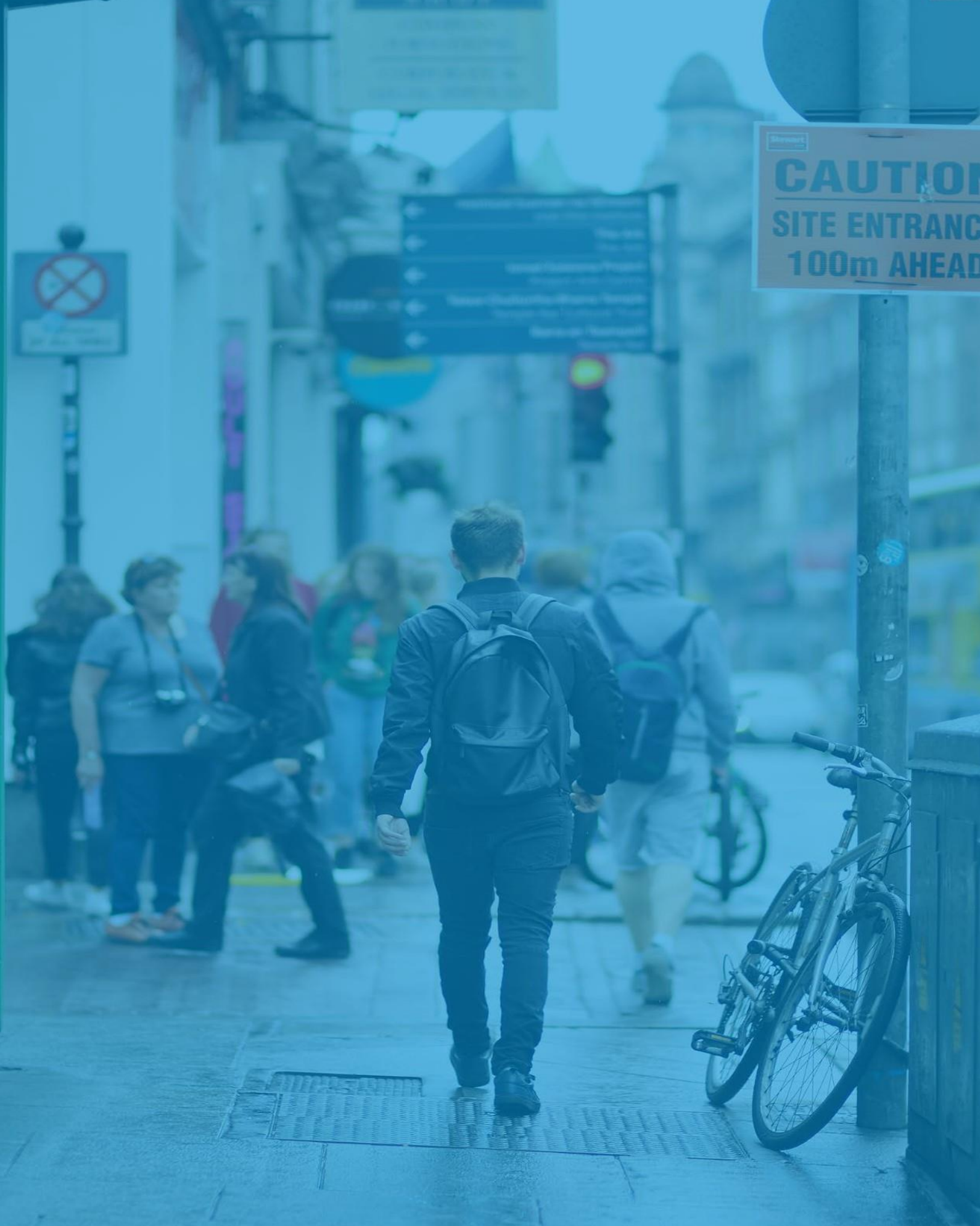
Figure 17: Factors that do or would make you feel safer in the community



The importance of the presence of Gardaí varied by age with more than four in five (84%) of those aged 65 and over stating their presence would make them feel safer compared to three in five (62%) of those aged 18-24. Those in disadvantaged areas were more likely to state that more Gardaí presence would make them feel safer (84%). No significant differences were seen by gender.

Table 20: Presence of Gardaí on the street would make you feel safer in your community (% yes) by demographics, region and deprivation score

Total	Gender		Age					Region					Deprivation score			
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Dublin	Out-side Dublin	Leinster	Munster	Conn/ Ulster	NET Affluent	Marginally above average	Marginally below average	NET Disadvantaged
1518	719	799	129	230	480	368	311	453	1065	390	410	265	137	630	626	125
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
75	75	76	62	73	75	77	84	77	74	77	75	71	75	75	74	84

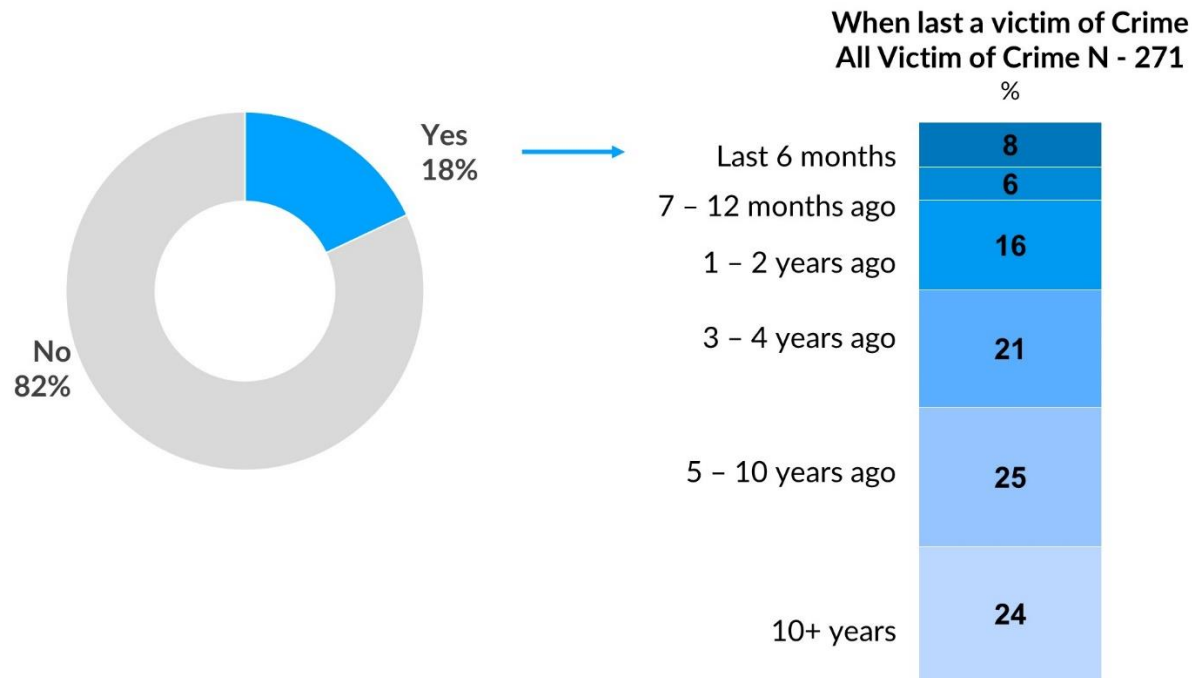


5. Personal Experiences of Crime

5.1 Victims of Crime

Circa one in five (18%) had ever been a victim of crime, unchanged from the level seen in 2021. 14% of this cohort claimed to have been a victim of crime in the past 12 months.

Figure 18: Ever been a victim of crime/when last a victim of crime



The incidence of being a victim of a crime was significantly lower amongst those living in more disadvantaged areas (12%) while no significant differences were seen by gender, age or region.

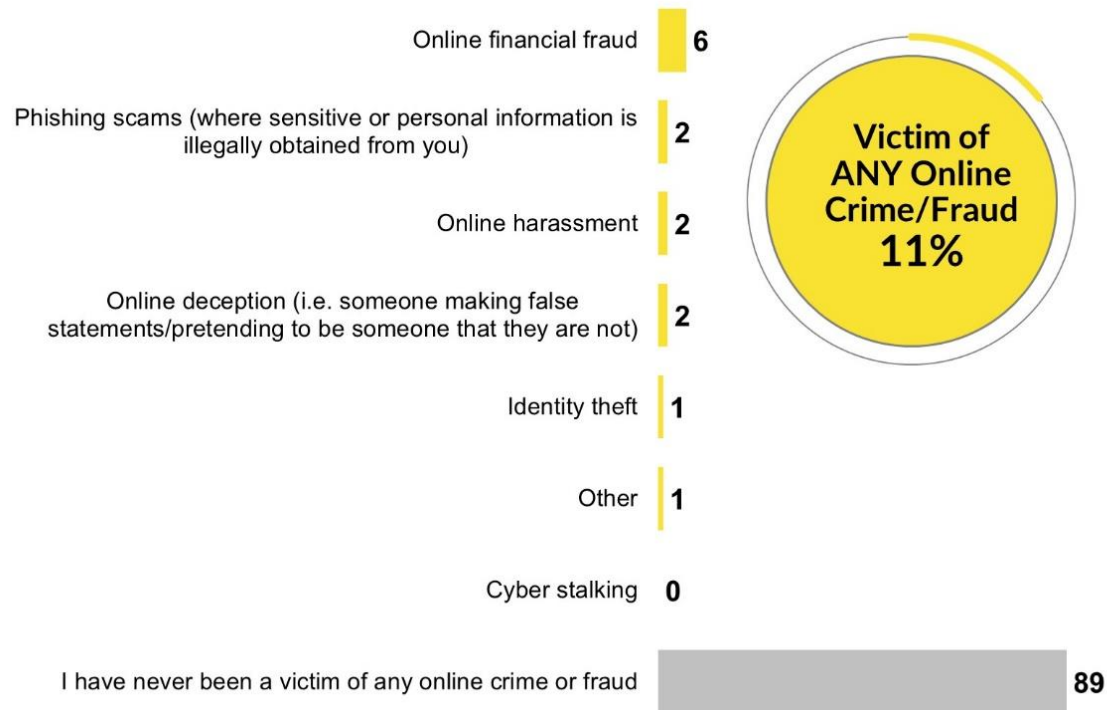
Table 21: Ever been a victim of crime by demographics, region and deprivation score

Total	Gender		Age					Region					Deprivation score			
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Dublin	Out-side Dublin	Leinster	Munster	Conn/ Ulster	NET Affluent	Marginally above average	Marginally below average	NET Disadvantaged
1518	719	799	129	230	480	368	311	453	1065	390	410	265	137	630	626	125
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
18	20	15	18	16	17	19	18	21	16	17	17	14	24	19	16	12

5.2 Online Crime or Fraud

Slightly more than one in ten (11%) of survey respondents had been a victim of any online crime/fraud, unchanged from the level seen in 2021. The most prevalent online crime/fraud report was online financial fraud (6%). Of those exposed to an online crime/fraud, almost 2 in 5 (37%) reported they were exposed to this kind of crime in the past year.

Figure 19: Ever experienced online crime/fraud



Those in more disadvantaged areas were less likely to claim that they had been exposed to online crime/fraud. No significant differences were seen by gender, age and region.

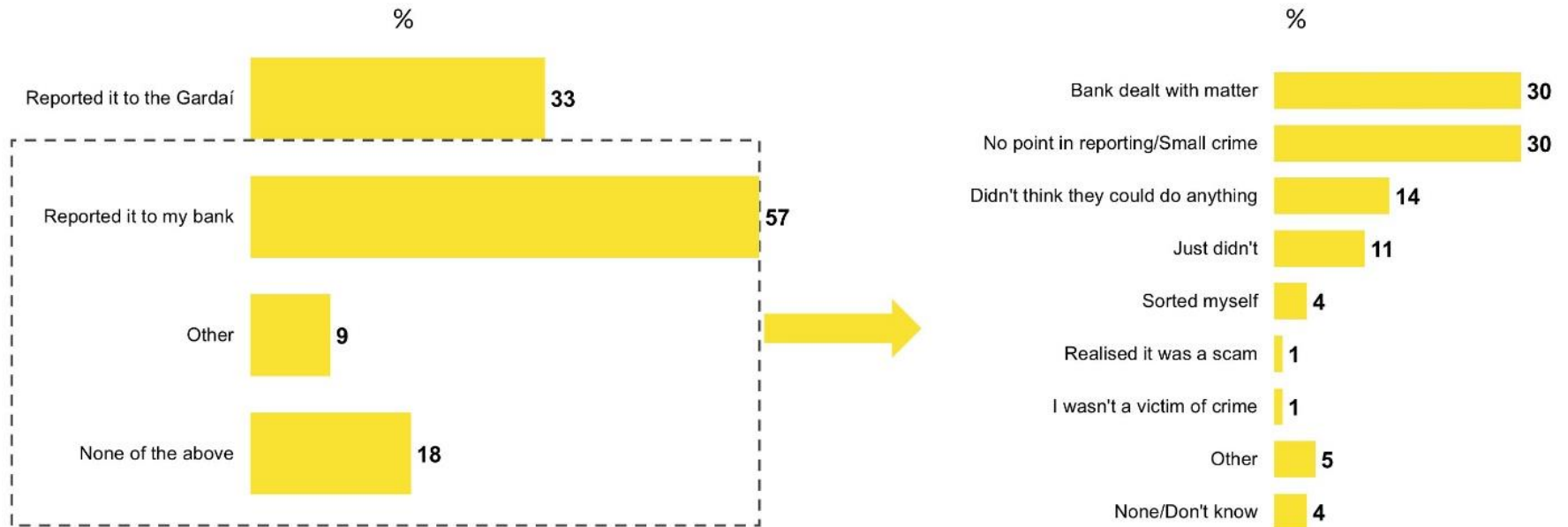
Table 22: Victim of online crime or fraud by demographics, region and deprivation score

Total	Gender		Age					Region					Deprivation score			
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Dublin	Out-side Dublin	Leinster	Munster	Conn/ Ulster	NET Affluent	Marginally above average	Marginally below average	NET Disadvantaged
1518	719	799	129	230	480	368	311	453	1065	390	410	265	137	630	626	125
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
11	11	10	17	12	11	8	7	11	10	17	12	11	13	13	9	6

The majority of victims (57%) reported the incident to their bank and one in three (33%) the Gardaí. One in five (18%) did not report it at all.

Amongst those who did not report to the Gardaí almost one in three (30%) did not do so because it was a small crime and there was no point and a similar proportion (30%) stated that the bank dealt with the matter.

Figure 20: Action taken when a victim of online crime/fraud



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