



An Garda Síochána

Public Attitudes Survey 2019

Garda.ie

Research conducted by


amárach
research

1	Foreword
2	Main Findings from the 2019 Public Attitudes Survey
3	Executive Summary
6	Chapter 1: Introduction
9	Chapter 2: Public Perceptions of Crime in Ireland
13	Chapter 3: Victims of Crime
17	Chapter 4: Fear and Worry about Crime
26	Chapter 5: Policing Priorities for An Garda Síochána
29	Chapter 6: Garda Visibility and Perception of Garda Presence
34	Chapter 7: Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána
38	Chapter 8: Trust in An Garda Síochána
42	Chapter 9: Treatment by An Garda Síochána
48	Chapter 10: Perceptions of An Garda Síochána
52	Chapter 11: 16 and 17-Year-Old Booster Sample
63	Conclusion

Foreword

The Public Attitudes Survey (PAS) 2019 is a measure of public perceptions of policing in Ireland. It is based on face-to-face interviews with a representative sample of society throughout 2019. When combined with other data sources such as official statistics on crime, it helps track the effectiveness of An Garda Síochána in keeping people safe and serving the entire community.

The survey focuses on the following areas:

- ▶ Public satisfaction with Garda service
- ▶ Victim satisfaction with Garda service
- ▶ Garda visibility
- ▶ Fear of crime and its impact on quality of life
- ▶ Trust in An Garda Síochána

The current format of the Public Attitudes Survey was first run in 2014 (results published 2015), making results comparable across this time series. The survey had been suspended from 2008 until 2014 due to austerity measures. The Quarterly and annual reports are available on the Garda website (www.garda.ie). These reports provide guidance for An Garda Síochána in strategic and operational decision making.

This report's data was collected from January to December 2019, therefore before Covid-19 impacted the world and Ireland. The fieldwork for 2020 has been disrupted meaning this report has additional significance as the final set of pre-Covid PAS data. The survey is now being assessed for its suitability to move online which will provide ongoing survey results but will result in a break in series (i.e. 2020 data will not be directly comparable to earlier years).

Respondents provided valuable insight into the types of crimes that the public feel An Garda Síochána should prioritise. As in 2018, crime related to illegal weapons and sexual offences were the crime types respondents felt should receive the main priority from the Gardaí.

Trust in An Garda Síochána is one of the most important metrics examined in the PAS. This has remained stable over the last number of years. This speaks well of the relationship the public has with Garda members as they support each other in terms of providing for safe communities, sharing of information and problem solving.

The conditions which lead to trust are also examined in greater detail. The majority of respondents feel Gardaí are friendly and helpful, community focused, modern or progressive, effective in tackling crime and well-managed. However, fewer people believe the organisation provides a world-class police service overall.

Two equality related questions were added in 2017 and four more in 2018, in order to gauge our performance in treating people with respect and fairly, listening to their concerns and dealing with the matters which affect the community.

We continue to strive for the highest standards of behaviour, in line with the Garda Code of Ethics. The PAS provides measures of this behaviour and together with the support of the Policing Authority, the intention is to maintain and continue to improve these standards.

We would like to thank the public for the support provided to An Garda Síochána during these testing times, and look forward to your continued feedback which is essential to shaping a Policing Service for Our Future.

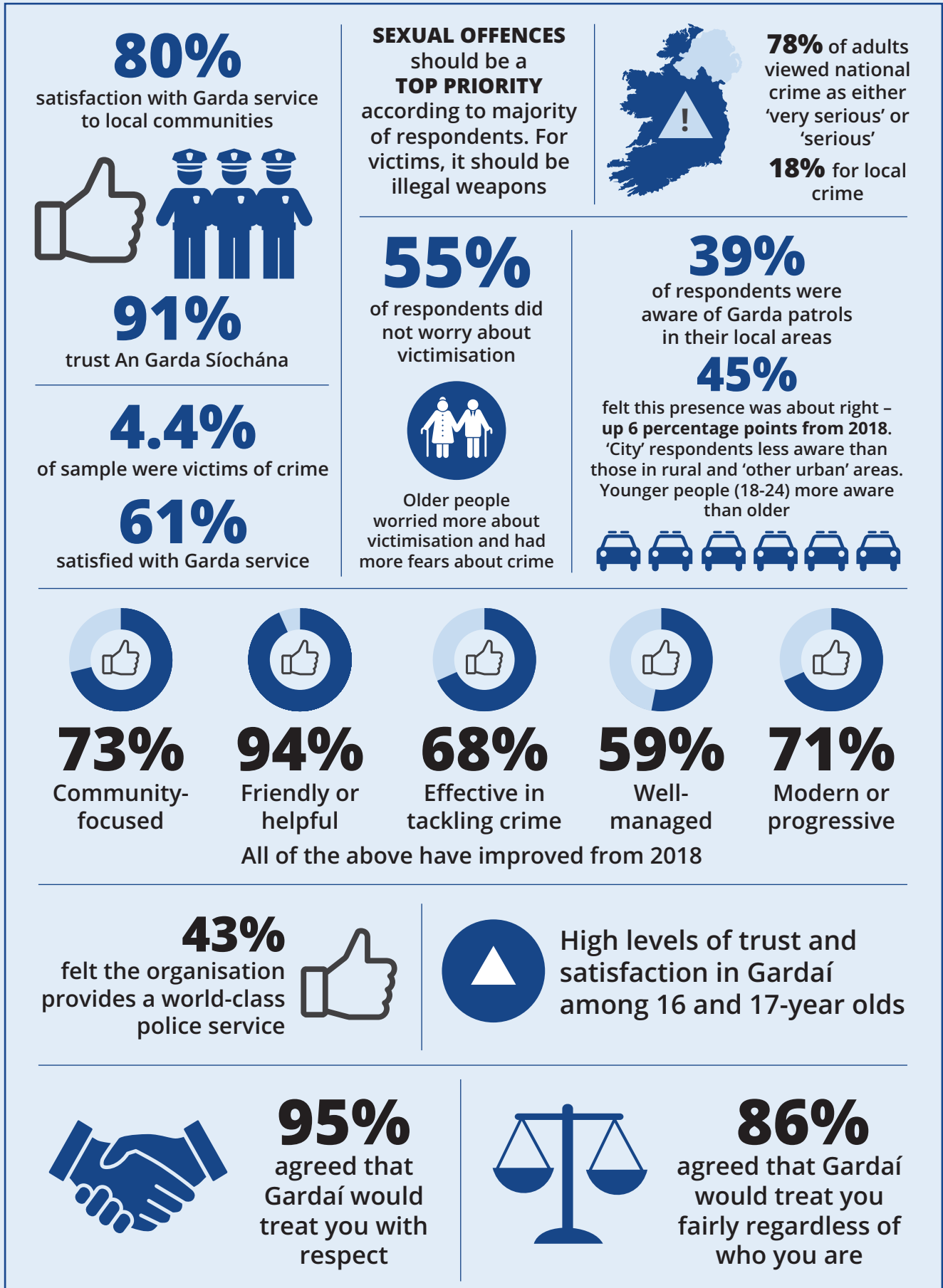
Sara Parsons

Deputy Head of An Garda Síochána Analysis Service

Lois West

Deputy Head of An Garda Síochána Analysis Service

Main Findings from the 2019 Public Attitudes Survey



Executive Summary

This report presents the findings from An Garda Síochána's 2019 Public Attitudes Survey – a survey of 6000 adult respondents in Ireland on a range of crime and policing issues. The survey is representative of the population in terms of age, gender, social class and nationality. A booster sample of 600 16 and 17-year olds was also surveyed (introduced in December 2016, and first reported on in 2017).

The findings are presented in this report under the following headings:

Public Perceptions of Crime in Ireland

In 2019, 78 percent of adult respondents viewed national crime to be either 'very serious' or 'serious'. In contrast, local crime was viewed as 'serious' or 'very serious' by 18 percent of adults.

- ▶ The proportion of respondents who viewed crime on a national level as a 'very serious' or a 'serious' problem has increased from 73 percent in 2018 to 78 percent in 2019. In terms of respondents' views about crime at a local level, the proportion who view it as 'not a problem' has been trending upwards since 2017 (29%, 31% and 32% consecutively over the last three years).
- ▶ Respondents in older age groups considered national crime more serious than younger age groups. Non-Irish nationals were more likely to hold the view that both national and local crime was less serious than Irish nationals.

Victims of Crime

Sixty-one percent of victims were either 'very satisfied' or 'quite satisfied' with how Gardaí handled their case in 2019 – no notable difference from 2018.

In 2019, of the 261 respondents who had been victims of crime in the preceding 12 months, 206 reported their crime to Gardaí. This represents a reporting rate of 80 percent. The most common reasons cited for not reporting a crime were that respondents did not believe the Gardaí could do anything, followed by 'I sorted it out myself.'

In terms of respondents' experience of reporting their crime, 61 percent stated that Gardaí responded quickly to the incident, while 54 percent felt the information received from Gardaí in relation to their case was 'about right'. Thirty-two percent stated it was 'too little', a decrease of 4 percentage points from 2018. Fourteen percent said they were given no update on the status of their investigation.

Fear and Worry about Crime

In 2019, 55 percent of survey respondents reported that they do not worry about victimisation – this has been trending upwards since 2017. The proportion of respondents that have 'a lot of fears' about crime stood at 3 percent for 2019, while those who have 'some' fears decreased by 5 percentage points from 2018, to 25 percent.

Respondents who had been victimised in the 12 months preceding the survey interview were more likely to worry about future victimisation, and had greater fears about crime, than non-victims.

As evidenced in previous surveys, fear of crime does not have a notable impact on quality of life. The proportion of respondents who reported that it greatly impacts on quality of life has remained at 1 percent in the last three surveys. Victims of crime reported greater levels of impact on their quality of life by fear of crime than non-crime victims – 23 percent of victims said it 'moderately' reduced quality of life compared to 9 percent of non-victims.

Policing Priorities for An Garda Síochána

The vast majority of respondents, at 97 percent, were of the opinion that sexual offences should be the top policing priority for An Garda Síochána. This was the case regardless of gender, age, social class or nationality. The only group where this differed was victims of crime, who ranked 'illegal weapons' as their top priority.

Human trafficking, illegal weapons and robbery also featured highly across all demographics in terms of priorities for An Garda Síochána.

Garda Visibility

In 2019, 39 percent of survey respondents reported being aware of Garda patrols in their local areas (the majority of these were aware of Gardaí patrolling in cars). Forty-five percent felt that Garda presence in their local areas was 'about right', an increase of 6 percentage points from 2018. Fifty-five percent of respondents felt Garda presence was not enough in their local areas.

- ▶ The proportion of respondents who reported being aware of Garda patrols has been trending upwards since 2017 (36%, 38% and 39% respectively for the last three years).
- ▶ There is an association between awareness of Garda patrols in local areas and perceptions of national and local crime. As respondents' views of the national and local

crime problem being serious decrease, awareness of Garda patrols increases.

Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána

Satisfaction with Garda service to local communities, in 2019, stood at 80 percent. Eleven percent of respondents were 'very satisfied', while 69 percent were 'quite satisfied'.

Satisfaction levels (both 'very satisfied' and 'quite satisfied') among respondents, with the service provided to their local communities by Gardaí, has remained the same between 2018 and 2019.

Satisfaction levels among Dublin respondents was lower than in other areas, as was satisfaction in 'city' areas. As in previous years, victims of crime reported lower satisfaction levels. In 2019, this figure stood at 55 percent compared to 81 percent of non-crime victims.

When satisfaction levels with Garda service provided to local communities is examined against perceptions of national and local crime, there is a clear correlation, especially evident at a local level. As perceptions of the seriousness of the crime problem increase, so too does dissatisfaction with Garda service.

Trust in An Garda Síochána

One of the most important metrics examined in the Garda Public Attitudes Survey is that of trust in the Gardaí. This has remained stable over the past number of survey sweeps. In 2019, 91 percent of respondents reported a medium to high trust in An Garda Síochána.

Respondents in older age categories were more likely to have higher trust in the Gardaí. 'City' respondents were less likely to have 'high trust' in the organisation than those from 'other urban' and rural areas. Respondents who had been victims of crime in the preceding 12 months to the survey interview were more likely to express 'low' trust in the Gardaí, than those who had not experienced victimisation.

Treatment by An Garda Síochána

In 2019, the vast majority of survey respondents (95%) agreed that Gardaí would treat them with respect if they had contact with them for any reason. Similarly, 86 percent agreed that Gardaí would treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are (this figure was 71% when 'don't know' responses were included).

- ▶ Eighty-nine percent of respondents who had been victims of crime in the 12 months preceding the survey interview, agreed that Gardaí would treat them with respect should they have contact with them for any reason.

- ▶ Victimisation impacted on whether respondents agreed that Gardaí would treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are, with 61 percent of crime victims agreeing. In contrast, 86 percent of non-crime victims agreed with this statement.
- ▶ The majority of respondents (76%) either 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that the Gardaí in their area can be relied on to be there when they are needed. (When 'don't know' responses were included this figure became 70 percent).
- ▶ The majority (70%) disagreed that Garda-community relations were poor. (When 'don't know' responses were included this became 60 percent).
- ▶ Eighty-six percent of respondents agreed (75% when 'don't know' responses were included) that Gardaí listen to the concerns of local people.
- ▶ Finally, 75 percent disagreed that Gardaí are not dealing with things that matter to the community (54% when 'don't know' responses were included).

Perceptions of the Garda Organisation

In 2019, the majority of respondents considered that the Gardaí are community-focused (73%), friendly or helpful (94%), effective in tackling crime (68%), well-managed (59%) and modern or progressive (71%). Forty-three percent agreed that the organisation provides a world-class police service.

Respondents' views of An Garda Síochána have continued to improve over the last number of survey sweeps. Victims of crime (in the 12 months preceding the survey interview) were less likely to be positive about the effectiveness and capability of An Garda Síochána, than non-crime victims.

Booster Sample (16 and 17-year-olds)

This is the third year in which the views of 16 and 17-year-olds were captured within the Public Attitudes Survey. The relationship between young people and An Garda Síochána is important and one which must be explored fully. Early interactions with the Gardaí and perceptions of the organisation are relevant as they impact on lasting attitudes and behaviours.

Sixty-nine percent of 16 and 17-year-olds considered national crime to be either a 'very serious' or 'serious' problem (lower than the main sample). As with the adult sample, local crime was considered far less of a problem than national crime.

In 2019, the majority of 16 and 17-year-olds had not been a victim of crime in the preceding 12 month period (3% had been victims of crime). Younger respondents were far less worried about becoming a victim than the adult sample - the majority (79%) did not worry about victimisation. Similarly, the younger cohort (62%) had less fear of crime than the adult sample (38%).

Satisfaction was high among 16 and 17-year-olds with service provided by Gardaí to the local community - 85 percent were either 'satisfied' or 'quite satisfied'. Eighty-eight percent had mid to high trust in the Gardaí. Ninety percent felt Gardaí would treat individuals with respect and 82 percent felt they treat everyone fairly. As in 2018, perceptions of the effectiveness and capability of An Garda Síochána were largely positive. Agreement levels that Gardaí are friendly and helpful were the highest at 90 percent.

Chapter 1

Introduction

An Garda Síochána's Public Attitudes Survey is a social survey of the Irish public's attitudes towards crime and policing in Ireland. It was relaunched in 2014 after being discontinued in 2008. The 2019 survey represents the fifth sweep since its relaunch. The survey consists of 6000 face-to-face interviews with adults aged 18 years and over. In 2017, the attitudes of 16 and 17-year-olds were surveyed in a smaller separate survey. This consists of 600 face-to-face interviews. In addition to the annual report, An Garda Síochána publishes quarterly bulletins. All previous publications are available on www.garda.ie.

1.1 The Public Attitudes Survey aims to:

- ▶ Gather the views of a representative sample of the Irish public about crime in Ireland and the Garda organisation, as well as the views of victims of crime about their experiences of the service provided to them by An Garda Síochána.
- ▶ Measure perceived levels of crime on a national and local level.
- ▶ Identify the crime types viewed by the public as priority areas for An Garda Síochána.
- ▶ Assess satisfaction levels among the public with the service provided by An Garda Síochána.
- ▶ Measure the public's levels of trust in An Garda Síochána and perceptions of the organisation.

1.2 Methodology: How is the Public Attitudes Survey conducted?

The process commenced with a public tendering competition, resulting with Amárach Research being commissioned to conduct the survey. An Garda Síochána, in consultation with Amárach Research, designed the questionnaire. Questions were tested prior to their inclusion in the final survey. The survey runs on a continuous basis (i.e. the population is being surveyed continuously) and involves in-home, face-to-face interviews. The survey is reported on both a quarterly and annual basis.

The sampling process which Amárach Research utilise is based on 200 sampling points. These were selected from a database of approximately 3,500 District Electoral Divisions/Wards. These 200 sampling points are not all used at one time, rather 50 points are sampled each month, with each

sampling point visited three times during the year. The benefit of rotating the sampling points reduces the effect of sampling error. The sampling points are stratified in line with the population distribution using the following categories:

- ▶ The cities and suburbs of Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Waterford and Galway
- ▶ Towns with a population of 10,000, but not a city or suburb
- ▶ Towns with a population of 5,000 to 9,999
- ▶ Towns with a population of 1,500 to 4,999
- ▶ Areas with a population of less than 1,499

Using a random walk approach, potential respondents are selected. This approach involves the interviewers selecting a start point where they approach every house at set intervals, i.e. one quarter mile in rural areas, until eligible respondent is obtained. In order to ensure that interviews are completed in a consistent manner across all groups, interviews are conducted throughout the day, in the respondents' homes. Amárach Research deploys two shifts of interviewers between 10am and 2pm and between 2pm and 8pm. The sampling method used for 16 and 17-year-olds is outlined in chapter 11.

1.3 Sample Profile

The Public Attitudes Survey samples adults aged 18 years and over and is designed to be nationally representative.

Respondents were selected according to quotas based on age, gender, social class and nationality. The questionnaire includes questions to capture a wide range of demographic information. The sample is weighted when the analysis is conducted to ensure it is in line with the national population. Table 1 provides a breakdown of the 2019 survey sample.

Respondents were asked whether they had been a victim of crime in the 12 months prior to the month of the interview (the reference period). However, the victimisation section does not capture data on all crimes: crimes of a sexual nature are excluded from the survey.

1.4 Differences between annual reports

As mentioned, the Public Attitudes Survey (PAS) was relaunched in 2014 and the first survey in this series is the 2015 PAS. Other than 2015, the exclusion of 'don't know' and

1 This includes being a victim of burglary, theft, robbery, criminal damage, assault

refusal responses has occurred for the majority of questions. In the main, comparisons across surveys for particular questions are not affected by this methodological choice, other than when 2015 is within that comparison. The reader should be mindful of this if conducting direct comparison against 2015 figures only.

1.5 Continuing in 2019

In 2018, four new questions were added to the survey. These continued in 2019 and are reported on under the chapter heading 'Treatment by An Garda Síochána' and relate to the reliability of the Gardaí in local areas and police-community relations.

1.6 Interpreting tables and figures

Frequency and percentage tables are used to explore survey responses within this report. In some cases, comparisons are made between previous PAS surveys – mainly the 2017 and 2018 surveys. Changes are measured for statistical significance. Statistically significant differences are identified within the text.

Low sample sizes can provide unreliable findings as well as presenting confidentiality issues. Therefore, any cell size with fewer than 30 weighted/unweighted respondents will be represented by a line i.e. –. However, it should be noted, percentages for those cell sizes greater than 30 in that column are based on total number of responses for that column. As a result, that column will not tally to 100 percent as some cells will be depicted by a dash/line and the other cells will tally to the percentage total for cells with over 30 cases.

In some other tables, a percentage may be quoted for a single category i.e. 'agreement' is made up of 'strongly agree' plus 'agree'. These are percentages combined by summing two or more percentages. The percentage has been recalculated for the single combined category, and therefore may differ by one or two percentage points from the sum of the percentages for those percentages displayed from the figures and tables. The latter would have employed rounding already.

Some questions in the survey allow respondents to choose multiple responses. These percentages will not sum to 100 percent with the other percentages presented. Finally, not all columns where percentages are used will add up to 100 percent. This is due to the rounding of figures.

This is a survey of a random sample of the population. It must, therefore, be accepted that there will be some margin of error. This has been calculated at +/- 1.1 percent for the full sample of 6,000 respondents. This means that when we are reporting figures for the sample as a whole, for example

noting that 80 percent of respondents agree with a statement, the true value will sit between 78.9 and 81.1 percent. It is important to note that as analysis is done on smaller proportions of the sample, the margin of error increases. This should be taken into account when examining smaller sizes (for example, victims of crime).

The tables use a breakdown of social class as used by market research companies. Table 2, on the next page, sets out the definition of these social classes. The tables also break down responses by geographical areas, including 'city', 'other urban' and 'rural'. 'City' areas are city boroughs, 'other urban' is any area with a population between 1,500 and 10,000 and 'rural' areas have a population of less than 1,500. The survey also asks respondents about distance to their local Garda station – answers are based on respondents' estimates.

1.7 Structure of this report

This report is divided into twelve chapters (chapter one being the introduction):

- ▶ Chapter 2 presents the findings on perceptions of crime in Ireland during 2019. Comparisons are made with the 2017 and 2018 survey findings.
- ▶ Chapter 3 examines victimisation among respondents and the reporting rate to Gardaí. In addition, levels of satisfaction among victims of crime with the Garda service is explored. Perceptions about information received and support is also provided.
- ▶ Chapter 4 focuses on respondents' perceived likelihood of victimisation and their worry about specific crimes, as well as the impact on their quality of life.
- ▶ Chapter 5 examines what crime types respondents view as priorities for An Garda Síochána.
- ▶ Chapter 6 explores levels of Garda visibility and whether respondents view Garda presence in local communities as sufficient.
- ▶ Chapter 7 examines the public's satisfaction with the service provided to local communities by An Garda Síochána.
- ▶ Chapter 8 explores the level of trust in An Garda Síochána by respondents.
- ▶ Chapter 9 focuses on respondents' perceptions of treatment by An Garda Síochána.
- ▶ Chapter 10 examines respondents' perceptions of the Garda organisation including its ability to tackle crime, whether it is community-focused and the degree to which it provides a world-class police service.

Table 1: Public Attitude Survey sample profile 2019

Gender	Age	Social Class	Region
Male	49%	18 - 24	11% AB
Female	51%	25 - 34	19% C1
		35 - 44	21% C2
		45 - 54	18% DE
		55 - 64	14% F
		65+	18%

Area	Nationality	Ethnicity	Religion
City	38%	Irish	88%
Other Urban	25%	UK	3%
Rural	37%	Polish	2%
		Lithuanian	1%
		Indian	1%
		Other	5%

Table 2: Definitions of social class groupings

Social Class	Description
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

Chapter 2

Public Perceptions of Crime in Ireland



National crime continues to be viewed as more serious than local crime



Non-Irish nationals continue to view national and local crime as less serious than Irish nationals



Respondents in **Dublin (26%)** and the **'rest of Leinster' (29%)** considered local crime as more serious than those in **Munster (17%)** and **Connaught or Ulster (14%)**



Women perceive national crime and local crime as more serious than men



Respondents in older age categories view national crime as more serious than younger respondents

Survey respondents were asked about their perceptions of the level of crime nationally and in their local area. Similar to previous surveys, respondents perceive national crime to be more serious than local crime. The proportion of respondents who hold this view has increased since 2018. Local crime is considered less of a problem and the proportion of respondents who hold this view has also increased over the past three survey sweeps.

2.1 Perceptions of crime in Ireland: national and local

During 2019, national crime was viewed as a 'very serious' problem by 36 percent of respondents, with 42 percent considering it a 'serious' problem. Twenty percent viewed it as 'something' of a problem, while 3 percent of respondents considered crime in Ireland on a national level as 'not a problem'. In comparison, 4 percent of survey respondents felt that crime in their local area was a 'very serious' problem and 14 percent considered it a 'serious' problem. Forty-nine percent stated that it was 'something' of a problem with 32 percent perceiving it as 'not a problem'.

2.2 Have perceptions changed between 2017, 2018 and 2019?

The proportion of respondents who viewed crime on a national level as a 'very serious' problem has increased over the last three years since 2017 (24%, 28% and 36% consecutively). However, those who view it as a 'serious problem' decreased from 50 percent in 2017 to 42 percent in 2019. These changes were statistically significant. Overall, in 2019 there was an increase in the proportion of respondents who view crime on a national level as a 'very serious' or 'serious' problem (78%), compared to 73 percent in 2018.

In terms of respondents' views about crime at a local level, 20 percent in 2017 viewed it as a 'very serious' or 'serious' problem with this figure dropping to 18 percent in 2019. The proportion of respondents who felt that crime was not a problem in their local areas has increased year on year from 2017 (29%, 31% and 32% respectively), a statistically significant change. Changes in perception of crime over the last three years are illustrated in figures 1 and 2.

The next sections further explore perceptions of national and local crime. The survey collects a range of demographic and geographic information in addition to information about respondents' contact with An Garda Síochána in the 12 months preceding the survey interview.

Figure 1: Changes in perceptions of national crime in Ireland between 2017, 2018 and 2019

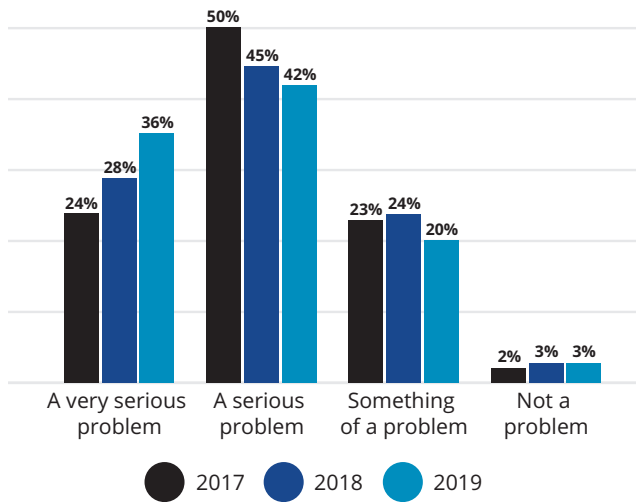
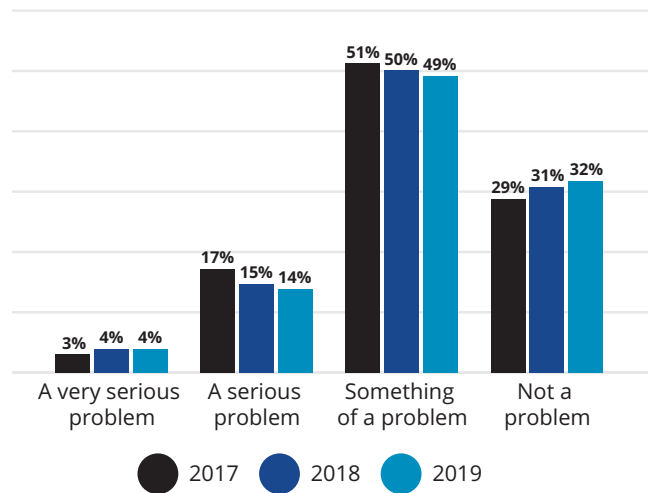


Figure 2: Changes in perceptions of local crime in Ireland between 2017, 2018 and 2019



2.3 Perceptions of national crime by demographic, socio-economic and area groupings

Respondents' perceptions of national crime by demographic, socio-economic and area groupings, during 2019, are illustrated in tables 4 and 5.

Gender: As in previous survey sweeps, women were more likely to view national crime as a 'very serious' or 'serious' problem, than men.

Age: Older age groups considered national crime a more

serious problem than younger age groups. Respondents in younger age groups were more likely to consider national crime 'something' of a problem than those in older age groups.

Social Class: Respondents from social class group F (40%) were more likely to view national crime as a 'very serious' problem compared to other social class groups.

Nationality: Non-Irish nationals considered national crime to be less serious than Irish nationals (59% viewed national crime as a 'very serious' or 'serious' problem compared to 78% of Irish nationals).

Table 4: Perceptions of national crime in Ireland during 2019 by demographic and socio-economic groupings

	Gender		Age						Social Class					Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	Irish	Non-Irish
A very serious problem	33%	39%	24%	28%	34%	40%	40%	47%	33%	32%	39%	37%	44%	38%	20%
A serious problem	44%	39%	43%	45%	42%	40%	42%	38%	41%	42%	40%	42%	43%	41%	43%
Something of a problem	21%	19%	29%	24%	22%	19%	17%	13%	23%	24%	19%	18%	12%	19%	31%
Not a problem	3%	3%	4%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%	2%	6%

Table 5: Perceptions of national crime in Ireland during 2019 by area groupings

	Region				Urban/Rural			Distance to Garda Station					
	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	Less than 1 km	1-3 kms	3-5 kms	5-10 kms	10+kms	
A very serious problem	18%	50%	39%	39%	23%	48%	41%	30%	31%	43%	44%	43%	
A serious problem	39%	39%	47%	40%	41%	39%	43%	45%	43%	39%	43%	43%	
Something of a problem	37%	11%	12%	19%	31%	12%	15%	22%	23%	15%	13%	11%	
Not a problem	6%	1%	2%	2%	5%	1%	2%	3%	3%	3%	1%	3%	

Region: respondents in Dublin (63%) perceived the national crime problem as less serious than in other regions: rest of Leinster (81%); Munster (85%) and Connaught or Ulster (78%).

Urban/Rural: respondents in city areas (67%) viewed national crime as less of a problem than in 'other urban' and rural areas (80% and 82% respectively).

Distance from Garda station: those respondents who lived greater than 5kms from a Garda station were more likely to view national crime as a problem than those who lived less than 5kms away.

2.4 Perceptions of local crime by demographic, socio-economic and area groupings

Perceptions of crime at a local level during 2019, by demographic and geographic groupings, are shown in tables 6 and 7.

Gender: women (23%) were slightly more likely to view crime in their local areas as a 'very serious' or 'serious' problem than males (21%).

Age: those in the 45-64 age groups were more likely to view crime as a serious problem in their local areas than other groups.

Social Class: there were no notable differences across social class in terms of views of crime in local areas.

Nationality: Irish respondents (24%) considered local crime as more serious (very serious or serious) than non-Irish nationals (16%).

Region: a greater proportion of respondents from Dublin (26%) and the rest of Leinster (29%) considered crime a 'very serious' or 'serious' problem in their local areas than those in Munster (17%) and Connaught or Ulster (14%).

Urban/Rural: rural respondents were less likely to view crime in their local areas as a serious problem than in city and other urban areas.

Distance from Garda station: respondents who lived more than 3-5 kms from a Garda station viewed local crime as less serious, compared to those who lived nearer to stations.

2.5 Sources of information that influence perceptions of national and local crime

The survey sought to ascertain how perceptions of crime are influenced. Results from 2019 were similar to those in 2018. Thirty-eight percent of respondents reported 'TV' was their main source of information about national crime in Ireland, followed by radio (22%), online news/media (15%) and social media (12%). As for sources of information about local crime, 'word of mouth/friends' accounted for 42 percent of respondents' answers, followed by radio/local radio (15%) and social media (14%).

Table 6: Perceptions of local crime in Ireland during 2019 by demographic and socio-economic groupings

	Gender		Age						Social Class					Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	Irish	Non-Irish
A very serious problem	4%	4%	2%	3%	4%	6%	5%	5%	5%	4%	5%	4%	2%	5%	2%
A serious problem	13%	16%	12%	12%	14%	16%	16%	16%	14%	14%	15%	15%	13%	15%	9%
Something of a problem	49%	49%	51%	49%	51%	48%	49%	48%	53%	50%	47%	48%	52%	50%	43%
Not a problem	34%	31%	36%	36%	31%	30%	31%	30%	29%	32%	34%	33%	33%	30%	46%

Table 7: Perceptions of local crime in Ireland by area groupings

	Region				Urban/Rural			Distance to Garda Station				
	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	Less than 1 km	1-3 kms	3-5 kms	5-10 kms	10+kms
A very serious problem	5%	8%	2%	1%	4%	8%	2%	3%	4%	7%	3%	0%
A serious problem	18%	18%	10%	9%	17%	17%	11%	14%	14%	18%	13%	11%
Something of a problem	53%	44%	46%	56%	51%	46%	49%	49%	54%	41%	47%	46%
Not a problem	24%	31%	42%	33%	28%	28%	39%	34%	28%	34%	37%	43%

2.6 Perceptions of national and local crime by contact with An Garda Síochána

Tables 8 and 9 examine whether having contact with An Garda Síochána in the 12 months preceding the survey interview impacts perceptions of national and local crime. Respondents who had no contact with An Garda Síochána (79%) were more likely to view national crime as a ‘very serious’ or ‘serious’ problem compared to those who had self-initiated contact (76%) or Garda-initiated contact (77%).

Respondents’ perceptions of local crime being ‘very serious’ or ‘serious’ were greater for those respondents who had self-initiated contact (25%) than those whose contact was Garda-initiated (11%) or for those who had no contact (17%).

Table 8: Perceptions of national crime in Ireland by contact with An Garda Síochána

	Self-initiated contact	Garda-initiated contact	No contact
A very serious problem	37%	28%	36%
A serious problem	39%	49%	43%
Something of a problem	23%	22%	19%
Not a problem	2%	2%	3%

Table 9: Perceptions of local crime in Ireland by contact with An Garda Síochána

	Self-initiated contact	Garda-initiated contact	No contact
A very serious problem	8%	2%	3%
A serious problem	17%	9%	14%
Something of a problem	51%	57%	49%
Not a problem	25%	31%	35%

2.7 Summary

- › Respondents continue to view national crime as a more serious problem than local crime.
- › The proportion of respondents who view national crime to be a ‘very serious’ or ‘serious’ problem has increased from 73 percent in 2018 to 78 percent in 2019.
- › Older respondents consider national crime a more serious problem than those in younger age categories. Non-Irish respondents were more likely to consider it less of a problem than Irish respondents.
- › Respondents in Dublin consider national crime as less serious than those in other regions.
- › Non-Irish respondents were more likely to view crime as ‘not a problem’ in their local areas compared to Irish respondents.
- › Local area crime was viewed as more serious by respondents from Dublin and the rest of Leinster, than those in Munster and Connaught or Ulster.

Perceptions of national and local crime will be examined further in the following chapters in terms of victimisation, fear and worry about crime, satisfaction with Garda service, trust in the Gardaí and views of the Garda organisation.

Chapter 3

Victims of Crime



Victimisation rate has decreased from 6 percent in 2018 to 4.4 percent in 2019



61%
of victims satisfied with how Gardai handled their case



80%
Victim reporting rate unchanged from 2017



3.5%
Q4 of 2019 saw the lowest victimisation rate in the last three years

As with previous surveys, the 2019 survey measured the percentage of adults (aged 18 years and older) who were victims of at least one crime in the twelve months prior to their survey interview - regardless of whether they reported the crime to the Gardai or not. This is referred to as the victimisation rate.

3.1 Victimisation in Ireland

In the 2019 survey, there were 261 victims of crime (out of 6000), of which 30 reported they were victims of crime on more than one occasion in the preceding twelve months. The victimisation rate was, therefore, 4.4 percent – a reduction from the 2018 survey (when it stood at 6%).

Quarter 4 of 2019 represented the lowest victimisation rate over the last three survey sweeps (2017, 2018 and 2019). The victimisation rate has been declining since Q2 2018 (except for an increase in Q2 2019 when it stood at 5.3%). These

changes were statistically significant. **It is important to note that as analysis of quarterly victimisation rates is done on smaller sample sizes the margin of error increases.** Figure 3 outlines the fluctuations in the victimisation rate since Q1 2017.

Figure 3: Level of crime victimisation from Q1 2017 to Q4 2019

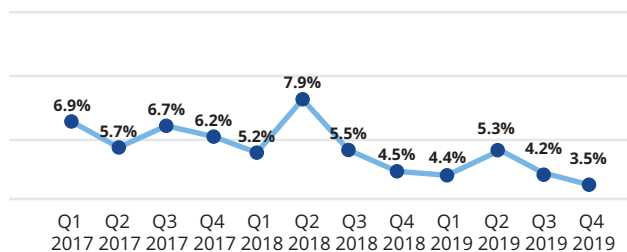
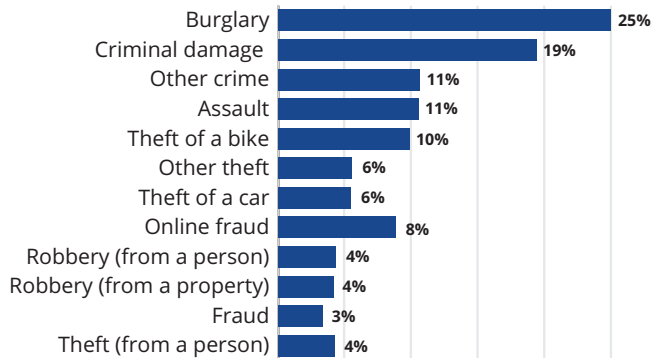


Figure four provides details of the most recent crime type experienced by victims of crime; burglary (25%), criminal damage (19%), assault (11%) and 'other crimes' (11%) were the most common type of crime experienced by victims in the 2019 survey. In 2018, criminal damage was the most prevalent crime experienced at 24 percent.

Figure 4: Most recent crime experienced in the last 12 months

As in 2018, in the 2019 sample, gender had no impact on the



likelihood of being a victim. Age groups were condensed so that broad trends could be examined. Victimization did not vary considerably across age groups; 4.1 percent of 18-34 year olds reported being a victim of crime in the 12 months preceding the survey interview; victimisation among 35-54 year olds was 5.5 percent and for over 55's was 3.3 percent.

3.2 Reporting victimisation in Ireland

Of the 261 victims of crime in the sample, 206 had reported their most recent crime. This reflects an 80 percent reporting rate to Gardaí. This is a slight reduction on 2018 (84%). Similar to the 2018 survey, respondents in Dublin (7%) were more likely to report being a victim of crime compared to the rest of Leinster (4%), Connaught or Ulster (4%) and Munster (3%). A greater proportion of respondents in 'city' areas (6%) reported they were victims of crime compared to those living in rural areas (3%) and 'other urban' areas (4%). These differences were statistically significant.

Table 10 outlines those crimes that were most often reported to Gardaí. However, caution is advised here as the sample sizes are small. Theft of a car and burglary were the two most reported crimes in 2019. This was followed by theft (from a person) and assault.

Table 10: Reporting of most recent crime experienced

	2017	2018	2019
Theft of a car	96%	79%	94%
Burglary	92%	93%	89%
Theft (from a person)	82%	89%	88%
Assault	81%	82%	87%
Criminal damage	84%	89%	82%
Robbery (from a person)	81%	94%	79%
Other crime	86%	86%	78%
Other theft	79%	70%	77%
Robbery (from a property)	88%	79%	63%
Theft of a bike	76%	73%	60%
Online fraud	68%	42%	52%
Fraud	73%	59%	50%

Reasons that were most commonly cited for not reporting a crime are presented in table 11. The most common reason, at 37 percent, was respondents did not believe the Gardaí could do anything, followed by the victim 'sorted it out themselves' and not believing the Gardaí would do anything (26% respectively).

Table 11: Reasons for not reporting crime

I did not believe the Gardaí could do anything	37%
I sorted it out myself	26%
I did not believe the Gardaí would do anything	26%
I reported it to another authority	21%
The incident was not serious enough	19%
Other reason (Please specify)	8%
I did not want to involve the Gardaí	5%
I did not have the time	2%
Fear of reprisal from perpetrator or others	2%
No need to make an insurance claim	1%

3.3 Experience of reporting a crime

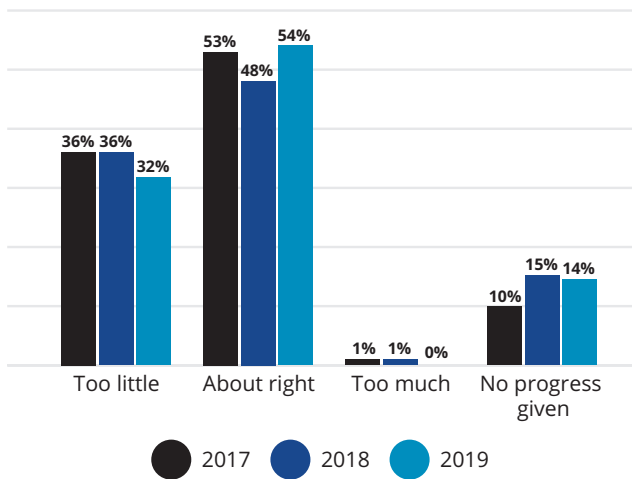
Victims were asked about their experience of reporting a crime to the Gardaí:

- 61% of respondents agreed that the Gardaí responded quickly when they reported the incident (in line with 2018 results).
- 72% were provided with the name of the investigating Garda – a decrease of 5 percentage points from 2018 (77%).
- Contact details were provided to 74% of respondents.

- ▶ PULSE identification numbers were given to 49% of respondents (an increase from 2018 when it stood at 44%).
- ▶ Finally, 45% of respondents reported being given a number of a victim helpline or service (a decrease from 2018 when it stood at 51%).

Figure 5 outlines responses from respondents when asked whether the information they received from Gardaí during their most recent incident was satisfactory, compared to the previous two surveys. In 2019, 54 percent stated the information received was ‘about right’, an increase from 48 percent in 2018. Thirty-two percent stated it was ‘too little’, a decrease of 4 percentage points from 2018. Fourteen percent said they were given no update on the status of their investigation.

Figure 5: Information provided to victims 2017, 2018, 2019.



3.4 Satisfaction with Garda response among victims of crime

Of the 261 victims of crime within the 2019 survey, 61 percent were either ‘very satisfied’ or ‘quite satisfied’ with how Gardaí handled their case - no notable difference from 2018. The proportion of respondents who were ‘quite dissatisfied’ with how Gardaí handled their case has decreased by 4 percentage points from 2018 and those who were ‘very dissatisfied’ has increased by 5 percentage points. Overall dissatisfaction levels when ‘quite dissatisfied’ and ‘very dissatisfied’ are combined have shown no significant change from 2018 (see figure 6).

Figure 6: Changes in satisfaction among victims 2017, 2018 and 2019

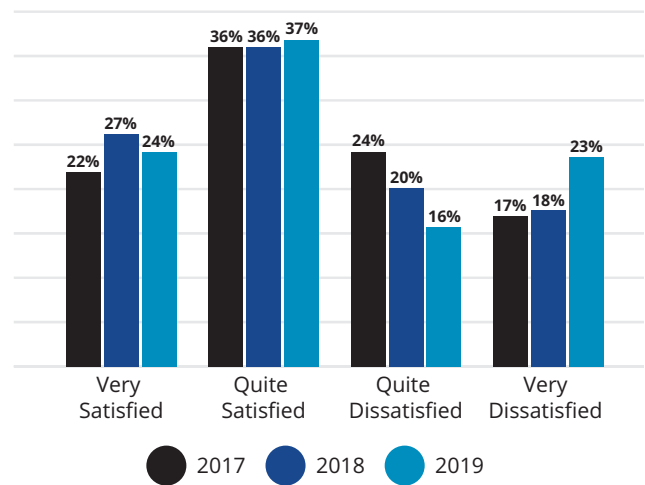


Table 12: Victim satisfaction with An Garda Síochána’s handling of recent crime incident by demographic and socio-economic groupings

	Gender		Age			Social Class		Urban/Rural		
	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	ABC1	C2DEF	City	Other urban	Rural
Very and Quite Satisfied	59%	63%	60%	62%	59%	65%	57%	61%	50%	71%
Very and Quite Dissatisfied	41%	37%	40%	38%	41%	35%	43%	39%	50%	29%

As in 2018, the 2019 survey saw some variations in levels of satisfaction across demographic, socio-economic, and area groupings (see table 12).

Gender: a greater proportion of females (63%) than males (59%) expressed satisfaction with how Gardaí handled their most recent crime reported. This differs from 2018, when more males (67%) than females (58%) expressed satisfaction.

Age: due to the small size of the victim sample, age groups were condensed to allow analysis. Those in the 55 and over age category were slightly less satisfied with Garda handling of their case. This differs from 2018, when as age increased, so too did satisfaction with Garda handling of the crime, most recently reported.

Social Class: social class groupings were also condensed. As in 2018, social class ABC1 expressed greater satisfaction (65%) than C2DEF (57%).

Urban/Rural: respondents in rural areas (71%) were more satisfied with Garda handling of their case than those victims in city (61%) and ‘other urban’ areas (50%). These differences were not statistically significant.

3.5 Does victimisation impact on perceptions of crime?

Table 13 illustrates whether being a victim of crime impacts on perceptions of national and local crime. Seventy-five percent of crime victims viewed national crime as being a ‘very serious’ or ‘serious’ problem, as opposed to 78 percent of non-victims. On the other hand, crime victims (37%) were more likely to consider local crime a serious problem than non-victims (18%). Thirteen percent of victims considered local crime as ‘not a problem’ compared with 33 percent of non-victims.

Table 13: Perceptions of crime by victimisation

	Non-victims	Crime victim
National Crime		
A very serious problem	36%	36%
A serious problem	42%	39%
Something of a problem	20%	23%
Not a problem	3%	2%
Local Crime		
A very serious problem	4%	12%
A serious problem	14%	25%
Something of a problem	50%	51%
Not a problem	33%	13%

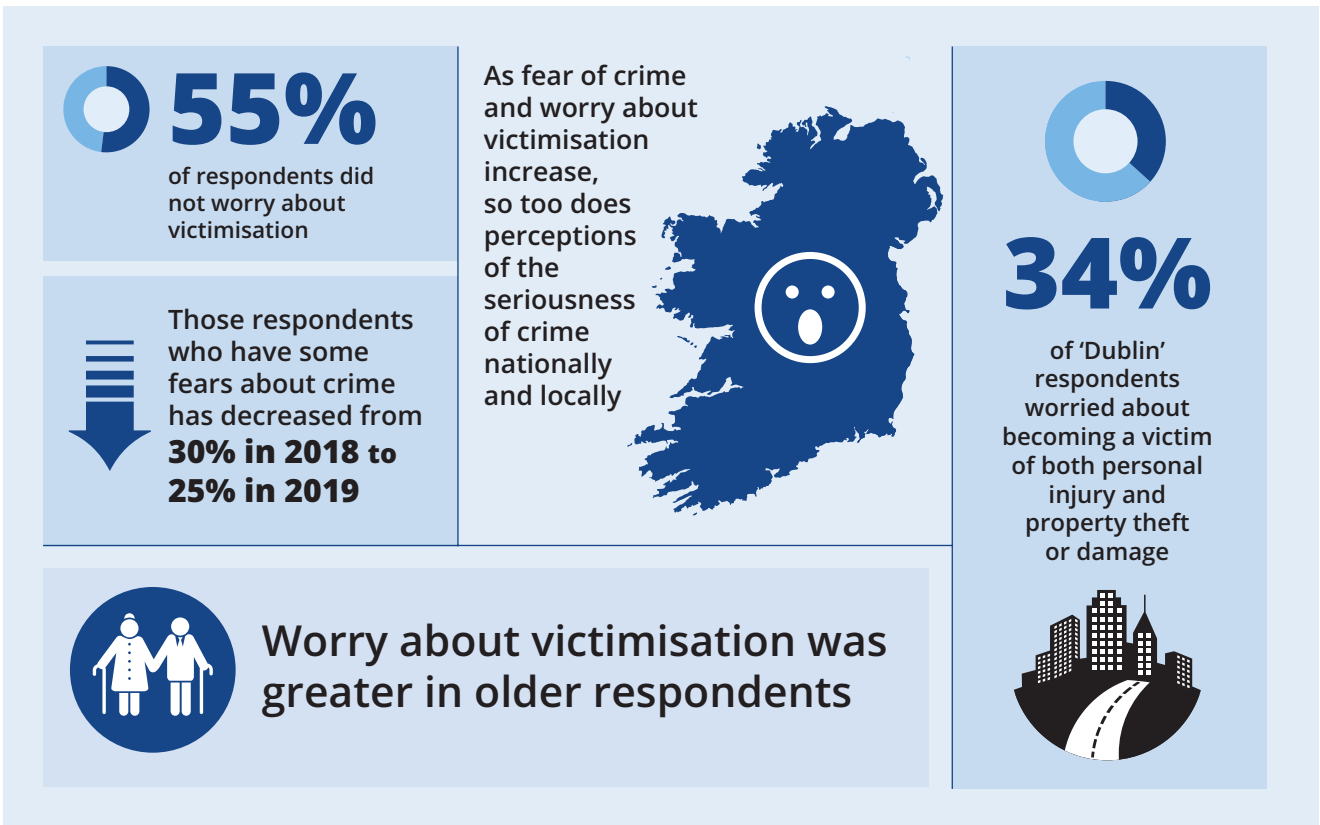
3.6 Summary

- › In 2019, the victimisation rate stood at 4.4 percent – a decrease from 6 percent in 2018. Quarter four of 2019 saw the lowest victimisation rate in the last three years at 3.5 percent.
- › Burglary was the most common crime type experienced by victims in 2019, followed by criminal damage, assault and ‘other crime’.
- › Eighty percent of victims in the 2019 survey sample reported their crime to Gardaí. The most reported crimes were theft of a car and burglary. Fifty-four percent of victims felt that the information they received from Gardaí when they reported their crime was ‘about right’. This was an increase of 6 percent from 2018.
- › The most common reason cited for not reporting a crime to Gardaí was a belief that Gardaí could not do anything about it.
- › Sixty-one percent of victims were either ‘very satisfied’ or ‘quite satisfied’ with how their incident was handled by Gardaí.
- › Victims of crime were more likely to perceive the local crime problem as ‘very serious’ or ‘serious’ than non-crime victims.

Victimisation will be explored further in later sections. Its impact on fear and worry about crime, policing priorities, satisfaction with Garda service, trust in An Garda Síochána and views of the Garda organisation will be examined.

Chapter 4

Fear and Worry about Crime

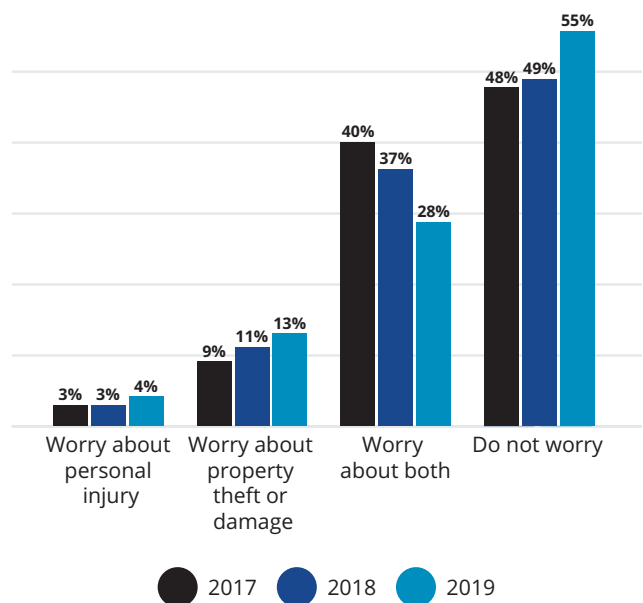


The Public Attitudes Survey explores respondents' perceptions about the likelihood of becoming a victim of crime, their fear and worry about crime and the impact of these fears on their quality of life. The majority of survey respondents reported having very few fears, or no fears, about crime and the proportion that worry about becoming a victim has decreased from 2018.

4.1 Perceived likelihood of becoming a victim of crime

Respondents were asked whether they worry that they, or anyone who lives with them, might become a victim of personal injury, property crime or both. As can be seen from figure 7, in 2019, 55 percent of respondents reported that they do not worry about becoming a victim of crime. Four percent worried about becoming a victim of personal injury, 13 percent worried about property theft or damage and 28 percent worried about both. Those respondents who do not worry about becoming a victim has been trending upwards since 2017 and those that worry about both personal injury and property crime has been trending downwards. These changes were statistically significant.

Figure 7: Perceived likelihood of victimisation 2017, 2018 and 2019



4.2 Perceived likelihood of victimisation by demographic, socio-economic and area groupings

Continuing the trend from 2017 and 2018, a greater proportion of men (58%) reported that they do not worry about becoming a victim than women (52%). Similarly, fewer men (25%) than women (31%) worried about being the victim of both personal injury and property theft or damage.

Younger respondents were less worried about becoming a victim of crime than older age groups. Seventy-three percent of 18-24 year olds reported that they do not worry about becoming a victim of crime. Those respondents in younger age categories worried less about becoming a victim of both personal injury and property theft or damage (15% in the category 18-24 years of age worried about becoming both a victim of personal injury and property theft or damage compared to 33% in the 55-64 age group, and 34% in the 65 and over age group). Worry about becoming a victim of crime, in terms of social class was similar. Non-Irish nationals worried less about victimisation than Irish nationals (61% did not worry about victimisation compared to 54% of Irish nationals - see table 14).

Table 15 shows respondents' worry about victimisation by area groupings. Respondents in Dublin (34%) were more likely to worry about becoming the victim of both personal injury and property theft or damage than those from other areas. Thirty-two percent of 'city' respondents expressed

worry about becoming a victim of both personal injury and property theft or damage compared with 23 percent and 26 percent of 'other urban' and 'rural' respondents respectively. Similarly, fewer 'city' respondents (53%) had no worries about victimisation, compared to 'other urban' (56%) and rural areas (57%).

4.3 Perceived likelihood of victimisation by contact with An Garda Síochána

When perceptions of becoming a victim of crime are examined by contact with An Garda Síochána (table 16), it can be seen that 37 percent of respondents who had initiated contact with An Garda Síochána themselves worried about future victimisation of both personal injury and property theft or damage compared with 29 percent of those who had experienced Garda-initiated contact (contact initiated in the 12 months prior to the survey interview).

Table 16: Perceived likelihood of victimisation by contact with An Garda Síochána

	Self-initiated contact	Garda-initiated contact	No Contact
Worry about personal injury	4%	8%	3%
Worry about property theft or damage	12%	8%	10%
Worry about both	37%	29%	38%
Do not worry	47%	55%	49%

Table 14: Perceived likelihood of victimisation by demographic and socio-economic groupings

	Gender		Age						Social Class					Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	Irish	Non-Irish
Worry about personal injury	4%	4%	-	4%	3%	4%	4%	5%	4%	4%	4%	4%	-	4%	4%
Worry about property theft or damage	14%	13%	9%	12%	14%	16%	13%	15%	14%	12%	16%	12%	14%	14%	10%
Worry about both	25%	31%	15%	22%	29%	30%	33%	34%	27%	27%	25%	29%	32%	28%	25%
Do not worry	58%	52%	73%	62%	54%	50%	50%	47%	55%	57%	55%	54%	51%	54%	61%

Table 15: Perceived likelihood of victimisation by area groupings

	Region				Urban/Rural			Distance to Garda Station				
	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	Less than 1 km	1-3 kms	3-5 kms	5-10 kms	10+kms
Worry about personal injury	4%	2%	7%	-	5%	3%	4%	-	4%	5%	4%	-
Worry about property theft or damage	12%	19%	7%	18%	10%	17%	14%	12%	13%	14%	13%	18%
Worry about both	34%	22%	25%	28%	32%	23%	26%	26%	27%	28%	30%	26%
Do not worry	50%	57%	60%	52%	53%	56%	57%	59%	56%	54%	53%	52%

4.4 Perceived likelihood of re-victimisation by victimisation

As evidenced in previous survey sweeps, respondents who had been victims of crime (45%) in the 12 months preceding the survey interview, were more likely to worry about future victimisation of both personal injury and property theft or damage than non-victims of crime (27%). Similarly, a greater proportion of non-victims (56%) did not worry about future victimisation, compared with 30 percent of crime victims (see table 17).

Table 17: Perceived likelihood of re-victimisation by victimisation

	Not a crime victim	Crime victim
Worry about personal injury	4%	-
Worry about property theft or damage	13%	20%
Worry about both	27%	45%
Do not worry	56%	30%

4.5 Perceived likelihood of victimisation by fear of crime

Sixty-one percent of respondents who had 'a lot of fear' about crime in general worried about the possibility of becoming the victim of both personal injury and property theft or damage, compared with 4 percent who had no fears of crime in general (see table 18).

Table 18: Perceived likelihood of victimisation by fear of crime

	Fear about level of crime in general			
	A lot of fears	Some fears	Very few fears	No fears
Worry about personal injury	-	11%	2%	-
Worry about property theft or damage	-	23%	18%	3%
Worry about both	61%	45%	38%	4%
Do not worry	-	21%	41%	93%

4.6 Perceived likelihood of victimisation and perception of the national and local crime problem

In this section we examine how respondents' perceptions of national and local crime influence their worry about becoming a victim of crime (see table 19). Twenty-eight percent of those respondents who viewed national crime as a 'very serious' problem worried about becoming the victim of both personal injury and property theft or damage, compared to 10 percent who viewed national crime as 'not a problem'. Similar to 2018, of those respondents who considered national crime a 'very serious' problem, 46 percent did not worry about future victimisation at all.

When we examine views of the crime problem in respondents' local area and worry about victimisation, we see that of those who considered the problem to be 'very serious', 45 percent worried about becoming a victim of both personal injury and property theft or damage, whereas 32 percent did not worry at all.

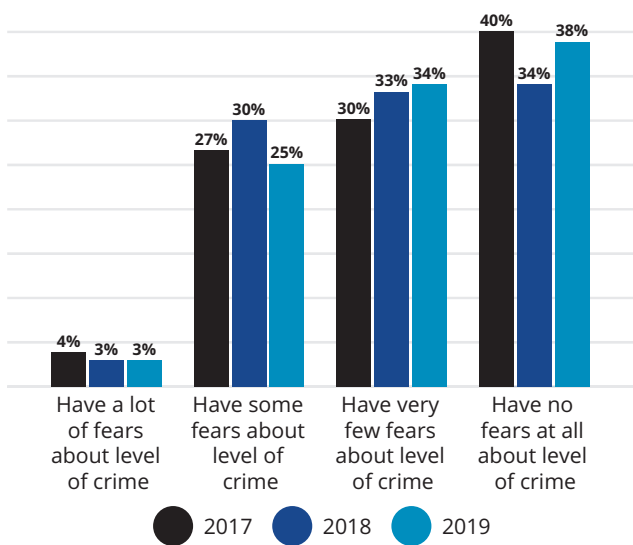
Table 19: Perceived likelihood of victimisation and perception of national and local crime problem

	National				Local			
	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem
Worry about personal injury	5%	4%	-	-	-	6%	4%	3%
Worry about property theft or damage	22%	10%	7%	-	17%	19%	12%	13%
Worry about both	28%	29%	27%	10%	45%	40%	32%	13%
Do not worry	46%	56%	63%	86%	32%	36%	52%	71%

4.7 Fears about the level of crime in Ireland

As can be seen from figure 8 (which examines fears among respondents about the level of crime in Ireland over the last three survey sweeps), those respondents who have 'a lot of fears' about the level of crime in Ireland has remained the same since 2018. Those that have 'some' fears about the levels of crime (25%) is at the lowest level of the last three survey sweeps. In 2019, there was a 4 percentage point increase in those respondents who have no fears about crime levels from 2018. The changes were statistically significant.

Figure 8: Fear about the levels of crime in Ireland 2017, 2018 and 2019



4.8 Fears about the level of crime in Ireland by demographic, socio-economic and area groupings

The following tables (20 and 21) examine fears about the levels of crime by demographic, socio-economic and area groupings during 2019. Females were more likely to worry about the level of crime than males (28% had 'some fears' compared to 22% of males). In general, as the age of respondents increased the more likely they were to have 'some' fears about the level of crime in Ireland, and were less likely to have 'no fears'.

Those respondents from social class F (30%) were more likely to have 'some' fears about the level of crime than those from other social class groupings. The same group of respondents were less likely to have no fears about crime than those from other groupings.

In terms of area grouping, those respondents in 'the rest of Leinster' (44%) reported having no fears about the level of crime compared to 37 percent in Dublin, 39 percent in Munster and 28 percent in Connaught or Ulster. Respondents from rural areas (41%) were more likely to report having 'very few' fears about the levels of crime than those from city areas (32%) and 'other urban' areas (25%). Those respondents who lived more than 10 km from a Garda station were more likely to have some fear of crime, compared to those living closer to Garda stations.

Table 20: Fear of crime in Ireland by demographic and socio-economic groupings

	Gender		Age						Social Class					Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	Irish	Non-Irish
Have a lot of fears about level of crime	2%	3%	-	-	3%	-	-	4%	-	3%	-	4%	-	3%	-
Have some fears about level of crime	22%	28%	15%	19%	28%	27%	30%	30%	27%	25%	23%	25%	30%	26%	20%
Have very few fears about level of crime	34%	34%	28%	35%	31%	35%	37%	36%	35%	34%	35%	32%	38%	34%	32%
Have no fears at all about level of crime	42%	35%	56%	44%	38%	36%	30%	29%	36%	39%	39%	39%	30%	37%	47%

Table 21: Fear of crime in Ireland by area groupings

	Region				Urban/Rural			Distance to Garda Station				
	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	<1 km	1-3 kms	3-5 kms	5-10 kms	10+kms
Have a lot of fears about level of crime	4%	-	3%	-	4%	-	3%	-	3%	3%	-	-
Have some fears about level of crime	26%	18%	29%	28%	26%	21%	27%	24%	25%	24%	29%	36%
Have very few fears about level of crime	33%	36%	29%	42%	32%	25%	41%	30%	35%	34%	34%	34%
Have no fears at all about level of crime	37%	44%	39%	28%	39%	43%	34%	43%	38%	40%	35%	27%

4.9 Fear of crime by contact with An Garda Síochána

When respondents' fears of crime are examined against contact they may have had with An Garda Síochána in the 12 months prior to the survey interview, it can be seen that respondents who had Garda-initiated contact (39%) reported slightly higher levels of fear of crime than those who had no contact (27%) or self-initiated contact (31%) ('some fears' and 'a lot of fears' combined - see table 22).

Table 22: Fear of crime by contact with An Garda Síochána

	Self-initiated contact	Garda initiated contact	No contact
Have a lot of fears about level of crime	3%	-	3%
Have some fears about level of crime	28%	39%	24%
Have very few fears about level of crime	35%	42%	34%
Have no fears at all about level of crime	33%	17%	40%

4.10 Fear of crime and experience of victimisation

Table 23 examines fears about level of crime by whether respondents were crime victims or not (in the preceding 12 months). As can be seen, those that were victims of crime (43%) were more likely to have 'some' fears about the level of crime compared with 24 percent who were not victims of a crime. Far fewer crime victims (15%) expressed having no fears about the level of crime than those who were not crime victims (39%).

Table 23: Fear of crime by victimisation

	Not a crime victim	Crime victim
Have a lot of fears about level of crime	3%	-
Have some fears about level of crime	24%	43%
Have very few fears about level of crime	34%	34%
Have no fears at all about level of crime	39%	15%

Table 24: Fear of crime by perceptions of national and local crime

	National				Local			
	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem
Have a lot of fears about level of crime	5%	2%	-	-	19%	6%	2%	-
Have some fears about level of crime	28%	28%	19%	-	21%	39%	29%	15%
Have very few fears about level of crime	31%	34%	42%	-	30%	31%	38%	31%
Have no fears at all about level of crime	36%	37%	38%	75%	30%	25%	32%	54%

4.11 Does fear of crime impact on perceptions of national and local crime?

As in previous surveys, in 2019 we saw that respondents who viewed national and local crime as a problem were more likely to worry about becoming a victim of both personal injury and property theft or damage. Equally, those whose levels of fear of crime were higher were more likely to consider national and local crime as a problem.

As can be seen from table 24, 28 percent of respondents who considered national crime as a ‘very serious’ problem had ‘some fears’ about the level of crime. This figure fell to 19 percent for those who thought it ‘something of a problem’. Those who considered crime levels as ‘something of a problem’ were more likely to have few fears about the level of crime than those who considered it a ‘very serious problem’ (42% vs. 31%).

Regarding perceptions of local crime, respondents who considered it ‘not a problem’ were more likely to have no fears at all about the level of crime compared with those who view it as ‘a very serious problem’ (54% vs. 30%).

4.12 The impact of fear of crime on respondents’ quality of life

Figure 9 outlines the impact that fear of crime has on the quality of life of respondents. Similar to previous survey sweeps, the impact on quality of life of fear crime is not notable. In 2019, 65 percent reported that it had no effect on quality of life - a decrease of 5 percentage points from the 2017 survey. Twenty-three percent of respondents reported that it reduced quality of life a little, and 10 percent that it moderately reduced quality of life.

Figure 9: Impact of fear of crime on quality of life

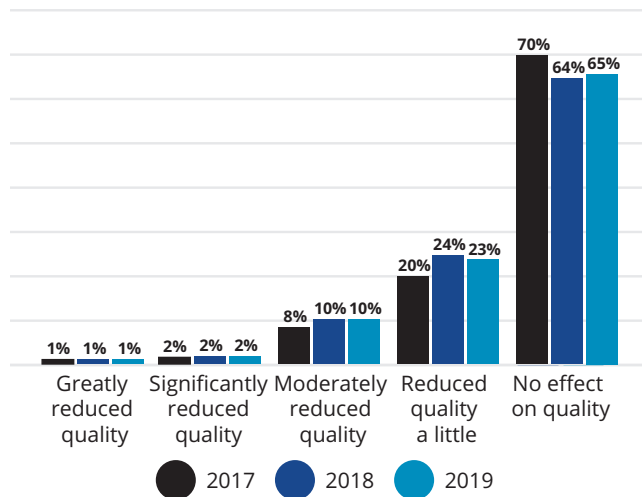


Table 25: The effect of fear of crime on quality of life by demographic and socio-economic groupings

	Gender		Age						Social Class					Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	Irish	Non-Irish
Greatly reduced quality	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1%	-
Significantly reduced quality	2%	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-	2%	-	2%	-
Moderately reduced quality	8%	11%	5%	8%	10%	10%	11%	13%	10%	9%	8%	12%	8%	10%	9%
Reduced quality a little	22%	24%	14%	21%	21%	23%	27%	29%	21%	23%	23%	23%	24%	23%	19%
No effect on quality	68%	62%	80%	69%	67%	64%	59%	55%	67%	66%	67%	62%	66%	64%	70%

Table 26: The effect of fear of crime on quality of life by area groupings

	Region				Urban/Rural			Distance to Garda Station					
	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	<1 km	1-3 kms	3-5 kms	5-10 kms	10+kms	
Greatly reduced quality	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Significantly reduced quality	4%	-	-	-	4%	-	-	-	2%	3%	-	-	
Moderately reduced quality	15%	9%	6%	7%	14%	9%	6%	10%	10%	10%	8%	-	
Reduced quality a little	30%	16%	26%	16%	29%	20%	18%	20%	24%	24%	22%	19%	
No effect on quality	49%	74%	67%	76%	53%	70%	74%	67%	64%	63%	69%	71%	

4.13 The effect of fear of crime on quality of life by demographic, socio-economic and area groupings

As with previous survey sweeps, there were no notable differences between men and women in terms of the impact of fear of crime on quality of life – more male respondents (68%) reported that it had no effect on quality than women (62%). In general, older age categories reported that fear of crime impacted quality of life to a greater extent than those in the younger age categories. There were no notable differences when it came to social class in terms of impact on quality of life from fear of crime. A greater proportion of non-Irish nationals (70%) reported that fear of crime had no effect on quality of life than Irish nationals (64%).

Table 26 outlines the effect of fear of crime on quality of life by area groupings. As can be seen, a greater proportion of respondents in Dublin reported that fear of crime impacted quality of life than those in the other areas. Equally, fewer respondents in Dublin (49%) reported that it had no effect on quality of life than in other areas (74% in the rest of Leinster; 67% in Munster and 76% in Connaught or Ulster). Similarly, ‘city’ respondents considered it to have reduced quality of life more than ‘other urban’ and ‘rural’ areas. Distance from Garda station had no notable impact on the effects of fear of crime on respondents’ quality of life.

4.14 Impact on quality of life by contact with An Garda Síochána

Table 27 shows to what extent respondents’ quality of life is affected by fear of crime levels against whether they had self-initiated, Garda-initiated or no contact with the Gardaí in the 12 months preceding the survey interview. Those who had self-initiated contact (42%) reported slightly more impact on quality of life than those who had Garda-initiated contact (30%) or no contact (33%) (‘greatly reduced’, ‘significantly reduced’, ‘moderately reduced’ and ‘reduced a little’ combined).

Table 27: Impact on quality of life by contact with An Garda Síochána

	Self-initiated contact	Garda-initiated contact	No Contact
Greatly reduced quality	-	-	-
Significantly reduced quality	3%	-	2%
Moderately reduced quality	11%	-	10%
Reduced quality a little	28%	30%	21%
No effect on quality	58%	62%	68%

4.15 How does fear of crime impact on quality of life amongst victims of crime?

As with previous survey results, respondents who were victims of crime in the preceding 12 months, reported greater levels of impact on their quality of life by fear of crime than non-victims (32% of non-victims reported it moderately reduced or reduced it a little, compared to 51% of victims).

Table 28: The effect of fear of crime on quality of life by victimisation

	Not a crime victim	Crime victim
Greatly reduced quality	-	-
Significantly reduced quality	2%	-
Moderately reduced quality	9%	23%
Reduced quality a little	23%	28%
No effect on quality	66%	38%

4.16 Do those with greater levels of fear of crime and worry about victimisation report the greatest impact on their quality of life?

As can be seen from table 29, those respondents who had a 'lot of fears' or 'some fears' about crime reported the greatest impact on their quality of life (for those who had 'a lot of fears',

Table 29: The effect of fear of crime on quality of life by fear of crime and worry about victimisation

	Fear of crime				Worry about victimisation			
	A lot of fears	Some fears	Very few fears	No fears	Worry about personal injury	Worry about property theft or damage	Worry about both	Do not worry
Greatly reduced quality	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Significantly reduced quality	19%	5%	-	-	-	4%	4%	-
Moderately reduced quality	27%	22%	9%	-	23%	18%	20%	2%
Reduced quality a little	21%	37%	34%	4%	50%	21%	47%	10%
No effect on quality	18%	36%	56%	95%	20%	57%	28%	89%

Table 30: The effect of fear of crime on quality of life by perceptions of the national and local crime problem

	National				Local			
	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem
Greatly reduced quality	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Significantly reduced quality	3%	2%	-	-	-	7%	1%	-
Moderately reduced quality	11%	10%	8%	-	24%	24%	9%	3%
Reduced quality a little	20%	25%	26%	-	26%	27%	29%	13%
No effect on quality	65%	63%	65%	85%	36%	43%	61%	84%

67% reported some negative impact; for those who had 'some fears', 64% reported some negative impact).

In terms of worry about victimisation and impact on quality of life, those respondents who worried about personal injury (50%) or both personal injury and property theft or damage (47%) reported 'a little' reduction in quality of life more than those who worry about just property crime (21%) or who do not worry (10%).

4.17 The impact fear of crime had on respondents' quality of life and how they perceived crime locally and nationally

Table 30 illustrates the relation between perceptions of local and national crime and whether respondents' fear of crime levels had impacted on their quality of life. In terms of national crime, 65 percent of respondents who viewed it as a 'very serious problem' reported no effect on quality of life caused by fear of crime compared with 85 percent who stated it was 'not a problem'.

Those respondents who viewed the local crime situation as 'not a problem' reported significantly lower level of impact on quality of life (16%) than those respondents who viewed local crime as a 'very serious' or 'serious' problem (50% and 51% respectively stated it impacted quality of life either moderately or 'a little').

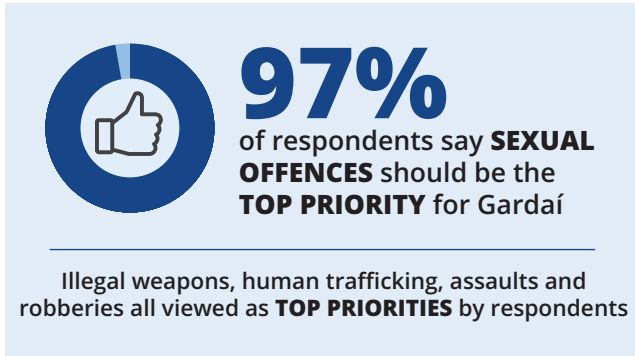
4.18 Summary

- › In 2019, 55 percent of respondents did not worry about becoming a victim of crime.
- › Males were less likely to worry about victimisation than females.
- › Respondents in the younger age categories were less likely to worry about becoming a victim of crime than those in older age categories.
- › Respondents in Dublin (34%) were more likely to worry about becoming a victim of both personal injury and property theft or damage than those in other areas.
- › Respondents who had been victims of crime were more likely to worry about future victimisation than non-victims.
- › During 2019, those respondents who have 'some' fears about levels of crime decreased from 30 percent in 2018, to 25 percent in 2019.
- › Females were more likely to worry about the level of crime than males.
- › As age of respondents increased, so did fear about the levels of crime.
- › Respondents from rural areas (41%) were more likely to report having very 'very few fears' about the level of crime than those from city areas (32%) and 'other urban' areas (25%).
- › Fewer crime victims (15%) reported having no fears about the level of crime than non-victims (39%).
- › Similarly victims of crime reported the greatest impact on their quality of life because of these fears than non-crime victims.
- › Sixty-five percent of respondents reported that fear of crime had no effect on their quality of life.

Later in the report we examine how fear and worry about crime are impacted by levels of satisfaction with the Garda service provided to local communities as well as trust in, and perceptions of, the Garda organisation.

Chapter 5

Policing Priorities for An Garda Síochána



In the January, April, July and October questionnaires, respondents were asked about their views on what should be An Garda Síochána’s policing priorities. The sample size for this section is 1995 respondents.

5.1 Policing priorities for An Garda Síochána

As can be seen from table 31, ‘sexual offences’ was the crime type respondents felt should receive the highest priority (chosen by 97% of respondents), followed by ‘human trafficking’ (95%), ‘illegal weapons’ (92%) and ‘assaults’ and ‘robberies’ (91% respectively). Public order offences, criminal damage and traffic offences featured highly in the medium and low priorities (these results are similar to the 2018 survey).

Table 31: Policing priorities for An Garda Síochána as identified by respondents

	High priority	Medium priority	Low priority
Sexual offences	97%	3%	0%
Human trafficking	95%	4%	1%
Illegal weapons	92%	8%	0%
Assaults	91%	9%	1%
Robberies	91%	8%	1%
Drugs offences	83%	14%	4%
Burglaries	76%	22%	2%
Fraud	76%	22%	2%
Criminal damage	71%	27%	2%
Traffic offences	69%	27%	4%
Public order offences	49%	38%	13%

5.2 Policing priorities for An Garda Síochána by demographic, socio-economic and area groupings

In order to determine whether differences existed across socio-economic groupings and areas, ranks were assigned to priorities. ‘One’ was assigned to the highest percentage priority and ‘eleven’ to the lowest. Those with equal weighting were given the same rank score. A breakdown of the results can be seen in tables 32 and 33. As table 32 illustrates, and has been found in previous survey sweeps, irrespective of gender, age, social class (with the exception of ‘F’) or nationality, respondents ranked sexual offences as the top priority for An Garda Síochána. The vast majority of respondents, across all demographics, highlighted human

Table 32: Policing priorities for An Garda Síochána by demographic and socio-economic groupings

	Gender		Age						Social Class					Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	Irish	Non-Irish
Sexual offences	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	1
Human trafficking	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2
Illegal weapons	4	3	4	3	3	3	3	5	3	3	4	4	1	3	4
Assaults	5	4	4	5	3	4	5	3	4	3	4	5	5	4	5
Robberies	3	5	3	3	5	4	4	4	5	5	3	3	2	5	3
Drugs offences	6	6	7	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Burglaries	7	7	6	7	8	8	7	8	8	7	7	7	8	7	7
Fraud	7	8	8	9	7	7	8	7	7	8	8	8	7	8	8
Criminal damage	9	10	9	8	9	10	9	10	10	9	9	9	9	9	9
Traffic offences	10	9	10	10	10	9	10	9	9	10	10	10	10	10	10
Public order offences	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11

Table 33: Policing priorities for An Garda Síochána by area groupings

	Region				Urban/Rural			Distance to Garda Station				
	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	<1 km	1-3 kms	3-5 kms	5-10 kms	10+kms
Sexual offences	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Human trafficking	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3
Illegal weapons	5	4	2	3	3	3	2	4	3	3	3	3
Assaults	3	4	5	5	3	5	5	3	4	5	5	5
Robberies	4	3	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	3	2
Drugs offences	6	7	6	6	6	6	6	7	6	6	6	6
Burglaries	7	6	10	8	7	7	8	8	8	7	7	7
Fraud	8	8	7	6	7	8	7	6	7	8	8	9
Criminal damage	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	8
Traffic offences	10	9	8	10	10	9	10	9	10	10	10	10
Public order offences	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11

trafficking as the next priority. Illegal weapons, assaults and robberies all ranked highly also.

When area groupings were considered, the results were similar. Sexual offences were ranked as the top priority, regardless of area groupings. In the majority of areas 'human trafficking' ranked second. 'Illegal weapons' featured highly in city and 'other urban' areas, with 'assaults' the third top priority in Dublin and city areas. Public order was ranked the lowest across all areas.

5.3 Does becoming a victim of crime impact on policing priorities?

Non-victims ranked sexual offences as the top priority for Gardaí (see table 34), while victims of crime ranked it as their third priority. 'Illegal weapons' was the top priority for victims of crime, followed by 'human trafficking'. The least prioritised by both groups were public order, traffic offences and criminal damage.

Table 34: Priorities for An Garda Síochána by victimisation grouping

	Not a crime victim	Crime victim
Sexual offences	1	3
Human trafficking	2	2
Illegal weapons	3	1
Assaults	4	5
Robberies	4	4
Drugs offences	6	8
Burglaries	7	7
Fraud	8	6
Criminal damage	9	10
Traffic offences	10	9
Public order offences	11	11

5.4 Policing priorities for An Garda Síochána by contact with An Garda Síochána

Table 35 shows the ranked policing priorities for respondents by whether they had self-initiated, Garda-initiated or no contact with An Garda Síochána during the 12 months preceding the survey interview. Again, sexual offences received the highest priority regardless of contact type. 'Human trafficking' ranked highly for those respondents who had Garda-initiated or no contact with Gardaí, while illegal weapons featured highly for respondents who had self-initiated contact. Robberies also featured highly across all categories.

Table 35: Policing priorities by contact with An Garda Síochána

	Self-initiated Contact	Garda-initiated Contact	No contact
Sexual offences	1	1	1
Human trafficking	3	2	2
Illegal weapons	2	4	4
Assaults	5	5	4
Robberies	3	2	3
Drugs offences	6	6	6
Burglaries	7	9	7
Fraud	9	10	8
Criminal damage	8	8	9
Traffic offences	11	7	10
Public order offences	10	11	11

5.5 Policing priorities for An Garda Síochána by fear of crime

Table 36 illustrates how respondents' views on policing priorities are impacted by fear of crime. Again, sexual offences were ranked as the top priority, regardless of the level of fear of crime. Those who have 'a lot of fears' about crime, ranked illegal weapons and assaults as their second and third priorities. For those with 'some' fears, illegal weapons and human trafficking were seen as priorities. Public order offences were the least prioritised regardless of respondents' level of fear of crime.

Table 36: Policing priorities for An Garda Síochána by fear of crime

	A lot of fears	Some fears	Very few fears	No fears
Sexual offences	1	1	1	1
Human trafficking	6	3	2	2
Illegal weapons	2	2	4	3
Assaults	3	5	5	3
Robberies	4	3	2	5
Drugs offences	5	6	6	6
Burglaries	8	7	7	8
Fraud	8	8	8	7
Criminal damage	10	8	9	9
Traffic offences	7	10	10	9
Public order offences	11	11	11	11

5.6 Policing priorities for An Garda Síochána by perceptions of crime

Respondents' views on policing priorities and whether these are impacted by their perceptions of national and local crime were examined (see tables 37 and 38). Sexual offences were prioritised the most, regardless of perceptions of the national and local crime problem (human trafficking was also the top priority for those who consider national crime as 'not a problem' and was featured highly when considered against views of local crime). Illegal weapons also featured highly in areas that should be prioritised regardless of perceptions of national and local crime.

Table 37: Policing priorities by perceptions of national crime

	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Some-thing of a problem	Not a problem
Sexual offences	1	1	1	1
Human trafficking	2	2	2	1
Illegal weapons	3	3	3	7
Assaults	5	5	4	4
Robberies	3	4	5	5
Drugs offences	6	6	6	8
Burglaries	7	7	8	5
Fraud	8	7	7	3
Criminal damage	9	9	9	10
Traffic offences	10	10	10	9
Public order offences	11	11	11	11

Table 38: Policing priorities by perceptions of local crime

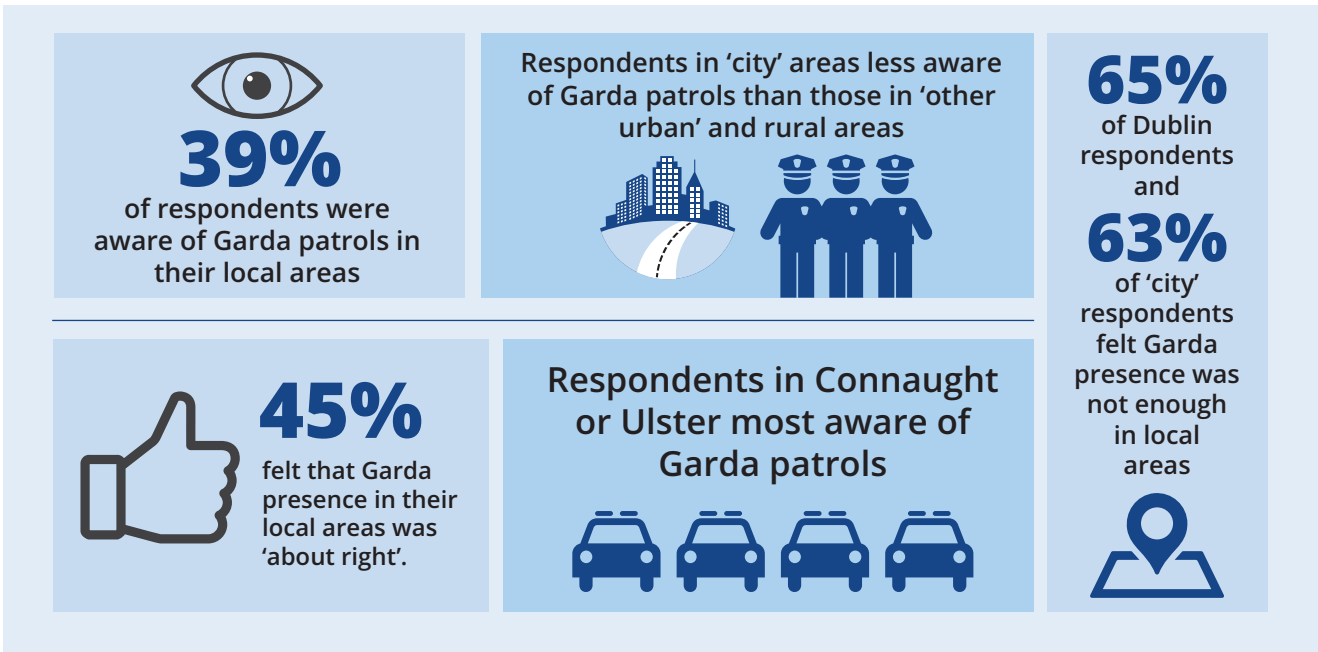
	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Some-thing of a problem	Not a problem
Sexual offences	1	1	1	1
Human trafficking	8	2	2	2
Illegal weapons	3	4	3	3
Assaults	3	5	4	5
Robberies	2	3	4	4
Drugs offences	6	6	6	6
Burglaries	7	7	7	8
Fraud	10	9	8	7
Criminal damage	5	8	9	10
Traffic offences	9	10	10	9
Public order offences	11	11	11	11

5.7 Summary

- As in 2018, across socio-demographic and area groupings, as well as when examined in relation to fear of crime, perceptions of crime and contact with An Garda Síochána, sexual offences were identified overwhelmingly by respondents as the crime type which should be prioritised by An Garda Síochána.
- Again, as in 2018, human trafficking, illegal weapons and robbery were given a high priority also by respondents.
- Illegal weapons were given the top priority by victims of crime followed by human trafficking.

Chapter 6

Garda Visibility and Perception of Garda Presence



In 2019, 39 percent of survey respondents reported being aware of Garda patrols in their local areas, with 45 percent of the opinion that Garda presence was 'about right' - an increase from 39 percent in 2018.

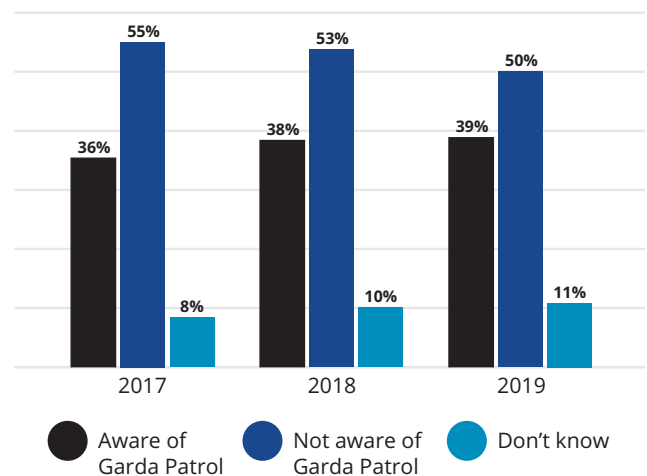
6.1 Awareness of Garda patrols

The proportion of respondents who reported being aware of Garda patrols has been trending upwards since 2017 (36%, 38% and 39% for each respective year). Equally, those who reported being unaware of Garda patrols has been trending downwards (see figure 10). These changes were statistically significant. As table 39 illustrates, in 2019, of the 39 percent of survey respondents who were aware of Garda patrols, Gardaí patrolling in cars was most commonly cited as the mode of patrol (in line with 2017 and 2018 results).

Table 39: Garda patrolling practices

Aware of Garda patrols		39%
On foot	12%	
By bicycle	5%	
By car	98%	
Not aware of Garda patrols		50%
Don't know		11%

Figure 10: Awareness of Garda patrol during 2017, 2018 and 2019



6.2 Awareness of Garda patrols by demographic, socio-economic and area groupings

As table 40 illustrates, slightly more men (46%) than women (42%) were aware of Garda patrols in their local areas. Generally, as the age of respondents increased, awareness of Garda patrols decreased, with 18-24 year olds reporting the most awareness, at 51 percent. There were no notable differences in awareness across social classes and Irish/non-Irish nationals.

With regard to area groupings (table 41), respondents from Connaught or Ulster reported the most awareness of Garda patrols at 53 percent, with respondents in Dublin and the rest of Leinster being the least aware at 39 percent. Respondents in city areas (40%) were less aware of Garda patrols than those in 'other urban' and rural areas. In general, as distance from a Garda station increased, awareness of Garda patrols decreased (similar to 2017 and 2018 results).

6.3 Awareness of Garda patrols and perceptions of crime

When awareness of Garda patrols in local areas is examined against perceptions of national and local crime (see table 42), it can be seen that, for the most part, as respondents' views of the crime problem being serious decrease, awareness of Garda patrols increases. For example, 36 percent of those who thought local crime was 'a very serious problem' reported being aware of Garda patrols compared to 45 percent of respondents who viewed local crime as 'not a problem'.

6.4 Awareness of Garda patrols and fear of crime

As table 43 illustrates, as fear of crime decreases, awareness of Garda patrol increases – 47 percent of respondents who had no fears of crime were aware of Garda patrols, compared to 30 percent who had 'a lot of fears'.

Table 43: Awareness of Garda patrols and fear of crime

	A lot of fears	Some fears	Very few fears	No fears
Aware of Garda Patrols	30%	41%	45%	47%
Not Aware of Garda Patrols	70%	59%	55%	54%

Table 40: Awareness of Garda patrol in local area by demographic and socio-economic groupings

	Gender		Age						Social Class					Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	Irish	Non-Irish
Aware of Garda patrol	46%	42%	51%	46%	44%	42%	42%	41%	41%	45%	42%	47%	43%	44%	46%
Not aware of Garda patrol	54%	58%	49%	54%	56%	58%	58%	59%	59%	55%	58%	53%	58%	56%	55%

Table 41: Awareness of Garda patrol in local area by area groupings

	Region				Urban/Rural			Distance to Garda Station				
	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	<1 km	1-3 kms	3-5 kms	5-10 kms	10+kms
Aware of Garda patrol	39%	39%	48%	53%	40%	46%	46%	61%	45%	39%	40%	37%
Not aware of Garda patrol	61%	61%	52%	47%	60%	54%	54%	39%	55%	61%	60%	63%

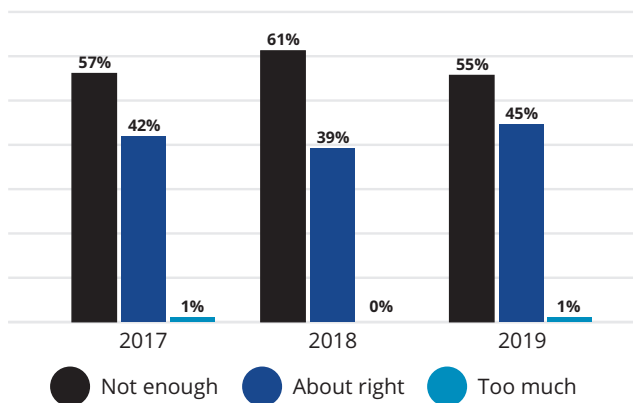
Table 42: Awareness of Garda patrols and perceptions of national and local crime

	National				Local			
	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem
Aware of Garda Patrols	40%	48%	43%	51%	36%	42%	45%	45%
Not Aware of Garda Patrols	60%	52%	57%	49%	64%	58%	55%	55%

6.5 Perception of Garda presence in local areas

As figure 11 highlights, in 2019, the proportion of respondents who felt that Garda presence in their local area was not enough was 55 percent – a decrease of 6 percentage points from 2018. Those who felt Garda presence was ‘about right’ increased by 6 percentage points from 2018, to 45 percent. These changes were statistically significant.

Figure 11: Perceptions of Garda presence in local area 2017, 2018 and 2019



6.6 Reasons given that Garda presence in local areas is ‘not enough’

As can be seen from table 44, the main reason given by respondents for reporting that Garda presence in their local area is ‘not enough’, was that the police are ‘never or rarely seen’ (65%), followed by the fact that Gardaí are ‘only seen in cars’ (34%) and there ‘are not enough/need more/don’t see police on foot’ (30%). These results are similar to the 2018 survey.

Table 44: Reasons that local Garda presence is ‘not enough’

Never or rarely see the police	65%
Only see police in cars	34%
Not enough or need more or don't see police on foot	30%
Garda station closed or only open part-time	18%
Used to be more police	17%
Only there when there's a crime or trouble	17%
Slow to respond	12%
Should build a positive image as well as reacting to crime	11%
See crimes happening, but no police	9%
Police can't do anything when crimes happen	7%
Rely too much on cameras	3%
Other (Please specify)	1%

6.7 Reasons given that Garda presence in local areas is ‘about right’

Reasons for reporting that Garda presence in the local area is ‘about right’ were that respondents ‘see them (Gardaí) quite often’ (50 %); that there’s not much or no problem with crime in the area (39%) and that respondents see police patrolling in cars often (38%) (see table 45). Again, these reasons were similar to those provided by respondents in the 2017 and 2018 survey sweeps.

Table 45: Reasons that local Garda presence is ‘about right’

See them quite often	50%
Not much crime or no problem with crime	39%
See police patrolling in cars	38%
Police station nearby	23%
Not necessary to see them all the time	12%
See police occasionally or don't see them much	11%
Crime rates have reduced or are improving	9%
See police on foot	5%
Seeing too many is overwhelming	3%
Cameras everywhere	2%
Other	1%

6.8 Perception of Garda presence in local areas by demographic, socio-economic and area groupings

As in 2018, a greater proportion of females (58%) felt that Garda presence in their local area was not enough, compared to males (52%). Generally, as age of respondents increased, so too did the proportion who felt that Garda presence was not enough. Differences across social class were not notable. In terms of nationality, non-Irish respondents (45%) were less likely to report that Garda presence in local areas was ‘not enough’ compared to Irish nationals (56%) (see table 46)).

As in 2018, there were notable differences across regions in terms of respondents’ perception of Garda presence. Respondents’ in Dublin (65%) and ‘city’ areas (63%) were more likely to consider Garda presence as ‘not enough’ in their local areas compared to, for example, Connaught or Ulster (48%) and rural areas (51%). Generally, distance from a Garda station brought increases in those respondents who felt Garda presence was ‘not enough’ (see table 47).

Table 46: Perception of Garda presence in local area by demographic and socio-economic groupings

	Gender		Age						Social Class					Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	Irish	Non-Irish
Not enough	52%	58%	39%	51%	56%	59%	58%	59%	58%	53%	57%	54%	53%	56%	45%
About right	48%	42%	59%	48%	44%	41%	41%	41%	42%	46%	43%	45%	48%	43%	55%
Too much	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 47: Perception of Garda presence in local area by area

	Region				Urban/Rural			Distance to Garda Station				
	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	<1 km	1-3 kms	3-5 kms	5-10 kms	10+kms
Not enough	65%	54%	50%	48%	63%	49%	51%	45%	55%	57%	56%	61%
About right	34%	46%	49%	51%	37%	51%	48%	53%	44%	43%	44%	39%
Too much	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

6.9 The impact of contact with An Garda Síochána on perceptions of Garda presence

With similar results to 2018, respondents (50%) who had Garda-initiated contact in the preceding 12 months to the survey interview, were less likely to report that Garda presence was ‘not enough’ compared with those who had self-initiated contact (55%) or no contact (56%) (See table 48).

Table 48: Impact on perception of Garda presence by contact with An Garda Síochána

	Self-initiated contact	Garda initiated contact	No contact
Not enough	55%	50%	56%
About right	45%	47%	44%
Too much	-	-	-

6.10 Perceptions of Garda presence by experience of victimisation

Similar to the 2017 and 2018 surveys, a greater proportion

of crime victims (69%) than non-victims (54%) reported that Garda presence was ‘not enough’ in their local areas. .

Table 49: Perceptions of Garda presence by victimisation

	Not a crime victim	Crime victim
Not enough	54%	69%
About right	46%	30%
Too much	-	-

6.11 Do perceptions of Garda presence in local areas impact on respondents’ fear of crime and worry about victimisation?

Respondents who had ‘a lot of fears’ about crime (15%) were far less likely to consider Garda presence in their local areas as ‘about right’ than those who had ‘some fears’ (29%), ‘very few fears’ (45%) and no fears (58%) (See table 50). Those who do not worry about victimisation were more likely to consider Garda presence as ‘about right’ than those who do worry.

Table 50: Perceptions of Garda presence by levels of crime and worry about victimisation

	A lot of fears	Some fears	Very few fears	No fears	Worry about personal injury	Worry about property theft or damage	Worry about both	Do not worry
Not enough	85%	71%	54%	41%	67%	71%	66%	43%
About right	15%	29%	45%	58%	32%	29%	33%	56%
Too much	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 51: Perception of Garda presence in local areas by perceptions of national and local crime

	National				Local			
	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem
Not enough	63%	52%	46%	43%	71%	72%	57%	41%
About right	37%	48%	54%	55%	29%	27%	43%	58%
Too much	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

6.12 Do perceptions of Garda presence in local areas impact on perceptions of crime?

As table 51 highlights, as respondents' views about the seriousness of the national and local crime problem decreased, the more likely they were to consider Garda presence as 'about right'.


6.13 Summary

- › Thirty-nine percent of survey respondents reported being aware of Garda patrols in their local areas.
- › Forty-five per cent of respondents reported that Garda presence was 'about right' in their local areas – an increase of 6 percentage points from 2018.
- › Respondents in the 18-24-year-old age category reported the most awareness of Garda patrols, at 51 percent.
- › Respondents in Dublin and the rest of Leinster (39% respectively) had less recall about Garda patrols in their local areas than those from Munster (48%) and Connaught or Ulster (53%).
- › Those from Dublin and 'city' areas were more likely to consider Garda presence to be 'not enough' in their areas.
- › Victimization impacted negatively on perceptions of Garda presence (69% of crime victims versus 54% of non-crime victims reported it as 'not enough').
- › The greater the fear of crime, the less likely respondents were to be happy with the level of Garda presence in their local areas.
- › As perceptions of the national and local crime problem being serious decreased, awareness of Garda presence increased.
- › Similarly, as fear of crime decreased, awareness of Garda presence increased.


Chapter 7


Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána

80%
of respondents were satisfied with the service provided to their local communities by An Garda Síochána





Victimisation impacts negatively on satisfaction levels with Garda service






As perceptions of the seriousness of local crime increase, so too does dissatisfaction with Garda service locally





18-24 YEAR OLDS
expressed the greatest satisfaction levels

Fear of crime and worry about victimisation were associated with lower satisfaction levels.



7.1 Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána during 2019

The Public Attitudes Survey examines levels of satisfaction among respondents with Garda service to their local communities. During 2019, 11 percent were 'very satisfied' with this service and 69 percent were 'quite satisfied'. Seventeen percent of respondents were 'quite dissatisfied' with Garda service to their local communities, while 3 percent were 'very dissatisfied'.

7.2 Changes in level of satisfaction with An Garda Síochána between 2017, 2018 and 2019

During 2019, satisfaction levels (both 'very satisfied' and 'quite satisfied') among respondents with the service provided to their local communities by Gardaí, remained the same as in 2018 (80%), an increase from 76 percent in 2017. Dissatisfaction levels in 2019 stood at 20 percent (both 'quite dissatisfied' and 'very dissatisfied') (see figure 12).

Figure 12: Changes in satisfaction with An Garda Síochána between 2017, 2018 and 2019

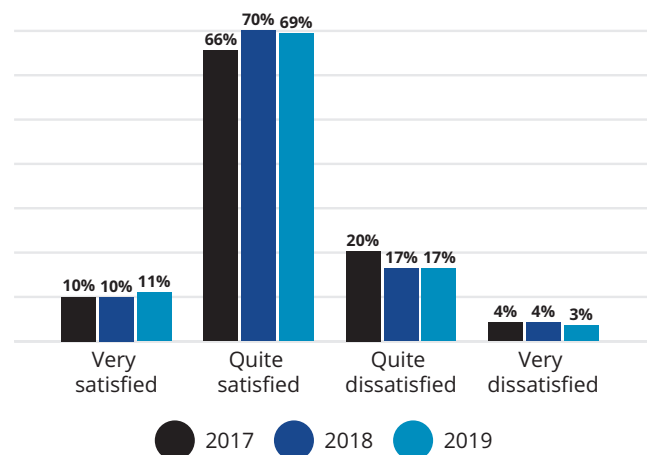
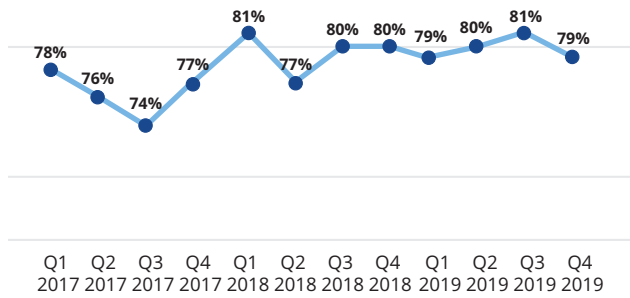


Figure 13 breaks down satisfaction levels with Garda service to local communities further, to a quarterly level. Following a period of fluctuating satisfaction levels throughout 2017 and into the first two quarters of 2018, since Q3 2018, satisfaction levels have not dropped below 79 percent, but have fluctuated between 79 and 81 percent.

Figure 13: Changes in satisfaction with An Garda Síochána between Q1 2017 and Q4 2019



7.3 Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána by demographic and socio-economic groupings

As in 2018, during 2019 there was no notable association between gender and level of satisfaction in the service Gardaí provide to local communities. Respondents in the age category 45-54 expressed less satisfaction with Garda service than those in other age groups, with those in the 18-24 year age group expressing the highest satisfaction levels. There was no notable difference in satisfaction across social class grouping. Non-Irish nationals (87%) were significantly more satisfied with Garda service to local communities than Irish nationals (79%) (see table 52).

7.4 Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána by area groupings

While still expressing high satisfaction, respondents from Dublin (73%) expressed the lowest satisfaction levels with Garda service to local communities when 'very satisfied' and 'quite satisfied' were combined (rest of Leinster – 80%; Munster – 84%; and Connaught or Ulster – 84%). Munster and Connaught or Ulster had the lowest dissatisfaction levels at 16 and 13 percent respectively. A greater proportion of respondents in 'city' areas (25%) reported dissatisfaction with Garda service compared with 'other urban' (16%) and 'rural' areas (18%). In terms of distance from Garda station, generally, as distance from the station increased so too did dissatisfaction levels.

Table 52: Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána during 2019 by demographic and socio-economic grouping

	Gender		Age						Social Class					Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	Irish	Non-Irish
Very satisfied	10%	11%	12%	10%	10%	10%	11%	11%	11%	12%	9%	11%	7%	10%	15%
Quite satisfied	70%	69%	71%	71%	71%	65%	68%	70%	70%	68%	70%	69%	74%	69%	72%
Quite dissatisfied	17%	17%	14%	17%	16%	19%	17%	17%	15%	17%	18%	17%	15%	17%	12%
Very dissatisfied	3%	4%	-	-	3%	5%	-	-	-	3%	3%	4%	-	4%	-

Table 53: Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána during 2019 by area groupings

	Region				Urban/Rural			Distance to Garda Station				
	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	<1 km	1-3 kms	3-5 kms	5-10 kms	10+kms
Very satisfied	13%	10%	12%	6%	13%	10%	8%	20%	11%	10%	6%	4%
Quite satisfied	60%	70%	72%	78%	61%	73%	74%	64%	70%	69%	73%	73%
Quite dissatisfied	23%	17%	13%	13%	21%	13%	15%	12%	17%	18%	17%	19%
Very dissatisfied	4%	4%	3%	-	4%	3%	3%	-	3%	3%	5%	-

7.5 Does contact with An Garda Síochána impact on satisfaction with the level of service provided by An Garda Síochána?

As table 54 highlights, respondents who had any self-initiated contact with Gardaí in the 12 months preceding the survey interview (76%) were more likely to be 'very satisfied or quite satisfied' with Garda service provided to their local communities, than those who had Garda-initiated contact (71%). Those who had no contact (82%) expressed the greatest satisfaction levels.

Table 54: Impact on satisfaction with the level of service provided by contact with An Garda Síochána

	Any self-initiated contact	Any Garda-initiated contact	No Contact
Very satisfied	11%	-	10%
Quite satisfied	65%	71%	72%
Quite dissatisfied	20%	18%	15%
Very dissatisfied	5%	-	3%

7.6 Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána and experience of victimisation

Table 55 illustrates how being a victim of crime impacts on satisfaction levels with Garda service provided to local communities. Fifty-five percent of victims of crime were 'quite satisfied' with Garda service provided to local communities. This figure stood at 70 percent for non-victims. Furthermore, 11 percent of non-victims were 'very satisfied' with Garda service. Victims of crime expressed greater dissatisfaction levels with Garda service to local communities than non-victims.

Table 55: Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána by crime victimisation

	Not a crime victim	Crime victim
Very satisfied	11%	-
Quite satisfied	70%	55%
Quite dissatisfied	16%	23%
Very dissatisfied	3%	12%

7.7 Do perceptions of crime impact on satisfaction levels?

As evidenced from previous survey sweeps, there is a correlation between satisfaction levels with Garda service provided to local communities and perceptions of national and local crime. As table 56 highlights, this is particularly evident at a local level. As perceptions of the seriousness of the crime problem increase, so too does dissatisfaction with Garda service.

For example, 15 percent of respondents who viewed national crime as 'not a problem' were dissatisfied with Garda service provided to local communities compared to 22 percent who considered crime 'something of a problem' and 21 percent who viewed it as a 'very serious problem'. In terms of local crime, 56 percent of respondents who considered it to be a 'very serious problem' were satisfied with Garda service compared to 91 percent who viewed local crime as 'not a problem'.

7.8 Satisfaction and fear of crime and worry about victimisation

A correlation can also be seen between satisfaction with Garda service provided to local communities and fear of crime and worry about victimisation. As fear of crime

Table 56: Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána by perceptions of local and national crime

	National				Local			
	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem
Satisfied	79%	81%	78%	85%	56%	64%	79%	91%
Dissatisfied	21%	19%	22%	15%	44%	36%	21%	9%

Table 57: Satisfaction with the service provided by An Garda Síochána by levels of fear of crime and worry about victimisation

	Fear of crime				Worry about victimisation			
	A lot of fears	Some fears	Very few fears	No fears	Worry about personal injury	Worry about property theft of damage	Worry about both	Do not worry
Satisfied	52%	71%	81%	87%	75%	81%	69%	85%
Dissatisfied	48%	29%	19%	13%	25%	19%	31%	15%

decreases, so too does dissatisfaction with Garda service (13% of respondents who had no fears about crime expressed dissatisfaction with Garda service compared to 48% who had 'a lot of fears').

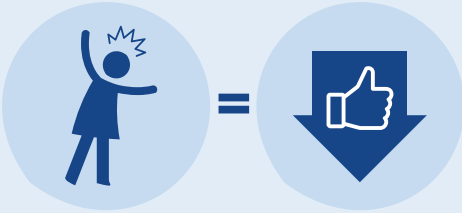
A similar correlation can be seen with worry about victimisation. Sixty-nine percent of respondents who worried about both personal injury and property theft or damage expressed satisfaction with Garda service, compared to 85 percent who had no worries about victimisation at all.

7.9 Summary

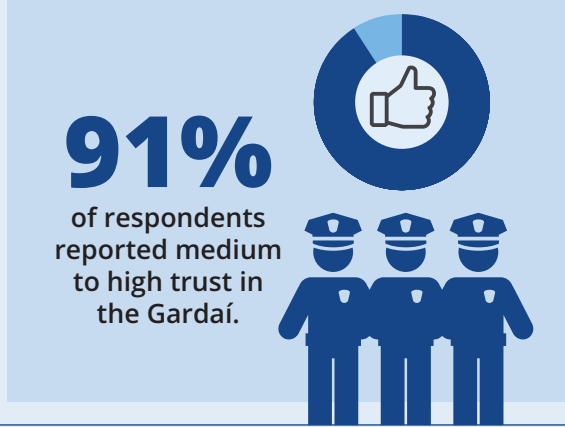
- **During 2019 (and no change from 2018), 80 percent of respondents were either 'very satisfied' or 'quite satisfied' with the service provided to their local communities by Gardaí.**
- **18-24 year olds expressed the highest satisfaction levels (83%) (when 'very satisfied' and 'quite satisfied' were combined), with 45-54 year olds (75%) being the least satisfied with Garda service to their local communities.**
 - **Non-Irish nationals were more likely to be satisfied with Garda service locally.**
 - **'City' respondents expressed greater levels of dissatisfaction than respondents from 'other urban' or 'rural' areas.**
 - **Satisfaction levels with Garda service provided to local communities was greater among non-victims than crime victims.**
- **As perceptions of the seriousness of local crime increased, so too did dissatisfaction with Garda service locally. Those who had lesser levels of fear of crime or were less likely to worry about becoming a victim had greater levels of satisfaction with Garda service.**

Chapter 8


Trust in An Garda Síochána




Victimisation was associated with lower levels of trust in the Gardaí




91% of respondents reported medium to high trust in the Gardaí.



Respondents who reported being 'very satisfied' with the service provided by Gardaí locally reported 'high trust' in the Garda organisation.



As age increases, so does level of trust in the Gardaí



As perception of the seriousness of the local crime problem increased, levels of 'high trust' decreased.

An important metric examined in the Garda Public Attitudes Survey is levels of trust in An Garda Síochána. In order to quantify levels of trust in the Gardaí, respondents are asked to assign a rating of between 1 and 10 to their chosen level, the highest level of trust being ten and the lowest, one. Responses were then recoded to 'low trust' (ratings 1, 2, 3, and 4), 'mid trust' (ratings 5, 6 and 7) and 'high trust' (ratings 8, 9 and 10).

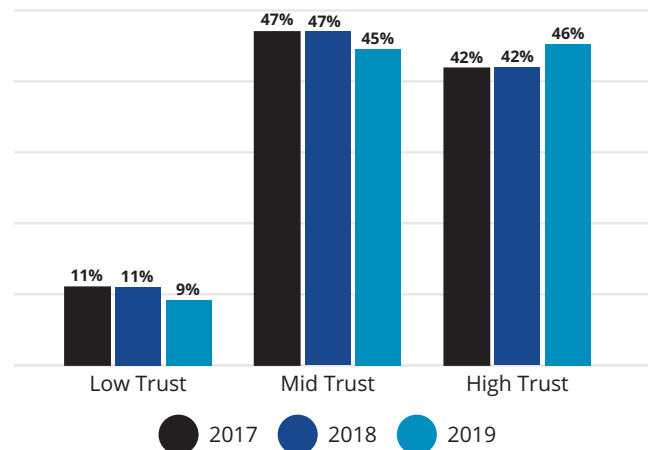
8.1 Trust in An Garda Síochána during 2019

In 2019, 46 percent of respondents reported levels of 'high trust' in An Garda Síochána, 45 percent reported 'mid trust' and 9 percent 'low trust'.

8.2 Changes in levels of trust between 2017, 2018 and 2019

In 2019, trust (mid to high) in An Garda Síochána stood at 91 percent - an increase of one percentage point from 2018, although not statistically significant. Those respondents with 'low trust' stood at 9 percent - a decrease of 2 percentage points from 2018 (see figure 14).

Figure 14: Changes in levels of trust in An Garda Síochána between 2017, 2018 and 2019



8.3 Trust in An Garda Síochána by demographic, socio-economic and area groupings

Tables 58 and 59 highlight variations in trust levels in An Garda Síochána across demographics and geography.

Gender: Females reported slightly greater levels of ‘mid’ to ‘high’ trust than males (93% versus 90%).

Age: As with previous surveys, as the age of respondents increased, so too did the level of trust, with those over the age of 65 expressing the highest level of ‘high’ trust (56%).

Social Class: Those in social class F were more likely to report high levels of trust in An Garda Síochána.

Nationality: When ‘mid’ and ‘high’ trust were combined there was little difference between levels of trust among non-Irish and Irish nationals, although non-Irish nationals were more likely to report ‘high’ trust in the Gardaí.

Region: Respondents from Dublin reported the highest levels of ‘mid’ trust in the Gardaí (55%), but also the highest levels of ‘low’ trust at 14 percent.

Urban/Rural: ‘City’ respondents were less likely to have ‘high’ trust’ in the Garda organisation than those from ‘other urban’ and rural areas.

Distance from local Garda station: Distance from local Garda station had no notable impact on levels of trust.

Table 58: Trust in An Garda Síochána during 2019 by demographic and socio-economic groupings

	Gender		Age						Social Class					Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	Irish	Non-Irish
Low Trust	10%	8%	9%	10%	11%	11%	7%	6%	8%	10%	11%	9%	4%	9%	8%
Mid Trust	45%	46%	51%	52%	46%	45%	41%	38%	51%	47%	45%	43%	43%	46%	42%
High Trust	45%	47%	39%	39%	43%	44%	51%	56%	41%	44%	44%	48%	54%	45%	50%

Table 59: Trust in An Garda Síochána during 2019 by area groupings

	Region				Urban/Rural			Distance to Garda Station				
	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	<1 km	1-3 kms	3-5 kms	5-10 kms	10+kms
Low Trust	14%	9%	6%	6%	13%	8%	6%	8%	10%	10%	7%	7%
Mid Trust	55%	43%	43%	38%	51%	41%	42%	40%	46%	47%	44%	41%
High Trust	31%	49%	51%	56%	36%	51%	52%	52%	44%	43%	49%	53%

8.4 Does contact with the Garda organisation impact on trust in An Garda Síochána?

As table 60 shows, those respondents who had Garda-initiated contact in the 12 months preceding the survey interview were more likely to report lower levels of trust in An Garda Síochána than those who had self-initiated or no contact with the Gardaí – although trust still remained high at 86 percent (mid to high trust).

Table 60: Trust in the Garda organisation by contact with An Garda Síochána

	Any self-initiated contact	Any Garda-initiated contact	No Contact
Low Trust	10%	13%	8%
Mid Trust	51%	46%	43%
High Trust	39%	40%	49%

8.5 Does becoming a victim of crime impact on respondents' trust in An Garda Síochána?

As table 61 indicates, victimisation in the preceding 12 months to the survey interview was associated with greater 'low' trust levels in An Garda Síochána (21% for crime victims versus 9% for non-crime victims). Levels of 'mid' trust and 'high' trust were also lower in victims of crime than non-victims.

Table 61: Levels of trust in An Garda Síochána by victimisation

	Not a crime victim	Crime victim
Low Trust	9%	21%
Mid Trust	46%	41%
High Trust	46%	38%

8.6 Trust in An Garda Síochána by fear of crime and worry about victimisation

As levels of fear of crime increase, trust in An Garda Síochána decreases. For example, those with 'a lot of fears' about crime (43%) were less likely to have 'high trust' compared with those who had 'no fears' (50%). There were no such associations indicated between worry about victimisation and trust in An Garda Síochána.

8.7 Trust in An Garda Síochána and Garda visibility

Respondents with greater awareness of Garda patrols (57%) were more likely to have 'high trust' in the Garda organisation, than those who reported that they were not aware of Garda patrols (40%). Respondents who were not aware of Garda patrols were more likely to report 'low' and 'mid' levels of trust in the Garda organisation (see table 63).

Table 63: Trust in An Garda Síochána by awareness of Garda patrols

	Aware of Garda patrol	Not Aware of Garda patrol
Low Trust	5%	10%
Mid Trust	38%	50%
High Trust	57%	40%

8.8 Trust in An Garda Síochána by perceptions of national and local crime

Respondents who considered the national crime problem as 'very serious' reported the highest levels of 'high' trust in An Garda Síochána at 51 percent and the lowest levels of 'mid' trust at 40 percent. As table 64 illustrates, as perceptions of the seriousness of local crime increases, the proportion of respondents with 'low trust' in the Garda organisation also increases (5% for those who consider it 'not a problem' compared to 23% who view local crime as a 'very serious problem'). Similarly, a greater proportion of respondents who considered local crime to 'not be a problem' reported 'high' levels of trust in the Garda organisation.

Table 62: Trust in An Garda Síochána by fear of crime and worry about victimisation

	Fear of crime				Worry about victimisation			
	A lot of fears	Some fears	Very few fears	No fears	Worry about personal injury	Worry about property theft or damage	Worry about both	Do not worry
Low Trust	23%	10%	7%	8%	-	7%	11%	8%
Mid Trust	34%	46%	49%	42%	42%	40%	51%	44%
High Trust	43%	45%	44%	50%	46%	52%	39%	48%

Table 64: Trust in An Garda Síochána by perceptions of national and local crime

	National				Local			
	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem
Low Trust	10%	8%	8%	14%	23%	16%	8%	5%
Mid Trust	40%	46%	56%	42%	50%	48%	50%	36%
High Trust	51%	46%	36%	44%	28%	36%	42%	59%

8.9 Trust in An Garda Síochána and level of satisfaction with the service provided to the local community

As seen from previous surveys, respondents who reported that they were 'very dissatisfied' with the service provided by Gardaí locally were more likely to have 'low' levels of trust in the Garda organisation (46%). This is true also for those who reported being 'very satisfied' – these respondents were more likely to have 'high' trust in An Garda Síochána (77%) (See table 65).

Table 65: Trust in An Garda Síochána by satisfaction with service provided locally

	Very satisfied	Quite satisfied	Quite dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
Low Trust	-	4%	21%	46%
Mid Trust	21%	44%	59%	42%
High Trust	77%	52%	20%	-

8.10 Summary

- › Levels of 'mid' to 'high' trust in An Garda Síochána during 2019 stood at 91 percent. Levels of trust have remained relatively stable over recent survey sweeps.
- › Respondents in the 65+ age category were more likely to have 'high trust' in the Garda organisation than younger age groups.
- › Dublin respondents (14%) were more likely to report 'low' trust in the Garda organisation than those from the rest of Leinster (9%), Munster (6%) and Connaught or Ulster (6%).
- › Respondents in 'city' areas were less likely to report 'high' trust than 'other urban' or 'rural' respondents.
- › Victims of crime in the preceding 12 months (21%) had greater levels of 'low' trust than non-victims (9%).
- › As fear of crime decreased, so too did trust in the Garda organisation.
- › Respondents with greater awareness of Garda patrols (57%) were more likely to report 'high trust' in An Garda Síochána than those not aware (40%).
- › There was an association between perceptions of local crime and levels of trust. As perception of the seriousness of the crime problem increased, levels of 'high trust' decreased.
- › Respondents who reported being 'very dissatisfied' with the service provided by Gardaí locally were more likely to report 'low' trust in An Garda Síochána.

Chapter 9

Treatment by An Garda Síochána



95%
agreed that Gardaí would treat you with respect



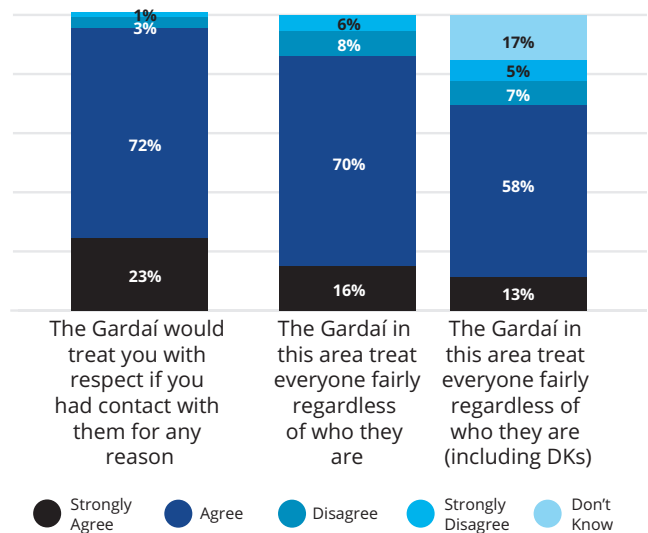
86%
agreed that Gardaí would treat you fairly regardless of who you are

Two new questions were introduced in the 2017 Public Attitudes Survey, and continued through 2018 and 2019. These examine respondents' views on the way Gardaí treat people - respect displayed by Gardaí towards individuals and whether they treat everyone fairly regardless of whom they are. A further four questions were added in 2018 and continued in 2019. These relate to the reliability of Gardaí in local areas and police-community relations.

9.1 Treatment by An Garda Síochána

As illustrated in figure 15, 95 percent of respondents either 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed' that Gardaí would treat them with respect if they had contact with them for any reason. Furthermore, the majority of survey respondents agreed that Gardaí in their area treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are; 16 percent strongly agreed, 70 percent agreed, 8 percent disagreed and 6 percent strongly disagreed (these figures exclude 'don't know' responses – see figure 15 for analysis which includes these).

Figure 15: Equality of treatment by An Garda Síochána during 2019



9.2 Treatment by An Garda Síochána by demographic, socio-economic and area groupings

9.2.1 Gardaí treat people with respect

There was no notable difference between the views of men and women regarding whether Gardaí would treat them with respect if they had contact with them for any reason, with the majority agreeing that they would (95% for males and 96% for females). As age increased so too did level of agreement with this statement, with 97 percent of those in the 65+ age category agreeing. Respondents in social class DE and C2 had the lowest 'strongly agree' levels with this statement. There were no notable differences across Irish and non-Irish nationals (see table 66).

In terms of area groupings, respondents in Dublin were more likely to disagree that Gardaí would treat them with respect than respondents in other areas (5% in Dublin; 2% in the rest of Leinster, Connaught and Ulster and 4% in Munster). This was true for 'city' areas also. Distance from Garda station had no notable impact on agreement with this statement.

9.2.2 Gardaí treat people fairly no matter who they are

Tables 68 and 69 present the findings when respondents were asked their agreement levels with the statement that Gardaí treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are. Agreement levels ('strongly agree' and 'agree') were nearly equal for men and women (86% and 85% respectively). Those in the 55-64 and 65+ age category had the highest agreement levels at 90 and 88 percent respectively. There was no notable difference

across social class groupings. Non-Irish nationals displayed higher agreement levels than Irish nationals (93% vs. 85%). As table 69 shows, respondents in 'the rest of Leinster' (20%) were more likely to disagree that Gardaí would treat people fairly regardless of who they are. Similarly, respondents in 'other urban' areas were more likely to disagree, while distance from Garda station had no notable impact on agreement levels.

Table 66: Respectful treatment by An Garda Síochána by demographic and socio-economic groupings

	Gender		Age						Social Class					Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	Irish	Non-Irish
Strongly Agree	23%	24%	19%	19%	23%	24%	28%	27%	28%	25%	22%	20%	25%	24%	19%
Agree	72%	72%	75%	77%	71%	71%	69%	70%	69%	70%	73%	74%	73%	72%	79%
Disagree	4%	3%	-	4%	4%	4%	-	-	-	4%	4%	4%	-	4%	-
Strongly Disagree	1%	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1%	-

Table 67: Respectful treatment by An Garda Síochána by area groupings

	Region				Urban/Rural			Distance to Garda Station				
	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	<1 km	1-3 kms	3-5 kms	5-10 kms	10+kms
Strongly Agree	10%	30%	31%	22%	17%	30%	26%	20%	20%	27%	30%	27%
Agree	83%	65%	66%	73%	77%	66%	71%	74%	75%	69%	67%	70%
Disagree	5%	2%	2%	4%	5%	2%	3%	4%	4%	3%	-	-
Strongly Disagree	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 68: Treatment of everyone fairly by An Garda Síochána by demographic and socio-economic characteristics

	Gender		Age						Social Class					Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	Irish	Non-Irish
Strongly Agree	15%	16%	14%	13%	15%	15%	20%	16%	17%	17%	15%	14%	12%	16%	15%
Agree	71%	69%	70%	72%	68%	68%	70%	72%	71%	68%	69%	70%	77%	69%	78%
Disagree	8%	9%	10%	9%	9%	10%	5%	6%	6%	9%	8%	9%	-	9%	5%
Strongly Disagree	7%	6%	6%	6%	7%	8%	5%	6%	6%	6%	8%	6%	-	7%	-

Table 69: Treatment of everyone fairly by An Garda Síochána by area groupings

	Region				Urban/Rural			Distance to Garda Station				
	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	<1 km	1-3 kms	3-5 kms	5-10 kms	10+kms
Strongly Agree	8%	14%	28%	13%	14%	17%	17%	16%	14%	17%	17%	17%
Agree	79%	66%	62%	74%	73%	65%	70%	73%	72%	67%	67%	73%
Disagree	13%	6%	6%	9%	11%	7%	6%	9%	10%	7%	6%	-
Strongly Disagree	-	14%	5%	4%	3%	11%	7%	-	4%	11%	10%	-

9.3 Treatment by contact with An Garda Síochána

Regardless of the type of contact that respondents had with Gardaí in the 12 months preceding the survey interview, agreement levels with the statement that Gardaí would treat people with respect were very high – the lowest agreement level was expressed by those who had Garda-initiated contact, at 93 percent. This was the same for agreement levels with the statement that Gardaí treat everyone fairly. Agreement levels for respondents who had any Garda-initiated contact stood at 72 percent (no contact – 90% and self-initiated – 76%). See table 71.

Table 70: Respectful treatment by contact with An Garda Síochána

	Any self-initiated contact	Any Garda initiated contact	No Contact
Strongly Agree	29%	14%	20%
Agree	66%	79%	75%
Disagree	4%	-	3%
Strongly Disagree	-	-	-

Table 71: Treatment of everyone fairly by contact with An Garda Síochána

	Any self-initiated contact	Any Garda initiated contact	No Contact
Strongly Agree	15%	-	15%
Agree	61%	72%	75%
Disagree	10%	13%	7%
Strongly Disagree	14%	-	3%

9.4 Treatment by Gardaí and experience of victimisation

As table 72 illustrates, agreement levels with the statement that Gardaí would treat you with respect if you had contact with them for any reason were lower among those who had been victims of crime in the preceding 12 months (89%) than non-victims (96%).

Similarly, victimisation impacted on whether respondents agreed that Gardaí would treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are, with 61 percent of crime victims agreeing. In contrast, 86 percent of non-crime victims agreed with this statement (see table 73).

Table 72: Respectful treatment by An Garda Síochána by victimisation

	Not a crime victim	Crime victim
Strongly Agree	24%	22%
Agree	72%	67%
Disagree	3%	-
Strongly Disagree	1%	-

Table 73: Treatment of everyone fairly by An Garda Síochána by victimisation

	Not a crime victim	Crime victim
Strongly Agree	16%	-
Agree	70%	61%
Disagree	8%	16%
Strongly Disagree	6%	14%

9.5 Do perceptions of national and local crime impact on perceptions of treatment by An Garda Síochána?

As table 74 indicates, perceptions of national crime had no notable impact on agreement levels among respondents that Gardaí would treat them with respect. However, those who viewed local crime as ‘a very serious problem’ were less likely to agree with this statement (88%) than those who thought local crime was a ‘serious problem’ (93%), ‘something of a problem’ (95%) or ‘not a problem’ (98%).

Table 75 examines agreement levels with the statement that Gardaí would treat everyone fairly by perceptions of national crime. Those who viewed national crime as ‘a very serious problem’ were less likely to agree with this statement (81%) compared to those who viewed it as a ‘serious problem’ (87%), ‘something of a problem’ (88%) or ‘not a problem’ (92%). When local crime was considered, the differences were even more pronounced (56% for those who viewed local crime as ‘a very serious problem’ versus 93% for those who saw it as ‘not a problem’).

Table 74: Respectful treatment by An Garda Síochána by perceptions of crime

	National				Local			
	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem
Agree	95%	96%	95%	95%	88%	93%	95%	98%
Disagree	5%	4%	5%	5%	12%	7%	5%	2%

Table 75: Treatment of everyone fairly by An Garda Síochána by perceptions of crime

	National				Local			
	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem
Agree	81%	87%	88%	92%	56%	72%	86%	93%
Disagree	19%	13%	12%	-	44%	28%	14%	7%

Table 76: Equality of treatment by An Garda Síochána by satisfaction with service provided locally

	Very satisfied	Quite satisfied	Quite dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
Agree that AGS treats everyone respectfully	97%	98%	89%	71%
Disagree that AGS treats everyone respectfully	3%	2%	11%	29%
Agree that AGS treats everyone equally regardless of who they are	98%	89%	67%	48%
Disagree that AGS treats everyone equally regardless of who they are	-	11%	34%	52%

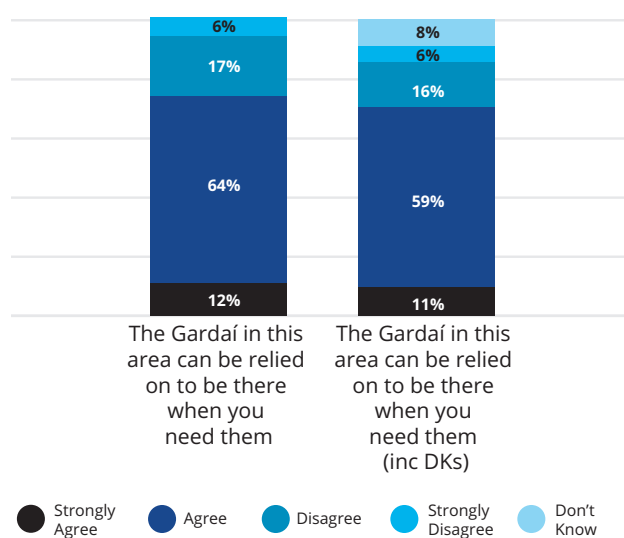
9.6 Does satisfaction with the service provided to local communities impact on perceptions of treatment by Gardaí?

Respondents who were 'very dissatisfied' with Garda service provided locally (71%) were less likely to agree that Gardaí would treat them with respect than those who were 'very satisfied' (97%). This association was seen also when the statement about whether Gardaí would treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are was examined (48% vs. 98%).

9.7 Reliability of An Garda Síochána

As figure 16 shows, the majority of respondents (76%) either 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that the Gardaí in their area can be relied on to be there when they are needed. Seventeen percent of respondents 'disagreed' and 6 percent 'strongly disagreed'. These figures differ when 'don't know' responses were included in the analysis and are highlighted in the figure below.

Figure 16: The Gardaí can be relied on to be there when you need them



9.8 An Garda Síochána and their relationship with the local community

Respondents were asked about their level of agreement with the statement that community relations with the Gardaí are poor. The majority disagreed with this statement (70%). When 'don't know' responses were included this became 60 percent. Thirty-one percent agreed that community relations are poor (see figure 17).

As figure 18 indicates, when asked whether Gardaí listen to the concerns of local people, 86 percent of respondents agreed (75% when 'don't know' responses were included). Finally, 65 percent disagreed that Gardaí are not dealing with things that matter to the community (54% when 'don't know' responses were included) (see figure 19).

Figure 17: Community relations with the local community

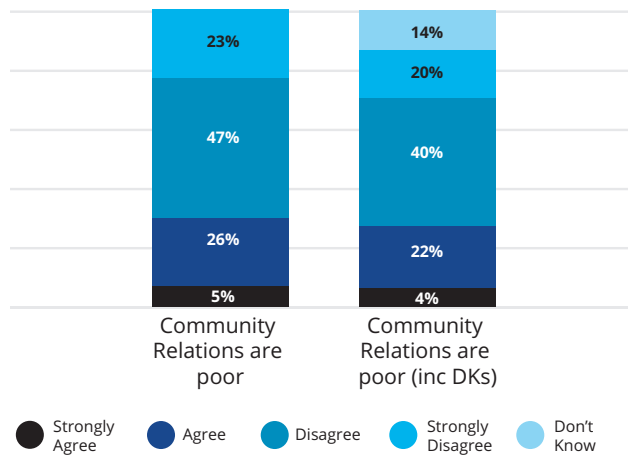


Figure 18: Gardaí listen to the concerns of local people

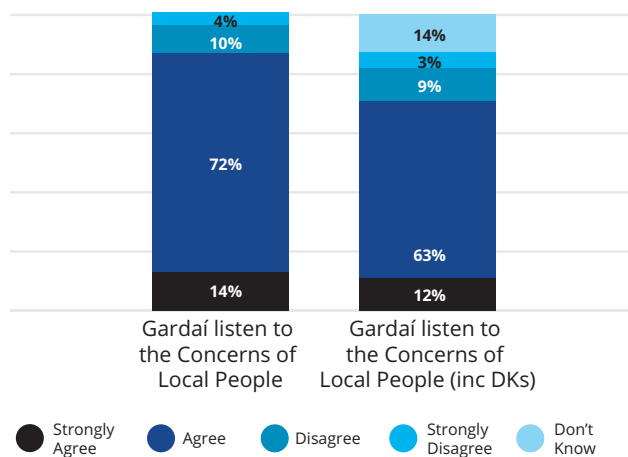
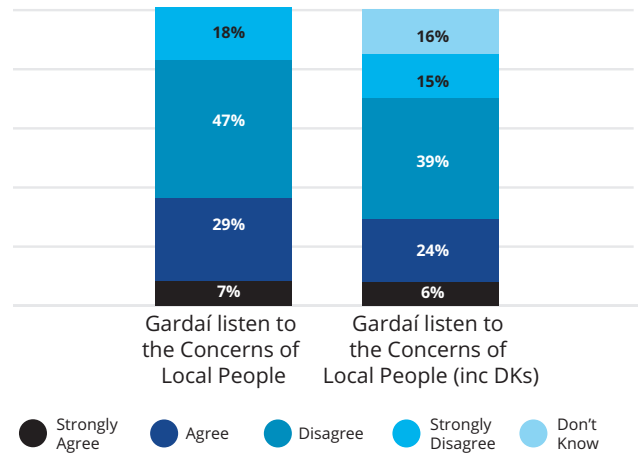


Figure 19: Gardaí are not dealing with things that matter to the local community



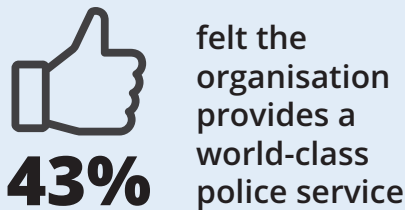
9.9 Summary

- › The majority of survey respondents (95%) agreed that Gardaí would treat them with respect if they had contact with them for any reason. Similarly, the majority agreed (86%) that Gardaí treat people fairly regardless of who they are.
- › As age increased, agreement with the statement that Gardaí would treat you with respect if you had contact with them for any reason also increased.
- › Those aged 55 and greater were more likely to agree that Gardaí would treat you fairly no matter who you are.
- › Non-Irish nationals were more likely to agree that Gardaí would treat you fairly no matter who you are (93%), versus 85 percent for Irish nationals.
- › Respondents in Dublin were more likely to disagree that Gardaí would treat them with respect, as were 'city' respondents.
- › Respondents in 'the rest of Leinster' had lower levels of agreement that Gardaí would treat people fairly no matter who they are.
- › Victimisation negatively impacted agreement levels with both statements - that Gardaí would treat them with respect or treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are.
- › Views of the local crime problem being serious negatively impacted agreement levels with both statements.
- › The majority of respondents (76%) agreed that Gardaí can be relied on to be there when they are needed and that they listen to the concerns of local people (86% and 75% when 'don't know' responses were included).
- › Sixty-five percent (54% when 'don't know' responses were included) disagreed that the Gardaí are not dealing with things that matter to the community.
- › Seventy percent of respondents disagreed that Garda-community relations are poor (60% including 'don't know' responses).

Chapter 10

Perceptions of An Garda Síochána

In 2019, the majority of respondents agreed that An Garda Síochána is:



2019 In general, views of the Garda organisation's effectiveness and capability have been trending upwards since 2017.

As with previous survey sweeps, the 2019 Public Attitudes Survey explored respondents' views of An Garda Síochána by examining agreement levels with six key statements. Three of these statements relate to whether Gardaí are friendly and helpful, community-focused and effective in tackling crime. The remaining three are concerned with whether An Garda Síochána is modern and progressive, provides a world-class service and whether it is well-managed.

Note: As in the 2017 and 2018 annual report, 'don't know' responses have been removed from the majority of the analyses.

10.1 Perceptions of An Garda Síochána during 2019

In 2019, the majority of respondents held the view that the Gardaí are community-focused (73%), friendly and helpful (94%), effective in tackling crime (68%), well-managed (59%) and modern or progressive (71%). Forty-three percent agreed that it provides a world-class police service.

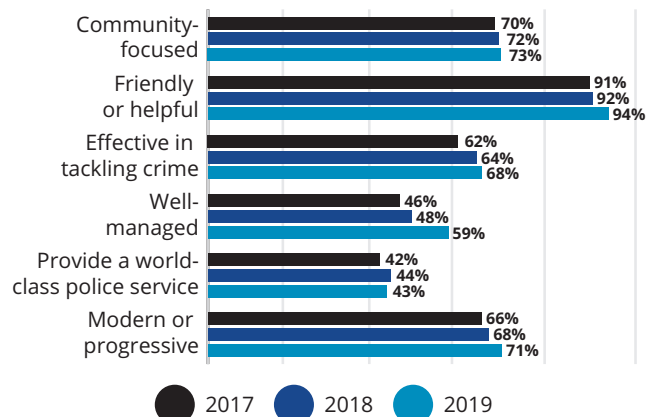
10.2 Changes in perceptions of An Garda Síochána between 2017, 2018 and 2019

For the most part, respondents' views have continued to improve over the last three years with each survey. As figure 20 illustrates, each of the key areas (with the exception of 'provides a world-class police service') have seen an

improvement in percentage points since 2017. Figure 20 presents the 'strongly agree' and 'agree' responses of respondents combined.

For example, the proportion of respondents who agree that Gardaí are friendly and helpful has increased 2 percentage points from 92 percent to 94 percent. Similarly, there has been a significant increase in those respondents who agree that An Garda Síochána is well-managed, from 46 percent in 2017 to 59 percent in 2019. Views about An Garda Síochána providing a world-class police service have decreased 1 percentage point since 2018.

Figure 20: Levels of agreement between 2017, 2018 and 2019



When 'don't know' responses are included, this reduced the agreement percentage by the following: community-focused (67%), friendly or helpful (90%), effective in tackling crime (62%), well-managed (49%), world-class organisation (36%) and modern or progressive (64%). These responses, with 'don't knows' included, impacted the results generally the same as in the 2018 survey.

10.3 Perceptions of effectiveness and capability of An Garda Síochána by demographic and socio-economic groupings

As table 77 illustrates, there was no significant difference in agreement levels across gender with the six statements. Those respondents in the 18-24 years age category had the highest agreement levels, at 80 percent, that the Gardaí are community-focused. Respondents aged 55 years and older were more likely to agree that Gardaí are friendly and helpful at 96 percent, followed by 25-34 year olds at 94 percent.

Across each of the six statements, non-Irish nationals had more positive views of the Gardaí and the Garda organisation, than Irish nationals.

10.4 Perceptions of effectiveness and capability by area groupings

Respondents from Munster had the most positive views of An Garda Síochána, with the highest agreement levels across all of the six statements. Respondents in the 'rest of Leinster' were less likely to agree that the Gardaí provide a world-class police service at 31 percent, than the other regions. In four of the six statements, those in 'city' areas were more likely to disagree with the statements than those in 'other urban' and rural areas. Respondents who lived less than 1 km from a Garda station were more likely to agree with the six statements than those who lived further from stations.

Table 77: Perceptions of effectiveness and capability by demographic and socio-economic groupings

	Gender		Age						Social Class					Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	Irish	Non-Irish
Community-focused	73%	73%	80%	74%	71%	70%	74%	73%	72%	74%	72%	74%	75%	72%	81%
Modern or progressive	70%	72%	74%	69%	68%	68%	73%	76%	70%	68%	69%	74%	78%	70%	77%
Friendly or helpful	94%	94%	92%	94%	92%	92%	96%	96%	94%	94%	93%	93%	97%	94%	96%
Provide a world-class police service	43%	44%	47%	43%	42%	38%	45%	48%	42%	43%	41%	46%	44%	42%	52%
Well-managed	58%	60%	67%	57%	56%	52%	61%	64%	53%	58%	58%	63%	61%	57%	70%
Effective in tackling crime	68%	68%	74%	66%	66%	63%	68%	73%	66%	68%	66%	70%	69%	67%	75%

Table 78: Perceptions of effectiveness and capability by area groupings

	Region				Urban/Rural			Distance to Garda Station				
	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	<1 km	1-3 kms	3-5 kms	5-10 kms	10+kms
Community-focused	70%	66%	83%	74%	70%	73%	76%	77%	72%	73%	74%	70%
Modern or progressive	63%	71%	76%	75%	66%	74%	74%	73%	70%	70%	74%	69%
Friendly or helpful	94%	93%	95%	95%	94%	94%	94%	95%	94%	94%	94%	94%
Provide a world-class police service	42%	31%	56%	48%	45%	40%	44%	47%	43%	43%	42%	37%
Well-managed	56%	51%	72%	56%	59%	57%	60%	64%	57%	59%	61%	56%
Effective in tackling crime	63%	62%	78%	69%	66%	68%	70%	73%	68%	66%	69%	67%

10.5 Perceptions of effectiveness and capability by contact with An Garda Síochána

As table 79 illustrates, respondents who had ‘no contact’ with the Gardaí in the 12 months preceding the survey interview held more positive views of the Gardaí, expressing higher agreement levels across all six statements. Those who had Garda-initiated contact were less likely to agree with the statements than those who had any self-initiated contact.

Table 79: Perceptions of effectiveness and capability by contact with An Garda Síochána

	Any self-initiated contact	Any Garda-initiated contact	No Contact
Community-focused	72%	70%	73%
Modern or progressive	68%	52%	73%
Friendly or helpful	92%	89%	95%
Provide a world-class police service	41%	35%	43%
Well-managed	57%	47%	59%
Effective in tackling crime	64%	65%	69%

10.6 Perceptions of effectiveness and capability by victimisation

Those respondents who had been a victim of crime in the 12 months preceding the survey interview held more negative views of the Gardaí and Garda organisation than those respondents who had not experienced victimisation (see table 80).

Table 80: Agreement levels by experience of victimisation

	Not a crime victim	Crime victim
Community-focused	74%	55%
Modern or progressive	72%	57%
Friendly or helpful	94%	85%
Provide a world-class police service	44%	34%
Well-managed	60%	41%
Effective in tackling crime	69%	49%

10.7 Do respondents’ views of the seriousness of the crime problem affect how they perceive An Garda Síochána?

As table 81 shows, in general, as views of the seriousness of the national crime problem increase, positive views of the Garda organisation decrease. This was particularly evident in the statements about being community-focused, providing a world-class police service, being well-managed and effective in tackling crime. For example, 36 percent of respondents who felt national crime was ‘a very serious problem’ agreed that the Garda organisation provides a world-class police service, compared to 70 percent of those who felt national crime to not be a problem.

The same association was evident also when local crime was considered. For example, 81 percent of respondents who considered local crime to be ‘not a problem’ agreed that Gardaí are community-focused, compared to 55 percent of those who considered it a ‘very serious problem’.

Table 81: Perceptions of effectiveness and capability by perceptions of national and local crime

	National				Local			
	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem
Community-focused	68%	74%	78%	83%	55%	59%	73%	81%
Modern or progressive	70%	71%	72%	76%	62%	61%	71%	77%
Friendly or helpful	93%	94%	95%	97%	84%	89%	94%	97%
Provide a world-class police service	36%	43%	53%	70%	29%	32%	42%	52%
Well-managed	53%	61%	64%	75%	52%	47%	59%	66%
Effective in tackling crime	61%	71%	70%	86%	45%	56%	67%	78%

Table 82: Perceptions of effectiveness and capability by fear of crime and worry about victimisation

	Fear of crime				Worry about victimisation			
	A lot of fears	Some fears	Very few fears	No fears	Worry about personal injury	Worry about property theft or damage	Worry about both	Do not worry
Community-focused	52%	66%	73%	79%	72%	61%	68%	79%
Modern or progressive	54%	65%	70%	77%	65%	65%	68%	74%
Friendly or helpful	88%	94%	94%	94%	93%	95%	92%	94%
Provide a world-class police service	31%	37%	42%	50%	36%	27%	41%	49%
Well-managed	41%	50%	55%	71%	58%	36%	57%	66%
Effective in tackling crime	43%	59%	67%	77%	59%	55%	62%	75%

10.8 Is fear of crime and worry of victimisation related to perceptions of the Garda organisation?

A concept explored in the Public Attitudes Survey is whether having a fear of crime, or worrying about becoming a victim of crime, impacts on views about the effectiveness and capability of the Garda organisation. Table 82 shows that as fear of crime decreases, agreement levels across all six statements increases (i.e. views become more positive). For example, those who agreed with the statement that the Garda organisation is well-managed increased from 41 percent of respondents with 'a lot of fears' about crime, to 71 percent for those with 'no fears'. Similarly, respondents who worried about victimisation were generally less likely to agree that the Garda organisation is effective and capable.

10.9 Are respondents' views of An Garda Síochána associated with their levels of trust in the Garda organisation?

As in 2018, there was a very clear correlation between respondents' levels of trust in An Garda Síochána and their views about its effectiveness and capability (see table 83). Those who had 'high trust' in the Gardaí held much more positive views about the Garda organisation's effectiveness and capability than those who expressed 'low trust'.

Table 83: Perceptions of An Garda Síochána by levels of trust

	Low Trust	Medium Trust	High Trust
Community-focused	25%	67%	88%
Modern or progressive	21%	65%	86%
Friendly or helpful	59%	95%	99%
Provide a world-class police service	9%	31%	62%
Well-managed	15%	51%	75%
Effective in tackling crime	21%	59%	86%

10.10 Summary

- ▶ In 2019, the majority of respondents agreed that An Garda Síochána was community-focused, friendly and helpful, effective in tackling crime, well-managed and modern and progressive. Forty-three percent felt the organisation provides a world-class police service.
- ▶ In general, views of the Garda organisation's effectiveness and capability have been trending upwards since 2017.
- ▶ Non-Irish nationals' views of the organisation were more positive than Irish nationals.
- ▶ Respondents in Munster had more positive views of the Garda organisation than those in other areas.
- ▶ Respondents who had Garda-initiated contact in the preceding 12 months were less likely to agree with all six statements than those who had self-initiated contact, or no contact.
- ▶ Victimisation impacted negatively on views of the Garda organisation.
- ▶ As perceptions of the national and local crime problem being serious increased, so too did disagreement with the six statements about the Garda organisation.
- ▶ A number of associations were evident about views of the effectiveness and capability of An Garda Síochána:
 - ▶ As fear of crime increased, negative perceptions of the organisation also increased.
 - ▶ As worry about victimisation increased, negative perceptions of An Garda Síochána also increased.
 - ▶ Those respondents with 'high trust' were much more likely to agree with all six statements about the organisation's effectiveness and capability – positive perceptions increased.

Chapter 11

16 and 17-Year-Old Booster Sample

Since December 2016, the Garda Public Attitudes Survey includes 16 and 17-year-olds (prior to this its scope was limited to a nationally representative sample of adults aged 18 years and older). Inclusion of 16 and 17-year-olds in the survey is crucial to understanding the views of this important cohort on Gardaí, their experiences with crime and victimisation and the Garda organisation in general.

11.1 Methodology

As with the main sample, households were chosen randomly to meet a monthly quota. If a young person aged 16 or 17 years was identified within the household, they were randomly selected using the 'last birthday rule'. Parents were asked to read an information sheet which included details of the survey, who was conducting it, and why their child was being asked to participate. Parents were then asked to read and sign a participant consent form in which assurances were provided that their child's identity, and any information provided, would only be used for the Public Attitudes Survey and would be held anonymously and confidentially at all times.

The booster sample consisted of 594 young people aged 16 or 17 years. While this sample is presented in isolation in this chapter, broad comparisons are made at times to the main 2018 sample. While the sample of adults in the main survey is designed to be nationally representative, no weighting has been applied to the 16 and 17-year-old cohort. Comparisons, therefore, must be read with a degree of caution. No statistical

associations are presented due to a different strategy for sampling being used for both samples. As with the main survey sample, preliminary analysis of all variables was completed to assess the proportion of 'don't know' responses. A decision was then taken about whether they were to be excluded from subsequent analyses. For questions where 'don't know' responses accounted for less than 10 percent of responses to each question, they were excluded from analysis and are not presented as part of this chapter. In cases where 'don't know' responses totalled 10 percent or more of respondents' replies, analysis including and excluding such responses are presented for completeness.

The smaller size of the booster sample is problematic. Where counts are very low, it is impossible to disaggregate the booster sample into certain sub-groups e.g. social class and categories of victims of crime. This limited the amount of analysis that could be carried out.

11.2 Demographics

As in 2017 and 2018, there were differences in the gender composition of the main and booster samples, with slightly more males than females in the booster survey sample. The samples had very similar distributions across region and area but like in previous years, the main survey contained more non-Irish nationals. See table 84 for a breakdown of demographic and area information.

Table 84: Booster sample profile

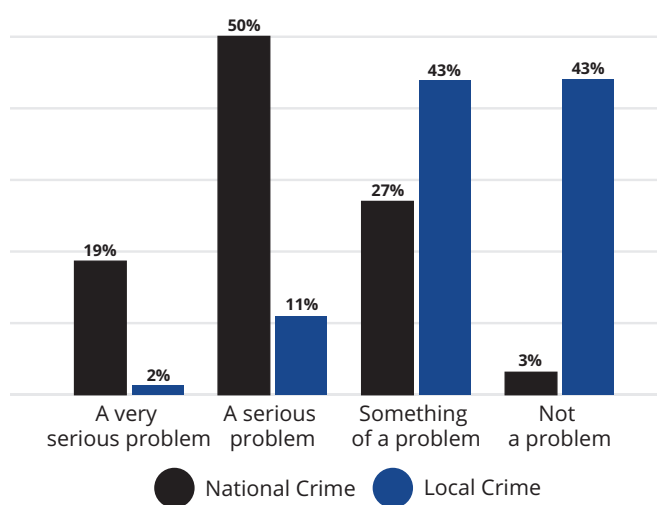
Gender	Social Class		Region		
Male	54%	AB	17%	Dublin	29%
Female	46%	C1	37%	Leinster (excluding Dublin)	26%
		C2	20%	Munster	27%
		DE	23%	Connaught or Ulster	17%
		F	4%		

Area	Nationality		Ethnicity		Religion		
City	39%	Irish	90%	White Irish	88%	Roman Catholic	74%
Other Urban	25%	Polish	2%	Other white	6%	Church of Ireland	2%
Rural	36%	UK	2%	Other Asian	3%	Other Christian	3%
		Indian	2%	Other Black	3%	Islam	1%
		Other	4%			No religion	19%

11.3 Perceptions of crime in Ireland: 16 and 17-year-olds

Sixty-nine percent of the 16 and 17-year-old booster sample considered national crime to be either a 'very serious problem' or a 'serious problem' (this figure was 78% in the main sample). Twenty-seven percent considered it 'something of a problem' while 3 percent viewed it as 'not a problem'. As with the adult sample, local crime was considered far less of a problem than national crime. Thirteen percent viewed local crime as 'very serious' or 'serious' while those that viewed it as 'something of a problem' or 'not a problem' stood at 43 percent respectively.

Figure 21: Perceptions of national and local crime: unweighted booster sample



11.3.1 Perceptions of national and local crime by demographic and area groupings

As mentioned earlier in this chapter, the smaller size of the booster sample limited the amount of analysis that could be conducted by demographic, socio-economic and area groupings. As table 85 indicates, in terms of perceptions of national crime being a 'very serious problem' or a 'serious problem', females indicated slightly more concern than males. Those in the 'rest of Leinster' (85%) and Munster (78%) viewed national crime as more serious than Dublin (45%) and Connaught or Ulster (39%). Respondents in 'other urban' areas viewed national crime as more serious than those in 'city' and rural areas. As in 2018, local crime was considered more of a problem by those in Dublin and city areas.

Contact with Gardaí (in the 12 months preceding the survey interview) saw views of the seriousness of the national and local crime problem being less serious than when respondents had no contact with Gardaí.

Table 85: Perceptions of national crime in Ireland during 2019 by demographic and area groupings - unweighted booster sample

	Gender		Region				Urban/Rural			Contact	
	Male	Female	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	Any contact	No contact
A very serious problem	21%	18%	-	26%	24%	-	-	29%	21%	-	20%
A serious problem	46%	55%	45%	59%	54%	39%	49%	55%	49%	41%	54%
Something of a problem	28%	25%	40%	-	21%	39%	35%	-	26%	38%	24%
Not a problem	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 86: Perceptions of local crime in Ireland during 2019 by demographic and area groupings - unweighted booster sample

	Gender		Region				Urban/Rural			Contact	
	Male	Female	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	Any contact	No contact
A very serious problem	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A serious problem	-	14%	20%	-	-	-	16%	-	-	-	12%
Something of a problem	44%	42%	42%	44%	41%	50%	43%	48%	41%	47%	43%
Not a problem	46%	41%	35%	46%	49%	43%	38%	39%	51%	42%	43%

11.4 Victims of crime: 16 and 17-year-old sample

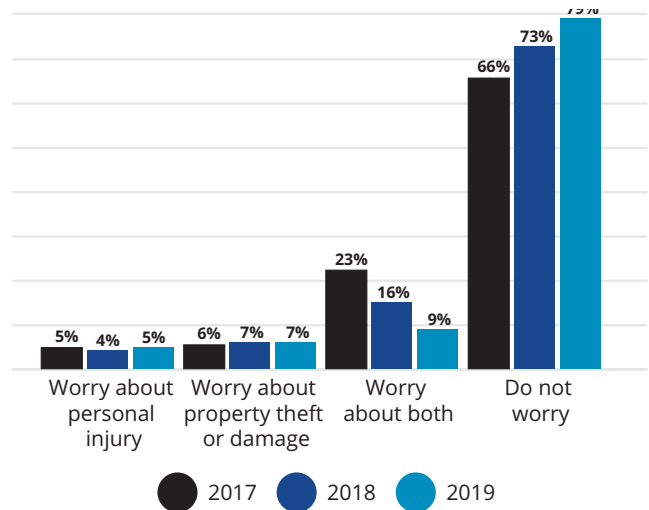
As in previous surveys, the majority of 16 and 17-year-olds had not been a victim of crime in the preceding 12 month period. Three percent of respondents had been a victim of crime. This accounts for 19 respondents, of which 56 percent reported their most recent incident to An Garda Síochána. Due to the low victim sample, additional analysis is not possible.

11.5 Fear and worry about crime: 16 and 17-year-old booster sample

11.5.1 Perceived likelihood of victimisation

As in 2018, worry about victimisation is lower among 16 and 17-year-old respondents than the main adult sample. As figure 22 illustrates, 9 percent of 16 and 17-year-olds worried about becoming a victim of both personal injury, and property theft or damage in 2019 (down 7 percentage points from 2018 and 14 percentage points from 2017). In the main sample this figure was 28 percent. Seventy-nine percent of 16 and 17-year-olds did not worry about victimisation (compared to 73% in 2018 and 66% in 2017). This figure is significantly more than in the main sample in which 55 percent of the adult sample expressed no worries about victimisation.

Figure 22: Perceived likelihood of victimisation 2017, 2018 and 2019: unweighted booster sample



11.5.2 Perceptions of likelihood of victimisation by demographic and areas groupings

As table 87 indicates, the majority of 16 and 17-year-olds did not worry about victimisation. Those who had contact with Gardaí in the 12 months preceding the survey interview, were more likely to worry than those who had no contact.

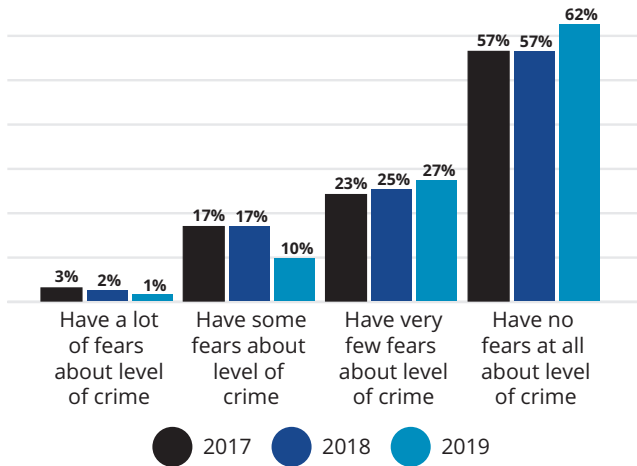
Table 87: Perceived likelihood of victimisation by demographic and area groupings: unweighted booster sample

	Gender		Region				Urban/Rural			Contact	
	Male	Female	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	Any contact	No contact
Worry about personal injury	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Worry about property theft or damage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Worry about both	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9%	-
Do not worry	82%	75%	74%	85%	84%	71%	72%	83%	84%	78%	81%

11.5.3 Fear about the level of crime in Ireland

The proportion of respondents who have no fears about crime at all has increased from 57 percent in 2017 and 2018 respectively, to 62 percent in 2019 (see figure 23). Respondents in the adult sample were less likely to have no fears (38%). Ten percent of 16 and 17-year-olds had 'some' fears about the level of crime, compared to 25 percent of the main adult sample.

Figure 23: Levels of fear of crime 2017, 2018 and 2019: unweighted booster sample:



11.5.4 Fear about the level of crime in Ireland by demographic and area groupings

Females (22%) expressed higher levels of fear of crime than males (12%). Respondents in Connaught, Ulster and 'city' areas, were less likely to have no fear of crime than in the other regions/areas. Furthermore, respondents (60%) who had no contact with the Gardaí in the 12 months preceding the survey interview were more likely to have no fear of crime (see table 88) whereas, 35 percent of the main survey who had no contact expressed the same sentiment.

Table 88: Levels of fear of crime by demographic and area groupings: unweighted booster sample

	Gender		Region				Urban/Rural			Contact	
	Male	Female	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	Any contact	No contact
Have a lot of fears about level of crime	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Have some fears about level of crime	-	12%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
Have very few fears about level of crime	26%	29%	24%	-	34%	37%	26%	27%	28%	38%	24%
Have no fears at all about level of crime	66%	57%	61%	74%	59%	49%	58%	66%	62%	49%	65%

11.5.5 The impact of fear of crime on respondents' quality of life

As figure 24 shows, there were no significant changes between 2017, 2018 and 2019 in terms of the impact of fear of crime on quality of life among 16 and 17-year-olds, with the majority at 82 percent (2019) reporting 'no effect' on quality of life. Respondents aged 18 years and older were less likely to report 'no effect' on their quality of life at 65 percent.

Figure 24: Impact of fear of crime on quality of life 2017, 2018 and 2019: unweighted booster sample

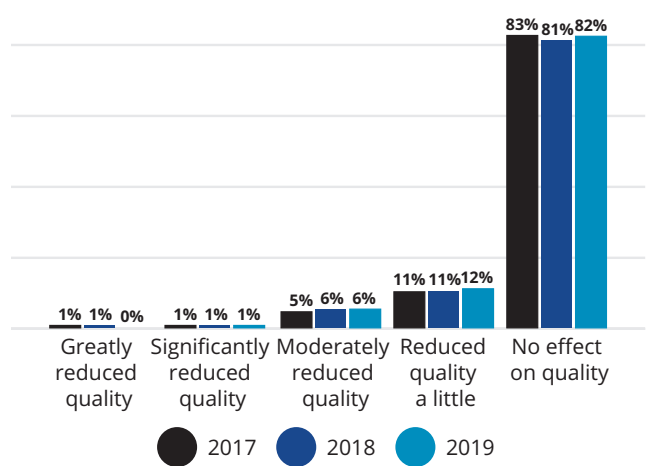


Table 89: Impact of fear of crime on quality of life by demographic and area groupings: unweighted booster sample

	Gender		Region				Urban/Rural			Contact	
	Male	Female	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	Any contact	No contact
Greatly reduced quality	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Significantly reduced quality	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Moderately reduced quality	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reduced quality a little	-	19%	22%	-	-	-	20%	-	-	-	11%
No effect on quality	87%	73%	69%	85%	87%	88%	70%	85%	91%	79%	82%

11.5.6 Impact of fear of crime on quality of life by demographic and area groupings

As table 89 indicates, impact of fear of crime on quality of life was low among respondents. Nineteen percent of females reported that fear of crime impacted quality of life ‘a little’. Those respondents in Dublin and ‘city’ areas were more likely to report that fear of crime impacted their quality of life ‘a little’ than in other regions/areas. With regard to quality of life and contact with An Garda Síochána, the majority of young people who had contact (79%) and who did not have contact (82%) said it had no effect.

11.6 Policing priorities for An Garda Síochána

Sixteen and 17-year-olds held similar views to the main adult sample as to those offences on which An Garda Síochána should focus, with sexual offences (96%), human trafficking (88%) and illegal weapons (86%) being the top priorities (see table 90). As with respondents aged 18 years and older, traffic offences, criminal damage and public order offences were the least prioritised by younger people.

Table 90: Policing priorities identified by respondents for An Garda Síochána: unweighted booster sample

	High priority	Medium priority	Low priority
Sexual offences	96%	2%	2%
Human trafficking	88%	10%	2%
Illegal weapons	86%	12%	2%
Assaults	82%	17%	1%
Robberies	73%	25%	2%
Drugs offences	70%	21%	10%
Burglaries	65%	30%	6%
Fraud	61%	34%	5%
Traffic offences	61%	32%	8%
Criminal damage	59%	33%	8%
Public order offences	37%	32%	31%

11.7 Garda visibility and perception of Garda presence

As figure 25 indicates, awareness of Garda patrols have remained relatively stable over the last three survey sweeps (40%, 39% and 41% respectively). In 2019, 39 percent of 16 and 17-year-olds reported being unaware of them, compared to 50 percent of the main adult sample. The proportion of respondents who reported ‘don’t know’ was high at 20 percent. As table 91 illustrates, the majority of those respondents who reported being aware of Garda patrols were aware of Gardaí patrolling in cars (99%).

Figure 25: Awareness of Garda patrols: unweighted booster sample

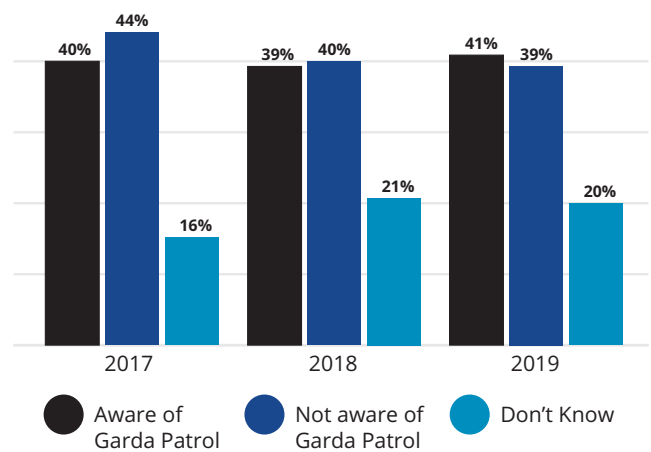


Table 91: Garda patrolling practices: unweighted booster sample

Aware of Garda patrols		41%
By car	99%	
On foot	17%	
By bicycle	7%	
Not aware of Garda patrols		39%
Don't know		20%

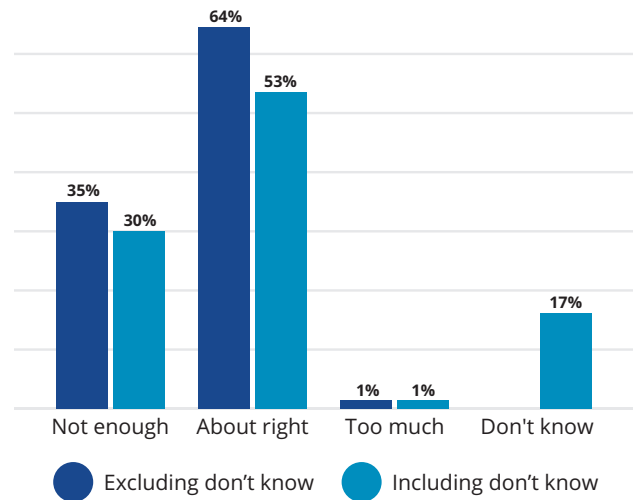
11.7.1 Garda visibility by demographic and area groupings

There was no notable difference across gender in terms of awareness of Garda patrols. Respondents in Connaught and Ulster (55%) reported more awareness than Dublin (40%), the rest of Leinster (33%) and Munster (40%). Respondents in rural areas were less likely to be aware of Garda patrols than those in other areas (see table 92). Respondents who had no contact with An Garda Síochána reported greater awareness than those who did have contact with Gardaí in the 12 months, preceding the survey interview.

11.7.2 Perception of Garda presence

In 2019, the majority (64%) of the booster sample, when 'don't know' responses were excluded, agreed that Garda presence in their local areas was 'about right'. This is an increase of 5 percentage points from 2018. This figure fell to 53 percent when 'don't know' responses were included (see figure 26). Respondents in the adult sample were less likely to agree with this statement – 45 percent felt Garda presence was 'about right'.

Figure 26: Perceptions of Garda presence: unweighted booster sample (including and excluding 'don't knows')



11.7.3 Perception of Garda presence by demographic and area groupings

Females (42%) were more likely to consider Garda presence as 'not enough' in their local areas, compared to males (30%). As in the main adult sample, Dublin respondents and those in 'city' areas were less likely to agree that Garda presence was 'about right' in their local areas compared to those in other regions/areas.

Table 92: Garda visibility by demographic and area groupings: unweighted booster sample

	Gender		Region				Urban/Rural			Contact	
	Male	Female	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	Any contact	No contact
Aware of Garda Patrol	40%	42%	40%	33%	40%	55%	42%	42%	39%	37%	42%
Not aware of Garda Patrol	41%	36%	33%	55%	34%	33%	34%	43%	41%	35%	41%
Don't know	19%	22%	27%	-	26%	-	24%	-	20%	28%	16%

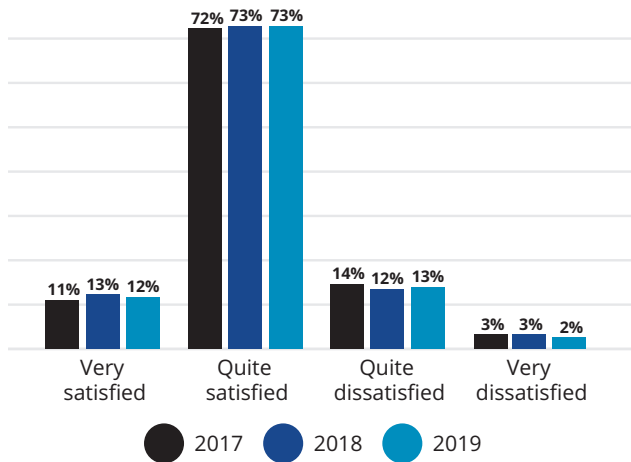
Table 93: Perceptions of Garda presence by demographic and area groupings: unweighted booster sample

	Gender		Region				Urban/Rural			Contact	
	Male	Female	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	Any contact	No contact
Not enough	30%	42%	52%	30%	33%	-	48%	26%	30%	37%	35%
About right	69%	59%	46%	70%	66%	77%	51%	74%	69%	62%	64%
Too much	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

11.8 Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána

Figure 27 shows that satisfaction levels with An Garda Síochána’s service to local areas among 16 and 17-year-olds have remained relatively stable over the last three survey sweeps. Eighty-five percent were either ‘satisfied’ or ‘quite satisfied’ with 13 percent ‘quite dissatisfied’ and 2 percent ‘very dissatisfied’.

Figure 27: Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána: unweighted booster sample



11.8.1 Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána by demographic and area groupings

Seventy-two percent of females and 75 percent of males were ‘quite satisfied’ with Garda service (15% of females were ‘very satisfied’). Respondents in Dublin and Munster were less likely to be ‘quite satisfied’ compared to other regions. The same is true for those 16 and 17-year-olds in ‘city’ areas. Seventy-five per cent of respondents who had no contact with An Garda Síochána reported being satisfied with the service provided by them, compared to 68 percent who had some contact in the 12 months preceding the survey interview.

11.9 Trust in An Garda Síochána

As with the main sample, 16 and 17-year-old respondents were asked to assign a rating of between 1 and 10, in order to quantify their level of trust in An Garda Síochána. The highest trust level was assigned the number 10, and the lowest, one. These were then recoded as in the main sample - ‘low trust’ (ratings 1, 2, 3 and 4), ‘mid trust’ (ratings 5, 6 and 7) and ‘high trust’ (ratings 8, 9 and 10).

As figure 28 shows, 42 percent of respondents had ‘high trust’ in the Gardaí, 46 percent had ‘mid trust’, while 12 percent expressed ‘low trust’. ‘Mid’ trust figures have been trending downwards since 2017, with ‘high’ trust back to 42 percent in 2019, from 40 percent in 2018. In the main sample, in 2019, ‘mid trust’ was slightly less at 45 percent, and ‘high trust’ greater, at 46 percent.

Figure 28: Changes in levels of trust in An Garda Síochána between 2017 and 2018: unweighted booster sample

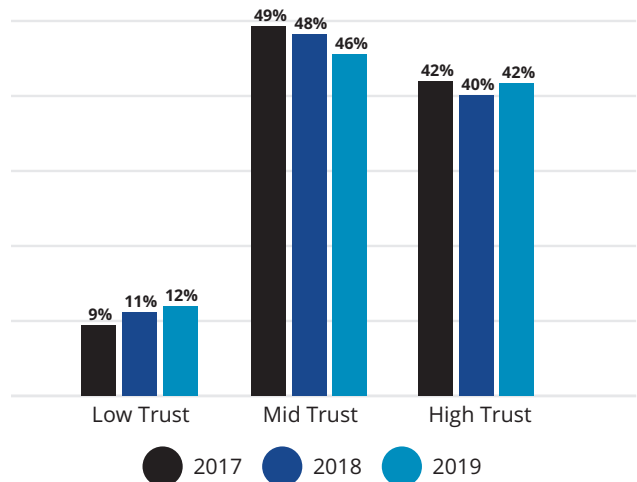


Table 94: Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána by demographic and area groupings: unweighted booster sample

	Gender		Region				Urban/Rural			Contact	
	Male	Female	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	Any contact	No contact
Very satisfied	-	15%	-	-	-	-	16%	-	-	-	11%
Quite satisfied	75%	72%	70%	77%	72%	76%	71%	76%	73%	68%	75%
Quite dissatisfied	13%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16%	-	12%
Very dissatisfied	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

As table 95 indicates, in 2019, 'high trust' levels did not differ notably between males and females. Sixteen and 17-year-olds in Dublin and Munster were less likely to express 'high trust' in the Gardaí, compared to those in other regions, as were respondents in 'city' areas.

11.10 Equality of treatment by An Garda Síochána

Respondents were asked whether they agreed with the statement that Gardaí would treat them with respect should they have contact with them for any reason. Figure 29 shows responses including and excluding 'don't knows'. Eighty-five percent either 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that Gardaí would treat them with respect. When 'don't know' responses are excluded, this becomes 90 percent (95% in the main sample).

In terms of respondents' views on whether Gardaí would treat them fairly, 65 percent 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed'. When 'don't know' responses are excluded this becomes 82 percent (86% in the main sample).

Figure 29: Gardaí would treat you with respect: unweighted booster sample

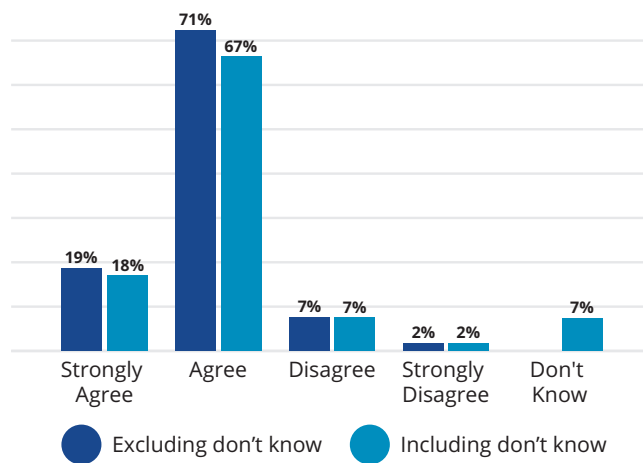


Figure 30: Gardaí treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are: unweighted booster sample

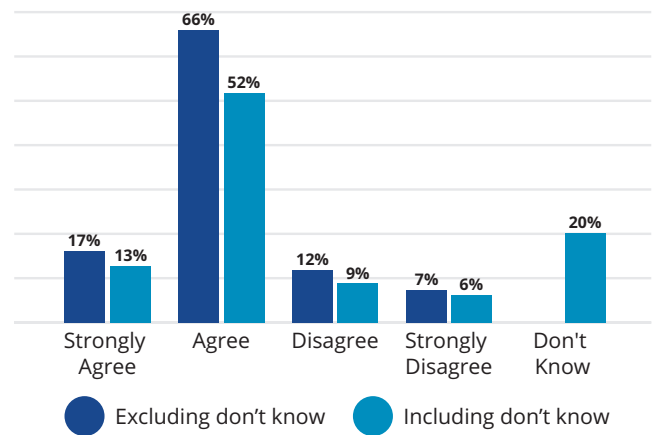


Table 95: Levels of trust in An Garda Síochána by demographic and areas groupings: unweighted booster sample

	Gender		Region				Urban/Rural			Contact	
	Male	Female	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	Any contact	No contact
Low Trust	15%	-	-	-	-	-	14%	-	-	-	13%
Mid Trust	43%	49%	51%	36%	55%	37%	54%	41%	41%	54%	43%
High Trust	42%	43%	34%	55%	33%	52%	32%	47%	49%	37%	44%

11.10.1 Equality of treatment by area groupings

When variations across demographics and area groupings were examined in terms of agreement levels about respectful treatment by An Garda Síochána, females expressed higher agreement levels (90%) than males (80%). Those in Dublin and Connaught or Ulster were less likely to agree that Gardaí would treat you with respect, compared to respondents in the rest of Leinster and Munster. Sixteen and 17-year-olds in Connaught and Ulster and the rest of Leinster had more favourable views of the Gardaí in terms of being treated fairly, than those in other regions. Respondents who had contact with the Gardaí in the 12 months preceding the survey interview were less likely to agree that they would treat everyone fairly, than those who had no contact (see tables 96 and 97).

Table 96: Respectful treatment by An Garda Síochána by demographic and area groupings: unweighted booster sample

	Gender		Region				Urban/Rural			Contact	
	Male	Female	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	Any contact	No contact
Agree	80%	90%	81%	89%	88%	80%	82%	87%	86%	84%	85%
Disagree	20%	-	19%	-	-	-	18%	-	14%	-	15%

Table 97: Treatment of everyone fairly by An Garda Síochána by demographic and area groupings: unweighted booster sample

	Gender		Region				Urban/Rural			Contact	
	Male	Female	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	Any contact	No contact
Agree	65%	64%	56%	73%	59%	75%	59%	67%	69%	52%	68%
Disagree	35%	36%	44%	27%	41%	-	41%	33%	31%	48%	32%

11.11 Perceptions of An Garda Síochána

Respondents were asked questions which sought viewpoints on four statements: whether An Garda Síochána can be relied upon; whether Garda-community relations are poor; does An Garda Síochána listen to the public; and do they deal with the matters that concern the community.

Figure 31 presents these viewpoints in a bar chart (excluding 'don't knows') and Figure 32 presents the viewpoints including 'don't knows'. As can be observed from Figure 32, high levels of 'don't know' responses were given. Across the

four statements, as in 2018, the highest level of agreement was noted for 'An Garda Síochána in this area listen to the concerns of local people' at 70 percent (excluding 'don't knows' and 55% including 'don't know' responses). Sixty-four percent of respondents agreed that An Garda Síochána can be relied on to be there when you need them (56% if 'don't knows' are included). Forty-nine per cent of respondents disagreed that community relations with An Garda Síochána are poor. Forty-eight per cent of respondents disagreed that An Garda Síochána are not dealing with the things that matter to people in their community.

Figure 31: Views on Garda behaviour (excluding don't knows): unweighted booster sample

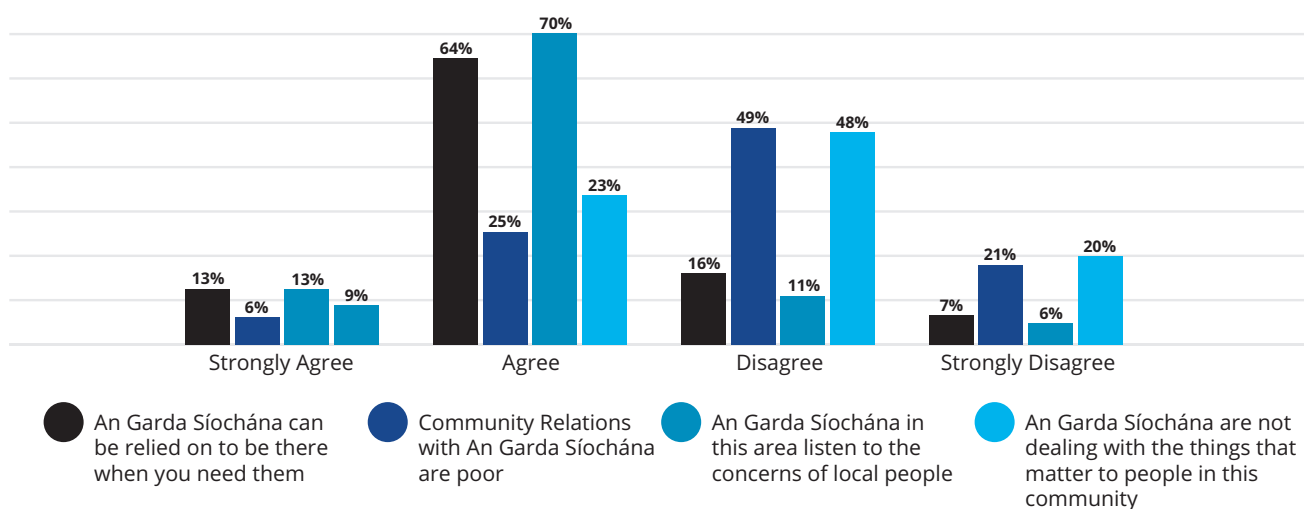


Figure 32: Views on Garda behaviour (including don't knows): unweighted booster sample

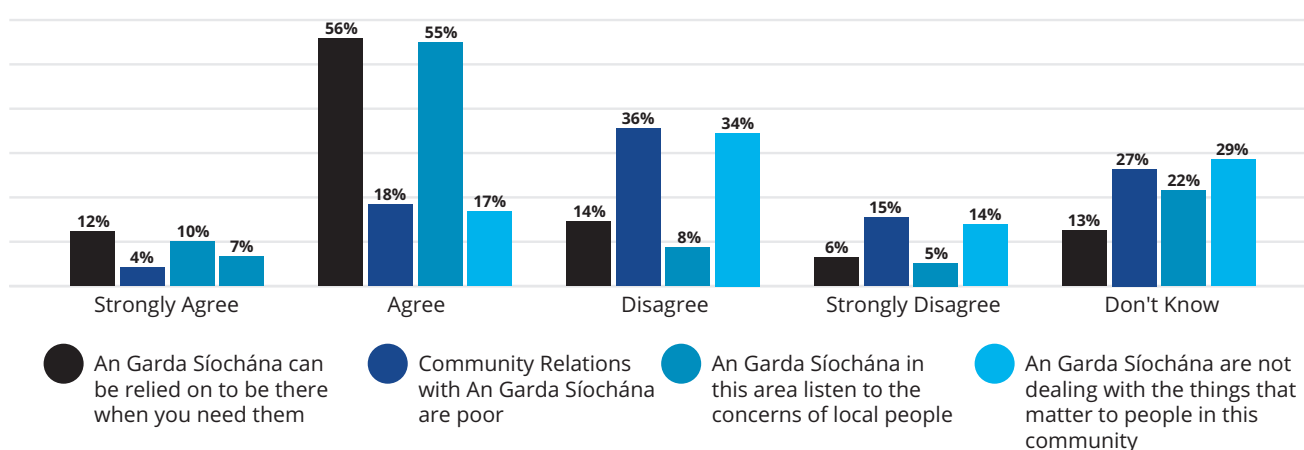
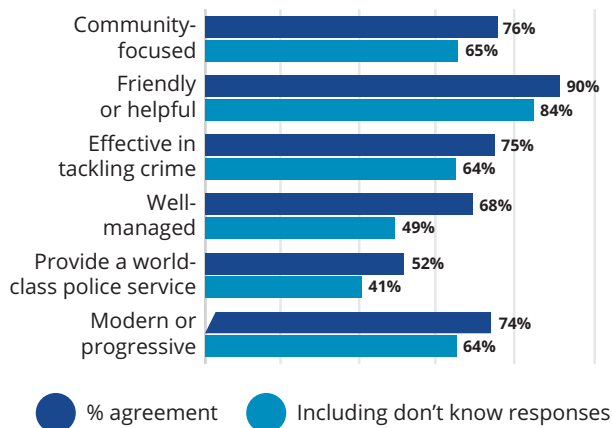


Table 98: Perceptions of effectiveness and capability by demographic and area groupings: unweighted booster sample

	Gender		Region				Urban/Rural			Contact	
	Male	Female	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	Any contact	No contact
Community-focused	77%	75%	71%	72%	78%	87%	74%	78%	77%	80%	75%
Modern or progressive	72%	76%	72%	80%	66%	83%	75%	75%	73%	67%	76%
Friendly or helpful	86%	94%	91%	88%	90%	90%	92%	87%	89%	91%	89%
Provide a world-class police service	50%	55%	48%	47%	52%	70%	51%	49%	56%	51%	52%
Well-managed	65%	72%	60%	68%	73%	75%	64%	67%	72%	71%	67%
Effective in tackling crime	73%	78%	68%	72%	81%	81%	75%	75%	75%	78%	74%

As figure 33 shows, in general, 16 and 17-year-olds held positive views about An Garda Síochána, particularly regarding the Gardaí being friendly and helpful. However, as in the last two survey sweeps, a large number of 16 and 17-year-olds responded 'don't know' when asked for agreement levels with the six key statements. In response to five of the six statements, females had more positive views about the Garda organisation, than males (with the exception of them being community-focused). Respondents in Dublin were less likely to consider that the Gardaí are well-managed and effective in tackling crime than those in other regions. (See table 98).

Figure 33: Level of agreement: unweighted booster sample



11.13 Summary

- ▶ The significance of including 16 and 17-year-olds in the Public Attitudes Survey cannot be overstated. Early interactions with Gardaí and perceptions that are formed are relevant, as they inform lasting attitudes and behaviours. Therefore, improving our understanding of An Garda Síochána's relationship with young people is vital.
- ▶ Sixty-nine percent of 16 and 17-year-olds considered national crime to be a 'very serious' or 'serious' problem, which in the main sample stood at 78 percent. In contrast, and similar to the main adult sample, local crime was considered far less of a problem (13% considered local crime a 'very serious' or 'serious' problem).
- ▶ Nineteen respondents aged 16 and 17-years-old (3%) had experienced victimisation in the previous 12 months.
- ▶ Very low levels of worry of victimisation were expressed by 16 and 17-year-olds (79% do not worry). Nine percent worried about becoming the victims of both personal injury or property theft or damage, much lower than the main sample at 28 percent. Sixty-two percent of young people had no fear of crime in general – much higher than in the main adult sample (38%).
- ▶ The majority of 16 and 17-year-olds were either 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with Garda service (85%). Equally, respondents expressed high levels of trust in An Garda Síochána (88% expressed mid to high trust).
- ▶ Views on whether Gardaí treat individuals in a respectful and fair manner garnered high levels of agreement (90% and 82% respectively when 'don't know' responses were excluded).
- ▶ Perceptions of the effectiveness and capability of An Garda Síochána were also largely positive, with agreement levels that Gardaí are friendly or helpful the highest, at 90 percent.

Conclusion

Commissioned by An Garda Síochána, with fieldwork conducted by Amárach Research, this report reflects findings from the 2019 Public Attitudes Survey, the fifth survey since its re-launch in 2014. The survey examined respondents' perceptions of crime and their experience of victimisation. It further explored their views about An Garda Síochána, including policing priorities, trust in and satisfaction with Garda service, and perceptions of the organisation in terms of its capability and effectiveness. Respondents' views about whether Gardaí treat everybody fairly and with respect were also sought. Since December 2016, a booster sample of approximately 600 young people, aged 16 and 17 years of age, was included.

12.1 Public Perceptions of Crime in Ireland

Perceptions of national crime continue to be that it is a more serious problem than local crime. In 2019, there was an increase in the proportion of respondents who viewed crime on a national level as a 'a very serious' or 'serious' problem, while the proportion who view crime in their local area as 'not a problem' has been trending upwards since 2017. When different groups were examined, the results are similar to the 2018 survey:

- ▶ Women viewed both national and local crime as more serious than men.
- ▶ Respondents in older age categories considered national and local crime a more serious problem than those in younger age groups.
- ▶ Non-Irish nationals viewed national and local crime as a less serious problem than Irish nationals.
- ▶ Respondents in Dublin viewed the national crime problem as less serious than those in other regions, but local crime as more of a problem.
- ▶ Similarly, respondents in city areas viewed national crime as less of a problem than in 'other urban' and rural areas. Rural respondents were less likely to view crime in their local areas as a serious problem than in city and 'other urban' areas.

12.2 Victims of Crime

Of the 6000 respondents in the 2019 survey, 261 had experienced victimisation in the 12 months preceding the survey interview – a victimisation rate of 4.4 percent (this was 6 percent in the 2018 survey). The victimisation rate has been generally declining (except for a peak in quarter two of 2019) from quarter two of 2018, to the lowest rate in quarter four of 2019 (3.5%). Of these 261 victims of crime, a significant majority at 61 percent were either 'very satisfied' or 'quite

satisfied' with how Gardaí handled their case – no notable change from 2018.

There was an 80 percent reporting rate to Gardaí – a four percentage point decrease from 2018. The most common reason cited for not reporting a crime was respondents did not believe the Gardaí could do anything, followed by 'I sorted it out myself'. This differed from 2018, when the second most common reason cited was 'the incident was not serious enough'.

Victims' experiences of reporting their crime were explored:

- ▶ 61% agreed that the Gardaí responded quickly when they reported the incident.
- ▶ 72% were provided with the name of the investigating Garda (down 5 percentage points from 2018).
- ▶ Contact details were provided to 74% of respondents.
- ▶ PULSE identification numbers were given to 49% of respondents (an increase of 5 percentage points from 2018).
- ▶ Finally, 45% of respondents reported being given a number of a victim helpline or service (down 6 percentage points from 2018).

In terms of information received by respondents from Gardaí, 32 percent stated the information received was 'too little', with 54 percent stating it was 'about right' – an increase from 48 percent in 2018. Fourteen percent said they were given no update on the status of their investigation.

12.3 Fear and Worry about Crime

As indicated in previous survey reports, and important to note again, it is difficult to ascertain whether fear about crime and worry about victimisation impact perceptions about the crime level nationally and locally, or whether the reverse is true – perceptions about crime impact fear and worry levels. Survey results continue to show that there is a correlation between fear of crime and worry about victimisation and perceptions of the seriousness of national and local crime.

The proportion of respondents who do not worry about victimisation or who have no fear of crime has increased in 2019 (55% do not worry about victimisation – up 6 percentage points from 2018; 38% reported having no fears about crime – up 4 percentage points from 2018).

Males were less likely to worry about victimisation than females, as were respondents in younger age categories. Respondents in Dublin had more worries about becoming the

victim of both personal injury and property theft or damage, than those in other regions.

Respondents who had been victimised in the 12 months preceding the survey interview were more likely to worry about future victimisation of both personal injury and property theft or damage, than non-victims of crime. Equally, this cohort had more fears about crime than non-victims.

12.4 Policing Priorities for An Garda Síochána

As in 2018, the majority of respondents viewed 'sexual offences' as the top priority crime on which An Garda Síochána should focus. This was the case irrespective of gender, age, social class or nationality. In 2019, victims of crime differed from 2018 victims and ranked illegal weapons as their top priority. Sexual offences ranked third among this cohort. Similar to 2018, the majority of respondents, across all demographics, highlighted illegal weapons, human trafficking, assaults and robbery as other top priorities.

12.5 Garda Visibility

Awareness of Garda patrols in local areas has increased to 39 percent in 2019 (up 1 percentage point from 2018). Forty-five percent of respondents felt that Garda presence in their local areas was 'about right' (this figure was 39% in 2018). Gardaí patrolling in cars was the most common method of patrol which respondents noted.

An association was identified between perceptions of national and local crime and awareness of Garda patrols. As perceptions of the seriousness of national and local crime decrease, awareness of Garda patrols increases.

12.6 Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána

Eighty percent of respondents were satisfied with the service provided to their local community (either 'very satisfied' or 'quite satisfied') – no change from 2018. Respondents in younger age categories expressed the greatest levels of satisfaction. Non-Irish nationals expressed greater satisfaction than Irish nationals. As evidenced from previous survey sweeps, victimisation negatively impacts satisfaction levels.

A correlation continues to be seen between perceptions of national and local crime and satisfaction levels with Garda service – again, in 2019, this was more evident at a local level. As perceptions of the seriousness of the crime problem increase, so too does dissatisfaction with Garda service. An association can also be seen between satisfaction with Garda service provided to local communities and fear of crime and worry about victimisation. As fear of crime and worry about victimisation increases, so too does dissatisfaction with Garda service.

12.7 Trust in An Garda Síochána

Ninety-one percent of respondents reported a mid to high trust in An Garda Síochána – a stable measure over the last number of survey sweeps. Victimisation was associated with lower levels of trust in the Gardaí, as was greater fear about crime.

As in 2018, women were more likely to have greater trust in the organisation than men, as were older respondents and non-Irish nationals. An association was seen between perceptions of local crime and levels of trust in the Gardaí – as perceptions of the seriousness of the crime problem increased, levels of 'high trust' decreased.

12.8 Equality of Treatment

Respondents' views about respect and fairness displayed by Gardaí were examined. Ninety-five percent of respondents agreed that Gardaí would treat them with respect if they had contact with them for any reason, and 86 percent agreed that Gardaí would treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are (when 'don't know' responses were excluded).

Victimisation negatively impacted perceptions of the Gardaí in terms of fair and respectful treatment. Eighty-nine percent of crime victims agreed that Gardaí would treat you with respect if you had contact with them, compared to 96 percent of non-victims. Similarly, 61 percent agreed that Gardaí would treat you fairly regardless of who you are, compared to 86 percent of non-victims.

Further measures of Garda-community relations were gathered – all have seen improvements from 2018:

- ▶ The majority of respondents (76%) agreed that the Gardaí in their area can be relied on to be there when they are needed. When 'don't know' responses were included this figure becomes 86 percent.
- ▶ The majority disagreed that community relations with the Gardaí are poor (70%). When 'don't know' responses were included this became 60 percent.
- ▶ When asked whether Gardaí listen to the concerns of local people, 76 percent of respondents agreed (75% when 'don't know' responses were included).
- ▶ Finally, 65 percent disagreed that Gardaí are not dealing with things that matter to the community (54% when 'don't know' responses were included).

12.9 Perceptions of the Garda Organisation

Respondents' views of the effectiveness and capability of An Garda Síochána continued to improve across most areas in 2019 (this has been improving over the last number of surveys). The majority of respondents held the view that the

Gardaí are community-focused (73%), friendly or helpful (94%), effective in tackling crime (68%), modern or progressive (71%) and well-managed (59%). Forty-three percent agreed that An Garda Síochána provides a world-class police service.

A number of associations were evidenced in 2019, as in previous surveys:

- Increased levels of fear of crime and worry about victimisation negatively impact perceptions of the organisation.
- As trust levels increase, perceptions of the organisation improve across all six statements.

12.10 Sixteen and 17-year-old Booster Sample

Gathering the views of younger people within the Public Attitudes Survey was an important and welcomed development when introduced in late 2016. The relationship between this group and An Garda Síochána must be explored and understood in order to maintain and improve future interactions.

Victimisation in the preceding 12 months among this cohort was low at 3 percent. As in 2018, younger people worried less about becoming a victim and had fewer fears about crime, than respondents in the main adult sample. Sexual crime was ranked as the top priority on which Gardaí should focus among this group.

The majority of 16 and 17-year-olds were satisfied with An Garda Síochána's service to their local communities and had medium to high trust in the organisation. Again, as in 2018, their views about Garda treatment in terms of respect and fairness were generally positive, as were perceptions of the reliability of Gardaí and Garda-community relations.





