

An Garda Síochána's Public Attitudes Survey: A move towards a multidimensional approach to measuring police performance



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Introduction

- The Public Attitudes Survey (PAS) is a face to face social survey of the Irish public's attitudes towards crime and policing in Ireland
- 6,000 respondents per year
- Nationally representative sample of the population on the basis of age, gender, social class and nationality
- Survey topics include:
 - Perceptions of national and local crime
 - Victimisation
 - Fear and worry about crime
 - Garda visibility
 - Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána
 - Trust in An Garda Síochána
 - Equality of treatment by An Garda Síochána
 - Perceptions of the Garda organisation

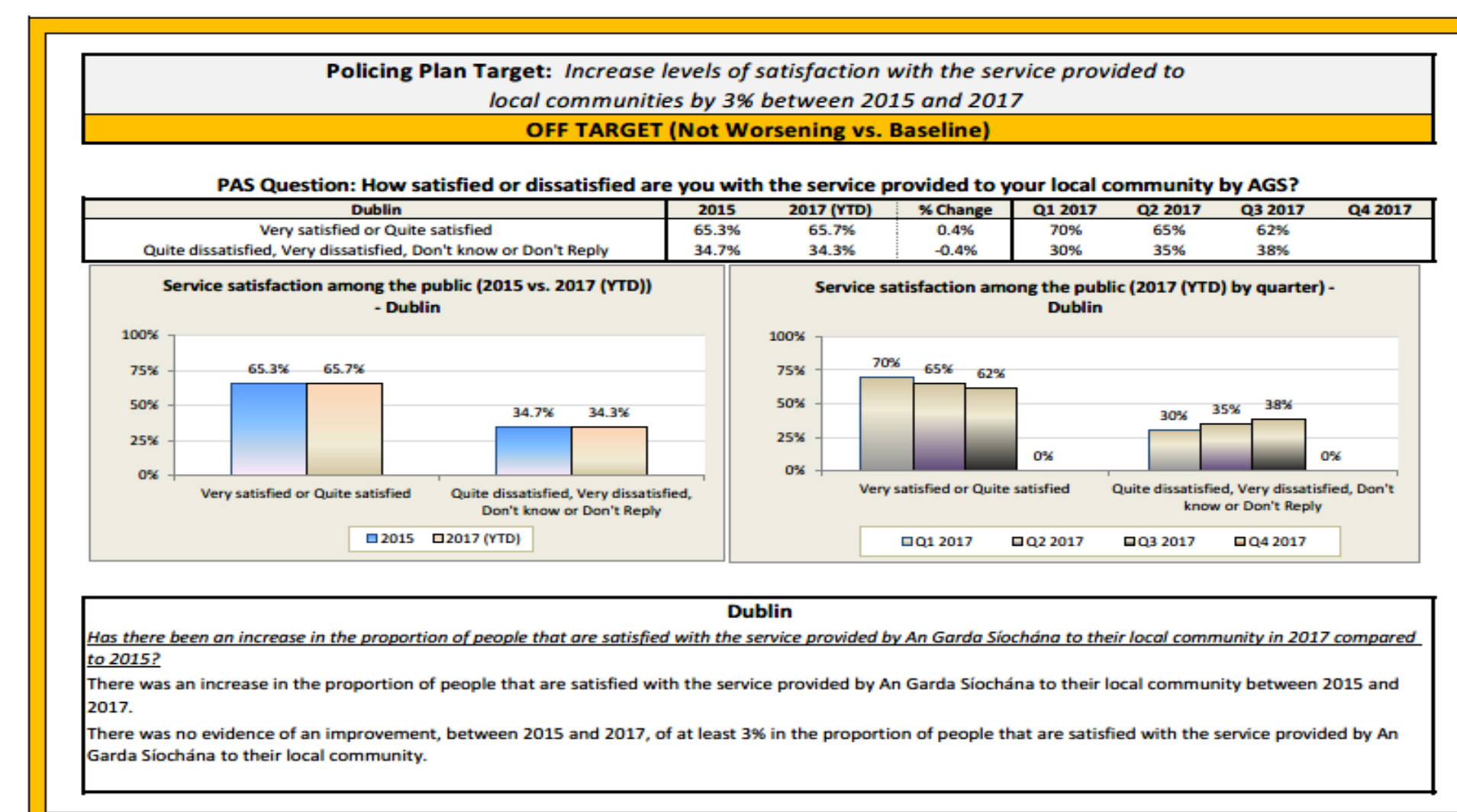
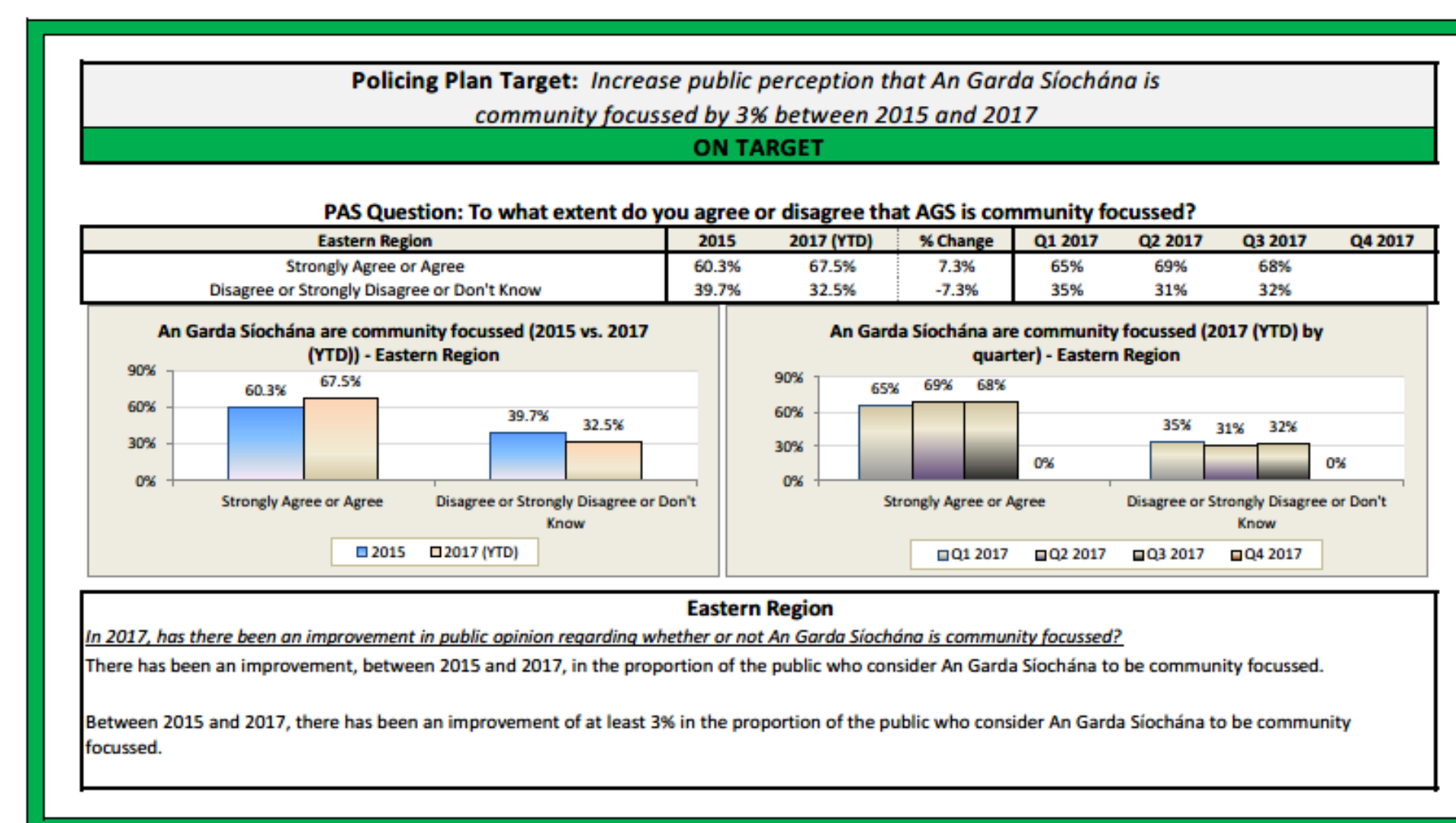


Measuring Police Performance

- PAS results are now used to monitor progress against An Garda Síochána's 2016-2018 Strategy Statement and yearly Policing Plans
- This outlines the importance of citizens' views on Garda performance
- Results look beyond operational metrics when assessing the impact and effectiveness of policing in Ireland
- Policing Plan Targets 2017:
 - Improving public opinion regarding the ability of An Garda Síochána to tackle crime from 57% in 2015 to 60% in 2017
 - Enhanced feelings of public safety
 - Increased victim satisfaction from 57% in 2015 to 65% in 2017
 - Increasing public perception that An Garda Síochána is community focussed to a level of 64% and maintaining that level throughout 2017
 - Reducing the fear of crime
 - Increasing Garda (*police*) visibility
 - Increasing levels of satisfaction with the service provided to local communities to 72% and maintaining that level over the remainder of 2017
 - Increasing the proportion of respondents who are aware of crime prevention campaigns

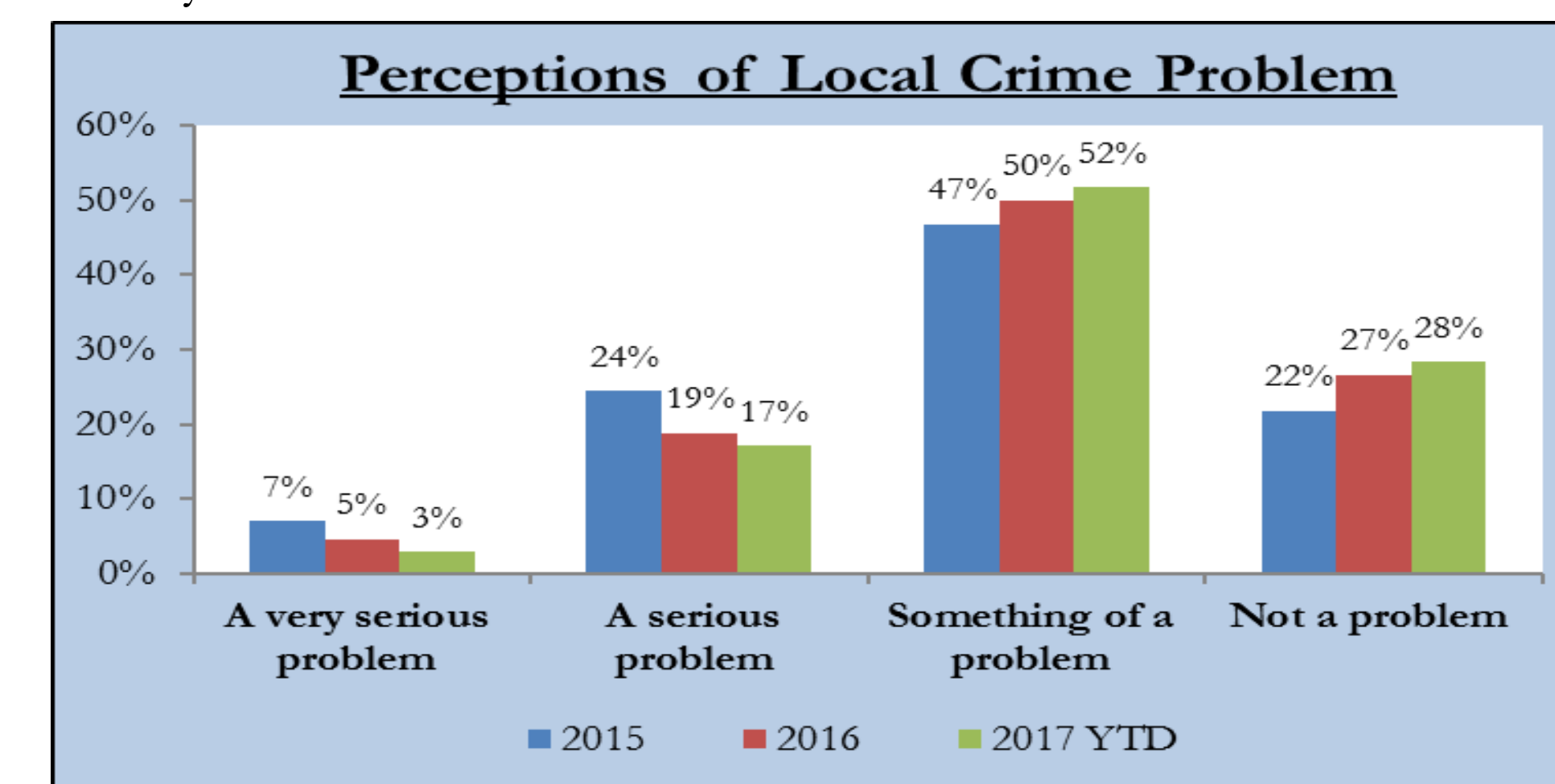
Reporting

- National (1) and Regional (6) reports are produced on a quarterly basis to monitor progress against Policing Plan targets
- Rag status used to monitor progress:
 - On Target (target being achieved compared to baseline)
 - Off Target (target not being achieved and performance not worsening versus baseline)
 - Off Target (Target not being achieved and performance worsening compared to baseline)
- Presentations to Senior Managers completed on a quarterly basis at National and Regional forums

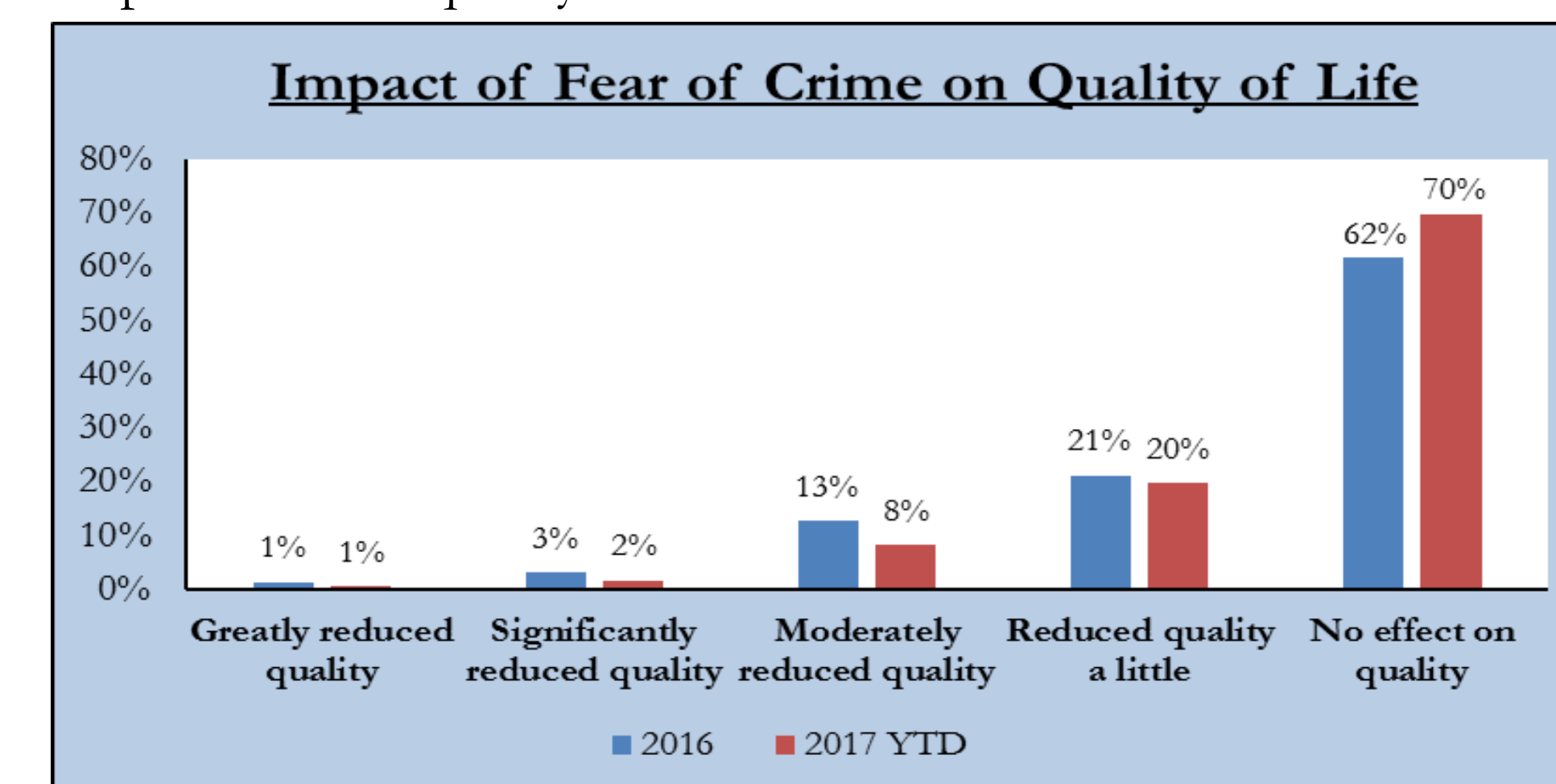


2018 Policing Plan Targets - A Focus on Fear of Crime

- Reduce those who see crime as a very serious or serious problem locally from 24% to 20%



- Increase the proportion of people whose fear of crime has no impact of their quality of life to 75%



Further Dissemination/Future Plans

- Annual Reports and Quarterly Bulletins published www.garda.ie
- Developing questions that ensure reliable and valid measures is an ongoing process - e.g. perceptions of equality of treatment by police
- The Public Attitudes Survey will continue to play an important role in governance across the Garda organisation
- Contributing to a multidimensional approach to measuring police performance