

Documentation of statistics for Imprisonments 2024

1 Introduction

The purpose of the statistics is to analyze the number of arrests for violation of the penal code and the special laws (among these the Danish Road Traffic Act). The statistics on imprisonments was published for the first time for the year 2015.

2 Statistical presentation

The statistics shed light on the number of arrests for violation of the penal code, the road traffic act and other special legislation. In the published statistics the arrests are classified into type of offence, outcome and education. Demographically the statistics are divided into age and sex.

2.1 Data description

The statistics on imprisonments form part of the criminal statistics. The criminal statistics include statistics on criminal cases from reported crimes and victims to convictions and also arrests and imprisonments.

The statistics is a case statistics and shows the number of arrests for violation of the penal code, the road traffic act and other special legislation.

The statistics covers all arrests made by the police in Denmark. The arrests are identified by a journal number which can be used by linking to other areas of the crime statistics.

In the published statistics the arrest are classified into type of offence, outcome (released or transferred to remand custody/imprisonment), sex, age and education.

Documentation of the variables in the statistics is available at the [website of Statistics Denmark](#) (in Danish).

2.2 Classification system

Grouping of the type of criminal offences. The criminal offences are divided into the penal code, the road traffic act and special law/legislation. The penal code is furthermore divided into four subgroups: Sexual offences, Crimes of violence, Offences against property and Other offences. The most special laws/legislation are referred to as single acts, while the rest are categorized as 'Other special laws/legislations'.

2.3 Sector coverage

Not relevant for these statistics.

2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

Type of offence: Type of offence describes the kind of law violation which the imprisonment concerns. The criminal offences are divided into the penal code, the road traffic act and special law/legislation. Violations of the penal code are grouped in sexual offences, crimes of violence, offences against property and other offences. The most special laws/legislation are referred to as single acts, while the rest are categorized as 'Other special laws/legislations'.

2.5 Statistical unit

The unit in the statistics is arrests made by the police.

2.6 Statistical population

The population covered by the statistics is imprisonment started and/or ended during a calendar year and registered in the Central Criminal Register. If the extract from the register to Statistics Denmark is made before the imprisonment is registered it will not be included in the statistics.

2.7 Reference area

Denmark, except the Faroe Islands and Greenland.

2.8 Time coverage

The statistics covers the period from 2015 and onwards.

2.9 Base period

Not relevant for these statistics.

2.10 Unit of measure

Number.

2.11 Reference period

01-01-2024 - 31-12-2024

2.12 Frequency of dissemination

Annual.

2.13 Legal acts and other agreements

The Act on Statistics Denmark section 6.

There is no EU Regulation related to the statistics on imprisonments.

2.14 Cost and burden

There is no response burden as the statistics are based on registers.

2.15 Comment

Further information is available by contacting Statistics Denmark.

3 Statistical processing

Data on imprisonments, which Statistics Denmark receive from the Central Criminal Register, are linked to data from Statistics Denmark's Population Register and Statistics Denmark's Educational Register. Data are already validated. However, central variables go through a probability check in form of a comparison with data from the previous year.

3.1 Source data

The statistics include all imprisonments which are registered in the Central Criminal Register. Data are stored in Statistics Denmark's Register of Imprisonments and combined with information from Statistics Denmark's Population Register and Statistics Denmark's Educational Register.

3.2 Frequency of data collection

Annual.

3.3 Data collection

Data used in the statistics are from administrative registers.

3.4 Data validation

The statistics are based on data from other registers in Statistics Denmark and therefore already validated. However, central variables go through a probability check in form of a comparison with data from the previous year. Efforts are made to provide explanations in case that big deflections in the distribution of key variables occur. For instance, changes in the legislation or in the administrative praxis may cause fluctuations in the distributions.

3.5 Data compilation

Data on arrests from Statistics Denmark's register of imprisonments are linked to data from Statistics Denmark's Population Register and Statistics Denmark's Educational Register.

During an arrest a person can be moved from one police station/detention to another. In such cases more than one registration will be made in the Central Criminal Register. In preparation of the statistics these registrations are gathered into one single sequence.

Information on the outcome of the arrest, i.e. whether the person are released or transferred to remand custody/serving a sentence, is linked to the arrest.

3.6 Adjustment

No further corrections of data than mentioned in "Data validation" and "Data compilation" are done.

4 Relevance

The statistics are used broadly by the authorities, enterprises, organisations, researchers, the press, in the public debate etc. Views and suggestions from key users are taken into consideration in the preparation of the statistics.

4.1 User Needs

Users are ministries (especially the Ministry of Justice), the local police authorities and the courts.

4.2 User Satisfaction

The statistics on imprisonments are often used by the press and the tables on <http://www.statbank.dk> are used frequently. In connection with the preparation of the annual publication "Kriminalitet" (Criminality) consulting meetings with key users of the statistics are held. Forwarded views and suggestions are taken into consideration in the planning of the statistics.

4.3 Data completeness rate

Not relevant for these statistics.

5 Accuracy and reliability

The data used in the statistics are drawn from the Central Criminal Register. The data are typically drawn about 1 February following the relevant calendar year. A number of imprisonments started/ended during the calendar year have not been registered before the data are drawn. This implies that the total number of imprisonments presumably is under-estimated.

5.1 Overall accuracy

The reliability of the statistics on imprisonments is considered to be good. The data on imprisonments come from a single administrative register and Statistics Denmark receives a single total extract including all imprisonments in Denmark. The statistics include all imprisonments registered in the central criminal register at the time the extract to Statistics Denmark is done, typically about 1 February following the relevant calendar year. A number of imprisonments started/ended during the calendar year have not been registered before the time of extraction. This implies that the total number of imprisonments presumably is under-estimated. The exact size is not known but is regarded as limited and of the same extent each year.

5.2 Sampling error

There is no sampling error as the statistics are compiled on the basis of registers.

5.3 Non-sampling error

The statistics include all imprisonments which have been registered in the central criminal register at the time the extract to Statistics Denmark is done, typically about 1 February following the relevant calendar year. A number of imprisonments started/ended during the calendar year, may not be included in the statistics, since not all imprisonments have been registered before the time of extraction. That implies that the total number of imprisonments presumably is under-estimated. The exact size is not known but is regarded as limited and of the same extent each year.

5.4 Quality management

Statistics Denmark follows the recommendations on organisation and management of quality given in the Code of Practice for European Statistics (CoP) and the implementation guidelines given in the Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System (QAF). A Working Group on Quality and a central quality assurance function have been established to continuously carry through control of products and processes.

5.5 Quality assurance

Statistics Denmark follows the principles in the Code of Practice for European Statistics (CoP) and uses the Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System (QAF) for the implementation of the principles. This involves continuous decentralized and central control of products and processes based on documentation following international standards. The central quality assurance function reports to the Working Group on Quality. Reports include suggestions for improvement that are assessed, decided and subsequently implemented.

5.6 Quality assessment

The data on imprisonments come from a single administrative register and Statistics Denmark receives a single total extract including all imprisonments in Denmark. The statistics include all imprisonments registered in the central criminal register at the time the extract to Statistics Denmark is done, typically about 1 February following the relevant calendar year. A number of imprisonments started/ended during the calendar year have not necessarily been registered before the time of extraction. This implies that the total number of imprisonments presumably is under-estimated. The exact size is not known but is regarded as limited and of the same extent each year.

Police activity such as speed controls or special efforts in the night life can in itself affect the number of imprisonments. Therefore, one need to take this into account when studying the development in the number of imprisonments for violation of the road traffic act and other special laws such as police regulation and euphoricants act.

The statistics are only published as final figures and are not later revised.

5.7 Data revision - policy

Statistics Denmark revises published figures in accordance with the [Revision Policy for Statistics Denmark](#). The common procedures and principles of the Revision Policy are for some statistics supplemented by a specific revision practice.

5.8 Data revision practice

Only final figures are published and are not later revised.

6 Timeliness and punctuality

The statistics are published approximately 5 months after the end of the reference year. The statistics are published without delay in relation to the scheduled time.

6.1 Timeliness and time lag - final results

Only final figures are published and are not later revised. The statistics are published approximately 5 months after the end of the reference period. Time of publication the last years has been:

2024: 6 months 6 days 2023: 6 months 28 days 2022: 5 months 10 days 2021: 4 months 20 days
2020: 4 months 7 days 2019: 4 months 14 days

6.2 Punctuality

The statistics are published without delay in relation to the scheduled time.

7 Comparability

Since 2015, the statistics has been prepared on the same data source. In general the statistics is therefore comparable during time. As a consequence of law amendments or wishes for more information on specific kind of offences the division of type of offences has been altered during the years.

7.1 Comparability - geographical

There is no international comparable statistics.

7.2 Comparability over time

Police activity such as speed controls or special efforts in the night life can in itself affect the number of arrests. Therefore, one need to take this into account when studying the development in the number of arrests for violation of the road traffic act and other special laws such as police regulation and euphoricants act. An increase in the number of arrests in these areas does not necessarily reflect an increase in the number of persons committing this kind of crimes but can also reflect that a greater proportion is discovered and causing arrest.

Due to a technical error, information about arrests regarding Executive Order on Public Order not transferred to KR from mid-2017.

7.3 Coherence - cross domain

There is no other Danish statistics on this subject.

7.4 Coherence - internal

Data are internally consistent.

8 Accessibility and clarity

In StatBank the statistics are published in the tables [STRAF70](#), [STRAF71](#), [STRAF72](#), [STRAF73](#), og [STRAF74](#).

Furthermore the statistics are published in the publication "[Kriminalitet](#)" (Criminality).

See more at the [Subject page](#).

Taylor made statistics can be produced on the basis of data from different registers, moreover through Statistics Denmark's Division of Research Service it is possible for researchers to be granted access to anonymised data.

8.1 Release calendar

The publication date appears in the release calendar. The date is confirmed in the weeks before.

8.3 User access

Statistics are always published at 8:00 a.m. at the day announced in the release calendar. No one outside of Statistics Denmark can access the statistics before they are published.

8.2 Release calendar access

The Release Calendar can be accessed on our English website: [Release Calendar](#).

8.4 News release

For the time being there is no news release linked to this statistics.

8.5 Publications

The statistics are published in: The publication "[Kriminalitet](#)" (Criminality).

8.6 On-line database

The statistics are published in the StatBank under the subject in the following tables:

- [STRAF70](#): Arrests by sex, type of offence, outcome, age and time
- [STRAF73](#): Arrests by sex, age, education and time
- [STRAF72](#): Arrests by residence in Denmark, type of offence and time
- [STRAF74](#): Arrests by type of offence, education and time
- [STRAF71](#): Arrests by sex, age, residence in Denmark and time

8.7 Micro-data access

Data on imprisonments are kept as ready-made files containing basic information at individual level. Taylor made statistics can be prepared on the basis of the ready-made files. Through Statistics Denmark's Division of Research Service it is possible for researchers to be granted access to anonymised data, i.e., data for which all identification details such as ID numbers have been removed.

8.8 Other

Final data are available to DST Consulting, The Division of Research Services and other users in Statistics Denmark.

8.9 Confidentiality - policy

[Data Confidentiality Policy](#) in Statistics Denmark.

8.10 Confidentiality - data treatment

The published statistics on imprisonments is distributed by no other characteristics than sex, age and education. This ensures that convicted persons not can be related to individuals.

8.11 Documentation on methodology

There is no special documents of methods to this statistics.

8.12 Quality documentation

Results from the quality evaluation of products and selected processes are available in detail for each statistics and in summary reports for the Working Group on Quality.

9 Contact

The administrative placement of these statistics is in the division of Population and Education, Social Statistics. The contact person is Iben Birgitte Pedersen, tel.: + 45 2360 3711, and e-mail: IPE@dst.dk.