Documentation of statistics for Convicted Persons 2023

1 Introduction

The purpose of the statistics is to analyze the number of persons who have been found guilty in violation of the penal code and the special laws (among these the Danish Road Traffic Act). The statistics on convicted persons was published for the first time for the year 1995. Since then it has been published for the years 1998, 2000, 2002 and 2004 and hereafter annually.

2 Statistical presentation

The statistics shed light on the number of persons who have been convicted for violation of the penal code, the road traffic act and other special legislation. In the published statistics the convicted persons are classified into sex, age, municipality, national origin, country of origin and type of offence and conviction. From 2018-2021 also into citizenship and from 2021 into socio economic status and education.

2.1 Data description

The statistics on convicted persons 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 on convicted persons are person-based statistics, which shed light on the number of persons convicted for violation of the penal code, the road traffic act and other special legislation. The convictions include imprisonments, fines and withdrawals of charges. The statistics do not contain information on all fines as fines for violation of the road traffic act less than DKK 2,500 and fines of less than DKK 1,000 for the violation of most of the other special laws are not registered in the Central Criminal Register, which is the data source of the statistics.

The conviction concerns the main case as more than one case can be decided in the same conviction. The police chooses one of the cases (typically the most serious) as the main case in a complex of cases. One perpetrator can have one or several convictions during a year.

In the published statistics the convicted persons are classified into sex, age, municipality, national origin, country of origin and type of offence and conviction. From 2018-2021 also into citizenship and from 2021 into socio economic status and education. For the purpose of comparing the level of criminality among different groups of national origin a standardised index of criminality is calculated. In calculating the index adjustments of the different age and socio-economic composition in the groups are made. For each person a weight representing the exact period the person has been resident in Denmark during the year is calculated.

Documentation of the variables in the statistics is available on The website of statistics Denmark.

2.2 Classification system

Origin, municipalities and regions plus grouping of the types of decisions and of codes of the 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 categorised as 'Other special laws/legislations'.

The provisions of the Danish Criminal Code regarding sexual offences went through essential amendments taking effect from 1 July 2013. The amendments resulted in e.g. more categories of sexual offences than previously being placed under the provisions about rape (section 216). See more: Rape A new concept of consent regarding rape is taking effect from 1st of January 2021 which has resulted in new ways for the police to register offences regarding rape. This has to be taken into account when comparing data over time.

2.3 Sector coverage

Not relevant for these statistics.

2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

Type of decision: Nature of the sentence passed. This can be an unconditional or a suspended prison sentence, a fine, discharge or dismissal of charge, withdrawal of a charge, sentence to treatment, acquittal etc. Overall, a distinction is made between two types of decisions: verdicts of guilty and verdicts of not guilty. Acquittal and withdrawal of a charge are verdicts of not guilty, whereas all other types of decisions are verdicts of guilty.

Type of offence: Type of offence describes the kind of law violation which the conviction 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'. The grouping of offense codes used is available here: Violations of the penalcode.

Origin: Origin states whether a person is immigrant, descendant or of Danish origin. For immigrants and descendant it is also stated which country they origin from and whether it is a western or a non-western country.

2.5 Statistical unit

The unit in the statistics on convicted persons is persons. One person can be represented several times in the statistics if the person has been convicted for more than one type of offence. E.g., if a person has been convicted for violation of the penal code but also for violation of the road traffic act the person will count both under the penal code and the road traffic act. Similarly, if a person has been convicted for more than one of the main groups of penal code offences, e.g. both crimes of violence and offences against property, the person will count both places. Finally, if a person has been convicted for more than one type of violence offences, the person will only count under the type of violence offence for which the most severe penalty has been sentenced. Similar circumstances applies to subgroups of sexual offences, offences against property, other penal code offences, road traffic act offences and special law offences.

2.6 Statistical population

The population covered by the statistics is persons, who have been found guilty in one or several violations of the penal code, the road traffic act and/or the special laws during a calendar year. All convictions registered in the Central Criminal Register before data are delivered to Statistics Denmark, are covered by the statistics. The data are typically delivered about 1 February following the relevant calendar year.

All convictions concerning violation of the penal code, the firearms act, act on hunting, euphoriants act and specific violations of the aliens act, act on customs duties and act on the prevention of cruelty to animals are included in the statistics.

Decisions concerning other special laws than the above mentioned are also included in the statistics except for fines less than DKK 1,000. Similarly, fines less than DKK 2,500 for violation of the road traffic act are not included in the statistics. However, fines less than DKK 1,000/DKK 2,500 are included in the statistics provided the fine is a reduced fine and the normal amount is higher than the mentioned amounts. Only persons who are residents of Denmark 1 January and/or 31 December the year in question are covered by the statistics. That is, persons both immigrated and emigrated during the year, are not included.

2.7 Reference area

Denmark, except the Faroe Islands and Greenland.

2.8 Time coverage

The statistics covers the period from 1995 and onwards.

2.9 Base period

Not relevant for these statistics.

2.10 Unit of measure

Number.

2.11 Reference period

01-01-2023 - 31-12-2023

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 convictions.

2.14 Cost and burden

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

2.15 Comment

Convicted persons have a [Subject page](#).

3 Statistical processing

Data from Statistics Denmark's register of convictions are linked to data from Statistics Denmark's population register and Statistics Denmark's income 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 convictions which are registered in the Central Criminal Register. Data are stored in Statistics Denmarks's Register of Convictions and combined with information from Statistics Denmark's Population Register and Statistics Denmark's Income 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 statistical 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 from Statistics Denmark's register of convictions are linked to data from Statistics Denmark's population register and Statistics Denmark's income register. Only persons who are residents of Denmark 1 January and/or 31 December the year in question are selected to the statistics. Data on the main occupation for the year previous to the actual year are linked to these persons. Variables telling whether a person has been convicted or not, and if so, which types of crimes the person has committed, are calculated.

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, courts, different organisations, educational institutions, research or scientific institutions, the media, private firms and private individuals.

4.2 User Satisfaction

The statistics on convicted persons 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 publications "Kriminalitet" (Criminality) and "Indvandrere i Danmark" (Immigrants in Denmark) consulting meetings with key users of the statistics are hold. Forwarded views and suggestions are taking 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 convictions made during the calendar year have not been registered before the data are drawn. This implies that the total number of convictions presumably is under-estimated.

5.1 Overall accuracy

The reliability of the statistics on convicted persons is considered to be good. The data on convictions come from a single administrative register and Statistics Denmark receives a single total extract including all the convicted criminal offences in Denmark. The statistics include all convictions 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 convictions made during the calendar year have not been registered before the time of extraction. This implies that the total number of convictions 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 persons who have got one or several convictions 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 convictions have been sentenced during the calendar year, yet, they are not necessarily registered before the time of extraction. That implies that the total number of convictions presumably is under-estimated. The exact size is not known but is regarded as limited and of the same extent each year.

The statistics does not include all fines as fines below DKK 2,500 for violation of the road traffic act and fines below DKK 1,000 for violation of the main part of the other special laws are not registered in the central criminal register.

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 convictions come from a single administrative register and Statistics Denmark receives a single total extract including all the convicted criminal offences in Denmark. The statistics include all convictions 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 convictions have been sentenced during the calendar year, yet, they are not necessarily registered before the time of extraction. This implies that the total number of convictions presumably is under-estimated. The exact size is not known but is regarded as limited and of the same extent each year.

The statistics does not include all fines as fines below DKK 2,500 for violation of the road traffic act and fines below DKK 1,000 for violation of the main part of the other special laws are not registered in the central criminal register.

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

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

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

In order to obtain information about reliability of the data from the Population Register please consult the documentation of statistics Population. Likewise, in order to obtain information about the reliability of the data from the income register, please consult the documentation of statistics Income statistics.

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 11 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 11 months after the end of the reference period. Time of publication the last 5 years has been:

2023: 11 months, 9 days 2022: 12 months, 12 days 2021: 11 months 2020: 11 months, 9 days 2019: 11 months, 7 days 2018: 10 months, 27 days

6.2 Punctuality

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

7 Comparability

Since 1995, the statistics has been prepared on the same date 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. An overview of new and ceased type of offences can be found in this annex (in Danish only): Development in types of offences.

Fines for violation of the road traffic act below DKK 2,500 are not included in the statistics as from 2012. In the period 2001-2011 the limit was DKK 1,500 and before 2001 DKK 1,000.

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 convicted persons. Therefore, one need to take this into account when studying the development in the number of persons convicted (typically fines) for violation of the road traffic act and other special laws such as police regulation and euphoriants act. An increase in the number of persons convicted 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 registered.

Fines for violation of the road traffic act below DKK 2,500 are not included in the statistics as from 2012. In the period 2001-2011 the limit was DKK 1,500 and before 2001 DKK 1,000.

The provisions of the Danish Criminal Code regarding sexual offences went through essential amendments taking effect from 1 July 2013. The amendments resulted in e.g. more categories of sexual offences than previously being placed under the provisions about rape (section 216). See more: Rape A new concept of consent regarding rape is taking effect from 1st of January 2021 which has resulted in new ways for the police to register offences regarding rape. This has to be taken into account when comparing data over time.

7.3 Coherence - cross domain

The statistics on convicted persons build on the same data source as the statistics on Convictions. As regards convictions the unit is the criminal conviction while the unit is the person in convicted persons. Convictions include all convictions while convicted persons only include persons who have been found guilty. Furthermore, convicted persons only include persons who are residents of Denmark 1 January and/or 31 December the year in question. Convictions also include persons immigrated and emigrated during the same year as well as tourists and others without a Danish personal identification number.

7.4 Coherence - internal

Data are internally consistent.

8 Accessibility and clarity

In StatBank the statistics are published in [Convicted Persons] (https://www.Statbank.dk/10338).

Furthermore the statistics are published in the publication "Kriminalitet" (Criminality) and the publication "Indvandrere i Danmark" (Immigrants in Denmark, as from 2005).

See more at the Subject page.

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 Calender can be accessed on our English website: Release Calender.

8.4 News release

There is no news release linked to this statistics.

8.5 Publications

The statistics on convicted persons are published in: The publication "Kriminalitet" (Criminality) and the publication "Indvandrere i Danmark" (Immigrants in Denmark, as from 2005).

8.6 On-line database

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

- STRFSOC1: Persons guilty in crimes by sex, age, socioeconomic status and time
- STRFSOC2: Persons guilty in crimes by type of offence, socioeconomic status and time
- STRFUDD1: Persons guilty in crimes by sex, age, education and time
- STRFUDD2: Persons guilty in crimes by type of offence, education and time
- STRAFNA3: Persons guilty in crimes by sex, age, country of origin and time
- STRAFNA4: Persons guilty in crimes by type of offence, country of origin and time
- STRAFNA5: Persons guilty in crimes by country of origin, type of decision and time
- STRAFNA6: Persons guilty in crimes by region, sex, age, national origin and time
- STRAFNA7: Persons guilty in crimes by region, type of offence and time
- STRAFNA8: Persons guilty in crimes by region, type of decision and time
- STRAFNA9: Persons guilty in crimes by sex, age, ancestry and time
- STRFNA10: Persons guilty in crimes by type of offence, ancestry and time
- STRFNA11: Persons guilty in crimes by type of decision, ancestry and time
- STRFNA12: Guilty persons by sex, age, ancestry, citizenship and time
- STRFNA13: Guilty persons by citizenship, type of offence and time
- STRFNA14: Guilty persons by citizenship, ancestry, type of decision and time

8.7 Micro-data access

Data on convicted persons 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 convicted persons is distributed by no other characteristics than municipality, sex, age, origin and citizenship. This ensures that convicted persons not can be related to individuals.

8.11 Documentation on methodology

The method used in calculating the standardised criminality index is described in the paper Indirect standardisation (in Danish only)

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 are in the division of Population and Education. The person responsible is Iben Birgitte Pedersen, tel. +45 2360 2711, e-mail: ipe@dst.dk

9.1 Contact organisation

Statistics Denmark

9.2 Contact organisation unit

Population and Education, Social Statistics

9.3 Contact name

Iben Birgitte Pedersen

9.4 Contact person function

Responsible for the statistics

9.5 Contact mail address

Sankt Kjelds Plads 11, 2100 Copenhagen

9.6 Contact email address

ibc@dst.dk

9.7 Contact phone number

+45 2360 2711

9.8 Contact fax number

N/A