

**Documentation of statistics for
Birth Cohort Crime 2021**

1 Introduction

The purpose of the statistics is to analyse the number of persons from each birth cohort who have been found guilty in violation of the penal code during their lifetime. The statistics on birth cohort crime 2020 covers the birth cohorts 1965-2005.

2 Statistical presentation

The statistics shed light on the number of persons in each birth cohort who have been convicted for violation of the penal code during their life time.

The published statistics distributes the birth cohorts by sex and age at first conviction. Furthermore, the statistics show the age at first conviction for groups of offences.

2.1 Data description

The statistics on birth cohort shed light on the number of persons in each birth cohort who have been convicted for violation of the penal code during their lifetime. Convictions consist of imprisonments, fines and withdrawals.

The statistics on birth cohort crime 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 published statistics distributes the birth cohorts by sex and age at first conviction, age at first conviction for groups of offences and the total number of convictions at each age. Corresponding statistics are published for that part of the convictions which are imprisonments.

The convictions 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 person can have one or several convictions during a year or several years.

Documentation of the variables in the statistics is available in [TIMES](#) (in Danish only).

2.2 Classification system

The criminal offences are divided into four subgroups: Sexual offences, Crimes of violence, Offences against property and Other offences.

2.3 Sector coverage

Not relevant for these statistics.

2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

Type of sentence: Type of sentence describes the kind of conviction that has been made. It includes unsuspended and suspended imprisonment, fines, withdrawals of charges, prosecution dropped, preventive measures, acquittals etc. A main distinction is made between guilty and not-guilty type of sentences. Acquittals and prosecution dropped constitute not-guilty types of sentences while all other types of sentences constitute guilty type of sentences. In the statistics on birth cohort crime only guilty type of sentences are included.

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. In these statistics only offences against the penal code are included, grouped into sexual offences, crimes of violence, offences against property and other offences.

2.5 Statistical unit

The unit in the statistics on birth cohort crime is persons.

2.6 Statistical population

The population in the statistics consists of persons who were residents in Denmark and were 14 years old as at 1 January each of the years 1980-2020. I.e. the birth cohorts 1965-2005 Each year the statistics is supplemented with a new birth cohort.

2.7 Reference area

Denmark, except the Faroe Islands and Greenland

2.8 Time coverage

The statistics covers the period from 1980 and onwards

2.9 Base period

Not relevant for these statistics.

2.10 Unit of measure

Number of persons. Cumulated number. Percentage of birth cohort. Cumulated percentage of birth cohort.

2.11 Reference period

01-01-2021- 31-12-2021

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

Birth Cohort Crime has a [Subject Page](#).

3 Statistical processing

Data from Statistics Denmark's register of convictions are linked to data from Statistics Denmark's population register.

When data are delivered to this statistics, they 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 at the time the extract to Statistics Denmark is done. Data are stored in Statistics Denmark's Register of Convictions and combined with information from Statistics Denmark's Population 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. Only persons who were residents in Denmark 1 January at the age of 14 have been selected to the statistics. Data on all convictions for violation of the penal code during their lifetime are linked to these persons, among this the types of offences they are convicted for and the total number of convictions.

Each year the statistics are supplemented with a new birth cohort, i.e. persons at the age of 14 by 1 January the year in question. Data on the convictions they have received during the year are linked to these persons. Furthermore, the formerly extracted birth cohorts are updated with information on the convictions they may have received during the year.

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, organisations, researchers, the press 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

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 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 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 statistics include all convictions which are 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. 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.

5.2 Sampling error

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

5.3 Non-sampling error

No other sources to errors are known.

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 development in the percentage of a birth cohort who have been convicted at a certain age can, besides the actual committed crime, also be affected by the development of the share of the reported crimes that are cleared up: if the police only clear up a small part of the reported offences not that many persons will be convicted and vice versa.

Another issue that can affect the proportion of a birth cohort convicted is changes in mortality and migration: if more people die or emigrate, fewer people have the 'chance' to commit crime and being convicted, and vice versa. In order to shed light on this issue it is examined how big a proportion of the birth cohorts that still form part of the population at certain ages. The result is that the changes in the proportion still forming a part of the population are very small and that they cannot explain the changes in the proportion convicted for crime.

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.

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 6 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 6 months after the end of the reference year. Time of publication the last five years has been:

2021: 5 months, 14 days 2020: 5 months, 16 days 2019: 5 months, 17 days 2018: 5 months, 18 days
2017: 5 months, 20 days 2016: 8 months, 19 days 2015: 10 months, 16 days 2014: 11 months, 17 days

6.2 Punctuality

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

7 Comparability

The statistics has been prepared on the same data source since its start. In general, the statistics is therefore comparable during time.

Law amendments in terms of changes in the penalties for certain types of offences can have influenced the development in the proportion of the birth cohorts registered with a conviction for these kinds of offences.

7.1 Comparability - geographical

Kriminologiska institutionen at the University of Stockholm published a birth cohort crime statistics in 2012. The Swedish statistics is designed after the same principles as the Danish statistics except that persons born outside Sweden are not included in the study. It is mentioned in the Swedish statistics that the birth cohort crime increases when immigrants are included.

7.2 Comparability over time

Comparability over time can be affected by law amendments in terms of changes in the penalties for certain types of offences. It can be the case if a conviction includes both a main charge and one or several secondary charges. Practice is to register the conviction with the offence of the main charge, i.e. the offence that can cause the most severe penalty. Tougher penalties regarding a certain type of offence can therefore imply that more convictions will be registered with this kind of offence. Presumably, this can be a contributory explanation for the increasing percentage of the birth cohorts convicted for violence.

Furthermore, the development in the percentage of a birth cohort who have been convicted at a certain age, can also be affected by the development of the share of the reported crimes that are cleared up and by the developments in mortality and migration.

7.3 Coherence - cross domain

The statistics on birth cohort crime build on the same data source as the statistics on convictions. Yet, the unit in convictions is the criminal conviction while in birth cohort crime the unit is persons born in a given year. Convictions include all convictions made during a calendar year while birth cohort crime includes convictions related to birth cohorts. Finally, convictions include all convictions while birth cohort crime only include convictions where the person have been found guilty and only convictions for violation of the penal code.

7.4 Coherence - internal

Data are internally consistent.

8 Accessibility and clarity

The statistics are published in: [News from Statistics Denmark](#).

In StatBank the statistics are published in the tables [STRAFFO1](#), [STRAFFO2](#), [STRAFFO3](#) og [STRAFFO4](#).

Furthermore the statistics are published in the publication [Kriminalitet \(Criminality\)](#) and in [StatBank](#).

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.

8.2 Release calendar access

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

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.

8.4 News release

The statistics are published in: [News from Statistics Denmark](#).

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 subjects in the following tables:

- [STRAFFO1](#): Birth cohorts (per 31. December 2020) by unit, year of birth, sex, age by first conviction, offence and time
- [STRAFFO2](#): Birth cohorts (per 31. December 2020) by unit, year of birth, sex, age by first custodial sentences, custodial sentences and time
- [STRAFFO3](#): Convictions (per 31. December 2020 by birth cohort by unit, year of birth, sex, age at time of conviction, offence and time
- [STRAFFO4](#): Imprisonments (per 31. December 2020) by unit, year of birth, sex, custodial sentences, age at time of conviction and time

8.7 Micro-data access

Data on birth cohort crime are kept as ready-made files containing basic information at individual level. Tailormade statistics can be prepared on bases 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 Birth Cohort Crime is distributed by no other characteristics than year of birth, sex and age. 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 are in the division of Population and Education. The person responsible is Isabell Bang Christensen, tel. +45 3917 3306, e-mail: ibc@dst.dk

9.1 Contact organisation

Statistics Denmark

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N/A