

I. General information on police crime statistics (PCS)

1. Importance

Police crime statistics serve to

- monitor crime and individual types of offences, the size and composition of the circle of suspects and fluctuations in crime rates,
- gather information for law enforcement purposes, for organisational planning and decision-making and to
- carry out socio-criminological research, criminal police and preventive measures.

2. Content

The police crime statistics are so-called outgoing statistics. This means that the statistics contain only those offences which have come to police attention, been processed by the police and, before compilation begins, passed to the public prosecutor's office. These statistics also include punishable attempts to commit an offence and drug offences processed by the customs authorities. The time needed to conduct investigations means that about 23.1 % of the offences included in the PCS for 2021 were committed in 2020 or earlier.

The PCS do not cover state security offences, traffic offences (except violations of Sections 315 and 315b of the Penal Code and Section 22a of the Road Traffic Act), criminal offences committed outside the Federal Republic of Germany and violations of the criminal laws of the individual German states (*Länder*) with the exception of the relevant provisions in the data protection legislation of the states. The PCS also do not include offences which do not fall within the competence of the police (e.g. financial and tax offences) or which are reported directly to the public prosecutor's office and are investigated exclusively by the public prosecutor's office (e.g. perjury).

The PCS contain, in particular, information on:

- the type and number of recorded criminal offences,
- the date and place of the offence,
- the victims and criminal damage,
- the clear-up rate,
- the suspects' age, gender, nationality and other characteristics.

3. Validity

The PCS only cover those criminal offences which have been recorded by the police and therefore by definition do not contain undetected criminal offences. The number of recorded cases differs from offence to offence and is also dependent on the extent to which offences are reported to the police.

II. Crime trends in 2021

1. In general

The total number of recorded criminal offences decreased by 4.9 % compared to the previous year (2021: 5,048m cases, 2020: 5,311m cases).

2. Clear-up rate (CR)

The total clear-up rate is 58.7 % (2020: 58.4 %). The CR for murder and manslaughter is particularly high at 94.6 %, as is the case with regard to crimes related to services, especially fare evasion 98.8 % and social benefits fraud 98.2 %.

The CR for theft offences is particularly low.

3. Offence rate (OR)

The offence rate (criminal offences committed per 100,000 inhabitants) is an indicator of the threat posed by crime. The OR changed from 6,386 (2020) to 6,070 (2021). This is equivalent to a reduction of -4.9 %.

4. Suspects

In 2021 the number of suspects changed to 1,892,003 (-3.9 %, 2020: 1,969,617). Of the total, 472,409 were female suspects (25.0 %). The number of child suspects (6 to under 14-year-olds) changed by 7.1 %, the number of juvenile suspects (14 to under 18-year-olds), by -5.5% and young adults (18 to under 21-year-olds) by -6.8%. Violent crimes by juvenile suspects increased in 2021 to a total of 20,562 (2020: 22,030). This also applies to dangerous and serious bodily injury, where 15,940 juvenile suspects were recorded (2020: 17,053).

5. Significant changes compared to the previous year

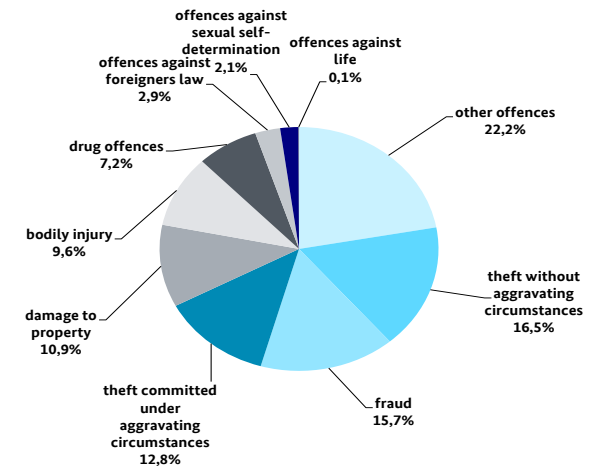
The number of the following offences decreased:

- protection against Diseases Act (-82.7%, -5,604 offences)
- offences against the Weapons Act (-12.5%, -4,536 offences)
- theft offences (-11.8%, -199,044 offences), including
 - theft by burglary of a dwelling (-27.7%, -20,787 offences)
 - shoplifting (-15.6%, -47,311 offences)
 - pickpocketing (-12.9%, -10,785 offences)
 - theft of bicycles (-10.5%, -27,372 offences)
- fare evasion (-7.0%, -12,332 offences)
- (intentional simple) bodily injury (-10.0%, -37,306 offences)
- violent crime (-6.8%, -12,026 offences), including
 - murder, manslaughter and killing a person at his/her own request (-12.2%, -290 offences)
 - robberies (-11.1%, -3,747 offences)
 - dangerous and serious bodily injury (-6.2%, -8,112 offences)

The number of the following offences increased:

- dissemination of writings depicting pornography (+87.8%, +23,467 offences), including:
 - dissemination, acquisition, possession and production of writings of child pornography (+10.8%, +20,410 offences)
 - dissemination, acquisition, possession and production of writings of juvenile pornography (+64.3%, 1,998 offences)
- threat (+21.9%, +23,271 offences)
- cybercrime (+12.1%, +15,752 offences)
- sexual abuse of children (+6.3%, +913 offences)
- assault on law enforcement officials and to persons equivalent to law enforcement officials (+6.3%, +990 offences)

6. Offences by type as % of total offences (5,047,860 cases)



7. Brief overview of suspects and crime trends

Suspects	Number 2020	Number 2019	Change in %
suspects – total (total offences)	1.892.003	1.969.617	-3.9
male	1,419,594	1,481,252	-4.2
female	472,409	488,365	-3.3
German suspects	1,252,876	1,306,418	-4.1
non-German suspects	639,127	663,199	-3.6

Offence	Number 2021	Number 2020	Change in %
total offences	5,047,860	5,310,621	-4.9
violent crime - total	164,646	176,672	-6.8
<i>including:</i>			
murder, manslaughter and killing a person at his own request	2,111	2,401	-12.1
rape, sexual coercion and sexual assault in especially serious cases including resulting in death *)	9,903	9,752	1.5
robberies	30,125	33,872	-11.1
dangerous and serious bodily injury	122,341	130,453	-6.2
intentional simple bodily injury	335,900	373,206	-10.0
sexual abuse of children	15,507	14,594	6.3
street crime	949,131	1,023,791	-7.3
dissemination of writings depicting pornography	50,206	26,739	87.8
theft offences - total	1,483,566	1,682,610	-11.8
<i>including:</i>			
motor vehicle theft	21,584	23,646	-8.7
theft of bicycles	233,584	260,956	-10.5
theft of non-cash means of payment	75,780	85,263	-11.1
theft from the interior / exterior of motor vehicles	208,977	212,643	-1.7
shoplifting	256,694	304,005	-15.6
theft by burglary of a dwelling	54,236	75,023	-27.7
pickpocketing	72,903	83,688	-12.9
fraud offences – total	793,622	808,074	-1.8
<i>including:</i>			
merchandise fraud and merchandise credit fraud	291,129	291,994	-0.3
non-payment of a fuel bill	58,108	60,230	-3.5
fraudulent obtaining of services	166,997	179,267	-6.8
economic crime	51,260	49,174	4.2
damage to property	550,613	576,444	-4.5

Offence	Number 2021	Number 2020	Change in %
offences against the Weapons Act	31,672	36,208	-12.5
drug offences	361,048	365,753	-1.3
Cybercrime*)	146,363	130,611	12.1
<i>including:</i>			
falsification of legally relevant data, deception in legal transactions in connection with data processing	13,390	10,895	22.9
alteration of data, computer sabotage	5,053	3,770	34.0
data espionage, interception of data and handling stolen data	14,918	10,763	38.6
computer fraud (sect 263a PC)	113,002	105,049	7.6
<i>including:</i>			
computer fraud using unlawfully obtained payment card data (sect. 263a PC)	11,797	11,248	4.9
fraud by obtaining service on credit (sec. 263a PC)	6,943	7,409	-6.3
offences against foreigners law	146,853	147,085	-0.2
<i>including:</i>			
unauthorised entry (border crossing) under the Residence Act	41,290	38,334	7.7
unauthorised stay under the Residence Act	92,456	92,581	-0.1

Note:

For a more detailed presentation of the police crime statistics for 2021, especially regarding specific crimes/categories of crimes, with individual PCS tables, please visit the BKA website at www.bka.de.

*) = Content-related change, a comparison with the previous year may be possible in a limited way

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