

# Review

## Development in juvenile crime – the most criminal children and youth

### *Background and objectives:*

- The report is based on analyses of the most criminal children and youth aged 10 to 17. The focus is on the development in crime committed by the most criminal children and youth.

### *Research design:*

- The first part of the report is based on data from the Danish National Police, (*Rigspolitiet*) on all cases from 2001 to 2015 where children and youth aged 10 to 17 was charged with or suspected of a criminal offence.
- The second part of the report uses a combination of data from the Danish National Police and Statistics Denmark on children and youth charged with or suspected of a crime in 2006, 2010 or 2014 and information about their parents' ethnicity, employment status and disposable incomes.
- The children and youth are separated into four categories: law-abiding, small-scale criminals, serious criminals and the most criminal children and youth. This is done on the basis of the severity and frequency of the crime.

### *Findings:*

- The proportion of the most criminal children and youth has declined from 1.7 per cent of people born in 1991 to 1 per cent of those born in 1997.
- The most criminal children and youth make up a more or less consistent share of the combined number of children and youth registered for a criminal offence.
- A decline in the number of charges or suspicions for each person can be seen for the most criminal children and youth. The decline largely reflects a decline in crime committed by boys.
- The overrepresentation of boys among the most criminal minors did not change significantly from 2006 to 2014.
- The relationship between the share with Danish background of the most criminal children and youth and minors in the population did not change from 2006 to 2014. The share of descendants of immigrants increased a little, while the share of immigrants decreased.
- The share that is employed is about half the size of parents of the most criminal children and youth when compared to adults in the population.
- The relationship between average disposable incomes measured in 2013 for mothers of the most criminal children and youth in 2006 and 2014 and the average income of women in the population is 0.7:1 and 0.8:1, respectively. For fathers the number is 0.6:1.

