

# Review

## Members of criminal groups

### *Background and objectives:*

- The report features analyses regarding members of criminal groups (i.e. adult gang-criminal groups and outlaw motorcycle clubs) recorded in the Police Intelligence Database (PID).
- The aim of the report is to a) provide information about members of criminal groups, b) analyse what constitutes risk factors for being member of a criminal group for more than five years as opposed to less than two years and c) if there are events or conditions that make it more likely that a member leaves his criminal group.

### *Research design:*

- The data consists of 3,593 men who were recorded in the PID as members of criminal groups between June 2009 and the turn of the year 2016/2017.
- The PID data is combined with information from Statistics Denmark.
- A criminal group (i.e. outlaw motorcycle clubs and adult gang-criminal group) is defined as an organised group that carries out serious crime.
- Both descriptive statistics and other statistical tests, such as t-test, chi<sup>2</sup>-test, z-test and McNemar's test, as well as linear difference-in-difference regressions and Cox proportional hazards models are used to analyse the data.

### *Findings:*

- The characteristics of people recorded in the PID as members of criminal groups at the turn of the year 2016/2017 are:
  - 65 per cent are of Danish origin, 13 per cent are immigrants and 21 per cent are descendants of immigrants.
  - 33 per cent originate from a non-Western country.
  - 87 per cent are Danish citizens.
  - 49 per cent have one or more children.
  - 12 per cent have a least one child under the age of 18 living at home.
  - 8 per cent of outlaw bikers and 26 per cent of gang members have a brother who was recorded in the PID at one point from 2009 to 2016. 1 per cent have a father who was recorded in the PID at one point from 2009 to 2016.
  - 48 per cent live in densely populated areas and 17 per cent live in an area that is included in the list of ghettos of the Danish Ministry of Transport, Building and Housing (*Transport-, Bygge- og Boligministeriet*).
  - 59 per cent of the outlaw bikers and 86 per cent of gang members have not finished an education beyond primary and lower secondary school.
  - 55 per cent of outlaw bikers and 68 per cent of gang members have discontinued an educational course after primary and lower secondary school.
  - 39 per cent received social assistance (*køntanthjælp*) at least one day in 2016. 6 per cent received social assistance in all of 2016.
  - 69 per cent have an annual personal income of less than DKK 200,000.
  - 23 per cent owe more than DKK 100,000 to public authorities.
  - At least 21 per cent have been in contact with psychiatric hospital services at some point.
  - 98 per cent of those recorded have received at least one criminal conviction and three fourths have received a prison sentence.
  - 48 per cent have been imprisoned or jailed for more than one year.
  - One third have themselves been victims of crimes against the person.

- The second part of the study examines if there are circumstances before the first recording in the PID that increases the likelihood of being recorded for a shorter (up to two years) or longer (five to seven years) period.
  - Immigrants have lower probability of being recorded for a long-term period compared to descendants of immigrants or those of Danish origin.
  - A person who has received at least one prison sentence before the first recording has a higher likelihood of being recorded for a long-term period.
  - The more changes of address before the first registration, the lower the probability of being recorded for a long period.
  - Discontinued education reduces the probability of being recorded for a long rather than short period.
  - Contact with the psychiatric hospital services before the first recording decreases the probability of being recorded for a long period.
  - Higher age before the first recording increases the probability of being recorded for a long period.
- The third part of the study examines whether certain events or conditions occurring while a person is recorded in the PID as a member of a criminal group increase or decrease the probability of the person leaving the criminal group.
  - As recorded members of criminal groups get older, they are more likely to leave their group until they turn 23. After the age of 23 it becomes less likely.
  - Persons recorded in the PID who have children under the age of 18 are more likely to leave their criminal group during the first five years of being recorded.
  - Persons recorded in the PID who are enrolled in education are more likely to leave their criminal group.