

Review

The Danes' perception of crime in society

Background and objectives:

- The aim of the report is to document the Danes' perception of partly the trends in selected forms of crime and partly the number of victims of theft, burglary and violence.
- In the report, the Danes' perception of the extent of crime is compared with the reported crime and with the number of self-reported crime using victim surveys.

Research design:

- Data used in the report is from an omnibus survey from Statistics Denmark. This is compared with results based on reported crime and results from a victim survey.
- The respondents were asked if they believed that there was more crime today than five years ago. They were also asked how large a percentage of the population they believed had been victims of three specific types of crime within the last year. Lastly, they were asked to what degree they were concerned about crime.

Findings:

- Between 36 percent and 55 percent of the respondents believe that there is more crime today than five years ago.
- The data available shows that fewer criminal offences are committed today than five years ago when measured by robbery, burglary, car theft and youth crime. For these types of offences, between 74 percent and 85 percent misjudge the trend in crime.
- It is uncertain whether there has been an increase or a decrease in violence in the past five years. There has been an increase in reported crime, but when looking at other reports the increase might reflect an increase in the propensity to report violence.
- A large part of the population has a realistic idea of the number of people who have been a victim of theft, burglary or violence.
- Especially women, young people and those very concerned about crime have an exaggerated idea of the rate of crime.

