

Review

The turnover in adult gang-criminal groups and outlaw motorcycle clubs, 2009-2017

Background and objectives:

- The report is about the turnover of people in adult gang-criminal groups and outlaw motorcycle clubs in Denmark.
- The aim is to clarify the stability in the environments by comparing the number of new members with the number of disengaged members.

Research design:

- The report is based on information about 3,593 males, who were recorded in the Police Intelligence Database (PID) as outlaw bikers or gang members at any point from June 2009 to 1 January 2017. When a person is no longer considered to be active in a gang, the police remove the person from the database.
- An outlaw motorcycle club or adult gang-criminal group is defined as an organised group that carries out serious crime.
- Compared to American street gangs, members of Danish adult gang-criminal groups are generally older, more organised and involved in gang activities for a longer period.

Findings:

- About one fourth of those recorded as members of an outlaw motorcycle club or adult gang-criminal group in June 2009 were still recorded at end-2016. About 7 per cent of those recorded as gang members in 2009 were still recorded at end-2016, while the same was true for 38 per cent of outlaw bikers recorded in 2009.
- 3,593 persons had been recorded at some point during the period under review, but 65 per cent of those were not recorded at the end of 2016. 2,447 persons (68 per cent) were not recorded in June 2009.
- Only 268 persons were recorded continuously as outlaw bikers or gang members from June 2009 to end-2016.
- 247 times someone changed group membership without having a period in-between their group memberships with no recorded affiliations.
- At end-2016, 1,257 people were recorded. This is the lowest number since June 2009.
- In 2016, one new outlaw biker was recorded and one was removed from the database every other day. On average, one gang member was removed from the database and approximately 0.7 was recorded every day in 2016.
- Hells Angels and Bandidos are the largest outlaw biker groups, but an increasing number of outlaw bikers belong to groups that do not have a direct connection to either of those.
- On average, outlaw bikers are 30 years old when they are recorded while gang members are 24 years old.
- Most of the people who leave a adult gang-criminal group or outlaw motorcycle club did not get recorded again as members during the period under review.
- The members who left an adult gang-criminal group or outlaw motorcycle club in 2016 had been members for nearly three years on average.