

# Review

## Types of homicide in Denmark

### *Background and objectives:*

- The aim of the report is to describe homicide and characterise similarities and differences between different types of homicide in Denmark.
- The data used in the report is structured according to the European Homicide Monitor (EHM) codebook. The EHM is a European project launched to compare patterns and trends in homicide across Europe.

### *Research design:*

- The data used in the report includes information on homicides with a convicted offender. All of the included offenders were convicted between late 2012 and 31 December 2017.
- The definition of homicide in this report covers manslaughter<sup>1</sup>, infanticide and assault leading to death according to the Danish Criminal Code.
- An analysis shows patterns in the characteristics of offenders, victims and homicide situations. Furthermore, the report presents similarities and differences between different types of homicide as defined by the EHM codebook. The report uses the statistical technique Latent Class Analysis to investigate latent empirical homicide patterns.

### *Findings:*

- 87 per cent of offenders are men and 62 per cent of victims are men.
- Offenders are 34 years old on average while victims are 41 years old on average.
- The victims are of Danish origin in 71 per cent of the homicide cases, while the same is the case for 66 per cent of the offenders.
- 24 per cent of the offenders were mentally ill.
- The homicides are categorised into nine different types of homicide in accordance with the EHM codebook. Comparisons of the different types show that women relatively often are the victims in *intimate partner homicides*, while the offender in cases of *child homicides (in family)* and *other familial homicides* relatively often is mentally ill. Furthermore, homicides in *criminal milieus* are fairly often committed with firearms and take place between young men. *Robbery homicides* and *sexual homicides* are fairly rare phenomena. *Mentally ill offenders killing non-family* are fairly often drug abusers. Homicides as a consequence of *nightlife violence* and *other homicides in non-criminal milieus* are fairly often motivated by trivial conflicts and are committed with sharp violence or blunt force/hitting or kicking.
- The Latent Class Analysis shows that:
  - Jealousy and separation are often connected motives, while homicide offenders motivated by mental illness often have no other motive.
  - Offenders with the highest probability of alcohol and drug addiction were on average more likely to have previous convictions of violent crimes.
  - High likelihood of demographic similarities between offenders and victims.
  - Victim gender, victim age, crime scene and homicide method tend to be connected in specific patterns.

<sup>1</sup> The Danish Criminal Code does not contain a separate section on murder. The Danish section on manslaughter covers homicides which are considered to be murder in other countries.