

# Review


## Exposure to violence and other forms of crime – victim surveys 2005-2022

This report deals with the results of the national victim surveys of Danes' exposure to crime. The first national victim surveys were conducted in the early 1970s, and representative surveys of the exposure to theft, vandalism, violence and threats of violence of persons aged 16-74 have been conducted annually since 2005. Since then, questions on the exposure to rape (formerly 'forced sexual intercourse'), other sexual offences, cybercrime and psychological abuse have been included in the victim surveys.<sup>1</sup> In addition to examining Danes' exposure to crime, the annual victim surveys look into the Danes' propensity to report crime and their concerns about crime.

The overall results of the report are summarised in Table 1.

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<sup>1</sup> Robbery was formerly included as a question in the victim survey but was excluded in 2015 as it turned out that the responses to that question ended up comprising an array of other crimes than robbery.



**Table 1**

Overview of the development in Danes' exposure to the mentioned types of crime within the past 12 months, propensity to report crime, and concern about crime until 2022 (rounded).

	First comparable measurement	2022	Development from 2012-2021 compared to 2022†
Per cent exposed to theft	2012 (10 %)	6 %	–
Propensity to report theft	2012 (58 %)	49 %	0
Per cent exposed to burglary	2012 (4 %)	2 %	–
Propensity to report burglary	2014 (83 %)	65 %	0
Per cent exposed to vandalism	1972 (7 %)	4 %	–
Propensity to report vandalism	1972 (32 %)	36 %	0
Per cent exposed to violence	1987 (3 %)	2 %	0
Propensity to report violence	1971 (19 %)	45 %	0
Per cent exposed to psychological abuse	2020 (3 %)	3 %	0
Propensity to report psychological abuse	2020 (10 %)	11 %	
Per cent of <i>women</i> exposed to rape/attempted rape within the past 5 years	2008 (0,7 %)	3 %	+
Per cent of <i>men</i> exposed to rape/attempted rape within the past 5 years	2019 (0,4 %)	0,5 %	
Propensity to report rape/attempted rape among women	2008	21 %††	
Per cent exposed to other sexual assaults than rape/attempted rape	2019 (1 %)	1 %	0
Propensity to report other sexual assaults than rape/attempted rape	2019	10 %†††	
Per cent exposed to cybercrime†††	2018 (4 %)	3 %	–
Concern about being personally exposed to violence and other crime††††	1976 (18 %)	9 %	–
Concern about crime in society†††††	2015 (18 %)	11 %	–

† Symbol explanation: + = statistically significant increase, 0 = no change, – = statistically significant decrease. If the first comparable measurement is from later than 2012, the information concerns the development from the first measurement to 2021 compared to 2022.

†† The proportion is an average for the period 2008-2022, as the number of reports for rape/attempted rape is very small and therefore associated with high statistical uncertainty.

††† The proportion is an average for the period 2019-2022, as the number of reports for other sexual assaults than rape/attempted rape is very small and therefore associated with high statistical uncertainty.

†††† Per cent who answer that they are "almost all the time" or "often" worried about being exposed to violence and other crime.

††††† Per cent who answer that they are "very worried" about crime in society.

## **COVID-19 and lockdown**

The vast majority of the survey questions deal with the exposure to crime within the past 12 months, and the surveys are conducted on a continuing basis over the year. The survey in 2022 thus still comprises periods of lockdown of society due to COVID-19, which may have had an impact on the development in crime which is illustrated in the survey.

