



REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
CROATIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS



QUALITY REPORT FOR STATISTICAL SURVEY

Statistical Report for an Adult against Whom Criminal Proceedings Based on Crime Report and the Interlocutory Proceedings Have Been Concluded (SK-1 form) for 2024

Organisational unit: Demographic and Social Statistics Directorate / Crime Administration System
and Social Protection Statistics Department

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0. Basic information

- Purpose and subject of the survey

The objective is to obtain indicators on reported adult perpetrators of criminal offences, which are an important tool in studying the structure of criminality and decisions of criminal prosecution bodies.

The survey contains data on a perpetrator (sex and age), criminal offence, investigative imprisonment, a person who submitted the criminal report, type and reasons of the decision and the duration of proceedings. Survey results may serve as a basis for the quality analysis of criminality in the Republic of Croatia. Information on age and sex of a perpetrator, relation between known and unknown perpetrators, type of criminal offence, duration of proceedings, reasons for not submitting an indictment (rejection of a crime report, interruption or termination of an investigation) can be particularly interesting and useful.

The subject of the survey is known adult perpetrators of criminal offences against whom a competent public prosecutor's office reached a final decision in regards the submitted crime report as well as unknown perpetrators against whom a crime report has been submitted to a public prosecutor's office for the committed criminal offence.

- Reference period

Calendar year

- Legal acts and other agreements

European level: an agreement between countries (gentlemen's agreement) reached at the Eurostat Working Group on Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics enables harmonisation of the methodology between EU Member States, which allows for comparative analysis of crime statistics.

National level:

Official Statistics Act (NN, Nos 25/20 and 155/23)

Criminal Code (NN, Nos 125/11, 144/12, 56/15, 61/15 – correction, 101/17, 118/18, 126/19, 84/21, 114/22, 114/23 and 36/24),

Criminal Procedure Act (NN, Nos 152/08, 76/09, 80/11, 121/11 – revised text, 91/12, 143/12, 56/13, 145/13, 152/14, 70/17, 126/19, 130/20, 80/22, 36/24 and 72/25),

Act on the Office for the Suppression of Corruption and Organized Crime (NN, Nos 76/09, 116/10, 145/10, 57/11, 136/12, 148/13 and 70/17)

Areas and Seats of Public Prosecutor's Offices Act (NN, Nos 67/18 and 21/22),

These acts make a legal basis for registering criminal procedures and ensure consistent implementation of the methodology in statistical surveys such as SK-1.

- Classification system

Classification of Criminal Offences of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics (based on articles/paragraphs/items of the Criminal Code and their interrelationship).

- Concepts and definitions

Person reported as a known perpetrator is an adult perpetrator of a criminal offence against whom proceedings based on a crime report and interlocutory proceedings have been concluded with a decision by which either the crime report was rejected, or the investigation was interrupted, or the investigation was terminated, or the indictment was submitted.

Person reported as an unknown perpetrator is, starting with the 2015 reference year, is an unknown person who has been reported for a criminal offence to the public prosecutor's office. Until the end of 2014 reference year, an unknown perpetrator was defined as an unknown person who was reported for a criminal offence to the public prosecutor's office and who remained unknown even after one year from the day of the submission of the crime report. This change is expected to have a limited influence on data on total reported perpetrators as well as on reported unknown perpetrators, as it can be expected that a certain number of initially unknown perpetrators' identities will be revealed during the same year, consequently resulting in double counting. Age is considered the age a person turned at the time of committing a criminal offence and not the age at the time of reaching the decision.

- **Statistical unit**

Person reported as a known perpetrator is an adult perpetrator of a criminal offence against whom proceedings based on a crime report and interlocutory proceedings have been concluded with a decision by which either the crime report was rejected, or the investigation was interrupted, or the investigation was terminated, or the indictment was submitted.

Person reported as an unknown perpetrator is an unknown person who has been reported for a criminal offence to the public prosecutor's office.

- **Statistical population**

Reported adult perpetrators of criminal offences against whom criminal proceedings based on crime report and the interlocutory proceedings have been concluded.

1. Relevance

1.1. Data users

National users: ministries and other state administration bodies, civil society organisations specialised in combat against violence, academic community, the media

International users: Eurostat, (Statistical Office of the European Union), UN Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

1.1.1. User needs

National users: Ministries and other state administration bodies are primarily interested in data on reported persons for the purpose of preparing reports or declarations related to international documents (e.g., for corruptive criminal offences, criminal offences with elements of violence, etc.).

Regular data users of justice administration statistics are persons who are already familiar with this domain to a relevant degree (professors, judges, state attorneys, students). For this reason, their needs cannot be fully satisfied by providing basic statistical aggregates since they mostly use these data either for present and analyse a certain phenomenon or as a basis of certain legal or organisational adjustments. In addition, a level of detail of the SK-1 survey is also important because users of these statistics are mostly experts in the domain of material and processing criminal justice. Therefore, the level of information they have on their disposal, the nature of their questions and needs is potentially more complex than statistics that are of primary importance for broader public.

International users: Every year, Eurostat (Statistical Office of the European Union) and the UN Office for Drugs and Crime send a voluminous joint questionnaire to countries entitled "UNODC Surveys on Crime Trends and the Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (UN-CTS questionnaire)".

1.1.2. User satisfaction

The first survey on satisfaction of users of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics was carried out in 2013, then in 2015, and the most recent one at the end of 2022. The results can be checked out on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics <https://dzs.gov.hr/highlighted-themes/quality/user-satisfaction-surveys/686>

1.2. Completeness

The area included in the SK-1 survey is legally regulated in an intense way. Criminal prosecution and criminal procedure are regulated primarily by the Criminal Procedure Act, which is an organic law. That law strictly regulates aspects which are an important part of the SK-1 form (whether a criminal prosecution is carried out on the basis of official duty or not, directions on investigation, which decisions can be made by public prosecutor's offices and on which grounds, etc.). Volume of information, including a general volume of information that may make a basis for data collection, which criminal prosecution bodies are authorised to require from an accused person, is regulated by the Criminal Procedure Act (primarily in its articles 272 and 413). Article 202 provides a definition frame for the preparation and implementation of statistical definitions for the SK-1 survey. In addition, the Criminal Code, which contains a catalogue of criminal offences (and serves as a basis for the Classification of criminal offences of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics) is also an organic law. Further on, in line with the Criminal Procedure Act, competent public prosecutor's offices are obligated to make a final decision based on the crime report in due time. Crime reports against unknown perpetrators are exception, which is explained in detail under item 0 (Concepts and definitions). Eurostat (Statistical Office of the European Union) and the UN Office for Drugs and Crime send a voluminous joint questionnaire to countries entitled "UNODC Surveys on Crime Trends and the Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (UN-CTS questionnaire)" is currently the main methodological framework used in justice administration statistics. Categories of criminal offences, i.e., definitions of offences implemented in the aforementioned questionnaire correspond to items of International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes, which is aimed at pairing all criminal offences at the national level with applicable items of this international classification in order to achieve a more significant international comparability and a better insight in national specific characteristics of individual forms of crime. SK-1 survey results make a basis for filling in a part of the questionnaire that refer to reported persons. As for the justice administration statistics of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics, an initial pairing of criminal offences of the Criminal Code with the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes is currently underway. Pairing of criminal offences encompassed by the joint questionnaire of Eurostat (Statistical Office of the European Union) and the UN Office for Drugs and Crime send a voluminous joint questionnaire to countries entitled "UNODC Surveys on Crime Trends and the Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (UN-CTS questionnaire)" has already been done.

The data collection in the criminal statistics domain is not mandatory, but it is foreseen in the Resolution 1984/48 of UN Economic and Social Council of 25 May 1984. Eurostat got a mandate within The Hague Programme from 2004: strengthening freedom, security and justice in the European Union for development of comparable statistics on crime and administration of justice. The system is being improved and enlarged as a part of the implementation of the Stockholm Programme from 2009: An Open and Secure Europe Serving and Protecting the Citizens. In 2012, the Commission set down the main strategies to be adopted in order to improve the data collection in the crime statistics domain in the form of an action plan for statistics for the period from 2011 to 2015. The following mandatory data sets is conducted by Eurostat on behalf of the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs: data sets on Human trafficking: Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2011 on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA; data sets on Migrant smuggling in line with Directive 2002/90/EC of 28 November 2002 defining the facilitation of unauthorised entry, transit and residence, as well as the EU Action Plan against migrant smuggling (2021 – 2025); data sets on cybercrime in line with the Directive 2013/40/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 August 2013 on attacks against information systems and replacing Council Framework Decision 2005/222/JHA.

1.2.1. Data completeness rate

Data completeness rate is 100%.

2. Accuracy and reliability

2.1. Sampling error

Not applicable (the survey is not based on the sample).

2.1.1. Sampling error indicators

The indicator is not applicable.

2.2. Non-sampling error

No errors were detected in relation to overcoverage and undercoverage. The survey coverage is full, since it is regulated by national legal acts and no non-response errors by units occurred. Nonresponse related errors for key variables are resolved by contacting reporting units. Imputations are not implemented.

2.2.1. Coverage error

The coverage is full. Namely, this survey is not based on the sample, while coverage is regulated by legal acts (primarily by the Act on Areas and Seats of State Attorney's Offices).

A competent public prosecutor's office fills in the SK-1 form for every person for whom it made a final decision on the basis of the submitted crime report. If the crime report was submitted against an unknown person, the public prosecutor's office fills in the SK-1 form after the crime report has been received. This is why the coverage is full and overcoverage is not possible. Undercoverage is possible if a competent public prosecutor does not fill in the SK-1 form for a particular person. Duplicating is possible only in case when the crime report against an unknown perpetrator is submitted to the public prosecutor's office (SK-1 form is filled in), but in the course of the same year the identity of the perpetrator is disclosed so the competent public prosecutor makes a final decision on the basis of the crime report (SK-1 form is filled in again).

2.2.2. Overcoverage rate

The indicator is not applicable.

2.2.3. Measurement error

Data for the SK-1 survey are collected via a web questionnaire. For almost all survey variables, the structure and potential content of answer modalities are predefined, usually in the form of a drop-down menu, which allows for consistency in data recording. Also, depending on the answer to a particular question, the web questionnaire automatically directs a person who fills in the questionnaire to the next question, most often by blocking the answer to a particular question. Furthermore, the submission of the SK-1 report via a web questionnaire is not possible unless all requested data are provided, which allows for the integrity and accuracy of statistical records. Therefore, the collected statistical records are loaded in a structure corresponding to the matrix prepared in the Generator, a database for storage and processing of data. Due to this reason, loading errors do not occur. In the database for storage and processing of data, i.e. the Generator, standard tables have been prepared, which contain the structure of statistical results that are subject to regular dissemination. In addition, items of the classification of criminal offences currently in use have been matched, except in cases where this is not applicable, to the items of the previous classification of criminal offences.

2.2.4. Nonresponse error

A competent public prosecutor's office fills in the SK-1 form for every person for whom it made a final decision on the basis of the submitted crime report. If the crime report was submitted against an unknown person, the public prosecutor's office fills in the SK-1 form after the crime report has been received. During the reference year, public prosecutor's offices, for which a significant decrease in filled in SK-1 forms has been noticed compared to the same time period in one or more previous years, are contacted in order to determine whether a lower incidence or a delay in submission of SK-1 forms actually occurred. They are filled in via a web questionnaire with integrated data verification rules, which prevent entering of particular values relating to certain questions (for example, the year of submission of a crime report cannot be lower than the year when the reported crime was committed) or, depending on the answer to a specific question, direct person filling in the form to the next question to be filled in. The submission of the SK-1 report via a web questionnaire is not possible unless all requested data are provided.

2.2.5. Unit nonresponse rate

Unweighted nonresponse rate is 0%.

Weighted non-response rate is -.

2.2.6. Item non-response rate

The indicator is not applicable.

2.2.7. Processing error

Imputations are not implemented, whereas the missing or misclassified data are resolved by contacting the reporting units.

SK-1 forms are filled in via an online form with integrated data verification rules in order to achieve accuracy and consistency of data entry. These rules prevent entering of particular values relating to certain methodological criteria and, depending on the answer to a specific question, automatically direct person filling in the form to the next question to be filled in. The submission of the SK-1 report via a web questionnaire is not possible unless all requested data are provided, which ensures integrity of the database. After downloading data into the database for storage and processing of data, i.e. the Generator, more detailed data verification is carried out by eliminating potential errors occurred at the entry.

2.2.8. Imputation rate

The indicator is not applicable.

2.2.9. Model assumption error

Not applicable, because the survey is not based on the sample.

2.3. Data revision

2.3.1. Data revision – policy

The users of statistical data are informed about revisions on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics, on the link [General Revision Policy of the CBS](#).

2.3.2. Data revision – practice

Provisional figures are not published in this survey and therefore regular revisions are not applicable. If necessary, a correction of released statistical data can be issued.

2.3.3. Data revision – average size

The indicator is not applicable.

2.4. Seasonal adjustment

Seasonal adjustment of data is not carried out.

3. Timeliness and punctuality

3.1. Timeliness

Basic results: T + 4 months

Detailed results: T + 5 months

3.1.1. Time lag – first results

The indicator is not applicable.

3.1.2. Timeliness – final results

Timeliness of final results is T + 4 months.

3.2. Punctuality

There are no deviations between planned and realised issues.

3.2.1. Punctuality – delivery and publication

Delivery and publication is 1.

4. Accessibility and clarity

The First Releases (basic data) and PC-Axis databases are issued at the annual level and they are available on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics.

4.1. News release

Regular dissemination – First Release [Adult Perpetrators of Criminal Offences, by Type of Decision, 2024](#)

4.2. Online database

PC-Axis database Perpetrators of criminal offences – adult.

Information on databases is available at [PX-Web - Select database](#).

It is published once a year, at the beginning of May (data refer to the previous calendar year).

4.3. Microdata access

Conditions under which certain users can have access to microdata are regulated by the [Ordinance on the Conditions and Terms of Access and Use of Confidential Statistical Data of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics for Scientific Purposes](#) (NN, No. 5/23).

4.4. Documentation on methodology

Basic notes on methodology are given in the First Release [Adult Perpetrators of Criminal Offences, by Type of Decision, 2024](#) (in the part Notes on Methodology) and in the PC-Axis databases [Perpetrators of Criminal offences – Adult](#) (a part of Notes on Methodology), which are available on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics.

5. Coherence and comparability

5.1. Asymmetry for mirror flows statistics

Not applicable.

5.2. Comparability over time

Criminal Code impacts comparability over time of main statistical indicators a great deal in the SK-1 survey, since it contains a catalogue of almost all criminal offences in the national system of criminal justice.

The current Criminal Code (NN, Nos 125/11, 144/12, 56/15, 61/15, 101/17, 118/18, 126/19, 84/21, 114/22, 114/23 and 36/24) entered into force on 1 January 2013. Prior to this Act, beginning with 1998, the previous Penalty Code was in force (NN, No. 110/97 and later amendments).

In order to achieve methodological consistency of data, identical criminal offences that can be found in various criminal codes are paired and expressed according to the classification of the actual Criminal Code. Criminal offences that cannot be methodologically adjusted are presented separately in the statistical analyses of the SK-1 survey.

Passing of a new Criminal Code can have an important impact on the SK-1 survey data if particular criminal offences have been transferred into the area of misdemeanour legislature, which affects their statistical records. These methodological changes are always explained to users in order to achieve consistency in the analysis of trends of criminal procedures.

5.2.1. Length of comparable time series

Length of comparable time series is 28 years.

5.2.2. Reasons for break in time series

There were no breaks in time series of the SK-1 survey so far. The main reason is the methodology of the production of the new classification of criminal offences, which is usually created when the new Criminal Code enters into force. While updating the classification of criminal offences, items from the actual classification are paired with items from a previous classification of criminal offences (which was developed on the basis of the then valid Criminal Code), providing that their contents are identical. This ensures the continuity of records as well as data comparison in different legal cycles. Criminal offences that cannot be methodologically adjusted are presented separately in order to ensure transparency and accuracy of data within the SK-1 survey. Further on, if a previous Criminal Code is applied to the perpetrator due to the more lenient law principle, his or her criminal offences can be presented according to a new classification of criminal offences, which helps in maintaining the statistical consistency and enables the analysis of legal changes in time series of the SK-1 survey.

5.3. Coherence – short-term and structural data

The indicator is not applicable.

5.4. Coherence – national accounts

The indicator is not applicable.

5.5. Coherence – administrative sources

The indicator is not computed.

6. Cost and burden

6.1. Cost

Data for the SK-1 survey are collected via a web questionnaire, which are filled in and submitted by reporting units in line with a prescribed methodology. Thanks to a digitalised data collection system, data collection costs are minimum, while updates to the questionnaire are adjusted to legal changes. Costs of data processing and dissemination include the following:

- a proportional part of costs refers to working hours per person engaged in the SK-1 survey in the Crime Administration System and Social Protection Statistics Department
- a certain contingent of man-hours for persons engaged in this survey in the Publishing Department
- resources of the Information Technology Directorate, who are in charge of maintenance of web questionnaire and regular annual adjustment for this survey in the database for storage and processing of data, i.e. the Generator.

Integrated data collection system ensures a continuous methodological consistency, whereas automated mechanisms of updating and validation enable a reliable statistical analysis of the SK-1 survey.

6.2. Burden

Burden on reporting units depends on the number of reported persons in a calendar year. The online SK-1 form consists of 19 questions, which is filled in by marking one of the offered answers.

The submission periodicity is the whole year, so the burden is evenly arranged and reporting fatigue avoided.