



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)
For 2015

Organisational unit: Crime Administration System and
Social Protection Statistics Department

Prepared by: Mario Vlajčević

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0. Basic information

- Purpose, goal, and subject of the survey

The goal is to obtain indicators on reported adult perpetrators of criminal offences, as an important tool for studying the structure of criminality and decisions of criminal prosecution bodies.

The content includes information on the perpetrator (sex and age), criminal offence, investigative imprisonment, submitter of the crime report, type and reasons for the decision and duration of proceedings.

Survey results may serve as a basis for a quality analysis of criminality in the Republic of Croatia. Information on the age and sex of the perpetrator, ratio between known and unknown perpetrators, type of criminal offence, duration of proceedings and 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 are known adult perpetrators of criminal offences for which a competent public prosecutor's office has reached a final decision regarding the submitted crime report, as well as unknown perpetrators against whom a criminal report has been filed with the public prosecutor's office for the committed criminal offence.

- Reference period

Calendar year

- Legal acts and other agreements

European level:

Gentleman's Agreement concluded at the Eurostat working group on crime and criminal justice statistics

National level:

Criminal Code (NN, Nos 125/11, 144/12, 56/15 and 61/15 – correction)

Criminal Procedure Act (NN, Nos 152/08, 76/09, 80/11, 121/11 – consolidated text, 91/12, 143/12, 56/13, 145/13 and 152/14)

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

Act on Areas and Seats of Public Prosecutor's Offices (NN, No 128/14)

- Classification system

Classification of criminal offences of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics (based on articles/paragraphs/items of the Criminal Code and their interrelationship as well as on the secondary criminal legislation).

- Concepts and definitions

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

Person reported as an unknown perpetrator is an unknown person who was reported for a criminal offence to the public prosecutor. Until the end of the 2014 reference year, an unknown

perpetrator was defined as an unknown person who was reported for a criminal offence to the public prosecutor and who remained unknown even after one year from the day of the submission of the crime report. This change has a limited influence on data on total reported perpetrators as well as on reported unknown perpetrators because 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 units

Reported adult perpetrators of criminal offences.

- Statistical population

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

Person reported as an unknown perpetrator is an unknown person who was reported for a criminal offence to the public prosecutor.

1. Relevance

1.1. Data users

National users:

- Ministries and other state administration bodies
- Civil society organisations specialised in fighting violence
- Academic community
- Media

International users:

- Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat)
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

1.1.1 User needs

National users:

Ministries and other public administration bodies most often request the delivery of data on reported persons due to the need to prepare a report or comment on international documents (for example, for corruptive criminal offences, criminal offences with elements of violence, etc.).

Other national users generally request information on certain types of criminal offences (for example, offences against sexual freedom, infanticide, electoral fraud, etc.).

International users:

Every year, the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime deliver to countries a comprehensive joint questionnaire entitled „United Nations Survey on Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (UN-CTS)“ to fill in.

1.1.2 User satisfaction

The user satisfaction survey was conducted in 2013 and again in 2015, with a general topic on the work of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics.

The results of this survey can be found on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics www.dzs.hr. A dedicated survey on user satisfaction with the SK-1 survey is not conducted.

1.2. Completeness

The domain covered by the SK-1 survey is regulated by law.

Prosecution and criminal proceedings are regulated primarily by the Criminal Procedure Act, which is an organic law. This Act strictly regulates the aspects that form a significant part of the SK-1 form (whether prosecution is undertaken ex officio or not, provisions on investigation, which decisions can be adopted by the public prosecutor's office and on what grounds, etc.).

The scope of information that prosecution authorities are authorised to request from defendants is prescribed by the Criminal Procedure Act (primarily by articles 272 and 413).

Article 202 provides a definition framework for the development and application of statistical definitions for the SK-1 survey.

The Criminal Code, which contains a catalogue of criminal offences (which is the basis for the classification of criminal offences of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics), is also an organic law.

Furthermore, in accordance with the Criminal Procedure Act, competent public prosecutor's offices are obligated to make a final decision regarding a crime report within the prescribed period. The exceptions are crime reports against unknown perpetrators, which have been elaborated under item 0 ("Concepts and definitions").

At the European Union level, currently the main methodological framework for application in crime statistics is the joint Eurostat's and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's questionnaire "United Nations Survey on Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (UN-CTS questionnaire)".

The results of the SK-1 survey are used to fill in the part of the questionnaire related to the reported persons.

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 a sample).

2.1.1 Sampling error indicators

The indicator for this survey is not applicable.

2.1.2 Bias in sample selection process

The indicator for this survey is not applicable.

2.2. Non-sampling error

Non-sampling errors are all other errors that are not connected with the sample selection – coverage, measurement, processing, non-response.

2.2.1 Coverage error

The competent public prosecutor's office fills in the SK-1 form for every person for whom it has made a final decision regarding the submitted crime report. If the crime report is submitted against an unknown person, the public prosecutor's office fills in the SK-1 form upon receiving the crime report. Therefore, the coverage is complete, and over-coverage is not possible. Under-coverage is possible in cases when the competent public prosecutor does not fill in the SK-1 form for a particular person.

Duplication is possible only in a situation when the crime report against an unknown perpetrator is submitted to the public prosecutor's office (SK-1 form is filled in), but the identity of the perpetrator is revealed in the same year and the competent public prosecutor issues a final decision on the crime report (SK-1 form is filled in again).

2.2.2 Over-coverage rate

The indicator for this survey is not applicable.

2.2.3 Measurement errors

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). In addition, 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 be provided.

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 that, loading errors do not occur.

In the database for storage and processing of data, i.e. the Generator, standard tables are prepared, which contain the structure of statistical results that are subject to regular dissemination. These tables are automatically updated every time new data are loaded.

In addition, the items of the classification of criminal offences currently in use are matched, except in cases where this is not applicable, with the items of the previous classification of criminal offences.

2.2.4 Non-response errors

The competent public prosecutor's office fills in the SK-1 form for every person for whom it has made a final decision regarding the submitted crime report. If the crime report is submitted against an unknown person, the public prosecutor's office fills in the SK-1 form upon receiving the crime report.

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 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.

SK-1 forms 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 be provided.

2.2.5 Unit non-response rate

Unweighted non-response rate is 0%.

2.2.6 Item non-response rate

The indicator for this survey is not applicable.

2.2.7 Processing errors

SK-1 forms are filled in via a web questionnaire with integrated data verification rules, which prevent entering of particular values relating to certain questions 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 be provided.

After downloading data into the database for storage and processing of data, i.e. the Generator, more detailed data verification is carried out.

In addition, due to the principle of applying a more lenient law to the defendant, a separate check of certain criminal offences is done. Due to the principle of application of a more lenient law, it is possible for the person filling in the SK-1 report via a web questionnaire to enter a crime actually committed but to choose a law that does not apply.

2.2.8 Imputation rate

The indicator for this survey is not applicable.

2.2.9 Editing rate

The indicator for this survey is not computed.

2.2.10 Hit rate

The indicator for this survey is not computed.

2.2.11 Model assumption error

Not applicable.

2.3. Data revision

2.3.1 Data revision – policy

Data are published once a year in the First Release and the Statistical Report as final data. Since data refer to the calendar year, i.e. the reference year, SK-1 forms for reported known perpetrators delivered in January of the year following the reference year are subsequently broken down with regard to the year of the final decision of the competent public prosecutor's

office. The reference year thus also covers persons for whom the final decision of the competent public prosecutor's office has been adopted in the reference year, but the SK-1 form was filled in at the beginning of the following year.

2.3.2 Data revision – practice

Provisional data are not published in the survey; therefore, there are no data revisions. If necessary, a correction of the published statistical data may be released.

2.3.3 Data revision – average size

The indicator for this survey is not applicable.

2.4. Seasonal adjustment

Data are not seasonally adjusted.

3. Timeliness and punctuality

3.1. Timeliness

3.1.1 Time lag – first results

The indicator for this survey is not applicable.

3.1.2 Time lag – final results

Time lag – final results is T + 117 days.

3.2. Punctuality

3.2.1 Punctuality – delivery and publication

Delivery and publication is 1.

4. Accessibility and clarity

The First Release (basic data) and the Statistical Report (detailed data) are published at the annual level and can be found on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics. Limited printed edition is also issued.

4.1. News release

Regular dissemination

- First Release 10.1.1. Adult Perpetrators of Criminal Offences, by Type of Decision, 2015
- publication: 27 April 2016

4.2. Other publications

The results of this survey are published in other publications of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics: Statistical Report "Adult Perpetrators of Criminal Offences, Reports, Accusations and Convictions", Statistical Yearbook, Statistical Information, Women and Men in Croatia, and Croatia in Figures

4.3. Online database

Online databases for this survey are not available.

4.4. Micro-data access

The conditions under which certain users can access microdata are regulated by the Ordinance on the Conditions and Manner of Using Confidential Statistical Data for Scientific Purposes.

4.5. Documentation on methodology

The basic methodological information is provided in every publication – in First Release 10.1.1. (chapter Notes on Methodology) and in Statistical Report (chapters Introduction and Notes on Methodology).

5. Comparability

5.1. Asymmetry for mirror flows statistics

Not applicable.

5.2. Comparability over time

5.2.1 Length of comparable time series

Length of comparable time series is 18.

5.2.2 Reasons for break in time series

There was no break in time series so far.

The main reason is that, when a new classification of criminal offences is made (as a rule, when a new Criminal Code enters into force), items of that classification are paired with items of the previous classification of criminal offences (classification made on the basis of the previous Criminal Code) if they match with regard to their content. Classification items that do not match are presented separately.

This procedure ensures that criminal offences to which the previous Criminal Code applies, in cases when it is applied to the perpetrator as a more lenient law, can be presented according to the new classification of criminal offences.

6. Coherence

6.1. Coherence – short-term and structural data

The indicator for this survey is not applicable.

6.2. Coherence – national accounts

The indicator for this survey is not applicable.

6.3. Coherence – administrative sources

The indicator for this survey is not computed.

7. Cost and burden

7.1. Cost

Data are collected in such a manner that reporting units submit data by filling in the SK-1 web questionnaire, so the costs of data collection are minimal (updating the questionnaire in accordance with legal changes, etc.). The costs of data processing and dissemination can include a proportional part of working hours of a single person working on this 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 and in the Information Technologies Directorate (maintenance of web questionnaire and regular annual adjustment for this survey in the database for storage and processing of data, i.e. the Generator) should be added to this.

7.2. Burden

In the 2015 reference year, competent public prosecutor's offices submitted data for 57 688 reported adult perpetrators of criminal offences. Information on the time spent by reporting units on data delivery is not available.