



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 2019

Organisational unit: Crime Administration System and
Social Protection Statistics Department

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0. Basic information

- Purpose, goal, and subject of the survey

Objective: 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.

Content: information on a perpetrator (sex and age), criminal offence, investigative imprisonment, submitter of a crime report, type and reasons for a decision and duration of proceedings.

Survey results may serve as a basis for the analysis of criminality in the Republic of Croatia. Information on age and sex of a perpetrator, ratio 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.

Subject of the survey: 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 a committed criminal offence.

- Reference period

Calendar year

- Legal acts and other agreements

European level:

Gentleman's agreement reached at the Eurostat working group on crime and criminal justice statistics

National level:

Penal Code (OG, Nos 125/11, 144/12, 56/15, 61/15 – correction and 101/17)

Criminal Procedure Act (OG, Nos 152/08, 76/09, 80/11, 121/11 – consolidated text, 91/12, 143/12, 56/13, 145/13, 152/14 and 70/17)

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

Act on Areas and Seats of Public Prosecutor's Offices (OG, No. 67/18)

- Classification system

Classification of criminal offences of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics (based on articles/paragraphs/items of the Penal 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 either the crime report is rejected, or the investigation was interrupted, or the investigation was terminated, or indictment was submitted.

Person reported as unknown perpetrator is an unknown person who was reported for a criminal offence to the public prosecutor. 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 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, as it can be expected that a certain number of initially unknown perpetrators' identities will be revealed during the same year, which may result 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 either the crime report is rejected, or the investigation was interrupted, or the investigation was terminated, or indictment was submitted.

Person reported as 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 public administration bodies
- Civil society organizations 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, and so on).

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 be filled in.

1.1.2 User satisfaction

The first survey on user satisfaction was conducted in 2013, and the second one in 2015. The results of this survey can be consulted 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 law 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 the public prosecutor's office can issue and on what grounds, etc.).

The scope of information that prosecution authorities are authorised to request from defendants, and, consequently, the indicative scope of information that may be the subject of data collection, is prescribed by the Criminal Procedure Act (primarily by articles 272 and 413).

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

In addition, the Penal 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 the crime report within the prescribed period. The exceptions are crime reports against unknown perpetrators, which have been elaborated under the 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 categories of offences, i.e. the definitions of crimes used in this questionnaire, correspond to the items in the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes, which is aimed at matching all criminal offences at the national level with applicable items in that international classification, thus achieving better international comparability of data as well as better insight into the national specifics of definitions of certain types of crime.

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

As regards the crime statistics of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics, the initial matching of criminal offences from the Penal Code with the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes is currently underway. The matching of crime categories covered in 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)" has already been done.

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 sample-based).

2.1.1 Sampling error indicators

Indicator for this survey is not applicable.

2.1.2 Bias due to sample selection process

Indicator for this survey is not applicable.

2.2. Non-sampling error

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

2.2.1 Coverage error

A 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 a crime report is submitted against an unknown person, a public prosecutor's office fills in the SK-1 form upon receipt of the crime report. Therefore, the coverage is complete, and overcoverage is not possible.

Undercoverage is possible in cases when a competent public prosecutor does not fill in the SK-1 form for a particular person.

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

2.2.2 Over-coverage rate

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). 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.

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. These tables are automatically updated every time new data are loaded.

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 Non-response errors

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

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 are provided.

2.2.5 Unit non-response rate

Unweighted non-response rate is 0%.

2.2.6 Item non-response-rate

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 are 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. Namely, due to the principle of application of a more lenient law, it is possible for a 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

Indicator for this survey is not applicable.

2.2.9 Editing rate

Indicator for this survey is not computed.

2.2.10 Hit rate

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 released once a year in the First Release, Statistical Reports and in the PC-Axis database as final data. Since data refer to the calendar, 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. In this way, reference year covers also persons for whom the final decision of the competent public prosecutor's office had been made 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

Preliminary results are not disseminated in this survey and, therefore, data revision is not applicable. If necessary, a correction of the published statistical data may be published.

2.3.3 Data revision – average size

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

Indicator for this survey is not applicable.

3.1.2 Time lag – final results:

Timeliness of final results is T + 124 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 Reports (detailed data) are published at the annual level and can be found on the Croatian Bureau of Statistics' official web page. Limited printed edition is also issued.

Since 2017, more detailed data have been published in the PC-Axis format, which is also available on the Croatian Bureau of Statistics' official web page (the database under the title "Perpetrators of Criminal Offences").

4.1. News release

Regular dissemination

- First Release "Adult Perpetrators of Criminal Offences, by Type of Decision, ____" (First Release No. 10.1.1.)
 - o It is published once a year, at the beginning of May (data refer to the previous calendar year).

4.2. Other publications

Regular dissemination

- Publication "Statistical Information" (chapter "Administration of Justice")
 - o It is published once a year, at the end of June (data refer to the previous calendar year).
- Statistical Reports "Adult Perpetrators of Criminal Offences, Reports, Accusations and Convictions"
 - o It is published once a year, at the end of July (data refer to the previous calendar year).
- Publication "Women and Men in Croatia" (chapter "Administration of Justice")
 - o It is published once a year, at the end of July (data refer to the previous calendar year).

4.3. On-line database

- PC-Axis database "Perpetrators of Criminal Offences"
 - o It is published once a year, at the beginning of May (data refer to the previous calendar year).

4.4. Micro-data access

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

4.5. Documentation on methodology

Basic methodological information is provided in every publication – in the First Release No. 10.1.1. (chapter NOTES ON METHODOLOGY) and in the Statistical Reports (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: 22

5.2.2 Reasons for break in time series

For the time being, there was no break in time series.

The main reason is that, when a new classification of criminal offences is made (as a rule, when a new Penal 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 Penal Code) if they match with regard their content. Classification items that do not match are stated separately.

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

6. Coherence

6.1. Coherence – short-term and structural data

Indicator for this survey is not applicable.

6.2. Coherence – national accounts

Indicator for this survey is not applicable.

6.3. Coherence – administrative sources

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 costs of data collection are minimal (updating the questionnaire in accordance with legal changes and alike). 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 on 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 2019 reference year, competent public prosecutor's offices submitted data for 52 670 reported adult perpetrators of criminal offences. Information on time spent by reporting units on data delivery is not available.