

Decline in criminal offences

Today, Danes commit fewer crimes than ten years ago. Nevertheless, the police receive today a greater number of reports of criminal offences than was the case from the post-war years until the 1970s.

Today, five times more criminal offences are reported by Danes to the police, compared to 1950. In 2004, almost 475,000 offences were reported corresponding to one report in every nine Danes over 15 years. There are several explanations for the increased number of offences. The increased welfare of society, more empty dwellings during daytime, changed insurance terms and greater preparedness to report are among the reasons.

Since the mid-1990s, the number of criminal offences reported has, however, decreased. The trend is towards fewer burglaries and thefts of, for example, bicycles, while the number of violent crimes and malicious damage has increased.

• • • DID YOU KNOW THAT

Forgery is far less common than previously. From 1980 until today, the number of forgeries reported has more than halved. This is mainly caused by the use of credit cards rather than cheques. • • •

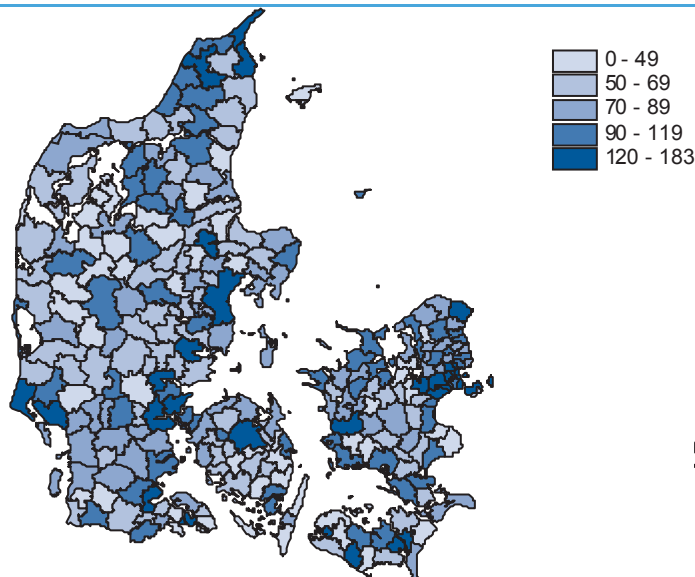
The number of criminal offences differs from region to region. There is a great difference between whether you live in a city or in the country. The metropolitan area and major cities such as Odense, Vejle, Esbjerg and Århus have the largest number of offences per inhabitant, while rural areas such as South Funen, South Zealand and Central Jutland have the lowest.



REPORTED CRIMINAL OFFENCES

Offences reported to the police or which have come to the knowledge of the police in other ways. Almost one-fifth of the reports lead to charges.

REPORTED CRIMINAL OFFENCES 2004 PER 1 000 INHABITANTS



REPORTED CRIMINAL OFFENCES

	Unit	1970	1980	1990	1995	2000	2004
Reported, total	no.	260 072	408 177	527 421	538 963	504 231	474 419
Against property		252 125	390 917	507 763	515 954	479 190	444 696
Forgery	...	12 905	14 315	10 683	7 328	5 391	
Burglary	...	95 238	122 371	106 533	99 568	90 643	
Theft	...	108 670	168 115	175 521	193 893	182 444	
Stealing	...	136 983	139 410	162 106	120 010	108 311	
Fraud	...	8 944	11 156	9 804	8 040	6 376	
Malicious damage	...	18 841	37 138	38 771	39 857	42 417	
Sexual offences		2 461	2 273	2 521	2 779	2 800	3 095
Rape		215	422	486	440	497	562
Crimes of violence		3 726	5 719	10 651	13 357	15 157	18 059
Homicide		26	76	57	60	58	44
Other offences		1 760	9 268	6 486	6 873	7 084	8 569