



Fact sheet – Statistical activity and published results

Police Crime Statistics

Description

The Police Crime Statistics (PCS) provide information on the volume, structure and evolution of recorded criminal offences, as well as on accused persons and victims. The cantonal police authorities record all offences under the Swiss Criminal Code (SCC), the Narcotics Act (NarcA) and the Foreign Nationals and Integration Act (FNIA). The results of the PCS are an indirect measurement of crime in Switzerland based on police-recorded offences. Accused persons are presumed innocent until a final verdict is pronounced.

Methodology

Methodology used:

Statistical analysis of offences recorded by cantonal police authorities

Characteristics recorded:

- Offence (place, date of offence, instrument or means)
- Accused person (sex, age, nationality, residence status)
- Victim (sex, age, nationality, residence status)
- Relationship between the accused person and victim (identification of domestic violence)

Survey date / period:

Since 2009

Periodicity:

Annual

Degree of regionalisation:

Switzerland, cantons and communes

Data linkage:

None

Quality of statistical data:

The cantonal police authorities adhere to uniform guidelines when documenting offences. The data transmitted by the cantonal police authorities is checked on a monthly basis.

Legal basis

Ordinance of 30 April 2025 on Federal Statistics (SR 431.011)

Revision policy

The data is frozen annually and therefore not changed retroactively. However the underlying principles and concepts guiding these statistics were developed through close collaboration with the Conference of Cantonal Justice and Police Directors (CCDJP) and a comprehensive audit was undertaken in 2016 and 2024 with regard to content and functionality.

Organisation

Federal Statistical Office

Crime and Criminal Justice Section

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