

# Review

## Child and youth crime trends 2013-2022 – presented separately for municipalities and police districts

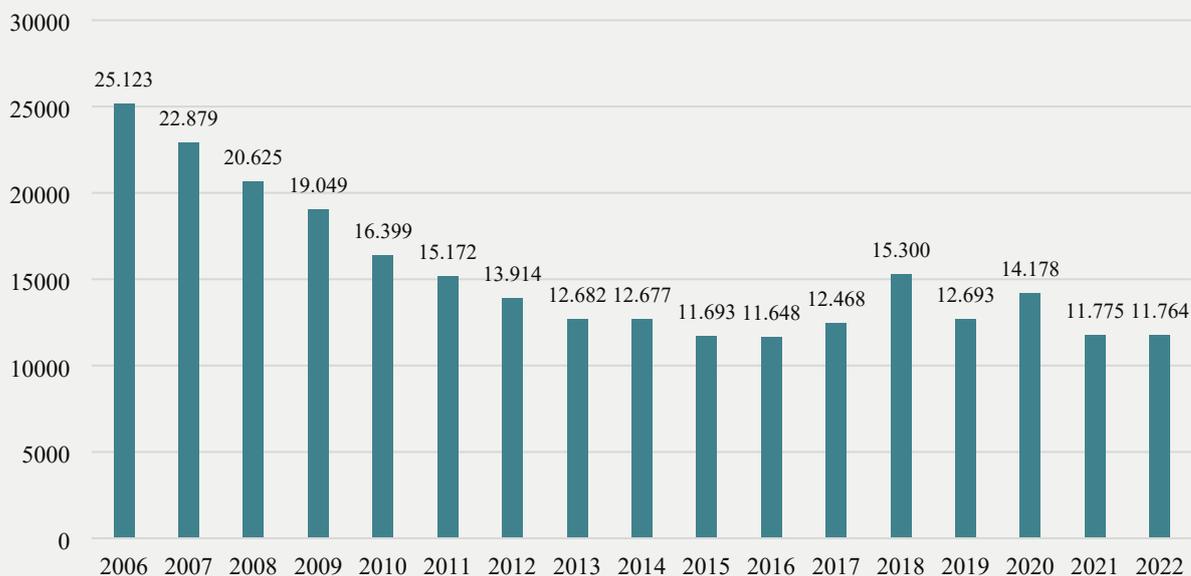
The report deals with trends in recorded child and youth crime. Initially, the general trend from 2006 to 2022 is illustrated while the majority of the remaining analyses illustrate 10-year trends from 2013 to 2022. The analyses are based on suspicions and provisional charges of violation of the Criminal Code involving children aged 10-17. The concept of suspicion is used when the offence committed concerns children under the age of criminal responsibility as children of this age group cannot be provisionally charged. The analyses presented in the report are based on information provided by the Danish National Police (*Rigspolitiet*).

The majority of the analyses take a starting point in the year in which the relevant person became a suspect/was provisionally charged and the person's age at the time of the offence – irrespective of whether the offence was committed in another year than the one which the suspicion/provisional charge concerns.

The overall results of the report are summed up in the figures below.

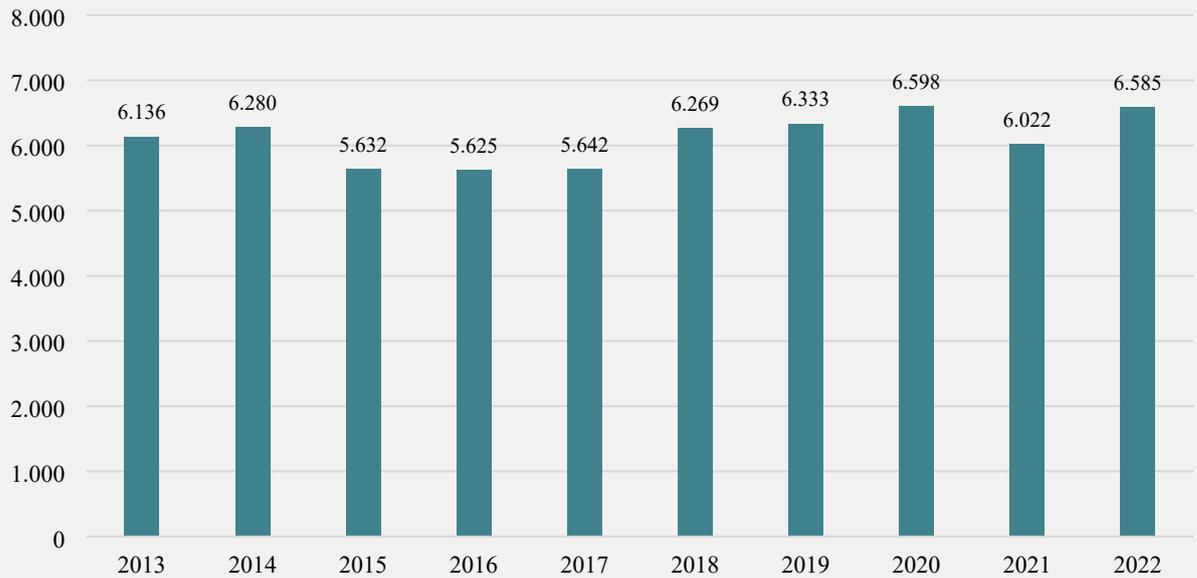
**Figure 1**

Number of suspicions/provisional charges of violation of the Criminal Code involving 10-17-year olds based on year of suspicion/provisional charge, 2006-2022.



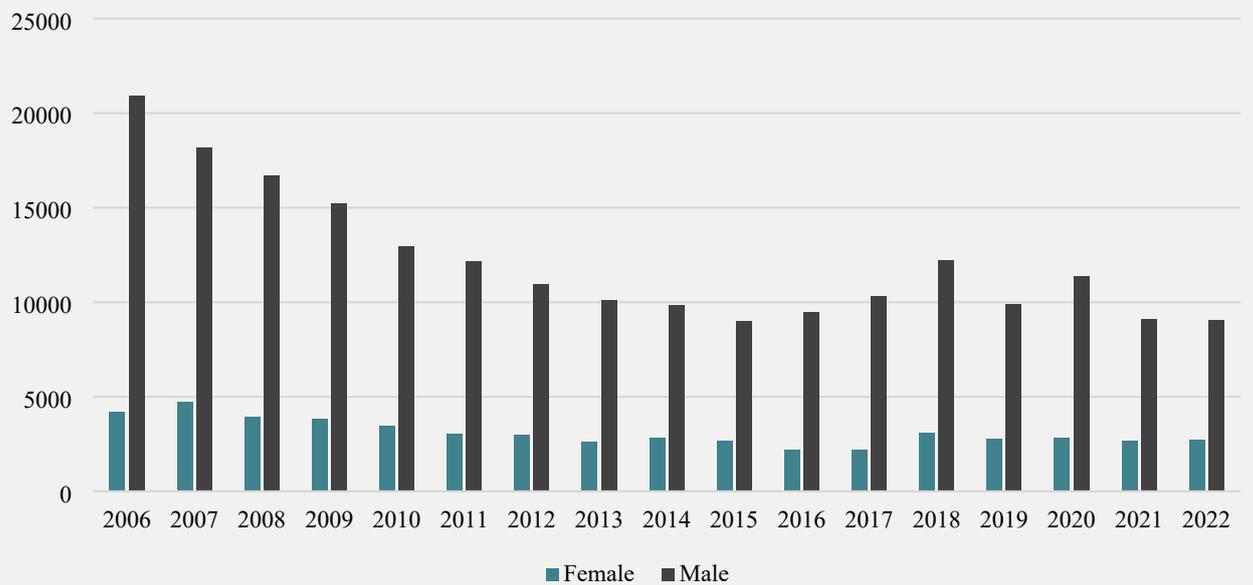
**Figure 2**

Number of 10-17-year olds suspected of/provisionally charged with violation of the Criminal Code based on year of suspicion/provisional charge, 2013-2022.



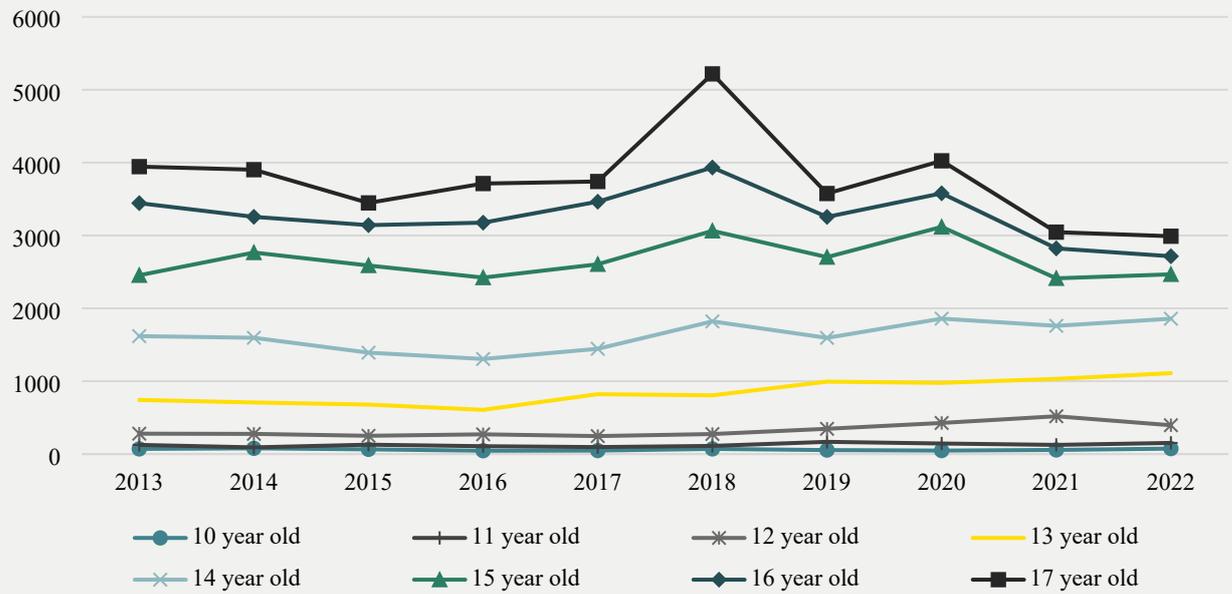
**Figure 3**

Number of suspicions/provisional charges of violation of the Criminal Code involving 10-17-year olds by sex based on year of suspicion/provisional charge, 2013-2022.



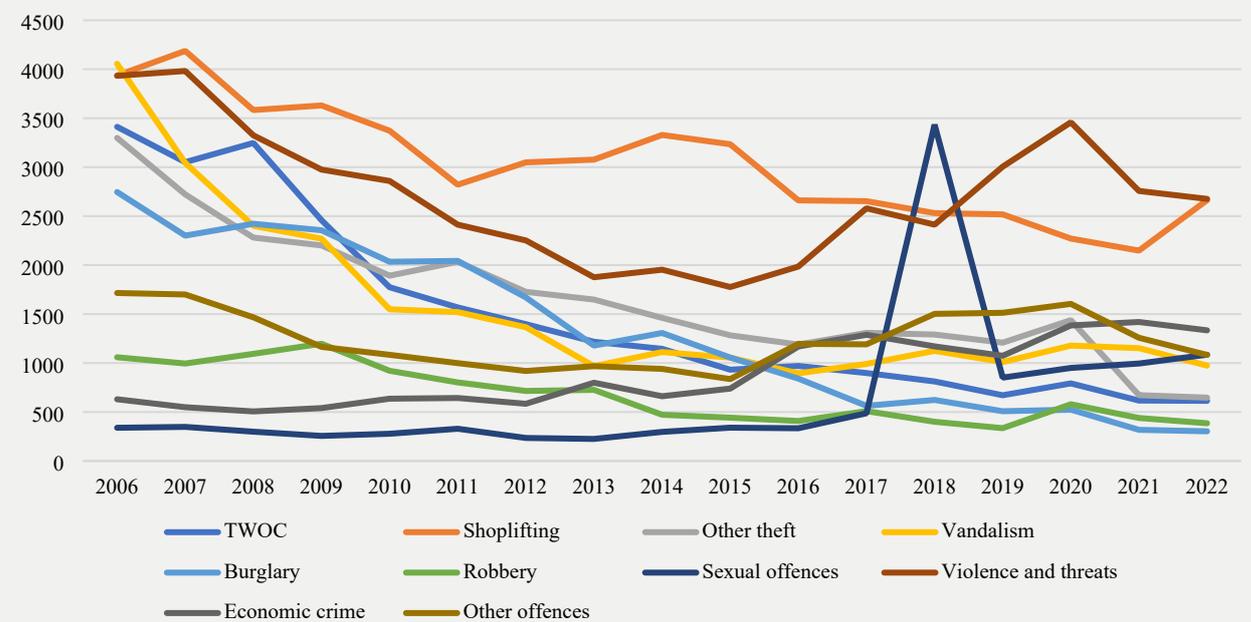
**Figure 4**

Number of suspicions/provisional charges of violation of the Criminal Code involving 10-17-year olds by age based on year of suspicion/provisional charge, 2013-2022.



**Figure 5**

Number of suspicions/provisional charges of violation of the Criminal Code involving 10-17-year olds by nature of offence based on year of suspicion/provisional charge, 2013-2022.



## 2021-2022

### *Trend in individual types of criminal offences*

- The number of suspicions/provisional charges in all categories of criminal offences under review declined slightly from 2021 to 2022 except for sexual offences and shoplifting which increased by 9 per cent and 24 per cent, respectively.
- The largest percentage decline from 2021 to 2022 was seen for vandalism and ‘other criminal offences’ where the number of suspicions/provisional charges involving children aged 10-17 dropped by 15 per cent each. In 2022, ‘other criminal offences’ included insulting words against police officers, intentional arson and invasion of privacy.
- From 2021 to 2022, the number of suspicions/provisional charges of violence and threats declined by 7 per cent among the 10-14-year olds and by 1 per cent among the 15-17-year olds. Suspicions/charges of violence and threats remain widespread, accounting for nearly one fourth of the total number of suspicions/provisional charges in 2022.

### **Other selected results**

#### *Trend in number of persons involved in the same case*

- The trend is not continuous but fluctuates: In the first part of the past 10-year period (2013-2022), there was an upward trend in the proportion of cases with only one suspect/person provisionally charged. This changed in the first few years after 2018 as a larger proportion of the cases concerned two or more suspects/persons provisionally charged while in the latter two years a slight increase in the proportion of cases with just one suspect/person provisionally charged was seen again.

#### *Trend in recidivism*

- The proportion of suspects/persons provisionally charged among 10-17-year olds committing new offences – defined in the report as persons registered for suspicion of/being provisionally charged with another criminal offence within a 2-year period – was fairly stable at between 41 per cent and 44 per cent in the period from 2013 to 2019. Accordingly, there are no indications that the propensity of children and young people to relapse is changing.

#### *Criminal offences registered for individual birth cohorts*

- For the birth cohorts from 1998 to 2007, the proportion of children and young people registered for suspicion of a criminal offence up to and including their 14th year was studied. For most of the birth cohorts, between 2.0 per cent and 2.2 per cent of the children/young people came under suspicion up to and including their 14th year. The proportion was highest for the most recent birth cohorts.
- As regards the proportion of children and young people registered up to and including their 17th year, there has been a continuous decline from the birth cohort of 1998 with a proportion of 6.4 per cent until the birth cohort of 2002 with a proportion of 5.7 per cent. As regards the birth cohorts after 2002, there have been minor fluctuations.

