

Review

Child and youth crime trends 2014-2023 – 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 2023 is illustrated while the majority of the remaining analyses illustrate 10-year trends from 2014 to 2023. The analyses are based on suspicions and provisional charges of violation of the Criminal Code involving children aged 10-17. The term "suspect" is used in cases where the offence committed concerns children under the age of criminal responsibility and where, on the basis of an investigation, the police consider it sufficiently proven that the right perpetrator has been found. 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, 2006-2023.

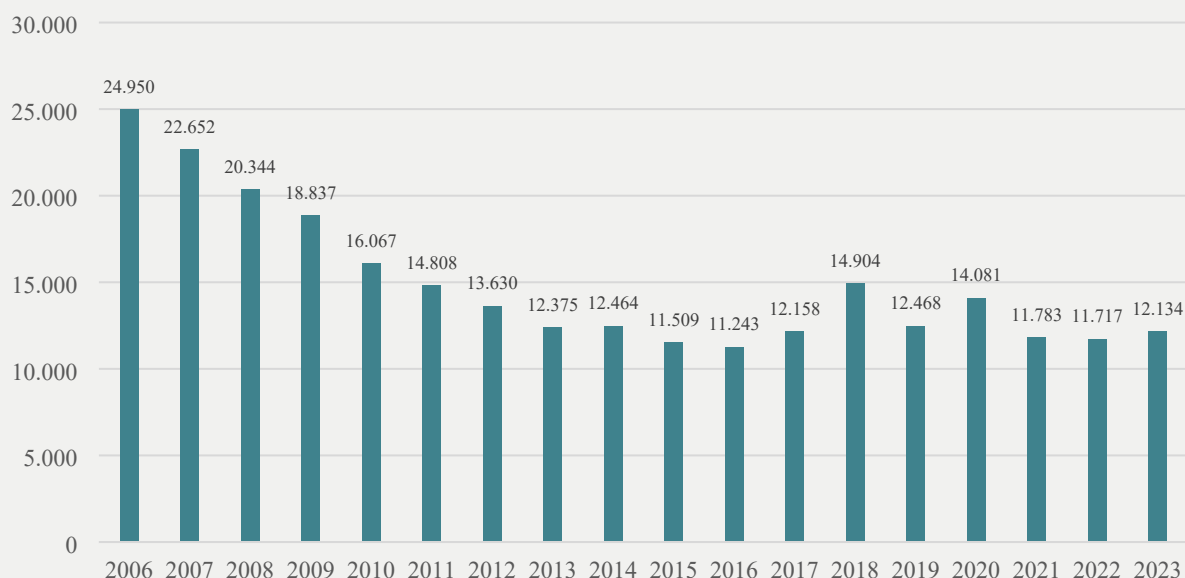


Figure 2

Number of 10-17-year olds suspected of/provisionally charged with violation of the Criminal Code based on year of suspicion/provisional charge, 2014-2023.

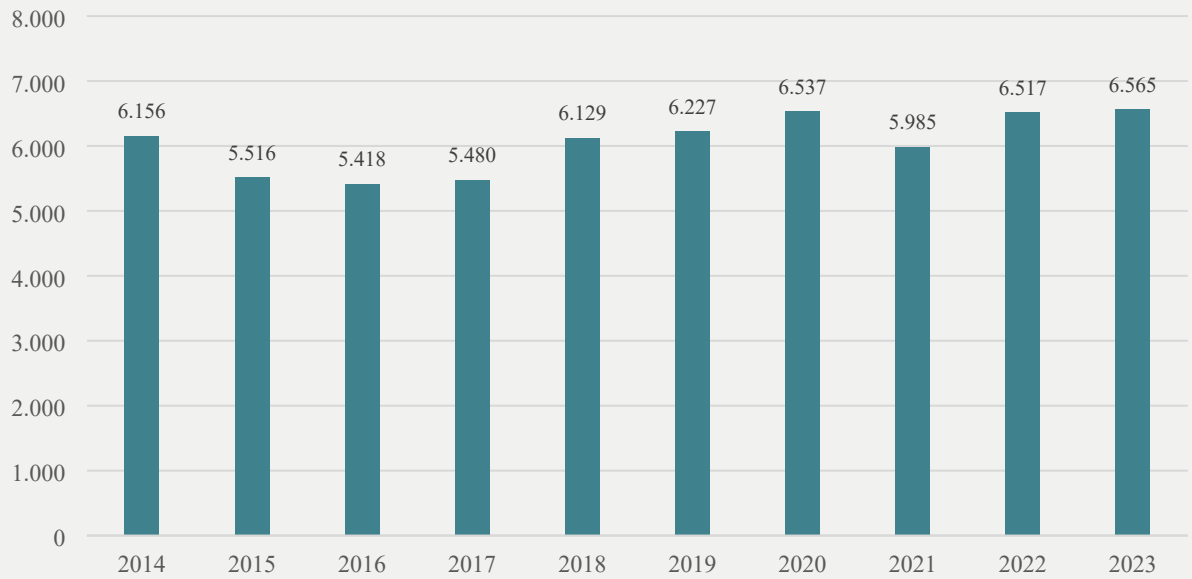


Figure 3

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, 2014-2023.

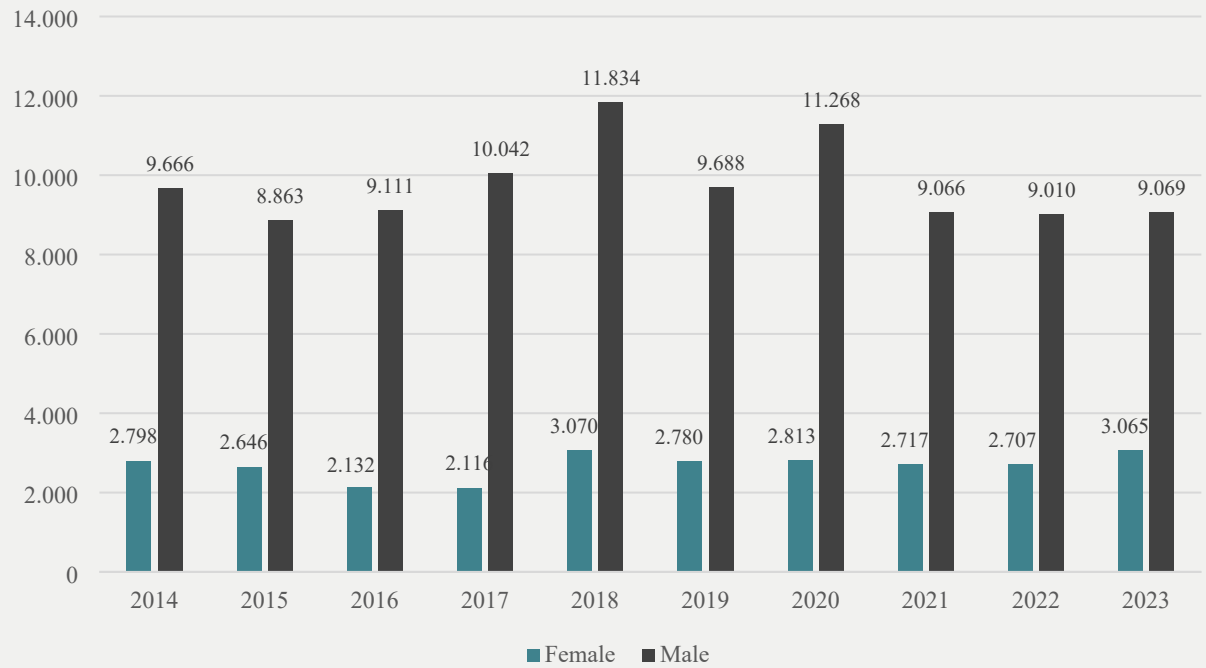


Figure 4

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, 2014-2023.

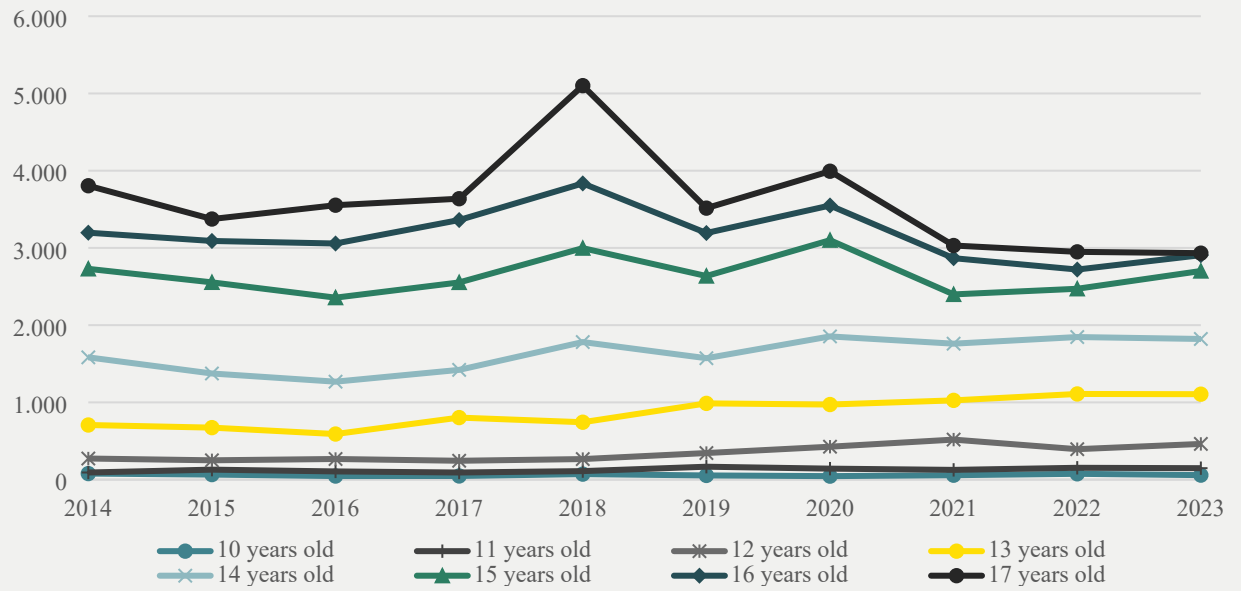
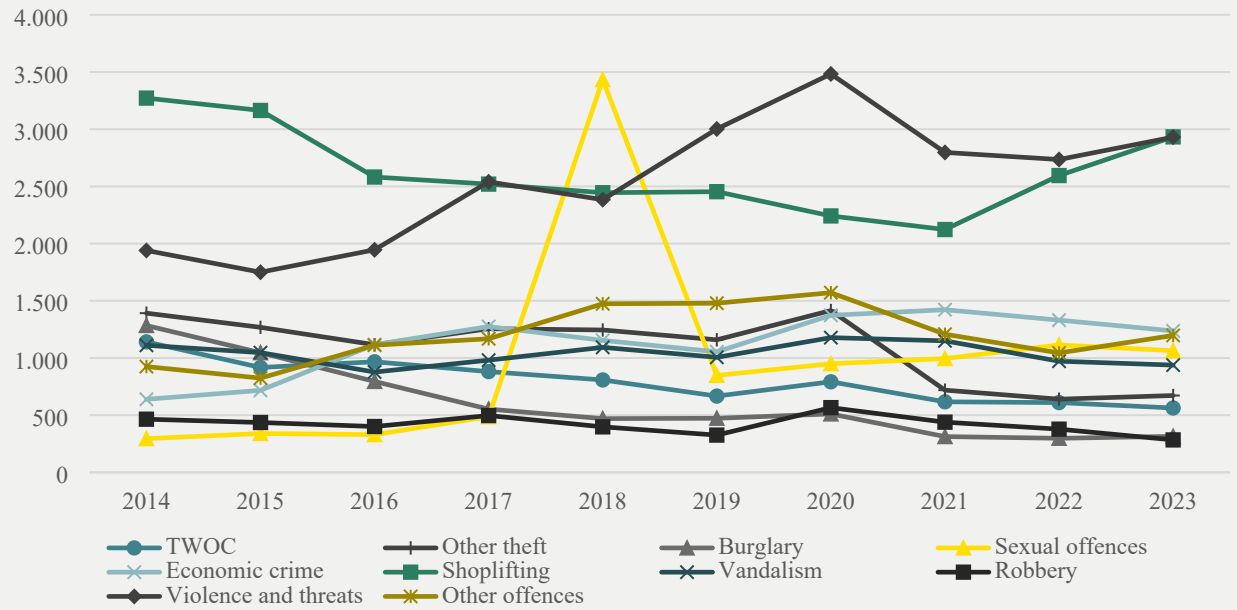


Figure 5

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, 2014-2023.



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 (2014-2023), there was an upward trend in the proportion of cases with only one suspect/person provisionally charged. Since 2018 the proportion of cases with only one suspect/person provisionally charged has varied, and in 2023 it is 79 per cent.

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 – is fairly stable at between 42 per cent and 44 per cent in the period from 2014 to 2023. 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 1996 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 those birth cohorts, between 1.9 per cent and 3.1 per cent of the children/young people came under suspicion up to and including their 14th year. The proportion was highest for the earliest and 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 1996 with a proportion of 7.0 per cent until the birth cohort of 2004 with a proportion of 5.6 per cent.

