



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Slight rise in crime

There has been a slight rise in frequently occurring crime in recent years. The Dutch population fell victim to nearly 4.8 million offences in 1999. Vandalism and violent offences are increasing, while theft is declining, according to recent figures from Statistics Netherlands based on surveys among the public.

Nearly 4.8 million offences affect quarter of the population

An estimated 4.8 million offences were committed against Dutch citizens in 1999. The annual increase in crime has been between one and two per cent since 1993.

Just over one quarter of the population (26.2%) reported being victim of at least one type of frequently occurring crime in 1999. This is about the same proportion as in preceding years.

Reports to and registration by the police

Victims report one in three offences to the police. Ultimately, about one quarter of all crimes are documented and signed by the victim. According to another source within Statistics Netherlands, the police statistics, 1.3 million crimes were recorded by the police in 1999.

Vandalism on the up

For the first time, offenders were more intent on damaging property, such as cars, than stealing it. In 1999 there were 1.9 million cases of damaged property. Over a quarter of these offences were reported to the police by or on behalf of the victims, and in 18 per cent the victims signed a document. The police statistics show that written reports were made of 170 thousand cases of damaged property.

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More violent crime

The estimated number of violent offences increased to nearly one million in 1999. The number of violent offences reported to the police in 1999 was lower than in 1993. In 1993 one in three victims reported the offence to the police, in 1999 this was one in four. A signed written report was made in only one in seven cases. The police, too, reported more violent offences in this period. They drew up 87 thousand reports of violent crimes in 1999.

Less theft

The downward trend in theft continued in 1999: an estimated 1.7 million thefts from citizens. Nearly half of these offences were reported to the police and four out of every ten victims signed a report. The number of theft cases recorded by the police was 30,000 higher than in 1998, but still far below the 1993 level.

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