



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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## ***Virtually no change in number of victims of common crimes***

The percentage of victims of violence among the population over 15 was almost the same in 2000 as it had been in previous years. There has been a downward trend in the number of theft victims for years. The number of victims who had to face vandalism did not increase any further in 2000. In total one in four inhabitants was a victim of common crimes in 2000, according to the latest figures by Statistics Netherlands.

### ***Same number of victims of violent crime***

In 2000 one in twenty inhabitants over 15 was the victim of abuse, intimidation of sexual violence. Over the last decade the number of victims of violence has been around 5%, meaning that is hardly changing. The most frequent form of violence is intimidation. About 3% of the population had to deal with this. Every year about 1.5% of the population is a victim of abuse, and about 1% of sex crimes.

### ***Slight drop in the number of victims of theft***

About one inhabitant in eight had to deal with theft in 2000. This is slightly less than in the early nineties, when one inhabitant in seven faced some form of theft. The number of burglary victims dropped considerably. Bicycle theft occurs most frequently, with one in twenty inhabitants losing his or her bike. About 2% a year becomes the victim of pickpocketing wallets and theft from inside the car.

### ***No further increase in the number of victims of vandalism***

Last year, one in nine inhabitants was a victim of vandalism. In the early and mid-nineties this was one in ten, increasing slightly in the late nineties. This increase did not continue 2000. The most frequent form is damage to cars, which happened to almost 7% of the population. Another 5% became the victim of other types of vandalism.

### ***Hit and run***

The number of victims of hit and run accidents has been over 1% for years. There is no such thing as a trend involved here.

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***In total over a quarter of the population victimised***

In 2000 a quarter of the population over 15 was the victim of one or more types of common crime, involving over 3.2 million inhabitants. The total share has been virtually the same for years.

***Fewer nasty phone calls***

Furthermore nearly 6% of the population received nasty phone calls on a regular basis in 2000. This percentage has been falling over the years. In 1992 over 8% of the population had to deal with intimidation by phone.

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