

# CRIMINALITY IN SWITZERLAND: DOES THE REGION OF ORIGIN MATTER?

FRED HÄNSLER<sup>1</sup>, LUC KUNZ<sup>2</sup>, HADIS LUBICEVA<sup>3</sup>,  
ADITYA SANJEEV KUMAR<sup>4</sup>

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## ABSTRACT

This research paper focuses on investigating criminality in Switzerland by exploring the association between sociodemographic variables and criminal conviction rates for foreign permit B and C holders and Swiss citizens. The study examines how the region of origin of foreign permit holders is associated with average conviction rates, and the underlying factors that may explain the observed differences in conviction rates between regions. By using a fixed effect regression model to predict conviction rates, the study found that various factors such as political ideology, cultural assimilation, work-related stress, employment status, and household income play a role in shaping individuals' likelihood of being convicted of a felony or misdemeanor. The results of this research may help inform policymakers and law enforcement officials in developing effective strategies for preventing crime and promoting public safety in Switzerland.

## CONTENTS

1	Introduction	2
2	Literature Review	2
3	Data and Methodology	3
3.1	The Federal Statistical Office	3
3.2	The Swiss Household Panel	5
3.3	Merging the FSO and SHP datasets	5
3.4	Methodology	6
4	Results and Discussion	6
4.1	Fixed Effects (only) Model	6
4.2	OLS Regression Result	8
4.3	Discussion	10
5	Conclusion	11

<sup>1</sup> BSc in Economics student, University of Lausanne. Mail: fred.hanssler@unil.ch

<sup>2</sup> ECTS credit acquisition program to join HEP VAUD. Mail: luc.kunz@unil.ch

<sup>3</sup> BSc in Economics student, University of Lausanne. Mail: hadis.lubiceva@unil.ch

<sup>4</sup> BSc in Management student, University of Lausanne. Mail: aditya.sanjeevkumar@unil.ch

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Crime and criminal behavior are critical social issues with significant impacts on individuals, communities, and nations. Developing effective public policies aimed at reducing crime rates and enhancing public safety requires an understanding of the underlying factors driving criminal behavior. This study aims to explore the relationship between sociodemographic variables and criminal conviction rates in Switzerland, focusing specifically on Swiss citizens and foreign permit B and C holders. Our analysis will involve merging datasets on felony and misdemeanor convictions in Switzerland with data on a range of social and demographic factors for a representative sample of permanent residents. Through this approach, we aim to identify key factors, such as age, gender, education, income, and employment status, that impact criminal behavior in Switzerland. In addition, we seek to determine the magnitude of these impacts, enabling us to gain a better understanding of the relationships between these variables and criminal activity in the country. In addition, we aim to explore the relationship between the region of origin and the conviction rates, while also identifying the sociodemographic factors that may clarify the observed disparities in conviction rates across regions.

The results of this study will be significant for policymakers, criminologists, and others working in the field of public policy and law enforcement as they seek to develop evidence-based policies to address criminality, which has far-reaching social, economic, and political consequences. Section 2 reviews the existing literature on the topic of criminality in Switzerland, section 3 describes the data and methodology used in the study, section 4 presents and discusses the results of the analysis, and section 5 concludes.

## 2 LITERATURE REVIEW

Switzerland has a large foreign population and a long history of immigration. The proportion of non-Swiss offenders has increased in recent decades, but the country has a low incarceration rate, possibly due to high levels of economic and social stability. Certain immigrant groups have higher conviction rates, which may be related to cultural factors, socioeconomic status, and social integration (Killias, 1997).

More recently, official crime statistics in Switzerland indicate that foreign nationals are overrepresented, accounting for about 60% of all crimes while comprising only 25% of the population. However, a recent study suggests that despite the increasing foreign national population, the level of their crime has remained relatively constant since 2018, potentially highlighting the effectiveness of Switzerland's migration policy in terms of security (Olbrycht, 2022).

Studies conducted in the United States have revealed that there is a positive correlation between high levels of inequality and increased crime rates (Kelly, 2000). This is due to the fact that individuals who are situated at the lower end of the income distribution feel greater financial pressures and may resort to criminal activities as a means of survival. The research suggests that reducing inequality could be an effective strategy for curbing crime rates.

A study comparing crime rates in Norway and Finland found that immigrants are overrepresented in crime statistics due to socioeconomic factors rather than their immigrant status (Skardhamar et al., 2014). The study also suggests that the relationship between immigration and crime varies across immigrant groups, with

some groups having higher conviction rates, likely due to differences in their socioeconomic characteristics.

### 3 DATA AND METHODOLOGY

To analyze the patterns of criminality in Switzerland and their determinants, we use data from two sources: the Federal Statistical Office (FSO) and the Swiss Household Panel (SHP).

The FSO provides us with official statistics on criminal offenses committed in Switzerland by Swiss citizens and foreign B and C permit holders. The dataset used in this study covers a period spanning from 2014 to 2021, and contains detailed information on the number of crimes and misdemeanors committed, as well as conviction rates disaggregated by nationality, age class, and sex. It is important to note that our study is limited to analyzing only the felonies and misdemeanors specified in the Swiss Criminal Code (SCC). We do not consider contraventions from the SCC or infractions to other criminal laws such as the Federal Act on Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances in our analysis. As mentioned earlier, our analysis focuses solely on criminal activity committed by Swiss citizens and permanent residents of Switzerland holding permits B and C. Therefore, any offenses committed by individuals outside of this category are not taken into consideration.

We also rely on the SHP, which is a nationally representative longitudinal survey of individuals living in Switzerland. The SHP provides rich information on a wide range of individual and household characteristics, including socio-economic status (e.g. income, education, employment) and behavioral variables for instance. We use this data to explore the factors that influence the likelihood of engaging in criminal behavior. To do so, we use a common set of variables to merge the FSO and SHP datasets, as explained in sub-section 3.3. We note that the use of two different data sources is a strength of our study, as it allows us to complement the official statistics with individual-level information that is not available in the FSO data.

#### 3.1 The Federal Statistical Office

The analysis of official statistics provided by the FSO reveals interesting insights into the patterns of criminality in Switzerland. A choropleth map depicting the conviction rates across countries is shown in Figure 1 and reveals a remarkable variation across regions.

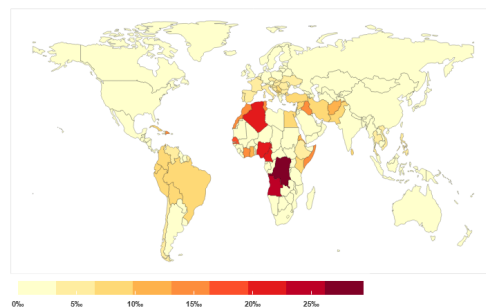


Figure 1: Conviction rate for a felony or misdemeanour under the Swiss Criminal Code (SCC), by nationality, 2021

Notably, several countries in Africa followed by certain countries in South and Central America and the Greater Arab region, have the highest conviction rates (e.g., 2.94% for Congo (Kinshasa), 1.36% for the Dominican Republic, 0.84% for

Brazil). In contrast, European and North American countries exhibit lower conviction rates (e.g., 0.25% for Switzerland, 0.52% for Portugal). But the prize goes to countries from the Australia and Oceania region, which present a conviction rate of approximately zero.

In order to provide a more comprehensive analysis of the FSO data, the number of individuals convicted by age class and sex for the year 2021 is illustrated in Figure 2.

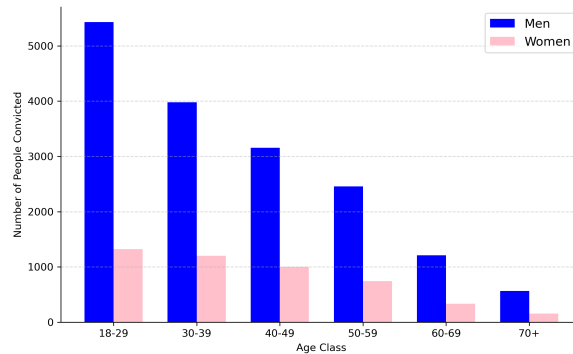


Figure 2: Number of People Convicted by Age Class and Sex, 2021

The findings of this graph indicate a clear gender disparity in criminality, with a higher number of convictions for men as compared to women. In addition, a negative correlation between age and the number of convictions is observed; as the age of the offenders increases, the number of convictions decreases.

Figure 3 depicts the conviction rates by region and sex, providing further insights into the patterns of criminality in Switzerland. The analysis of this figure shows that the region with the highest conviction rate is Sub-Saharan Africa, with a rate of around 2% for men, followed closely by Central America and the Caribbean, with a slightly lower rate for men. In contrast, Europe and Switzerland display much lower conviction rates, at around 0.5% for men. In addition, the data shows that conviction rates for women are at least three times lower on average than for men across all regions, except for Central America and the Caribbean where it is around twice as lower.

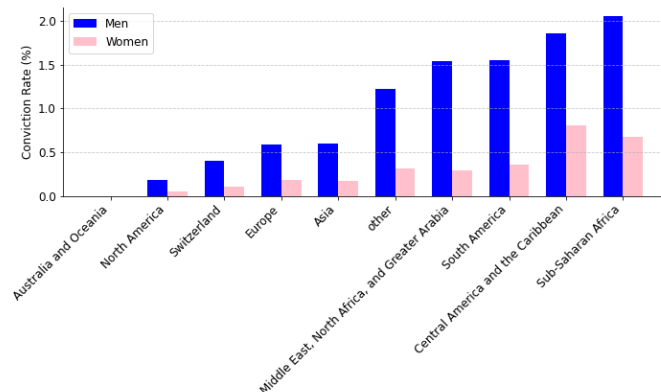


Figure 3: Conviction Rate by Region and Sex, 2021

These figures highlight the importance of considering regional, gender, and age differences when analyzing patterns of criminality.

### 3.2 The Swiss Household Panel

Figure 4 displays the number of individuals by region and age class in the SHP dataset for the year 2021, excluding Switzerland and Europe. The figure reveals that Asia has the highest number of individuals, with slightly over 100. Conversely, other regions record low numbers, such as Central America and the Caribbean with only around 10 individuals recorded for 2021. This poses a significant challenge to the project's goal of making reliable inferences on the conviction rates since we take the average of individuals across region, age class, and sex for each year and the aggregation of SHP variables may result in missing values and averages computed with only one or a few observations, thus limiting the model's accuracy and reliability. This issue is further elaborated in section 4.

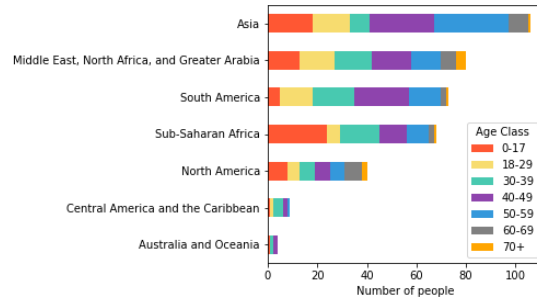


Figure 4: Number of People by Region and Age Class, 2021

### 3.3 Merging the FSO and SHP datasets

To examine the association between sociodemographic factors and conviction rates, we merge the FSO and SHP datasets based on the variables Region, Age Class, Sex, and Year. For each unique combination of these variables, we make the average of the SHP variables, creating a new dataset that contains them and corresponding conviction rates. As an example, Figure 5 shows the relationship between the conviction rate and the average *Self-Reported Financial Situation* for men and women.

The plot indicates a negative correlation between the two variables, with lower *Self-Reported Financial Situations* associated with higher conviction rates. The regression lines for men and women differ in both level and steepness, suggesting that the relationship is stronger for men. In contrast, the correlation coefficient in absolute value is larger for women (-0.71) than for men (-0.53). Overall, this suggests that the relationship between sociodemographic factors and convictions rates depends

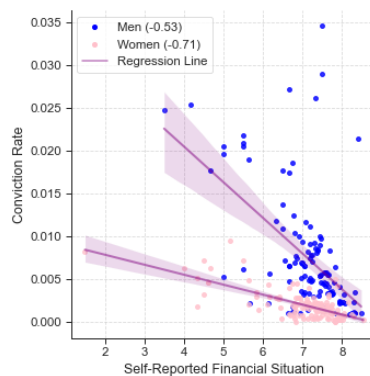


Figure 5: Relationship between Conviction Rate and Self-Reported Financial Situation, by Sex (Correlation Coefficients in Parenthesis)

on structural characteristics, such as gender.

### 3.4 Methodology

We conduct an Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) regression model to estimate the relationship between the conviction rates and the sociodemographic variables. The FSO dataset provides the dependent variable, which is the conviction rate for each combination of Region, Age Class, Sex, and Year. The independent variables are the averaged sociodemographic characteristics obtained from the SHP dataset, such as *Yearly Household Income per Person*, *Self-Reported Financial Situation*, and *Interest in Politics*, for each combination. Table 1 displays a description of all the independent variables we chose to involve in our analysis. In addition, fixed effects are included for Year, Age Class, and Sex, to control for time-varying, age-specific, and sex-specific structural factors that could influence criminality. The regression equation is as follows:

$$\text{ConvictionRate}_{r,a,s,t} = \beta X_{r,a,s,t} + \delta_a + \lambda_s + \phi_t + \epsilon_{r,a,s,t} \quad (1)$$

where  $\text{ConvictionRate}_{r,a,s,t}$  is the conviction rate for Region  $r$ , Age Class  $a$ , Sex  $s$ , and Year  $t$ ;  $X_{r,a,s,t}$  represents the SHP averaged variables, including a constant term;  $\delta_a$ ,  $\lambda_s$ , and  $\phi_t$  are the fixed effects for Age Class, Sex, and Year, respectively; and  $\epsilon_{r,a,s,t}$  is the error term. It is important to mention that missing data in the SHP dataset are excluded from the averaging process. This issue and its implications are discussed in section 4.

The regression results are used to assess the impact of socioeconomic factors on criminality in Switzerland. Specifically, the coefficients of the SHP averaged variables indicate the direction (positive or negative) and magnitude of the association between socioeconomic factors and conviction rates in Switzerland. The fixed effects for Age Class, Sex, and Year account for potential confounding factors and enable the isolation of the effects of the independent variables within each region.

## 4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section showcases the outcomes of the examination on the factors influencing the conviction rate in Switzerland. We first illustrate an OLS regression that solely employs the fixed effects variables to measure their impact. Afterwards, we disclose the results obtained from the principal analysis and conduct a comprehensive discussion of the findings.

### 4.1 Fixed Effects (only) Model

Table 2 displays the results of the fixed-effects model. As the  $R^2$  shows, the 21 different independent variables explain 71.2% of the variance in the dependent variable (conviction rate). The regression includes robust standard errors, which account for heteroscedasticity and autocorrelation in the data. The asterisks accompanying individual coefficients are used to indicate the level of statistical significance of each independent variable as well as the degree of significance.

As each independent variable in the model is binary, the coefficients represent the average change in the conviction rate associated with a change from 0 to 1 in the corresponding independent variable while holding all other variables constant. For instance, the coefficient for Age Class (30-39) is -0.0037, indicating that the conviction rate for individuals aged 30-39 is on average 0.37 percentage points lower

Table 1: Description of the Independent Variables

Variable	Description
<i>Annual Permit B</i>	Binary variable indicating if the person has a permit B (1) or not (Swiss citizen, permit C) (0).
<i>Average Emotions</i>	This is an average of emotions variables (e.g. joy, optimism, anxiety), ranging from 0 (very negative) to 10 (very positive).
<i>Average Problems</i>	This is an average of binary variables of issues that the individual may experience (e.g., problems with children, relatives, death of a close person, end of a close relationship).
<i>Divorced/Separated</i>	Binary variable indicating if the individual is divorced or separated (1) or not (0).
<i>Observed Health</i>	This is an average of the variables: smoker (1/0) and physical activity (proportion of days per week).
<i>Self-Reported Health</i>	Binary variable indicating if the individual reports their health as very well or well (1), or not (average, bad, very bad) (0).
<i>Interest in Politics</i>	The individual's level of interest in politics on a scale of 0 (not at all interested) to 10 (very interested).
<i>Political Position (Right)</i>	The individual's self-reported political position on a scale of 0 (left) to 10 (right).
<i>Poverty Index</i>	This is an average of binary variables of items and necessities that the individual cannot afford (e.g., car, restaurant once a month, invite friends once a month).
<i>Proportion of Life in CH</i>	The proportion of time spent by the individual in Switzerland, ranging from 0 to 1.
<i>Satisfaction with Life in General</i>	The individual's satisfaction with life in general on a scale of 0 (very dissatisfied) to 10 (very satisfied).
<i>Self-Reported Financial Situation</i>	The individual's perceived financial situation on a scale of 0 (very bad) to 10 (very good).
<i>Work Stress</i>	Binary variable indicating if the individual is stressed at work (1) or not (0).
<i>Unemployed</i>	Binary variable indicating if the individual is unemployed (1) or not (0).
<i>University</i>	Binary variable indicating if the individual attended university or similar (1) or not (0).
<i>Yearly Household Income per Person</i>	The yearly income per person in the household of the individual, calculated as the total household income divided by the number of people in the household. The value is expressed in 10,000th of CHF (e.g., a value of 10 means 100,000 CHF per person).

Note: This table presents the sociodemographic characteristics that were utilized as independent variables in our analysis. All of these variables were extracted from the SHP dataset.

than that of the reference category (Swiss man, aged 18-29) while holding all other variables constant. Moreover, we observe that as the age class increases, the coefficient also increases accordingly. Similarly, the coefficient for Sex (woman) is -0.0074, indicating that the conviction rate for women is on average 0.74 percentage points lower than that for men, holding all other variables constant. With regard to the region, we find a significant variation in the impact on the conviction rate, with regions that are similar to Switzerland (e.g. Europe), having a lower average conviction rate (e.g. Australia and Oceania), or having a much higher conviction rate (e.g. Central America and the Caribbean) on average.

Table 2: OLS Regression Results - Fixed Effects only

	Coefficient
Intercept	0.0122***
Age Class (30-39)	-0.0037***
Age Class (40-49)	-0.0041***
Age Class (50-59)	-0.0057***
Age Class (60-69)	-0.0070***
Age Class (70+)	-0.0090***
Sex (woman)	-0.0074***
Year (2015)	-0.0006
Year (2016)	-0.0011*
Year (2017)	-0.0012*
Year (2018)	-0.0010
Year (2019)	-0.0010
Year (2020)	-0.0007
Year (2021)	-0.0016**
Region (Asia)	0.0013*
Region (Australia and Oceania)	-0.0057*
Region (Central America and the Caribbean)	0.0132***
Region (Europe)	-0.0010
Region (Middle East, North Africa, and Greater Arabia)	0.0063***
Region (North America)	-0.0008
Region (South America)	0.0067***
Region (Sub-Saharan Africa)	0.0090***
Observations	496
R <sup>2</sup>	0.72
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	0.70
N <sub>min</sub>	1
Standard Errors	HAC

\* p < 0.1, \*\* p < 0.05, \*\*\* p < 0.01

Note: This table presents the coefficients resulting from the OLS regressions used to predict the conviction rate, using exclusively fixed-effects variables. These fixed effects are Region, Year, Age Class, and Sex. The table includes both statistically significant and non-significant variables, with significance levels marked with asterisks. N<sub>min</sub> refers to the minimum number of individuals needed in the SHP dataset for a specific combination of region, age class, sex, and year to be included in the analysis.

## 4.2 OLS Regression Result

This section is devoted to the result of the main analysis. We describe three models:

1. Model I predicts the conviction rate based on all available variables, without any restrictions on the minimum number of individuals necessary for a specific combination of region, age class, sex, and year to be taken into account.



In other words, this model includes all available observations, even if some combinations have only one individual ( $N_{\min} = 1$ ).

2. Model II predicts the conviction rate based on a subset of variables, selected to have lower multicollinearity. To achieve this, some variables were removed to ensure that the variance inflation factors of the remaining variables were below 2. This approach aims to improve the interpretability of the model by excluding highly correlated predictors.
3. Model III is similar to Model I, but with a restriction on the minimum number of individuals necessary for a specific combination of region, age class, sex, and year to be taken into account. In this case,  $N_{\min}$  is equal to 3, which means that only combinations with at least three individuals are included in the model. This approach reduces the risk of outliers by excluding combinations with very low sample size, which may not be representative of the population of this specific combination. However, it also reduces the number of observations, which may limit the model's generalizability and/or introduce biases.

Table 3 shows the results of the three different models:

In Model I, the  $R^2$  value indicates that the independent variables explain 56% of the variance in the conviction rate, suggesting a moderate fit. The adjusted  $R$ -squared value, which accounts for the number of variables in the model, is 0.53.

Among the included predictors, *Proportion of Life in CH*, *Yearly Household Income per Person*, *Unemployed*, *Political Position (Right)*, *Work Stress*, *Poverty Index*, and *Average Emotions* are statistically significant predictors of the conviction rate. Specifically, *Proportion of Life in CH* is associated with a decrease in conviction rates, indicating that people who have lived in Switzerland for a more extended period have a lower conviction rate on average, holding all other variables constant. This variable may be related to factors such as cultural assimilation, social support networks, and familiarity with the legal system, all of which could influence an individual's likelihood of being convicted of a crime.

We also see that richer people have a lower conviction rate on average, as a one-unit increase in *Yearly Household Income per Person* (i.e. an increase of 10,000 CHF) is associated with a decrease in the conviction rate by 0.09 basis points on average. Being unemployed is associated with an increase in conviction rates by 0.73 percentage points on average. This finding is consistent with previous research showing that unemployment is a risk factor for criminal behavior, as individuals who are unemployed may have fewer opportunities for legal income and may turn to crime as a means of survival. In addition, a shift from 5 (center) to 10 (right) in political position for instance is associated with a decrease in the conviction rate by 0.25 percentage points on average ( $0.0005 * 5 = 0.0025$ ), which suggests that political ideology may play a role in shaping individuals' attitudes towards crime and law enforcement, which could influence the likelihood of being convicted.

Being stressed at work is associated with an increase in conviction rate by 0.42 percentage points on average. This could be due to factors such as decreased job satisfaction, poor mental health, and increased risk-taking behavior, all of which could contribute to a higher likelihood of engaging in criminal activity. Lastly, a one-unit increase in *Average Emotions* is associated with an increase in conviction rates by 0.8 basis points.

Overall, the findings of Model I suggest that various factors, including political ideology, cultural assimilation, work-related stress, employment status, and household income, may play a role in shaping individuals' likelihood of being convicted

of a crime.

In Model II, a subset of predictors was removed from the model to address issues of multicollinearity. Specifically, *Poverty Index*, *Average Emotions*, *Annual Permit B*, and *Self-Reported Financial Situation* were excluded. This resulted in a comparable adjusted R-squared value to model I, suggesting that the removal of these predictors did not significantly affect the overall fit of the model. However, there were notable changes in the coefficients for certain predictors. For instance, the effect of *Proportion of Life in CH* and *Unemployed* increased in absolute value. In addition, the variable *University* became statistically significant, indicating that individuals with a university education have a lower conviction rate (of 0.38 percentage points on average), keeping all other variables constant. This model enables a more precise estimation of the impact of broad categories of sociodemographic factors such as wealth and cultural assimilation on the conviction rate.

Model III, which removed 231 observations having too low individuals for a specific combination of Age Class, Region, Sex, and Year, has an adjusted R-squared of 0.68, indicating a better fit than the previous models. Interestingly, some variables that were previously non-significant are now significant predictors of conviction rates. These variables include *Interest in Politics*, *Observed Health*, *Self-Reported Financial Situation*, and *Satisfaction with Life in General*.

Specifically, *Interest in Politics* is positively related to conviction rates, indicating that individuals with a higher interest in politics may have a higher likelihood of being convicted of a crime, an increase of one unit of this predictor being associated with a 0.06 percentage points increase in the conviction rate on average. Similarly, individuals with better *Observed Health* and those with better *Self-Reported Financial Situation* have a higher chance of being convicted of a crime, with a one-unit increase in the latter associated with a 0.11 percentage points increase in the conviction rate on average for instance. This may appear counterintuitive, but it is important to mention that the coefficients associated to these variables are only significant at the 10% level. On the other hand, *Satisfaction with Life in General* shows a negative association with conviction rates, indicating that individuals who report higher levels of life satisfaction are less likely to be convicted of a crime.

These findings should be appraised with caution since they are based on only 265 out of the 864 possible combinations of Region, Age Class, Sex, and Year. Therefore, the results may have some bias due to the limited sample size. For example, certain regions with higher conviction rates are underrepresented in the sample, which may affect the significance of some variables. Additionally, other factors, such as emotions or satisfaction with life, may impact individuals in this sub-sample differently than the whole permanent resident population. Furthermore, the results reveal that Model III exhibits a significantly higher level of multicollinearity compared to the previous models, with variance inflation factors ranging from around 2 to 5, which can decrease the reliability of the coefficients. However, these levels are still considered acceptable. Despite this limitations, the study confirms the statistically significant association between sociodemographic factors and conviction rates.

### 4.3 Discussion

Our study reveals the crucial role played by various sociodemographic factors in forecasting conviction rates in Switzerland. Our analysis demonstrates that integration (measured by the *Proportion of Life in CH*), wealth, and psychology are the three primary significant predictors of conviction rates. We observed a positive correlation between integration and conviction rates, while wealth showed a nega-

tive association with conviction rates. Furthermore, an individual's psychological state played a significant role in forecasting conviction rates: those who reported less work stress, higher life satisfaction, and more positive emotions had lower conviction rates on average. These findings highlight the significance of considering psychological well-being and socio-economic status in attempts to reduce crime rates. Our findings are also consistent with and add to the current body of literature on the topic. By understanding these underlying factors, policymakers and law enforcement officials may be better equipped to develop effective strategies for preventing crime and promoting public safety. Our findings highlight the importance of addressing factors such as political ideology, cultural assimilation, work-related stress, employment status, and household income in efforts to reduce criminal behavior in Switzerland.

However, it is essential to acknowledge certain limitations of our study that need to be considered when interpreting our findings. Firstly, we were constrained by the use of publicly available data. This did not allow us to analyze different crime categories (e.g. offences against life and limb, offences against property, offences against sexual integrity) that may have different associations with sociodemographic factors for instance. In addition, the data only provided conviction rates for sex, age class, and nationality, without any other sociodemographic information, forcing us to average them and lose variability. Also, some combinations of (year, age class, sex, region) lacked data or had very few observations, potentially impacting the accuracy or reliability of our results.

## 5 CONCLUSION

Our study has confirmed the presence of socio-economic factors that impact the conviction rate of the Swiss permanent resident population, which has been previously put forward in other articles on the subject both in Switzerland and in other countries. Through our analysis, we were able to identify and quantify the underlying factors that contribute to higher conviction rates among residents from certain regions of origin. Our results suggest that the variables that have the most significant impact on the conviction rate are related to integration, wealth, and psychological factors. The insights gained from our study, including the ability to quantify the impact of certain variables such as the *Proportion of Life in CH* on conviction rates, represent a valuable contribution to the existing scientific literature on the subject.

To expand the scope of our study, there are several possible directions. Firstly, investigating the impact of policy interventions, such as education programs and social support systems, on reducing crime rates would be valuable. This would help to understand the effectiveness of such interventions and inform policymakers in developing more effective strategies for promoting public safety. Another potential direction would be to obtain more detailed and comprehensive data. Our study was limited to analyzing average and global amounts of crime, but more detailed data could allow for a more nuanced analysis of different types of crime and their association with sociodemographic factors. Furthermore, it could be useful to compare our findings with other countries to better understand the role played by sociodemographic factors in predicting conviction rates and the effectiveness of different policy interventions in reducing crime rates. Finally, exploring individual variables that vary the most as the length of time spent in Switzerland increases, such as language skills and participation in cultural events, could also be beneficial. This would provide insights into ways to accelerate the integration process and reduce the likelihood of immigrants in high conviction rate classes committing crimes, ultimately improving the overall security level in Switzerland.

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## RESSOURCES

- Python 3.8.8: Used to conduct both statistical and descriptive analysis of the crime data.
- ChatGPT: Used to assist with writing the code and paper.
- Federal Statistical Office - Swiss citizens and foreign B or C permit holders dataset: Used to obtain the number of persons convicted and conviction rate for a felony or misdemeanour under the Swiss Criminal Code (SCC), by nationality, age, and sex. The dataset is available at: <https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/en/home/statistics/catalogues-databases/tables.assetdetail.23446953.html> (accessed on May 7, 2023).
- Swiss Household Panel dataset: Used to obtain demographic information on the Swiss population. The dataset is available at: <https://forscenter.ch/projects/swiss-household-panel/> (accessed on May 7, 2023).
- Official Listing of Countries by World Region: Used to assign regions to the countries included in the datasets. The website is available at: <https://www.thoughtco.com/official-listing-of-countries-world-region-1435153> (accessed on May 7, 2023).

Table 3: OLS Regression Results

	I	II	III
Intercept	0.0147*** (0.005)	0.0205*** (0.004)	0.0179** (0.008)
Proportion of Life in CH	-0.0058*** (0.002)	-0.0075*** (0.002)	-0.0054*** (0.002)
Yearly Household Income per Person	-0.00009* (0.000)	-0.0001** (0.000)	-0.0013*** (0.000)
Unemployed	0.0073* (0.004)	0.0082** (0.004)	0.0135** (0.006)
Political Position (Right)	-0.0005** (0.000)	-0.0005** (0.000)	
Work Stress	0.0042*** (0.001)	0.0038*** (0.001)	
Poverty Index	0.0077** (0.004)		
Average Emotions	0.0008* (0.000)		-0.0027** (0.001)
University		-0.0023** (0.001)	-0.0047** (0.002)
Interest in Politics			0.0006* (0.000)
Observed Health			0.0082* (0.005)
Self-Reported Financial Situation			0.0011* (0.001)
Satisfaction with Life in General			-0.0018** (0.001)
Fixed Effects	yes	yes	yes
Observations	496	496	265
R <sup>2</sup>	0.56	0.54	0.71
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	0.53	0.51	0.68
N <sub>min</sub>	1	1	3
Standard Errors	HAC	HAC	HAC

\* p < 0.1, \*\* p < 0.05, \*\*\* p < 0.01

Note: This table displays the OLS regression coefficients that predict the conviction rate based on different sociodemographic characteristics. The analysis includes fixed effects for year, age class, and sex, and only statistically significant variables are presented, marked with asterisks based on their significance levels. Standard errors, which are heteroscedasticity and autocorrelation robust (HAC) and account for the presence of these issues in the residuals, are displayed in parentheses.