



Swedish Crime Survey 2020

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English summary of Brå report no. 2020:8

**The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (Brå)
– a knowledge centre on crime and crime prevention**

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Summary

This summary presents the overall results of the Swedish Crime Survey (SCS) 2020. The results of the report are summarised and broken down into the following areas of inquiry: *victimisation, fear of crime, confidence in the criminal justice system, and crime victims' contact with the criminal justice system.*

Of the 200,000 people included in the sample for the 2020 SCS, approximately 74,000 people participated. The method for the SCS was revised in 2017, whereby the collection procedure was changed from mainly telephone interviews to internet questionnaires and postal questionnaires. The selection was also expanded and some of the questions were reformulated and new questions were added. Since one main purpose of the SCS is to be able to make comparisons over time, a method has been developed to enable the results for the period 2007–2016 to be compared with 2017–2020. Every effort has been made to ensure that all the descriptions of development over time for the results described in the report are unaffected by the change in method. It is important to emphasise this as the purpose of the study is to study development over time and compare different groups in the population, rather than to estimate exact levels. Further information is provided in the Technical report for SCS 2018 (Brå 2019).

Introduction

Citizens' victimisation, fear of crime, confidence in the criminal justice system and crime victims' contact with the criminal justice system have long been a focus of Swedish crime policy. Therefore, detailed knowledge of which groups are victims more than others, which groups are adversely affected by fear of crime, and public confidence in the criminal justice system are of value to crime policy makers. The Swedish Crime Survey is an important source of information for this purpose.

Covid-19-pandemic

- This report presents the results of the 2020 SCS. The data was collected in January – April 2020 and therefore to some extent data collection was conducted at the same time as the Covid-19 pandemic. Of those who responded to the survey, 85 percent (weighted proportion) responded to the survey before 16 March when the Swedish Public Health Agency issued stricter recommendations on social distancing and working from home when possible, among other measures.
- The reference period for questions about victimisation is the preceding calendar year, which means the results should not have been affected.¹
- The reference period for the other areas of inquiry is, in most cases, the past year (calculated from the date on which the respondent answered the questionnaire) or the respondents' perceptions at the time they answered the questionnaire, which means that these results could have been affected by the pandemic.

¹ Factors in connection with the pandemic may affect how the survey is answered. For example, if several family members are working from home or studying at home when the questionnaire is answered, this can affect the respondents' sense of anonymity.

Method

Sample and data collection

The SCS has been conducted since 2006² and is based on a nationally representative stratified simple random sample of people aged between 16 and 84.³ Since 2017 the survey has included a sample of 200,000 people while in the SCS for 2007–2016 had a sample size of 20,000. In SCS 2020, 73,813 people from the sample participated. The sample was drawn from the population register administered by Statistics Sweden. Young people have been oversampled, and are thus over-represented in the survey sample. When analysing the material, cases are weighted both to account for this over-representation and also to adjust for differences in levels of non-response among different groups within the sample.

Data collection was carried out by Statistics Sweden between January and April 2020. A cover letter was sent to those included in the sample.⁴ The cover letter described the survey and explained that participation was voluntary but important. In addition to the questionnaire data, certain data was also collected from existing registers including the respondents' age, place of residence and level of education.

Change of method 2017

The method used for the SCS was revised in 2017. At this point, the collection procedure changed from mainly telephone interviews to internet questionnaires or postal questionnaires.⁵ The selection was also expanded and some of the questions were reformulated and new questions were added. Since one main purpose of the SCS is to be able to make comparisons over time, a method has been developed to enable the results for the period 2007–2016 to be compared with 2017–2020. Every effort has been made to ensure that all the descriptions of development over time for the results described in the report are unaffected by the change in method. It is important to emphasise this, as the purpose of the study is to study development over time and compare different groups in the population rather than to estimate exact levels.

2 For methodological reasons concerning the change of method in 2017, the SCS for 2006 has been excluded from the presentation.

3 SCS 2007–2016 include people aged between 16 and 79.

4 See appendix 1.

5 See appendix 1 for the SCS 2020 postal questionnaire.

The questions about pickpocketing, sales fraud, card/credit fraud and online harassment were introduced in the 2017 SCS, which means that results regarding victims of these types of offences are only available for the period 2016–2019.

Non-response

Questionnaire surveys always involve a certain level of non-response because not everyone who is included in the sample wants, or is able, to participate (unit non-response), or because some people who do participate do not answer all of the questions (item non-response).

The total weighted non-response rate for the 2020 wave of the survey amounted to 59.4 percent of the sample, giving a response rate of 40.6 percent.⁶ To reduce the skewing effect of the non-responses, and to reduce sampling and coverage errors, weights were calibrated for use when analysing the material. Briefly, this technique employs a number of auxiliary variables (based on register data) to increase the weight assigned to the answers provided by groups that are under-represented in the sample. The weighting procedure ensures that the survey results are as representative as possible of the survey population as a whole.

The item non-response in the survey includes the response alternatives Don't know/Don't want to answer. Those who state that they have no opinion in relation to the questions on confidence in the criminal justice system are included in the presentations. The reason for this is that the fact that some respondents have no particular view on a given issue is in itself an important factor to consider when assessing levels of public confidence. The item non-response for the postal questionnaires includes cases where answers have been left blank.

Reliability and comparability

A number of general limitations associated with the survey should be mentioned. The sample is not representative of all age groups in the population, and does not include young people aged under 16 or the oldest members of the population aged over 84, for example. Nor does it include people resident in institutions (e.g. in the healthcare sector or the prison system). It is also unlikely that the most marginalised groups within the population, such as the homeless and drug abusers are sufficiently well-represented.

Measurement errors constitute the principal source of error in survey studies. The extent to which the results of the survey reflect the real picture is primarily dependent on the extent of these measurement errors. In the context of the SCS, the main problem is deemed to be the respondents' willingness and ability to provide correct answers. It may be difficult to remember exactly when an incident occurred, and thus crimes that should not be included in the survey may nonetheless be reported. Another factor may be that respondents may choose to adjust their responses, either in order to give a socially desirable answer,

⁶ The total unweighted non-response for the 2020 SCS was 63.0 percent of the sample, giving a response rate of 37.0 percent.

e.g. that a crime has been reported to the police even though this is not in fact the case. Errors may also occur as a result of ignorance. The respondent may have been the victim of incidents that are not defined as crimes in the Penal Code but which are perceived as crimes by the victim, which may be the case, for example, in certain instances perceived as threats or harassment. Respondents may also have been exposed to criminal acts without themselves defining these incidents as crimes.

Presentation of results

The presentation of the main results is broken down into sections relating to victimisation, fear of crime, public confidence in the criminal justice system and crime victims' experiences of contact with the criminal justice system.

In this summary, findings are presented on the basis of gender and age. The findings in the main report are for the most part presented on the basis of the following background information and sub-groups of the population:

- gender
- age
- Swedish/foreign background (born in Sweden with one/both parents born in Sweden, born in Sweden with both parents born outside Sweden, foreign-born)
- level of education, the highest level attained (pre-further education, further education or post-further education)
- marital status (living with partner or single, with or without children)
- type of housing (house or apartment building)
- degree of urbanisation, based on sectioning by The Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR).

Most of the information about the respondents' background has been collected from existing registers. The only background information collected in the Swedish Crime Survey itself relates to marital status, type of housing and, in some cases, level of education.

The areas covered by the questions in the survey focus on varying periods of time. A summary description is provided below.

- Victimisation
 - The reference period employed in relation to exposure to crime is the preceding calendar year (when the source cited is the Swedish Crime Survey 2020, this relates to events in 2019).
- Fear of crime
 - Questions about concerns over being the victim of different types of crime relate to the past twelve months (counted from the date when the respondent answered the questionnaire).
 - The more general questions relate to the respondent's perceptions at the time the respondent answered the questionnaire.

- Confidence in the criminal justice system
 - In the section on public confidence in the justice system, the questions relate to the respondent's perceptions at the time the respondent answered the questionnaire.
- Crime victims' contacts with the criminal justice system
 - In the section on crime victims' contacts with the justice system, the presentation relates to experiences during the past three years (counted from the date the respondent answered the questionnaire).

Results

Victimisation

Victimisation was investigated for the calendar year preceding the year on which the question was asked. This means that incidents where the respondent was a victim reported in the 2020 SCS reflect offences that took place in 2019. Victimisation in terms of *offences against an individual* is reported as the percentage of victims, unlike victimisation in terms of *property offences against households*, which is reported as the percentage of victimised households.

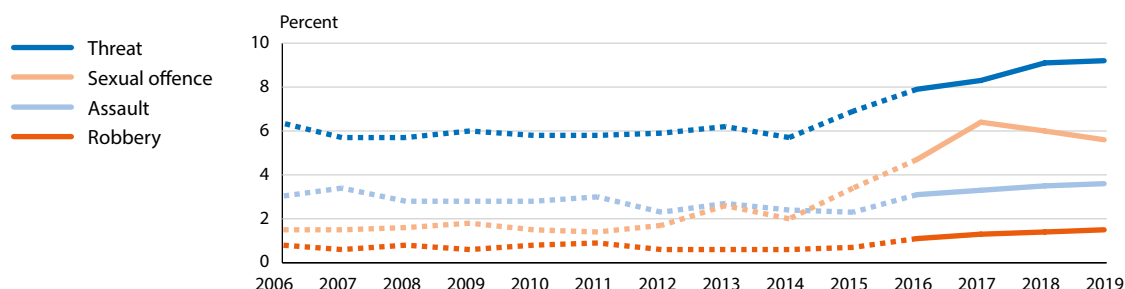
Offences against an individual

- In the 2020 SCS, 22.6 percent of the population (aged 16–84) state that they were a victim of one or more of the types of offences referred to in the report as offences against an individual: assault, threats, sexual offences, robbery, pickpocketing, sales fraud, card/credit fraud and online harassment⁷ in 2019. This is a decrease compared with the preceding year (in 2018 the proportion was 23.1%).
- The type of offence that had the highest proportion of victims according to the 2020 SCS was threats (9.2%) while robbery was the least common (1.5%).
- The proportion of self-reported victimisation has basically remained unchanged for almost all types of offences against an individual compared to 2018. The exceptions are sexual offences. Seen over a longer period of time, self-reported victimisation due to sexual offences has been most evident in recent years, as the proportion of respondents stating this type of victimisation clearly increased up to and including 2017. In the past two surveys, a decrease has been seen and it remains to be seen if this is the beginning of a downward trend. The proportion of people who state that they have been a victim of threats has increased every year since 2015. Furthermore, the proportion of people who state that they have been the victims of robberies has increased annually from 2015, and an increasing trend is also noted for assault, as the proportion has increased for the fourth year in a row.

⁷ Victims of harassment were included in the category "offences against an individual" until SCS 2020. Since then, harassment has been presented as a separate category.

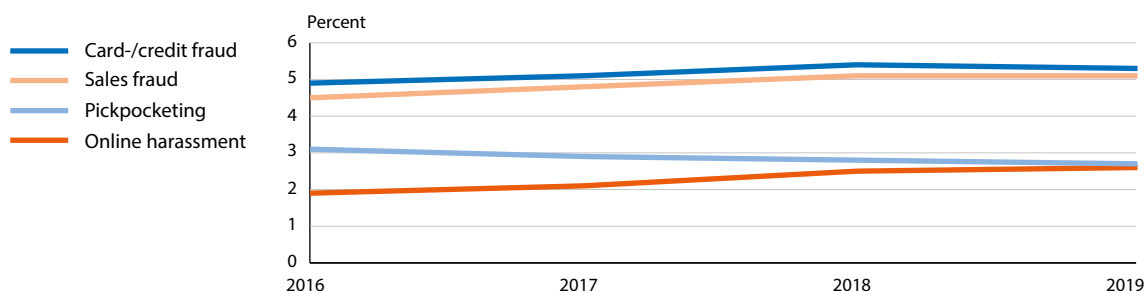
- Most people who state that they have been a victim of offences against an individual state that they were a victim once in 2019, while 26.4 percent of these (corresponding to 6.0% of the population aged 16–84) state that they were victims four times or more. Individuals in this group make up three-quarters (75.1%) of all incidents of offences against an individual.

Figure 1. Self-reported victimisation due to various types of offences against an individual. Percentage of the population (aged 16–84), 2006–2019.^a



^a The results regarding victimisation in 2006–2015 have been recalculated as the SCS was carried out using a different method in this period. Read more about this in the 2018 SCS, Technical report (Brå 2019). For the corresponding results before the recalculation, see previous SCS publications.

Figure 2. Self-reported victimisation due to various types of offences against an individual. Percentage of the population (aged 16–84), 2016–2019.^a

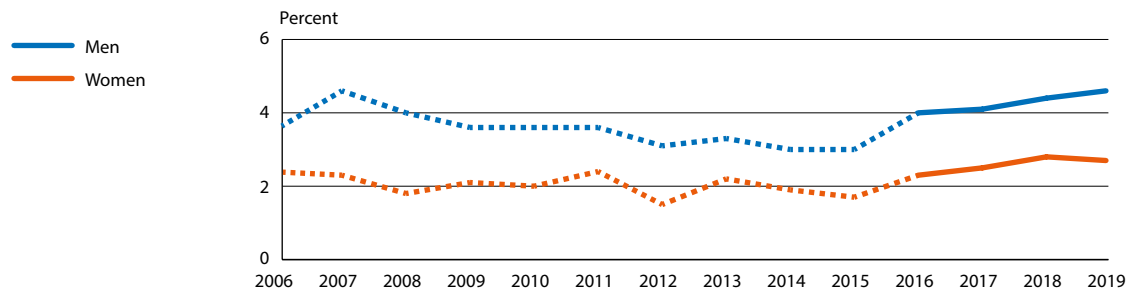


^a The questions on pickpocketing, sales fraud and card/credit fraud were introduced in the 2017 SCS.

Assault

- The percentage of individuals who state that they were a victim of assault in 2019 is 3.6 percent of the population (aged 16–84). The level is approximately the same as 2018, when 3.5 percent were a victim of assault. The trend for the period 2006–2015 was one of a weak decline, albeit with some yearly variations, but the last four years show a slightly increasing trend.
- Men (4.6%) state that they were victims of assault more often than women (2.7%) during 2019.
- In terms of age, self-reported victimisation regarding assault was most common in the 16–19 age bracket (13.6% among men and 7.3% among women).

Figure 3. Self-reported victimisation due to assault. Percentage for each gender, 2006–2019.^a

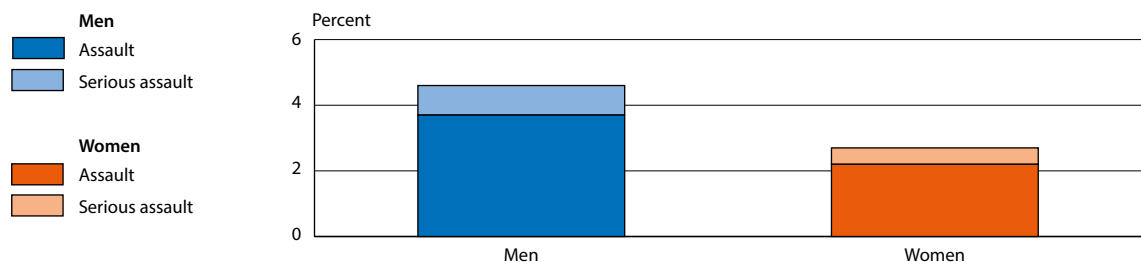


^a The results regarding victimisation in 2006–2015 have been recalculated as the SCS was carried out using a different method in this period. Read more about this in the 2018 SCS, Technical report (Brå 2019). For the corresponding results before the recalculation, see previous SCS publications.

Serious assault

- A proportion of 0.7 percent of the population (aged 16–84) state that they were a victim of serious assault, which in the SCS refers to assaults leading to injuries requiring medical treatment by a doctor, nurse or dentist. Self-reported victimisation due to serious assault offences has remained at the same level since 2016.
- Men (0.9%) state that they were victims more often than women (0.5%) in 2019.
- Self-reported victimisation due to serious assault was most common among young people in the 16–19 age bracket. Among men the proportion was 0.9 percent and among women the proportion was 0.5 percent.

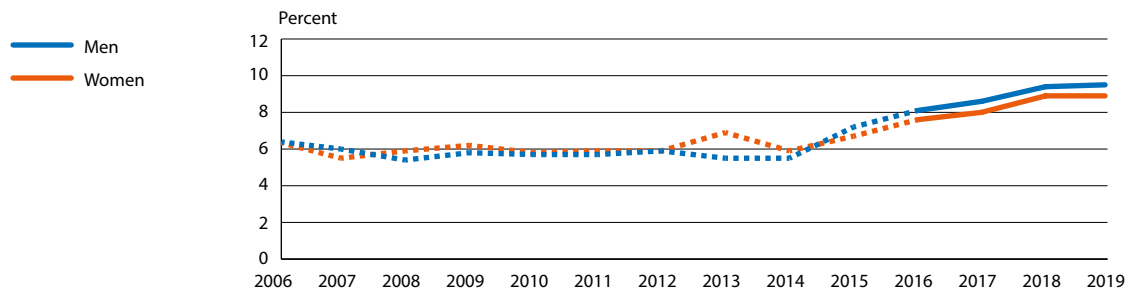
Figure 4. Self-reported victimisation due to serious assault. Percentage for each gender, 2016–2019.



Threats

- In 2019, 9.2 percent of the population (aged 16–84) state that they were a victim of threats, which is about the same level compared to 2018 (9.1%). Self-reported victimisation due to threat offences remained at a relatively stable level for most of the measurement period (2006–2014), but an increasing trend has been noted since 2015.
- Men (9.5%) state that they were victims of threats more often than women (8.9%) in 2019.
- Self-reported victimisation due to threats was most common among young people in the 16–19 age bracket (among men 16.7% and among women 13.6%).

Figure 5. Self-reported victimisation due to threats. Percentage for each gender, 2006–2019.^a

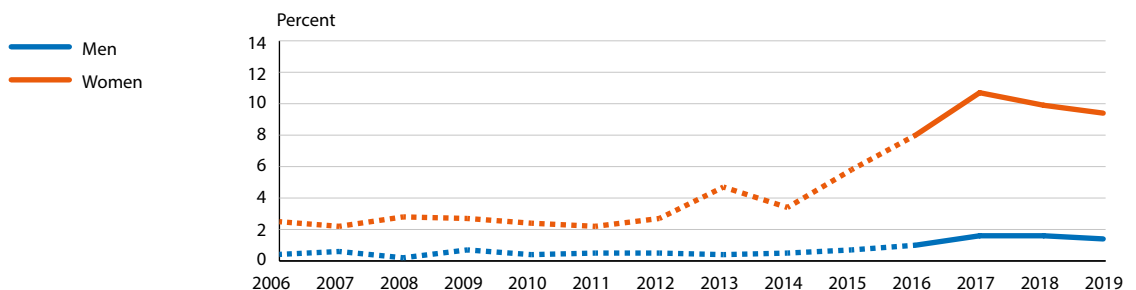


^a The results regarding victimisation in 2006–2015 have been recalculated as the SCS was carried out using a different method in this period. Read more about this in the 2018 SCS, Technical report (Brå 2019). For the corresponding results before the recalculation, see previous SCS publications.

Sexual offences⁸

- In 2019, 5.6 percent of the population (aged 16–84) state that they were a victim of a sexual offence. The self-reported victimisation of sexual offences has increased almost every year since 2012, but a decrease has been noted in the past two years.
- Women (9.4%) state that they were victims of a sexual offence significantly more often than men (1.4%) in 2019.
- There are large differences between age groups. The proportion for both men and women is greatest in the age group 20–24, where 31.6 percent of women state they were a victim of a sexual offence, and 4.3 percent of men.

Figure 6. Self-reported victimisation due to a sexual offence. Percentage for each gender, 2006–2019.^a



^a The results regarding victimisation in 2006–2015 have been recalculated as the SCS was carried out using a different method in this period. Read more about this in the 2018 SCS, Technical report (Brå 2019). For the corresponding results before the recalculation, see previous SCS publications.

Serious sexual offences involving the use of force⁹

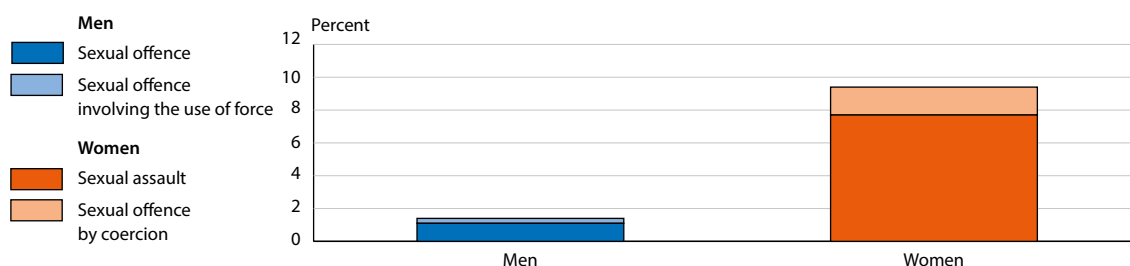
- Of the population (aged 16–84), 1.0 percent state that they were a victim of a sexual offence involving the use of force in 2019, which is at approximately the same level as 2018 (1.1%).

⁸ Include, for example, offensive, sexual comments in speech or writing, forced sexual acts or rape. Incidents could have happened at home, at school, at work, on the internet or in another location.

⁹ Refers to incidents which include someone forcing, or trying to force, the person into a sexual act by threatening, holding onto or hurting the person in some way.

- Women (1.7%) state that they were victims significantly more often than men (0.3%) in 2019.
- There are large differences between age groups. The proportion for both men and women is largest among young people in the 16–24 age bracket, where among women 5.7 percent state they were a victim of sexual offence involving the use of force, and among men the proportion was 0.7 percent.

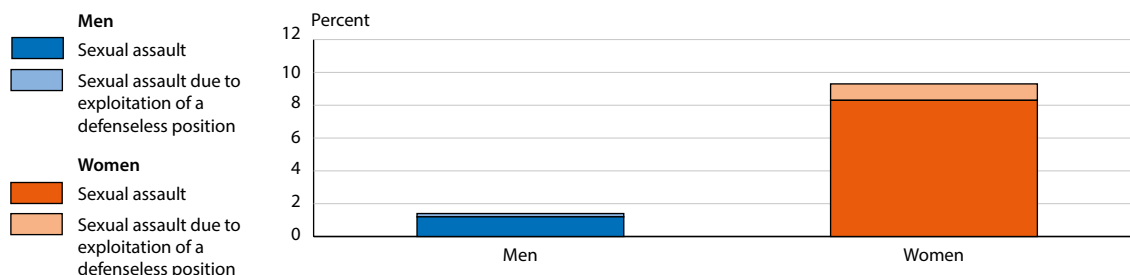
Figure 7. Self-reported victimisation due to a sexual offence involving the use of force. Percentage for each gender, 2016–2019.



Serious sexual offences involving the exploitation of a defenceless condition¹⁰

- Of the population (aged 16–84), 0.6 percent state that they were a victim of a sexual offence involving the exploitation of a defenceless condition in 2019, which is at approximately the same level as 2018 (0.7%).
- Women (1.0%) state that they were victims in 2019 significantly more often than men (0.2%).
- There are large differences between age groups. The proportion for both men and women is largest among young people in the 16–24 age bracket, where among women 4.5 percent state they were a victim of a sexual offence involving the exploitation of a defenceless condition, and among men the proportion was 0.4 percent.

Figure 8. Self-reported victimisation due to a sexual offence involving the exploitation of a defenceless condition. Percentage for each gender, 2016–2019.

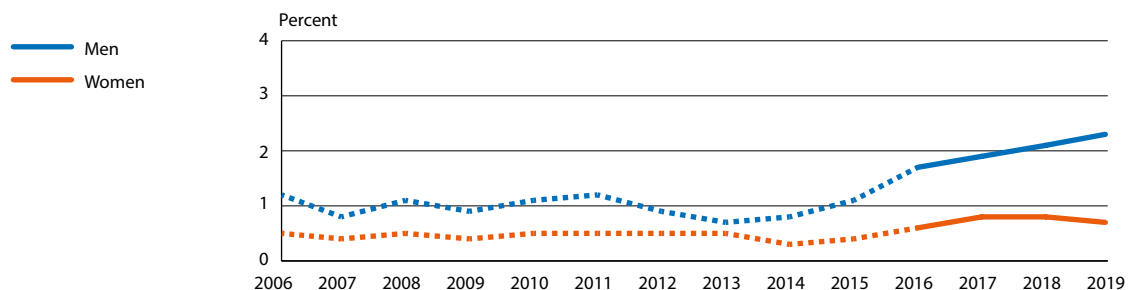


¹⁰ Refers to incidents which include sexual abuse while the person was asleep or when the person was in a defenceless state due to intoxication.

Robbery

- In 2019, 1.5 percent of the population (aged 16–84) state they were a victim of robbery or a victim of attempted robbery, which means that the proportion is virtually unchanged compared to 2018 when the proportion was 1.4 percent. The proportion was at a relatively stable level until 2015, but an increase was noted in 2016 and the proportion has since remained at the higher level, with a slightly increasing trend.
- Men (2.3%) state that they were victims of robbery or attempted robbery during 2019 more often than women (0.7%).
- In terms of age, self-reported victimisation in men due to robbery was most common in the 16–19 age bracket (5.9%) and in women, self-reported victimisation due to robbery was most common in the 20–24 age bracket (1.4%).

Figure 9. Self-reported victimisation due to robbery. Percentage for each gender, 2006–2019.^a



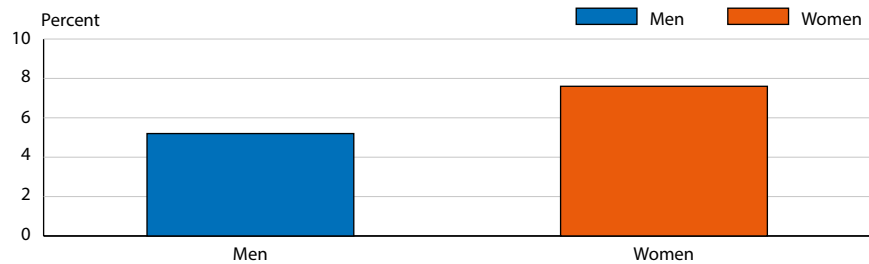
^a The results regarding victimisation in 2006–2015 have been recalculated as the SCS was carried out using a different method in this period. Read more about this in the 2018 SCS, Technical report (Brå 2019). For the corresponding results before the recalculation, see previous SCS publications.

Harassment

In connection with the follow-up interviews, it emerged that some people had misunderstood the screening question about harassment. They may have understood it as including telephone sales, for example. The wording of the question and how the results are reported were reviewed before the 2020 SCS and therefore only the results for 2019 are presented.

- Of the population (aged 16–84), 6.5 percent state that they were victims of harassment in 2019.
- Women (7.6%) state that they were victims of harassment in 2019 more often than men (5.2%).
- Among both men and women, self-reported victimisation due to harassment was most common in the youngest age bracket (aged 16–19), where 8.1 percent of the men and 15.2 percent of the women state that they had been a victim.

Figure 10. Self-reported victimisation due to harassment. Percentage for each gender, 2019.^a



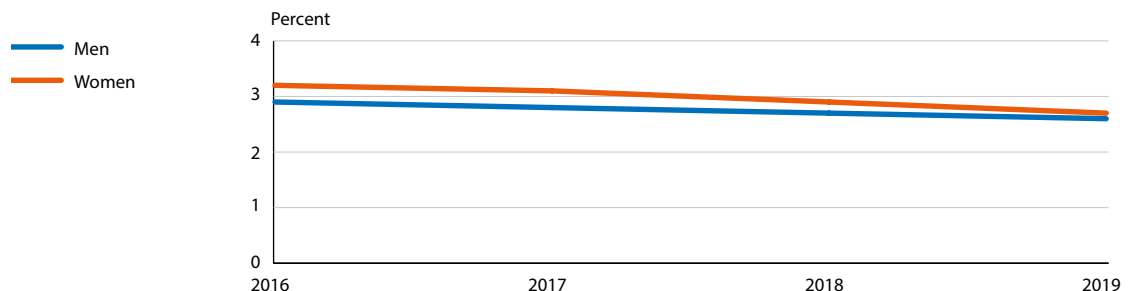
^a The results regarding harassment are only presented for 2019. This is because the question in the survey was rephrased in conjunction with the data collection in 2020.

The questions about pickpocketing, sales fraud, card /credit fraud and online harassment were introduced in connection with the 2017 SCS, which means that there are only results from the 2017–2020 SCS for those types of offences.

Pickpocketing

- In 2019, 2.7 percent of the population (aged 16–84) state that they were victims of pickpocketing, which means that the proportion is virtually unchanged compared to 2018, when the proportion was 2.8 percent
- Women (2.7%) state that they were victims of pickpocketing about as often as men (2.6%) in 2019.
- Among both men and women, self-reported victimisation due to pickpocketing was most common in the 20–24 age bracket, where 5.3 percent of the men and 5.0 percent of the women state that they had been a victim of pickpocketing.

Figure 11. Self-reported victimisation due to pickpocketing. Percentage for each gender, 2016–2019.

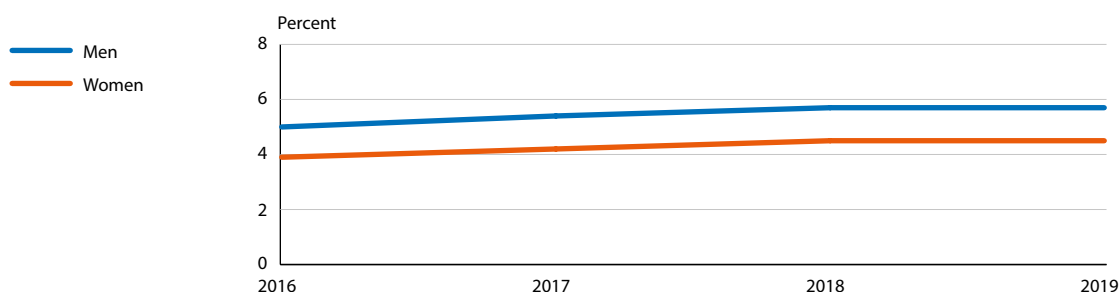


Sales fraud

- Of the population (aged 16–84), 5.1 percent state that they were victims of sales fraud in 2019. The proportion is the same as in 2018, although this is an increase since 2016 when the percentage of self-reported victimisation was 4.5 percent.

- Men (5.7%) state that they were victims of sales fraud in 2019 more often than women (4.5%).
- The greatest percentage of self-reported victimisation due to sales fraud was found in the 35–44 age bracket among men (7.6%) and in the 25–34 age bracket among women (6.3%).

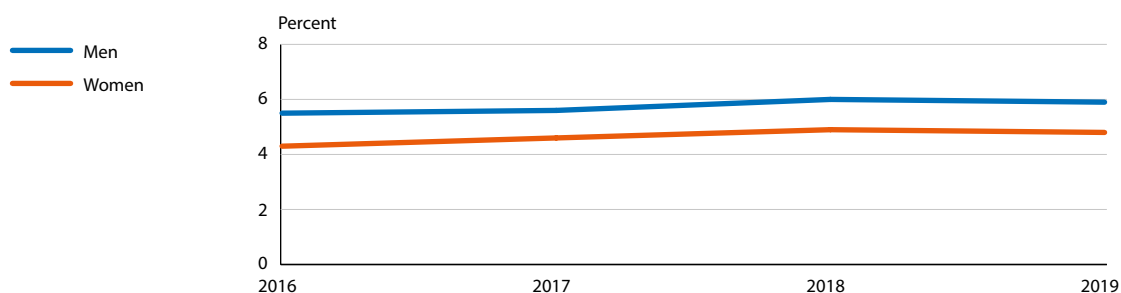
Figure 12. Self-reported victimisation due to sales fraud. Percentage for each gender, 2016–2019.



Card/credit fraud

- Self-reported victimisation due to card/credit fraud amounted to 5.3 percent of the population (aged 16–84) in 2019. This is approximately the same level as in 2018, when the percentage was 5.4 percent.
- Men (5.9%) state that they were victims of card/credit fraud more often than women (4.8%) in 2019.
- The greatest percentage of self-reported victimisation due to card/credit fraud was found in the 45–54 age bracket among men (7.8%) and in the 35–44 age bracket among women (6.8%).

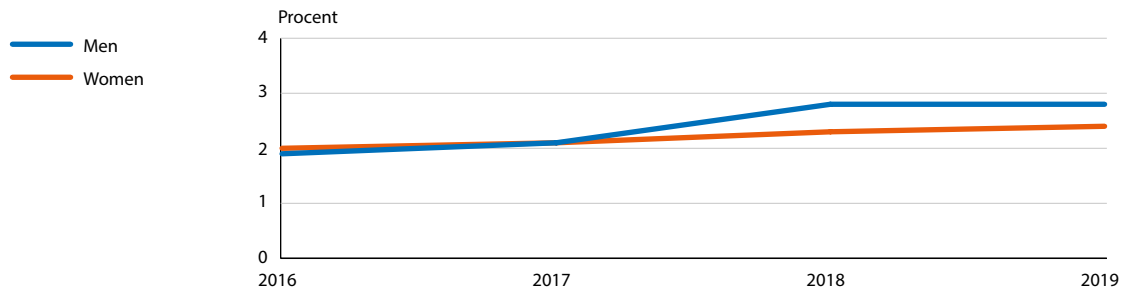
Figure 13. Self-reported victimisation due to card/credit fraud. Percentage for each gender, 2016–2019.



Online harassment

- Self-reported victimisation due to online harassment amounted to 2.6 percent of the population (aged 16–84) in 2019. This is at approximately the same level as in 2018, when the proportion was 2.5 percent.
- Men (2.8%) state that they were victims of online harassment more often than women (2.4%) in 2019.
- The greatest percentage of victims was in the 16–19 age bracket, although among the young people in that age group the percentage of victims was larger among women (8.1%) than among men (5.5%).

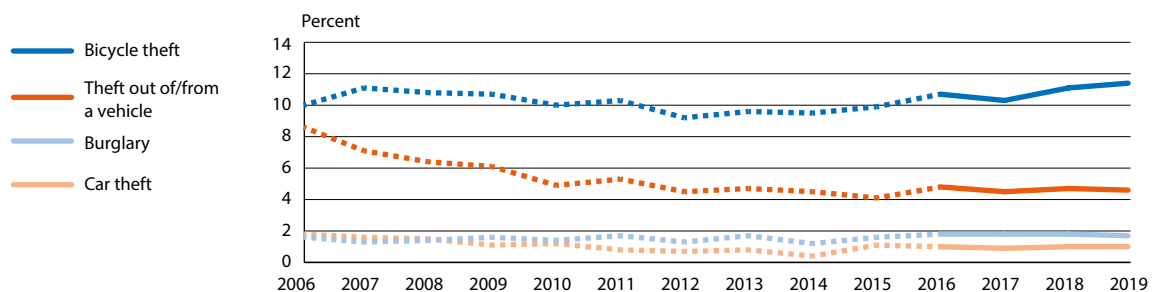
Figure 14. Self-reported victimisation due to online harassment. Percentage for each gender, 2016–2019.



Property offences against households

- The 2020 SCS shows that 14.6 percent of households were victims of car theft, theft out of or from a vehicle, bicycle theft, or burglary (all referred to as property offences against households) in 2019.
- The most common property offence reported for 2019 is bicycle theft (11.4%), while vehicle theft is the least common (1.0%).
- The reported victimisation has increased in terms of bicycle thefts in 2019 and has been virtually unchanged in terms of theft out of or from vehicles, burglary and car theft compared to 2018. The property offences that have seen the most significant development since 2006 are car-related crimes, which have decreased significantly.
- A majority of those who were victims of property offences against households state that they were victims once in 2019, while a smaller percentage of the victimised households (6.7%) state that they were victims four times or more. This group suffered 30.5 percent of all property offences.

Figure 15. Self-reported victimisation due to various types of property offences. Percentage of victimised households nationwide, 2006–2019.^{a,b,c}



^a The results regarding victimisation in 2006–2015 have been recalculated as the SCS was carried out using a different method in this period. Read more about this in the 2018 SCS, Technical report (Brå 2019). For the corresponding results before the recalculation, see previous SCS publications.

^b The results show car theft among households that had a car in the relevant year as this is the most commonly agreed form of accounting.

^c The results show bicycle theft among households that owned a bicycle in the relevant year as this is in line with the accounting of car theft.

Burglary

- According to the SCS 2020, 1.7 percent of households were victims of burglary during 2019, which is about the same level as in 2016–2018. For most of the measurement period the proportion of reported victimised households has varied around a relatively stable level, but in 2016 the level increased somewhat, and the proportion has remained at the slightly higher level since then.

Car theft

- In 2019, 1.0 percent of households report that they were victims of car theft, which means that the proportion is unchanged compared to 2018. The proportion declined significantly during the period 2006–2014, but the proportion increased slightly in 2015. The percentage has since remained relatively stable at that level, which despite the increase, is nevertheless considerably lower than when measurements started.

Theft out of or from a vehicle

- The percentage of households stating that they were victims of theft out of or from a vehicle was 4.6 percent in 2019. This is at about the same level as 2018, when the proportion was 4.7 percent.
- During the period 2006–2010, the percentage of households that were victims of theft out of or from a vehicle decreased dramatically and victimisation has remained at a relatively stable level since then.

Bicycle theft

- The proportion of households stating that they were victims of bicycle theft was 11.4 percent in 2019. This is at about the same level compared with 2018, when the proportion was 11.1 percent. The level of the proportion of victimised households has remained relatively stable throughout the measurement period, though the latest measurement is the highest since 2006.

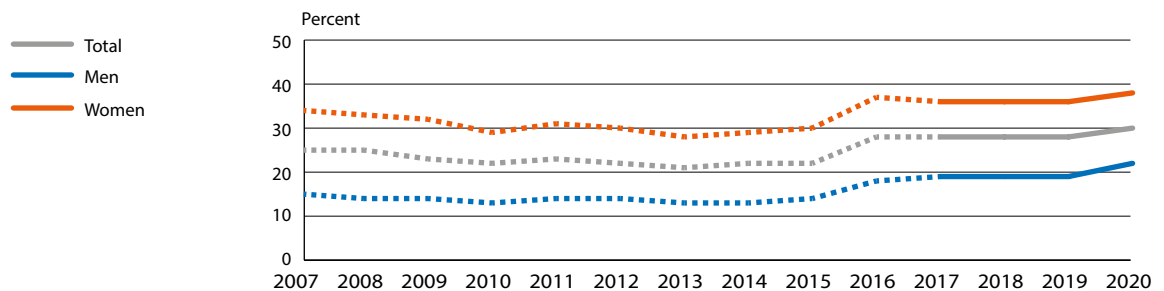
Fear of crime

Measuring fear of crime is complicated, but the SCS can contribute by providing a number of key indicators on the subject. The reference periods reflected in the section on fear of crime vary depending on the type of question. Questions about concern regarding various types of offences refer to the most recent twelve months (prior to the time of interview). The more comprehensive questions refer to the perception respondents had at the time the question was asked (2020). Regarding concerns about being a victim of crime, the questions about burglary and theft or vandalism of vehicles are the only ones that have been included in their present form every year since the survey was initiated, while the questions on concern about the remaining offences were added in conjunction with the revision of the survey in 2017.

Feeling unsafe outdoors late at night

- The results in the 2020 SCS show that a total of 30 percent of the population (aged 16–84) state that they feel very unsafe or quite unsafe when outdoors alone at night or that they avoid going out alone at night due to feeling unsafe. Of these, 6 percent state that they do not go out due to feeling unsafe. The level decreased during the first period of the survey and then remained at a stable level. However, a significant increase occurred in 2016 and the proportion has since then remained at that higher level.
- It is significantly more common for women (38%) to state that they feel unsafe than for men (22%).
- The percentage of people who state that they feel unsafe is highest in the 20–24 and 75–84 age brackets. The proportion is particularly high among the youngest and the oldest women while among men the proportion is more similar across different age groups.
- The greatest percentage was found in the 75–84 age bracket among men (24%) and in the 20–24 age bracket among women (45%).

Figure 16. Feeling unsafe (very unsafe/quite unsafe) in own neighbourhood when going out late at night, as well as those who do not go out due to feeling unsafe. Percentage of the population (aged 16–84) and for each gender, 2007–2020.^a

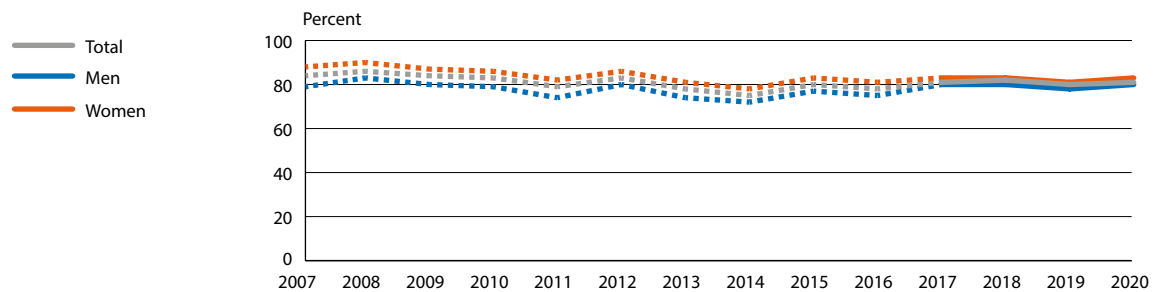


^a The results for the 2007–2016 SCS have been recalculated as the SCS was carried out using a different method in this period. Read more about this in the 2018 SCS, Technical report (Brå 2019). For the corresponding results before the recalculation, see previous SCS publications

Perception of crime development

- A total of 81 percent of the population (aged 16–84) believes that the number of crimes in Sweden has increased over the past three years, which is approximately at the same level as 2019 when this proportion was 80 percent. Over time, the proportion has remained stable, but it is at slightly lower levels in recent years compared to the first years of measurement.
- A greater proportion of women (83%) than men (80%) state that they believe that the number of crimes in Sweden has increased over the past three years.
- The proportion is greatest in the youngest age bracket (aged 16–19) among men (86%) and in the older age brackets, particularly the oldest (aged 75–84) among women (91%).

Figure 17. Perception that the number of crimes in Sweden has increased (considerably/ slightly) in Sweden over the past three years. Percentage of the population (aged 16–84) and for each gender, 2007–2020.^a

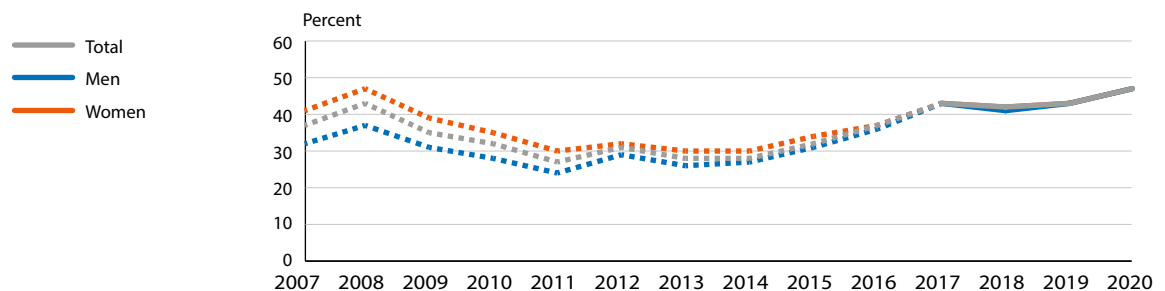


^a The results for the 2007–2016 SCS have been recalculated as the SCS was carried out using a different method in this period. Read more about this in the 2018 SCS, Technical report (Brå 2019). For the corresponding results before the recalculation, see previous SCS publications.

Concern about crime in society

- Almost half (47%) of the population (aged 16–84) have great concern about crime in society, which is a significant increase compared to 2019 (43%) and the highest level measured since 2007. Leading up to 2011, the percentage who experienced great concern decreased, followed by an increase up to 2017. The proportion then remained stable for a few years until this recent increase in 2020.
- The percentage of people who have great concern about crime is the same for both women and men (47%).
- Among men, the percentage is greatest among people aged 55–64 (55%) and in the 65–74 age bracket among women (58%).

Figure 18. Concern about crime in society (in large extent). Percentage of the population (aged 16–84) and for each gender, 2007–2020.^a



^a The results for the 2007–2016 SCS have been recalculated as the SCS was carried out using a different method in this period. Read more about this in the 2018 SCS, Technical report (Brå 2019). For the corresponding results before the recalculation, see previous SCS publications.

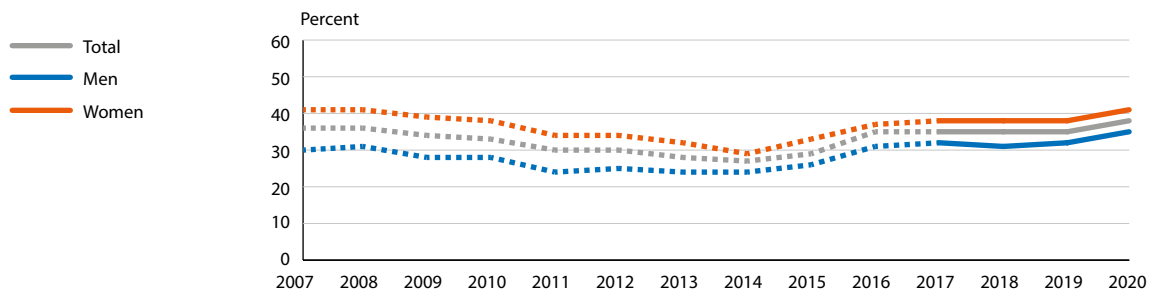
Concern about close friends and family

- Almost two-fifths (38%) of the population (aged 16–84) state that they, very often or quite often feel concerned that someone close to them will be subjected to crime; this is an increase compared to the preceding year 2019 (35%) and the highest level measured. The

proportion decreased until 2014, followed by an increase up to 2016, and then remained at the same level until this latest increase in 2020.

- It is more common for women (41%) to be concerned that friends or family will be subjected to crime than for men (35%).
- Concern that friends or family will be subjected to crime, is most common in the 45–54 age bracket among both men and women, where the proportion among men was 43 percent and among women the proportion was 50 percent.

Figure 19. Concern (very often/quite often) that someone close to them will be subjected to crime. Percentage of the population (aged 16–84) and for each gender, 2007–2020.^a



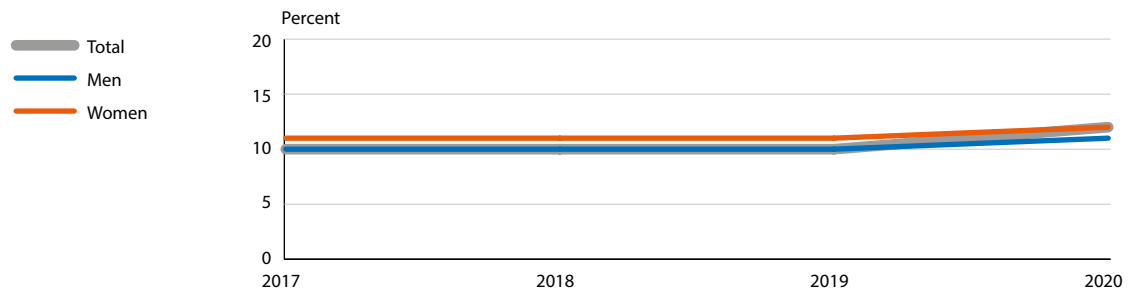
^a The results for the 2007–2016 SCS have been recalculated as the SCS was carried out using a different method in this period. Read more about this in the 2018 SCS, Technical report (Brå 2019). For the corresponding results before the recalculation, see previous SCS publications.

The following questions about concerns about assault, rape/sexual assault, robbery and fraud on the internet were added in conjunction with the 2017 SCS, which means that results are only available for these types of offences for 2017–2020.

Concern about assault

- The percentage of people who stated that they are concerned very often or quite often about being a victim of assault is 12 percent, which is an increase compared to 2019 (10%).
- The percentage of people who are concerned about being a victim of assault is approximately the same for women (12%) and men (11%).
- The highest percentage is found among men aged 20–24 and 25–34 (15%), and among women aged 20–24 (17%).

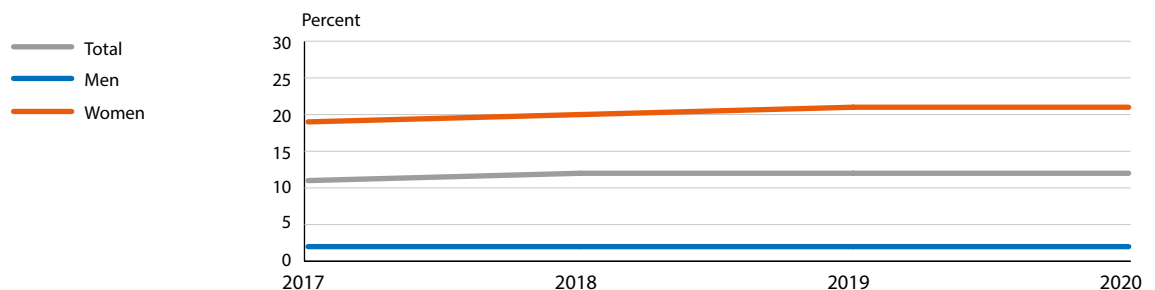
Figure 20. Concern (very often/quite often) about being a victim of assault. Percentage of the population (aged 16–84) and for each gender, 2017–2020.



Concern about rape/sexual assault

- The percentage of people who, in 2020, are often concerned about being a victim of rape or another type of sexual assault is 12 percent of the population (aged 16–84), which is at the same level as in 2019 and 2018 and approximately the same level as in 2017 (11%).
- It is significantly more common for women (21%) to be concerned about being a victim of rape or another type of sexual assault than men (2%).
- In terms of age groups, the proportion is highest among women in the 20–24 age group, where 46 percent report this concern. Among men the proportion is highest in the 25–34 age bracket (4%).

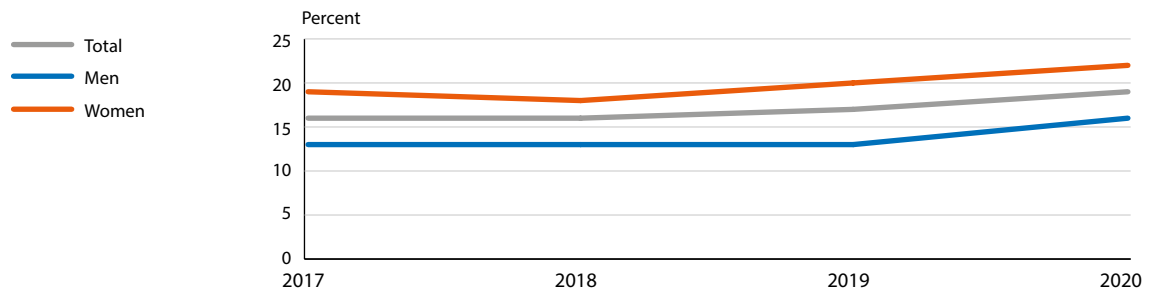
Figure 21. Concern (very often/quite often) about being a victim of rape/sexual assault. Percentage of the population (aged 16–84) and for each gender, 2017–2020.



Concerns about robbery

- Among the respondents in the population (aged 16–84), 19 percent state that they are concerned about being a victim of robbery in 2020, which is an increase compared to 2019 (17%).
- It is more common for women (22%) to be concerned about robbery than men (16%).
- The level of concern about being a victim of robbery is highest among men in the youngest age brackets 16–19, 20–24 and 25–34 (19%) and among women aged 20–24 and 25–34 (23%).

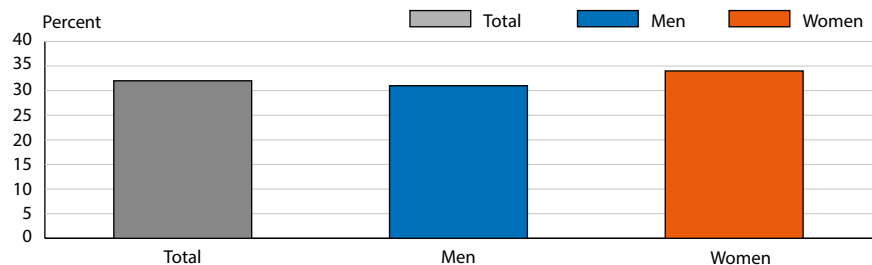
Figure 22. Concern (very often/quite often) about being a victim of robbery.
Percentage of the population (aged 16–84) and for each gender, 2017–2020.



Concern about fraud on the Internet¹¹

- In 2020, 32 percent of the population (aged 16–84) state that they are concerned about being a victim of fraud on the internet.
- The proportion of people who are concerned about being a victim of fraud on the internet is larger for women (34%) than men (31%).
- The largest proportion among men is found in the 55–64 age bracket (38%) and among women the proportion is largest in the 65–74 age bracket (44%).

Figure 23. Concern (very often/quite often) for being a victim of fraud on the internet.
Percentage of the population (aged 16–84) and for each gender, 2017–2020.^a



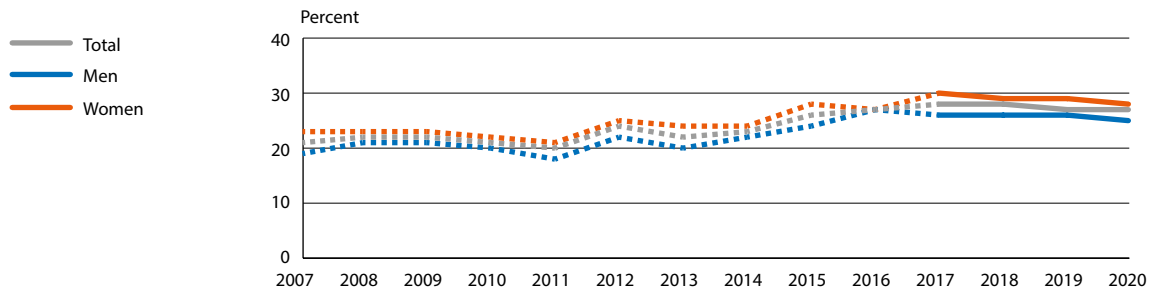
^a For methodological reasons only results for 2020 are presented. Read more about this in the 2020 SCS, Technical report (Brå 2020).

Concern about burglary

- In 2020, 27 percent of the population (aged 16–84) state that they are concerned about burglary, which is at the same level as in 2019. The proportion remained relatively stable during the first years, followed by an increase in 2012 that lasted until 2017. Since then the proportion has remained stable.
- It is more common for women (28%) to state that they are concerned about burglary than men (25%).
- The percentage concerned about burglary is greatest in the 55–64 age bracket among men (31%) and in the 45–54 and 55–64 age brackets among women (32%).

¹¹ The question about concern over being a victim of fraud on the internet was rephrased in conjunction with the SCS 2020. Therefore, results are only presented for 2020.

Figure 24. Concern (very often/quite often) over being a victim of burglary. Percentage of the population (aged 16–84) and for each gender, 2007–2020.^a

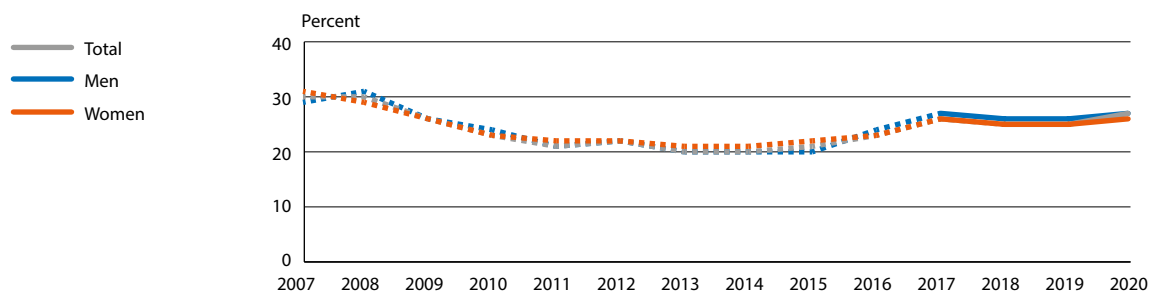


^a The results regarding the 2007–2016 SCS have been recalculated as the SCS was carried out using a different method in this period. Read more about this in the 2018 SCS, Technical report (Brå 2019). For the corresponding results before the recalculation, see previous SCS publications.

Concern about theft/vandalism of vehicle

- Among the respondents who stated that someone in the household owns a car, 27 percent are concerned that the household's car will be stolen or vandalised, which is an increase compared to 2019 (25%). Leading up to 2013, the percentage concerned about the household's car being stolen or vandalised decreased, followed by a gradual increase in 2015–2017. It remains to be seen if the increase noted in recent years is the beginning of a trend.
- The percentage concerned about theft or vandalism of vehicle is almost equally high for men (27%) and women (26%).
- In different age groups, concern for vehicle-related offences is greatest among men in the 25–34, 35–44 and 55–64 age bracket (31%) and in the 55–64 age bracket among women (31%).

Figure 25. Concern (very often/quite often) over being a victim of theft/vandalism of a vehicle. Percentage of the population (aged 16–84) and for each gender, 2007–2020.^a

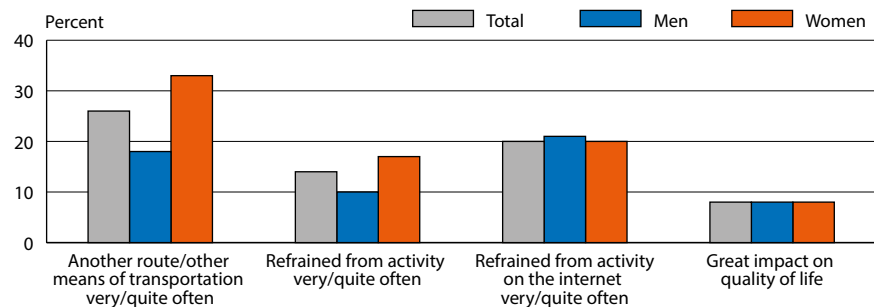


^a The results regarding the 2007–2016 SCS have been recalculated as the SCS was carried out using a different method in this period. Read more about this in the 2018 SCS, Technical report (Brå 2019). For the corresponding results before the recalculation, see previous SCS publications.

Consequences of feeling unsafe

- In 2020, 26 percent of the population (aged 16–84) state that they often have chosen another route or another mode of transport as a result of concern about being a victim of crime, while 14 percent have refrained from an activity often as a result of this concern. Furthermore, 20 percent state that they have often refrained from an activity on the internet as a result of concern about being a victim of threats or harassment, and of these respondents, 3 percent never engage in activities on the internet due to this concern. Lastly, 8 percent state that their quality of life is affected as a result of being concerned about being a victim of crime.
- A significantly larger proportion of women than men state that they often have chosen another route or another mode of transport, and refrained from any activity due to concern about being a victim of crime. For the other questions, the differences are small.

Figure 26. Consequences of feeling unsafe and concern over being a victim of crime. Percentage of the population (aged 16–84) and for each gender, 2020.



Confidence in the criminal justice system

The criminal justice system comprises several different public agencies and the SCS asks questions about the criminal justice system as a whole, as well as more specific questions regarding four of its agencies – the police, the public prosecutors, the courts, and the prison and probation service. The section on confidence in the criminal justice system reflects the respondents' perception at the time the questionnaire was answered.

The results shown on confidence in the criminal justice system are mainly for the percentage stating that they have high (very high or quite high) confidence. The other response alternatives are low (very, or quite low) confidence or no opinion. This means that respondents that do not have high confidence do not by definition need to have low confidence. They could have stated that they have no opinion. However, the fact that some respondents have no particular view on a given issue, or are unwilling to commit themselves, is in itself an important factor to consider when assessing levels of public confidence. For this reason, those who state that they have no opinion in relation to the questions on confidence in the justice system are included in the result.

Confidence in the criminal justice system as a whole

- A little less than half (49%) of the population (aged 16–84) state that they have a high (very high or quite high) degree of confidence in the criminal justice system as a whole, which is approximately at the same level as in 2019, when the proportion was 48 percent. The proportion for high degree of confidence was relatively stable from 2011 until 2017, when there was a clear decline. The proportion then increased again, which means that it has returned to the previous level.
- It is more common for women (52%) to state that they have a high degree of confidence in the criminal justice system as a whole than for men (45%)
- In terms of age, the proportion is greatest among men aged 35–44 (48%) and among women in the 35–44 and 45–54 age brackets (54%).

Confidence in the police

- The proportion of the population (aged 16–84) who state that they have a high degree of confidence in the way the police perform their work is 54 percent, which is the highest level measured in the SCS and a small increase compared to 2019, when the proportion was 52 percent. The level was stable (with annual variations) until 2016, but 2017 saw a decrease in the proportion stating that they have a high degree of confidence. In 2018, however, there was an increase and that increase has continued in 2020. An increase of a total of 12 percentage points occurred between 2017 and 2020.
- It is more common for women (59%) to have a high degree of confidence in the police than for men (49%).
- In terms of age, the proportion is greatest among men in the 16–19 and 75–84 age brackets (52%) and among women in the age group 45–54 (62%).

Confidence in the public prosecutors

- 40 percent of the population (aged 16–84) state that they have a high degree of confidence in the way the public prosecutors perform their work, which is as about the same level as in 2019, when the proportion was 39 percent. The proportion increased until 2009 and then remained at a stable level, only to decrease in 2017. However, the result for 2020 shows that the proportion has increased again, which means that it is back at about the same level as before.
- It is more common for women (42%) to have a high degree of confidence in the public prosecutors than for men (37%).
- In terms of age, the proportion with a high degree of confidence in the public prosecutors is greatest in the age group 16–19 among men (41%) and in the age groups 25–34, 35–44 and 45–54 among women (45%).

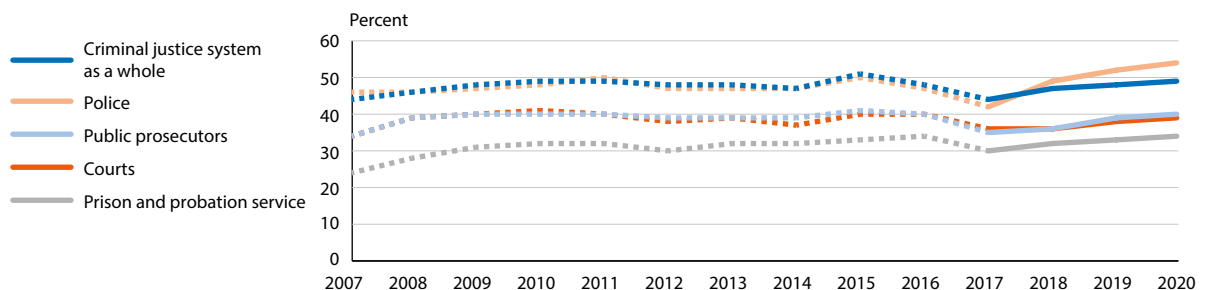
Confidence in the courts

- A little less than two-fifths (39%) of the population (aged 16–84) state that they have a high degree of confidence in the way the courts perform their work, which is at approximately the same level as in 2019, when the proportion was 38 percent. The proportion was relatively stable for most of the measurement period up to and including 2016. The proportion then declined in 2017, but has increased slightly in 2020.
- It is somewhat more common for women (40%) to have a high degree of confidence in the courts than for men (37%).
- In terms of age, the proportion is greatest in the age group 16–19 among men (43%) and in the age group 45–54 among women (44%).

Confidence in the prison and probation service

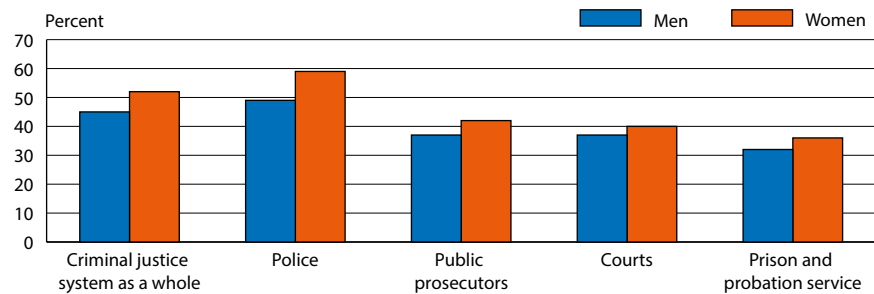
- More than a third (34%) of the population (aged 16–84) have a high degree of confidence in the way in which the prison and probation service operates, which is at approximately the same level as in 2019, when the proportion was 33 percent. The proportion with a high degree of confidence in the prison and probation service increased between 2007 and 2010 and has since remained relatively stable.
- It is more common for women (36%) to have a high degree of confidence in the prison and probation service than for men (32%).
- Among men, the proportion is greatest in the 16–19 age bracket (39%) and among women, the proportion is greatest in the 20–24 age bracket (45%).

Figure 27. Very/quite high degree of confidence in the criminal justice system. Percentage of the population (aged 16–84), 2007–2020.^a



^a The results regarding the 2007–2016 SCS have been recalculated as the SCS was carried out using a different method in this period. Read more about this in the 2018 SCS, Technical report (Brå 2019). For the corresponding results before the recalculation, see previous SCS publications.

Figure 28. Very/quite high degree of confidence in the criminal justice system. Percentage for each gender 2020.



Confidence that the criminal justice system as a whole treats suspects fairly

- The results for 2020 show that 43 percent of the population (aged 16–84) have a high degree of confidence that the criminal justice system as a whole treats those suspected of crimes fairly, which is at about the same level as 2019 when the proportion was 42 percent. The proportion has remained at a relatively stable level for most of the measurement period, except for 2017 when the proportion decreased. A slight increasing trend has since been noted.
- It is just as common for men and women to have a high degree of confidence that the criminal justice system as a whole treats those suspected of crimes fairly (43% in each group).
- In terms of age, the proportion among men is greatest in the 35–44 age bracket (48%) and in the age bracket 45–54 for women (49%).

Confidence that the police treat suspects fairly

- More than half (51%) of the population (aged 16–84) have a high degree of confidence that the police treats those suspected of crimes fairly, which is a small increase compared to 2019 when the proportion was 49 percent. The proportion has generally been at a stable level, but there has been an increase since 2017.
- It is basically just as common for men (51%) and women (50%) to have a high degree of confidence that the police treat those suspected of crimes fairly.
- In terms of age, the proportion is greatest in the 45–54 age brackets among both men and women (men, 55% and women, 57%).

Confidence that the criminal justice system as a whole treats crime victims well

- In the 2020 SCS, 29 percent of the population (aged 16–84) have a high degree of confidence that the criminal justice system as a whole treats crime victims well, which is almost at the same level as 2019 when the proportion was 28 percent. The proportion with a high degree of confidence increased slightly at the beginning of the measurement period and has subsequently remained at a relatively stable level.

- It is more common for women (30%) to have a high degree of confidence that the criminal justice system as a whole treats crime victims well than for men (27%).
- In terms of age, the proportion is greatest in the 16–19 age bracket among both men and women (men, 41% and women, 36%).

Confidence that the police treat crime victims well

- The results for 2019 show that 45 percent of the population (aged 16–84) have a high degree of confidence that the police treat crime victims well, which is about the same level as in 2019 when the proportion was 44 percent. The proportion with a high degree of confidence has remained stable throughout the measurement period, and it remains to be seen whether the increase is the beginning of a trend or whether there is a temporary deviation from an otherwise stable level.
- It is more common for women (47%) to have a high degree of confidence that the police treat crime victims well than for men (43%).
- In terms of age, the proportion is greatest in the 16–19 age bracket among men (52%) and in the 45–54 age bracket among women, 51%).

Crime victims' contact with the criminal justice system

When a person has been subjected to an offence that is reported to the police, the person gains experience of one or more of the agencies within the criminal justice system. The experience is customarily limited to the person's contact with the police in connection with the police report, but may also comprise contact with public prosecutors, counsel for injured parties and, in the event the offence comes to trial, courts. The section on crime victims' contact with the criminal justice system reports experiences in the most recent three years (at the date the question was answered).

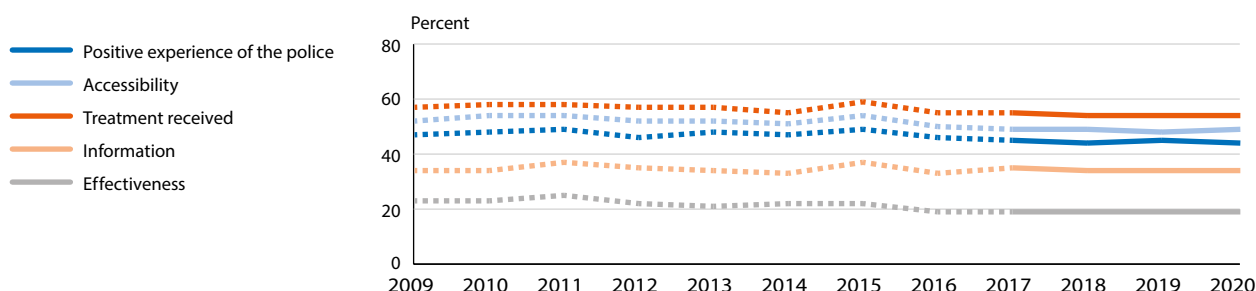
Experience of the police in connection with reporting a crime to the police

- The 2020 SCS shows that 24 percent of the population (aged 16–84) have been subjected to a crime that was reported to the police in the last three years.
- Of these, 44 percent stated that they had a positive experience of the police overall, which in principle is at about the same level as 2018 (45 percent). The proportion has remained at a stable level for most of the measurement period, but a slight decrease can be seen for the most recent years. When comparing crimes with and without elements of threats or violence, the proportion with positive experiences is at a slightly higher level among those who experienced a crime with threats or violence.
- With regard to various parts of the police's work, the victims are most satisfied with the way the police treated them (54%) and with

police accessibility (49%), but less satisfied with the information they received regarding how the police were working with their case (34%) and with police effectiveness in investigating the crime (19%). When comparing crimes with and without elements of threats or violence, the proportion of satisfaction is greater when the incident has not entailed threats or violence, seen in terms of police accessibility and the information respondents received on how the police were working with their case. Looking at the question of the police's effectiveness, the proportion is greater in cases where the offence has contained threats or violence, while for responses to the question of the way the police treated respondents, the proportion is almost equal.

- Women state that they have a positive experience of the police more often than men, in terms of both overall experience of the police and the various parts of the police's work.
- In terms of age, the proportion with positive experiences is greatest among the oldest age groups, for both men and women.

Figure 29. Experiences of the police among those who have been subjected to any crime reported to the police in the last three years, according to the 2007–2020 SCS. Percentage of people who have very/quite a positive experience of the police, and who are very/quite satisfied with different parts of the police's work.^{a, b}



^a The results regarding the 2007–2016 SCS have been recalculated as the SCS was carried out using a different method in this period. Read more about this in the 2018 SCS, Technical report (Brå 2019). For the corresponding results before the recalculation, see previous SCS publications.

^b Questions about experiences of different parts of the police's work were added to the questionnaire in 2009.

Experience with public prosecutors and courts

- Approximately 2.0 percent of the population state that they have been in contact with public prosecutors as a result of having been a victim of crime at some time in the past three years, even if the investigation did not subsequently lead to a trial. Of these people, 43 percent state that their contact with public prosecutors was positive, which is at a slightly higher level than in 2019 (42%).
- Of the population aged 16–84, 1.1 percent state that they have participated in a trial as an injured party in the most recent three years. Of these, 58 percent state that they are satisfied with the way they were treated in court, which is a clear increase from 2019, when the proportion was 52 percent. Furthermore, 69 percent state that they thought it was easy to understand the trial, which is an increase

from 2019 (63%). Lastly, 57 percent feel that they were given enough information before the trial, which is at the same level as 2019. Of those who participated in a trial as an injured party, 64 percent had what is termed a counsel for an injured party. Of these, 68 percent describe their experience of the counsel for an injured party as positive, which is an increase compared to 2019 (64%).

- Women have positive experiences to a greater extent than men when it comes to experience of prosecutors, courts and counsel for an injured party, while basically no differences between women and men are seen in terms of understanding the trial and information before the trial.

Figures

Victimisation

Figure 1. Self-reported victimisation due to various types of offences against an individual.
Percentage of the population (aged 16–84), 2006–2019.

Figure 2. Self-reported victimisation due to various types of offences against an individual.
Percentage of the population (aged 16–84), 2016–2019.

Figure 3. Self-reported victimisation due to assault.
Percentage for each gender, 2006–2019.

Figure 4. Self-reported victimisation due to serious assault.
Percentage for each gender, 2006–2019.

Figure 5. Self-reported victimisation due to threats.
Percentage for each gender, 2006–2019.

Figure 6. Self-reported victimisation due to a sexual offence.
Percentage for each gender, 2006–2019.

Figure 7. Self-reported victimisation due to a serious sexual offence involving the use of force. Percentage for each gender, 2006–2019.

Figure 8. Self-reported victimisation due to a sexual offence involving the exploitation of a defenceless condition.
Percentage for each gender, 2006–2019.

Figure 9. Self-reported victimisation due to robbery.
Percentage for each gender, 2006–2019.

Figure 10. Self-reported victimisation due to harassment.
Percentage for each gender, 2006–2019.

Figure 11. Self-reported victimisation due to pickpocketing.
Percentage for each gender, 2016–2019.

Figure 12. Self-reported victimisation due to sales fraud.
Percentage for each gender, 2016–2019.

Figure 13. Self-reported victimisation due to card/credit fraud.
Percentage for each gender, 2016–2019.

Figure 14. Self-reported victimisation due to online harassment. Percentage for each gender, 2016–2019.

Figure 15. Self-reported victimisation due to various types of property offences. Percentage of victimised households nationwide, 2006–2019.

Concern over crime and feeling unsafe

Figure 16. Feeling unsafe (very unsafe/quite unsafe) in own neighbourhood when going out late at night, as well as those who do not go out due to feeling unsafe. Percentage of the population (aged 16–84) and for each gender, 2007–2020.

Figure 17. Perception that the number of crimes in Sweden has increased (considerably/slightly) in Sweden over the past three years. Percentage of the population (aged 16–84) and for each gender, 2007–2020.

Figure 18. Concern about crime in society (in large extent). Percentage of the population (aged 16–84) and for each gender, 2007–2020.

Figure 19. Concern (very often/quite often) that someone close to them will be a victim of crime. Percentage of the population (aged 16–84) and for each gender, 2007–2020.

Figure 20. Concern (very often/quite often) over being a victim of assault. Percentage of the population (aged 16–84) and for each gender, 2017–2020.

Figure 21. Concern (very often/quite often) over being a victim of rape/sexual assault. Percentage of the population (aged 16–84) and for each gender, 2017–2020.

Figure 22. Concern (very often/quite often) over being a victim of robbery. Percentage of the population (aged 16–84) and for each gender, 2017–2020.

Figure 23. Concern (very often/quite often) over being a victim of fraud on the internet. Percentage of the population (aged 16–84) and for each gender, 2020.

Figure 24. Concern (very often/quite often) over being a victim of burglary. Percentage of the population (aged 16–84) and for each gender, 2007–2020.

Figure 25. Concern (very often/quite often) over being a victim of theft/vandalism of a vehicle. Percentage of the population (aged 16–84) and for each gender, 2007–2020.

Figure 26. Consequences of feeling unsafe and concern over being a victim of crime. Percentage of the population (aged 16–84) and for each gender, 2020.

Confidence in the criminal justice system

Figure 27. Very/quite high degree of confidence in the criminal justice system. Percentage of the population (aged 16–84), 2007–2020.

Figure 28. Very/quite high degree of confidence in the criminal justice system. Percentage for each gender 2020.

Crime victims' contact with the criminal justice system

Figure 29. Experiences of the police among those who have been subjected to any crime reported to the police during the last three years, according to the 2007–2020 SCS. Percentage of people who have a very/quite positive experience of the police, and who are very/quite satisfied with different parts of the police's work.

References

Brottsförebyggande rådet, Brå (2020). *Nationella trygghetsundersökningen 2020* [Swedish Crime Survey 2020]. Technical report. Report 2020:9. Stockholm: Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (Brå).

Brottsförebyggande rådet, Brå (2019). *Nationella trygghetsundersökningen 2018* [Swedish Crime Survey 2018]. Technical report. Report 2019:2. Stockholm: Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (Brå).

Appendix

Help us study crime and fear of crime

This letter is available in
Arabic, Persian and English here:
www.scb.se/botrygg

Do you have any questions?

Contact Statistics Sweden

Phone: 010-479 69 30

Email: enkat@scb.se

Post: Statistics Sweden, 701 89 Örebro

Statistics Sweden

Statistics Sweden provides society with statistics for decision-making, debate and research. We have been tasked with this role by the Government, authorities, researchers and the business community. Our statistics contribute to fact-based social debate and well-substantiated decisions.

Brå – knowledge centre for crime and the criminal justice system

The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (Brå) works to reduce crime and fear of crime in society. We do this by obtaining facts and disseminating knowledge about crime, crime prevention work, and judicial response to crime.

The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (Brå) and Statistics Sweden would like to invite you to participate in the Swedish Crime Survey, a survey about crime and fear of crime in Sweden. You are one of 200,000 people aged 15–84 who have been randomly selected from Statistics Sweden's population register to answer our questions in the form of a questionnaire. Taking part in the survey is completely voluntary, but your participation is very important, so we would be very grateful if you could take the time to respond.

What are the questions about?

Amongst other things, we are interested in

- how safe or unsafe you feel in the area where you live
- whether or not you have been exposed to crime
- how much confidence you have in the police and the courts.

You are free to skip any questions that you do not feel comfortable about answering.

Your answers make a difference

Whether or not you feel safe or unsafe where you live, or you have been exposed to crime; your answers are important to us so that we can create as realistic a picture as possible. Information about your experiences is needed when the Parliament and Government make decisions about what should be done to make citizens feel safer, to reduce crime and improve the work of the police and the courts, and more.

You are welcome to take the survey via www.insamling.scb.se

Your username and password can be found in the letter sent to your home address. On the web, you can choose whether you want to respond in Swedish or in English. You do not have to answer all of the questions at once – you can log in multiple times. If you would prefer to respond on paper, you should contact Statistics Sweden for a paper copy of the questionnaire in English, Arabic or Persian.

Please complete the questionnaire as soon as possible!

We really appreciate your participation!

Kind regards,

Joakim Stymne
Director-General, Statistics Sweden

Kristina Svartz
Director-General, Brå



Who is conducting the survey?

The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (Brå) is conducting the survey with the help of Statistics Sweden. Both are government authorities responsible for describing Sweden through statistics. The survey is being conducted on assignment from the Government.

How will the answers be used?

The results from the questionnaires will be used to produce statistics. Statistics Sweden processes and anonymises the information and then submits it to Brå for continued processing and analysis.

Brå may submit the survey materials to other authorities or researchers for statistical or research purposes. Such research and statistical activities are also covered by statistical confidentiality (see below).

Brå is restrictive in handing out materials and do so only after special review.

Who will use the compiled statistics?

The statistics will be used, for example, when the Parliament and Government make decisions about Sweden's future, or when newspapers and TV report on crime and fear of crime.

Other users include the police and other authorities within the criminal justice system, political parties, municipalities, newspapers, TV and radio, researchers and students, and the public.

Why should I answer the questionnaire?

By answering, you help to describe a realistic picture of the Swedish society.

Do you retrieve any information about me beforehand?

Yes, Statistics Sweden retrieves information about gender, age, home municipality, residential area, type of housing, marital status, year of immigration (where relevant), country of birth (own and parents'), educational level (own and parents'), occupation, income, financial assistance (own and parents') and introduction benefit (own and parents') from Statistics Sweden's register (if the information is available).

I am a victim of crime. Where can I get support?

If you are a victim of crime and need someone to talk to about your experiences, please contact

- Victim Support Sweden (Brottsofferjouren) at phone number 0200-21 20 19
- Children's rights in Society (Barnens rätt i samhället), BRIS (up to 18 years) at phone number 116 111
- Sweden's National Women's Helpline (Kvinnofridslinjen) at phone number 020-50 50 50
- Akillesjouren (for men who have experienced threats or violence in an intimate relationship) at phone number 072-331 63 99

How will my responses be protected?

When the results of the survey are published, your individual answers will not be shown.

Information about personal and financial circumstances that you provide in the questionnaire will be protected by confidentiality, and everyone working with the survey has a duty to maintain confidentiality. Confidentiality applies in accordance with Chapter 24, Section 8 of the Public Access to Information and Secrecy Act (2009:400). The same confidentiality protection applies at Brå.

Statistics Sweden saves your personal identity number to ensure you are not asked to participate in the survey again next year. The personal identity number is not linked to any answers you provide.

How will my personal data be processed?

Statistics Sweden is the personal data controller for the processing of personal data which Statistics Sweden performs as part of this survey. Brå is the personal data controller for the processing of personal data which Brå performs.

Requirements related to the processing of personal data are found in the EU General Data Protection Regulation as well as in the Act (2001:99) and Ordinance (2001:100) regarding Official Statistics. There are also requirements laid out in the Act (2018:218) with Supplementary Provisions to the EU General Data Protection Regulation, as well as the regulations issued in connection with the Act. More information about how Statistics Sweden processes your personal data can be found at www.scb.se/personuppgifter.

You have the right to receive a free copy of the personal data processed by Statistics Sweden in its role as personal data controller in the form of a register extract. More information can be found at www.scb.se/registerutdrag.

If you believe that Statistics Sweden has processed your personal data in a manner that violates the EU General Data Protection Regulation, you have the right to have the data deleted under certain circumstances.

You have the same rights in relation to Brå.

Do you have any questions about personal data processing?

Contact the Data Protection Officer:

Statistics Sweden: 010-479 40 00, dataskyddsbud@scb.se, 701 89 Örebro

Brå: dataskyddsbud@bra.se, Box 1386, 111 93 Stockholm

Where will the statistics be published?

The statistics are presented annually on Brå's website, www.bra.se. The results are also commonly presented in the mass media, reports and various international comparisons.

Select only one answer option for each question, unless otherwise is stated.

If you want to explain or clarify something, please do so at the end of the survey.

The questionnaire will be scanned electronically, so when you fill in the questionnaire, please remember to:

- Please select only one response alternative per question unless otherwise instructed
- Use a ballpoint pen
- Write numbers clearly:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
- Mark your answers with an x like this:

X

- If you need to change your answer, cover the entire box:

--
- If you want to explain or clarify something, please do so at the end of the questionnaire

Background questions

Firstly, a few questions about you and your household.

1. What year were you born?

Enter the year with four digits, e.g. 1986 or 2001.

Year of birth:

--	--	--	--

2. a) Which people do you live with?

You can select more than one alternative. Include children who live at least half the time in your household. Include foster children and your partner's children as well. Do not include any lodgers.

- ☐ None
- ☐ Husband/wife/cohabitee/partner
- ☐ Parent/s
- ☐ Sibling/s
- ☐ Other adults
- ☐ Children or adolescents under the age of 20 (not your siblings)

b) Including yourself, how many people from 15 to 84 years of age (born 1936-2004) are there in your household?

Include adults and children who live at least half the time in your household, i.e. foster children and your partner's children as well. Do **not** include any lodgers.

Number:

--	--

people

3. a) What type of accommodation do you have?

Select only one alternative. If several alternatives are relevant, select the alternative where you live the most.

- ☐ Villa (detached single-family home for one or two families)
- ☐ Townhouse, terraced house or semi-detached
- ☐ Apartment in multi-unit dwelling
- ☐ Other accommodation

b) Do you own or rent your home or are you a member of a tenant-owners' housing association?

Select only one alternative. If several alternatives are relevant, select the alternative where you live the most.

- ☐ Own (right of possession, partnership share)
- ☐ Rent (right of tenancy, first, second, or third-hand contract, cooperative)
- ☐ Tenant-owners' housing association
- ☐ Other

4. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

Select only one alternative. Do you have a foreign education? Try to translate this into the equivalent Swedish educational level.

- ☐ Have not completed any level of education/lack an education
- ☐ Elementary school, lower secondary school or similar
- ☐ Secondary education, college or similar
- ☐ Post-secondary education that lasted at least 1 year (e.g. vocational training courses, military education, courses to become a priest/pastor, policeman and/or youth recreation leader etc.)
- ☐ University or other form of higher education shorter than 3 years
- ☐ University or other form of higher education 3 years or longer

5. What is your main occupation at the moment?

Select only one alternative. If several alternatives are relevant, select the one most relevant to you.

- ☐ Employee
- ☐ Self-employed
- ☐ Student
- ☐ Job seeker or in a labour market policy measure
- ☐ Parental leave or leave of absence
- ☐ Long-term sick leave (more than 3 months)
- ☐ Sickness or activity compensation (previously known as early retirement pension, invalidity pension or temporary disability allowance)
- ☐ Pensioner (old-age pensioner, retired)
- ☐ Housewife/house husband (not retired)

Attitudes to the Swedish criminal justice system

The section below contains questions regarding your attitude to criminal justice system. The justice system relates to the authorities responsible for the rule of law and legal rights. The justice system maintains Swedish law for example through crime prevention, the investigation of crimes, enforcing sanctions and providing support for victims. The justice system includes, among others, the police, prosecutors, courts and the prison and probation service.

The police are tasked to prevent, combat and investigate crimes. **The prosecutor** investigates and prosecutes those suspected of committing a crime. **The courts** determine whether a suspect is guilty and what the punishment will be. **The prison and probation service** is responsible for remand centres, prisons and the probation system.

6. Consider the criminal justice system as a whole, how much confidence do you have in the criminal justice system?

- ☐ A great deal
- ☐ Quite a lot
- ☐ Neither a lot nor little
- ☐ Not very much
- ☐ Very little
- ☐ No opinion/Don't know

7. How much confidence do you have in the way the police conduct their work?

- ☐ A great deal
- ☐ Quite a lot
- ☐ Neither a lot nor little
- ☐ Not very much
- ☐ Very little
- ☐ No opinion/Don't know

8. How much confidence do you have in the way the prosecutors conduct their work?

- ☐ A great deal
- ☐ Quite a lot
- ☐ Neither a lot nor little
- ☐ Not very much
- ☐ Very little
- ☐ No opinion/Don't know

9. How much confidence do you have in the way the courts conduct their work?

- ☐ A great deal
- ☐ Quite a lot
- ☐ Neither a lot nor little
- ☐ Not very much
- ☐ Very little
- ☐ No opinion/Don't know

10. How much confidence do you have in the way the probation service conducts its work?

- ☐ A great deal
- ☐ Quite a lot
- ☐ Neither a lot nor little
- ☐ Not very much
- ☐ Very little
- ☐ No opinion/Don't know

11. a) How much confidence do you have that the criminal justice system as a whole treats those who are *suspected of crime fair*?

- ☐ A great deal
- ☐ Quite a lot
- ☐ Neither a lot nor little
- ☐ Not very much
- ☐ Very little
- ☐ No opinion/Don't know

b) How much confidence do you have that the criminal justice system as a whole treats victims of crime in a *good way*?

- ☐ A great deal
- ☐ Quite a lot
- ☐ Neither a lot nor little
- ☐ Not very much
- ☐ Very little
- ☐ No opinion/Don't know

c) How much confidence do you have that the police treats those who are *suspected of crime fair*?

- ☐ A great deal
- ☐ Quite a lot
- ☐ Neither a lot nor little
- ☐ Not very much
- ☐ Very little
- ☐ No opinion/Don't know

d) How much confidence do you have that the police treats victims of crime in a *good way*?

- ☐ A great deal
- ☐ Quite a lot
- ☐ Neither a lot nor little
- ☐ Not very much
- ☐ Very little
- ☐ No opinion/Don't know

Perceived safety/worry about crime over the past year

A number of questions will now follow about how safe you feel and whether you are worried about crime.

12. To what extent are you worried about crime in society?

"Society" means Sweden as a whole – and not just the area where you live.

- ☐ To a great extent
- ☐ To some extent
- ☐ Not at all
- ☐ Don't know

13. a) If you go out alone late in the evening in the area where you live, how safe/unsafe do you feel?

- ☐ Very safe
- ☐ Quite safe
- ☐ Quite unsafe
- ☐ Very unsafe
- ☐ I never go out alone late at night



b) What is your main reason for never going out alone late in the evening?

- ☐ Because I have no reason or opportunity to go out alone late in the evening
- ☐ I feel unsafe
- ☐ Other reason

14. Over the past year have you chosen to take a different route or a different mode of transport because you were worried about being exposed to crime?

A different mode of transport might for example be going by car or taxi instead of public transport.

- ☐ Very often
- ☐ Quite often
- ☐ Quite rarely
- ☐ Very rarely
- ☐ Never

15. Over the past year have you refrained from some form of activity, e.g. going for a walk, visiting a restaurant or meeting someone because you were worried about being exposed to crime?

- ☐ Very often
- ☐ Quite often
- ☐ Quite rarely
- ☐ Very rarely
- ☐ Never

- 16. a) Over the past year have you refrained from writing something or posting pictures or videos on the internet because you were worried about being exposed to harassment or threat?**

This may include social media, such as Facebook, Instagram and YouTube, or in any other respect on the internet.

- ☐ Very often
☐ Quite often
☐ Quite rarely
☐ Very rarely
☐ Never
☐ I never write or post anything on the internet →

- b) Which is the prime reason why you never write or post anything on the internet?**

- ☐ Do not have access to the internet
☐ Because of concerns of being exposed to harassments or threats
☐ Other reason

- 17. Over the past year were you worried about your home being broken into?**

- ☐ Very often
☐ Quite often
☐ Quite rarely
☐ Very rarely
☐ Never

- 18. Over the past year have you worried about your car being stolen or vandalised?**

- ☐ Very often
☐ Quite often
☐ Quite rarely
☐ Very rarely
☐ Never
☐ No one in the household had a car over the past year

19. Over the past year have you worried about being a victim of fraud when purchasing goods or services on the internet?

- ☐ Very often
☐ Quite often
☐ Quite rarely
☐ Very rarely
☐ Never

☐ I never buy goods or services on the internet

b) Which is the prime reason why you never buy goods or services on the internet?

- ☐ Do not have access to the internet
☐ Because of concerns of being exposed to fraud
☐ Other

20. Over the past year have you worried about being assaulted?

- ☐ Very often
☐ Quite often
☐ Quite rarely
☐ Very rarely
☐ Never

21. Over the past year have you worried about being robbed?

- ☐ Very often
☐ Quite often
☐ Quite rarely
☐ Very rarely
☐ Never

22. Over the past year have you worried about being raped or otherwise sexually assaulted?

- ☐ Very often
☐ Quite often
☐ Quite rarely
☐ Very rarely
☐ Never

23. During the past year have you worried about someone close to you becoming a victim of crime?

- ☐ Very often
☐ Quite often
☐ Quite rarely
☐ Very rarely
☐ Never

24. To what extent do your worries about being exposed to crime affect your quality of life?

- ☐ To a great extent
☐ To some extent
☐ Not at all
☐ Don't know

25. To what extent do you think that the following is a problem in the area where you live?

		To a great extent	To some extent	To a minor extent	Not at all
a.	Littering	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b.	Vandalism	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c.	Graffiti	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d.	Speeding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e.	Other reckless driving (moped, car or other motorvehicle)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f.	People under the influence of alcohol or drugs outdoors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g.	Gangs loitering in the area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h.	Individuals or gangs who cause trouble or disturbances	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i.	Open drug trafficking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

26. To what extent do you think that the police care about the problems in the area where you live?

- ☐ To a great extent
☐ To some extent
☐ To a minor extent
☐ Not at all
☐ There are no problems in the area where I live
☐ Don't know/No opinion

27. On the whole, do you think that the number of crimes in Sweden has increased, decreased or remained unchanged over the past three years?

- ☐ Increased significantly
☐ Increased somewhat
☐ Remained unchanged
☐ Decreased somewhat
☐ Decreased significantly
☐ Don't know/No opinion

Exposure to crime in 2019

A number of questions will now follow about exposure to crime last year (1 January-31 December 2019). They concern incidents that may have affected you personally or someone in your household.

It is **very important** that crimes that occurred before or after this period are not included here, no matter how serious they are.

28. Did you or someone in your household have a bike stolen during the course of last year (2019)?

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☐ Yes, number of times

☐ No

☐ No one in the household owned a bike last year

29. Did you or someone in your household have a car stolen during the course of last year (2019)?
Include company/leased cars.

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☐ Yes, number of times

☐ No

☐ No one in the household had a car last year

30. Did you or someone in your household have something taken/stolen out of/from a car, motorcycle, moped, caravan or similar during the course of last year (2019)?
*For example, wheels, stereo or a bag. Do **not** include theft from a bicycle.*

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☐ Yes, number of times

☐ No

31. Did anyone break into your home in order to steal something during the course of last year (2019)?

*Do **not** include break-ins in garages, storerooms or basements that are separated from your home/dwelling. Do **not** include incidents when someone entered an unlocked house.*

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☐ Yes, number of times

☐ No

A number of questions will now follow about incidents that may have happened to you personally during the course of last year (1 January-31 December 2019). If you do not wish to answer a particular question, you may skip it and move on to the next. **But** your answers are of great value and contribute to important knowledge.

32. Has anyone tried unlawfully to make use of your account number, credit card/credit card information or your personal data in order to get money or other valuables during the course of last year (2019)?

This may include for example so-called skimming or identity theft.

- ☐ Yes, number of times
☐ No

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33. Has anyone unlawfully tricked you out of money when you, as a private individual, bought or sold something during the course of last year (2019)?

For example, an item that you paid for but did not receive, or something you sold but did not receive payment for.

- ☐ Yes, number of times
☐ No

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34. Did someone take your money or other valuables that you were carrying with you in your pocket or bag (so-called pickpocketing) during the course of last year (2019)?

Do not include incidents in which threats or violence occurred, they are dealt with in question 35.

- ☐ Yes, number of times
☐ No

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35. Did anyone rob or try to rob you by using threats or violence during the course of last year (2019)?

- ☐ Yes, number of times
☐ No

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36. a) During the course of last year (2019) did anyone sexually molest, sexually assault or sexually coerce you?

This may include for example offensive, sexual comments in speech or writing, or that someone groped you, forced you into a sexual act or raped you. It may have happened at home, at school, at work, on the internet or in another location.

- ☐ Yes, number of times
☐ No

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—————> Go to question 37

b) Did the incident or any of the incidents include someone forcing you or trying to force you into a sexual act by threatening, holding on to you or hurting you in some way?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

c) Did the incident or any of the incidents include someone abusing you sexually while you were asleep or when you were so intoxicated that you couldn't defend yourself?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

- 37. a) Did anybody hit, kick or intentionally subject you to some other form of physical violence, in a way that caused you pain or injury during the course of last year (2019)?**
Do not include incidents referred to previously.

☐ Yes, number of times

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☐ No —————→ *Go to question 38*

- b) Did the incident or any of the incidents lead to you sustaining injuries so that you had to visit a doctor, nurse or dentist?**

☐ Yes

☐ No

- 38. Did anyone threaten you, in such a way that you were frightened, during the course of last year (2019)?**
Do not include incidents referred to previously.

☐ Yes, number of times

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☐ No

- 39. During the course of last year (2019) did you, by one and *the same person* on a repeated number of occasions, receive unwanted visits, phone calls or messages by mail, sms or via the internet?**
This does not include telephone sales or similar.

☐ Yes

☐ No

- 40. Did anyone spread sensitive information, pictures, videos and/or comments about you on the internet with the intention to offend or hurt you during the course of last year (2019)?**
This may have been via social media, such as Facebook, Instagram and YouTube, or in any other respect.

☐ Yes, number of times

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☐ No

41. During the course of last year (2019) were you subjected to any crimes other than those already asked about in the questionnaire?

- ☐ Yes, number of times
- ☐ No

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42. During the course of last year (2019) was anyone close to you exposed to a serious crime?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know

Contacts with agencies of the Swedish justice system over the past three years

A number of questions will now follow about any possible contact you have had with the Swedish criminal justice system, i.e. the police, prosecutors, courts and the probation service. This section relates to incidents that have occurred over the past **three years**.

43. Over the past three years have you been exposed to a crime that was then reported to the police by you or someone else?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No —————> Go to question 47

If you have reported several incidents, we would like to ask you in the following questions to describe only **the most recent incident** that was reported to the police.

44. a) Did you yourself report the incident to the police or did someone else?

- ☐ I did
- ☐ I did, together with another person
- ☐ Another person

b) Was the report made by telephone, via the internet or through direct contact with the police? By direct contact we mean that you met a representative of the police in connection with the reporting of the crime. Answer by selecting only one alternative.

- ☐ Telephone
- ☐ Internet
- ☐ Direct contact
- ☐ Don't know

45. Did the incident that was reported to the police involve any form of threat or violence?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

46. a) Overall, how would you describe your experiences of the police in connection with this crime?

- ☐ Very positive
- ☐ Quite positive
- ☐ Neither positive nor negative
- ☐ Quite negative
- ☐ Very negative
- ☐ Don't know/No opinion

b) Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with regard to how easy it was to get in touch with someone at the police who was able to help you?

- ☐ Very satisfied
- ☐ Quite satisfied
- ☐ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- ☐ Quite dissatisfied
- ☐ Very dissatisfied
- ☐ Don't know/No opinion

c) Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the treatment you received from the police?

- ☐ Very satisfied
- ☐ Quite satisfied
- ☐ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- ☐ Quite dissatisfied
- ☐ Very dissatisfied
- ☐ Don't know/No opinion

d) Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the information you received about how the police were working with your case?

- ☐ Very satisfied
- ☐ Quite satisfied
- ☐ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- ☐ Quite dissatisfied
- ☐ Very dissatisfied
- ☐ Don't know/No opinion

e) How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the police's efforts to investigate and solve the crime?

- ☐ Very satisfied
- ☐ Quite satisfied
- ☐ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- ☐ Quite dissatisfied
- ☐ Very dissatisfied
- ☐ Don't know/No opinion

47. a) During the past three years, have you been in contact with a prosecutor as a result of having been exposed to a crime?

☐ Yes

☐ No —————→ *Go to question 51*

b) How would you describe your overall experience of the prosecutor?

☐ Very positive

☐ Quite positive

☐ Neither positive nor negative

☐ Quite negative

☐ Very negative

48. During the past three years, have you participated in a court trial as a result of having been exposed to a crime?

☐ Yes

☐ No —————→ *Go to question 51*

Below are a number of questions about the trial. If you have participated in more than one trial, the questions should be answered on the basis of **the most recent one**.

49. a) Did you have an injured party counsel in connection with the trial?

An injured party counsel is a lawyer whose task is to help the victim of crime during the preliminary investigation and trial.

☐ Yes —————→ *Please, answer question 49b*

☐ No —————→ *Please, answer question 49c*

b) If Yes: Overall, how would you describe your experiences of the injured party counsel?

☐ Very positive

☐ Quite positive

☐ Neither positive nor negative

☐ Quite negative

☐ Very negative

c) If No: Would you have liked to have an injured party counsel?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Don't know

50. a) In your opinion, was the information you were given before the trial sufficient or insufficient?

☐ Sufficient

☐ Insufficient

☐ Don't know/No opinion

- b) How easy or difficult was it to understand what happened during the trial?**

☐ Very easy☐ Quite easy☐ Neither easy nor difficult☐ Quite difficult☐ Very difficult

- c) How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the treatment you received in court?**

☐ Very satisfied☐ Quite satisfied☐ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied☐ Quite dissatisfied☐ Very dissatisfied

To learn more about exposure to crime, we would like to interview some of those who answered the survey. These interviews are very important to achieve a more in-depth understanding of the situation in Sweden in terms of crime and feelings of safety. We would therefore be grateful if you could provide a telephone number and information regarding which times you prefer we call. You choose whether or not to participate and you can decline at any time.

51. What is the best phone number to use to contact you if you are selected for a follow-up interview?

Primary:

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Secondary:

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- 52. What is your preferred time for us to call you for the interview?**

Please feel free to choose as many options as you like!

☐ Weekday – daytime☐ Weekday – evening☐ Weekend – daytime☐ Weekend – evening

53. If you have anything further you would like to add, please feel free to write it here. What you write will then be submitted to Brå along with your responses.

Thank you for your participation!
Please send the completed questionnaire to Statistics Sweden
in the postage-paid envelope provided.



Tryckt hos ett klimatneutralt företag Edita Bobergs AB





Brottsförebyggande rådet/National Council for Crime Prevention

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