

TEMPLATE POLICY PAGE

Category:	Public Perceptions of Safety
Country:	Denmark
Year:	/

Main policy page:	/
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Relevant legislation:	<p>LEGISLATION no 444 from 09/06/2004 (Valid)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Legislation on police activity</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chapter 1 <i>Purpose and work of the police</i></p> <p>§ 1. The police must operate in the name of security, safety, peace and order in society. The police must advance these causes through prevention, assistance, and enforcement.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chapter 2 <i>Police duties</i></p> <p>§ 2. The duty of the police is</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) to prevent punishable offences, disturbance of public peace and order and threats to individual and public safety, 2) to avert the risk of disturbance of public peace and order and threats to individual and public safety, 3) to stop breaches of the law and investigate and investigate situations in which the law is being breached, 4) to aid citizens in other dangerous situations, 5) to carry out checks and inspections according to the current legislation, 6) to aid other authorities according to the current legislation and 7) to carry out other tasks resulting from the current legislation or tasks that are in other ways connected to police activity
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Trends:	<p>A national crime victim survey conducted in 2005/2006¹ showed that 13% of the Danes between 16 and 74 years often or almost all the time worry about their individual risk of becoming a victim of crime. Almost 60% never or seldom worry.²</p> <p>Between 1971 and 2005 11 national crime victim surveys have been carried out. They have shown that the level of concern has been more or less stable for the past 20 years. During that period between 10% and 13% of the Danish population worry about becoming a victim of crime.</p>
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However, in the 1970's and the beginning of the 1980's fear of crime was more widespread in Denmark than it is today.

The Danes are also recurrently (4 times a year) asked about their level of concern about violence and crime in society on a more general level. Over the past 20 years these surveys show a decrease in the level of concern: from 60-70% in the period 1985-1996; to 35% in 2005 and 31% in 2006. In 2007 the level of concern increased slightly³. Looking instead at the number of people who do *not* worry about violence and crime in society, the proportion has increased from 9 % in 2002 to 15% in 2005.

In comparison to other European populations, Danes are - according to the International Crime Victim Survey (ICVS) – among those who indicate feeling the most safe walking alone after dark⁴ and being at home alone after dark⁵. This was confirmed in the EuroBarometer surveys⁶ where Denmark showed the largest proportion of citizens feeling very or fairly safe walking alone after dark in their local area. People who have been victims of crime worry more about their individual risk of becoming victimised again compared to people who have not been victims. Especially victims of violence worry a lot. Among victims the level of fear is positively related to age. Generally (among non-victims) more women than men worry.

¹ Balvig & Kyvsgaard, 2006 [http://arkiv.dkr.dk/pdf/udsathed_1986_2005.pdf].

² Sample in 2005: 11.671.

³ Institut for Konjunktur-Analyse

⁴ van Kesteren et al 2007 & van Dijk et al 2007

⁵ van Kesteren et al 2001.

⁶ http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home/eucpn/docs/eurobarometer.20052003.pdf

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