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JUVENILE PERPETRATORS OF CRIMINAL OFFENCES, BY TYPE OF DECISION, 2024

In 2024, public prosecutor's offices in the Republic of Croatia decided upon crime reports for **1 268** juvenile perpetrators of criminal offences, which was 15.7% more than in 2023. The number of accused persons increased by 11.6% and the number of perpetrators to whom criminal penalties or other measures were pronounced by 14.9%, as compared to the previous year.

The number of juveniles to whom criminal penalties or other measures were pronounced amounted to **309** in 2024. Out of that number, 258 were educational measures, that is, 83.5%. When pronouncing criminal penalties or other measures, juveniles are divided into older and younger juveniles. Compared to the previous year, the number of convicted older juveniles (182) increased by 8.3% and the number of convicted younger juveniles (127) increased by 25.7%.

There were 7 juvenile imprisonment sentences (a decrease of 46.2%) and 44 suspended juvenile imprisonment sentences (a decrease of 2.2%) pronounced to older juveniles.

The largest number of perpetrators was recorded with regard to criminal offences against property, that is, there were 583 crime reports (46.0%) and 113 accusations (33.5%).

1 JUVENILE PERPETRATORS OF CRIMINAL OFFENCES – REPORTED, ACCUSED AND CONVICTED

	Reported		Accused		Convicted	
	Total	Female persons	Total	Female persons	Total	Female persons
2023	1 096	141	302	33	269	30
2024	1 268	140	337	37	309	36
Indices						
<u>2024</u>	115,7	99,3	111,6	112,1	114,9	120,0
2023						

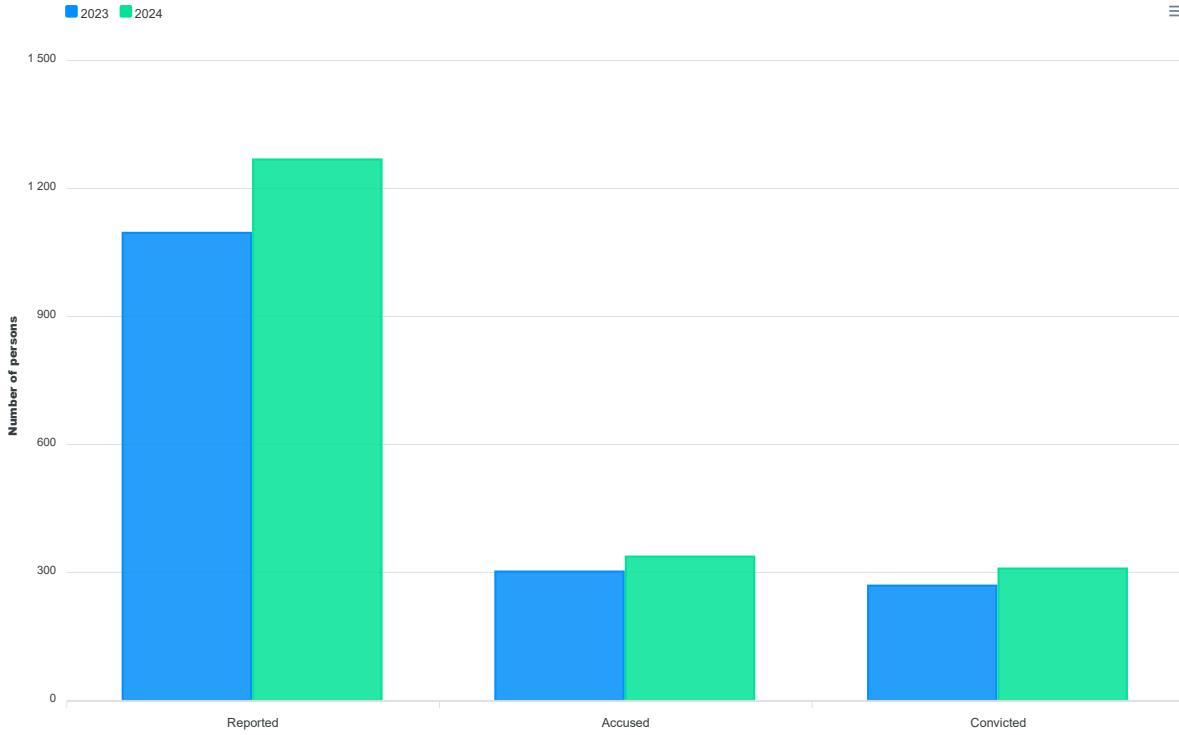
2 DECISIONS OF PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S OFFICES, BY TYPE OF CRIMINAL OFFENCES, 2024

	Total	Criminal offences against								Other criminal offences	Indices 2024 2023
		Life and limb	Personal freedom	Sexual freedom	Sexual maltreatment and sexual exploitation of children	People's health	Property	Counterfeiting	Public order		
Total	1 268	161	142	18	99	42	583	17	112	94	115,7
Female persons	140	10	12	-	10	3	61	3	15	26	99,3
Submitted proposal for a penalty or other measure	470	59	46	6	70	34	166	2	58	29	115,5
Proceedings not initiated	774	98	96	11	27	4	406	15	52	65	114,8
Reported offence not defined as criminal offence	48	8	2	-	3	-	22	6	2	5	218,2
Trivial offence	13	1	-	-	7	1	4	-	-	-	144,4
Circumstances excluding guilt	50	10	12	2	3	-	22	-	1	-	96,2
No reasonable suspicion exists	156	18	26	5	6	-	87	-	3	11	115,6
In the interest of defendant or society	506	61	56	4	7	3	271	9	46	49	111,2
The report is not trustworthy	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	100,0
Interlocutory proceedings terminated	24	4	-	1	2	4	11	-	2	-	160,0
Reported offence not defined as criminal offence	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trivial offence	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Circumstances excluding guilt	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	200,0
No proof	17	2	-	1	1	3	10	-	-	-	340,0
Public prosecutor abandoned a charge	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50,0
In the interest of defendant or society	4	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	57,1
Measures taken during interlocutory proceedings	142	18	19	4	8	2	62	-	16	13	154,3
Supervision by care organisation	68	11	6	3	3	-	32	-	9	4	141,7
Temporary commitment to social care institution	74	7	13	1	5	2	30	-	7	9	168,2

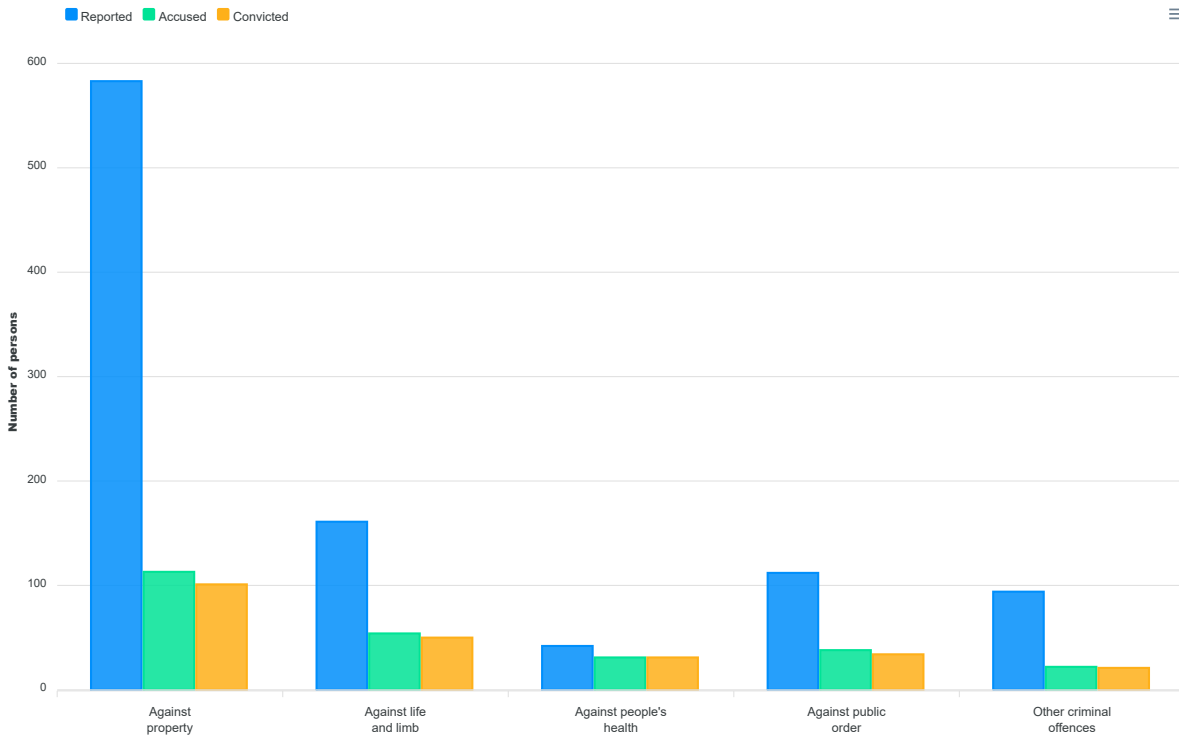
3 COURTS' DECISIONS AND PENALTIES OR OTHER MEASURES, BY TYPES OF CRIMINAL OFFENCES, 2024

	Total	Criminal offences against								Other criminal offences	Indices 2024/2023
		Life and limb	Personal freedom	Sexual freedom	Sexual maltreatment and sexual exploitation of children	People's health	Property	Counterfeiting	Public order		
Total	337	54	21	7	50	31	113	1	38	22	111,6
Female persons	37	3	3	-	6	5	11	-	5	4	112,1
Criminal penalties or other measures	309	50	16	7	48	31	101	1	34	21	114,9
Female persons	36	3	3	-	6	5	11	-	4	4	120,0
Proceedings terminated	28	4	5	-	2	-	12	-	4	1	84,8
In the interest of defendant or society	8	-	1	-	1	-	3	-	2	1	50,0
Public prosecutor forfeited the penalty or other measure	7	1	3	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	87,5
Other reasons	13	3	1	-	-	-	7	-	2	-	144,4
Measures taken during interlocutory proceedings	47	10	6	2	4	3	8	-	6	8	127,0
Supervision by care organisation	20	2	3	2	2	2	3	-	3	3	83,3
Temporary commitment to social care institution	27	8	3	-	2	1	5	-	3	5	207,7
Criminal penalties or other measures - total	309	50	16	7	48	31	101	1	34	21	114,9
Younger juveniles - all	127	14	9	4	24	7	39	-	21	9	125,7
Female persons	17	1	2	-	4	2	3	-	4	1	113,3
Educational measures	127	14	9	4	24	7	39	-	21	9	125,7
Measures of warning	54	1	2	3	19	6	10	-	12	1	154,3
Increased supervision	48	11	2	1	3	1	21	-	7	2	120,0
Correctional institution measures	25	2	5	-	2	-	8	-	2	6	96,2
Older juveniles - all	182	36	7	3	24	24	62	1	13	12	108,3
Female persons	19	2	1	-	2	3	8	-	-	3	126,7
Juvenile imprisonment	7	1	-	-	-	-	4	-	1	1	53,8
Educational measures	131	28	6	1	18	16	49	1	7	5	119,1
Measures of warning	57	11	2	-	13	9	20	-	2	-	101,8
Increased supervision	50	12	4	-	5	5	15	1	4	4	128,2
Correctional institution measures	24	5	-	1	-	2	14	-	1	1	160,0
Suspended juvenile imprisonment	44	7	1	2	6	8	9	-	5	6	97,8
Security measures	31	5	1	1	6	5	3	-	7	3	124,0

G-1 REPORTED, ACCUSED AND CONVICTED JUVENILE PERSONS, 2023 AND 2024

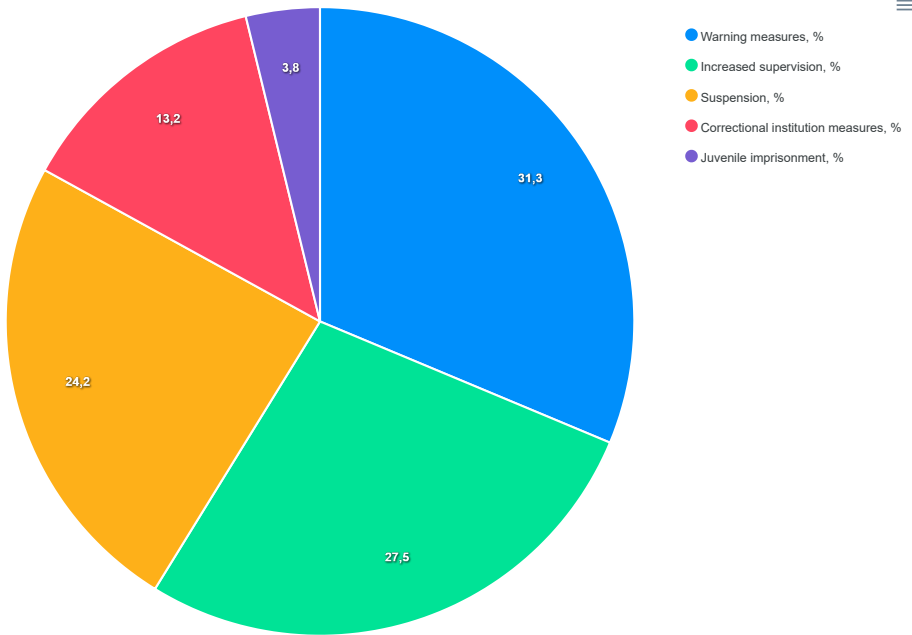


G-2 REPORTED, ACCUSED AND CONVICTED JUVENILE PERSONS, BY TYPES OF CRIMINAL OFFENCES, 2024

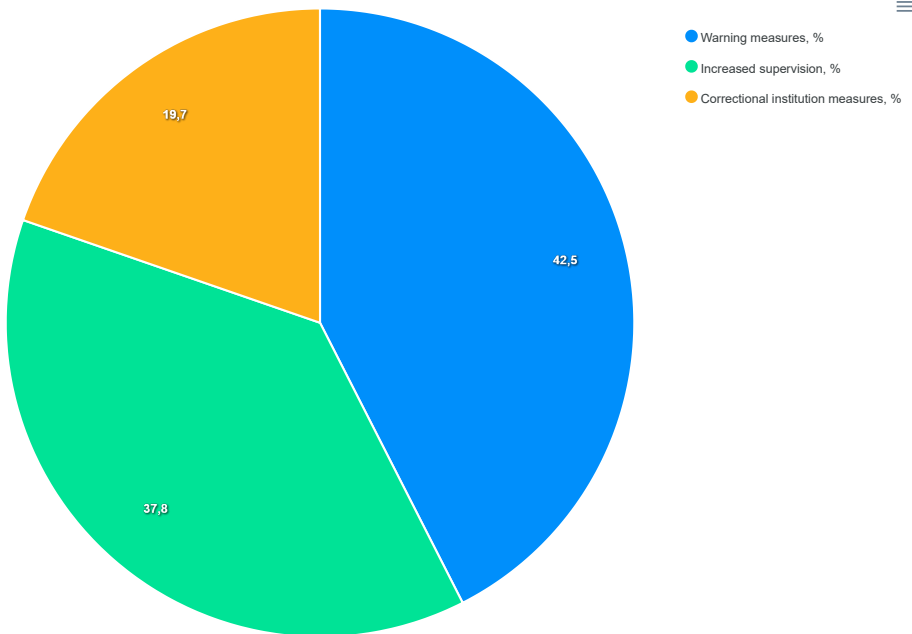


G-3 PENALTIES OR OTHER MEASURES PRONOUNCED AGAINST JUVENILES, 2024

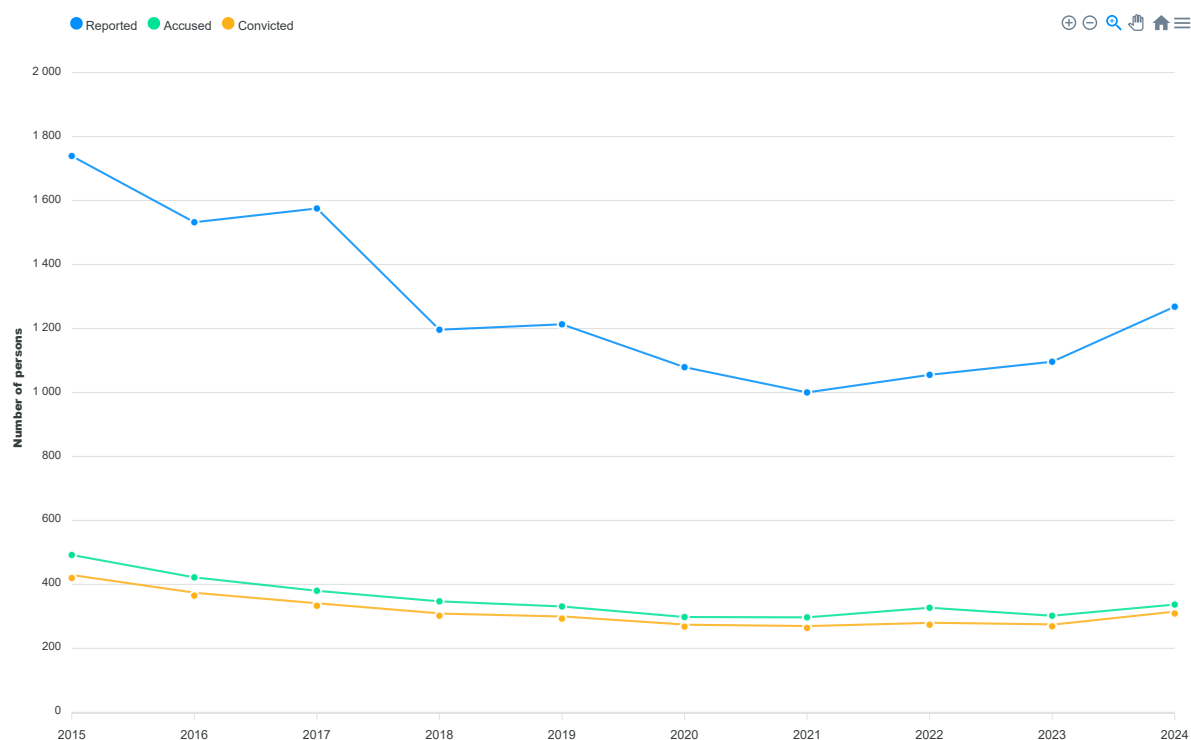
Older juveniles



Younger juveniles



G-4 REPORTED, ACCUSED AND CONVICTED JUVENILE PERPETRATORS OF CRIMINAL OFFENCES, 2015 – 2024



NOTES ON METHODOLOGY

Sources and methods of data collection

On the basis of the Official Statistics Act (NN, Nos 25/20 and 155/23), data on criminal offences of reported, accused and convicted juvenile persons are collected by regular statistical surveys which use the following statistical reports: the Statistical Report for a Juvenile against Whom Criminal Proceedings Based on Crime Report and the Interlocutory Proceedings Have Been Concluded (SK-3 form) and the Statistical Report for a Juvenile against Whom a Criminal Proceedings Have Been Validly Concluded through a Senate (SK-4 form).

Statistical reports are filled in by competent public prosecutor's offices after the final decision has taken place as well as county and municipal courts of first instance that act after the criminal procedure was validly concluded. Observation units are juvenile perpetrators of criminal offences who can be either direct perpetrators, accomplices, instigators or assistants.

On 1 January 2013, the new Penal Code (NN, Nos 125/11, 144/12, 56/15, 61/15 – correction, 101/17, 118/18, 126/19, 84/21, 114/22, 114/23 and 36/24) entered into force. This Code, besides implementing new and modified existing general institutes of material criminal law, prescribes a new catalogue of criminal offences.

Coverage

Statistical surveys cover all juvenile perpetrators of criminal offences, whether reported, accused or convicted, in order to examine the volume and spread of crime for the whole territory of the Republic of Croatia.

Definitions

Crime in terms of statistical surveys ranges from reporting a criminal offence to the valid conclusion of the legal proceedings by a public prosecutors' office, that is, to pronouncing a valid decision of a juvenile court.

Juvenile perpetrator of criminal offences is a person who turned 14 but not yet 18 at the time of committing the criminal offence, against whom legal proceedings have not been initiated (crime report dropped), interlocutory proceedings have been terminated or a proposal for a criminal penalty or other measure has been filed. Criminal proceedings have been validly concluded by issuing the decision on termination of proceedings or pronouncing of a criminal penalty or other measure.

Younger juvenile is a person who turned 14 but not yet 16 at the time of committing a criminal offence and who may not be sentenced to juvenile imprisonment but may only be given educational measures.

Older juvenile is a person who turned 16 but not yet 18 at the time of committing a criminal offence and who may be given educational measures, but may also be sentenced to juvenile imprisonment, if the Juvenile Courts Act foresees any conditions for that.

Reported person is a juvenile perpetrator of a criminal offence against whom the legal proceedings based on the crime report and interlocutory proceedings have been concluded.

Accused person is a juvenile person against whom criminal proceedings have been concluded with a valid court decision, by which the proceedings were terminated, or a criminal penalty or other measure has been pronounced (juvenile imprisonment or educational measures).

Convicted person is a juvenile perpetrator of the criminal offence against whom criminal penalties or other measures have been pronounced: juvenile imprisonment, suspension of juvenile imprisonment or educational measures. Educational measures may comprise reprimand, special obligations, increased care and supervision, increased care and supervision with daily stay in a correctional institution, commitment to a centre for disciplinary development, commitment to a correctional institution, commitment to a rehabilitation centre and commitment to a special correctional institution.

After coming into force of the new Juvenile Courts Act (NN, Nos 84/11, 143/12, 148/13, 56/15 and 126/19), the earlier educational measure of commitment to a disciplinary centre is no longer implemented. At the same time, a new educational measure, called commitment to a centre for disciplinary development, was introduced.

Abbreviations

NN Narodne novine, official gazette of the Republic of Croatia

Symbols

- no occurrence

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