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JUVENILE PERPETRATORS OF CRIMINAL OFFENCES, BY TYPE OF DECISION, 2023

In 2023, public prosecutor's offices in the Republic of Croatia decided upon crime reports for 1 096 juvenile perpetrators of criminal offences, which was 3.9% more than in 2022. The number of accused persons decreased by 7.6% and the number of perpetrators to whom criminal penalties or other measures were pronounced decreased by 1.8%, as compared to the previous year.

The number of juveniles to whom criminal penalties or other measures were pronounced amounted to 269 in 2023. Out of that number, 211 were educational measures, that is, 78.4%. 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 (168) decreased by 4.0%, while the number of convicted younger juveniles (101) increased by 3.1%.

A total of 13 juvenile imprisonment sentences (an increase of 44.4%) and 45 suspended juvenile imprisonment sentences (an increase of 12.5%) were pronounced to older juveniles.

The largest number of perpetrators was recorded with regard to criminal offences against property, that is, there were 496 crime reports (45.3%) and 134 accusations (44.4%).

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

	Reported		Accused		Convicted	
	Total	Female persons	Total	Female persons	Total	Female persons
2022	1 055	139	327	31	274	24
2023	1 096	141	302	33	269	30
Indices						
<u>2023</u>	103,9	101,4	92,4	106,5	98,2	125,0
2022						

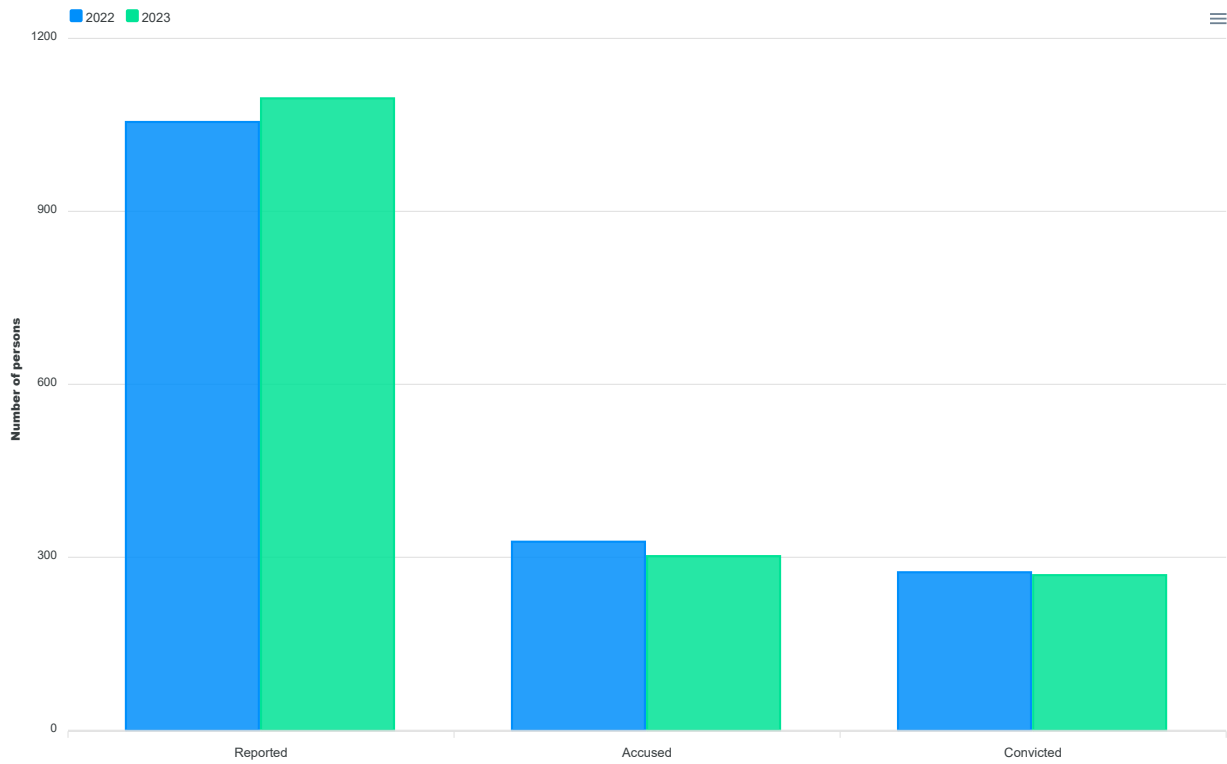
2 DECISIONS OF PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S OFFICES, BY TYPE OF CRIMINAL OFFENCES, 2023

	Total	Criminal offences against								Other criminal offences	Indices 2023 2022
		Life and limb	Personal freedom	Sexual freedom	Sexual maltreatment and sexual exploitation of children	People's health	Property	Counterfeiting	Public order		
Total	1 096	153	130	15	84	60	496	11	72	75	103,9
Female persons	141	18	21	2	5	8	57	-	11	19	101,4
Submitted proposal for a penalty or other measure	407	56	38	8	47	45	155	3	34	21	101,0
Proceedings not initiated	674	96	92	6	36	9	337	8	37	53	105,0
Reported offence not defined as criminal offence	22	3	3	-	5	1	5	-	2	3	88,0
Trivial offence	9	-	-	-	2	3	4	-	-	-	56,3
Circumstances excluding guilt	52	17	4	-	4	-	25	-	1	1	123,8
No reasonable suspicion exists	135	7	37	4	15	4	45	4	6	13	113,4
In the interest of defendant or society	455	69	48	2	9	1	258	4	28	36	104,1
The report is not trustworthy	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	33,3
Interlocutory proceedings terminated	15	1	-	1	1	6	4	-	1	1	150,0
Reported offence not defined as criminal offence	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0,0
Trivial offence	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Circumstances excluding guilt	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
No proof	5	-	-	1	-	3	1	-	-	-	83,3
Public prosecutor abandoned a charge	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
In the interest of defendant or society	7	-	-	-	1	2	2	-	1	1	233,3
Measures taken during interlocutory proceedings	92	20	20	-	6	-	34	-	6	6	88,5
Supervision by care organisation	48	12	9	-	3	-	18	-	4	2	80,0
Temporary commitment to social care institution	44	8	11	-	3	-	16	-	2	4	100,0

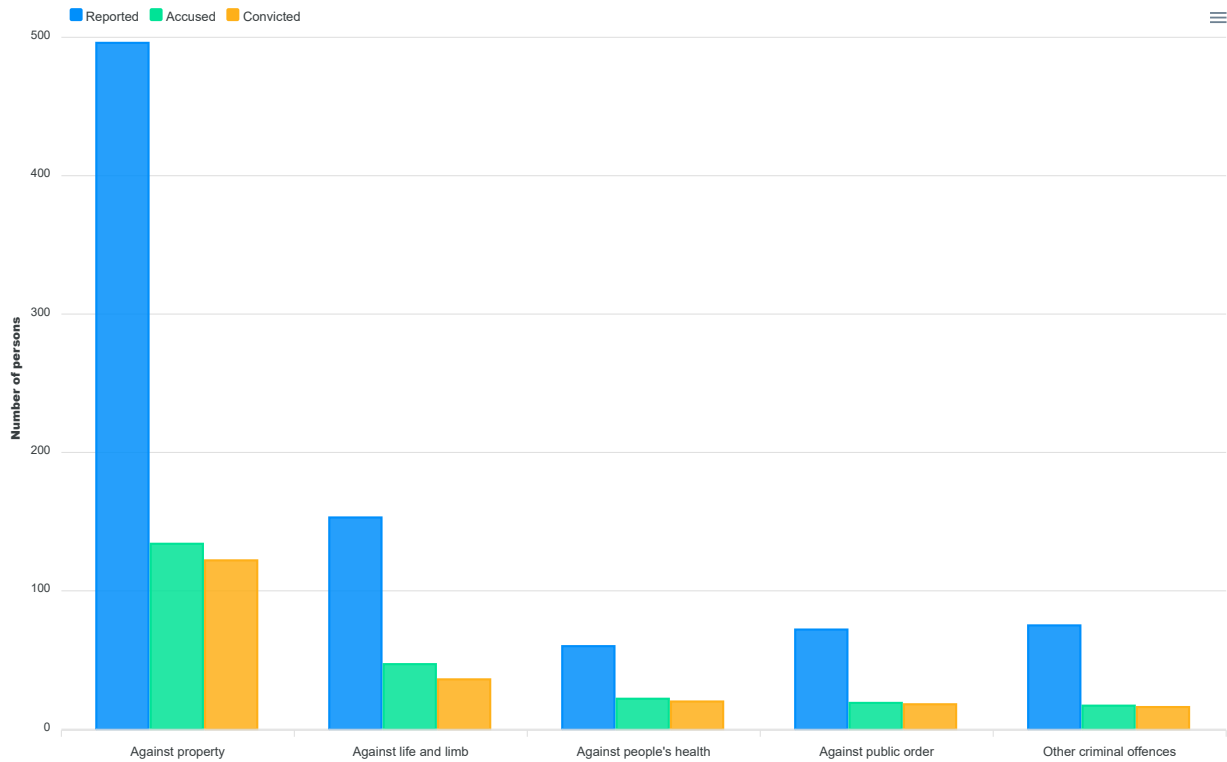
3 COURTS' DECISIONS AND PENALTIES OR OTHER MEASURES, BY TYPES OF CRIMINAL OFFENCES, 2023

	Total	Criminal offences against								Other criminal offences	Indices 2023 2022
		Life and limb	Personal freedom	Sexual freedom	Sexual maltreatment and sexual exploitation of children	People's health	Property	Counterfeiting	Public order		
Total	302	47	20	5	32	22	134	6	19	17	92,4
Female persons	33	4	3	-	2	1	17	-	2	4	106,5
Criminal penalties or other measures	269	36	18	2	31	20	122	6	18	16	98,2
Female persons	30	3	3	-	2	1	15	-	2	4	125,0
Proceedings terminated	33	11	2	3	1	2	12	-	1	1	62,3
In the interest of defendant or society	16	7	-	2	-	-	6	-	-	1	84,2
Public prosecutor forfeited the penalty or other measure	8	3	1	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	50,0
Other reasons	9	1	1	1	-	1	5	-	-	-	50,0
Measures taken during interlocutory proceedings	37	5	3	1	3	3	19	-	1	2	112,1
Supervision by care organisation	24	3	2	-	3	3	11	-	1	1	114,3
Temporary commitment to social care institution	13	2	1	1	-	-	8	-	-	1	108,3
Criminal penalties or other measures – total	269	36	18	2	31	20	122	6	18	16	98,2
Younger juveniles – all	101	13	6	-	19	3	46	-	10	4	103,1
Female persons	15	2	2	-	2	-	6	-	2	1	125,0
Educational measures	101	13	6	-	19	3	46	-	10	4	103,1
Measures of warning	35	3	2	-	14	1	12	-	2	1	87,5
Increased supervision	40	6	2	-	4	-	20	-	7	1	133,3
Correctional institution measures	26	4	2	-	1	2	14	-	1	2	92,9
Older juveniles – all	168	23	12	2	12	17	76	6	8	12	96,0
Female persons	15	1	1	-	-	1	9	-	-	3	125,0
Juvenile imprisonment	13	2	-	-	1	-	7	1	-	2	144,4
Educational measures	110	17	10	1	7	13	47	4	5	6	87,3
Measures of warning	56	12	4	-	6	6	20	2	3	3	90,3
Increased supervision	39	4	3	1	-	7	20	1	1	2	95,1
Correctional institution measures	15	1	3	-	1	-	7	1	1	1	65,2
Suspended juvenile imprisonment	45	4	2	1	4	4	22	1	3	4	112,5
Security measures	25	6	1	-	3	7	6	1	1	-	92,6

G-1 REPORTED, ACCUSED AND CONVICTED JUVENILE PERSONS, 2022 AND 2023

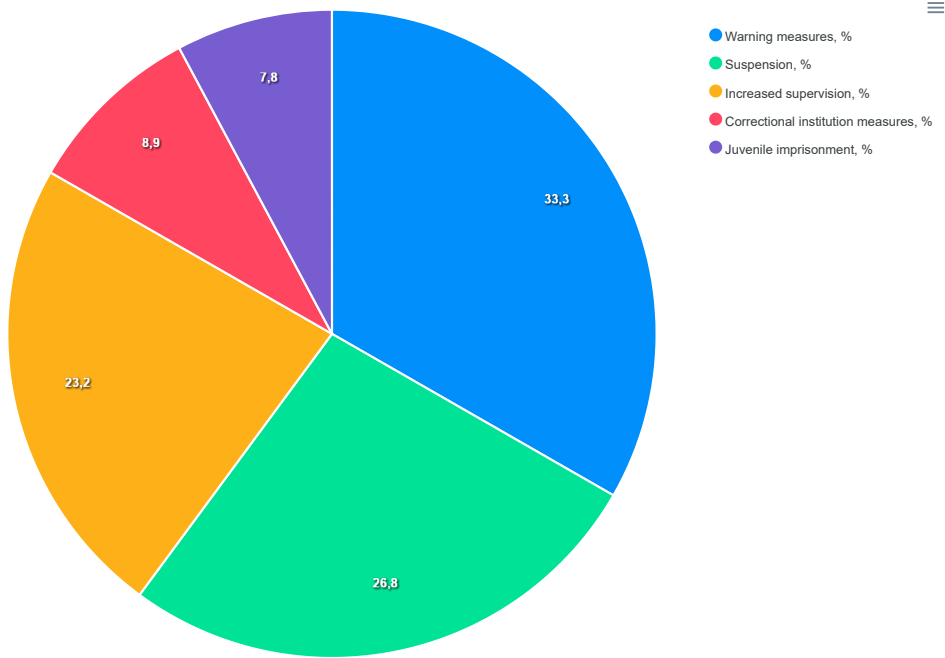


G-2 REPORTED, ACCUSED AND CONVICTED JUVENILE PERSONS, BY TYPES OF CRIMINAL OFFENCES, 2023

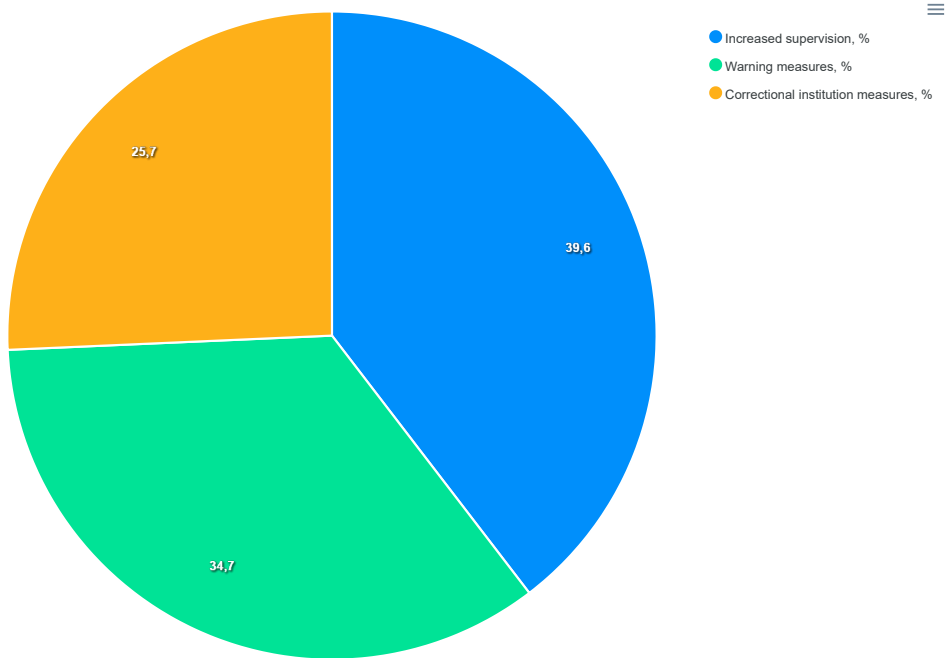


G-3 PENALTIES OR OTHER MEASURES PRONOUNCED AGAINST JUVENILES, 2023

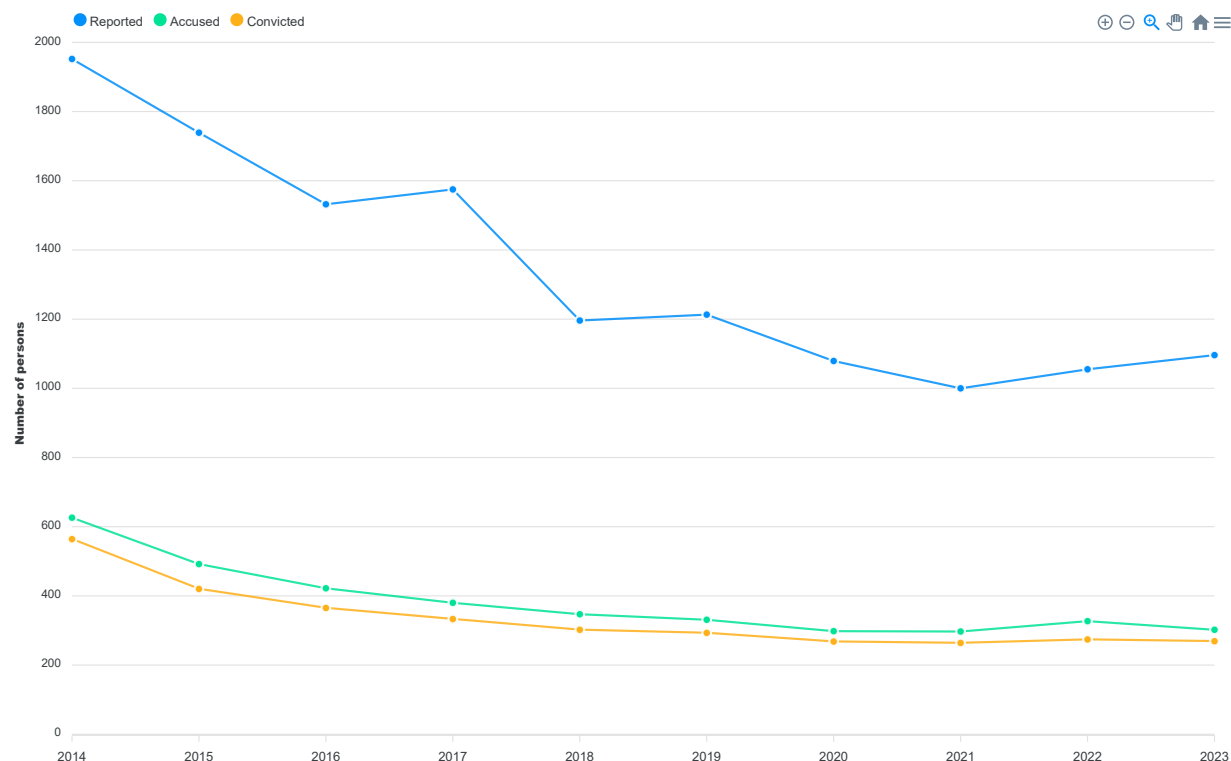
Older juveniles



Younger juveniles



G-4 REPORTED, ACCUSED AND CONVICTED JUVENILE PERPETRATORS OF CRIMINAL OFFENCES, 2014 – 2023



NOTES ON METHODOLOGY

Sources and methods of data collection

On the basis of the Official Statistics Act (NN, No. 25/20), 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 and 114/23) 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. Legal proceedings have been validly concluded by issuing the decision on termination of proceedings or pronouncing of 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 Code 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 legal proceedings have been concluded with a valid court decision, by which the legal 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 correctional institution, commitment to a centre for disciplinary development, commitment to correctional institution, commitment to the rehabilitation centre and commitment to 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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