

20 February 2026

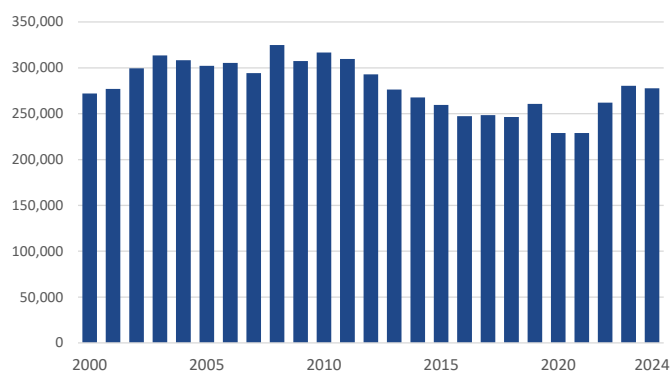
EUROPEAN DAY FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME – 22 February

IN 2024, 277,7 THOUSAND PEOPLE WERE REPORTED AS VICTIMS IN 354,9 THOUSAND CRIMES

On the European Day for Victims of Crime¹, which is observed on February 22, Statistics Portugal (INE) and the Directorate-General for Justice Policy (DGPJ) present some official statistical indicators on recorded crime statistics.

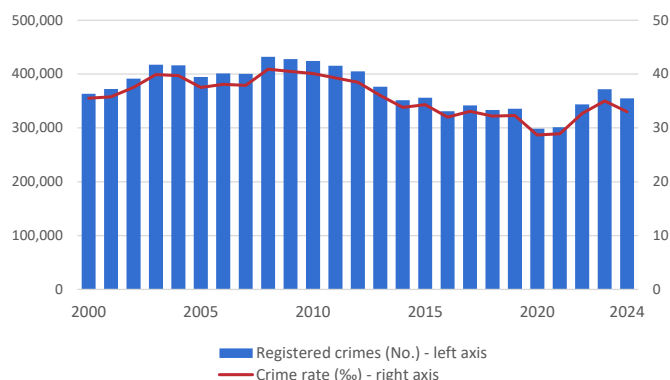
From 2000 to 2024, there was an increase in the number of victims, but a decrease in the number of crimes.

In 2024, the **PSP** and **GNR police authorities** recorded 277,654 people offended/victims identified in crimes, representing an **increase of 2.1%** compared to 2000 (**271,998 victims**). Compared to the previous year, there was a **decrease of 1.0%** (minus 2,742 victims).



Source: Directorate-General for Justice Policy ([offended](#)).

In the same year, **police authorities recorded 354,878 crimes**, a **decrease of 2.3%** compared to 2000 (**363,294**). Compared to 2023, there was a **decrease of 4.6%** (minus 17,177 crimes).

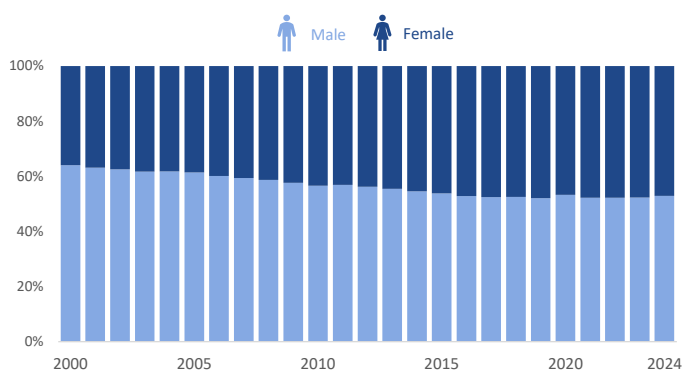


Source: Directorate-General for Justice Policy ([crimes/crime rate](#)).

¹ This day, created in 1990 by the Victim Support Europe, which brings together victim support services from various European countries, aims to raise awareness of the protection and safeguarding of the rights of victims of crime, as well as to publicize the mechanisms that people can use if they are victims of crime or have witnessed it, regardless of its nature. Portugal is one of the Member States that has implemented the number **116 006** to support victims of crime, providing initial information and assistance to all victims on social, legal, and psychological issues.

Between 2000 and 2024, there was a decrease in the crime rate and an increase in the proportion of female victims.

The **proportion of women** among the total number of victims in crimes **increased** consistently **between 2000 and 2024**.



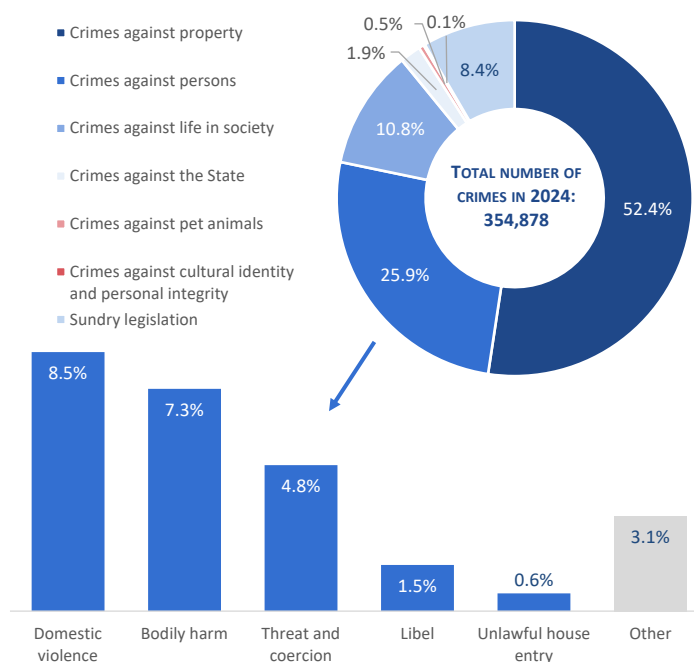
Source: Directorate-General for Justice Policy ([offended](#)).

During that period, it was observed that:

- in 2024, of the total number of victims, 146,862 were men (52.9%) and 130,792 were women (47.1%);
- in 2000, the values were 174,192 (64.0%) and 97,806 (36.0%), respectively, which translates into a **15.7% decrease in the number of male victims** and a **33.7% increase in the number of female victims**;
- in 2024, **83.2%** of victims were **aged 25 and over**, **10.9%** were aged **16 to 24**, and **5.9%** were under **16**.
- this age group, which was always the least represented in the period under analysis, nevertheless shows an **upward trend** in the period under review (it represented **1.6%** in **2000**).

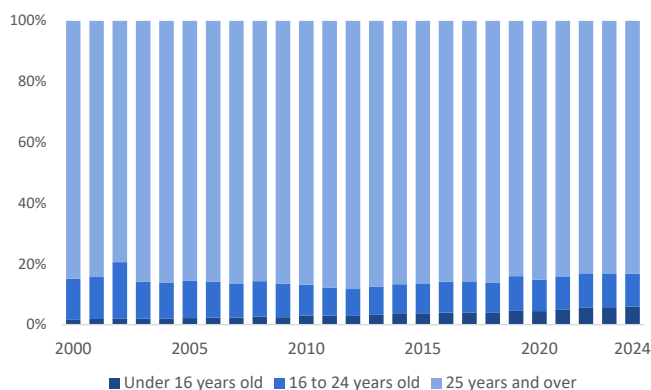
From 2000 to 2024, the following trends in recorded crimes were observed:

- the number of crimes varied over the 25 years under review, with the **highest number recorded in 2008 (431,977)** and the **lowest in 2020 (298,797)**;
- in 2024, the crime rate² was **33 crimes per thousand inhabitants**, lower than in the previous year (**35.0‰**) and in 2008, the year with the highest rate in the period analysed (**40.9‰**);



Source: Directorate-General for Justice Policy ([crimes](#)).

² The crime rate refers to the number of crimes per thousand inhabitants.



Source: [Directorate-General for Justice Policy](#).

- more than half (**52.4%**) of crimes recorded in 2024 were **against property**³, making this the most prevalent type of crime during the period analysed.
- however, its proportion in the total of crimes **decreased** (from **58.8% in 2000**), down **6.4 percentage points** (p.p.).
- crimes **against persons**⁴ registered the largest increase: from **22.9% in 2000** to more than a quarter (**25.9%**) in 2024;
- in this category of crime, **domestic violence**⁵ stands out (**30,221 crimes in 2024**), representing **8.5% of the total number of crimes in that year**;
- the **proportion of female victims in this type of crime is higher than that of men** throughout the period, despite its **decrease over the years**, from **85.3% in 2008** (14.7% were men) to **70.6% in 2024**, when men accounted for 29.4%.

³ Crimes against property (under Article 203 of the Penal Code) encompass conduct aimed at obtaining unlawful enrichment or causing material damage to another person's property, whether movable or immovable. They include, for example, the crimes of theft, robbery, and fraud.

⁴ Crimes against persons correspond to unlawful conduct that violates fundamental human rights, such as physical integrity, life, liberty, and honour. Provided for in the Penal Code, they aim to protect individual dignity and safety, encompassing crimes such as homicide, bodily harm, threats, kidnapping, and libel.

⁵ Domestic violence crimes against a spouse or akin (Article 152 of the Penal Code) include, according to the Manual for reporting crimes recorded by police authorities, the following behaviours: all cases of physical or psychological abuse, including corporal punishment, deprivation of liberty, and sexual offenses against a spouse, ex-spouse, or person who, regardless of gender, is or has been in a romantic or spousal-like relationship with the perpetrator, even if they do not cohabit; the parent of a common first-degree descendant, i.e., when the victim has a child in common with the perpetrator.

Crimes of domestic violence against minors include all cases of physical or psychological abuse, including corporal punishment, deprivation of freedom, and sexual offenses against minors who are particularly vulnerable due to their age, disability, illness, pregnancy, or economic dependence, and who live with the perpetrator. Domestic violence crimes also include other crimes of domestic violence, which encompass all cases of physical or psychological abuse, including corporal punishment, deprivation of freedom, and sexual offenses against persons who are particularly vulnerable due to their age, disability, illness, pregnancy, or economic dependence, who live with the perpetrator, excluding cases of domestic violence against spouses or akin and cases of domestic violence against minors.

TECHNICAL NOTE

Data on [Justice Statistics](#) covers crimes recorded by the police authorities, for which one crime is counted per report or per participation, with the most serious crime being characterised. The entities currently providing data are the Judicial Police (PJ), the Public Security Police (PSP), the National Republican Guard (GNR), the Foreigners and Borders Service (SEF) until 2023, the Food and Economic Safety Authority (ASAE), the Maritime Police, the Military Judicial Police, and the Tax and Customs Authority (AT).

For a more detailed analysis, we suggest reading the [methodological document](#) (only in Portuguese) on “Statistics on recorded crimes” for a more detailed analysis. This document is available at <https://smi.ine.pt/> (tab *Documentação metodológica; tema “Justiça”*)

KEY CONCEPTS

Crime: All actions described and declared as liable of conviction for felony, by a law promulgated prior to the moment of practice.

Recorded crime: Crime detected by police authorities or brought to their attention through a report or complaint.

Injured: An individual who has suffered harm as a result of a crime.

Offended person: Holder of the interests that the criminal law specifically sought to protect by criminalizing the act, considered a mere participant in the proceedings, and therefore not entitled to intervene in the criminal proceedings.

Victim: An individual who has suffered harm, namely an attack on their physical or mental integrity, moral damage, or material loss, directly caused by actions or omissions that violate criminal law.