



Press release

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More crime victims

Just over 27 percent of the population of the Netherlands aged twelve or older reported that they had been the victim of one or more frequently occurring crimes in 2002. This is more than in recent years. The number of victims of vandalism, in particular, rose in 2002. Figures from Statistics Netherlands also reveal that fewer people in the Netherlands feel safe.

More victims of vandalism

In 2002 more than 27 percent of the Dutch population aged twelve and older were the victims of one or more types of frequently occurring crime. This is the equivalent of 3.7 million people. The number is clearly higher than in 2001, and the highest in recent years. There were more victims of vandalism, in particular: in 2002 12 percent of the population aged twelve years or older were the victim of vandalism, mostly damage to their cars.

No further fall in larceny victims

The fall in the number of larceny victims in recent years stagnated in 2002. About 13 percent of the population aged twelve and older had been victim of a burglary or theft of property. Bicycle theft was the most common offence.

Same number of victims of violence

In 2002 6 percent of the population were threatened or physically or sexually abused. This is the same number as the year before. The percentage of victims of threatening behaviour has decreased in the last six years though; nearly 4 percent of the population was confronted with such behaviour in 2002.

More people do not feel safe

In 2002 one in four of the population reported that they did not feel safe sometimes. This is more than in the previous year. Feelings of insecurity showed a sharp increase in the last quarter of 2001 after the terrorist attacks in the United States on 11 September. The increase in the number of people who did not feel safe continued into 2002.

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Feelings of insecurity related to crime unchanged

Although general feelings of insecurity increased, this was not the case for feelings of insecurity in concrete situations. Just as in 2001 three in ten people in the Netherlands were able to describe unsafe areas in their neighbourhood. More than 14 percent said they had changed their behaviour with respect to going out to in connection with the risk of becoming victim of crime. Nearly six in ten people do not open the front door after 10 o'clock in the evening if they are not expecting someone.