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Oběti některých kriminálních deliktů v České republice v roce 2004
Victims of Some Criminal Delicts in the Czech Republic in 2004

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Summary

Research into the victimisation of residents of the Czech Republic in the year which preceded the year of polling (2004) was conducted using a specially prepared set of questions and applied to a representative group of 1,052 people over the age of 15 across the whole country. The set of persons questioned was representative in the following indicators: gender, age, size of the place of residence and the respondent's education. The field research was conducted by questioning people face-to-face as part of omnibus research. The survey was carried out by the Factum Invenio agency.

Respondents were asked questions concerning nine offences: car theft, theft of items from cars, burglary from the home (or similar premises), attempted burglary from the home, robbery with violence (included attempted), theft (of property that the person had on or with him/her), assault without personal culpability (not using a firearm), assault with a firearm, bribery.

The findings showed that in 2004 almost one in five respondents had been a victim of theft (theft of property that the person had on or with him/her – 18.2 % of respondents /188 people/), almost one in five owner of a car or user of a company car for private purposes had been the victim of theft of items from a car (17.4 % of respondents /148 people/). Approximately one in ten respondents had been the victim of attempted burglary from the home and a victim of burglary from the home (in the first case 11.5 % of respondents /118 people/); in the second case 9.5 % /97 people/). At least one in ten respondents had come into contact with bribery, i.e. they had been asked for a bribe or they had been led to believe that a bribe was expected from them (11.6 % of respondents /111 people/). 3.0 % of respondents had been the victims of robbery /including attempted robbery/ (31 people) and 3.3 % victims of assault without personal culpability /not using a firearm/ (34 people). Among car owners or users of a company car for private purposes, 4.5 % of individuals had been the victim of car theft /38 people/. At least 4 people had been the victims of assault using a firearm (0.4 % of respondents).

Repeated victimisation for the same offence was most common for victims of theft of items from a car (19.6%, i.e. 29 people), victims of robbery /including attempted robbery/

(16.1 %, i.e. 5 people), victims of theft of property that the person had on or with him/her (14.9 %, i.e. 28 people) and victims of assault without personal culpability (14.7 %, 5 people).

The findings showed that of the 1,052 respondents 385 people, or more than one third (36.6 %) had been the victim of at least one of the monitored eight offences (bribery was not included here). Almost two-thirds of respondents had not been the victim of any of the monitored offences (63.4 %, 667 people). Of the above 385 people who had been the victim of at least one of the monitored offences, more than half (55.1 %, 212 people) had been the victim of “only” one offence, but a considerable number (173 people, 44.9 %) had been the victim of more than one (most commonly two, and a maximum of five offences).

In 2004, the probability of a person becoming a victim of one of our monitored offences depended mostly on the size of the town or community in which they lived. This concerned victims of six of the eight monitored offences – theft (of property that the person had on or with him/her), burglary from the home or similar premises, attempted burglary from the home, car theft, theft of items from a car. The same was true for people who were asked for a bribe. (The set of victims assaulted with a firearm was not subjected to statistical analysis in this context due to its small scope /N=4/). It was evident that in all the mentioned cases, the incidence of victims of the said offences was always statistically greater among residents of larger towns (over 20 thousand inhabitants) than for residents of smaller towns and communities (below 20 thousand inhabitants). Another important factor was the age of respondents in determining whether they were a victim of the monitored offences in 2004 (for three out of eight monitored offences): for theft /of property they had on or with him/her/, robbery /including attempted robbery/, assault without personal culpability of the person attacked, in the sense that considerably more victims of these offences came from younger respondents (up to the age of 29) than from older (over 30). A less frequent incidence of victimisation of the people surveyed was recorded, at least for the offences that we monitored, in connection with the education and gender of respondents. The first such characteristic, education, was statistically significant for victims of the offence of attempted burglary from the home (or similar premises) and victims of theft of items from a car. In 2004, there was a significantly larger number of victims in statistical terms for people with a university education than for people with lower education. Also, among the eight monitored offences, there was a significantly larger number of victims in statistical terms for persons of male gender than for persons of female gender “only” for the offence of assault without personal culpability.