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**Zkušenosti obyvatel České republiky s některými delikty  
– výsledky viktimologického výzkumu**

**Experiences of Czech Republic Citizens with Some Delicts  
– Victimological Survey Results**

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### *Summary*

Research into the victimisation of citizens of the Czech Republic was conducted in 2006. The research addressed the victimisation of the population in the form of twelve offences<sup>1</sup>. Respondents provided retroactive, personal testimonies of victimisation by the offences a) for the past five years (2002-2006) and b) for the twelve months previous to the survey (November 2005-November 2006). If a respondent had been the victim of more than one offence during the monitored period he/she gave an account of the last such offence. Two of the offences indicated were monitored retroactively for just one year (corruption, fraud against the consumer). The research also identified some more general experiences of respondents with crime. The research employed a similar questionnaire to those used in international research on victimisation (ICVS). (With the agreement of the international coordinator, the questionnaire was adapted somewhat to fit the needs of our environment). The survey was conducted with a group of 3082 respondents over the age of 15 throughout the Czech Republic). The group of respondents was obtained by a stratified, multi-layered selection and was representative in the indicators: age, sex, size of the place of residence, education, higher territorial administrative unit (region). The field research was performed by the firm GfK and the data collection was financed by the National Committee for Crime Prevention. Polling was conducted face-to-face. The research produced the following main findings.

- In five years (2002 to 2006) almost two-thirds of the 3082 respondents/citizens of the Czech Republic (CR) had been the victim of at least one of the ten monitored offences (63.5%) (fraud against the consumer and corruption were not processed). Of the ten monitored

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<sup>1</sup> These concerned specifically a/ offences which could have happened to the respondent personally or to a member of their family – car theft, theft of belongings from a car, theft of a motorcycle, scooter, moped, theft of a bicycle, home burglary, burglary of a weekend home, b/ offences which happened to the respondent personally – robbery with violence, theft of personal items (which the individual had with them or on them), physical assault/threat of physical assault, fraud against the consumer, corruption and sexually-motivated offences.

offences, 26.1% of respondents had suffered one, 14.4% two, 15.7% three and 7.3% four offences and more.

- During the monitored five-year period (2002-2006), 35.8% of respondents/citizens of the CR had been the victims of the theft of a personal belonging; 30.8% of car owners had suffered the theft of belongings from their car; 40.4% of owners/users of weekend homes had suffered burglaries; 26.4% of bicycle owners/users had suffered their theft. More than one-tenth of respondents had been victims of home burglaries (13.1%) and of physical assault/threat of physical assault (13.7%). Victims of car theft numbered 9.4% of car owners/users; 12.0% of owners of motorcycles, mopeds, scooters had suffered the theft of this mode of transport; around four percent of respondents had been the victim of robbery with violence (4.3%) and 4.6% of these were the victims of a sexual offence.

- During the period of one year (November 2005 to November 2006), repeated victimisation by the same offence (more than once) was suffered by 56.3% of victims of sexually-motivated incidents, 27.9% of victims of the theft of belongings from cars and 28.2% of victims of the burglary of weekend homes. Repeated injury by the same offence during one year was also experienced by 23.4% of victims of home burglary and 20.2% of victims of the theft of personal property. Of those persons who had suffered the theft of a motorcycle, moped or scooter during the monitored year, 15.0% were repeat victims. Repeated victimisation by the same offence was also experienced by 11.9% of victims of car theft, 11.8% of victims of bicycle theft and 9.1% of victims of robbery with violence.

- More than one-third of respondents/citizens of the CR (36.4%) were victims of fraud against the consumer during the monitored 12 months (November 2005 to November 2006). Almost one in ten citizens (9.1%) encountered corruption during the relevant period.

- A low rate of reporting offences to the police by victims (for offences monitored during the five-year period) was found not only for sexually-motivated offences (reported by only 21.8% of victims), physical assault/threat of physical assault (26.5%), but also for theft of personal property (38.7%). Higher reporting rates were recorded for bicycle thefts (64.3%), thefts of belongings from cars (63.2%) and robberies with violence (65.2%). The highest rate of reporting offences to the police by victims was found for the theft of motorcycles, scooters

and mopeds (89.1%), followed by cars (87.8%) and to a lesser degree by burglary of weekend homes (83.9%) and home burglary (76.7%).

With regard to the two offences whose occurrence was only monitored for one year, fraud against the consumer was reported to the police by only 3.3% of victims, and corruption by 5.0% of persons who said that they had encountered it.

- The more that victims regarded offences perpetrated against them as subjectively serious, the more often they reported them to the police. The rate of reporting offences of which respondents had been victims was not influenced by the incidence rate of police-recorded crimes in the regions in which the victims of offences lived.

- The lowest rate of satisfaction with the work of police officers following the reporting of an offence (monitored for six incidents surveyed) was given by the victims of sexually-motivated offences (25.8%). This is followed by the victims of robbery with violence, where 34.9% of those who went to the police expressed themselves satisfied with the police's work, and victims of the theft of belongings from a car (42.0%). Roughly half of victims of home burglary (51.1%) were satisfied with police work, victims of burglary of weekend homes (53.4%) and victims of physical assault/threat of physical violence (47.3%) who reported an offence to the police.

- Almost half of the 3082 people surveyed were of the opinion that the police to some degree had crime under control in the respondent's place of residence (47.0% of persons). Almost one half of the 3082 respondents felt to some degree safe /quite, very/ after dark in their place of residence (49.1% of respondents).

- Of those polled/citizens of the CR, 39.8% had encountered drug abuse (e.g. in public spaces they had seen someone sell drugs, use drugs or had come across needles used and discarded by drug addicts etc.)

- The larger a respondent's place of residence, the higher was the number of individuals who had encountered the consequences and attendant effects of drug abuse, who were afraid to be alone after dark on the streets in their place of residence and who regarded the police's control of crime in their place of residence as less successful.

- Of the 3082 persons surveyed in the CR, a firearm was owned in the families of at least 8.6% of respondents (264 individuals). Protection against crime was stated as the reason for possession of a firearm by 14.8% of their owners (39 persons).

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