

Victimisation 2016 and perceptions of security

Findings of the 2017 Living
Environment & Security Survey

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Executive summary

The annual assessment of victimisation provided in this compendium outlines the most recent trends available on crimes against property, crimes against people and perceived safety.

Victimisation indicators on a downward trend

The findings presented for 2016 firstly confirm a certain number of downward trends concerning several medium- or long-term indicators. Over the medium term, there has been a confirmed drop in the number of victims of burglary or attempted burglary since 2014, fewer robberies since 2013 and a decline in physical violence (outside the household) between 2015 and 2016. Over the longer term, the number of victims of residential property vandalism has been stable since 2014 after a downward trend from 2009, and car theft also fell sharply until 2011, remaining at this low level ever since. Finally, there has also been a decline in the number of thefts not involving use of violence since 2006.

Stable indicators since 2006

Several victimisation indicators have not changed much since the first “Living Environment & Security” (CVS) survey. This is the case for property crime, thefts without evidence of a break-in in main residences and thefts of powered two-wheelers. Regarding crimes against people, threats and insults have not changed noticeably at any point during the period studied.

Indicators on the rise

Only two indicators have been following a long-term upward trend. Bank card fraud has been rising sharply since 2010. As for property crime, bicycle theft and attempted theft have, to a lesser extent, been on an almost constant upward trend since 2010. Despite a more or less general fall in the victimisation indicators, the two fear indicators identified in the CVS survey, namely fear of crime in the home and in the neighbourhood, were higher in 2016 than they were the previous year, and have thus remained at a high level throughout the 2007-2017 period. Against a backdrop of a wave of terror acts across France and Europe, in the

CVS survey terrorism and attacks have become the most pressing societal concern for the French, ahead of unemployment for the first time since 2006.

Report rates are still very unequal depending on the type of crime

Structurally speaking, the CVS survey reveals variable report rates depending on the type of victimisation. The highest report rates are observed for household property crime, theft in particular (more than 75% for burglaries, car or powered two-wheeler theft for example). Theft from the person, with or without violence, is reported in around 35% to 45% of cases. Violence against the person, whether physical or otherwise (threats, insults) is reported in less than 30% of cases. This rate plummets to less than 15% with regard to sexual violence or household-related and intimate partner violence.

The trends concerning sexual violence are not presented in this compendium, owing to technical adjustments which could have impacted the variation in the indicators bearing on this type of crime in the survey conducted in 2017 (see *About the survey*).

About the survey

Since 2007, France has been conducting a national victimisation survey. Entitled “Living Environment & Security”, the survey is carried out every year by the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (Insee), in close partnership with the National Observatory of Crime and Criminal Justice (ONDRP). Since 2014¹, the Ministerial Statistics Department for Internal Security (SSMsi) has also been involved in coordinating, designing and processing this survey.

The aims of this national survey mirror those of the main national crime victimisation surveys on which it has been modelled: the US NCVS survey and CSEW survey for England and Wales. They are set forth in a ruling dated 30 January 2007.² Its Article 2 stipulates that “the aims of this survey are to assess the prevalence of the different categories of victimisation over the two years leading up to the survey and their breakdown according to different socio-demographic criteria, as well as the perceived risk of victimisation and the effects of victimisation and fear of crime on the behaviour of households”.

By directly questioning a sample of the population, the number of victims can be estimated for the main forms of crime against people or against property. This has proven to be an essential collection method when it comes to assessing crime, as it seeks to hear from all victims, irrespective of whether or not they have reported the offences to the authorities.

The estimations obtained through the survey and analysis of their variations are carried out according to a methodological framework which is explained in Chapter 1. Knowing these facts sheds light on what exactly the victimisation data represents.

[1] When it was set up

[2] Repealed on 28 September 2014, without amending the aims of the survey

➤ SURVEY SCOPE

Since 2007, the survey has been carried out in mainland France in the first six months of the year. The annual assessment provided by the “Living Environment & Security” survey therefore bears on French territory within continental Europe. On occasion it has been extended to France’s Overseas areas (Reunion Island in 2011 then French Guiana, Martinique and Guadeloupe in 2015). The most recent findings on France’s Overseas areas are presented in an Insee-led study published in early 2017³.

The survey is conducted in the format of a face-to-face interview⁴ among a representative sample of around 16,000 responding households⁵. These households are referred to as “ordinary” in the meaning of Insee-led surveys. This adjective means that they comprise individuals who share the same main residence, whether or not they are related or have a common budget. People living in care homes, with no fixed address or placed in a correctional facility, as well as homeless people, are excluded from the survey.

➤ A TAILORED SURVEY PROTOCOL

Determining the range of offences that part of the population has experienced calls for account to be taken of the specific characteristics of each of these offences. Indeed, given the many possibilities coming within the scope of victimisation and fear of crime, to grasp the types of offence that households and their members might have recently suffered (over the two calendar years leading up to the survey)

and their perceived safety, the survey protocol needs to be tailored to the different types of offence, depending on whether they involve people or property.

Questions about any crimes against residential property or vehicle-related crime are put to the individuals representing their household (who thus sometimes pass on information about events that they did not necessarily experience personally). To gather information about theft from the person, physical or sexual violence or verbal abuse, the victims themselves must be questioned directly.

In addition to this initial division, a distinction must also be made with regard to the extremely sensitive nature of certain crimes. The survey therefore comprises three questionnaires: a household questionnaire (HQ), an interviewer-administered individual questionnaire (face-to-face, IAQ) and a self-administered individual questionnaire (SAQ).

The HQ is to be completed by an adult in the household, normally the reference person⁶ or a member of the reference group, on the subject of the housing’s environmental quality, or any break-ins, thefts, vehicle- or residential property-related damage suffered.

The IAQ is held with a member of the household selected at random⁷ from among the household members who are 14 years old and over. The interviewer asks about opinions of the neighbourhood and about any thefts or attempted thefts, physical violence, threats or insults outside the household that might

[3] Burrigand, C. & Jamet, L., «*Davantage de vols et d’actes violents en Guadeloupe et Guyane qu’en métropole*», Insee Première No.1632, January 2017

[4] This method involves an interviewer going to the respondent’s home to ask him or her questions in person.

[5] For around 23,000 households selected at random

[6] The reference person of the household is determined from the family structure of the household and the characteristics of the individuals making it up. More often than not, it is the family reference person when there is one, or the oldest man, with priority given to the oldest working person.

[7] The method for choosing between the household members is based on the dates of their birthdays. The person whose birthday is closest to 1st January is selected.

have been experienced, fear of crime in the neighbourhood and phenomena associated with drugs and alcohol.

The SAQ is completed by the person chosen at random for the IAQ, as long as his/her age is at least 18 years on the day of the survey and under 77 years on 31 December of the year of the survey. It asks respondents about so-called sensitive types of violence: sexual violence outside the household, household-related physical and/or sexual violence and intimate partner psychological violence (i.e. committed by an intimate partner living in the same housing at the time of the survey). For the sake of confidentiality, this questionnaire is completed by the respondent independently [s/he can understand the questions and answers them with no help from another person]⁸.

➤ REPRESENTATIVENESS, PRECISION AND SUBJECTIVENESS

In order to present the exposure to certain types of crime of the entire population living in mainland France, describe the characteristics of the victims and the offences and identify reporting behaviour, it is vital that the sample⁹ be representative of the reference population – in this instance ordinary households living in mainland France and their members aged 14 years and over or between 18 and 76 years old. This representativeness is ensured by the attribution of a variable numerical contribution, a weight¹⁰, to each of the households or individuals questioned.

It is the result of a three-stage calculation: the probability of being selected is determined,

adjustment is carried out for non-response and then calibration is carried out on the structure of the population studied, which is known from Insee's main surveys, the Employment survey and the census survey.

The data expressed with account taken of the weight is referred to as weighted. It enables estimation of the numbers of victims and their proportion within the population, or victimisation rate. These orders of magnitude are calculated with a precision influenced by the variability of random selection and by the size of the survey sample. The numbers and rates extracted from the survey thus provide orders of magnitude which should in no way be considered exact data.

Moreover, the defining feature of a victimisation survey is that its findings are based on the respondents' statements. The perception of the respondents thus forms an integral part of the survey.

➤ AMENDMENT TO THE 2017 QUESTIONNAIRE ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE

An essential condition for being able to measure variations is the continuity of the questionnaire. In 2017, so during the 11th "Living Environment and Security" survey, questions on an offence were amended. This decision was made by Insee, the ONDRP and SSMSi to harmonise the questions on sexual violence, i.e. use the same terms during the two questions on this type of offence.

The variation in estimated numbers of victims of sexual violence must therefore be

[8] The self-administered questionnaire is available in French and, until the 2016 survey, in an "abridged" version in various foreign languages (Arabic, English, German, Portuguese and Turkish in particular). Since 2017, the complete, unabridged version of the questionnaire has been available in a foreign language.

[9] The annual CVS samples are drawn from two polling bases, one master sample from the census, and one sample of tax households.

[10] The individuals' weight is itself determined by a certain number of the individuals' socio-demographic characteristics.

interpreted with care, as several factors may have impacted the findings of the 2017 survey. The questions allowing for the numbers of sexual assault victims to be determined in the CVS survey were phrased differently during the last survey, which may thus have caused a deviation from the series observed up until that date. Alongside these “technical” deviations, the actual growth in the phenomenon may be reflected in a rise in the indicator presented. Given these uncertainties over the observed rise in the sexual violence indicators and pending the findings of the 2018 CVS survey, the ONDRP recommends refraining from comment on the estimated rise in sexual violence within and outside the household. More in-depth analyses will shed light on whether this increase does indeed reflect a genuine rise in the criminal phenomenon, or is the result of methodological adjustments.

Regarding sexual violence outside the household, until 2016 the declared victims were those who answered yes to the following question: “In [N-2] or [N-1] (Author’s note: last year or the year before), not including the people who currently live with you, did a person grope you or force you to have sex against your will, or attempt to do so?”. From 2017, this question was rephrased as follows: “In [N-2] or [N-1], not including the people who currently live with you, did a person grope you or force you to have unwanted sex, or attempt to do so using violence, threat, coercion or surprise?”.

For household-related sexual violence, until 2016 the declared victims were those who answered yes to the following question: “Not including these episodes of violence (Author’s note: the physical violence declared earlier), in [N-2] or [N-1] did a person currently living with you grope you or force you to have unwanted sex, using violence, threat, coercion

or surprise?”. From 2017, this question was rephrased as follows: “Not including these episodes of violence, in [N-2] or [N-1] did a person currently living with you grope you or force you to have unwanted sex, or attempt to do so, using violence, threat, coercion or surprise?”.

➤ REFERENCE PERIOD

For most of the factsheets, the trends (which make up the first part of each factsheet) are analysed on the basis of an annual assessment of prevalence. The annual prevalence is obtained by taking the number of persons who claim to have been a victim during the year running up to the survey as a proportion of the population surveyed. Owing to the sample size, the trends part of the factsheets bearing on the processing of the self-administered questionnaire (factsheet nos 14 to 16) concerns a two-year victimisation period.

The second part of each factsheet presents the structural findings with respect to offences. Owing to the sample size, the study basis varies.

It comprises the total findings from the 2012 to 2017 surveys for most of the factsheets. This period – fairly long so as to present findings of statistical use – is representative of the recent period.

In order to obtain a larger sample, the factsheets from the processing of the self-administered questionnaire rely on a study basis comprising the total results from the 2008 to 2017 surveys.

The factsheets of part 3 present the findings of the last survey directly, as the sample size was large enough. This is also the case for factsheet No. 10 on bank card fraud.

01

Property crime

Crimes against residential property

Vehicle-related crime

Theft from the person

Bank card fraud

Through the “Living Environment and Security” (CVS) survey it is possible to determine the prevalence¹ of certain types of property crime experienced by French households. These different types are identified among ordinary households living in mainland France and among members of these households at the time of the survey who are aged 14 years and over.

Accordingly, the part of the survey dedicated to property crime encompasses different victimisations involving main residences, such as burglary, theft without break-in and vandalism, as well as thefts in second homes. Thefts of vehicles belonging to households (cars, powered two-wheelers and bicycles) as well as acts of vandalism committed on cars are also included. For all of these offences, in this first part we provide an estimation of the number of households having suffered each offence as well as descriptive details of the victims, locations and the incident as it happened. The action taken following these offences, particularly in terms of reporting them, is also indicated.

On an independent basis, household members who are 14 years old and over are asked about any theft from the person that might have been committed against them, whether or not this involved violence. The principle of exclusion practised in the CVS survey means that property theft occurring during a burglary or vehicle-related theft is not identified under theft from the person (see “About the survey”).

Finally, with the phenomenon on the rise, since 2011 the CVS survey has included a module bearing on bank card fraud of which households might have been a victim. Over and above counting the number of victims, this module also identifies the use of card payments made illegally, the offender’s method, how much was involved in these payments and the action taken by the victims following these offences.

Across all of these offences, the CVS survey shows the annual number of victims declared and, through a more structural approach, provides information about the victims’ profiles, how the incident unfolded and its consequences. This first part paints an initial picture of the facts that come to light through the French victimisation survey on the subject.

The findings presented in this compendium are of a general nature, and cannot therefore cover all of the information contained in the survey, or be a substitute for in-depth studies. When these are available, we suggest that the reader refer to them.

[1] The prevalence of a type of crime is obtained by taking the number of victims in the population in question as a proportion of this population as a whole.

Crimes against residential property

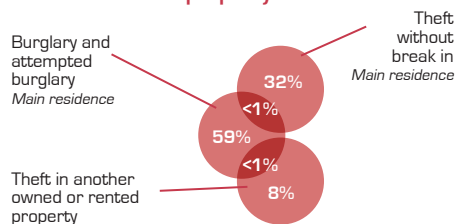
This first section focuses on crimes committed against housing and property that is owned or rented by the households. Four types of crimes against housing are addressed in the “Living Environment and Security” survey: burglaries of main residences, thefts without break-in from main residences, vandalism of the main residence and thefts in second homes and other owned or rented property. The number of victims is determined through generic questions aimed at counting the number of households whose housing or owned or rented property has been the target of a crime. The questions identifying the types of offence are non-exclusive, such that a household can claim to have been a victim of several types of offence. Households who claim to have been a victim are then asked more specific questions on each type of offence. These allow the victims to describe the circumstances surrounding the offence, and particularly concern how it was carried out, the consequences and what action was taken.

In 2016, the number of households having been the target of at least one theft, with or without break-in, in the main residence or another owned or rented property, is estimated to be 784,000 (2.7% of households living in mainland France). This number has been on a downward trend since 2013 and is significantly less than the average number of victims estimated between 2013 and 2016 (866,000 on average every year).

In 2016 nearly 60% of victims were the targets of burglary or attempted burglary of their main residence alone (461,000), almost a third were the targets of thefts without break-in in their main residence alone (253,000) and around 8% of victims were the targets of thefts with or without break-in in another owned or rented property (61,000) (second home or other property). Very few households have been

the victim of more than one type of crime as regards their housing, no more than around 1% of victims (< 10,000) (see chart). Moreover, it is estimated that 668,000 households had their main residence vandalised at some point in 2016. This number is not statistically different from the estimations since 2014. However, the number of victims in 2016 is much lower than the number observed in 2012 and 2013.

 **Chart showing the breakdown in types of residential property crime**



No.1

Burglaries of main residences

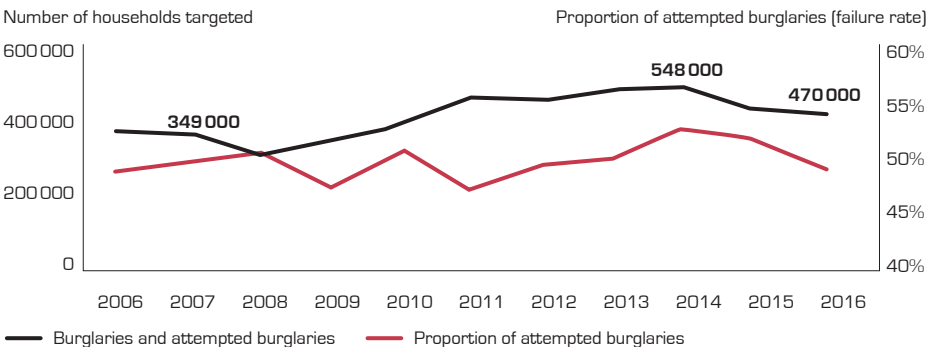


1,6%
of households targeted
IN 2016

In 2016, 470,000 households were victims of burglary or attempted burglary (1.6% of households), which confirms the declining trend since 2015. The proportion of attempted burglary cases remains relatively stable throughout the period, at around 50%.

The victimisation rate is higher in towns and cities with over 20,000 inhabitants, where the proportion of households targeted by this crime stands at 2.2%, versus 1.4% in towns and villages with less than 20,000 inhabitants and rural municipalities. Victims go on to report a burglary or attempted burglary in around 57% of cases.

Number of households burgled and proportion of attempted burglaries



0,9%
of households targeted
IN 2016



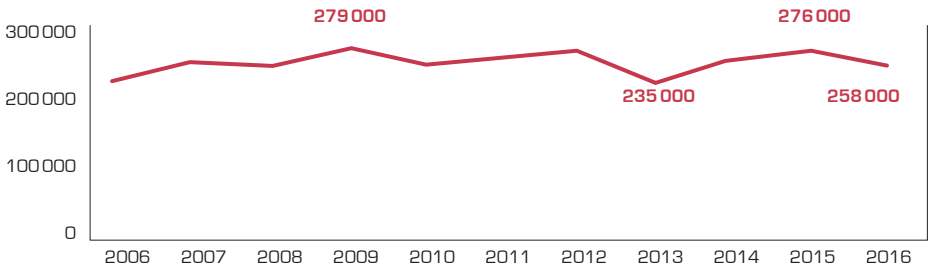
No.2

Thefts without break-in in main residences

In 2016, 258,000 households are estimated to have been targeted by theft without break-in in their main residence (0.9% of households). This number has been stable overall since 2006, and is around the average for this period (261,000 households targeted every year on average).

This type of crime affects houses more than it does flats. The proportion of households living in houses that have been the target of such theft is estimated to be 1.1%, versus 0.7% for households living in flats. Only 26% of victims go on to report a theft without break-in in a main residence to the police or gendarmerie.

Number of households targeted by theft without break-in in the main residence



Flat rate **0,7%**


House rate **1,1%**

No.3**Criminal
damage
to the home**

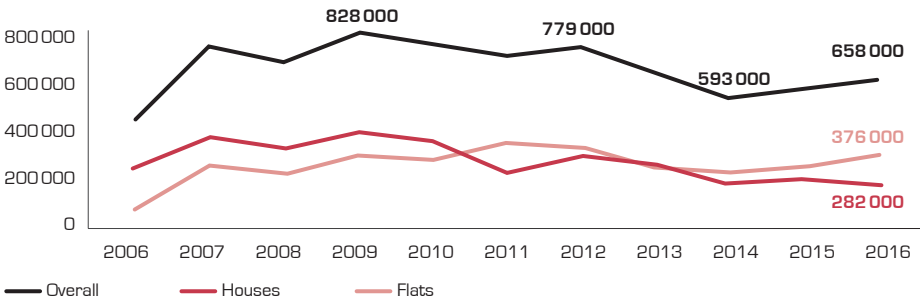
2,3%
of households targeted
IN 2016

In 2016, it is estimated that 658,000 households living in mainland France had their main residence vandalised (2.3% of households). After falling in an almost continuous manner since 2009, this number has levelled out since 2014.

This aggregate number nevertheless underscores considerable disparities between houses and flats, with the latter being targeted more often by such crime since 2011. Some 12% of victims go on to report acts of vandalism to the police or gendarmerie.

 **Number of households who have had their main residence vandalised**

Number of households targeted



Source: "Living Environment and Security" Surveys, Insee-ONDRP-SMSi, 2007-2017
Scope: Ordinary households living in mainland France

Key figures



Burglaries and attempted burglaries

470,000 ↓

HOUSEHOLDS TARGETED
IN 2016
(1.6% of households)

On the rise between
2008 and 2013
**THEN DECLINING
SINCE 2014**

50% FAILURE RATE

(in 50% of cases, attempted
burglaries did
**NOT LEAD
TO ANY THEFT**)



In **30%** of cases,
someone **WAS AT HOME
AT THE TIME**



12% of victims
**GET AN ALARM FITTED
FOLLOWING A BURGLARY**



55% of victims
REPORT THE CRIME



Thefts without break-in

258,000 =

HOUSEHOLDS TARGETED
IN 2016
(0.9% of households)

**STABLE
SINCE 2016**

0.7%

of victims among residents
living **IN FLATS** versus **1.1%**
among residents living
IN HOUSES



In **50%** of cases,
someone **WAS AT HOME
AT THE TIME**



6% of thefts without break-
in are committed by
"BOGUS CALLERS"



26% of victims
REPORT THE CRIME



Criminal damage

658,000 ↓

HOUSEHOLDS TARGETED
IN 2016
(2.3% of households)

Declining
between 2009 and 2014,
STABLE SINCE THEN

24%

of victims have been
REPEATEDLY targeted
over the past
CALENDAR YEAR



11% report
the crime to
THEIR INSURER



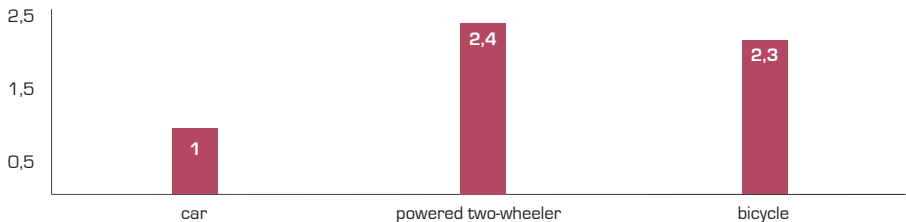
12% of victims
**REPORT IT
TO THE AUTHORITIES**

Offences against household vehicles

This part, devoted to households whose car or two-wheeler (including bicycles) has been targeted by crime, first and foremost provides the first cyclical analyses of the recent trends characterising them. It also describes how the offences unfolded, the consequences and the action taken by the victims. Four types of vehicle-related crime are analysed: thefts and attempted thefts of cars, powered two-wheelers and bicycles as well as car-related criminal damage. Only incidents for which the victim is a natural person living in the household are taken into account.

Incidents where a legal entity (company or association for example) is the victim are not recorded by the survey. The questions in the “Living Environment and Security” Survey bearing on vehicle-related crime are asked in the questionnaire intended for the reference person of the household. As a result, they are not necessarily put directly to the vehicle owner, but may be asked to a representative of the household.

Victimisation rate for vehicle thefts in 2016



Households who have been the target of crime against one of their vehicles report this to the interviewer via one or more positive answers to the so-called “victimisation” questions. Only those households in possession of a vehicle forming the subject of the victimisation questions are asked about potential crime. The ownership rate varies considerably from one type of vehicle to another.

According to the 2017 survey, 81% of respondents own¹ a car, 53% own a bicycle and 12% own a powered two-wheeler. In light of such differences, only by comparing the rates (obtained by taking the numbers of victims as a proportion of the numbers of owners) can the proportions of victims according to the type of vehicle be compared. On comparing, between each type of vehicle, the proportions of households having been targeted by theft or attempted theft (the only crime common to cars, powered two-wheelers and bicycles in

the survey), there is a clear predominance of proportions of victims of powered two-wheeler or bicycle theft, in relation to car theft.

The number of households who have been the victim of motor vehicle (car or powered two-wheeler) theft or attempted theft in 2016 stands at 318,000. After falling until 2012, primarily on account of a sharp drop in the number of car-related thefts, their number has since stabilised.

Moreover, it is estimated that 354,000 households have been the target of bicycle theft or attempted theft in 2016. This number is not statistically different from the 2015 estimation, but nevertheless confirms the sharp rise observed since 2013. Between 2011 and 2016, on average, attempted thefts – which form the majority in cases of car-related theft – account for less than 40% of powered two-wheeler theft and under 15% of bicycle theft.

[1] Or at the very least, owned during the victimisation reference period. The figures from the 2014 population census give the same estimation of owners in mainland France (81.1%).

No.4**Car-related thefts**

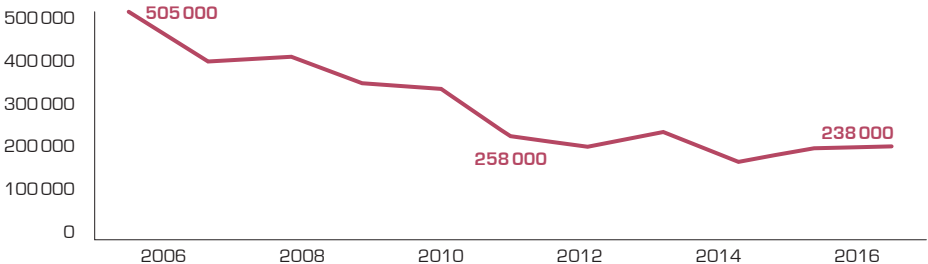
1%
of owning households
IN 2016



In 2016, 238,000 households were the victim of car theft or attempted car theft. After falling by half between 2006 and 2012, their number has remained fairly constant. Apart from a drop observed between 2013 and 2014, the indicator has not changed much.

The cyclical monitoring of this indicator should not overlook the fact that it is made up of victims whose experiences refer to very different situations. This is particularly the case depending on whether the offender actually manages to steal the vehicle.

Number of households targeted by car-related theft (including attempted theft)



No.5

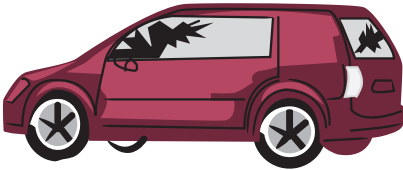
Car-related vandalism

In 2016, it is estimated that 1,188,000 households living in mainland France had their car vandalised (5.1% of households who own a car).

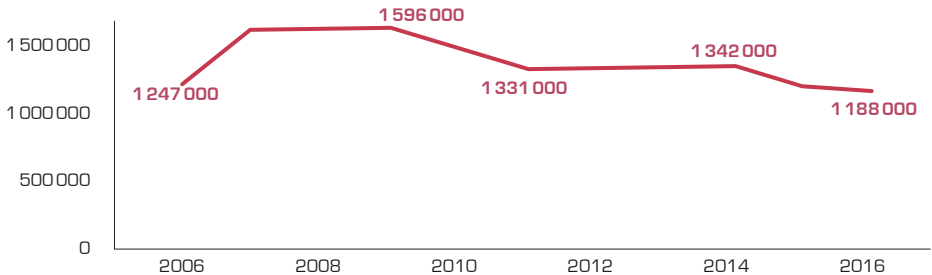
After the highest level in observance since the creation of the CVS survey between 2007 and 2009, followed by a second, intermediate level observed over a three-year period between 2011 and 2014, the number of households targeted has fallen for the second year in a row. In 2016, its level was much lower than the level observed in 2014.

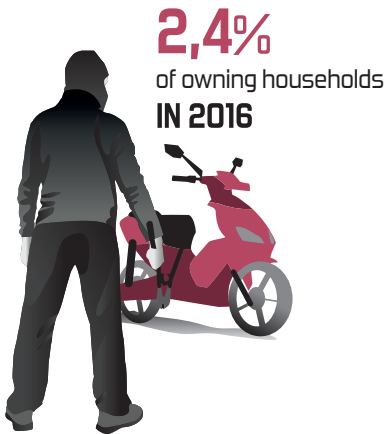
5,1%

of owning households a car
IN 2016



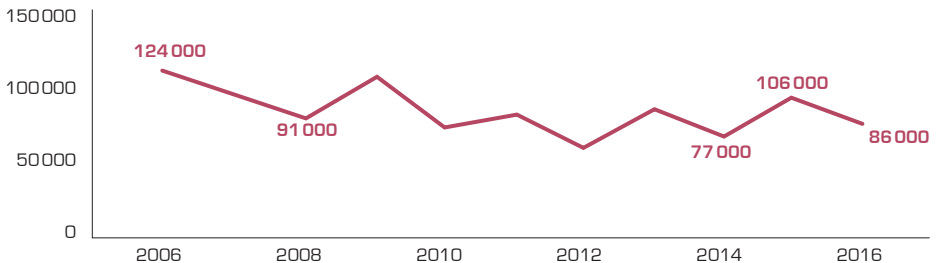
Number of households targeted by car-related vandalism



No.6**Thefts of
powered
two-wheelers**

In 2016, the number of households targeted by powered two-wheeler theft or attempted theft stood at 86,000 (2.4% of owning households). This number has stayed much the same since 2009. Although most households are the victim of successful theft (62%), attempted (i.e. unsuccessful) theft is not uncommon.

 **Number of households targeted by powered two-wheeler theft (including attempted theft)**




No.7

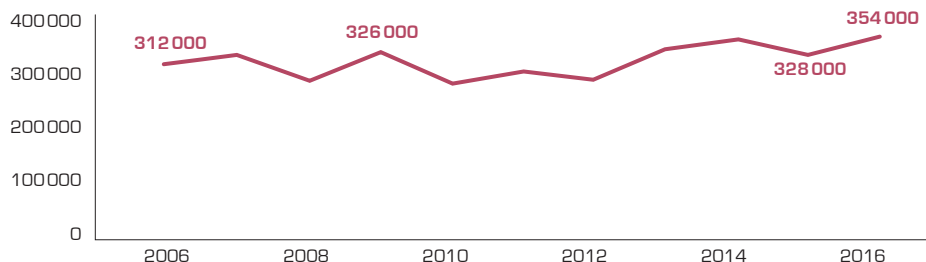
Bicycle theft

2,3%

of owning households a bicycle
IN 2016

In 2016, it is estimated that 354,000 households were targeted by bicycle theft or attempted theft, i.e. 2.3% of households with bicycles. This number is not statistically different from the 2015 estimation, but nevertheless confirms the sharp rise observed since 2013. The number of victims has once again reached a record high, first observed back in 2014. According to victims' statements, attempted theft is in the minority, its proportion ranging between 10% and 15% since 2006.

 Number of households targeted by bicycle theft (including attempted theft)



Source: "Living Environment and Security" Surveys, Insee-ONDRP-SSMsi, 2007-2017.
Scope: Ordinary households living in mainland France, owning a bicycle

Key figures



Car-related theft

238,000 ↓

HOUSEHOLDS TARGETED
IN 2016
[1% of owners]

Declining between
2006 and 2011,
STABLE SINCE THEN



Powered two-wheeler theft

86,000 =

HOUSEHOLDS TARGETED
IN 2016
[2.4% of owners]

STABLE, around
100,000 every year



Bicycle theft

354,000 ↑

HOUSEHOLDS TARGETED
IN 2016
[2.3% of owners]

ON THE RISE
since 2012



74%
are **ATTEMPTED**
THEFTS



51%
of thefts take place
IN THE STREET



91%
of victims **OF ACTUAL**
THEFT REPORT IT TO THE
AUTHORITIES



38%
are **ATTEMPTED**
THEFTS



50%
of thefts take place
IN THE STREET



78%
of victims **OF ACTUAL**
THEFT REPORT IT TO THE
AUTHORITIES



13%
are **ATTEMPTED**
THEFTS



60%
of thefts take place
IN THE DAYTIME



7%
of victims **GET THEIR**
BICYCLE BACK
FOLLOWING THE THEFT



19%
of victims **OF ACTUAL**
THEFT REPORT IT TO THE
AUTHORITIES

Theft from the person

Theft from the person is identified in the “Living Environment and Security” survey in two separate modules, one concerning robbery and the other theft without violence. The survey respondents aged 14 and over are first asked about thefts or attempted thefts involving physical violence or threats, including thefts involving physical force and injury, snatch thefts, thefts involving verbal threats or a weapon, racketeering or attempted racketeering. Theft not involving violence include thefts of any personal belongings from a public place, the workplace or place of study, thereby excluding thefts that might have taken place during a burglary.

After entering the number of offences suffered over the previous two years, respondents who claim to have been a victim are asked more detailed questions about the characteristics of the most recent theft, how it unfolded, the perpetrators if they were seen and the action taken following the crime. Violent robberies and thefts not involving violence are addressed in separate questions, and the same respondent can claim to have been a victim of a robbery and a theft not involving violence.

For the first year since the “Living Environment and Security” survey first began back in 2007, the number of people aged 14 and over who have been a victim of a robbery or theft not involving violence has fallen below the 1 million mark. In 2016, it is estimated that 932,000 individuals aged 14 and over, living in mainland France (1.8%) were targeted by robbery, attempted robbery, theft or attempted theft not involving violence.

In 2016, it is estimated that 19% of victims were the targets of robbery and 80% of theft not involving violence. Less than 1% were targeted by both robbery and theft not involving violence.

This number is much lower than in 2014 and the years before. In the past, the number of victims was particularly high in 2010 and 2014, at 1,367,000 and 1,299,000 respectively. The main driver behind this drop is the very sharp decline in robberies declared by women and the drop in thefts not involving violence against men in 2016.

No.8

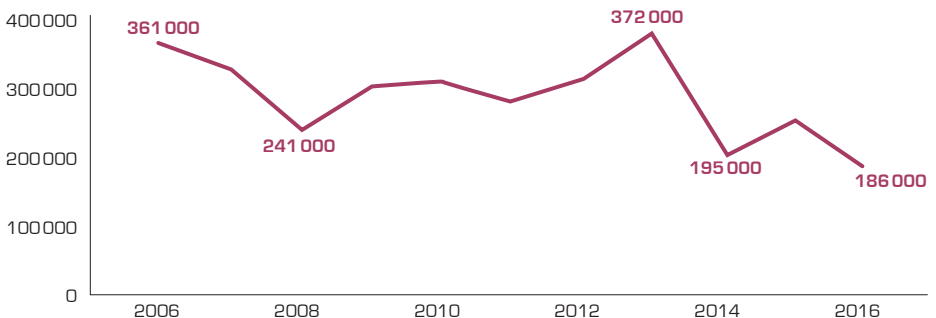
Robberies involving physical violence or threats

0,4%14 year old and over
IN 2016

The number of victims of robbery (i.e. theft committed with the use of physical violence or threats) or of attempted robbery is estimated to be 186,000 for 2016, which thus confirms the downward trend observed since 2014.

These robberies might be of the snatch theft type, committed using a weapon or of the racketeering type.

 **Number of victims of robbery (including attempted robbery)**



No.9

Thefts not involving violence

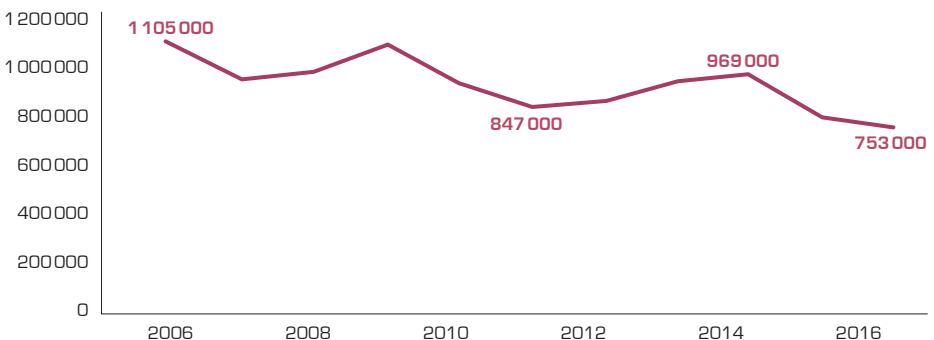
In 2016, 753,000 people are estimated to have been the victim of a theft or attempted theft not involving violence, i.e. 1.5% of the French population aged 14 and over.

These thefts not involving physical violence or threats can be: carried out by pickpockets, in a changing room or cloakroom, in the victim's absence, or crimes of opportunity when an item has been left unattended, etc.



1,5%
14 year old and over
IN 2016

 **Number of victims of theft not involving violence (including attempted theft)**



Key figures



Robberies

186,000 ↓

VICTIMS IN 2016
[0.4% of 14 year old and over]

ON A SHARP DOWNWARD TREND
since 2013



Thefts not involving violence

753,000 ↓

VICTIMS IN 2016
[1.5% of 14 year old and over]

ON A DOWNWARD TREND
since 2006



In **40%** of cases,
MOBILE PHONES ARE THE TARGET
[whether or not the theft is successful]



In **65%** of cases,
the theft takes place
IN THE STREET



61%
of thefts are committed
BY SEVERAL PERPETRATORS



43%
of victims
REPORT IT TO THE AUTHORITIES



4.6%
OF 14-17 YEAR OLD
are victims



19%
of these thefts take place
ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT



36%
of victims
REPORT IT TO THE AUTHORITIES

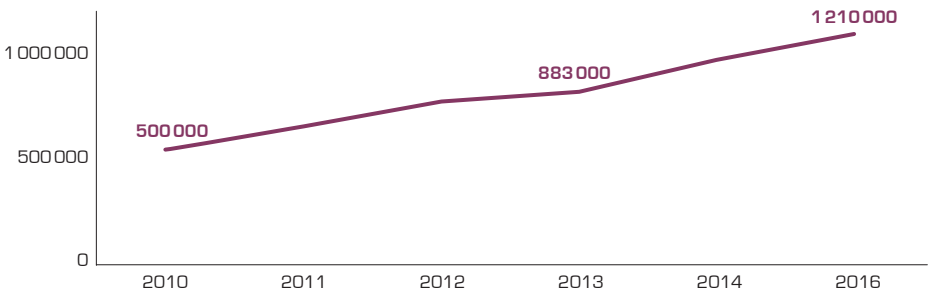
No.10**Bank card fraud**

A little over 1.2 million households with a bank account claim to have been targeted by at least one fraudulent payment on it in 2016 (4.3% of households living in mainland France).

In more than a third of cases, the households had less than €100 stolen. Nearly 7 in 10 discover the fraud on checking their bank statements. Only 37% claim to know how the fraudster proceeded.



 **Number of households targeted by fraudulent payments**



02

Crimes against people

Non-physical violence

Physical and sexual violence

This second part analyses the questions of the “Living Environment and Security” survey bearing on crimes against people who live in France. These crimes include non-physical violence such as threats or insults that might have been directed against mainland France residents aged 14 and over. They also concern physical violence committed by a person living outside of the victim’s household at the time of the survey [violence outside the household].

The French victimisation survey also delves into the question of so-called sensitive violence, such as sexual violence and physical and sexual violence committed by a household member, whether or not this is the intimate partner. The questions are put to respondents who are between 18 and 76 years of age. We should like to draw the reader’s attention to the specific methodological aspects concerning these types of crime and refer the reader to the thematic factsheets and “About the survey” section for more information about these facts, which are unique to the CVS survey. In terms of these types of violence, the victimisation survey is an invaluable source of information as it identifies offences, at annual intervals, which are seldom reported to the authorities and the extent of which it is not possible to ascertain from administrative data alone.

The specifics concerning the victims’ profiles and context of such violence available in the survey enable detailed information to be obtained about the age and gender of victims as well as the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim, the type of violence suffered, whether or not these offences were of a repetitive nature and any subsequent action taken. Victims of sensitive violence seldom report it to the authorities, but may reach out to other people for support, and this information is therefore made available through the survey.

Beyond the offences mentioned above, between 2014 and 2017 the CVS survey included a module on intimate partner-related psychological violence, which is not addressed in this compendium but was analysed in an Insee study published in 2016¹.

[1] Burricand, C. & Jamet, L., 2016, «Atteintes psychologiques et agressions verbales entre conjoints», Insee Première No.1607, July 2016

Non-physical violence

The section on non-physical violence groups together two types of crime identified in the “Living Environment and Security” survey through two separate modules: threats and insults. The questions bearing on these offences are put to respondents aged 14 and over. The identification of such victimisation excludes instances that may have occurred during thefts or physical violence (see “*Theft from the person*” and “*Physical and sexual violence*” sections).

The questions in each of these modules begin by asking about the number of offences suffered over the two calendar years running up to the surveys and then, where the respondent claims to have been a victim, examine the context, how the incident unfolded, the offenders’ profiles and subsequent action taken.

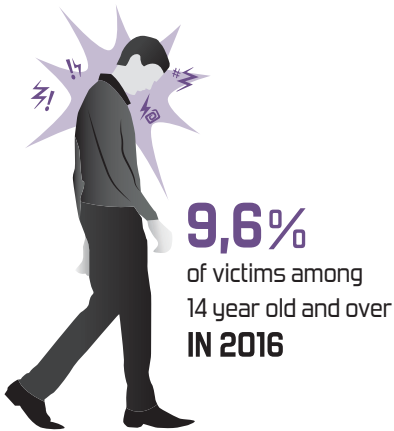
In 2016, 5,921,000 people aged 14 and over, living in mainland France, are estimated to have been the target of threats or insults, which is 11.4% of the population. There has been no great change in the number of victims of such offences since 2007, the annual average staying more or less around the six million mark.

69% of these victims were on the receiving end of insults only, 16% of threats only and 15% of both types of offence.

Upon describing the offence, the victim may characterise it, especially if s/he considers it to have been discriminatory (racist, antisemitic, xenophobic, homophobic or sexist). Note that, from 2018, the “Living Environment and Security” survey will include a whole module given over to discrimination, thereby allowing for a clearer assessment of this phenomenon.

No.11

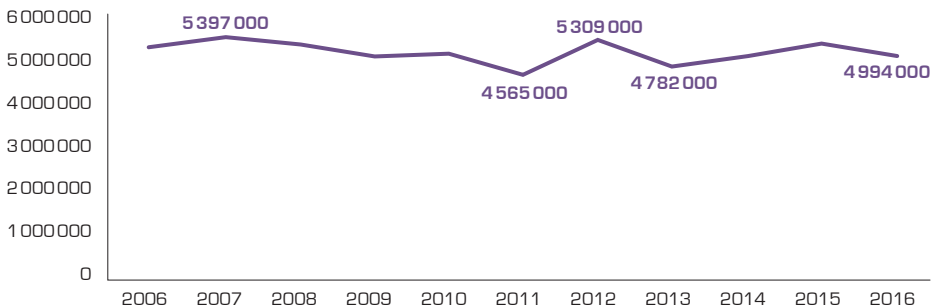
Insults



In 2016, an estimated five million people aged 14 and over claim to have been insulted (this equals a proportion of 9.6%). This number has been relatively stable since 2013. Women are slightly more exposed to insults than men. Insults tend to be uttered in the public sphere, overwhelmingly by adult males who are unknown to the victims. 2.6% of victims go on to report an insult to the authorities.

In 2016, the number of victims of insults is put at nearly five million, which represents 9.6% of mainland France residents aged 14 and over. Overall, the number of victims of insults has remained stable throughout the 2006-2016 period. More specifically, a drop in this number can be noted between 2007 and 2011, down to 4.5 million. After climbing significantly between 2011 and 2012 then plummeting in 2013, it has levelled out at around five million.

 Number of victims of insults



Source: "Living Environment and Security" Surveys, Insee-ONDRP-SMSsi, 2007-2017
Scope: Persons aged 14 or over living in mainland France

No.12

Threats

In 2016, 1.8 million 14 year old and over are estimated to have been threatened. The victimisation rate for this type of offence is therefore around 3.5%. This number of victims has stayed much the same since 2006.

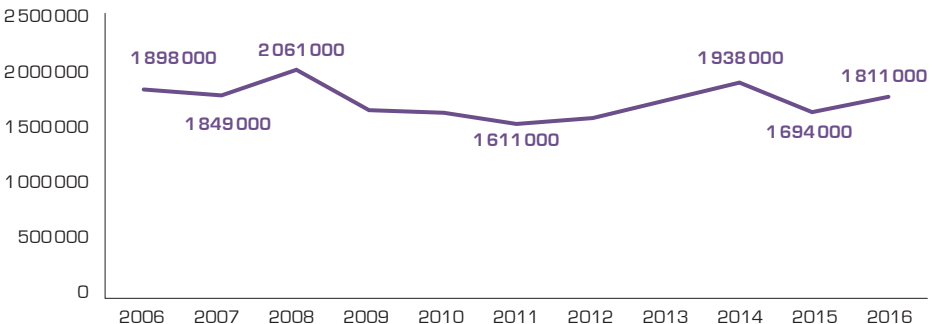
Directed towards an individual, threats can target the latter's physical integrity (the extreme being death threats) or social integrity (such as someone's reputation) but can also be about property. They can be verbal threats delivered face-to-face, or electronically (over the phone, by email or on social media).



3,5%

of victims among
14 year old and over
IN 2016

 Number of victims of threats



Source: "Living Environment and Security" Surveys, Insee-ONDRP-SSMsi, 2007-2017
Scope: Persons aged 14 and over living in mainland France

Key figures



Threats

1.8 million =

VICTIMS IN 2016
[3.5% of 14 year old and over]

STABLE since 2008



52%

of cases are
PHYSICAL THREATS



84%

of cases are committed
FACE-TO-FACE



10%

of victims
REPORT IT TO THE AUTHORITIES



Insults

5 million =

VICTIMS IN 2016
[9.6% of 14 year old and over]

STABLE since 2006



24%

of victims have been insulted
**AT THEIR WORKPLACE
OR PLACE OF STUDY**



In **38%** of cases,
the victim and offender
KNOW EACH OTHER



Less than **3%**

of victims
REPORT IT TO THE AUTHORITIES

Physical and sexual violence

Violence committed against people where theft is not involved is addressed in the “Living Environment and Security” survey through three modules on crime experienced by individuals. The first module is for the attention of respondents aged 14 and over and broaches physical violence committed by someone living outside of the respondent’s household at the time of the survey. If the respondent is between 18 and 76 years of age, s/he is asked to complete two modules in a self-administered manner. The first has to do with sexual violence committed by someone living outside of the respondent’s household at the time of the survey, and the second with all types of violence perpetrated by someone living in the respondent’s household at the time of the survey.

A word of caution

The most recent trends concerning sexual violence should be interpreted with care as several factors may have impacted the findings of the 2017 survey. The questions allowing for the numbers of sexual assault victims to be determined in the CVS survey were phrased differently during the last survey, which may thus have caused a deviation from the series observed up until then [see below]. Alongside these “technical” deviations, the actual growth in the phenomenon may be reflected in a rise in the indicator presented.

The modules allow for the number of victims for each type of offence to be identified and for the context, subsequent action taken and characteristics of the offender to be described. Owing to the specific structure of the questionnaires used to address these types of violence and the small size of the population sample questioned, the numbers of sexual violence victims and household-related victims are calculated over the two years leading up to the survey. These are therefore two-year rates.

Over the 2015/2016 period, 2,068,000 respondents aged between 18 and 76 are

estimated to have been the victim of physical and/or sexual violence, which is 4.6% of the total. It is estimated that 10% of victims suffered both physical and sexual violence (208,000), 72% physical violence only (1,483,000) and 18% sexual violence only (377,000) (see chart). This breakdown in numbers is different from the estimations reached during the previous surveys because of the significant change in numbers of sexual violence victims (see A word of caution).

Four thematic factsheets on physical and/or sexual violence are presented in this section. The first concerns physical violence outside the household. This type of violence is committed against people aged 14 and over by perpetrators who do not live in the same household at the time of the survey. The second, sexual violence outside the household, concerns sexual violence committed by someone living outside the household at the time of the survey. The third, household-related violence, deals with the question of violence committed by someone living in the same household as the victim at the time of the survey. The fourth factsheet looks at intimate partner-related violence.

1,2%

of victims among 14 year old and over
IN 2016

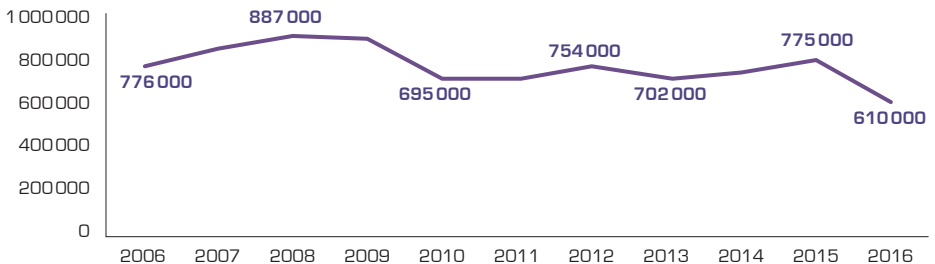


No.13

Physical violence outside the household

In 2016, a little over 610,000 people aged 14 and over are estimated to have been the victim of physical violence committed by someone not living in the same household at the time of the survey. This amounts to a victimisation rate of 1.2%. Physical violence is described as being “outside the household” when it is committed by people who do not live in the same housing as the victim at the time of the survey, rather than at the time of the offence. Such violence, which can cover a wide variety of acts, has been on a general downward trend over the past decade. Men are more exposed than women. Victims of physical violence report it in 27% of cases.

 Number of victims of physical violence outside the household



Source: “Living Environment and Security” surveys, Insee-ONDRP-SSMSi, 2007-2017
Scope: Persons aged 14 and over living in mainland France

No.14

Sexual violence outside the household

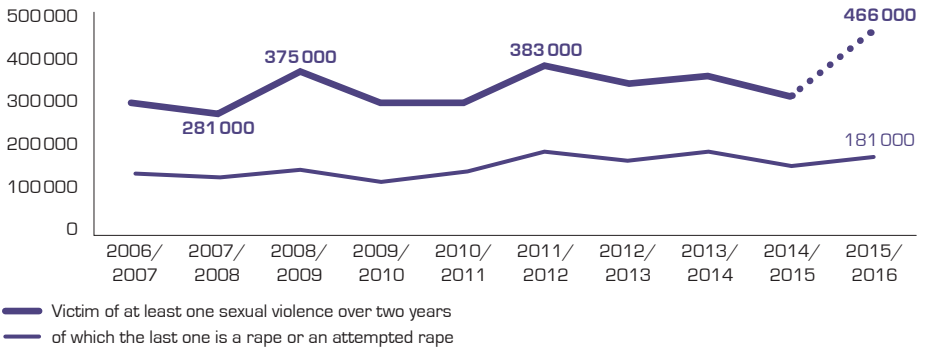
⚠ A word of caution

The variations in sexual violence must be interpreted with care, as several factors may have impacted the findings of the 2017 survey (See About the survey).

The number of declared victims of sexual violence committed by someone not living in the same household at the time of the survey is estimated to be 466 000 persons on the period 2015-2016.



■ Number of declared victims of sexual violence committed by someone not living in the same household, over two years

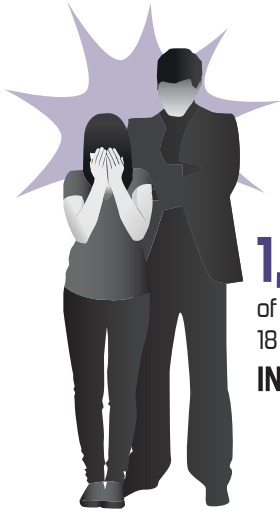


Source: "Living Environment and Security" Surveys, Insee-ONDRP-SSMSi, 2008-2017

Scope: Persons aged 18 to 76 living in mainland France. Violence experienced over the two years leading up to the survey

No.15

Household-related violence



1,7%
of victims among
18 to 76 year olds
IN 2015 AND 2016

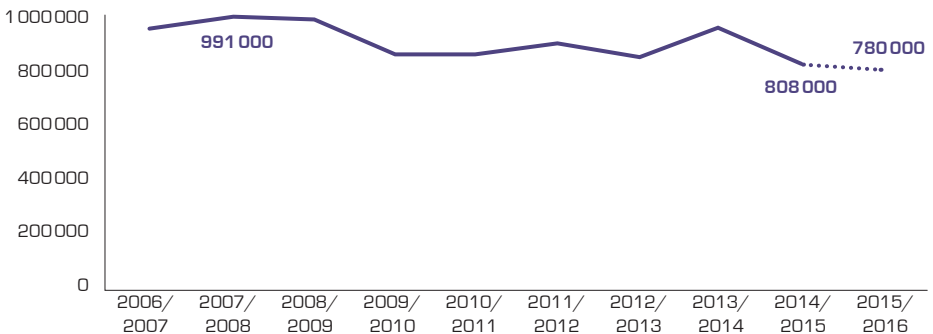
⚠ A word of caution

The variations in sexual violence must be interpreted with care, as several factors may have impacted the findings of the 2017 survey (See About the survey).

Household-related victimisation data focus on physical and/or sexual violence committed by someone living in the same household as the victim at the time of the survey. In 2015-2016, 1.7 % of persons aged 18 to 76 experienced household-related physical and/or sexual violence over the two years leading up to the survey. Two thirds of these are female. Nearly three fifths experienced repeat victimisation.



Numbers of victims of household-related physical and/or sexual violence over two years



Source: "Living Environment and Security" Surveys, Insee-ONDRP-SSMsi, 2007-2017

Scope: Persons aged 18 to 76 living in mainland France in an ordinary household. Violence experienced over the two years leading up to the survey

No.16

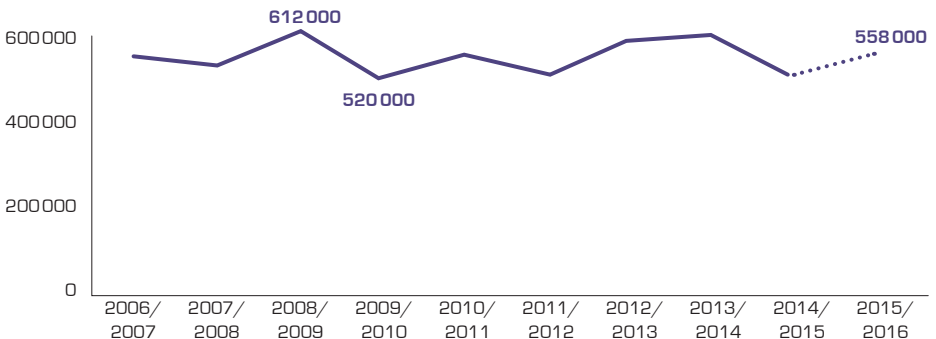
Intimate partner-related violence



⚠ A word of caution

The variations in sexual violence must be interpreted with care, as several factors may have impacted the findings of the 2017 survey (See About the survey).

Unlike the other crimes presented in this compendium, intimate partner-related violence is not related to a sole questioning in the “Living Environment and Security” survey. The indicator presented in this factsheet is related to the aggregate of several victimisations: physical violence outside the household, sexual violence outside the household and household-related physical and/or sexual violence.

 Numbers of victims of household-related physical and/or sexual violence over two years


Source: “Living Environment and Security” Surveys, Insee-ONDRP-SSMsi, 2008-2017

Scope: Persons aged 18 to 76 living in mainland France in an ordinary household. Violence experienced over the two years leading up to the survey

Key figures



Physical violence outside the household

(14 year olds and over)



Sexual violence outside the household



Household-related physical and/or sexual violence

(18-76 year olds over two years)



Intimate partner-related violence

610 000 ↓

VICTIMS IN 2016
(1.2% of 14 year olds and over)

DECLINING
since 2015

466 000

VICTIMS IN 2015-2016
(1% of persons aged 18 to 76)

181 000
VICTIMS OF RAPE IN 2015-2016

780 000

VICTIMS IN 2015-2016
(1.7% of persons aged 18 to 76)

558 000


VICTIMS IN 2015-2016
(1.3% of persons aged 18 to 76)


Trends cannot be interpreted (see A word of caution)

38% 
of cases take place
IN THE STREET

7% 
of cases involve
A COLD WEAPON


27% 
of victims
REPORT IT TO THE AUTHORITIES


13% 
of victims
TAKE A MEDICAL LEAVE

53% 
of cases take place
IN A HOUSEHOLD
(of the victim or of someone else)

In **70%** 
of cases the victim
KNOW THE OFFENDER

Less than **10%** 
of victims **REPORT IT TO THE AUTHORITIES**

29% 
of victims consider that
PSYCHOLOGICAL DAMAGES
are very serious

67% 
of victims are **WOMEN**

59% 
of victims experienced
REPEAT VIOLENCE
over the last two years

7% 
of victims experienced
PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Less than **10%** 
of victims **REPORT THE VIOLENCE TO THE POLICE**

74% 
of victims are **WOMEN**

1.8% 
of persons **AGED 40 OR LESS** are victims

72% 
of victims **LIVE WITH THE PERPETRATOR** at the time of the survey

21% 
of intimate partner-related violence are **SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

15% 
of victims **REPORT THE VIOLENCE TO THE POLICE**

03

Perceptions and
observation of crime

Beyond questions about crime experienced by households and persons (violence, thefts), a part of the individual questionnaire of the Living Environment and Security survey is dedicated to the perception of crime, social concerns and the observation of some criminal phenomena.

Unlike the victimisation modules, questions here do not depend on individual experience of crime and are asked to all interviewees during the survey: results are those of people aged 14 and over living in mainland France.

Two questions about fear of crime experienced during the year are put to interviewees. The one deals with the frequency of fear of crime at home and the other with the frequency of this fear in the district or village of residence. A parallel trend can be seen in these two indicators albeit with a fear of crime always more important outside the home. These questions about the perception of risk are by definition subjective, answers provided must be interpreted with caution.

People interviewed are also consulted about the most concerning social problems among a range of matters, from environment to terrorism. The significance of social concerns has been changed by terrorist attacks perpetrated in France since 2015, which are now the first concern of French people in the Living Environment and Security Survey.

Lastly, people are interviewed about some criminal phenomena they may have witnessed in the twelve months prior to the interview in their district or village, like excessive alcohol consumption, use or trafficking of drugs, prostitution, etc.

This section aims to present the last figures from the 2017 Living Environment and Security Survey on the topics mentioned above. However, maybe more than direct crimes, questions about perceptions and fear of crime are complex and very subjective and cannot be reduced to the figures presented in this compendium. To understand what happens under these “gross” indicators, the reader would be well advised to read publications by the ONDRP about these different topics which will give keys to a better understanding of these issues.

21%
of people aged
14 and over
feel unsafe in their district
IN 2017



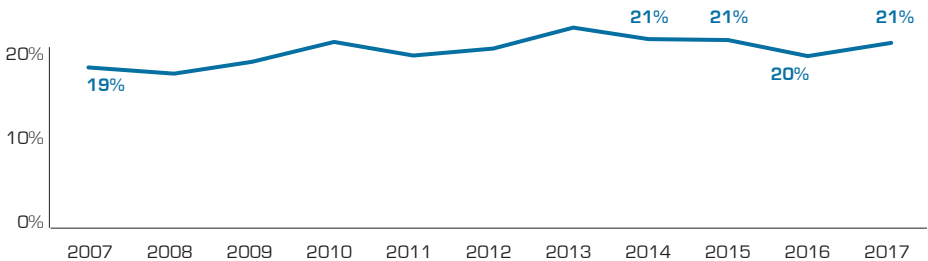
No.17

Fear of crime in the district or village

There was an increase in the frequency of the fear of crime in the district or village in 2017, with 21 % of people reporting they had a fear of crime in their district, which is equivalent to 10.8 million persons aged 14 and over (20 % in 2016).

Nearly one in three women report feeling unsafe in her district or village, compared with 16 % of men.

 Fear of crime in the district or village

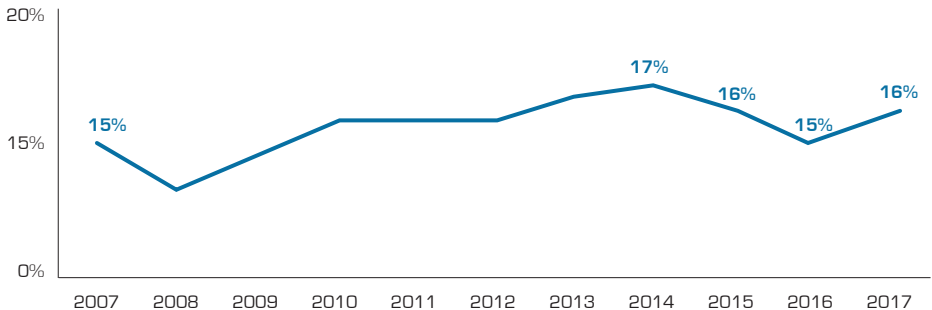


Fear of crime in the district or village, "often", "from time to time", "rarely" felt

No.18**Fear of crime at home****16%**of people aged 14 and over
feel unsafe at home**IN 2017**

There was a slight increase in the frequency of the fear of crime at home. 16 % of people aged 14 and over report having felt not safe at home in 1017, equivalent to a bit more than 8.2 million population (compared with 15 % in 2016).

One in five women report feeling unsafe at home, compared with one in ten men.

 **Fear of crime at home**


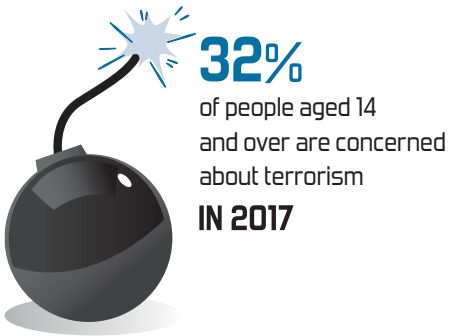
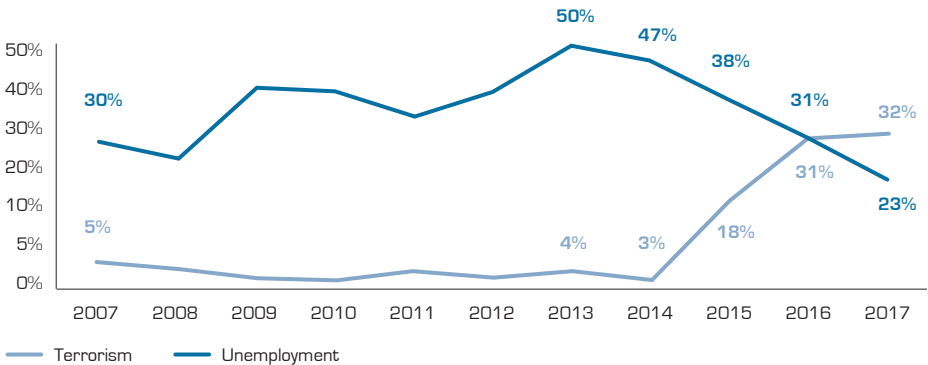
Fear of crime at home, "often", "from time to time", "rarely" felt

No.19

Major concerns in France

The traditional significance of French social concerns, as measured by the Living Environment and Security Survey, has been deeply changed by terrorist attacks perpetrated in France in 2015.

Almost non-existent before the attacks of 7 and 9 January and 13 November, 2015, terrorism is now the French first concern, ahead of unemployment and job insecurity, health, environment, crime, poverty, road safety, racism and discrimination.


The two French main matters of concern


Source: "Living Environment and Security" Surveys, Insee-ONDRP-SSMSi, 2007-2017
Scope: Persons aged 14 and over living in mainland France

No.20

Phenomena witnessed in the district

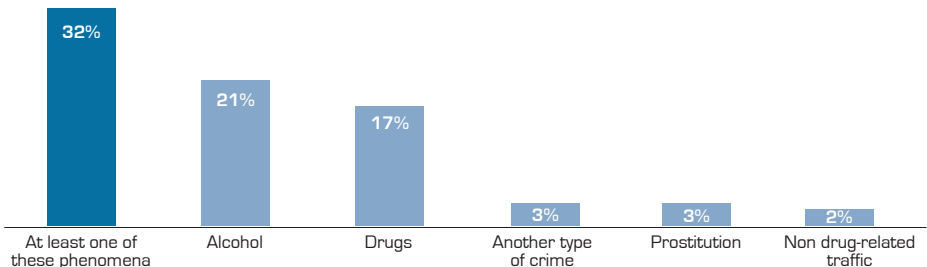
The “Living Environment and Security” Survey provides a measure of the proportion of people who have witnessed some phenomena in their district, like excessive alcohol consumption, use or trafficking of drugs, prostitution or any other form of crime.

In 2017 nearly 32% of persons aged 14 and over reported they have witnessed, in their district or village, one of these phenomena during the last twelve months, which is equivalent to 8.8 million people.

However the incidence of witnessing depends on the place of residence. Only 17% of people living in a rural commune reported having witnessed one of these phenomena at least, compared with 48% of people living in the Parisian urban area.



Phenomena witnessed in the district



Key figures



**Fear of crime
at home**



**Fear of crime
in the district**



**Social
concerns**



**Witnessing
crime**

(14 and more)

16%

feel
UNSAFE AT HOME
IN 2017

One point INCREASE
compared with 2016.
**LOWER THAN THE
PEAK** reached in
2014 (17 %)

21%

feel
**UNSAFE IN THEIR
DISTRICT OR IN
THEIR VILLAGE**
IN 2017

One point INCREASE
compared with 2016
– **HIGH LEVEL** since
2013

Terrorism

has become in 2017
the society's most
serious problem
(32%)

For **23%**
UNEMPLOYMENT
is the main problem

32%

have
witnessed
CRIME PHENOMENA
IN THEIR DISTRICT or
their village in 2016

20%

OF WOMEN

feel unsafe, compared
with
11% of men

26%

OF WOMEN

feel unsafe, compared
with
16% of men

35%

OF WOMEN

say **TERRORISM**
is the most serious
problem, compared
with **29% of men**

21%

of people have
witnessed
**EXCESSIVE
ALCOHOL
CONSUMPTION**

14%

of people aged
14 to 17 feel unsafe,
compared with
**17% of people aged
50 and more**

23%

of people aged
14 to 17 feel unsafe,
compared with
**19% of people aged
50 and more**

46%

of people aged
14 to 17 say
TERRORISM is
the most serious
problem, compared
with **27% of people
aged 50 and more**

17%

have witnessed
use or trafficking
OF DRUGS

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