

2022 Crime Situations and Analyses- Crime Trend Reports

Crimes in 2022 and key crime trends in the past decade

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A. General crimes handled by the police department

1. General crimes, cleared cases, suspects

In 2022, the total number of general criminal cases was 265,518, with 256,733 cases solved, resulting in a clearance rate of 96.69%. The total number of suspects was 291,891 (Table 1-1-1, Figure 1-1-1).

In the past decade, although the overall number of criminal cases decreased annually from 2014 to 2021, there was a 9.23% increase in 2022 compared to the previous year. Violent crimes maintained a decreasing trend since 2013. Conversely, the clearance rate rose annually from 2014 to 2021 but experienced a decrease in 2022. The clearance rate for violent crimes decreased year on year from 2019 to 2022 (Table 1-1-2).

In comparison to the total number of general criminal cases, the number of crime suspects increased annually from 2013 to 2018, 2020, and 2022. However, the number of suspects in violent crimes declined annually between 2013 and 2022. Regarding gender, the percentage of female suspects trended upwards since 2015 (Table 1-1-4).

2. Criminal suspects and crime types

In 2022, there were a total of 291,891 crime suspects, including 227,306 males (77.87%) and 64,585 females (22.13%). The breakdown of crime types includes 79,148 individuals involved in property crimes, 761 in violent crimes, and 211,982 in other crimes. Among the specific criminal offenses, fraud was the most prevalent with 45,540 individuals, followed by offenses against public safety at 41,285, and then ranking third is violations against the Narcotics Hazard Prevention Act (hereinafter drug crimes) at 40,220 (Table 1-2-3, Table 1-3-1).

The past decade saw an increase in fraud cases, the number of suspects, and the amount of damages. In 2022, the most prevalent crime method was fake online auctions or shopping, with 6,791 cases. Offenses against public safety, on the other hand, exhibited a decreasing trend in both the number of cases and suspects. However, in terms of crime method, the number of cases and suspects of hit-and-run incidents both increased. As for drug crimes, the number of cases and the number of suspects, first increasing and then decreased, with 2016 as a watershed year.

Additionally, offenses such as obstructing freedom and disturbing public order also grew in the past decade. Offenses with a decreasing trend include intentional homicide, robbery, extortion, forced sexual intercourse, sexual intercourse with minors, obscenity offenses, and offenses against computer use. Theft and usury have displayed a pattern of initially decreasing from 2013 to 2021 and then increasing in 2022. Direct theft has been the most common method since 2021 (Table 1-1-2, Table 1-2-3, Table 1-2-5 to Table 1-3-1).

3. Domestic and international crime rate, incarceration rate

In the year 2022, the crime rate in Taiwan was 1,138.59 cases per 100,000 people, including theft at 161.54 cases per 100,000 people, fraud at 126.3 cases per 100,000 people, intentional homicide at 0.75 cases per 100,000 people, robbery at 0.57 cases per 100,000 people, and forced sexual intercourse at 0.29 cases per 100,000 people (Table 1-4-1, Figure 1-4-1). Comparing Taiwan to Japan, the United States, England and Wales, and Sweden, theft rates in both Taiwan and Japan showed a gradual decrease from 2013 to 2021, followed by an increase in 2022. Fraud rates, except in Sweden, showed an increasing trend in all countries. Forced sexual intercourse rates decreased in Taiwan but increased in England, Sweden, and the United States, with the United States experiencing a peak in 2018 followed by a declining trend. Intentional homicide rates decreased in both Taiwan and Japan but showed an increasing trend in the United States. Robbery rates decreased in all countries (Table 1-4-1 to Table 1-4-5, Figure 1-4-1 to Figure 1-4-5).

Regarding incarceration rate, in 2023, Taiwan's incarceration rate was 235 people per 100,000 people. In the past decade, when analyzed in two-year intervals, both Taiwan and Japan showed a decreasing trend. England and the United States exhibited a declining trend initially, followed by an increasing trend in 2021/2023. Sweden experienced a turning point in 2016, initially decreasing and then increasing (Table 1-4-6, Figure 1-4-6).

B. Crimes investigated by the prosecutorial body

1. Workload of the prosecutorial body in handling investigations

In the past five years, the average number of new cases received by prosecutors per month decreased from 213.1 cases in 2018 to 191.3 cases in 2021. However, in 2022, there was an increase to 210.2 cases. The average number of days for concluding the investigation of cases

increased gradually from 52.14 days in 2018 to 63.95 days in 2021 and then slightly decreased to 61.99 days in 2022 (Table 2-1-24).

2. Overall prosecution, non-prosecution, deferred prosecution rates

In 2022, out of the 779,852 investigations concluded, 248,444 individuals were prosecuted, resulting in a prosecution rate of 31.86%. Among these, the prosecution rate for general criminal law cases was 31.48%, and for special criminal law cases, it was 32.82%. Additionally, 339,752 individuals were not prosecuted, leading to a non-prosecution rate of 43.57%. Within this, the non-prosecution rate for general criminal law cases was 46.54%, and for special criminal law cases, it was 35.96%. There were also 36,462 individuals of deferred prosecution, at 4.68% (Table 2-1-7 to Table 2-1-8, Table 2-1-11).

In the past decade, non-prosecution has been the most common disposition for general criminal law cases. However, since 2021, special criminal law cases, which were typically brought to trial through regular procedures, have seen a reversal with non-prosecution becoming the predominant outcome (Table 2-1-9 to Table 2-1-10, Table 2-1-12 to Table 2-1-13).

3. Crime types with significant fluctuations in prosecution rates

In 2022, the prosecution rate was highest for offenses of driving under the influence (DUI) at 71.53%, followed by violations against the Regional Plan Act at 68.52%, offenses of obstructing an officer in discharge of duties at 63.12%, and violations against the Anti-Corruption Act at 60.34%. Notably, in the past decade, significant increases have been observed in violations against the Money Laundering Control Act, while offenses of interference with public order rose since 2017/2018. Violations against the Futures Trading Act peaked in 2019 and subsequently declined, while crimes under the Agro-pesticides Management Act showed a decreasing trend (Table 2-1-9, Table 2-1-10, Figure 2-1-2).

4. Crime types with significant fluctuations in non-prosecution rates

The non-prosecution rate in 2022 was highest for the offenses of abandonment at 90.39%, followed by offenses against marriage and family at 85.87%, and offenses of malicious accusation at 84.97%. Offenses that saw significant fluctuations in the past decade were counterfeiting currency, violations against the Pharmaceutical Affairs Act, offenses against

agriculture, industry, and commerce, violations against the Agro-pesticides Management Act and the Wildlife Conservation Act. The non-prosecution rate of offenses of interference with public order peaked in 2017, before which it increased significantly, and after which it decreased substantially year on year. (Table 2-1-12, Table 2-1-13, Figure 2-1-3).

C. Prosecutorial body's execution of convictions

1. Crime types of convictions

In 2022, a total of 156,823 individuals (excluding legal entities) were found guilty by local prosecutor's offices. The most common crime type was offenses of driving under the influence (DUI) with 36,929 individuals (23.55%), followed by theft with 23,114 individuals (14.74%), and fraud with 15,216 individuals (9.70%). However, when considering the trends in the past decade, the rate of offenses of driving under the influence (DUI) decreased steadily since 2014, while theft increased annually from 2018 to 2021. The rate of fraud climbed continuously from 2014 to 2021 (Table 2-2-3).

2. Crime types for which confiscation was executed

In 2022, the total amount confiscated was NTD 30,210,820,672, with the defendant accounting for NTD27,916,684,689 (92.41%) and third parties contributing NTD2,294,135,983 (7.59%). Regarding crime types, the highest amount confiscated from defendants was under the Banking Act at NTD 10,728,280,449 (38.43%), while third parties had the highest confiscation amount under the Securities and Exchange Act at NTD 1,670,418,691 (72.81%). Looking at the overall trends in the past decade, prior to the 2016 amendment of the Criminal Code, the highest confiscation amounts were under the Anti-Corruption Act. From 2016 to 2017, fraud was the most common, and afterward, except for 2020, where violations against the Anti-Corruption Act were the most common, the highest amounts were under the Banking Act (Table 2-3-7, Figure 2-3-1).

D. Prosecutorial body's execution of community treatment

1. Concluded cases of conditional deferred prosecutions

In 2022, the total number of conditional deferred prosecution cases concluded was 22,842, including 819 cases (3.59%) of voluntary service, and 22,023 cases (96.41%) of addiction treatment and necessary orders. In the past decade, the actual hours of performing voluntary

service trended downward, with a slight increase from 78.45% in 2021 to 81.57% in 2022. The estimated completion rate for addiction treatment and necessary orders declined (Table 2-4-17).

2. Concluded cases of conditional probations

For conditional probations, there were a total of 6,946 cases in 2022, with 2,786 cases (40.11%) of voluntary service, 69 cases (0.99%) of addiction treatment, and 4,091 cases (58.90%) of necessary orders. When estimating the completion rate in the past decade, cases of voluntary service were on a decreasing trend, while addiction treatment and necessary orders experienced fluctuations (Table 2-4-16).

3. Concluded cases of community service

In 2022, there were a total of 9,509 cases of community service, including 4,881 cases of completed sentences, 954 cases of short-term imprisonment, and 915 cases of fines; there were 1,843 cases of incomplete sentences, 239 cases of short-term imprisonment, and 312 cases of fines. In the past decade, the actual hours of community service were in decline. (Table 2-4-19).

4. Concluded cases of protective measures during parole or probation

In 2022, there were a total of 16,228 cases of protective measures, including 10,631 cases (65.51%) of protective measures during parole and 5,582 cases (34.40%) during probation. When estimating the completion rate in the past decade, protective measures during parole exhibited a decreasing pattern, while protective measures during probation fluctuated (Table 2-4-14).

E. Inmates at correctional institutions

1. Inmate characteristics

In 2022, there were 30,196 new inmates, including 27,286 males (90.36%) and 2,910 females (9.64%). The most common crime type was offenses of driving under the influence (DUI) with 8,833 individuals (29.25%), followed by drug crimes with 4,390 individuals (14.54%), then theft with 4,248 individuals (14.07%) and in fourth place, fraud with 3,300 individuals (10.93%).

In the past ten years, the percentage of female inmates displayed a growing inclination. In terms of age, 2017 marked a turning point, with the highest number shifting from individuals aged 30 and above to those aged 40 to under 50. In terms of crime types, there was a significant increase in cases related to the Money Laundering Control Act from 2018, ranking fifth by 2022. Additionally, in the past decade, the most common sentence for new inmates was imprisonment for less than 6 months. As for the most common sentence for year-end incarcerated individuals, 2019 marked the turning point, shifting from one to less than three years to over 15 years (Table 2-4-2, Table 2-4-4 to Table 2-4-7, Figure 2-4-2).

2. Situation of inmates completing sentences or on parole

In 2022, there were 27,808 parole applications, with a total approval of 8,385 (30.15%). In the past decade, since 2017, the approval rate for re-evaluation by the Ministry of Justice declined more than the initial approval rate by the Parole Review Committee. During the same period, for those who were already paroled, the most common reason for revocation changed from committing a new crime to violating protective measures, with the year 2020 as a turning point (Table 2-4-8 to Table 2-4-9).

3. Reoffending rates of inmates released upon completion of sentence or those on parole

A total of 29,000 individuals were released in 2022, including 20,704 completing their sentences (71.39%) and 8,296 on parole (28.61%). In the past five years, the parole release rate trended upward annually, with a slight decrease in 2022 (Table 2-4-10). However, during the same period, the recidivism rate within 2 years of release was consistently higher for those completing their sentences than for those on parole. The gap between the two rates increased from 4.99 percentage points in 2018 to 12.1 percentage points in 2020 (Table 2-4-10, Table 2-4-11, Figure 2-4-3).

F. Situation and treatment of specific offenders

1. Female offenders

In the past decade, from suspicion to confirmation of guilt, the percentage of females demonstrated an upward trajectory.

In 2022, there were 64,585 crime suspects, with the largest proportion involved in fraud (16,287), followed by theft (7,337), and drug crimes (5,170). In the past decade, the female percentage in fraud and theft crimes also exhibited a rising pattern (Table 1-2-3, Table 4-1-1).

In 2022, there were a total of 183,070 investigations concluded, with the highest number of cases related to fraud (50,941), followed by assault (21,439), and violations against the Money Laundering Control Act (18,570). In the past ten years, offenses of malicious accusation grew and peaked in 2019, and subsequently declined, while offenses against marriage and family also reached a high point in 2017, after which it began to decline (Table 2-1-9, 2-1-10).

For cases concluded in 2022, a total of 42,516 individuals were prosecuted. The crime type with the highest number of cases was related to the Money Laundering Control Act (9,068), followed by fraud (6,603), and assault (5,973). In the past decade, the number of cases of violations against the Trademark Act hit a low point in 2018, and increased from there (Table 2-1-9, 2-1-10).

In 2022, the total number of individuals convicted was 23,965. The highest number of cases was related to theft (4,107), followed by fraud (2,847), and offenses of driving under the influence (DUI) (2,824). However, in the past decade, offenses where the female percentage remained consistently higher include violations against the Trademark Act, Banking Act, Copyright Act, Futures Trading Act, Company Act, offenses of concealment of offenders, and offenses against reputation and credit (Table 4-1-2).

2. Elderly offenders

In the investigation and trial stages, the number of cases with deferred prosecution in 2022 was 5,625 individuals. In the past decade, the percentage of elderly offenders exhibited an increasing trend. The number of new inmates in 2022 was 406, with a trend of decreasing annually since 2018 and an increase in 2022 (Table 4-2-4).

At the correctional stage, the number of new inmates under observation or rehabilitation in 2022 was 482, and the percentage of elderly offenders increased annually since 2016. The number of new inmates undergoing compulsory rehabilitation program in 2021 was 58. In the past decade, the percentage of elderly offenders had climbed and peaked in 2019, and subsequently started to decline. The number of new inmates serving sentences in 2022 was 3,030, with the percentage steadily increasing in the past ten years (Table 4-2-4).

In terms of protective measures, the number of newly admitted cases was 1,663 in 2022. In the past decade, the number increased annually from 2013 to 2016 and then again increased annually from 2018 to 2020. The percentage of elderly offenders also increased annually from 2017 to 2020 and 2022 (Table 4-2-4).

3. Drug offenders

(1) The number, level, and seizure amount handled by the police

In 2022, there were a total of 39,964 suspects. When broken down by narcotics categories, there were 7,892 Category one suspects (19.75%), 29,657 Category two suspects (74.21%), 2,249 Category three suspects (5.63%), and 108 Category four suspects (0.27%). In the past decade, the overall number of suspects reached its peak in 2017, after which it began to decrease (Table 1-3-2, Table 4-3-1).

In 2022, the total net weight of seized drugs was 9,916.36 kilograms. In terms of categories, there was 460.52 kilograms of Category one narcotics (4.64%), 2,255.00 kilograms of Category two narcotics (22.74%), 2,970.58 kilograms of Category three narcotics (29.96%), and 4,230.27 kilograms of Category four narcotics (42.66%). In the past decade, except for the year of 2021, the overall seizure quantity showed an increasing trend. Regarding categories, except for the year of 2013, 2014, and 2019, where Category three narcotics were the largest amount, Category four narcotics had been the most common (Table 1-3-5).

(2) Cases closed by the prosecutorial bodies and the situation of addiction treatments

In 2022, a total of 13,439 individuals were convicted, primarily due to three types of crimes: the manufacturing, selling and transporting of drugs, the using of drugs, and possession of drugs. The number of individuals involved in the manufacturing, selling, and transporting of Category three drugs were on the rise year on year since 2017. The number of individuals possessing Category one and Two drugs generally decreased since 2017, while the number of individuals possessing Category three drugs rose steadily from 2020 to 2022. The number of individuals involved in drug use experienced a significant decrease since 2017 (Table 4-3-2).

In 2022, there were 6,509 individuals undergoing deferred prosecution with compulsory addiction treatment, and during the same period, 2,794 individuals had their deferred prosecution revoked. In the past decade, the number of individuals undergoing deferred

prosecution with compulsory addiction treatment saw a significant increase from 2017 to 2022 compared to the years between 2013 and 2016. Conversely, the number of individuals with revoked deferred prosecution for Category two narcotics, which was less than 1,000 individuals from 2013 to 2016, exceeded that number from 2017 to 2022, reaching a peak of 2,520 individuals in 2019 and 2,264 individuals in 2022 (Table 4-3-3).

(3) Conditions of drug abuser treatment centers

In 2022, 13,499 new individuals were placed under observation or rehabilitation, 1,641 new individuals were subjected to a compulsory rehabilitation program, 4,390 individuals were newly imprisoned, and 4,989 individuals received protective measures. In the past decade, the number of individuals who received observation or rehabilitation and compulsory rehabilitation experienced a significant increase trend after having decreased prior to 2020. Conversely, the number of new inmates decreased annually since 2017 (Table 4-3-5, Figure 4-3-2).

G. Juvenile offenders and judicial treatment

1. Crime suspects and the types of offenses

In 2022, there were 9,554 crime suspects, with fraud being the most common at 1,662 individuals (17.40%), followed by theft at 1,225 individuals (12.82%), and offenses of interference with public order at 997 individuals (10.44%). In the past decade, the most common crime type shifted notably from theft to fraud, while offenses of interference with public order saw a significant increase since 2019, becoming a primary crime type (Table 3-1-2).

2. Juvenile offenders under protective measures and types of risk exposures

In 2022, there were 8,987 juvenile offenders under protective measures, with assault being the most common offense at 1,856 individuals (20.65%), followed by fraud at 1,348 individuals (15.00%), and offenses of interference with public order at 1,333 individuals (14.83%). In the past decade, assault consistently stood out as the most prevalent offense among juvenile offenders. However, the second most common crime type transitioned from theft to fraud in 2020, marking a watershed year in juvenile crime trends (Table 3-2-5).

In 2022, there were 349 risk-exposed juveniles, with the most common behavior being "using narcotics or hallucinogenic drugs even though such an act does not constitute a punishable statutory offense" at 236 individuals (67.62%), followed by "preparing or attempting to commit a crime that is not punishable by the statutory law" at 96 individuals (27.51%), and "habitually carrying of weapons and firearms without justifiable cause" at 17 individuals (4.87%).

In the past decade, for risk-exposed juveniles under protective measures, the most common type of behavior was "using narcotics or hallucinogenic drugs even though such an act does not constitute a punishable statutory offense". As for the second most common type of behavior, it pivoted in 2016, transitioning from "regular truancy or running away from home" to "preparing or attempting to commit a crime that is not punishable by the statutory law" (Table 3-2-21, Figure 3-2-3).

3. Crime types at Juvenile Detention Centers and Juvenile Reformatory Schools

In 2022, a total of 2,132 individuals were placed in Juvenile Detention Centers, with the highest number associated with fraud at 391 individuals (18.34%), followed by assault at 337 individuals (15.81%), and drug crimes at 262 individuals (12.29%). In the past five years, the most prevalent offense was consistently fraud. The second most common offense was theft in 2019, while drug crimes took the second spot in 2018, 2019, and 2020 (Table 3-3-5).

In 2022, among the 405 new admissions to Juvenile Reformatory Schools, the highest number of individuals were associated with fraud, accounting for 83 individuals (20.49%). Assault ranked second with 79 individuals (19.51%), followed by theft with 54 individuals (13.33%). In the past five years, drug crimes had the highest number in 2018, theft was the most prevalent in 2019, and from 2020 to 2022, fraud became the most common (Table 3-3-11).

H. Criminal Victimization Trends, Protection and Compensation

1. Number of and categories of victims/reports received by the police and other agencies

In 2022, police agencies handled cases from a total of 229,039 victims, among which fraud victims being the most common at 53,062 (23.17%), followed by theft victims at 41,587 (18.16%), and those of negligent driving at 24,753 (10.81%). In the past decade, the number

of victims reached a turning point in 2019, decreasing before that year and increasing after. When broken down by category, victims of fraud, negligent driving, and offenses against freedom showed an increasing trend, while those of theft exhibited a decreasing trend (Table 5-1-1).

Reported cases of domestic violence victims in 2022 amounted to 123,741 individuals. In the past decade, the percentage of male victims increased in various reported case categories, while the percentage of female perpetrators for domestic violence and sexual assault reports also trended upward. (Table 1-3-1, Table 5-1-3, Figure 5-1-2).

2. Victim protection

In 2022, there were a total of 2,272 cases of victim protection, including 1,500 cases of fatalities, 418 cases of sexual assault, and 322 cases of severe injury. In the past decade, the most prevalent case type in terms of numbers was fatalities. Sexual assault ranked second most common, except for 2015 and 2016 when cases of severe injury took the spot (Table 5-2-1).

In 2022, 4,953 individuals received victim protection services, with a total of 101,709 service instances. In the past decade, the most common service recipients were consistently family members and survivors. Notably, in 2016, there was a turning point in the most common type of service, shifting from counseling guidance to legal assistance (Table 5-2-1).

3. Characteristics of victim compensation

In 2022, there were 2,045 newly received applications for victim compensation, and 1,881 concluded cases. Of those concluded, 1,375 were compensation for criminal victims, 27 were of temporary compensation, 28 were of return of compensation, and 451 cases were requested by prosecutors exercising their right to claim damages. In the past decade, the number of concluded cases showed fluctuations. Except for the years 2013, 2020, and 2022, where the highest number of cases being decisions to grant compensation for crime victims, followed by instances where prosecutors obtained creditor's certificates to exercise the right to claim, and then rejections of applications for crime victim compensation, all other years saw the highest number of cases being decisions to grant compensation for crime victims, followed by rejections of applications for crime victim compensation, and in third place were instances where prosecutors obtained creditor's certificates to exercise the right to claim (Table 5-3-1).

In 2022, 716 criminal compensation applications were granted, involving 873 individuals. In the past decade, both the number of cases and individuals compensated fluctuated. The total amount of compensation in 2022 was NTD 332,585,560, with a trend of increase from 2015 to 2017, followed by a gradual decrease until 2022 when an increase was observed again (Table 5-3-2).

For the year of 2022, there were a total of 1,380 applicants for crime victim compensation, including 576 males (41.74%) and 804 females (58.26%). The most common type of victimization was sexual assault (622 people or 45.07%), followed by fatalities (580 people or 42.03%). However, in the past decade, there was a shift in the most common type of victimization from fatalities to sexual assault, with the year of 2021 marking the pivotal point. Additionally, victims tended to be below the age of 30, and the majority of applicants had a personal relationship with the victim (Table 5-3-3, Table 5-3-4, Table 5-3-6, Table 5-3-8).

I. Significant declines and surges pivoting around 2021

Observing the crime data for 2022 and the past decade, it is evident that some items experienced a drastic plunge in 2021 compared to previous years and then saw a substantial increase in 2022. The reasons behind this phenomenon are reflected in official data from the police and correctional agencies, indicating that, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, administrative schedules were delayed, and various administrative support or crime processing policies were adjusted accordingly. The following compiles data in this book, highlighting items that exhibit a pattern of significant decrease followed by a significant increase around the pivotal year of 2021. This information is provided for readers to further examine its correlation with policies related to the COVID-19 pandemic:

1. Police, investigation, and welfare agencies:

- (1) Number of crime cases.
- (2) Crime suspects.
- (3) Total kilograms of drugs seized nationwide.
- (4) Number of reported sexual assaults and individuals involved.

2. Prosecutorial body's investigation and execution of adjudicated cases:

- (1) Monthly average number of new cases received.
- (2) Number of elderly individuals in pretrial detention.
- (3) Convicted population rate.
- (4) Sentencing and number of detained individuals.

3. Correctional agency's execution:

- (1) Number of new inmates and year-end incarcerated individuals.

4. Community Treatment:

- (1) Cases where district attorneys offices executed necessary orders for deferred prosecution and addiction treatment.
- (2) Number of individuals undergoing deferred prosecution with mandatory addiction treatment for using Category one narcotics.
- (3) Number of individuals where deferred prosecution with mandatory addiction treatment were revoked.
- (4) Number of parole revocations due to significant violations of protective measures.

5. Juvenile Incidents:

- (1) Number of juvenile offenders under protective measures.

6. Crime Victim Protection:

- (1) Crime victim applications for compensation.
- (2) Number of cases where prosecutors exercised the right to claim damages.
- (3) Amount of compensation decided.