

# 2021 Crime Situations and Analyses-Crime Trend Reports

## Crimes in 2021 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**

A total of 243,082 general crimes occurred in 2021, of which 240,177 were solved, with a 98.80% clearance rate. In total there were 265,221 suspects (Table 1-1-1, Figure 1-1-1).

In the past decade, the number of general crimes decreased year by year since 2014, among which property crimes and violent crimes declined annually since 2012, while other crimes rose between 2012 and 2017 initially, and then fell till 2021. Clearance rates climbed since 2014, among which property crimes and other crimes had the same trend as that of general crimes. The clearance rate of violent crimes increased between 2012 to 2015, and then decreased year by year between 2019 and 2021 (Table 1-1-2).

In the past decade, compared with the number of general crime cases, the number of criminal suspects grew every year from 2013 to 2018, and fluctuated thereafter. It is worth noting that the percentage of female suspects had been on the rise since 2014 (Table 1-1-4).

### **2. Crime types of criminal suspects**

There were a total of 265,221 criminal suspects in 2021, including 210,289 males (79.29%) and 54,932 females (20.71%); crime types included 66,253 counts of property crimes, 1,073 violent crimes, and 197,895 other crimes. Ranking highest in quantity was offenses against public safety, with 42,001 suspects; followed by violations against the Narcotics Hazard Prevention Act (hereinafter drug crimes), with 41,259 suspects, and then ranking third was larceny, with 35,067 suspects (Table 1-2-3, Table 1-3-1).

In the past ten years, the number of suspects of property crimes increased annually between 2016 and 2021; that of violent crimes decreased annually between 2012 and 2021; while that of other crimes grew steadily between 2012 and 2014, and then again between 2015 and 2018. In terms of the crimes committed, suspects of offenses against public safety surged year by year from 2012 to 2014, and then fell year by year till 2021; that of drug crimes first descended annually between 2012 and 2014, and then ascended every year till 2017, and then again descended year by year till 2021; that of larceny dropped every year between 2012 and 2021 (Table 1-1-2, Table 1-2-3, Table 1-3-1).

### 3. Domestic and international crime rate, incarceration rate

In 2021, the overall crime rate in Taiwan was 1,035.8 cases/100,000 people, including larceny (149.4 cases/100,000 people), fraudulence (80.4 cases/100,000 people), homicide (0.9 cases/100,000 people), robbery (0.7 cases/100,000 people), and forced sexual intercourse (0.3 cases/100,000 people). In the past decade, the overall crime rate in Taiwan decreased annually from 2014 to 2021, while the crime rates of larceny, homicide, robbery and forced sexual intercourse all declined every year between 2012 and 2021 (Table 1-4-1, Figure 1-4 -1).

In the past ten years, the overall crime rate in Japan as well as the rates of larceny and robbery all fell year by year since 2012. In England and Wales, the overall crime rate grew annually from 2013 to 2019, while the rate of larceny dwindled and that of fraudulence, robbery and forced sexual intercourse ticked upward. The overall crime rate in Sweden was on a downward trajectory since 2015, so were that of larceny and robbery, while fraudulence, homicide and forced sexual intercourse went upward (Table 1-4-1, 1-4-2, 1-4-4, 1-4-5, and Figure 1-4-1, 1-4-2, 1- 4-4, 1-4-5).

In terms of the federal statistics of the United States, as the US adjusted its source of data in 2021 and has not fully updated it, the FBI has reminded that it is inappropriate to conduct comparative analysis of the year 2021 with past trends. Accordingly, the overall crime rate and the rates of larceny and fraudulence in the US all declined between 2012 and 2020; the homicide and robbery rates trended downward since 2016, while the rate of forced sexual intercourse increased since 2012. In 2021, the overall crime rate in the US was 2,737.15 cases/100,000 people, 1,237.37 cases/100,000 people for larceny, 229.50 cases/100,000 people for fraudulence, 4.59 cases/100,000 people for homicide, 36.49 cases/100,000 people for robbery, and 27.21 cases/100,000 people for forced sexual intercourse (Table 1-4-3, Figure 1-4-3).

As for the incarceration rate, statistics were compiled every two years. In 2020, the incarceration rate in Taiwan was 248 people/100,000 people, having dropped year by year since 2012. Similarly, the incarceration rates in Japan, the US, and the UK have all declined, while that of Sweden began rising since 2016. (Table 1-4-6, Figure 1-4-6).

## **B. Crimes investigated by the prosecutorial body**

### **1. Overall prosecution, non-prosecution, deferred prosecution rates**

Of the 628,135 people who were investigated in 2021, 203,523 were prosecuted, amounting to a 32.40% prosecution rate. Among them, the rate of prosecution based on the general criminal law was 32.96%, while that of the special criminal law was 30.56%. 275,654 people were not prosecuted, the non-prosecution rate being 44.52%. The non-prosecution rate of the general criminal law was 46.45%, while that of the special criminal law was 35.45%. 34,235 people received deferred prosecution, the deferred prosecution rate being 5.45% (Table 2-1-7 to Table 2-1-8, Table 2-1-11).

In the past ten years, the prosecution rate pursuant to the general criminal law dropped annually between 2014 and 2021, while the non-prosecution rate grew steadily from 2016 to 2021. With regards to the special criminal law, the prosecution rate decreased in general, while the non-prosecution rate increased year by year since 2018. In terms of crime categories, the prosecution rates of obstructing an officer in discharge of duties, larceny, and violations against Regional Planning Law, as well as the non-prosecution rates of violations against the Copyright Act, homicide, abandonment, and offenses against agriculture, industry, and commerce, all trended downward between different years. On the other hand, the prosecution rates of violations against the Child and Youth Sexual Exploitation Prevention Act and offenses of interference with public order, and non-prosecution rates of the following offenses trended upward in different years: offenses of perjury and malicious accusation, offenses of breach of trust, taking, and usury, offenses against freedom, offenses of embezzlement, offenses of obstructing an officer in discharge of duties, offenses of interference with public order, offenses against public safety, offenses against marriage and family. (Table 2-1-9 to Table 2-1-10, Table 2-1-12 to Table 2-1-13).

### **2. Crime types with high prosecution rates**

In 2021, the general crime type with the highest prosecution rate was offenses of obstructing an officer in discharge of duties, with a 63.54% prosecution rate, followed by the offense of abrupt taking, robbery and piracy, at 63.35%. Offenses against public safety came in third, at 62.18%. In the past five years, the prosecution rate of obstructing an officer in discharge of duties dropped year by year from 2017 to 2021, while that of abrupt taking,

robbery and piracy and offenses against public safety fluctuated with a slight downward overall trend (Table 2-1-9).

With respect to the special criminal law, in 2021, the prosecution rate was the highest for violations against the Money Laundering Control Act at 66.83%. Ranking second was violations against the Controlling Guns, Ammunition and Knives Act at 59.03%, which was joined by violations against the Regional Planning Law at 56.20% in third place. In the past five years, the rates of prosecutions pursuant to the Money Laundering Control Act and the Regional Planning Act ticked upward before declining, while that of prosecutions pursuant to the Controlling Guns, Ammunition and Knives Act continued to rise and fall (Table 2-1-10).

### 3. Crime types with high non-prosecution rates

In 2021, the non-prosecution rates in terms of the general criminal law was highest for offenses against marriage and family at 89.50%. This was followed by 85.32% for abandonment, and 82.23% for perjury and malicious accusation. In the past 5 years, the non-prosecution rates of offenses against marriage and family, perjury and malicious accusation both showed growth, while the non-prosecution rate for abandonment decreased year by year since 2018 (Table 2-1-12).

As regards the special criminal law, the rate of non-prosecution in 2021 was the highest at 66.27% for violations against the Personal Data Protection Act. The second highest was violations against the Copyright Act at 64.54%, and then 62.19% for violations against the Trade Secrets Act. In the past 5 years, the non-prosecution rates of the Personal Data Protection Law and the Trade Secrets Law both ebbed and flowed, while the non-prosecution rate of the Copyright Act declined annually since 2017 (Table 2-1-13)<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> In order to avoid the impact of the non-prosecution rate on data observation due to the small number of cases closed, here and the above-mentioned prosecution rate focuses on crime types that saw more than 100 people being investigated each year in the past five years.

## **C. Prosecutorial body's execution of convictions**

### 1. Crime types of convictions

The number of convictions executed by local prosecutors' offices amounted to 139,141 people in 2021. Among them, 38,861 people (27.93%) were convicted of offenses against public safety, being the most; followed by 20,897 people (15.02%), of larceny; and then 14,073 people (10.11%), of fraudulence. In the past decade, the rate of offenses against public safety decreased year by year since 2014, while that of fraudulence increased steadily annually, and that of drug crimes rose first and later dropped, falling below fraudulence for the first time in 2021 (Table 2-2-3).

### 2. Crime types for which confiscation was executed

The confiscated amount in 2021 was NT\$52,478,477,258, including NT\$51,011,297,253 (97.20%) for the defendant, and NT\$1,467,180,005 (2.80%) for the third party. The highest sum were violations against the Banking Act of The Republic of China (NT\$30,525,960,276), followed by breaches of the Securities and Exchange Act (NT\$3,838,902,795), and then fraudulence (NT\$ 3,325,842,631). In the past ten years and before the amendment in 2016, confiscation came mostly from violations against the Anti-Corruption Act. That was replaced by the Banking Act of The Republic of China after the amendment, between 2018 and 2021. There was no particular trend in terms of the amount of confiscation (Table 2-3-7, Figure 2-3-1).

## **D. Prosecutorial body's execution of community treatment**

### 1. Situation of conditional deferred prosecutions

There were a total of 22,581 new cases of conditional deferred prosecution in 2021, among which 21,751 were closed. It was estimated that the completion rate for voluntary service was 77.98%, and for addiction treatment and necessary orders was 78.23%. In the past decade, the highest estimated completion rate of voluntary service was in 2012, at 87.48%, and the lowest in 2016, at 73.35%. The highest estimated completion rate of addiction treatment and necessary orders was in 2015, at 84.86%, and the lowest in 2018, at 70.72% (Table 2-4-18).

## 2. Situation of conditional probations

In 2021, there were 5,782 new cases of conditional probation, and another 5,443 cases that were closed. The estimated completion rate for voluntary service was 92.59%, and for addiction treatment and necessary orders was 79.80%. In the past decade, the highest estimated completion rate of voluntary service was in 2012, at 86.79%, and the lowest in 2021. The highest estimated completion rate of addiction treatment and necessary orders was in 2019, at 93.69%, and the lowest in 2016, at 87.56% (Table 2-4-17).

## 3. Situation of protective measures during parole or probation

In 2021, there were 17,488 new cases of protective measures, and another 16,747 cases that were closed, including 12,569 cases served and 1,393 cases revoked. In terms of estimated completion rates, it was 81.35% for protective measures during parole, and 87.64% for during probation. In the past ten years, the highest estimated completion rate for protective measures during parole was 83.65%, in 2012; the lowest being 76.04%, in 2018. The highest estimated completion rate for protective measures during probation was 88.14%, in 2019; the lowest was 84.48%, in 2016 (Table 2-4-15).

## **E. Inmates at correctional institutions**

### 1. Crime types of new inmates

In 2021, there were 25,221 newly inmates, including 22,682 males (89.93%) and 2,539 females (10.07%). The top three most common types of crimes committed were offenses of driving under the influence (DUI) (6,181), larceny (3,523), and then fraudulence (3,094). In the latter half of the past decade, the number of cases of offenses of driving under the influence (DUI) and larceny both first increased and then decreased, while cases of fraudulence continued to trend upward. It is worth noting that the number of drug crimes declined year by year since 2017, and plunged significantly between 2020 and 2021 (Table 2-4-2, Table 2-4-6).

### 2. Situation of inmates completing sentences or on parole

In 2021, 11,153 people received parole. The total approval rate of parole was 39.14%, with 1,075 applications being revoked. In the past ten years, the total approval rate of parole increased from 2012 to 2017, and then fluctuated. The number of revocations decreased annually since 2017 (Table 2-4-8 to Table 2-4-9).



A total of 30,808 people were released from prison in 2021, including 19,877 people who completed their sentences, while the remaining 10,931 were released on parole. In the past five years, the percentage of inmates released on parole grew every year since 2018 (Table 2-4-10).

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

Between 2017 and 2019, for those who served their time, the reoffending rate within two years post-release was the highest within six months. For those released on parole, the reoffending rate within two years post-release was the highest between one to two years. In 2019, it was the highest between six and 12 months. Overall, the reoffending rate between 2017 and 2019 was higher for those released after completion of sentence than those released on parole, except for 2018 when the reoffending rates were higher between six to 12 months and between one and two years for those on parole than those who completed their sentences (Table 2-4-11).

## **F. Situation and treatment of specific offenders**

### 1. Female offenders<sup>2</sup>

Among the 54,932 suspects in 2021, fraudulence was the type of crime most committed, with 12,387 people. That was followed by larceny, with 6,515 people, and then drug crimes, with 5,292 people. In the past ten years, the percentage of female criminal suspects grew year by year since 2015. Additionally, the percentage of female offenders of fraudulence increased on an annual basis since 2017, and that of larceny trended upward since 2015 (Table 1-2-3, Table 4- 1-1).

In 2021, a total of 145,085 females were investigated, accounting for 23.10% of the total number of people investigated. In terms of crime types, the most common one was fraudulence, which saw 40,607 suspects; second in line was offenses of causing injury, with 21,031 suspects, and then in third place was larceny, with 11,179 suspects. In the past five years, of the total number of people investigated, the percentage of female offenders increased year by year, among which investigations based on the Trademark Act and the Act Governing

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<sup>2</sup> Supra note 1, except that the observation period is extended from 5 years to 10 years.

Relations between the People of the Taiwan Area and the Mainland Area grew since 2019 and 2017 respectively (Table 2-1-10).

With regards to prosecution, a total of 33,900 females were prosecuted in 2021, accounting for 16.66% of the total. Among the types of crimes prosecuted, fraudulence was the highest with 6,001 people; followed by offenses of causing injury, with 5,767 people, and then larceny, with 4,517 people. In the past five years, the percentage of females being prosecuted grew every year. Among them, prosecution based on violations against the Physicians Act increased year by year, while violations against the Trademark Act and the offenses of interference with voting also saw an upward trend since 2017 (Table 2-1-10).

In 2021, a total of 21,094 females were convicted, accounting for 15.16% of the overall convictions. Among those convictions, the most common crime type was larceny (3,748 people), followed by offenses against public safety (3,194 people), and then fraudulence (2,965 people). In the past five years, the percentage of female convictions increased year by year; additionally, convictions of the Copyright Act, The Banking Act of The Republic of China, embezzlement, larceny, homicide, and the Domestic Violence Prevention Act all trended upward (Table 4-1-2 ).

## 2. Elderly offenders

At the investigation and trial stages, 4,757 people received deferred prosecution in 2021. In the past decade, both the number and the rate trended upward. The number of new detainees was 275 in 2021, which had decreased year by year since 2018 (Table 4-1-4).

At the correctional stage, 445 newcomers were sent to institutions for rehabilitation treatment in 2021. The percentage of elderly people in the past ten years grew year by year between 2016 and 2021. In 2021, 89 people received compulsory rehabilitation. In the past ten years, the percentage of elderly offenders increased year by year from 2014 to 2019. There were 2,390 new elderly inmates, the percentage of which grew annually in the past ten years from 2012 to 2021 (Table 4-1-4).

In terms of protective measures, the number of newly admitted cases of elderly offenders was 1,656 in 2021, which had increased year by year from 2012 to 2016 and also from 2018 to 2020. The percentage of elderly offenders overall also grew on an annual basis between 2017 and 2020 (Table 4-1-4).

### 3. Drug offenders

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

In 2021, there were 40,987 drug suspects. Among them, 6,508 (15.88%) were Category one narcotics, 31,838 (77.68%) were Category two, 2,493 (6.08%) were Category three, and 105 (0.26%) were Category four. In the past ten years, the overall number of drug crime suspects trended upward before declining (Table 1-3-2, Table 4-3-1).

The net weight of the pure narcotics seized in 2021 totaled 3,551.6 kg, including 220.1 kg (6.20%) of Category one narcotics, 595.2 kg (16.76%) of Category two narcotics, 1,326.8 kg (37.36%) of Category three narcotics, and 1,409.6 kg (39.69%) of Category four narcotics. While overall seizures increased in the past decade, the total amount of seizures in 2021 dropped drastically compared to the previous year, with the reduction seen relatively larger in Category two and four narcotics (Table 1-3-5).

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

A total of 12,914 people were convicted of drug crimes in 2021, mainly production and transport, use, and possession. Among them, the number of people involved in the production and transport of Category two and three narcotics increased since 2017, while that of the possession of Category one to three narcotics decreased since 2017. As for people found of using drugs, that number plunged significantly since 2017 (Table 4-3-2).

In 2021, 6,559 people received deferred prosecution and were ordered addiction treatment. That number grew dramatically between 2017 and 2021, compared with between 2014 and 2016 (Table 4-3-3).

#### (3) Conditions of drug abuser treatment centers

In 2021, 2,573 people were admitted for rehabilitation treatment, 1,091 people for compulsory rehabilitation (mandatory rehabilitation treatment), 4,748 people were newly imprisoned, and 6,250 people received protective measures. In the past decade, the number of people who received rehabilitation treatment and compulsory rehabilitation declined between 2012 and 2020, yet grew tremendously in 2021. Comparatively, the number of new inmates dropped year by year since 2017 (Table 4-3-4).

## **G. Juvenile offenders and judicial treatment**

### **1. Crime types of juvenile criminal suspects**

Among the 9,627 juvenile criminal suspects in 2021, the most common crime type was fraudulence, with 1,633 suspects (16.96%), followed by offenses of interference with public order, with 1,263 suspects (13.12%), and then larceny, 1,216 suspects (12.63%). Between 2012 and 2014, larceny saw the highest number of suspects, followed by general injuries; between 2015 and 2017, larceny remained the top one crime type while drug crimes took over second place; between 2018 and 2019, larceny was still the most common, followed by fraudulence; and after 2020, fraudulence ranked number one, pushing larceny to second place, showing a trend of gradually concentrating from larceny to fraudulence. Moreover, after the legal elements of scope of application for offenses of interference with public order expanded in 2020, the number of offenders grew significantly, becoming one of the main crime types (Table 3-1-2).

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

Of the 8,121 juveniles offenders under protective measures in 2021, the most common crime type was causing injury, with 1,780 people (21.92%), followed by fraudulence, with 1,256 people (15.47%), and then larceny, with 1,008 people (12.41%). In terms of the types of crimes juvenile offenders under protective measures had committed in the past decade, the most common was causing injury. In second place had been larceny between 2012 and 2020, but turned to fraudulence in 2021. Moreover, fraudulence had been the third most common crime type between 2017 and 2020 (Table 3-2-5).

Among the 387 risk-exposed juveniles in 2021, 302 (78.04%) of them "using narcotics or hallucinogenic drugs even though such an act does not constitute a punishable statutory offense"; while 68 (17.57%) of them "preparing or attempting to commit a crime that is not punishable by the statutory law"; and the remaining 12 people (3.10%) "habitually carrying of weapons and firearms without justifiable cause". In the past decade, for juveniles under protective measures who had committed a status offense, the most common type of behavior was to "using narcotics or hallucinogenic drugs even though such an act does not constitute a punishable statutory offense". The second most common type of behavior was "running away from school or home" between 2012 and 2016 and then between 2017 and 2021 it became

"preparing or attempting to commit a crime that is not punishable by the statutory law" (Table 3-2-21).

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

Among the 2,177 people held/detained at Juvenile Detention Centers (Juvenile Detention House) in 2021, 419 people (19.25%) were convicted of fraudulence, ranking number one crime type; followed by 346 people (15.89%) for drug crimes, ranking second; and then 312 people (14.33%) for causing injury, ranking third. In the past five years, the top one crime type changed from drug crimes in 2017 to fraudulence in 2018 to 2021. In second place was fraudulence in 2017, but switched to larceny in 2019, and was drug crimes in 2018, 2020 and 2021 (Table 3-3-5).

In 2021, 362 new students enrolled in Juvenile Reformatory Schools, of which 80 (22.10%) were convicted of fraudulence, being the highest; followed by general injuries, with 57 people (15.75%), and then drug crimes, with 50 people (13.81%). In the past five years, drug crimes were the most common crime type between 2017 and 2018, which was then replaced by larceny in 2019 and then by fraudulence in 2020 and 2021 (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 2021, police agencies handled cases from a total of 201,083 victims, among which 44,674 (22.22%) were victims of fraudulence, 38,633 (19.21%) of larceny, and 22,508 (11.19%) of negligent driving. In the past ten years, the overall number of victims first decreased and then increased after 2014. When broken down by category, victims of fraudulence declined year by year since 2019, those of larceny decreased year by year since 2012, those of negligent driving dropped year by year since 2014, while those of offenses against freedom grew annually since 2014 (Table 5-1-1). In 2021, 118,532 people reported domestic violence. In the past ten years, the percentage of male victims in each category trended upward (Table 5-1-3).

### 2. Victim Protection

In 2021, there were 2,338 cases of victim protection, including 1,563 cases of death, 423 cases of sexual assault, and 337 cases of serious injury. In the past decade, most cases of

concerned deaths, followed by sexual assault, except for 2015 and 2016 when serious injury came second (Table 5-2-1).

A total of 5,238 people received protection in 2021, while the protection measures served an accumulated 109,406 people. In the past ten years, the protection services supported mostly families members and survivors. In terms of the type of service provided, the highest was counseling between 2012 and 2015, and then was replaced by legal assistance between 2016 and 2021 (Table 5-2-1 ).

### 3. Compensations features

In terms of victim compensation, there were 1,830 new cases and 1,596 cases that were closed in 2021. Of those closed, 1,176 were compensation applications for criminal victims, 17 were for temporary compensation, another 23 cases were for return of compensation, while the remaining 386 cases were requested by prosecutors exercising the right to claim. In the past ten years, there were a growing number of cases being closed, among them, decisions granting compensation for criminal victims were the highest, decisions denying compensation for criminal victims came second, followed by decisions where prosecutors obtained creditor's certificates to exercise the right to claim (Table 5-3-1).

In 2021, 558 criminal compensation applications were granted, with 660 people receiving compensation. In the past ten years, the number of compensation cases and the number of people compensated both increased first and then decreased. The total amount of compensation awarded in 2021 was NT\$272,829,733. In the past ten years, that number grew between 2012 and 2017, and then declined (Table 5-3-2).

With regards to the 1,190 people who applied for criminal compensation in 2021, 504 were men (42.35%) and 686 were women (57.65%). In terms of the types of crimes, death was the most common in the past ten years, followed by sexual assaults, and then serious injuries. The percentage of serious injuries dropped year by year since 2017, while that of sexual assaults increased annually. In the past decade, the age of the victims showed of tendency of under 30, and the applicant of the compensation claims were mostly the victim themselves (Table 5-3-3, Table 5-3-4, Table 5-3-6).