

# Crime, Security and Safety in the EU

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The EU ICS has been co-financed by the European Commission, DG RTD, under FP6.



# Benchmarking Safety in Europe

- **The European Crime & Safety Survey (EU ICS)**
  - compares levels of crime across the EU
  - includes the EU-15, Estonia, Poland & Hungary, followed up with surveys in Bulgaria, Croatia, Turkey
  - analyses how citizens feel about their safety
  - reports citizens' concerns.
- **The EU ICS is the most comprehensive analysis of crime, security and safety ever conducted in the EU**
- **The EU ICS allows follow-up comparisons with the International Crime Victim Surveys (ICVS), conducted from 1989 to 2000**
- **The victimization approach and original questions were pioneered by Alec Gallup in the 1970's.**

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# The Consortium

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A consortium led by Gallup Europe (including national Gallup affiliates) in Brussels conducted the EU ICS project

Members include:



the United Nations Interregional Criminal Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) in Turin, Italy



The Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law in Freiburg, Germany



CEPS/INSTEAD in Luxembourg



GeoX in Hungary.

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## Survey background

- 41776 Europeans, interviewed in 2005, reported about their crime experience from 2004
- In each country the sample consisted of a national sample of 1200 persons of at least 15 years of age
- With a booster sample of 800 in each capital city, we created comparative measures for major European urban areas
- Interviews were conducted over the telephone (CATI, fixed lines), on a random sample of persons in each country
- In Finland we added a random sample of mobile only persons to test (and make up for) non-coverage effects
- In Ireland, a repeat study was conducted, to validate the results in a test – retest setup

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## Highlights of the “Burden of Crime” report

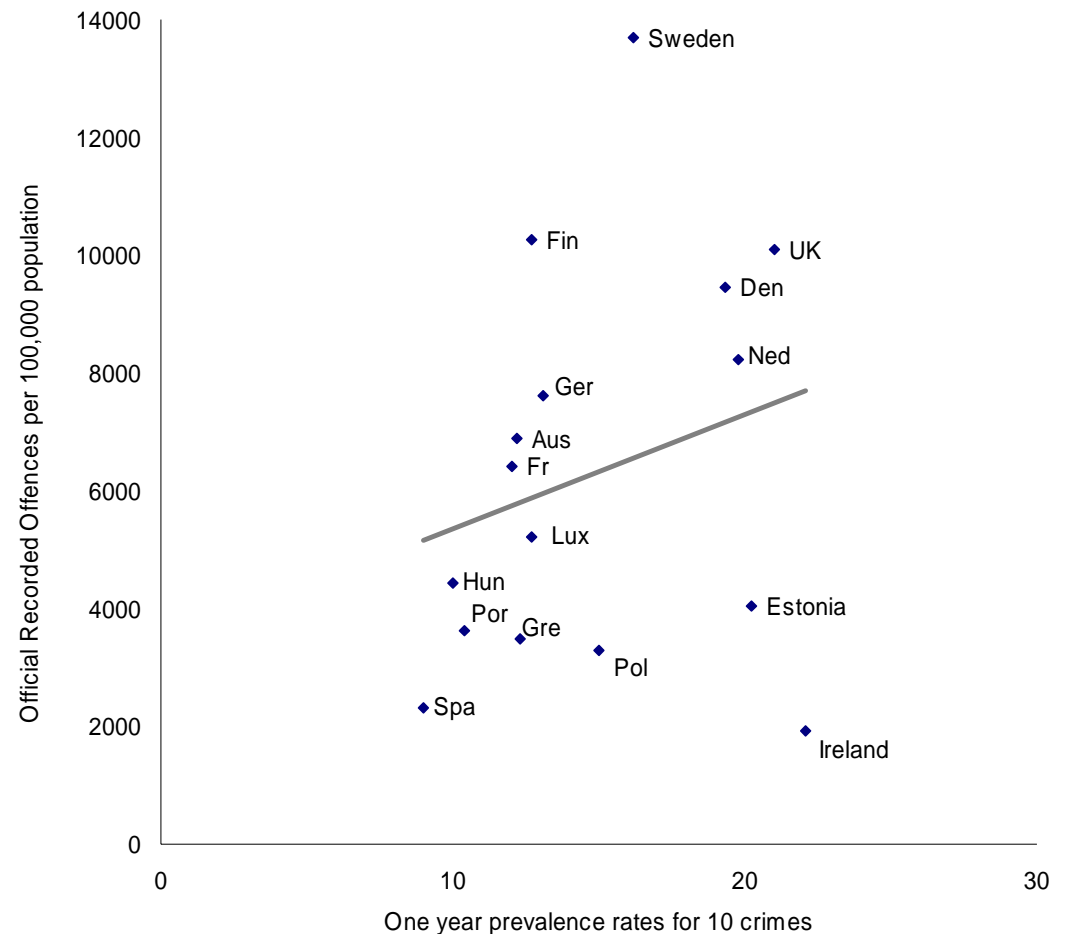
- Levels of “common crime” have fallen in the EU over past 10 years:
  - Crime hotspots are the UK, Ireland, the Netherlands and Denmark
  - “Hate crimes” are particularly prevalent in the EU’s “immigrant” communities
  - 30% of EU citizens do not feel safe on the streets

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# Crime rates – what's the truth?

- Rates of common crime peaked, at 21%, in 1995
- 15% of EU citizens have been a victim of “common crime” in 2004 / 2005
- There is hardly any relation between the EU ICS data and actual crime rates recorded by the police



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# Crime hotspots

- **Ireland:**
  - the greatest prevalence of sexual crimes and robberies in the EU, but the police performance is highly rated
- **UK**
  - one of the EU's most protected countries (security alarms), with “common crime” way above the average
- **Denmark**
  - a high crime country but the population rates its police force as number 2 in the EU
- **Netherlands**
  - assaults and hate crimes are high but there's little concern on the streets

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# “Hate crimes”

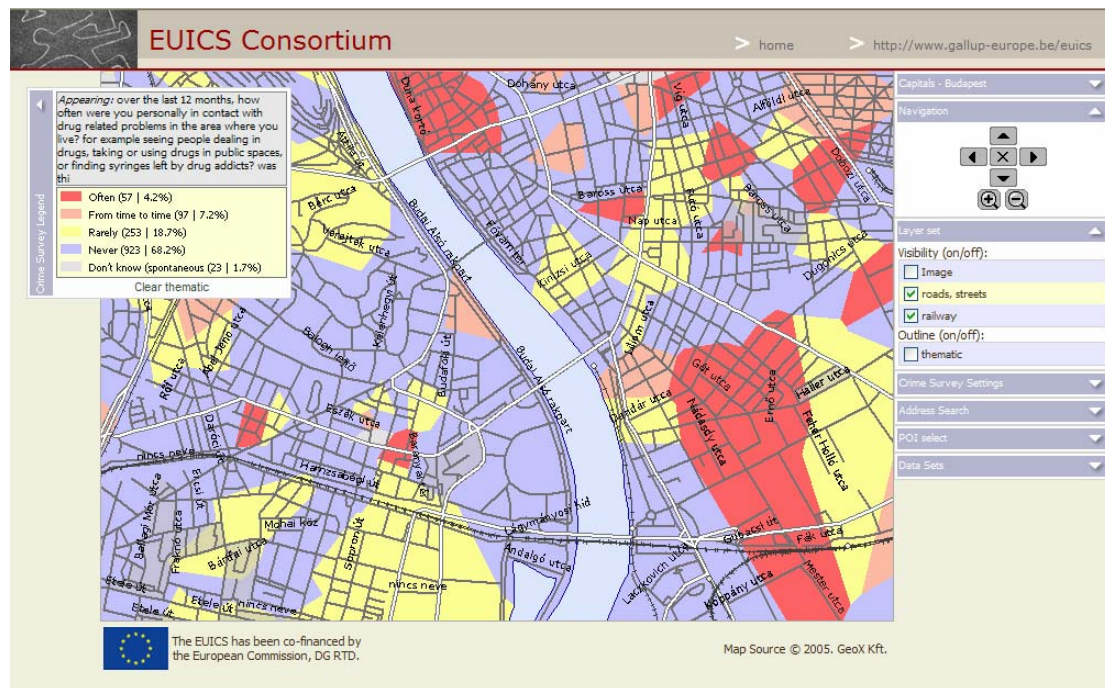
- Hate crimes are particularly prevalent in the “immigrant” communities
  - 10% chance of being targeted
  - higher amongst immigrants who feel themselves to be religious (12%)
- “Immigrants” are more liable to be victims of “common crime”
  - 20% as opposed to 15% for non-immigrants
- Within the Benelux, all countries have “hate crimes” above the EU average
  - all three countries rated in the top six of the EU member states

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# Safety on the streets

- Despite a reduction in violent crime, people do not feel safe on the streets – almost 30% have this concern
- There is a correlation between concern about safety on the streets and exposure to drug-related incidents.
- Street-level assessment:



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# Spotlight on the police

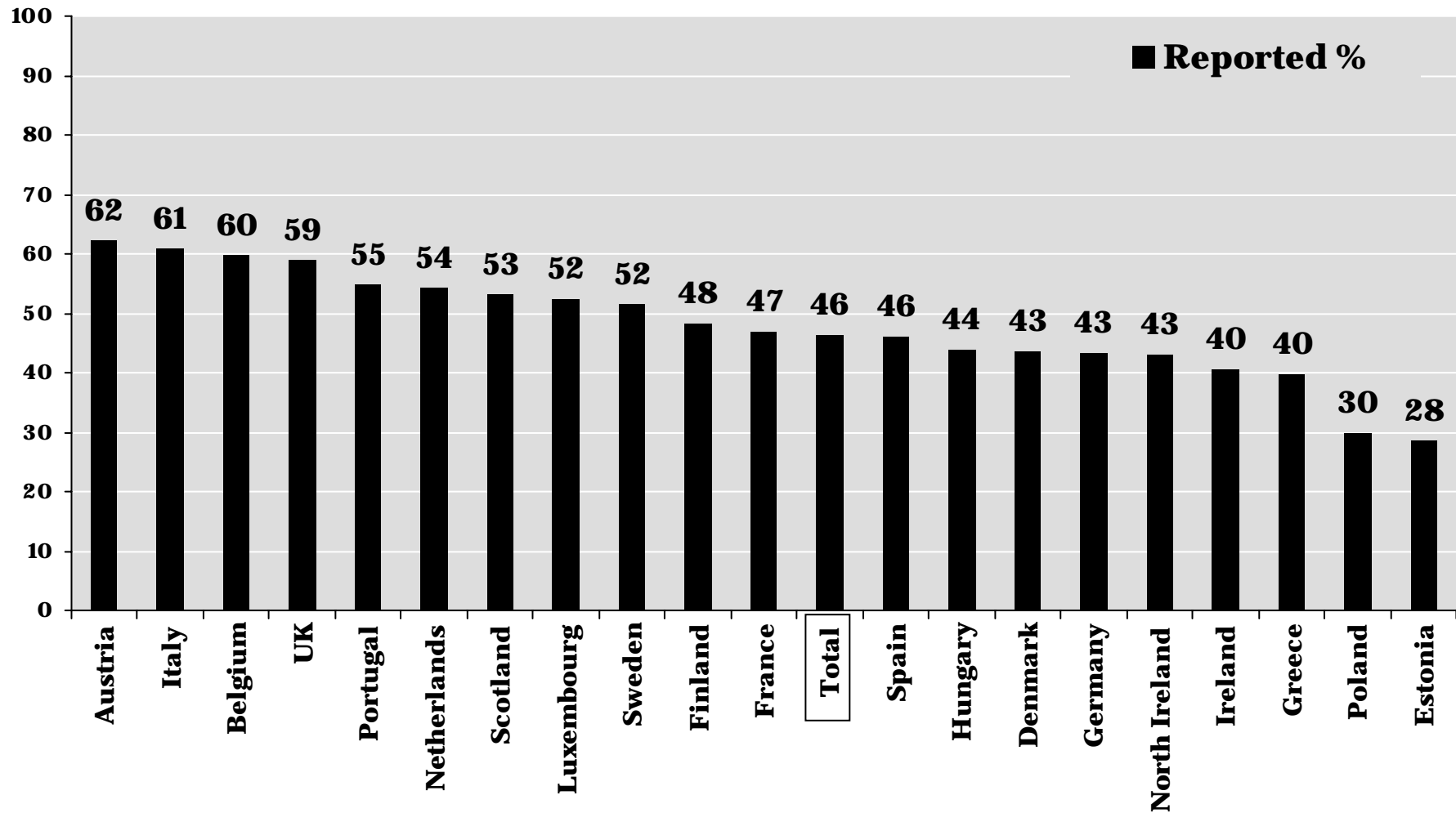
- Overall, improved performance ratings except for those of the UK, the Netherlands and France.
- Countries representative of the newer Member States have low (comparative) performance ratings
- Many interviewees (between 30% and 60%) did not report crime / incidents to the police
  - the main reasons for not reporting were given as a lack of concern or that the interviewees solved the problem themselves
  - property crime is far more likely to be reported than contact crime

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# Report to police: theft of personal property



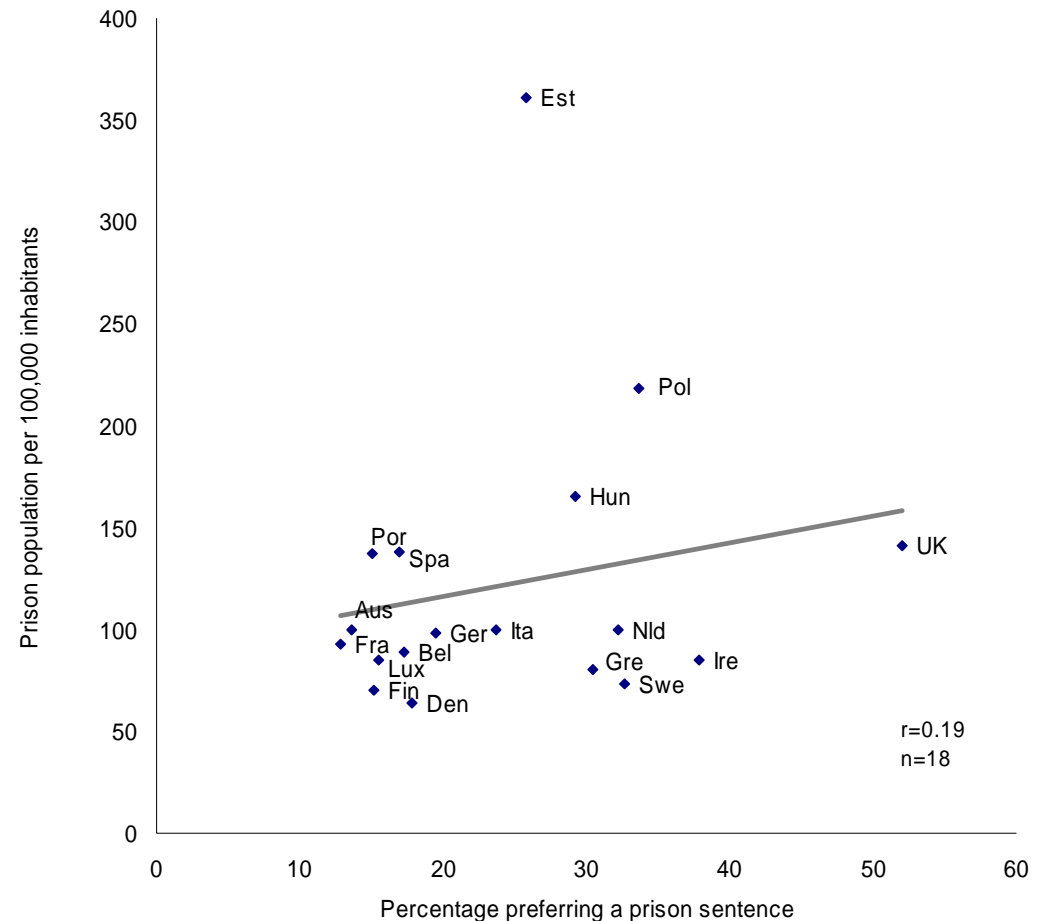
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# How to deal with crime?

## Is prison the answer?

- The UK is the only country where the majority of citizens favour imprisonment of a repeat burglar
- A community service order is the preferred sentence for 48% of Europeans, whereas imprisonment was recommended by only 25% of respondents
- In the new Member States, incarceration rate is higher than popular demand would explain



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## Security alarms – cause or effect?

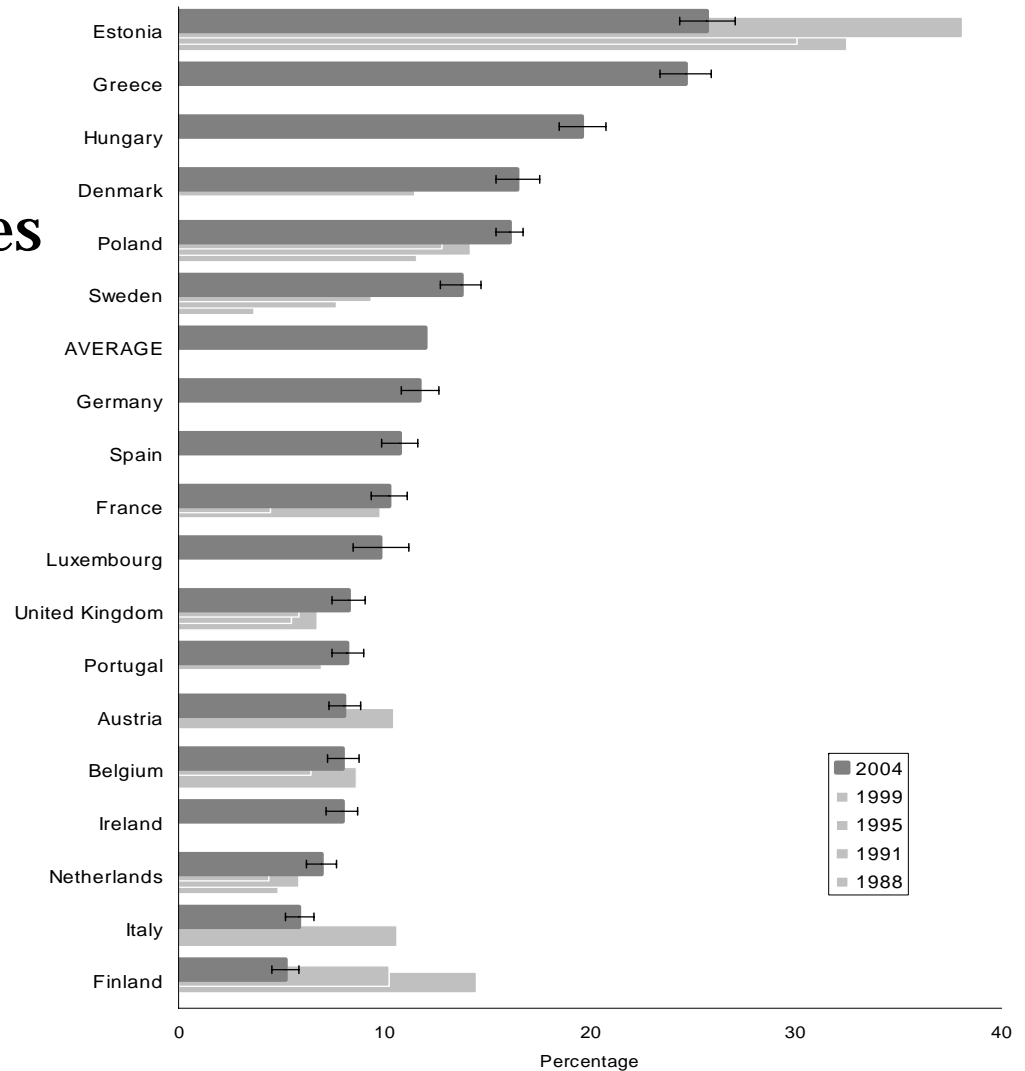
- Burglary is decreasing everywhere except for the UK and Finland
- The level of self-protection (alarms, special locks, etc.) has risen considerably in the past 10 years, especially in the UK and Ireland.
- There is less concern now about burglaries, less than one-third are still worried
- 34% of those who have and 28% who do not have alarms worry.

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# Becoming victim of consumer fraud

- Citizens asked if they had been cheated in terms of quality of goods or services
- EU average: **12%**



# European Safety Observatory Add-ons

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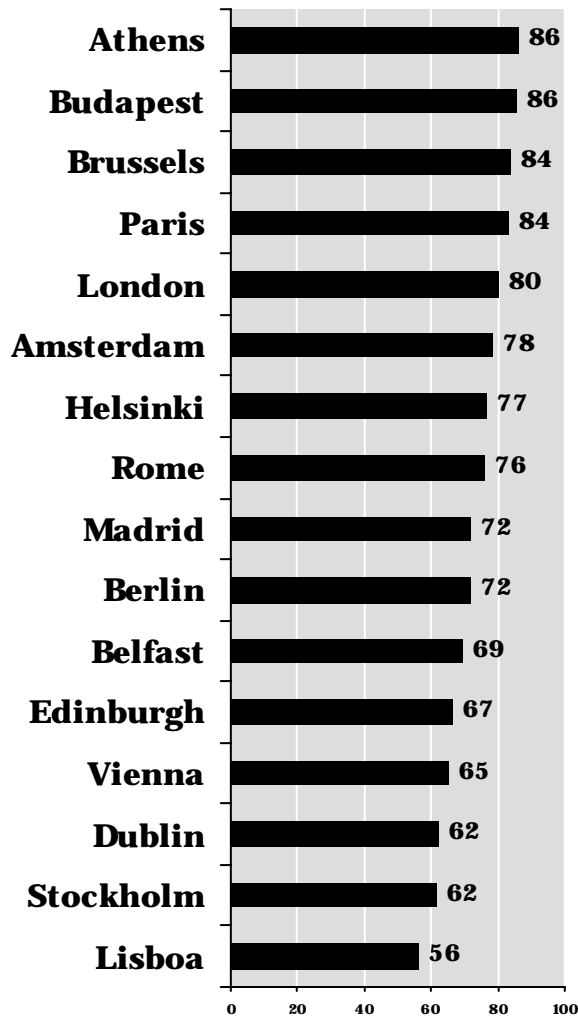
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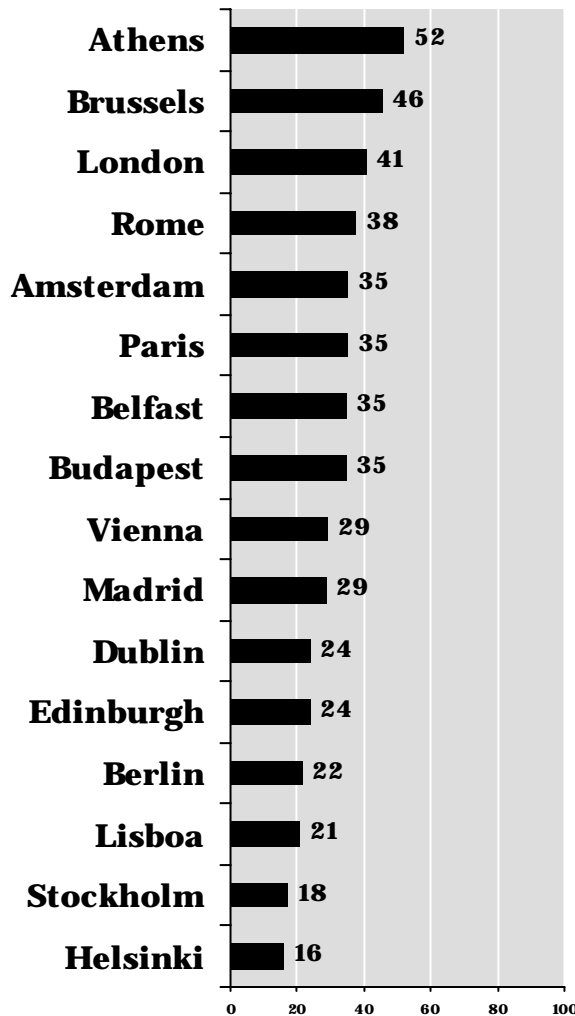
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# Assessment of local area in European capitals

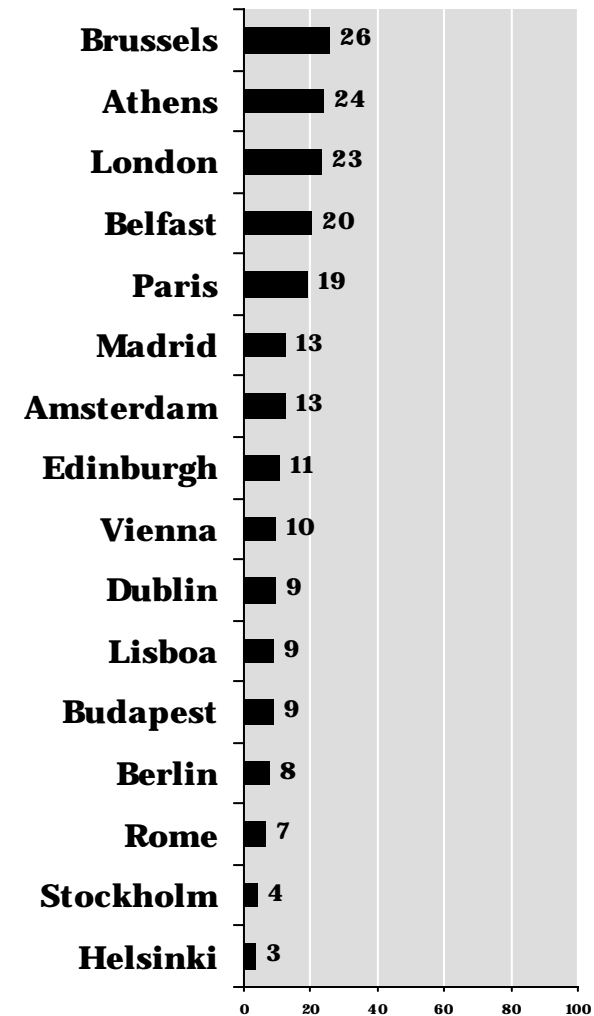
Adverse neighbourhood characteristics



Property crimes in the area



Violent crimes in the area



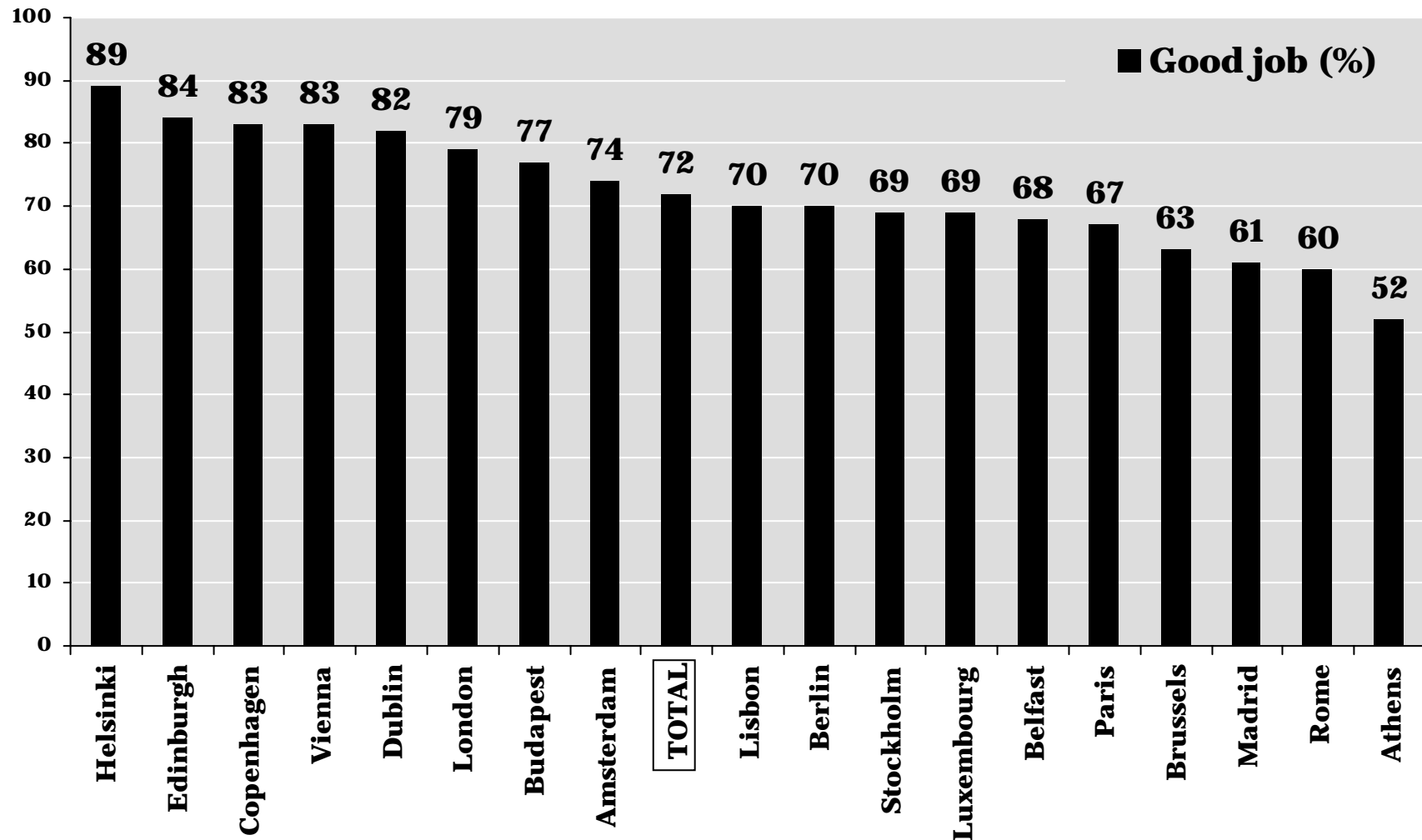
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# Evaluation of police in European capitals

% of residents saying the police is doing a good job



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# GIS for Crime prevention

**EUICS Consortium**
home
http://www.gallup-europe.be/euics

Map Satellite Hybrid

Hungary  
Budapest, Budapest  
2006.10.15.  
Crimes against property  
Theft>>

Number of crime records: 3941

HUNGARY

Budapest

NUTS5

2001.10.07. -> 2007.01.25.

Crimes against property

CRIME-TYPE2

Update map

- Robbery (55)
- Theft (168)
- Motor vehicle theft (3)
- Damaging (2)
- Fraud (5)
- Plundering (5)
- Embezzlement (1)
- Fencing (1)

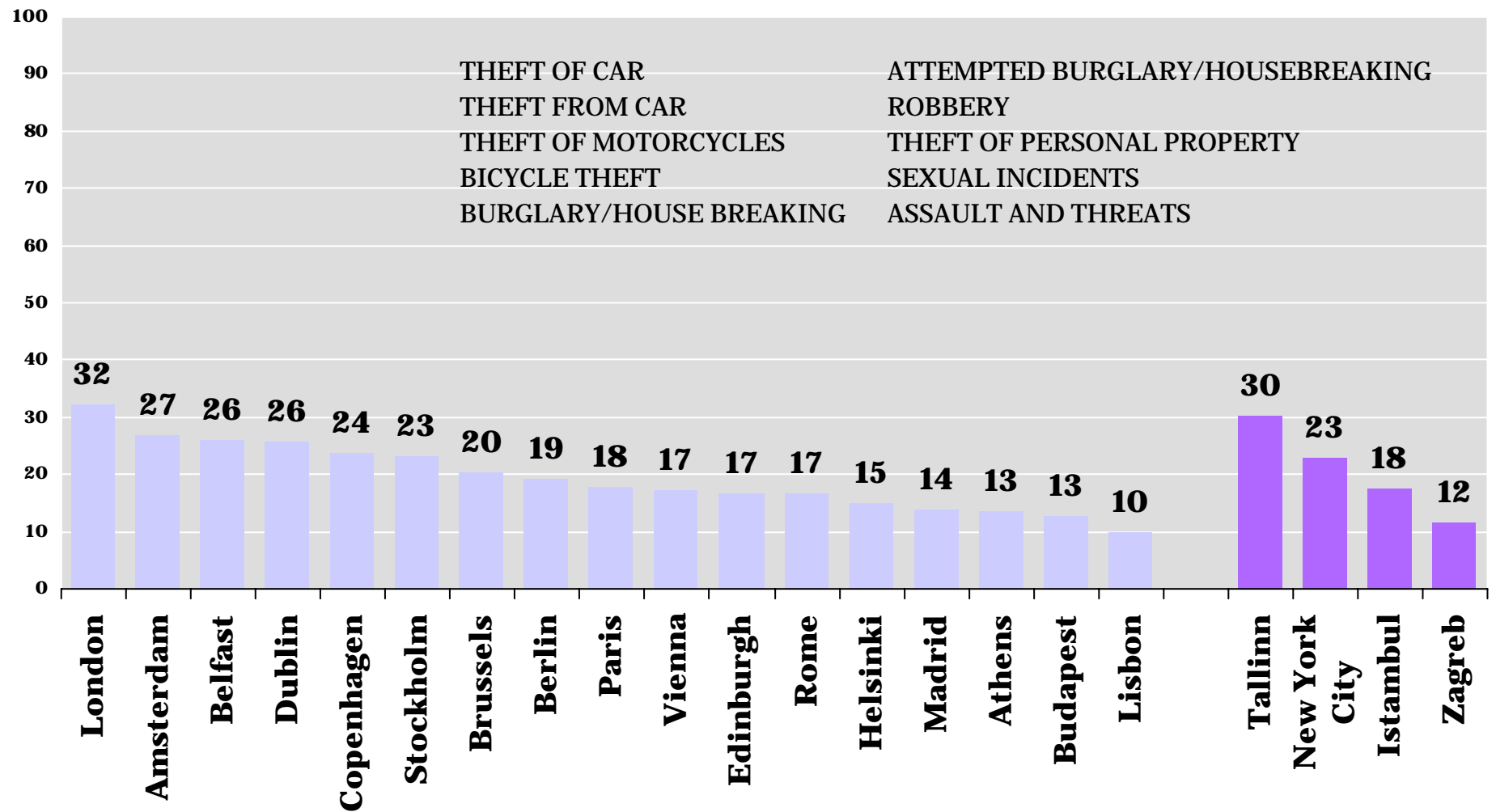
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A Budapesti Rendőr-főkapitányság Bűnügyi Főosztály I. nyomozást rendelt el ismeretlen tettesek (1 fiatal férfi és egy fiatal nő) ellen, akik a Budapest II., Lövőház utcában található egyik szórakozóhelyen, 2006. október 15-én 1 óra 58 perc körüli időben – zsebtolvajlás módszerével – eltulajdonították egy 25 éves budapesti nő táskájából mobiltelefonját és 20.000 forint készpénzt. Az anyagi kár körülbelül 30.000 forint volt. A bevezetett nyomozati cselekmények során megállapítást



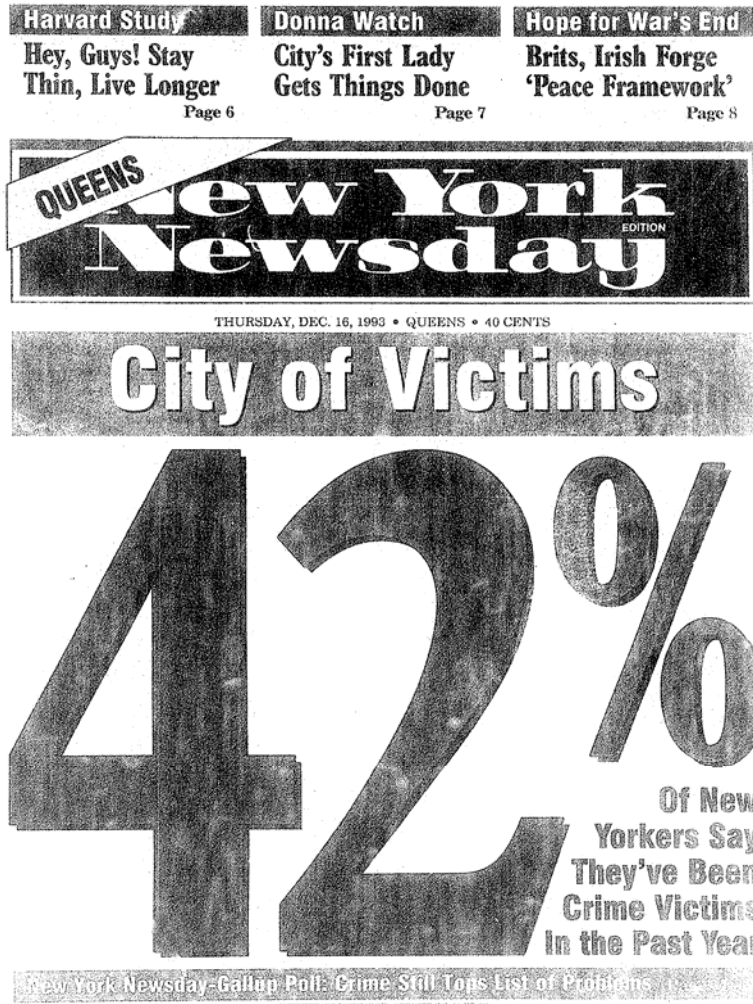
# Crime prevalence in capital cities

respondents affected by at least one type of crime within last years



# New York: a decade of change

## Gallup, 1993



- Current one year victimisation for New Yorkers (2004):

# 23%

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# About us

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## About Us

- **Brussels – Gallup’s coordination centre for pan-European surveys**
- **Provider of the Flash Eurobarometer to the European Commission**
- **Measurement-based strategic advice for policy makers**
- **Expertise in social sciences, emotional and behavioural economics**

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## Follow-up information

- The complete EU ICS report is available on the website
- Various working papers will be added in coming weeks
  - Crime and Safety in European Capitals
  - Environment & Safety in European Capitals
  - Drug-related problems in Europe's Neighbourhoods
  - Methodology papers
- To access the website:  
[www.europeansafetyobservatory.eu](http://www.europeansafetyobservatory.eu)

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# Contacts

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