

PRESS RELEASE

CRIME, SAFETY & SECURITY IN FRANCE

Over one-third of the public are concerned about burglaries - but crime rates are dropping except for a worryingly high number of 'hate' crimes

Significant findings

- Highest number of 'hate' crimes (5% vs. EU average 3%) and above the EU average for 'hate' crimes amongst the immigrant population (11% vs. 9% average); 15% for community of "religious immigrants"
- Rates of common crime have dropped consistently in the past 10 years and are now 3% below the EU average (France is a low crime country)

Rates of crime

- Very low number of sexual crimes (0.3%) and assaults without force
- Assaults with force have decreased; now equal to EU average (0.8%)
- Very low rates of car theft (now at 0.5%), thefts from cars (2.8%) and these rates have dropped consistently since 1991
- Burglaries are in line with the EU average
- Rates of robberies and personal theft are below EU averages

Ethics (corruption and consumer fraud)

- Consumer fraud rates at 12%, below EU average
- Corruption below EU average of 2%

Concerns, precautions taken and the police (including comments on drugs)

- Concern about the threat of burglary is dropping over time (but still 38% vs. 30% EU average)
- burglar alarms are in line with EU average, low rate of special locks (only Denmark and Poland are lower)
- Concern about safety on the streets is stable, +/- 20% (EU average - 30%)
- The police are not highly rated
- Exposure to drug-related problems has doubled to 10% (= EU average)

Solving the problems

- It's the EU country the least likely to favour a custodial sentence for offenders and highest to favour community service orders.

From the report: - "The Burden of Crime in the EU, A Comparative Analysis of the European Survey of Crime and Safety (EU ICS) 2005". Robert Manchin, Gallup Europe, coordinated the Consortium and the project was co-financed by the European Commission under FP6.

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