

Privacy notice for the participants of the National Crime Victim Survey 2023



SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PRIVACY STATEMENT/NOTICE EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) Articles 12–14 Drafted on: 28 September 2023

Information for the participants of the National Crime Victim Survey

You are going to participate in the *National Crime Victim Survey* conducted by the University of Helsinki. The National Crime Victim Survey is carried out at regular intervals. It focuses on experiences of becoming a victim of crime and feelings of safety among people aged 15–74. The National Crime Victim Survey provides important and unique information about life and safety.

Taking part in the study and disclosing personal data is voluntary. You will not face any negative consequences if you decide not to participate or if you discontinue your participation in the study. Your rights as a participant in the study will be explained in more detail at the end of this privacy statement.

Information about the processing of personal data

Personal data is used as material in the study. The purpose of this statement is to provide information about the personal data to be processed, its sources and how the data will be used in the study. The data subjects' rights are outlined in more detail at the end of this statement.

Data controller for the study

University of Helsinki

Address: P.O. Box 3 (Fabianinkatu 33), 00014 University of Helsinki, Finland

Contact person and researcher in charge

Contact person for study-related matters:

Name: Matti Näsi, researcher in charge

Faculty/Department/Unit: Institute of Criminology and Legal Policy

Address: P.O. Box 16 (Snellmaninkatu 10)

Telephone number: +358 50 448 9181

Email: matti.j.nasi@helsinki.fi

Contact information for the data protection officer

The data protection officer of the University of Helsinki can be reached at tietosuoja@helsinki.fi

Description of the research project and purpose of processing personal data

The study is being carried out by the Institute of Criminology and Legal Policy of the University of Helsinki. The participants of the survey have been drawn by random sampling from Statistics Finland's population databases. You can participate in the survey through an electronic or paper form. Taking part in the study and disclosing personal data is voluntary. You will not face any negative consequences if you decide not to participate or if you discontinue your participation in the study. However, it is important for the reliability of the study that as many people as possible take part.

The National Security Survey is a nationwide survey that monitors citizens' security situation and its changes. The survey includes questions about becoming a victim of crime, perceived security and crime in Finland. All the information collected is necessary for research and statistical analysis.

Research group

The data collected in the study is processed as part of the University of Helsinki's research activities.

Data contained in the research data

The study collects data on experiences and attitudes related to becoming a victim of crime. In addition, data is collected on background factors related to the respondents, such as their age, gender, own and parents' origin and language, housing arrangements and the socioeconomic status of the family.

Research data is stored in such a way that the identity of individual respondents is not revealed. The data is analysed using statistical methods, and the research results will not reveal the responses of individual persons.

Sources of personal data

Data is collected through an electronic survey. Each survey respondent is given a personal response code, which Statistics Finland combines with data that can be used to identify the person from the registers. The identifiers are used to link the data to register data managed by Statistics Finland, Findata, the National Institute for Health and Welfare, the Social Insurance Institution of Finland, the Prison and Probation Service of Finland, the Legal Register Centre and the Finnish Defence Forces. The combination of the data is carried out by Statistics Finland. The research group at the University of Helsinki does not process or see personal data (e.g. names or personal identity codes) corresponding to the identification codes at any stage of the study.

Sensitive personal data

The study processes the following special categories of personal data identified in Article 9 of the GDPR (sensitive personal data):

- Racial or ethnic origin
- Data concerning health

The processing of sensitive personal data is based on point (j) of Article 9(2) of the GDPR (processing is necessary for scientific or historical research purposes) and section 6, subsection 1, item 7 of the Finnish Data Protection Act (Article 9(1) of the GDPR does not apply to the processing of data for scientific or historical research purposes or for statistical purposes).

The study includes processing of data related to criminal convictions and offences.

The processing of data related to criminal convictions and offences is based on section 7, subsection 1, item 2 of the Finnish Data Protection Act (personal data related to criminal convictions and offences or related security measures referred to in Article 10 of the GDPR may be processed for scientific or historical research purposes or for statistical purposes).

Duration of personal data processing

The National Crime Victim Survey does not consist of individual research projects. It is a continuous research project that monitors the temporal development of experiences of crime in Finland. Personal data will be processed throughout the duration of the research project and, in any case, at least until 2040.

Legal basis of personal data processing

The legal basis for the processing of personal data is point (e) of Article 6(1) of the GDPR (**the performance of a task carried out in the public interest**). The research task of the Institute of Criminology and Legal Policy is laid down in the **Act on the Institute of Criminology and Legal Policy**.

Processed personal data

Sample statistic: 17,500 people.

Selection principles: The research area is the whole country. The respondents represent the Finnish population aged 15–74 in terms of age, gender and residential area. The sample is drawn by random sampling from Statistics Finland's population database. For contacting those selected for the study, the sample includes the respondents' contact details (name, address, telephone number and email address). Only Statistics Finland has access to the contact details. The contact details will be erased no later than 12 months after the end of the data collection.

The survey data is supplemented with information from administrative registers. The survey data is combined with register data concerning both the time before the study and the coming years. The combination of register data is based on permission. The study uses individual response codes (personal codes) to later combine the data with register data managed by Statistics Finland, Findata, the National Institute for Health and Welfare, the Social Insurance Institution of Finland and the Prison and Probation Service of Finland. Background information about the survey participants and their close family members (e.g. parents, siblings, spouse) is retrieved from the register database for the research data. The data categories in the register data include basic demographic data (such as age, native language, nationality and origin) from Statistics Finland's databases, family/household structure (such as the number of children), demographic data, de facto marital status, education and participation in education (such as academic achievement, highest completed degree, student status and field of education), employment (such as employment relationships and unemployment, pension, placement, job search, labour market training, labour market status), livelihood (such as income, income transfers, wealth, recovery proceedings), region of residence and regional location data, information concerning loans/credit, and information about crime and convictions before and after the survey. In addition, the data categories contain information about the respondents' and their family members' (parents, siblings, spouse) well-being (such as health, treatment reports and

Register of Child Welfare records), social relationships (such as adoption), exercise of the right to vote and tests performed as part of military service.

The responses and the register data connected to them can also be used in future studies; however, the use of the data in other studies always requires separate permission from the researchers. Pieces of data are combined for research purposes alone, and the data to be combined is always selected based on research needs. To combine the register data required for the study correctly with the survey responses, it is necessary to process the response codes of the persons participating in the projects to uniquely identify them. This is important for the fulfilment of the statutory tasks of the Institute of Criminology and Legal Policy (section 1, subsection 2 of the Act on the Institute of Criminology and Legal Policy). Statistics Finland is responsible for combining the data with the register data. The research group at the University of Helsinki does not process or see personal data corresponding to the respondents' names, personal identity codes or other identification codes at any stage of the study. A data processing agreement is drawn up with Statistics Finland on the secure processing of the data.

Recipients of data

The electronic survey in the study is implemented using the Questback company's Unipark application. Questback is a partner with very high information security standards (ISO 27001), whose server is located in the EU in Germany. The data is not transferred or disclosed outside the EEA. An agreement on the processing of personal data has been made with the partner.

The survey is taken through a pseudonymous login code (random sets of characters from which the person cannot be directly identified), which can later be used to link the data to the register data maintained by Statistics Finland. The data is transferred to the FIONA remote access environment, which meets high information security standards and where Statistics Finland removes all direct identification data (e.g. login IDs) from the data. In the FIONA remote access environment, researchers also retrieve data for the study from registers maintained by Statistics Finland, Findata, the National Institute for Health and Welfare, the Social Insurance Institution of Finland, the Prison and Probation Service of Finland, the Legal Register Centre and the Defence Forces. The code key for login IDs consisting of random sets of characters (the information by which the character set can be linked to a specific person) is stored at Statistics Finland. The research group at the University of Helsinki does not process the respondents' direct personal data such as names, addresses or personal identity codes at any stage of the study. A data processing agreement is drawn up with Statistics Finland on processing the personal data.

The research material may be used for research purposes in theses and other research conducted at the Institute of Criminology and Legal Policy, as well as in research cooperation with other parties (including commissioned research). In such cases, a separate agreement on or commitment for processing the material is drawn up.

Transfer or disclosure of data outside the EU and EEA

The data is not transferred or disclosed outside the EEA.

Automated decision-making

No automated decisions are made.

Personal data protection

Personal data is processed and kept securely so that it can only be accessed by those who need the data for research.

Pseudonymous data processed in information systems is protected by a user ID and password. The processing of data in Statistics Finland's FIONA remote operating environment also includes access control.

Protection of manual research data: The study does not collect manual data. Statistics Finland is responsible for the secure disposal of closed postal envelopes containing respondents' names.

Processing of direct identifiers:

Direct identifiers are removed during the analysis phase.

Processing of personal data after the end of the study

The research material is archived without identification and register data in the Data Archive. For archiving purposes, all data enabling indirect identification is removed from the material. The pseudonymous data stored in Statistics Finland's FIONA remote operating system is subject to a separate research service agreement with Statistics Finland.

Data subjects' rights and deviations from these rights

The contact person in matters related to data subjects' rights is specified in Item 1 of this statement.

Data subjects' rights

According to the GDPR, the data subjects have the right to:

- Access their data
- Rectify their data
- Erase their data and be forgotten
- Restrict the processing of their data
- Data portability
- Object to the processing of their data
- Not be subject to a decision based solely on automated processing.

However, the data subjects may not be able to exercise all of these rights in all situations. This depends on such factors as the basis of processing personal data.

For more information about data subjects' rights in different situations, see the website of the Office of the Data Protection Ombudsman at <https://tietosuoja.fi/en/what-rights-do-data-subjects-have-in-different-situations>

Applicability of rights

If the processing of personal data in the study does not require the identification of a data subject and if the data controller is unable to identify the data subject, the right of access, rectification, erasure, restriction of processing, notification and portability will not be applied, unless the data subject provides additional information that enables identification (GDPR, Article 11).

Deviation from the rights

The GDPR and the Finnish Data Protection Act allow deviation from certain rights of data subjects in cases where personal data is processed for the purpose of scientific research and the execution of the rights would prevent or greatly hinder the achievement of the goals of data processing.

The need to deviate from the data subject's rights is always considered on a case-by-case basis.

Right to complain

You have the right to file a complaint with the Office of the Data Protection Ombudsman if you feel that the current data protection legislation has been violated in processing your data.

Contact information:

The Office of the Data Protection Ombudsman

Street address: Lintulahdenkuja 4, 00530 Helsinki

Postal address: P.O. Box 800, 00531 Helsinki

Switch: +358 29 56 66700

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