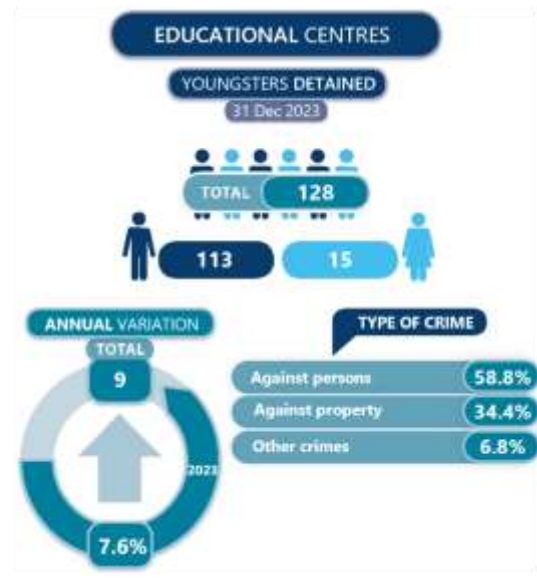


ANNUAL STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHT | N. 95 | MAY 2024

INMATES IN PRISON AND YOUNGSTERS DETAINED IN EDUCATIONAL CENTRES (2010-2023)



Characterization of the inmates in prison¹

In table 1 it is possible to observe that between 2010 and 2022 there has been an increase of 5.0% in the overall total of inmates in prison (going from 11.613 in 2010 to 12.193 in 2023). This increase is constant and is due to an increase of 44.5% in the number of female inmates and a 2.7% increase in the number of male inmates. In 2023, when compared with the previous year, there was a decrease of around 1.5% in the overall total of inmates in prison (going from 12.383 in 2022 to 12.193 in 2023), with an increase of 2.4% in the number of female inmates and of 1.8% in the number of male inmates.

Table 1 - Inmates in prison, by gender, 2010-2023

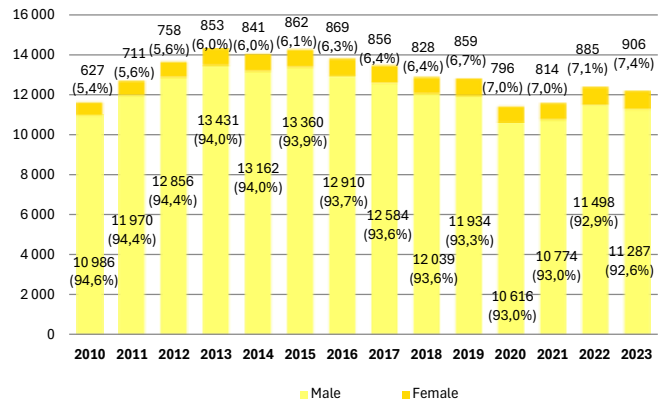
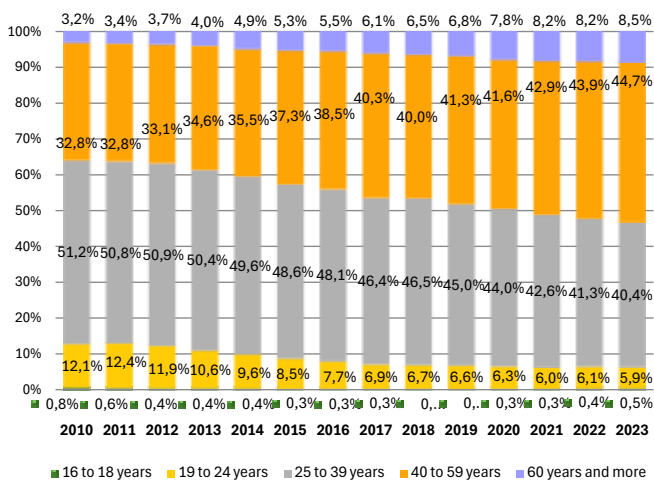


Table 2 shows the weight of the several age groups of the inmates in prison. The observed trend shows an increase in the groups from the age of 40 and a decrease in the remaining age groups. The inmates that are between 25 and

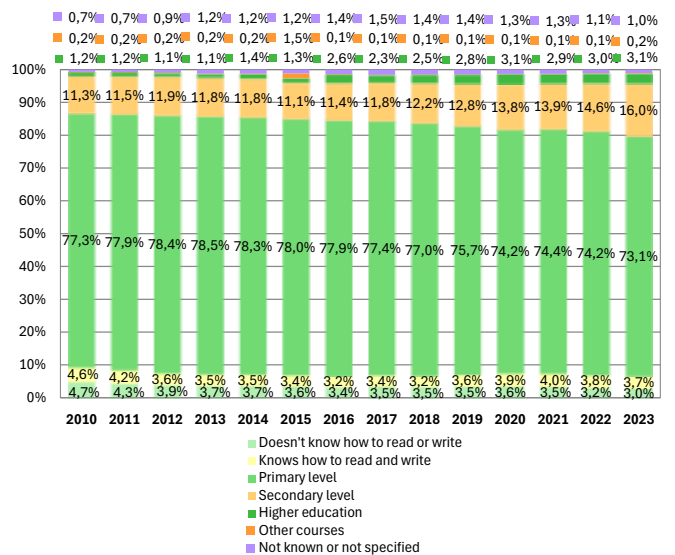
39 years old are the most representative category. This category shows a slight decrease in its weight, going from 51.2% to 40.4% of the overall total between 2010 and 2023, and 41.3% to 40.4% of the overall total, between 2022 and 2023.

Table 2 - Inmates in prison, by age groups, 2010-2023



There is a stable tendency as regards the distribution of the weight according to the education level (table 3), being the most representative category the one that corresponds to primary education with more than 73% of the total weight, in any of the years under consideration. Between 2010 and 2023 there has been a decrease in the weight of the categories corresponding to levels of education lower than secondary education, which together accounted for 86.6% of the total in 2010 and which in 2023 represented 79.7%. This slight decrease is in part compensated by an increase in the category corresponding to the secondary education, which represented 11.3% in 2010 and 16.0% of the total in 2023.

Table 3 - Inmates in prison, by education level, 2010-2023



On its part, the distribution of inmates in prison, by type of crime² (table 4) also points to a prison population with relatively stable characteristics over the period under analysis. In 2023, when compared to 2010, there has been a decrease of 3.8 percentage points in the number of inmates who committed crimes against property, and of 1.5 percentage points in the number of inmates who committed drug-related crimes. This decrease is compensated by an increase of 4.1 percentage points in the number of inmates who committed crimes against persons and 2.3 percentage points in the number of inmates who committed crimes against life in society. Between 2022 and 2023, it should be noted the decrease of 0.3 and of 0.1 percentage points in the number of inmates who committed crimes against property and crimes against persons respectively.

Table 4 - Inmates in prison, by type of crime, 2010-2023

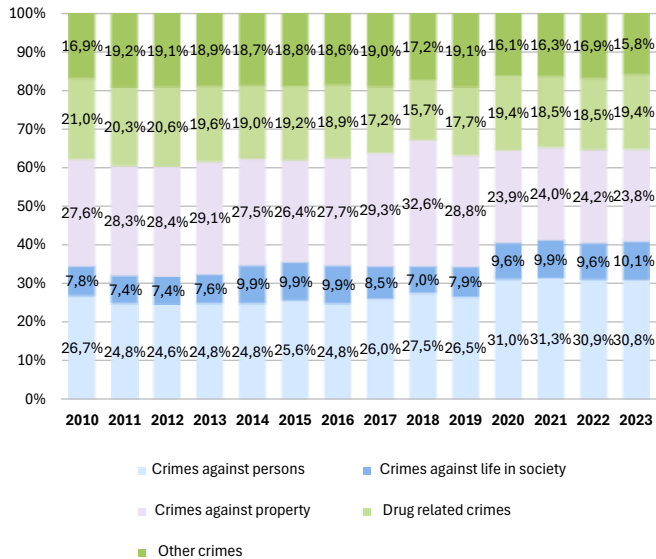
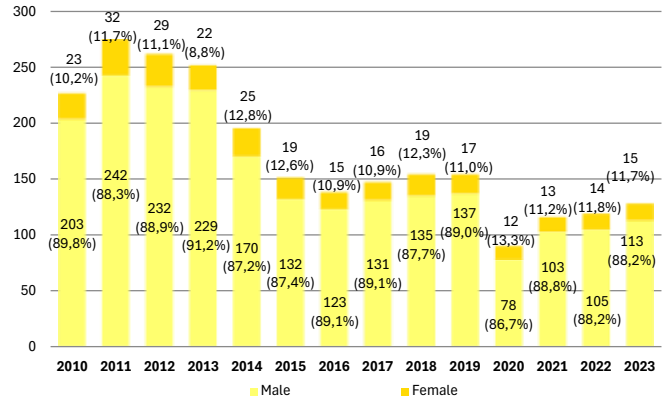


Table 5 - Youngsters detained in the educational centres, by gender, 2010-2023



Characterization of youngsters in educational centres

Focusing on the total number of youngsters detained in educational centres (table 5), it may be observed that, between 2010 and 2023, there was a decrease of around 43.4% (going from 226 in 2010 to 128 in 2023). This decrease is due to a 48.3% reduction in the number of young male detainees and a 39.1% reduction in the number of young female detainees. Between 2021 and 2022, the overall total of youngsters detained in educational centres has registered an increase of 2.6%, due to an increase of 7.1% in the number of young female detainees and of 1.9% in the number of young male detainees.

Bearing in mind the age groups of the youngsters detained in the educational centers (table 6), there is an increasing trend of 11.7% in the weight of the age groups corresponding to ages equal to or less than 17 years, between 2010 and 2023. This increase is compensated by a decrease of 11.7 percentage points in the weight of the category corresponding to the age group of 18 and more years.

Table 6 - Youngsters detained in the educational centres, by age groups, 2010-2023

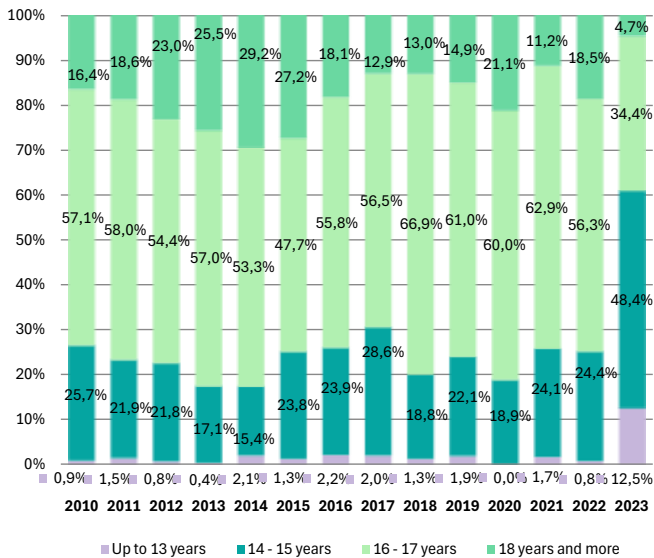
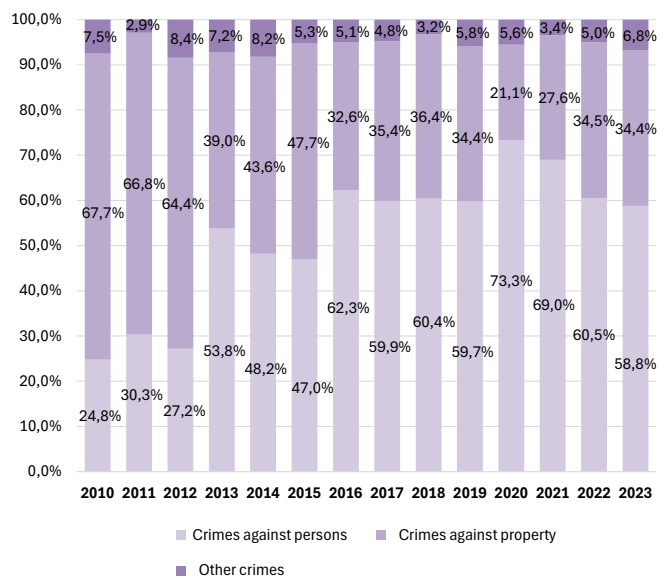


Table 7 - Youngsters detained in the educational centres, by type of crime, 2010-2023



As regards the distribution of the youngsters detained in the educational centres³, by **type of crime**² (table 7), it may be observed that, between 2010 and 2023, there is an increase of 34.0 percentage points in the number of youngsters detained in educational centres, who have committed crimes against persons, which was largely compensated by a decrease of 33.3 percentage points in the number of youngsters detained who committed crimes against property. Between 2021 and 2023, there is a decrease of 1.7 percentage points and 0.1 percentage points in the number of youngsters detained who committed crimes against persons and against property, respectively.

Footnotes

¹ It does not include the military inmates.

² In the Justice Statistical Data System (SIEJ) it is already possible to view, from 2013 onwards, the number of inmates convicted as of 31 December for “crimes against the State”. Nevertheless, in this analysis, one has chosen to consider them under “other crimes” so as to ensure the same historical series of previous years.

³ The numbers refer to the first crime registered in the procedure that originated the request for support to the enforcement of the confinement measure, not being guaranteed that it is the main crime. The youngsters detained in an educational centre on a weekend basis are not included due to its short duration.

Technical sheet

The Directorate-General for Justice Policy (DGPJ) of the Ministry of Justice, in accordance with Article 2 (1) of Decree-Law 163/2012 of 31 July has the mission to give technical support within the scope of legislative production and legal assessment, to monitor the policies and the strategic planning for the sector, to coordinate the external affairs and the cooperation in the justice area, being also responsible for the statistical data in the Ministry of Justice.

The Law 22/2008 of 13 May defines the basic general guidelines and principles that govern the National Statistical System (SEN), particularly with regard to the delegation of powers of the National Statistical Institute (INE), in other entities.

Under the provisions of Article 24 of Law 22/2008, of 13 May, a protocol was celebrated empowering DGPJ with the production and dissemination of the Justice official statistics.

As a delegated entity, DGPJ is subject to compliance, in its relevant part, with the Law 22/2008, of 13 May, with the Decree-Law 166/2007, of 3 May, as well as with the rules established by Community legislation, adopting the Code of Conduct for European Statistics and the Regulation for the Application of the Principle of Statistical Confidentiality of the National Statistical Institute.

Directorate-General for Justice Policy

Av. D. João II, n.º 1.08.01 E,
Torre H, Pisos 2/3
1990-097 Lisboa, Portugal
Tel.: +351 217 924 000
Fax: +351 217 924 090
E-mail: correio@dgpj.mj.pt
<https://dgpj.justica.gov.pt>