

Violent Crime by Country of Origin in Denmark

Immigrants and descendants compared with persons of Danish origin · Official statistics from Statistics Denmark (Danmarks Statistik) and Danish ministries · Compiled 19 October 2026

1. Key figures

In 2025, **5,953** persons were found guilty of crimes of violence in Denmark. **4,301** (72%) were of Danish origin and **1,652** (28%) were immigrants or descendants of immigrants. Immigrants and descendants made up 16.3% of the population on 1 January 2025. In absolute numbers, most people convicted of violence are of Danish origin; in relative terms, several non-Western origin groups are clearly over-represented, and the over-representation is largest among descendants (born in Denmark) rather than immigrants.

Statistics Denmark stresses that its indices are *relative* measures: in 2024 about 0.2% of all men aged 15-79 were convicted of a violent crime, so even a group with an index of 300 has a large majority with no violence conviction in a given year.

2. Official age-standardised violence index by origin group (men, 15-79)

Index 100 = all men in Denmark. Corrects for differences in age structure, but not for income, education or neighbourhood.

Origin group (men)	Index 2023	Index 2025
Danish origin	89	91
Immigrants, Western countries	51	43
Descendants, Western countries	145	121
Immigrants, non-Western countries	154	-
of which MENAPT countries*	-	219 (2016: 265)
of which other non-Western countries	-	72
Descendants, non-Western countries	293	-
of which MENAPT countries*	-	362 (2016: 383)
of which other non-Western countries	-	150

2023: Ministry of Justice research unit, *Kriminalitet og herkomst 2023* (April 2025). 2025: Ministry of Immigration and Integration note of 18 August 2026 (special extraction from Statistics Denmark). *MENAPT = Middle East, North Africa, Pakistan and Turkey (incl. Syria, Lebanon, Somalia, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Morocco, Palestine, Kuwait and others). Women's indices are much closer together; for 2023 they ranged from 59 (Western immigrants) to 182 (non-Western descendants).

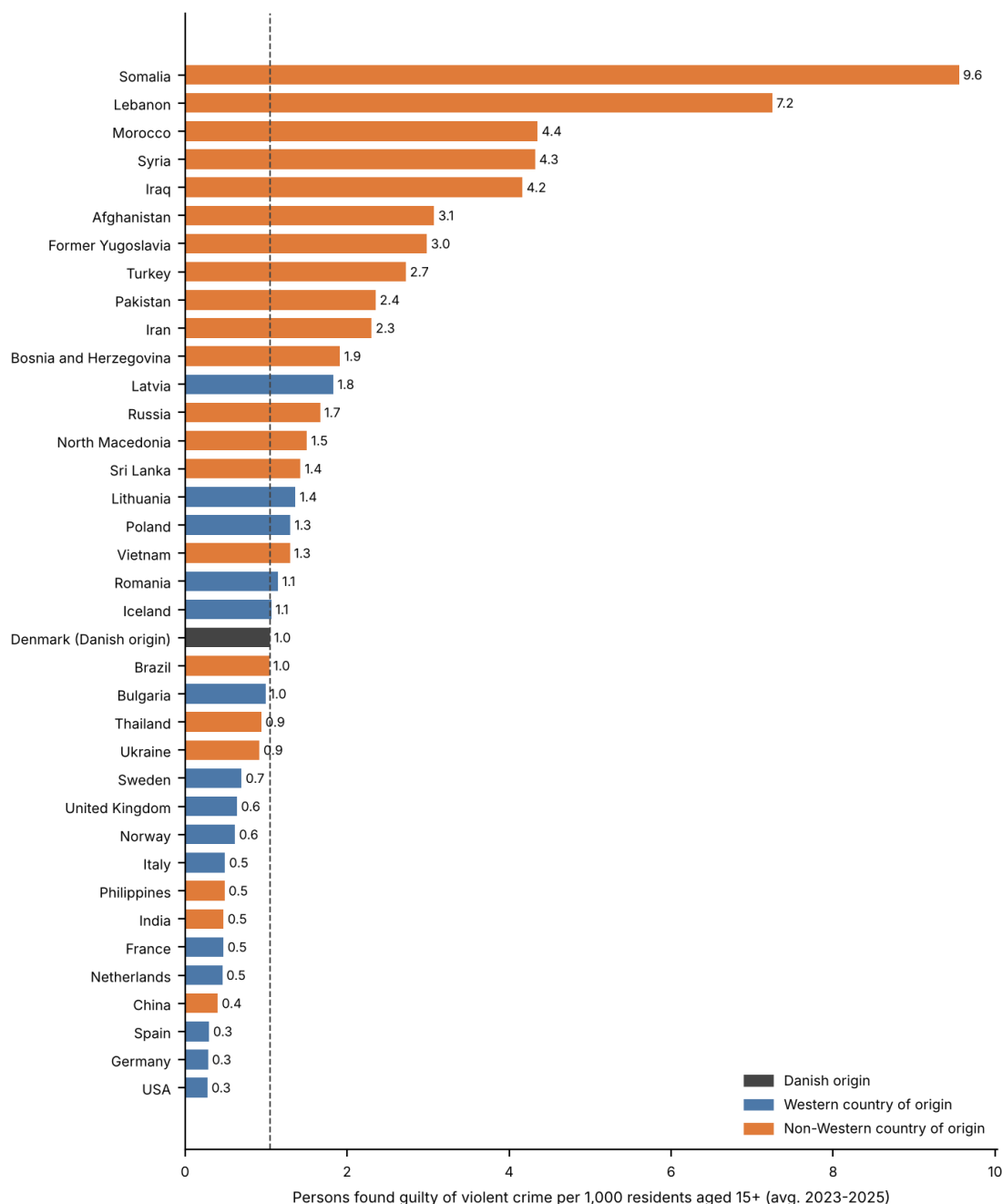
3. Detail by type of violence, 2023 (men, age-standardised index)

Offence	Danish origin	Non-Western immigrants	Non-Western descendants
Violent crimes, total	89	154	293
Simple assault (s. 244)	89	165	266
Serious assault (ss. 245-246)	83	179	367
Threats (ss. 266, 266a, 123)	92	150	275
Violence/threats vs. public servants	91	143	313
Robbery (s. 288)	70	228	435

Source: Ministry of Justice research unit, *Kriminalitet og herkomst 2023*, figures 6-16 and 19. Robbery is classified as a property crime by Statistics Denmark but shown here for completeness.

4. Violent crime by country of origin, sorted (2023-2025)

Persons found guilty of crimes of violence (Statistics Denmark table STRAFNA4) divided by residents aged 15+ with the same country of origin on 1 January 2025 (table FOLK1C). Immigrants and descendants are combined. Countries with at least about 5,000 residents aged 15+ and published in STRAFNA4 are included. **These are crude rates: unlike sections 2-3 they are not adjusted for age or sex**, so groups with many young men appear higher than an age-standardised index would show.



#	Country of origin	Guilty 2023	Guilty 2024	Guilty 2025	Residents 15+ (2025)	Rate per 1,000 (2025)	Rate per 1,000 (avg)	x Danish origin
1	Somalia	173	146	179	17,374	10.30	9.55	9.1
2	Lebanon	195	172	179	25,104	7.13	7.25	6.9
3	Morocco	55	42	43	10,720	4.01	4.35	4.2
4	Syria	134	155	128	32,162	3.98	4.32	4.1
5	Iraq	145	115	105	29,206	3.60	4.17	4.0
6	Afghanistan	58	37	59	16,687	3.54	3.08	2.9
7	Former Yugoslavia	37	40	27	11,611	2.33	2.99	2.8
8	Turkey	183	148	168	60,998	2.75	2.73	2.6
9	Pakistan	59	58	50	23,655	2.11	2.35	2.2
10	Iran	55	52	62	24,457	2.54	2.30	2.2
11	Bosnia and Herzegovina	40	44	32	20,204	1.58	1.91	1.8
12	Latvia	10	14	8	5,821	1.37	1.83	1.7
13	Russia	17	10	15	8,390	1.79	1.67	1.6
14	North Macedonia †	8	10	9	5,974	1.51	1.51	1.4
15	Sri Lanka	18	11	20	11,453	1.75	1.43	1.4
16	Lithuania	16	21	18	13,433	1.34	1.36	1.3
17	Poland	75	62	55	49,179	1.12	1.30	1.2
18	Vietnam	25	20	17	15,959	1.07	1.29	1.2
19	Romania	48	34	48	37,739	1.27	1.15	1.1
20	Iceland †	12	9	7	8,764	0.80	1.06	1.0
21	Denmark (Danish origin)	4,711	4,275	4,301	4,227,126	1.02	1.05	1.0
22	Brazil †	8	6	4	5,779	0.69	1.04	1.0
23	Bulgaria	10	13	12	11,731	1.02	0.99	0.9
24	Thailand	19	5	13	13,091	0.99	0.94	0.9
25	Ukraine	26	40	39	38,144	1.02	0.92	0.9
26	Sweden	17	9	9	16,701	0.54	0.70	0.7
27	United Kingdom	18	7	8	17,150	0.47	0.64	0.6
28	Norway	10	10	11	16,761	0.66	0.62	0.6
29	Italy †	6	6	6	12,142	0.49	0.49	0.5
30	Philippines †	5	5	8	12,302	0.65	0.49	0.5
31	India †	8	3	14	17,513	0.80	0.48	0.5
32	France †	4	4	4	8,434	0.47	0.47	0.5
33	Netherlands †	5	3	4	8,683	0.46	0.46	0.4
34	China †	7	8	3	14,872	0.20	0.40	0.4
35	Spain †	5	0	3	8,976	0.33	0.30	0.3
36	Germany	12	12	9	38,824	0.23	0.28	0.3
37	USA †	2	3	4	10,839	0.37	0.28	0.3

Rate (avg) = average annual number found guilty 2023-2025 / residents aged 15+ on 1 Jan 2025. x Danish origin = rate (avg) divided by the Danish-origin rate. † fewer than 30 persons over three years: treat as very uncertain. Lebanon includes many stateless Palestinians, whom Statistics Denmark assigns to Lebanon as country of origin. 'Former Yugoslavia' = persons registered under the former state.

Official age-standardised index by country (all offences, not violence only)

Statistics Denmark publishes country-level age-standardised indices only for *all* criminal convictions. In *Indvandrere i Danmark 2025* (data for 2024, men 15-79, index 100 = all men): male descendants from Lebanon 386, Somalia 316, Syria 312 and Iraq 268 were highest; the lowest were male immigrants from Nepal (about 35) and from France, China and India (about 37-41). Non-Western immigrants overall: 137; non-Western descendants overall: 245.

5. How to read these figures

- **Convictions, not offences.** The figures count persons found guilty (one person counts once per year), not crimes committed or reported. Differences in reporting, policing and prosecution can affect them.
- **Age and sex matter a great deal.** Violence peaks among men aged 15-29. Many non-Western descendant groups are very young, which inflates crude rates (section 4); the age-standardised indices (sections 2-3) remove this effect.
- **Socio-economic factors are not controlled for.** Income, education, employment and neighbourhood explain part of the gaps. Research that also controls for socio-economic background (e.g. Rockwool Foundation studies reviewed by the Danish Crime Prevention Council, 2019) finds that the gaps narrow but do not disappear.
- **Origin is not nationality or religion.** 'Country of origin' follows Statistics Denmark's register definition (mainly the mother's country of birth) and includes both immigrants and Danish-born descendants.
- **Trends.** The MENAPT violence index for immigrants fell from 265 (2016) to 219 (2025) and for descendants from 383 to 362. Younger birth cohorts of non-Western descendants have markedly lower conviction rates than older ones.
- **Small numbers.** For many countries, a handful of cases changes the rate considerably from year to year.

6. Sources

- Statistics Denmark, StatBank table STRAFNA4 - Persons found guilty, by type of offence and country of origin (offence: crimes of violence, total; 2023-2025). api.statbank.dk/v1/data/STRAFNA4
- Statistics Denmark, StatBank table FOLK1C - Population by age, ancestry and country of origin, 1 January 2025.
- Statistics Denmark, *Indvandrere i Danmark 2025* (December 2025), chapter 6. www.dst.dk/publ/indvandreridk
- Danish Ministry of Justice, Research Unit, *Kriminalitet og herkomst 2023* (April 2025). justitsministeriet.dk
- Danish Ministry of Immigration and Integration, note on crime among immigrants and descendants from MENAPT countries (18 August 2026). integrationsbarometer.dk