



Gluba, Alexander

## **Survey on Safety and Crime in Lower Saxony. Methods and findings of a study conducted by the police on unreported crime**

SIAK-Journal – Journal for Police Science and Practice (International Edition 2016), 20-29.

doi: 10.7396/IE\_2016\_B

*Please cite this article as follows:*

Gluba, Alexander (2016). Survey on Safety and Crime in Lower Saxony. Methods and findings of a study conducted by the police on unreported crime, SIAK-Journal – Journal for Police Science and Practice (International Edition Vol. 6), 20-29, Online: [http://dx.doi.org/10.7396/IE\\_2016\\_B](http://dx.doi.org/10.7396/IE_2016_B).

© Federal Ministry of the Interior – Sicherheitsakademie / NWV, 2016

Note: A hard copy of the article is available through the printed version of the SIAK-Journal published by NWV (<http://nwv.at>).

published online: 9/2016

# Survey on Safety and Crime in Lower Saxony

Methods and findings of a study conducted by the police on unreported crime



**ALEXANDER GLUBA,**  
*Criminological Research Unit  
of the Lower Saxony State Office  
for Criminal Investigation,  
Germany.*

Police strategy in Germany to date has been largely determined by reported crimes, which are well documented in the German Police Crime Statistics (PKS). In Lower Saxony, the decision was made in 2012 to systematically study a second important source: those crimes that are not known to the law enforcement authorities. The “Criminological Research and Statistics” unit of the Lower Saxony State Office for Criminal Investigation was in charge to develop a suitable victim survey. Since then, two waves of the Survey on Safety and Crime had been conducted in 2013 and 2015. This paper was originally published in 2015 and focuses on the results of the first and by that time only survey. It describes the methodology used and the specific challenges faced when designing the survey and the solutions developed. It also presents the key findings of the first survey, to which an extensive report is downloadable on the internet-homepage of the State Office for Criminal Investigation.<sup>1</sup> Another report on the results of the second survey from 2015 has also been made available there.

## INTRODUCTION

The Police Crime Statistics (PKS) have long been kept in Germany according to fixed counting rules and uniform standards. It is clear, therefore, that assessment of the crime situation has largely been based on the Police Crime Statistics for decades. They serve as an important basis for establishing priorities, policies and measures and planning the use of resources. However, only crimes that come to the police’s attention are recorded in the Police Crime Statistics. They do not include crimes that are committed, but, for a range of reasons, not reported to the police. Though knowledge of unreported crime is necessary, as an addition to the Police Crime Statistics, for well-founded analysis of the crime situation, it has not yet been systematically recorded in Ger-

many. While other countries have a long tradition of efforts to shed light on unreported crimes, for instance in the USA<sup>2</sup>, England/Wales<sup>3</sup> and Sweden<sup>4</sup>, unreported crimes in Germany have tended to be analyzed only sporadically in the context of regional criminological analyses<sup>5</sup>. Yet even those local surveys that were carried out on experiences of suffering and reporting crime were typically one-off surveys. The studies of Schwind et al. in the city of Bochum, involving three different survey phases (1975, 1986 and 1998) (Schwind et al. 2001) are a counterexample. However, the benefit of the studies in question was largely academic, since the interval of more than ten years between the survey phases was too long to enable responsive measures to be taken in the short or medium term.

One of the aims of the survey on safety and crime in Lower Saxony, in which a representative sample comprised of 40,000 residents aged over 16 was asked about various aspects of safety and crime, is to close that knowledge gap. The survey was first conducted in 2013, and repeated surveys are planned to take place every two years. The second phase for 2015 is currently under preparation.

This paper outlines the background of the methodology used, and also presents the key findings of the study. Finally, it looks at the benefit for the police and other law enforcement actors. The primary aim is to present the survey, rather than to provide a comprehensive academic discussion of it. For more detailed information on the context of the approach taken and the findings, please see the final project report that is currently being drawn up by the Lower Saxony State Office for Criminal Investigation.

## DATA SURVEY AND SAMPLING

### Questionnaire and pre-test

Surveys on unreported crime are of particular value when they are performed at regular intervals, since only then can changes and developments be identified and interpreted. It is crucial that the questionnaire be as similar as possible in all the survey phases. The survey instrument was developed with that in mind.

The final questionnaire contained four modules, which will also be used for each subsequent survey. They include socio-demographic data, questions on various aspects of the fear of crime, a block of questions on experiences of being the victim of crime and on perceptions of the police and their work. In addition, each phase of the survey includes a block of questions on a current phenomenon. That fifth module is designed to be flexible in

content and cover different topics. Unlike the first four modules, which are designed to be performed on a regular basis and allow for longitudinal analysis, the findings of the fifth module only facilitate cross-sectional analysis. In the first survey on safety and crime in Lower Saxony, the fifth block focused on abuse by (former) partners.

The questionnaire consisted of 50 questions on 20 pages in total. As a rule, the items were formulated exactly as in other studies. Tested scales were used wherever possible.

The questionnaire was pre-tested in conjunction with the University of Hamburg. In January 2013, 15 students from the Institute for Criminological Research contacted a total of 170 citizens, who were selected using the random route method<sup>6</sup>, in 13 districts of Hamburg. The test persons completed the questionnaire independently, which took 20 minutes on average. The students returned on an agreed date to collect the questionnaires from the test persons. Although the pre-test therefore differed slightly from the actual survey in methodological terms, it provided useful information that resulted in modifications to certain aspects of the survey instrument.

### Sampling

A total of 40,000 persons aged over 16 were surveyed on safety and crime in Lower Saxony. The Lower Saxony Office of Statistics and Communications Technology (LSKN) was put in charge of the sampling, and in turn cooperated with the GESIS Institute in Mannheim.

Owing to the lack of a central register of residents for the whole federal state, the sampling was performed in two stages. First, a representative sample at the level of police departments was taken of all 426 administrative divisions in Lower Saxony according to their size. When taking the

sample, the probability of an administrative division being drawn was dependent on population; a city like Hanover had a greater probability of being drawn than a small town (PPS – Probability Proportional to Size, cf. Särndal et al. 2003, 87–100). A total of 100 administrative divisions were drawn according to the principle of “drawing at random and returning”. Each police department was represented by 15 to 24 administrative divisions in the results. Owing to the design of the sampling, larger cities were, as intended, represented several times in the sample (Hanover 7x, Braunschweig 3x, Osnabrück 2x, Oldenburg 2x, Wolfsburg 2x), such that the sample was composed of a total of 89 different administrative divisions. In each selected administrative division, letters were to be sent out to 400 persons, or more persons in cities that were drawn several times (Hanover: 2,800, Braunschweig: 1,200, Osnabrück: 800, Oldenburg: 800, Wolfsburg: 800), to yield a total of 40,000 persons to be surveyed.

In addition, 18 extra administrative divisions were selected at random in the various size categories and police departments to make up for any administrative division failing to send data (though it was only necessary to resort to that measure in one case).

We then wrote to a total of 107 selected administrative divisions on 08.02.2013. In addition to a letter describing the survey project, the administrative divisions were sent an extensive data protection policy and a detailed list of the data required by us.

Specifically, each administrative division was asked to take a purely random sample as at 01.01.2013 of all persons aged over 16 who had their main address registered in the given administrative division and were not subject to any disclosure ban. The number of persons was based on how often the administrative division concerned was represented in the sample (ranging from

400 to 2,800 persons). In addition to the main sample, we requested that a second random sample that was tenth the size of the main sample (i.e. 40 to 280 persons) be taken to compensate for any persons in the first sample to whom delivery of the announcement letter failed. The persons in the second sample were not permitted to have already been included in the larger first sample.

It was requested that the data be sent in CSV format, with the total of eleven data columns (first name, surname, street etc.) arranged in a specified order. Finally, for data protection reasons, we recommended that the data be sent as a file to an email address only accessible to a specific group of persons, or that it be sent on a data medium by courier. The deadline for sending the data was 20.02.2013.

All the administrative divisions that we wrote to made the requested data sets available. One administrative division only supplied the data in paper form; since it would not have been possible in that case to produce the required mail merge electronically, a replacement administrative division was used that matched the police department and size of the other one.

### **Data survey and response**

The field phase began on 12.03.2013. A letter was sent out in advance to announce the survey. The questionnaire was sent out approximately two weeks after that. The survey participants were given just under four weeks to answer the questionnaire. Around ten days before expiry of that deadline we sent out a thank you/reminder letter to thank those persons who had already taken part in the survey and to ask those who, for whatever reason, had not yet participated, to do so. Since a considerable number of questionnaires were received after the deadline, returned questionnaires were accepted until 30.04.2013.

If one of the first two letters – the announcement or the questionnaire – could not be delivered to a given person, a person corresponding best in age and gender to the person who could not be reached was selected from the backup sample sent by the registries of residence.

During the survey phase, a hotline was set up to respond to questions. A total of 798 calls were received. Most of those calls involved notification that a given person could not participate for reasons of age or health (19.3 %) or queries concerning the combined thank you/reminder letter (41.0 %). Hardly any specific questions were asked about the thematic blocks or the content of the survey instrument (3.7 %).

Finally 18,940 questionnaires were returned, corresponding to a response rate of 47.4 %. The response rate was therefore highly satisfactory, and enables statistically valid statements to be made.

### **Data processing**

All letters indicated the Lower Saxony State Office for Criminal Investigation as the sender, and the participants were instructed to send the completed questionnaire back to that address. The returned questionnaires were packaged as they arrived at the Lower Saxony State Office for Criminal Investigation and sent to the external service provider in charge of scanning them in, namely Swiss Post Solutions (SPS), which had won the relevant tender. That method was selected to ensure the greatest possible trustworthiness and acceptance, and thereby to increase the response rate.

The tick boxes and numerical data of the questionnaires were scanned in. A subsequent test of the accuracy of the scanning using a random sample of 200 questionnaires showed that 44,328 of 44,418 fields were scanned in correctly; the error rate was therefore a satisfactory 0.2 %.

Since the error rates for free text were estimated in advance to be considerably higher, and given the high costs that scanning text would entail, that information was instead entered manually afterwards; the work involved proved to be with reasonable limits.

A CSV file was created in addition to an image of the sheets. The quality of the scanning was high, which was ensured by, among other measures, the employees of the SPS inspecting any unclear scanning results.

The file containing all the scanned data was sent by SPS to the second service provider involved, the Lower Saxony Office of Statistics and Communications Technology. Pre-designed plausibility checks were carried out and an SPSS data set, likewise labeled as specified, was produced, which was sent to the Lower Saxony Office of Policy Investigation on 15.05.2013 and final data cleansing was performed there.

### **Sample description and weighting**

Fairly small, absolutely typical distortions with regard to gender distribution of the respondents could be observed. More women than men responded, for instance. Other distortions, e.g. differing tendencies of young and old people to participate, could not be established to a significant degree.

Owing to slight deviations between the population and the sample, and the desire to make representative statements for Lower Saxony, the results were weighted by age, gender and police departments. By calculating and applying just under 100 weighting factors, the sample is therefore representative for Lower Saxony with respect to those factors. Admittedly, other relevant influences in relation to experiences of crime would have been worth including in the weighting, such as level

Source: Lower Saxony State Office for Criminal Investigation

Characteristics	Sample		Lower Saxony	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Gender				
female	9,976	52.7	3,447,966	51.1
male	8,801	46.5	3,304,986	48.9
prefer not to say	163	0.9	*/*	*/*
Age				
16 to 20 years	1,219	6.4	441,210	6.5
21 to 34 years	3,401	18.0	1,263,811	18.7
35 to 49 years	4,869	25.7	1,727,127	25.5
50 to 64 years	4,549	24.0	1,654,764	24.5
65 to 79 years	3,462	18.3	1,224,817	18.1
80 years and above	1,229	6.5	441,223	6.5
prefer not to say	214	1.1	*/*	*/*
Resident in:				
Police Department of Braunschweig	2,749	14.5	977,804	14.5
Police Department of Göttingen	2,884	15.2	1,081,993	16.0
Police Department of Hanover	3,027	16.0	981,757	14.5
Police Department of Lüneburg	2,750	14.5	1,055,544	15.6
Police Department of Oldenburg	3,890	20.5	1,447,229	21.4
Police Department of Osnabrück	3,480	18.4	1,208,625	17.9
prefer not to say	160	0.8	*/*	*/*

**Figure 1: Biographical data of the sample and the residential population of Lower Saxony aged over 16 as at 31.12.2012**

of education or possible migration background. However, it would not have been possible to calculate weighting factors or only calculate very inaccurate ones in those cases, since either the distribution in the population was not known or the data in the sample were not comparable with those in the official statistics.

## FINDINGS

### Fear of crime

A distinction is made between the social and personal level with regard to fear of crime. The former expresses how concerned a person is about the general crime situation or their assessment of crime in the context of other risks; that type of fear of crime was not surveyed. The latter measures how high the threat of crime is perceived as being on an individual level. A distinction is generally made here between affective, cognitive and conative

components. The affective component describes the emotional fear of being affected by crime. On the cognitive level, those fears are replaced by rational assessment, i.e. what is the likelihood of becoming the victim of a crime? Finally, the conative component refers to the behavioural level: What measures do people take to protect themselves against crime? What coping strategies do they use? (cf. Boers 1991). In addition to those three "classic" forms of fear of crime, the survey on safety and crime in Lower Saxony also contained a number of items concerning location-dependent fear of crime.

On the affective level, 12.5 % of those surveyed reported fairly often or often worrying about becoming the victim of a crime. When asked about the actual likelihood of becoming the victim of crime, the values were considerably lower; only 7.7 % reported a high or fairly high likelihood of becoming the victim of one of the crimes concerned in the coming twelve months.

Women report a greater fear of crime than men. On the affective level, 15.6 % of women have a high or fairly high fear of crime, while only 9.0 % of men reported the same. The corresponding values are 9.1 % and 6.1 % on the cognitive level. That difference is due above all to sexual offences, which strongly increase the affective and cognitive fear of crime in the case of women. Looking at the data on the level of individual crime types, it can be seen that fears are more pronounced with regard to property-related crimes than crimes against the person.

86.4 % of the survey participants, measured across all individual survey items, have a high or fairly high feeling of safety with respect to their own home and the neighbourhood. The generally high feeling of safety is dependent on the time of day and the location of the person. The survey participants felt most unsafe when encounter-

ing a stranger in the street at night (56.3 % reported feeling safe or fairly safe in such a situation).

When asked about measures taken for the purpose of protection and to avoid becoming a victim of crime, highly rational answers were given. The respondents, for instance, take care to make their home look inhabited if they are away for a longer period or they carry as little cash on themselves as possible. Those are forms of behaviour that do not represent major personal limitations. Other measures like avoiding public transport or certain areas out of fear, on the other hand, are limitations and are undesirable. It is also striking that when financial resources need to be used to protect against crime, willingness to take the given measure falls. A positive finding is that only a very small percentage of respondents are armed, i.e. carry a weapon, pepper spray or similar. Women overall take significantly more preventive/protective measures than men, and older people generally take more such measures than younger people.

### Experiences of being the victim of crime and reporting crime

30 % of the respondents said that they had been the victim of crime in 2012. 61 % of those who reported being the victim of crime in that period had only been the victim of one crime, while 39 % had been the victim of more than one crime.

The likelihood of being the victim of crime, also termed the prevalence rate, differs according to crime categories.

It can be broadly stated that property damage (8.3 %), theft (10.9 %) and cyber crime (12.5 %) are mass phenomena that relatively large numbers of people are affected by. However, marked differences can be observed even within those categories. For instance, damage caused by viruses (9.9 %) accounts chiefly for

Source: Lower Saxony State Office for Criminal Investigation

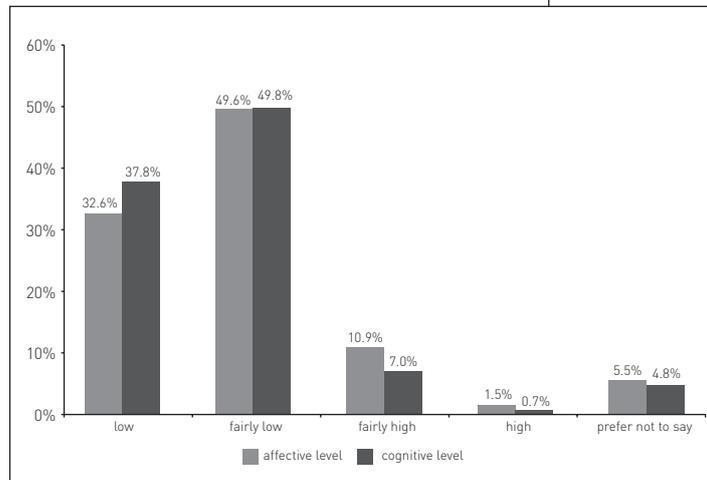


Figure 2: General (affective) fear of crime and personal risk assessment (cognitive level) in 2012 (categorized mean)<sup>7</sup>

the high prevalence of computer-related crime, whereas other computer-related crime such as disclosure of personal data based on fake emails (0.4 %) or phishing (0.9 %) is rare.

Crimes that are highly prevalent are of relatively low severity. More severe crimes such as bodily harm, robbery or sexual offences are considerably less prevalent.

More men report being victims of crime than women (33.9 % vs. 25.7 %).

In comparison with the prevalence rates for women, the rates for men, as shown by Figure 5 (see page 27), are particularly high with respect to threats, bodily harm and cyber crime. It is noteworthy that more men than women report being victims of theft and property damage too. While it can be hypothesized that men are more likely to get into situations with a risk of theft or that women, as described above, take more precautions, the finding with regard to property damage is remarkable, since it could be presumed to be irrelevant to an offender whether the property they damage belongs to a man or a woman.

Women and men report being the victims of robbery to an equal degree. It is only in the case of sexual offences that consi-

Source: Lower Saxony State Office for Criminal Investigation

	Total	Gender		Age					
		Women	Men	16-20	21-34	35-49	50-64	65-79	80+
I avoid leaving the house after dark.	12.4	17.9	6.6	7.3	7.3	6.5	10.4	20.5	39.4
I avoid using certain streets, squares or parks.	30.1	43.1	16.5	26.7	27.9	26.6	29.2	34.6	44.3
I avoid using public transport in the evenings.	21.4	30.9	11.5	13.0	18.8	19.7	21.5	23.9	36.3
I avoid carrying a lot of money on me.	51.8	60.4	43.1	44.7	49.1	52.1	54.2	53.3	53.8
If possible, I go out of the way of strangers that I encounter after dark.	32.3	47.3	16.9	41.9	33.4	26.6	27.9	37.6	45.4
I make sure that my flat/house doesn't look uninhabited even when I'm away.	52.6	58.8	46.4	37.1	36.4	46.8	59.3	69.8	64.5
I carry a pepper spray, knife or other weapon on me so that I can defend myself.	3.1	3.2	3.0	6.1	4.7	2.5	2.1	2.9	2.6
I take special measures to secure my home in my absence, e.g. I use an additional bolt or burglar alarm.	19.2	20.2	18.1	10.0	12.0	14.7	18.9	31.1	33.7

Figure 3: Protective measures and avoidance behaviour (conative level) in 2012 by gender and age, as a %

derably more women than men report being affected.

Considerably fewer older people report being the victim of crime than younger people. The prevalence rates for the age group between 65 and 79 and the age group over 80 years are 15.7 % and 12.5 %

respectively, while one in two people aged between 16 and 20 reports having been the victim of crime. The general statement that younger people are more often victims of crime also holds if we look at individual crime categories, but varies in degree. The risk of becoming the victim of crime

Source: Lower Saxony State Office for Criminal Investigation

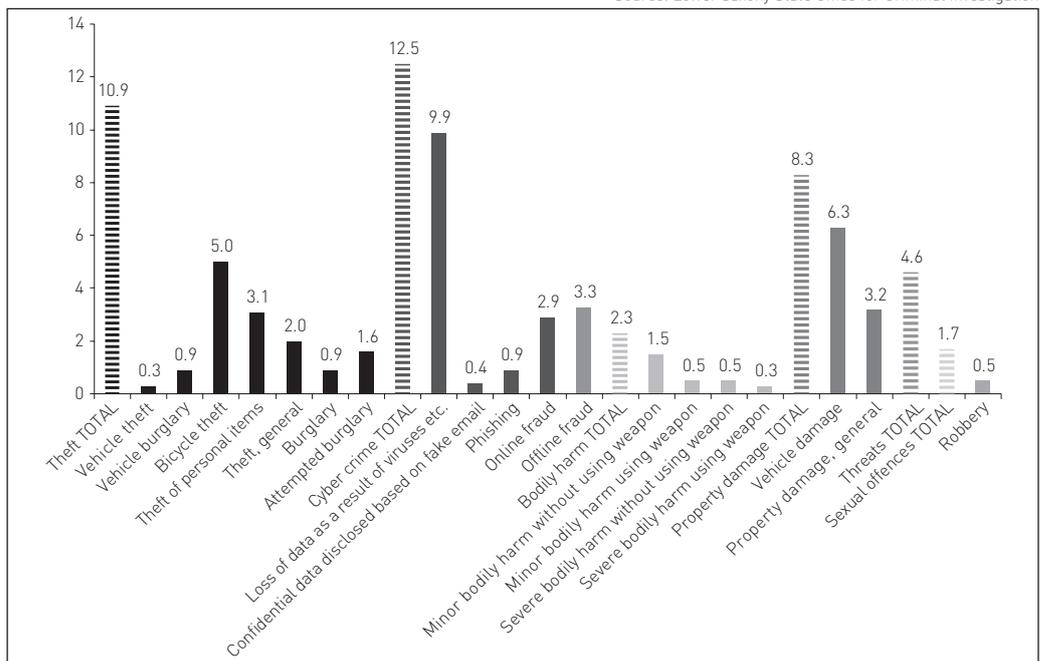


Figure 4: Victims of crimes in 2012 (prevalence rates as a %)

falls in all crime categories up to the age of 65 to 79. The prevalence rates for very old people, however, are similar or even higher to those of the aforementioned, next youngest age group.

The respondents were asked for each crime whether they had reported it, allowing the reporting rates shown in Figure 6 (see below) to be calculated. Those persons who had been the victim of a crime were asked about their specific reasons for reporting or not reporting the last crime they experienced.

The reporting rates depend heavily on the type of crime. Only 4 % of sexual offences are reported. Vehicle thefts, however, are almost always reported so that the loss can be indemnified by the insurance company (92 %).

It is noteworthy that property crimes are reported more frequently than crimes against the person. If we compare the crimes of theft and bodily harm as standing for those two categories, and the reasons for reporting or not reporting them, it can be seen that bodily harm is far less likely to be reported than theft because the victim wants to have peace and quiet, does not regard the crime as all that serious or has settled the matter themselves. Those victims who reported bodily harm were largely motivated by the desire for the offender to be penalized, with the aim of preventing the crime from occurring again. In the case of theft, punitive thoughts played a substantial role, as did insurance reasons and the desire to get the stolen item back. The main reasons for not reporting theft were that the crime was not perceived as being serious and, above all, that the victim did not have confidence that the police would be able to solve the case.

Doubts about the success of police investigations played the greatest role in the non-reporting of crimes in general too, i.e. with respect to all the crimes concerned.

Source: Lower Saxony State Office for Criminal Investigation

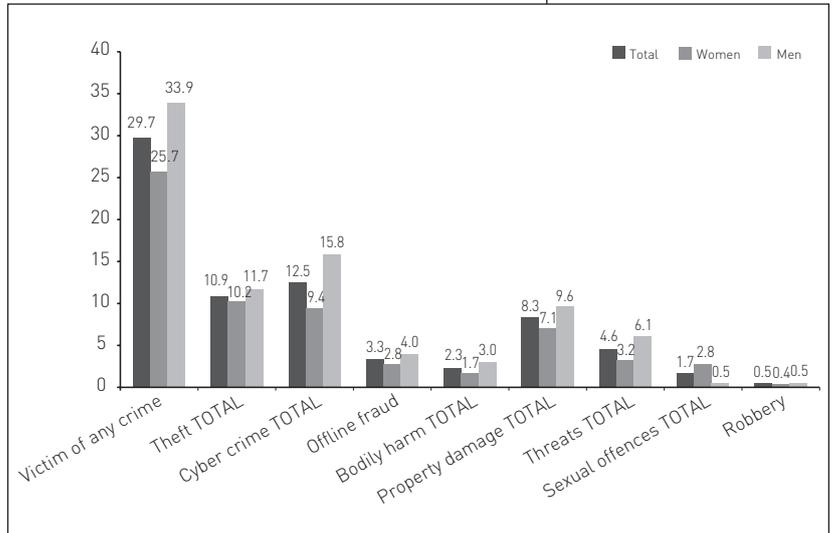


Figure 5: Victims of crimes in 2012 by gender (prevalence rates as a %)

Approximately a fifth of those who did not report the crime did not regard the consequences of the crime as being severe and 14 % said that they were able to settle the matter themselves, whatever they understood by that. For all crimes, the desire for the offender to be caught was prominent among the reasons for reporting. Otherwise no such clear dominance of a few crimes can be recognized as in the case of the reasons for not reporting.

Source: Lower Saxony State Office for Criminal Investigation

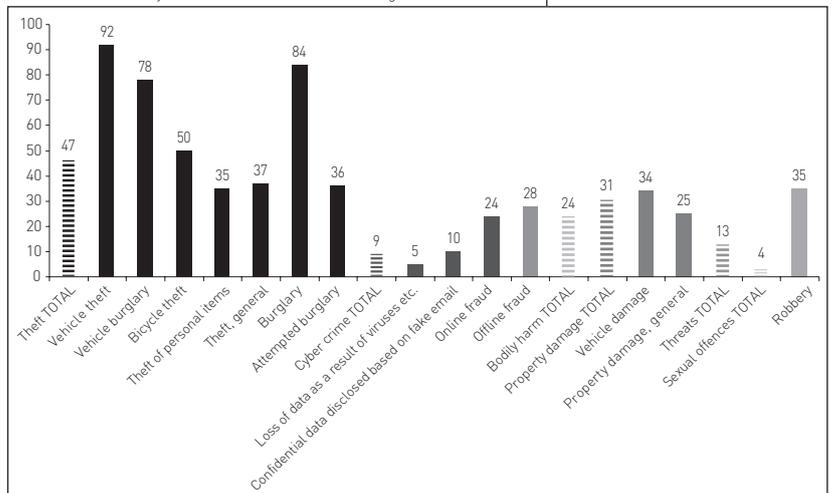


Figure 6: Reporting rates in 2012 as a %

Source: Lower Saxony State Office for Criminal Investigation

	Theft TOTAL	Bodily harm TOTAL	All crimes
<b>Reasons for reporting</b>			
So that the offender is caught	24.2	31.2	26.4
As proof for an insurance company, bank or authorities	17.2	3.3	14.5
Civic duty	13.9	6.6	13.5
To get the item back	21.5	3.3	14.6
Indemnification	7.1	19.7	10.7
To prevent it happening again	15.6	36.1	19.4
Miscellaneous	0.5	0.0	0.8
<b>Mentions</b>	<b>1,073</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>1,698</b>
<b>Reasons for not reporting</b>			
Police wouldn't have been able to solve the case	32.7	13.2	21.1
Not serious	20.0	18.6	20.8
Settled it myself	5.4	11.4	14.0
Private matter	4.4	9.6	6.1
Desire for peace and quiet	3.6	9.0	5.8
Too much trouble	6.6	12.6	5.2
Didn't know it was a crime	1.6	2.4	4.4
Bad experiences with the police	4.4	3.0	3.5
Reported by others	1.8	1.2	2.4
Fear of the offender	1.2	4.2	1.9
Didn't want to make it public	1.0	2.4	1.8
Agreement with the offender	1.0	2.4	1.8
The victim would be treated badly	1.8	0.6	1.8
Lack of insurance	5.0	0.0	1.3
Not to get the offender into trouble	1.0	1.8	1.2
Fear of not being believed by the police	1.6	2.4	1.1
Police was already there	0.0	2.4	0.5
Police refused to take a crime report	0.4	0.6	0.3
Miscellaneous	6.4	2.4	5.0
<b>Mentions</b>	<b>499</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>2,173</b>

**Figure 7: Reason for reporting or not reporting in 2012 as a %**

**CONCLUSION**

The first key findings of the study were presented to the public on 22.11.2013 by the Interior Minister of Lower Saxony, Boris Pistorius. The findings have since been analysed in greater detail and as at 04.09.2014 have been presented at more than 30 other events. The media response has been highly positive, with the project consistently being presented as useful and beneficial. As such, fears that this first phase of the Lower Saxony survey on safety and crime was politically risky

given that the findings reveal a fairly substantial level of unreported crime proved groundless.

It is clear that a study designed for a whole federal state cannot answer questions on the local level. In the future, regional criminological analyses will also need to be carried out with respect to local matters. The survey on safety and crime in Lower Saxony raises a number of further research questions and prompts the need for further research.

The available data corpus is immense and it will take time to analyse it right down to the last detail. However, it can be established even now that the data provide grounds for questioning, modifying or designing/setting police measures and priorities. The extent to which suitable measures have been taken in response to the data will be seen by 2015 at the latest, when the second survey phase will be performed, allowing for not only cross-sectional, but also longitudinal analysis of the data. A comparison with other studies would also be extremely useful. It remains to be seen whether other federal states in Germany, besides Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, will decide to launch similar research projects.

The survey on safety and crime in Lower Saxony is intended to become established as a further data source in the coming years that, like the Police Crime Statistics, will be used as a matter of course. It should, however, be regarded as supplementing, rather than being in competition with the latter. Shedding light on both sides of the coin by using data from the Police Crime Statistics and the survey on non-reported crime alike will help provide an even stronger basis for crime policy.

<sup>1</sup> See online: [www.lka.niedersachsen.de](http://www.lka.niedersachsen.de).

<sup>2</sup> The website of the Bureau of Justice Statistics provides a good overview of the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). Online: <http://www.bjs.gov/developer/ncvs/index.cfm> (12.08.2014).

<sup>3</sup> The Crime Survey for England and Wales, earlier called the British Crime Survey, has been conducted in England since 1982. Online: <http://www.crimesurvey.co.uk/index.html> (12.08.2014).

<sup>4</sup> The Swedish Crime Survey is conducted regularly in Sweden. <https://www.bra.se/bra/bra-in-english/home/crime-and-statistics/swedish-crime-survey.html> (12.08.2014).

<sup>5</sup> An overview of various regional criminological analyses is given by Luff 2004, although it only describes the situation as at 2004.

<sup>6</sup> The random route method involves several steps to determine the persons to be surveyed. From a given starting point, the interviewers take specific routes and select the *x*-th household in every *y*-th building. If there are several people living in the household, the person to be surveyed is selected on the basis of certain characteristics (e.g. the person who next has their birthday). Cf., for example, Möhring/Schlütz 2010, 32–33.

<sup>7</sup> With respect to affective fear of the crime, the survey participants could indicate whether they “never” (1), “rarely” (2), “occasionally” (3), “frequently” (4) or “always” (5) feared becoming the victim of each of six types of crime (bodily harm, robbery, sexual offences, property damage, burglary). A mean of between 1 and 5 was calculated on the basis of the responses and

categorized as follows: “low” (1.000–1.999), “fairly low” (2.000–2.999), “fairly high” (3.000–3.999), “high” (4.000–5.000). In the case of cognitive fear of crime, scores were given for six crimes (from “very likely” to “very unlikely”). A mean of between 1 and 4 was calculated across all crimes and was categorized as follows: “low” (1.000–1.749), “fairly low” (1.750–2.499), “fairly high” (2.500–3.249), and “high” (3.250–4.000).

#### Sources of information

Boers, Klaus (1991). *Kriminalitätsfurcht – Über den Entstehungszusammenhang und die Folgen eines sozialen Problems*, Pfaffenweiler.

Luff, Johannes (2004). *Kriminologische Regionalanalysen*, Online: <http://www.praeventions-tag.de/html/GetDokumentation.cms?XID=69> (22.09.2014).

Möhring, Wiebke/Schlütz, Daniela (2010). *Die Befragung in der Medien- und Kommunikationswissenschaft – eine praxisorientierte Einführung*, Wiesbaden.

Särndal, Carl-Eric/Swensson, Bengt/Wretman, Jan (2003). *Model Assisted Survey Sampling*, New York.

Schwind, Hans-Dieter/Fetchenhauer, Detlef et al. (2001). *Kriminalitätsphänomene im Langzeitvergleich am Beispiel einer deutschen Großstadt – Bochum 1975, 1986, 1998*, Neuwied.

<http://www.bjs.gov/developer/ncvs/index.cfm>.

<http://www.crimesurvey.co.uk/index.html>.

<https://www.bra.se/bra/bra-in-english/home/crime-and-statistics/swedish-crime-survey.html>.