



# Crimes and Criminal Justice Policy in Korea(2019) : Crimes in Korea

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## Chapter 1

Crimes and Criminal Justice Policy in Korea (2019) : Crimes in Korea

# Crime Trends and Characteristics

Kim, Jiyoung

## Chapter 1

# Crime Trends and Characteristics

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This chapter looks into the current status and trends of all crimes<sup>1)</sup> and criminal offences that occurred for the last ten years (2009~2018), how these crimes were handled, and the basic characteristics of offenders and victims of crime. Crime data in this chapter have been reconstructed based on *Crime Analysis*, published by the Supreme Prosecutors' Office, "Crime & Criminal Justice Statistics<sup>2)</sup>," built by the KIC, and the "White Paper on Crime" of the Institute of Justice. Both the "Crime & Criminal Justice Statistics (CCJS)" and the *White Paper on Crime* were based on *Crime Analysis*, published by the Supreme Prosecutors' Office. The statistics of the crime analysis have been generated from the crime statistical tables (statistical tables regarding the occurrences, arrests and suspects) which were documented or electronically entered by each investigating agency (police, prosecution, special judicial police) while investigating criminal cases (Supreme Prosecutors' Office, 2019). Crime occurrence statistical tables are documented for criminal charges brought by the institutions after confirming the occurrence of crimes from victim's reports, or accusations and complaints, or self-investigation. Therefore, the 'number of crimes' specified in *Crime Analysis* refers to the number of criminal charges made by the investigation agencies among the criminal cases occurred, not all the criminal cases occurred nationwide. (Supreme Prosecutors' Office, 2019)

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1) All crimes refer to all the crimes that violated either the Criminal Act or the special laws.

2) See <https://www.crimstats.or.kr/portal/main/indexPage.do>

## Section 1 | Trends in Crime Occurrence and Processing

### 1. Status and Trends of Crimes

#### A. Status and Trends of Crimes in Total

The status of all crimes occurred over the last ten years is expressed in the number and rate<sup>3)</sup> of crimes [Table 1-1-1]. First, the number of all crimes marked 2,168,185 cases in 2009, highest in the last ten years. However, it reduced to 1,917,300 in 2010 and dropped again to 1,902,720 in 2011. The figure had fluctuated around 1.9 million since 2012 but increased to approximately 2 million (2,020,731) cases in 2015 and maintained a similar level in 2016 at 2,008,290 cases. The number fell in 2017 by 183,414 cases to 1,824,876 cases and marked the lowest at 1,738,190 cases in 2018.

The crime rate, or the number of crimes per 100,000 population, for the last ten years was the highest at 4,356.1 cases in 2009. The figure marked 3,795.5 in 2010 and 3,750.4 in 2011, then declining for two years in a row at 3,796.8 and 3,903.7 in 2012 and 2013, respectively, slightly higher than in 2011. In 2014, it reduced to 3,767.6, grew back in 2015 to 3,921.5, but went downward again to 3,884.8 in 2016, 3,524.4 in 2017, then a record low for the last ten years at 3,353.9 cases in 2018.

The total crime rate remained after reaching a record high in 2009. The rate shifted to a decreasing trend since 2016 and recorded the lowest at around 3,300 cases in 2018. [Figure 1-1-1].

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3) Crime rate refers to the number of crimes per 100,000 population.

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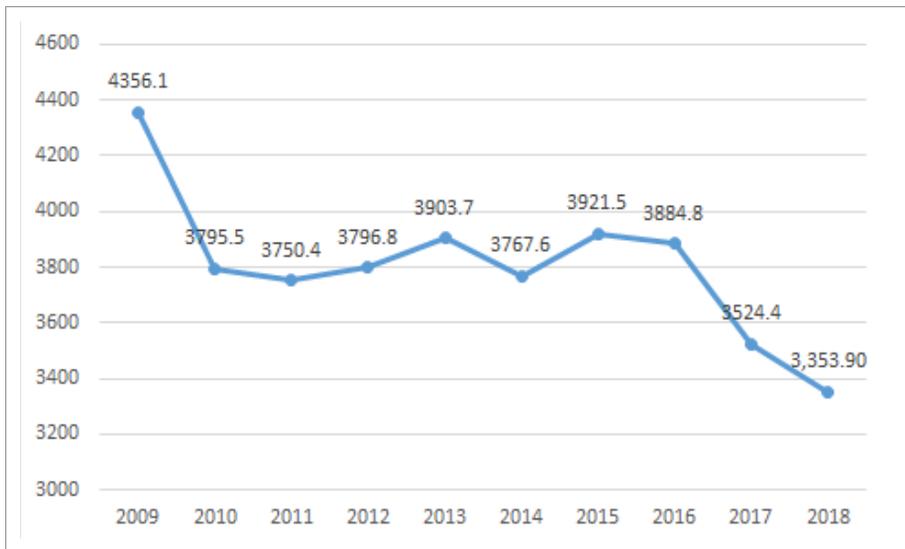
▶▶▶ [Table 1-1-1] Number and Rate of Crimes (2009~2018)

(Unit: Number (%))

Year	Number of Crimes	Crime Rate	Increase/Decrease Rate
2009	2,168,185	4,356.1	-
2010	1,917,300	3,795.5	-12.9
2011	1,902,720	3,750.4	-13.9
2012	1,934,410	3,796.8	-12.8
2013	1,996,389	3,903.7	-10.4
2014	1,933,835	3,767.6	-13.5
2015	2,020,731	3,921.5	-10
2016	2,008,290	3,884.8	-10.8
2017	1,824,876	3,524.4	-19.1
2018	1,738,190	3,353.9	-23

\*Source: Supreme Prosecutors' Office. *Crime Analysis (2010-2019)*. Reproduced<sup>4)</sup>

▶▶▶ [Figure 1-1-1] Annual Trend in the Total Crime Rate (2009~2018)



4) The population data for calculating the crime rate is based on the residence registration population status of the Ministry of Interior and Safety.

## B. Status and Trends of Crimes Committed under the Criminal Act and Special Laws

Next is the status and trends of the two crime categories, namely criminal offences and special law crimes. Special law crimes fall under the Criminal Act. As of 2019, the laws refer to the following eleven acts: i.e. the Act on the Aggravated Punishment, etc. of Specific Crimes; the Act on the Aggravated Punishment, etc. of Specific Economic Crimes; the Act on Special Cases Concerning the Punishment, etc. of Child Abuse Crimes under the Punishment of Violence, etc. Act; the Act on Special Cases concerning the Punishment, etc. of Sexual Crimes; the Act on the Protection of Children and Youth against Sex offences; the Special Act on the Prevention of Loss caused by Telecommunications based Financial Fraud and Refund for Loss; the National Sports Promotion Act (opening a gambling place, etc.); the Korea Racing Authority Act (opening a gambling place, etc.); the Special Act on Prevention of Insurance Fraud; and the Improper Solicitation and Graft Act. (Supreme Prosecutors' Office, 2019).

▶▶▶ [Table 1-1-2] Number, Rate and Composition of Criminal Offences and Special Law Crimes (2009~2018)

(Unit: Number (%))

Year	Criminal offences			Special law crimes		
	Number of crimes	Crime rate	Composition ratio	Number of crimes	Crime rate	Composition ratio
2009	998,594	2,006.3(-)	46.1	1,169,591	2,349.8(-)	53.9
2010	943,585	1,867.9(-6.9)	49.2	973,715	1,927.6(-18)	50.8
2011	1,000,849	1,972.7(-1.7)	52.6	901,871	1,777.6(-24.4)	47.4
2012	1,037,166	2,035.7(1.5)	53.6	897,244	1,761.1(-25.1)	46.4
2013	1,056,704	2,066.2(3)	52.9	939,685	1,837.4(-21.8)	47.1
2014	1,016,209	1,979.8(-1.3)	52.5	917,626	1,787.8(-23.9)	47.5
2015	1,047,761	2,033.3(1.3)	51.9	972,970	1,888.2(-19.6)	48.1
2016	1,005,689	1,945.4(-3)	50.1	1,002,601	1,939.4(-17.5)	49.9
2017	958,865	1,851.9(-7.7)	52.5	866,011	1,672.5(-28.8)	47.5
2018	988,398	1,907.1(-4.9)	56.9	749,792	1,446.7(-38.4)	43.1

\*Source: Supreme Prosecutors' Office. *Crime Analysis (2009-2018)*. Reproduced.<sup>5)</sup>

\*\*() represents the increase/decrease rate compared to 2009.

5) The population data for calculating the crime rate is based on the residence registration population status of the Ministry of Interior and Safety.

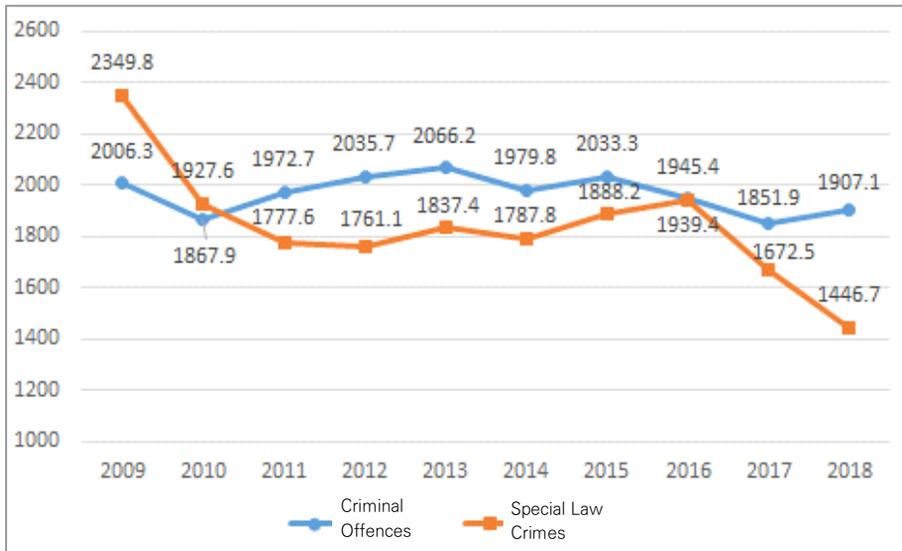
## 6 Crimes and Criminal Justice Policy in Korea (2019) : Crimes in Korea

The trends of criminal offences and special law crimes are indicated in [Table 1-1-2] above. The number of criminal offences recorded 998,594 cases in 2009 and 943,585 in 2010, marking the lowest in the last ten years. However, the figure increased to approximately 1 million cases from 2011 onwards, at 1,000,849 cases in 2011, 1,037,166 in 2012, 1,056,704 in 2013, 1,016,209 in 2014, 1,047,761 in 2015 and 1,005,689 in 2016. The number fell to around 900 thousand cases at 958,865 in 2017 and 988,398 in 2018. Criminal offences went down in 2009 and 2010, but grew back in 2011 and reached the highest in 2013. The figure then slightly dropped in 2014 but increased again in 2015. It decreased in 2016 and 2017 but about 30 thousand more cases occurred in 2018.

The criminal offence rate (number of crimes per 100,000 population), representing a more accurate observation of the trends above, decreased from 2,006.3 cases in 2009 to 1,867.9 in 2010. Then, the figure grew for three consecutive years: 1,972.7 cases in 2011, 2,035.7 in 2012 and 2,066.2 in 2013. In particular, the figure in 2013 was highest in the last ten years. It became lower in 2014 at 1,979.8 cases but bounced back in 2015 to 2,033.3. The rates were 1,945.4 and 1,851.9 in 2016 and 2017, dropping for two years in a row but showed a small rise in 2018 to 1,907.1 cases.

Similar to the number of criminal offences, crime rates dropped slightly in 2010 compared to 2009, but went up for three years in a row from 2011. There was a small drop in 2014 and a slight increase in 2015. It declined in 2016 and 2017 but grew a little in 2018 [Figure 1-1-2].

»» [Figure 1-1-2] Annual Trend of Criminal Offence/Special Law Crime Rate (2009-2018)



The number of special law crimes for the last ten years started with a fall from 1,169,591 cases in 2009 to 973,715 in 2010. It went down for two more years to 901,871 cases in 2011 and 897,244 in 2012. The figure then increased in 2013 to 939,685, dropped again in 2014 to 917,626, and increased to 972,970 and 1,002,601 in 2015 and 2016, respectively. However, the number was 866,011 cases in 2017, a large decrease from the previous year by 136,590. Then it marked a record low in the last ten years at 749,792 in 2018.

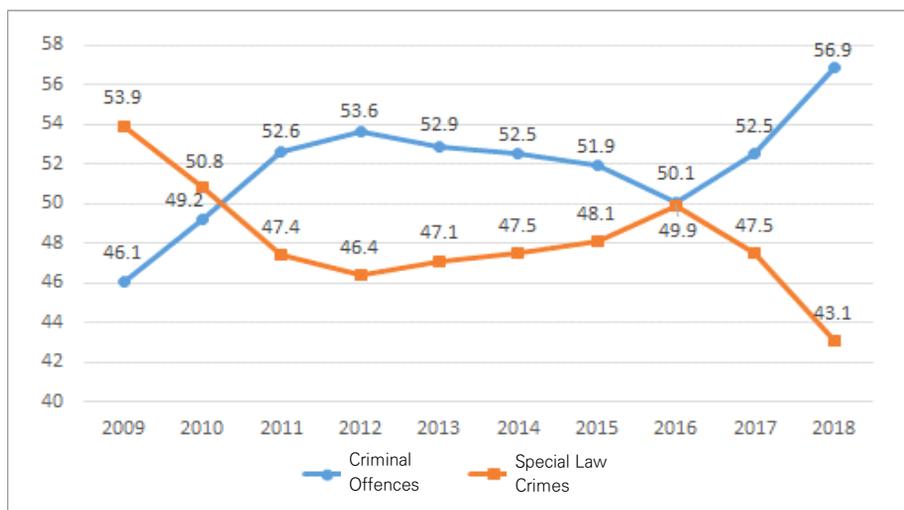
In more detail, the special law crime rate (number of crimes per 100,000 population) was the highest in the last ten years in 2009 at 2,349.8 cases, and fluctuated slightly until 2016 when it surged to 1,939.4. The number plunged to 1,672.5 in 2017 and slid to a 10-year low of 1,446.7 in 2018. In general, the special law crime rate declined until 2012, rose moderately in 2013 but dropped a little in 2014. It went up again in 2015 and jumped in 2016 but shrank in 2017 and hit the lowest in 2018 [Figure 1-1-2].

The gradual growth in criminal offences and the steep decline in special law crimes are also apparent in the proportional changes of these crimes. [Figure

## 8 Crimes and Criminal Justice Policy in Korea (2019) : Crimes in Korea

1-1-3]. In 2009, the percentage of criminal offences was 46.1% in the total crime rate while special law crimes was 53.9%, higher by 7.8%. The situation turned over in 2011 with the percentage of special law crimes becoming lower than that of criminal offences, a continued trend until 2018.

»» [Figure 1-1-3] Annual Trend of the Composition Ratio of Criminal Offences and Special Law Crimes (2009~2018)



## 2. Status and Trends of Crime Processing

### A. Number and Rate of Arrests

The number of arrests<sup>6)</sup> against the total number of crimes, or the arrest rate<sup>7)</sup>

6) The number of arrests is the number of criminals arrested in a given year regardless of the year the crime occurred, not the number of criminals arrested in a given year for the crimes they committed in that same year. Even if the police arrested just one of the criminals for a crime involving several culprits, it is added up as an arrest case. Thus, the arrest rate may occasionally be over 100% because the base years of the number of crimes and the number of arrests are different and an arrest case is added up even for cases where not all the culprits are arrested.

7) This research looks into the arrest rate changes (not the decrease/increase in the number of arrests) since the number of arrests has significance only when it is associated to the number of crimes.

([Table 1-1-3] and [Figure 1-1-4]), remained at 89.3% in 2009 and 84.8% in 2010 but were in the range of 70% from 2011, down to 78.8% in 2011, 77.0% in 2012 and 2013, and 78.5% in 2014. However, the figures went up again to the 80% range by increasing for five consecutive years from 2015 at 81.1%, 2016 at 84.2%, 2017 at 85.3% and 2018 at 84.4%.

For criminal offences, the arrest rate over the last ten years amounted to 84.6% in 2009 and 76.1% in 2010 but showed a declining trend to 68.5% in 2011, 66.1% in 2012 and 66.0% in 2013. The rate in the last ten years hit a low in 2013. The figure has grown back since then, up to 69.5% in 2014, 74.9% in 2015, 78.5% in 2016, 78.5% in 2017 and 76.7% in 2018.

In short, the arrest rate of criminal offences was lower than the total crime arrest rate. However, similar changes appeared in both cases as they declined between 2009 and 2013, then rose from 2014, and reduced in 2018.

»» [Table 1-1-3] Number and Rate of Arrests (2009~2018)

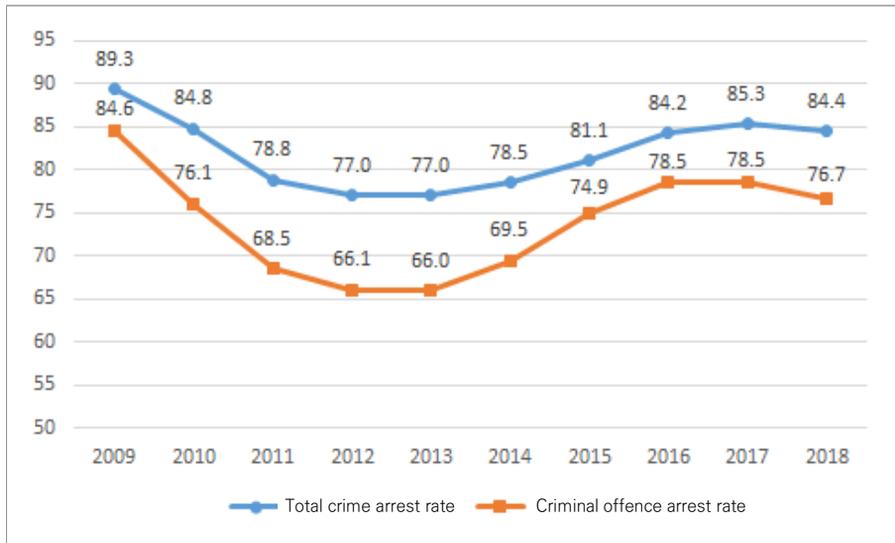
(Unit: Number, %)

Year	All Crimes			Criminal Offences		
	Number of Crimes	Number of Arrests	Arrest Rate	Number of Crimes	Number of Arrests	Arrest Rate
2009	2,168,185	1,936,637	89.3%	998,594	844,563	84.6%
2010	1,917,300	1,625,241	84.8%	943,585	718,183	76.1%
2011	1,902,720	1,499,675	78.8%	1,000,849	685,536	68.5%
2012	1,934,410	1,488,756	77.0%	1,037,166	685,707	66.1%
2013	1,996,389	1,536,442	77.0%	1,056,704	697,444	66.0%
2014	1,933,835	1,518,792	78.5%	1,016,209	705,861	69.5%
2015	2,020,731	1,638,549	81.1%	1,047,761	784,441	74.9%
2016	2,008,290	1,691,370	84.2%	1,005,689	789,278	78.5%
2017	1,824,876	1,556,963	85.3%	958,865	752,903	78.5%
2018	1,738,190	1,466,406	84.4%	988,398	757,922	76.7%

\*Source: Institute of Justice, *White Paper on Crime 2019*. Reproduced.

\*\*Arrest Rate = (Number of Arrests)/(Number of Crimes) x 100

»» [Figure 1-1-4] Annual Trend of the Arrest Rate (2009~2018)



## B. Number of Persons Arrested

The number of people arrested for the last ten years and the number of people arrested per 100,000 population are discussed separately here ([Table 1-1-4] and [Figure 1-1-5]). First, the total number of people arrested plummeted in 2010 to 1,780,917 from 2,288,423 in 2009 and also stayed low in 2011. The number went up and down for several years but increased for three years from 2014 at 1,879,548, 2015 at 1,948,966 and to 2016 at 2,020,196. The number of people arrested in 2016 particularly exceeded 2 million, for the first time since 2009. In 2017, it marked 1,861,796, rapidly dropping from the previous year and also fell in 2018 to 1,749,459. The total number of persons arrested decreased overall for the last ten years: the arrested persons in 2018 decreased by around 500,000 compared to 2009, or -26.6% in terms of the population ratio.

»» [Table 1-1-4] Number and Rate of Persons Arrested (2009~2018)

(Unit: Number, %)

Year	All Crimes			Criminal Offences		
	Number of persons arrested	Proportion of persons arrested to total population	Changes in the proportion of persons arrested to total population	Number of persons arrested	Proportion of persons arrested to total population	Changes in the proportion of persons arrested to total population
2009	2,288,423	4,597.7	-	1,020,584	2,050.5	-
2010	1,780,917	3,525.5	-23.3	860,565	1,703.6	-16.9
2011	1,727,176	3,404.4	-26.0	856,514	1,688.2	-17.7
2012	1,896,191	3,721.8	-19.1	983,159	1,929.7	-5.9
2013	1,907,721	3,730.3	-18.9	974,229	1,905.0	-7.1
2014	1,879,548	3,661.8	-20.4	949,859	1,850.6	-9.7
2015	1,948,966	3,782.2	-17.7	993,932	1,928.9	-5.9
2016	2,020,196	3,907.8	-15.0	1,007,048	1,948.0	-5.0
2017	1,861,796	3,595.7	-21.8	962,775	1,859.4	-9.3
2018	1,749,459	3,375.6	-26.6	963,276	1,858.7	-9.4

\*Source: Institute of Justice, *White Paper on Crime 2019*. Reproduced.

\*\*Proportion of people arrested to total population = Number of people arrested per 100,000 population

\*\*\*Changes in the proportion of people arrested to total population refer to the changes in the proportion compared to 2009

The number of persons arrested for criminal offences hit the highest in 2009 at 1,020,584, fluctuated until it started moving upward in 2014 at 949,859 and continued the climb in 2015 and 2016 to 993,932 and 1,007,048, respectively. The 2016 figure went over 1 million for the first time since 2009, dropped to 962,775 in 2017, and slightly increased in 2018 to 963,276.

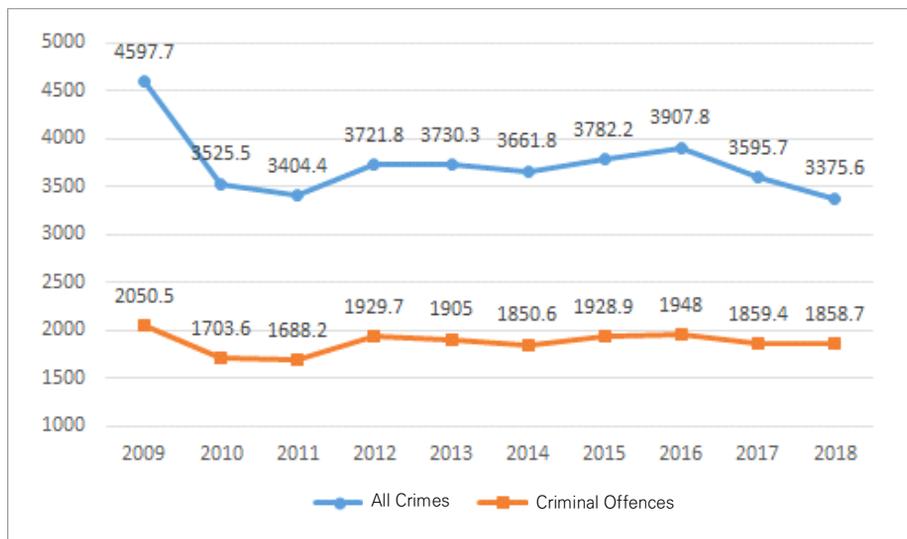
The number of persons arrested per 100,000 population of all crimes increased to 4,597.7 in 2009 but stood at 3,525.5 in 2010, a drastic drop from the previous year, and the downward trend continued in 2011. The figure showed a tendency to increase from 2012, reaching 3,907.8 in 2016, but fell back again to 3,565.7 in 2017 and 3,375.6 in 2018.

In the case of criminal offences, the number of 2,050.5 offenders in 2009 was sharply reduced for two consecutive years to 1,703.6 and 1,688.2 in 2010 and

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2011, respectively. It soared after 2012 and remained around 1,900 people except in 2014, but decreased to 1,859.4 in 2017 and to 1,858.7 in 2018. The total number of people arrested per 100,000 population showed a big drop, whereas the number of people arrested for criminal offences showed a marginal drop over the last ten years. In the population ratio, the number decreased -9.4% compared to 2009 and such tendency is depicted in [Figure 1-1-5] below.

»» [Figure 1-1-5] Annual Trend in the Number of People Arrested per 100,000 Population of All Crimes and Criminal Offences (2009~2018)



### C. Disposition of the Prosecution Regarding All Crimes and Criminal Offences

The disposition imposed on all the offenders by the prosecution is indicated in [Table 1-1-5] and [Figure 1-1-6]. For the last ten years, 41.1% of the crimes had been filed as an indictment or demanded for a summary order, 54.6% disposed of non-prosecution such as suspension of indictment and 4.3% transferred to the juvenile department or as family protection cases. In types of disposition, filing indictment accounted for 8.0% in all the crimes and 19.5% in prosecuted

cases while demanding for a summary order was 33.1% in all the cases and 80.5% in prosecuted cases. This signifies that the rate of demands for a summary order, where the suspect is fined without a formal trial, was roughly 5 times higher than that of indictment filings, where the suspect goes through a formal trial. To the contrary, suspension of indictment constituted 17.7% of all the crimes and 32.5% of cases not prosecuted while other grounds such as being cleared of suspicion and having no authority to file indictment accounted for 36.9% of all crimes and 67.5% of non-prosecuted cases.

»» [Table 1-1-5] Disposition of Criminals by the Prosecution (2009~2018)

(Unit: Person (%))

Year	Total	Prosecuted			Not prosecuted			Sent to prosecution/ Other
		(Subtotal)	Public indictment filed	Summary order demanded	(Subtotal)	Indictment suspended	Not prosecuted on other grounds	
2009	2,519,236 (100)	1,154,371 (45.8)	154,496 (6.1)	999,875 (39.7)	1,326,413 (52.7)	465,455 (18.5)	860,958 (34.2)	38,452 (1.5)
2010	1,954,331 (100)	877,420 (44.9)	114,298 (5.8)	763,122 (39.0)	1,042,862 (53.4)	351,939 (18.0)	690,923 (35.4)	34,049 (1.7)
2011	1,907,641 (100)	817,289 (42.8)	116,077 (6.1)	701,212 (36.8)	1,055,221 (55.3)	343,233 (18.0)	711,988 (37.3)	35,131 (1.8)
2012	1,907,900 (100)	766,287 (40.2)	137,852 (7.2)	628,435 (32.9)	1,100,736 (57.7)	351,441 (18.4)	749,295 (39.3)	40,877 (2.1)
2013	1,886,147 (100)	752,411 (39.9)	147,570 (7.8)	604,841 (32.1)	1,097,535 (58.2)	333,483 (17.7)	764,052 (40.5)	36,201 (1.9)
2014	1,846,606 (100)	704,387 (38.1)	163,969 (8.9)	540,418 (29.3)	1,109,005 (60.1)	318,686 (17.3)	790,319 (42.8)	33,214 (1.8)
2015	1,914,233 (100)	704,160 (36.8)	164,382 (8.6)	539,778 (28.2)	1,028,483 (53.7)	354,805 (18.5)	673,678 (35.2)	181,590 (9.5)
2016	1,982,859 (100)	768,382 (38.8)	189,527 (9.6)	578,855 (29.2)	1,050,520 (53.0)	357,185 (18.0)	693,335 (35.0)	163,957 (8.3)
2017	1,917,280 (100)	798,793 (41.7)	194,593 (10.1)	604,200 (31.5)	997,257 (52.0)	330,793 (17.3)	666,464 (34.8)	121,230 (6.3)
2018	1,755,435 (100)	704,758 (40.1)	186,171 (10.6)	518,587 (29.5)	893,943 (50.9)	268,731 (15.3)	625,212 (35.6)	156,734 (8.9)
Total	19,591,668 (100)	8,048,258 (41.1)	1,568,935 (8.0)	6,479,323 (33.1)	10,701,975 (54.6)	3,475,751 (17.7)	7,226,224 (36.9)	841,435 (4.3)

\* Source: Institute of Justice, *White Paper on Crime 2019*. Reproduced.

\*\* 'Stay of indictment' and 'Suspension of indictment' had been included in 'Not prosecuted on other grounds' previously, but were changed to be included in 'Sent to prosecution/Other' in 2015.

The annual rate of suspects notified of the indictment filing was around 5% to 6% with just small changes at 6.1% in 2009, 5.8% in 2010 and 6.1% in 2011. Then the rate grew to 7.2% in 2012, 7.8% in 2013, 8.9% in 2014, moderately decreased to 8.6% in 2015, and increased for three years in a row to 9.6% in 2016, 10.2% in 2017 and 10.6% in 2018.

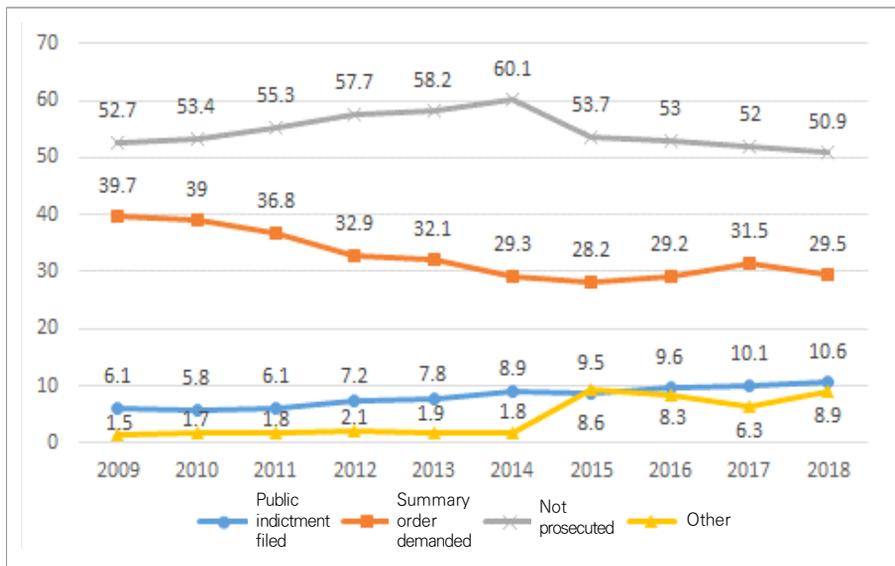
The suspects notified of the demand for a summary order occupied 39.7% in 2009 and consistently declined in the following years, 39.0% in 2010, 36.8% in 2011, 32.9% in 2012, 32.1% in 2013, 29.3% in 2014 and 28.2% in 2015. Although the figures were slightly up in 2016 and 2017 to 29.2% and 31.5%, respectively, it shrank again to 29.5% in 2018.

The suspects disposed of suspension of indictment was 18.5% in 2009 and gradually reduced since 2010 to 17.3% in 2014. Despite a moderate growth in 2015 to 18.5%, the rate went down for three successive years in 2016, 2017 and 2018, respectively at 18.0%, 17.3% and 15.3%. Concerning other grounds for non-prosecution, the figure increased for five years beginning with 34.2% in 2009 to 35.4% in 2010, 37.3% in 2011, 39.3% in 2012, 40.5% in 2013 and arriving at 42.8% in 2014. It substantially dropped by 7.6% to 35.2% in 2015, went down a bit more to 35.0% in 2016 and 34.8% in 2017, but slightly increased in 2018 to 35.6%.

[Table 1-1-6] and [Figure 1-1-7] below exhibit the disposition of the prosecution on criminal offenders for the last ten years. The prosecution rate by filing an indictment or demanding for a summary order, etc. took up 30.3%, the non-prosecution rate occupied 57.5% and 12.2% of the cases transferred to the juvenile department or as family protection cases. In more detail, indictment filings were made for 9.9% of all the cases and 32.8% of the prosecuted cases but a summary order was demanded for 20.3% of all the cases and 67.2% of the prosecuted cases. In contrast, indictment was suspended for 21.5% of all crimes and 37.3% of non-prosecuted cases while other grounds such as being cleared of suspicion and having no authority to file indictment, accounted for

36.0% of all crimes and 62.7% of non-prosecuted cases.

»» [Figure 1-1-6] Annual Trend of the Disposition of Criminals by the Prosecution (2009~2018)



There were no big changes in the rate of suspects demanded for a summary order, maintaining at around 7% to 8%, at 8.1% in 2009, 7.3% in 2010, 7.3% in 2011 and 8.1% in 2012. It turned to a rise in 2013 to 9.6% and kept climbing, at 11.3% in 2014, 10.9% in 2015, 12.1% in 2016, 12.5% in 2017 and to 12.4% in 2018.

The rate of suspects demanded for a summary order changed from 23.9% in 2009, 23.0% in 2010, 22.7% in 2011, 22.3% in 2012, 21.4% in 2013, 19.0% in 2014, 17.6% in 2015, 17.5% in 2016, 17.8% in 2017 and 17.5% in 2018, remaining in the 10% range since 2013.

In 2009, 22.8% of the suspects had been suspended of indictment and the rate stayed around 21%, and finally arrived at 19% in 2018. Non-prosecution on other grounds was 33.2% in 2009 and fluctuated for years. It constantly grew since 2013 to a record high of 39.7% in 2017, but showed a small drop to 38.7% in 2018.

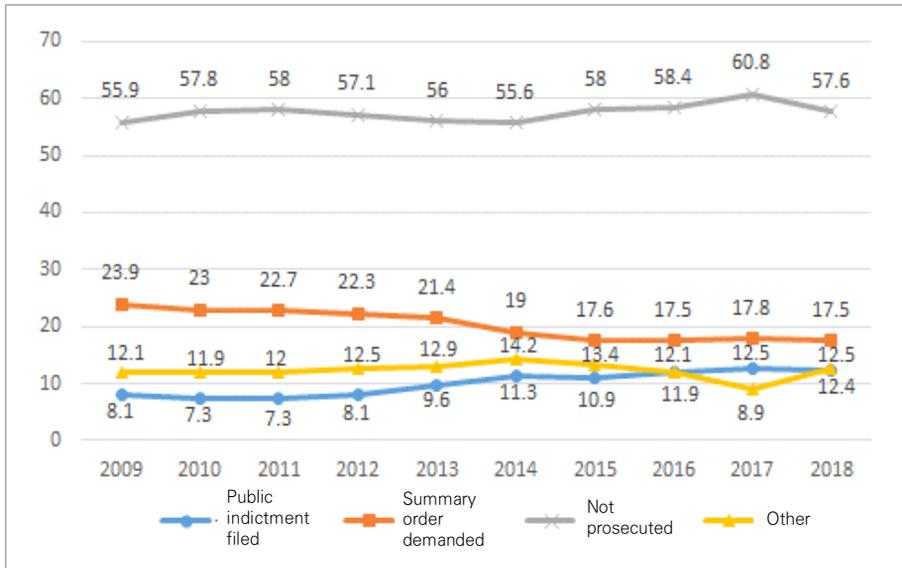
▶▶▶ [Table 1-1-6] Disposition of Criminal Offenders by the Prosecution (2009~2018)

(Unit: Person (%))

Year	Total	Prosecuted			Not prosecuted			Sent to prosecution/ Other
		(Subtotal)	Public indictment filed	Summary order demanded	(Subtotal)	Indictment suspended	Not prosecuted on other grounds	
2009	1,118,253 (100)	357,990 (32.0)	90,587 (8.1)	267,403 (23.9)	625,474 (55.9)	254,662 (22.8)	370,812 (33.2)	134,789 (12.1)
2010	944,853 (100)	287,047 (30.4)	69,424 (7.3)	217,623 (23.0)	545,787 (57.8)	214,523 (22.7)	331,264 (35.1)	112,019 (11.9)
2011	954,629 (100)	286,612 (30.0)	69,477 (7.3)	217,135 (22.7)	553,816 (58.0)	221,277 (23.2)	332,539 (34.8)	114,201 (12.0)
2012	1,012,020 (100)	307,760 (30.4)	82,257 (8.1)	225,503 (22.3)	578,122 (57.1)	226,972 (22.4)	351,150 (34.7)	126,138 (12.5)
2013	1,007,845 (100)	312,786 (31.0)	96,920 (9.6)	215,866 (21.4)	564,558 (56.0)	213,419 (21.2)	351,139 (34.8)	130,501 (12.9)
2014	980,223 (100)	296,470 (30.2)	110,363 (11.3)	186,107 (19.0)	544,747 (55.6)	196,565 (20.1)	348,182 (35.5)	139,006 (14.2)
2015	1,000,024 (100)	285,442 (28.5)	109,400 (10.9)	176,042 (17.6)	580,104 (58.0)	214,358 (21.4)	365,746 (36.6)	134,478 (13.4)
2016	997,766 (100)	295,553 (29.6)	120,670 (12.1)	174,883 (17.5)	583,136 (58.4)	202,089 (20.3)	381,047 (38.2)	119,077 (11.9)
2017	974,656 (100)	295,207 (30.3)	121,387 (12.5)	173,820 (17.8)	592,787 (60.8)	210,468 (21.6)	382,319 (39.2)	86,662 (8.9)
2018	958,949 (100)	286,161 (29.8)	118,622 (12.4)	167,539 (17.5)	552,628 (57.6)	181,775 (19.0)	370,853 (38.7)	120,160 (12.5)
Total	9,949,218 (100)	3,011,028 (30.3)	989,107 (9.9)	2,021,921 (20.3)	5,721,159 (57.5)	2,136,108 (21.5)	3,585,051 (36.0)	1,217,031 (12.2)

\* Source: *Crime Analysis* DB(<https://www.crimestats.or.kr/portal/stat/easyStatCrimePage/320000.do>)

»» [Figure 1-1-7] Annual Trend of the Disposition of Criminal Offenders by the Prosecution (2009~2018)



## Section 2 | Characteristics of the Offenders and Victims of Crime

The characteristics of the offenders and victims of criminal offences are explained in the following.

### 1. Characteristics of the Offenders

#### A. Gender of the Offenders

Among criminal offences, the gender distribution of property crimes<sup>8)</sup>, violent

<sup>8)</sup> Property crimes include larceny, dealing of stolen goods, fraud, embezzlement, breach of trust and, damage and destruction.

(heinous) crimes<sup>9)</sup> and violent (assaults inflicting bodily injury) crimes<sup>10)</sup> are covered here. For property crimes, 79.1% of the offenders were males and 20.9% were females in the total of 3,974,723 people arrested for committing property crimes over the last ten years. The female offender rate in property crimes varied over a small range after marking 20.4% in 2009 and increased moderately for five years in a row, at 20.4% in 2014, 20.9% in 2015, 21.4% in 2016, 21.6% in 2017 and 22.6% in 2018.

In the case of violent (heinous) crimes, males were dominant, occupying up to 96.3% of the total of 293,943 people arrested over the last ten years. The rate of females lingered around roughly 3%, except for the increase to 4.3% in 2011 and 4.1% in 2018.

While males amounted to 83.8% of the total of 3,464,928 people arrested for violent (assaults inflicting bodily injury) crimes over the last ten years, females accounted for 16.2%. The rate of females steadily reduced from 16.6% in 2009 to 15.6% in 2011. It fell again until 2014 after a brief rise to 16.2% in 2012. This trend changed to a gradual increase for four successive years, to 16.1% in 2015, 16.4% in 2016, 16.8% in 2017 and 17.3% in 2018.

The rate of females was highest in property crimes (20.9%) and violent (assaults inflicting bodily injury) crimes (16.2%) came next. The percentage was lowest in violent (heinous) crimes at 3.7%. Females committing property or violent (assaults inflicting bodily injury) crimes went up and down from 2009 to 2014 but has continued to risen, although slightly, after 2015 onwards [Figure 1-1-8].

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9) Violent (heinous) crimes include murder, robbery, sexual violence and arson.

10) Violent (assaults inflicting bodily injury) crimes include assault, injury, extortion, kidnapping and inducement, and arrest and confinement.

»» [Table 1-1-7] Number and Ratio of Major Crime Offenders (2009~2018)

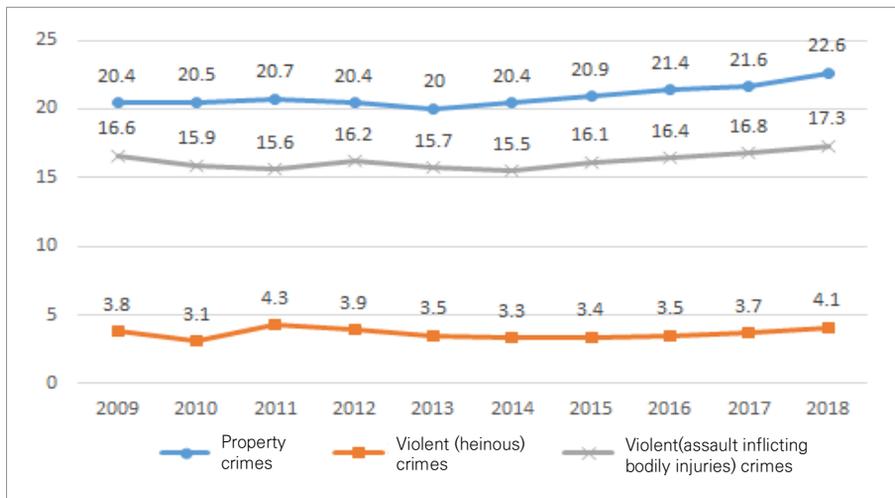
(Unit: Person (%))

Year	Property crimes		Violent (heinous) crimes		Violent (assaults inflicting bodily injury) crimes	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
2009	307,375 (79.6)	78,617 (20.4)	21,705 (96.2)	861 (3.8)	333,905 (83.4)	66,602 (16.6)
2010	265,426 (79.5)	68,375 (20.5)	21,891 (96.9)	708 (3.1)	288,613 (84.1)	54,634 (15.9)
2011	263,919 (79.3)	69,067 (20.7)	23,745 (95.7)	1,057 (4.3)	284,399 (84.4)	52,549 (15.6)
2012	325,065 (79.6)	83,539 (20.4)	25,904 (96.1)	1,062 (3.9)	313,669 (83.8)	60,613 (16.2)
2013	343,919 (80.0)	85,750 (20.0)	28,721 (96.5)	1,042 (3.5)	290,058 (84.3)	54,104 (15.7)
2014	321,496 (79.6)	82,235 (20.4)	28,747 (96.7)	968 (3.3)	278,475 (84.5)	51,139 (15.5)
2015	336,445 (79.1)	89,152 (20.9)	30,552 (96.6)	1,087 (3.4)	287,441 (83.9)	55,085 (16.1)
2016	333,597 (78.6)	90,853 (21.4)	32,188 (96.5)	1,156 (3.5)	290,568 (83.6)	56,955 (16.4)
2017	320,603 (78.4)	88,460 (21.6)	35,071 (96.3)	1,333 (3.7)	274,915 (83.2)	55,633 (16.8)
2018	325,782 (77.4)	95,048 (22.6)	34,659 (95.9)	1,486 (4.1)	261,130 (82.7)	54,441 (17.3)
Total	3,143,627 (79.1)	831,096 (20.9)	283,183 (96.3)	10,760 (3.7)	2,903,173 (83.8)	561,755 (16.2)

\*Source: Supreme Prosecutors' Office. *Crime Analysis (2009~2018)*. Reproduced.

\*\*Unidentified not considered in the figures above.

»» [Figure 1-1-8] Female Offender Rate of Major Crimes (2009~2018)



## B. Age of the Offenders

The age of the offenders arrested for committing property crimes are specified in the following [Table 1-1-8] and [Figure 1-1-9]. The offenders arrested for property crimes over the last ten years were mainly in their 40s at 25.6% and lowered in the order of 50s at 20.3%, 30s at 18.8%, 20s (Age 19 to 30) at 16.9% and 9.6% was under 18. Offenders aged 61 or over were the lowest at 8.8%.

The annual age distribution of property crime offenders shows that the rate of offenders in their 40s, accounting for the highest rate, was 28.7% in 2009 and kept decreasing to a low of 22.7% in 2018.

The second largest group of the 50s marked 15.1% in 2009 and continued to grow to a high of 23.2% in 2018. The rate of 30s was 22.1% in 2009 but constantly fell to arrive at 16.4% in 2018, the lowest in the last ten years.

On the other hand, the rate of the 20s moved around 16% after 2009 onward, except for in 2012 when it dipped to 15%. It grew in 2015 to 17.9%, 2016 to 17.6%, 2017 to 17.8% and 2018 to 17.8%, all higher than the base year of 2009.

Offenders under 18 reached 12.9% in 2010, the highest in the last ten years, from 12.4% in 2009. From then on, juvenile offenders committing property crimes steadily fell down to 6.4% in 2018. The rate of offenders over 61 was 5.5% in 2009 but marked the highest at 13.5% in 2018.

The below [Table 1-1-9] and [Figure 1-1-10] are the age distribution of the offenders arrested for committing violent (heinous) crimes over the last ten years. The offenders in their 20s (ages 19 to 30) occupied the majority at 26.9% of the people arrested for committing violent (heinous) crimes in the last ten years. The rate followed in the sequence of offenders in their 30s at 21.2%, 40s at 19.9%, 50 at 13.5% and 18 or younger at 11.8%. Those aged 61 or over comprised the lowest at 6.6%.

» [Table 1-1-8] Age of Property Crime Offenders (2009~2018)

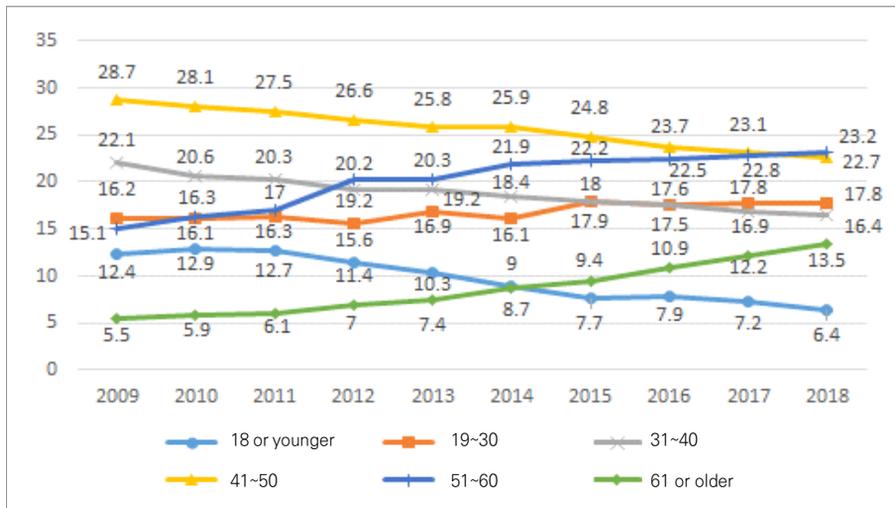
(Unit: Person (%))

Year	18 or younger	19~30	31~40	41~50	51~60	61 or older	Total
2009	48,249 (12.4)	63,298 (16.2)	86,224 (22.1)	112,108 (28.7)	58,981 (15.1)	21,428 (5.5)	390,288 (100.0)
2010	43,599 (12.9)	54,273 (16.1)	69,475 (20.6)	94,855 (28.1)	54,953 (16.3)	19,900 (5.9)	337,055 (100.0)
2011	42,851 (12.7)	54,811 (16.3)	68,511 (20.3)	92,666 (27.5)	57,312 (17.0)	20,564 (6.1)	336,715 (100.0)
2012	46,039 (11.4)	62,704 (15.6)	77,294 (19.2)	107,128 (26.6)	81,627 (20.2)	28,387 (7.0)	403,179 (100.0)
2013	43,698 (10.3)	71,819 (16.9)	81,606 (19.2)	109,350 (25.8)	86,049 (20.3)	31,452 (7.4)	423,974 (100.0)
2014	36,269 (9.0)	64,880 (16.1)	74,433 (18.4)	104,520 (25.9)	88,562 (21.9)	35,198 (8.7)	403,862 (100.0)
2015	32,068 (7.7)	74,537 (17.9)	75,125 (18.0)	103,263 (24.8)	92,454 (22.2)	39,168 (9.4)	416,615 (100.0)
2016	33,088 (7.9)	73,990 (17.6)	73,600 (17.5)	99,612 (23.7)	94,609 (22.5)	45,675 (10.9)	420,574 (100.0)
2017	29,056 (7.2)	72,242 (17.8)	68,547 (16.9)	93,332 (23.1)	92,089 (22.8)	49,502 (12.2)	404,768 (100.0)
2018	26,497 (6.4)	74,295 (17.8)	68,247 (16.4)	94,514 (22.7)	96,872 (23.2)	56,469 (13.5)	416,894 (100.0)
Total	381,414 (9.6)	666,849 (16.9)	743,062 (18.8)	1,011,348 (25.6)	803,508 (20.3)	347,743 (8.8)	3,953,924 (100.0)

\*Source: Supreme Prosecutors' Office. *Crime Analysis (2009~2018)*. Reproduced.

\*\* Unidentified not considered in the rate of each age group.

» [Figure 1-1-9] Rate of Property Crime Offenders by Age (2009~2018)



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The largest age group of violent (heinous) crime offenders were in their 20s (ages 19 to 31), the rate being 25.9% in 2009 and increased by a small margin to 27.3% in 2012. It fluctuated within a narrow range and went up to a high of 28.5% in 2018.

The rate of offenders in their 30s of 23.6% in 2009 fluctuated until reaching the lowest in the last ten years in 2018 at 18.1%. Offenders in their 40s marked 20.9% in 2009, showed several years of small changes and went down to a record low of 18.1% in 2018.

Meanwhile, there were increases in the number of offenders in their 50s and aged 61 or over. The rate of the 50s climbed from 9.2% in 2009 to 15.7% in 2018 and those 61 or older grew from 3.6% in 2009 to 9.1% in 2018, up more than twice in the last ten years.

» [Table 1-1-9] Age of Violent (heinous) Crime Offenders (2009~2018)

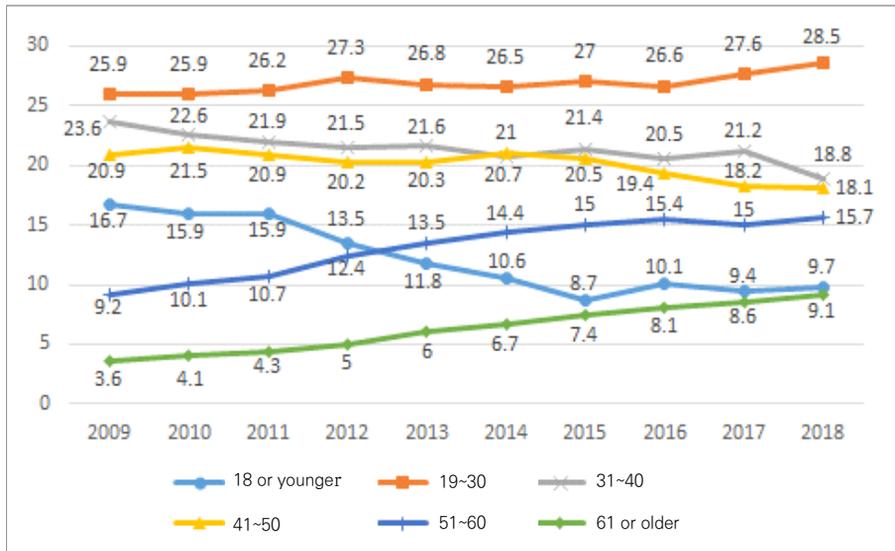
(Unit: Person (%))

Year	18 or younger	19-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61 or older	Total
2009	3,847 (16.7)	5,971 (25.9)	5,441 (23.6)	4,821 (20.9)	2,127 (9.2)	833 (3.6)	23,040 (100.0)
2010	3,665 (15.9)	5,970 (25.9)	5,215 (22.6)	4,947 (21.5)	2,327 (10.1)	935 (4.1)	23,059 (100.0)
2011	4,049 (15.9)	6,665 (26.2)	5,561 (21.9)	5,318 (20.9)	2,713 (10.7)	1,098 (4.3)	25,404 (100.0)
2012	3,609 (13.5)	7,282 (27.3)	5,720 (21.5)	5,378 (20.2)	3,316 (12.4)	1,339 (5.0)	26,644 (100.0)
2013	3,488 (11.8)	7,901 (26.8)	6,351 (21.6)	5,984 (20.3)	3,967 (13.5)	1,775 (6.0)	29,466 (100.0)
2014	3,158 (10.6)	7,875 (26.5)	6,151 (20.7)	6,230 (21.0)	4,288 (14.4)	1,993 (6.7)	29,695 (100.0)
2015	2,713 (8.7)	8,414 (27.0)	6,689 (21.4)	6,382 (20.5)	4,671 (15.0)	2,321 (7.4)	31,190 (100.0)
2016	3,343 (10.1)	8,825 (26.6)	6,812 (20.5)	6,456 (19.4)	5,117 (15.4)	2,679 (8.1)	33,232 (100.0)
2017	3,463 (9.4)	10,157 (27.6)	7,821 (21.2)	6,704 (18.2)	5,516 (15.0)	3,169 (8.6)	36,830 (100.0)
2018	3,509 (9.7)	10,275 (28.5)	6,769 (18.8)	6,516 (18.1)	5,660 (15.7)	3,281 (9.1)	36,010 (100.0)
Total	34,844 (11.8)	79,335 (26.9)	62,530 (21.2)	58,736 (19.9)	39,702 (13.5)	19,423 (6.6)	294,570 (100.0)

\*Source: Supreme Prosecutors' Office. *Crime Analysis (2009-2018)*. Reproduced.

\*\* Unidentified not considered in the rate of each age group.

»» [Figure 1-1-10] Rate of Violent (heinous) Crime Offenders by Age (2009-2018)



The age distribution of the offenders arrested for committing violent (assaults inflicting bodily injury) crimes for the last ten years is indicated in [Table 1-1-10] and [Figure 1-1-11] below. The highest rate of offenders arrested for violent (assaults inflicting bodily injury) crimes in the last ten years were in their 40s, marking 25.8%, followed by the 20s (ages 19~30) at 21.1%, 30s at 20.4%, 50s at 18.6% and 61 or older at 7.1%. The lowest rate of 6.9% was from the offenders 18 or younger.

The age of violent (assaults inflicting bodily injury) crime offenders each year was mostly in their 40s, beginning with 28.7% in 2009 but consistently went down and reached the lowest in ten years at 22.4% in 2018, apart from 2013. Next was the 20s (19~30), which marked 22.1% in 2009, fell gradually down to a record low of 20.3% in 2014. The rate moderately increased in 2015 to 20.5%, 2016 to 20.7% and 2017 to 21.6% but fell marginally to 20.7% in 2018. Those in their 30s stood at 23.1% in 2009 and gradually dropped, except in 2013, to a ten-year low of 18.3% in 2018.

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The age groups of 50s and 61 or older have been showing upward tendencies. The 50s accounted for 13.7% in 2009 and increased roughly half as much to 21.2% in 2015. This rate shrank a little to 21.1% in 2016 and 20.7% in 2017 but climbed back to 21.4% in 2018. The constant increase also occurred in the rate of offenders aged 61 or older, more than doubling in the last ten years from 2008 to 2018, from 4.4% up to 10.9%.

▶▶▶ [Table 1-1-10] Age of Violent (assaults inflicting bodily injury) Crime Offenders (2009~2018)

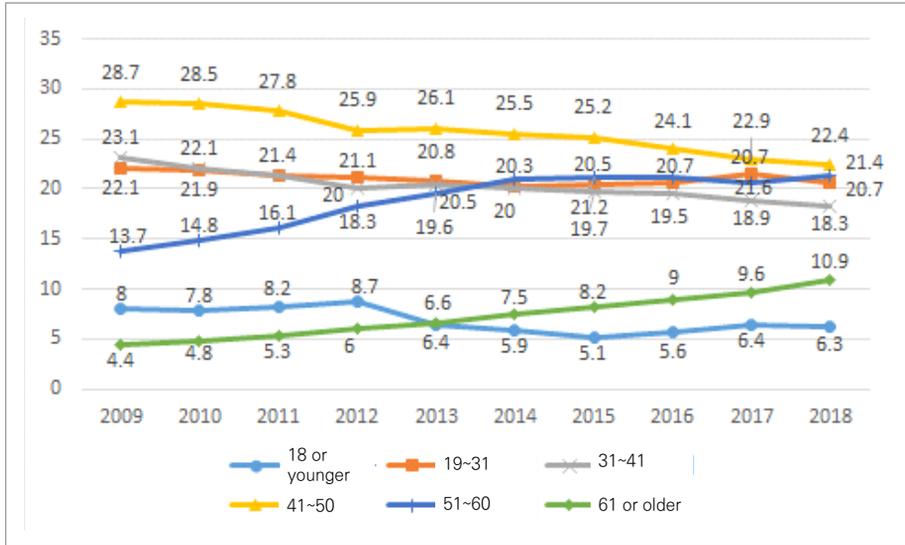
(Unit: Person (%))

Year	18 or younger	19~30	31~40	41~50	51~60	61 or older	Total
2009	32,423 (8.0)	89,712 (22.1)	93,798 (23.1)	116,468 (28.7)	55,854 (13.7)	18,038 (4.4)	406,293 (100.0)
2010	27,264 (7.8)	76,328 (21.9)	77,225 (22.1)	99,616 (28.5)	51,644 (14.8)	16,888 (4.8)	348,965 (100.0)
2011	28,193 (8.2)	73,619 (21.4)	73,434 (21.3)	95,636 (27.8)	55,469 (16.1)	18,227 (5.3)	344,578 (100.0)
2012	32,261 (8.7)	78,448 (21.1)	74,378 (20.0)	96,121 (25.9)	68,069 (18.3)	22,213 (6.0)	371,490 (100.0)
2013	21,840 (6.4)	70,835 (20.8)	70,049 (20.5)	89,180 (26.1)	66,890 (19.6)	22,400 (6.6)	341,194 (100.0)
2014	19,352 (5.9)	66,930 (20.3)	65,792 (20.0)	83,952 (25.5)	68,775 (20.9)	24,581 (7.5)	329,382 (100.0)
2015	17,473 (5.1)	69,846 (20.5)	66,854 (19.7)	85,878 (25.2)	72,091 (21.2)	27,975 (8.2)	340,117 (100.0)
2016	19,476 (5.6)	71,847 (20.7)	67,700 (19.5)	83,495 (24.1)	73,172 (21.1)	31,172 (9.0)	346,862 (100.0)
2017	21,043 (6.4)	71,206 (21.6)	62,248 (18.9)	75,518 (22.9)	68,168 (20.7)	31,724 (9.6)	329,907 (100.0)
2018	19,742 (6.3)	65,263 (20.7)	57,691 (18.3)	70,394 (22.4)	67,275 (21.4)	34,408 (10.9)	314,773 (100.0)
Total	239,067 (6.9)	734,034 (21.1)	709,169 (20.4)	896,258 (25.8)	647,407 (18.6)	247,626 (7.1)	3,473,561 (100.0)

\*Source: Supreme Prosecutors' Office. *Crime Analysis (2009-2017)*. Reproduced.

\*\*Unidentified not considered in the rate of each age group.

»» [Figure 1-1-11] Rate of Violent (assaults inflicting bodily injury) Crime Offenders by Age (2009-2018)



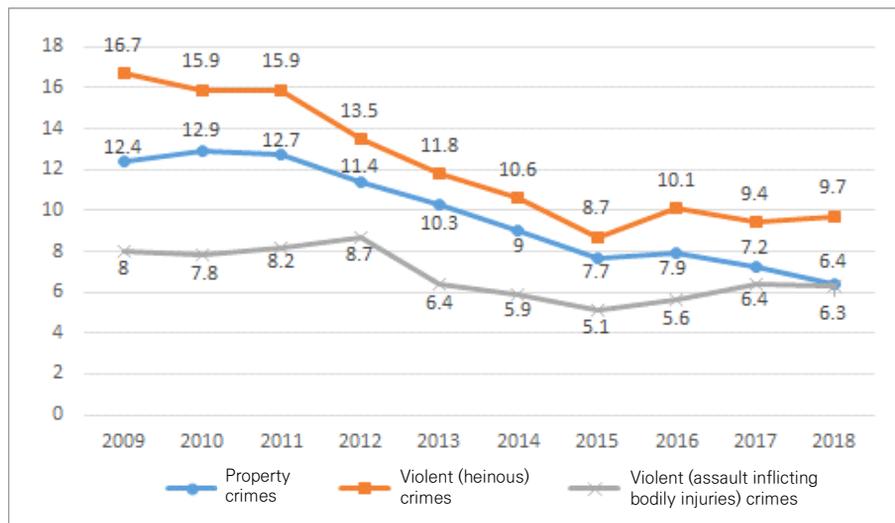
The growing trend was apparent in the age groups of 50s and 61 or older in all major crimes of property and violent (both heinous and assaults inflicting bodily injury) crimes. The rates went down in other age groups including the 20s, 30s and 40s. The reason behind the increase in elderly offenders in their 50s and 60s is deemed to be from the growing number of baby boomers in the total population.

With regard to juvenile offenders (under 19), the rates in the following [Figure 1-1-12] conveyed that the violent (heinous) crimes took up the most, followed by property and violent (assaults inflicting bodily injury) crimes. The cause for the high rate of juvenile offenders committing violent (heinous) crimes was because such crimes include robbery and sexual violence, which occupy a considerably large portion of juvenile crimes.

The juvenile offender rate tended to descend in all three crime types since 2011 for property crimes and violent (heinous) crimes, and 2012 for violent (assaults inflicting bodily injury) crimes. Such trend simultaneously turned upward

in 2016, but fell in property crimes and violent (heinous) crimes in 2017 while violent (assaults inflicting bodily injury) crimes kept growing. In 2018, the property crime and violent (assaults inflicting bodily injury) crime rates slightly increased whereas violent (heinous) crime rate dropped.

»» [Figure 1-1-12] Juvenile Offender Rate of Major Criminal Offences (2009-2018)



### C. Previous Convictions of the Offenders

This part deals with previous convictions and recidivism of the criminal offenders. Previous conviction and recidivism usually mean the same, but the two terms are distinguished in *Crime Analysis* published by the Supreme Prosecutors' Office. The term 'previous conviction' refers to a criminal case confirmed by the court's declaration of a guilty verdict and sentencing of a fine or heavier punishments. Thus, the word excludes cases under either investigation or ongoing trials, or defendants sentenced to misdemeanor imprisonment, minor fine, protective disposition, suspension of public indictment or stay of an indictment. While 'previous conviction' includes only cases ruled guilty and sentenced to

punishments of fine and heavier, 'recidivism' not only includes pending cases but also those committed immediately before being put under investigation or on trials, detention, minor fine, protective disposition, suspension of public indictment or stay of an indictment. Consequently, the concept of 'recidivism' can be deemed to be larger in scope than 'previous conviction' in the aspect of criminal records.

▶▶▶ [Table 1-1-11] Number of People with Previous Convictions in Major Criminal Offences (2009~2018)

(Unit: Person (%))

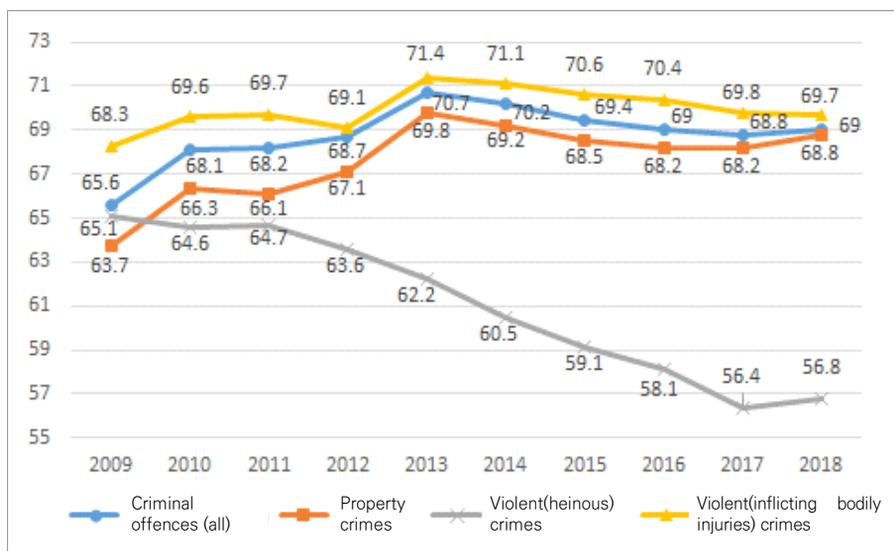
Year	Criminal offences (all)		Property crimes		Violent (heinous) crimes		Violent (physical offence) crimes	
	Total	Has previous convictions	Total	Has previous convictions	Total	Has previous convictions	Total	Has previous convictions
2009	770,321 (100.0)	505,290 (65.6)	277,973 (100.0)	177,058 (63.7)	19,250 (100.0)	12,541 (65.1)	317,003 (100.0)	216,538 (68.3)
2010	630,792 (100.0)	429,414 (68.1)	238,008 (100.0)	157,790 (66.3)	18,624 (100.0)	12,080 (64.6)	263,900 (100.0)	183,602 (69.6)
2011	606,170 (100.0)	413,506 (68.2)	230,687 (100.0)	152,507 (66.1)	20,688 (100.0)	13,380 (64.7)	249,188 (100.0)	173,802 (69.7)
2012	662,807 (100.0)	455,180 (68.7)	254,684 (100.0)	171,009 (67.1)	22,006 (100.0)	14,003 (63.6)	271,186 (100.0)	187,318 (69.1)
2013	640,692 (100.0)	452,728 (70.7)	260,809 (100.0)	182,162 (69.8)	25,463 (100.0)	15,829 (62.2)	243,142 (100.0)	173,551 (71.4)
2014	621,282 (100.0)	435,841 (70.2)	252,854 (100.0)	174,950 (69.2)	25,823 (100.0)	15,614 (60.5)	225,507 (100.0)	160,429 (71.1)
2015	641,839 (100.0)	445,646 (69.4)	269,152 (100.0)	184,411 (68.5)	27,133 (100.0)	16,031 (59.1)	227,598 (100.0)	160,777 (70.6)
2016	650,308 (100.0)	448,880 (69.0)	270,364 (100.0)	184,440 (68.2)	28,297 (100.0)	16,446 (58.1)	225,597 (100.0)	158,800 (70.4)
2017	610,916 (100.0)	420,137 (68.8)	261,722 (100.0)	178,411 (68.2)	30,047 (100.0)	16,955 (56.4)	210,118 (100.0)	146,732 (69.8)
2018	590,533 (100.0)	407,248 (69.0)	261,773 (100.0)	180,049 (68.8)	28,747 (100.0)	16,314 (56.8)	198,242 (100.0)	138,204 (69.7)
Total	6,425,660 (100.0)	4,413,870 (68.7)	2,578,026 (100.0)	1,742,787 (67.6)	246,078 (100.0)	149,143 (60.6)	2,431,481 (100.0)	1,699,753 (69.9)

\*Source: Supreme Prosecutors' Office, *Crime Analysis (2009-2018)*

\*\*Unidentified not considered in the figures above.

Among the total 6,425,660 offenders arrested for carrying out criminal offences for the last ten years, 68.7% had previous convictions. The rate of the offenders with previous convictions in major criminal offences was the lowest in violent (heinous) crimes at 60.6% and higher in the other two crimes, with 67.6% of property crimes and 69.9% of violent (assaults inflicting bodily injury) crimes. Compared to the offenders with previous convictions in all of the crimes, the rates were lower in violent (heinous) and property crimes but higher in violent (assaults inflicting bodily injury) crimes.

»» [Figure 1-1-13] Trend of Offender (with Prior Convictions) Rate by Type of Crime



A growing tendency appeared in the rate of criminal offenders with previous convictions for the last ten years. The percentage of those with previous convictions among criminal offenders was 65.6% in 2009 and persistently increased to 70.7% in 2013, hitting a record high. In spite of the decreases to 70.2% in 2014, 69.4% in 2015, 69.0% in 2016, 68.8% in 2017 and 69.0% in 2018, it was still higher than the base year of 2009. The rate of property crime offenders

with previous convictions topped in 2013 at 69.8%, up from 63.7% in 2009. The rate declined to 68.2% in 2017, following the gradual reduction that had started since 2014, but grew more or less in 2018 to 68.8%, which is higher than the base year of 2009. For violent (heinous) crimes, the offenders with previous convictions occupied 65.1% in 2009, dropping to a low of 56.4% in 2017 after a constant decline, but rose a little in 2018 to 56.8%. The offenders with previous convictions in violent (assaults inflicting bodily injury) crimes climbed from 68.3% in 2009 to a high of 71.4% in 2013. The declining figure, started in 2014, fell to 69.7% in 2018. Nevertheless, it was still higher than the base year of 2009.

To sum up, the offenders with previous convictions grew for the last ten years in all cases of criminal offences, property crimes and violent (assaults inflicting bodily injury) crimes. More specifically, all these types saw increasing trends in the rate of offenders with previous convictions until 2013, then the percentage has gone down since 2014 despite its small margin. Nevertheless the figures are still higher than the benchmark year of 2009. Meanwhile, the rate of the offenders with previous convictions continued to fall in violent (heinous) crimes except 2018.

»» [Table 1-1-12] Number of Prior Convictions of the Criminal Offenders (2009-2018)

(Unit: Person (%))

Year	Total	None	1	2	3	4	5	6 or more
2009	770,321 (100.0)	265,031 (34.4)	104,880 (13.6)	76,082 (9.9)	59,808 (7.8)	45,825 (5.9)	36,951 (4.8)	181,744 (23.6)
2010	630,792 (100.0)	201,378 (31.9)	86,634 (13.7)	63,323 (10.0)	49,691 (7.9)	37,780 (6.0)	30,661 (4.9)	161,325 (25.6)
2011	606,170 (100.0)	192,664 (31.8)	82,870 (13.7)	59,703 (9.8)	47,352 (7.8)	36,199 (6.0)	28,964 (4.8)	158,418 (26.1)
2012	662,807 (100.0)	207,627 (31.3)	91,308 (13.8)	63,938 (9.6)	50,672 (7.6)	39,061 (5.9)	31,723 (4.8)	178,478 (26.9)
2013	640,692 (100.0)	187,964 (29.3)	86,345 (13.5)	63,293 (9.9)	49,160 (7.7)	38,192 (6.0)	31,776 (5.0)	183,962 (28.7)
2014	621,282 (100.0)	185,441 (29.8)	82,982 (13.4)	60,704 (9.8)	46,733 (7.5)	36,942 (5.9)	30,125 (4.8)	178,355 (28.7)

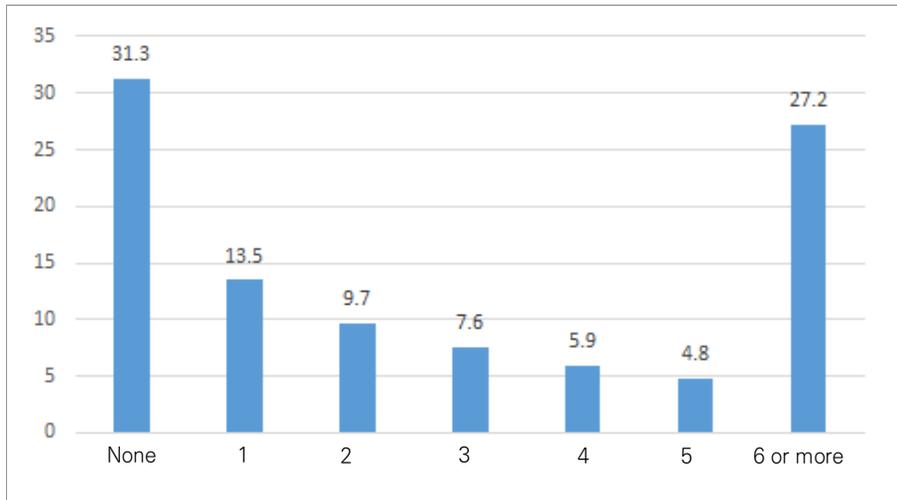
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Year	Total	None	1	2	3	4	5	6 or more
2015	641,839 (100.0)	196,193 (30.6)	85,889 (13.4)	61,503 (9.6)	47,449 (7.4)	37,148 (5.8)	30,760 (4.8)	182,897 (28.5)
2016	650,308 (100.0)	201,508 (31.0)	87,043 (13.4)	62,412 (9.6)	47,939 (7.4)	37,071 (5.7)	30,794 (4.7)	183,541 (28.2)
2017	610,916 (100.0)	190,779 (31.2)	81,631 (13.4)	58,867 (9.6)	45,014 (7.4)	34,994 (5.7)	28,647 (4.7)	170,984 (28.0)
2018	590,533 (100.0)	183,285 (31.0)	78,464 (13.3)	55,527 (9.4)	43,031 (7.3)	33,489 (5.7)	27,512 (4.7)	169,225 (28.7)
Total	6,425,660 (100.0)	2,011,870 (31.3)	868,046 (13.5)	625,352 (9.7)	486,849 (7.6)	376,701 (5.9)	307,913 (4.8)	1,748,929 (27.2)

\*Source: Supreme Prosecutors' Office, *Crime Analysis (2009~2018)*

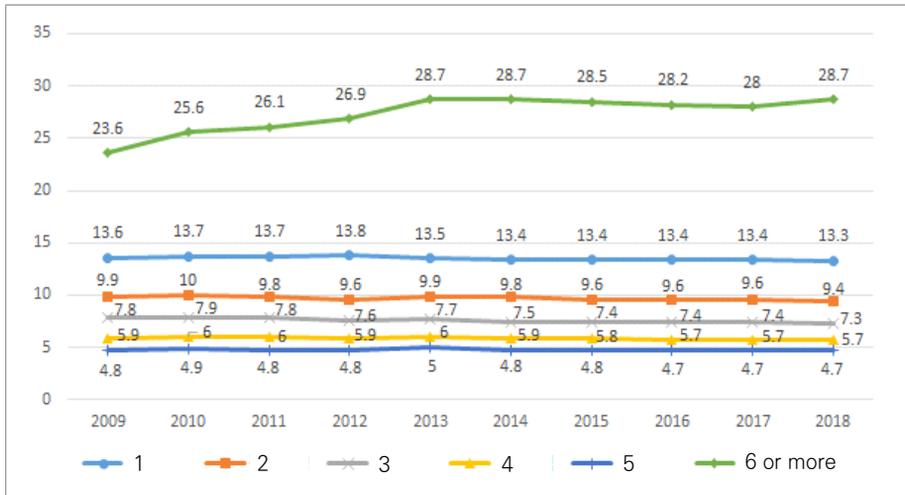
\*\*Unidentified not considered in the figures above.

»» [Figure 1-1-14] Distribution of the Criminal Offenders with Prior Convictions (Aggregated data 2009~2018) (%)



The following [Table 1-1-12], [Figure 1-1-14] and [Figure 1-1-15] depict previous convictions of the criminal offenders arrested for the last ten years and the number of convictions, if any.

»» [Figure 1-1-15] Distribution of the Criminal Offenders with Prior Convictions (2009~2018) (%)



The number of previous convictions was 13.5% for those with 1 conviction, 9.7% with 2 convictions, 7.6% with 3 convictions, 5.9% with 4 convictions, 4.8% with 5 convictions and 27.2% with 6 or more convictions, marking the highest.

The rates of offenders with 1~5 previous convictions in the last ten years slightly fell overall, while those with 6 or more previous convictions constantly went up from 23.6% in 2009 to a high of 28.7% in both 2013 and 2014. The rates then shrank to 28.5% in 2015, 28.2% in 2016 and 28.0% in 2017, but bounced back in 2018 again to the record high of 28.7%.

[Table 1-1-13] below is on the type of recidivism and intervals between crimes committed by offenders with previous investigation and criminal records. To begin with, 31% of the offenders with investigation and criminal records for the last ten years committed the same crimes as before and 69% committed different types of crime. The longest interval between the same type of crimes exceeded 3 years at 26.3%, followed by over 6 months under 1 year (within 1 year) 25.5%, over 1 year and under 3 years (within 3 years) 25.2% and within 6 months 23.0%. The interval between committing a different type of crime was also longest at

49.2% of those exceeding 3 years, 23.9% over 1 year under 3 years (within 3 years), 16.4% over 6 months under 1 year (within 1 year) and 10.5% within 6 months.

The same-crime recidivism rate was 32.2% in 2009, 34% in 2010, 34.3% in 2011, 32.6% in 2012, 31.6% in 2013, 30.1% in 2014, 29.0% in 2015, 28.2% in 2016, 28.6% in 2017 and 29.6% in 2018, decreasing in general with some fluctuations.

Meanwhile, the intervals in the same-crime recidivism within 6 months increased overall, from 2009 at 20.6%, 2010 at 22.4%, 2011 at 22.6%, 2012 at 25.0%, 2013 at 23.0%, 2014 at 22.5%, 2015 at 22.7%, 2016 at 23.5%, 2017 at 23.7%, and to 24.4% in 2018. Recidivism within 1 year went up a little from 26.1 in 2009 to 26.4% in 2018. The intervals within 3 years was 25.6% in 2009, and then dropped marginally to 25.3% in 2018. The recidivism intervals exceeding 3 years dropped from 27.7% in 2009 to a low of 24.0% in 2018.

Offenders that recommitted different types of crime within 6 months in 2009 was 10.7%, and gradually contracted from 2013 to 9.5% in 2018, a record low in the last ten years. Those whose interval was within 1 year hit the highest at 18.6% in 2009 and then decreased for the most part until 2018, marking 15.9%. Recommitting within 3 years decreased in general from 25.6% in 2009 to 23.2% in 2018. The recommitting interval of over 3 years was 45.2% in 2009 and showed a consistently increasing trend, reaching 51.4% in 2018.

The same-crime recidivism had a higher tendency of being committed within 6 months in comparison to different types of crime which were highly likely to be committed in intervals of over 3 years.

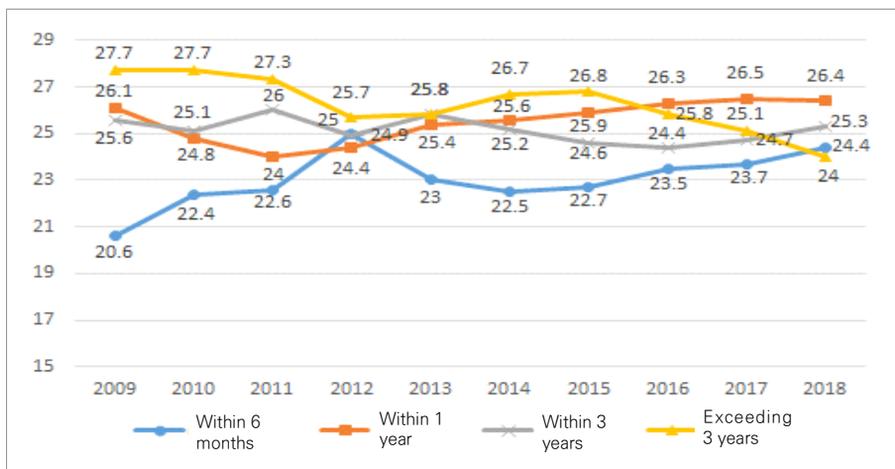
»» [Table 1-1-13] Types and Intervals of Recidivism of the Criminal Offenders (2009~2018)  
(Unit: Person (%))

Year	Same-crime recidivism					Recommitting different crime				
	Total	Within 6 months	Within 1 year	Within 3 years	Exceeding 3 years	Total	Within 6 months	Within 1 year	Within 3 years	Exceeding 3 years
2009	162,221 (100.0)	33,386 (20.6)	42,411 (26.1)	41,532 (25.6)	44,892 (27.7)	340,916 (100.0)	36,363 (10.7)	63,309 (18.6)	87,267 (25.6)	153,977 (45.2)
2010	141,515 (100.0)	31,667 (22.4)	35,138 (24.8)	35,542 (25.1)	39,168 (27.7)	275,053 (100.0)	30,455 (11.1)	48,264 (17.5)	69,688 (25.3)	126,646 (46.0)
2011	137,055 (100.0)	31,011 (22.6)	32,946 (24.0)	35,691 (26.0)	37,407 (27.3)	262,717 (100.0)	27,259 (10.4)	42,061 (16.0)	67,119 (25.5)	126,278 (48.1)
2012	151,753 (100.0)	37,872 (25.0)	37,015 (24.4)	37,806 (24.9)	39,060 (25.7)	314,202 (100.0)	36,274 (11.5)	49,052 (15.6)	76,214 (24.3)	152,662 (48.6)
2013	145,434 (100.0)	33,491 (23.0)	36,913 (25.4)	37,534 (25.8)	37,496 (25.8)	315,304 (100.0)	34,111 (10.8)	49,755 (15.8)	76,346 (24.2)	155,092 (49.2)
2014	132,003 (100.0)	29,738 (22.5)	33,742 (25.6)	33,326 (25.2)	35,197 (26.7)	306,404 (100.0)	31,159 (10.2)	49,054 (16.0)	70,543 (23.0)	155,648 (50.8)
2015	130,544 (100.0)	29,682 (22.7)	33,818 (25.9)	32,109 (24.6)	34,935 (26.8)	319,302 (100.0)	32,637 (10.2)	51,464 (16.1)	72,364 (22.7)	162,837 (51.0)
2016	128,149 (100.0)	30,164 (23.5)	33,695 (26.3)	31,241 (24.4)	33,049 (25.8)	325,614 (100.0)	33,236 (10.2)	52,323 (16.1)	74,075 (22.7)	165,980 (51.0)
2017	121,924 (100.0)	28,912 (23.7)	32,337 (26.5)	30,095 (24.7)	30,580 (25.1)	303,942 (100.0)	30,765 (10.1)	49,556 (16.3)	69,056 (22.7)	154,565 (50.9)
2018	121,128 (100.0)	29,512 (24.4)	31,921 (26.4)	30,651 (25.3)	29,044 (24.0)	288,543 (100.0)	27,388 (9.5)	45,783 (15.9)	66,987 (23.2)	148,385 (51.4)
Total	1,371,726 (100.0)	315,435 (23.0)	349,936 (25.5)	345,527 (25.2)	360,828 (26.3)	3,051,997 (100.0)	319,647 (10.5)	500,621 (16.4)	729,659 (23.9)	1,502,070 (49.2)

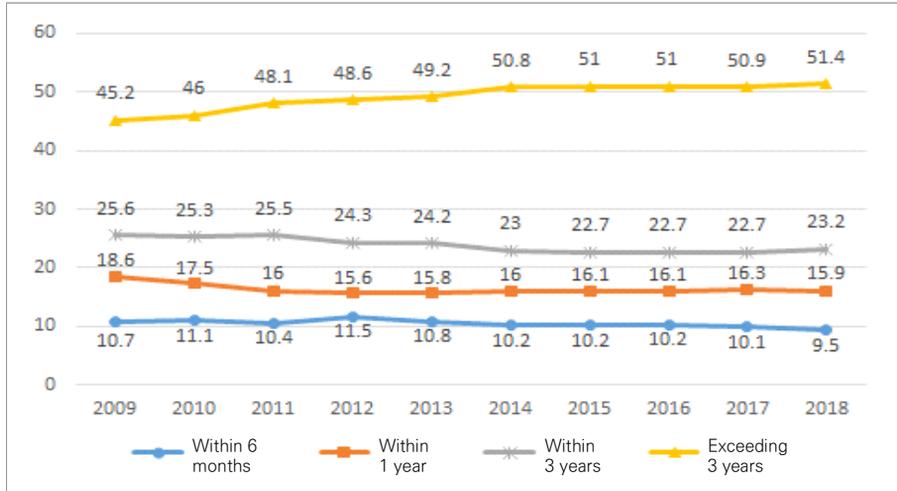
\*Source: Supreme Prosecutors' Office, *Crime Analysis (2009~2018)*

\*\*Unidentified not considered in the figures above.

»» [Figure 1-1-16] Annual Trend in the Recidivism Rate of Same Category of Crime (2009~2018)



»» [Figure 1-1-17] Annual Trend in the Recidivism Rate of Different Category of Crime (2009~2018)



## 2. Characteristics of Victims

### A. Gender of Victims

This section deals with the characteristics of crime victims, another important aspect of crimes. In the case of transferring process, there is a ‘damage information table’ in the Korea Information System of Criminal Justice Services (KICS) to enter the basic data of a victim such as name, resident registration number and contact number. While the table must be filled out if the suspect is unknown, it is not mandatory when the suspect has been specified. In other words, crime victim information may or may not be recorded, depending on the suspect. Crime victim support cards include the personal information of the victim, and other items for financial or counselling support. They are prepared for major cases such as murder, robbery, arson, serious injury, bodily injury (inflicted or caused) and sexual offences, and becoming mandatory for more types of crime.

The gender of the crime victims for the last ten years was 64.4% in men and 35.6% in women. In terms of the annual trend, male victims constituted 66.2%

of the total in 2009 and went down to 62.0% in 2018, showing a decrease overall without big changes. Female victims, by contrast, represented 33.8% in 2009 and rose up to 38% in 2018, slightly increasing within the 30% range.

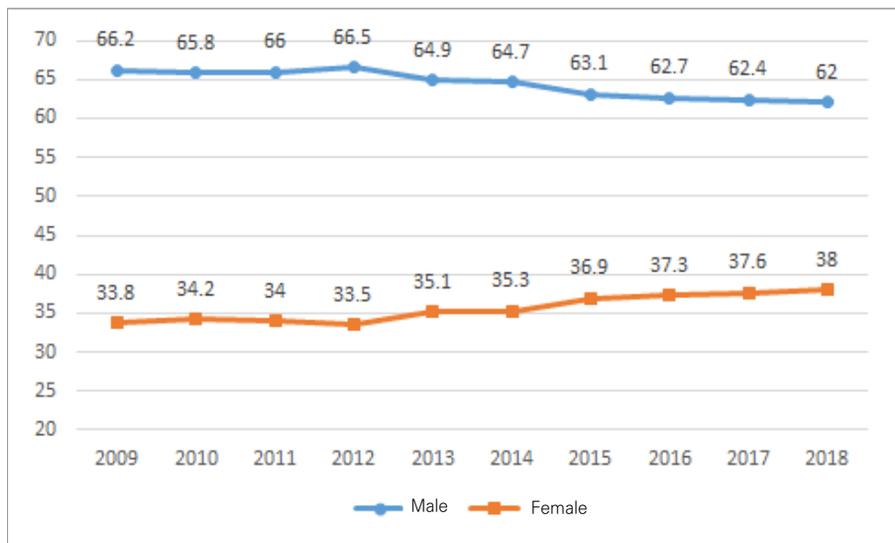
»» [Table 1–1–14] Gender of the Crime Victims (2009~2018)

Year	Total	Male	Female
2009	860,782 (100.0)	569,771 (66.2)	291,011 (33.8)
2010	763,841 (100.0)	502,794 (65.8)	261,047 (34.2)
2011	673,700 (100.0)	444,559 (66.0)	229,141 (34.0)
2012	961,295 (100.0)	638,970 (66.5)	322,325 (33.5)
2013	939,780 (100.0)	610,129 (64.9)	329,651 (35.1)
2014	905,094 (100.0)	585,547 (64.7)	319,547 (35.3)
2015	924,694 (100.0)	583,621 (63.1)	341,073 (36.9)
2016	872,983 (100.0)	547,609 (62.7)	325,374 (37.3)
2017	834,679 (100.0)	520,849 (62.4)	313,830 (37.6)
2018	864,869 (100.0)	535,940 (62.0)	328,929 (38.0)
Total	8,601,717 (100.0)	5,539,789 (64.4)	3,061,928 (35.6)

\*Source: Institute of Justice. *White Paper on Crime (2019)*.

\*\*Unidentified not considered in the figures above.

»» [Figure 1-1-18] Annual Trend of Crime Victims by Gender (2009~2018)



### B. Age of Victims

The age distribution of the crime victims for the last ten years is expressed in [Table 1-1-15], [Figure 1-1-19] and [Figure 1-1-20] as follows. Crime victims aged 41 to 50 occupied the highest rate at 24.6%, those aged 31 to 40 was next at 20.3%, 51 to 60 at 20.1%, 21 to 30 at 17.1% and victims aged 61 or older was 9.9%. Victims aged 16 to 20 was 6.1% while child victims aged 15 or younger represented 2.0%.

The annual trends of the age distribution of the crime victims ([Table 1-1-15] and [Figure 1-1-20]) show that child victims aged 15 or younger moderately increased and reached the highest in 2012 at 2.7%, from 1.6% in 2009. The rate showed a falling trend, marking 1.7% in 2018. The percentage of victims aged 16 to 20 became almost 1.5 times higher from 4.4% in 2009 to 6.6% in 2018.

»» [Table 1-1-15] Annual Trend of Crime Victims by Age (2009-2018)

(Unit: Person (%))

Year	Total	15 or younger	16~20	21~30	31~40	41~50	51~60	61 or older
2009	860,782 (100.0)	13,979 (1.6)	37,554 (4.4)	133,167 (15.5)	194,032 (22.5)	255,422 (29.7)	156,067 (18.1)	70,561 (8.2)
2010	763,841 (100.0)	13,881 (1.8)	35,801 (4.7)	118,920 (15.6)	165,140 (21.6)	215,961 (28.3)	145,903 (19.1)	68,235 (8.9)
2011	673,700 (100.0)	14,654 (2.2)	38,444 (5.7)	109,118 (16.2)	142,731 (21.2)	179,782 (26.7)	130,826 (19.4)	58,145 (8.6)
2012	961,295 (100.0)	25,630 (2.7)	59,568 (6.2)	153,338 (16.0)	198,143 (20.6)	245,573 (25.5)	194,824 (20.3)	84,219 (8.8)
2013	940,419 (100.0)	20,045 (2.1)	57,077 (6.1)	156,641 (16.7)	196,519 (20.9)	231,072 (24.6)	192,111 (20.4)	86,954 (9.2)
2014	905,094 (100.0)	17,888 (2.0)	57,735 (6.4)	149,395 (16.5)	181,265 (20.0)	218,036 (24.1)	190,749 (21.1)	90,026 (9.9)
2015	924,694 (100.0)	17,153 (1.9)	61,702 (6.7)	162,149 (17.5)	181,420 (19.6)	215,380 (23.3)	191,647 (20.7)	95,243 (10.3)
2016	872,983 (100.0)	15,647 (1.8)	60,228 (6.9)	160,158 (18.3)	167,932 (19.2)	193,631 (22.2)	179,110 (20.5)	96,277 (11.0)
2017	834,679 (100.0)	15,294 (1.8)	58,865 (7.1)	162,144 (19.4)	157,596 (18.9)	177,347 (21.2)	167,737 (20.1)	95,696 (11.5)
2018	864,869 (100.0)	14,413 (1.7)	57,282 (6.6)	168,692 (19.5)	159,353 (18.4)	181,327 (21.0)	175,841 (20.3)	107,961 (12.5)
Total	8,602,356 (100.0)	168,584 (2.0)	524,256 (6.1)	1,473,722 (17.1)	1,744,131 (20.3)	2,113,531 (24.6)	1,724,815 (20.1)	853,317 (9.9)

\*Source: Institute of Justice, *White Paper on Crime (2019)*

\*\*Unidentified not considered in the figures above.

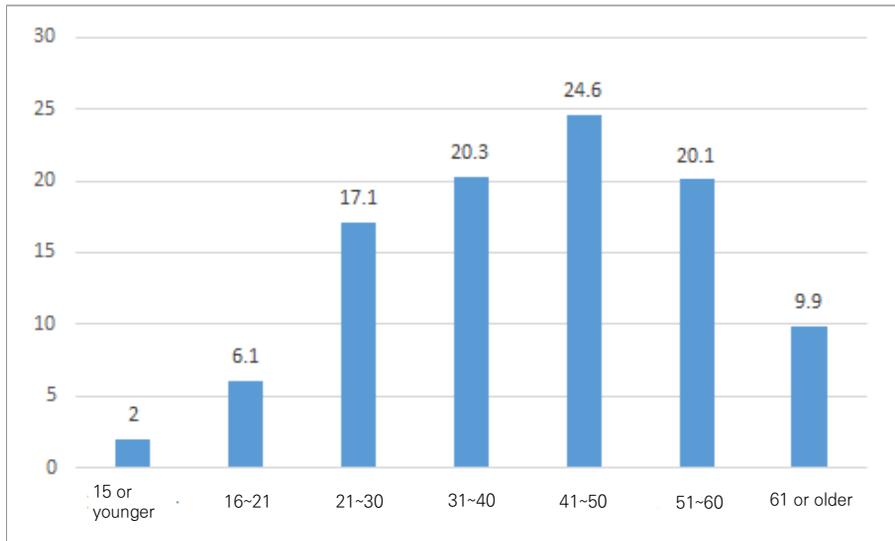
Victims aged 21 to 30 fluctuated more or less since 2009 at 15.5%, but gradually increased to 19.5% in 2018. The rate of victims aged 31 to 40 kept falling from 22.5% in 2009, down to the lowest in 2018 at 18.4%. Those aged 41 to 50, accounting for 29.7% in 2009 also constantly dropped to the lowest of 21.0% in 2018.

The rate of victims aged 51 to 60 composed 18.1% in 2009 and went up to its highest in 2014 to 21.1%. It gradually subsided to 20.7% in 2015, 20.5% in 2016, 20.1% in 2017 and 20.3% in 2018. Those aged 61 or over slowly grew after 8.2% in 2009 to 12.5% in 2018.

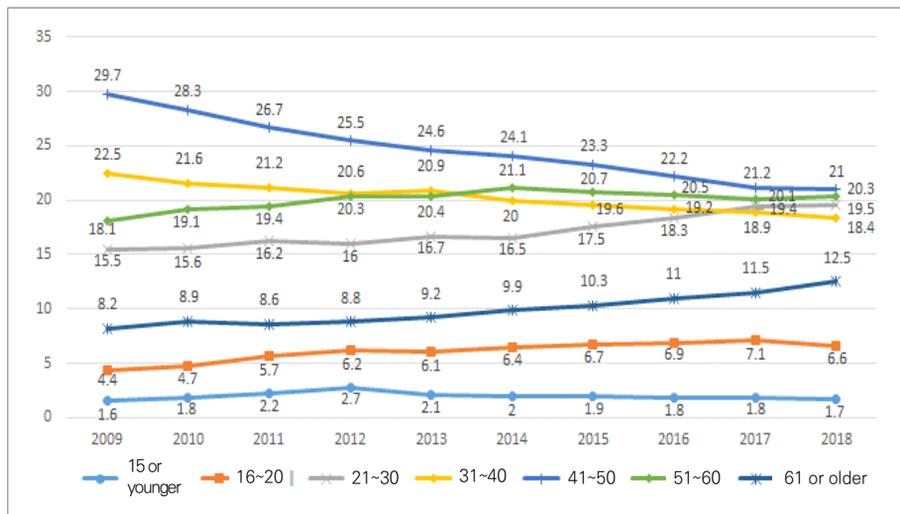
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To summarize, nearly more than half of the victims were aged 31 to 40 and 41 to 50, but showed a tendency to decline. Victims in other age groups of 13 to 20, 21 to 30, 51 to 60 and 61 to 70 seemed to be on the rise.

»» [Figure 1-1-19] Age of the Crime Victims (Aggregated data 2009-2018)



»» [Figure 1-1-20] Annual Trend of Crime Victims by Age (2009-2018)



### C. Crime Victims by Gender and Age

The gender and age group distribution of crime victims in 2018 are depicted as follows ([Table 1-1-16] and [Figure 1-1-21]). Males aged 41 to 50 constituted the largest rate of crime victims at 21%, followed in the order of 20.3% for ages 51 to 60, 19.5% for 21 to 30, 18.4% for 31 to 40, 12.5% for 61 or older, and 6.6% for 16 to 21. Victims who were 15 or younger marked 1.7%. The female victim rate was also highest in those aged 41 to 50 at 21.0% but the second highest was 20.4% for 51 to 60, followed by 17.4% for 21 to 30, 11.6% for 61 or older, and 7.1% for 16 to 20. Victims who were 15 or younger marked 1.9%.

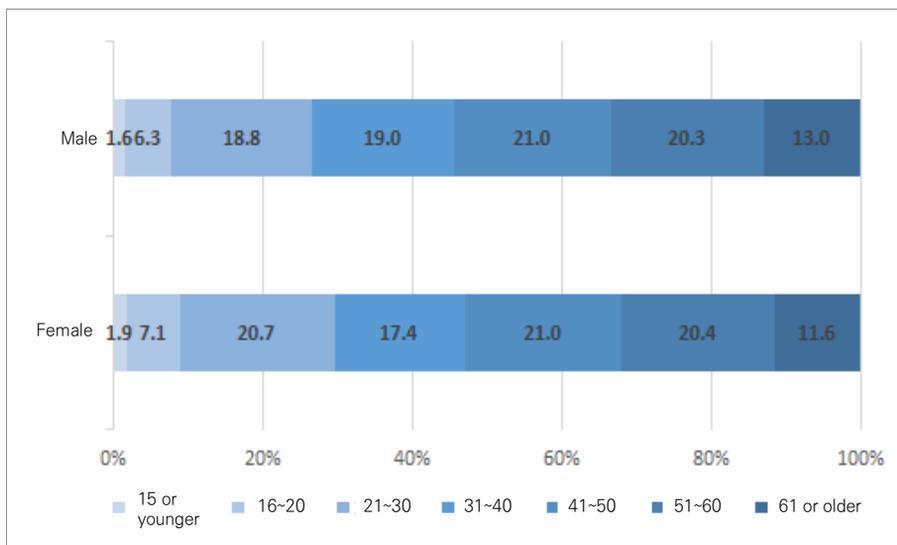
»» [Table 1-1-16] Crime Victims by Gender and Age (2018)

Age Gender	Total	15 or younger	16~20	21~30	31~40	41~50	51~60	61 or older
Total	864,869 (100.0)	14,413 (1.7)	57,282 (6.6)	168,692 (19.5)	159,353 (18.4)	181,327 (21.0)	175,841 (20.3)	107,961 (12.5)
Male	535,940 (100.0)	8,322 (1.6)	33,998 (6.3)	100,764 (18.8)	102,065 (19.0)	112,312 (21.0)	108,678 (20.3)	69,801 (13.0)
Female	328,929 (100.0)	6,091 (1.9)	23,284 (7.1)	67,928 (20.7)	57,288 (17.4)	69,015 (21.0)	67,163 (20.4)	38,160 (11.6)

\*Source: Institute of Justice. *White Paper on Crime (2019)*

\*\*Unidentified not considered in the figures above.

»» [Figure 1-1-21] Crime Victims by Gender and Age (2018)



highest was ages 21 to 30 at 20.7%, followed in the sequence of 20.4% for 51 to 60, 17.4% for 31 to 40, 11.6% for age 61 or older, and 7.1% for 16 to 20. Victims aged 15 or under was 1.9% of the total. This signifies that women aged 21 to 30 are more likely to be victims of crime than those aged 31 to 40, different from the case of male victims.

### Section 3 | Conclusion

In 2018, a total number of 1,738,190 crimes, or 3,353.9 cases per 100,000 population occurred, down by 3.9% from the previous year. The total number and rate of crimes have been reduced after marking the highest in 2009. The figures remained around 1.9 million after 2010, climbed back to roughly 2 million in 2015 but went down again to around 1.8 million in 2017 and 1.7 million in 2018.

When classified into criminal offences and special law crimes, the number of criminal offences in 2018 amounted to 988,398 cases, generally increased for the last ten years but more or less reduced in 2017 and 2018. Opposingly, the number of special law crimes reduced over the last ten years to 749,792 cases. The number of criminal offences per 100,000 population went down by a small margin from 2,006.3 cases in 2009 to 1,907.1 in 2018, whereas the number of special law crimes decreased by 38.4% from 2,349.8 in 2009 to 1,446.7 in 2018.

The total arrest rate for crimes came down to 77.0% in 2012 and 2013 from 89.3% in 2009, but kept increasing from 2014 until 2018, to 84.4%. The arrest rate for criminal offences dropped from 84.6% in 2009 to 66.0% in 2013 but bounced back to 76.7% in 2018. The total number of people arrested changed from 2,288,423 in 2009 to 1,749,459 in 2018, dropping by 26.6% for the last ten years. The number of people arrested for criminal offences were 1,020,584 in 2009 to 963,276 in 2018, down by 9.4% over the last ten year period.

Out of all the people arrested in 2018, 40.1% was prosecuted, 50.9% was not prosecuted and 8.9% was transferred as juvenile or home protection cases. Both the prosecution rate and non-prosecution rate continued to fall in the last ten years. For criminal offenders, 29.8% of those arrested in 2018 was prosecuted, 57.6% was not prosecuted and 12.5% was transferred as juvenile or home protection cases. The overall prosecution rate of criminal offenders decreased as well in the last ten years, whereas non-prosecution continued to rise.

In 2018, women make up 22.6% of property crime offenders, 4.1% of violent (heinous) crime offenders and 17.3% of violent (assaults inflicting bodily injury) offenders. The rate for the last ten years went up for property crimes and violent (assaults inflicting bodily injury) crimes, both by a small margin.

In the same year, offenders in their 50s were most likely to commit property crimes at 23.2%, those over 19 under 20 committed violent (assaults inflicting bodily injury) crimes the most at 28.5%, those in their 40s primarily committed violent (heinous) crimes at 22.4%. There was a clear increase in the offenders in the age groups of 50s and 61 or over for all major crimes of property and violent (heinous and assaults inflicting bodily injury) crimes. Yet, there was a decrease in the age groups of the 30s and 40s. The highest juvenile offender rate in 2018 was for violent (heinous) crimes at 9.7%, property crimes at 6.4% and violent (assaults inflicting bodily injury) crimes at 6.3%.

In terms of the criminal record of criminal offenders in 2018, merely 31% were first-time offenders while the remaining 69% were recidivists. First-time offenders generally decreased over the last ten years whereas recidivists increased. The increase was particularly apparent for offenders with 6 or more prior convictions but the number slightly has fallen since 2014. The percentage of recidivists committing different crimes is about twice higher than committing the same crimes. Although the same-crime recidivism tended to drop, the interval between the crimes of the same type was shorter than that of different types.

While men were more likely to be victims of crime at 62% in 2018, the women victim rate modestly grew in the last ten years. Pertaining to the age group of the victims in 2018, the figures were high in those in their 30s to 50s: 41 to 50 at 21%, 51 to 60 at 20.3% and 31 to 40 at 18.4%. For the last ten years, victims in their 30s and 40s dropped while those aged 16 - 20, 20s, 50s and 61 or over grew. Both men and women in their 40s were most likely to be victims.

## Chapter 2

Crimes and Criminal Justice Policy in Korea (2019) : Crimes in Korea

# Trends and Characteristics of Major Index Crimes

Hwang, Ji Tae

## Chapter 2

# Trends and Characteristics of Major Index Crimes

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Index crimes refer to those that convey and represent, at a glance, the overall aspects of crimes in a society. The agreement on which ones to be considered as index crimes may be different in time and location, but obviously severe crimes such as homicide or most common crimes as larceny are deemed to be major index crimes. In other words, index crimes are not based on absolute criteria and thus may include crimes significant enough to assess the crime level of a society. In this paper, index crimes have been selected based on the criteria established in the past and maintained as such. Hence, the major index crimes to be discussed in this chapter include six types of crime: homicide, robbery, arson, larceny, sexual violence, and assault and injury, as in any other years.

The references for this chapter were limited to the *Korean Police Crime Statistics* of the Korean National Police Agency and the *Crime Analysis* of the Supreme Prosecutors' Office since both contain most of the information on the statistics of crime occurrences<sup>11)</sup>. These two statistics are collected in similar ways and *Crime Analysis* is comprised of over 95% of the *Korean Police Crime Statistics* data (for cases that went through the investigation procedure by the Police), supplementing the rest with the Prosecution data (for cases that were directly investigated by the Prosecution). Major index crimes dealt with in this

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11) The term 'occurrence' used in the official crime statistics refers only to the 'crimes known to the judicial authorities.' Thus, the term does not include occurrences of crimes not detected by the police or the prosecution (hidden crimes).

Chapter have relatively small differences between the two data (KNPA's *Korean Police Crime Statistics* and SPO's *Crime Analysis*) since most of these crimes are investigated by both the Police and the Prosecution.<sup>12)</sup>

The following [Table 1-2-1] presents the supplementary data to sum up the trend and characteristics of the major index crimes for the last ten years.

▶▶▶ [Table 1-2-1] Number and Rate of Occurrences of All Crimes/Criminal Offences and the Estimated Population in the Last Ten Years

Year	All crimes		Criminal offences		Projected Population of the Statistics of Korea
	Numbers	Crime rate <sup>①</sup>	Numbers	Crime rate <sup>①</sup>	
2009	2,168,185	4,397	998,594	2,025	49,307,835
2010	1,917,300	3,869	943,585	1,904	49,554,112
2011	1,902,720	3,810	1,000,849	2,004	49,936,638
2012	1,934,410	3,853	1,037,166	2,066	50,199,853
2013	1,996,389	3,959	1,056,704	2,095	50,428,893
2014	1,933,835	3,811	1,016,209	2,003	50,746,659
2015	2,020,731	3,961	1,047,761	2,054	51,014,947
2016	2,008,290	3,921 <sup>②</sup>	1,005,689	1,964 <sup>②</sup>	51,217,803 <sup>②</sup>
2017	1,824,876	3,553 <sup>②</sup>	958,865	1,867 <sup>②</sup>	51,361,911 <sup>②</sup>
2018	1,738,190	3,368	988,398	1,915	51,606,633

① Crime rate: Number of crimes occurred per 100,000 population (Calculation formula: Number of crimes ÷ Estimated population × 100,000)

② Figures different from the last year's report: The details of the *Projected Population: 2017-2067*, documented in 2019 based on the 2017 Population Census, have been reflected in this year's report (Statistics Korea, 2019, *Report on the Projected Population Statistics Data*, p11).

※ Source: Supreme Prosecutors' Office. *Crime Analysis 2019*, Crime Overview. Official website of the Statistics Korea. Data combined and reproduced.

※ Note: The Crime rates in the above table are recalculations based on the projected population of the Statistics Korea, and are more or less different from the crime rates specified in the *Crime Analysis* (calculated based on the resident registration statistics of the Ministry of Interior and Safety). The same is applied to the tables hereafter.

In the table above, the figures regarding all crimes and criminal offences are used for calculating the percentage of each index crime in the entire crimes

12) For reference, crimes such as offering/accepting bribes relatively investigated more by the prosecution in many cases without going through the police. Accordingly, there is a huge difference between the *Korean Police Crime Statistics* of the KNPA(Korean National Police Agency) and the *Crime Analysis* of the Supreme Prosecutors' Office (SPO) in general.

and criminal offences, and the projected population of Statistics Korea are for calculating the number of crimes per 100,000 population (or crime rate). For reference, the crime rate in *Crime Analysis* is calculated based on the resident registration statistics of the Ministry of Interior and Safety. Although it is regarded that the projected population is more adequate for calculating the crime rate than the resident registration statistics of the Ministry of Interior and Safety, as the former is based on the Population Census whereas the latter includes registered residents living overseas, the rates calculated using either the projected population or the resident registration statistics are similar to each other. Therefore, the crime rates are not deemed to impact the assessment of the overall tendency.

## Section 1 | Trend and Characteristics of Homicides

Homicide in the official crime statistics of Korea includes murder, parricide, infanticide, murder upon request or with consent, instigating or aiding and abetting suicide, murder upon obtaining another's request or consent through fraudulent means or by the threat of force under the Criminal Act; homicide in retaliation under the Act on Aggravated Punishment, etc. of Specific Crimes; and relevant attempts, preparations or conspiracies. Crimes inflicting death through negligence or death resulting from bodily injury are not included here but in a different category. Murder by robbery and killing another by rape are excluded from the homicide statistics; the former is classified as robbery and the latter as rape.

The ten-year trend of homicides in the SPO's *Crime Analysis* has been put into the [Table 1-2-2] below.

▶▶▶ [Table 1-2-2] Annual Number and Rate of Homicides (2009-2018)(SPO data)

Year	Homicide		Homicide rate in all crimes	
	Number of crimes	Crime rate①	Against all crimes	Against criminal offences
2009	1,390	2.8	0.064%	0.139%
2010	1,262	2.5	0.066%	0.134%
2011	1,221	2.4	0.064%	0.122%
2012	1,022	2.0	0.053%	0.099%
2013	959	1.9	0.048%	0.091%
2014	938	1.8	0.049%	0.092%
2015	958	1.9	0.047%	0.091%
2016	948	1.9②	0.047%	0.094%
2017	858	1.7	0.047%	0.089%
2018	849	1.6	0.049%	0.086%

① Crime rate: Number of crimes occurred per 100,000 population (Calculated based on the projected population of the Statistics Korea)

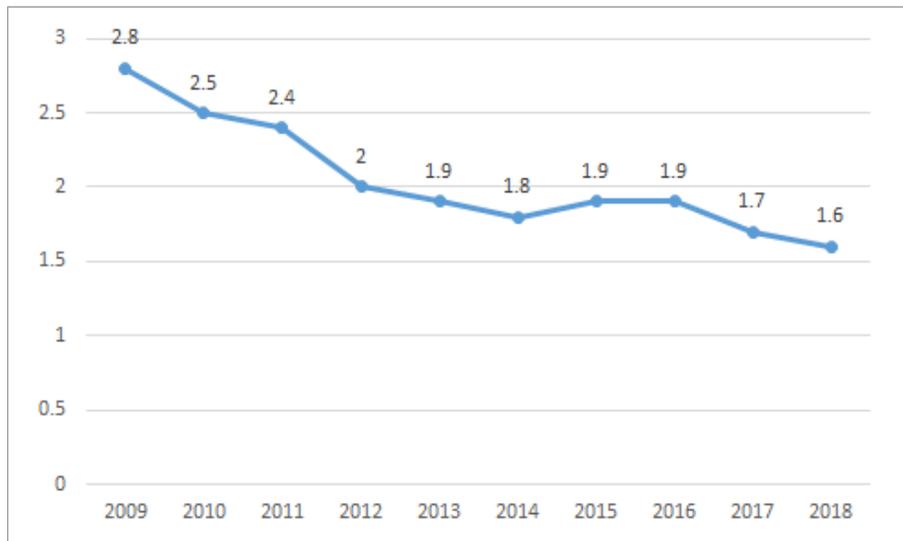
② Figures different from the last year's report (1.8→1.9): Reflects the revised projected population of the Statistics Korea in 2019.

※ Source: Supreme Prosecutors' Office, *Crime Analysis 2019*, Crime overview and other data such as the projected population combined and reproduced

The number and rate (number of crimes per 100,000 population) of homicide in the SPO's *Crime Analysis* can be split into a period of former 4 years from 2009 to 2012 and a latter period from 2013 to 2018. They are easily distinguishable as the number of crimes were over 1,000 and the rate over 2.0 cases during the first period while they were both under 1,000 and 2.0, respectively, in the second period.

The number and rate of homicide, considering the population changes, has been showing a slow but distinctive decline until recently. The latest statistics of 2018 was a record low in the last ten years both in terms of the number (849 cases) and rate (1.6 cases per 100,00 population). The following graph depicts the general homicide trend over the last ten years.

»» [Figure 1-2-1] Trend of the Homicide (including attempts) Rate for the Last Ten Years (SPO data)



[Table 1-2-3] is the annual trend of the consummated and attempted (attempts, preparation or conspiracy) homicides in the KNPA’s *Korean Crime Statistics*. Since the police initially released the statistics of the consummated and attempted homicides separately, this publication has cited the police statistics for years. However, the SPO’s *Crime Analysis* also has started to provide separate statistics for consummated and attempted homicides recently, and the figures are indicated together in the brackets. The relative proportion of consummated homicides to attempted homicides was roughly similar at around 4 to 6 each year, regardless of the statistics used.

The police statistics for all homicides are similar to, but smaller than the figures in the SPO’s *Crime Analysis* as some homicides are directly investigated by the prosecution. As per consummated homicides, however, the figures are lower in the prosecution statistics than the police statistics every year. According to the police statistics of consummated homicides, the ten-year trend showed that the number of the crimes constantly came down each year from 2009 to 2013, briefly

went up in 2014 to 373 cases (crime rate 0.74) but turned downward again from 2015. Most recently in 2018, however, the figure slightly grew to 309 cases (crime rate 0.60) compared to the previous year.

» [Table 1-2-3] Trend of Consummated/Attempted Homicides, KPNA data (Figures in ( ) are based on the SPO data)

Year	All homicides	Consummated homicides			Attempted homicides, etc.		
	Number of crimes①	Number of crimes	Percentage	Crime rate	Number of crimes	Percentage	Crime rate
2009	1,374 (1,390)	494 (477)	36.0%	1.00	880 (913)	64.0%	1.78
2010	1,252 (1,262)	453 (438)	36.2%	0.91	799 (824)	63.8%	1.61
2011	1,204 (1,221)	427 (410)	35.5%	0.86	777 (811)	64.5%	1.56
2012	995 (1,022)	411 (402)	41.3%	0.82	584 (620)	58.7%	1.16
2013	930 (959)	343 (348)	36.9%	0.68	587 (611)	63.1%	1.16
2014	914 (938)	373 (366)	40.8%	0.74	541 (572)	59.2%	1.07
2015	929 (958)	365 (359)	39.3%	0.72	564 (599)	60.7%	1.11
2016	914 (948)	356 (344)	38.9%	0.70②	558 (604)	61.1%	1.09
2017	825 (858)	301 (287)	36.5%	0.59	524 (571)	63.5%	1.02
2018	797 (849)	309 (326)	38.8%	0.60	488 (523)	61.2%	0.95

① The police statistics are slightly lower than that of the prosecution (figures in the bracket) since there are cases directly handled by the prosecution without going through police investigation.

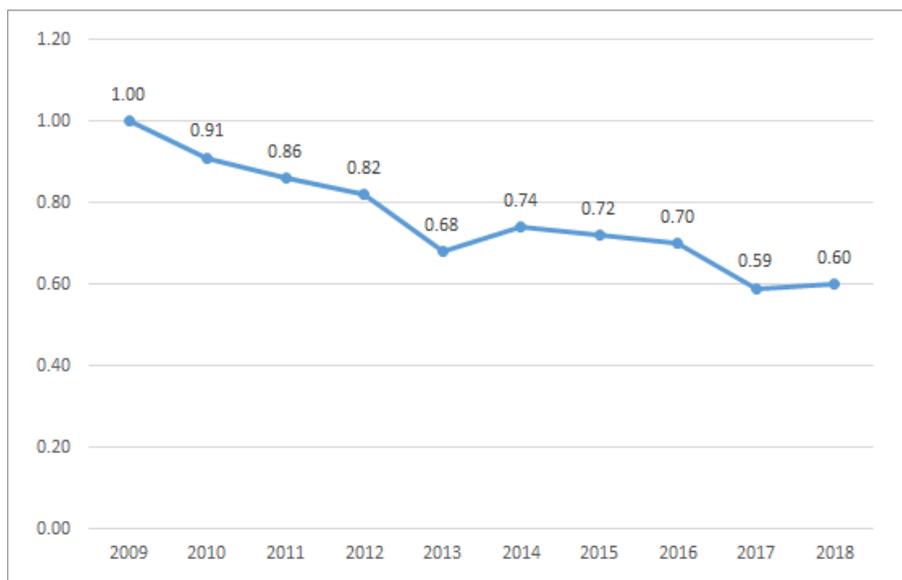
② Figures different from the last year's report (0.69→0.70): Reflects the revised projected population of the Statistics Korea in 2019.

※ Source: Korean National Police Agency. Contents regarding the trend of major index crimes in *Crime Statistics 2018*. The statistics in ( ) are cited from *Crime Analysis* of the Supreme Prosecutors' Office.

Nevertheless, the consummated homicides tended to decrease over the ten years slowly but distinctively, alike the trend of homicide in general. Such tendency can be deemed to be almost similar to the trend of consummated homicides in the

SPO statistics although there are some differences in the figures.

▶▶▶ [Figure 1-2-2] Trend of Consummated Homicide Rate for the Last Ten Years (KNPA data)



In order to examine several characteristics of homicide, the detailed classification of homicides in the 2018 police statistics (*Korean Crime Statistics*) is cited in [Table 1-2-4].

The table reveals that the percentage of infanticide (Criminal Act Article 251), parricide (Criminal Act Article 250 (2)) or murder upon request or with consent (Criminal Act Article 252) were relatively low and most homicides fell under the Criminal Act Article 250 (1) (Murder) (total 797 cases; 309 consummated, 488 attempted).

The percentage of homicides under Article 250 (1) represents 83.9% ( $(226+443)/797 \times 100$ ) of the total. The moderate drop from 89% of the previous year was due to the relative increase in parricide, instigating or aiding and abetting suicides. Parricide (total 70 cases; 44 consummated, 26 attempted) occupied 8.8% (5.8% in 2017), and instigating or aiding and abetting suicide (total 46 cases,

30 consummated, 16 attempted) were 5.8% (4.1% in 2017). The annual differences were not apparent because homicides falling under Article 250 (1) formed absolute majority (89.3% in 2015, 88.5% in 2016, 89.0% in 2017). In 2018, homicides under Article 250 (1) saw a considerable decrease (83.9%) from the relative rise in infanticides and parricides. While the fall is regarded a temporary status in 2018, not a declining trend, it is necessary to look into the progress going forward.

»» [Table 1-2-4] Overview of the Characteristics of Homicides in 2018 (KNPA data)

Detailed classification of homicides		Number of cases	Number of arrests	Arrests against occurrences	Number of people arrested			
					Subtotal	Male	Female	Unidentified
Consummated	Murder	226	217	96.0	269	218	49	2
	Infanticide	7	7	100.0	6	-	6	-
	Parricide	44	43	97.7	46	43	3	-
	Murder upon request or with consent	1	1	100.0	1	1	-	-
	Instigating or aiding and abetting suicide	30	29	96.7	35	26	9	-
	Murder upon obtaining another's request or consent through fraudulent means or by the threat of force	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Cases falling under the Act on Aggravated Punishment, etc. of Specific Crimes (homicide in retaliation)	1	1	100.0	1	1	-	-
Total		309	298	96.4	358	289	67	2
Attempted, etc.	Murder	443	440	99.3	461	395	61	5
	Infanticide	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Parricide	26	26	100.0	28	23	5	-
	Murder upon request or with consent	2	2	100.0	5	3	2	-
	Instigating or aiding and abetting suicide	16	15	93.8	30	16	13	1
	Murder upon obtaining another's request or consent through fraudulent means or by the threat of force	1	1	100.0	1	1	-	-
Total		488	484	99.2	525	438	81	6

※ Source: KNPC, *Crime Statistics 2018*

The gender of the people arrested for homicide consisted of 727 men (82.3%), 148 women (16.8%) and 8 unidentified (0.9%) in the total of 883 arrested (358 consummations, 525 attempts). For reference, the gender rate was 84.1% for men, 14.8% women, 1.1% unidentified in 2017, and 85.5% for men, 14.2% women and 0.3% unidentified in 2016. The rates signify that the percentage of female offenders went up moderately compared to the past.

Meanwhile, the percentage of women in consummated homicides was 18.7% (67 out of 358 offenders) and attempted homicides was 15.4% (81 out of 525) respectively, representing that the gender difference in consummated or attempted homicides reduced from the previous year. Homicides consummated by women was 20.3% and attempted homicides was 11.3% in 2017, and the same rates marked 21.2% and 9.8% in 2016, respectively.

## Section 2 | Trend and Characteristics of Arson

The scope of arson in both the SPO's *Crime Analysis* and the KNPA's *Korean Crime Statistics* include setting fire to present living building, etc; setting fire to public structures; setting fire to other or personal structures; setting fire to general or personal goods; spread of fire; obstruction to fire-fighting; bodily injury or death from arson; and attempt, preparation or conspiracy of each corresponding provision. The below [Table 1-2-5] shows the official statistics of arson for the last ten years, along with the statistics of fire caused by negligence, for reference.

▶▶▶ [Table 1-2-5] Annual Number and Rate of Arson (SPO data)

Year	Arson		Percentage of arson in all crimes		Reference statistics 1 Fire caused by negligence		Reference statistics 2 Arson+Fire caused by negligence	
	Number of crimes	Crime rate*	Against all crimes	Against criminal offences	Number of crimes	Crime rate*	Number of crimes	Crime rate*
2009	1,866	3.8	0.086%	0.188%	1,889	3.8	3,755	7.6
2010	1,886	3.8	0.098%	0.201%	2,072	4.2	3,958	8.0
2011	1,972	3.9	0.104%	0.198%	2,696	5.4	4,668	9.3
2012	1,897	3.8	0.098%	0.183%	2,437	4.9	4,334	8.6
2013	1,744	3.5	0.087%	0.165%	2,266	4.5	4,010	8.0
2014	1,707	3.4	0.088%	0.168%	2,070	4.1	3,777	7.4
2015	1,646	3.2	0.081%	0.157%	2,134	4.2	3,780	7.4
2016	1,477	2.9	0.074%	0.147%	2,054	4.0	3,531	6.9
2017	1,358	2.6	0.074%	0.142%	2,351	4.6	3,709	7.2
2018	1,478	2.9	0.085%	0.150%	2,409	4.7	3,887	7.5

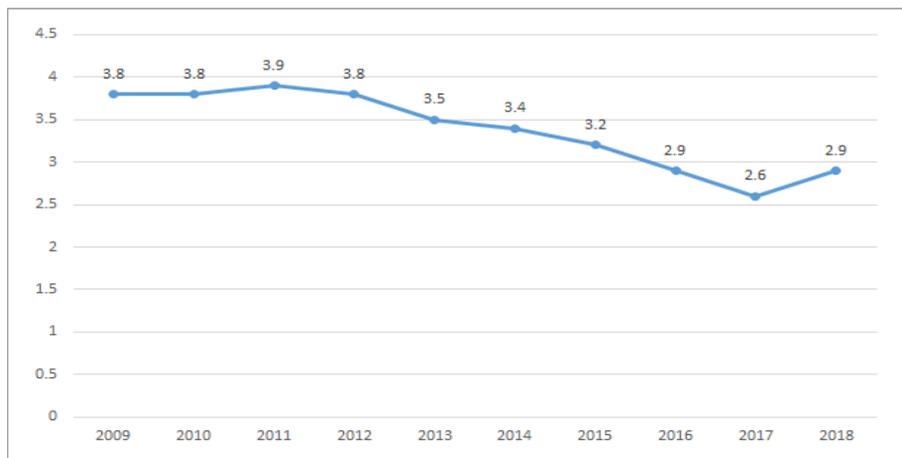
\* Crime rate: Number of crimes occurred per 100,000 population (calculated based on projected population of the Statistics Korea)

※ Source: Supreme Prosecutors' Office. *Crime Analysis* published each year, Reproduced.

The number and rate (number of crimes per 100,000 population) of arson seemed to be on a slowly decreasing trend for the last ten years except 2018. The figure never increased even for once since its number of 3.9 cases per 100,000 population in 2011 and the following declines at 3.8 cases in 2012, 3.5 in 2013, 3.4 in 2014, 3.2 in 2015, 2.9 in 2016 and 2.6 in 2017, until it rebounded in 2018 to 2.9 cases.

In the case of fire caused by negligence, the tendency was similar to arson until 2016 but has been growing each year for the last three years. Although arson and fire caused by negligence are two different crimes in principle, it is also possible to assume that there may not be a clear distinction between intentional arson and fire caused by negligence if the number of the two crimes are almost similar to each other. However, that might not be the case after looking at the trend of the last three years.

»» [Figure 1-2-3] Trend of Arson Rate (estimated based on the SPO data)



The following [Table 1-2-6] is the number of physically harmed victims (number of people injured or died) from arson in the last ten years.

The figure and rate of the victims physically injured from arson in all arson crimes are seemd to be on a steady level in general despite the recent subtly decreasing trend, especially in the years from 2014 to 2018.

»» [Table 1-2-6] Number and Rate of People Injured or Died from Arson based on the Number of Crimes (SPO data)

Year	(A) Number of arsons	Bodily injury caused by arson (number of people)			Rate of physical harm (B+C)/A×100
		(B)Injury	(C)Death	B + C	
2009	1,866	48	21	69	3.7
2010	1,886	48	11	59	3.1
2011	1,972	14	28	42	2.1
2012	1,897	79	7	86	4.5
2013	1,744	106	25	131	7.5
2014	1,707	46	14	60	3.5
2015	1,646	46	15	61	3.7
2016	1,477	41	16	57	3.9
2017	1,358	32*	13*	45*	3.3*
2018	1,478	30	18	48	3.2

\* Figures different from the last year's report (2017 figures have been revised; injuries (B) 22→32, deaths (C) 12→13, sum (B+C) 34→45, rate 2.5%→3.3%): Data input errors occurred last year.

※ Source: Supreme Prosecutors' Office. Crime Analysis (Status of bodily harms) published each year, Reproduced.

### Section 3 | Trend and Characteristics of Robbery

The scope of robbery in the official crime statistics of Korea includes robbery, special robbery, quasi-robbery, quasi-special robbery, robbery by hostage, piracy, bodily injury resulting from robbery, murder, etc. by robbery and robbery, and rape under the Criminal Act; and attempts, preparations or conspiracies corresponding to each of the crime. In addition, robbery crimes falling under the provisions of the Act on Aggravated Punishment, etc. of Specific Crimes are included.

The below [Table 1-2-7] shows the number and rate of robberies in the official crime statistics of Korea for the last ten years.

The crime rate of robberies represents a clear tendency of falling in general. The percentage of robbery in all crimes and criminal offences has been decreasing as well. In particular, the 2018 statistics of robberies (841 cases, 1.6 cases per 100,000 population) was the lowest in the last ten years and even reached an all-time low (lower than the crime rate of 2.4 cases in 1973).

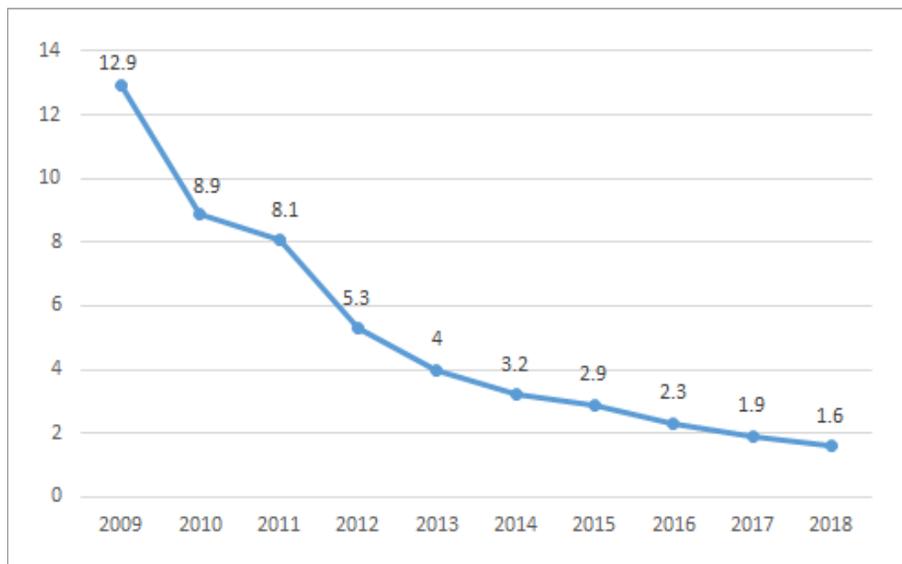
»» [Table 1-2-7] Annual Number and Rate of Robberies (SPO data)

Year	Robbery		Percentage of robbery in all crimes (%)	
	Number of crimes	Crime rate*	Against all crimes	Against criminal offences
2009	6,379	12.9	0.29%	0.64%
2010	4,395	8.9	0.23%	0.47%
2011	4,021	8.1	0.21%	0.40%
2012	2,643	5.3	0.14%	0.25%
2013	2,013	4.0	0.10%	0.19%
2014	1,618	3.2	0.08%	0.16%
2015	1,472	2.9	0.07%	0.14%
2016	1,181	2.3	0.06%	0.12%
2017	990	1.9	0.05%	0.10%
2018	841	1.6	0.05%	0.09%

\* Crime rate: Number of crimes per 100,000 population (recalculated based on the projected population of the Statistics Korea)

※ Source: Supreme Prosecutors' Office. *Crime Analysis* published each year, Reproduced.

»» [Figure 1-2-4] Trend of Robbery Rate (estimated based on the SPO data)



[Table 1-2-8] is the trend of robberies for each type of robberies, classified based on the robbery methods. The types in the table below are divided only into three large categories of break-in robbery, street robbery, and others<sup>13)</sup> (all other types of robbery).

According to the table, all of the three robbery types have been reducing as time goes by. Break-ins reduced from 4.3 cases per 100,000 population in 2009 to 0.7 cases in 2018, street robberies from 2.2 in 2009 to 0.2 in 2018 and other types from 6.5 in 2009 to 0.8 in 2018. Street robberies dropped the most among the three types.

13) Note that 'other' robberies in this table refers to all types of robberies other than break-in and street robberies, not 'other' robberies specified in the SPO's *Crime Analysis*.

▶▶▶ [Table 1-2-8] Trend of Robberies by Method (SPO data)

Year	Number of robberies (A)	Break-in robbery			Street robbery			Other robbery <sup>②</sup>		
		Number of Crimes (B)	Percentage B/A×100 (%)	Crime rate <sup>①</sup>	Number of Crimes (C)	Percentage C/A×100 (%)	Crime rate <sup>①</sup>	Number of Crimes (D)	Percentage D/A×100 (%)	Crime rate <sup>①</sup>
2009	6,379	2,127	33.3%	4.3	1068	16.7%	2.2	3,184	49.9%	6.5
2010	4,394	1,391	31.7%	2.8	803	18.3%	1.6	2,200	50.1%	4.4
2011	4,021	1,298	32.3%	2.6	684	17.0%	1.4	2,039	50.7%	4.1
2012	2,404	998	41.5%	2.0	479	19.9%	1.0	927	38.6%	1.8
2013	1,826	808	44.2%	1.6	285	15.6%	0.6	733	40.1%	1.5
2014	1,618	682	42.2%	1.3	226	14.0%	0.4	710	43.9%	1.4
2015	1,472	593	40.3%	1.2	185	12.6%	0.4	694	47.1%	1.4
2016	1,181	469	39.7%	0.9	158	13.4%	0.3	554	46.9%	1.1
2017	990	413	41.7%	0.8	105	10.6%	0.2	472	47.7%	0.9
2018	841	349	41.5%	0.7	98	11.7%	0.2	394	46.8%	0.8

① Crime rate: Number of crimes per 100,000 population (recalculated based on the projected population of the Statistics Korea)

② All robberies other than break-in and street robberies (including the unidentified)

※ Source: Supreme Prosecutors' Office. *Crime Analysis* published each year, Reproduced.

The relative percentage of the three types of robbery was 33.3% for break-ins, 16.7% for street robberies and 49.9% for other types in 2009. The figures changed ten years later in 2018 to 41.5% for break-ins, 11.7% for street robberies and 46.8% for other types. The changes convey that the relative percentage of street robberies significantly declined while it increased for break-ins.

## Section 4 | Trend and Characteristics of Larceny

Larcenies, the most conventional type of crime with many hidden crimes, in the official crime statistics of Korea include larceny, compound larceny, special larceny and unlawful use of automobile · ship, etc. under the Criminal Act; and larceny stipulated in the provisions of the Act on Aggravated Punishment, etc. of Specific Crimes.

In [Table 1-2-9], larceny steadily increased from 2009 to 2012 but has been falling after reaching a high in 2012 (293,074 cases in total, 583.8 cases per 100,000 population).

▶▶ [Table 1-2-9] Number and Rate of Larcenies (SPO data)

Year	Larceny		Percentage of larceny in all crimes (%)		Reference statistics: Stolen property	
	Number of crimes	Crime rate <sup>①</sup>	Against all crimes	Against criminal offences	Number of crimes	Crime rate <sup>①</sup>
2009	256,680	520.6	11.8%	25.8%	3,381	6.9
2010	268,007	540.8	14.0%	28.5%	3,206	6.5
2011	281,561	563.8	14.8%	28.2%	2,606	5.2
2012	293,074	583.8	15.1%	28.2%	3,856	7.7
2013	290,841	576.7	14.5%	27.5%	6,491	12.9
2014	266,784	525.7	13.8%	26.3%	3,668	7.2
2015	246,424	483.0	12.2%	23.5%	4,263	8.4
2016	203,573	397.5 <sup>②</sup>	10.1%	20.2%	2,086	4.1
2017	184,355	358.9 <sup>②</sup>	10.1%	19.2%	1,934	3.8
2018	177,458	343.9	10.2%	18.0%	965	1.9

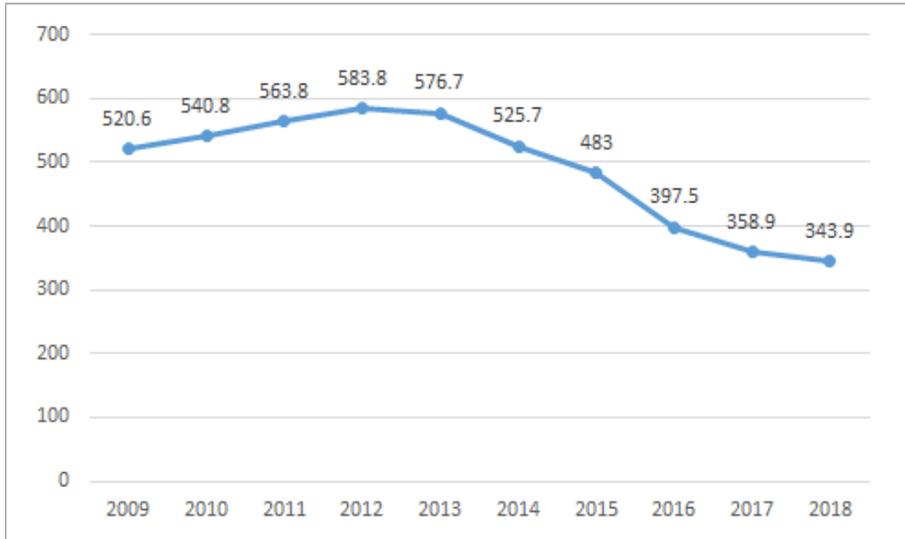
① Crime rate: Number of crimes per 100,000 population (recalculated based on the projected population of the Statistics Korea)

② Figures different from the last year's report (2016 crime rate revised from 397.2→397.5, 2017 crime rate revised from 358.3→358.9): Reflected the changes of the revisions in the 2019 projected population of the Statistics Korea.

※ Source: Supreme Prosecutors' Office. *Crime Analysis* published each year, Reproduced.

The most recent statistics of the number of crimes (177,458 cases) and crime rate (343.9 cases per 100,000 population) were all time lows over the last ten years. The trend of larcenies in the last ten years is depicted in the following graph.

»» [Figure 1-2-5] Trend of Larceny Rate (estimated based on the SPO data)



The reference statistics of stolen property crimes in [Table 1-2-9] show that they also have been decreasing alongside larceny crimes for the recent five years, although the figures are not always proportional to larcenies despite the strong correlation between the two crimes.

The changes in the percentage of larcenies in all crimes and criminal offences have a similar tendency with the number of larcenies, i.e. after its peak in 2012 (15.1% against all crimes, 28.2% against criminal offences), the percentage kept falling in the following years from 2013 to 2018 (10.2% against all crimes, 18.0% against criminal offences).

[Table 1-2-10] below shows the trend of each type of larcenies, classified based on the larceny methods.

The table was simplified by classifying larceny crimes into two large categories based on the larceny methods, for a better understanding. To be specific, break-ins, pick-pocketing, snatching, shoplifting, motor vehicle theft and theft by deception were regrouped into the “typical larceny” category and compared with “other larceny.” According to the table, the percentage of “typical larceny”

remained at a similar level for several years after 2009, soared abruptly in 2012 but has been dropping again since 2013. After 2012, “typical larcenies” have been going down not only in the percentage but also in the absolute figures of the crime rate. The decline in the relative percentage of “typical larcenies” causes the increase in “other larcenies” since 2012. While the absolute figure of the crime rate of “other larcenies” grew from 2012 to 2014, it has been dropping from 2015 to the most recent year of 2018.

▶▶▶ [Table 1-2-10] Trend of Larcenies by Method (SPO data)

Year	Number of larcenies (A) ①	Typical larceny ②			Other larceny ③		
		Number of crimes (B)	Percentage B/A×100(%)	Crime rate ④	Number of crimes (C)	Percentage C/A×100(%)	Crime rate ④
2009	256,681	103,418	40.3%	209.7	153,263	59.7%	310.8
2010	267,994	99,393	37.1%	200.6	168,601	62.9%	340.2
2011	281,533	106,370	37.8%	213.0	175,163	62.2%	350.8
2012	274,660	129,001	47.0%	257.0	145,659	53.0%	290.2
2013	273,068	122,211	44.8%	242.3	150,857	55.2%	299.2
2014	260,550	96,862	37.2%	190.9	163,688	62.8%	322.6
2015	245,877	82,000	33.4%	160.7	163,877	66.6%	321.2
2016	203,093	62,427	30.7%	121.9⑤	140,666	69.3%	274.6⑤
2017	183,787	50,440	27.4%	98.2⑤	133,347	72.6%	259.6⑤
2018	176,832	47,169	26.7%	91.4	129,663	73.3%	251.3

① Number of larcenies excluding the unidentified cases.

② The sum of break-ins, pick-pocketing, snatching, shoplifting, motor vehicle theft and theft by deception

③ The figures under this category have been cited exactly from the ‘other category’ in *Crime Analysis* of the Supreme Prosecutors’ Office.

④ Crime rate: Number of crimes per 100,000 population (recalculated based on the projected population of the Statistics Korea)

⑤ Figures different from the last year’s report: Reflected the changes of the revisions in the 2019 projected population of the Statistics Korea.

※ Source: Supreme Prosecutors’ Office. *Crime Analysis* published each year, Reproduced.

## Section 5 | Trend and Characteristics of Sexual Violence

Among the index crimes, sexual violence trends are difficult to be properly identified merely through the official crime statistics because the overall process of analyzing the numbers of the official data is very tricky in this crime type. There are some factors that will constantly bring up the figures in the official crime statistics as represented in several example such as increased reporting of sex crimes, compared to the past when the rate was very low, and relevant laws have been consistently amended to expand the scope of punishable sexually violent acts. These factors are based on the assumption that there were many hidden crimes in the past. Therefore, the rise in the figures further implies that this has been a process of narrowing the gap between reported and unreported cases.

Sexual violence in this chapter includes rape, indecent act by compulsion, etc. under the Criminal Act; and sexual violence related crimes according to the provisions of the Act on Aggravated Punishment, etc. of Specific Crimes. The Criminal Act defines crimes concerning rape to include; rape (Article 297), imitative rape (Articles 297-2 and 299), indecent act by compulsion (Article 298), quasi-rape (Article 299), quasi-indecent act by compulsion (Article 299), inflicting or causing another's bodily injury by rape, etc. (Article 301), killing another or causing death of another by rape, etc. (Article 301-2), sexual intercourse with minor or feeble-minded person (Article 302), sexual intercourse with another under his/her protection, under supervision for his/her business or held in his/her custody (Article 303) and sexual intercourse with or indecent act to minor (Article 305). Moreover, the scope comprises: special rape, special quasi-rape, special indecent act by compulsion, special quasi-indecent act by compulsion, rape by a person in consanguineous or marital relationship, quasi-rape by a person in consanguineous or marital relationship, indecent act by compulsion by a person

in consanguineous or marital relationship, quasi-indecent act by a person in consanguineous or marital relationship, rape of another with a physical or mental disability, imitative sexual act on another with a physical or mental disability, indecent act by compulsion on another with a physical or mental disability, indecent act by compulsion on another with a physical or mental disability through fraudulent means, rape of a minor under the age of 13, imitative sexual act on a minor under the age of 13, indecent acts through abuse of occupational authority, sexual intercourse with another with a physical or mental disability through fraudulent means, sexual intercourse with another with a physical or mental disability under his/her protection, sexual intercourse with a minor under the age of 13 through fraudulent means, etc. larceny and rape, intrusion upon habitation and rape, etc. quasi-rape of another with a physical or mental disability, etc., killing another by rape, etc., inflicting bodily injury of another by rape, etc., causing bodily injury of another by rape, etc. and causing death of another by rape, etc. in the provisions of the **“Act on Special Cases concerning the Punishment, etc. of Sexual Crimes”**; rape, pseudo-sexual intercourse, indecent act by force, indecent acts through fraudulent means, etc. indecent acts on another person with a physical or mental disability, sexual intercourse through fraudulent means, etc. sexual intercourse with another with a physical or mental disability, quasi-rape, killing another by rape, etc. inflicting bodily injury of another by rape, etc. causing bodily injury of another by rape, etc. and causing death of another by rape, etc. according to the provisions of the **“Act on Protection of Children and Youth against Sexual Offences”**; statutory rape, etc. on minors, rape etc. by a person in consanguineous or marital relationship, killing another by rape, etc. inflicting bodily injury of another by rape, etc. causing bodily injury of another by rape, etc. and causing death of another by rape, etc. as per the provision of the **“(former) Sexual Violence Prevention and Victims Protection Act”**; habitual rape, habitual indecent acts, habitual sexual-intercourse,

child abuse (rape) by person engaged in child welfare facilities under the “Act on Special Cases concerning the Punishment, etc. of Child Abuse Crimes.”

[Table 1-2-11] presents the annual number and rate of sexual violence and shows a consistently growing tendency in sexual violence for the last ten years.

»» [Table 1-2-11] Annual Number and Rate of Sexual Violence (SPO data)

Year	Number of sexual violence	Crime rate <sup>①</sup>	Percentage of sexual violence in all crimes	
			Against all crimes	Against criminal offences
2009	17,377 <sup>②</sup>	35.2 <sup>②</sup>	0.8%	1.7% <sup>②</sup>
2010	20,584 <sup>②</sup>	41.5 <sup>②</sup>	1.1% <sup>②</sup>	2.2% <sup>②</sup>
2011	22,168 <sup>②</sup>	44.4 <sup>②</sup>	1.2%	2.2%
2012	23,365 <sup>②</sup>	46.5 <sup>②</sup>	1.2% <sup>②</sup>	2.3% <sup>②</sup>
2013	29,090 <sup>②</sup>	57.7 <sup>②</sup>	1.5% <sup>②</sup>	2.8% <sup>②</sup>
2014	29,863	58.8	1.5%	2.9%
2015	31,063	60.9	1.5%	3.0%
2016	29,357	57.3	1.5%	2.9%
2017	32,824	63.9 <sup>③</sup>	1.8%	3.4%
2018	32,104	62.2	1.8%	3.2%

① Crime rate: Number of crimes per 100,000 population (recalculated based on the projected population of the Statistics Korea)

② Figures different from the last year's report1: Revised to coincide with the overview part of *Crime Analysis 2019*

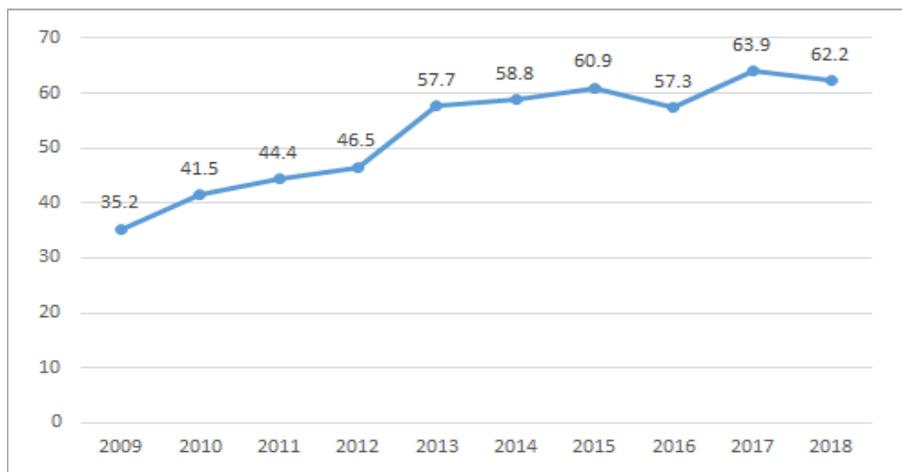
③ Figures different from the last year's report2: Reflected the changes of the revisions in the 2019 projected population of the Statistics Korea.

※ Source: Supreme Prosecutors' Office, *Crime Analysis 2019*, Crime overview combined and reproduced.

Sexual violence has been soaring as opposed to other types of violent crimes that are generally decreasing or sluggish recently, but such numerical increase should not be concluded as an actual increase in sexual violence. The interpretation of the figures should be made in consideration of various factors: the constant expansion of the scope of sexual violence through enactments and amendments to special laws related to sexual violence; the possible changes in reporting sexual violence from weakening traditional gender roles and improving women's rights; and the changing awareness of judicial authorities regarding sexual violence. As stated earlier in the section, these figures are based on the

assumption that there were many hidden crimes in the past, thus implying the recent narrowing gap between hidden and revealed crimes. Accordingly, it is necessary to examine the segmented types of sexual violence as in [Table 1-2-12] below.

»» [Figure 1-2-6] Trend of Sexual Violence Rate (estimated based on the SPO data)



»» [Table 1-2-12] Number and Rate of Main Types of Sexual Violence (SPO data)

Year	Rape/Rape, etc.①		Killing/Causing death of another Inflicting/Causing bodily injury of another by rape②		Indecent acts by impulsion		Taking photographs by using cameras		Indecent acts in crowded public places③	
	Number of crimes	Crime rate*	Number of crimes	Crime rate*	Number of crimes	Crime rate*	Number of crimes	Crime rate*	Number of crimes	Crime rate*
2009	6,629	13.4	1,562	3.2	6,178	12.5	834	1.7	934	1.9
2010	7,618	15.4	1,582	3.2	7,314	14.8	1,153	2.3	1,593	3.2
2011	7,631	15.3	1,491	3.0	8,535	17.1	1,565	3.1	1,750	3.5
2012	6,286	12.5	1,221	2.4	10,949	21.8	2,462	4.9	1,332	2.7
2013	6,545	13.0	1,116	2.2	13,236	26.2	4,903	9.7	1,517	3.0
2014	5,716	11.3	880	1.7	12,849	25.3	6,735	13.3	1,838	3.6
2015	5,557	10.9	855	1.7	13,266	26.0	7,730	15.2	1,901	3.7
2016	5,604	10.9	744	1.5	14,339	28.0	5,249	10.2	1,773	3.5
2017	5,699	11.1	723	1.4	15,981	31.1	6,615	12.9	2,085	4.1
2018	6,008	11.6	663	1.3	15,672	30.4	6,085	11.8	1,609	3.1

\* Crime rate: Number of crimes per 100,000 population (recalculated based on the projected population of the Statistics Korea)

- ① Cases where rape and indecent acts by compulsion cannot be distinguished using the code, 'Rape+Sexual Intercourse+Name of crime'
  - ② Killing/Causing death of another by rape, etc.+Inflicting/Causing bodily injury of another by rape, etc.
  - ③ Figures different from the last year's report: Wrong values (All-Four types mentioned earlier) were specified in the previous report.
- ※ Source: Source: Supreme Prosecutors' Office, *Crime Analysis 2019*, Crime overview combined and reproduced.

[Table 1-2-12] confirms that the crime types pushing up the figures of the overall sexual violence in the last ten years' crime statistics mostly were indecent acts by compulsion, taking photographs by using cameras and indecent acts in crowded public places. Among them, the growth of crimes related to taking photographs by using cameras was more steep than the other two. In contrast, rape decreased compared to ten years ago and has been staying at almost similar levels in the last ten years, and severe types of sexual violence as killing, causing death, inflicting or causing bodily injury of another by rape have been exhibiting a downward trend as well.

## Section 6 | Trend and Characteristics of Violent and Bodily Injury Crimes

The following [Table 1-2-13] is the statistics of the number and rate of violent and bodily injury crimes from 2009 up to recently.

▶▶▶ [Table 1-2-13] Annual Number and Rate of Violent and Bodily Injury Crimes

Year	Violent Crimes (A)	Bodily injury (B)	Violent·Bodily injury crimes		Percentage of violent crimes in all crimes	Percentage of violent crimes in criminal offences
			Number of crimes① (A+B)	Crime rate②		
2009	115,524	82,686	198,210	402.0	9.1	20.0
2010	109,580	70,785	180,365	364.0	9.4	19.2
2011	123,304	67,719	191,023	382.5	10.0	19.2
2012	128,110	63,242	191,352	381.2	9.8	18.4
2013	126,520	56,653	183,173	363.2	9.1	17.3
2014	146,625	65,840	212,465	418.7	11.0	20.9
2015	161,636	62,700	224,336	439.7	11.1	21.4
2016	172,071	55,761	227,832	444.8	11.3	22.7
2017	165,498	49,376	214,874	418.4	11.8	22.4
2018	164,500	43,666	208,166	403.4	12.0	21.1

① The number of crimes is the total of violence and bodily injuries. Violence and bodily injuries include corresponding crimes stipulated in the Punishment of the Violence, etc. Act.

② Number of crimes per 100,000 population (recalculated based on the projected population of the Statistics Korea)

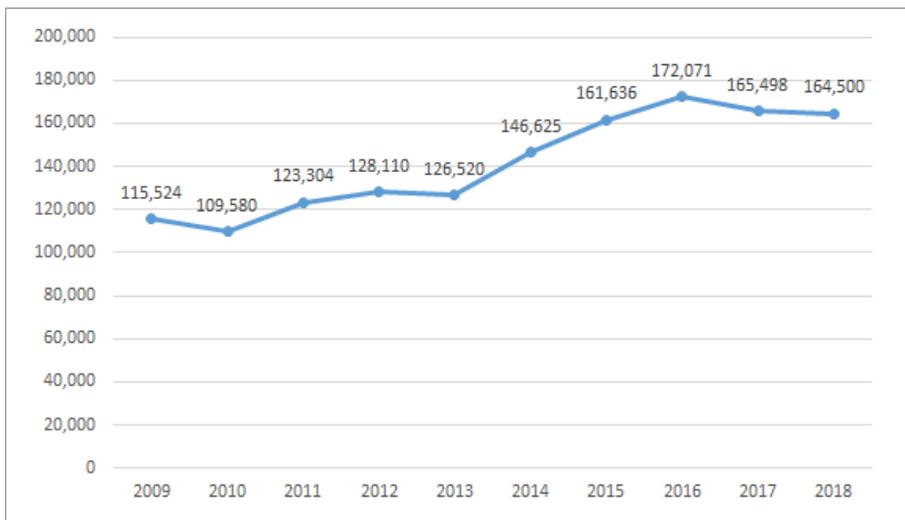
※ Source: Supreme Prosecutors' Office. *Crime Analysis* published each year, Reproduced.

For reference, violent and injury crimes defined in this chapter basically include violent and injury crimes of the criminal act and some parts of the Punishment of the Violence, etc. Act which is a special law. The scope of violent crimes in the criminal act includes violence, special violence, habitual violence, violence on a linear ascendent of the offender or his/her spouse, injury resulting from violence, death resulting from violence and death or injury of a linear ascendent of the offender or his/her spouse, violence, etc. used against drivers operating motor vehicles and retaliatory crime according to the Act on the Aggravated Punishment etc. of Specified Crimes. The scope of bodily injury crimes includes inflicting bodily injury, inflicting bodily injury on a linear ascendent of the offender or his/her spouse, death resulting from bodily injury and death of a linear ascendent of the offender or his/her spouse resulting from bodily injury, also under the Criminal Act. The recent definition further includes death or bodily injury resulting from child abuse and habitual abuse based on the Act on Special

Cases Concerning the Punishment etc. of Child Abuse Crimes.

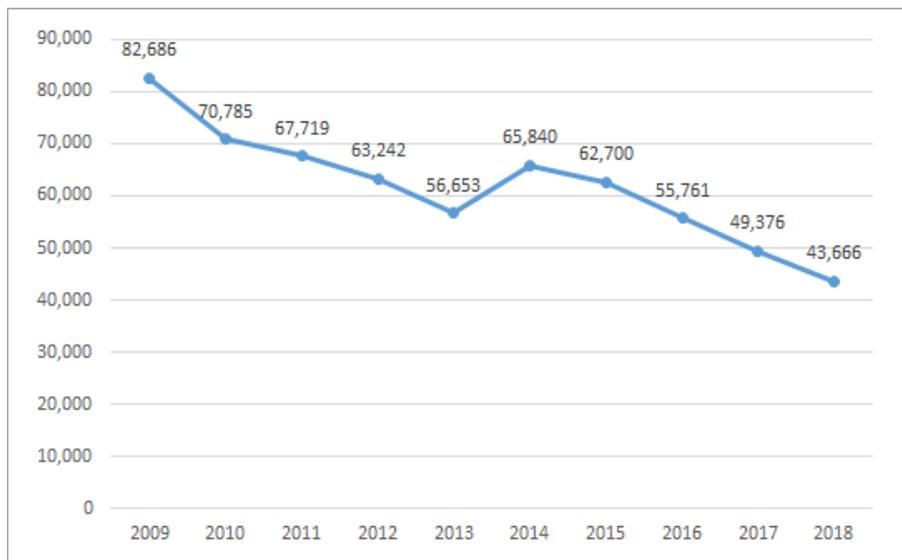
In [Table 1-2-13] above, violent crimes are on a constant rise while bodily injury crimes are gradually reducing. The tendency of both crimes together is close to an increasing trend as violent crimes make up a larger proportion of the two. Yet, both crimes went down for the last three years. An offender of violent crime may not be charged in case the victim does not want to punish the offender. As a consequence, it is possible for the violent crime graph to go up even if the actual number of violent crimes committed remains unchanged. A recent victim may prefer punishing offenders, which might not be the case in the past.

»» [Figure 1-2-7] Trend of Violent Crime Rate (estimated based on the SPO data)



Bodily injury crimes are different as the offender is charged automatically, if the case is known to the police, regardless of the victim's opinion. In this aspect, the statistics of bodily injury crimes may be more objective than that of violent crimes.

»» [Figure 1-2-8] Trend of Bodily Injury Crime Rate (estimated based on the SPO data)



The following [Table 1-2-14] is on the victim-offender relationship in violent bodily injury crimes (both violent and bodily injury crimes in total).

The table is a very simplified version of the data in the SPO’s *Crime Analysis*, combining and reclassifying the total 15 subcategories including friends, girl/boyfriends, relatives cohabiting, neighbors, strangers and others into just two large categories. Coworkers or neighbors, as well as those intimately related as families, friends or girl/boyfriends were all grouped into the “Acquainted relationship in any way” category, and strangers or other, unknown, and government or public official were all grouped into the “Unacquainted relationship” category.

According to the table, 23.2% of the victims and offenders knew each other while 76.8% did not in 2009 and the percentage was generally similar after ten years in 2018 at 25.7% for the former and 74.8% for the latter. The percentages differed in some years but the relative proportion was similar as a whole.

»» [Table 1-2-14] Reclassification of the Victim-Offender Relationship in Violent/Bodily Injury Crimes

Year	Victims of violence in total (number of people) <sup>①</sup>	Acquainted relationship in any way <sup>②</sup>	Unacquainted relationship <sup>③</sup>
2009	274,513 (100%)	63,688 (23.2%)	210,825 (76.8%)
2010	245,062 (100%)	55,220 (22.5%)	189,842 (77.5%)
2011	241,895 (100%)	49,082 (20.3%)	192,813 (79.7%)
2012	255,490 (100%)	57,097 (22.3%)	198,393 (77.7%)
2013	244,308 (100%)	53,882 (22.1%)	190,426 (77.9%)
2014	305,051 (100%)	66,143 (21.7%)	238,908 (78.3%)
2015	314,033 (100%)	76,882 (24.5%)	237,151 (75.5%)
2016	319,574 (100%)	80,486 (25.2%)	239,088 (74.8%)
2017	303,114 (100%)	74,619 (24.6%)	228,495 (75.4%)
2018	286,579 (100%)	73,615 (25.7%)	212,964 (74.3%)

① Total of violent crimes and bodily injury crimes.

② Total of friends, girl/boyfriends, relatives cohabiting, other relatives, employers, employees, coworkers, business partners, neighbors and other acquaintances.

③ Total of strangers, other, unknown, government and public officials.

※ Source: Supreme Prosecutors' Office. *Crime Analysis* published each year, Reproduced.

## Chapter 3

Crimes and Criminal Justice Policy in Korea (2019) : Crimes in Korea

# Trend and Characteristics of Crime Victimization

Kim, Minyoung

## Chapter 3

# Trend and Characteristics of Crime Victimization

This chapter examines the status and results of victimization by major crimes in Korea, based on the outcome of the biannual Korean Crime Victim Survey.<sup>14)</sup> The Korean Crime Victim Survey of the general public is conducted to 1) identify the accurate crime victimization rate (including unknown victimization rate); 2) clarify the vulnerability factors for crime victimization; and 3) understand the people's perception and attitude on crimes and public safety policies. The survey serves as the base data for establishing policies to prevent crimes and protect and support crime victims, as well as supplementing the limitations of the official crime related statistics.<sup>15)</sup>

The Korean Crime Victim Survey by the Korean Institute of Criminology (KIC) is performed consistently as in [Table 1-3-1] below. In 1990, a research project titled, 'Introduction to victimization survey' had been carried out and a test survey was conducted building on the project. This was eventually followed by a periodic national crime victimization survey, which commenced with the 'Survey on the

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14) The major details of the Korean crime victim survey below is a summary of the KIC research report, *Korean Crime Victim Survey in 2018* (2019, Kim, Minyoung, Han, Min-gyeong, Park, Heejung). In particular, the "Trend and Characteristics of Crime Victimization" in this chapter was put together based on Chapters 4 to 7, written by Professor Han, Min-gyeong of the Korean National Police University.

15) Kim, Junho, Shim, Younghee, Cho, Jeonghee (1991). *Introduction to Victimization Survey*, Korean Institute of Criminology;  
Kim, Eungyeong, Choi, Suhyeong, Park, Jeongseon (2009). *Korean Crime Victim Survey (VI)*, Korean Institute of Criminology; Kim, Jisun et al. (2017). *Crimes and Criminal Justice Policies in Korea* (2016). Recited.

nationwide crime victimization' in 1994. It was designated as the nationally approved statistics after a full review and revision of the questionnaires and survey method in 2009 and performed every two years since. As of 2019, six regular surveys have been conducted.<sup>16)</sup> The same survey details and methods have been used only from the 4<sup>th</sup> crime victim survey in 2015 as updates and supplementations were made in 2011 and 2013, in addition to the complete reform in 2009. Thus, the results of the surveys conducted after the 3<sup>rd</sup> crime victim survey (crime victimization as of 2012) were consolidated for each concerned year to look into the changes in the aspects of crime victimization in Korea.

»» [Table 1-3-1] History of the Korean Crime Victim Survey

- 
- 1990 'Introduction to victimization survey' research project
  - 1991 Survey of Seoul citizens' on crime victimization (test survey)
  - 1994 1<sup>st</sup> National Crime Victim Survey
  - 1997 2<sup>nd</sup> Korean Crime Victim Survey 1996
  - 1999 3<sup>rd</sup> Korean Crime Victim Survey 1998
  - 2001 International Crime Victims Survey 2000 – Korea
  - 2003 4<sup>th</sup> Korean Crime Victims Survey 2002
  - 2006 5<sup>th</sup> Korean Crime Victims Survey 2005
  - 2009 Revised 1<sup>st</sup> Nationwide Crime Victim Survey as of 2008
    - Complete reform of the survey method
    - Designated as Approved Statistics No. 40301
    - Special topic: Voice phishing/Identity theft
    - Collaborative survey with the Sponsored Survey Division of the Statistics Korea
    - Survey sample of 4,710 households
  - 2011 2<sup>nd</sup> Nationwide Crime Victim Survey as of 2010
    - Improved and supplemented the method used in the first survey after the 2009 reform
    - Collaborative survey with the Sponsored Survey Division of the Statistics Korea
    - Survey sample of 7,550 households
  - 2013 3<sup>rd</sup> National Survey on the Safety of People's Lives as of 2012
    - Improved and supplemented the method used in the second survey after the 2009 reform
    - Changed name of the nationally approved statistics survey
    - Collaborative survey with the Sponsored Survey Division of the Statistics Korea
    - Survey sample of 6,300 households
  - 2015 4<sup>th</sup> National Survey on the Safety of People's Lives as of 2014
    - Maintained the questionnaire and method of the third survey after the reform
    - Survey conducted and managed by a private firm specializing in social surveys
- 

16) See [Table2-1-1] and [Table2-1-2] in Chapter 2 of the *Korean Crime Victim Survey in 2018* for an overview of the survey details and methods of the previous nationwide crime victim surveys.

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- Survey sample of 6,960 households
  - 2017 5<sup>th</sup> National Survey on the Safety of People's Lives as of 2016
    - Maintained the questionnaire and method of the third survey after the reform
    - Special topic: Victimization by reckless/retaliatory driving
    - Survey conducted and managed by a private firm specializing in social surveys
    - Survey sample of 6,100 households
  - 2019 6<sup>th</sup> National Survey on the Safety of People's Lives as of 2018
    - Maintained the questionnaire and method of the third survey after the reform
    - Special topic: Voice phishing experience
    - Survey conducted and managed by a private firm specializing in social surveys
    - Survey sample of 6,704 households
- 

Source: Suhyeong Choi et al. (2017). *Korean Crime Victim Survey in 2016*. p. 2

The target population of the Korean Crime Victim Survey in 2018 was all households and household members aged 14 or older residing in areas within the territory of the Republic of Korea, subject to the country's administrative power at the time of the survey, identical to the previous survey. The survey population was all households and household members aged 14 or older residing in the general enumeration districts and the apartment enumeration districts for the 2017 Population and Housing Census. For sampling, the enumeration districts were selected by stratifying the nation into 27 levels considering the 17 Si and Do (squared proportional allocation), Dong/Eup, and Myeon (proportional allocation) and sorting out households through systematic sampling. The weight was specified considering the design weight, non-response adjusted weight, and post-stratification weight to precisely reflect the population estimation degree of the survey outcome and used in analyzing the results.<sup>17)</sup>

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17) See pp.62~72 in the *Korean Crime Victim Survey in 2018* for the details on sampling design, weights and estimations.

## Section 1 | Victimization Rate of Major Crimes

This sector looks into the crime victimizations that occurred in Korea from 2012 to 2018. The types of victimization in the Korean Crime Victim Survey were determined by judging the combination of the crime methods and details of victimization answered by the respondents, using the questionnaire revised in 2009. The findings could be classified largely into violence victimization (robbery, assault, sexual violence, bullying) and property victimization (larceny, fraud, breakage, break-in into residence). In order to guarantee the credibility of the statistics results, this paper classifies the crime victimization types into violence and property victimizations considering the relative standard error of each victimization type, and looks into the annual occurrence levels of crime victimization (Kim, Jisun et al. 2017: 83).

### 1. Number and Rate of Crime Victims

In the analyses of the annual number and rate of crime victims, the number of victims of all crimes refers to those who responded to have experienced one or more crimes in the basic questionnaire while the number of victims by crime type was analyzed based only on the respondents of the questionnaire. Therefore, there is a difference in the total number of victims of all crimes and the total number of victims by crime type.<sup>18)</sup>

As illustrated in the following [Table 1-3-2], the number of victims of all crimes

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18) The questionnaire of the Korean Crime Victim Survey is structured to fill in the basic questionnaire first and additionally fill in the case questionnaire in case the respondent answered to have experience in the crime victimization screening question in the basic questionnaire, and using the results to identify the detailed crime victimization type and investigate the details. As there are cases where respondents with experience in crime victimization in the basic questionnaire refused to fill in the case questionnaire, such cases were only included in analyzing the number and rate of the victims of all crimes.

who experienced either a violent crime or a property crime among the estimated population of 45,553,126 aged 14 or older in the year 2018 is estimated to be 1,653,877, increasing from 1,617,001 in 2016. Thus, it is estimated that 3.63% of the population aged 14 or older experienced crime victimization in 2018, which is a decrease in the rate of victims of all crimes at 3.98% of in 2012 but an increase from 2014 and 2016 (3.46%).<sup>19)</sup>

▶▶▶ [Table 1-3-2] Annual Number and Rate of Crime Victims

Classification			Year			
			2012	2014	2016	2018
All crimes	Number of victims (estimated)	Persons	1,709,632	1,524,293	1,617,001	1,653,877
	Victim rate (estimated)	(%)	(3.98)	(3.46)	(3.46)	(3.63)
Violent crimes	Number of victims (estimated)	Persons	295,121	144,374	169,109	245,873
	Victim rate (estimated)	(%)	(0.69)	(0.33)	(0.36)	(0.54)
Property crimes	Number of victims (estimated)	Persons	1,476,663	1,360,697	1,451,045	1,408,004
	Victim rate (estimated)	(%)	(3.44)	(3.09)	(3.11)	(3.09)

- Note: 1. The number and rate of the victims of all crimes are based on the responses of the basic questionnaire (including refusals to fill in the case questionnaire).  
 2. The number and rate of the victims of violent and property crimes are based on the responses of the basic questionnaire (excluding refusals to fill in the case questionnaire).  
 3. The number of victims refer to the number of those who experienced one or more crimes.  
 4. Crime victim rate (estimated)=Number of victims (estimated)/(Number of population aged 14 or older of the 2018 population and housing census)\*100  
 5. Source: Kim, Minyoung et al. (2019). *Korean Crime Victim Survey in 2018*, p. 130

19) The estimated population aged 14 or older for analyzing the nationwide crime victimization in Korea was 42,936,210 in 2012, 44,039,786 in 2014, 46,702,347 in 2016, and 45,553,126 in 2018. The estimated population from 2012 to 2016 was based on the 'projected population' announced by the Statistics Korea, whereas the estimated population in 2018 was used from the outcome of the 2018 population and housing census (as of November 1, 2018) since the aggregation method of the population and housing census, on which the population for this survey is built, changed to register-based census in 2015 with the outcome announced every year (Statistics Korea, 2018 population and housing census report register-based census results, Dated August 29, 2019, [https://www.kostat.go.kr/portal/korea/kor\\_nw/1/2/2/index.board?bmode=read&bSeq=&aSeq=377115&pageNo=1&rowNum=10&navCount=10&currPg=&searchInfo=&sTarget=title&sTxt=](https://www.kostat.go.kr/portal/korea/kor_nw/1/2/2/index.board?bmode=read&bSeq=&aSeq=377115&pageNo=1&rowNum=10&navCount=10&currPg=&searchInfo=&sTarget=title&sTxt=), last visit on May 19, 2020; Kim, Minyoung et al. 2019: 130 Recitation of footnote 21).

The number and rate of crime victims by crime types revealed that violent crimes in 2018 was higher than 2016 while property crimes remained at a similar level, suggesting that the slight growth in the number and rate of the victims of all crimes is due to the rise in the number and rate of the victims of violent crimes (Minyoung Kim et al. 2019: 131). Specifically, the number of the victims of violent crime climbed to 245,873 (victim rate 0.54%) in 2018 from 169,109 (0.36%) in 2016 whereas the number of victims of property crimes in 2018 was 1,408,004 (victim rate 3.09%), which is similar to 2016 at 1,451,045 (3.11%).

▶▶ [Table 1-3-3] Distribution of the Number of Crimes experienced by one Victim by Crime Type

Classification		Year							
		2012		2014		2016		2018	
		Violent crimes	Property crimes						
Having experienced 1 incident	Persons	211,936	1,302,262	120,335	1,281,040	153,951	1,425,435	241,328	1,394,415
	%	(71.81)	(88.19)	(83.35)	(94.15)	(91.04)	(98.24)	(98.15)	(99.03)
Poly-victims having experienced 2 incidents	Persons	55,360	126,974	16,381	56,381	13,626	21,858	4,545	9,938
	%	(18.76)	(8.60)	(11.35)	(4.14)	(8.06)	(1.51)	(1.85)	(0.71)
Poly-victims having experienced 3 incidents	Persons	20,286	33,631	3,788	17,786	1,532	1,532	-	3,652
	%	(6.87)	(2.28)	(2.62)	(1.31)	(0.91)	(0.11)	-	(0.26)
Poly-victims having experienced 4 incidents	Persons	3,515	9,772	-	1,621	-	2,220	-	-
	%	(1.19)	(0.66)	-	(0.12)	-	(0.15)	-	-
Poly-victims having experienced 5 or more incidents	Persons	4,024	4,024	3,871	3,871	-	-	-	-
	%	(1.36)	(0.27)	(2.68)	(0.28)	-	-	-	-
Total	Persons	295,121	1,476,663	144,374	1,360,697	169,109	1,451,045	245,873	1,408,005
	%	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)

Source: Kim, Minyoung et al. (2019). *Korean Crime Victim Survey in 2018*, p.137

The [Table 1-3-3] is the distribution of the number of crimes experienced by a victim for each crime type. The rate of victims who experienced one incident in both the violent and property crimes tended to increase from 2012. Meanwhile,

the rate of victims experiencing two or more crimes<sup>20)</sup> went down constantly. The rate of poly-victims, or victims with two or more incidents, sharply declined from 28.18% in 2012, 16.65% in 2014, 8.97% in 2016 to 1.85% in 2018. Victimization of property crimes also fell dramatically from 11.81% in 2012, 5.85% in 2014, 1.77% in 2016 to 0.97% in 2018. The comparison of the poly-victim rate by crime types conveyed a continuous tendency of high rates of poly-victims of violent crimes, more than twice the rates in property crimes (Kim, Minyoung et al. 2019: 136).

## 2. Number and Rate of Crime Victimization

[Table 1-3-4] exhibits the analysis results of the annual crime victimization rates based on the number of crime victimizations. As of 2018, the total number of crime victimization was estimated at 1,675,662 cases and the victimization rate at 3.68% of the 2018 population aged 14 or older of 45,553,162. The total crime victimization rate has constantly reduced since 2012 (4.60% in 2012, 3.74% in 2014, 3.56% in 2016), only marginally increasing to 3.68% in 2018.

In terms of crime victimization types, both the number of victimizations and victimization rates of the population aged 14 or older decreased from 2012 to 2014 but rose again since 2016 for violent crimes. In the case of property crimes, the number of victimizations repeated fluctuation and was estimated at 1,417,708 cases in 2018 and the victimization rate of the population aged 14 or older dropped since 2012 to 3.11% in 2018.

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20) Total of the poly-victims experienced with 2 crimes, 3 crimes, 4 crimes and with 5 or more crimes.

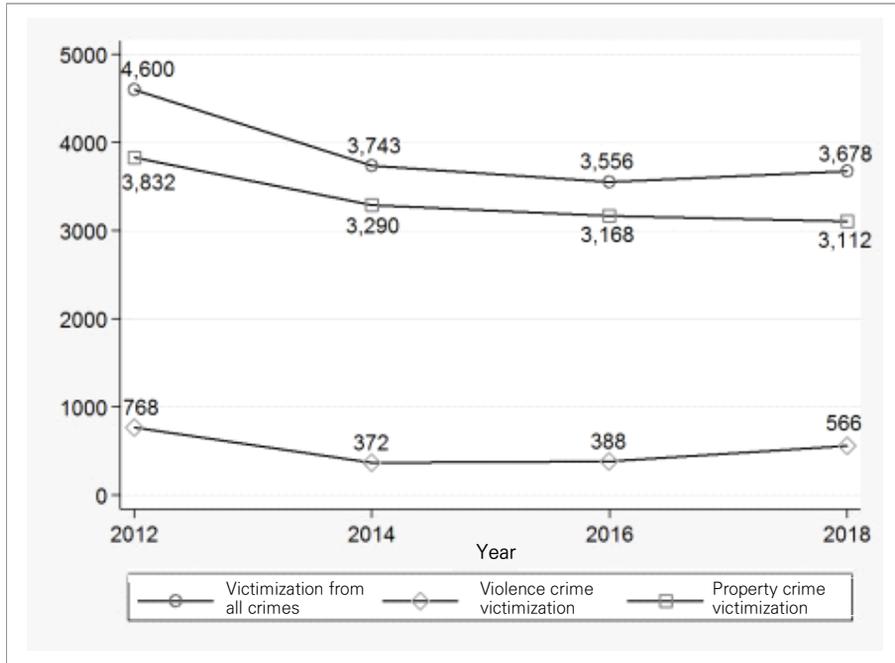
»» [Table 1-3-4] Annual Number and Rate of Crime Victimization

Classification			Year			
			2012	2014	2016	2018
All crimes	Number of crime victimization (estimated)	Case	1,975,155	1,648,170	1,660,589	1,675,662
	Crime victimization rate (estimated)	(%)	(4.60)	(3.74)	(3.56)	(3.68)
	Number of victimization per 100,000 population	Case/100,000 population	4,600	3,743	3,556	3,678
Violent crimes	Number of crime victimization (estimated)	Case	329,819	163,696	181,115	257,954
	Crime victimization rate (estimated)	(%)	(0.77)	(0.37)	(0.39)	(0.57)
	Number of victimization per 100,000 population	Case/100,000 population	768	372	388	566
Property crimes	Number of crime victimization (estimated)	Case	1,645,336	1,449,005	1,479,474	1,417,708
	Crime victimization rate (estimated)	(%)	(3.83)	(3.29)	(3.17)	(3.11)
	Number of victimization per 100,000 population	Case/100,000 population	3,832	3,290	3,168	3,112

- Note: 1. The number and rate of the crime victimization of all crimes are based on the responses of the basic questionnaire (including refusals to fill in the case questionnaire).  
 2. The number and rate of the victims of violent and property crimes are based on the responses of the basic questionnaire (excluding refusals to fill in the case questionnaire).  
 3. Crime victimization rate (estimated)=Number of victims (estimated)/(Number of population aged 14 or older of the 2018 population and housing census)\*100  
 4. Source: Kim, Minyoung et al. (2019). *Korean Crime Victim Survey in 2018*, pp. 131

[Figure 1-3-1] is the annual changes in crime victimization based on the number of crime victimizations per 100,000 population. The number of victimizations per 100,000 population continued to fall from 4,600 cases in 2012, 3,743 in 2014, 3,556 in 2016 and moderately increased in 2018 to 3,678 cases. The number of victimizations per 100,000 population by crime types displayed a consistently decreasing trend for property crimes (3,832 cases in 2012, 3,290 in 2014, 3,168 in 2016, 3,112 in 2018), while violent crimes reduced from 768 cases in 2012 to 372 in 2014, but bounced back to 388 in 2016 and to 566 in 2018.

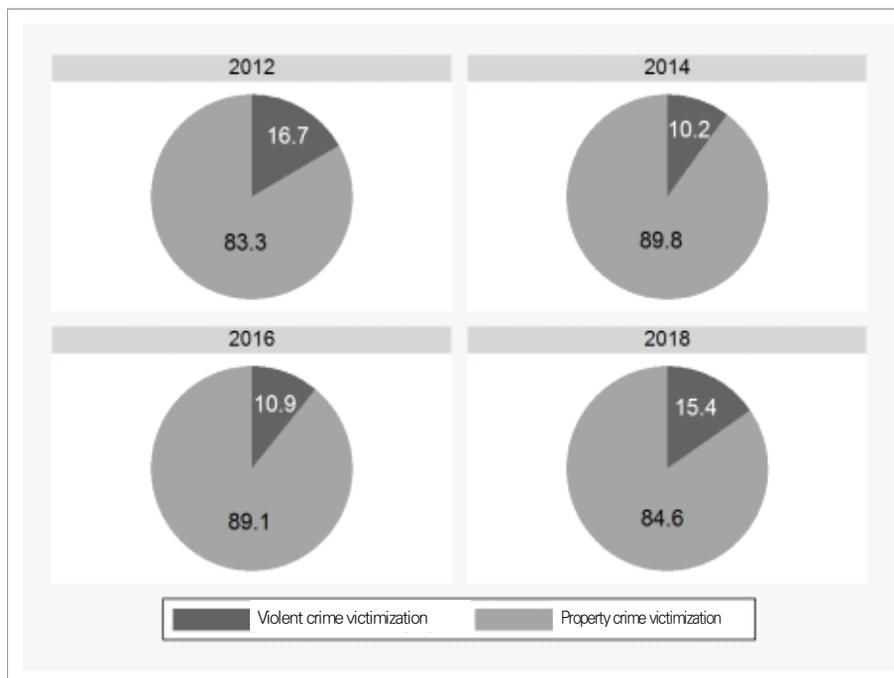
»» [Figure 1-3-1] Number of Crime Victimization per 100,000 population (2012-2018)



Source: Kim, Minyoung et al. (2019). *Korean Crime Victim Survey in 2018*, p. 132

The following [Figure 1-3-2] is a pie chart of the annual percentage of violent and property crime victimizations in the number of victimizations of all crimes; the percentage of violent crime victimization reduced to 10.2% in 2014 from 16.7% in 2012 but turned to a rise in 2016 to 10.9% and 2018 to 15.4%. Accordingly, the percentage of property crime victimization was the lowest in 2012 at 83.3%, increased to 89.8% in 2014, but fell in 2016 and 2018 to 89.1% and 84.6%, respectively.

»» [Figure 1-3-2] Percentage of Violent Crime Victimization and Property Crime Victimization (2012-2018) (%)



Note: 1. Percentage by crime types based on the number of crime victimization of all crimes.  
 2. Source: Kim, Minyoung et al. (2019). *Korean Crime Victim Survey in 2018*, p. 133

## Section 2 | Details and Results of Major Crime Victimization

This section specifically examines the characteristics of crime occurrences of crime victimization types, and the details, results and reporting of victimization.

### 1. General Characteristics of Major Crime Victimations

#### A. Socio-demographic Characteristics of Violent Crime Victims

[Table 1-3-5] below is the analyses of the socio-demographic characteristics of violent crime victims. In 2018, more females (66.99%) experienced violent

crimes than males (33.01%) and people in their 30s (26.51%) and 20s (22.85%) were more likely to be victimized than those in the other age groups.

The annual changes indicate that the gender rate of violent crime victims was constantly higher in females than males from 2012 and such gap has become wider since 2014 onwards, with the percentage of female victims (66.995%) about twice the percentage of males (33.01%) in 2018. The age distribution of violent crime victims was highest in the 20s in 2012 and 2014 at 24.40% and 38.53%, respectively, but the 30s became highest in 2016 and 2018 at 17.71% and 26.51%, respectively. Contrary to the relatively even distribution of the victims' age in 2016 compared to the previous years (Choi, Suhyeong et al. 2018: 88), most of the victims were in their 20s or 30s in 2018.

» [Table 1-3-5] Socio-demographic Characteristics of Violent Crime Victims

Classification			Year				$\chi^2$
			2012	2014	2016	2018	
Gender	Male	(%)	42.15	42.23	40.40	33.01	1.804
	Female	(%)	<b>57.85</b>	<b>57.77</b>	<b>59.60</b>	<b>66.99</b>	
Age	Teens	(%)	14.49	21.76	15.24	5.56	33.162*
	20s	(%)	<b>24.40</b>	<b>38.53</b>	12.96	22.85	
	30s	(%)	17.18	10.53	<b>17.71</b>	<b>26.51</b>	
	40s	(%)	23.67	11.84	15.41	18.76	
	50s	(%)	13.90	5.86	17.43	17.40	
	60s	(%)	4.11	7.88	11.18	5.16	
	70s or older	(%)	2.26	3.61	10.08	3.76	

\*p<0.05; Source: Kim, Minyoung et al. (2019). *Korean Crime Victim Survey in 2018*, p. 170

### B. Socio-demographic Characteristics of Property Crime Victims

The [Table 1-3-6] is the analyses of the socio-demographic characteristics of property crime victims. In 2018, more females (58.44%) experienced property crimes than males (41.56%) as was in the case of violent crimes and those in their 30s (21.23%) were most likely to be victimized.

The annual changes indicate that the gender rate of property crime victims was constantly higher in females than males from 2012 as was in the case of violent crimes, but the rate of females was lower than in violent crimes (Kim, Minyoung et al. 2018: 200). The age distribution of property crime victims slightly but constantly grew in the 60s every year (9.00% in 2012, 9.11% in 2014, 11.44% in 2016, 12.13% in 2018).

»» [Table 1-3-6] Socio-demographic Characteristics of Property Crime Victims

Classification			Year				$\chi^2$
			2012	2014	2016	2018	
Gender	Male	(%)	48.96	40.56	40.87	41.56	9.676*
	Female	(%)	<b>51.04</b>	<b>59.44</b>	<b>59.13</b>	<b>58.44</b>	
Age	Teens	(%)	8.40	3.61	3.31	4.46	66.201***
	20s	(%)	12.34	15.29	8.25	18.54	
	30s	(%)	<b>26.68</b>	18.96	21.25	<b>21.23</b>	
	40s	(%)	20.47	<b>23.36</b>	20.12	18.82	
	50s	(%)	18.87	22.59	<b>27.64</b>	17.18	
	60s	(%)	9.00	9.11	11.44	12.13	
	70s or older	(%)	4.25	7.08	7.98	7.64	

\*\*\*p<0.001, \*p<0.05; Source: Kim, Minyoung et al. (2019). *Korean Crime Victim Survey in 2018*, p. 202

### C. Season and Time of Victimization

[Table 1-3-7] is the analyses of the season and time of violent crime victimization. The year was divided into four seasons: spring (March~May), summer (June~August), autumn (September~November) and winter (December~February). In 2018, violent crime victimization occurred the most in spring (33.93%) and followed in the order of autumn (29.72%), winter (18.66%) and summer (17.69%). However, the annual changes in the season of violent crime victimization imply that the crime does not occur in a specific season.

As for the time of violent crime victimization in 2018, incidents occurred the most in the evening and at night (18:00~24:00) at 54.28% and midday and

afternoon (12:00~18:00) came next at 23.05%. This tendency has continued since 2012, revealing that violent crime victimization was highest in the evening and at night (18:00~24:00) and followed by midday and afternoon (12:00~18:00) every year. The rate of violent crime victimization in midnight and daybreak (00:00~06:00) was 12.37% in 2012 and kept decreasing to 10.79% in 2014, 9.69% in 2016 and 5.89% in 2018. The rate of violent crime victimization shows a consistently decreasing tendency in midnight and daybreak.

»» [Table 1-3-7] Season and Time of Violent Crime Victimization

Classification			Violent Crimes				$\chi^2$
			2012	2014	2016	2018	
Season	Spring (March-May)	(%)	17.19	30.21	19.99	<b>33.93</b>	12.559
	Summer (June-August)	(%)	29.25	<b>30.63</b>	24.00	17.69	
	Autumn (September-November)	(%)	<b>29.43</b>	24.69	<b>38.80</b>	29.72	
	Winter (December-February)	(%)	24.13	14.48	17.21	18.66	
	Total	(%)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
Time	Morning and before noon (06:00-12:00)	(%)	12.27	0.70	-	4.41	45.762***
	Midday and afternoon (12:00-1800)	(%)	19.39	31.26	29.49	23.05	
	Evening and night (18:00-24:00)	(%)	<b>50.15</b>	<b>54.88</b>	<b>47.05</b>	<b>54.28</b>	
	Midnight and daybreak (00:00-06:00)	(%)	12.37	10.79	9.69	5.89	
	During the day but time not sure	(%)	1.74	-	8.67	1.33	
	During the night but time not sure	(%)	3.14	2.36	-	11.04	
	Not sure whether it was during the day or night	(%)	0.93	-	5.11	-	
	Total	(%)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	

\*\*\*p<0.001; Source: Kim, Minyoung et al. (2019). *Korean Crime Victim Survey in 2018*, p. 166

[Table 1-3-8] below is the annual season and time of property crime victimization. In 2018, property crime victimization occurred more in summer (36.64%) and autumn (25.20%), then spring (21.04%) and winter (17.12%). The rate of property crime victimization was higher in summer and autumn and relatively low in spring and winter.

In terms of the time of property crime victimization in 2018, incidents occurred the most in midday and night, or from 12:00 to 18:00 and 20.41% were not even sure of the time (whether during the day or night) considering the nature of property crimes.

The annual changes in the time of property crime victimization showed that approximately 22% or more incidents occurred during midday and afternoon (12:00~18:00) since 2012, the highest compared to other time frames. In particular, there were a few cases where the respondent could not clearly answer the time; he/she only knew whether the incident occurred during the day or night but not sure about the time; or did not know whether the incident occurred during the day or night in violent crime victimizations (5.81% in 2012, 2.36% in 2014, 13.78% in 2016, 12.37% in 2018). To the contrary, such responses were absolutely higher in property crime victimization and tended to increase (36.18% in 2012, 38.81% in 2014, 41.97% in 2016, 51.5% in 2018).

»» [Table 1-3-8] Season and Time of Property Crime Victimization

Classification			Property Crimes				$\chi^2$
			2012	2014	2016	2018	
Season	Spring (March-May)	(%)	22.60	21.06	23.08	21.04	19.086*
	Summer (June-August)	(%)	<b>34.54</b>	32.26	29.60	<b>36.64</b>	
	Autumn (September-November)	(%)	24.17	<b>34.99</b>	<b>32.90</b>	25.20	
	Winter (December-February)	(%)	18.69	11.69	14.42	17.12	
	Total	(%)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
Time	Morning and before noon (06:00-12:00)	(%)	8.86	6.33	7.21	4.93	45.762***
	Midday and afternoon (12:00-18:00)	(%)	<b>23.21</b>	22.48	<b>22.24</b>	<b>26.80</b>	
	Evening and night (18:00-24:00)	(%)	16.10	<b>25.40</b>	19.93	11.09	
	Midnight and daybreak (00:00-06:00)	(%)	15.64	6.97	8.66	5.68	
	During the day but time not sure	(%)	8.26	11.14	10.11	13.24	
	During the night but time not sure	(%)	16.01	18.23	12.44	17.85	
	Not sure whether it was during the day or night	(%)	11.91	9.44	19.42	20.41	
Total	(%)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00		

\*\*\*p<0.001, \*p<0.05; Source: Kim, Minyoung et al. (2019). *Korean Crime Victim Survey in 2018*, pp. 198-199

## 2. Crime Method

### A. Method of Violent Crimes

With regards to the specific crime method at the time of violent crimes, it was investigated whether the offender carried any weapons, and either the offender or the victim was drunk.

The findings regarding whether the offender was carrying any weapons or dangerous objects (lethal weapons) or used any (See [Table 1-3-9]) showed that the rate of offenders carrying any lethal weapons had dropped from 21.76% in 2012 to 6.73% in 2014 but went up afterwards (7.29% in 2016, 12.08% in 2018). Meanwhile, the rate of respondents answering that the offender did not carry any weapons was more than half at 67.59% and 20.34% answered that they were not sure, which was higher than anticipated.

▶▶▶ [Table 1-3-9] Offender Carrying a Weapon at the time of Violent Crime

Classification		Year				$\chi^2$
		2012	2014	2016	2018	
Carried (!)	(%)	21.76	6.73	7.29	12.08	16.844***
Not carried	(%)	64.80	80.16	87.68	67.59	
Not sure	(%)	13.44	13.11	5.03	20.34	
Total	(%)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	

Note: 1. Items marked (!) should be interpreted with caution since the number of valid samples (cell size<5) is small in 2014 and 2016.; \*\*\*p<0.001

2. Source: Kim, Minyoung et al. (2019). *Korean Crime Victim Survey in 2018*, p. 172

Furthermore, the rate of the offenders drunk at the time of violent crimes fluctuated at 42.61% in 2012, 35.05% in 2014, 43.39% in 2016 and 39.92% in 2018, not exhibiting any special tendencies in the surveyed years.

»» [Table 1-3-10] Offender Drunk at the time of Violent Crime

Classification		Year				$\chi^2$
		2012	2014	2016	2018	
Drunk	(%)	42.61	35.05	43.39	39.92	2.443
Not drunk	(%)	42.82	44.90	42.11	38.25	
Not sure	(%)	14.57	20.05	14.50	21.83	
Total	(%)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	

Source: Kim, Minyoung et al. (2019). *Korean Crime Victim Survey in 2018*, p. 188

As to whether the victim was drunk at the time of violent crimes, the rate has continued to grow since 2012 (16.02%) (18.28% in 2014, 21.28% in 2016, 31.47% in 2018) but the annual differences were not significant. In addition, the rate of victims answering not to have been drunk at the time of violent crimes was 61.68% which nearly doubled those answering otherwise (31.47%).

»» [Table 1-3-11] Victim Drunk at the time of Violent Crime Victimization

Classification		Year				$\chi^2$
		2012	2014	2016	2018	
Drunk	(%)	16.02	18.28	21.28	31.47	7.494
Not drunk	(%)	71.41	74.99	76.44	61.68	
Not sure	(%)	12.57	6.72	2.29	6.85	
Total	(%)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	

Source: Kim, Minyoung et al. (2019). *Korean Crime Victim Survey in 2018*, p. 173

## B. Method of Property Crimes

Specific methods of property crimes are in the following [Table 1-3-12]. The most frequent method was 'plausible way of speaking,' marking 54.82% in 2018, and it was found likewise in the other years as well (49.14% in 2012, 55.61% in 2014, 63.16% in 2018). The rate of property crime victimizations of not receiving the goods purchased from online shopping malls or phishing by free or discounted products, or giveaways was 21.60% in 2018, which gradually has increased since 2012. Victimization from 'voice phishing,' committed by offenders pretending to be personnels from institutes such as banks, National Tax Service

and investigation agencies or impersonating a family member or an acquaintance was 11.99% in 2018.

»» [Table 1-3-12] Fraud Victimization Types

Classification (Multiple answers allowed)		Year			
		2012	2014	2016	2018
(False) Advertising via TV/newspaper (!)	(%)	-	1.03	1.53	-
(False) Advertising via leaflets or in the street (!)	(%)	1.13	0.64	2.54	2.31
(False) Telemarketing (!)	(%)	9.25	4.45	1.57	4.87
Voice-phishing	(%)	18.89	13.43	8.89	11.99
Launching fraud websites	(%)	6.34	4.73	4.42	3.57
Online shopping malls	(%)	9.10	18.81	21.08	21.60
Forging official or private documents (!)	(%)	7.20	2.39	0.86	-
Plausible way of speaking	(%)	49.14	55.61	63.16	54.82
Guaranteed by a third party or an expert (!)	(%)	3.99	-	2.87	3.34
Employing fake customers conspiring with the suspects (!)	(%)	2.96	0.92	1.37	4.25
Others (!)	(%)	5.47	3.66	-	2.82

Note: 1. Items marked (!) should be interpreted with caution since the number of valid samples (cell size $\times$ 5) is small in some years.

2. Source: Kim, Minyoung et al. (2019). *Korean Crime Victim Survey in 2018*, p. 204

### 3. Victimization Damages of Major Crimes

#### A. Bodily Harms

[Table 1-3-13] shows whether there was any actual bodily injury from violent crime victimizations such as robbery, assault, sexual violence and bullying. Respondents answering of having any bodily injuries from violent crimes accounted for 63.83% in 2018, a rate twice as high the 36.17% of the respondents answering not to have suffered bodily injuries. As such, victims responding to have suffered bodily injuries from violent crimes were consistently higher than those who did not, except for in 2012.

»» [Table 1-3-13] Bodily Injury due to Violent Crime Victimization

Classification		Year				$\chi^2$
		2012	2014	2016	2018	
Yes	(%)	31.04	64.15	78.33	63.83	39.081*
No	(%)	68.96	35.85	21.67	36.17	
Total	(%)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	

\*p<0.05; Source: Kim, Minyoung et al. (2019). *Korean Crime Victim Survey in 2018*, p. 177

## B. Property Damages

The following [Table 1-3-14] is the financial loss in property damage due to property crime victimization. The types of property crime victimization were classified into fraud, larceny and damage<sup>21)</sup>, and the average, minimum and maximum amount of loss therefrom were analyzed. First, the annual lost amount from fraud conveyed a growing trend in both the minimum and maximum amounts. The lost amount was 4.648 million Won on average and the maximum was 60 million Won in 2018. The average lost amount in larceny is lower than that of fraud. This is believed to be from the tendency that larceny crime victimization occurred frequently for small-sized and used products than large-sized and ultra-high priced products. The average lost amount from larcenies in 2018 was 462,000 Won, 1,000 Won at minimum and 8 million Won at maximum, reaching the lowest level in all three amounts (average, minimum, maximum) since 2012 (Kim, Minyoung et al. 2019: 207). Lastly, the lost amount for damaged products was calculated as repairing costs for repairable items and purchase costs for non-repairable ones. The average amount of lost was generally lower than that of frauds or larcenies (apart from 2018).

21) Among property crime victimizations, frauds, larcenies and damages were analyzed in detail as the relative standard error was less than 30%.

»» [Table 1-3-14] Average Lost Amount from Property Crime Victimization

Classification			Year			
			2012	2014	2016	2018
Fraud	Average loss amount	(1,000 won)	10,223	3,707	4,726	4,648
	Minimum loss amount	(1,000 won)	3	5	10	10
	Maximum loss amount	(1,000 won)	30,000	40,000	50,000	60,000
Larceny	Average loss amount	(1,000 won)	884	1,011	655	462
	Minimum loss amount	(1,000 won)	7	5	4	1
	Maximum loss amount	(1,000 won)	30,000	10,000	20,000	8,000
Damage	Average loss amount	(1,000 won)	424	324	317	492
	Minimum loss amount	(1,000 won)	10	5	10	30
	Maximum loss amount	(1,000 won)	7,500	3,000	3,000	5,000

Source: Kim, Minyoung et al. (2019). Korean Crime Victim Survey in 2018, pp. 205, 207 and 208. Reproduced.

### C. Psychological Damages

Victims of crime not only suffer from bodily or property damages but also experience various psychological damages such as depression, sense of isolation and fear. [Table 1-3-14] looks into the types of psychological damages experienced from crime victimization.<sup>22)</sup>

22) In the existing reports, the relative rates of each damage type for the psychological damages experienced by the victims were calculated by considering the total of each answers as 100 points. However, as multiple answers were allowed for the questions here, individual answers were considered separately and the absolute rates were calculated for the answers selected by the victims having suffered violent or property crime victimizations (Kim, Minyoung et al. 2019: 175).

»» [Table 1-3-15] Experience of Psychological Damages from Violent and/or Property Crime Victimization

Classification (Multiple answers allowed)			Year			
			2012	2014	2016	2018
Violent crime victimization	Depression (feeling helpless, losing self-confidence)	(%)	41.73	63.66	62.32	77.03
	Sense of isolation (loneliness, feeling trapped)	(%)	22.77	33.65	32.74	32.12
	Fear (state of panic, shock)	(%)	61.32	70.06	59.57	66.72
	Insomnia, nightmare, auditory hallucination, headache	(%)	38.87	34.48	47.09	44.47
	Difficult to maintain social lives or personal relationships	(%)	20.23	14.20	37.87	30.90
	Move (or transfer to another school) to avoid people (!)	(%)	2.10	8.69	15.49	3.39
	Suicidal impulse (!)	(%)	2.08	3.03	-	-
	Suicidal attempts (!)	(%)	1.45	-	2.16	-
	Other pain (!)	(%)	10.93	-	4.34	-
Property crime victimization	Depression (feeling helpless, losing self-confidence)	(%)	29.34	41.14	40.36	39.14
	Sense of isolation (loneliness, feeling trapped)	(%)	10.77	18.09	13.65	12.75
	Fear (state of panic, shock)	(%)	32.39	31.30	24.59	24.53
	Insomnia, nightmare, auditory hallucination, headache	(%)	17.34	24.17	19.29	17.59
	Difficult to maintain social lives or personal relationships	(%)	11.36	13.98	13.53	11.41
	Move (or transfer to another school) to avoid people (!)	(%)	1.18	2.21	2.55	1.30
	Suicidal impulse (!)	(%)	1.61	0.81	1.31	0.25
	Suicidal attempts (!)	(%)	0.35	1.00	0.63	-
	Other pain	(%)	15.06	3.44	1.62	1.57

Note: 1. Items marked (!) should be interpreted with care since the number of valid samples (cell size<5) is small in some years.  
 2. Source: Kim, Minyoung et al. (2019). *Korean Crime Victim Survey in 2018*, p. 204 and 210. Reproduced.

In the case of violent crimes, over half of the victims were found to be suffering psychological damages: depression such as feeling helpless or losing self-confidence; or fear such as being panic-stricken or shock (41.73% in 2012) in the surveyed years. In 2018, victims experienced multiple psychological damages: 77.03% of the violent crime victims underwent depression: feeling helpless or losing self-confidence; 66.72% suffered fear: panic or shock; 44.47% went through insomnia, nightmare, auditory hallucination, headache, etc.; 32.12% felt a sense of isolation: loneliness or feeling trapped; and 30.90% expressed difficulties in maintaining social lives and personal relationships.

Among those victimized by property crimes in 2018, 39.14% felt depression as feeling helpless or losing self-confidence; 24.53% experienced fear as being in a panic or shock; and 17.59% suffered insomnia, nightmare, auditory hallucination, headache, etc. The results disclosed that all the victims of either property crimes or violent crimes suffered depression or fear more frequently than other types of psychological damages (sense of isolation, etc) and the absolute experience rate was higher in violent crimes than in property crimes.

#### 4. Report Rate of Major Crime Victimization and Reason for Reporting (or not)

##### A. Reporting of Crime Victimization

[Table 1-3-16] indicates whether each crime type was reported to the police. The report rate of violent crime victimization fell from 31.79% in 2012 to 16.26% in 2014 but turned upwards to 27.44% in 2016 and 32.60% in 2018. However, these changes were not statistically significant.

The rate of property crime victimization reported to the police has remained low 20% since 2012, lower than in violent crimes. The reason behind the low number is believed to be based on the fact that the criminal damages tend to be minor, as was mentioned earlier in the reason for not reporting.

▶▶▶ [Table 1-3-16] Reporting of Crime Victimization

Classification			Year				$\chi^2$
			2012	2014	2016	2018	
Violent crime victimization	Reported	(%)	31.79	16.26	27.44	32.60	5.303
	Not reported	(%)	68.21	83.74	72.56	67.40	
Property crime victimization	Reported	(%)	23.30	23.58	21.53	21.71	0.874
	Not reported	(%)	76.70	76.42	78.47	78.29	

Source: Kim, Minyoung et al. (2019). *Korean Crime Victim Survey in 2018*, p. 222

### B. Reason for Not Reporting

The reason for not reporting to the Police is examined here. As in [Table 1-3-17], the main reason for reporting violent crimes was to ‘have the offender arrested and punished.’ The reasons for reporting in 2018 appeared in the order of ‘have the offender arrested and punished’ at the highest of 44.81%, ‘prevent the crime from happening in the future’ at 18.27%, ‘as a matter of course’ at 15.67%, and to ‘recover the losses (damages)’ was 11.55%.

▶▶▶ [Table 1-3-17] Reason for Reporting Violent Crime Victimization (Primary reason)

Classification			Year				$\chi^2$
			2012	2014	2016	2018	
Violent Crime Victimization	Have the offender arrested and punished	(%)	50.80	91.70	32.80	44.81	23.661+
	Recover the losses (damages) (!)	(%)	7.57	-	18.82	11.55	
	Prevent the crime from happening in the future	(%)	14.13	-	32.52	18.27	
	Improve the patrol activities of the police (!)	(%)	-	-	-	9.70	
	As a matter of course (!)	(%)	27.50	8.30	7.87	15.67	
	Other (!)	(%)	-	-	7.99	-	

Note: 1. Items marked (!) should be interpreted with care since the number of valid samples (cell size<=5) is small in some years.; +p<0.1  
 2. Source: Kim, Minyoung et al. (2019). *Korean Crime Victim Survey in 2018*, p. 222

On the contrary, the major reasons for reporting property crime victimization were to ‘have the offender arrested and punished’ and to ‘recover the losses (damages),’ which was a relatively low response in the case of violent crimes ([Table 1-3-18]). In 2018, ‘have the offender arrested and punished’ occupied the highest at 37.15%, followed by ‘recover the losses (damages)’ at 34.14%, ‘prevent the crime from happening in the future’ at 15.51%, and ‘as a matter of course’ at 13.20%.

▶▶▶ [Table 1-3-18] Reason for Reporting Property Crime Victimization (Primary reason)

Classification		Year				$\chi^2$	
		2012	2014	2016	2018		
Property crime victimization	Have the offender arrested and punished	(%)	35.79	31.82	38.05	37.15	11.115
	Recover the losses (damages)	(%)	39.88	34.69	34.38	34.14	
	Prevent the crime from happening in the future	(%)	15.97	16.97	17.65	15.51	
	Improve the patrol activities of the police (!)	(%)	1.31	0.75	-	-	
	As a matter of course(!)	(%)	7.05	14.41	9.92	13.20	
	Other (!)	(%)	-	1.35	-	-	

Note: 1. Items marked (!) should be interpreted with care since the number of valid samples (cell size<=5) is small in some years.

2. Source: Kim, Minyoung et al. (2019). *Korean Crime Victim Survey in 2018*, p. 222

In [Table 1-3-19], the main reason for not reporting violent crimes was highest in ‘damage not serious,’ which marked 51.80% in 2012, 35.52% in 2014, 39.18% in 2016, and 47.34% in 2018. Other reasons for not reporting the crime in 2018 included ‘handled or resolved using other methods or personally’ at 15.74%, and ‘knew the offender’ at 14.44%, implying that many cases go unreported for personal reasons.

For property crimes, the main reason for not reporting victimization was ‘damage not serious,’ indicating that the decision to report property crime victimization depends on the recovery of losses, as was in the reason for reporting (50.84% in 2012, 43.22% in 2014, 37.84% in 2016, 54.28% in 2018). The next highest responses included ‘no evidence’ and ‘handled or resolved using other methods or personally.’

▶▶▶ [Table 1-3-19] Reason for Not Reporting Crime Victimization (Primary reason)

Classification		Year				$\chi^2$	
		2012	2014	2016	2018		
Violent crime victimization	Damage not serious	(%)	51.80	35.52	39.18	47.34	50.998***
	Handled or settled using other methods or personally	(%)	5.83	4.13	17.27	15.74	
	No evidence (!)	(%)	12.87	2.56	6.43	5.91	
	Thought that the police will not take any measures	(%)	8.48	6.06	5.29	3.25	
	Thought that the police will be troublesome even when they are unable to arrest the offender	(%)	6.90	-	4.20	5.40	
	Knew the offender	(%)	5.79	11.50	16.40	14.44	
	Feared retaliation (!)	(%)	3.90	17.84	1.23	4.70	
	Thought it embarrassing and disgraceful if victimization is known	(%)	3.07	22.39	10.00	0.82	
	Other (!)	(%)	1.36	-	-	2.41	
Property crime victimization	Damage not serious	(%)	50.84	43.22	37.84	54.28	53.445***
	Handled or settled using other methods or personally	(%)	7.06	10.05	11.23	10.50	
	No evidence	(%)	21.65	23.32	23.71	14.86	
	Thought that the police will not take any measures	(%)	8.13	8.55	7.40	8.12	
	Thought that the police will be troublesome even when they are unable to arrest the offender	(%)	4.13	7.43	7.65	3.99	
	Knew the offender	(%)	4.13	5.10	10.12	6.83	
	Feared retaliation (!)	(%)	1.02	0.16	0.65	-	
	Thought it embarrassing and disgraceful if victimization is known	(%)	1.07	1.28	0.82	0.24	
	Other (!)	(%)	1.97	0.89	0.59	1.17	

Note: 1. Items marked (!) should be interpreted with care since the number of valid samples (cell size<=5) is small in some years. : \*\*\*p<0.001

2. Source: Kim, Minyoung et al. (2019). *Korean Crime Victim Survey in 2018*, p. 226

### Section 3 | Summary of the Trend and Characteristics of Crime Victimization in Korea

This chapter is an overview of the level and detail of victimization by distinguishing major victimizations into two large categories of violent and property crime victimizations, based on the outcome of the biannual Korean Crime Victim Survey by the Korean Institute of Criminology. A brief summary is described in the following.

## 1. Victimization Rate of Major Crimes

Based on the population aged 14 or older in 2018, the number of victims experiencing crimes was estimated at 1,653,877 persons, and victimizations at 1,675,662 cases. The crime victim rate based on the number of those experiencing crime victimization to the population was 3.63%, and the victimization rate based on the number of cases to the population was 3.68%.

The total crime victimization rate constantly decreased since 2012 but climbed a little to 3.68% in 2018, deemed to be from the increase in violent crime victimization in 2018 compared to 2016. The number of victims and victimizations of property crimes in 2018 were 1,408,004 persons (victim rate 3.09%) and 1,417,708 cases (victimization rate 3.11%), respectively, and did not change much from earlier. In the case of violent crimes, however, the number of victims was 245,873 persons (victim rate 0.54%), and victimization was 257,954 cases (victimization rate 0.57%), which went up compared to the survey conducted immediately before (Kim, Minyoung et al. 2019: 158).

The annual changes in crime victimization based on the number of crime victimization per 100,000 population were identical to the overall annual tendency. The total number of crime victimization per 100,000 population kept falling from 2012, but slightly grew in 2018 to 3,678 cases. As to the number of victimization per 100,000 by crime types, the figure tended to fall for property crimes while 566 cases of violent crimes occurred in 2018 from 388 cases in 2016.

## 2. Victimization Characteristics of Major Crimes

The victimization characteristics of the major crimes were investigated in terms of the general characteristics (socio-demographic characteristics of the victims, season and time of crime), crime method, victimization results (bodily injury, property loss, psychological damages) and the report rate (whether the case was

reported and the reason for that).

The socio-demographic characteristics of the victims among the general characteristics of major crimes showed a consistently higher rate of female victims than male victims in both violent and property crimes. In 2018, the victims of violent crimes were mostly in their 30s or 20s while those victimized by property crimes were mainly in their 30s. There also was a gradual increase in the property crime victims in their 60s in the surveyed years.

In terms of the seasons and times of major crimes, violent crimes did not occur in a specific season since 2012, whereas property crimes were more frequent in summer and autumn and were relatively low in spring and winter. Violent crime victimization since 2012 occurred the most during evening and nighttime (18:00~24:00) and the crime rate during midnight and daybreak (00:00~ 00:06) continued to decline. Property crimes occurred the most during midday and afternoon (12:00~18:00) at around 22% or more, and there was a steady rise in the rate of victims not clearly remembering the time (knew whether the incident occurred during the day or night but not sure about the time, or did not even know whether the incident occurred during the day or night) of property crimes.

As to the crime methods of major crimes, victims responding that the offender carried or used weapons or dangerous objects (lethal weapons) kept growing since 2014 to 12.08% in 2018. While 39.92% responded in 2018 that the offender was drunk at the time of the crime, the difference was not significant for the surveyed years. The rate of victims drunk at the time of the crime went up to 31.47% in 2018 but the figure was not statistically significant. Among property crime victimizations, the detailed crime method for fraud of 'plausible way of speaking' was 54.82% in 2018, taking up more than half and the same tendency was seen in the previously surveyed year. Fraud victimization via online shopping malls slowly rose since 2012 and marked 21.60% in 2018.

Psychological damages from crimes after experiencing either violent crimes

or property crimes were both highest in depression or fear compared to other types (feeling of isolation, etc.) and the absolute experience rate was higher in violent crimes than in property crimes.

The characteristics of crime victimization in Korea was analyzed from police reports. The report rate for violent crimes slightly grew in 2016 (27.44%) and 2018 (32.60%), but the changes were not statistically significant. By contrast, the rate of property crime victimization reported to the police remained at low 20%, which has been less than that of violent crimes since 2012. The reason deemed to be from property crime damages not being serious, as was mentioned earlier in the reason for not reporting.

The main reasons for reporting violent crimes in 2018 appeared in the order of 'have the offender arrested and punished' at the highest of 44.81% and 'prevent the crime from happening in the future' came next at 18.27%. On the contrary, the major reasons for reporting property crime victimization was to 'have the offender arrested and punished (37.15%)' and to 'recover the losses (damages) (34.14%),' which was a relatively low response in the case of violent crimes.

The main reason for not reporting violent crimes was highest in 'damage not serious (47.34%)' in 2018, as was in not reporting property crimes (54.28%).

This chapter dealt with the occurrences, characteristics and outcome of crime victimization in Korea using the *Korean Crime Victim Survey* carried out every two years by the Korean Institute of Criminology. It was found that the number of crime victims and victimization rates of the population aged 14 and older residing in Korea went up moderately in 2018 compared to 2016, which was due to the growth in violent crime victimizations. As the physical and psychological damages of violent crimes cause more damages than property crimes, further in-depth analysis should be conducted regarding the increase in violent crime victimization in the future.

To this end, it is necessary to consistently proceed with researches in different

angles to expand both the quantitative and qualitative data on crime victimization for analyses using the Korean Crime Victim Survey, and to secure dedicated assistants and sufficient budget for the purpose. Furthermore, experimental analyses should be conducted to examine diverse measures for reducing non-sampling errors in collecting study data, and build on the results to improve the survey methodologies of the nationwide crime victim survey.

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