

Prisons in Europe 2005-2015

Denmark Country Profile

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This country profile on Denmark is taken from the report *Prisons in Europe 2005-2015* ([link](#)), which contains 51 profiles on the prison populations in the Prison Administrations of the 47 member States of the Council of Europe.

Prisons in Europe 2005- 2015 presents data on prison populations across Europe from 2005 to 2015. It is divided in two volumes: Volume 1 presents country profiles based on several indicators concerning prison populations, and Volume 2 includes all the data used for the report. The report has been prepared by the University of Lausanne and co-funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe.

Each country profile includes a Table with Key Facts about the country, which are presented in the form of several indicators referring to the latest available year and to the evolution during the latest ten years, as well as the relative position of the country (low, medium or high) for each indicator compared to the 28 member States of the European Union (“EU 28”) and the 47 member States of the Council of Europe (“CoE 47”). The classification in “low”, “medium” and “high” is based on the comparative indicators presented in Part 2 of the study. The country profile is divided in four sections and includes 8 Figures. The four sections are the following:

- Key facts
- The country in brief: This section summarizes the trends shown in the key facts from 2005 to 2014/15. It illustrates which indicators have increased, which have decreased and which have remained stable. The indicator is considered as showing a stable trend if the variation is lower than 5%.
- The country in comparative perspective: This section compares each country to the rest of the countries included in the study.

General comments:

This section includes eight Figures, comments to these Figures and some possible explanations of the observed trends. The eight Figures are numbered from 1 to 8 within each country profile and also include, between brackets, their absolute number from 1 to 408.

The Key facts include indicators of stock and flow. The stock indicators refer to the situation on 1st September 2015. The flow indicators refer to the situation during the year 2014. On the basis of the data included in this study, we have calculated for each indicator the average for the 10 to 11 years under study. This average is presented in the fifth column of the country profiles.

Finally, the last column of the country profiles provides a graphic indicator of the trend observed when one compares the last year of the series (2014 and 2015 respectively) to the first one (2005). The arrows included in this column reflect the evolution of the indicator according to the following table:

↔	+/- 4.9%	stable
↑	+5 to +9%	slight increase
↑↑	+10 to +19%	moderate increase
↑↑↑	+20 to +49%	substantial increase
↑↑↑↑	+50% and more	huge increase
↓	-5 to -9%	slight decrease
↓↓	-10 to -19%	moderate decrease
↓↓↓	-20 to -49%	substantial decrease
↓↓↓↓	-50% and more	huge decrease

COUNTRY PROFILE	DENMARK		TRENDS 2005-2015		
Key Facts					
	2014/15	Comparative		Evolution 2005-2014/15	
		CoE 47	EU 28	Average	% Change
Prison population rate (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants) on 01.09.2015	56.1	Low	Low	67.8	↓↓↓↓
Rate of entries into penal institutions in 2014 (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants)	223.1	High	High	260.5**	↓↓↓↓**
Rate of releases from penal institutions in 2014 (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants) – Available since 2009	145.0	Medium	Medium	151.7*	↔
Average length of imprisonment in 2014 based on the total number of days spent in penal institutions (in months)	3.6	Low	Low	3.2**	↑↑↑↑**
Average length of imprisonment in 2014 based on stock and flow (in months)	3.4	Low	Low	3.2**	↑↑↑↑**
Prison density on 01.09.2015 (inmates per 100 places)	85.2	Medium	Low	92.7	↓↓
Median age of the prison population on 01.09.2015 (in years)	32.0	Low	Low	31.4	↔
Percentage of female inmates (01.09.2015)	3.7	Low	Low	4.4	↓↓
Percentage of foreign inmates (01.09.2015)	27.0	High	High	22.6	↑↑↑
<i>of which: in pre-trial detention</i>	56.1	High	High	53.0	↑↑
Percentage of non-sentenced inmates (01.09.2015)	36.3	High	High	34.5	↑↑↑
Rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates in 2014	11.2	Low	Low	23.5	↓↓↓↓↓
Rate of suicides per 10,000 inmates in 2014 (n=2)	5.6	Medium	Medium	11.3	↓↓↓↓↓
<i>of which: % in pre-trial detention (n=2) – Available since 2013</i>	100.0	High	High	NAP	NAP
Ratio of inmates per staff (number of inmates per 1 staff person)	0.7	Low	Low	0.8	↓↓
Percentage of custodial staff in the total staff	54.7	Low	Low	56.2	↓
Total budget spent by the prison administration (in Euro) – Available since 2011	411 000 100	NAP	NAP	398 189 276***	↑
Average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate (in Euro) – Available since 2008	191.0	High	High	177.3****	↑↑↑

*Average calculated from 2009 to 2014

** Average and Percentage change calculated from 2006 to 2014

*** Average calculated from 2011 to 2014

**** Average calculated from 2008 to 2014

Denmark in brief

- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators show a *decrease*: prison population rate (-27%), prison density (-12%), percentage of female inmates (-17%), rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates (-67%), percentage of suicides (-71%), ratio of inmates per staff (-19%), and percentage of custodial staff in the total staff (-6%).
- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators show an *increase*: percentage of foreign inmates (+48%), percentage of pre-trial detainees among foreign inmates (+17%), percentage of non-sentenced inmates (+32%), total budget spent by the prison administration (+5%), and average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate (+41%).
- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators remain *stable*: rate of releases from penal institutions (0%), and median age of the +1%).

Denmark in comparative perspective

- Compared to other European countries, in 2014/15 Denmark presents:
 - **Low:** Prison population rate, average length of imprisonment based on stock and flow, average length of imprisonment based on the total number of days spent in penal institutions, median age of the prison population, percentage of female inmates, rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates, ratio of inmates per staff, percentage of custodial staff in the total staff.
 - **Medium:** Rate of releases from penal institutions, percentage of suicides.
 - **High:** Rate of entries into penal institutions, percentage of foreign inmates, percentage of foreign inmates in pre-trial detention, percentage of non-sentenced inmates, percentage of suicides in pre-trial detention, average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate.
- When the prison density is calculated, the Danish result is medium compared to the member States of the Council of Europe, but low compared to the member States of the European Union.

General comments

Figure 1 (89)

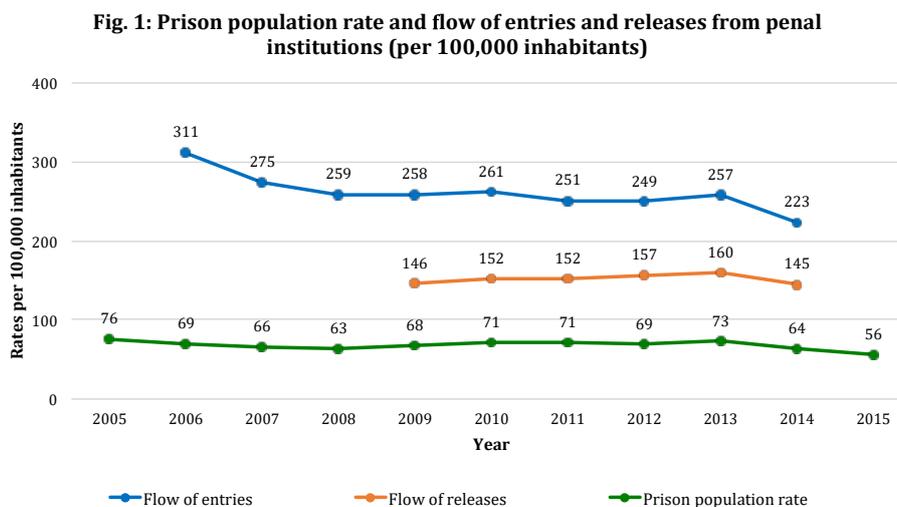


Figure 1 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the prison population rate of Denmark (stock) decreased by 27%. In 2005, the country had 76 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2015 it had 56.

From 2006 to 2014, the rate of entries (flow of entries) decreased by 28%. In 2006, there were 311 releases from penal institutions per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2014 there were 223.

From 2009 to 2014, the rate of releases (flow of releases) remained relatively stable. In 2009, there were 146 releases from penal institutions per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2014 there were 145.

The flow of entries and the flow of releases show dissimilar rates but similar trends.

According to the information collected during this research, there are four trend breaks in the period:

- In 2005, an increase in the number of sentenced prisoners due to the elimination of a waiting list of sentenced offenders that should have entered in prison in early 2006.
- In 2007-2008, a decrease in the number of sentenced prisoners due to the implementation of new police reforms and court reforms in 2007.
- In 2008-2009, an increase in the number of pre-trial detainees due partially to an increased number of pre-trial detentions and partially to an increase in the length of pre-trial detention.
- In 2015, a decrease in the number of inmates, which is mainly due to a decrease in the number of pre-trial detainees as a result of changes in resource priorities within the police force in connection with the terrorist attack in Copenhagen in early 2015.

Figure 2 (90)

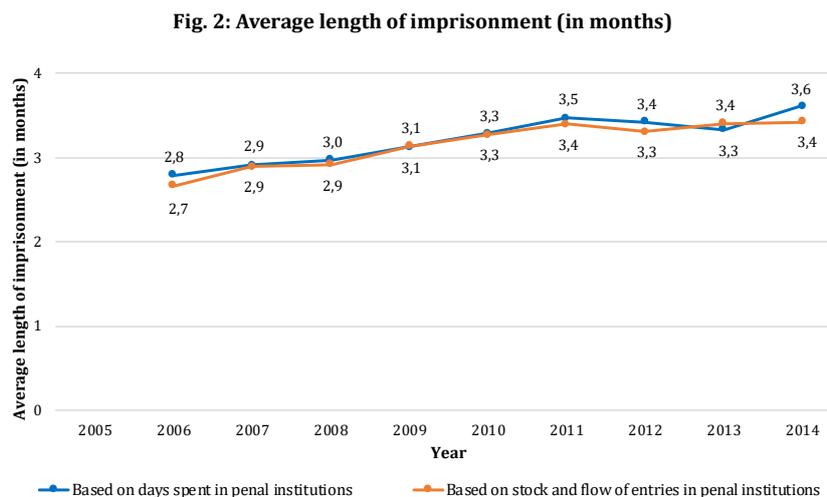


Figure 2 shows that, from 2006 to 2014, the average length of imprisonment based on the number of days spent in penal institutions increased by 30%. In 2006, the average length of imprisonment was 2.8 months, while in 2014 it was 3.6 months.

When the average length of imprisonment is computed on the basis of the ratio between the stock and the flow, it shows an increase of 28%. According to this indicator, in 2005, the average length of imprisonment was 2.7 months, while in 2014 it was 3.4 months.

Figure 3 (91)

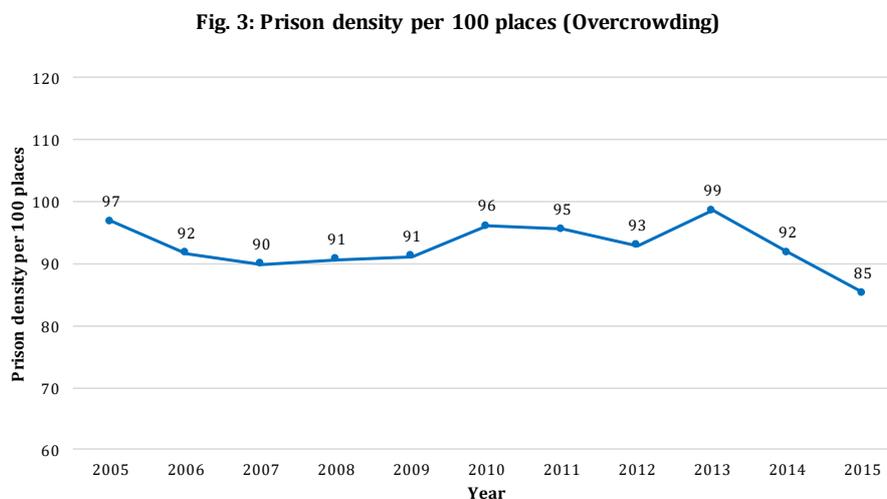


Figure 3 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the prison density of Denmark decreased by 12%. In 2005, the country had 97 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2015 it had 85.

Figure 4 (92)

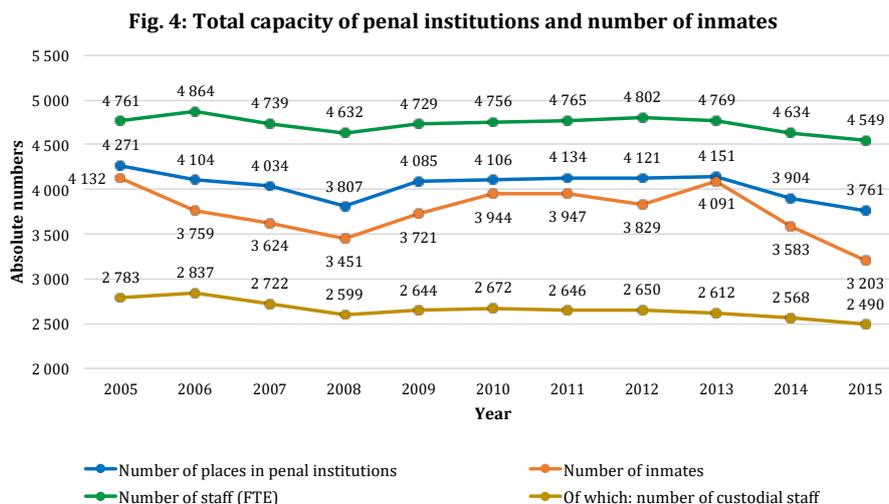


Figure 4 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the total number of places in penal institutions in Denmark decreased by 12%. In 2005, the country had 4,271 places, while in 2015 it had 3,761.

During the same period, the total number of inmates decreased by 23%. In 2005, the country had 4,132 inmates, while in 2015 it had 3,203.

From 2005 to 2015, the total number of staff decreased by 5%. In 2005, Denmark had in total a staff of 4,761 persons, while in 2015 it had 4,549.

During the same period, the total number of custodial staff decreased by 11%. In 2005, the total custodial staff was 2,783 persons, while in 2015 it was 2,490.

Figure 5 (93)

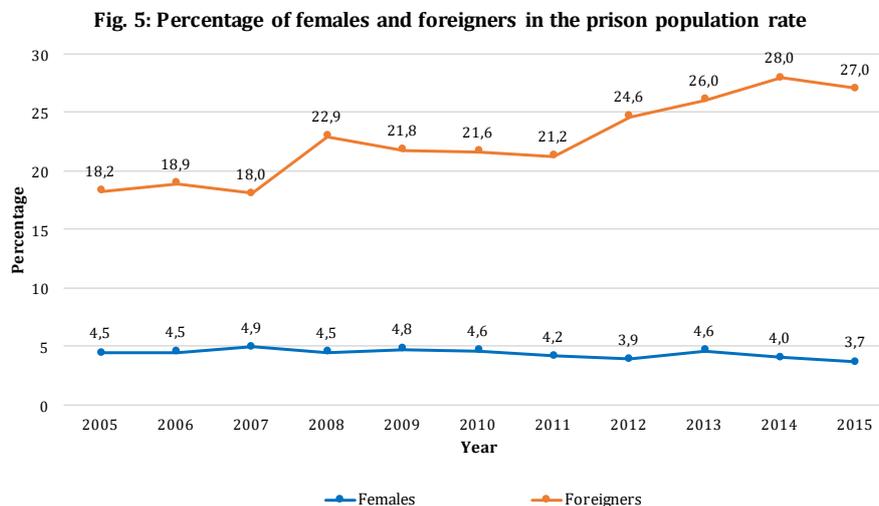


Figure 5 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentage of female inmates decreased by 17%. In 2005, 4.5% of the inmates were females, while in 2015 they were 3.7%.

During the same period, the percentage of foreign inmates increased by 48%. In 2005, 18% of the inmates were foreigners, while in 2015 they represented 27% of the total prison population. According to the information collected during this research, the annual increase in the number of foreign inmates since 2012 is driven mainly by an increase in the number of foreign pre-trial detainees placed in detention according to the Aliens Act.

Figure 6 (94)

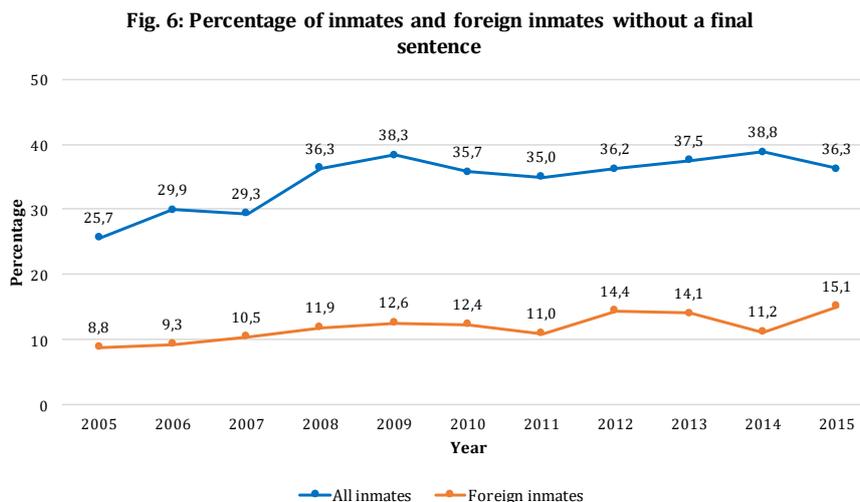


Figure 6 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentage of inmates without a final sentence increased by 32%. In 2005, 28% of the inmates did not have a final sentence while, in 2015, inmates without a final sentence represented 36% of all inmates. According to the information collected during this research, this is due to the increase in the number of foreign persons placed in pre-trial detention (see the comments to Figure 5).

During the same period, the percentage of foreigners held in pre-trial detention increased by 72%. In 2005, they represented 8.8% of the total number of inmates, while in 2015 they represented 15.1% of them.

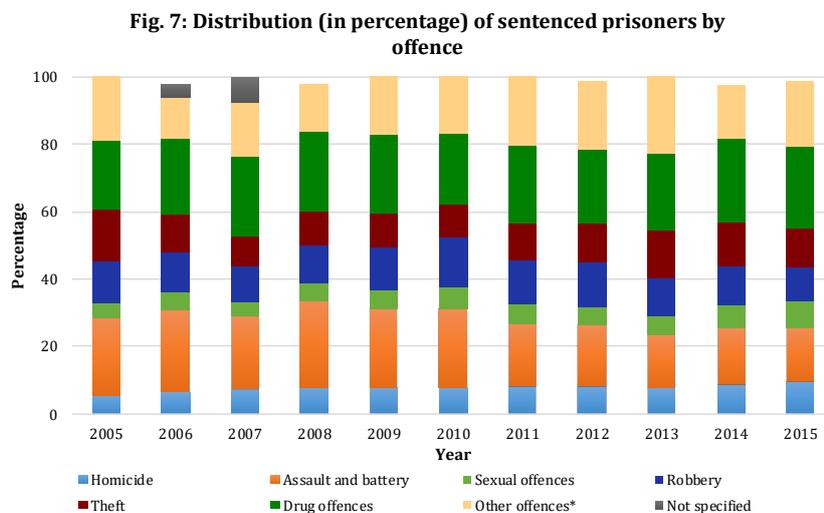
Figure 7¹²³ (95)

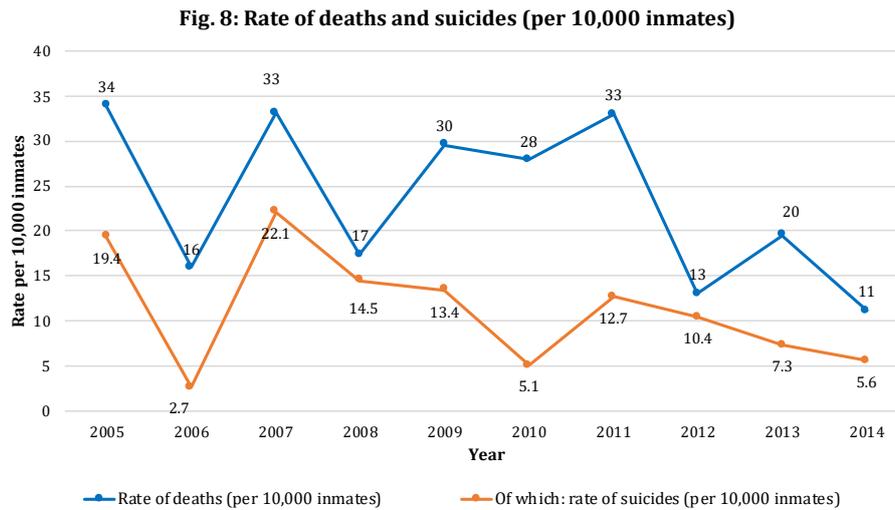
Figure 7 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentages of prisoners serving sentences for homicide, sexual offences, and drug offences have increased; while the percentages of those serving sentences for assault and battery, robbery, theft, and other types of offences have decreased.

¹ The figures provided by the country do not always add to 100%.

² Sexual offences include (1) rape (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2005), and (2) other sexual offences (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2008).

³ Other offences include (1) economic and financial offences (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2008); (2) terrorism (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2007); (3) organised crime (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2007); (4) cybercrime (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2014); (5) other cases (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2005).

Figure 8 (96)



The instability of the trends for deaths and suicides per 10,000 inmates shown in Figure 8 illustrates the impossibility of reaching statistically reliable conclusions when the absolute number of cases that generated the rates is low. From 2005 to 2014, the annual number of inmates who died in prison oscillated between 4 and 15 and, among them, the number of those who committed suicide fluctuated between 2 and 8.