

Presentation title:

## Young Stockholmers' perception of crime trends and their willingness to punish

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Purpose Law and order were ranked in August 2021 as the second most important political issue in Sweden, only healthcare was ranked higher. That the question ranks so high can be seen in the light of the fact that 47 percent of Swedes said in the same year that they felt a great deal of concern about the development of crime and that 82 percent answered that they believed that crime had increased in recent years. However, that question is very general, which hides the fact that many different crimes develop very differently. International studies have consistently shown that people have poor knowledge of crime trends, that a majority believe that crime increases more than they do and that those who believed that crime was increasing were also more likely to favor harsher punishments. In Sweden, there is a lack of studies on people's perceptions of the development of crime. The purpose of the study is to investigate young Stockholmers' perception of crime development and whether the perception affects which punishments they want to hand out for two different types of crime. Method The study includes approximately 700 young Stockholmers, aged 15-19, who during school hours have been asked to answer a web survey. Apart from certain background questions, the respondents have had to answer how they think the development of crime reported to the police, for ten different types of crime, has looked like over the past 10 years. They also had to answer questions about general attitudes to punishment levels, and finally, they read two different crime vignettes and answer what punishment they think the person would receive in a Swedish court, as well as what punishment they themselves consider appropriate.