

Speaker: Maria Von Bredow (The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention, Sweden)

Presentation title: Youth Robberies in Sweden

Co-authors: Anna Öström and Sara Jonsson (The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention, Sweden)

In December 2021 The Swedish National Council of Crime Prevention (Brå) published a report on youth robberies showing that the number of reported robberies carried out by young people against people under 18, as well as the self-reported exposure to robbery among young people, have both increased in Sweden between 2015 and 2019. It also shows that increasingly more youths express worry about being robbed, and this increase is particularly noticeable among boys. Exactly how youth robberies are committed varies greatly. In some cases, no explicit threats or violence are used, while in other cases, explicit threats, violence and weapons, as well as acts of force and humiliation, are used. As a consequence, many youths who fall victim to robbery are affected by the crime not only financially, but also psychologically and physically. The report shows, for instance, that after being robbed, youths may have trouble sleeping, not want to go out or be in certain places and perhaps even need medical care. There is a need to closely watch developments in street robbery among young people, and this study offers an updated picture of these developments and the geographic distribution. The report also describes the victims, suspects and nature of youth robbery, as well as young people's experiences of robbery. This study is based on data from Brå's crime statistics, official registry data and geographic data from the Swedish Police Authority and Statistics Sweden, as well as surveys on exposure to and participation in street robbery targeting youths. The study also includes a review of preliminary police investigations into youth robbery and interviews with young perpetrators, victims and parents of victims. This short presentation will focus briefly on the results of the study, the methods used and the results of including young people's experiences and perspectives in research, especially in matters affecting them.