

2025 Safety Survey

In the following, you will find helpful information all around the 2025 Safety Survey in the federal state of Bremen.

Background of the survey

In the federal state of Bremen, the Law on the Continuous Monitoring of Crime and the Supplementary Evaluation of Police Crime Statistics in the Federal State of Bremen (Bremen Crime Statistics Act – BremKStatG) entered into force on January 1, 2020. The Bremen Crime Statistics Act provides for a representative survey of the population in the federal state of Bremen to be carried out on the subject of safety at least once every three years.

Objectives of the survey

Various objectives are pursued by means of the safety survey. The essential objectives are:

Shedding light on victimization

The safety survey is intended to shed light on the so-called dark field. The term "dark field" refers to criminal offences that have occurred but not been recorded by the police and are therefore not reflected in the police crime statistics. This can have different reasons: the victim did not even notice the crime or did not report it to the police.

In order to get a good overview of the dark field, questions are asked about the participants' own experience of crime and reporting behaviour. By shedding light on the dark field, the police are provided with a better picture of the real incidence of crime and thus enabled to take more appropriate measures in terms of both crime prevention and criminal prosecution.

Improving the sense of safety

The activities of the police are also guided by the population's sense of safety. A limited sense of safety can have a negative impact on the quality of life. By means of the safety survey, we would like to figure out how safe people feel in the federal state of Bremen. Among other things, we are interested in whether there are places in the state of Bremen where people feel unsafe. With the knowledge gathered from the safety survey, we want to plan and implement specific measures so that people can feel safe again in these places as well.

Optimising police work

The core tasks of the police are the prevention and combating of criminal offences. The police forces in the federal state of Bremen claim to be police forces that are close to the citizens. They work with and for the people who live in the state of Bremen.

We would like to know how satisfied people are with their police in Bremen and in Bremerhaven. Are there perhaps areas where improvement is possible? The answers are intended to help us align the work of the police even better with the needs of the citizens.

Who is being surveyed?

In the federal state of Bremen, almost 30,000 people aged 16 and over will be contacted as part of the 2025 Safety Survey. The persons were selected by means of a random sample from the data of the residence registration offices in Bremen and Bremerhaven.

The highest possible participation in the safety survey is necessary in order to obtain statistically reliable results. This increases the meaningfulness of the results and enables us to implement any necessary measures for the people in the state of Bremen in a more targeted way.

How is the survey conducted?

The randomly selected persons will receive an announcement letter by postal mail. In this letter, they are provided with information on the essential contents of the survey.

A few days later, they will receive the questionnaire by postal mail. Participation in the safety survey is possible on the one hand by filling out the written questionnaire. On the other hand, it is also possible to complete the questionnaire in an online version. The online questionnaire is offered in the following languages:

- Arabic
- Bulgarian
- English
- Polish
- Russian
- Turkish
- Ukrainian

In addition, the online version of the questionnaire is also available in simple language. The purpose of this is to give as many citizens as possible the opportunity to participate in the survey.

The completed written questionnaire is sent to an external service provider from another federal state that is commissioned by the Bremen State Office Bremen of Criminal Investigation. Postage costs are borne by the Security Analyses Project and do not have to be borne by the respondents themselves. The external service provider will process the written questionnaires. Following these processing activities, the Bremen State Office Bremen of Criminal Investigation will receive the answers in digital form. Afterwards, the actual evaluation will take place at the Bremen State Office of Criminal Investigation. The results of the study are recorded in a report. This report will be presented and made available to the public.

Survey period

The survey will take place from late April until approx. mid-May 2025.

How was the questionnaire developed?

The questionnaire was developed by staff members of the local police authority of Bremerhaven, the Bremen police and the State Minister of the Interior, who were able to draw on their findings from studies in the social sciences, criminology and police science, among others.

The development of the questionnaire was based on already established survey tools. In particular, the dark field studies of the state offices of criminal investigation of Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein, the study "Security and Crime in Germany" by the Federal Office of Criminal Investigation and the police forces of the federal states as well as the dark field study on violence conducted by the Criminological Research Centre of the State Office of Criminal Investigation of North Rhine-Westphalia on behalf of the Ministry of the Interior of North Rhine-Westphalia and the Ministry of Home Affairs, Municipal Affairs, Building and Equal Treatment of North Rhine-Westphalia were used as sources of reference.

Newly developed questions were subjected to a qualitative pre-test. One of the purposes of this pre-test is to check whether the questions are understandable and whether the surveyed persons interpret the question identically.

Why is the survey repeated at least once every three years?

The safety survey is repeated in the federal state of Bremen at least every three years for two major reasons in particular:

1. By repeating the survey, long-term developments and trends can be identified.
2. The results of the safety surveys are to be used to determine whether and to what extent the measures taken had an effect. Thus, an impact control is performed.

Who is going to conduct the survey?

The survey is conducted by the Bremen State Office of Criminal Investigation, which is in charge of conducting the survey on behalf of the police forces in the state of Bremen.

Security advice

We explicitly ask you to be aware of the circumstance that criminals might make use of the 2025 Safety Survey in order to commit criminal offences. Criminals could, for instance, pretend to be employees of the Bremerhaven local police authority or the Bremen police in order to ask you questions.

All randomly selected persons will receive written messages and be contacted by us exclusively by postal mail. They can then complete the questionnaire in writing and send it back by postal mail, or they can complete it on the Internet.

You will explicitly not be contacted by telephone or visited at home within the framework of the 2025 Safety Survey.

If you have any doubts as to whether you have received an original questionnaire or if you were personally contacted by people in the framework of the safety survey, please contact us by telephone or e-mail at:

0421-362-76090

Sicherheitsbefragung@polizei.bremen.de

Please dial the emergency number 110 if you need immediate assistance from the police.

Data protection

Participation in the 2025 Safety Survey is voluntary and anonymous. You will not suffer any disadvantages whatsoever if you decide not to participate.

We use the addresses provided by the residence registration offices exclusively to mail the announcement letters, the questionnaire and the thank-you letter to the randomly selected persons.

At no time can and will responses be linked to the addresses and thus to the surveyed persons. We have commissioned an external service provider from another federal state to process the written questionnaires. The service provider has no access to the addresses of the surveyed persons.

The evaluation of the questionnaires will be carried out exclusively by employees and thus not by police officers. The employees concerned are not subject to the principle of legality, which obliges police officers to start investigations when experiences of crime are reported to them.