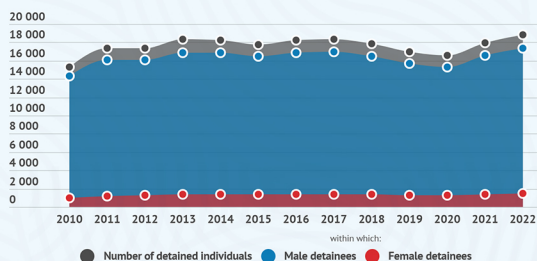


Prison population in Hungary

Total number of detainees



Data on the 30th of June each year

The ratio of people in prisons within the population of Hungary is rather high in comparison to European countries. The total number of detainees has not changed substantially over the past ten years. During the COVID-19 pandemic, prison population has generally decreased in most countries but in Hungary it has grown. Having a lot of people detained is costly, it deteriorates family relationships, and the time spent in prison does not aid getting back to everyday life. Prison population can be decreased by for example, not imprisoning people for minor crimes and for not being able to pay petty offence fines.

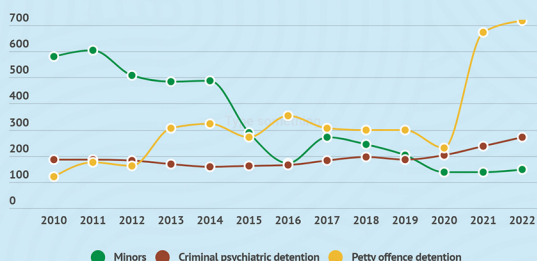
People under pre-trial detention



Data on the 30th of June each year

The number of people under pre-trial detention, meaning those who are in prison without a final sentence, had been continuously decreasing for a few years, but has started increasing in 2019, which continued during the COVID-19 pandemic. The reason for this is partly that during the pandemic courts wanted to ensure that defendants are present in the procedure. It is rare that somebody is allowed to wait for the end of the procedure putting down bail or in house arrest.

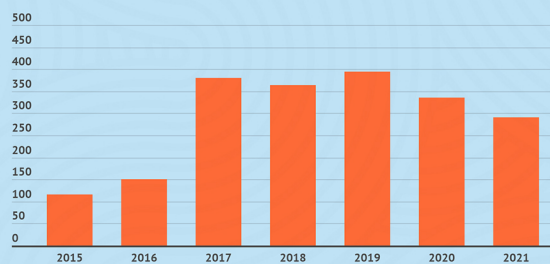
"Special groups" of detainees



Data on the 30th of June each year

The number of people under 18 in prison is much lower than before. However, there are a lot of young people imprisoned because of petty offences. People who commit a petty offence can be sanctioned to petty offence confinement, to fine or to community service. Unless they pay the fine or do community service instead, they have to go to prison. 5,000 HUF (approx. €13) of fine is equal to one day in prison.

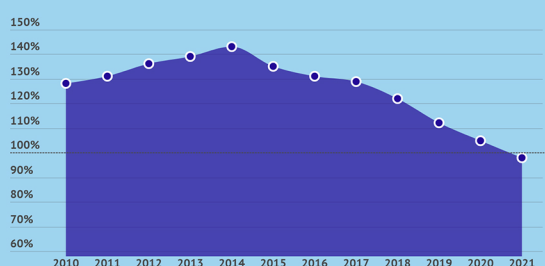
People in reintegration custody



Data on 31st of December between 2015-2020, on 30th of June in 2021

In some cases, those who were sentenced to prison for committing a negligent or non-violent crime can spend the last months of their sentence at home, in „reintegration custody”, they can work or go to school. People in reintegration custody are under remote surveillance by an electronic ankle monitor.

Prison overcrowding



Prison overcrowding shows how many people are in prison, compared to the full operational capacity. Over the past years this number has been continuously decreasing. One of the reasons behind this is that additional operational capacity was created in the Hungarian penitentiary system, the other reason that since 2017 the method for calculating how much living space one person needs was changed, “creating” more space this way without building new prisons. Overcrowding could be minimised if less people were sent to prison.