

CHAPTER 1

STATUS, STRUCTURE AND DYNAMICS OF CRIME: TRENDS AND PATTERNS

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INTRODUCTION

Analysis of the state of crime, its trends and regularities is a prerequisite for the effectiveness of crime prevention activities. It allows adequately assessing the criminal situation in the country and predicting the probable trends of change in it.

Preparation of such works is a well-established tradition in Ukrainian criminology. Such first publication was published in 1994¹. In the following years, a number of monographs were prepared within this scientific direction, in particular, works by O.M. Lytvak²; O.H. Kulyk³, Ye.M. Blazhivskyi et al.⁴, V.M. Beschastnyi⁵, and others.

These studies describe the results of a comprehensive criminological analysis of crime, make interesting theoretical generalizations on the criminological structure of crime in the country, determine trends in the dynamics of the total number of reported (recorded) crimes, crimes of certain groups and types, characteristics of those who committed crimes, analyse the practice of conviction and punishment of criminals.

However, crime in Ukraine is changing rapidly in recent years. There are new trends, types of criminal behaviour in various spheres of social life. Improving the theory and practice of counteracting crime requires an

¹ Kulik A.G. Obschchaya tendentsiya prestupnosti v Ukraine v 1972–1993 gg. i prognoz na blizhayshie gody / A.G. Kulik, V.I. Bobyr' // Prestupnost' v Ukraine. Byulleten' zakonodatel'stva i yuridicheskoy praktiki Ukrainy. – 1994. – № 2. – S. 5–37; 134–185.

² Lytvak O.M. Zlochynnist, yii prychnyny ta profilaktyka / O. Lytvak. – K. : Ukraina, 1997. – 167 s.; Lytvaka O.M. Derzhava i zlochynnist : Monohrafiia / O.M. Lytvak. – K. : Atika, 2004. – 304 s.

³ Kulyk O. H. Zlochynnist v Ukraini: tendentsii, zakonomirnosti, metody piznannia : Monohrafiia / O.H. Kulyk. – K. : Yurinkom Inter, 2011. – 288 s.; Kulyk O.H. Zlochynnist v Ukraini na pochatku XXI stolittia : monohrafiia / O.H. Kulyk. — K. : Yurinkom Inter, 2013. — 272 s; Kulyk O.H., Naumova I.V., Bova A.A. Zlochynnist v Ukraini: faktory, tendentsii, protydiia (2002–2014 rr.): monohrafiia. – Kyiv: DNDI MVS Ukrainy, 2015. – 364 s.

⁴ Monitorynhovyi kryminolohichniy analiz zlochynnosti v Ukraini (2009–2013 roky): monohr. / [Blazhivskyi Ye.M., Koziakov I.M., Knyzhenko O.O., Lytvak O.M., Yarmysh O.N. ta in.]. – K.: Natsionalna akademiia prokuratury Ukrainy, 2014. – 484 s.

⁵ Beschastnyi V.M. Kryminolohichne zabezpechennia protydii zlochynnosti v Ukraini [Tekst] : monohrafiia / V. M. Beschastnyi. – Kharkiv : V spravi, 2017. – 358 s.

analysis of the current statistics on the state, structure, and dynamics of crime in the country, the establishment of trends and regularities that are inherent in it in recent years. This is the purpose of this work.

The paper was prepared on the basis of the analysis of statistical data for a consolidated report on criminal offenses (f. No. 1) for 2013–2018, the form of which was approved by the order of the General Prosecutor's Office of Ukraine in agreement with the State Statistics Committee of Ukraine as of 23.10.2012⁶. During the study, the most simple methods of descriptive statistics were used – summarizing, grouping of statistical data, their graphic representation; calculation of absolute, average values, relative indicators of dynamics (growth rates), and structure (shares), ratios of absolute values of crime per 100 thousand population of the country or its region. This allowed ensuring a proper understanding of the analytical data and its interpretation by both academics and practitioners of law enforcement bodies.

1.1. General crime trends

Reported crimes. All acts with signs of crimes registered in the URPI⁷ are divided into two groups: acts, the proceedings of which are closed on rehabilitation grounds, and reported crimes. During the period under review, there was a noticeable decrease in the number of acts of the first group (Fig. 1). In 2013, 989,496 such acts were registered, but in the following year, their number decreased immediately by 38.5%, and in 2015 – by another 13.2% and amounted to 528,132. In 2016–2017, this indicator was not significantly changed, and in 2018 it decreased by 18.7% and amounted to 428,298.

⁶ Yedyni zvity pro kryminalni pravoporushennia (f №1) za 2013–2018 rr. Statystychna informatsiia pro stan zlochynnosti ta rezultaty prokurorsko-slidchoi diialnosti. Ofitsiinyi sait heneralnoi prokuratury Ukrainy. URL: <https://www.gp.gov.ua/ua/statinfo.html> (data zvernennia: 05.02.2019).

⁷ Yedynyi reiestr dosudovykh rishen (IeRDR) – stvorena za dopomohoiu avtomatyzovanoi systemy elektronna baza danykh, vidpovidno do yakoi zdiisniuutsia zbyrannia, zberihannia, zakhyst, oblik, poshuk, uzahalnennia danykh pro zlochyny, obstavyny yikh vchynennia ta khid dosudovoho rozsliduvannia (p.2 hlavy 1 ta p.1 hlavy 2 Polozhennia pro poriadok vedennia Yedynoho reiestru dosudovykh rozsliduvan, zatverdzenoho nakazom Heneralnoi prokuratury Ukrainy vid 06.04.2016 № 139, zareiestrovanoho v Ministerstvi yustytzii Ukrainy 05.05.2016 za № 680/28810).

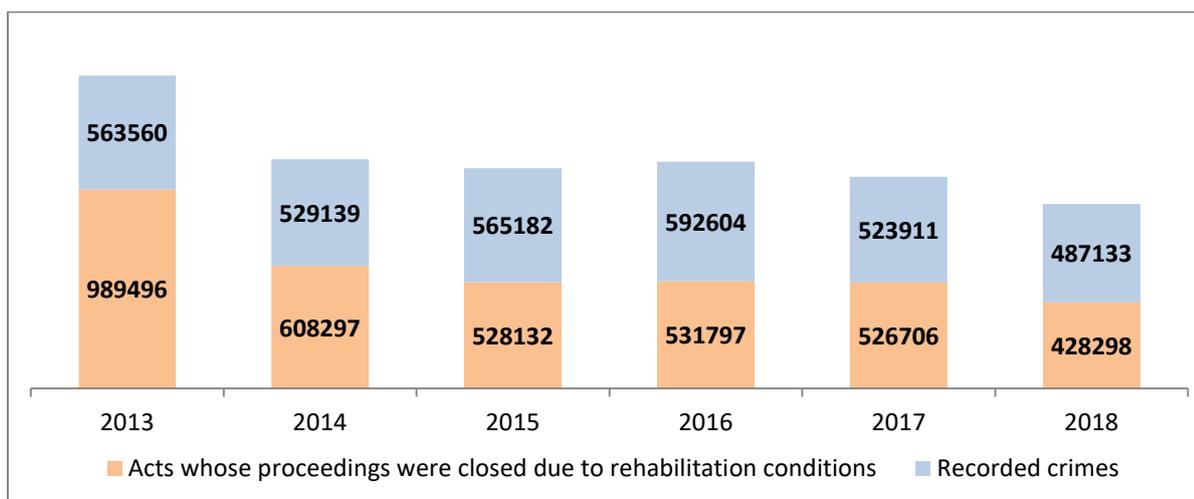


Fig. 1. Reported crimes and acts closed on rehabilitation grounds

The dynamics of the number of reported crimes⁸ was somewhat different; in particular, this indicator did not undergo significant fluctuations. In 2013, in which the crime reporting was made first on the basis of the new regulatory framework, 563,560 crimes were reported. In 2014, this indicator amounted to 529,139 (–6.1%), and in the next two years it increased by 6.8% and 4.9% and amounted to 592,604 in 2016. In the last two years of the analysed period, there was a reduction in the number of reported crimes, in 2017 to 523,911 (–11.6%), and in 2018 – to 487,133 (–7.0%).

The structure of crime by the place of commission. In 2014–2018, there was a coincidence in the trends of dynamics of the crimes committed in cities and urban-type settlements (UTS) (urban crime) and encroachments in rural areas (rural crimes) (Fig. 2). The number of urban crimes in 2014 decreased to 410,619 (–5.4%), in the next two years it increased to 461,798 (+5.9% and +6.2%), and in 2017–2018 it decreased by 12.0% and 6.1%, respectively, and at the end of the period was 381,602. The growth rates of rural crimes were slightly different. In 2014, their number decreased by 8.1%, in 2015 it increased by 16.1%, and in the following year it remained at the same level and amounted to 114,992 (+1.0% to the indicator of the previous year). In 2017–2018, the number of such encroachments decreased by 9.2% and 10.7%, respectively, and amounted to 93,259 in 2018.

⁸ Dali za tekstom dlia poznachennia oblikovanykh zlochyniv bude vzhivatysia termin «zlochyny».

The crimes committed in cities and UTS constitute an absolute majority of all reported encroachments, an average of 77.6%. During the analysed period, the share of urban crimes grew but insignificantly. In 2018, it was 78.3%. The share of rural crimes fluctuated within 19-20%, and in 2018 it was 19.1%.

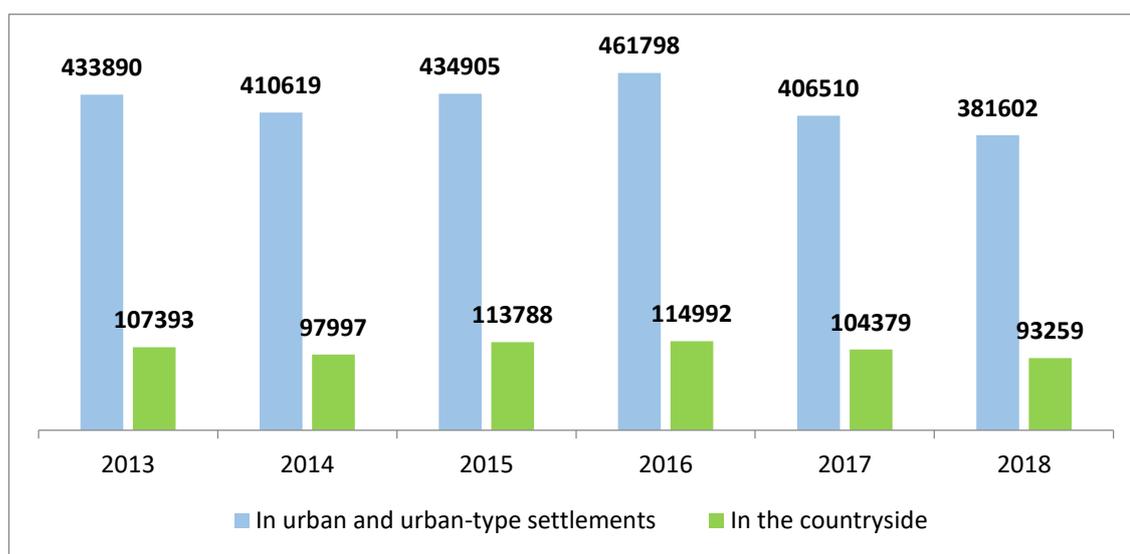


Fig. 2. Crimes committed in cities and UTS and rural area

Structure of crime by severity. In 2014–2018, the dynamics of crimes of varying severity significantly differed. The number of particularly grave offences increased from 13,776 in 2013 to 25,872 (+87.8%) in 2014, which was associated with the beginning of a large-scale armed confrontation in the East of the country, accompanied by a number of acts that were qualified as particularly grave crimes. In the next three years, the number of such acts constantly and significantly decreased (in 2015: –16.8%, 2016: –11.6%, 2017: –12.8%), and in 2018 it decreased further by 5.5% and equalled to 15,691.

The number of severe crimes varied similarly to the changes in the number of all reported crimes. In 2014, it declined by 1.2% and amounted to 154,216, in the next two years it increased significantly (+15.3% and +20.1%) and amounted to 213,521 in 2016, and in 2017–2018 it decreased by 7.2% and 15.2%, respectively, and was 167,986 by the end of the considered period.

The dynamics of crimes of medium gravity, the most numerous group of encroachments, highlighted by severity, had certain features. In 2014, their indicator decreased from 231,983 to 215,792 (–7.0%), in 2015 it grew

to 236,792 (+9.7%), and next year it did not change much (−0.2%). In the last two years of the analysed period, there was a reduction in the number of crimes of medium gravity. In 2018, it was noticeable and amounted to 202,424 (−14.4%), and in 2018 it was insignificant and amounted to 196,688 (−2.8%).

Unlike other groups of crimes distinguished by severity, the number of minor crimes decreased throughout the period under review, especially in 2014 (−17.6%) and 2017 (−13.6%). In 2018, the number of encroachments of this type remained at the level of the previous year (−0.1%). Over the years, the number of such acts has decreased from 161,669 to 106,768, that is, more than a third.

Such a dynamics of the number of groups of crimes with different degrees of severity caused certain changes in their structural distribution. During the period under review, a group of medium-gravity crimes was the most numerous, provided that their share among all reported crimes varied insignificantly, from 39% to 41%. Since 2014, severe crimes have become the second largest. Their share in 2014–2017 increased from 27.7% to 37.8%, i.e. became almost equal to the medium-gravity indicator. In 2018, this indicator dropped to 34.5%. The share of minor crimes in 2014–2017 has decreased from 28.7% to 20.4%, and in 2018 it was 21.9%. The share of particularly serious crimes in 2014 increased from 2.4% to 4.9%, in the next year it was 3.8%, and in 2016–2018 it was 3.2%.

Groups of crimes among crimes under investigation, identified by the criminological characteristics of offenders. Despite a 2.2% decrease in the number of crimes under investigation, in 2018, the indicators of major groups of such acts, which were allocated according to the criminological characteristics of person having committed these crimes, increased. Thus, the number of encroachments committed by persons who previously committed crimes increased to 77,200 (+16.1%) (2014: +1.8%; 2015: −8.6%; 2016: −13.3%; 2017: +31.7%), by a group of persons – to 14,514 (+28.3%) (2014: −1.2%; 2015: +11.7%; 2016: −31.2%; 2017: +13.1%), by minors and with their participation – to 5,814 (+3.7%) (2014: −15.0%; 2015: −4.0%; 2016: −27.1%; 2017: +7.2%), by persons while intoxicated – to 12,994 (+0.9%) (2014: −20.9%; 2015: −28.4%; 2016: −16.2%; 2017: −9.7%).

It should be noted that in 2018, the shares of groups of these crimes also increased. Thus, the share of crimes committed by persons who previously committed crimes has risen to 43.1% (2015: 34.0%; 2016: 35.1%; 2017: 36.3%), a group of persons – to 8.1% (2015: 8.5%; 2016:

6.9%; 2017: 6.2%). The share of crimes committed by minors and with their participation (2015: 4.2%; 2016: 3.6%; 2017: 3.1%; 2018: 3.2%) and by intoxicated persons (2015 and 2016: 9.9%; 2017: 7.0%; 2018: 7.3%) remained at the level of the previous year.

Now consider the trends in the dynamics of the most widespread groups and types of crimes in the country in 2014–2018.

1.2. The state and dynamics of crimes against life and health of the person and property crimes

Crimes against life and health of the person. In 2018, the favourable trend of reduction in the number of violent crimes against life and health of the person that lasted from 2013 was interrupted (Fig. 3).

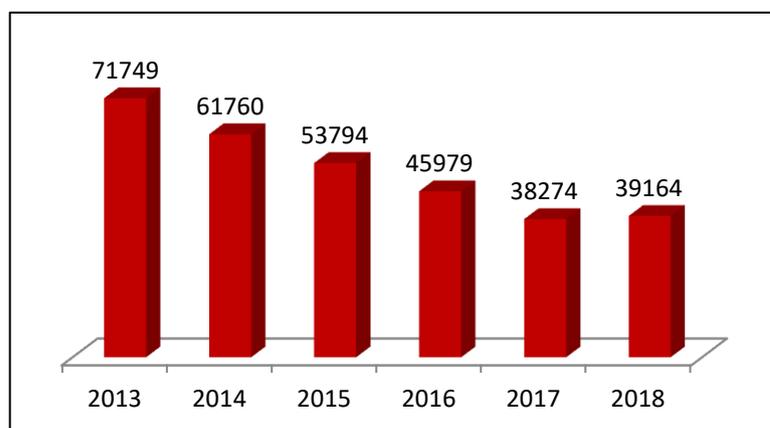


Fig. 3. Crimes against life and health of the person

In 2018, the number of encroachments in this category increased by 2.3% and amounted to 39,164 (2014: –13.9%; 2015: –12.9%; 2016: –14.5%; 2017: –16.8%). The share of encroachment of this direction among all reported crimes also increased and amounted to 8.0% (2013: 12.7%; 2014: 11.7%; 2015: 9.5%; 2016: 7.8%; 2017: 7.3%). Since 2013, crimes against life and health are the second most commonly reported crime group, accounting for 8.0% of all reported crimes.

Unlike in previous years, the number of intentional homicides (deaths and disappearances) has increased (Articles 115-118 of the CC), in 2018 it was equal to 5,600, which is by 8.1% more than in the previous year (2014: +94.7%; 2015: –28.2%; 2016: –26.9%; 2017: –14.4%). Their share

among all crimes against life and health of the person was 14.3% (2013: 8.3%; 2014: 18.7%; 2015: 15.4%; 2016: 13.2%; 2017: 13.5%) (Fig. 4).

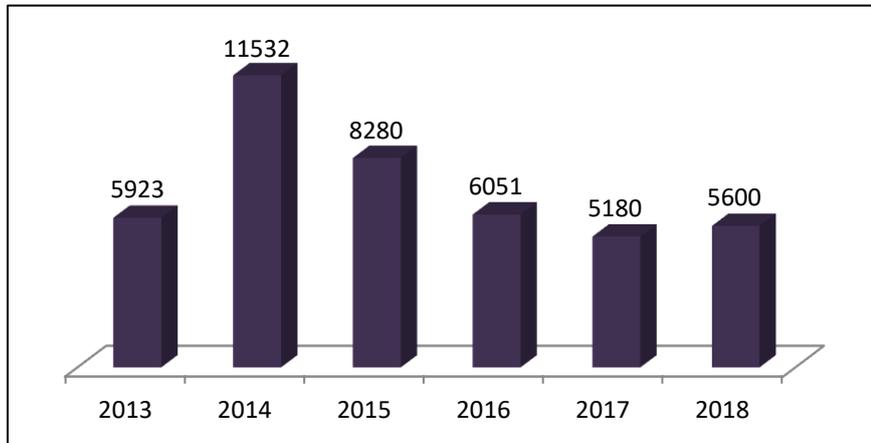


Fig. 4. Intentional homicides – deaths and disappearances (Articles 115-118 of the CC)

At the same time, the number of overt intentional homicides continued to decrease. In 2018, it decreased by 5.3% and equalled to 1,547 (2014: +140.9%; 2015: -34.4%; 2016: -43.5%; 2017: -10.5%) (Fig. 5). This year, 27.6% of all intentional homicides were overt (2013: 34.5%; 2014: 42.7%; 2015: 39.0%; 2016: 30.1%; 2017: 31.5%).

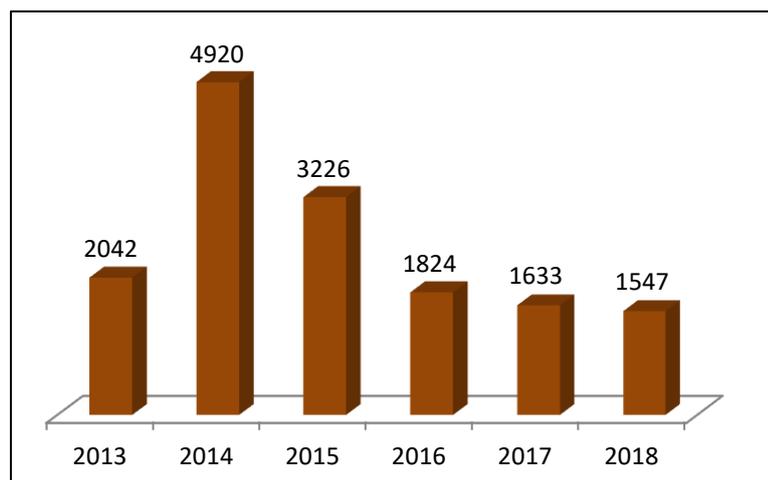


Fig. 5. Overt intentional homicides

It should be emphasized that the number of some types of intentional homicides has decreased, such as killing two or more persons (66; -5.7%); brutal murders (17; -37.0%); a way dangerous to the lives of many people (31; -13.9%); committed for financial gain (92; -6.1%); upon a preliminary collusion by a group of persons (102; -23.9%), and persons who had previously committed an intentional murder (76; -3.8%). At the same time, the number of murders of a young child or a woman who was known to be in a state of pregnancy (96; +47.7%); contract killings (13; +18.2%) and combined with rape or forcible sodomy (12; +50.0%) has increased.

In 2018, unlike in previous years, a slight increase in the number of intentional grave bodily injuries was recorded – to 2,130 (+1.6%) (2014: +3.5%; 2015: -19.8%; 2016: -10.2%; 2017: -7.1%), including those that caused the death of the victim – to 661 (+7.8%). In addition, for the first time in the past 5 years, the number of moderate bodily injuries has increased by 2.0% – to 3,139 (2014: -23.7%; 2015: -16.0%; 2016: -4.8%; 2017: -6.6%) (Fig. 6).

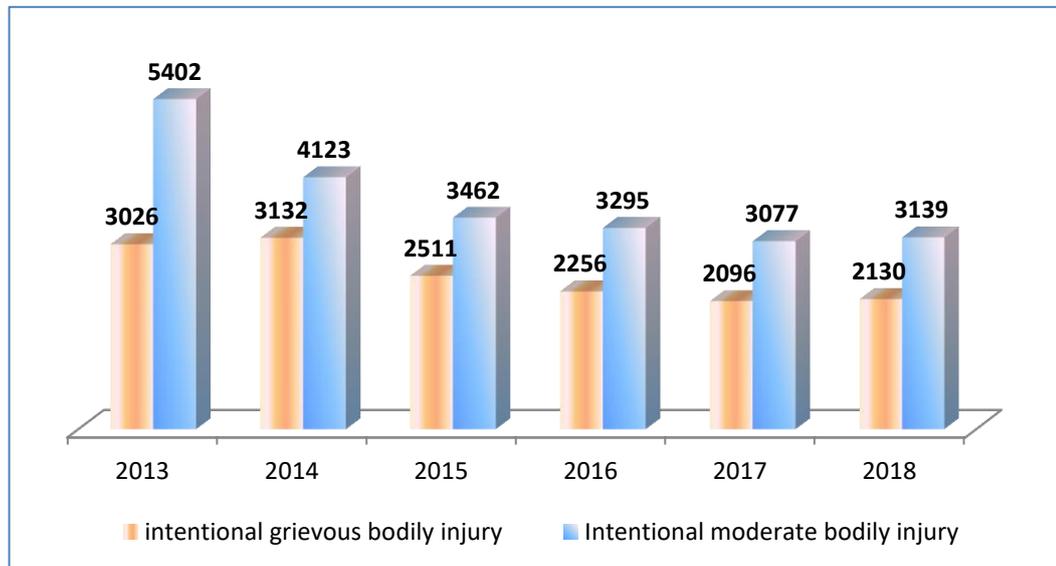


Fig. 6. Intentional grave and moderate bodily injuries

At the same time, the trend to decrease the number of cases of light bodily injury continued. Their number slightly decreased (-1.4%) and amounted to 23,447 (2014: -24.3%; 2015: -8.2%; 2016: -13.7%; 2017: -20.6%) (Fig. 8). After the provision in 2013 of their full registration, light bodily injuries became the most common form of crimes against the life

and health of the individual. In 2013, they accounted for 69.7% of encroachment of this direction, in 2014: 61.3%; in 2015: 64.6%; in 2016: 65.2%; in 2017: 62.2% and in 2018: 59.9%.

Some types of crimes of this direction were characterized by unfavourable tendencies. So, there was an increase in the number of cases of murder threats – 1,086 (+17.3%), battery and physical cruelty – 1,320 (+62.0%), unintentional infliction of grave or moderate bodily injury – 873 (+8.4%), torture – 163 (+98.8%), negligent homicide – 137 (+2.2%), forced suicide – 114 (+4.6%).

An increase in the number of crimes related to domestic violence in the last 4 years should also be noted – 1,586 (+18.3%) (2014: –59.1%; 2015: +8.7%; 2016: +29.5%; 2017: +18.3%).

Property crimes. In 2018, the reduction in the number of crimes of this direction continued. There were 303,850 such acts, which is 9.5% less than the previous year (2014: –7.0%; 2015: +16.3%; 2016: +12.0%; 2017: –17.2%). These crimes amount to 62.4% of all crimes committed in the country (Fig. 7).

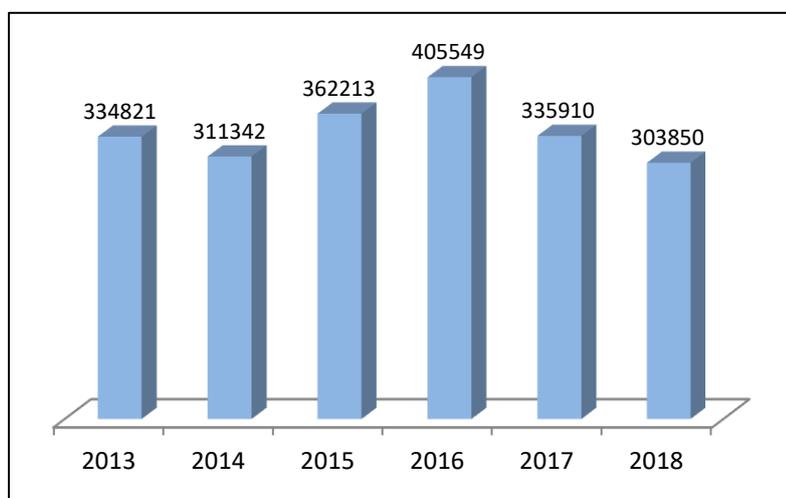


Fig. 7. Property crimes

The reduction of crime in the country occurred mainly due to the reduction of the number of such common criminal actions.

The number of most common types of crimes in this category and all crimes in general – thefts – decreased by 8.7% and amounted to 238,492 (2014: –6.6%; 2015: +20.7%; 2016: +14.0%; 2017: –16.3%), which

accounts for 49.0% of all reported crimes and 78.5% of encroachments on property (Fig. 8).

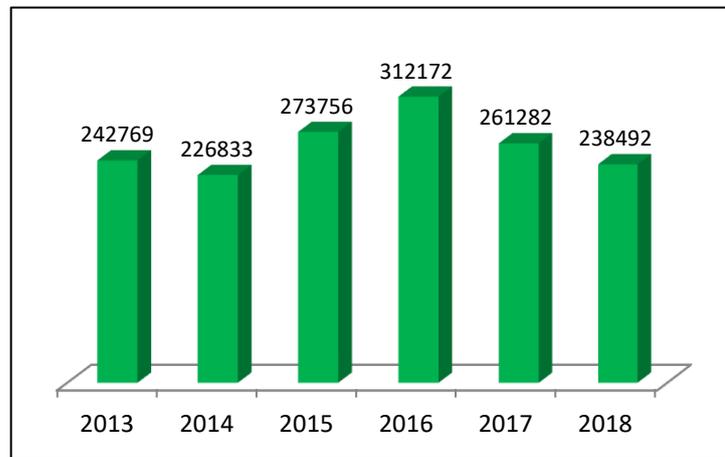


Fig. 8. Thefts

The absolute majority (87.3%) of thefts were aimed at the acquisition of private property, and their number decreased to 208,182 (–10.2%). The number of encroachments on the state-owned property also decreased by 10.0% compared to the corresponding period of the last year and amounted to 4,487.

Among all types of thefts, the data of which are reflected in statistical reporting, during the reporting year the number of thefts from apartments decreased to 20,228 (–19.6%); from cars – to 9,619 (–9.6%); from cottages, garden houses – to 5,171 (–22.5%). Instead, the increase in the number of pickpocketing – to 7,926 (+12.5%); from warehouses, bases, shops, and other outlets – to 24,322 (+2.5%); passengers’ things – to 1,962 (+3.0%); cargo in transport – to 245 (+14.5%) was unfavourable.

Theft of these varieties amounts to only 29.8% of all thefts (2014: 27.8%; 2015: 26.5%; 2016: 29.3%; 2017: 29.7%). The nature of the remaining thefts is still unknown, which makes the assessment of these acts incomplete.

Encroachments against property should include also cases of illegal possession of a vehicle, which in the CC of Ukraine are attributed to crimes in the field of traffic safety and transport operation. In 2018, there were 6,642 such acts, which is 26.3% less than last year (2014: +86.1%; 2015: –9.3%; 2016: +6.5%; 2017: –26.1%). Almost 60% of these crimes

are aimed at capturing cars (2014: 68.3%; 2015: 60.1%; 2016: 55.6%; 2017: 56.5%).

In 2018, the number of cases of fraud continued to decrease. Their number decreased by 10.1% compared to the same period last year (2014: -11.0%; 2015: +9.4%; 2016: +0.3%; 2017: -19.6%) and amounted to 33,290, which accounted for 6.8% of all reported crimes and 11.0% of the total number of property crimes. This is the second most widespread type of crime in the country. Unlike in the previous year, the number of cases of large-scale fraud or fraud through illegal operations involving the use of computer technology decreased - 3,366 (-30.5%) but the number of fraudulent acts related to the seizure of real estate increased - 1,464 (+10.8%).

The reduction trend was also characteristic of lucrative-violent crimes. The number of robberies dropped by 23.7% to 13,838 (2014: -9.5%; 2015: +7.6%; 2016: +23.0%; 2017: -33.3%), assaults related to robbery - by 24.7% and was 2,263 (2014: +36.4%; 2015: -8.7%; 2016: +9.8%; 2017: -23.0%), cases of extortion - up to 605, which is 12.1% less than last year (2014: -12.7%; 2015: -7.8%; 2016: +0.7%; 2017: +15.8%) (Fig. 9).

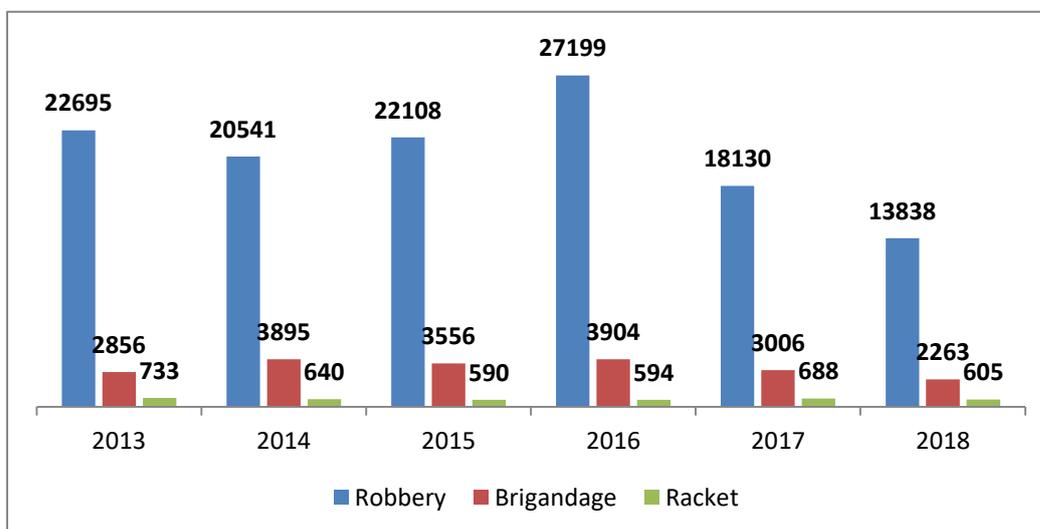


Fig. 9. Lucrative-violent crimes

In 2018, the number of crimes against property committed in the field of the economy, in particular, cases of appropriation, embezzlement or possession of the property by abuse of authority, remained at the level of last year - 10,713 (-0.4%). The number of such crimes committed in large

volumes decreased significantly to 127 (–29.1%) and in particularly large amounts – by 26.5% to 250.

Reduction in the number of crimes against property, particularly thefts, has decisively influenced the reduction in the total number of reported crimes in the country. Such a reduction in the number of most types of mercenary and lucrative-violent encroachments is probably associated with the limitation of the reporting of violations of medium and low severity.

1.3. State and dynamics of other crimes

Crimes in the field of economic activity. In 2018, a slight increase in the number of crimes in the field of economic activity continued. During the reporting year, 6,334 such encroachments were detected, which is 0.6% more than in the previous year (2014: –24.2%; 2015: –9.3%; 2016: –9.1%; 2017: +0.6%) (Fig. 10). Their share among all offenses committed was 1.3%.

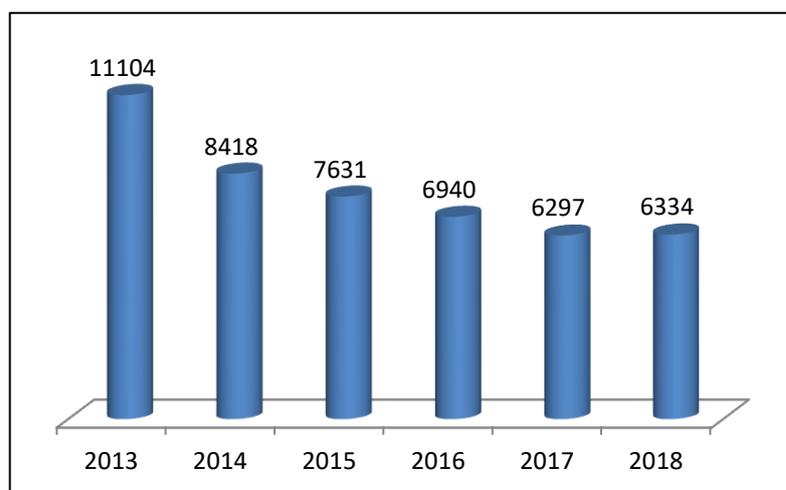


Fig. 10. Crimes in the field of economic activity

Law enforcement authorities have established more evasion of taxes, fees (mandatory payments) – 1,099 (+8.9%); illegal actions with transfer documents, payment cards, and other means of access to bank accounts, equipment for their manufacture – 609 (+56.2%) and smuggling – 125 (+22.5%).

At the same time, the number of other types of crimes in the sphere of economic activity decreased: the production, storage, acquisition,

transportation, forwarding, import into Ukraine with the intent to distribute or for the sale of counterfeit money, government securities or state lottery tickets – up to 915 (–10.5%); sham business – up to 715 (–8.8%); violation of the procedure for carrying out operations with scrap metal – to 639 (–3.3%); illegal manufacture, storage, sale or transportation with the intent to distribute excisable goods – to 574 (–3.7%); engaging in gambling business – to 301 (–35.8%) and so on.

The number of detected facts of legalization (laundering) of proceeds of crime remained at the last year’s level and amounted to 242 (–0.4%).

The given data testify to a certain activation of activities of the economic protection units of the National Police of Ukraine, which is a positive trend. Detection of such encroachments as evasion of taxes, fees (compulsory payments); illegal actions with transfer documents, payment cards, and other means of access to bank accounts, equipment for their manufacture, and smuggling increased.

Public safety crimes. Despite the fact that in 2018, the tendency to reduce the number of public safety crimes has restored, the situation in this area remains unfavourable (Fig. 11). The number of these encroachments, though reduced by 9.0%, remains high and equals 10,711 (2014: +53.7%; 2015: –2.1%; 2016: –6.8%; 2017: +8.0%), and their share among all crimes was 2.2%.

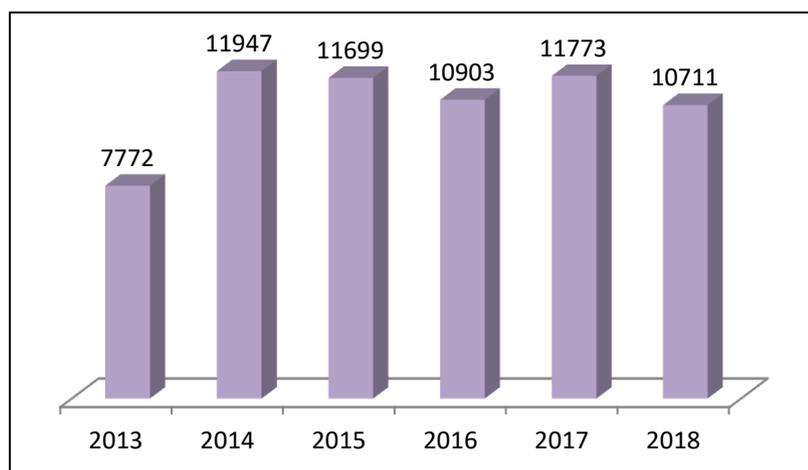


Fig. 11. Public safety crimes

The dynamics of the crimes of this group is significantly affected by the most widespread and dangerous type of crime – the unlawful use of

weapons, ammunition or explosives. The number of these acts in 2018 was 7,466, which is less than in the past by 6.7% but remains significant (2014: +4.3%; 2015: +2.5%; 2016: -14.9%; 2017: +26.9%) (Fig. 12).

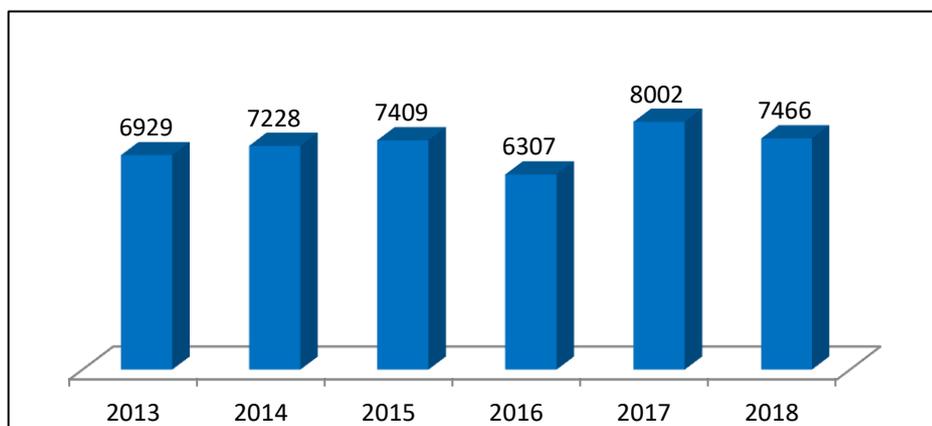


Fig. 12. Unlawful use of weapons, ammunition or explosives

In 2018, the number of terrorist acts decreased to 950 (-31.4%); cases of the creation of extra-legal paramilitary or armed units – 396 (-8.1%); creation of a terrorist group or terrorist organization – 175 (-36.8%); creation of a criminal organization – 84 (-4.5%); financing of terrorism – 51 (-31.1%); banditry – 22 (-26.7%).

At the same time, the number of facts of a knowingly false report about the threat to citizens' safety, destruction or damage to property objects has increased – 693 (+12.0%), as well as violations of fire safety requirements established by legislation – 468 (+13.3%).

Crimes in the sphere of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, their analogues or precursors, and other crimes against public health (drug-related crimes). In 2018, the trend of reducing the number of drug-related crimes, interrupted last year, was restored. 27,007 such acts were investigated, which is 6.9% less than in the previous year (2014: -10.3%; 2015: -15.0%; 2016: -11.1%; 2017: +26.0%) (Fig. 13). The share of these acts among all reported crimes was 5.5% as in the past year.

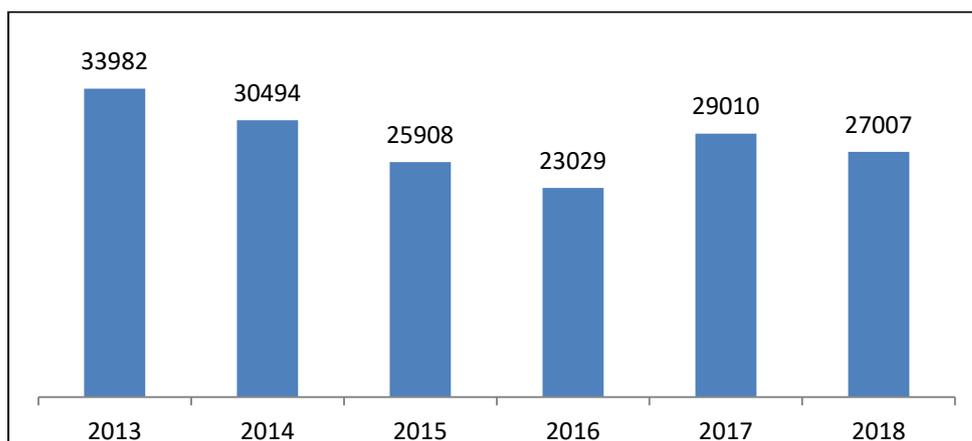


Fig. 13. Crimes in the sphere of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, their analogues or precursors, and other crimes against public health

It should be noted that the effectiveness of the work of the relevant police units in detecting certain types of drug-related crimes was different. Thus, there was a reduction in the number of identified cases of committing the most widespread drug-related crimes – illegal production, manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation or transfer of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances or their analogues without the intent to distribute. In 2018, it was 18,022, which is less than in the past by 10.2% (2014: –9.7%; 2015: –11.4%; 2016: +16.8%; 2017: +15.4%). The number of the following cases has also decreased: sowing or growing white poppy or cannabis (1,555; –22.9%); the smuggling of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, their analogues or precursors or counterfeit medicines (212, –15.5%); the organization or maintenance of places for the illicit use, production or manufacture of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances or their analogues (511; –13.4%).

At the same time, last year's increase in the number of the second most common type of drug-related crimes continued – cases of illicit production, manufacture, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or sale of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances or their analogues (Fig. 20). This year, 5,453 such acts were detected, which is 8.4% more than in the past (2014: –10.8%; 2015: –21.4%; 2016: –65.3%; 2017: growth in 2,2 times). In particular, the number of cases of sales of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances or their analogues increased to 3,892 (+13.5%) (2014: +8.3%; 2015: –20.0%; 2016: –70.7%; 2017: growth in 2,7 times).

The above data testify that the activities of the CDC units of the National Police of Ukraine remain quite effective. A slight decrease in the total number of detected drug-related crimes is associated with a certain

decrease in their activity in relation to bringing drug users to responsibility. A clear line is continuing on the primary response to the distribution of narcotic drugs. Such an approach is entirely justified.

Crimes in the sphere of public service activities and professional activities related to the provision of public services. In 2018, the number of crimes in the field of public service activities and professional activities related to the provision of public services continued to increase (Fig. 14). In 2018, it increased by 3.5% and amounted to 19,909 (2014: -6.2%; 2015: -3.6%; 2016: -1.2%; 2017: +29.8%). The share of these acts among all crimes increased to 4.1%.

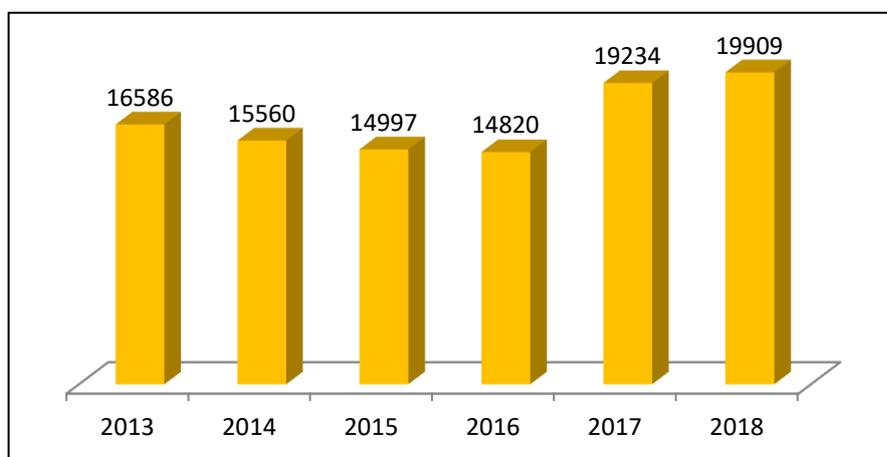


Fig. 14. Crimes in the sphere of public service activities and professional activities related to the provision of public services

The increase in the activity of police officers in identifying most of the actions of this area should be noted. However, unlike in the previous year, its pace slowed down.

Thus, the number of the most common acts in this area – cases of official counterfeiting – has increased to 6,644, which is by 0.8% more than in the previous year (2014: +10.5%; 2015: -14.9%; 2016: -8.4%; 2017: +18.1%); facts of accepting a proposal, promise or obtaining an unlawful benefit by an official (obtaining a bribe) – up to 2,189 (+4.9%) (2014: -8.8%; 2015: +3.5%; 2016: -0.6%; 2017: +32.2%); excess of power or official misconduct by a law enforcement officer – up to 2,159 (+6.3%) (2014: -13.0%; 2015: +0.8%; 2016: -14.7%; 2017: +78.2%); neglect of duty – up to 1,940 (+9.4%) (2014: -12.1%; 2015: -0.6%; 2016: -2.8%; 2017: +4.0%).

The number of less common types of crimes in this area has also increased. In particular, in 2018, the facts of the offer, promise, or giving

unlawful benefit to an official (bribe) were discovered – 785 (+41.2%); abuse of authority by persons providing public services – 308 (+31.6%); undue influence – 285 (+14.5%).

At the same time, fewer cases of abuse of power or position were detected – up to 3,589 (–10.2%) (2014: –32.6%; 2015: +19.9%; 2016: +9.2%; 2017: +18.9%), including those that caused grave consequences – up to 1,785 (–19.0%); abuse of authority by an official of a legal entity of private law irrespective of organizational form – 244 (–24.5%) and illegal enrichment – 73 (2016: 43; 2017: 104).

CONCLUSIONS

There are both positive and negative trends in relation to the crime rate in Ukraine during the period under review. During the last two years, the total number of reported crimes has decreased, which is determined by the reduction of thefts of all kinds, fraud and lucrative-violent encroachment. Such a reduction was due to both objective and subjective reasons, in particular, the desire of the police to reduce the significant level of workload that arose during the period of crime growth in 2014–2016.

Also, a tendency remains that more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of all crimes in Ukraine are committed in cities and UTSs, which share among all crimes is slowly increasing. On the other hand, the dynamics of the number of urban and rural crimes did not differ significantly.

A tendency to reduce the number of crimes of medium and, in particular, minor gravity is observed, which to some extent is determined by the desire to reduce the burden on the law enforcement system, especially the police, so that they can effectively counteract more serious crimes. The country still has a significant number of serious crimes, although in 2018 it has significantly decreased, which is a positive trend. The increase in the number of particularly serious crimes was short-term and conditioned by the large-scale armed confrontation in the East of the country.

The increase in the share of crimes, forwarded to the court, committed by persons who previously committed crimes, was probably due to the formation of a marginalized population in the country with increased criminal activity. In the past two years, there has been an increase in the percentage of group crimes, which, against the background of a decrease in the total number of reported crimes, may indicate an intensification of activities aimed at disclosing the most dangerous encroachments of a group nature.

Throughout the analysed period, the number of people who committed crimes while intoxicated declined, which is the result of a marked decrease in the population's alcoholization that has been observed over the last decade.

The situation of crimes against the life and health of a person has deteriorated a little; in particular, there has been an increase in intentional homicides (death and disappearances) and intentional grave bodily injuries. The increase in these types of crimes with a decrease in the number of overt intentional homicides indicates the continuing practice of qualification of a certain number of deaths and disappearances as intentional homicides. The increase in the number of crimes related to domestic violence is unfavourable, although it may be associated with the increasing attention of the public and, accordingly, the police to this problem.

Positive is the tendency of further growth of the number of revealed crimes without the victim – encroachments in the field of economic activity; drug-related crimes associated with the distribution of narcotic drugs; crimes in the field of public service activities and professional activities related to the provision of public services, in particular, corruption.

The number of crimes related to the unlawful use of weapons, ammunition or explosives remains significant. There is a noticeable decrease in the indicators of criminal acts of a terrorist nature and manifestations of organized crime.

SUMMARY

The work is devoted to the study of the state, structure, and dynamics of crime in Ukraine for the period of 2013–2018. During the analysis, a number of important trends in modern crime rates in the country have been identified. The periods of growth and reduction of crime in the country, the main tendencies of the dynamics of individual groups, and the most common types of crimes are determined. A number of important regularities of crime in the country are established: the dominance of urban crimes, reduction in the number of crimes of medium and little gravity while maintaining a significant level of severe crimes; increase in recidivism and group crime; reduction in the number of revealed crimes committed in the state of alcohol intoxication, as a consequence of a noticeable decrease in the level of alcoholization of the population. There is a significant level of serious infringements on the person's life and health, including intentional homicides; acts related to domestic violence; the absolute prevalence of property crimes, high levels of thefts and lucrative-violent crimes. An increase is established as regards to the number of crimes in the field of economic activity; drug-related crimes associated with the distribution of narcotic drugs; crimes in the field of public service activities and professional activities related to the provision of public services, in particular, corruption.

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