

Summary Estimation of the size of the population of Dutch Antilleans staying in the Netherlands without being officially registered; A capture-recapture analysis for the Ministry of Justice

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In this report we present estimates of the size of the population of Dutch Antilleans that stay in the Netherlands without being officially registered. These estimates range from around 3,000 in the year 2000 to less than 12,000 in the year 2003.

These estimates are based on an application of the so-called capture-recapture method. The registrations are linked by Statistics Netherlands, namely an automated system of decentralised (municipal) population registers (Dutch abbreviation: GBA) and a police registration (Dutch abbreviation: HKS). By linking these registrations we can define four groups of Dutch Antilleans: (i) the group known in GBA as well as in HKS (ii) the group known in HKS but not in GBA, (iii) the group known in GBA but not in HKS, and (iv) the group known in neither of the HKS or the GBA. As an intermediate result the capture-recapture method provides an estimate of the size of the group defined in (iv). By adding up the sizes of the groups under (ii) and (iv) we find the estimates provided above. The estimates are split up over levels of the variables gender, age, formerly being known by the police, being a hard drug user, length of stay in the Netherlands and marital status. We also provide estimates of percentages of each group known in HKS.

The capture-recapture method uses a number of assumptions to arrive at estimates. The tenability of these assumptions is discussed in detail.