

## Summaries

*Justitiële verkenningen* (Judicial explorations) is published nine times a year by the Research and Documentation Centre of the Dutch Ministry of Justice in cooperation with Boom Juridische uitgevers. Each issue focuses on a central theme related to judicial policy. The section *Summaries* contains abstracts of the internationally most relevant articles of each issue. The central theme of this issue (nr. 3, 2006) is *Demographic developments*.

### **Slow growth and rapid changes in Dutch population**

*M.J. Garssen*

Today's population changes are largely rooted in historical events. Ageing, for example, is more strongly determined by past changes in fertility than by the present lower risks of mortality at high ages. Likewise, the rapidly increasing numbers of foreigners could be considered an echo of the immigration policy that was implemented one generation ago. Due to the inertia of demographic processes, it is inevitable that both the number of elderly and the number of citizens with a foreign background will increase. At present, the slow growth of the Dutch population largely consists of foreigners of the second generation. These foreigners are overrepresented in the largest cities, where they now form about half of the school-age population.

### **The Netherlands in 2035: more fear, more inequality and more segregation ?**

*J. Latten and L. Verschuren*

In 30 years from now, the percentage of 65-year-olds will be up from 14% to 23% of the total population. Ageing may lead to rising fears and feelings of unsafety and to a rise in social isolation. Moreover the new generations will have less next of kin. Such tendencies may promote vulnerability. However, the growing feeling of unsafety paradoxically could go hand in hand with a reduction in the risk of becoming a crime victim. Lack of income is another aspect of vulnerability. Many indicators point to a rising inequality in income between former two-income households on the one hand, and widowed and non-western households on the other hand. Emancipation, immigration, partial general pension entitlements

and rising inequality in both capital distribution and private pension entitlements play an important role in this context. The growing age-related feeling of unsafety, and generation-related financial inequalities may lead to increased segregation. Shifts towards liberalising the housing market, and growing inequalities in income and lifestyle may stimulate segregation tendencies in general.

#### **Divided interests; ageing and the multi-ethnic society**

*E.W. Kruisbergen and M.T. Croes*

In this article, the social economic consequences of the ageing of the Dutch population for the intergenerational solidarity and interethnic solidarity are discussed. The different ways for dealing with the cost of the ageing have different consequences for the generations and income strata involved. Furthermore, given the difference in age structure between the allochtoneous and autochtoneous population and the continuing relative overdependency of immigrants on welfare and low-paid jobs, these consequences could have different results for different ethnic groups. These developments could perhaps tax the solidarity beyond the breaking point, especially when measures are postponed and become subject of a divisive political debate.

#### **Criminality, ethnicity and demographic developments**

*R.V. Bijl, M. Blom, J. Oudhof and B.F.M. Bakker*

This paper describes the proportion of population groups of foreign or Dutch origin among those persons recorded by the police – after completing criminal investigations – as suspects of crime. The central questions are: What is the (absolute and relative) number of suspects among the population groups of Dutch origin and foreign origin? How are suspected perpetrators related to demographic and socio-economic features of these population groups? What are the expectations in crime rates for the next decades in connection with demographic developments? In 2003, 1.1% of persons of Dutch origin were recorded as suspects by the police, and 2.7% of members of migrants groups. The differences that exist between groups of foreign and Dutch origin can be half 'explained' because of differences in age and sex. Moreover, by taking into account socio-economic features, another significant number of differences disappear. The conclusion that members of immigrant groups are

generally more frequently suspected of crime does not change as a result, but also shows that only considering this factor is rather one-sided. The second generation of members of non-Western immigrant groups perform relatively badly, in contrast to what is often thought. From demographic forecasts both downward and upward effects on crime rates until 2030 can be deduced. The growing proportion of elderly people in the population will have a downward effect on crime rates. But there might be an upward movement due to the increase of numbers of the most relevant risk group for crime – non-western migrants aged 15-30 years, if the current high crime rates in these groups persist.

**The foundations and diffusion of a second demographic transition**

*R. Lesthaeghe and J. Surkyn*

The article discusses the contrasts between a first (FDT) and a second demographic transition (SDT) in terms of their respective demographic, structural and cultural dimensions. They show that the SDT macro-demographic features are rapidly spreading in Central and parts of Southern Europe, and are also moving in Eastern Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean. This is propped up by a micro-level analysis of the European Values Survey data (1999-2000 round), which shows that patterns are emerging in Eastern and Southern Europe that are almost perfect replicas of what was found in Northern and Western Europe. Finally, the authors speculate about the prospects of further SDT diffusion to other continents, and argue that there is such a possibility in all capitalist societies where the primacy of individual agency cannot be curtailed and where higher order needs are more and more articulated.