Documentation

November 29, 2018

Data presented is the crime rate and the clearance rate for burglary in each of the regions of Germany from 2013 to 2017.

Burglary

For this data only burglary as defined by the German criminal law (StGB §244 Abs. 1 Nr. 3) is taken into consideration.
That means only theft of private property from residential quarters, such as apartments or single-family homes, where the perpetrator had to break or enter is accounted for.

Crime rate

The crime rate is the number of incidents that fit above-mentioned legal definition reported to the police per 100,000 capita of the region in each year.

Clearance rate

The clearance rate documents the relation of crimes reported to the number of crimes the police has solved in percent.
A crime is considered solved, once the police force is satisfied that proof is sufficient to hand the case over to the attorney and charges are filed. The charge does not have to lead to conviction for the crime to be considered solved. Furthermore there is the possibility that the police of a region solves more crimes in one year than there were reported that year, so a clearance rate of over 100% is possible.

Regions

From 2013 to 2016 Germany consisted of 402 regions, that is independet cities, rural districts and urban districts.
In 2017 "Osterode am Harz" and "Göttingen" merged to become only "Göttingen". I therefore combined their observations from 2013 to 2016 by adding the number of reported burglaries of both districts and dividing by the combined population for the crime rate. The clearance rate was calculated by dividing the sum of the solved burglaries of both regions by the sum of solved cases of both regions. Because of that, even though from 2013 to 2016 "Osterode am Harz" did still exist, it is not visible in this data as I merged it with "Göttingen" so it would be more easily comparable and hence throughout the dataset there are only 401 regions.