

3,596 young people between 15 and 29 years of age were arrested in 2003

The number of young people arrested compared with previous years has fallen, although the age of people arrested is falling and number of foreigners arrested is growing. Nine out of ten people arrested are men.



In the Basque Country, of the total number of arrests in 2003 (7,492 arrests), 48% affected youths in the 15 to 29 age group. Compared with previous years, the number of young people arrested has fallen. This tendency concerning the number of young people arrested does not reflect the general situation in the Basque Country where, after the figures fell in 2001, the number of arrests increased again in 2003.

Total arrests and number of people in the 15 to 29 age group arrested. Total arrests and percentages. 1996-2001-2003

	1996		2001		2003	
Total	7,356	100	7,011	100	7,492	100
15-29	4,229	57.5	3,629	51.8	3,596	48.0

Source: Department of the Interior and own data

If the data is based on age groups throughout the period studied, we can see that although most arrests affect people over 19, the difference is falling, as the number of young people in the 15 to 19 age group arrested is growing, while among youths in other age groups the said figures are falling.

Number of people in the 15 to 29 age group arrested, by age groups. Total arrests and percentages. 1996-2001-2003

	1996		2001		2003	
15-29	4,229	100	3,629	100	3,596	100
15-19	902	21.3	922	25.4	1,023	28.4
20-24	1,652	39.1	1,326	36.5	1,211	33.7
25-29	1,675	39.6	1,381	38.1	1,362	37.9

Source: Department of the Interior and own data

32.8% of young people arrested in 203 were born in Bizkaia, 21.5% were born in Africa, 12.2% were born in Gipuzkoa and 10.1% were from the rest of the State.

The nationality of young people arrested has changed dramatically since 1996: in 1996, 13.6% were foreigners, while in 2003, 38.7% of young people arrested were foreigners.

Throughout the three periods studied, over half of the foreign people arrested in the Basque Country had originated from Africa.

Number of people in the 15 to 29 age group arrested, by province of birth or nationality. Total arrests and percentages. 1996-2001-2003

	1996		2001		2003	
Total	4,229	100	3,629	100	3,596	100
Álava	285	6.7	186	5.1	219	6.1
Bizkaia	1,861	44.0	1,436	39.6	1,181	32.8
Gipuzkoa	1,029	24.3	621	17.1	439	12.2
Rest of Spain	472	11.2	346	9.5	363	10.1
European Union	136	3.2	177	4.9	194	5.4
Rest of Europe	22	0.5	71	2.0	178	4.9
Africa	350	8.3	649	17.9	772	21.5
America	17	0.4	63	1.7	133	3.7
Asia	27	0.6	52	1.4	47	1.3
Oceania	0	0.0	1	0.0	3	0.1
Other foreigners	24	0.6	27	0.7	66	1.8
Unknown	6	0.1	0	0.0	1	0.0

Source: Department of the Interior and own data

Nine out of ten young people arrested in the Basque Country are male. This proportion has hardly changed throughout the period studied.

**Number of people in the 15 to 29 age group arrested, by sex.
Total arrests and percentages. 1996-2001-2003**

	Total		Male		Female	
1996	4,229	100	3,911	92.5	318	7.5
2001	3,629	100	3,252	89.6	377	10.4
2003	3,596	100	3,243	90.2	353	9.8

Source: Department of the Interior and own data