The global rise of criminal background checks

Technical report

6th of December 2022

Index

Country	Criminal Background Check (CBCs) system	Data request	Indicator/s
Albania	Criminal background checks in Albania are conducted by requesting a certificate of criminal records (called '*Deshmi Penaliteti*' - Certificates of Judicial Status -) from the Ministry of Justice. Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without permission. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Ministry of Justice hold information on criminal records.	Information was sought by sending an email to the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, but no response was received. The Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs is the entity responsible for Freedom of Information requests from foreigners in Albania.	N/A
Andorra	Criminal background checks in Andorra are conducted through a *'certificat de bona conducta'* (Certificate of good conduct), also called '*Certificat d'antecedents penals'* (Criminal Records Certificate). This certificate is requested from the Tribunal de les Corts (Courts Tribunal).	Information was kindly provided by the Tribunal de Les Corts for 2019 and for part of 2020. They also stated that they could not provide information for the other years because it was too onerous for them.	N/A
Argentina	In Argentina, criminal background checks are conducted by requesting a certificate of criminal records (called '*Certificado de antecedentes penales*') from the National Registry ('*Dirección Nacional del Registro Nacional de Reincidencia')*. Certificates may be requested either from the Argentine Federal Police or the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. Then, in both cases, a request is made to the '*Registro Nacional de Reincidencia'* (National Registry of Recidivism). Certificates issued by both organisations have the same validity. The certificate can be obtained online or in person. Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Registro Nacional de Reincidencia hold information on criminal records. In some Argentinian provinces, there seems to be a register of sexual offenders. It is unclear to what extent they provide certificates for non-criminal justice issues.	The National Registry of Recidivism kindly provided information from 2012 to 2018. Contact was made using the form on its website (http://www.dnrec.jus.gov.ar/GestionUsu/NuevaGestion.aspx?tipo=consulta). After the request, an email was received with information on the total number of criminal records certificates per year between 2012 and 2018 from an official from the '*Dirección Nacional del Registro Nacional de Reincidencia'*. The officials also provided the results of a study they conducted in 2014 to know the motivations behind the requests of '*certificados de antecedentes penales*'. The information provided corresponds to calendar years. Data from before 2012 does not seem to be available. Data from 2019 is found as part of the '*Informe de Gestión 2016-2019' of the Dirección Nacional del Registro Nacional de Reincidencia de la Subsecretaría de Asuntos Registrales*'. This document was kindly provided by Leandro Gastón, PhD student at the University of Lausanne and Public Defender at Argentinian Courts.	Tier 1 data is an index of the number of '*certificados de antecedentes penales*' issued by the Argentinian National Registry of Convictions per 100 inhabitants. This indicator may be limited by not including requests for regional sexual offenders' registries. However, it is unclear whether access to these registries is allowed for non-criminal justice system institutions or individuals.

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Costa Rica	Criminal Background Checks in Costa Rica are issued at requesting a '*hoja de delincuencia*' (Rap Sheets) to the '*Registro Judicial*' (Judicial Registry) of the '*Poder Judicial*' (Judicial Power) of the Republic of Costa Rica. These certificates are also referred as '*hojas de antecedentes penales*' (Criminal records sheets) or '*certificado de antecedentes penales*' (Criminal records certificate). Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the 'Poder Judicial' hold information on criminal records.	The Judicial Registry of the Government of Costa Rica kindly provided data. Data referred to the number of certificates issued from 2008 to 2019 per calendar year. The data provided is divided into the following categories: From 2008 to 2015, requests were divided by '*Internacional*' (International), '*Judicial*', '*Nacional*' (National), and '*UCR*' (University of Costa Rica). From 2015 until 2019, the category '*Internacional*' was supressed, and the categories 'Internacional Laboral' (International Employment) and 'Internacional Usos varios' (International other purposes) were added. For these years, the categories 'Laboral' (Employment) and 'Usos varios' (Other purposes) are added. The requests for the category 'Nacional' decreased significantly, although it does not disappear, suggesting that most of the proposals for these categories are now going to the last two categories.	Tier 1 data is an index of the total number of criminal records certificates issued for non-judicial reasons per 100 inhabitants. The requests for the first year (2008) are exceptionally low, so there is a chance that only some information for this first year is provided.
Australia	Criminal background checks In Australia are conducted by requesting a *'National Police Check'* (also referred to as 'criminal history check' or 'police check') to the Australian Federal Police. These checks are then processed by the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (previously CrimTrack). Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission hold information on criminal records.	Information was found in the annual reports of the Australian' Intelligence Crime Commission (https://www.acic.gov.au/publications/annual-reports). On this same website, it is possible to find the annual reports from other agencies from the past. Data correspond to Financial Years (1 of April year X to 31 of March year X+1).	Tier 1 data is an index of the National Police Checks issued by the Australian Intelligence Crime Commission per 100 inhabitants. Data before 2006-7 could not include all required checks since no police agencies were using the centralised system to perform those checks. Also, for 2003-2004 and 2004-2005, some checks could not have been reported.

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Austria	Criminal background checks in Austria are conducted by requesting a certificate called '*Strafregisterbescheinigung' (*criminal record certificate*)*. This certificate contains information on all registered convictions by individuals or a sentence stating that no criminal records are found. The Criminal Register Office of the Vienna State police issues these certificates. From 1 January 2014, there is a special criminal record certificate for jobs and voluntary activities involving children called '*Strafregisterbescheinigung Kinder- und* Jugendfürsorge'. In addition, from 1 July 2021, there is a special certificate for employment and voluntary activities involving contact with vulnerable populations. Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Ministry of Justice hold information on criminal records.	Information was kindly provided by the Criminal Register Office of the Vienna State police after an email request. Previously, the data had been sought by contacting the Federal Ministry of Justice and the Austrian Ombudsman and sending a request through the Transparency portal, but no information was provided. Data is provided for the years 2017, 2018 and 2019. Data presumably corresponds to calendar years for the whole country. The official providing the information stated that they do not hold information from previous years.	Tier 1 data is an index of the number of criminal records certificates ('*Strafregisterbescheinigung'*) issued plus the certificates of criminal records for jobs involving children ('*Strafregisterbescheinigung Kinder- und Jugendfürsorge'*) issued by the Criminal Register Office of the Vienna State police per 100 inhabitants.
Belgium	Criminal background checks in Belgium are conducted by requesting a certificate entitled '*Extrait de casier judiciaire*' (Certificate of the Judicial Registry) from the Ministry of Justice. There are three types of certificates: · '*Modèle 596-1'*: certificate needed for those who want to carry out a regulated activity (for instance, taxi driver, private detective or bouncer in football matches) or the obtention of a gun or fishing licence. · '*Modèle 596-2'*: Certificate needed for those who want to carry a professional or voluntary activity with close contact with children. · '*Modèle 595'*: Certificate for those who want to carry out a professional activity not included in the two models above. Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Ministry of Justice hold information on criminal records. The town council must require the certificate of the individual. It can also be required directly to the central criminal records registry.	Data were kindly provided by the Director of the Central Criminal Record, Ministry of Justice of Belgium. Data is provided for the issuance of the three types of certificates (595, 595-1 & 595-2) for the calendar years 2018 and 2019.	Tier 1 data is an index of the sum of the three types of certificates issued for non-criminal justice purposes in Belgium per 100 inhabitants.
Belize	Criminal Background Checks in Belize are conducted by requesting a '*Police Clearance'* or a '*Police report*' from the Belize Police Department. Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Belize Police Department hold information on criminal records.	Information was sought by sending an email to the Belize Police Department, but no response was received. I also contacted the Belize High Commission in the UK to get their help. Officials in the High Commission replied that they could not help due to the unprecedented event of COVID-19.	N/A
Bolivia	Criminal background checks In Bolivia are conducted by requesting a certificate of criminal records entitled '*Certificados de antecedentes policiales*'. These certificates are issued by the '*Oficina de Certificados de Antecedentes Policiales de Bolivia*' (Office of criminal records certificates of Bolivia).	I emailed the Oficina de Certificados de Antecedentes Policiales de Bolivia, but no response was given to my request.	N/A
Botswana	Criminal Background Checks in Botswana are conducted by applying for a Police Clearance Certificate to the Criminal Records Bureau of the Forensic Science Services of the Botswanan police.	I emailed the Botswanan Police about the possibility to get information, but no response was received.	N/A

Country	Criminal Background Check (CBCs) system	Data request	Indicator/s
Brazil	Criminal background checks in Brazil are entitled '*Atestados de Bons Antecedentes*' (Certificate of Good Records). Different types of certificates seem to be issued by regional polices and the Federal Police of Brazil. Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the police hold information on criminal records. In the case of certificates issued by regional authorities, there is the possibility that data on previous convictions may be consulted through the internet (see, for instance, http://www.ba.gov.br/antecedentes/solicitar_atestado.asp).	The Brazilian Federal Police kindly provided information after a Freedom of Information request. Data is provided on the monthly total number of certificates per month between March 2008 to March 2019.	Tier 1 data refers to all certificates issued by the Brazilian Federal Police in a calendar year per 100 inhabitants. This indicator is limited since it does not include regional data.
Bulgaria	Criminal background checks In Bulgaria are conducted by requesting a certificate called '*Svidetelstvo za Sudimost'* (Conviction Status Certificate) from the Ministry of Justice. The Central Office of Criminal Records of the Ministry of Justice issues these certificates. Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Ministry of Justice hold information on criminal records.	Data were kindly provided by the e-Justice and Registers Directorate of the Ministry of Justice of Bulgaria after an email request. Data was provided for calendar years 2006 to 2019. This data only contains certificates issued 'in the paper'. Since 2013 there are also electronic reports, but they are only issued for individuals without convictions.	Tier 1 data refers to the total number of paper certificates issued in Bulgaria per 100 inhabitants. This indicator is limited as it does not include electronic certificates.
Canada	Criminal background checks in Canada can be conducted at the regional and federal levels. At the regional level, certificates of criminal records may be required from the police forces in each region. At the Federal level, they are conducted by Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Ministry of Justice hold information on criminal records.	An email was requested to the RCMP' Canadian Criminal Real Time Identification Services (CCRTIS) to request information on the number of criminal background checks performed by them. They replied: '*Unfortunately, the statistics you're asking for are unavailable as the criminal record check process in Canada is performed by different groups. The RCMP's Canadian Criminal Real Time Identification Services (CCRTIS) only handles the criminal record checks sent with fingerprint identification. Many criminal record checks are performed independently by local police agencies. These checks are name-based, and CCRTIS is not privy to the total numbers'.* Therefore, I decided not to continue searching since it seems almost impossible to get information on the number of these checks, even for one region.	N/A

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Cayman Islands	Criminal Background Checks in the Cayman Islands are conducted at applying for a 'Police Clearance Certificates' (PCCs) to the Criminal Records Office (CRO) of the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service (RCIPS). Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service hold information on criminal records.	The Criminlal records Office of the Royal Cayman Island Police Service Information kindly provided this information after a Freedom of Information request. Data was provided on the total number of requests from 2007 to 2019 per calendar year. About data on previous years, the CRO stated that they do not have this information. Specifically, they said: '*It is my understanding that the records for RCIPS Police Clearance Certificates (PCCs) were initially manually logged in a ledger and the date, total monetary amount and total PCCs were only recorded. In the Ledger, it shows revenue collected from 17th July 2001 to 30th April 2003. I understand that there are no records from the 01st of May 2003 to October 31st o 2006. However, November and December 2006 were recorded*.' The data provided presumably correspond to calendar years (from 1st of January year X to 31st December year X).	Tier 1 data is an index of the total number of Police Clearance Certificates issued by the criminal records office per 100 inhabitants.
Chile	Criminal background checks in Chile are conducted requesting a '*certificado de antecedentes penales*' (Certificate of criminal records) to the '*Servicio de Registro Civil e Identificación'* (Service of Civil Registry and Identification). There are three types of certificates of criminal records: 1) *'Certificados para fines especiales'* (Certificates for special purposes), issued for procedures involving a public institution; 2) *'Hoja de Vida de conductor'* (Driver's life history), issued for requesting (and probably renewing) a driving licence], and *'Certificados para fines particulares'* (Certificates for particular interests), issued for any other request. Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Ministry of Justice hold information on criminal records.	Data were kindly provided by the '*Servicio de Registro Civil e Identificación'* of the Chilean Government after a freedom for information. They provided information on the number of certificates issued per month, the source of the request (Office or Online) and the type of certificate published (*'Fines especiales'*, *'Hoja de vida de conductor'* and *'Fines particulares'*) between 2003 and 2018.	Tier 1 data corresponds to the sum of all three types of certificates for non-criminal justice purposes issued in a calendar year per 100 inhabitants.
Colombia	Criminal Background checks in Colombia can be conducted by consulting the website of the Ministry of Justice (https://antecedentes.policia.gov.co:7005/WebJudicial/) and inserting the id number of the individual. The registry of data on convictions is managed by the '*Dirección de Investigación Criminal e INTERPOL'* (Directorate of criminal investigations and INTERPOL) of the Colombian Police. Technically access to information about an individual on the website is restricted only to the same individual. However, informally, anyone can get access to the convictions of a third individual if they know their id number just by filling out the form on the website above.	Data were kindly provided by the '*Direccion de Investigacion Criminal e INTERPOL'* of the Ministry of Justice of the Colombian Government after a Freedom for Information request. Data is provided on the total number of requests to the website 'policia.gov.co' on criminal records of individuals. Data is provided from 2016 to 2018 per calendar year.	Tier 1 data is an index of all requests on previous convictions on the website ('www.policia.gov.co') per 100 inhabitants.
Croatia	Criminal Background Checks in Croatia are conducted by requesting a certificate entitled *'Potvrda o Nekaznjavanju'* (Certificate of no convictions) issued by the Ministry of Justice of Croatia.	A Freedom for Information request was made to obtain information on the number of criminal records certificates ('*Potvrda o Nekaznjavanju'*) requested per year between 2002-2019 for non-judicial purposes. Agovernment officials responded stating that this information was not available.	N/A

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Cyprus	Criminal Background Checks in Cyprus are conducted by requesting a certificate entitled ‘Police Clearance Certificates’ or ‘Criminal record certificates’ to the Crime Registry Office of the Chief of Police in Cyprus. Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Police hold information on criminal records.	Data were kindly provided by the Crime Registry Office of the Chief Police in Cyprus after an email request. Data is provided from 2008 to 2018 per calendar year. The data provided includes data on ‘clean certificates’ (certificates for individuals with no previous records) and information for ‘criminal record certificates’ (Certificates for individuals with previous records).	Tier 1 data is an index of all certificates issued, including ‘clean certificates’ as well as ‘criminal records certificates’ per 100 inhabitants.
Czech Republic	Criminal Background Checks in the Czech Republic are conducted by applying for an excerpt from the Penal Register. These certificates are issued by the Criminal Records Office (‘*Rejstřík trestů’*) of the Czech Ministry of Justice. Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Penal Register hold information on criminal records.	Information was retrieved from the website of the Czech Ministry of Justice (https://eservice-fo.rejtr.justice.cz/webstat/statistikaZobrazit.jsp?statistikaId=14). This portal provides data from 2006 to 2019 per calendar year. Initially, I also did a Freedom for Information request but never got a response. There is a wide range of data on the website, although it is difficult to understand the technical jargon behind it. I subtract the information for the statistics ‘by type of output document’ since it seems the most appropriate for the research. There are two types of requests on it, ‘Extracts’ and ‘Copies’ of criminal records certificates. ‘Extracts’ are the copies provided for non-criminal justice matters. However, information from registries from other countries for judicial purposes may also be included. I also detected information on the number of requests to the Czech POINT that probably refer to requests made by private citizens: https://www.czechpoint.cz/public/statistiky-a-informace/statistiky-czp/.	Tier 1 data is an index of the number of requests for ‘*extracts*’ in the registry of criminal records of the Ministry of Justice of the Czech Republic per 100 inhabitants. The data may be limited because excerpts may include requests for judicial authorities for other countries.

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Denmark	Criminal Background Checks in Denmark are conducted by requesting a 'straffeattest' (criminal record) from the Danish National Police ('*Rigspolitiet*'). There are three types of criminal records: 1. Private criminal record certificates, which include low-level offences and offences that stay for shorter periods. Anyone can get their private certificate online, which is sometimes used when applying for jobs. 2. Public criminal record certificates, on which offences stay for longer. This certificate is applied for by the employer, who also must give a reason for applying. 3. Child criminal records certificate. These certificates are used when individuals apply for jobs that involve contact with children below the age of 15. It includes information on crimes like sexual assault, etc... Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. In most cases, third-party access is not allowed without written consent. Criminal background checks can only be accessed without the individual's permission for some public jobs, such as in the military. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Danish National Police hold information on criminal records.	The Danish National Police kindly provided information after contacting them through email. Information is provided, joining both certificates of criminal records for public bodies and private individuals and with another column with information on child criminal records certificates. Data is provided from 2009 to 2019 per calendar year.	Tier 1 data is an index of the number of certificates of criminal records for any type (including certificates for jobs regarding children) issued by the Danish National Police per 100 inhabitants.

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Dominican Republic	Criminal Background Checks in the Dominican Republic are entitled '*Certificaciones de buena conducta*' (Certificates of good conduct) or '*Certificado de No Antecedentes Penales'* (Certificates of No Criminal Records). Certificates of criminal records are issued by the Office of the Prosecutor General ('*Procuraduria General de la República Dominicana*'). They can be requested online or physically in an office of the Prosecutor General throughout the country. Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. It is possible to get access to information about judicial trials online. The possibility that recruiters use this information should be further studied.	Information was kindly provided by the '*Procudaria General de la República'* of the Dominican Republic after a Freedom of Information request. Data is provided on the total number of certificates from 2010 to 2019 per calendar year. Additionally, the reasons behind the request are provided from 2015 to 2019 in the following categories: *'Academia Militar*' (Military academy'), *Empleo* ('Employment'), *Exequátur* (Consulate), *Licencia de Conducir* (Driving Licence), *'Migración'* (Migration), '*Otros*' (Other), '*Universidades*' (Universities) and '*Viaje*' (Travel).	Tier 1 data is an index of the total number of '*Certificaciones de buena conducta*' requested for non-judicial purposes to the Office of the Prosecutor General of the Dominican Republic per 100 inhabitants. Tier 2 data is an index of the total number of '*Certificaciones de buena conducta'* requested, for '*Empleo'* (Employment), '*Academia Militar'* (Military Academy) & '*Otros'* (Other), to the Office of the Prosecutor General of the Dominican Republic per 100 inhabitants.
El Salvador	Criminal background checks in El Salvador are conducted at applying for a '*Certificación de Antecedentes penales*' (Certificate of criminal records), also referred to as '*Constancia de Antecedentes Penales*' (Constance of criminal records) or '*Antecedentes Penales'* (Criminal record), to the '*Departamento de Registro y Control Penitenciario de la Dirección General de Centros Penales'* (Department of the Penitentiary Register and Control of the General Directorate of Penal institutions). Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the 'Direccion General de Centros Penales' hold information on criminal records.	Information was kindly provided by the '*Direccion General de Centros Penales del Salvador'* after a Freedom for information request. The data provided corresponds to the certificates issued to the '*Sistema de Registro de Antecedentes Penales*' (System of Register of Criminal Records'). Data was provided from 2004 to 2019, presumably per calendar year.	Tier 1 data is an index of the total number of criminal records issued by the '*Unidad de Registro y Control Penitenciario de El Salvador'* per 100 inhabitants.
Estonia	Criminal background checks in Estonia are conducted at applying for a '*Karisturegisteri teatis'* certificate (Notice from the Punishment Register). These certificates are issued by the '*Karisturegisteri teatis'* (Punishment Register). Third parties can apply to access these certificates for any individual. In a previous attempt to contact the agency responsible for these statistics, I was informed that citizens could also get access to information about their prior convictions in an online portal. They can also share this information with others.	Information was kindly provided by the ('*Registrite ja Infosüsteemide Keskus*' [Centre of Registers and Information Systems]) after an email request. Data is provided from 2012 to 2019 per calendar year. Information is provided in the following categories: · *'Isik enda kohta'* (The number of requests for personal certificates of criminal records). · *'Isik endaga seotud alaealise isiku kohta'* (about minor for related to itself). · *'Isik endaga seotud juriidilise isiku kohta'* (about Juridical person for related to itself). · *'Isik volituse alusel teise isiku kohta'* (The number of requests on the basis of a mandate of certificates of another person). · *'Isiku kaitseväeteenistusse võtmiseks'* (to recruit a person to the Defense Forces). · *'Isiku tööle või teenistusse võtmiseks'* (to recruit a person). · *'Kohaliku omavalitsuse või valitsusasutusele pandud ülesannete täitmiseks'* (for tasks of local government services). · *'Lastekaitseseaduses sätestatud nõuete kontrollimiseks'* ' (The number of requests verifying the restriction of working with children) [Only data from 2019]. · *'Määramata'* (Not specified).	Tier 1 data is an index of the total number of criminal records certificates issued for non-judicial issues per 100 inhabitants. This indicator may be limited because it is unclear whether this data includes requests for individuals to access data online.

Country	Criminal Background Check (CBCs) system	Data request	Indicator/s
Finland	Two entities conduct criminal Background Checks in Finland: *'Oikeusrekisterikeskus'* (Legal Registry Centre): This agency issues certificates for criminal records, entitled *'Rikosrekisteriote'* (Extract from Criminal Records), for a foreign authority or employee and for working or carrying out volunteer activities for jobs involving children. '*SUPO*' (Finnish Security Intelligence Services): This agency issues 'security clearances' for activities that can endanger national security or significant private economic interest. They also cover facility security clearances and issue opinions on citizenships and residence permit applications, among others. There are three types of security clearances: 'concise', 'standard' and 'comprehensive'. Requests for personal reasons, 'subject access requests', are not allowed in Finland. Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to these two agencies hold information on criminal records.	Information was kindly provided by the '*Oikeusrekisterikeskus*' (Legal Registry Centre) and the '*SUPO*' (Finnish Security Intelligence Services). Data for the Legal Registry Service is provided from 2003 to 2018 for jobs involving children and from 2009 to 2018 for certificates for foreign authorities. Data for SUPO is provided from 2016, 2017 and 2018. In all cases, the information provided corresponds to calendar years.	Tier 1 data is an index on the total number of certificates of criminal records issued for jobs involving children, foreign authorities, and security clearances by SUPO per 100 inhabitants. It was impossible to disentangle nationality and migration data from requests for employment in the SUPO data, so Tier 2 data could not be created.

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France	Criminal background checks in France are conducted at applying for an ‘*Extrait du Casier Judiciaire’* to the French Ministry of Justice. Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Ministry of Justice hold information on criminal records. There are three types (‘*bulletins*’) of certificates. The officials providing the information explained the system in the following way: *‘Bulletin no. 1 of the criminal record contains the entirety of the convictions and judicial decisions contained in the criminal record. Nevertheless, the following are excluded (...). The request for this criminal record is reserved for judicial authorities and registers of correctional facilities in the context of certain enforcement measures of the prison sentence. Bulletin no. 2 of the criminal record contains most convictions for convictions and offences, with the notable exceptions of: a) convictions benefiting from judicial or automatic rehabilitation, b) convictions pronounced for minors, c) convictions pronounced for offences tried by police tribunals, d) convictions pronounced with suspension, when the probation period has terminated without a new decision ordering the execution of the totality of the sentence, except if a social and judicial supervision has been pronounced or a prohibition on exercising a professional or voluntary activity involving regular contact with minors or a sentence of ineligibility of a longer duration. (...) This criminal record may only be issued to certain administrative authorities or certain bodies for specific reasons (access to certain professions, obtaining of an honorary distinction, for example). The excerpt of the criminal record reserved for individuals, the criminal records extract called ‘Bulletin n°3’, contains the most serious convictions and the custodial sentences: a) convictions for crimes and offences of above 2 years of imprisonment without suspension, b) convictions for crimes and offences of below 2 years of imprisonment without suspension if the court has ordered its mention, c) certain disqualifications or bans being implemented, d) the measure of social-judicial monitoring and the conviction of prohibition on exercising a professional or voluntary activity involving regular contact with minors, e) convictions pronounced by foreign courts towards a French citizen above 2 years of imprisonment without suspension.’*	Information was kindly provided by the French ‘*Casier judiciaire*’ (French National registry of sentences) of the French Ministry of Justice after sending a message in a form in its website through a form on its website. Data is provided on the three types of certificates existing in France: (bulletin nº1 used by judicial matters, bulletin nº2 used for public administration for public agencies, and bulletin nº3 for general individuals). Data is provided from 2002 to 2018 per calendar year.	Tier 1 data is an index on the total number of bulletins nº2 and bulletin nº3 issued by the French Ministry of Justice per 100 inhabitants.
Germany	iminal background checks in Germany are conducted at applying for a ‘*Führungszeugnis*’ (Police Good Conduct Certificate). These certificates are issued by the ‘*Bundesjustizamt*’ (Federal Office of Justice). There are two types of certificates: ‘certificate of conduct for personal purposes’ and ‘certificate of conduct for official purposes to a presentation of a German authority’. Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Federal Office of Justice hold information on criminal records.	Information was kindly provided by the ‘*Bundesjustizamt*’ (Federal Office of Justice) after an email request. Data is provided on the total number of requests issued from 2015 to 2018 per calendar year.	Tier 1 data is an index of the total number of Police Good Conduct Certificates issued by the Federal Office of Justice per 100 inhabitants.

Country	Criminal Background Check (CBCs) system	Data request	Indicator/s
Greece	Criminal background checks in Greece are conducted at applying for a Penal Records Certificate. The criminal records units issue these certificates for each Court of First Instance for the Public Prosecutor's Office. They can also be requested from an independent Criminal Records Department as part of the Ministry of Justice's Central services. Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Judicial Registry hold information on criminal records.	Information was kindly provided by Dimitra Blitsa (Deputy Prosecutor of the Court of First Instance of Piraeus, Greece). She kindly provided data for 2007 and 2012 from previous research on this topic (Blitsa 2014). She also requested additional information for the period 2014-2019 to the regional office of the Piraeus region, the region to which the central capital of the country belongs (Athens). In all cases, the information provided corresponds to calendar years. Information for 2007-2012 allows us to distinguish between requests by 'public authorities', 'private individuals', 'judicial authorities' and 'Other'. Information for the period 2014-2019 included information on the following categories 'Requests by public authorities which can apply via an interconnection system', 'Requests from Court Secretaries', 'Requests by citizens via an administrative office handling requests for public documents, 'Requests by the criminal record registry secretariat', 'Online requests' 'Requests made online (portal)', 'Requests by other countries (ECRIs)', 'Requests by other local criminal record registries'.	Tier 1 data is an index of the total number of certificates issued for non-judicial purposes per 100 inhabitants. For 2007 to 2012 data, I only excluded those requests made for 'judicial authorities'. Data from 2013 to 2019 I excluded those requests made from the categories 'Requests from Court Secretaries' and 'Requests by other countries (ECRIS)'.
Guatemala	In Guatemala there are two types of certificates of criminal records '*Carencias de antecedentes penales*' (Lacking criminal records) and '*Fichas de antecedentes penales'* (Criminal records files). I have not understood the distinction between them but probably refer to certificates with no information called '*Carencias de antecedentes penales'.* At the same time, if there is any information, these certificates are called '*Fichas de antecedentes penales'*. Criminal background checks are conducted at applying for one of these certificates. Another possibility is applying for a '*Carencias de Antecedentes Policiales'* (certificate of police records). They are issued by the Policia Nacional Civil '*Civil National Police'*. It is unclear whether this last certificate is also used for employment. Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Ministry of Justice or the Police hold information on criminal records.	Information was kindly provided by the '*Organismo Judicial'* (Judicial Office) of the '*Ministerio de Justícia'* (Justice Department) after a Freedom of Information request. Data on the number of '*carencias'* and '*fichas*' is provided from 2004 to 2019 per calendar year. I have yet to find information about the certificate of police records. Contact was made to the Polícia Nacional Civil, responsible for issuing these certificates, but no response was received.	Tier 1 data is an index on the total number of '*Carencias de Antecedentes Penales*' plus the number of '*Fichas de Antecedentes Penales'* issued per 100 inhabitants. This indicator is limited since it does not contain information on the number of *'Carencias de Antecedentes Policiales'*. However, I am not sure including this certificate would not bias the results. It may be possible that individuals usually provide both certificates simultaneously, so introducing them could bias the results.

Country	Criminal Background Check (CBCs) system	Data request	Indicator/s
Guyana	Criminal Background Checks in Guyana are conducted at applying for a 'Certificates of Character'. The Guyana Commissioner of the Police issues this certificate. Third-party access may be permitted. The Home Office (2016) statement about criminal background checks in Guyana states that '*agencies or prospective employers seeking a background check on an individual can write to the Commissioner of Police of the Guyana Police Force*'.	Information was found about the number of certificates of character issued for 2011, 2012 and 2014 in the corresponding annual reports sent by the Guyana Police to the Parliament. I have requested the parliament of Guyana access to the document for 2016, but I am still waiting for a response. I also sent an email to the Commissioner of Police in the Guyana Police Force, but also no response was received.	Tier 1 data is an index of the number of certificates of character issued by the Guyana National Police per 100 inhabitants. This data may be limited because some non-criminal justice activities may not be issued through a certificate of character. In the 2014 report, it is stated: '*The Criminal Records Office serves as a source of information, as it relates to the recording of convictions, statistical data and other criminal matters. It supplies information to other departments in the Force, as well as governmental organisations, the University of Guyana, Interpol, other law enforcement agencies and the International Community, upon request.*', then there might be requests for governmental organisations or the University that are not channelled through certificates of character.
Honduras	Criminal Background Checks in Honduras are conducted by requesting a '*Constancia de Antecedentes Policiales*' (Statement of Police Records) to the '*Policía de Honduras'* (Honduras National Police). Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Police hold information on criminal records.	Information was found on the website for transparency of the *Secretaría del Estado* en el *Despacho de Seguridad* (https://portalunico.iaip.gob.hn/portal/index.php?portal=422). On this website is possible to get information on the monthly number of certificates from February 2018.	Tier 1 data is an index on the total number of certificates issued from February of year X to January year X+1 per 100 inhabitants.

Country	Criminal Background Check (CBCs) system	Data request	Indicator/s
Hungary	Criminal Background Checks in Hungary are conducted at applying for a certificate of good conduct. The Central Office for Administrative and Electronic Public Services (*Közigazgatási és Elektronikus Közszolgáltatások Központi Hivatala*) issues this certificate. Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Ministry of Justice hold information on criminal records. The officials providing the information stated that: '*The certificate of good conduct can be applied before creation and maintenance of a legal relationship (e.g. employment relationship) or to verify that the applicant complies with requirements defined by an act (e.g. conditions of membership applications or licensing conditions).* *The certificate of good conduct can verify that the individual* *• has not got any record in the register of convicted persons, and/or* *• is not under the effect of deprivation of civil rights, and/or* *• is not prohibited to exercise a profession or an activity, or* *• complies with requirements defined by an act.* *The certificate of good conduct does not contain data from the criminal register, only the fact that the applicant meets the requirement he/she asked on the application form (the applicant has not got any record in the register of convicted persons, and/or is not under the effect of deprivation of civil rights, and/or is not prohibited to exercise a profession or an activity, or complies with requirements defined by an act*).'	The Criminal Records Authority of the Ministry of Interior kindly provided information. Data was received on the total number of certificates of good conduct issued from 2003 to 2018 per calendar year. In addition, information from 2019 is found in the organisation's reports at: https://nyilvantarto.hu/hu/statisztikak?stat=monitoring.	Tier 1 data is an index of the total number of certificates of good conduct requested per 100 inhabitants.
Iceland	Criminal Background checks in Iceland are conducted by applying for an *Einkavottord* (certificate of criminal records for private use) or a certificate for public authorities. This certificate is issued by the *Ríkislögreglustjóri* (National Police Commission). Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Ministry of Justice hold information on criminal records.	I contacted the *Ríkislögreglustjóri* (National Police Commission) through a website form. They replied to my message stating that they were considering it. Seven days later, they replied to me saying that this information could not be provided. .	N/A

Country	Criminal Background Check (CBCs) system	Data request	Indicator/s
India	Criminal background checks in India are conducted by applying for a local police report/Police clearance certificate. These certificates are issued to the local police service in the applicant's local jurisdiction. Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Ministry of Justice hold information on criminal records.	Information was sought by sending an email to the Indian National Crime Records Bureau, the central agency that deals with these issues, but no response was received. There was an attempt to conduct a Freedom for Information request, but it was impossible without Indian citizenship.	N/A
Indonesia	Criminal background checks in Indonesia are conducted at applying for a 'Police Certificate 'to the National Police.	Information was sought by sending an email to the National Police and through a Freedom for Information request, but no response was received.	N/A
Ireland	Criminal Background Checks in Ireland are conducted by applying for vetting by the Garda National Vetting Bureau. This Bureau is comprised of three distinct units: · Garda Vetting · Criminal Records · ECRIS system The data provided only referred to Garda Vetting mainly deals with requests for information from criminal records from employers regarding children and vulnerable populations. They also provide vetting outside these roles (known as 'non-Act' roles). These organisations make requests to the Irish Police on whether the candidate has criminal records, and if it has, it assesses whether this information should be disclosed or not. The requester only received a document with this filtered information. Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Irish Police hold information on criminal records. The officials also mentioned that individuals could also get access to their data if they go to the police stations ('subject request), but there is not a compilation of statistics about these types of requests.	Information from 2009 to 2018 was kindly provided by the Garda National Vetting Bureau (GNVB) after a Freedom of Information request. In addition, information for 2019 is found through reports published online: https://www.garda.ie/en/about-us/organised-serious-crime/garda-national-vetting-bureau-gnvb-/garda-vetting-statistics.html. Data corresponds to calendar years.	Tier 2 data is an index of the total number of Garda vetting applications per 100 inhabitants. This indicator may be limited since it does not include certificates issued by the criminal records unit or the ECRIS unit that may provide certificates for some job opportunities, such as in applying to the police.
Israel	Criminal background checks in Israel are conducted by applying for a certificate for 'Criminal records Certificate', also known as a 'police certificate', to the Israelian Police. Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Police hold information on criminal records.	The Israel National Police kindly provided information after a Freedom of Information request. Data is provided for years 2011 to 2018 per calendar year. The same communication stated that between 2000 and 2010 there were requested a total of 170,291 certificates.	Tier 1 data is an index of the total number of criminal records certificates issued by the Israel National Police per 100 inhabitants.

Country	Criminal Background Check (CBCs) system	Data request	Indicator/s
Italy	Criminal Background Checks in Italy are conducted by requesting a *'Certificato Penale'* (Penal Certificate) or *'Certificato dei Carichi Pendenti'* (Certificate of Pending Procedures) from the Ministry of Justice. Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Ministry of Justice hold information on criminal records.	Information is retrieved from the website of the Italian Ministry of Justice (https://www.giustizia.it/giustizia/it/mg_14_7.page?numEle=2&search=Certificati+prodotti+dal+casellario+giudiziale&faccetta_1=0&faccetta_2=0_3&faccetta_3=0_3_1&pageCode=mg_14_79). Data on the information on the number of certificates is divided into different categories: · '*Certificati - Autorita Giudiziaria'* (Art. 21) -- [Certificate of criminal records - Judicial authority] · '*certificati – Difensore'* (Art. 22) -- [Certificate of criminal records - Defense attornies] · '*Certificati – Privato'* (artt. 24, 25, 26, 29) -- [Certificate of criminal records - Private requests & electoral requests] · '*Certificati - Datore Di Lavoro – Penale'* (art. 25 bis) -- [Certificate of criminal records - Minors] · '*Certificati - Pubblica Amministrazione'* (artt. 28, 29, 39) -- [Certificate of criminal records - Certificates for any issue with the public administration] · *'Certificati - Autorita Giudiziaria Straniera'* (Art. 21) -- [Certificate of criminal records - Foreign judicial authority] · '*Certificati - Autorita Amministrativa Straniera'* (art.39) -- [Certificate of criminal records - Foreign adrministrative authority] · '*Visure – Privato'* (art. 33) -- [View - Not certificates, but visualisation of certificates] · '*Richieste Massive - Autorita' Giudiziaria'* -- [Massive request - Judicial Authority] · '*Richieste Massive - Pubblica Amministrazione'* -- [Massive request - Public Administration] · '*Richieste Massive - Pubblica Amministrazione Straniera'* -- [Massive request - Foreign public administration] · '*Certificati - Autorita Giudiziaria'* (Art. 30) -- [Certificate of criminal records - Judicial Authority] · '*Certificati – ENTE'* (art. 31) -- [Certificate of criminal records - Entity] · '*Certificati - Pubblica Amministrazione'* (art.32) -- [Certificate of criminal records - Public Administration] · '*Visure – Ente'* (art. 33) -- [View - Entity] Data is provided for years 2009 and 2010, and from 2012 to 2018, per calendar year. A Freedom of Information request was also made to the responsible for transparency to the Italian Mnistry of Justice, but no response has been given.	Tier 1 data is an index of the total number of criminal records certificates requested by private individuals and the Public Administration per 100 inhabitants. I excluded '*visions*' of information ('*vizure*') from the indicator since visualising the certificate does not imply taking out a certificate. I included data from certificates of criminal records and certificates of civil sanctions. Tier 2 data cannot be compiled because it needs to be clarified to what extent the certificates for public administration refer to employment.

Country	Criminal Background Check (CBCs) system	Data request	Indicator/s
Jamaica	Criminal background checks in Jamaica are provided at applying for a 'Police Record Certificate'/'CRB check' or 'Criminal Clearance Certificate'. This certificate is issued by the Records and Identification division of the Jamaica Constabulary Force. Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Jamaica Constabulary Force hold information on criminal records.	Information was sought by emailing the Jamaican Police, but no response was received.	N/A
Japan	Criminal Background Checks in Japan are conducted by applying for a 'Police certificate'. The Japanese police issues this certificate. Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Japanese Police hold information on criminal records.	Information was sought through the help of Dr Shohei Yoda (Japanese National Institute of Population and Social Security Research and visiting academic in Oxford). Dr Yoda kindly asked contacts of him in the government about this potential request. His contacts mentioned that it would be complicated to find this information since certificates of criminal records seem to be managed at the local police stations.	N/A
Kenya	Criminal Background Checks in Kenya are conducted at applying for a '*Certificate of Police Clearance*'. The Directorate of Criminal Investigations of the National Police Service of the Republic of Kenya issues these certificates. Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the National Police Service hold information on criminal records.	Information was sought by filling out a form requesting data on the website of the Kenyan Police (https://www.kenyapolice.go.ke/contact-us.html). An email was also sent, but no response was received.	N/A
Latvia	Criminal Background Checks in In Latvia are conducted by applying for a certificate called '*Izziņa par fiziskas personas sodāmību*' (Certificate on Conviction of an Individual). The Information Centre of the Ministry of the Interior issues this certificate. Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Ministry of the Interior hold information on criminal records. In Latvia, there are three other types of certificates: · Certificates of criminal records of a natural person · Certificates on administrative penalties imposed on an individual · Certificates of coercive measures and administrative penalties applied to a legal person	Information on the total number of requests from 2007 to 2019 per calendar year was kindly provided by the Latvian Ministry of the Interior. Information can also be found in their annual reports at: https://www.ic.iem.gov.lv/lv/centra-publiskie-parskati.	Tier 1 data corresponds to the issuance of Certificates of criminal records of a natural person.

Country	Criminal Background Check (CBCs) system	Data request	Indicator/s
Lithuania	Criminal Background Checks in Lithuania are conducted at applying for a certificate called ‘*Pažymos ar išrašo gyventojams’*. This certificate is issued by the Department of Information Technology and Communication under Lithuania's Ministry of the Interior. Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Ministry of Interior hold information on criminal records.	Information was kindly provided by the Information Technology and Communication Department under the Ministry of the Interior of Lithuania after an email request. Data is provided from 2013 to 2018 per calendar year. Information was provided on the following categories: A) Total number of certificates of criminal records issued to State institutions. A1) Number of issued certificates of criminal records for reasons related to employment. B) Total number of certificates of criminal records issued to Private individuals. B1) Number of issued certificates of criminal records for reasons related to employment. · For admission to the Professional Military Service · For issuing a certificate of travel organiser, travel agency or travel agent · For issuing a licence of financial broker · For permission to work or familiarise with confidential information · For the chief of a sports federation and the member of the management body · For being admitted to the Service of person’s and property’s safety or the Division Safety · For the performance of equipment maintenance and data processing functions · For work related to childcare · For the right to perform private detective activities · For the right to provide financial services · For the chief participant of the currency exchange operator · For issuing a certificate according to Aviation law · For the right to perform activities related to toxic substances · For the chief of electronic money institution · To the legal persons of the Republic of Lithuania · To the institutions of foreign States · For entering on the list of auditors or auditor’s assistant · For the right to act as a notary or as a candidate to become a notary · For gaining a right to work in a gambling company. · For permission to perform insurance activities · For gaining a right to work in educational institutions · For issuing a certificate of the administrator of bankruptcy and restructuring. · For admission to the bailiffs · For issuing a licence for the mediation for the purpose of placement of citizens of the Republic of Lithuania · For the lobbying activities	Tier 1 data is an index of the number of criminal records certificates issued to State Institutions and Individuals for any purpose per 100 inhabitants. Tier 2 data is an index on the number of certificates of criminal records issued for employment purposes to State Institutions and Individuals per 100 inhabitants.

Country	Criminal Background Check (CBCs) system	Data request	Indicator/s
		· For issuing a licence for road transport activities · For obtaining a lawyer licence · For issuing a licence of limited activities to payment institutions	

Country	Criminal Background Check (CBCs) system	Data request	Indicator/s
Luxembourg	Criminal Background Checks in Luxembourg are conducted at applying for an '*Extrait du Casier judiciaire*' (Extract from the judicial registry). The Department of Justice issues these certificates. Currently, there are five distinct types of certificates: · Bulletin nº1: Certificate that includes all types of criminal records. It is only issued at the request of judicial authorities for disciplinary procedures. · Bulletin nº2: Certificate that includes information for all convictions for criminal and correction sentences. They are issued on request to state and municipal administrations and legal persons governed by public law, seized within the framework of the exercise of their legal missions. · Bulletin nº3: Certificate of criminal records that include only serious convictions. It is issued at the request of the person to a third party. As part of a job recruitment process, an employer can ask the candidate to give him a bulletin n° 3 to assess his reputation. This request must appear in the job offer and be motivated by the specific needs of the post to be filled. · Bulletin nº4 (since 2017): Certificate of criminal records that includes serious and all driving convictions. The bulletin n°4 is primarily intended to be given by the person concerned to the Minister having Transport in his attributions or to a potential employer for the appreciation of his repute in general and more particularly as regards traffic. · Bulletin nº5 (since 2018): Certificate of criminal records that includes serious convictions, all convictions for acts committed against a minor or involving a minor, insofar as these facts constitute the offence or aggravate the penalty, as well as all decisions prohibiting the exercise of activities involving regular contact with minors. These certificates are intended for individuals looking to conduct a professional or voluntary activity involving regular contact with minors. Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Department of Justice hold information on criminal records.	Information was found on the Annual reports of the Department of Justice ('*Rapport d'activité du ministère de la Justice'*) on the website: https://gouvernement.lu/en/publications.html. Data is found from 2008 to 2019, except for 2011. Data from 2009 & 2010 corresponds to the calendar year (from the 1st of January year X to the 31st of December year X). Data for the rest of the years correspond to the Luxembourg judicial year (from 16 September year X to 15 September year X+1).	Tier 1 data is an index of the sum of Bulletin nº2, Bulletin nº3, Bulletin nº4 and Bulletin nº5 issues per 100 inhabitants. Data from 2015 shows the same number of requests as in 2014 for bulletins 2 and 3 but not for bulletin nº1. I understand that the value is correct since the value for bulletin nº1 changes.
Malaysia	Criminal background checks in Malaysia are conducted at applying for a *I'Sijil Kelakuan Baik'* or Certificates of Good Conduct. This certificate is issued by Central Criminal Registry of the Royal Malaysian Police Headquarters.	Information was sought using two strategies. First, an email was sent to the Malaysian police. Also, an email was sent to the statistics office. No response was received in any of these two ways.	N/A
Malta	Criminal background checks in Malta are conducted at applying for a '*Certifikat ta'-Kondotta'* (Certificate of Conduct). These certificates are issued by the Commissioner of Police at Malta Police. Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Ministry of Justice hold information on criminal records.	Information was kindly provided by the Commissioner of Police at Malta Police. Information was provided on the total number of requests issued from 2008 to 2019 per calendar year.	Tier 1 data is an index of the total number of certificates of good conduct issued per 100 inhabitants.
Mauritius	Criminal Background Checks in Mauritius are conducted at applying for a certificate of character. These certificates are issued by the Mauritius Police Force. Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, there are no databases external to the Mauritius Police Force that hold information on criminal records.	Criminal Background Checks in Mauritius are conducted at applying for a certificate of character. The Mauritius Police Force issues these certificates. Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Mauritius Police Force hold information on criminal records.	Tier 1 is an index of the number of police character certificates issued per 100 inhabitants.

Country	Criminal Background Check (CBCs) system	Data request	Indicator/s
Mexico	Criminal background checks in Mexico are conducted at applying for a '*Cartas de no antecedentes*' (letters of no records), also known as '*Certificados de Antecedentes Penales'* (Certificates of criminal records). Criminal background checks can be conducted at federal and regional registries. Before 2016, certificates could be requested for any reason. From 2016 on, certificates are only asked for: · When required by Administrative and Judicial authorities for criminal investigations. · When required to exercise a right or legal duty established by law. · In those cases, a law established the obligation to present one of these certificates to carry out a profession. · When required by a foreign embassy. Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Ministry of Justice hold information on criminal records.	Information was kindly provided by Dr Tadeo Luna, who kindly conducted a Freedom of Information request to the Transparency Unit of the '*Secretaria de seguridad y protección ciudadana'* (Security and Public Protection Office) of the Federal Mexican Government, and to the Transparency Unit of the '*Fiscalia General del Estado de Puebla*' (General Prosecutor of the Puebla state) on my behalf. We tried to contact the form of Mexico City, but they do not provide the information per year. The Federal Government provided data on the total number of 'constancias' issued from 2009 to 2018 per month. The General Prosecutor of the Puebla state provided information on the total number of 'constancias' issued from 2012 to 2018 per month. They also provided information on the total number of certificates disclosed by purpose ('*Laboral*' [Employment], '*Extranjero*' [Foreigner] and '*Estudiante/Otro'* [Education/Other]) for 2014 to 2018 per calendar year. However, the total number of requests by purpose does not match the total number of requests mentioned by month.	Tier 1 data is an index of the total number of '*constancias de no antecedentes'* issued by the '*Fiscalia General del Estado de Puebla'* per 100 inhabitants per calendar year. I decided to use the requests to the regional registry because Dr Luna stated that requests to the regional registry are more frequently used for non-procedural issues. Also, the data provided by the Federal registry could include requests for criminal justice agencies. I decided not to create Tier 2 data because data separated by reason for request did not coincide with data of requests per month.

Country	Criminal Background Check (CBCs) system	Data request	Indicator/s
Netherlands	Criminal background checks in the Netherlands are conducted at applying for a '*Verklaring Omtrent het Gedrag (VOG)*' (Certificate of Good Conduct). These certificates are issued from a special office in the Ministry of Justice called 'Justis'. These certificates do not show information on criminal records but the result of the ministry of justice on whether this candidate is suitable for the position. Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Ministry of Justice hold information on criminal records.	Information from 2002 to 2016 per calendar year was kindly provided by Dr Elina van 't Zandt, Assistant Professor of Criminology at the Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology. Leiden University. Data from 2018 on is found on the annual reports of the 'Justis' agency (https://www.justis.nl/overjustis/cijfers/index.aspx). The comparison between these two sources shows that in the data provided by Dr Van't-Zandt, there is only data on the request of VOG for the employment of adults. It did not include requests for volunteer activities or requests for individuals below 23 years old (with different disclosure rules). They also do not include requests for taxi drivers. However, VOG for employment of adults represents about 77% of the requests over the period. Therefore, I continue only including this data for these years to be consistent with the information along the period. The sum for all activities was 1381180 in 2017, 1577506 in 2018, 1635588 in 2019 and 1592584 in 2020.	Tier 2 data is an index of the total number of VOG certificates for employment of adults (excluding taxi drivers) issued by JUSTIS annually. I decided not to sum up certificates for other categories to keep the indicator consistent. Tier 1 data was not possible to compile since the information was missing on the check of information for immigration or gun licenses.
New Zealand	Criminal background checks in New Zealand are conducted at applying for a 'Criminal records check'. These certificates are issued by the Ministry of Justice of New Zealand's government. In addition, jobs or volunteer positions with close contact with vulnerable populations need to conduct a vetting process in which information on previous convictions is considered. Finally, the NZ secret service also conducts vetting services for sensible positions. Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Ministry of Justice hold information on criminal records.	Information on the number of criminal records certificates was kindly provided by the office of criminal records of the Ministry of Justice of New Zealand's government. Information was provided on the total number of requests for certificates of criminal records (rounded to thousands) from the financial year 2012/13 to 2017/18. Information was disclosed, separating information by requests by the individual itself or by a Third-party (with the individual's consent). Data presumably corresponds to financial years (from 1st of April year X to 31st March year X). Information on the number of vetting requests to the New Zealand Vetting Service was kindly provided by the Police Vetting Service. They provided data on the total vetting applications received per financial year from 2012/13 to 2019/20. Information on the vetting process for the NZ intelligence service was found in their annual reports. This information is restricted from 2015/16 to 2019/20.	Tier 1 is an index of the total number of criminal records certificates and the number of vetting requests issued per 100 inhabitants. I did not include the requests for security services because I could only find information from 2015/16. For the years on which I have data for all types of certificates, it is possible to observe that vetting services from the security services only represent about 0.4% of the total criminal background checks. Therefore, not including these certificates does not have a significant effect on the requests for criminal background certificates.
Nicaragua	In Nicaragua, criminal background checks are conducted by requesting a '*Certificado de constancia judicial*' or '*Récord policial*' to the General Direction Office of the Police of the Nicaraguan government.	Information was sought by sending an email to the officials responsible for transparency to the General Direction Office of the Police of the Nicaraguan government, but no information was provided.	N/A

Country	Criminal Background Check (CBCs) system	Data request	Indicator/s
Nigeria	Criminal background checks In Nigeria are conducted at applying for a 'police clearance certificate'. The Nigerian Police Force issues this certificate.	Information was sought at making a request through a formal email to the Nigerian Police Force, but no response was received.	N/A
Norway	Criminal background checks in Norway are conducted at applying for a '*Politiattest*' (police certificate). The *'Politiets enhet for vandelskontroll og politiattester'* (Police unit for conduct control and police certificates) issues this certificate. Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Police hold information on criminal records. Criminal record certificates are only issued for the purposes described in laws and regulations and only for specific reasons – not on a general basis. There is a document provided on the website of the Norwegian Police (https://www.politiet.no/globalassets/02-tjenester-admin/politiattest/kreve-politiattest-fornyet-vandelskontr/police-certificate-purpose2.pdf) that states all these situations. These situations are related with: · Adoption and Assisted Fertilization · Pharmacies and Pharmaceuticals · Archives · Child and Youth Camps · Kindergartens and Schools · Child Welfare Services and Supervision in accordance with The Children Act · Fire and explosion protection · Courts of Justice · Real Estate and Debt Collection · Prison and Correctional Services · Financing and Insurance · The Military · Voluntary Organizations · Healthcare · The Railway · Emission Trading Scheme · Broadcasting · Aviation · Locksmiths · Police Certificate for Abroad · The Police · Post · Accountancy · Judiciary · Citizenship · Students · Supervisory Council of Legal Practice · Translator · Driving School · Religious and lifestance-based communities · Guard and Security Business · Security · Legal Guardians · Workshops and motor vehicle tests · Host Families	Information was kindly provided by the '*Politiets enhet for vandelskontroll og politiattester'* after an email request. Information was provided on the number of requests that came in per year and certificates that were finally issued from 2014 to 2018 per calendar year. Data from previous years could not be provided because these certificates were issued by local police stations independently.	Tier 1 data is an index of the total number of '*Politiattest*' certificates per 100 inhabitants.

Country	Criminal Background Check (CBCs) system	Data request	Indicator/s
Pakistan	Criminal background checks in Pakistan are conducted by applying for a 'Police Clearance certificates', also called 'Character Certificate'. Local and regional police forces issue these certificates. Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Police hold information on criminal records.	Information was sought at sending emails to the Pakistani police force. Information was found on the number of certificates issued for Pakistanis living in Spain, but not for jobs inside Pakistan. This information was then not included because it did not affect the use of criminal records certificates inside the country. The official providing the aforementioned information advised that finding statistics for the issuance of certificates for the use of Pakistan would be very difficult, because the issuance of these certificates is done independently by each police force.	N/A
Panama	Criminal background checks in Panama are conducted at applying for a '*Record Policivo'* (Police Records). These certificates are issued by the '*Dirección de Investigación Judicial'* (Judicial Investigation Directory) of the '*Policía Nacional de Panamá'* (Panama National Police).	Information was sought through a Freedom of Information request to the agency for transparency of Panama. No response was received.	N/A

Country	Criminal Background Check (CBCs) system	Data request	Indicator/s
Paraguay	Criminal background checks in Paraguay are conducted at applying for a *'Certificado de antecedentes penales/judiciales*' (Certificates of penal/judicial records). These certificates are issued by the '*Oficina de Antecedentes Penales'* (Offices of Criminal records) of the '*Poder Judicial de la República de Paraguay'* (Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Paraguay). In Paraguay, there are two types of certificates: · Certificates requested by individuals ('*particulares'*). These certificates are issued for individuals who need this certificate for administrative issues. · Certificates requested by Judicial Offices. These certificates are issued to judges, prosecutors and defendants, and are only used in judicial processes. Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Ministry of Justice hold information on criminal records.	Information was kindly provided by the Corte Supreme de Justicia de Paraguay (Supreme Court of Justice of Paraguay). For 2003-2016 information is provided with data on the issuance of certificates from the capital region of Asuncion. For 2017 and 2018 I have data for all of Paraguay. In addition, for 2017 and 2018, it includes data from web requests. For all cases, data correspond to calendar years.	Tier 1 is an index on the total number of '*certificados of antecedentes penales/judiciales'* issued per 100 inhabitants of the Asuncion region. Information from 2017 is not included because it is not fully comparable since, from this year, data consists of the requests for the whole country. This indicator may be biased because it could include requests for lawyers about a client to locate the file from previous crimes.

Country	Criminal Background Check (CBCs) system	Data request	Indicator/s
Peru	Criminal background checks in Peru are conducted by applying for one of the three following certificates: · '*Certificado de Antecedentes Penales'* (Certificate of Criminal Records). This document discloses whether the individual has information on previous convictions. It is used to carry out procedures before public or private institutions, such as applying for a new job or a travel visa (https://www.gob.pe/326-antecedentes-penales). This document is issued by Peru's 'Poder Judicial' (Judicial Power). · '*Antecedentes Judiciales*' (Judicial Records). This document discloses whether the individual has served a prison or a community service sentence. This document seems to be required for applying for jobs, a visa, a credit, students in a foreign country, or requiring specific licences (https://www.gob.pe/305-solicitar-antecedentes-judiciales). This document is issued by the '*Dirección de Registro Penitenciario'* (Office of the Penitentiary Registry). · Certificado de Antecedentes Policiales ('*Certificate of Police Records'*). This document shows if the individual has some police record or if the individual is currently being investigated. It is used for some administrative procedures such as education, employment, requesting a VISA, employment in a foreign country or the use of tinted windows for cars (https://www.gob.pe/309-certificado-de-antecedentes-policiales-para-uso-nacional). This document is issued by the '*Policía Nacional de Perú*' (National Police of Peru). Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the State hold information on criminal records.	Information was sought about the three types of certificates emailing the government agencies responsible for these checks and making Freedom of Information requests. Only information on the issuance of Criminal Records certificates was kindly provided by the 'Sub Gerencia de Producción y Administración de Plataformas' of 'Gerencia de Informática' of the 'Poder Judicial' of the Peruvian Government. Data were provided from 2002 to 2018 per calendar year. Data were provided on the reasons behind the request. The categories vary by period. From 2002-2009 they offered the following categories: · '*Certficado de uso jurisdiccional'* (Certificate for Judicial Use): ·· '*Trabajo'* (Employment) ·· '*Trámite administrativo'* (Administrative procedure) ·· '*Trámite judicial'* (Judicial procedure) ·· '*Estudio*' (Education) · '*Certificado de Uso Nacional* (Certificate for National Use): ·· '*Estudio*' (Education) ·· *'Trabajo'* (Employment) ·· '*Trámite administrativo'* (Administrative procedure) ·· *'Trámite judicial'* (Judicial procedure) ·· '*Trámite para el exterior'* (Procedure for foreign authorities) ·· '*Uso Nacional'* (National use) · '*Certificado de uso viaje'* (Certificate for travel) ·· '*Tramite para el exterior'* (Procedure for foreign authorities)} · '*Consulados*' (Consulates) ·· '*Certificación consular'* (Consular certificate). From 2010-2019, the categories were reduced to 'trámites judiciales' (Judicial procedures) - joining all certificates of jurisdictional use - , '*Trámite Administrativo*' (Administrative procedures), joining all certificates for 'national use' and '*Consulados'* (Consulates) - joining all certificates for travel -. They also include other categories with minor requests such as '*Convenio de Cooperación Interinstitucional'* (agreement of institutional cooperation), '*J.N.E.*' (national jury of elections), '*MINEDU*' (Ministry of education*), 'SOLIC. SUPREMA'* (supreme court of Peru), *SOLIC. WEB* 'consular web requests', and *Superintendencia Nacional de Control de Servicios de Seguridad, Armas, Municiones y Explosivos de Uso Civil* (National agency for the control of security, weapons, and explosives for civil use).	Tier 1 data is an index of the total number of '*Certificado de Antecedentes Penales'* issued for non-judicial proceedings per 100 inhabitants. This indicator is limited because it does not hold information on the number of *'Certificados judiciales'* and *'Certificados de Antecedentes Policiales'*.

Country	Criminal Background Check (CBCs) system	Data request	Indicator/s
Philippines	Criminal background checks in the Philippines are conducted at applying for a ‘National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Clearance’. The National Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice of the Philippine government produces this certificate.	Information was sought by making a Freedom of Information request to the National Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice of the Philippine government, but the request for information was denied.	N/A
Poland	Criminal background checks in Poland are conducted at applying for a ‘*Zapytanie o udzielenie informacji o osobie Information*’ (Inquiry about an individual). The National Criminal Register Information Office issues this certificate. There are two registries: The national criminal records registry (‘*krajowy rejestr karny’*) and the registry of sexual offenders (‘*rejestr sprawców przestępstw na tle seksualnym*’). Access to the information on the National Criminal Records Registry requires the individual's consent. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the National Criminal Register Information Office hold information on criminal records. Data on the Registry of Sexual Offenders for the most severe offenders are publicly available, including names and photos. For sexual offenders, not considered very dangerous data is shared only with some institutions (https://www.dw.com/en/poland-launches-online-register-of-sex-offenders/a-42005208).	The National Criminal Register Information Office kindly provided information after a Freedom of Information request. Information is provided splatted into the following categories: · *‘Zapytania/wnioski o udzielenie informacji o osobie przysłane do Biura KRK i do Punktów Informacyjnych KRK (bez e-platformy)*’ (Inquiries / requests for information about a person (no e-platform)) · *‘Zapytania/wnioski o udzielenie informacji o podmiot zbiorowy przysłane do Biura KRK i do Punktów Informacyjnych KRK*’ (Inquiries / requests for information about a collective entity (legal person) (no e-platform)) · *‘Zapytania/wnioski o udzielenie informacji o osobie i o podmiot zbiorowy przysłane za pośrednictwem e-platformy’* (Requests for information about a person & collective entity sent via the e-platform) · *‘Wpływ zapytań/wniosków o udzielenie informacji o osobie z opłatą’* (Requests for information about a person with a fee (Private requests)) · *‘Wpływ zapytań/wniosków o udzielenie informacji o podmiot zbiorowy z opłatą’* (Requests for information about a collective entity with a fee (Private requests)) · *‘Żądania o udzielenie informacji o osobie przysłane elektronicznie przez sądy rejestrowe* ‘ (Requests for information about a person by registry courts) · *‘Wnioski przysłane elektronicznie przez Centralną Ewidencję i Informację o Działalności Gospodarcze (CEIDG)*’ (Requests by the Central Register and Information on Economic Activities (CEIDG)) · *‘Wnioski o udzieleniu informacji przysłane za posrednictwem IMI (system wymiany informacji na rynku wewnętrznym)*’ (Requests sent via IMI (Internal Market Information System)) · *‘Zapytania/wnioski o udzielenie informacji przysłane przez uprawnione organy państw obcych poprzez ECRIS, fax, pocztę, e-mail, NJR* ‘ (Requests for information sent by authorized authorities of foreign countries via ECRIS, fax, mail, e-mail, NJR) · *‘Liczba udzielonych informacji o osobie (na podstawie ustawy z dnia 29 sierpnia 1997 r. o ochronie danych osobowych)*’ (Number of information provided about a person (pursuant to the Act of 29 August 1997 on the protection of personal data)).	Tier 2 data is an index of the total number of certificates issued by private requests per 100 inhabitants. It was impossible to compile a Tier 1 data indicator since the information provided only allows to divide private requests made by individuals and public requests. Then, it is impossible to separate judicial and non-judicial requests from public authorities.

Country	Criminal Background Check (CBCs) system	Data request	Indicator/s
		Data is provided from 2005 to 2018 per calendar year. I excluded information from 2009 because the information from specific categories seems missing.	

Country	Criminal Background Check (CBCs) system	Data request	Indicator/s
Portugal	Criminal background checks in Portugal are conducted by applying for a '*Certificado de Registro Criminal*' (Certificate of the Criminal Registry). These certificates are issued by the Area of the criminal records certificates of the Directorate-General for the Administration of Justice of Portugal. Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Administration of Justice hold information on criminal records.	Information was kindly provided to *Direção de Serviços de Identificação Criminal* (Directorate-General for the Administration of Justice) of the Portuguese government provided after an email request. Information was provided on the total number of certificates issued from 2004 to 2018 per calendar year. The information provided separated information into two groups: · Certificates issued required by individuals · Certificates issued requested by the courts for process instruction.	Tier 1 is an index of the total number of certificates required per individuals issued by the *Direção de Serviços de Identificação Criminal* per 100 inhabitants.
Puerto Rico	Criminal background checks In Puerto Rico are conducted by applying for a '*certificados de antecedentes penales*' (Certificates of Criminal Records). These certificates are issued by '*Policía de Puerto Rico*' (Puerto Rico's police)	I made a Freedom of Information request to the Puerto Rico's police. No information was provided.	N/A
Republic of Korea	Criminal background checks in In South Korea are conducted at applying for a '*범죄· 수사경력 회보서'* [Criminal (Investigation) Records Check Reply] or 'Police Clearance Certificate.' This certificate is issued by the Korean National Police Agency (KNPA). Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Korean Police hold information on criminal records.	Information was kindly provided by Min Kyung Hyun, Assistant Professor, Department of Preventive Medicine, College of Korean Medicine, Dongguk University. She conducted a Freedom of Information on my behalf in front of The Korean National Police Agency (KNPA) on behalf of the project. The KNPA provided data on the issuance of criminal records certificate (online + offline) divided by type of purpose from 2016 to 2019 per calendar year. The categories from which the information is given are: · Personal verification · Visa issuance · Related to sexual crime and child abuse · Related to elderly abuse (issued from June 2019) · Election of candidates for public office · Others	Tier 1 data is an index of the total number of requests of Criminal (Investigation) Records Checks issued per 100 inhabitants. Tier 2 data is an index of the total number of requests of Criminal (Investigation) Records Checks issued by the KNPA for the following purposes: a) 'personal verification'; b) requests for 'Related to sexual crime and child abuse' and c) requests for 'other' purposes, per 100 inhabitants.
Romania	Criminal background checks in Romania are conducted by applying for a *'cazierul judiciar'* or *'Certificat de Cazier Judiciar'* (Certificates of the Judicial archive). The central office of the Criminal Record and Operational Situation Department issues these certificates. Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Ministry of Justice hold information on criminal records.	The Directorate for Criminal Records, Statistics and Operational Registers of the General Inspectorate of the Romanian Police kindly provided data after sending an email request. Data is provided on the total number of certificates issued by Romanian authorities from 2014 to 2018 (calendar year).	Tier 1 is an index of the total number of '*Certificats de Cazier Judiciar'* issued by Romanian authorities per 100 inhabitants.
Rwanda	Criminal Background checks in Rwanda are conducted by applying for a 'police clearance certificate' from the Prosecutor General of the National Public Prosecution Authority of Rwanda.	Information was sought by contacting the Agency dealing with criminal records of the National Prosecution Authority of Rwanda. The agency officials kindly replied, stating that they could not provide this information and suggested contacting the Prosecutor General's office. I emailed the office of the Prosecutor General, but no response was received.	N/A

Country	Criminal Background Check (CBCs) system	Data request	Indicator/s
San Marino	Criminal background checks in San Marino are conducted at applying for a *'Certificato penale generale del casellario giudiziale'* (General penal certificates of the judicial registry) to the Minsiterio della Giustizia. Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Ministry of Justice hold information on criminal records.	I emailed the '*Ministerio della Giustizia'* asking for data, but no information was provided.	N/A
Slovakia	Criminal background checks in Slovakia are conducted at applying for a *'Vỳpis z Registra Trestov'* (Extract of the Register of Crimes). These certificates are issued by the '*Register trestov Generálnej prokuratúry Slovenskej republiky*' (Criminal Records Register of General Prosecutor ́s Office of the Slovak Republic). A different type of certificate is issued only for public authorities. Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Prosecutor's Office hold information on criminal records.	Information from 2002 to 2018 was kindly provided by the '*Register trestov Generálnej prokuratúry Slovenskej republiky*' (Criminal Records Register of General Prosecutor ́s Office of the Slovak Republic). Data is provided for the years 2002 to 2018 for the requests by '*natural*' persons per calendar year. The officials providing the information stated that this excludes legal entities. Information from 2019 on was subtracted from reports published on the website from 2019 information from reports on the website: https://www.genpro.gov.sk/spravy-o-cinnosti-12b7.html.	Tier 1 data is an index of the total number of certificates of criminal records (including copies and excerpts) issued by the *'Register trestov Generálnej prokuratúry Slovenskej republiky'* per 100 inhabitants.
Slovenia	Criminal background checks in Slovenia are conducted at applying for a '*Potrdilo iz Kazenske Evidence*' (Certificate from the Criminal Record). This certificate is issued from the Department for Criminal Records and Educational Measures (DCREM) in the Ministry of Justice ('*Ministrstvo za Pravosodje'*). Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Ministry of Justice hold information on criminal records.	Information was kindly provided by the '*Ministrstvo za Pravosodje'* after an email request. Data is provided on the total number of certificates per year from 2011 to 2018 per calendar year (from 1st of January year X to 31st December year X).	Tier 1 data is an index of the total number of certificates issued by the 'Ministrstvo za Pravosodje' per 100 inhabitants.
Solomon Islands	Criminal background checks in the Solomon Islands are conducted by applying for a police clearance check to the Solomon Islands police. Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Solomon Islands Police hold information on criminal records.	The Royal Solomon Islands Police Force kindly provided information from 2013 to 2014 (https://www.rsipf.gov.sb/?q=resources). Data has been sought for more recent years, but no response has been received. Data is provided from 2013 to 2014 per calendar year.	Tier 1 data is an index of the total number of police clearance checks issued by the Solomon Police forces per 100 inhabitants.
South Africa	Criminal background checks in South Africa are conducted at applying for a 'Police Clearance Certificates'. The South African Police Service issues these certificates.	I emailed the South African Police Service requesting data, but no response was received.	N/A

Country	Criminal Background Check (CBCs) system	Data request	Indicator/s
Spain	Criminal background checks are conducted in Spain in two ways. First, all employees or volunteers with close contact with children must apply for a *'Certificado de Delitos de Naturaleza Sexual'* (Certificate of criminal records for sexual crimes) issued by the '*Registro Central de Delincuentes Sexuales'* (Sexual Offenders Registry). In addition, for any other purpose, individuals can request a *'Certificado de antecedentes penales'* (Certifcate of criminal records) issued by the '*Registro Central de Penados'* (Central Register of the Convicted) for any other purpose. Both registries are part of the Ministerio de Justícia (Ministry of Justice). Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Ministry of Justice hold information on criminal records.	Information was kindly provided by the 'Ministerio de Justicia' (Ministry of Justice) of the Spanish Government after a Freedom of Information request. Data is provided on the total number of certificates requested for each type of certificate, in some cases divided by the request conducted by an individual or through the request of a public entity with the individual's consent. Data is provided from 2009 to 2020 per calendar year.	Tier 1 data is an index of the total number of '*Certificados de antecedentes penales'* and the total number of '*Certificados de delitos de naturaleza sexual'* issued by the Ministry of Justice per year.
Sri Lanka	Criminal background checks are conducted in Sri Lanka at applying for a '*Police Clearance Certificate'*. These certificates are issued by the Criminal Records Division in Colombo or at local police stations. There are two types of certificates '*Local Clearance Reports'*, for purposes inside Sri Lanka, and Overseas Clearance Reports, for issues outside Sri Lanka. Third-party representatives and prospective employers can apply. Written consent is not required, but the purpose must be stated.	Information for 2017 and 2018 on the number of Police Clearance Certificates issued was found on the annual reports of the Sri Lanka Police presented to the Parliament (https://parliament.lk/en/business-of-parliament/papers-presented). Further contacts had been established to get information on previous and subsequent years, but up to now, no response has been received.	Tier 1 data is an index of the total number of '*Local Clearance Reports*' and the total number of Overseas Clearance Reports issued by the Sri Lankan Police per 100 inhabitants.
Suriname	In Suriname, Criminal background checks are conducted by requesting a 'Police Clearance Certificate'. The police of Suriname issue this certificate.	Information was sought by filling out a form on the webpage of the Suriname police, but no response was received.	N/A

Country	Criminal Background Check (CBCs) system	Data request	Indicator/s
Sweden.	Official criminal background checks in Sweden are conducted by applying at '*Utdrag ur Belastningsregistret'* (Extract from Criminal Records Registry). These certificates are issued by the National Police Board (RPS). However, Lageson & Corda (2020) refer to a private company, 'Lexbase,' that sells information on previous convictions. About 'Lexbase' Christel Backman, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Sociology and Work Science commented: '[In this website] *You can enter a name and see if the person appears in any documents. To get access to the documents you need to pay a fee* (become a member*). Currently the fee is 95 SEK, approximately £8. Each document you want to access after your first (included in the membership) costs 89 SEK (£7).* *Lexbase collect publicly available documents from the Swedish courts. All court records are public documents in Sweden. What the company does is that it put all the documents into a database and make it available online.* *There are other similar services in Sweden that cost more and are used by lawyers, researchers, students etc. (...). The difference between Lexbase and the other databases is that Lexbase advertised its services to the public (like: are your neighbour a paedophile?). Another thing was that Lexbase also included a map where you could see if people who appeared in court documents lived in an area. Lexbase was heavily criticized for including people who had been acquitted and for not distinguishing what type of crime people had committed. A dot on the map could be anything from a traffic violation to a violent crime - it didn't show.* *There government has initiated investigations on whether the constitution should be changed so that sites like Lexbase can be banned, but so far we have no such propositions have been approved.'*	Christel Backman, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Sociology and Work Science, kindly provided data. Data is provided from 2003 to 2018 per calendar year. Data is provided by the following type of requests: · Subject access (§9 1 st Criminal Records Act, (§ 26 Data Protection Act)* · Childcare workers & teachers. Caregivers for children with Certain Functional Impairments (§ 9 2 st p.2 Criminal records Act) · Insurance intermediaries (§ 9 2 st p.3 Criminal records Act) · Employees at residential care homes for children and young persons (§9 Criminal records Act)** At the document's bottom is a row with the label 'Number of civil requests for criminal records.' From 2003 to 2016, data on this row do not coincide with the sum of requests by the categories above, so I understand that refers to the total number of civil requests for whatever reason.	Tier 1 data is an index of the total number of civil requests of certificates of criminal record issued per 100 inhabitants. I exclude the values provided for 2017 and 2018 because they are simply the sum of the previous values. Tier 2 data is an index of the total number of certificates issued for 'Subject access', 'Childcare workers & teachers. Caregivers for children with Certain Functional Impairments', 'Insurance intermediaries' and 'Employees at residential care homes for children and young persons' per 100 inhabitants.

Country	Criminal Background Check (CBCs) system	Data request	Indicator/s
Switzerland	In Switzerland, criminal background checks are conducted at applying for a '*Stafregisterauszug*' (Criminal Records Extract). The Swiss Criminal Records Register issues these certificates. Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Swiss criminal Register hold information on criminal records.	Information was kindly provided by the *Eidgenössisches Justiz- und Polizeidepartement EJPD Bundesamt für Justiz BJ Schweizerisches Strafregister* (Federal Justice and Police Department FDJP Federal Office of Justice FOJ Swiss criminal record) after filling a form online. Information is provided on the extracts supplied to private individuals from the Swiss Criminal Register from 2002 to 2019 per calendar year. There is a new certificate for jobs involving minors, but it is unclear if the data provided includes them.	Tier 1 data is an index of the total number of extracts supplied to private individuals from the Swiss Criminal Register per 100 inhabitants.
Trinidad y Tobago	Criminal background checks in are conducted at applying for a 'Police certificate of character' to the Trinidad & Tobago Police.	I emailed the Trinidad & Tobago Police, but not response was received.	N/A
Turkey	Criminal background checks in Turkey are conducted by requesting an '*Adli Sicil Kaydi'* (Police Clearance Certificate from the Turkish Police.	I made a Freedom of Information request to the Turkish Police. They kindly replied that no information could be provided since they did not hold accurate and precise data in this respect.	N/A
United Kingdom	In the UK, criminal records are stored in the Police National Computer run by ACRO (Criminal records office). Different bodies can get access to the PNC to check for criminal records for a variety of reasons. Probably, the most important non-police related bodies who get access to it are those agencies dealing with requests for certificates for employment ('Disclosure and Barring Service' in England and Wales, 'Disclosure Scotland' in Scotland and 'AccesNI' in Northern Ireland). These criminal records certificates are known as 'criminal records checks' or 'DBS checks' (Disclosure and Barring System Checks). Previously they were also known as CRB checks responding to the acronym of the former agency dealing with these requests in England and Wales. Other agencies can access it for other issues, for instance, migration permits. The police also conduct checks for certain permits, such as firearm licensing.	Information on the total number of requests issued was initially provided by the 'Disclosure and Barring Service', Scotland 'Disclosure Service' and 'AccessNI' after Freedom of Information requests. I also found this information in the annual reports of these agencies ('Disclosure & Barring Service': https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/disclosure-and-barring-service, Scotland 'Disclosure Service': https://www.mygov.scot/disclosure-types/, and 'AccessNI':(https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/accessni-criminal-record-checks). Information was found from the financial year 2002-03 to the financial year 2019-20. Financial years correspond to the 1st of April X to the 31st of March X+1. Information on the total number of requests for migration and subject access requests was also issued on the webpage of the ACPO. Information on the total number of firearms permits and renewals was also compiled from the annual reports of the corresponding agency. I made an FOI request to the ACPO to get information on the total number of requests conducted by non-criminal justice agencies, but they declined to provide this information.	Tier 2 data is an index of the sum of all types of criminal records certificates issued (basic + standard + enhanced) by DBS, Disclosure Scotland and AccessNI per 100 inhabitants. Tier 1 data cannot be obtained since I would need information on the total number of requests to the PNC for non-criminal justice purposes.

Country	Criminal Background Check (CBCs) system	Data request	Indicator/s
United States of America (US)	In the US, official criminal background checks might be carried out by state agencies. US states might allow conducting these checks because of mandatory requirements to check the prior background for job placement, volunteers or other applicants. Some US states also let individuals access this information without a legal reason. Federal agencies also conduct checks for certain permits, such as firearm licensing. In addition, there is a massive demand for 'unofficial' criminal background checks. States send information on prior criminality to private companies that compile this information and sell it to anyone interested.	Information was found in the reports on the SEARCH website (The National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics). This consortium bi-annually surveys states to request US states and territories to provide statistics about the number of criminal background checks conducted. The reports can be found at: https://www.search.org/resources/surveys/ Data is limited to those US states that biannually sent information to the SEARCH consortium on the number of name-based and fingerprint criminal background checks.	Following the advice of Dr David McElhattan, Assistant Professor of Sociology at Purdue University, to consider the number of criminal background checks for non-mandatory reasons, I sum up the number of fingerprint checks for non-criminal justice purposes and the number of name-based non-criminal justice repository checks. Data is only provided bi-annually between 2006 and 2020. Some states did not provide data on the name-based non-criminal justice repository checks, particularly on the first waves. Then, I only calculated the number of reviews for those states who provided the data for each wave to avoid the detected evolution depended on the states complying with provided data. The SEARCH compiler states are (in alphabetical order) Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin). I considered '0' as a no response since it was not feasible that extraordinarily there were 0 requests in a single year. I did not include criminal background checks to buy firearms since the particular dynamics for this issue in the US could blur the relationship. Therefore, data should be carefully interpreted as not reflecting the number of unofficial CBCs.
Uruguay	In Uruguay, criminal background checks are conducted by requesting a '*Certificado de Antecedentes Judiciales*' (Certificate of Judicial Records) from the '*Ministerio de Justícia'* (Ministry of Justice) of the government of Uruguay. These certificates are called '*Certificado de Buena Conducta*' (Certificate of Good conduct). Criminal background checks require the consent of the individual. Third-party access is not allowed without written consent. To my knowledge, no databases external to the Ministry of Justice hold information on criminal records.	Information was kindly provided by '*Dirección Nacional de Policía Científica'* of the '*Ministerio del Interior de Ecuador*' after a Freedom of Information request. The data refers to the total number of 'Certificados de antecedentes judiciales' only for the Montevideo region, the country's capital city. Data is from 2013 to 2018 per calendar year. Information for the whole country seems to be very different since it would imply getting information from 17 regional police stations around the country.	Tier 1 data is an index of the total number of '*certificados de antecedentes judiciales'* issued in the region of Montevideo per 100 inhabitants.