



**BRIEFING PAPER**

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# Knife crime in England and Wales

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Cover page image:

**Loren Godefroy**, 'The dark side of the knife', copyright: <http://www.loren-godefroy.com>

# Summary

## Recorded crime

In 2015/2016, there were 28,859 (selected) offences involving a sharp instrument, in England and Wales. This was 9% higher compared to 2014/15 but 12% lower than in 2010/11.

## Homicide

There were 213 homicides using a sharp instrument in 2015/16, accounting for 37% of all homicides. This was an increase from 186 cases in 2014/15 (36% of all homicides).

## Knife crime by police force area

London recorded the highest rate of 114 offences involving a knife per 100,000 population<sup>1</sup> in 2015/16. This was a decrease of 41 offences from 156 per 100,000 people in 2010/11. Surrey had the lowest rate of 6 offences per 100,000 individuals.

## Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)

According to the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) in 2015/16 a knife was used in 6% of all CSEW incidents of violence experienced by adults, similar to the previous year's proportion.

CSEW data indicates that 5.8% of 10 - 15 year olds and 4.5% of 16 - 29 year olds knew someone who carried a knife for their own protection.

## Proven offences and offenders

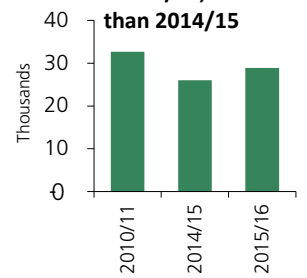
In 2016 there were 18,322 proven offences for possession of a knife or offensive weapon

Average custodial sentence length (ACSL) for offences involving knives have increased since 1996. In 2016 the ACSL exceeded 6.5 months for the first time.

## Hospital admissions

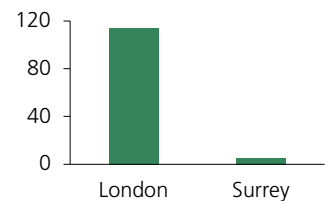
NHS data for 2015/16, shows the highest annual increase of 12% in sharp object related finished hospital admission episodes since 1998/99.

**Less knife crime\* in 2015/16 than in 2010/11, but more than 2014/15**

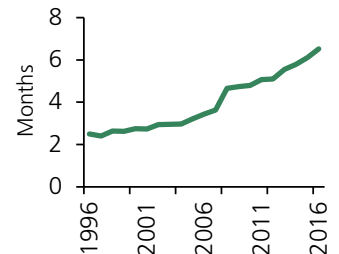


\* Selected offences

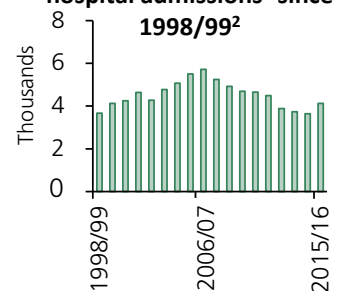
**Highest and lowest rates of knife offences (per 100,000 population)**



**Higher average custodial sentences for knife possession**



**The highest annual increase in sharp object related hospital admissions<sup>1</sup> since 1998/99<sup>2</sup>**



1. Finished admission episode (FAE)
2. In 2014/15 the lowest number since 1998/99 was recorded

<sup>1</sup> Metropolitan and City of London police forces

## Introduction

Knife crime is a persistent and worrying concern, especially as it impacts particularly upon young people and the disadvantaged, and various remedies have been tried over the years.

[‘Knife Crime’ – A review of evidence and policy](#) is a briefing paper published by the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies (CCJS) which discusses the extent of the problem.

The Library briefing paper [Knives and Offensive Weapons \(SN00330\)](#) discuss the legislation which governs the carrying and sale of knives and other offensive weapons. To summarise the possession offences:<sup>2</sup>

- It is an offence under section 1 of the [Prevention of Crime Act 1953](#) for a person to have with him in any public place any offensive weapon without “lawful authority or reasonable excuse”. Section 1(4) of the 1953 Act defines “offensive weapon” as:  
“any article made or adapted for use for causing injury to the person, or intended by the person having it with him for such use by him or by some other person.”
- Under section 139 of the [Criminal Justice Act 1988](#) it is an offence for a person to have with him in a public place any article which has a blade or is sharply pointed, except a folding pocket knife with a cutting edge of three inches or less, without good reason or lawful authority.
- Under section 139A of the [Criminal Justice Act 1988](#), it is an offence for a person to have an offensive weapon or a bladed or pointed article on school premises without good reason or lawful authority.

Each of the above offences is punishable by up to six months’ imprisonment and an unlimited fine in the magistrates’ court, or up to four years’ imprisonment and an unlimited fine in the Crown court. For the section 139 and 139A offences, the court is required to impose a minimum custodial sentence (set at six months for those aged 18 or over) when sentencing a person who has at least one previous conviction for an offence of possession of, or threatening with, an offensive weapon or bladed article.

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<sup>2</sup> “making threats” and sale/supply offences are also described in [Knives and offensive weapons \(SN00330\)](#)

# 1. Recorded Crime

## 1.1 Data on knife crime

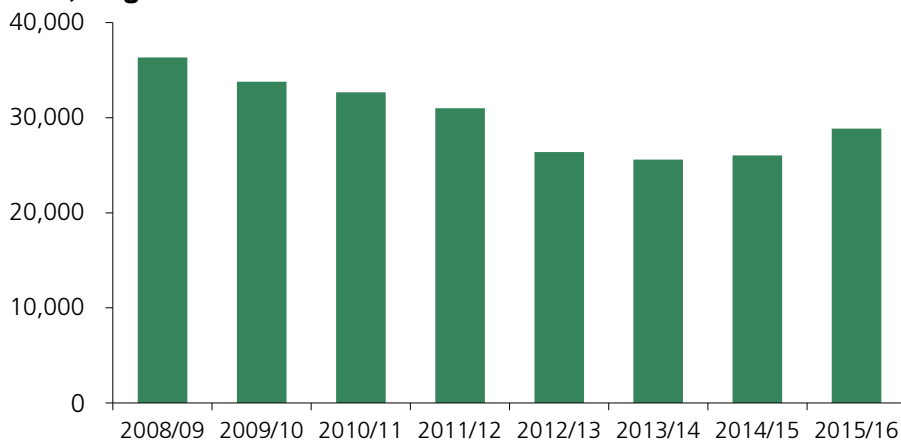
With the exception of homicide offences, the recorded crime statistics did not separately identify crimes involving knives until 2007/08. Since April 2007 data on the number of offences involving the use of a knife or sharp instrument has been collected for a selection of serious violent offences viewed as the most likely to involve the use of knives. This group of offences comprised: homicide, attempted murder; wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm (GBH); wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm (i.e. without intent); robbery of business property; and robbery of personal property.

The offence coverage was extended from April 2008 to include other violent and sexual offences such as threats to kill, actual bodily harm, rape and sexual assaults. There was also a clarification in Counting Rules for GBH with intent. Therefore, the total numbers of offences involving knives are not comparable before and after 1 April 2008.

## 1.2 Trends over time

Appendix table A1 shows the number and proportion of selected violent and sexual offences involving a knife or sharp instrument recorded by the police in England and Wales.

**Chart 1: Selected offences in which a sharp instrument was used, England and Wales**

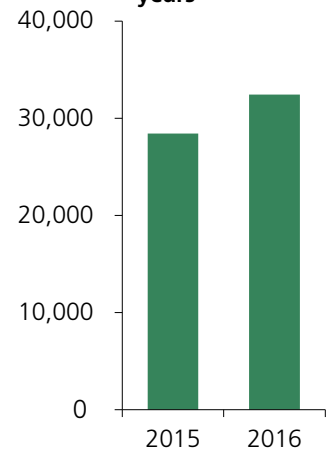


Source: ONS, [Crime and Justice Statistics, Appendix tables, Table 3.14](#), February 2017 and earlier editions

Chart 1 shows that number of selected offences involving knife or a sharp object fell between 2008/09 and 2013/14 before rising over the next two years. In year ending March 2016, there were just under 28,900 offences involving a sharp instrument. This was 9% higher compared to 2014/15 but 12% lower than in 2010/11.

The main offences involving knife or a sharp instrument recorded in 2015/16 were assault with injury and intent to cause serious harm (53%), and robbery (36%).

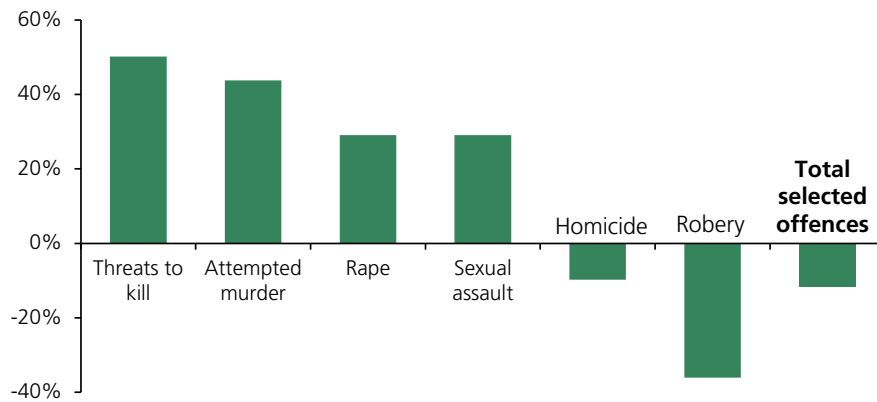
**Total selected offences involving a sharp instrument, calendar years**



It must be noted that it has been suggested that recent increases in recorded crime is due to "improved crime recording practices and processes leading to a greater proportion of reports of crime being recorded"

Source: ONS, [Crime in England and Wales: year ending Mar 2016](#), 21 July 2016

**Chart 2: Percentage change of selected offences involving a knife or a sharp instrument by offence group, 2010/11-2015/16, England and Wales**



Source: ONS, [Crime and Justice Statistics, Appendix tables, Table 3.14](#), February 2017 and earlier editions

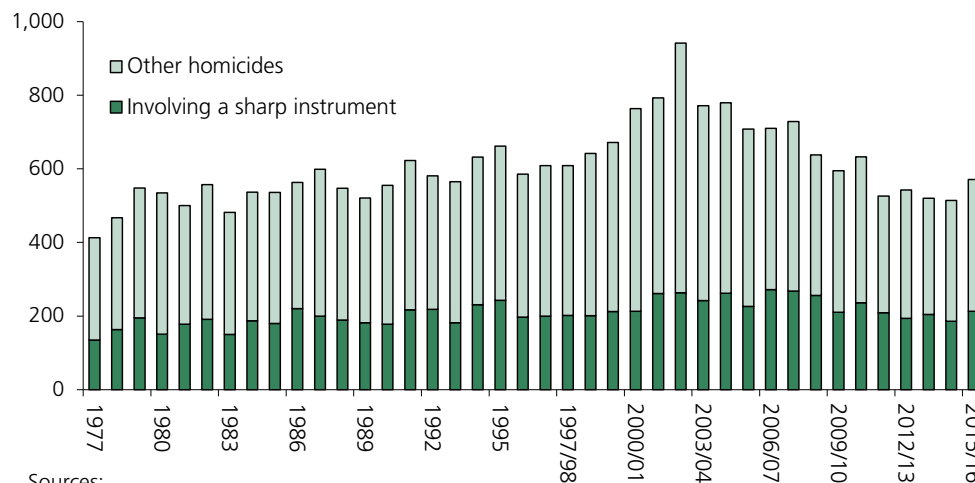
Chart 2 shows that since 2010/11, the total number of selected offences involving a knife or sharp instrument has decreased by 12%; the number of Threats to kill using sharp object increased by 50% from 1,500 to 2,200; the number of robberies was 36% or just under 6,000 cases lower, in 2015/16.

More recently, compared to 2014/15, the largest proportional increases in 2015/16 were Threats to kill (28%) and Attempted murder (26%) offences. The only decrease was recorded in the Rape offence group (-5.5%), while Sexual assaults increased by almost 4%. Care should be taken when comparing figures for Rape & Sexual assaults offences over time due to the relatively low number of these offences recorded.

### 1.3 Homicide using a sharp instrument

Sharp instrument homicide data has been collected by the Home Office since 1977 as part of the Homicide Index collection.

**Chart 3: Offences currently recorded as homicide by apparent method of killing, England and Wales**



Sources:  
 1977 to 1994 - Provided by Home Office;  
 From 1995 - Home Office, [Statistical Bulletin, Appendix table 2.03](#) & subsequent editions  
 Latest data published in February 2017

Chart 3 shows the total number of homicides and those committed using a sharp instrument in England and Wales in each year since 1977. Data used in this chart is given in appendix table A2.

In 1977, there were 135 homicides using a sharp instrument including knives and broken bottles, 33% of all homicides. In 2006/07, there were 271 homicides using a sharp instrument, the highest number recorded over the period, accounting for 38% of all homicides. In 2008/09 just over 40% of homicides (256) involved the use of a sharp instrument, the highest proportion recorded. The share of homicides involving a sharp instrument reached almost 40% in 2011/12 but has averaged 37% in the last decade. In 2015/16 there were 213 homicides using a sharp instrument, including knives and broken bottles, accounting for 39% of all homicides.

Appendix table A3 provides the number of homicides by apparent method of killing and sex of victim. The data shows that the most common method of homicide of both male and female victims was using a sharp instrument.

## 1.4 Knife crime by police force area

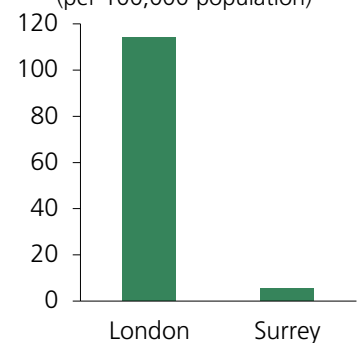
Appendix table A4 shows the number and rate per 100,000 population<sup>3</sup> of selected offences involving knife for each police force area since 2008/09. Chart 4 provides a visual comparison of crime level in 2010/11 compared to 2015/16. Maps for 2008/09 to 2015/16 are available in the appendix (chart A5).

Urban forces tend to record higher proportions involving knives than the more rural ones. In 2015/16, the Metropolitan Police Service recorded the highest rate of 114 offences per 100,000 population<sup>4</sup>. This was also the highest decrease from 2010/11 (down 41 offences from 156 per 100,000 population).

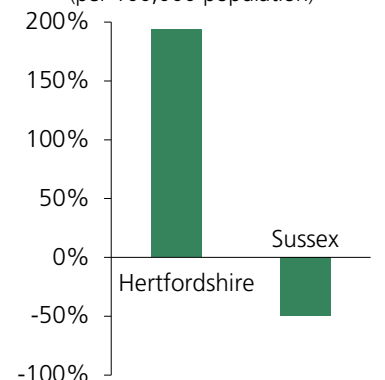
Selected knife related offences in Hertfordshire almost tripled from 12 per 100,000 population in 2010/11 to 36 in 2015/16 (+194%). This was the highest proportional increase over the period. The highest proportional decrease of 49% was recorded in Sussex (from 34 offences per 100,000 population in 2010/11 to 17 in 2015/16).

Surrey has the lowest rate of selected violent offences involving a knife per 100,000 population (6). The number of incidents involving knives in this area has risen from 5 in 2010/11 to 6 in 2015/16. Though it rose by 250% between 2012/13 (2) and 2014/15 (7).

**Highest and lowest rate of offences involving a sharp object 2010/11 - 2015/16**  
(per 100,000 population)



**Highest and lowest % change in offences involving a sharp object 2010/11 - 2015/16**  
(per 100,000 population)



Source: ONS [Crime and Justice Statistics period ending March 2016, Appendix table 3.16](#), February 2017 and earlier editions

<sup>3</sup> Data from 2008/09 to 2013/14 includes House of Commons library estimates based on Police Force Area population from [www.ukcrimestats.com](http://www.ukcrimestats.com)

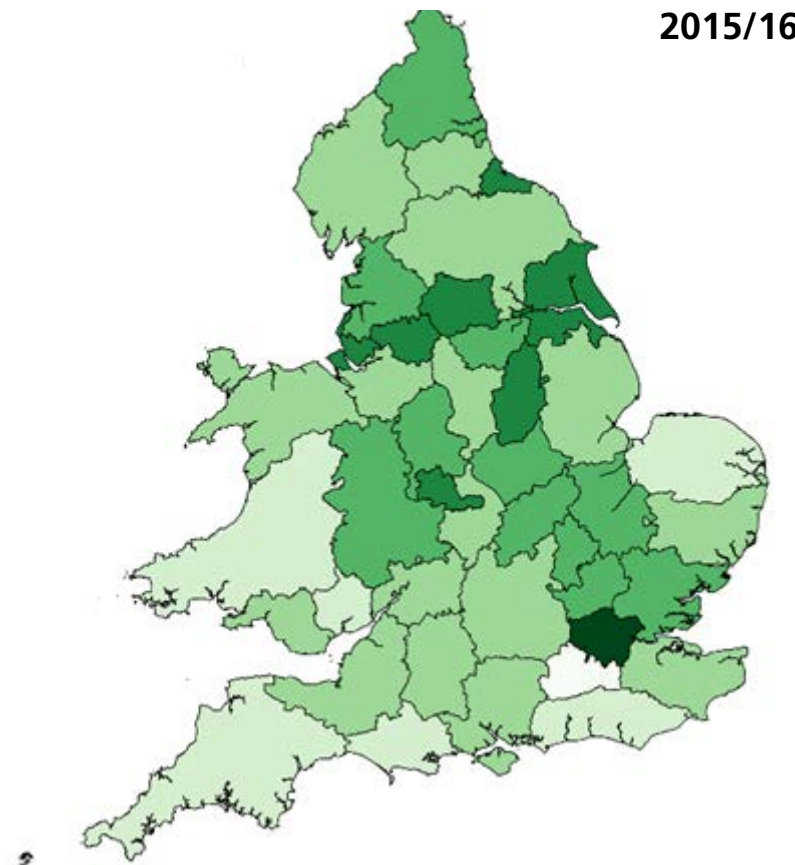
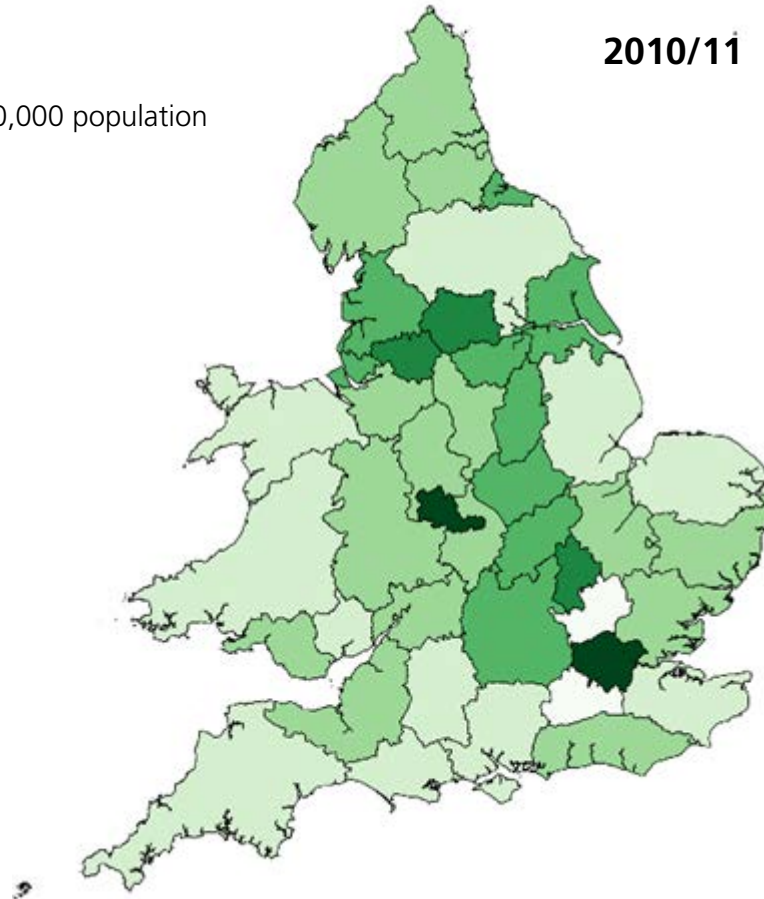
<sup>4</sup> Figures for Metropolitan Police Force include City of London

**Chart 4: Knife and sharp instrument offences recorded by the police for selected offences 2010/11 and 2015/16, England and Wales**

**Legend**

Assaults per 100,000 population

- 2 - 12
- 12 - 23
- 23 - 35
- 35 - 50
- 50 - 80
- 80 - 165

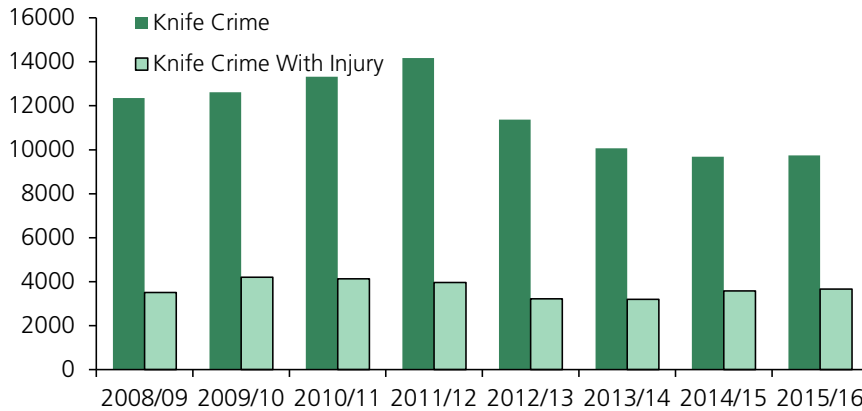




## 1.5 Knife crime in London

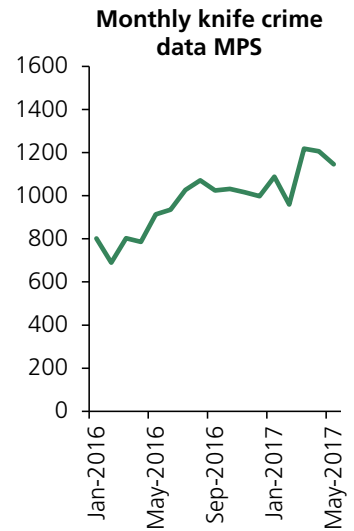
The number of knife crimes recorded by the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) is available monthly from April 2008 from the [London Data store website](#).

**Chart 5: Number of offences involving knives recorded by the MPS**

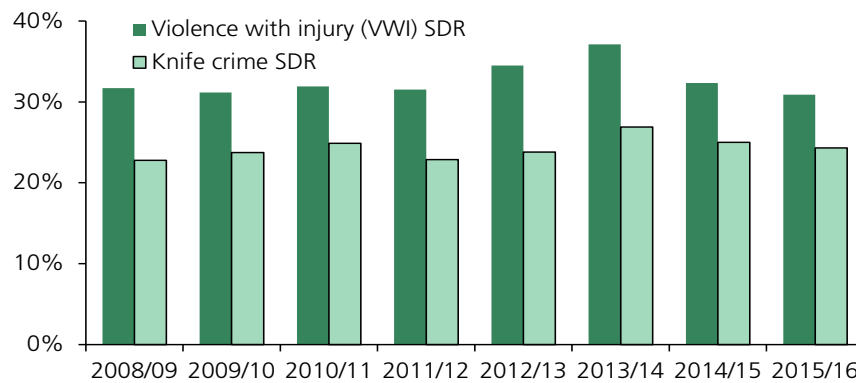


Source: London Assembly, London data store, [Metropolitan Police Service - Recorded Crime](#), June 2017

Chart 5 shows that number of knife crimes recorded by the MPS rose from 2008/09 until reaching a peak level of over 14,000 incidents in 2011/12. The number of this type of offence decreased to 9,700 in 2014/15. The latest monthly knife crime data indicates that knife crime has been rising since February 2016. In March 2017, monthly knife crime figure exceeded 1,200 for the first time since November 2011.

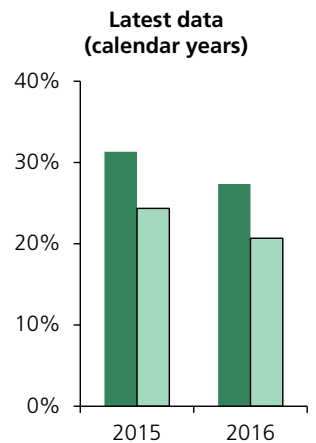


**Chart 6: Total violence with injury and knife crime Sanction Detection Rate<sup>5</sup>, MPS**



Source: London Assembly, London data store, [Metropolitan Police Service - Recorded Crime](#), June 2017

Chart 6 shows that annual Sanction Detection Rate (SDR) for crimes involving knives is lower compared to the SDR average for all violence with injury offences. In the period between 2008/09 and 2015/16, SDR for knife related crimes was on average 8.4 percentage points lower. The largest difference of 10.7 percentage points was recorded in 2012/13.



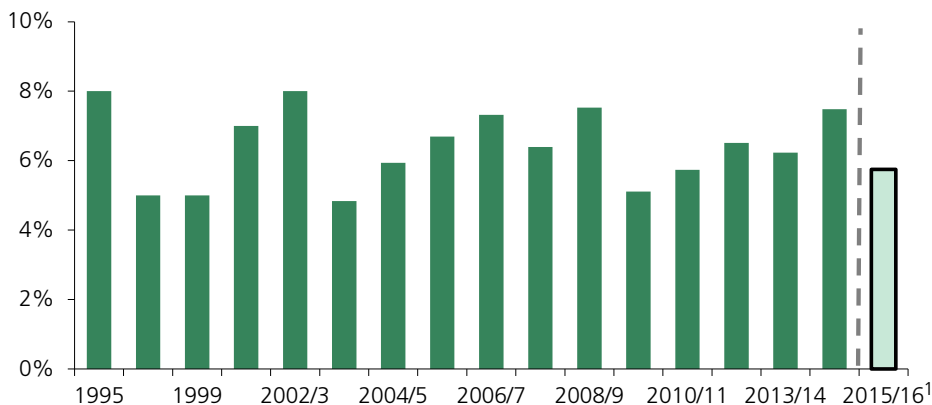
<sup>5</sup> 'Sanction Detection' is the term used for police-generated detections (term used for resolved cases) as opposed to those resolved through administrative means. It is assumed that the accused receives a punishment or 'sanction' from the police. Sanction Detections include cases where an accused person is: charged, cautioned, summonsed, has offences taken in to consideration (TIC)n or issued with a Fixed Penalty.

## 2. Crime Survey of England and Wales data

The Crime Survey of England and Wales (CSEW; formerly the British Crime Survey) measures the amount of crime experienced by adults aged over 16 living in private households in England and Wales. The survey, which is of personal experiences of crime and includes crimes which are not reported to the police, is seen as an important accompaniment to police records.

Knives were among the most common type of weapon used and accounted for 6% of all CSEW 2015/16 incidents of violence. Chart 2 shows the trend in the proportion of violent incidents in which a knife was used.

**Chart 7: Proportion of violent incidents in which a knife was used in England and Wales, CSEW, 1995 – 2015/16**



Note: 1. 2015/16 data Includes screwdrivers and other stabbing implements and it is not comparable with previous years.

Source: ONS, [Crime Survey for England and Wales, Focus on violent crime and sexual offences](#), February 2017 and earlier editions

Appendix table A6 presents CSEW data on violent incidents in which a knife was used by various categories.

### Children and young people

Since January 2009, the CSEW has asked children aged 10 to 15 living in private households in England and Wales about their experience of crime in the previous 12 months.

Findings from the CSEW for the year ending March 2016 indicate that 6.2 % of 10 - 15 year olds and 4.2% of 16 - 29 year olds knew someone who carried a knife for their own protection. Smaller proportions of 10 – 15 year olds and 16 – 29, around 0.3% and 0.7% respectively, reported that they carried a knife.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>6</sup> ONS, [Crime and Justice, Offences involving the use of weapons](#), February 2017

### 3. Proven offences and offenders

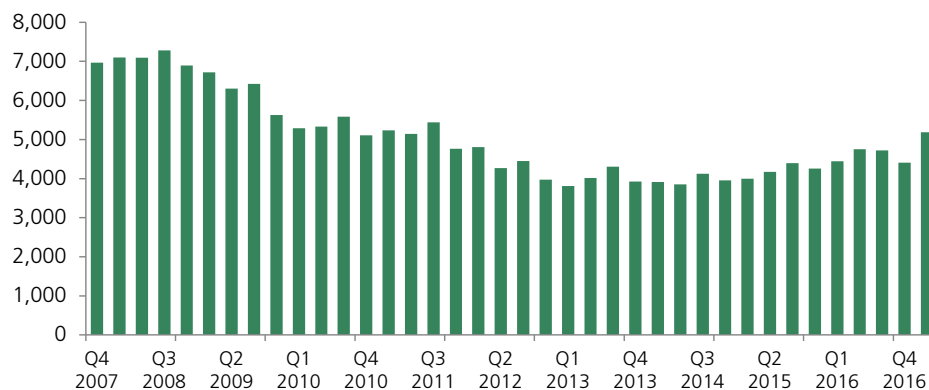
As with the recorded crime data it is not possible to identify the level of violent crime prosecutions which involved the use of a knife as the individual circumstances of each offence are not collected centrally.

Statistics are available relating to those offences which specify a knife or other offensive weapon in the statute and information has been published for the following possession offences:

- Having an article with a blade or a point in a public place;
- Having an article with a blade or a point on school premises;
- Possession of offensive weapons<sup>7</sup> without lawful authority or reasonable excuse;
- Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises.

[Knife Crime Statistics Quarterly Brief](#) provides routinely published data on knife possession. Taken from the Police National Computer (PNC) the data is provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.<sup>8</sup> The series shows the number of offences resulting in a caution or sentence. Although data is available from 2000 the published tables only go back to Q4 2007. This data is given in appendix table 7.

**Chart 8: Knife possession offences resulting in a caution or sentence, England and Wales**



Source: Ministry of Justice, [Knife possession sentencing quarterly brief: January to March 2017, Table 2](#), June 2017

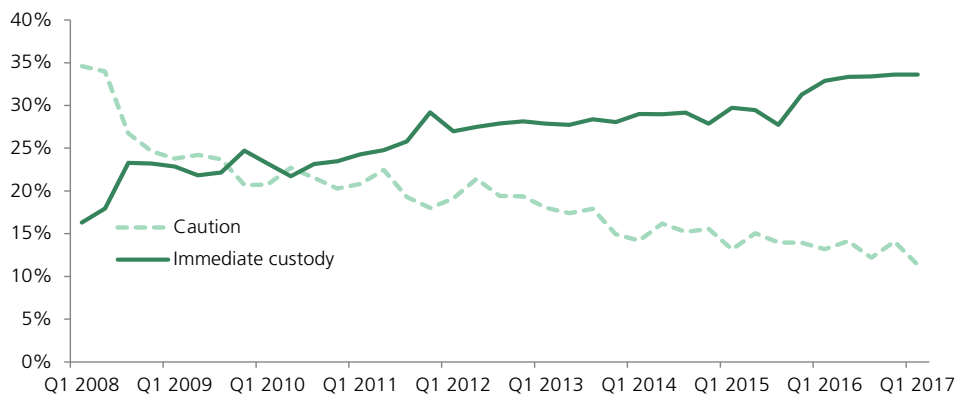
Chart 8 shows that the number of proven possession offences fell from around 7,000 in each quarter of 2008 to 3,800 in Q1 2013. Since then the number of proven offences has increased to just under 5,200 in Q1 2017.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Offensive weapons include sharp instruments, but will also include other types of offensive weapons such as guns.

<sup>8</sup> Police forces tend to record cautions more promptly on the PNC than court sentences. The latest caution figures are likely to be revised less than the sentencing figures.

<sup>9</sup> Figures for the most recent four quarters are estimates based on historical data changes. More information can be found in the [Technical guide to knife possession sentencing](#)

**Chart 9: Share of Proven offences of possession of a knife by outcome, England and Wales**



Source: Ministry of Justice, [Knife possession sentencing quarterly brief: January to March 2017, Table 2](#), June 2017

Chart 9 shows that since 2008 the proportion of offences resulting in a caution has fallen, while the proportion receiving a custodial sentence has increased.

In response to the high prevalence of knife crime, a Court of Appeal judgement in May 2008 said that magistrates should normally sentence those convicted of knife crime possession offences at the top end of the range<sup>10</sup>. The effect of this judgement can be seen in the increased use of custody since Q3 2008. [The Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015](#) introduced provision for a minimum custodial sentence (of six months for those aged 18 or over) for repeated convictions.

In 2016 there were 18,322 disposals given for possession of a knife or offensive weapon. Of these:

- Juveniles (aged 10-17) were the offenders in 21% of cases;
- The juvenile custody rate was 12% and caution<sup>11</sup> rate was 30%;
- For adults the custody rate was 38% and caution rate was 9%;
- Juveniles received a community sentence in 51% of cases and adults in 17%.

The latest data show that in a year ending Q1 2017 there was just over 19,000 proven offences. Appendix table A7 provides data on proven offences since Q4 2007.

An alternative source of data for proven offences is the Ministry of Justice courts database which should be used when a longer time series is required. This source is not comparable with the data published in the [Knife Crime Statistics Quarterly Brief](#) as the court database is based on the number of offenders while the PNC data looks at the number of offences.

The number of people cautioned or convicted since 1996 for possessing a knife in a public place or on school premises in England and Wales, is shown in the appended table A8.

In May 2008 a Court of Appeal judgement said that magistrates should normally sentence those convicted of knife crime possession offences at the top end of the range. Following this custody rates and average custodial sentence lengths have risen. [R v Povey \[2008\] EWCA Crim 1261](#)

<sup>10</sup> [R v Povey \[2008\] EWCA Crim 1261](#)

<sup>11</sup> Juveniles receive reprimands and warnings rather than cautions.

Chart 10 shows that the proportion of proven offenders cautioned for possession of knife offences has been falling over the period. Since 2007, there has been a sharp fall from 36% to 14% in 2016. This is linked to the Court of Appeal judgement of May 2008.

**Chart 10: proportion of proven offenders cautioned and sentenced to custody for possession of an offensive weapon**

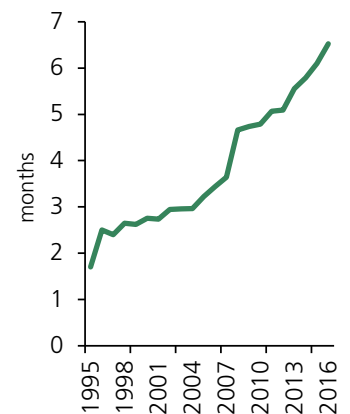


Source: Ministry of Justice, [CJS Outcomes by Offence: Pivot Table Analytical Tool for England and Wales](#), accessed in May 2017

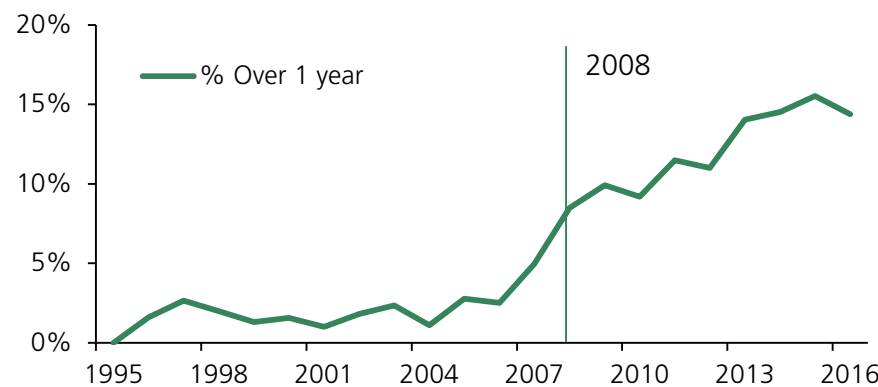
The proportion of proven offenders sentenced to custody increased sharply in 1997 stabilising at around 10% until 2008 when it increased to 18%. In 2016 proportion of proven offenders sentenced to custody stood at 28%.

Chart 11 indicates that the average custodial sentence length (ACSL) has increased since 1995. There was a more marked increase from 2008. In 2016 the ACSL exceeded 6.5 months for the first time.

**Chart 11: Average custodial sentence length for a possession of a knife or offensive weapon**



**Chart 12: Share of custodial sentences for a possession of an offensive weapon longer than one year**



Source: Ministry of Justice, [CJS Outcomes by Offence 2006 to 2016: Pivot Table Analytical Tool for England and Wales](#), accessed in May 2017

Chart 12 shows that prior to 2008 around 2-5% of offenders were sentenced to custody of at least one year. Since 2008 more than 8% of offenders sentenced to custody have been sentenced to at least one year with the proportion increasing to 16% in 2015 but falling to 14% in 2016.

## 4. Hospital admissions data

Police and courts crime data is dependent on offences coming to the attention of the authorities, which is one of its main weaknesses. To get a more rounded view on knife crime it is useful to supplement this information with alternative sources such as NHS hospital admissions data.

Information on the number of people admitted to hospitals in England due to assault by a sharp object (stab wounds)<sup>12</sup> is provided in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) publications.<sup>13</sup> These figures are for admissions only and do not include those people who attended an Accident and Emergency department but were not subsequently admitted to hospital.

There were 4,119 people admitted to English hospitals in 2015/16 due to assault by a sharp object. This was the highest annual increase of 11.6% since 1998/99. The previous year was marked by the lowest number of admissions since 1998/99 (3,643 in 2014/15). The number of admissions rose from 1998/99 until reaching a peak of 5,720 in 2006/07. In later years the number decreased annually before rising again in 2015/16.

**Chart 13: Number of finished admission episodes for assault by sharp object by sex, admission method and age group, England**

Year	Total	Change	Of which			Of which		Of which aged			
			Male	Female	Unknown	Emergency	Other	Under 16	16-18	19+	Unknown
1998/99	3,667		3,279	387	1	3,457	210	88	355	3,206	18
1999/00	4,125	11.1%	3,683	438	4	3,850	275	118	437	3,549	21
2000/01	4,249	2.9%	3,831	417	1	4,014	235	130	444	3,662	13
2001/02	4,642	8.5%	4,176	448	18	4,443	199	132	508	3,973	29
2002/03	4,275	-8.6%	3,847	426	2	4,050	225	95	429	3,745	6
2003/04	4,774	10.5%	4,313	461	0	4,512	262	110	529	4,125	10
2004/05	5,072	5.9%	4,590	479	3	4,739	333	143	553	4,374	2
2005/06	5,496	7.7%	4,943	550	3	5,240	256	169	668	4,655	4
2006/07	5,720	3.9%	5,176	542	2	5,402	318	179	752	4,786	3
2007/08	5,239	-9.2%	4,755	480	4	4,942	297	184	736	4,311	8
2008/09	4,914	-6.6%	4,360	554	0	4,616	298	155	569	4,183	7
2009/10	4,689	-4.8%	4,202	486	1	4,447	242	164	554	3,955	16
2010/11	4,647	-0.9%	4,164	482	1	4,367	280	159	568	3,903	17
2011/12	4,490	-3.5%	4,060	430	0	4,234	256	158	484	3,832	16
2012/13	3,888	-15.5%	3,481	406	1	3,610	278	95	394	3,389	10
2013/14	3,730	-4.2%	3,317	412	1	3,429	301	104	370	3,246	10
2014/15	3,643	-2.4%	3,303	340	0	3,349	294	111	340	3,178	14
2015/16	4,119	11.6%	3,767	351	1	3,736	383	149	432	3,521	17

Source: NHS Digital, [Hospital Admitted Patient Care Activity, 2015-16: External causes tables](#), November 2016 and earlier editions

In 2015/16, of those admitted to hospital for assault by sharp object 14% were aged 18 or younger. Around 91% of people admitted to hospital for assault by sharp object are men.

<sup>12</sup> Clinical code X99 in ICD-10. This code includes cases where someone has been attacked using a sharp object of some kind (including but not exclusive to knives). Code "W26"—contact with a knife, sword or dagger - is used for such diagnoses as accidental knife injuries and excludes assault. Therefore code W26 has not been used here.

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.hesonline.nhs.uk>

## 5. Appendix

**Table A1a: Number of selected violent and sexual offences involving a knife or sharp instrument recorded by the police, England and Wales**

Time period	Attempted murder	Threats to kill	Assault with injury and intent to cause serious harm	Robbery	Rape	Sexual assault	Homicide	Total selected offences including homicide
2008/09	275	1,564	17,193	16,695	231	134	255	<b>36,347</b>
2009/10	262	1,520	15,869	15,590	229	94	210	<b>33,774</b>
2010/11 <sup>1</sup>	240	1,462	13,941	16,438	258	93	236	<b>32,668</b>
2011/12	246	1,183	12,621	16,417	237	72	209	<b>30,985</b>
2012/13 <sup>2</sup>	198	1,188	11,343	13,194	190	88	194	<b>26,395</b>
2013/14	248	1,317	11,551	11,910	261	97	204	<b>25,588</b>
2014/15	273	1,718	13,103	10,312	321	127	186	<b>26,040</b>
2015/16	345	2,195	15,137	10,516	333	120	213	<b>28,859</b>
<b>% Change</b>								
2014/15 - 2015/16	26.4%	27.8%	15.5%	2.0%	3.7%	-5.5%	14.5%	<b>10.8%</b>
2010/11 - 2015/16	43.8%	50.1%	n/a <sup>2</sup>	-36.0%	29.1%	29.0%	-9.7%	<b>-11.7%</b>
<b>Latest data:</b>								
2015	356	2,039	14,783	10,581	352	127	189	<b>28,427</b>
2016	327	2,606	16,747	12,037	374	154	203	<b>32,448</b>
<b>% Change</b>								
2015-2016	-8.1%	27.8%	13.3%	13.8%	6.3%	21.3%	7.4%	<b>14.1%</b>

**Table A1b: Proportion of selected offences involving a knife or sharp instrument**

2008/09	0.8%	4.3%	47.3%	45.9%	0.6%	0.4%	0.7%
2009/10	0.8%	4.5%	47.0%	46.2%	0.7%	0.3%	0.6%
2010/11 <sup>1</sup>	0.7%	4.5%	42.7%	50.3%	0.8%	0.3%	0.7%
2011/12	0.8%	3.8%	40.7%	53.0%	0.8%	0.2%	0.7%
2012/13 <sup>2</sup>	0.8%	4.5%	43.0%	50.0%	0.7%	0.3%	0.7%
2013/14	1.0%	5.1%	45.1%	46.5%	1.0%	0.4%	0.8%
2014/15	1.0%	6.6%	50.3%	39.6%	1.2%	0.5%	0.7%
2015/16	1.2%	7.6%	52.5%	36.4%	1.2%	0.4%	0.7%
<b>Latest data:</b>							
2015	1.3%	7.2%	52.0%	37.2%	1.2%	0.4%	0.7%
2016	1.0%	8.0%	51.6%	37.1%	1.2%	0.5%	0.6%
<b>Change</b>							
2015-2016	0.2%	-0.9%	0.4%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%

Notes:

1. West Midlands included unbroken bottle and glass offences in their data returns until April 2010 but now exclude these offences in line with most other forces. As such, the data from 2010/11 are not directly comparable with earlier years.

2. Changes to offence codes in April 2012 mean the category of Assault with injury and assault with intent to cause serious harm is not directly comparable with previous years.

Source:

ONS, Crime and Justice Statistics, [Appendix tables - focus on violent crime and sexual offences, Table 3.14](#), February 2017 and earlier editions

**Table A2: Offences recorded as homicide<sup>1</sup> by apparent method of killing, England and Wales, 1977 to 2015/16**

	Sharp instrument <sup>3</sup>	Blunt instrument <sup>4</sup>	Hitting, kicking etc	Strangulation <sup>5</sup>	Shooting <sup>6</sup>	Explosion	Burning	Drowning	Poison or drugs	Motor vehicle <sup>7</sup>	Other	Not known	Total
1977	135	63	78	68	28	0	14	7	6	6	6	2	413
1978	163	58	88	75	35	2	9	11	12	4	10	0	467
1979	195	69	80	102	49	1	15	14	12	3	8	0	548
1980	151	68	85	91	17	0	80	14	9	12	8	0	535
1981	178	54	82	87	31	3	22	4	15	12	12	0	500
1982	191	68	71	108	46	11	29	7	11	8	5	2	557
1983	150	68	69	103	39	6	19	8	8	3	7	2	482
1984	187	76	73	90	61	6	13	5	6	4	13	3	537
1985	180	65	81	105	44	1	19	11	12	1	13	4	536
1986	220	66	69	113	47	0	22	6	1	7	11	1	563
1987	200	80	85	93	78	1	17	5	11	11	15	3	599
1988	189	48	110	99	42	2	20	6	9	8	12	2	547
1989	182	63	80	88	38	11	29	11	4	7	7	1	521
1990	178	74	94	81	59	2	28	4	9	12	7	7	555
1991	217	62	116	94	50	1	33	8	19	13	8	2	623
1992	218	50	117	79	52	4	21	14	11	9	4	2	581
1993	182	66	97	89	71	3	14	6	9	9	14	5	565
1994	231	55	94	104	63	0	39	13	17	5	4	7	632
1995	243	78	105	83	66	1	33	3	16	6	19	9	662
1996	197	68	81	77	47	2	24	9	28	2	45	6	586
1997	200	71	99	64	58	1	29	7	17	12	37	14	609
1997/98	202	68	103	62	52	1	28	6	17	13	38	19	609
1998/99	201	65	88	76	46	2	32	6	47	13	43	23	642
1999/00	212	70	97	56	61	4	11	6	53	11	40	51	672
2000/01	213	77	102	146	71	2	17	9	34	16	63	14	764
2001/02	261	60	145	78	96	1	29	13	31	19	35	25	793
2002/03	263	48	148	66	77	2	22	6	200	21	48	41	942
2003/04	242	75	136	67	67	0	28	24	20	21	35	57	772
2004/05	262	67	125	66	73	2	34	12	28	22	43	46	780
2005/06	226	59	112	58	50	53	26	4	28	12	22	58	708
2006/07	272	51	128	56	58	0	29	9	19	6	36	46	710
2007/08	268	67	161	57	53	0	26	5	19	12	37	24	729
2008/09	256	59	148	45	39	2	21	4	17	10	26	11	638
2009/10	210	49	126	53	41	0	21	3	15	18	33	26	595
2010/11	236	61	118	61	60	0	21	6	20	7	26	17	633
2011/12	209	51	89	60	40	1	17	4	8	5	25	17	526
2012/13	194	50	105	41	29	2	26	7	9	6	38	36	543
2013/14	204	38	101	52	29	1	17	4	14	9	32	19	520
2014/15	186	42	96	52	21	0	9	3	26	9	40	30	514
2015/16	213	45	102	51	26	0	12	6	22	10	49	35	571

## Notes:

1. Data taken from live database and are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.
2. Offences are shown according to the year in which police initially recorded the offence as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made.
3. Includes knives and other sharp instruments.
4. Includes firearms used as blunt instruments.
5. Includes asphyxiation and smothering.
6. Includes shooting by crossbow. Excludes offences where firearm used as blunt instrument.
7. Excludes death by careless/dangerous driving and aggravated vehicle taking.

## Sources:

1977 to 1994 - Provided by Home Office official;

From 1995 - Home Office, [Statistical Bulletin, Appendix tables - focus on violent crime and sexual offences](#), table 2.03 & subsequent editions



**Table A3: Offences currently recorded as homicide by apparent method of killing, England and Wales<sup>1</sup>**

	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
<b>Male victims</b>																
Sharp instrument	156	194	180	183	191	166	193	209	180	148	154	144	137	136	116	153
Blunt instrument	50	36	26	55	49	38	38	45	41	29	38	36	34	22	27	27
Hitting, kicking, etc.	86	120	110	110	109	93	112	138	122	108	107	79	93	79	84	81
Strangulation	83	18	20	17	16	14	22	16	12	13	21	15	15	19	17	18
Shooting	62	90	57	61	62	38	52	47	35	33	52	33	20	21	17	23
Explosion	2	-	2	-	2	24	0	0	2	0	0	1	2	1	0	0
Burning	8	15	7	19	18	15	13	12	11	10	8	9	15	9	8	7
Drowning	7	9	4	20	8	3	8	4	3	2	4	4	6	4	3	3
Poison or drugs	22	18	66	11	19	18	18	15	8	11	12	3	8	10	14	18
Motor vehicle	11	15	18	14	17	10	3	9	7	15	7	5	4	9	9	9
Other	41	22	27	20	30	16	23	23	15	15	21	18	25	18	21	33
Not known	9	12	18	40	28	32	32	12	6	18	8	8	16	11	11	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>395</b>
<i>% involving a sharp instrument</i>	29.1%	35.3%	33.6%	33.3%	34.8%	35.5%	37.4%	39.2%	40.4%	35.8%	35.2%	40.6%	36.5%	40.1%	35.5%	38.7%
<b>Female victims</b>																
Sharp instrument	57	67	83	59	71	60	79	59	76	62	82	65	57	68	70	60
Blunt instrument	27	24	22	20	18	21	13	22	18	20	23	15	16	16	15	18
Hitting, kicking, etc.	16	25	38	26	16	19	16	23	26	18	11	9	12	22	12	21
Strangulation	63	60	46	50	50	44	34	41	33	40	40	45	26	33	35	33
Shooting	9	6	20	6	11	12	6	6	4	8	8	7	9	8	4	3
Explosion	-	1	-	-	-	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burning	9	14	15	9	16	11	16	14	10	11	13	8	11	8	1	5
Drowning	2	4	2	4	4	1	1	1	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	3
Poison or drugs	12	13	134	9	9	10	1	4	9	4	8	5	1	4	12	4
Motor vehicle	5	4	3	7	5	2	3	3	3	3	0	0	2	0	0	1
Other	22	13	21	15	13	6	13	14	11	18	5	7	13	14	19	16
Not known	5	13	23	17	18	26	14	12	5	8	9	9	20	8	18	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>175</b>
<i>% involving a sharp instrument</i>	25.1%	27.5%	20.4%	26.6%	30.7%	24.5%	40.3%	28.9%	39.2%	31.8%	39.3%	38.2%	33.9%	37.6%	37.6%	34.3%
<b>All victims</b>																
Sharp instrument	213	261	263	242	262	226	272	268	256	210	236	209	194	204	186	213
Blunt instrument	77	60	48	75	67	59	51	67	59	49	61	51	50	38	42	45
Hitting, kicking, etc.	102	145	148	136	125	112	128	161	148	126	118	89	105	101	96	102
Strangulation	146	78	66	67	66	58	56	57	45	53	61	60	41	52	52	51
Shooting	71	96	77	67	73	50	58	53	39	41	60	40	29	29	21	26
Explosion	2	1	2	-	2	53	0	0	2	0	0	1	2	1	0	0
Burning	17	29	22	28	34	26	29	26	21	21	21	17	26	17	9	12
Drowning	9	13	6	24	12	4	9	5	4	3	6	4	7	4	3	6
Poison or drugs	34	31	200	20	28	28	19	19	17	15	20	8	9	14	26	22
Motor vehicle	16	19	21	21	22	12	6	12	10	18	7	5	6	9	9	10
Other	63	35	48	35	43	22	36	37	26	33	26	25	38	32	40	49
Not known	14	25	41	57	46	58	46	24	11	26	17	17	36	19	30	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>764</b>	<b>793</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>772</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>708</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>729</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>571</b>
<i>% involving a sharp instrument</i>	27.9%	32.9%	27.9%	31.3%	33.6%	31.8%	38.2%	36.4%	40.0%	34.5%	36.5%	39.7%	35.7%	39.2%	36.2%	37.3%

1. Figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

Sources:

1977 to 1994 - Provided by Home Office official;

From 1995 - Home Office, [Statistical Bulletin, Appendix tables - focus on violent crime and sexual offences](#), table 2.03 & subsequent editions

**Table A4: Estimated knife and sharp instrument offences recorded by the police for selected offences<sup>1</sup>**

Area Code	2008/09		2009/10		2010/11		2011/12		2012/13		2013/14		2014/15		2015/16		Change per 100,000	
	Number	Offences per 100,000 population	Number	Offences per 100,000 population	Number	Offences per 100,000 population	Number	Offences per 100,000 population	Number	Offences per 100,000 population	Number	Offences per 100,000 population	Number	Offences per 100,000 population	Number	Offences per 100,000 population	change 2010/11 - 2015/16	% change 2010/11 - 2015/16
Cleveland	207	37	227	40	215	38	199	35	195	35	202	36	244	44	345	62	23	60%
Durham	152	24	118	19	158	25	153	25	137	22	130	21	119	19	161	26	0	2%
Northumberland	470	33	401	28	390	27	373	26	309	22	347	24	430	30	529	37	10	36%
<b>North East Region</b>	<b>829</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>746</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>763</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>725</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>793</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1,035</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>36%</b>
Cheshire	341	33	276	27	263	25	234	23	203	20	242	23	212	20	247	24	-2	-6%
Cumbria	87	17	98	20	129	26	94	19	96	19	105	21	91	18	120	24	-2	-7%
Greater Manchester	2,835	104	2,361	86	2,032	74	1,726	63	1,586	58	1,643	60	1,761	64	1,798	66	-9	-12%
Lancashire	843	57	630	43	670	46	665	45	585	40	645	44	598	41	626	43	-3	-7%
Merseyside	892	64	798	57	587	42	599	43	576	41	661	48	672	48	715	51	9	22%
<b>North West Region</b>	<b>4,998</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>4,163</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>3,681</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>3,318</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>3,046</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>3,296</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>3,334</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>3,506</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>-5%</b>
Humberside	369	40	357	39	380	41	381	41	380	41	324	35	398	43	495	54	12	30%
North Yorkshire	225	28	207	26	177	22	174	22	99	12	145	18	174	22	218	27	5	23%
South Yorkshire	648	47	571	42	485	36	484	35	469	34	549	40	522	38	590	43	8	22%
West Yorkshire	1,273	56	1,311	58	1,310	58	1,112	49	1,088	48	1,140	50	1,233	54	1,500	66	8	15%
<b>Yorkshire and the Humber Region</b>	<b>2,515</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>2,446</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>2,352</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>2,151</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>2,036</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>2,158</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>2,327</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>2,803</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>19%</b>
Derbyshire	327	32	317	31	359	35	238	23	290	28	348	34	301	29	355	34	0	-1%
Leicestershire	476	46	412	39	425	41	441	42	465	45	445	43	409	39	397	38	-3	-7%
Lincolnshire	169	23	176	24	169	23	141	19	172	24	158	22	170	23	211	29	6	25%
Northamptonshire	396	55	339	47	331	46	390	55	284	40	319	45	308	43	348	49	2	5%
Nottinghamshire	940	84	757	68	558	50	531	48	510	46	590	53	553	50	583	52	2	4%
<b>East Midlands Region</b>	<b>2,308</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>2,001</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>1,842</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>1,741</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>1,721</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>1,860</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>1,741</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>1,894</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3%</b>
Staffordshire	455	41	439	40	362	33	324	29	356	32	411	37	450	40	515	46	14	42%
Warwickshire	223	40	157	28	162	29	157	28	121	22	77	14	138	25	170	31	1	5%
West Mercia	341	27	318	26	423	34	366	29	309	25	267	21	324	26	444	36	2	5%
West Midlands	<sup>2</sup> 3,682	131	3,216	115	2,998	107	2,237	80	1,489	53 <sup>2</sup>	1,659	59	1,558	55	2,044	73	-34	-32%
<b>West Midlands Region</b>	<sup>2</sup> <b>4,701</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>4,130</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>3,945</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>3,084</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>2,275</b>	<b>40<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>2,414</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>2,470</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>3,173</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>-14</b>	<b>-20%</b>
Bedfordshire	458	71	390	61	394	61	385	60	283	44	257	40	294	46	314	49	-12	-20%
Cambridgeshire	402	48	360	43	289	35	237	29	250	30	220	26	316	38	376	45	10	30%
Essex	730	41	679	38	530	30	338	19	254	14	531	30	638	36	788	44	15	49%
Hertfordshire	177	15	128	11	143	12	113	10	176	15	229	20	338	29	420	36	24	194%
Norfolk	130	15	201	23	152	17	94	11	77	9	85	10	91	10	146	17	-1	-4%
Suffolk	200	27	178	24	177	24	190	26	180	24	177	24	163	22	209	28	4	18%
<b>East of England Region</b>	<b>2,097</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>1,936</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>1,685</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>1,357</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1,220</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1,499</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1,840</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>2,253</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>34%</b>
City of London	26	-	10	-	15	-	14	-	8	-	14	-	4	-	14	-	-	-
Metropolitan Police	12,233	143	12,560	147	13,284	156	14,121	165	11,325	133	10,062	118	9,680	113	9,738	114	-41	-27%
<b>London Region</b>	<b>12,259</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>12,570</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>13,299</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>14,135</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>11,333</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>10,076</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>9,684</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>9,752</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>-41</b>	<b>-27%</b>
Hampshire	592	31	582	30	447	23	404	21	358	18	323	17	463	24	586	30	7	31%
Kent	553	31	377	21	343	19	366	21	430	24	501	28	389	22	565	32	12	65%
Surrey	<sup>3</sup> 130	11	50	4	60	5	32	3	26	2 <sup>3</sup>	43	4	83	7	64	6	0	7%
Sussex	<sup>3</sup> 728	44	681	41	563	34	509	31	481	29 <sup>3</sup>	661	40	874	53	286	17	-17	-49%
Thames Valley	1,221	52	1,206	52	1,156	49	989	42	819	35	718	31	379	16	816	35	-15	-29%
<b>South East Region</b>	<b>3,224</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>2,896</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>2,569</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>2,114</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>2,246</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>2,188</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>2,317</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>-10%</b>
Avon and Somerset	935	57	790	48	553	34	486	30	462	28	377	23	397	24	486	30	-4	-12%
Devon and Cornwall	395	23	400	23	333	20	339	20	196	11	301	18	328	19	290	17	-3	-13%
Dorset	164	22	176	23	171	23	151	20	145	19	150	20	155	20	162	21	-1	-5%
Gloucestershire	181	30	157	26	185	30	189	31	149	24	151	25	188	31	185	30	0	0%
Wiltshire	200	29	157	22	146	21	119	17	98	14	117	17	134	19	171	24	4	17%
<b>South West Region</b>	<b>1,875</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>1,680</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1,388</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>1,284</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1,050</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1,096</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1,202</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1,294</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>-7%</b>
Dyfed-Powys	95	18	73	14	97	19	52	10	72	14	50	10	72	14	80	15	-3	-18%
Gwent	126	22	156	27	118	20	68	12	47	8	54	9	124	21	76	13	-7	-36%
North Wales	136	20	97	14	138	20	122	18	101	15	100	14	151	22	175	25	5	27%
South Wales	571	44	439	34	380	29	377	29	397	31	372	29	399	31	407	31	2	7%
<b>WALES</b>	<b>928</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>733</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>746</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>738</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>England And Wales</b>	<b>36,080</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>33,564</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>32,480</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>30,799</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>26,146</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>25,900</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>26,325</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>28,859</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>-6</b>	<b>-11%</b>

1. Police recorded knife and sharp instrument offences data are submitted via an additional special collection. Proportions of offences involving the use of a knife or sharp instrument presented in this table are calculated based on figures submitted in this special collection. Other offences exist that are not shown in this table that may include the use of a knife or sharp instrument.

2. In West Midlands data included unbroken bottle and glass offences in their returns until April 2010 but now exclude these offences in line with most other forces. As such, from 2010/11 data are not directly comparable with earlier years.

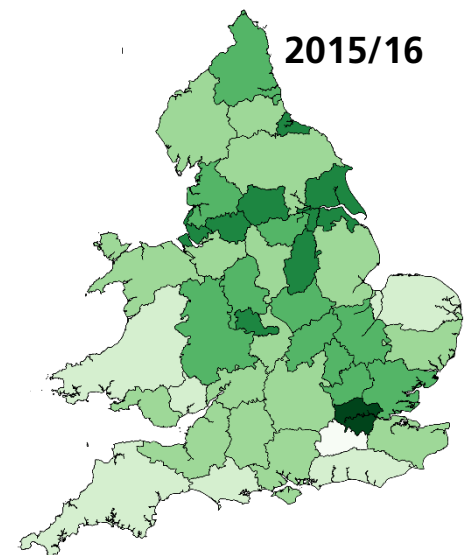
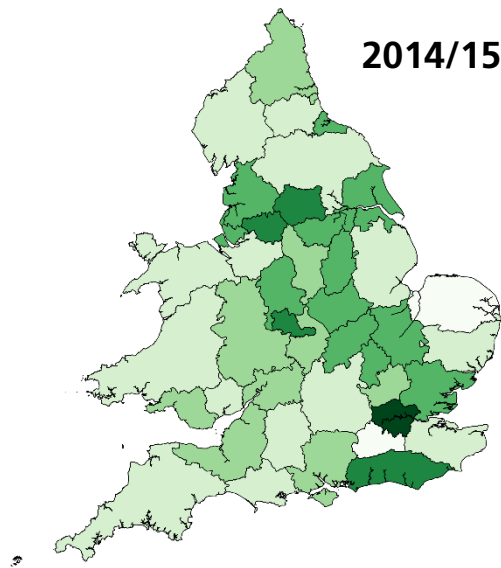
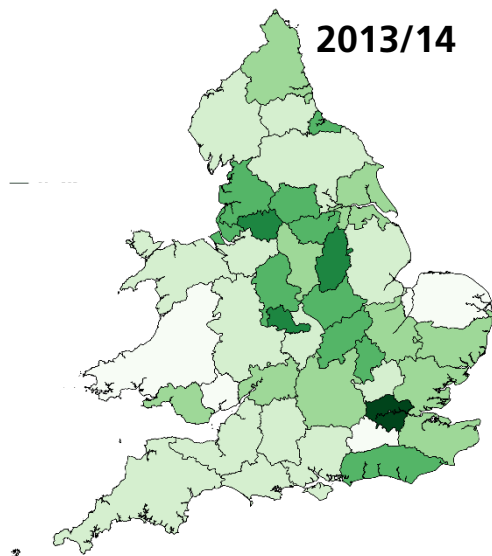
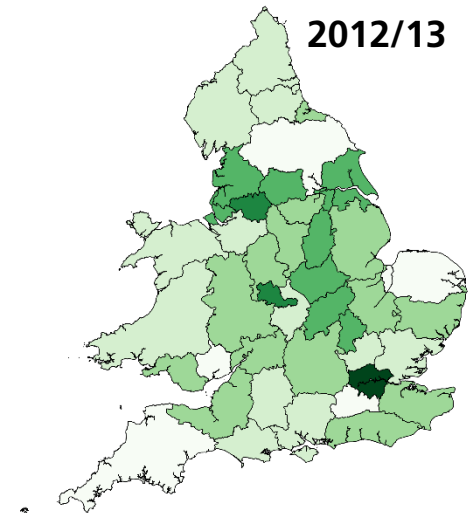
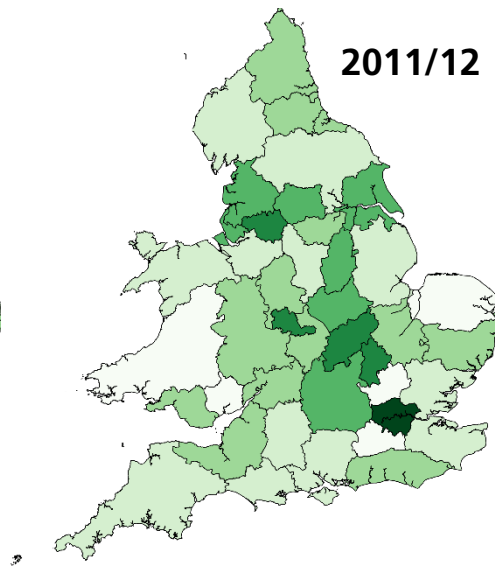
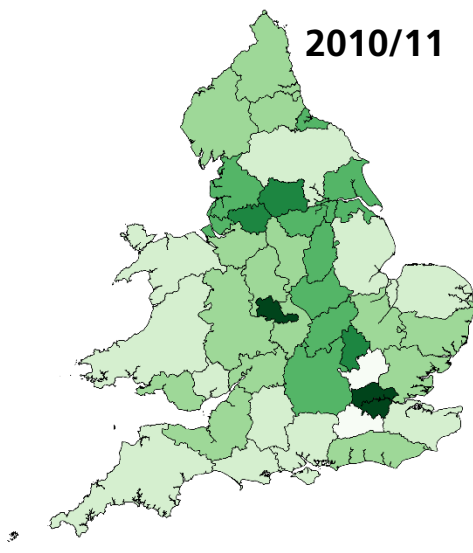
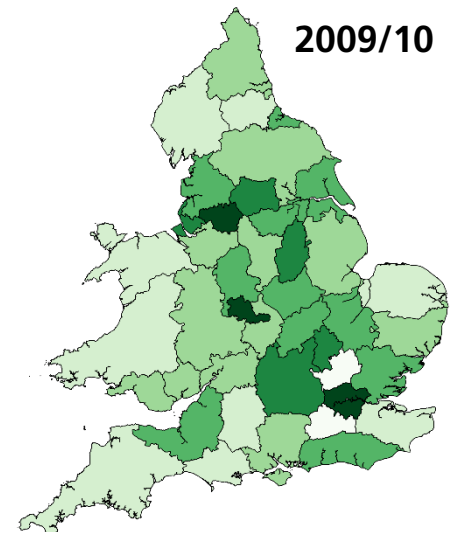
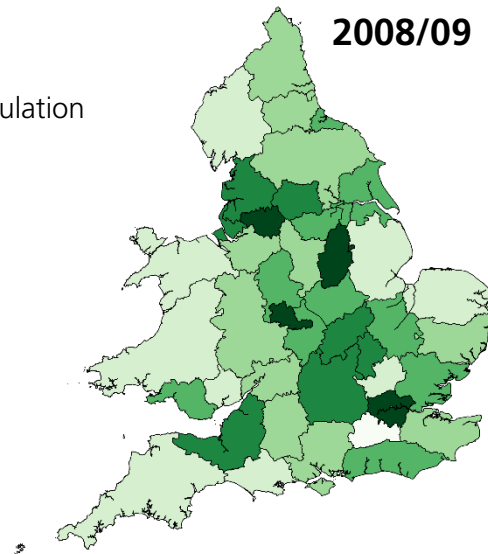
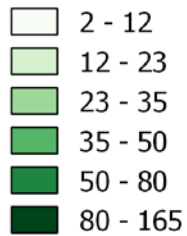
3. Three police forces include unbroken bottle and glass offences in their returns, which are outside the scope of this special collection. As such, data for these forces are not directly comparable to data for other forces. The three forces are: Surrey, Sussex and British Transport Police.

Sources: 2008/09 to 2013/14 House of Commons library estimates based on Police Force Area population from Office for National Statistics and ONS, Crime in England and Wales, [Appendix table: Knife and sharp instrument offences by police force area](#), February 2017 and earlier editions

### Appendix Chart A5: Knife and sharp instrument offences recorded by the police for selected offences, England and Wales

#### Legend

Assaults per 100,000 population



**Table A6: Violent incidents in which a knife was used, CSEW data**

	Domestic	Acquaintance	Stranger	Wounding	Common Assault	<b>All violence</b>
1995	7%	7%	4%	9%	5%	<b>8%</b>
1997	4%	3%	4%	5%	3%	<b>5%</b>
1999	4%	4%	3%	9%	2%	<b>5%</b>
2001/2	7%	5%	5%	10%	4%	<b>7%</b>
2002/3	5%	8%	7%	6%	8%	<b>8%</b>
2003/4	2%	7%	3%	4%	4%	<b>5%</b>
2004/5	7%	7%	4%	5%	6%	<b>6%</b>
2005/6	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	<b>7%</b>
2006/7 <sup>1</sup>	5%	7%	5%	7%	9%	<b>7%</b>
2007/8	6%	6%	4%	8%	7%	<b>6%</b>
2008/9	3%	7%	6%	8%	10%	<b>8%</b>
2009/10	4%	3%	3%	3%	3%	<b>5%</b>
2010/11	4%	3%	4%	1%	8%	<b>6%</b>
2011/12	5%	6%	3%	3%	9%	<b>7%</b>
2013/14	4%	10%	3%	3%	12%	<b>6%</b>
2014/15	3%	10%	8%	7%	12%	<b>7%</b>
2015/16 <sup>2</sup>	13%	4%	3%	6%	8%	<b>6%</b>

Notes:

1. From 2006/07 Common Assault figure is sum of 'Assault with minor injury' and 'Assault with no injury'

2. 2015/16 data Includes screwdrivers and other stabbing implements and it is not comparable with previous years

Source: ONS, [Crime Survey for England and Wales, Focus on violent crime and sexual offences, year ending Mar 2016](#), February 2017 and earlier editions

**Table A7: Offences involving the possession of a knife resulting in a caution or sentence by age group, England and Wales<sup>1</sup>**

	Total England and Wales <sup>1</sup>	Aged 10 to 17	Aged 18 and over	Caution	Absolute / Conditional discharge	Fine	Community sentence	Suspended sentence	Immediate custody	Other disposal <sup>4</sup>
Q4 2007	6,964	1,612	5,352	2,547	420	320	1,858	519	1,087	213
Q1 2008	7,098	1,632	5,466	2,456	464	328	1,980	509	1,158	203
Q2 2008	7,095	1,736	5,359	2,411	428	270	1,974	558	1,274	180
Q3 2008	7,279	1,753	5,526	1,947	283	263	2,111	795	1,695	185
Q4 2008	6,891	1,529	5,362	1,698	240	298	2,023	784	1,599	249
Q1 2009	6,717	1,420	5,297	1,598	266	269	2,026	806	1,535	217
Q2 2009	6,301	1,352	4,949	1,526	239	230	1,904	812	1,375	215
Q3 2009	6,424	1,249	5,175	1,522	249	230	1,892	866	1,424	241
Q4 2009	5,629	1,023	4,606	1,164	207	222	1,615	797	1,392	232
Q1 2010	5,289	1,000	4,289	1,097	220	222	1,638	698	1,227	187
Q2 2010	5,333	1,130	4,203	1,211	235	206	1,643	659	1,159	220
Q3 2010	5,586	1,063	4,523	1,204	234	226	1,788	644	1,293	197
Q4 2010	5,109	913	4,196	1,036	204	240	1,575	628	1,199	227
Q1 2011	5,232	992	4,240	1,090	216	213	1,632	593	1,271	217
Q2 2011	5,144	979	4,165	1,156	185	227	1,548	565	1,274	189
Q3 2011	5,437	916	4,521	1,048	213	245	1,651	673	1,403	204
Q4 2011	4,765	844	3,921	859	157	197	1,377	576	1,391	208
Q1 2012	4,804	843	3,961	919	171	205	1,400	614	1,296	199
Q2 2012	4,267	734	3,533	914	135	189	1,158	521	1,173	177
Q3 2012 <sup>6</sup>	4,448	699	3,749	864	174	190	1,206	570	1,241	202
Q4 2012	3,973	665	3,308	769	115	151	1,108	540	1,118	172
Q1 2013	3,809	627	3,182	686	138	177	1,021	578	1,062	147
Q2 2013	4,014	645	3,369	698	116	189	1,105	613	1,113	180
Q3 2013	4,303	662	3,641	771	153	189	1,133	654	1,221	182
Q4 2013	3,923	643	3,280	586	129	201	1,088	623	1,101	195
Q1 2014	3,912	650	3,262	555	156	162	1,136	615	1,135	153
Q2 2014	3,852	695	3,157	623	123	202	1,022	606	1,116	160
Q3 2014	4,125	747	3,378	628	130	191	1,101	686	1,203	186
Q4 2014	3,954	738	3,216	615	107	191	1,059	719	1,102	161
Q1 2015	3,999	733	3,266	526	137	180	1,045	731	1,189	191
Q2 2015	4,171	835	3,336	628	110	188	1,065	736	1,229	215
Q3 2015	4,393	915	3,478	614	130	176	1,197	849	1,218	209
Q4 2015	4,257	793	3,464	594	128	156	1,019	832	1,331	197
Q1 2016	4,443	922	3,521	586	105	145	1,135	850	1,461	161
Q2 2016 <sup>E</sup>	4,750	1,013	3,737	671	113	183	1,128	862	1,584	209
Q3 2016 <sup>E</sup>	4,720	885	3,835	576	103	165	1,133	975	1,576	192
Q4 2016 <sup>E</sup>	4,409	965	3,444	621	109	157	1,037	828	1,482	175
Q1 2017 <sup>E</sup>	5,184	1,150	4,034	589	107	188	1,317	1,028	1,743	212

## Notes:

1. Includes all 43 police force areas and the British Transport Police.
  2. The disposal given in this table is only the most severe of the disposals given as a result of the offender being found guilty and may also be dependent on other offences committed at the same time.
  3. The difference between the totals in Table 1a and the adult / juvenile breakdown in this table is where there is no age recorded on the system.
  4. Includes cases where an offender is committed to crown court for sentencing and is otherwise dealt with on conviction.
  5. Since April 8th 2013 youth cautions were introduced replacing reprimands and warnings for young offenders. The guidance is published at the link <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/youth-cautions-guidance-for-police-and-youth-offending-teams>
  6. The total for this time period includes cases where the disposal category is unknown.
- "E" Denotes where estimated figures have been used. The estimates are based on historical data changes. More information is available at Technical guide to knife possession sentencing statistics <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/knife-possession-sentencing-quarterly>

Source: Ministry of Justice, [Knife possession sentencing quarterly brief: January to March 2017, Table 2](#), June 2017 and earlier editions

**Table A8:****Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts, found guilty and sentenced at all courts for a possession of a knife<sup>1</sup>, England and Wales<sup>2,3,4</sup>**

	Cautions	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Total sentenced <sup>(5)</sup>	Sentenced to immediate custody		Length of immediate custodial sentence						Average custodial sentence length (month)	
					Number	% of total proven offenders <sup>(6)</sup>	Up to 3 months	Over 3 months up to 6 months	Over 6 months up to 1 year	1 year exactly	Over 1 year up to 18 months	Over 18 months up to 3 years		Over three years
1995	1,512	3,474	2,559	2,558	5	0.1%	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	1.70
1996	1,302	3,605	2,665	2,666	62	1.6%	52	9	0	0	1	0	0	2.50
1997	1,629	4,489	3,360	3,360	375	7.5%	305	59	1	4	6	0	0	2.40
1998	1,976	4,888	3,805	3,804	550	9.5%	429	99	11	7	2	2	0	2.64
1999	1,663	4,566	3,548	3,564	536	10.3%	411	110	8	3	4	0	0	2.62
2000	1,758	4,673	3,555	3,562	506	9.5%	362	131	5	6	1	1	0	2.75
2001	1,652	5,823	4,361	4,364	592	9.8%	419	158	9	1	4	1	0	2.73
2002	1,805	6,963	5,338	5,326	773	10.8%	548	188	23	6	7	1	0	2.94
2003	1,746	6,928	5,396	5,399	761	10.7%	530	193	20	10	5	3	0	2.96
2004	2,374	7,352	5,890	5,908	815	9.8%	553	227	26	4	5	0	0	2.97
2005	3,154	7,319	6,005	6,002	970	10.6%	604	306	33	17	9	1	0	3.22
2006	3,503	7,699	6,369	6,334	1,075	10.9%	603	308	137	15	9	3	0	3.4
2007	3,460	7,404	6,169	6,166	1,065	11.1%	623	265	124	34	12	7	0	3.6
2008	2,589	7,547	6,368	6,453	1,377	15.2%	664	342	254	51	37	26	3	4.7
2009	1,641	9,242	7,652	7,684	1,675	18.0%	827	370	312	87	54	23	2	4.7
2010	1,443	8,079	6,540	6,475	1,413	17.8%	692	308	283	66	38	25	1	4.8
2011	1,461	7,878	6,398	6,407	1,585	20.1%	778	291	334	80	69	32	1	5.1
2012	1,357	6,692	5,349	5,302	1,327	19.9%	640	253	288	57	60	27	2	5.1
2013	1,067	6,846	5,476	5,439	1,389	21.3%	624	229	341	86	74	34	1	5.6
2014	1,009	7,026	5,733	5,703	1,480	22.1%	661	223	381	85	79	51	0	5.8
2015	974	7,402	6,278	6,267	1,727	23.9%	622	315	522	128	84	54	2	6.1
2016	1,088	7,952	6,969	6,994	2,267	28.0%	529	486	926	132	122	72	0	6.5

## Notes:

- Includes:  
Having an article with blade or point in public place. (Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139 as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.3).  
Having an article with blade or point on school premises. (Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139A (1)(5)(a) as added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.4(1)).
- The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
- Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
- Excludes convictions data for Cardiff magistrates' court for April, July, and August 2008.
- In some years the numbers sentenced may exceed the number found guilty as it may be the case that the conviction occurred in the preceding year to the offender being sentenced.
- Proven offenders comprise offenders cautioned or sentenced

Source: Ministry of Justice, [CJS Outcomes by Offence 2006 to 2016: Pivot Table Analytical Tool for England and Wales](#), May 2017 and earlier editions

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