



BRIEFING PAPER

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Firearm Crime Statistics: England & Wales

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Summary

Statistics on the number of police recorded firearm offences are published by the ONS in the [Crime in England & Wales](#) bulletin. Gun related crime statistics are published by the ONS in the [Offences involving the use of weapons: data tables](#).

Recorded non-air firearm offences

In the year ending 31 March 2019, there were a total of 6,759 firearm offences recorded in England & Wales. This was an increase of 4% compared with 6,534 offences recorded during the year ending 31 March 2018, and the highest recorded number since 7,040 in 2010/11.

Types of firearm offences by firearm type

In the year ending 31 March 2019, *Criminal damage* and *Violence Against Person (VATP)* offence categories respectively accounted for 24.9% and 28.5% of air and non-air firearms offences. *Robbery* and *Possession of Weapons* offences represented 18.3% and 14.0% respectively.

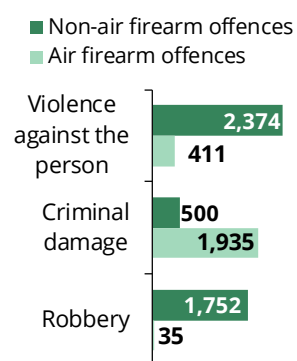
Type of non-air firearm used

Since 2008/09, handguns have remained the most commonly used non-air firearm type, accounting for 40% of **non-air firearm** offences in 2018/19. The use of imitation firearms has increased the most among non-air firearm offences, from 18% of all non-air firearm offences in 2008/09 to 28% in 2015/16, before falling further to 21% in 2018/19. Rifles have remained the least common non-air firearms type, accounting for around 1% of all offences over the period.

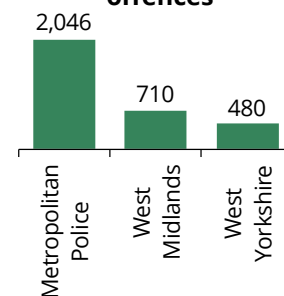
Non-air firearm offences by Police Force Area

In 2018/19, the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) recorded the largest number of **non-air firearm** offences - accounting for just over 30% of all non-air firearm offences in England & Wales. The MPS also had the highest rate of non-air firearm offences per 100,000 population, at 23.0, followed by the West Yorkshire (20.7).

Type of offence by firearm type, 2018/19



Highest number of offences



1. Firearm offences

1.1 Data recording practices

In reporting the number of firearm offences, it is not always possible to ascertain whether a real firearm was actually used. Unless a weapon is fired or recovered by the police following a criminal offence, in many cases there is no way of knowing conclusively whether the firearm was real or an imitation, or whether it was loaded or unloaded at the time of the offence. Moreover, the categorisation of firearms will sometimes be strongly reliant on the description given to the police by victims or witnesses, or upon other evidence. Some offences also involve the use of imitation weapons, while others involve the use of a 'supposed firearm'.

It is worth noting that it has been suggested that some of the recent increases in recorded crime are due to "improved crime recording practices and processes leading to a greater proportion of reports of crime being recorded".¹

Statistics on the number of police recorded firearm offences are published by the ONS in the [Crime in England & Wales](#) bulletin. Gun related crime statistics are published by the ONS in the [Offences involving the use of weapons: data tables](#).

¹ ONS, [Crime in England and Wales: year ending Mar 2016](#), 21 July 2016

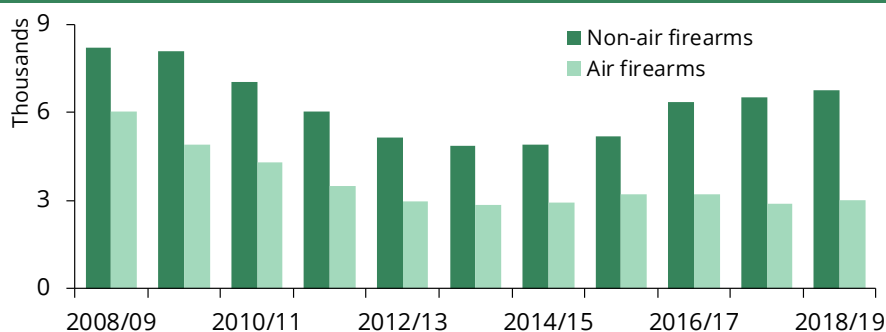
1.2 Number of non-air firearm offences

In the year ending 31 March 2019, there were a total of **6,559 non-air firearm offences** recorded by police in England & Wales.² This was an increase of 4% compared with 6,534 offences recorded during the year ending 31 March 2018.

Between 2008/09 and 2013/14 there was a general decline in the recorded use of non-air firearms. In 2008/09 there were 8,199 recorded offences; by 2013/14 there were 4,856 recorded offences – a decrease of just over 3,000 (41%) over the period. Between 2013/14 and 2018/19, the number of non-air firearm offences recorded has increased by 39% from the 4,856 offences recorded in 2013/14.

1. Number of police recorded firearm offences,

Year ending March, England and Wales



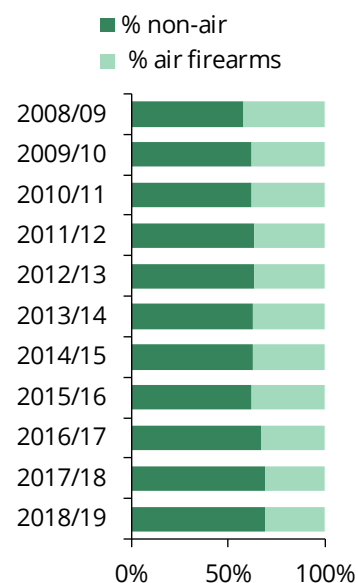
Source: ONS, Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2019, *Offences involving the use of weapons: data tables*, table 2, 13 February 2020.

1.3 Number of air firearm offences

Data for **air firearm** offences show that there were 3,028 offences recorded in 2018/19. The proportion of offences involving air firearms decreased between 2008/09 (42%) and 2013/14 (37%), before rising in 2014/15 (38%).

In 2018/19, air firearms accounted for just under one-third of all firearm offences (32%). This was a decrease compared to the total proportion of the period from 2010/11 to 2018/19 when air firearms represented 36% of all offences.

2. Proportion of air and non-air firearm offences



Source: ONS, Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2019, *Offences involving the use of weapons: data tables*, table 2, 13 February 2020.

² Firearms include: shotguns; handguns; rifles; imitation weapons such as BB guns or soft air weapons; other weapons e.g. CS gas or pepper spray and stun guns; and unidentified weapons. The figures exclude conventional air weapons, e.g. air rifles.

2. Type of offence by firearm type

In the year ending 31 March 2019, *Criminal damage* and *Violence Against Person (VATP)* offence categories respectively accounted for 24.9% and 28.5% of air and non-air firearms offences.

Robbery and *Possession of Weapons* offences represented 18.3% and 14.0% respectively.

There is a notable difference when comparing non-air firearm offences and air firearm offences. 63.9% of air firearm offences were classified as *Criminal damage*. The largest categories among non-air firearm offences was *VATP* (35.1%) and *Robbery* (25.9%). Air firearms were used in 1.2% of *Robbery* and *Public fear, alarm or distress* offences, and in 0.1% of *Burglary* offences.

Between 2015/16 and 2016/17, *Burglary* offences involving firearms increased by 87% from 113 to 211. They then fell by 5.9% between 2017/18 and 2018/19, to 189. In contrast, *VATP* offences increased by 8.6%, from 2,167 to 2,374 (2017/18 to 2018/19).

3. Type of offence by firearm type, 2018/19



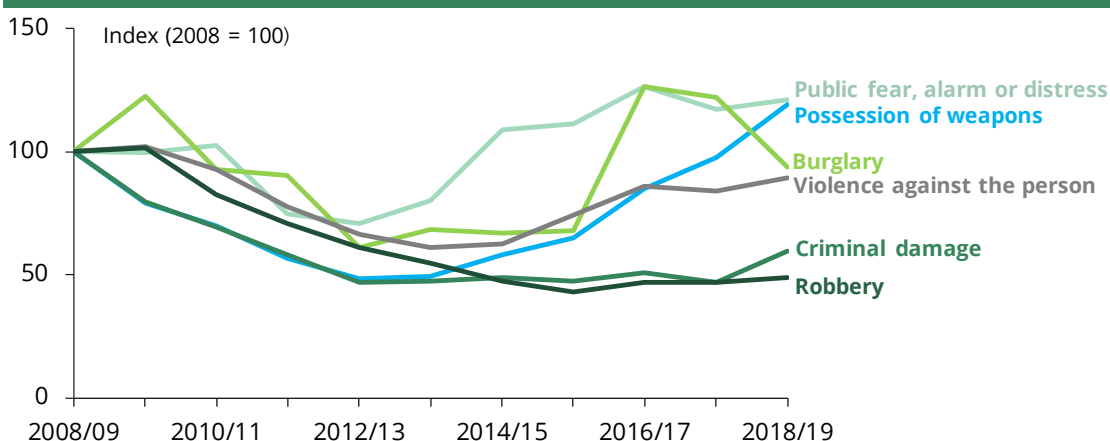
4. Offences by firearm type, 2018/19

Type of offence	Number of offences			% change of total from 2017/18	% of offences		
	Non-air	Air	total		Non-air	Air	total
Violence against the person	2,374	411	2,785	+8.6%	35.1%	13.6%	28.5%
Criminal damage	500	1,935	2,435	+1.2%	7.4%	63.9%	24.9%
Robbery	1,752	35	1,787	+5.3%	25.9%	1.2%	18.3%
Possession of weapons	1,258	114	1,372	-3.8%	18.6%	3.8%	14.0%
Other firearm offences	350	495	845	+14.8%	5.2%	16.3%	8.6%
Public fear, alarm or distress	336	35	371	+2.5%	5.0%	1.2%	3.8%
Burglary	189	3	192	-5.9%	2.8%	0.1%	2.0%
Total	6,759	3,028	9,787	+4.2%	100%	100%	100%

Source: ONS, *Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2019, Offences involving the use of weapons: data tables*, table 8, 13 February 2020.

Chart 5 shows that selected offences in each category decreased until 2012/13. Since then, the index of *Possession of Weapons offences* increased the most from 48 to 119 in 2018/18. Over the last two years, indexes for *Burglary* and *Public fear, alarm or distress* decreased from 126 to 94 and from 126 to 221 respectively.

5. Index of selected offences for all firearms

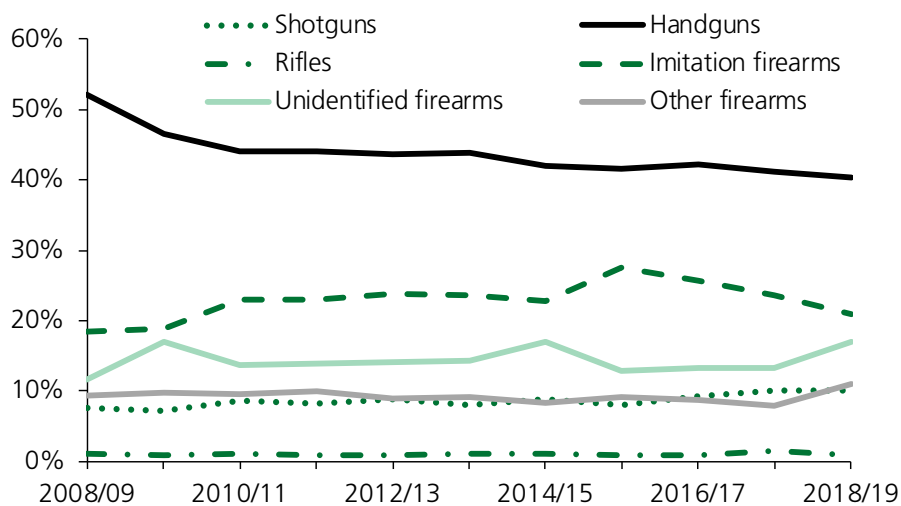


Source: ONS, *Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2019, Offences involving the use of weapons: data tables*, table 8, 13 February 2020.

3. Type of firearm used

For the year ending 31 March 2019 **air firearms** accounted for 32% of all firearm offences (air and non-air). This was a decrease of 10 percentage points since 2008/09 when air firearms accounted for 42% of all offences.

6. Firearm offences by non-air firearm type



Source: ONS, *Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2019, Offences involving the use of weapons: data tables*, table 2, 13 February 2020

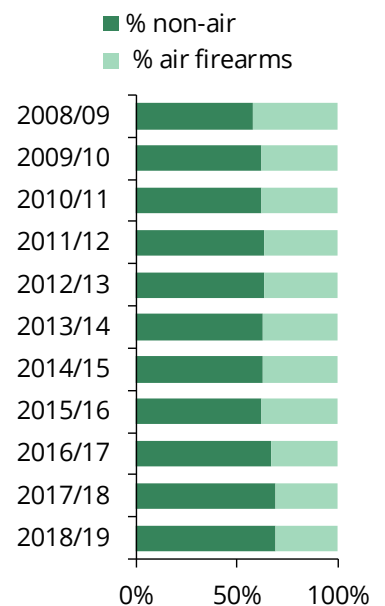
The use of imitation firearms has increased the most among **non-air firearm offences**, from 18% of all non-air firearm offences in 2008/09 to 28% in 2015/16, before falling to 21% in 2018/19. Rifles have remained the least common non-air firearms type accounting for around 1% of all offences over the period.

Since 2008/09, handguns have remained the most commonly used non-air firearm, with such offences accounting for 40% of non-air firearm offences in 2018/19. This was a 12 percentage point decrease from 52% in 2008/09, the largest percentage fall.

The proportion of non-air firearm offences committed using shotguns and other firearms remained at or under 10% between 2008/09 and 2018/19.

In the year ending 31 March 2019, around 17% of offences were involved unidentified firearms. This was an increase of nearly five percentage points compared to just over 13% in 2017/18 and a highest share since 2014/15.

7. Proportion of air and non-air firearm offences



Source: ONS, *Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2019, Offences involving the use of weapons: data tables*, table 2, 13 February 2020

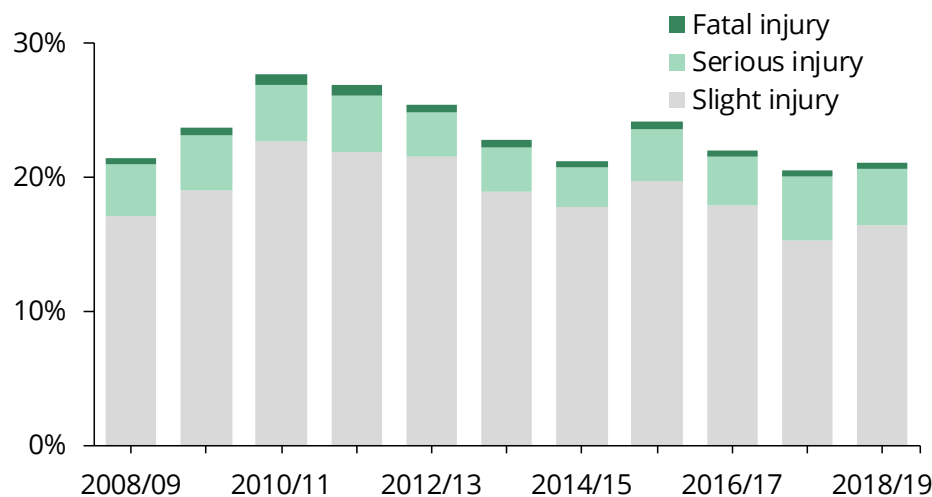
4. Firearm injuries

In the year ending 31 of March 2019, just over 1,700 of **all firearm** offences (air and non-air) resulted in an individual sustaining some sort of injury, an increase of 3% since 2017/18.

In 2018/19, there were 1,426 **non-air firearm** offences in which an individual was injured, a fall of 6% compared to 2017/18, though remaining higher than the 1,250 seen in 2015/16.

Of the occurrences where someone was injured (including air and non-air firearms), 2% (33 incidents) resulted in a fatal injury. There was a serious injury in 18% of occurrences (310 incidents) and a slight injury in 80% (1,345 incidents).

8. % of non-air firearm offences resulting in injury



Source: ONS, Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2019, *Offences involving the use of weapons: data tables*, table 5, 13 February 2020

In 2018/19, the proportion of non-air firearm offences ending in some kind of injury fell to 21% - similar as in 2017/18 and around two percentage points lower than 2015/16. Between 2008/09 and 2010/11, the proportion rose to 28%. Since then (as shown in chart 8) the proportion of gun crimes with injury fell to 21% in 2014/15 before rising again to 24% in 2015/16.

5. Age and ethnicity

Victims of non-air firearm offences are predominantly aged between 15 and 34, and accounted for around half of victims in 2018/19. Individuals aged 20-24 represented the highest proportion of victims by age band (16%) yet this age group only represents 6% of the general population.

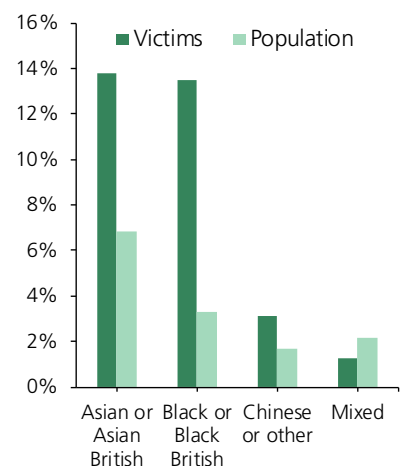
Victims of non-air firearm offences who were white accounted for 68% of all victims in the year ending 31 March 2019 and account for around 86% of the general population. All other ethnicities, except for Mixed, were victims of non-air firearm offences at a higher rate than would be expected, based on their representation in the general population.

9. Age profile of firearm victims, 2018/19

Age	Victims	Population
0-4	0.2%	5.9%
5-9	0.9%	6.3%
10-14	5.5%	5.8%
15-19	13.0%	5.5%
20-24	16.2%	6.3%
25-29	14.2%	6.8%
30-34	12.3%	6.7%
35-39	8.8%	6.6%
40-44	8.1%	6.0%
45-49	6.7%	6.8%
50-54	5.3%	7.0%
55-59	4.0%	6.4%
60-64	2.2%	5.5%
65-69	1.1%	5.1%
70-74	0.8%	4.9%
75+	0.7%	8.3%

Source: Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2019, *Offences involving the use of weapons: data tables*, table 13, 13 February 2020

10. Non-white ethnicity of non-air firearm victims, 2018/19



Source: Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2019, *Offences involving the use of weapons: data tables*, table 16, 13 February 2020

6. Non-air firearm offences by police force

In 2018/19, the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) recorded the largest number of non-air firearm offences - accounting for just over 30% of all non-air firearm offences in England & Wales.³ Compared to 2017/18 the number of non-air weapon offences recorded by the MPS decreased by 3.8%, from 2,126 to 2,046 in 2018/19.

11. Top ten police forces by number of non-air firearm offences 2018/19				
Police force	2018/19		% change from 2017/18	per 100,000 population
	number	% of total		
1 Metropolitan Police	2,046	30.3%	-3.8%	7.3
2 West Midlands	710	10.5%	-66.6%	6.3
3 West Yorkshire	480	7.1%	-29.5%	8.7
4 Greater Manchester	424	6.3%	-11.9%	7.4
5 Merseyside	248	3.7%	-54.2%	15.1
6 Essex	215	3.2%	2.4%	7.2
7 South Yorkshire	199	2.9%	-22.0%	17.4
8 Devon and Cornwall	126	1.9%	-28.8%	5.9
9 Northamptonshire	120	1.8%	16.5%	5.6
10 Nottinghamshire	119	1.8%	-5.6%	14.2

Source: ONS, Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2019, *Offences involving the use of weapons: data tables*, table 12, 13 February 2020

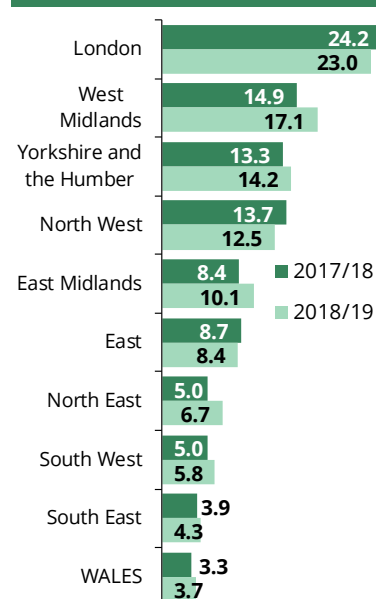
In year ending March 2019, the MPS also had the highest rate of non-air firearm offences per 100,000 population, at 23.0, followed by the West Yorkshire Police Force (20.7). The lowest rate was recorded in Thames Valley (2.8 offence per 100,000).

By region, London had the highest level of 2,048 non-air firearm offences recorded in 2018/19, down by 25% from 2,748 in 2010/11. The second highest region was West Midlands, with 1,011. This was 17% higher than 862 in 2017/18, but 8% lower compared to 1,095 in 2010/11.

Chart 12 shows that after taking differences in population into account, the London region had the highest rate (23.0) of non-air firearm offences per 100,000 head of population in 2018/19. The West Midlands was a second, with 17.1. The third highest rate was recorded in Yorkshire and the Humber (14.2), followed by North West (12.5 offences per 100,000 population).

12. Non-air firearm offences by region

Per 100,000 head of population, England and Wales



Source: ONS, Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2019, *Offences involving the use of weapons: data tables*, table 12, 13 February 2020

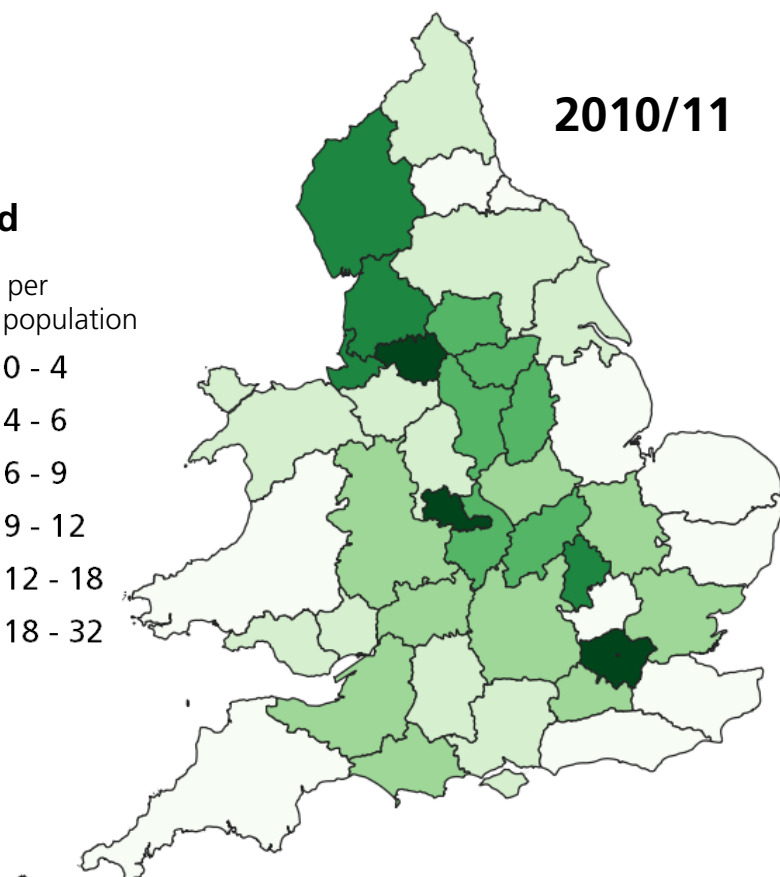
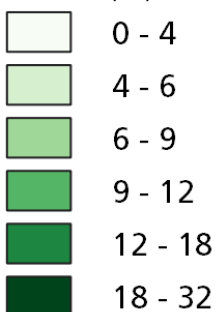
³ Excluding City of London police

13. Non-air firearm offences recorded by police 2010/11 & 2018/19

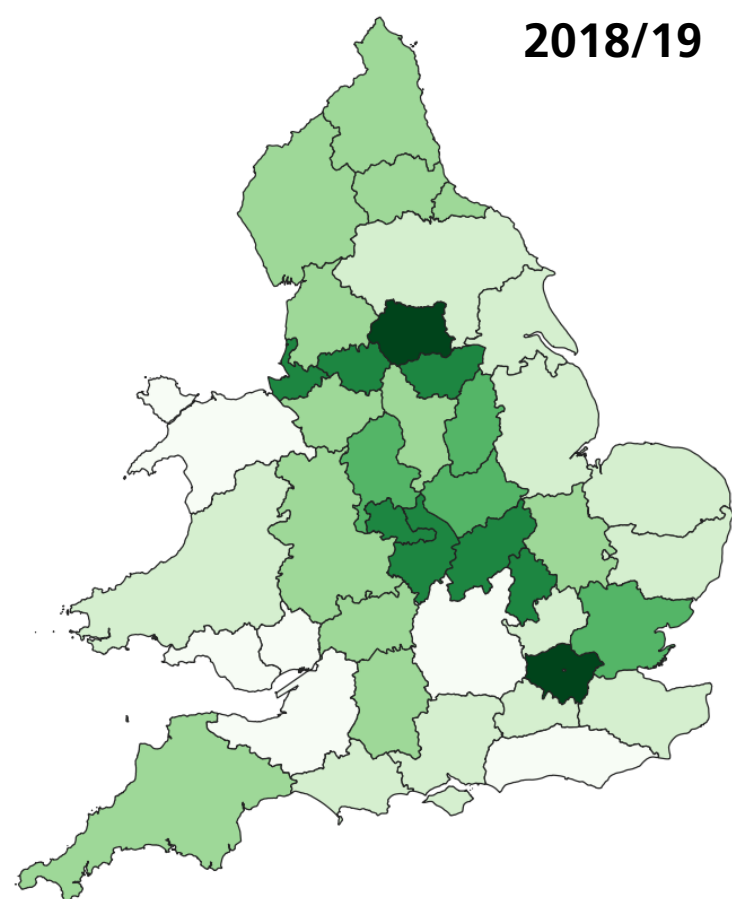
By Police force areas, England and Wales

Legend

Offences per 100,000 population



2010/11



2018/19

Non-air firearm offences

Per 100,000 population

	2010/11	2018/19
Metropolitan Police	32	23
West Yorkshire	10	21
Merseyside	16	17
West Midlands	32	17
Warwickshire	9	17
Northamptonshire	12	16
Bedfordshire	16	16
Greater Manchester	18	15
South Yorkshire	10	14
Essex	8	12
England and Wales	12	11
Leicestershire	8	11
Nottinghamshire	9	10
Staffordshire	5	9
Cheshire	6	9
Derbyshire	10	8
West Mercia	6	8
Gloucestershire	8	8
Cumbria	12	7
Cambridgeshire	8	7
Durham	4	7
Lancashire	12	7
Devon and Cornwall	4	7
Cleveland	4	7
Wiltshire	4	7
Northumbria	5	6
Humberside	5	6
Lincolnshire	2	6
Dorset	6	6
North Yorkshire	4	6
Hampshire	4	6
Kent	3	5
Norfolk	3	5
Hertfordshire	3	5
Dyfed-Powys	3	5
Suffolk	4	4
Surrey	7	4
Sussex	3	4
South Wales	5	4
Avon and Somerset	7	3
Gwent	6	3
North Wales	6	3
Thames Valley	6	3

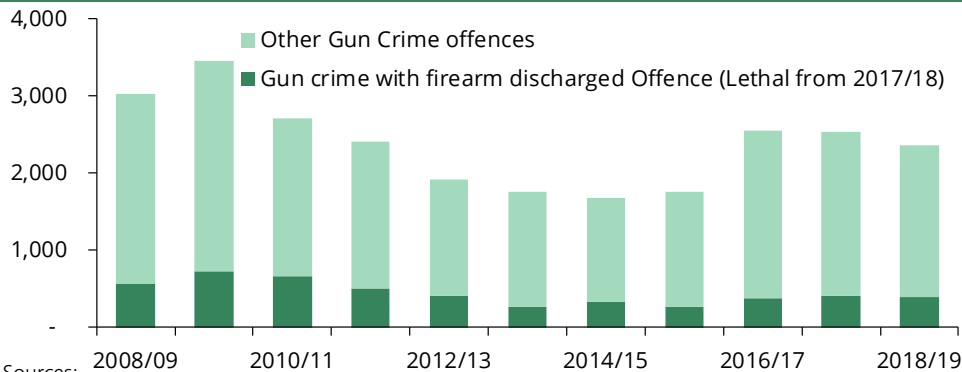
Sources:

ONS, Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2019, *Offences involving the use of weapons: data tables*, table 12, 13 February 2020.
 ONS, *Crime and Justice Statistics period ending March 2016, Appendix table 3.12*, 9 February 2017 and earlier editions.

6.1 Firearm offences in London

The number of gun (air and non-air) crimes recorded by the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) is available in [Year end crime statistics 2018/2019](#) dashboard.

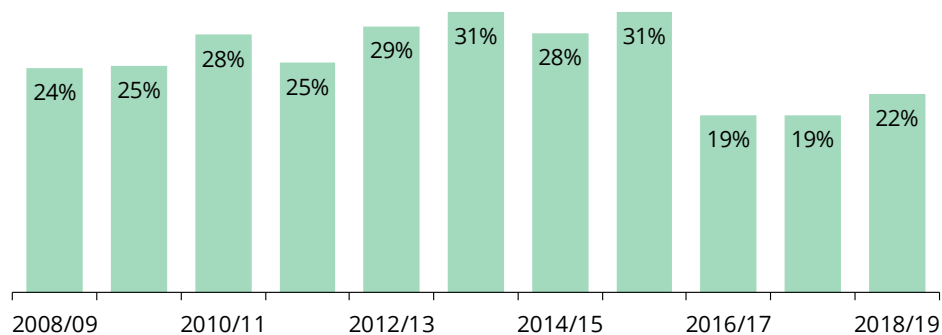
14. Offences involving firearms recorded by the MPS



Sources: Metropolitan Police Service, [Year end crime statistics 2018/2019](#), accessed 13 March 2020
London Assembly, London data store, [Metropolitan Police Service - Recorded Crime](#), 20 July 2017 (no longer available)

Chart 14 shows that number of firearm offences recorded by the MPS decreased between 2009/10 and 2014/15 before rising in recent years. In 2018/19, the MPS recorded 2,354 gun related offences – a 8% fall compared to 2016/17. In 2017/18, a firearm was lethally discharged in 404 cases (15% of cases), and in 2018/19 in 390 cases (16%).

15. Gun crime Sanction Detection Rate (SDR), MPS



Sources: Metropolitan Police Service, [Year end crime statistics 2018/19](#), accessed 13 March 2020
London Assembly, London data store, [Metropolitan Police Service - Recorded Crime](#), 20 July 2017 (no longer available)

Chart 15 shows that in 2008/09 - 2009/10 the Sanction Detection Rate⁴ (SDR) for firearm offences in London was around 25%. The SDR fluctuated between 2010/11 and 2015/16 from 25% in 2011/12, reaching 31% in 2013/14 and 2015/16. The SDR for firearm offences decreased to 19% in 2016/17. This coincided with higher overall numbers of firearm offences recorded. In 2017/18, the SDR for firearm offences was 19%, and rose slightly to 22% in 2018/19.

⁴ 'Sanction Detection' is the term used for police-generated detections 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) or issued with a Fixed Penalty. Prior to 2017/18 the SDR rate is based on annualised monthly data.

The map below provides a visual comparison of firearm crime levels by London borough in the year ending March 2019. Appendix table A2 shows the number⁵ of firearm offences for each London Borough in 2017/18 and 2018/19.

Please note that offences in London boroughs are reported as totals rather than rates per population.

In 2018/19, the highest number of firearm offences in London were recorded in Haringey and Lambeth (both 140), followed by Southwark (131), Newham (123) and Lewisham (110).

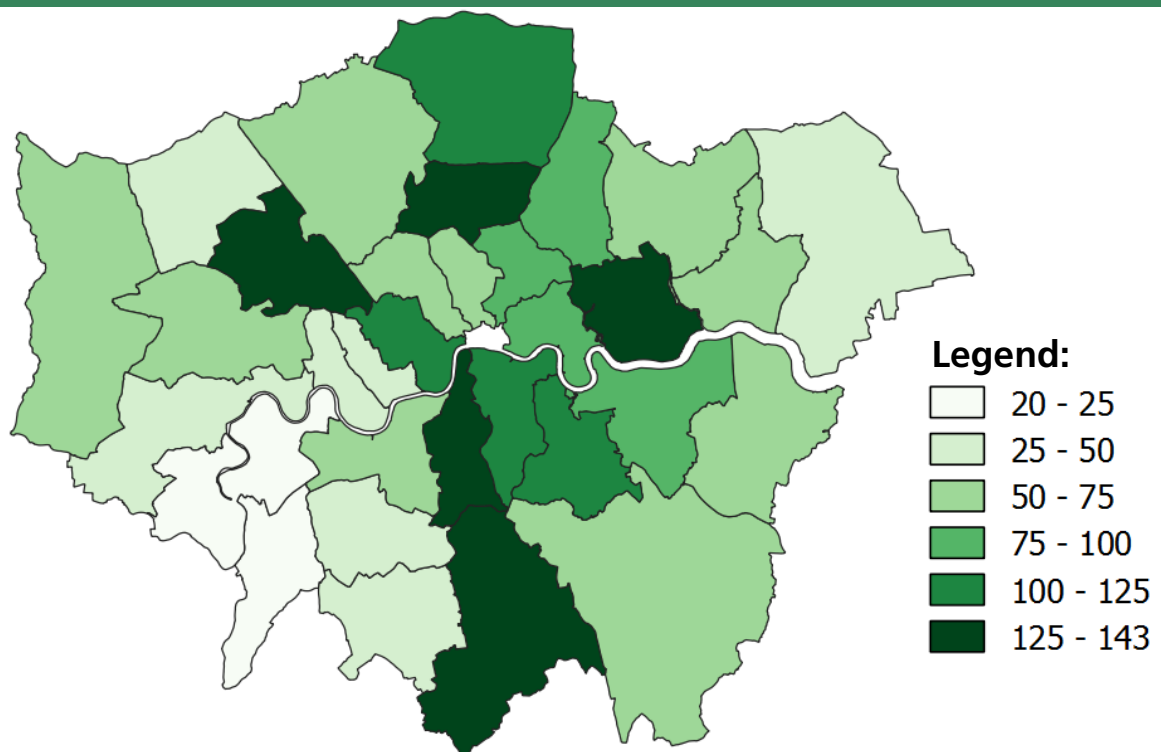
Lambeth and Haringey boroughs also had the highest number of offences when a firearm was lethally discharged – 57 and 32 respectively. The lowest rate in 2018/19 was Richmond upon Thames (19 total gun offences).

Between 2017/18 and 2018/19, the highest proportional increase from firearm offences, of 43%, was recorded in Hounslow (rising from 42 to 60 firearms offences). This borough, however, had the 20th lowest number of recorded firearm offences of the 32 London Boroughs. Greenwich had the highest actual number increase in offences of 28 offences, or 36%, from 77 to 105 from 2017/18 to 2018/19.

The number of firearm offences in Harrow decreased by 37%, or 15 offences from 41 in 2017/18 to 26 in 2018/19. This was the highest proportional decrease over the period. Croydon saw the largest absolute fall, from 136 to 101 offences, a decrease of 35.

16. Number of Firearm offences, 2018/19

By London borough, year ending March 2019



Metropolitan Police Service, [Year end crime statistics 2018/2019](#), accessed 13 February 2020.

⁵ Data from 2008/09 to 2013/14 includes House of Commons Library estimates based on Police Force Area populations from www.ukcrimestats.com

A1. Firearm Offences (excluding air weapons)								
by police force area, english regions and Wales, year ending 31 March								
	2008/09		2009/10		2010/11		2011/12	
	Number	Offences per 100,000 population	Number	Offences per 100,000 population	Number	Offences per 100,000 population	Number	Offences per 100,000 population
Cleveland	34	6.1	21	3.7	20	3.6	25	4.5
Durham	22	3.5	10	1.6	24	3.9	15	2.4
Northumberland	51	3.6	52	3.6	68	4.7	38	2.6
North East Region	107	4.1	83	3.2	112	4.3	78	3.0
Cheshire	61	5.9	54	5.2	62	6.0	61	5.9
Cumbria	28	5.6	36	7.2	60	12.1	28	5.6
Greater Manchester	827	30.3	709	25.9	504	18.4	365	13.4
Lancashire	207	14.1	215	14.6	179	12.2	126	8.6
Merseyside	352	25.3	258	18.5	226	16.2	248	17.8
North West Region	1,475	20.7	1,272	17.8	1,031	14.5	828	11.6
Humberside	62	6.7	43	4.7	42	4.5	49	5.3
North Yorkshire	11	1.4	23	2.9	33	4.1	20	2.5
South Yorkshire	144	10.5	121	8.9	134	9.8	84	6.2
West Yorkshire	287	12.7	267	11.8	218	9.6	257	11.4
Yorkshire and the Humber Region	504	9.4	454	8.5	427	8.0	410	7.6
Derbyshire	75	7.3	69	6.7	102	9.9	62	6.0
Leicestershire	127	12.2	92	8.8	80	7.7	85	8.1
Lincolnshire	16	2.2	19	2.6	17	2.3	18	2.5
Northamptonshire	112	15.7	81	11.3	85	11.9	93	13.0
Nottinghamshire	204	18.3	137	12.3	103	9.2	99	8.9
East Midlands Region	534	11.5	398	8.6	387	8.3	357	7.7
Staffordshire	44	4.0	40	3.6	53	4.8	45	4.0
Warwickshire	56	10.2	57	10.3	50	9.1	51	9.2
West Mercia	78	6.3	84	6.8	80	6.4	50	4.0
West Midlands	985	35.1	903	32.2	912	32.5	648	23.1
West Midlands Region	1,163	20.4	1,084	19.0	1,095	19.2	794	13.9
Bedfordshire	64	9.9	96	14.9	105	16.3	64	9.9
Cambridgeshire	34	4.1	65	7.8	63	7.6	34	4.1
Essex	176	9.9	154	8.7	135	7.6	137	7.7
Hertfordshire	68	5.9	45	3.9	39	3.4	31	2.7
Norfolk	29	3.3	21	2.4	24	2.7	15	1.7
Suffolk	25	3.4	16	2.2	26	3.5	20	2.7
East of England Region	396	6.6	397	6.6	392	6.5	301	5.0
City of London	3	-	0	-	1	-	3	-
Metropolitan Police	3,087	36.2	3,524	41.3	2,747	32.2	2,479	29.0
London Region	3,090	-	3,524	-	2,748	-	2,482	-
Hampshire	75	3.9	100	5.2	79	4.1	71	3.7
Kent	93	5.2	64	3.6	46	2.6	30	1.7
Surrey	66	5.7	84	7.2	83	7.1	54	4.6
Sussex	65	3.9	39	2.4	49	3.0	31	1.9
Thames Valley	214	9.1	158	6.8	144	6.2	123	5.3
South East Region	513	5.8	445	5.0	401	4.5	309	3.5
Avon and Somerset	95	5.8	107	6.5	107	6.5	100	6.1
Devon and Cornwall	70	4.1	61	3.6	64	3.7	133	7.8
Dorset	16	2.1	32	4.2	47	6.2	33	4.3
Gloucestershire	52	8.5	34	5.6	47	7.7	51	8.3
Wiltshire	45	6.4	36	5.2	30	4.3	27	3.9
South West Region	278	5.1	270	5.0	295	5.4	344	6.3
Dyfed-Powys	7	1.4	17	3.3	16	3.1	17	3.3
Gwent	36	6.2	29	5.0	34	5.9	40	6.9
North Wales	42	6.1	35	5.0	39	5.6	21	3.0
South Wales	54	4.2	74	5.7	63	4.8	41	3.2
WALES	139	4.5	155	5.0	152	4.9	119	3.8
England And Wales	8,199	14.3	8,082	14.1	7,040	12.3	6,022	10.5

Note: Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics

Sources:

ONS, *Crime and Justice Statistics period ending March 2016, Appendix table 3.12*, 9 February 2017 and earlier editions

ONS, Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2019, *Offences involving the use of weapons: data tables*, table 12, 13 February 2020.

A1: Firearm Offences (excluding air weapons) by police force area, english regions and Wales, year ending 31 March

	2012/13		2013/14		2014/15		2015/16		2016/17	
	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
Cleveland	10	1.8	13	2.3	14	2.5	18	3.2	23	4.1
Durham	16	2.6	11	1.8	14	2.2	12	1.9	22	3.5
Northumberland	42	2.9	44	3.1	52	3.6	70	4.9	102	7.1
North East Region	68	2.6	68	2.6	80	3.1	100	3.8	147	5.6
Cheshire	52	5.0	65	6.3	54	5.2	46	4.4	71	6.8
Cumbria	15	3.0	15	3.0	33	6.6	58	11.6	25	5.0
Greater Manchester	387	14.2	397	14.5	437	16.0	450	16.5	454	16.3
Lancashire	100	6.8	116	7.9	116	7.9	110	7.5	114	7.7
Merseyside	211	15.2	212	15.2	162	11.6	151	10.9	195	13.9
North West Region	765	10.7	805	11.3	802	11.2	815	11.4	859	11.9
Humberside	43	4.7	44	4.8	33	3.6	86	9.3	92	9.9
North Yorkshire	19	2.4	16	2.0	11	1.4	30	3.7	23	2.8
South Yorkshire	163	11.9	164	12.0	160	11.7	154	11.3	232	16.8
West Yorkshire	253	11.2	224	9.9	221	9.8	322	14.2	439	19.1
Yorkshire and the Humber Region	478	8.9	448	8.4	425	7.9	592	11.0	786	14.5
Derbyshire	54	5.2	45	4.4	67	6.5	49	4.7	56	5.4
Leicestershire	78	7.5	59	5.7	60	5.7	32	3.1	53	5.0
Lincolnshire	21	2.9	17	2.3	16	2.2	25	3.4	33	4.4
Northamptonshire	50	7.0	31	4.3	35	4.9	93	13.0	140	19.1
Nottinghamshire	104	9.3	93	8.3	66	5.9	125	11.2	119	10.5
East Midlands Region	307	6.6	245	5.3	244	5.3	324	7.0	401	8.5
Staffordshire	27	2.4	41	3.7	32	2.9	47	4.2	49	4.4
Warwickshire	52	9.4	40	7.3	23	4.2	22	4.0	29	5.2
West Mercia	50	4.0	56	4.5	45	3.6	52	4.2	58	4.6
West Midlands	499	17.8	540	19.2	562	20.0	542	19.3	618	21.6
West Midlands Region	628	11.0	677	11.8	662	11.6	663	11.6	754	13.0
Bedfordshire	49	7.6	77	12.0	86	13.4	74	11.5	94	14.1
Cambridgeshire	20	2.4	40	4.8	42	5.1	61	7.3	62	7.3
Essex	131	7.4	154	8.7	176	9.9	184	10.4	258	14.3
Hertfordshire	16	1.4	15	1.3	8	0.7	4	0.3	23	2.0
Norfolk	4	0.5	4	0.5	15	1.7	5	0.6	66	7.4
Suffolk	22	3.0	16	2.2	59	8.0	51	6.9	63	8.5
East of England Region	242	4.0	306	5.1	386	6.4	379	6.3	566	9.0
City of London	2	-	2	-	2	-	0	-	0	-
Metropolitan Police	1,959	22.9	1,594	18.7	1,652	19.3	1,556	18.2	2,136	24.3
London Region	1,961	-	1,596	-	1,654	-	1,556	-	2,136	-
Hampshire	72	3.7	57	2.9	84	4.3	113	5.8	119	6.0
Kent	48	2.7	63	3.5	37	2.1	35	2.0	64	3.5
Surrey	48	4.1	39	3.4	32	2.8	57	4.9	54	4.6
Sussex	34	2.1	68	4.1	90	5.5	61	3.7	49	2.9
Thames Valley	167	7.1	131	5.6	47	2.0	95	4.1	81	3.4
South East Region	369	4.2	358	4.0	290	3.3	361	4.1	367	4.1
Avon and Somerset	82	5.0	63	3.8	78	4.7	92	5.6	84	5.0
Devon and Cornwall	84	4.9	116	6.8	122	7.1	117	6.9	82	4.7
Dorset	24	3.2	29	3.8	19	2.5	29	3.8	44	5.7
Gloucestershire	29	4.7	27	4.4	27	4.4	35	5.7	32	5.1
Wiltshire	27	3.9	18	2.6	21	3.0	5	0.7	10	1.4
South West Region	246	4.5	253	4.7	267	4.9	278	5.1	252	4.6
Dyfed-Powys	11	2.1	8	1.5	14	2.7	20	3.9	16	3.1
Gwent	24	4.1	26	4.5	12	2.1	15	2.6	7	1.2
North Wales	20	2.9	18	2.6	15	2.2	15	2.2	13	1.9
South Wales	39	3.0	48	3.7	60	4.6	64	4.9	71	5.4
WALES	94	3.0	100	3.2	101	3.3	114	3.7	107	3.4
England And Wales	5,158	9.0	4,856	8.5	4,911	8.6	5,182	9.0	6,375	10.9

Note: Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics

Sources:

ONS, *Crime and Justice Statistics period ending March 2016, Appendix table 3.12*, 9 February 2017 and earlier editions

ONS, *Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2019, Offences involving the use of weapons: data tables*, table 12, 13 February 2020.

A1. Firearm Offences (excluding air weapons)						
by police force area, english regions and Wales, year ending 31 March						
	2017/18		2018/19		Change per 100,000	
	Number	Offences per 100,000 population	Number	Offences per 100,000 population	change 2010/11 - 2018/19	% change 2010/11 - 2018/19
Cleveland	26	4.6	39	6.9	3.3	29%
Durham	26	4.1	46	7.3	3.4	8%
Northumberland	93	5.5	92	6.3	1.6	17%
North East Region	145	5.0	177	6.7	2.4	17%
Cheshire	81	7.4	92	8.7	2.7	25%
Cumbria	49	9.8	37	7.4	-4.6	-18%
Greater Manchester	541	19.4	424	15.1	-3.4	5%
Lancashire	109	7.3	108	7.2	-5.0	-40%
Merseyside	210	14.9	248	17.4	1.2	-8%
North West Region	990	13.7	909	12.5	-2.0	-5%
Humberside	50	5.4	55	5.9	1.4	19%
North Yorkshire	23	2.8	46	5.6	1.5	-31%
South Yorkshire	177	12.8	199	14.2	4.4	30%
West Yorkshire	481	20.6	480	20.7	11.1	114%
Yorkshire and the Humber Region	731	13.3	780	14.2	6.3	68%
Derbyshire	69	6.6	86	8.2	-1.7	-33%
Leicestershire	75	7.0	115	10.5	2.9	-9%
Lincolnshire	35	4.7	44	5.8	3.5	103%
Northamptonshire	126	17.2	120	16.1	4.2	44%
Nottinghamshire	94	8.3	119	10.3	1.1	-10%
East Midlands Region	399	8.4	484	10.1	1.7	1%
Staffordshire	65	5.8	102	9.0	4.2	22%
Warwickshire	49	8.8	95	16.6	7.6	-3%
West Mercia	67	5.3	104	8.1	1.7	-17%
West Midlands	681	23.8	710	24.3	-8.1	-27%
West Midlands Region	862	14.9	1,011	17.1	-2.0	-22%
Bedfordshire	106	16.0	105	15.7	-0.6	-2%
Cambridgeshire	84	9.8	63	7.4	-0.2	29%
Essex	255	14.1	215	11.7	4.1	86%
Hertfordshire	34	2.9	57	4.8	1.4	-14%
Norfolk	29	3.2	47	5.2	2.5	19%
Suffolk	27	3.6	33	4.4	0.8	3%
East of England Region	535	8.7	520	8.4	1.9	34%
City of London	1	-	2	+	-	-
Metropolitan Police	2,126	24.2	2,046	23.0	-9.2	-25%
London Region	2,127	-	2,048	23.0	-	-
Hampshire	98	5.0	110	5.5	1.5	22%
Kent	78	4.3	98	5.3	2.7	66%
Surrey	51	4.3	49	4.1	-3.0	-39%
Sussex	61	3.6	66	3.9	0.9	20%
Thames Valley	62	2.6	67	2.8	-3.4	-57%
South East Region	350	3.9	390	4.3	-0.2	-14%
Avon and Somerset	70	4.2	58	3.4	-3.1	-36%
Devon and Cornwall	103	4.9	126	7.1	3.4	31%
Dorset	34	4.4	44	5.7	-0.5	-29%
Gloucestershire	47	7.5	50	7.9	0.2	-2%
Wiltshire	39	5.5	47	6.5	2.2	29%
South West Region	293	5.0	325	5.8	0.4	-8%
Dyfed-Powys	7	1.4	24	4.6	1.5	-56%
Gwent	19	3.3	20	3.4	-2.5	-44%
North Wales	20	2.9	23	3.3	-2.3	-49%
South Wales	56	4.3	48	3.6	-1.2	-12%
WALES	102	3.3	115	3.7	-1.3	-33%
England And Wales	6,534	11.1	6,759	11.4	-0.8	-9%

Note: Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics

Sources:

ONS, *Crime and Justice Statistics period ending March 2016, Appendix table 3.12*, 9 February 2017 and earlier editions

ONS, Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2019, *Offences involving the use of weapons: data tables*, table 12, 13 February 2020.

A2. London borough by firearm offences						
Borough	2017/18		2018/19		Change 2017/18- 2018/19	
	Gun Crime total	Firearm lethally discharged	Gun Crime total	Firearm lethally discharged	Percentage	Actual
Barking & Dagenham	75	10	70	8	-7%	-5
Barnet	65	2	87	4	34%	22
Bexley	51	4	47	8	-8%	-4
Brent	135	23	102	31	-24%	-33
Bromley	75	5	50	5	-33%	-25
Camden	67	14	49	5	-27%	-18
Croydon	136	17	101	8	-26%	-35
Ealing	69	5	63	11	-9%	-6
Enfield	122	20	99	13	-19%	-23
Greenwich	77	7	105	14	36%	28
Hackney	100	38	89	19	-11%	-11
Hammersmith & Fulham	34	5	47	3	38%	13
Haringey	151	47	140	32	-7%	-11
Harrow	41	5	26	9	-37%	-15
Havering	48	10	45	4	-6%	-3
Heathrow Airport	0	0	0	0	-	-
Hillingdon	63	9	52	9	-17%	-11
Hounslow	42	4	60	9	43%	18
Islington	75	11	61	8	-19%	-14
Kensington & Chelsea	40	4	34	1	-15%	-6
Kingston upon Thames	25	2	27	2	8%	2
Lambeth	139	35	140	57	1%	1
Lewisham	101	6	110	19	9%	9
Merton	41	6	30	6	-27%	-11
Newham	146	46	123	20	-16%	-23
Redbridge	67	8	68	10	1%	1
Richmond upon Thames	22	3	19	2	-14%	-3
Southwark	125	17	131	22	5%	6
Sutton	39	4	45	2	15%	6
Tower Hamlets	99	13	75	10	-24%	-24
Waltham Forest	92	19	88	19	-4%	-4
Wandsworth	69	2	69	9	0%	0
Westminster	101	6	96	8	-5%	-5
Total	2,532	407	2,348	387	-7%	-184

Source: Metropolitan Police Service, *Year end crime statistics 2018/19*, accessed 13 March 2020

18 Firearm Crime Statistics: England & Wales

A3. Firearm offences by firearm type, England and Wales, year ending 31 March

	Shotguns	Handguns	Rifles	Imitation firearms	Unidentified firearms	Other firearms	Air firearms	Total	Shotguns	Handguns	Rifles	Imitation firearms	Unidentified firearms	Other firearms	Air firearms	Total
2008/0	618	4,273	89	1,507	953	759	6,041	14,240	4%	30%	1%	11%	7%	5%	42%	100%
2009/1	581	3,757	67	1,526	1,368	783	4,931	13,013	4%	29%	1%	12%	11%	6%	38%	100%
2010/1	611	3,107	74	1,618	958	672	4,295	11,335	5%	27%	1%	14%	8%	6%	38%	100%
2011/1	494	2,655	56	1,387	834	596	3,510	9,532	5%	28%	1%	15%	9%	6%	37%	100%
2012/1	453	2,256	43	1,226	724	456	2,977	8,135	6%	28%	1%	15%	9%	6%	37%	100%
2013/1	387	2,134	55	1,142	698	440	2,873	7,729	5%	28%	1%	15%	9%	6%	37%	100%
2014/1	431	2,061	52	1,123	833	411	2,954	7,865	5%	26%	1%	14%	11%	5%	38%	100%
2015/1	411	2,157	48	1,431	666	469	3,217	8,399	5%	26%	1%	17%	8%	6%	38%	100%
2016/1	592	2,685	61	1,642	844	551	3,203	9,578	6%	28%	1%	17%	9%	6%	33%	100%
2017/1	657	2,685	92	1,540	869	508	2,861	9,419	7%	29%	1%	16%	9%	5%	30%	100%
2018/1	677	2,726	65	1,407	1,147	737	3,028	9,787	7%	28%	1%	14%	12%	8%	31%	100%

Notes:

Other firearms include CS Gas / pepper spray, stun guns and other weapons

Source: ONS, Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2019, [Offences involving the use of weapons: data tables](#), table 2, 13 February 2020.

A4. Firearm Offences by offence group, year ending 31 March

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	% change 2016/17- 2017/18
Non-air firearms												
Violence against the person	2,216	2,351	2,266	1,937	1,592	1,462	1,540	1,898	2,207	2,167	2,374	10%
Robbery	3,576	3,607	2,925	2,533	2,172	1,951	1,690	1,528	1,663	1,658	1,752	6%
Burglary	157	195	147	139	97	112	108	110	201	193	189	-2%
Criminal damage	528	451	374	333	335	330	320	287	478	515	500	-3%
Public fear, alarm or distress	263	259	261	203	200	225	317	323	363	335	336	0%
Possession of weapons	1,193	971	852	695	603	625	732	864	1,075	1,317	1,258	-4%
Other firearm offences	266	248	215	182	159	151	204	172	388	349	350	0%
All non-air weapon offences	8,199	8,082	7,040	6,022	5,158	4,856	4,911	5,182	6,375	6,534	6,759	3%
All firearms												
Violence against the person	829	760	556	429	425	400	368	363	412	397	411	-4%
Robbery	39	56	50	34	34	26	25	23	28	39	35	39%
Burglary	10	10	8	12	5	2	4	3	10	11	3	10%
Criminal damage	4,630	3,646	3,197	2,669	2,091	2,109	2,193	2,162	2,152	1,891	1,935	-12%
Public fear, alarm or distress ⁵	44	47	53	27	17	21	17	19	25	27	35	8%
Possession of weapons ⁵	263	183	166	128	100	94	111	83	107	109	114	2%
Other firearm offences	226	229	265	211	305	221	236	564	469	387	495	-17%
All firearm offences	14,240	13,013	11,335	9,532	8,135	7,729	7,865	8,399	9,578	9,395	9,787	-2%

Note:
Prior to year ending March 2005, air weapon offences were recorded as homicide, attempted murder, other violence against the person, robbery, burglary, criminal damage or other offences. Therefore, possession of weapons and public fear alarm or distress offences for air weapons prior to this date are included in 'other' within violence against the person offences.

Source: ONS, *Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2019, Offences involving the use of weapons: data tables*, table 8, 13 February 2020

A5. Firearm offences resulting in injury, year ending 31 March

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	% change 2017/18- 2018/19
Non-air firearms												
Total non-air weapon injuries	1,760	1,914	1,952	1,617	1,309	1,107	1,041	1,250	1,402	1,340	1,426	-4%
of which:												
Fatal injury	39	39	59	42	30	27	19	26	31	29	31	-6%
Serious injury	319	337	295	255	170	162	146	202	231	309	283	34%
Slight injury	1,402	1,538	1,598	1,320	1,109	918	876	1,022	1,140	1,002	1,112	-12%
No injury	6,439	6,168	5,088	4,405	3,849	3,749	3,870	3,932	4,973	5,194	5,333	4%
Total non-air firearm offences	8,199	8,082	7,040	6,022	5,158	4,856	4,911	5,182	6,375	6,534	6,759	2%
All firearm offences (injuries)												
Total weapon injuries	2,453	2,570	2,402	1,972	1,668	1,433	1,340	1,520	1,715	1,638	1,688	-4%
of which:												
Fatal injury	39	40	59	42	30	29	19	26	31	30	33	-3%
Serious injury	391	404	330	285	204	208	183	232	256	343	310	34%
Slight injury	2,023	2,126	2,013	1,645	1,434	1,196	1,138	1,262	1,428	1,265	1,345	-11%
No injury	11,787	10,443	8,933	7,547	6,467	6,296	6,525	6,879	7,863	7,757	8,099	-1%
All firearm offences	14,240	13,013	11,335	9,519	8,135	7,729	7,865	8,399	9,578	9,395	9,787	-2%

Notes:

Injuries could be caused by either the firearm being fired or used as a blunt instrument.

'Fatal injury' includes the 12 people killed by Derrick Bird on 2 June 2010.

Number of fatal injuries where a firearm has been involved in an offence may differ from the number of homicides by shooting. This is due to offences where a firearm has been involved but shooting has not been the principal method of killing. Additionally, Homicide Index figures include crossbows which are excluded from the firearms collection.

A serious injury is one which requires a stay in hospital or involves fractures, concussion, severe general shock, penetration by a bullet or multiple shot wounds.

Source: ONS, *Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2019*, [Offences involving the use of weapons: data tables](#), table 5, 13 February 2020.

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