

Equality Matters

Knife Crime on the Rise

May 2019

“After falling for several years, knife crime in England and Wales is rising again.”

Knife crime is a term commonly used to refer to street-based knife assaults and knife-carrying offences.

In the 12 months to September 2018 there were 39,818 knife crime offences.

This is a two-thirds increase from the low-point in the year ending March 2014, when there were 23,945 offences, and is the highest number since comparable data was first compiled.

These statistics do not include those from Greater Manchester Police because of data recording issues. Out of the 44 police forces in England and Wales, 42 recorded a rise in knife crime since 2011.

Police figures are prone to changes in how data is analysed, but data for NHS hospitals in England over a similar period showed an 8% increase in admissions for assault by a sharp object, leading the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to conclude there had been a "real change" to the downward trend in knife crime.

Doctors are saying that the injuries from knife attacks they are treating are becoming more severe and the victims are getting younger, with increasing numbers of girls involved.

What are the government doing to tackle knife crime?

- April 1st '19 Prime Minister hosted the Serious Youth Violence Summit
- Home Secretary launched consultation on new legal duty for public bodies, including hospitals to raise concerns about children at risk of knife crime
- More stop and search powers to be carried out by police
- March'19 £100m of funding to support areas most affected by knife crime
- The Home Secretary's Serious Violence Taskforce meet regularly to discuss the Serious Violence Strategy which puts more focus into steering young people away from crime.



More information on this can be found in the home office blog: <https://homeofficemedia.blog.gov.uk/2019/03/03/fact-sheet-government-action-to-tackle-violent-crime/>

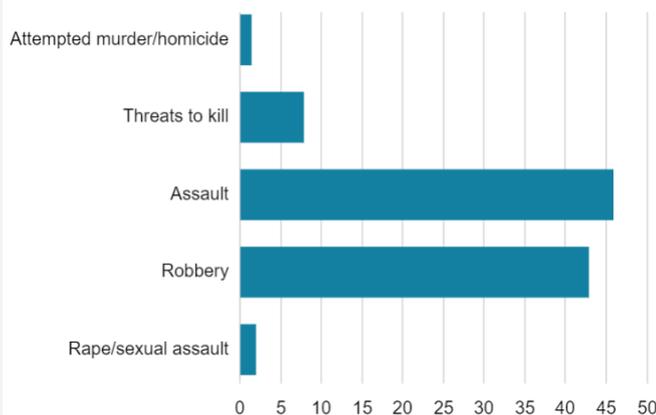
Its never too late to make a change! - One former gang member is using his past to educate the next generation.

A reformed former gang member who was just 12 years old when he stabbed his first victim, says he had to move to Kent to escape the rising violence in his part of London. Now, after turning his life around, he is trying to stop other young people in his area joining gangs and carrying knives, by telling them his life story. Robert Bragg has been touring schools near Ashford in Kent to get his message across.

Robert served 6 years in prison for crimes that he committed. He admits to stabbing a high number of people and that he did this to 'get the older lot to like me'. Robert believes that longer sentencing and increased use of stop and search by police would help the issue. However, he also thinks that education and outreach are critical to change the mindset of those who may otherwise be drawn towards the perceived glamour of gang and knife related youth culture.

What crimes are knives used for?

% of knife crime by offence type, England and Wales, year ending September 2018



Some extra figures/facts:

- 285 killings involving knives in 2017-2018, the highest figure since 1946.
- One in four victims were men aged 18-24
- 25% of victims were black - the highest proportion since data was first collected in 1997.
- Knife crime tends to be more prevalent in large cities, particularly in London.

Sources: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-42749089>
<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/>

