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Knife Crime

Staying street-safe

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Knife Crime

In the 12 months to the end of June 2019, knife crime offences rose by 7%, reaching a record high.

According to the Office for National Statistics, the number of offences involving a knife or sharp instrument increased from just over 41,000 in the year to June 2018 to just over 44,000 in 12 months.

Being afraid of walking down your own street or going to work has become a reality for many.

To report knife crime you can call 101 for local police, or if you feel you are in immediate danger - dial 999.

Don't Carry

Some people think that if they carry a knife it will provide protection. However, statistics show that if you carry a knife or weapon you are more likely to end up being hurt.

If you are scared for your safety then you must talk to someone. For example, this can be a parent, tutor, a manager at work or The Prince's Trust.

When you know people who have been stabbed or who carry knives themselves, the fear of becoming the next victim can spread through a community like a virus.

Look out for others

Someone you know may carry a knife if they are feeling unsafe, wanting to 'fit in' or are feeling unsupported by adults/authority figures.

Talk to a friend if you are worried about them being at risk. If this doesn't work then you can talk to someone else you trust. It's not snitching, it's trying to keep them - and others that you care about - safe.

The Facts About Knife Crime

Will carrying a knife get me into trouble?

Possession of a knife carries a prison sentence of up to 5 years even if it's not used.

It's not just even a knife - carrying any kind of offensive weapon can get you time in prison. This can include things like a sharpened comb, or something with a blade that's disguised as something else, like a lighter or a pen.

Police regularly stop and search people they they suspect are carrying a weapon. This search can be carried out without a warrant.

What happens if I use a knife?

If you do use a knife and this kills someone, you can get a life sentence in prison.

Someone to be killed by stabbing is much easier than you may think. A person can bleed out in 1 minute if stabbed in the heart. And a wound in the arm or the leg can still kill - young people have died from wounds to the leg because an artery was severed.

How does a criminal record impact my life?

Prison sentences can impact the rest of your life.

With a criminal record you won't be able to get certain jobs, and you might not even be allowed to study certain degrees at university. Some countries won't even allow you to travel there, even for a holiday.

For more information on knife crime and how to stop it, click the links below.

[Police - Stop Knife Crime](#)

[Safe4Me - Knife Crime](#)

6 Top Facts



If you are caught with a knife it doesn't matter if it was for your own protection or you were carrying it for someone else - you will be arrested and prosecuted. Self-protection is not a reasonable excuse for carrying an offensive weapon.



It's illegal to carry a knife or offensive weapon in a public place without a reasonable excuse. Reasonable excuses include those who need them for work, like fishermen or carpet fitters, but this only applies while they're actually at work.



Even if it's not you who does it, if someone is injured or killed by a knife in your presence you could be sent to prison for murder or attempted murder in what is referred to as 'joint enterprise'.



Knife crime can affect anyone, not just people in gangs. Innocent bystanders can get caught in the middle of other people's disputes and suffer trauma, serious injuries or worse.



It's illegal for shops to sell knives to anyone under 18 and buying a knife under the age of 18 is an offence. This includes kitchen knives and even cutlery.



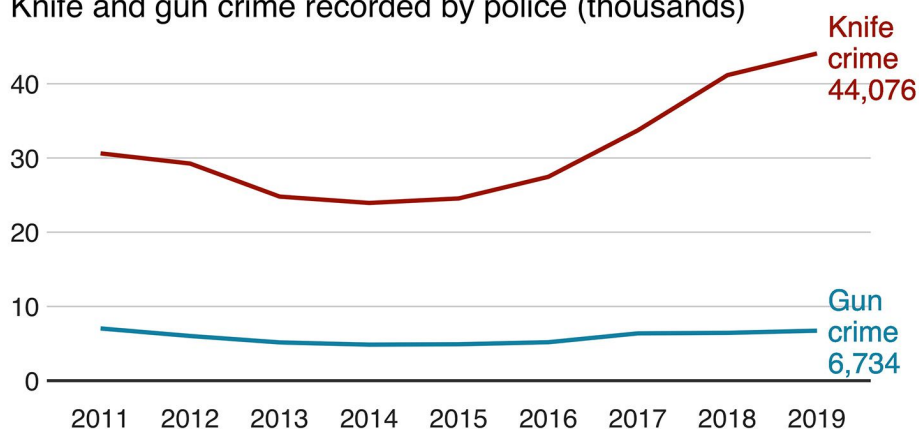
It's also illegal to carry a 'disguised knife' - anything with a concealed blade or sharp point that's made to look like an everyday object (like a pen, cigarette lighter or lipstick).

Knife Crime Statistics

The statistics mark a new record level since 2011, the year that knife crime statistics started to be gathered in a unified way.

Knife and gun crime both rose in the last year

Knife and gun crime recorded by police (thousands)



Knife crime figures exclude Greater Manchester due to a recording issue.
Figures for 12 months to March except 2018 and 2019 which are 12 months to June.

Source: Home Office - police recorded crime data

BBC

The picture on knife crime is mixed - with a fall in the number of homicides related to knife crime.

But the ONS added: "The number of homicides where a knife or sharp instrument was involved decreased by 14%.

"This decrease was mainly driven by falls in London.

"There is a mixed picture in the total number of offences involving knives or sharp instruments across different police force areas, with the Metropolitan Police recording little change in the last year."

Meanwhile, the government's crime, policing and fire minister Kit Malthouse said he was "deeply concerned" at the rise of certain crimes, particularly knife crime.

"All of us involved, from the police to local and national government, must confront this challenge head on," he said, adding that the government was "making progress...but there is a lot more to do".

Find out more:

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