



Keeping Excellence  
in Training Standards

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# EQUALITY MATTERS

KEITS Training Services Ltd

## THIS ISSUE:

Knife Crime, what is it?  
What causes it? Where is  
it?

All your questions  
answered!



Let's begin.. What is 'Knife Crime'?

"Knife crime includes any offence where a sharp instrument is used or possessed that would pierce the skin. Knife crime includes: carrying a knife or trying to buy a knife if you are under 18. threatening someone with a knife." -

South Yorkshire Police

Why is it such a big problem in the UK?

BEFORE YOU READ..

What do you already know about knife crime?  
Why do you think people feel the need to carry knives?



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## What Causes UK Knife Crime?

Knife crime has become a common phrase used by the media, but it is not always clear what it refers to, or what they mean when they use the term. Knife crime can cover many offences, making it challenging to define and estimate its prevalence.

About 61.8% of knife crimes are reported from South England. Knife crime risk is higher in early adulthood and among males. Street violence, fights/gang attacks, family issues and robbery are the leading causes of knife crime and have all been identified as risk factors that must be addressed with caution. ([Nepal J Epidemiol.](#) 2022 Dec)

## Where in the UK?

Using official ONS statistics gathered between 2020 and 2021, it's possible to map out where knife crime has been particularly prevalent. The numbers in this rundown come from that time frame:

- London: 10,131 crimes
  - West Midlands: 4,562 crimes
  - Greater Manchester: 3,027 crimes
  - West Yorkshire: 2,200 crimes
  - Essex: 1536 crimes
  - Thames Valley: 1,408 crimes
  - South Yorkshire: 1319 crimes
- ([www.crimeandinvestigation.co.uk](http://www.crimeandinvestigation.co.uk))
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## What are the UK Government doing?

The Serious Violence Duty will come into effect in January 2023, placing a new legal requirement on a range of public sector organisations to share information locally to reduce incidents of violence, like knife and gun crime, and prevent loss of life.

To prevent more murders from being committed, a number of innovative projects have also been awarded a share of £1.8m of government funding over the next 2 years, including 5 nation-wide initiatives. This includes:

- The National Police Chiefs' Council investing in new technology such as data mining, artificial intelligence and machine learning, to identify and manage likely perpetrators of domestic abuse and knife crime.
- The National Crime Agency driving behavioural science research on how to stop young people being drawn to homicide.
- The College of Policing analysing 'near-misses', including attempted murder. This will improve understanding of trends around homicide, by increasing the number of cases available for study.

Through police, government and community efforts to tackle the crime that hits our communities the hardest, since 2019:

- 90,000 dangerous weapons have been taken off our streets.
- Over 49,000 violent offences prevented and 260,000 vulnerable young people have been supported through Violence Reduction Units.

## It's Never Too Late to Make a Change

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.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/newsbeat-47211971>

AFTER YOU'VE READ..

How do you think the UK could lower the amount of knife crime?

How can you keep yourself safe?





## Knife Crime in the News

Here's your chance to look further into recent knife crime news stories updates..

The Deputy Mayor of West Yorkshire has called for more to be done to tackle the root causes of knife crime after two teenagers were jailed for murder.



Bedfordshire Police recovered 1,000 knives during amnesty.



Knife detectors installed in city-centre venues - Gloucester



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