

Knife-enabled Crime in London

August 2025 Overview

- Knife-enabled crime, as defined by the Home Office is broad. It includes several crime types where a knife or sharp instrument was used or threatened in the commission of the specified offence.
- In most offences in London the use of a weapon is threatened, with a knife or sharp instrument being used to cause injury in around one in four offences. Knife-enabled crime levels in 2025 are lower than those reported in 2024, with a consistent pattern of reductions across all except one London policing areas (the remaining one shows a stable level of knife-enabled crime).
- The majority of knife-enabled offences are robbery (60% of 2025 offences).
- Knife-enabled crime flagged as domestic abuse has remained constant over the last decade.
- Positive outcomes recorded are relatively stable and are heavily weighted towards knife-enabled crime with injury offences. In the context of reduced offence totals, this means that the positive outcomes as a proportion of offences is increasing.
- Knife-enabled crime victims are mainly male, and about half are under 25.
- Where weapons used in offences are known and identified, one in six weapons is a sharp instrument other than a knife.

Bulletin published 8th October 2025

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What counts as 'knife-enabled crime'?

Knife-enabled crime is not a specific single offence. Instead, the Home Office has defined a list of specific offences for police forces to report on offences involving a knife or sharp instrument. The Metropolitan Police therefore use this definition to align with national reporting. The collection of offences is widely described with the shortened name of 'knife crime' for simplicity, though some key points about what this does and does not include are important to note.

Offences counted as knife-enabled crime include:

- Serious violent offences such as homicide and serious assaults, robbery, threats to kill, rape and sexual offences which involve the use of knives or sharp instruments.
- A variety of sharp instruments such as swords, scissors, screwdrivers, syringes and axes.
- Offences where the knife or sharp instrument is present at the time of the offence and used in the commission of the offence.
- Also included are offences where a knife or sharp instrument is not seen but its use is threatened and the victim believes it is present, and the threat is genuine.

Offences not counted as knife-enabled crime include:

- Threats that are made remotely such as over the phone or via social media.
- Future threats.
- Idle threats, such as where a threat is made in passing but there is no evidence a knife or sharp instrument was present when the threat was made.
- Knife possession offences.
- Offences where a broken bottle or glass is used as a weapon.

Forces provide data to the Home Office which is then published by the Office for National Statistics.¹ Since the data is provided at fixed intervals to the Home Office and the MPS uses more recent snapshots of the live crime database, the totals are unlikely to match exactly between the two sources. Further details on the data included in this report can be found in the Methodology section.

¹ [Crime in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics](#)

What is included in this report?

This is a new report published by the Metropolitan Police to provide an overview of the latest knife-enabled crime data alongside details of methodology and policing context. This report is accompanied by a series of data tables which include breakdowns that underlie all the reporting within the report:

Offences

Table 1: Total knife-enabled crime offences per month

Table 2: Knife-enabled crime offences per month broken down by offence

Table 3: Knife-enabled crime offences per month broken down by offence, use of sharp instrument and domestic abuse flags

Outcomes

Table 4: Knife-enabled crime positive outcomes per month

Table 5: Knife-enabled crime positive outcomes per month broken down by offence

Table 6: Knife-enabled crime positive outcomes per month broken down by offence, use of sharp instrument and domestic abuse flags

Victims

Table 7: Knife-enabled crime victims per month

Local authority area breakdowns

Table 8: Knife-enabled crime offences per month by incident location

Table 9: Knife-enabled crime positive outcomes per month by incident location

Table 10: Knife-enabled crime victims by incident location per month

Weapons

Table 11: Weapons used in knife-enabled crime offences per month

Data in the tables will be updated monthly and this report will be updated quarterly.

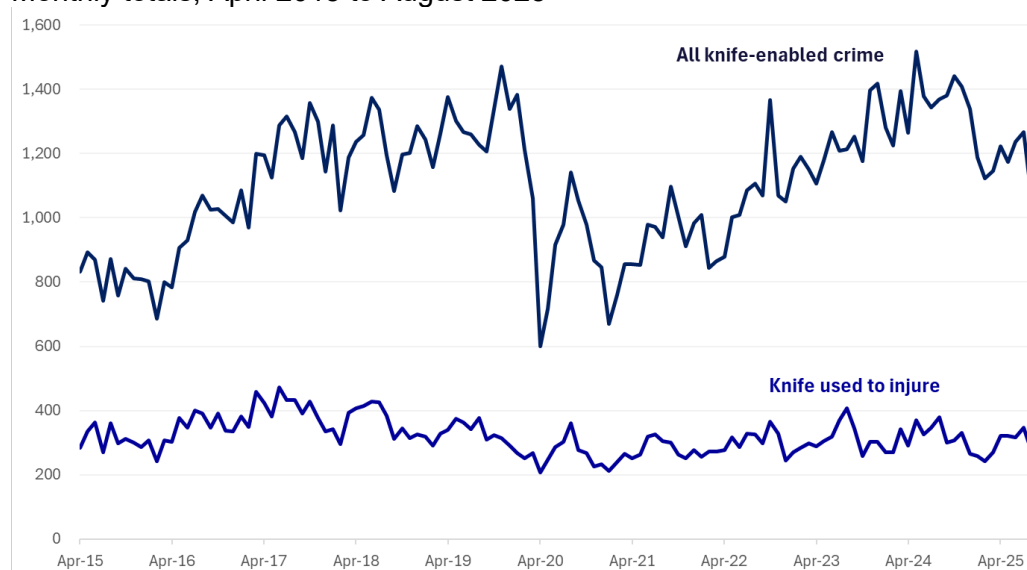
Latest Data

Overall knife-enabled crime offence trends

Figure 1 presents a summary of monthly totals of knife-enabled crime offences since April 2015. Totals dropped during COVID lockdowns and then steadily rose before showing decreases since May 2024. Towards the end of 2024, totals were in line with pre-COVID levels, though for all months in 2025 so far, fewer knife-enabled crime offences have been reported compared to the same months in 2024.

Figure 1: Overall knife-enabled crime totals in 2025 are lower than in 2024

Metropolitan Police Force Area, knife-enabled crime recorded on crime reporting system
Monthly totals, April 2015 to August 2025



Knife-enabled crime with injury

Knife-enabled crime data recorded by the MPS is broken down into how the knife or sharp instrument was used. The weapon could have been used to injure, or it could have been used to threaten. When a weapon has been used to threaten it may have been seen by the victim or not seen but the victim believed one was present at the time. We refer to these categories as 'Knife used to injure', 'Knife used to threaten (seen)' and 'Knife used to threaten (not seen)' in our accompanying tables.

Looking specifically at knife-enabled crime offences where an injury occurred, levels have remained relatively stable. Data from 2024 and 2025 shows levels below those from 2017 and 2018, as seen in the 12-monthly rolling average chart in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Knife-enabled crime offences where an injury occurred remain lower in 2025 than in the pre-COVID period

Metropolitan Police Force Area, knife-enabled crime recorded on crime reporting system
Monthly totals, April 2015 to August 2025

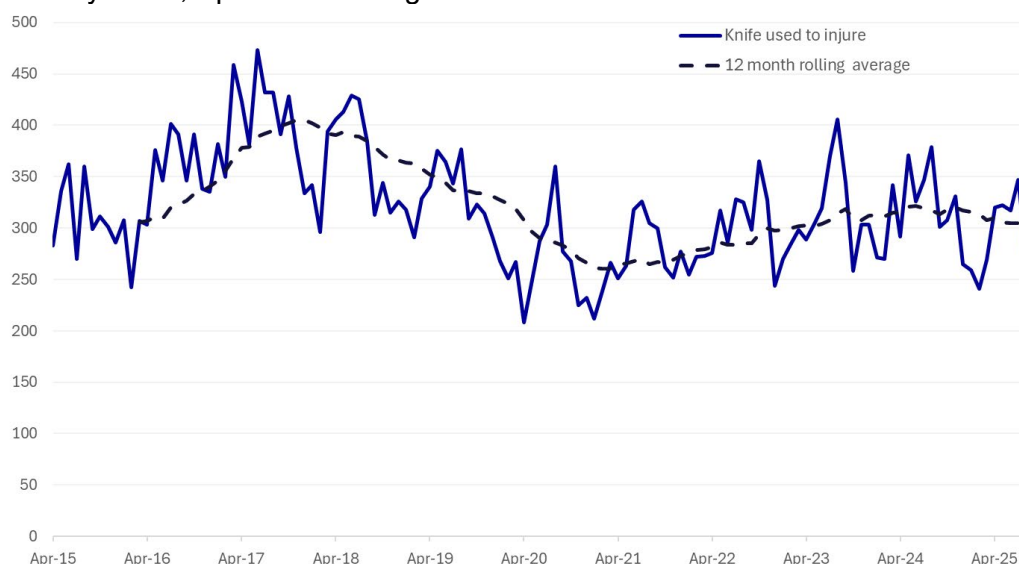


Figure 3 shows that the increase in overall knife-enabled crime from the COVID low points is being driven by offences where a knife is used to threaten a victim. In August 2025, over half of knife-enabled offences were where a knife was seen alongside this threat, and about one in five are where a knife was not seen. Threats where the knife is not seen but are believed by the victim made up 10% of knife-enabled crime reports in 2015 but just over 20% so far in 2025 (Figure 3).

Where injuries do occur, the level of injury can clearly vary. Our accompanying tables isolate offences where hospitalisation was required or there was a fatality. This data, shown in Figure 4 from April 2024 onwards, shows that about 110 knife-enabled crime incidents a month result in a severe or fatal injury.

Figure 3: About a quarter of knife-enabled crime offences result in an injury

Metropolitan Police Force Area, knife-enabled crime recorded on crime reporting system
Monthly totals, April 2015 to August 2025

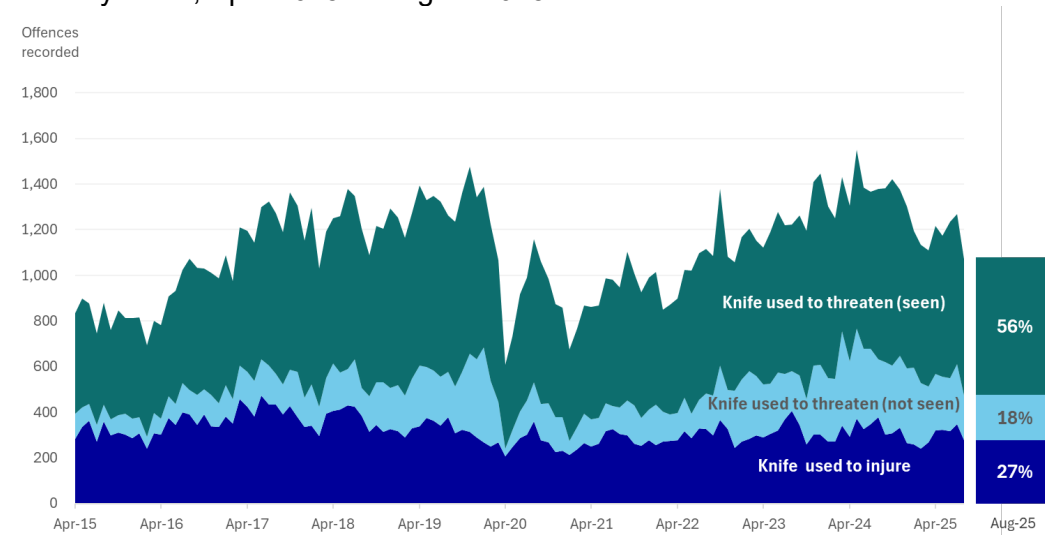
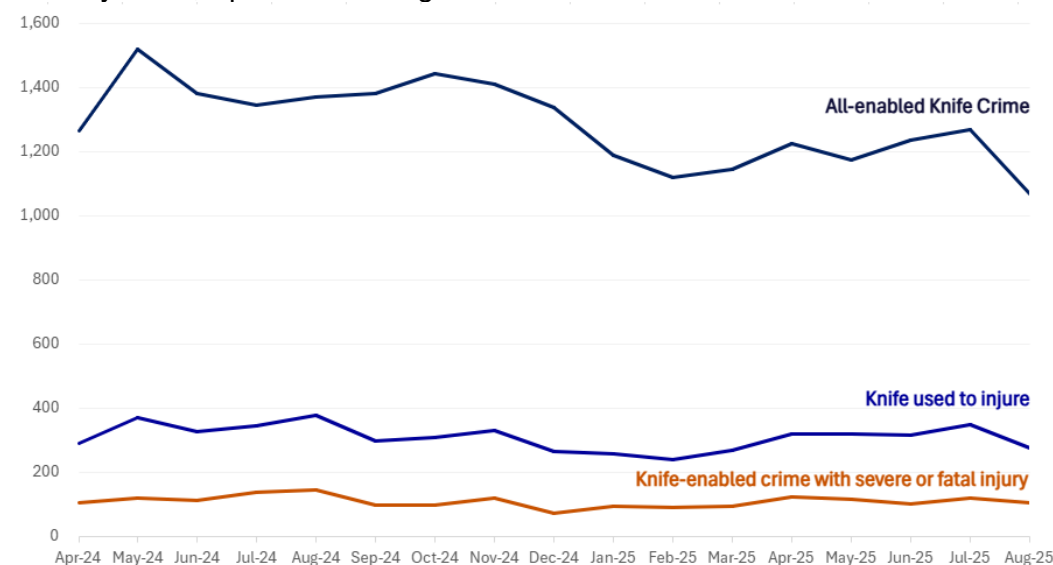


Figure 4: About a third of knife-enabled crime offences where a person is injured result in severe or fatal injuries (i.e., require in-patient hospital treatment)

Metropolitan Police Force Area, knife-enabled crime recorded on crime reporting system
Monthly totals, April 2024 to August 2025



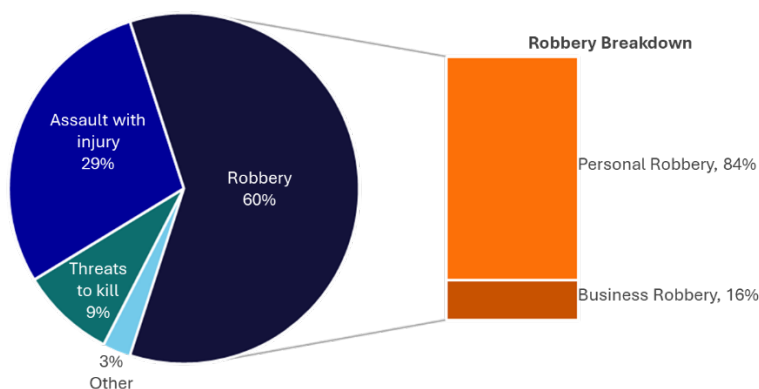
Knife-enabled crime offence categories

Full details of the offences included in knife-enabled crime by the Home Office are available in the Methodology section. Figure 5A presents the data aggregated across 2025, showing that 60% of knife-enabled crime within London is knife enabled robbery (KER).² Within KER, 84% of offences are for personal robbery with a smaller volume relating to business robbery. This pattern in London is noticeably different from the national picture, where the ONS reports that most knife-enabled crimes in England and Wales in 2024/25 were assault with injury and assault to cause serious harm (43%), with robbery the second biggest category at 42%.³

Figure 5: Most knife-enabled crime offences are robbery offences, which are predominantly personal robbery though where a knife or sharp instrument is used to injure, offences are mainly assault with injury

Metropolitan Police Force Area, knife-enabled crime recorded on crime reporting system
Aggregated data from January to August 2025

A: All knife-enabled crime



B: Knife used to injure offences only

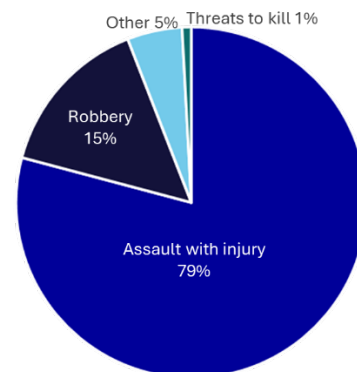


Figure 5B shows the breakdown of offence types for knife-crime where a knife was used to injure. This shows that knife-enabled crime with injury offences are mostly 'assault with injury' (79%). Table 3 in the accompanying tables gives full details of which offences resulted in severe injury, where four in five were assault with injury offences.

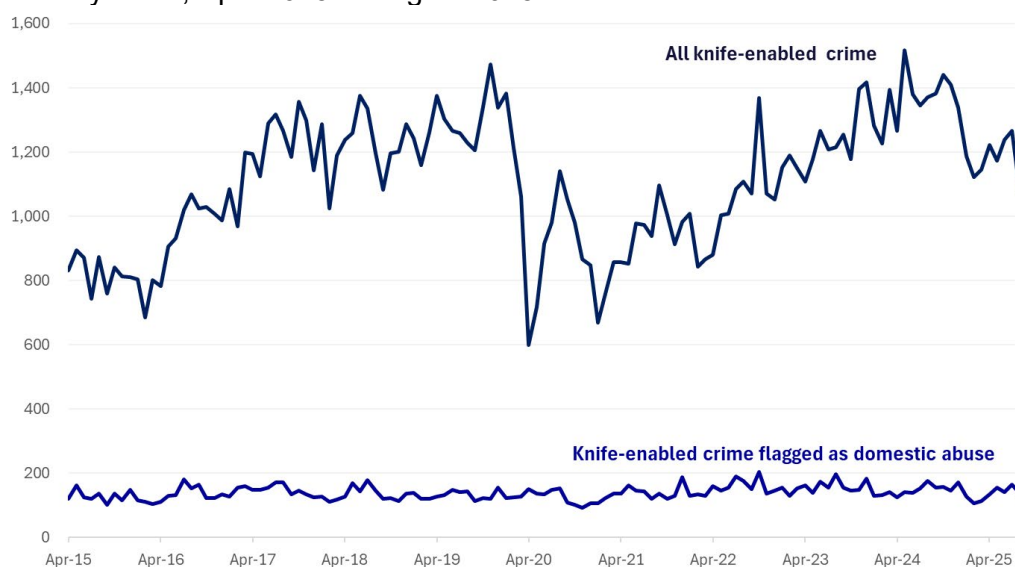
² Other knife-enabled crime offences includes homicide, attempted murder, sexual assault and rape. Individual totals for these offences are not being disclosed due to small numbers and nature of offence.

³ [Crime in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics](#)

Knife-enabled crime flagged as domestic abuse

The MPS is committed to tackling domestic abuse. To ensure it gets the focus required, crime records including knife-enabled crime are flagged to identify when they occur in a domestic abuse context. About one in eight knife-enabled crime offences are flagged as domestic abuse. The majority of knife-enabled crimes flagged as domestic abuse offences are classified as assault with injury (69% in 2025), with threats to kill also making up a substantial proportion of reported offences (32% in 2025). The total knife-enabled crime offences flagged as domestic abuse have remained relatively constant over time, including through COVID lockdown periods, see Figure 6.

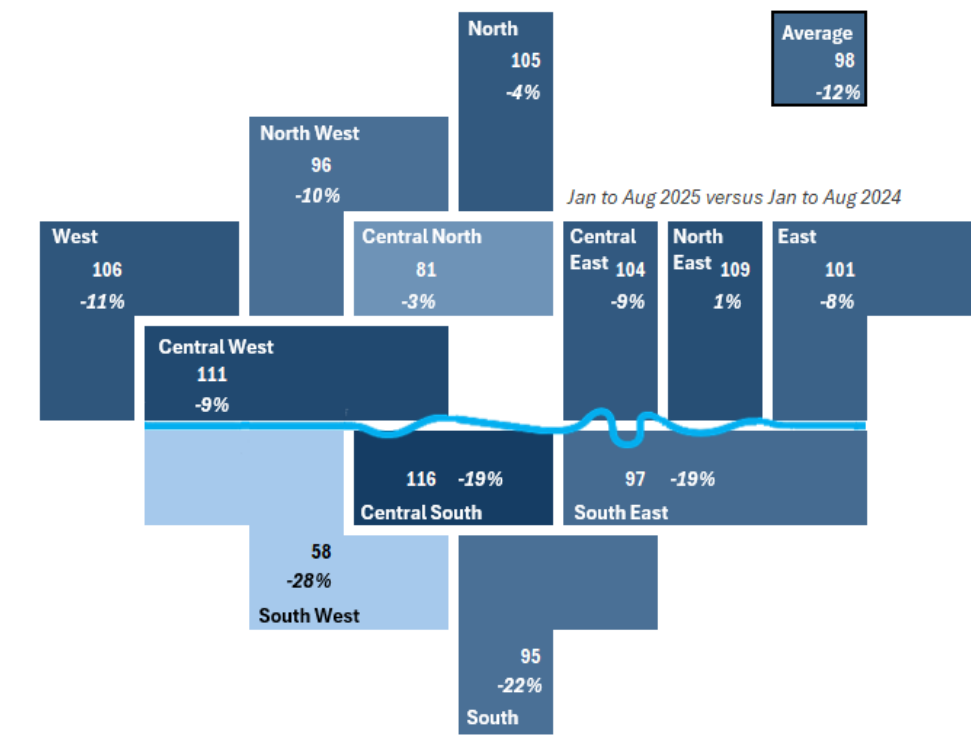
Figure 6: Knife-enabled crime flagged as domestic abuse remains at consistent levels over time
Metropolitan Police Force Area, knife-enabled crime recorded on crime reporting system
Monthly totals, April 2015 to August 2025



Offences by area of London

A summary of average monthly offences in 2025 by Basic Command Unit (BCU; London is divided into 12 BCU policing areas) is shown in Figure 7, which shows a simplified map of London based on the location of London Boroughs that form BCUs.⁴ Figure 7 also shows the percentage change between monthly offences in the same period from 2024. This figure demonstrates that the drop in offences in 2025 is driven by changes across all of London; only one area shows a small increase of 1% (North East BCU), which is a change of one and a half additional offences per month on average. Although Central South area has the most recorded offences per month in the first eight months of 2025, this is 19% lower than the same period in 2024. Breakdowns by borough, including by use of sharp instrument and offence type, are available in our accompanying tables.

Figure 7: Knife-enabled crime in 2025 has dropped in all but one policing area in London
Metropolitan Police Force Area, knife-enabled crime recorded on crime reporting system, where darker blue indicates higher numbers of offences
Monthly average for January to August 2025, with percentage change versus monthly average from January to August 2024 also shown



⁴ Cartogram adapted from the Greater London Authority Mapping Templates available at [Excel Mapping Template for London Boroughs and Wards - London Datastore](#)

Outcomes

Outcomes for offences are recorded according to Home Office Counting Rules. This report and accompanying tables includes a total for 'positive outcomes'. Positive outcomes are either a sanctioned detection outcome (e.g., a formal caution, charge or conviction) or a restorative justice outcome, such as community resolution (see Methodology section for more details).

Each month, the MPS records outcomes against knife-enabled crime offences. The time to reach positive outcomes will vary due to a number of factors, including the complexity of investigations. Our accompanying tables (Tables 5 and 6) group outcomes by the month they were reported, to give a measure of ongoing activity.

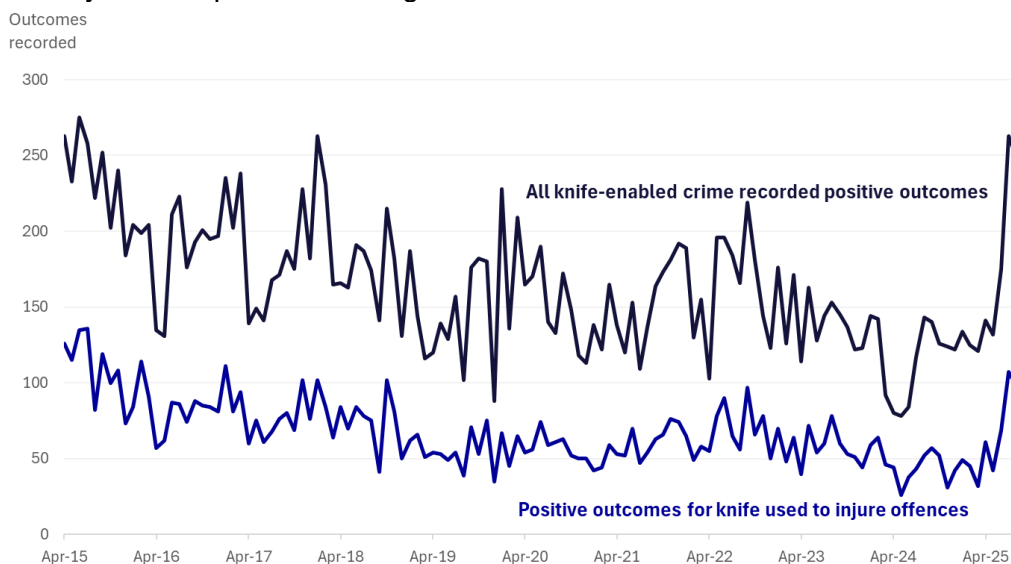
Figure 8 shows the raw values of total outcomes recorded over time for the last ten years. The notable drop in spring 2024 to the total outcomes recorded coincides with the introduction of a new crime recording system which had short term impacts which stabilised by summer 2024 and has sharply increase in summer 2025. Of the positive outcomes recorded, 38% in 2025 relate to knife-enabled crime offences where injury occurred. This indicates a focus towards offences where an injury occurred: while about one in four knife-enabled crimes involve an injury, one in every two and half outcomes relate to those offences.

While positive outcome rates are relatively stable, this is occurring in the context of reduced offence totals. In practice, this means that positive outcomes as a proportion of offences is increasing; i.e. policing work means that more offences are resulting in a positive outcome.

Figure 8: Recorded positive outcomes remain relatively stable with about two in four recorded outcomes for knife-enabled crime with injury offences, with a recent rise in Summer 2025

Metropolitan Police Force Area, knife-enabled crime recorded on crime reporting system

Monthly totals, April 2015 to August 2025

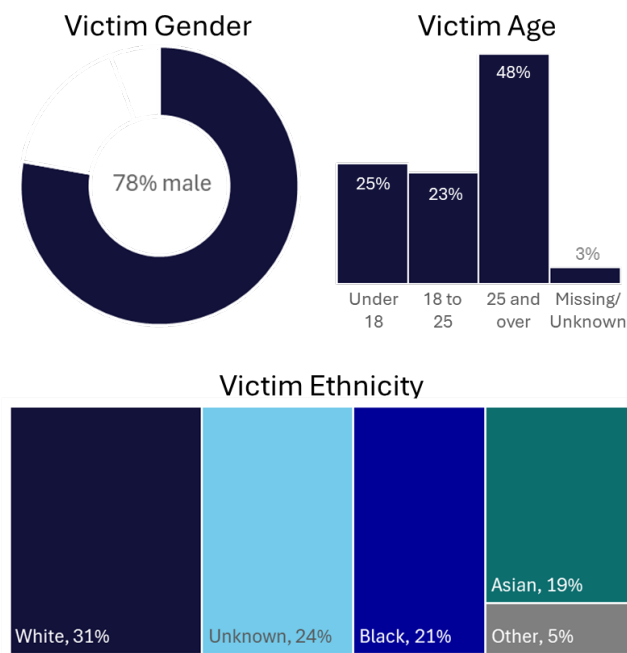


Victims

Recent data on knife-enabled crime victims from across 2024 and 2025 shows that they are predominantly male and about half are under 25 (see Figure 9). Census data indicates that 30% of the London population in 2021 was under 25,⁵ but across 2024 and 2025, 49% of knife-enabled crime victims were in that age range. Data on victim ethnicity is reported based on officer defined ethnic appearance since that is available for a greater proportion of victims, noting an ambition to use self-defined ethnicity in the future. This is therefore limited to identity code (IC) descriptions⁶. A summary is shown in Figure 9 with breakdowns by gender, age and ethnicity in Table 7 of the accompanying tables.

Figure 9: Demographic data for knife-enabled crime victims shows that they are largely men, with about half aged under 25, with a range of ethnicities reported

Metropolitan Police Force Area, knife-enabled crime recorded on crime reporting system
Aggregated data from January to August 2025



⁵ [Nomis - 2021 Census Area Profile - London Region](#)

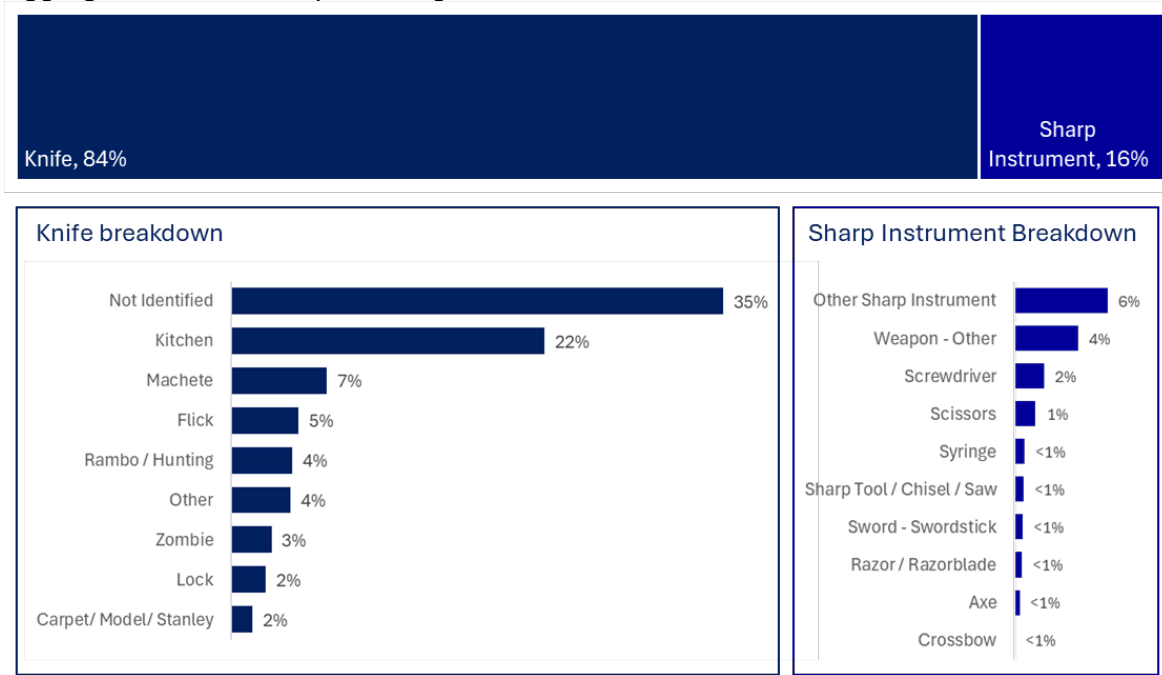
⁶ To try to align police IC codes with self-defined ethnicity categories and those used widely by the ONS such as in the census, IC codes have been grouped as follows for the purposes of Figure 9 (the full IC code breakdown is in Table 7 in accompanying tables): IC4- Asian and IC5 – Japanese, Chinese, other SE Asian have been grouped as Asian. IC3 – Black has been reported as Black. IC6 – Arab is reported as Other. IC1 – White N European and IC2 – White S European are grouped as White. Unknown ethnicity is where officers/staff have been unable to establish the ethnic appearance of a victim, or if a victim's ethnic appearance does not fall into one of the established categories.

Weapon Used

Data to identify the types of weapons used in knife-enabled crime is presented in our accompanying tables from April 2025 onwards. The way in which weapons are recorded in the crime recording database was updated from this time, previous data categories are not consistent. Note that more than one type of knife or sharp instrument can be recorded for the same offence and weapons may not be identified where they are not recovered or seen. This information shows that 84% of weapons identified are knives, where kitchen knives are the most commonly identified, although in many cases the type of knife cannot be identified. Many knives are not identified, as expected for those not recovered or seen, but where they are, the largest category is kitchen knives (see Figure 10). Items such as crossbows and axes are very infrequently seen (e.g. one crossbow has been identified between April and August 2025). Other less frequently identified weapons such as syringes, swords or screwdrivers are recorded separately in our accompanying tables.

Figure 10: Weapons used in knife-enabled crime are mainly knives, though many are unidentified

Metropolitan Police Force Area, knife-enabled crime recorded on crime reporting system, reported as percentage of all knives and sharp instruments
Aggregated data from April to August 2025



What is the MPS doing about knife-enabled crime?

Tackling violence remains a top priority for the Met as part of our New Met for London plan.⁷

We remain focused on community policing, which is often inextricably linked to knife-enabled crime, exploitation, anti-social behaviour and wider violent crime. Our data-led policing enables officers to identify those who pose the most harm and subsequently remove them from London's streets, making the capital safer.

The Met draws on crime reports, demographic data and intelligence to understand and respond to knife-enabled crime, as well as analyse the seriousness of an offence. These insights offer the tools to classify potential offenders which can directly inform operational activity. This allows the Met to focus resource on the highest threat individuals, develop targeted enforcement plans and co-ordinate crime prevention with partners to reduce violence and protect communities.

Given that knife-enabled robbery drives the majority of knife-enabled crime, the force has specific operations dedicated to prevention, such as one targeting offenders who carry out robberies on school pupils. Officers use performance data to identify peak times and locations of offences, and puts prevention and disruption activities in place to combat criminality – in this case, predominantly in transport hubs.

We work in partnership with the CPS to secure charges for offenders, with aims to reduce timings from arrest to trial and the potential for reoffending while on bail, as well as facilitating swift proportionate sentencings.

The Met's crackdown on violent crime is working – we have already seen some success, with knife-enabled crime falling, as indicated in this report, and the number of knife-enabled robberies reducing. Murder has reduced and continues to fall. In a challenging environment the Met is showing what can be done to tackle crime and rebuild trust.

Thanks to our outstanding officers, we're making over a thousand more arrests each month, seeing fewer injuries resulting from violence than in any big city in this country and more knives taken off our streets. Crucially, we're doing more to divert young people away from crime and help them get the support they need to have a better chance in life.

Reducing knife-enabled crime requires the collective effort of policing, local partners, charities and our communities. Here are a few of the initiatives whose support is not only essential but something we value incredibly:

- Precision Crime Fighting meetings

⁷ [A New Met for London: Phase Two | Metropolitan Police](#)

- Community Safety Partnerships
- Multi-agency partnership meetings, including multi-agency child exploitation meetings
- National Knife Crime Working Group led by NPCC
- Violence Reduction Unit, who work to the Mayor of London and work closely with MOPAC
- Ben Kinsella Trust

Methodology

The offences included in this reporting are based on the Home Office requirements for their Annual Data Return (ADR160) shown in Table 1 below. Some offences where a knife is involved are not included in this selected list (e.g. possession of article with blade or point or assault without injury). It is therefore a selected subset of serious violent offences which are most likely to involve the use of knives or sharp instruments, rather than being a full capture of all offences involving knives specifically, though, for simplicity is widely described by the term 'knife crime'.

In this report and in our accompanying tables, a number of offences are grouped together as 'other' (homicide, attempted murder, sexual assault and rape). Individual totals for these offences are not being disclosed due to small numbers and nature of offence.

Table 1: "Selected Offences" included in the Home Office definition of knife-enabled crime.

Offence
Homicide (grouped together as 'other' in this report/accompanying tables)
Attempted Murder (grouped together as 'other' in this report/accompanying tables)
Sexual Assault (grouped together as 'other' in this report/accompanying tables)
Rape (grouped together as 'other' in this report/accompanying tables)
Robbery
Threats to kill
Assault with injury, racially or religiously aggravated assault with injury, assault with injury on a constable and assaults on emergency workers (other than constables)

The knife or sharp instrument must have been involved in committing an offence face-to face, meaning that remote threats such as over social media are not included, nor are threats to use a sharp instrument in the future. The collection should include offences where the weapon was used, irrespective of whether it made contact with a victim and should include threats that a victim believes to be genuine, even if the weapon itself is not seen (including for example, where a knife handle only is shown)

The MPS categorises knife-enabled crime offences as:

- Knife used to injure
- Knife used to threaten (seen)
- Knife used to threaten (not seen)

The Metropolitan Police Service reviewed their recording of offences where a knife or sharp instrument has been used from April 2024 onwards. This has shown over counting for some crime types and under counting for others. These records have been corrected which has resulted in a small overall increase in crimes that have been enabled by the use or threat of a knife or sharp instrument and a small reduction in offences resulting in an injury. Data may therefore not match earlier publications. Previous years' data has not been revised therefore corrected data is not directly comparable with previous years, however the differences were small enough to present time series data within this report with confidence.

The definition covers knives and a range of potential sharp weapons and the Home Office provides a full list of what weapons should definitely be included, such as screwdrivers, scissors and saws. Broken bottles, glass and cutlery are specifically excluded. An exhaustive use of weapons is not possible and therefore Police Forces will need to apply judgement in some cases.

Examples of offences counted as knife-enabled crime are:

- Knife threatened as part of robbery but was not seen or used in any way (Knife Enabled Robbery (KER))
- Shoplifter is challenged & threatens they have a knife & will use it but a knife is not seen or used in anyway (Business KER)
- Suspects enter store, makes stab motion at staff (no knife seen) & steal two laptops (Business KER)

Changes to the methodology of the knife-enabled crime data collection by the Home Office are summarised in ONS publications, notably the addition of the National Data Quality Improvement Service (NDQIS) process from 2019 to improve data quality.⁸ NDQIS is a classification tool designed to improve the data quality of knife-enabled crime reporting to the Home Office. This looks at records held by police forces, including reviewing free text fields, to help determine whether an offence did or did not involve a knife or sharp instrument. Forces complete this process in the first two weeks of each month, which is why this report and tables will only be updated in the second half of the month, after NDQIS has completed.

The data source used for this report is the Metropolitan Police's crime recording database, which in February 2024 changed from a system called CRIS to a system called CONNECT. The change of recording system has consolidated several previous systems into one integrated platform. With this change, there have been some slight modifications in the recording of some specific crime categories relevant to this report such as domestic abuse. This means that counting methodologies have changed and comparisons between data from CONNECT to CRIS data should be made with caution. Although the data for knife-enabled crime has been collected by the Home Office since April 2008, there have been some changes to the offences covered by the Home Office Counting rules since the data request was started.⁹ In the data reported here, the latest definition has been applied to all current and historic data, so that the trends over time are not driven by changes to the main definition. This may differ from knife-enabled crime reporting in other places.

The MPS categorises knife-enabled crime offences as:

- Knife used to injure
- Knife used to threaten (seen)
- Knife used to threaten (not seen)

Outcomes to crime are recorded based on Home Office Counting Rules in line with the Crime Outcomes Framework. There are currently 22 categories for outcomes. Positive outcomes are either a sanctioned detection outcome (e.g., a formal caution, charge or conviction) or a restorative justice

⁸ [Police recorded offences involving knives or sharp instruments: methodology changes - Office for National Statistics](#)

⁹ See this user guide for more detailed discussion of methodology changes: [User guide to crime statistics for England and Wales: March 2025 - Office for National Statistics](#)

outcome, such as community resolution. This is therefore a useful way to assess the festiveness of police activity and the justice system. The Home Office publishes statistics on crime outcomes with full methodological details.¹⁰ The outcomes that are recorded as positive are codes 1 to 4 and 6 to 8 (Table 2 provides a summary of the positive outcomes included, taken from a summary in the latest Home Office Crime Outcomes statistical report).¹¹

Table 2: Outcome codes counted as “positive outcomes”

Full details in Home Office Crime Recording Rules¹²

Outcome Group	Outcome Codes
Charged/summonsed	1
of which the outcome relates to an alternative offence to that recorded (from April 2016)	1a
Taken into consideration	4
Out-of-court (formal)	2, 3, 6
of which the outcome relates to an alternative offence to that recorded (from April 2016)	2a, 3a
Out-of-court (informal)	7, 8

¹⁰ [Crime outcomes in England and Wales statistics - GOV.UK](#)

¹¹ [Crime outcomes in England and Wales 2024 to 2025 - GOV.UK](#)

¹² [Home Office Crime Recording Rules for frontline officers and staff - GOV.UK](#)