Understanding violent crime: overview and trends

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Overview

• Violent crime – long term trends
• Knife and gun crime – recent trends
• Patterns across England and Wales
• Implications
Violent crime covers wide spectrum

1.2 million Violence against the person offences were recorded by police in year ending June 2017

700 homicides
(22,000 knife offences)
481,000 assaults with injury
243,000 stalking and harassment offences
504,000 assaults without injury

Number of offences (thousands)

Year ending December

Year ending March

Number of offences (thousands)

- Police recorded violent crime - old counting rules
- Police recorded violent crime - new counting rules
- Police recorded violent crime - post NCRS
- CSEW violence

Year ending December


Year ending March

Number of offences (thousands)
Violent crime recorded by police has jumped by a quarter, with huge rises seen in offences involving guns and knives, statistics reveal today.
Increases in serious violence

Offences involving a knife – up by 26% in year ending June 2017 (to almost 40,000)

Offences involving guns – up by 27% (to around 6,700)

Possession offences and hospital admissions also rising
Offences involving a knife 2009 - 2017

- Geographic variation.
- Metropolitan forces, (knives, guns)

YE March 2009 - YE March 2017

Metropolitan forces
England and Wales
Offences involving firearms, 2003 - 2017

The chart shows the number of firearm offences from 2003 to 2017. There is a downward trend in the number of offences over the years, with a slight increase in 2016 and 2017.
What is the nature of these offences?

- Crime survey provides a good general picture
  Just over 1/3 of incidents are stranger violence
  Most victims and offenders are young men
  Alcohol is often a factor
  Around half of incidents get reported to the police

- Developing a detailed picture is challenging.
- Continuously evolving picture – new methods and motivations.
- Local data and intelligence are key
Analysis of local intelligence

MOPAC – Gangs Dashboard
Implications and challenges for policing

• Complex crime problems to police
  Serious crime – resource intensive
  Offender s/ victims often presenting a complex set of needs
  Victims may sometimes be offenders too?
  Multiple interventions

• Implications of change in ‘crime profile’ for policing; are traditional crime prevention theories now less relevant and effective?
Summary

• We live in a less violent society compared with two decades ago.
• Violence crime as a whole has been falling, but substantial evidence that some types of more serious violence involving weapons have been rising.
• Increases have been focused in more urban police force areas, but not confined to these.
• There is more to do to understand the nature of these serious offences.
• Serious and complex crimes likely to have implication for policing and community safety.