

UK Crime Statistics Report

Special Focus: Sexual Offences & Knife-Enabled Crime (2023–2025)

This report provides a consolidated overview of crime statistics across the United Kingdom, focusing specifically on the period between 2023 and 2025. Data is primarily sourced from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and police recorded figures.

1. Sexual Assault and Rape

Data for sexual offences is drawn from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) and Police Recorded Crime. While recorded figures show a sharp rise, survey data suggests a more stable, yet historically high, prevalence.

Category	YE March 2023	YE March 2024	YE March 2025
Police Recorded Sexual Offences	193,566	188,644	209,079
Police Recorded Rape	~68,000	71,227	~71,000
Estimated Victims (Survey)	~900,000	~900,000	~900,000

Analysis of Trends

- Legislative Impact:** The **11%** increase in 2025 was heavily influenced by the **Online Safety Act 2023**. New offences like "flashing" accounted for roughly 13,000 cases.
- The Reporting Gap:** Survey data estimates that **1.9%** of adults (approx. 900,000 people) experienced sexual assault in the last year, many of which are never reported.
- Conviction Rates:** In Scotland, sexual crime convictions rose by **12%** between 2023 and 2024, with rape convictions reaching an all-time high of 221.

2. Knife-Enabled Crime (Stabbings)

This category includes any crime where a knife or sharp instrument was used to threaten or injure. After a peak in 2024, recent figures indicate a downward trend.

Category	YE Sept 2023	YE Sept 2024	YE Sept 2025
Total Knife Offences	48,716	55,149	50,430
Knife-Related Homicides	~240	262	~240

Analysis of Trends

- **Recent Decline:** There was a **9%** decrease in knife-enabled crime in the year ending September 2025.
- **Youth Violence:** Hospital admissions for "assault by sharp object" among children under 18 rose by **9%** during the 2024 reporting cycle.
- **Regional Focus (London):** Roughly **60%** of these offences involve robbery, while actual injury occurs in approximately 1 in 4 cases.

3. Summary & Conclusion

The data suggests a divergence in crime paths. Sexual offences are being recorded at record levels, partly due to increased victim confidence and expanded legal definitions. Conversely, Knife crime appears to be stabilising or falling slightly after a volatile period between 2023 and 2024.

While volume may be decreasing in some areas, the lethality remains high; in 2024, nearly **80%** of teenage homicides involved a knife, indicating that street violence remains a primary challenge for UK policing.