

# Knife Crime Report



Produced by  
TP Strategic analysis Unit

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## **Knife Crime Offences**

This report aims to give an over view of the current situation involving knife crime with in the MPS.

### **Units covered**

This report only looks at knife Crime investigated by TP investigating units. It doesn't included SCD or CPT offences, SCD are looking at these and their section will be report will be added to this one.

### **Offences included**

Knife crime consists of all offences involving a knife except Possession of Offensive Weapon. Possession of Offensive Weapon is looked at separately.

### **Definition**

Knife crime offences are counted as all those offences on CRIS with a BS feature code.

### **Dates**

The feature code for Knife wasn't introduced until June 01, so to give us 3 comparable sets of data the following time periods will be use through out this report. June 01 to March 02 (referred to as two years ago), June 02 to March 03 (last year) and June 03 to March 04 (this year).

### **Further Analysis**

Further analysis is needed in a lot of areas and this has been noted in the relevant sections of the report. In all sections of the report more analysis is needed by borough, this will need to be done in conjunction with boroughs. More analysis also needs to be done to look at the relationship between stop & search and persons accused of possession of offensive weapon.

### **Mapping**

At present it is not possible to gain remote access to accurately geo coded data for all boroughs as this information is not kept in a central store. Because of this mapping of knife crime has not been possible within this report, it is hoped that at a later date this will be available and maps can be added.

## **OFFENCES**

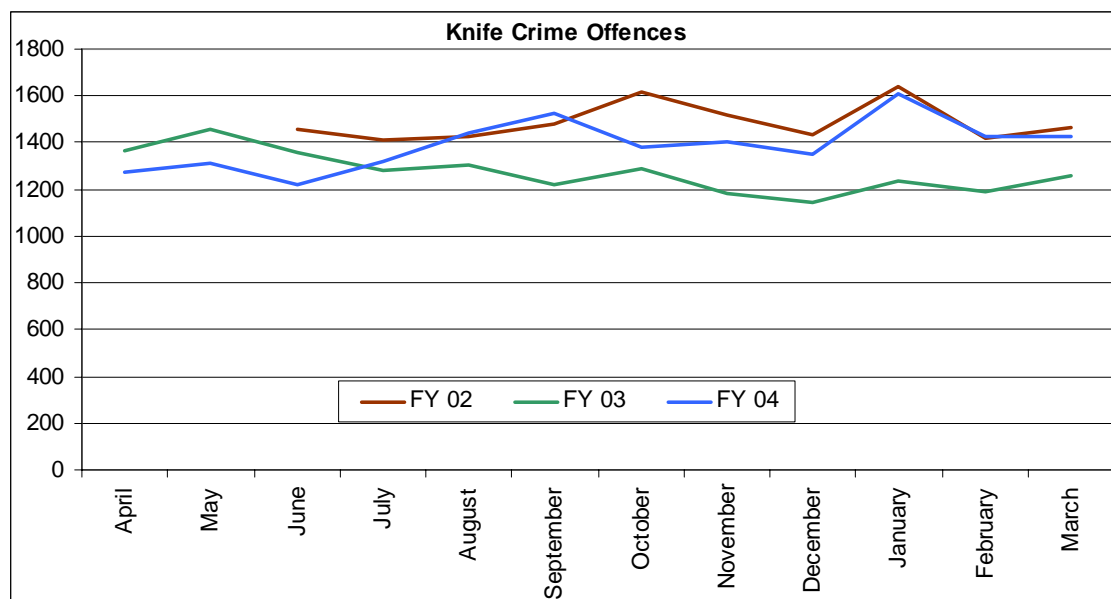
### **Offences headlines**

Offences involving a knife for FY 04 are up 9.3% on FY 03.

#### Offence table

	Jun 01 to Mar 02	Jun 02 to Mar 03	Jun 03 to Mar 04	% change Jun 03-Mar 04 V Jun 01-Mar 02	% change Jun 03-Mar 04 V Jun 02-Mar 03
Knife Offences	14881	12454	14110	-5.2%	13.3%

Knife crime as a percentage of TNO was 1.6% in Jun 03-Mar 04, a slight increase from last year but is down against two years ago when knife crime represented 1.7% of TNO.



From June 02 (the first month we have data comparable to the previous year) each month shows a decrease against the previous year. This continues until June 03. In July and August 03 Knife crime increases and by August 03 we are back to the levels of 2001. In Jan 04 there were 1611 offences up the highest since Jan 02.

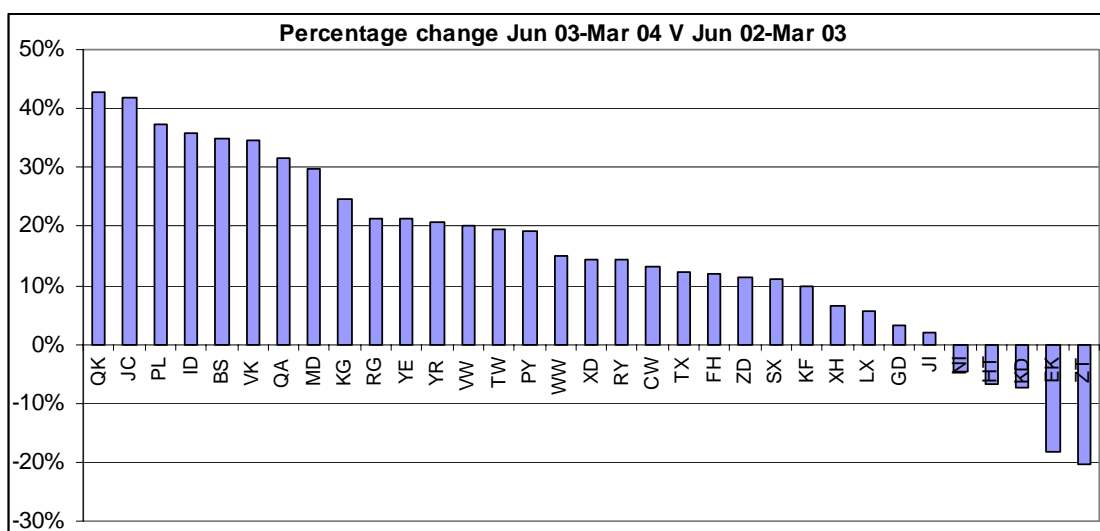
## Boroughs

For Jun 03 to Mar 04, 10 boroughs contribute 50% of knife crime (see contribution table). In previous years Camden and Islington were in the top 10 contributors both have seen large decrease in the number of offences. Of the top 10 contributing boroughs Tower Hamlets is the only one showing a decrease (7%) against last year (see chart on next page).

Borough contribution table June 03– March 04

Borough	Offences	Contribution	Cumulative contribution
Lambeth	897	6.4%	6.4%
Hackney	841	6.0%	12.3%
Southwark	822	5.8%	18.1%
Newham	784	5.6%	23.7%
Haringey	681	4.8%	28.5%
Tower Hamlets	648	4.6%	33.1%
Brent	639	4.5%	37.6%
Lewisham	581	4.1%	41.8%
Waltham Forest	577	4.1%	45.9%
Croydon	554	3.9%	49.8%
Ealing	484	3.4%	53.2%
Westminster	479	3.4%	56.6%
Islington	478	3.4%	60.0%
Enfield	474	3.4%	63.4%
Greenwich	465	3.3%	66.6%
Camden	450	3.2%	69.8%
Hounslow	419	3.0%	72.8%
Wandsworth	387	2.7%	75.5%
Barking & Dagenham	381	2.7%	78.2%
Barnet	353	2.5%	80.8%
Hammersmith & Fulham	336	2.4%	83.1%
Bromley & Orpington	315	2.2%	85.4%
Redbridge	313	2.2%	87.6%
Havering	240	1.7%	89.3%
Kensington & Chelsea	236	1.7%	91.0%
Merton	221	1.6%	92.5%
Harrow	212	1.5%	94.0%
Hillingdon	193	1.4%	95.4%
Bexley	159	1.1%	96.5%
Kingston Upon Thames	144	1.0%	97.5%
Heathrow	125	0.9%	98.4%
Richmond Upon Thames	116	0.8%	99.2%
Sutton	106	0.8%	100.0%
<b>MPS</b>	<b>14110</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

## Changes by borough



15 of the boroughs showing an increase against last year also show an increase against two years ago. All boroughs with a decrease against last year also show a decrease against two years ago.

### Emerging Boroughs

Seven boroughs have seen an increase of over 10% against both previous years, Kensington & Chelsea, Kingston, Barking & Dagenham, Greenwich, Enfield, Bromley and Hounslow. Although these boroughs are not high contributors all their contributions have increased over the 3 years and Enfield, Greenwich and Hounslow now contribute over 3% of MPS knife crime. Kingston's figures are very low but they are included due to the high increases they have seen

Borough	Jun 01 to Mar 02	Jun 02 to Mar 03	Jun 03 to Mar 04	% change Jun 03-Mar 04 V Jun 01-Mar 02	% change Jun 03-Mar 04 V Jun 02-Mar 03
BS	182	175	236	30%	35%
TX	329	373	419	27%	12%
PY	264	264	315	19%	19%
RG	392	383	465	19%	21%
VK	124	107	144	16%	35%
KG	338	306	381	13%	25%
YE	425	391	474	12%	21%

The table on the following page shows the emerging boroughs by crime category showing the categories where increases have occurred since. Further Analysis and contact with the boroughs is needed to establish the reasons for these increases.

Emerging borough by crime category

Category	BS		KG		PY	
	Jun 03 - Mar 04	% Change against Jun 01 - Mar 02	Jun 03 - Mar 04	% Change against Jun 01 - Mar 02	Jun 03 - Mar 04	% Change against Jun 01 - Mar 02
Violence Against the Person	65	59%	161	22%	119	42%
Sexual Offences	1	-50%	5	0%	2	0%
Robbery	88	4%	144	4%	107	-6%
Burglary	15	-6%	15	7%	14	-18%
Theft and Handling	22	0%	8	-62%	24	41%
Fraud or Forgery	3	N/A	0	N/A	2	N/A
Criminal Damage	14	133%	16	45%	28	47%
Drugs	5	400%	6	100%	5	67%
Other Notifiable Offences	23	156%	26	100%	14	75%
<b>TNO</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>19%</b>

Category	TX		VK		YE	
	Jun 03 - Mar 04	% Change against Jun 01 - Mar 02	Jun 03 - Mar 04	% Change against Jun 01 - Mar 02	Jun 03 - Mar 04	% Change against Jun 01 - Mar 02
Violence Against the Person	197	46%	61	30%	135	-4%
Sexual Offences	2	0%	1	-50%	4	33%
Robbery	103	-26%	36	-12%	241	22%
Burglary	25	150%	3	-50%	20	25%
Theft and Handling	15	67%	8	-27%	23	-26%
Fraud or Forgery	1	N/A	0	N/A	2	N/A
Criminal Damage	46	171%	21	320%	32	129%
Drugs	5	0%	1	0%	4	100%
Other Notifiable Offences	25	108%	13	18%	13	-41%
<b>TNO</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>12%</b>

Category	RG		MPS	
	Jun 03 - Mar 04	% Change against Jun 01 - Mar 02	Jun 03 - Mar 04	% Change against Jun 01 - Mar 02
Violence Against the Person	206	8%	5050	13%
Sexual Offences	7	17%	149	10%
Robbery	164	52%	5683	-24%
Burglary	18	-10%	665	-4%
Theft and Handling	23	15%	715	3%
Fraud or Forgery	0	N/A	31	7%
Criminal Damage	26	24%	830	43%
Drugs	4	0%	220	49%
Other Notifiable Offences	17	-19%	767	13%
<b>TNO</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>14110</b>	<b>-5%</b>

## Offence types

Offence Table for June 03 to March 04

Major category	Offences	Contribution	as a percentage of total offences	Change against Jun 01-Mar 02
Violence Against the Person	5050	36%	4%	13%
Sexual Offences	149	1%	2%	10%
Robbery	5683	40%	17%	-24%
Burglary	665	5%	1%	-4%
Theft and Handling	715	5%	0%	3%
Fraud or Forgery	31	0%	0%	7%
Criminal Damage	830	6%	1%	43%
Drugs	220	2%	1%	49%
Other Notifiable Offences	767	5%	8%	13%
TNO	14110	100%	2%	-5%

Boroughs with high percentages of knife crime being VAP tend towards lower levels of Robbery. Hounslow has the highest proportion of VAP Offences and the lowest proportion of Robberies in the MPS. Hillingdon, Greenwich and Kingston also have high rates of VAP and low rates of robbery. By contrast Enfield has the highest robbery rate and one of the lowest VAP rates.

### Robbery

In Jun 03 to Mar 04 40% (5683) of all knife offences were Robberies, this is down from 44% last year and 50% two years ago. Robberies involving a knife have decreased by 24% against 2 years ago. However Robbery involving a knife as a percentage of all Robbery has remained consistent and is currently at 17%, this means the reduction in knife Robberies can be accounted for by the reduction in total Robbery. At borough level the percentage total Robbery involving a knife range from 12% (Sutton and Wandsworth) to 24% (Enfield).

### Violence against the Person

Violence Against the Person accounts for 36% of all knife crime with ABH, GBH and Common Assault all having over 1000 knife offences in Jun 03 to Mar 04. Violence Against the Person has increased by 13% against two years ago, during this time GBH has seen a slight decrease whilst all other categories have increased, Other Violence has seen an increase of 35% followed by ABH and Common Assault both showing an increase of 20% over two years.



## **Offence Locations**

Location codes are not 100% accurate and it is possible to enter more than one location code, therefore the following data should be treated with some caution.

46% of all knife crime occurs on the street. With a further 16% percent occurring in other public places eg shops. Looking at the two main categories of knife crime we see that 72% of Knife Robberies occur on the street and a further 10% occurred in shops or on Transport. 53% of VAP occurs in the Home with a further 32% occurring on the street this has changed from two years when 42% was in the home and 38% was on the street in Jun-Mar 02. This is not due to a decrease in offences occurring in the street but to a large increase in the Home.

The location codes show that the increase in Violence against the person offences can be accounted for by the increase in offences occurring in the home. This can not be accounted for by Domestic Violence as Domestic violence has remained constant as a percentage of Violence against the person. And the increase against last years figures is nearly all accounted for by the increase in offences in the home.

Only 4% of VAP with a knife occurs in licensed premises (inc restaurants) 4% of robbery also occurs in licensed premises. Westminster has 14% of VAP occurring in licensed premises and Barking and Dagenham is second with 10% but these figures are very low.

## **Property**

This looks at the property stolen in Knife crime Personal Robberies, it does not include Business Robberies

Between Jun 03 and Mar 04 over 24% of property stolen in Personal Robberies was mobile phones a further 22% was cash phones.

The number of mobile phones stolen in Personal Robberies for Jun 03-Mar 04 is an increase against last year but a decrease against two years ago. In previous years mobiles were stolen in 45% of robberies but between Jun 03-Mar 04 this rose to 51%. Boroughs range from 39% (Hillingdon) to 63% (Hammersmith and Fulham).

The number of Personal Robberies with cash stolen has decreased over the last 2 years but cash continues to be stolen in 45% of Personal Robberies. Boroughs range from 27% (Bromley) to 59% (Camden), with the majority falling between 40% and 50%.

None of the property types where over 100 items have been stolen this year have increased in the last 2 years.

## Domestic

Domestic Knife crime has seen a 22% increase against both last year and a 23% increase against two years ago.

Jun 03 to Mar 04 Domestic Knife crime as a percentage of all crime.

Category	All Knife Crime	DV Knife Crime	% with DV flag
Violence Against the Person	5050	1388	27%
Sexual Offences	149	28	19%
Robbery	5683	14	0%
Burglary	665	23	3%
Theft and Handling	715	8	1%
Fraud or Forgery	31	0	0%
Criminal Damage	830	162	20%
Drugs	220	0	0%
Other Notifiable Offences	767	125	16%
Grand Total	14110	1748	12%

Domestic related offences make up over 30% of the following knife offences, Other Violence, Criminal Damage To a Dwelling, Common Assault, Other Criminal Damage and ABH. By numbers ABH and Common Assault are the highest at 443 and 451.

Nearly 80% of Domestic Knife crime is violence against the person. Domestic Violence currently accounts for 27% of Violence against the Person and as a proportion of total VAP it has shown little change. Boroughs (excluding Westminster) range from 16% (Kingston) to 48% (Bexley).

A lot more analysis is needed around Domestic Violence to determine its affects on Knife and other violent crime

## Racial

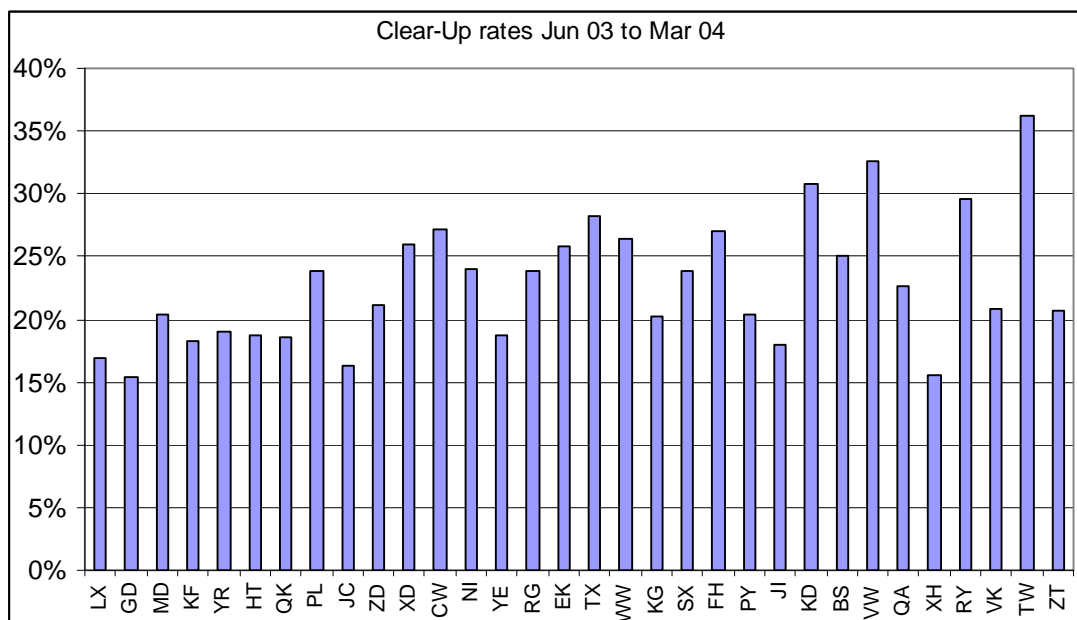
Racial knife crime has decreased by 32% against two years ago, and now represents less than 2% of Knife crime was racial. Racial VAP has decreased by 23% against the last two years and now accounts for less that 4% of VAP.

Only Tower Hamlets and Hounslow had over 20 Racially flagged offences between June 03 to March 04.

Crime type	Jun 01 to Mar 02	Jun 02 to Mar 03	Jun 03 to Mar 04
Violence Against the Person	23%	26%	26%
Sexual Offences	18%	35%	37%
Robbery	9%	13%	12%
Burglary	22%	26%	23%
Theft and Handling	19%	19%	21%
Fraud or Forgery	10%	18%	19%
Criminal Damage	20%	17%	22%
Drugs	80%	92%	86%
Other Notifiable Offences	55%	52%	53%
Grand Total	18%	21%	22%

## CLEAR-UPS

The MPS clear-up rate for knife crime has risen over the last few years and is now 22%. On average the higher volume boroughs have a lower clear-up rate. Croydon, Lewisham and Southwark are the only top ten contributing boroughs to achieve a clear-up rate of over 20%. In the chart below boroughs are arranged in order of contribution to MPS Knife crime.



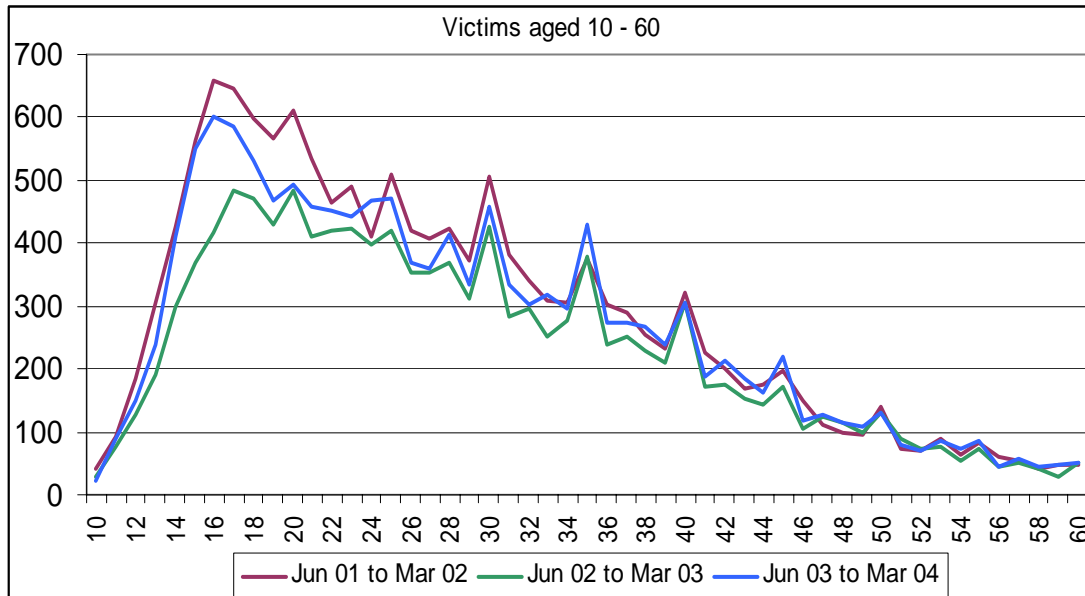
There is large variation in the Clear-up rates between the major crime categories. Robbery the most popular knife crime offence has the lowest clear-up rate.

Crime type	Jun 01 to Mar 02	Jun 02 to Mar 03	Jun 03 to Mar 04
Violence Against the Person	23%	26%	26%
Sexual Offences	18%	35%	37%
Robbery	9%	13%	12%
Burglary	22%	26%	23%
Theft and Handling	19%	19%	21%
Fraud or Forgery	10%	18%	19%
Criminal Damage	20%	17%	22%
Drugs	80%	92%	86%
Other Notifiable Offences	55%	52%	53%
Grand Total	18%	21%	22%

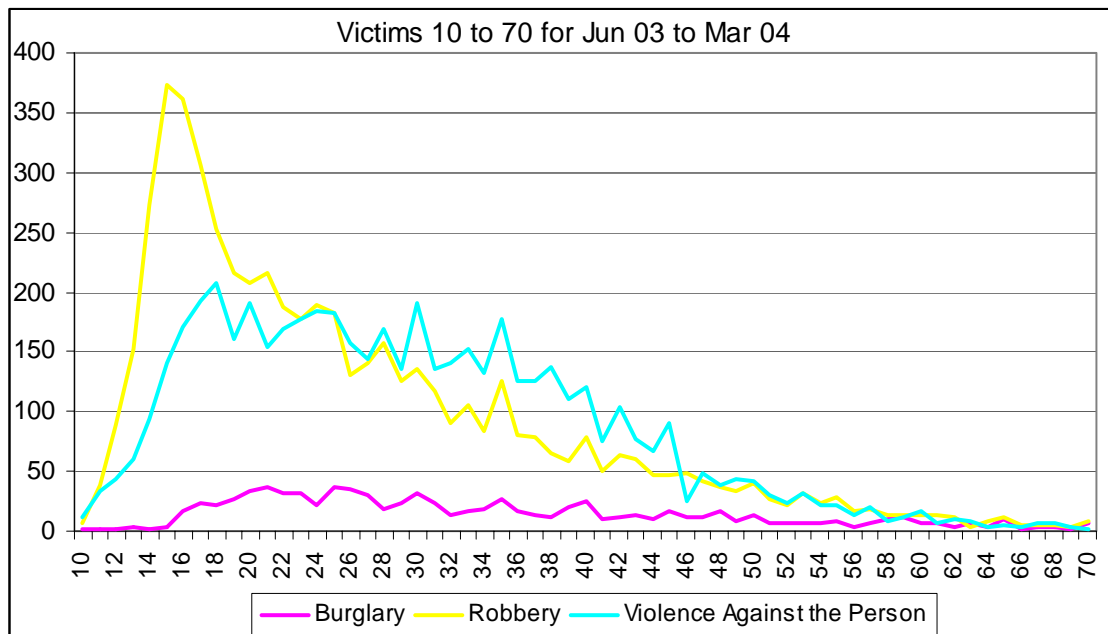
## VICTIMS

### Age

The graph below shows the age spread of victims aged 10-60, only 3.5% of victims fall outside this age range. As the chart shows the peak in victim age is 15 – 18. During Jun 03 to Mar 04 15% of victims fell into this age range. As the graph shows there has been little change in the spread of age groups for MPS knife crime victims.



If we take just the victims for Jun 03 to Mar 04 and split it into crime categories we see that it is victims of robbery that caused the large peak for 15-16 year olds. Violence Against the Person is at a fairly steady rate between the ages 15 to 35 this then steadily decreases



## Sex

The gender split of victims for Jun 03 to Mar 04 shows 68% of victims are male, 26% are female, the rest are unrecorded. This split is not consistent throughout the crime categories. Only 17% of Robbery victims are female, where as 31% of VAP victims were female. Further analysis is needed to look at how this relates to domestic violence.

## Ethnicity

The MPS ethnic mix of knife crime victims is changing the percentage of IC1 victims is decreasing in males and females. While the percentage of IC3 victims is increasing. Without further analysis it is impossible to know weather this is due to a change in victims or just a representation of the change in population.

## Highest victim group

For Jun 03 to Mar 04 10% (1546) of victims are IC1 males aged between 14 and 21.

## Injury

For Jun 03 to Mar 04 61% of all victims received threats only or no injury, this is a slight decrease on pervious years. Minor injury has increased and now accounts for accounts for over 20% of all victim injury. During this period 9% of males received serious injury as opposed to only 4% of females.

Taking the top two categories we can see that the type of injury changes between the two groups and the severity of injury is greater within Violence Against the Person. Robbery is closer to the total Knife Crime injury profile.

Injury Degree	Total	Violence Against the Person	Robbery
Fatal	0%	1%	0%
Serious	7%	16%	2%
Moderate	11%	22%	5%
Minor	20%	26%	20%
No Injury	48%	25%	56%
Threats Only	13%	11%	17%

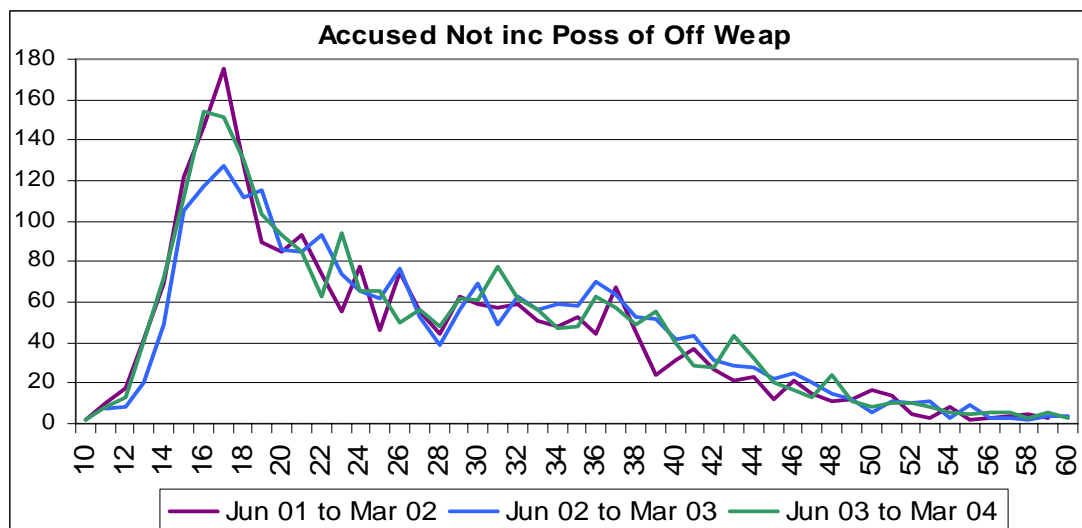
Further analysis is needed to look at the affect of age and injury. Further analysis will also be done on the times of day and whether this changes with age and IC etc.

**PERSONS ACCUSED** (not possession of offensive weapon)

The number of persons accused for Jun 03 to Mar 04 is up 6% against two years ago and is now 2416.

**Age**

The graph below shows the age spread of persons accused aged 10-60, less than 2% of persons Accused are outside this age range. The peak ages for persons accused are 16 and 17. As the graph shows there has been little change in the spread of age for persons accused of knife crime.



**Sex**

The sex of persons accused has hardly changed with females now accounting for 9% of persons accused this is down from 10.5% 2 years ago.

**Ethnicity**

The ethnicity of all persons accused has changed slightly with an increase in IC4's who represented 10% of persons accused during Jun 03 to March 04.

**Highest Accused Group**

For Jun 03 to Mar 04 12% of all persons accused were IC3s aged 15 to 18.

Persons accused by age group and crime type June 03 – March 04

Age Group	Violence Against the Person	Sexual Offences	Robbery	Burglary	Theft and Handling	Fraud or Forgery	Criminal Damage	Drugs	Other Notifiable Offences	TNO
under 10	3	0	2	0	0	0	2	1	3	11
10 to 13	11	1	35	2	6	0	2	0	7	64
14 to 17	119	8	237	23	19	1	17	26	39	489
18 to 21	122	9	134	22	11	1	17	42	53	411
22 to 25	109	5	53	16	22	0	16	26	42	289
26 to 29	72	6	50	21	16	0	14	16	21	216
30 to 34	120	3	73	29	14	2	8	22	33	304
35 to 39	124	5	31	20	25	2	16	13	36	272
40 to 44	99	0	10	9	10	1	11	6	26	172
45 to 49	55	0	4	3	2	0	5	5	11	85
50 to 59	39	0	2	4	4	0	3	2	14	68
60 Plus	21	1	2	1	1	0	1	1	7	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>894</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>2416</b>

This table shows that as with victims persons accused of Robbery tend to be of a young age and persons accused of Violence Against the Person are more evenly spread through out the age groups 14 to 44.

## **SUSPECT AND ACCUSED**

When we look at suspects against persons accused there are clear differences in the profile of the two. The profile of suspects does not match that of the persons accused. In both the tables below unknowns have been omitted so the suspect profile doesn't add up to 100%.

### **Age**

The suspect and accused age profile shown below is interesting as it shows that suspects are on average described as younger than persons accused.

Age Group	Suspects	Accused
10 to 13	1%	3%
14 to 17	21%	20%
18 to 21	26%	17%
22 to 25	15%	12%
26 to 29	6%	9%
30 to 34	8%	13%
35 to 39	6%	11%
40 to 44	3%	7%
45 to 49	2%	4%
50 to 59	1%	3%
60 to 69	0%	1%
70 plus	0%	0%

### **Ethnicity**

The IC mix of suspects shows a very different profile to that of persons accused. As shown in the table below for Jun 03 to March 04. The reason for this is not known.

IC Code	Suspects	Accused
1	29%	43%
2	4%	4%
3	52%	40%
4	8%	10%
5	1%	1%
6	1%	1%

### **Highest Suspect Group**

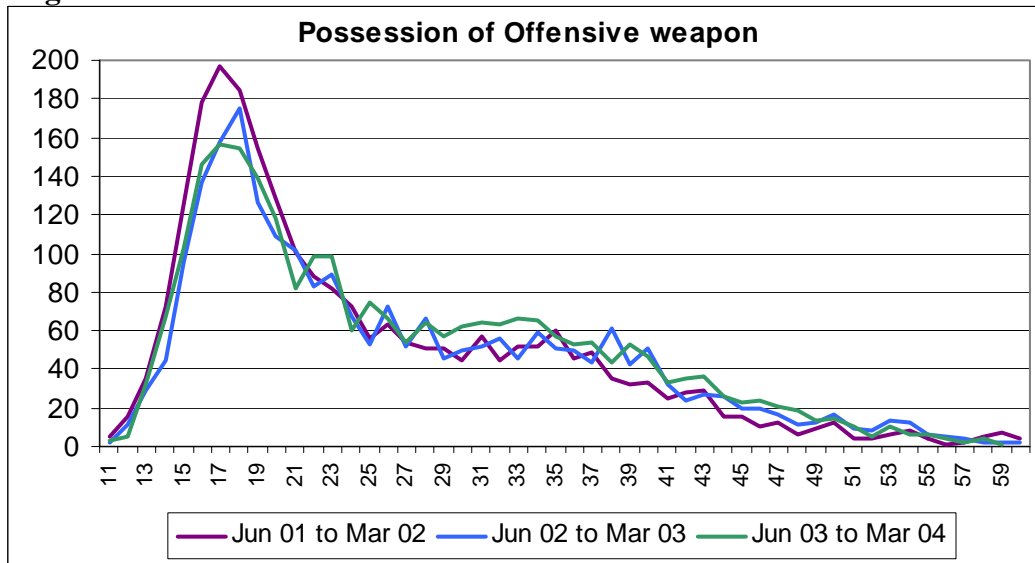
When looking at Age, Sex and IC together we see that 25% of all knife crime suspects are IC3 Males age 14-21, but this group only represent 17% of persons accused.

Further analysis is needed to determine the reasons for these differences.

## **PERSONS ACCUSED OF POSSESSION OF OFFENSIVE WEAPON**

This category has been omitted from all previous sections of the report as it is considered to be proactive.

### **Age**



The age profile of person accused of possession of offensive weapon has changed. Persons accused are becoming older 14 to 17 and 18 to 21 are still the largest age groups but now represent 38% of persons accused as opposed to 47% two years ago.

Age Group	Number of Accused		Contribution to total	
	Jun 01 to Mar 02	Jun 03 to Mar 04	Jun 01 to Mar 02	Jun 03 to Mar 04
under 10	0	11	0%	0%
10 to 13	56	40	2%	2%
14 to 17	573	472	23%	19%
18 to 21	567	493	23%	20%
22 to 25	299	331	12%	13%
26 to 29	219	241	9%	10%
30 to 34	251	320	10%	13%
35 to 39	222	261	9%	10%
40 to 44	131	177	5%	7%
45 to 49	53	100	2%	4%
50 to 59	53	62	2%	2%
60 to 69	14	9	1%	0%
70 plus	8	4	0%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2446</b>	<b>2521</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **Sex**

The Sex of persons accused has shown little change over the last two years. 93% of persons accused of possession of offensive weapon for Jun 03 – Mar 04 are male.

### **Ethnicity**

The ethnicity and sex of persons accused has shown little change over the last two years

### **Top accused group**

IC3 males age 15 to 23 represent 17% of persons accused and a further 16% is represented by IC1 males age 15 to 23.