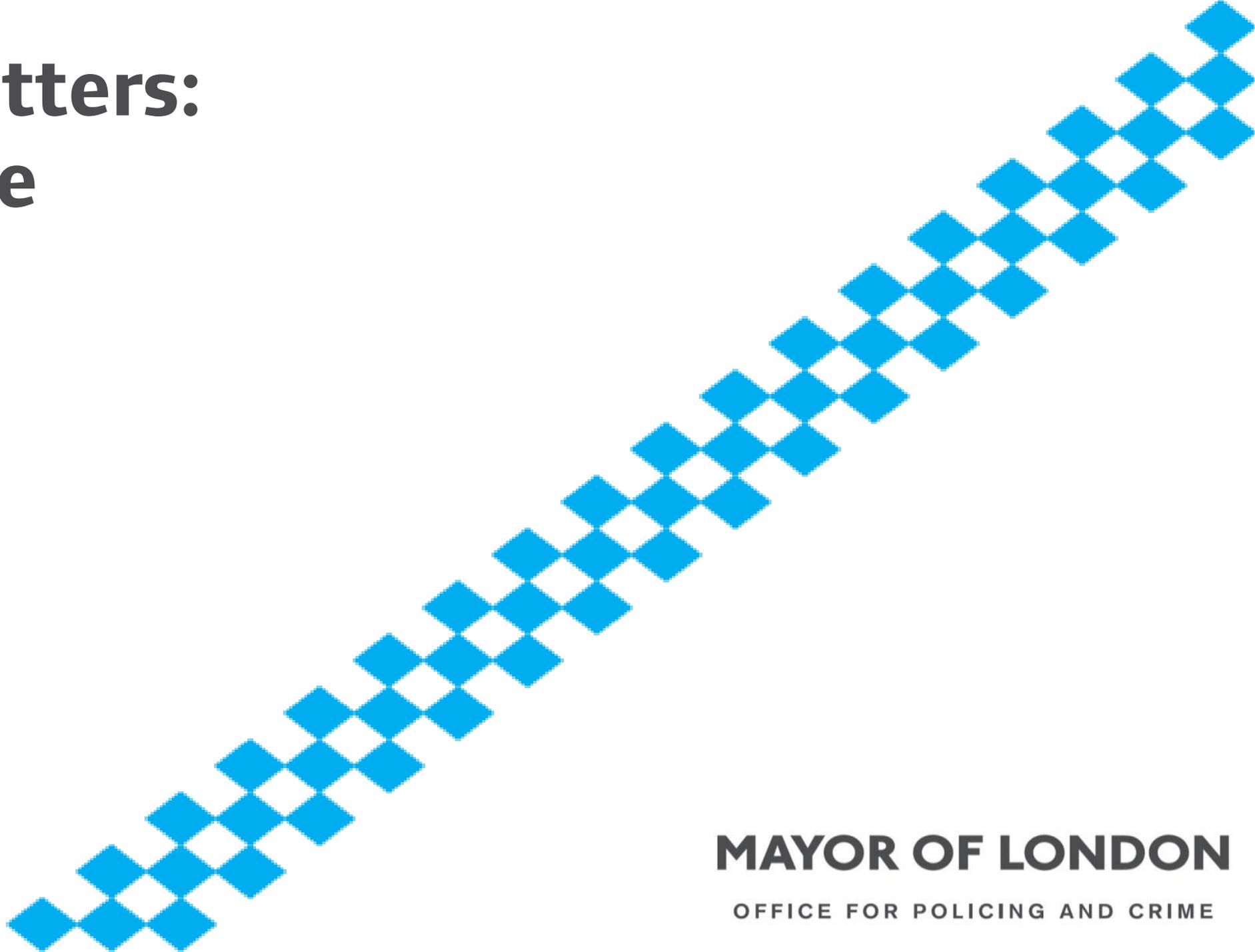


Justice Matters: Knife Crime



MAYOR OF LONDON

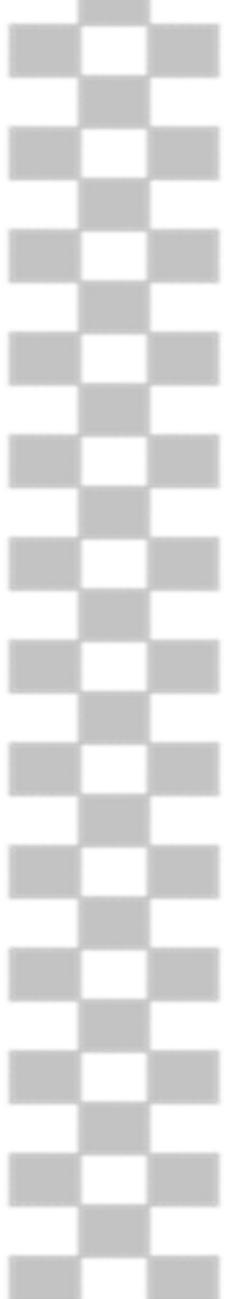
OFFICE FOR POLICING AND CRIME

World Health Organisation Definition of a Public Health Approach

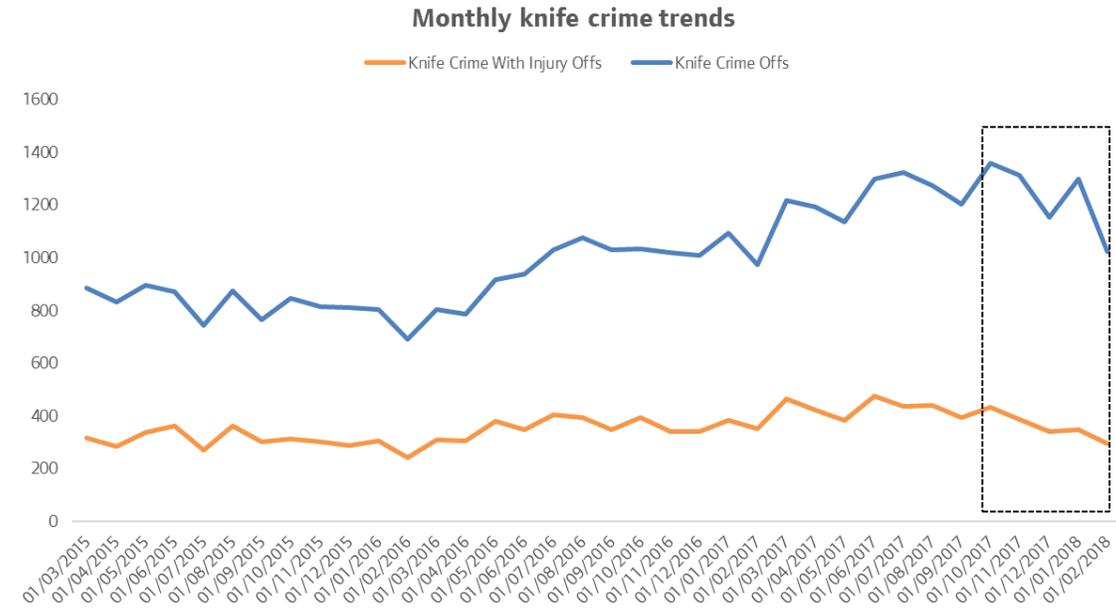
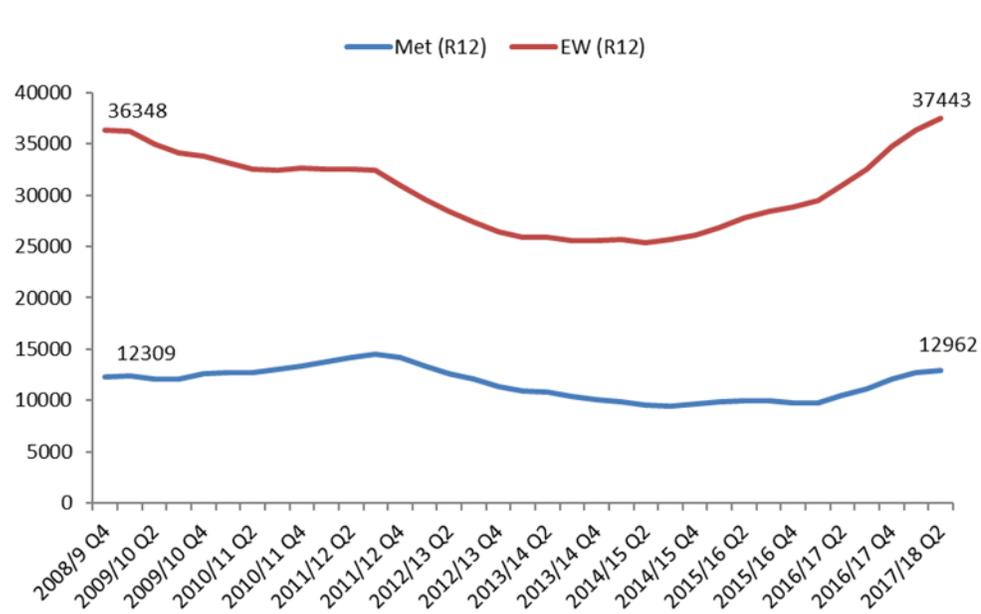
The World Health Organisation states that public health aims to provide the maximum benefit for the largest number of people.

A public health approach to tackle violence consists of four steps:

- 1) To define the problem through the systematic collection of information about the magnitude, scope, characteristics and consequences of violence.
- 2) To establish why violence occurs using research to determine the causes and correlates of violence, the factors that increase or decrease the risk for violence, and the factors that could be modified through interventions.
- 3) To find out what works to prevent violence by designing, implementing and evaluating interventions.
- 4) To implement effective and promising interventions in a wide range of settings. The effects of these interventions on risk factors and the target outcome should be monitored, and their impact and cost-effectiveness should be evaluated.



Knife crime in London and E&W is increasing

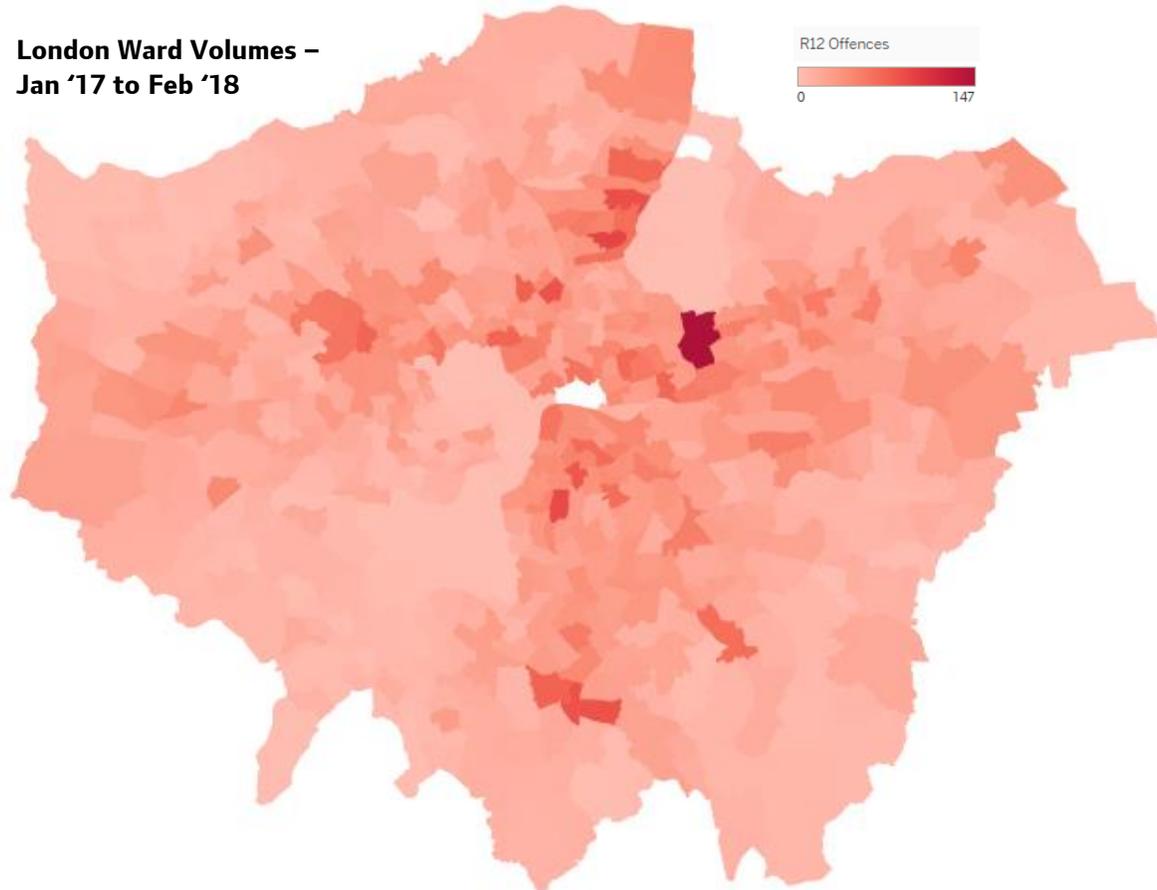


- As of the rolling 12 months to February 2018, **Knife crime is up by +26%** compared to the same period last year within the MPS. **Knife crime with injury** has increased but by a lesser degree of **+12% during the same period**.
- **This is a national issue** - with overall knife crime increasing by **+21% across E&W (exc. London)** year to Sept 2017.
- However **since October 2017** the MPS have recorded a **monthly downward trend** in the number of **knife crime with injury** and in particular **non-domestic knife crime with injury where the victim was under 25**.
- Within knife crime - Robbery – Personal Property (42%) and GBH (34%) offences contribute most.
- Calendar year to date comparisons shows knife crime **so far** in 2018 is already higher than previous years except 2011.

Knife Crime – where it happens

Borough Name	Knife Crime With Injury Offs	Knife Crime Offs
Southwark	329	899
Newham	248	813
Haringey	225	787
Brent	246	763
Lambeth	273	745
Tower Hamlets	211	707
Westminster	165	629
Croydon	191	627
Islington	183	600
Camden	196	597
Hackney	193	587
Enfield	204	586
Lewisham	205	576
Waltham Forest	166	489
Ealing	159	488
Barking and Dagenham	116	448
Redbridge	130	426
Greenwich	166	399
Wandsworth	109	386
Barnet	120	367
Havering	101	347
Hillingdon	146	341
Bromley	108	324
Hounslow	110	304
Kensington and Chelsea	85	269
Hammersmith and Fulham	88	245
Harrow	104	224
Sutton	55	203
Bexley	52	202
Merton	56	188
Richmond upon Thames	37	133
Kingston upon Thames	31	85

London Ward Volumes –
Jan '17 to Feb '18



- **Southwark** is currently experiencing the **highest volume of knife crime** within London followed by Newham and Haringey; **Stratford & New Town (Newham)** is currently the **highest volume ward** in London for Knife crime.
- **The top 10% most vulnerable wards**, as per the London Vulnerable Localities Profile, **are recording over three times the number of knife crime offences** on average **compared to the 10% least vulnerable**. For **Knife crime with injury offences** this increases to **5 times** the volume.

Victims and offenders of knife crime are most often male, BAME and under the age of 25

There is much research that indicates knife carriers frequently present a range of underlying vulnerabilities. These include: a low socio-economic background, esteem issues, substance abuse, delinquency, impulsivity, exposure to violence, social isolation, negative family relations. Other issues relate to fear, status, power and protection.

(Foster, 2013; YJB, 2013; McVie, 2010; Myers et al., 1997; Eades et al., 2007; Silvestri et al., 2009).

Victims:

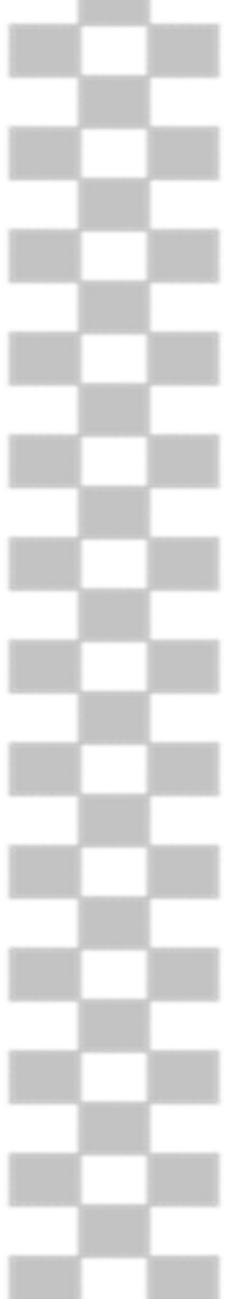
- Demographics for **both Knife crime and knife crime with injury** offences are very similar with approximately **half of all victims being under 25** with the **same proportion** identified as **BAME**. **80% were male**. Of those victims that received an injury nearly 2/3's were classified as minor or moderate.
- Those victims of **gang related knife crime** were even **more likely to be male (88%), young (76% aged under 25) and BAME (68%)**.
- Young **BAME men (16-20 years old)** account for almost a **third of all victims of gang knife crime**.

Offenders:

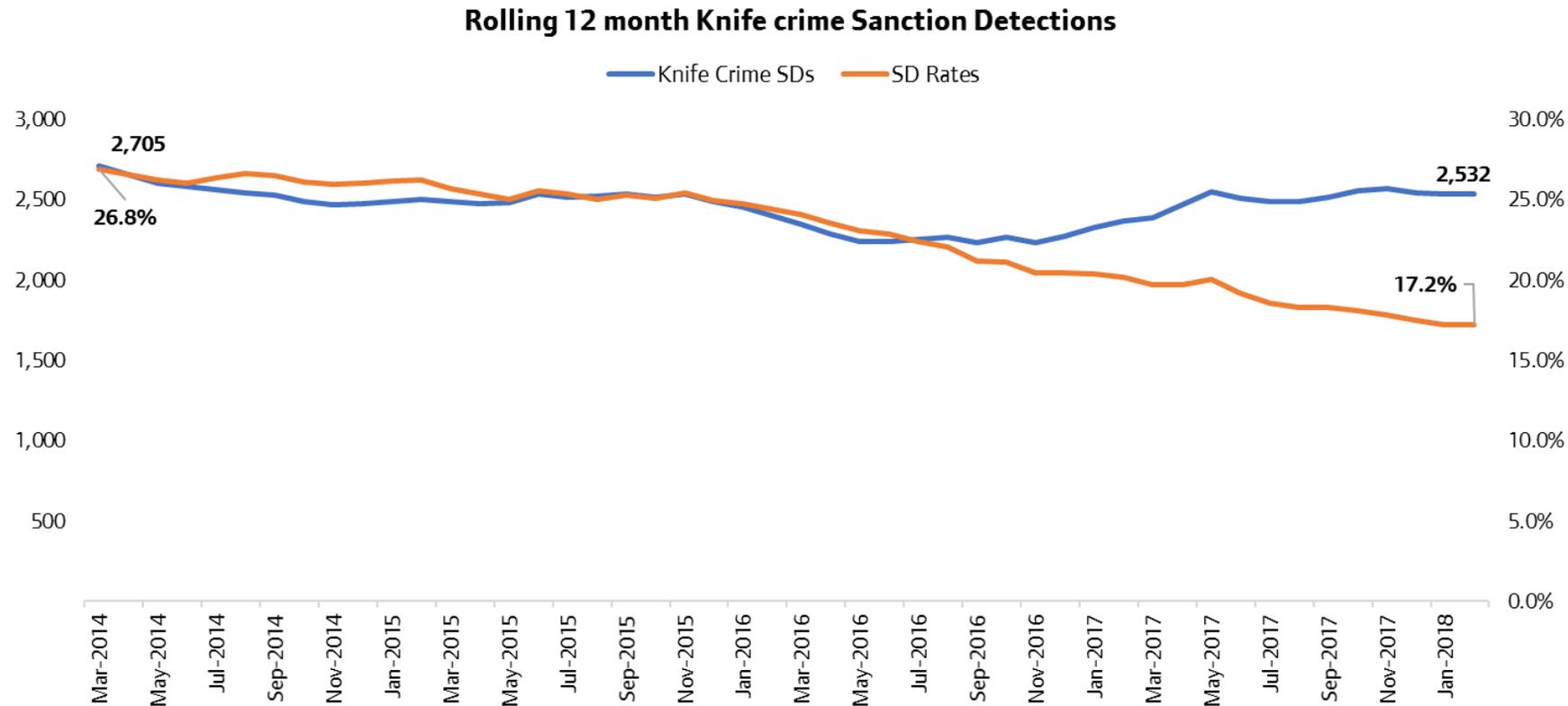
- Offenders of **both Knife crime and knife crime with injury** offences are predominantly of a similar age and gender to the victim cohort with **half of all offenders being under 25** and **83% being male**; however a **greater proportion of offenders** were classified as **BAME (69%) compared to victims (50%)**.
- Individuals accused of **knife possession** were also **predominantly male (93%), aged under 25 (64%)** with **37% of suspects identified as black males aged under 25**.

Knife crime homicide disproportionately affects young, black males in London

- The MPS recorded **81 knife related homicides during 2017** an increase from **61 during 2016**.
- **Young (under 25) African-Caribbean male knife crime victims** make up **41% (31 of 73 victims) of London knife homicides in 2017** (excluding terrorist & domestics) yet that same cohort make up **just 1.4% of the London population**.
- Considerable offender / victim overlap. Of the 306 suspects in a 2017 homicide investigation, **72% (220) had previously been a victim of crime** and **26% a victim of knife crime prior to the homicide investigation**.
- In almost two thirds of knife homicide (64%, n= 43) both the victim and the person proceeded against shared the same demographic (young, black males).



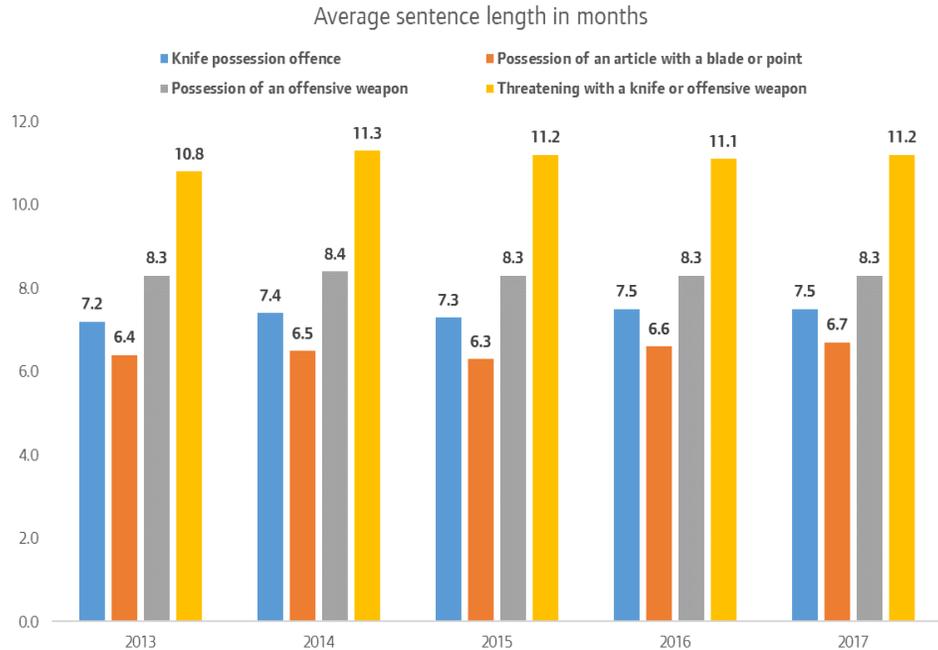
Detection rates have decreased but the actual number of crimes detected has remained stable



- Even with the increase in overall knife crime, the volume of **knife crime** sanction detections has remained reasonably stable over the last 4 years.
- Sanction detection **rates** for knife crime offences have decreased from 27% in Mar '14 to 17% currently (Feb '18).
- Similarly for **knife crime with injury**, the volume of sanction detections is at the same level currently as it was 4 years ago – and sanction detection rates have also decreased from 33% in March 2014 to 22% currently.
- In 2017, SD rate for all homicide was 72%, for specific knife related homicide it was 85%.

Offenders with more than two previous convictions for knife offences in E&W are more likely to receive immediate custody

- **41% of adults** received Immediate Custody compared to **13% of Youths** when sentenced for knife crime offences.
- **More than half of youths** (52%) received community sentences compared to only **16% of Adults**.
- **Over three quarters of those** resulting in **immediate custody** receive **at least 3 months**; **38% receive six months or more**.
- Offenders of all ages who **threaten with a knife** or offensive weapon **receive an average sentence of more than 11 months**.
- Offenders with **more than two previous convictions for knife offences** are more likely to **receive immediate custody**, compared to those with one or no previous convictions. The 'Two Strikes' sentence came into effect July 2015.



All data is based on the twelve months to September '17

