

The Young People and Knife Crime Summit: Tackling Street Weapon Culture Through Partnership

**A Presentation by Deputy Assistant Commissioner
Alf Hitchcock
Lead on Knife Crime
30 October 2008**



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

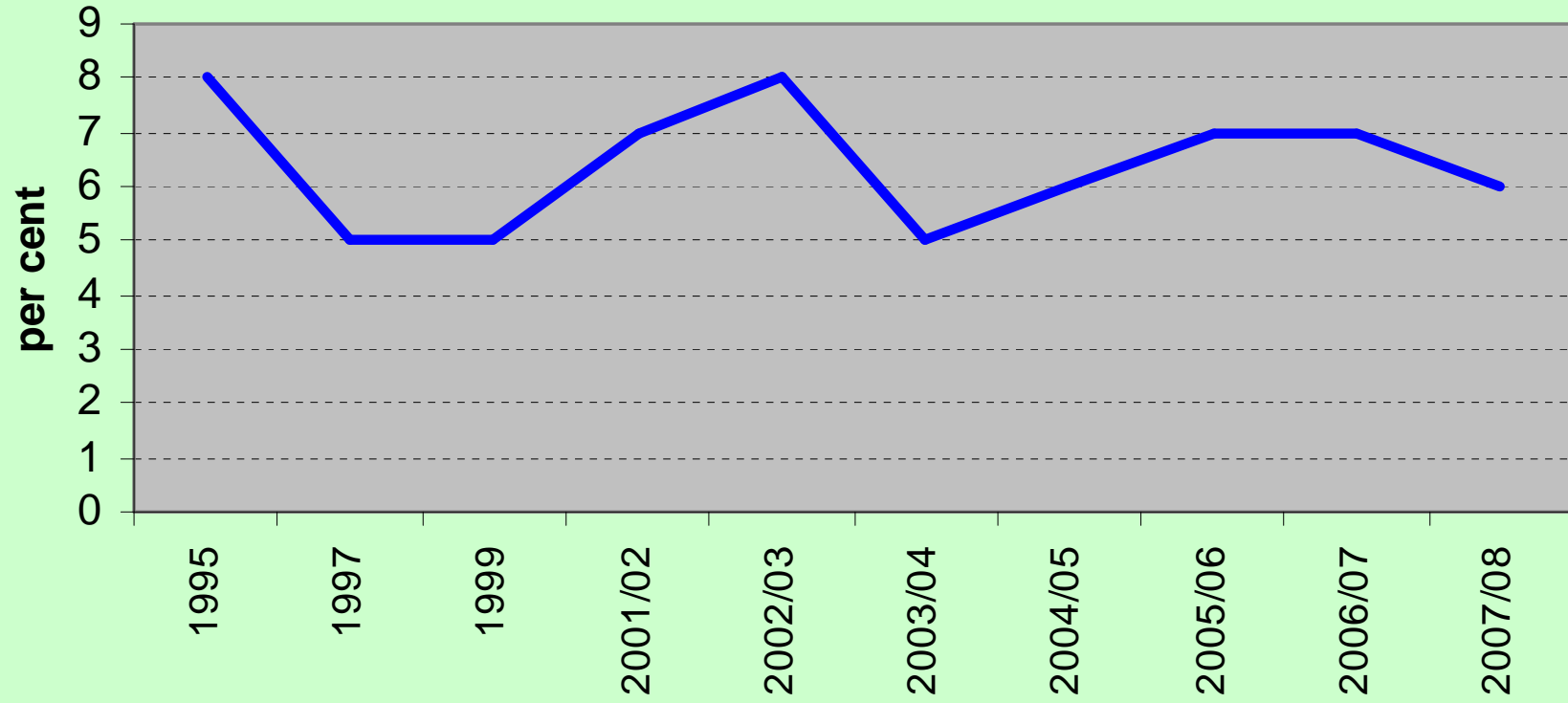
Working together for a safer London



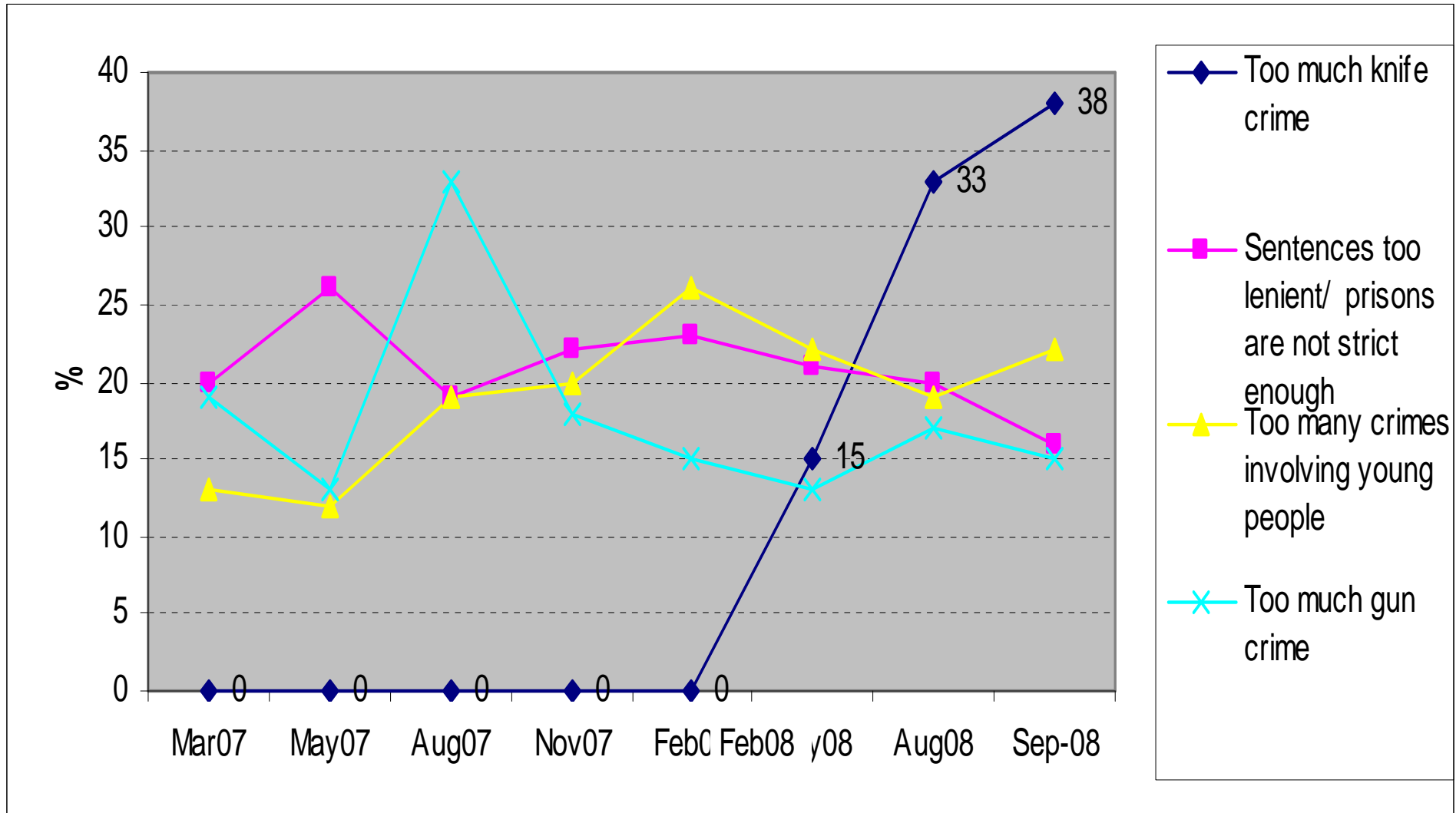
Knife Crime



Proportion of all British Crime Survey violence involving knives



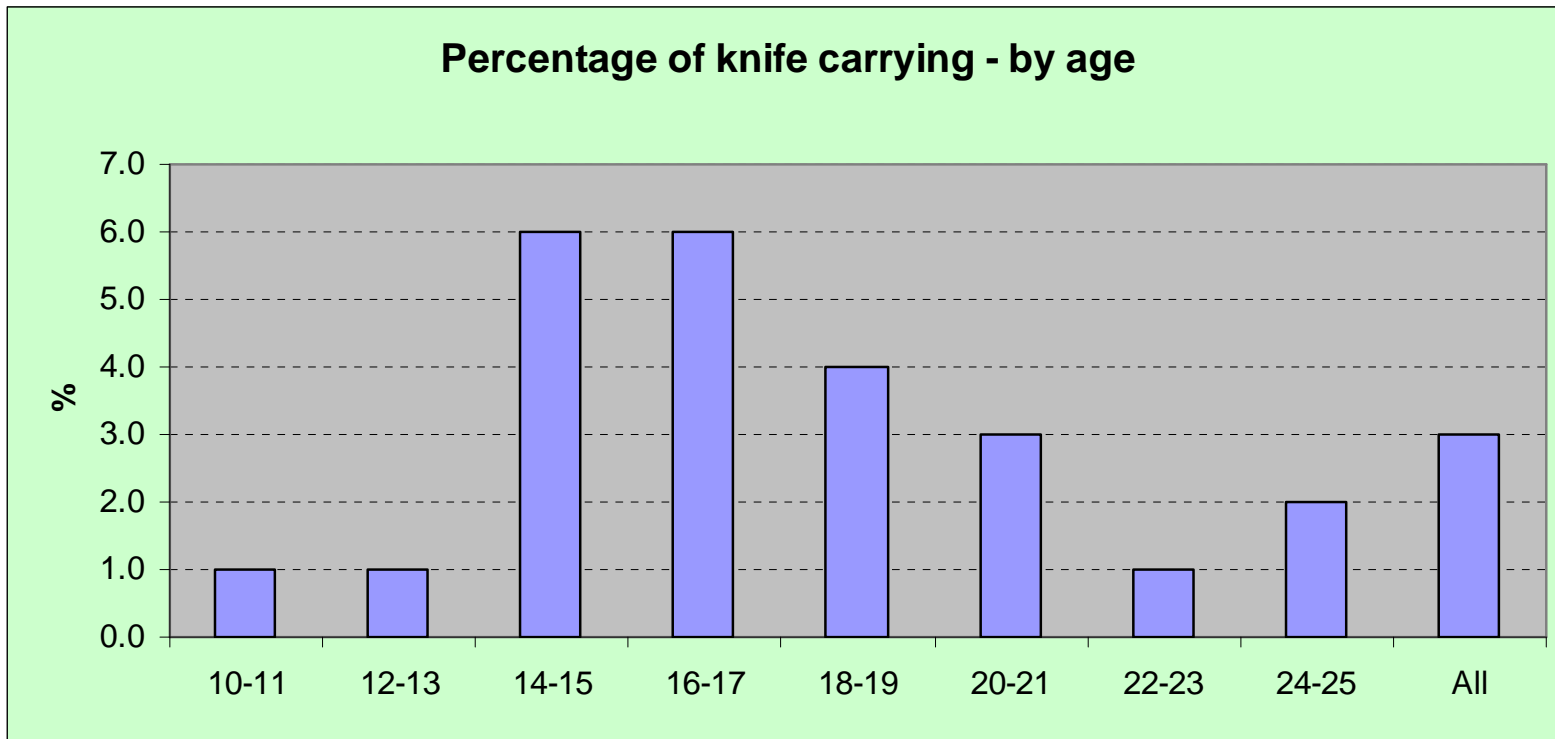
Q. What would you say are the three most important issues facing Britain today when it comes to crime?



The 2006 OCJR – 3% of young people had carried a knife in the last 12 month.

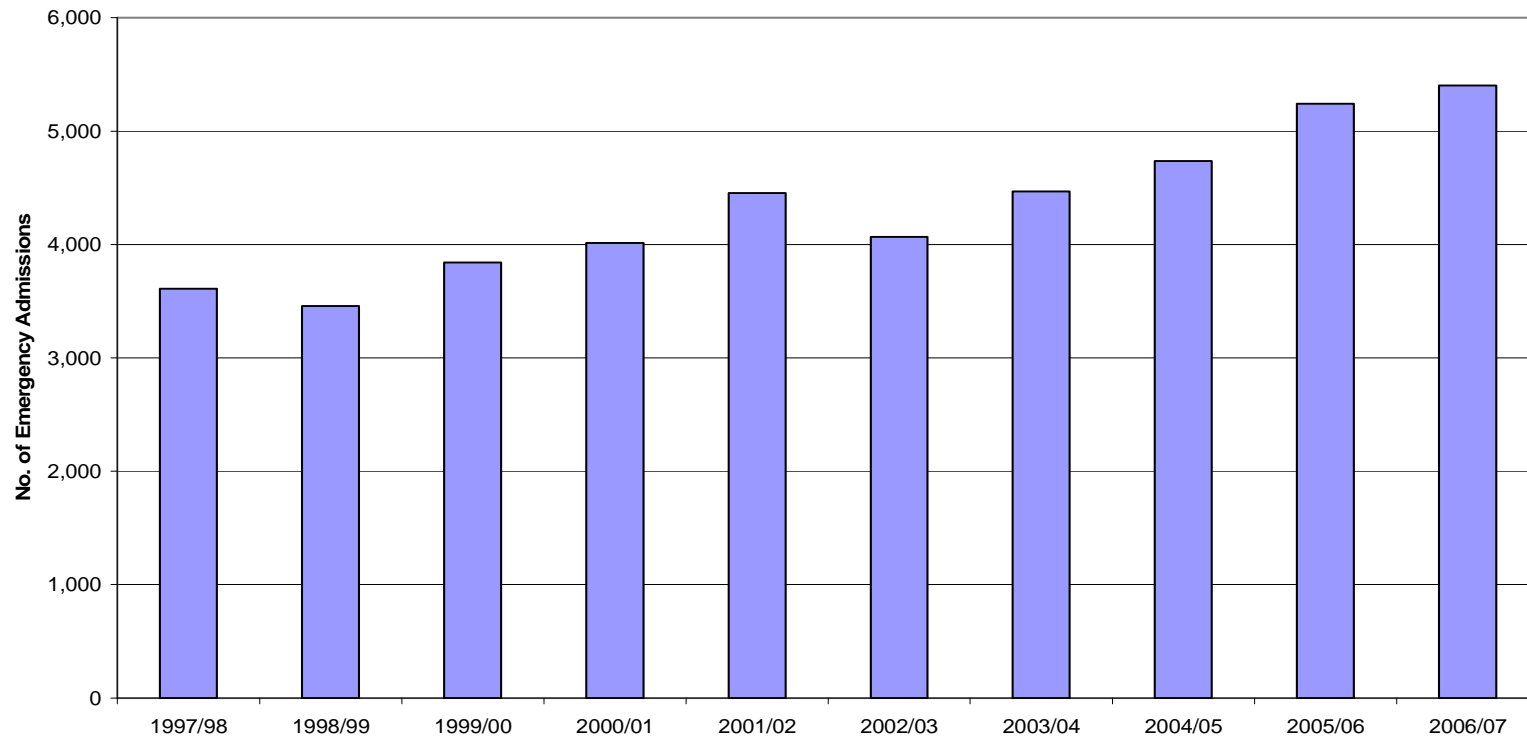
Males (5%) were more likely to report carrying a knife than females (2%).

For knife carrying the peak age was 14 to 17

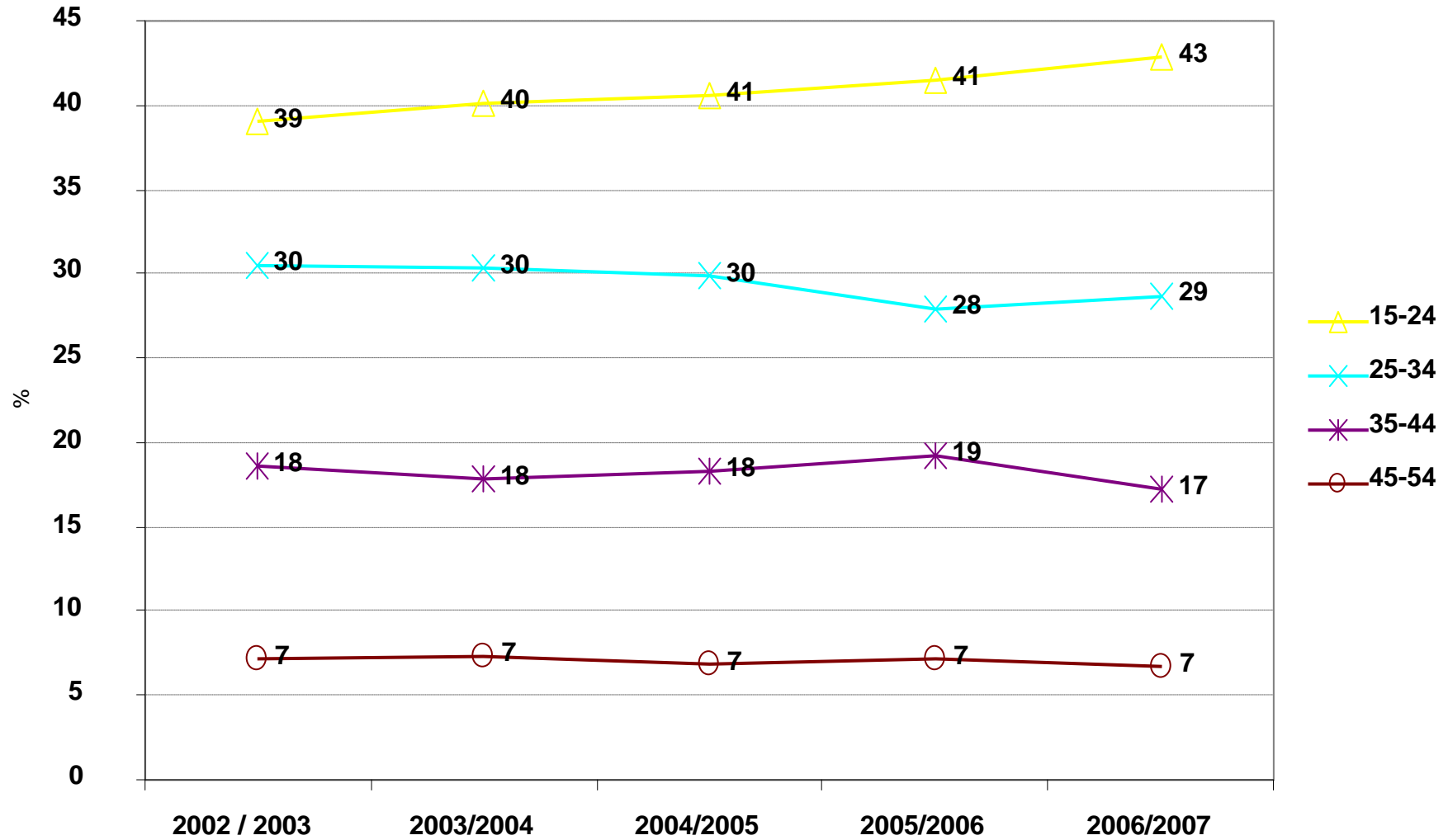


Emergency admissions to hospital - external cause is 'Assault by a sharp object'

Emergency admissions to English hospitals where external cause is 'Assault by Sharp Object'
1998/99 - 2006/07



Victims getting younger?



Why?

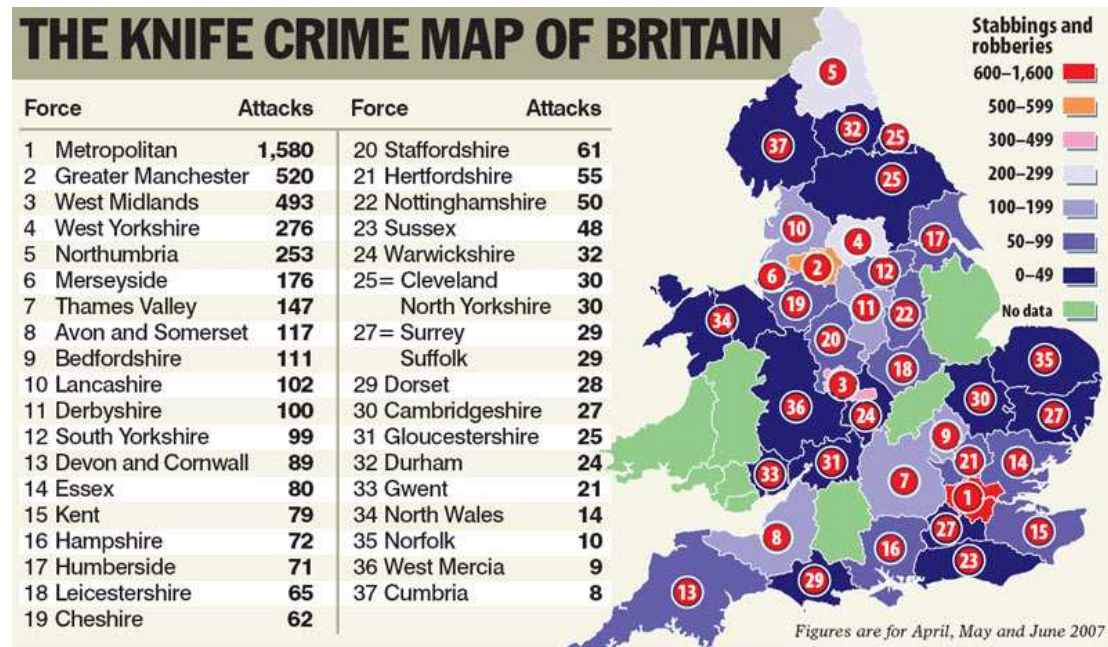


Police / Partnership Approach



The Four Elements

- Intelligence
- Prevention
- Enforcement
- Reassurance



Purpose of Tackling Knives Action Programme

Over six months, work intensively with 10 police force areas to make visible, rapid progress to reduce the harm caused by teenage knife crime and increase public confidence

- July 2008

Programme summary

Work intensively with 10 police force areas to make visible, rapid progress to reduce harm caused by youth knife crime and increase public confidence.

Prevent young people from becoming involved with knife crime

Reduce illegal sale of knives

Trading standards prioritise test purchasing of underage sales of knives

Education

- Youth forums
- Marketing campaign
- Work in schools

Promote responsible parenting

- Support for parents (parentline plus)
- Home Visits and letters to parents
- Marketing and information

Increased risk for those who do carry a knife

Punishment

- Increase visibility of sentences
- Extend expectation to prosecute
- Support witnesses

Enforcement

- Target the most dangerous
- Increase use of search/stop and search
- Work with A&E to improve info sharing

Reduce re-offending by those convicted of knife crime

-Increase knife referral projects

Increase safety in high risk premises

- Increase use of licensing act powers
- Safer Schools partnerships
- Named neighbourhood police contact for every school in areas

Next steps

Reduce the bureaucracy around frontline enforcement–

Shortened stop and search forms, abolition of stop and account form, streamlined crime recording

Invest in schools and Youth Activity –

Rolling out knife awareness educational programmes, expanding Safer School Partnerships, safer routes to/from school and after school patrols

Rolling out targeted out of school activity, particularly on a Friday/Saturday night

Build the anti-knives campaign coalition

Building on the success of phase 1 of the £3M marketing campaign which has already reached one third of under 16s

New focus on local campaigning and 'local heroes' backed by national celebrities

Enhance links with local partners –

A&E Departments and ambulance services, local NGOs and community groups and Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships/Community Safety Partnerships

Intelligence –

Increase appeals for information through Crimestoppers. Expand text appeals from selected London Boroughs to the 10 TKAP areas.

The Future – What Needs to Be Done?



The Young People and Knife Crime Summit: Tackling Street Weapon Culture Through Partnership

**A Presentation by Deputy Assistant Commissioner
Alf Hitchcock
Lead on Knife Crime
30 October 2008**



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

Working together for a safer London