

**Knife Crime Sentencing
Quarterly Brief
October to December 2008
England and Wales**

Ministry of Justice
Statistics Bulletin

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Knife Crime Statistics October to December 2008

Introduction

In June 2008 the Tackling Knives Action Programme (TKAP) was launched focussing resources on rapid, intensive work in 10 areas of England and Wales to tackle knife crime. Information on this initiative can be found at:

www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/tackling_knives.htm

This bulletin contains key statistics describing the trends in cautioning and sentencing, probation supervision and prison population for possession of a knife or offensive weapon in England and Wales. It has been prepared from readily available management information to provide early indications of trends. It is planned that this is a temporary release to cover the life and impact of the scheme.

The information presented generally combines both offences of possession of an article with a blade or point and offences of possession of an offensive weapon (which could be a knife) – see explanatory notes for fuller explanation. A breakdown for the separate offences is given for disposals in Table 3 but is not available for probation and prison data. The sources of data used do not enable us separately to identify other offences involving a knife, such as wounding offences. Full details on data quality and definitions are given in the notes at the end of the text.

The key events that might be expected to affect the statistics were

Prime Minister's statement

- On 5 June 2008 the Prime Minister said:

“What I want to see is anybody who is using a knife goes to prison; anybody who is carrying a knife is subject to either prison or a strong community payback that forces them to give service to the community ... There should be a presumption of either prison or a tough community payback. There's a presumption to prosecute. We are clear that punishment will be severe – either prison or a tough community payback”.

Sentencing

- On 21 May 2008, the Court of Appeal issued the judgment in *Povey* that said that, because of prevalence, magistrates should normally sentence those convicted of knife crime possession offences at the top end of the range.
- The Sentencing Guidelines Council issued an update to the magistrates' courts guidelines, with effect from 4 August, which set out the effect of the Court of Appeal judgment and made it clear that, for the time being, the

starting point for the lowest level of knife possession should be 12 weeks' custody. This applies to adults (aged 18 and over).

- This applies in cases where a first time offender pleads not guilty to possession of a knife in non-dangerous circumstances. A guilty plea would attract a discount in the normal way, as would any personal mitigation, and could take the sentence below the custody threshold.
- Since September all probation areas are able to provide intensive delivery of 300 hour Community Payback sentences for unemployed offenders convicted of knife crime offences, who are on the brink of custody. In January this offer of intensive delivery of a minimum of 18 hours per week over three days was extended to Community Payback sentences of any length imposed for an offence of knife crime, when an offender is unemployed.

All statistics quoted in this quarterly brief are provisional and subject to change.

This publication has been prepared by Offender Management and Sentencing Analytical Services.

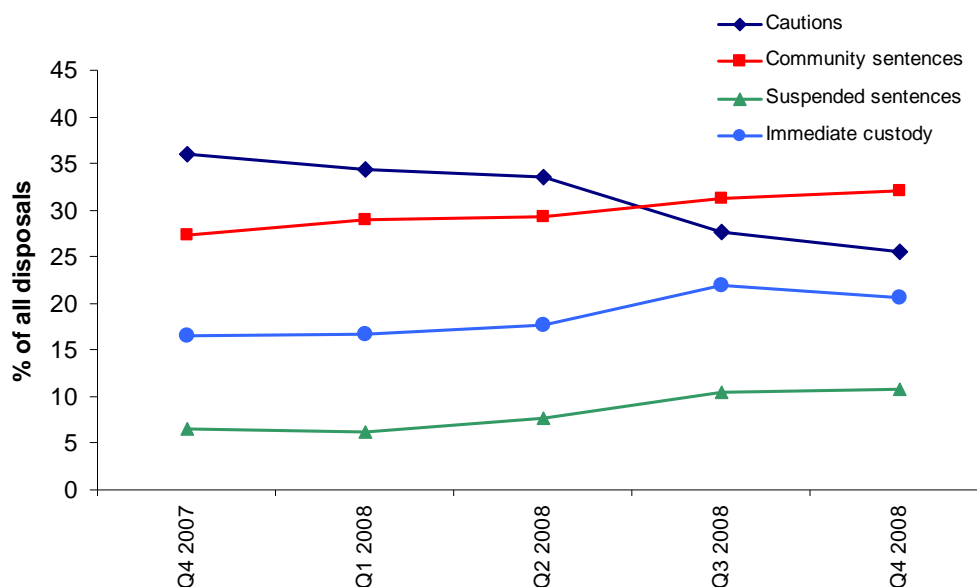
Key points – Q4 2008 compared to Q4 2007 (unless otherwise stated)

1. Cautioning and sentencing statistics (Tables 1 to 5)

- The number of cautions¹ given for knife or offensive weapon possession decreased while the number of immediate custodial sentences, suspended sentence orders and community sentences rose between Q4 2007 and Q4 2008 :

- In Q4 2008 25 per cent (1,706) of all possession offences resulted in a caution in England and Wales. This compares with 36 per cent (2,455) in Q4 2007.
- In Q4 2008 21 per cent (1,386) of all possession offences resulted in immediate custody compared to 17 per cent (1,125) in Q4 2007.
- In Q4 2008 11 per cent (728) of all possession offences resulted in suspended sentence orders compared to 7 per cent (447) in Q4 2007.
- In Q4 2008 32 per cent (2,151) of all possession offences resulted in community sentences compared to 27 per cent (1,861) in Q4 2007.

Figure 1: Disposals for knife and offensive weapon possession for England and Wales



¹ Cautions include juveniles receiving reprimands and final warnings.

- **Where immediate custodial sentences are given for these offences there has been an increase in the proportion of longer sentences:**
 - In Q4 2008 58 per cent (802) of sentences were recorded as being over three months compared to 46 per cent (521) in Q4 2007.
 - The average length of a custodial sentence was 184 days in Q4 2008. This had increased from 133 days in Q4 2007.
- **The proportion of juvenile offenders receiving reprimands and final warnings decreased** from 46 per cent (727) to 34 per cent (497). This was balanced by an increase in the proportion receiving community sentences (from 42 per cent (659) to 54 per cent (795)).
- **For adult offenders the proportion receiving cautions decreased** from 33 per cent (1,728) to 23 per cent (1,206). This was accompanied by an increase in the proportion of suspended sentence orders (9 per cent (447) to 14 per cent (726)), immediate custodial sentences (20 per cent (1,038) to 24 per cent (1,265)) and community sentences (23 per cent (1,202) to 26 per cent (1,356)) given.
- **In the 10 TKAP police force areas the changes between Q4 2007 and Q4 2008 were similar to other police force areas:**
 - In Q4 2008, 23 per cent (795) of all possession offences resulted in a caution in the 10 TKAP areas. This compares with 36 per cent or 1,243 in Q4 2007.
 - In Q4 2008 22 per cent (759) of all possession offences resulted in immediate custody compared to 16 per cent (553) in Q4 2007.
 - In Q4 2008 11 per cent (385) of all possession offences resulted in suspended sentence orders compared to 8 per cent (267) in Q4 2007.
 - In Q4 2008 33 per cent (1,123) of all possession offences resulted in community sentences compared to 29 per cent (1,010) in Q4 2007.

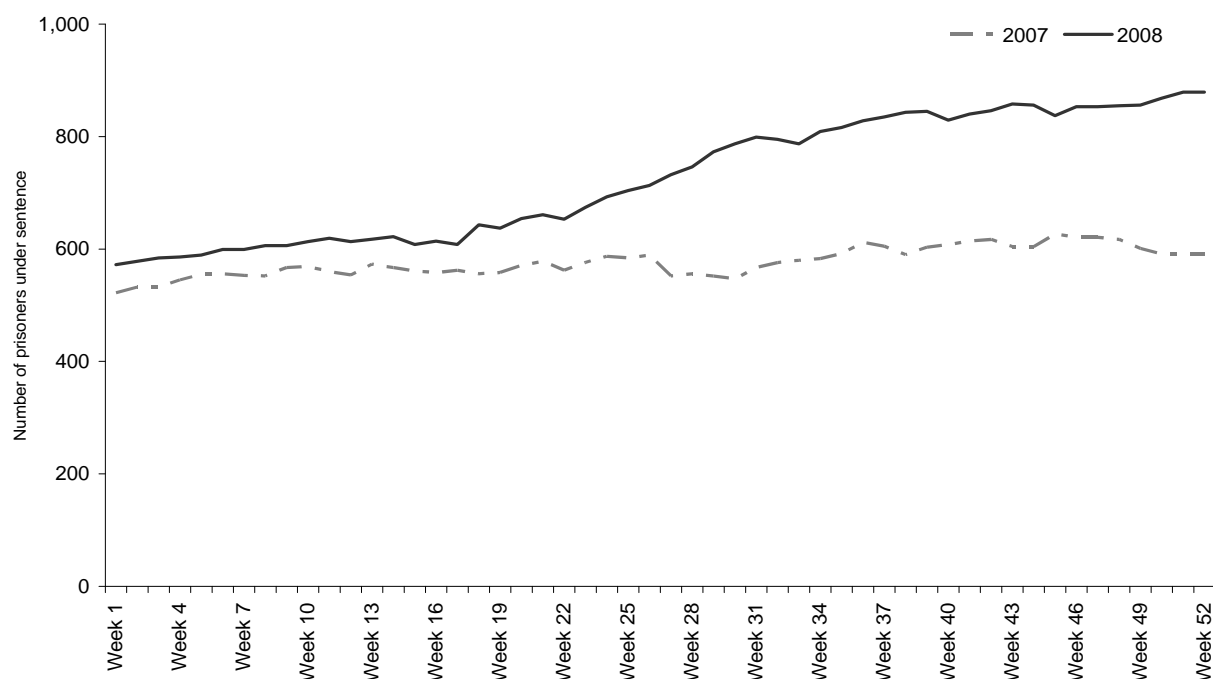
2. Probation supervision statistics (Tables 6, 7 and 8; these figures mainly cover offenders aged 18 or over)

- **In Q4 2008 there were 1,562 court order starts under probation supervision** for possession of an offensive weapon, this represents an increase of 13 per cent from Q4 2007. This was driven by the increase in SSOs, which rose from 327 to 500 (53 per cent increase) over the period.
- **For suspended sentence orders (SSOs)** starting in Q4, the proportion of those given unpaid work as a percentage of all requirements started was 26 per cent in Q4 2008 this had increased from 22 per cent in Q4 2007.

- **Where unpaid work requirements were started for these offences there has been an increase in the proportion of longer requirements:**
 - For community orders, in Q4 2008, 16 per cent of unpaid work requirements were recorded as being 200 - 250 hours compared to 10 per cent in Q4 2007. This was mirrored by shorter requirements (0-80 hours) decreasing to 37 per cent in Q4 2008 from 44 per cent in Q4 2007.
 - For suspended sentence orders, in Q4 2008 18 per cent of unpaid work requirements were recorded as being 200 - 250 hours compared to 7 per cent in Q4 2007. Over the same period shorter requirements (0-80 hours) decreased to 27 per cent in Q4 2008 from 36 per cent in Q4 2007.

3. Prison population

Figure 2: Prison population under sentence for possession of an offensive weapon² (excludes breaches and recalls)



- The population in prison serving a sentence for possession of an offensive weapon increased between 2007 and 2008. On average, there was a 40 per cent increase (about 240) in the number of prisoners serving a sentence for possession of an offensive weapon between Q4 2007 and Q4 2008.

² Includes having an article with a blade or a point

Explanatory notes

Data quality and sources

All the data are drawn from administrative sources. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the data, the detail is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system. While the figures shown have been checked as far as practicable, they should be regarded as approximate and not necessarily accurate to the last whole number shown in the tables. They are fit to be used for purposes of looking at trends and for comparing the relative magnitude of components.

Tables 1-5

The data presented in tables 1-5 in this brief are drawn from an extract of data held by the Ministry of Justice taken from the Police National Computer (PNC). These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police. Police forces tend to record cautions more promptly on the PNC than court sentences, so that the cautions figures for the latest quarter shown in the tables will tend to be more complete than the sentencing figures. In addition, in some areas, the police may record a 'deferred sentence' which will be updated at a later date when the final outcome is known. 'Deferred sentences' appear in the tables as 'other disposals' and therefore lead to higher figures for the latest quarter. Figures for all quarters may be revised in later editions of this Bulletin.

Tables 6-8 and figure 3

The probation data has been processed from data collected and held centrally by the Ministry of Justice. The data are drawn from the local probation administrative IT systems from each of the 42 probation areas in England and Wales. The figures showing the numbers starting court orders relate to the number of *offenders* starting probation supervision in a given period. The numbers drawn from the PNC data in tables 1-5 relate to the total number of *offences* committed by offenders given particular disposals, which will naturally be greater than the number of offenders. Also, the probation data only shows offenders convicted of the more general offence of 'possession of an offensive weapon'. This will include possession of knives, as well the particular offence of 'possession of an article with a blade or point', but these cannot be separately distinguished in the probation data.

Prison population data presented in this brief are drawn from the prison administrative IT systems. The figures showing the numbers under sentence refer to

the number of *offenders* serving a custodial sentence. Figures drawn from PNC data refer to the number of *offences* committed by offenders given particular disposals. Prison establishments routinely provide records of the numbers of persons held in custody at the end of each month, broadly subdivided according to age, sex, custody type and sentence length. The records are collated and processed centrally. However, data recorded by prisons only show the numbers serving a sentence for the general offence of “possession of an offensive weapon”. This offence includes the possession of a knife but can also include possession of other dangerous weapons (excluding firearms).

Definitions

TKAP – The Tackling Knives Action Programme focuses resources on rapid, intensive work in 10 areas of the country to tackle knife crime – these areas are Essex, Lancashire, Manchester, Merseyside, Metropolitan, Nottinghamshire, South Wales, Thames Valley, West Midlands and West Yorkshire

Offences included: The PNC data (tables 1-5) produced in this brief are the number of offences committed not number of offenders. The offences relate to possession offences rather than offences where a knife was used. The offence codes included in the dataset are as follows:

00811 – Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse. Prevention of Crime Act 1953 Section 1.

00828 – Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises. Criminal Justice Act 1988 Section 139 A (2) as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 Section 4 (1).

00826 – Having an article with a blade or a point in a public place. Criminal Justice Act 1988 Section 139 (1) as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 Section 3 (1).

00827 – Having an article with a blade or a point on school premises. Criminal Justice Act 1988 Section 139 (2) as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 Section 4 (1).

Juvenile – A juvenile offender is aged between 10 and 17.

Adult – An adult offender is aged 18 and over.

Offensive weapon – there are three classes of offensive weapons. Those made for causing injury; those adapted for such a purpose; and those not so made or adapted, but carried with the intention of causing injury. These consist of all listed on the Criminal Justice Act 1988 (Offensive Weapons) Order 1988 as amended, some examples include: a swordstick, that is, a hollow walking-stick or cane containing a

blade which may be used as a sword; the weapon sometimes known as a "belt buckle knife", being a buckle which incorporates or conceals a knife.

Caution – given by, or on the instructions of, a senior police officer where there is sufficient evidence for a conviction and it is not considered to be in the public interest to institute criminal proceedings. For **adult** offenders, who must admit guilt and consent to a caution.

Reprimand and final warning – available for **juvenile** offenders. Reprimands can be given to first time offenders for minor offences. Any further offending results in either a final warning or charge. The final warning triggers immediate referral to a local youth offending team. Reprimands and final warnings for juveniles are the equivalent of cautions for adults. Therefore in the tables reprimands and final warnings are counted under the 'cautions' disposal category.

Community sentence – for **adults** the main community sentence, which is supervised by the Probation Service, is the community order introduced by the Criminal Justice Act 2003 for offences committed on or after 4 April 2005. The court must add at least one (but could potentially add all 12) of the following requirements: supervision, unpaid work, specified activities, prohibited activities, accredited programmes, curfew, exclusion, residence, mental health treatment, drug rehabilitation, alcohol treatment and attendance centre requirement for under 25s. For **juveniles** the main community sentences used are the referral order, for first-time offenders who plead guilty on their first court appearance and do not merit a discharge or custodial sentence, and the supervision order (up to 3 years, may have additional requirements) although curfew orders, reparation orders, action plan orders and attendance centre orders are also available. Youth Offending Teams supervise orders for juveniles.

Suspended Sentence – available for **adults** only. It is a sentence of custody of under 12 months, suspended for a period ranging from six months to two years. During the suspension period the court sets a number of requirements, from the same options as are available for the community order, and these are supervised by the Probation Service.

Immediate custody – **adults** aged 21 or over may receive sentences of unsuspended imprisonment and those aged 18 to 20 may be sentenced to detention in a young offender institution. The maximum sentence available is 4 years for possession of a bladed article in a public place or an offensive weapon. **Juveniles** aged 12-17 may receive a detention and training order of 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 18 or 24 months. The order is served partly in custody (in local authority children's homes, secure training centres or prison service young offender institutions) and partly in the community under the supervision of a probation officer, social worker or member of a youth offending team.

Contact points for further information

This publication is available for download at

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General enquiries about the statistical work of the Ministry of Justice can be e-mailed to: statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk

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Knife Crime statistics quarterly brief, October to December 2008, England and Wales

Table 1: Offences involving the possession of a knife or offensive weapon resulting in a caution or sentence, England and Wales, TKAP and other police forces

Disposal Category	Number of offences and percentages					Percentage change Q4 2007 to Q4 2008
	Q4 2007	Q1 2008	Q2 2008	Q3 2008	Q4 2008	
number of offences						
England and Wales	6,808	6,917	6,897	7,126	6,704	-2
Caution ¹	2,455	2,382	2,315	1,965	1,706	-31
Absolute/Conditional discharge	420	456	412	259	210	-50
Fine	303	313	260	235	283	-7
Community sentence	1,861	2,005	2,023	2,222	2,151	16
Suspended sentence	447	434	525	745	728	63
Immediate custody	1,125	1,152	1,215	1,564	1,386	23
Other disposal	197	175	147	136	240	22
percentage of total offences						
Caution ¹	36	34	34	28	25	
Community sentence	27	29	29	31	32	
Suspended sentence	7	6	8	10	11	
Immediate custody	17	17	18	22	21	
number of offences						
TKAP²	3,476	3,624	3,677	3,791	3,436	-1
Caution ¹	1,243	1,201	1,181	1,004	795	-36
Absolute/Conditional discharge	163	188	191	138	114	-30
Fine	161	177	153	123	144	-11
Community sentence	1,010	1,119	1,149	1,204	1,123	11
Suspended sentence	267	259	305	414	385	44
Immediate custody	553	601	621	847	759	37
Other disposal	79	79	77	61	116	47
percentage of total offences						
Caution ¹	36	33	32	26	23	
Community sentence	29	31	31	32	33	
Suspended sentence	8	7	8	11	11	
Immediate custody	16	17	17	22	22	
number of offences						
Other police forces	3,332	3,293	3,220	3,335	3,268	-2
Caution ¹	1,212	1,181	1,134	961	911	-25
Absolute/Conditional discharge	257	268	221	121	96	-63
Fine	142	136	107	112	139	-2
Community sentence	851	886	874	1,018	1,028	21
Suspended sentence	180	175	220	331	343	91
Immediate custody	572	551	594	717	627	10
Other disposal	118	96	70	75	124	5
percentage of total offences						
Caution ¹	36	36	35	29	28	
Community sentence	26	27	27	31	31	
Suspended sentence	5	5	7	10	10	
Immediate custody	17	17	18	21	19	

1. Cautions includes juveniles receiving reprimands and final warnings

2. The Tackling Knives Action Programme police forces are: Essex, Lancashire, Manchester, Merseyside, Metropolitan Police, Nottinghamshire, South Wales, Thames Valley, West Midlands and West Yorkshire

Data Source and Quality

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Knife Crime statistics quarterly brief, October to December 2008, England and Wales

Table 2: Offences involving the possession of a knife or offensive weapon resulting in a caution or sentence by age group

Disposal Category	Number of offences and percentages					Percentage change Q4 2007 to Q4 2008
	Q4 2007	Q1 2008	Q2 2008	Q3 2008	Q4 2008	
number of offences						
Aged 10 to 17	1,570	1,582	1,663	1,704	1,472	-6
Reprimands & final warnings	727	727	739	627	497	-32
Absolute/conditional discharge	44	37	47	22	27	*
Fine	16	14	15	8	11	*
Community sentence	659	685	740	898	795	21
Immediate custody	87	92	103	127	121	39
Other disposal	37	26	19	22	21	*
percentage of total offences						
Reprimands & final warnings	46	46	44	37	34	
Community sentence	42	43	44	53	54	
Immediate custody	6	6	6	7	8	
number of offences						
Aged 18 and over	5,238	5,335	5,233	5,422	5,227	0
Caution	1,728	1,655	1,575	1,338	1,206	-30
Absolute/Conditional discharge	376	419	365	237	183	-51
Fine	287	299	245	227	272	-5
Community sentence	1,202	1,320	1,283	1,324	1,356	13
Suspended sentence	447	433	525	745	726	62
Immediate custody	1,038	1,060	1,112	1,437	1,265	22
Other disposal	160	149	128	114	219	37
percentage of total offences						
Caution	33	31	30	25	23	
Community sentence	23	25	25	24	26	
Suspended sentence	9	8	10	14	14	
Immediate custody	20	20	21	27	24	

*Indicates that one or more of the comparative numbers are less than 50. For small numbers this could give misleading percentage changes.

Data Source and Quality

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

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Table 3: Offences involving the possession of a knife or offensive weapon resulting in a caution or sentence by offence code

Number of offences and percentages						
Disposal Category	Q4 2007	Q1 2008	Q2 2008	Q3 2008	Q4 2008	Percentage change Q4 2007 to Q4 2008
Possession of an article with a blade or point	number of offences					
	3,138	3,273	3,382	3,561	3,342	7
Caution ¹	865	866	793	606	521	-40
Absolute/Conditional discharge	248	255	253	159	134	-46
Fine	162	152	150	127	154	-5
Community sentence	911	1,028	1,129	1,232	1,166	28
Suspended sentence	232	230	278	434	427	84
Immediate custody	617	642	704	925	825	34
Other disposal	103	100	75	78	115	12
	percentage of total offences					
Caution ¹	28	26	23	17	16	
Community sentence	29	31	33	35	35	
Suspended sentence	7	7	8	12	13	
Immediate custody	20	20	21	26	25	
Possession of an offensive weapon	number of offences					
	3,670	3,644	3,515	3,565	3,362	-8
Caution ¹	1,590	1,516	1,522	1,359	1,185	-25
Absolute/Conditional discharge	172	201	159	100	76	-56
Fine	141	161	110	108	129	-9
Community sentence	950	977	894	990	985	4
Suspended sentence	215	204	247	311	301	40
Immediate custody	508	510	511	639	561	10
Other disposal	94	75	72	58	125	33
	percentage of total offences					
Caution ¹	43	42	43	38	35	
Community sentence	26	27	25	28	29	
Suspended sentence	6	6	7	9	9	
Immediate custody	14	14	15	18	17	

1. Cautions include juveniles receiving reprimands and final warnings

Data Source and Quality

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Knife Crime statistics quarterly brief, October to December 2008, England and Wales

Table 4: Custodial sentences for knife and offensive weapon possession offences, by sentence length

Sentence length	Number of offences and percentages					Percentage change Q4 2007 to Q4 2008
	Q4 2007	Q1 2008	Q2 2008	Q3 2008	Q4 2008	
number of offences						
England and Wales¹	1,125	1,152	1,215	1,564	1,386	23
Up to and including 3 months	596	580	568	651	577	-3
Over 3 months and up to and including 6 months	368	396	453	547	403	10
Over 6 months	153	168	192	358	399	161
percentage of total offences						
Up to and including 3 months	53	50	47	42	42	
Over 3 months and up to and including 6 months	33	34	37	35	29	
Over 6 months	14	15	16	23	29	

1. Total figures include offences where sentence length was not recorded by the police

Data Source and Quality

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Knife Crime statistics quarterly brief, October to December 2008, England and Wales

Table 5: Average sentence length of immediate custodial sentences for knife and offensive weapon possession offences

	Average sentence length					Percentage change Q4 2007 to Q4 2008
	Q4 2007	Q1 2008	Q2 2008	Q3 2008	Q4 2008	
	Average sentence length (days)					
England and Wales	133	140	140	174	184	38
TKAP Police Forces ¹	133	145	145	166	173	30
Other Police Forces	133	134	134	184	197	48

1. The Tackling Knives Action Programme police forces are: Essex, Lancashire, Manchester, Merseyside, Metropolitan Police, Nottinghamshire, South Wales, Thames Valley, West Midlands and West Yorkshire

Data Source and Quality

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Table 6: Court order starts for possession of an offensive weapon¹

Court Order starts	Number of starts and percentages					Percentage change Q4 2007 to Q4 2008
	Q4 2007	Q1 2008	Q2 2008	Q3 2008	Q4 2008	
	number of starts					
Total	1,380	1,381	1,332	1,612	1,562	13
Community order	999	992	959	1,043	1,003	0
SSO	327	342	316	509	500	53
Pre CJA orders	54	47	57	60	59	9
	percentage of total starts					
Community order	72	72	72	65	64	
SSO	24	25	24	32	32	
Pre CJA orders	4	3	4	4	4	

1. Includes having an article with a blade or a point

Data Sources and Quality

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. All 2008 data is provisional.

Knife Crime statistics quarterly brief, October to December 2008, England and Wales

Table 7: Requirement starts for possession of offensive weapon¹

Number of requirements and percentages						
	Q4 2007	Q1 2008	Q2 2008	Q3 2008	Q4 2008	Percentage change Q4 2007 to Q4 2008
number of requirements						
Community Order	1,656	1,579	1,512	1,622	1,569	-5
Unpaid Work	605	589	582	605	549	-9
Supervision	551	531	501	531	538	-2
Accredited Program	172	141	140	143	144	-16
Curfew	125	125	115	138	124	-1
Drug treatment	73	55	47	71	63	-14
Specified Activity	69	73	64	63	65	-6
Alcohol treatment	24	24	35	36	45	*
Mental Health	10	19	10	10	19	*
Exclusion	5	4	2	5	6	*
Residential	6	5	8	3	5	*
Attendance Centre	6	7	5	10	6	*
Prohibited Activity	10	6	3	7	5	*
percentage of all requirements						
Unpaid work	37	37	38	37	35	
Supervision	33	34	33	33	34	
Other requirements	30	29	28	30	31	
number of requirements						
Suspended Sentence Order	597	635	566	865	900	51
Supervision	238	255	225	346	357	50
Unpaid Work	134	142	151	236	232	73
Accredited Program	102	100	72	114	124	22
Curfew	48	54	52	76	72	*
Drug treatment	23	28	18	23	25	*
Alcohol treatment	9	21	17	25	26	*
Specified Activity	23	17	17	27	34	*
Prohibited Activity	1	3	4	7	12	*
Exclusion	5	2	2	7	8	*
Mental Health	5	2	2	2	7	*
Residential	6	10	4	2	2	*
Attendance Centre	3	1	2	0	1	*
percentage of all requirements						
Unpaid work	22	22	27	27	26	
Supervision	40	40	40	40	40	
Other requirements	38	37	34	33	35	

1. Includes having an article with a blade or a point

*Indicates that one or more of the comparative numbers are less than 50. For small numbers this could give misleading percentage changes.

Data Sources and Quality

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. All 2008 data is provisional.

Table 8: Unpaid work requirements started by length of requirement given for possession of offensive weapon¹

	Number of requirements and percentages					Percentage change Q4 2007 to Q4 2008
	Q4 2007	Q1 2008	Q2 2008	Q3 2008	Q4 2008	
number of requirements						
Community Order	628	622	576	668	598	-5
0-80 hours	279	300	253	248	219	-22
81-150 hours	251	246	226	274	239	-5
151-199 hours	35	24	35	30	33	*
200-250 hours	61	51	58	108	96	57
251-300 hours	2	1	4	8	11	*
percentage of total requirements						
0-80 hours	44	48	44	37	37	
81-150 hours	40	40	39	41	40	
151-199 hours	6	4	6	4	6	
200-250 hours	10	8	10	16	16	
251-300 hours	0	0	1	1	2	
number of requirements						
Suspended sentence order	138	139	159	246	228	65
0-80 hours	50	50	49	65	62	24
81-150 hours	74	61	80	124	111	50
151-199 hours	4	12	6	13	14	*
200-250 hours	10	14	22	41	40	*
251-300 hours	0	2	2	3	1	*
percentage of total requirements						
0-80 hours	36	36	31	26	27	
81-150 hours	54	44	50	50	49	
151-199 hours	3	9	4	5	6	
200-250 hours	7	10	14	17	18	
251-300 hours	0	1	1	1	0	

1. Includes having an article with a blade or a point

*Indicates that one or more of the comparative numbers are less than 50. For small numbers this could give misleading percentage changes.

Data Sources and Quality

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. All 2008 data is provisional.